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# VMware Certification Naming Change
## The Year Makes It Clear

**Q. What is VMware announcing?**

A. The VMware Certification team is implementing a new certification name change, where the year will be used to identify when the certification was earned. This change is intended to make it easier for certification holders and potential employers to immediately identify how current a holder's certification is. This also allows the certification holder to validate the currency of their certified knowledge. The new naming will eventually apply to all VMware certifications and select badges. For example:

- Former naming: VMware Certified Professional Desktop Mobility 8 (VCP8-DTM)
- NEW naming: VMware Certified Professional Desktop Mobility 2018 (VCP-DTM 2018)

**Q. Why is VMware making this change?**

A. The naming change has been implemented to make it easier for certification holders, and the people who hire them, to easily and immediately recognize how current a certification is. It also standardizes:

- Version control and naming for the certifications across all tracks, independent of product versioning.
- Frequency of certification updates by transitioning to annual updates, versus intermittent updates based on product feature releases.

**Q. What is the timeline for rolling out the VMware certification name change?**

A. Beginning in August 2018, the name change will roll out with all future VMware certifications releases. This will not affect the naming of any existing certifications and is not retroactive. Under the new naming, the annual certification release schedule will be as follows:

- Jan 1: Release and update all VCP certifications
- Mar 1: Release and update all VCAP Design certifications
- May 1: Release and update all VCAP Deploy certifications
- VCDX certification updates will follow VCAP releases

**Q. What is the benefit to the VMware certification holder?**

A. The new naming gives certification holders predictability, relevancy and clarity.

- **Predictability**: Aligning VMware certification to the year versus the product version will support a consistent roadmap. Candidates can better plan and take more ownership of their VMware knowledge and expertise by having an awareness of when new updates and releases can be expected.
- **Relevancy**: Naming by the year better communicates the currency of the individual's VMware skill level and immediately identifies the relevancy of their certification in the marketplace.
- **Clarity:** The new naming makes it easier to know which certification to earn when recertifying or upgrading to a different track, and eliminates confusion as to which certification is the most current.

**Q. When will the new naming go into effect?**

A. The VMware Certified Professional – Digital Workspace 2018 (VCP-DW 2018) was released in April 2018. Starting in August 2018, all new certifications and select badges will follow the new naming structure. We will begin announcing the name change in August, prior to VMworld 2018 US.

**Q. What are the first certifications being released with the new naming convention?**

A. In April 2018, the VCP-DW 2018 was released. Starting in August 2018, there will be three new certifications released with the new naming:

- VMware Certified Professional – Desktop and Mobility 2018 (VCP-DTM 2018)
- VMware Certified Advanced Professional – Data Center Virtualization Deploy 2018 (VCAP-DCV Deploy 2018)
- VMware Certified Advanced Professional – Cloud Management and Automation Deploy 2018 (VCAP-CMA Deploy 2018).

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**Q. Will the new way of naming certifications change any current or past certifications?**

A. All current and past certifications are not affected, and there are no retroactive changes to certifications an individual currently holds. Additionally, CertManager will continue to reflect all VMware certifications held by an individual.

**Q. Will current VMware certifications be retired?**

A. The current standard is to retire VMware certifications that are no longer being adopted or used in the marketplace. After a retirement is announced, candidates have at least three months between the announcement and retirement date to complete that certification.

**Q. How does this affect the release of VMware training aligned to certification exams?**

A. VMware training courses will continue to be released as they are today, aligned to VMware product releases. Certification exams will continue to be aligned to VMware training courses. The Exam Prep Guide will list the course(s) available that are designed to help a candidate prepare for the exam, and the exam objectives will always point to the most current VMware training and content.

**Q. Are the new certifications with the new yearly certification name change required for any partner competencies?**

A. There are no immediate changes to 2018 competency requirements. The newer certifications, which will then have the new yearly name and are updated with the most current content, will be added to the existing Master Services Competencies. Any changes to competency requirements or the release of new competencies that include new certification options will be communicated as it has in the past, through the regular partner communications and Partner Central.

**Q. Why should I keep getting VMware certified?**

A. VMware certified professionals are highly regarded in the marketplace, and are recognized for solving IT issues faster and understanding technology trends and how they support the ability to deliver business solutions. VMware certifications also continue to be recognized for value:

- VMware Certified Professional: Recognized as one of the most valuable cloud computing certifications[1]
- VCP7-CMA: VMware Certified Professional 7 – Cloud Management and Automation: Named one of the 5 Best Cloud Certifications[2]
- VCP6.5-DCV: VMware Certified Professional 6.5 - Data Center: Named one of the Best Virtualization Certifications for IT Pros[3]

**Q. Where can I go for more information?**

A. Please visit www.vmware.com/certification

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[1] CIO.com; The most valuable cloud computing certifications today, Sharon Florentine, July 13, 2017

[2] Business News Daily: *5 Best Cloud Certifications*, Ed Tittel, May 23, 2018

[3] Business News Daily; *Best Virtualization Certifications for IT Pros,* Ed Tittel, May 23, 2018