

VMware Certified Distinguished Expert

The Benchmark for Private Cloud Excellence

Key Benefits

Elite Recognition: Top-tier distinction for organizations employing VCDXs.

Cross-Functional Expertise: Customer confidence in VCDX-validated design quality.

Exclusive Network: Direct access to an elite global community of experts.

“As VCDX #1 and a founding supporter since 2007, I can attest that the VMware VCDX program is not just a certification—it is the definitive, peer-vetted validation for a distinguished expert.”

John Arrasjid, VCDX #1

For almost two decades, the VMware Certified Design Expert certification has stood as the pinnacle benchmark for architects mastering VMware solutions, serving as a globally recognized achievement of elite expertise. But as the private cloud landscape accelerates and our community’s needs evolve, we are not just adapting. We are elevating the benchmark to define the future of enterprise cloud leadership.

The iconic program has evolved, expanding its reach beyond traditional design roles to welcome a broader range of elite VMware professionals: Architects, Administrators, and Support specialists. To reflect this expanded vision, the program is now named the VMware Certified Distinguished Expert (VCDX).

We have designed the VMware Certified Distinguished Expert (VCDX) program to help you position yourself as a technical leader in the ever-changing landscape of private cloud technologies. The certification covers core VMware Cloud Foundation infrastructure and validates your end-to-end lifecycle skills across complex private cloud environments—from architecture and design to administration, troubleshooting, and optimization.

Your Path to Achieving Cloud Expertise

The journey to become a VCDX is carefully crafted to elevate your technical leadership and industry expertise. For current and aspiring VCF professionals, the path begins with establishing a comprehensive platform foundation through role-based VCP certification. From there, advanced VCAP certifications deepen your mastery in key VCF technologies, including Kubernetes. This rigorous journey culminates in a VCDX panel evaluation—validating your profound architectural knowledge, advanced problem-solving skills, and role-aligned expertise. This is your definitive path to elite private cloud leadership.

“As a founding VCDX architect, I am thrilled that the elite VCDX certification will now include Admins and Support.”

Andrew Hald, VCDX #4

VCDX Program Benefits

- Earning your VCDX qualifies you for perpetual vExpert status (via annual application), unlocking complementary VMUG Advantage membership and a VCF full personal use license for as long as you are a member.
- Get one VMware VCF certification exam free every year, and enjoy 50% off all additional exam registrations.
- Network with a global community of over 300 VCDX professionals.
- Invite to our private VCDX communication channels.
- Gain access to invitation-only VCDX community events.
- Permission to use the VCDX logo on cards, websites, etc.
- Private & technical deep-dive VCDX only webinars with VMware and VMware partners.

Steps to Achieving VCDX Status

Achieving the VMware Certified Distinguished Expert (VCDX) represents the highest level of technical validation in the industry. Before submitting an application, prospective candidates must demonstrate comprehensive hands-on expertise and meet specific foundational criteria across design, deployment, and operational domains.

Pre-requisites for New VCDX Candidates

To qualify for the VCDX to sit for the VCDX certification, candidates must complete a set of core prerequisites offered through Pearson VUE testing centers or OnVUE online proctoring. Applicants must first hold a VCP-VCF for Architect, Administrator, or Support.

From there, the candidate must pass three VCAP-VCF domain-based exams with one of those being the [VCAP-VKS credential](#). Then the candidate must select two electives of the remaining domain based VCAPs such as [VCAP-VCF Storage](#), [VCAP-VCF Networking](#), [VCAP-VCF Operations](#), or [VCAP-VCF Automation](#). Finally, the candidate must pass the corresponding Role Based VCAP that aligns to their VCP of [VCAP-VCF Architect](#), [VCAP-VCF Administrator](#), or [VCAP-VCF Support](#).

Once those requirements are met, the candidate is eligible to take the VCDX exam. For Architects, this means submitting a design and passing a panel evaluation. For Administrators and Architects, this means completing a challenge lab and evaluation

Pre-requisites for Current VCDXs

For current VCDXs, candidates must complete a set of core prerequisites offered through Pearson VUE testing centers or OnVUE online proctoring.

The candidate must pass three VCAP-VCF domain based exams with one of those being the [VCAP-VKS credential](#). Then the candidate must select two electives of the remaining domain

“Becoming a VCDX made me more than a technologist, helped me build critical problem skills to drive business outcomes.”

Melissa Palmer, VCDX # 237

based VCAPs such as [VCAP-VCF Storage](#), [VCAP-VCF Networking](#), [VCAP-VCF Operations](#), or [VCAP-VCF Automation](#).

Finally, the candidate must pass the corresponding Role Based VCAP that aligns to their VCP of [VCAP-VCF Architect](#), [VCAP-VCF Administrator](#), or [VCAP-VCF Support](#).

No panel evaluation or challenge lab is required at this time.

How to get started

Any updates to this program will be published directly on the official VMware Certification website. At the time of this publication, VCDX expert evaluations are available exclusively for the VCDX Architect track. Evaluation details for additional tracks will be announced as they become available. For more information, please visit the VCDX section on the [VMware Certification Website](#).