

Validate your expertise with Red Hat Certifications

Overview

Technical excellence is best proven through action. Designed to align with Red Hat technologies and modern domains like AI, certifying with Red Hat ensures earners validate their industry expertise through every certification they attain.

Navigating your Red Hat Certification journey

The chart in Figure 1 displays the complete Red Hat® Certification program. The tiered, 5-level model allows learners to build certifications step-by-step using foundational credentials as building blocks to earn higher-level designations, such as Red Hat Certified Architect (RHCA®).

	Technologist (Level 1)	Admin/Dev (Level 2)	Engineer (Level 3)	Specialist (Level 4)	Architect (Level 5)
Enterprise Linux	N/A	Red Hat Certified System Administrator	Red Hat Certified Engineer in Enterprise Linux	Specialist Certifications	Red Hat Certified Architect in Enterprise Linux
Ansible	N/A	Red Hat Certified System Administrator	Red Hat Certified Engineer in Ansible	Specialist Certifications	Red Hat Certified Architect in Ansible
OpenShift	Technologist Certifications	Red Hat Certified System Administrator in OpenShift	Red Hat Certified Engineer in OpenShift	Specialist Certifications	Red Hat Certified Architect in OpenShift
Cloud-native applications	N/A	Red Hat Certified Developer in Cloud-native Applications	Red Hat Certified Engineer in Cloud-native Applications	Specialist Certifications	Red Hat Certified Architect in Cloud-native Applications
AI	N/A	Red Hat Certified Developer in AI	N/A	N/A	N/A

Figure 1. Red Hat Certification building block journey

Find your certification path

Plot a certification journey based on your technology specialization and current role. Use the 2 steps below to identify your appropriate starting point and understand the prerequisites needed to reach advanced levels.

Step 1: Select a technology specialization

Identify the product, platform, or technology domain that best matches your daily workload:

Table 1. Certification technology specialization

Specialization	What it covers
Enterprise Linux	System administration, security, performance tuning, and storage management on Red Hat Enterprise Linux®.
Ansible automation	Automating infrastructure, building playbooks, and managing Red Hat Ansible® Automation Platform.
OpenShift	Deploying, managing, and scaling containerized workloads with Kubernetes and Red Hat OpenShift®.
Cloud-native applications	Building, deploying, and managing distributed applications in hybrid cloud environments.
AI	Deploying and managing AI/ML workloads on Red Hat platforms.

Step 2: Map your progress

Review the tiers below to understand how Red Hat certifications build on one another. While your daily responsibilities might align with an advanced tier, achieving the highest credentials requires completing certain foundational prerequisites.

Table 2. Red Hat Certification levels

Role level	Daily focus	Description
Red Hat Certified Technologist	Entry-level support	Optional starting point for those new to the technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Hat Certified System Administrator Red Hat Certified Developer 	Day-to-day operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core server management, security, and storage (administrator) Building and deploying containerized applications (developer)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Hat Certified Advanced System Administrator Red Hat Certified Advanced Developer 	Automation and scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multisystem environments and automation (advanced system administrator) Distributed applications and hybrid cloud integration (advanced developer)
Red Hat Certified Engineer	Advanced operational abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned after completing the system administrator or developer certification and Advanced administrator or developer credentials in the same specialization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No separate exam required
Red Hat Certified Specialist	Deep focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert knowledge in a specific technology (e.g., security, clustering, storage) Earn alongside any track
Red Hat Certified Architect	Multidimensional expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned when you hold an engineer credential plus 3 specialist certifications in a single concentration. No separate exam required

With this new alignment, Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE®) and Red Hat Certified Architect (RHCA) designations can now be earned for each of these specializations. This change allows Red Hat Certified Professionals (RHCPs) to validate in various product areas and more clearly share their specific expertise.

How to keep your certifications current

Certification validity

All Red Hat certifications are current for 3 years from the date earned. A Red Hat Certification renewal must be completed before the expiration date. Expired Red Hat Certifications cannot be renewed. The certification must be earned again from the starting point.

Renewal options

With a Red Hat certification, the more you earn, the greater the reward becomes. Completing a higher-level renewal restores all your lower-level certifications.

Renewal path	What gets renewed?
Recertify your highest credential	Renews all certifications at or below that level for another 3 years.
Earn a certification at the same level	Renews all certifications at the same level or below.
Earn a higher-level certification	Renews all certifications below the new level.
Retake the original exam	Renews that specific certification for another 3 years.

Explore which pathway to take

Whether you are starting your journey or have earned various levels of certification, discover more about Red Hat's rewarding certification program.

Visit [Red Hat Certification](#)



About Red Hat

Red Hat is the open hybrid cloud technology leader, delivering a trusted, consistent and comprehensive foundation for transformative IT innovation and AI applications. Its portfolio of cloud, developer, AI, Linux, automation and application platform technologies enables any application, anywhere—from the datacenter to the edge. As the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, Red Hat invests in open ecosystems and communities to solve tomorrow's IT challenges. Collaborating with partners and customers, Red Hat helps them build, connect, automate, secure, and manage their IT environments, supported by consulting services and [award-winning](#) training and certification offerings.

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