# Frequently Asked Questions

## CompTIA – SNIA Alliance to Offer New Storage Exam and Credential:

## *CompTIA Storage+ Powered by SNIA*

**FAQ's as of January 7, 2011 – Revision 2. January 22, 2011**

**Q: What will happen to the SNIA SCSP credential (the "Foundations" exam)?**

A:  As part of the joint SNIA and CompTIA agreement, the Foundations exam will no longer be offered when Storage+ is launched.  There will be approximately three months advance notice of this date, which is expected to be in the second half of 2011.

**Q: Will the SNIA SCSP credential (the "Foundations" exam) continue to be accepted as a precursor for other SNIA SNCP credentials?**

A:  Yes, holders of the SCSP will maintain their existing rights regarding further SNIA exams.  Note, however, that the SCSP certification will be replaced by the Storage+ certification, and after the published date no new SCSP certifications will be issued.

**Q: Where will I go to take the new exam?**

A: The Storage+ Certification exam will be available worldwide through Prometric and Pearson VUE testing centers, at the SNIA Colorado Springs Technology Center, at U.S. SNW events, and other major storage conferences around the world.

**Q: How can I "upgrade" my existing SNIA SCSP Storage Professional certification to the new Storage+ credential?**

A: Planned for Q2, 2011, CompTIA and SNIA are offering an opportunity for all SNIA Storage Professional certification holders to take a complimentary beta exam to achieve the new "CompTIA Storage+ Powered by SNIA" certification. This will be made available during the beta phase of the exam development process and will be English only. There will be a limited number of beta tests available on a first come basis. However, it will be open to SNIA Certified Storage Professionals worldwide.

**Q:  I have just passed the SNIA SCSP exam, can I still go for the SCSA, SCSE and Expert credentials?**

A: Yes of course. SNIA will continue to recognize the credential. We would recommend, however, that you also consider taking advantage of the no-cost offer mentioned above.

**Q: Is my SNIA SCSP credential still valid? Does it expire?**

A: All of the SNIA SNCP program credentials expire over time, simply as a factor of technology refresh and exam updates. However, in these circumstances the SNIA SCSP will continue to be recognized for a period of three years after the date of earning the credential.

**Q: Can my SNIA SCSP credential be grandfathered into the Storage+  series or do I need to take the new exam to start the new series?**

A: There is no automatic "grandfathering" as the new exam will be a complete refresh. We recommend you consider taking advantage of the opportunity to take the Storage+ beta exam for free.

**Q:  If I take the Storage+ exam and receive the credential, can it be used to go towards the other SNIA SCSA, SCSE and Expert credentials?**

A: Yes, the Storage+ credential is recognized by SNIA as a prerequisite to other SNIA SNCP credentials.

**Q: How long will my current certification be valid if I do nothing?**

A: SNIA will continue to recognize the Certified Storage Professional credential for a period of three years after the official launch of the new Storage+ certification.

**Q: What will happen to the existing training courses and Electronic Study Guides for Storage Foundations?**

A: SNIA is working with our training providers to keep them up to date with progress on the development of the new exam and encouraging them to become CompTIA partners as well as valued members of the SNIA Education program. We aim to provide them with a new exam blueprint so they can update their content to meet the needs of the new credential as soon as the information becomes available.

**Q. I am a training provider and curriculum author/developer. How will this new certification from CompTIA and SNIA affect my existing business? Are there new opportunities?**

A. Training providers are invited to contact CompTIA to learn more about their CompTIA Authorized Partner Program (CAPP). Through this program, hundreds of developers, authors, publishers, training organizations (academic,

technical/professional, etc) who develop or deliver training as well as self-study resources, are all able to advertise their products, collaborate with other providers, or learn of unique sales opportunities through the CAPP marketplace. Special briefings will be offered to all existing registered SNIA Training Providers, and an opportunity to learn more about CompTIA CAPP will be made available. CAPP participation is **not mandatory** to provide SNIA storage networking training or be recognised by SNIA as an authorised training partner. For more information about the CompTIA Authorized Partner go http://www.comptia.org/certifications/capp.aspx .

**Q:  Does the CompTIA-SNIA alliance intend to produce higher level Storage-related credentials?**

A:  Not at this time. SNIA plans to continue maintaining and updating their existing higher-level exams, and also plans to add exams in new areas such as Storage Security.

**Q: What is the development process for the "CompTIA Storage+  Powered by SNIA" exam?**

A: CompTIA conducts three workshops during the development of a high stakes exam. These workshops are facilitated by CompTIA but the information developed comes from qualified industry Subject Matter Experts (SME's) who participate in these workshops**.**

1. Job Task Analysis Workshop (JTA) – Approved workshop SME's collaborate on the creation of the exam objectives blueprint.

    a. Following the JTA an industry survey is conducted to validate the objectives from a qualitative and quantitative perspective. Those participating in the survey are to be knowledgeable in the area the objectives cover.  Upon the completion of the survey the survey data is analysed and final objectives blueprint is published.

2. Item Writing Workshop - Approved workshop SME's write the exam questions based on the final objectives blueprint.

3. Cut Score Workshop – Approved workshop SME's provide assistance in item review and setting the passing standard for the certification exam.

For more detailed information go to:
http://www.comptia.org/certifications/examdevelopment.aspx

**Q:  How can I get involved in developing exam questions for Storage+?**

A: CompTIA and SNIA are recruiting Subject Matter Experts (SME's) who have extensive knowledge and relevant experience in networked storage to assist in the development of the Storage+ exam.  The first workshop will be at CompTIA

headquarters in Downers Grove, Illinois on January 31st –February 4th 2011. If you are interested in participating in this first workshop or subsequent SME workshops, please submit your current resume/CV to examdev@comptia.org for consideration. Please note that this opportunity is not available to anyone connected with the development of training materials.

**Q: I couldn't participate in a development workshop but would like to provide my expert input into the development of this exam. How can I do that?**

**A:** As described above following the JTA workshop qualified individuals can provide their expert input as part of the Objectives Survey. Information regarding this survey will be provided to all SNIA members and industry representatives in the coming months and we encourage you to participate and share your knowledge in helping to make this exam relevant for the Storage industry.

**Q: How much will it cost to take the Storage+ exam? (Currently, the high stakes exams are $200 U.S. Dollars.)**

A: This is still to be determined but we do not anticipate costs to be out of line with current exam pricing.

**Q. If I still have questions, who can I contact to get further clarification?**

A. Thanks for your interest; please address any inquiries to storage+@comptia.org and the CompTIA Certification website http://www.comptia.org for updates.

Continue to check the SNIA Education website http://www.snia.org/education  and/or send an e-mail to Erin Weiner of SNIA at snia_certification@snia.org .