

VCDX BOOT CAMP: PREPARING FOR THE VCDX PANEL DEFENSE (VMWARE PRESS TECHNOLOGY) BY JOHN ARRASJID, BEN LIN, MOSTAFA KHALIL

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VCDX Boot Camp

Preparing for the
VCDX Panel Defense

John Yani Arrasjid, VCDX 001

Ben Lin, VCDX 045

Mostafa Khalil, VCDX 002

Foreword by Stephen Herrod, Managing Director, General Catalyst



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About the Author

John Y. Arrasjid, VCDX-001, is a Principal Architect at VMware, leading development of VMware Validated Architectures. He has been with VMware since 2003. He developed IP and software for his first six years as a Consulting Architect and currently does so as a Principal Architect, VMware Ambassador, and vExpert. John regularly speaks at VMware conferences and related workshops and industry events, including VMworld, VMware Partner Exchange, VMware vForum, VMware User Groups (VMUG), and the USENIX LISA conference.

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Prepare to succeed at your VCDX panel defense and gain world-class knowledge for designing complex VMware environments

VMware Certified Design Expert (VCDX) is the highest level of VMware certification, achieved by dedicated professionals who have demonstrated exceptional skill in VMware enterprise deployments. To earn a VCDX, professionals must create a complete enterprise VMware design and undergo an arduous defense at the hands of some of the world's most sophisticated VMware experts.

Now, for the first time, there's a comprehensive guide to VCDX defense: VCDX Boot Camp. Based on the legendary standing-room-only boot camps led by VCDX co-creator John Arrasjid, this guide captures the unsurpassed personal experience of three pioneering VCDX certification holders, program developers, and defense panelists.

John Arrasjid, Ben Lin, and Mostafa Khalil cover everything you need to know to prepare for certification. They demystify the entire VCDX defense process, clearly explain its format and prerequisites, and offer indispensable tips for maximizing your likelihood of success. Detailed chapters on both design and troubleshooting offer four complete scenarios explaining exactly what VCDX panelists will expect from your defense.

Learn how to think like a VCDX, discovering powerful insights and best practices for designing your own world-class virtualized environment.

Coverage includes

- Authoritative preparation guidance (including expert insights into scheduling your preparation and defense)
- Tips for conducting mock defenses, boot camps, and study sessions with your colleagues
- How to select, create, and document a superior, defensible design
- How to make design choices and incorporate design patterns that support the VCDX blueprint
- How to confidently defend your skills in architecture, designing new solutions, and troubleshooting design or implementation flaws
- Proven tips for responding to tough questions from panelists
- Detailed example defenses of designs incorporating VCDX-DCV, VCDX-Cloud, and VCDX-DT

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A must for each VCDX candidate

By Andrea

This book explain the VCDX certification paths (included the new Cloud and EUC paths) and could be a good reference (and more complete rather than the VCDX blueprint) for this kind of certification.

Although it include some information about the VCDX application (but there are specific books to build a good vSphere design) it's mainly focused on the VCDX defense by giving detailed information about it and also some good examples. When I took the defense (3 years ago) the lack of this information was one of pain of VCDX certification and this book (as also the VCDX bootcamp) could really help to be more comfortable about what to expect and more focused on what you have to demonstrate.

Considering that VCDX defense has some strictly constraints on time (and also on the format of the defense), more you know about it, more opportunity you can have to make a good defense.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Great VCDX Certification Prep Material

By Christopher

As a candidate preparing for the VCDX, I appreciate any material which makes the certification prep easier or saves time. I especially appreciate technical content and guidance from those in the know, i.e. current VCDX holders! As such, I jumped at the chance to pick up a copy of John, Ben, and Mostafa's VCDX Boot Camp book, just released via VMware Press.

This book is a must-read for anyone preparing for the VCDX and is the most convenient all-in-one guide to have with you when preparing for this certification. The amount of useful documentation, books, and other training material for the VCDX seems to have been increasing, of late. This is most likely due to the status of the certification in the industry as well as the demand for VCDX-certified professionals out in the workforce.

The VCDX was a mystery for most of those interested in taking up the certification, until recently. It is great to see an official reference on the subject. This book serves as both a great reference and practical guidance for exam success.

All of the elements required for certification success are here, from preparation, to the design, and then the defense itself, including the scenarios you will face. I would have liked to see more examples as the book is a bit on the short side.

Pros:

-Great reference

-Finally some printed guidance from members of the VCDX panel team

-Can skip around if looking for extra help on a particular part of the exam

Cons:

- A tad bit on the short side (in terms of length)
- Could go into a bit more detail, without giving away proprietary information
- More examples are needed to cover additional scenarios and to help increase the length

Overall, I would recommend giving this book a try! 4/5

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A Pattern for Planning

By John Gordon Ainsworth

Imagine working on a project for weeks and months and then in the fastest few hours of your life, all that work is reviewed and you have to defend it before a panel of some of the top experts in the field of your project. The VCDX Panel Defense is the highest level of VMware certification. The VCDX Boot Camp: Preparing for the VCDX Panel Defense, is a comprehensive guide for the final requirement for this certification.

This manual is not a how to book to configure or maintain VMware products. But it is a coach for getting prepared for the VCDX Panel. Therefore the target audience is not for those who want to get started using VMware. Consider this a coach for an already experienced VMware professional. The book provides a step by step process of the final stages of preparing for the VCDX Panel Defense. I say final stages, because unlike most certification programs this one actually is not possible without several real world design jobs under your belt as well as the professional level certifications.

The book begins with general discussion about do's and don'ts; such as avoiding too much fiction in your design. While this is allowed, designs that are fictional may be anemic in listing requirements, constraints, assumptions and risks. The author claims the review of your design will be the cheapest design review you will ever get. This is a "defense" of the price. While examples of the mandatory documentation can be downloaded from the VCDX site, many applicants lose points by not having documentation that is specific to their design: Architecture Design, the Installation Guide, the Implementation Plan, the Testing Plan, and the Standard Operating Procedures. Each of these categories of documentation have sub-categories, thus the complexity of this design must be outlined in such a way to bring it all together.

The book is sprinkled with many good quotes, such as Michael Webster, "Knowing why it is a best practice is important so that you know where to create a new best practice specific to your design and customer."

At the end of Chapter 2 there is a checklist for setting up a mock defense. This includes every detail including a timer, projector, times for each section and actors involved: moderator and panelists.

Chapter 4 summarizes the design, which consists of a concept, logical, and physical phase. The concept phase diagrams the requirements and constraints used to influence the logical design. "The logical design provides the platform to make technology choices." The physical design is about picking the hardware and documenting step by step the implementation. The all too crucial "Time Management" section coaches you on making "best guesses" when necessary (letting the panel know that you are making a guess), not wasting time on the irrelevant, and most important, knowing when to say I don't know and move on to what you do know.

The reader is led in Chapter 5 through all the steps to present a design defense: overview, presentation slides, etc. The authors advise that to every design decisions, constantly ask, "Why did I make that decision".

Chapters 6 and 7 cover design and troubleshooting scenarios. Most helpful will be several examples of each, with tips on developing questions to prepare for your defense in these areas.

Considering the cost of money, and more importantly time that one will invest in preparing and traveling to do a defense, the price of this book is well worth it and is 5 stars for the candidate. I also recommend it if you are only trying to find out about this certification as it will help you understand what the cost is going to be in time and help you with that decision.

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