

CERTIFIED CLOUD SECURITY PROFESSIONAL

# CCSP

## CERTIFIED CLOUD SECURITY PROFESSIONAL

THE COMPLETE STUDY GUIDE

MASTIERING CLOUD SECURITY  
ACROSS ALL SIX DOMAINS



Complete Coverage  
of All Six Domains



Cloud Security  
Best Practices Across  
AWS, Azure & Google Cloud



Practice Questions  
& Scenarios



Governance, Risk  
Management &  
Compliance



Exam-Focused.  
Career-Ready.  
Future-Proof.



Azure



Google Cloud

STEVE T.

# CCSP - Certified Cloud Security Professional: The Complete Study Guide

Mastering Cloud Security Across All Six Domains

Steve T. Team Publications

This book is available at <https://leanpub.com/ccsp-certifiedcloudsecurityprofessionalthecompletestudyguide>

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# Mastering Cloud Security Across All Six Domains

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# Introduction: Your Journey to CCSP Certification

## What Is CCSP and Why It Matters

The (ISC)2 Certified Cloud Security Professional credential represents one of the most respected certifications in the cybersecurity industry. Launched at the RSA Conference in 2015, it was created in collaboration with the Cloud Security Alliance to validate expertise in cloud security design, implementation, architecture, operations, controls, and regulatory compliance. The certification aligns with a globally recognized body of knowledge and complies with ANSI/ISO/IEC Standard 17024.

Why does this certification matter? Because cloud adoption is no longer optional for most organizations. According to industry data, the majority of enterprise workloads have already migrated to cloud environments, and that percentage continues to grow. With cloud usage comes a dramatically expanded attack surface, new compliance requirements, and complex shared responsibility models that traditional security professionals were not trained to handle. The CCSP validates that you possess the advanced technical skills needed to design, manage, and secure cloud data, applications, and infrastructure using best practices, policies, and standards.

Holding the CCSP credential opens doors to roles such as cloud security architect, cloud security engineer, cloud security administrator, and senior security analyst. Industry professionals report that the certification accelerates interview callbacks and supports advancement into higher-paying positions with expanded responsibilities. According to (ISC)2's Cybersecurity Workforce Study, CCSP holders report average salaries of \$148,009 in North America, \$114,211 globally, and significant premiums in other regions.

## The CCSP Exam Landscape

The CCSP exam is administered via Computerized Adaptive Testing at Pearson VUE testing centers. The assessment lasts three hours and contains 125 questions, including multiple-choice and advanced formats. Candidates must achieve a minimum scaled score of 700 out of 1,000 points to pass. The exam is offered in English, Chinese, Japanese, and German.

The exam draws its questions from the CCSP Common Body of Knowledge, which is organized into six domains with the following weightings:

1. **Cloud Concepts, Architecture and Design** (17%)
2. **Cloud Data Security** (20%)
3. **Cloud Platform and Infrastructure Security** (17%)
4. **Cloud Application Security** (17%)
5. **Cloud Security Operations** (16%)
6. **Legal, Risk and Compliance** (13%)

To be fully certified after passing the exam, candidates need at least five years of cumulative work experience in information technology, with three years in information security and one year in at least one of the six domains. Holding an active CISSP credential fulfills the entire experience requirement. A relevant degree or the CSA CCSK certificate can substitute for up to one year of experience.

## How to Use This Book

This book is organized to mirror the CCSP Common Body of Knowledge while providing additional practical depth that the official outline alone does not offer. The first chapters establish foundational cloud computing concepts and then walk through each of the six domains in detail. Subsequent chapters provide deeper dives into specific topics such as identity and access management, platform-specific security implementations, incident response, and governance frameworks.

Each domain chapter follows a consistent structure: an overview of the topic area, detailed explanations of key concepts, practical examples from AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud, real-world case studies, chapter summaries with

key takeaways, review questions, and practice scenarios. The final chapter provides comprehensive exam preparation materials including a full-length practice exam.

The book is designed to be read sequentially from beginning to end, as each chapter builds progressively on the concepts introduced in earlier chapters. However, experienced professionals may wish to use it as a reference, jumping directly to domains where they need the most reinforcement.

## **A Note on Cloud Security Thinking**

The CCSP exam tests more than memorization of definitions. It evaluates your ability to think like a cloud security professional. This means understanding how security responsibilities shift across service models, recognizing that the shared responsibility model places different burdens on customers depending on whether they use IaaS, PaaS, or SaaS, and knowing when to apply specific controls in specific contexts.

Throughout this book, you will encounter exam tips and practical insights designed to develop this mindset. Pay close attention to the case studies and practice scenarios, as they mirror the type of situational reasoning questions that appear on the actual exam. The goal is not simply to pass a test but to build genuine expertise in cloud security that protects organizations in the real world.

# Chapter 1: Cloud Computing Foundations

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## Defining Cloud Computing and the NIST Model

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## Essential Characteristics of Cloud Services

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## Service Models: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS, and Beyond

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## Deployment Models: Public, Private, Community, Hybrid

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## The Cloud Ecosystem and Key Roles

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## Emerging Technologies: AI, IoT, Containers, and Edge Computing

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## Chapter 1 Summary and Key Takeaways

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## Review Questions for Chapter 1

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# Chapter 2: Domain 1 - Cloud Concepts, Architecture, and Design (17%)

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## Cloud Reference Architecture and ISO/IEC 17789

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## Security Concepts in Cloud Environments

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## The Shared Responsibility Model

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## Secure Cloud Design Principles

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## Evaluating Cloud Service Providers

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## Governance Frameworks and Standards

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# Chapter 3: Domain 2 - Cloud Data Security (20%)

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## Hashing, Obfuscation, and Tokenization

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## Data Loss Prevention

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## Chapter 3 Summary and Key Takeaways

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# Chapter 4: Domain 3 - Cloud Platform and Infrastructure Security (17%)

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## Cloud Infrastructure Components

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## Secure Data Center Design

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## Risk Assessment for Cloud Infrastructure

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## Security Controls Implementation

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## Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning

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## Chapter 4 Summary and Key Takeaways

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# Chapter 5: Domain 4 - Cloud Application Security (17%)

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## Avoiding Common Vulnerabilities

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## Managing Security Operations Centers

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## Chapter 6 Summary and Key Takeaways

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## Federation, SSO, and Multi-Factor Authentication

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## The Incident Response Lifecycle in Cloud Environments

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## Cloud-Specific Forensic Challenges

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## Evidence Collection and Preservation

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## Chapter 10 Summary and Key Takeaways

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## Review Questions for Chapter 10

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# Chapter 11: Governance, Risk, and Compliance Frameworks

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## Regulatory Landscape Overview

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## ISO Standards for Cloud Security

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## Industry-Specific Compliance Requirements

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## Privacy Impact Assessments

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## Third-Party Risk Management

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## Audit Readiness and Continuous Compliance

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## Chapter 11 Summary and Key Takeaways

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# Chapter 12: Exam Preparation and Practice

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## Exam Strategy and Test-Taking Tips

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## Domain-by-Domain Review Checklist

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## Full-Length Practice Exam

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## Practice Scenarios with Explanations

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## Glossary of Key Terms

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## Conclusion: Beyond the Exam

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## Delivering on the Promise

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## The Evolving Cloud Security Landscape

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## Maintaining Your Certification

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## Final Thoughts

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