**HPE** **aruba**
networking

# HPE Aruba Network Architect Transition Guide

Learn about the next evolution of Network Architect technical training and certification

**HPE**
**GreenLake**

**Hewlett Packard Enterprise introduced new Network Architect certifications on November 1, 2023. The existing Design certifications will become inactive on January 31, 2024.**

A successful network architect requires a keen understanding of business requirements, modern network technologies, and the challenges of designing secure edge-to-cloud solutions.

Network architects must clearly understand that today's enterprise networks are burdened by:

• Escalating data loads

• Siloed management systems

• Sophisticated cyberattacks

• Supporting an increasingly hybrid work model

The challenges of decentralized users and the Internet of Things (IoT) make it difficult to extend the secure campus experience to disparate users and applications.

HPE can help today's enterprises overcome these challenges. Offering a modern approach with Aruba ESP (Edge Services Platform), this next-generation cloud-native architecture accelerates digital business transformation through:

• Unified network management

• Edge-to-cloud security

• Artificial intelligence (AI)–powered insights and automation

To design edge-to-cloud networks that can handle future demands, network architects must be ready to evolve and acquire new skills. The new **Aruba Certified Network Architect** certifications support this transformation by validating the skills network architects need to translate complex requirements into innovative networking solutions powered by HPE Aruba Networking Campus and Data Center technologies.

As the certification program evolves, the Aruba Design Associate, Professional, and Expert certifications will become inactive on January 31, 2024. We recommend you review this transition guide for additional details, including critical dates, guidance for current design certification holders, and frequently asked questions.

**Get ready to advance your career by participating in the new Network Architect training and certification program from HPE.**

**Network Architect training and certification**
Training and certifications available now.

**Table 1.** Certification and recommended training

| Certification | Recommended training |
| --- | --- |
| ACNA-Campus Access | Designing HPE Aruba Campus Access Solutions |
| ACNA-Data Center | Designing HPE Aruba Data Center Solutions |

View all training options and register

# Transition timeline—Aruba Design to Network Architect

Aruba Design Associate, Professional, and Expert certifications

• **Transition period:** August 22, 2023–January 31, 2024

• **Inactive date:** January 31, 2024

Please note that inactive does not mean that existing Design certifications expire; inactive simply means the exam is no longer available.

## Transition paths—Design to Network Architect



| You hold an ACDA certification and would like to: | You hold an ACDP certification and would like to: | You hold an ACDX certification and would like to: |
|---|---|---|
| • Maintain Design Associate certification for at least three years. | • Maintain Design Professional certification for at least three years. | • Maintain Design Expert certification for at least three years. |
| – Pass the ACDA by January 30, 2024. or | – Pass the ACDP by January 30, 2024. or | • Pass the ACDX written exam by January 30, 2024. |
| – Pass the ACDP by January 30, 2024. | – Pass the ACDX written exam by January 30, 2024. | • Migrate to Network Architect Campus Access certification. |
| • Migrate to Network Architect Campus Access certification. | • Migrate to Network Architect Campus Access certification. | • Recommended prerequisite: Complete the Implementing Aruba Campus Access course and/or pass the ACP - Campus Access exam. |
| – Recommended prerequisite: Complete the Implementing Aruba Campus Access course and/or pass the ACP - Campus Access exam. | – Recommended prerequisite: Complete the Implementing Aruba Campus Access course and/or pass the ACP - Campus Access exam. | • Recommended training: Complete the Designing HPE Aruba Campus Access Solutions course. |
| – Recommended training: Complete the Designing HPE Aruba Campus Access Solutions course. | – Recommended training: Complete the Designing HPE Aruba Campus Access Solutions course. | • Required exam: Pass the Aruba Certified Network Architect - Campus Access exam (available November 1, 2023). |
| – Required exam: Pass the Aruba Certified Network Architect - Campus Access exam (available November 1, 2023). | – Required exam: Pass the Aruba Certified Network Architect - Campus Access exam (available November 1, 2023). | • Migrate to Network Architect Data Center certification. |
| • Migrate to Network Architect Data Center certification. | • Migrate to Network Architect Data Center certification. | – Complete the Implementing Data Center Networks course and/or pass the ACP - Data Center exam (available November 1, 2023). |
| – Recommended prerequisite: Complete the Implementing Data Center Networks course and/or pass the ACP - Data Center exam (available November 1, 2023). | – Recommended prerequisite: Complete the Implementing Data Center Networks course and/or pass the ACP - Data Center exam (available November 1, 2023). | – Recommended training: Complete the Designing HPE Aruba Data Center Solutions course. |
| – Recommended training: Complete the Designing HPE Aruba Data Center Solutions course. | – Recommended training: Complete the Designing HPE Aruba Data Center Solutions course. | – Required exam: Pass the Aruba Certified Network Architect - Data Center exam (available November 1, 2023). |
| – Required exam: Pass the Aruba Certified Network Architect - Data Center exam (available November 1, 2023). | – Required exam: Pass the Aruba Certified Network Architect – Data Center exam (available November 1, 2023). | |

## Frequently asked questions

**Q. How do I renew my Design certification?**

**A.** We recommend transitioning to the new Network Architect certifications, but you can renew your Design certification before January 31, 2024. Please refer to the transition paths (above) for more information.

**Q. I am actively preparing for a Design Associate, Professional, or Expert certification. What is the latest date I can take the exam before it becomes inactive?**

**A.** The last day to take a Design Associate, Professional, or Expert certification exam is January 30, 2024. To avoid any potential scheduling conflicts, we recommend scheduling your exam 2–3 weeks before the exam inactive date (January 31, 2024).

**Q. If I obtain the Network Architect certification, will that automatically renew any existing Design certifications?**

**A.** No.

**Q. Are there any prerequisites for the Network Architect certifications?**

**A.** No prerequisites exist. However, we strongly recommend the associated design course to best prepare you for the exam. We recommend the Campus Access and Data Center Professional certifications and/or courses as a first step if you are new to HPE Aruba Networking.

**Q. When the Design certification exams become inactive, will my current Design certifications expire?**

**A.** No. Certifications are valid for three years from the date you achieved them. Inactive does not mean your certification has expired; it simply means that new candidates can no longer take the exam and that existing certification holders can no longer recertify.

**Q. Will the existing Design certification training still be available?**

**A.** No, the existing design courses—Aruba Design Fundamentals, Designing Aruba Solutions, and Advanced Network Design Troubleshooting and Solutions—will not be available after January 31, 2024.

**Q. Are any free training options available?**

**A.** Yes. Aruba offers free entry-level courses on wired and wireless networking, network security, and cloud-managed networking. Review the list of free training options.

**Q. For Aruba Partners: Will my existing Design certification maintain its validity for the Aruba Partner Ready for Networking (PRfN) program in 2023 and 2024?**

**A.** Yes. The Design certifications will be accepted in 2023, and both Design and Network Architect certifications will be accepted in 2024.

**Q. What is the difference between the Design certifications and the new Architect certifications?**

**A.** The Design certifications are based on a legacy architecture, where mobility conductors or controllers are used to manage campus networks. The Design certifications include outdated operating systems that required separate management tools for wireless and switching solutions, and automation was limited. The new Architect certifications are based on the modern cloud-native architecture that unifies management across wireless, switching, and data center solutions. The Network Architect certifications also leverage the latest operating systems and automation tools and expand beyond a campus network into data center networking solutions.

**Q. Are the Architect-level certifications equivalent to an Expert-level certifications?**

**A.** No. The Architect is a unique advanced certification that assumes a professional level of knowledge and skills in the solution area (campus or data center). The Architect exam includes written exam questions, while the Expert exams require passing two separate exams—one written and one performance-based exam.

**Q. What certifications are available to validate skills for architecting HPE solutions?**

**A.** HPE has certifications for architecting hybrid cloud solutions. Please refer to the HPE ASE - Edge-to-Cloud Architect and HPE Master ASE - Edge-to-Cloud Architect certifications for more information.

**Learn more**
Arubanetworks.com/certification

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