



# NSE 8 Certification

Frequently Asked Questions

NSE 8 Certification Frequently Asked Questions  
for FortiGate 6.0 and higher  
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# Network Security Expert (NSE) 8

Welcome to the Fortinet NSE 8 Certification policies and exam preparation FAQs. The purpose of this document is to provide answers to frequently asked questions about the NSE 8 certification exams.

Fortinet NSE 8 certification recognizes the successful candidate's comprehensive and in-depth ability to design, configure, and troubleshoot network security using Fortinet products in complex networks.

NSE 8 is the top-level certification in the Fortinet NSE program and is designed to reflect best practices using Fortinet solutions in the network security and cybersecurity industry.



# Exam Frequently Asked Questions

Assessment for Fortinet NSE 8 certification is composed of two parts: a written exam and a practical exam.

The following is a compilation of the most commonly asked questions about NSE 8 certification and their corresponding answers.

## Why should I take the Fortinet NSE 8 certification?

The Fortinet NSE 8 designation recognizes a candidate's broad and in-depth knowledge of network security design, configuration, and troubleshooting for complex networks. This is the most complete and unique networking and security designation in the technology industry worldwide. Attaining the NSE 8 designation will make you part of a new elite group of professionals.

## What are the NSE 8 program requirements?

The NSE 8 program has two requirements:

- Completion of the Fortinet NSE 8 written exam
- Completion of the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam

## What are the pre-requisites for the Fortinet NSE 8 certification?

There are no pre-requisites for the Fortinet NSE 8 written exam.

The written exam is a pre-requisite for the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam.

## Is the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam open to all candidates?

The Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam is open to all candidates who have passed the written exam and who have purchased a valid voucher.

## How can I enroll for the Fortinet NSE 8 certification?

The written exam is available worldwide through [Pearson Vue](#) test centers. If you pass the written exam, you should buy a voucher for the practical exam then check with your regional Fortinet Training administrator to schedule and coordinate the NSE 8 practical session. These sessions are available at some Fortinet NSE 8 test locations.



Fortinet Training regional administrator:

[training@fortinet.com](mailto:training@fortinet.com) - Americas

[apactraining@fortinet.com](mailto:apactraining@fortinet.com) - Asia

[emeatraining@fortinet.com](mailto:emeatraining@fortinet.com) - Europe, Middle East

## **Where can I find the list of topics (blueprint) included in the exam?**

There is an exam handbook document on our public website that includes the complete list of topics on the Fortinet NSE 8 exams (written and practical).

The document can be found at the bottom of the following link (NSE 8 Public Handbook):

[https://www.fortinet.com/content/dam/fortinet/assets/training/NSE\\_8\\_Certification\\_Public\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.fortinet.com/content/dam/fortinet/assets/training/NSE_8_Certification_Public_Handbook.pdf)

## **Is there a study guide available to prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 written and practical exams?**

No, there is no study guide available to help you prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 written or practical exam. In the exam handbook document mentioned above, you will find information that will help you use our admin guides, handbooks, Network Security Expert program training, and course material to prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 written and practical exams.

## **Is there a boot camp or formal training for the Fortinet NSE 8 certification?**

No, there is no boot camp or formal training available to prepare for the NSE 8 certification.

You should read the exam preparation section within the NSE 8 Public Handbook document, which will help you prepare to attempt the exams.

## **Is there a configuration package or pre-set lab recommended to prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam?**

There is no recommended configuration package or preset lab to help you prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam.



## **Is it true that I need professional and hands-on experience with Fortinet solutions to pass the NSE 8 certification?**

Professional or hands-on experience with Fortinet solutions is desirable but not mandatory to pass the NSE 8 written and practical exams.

## **Is there a remote lab that I can access to prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam?**

No, there is no remote facility available for you to use to prepare for the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam.

Fortinet offers the NSE8 Immersion, a 2-day hands-on course that allows you to test a similar environment that we have in the practical exam, including full-featured topology and configuration tasks.

More information about the NSE 8 Immersion can be found here:

[https://training.fortinet.com/local/staticpage/view.php?page=library\\_nse-8-immersion](https://training.fortinet.com/local/staticpage/view.php?page=library_nse-8-immersion)

## **Can I use Fortinet virtual machines (VMs) to build my environment to play with the solutions and prepare for the NSE 8 practical exam?**

Yes, you can use Fortinet VMs to create your environment to test configurations and play with the different solutions included in the exam.

To access these VMs, you should follow the regular process defined in your region.

## **Should I concentrate on the firmware information listed in the exam description document, or should I focus on the latest firmware available for all products?**

Always refer to the latest NSE 8 Public Handbook document. It will provide the information you need to attempt the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam.



## Which Fortinet solutions or products are included on the NSE 8 certification exam?

The new version of the NSE 8 exams will be based on the most current firmware available on our support site. The NSE 8 candidate should have the knowledge required to configure a network environment with the latest firmware versions available, and up to two major releases following the date on which the exam becomes available to the public.

Product	Base Firmware	Written Exam	Practical Exam
FortiGate	6.2.x +	x	x
FortiAnalyzer	6.2.x +	x	x
FortiAuthenticator	6.0.x +	x	x
FortiManager	6.2.x +	x	x
FortiSandbox	3.1.x	x	x
FortiADC	5.4.x +	x	x
FortiWeb	6.3.x +	x	x
FortiMail	6.2.x +	x	x
FortiDDoS	5.3.x +	x	x
FortiAP	6.2.x +	x	x
FortiSwitch	6.2.x +	x	x
FortiSIEM	5.2.x +	x	x
FortiClient	6.2.x +	x	x

**Note:** Firmware versions may change at any time without notice. Please review the latest version of the NSE 8 handbook document, this FAQ document, and the NSE 8 exam description, when preparing for your exam.

About the base firmware versions:

- The NSE 8 certification program will have base firmware versions for all the solutions. The program will be adaptable to support up to two additional major releases during the life of the exam.
- The expert candidate's knowledge of Fortinet features, technologies, and solutions should extend beyond a single OS version.





## Do I have to bring anything to the practical exam? (for example, a laptop?)

No, you don't have to bring anything to the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam. We will provide all the necessary material and equipment.

Computers, cell phones, tablets, or any other electronic devices are not allowed in the testing room.

## Does the exam include a troubleshooting section?

No, the Fortinet NSE 8 does not include a *formal* troubleshooting section. If you make the wrong configuration for any of the required tasks, there is a high probability that you will have to troubleshoot your configuration.

## Do I have to configure any third-party solutions on the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam?

No, all the non-Fortinet solutions are pre-configured, but depending on the task, you may need to edit or change the pre-defined configuration. As an expert, you should know how to configure or troubleshoot any third-party solution that integrates with Fortinet's technology.

## Do I have access to Fortinet's official documentation (for example, admin guides and handbooks) during the Fortinet NSE 8 practical exam?

Yes, all the Fortinet official documentation (handbooks and admin guides mainly) is available locally for your reference.

## What are the options to take the NSE 8 practical exam?

The NSE 8 practical exam is delivered at the following sites:

Location	Address	Phone
US – Federal	12005 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 204 Reston, VA 20191	+ 408-331-4547



Sunrise Florida, USA	13450 W Sunrise Blvd Suite 430 Sunrise FL 33323, USA	+ 954-368-9990
Sophia Antipolis, France	905 rue Albert Einstein Bâtiment Fortinet Agora 06560 Valbonne, France	+33-4-8987-0500

Additional locations include, but are not limited to, the following non-standard sites:

- Fortinet Ottawa, Canada
- Fortinet Vancouver, Canada
- Fortinet HQ Sunnyvale, USA
- Fortinet Reading, UK
- Fortinet Paris, France
- Fortinet Germany
- Fortinet Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Fortinet Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

All locations offer the NSE 8 practical exam for a maximum of ten (10) test-takers simultaneously, using independent environments (pods) for each student.

To confirm availability and locations, please contact our regional Fortinet Training regional administrator:

[training@fortinet.com](mailto:training@fortinet.com) - Americas

[apactraining@fortinet.com](mailto:apactraining@fortinet.com) - Asia

[emeatraining@fortinet.com](mailto:emeatraining@fortinet.com) - Europe, Middle East

## Do I have immediate access to the results of the NSE 8 exams?

For the NSE 8 written exam, the examination report is displayed as soon as you complete the exam. The examination report is available for download from your Pearson VUE account 24 hours after your exam appointment.

For the practical exam, the examination report is delivered through an NSE Institute communication between 12 to 15 business days after the exam was taken.



## Does the Fortinet NSE 8 certification use sequential numbers for the certificates?

Yes, if you pass both the written exam and the practical exam, you will receive a unique certification number that will act as your NSE8 ID. You can use this ID to identify yourself to other NSE8 members and other technology market professionals.

## What is the NSE 8 certification validity?

The NSE 8 certification is valid for two (2) years.

First-time test-takers:

- For the written exam: unlimited attempts.
- For the practical exam: Passing the written exam is mandatory to schedule and attempt the practical exam; unlimited attempts are also allowed.

Re-certification testing:

- Upon successful renewal, the validity date is incremented by another two years from the initial grant date.

## What is the NSE 8 certification date?

The NSE 8 certification date is fixed to the date the test-taker passed the practical exam. This is the date shown on the NSE 8 plaque and the physical certificate shipped in the NSE 8 award box. If the candidate continuously keeps the certification valid by successfully re-certifying, the only change will be the expiration year of the certification, the day and the month will remain unchanged.

The initial certification date is the date used to determine all future certification and expiration dates, on a two year cycle. Upon successful re-certification the new certification and expiration date is based on the initial certification grant date, regardless of the date the re-certification exam was passed.

## What is the NSE 8 recertification process?

To recertify, the following requirements apply:

- While the certification is still valid (within the two-year period), the candidate must take and pass the written exam only (three attempts maximum).
- An additional 30 day period after the expiration date is available to candidates who must recertify. The 30 day period starts on the certification expiration date. If the exam is scheduled and passed within the valid two-year period of the certification plus the 30 days, there will be no penalties, and the certification will remain valid for an additional two years from the expiration date



- If the candidate fails the written exam after three (3) attempts, they must continue to attempt the written exam until they pass it; however, the candidate must schedule and pass the most updated version of the practical exam also.
- It is advised that candidates not re-certify too soon. Candidates should plan to re-certify no sooner than six months before the expiration date, to maximize the time between re-certifications.

When the candidate passes the written recertification exam, it also recertifies any other NSE certifications the candidate has achieved previously, including those that have expired.

## Where can I find pricing for the Fortinet NSE 8 certification?

If you are a partner, you can check NSE prices under the **Training** tab of the quarterly updated price list.

If you are not a partner, please contact your Fortinet Regional Training administrator or your sales account manager.