

# How I prepared & Passed CCSP

Date : 21 March 2017

I passed CCSP (Certified Cloud Security Professional) on 18 March 2017. I live in India. In India only 3 person are certified for CCSP as on date.

Earlier Mile stones :

1. CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor) – June 2016 (Score 632/800, in top 10%)
2. CISM (Certified Information Security Manager) – Sept 2016 (Score 624/800, in top 10%)
3. CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) – 5 Nov 2016
4. CRISC (Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control) – 10 Dec 2016 (Score 584/800, in top

## Background :

B. Tech. (Computer Science ) -1990 with more than 25 years of Experience as Vice President / Sr Vice President –IT in manufacturing organizations with major focus on IT security & SAP implementations.

## My CCSP exam preparation :

Note : I am bound by NDA with ISC-2. So i will not talk about actual exam pattern or topics. I will talk about difficulty level.

1. I started my CCSP exam preparation from 15 Dec 2016 after passing CRISC. I faced a lot of problem during CCSP exam preparation due to lack of available resources. This was not a case with CISSP as lot of resources were available. I started with official CCSP CBK by Gordon. I had read some reviews that CCSP CBK is not good to read & exam is not based on ccsp cbk.
2. In Feb 2017, I purchased All in one by denial carter. It contains approx 300 question.
3. I also referred some NIST / iso documents. Viewed Cybary CCSP videos
4. I rate AIO questions little higher than CBK / CCCURE (140 questions). But actual exam questions are quite different & difficult.
5. CBK vs AIO :  
They cover almost same topics. AIO has skipped some topics of CBK. AIO is written in all paragraph style with less no of bullet points. I found very few figures in AIO. I think Mr. Carter will include more diagrams in his next edition. Some topics are better explained in AIO. I will give equal weight to both.
6. Overall I found this exam most tough exam than any other certification exam e.g. CISA,CISM,CRISC,CISSP. I rate this exam higher than others.
7. You can not score much by merely reading CCSP CBK or AIO . Exam is totally conceptual. Your have to understand the concept.
8. CISSP vs CCSP :  
Since parent body ISC-2 is same for both , CISSP will have some advantage of prior exam Experience.

9. I believe that you need focus & concentration during your study which is applicable to all other exam also. I have made a lot of research on focus / motivation & belief system. This helps a lot in actual exam

**Exam room Experience :** ( Note : some cricket terms are being used to understand better)

1. I had decided that I shall fight till the last minute. I usually give more time in 1st round.
2. 1st hour of play was ok. I scored 47 run 1st Hour. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour was really tough and reverse swing began to happen. At one time I had to flag 8-10 question in a row. After 2<sup>nd</sup> hr my score was 82. I took break of 4-5 minutes and completed 1st round in 190 minutes. I had marked 37 questions for review. I completed review before 12 minutes. In remaining time i reviewed some initial questions again & Pressed the final SUBMIT button on 240<sup>th</sup> minute. I almost changed 7-8 answers in my 2<sup>nd</sup> review.
3. At the end I was satisfied with my performance. When I came out, my dream certification success letter was in my hand.

Regards

**Naresh Gupta**

**CCSP, CISSP, CISA, CISM, CRISC**

**Email : [ngupta@mission-2020.com](mailto:ngupta@mission-2020.com)**