



CREST Exams Update Webinar FAQs

Q. Is CRESTDrive for CRT not available until July?

CRESTDrive will be first available in the new CCT INF and CCT APP practical exams where first sittings are expected to happen from July. Our current estimate for rolling it out to CRT is mid August and we will be providing further updates via our CRT FAQs page.

Q. Are there plans to update the AWS Kali image?

The AMI for the CRT exam was updated in early June and the candidate machines will be updated on an annual basis.

Q. Do candidates get a list of tools installed on the testing hosts prior to testing, to help us prepare properly?

Candidates have access to the AMI and the candidate machine (Kali Box) prior to the exam which allows them to familiarise themselves with the available tooling and exam environment.

Q. Are the tools Professional tools? i.e. Burp Suite Professional, Nessus Pro

Yes, where applicable.

Q. Will the candidate VM enable the candidate access to Professional versions of common security testing tools such as Nessus Pro and Burp Suite Professional?

The CRT Amazon image is the exact copy of the exam machine but Burp Suite and Nessus do not have licenses. These are fully licensed in the exam environment in Pearson VUE.

Q. Will CRESTDrive enable candidates to bring custom scripts / tools into the practical CCT-level exams?

Yes. The only limitation is regarding size where candidates can upload files up to 100MB in size. Terms and conditions apply including guidelines on how to use it, retention periods and other relevant information. These will be accessible by candidates on CRESTDrive and CREST website.

Q. Just trying to get my head around the "open book design" and CREST Drive. Does that mean during the exam we will have the ability to upload files and/or access the Internet/Google, similar to other Offsec exams? Or will we have to predict what resources/specific tools/dependencies we may need before the exam and ensure they're uploaded to CREST Drive before the exam?

CRESTDrive allows candidates to upload files ahead of the exam to then access these files when taking their exam. No internet access will be available during the exam meaning that candidates can only access what has been uploaded to CRESTDrive. We encourage candidates to familiarise themselves with the exam preparation resources available on CREST website such as exam syllabus, notes for candidates, candidate machine, among others.

Q. I'd be keen to know how the notes uploaded to the CRESTDrive are secured, I've spent a lot of time and years curating my notes and I wouldn't want them disclosed. I assume they'd be deleted after the exam?

After the exam, files uploaded will be Archived and Exam Candidates will no longer have access to them. Exam Candidates' files will be Archived for three months and then securely deleted. More details available on the CRESTDrive T&Cs and webpage.

Q. Will tailored feedback from CREST assessors be given, for unsuccessful candidates, for the scenario element of the exam?

Exam feedback now provide a breakdown by section/key topic resulting on better guidance for unsuccessful candidates.

Q. If exams are auto marked, why does it take 24 hours for results?

Results are automatically updated every other hour and are available to candidates as soon as the exam lab shares the data and results with Pearson VUE.

Q. Will there be a comprehensive updated list for study and learning materials for CCSAS to guide the students in the right direction for their learning?

One of the goals for the new CCSAS exam is to provide better guidance and resources to support candidates on their exam preparation which will include a refreshed list of study and learning materials.

Q. How will CREST ensure that the difficulty / pass-rate for the new exams are comparable to the legacy exams?

All exam updates and/or new exams go through extensive testing which includes difficulty, duration, content, lab performance (where applicable) and many other components. This also includes candidate performance and pass rates. Once an exam is live, CREST regularly monitors performance and pass rates to make any adjustments if/where required.

Q. Is the certification validity period still 3 years or has that been changed?

It remains 3 years

Q. Since the point of an exam/accreditation is to establish a baseline of capability and taking CRT as an example... While improvements are being made iteratively and CRESTDrive being released later in the year it's possible that a CRT experience today will be different than a CRT experience later in the year. How does CREST assert that one CRT is the same as another when the assessment experience varies?

We regularly monitor exams and candidate's performance as well as a number of other metrics to ensure that our exams are consistent after new iterations have been released or improvements have been made.

Q. If a candidate decides to take the practical first, is there a timeline when the candidate is expected to take the written part and vice versa?

Each exam part (ie written and practical) are valid for 12 months meaning candidates have 12 months to complete and pass the second part after having taken the first one.

Q. Why is the CRT so network heavy? Wouldn't it make sense to bring it in line with the popular OSCP?

The CRT syllabus reflects requirements from the CHECK scheme and what is expected from CHECK team members. Having said that, the CRT exam and syllabus has evolved to now having a better balance between Infrastructure and Web Application sections reflecting industry requirements. In the last CRT update, the exam has now introduced separated and dedicated sections to test Infrastructure and Web Applications. Number of marks for the Web Applications have also been increased from 20 to 60 marks now representing nearly 40% of the exam.

Q. Does removing CCT INF mean the CCSAS has to be a longer exam to cover the additional requirements (that were previously covered by CCT INF)?

The new CCSAS syllabus defines the skill areas that will be tested in the new CCSAS exam which is now decoupled from the CCT INF exam. Although there are still a number of common skill areas and knowledge across both exams, the new CCSAS exam focuses on the essential knowledge required for the Attack Specialist role. For more details please review the new syllabus available on <https://www.crest-approved.org/skills-certifications-careers/exam-updates/>

Q. I'm trying to get my CCSAS before joining a new company. The CCT INF in one day was attractive, I sat the first half but then practicals aren't available until July. This is really disappointing to trust the exams will be ready to do in 1 day and now it's a longer wait and I'm stuck paying more or waiting. Will there be more of the old CCSAS available after CCT INF practical results in July?

Yes, we have delivered a number of hotel-based exams sessions to support CCSAS candidates. The next sessions are taking place in June and July. Please get in touch with examsupport@crest-approved.org if you require support on booking your exam.

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Q. Since 2014 I've gone through a number of CREST exams along the pentester track. I've been proud to have earned those qualifications and humbled when I didn't meet the mark. With such a high technical benchmark to assess in such a short time period, stress is an unfortunate counterpart to the CREST exam experience. The recent move to Pearson VUE practical tests has resulted in significant increase in stress and increased frustration with poor technical exam experience due to sub-par technology in PV centers. I am speaking from recent (2023/2024) experiences. For example; one case fed back that they simply couldn't see their entire Kali screen and had to scroll up and down.

Is the current Practical in PV centres the final form or will there be further enhancement and how is the best way to feed back experiences in a way that will be heard by the team making these improvements?

Improving the candidate experience and addressing potential issues in the test centres are constantly being assessed. For the candidate experience, we collect feedback and monitor a number of metrics to identify potential areas of improvements. A few examples include moving the new CRT from being a closed book exam to enable candidates to bring their notes and files which is now underway and soon to be available. CREST also has regular meeting with Pearson VUE to analyse and address issues raised by candidates in test centres so we can identify improvement areas that might be applicable to other centres or to address specific issues related to isolated events.

Q. I did the theory and screen space was an issue with tooling + questions in one screen. This will likely be harder when im trying to do work and not just read. is there 2 screens in these PV centres or something similar?

During the pilot programme and testing phase, we have tested the technical and infrastructure requirements to define the requirements for Pearson VUE test centres. We also monitor their performance and encourage candidates to report on any issues they face so we can work with Pearson VUE to address these.

Q. Are there any plans to allow copy and pasting flags during exams? If not, will people be marked down if they mistype the flag?

This is a technical restriction of the platform. We have designed the exam content considering this restriction and we have ensured that only short answers have been included so that candidates do not have to type long answers. We have also utilised simple wording format to mitigate the risk of typos and mistakes.

Q. Will Pearson VUE still be storing and processing data in the US?

Pearson VUE is certified by the UK Data Privacy Framework and all details on how the data is managed can be accessed here <https://home.pearsonvue.com/Legal/Privacy-and-cookies-policy.aspx>

Q. I trialled the CRT / CRSA in the UK. PV send data to the US? That shouldn't be happening really.

Pearson VUE is certified by the UK Data Privacy Framework and all details on how the data is managed can be accessed here <https://home.pearsonvue.com/Legal/Privacy-and-cookies-policy.aspx>

Q. Why is finger protocol still on the syllabus considering that it hasn't been used since last millennium?

Keeping our syllabi up to date and reflecting the latest practice whilst also meeting regulatory requirements is one of our key challenges. Some of the topics, including the specific one you have referred to, are present in the syllabus because we need to include all topics that form part of the NCSC CHECK standard.

We also put a great amount of time and thoughts alongside our SMEs to ensure that our exams balance the importance and weighting of such topics and how they are tested in our exams.

Q. Can we expect to see the new CCSAM and CCSAS exams before the end of this year?

Yes, these exams are planned to be launched soon. Detailed timeframes will be provided in our exam updates page <https://www.crest-approved.org/skills-certifications-careers/exam-updates/>

Q. Will there be any further training providers aligned to the CCT-level certifications, aside from the HTB partnership?

CREST is constantly working to grow our Training Providers programme which has been relaunched in 2024. To find the latest list of providers and filter them by exam and region please visit our dedicated page: [Training Provider Programme - CREST \(crest-approved.org\)](https://www.crest-approved.org/training-provider-programme)

Q. Why can you not make training towards CREST exams more accessible for the independent learner and employees of small companies? Courses from CREST-approved providers are prohibitively expensive. The recently started HTB lab does not remotely match the sort of tasks and style of the CRT exam. The only way for an independent learner to train for the exams is take them multiple times, which is actively being discouraged by CREST. But that is the only way of getting realistic practice pitched at the right level.

We have relaunched the CREST Training Providers programme this year and there is much more work to be done. We have already onboarded a number of providers from different regions and covering different specialisms. We are now working to expand that base and provide a wider range of options to our candidates. Please visit our dedicated page for the latest list of providers: [Training Provider Programme - CREST \(crest-approved.org\)](https://www.crest-approved.org/training-provider-programme)

Q. I have recently passed the new CCT INF Theory and Scenario and I'm currently waiting for the new CCT INF Practical. My question is since the new CCT INF Practical will only be out in June, is it possible that the 12 months validity begins when the new CCT INF Practical comes out instead of when someone has passed the new CCT INF Theory and Scenario.

In this case, the validity of the new written exam would be extended to up to 12 months from the day when the practical exam is available as required by the candidate.

Q. I have a valid CCT INF written pass from the old exam format. I was told that this is still valid for the new format. If I take the new Multiple Choice + Scenario exam through PearsonVUE, do I just need to pass the new Scenario exam? Does it matter if I fail the new written exam since I still have a valid pass from the old format?

Candidates with a valid written exam from the previous format will be exempt from the multiple choice component when taking the new written exam. This means they only need to pass the scenario component of the new written exam.

Q. Will there be more dates for the old CCSAS in hotels as there is no definite date for these?

Yes, we have delivered a number of hotel-based exams sessions to support CCSAS candidates since the exam update has been announced. The next sessions are taking place in June and July. Please get in touch with examsupport@crest-approved.org if you require support on booking your exam.

Please contact examsupport@crest-approved.org team if you would like to book your CCSAS exam.