

# RCSA-NPCM

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Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate  
Network Planning and Configuration Management

Exam 601-01 Prep/Blueprint

Version 2018-1

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# Preface

This Riverbed® certification blueprint is intended for anyone who wants to become certified in the Riverbed SteelCentral Network Planning and Configuration Management – NPCM family of products and solutions.

## What's inside?

The Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate – Network Planning and Configuration Management (RCSA-NPCM) program is designed to validate the knowledge and skills needed to deploy and administer Riverbed NPCM solutions. The SteelCentral NPCM product suite is designed to ensure the availability of business-critical network services by detecting network device configuration errors before an outage in business-critical services. In addition, NPCM helps with security standards compliance by discovering and highlighting network configuration errors and differences. The NPCM suite also automates the process of generating network diagrams and facilitates capacity planning and predictive analysis using offline simulation.

This blueprint provides a combination of theory and practical experience needed for a general understanding of the subject matter.

***This publication does not replace practical experience, nor is it designed to be a stand-alone guide for any subject. Instead, it is an effective tool that, when combined with education activities and experience, can be a very useful preparation guide for the exam.***

## Certification Overview

The recommended prerequisite course, NOS200: Network Planning and Configuration Management class, is targeted for Riverbed customers and resellers involved in the deployment, configuration, and/or administration of network infrastructure; identification of configuration issues, inefficient configurations, or noncompliance with regulations or policies; generation of network diagrams; and network planning and capacity management.

The typical RCSA-NPCM will have taken the NOS200 course in addition to having hands-on experience in network planning, data management, and configuration management. While there are no set requirements prior to taking the exam, candidates who have taken this Riverbed authorized training class and have at least three months of hands-on experience with NPCM products (SteelCentral NetAuditor, Steel Central NetCollector, and SteelCentral NetPlanner) have a significantly higher chance of receiving the certification.

**We would like to emphasize that *solely* taking the class will not adequately prepare you for the exam.**

To obtain the RCSA-NPCM certification, you are required to pass a computerized exam available at any Pearson VUE testing center worldwide.



## Benefits of Certification

- ***Establishes your credibility as a knowledgeable and capable individual in regard to Riverbed SteelCentral products and services***
- ***Improves your career advancement potential***
- ***Entitles you to use the RCSA-NPCM certification logo on your business card***

# Exam Information

- **Exam Number:** 601-01
- **Exam Name:** *Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate – NPCM*
- **Product Version:** *Please refer to the 'Blueprint and Study References' section for detail.*
- **Number of Questions:** 60
- **Total Time:** *75 minutes for exam, 15 minutes for Survey and Tutorial (90 minutes total)*
- **Exam Provider:** *Pearson VUE*
- **Exam Language:** *English only. Pearson automatically provides a 30-minute time extension for exams taken in non-English speaking countries. English speaking countries are Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, South Africa, and the United States.*
- **Special Accommodations:** *Yes (must submit written request to Pearson VUE for ESL or ADA accommodations; includes time extensions and/or a reader)*
- **Offered Locations:** *Worldwide (over 4000 test centers in 165 countries)*
- **Prerequisites:** *None, although taking a Riverbed training class is highly recommended*
- **Available to:** *Partners, customers, and employees*
- **Passing Score:** 60%
- **Certification Expires:** *Every two years (must recertify every two years, with six month grace period)*
- **Recertification Criteria:** *Retake the 601-01 – RCSA-NPCM current exam*
- **Wait Between Failed Attempts:** *72 hours*
- **Wait Between Passed Exams:** *One year*
- **Number of Attempts Allowed:** *Unlimited*



# Certification Checklist

As the RCSA-NPCM exam is geared towards individuals who have both the theoretical knowledge and hands on experience with the product suite, ensuring proficiency in both areas is crucial towards passing the exam. For individuals starting out with the process, we recommend the following steps to guide you along the way.

## 1. Building Theoretical Knowledge

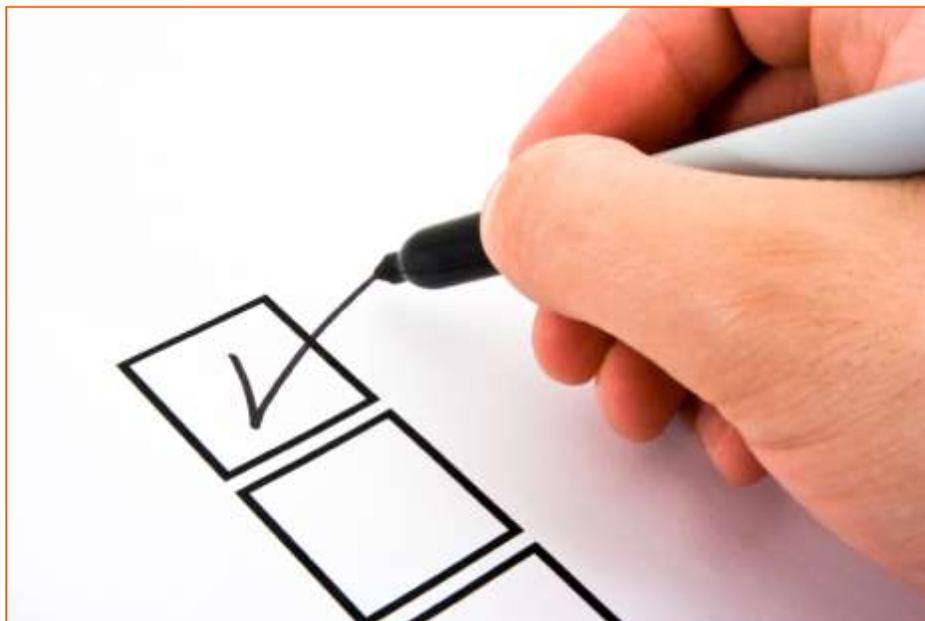
The easiest way to become knowledgeable in deploying, maintaining, and troubleshooting the Riverbed NPCM product suite is to take a Riverbed authorized training class. To ensure the greatest possibility of passing the exam, it is recommended that you review the RCSA-NPCM Blueprint and Study References and ensure your familiarity with all topics listed, prior to any examination attempts.

## 2. Gaining Hands-on Experience

While the theoretical knowledge will get you partway there, hands-on knowledge will also help prepare you to pass the exam. Generally, we recommend that customers, resellers and partners complete the hands on labs associated with the NOS200 course. Alternatively, candidates would have gained hands-on experience by deploying the NPCM solutions in production environments.

## 3. Taking the Exam

The final step in becoming an RCSA-NPCM is to take the exam at a Pearson VUE authorized testing center. To register for any Riverbed Certification exam, please visit <http://www.pearsonvue.com/riverbed>



# RCSA-NCPM Blueprint and Study References

To access Riverbed technical documentation and publications please visit Riverbed Support webpage at <https://support.riverbed.com/index.htm>. (Note: Support center credentials are required in order to access this link, and the user guides referenced below.)

***This publication does not replace practical experience, nor is it designed to be a stand-alone guide for any subject. Instead, it is an effective tool that, when combined with education activities and experience, can be a very useful preparation guide for the exam.***

## Riverbed Recommended Training Courses

- ***NOS200 Network Planning and Configuration Management class***

Additional Information on Riverbed Training can be found at: <http://www.riverbed.com/training/index.html>. You can also write to [training@riverbed.com](mailto:training@riverbed.com)

Riverbed authorized training courses and Riverbed Certification are mutually exclusive programs. This means that certification is not directly mapped to specific training courses and vice versa. We recommend certain courses but in no way does that automatically qualify or prepare you for the exam.

To access Riverbed technical documentation and publications please visit Riverbed Support webpage at <https://support.riverbed.com/index.htm>



## Recommended References

### Study and Resource References

Reference
<p><b>Software version:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NetCollector 18.0.6</li><li>• NetAuditor 18.5</li><li>• NetPlanner 18.5</li><li>• Portal 1.3.0</li><li>• Provisioner 2.0.0</li><li>• Report Server 2.6.3</li></ul> <p><b>Technical documentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For all Riverbed NPCM products visit <a href="https://support.riverbed.com/software/index.htm">https://support.riverbed.com/software/index.htm</a></li></ul> <p><b>Technical Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For the Riverbed NPCM training available visit <a href="http://www.riverbed.com/services-training/training/">http://www.riverbed.com/services-training/training/</a></li></ul>

### General Knowledge

Subject	Reference
<b>NPCM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Riverbed Training Course: NOS200 Network Planning and Configuration Management</i> is recommended.</li></ul>

### SteelCentral NetCollector

Subject	Reference
<b>NetCollector User Guide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/net-collector.html">https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/net-collector.html</a></li></ul>
<b>SteelCentral Portal User Guide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-ap/sc-portal.html">https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-ap/sc-portal.html</a></li></ul>
<b>NPCM Training Modules</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riverbed Training Course: NOS200 - SteelCentral NetCollector (1 day)</li></ul>

### SteelCentral NetAuditor

Subject	Reference
NetAuditor Desktop and Web Editions User Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/net-auditor.html">https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/net-auditor.html</a></li></ul>
Provisioner User Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/provisioner.html">https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/provisioner.html</a></li></ul>
NPCM Training Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riverbed Training Course: NOS200 – SteelCentral NetAuditor (2 days)</li></ul>

## SteelCentral NetPlanner

Subject	Reference
NetPlanner User Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="444 220 1344 281">• <a href="https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/net-planner.html">https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/net-planner.html</a></li></ul>
NPCM Training Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="444 298 1344 338">• Riverbed® Training Course: NOS200 – SteelCentral NetPlanner (2 days)</li></ul>

# Exam Questions

## Types of Questions

The RSCA-NPCM exam includes a variety of question types, including single-answer multiple choice and multiple-answer multiple choice. All questions are weighted equally.

## Exam Question Distribution

Subject Area • Objectives	Approximate Number of Questions From Subject Area/Objective
<b>NPCM Suite Overview</b>	<b>6 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
• Describe the NPCM suite of products	4
• List the benefits associated with the NPCM suite	1
• Identify integrations and add-ons	1
<b>NetCollector Core Concepts</b>	<b>3 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
• Explain how data is accessed using NetCollector	2
• Describe how data from live network devices is collected using NetCollector	1
<b>NetCollector: Getting Started</b>	<b>3 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
• Use the Basic Setup wizard	1
• Use the Add/Discover Devices wizard	0
• Use Device Manager functionality to configure collection settings or add devices to NetCollector	1
• Use Adapter Chains to configure and schedule tasks in NetCollector	1
<b>NetCollector: Groups</b>	<b>3 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
• Describe the benefits of using groups	1
• Create groups in NetCollector	2

<b>NetCollector: Links and Connections</b>	<b>3 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how NetCollector gathers link and connection information</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access link and connection information using NetCollector</li> </ul>	2
<b>NetCollector: Polling, Metrics and Alerts</b>	<b>7 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe polling, metrics and alerts</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Configure a polling profile</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Configure alerts</li> </ul>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create user-defined metrics</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe metric aggregation and aging</li> </ul>	1
<b>NetCollector: SteelCentral Portal Integration</b>	<b>2 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the benefits of integrating NetCollector and SteelCentral Portal (Portal)</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access NetCollector data displayed in Portal</li> </ul>	1
<b>NetAuditor Overview</b>	<b>2 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the Features of NetAuditor</li> </ul>	2
<b>NetAuditor: Web-based</b>	<b>8 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the features of the web-based version of NetAuditor</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generate site specific diagrams</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>View and investigate network changes</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generate a path view diagram</li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generate a custom path view diagram</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navigate diagrams</li> </ul>	2

<b>NetAuditor: Desktop - Generate Diagrams</b>	<b>5 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate a diagram using the Desktop version of NetAuditor</li> </ul>	5
<b>NetAuditor: Desktop – Audit and Policy Compliance</b>	<b>7 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the benefits of the network configuration auditing and policy compliance features in the Desktop version of NetAuditor</li> </ul>	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the audit and policy compliance features in the Desktop version of NetAuditor</li> </ul>	3
<b>SteelCentral NetPlanner Overview</b>	<b>8 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe NetPlanner mechanics and workflow</li> </ul>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how NetPlanner can be used for network planning and design</li> </ul>	3
<b>NetPlanner Capacity Planning</b>	<b>3 questions distributed between the following objectives:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain Capacity Management Methodology</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform WAN Capacity Management Using Network Capacity Reports</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for Future Traffic Growth and New Application Deployment</li> </ul>	1

## About Riverbed

Riverbed enables organizations to modernize their networks and applications with industry-leading SD-WAN, application acceleration, and visibility solutions. Riverbed's platform allows enterprises to transform application and cloud performance into a competitive advantage by maximizing employee productivity and leveraging IT to create new forms of operational agility. At more than \$1 billion in annual revenue, Riverbed's 28,000+ customers include 97% of the *Fortune* 100 and 98% of the *Forbes* Global 100. Learn more at [riverbed.com](http://riverbed.com).



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