

# RCSA-NPM

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Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate  
Network Performance Management

Exam 201-01 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 Network Performance Management – NPM products and SteelCentral®.

## What's inside?

The Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate – Network Performance Management (RCSA-NPM) program is designed to validate the skills required of pre-sales engineers and technical professionals who can demonstrate knowledge in the theory and configuration of Riverbed SteelCentral solutions, and to be able to conduct demos and proof of concepts (POCs) in a customer network.

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 Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate – NPM certificate is granted to individuals who demonstrate advanced knowledge and experience with the Riverbed SteelCentral product suite. The typical RCSA-NPM will have taken a Riverbed approved training class such as the *NPM200 Performance Monitoring Essentials*, and *APM200 Application Performance Monitoring Essentials* training courses in addition to having hands-on experience in performing deployment, troubleshooting, and maintenance of Riverbed SteelCentral products in small, medium, and large organizations. While there are no set requirements prior to taking the exam, candidates who have taken these Riverbed authorized training classes and have at least three months of hands-on experience with SteelCentral products 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-NPM 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-NPM certification logo on your business card***

# Exam Information

- **Exam Number: 201-01**
- **Exam Name: Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate – NPM**
- **Product Version: Please refer to the ‘Blueprint and Study References’ section for detail.**
- **Number of Questions: 50**
- **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 201-01 – RCSA-NPM current exam. If you are a RCSP-NPM certified, passing the 299-01 – RCSP-NPM exam will re-certify both your RCSA-NPM and the RCSP-NPM**
- **Wait Between Failed Attempts: 72 hours**
- **Wait Between Passed Exams: One year**
- **Number of Attempts Allowed: Unlimited**



# Certification Checklist

As the RCSA-NPM exam is geared towards individuals who have both the theoretical knowledge and hands on experience with the Riverbed SteelCentral 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 SteelCentral 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-NPM 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. Since all deployments are different, providing an exact amount of experience required is difficult. Generally, we recommend that resellers and partners perform at least five deployments in a variety of technologies prior to attempting the exam. For customers, and alternatively for resellers and partners, starting from the design and deployment phase and having **at least three months of active hands-on experience** in a production environment would be beneficial.

## 3. Taking the Exam

The final step in becoming an RCSA-NPM 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-NPM Blueprint and Study References

The Riverbed Certified Solutions Associate-NPM exam, and therefore this blueprint, covers the Riverbed products and technologies through version 10.8.7 for the SteelCentral NetProfiler, NetExpress, and Flow Gateway; version 10.9 for SteelCentral Packet Analyzer; version 10.9 for SteelCentral NetShark and virtual NetShark, version 10.8.7 for SteelCentral NetExpress 470, version 17 of Transaction Analyzer, version 9.6 for SteelCentral AppResponse, and version 1.1.5 of SteelCentral Portal.

***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

- ***NPM200 Performance Monitoring Essentials***
- ***APM200 Application Performance Monitoring Essentials***

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

### General Knowledge

Subject	Reference
<b>TCP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc.html">http://www.ietf.org/rfc.html</a></li><li>• RFC 793 (Original TCP RFC)</li><li>• RFC 1323 (TCP extensions for high performance)</li><li>• RCF 2131 (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol – DHCP)</li><li>• RFC 4789 (Simple Network Management Protocol – SNMP)</li><li>• RFC References for DNS <a href="http://www.zoneedit.com/doc/rfc/">http://www.zoneedit.com/doc/rfc/</a></li><li>• TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume I, The Protocols by W. R. Stevens (Addison-Wesley, 1994)</li></ul>
<b>NetFlow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.caida.org/tools/utilities/flowsfan/arch.xml">http://www.caida.org/tools/utilities/flowsfan/arch.xml</a></li></ul>

### SteelCentral NetProfiler, NetExpress, and Flow Gateway

Subject	Reference
<b>SteelCentral NetProfiler, Flow Gateway, NetExpress, Installation, Deployment, Sizing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riverbed SteelCentral NPM Deployment Guide</li><li>• SteelCentral NetProfiler, NetExpress, and Flow Gateway Installation Guide v10.8.7</li><li>• SteelCentral Flow Gateway-VE Installation Guide v10.8.7</li><li>• SteelCentral NetProfiler-VE Installation Guide v10.8.7</li><li>• SteelCentral NetProfiler and SteelCentral NetExpress User's Guide v10.8.7</li><li>• SteelCentral Flow Gateway User's Guide v10.8.7</li></ul>

### SteelCentral Packet Analyzer

Subject	Reference
<b>Installation, Configuration, Operation, Reporting, Analytics, Network Evaluation, Deployment, Sizing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riverbed SteelCentral NPM Deployment Guide</li><li>• SteelCentral Packet Analyzer Personal Edition Reference Manual v10.9</li><li>• SteelCentral Packet Analyzer Reference Manual v10.9</li></ul>

## SteelCentral NetShark

Subject	Reference
<b>Installation, Configuration, Operation, Sizing, Analytics, Monitoring, Deployment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riverbed SteelCentral NPM Deployment Guide</li><li>• SteelCentral NetShark Quick Start Guide v10.9</li><li>• SteelCentral NetShark Appliance Maintenance Guide v10.9</li><li>• SteelCentral NetShark Filters Guide v10.9</li><li>• SteelCentral NetShark User's Guide v10.9</li><li>• SteelCentral Virtual NetShark Quick Start Guide v10.9</li></ul>

## SteelCentral AppResponse

Subject	Reference
<b>Installation, Configuration, Operation, Sizing, Analytics, Monitoring, Deployment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AppResponse 9.6 Administrator Guide</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 Director User Guide</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 Hardware Install Guide</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 Modules User Guide</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 Required Practices</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 Software Install Guide</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 System Requirements</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 User Guide</li><li>• AppResponse 9.6 with Other Riverbed Solutions</li></ul>

## SteelCentral Transaction Analyzer

Subject	Reference
<b>Installation, Configuration, Operation, Sizing, Analytics, Monitoring, Deployment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SteelCentral AppTransaction Xpert 17 Installation Instructions</li><li>• SteelCentral AppTransaction Xpert 17 Online Documentation</li><li>• SteelCentral AppTransaction Xpert 17 Tutorials</li><li>• SteelCentral AppTransaction Xpert 17 User Guide</li></ul>



## SteelCentral Portal

Subject	Reference
<b>Installation, Configuration, Operation, Sizing, Analytics, Monitoring, Deployment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="467 275 959 302">• SteelCentral Portal 1.1.5 Users Guide</li><li data-bbox="467 323 1081 350">• SteelCentral Portal 1.1.5 Troubleshooting Guide</li><li data-bbox="467 371 1081 399">• SteelCentral Portal 1.1.5 Installation Instructions</li><li data-bbox="467 420 805 447">• SteelCentral Portal 1.1.5</li></ul>

# Exam Questions

## Types of Questions

The RSCA-NPM exam includes a variety of question types, including single-answer multiple choice, multiple-answer multiple choice, and scenario based. The question distribution is heavily targeted toward the multiple-choice variety.

## Exam Question Distribution

Subject Area	Approximate Number of Questions from this area
AppResponse	13
NetProfiler	21
Packet Analyzer	9
Transaction Analyzer	1
NetShark	1
Portal	5
<b>TOTAL QUESTIONS</b>	<b>50</b>

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### 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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