EXAM BLUEPRINT GUIDE

Nutanix Certified Professional Business Continuity (NCP-BC) 7.5 Beta Exam

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1. The Exam

1.1 Purpose of Exam

The Nutanix Certified Professional - Business Continuity (NCP-BC) 7.5 beta exam will measure a candidate's ability to plan, configure, execute, and troubleshoot disaster recovery solutions for complex scenarios within the Nutanix portfolio. Successful candidates demonstrate mastery of these skills and abilities.

1.2 Number of Questions

The NCP-BC 7.5 beta exam consists of 106 multiple-choice and multiple-response questions.

1.3 Pricing

There is no cost for the NCP-BC 7.5 beta exam.

1.4 Passing Score

The final score will be determined by examining the results from the beta exam period, determining which exam items performed well, and evaluating each candidate's results, based on only the items that performed well.

This process can take from 4-6 weeks from the time the beta period has ended. Once the evaluation is complete, candidates will receive their scores. Candidates who have passed will not need to take the live exam.

1.5 How Objectives Relate to Questions on the Exam

Objectives summarize what the test is designed to measure. Objectives are developed by Exam Developers and Subject Matter Experts based on identified tasks that relate to the job of planning, configuring, executing, and troubleshooting disaster recovery solutions for complex scenarios within the Nutanix portfolio.

Once the initial development process is complete, these objectives are verified using an external group of individuals in the actual job role. Finally, a number of questions is determined for each objective, which relates directly to the criticality of the task in the job role.

1.6 Languages

The beta exam is available in English.

1.7 Time Limit

The time limit for the beta exam is 180 minutes.

1.8 Scheduling and Taking the Exam

This exam is delivered via remote proctoring or in-person at select test centers.

If you select remote proctoring, after registering for the exam and providing valid identification, you will receive information on how to take the exam from your location using a web browser. Because the exam is remote proctored, you will be provided with a locked down, monitored, secure exam experience.

If you select in-person testing, you will be able to select a test center near you. On the day of the exam, you will need to arrive at the test center 15 minutes prior to the exam start time with a valid government-issued ID.

1.9 Certification Tracks

The NCP-BC 7.5 exam is a core component of the Nutanix Business Continuity track. Passing this exam results in achieving the NCP-BC 7 certification.

The certification requires a passing score on the exam. While it is not required that you attend a course, Nutanix provides training that covers the objectives on the exam. Details on the recommended training course are provided in Section 4.

1.10 Retake Policy

If a candidate fails an exam on the first attempt, he or she is allowed two additional attempts. There is a seven-day waiting period between attempts. Like the first attempt, these are paid for individually and Nutanix recommends that you allow sufficient time between attempts to be properly prepared and to maximize your chances for success.

Please note: After three attempts, you will be unable to take the exam for 60 days, after which you can email university.nutanix.com and request that your attempts are reset. Nutanix recommends you utilize the time to thoroughly review this guide and the related references and/or take the recommended training for this exam.

1.11 Exam Security

Nutanix reserves the right to refuse certifying a candidate who violates exam security policies. This includes copying and redistribution of exam material, using any type of study material during the exam itself, attempting to photograph exam items and taking an exam using a false identity. Your identity is captured as part of the exam registration process and must be validated before you will be allowed to take the exam.

1.12 Recertification

Once you have passed the Nutanix Certified Professional – Business Continuity 7.5 exam and achieved the NCP-BC 7 certification, it will remain valid for three years.

To maintain your certification status, you must either renew your existing certification, pass an equivalent NCP-level exam within another certification track, or pass the NCM-MCI exam.

1.13 Benefits of Certification

- Digital badge from Credly that you can share on social media
- Access to the Certification store at http://store.nutanix.com for shirts, mugs, and more
- Opportunity to participate as a SME to develop future exams
- Discount on attending Nutanix .NEXT

2. Intended Audience

A candidate for the NCP-BC 7.5 exam and NCP-BC 7 certification has approximately 2-3 years of holistic IT infrastructure experience, 1-2 years of experience with the Nutanix environment, and 6-12 months of Nutanix DR experience.

Successful candidates are typically individuals who use Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (BCDR) solutions, such as systems administrators, backup administrators, and architects. They can also be platform engineers, database administrators, and/or network engineers/administrators.

Finally, the successful candidate will most likely have taken training courses, such as the Nutanix Business Continuity Administration (NBCA) course.

3. Objectives Covered in the NCP-BC 7.5 Beta Exam

3.1 Introduction

It is recommended that candidates have the knowledge and skills necessary for planning, configuring, executing, and troubleshooting disaster recovery solutions for complex scenarios within the Nutanix portfolio before attempting the NCP-BC 7.5 exam. It is also recommended that the candidate complete the training course described in Section 4 prior to taking the exam.

For the NCP-BC 7 certification, candidates will be tested on the following software versions:

- Nutanix Disaster Recovery: version pc.7.5
- Prism Central: version pc.7.5

3.2 Objectives

Prior to taking this exam, candidates should understand each of the following objectives. Each objective is listed below; along with related tools the candidate should have experience with, and related documentation that contains information relevant to the objective. Please note that some documentation requires access via the Support Portal. Information on creating an account for use with the Support Portal can be found here.

All objectives may also be referenced in other product documentation not specifically highlighted below. The candidate should be familiar with all relevant product documentation or have the equivalent skills.

Section 1 – Interpret and Configure Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (BCDR) Requirements

Objective 1.1: Determine prerequisites for BCDR schedule configurations

Knowledge

- Relate RPO to a DR configuration
    - Given a scenario choose async, nearsync, syncrep, metro to meet needs
- Relate resource requirements to a DR configuration
    - CVM CPU, CVM Memory, SSD size, Node storage
- Relate system maximum configuration to a DR configuration
    - VMs per category, VMs per Protection Policy
- Determine replication requirements
- Determine use and prerequisites for app-consistent snapshots

- Determine Independent Witness Service VM

References

- Creating a Protection Policy
- Requirements for Asynchronous Replication
- Requirements for Synchronous Replication
- Configuring a Nearsync Replication Schedule
- Asynchronous (Nearsync, 1 hour to less than 6 hours)
- Synchronous Replication (0 Second RPO)
- Recommendations for DR Configuration between On-Premises AZs

Objective 1.2: Harden a BCDR solution

Knowledge

- Implement security requirements into a DR configuration
- Configure network segmentation for DR
- Set up an approval policy for DR snapshots

References

- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) for Disaster Recovery Operations
- Enabling Synchronization of Flow Network Security Policies
- Network Segmentation
- DR Network Segmentation Best Practices and Recommendations
- Secure Snapshots using Approval Policy
- Configuring Approval Policy for DR Snapshots
- Updating an Approval Policy
- Approving or Rejecting an Approval Request

Objective 1.3: Configure recovery plans, given BCDR requirements

Knowledge

- Determine networking mappings for recovery plans
- Ensure adherence to configuration parameters
    - Scale-Out PC, Async, Nearsync, Synchronous
    - Scale-Out, single PC, large/small
- Configure Affinity/Anti-Affinity Policies
    - VM-Host, VM-VM

References

- Creating a Recovery Plan
- Recovery Plan Networking
- Nearsync Replication (1 Minute to 15 Minutes RPO)
- Entity Synchronization Between Paired Availability Zones
- Managing Failover Operation
- Affinity Policies Handling: PC-based DR Solution
- Management of VM-VM Anti-Affinity Policies for PD-based Disaster Recovery Solution

Objective 1.4: Configure BCDR requirements

Knowledge

- Recognize supported DR configurations
    - MST DR
- Recognize prerequisites for networking on NC2 based on cloud provider
    - Layer 2 subnet stretching

References

- MST DR with Zero Compute Deployment
- MST DR with Pilot Light Deployment
- MST DR Limitations
- Requirements for DR Configuration between On-Prem AZ and Nutanix Cloud AZ
- Layer 2 Stretch Connectivity

Objective 1.5: Configure network and storage, given BCDR requirements

Knowledge

- Determine networking requirements for a DR configuration
- Identify storage needs at remote sites
    - Calculate exclusive usage at remote sites
- Configure containers to ensure correct snapshot placement
- Determine best DR storage approach based on business requirements
    - MST
    - Pilot light
    - Bare metal

References

- Virtual Network Specifications for Disaster Recovery
- Conditions and Limitations for Multi-site Configurations
- Recommendations for DR Configuration between On-Premises AZs
- Limitations of DR Configuration between On-Prem AZ and Nutanix Cloud AZ (DRaaS)
- DR Using Multicloud Snapshot Technology (MST)
- MST Prerequisites and Setup
- Scale Requirements for MST DR

Section 2 – Test Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (BCDR) Solutions

Objective 2.1: Test DR failover

Knowledge

- Given a scenario, determine when to execute planned failover of Async/NearSync/Sync
    - Execute failback
- Given a scenario, determine when and how to execute unplanned failover as a test of Async/NearSync/Sync
    - Execute failback
- Given a scenario, determine when and how to execute a test failover without impacting running workloads

- Validate a recovery plan
    - Recognize the points that are checked during a recovery plan validation

References

- Test Failover
- Performing a Test Failover
- Unplanned Failover
- Planned Failover
- Performing a Planned Failover
- Virtual Network Specifications for Disaster Recovery
- Recovery Plans View

Objective 2.2: Test throughput and connectivity between sites

Knowledge

- Identify which logs can be used to ensure consistent connectivity stability
- Identify which ports need to remain open between two sites
- Recognize where to configure bandwidth throttling with PD based DR
- Identify which native tools can be used to determine connectivity between sites

References

- Displaying the Details of a VPN Connection
- Conducting a DR Service Reachability Check
- Troubleshooting an Availability Zone Pairing Failure
- VPN Configuration (On-prem and Nutanix Cloud availability zone)
- Ports that must remain open for Disaster Recovery
- Ports that must remain open for Protection Domains
- Metro Availability Witness Option
- Metro outage due to unstable/unavailable VIPO during a Cerebro leader change

Section 3 – Perform Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (BCDR) Tasks

Objective 3.1: Perform self-service restore (SSR)

Knowledge

- Identify requirements for self-service restore
- Identify the process for performing an SSR in different environments
    - Windows
    - Linux

References

- Nutanix Disaster Recovery - Requirements of Self-Service Restore
- Prism Element - Requirements and Limitations of Self-Service Restore
- Self-Service Data Restore Enablement
- Self-Service Restore for Windows VMs
- Self-Service Restore for Linux VMs

Objective 3.2: Restore from a recovery point or snapshot

Knowledge

- Determine when to Clone from a recovery point
- Recognize when to Revert a snapshot
- Restore a single VM from a snapshot in PD based DR

References

- Restoration of Protected Entities
- Restoring an Entity from a Protection Domain
- Recovering an Entity Manually
- Recovering an Entity Manually-Revert
- Manual Recovery of Disaster Recovery Entities
- Disaster Recovery Specifications for vGPU-Enabled Guest VMs
- Disaster Recovery Behavior for SR-IOV VMs

Objective 3.3: Given an outage scenario, execute a plan for recovery

Knowledge

- Given a scenario, decide when to execute the “Migrate” task for a PD
    - Recognize tasks that are generated when migrate task is executed
- Given a scenario, decide when to execute the “Activate” task for a PD
    - Recognize tasks that are generated when executing the activate task for a PD
- Given a scenario, determine which recovery plan option to execute
    - Unplanned, Planned

References

- Performing Failover
- Performing Failback
- Unplanned Failover
- Performing an Unplanned Failover
- Network Failure Handling
- Virtual Network Specifications for Disaster Recovery
- Recovering Prism Central from Continuous Backup
- Pausing Synchronous Replication

Objective 3.4: Perform a post-failover cleanup

Knowledge

- Determine when to perform a cleanup
- Recognize process for performing a cleanup
    - What to delete, necessary configuration changes, etc.

References

- Cleaning up Test Entities
- Recovery Plans View
- Disaster Recovery Between On-Prem AZ and Nutanix Cloud AZ (DRaaS)
- Requirements for DR Configuration between On-Prem AZs
- Multipathing Limitations

Objective 3.5: Migrate from legacy domains to protection policies

Knowledge

- Determine when it is appropriate to migrate from legacy PDs to protection policies
- Determine how to migrate from legacy PDs to protection policies
    - Caveats, limitations, planning

References

- Migrating from Protection Domain-based to Prism Central-based Disaster Recovery Deployment
- Nutanix Disaster Recovery - Move VMs from Protection Domain to Category
- Disaster Recovery Between On-Prem AZ and Nutanix Cloud AZ (DRaaS)

Section 4 – Troubleshoot Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (BCDR) Failures

Objective 4.1: Troubleshoot network issues causing DR failure

Knowledge

- Troubleshoot a replication bandwidth issue
- Troubleshoot a VM connectivity issue post-failover
    - Network mapping, IP not retained, NGT not installed, etc.
- Given a network-specific alert, determine cause of the failure

References

- Recovery Procedures (Witness VM installed)
- Creating a Recovery Plan
- Performing a Test Failover
- Network Segmentation
- Disaster Recovery Network Port Mappings
- Recovery Plan - Network Validation Errors
- Requirements for DR Configuration between On-Prem AZ and Nutanix Cloud AZ
- Requirements for DR Configuration between On-Premises AZ and NC2 AZ
- Troubleshooting when a Recovery Plan fails to reserve an IP when using a managed network
- Troubleshooting the “Skipped Replication of Snapshot for <Protection Domain Name> alert”

Objective 4.2: Diagnose reasons for failed replications

Knowledge

- Troubleshoot a replication failure caused by networking issues
- Troubleshoot a replication failure caused by storage issues
- Troubleshoot a replication failure caused by permission issues

References

- Requirements for Asynchronous Replication
- Requirements for Synchronous Replication
- Creating a Protection Policy
- DR Network Segmentation Best Practices and Recommendations
- Creating a Storage Container
- Limitations of Nearsync Replication
- Pausing Synchronous Replication
- Space requirements for upgrade of a container from RF2 to RF3
- Configuring an Additional Recovery Location for Multisite Deployments
- Node Usage and Health Statistics
- Asynchronous Replication Sizing

Objective 4.3: Troubleshoot third-party backup failures

Knowledge

- Determine issues with user permissions for 3rd Party
- Troubleshoot configuration issue causing 3rd party App-consistent snapshots to fail
    - NGT not installed, link is false, networking issue, etc.
- Troubleshoot cause for storage bloat
    - VM deleted, expiration date too far in the future, etc.

References

- Disaster Recovery Between On-Prem AZ and Nutanix Cloud AZ (DRaaS)
- Conditions and Limitations for Application-Consistent Recovery Points

- Adding Entities Individually to a Protection Policy
- Unable to backup vTPM enabled VMs with third-party vendors
- Third-party backups fail with error “Cannot complete process ‘iscsiadm –mode discovery –type sendtargets –portal x.x.x.x’ within timeout”

Objective 4.4: Troubleshoot DR setup issues

Knowledge

- Troubleshoot misconfigured schedules
- Troubleshoot network setup
    - Firewall issues, connectivity, throughput, etc.
- Diagnose misconfigured users/roles

References

- Creating a Recovery Plan
- Adding a Stage in a Recovery Plan
- Nearsync Replication (1 Minute to 15 Minutes RPO)
- Limitations of Asynchronous Replication
- Cross-Cluster Live Migration Limitations
- vSphere Metro Storage Cluster for Nutanix Metro Availability
- Recommendations for DR Configuration between On-Premises AZs
- Witness Service Hosted Inside the Prism Central Instance
- Disaster Recovery Specifications for Volume Groups
- NCC Health Check: backup_schedule_check

4. NCP-BC 7.5 Training Recommendations

4.1 Course Recommendation

Nutanix offers a course that provides training on the objectives tested for in the exam. More information on this course, including delivery methods and pricing, can be found at nutanix.com/training.

The demand for Business Continuity (BC) and Disaster Recovery (DR) expertise is surging as organizations face an increasingly volatile digital threat landscape.

Studies indicate that the average cost of IT downtime for large enterprises has risen to $9,000 per minute—roughly $540,000 per hour—in lost revenue and recovery costs. Only 2% of organizations can resolve an unplanned outage in under 60 seconds. In contrast, 10% report losing a full workday or more before resuming operations. Despite the risks, 44% of businesses still operate without a formal disaster recovery plan in place.

A career in backup and disaster recovery is more than a technical role; it is a value-preservation mission. Data is the lifeblood of the modern enterprise, and a single hour of downtime can cost an organization millions in lost revenue and reputational damage. Your expertise can ensure that even in a worst-case scenario, the business remains resilient and operational.

To help you position yourself for success with Nutanix BCDR, the Nutanix Business Continuity Administration (NBCA) course will equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to:

- Analyze BCDR Requirements and Capabilities
- Implement Snapshot and Recovery Point Strategies
- Orchestrate Advanced Disaster Recovery
- Deploy Hybrid and Multicloud Recovery
- Maintain and Troubleshoot the BCDR Environment

This course is available online or instructor-led. More information including schedules and how to register can be found at www.nutanix.com/university.

The material provided in the course covers a majority of the objectives (approximately 80%) that appear on the NCP-BC 7.5 exam and is recommended for individuals who want to gain a good understanding of these objectives. Please note that additional exposure to a Nutanix environment is highly recommended.

5. Resources

5.1 Nutanix Community Edition

The Nutanix Community Edition is a free product that allows you to deploy a Nutanix Cloud Platform. To download the software and build your own environment for exam preparation, click here.

5.2 Test Drive

You can also take a 2-hour Hyperconverged Test Drive, which utilizes the Nutanix Community Edition, by clicking here.

5.3 The Nutanix Community

Connect with cloud builders from around the world, learn from IT Pros in your industry and share experiences on the Nutanix Community. The community maintains an area focused on Nutanix certifications, which is located here.

5.4 Additional Business Continuity Resources

Find a wealth of additional Business Continuity resources here.