EXAM BLUEPRINT GUIDE

Nutanix Certified Professional Unified Storage (NCP-US) 7.5 Beta Exam



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Author

Peter Boell, Technical Certification Developer

Contributors

Brian Jeschke, FR Solutions Consultant

Fabio Calcio-Gandino, Systems Engineer

Guillaume Pare, Sr. Staff Enterprise Architect

Leandro Leonhardt Degregorio, Staff Resident Architect

Maroane Boutayeb, Sr. Staff Customer Experience Manager

Matthew Gauch, Sr. Staff Escalation Engineer

Rickard Wendel, Sr. Staff Customer Experience Manager

Stephen Edge, Principal Consultant

Disclaimer:
The Nutanix Certified Professional - Unified Storage (NCP-US) 7.5 Beta Exam Blueprint Guide provides an overview of the objectives that must be mastered to achieve the NCP-US 7 credential. Nutanix does not offer any guarantees that this guide will ensure a candidate's success in achieving the NCP-US 7 certification. All information in this guide is subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of Nutanix.

1. The Exam

1.1 Purpose of Exam

The Nutanix Certified Professional - Unified Storage (NCP-US) 7.5 beta exam will measure a candidate's ability to deploy, configure, optimize, troubleshoot, and perform administrative tasks in a multicloud Nutanix Unified Storage (Files, Objects, and Volumes) environment. Successful candidates demonstrate mastery of these skills and abilities.

1.2 Number of Questions

The NCP-US 7.5 beta exam consists of 112 multiple-choice and multiple-response questions.

1.3 Pricing

There is no cost for the NCP-US 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 deploying, configuring, optimizing, troubleshooting, and performing administrative tasks in a multicloud Nutanix Unified Storage (Files, Objects, and Volumes) environment.

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 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-US 7.5 beta exam is a core component of the Nutanix Unified Storage track. Passing this exam results in achieving the NCP-US 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 – Unified Storage 7.5 beta exam and achieved the NCP-US 7 certification, it will remain valid for two 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-US 7.5 beta exam and NCP-US 7 certification has approximately 1-2 years of general IT experience, with 6 to 12 months of Nutanix Unified Storage experience.

Successful candidates are typically IT professionals and IT architects who are capable of deploying, configuring, optimizing, troubleshooting, and performing administrative tasks in a multicloud Nutanix Unified Storage (Files, Objects, and Volumes) environment.

Finally, the successful candidate will most likely have taken training courses, such as the Nutanix Unified Storage Administration (NUSA) course.

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

3.1 Introduction

It is recommended that candidates have the knowledge and skills necessary for deploying, configuring, optimizing, troubleshooting, and performing administrative tasks in a multicloud Nutanix Unified Storage (Files, Objects, and Volumes) environment before attempting the NCP-US 7.5 beta exam. It is also recommended that the candidate complete the training course described in Section 4 prior to taking the exam.

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

- AOS: version 7.6
- Prism Central: version pc7.6
- Volumes: version any
- Files Storage: version 5.4
- File Analytics: version 3.4
- Data Lens: version DL2.1 (2026)
- Objects: version 5.4

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 – Deploy and Upgrade Nutanix Unified Storage

Objective 1.1: Identify the steps to deploy Nutanix Files

Knowledge

- Identify prerequisites and limitations for Files deployment
- Identify appropriate client and storage networks
- Ensure NTP, DNS and Active Directory Services have been correctly configured

- Identify supported protocols
- Describe integration with Nutanix Central
- Identify how to use VDI Sync to sync profiles between sites
- Identify subdomains vs. folder structures for FQDN pathing
- Identify the requirements and steps to deploy remote direct memory access (RDMA) technology
- Describe replication strategies

References

- Prequisities
- Asynchronous Data Protection with Smart DR
- Data Synchronization with Smart Sync
- High Availability
- Synchronous Data Protection with Metro Availability on AHV
- Files Storage Software Compatibility
- Requirements and Limitations for Files Storage on Azure

Objective 1.2: Identify the steps to deploy Nutanix Objects

Knowledge

- Identify prerequisites and limitations for Objects deployment
- Ensure NTP, DNS, and Active Directory Services have been correctly configured
- Identify requirements for enabling fault tolerance

References

- Installing Nutanix Objects (First-time Users)
- Prerequisites for Nutanix Objects Network Segmentation of an Object Store
- AHV Configuration for Nutanix Objects Deployment
- Prerequisites for Replication to Nutanix Objects
- Scaling Out an Object Store
- Nutanix Objects Prerequisites and Limitations

Objective 1.3: Perform upgrades/maintenance for Files/Objects implementations

Knowledge

- Determine Files/Objects dependencies and prerequisites

- Explain Files/Objects upgrade process
- Recognize maintenance impact for Files and Objects
- Scale up, scale out
- Recognize the purpose and use case for NFS over RDMA

References

- Upgrading the Files Manager
- Updating the FSVM Configuration
- Nutanix Objects Life Cycle Manager Upgrades
- Continuously Available SMB Shares

Section 2 – Configure and Utilize Nutanix Unified Storage

Objective 2.1: Configure Nutanix Files with advanced features

Knowledge

- Configure replication
- Configure Data Tiering
- Onboard Nutanix File instances to Data Lens
- Create a CIFS, NFS, and multi-protocol share
- Manage permissions
- Implement nested shares and exports

References

- Standard Smart Tiering
- Creating a Smart Sync Policy
- Managing Access-Based Enumeration for SMB Shares
- Unified Namespace
- Nutanix Configuration Maximums
- Network Segmentation
- Quotas
- VDI Sync

Objective 2.2: Configure Nutanix Volumes

Knowledge

- Present volumes to a physical server
- Present volumes to a virtual machine
- Add/remove volumes to/from a Volume Group
- Configure CHAP
- Determine when to use a cluster white list vs. volume white list
- Boot over iSCSI

References

- Metro Availability for Volume Groups
- Creating a Volume Group
- Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol
- Limitations of Accessing a Volume Group using NVMeoF/TCP
- Direct-Attached Volume Groups
- Windows UNMAP Operations
- Volume Groups Summary View
- Storage Table View
- Modifying a Volume Group
- Enabling Nutanix Volumes
- Examples of Supported Volumes Use Cases
- iSCSI Data Services IP Address

Objective 2.3: Configure Nutanix Objects

Knowledge

- Validate connectivity
- Generate access keys
- Configure for endpoint access
- Create and configure buckets
- Create additional namespace

- Configure Federation
- Secure Objects

References

- Applying WORM Policy to Buckets from Prism Central
- Creating Federated Namespace
- Creating or Deploying an Object Store on Prism Central
- Object Store and Domain Naming Conventions
- Creating and Configuring an NFS Bucket in Nutanix Objects
- Creating an S3 Bucket Using Nutanix Objects Browser

Objective 2.4: Determine the appropriate method to ensure data availability/recoverability

Knowledge

- Given a scenario with RPO and RTO defined, determine the appropriate Disaster Recovery solution
- Given a scenario with RPO and RTO defined, determine the appropriate backup, archival and recovery options
- Determine the appropriate protocol to meet business requirements

References

- Nutanix Volumes Overview
- iSCSI Data Services IP Address Impact
- Smart DR Failover
- Networking for iSCSI and NVMe-oF/TCP
- Replication Topologies Supported for Nutanix Objects as Destination
- Salient Features of Nutanix Objects
- Features of Nutanix Data Lens On-Premises

Objective 2.5: Explain Data Management capabilities for Files, Volumes, and Objects

Knowledge

- Describe technologies used to ensure data availability
- Describe HA and recovery options
- Recognize use cases for Data Lens

- Describe Data Lens management capabilities

References

- Nutanix Objects Streaming Replication
- Files Storage Data Protection and Recovery in Prism Element

Section 3 – Analyze and Monitor Nutanix Unified Storage

Objective 3.1: Utilize File Analytics/Data Lens for data security

Knowledge

- Use anomalies to determine suspicious activity or abnormal behavior
- Audit file access, usage, and modifications
- Detect ransomware and other security threats

References

- Configuring Ransomware Protection
- Audit Trails
- Reports for File Server Dashboard
- Ransomware Summary
- Dashboard
- Configuring Anomaly Detection

Objective 3.2: Describe how to monitor performance and usage

Knowledge

- Identify when to scale up/out Files and Objects clusters
- Identify metrics to determine scale up/out
- Identify performance constraints from a cluster utilization perspective
- Recognize management/monitoring interfaces and their usage
- Monitor Volume Groups

References

- Performance Optimization
- Nutanix Data Lens
- Files Manager Layout
- Volume Group Details View
- Storage Dashboard Widgets

Objective 3.3: Use Data Lens for analytics and monitoring

Knowledge

- Relate requirements and supported features to a given use case
- Explain tiering requirements and recommendations
- Distinguish between Data Lens on-prem vs. Data Lens SaaS
- Deploy Data Lens On-Premise
- Integrate Files/Objects with Data Lens

References

- User Behavior-Based Anomaly Detection
- Audit Trails for Share-Based Subscription
- Nutanix Data Lens On-Premises File Server Dashboard
- Managing Blocked Entities for Object Stores
- Viewing Reports
- Supported File Server Deployments for Nutanix Data Lens
- Entity Scoping for Data Lens

Section 4 – Troubleshoot Nutanix Unified Storage

Objective 4.1: Troubleshoot issues related to Files

Knowledge

- Troubleshoot user permissions issues
- Troubleshoot shared visibility issues
- Debug deployment failures
- Diagnose why Data is not being tiered

- Determine why Directory Services and DNS are not being changed in Smart DR
- Determine issues related to failing over and failing back a file server
- Address cross cluster User profile issues

References

- Nutanix Files Storage Data Synchronization
- Resolving a VDI User Profile Connection Failure
- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) for Files Storage
- Viewing File Server Details
- Multi-VLAN Network Management
- Activating a File Server
- Joining a Domain

Objective 4.2: Troubleshoot issues related to Objects

Knowledge

- Troubleshoot the reasons for deployment failures
- Troubleshoot issues with read/write capabilities
- Remediate appropriate access for troubleshooting
- Troubleshoot Objects with appropriate CLI commands
- Troubleshoot issues with Objects replication
- Troubleshoot issues related to Cloud Tiering

References

- Tag-Based Conditions in Bucket Policies
- Cloud Bucket Endpoint Recommended Settings
- Limitations of Network File System
- Nutanix Objects Deployment Prerequisites - AHV and ESXi
- Operations on a WORM Bucket in Nutanix Objects

Objective 4.3: Troubleshoot issues related to Volumes

Knowledge

- Troubleshoot volume access issues
- Troubleshoot iSCSI timeout issues
- Troubleshoot VG capacity issues

References

- Migrating iSCSI Connections to the Segmented Network
- Obtaining the Windows Client iSCSI Initiator Name
- Configuring the Intel NIC
- Creating a Volume Group for Use with Nutanix Volumes

Objective 4.4: Troubleshoot upgrade issues

Knowledge

- Diagnose the cause of a failed upgrade
- Troubleshoot compatibility issues pertaining to:
    - Data Lens
    - AOS
    - Prism Central
    - Nutanix Central
    - AHV
- Verify appropriate upgrade methodologies and dependencies

References

- Files Storage Upgrades
- Upgrading Nutanix Data Lens On-Premises at a Connected Site
- Upgrades

4. NCP-US 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 course details are as follows

The Nutanix® Unified Storage Administration (NUSA) course teaches the skills needed to install, configure, manage, and upgrade three different Nutanix storage solution products: Nutanix Files, Nutanix Volumes, and Nutanix Objects.

The NUSA course will explore a number of subjects, including:

- Understanding Nutanix Unified Storage Concepts
- Nutanix Volumes - Learn how Nutanix Volumes provides block storage for your VMs or physical hosts using the iSCSI protocol, with the same simplicity as virtualized workloads, consolidating infrastructure into a single unified platform.
- Nutanix Files - Set up and manage Nutanix Files, a software-defined, scale-out file storage solution that provides Server Message Block (SMB) and Network File System (NFS) file services to clients.
- Nutanix Objects - Learn how easy it is to use Nutanix Objects, a software-defined, scale-out object storage solution that provides a scalable repository for unstructured data.

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-US 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 Unified Storage Resources

Find a wealth of additional Unified Storage resources here.

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