

“Having the NPX certification has given me more confidence as a technology professional.”



NUTANIX CERTIFICATION DRIVES CAREER SUCCESS

A Discussion with
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Nutanix Platform Expert (NPX) is a peer-vetted, hypervisor-agnostic certification designed for veteran solution engineers, consultants, and IT architects. In accordance with program goals, every NPX is a superb hyperconverged infrastructure technologist, a visionary evangelist for enterprise cloud, and a true enterprise architect. Each recipient is capable of designing and delivering a wide range of cutting-edge solutions, custom-built to support the business goals of the Global 2000 and government agencies in every region of the world.

Samuel Rothenbuehler is the lead architect for enterprise cloud at Amanox, an IT service provider based in Bern, Switzerland. We recently caught up with Sam and asked if he would share his experience working with Nutanix, and any advice for other technology professionals seeking their Nutanix NPX certification.

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your IT background?

I started working at Amanox in February of 2014 as a system engineer, responsible for both pre-sales and post-sales support. We had 10 employees at that time, and we now have 20. My current title is Lead Architect for Enterprise Cloud, where I am responsible for the planning, construction, and operation of public and hybrid cloud datacenters.

Q. When did you obtain your NPX certification?

I got my NPX at .NEXT in Washington, DC in June of last year. I started by attending the NPX Boot Camp in Amsterdam in September of 2016. I began the NPX process in December 2016 and obtained my certification six months later.

Q. Why did you decide to get your NPX?

I started working with Nutanix on a daily basis in 2014, so I already knew quite a bit about the technology. For me, going for my NPX certification was more about my own professional development. I was looking to enhance my skills at the architectural level from a broader perspective, in addition to learning all of the information that is applicable to the Nutanix technology.

Q. What Nutanix tools or resources did you use to prepare for the certification?

In addition to all of the great training you get at the NPX Boot Camp, you get to know a lot of other people that are interested in Nutanix technology and in becoming an NPX. I spent a lot of time with my assigned mentor Alexander Thoma, now Manager, SAP Engineering at Nutanix. He worked on the project with me and helped guide me in the right direction. He reviewed all of my documentation and indicated the areas where I could improve as well. I was also inspired by all of the great Nutanix blog posts, specifically the ones written by Derek Seaman, a Senior Global Solutions Architect at Nutanix (NPX #14). In one of his blogs, he outlined how he completed his VMware Certified Design Expert certification (VCDX #125), and what kind of tracking he put in his documentation. I used that document as a starting point and modified it for the NPX certification. That really helped me get organized for the Nutanix process.

Q. What is your opinion of the NPX process?

I found the NPX certification process to be quite structured and clear. I passed on my first attempt at the certification. Nutanix works really closely with you to help you gain the knowledge you need to pass the test. And if you don't pass on the first try, they provide valuable feedback that helps you understand what you did wrong and how you can improve for your next attempt at the certification.

Q. How has the NPX certification affected your career development?

I originally chose to pursue the NPX certification solely for my own benefit, to confirm what I knew about Nutanix and just to see if I could pass the test. I didn't really know what to expect—I knew that it would cover Nutanix technology, but I learned a lot more about enterprise-level architecture in general, more complicated environments, and how to approach them.

Having the NPX certification has definitely given me more confidence as a technology professional. You get to present your submission in front of a panel of highly skilled Nutanix experts. When you pass the NPX, you develop a very comprehensive skill set and know that you can apply it to more complicated and challenging environments.

The NPX certification has been very helpful for me personally. I really value being part of the larger Nutanix community and have stayed in contact with a lot of knowledgeable people that I met while getting the certification. Those contacts have been very supportive throughout my career. If I ever need any help or advice on a deployment — or just want to bounce an idea off other Nutanix experts — I now have a large group of like-minded individuals I can call upon!

Learn more about Nutanix Certifications and how to begin your journey to the NPX at:

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