NUTANIX CERTIFICATION PROPELS YOUR CAREER

A Discussion with
René van den Bedem NPX#008

René van den Bedem, NPX#008, works as an IT architect for RoundTower Technologies in Cincinnati, Ohio, and holds the special distinction of being their first certified Nutanix Platform Expert (NPX). NPX is a peer-vetted, hypervisor-agnostic certification designed for veteran solution engineers, consultants, and IT architects. Every NPX is a superb technologist and architect— capable of designing and delivering cutting-edge solutions custom-built to support the business goals of enterprise organizations in every region of the world.

We recently caught up with René to talk about his experience with Nutanix and to get his advice for other technology professionals seeking Nutanix certification.

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

I started my career as a systems architect in Saudi Arabia, consulting to local Banks and Saudi Telecom. That's where I 'cut my teeth' on VMware and the Nutanix ecosystem. After working in that space for over a decade, I was ready to move up to the next level. I believed that moving to the United States was the best way to advance my career, so I solicited advice from friends and colleagues in the IT community. One of them suggested that I check out RoundTower. It was a great fit for me, and I joined the company right after Dell acquired EMC in October of 2015.

Q. When did you start working with Nutanix technology?

I first heard about Nutanix in 2012 when several of my fellow VCDX colleagues [ed. note: René is one of the few people to hold 'triple VCDX' status] started moving over to Nutanix. When Nutanix announced its NPX program in 2015, I knew that I wanted to be the one of the first people to go through the training. This was before I joined RoundTower Technologies, and I wasn't a Nutanix customer at that time. I didn't have any Nutanix infrastructure in house, so I ran proof of concepts (POCs) and used the Nutanix Community Edition to learn more about the platform.

Q. How did you prepare for the NPX certification?

I started by getting my NPP, since the Nutanix Platform Professional certification is a requirement for going for your NPX. That's when I started diving into the depths of the Nutanix ecosystem. Nutanix does a really good job with all of their white papers and documentation. Their product tech notes, reference architecture, best practice guides, and native documentation are all very excellent resources.

I also read the Nutanix Bible, which is a comprehensive collection of technical information. And finally, a lot of Nutanix employees and power users are publishing great blog posts on the ecosystem—particularly around operations, interesting use cases, and any 'gotchas' they've discovered to help you avoid any missteps in your deployments. So I just loaded up my iPad with all of those PDFs, and read everything I could get my hands on.

Q. Do you have any advice to newcomers preparing for the Nutanix NPX certification?

The most important thing is to get your hands directly onto the Nutanix products, either through a proof of concept environment or by using the Community Edition. There are a lot of partner resources that you can lean on, and you can also visit demo.Nutanix.com for access to the demos.

I also recommend attending the NPX Boot Camp, a free, five-day, hands-on Nutanix training and design session. It provides a lot of value. If you have no background in design architecture and you want to start learning about Nutanix, the boot camp is a great way to begin. Other vendors charge up to $5000 for their training sessions, but Nutanix gives it away for free!

Q. What value has your NPX certification brought to your career?

Getting my NPX certification four years ago was one of the best decisions I've made — it has gotten me to where I am now on my career path. If I didn't have NPX on my list of credentials, I don't think I'd be working in the United States, to be honest. The NPX certification is a great way of demonstrating your skills and being recognized an individual that is delivering exceptional value. For me, getting my NPX certification has been a complete and total game changer.

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

nutanix.com/certification

NUTANIX™
YOUR ENTERPRISE CLOUD