

Aruba ACMX 6.X Study Guide



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networks

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The ACMX 6.X exam tests many aspects common to most customer deployments, as well as elements considered of significance for larger enterprise environments. These include topics such as:

- Familiarity with AOS 6.0.1.3
- IP planning, subnetting, VLAN assignment, and implementation
- License capacity planning
- Master redundancy
- Local redundancy (AP termination)
- IP Mobility
- Adaptive Radio Management
- Spectrum Monitoring
- Policy and role design and implementation
- Authentication
- Campus Mesh
- Voice support
- Remote AP Operations and Configuration
- AirWave (7.2)
- Additional best practices as detailed in VRDs
- Troubleshooting
- Syslog configuration

Recommended Preparation

The exam draws upon material found in various Aruba course material and Validated Reference Designs (VRDs). The recommended courses include Introduction to Aruba WLANs (IAW), Scalable WLAN Design and Implementation (SWDI), Advanced Troubleshooting (ATS), and AirWave training course. The VRDs represent the best practices for designing and deploying Aruba networks, and are available for download at http://arubanetworks.com/technology/design_guides.php. Familiarity with the Aruba user and cli guides is highly suggested. Additionally, we recommend at least one year of hands on experience with Aruba products in actual customer deployments.

Note that you are not expected to provision any third party components. Your responsibility is to successfully deploy the Aruba system to support the features in your exam. For example, this may involve the usage of third party elements such as Voice Phones. But you will not be required to provision the phones.

Tested Areas

IP Design

The most significant step towards successfully completing the exam is to ensure that the controller infrastructure is deployed correctly. This includes the VLAN and IP addressing aspects. If these are not completed correctly, it is impossible to pass the exam as the balance of the exam depends upon a correct IP infrastructure.

Ensure you understand the difference and know how to provision the controller for both L2 and L3 switching.

License Capacity Planning

The lab consists of several controllers with different purposes. Ensure that you know appropriate usage of licenses and plan your implementation appropriately.

Redundancy

Both master and local redundancy may be present in the exam. There are very specific requirements to enable these features if they are requested in your exam scenario. Ensure that you understand how these operations behave and how to correctly provision them. Failure to correctly implement redundancy may have a significant negative impact on your exam score. Knowledge of VRRP, lms and backup lms usage and provisioning is highly recommended.

Your responsibility is
to successfully
deploy the
Aruba system to
support the features
in your exam.

Knowledge of redundancy options, firewall policies and roles, mobility and troubleshooting are highly recommended.

Policies and Roles

The exam attempts to emulate a corporate enterprise setting. This extends into the exam security requirements. Proper construction of policies and roles is required in the exam. Be sure to read your scenario requirements carefully so you do not lose points through incorrect role behavior.

Authentication

The Aruba controller supports many forms of authentication and can query servers such as Radius, LDAP and an internal database. You must be able to provision the controller to interact with any of these servers, and to troubleshoot any issues that may be present.

Campus Mesh

Mesh elements assist in extending a network into areas where wired connectivity may be limited or non-existent. Mesh consists of a mesh portal and a mesh point, which together form connections into these difficult areas. Your exam may require you to build a mesh solution to solve such a problem.

Voice

Many enterprise environments depend more and more upon VoWiFi solutions for communications within an enterprise facility. Unique Aruba solutions provide a high quality voice experience when correctly implemented. Be sure you know what options are available to provide this service and how to provision them.

Remote Networking

With an increasing need for workers to access corporate resources from remote locations, a need arises for secure connectivity that leverages wireless availability regardless of the geographical location. Zero touch provisioning simplifies an administrator's logistics for deploying remote access points. Familiarity with provisioning all elements of Aruba remote networking products is highly recommended.

AirWave

We use AirWave version 7.2 in the exam. You are expected to be able to provision the Aruba network to be seen and monitored by the AirWave server.

Best Practices

Provisioning ARM appropriately for the given scenario is expected. Also, setting up connectivity to a syslog server for troubleshooting. These common elements are expected to be present in the solution and have points associated with them. The elements are covered in the courses mentioned above (IAW/SWDI/ATS) as well as in the VRDs.

Troubleshooting

Events may arise in the exam demanding a candidate to troubleshoot. In-depth knowledge of how a normally functioning Aruba system should operate is recommended.

Additionally, fluency using debug as well as an awareness of cli “show” commands for diagnosing an Aruba system is essential to ensure that all requested features successfully operate by the end of the exam.

The troubleshooting course (ATS) and extensive experience with Aruba in real-world deployments will provide the knowledge and skill needed for the test. The VRDs also provide much troubleshooting information.

Scoring

Scoring follows the philosophy that “Just because something works, that doesn’t mean it is working correctly.” Points are awarded for both a functioning feature and for a correct configuration.

Scoring involves extensive testing of the features. That means that if a feature appears to be working, points are awarded. But the feature must work in all possible expected scenarios, especially regarding redundancy.

Additionally, the proctor examines the configuration for completeness. Therefore, a candidate can receive partial credit for an incomplete activity.

But the candidate is not very likely to pass the exam by having a working feature built with incomplete configurations that do not meet all of the requirements. Nor is it possible to pass the exam with dysfunctional features even if most of a configuration is complete. Both working features and acceptable configurations are required to score enough points to pass the 75% pass threshold.

Scoring starts with zero points. A successfully completed task adds points. Test areas are weighted with redundancy, role development and mobility activities having the most significance.





www.arubanetworks.com

1344 Crossman Avenue. Sunnyvale, CA 94089

1-866-55-ARUBA | Tel. +1 408.227.4500 | Fax. +1 408.227.4550 | info@arubanetworks.com

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