VPWEB.DEV · STUDY SCHEDULE

CompTIA Network+ — Weekly Plan

A 10-week daily study schedule · Exam N10-009

A day-by-day plan that pairs Professor Messer's free Network+ course with a Packet Tracer lab and a little daily subnetting practice. The two make-or-break skills are the OSI model and subnetting — both get drilled early and often. Weeks 1–7 build the five domains; Weeks 8–10 are troubleshooting, practice exams, and the test. Check off each block as you go.

YOUR SETUP: 3+ hrs on weekdays · weekends light or off · watch videos at ·1.25×

COMPTIA NETWORK+ · WEEK 1

Foundations + the OSI model

Goal this week: Start with the model that unlocks the whole exam — OSI — and set up your lab.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *Orientation + OSI*

- [ ] 0:45 Setup: download the N10-009 objectives PDF; watch Messer's intro
- [ ] 1:45 Messer: the OSI model (all 7 layers)
- [ ] 0:30 Memorize the layers with a mnemonic

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *OSI applied + Lab*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: TCP/IP model, encapsulation, devices and protocols per layer
- [ ] 1:00 Lab: install Cisco Packet Tracer (or GNS3)
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *Ports & protocols*

- [ ] 2:00 Messer: ports and protocols
- [ ] 0:30 Start the ports table
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting: binary basics

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Topologies & types*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: topologies, network types, traffic types
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Cloud concepts + consolidate*

- [ ] 1:00 Messer: cloud concepts (NFV, VPC, security groups)
- [ ] 0:45 Pop Quiz
- [ ] 1:15 Lab: build a simple LAN in Packet Tracer

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Drill the OSI layers and ports
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: OSI memorized · lab installed · ports table started.

Next up — Week 2 — IP addressing fundamentals, before deep subnetting.

OSI is the backbone of the exam. If you can place any device or protocol at its layer, most questions answer themselves.

COMPTIA NETWORK+ · WEEK 2

IP addressing + finishing concepts

Goal this week: Master IP addressing fundamentals and finish the Networking Concepts domain.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *IPv4 & IPv6*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: IPv4 classes, public/private, APIPA, IPv6
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *Subnet masks & CIDR*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer/practice: subnet masks and CIDR notation
- [ ] 1:00 Subnetting practice
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *Modern architectures*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: SDN, SD-WAN, zero trust, SASE, infrastructure as code
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Concepts review*

- [ ] 1:00 Practice questions: the Concepts domain
- [ ] 1:00 Review misses
- [ ] 0:30 Ports flashcards

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Consolidate + Lab*

- [ ] 0:45 Pop Quiz: concepts
- [ ] 1:00 Lab: addressing in Packet Tracer
- [ ] 1:15 Subnetting practice

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Subnetting drills — start building speed
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Addressing solid · Concepts domain done.

Next up — Week 3 — subnetting mastery, the make-or-break skill.

Subnetting is the #1 skill to over-practice. Five focused minutes a day all course long beats cramming it at the end.

Subnetting mastery

Goal this week: Make subnetting automatic. This week is mostly hands-on math and PBQ-style practice.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *Network & broadcast*

- [ ] 1:30 Review masks and CIDR
- [ ] 1:00 Drills: find the network and broadcast address
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *Host ranges*

- [ ] 1:30 Practice: usable host ranges and number of subnets
- [ ] 1:00 Drills
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *VLSM*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer/practice: VLSM and subnet design
- [ ] 0:45 Drills
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Speed drills*

- [ ] 0:30 Quick review
- [ ] 2:00 Timed subnetting drills
- [ ] 0:30 PBQ-style subnet questions

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Subnetting check*

- [ ] 1:30 A timed subnetting quiz
- [ ] 0:45 Review misses
- [ ] 0:45 Lab: subnet a network in Packet Tracer

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] A 30-minute subnetting refresh
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Subnetting fast and accurate.

Next up — Week 4 — implementation: routing.

If you can subnet a /26 in under a minute without a calculator, you've beaten the hardest part of Network+.

Implementation — Routing

Goal this week: Routing technologies and how packets find their way.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *Routing basics*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: static vs dynamic routing, routing tables
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *Dynamic protocols*

- [ ] 2:00 Messer: OSPF, BGP, EIGRP, RIP
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *NAT/PAT + Lab*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: NAT, PAT, default routes
- [ ] 1:00 Lab: configure routing in Packet Tracer
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Practice*

- [ ] 1:00 Practice questions: routing
- [ ] 1:00 Review
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Consolidate*

- [ ] 0:45 Pop Quiz: routing
- [ ] 1:15 Lab: build a multi-router network
- [ ] 1:00 Active recall

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Best case: re-skim the routing protocols
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Routing solid · can configure a routed network in the lab.

Next up — Week 5 — switching and wireless.

Know which routing protocol fits which scenario — interior vs exterior, link-state vs distance-vector.

Implementation — Switching + Wireless

Goal this week: Layer-2 switching and wireless networking.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *VLANs*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: VLANs and trunking (802.1Q)
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Lab: create VLANs in Packet Tracer

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *STP & port security*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: STP, port security, link aggregation
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *Wireless standards*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: 802.11 standards, bands, channels, antennas
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Physical installs*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: structured cabling, racks, environmental factors
- [ ] 1:00 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Consolidate*

- [ ] 1:00 Practice questions: implementation
- [ ] 0:45 Review
- [ ] 1:15 Lab: VLANs + wireless in Packet Tracer

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Best case: re-skim the wireless standards table
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Switching and wireless solid.

Next up — Week 6 — network operations.

Wireless channels and bands are common questions — know the non-overlapping 2.4 GHz channels (1, 6, 11).

Network Operations

Goal this week: Documentation, monitoring, and availability.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *Documentation*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: physical/logical diagrams, IPAM, asset inventory, baselines
- [ ] 1:00 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *Monitoring*

- [ ] 2:00 Messer: SNMP, flow data (NetFlow), syslog, SIEM, performance metrics
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *HA & disaster recovery*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: RTO/RPO, backups, redundancy, failover
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Management methods*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: console, SSH, out-of-band management, jump box
- [ ] 1:00 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Consolidate*

- [ ] 1:00 Practice questions: operations
- [ ] 0:45 Review
- [ ] 1:15 Active recall + flashcards

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Best case: re-skim monitoring + HA terms
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Operations domain solid.

Next up — Week 7 — network security.

Know the monitoring tools by what they capture: SNMP = device metrics, flow = traffic patterns, syslog = events.

Network Security

Goal this week: Security concepts, attacks, hardening, and remote access.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *Security concepts*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: CIA, AAA, zero trust, defense in depth
- [ ] 1:00 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *Attacks*

- [ ] 2:00 Messer: DoS/DDoS, on-path, VLAN hopping, ARP/DNS poisoning, rogue AP
- [ ] 0:30 Build an attack-types table
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *Hardening*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: port security, 802.1X, MAC filtering, segmentation
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Remote access*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: VPN (site-to-site / client), IPSec, TLS, SASE
- [ ] 1:00 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Consolidate*

- [ ] 1:00 Practice questions: security
- [ ] 0:45 Review
- [ ] 1:15 Active recall

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Best case: re-skim the attack table
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Security domain solid · attacks memorized.

Next up — Week 8 — troubleshooting and the diagnostic toolset.

Security is a lighter domain (14%), but its attack types overlap heavily with troubleshooting — learn them well.

Troubleshooting (part 1)

Goal this week: The methodology and the command-line diagnostic tools.

Day 1 ~3 hrs — *Methodology*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: the seven-step troubleshooting methodology
- [ ] 1:00 Memorize the steps in order
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 2 ~3 hrs — *CLI tools + Lab*

- [ ] 1:30 Messer: ping, traceroute, ipconfig, nslookup, netstat
- [ ] 1:00 Lab: run each tool and read its output
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 3 ~3 hrs — *Cabling & physical*

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: attenuation, crosstalk, wrong pinout, bad SFP; tools (cable tester, toner)
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 4 ~3 hrs — *Wireshark intro*

- [ ] 1:30 Lab: install Wireshark, capture and inspect packets
- [ ] 1:00 Explore a capture (find a DNS query, a TCP handshake)
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 5 ~3 hrs — *Consolidate*

- [ ] 1:00 Practice questions: troubleshooting
- [ ] 0:45 Review
- [ ] 1:15 Lab: diagnose a broken Packet Tracer network

Weekend — *light or off*

- [ ] Best case: re-skim the CLI tools — what each is for
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Methodology + tools solid · comfortable with Wireshark basics.

Next up — Week 9 — finish troubleshooting and begin full practice exams.

Each tool answers a different question: ping (reachability), traceroute (path), nslookup (DNS), netstat (connections).

Troubleshooting (part 2) + Practice exams

Goal this week: Finish troubleshooting (services and performance) and begin full-length practice exams.

Day 1 ~3 hrs

Service & performance issues

- [ ] 1:45 Messer: DHCP/DNS/gateway issues, latency, jitter, packet loss, duplex mismatch
- [ ] 0:45 Active recall
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 2 ~3 hrs

First full practice exam

- [ ] 1:30 Take a full N10-009 practice exam
- [ ] 1:00 Review every miss and note its domain
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards on weak areas

Day 3 ~3 hrs

Weak-area review

- [ ] 2:00 Re-study your weakest domains
- [ ] 0:30 Targeted practice questions
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting drills

Day 4 ~3 hrs

PBQ drills

- [ ] 1:30 PBQ practice (subnetting, configuration, command output)
- [ ] 1:00 Review
- [ ] 0:30 Active recall

Day 5 ~3 hrs

Second practice exam

- [ ] 1:30 Another full practice exam (fresh question set)
- [ ] 1:00 Review misses
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Weekend

light or off

- [ ] A short subnetting + ports refresh
- [ ] Otherwise: rest

End-of-week checkpoint: Troubleshooting done · scoring in the 80s · comfortable with PBQs.

Next up — Week 10 — final review and the exam.

Your practice-exam review is where the learning happens — read why each right answer is right.

COMPTIA NETWORK+ · WEEK 10

Final review + EXAM

Goal this week: Reach a consistent 90%, handle logistics, and pass N10-009.

Day 1 ~3 hrs

Practice exam + review

- [ ] 1:30 A fresh full-length practice exam
- [ ] 1:00 Review misses
- [ ] 0:30 Flashcards

Day 2 ~3 hrs

Final weak-spot pass

- [ ] 1:45 A last deep review of any lingering weak topics
- [ ] 0:45 Targeted questions
- [ ] 0:30 Subnetting speed drills

Day 3 ~3 hrs

The 90% gate + logistics

- [ ] 1:30 Final full practice exam — aim for a confident 90%+
- [ ] 1:00 Review
- [ ] 0:30 Logistics: register the exam and test your proctoring setup

Day 4 ~1.5 hrs

Light review (then stop)

- [ ] 1:00 Re-skim OSI, ports, and subnetting
- [ ] 0:30 A few easy questions for confidence — then rest

Day 5 exam day

Sit and pass

- [ ] – Light: re-read the exam-day strategy and rest
- [ ] – Sit and pass N10-009

Weekend

light or off

- [ ] Celebrate — you earned it
- [ ] Consider Security+ next — the natural step into security roles (there's a 10-week schedule for it too)

End-of-week checkpoint: 90%+ on fresh exams · logistics handled · certified.

Next up — Network+ done. Security+ is the natural next step into cybersecurity.

PBQs — often subnetting or configuration — come first and weigh the most. Flag-and-move if stuck, bank the multiple-choice, and return later.