APM & Distributed Tracing Certification

01   Introduction

The APM & Distributed Tracing Fundamentals certification exam is for individuals who can effectively demonstrate an overall knowledge of Datadog's APM & Distributed Tracing tools, independent of a specific job role.

This exam will test and validate knowledge on the following topics:

- Understand different tracing architectures
- Understand automatic and dynamic instrumentation methods
- Understand and implement manual instrumentation
- Understand how to use APM features, including
  – Services
  – Search Syntax
  – Live Search vs Retained Search
  – Profiles
  – Deployment Tracking
  – Error Tracking
  – Span Summary
- Visualize insights using
  – Service Performance Dashboards
  – Trace Metrics
- Troubleshoot Applications using
  – Trace Search (during incidents)
  – Monitors & Alerting

Refer to the **Content outline** below for a full list of topics covered by this exam. Each exam allows a maximum seat time of 2 hours.

02   Target Candidates

Ideal candidates have a minimum of six months of hands-on experience with Datadog's APM & Distributed Tracing product and its related features. Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of how APM works and how it is best used in production.

RECOMMENDED DATADOG KNOWLEDGE

A Target Candidate should have the following knowledge:

- General Application Performance Monitoring (APM)
- Datadog APM setup and use
- Datadog tracing libraries
- Instrumentation Types
- Trace/Log Correlation
- Datadog APM
  – Services
  – Search Syntax
  – Live Search vs Retained Search
  – Trace Search
  – Flame Graphs
  – Profile Collection
  – Deployment Tracking

  – Error Tracking
  – Monitors and Alerting
  – Span Summary

03   Out of Scope

The following is a list (non-exhaustive) of specific job tasks that earners will not be required to perform:

- Programming
- Systems Architecture
- Testing

04   Exam Content and Outline

QUESTION TYPE

The exam only contains one type of question:

- **Multiple choice:** Has one correct response and two or more incorrect responses (distractors)

Select the response that most accurately answers the question. Incorrect options, or distractors, are designed to appear plausible within the context of the question. Any unanswered questions will be scored as incorrect.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

The exam includes a total of 90 multiple-choice questions. 75 questions are scored and will count toward your final score.

PRE TEST ITEMS

The exam includes 15 pre-test (unscored) questions that do not affect your score. Datadog collects information about candidate performance on pretest questions to evaluate them for future use on exam forms. Pretest questions are not identified to the candidate on the exam.

CONTENT OUTLINE

The Exam Content Outline includes the knowledge domains and related subdomains of content on the exam.

APM Fundamentals
APM Rationale
Datadog Approach to APM
Tracing Architectures
Language Level Differences—Automatic Instrumentation
OOTB Tracer vs Community Tracer
Tagging

Retention Periods for APM Data
Application Instrumentation
Datadog Tracing Libraries
Instrumentation Types
Datadog Agent Architecture
Sampling vs Retention
APM Data Security
Profile Collection
Insight Discovery
Software Catalog
Search Syntax
Trace Live vs Retained Search
Profilers
Deployment Tracking
Error Tracking
Span Summary
Service Performance Dashboards
Troubleshooting Application using APM
Using Trace Search (during incident)
Monitors & Alerting

05 **Study and Preparation**

It is expected that you have done some preparation for the exam. This can include not only using the platform, but also taking some of Datadog's recommended courses and reading relevant documentation. Below please find a list of recommended materials to go over to get you started.

APM & DISTRIBUTED TRACING FUNDAMENTALS CERTIFICATION LEARNING PATH

A series of 16 courses designed to help you prepare for the APM & Distributed Tracing Fundamentals Certification Exam by covering key exam topics. Please note that completing the learning path does not guarantee a passing score on the exam.

PRACTICE EXAM

A 25-question practice exam designed to assess your knowledge of Datadog Application Performance Monitoring as you prepare for the full certification exam. You can take it anytime, at your own pace—completely free of charge.

- APM & Distributed Tracing Fundamentals Practice Exam

DOCUMENTATION

We've pulled together a handful of documentation links that candidates may overlook. Exploring these materials can add depth to your preparation and help clarify topics that may appear on the exam. Keep in mind, however, that reading them is not a shortcut to success—steady practice with the core curriculum remains essential.

- Getting Started with Tags
- APM & Continuous Profiler client libraries
- Profiler Visualizations
- Correlate APM Data with Other Telemetry
- Anomaly Monitor
- SLOs
- Datadog Lambda Extension
- Set Up the Open Telemetry Collector
- Advanced Usage—ddtrace documentation