Community Spotlight

Scott Stapleton

Senior Wireless Engineer
&
CWNE

What got you interested in wireless?

In 2001 I was chatting with an ex-colleague and he mentioned he had recently been playing with some equipment that allowed him to connect his home network to others home networks. After a little reading, laying down some cash for the required equipment and a lot of experimenting, I was hooked. This new wireless hobby allowed me to combine my interest in computers with a whole discipline – RF, providing a significant learning opportunity. Wireless ended up being my main hobby for several years.

How did you find CWNP?

Planet3 Wireless (later changed to CWNP) was one of the wireless websites I regularly read in those early days. When I heard that a wireless certification (CWNA) was being released I figured I would be the only person certified in my city and bought the e-book. Although it ended up being a few years before I attempted the certification, I'm certainly glad I did.

What do you like about CWNP compared to other programmes?

As well as the CWNP certifications I have taken Microsoft, Cisco, CompTIA and a few other vendors' certifications over the years. The CWNP certifications easily stand out as the best quality amongst them all. Both the self-study guides and the exams are very well written with an attention to detail. The books really are, amongst, if not the most important in the industry.

It is however the vendor neutral aspect of CWNP that makes it such an important certification program. Whilst vendor-focused wireless certifications have their place, even the best of the vendor exams generally do not come close to adequately covering the most important fundamentals of Wi-Fi (RF, design and the 802.11 standard) and this is the core reason that CWNP shines.

What are your plans for the future and why?

After 15+ years involving a significant amount of self-study I plan to take a break for some time and rely on conferences, social media and experimenting to advance my knowledge further. I feel there are still a large number of areas where Wi-Fi is not well understood and hope to do my part to help improve the situation through experimentation, blogging and mentoring.

BIO

Scott started out in Wi-Fi with nothing more than a soldering iron and N-type connector in hand, scouring roof tops for ex-pay-TV antennas as part of the community Wi-Fi movement of the early 2000s – an obsession that lasted several years.

Having since moved through several ICT roles Scott wound up in Networks and naturally gravitated towards Wi-Fi, trading a hobby for a career.

After several years with a primary focus on education and later healthcare, tiring of ludicrously-priced beers on the west coast of Australia, he has since made the move to Sydney.