



Nathaniel Chin

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CWNE #607

What is your level of industry experience?

It has been a privilege to spend the last 10 years being an escalation point for a wireless voice client and the large-scale enterprise networks that they are deployed on, as well as gaining customer trust to properly design/implement networks to prevent those escalations.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

With 6 months left of grad school, and not knowing what to do post graduation, a friend suggested I work where she did, at least to gain some experience. I knew how to set up home wifi, but not much beyond that. In preparing for that interview, she suggested I study basic networking, like TCP vs UDP, IP, MAC, etc. All of those concepts just came to me so easily, and I found much more interesting than coding or databases. That passion led to an amazing career in networking that I'm very grateful for. So I always recommend to future professionals to get out there, try new things, and pursue something you are passionate about - the rest will come.

Where did you receive your training/education?

University of the Pacific - Stockton, CA - for my Bachelor's and Master's degrees. But a vast majority of my networking knowledge has been through job experience, online studying, a select few amazing mentors, and never stop asking 'how does that work'

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

The success of the wireless VoIP client that I've supported/sold the past 10 years is heavily dependent on wireless, and our customers use everything from Cisco to Extreme to Ubiquiti. I really liked that the CWNE path was vendor agnostic, and had much more practical knowledge that could be applied on a daily basis in my career.

Why did you choose CWNP and its certifications over other industry designations?

I've come to appreciate the structure of the CWNP certifications, and how the questions genuinely help you focus on the right concepts. For example, there are a number of other certification programs that are poorly structured, do not prepare you well for their exams, or just ask random questions with very specific numbers as answers that people generally do not memorize, but can simply search online in under a few seconds.

What was the hardest part of the whole process and how did you overcome it?

Having supported a wireless VoIP client for my entire career, I had very little wired networking knowledge and experience. Knowing this weakness, I pursued a switching and routing certification from a well-established vendor to help make myself more balanced and support the wireless knowledge I had. However, the combination of my limited experience and what I felt was a poorly structured program (especially compared to CWNP) led to me requiring 4 attempts to pass that certification. There were times I seriously contemplated pursuing a different certification for the CWNE requirement, especially since I never failed a CWNP certification. But I kept pushing myself and kept finding new ways to study to pass it.