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CWNE #594

What is your level of industry experience?

I am an accomplished IT professional with over 20 years of experience in networking, wireless, security and systems engineering.

My career has focused on designing, implementing and securing complex client/server and network architectures while aligning IT strategies with business objectives to improve performance and reliability.

I have deep expertise in building and securing wired and wireless infrastructures to protect sensitive data, supported by strong problem-solving, R&D and technical leadership skills. I remain committed to continuous learning, staying ahead of emerging technologies and best practices and consistently delivering high-quality, value-driven solutions.

What are some highlights from your resume? (2-3 past positions, awards, innovations, etc.)

I've worked in the IT industry for over 20 years, advancing from Field Systems Engineer in the production sector to IT Service Desk Manager and later Senior Network & Wireless Systems Engineer in the casino and entertainment industry.

I now design and oversee enterprise-scale wired and wireless networks for major businesses, educational institutions, and hospitality sites as Chief Technical Architect.

My experience covers infrastructure design, wireless systems, security and technical leadership at a strategic level.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I first became interested in wireless early in my career while working for a large sugar mill production company in South Africa.

At the time, we began deploying wireless PTP links to connect sugar cane farms and I had to learn how to install and troubleshoot those systems.

That experience sparked my curiosity and motivated me to keep learning from senior engineers and build deeper expertise in wireless networking.

What certifications do you currently hold?

Over the years, I've earned a wide range of industry certifications.

My most recent include CWNE #594, Extreme Certified Professional in ExtremeWireless Cloud and Extreme Switching, Hamina Certified Network Architect, ECSE Design, ECSE Advanced, ECSE Troubleshooting, MikroTik Certified, Fortinet Certified and LigoWave Certified Wireless Trainer.

Where did you receive your training/education?

I began learning IT at a young age, teaching myself and shadowing experienced engineers while still in school.

I went on to complete a Degree in IT Systems Engineering, along with Diplomas in Programming, Business Management and Project Management.

Since then, most of my development has come through years of hands-on experience, continuous learning and pursuing vendor certifications to stay current in the field.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I started on the CWNP path early in my career when a CWNA was required for one of my roles. Over time, as I developed deeper expertise in wireless design and troubleshooting, I saw the CWNE as the natural next step and a way to challenge myself, validate my experience and work toward achieving one of the highest recognitions in the wireless industry.

How long have you been involved in the CWNP certification process?

I've been involved with the CWNP program for many years, starting with the early PW0-270 CWAP study guide.

Over the past six years, I've continued progressing through the full range of CWNP courses and certifications, building on that foundation toward achieving CWNE.

What do you hope to accomplish?

I aim to keep learning and growing, continuously developing new ideas that benefit both my own professional growth and the success of the company and clients I support.

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

I chose the CWNP program because it's vendor-neutral and focuses on real wireless fundamentals rather than product specific training.

It builds deep technical understanding that applies across all environments, which has been invaluable in my work designing and troubleshooting networks built on different vendor platforms.

What value will your CWNE provide to you, your clients, and/or your company?

Earning the CWNE validates years of practical experience and formal learning, giving clients and my company confidence in the quality and depth of my work.

It reinforces trust in the wireless solutions I design and supports stronger technical leadership within my team and helps deliver more reliable, high-performing networks for our customers.

What aspects to becoming certified do you feel are most important?

I believe the most important part of becoming certified is truly understanding the fundamentals, both practical and theoretical.

Gaining hands-on experience first, then studying the underlying concepts which builds real competence.

Earning a certification should be about validating what you've learned through effort and experience and that sense of achievement is what keeps me motivated to keep learning and improving.

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

The hardest part was staying motivated through setbacks like not getting the result I wanted or needing to retake an exam.

Dedication and consistency were key.

For years, I've kept a strict routine: up at 3:30 a.m. for the gym, then spending an hour or two studying, labbing, or learning something new each morning.

Keeping that rhythm, even on difficult days, helped me stay focused and push through.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

I'd say go for it, but be prepared to put in the work.

The CWNE isn't just about passing exams; it's about really understanding how wireless works in the real world.

Stay consistent, stay curious and keep learning from every challenge.

It's a long road, but the sense of achievement when you finally earn it makes every hour of study and every setback worth it.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

I'd recommend the CWNE program to anyone serious about mastering wireless networking and especially engineers who want to go beyond vendor-specific knowledge and build a deep understanding of how Wi-Fi truly works.

It's ideal for those who enjoy problem-solving, continuous learning and want to be recognised as experts in their field.