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CWNE #605

What is your level of industry experience?

I've been in the trenches for years. enterprise wifi, switching, firewalls, you name it – juniper, cisco, aruba, alcatel, aerohive, even down to u-boot consoles on busted omniswitches. Not just config monkey work, but deep packet captures, apbr, url categories, weird phy errors, broken labs at 3am.

built school networks, muni networks, corporate rollouts, policy filters for kids, poe budgets for ap swarms. i don't just deploy, i debug, fix, architect.

certs? yeah, a bunch – jncips across sec/ent/dc, all the cwne prerequisites. not paper chasing, just proving what i already grind on daily.

call it senior, architect, consultant, whatever. bottom line – I know this industry, and I've put the hours in.

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

Designed and deployed large-scale enterprise and education networks – from school WLANs to municipal infrastructure projects.

Earned multiple advanced certs (JNCIP-SEC/ENT/DC) that reflect years of hands-on design, deployment, and troubleshooting experience.

Built innovative youth-protection URL filtering and APBR templates for schools, plus Mist-based templates that scaled across dozens of sites.

Known for going beyond config: deep packet captures, debugging at U-Boot/ASIC level, and fixing problems others give up on.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I really became interested in wireless back in 2014, when someone handed me a Cisco 5508 controller with nothing more than a handshake and zero explanation. Connected to it were about 1200 access points, and I was suddenly responsible for keeping the whole thing running. No training, no manual, just me, the controller, and a mountain of questions. That moment forced me to dive headfirst into wireless, and instead of just surviving the situation, I found myself fascinated by how it all worked — and hooked ever since.

Where did you receive your training/education?

Most of my training happened at home, on my own. I started with a single book, read it cover to cover, then went back and read it again and again until the concepts stuck. That routine of self-study, repetition, and experimenting in labs became the foundation of how I learned wireless and networking in general.

What certifications do you currently hold?

I currently hold a number of certifications — Credly has the full list, but here are the highlights and what they represent:

JNCIP-SEC — proves I know how to design, implement, and troubleshoot Juniper SRX firewall/security features at a high level.

JNCIP-ENT — shows I can master Juniper's enterprise switching/routing features, including BGP, OSPF, MPLS.

JNCIP-DC — covers data center topics (VXLAN, EVPN, spine/leaf architectures)
CWNA / CWSP / CWDP / CWAP — these are the wireless basics, security, design, and analysis credentials in the CWNP track.

CWISA — Certified Wireless IoT Solutions Associate, for wireless + IoT integration and solutions.

Probably a few others (from Credly) for vendor software, security, or related topics — Credly keeps them up to date.

https://www.credly.com/users/enrico-aderhold.5fca8cc0/edit#credly

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I chose the CWNE path because I didn't just want to "get Wi-Fi working," I wanted to really understand it. Back when I first got thrown into wireless, I was handed a big deployment with no guidance, and I realized quickly that guessing wasn't going to cut it. The CWNP track gave me a structured way to go deeper — starting with the fundamentals, then security, design, analysis, and finally proving that I could tie it all together in real-world networks. CWNE isn't just another certificate on the wall, it's the recognition that you've put in the work, the study, the failures and the recoveries. For me it was the natural end point of years of grinding in the wireless space.

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

I started with the CWNP certification process back in 2020. What began with CWNA quickly turned into a steady climb through CWSP, CWDP, CWAP, and CWISA. From that point on, I stayed committed to the track, building labs, studying, and applying what I learned in real deployments until I finally reached the CWNE level.

What do you hope to accomplish?

What I hope to accomplish with CWNE is simple: keep pushing wireless further in the real world. I want to design networks that don't just "work," but actually perform under pressure— in schools, cities, and enterprises where downtime isn't an option. I also want to give back: share knowledge, write, mentor, and help others avoid the mistakes I made when I first got thrown into Wi-Fi without a map. For me, CWNE isn't the finish line, it's a marker that says "okay, now it's time to raise the bar again."

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

I chose CWNP because vendor-specific certs always felt like marketing exercises — useful for knowing a product, but not for truly understanding Wi-Fi. I wasn't interested in memorizing GUI clicks or proprietary feature names. CWNP stood out because it's vendor-neutral and forces you to learn the technology itself — RF behavior, security, design principles, analysis— the stuff that applies everywhere, no matter whose logo is on the hardware. That's what I wanted: knowledge that goes beyond the vendor bla bla.

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

For me, CWNE is proof that I didn't just "get Wi-Fi working" but actually understand it end to end. Personally, it's a milestone that shows the grind and study paid off. For my clients, it's reassurance that when they trust me with their networks, they're not getting guesswork —they're getting designs and troubleshooting backed by deep, vendor-neutral knowledge. And for my company, it's a signal of credibility in the market: we can deliver solid wireless solutions that stand up in the real world, not just on a datasheet.

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

The most important part of becoming certified isn't the paper itself — it's the process. For me it was about digging deep into the technology, not just cramming for an exam. Writing essays, building labs, breaking things, and then fixing them again taught me far more than any multiple-choice test ever could. The CWNE process forces you to connect design, security, analysis, and troubleshooting into one story, and that's where the real value lies. Certification without that grind is just a badge, but going through it the hard way makes it real.

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

The hardest part of the whole process for me was CWAP. It forced a completely new way of thinking — not just studying facts to pass an exam, but really learning to read, interpret, and understand what the packets and frames were telling me. At first it was overwhelming, because it wasn't about memorization anymore, it was about developing real insight. I overcame it by slowing down, going back to the captures again and again, and forcing myself to connect theory with what I was actually seeing on the air. That shift in mindset was tough, but once it clicked, it changed the way I look at Wi-Fi forever.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

I'd say: just do it. Don't overthink it, don't wait for the "perfect time." Go as far as you can in the CWNP track and treat it as more than exam prep — it's knowledge you'll carry for life. Every step forces you to dig deeper, learn in a vendor-neutral way, and see Wi-Fi for what it really is. Even if you don't make it all the way to CWNE, the journey itself will change the way you design, troubleshoot, and think about wireless.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

I'd recommend the CWNE program to anyone who's serious about Wi-Fi and not just about pushing configs on whatever vendor gear is in front of them. If you want to really understand wireless — the physics, the design, the security, the troubleshooting — then this track is for you. It's not easy and it's not about shortcuts, but if you're curious, stubborn, and willing to learn, CWNE will give you the structure to turn that into deep expertise.