



Larry Urueta

Senior Network Engineer
Northern Arizona University

CWNE #600

What is your level of industry experience?

I have nearly six years of experience in the design, deployment, and support of campus enterprise wireless networks, along with more than a decade of enterprise routing and switching expertise.

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

I have accumulated over a decade of experience as an enterprise network engineer, focusing on the design, deployment, and support of large-scale network infrastructures. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work across diverse environments, which has helped me gain a strong multi-vendor perspective. Alongside this practical experience, I've earned and retained several respected certifications, including the CCNP, JNCIA and now the CWNE, which represent both my dedication and breadth of knowledge. One of my proudest professional highlights is achieving the CWNE designation, as it validates years of effort, study, and real-world problem solving in Wi-Fi.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

My interest in wireless began while working at a small broadband ISP early in my career. At that time, my role focused largely on DOCSIS technology and RF modulation, which first sparked my curiosity about radio frequency concepts. One day, I was assigned to design and implement a wireless network for our corporate office. That project opened my eyes to the world of Wi-Fi, and I immediately discovered how dynamic, challenging, and fun the technology can be. Since then, I have been passionate about learning as much as possible about this technology that so many of us take for granted.

What certifications do you currently hold?

I currently hold the CCNP and CWNE certifications, along with all the pre requisite certifications required from both Cisco and CWNP.

Where did you receive your training/education?

My training and education have been self-driven, relying heavily on industry-recognized certification guides from CWNP and Cisco. I supplemented my studies with online training platforms like INE.com, practical labs, and by attending technical conferences such as WLPC and Cisco Live. Most importantly, I've gained extensive hands-on experience in real-world deployments, reinforcing classroom knowledge through direct application.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

While preparing for the CCIE Wireless, I learned about the CWNE path. What stood out to me was that the CWNP program is vendor-neutral, focusing on core wireless principles rather than on a single platform. I wanted a challenge that would both test my skills and keep me grounded in the fundamentals, and CWNE struck the perfect balance. It represented not just a credential, but a way to validate my passion and expertise within the Wi-Fi community.

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

I began pursuing CWNP certifications in 2019, with a steady goal of progressing toward CWNE. Over the years, I committed to building both the knowledge and experience required to reach this milestone.

What do you hope to accomplish?

My primary goal is to give back to the wireless community, which has generously shared its knowledge and encouragement with me throughout this journey. I hope to inspire others pursuing the CWNE designation, showing them that with dedication and consistency, this certification is within reach. I am happy to serve as a resource and mentor, openly sharing both my successes and the lessons I've learned along the way.

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

I chose CWNP because of its unique vendor-neutral approach. Unlike some other certifications, CWNP exams focus on whether you truly understand the material and the principles that apply across different platforms, not just how to configure a specific vendor's product. I believe this level of neutrality is essential in this industry and accurately reflects the real-world challenges that often involve different vendors and technologies.

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

It provides reassurance that I possess both the knowledge and practical experience to design, deploy, and support complex enterprise wireless networks. On a personal level, it validates the time and effort I've invested and serves as a reminder of my responsibility to apply that expertise to real-world challenges.

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

One of the most important aspects of the CWNP program is that the certification path is well documented and accessible. Each step builds logically from the last, with achievable milestones that make the process realistic for those willing to put in the work. The path demands commitment, but it is very much within reach for the average person if they dedicate the time and take advantage of the supportive community.

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

For me, the most challenging aspect of the process was meeting the publication requirements. While the technical exams were certainly demanding, I've always thrived in structured study and hands-on lab environments. What I found more intimidating was writing and publicly sharing my thoughts with the broader community. I was fortunate, however, to overcome this hurdle when I was invited to participate in a vendor webinar, which gave me the opportunity to share my knowledge in a meaningful way that also fulfilled the CWNE requirements.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

I would encourage anyone interested to pursue it with confidence. The requirements might seem intimidating at first, but in reality they are very reasonable and attainable. The wireless community is one of the most supportive technical communities I've encountered, and there's no shortage of people willing to offer guidance along the way.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

I would recommend the CWNE program to anyone with a strong interest in wireless networking, whether they are new to Wi-Fi or already experienced professionals. It is a rewarding journey for enthusiasts who want to deepen their technical understanding, and equally for engineers seeking a credential that demonstrates both knowledge and passion. Most importantly, it connects you to a vibrant community of experts who are eager to help others succeed.