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CWNE #638

What is your level of industry experience?

I have more than 20 years of experience in enterprise networking, with much of my career focused on wireless networking. Over the years, I have worked across engineering, technical marketing, product management, solutions architecture, and customer-facing technical roles. My experience spans enterprise Wi-Fi design, RF engineering, security, troubleshooting, wired networking, campus fabrics, and network architecture across environments ranging from large campuses and offices to retail, manufacturing, warehouses, hospitality, and other high-density deployments.

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

One of the highlights of my career has been the opportunity to work on wireless networking from several different perspectives. I was part of the enterprise Wi-Fi industry relatively early in its development and have held technical roles at companies including Meru Networks, Cisco, Aruba, Cisco Meraki, Juniper Mist, and now HPE Networking. These roles have allowed me to work across engineering, technical marketing, product management, pre-sales, and architecture. More importantly, I have had the opportunity to work directly with customers on complex wireless environments where RF design, roaming, authentication, capacity, client behavior, wired infrastructure, and application requirements all come together. Those real-world experiences have probably taught me as much as any formal training or certification.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

My interest in wireless started when I began working more closely with enterprise Wi-Fi and realized how different it was from traditional wired networking. With a wired network, the physical medium is largely under your control. With wireless, the medium is shared, constantly changing, and influenced by RF propagation, interference, client behavior, building materials, device capabilities, and many other variables. That combination of networking and RF engineering fascinated me. I also enjoyed the troubleshooting aspect of wireless because solving a difficult Wi-Fi problem often requires looking beyond the access point and considering the client, RF environment, authentication infrastructure, wired network, and application together.

What certifications do you currently hold?

My current CWNP certifications include CWNE, CWNA, CWSP, CWAP, CWDP, and CWISA. I also hold certifications from other networking vendors, including certifications covering Juniper Mist and Aruba Networks. While certifications have been an important part of my professional development, I have always viewed them as a structured way to strengthen and validate knowledge rather than as the end goal. The real value comes from being able to apply that knowledge when designing or troubleshooting production networks.

Where did you receive your training/education?

I earned my Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Arizona State University and my Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from PSG College of Technology. Much of my wireless education, however, has continued throughout my career through hands-on experience, formal technical training, certification programs, lab work, troubleshooting, industry conferences, documentation, and learning from other engineers in the wireless community.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

After more than twenty years in technology, I wanted to challenge myself by going deeper into wireless rather than simply relying on the experience I had accumulated over the years. I had worked with enterprise Wi-Fi for a long time, but the CWNE journey required me to revisit fundamentals, study areas outside my normal day-to-day responsibilities, and demonstrate knowledge across RF, design, analysis, security, and troubleshooting. At this stage of my career, that was exactly what appealed to me. It was less about adding another certification to my resume and more about becoming a student again and testing the depth of my own understanding.

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

My concentrated CWNE journey took place in 2026, when I worked through the prerequisite certifications and ultimately completed the CWNE application process. The journey itself was intensive. I completed the CWNA, CWSP, CWAP, CWISA, and CWDP requirements and then moved into the CWNE application, essays, documentation, and endorsements. Although I had many years of wireless experience before starting the process, working through the CWNP curriculum gave me a structured way to revisit and connect many of the concepts I had encountered throughout my career.

What do you hope to accomplish?

I want to continue growing as a wireless and network architect while also sharing more of what I have learned with the broader networking community. After many years in the industry, I have accumulated a lot of lessons from real deployments — including designs that worked well, troubleshooting situations that were difficult to diagnose, and cases where the apparent wireless problem turned out to have a completely different root cause. I would like to spend more time documenting and sharing those experiences and helping other engineers connect wireless theory with what actually happens in production environments.

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

What attracted me to CWNP was its vendor-neutral approach and its depth in wireless networking. Vendor certifications are extremely valuable, especially when working with specific platforms, but Wi-Fi fundamentals extend beyond any individual vendor. RF propagation, 802.11 behavior, roaming, security, frame analysis, spectrum analysis, capacity planning, and client behavior remain relevant regardless of the equipment being deployed.
CWNP provided a structured path for studying those fundamentals independently of a particular implementation. That was especially valuable to me because I have worked with multiple wireless vendors throughout my career.

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

The greatest value of the CWNE journey was not the designation itself, but the process required to earn it. Preparing for the certifications forced me to revisit fundamentals and explore areas of wireless networking that I may not encounter every day. It strengthened the connection between practical experience and underlying 802.11 and RF principles. For customers, that translates into a more disciplined approach to wireless design and troubleshooting. Instead of approaching a problem purely from a product perspective, I can evaluate the RF environment, protocol behavior, client behavior, security architecture, wired infrastructure, and application requirements together.

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

Understanding the fundamentals is the most important part of certification. Technology and products will continue to change, but fundamentals remain useful throughout a career. In wireless networking, understanding RF behavior, 802.11 protocol operation, frame exchanges, roaming, security, capacity, and client behavior provides a foundation that can be applied across vendors and generations of technology. I also believe certification is most valuable when the concepts being studied can be connected to real-world experience. That connection between theory and practice is where much of the learning happens.

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

The hardest part was balancing the depth of the CWNE requirements with work, family, and the responsibilities that come with being well into a professional career. There was also a different challenge in returning to structured studying after many years in the industry. Experience can sometimes make you comfortable with knowing how something works operationally without revisiting exactly why it works that way. The CWNP exams forced me to go back to the fundamentals. I approached the process one certification at a time, maintained a consistent study schedule, and tried to connect every concept I studied with something I had encountered in the field. That made the material much easier to understand and retain.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Do it for the learning rather than for the letters after your name. The CWNE journey requires a significant investment of time and effort, particularly when you include the prerequisite certifications and application process. But if you approach it as an opportunity to examine what you know, identify gaps in your knowledge, and become a better wireless engineer, the process itself becomes valuable. I would also recommend connecting the material to real-world situations whenever possible. Packet captures, spectrum analysis, site surveys, troubleshooting cases, and actual network designs make the concepts much more meaningful than simply memorizing information for an exam.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

I would recommend the CWNE program to experienced wireless engineers, architects, consultants, and technical leaders who want a deeper understanding of Wi-Fi beyond any single vendor or product. It is especially valuable for those with practical wireless experience who want to strengthen the theoretical foundation behind it. The breadth of the program — covering RF, protocol analysis, security, design, and troubleshooting — means even seasoned engineers will find areas to deepen their knowledge.