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CWNE #349

When did you first become interested in wireless?

Circa 2002, during the implementation of our company's first WLAN system (Aironet / Airespace). I was a member of the network infrastructure team and the WLAN systems became part of our scope of responsibility. I still remember the first time I connected to the corporate Wi-Fi network with a laptop and having the feeling that this technology holds great potential for reducing wired infrastructure and promoting employee mobility. Since then, I developed a great interest in WLAN systems. Over the years, 802.11 technology has been elevated from a nice-to-have convenience to a production critical means of connectivity for our business.

What certifications do you currently hold?

CWNA, CWAP, CWDP, CWSP, CWNE, ICND1, RI Telecom Contractor License #132, Certified ScrumMaster®

What is your level of industry experience?

I have over 25 years' experience in IT. I officially started my IT career in the telecommunications field during the mid-1990's when telecommunications became data-communications as the internet started using telecom networks for data connectivity. At that time, I worked for a medium sized manufacturing company, and because of my electrical background, became involved with our telecommunications infrastructure and PBX phone system. From there I worked with IBM main frame infrastructure (Twinax cabling systems) and converted our facility's infrastructure to 100BaseT ethernet. I also worked part-time for a local telecom company assisting with the design and installation of Cat3 and Cat5 cabling systems. In the late 90's I was fortunate enough to get a position with a large financial services company whose emphasis and investments in technology was a great win for me professionally. I started working on large multi-regional networks as a CCNA and gained a lot of insight on how corporate networks function and how network hierarchy is designed. As an infrastructure specialist, I was responsible for all of the network infrastructure for a corporate campus consisting of 3 large buildings occupying over a million square feet of office space. It was in the early 2000's that I began my involvement with WLAN systems and since then it has been playing a continuously larger role in my career.

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

I became involved with the CWNP program in May 2016. It was during that time when I was asked to be a leading member of a dedicated team responsible for the WLAN infrastructure for all regional sites and investor centers in our company's portfolio. This new responsibility had me searching for a certification process that would fill the need for WLAN specific knowledge while also providing an industry recognized status.

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

I enjoyed most of the CWNE process, I would actually look forward to learning more about certain topics that I wasn't confident with. The hardest part for me was making sure that I was studying everyday while preparing for an exam. Each person will have their own individual process, but for me, I get the best results if I commit time each day and make it part of a daily routine. Before you know it you're building momentum!

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

My CWNE status provides an industry recognized level of knowledge and familiarity with WLAN design, components, security and configuration. It adds a level of legitimacy to the work that I do. I am proud to attach my "CWNE #349" credential to my professional correspondence.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

My advice would be to stay committed to the end goal and try to gain as much insight into WLAN technology as you can. Become familiar with the CWNE requirements early on so that you have a clear goal in mind. The CWNE community is filled with industry experts that are willing to support you.