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CWNE # 325

What is your level of industry experience?

+20 years of networking experience. Started with Wi-Fi when it wasn't even called Wi-Fi. Also experience in routing/switching, security and currently at the beginning of researching the added value of IoT for our company (as an integrator) and software development. Presenter, educator, mentor.

Where did you receive your training/education?

I've had my training and education partly at Marquest (Peter McKenzie, CWSP) and Fast Lane, as well as by self-study for the most part.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

Back in 1998 I had my first introduction in Wi-Fi, setting up a point-to-point bridge link with directional antennas using products from the company "No Wires Needed". With NWN, my first IEEE802.11 - 1Mbps connection was setup over a distance of a few hundred meters and the love for Wi-Fi was born. Little did I know what was to come from this technology but as with anything 'not common' I immediately fell for it. Early 1999 I installed a Wi-Fi (well, it actually wasn't called Wi-Fi yet) network in an office for the very government-institution that used to validate wireless equipment...and had to turn it off because employees were reporting getting sick from the radiation. After that, a classroom deployment in a hospital using NWN products showed me the real potential of Wi-Fi and I was drawn into the troubleshooting side of the technology.

What certifications do you currently hold?

As part of my job, I hold several valid certifications and have had a fair share of other achievements. Since Vosko is primarily a Cisco (Gold) Partner, most certifications next to CWNP are from Cisco. The validity of other certifications from Cisco are tied to latest achievements in a Professional level certification, therefore most Cisco certifications are valid until the same date. Recently Vosko has become the first Black Diamond Extreme Partner in The Netherlands, in which I play a significant role and hold the required wireless certification.

Since my history in networking goes back quite a few years, other past certifications or achievements range from dialup systems (Ascend) to Trapeze/Juniper Wireless, Meraki, former HP M-ASE, and 3Com routing & switching.

Current valid certifications are: CWNE, Cisco CCDP (incl. CCNA W, CCNP R + S), ECS (Extreme), Cisco Adv. Enterprise Network Architecture Systems Engineer

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

CWNE is a long cherished goal as I feel it gives recognition to the broad field of Wi-Fi instead of 'just' vendor specific knowledge.

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

After starting with my first CWNA certification back in 2009, I was determined to push on towards the highest level. I had the opportunity to attend the CWSP class given by Mr. Peter McKenzie and soon became a certified CWSP. Unfortunately, my most challenging personal period in life arose, forcing me to take a step back. Once recovered, I had to retake both the CWNA and CWSP exams, quickly followed by CWAP and concluding with the CWDP exam. And so, to my delight, I am proud to be able to call myself a CWNE.

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

The long wait...it took over 21 weeks to finally get through the process of being certified after I've applied.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Take it seriously. You will represent a dedicated group of people delivering a high standard in both knowledge and writing skills, willing to take the extra step. Do not limit yourself to only wireless. Be prepared to 'think out of the box' as this technology is very end-user oriented and can bind together lots of other solutions. This will keep Wi-Fi relevant for years to come.

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

Recognition as an expert on the subject and therefore the added value it gives to our customer, ensuring the level of expertise will bring them the true quality they need. An objective view on what needs to be solved

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone willing to educate, help, learn and improve him/herself in the field of wireless networking and everything that has something to do with the entire proposition of Wi-Fi.