



Charlie Twietmeyer

Network Engineer

CWNE #143

»» Why are you interested in wireless?

I am interested in wireless technology for multiple reasons. First, I enjoy working with new technologies. Working in the wireless field forces you to continually learn the advancements of the technology. Also, I like to be challenged. I have found that no two days are the same when you are working on wireless projects because there are so many pieces to the puzzle. Finally, I like the fact that wireless technology is continually expanding. I really think that if I continue to gain experience and knowledge, I will have the opportunity to be part of something that will have a big impact for good in the world.

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

I initially started studying for the CWNA back in 2008. Learning the material from that book really motivated me to gain more career experience, take labs and study for all four exams. I really tried to take my time and learn all the concepts before taking each exam. I ended up passing the 4th and final exam in 2014. I was then able to apply for the CWNE and have been working on continued education since being accepted as a CWNE.

»» List of certifications currently held?

I currently hold the certificates of CWNE, Security +, CCNP, and CCNA by extension.

»» What motivated you to become certified?

A co-worker told me about the CWNP website and we had our manager agree to order some training material for us which included the CWNA book. Reading that book really motivated me to become certified. I set a goal to obtain the CWNE at that time even though I knew it would take years for me to meet all the requirements. I preferred the CWNP vendor-neutral program over other vendor certifications based on the fact that all CWNP training focuses on providing in-depth knowledge of how 802.11 wireless networks work everywhere.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

») **What parts of becoming certified do you feel are most important?**

It is important for me to have the opportunity to learn from other CWNE's about the many ways that wireless technologies are making a difference all over the world. I feel blessed and honored to be part of a group of people that are recognized as global leaders in their field. I look forward to hearing about everything that other CWNE's are doing to make a positive impact.

») **What was the hardest part of this process and how did you overcome it?**

I would say the hardest parts of the process were the CWDP and CWAP exams. They were definitely the most challenging exams from a preparation standpoint as they covered such a broad range of topics. While I had good experience with designing and troubleshooting wireless networks on the job, I didn't have some of the in-depth book knowledge on why a wireless network works after you engineer it to work. I had to create my own reference guides to write down important page numbers from the books and review those concepts several times until I fully understood them.

») **How has this journey impacted your life?**

The journey is always where the growth is. I knew this when I made the goal to become a CWNE many years ago. My goal was not to get it done fast. Doing anything in a hurry usually doesn't work out well. My goal was to get it done the right way, learn, grow, and enjoy every step of the journey. I'm glad that I happened to be in the early stages of my career when wireless technology started expanding and fortunate that I got my foot in the door at that time. Since then, I've tried to let God direct my path and have been given some great opportunities to work on big projects which gave me the experience needed to become a CWNE. I'm thankful to have been given the opportunity to accomplish this, but it is not a finish-line. I'm looking forward to continuing the journey.

») **Who would you suggest the CWNE program to?**

I would suggest this for anyone who has a passion for the wireless networking field and wants to realize their full potential.

BIO

Charlie started his career 15 years ago as a Technical Executive. He used to work on tickets for routers and switches in a Network Operations Center for almost a year. After that, he was offered the position of Sr. Wireless Engineer to implement wireless solutions at hundreds of company locations.

Since 2006, Charlie has been working on Wi-Fi design and deployment projects for a variety of large campus networks. These include Medical Centers, Universities, Warehouses, Office buildings and Outdoor environments.

He is currently working as a Wireless Network Engineer at CenturyLink supporting Arizona State University. Charlie holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and the CCNP certification. Additionally, he has obtained the highest level wireless certification making him CWNE #143.