Jonathan R. Hurtt

Principal Technical Architect
CWNE #176

⟩) Why are you interested in wireless?

While not focused on Wireless technologies in my past jobs, a job with a Wireless Network manufacture was when I really became interested in wireless. I often knew enough about wireless to be dangerous, but never enough to connect the dots. It really hit home, when my co-worker told his son to just plug his gaming device via Ethernet, and the son replied: "What's Ethernet?" Also knowing the second and third level of an answer was knowledge that I gained from the CWNP process.

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

I started studying for the CWNP in the middle of 2014, when I ordered the CWTS study guide. After passing the CWTS exam, I ordered the CWNA study guide the next month. Studying for CWNA took me about a year. During that year, I also read books by Matthew Gast and blogs by wireless experts. I passed the CWNA exam in July 2015 and decided to meet my goal of passing the next three professional exams before 2016. I was successful in passing CWDP, CWSP and CWAP in the next 6 months, and applied for CWNE after that.

⟩) List of certifications currently held?

I currently hold the certificates of CWNE, Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP), Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), and certifications from Aerohive Networks.

⟩) What motivated you to become certified?

Information is the key to success. When looking to be successful in designing and implementing wireless networks, having the knowledge makes it so much easier. The thoughts of becoming certified came into my mind when I was having dinner with some CWNEs after a training session. There, I was amazed as they talked about Wi-Fi and debated the nuances of the technology. As I sat there eating, I just tried to soak up the information. I tried to ask questions, but often hesitated, as they would have to go back to the basics in order to answer the question. Then I realized that I needed to know this stuff, and not because it was my job, but I was genuinely interested. I picked up the CWTS study guide as my first step into the CWNP certification track. After reading through that book during a family vacation, I was excited to take the exam.

Realizing that CWTS only made me ask more questions than answer, then I quickly picked up the CWNA study guide and began my journey. After passing the CWNA within a span of a year, I looked back and realized how many times I was able to answer a customer's questions with ease just based on the knowledge of the chapter I read the night before. I then decided to study for the professional exams in hope to get my CWNE.

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

Being recognized amongst your peers is very valuable in this industry, but the knowledge you gain from the certification process is the most gratifying. Being recognized by such a reputable organization in the industry is an added plus.

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

The hardest part of this process was finding the time to study and to digest each of the intricate wireless LAN topics. I often found myself skipping ahead to try to gain knowledge around scenarios I was facing in my job.

How has this journey impacted your life?

It has allowed me to be more confident in my job and allowed me to teach others the fundamentals of wireless technology.

Who would you suggest the CWNE program to?

I would suggest the CWNE program to anyone who is interested in gaining knowledge of wireless networking. And would mention, it is the best certification program that I have taken.

BIO

Jonathan started his career twelve years ago as a Network Engineer. He used to handle installation and configuration of routers and switches at universities and educational institutions across North Carolina.

While working with Avaya, his main role was to focus on the sales of Avaya data networking products including Ethernet Routing Switches, Network Access Control (NAC), WAN Routers, and Wireless LAN. Jonathan worked directly with Avaya customers within North and South Carolina Regions to ensure their data networking requirements were met.

He currently works as a Principal Technical Architect at Aerohive Networks, North Carolina. He is responsible for all aspects of pre-sales for the Carolina regions as well as contributing to post-sales, integration and inputting into product development/enhancements/feature requests. Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from North Carolina State University, as well as several renowned wireless networking certifications. One of his greatest accomplishments has been obtaining the wireless industry's highest level wireless certification, making him CWNE #176.