



Mark Rigby

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CWNE #595

What is your level of industry experience?

I have over 20 years of experience in the global telecommunications sector, specialising in wired and wireless network infrastructure with a strong focus on optimising the end-user experience. My expertise lies in designing, implementing, and troubleshooting robust LAN and WLAN systems. Over the past decade, I have dedicated much of my time to the enterprise Wi-Fi market, achieving my long-term goal of CWNE certification — a pivotal milestone in my career.

Where did you receive your training/education?

The majority of my qualifications are through self-study. I attended an instructor-led class for my CWAP exam, which I found invaluable for learning, not just for passing the exam. I also attended an Ekahau ECSE course, which provided further insight into not just the practicalities of Wi-Fi but also a more in-depth look into the fundamentals of how radios operate, which underpins everything that we do.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

The first time I remember getting interested in wireless technology was with the first company back in 2004. At that time, 802.11a and 802.11b were still widely in use, but 802.11g was quickly becoming the protocol of choice. Interoperability issues were common, especially as people were adjusting to the transition from WEP to WPA/WPA2, and different vendors' implementations weren't always consistent.

What certifications do you currently hold?

I currently hold the following certifications:

- CWNE
- Cisco CCNP Enterprise
- Cisco CCNP Wireless
- Ekahau ECSE Design and Troubleshooting

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I believe that obtaining the CWNE offers a certain level of credibility over other expert qualifications, as it requires not only theoretical knowledge but also evidence of practical skills within a customer environment, supported by independent validation and, more importantly, a strong emphasis on sharing this knowledge with the wider community, whether through blogs, public speaking, or written publications.

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

I started the CWNP certification process in 2021.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

I encourage anyone with a genuine passion for Wi-Fi to consider pursuing the CWNE designation. My best advice is not to rush the process. Unlike other industry qualifications that can be completed in a matter of weeks, the CWNE is a much longer journey. It demands not only theoretical knowledge but also proven, long-term technical experience and commitment.

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

The CWNE programme offers a level of credibility unmatched in the field of Wi-Fi engineering. While it isn't obligatory to hold this status, achieving it demonstrates not only strong technical skills but also proven experience in delivering on customer expectations. I believe this goes a long way toward reassuring clients that their needs will be met — and often exceeded.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

I recommend the CWNE programme to any aspiring wireless professional in design, implementation, or support. Each of the individual certifications should be seen as building blocks toward the whole: from the broad fundamental principles of the 802.11 protocol in the CWNA track, designing wireless networks with the CWDP, securing them with the CWSP, and performing low-level packet analysis through the CWAP. You don't need to be designing the largest or most complex networks — what matters is knowing that, through your own actions and technical expertise, you can have a meaningful, positive impact on the human experience.