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CWNE # 247

What is your level of industry experience?

Having started my career as a data comms specialist and helped in IT infrastructure management of the American University of Beirut and its Medical Center, i've had my share of broad knowledge in IT and specifically networking. I've climbed up the layers, starting from physical, including cabling, termination, splicing, and infrastructure management all the way up to the upper layers focusing on WLANs.

I'm now the regional SME on Mobile Engagement Solutions and i have worked on major Aruba Networks wireless, security and mobile engagement deployments in several verticals including Education, Hospitality, Healthcare, Telecommunication & Retail.

Where did you receive your training/education?

It was all done in a self-study manner, reviewing each course book and certification while aligning my experience with that gained from work and the possible material and tools before sitting for each exam.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

On a personal level, that was way back in 2004 when I had purchased my first U.S. Robotics wireless router and started wondering where the best place to put it, how to mount it and direct the antennas and later-on how to configure it for the best wireless experience at home.

Professionally, it was back when I was part of my job to manage the 802.11a/b/g controller-based Aruba Networks Wi-Fi infrastructure in the American University of Beirut and Medical Center. That's were my fascination both with the technology and the vendor was fixed.

What certifications do you currently hold?

Along with the CWNE, i'm currently certified in Aruba solutions and products dealing with the technical and sales aspects of their products. These include Outdoor and Mesh design (AWMP), the Aruba Certified Design Expert (ACDX#303), Aruba Certified ClearPass Professional (ACCP), and the Aruba Certified Engagement and Analytics Professional.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

Since most wireless engineers are focused on vendor-specific certifications, I chose it since it's a vendor-neutral program. It adds value onto my existing Cisco and Aruba certifications from a technical perspective.

Later on, I discovered there is so much more value to it with the interactions it provides in the CWNP & wi-fi community where it brings together all kinds of expertise and inputs from different kinds of stakeholders including wi-fi engineer from the side of customers, partners, resellers, vendors...etc.

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

I have first started my involvement in the CWNP certification process back in 2011. It took a while to get to the CWNE because of my preoccupation with work mainly, and I had to re-certify for one of the exams at one point (CWSP) since I had put the program on hold. Re-certifying was also a plus because it always serves as a refresher and forces you to be up-to-date on whatever new standard has been introduced or upgraded in the 802.11 protocols suite.

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

The hardest part for me was being able to manage some time to study while managing work, family and the household. At one point, I had to re-certify for one of my professional certificates that had expired because it took me a lot of time to get all three together within the 3-years period of expiry.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Way to go! Deciding on the program is a great first step. Making the consideration then diving deep into it, which I would assume happens after going for the initial entry certifications like the CWS/CWT/CWNA, would definitely mean that you're already on the right path to the CWNE.

It's not just the learning and testing part. It's also the involvement in a great Wi-Fi community, growing your network, staying up-to-date and on top of Wi-Fi topics to maintain the CWNE and edge it gives you in the market.

If you already have only 1 professional level certificates left, you might want to consider starting to prepare your CWNE in parallel to studying as to not delay your CWNE application approval process.

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

CWNE assures these stakeholders the mastery of all relevant skills to administer, install, configure, troubleshoot, and design wireless network systems. CWNEs are usually also the reference on the understanding of everything topics and bringing customer up-to-date on new developments in the Wi-Fi world.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

I would definitely recommend the CWNE program to anyone who has already touched point with Wi-Fi and WLAN deployments and who is planning on advancing their knowledge to learn more, become Wi-Fi gurus, and then keep on learning and updating their knowledge with all new developments in the world of Wi-Fi.