



Ian Beyer

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CWNE # 273

What is your level of industry experience?

I've been working in IT most of my adult life, but really started focusing heavily on WiFi around 2014.

Where did you receive your training/education?

Some from WLPC, some online, some books. Aruba certs mostly came from classroom training

What certifications do you currently hold?

CWNE (and all the CWNP certs that go into that. Design certs from Ehakau, AirMagnet, and IBWave. Aruba ACMA, ACDP, and ACSA. Had a Cisco CCNA a long time ago.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

Pretty much my entire life. I received a copy of the 1983 ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook (I no longer have it but do have the 1972 edition that my dad used to get his ham license. I didn't actually get my ticket until 2014. I come from a long line of engineers and nerds, so it's hard to put my finger on when I got into RF. Where I got into Wi-Fi was when Apple came out with their AirPort home router/AP combo. And of course the first thing I did with it is tear it apart to see how it worked. I've been using smartphones since 2000.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

It seemed like an excellent professional differentiator at the time, and came with a built-in community that could help me along and mentor me.

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

I took my ECSE in 2016 at WLAN Pros Conference. I came back the following year and did CWDP boot camp, and just for fun I went over to the local community college and took the CWNA cold and passed. I followed that up with CWDP 2 months later, and then CWAP and CWSP back to back 4 months after that. And then it took me 6 months to submit CWNE paperwork. I had set myself a goal to get CWNE application submitted within a year of taking my CWNA and beat it by a week.

My CWNE number was awarded almost exactly a year from taking my CWDP, and by strange coincidence was the same day I was awarded my black belt in Taekwondo... where was I at the time my phone blew up? On a catwalk, installing wireless.

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

Figuring out which projects I wanted to write about for my CWNE briefs. I had the advice and mentoring from several CWNEs who had gone before me and helped me craft a good essay.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Get as much hands-on experience as you can - you'll get to practice your craft, which will make your exams easier, and you can get some great topics to write about when you do finally apply for the CWNE.

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

It gives them a good baseline to know that I have the knowledge and skills to be successful, as well as present to customers that they are serious about quality engineers.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone who works with wireless LANs on a regular basis.