



# Mark Raats

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YaWorks

**CWNE # 290**

## What is your level of industry experience?

Wireless design and troubleshooting mainly in hospital, warehousing, airports, education and offices.

## Where did you receive your training/education?

All my CNWP related certification I received from my mentor and friend Ronald van Kleunen, Globeron.

## When did you first become interested in wireless?

During my internship there was always a discussion on what was "better - Wi-Fi or Wired. My mentor was on the wireless side and awakened my interest for wireless technologies.

## What certifications do you currently hold?

Besides my CWNE, I hold several wireless vendor specific certifications, ESCE and ECSE Advanced, and CCNP routing/switching and CCDP.

## Why did you choose the CWNE path?

First, it is the best path for vendor neutral certification in the wireless industry and is a must for every wireless professional. Secondly, the company I work for, YaWorks, is a vendor neutral consultancy company, so it fits within the vision of the company and my own.

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

I had my first training (CWNA) in 2016.

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

CWNP is not well-known in The Netherlands, so it did not help me directly in my career. However, having this certification will help me as a person and as well as my company, YaWorks, to show that my knowledge is validated by my certification.

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

The biggest challenge that can be in your way to achieve the CWNE status is time and planning. Most people who are starting the journey to achieve CWNE have probably been out of the school environment for a while and busy in a life that has a full-time job, maybe a partner, and even some kids running around. That means that when you come home you need to spend time with them as well. With a busy work and family life, it is hard to schedule time for studying and writing on your application. Like in your normal work day you need to plan your projects, so you should start planning for your CWNE journey as well. Plan time for studying and writing on your essays and stick to that plan. When you postpone those 'meetings' with yourself to study and write it can become a long journey where you might need to retake some exams.

## **What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?**

Start with your application during your certifications. CWNE is a path that you start at the moment you start studying for CWNA (or CWS/CWT). Be done with your application before you pass your last exam. For the professional exam, start with CWAP, followed by CWSP and last CWDP. The knowledge of CWAP will help you through CWSP and understand the design reasons that are thought in CWDP.

## **To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?**

Everyone with an affinity for wireless and working in that field.