



# Neil Mavis

Consultant  
Business Wi-Fi Solutions  
**CWNE # 311**

## What is your level of industry experience?

Three years of full time wifi engineering. Twenty years in telecom, as a fiber optics engineer. I have performed a number of broad commercial wifi projects. A hospital, a steel mill, multiple manufacturing facilities and warehouses. I also perform free wifi assessments of friend homes, which has taught me a things that I can apply to commercial projects.

## Where did you receive your training/education?

MBA from Mercer University, Atlanta.  
BSEET from Southern Tech, now known as Kennesaw College.  
My CWNE training was mostly self study, except for the CWDP class with Keith Parsons.

## When did you first become interested in wireless?

I was traveling 100%, and staying in a different hotel every week.

The hotels almost always had terrible wifi.

I started with MetaGeek inSSIDer, and started analyzing why the hotel wifi was so bad. I would perform free assessments, to get knowledge, and got a few free room upgrades as a result. I learned a lot of hotels were getting abused by their wireless providers. I also like the "Ah-Ha" satisfaction of troubleshooting problems. Just like the feeling one gets when they make a basketball shot and hit nothing but net, or the feeling they get when a jigsaw puzzle piece fits in to place, I get a buzz out of fixing Wi-Fi problems.

## What certifications do you currently hold?

CWNE #311, Ekahau ECSE, CWNA, CWSP, CWDP, CWAP-Security+,

## Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I was having a abysmal time finding a career job that matched my education level ; age discrimination.

I recalled the comedian Steve Martin's biography when he was trying to break in to Hollywood; "You have to be so damn good that they can't ignore you." I also noticed that while waiting at traffic lights, I daydream about wireless solutions. I got my ham radio license in high school before I got my drivers license.

Wireless is my passion. So, I decided to be so good at wireless that I could not be ignored. Also, there are about 30,000 CCIE's in the world, but were less than 250 CWNE's at the time I decided to get the CWNE.

Scarcity of the CWNE, my passion for wireless, drove my decision to get the CWNE.

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

Three and a half years ago, I started studying for the CWNA.

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

Studying for the exams, at the same time having to travel 100% for work.

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

Being a wifi expert is the only job I've had where I am treated like a rock star when I show up on site.  
It is well worth it.

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

I tell clients there are only about 375 people on the planet that have the top worldwide Certification.  
Most of my clients have been in a lot of wifi \*pain\* for a very long time. The CWNE tells them they are getting the best.  
When I show up on an emergency assignment, I know I will solve their problem or at least eliminate the wifi side of the network as the cause of the problem.