



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.