



# Rasika Nayanajith

Team Leader Networks  
La Trobe University  
**CWNE #153**

## What is your level of industry experience?

15 Years of industry experience on working with Cisco Technologies in Enterprise & Service Provider environment. At present, managing a large campus wired & wireless network primarily with Cisco technologies. I am also involve in content development, being a instructor for wireless for "WiFi Training" which is an Authorized Learning Partner for both Cisco & CWNP. That allows me to share my WiFi knowledge & spread awareness about CWNP & Cisco Wireless Training paths. I spent most of my free time on Cisco Support Community to respond to queries about Cisco wireless technology. For past 5 years, I have been selected as VIP member of that community based on my contribution.

## When did you first become interested in wireless?

I graduated from University of Moratuwa as Electronics & Telecommunication Engineer. During that time I studied most about Radio Communication, Antenna Theory that led me to interest in RF communication. Initial 4 years, after University, I worked for a Wireless Service Provider in Sri Lanka. My responsibility was design solutions for customers. Mainly we used microwave links & other wireless last mile services to provide WAN connectivity. After few years of work with solution integrator environment working with Routing & Switching technologies, in 2009 ended up La Trobe University. That gave me another opportunity to work with an Enterprise wireless network. Since 2012, focus shifted towards wireless technologies & get my CCIE wireless, then CWNE.

## What certifications do you currently hold?

CISSP - 2007  
CCIE Routing & Switching - 2008  
CCIE Wireless - 2013  
CWNE - 2014  
Certified Cisco System Instructor - CCSI 2018

## Why did you choose the CWNE path?

Even I became a CCIE Wireless in 2013, I did not feel that I know wireless to say I am "Wireless Expert". I knew how to work with Cisco wireless products, but did not have deep knowledge in wireless technology. Therefore I started my CWNP journey in 2014 to learn more about Wi-Fi.

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

Exactly 12 months, I started my CWNP journey in 2014 January & got my CWNE on 29th December 2014. Since I got my CCIE wireless in late 2013, I was in study mood & able to keep it continue with my CWNP studies in 2014.

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

For me, getting familiar with all different type of wireless frames was a challenging part. I did lots of experiment in my home lab environment help me to overcome that challenge. Also understanding certain network security methods also post a challenge. I was lucky enough to have few friends who were willing to spend their time to go through it with me. Having a very supportive online wireless community will help you to overcome any challenges in this journey.

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

You will get your knowledge through your journey, that is the most important point to remember and allocate time accordingly. If you are new to wireless & interested in a technical role, I would suggest do a CWNA first & then try to find work in wireless industry. With job experience, try to complete your CWNP professional exams within next 3 years. If you already have enough experience with wireless deployments, then I would suggest to 12-18 months for your CWNE journey.

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

As a CWNE, you are providing a valuable advice to your client/company to make their business decisions on wireless infrastructure. Wireless is a technology that seems easy to deploy, but many of clients/customers does not understand how important to design their wireless network to meet their business requirements. As a CWNE, you can help customers to manage complete life cycle (planning, designing, implementation & operation) of their wireless deployment.

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

If anyone interested in a career in wireless technology, he/she should get their CWNE. I think CWNA should be promoted even within graduate students who are studying Telecommunication/Data Communication/Cyber Security