



Rocky Gregory

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CWNE #286

What is your level of industry experience?

I've been kicking around wireless for most of my adult life. I first worked with pre-standard Proxim gear in 1998, and the bug bit me!

When did you first become interested in wireless?

Probably wrapping tin foil around the antennas of my walkie-talkies when I was 7. I could talk to my friend down the street with no need to wait for my brother to get off the phone. Professionally, it was really my first Help Desk job in 1998 when I stumbled upon a renegade site where they were using pre-standard WLAN gear because they thought it would be cheaper than running cabling. I was mesmerized.

What certifications do you currently hold?

CWISA, CISSP, CWNE.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I take certifications to challenge myself and to valid that things work how I think they do. You can never stop learning. So even after having done deployments for years and working for a manufacturer, I wanted to really make sure that I hadn't been spending years under misconceptions. CWNE seemed the way to do it. It was a chance to re-read all of the guides in a more focussed way, and to see if I had the right stuff when it came to the board review.

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

I got my first CWNA and CWSP in 2004. When they expired, I didn't renew them for a long time. I always read the guides as each new version came out but didn't take the tests. Whenever I meet someone just getting into the industry, I give them a copy of the CWNA guide!

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

The hardest part was honestly submitting my application. Some of the people I admire most in the industry hold CWNE, it kicked my imposter syndrome into high gear to know I was trying to breathe some rare air, and that the board would be reviewing it all to.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

If you do wireless, stop considering it and get busy doing it. It gives a very well rounded body of knowledge that will help you in your career every day.

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

CWNE really helps me cut through the noise (awful pun, sorry) of WLAN issues, best practices, policies, and procedures to find what is actually a best path. That is valuable when you are dealing with the layer one through layer eight environment that is corporate America. It also helps both my employer, and me to an extent, to know that I can speak with authority on the subject matter.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone dedicated to learning about wireless who wants to ensure their body of knowledge is complete. It will take experience to get them to the finish line, but learning enough to take the tests in the process is invaluable.