



Shannon Cranko

Principal Engineer
Dimension Data

CWNE # 228

What is your level of industry experience?

I have been in IT for just over 13 years and worked in multiple roles ranging from desktop support, servers, virtualisation and networking. Since joining Dimension Data in 2011, I have solely focused on wireless and security. This includes consulting, pre-sales, design and deployment of all things RF, WLAN and NAC for large enterprises, banks, retailers and higher education.

Where did you receive your training/education?

Most of my training has been self-study, on the job experience and instructor-led training. I also spend a lot of time reading blogs and posts from various experts in the industry to stay abreast of all the tech.

I am currently busy studying for a Masters in Networking and Systems Administration at Charles Sturt University in Australia, with the intention of moving on to the PhD.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I was part of a team who were tasked to deploy an outdoor 70km PTP link for an iron ore mine. The lead engineer was an RF expert, who looked like Mr Miyagi. I knew absolutely nothing about wireless. The deployment involved climbing masts, using harnesses and doing fine-tuning and alignment of the parabolic dishes. I had so much fun being outdoors and learning from the lead engineer. The rest is history.

What certifications do you currently hold?

Cisco:

- CCIE Wireless
- CCSI
- CCNP
- CCDP

EC-Council:

- CNDA
- CEH

Aruba:

- ACMP
- ACEAP

Microsoft:

- MCITP
- MCSE

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

To focus on standards instead of vendors and broaden my knowledge on Wireless technology. CWNE covers a lot of topics which the vendors do not focus on.

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

3 years in total. It took just over two years to complete the CWNP exams and another year for the CWNE.

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

Writing the whitepaper!!!! I underestimated the publication requirement. It ended up taking me 2 months and most of my leave. The CWAP exam too, was extremely challenging.