Arthur Burger

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CWNE # 249

What is your level of industry experience?

I have worked in various positions with a majority of my time spent in post sales as a project engineer. I have had experience deploying wireless at a wireless service provider performing point-to-point and point-to-multipoint deployments and troubleshooting, as well as a number of years at a Cisco VAR as a senior engineer for route/switch, wireless, and security.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I was first interested in wireless back in 2000 when my father brought home a D-Link 802.11b router and worked from the couch without being tethered. My interest took off when my job forked from being a DSL and dialup support engineer to performing wireless installations.

Where did you receive your training/education?

I have received training through a number of avenues including books, CBT Nuggets, vendor documentation, and hands on. One of the best experiences I had was the training I received for the CCIE Wireless from Jeff Rensink when he was at IPExpert. Other than that my main methods of training were reading, hands on lab work, and customer deployments.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

After attaining my CCIE in wireless I realized I wanted to find other wireless certifications that would benefit me from a knowledge perspective. I had a number of peers that had their CWNEs and said this was the best path to take.

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

I originally took the CWNA back in 2014, then went on hiatus until this past year. So I guess technically for the last 3-4 years.

Why did you choose CWNP and its certifications over other industry designations?

I wouldn't say I chose over other industry designations necessarily, however I did choose the CWNP program because of the pure focus on 802.11 technologies. It is best to get a vendor neutral approach when learning how things work.

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What aspects to becoming certified do you feel are most important?

Learning the material. It isn't about the test you are taking, but the material you are studying. There is no reason to speed through a test and pass a certification if you do not know the underlying material and technologies.

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

Writing. I haven't written an essay in an embarrassing number of years. I had to focus and try my best to remember what I learned in college about practical writing. I also had a number of people review and help correct formatting and grammatical errors.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Be sure to take your time. There is no reason to rush. Study because you love the technology.

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

The CWNE provides the recognition that I have taken the time to understand the technologies from an 802.11 perspective that are required for proper WLAN design, deployment, and troubleshooting. This then makes it easier for me to be a trusted advisor to my customers.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone looking to further their career with an expert level certification that is difficult yet attainable.