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CWNE # 199

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I obtained a fascination for wireless first as a Network Engineering Analyst at Ascension Health, which is the largest healthcare organization in the United States. It happened by chance as the Senior WLAN Engineer took a two-month trip back to Pakistan leaving multiple projects that needed to be completed. In a naïve attempt to show initiative, I volunteered to lead a large WLAN deployment project even though my WLAN experience was limited. Thankfully, I figured it out by reading every book (including the CWNA study guide) that I could get my hands on and watching every YouTube video pertaining to WLAN.

What is your level of industry experience?

I have been an IT professional for over 20 years and have focused the past 10 years on wired/wireless networking.

Where did you receive your training/education?

I attended Oakland University where I majored in Management Information Systems. I also completed the Cisco University CCNA program where I obtained my CCNA certification. I am currently enrolled at Capella University seeking a Master of Science in Information Systems and Technology Management.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I started to have a fascination with all things wireless and CWNP offered the best vendor neutral certification track.

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

Thanks to company reimbursements, I was able to purchase all of the study guides and practice tests from the CWNP website. Mostly self-study, putting aside approximately 2 hours a day for about 2 and half years.

What do you hope to accomplish?

I wanted a deeper understanding of WLAN technologies in order to perfect my skill set and advance my career.

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

It just made sense as I did not want to be limited to one vendor's solution.

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

I believe the process was the most important part of becoming certified. The dedication it took to set aside the necessary study time each day. It immediately translated in my daily work performance as an Engineer. The actual certifications were the icing on the cake.

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

Setting aside the time to study. I blocked 2 hours out on my calendar each day.

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

I believe from a vendor and sales side it instills the confidence in the client that they are dealing with a highly skilled individual. I believe it helps the company as a whole but especially in competitive situations. Personally, it gives me the confidence that I can achieve any goal that I set my mind to.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Go for it! It is time consuming but the materials and the preparation definitely makes you a more well-rounded wireless network engineering professional. The concepts that you study and learn will make your everyday job much easier.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone who wants an in depth Knowles of WLAN technologies as a whole.