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Wireless Technical Solutions Architect
Cisco

CWNE # 276

What are some highlights from your resume?

I started my IT career in 2006 with a large mining and infrastructure company in Australia. Here I developed my skills and knowledge, and quickly progressed from the IT service desk into the communications team in a very diverse role. It was a jack-of-all-trades network engineering role which saw me working on route/switch, security, VoIP, wireless, and video conferencing (plus other) technologies.

In 2012 I moved to a similar role with an energy company, where I focused on major infrastructure and data centre upgrades/migrations, as well as deployment and standardization of office and field wireless networks.

At the end of 2015 I began a new challenge on the other side of IT with Dimension Data as a Senior Engineer, and progressed to become a Principal Engineer. My project work was predominantly focused on wireless and network access control security (i.e. Cisco wireless and Identity Services Engine), and saw me as the lead engineer in these fields for many projects (both local and interstate).

What are some highlights from your resume? (cont.)

In 2018 I was fortunate to land a role as the Technical Sales Engineer for APAC with the awesome team at Ekahau Wireless Design! This was an exciting role that leveraged my technical knowledge as well as my sales & training capabilities to help build momentum in the region and enable new partners.

I recently joined Cisco as Wireless Technical Solutions Architect for ANZ, and I look forward to contributing further to the wireless community in this new role!

When did you first become interested in wireless?

Back in New Zealand when I was deciding how I wanted to develop my career, I was aware of Wi-Fi gaining popularity to extend communications networks. At this stage I only knew of Wi-Fi being used for personal computers and some printers, but could imagine the potential! So I decided to pursue a degree focused around wired and wireless telecommunications.

Once I was working in the IT industry I gained greater appreciation for wireless technologies as I was exposed to them more frequently.

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

Not only did I want to further educate myself in wireless design, analysis, and security fundamentals; but I also wanted to officially recognise my skills and knowledge in the industry. I didn't just want the certification, I wanted show that I have joined this amazing community of like-minded professionals, and am dedicated to continuous learning and help others.

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

I first attended a CWNA class taught by Devin Akin back in 2014, and as I developed further knowledge and experience I focused on getting my certifications from August through to November 2017 (with a fantastic Wi-Fi Trek and CWAP class in between!). I am still involved with CWNP certifications today, as I will be attending Wi-Fi Trek 2018 and am keen to test the updated CWAP exam.

What do you hope to accomplish?

I hope to continually learn more about wireless technology, protocols, best practices and use-cases; and continue to share this knowledge with others interested in learning about Wi-Fi. I thoroughly enjoying training and mentoring colleagues and peers, and plan to do this no matter what role I am in.

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

Vendor certifications are great at providing knowledge on how to design, deploy, and troubleshoot their specific technologies; but can be a little light on fundamental theory and operations (at least in the wireless field). The beauty of the CWNP program is it is vendor-neutral and therefore focusses on all of the details with how Wi-Fi operates and educates on best-practices regardless of which vendor you work with.

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

The hardest part was being unaware of this amazing supportive community that is out there for wireless professionals. Once you begin engaging with the community via social media you get access to their insights and knowledge via blog posts and discussions; which also provides you with motivation to learn more and study harder and in return contribute more.

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What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Get engaged, ask lots of questions, don't be afraid to ask for help, attend lots of networking events, and broaden your knowledge around Wi-Fi and different environments and deployment scenarios. Most importantly get cracking on those P-level exams!

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone who spends a large amount of their time working with Wi-Fi, regardless of whether it is an engineer or architecture role, support role, or vendor role. The more better-educated Wi-Fi practitioners there are, the better Wi-Fi experiences our customers and users will have around the world!

CWNP))) | Certified Wireless Network Professional