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Solutions Engineer - PreSales
Optio Data
CWNE # 211

What is your level of industry experience?

I have deployed hundreds of wireless networks in almost every market vertical and situation imaginable.

Where did you receive your training/education?

In the field, at my kitchen table, and in my lab. I don't like to pay for classroom training. I think I learn best on my own in a controlled environment. We are all different people though. Do what works for you. Just be honest with yourself.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I was working as an entry level VOIP engineer for a hosted VOIP provider and all of customers were asking us for WiFi enabled phones. The organization did not want to go in this direction. I left quickly thereafter. Wireless was and is here to stay and I realized that nearly a decade ago. I enjoy learning new technologies and new architectures. Wireless is a bit of a different beast compared to Routing and Switching or Data Center specializations. There are so many variables to consider in every deployment and this is what keeps things interesting and challenging at the same time.

What certifications do you currently hold?

CCNA - R/S
CCNP- R/S
CCNA- Wireless
CCNP- Wireless
CCDA
CCDP

ITILv3 Foundations
CMNA- Meraki
ACMP
A+
Net+

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

Vendor Agnostic training and certification are important to me. We all have our favorite vendor but usually this bias is based on our level of exposure and understanding of a given manufacturer or solution. I strive to keep an open mind and identify strengths and weaknesses in many different vendors solutions.

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

I believe it took me a little over 2 years to pass all of the exams and meet the other requirements. I was working full time and traveling on a weekly basis in support of wireless projects.

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

Time management. We all work, have personal lives and multiple responsibilities to balance in life.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

Go for it. Pace yourself and don't expect miracles. If it was easy everyone would be doing it.

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

I know that via my prep for these exams I learned a great deal that I did not know beforehand. This translates into a deeper understanding of the underlying technologies that go into a solution.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone who will be designing and deploying wireless networks in a professional capacity.