

Community Spotlight



Alan Blake GE Network Designer & CWNE

What got you interested in wireless?

You know when you see something and say to yourself "that looks pretty cool and interesting to do" but never actually get round to doing it and when you do you say "WOW, why didn't I do this sooner" that sums up Wireless to me.

My first real taste in Wireless was back in 2007, deploying Wireless Mesh in the cities of Newcastle and Birmingham and enjoyed it. When I took up my current role it gave me greater exposure to Wifi and from there everything i learned stuck.

How did you find CWNP?

A colleague gave me the details to go to CWNP for more technical information on Wireless. I never knew it existed

What do you like about CWNP compared to other programmes?

The thing I like most about CWNP is its mantra, vendor neutrality. It gives you the facts and the technical knowledge about WIFI. Other Vendors like Cisco etc are great at writing technical content about their products and designs but really don't go far enough when they discuss other WIFI related topics, they just glare over it. CWNP bridges that gap, fills in the holes and produces some excellent quality books which are, in some places, easy to read. Everything you learn from a CWNP book will be applicable in the real world regardless of which Vendor you work for.

What are your plans for the future and why?

Long term - I'd like to go from being a Jack of all trades to becoming a Master in at least 1, Wireless! My focus is going to be on WIFI as that's where I can see the growth and challenges ahead. I intend to attempt my first CCIE-W lab in June.

Short term - put my new cert to good use in my current role.

BIO

Alan started out in Fibre Optic installations and terminations for the military in the UK.

He moved on from cabling and into the Networks team working Cisco 1900s, Proteon routers, chipcom hubs. He joined British Energy in 2002 working with Cisco routers and switches, checkpoint Firewalls etc.

After that Alan took a sabbatical and completed his snowboard instructors course in Meribel, French Alps. On his return to the UK in 2007 he worked for Motorola on the BT Openzone wireless Cities project configuring Tropo mesh APs in various cities.

From 2008 he worked as a Network Manager for T-Systems. In 2010 he joined CBTS who supply IT professional services to GE and in this role Alan designs and builds for enterprise wireless solutions, LAN/WAN and security networks