



Jeff Gardner

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CWNE # 344

What is your level of industry experience?

I currently have 8+ years of experience in the wireless industry, ranging from wireless design, implementation and troubleshooting. I have experience in high-density design of large venues such as convention centers, stadiums, and theme parks.

Where did you receive your training/education?

I received my bachelor's degree in management information systems from the University of Central Florida (UCF), Go Knights!

When did you first become interested in wireless?

Back when I was a Network Admin (2007ish) we had a wireless project where we were making configuration changes to our branch office APs to good ol' HREAP on 4402 WLCs. No one seemed interested in tackling the problem, so I said sure, I will try it out. Little did I know that I would grow to really have a knack for wireless technologies and love working with it.

What certifications do you currently hold?

Aside from the CWDP, CWAP, CWSP, and CWNE, I currently hold certifications in Cisco (CCNP R/S & CCNP Wireless), Aruba (ACMP), and Ekahau (ECSE). Once upon a time I was also MCSE 2003 certified as well, but weren't we all :-)

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I wanted to challenge myself to see if the knowledge I already had based on my hands-on experience would propel to gain an expert certification.

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

Since late 2014 when I picked up my first CWNA text and started reading like there was no tomorrow.

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

The most difficult part was writing. Writing white-papers, writing blog entries and coming up with the ideas for blog entries. I overcame that by just looking back on my project experience and extrapolating the data and ideas that were used for those.

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

I would say, make sure you have the real world experience first. Nothing can take the place of being able to fall back on your experiences when trying to understand some of the concepts and when navigating the exams.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program?

Anyone and everyone who has a passion for this great industry. Those that would like to get down to the nuts and bolts of wireless technology.