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CWNE # 347

What is your level of industry experience?

As a CWNE in the cellular space, I consider myself a beginner, but earning the CWNE certification has provided me with a much deeper understanding of the complexities and elements involved in the cellular industry.

When did you first become interested in wireless?

I started in sales, selling Yellow Pages ads, before moving to a company focused on networking, where I discovered Wi-Fi. With an engineering mindset from my apprenticeship fixing Caterpillar equipment, I was driven to ask questions about how Wi-Fi worked. When answers weren't available, I figured it out myself—over 20 years ago!

Why did you choose the CWNE path?

I got tired of vendor training that was all about configuring stuff instead of really understanding how it worked. When I did my first CWNA course, it clicked for me— understanding the tech itself is way more important than just learning to press buttons or pass an exam.

I'd been on the fence about going for my CWNE for ages, but a group of CWNEs (you know who you are), over wine and tapas—because that's how friendships happen—finally convinced me to go for it.

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

Back in 2011, I took the beta CWAP course, though I'd been working in networking and Wi-Fi long before that. I've always found CWNP to be an excellent foundation for learning.

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

Having the courage to believe I could become a CWNE was a big step. Thankfully, having friends around me to share knowledge, teach me, and give me that extra nudge helped me push past my fears and insecurities. And then came the big RED button—trust me, when you get there, you'll know it. I closed my eyes, pressed it, and that's how I overcame it!

What would you say to anyone considering a CWNE designation?

It's simple: "Just do it." The CWNE community is amazing—supportive, knowledgeable, and always willing to help. It's a highly respected qualification that makes you part of a small, elite group of professionals who not only support each other but are passionate about helping others too.

To whom would you recommend the CWNE program

Anyone involved with "wireless" should consider it—it's a foundation and a set of building blocks that provide a solid understanding of how wireless works. From there, you can explore areas you're passionate about. For example, I transitioned from Wi-Fi to cellular and am now diving into LoRaWAN. But it all builds on the same core knowledge that helped me become a CWNE.