



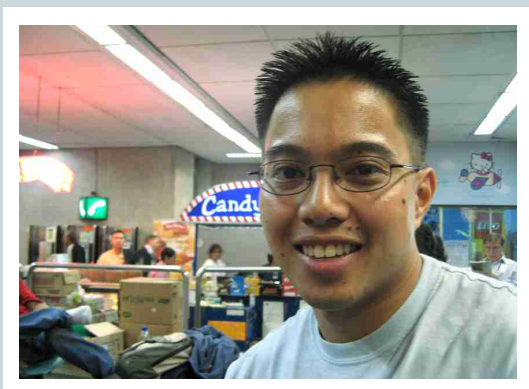
REACHING FURTHER

CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY

SUCCESS STORY

GOAL

Paving a way into the networking industry.



Antonio Cunanan, Australia

University of Technology, Sydney
Student

At University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), the cosmopolitan campus is home to one of the most diversified student population in Australia. Although Antonio Cunanan thrives on his campus' vibrancy, what really attracted him to (UTS) was the Cisco Networking Academy courses offered.

The former programmer had been working in the IT field for three years. Despite enjoying finding technical solutions to software problems, Antonio's real interest lay in networking as it provided the bigger challenges he craved. While hunting for a networking job, he realised his minimal knowledge of the subject wasn't going to help. "With my software development background, I knew it would be very difficult for me to apply for roles in the networking industry without a sufficient foundation in the basics of networking."

He found out UTS offered Cisco Networking Academy courses, providing the perfect opportunity for him to develop the skills required to find a place in the industry. Signing up was the natural step. "Cisco Networking Academy was the perfect place to learn about networking in a structured format" Antonio explains. "The networking path leads all the way from CCNA to the Mount Everest of certification – CCIE." Another plus of the program? Cisco networking technologies are geared towards achieving industry based certification. "It assured me that I'd be able to confidently find employment in the networking industry when I graduated."

With CCNA, CCNP and CCIE R&S under his belt, one might wonder how did Antonio find the time and discipline to study while working full time. It boils down to passion. "I have an immense passion for networking, so maintaining the discipline to study was never difficult. My only gripe during that period was only being able to study four hours after work as I needed to sleep eight hours a night."



SUCCESS STORY

Studying part-time meant making sacrifices. Antonio spent many weekends and weeknights on his coursework, leaving little time for friends and social activities. It all paid off when he landed his first networking job at Cisco Technical Assistance Centre (TAC) in the routing protocols team almost immediately after getting his CCNA.

Being in the industry further motivated him to obtain more certifications.

“I achieved both CCNP and CCIE R&S within a year of starting at Cisco. I’ll be moving to the Voice team and my next goal is to achieve the Voice CCIE. I hope to become a voice CCIE by the end of 2007,” Antonio resolved.

His current job has seen him supporting some of the biggest network in the world. “Everyday, I work with global customers to help them solve and troubleshoot their network issues. This is far beyond what I could have ever imagined when I started the course two years ago.”

Given how, Antonio’s career has taken off after getting his Cisco certification, he encourages anyone who’s interested in networking to give it a go. “This program allows you to gain the necessary theoretical and practical experience and understanding to succeed in the field of networking,” he advises. “It has the benefit of providing a structured progression model for you to achieve your different certification.” Education aside, enrolling in Cisco Networking Academy is also an excellent way to network with fellow classmates and partners interested in the industry.

“Cisco Networking Academy was the perfect place to learn about networking in a structured format. It allowed me to achieve industry recognized certification, which assured me that I’d be able to confidently find employment in the networking industry when I graduated.”

SUMMARY

When you come from an IT background, having additional qualifications in the right field makes it even easier to switch occupations. Software programmer Antonio Cunanan pursued his dream job in networking by enrolling himself in Cisco Networking Academy at UTS. He went further by obtaining CCNP and CCIE R&S. Today, he’s employed at Cisco, working with customers from all over the world and helping them solve their networking problems.

