


Wondering about CWNP Certification? Read More for a full explanation...

Posted: 07-27-06 02:10 PM Post subject: "Are you a CWNP?" 

Below is the slightly edited version of an actual conversation with a IT pro seeking to gain an understanding of how to answer the following question:

"Are you a CWNP?"

Question - I just received my CWNA and I don't know what to put on my resume. Do I put CWNP or CWNA? What do I put when I get my next cert, CWSP? I've had employers ask if I had a CWNP and I don't know how to respond because there is no such specific certification.

Answer - There is no "CWNP" certification. You may be asked "do you hold a CWNP certification?" To which you should reply, "Yes, I have CWNA" because it is a CWNP Program certification.

CWNP is the name of the program. It is not a certification. It's much the same as someone asking you if you hold a Cisco certification. If you do, you'll say, "Yes, I have CC__."

If you earn CWSP, then that's what you say. If you are Cisco CCNP, you don't also say that you are CCNA, because CCNP supersedes CCNA. It's the same with CWSP. You don't have to say "I'm CWSP and CWNA" because CWSP supersedes CWNA because CWNA is a requirement before you can get CWSP.

Question - But I am never asked, "Do you hold a CWNP certification?" I am asked "are you a CWNP". Do I answer yes to that?

Answer - Yes, you are a CWNP. You are CWNA or CWSP or CWAP, or CWNE. Nobody has *the CWNP certification*, because CWNP itself is not a certification. But, much the same as someone who holds a Microsoft certification is an "MCP", anyone who holds a CWNP Program certification is a "CWNP".

Question - OK, there's the rub and the real difference. I can say yes to "are you a CCNP or MCSE or any of the other certifications I hold" and they are what I put on my resume. What you are telling me is that if I see a job posting and a requirement is "CWNP" then anyone who holds a CWNP Program certification can meet that requirement. That means that people who write the job descriptions and requirements need to be more specific if they want a CWSP rather than CWNA. I happen to know that if you want a certain US Government wireless job you must "be a CWNP", so how do they screen for that?

Answer - if you're trying to meet the qualifications for a job posting that requires "CWNP", then by all means, say "Yes, I'm CWNP Here's my CWNP ID card, and it shows that I've earned CWNA and CWSP." And when you get invited in for an interview, politely inform them that CWNP is not a certification, but CWNA, CWSP, and CWNE are certifications from the CWNP Program.

- kevinator