



Australian Academy Helps Student Excel in ICT

Software programmer Antonio Cunanan pursued his dream job in networking by enrolling in the Cisco® Networking Academy® at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia. Prior to joining the program, Cunanan had been working in the information and communication technology (ICT) field for three years. Although he enjoyed finding technical solutions to software problems, Cunanan's real interest lies in networking, which provides the types of challenges he craves.

While searching for a job in networking, Cunanan quickly realized his minimal knowledge of the subject wasn't enough. "With my software development background, I knew it would be very

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Antonio Cunanan,
Academy graduate

difficult for me to apply for roles in the networking industry without a sufficient foundation in the basics of networking," recalls Cunanan.

Cunanan learned about the Networking Academy courses offered at the University of Technology and decided to enroll in the program. He felt the courses would provide a valuable opportunity to develop the skills needed to succeed in the industry. "Cisco Networking Academy was the perfect place to learn about networking in a structured format," says Cunanan. "The path leads all the way from the Cisco CCNA® certification to the Mount Everest of certifications—the Cisco CCIE® certification."

Completing the Networking Academy courses while working full time required Cunanan to make several sacrifices. He spent many weekends and evenings on his coursework, leaving little time for friends and social activities. When asked how he found the time and discipline to study, Cunanan attributes it to passion. "I have an immense passion for networking, so maintaining the discipline to study was never difficult," he explains. It all paid off when he landed his first networking job at Cisco almost immediately after earning his CCNA certification.

After entering the networking field, Cunanan was motivated to obtain more certifications. "I achieved both the Cisco CCNP® and CCIE R&S certifications within a year of starting at Cisco," says Cunanan. "I'll be moving to the voice team and my next goal is to achieve the Voice CCIE." In his current role, he supports some of the biggest networks in the world. "Every day, I work with global customers to help them solve and troubleshoot their network issues," remarks Cunanan. "This is far beyond what I could have ever imagined when I started the course two years ago."

Cunanan encourages anyone who's interested in networking to give Networking Academy a try. "This program allows you to gain the necessary theoretical and practical experience and understanding to succeed in the field of networking," he advises.