

Student comments about Networking Classes at SRJC

Cisco CCNA

I have to admit, the most valuable class for me to date has been the 1st class, Networking Concepts. The ability to subnet has opened up a slew of opportunities for me and has pushed my career even further. I have been slowly working my way into the field of Network Engineering and have been taking on small network engineering projects consisting of 1-5 servers, 1-2 subnets, and various requirements such as SANS/NAS, VPN, cloud, etc. So as you can see, the sub netting class has been invaluable to me. – CH

I hope things are well at the JC for you! I was able to get a job here in Sonoma County as a result of the CCNA program I took. I have been working at _____ here in _____ for a year now. The knowledge I got from your classes is extremely valuable here. Again thank you! – ES

I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed these networking classes.

You've made these classes very exciting and educational. I've been highly recommending these classes to my co-workers.

Also, I'm not sure if I ever mentioned this to you, but I use to work at _____, one of the original telecommunication companies in Petaluma. I say "use to" because I was laid off about 3-4 weeks ago after working there for about 12 years. I worked in test and automation.

A few days after I got laid off I interviewed at _____, it's a start-up in Petaluma that does an OC-192 transport box.

One of the topics that came up during my 6 hour interview was to explain a little about VLANs, STP, and 802.1q encapsulation.

I didn't even realize they did that type of stuff. But it turns out that their box has a built in switch in it. I think they were impressed that I even knew anything about that subject.

So, I am happy to report that, last week, I was offered a full time position at _____. I start in two weeks. Thanks Again – VG

In praise of CCNA classes, specifically router management. To wit: I have several private clients for whom I do computer consulting, which runs the gamut of "help me get rid of this virus" to "teach me how to use my new iPad." Yesterday I told my neighbor/client that his wireless router (which I can pick up on my laptop from my house) was broadcasting "linksys" with no password, instead of the router SSID and password which I had previously configured for him and his wife. He asked me to go ahead and reconfigure. Note: I have a MacBook and no GUI software, so I had to use Terminal and log into his router via 192.168.1.1. It was my first time using Unix to address a router and I had to use the sudo command to bring down and then bring up the Ethernet interface. However, once I saw what I was actually doing, I felt perfectly confident in my ability to reestablish the internet connection, Thanks To YOU and the CCNA class where we spent a lot of time "talking to routers" and bringing interfaces up and down.

So thanks to you and that class - you never know until you get out into the world of computer consulting how often you're going to be using what you learned in class. Study hard, students of Michael! – LS

I am proud to be a student at SRJC and to be able to participate in the classes that your teachers provide. I must say that every teacher I have had is caring and interested in our success. It has been the most wonderful experience to be in college, really for the first time in my life. I am grateful for your providing us Cisco Students with the option of the Independent Study program. We have worked hard and finally completed our goal! I also wanted to let you know that Michael McKeever is a wonderful, knowledgeable teacher, and while we didn't have the privilege of attending his classes in person, the archived classes he provided us, made us feel as if he were with us every step of the way! We the students of the independent Cisco Class of 09 are very, very grateful to him.

Again thank you so much for all you do for us students.

Your student and friend, – ES

I have finally finished. I started over 3 times. Was up till 2am last night. Dreamed I put the network into snake mode (some sub mode of trunk I think) I was bitten by one of the poisonous snakes running around with the packets. Had to try to finish configuring the network before I died.

A very challenging lab. Looking forward to the next class (* _ *) – CC

___ and I are VERY glad we took the CCNA class. We troubleshoot all day issues with routes & DHCP. Parts of our networks (for eng) is all static routes. Just this mention should indicate how much of a nightmare it when we had to go through multiple routers to play with VLSM...

We had a blast chasing issues left and right. Thanks a lot for the class. We are missing it. – DP

Just felt like giving you an update on my situation. I just got a job working as a Lab Administrator for Cisco. I live in San Jose now. I mostly set up and do basic configurations on Test Racks for the Engineers. I get to work with a lot of new and impressive gear. Mostly stuff I've never seen before I started work such as the 7200VRX and the ASR 1004/1006. Anyways, I guess I owe you a thanks for the knowledge I gained from taking your classes. I had a flawless interview with Cisco. I answered every question they threw at me almost instantly. Even the questions that the CCIE on my team asked me regarding subnetting, InterVLAN routing and ect. I impressed a lot of people. Thanks again for everything. Good luck. – MW

I am doing great in Cisco. I work as a Systems Administrator in Network Management Technology Group (NMTG). I love the work I do. Most part of my job includes system maintenance, installing OS, troubleshooting connectivity and partly configuring routers/switches. I wanted to get into hard-core networking soon :-)) Otherwise, how is your tutoring going in SRJC? I thoroughly enjoyed the classes I attended in SRJC :-)) CCNA really helped me find a job :) – US

The four CCNA class that I took with Michael McKeever were some of the most efficient and easy to understand classes I have ever take. The material in the class is explained in a manner that allows all students regardless of their experience to understand. Michael's teaching style and uses of words has a way of making all student feel at easy. Michael is a genuinely good guy and goes out of his way for his students by answerings questions and emails any time.

The hardware in the class was well kept and available to student at any time during the class. There was not one time I did not have at least one router. Some of the equipment was a little old but still in good use.

This class has really helped to gain a better understanding how networks work. By understanding router and switch, the protocols they use, and how they communicate, I can see the big picture for networks. I am in the process of completing my CCNA and I am sure that will allow me to get a better job in the future. The knowledge that I have gained from the classes I use every day in my current job. I have to set up switches, routers, and firewalls all the time. I feel that a CCNA on my resume will make jobs that I apply for easier to get. I have also determined that I will continue my studies of Cisco and attempt to complete my CCNP. I find the subject of networks very interesting and want to continue to learn. I have always wanted to continually learn but this class and its teacher have made me want to continue more then ever. I am very happy that I took this class.

As mentioned above Michael is a fantastic teacher and he always found a way to make jokes and have fun in class even when the subject was less than humorous. Michael consistently send me job opening and keeps me updated with any new information he thinks I need. I believe that I will continue to take any class that I can with Michael and hope that there is a Cisco

security class in the future.

Thanks – JL

After 10 years of Sales/Marketing hell, I entered the Cisco Networking Academy at SRJC with zero experience in the IT field. After the second class, I had gained enough entry-level knowledge to get my 1st job as a lab tech for a local network access company. I've taken the 1st half of the CCNA certification exam and scored a 98 (983/1000) and plan on taking the second half in less than a month. I'm also taking McKeever's Security classes next fall to prepare me for additional certifications.

None of this would be possible without the JC's networking and security programs. My only complaint is there isn't any advanced networking instruction available at the JC.

Also, McKeever's teaching style has played a major role in my initial success and understanding of the curriculum. He has a good balance of real-world experience and a sense of humor that makes learning exciting and enjoyable. – MS

Thanks so much for all the technology, instruction, (online and off), helpful hints, and encouragement throughout the last two semesters. The online classes were very helpful to me during the sessions when you were at trainings, out of town, etc., but they couldn't beat the in-class instruction and the hands on labs. I appreciate your keeping up with the technology, and I think future students will definitely benefit from the remote labs you are setting up. The simulators were helpful at home, but again, could not compare to getting my hands on the actual equipment. Thanks also for arranging it so that some of us were able to come in during off-hours. It helped immensely to be able to spend more time in the lab than the regular class schedule allowed.

The classes offered through the Technology Academy were invaluable in helping me to pass my CCNA. I couldn't have done it without you and the JC. Thanks so much!

I am now officially a CCNA. I passed the exam today with a score of 936 out of 1000. – LA

The first time I took a class from Michael McKeever was back in 2004. I've always had a yearning to understand more about how things work and it had come to my attention that although everyone I knew used the Internet, no one I knew really knew how it worked. I also had become more involved in computer troubleshooting at my job and I kept running up against stuff I didn't understand. So I browsed through the SRJC catalog that came in the mail and saw the "Cisco Certified Network

Associate" course. That seemed promising and I thought, maybe that's what I need! I actually looked up the course online and emailed McKeever, telling him what I wanted. He suggested I look up the course outline and see if it met my needs. I did, and thought, "Whoa, that looks really, really hard." I wondered if I could do it – after all, it had been 32 years since I set foot in a schoolroom as a student. I emailed the IT department head of our local ISP and asked him if he thought the course would be useful in my work and he said, yes, he thought it would be very useful. So I signed up.

CCNA is a rigorous course, designed to educate folks who actually help make the Internet work. I learned a lot about routers, packets, switches, bits, bytes, IEEE standards and cables, but most important, I learned something about myself. I still had what it takes to be a student; in fact, I worked harder at this class than I ever had in my previous college attendance. I went on to take 2 more classes from McKeever, Windows 2003 server security and Computer Networking security, and found myself wanting to learn more and more.

My work responsibilities also seemed to shift more towards computer and networking issues as I learned more about these things in school. I worked for 3 years to get my district to establish a network technician position, and they finally did so in April 2007. I have applied for this job, the first one in our district, based on the principles I've learned from McKeever's courses.

Speaking of McKeever, his teaching style seems to suit my learning style perfectly. He has a dry sense of humor and uses many humorous anecdotes, as well as cartoons and illustrations, to help liven up many a night of dry coursework. He had to do quite a bit of preparation for our Computer Network class, since he presented it online using the Adobe Connect software as well as in class and I really appreciate the work he had to do to make it interesting. He also adds in art and literature references, which help keep us all on our toes.

Adobe Connect is, to my mind, a good example of "Web 2.0" in action, where the users, in this case, we students, helped create the content. I really liked that way of learning, where McKeever could put up a slide and discuss it, and we could add comments and web links, which were then archived for later study.

McKeever's course material and presentation are outstanding. I have

found that I enjoy this kind of coursework very much and I would like to keep taking classes until I can earn some kind of degree. I don't know how that's going to work at the community college level but I'd really like to have a college degree in networking – I hope this will be possible some day.

Taking a computer class taught by McKeever makes me feel like I have a home in the universe. It's where I can meet other folks like me who are interested in computer things – we're known by some as "geeks." He always makes his students feel like being a geek is a good thing, instead of kind of mysterious, or weird, like most "ungeeks" I know think of us. I am glad I've had the opportunity to find my passion, computer networking, in the most unlikely place I could ever imagine, the computer network lab at SRJC with MJM at the whiteboard! – LS

I wanted to say thanks for a wonderful year. The Cisco networking academy has helped me advance in my technical career to a better position and a better life and not to mention it increased job stability in my life.

Before I started this academy i was under qualified because I didn't have the experience of working with switches and routers or any of cisco's products. I was also over qualified for the help desk positions so I was caught in the middle.

With the assistance of all involved (Santa Rosa J.C., Cisco Academy an yourself) I have achieved my goals and have an interview in a few weeks with _____ network engineering department out in West Chester, PA.

One of the things I liked most about your class is that i appreciate people who inject jokes, obscure literary references and cartoons into what most would call a geeky course.

Also, i was elated when you change from the CCCC online content to Adobe Connect that was the icing on the cake if you will. As you know with me working being able to retrieve the archives was awesome it was like i was in a live class

also I was able to see the slides and the chat an questions an see you as well as if I was in present class I must say nice touch to you and the JC...thanks again for everything!

AL

Last December I got a job at _____ doing Network Engineering. My first project was to design the IP phone system used by 50 employees. It's been in production for three months now. Having the knowledge you taught me helped resolve little issues. When there was congestion on the network I segmented. A lot of my problems were at layer 1 of that 7 layer burrito. This has lead me to label wires and ports. I knew where to check first because I took your class'. My next project will be using vlans to isolate hosts into smaller segments, in case a virus or routing issue comes up. Your class gave me everything I needed.

thank you, – CW

Need to tell you I received almost a \$10k raise after completing your cisco networking course (and put the knowledge to very good use for my company). – TD