

Goals and Final Project Ideas

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Overview

After several weeks of working in this directed study, it has been decided that I should draft some goals for the study and start brainstorming some final project ideas. This document will have both of these topics detailed below. I will try to keep updating this as I get more information from Cisco and from my interviews with Josh Fiske and Slic.

Goals

1. Prepare for the CCNA
 - a. This is probably my primary goal for this semester. I know that I am required to get the CCNA and the CCNP certifications upon starting my job. Miguel at Cisco informed me that I will be very highly respected in my field if I also take the CCIE. In order to accomplish all of these certifications within the first year of work while I am still in the training program, I would like to get the first one accomplished prior to starting or right when I start. Any preparation for this will be very valuable.
2. Hands on experience with routers and switches
 - a. I do not have any experience with hands on work with networking comm gear. I know that this will be something I must learn upon starting my job. Since we have a substantial amount here in the ITL which I can use, I would like to take this opportunity to learn as much as possible.
3. Continue talking with Josh, Slic, and DANC about Cisco
 - a. Since I will be part of the sales force in my job, I would like to take this opportunity to speak with members of the networking community who work directly with Cisco. This will provide me with valuable information in what they are looking for, what they like and dislike about the company, and many other relevant topics. All of this information will help me to better understand the company and learn what I can do in order to succeed once I start. These kinds of conversations will be much more difficult once I am a Cisco employee.

4. Learn about Clarkson's Network
 - a. Learning about the network here, how it works and what is entailed will provide me with a lot of valuable information. It is an excellent opportunity to see what is needed to run a network this size and it is similar in size to the networks customers I will be working with will have. Here, I have the opportunity to learn in great detail what we have and how it works, something that will likely not be shared by many other places.

Final Project Ideas

1. Prepare for and take the CCNA exam
 - a. This will entail me getting a hold of the latest CCNA textbooks and studying for the exam. I would really like to take the exam and pass it before starting my job on August 1st. My initial goal will be to take the exam by the end of this semester. If this is not realizable, then I will aim to take the exam over the summer before starting the job.
 - b. I am currently trying to get some more information from current Cisco employees on how to obtain this goal. I need to get the textbooks, find out more information on testing, and learn what kinds of hands on exercises I will need to know in order to pass.
2. Presentation on Clarkson's and the North Country's Network
 - a. After going through with my planned interviews with Josh Fiske, Slic, and hopefully DANC, I would be able to prepare and present on what I have learned. I believe that not many people here know how the internet is provided and what it entails. This could be a very informative topic to present on for those who want to get a better understanding of what it takes to get internet access in their homes and on Campus.