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Certifications Transform Lives. Chris Cugno, DreamWorks Animation SKG

Chris Cugno had always wanted to work with computers, but as time slipped by, his job in the local supermarket turned into a 15-year career with limited upside potential. Chris decided to “turn the page” and pursue his longtime dream of working with computers by entering the Cisco Networking Academy® Program at Rancho Santiago Community College in Orange County, California.

“Holding a Cisco certification enabled me to enter the career of my dreams, and now I have the opportunity to work for one of the most recognized production studios in the world.”

—Chris Cugno, Senior Network Engineer, DreamWorks Animation SKG

In a short time, Chris acquired his CCNA® certification and today is a senior network engineer for DreamWorks Animation SKG. DreamWorks produces high-quality family entertainment through the use of computer-generated animation, and has created such award-winning movies such as “Shrek” (look for his name in the credits of the upcoming summer blockbuster “Shrek the Third”).

DreamWorks employs about 1500 people whose need for extraordinary network speed and reliability is a first priority. Animation is a computing-intensive environment, and users need to share files and work collaboratively in teams across the company’s massive network. To support this effort, DreamWorks runs its own data centers with several thousand servers. Chris’ role as a senior network engineer is vital in keeping the studio’s network backbone running smoothly so that movie production can continue without interruption.

When asked about his favorite part of the job, Chris said, “The ongoing ‘science projects’ and development work are the most fun aspects of my job. I really love trying new Cisco products at work.” Chris has also created his own lab environment as a test area for new hardware he wants to use in the movie production environment.

In addition to his CCNA certification, Chris has completed exams toward the CCNP® and CCSP® certifications and hopes to add these qualifications to his arsenal. In his free time, Chris enjoys playing computer games, browsing the Internet, and evaluating open source network management tools (and the network equipment at home is Cisco, of course).

For More Information

To find out more about Cisco® Career Certifications, go to: www.cisco.com/go/learnnetspace.