



Connecticut Student and Graduate Profile

When Tom Fox graduated from high school in 2001, he had no idea he would start his own company only two years later. Tom was always ahead academically (he graduated high school in three years), but his success at the Cisco® Networking Academy® was so transformative that in his sophomore year of college, he and his roommate were able to launch their own business, SourceAid, an e-learning company that provides research solutions to individuals and academic institutions around the world.

As CIO/CTO for SourceAid, Tom was able to apply the skills he learned through the Networking Academy, including developing networked software backboned securely through remote networks. Tom has since moved on, but he remains on the Board of Directors at the company he co-founded.

Tom's participation in the Networking Academy came through a pilot academy at Hall High School in West Hartford, Connecticut. He had always been interested in computers and was aware of the technology certifications Cisco offered, so he was excited to be in the program. Tom thought the curriculum was comprehensive but easy to follow, and credits his instructor, Chet Bacon, with really sparking his interest in networking.

Tom maintains that he would not be as successful had it not been for his teacher: "Chet deserves most of the credit" insists Tom, "he was a leader and really challenged his students to learn." Chet is equally complementary of his student, noting that "Tom Fox has received my respect—he got a 950+ on the final and held five Microsoft certifications graduating in his junior year of high school. He started SourceAid.com shortly after going to college—a remarkable student all around!"

"Tom Fox has received my respect—he got a 950+ on the final and held five Microsoft certifications graduating in his junior year of high school. He started SourceAid.com shortly after going to college—a remarkable student all around!"

Chet Bacon, Hall High School academy instructor

Upon graduating from high school with his Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) certification, Tom worked as a senior systems engineer at a Web hosting company, supporting more than 200 private networks. Even though Tom didn't yet have his college degree, he found that employers viewed his CCNA certification as equivalent to a college degree. Nevertheless, Tom went on to Worcester Polytechnic Institute where he graduated in 2006 with a major in management information systems and a minor in computer science.

Tom says the knowledge and experience he gained during his Networking Academy days at Hall High School have been factors in his success to date and were instrumental in the development of his leadership abilities. "The Networking Academy was different from other high school classes," says Tom, "It was more like a college class where people broke out into teams to complete various project assignments." Tom also appreciated the fact that "a lot of the courses were hands-on, not just theoretical problems," and he particularly enjoyed the labs and other experiences for the real-world practice they provided. One of the real-world experiences Tom engaged in consisted of setting up networks at neighboring schools on the weekends.



On a personal level, Tom attributes his success to his resourcefulness, desire to learn, self-motivation, and skills as a team leader and team member. As he notes, "the more you learn, the more you realize how much you don't know... and learning how to find information is important." In keeping with the value he places on acquiring information and real-world experience

and skills, Tom has earned a number of other industry certifications in addition to his CCNA, including his MCSE, MCDBA, A+, I-Net+, Network+, and MOUS. He intends to earn his Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) and Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE®) certifications and pursue his passion for network security. Currently, he is a product manager in the publishing services division of EBSCO Industries, Inc. where he develops and manages new products and technology and is responsible for collaborating with other companies and committees to establish new standards.

When asked what advice he would impart to someone interested in Networking Academy, Tom replies “It is a really good program that can set you up with the skills to lead in a cutting edge professional environment and offers great opportunities for professional networking.”

Additional information on the academy at Hall High School may be found at:

<http://www.whps.org/schools/hall/network/network.asp>



Americas Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA
www.cisco.com
Tel: 408 526-4000
800 553-NETS (6387)
Fax: 408 527-0883

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.
168 Robinson Road
#28-01 Capital Tower
Singapore 068912
www.cisco.com
Tel: +65 6317 7777
Fax: +65 6317 7799

Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems International BV
Haarlerbergpark
Haarlerbergweg 13-19
1101 CH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www-europe.cisco.com
Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791
Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at www.cisco.com/go/offices.

CCVP, the Cisco logo, and Welcome to the Human Network are trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc.; Changing the Way We Work, Live, Play, and Learn is a service mark of Cisco Systems, Inc.; and Access Registrar, Aironet, Catalyst, CCDA, CCDP, CCIE, CCIP, CCNA, CCNP, CCSP, Cisco, the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert logo, Cisco IOS, Cisco Press, Cisco Systems, Cisco Systems Capital, the Cisco Systems logo, Cisco Unity, Enterprise/Solver, EtherChannel, EtherFast, EtherSwitch, Fast Step, Follow Me Browsing, FormShare, GigaDrive, HomeLink, Internet Quotient, IOS, iPhone, IP/TV, iQ Expertise, the iQ logo, iQ Net Readiness Scorecard, iQuick Study, LightStream, Linksys, MeetingPlace, MGX, Networkers, Networking Academy, Network Registrar, PIX, ProConnect, ScriptShare, SMARTnet, StackWise, The Fastest Way to Increase Your Internet Quotient, and TransPath are registered trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and certain other countries. Mind Wide Open is a trademark of Cisco Networking Academy.

All other trademarks mentioned in this document or Website are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (0711R)