

DevonPatrick Adkins

Out-of-this-world Aspirations in Sight



About Our Certified Cisco Professional

Member name

[DevonPatrick Adkins](#)

Job title

Network Engineer L2

Industry

Service Provider

Certifications

CCENT

CCNA

CCNP

DevNet Associate

DevonPatrick Adkins was born into a poor family in a small town in the Republic of Transkei—an unrecognized South African state at the time. His life started more than 10,000 miles from Cisco headquarters in San Jose, California—on the other side of the planet.

The rural area that Devon grew up in was, for the most part, internationally unrecognized, diplomatically isolated, and politically unstable. But by his late twenties, Devon was already a senior network engineer at a worldwide IT services company in charge of more than 2,000 users, 500 switches, 200 access points, and 100 routers. And he credits much of his success to earning Cisco CCNA training and certifications.

An Early Passion for Technology

Devon always knew that technology was his passion. At age seven, he begged his parents to save their pocket money each month to buy him a PC Magazine. Devon knew each issue would be filled with the latest technology news from around the globe.

One day Devon popped a disk in—a new PC game he couldn't wait to play. But he was greeted with an error message: *Stipulating unable to render DirectDraw error*. His heart dropped. But he got right to fixing the issue. It was his first lesson in system requirements. It was also the day that inspired him to pursue a career in IT.

Realizing the Importance of Certifications

With help from his family, Devon took a few college classes—where he first came to understand the importance of certifications—and earned his CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications.

Using this training, Devon found a job as a technician at an internet café. Although the pay barely covered his transport costs to and from work, he gained immense satisfaction helping customers with their computer problems. Soon, he became known as the town technician, helping fix computer problems at gas stations and other stores. This work led Devon to his first IT job as the sole technician responsible for supporting over 200 users at a large bakery.

Introduced to Cisco Technologies

As fate would have it, the bakery was purchased by a large food manufacturer and Devon found himself transferred to the head office in East London to work as a provincial support technician. This is also where he was first introduced to Cisco switches and wireless controllers. Devon said, “it was love at first touch.”

Devon quickly became known for his strong work ethic and landed a job at a multinational telecommunications company as a voice and data administrator for its MPLS/Global Service Provider products. There he was able to work solely on Cisco platforms and learned about the Cisco CCNA certificate. Devon recalled that “all of the super intelligent L2 and L3 engineers were CCNA certified.” He knew someday he would earn his certifications.

Two years later, Devon did indeed earn his Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician certification and became the go-to guy for all things Cisco. A few years later he became a Cisco Certified Network Associate—a qualification that truly changed his life. Job offers started pouring in from around the world.

Today, Devon is a senior network engineer for the Department of Transport at his company. He also recently became a Cisco Certified Network Professional.

The Value of Cisco Certifications

When asked about the value of his Cisco certifications, Devon replies, “Cisco really changed my life and opened up a new world for me. The certifications have helped me grow academically, mentally and professionally. I now see myself achieving quite a number of things in my life.” Devon says he’s now much more confident and daring taking on more and more responsibilities.

Going Forward

Devon dreams of configuring the networks for the next-generation interplanetary missions to both the Moon and Mars. He would love to leave his own footprint on those journeys, being responsible for helping to deploy the technology. In the pursuit of that dream, Devon has gone back to school to earn his bachelor’s degree in computer science.

Keep Pace with the New Network

The best way to begin is by exploring the Start Now page. You’ll get quick access to programmability training and labs like basic coding for networking and more. Start now at [Cisco DevNet](#).

Advice from a Cisco Certified Professional

Closer to home, Devon wants to continue to impart and share knowledge globally. This is one reason why he started the [Cisco DevNet Global Study Group](#).

The group collaborates with likeminded individuals to help accelerate to help accelerate learning and prepare for certification exams. Devon invites anyone interested in talking about technology to join the conversation. Especially if they are interested in learning how Cisco certifications can further their careers.

Cisco Certifications Additional Resources

[DevNet Essentials](#)

[DevNet Associate Prep Program](#)

[DevNet Certification Community](#)

[DevNet Study Materials](#)