

A little bit about me



Home town: Lake Macquarie (on the coast of Newcastle, Australia)

Live and have a desk in Sydney



I really am a Geek

- Sci-Fi fan
- Fantasy Fan
- Technology is just like magic
- Excited by new technology



Higher Education and Current Certifications



Career prior to Cisco



- Started working in IT while still at Uni
- Worked 10 years as an IT professional before joining Cisco
- 1990 – 1995 @ Maintain Axis Computers
 - Building, Installing and Implementing Computers and Networks
- 1995 – 2000 @ Mayne Group Ltd
 - National Network Manager / Administrator
 - Moved to Sydney in 97



Cisco Career



- Started in a general engineering role (R&S)
- Chose a specialisation early – was then able to differentiate myself from standard engineers
- Was involved in IP Telephony when first emerged – pivotal market change – revolutionised telephony and then video communications
- Used this success to continue my Career
- Realised didn't want to go into management wanted to remain an individual contributor
- Followed a deep specialisation able to really *distinguish* myself

The road to Distinguished Systems Engineer

- Distinguished Systems Engineer is not a standard promotion
- Requires a candidate to be nominated
- Then a submission of suitability to be awarded a “Distinguished Engineer” title
- Prove value to Cisco, Customers, Partners and the Industry – where you have made a significant difference and impact
- Requires references and endorsements from Director level and above from Cisco, partners, customers and the industry
- Cisco and Industry rewards and recognition

A typical day for me



- There are no typical days
- Technology changes all the time – every 6 months I need to learn something new – the variety is amazing – never bored
- Most days I have to present to customers, partners or cisco or work with a global team (Live or via video)
- Spend a lot of time on Webex and Video sessions
- If on the rare day I have no meetings I do presentation prep and research (catch up on communications)

Conferences and Countries

- Presented at many global conferences and customer sites or events
- Been to over 15 countries with Cisco and many multiple times



Vanessa Sulikowski (Cisco) presenting at the Communications Convergence Workshop



Things I have learnt and would advise

- I love my job, find something you love doing
- Take risks and chances
- Don't be afraid to speak up
- Always be honest
- Networking with people is very important
- Volunteer, volunteer, volunteer
- Most of all have **fun**.....

A photograph of a brick wall featuring a faded mural. The mural depicts a person's profile on the right and a large, stylized letter 'A' on the left. The wall is made of red and tan bricks, with some areas showing signs of wear and peeling paint. A white banner is overlaid at the bottom left.

Questions?



CISCO

TOMORROW starts here.