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Mentor Me Cisco Series

This series lets students hear directly from Networking Academy alumni who now work for Cisco. Hear Michael's story:

Initial goal

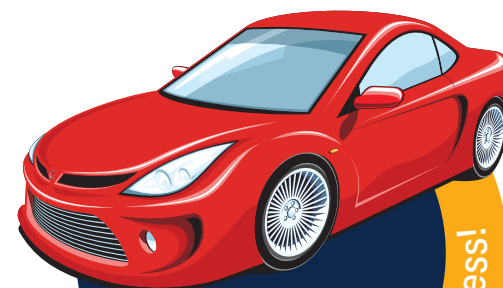
As an early school-leaver, I had been working in a supermarket for 4 years and decided I needed a career. It was a toss-up between metalworking, becoming a pilot, and IT. After rolling the dice, I got IT!

His journey

After sending my resume out, I landed an apprenticeship in IT, which led me to Networking Academy. As a gamer, I always had an interest in computing. Also come from a long line of tradespeople, so liked the hands-on aspects of the program. Between this experience, and all I learned doing my CCNA, I landed a job at a Cisco vendor.

How stars aligned for success

1. Studying CCNA was like Alice in Wonderland—the more I learned the more interesting it got
2. Learning to set up a network was one thing, but breaking it and figuring how to fix it taught me a lot
3. The active classroom environment encouraged everyone to study
4. On-site experience was really valuable—it taught me how to deal with customers



Networking
Academy

The wheels for success!



Michael's favorite
topic was big wide
area networks

Advice for other students



- Be prepared to learn a lot
- Go for apprenticeships
- Get experience
- Build relationships

How it felt landing a job at Cisco

Exciting. Well
worth the effort.