Quitting My CCIE Status

by Greg Ferro

It's been 17 years since I achieved CCIE status. The time has come to admit that CCIE skills are not a part of my future. I'm letting go of my CCIE.

Where Am I?

I have two roles today. First is Co-Founder/Chief Something-Or-Other of a startup. Packet Pushers as a business IS NOT about aiming and launching towards your goal; it's more like guiding a very large falling rock so it doesn't hit the edges as it accelerates and gains momentum. My second and more visible role is podcast host, analyst, and writer on networking at Packet Pushers.

The price of re-certification in both time and money is substantial. I'm guessing it would take at least 200 hours to get back into the books, work through my flash cards, and start memorizing a bunch of pointless information.

Is The CCIE Relevant To Me?

Hyperconvergence means legacy networking is pretty much over in the enterprise data center. SD-WAN means that deep knowledge of legacy protocols isn't needed anymore. The SDN platform hides most of the details there and moves your career into proactive design and strategy instead of having a good memory and understanding of technology details.

Hybrid cloud / multi-cloud is the hotness for the next few years, and who knows what will come after that. I've already lived through the Novell Netware and Window NT eras before getting into networking, where I dived into the WAN and data center security. I also did some WiFi and a lot of monitoring before that became pointless.

The only place where active CCIE status matters is resellers, and the idea of working for a vendor reseller does not appeal to me.

Cisco doesn't seem to care whether I re-certify. It offers no benefits or advantages to me to maintain my CCIE relationship. In general, end users aren't concerned about status these days, because the ability to communicate and be adaptable is as equally important as your technical chops.

Letting Go

I feel sure that I can re-learn what I need. The foundations of the last decade are still there and educational materials are widely available. The options for self-education are very different now compared to 2001, when training resources and labs were extremely limited.

If I wanted to invest a couple of hundred hours in training, I would focus on a career choice that is one step ahead of the market. Right now, I would invest time in public cloud - AWS/Google/Azure, doesn't matter which one. Having cloud skills would be more valuable than relearning old knowledge.
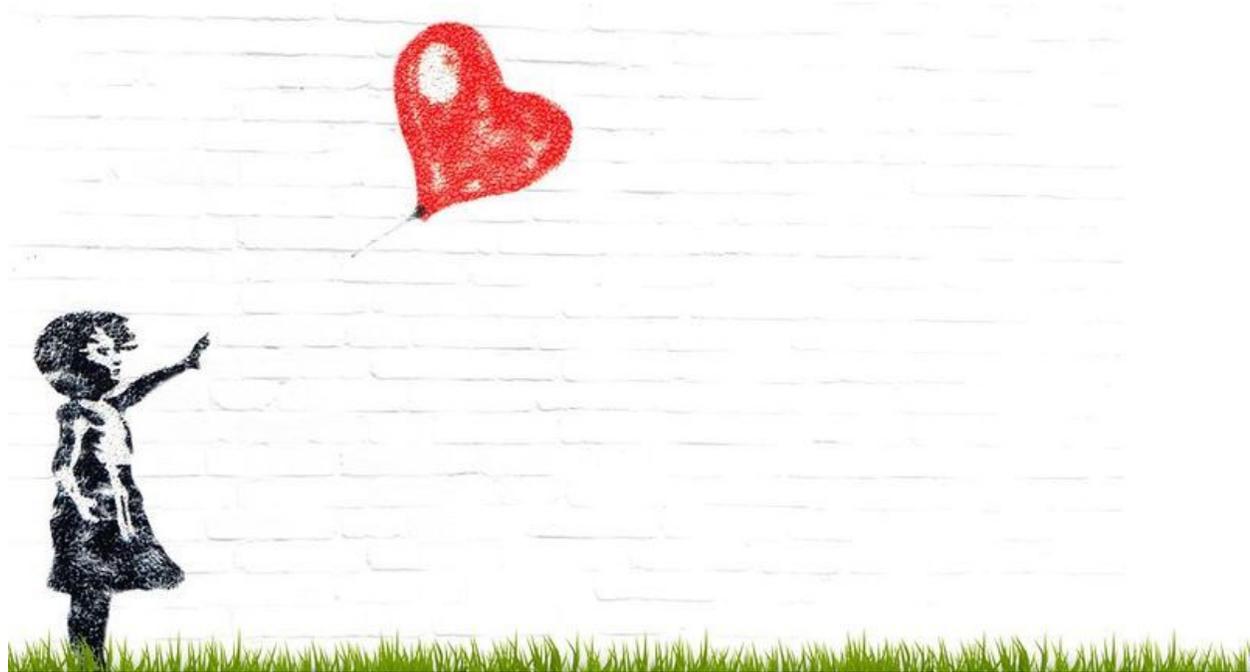
My Ego

My ego doesn't need my status anymore. I've proven to myself that I'm good enough and I don't need anyone else to validate me. In the middle stage of my career with only ten to fifteen years (if I'm lucky) of work, I can make this choice.

So farewell, CCIE program. It's time to invest in new skills and leave the old behind.
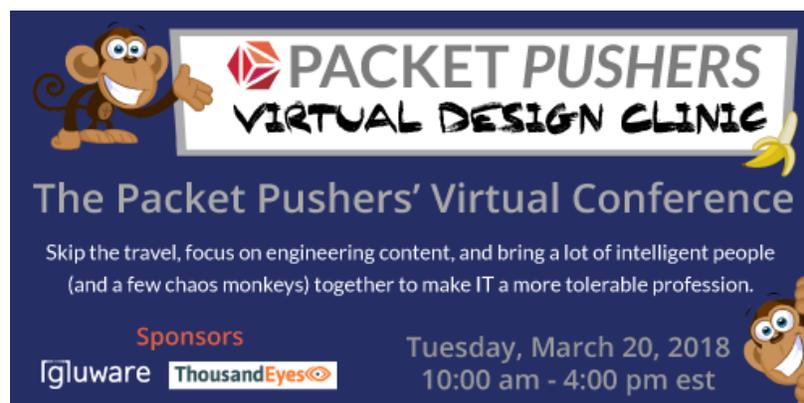
Packet Pushers Virtual Design Clinic

Sign Up Now!

The Packet Pushers will host a [Virtual Design Clinic](#) on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. This live, online event will offer engineering deep dives on network challenges and solutions.

It will feature presentations from the Packet Pushers, independent speakers, and sponsors. After the event, we'll make the presentations available free for [Packet Pushers members](#). [Register here](#) to reserve your space.

Internets Of Interest

A collection of blogs, news items, white papers, and other things from the Internet you might find interesting. Or not. It's fine either way.

Dropbox saved almost $75 million over two years by building its own tech infrastructure - GeekWire

As Dropbox emerges from its startup chrysalis to become a publicly traded butterfly, GeekWire examined the company's S-1 filing and came across this interesting tidbit about Dropbox's move away from AWS:

"From 2015 to 2016, Dropbox saved $39.5 million in the cost of revenue bucket thanks to the project, which reduced spending on "our third-party datacenter service provider" by $92.5 million offset by increased expenses of $53 million for its own data centers. The following year in 2017, it saved an additional $35.1 million in operating costs..."

Now compare that to Snap Inc., the company behind Snapchat. According to a story in Forbes from 2017, Snap has committed to spend $3 billion over five years on cloud services from Google and Amazon. $3 billion!

It's possible there are good technology and business reasons for that decision by Snap. And it's difficult to make an apples-to-

apples comparison between one company's tech requirements and another's. But maybe someone from Snap should have a word with the team at Dropbox.

LINK

The Myth of Cloud Agnosticism - Reactive Ops

Now that we've moved past the debate about whether you should develop and run applications in the public cloud, attention is shifting to notion of cloud lock-in. Like that fabled hotel in California, public cloud owners make it easy to check in, but much harder to leave.

Vendors, analysts, and consultants are casting around for solutions that might unpin your workloads from a singe provider's service to allow you shift your applications to any cloud on demand, whether to take advantage of price differences, use new features, or just to keep the providers from taking you for granted.

However, Corey Quinn, writing for the managed Web operations company Reactive Ops, throws cold water on the notion of sliding workloads from one public cloud to another.

..."save 20¢ an hour on compute" falls flat when the statement finishes with "...and spend $2000 moving data to that provider so those slightly cheaper containers have something to chew on."

Data gravity means that where your data lives is invariably where the rest of your infrastructure is based ."
LINK

Become A Packet Pushers Member

Join the Packet Pushers' new membership program and get benefits including our weekly Link Propagation newsletter and more. Click here for details and to sign up.

Thanks Internet!

The flotsam and jetsam of the vast social media ocean.

Product News

Find out about interesting new products, or get essential information about things you might already be using.

Cisco Chases Intent-Based Startups With Network Assurance Engine

Cisco is going all-in on Intent-Based Networking (IBN).
IBN is an emerging concept for network operations that aims to translate high-level business objectives into configuration instructions that can be automatically applied across the network infrastructure to achieve a desired outcome, such as provisioning network connectivity for a new application.
LINK

Juniper Woos The Enterprise With New Products

Juniper Networks is wooing enterprise buyers with a fresh-baked batch of new products and a strategy built around multicloud. That is, Juniper wants to be able to connect enterprise workloads regardless of where they are, and enable the requisite policies and security controls to extend from the premises data center into and across the public cloud. And do it simply and effectively.
LINK

Recent Podcasts

The five podcasts most recently published podcasts from Packet Pushers:

PQ 141: Using Open-Source FastNetMon For DDoS Detection

Datanauts 123: Security Without Firewalls

Network Break 173: Intel Hit By Lawsuits; Oracle Plugs Portfolio Gap

Show 378: Cisco Zero Touch Provisioning (Sponsored)

PQ 140: OPNsense Wants To Be Your Open-Source Firewall

Subscribe to the podcast on iTunes

Subscribe to the podcast via RSS

Editor's Note

Hello! You may have noticed this issue looks a little different from previous editions. That's because we've changed the application

we use to send newsletters, which means a different set of design tools. (If you didn't notice, please ignore this note.)

In any case, if you have suggestions for how to make Human Infrastructure better (besides finding a new editor) please send them to drew@packetpushers.net.

Did We Miss Something?

Got a link or an article to share? Do you have a comment, question, or critique? Effusive praise? Scathing reproach? Email it all to humaninfrastructure@packetpushers.net.

The End Bit