



**Xuan Zhang**

**Apple**

**Apple Systems Consultant**

**Certifications Held:** CCIE R&S Written, CCNP, CCNA, ACSA, ACTC, MCSE, Cisco Wireless Network Administrator, CiscoWorks 2000 Administrator

**Up Next:** CCIE Security and Database System

**Quote:** “The Internet age is changing the way we live today by creating new ways of accessing information and digital content. At Apple, I get to be part of the transformation in the wired landscape by participating in the development and implementation of cutting-edge networking technologies that change the way we work, play and communicate.”

Xuan first became interested in computing while tinkering with the Apple II machine during the 1980’s as the computer was transforming personal computing, “I thought the Apple computer was so cool at the time and it began my obsession with computers.”

As Xuan’s interest and knowledge of computing developed, his love of multiplayer video games pushed him towards an interest in networking. His first experience with networking was developing a LAN so that he and his friends could play games together on the same network. “It was just a natural progression,” recalled Xuan, about his early experiences. “Learning the ins and outs of networking started as a necessity for my friends and I to have fun playing video games together, but as I learned more, the fun became the networking itself.”

Before joining Apple, Xuan worked at a system integration company for financial customers where he helped companies with limited IT resources implement new applications and upgrades. That job, along with his studies and certifications, gave him a deep understanding of the many facets involved in business networking. His certifications and experience made the transition over to Apple very easy.

Xuan began his career at Apple as a Technical Support Engineer where he worked with customers and a global team to solve complex problems that face many enterprise companies. “Most people see IT as a solitary career, but I get to work one-on-one with a variety of customers and an energetic international team to brainstorm solutions for complex business challenges facing the company.” Xuan has recently been promoted within Apple to Systems Consultant, where he now works to develop business solutions, coordinate the actions of multiple international entities and ensure the smooth implementation of projects from beginning to end.

Xuan enjoys being part of the Apple team because he is able to study cutting-edge technologies and is in constant contact with customers. He feels that being an employee of Apple is unique because of the hi-tech consumer positioning that the company undertakes and the prestige associated with working for the company. Apple’s focus on

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creative collaboration allows him to utilize his knowledge, while continuously learning about and witnessing the creation of new technologies in a social and fun working environment. Xuan has some advice for potential certification students based on his experience, “Just do it, the resources and time spent studying is quickly repaid in more ways than you can imagine.”