COMSOC TRAINING

BY ROLF FRANTZ

IEEE Communications Society
Wireless Communication Engineering Technologies

The growth in awareness of wireless communications certification has been paralleled by an increasing interest in obtaining training in wireless. ComSoc's training offerings share many of the characteristics of WCET certification: the instructors are seasoned; content is vendor neutral; and the material is typically trans-national in nature. As with the WCET program, the courses are developed and taught by practicing wireless professionals, experts with experience in what wireless engineering practitioners need to know and the tasks that they will be required to perform.

One thing must be made clear at the outset: ComSoc's training courses are NOT designed or intended to be specific preparation for the WCET certification examination. Many of the subjects covered by the courses are of course topics of questions found on the exam. The breadth of ComSoc's course offerings is similar to the breadth of the exam. However, ComSoc training and the WCET exam are developed and presented by entirely different groups of experts. Question writers don't teach courses and course instructors don't write exam questions. This approach is similar to the development of the WEBOK (*The Guide to the Wireless Engineering Body of Knowledge*), where chapter editors and contributing authors have no connection with the committee that writes and reviews questions and assembles the examination.

Why has ComSoc training proven so popular? The keys are those characteristics mentioned in the first paragraph:

- The content of the courses and the approach of the instructors favors no particular company's products or services over another's. Individual products may be identified by example when necessary to make a specific point, but vendor names are by far the exception rather than the rule.
- The instructors – experienced, practicing wireless professionals – have been on the front lines of developing, designing, deploying, operating, and maintaining wireless communication equipment and networks. They draw on that background in citing specific examples, case studies, and other experiences that clarify and expand upon the basic facts as found in the technical literature.
- Industry standards are paramount. The material taught in ComSoc's courses does not reflect any particular national policy, regulatory process, technology bias, or similar prejudices, although some content must occasionally be specific to a country's network deployments, political and/or regulatory environment, spectrum management, etc.
- ComSoc instructors revise and update the material for each scheduled course. These changes reflect their experience in teaching the course and feedback from the participants. They also add new technical content reflecting their understanding, as practicing professionals, of the continually changing industry environment: the introduction of new or updated technologies, changes in regulatory policies, increasingly demanding customer expectations, and the like.
- New courses are developed each year. For example, "Wireless Positioning and Location Technologies" has been added in 2014, and other topics suggested by the instructors and by course participants are under consideration.

ComSoc certainly encourages you, as a wireless professional, to pursue WCET certification. However, even if you're not — or if you're already certified but are facing new challenges on the job — take a look at ComSoc training at www.comsoc.org/training. You're likely to find some course offerings that could prove valuable to you in your career.

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IEEE Communications Society Ombudsman
c/o Executive Director
3 Park Avenue
17 Floor
NY, NY 10017, USA

ombudsman@comsoc.org
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