Paul currently serves as Senior Technical Instructor at Firefly. He has a long history of working with Cisco Partners. Paul has extensive experience in network design, consulting and implementation skills for Data Center switches. He is also considered one of the top NSX and SDN experts in the Asia Pacific region.

With a career spanning the last twenty years, Paul’s working knowledge gives him invaluable expertise as an instructor.

ADAM BALABAN  
SENIOR TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Internetwork Expert (CCIE), Storage Networking
Cisco Certified Network Professional Data Center (CCNP DC)

LANGUAGES
English
Polish

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• Configuring Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches
• FlexPod Test Drive™
• Cisco MDS Test Drive™
• Cisco Nexus 9000 Test Drive™
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems
• Cisco MDS and Nexus Training Classes

“Adam is a great trainer with an understanding from the “engineer” viewpoint (Firefly Student)
JOHN KIDD
SENIOR TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
B.S., Texas Tech University

LANGUAGES
English

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015
• Over 20 years of experience as a Technical Instructor and IT Project Lead
• Expertise in DevOps, Cisco Metapod and Enterprise Architecture

PROFILE
John is a seasoned IT lead and instructor with the ability to architect, develop and design solutions, manage development teams and successfully deliver under multiple project processes (Agile and traditional). He has strong customer-facing and presentational skills. His technical skills include the use of Apache Spark, Cisco Metapod, CouchDB, DevOps, Enterprise Architecture, Esper, Hadoop, Hibernate, JEE, jQuery, JMS, Mule ESB, MySQL, MavenSpring, OSGI and Postgres. He has served as the Vice President for Research & Development for IEX Workforce Management Group NICE Systems.

He also runs his own consultancy designing and implementing web services layers, as well as managing and designing enterprise integration projects and data architectures.

His work as CTO for the VSE Group involved mentoring and leading a team of 18 developers on various projects, as well as the design and implementation of Internet-based LOB applications in Java and J2EE technologies.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Firefly DevOps Landscape
• Cisco Metapod™ Top Gun

John has the unique talent of taking very complex technical material and being able to explain it in a clear, concise and understandable way, without overwhelming the learner.
(Paul Calhoun, QDiligence)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2010

- Over 9 years experience as a trainer in the IT industry
- Founder and CEO of a successful software company developing backup utilities for UNIX
- Established own consultancy and moved into training in the mid 2000s.

PROFILE

Eric brings a wealth of experience to the IT industry, which he now uses to motivate and challenge existing vendor and partner sales and technical teams. Having run both software and hardware businesses and worked with OEMs, distributors, resellers and end users, Eric is able to empathize and tune sales strategies for specific clients. His approach is to focus on the real needs of organizations and how to best map IT solutions to those needs without getting involved in detailed “speed and feed” discussions. He can also act as a mentor for teams who are striving to engage with higher-level personnel in organizations. He also runs his own consultancy designing and implementing web services layers, as well as managing and designing enterprise integration projects and data architectures.

Working with a Pan European Distributor client of Firefly, he has recently developed and delivered (customized) Sales Enablement Courses covering Cloud and Analytics.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Application Business Relevance
- Application-Driven Opportunities for Account Managers
- Aryaka Foundation Course for Sales Teams
- Big Data 103: Anatomy of a Deal
- Data Center Business Relevance
- FlexPod Test Drive™
- Technical Opportunity Planning for Sales and Pre-Sales

"Eric delivered an excellent course with the quality that I have come to expect from Firefly in general."

(Firefly Student)
DAVID STOKE
SENIOR TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Business Instructor (CCBI)
Certified Cisco Virtual Instructor
MBA, University of Bristol

LANGUAGES
English

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2014
• Over 20 years of experience as a technical instructor
• 35-year track record within the ICT industry, focused on collaboration and learning
• Specializes in Cisco sales, soft skills and technical training delivery and course development

PROFILE
David has a 35-year track record within the ICT industry, focusing on collaboration and learning. His breadth of experience is represented by the senior roles held over the past two decades. From helping to champion the early use of advanced digital imaging technology in training and business presentations; gaining recognition for innovation in his own freelance training and performance management sessions; to helping deliver ILT and multi-platform sales & technical curriculum to the channel partner communities of major IT vendors. David has helped thousands of resellers achieve Cisco Partner status by delivering Cisco certified sales and technical curriculum to over 5,500 of their individuals to meet the certification and specialization requirements of the Cisco Channel Partner program. He achieves one of the highest average CSAT scores, providing a consistently high ILT, virtual and online training experience.

Working with a Pan European Distributor client of Firefly, he has recently developed and delivered (customized) Sales Enablement courses covering Mobility, Security, Unified Collaboration and Wireless/PI. These were targeted at the sales and services teams and took them through from industry basics to exploring business drivers and the changing relationship of IT and business.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco Selling Business Outcomes
• Enterprise Networking Self Drive: Wireless for Business Mobility, IWAN and Opex Lite
• Nexus 9k Partner Enablement

David has a fantastic ability to impart knowledge, motivate and inspire delegates! (Firefly Student)
ALBERTO ESTRELLA
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS

Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI), CCNA Storage Support and Design Specialist, DC Support and Design Specialist, UCS Support and Design Specialist, Cisco Learning Virtual Instructor, Written DC CCIE

LANGUAGES

English
Spanish

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2013

• Over 16 years of experience as a trainer in the IT industry
• Over 20k hours of teaching
• Expertise in ACI, Cisco Data Center, Cisco HyperFlex, Nexus, UCS, UCSD, MDS, Cisco ONE, IOSXR, NXOS, NX9K, Networking Implementation, Routing & Switching, Service Providers, Storage Area Networks

PROFILE

Alberto has over 16 years of experience in consulting, design, implementation and the management of networks as well as training for new technologies. He has been teaching since 1999 with Microsoft Win NT.40 and Cisco Learning since 2000. Alberto is experienced in learning solutions and the development of learning projects. He has additionally worked as a contract designer for Data Center, Routing & Switching solutions and Cisco Data Center deployments.

Alberto graduated from Instituto Politécnico Nacional (Mexico City, Mexico) in 2000.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• FlexPod Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Test Drive™ and HyperFlex Fundamentals for SEs
• Cisco MDS Test Drive™
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™
• VCE Vblock Systems Test Drive™

Excellent Instructor (Firefly Student)
ADRIAAN STEYN
REGIONAL VP
APAC, JAPAN AND CHINA

CERTIFICATIONS
CCSI

LANGUAGES
English
Afrikaans

AWARDS
2012 Cisco Top Quality Award
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2010
• More than 15 years experience in system architecture design, sales and implementation of solutions in East Africa, the Middle East and Asia Pacific
• Technology Consultant and Industry Professional

PROFILE

Adriaan has been running public speaking events all over the world, been a regular speaker at BICSI conferences and written a number of articles for technology magazines. He is currently Firefly’s Regional VP for APAC, Japan and China. As an industry professional, Adriaan is committed to a shared purpose to inspire, motivate and drive revenue through technology and innovation. He is an effective, solutions oriented sales management professional, committed to the highest levels of quality and client satisfaction.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Application-Driven Opportunities for AMs
• Cisco HyperFlex Innovation Workshop and HyperFlex Systems for Cisco CSEs
• Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Metapod, and UCS Test Drives™
• Implementing and Configuring the Cisco Nexus 7000

"Adriaan was full of energy and very proactive in his presentation. It was very informative, above and beyond the course content. Stunning Test Drive! (Firefly Student)"

www.fireflyeducate.com
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2012

- More than 30 years of senior management positions in Sales Strategy and Development
- Senior Executive consultant and facilitator for Business Development, International Alliances Management & Best/Strategic/Selling Practices
- Significant expertise across EMEA and a proven track record of Business Best (selling) Practices Development
- Key focus areas are EIS, IT Security, Network management, optimization & business networks

PROFILE

Arnaud helped large system integrators such as Dimension Data, IBM, NextiraOne, Telindus, KPN, Kapsch Getronics, Satec, GBM, BMB, Unitronics, HP, BT, FT/Orange Business Services & more in EMEA & LatAm adopt a new selling practice & business model that led to repeated successful customer engagements.

He developed Adaptative Business Lifecycle Management (ABLM), a best-selling practice for channels based on existing situation and business intelligence, predictive analytics, & a shared and anticipated customer vision. ABLM generated over $1.4 Billion in 2011. Arnaud also developed B.I.R.D. (Business Interactive Reporting Dashboard), a “real time” decision making tool based on ABLM.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Application Business Relevance
- Application-Centric Infrastructure for Account Managers
- Citrix NetScaler Sales Enablement
- Datacenter Business Relevance for AMs
ALEX HACKENBERG
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
CCSI, CCIE, Cisco Data Center Network Infrastructure Design Specialist, Storage Networking Design, Cisco Unified Fabric Technology Design Specialist

LANGUAGES
English
German

AWARDS
2015 Cisco Data Center Instructor Excellence Award
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2014
• Over 12 years of experience as a Technical Trainer
• Expertise in Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, MDS, Nexus, ONE, UCS and Enterprise Networking

PROFILE
Alex is currently a Technical Instructor for Firefly. He has professional networking experience, both in traditional IBM mainframe environments as well as in security issues for Cisco routers and switches.

His knowledge of operational systems spans Windows, Unix (AIX), Linux (Suse, Ubuntu) and Novell Netware and the IPX/SPX protocol suite. Since 2001 he has worked with load balancing, first with Cisco CSS then with the CSM and the ACE. Since 2005 he has worked with storage systems (NAS, SAN, Fibre channel fabric, etc.). He has worked with Data Center Networks since 2008. That includes Layer 2 Networks in Data Center(s), Virtualization of Networks (inclusive virtual firewalls, load balancer, etc.) and Server (Blade Server and Virtualization Technologies (VMWare and Hyper-V) and Cisco UCS. Following the latest developments in Data Center Networks he started working with SDN and Cisco APIC in 2014.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI, HyperFlex Systems, MDS, Nexus 9K, ONE, and UCS Test Drives™
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems for Cisco CSEs
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
• Enterprise Networking Self Drive: IWAN and Opex Lite

“Very competent instructor. (Firefly Student, ACI Test Drive)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2005

- 30+ years of IT experience
- Extensive knowledge in a wide range of server, storage and networking technologies.

PROFILE

Barry has over 30 years of experience working with computer systems, storage subsystems and over 20 years experience in Fibre Channel SAN technology, Storage Area Networks and Data Center technology. He is a Cisco certified instructor and for the last 12 years has been responsible for course development and delivery of Cisco Data Center design and implementation courses worldwide, including Cisco UCS, Cisco Nexus, Cisco MDS, Cisco VXI and FlexPod courses.

He has held leadership roles in business management, project management, consultancy, sales training, instructor training, course development, curriculum development and operational management. He co-developed Cisco’s first MDS Training Lab environment in Brussels, he has developed several Cisco certification courses and has helped write questions and develop a number of certification exams for SNIA.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI Test Drive™
- Cisco Nexus 9000 Test Drive
- Cisco Nexus Implementation Professional
- Cisco UCS Test Drive™

“Excellent course, very well delivered. Barry is an excellent knowledgeable instructor, who is inspiring and passionate about the material. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2012

- Over 30 years of experience in the IT industry
- Cisco Data Center Networking Infrastructure Design, Data Center Storage, and Data Center Unified Computing Design Specialist

PROFILE

Chris Jaecker has been working in the IT industry in Asia Pacific for over 30 years, with the last 15 years actively engaged in teaching Cisco Systems technologies and products.

Chris is highly experienced in Cisco Networking, Security and Voice technologies and has taught across a number of subject areas through the evolution of Cisco’s portfolio. As well as his extensive working experience of Cisco products through teaching and consulting work, Chris comes as a highly experienced instructor, evident by his students’ consistently positive feedback over the years.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco HyperFlex Systems Test Drive™
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for Cisco PSS’s
- Cisco ACI Test Drive™
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- Cisco UCS Test Drive™ for Technical Decision Makers
- Datacenter Business Relevance for AMs
- Nexus 9000 Partner Enablement

Great job, one of the top instructors with REAL world / practical experience. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2004

• Over 15 years of experience in systems architecture and design, sales and training for both sales and technical audiences
• Recognized international speaker having presented in over 40 countries worldwide

PROFILE

Chris leads the development and delivery of the Cisco Application Business Relevance (ABR) and Data Center Discovery Workshop (DCDW) programs—two of the most highly valued training programs for Cisco AMs. He was also instrumental rolling out similar programs for Cisco’s Channel and Ecosystem Partners. These programs have resulted in verified increases in sales for Cisco Data Center solutions worldwide. He is currently Firefly’s VP of Operations worldwide. Prior to Firefly, Chris worked for Cisco as a presales engineer and a SME during Cisco’s launch of its DC portfolio and received numerous awards including one for Cisco’s 2003 Sales Team of the Year. Chris was a submarine officer and nuclear engineer in the US Navy’s Nuclear Propulsion Program.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Cisco Secure Data Center Test Drive™
• Cisco Next Generation Firewall Test Drive™
• Cisco ACI and UCS Test Drives™
• Network as a Sensor Self-Drive
• Citrix NetScaler Test Drive™
• Cisco ONE Enterprise Cloud Test Drive™
• Cisco Metapod™ Sales Acceleration
• Agile IT Innovation and Sales Workshops

"Chris Neill demonstrated a complete understanding of not only this product, but competitive products that compete with CIAC. Chris was very articulate in delivering his lessons. (Firefly Student)"
CLAUDIA LIMA
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Certified Cisco Business Instructor (CCBI)
Certified EMC Instructor
Certified NetApp Instructor

LANGUAGES
English
Portuguese

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2005
• Over 15 years of experience as a Technical Instructor
• Expertise in Cisco ACI, UCS and UCS integrated solutions, Storage Area Networks, Enterprise Networking, Big Data, Cloud solutions, Cloud Security and Orchestration

PROFILE
Claudia currently serves as Technical Instructor at Firefly, where she teaches Cisco ACI, Data Center, HyperFlex, MDS, Nexus, UCS, and Citrix NetScaler, Enterprise Networking, VCE Vblock, and VersaStack Systems.

Additionally, as Founder and CEO of Pegasus Ltd, she offers multi-lingual data storage and network training and consultancy services globally.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI, MDS, Nexus Core, Nexus 9K, ONE, and UCS Test Drives™
• Citrix NetScaler Test Drive™
• Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Design
• Enterprise Networking Self Drive: IWAN and Opex Lite
• FlexPod Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Fundamentals for SEs
• Cisco UCS Director Mentored Deployment Essentials
• Cisco Unified Computing System Core
• Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
• Cisco UCS Director Implementation Essentials
• VCE Vblock Systems Test Drive™
• VersaStack Systems Test Drive™

“Brilliant Instructor! (Firefly Student)”
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2009

- Over 20 years of experience in the IT industry
- Specializing in Data Center, convergence technologies, system and network design, communication systems, information security and project management

PROFILE

Prior to joining Firefly, Daniel worked at Cisco Systems as a Senior Solution Consultant, where he was responsible for leading consulting projects for some of Cisco’s top strategic customers such as China Telecom, Comcast, and Edison International. Daniel has also held key management and technology consulting positions for various US and Chinese companies. Daniel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Zhejiang University of Technology in China, and a Master of Business Administration degree from UCLA Anderson School of Management. He speaks fluent Mandarin and English. His technology focus areas include: Cisco Unified Computing System, Cisco Nexus, Cisco Wide Area Application Services, Cisco Application Control Engine, Cisco IOS and Internetworking, Cisco Unified Communications, and is a Microsoft Certified Professional.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI, Nexus 9K, ONE, UCS Test Drives™
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals and for Unified Fabric Implementation
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in ACI Mode
- FlexPod Test Drive™
- VersaStack Systems Test Drive™

“Mr. Ji was one of the most technically capable instructors I have had in over 15 years of networking with the Army. (Firefly Student)
David Pool
Technical Instructor

Certifications
Certified Cisco Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

Languages
English

Awards
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

Profile
David is an experienced Cloud and Managed Services specialist and business strategy advisor with more than fifteen years of experience in the Telecomms industry. He has a strong technical and marketing background, coupled with extensive knowledge of Cisco technologies. His specialties include Technology-based Managed Services, Network Operations Center processes and tools, and Marketing strategies.

Recent Courses Delivered
- Application-Driven Opportunities for Product Managers
- ACI Field Update for Account Managers
- Agile IT Innovation Workshop
- Agile IT Workshop for Sales Teams
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for Cisco PSSs

“David’s understanding of the Managed Services industry and Cisco vision were critical in the definition and implementation of the award-winning Managed Services Channel Program. David defined the program, the rules of engagement that transformed Cisco’s relationship with the SPs. In addition, he is a pleasure to work with, a true leader, fun, and refreshing. (Colleague)
DEAN SALVY ARMADA
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
CCSI, CCIE, CCNA
CCDA, CCSP

LANGUAGES
English

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2013
- Over 10 years of experience as a Technical Trainer
- Security and Data Center Professional with experience in system, network and security engineering particularly on Cisco, Linux, f5 and VMware platforms.

PROFILE
Dean is currently a Technical Instructor for Firefly. He is knowledgeable in Cisco Data Center technologies, Cisco Nexus, Cisco Security and Cisco UCS.

He has deep experience as a Network Engineer, responsible for design, implementation and maintenance, as a Security Engineer, a Web Security Specialist and as a Web Programmer and Linux Administrator.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
- Cisco ACI, Nexus 9000, and UCS Test Drives™
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in ACI Mode
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in NX-OS Mode
- Network as a Sensor Self-Drive
- Enterprise Networking Self-Drive: Opex Lite
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
- Cisco Nexus 9000 Series Switches for SEs
- Nexus 9000 Partner Enablement
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training

“Dean was approachable and eager to guide the trainees. (Firefly Student)”
DETLEF BRUNS
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE) Collaboration
Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)
Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Design & Support Specialist

LANGUAGES
English
German

www.fireflyeducate.com

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2011
• 15+ years experience with Unified Communications, 10 years being a CCIE Voice/Collaboration
• Development and delivery of data center, UCS and UC Virtualization trainings

PROFILE
Detlef currently serves as Senior Instructor at Firefly, where he trains Cisco SEs, partners and end-users on Cisco UCS. In his former role as Senior Consultant for avodaq AG, he was the lead developer for Cisco CCIE Voice and Collaboration 360 program and other Cisco Unified Communications courses as well as designing large Cisco Unified Communications solutions on Cisco UCS. Detlef’s experience also includes an IT Architect role for EDS Group in Hamburg, Germany. His areas of expertise include the following: Cisco UCS, Cisco UCS Manager, UC Virtualization, Cisco Unified Communications Manager, Cisco Unity Connection, Cisco Unified Presence and Cisco Unified Contact Center Express.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™
• UCS Director Implementation Essentials
• Cisco Unified Computing System Core
• Solid State Systems for CSE
• VSPEX Innovation Workshop
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training

“Enthusiastic instructor, answered a lot of our difficult questions… (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2005

- 15+ years experience training Data Center applications and storage area network technology
- Focused expertise in Data Center, including Cisco MDS 9000 Fibre Channel Switches, Nexus and UCS

PROFILE

Elaine Silber began her career in IT as a Programmer Analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield, where she implemented the first Joint Profile System for Blue Cross Blue Shield Midwest.

Her interest in education led Elaine to Southern Ohio College where she served as Computer Science Department Chair for three years, followed by International Instructor at SCH (acquired by EMC) in 1999, and then Training Director at Infinity (2001). At Infinity, Elaine defined curriculum and developed courseware in the areas of storage network solution implementation, backup and recovery software development. She trained and certified storage vendors, partners, and customers on Fibre Channel SAN and IP Storage Networks.

Elaine currently serves as Senior Instructor at Firefly, where she trains and certifies Cisco SEs, partners and end-users on FCoE, Fibre Channel SANs, IP Storage, MDS 9000 Directors and Switches with theory based and lab based training courses. She has developed CSNSS -642-353 Certification Exam Questions and continues to update Firefly Data Center courseware.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco MDS Test Drive™
- Data Center Network Manager for LAN & for SAN
- Cisco Prime DCNM Overview
- Configuring Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches

“Elaine did a great job keeping the information at the right levels for the class. She stayed high level when needed but was able to delve into specifics when questioned. (Firefly Student)
ELAN BEER
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR
COURSE DEVELOPER

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE)

LANGUAGES
English

AWARDS
2010 Firefly Instructor of the Year
2013 Cisco Top Quality Instructor Award
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2009
• Over 25 years of experience in Data Center design, service provider implementations and internetwork architectures
• Elan has provided technical training and consulting to companies such as Sprint US, Bell Canada, Logix Communications, Rogers Communications, Lucent, Tellabs, and other leading corporations in Canada, the United States, Europe, Australia, Africa, Asia and the Middle East

PROFILE
Elan is a highly respected instructor and industry leader in architecture, implementation, troubleshooting and maintenance of large-scale diverse systems and architectures. He has developed and presented course content in areas of SDN, VxLAN, ISIS, MPLS, BGP, Traffic Engineering, DMVPN, Performance Routing, and QoS. In 1994 Elan was amongst the first to obtain Cisco’s Certified System Instructor (CCSI) certification and in 1996, Elan was amongst the first in the world to attain Cisco System’s highest technical certification the Cisco Certified Internetworking Expert (CCIE). Since then, Elan has been involved in large-scale Data Center and telecommunications networking projects worldwide. Elan is known internationally as a leader in training and architectural design and has worked on many high profile projects assisting organizations with their goal of implementing leading edge technology in their corporate infrastructure.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI , Nexus 9500, and Nexus 9000 Test Drives™
• ACI Advanced SE training
• Implementing and Configuring Cisco Nexus 7k and 5k
• MPLS, MPLS-TE, QoS

Elan was one of the best instructors I’ve ever had. He demonstrated a real depth of understanding of not only the course material, but the underlying history and application of that material. His explanations were always clear, and he made excellent use of the time allotted. ...he’s a real asset to your organization. (Firefly Student)
FABRICIO GRIMALDI
UCS PRODUCT LINE DIRECTOR
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English
Spanish

AWARDS
2012 Cisco Top Quality Instructor Award
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2007
• Over 28 years of experience designing, deploying and managing data centers from the departmental in size to Fortune 100 enterprises with thousands of servers
• Firefly’s Product Line Director of the Cisco Unified Computing System, overseeing the design and development efforts of over 10 Cisco UCS or related course

PROFILE
Fabricio Grimaldi has spent 10 years as the Technical Consultant for Data Center Operations at Georgia-Pacific. There he was responsible for leading the Windows/VMware technical services team through day-to-day operations while exploring, testing and integrating new technologies into the corporate technical environment. In addition to his duties as PLD, Fabricio does consulting work for Firefly. Among his many satisfied customers are Bridgewater, Barclays Bank, US Air Force and Bloomberg.

His certifications and skillsets include expert and certified knowledge of Windows, VMware and Cisco SAN and LAN Technologies.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals
• Cisco HyperFlex Fundamentals for SEs
• Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, ONE, and UCS Test Drives™
• Firefly Optimization Clinic for Cisco UCS
• FlexPodTest Drive™
• Solid State Systems for SEs
• VSPEX Test Drive™

“Great instructor. Very knowledgeable with an impressive ability to convey course material and make it consumable and memorable” (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2014

- Over 8 years of experience as a Technical Instructor
- Expertise in Cisco Data Center, Cisco Nexus, Cisco UCS, Switches, Networking and Security

PROFILE

Franco currently serves as a Technical Instructor for Firefly, where he teaches Enterprise Networking. Franco has a deep level of knowledge around networks, data centers, routers and switches.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Enterprise Networking Self Drive: IWAN
- Enterprise Networking Self Drive: Wireless for Business Mobility
- Enterprise Networking Self Drive: Open Lite
GASTON BRAINT
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)
Cisco Data Center Unified Fabric (DCUFI)
Cisco Data Center Unified Computing (DCUCI)

LANGUAGES
English
Spanish

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

www.fireflyeducate.com

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015
• Over 4 years of experience delivering IT training and consulting services in a variety of technologies
• Expertise in Cisco ACI, Nexus 9000, HyperFlex, UCS, Citrix NetScaler and VCE Vblock

PROFILE
Gaston currently serves as a Technical Instructor for Firefly. In his former role as founder of Mecane, an IT consulting firm based in Buenos Aires, he was in charge of demand generation, and Mecane became a Cisco Learning Partner. Gaston has also worked as a Solution Architect covering various technologies for several large enterprise customers.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Nexus 9000 and UCS Test Drives™
• Citrix NetScaler Test Drive™
• Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in ACI Mode
• Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in NX-OS Mode
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
• Citrix NetScaler Mentored Deployment
• Cisco Unified Computing System Core
• Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
• VCE Vblock Systems Test Drive™

“Gaston was an expert at the subject matter and valuable in answering some key questions specific to my environment. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2011

- Over 8 years of experience as a Cisco Certified Systems Instructor
- Areas of expertise include Cisco ACI, Nexus, OpenStack®, UCS, Routing and Switching and Networking Infrastructure

PROFILE

Giovanni has an impressive background as a Cisco trainer, coach, product sales manager, and as a professional developer of Unified Communication solutions (Cisco, Asterisk, FreeSwitch).

Over the course of his career, he has demonstrated strong technical knowledge, combined with a very effective teaching and communication style. Additionally, his professional experience includes the planning, managing, upgrade and troubleshooting of Unified wireless solutions.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI, Nexus 9k, Nexus Access, Nexus Core, Test, and UCS Test Drives™
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in NX-OS Mode
- Implementing the Cisco Nexus 1000V
- Firefly Essentials for OpenStack®

Accurate and communicative. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2008

• Over 30 years of experience in technology management
• Expertise in sales enablement, account management, Cisco data center solutions, technology consulting

PROFILE

Harold Kreitzman is a senior executive with a strong, diverse business and technology background in many industries, including global institutions in education, financial services, sales, manufacturing, services, technology, non-profit, retail, logistics, and transportation. Mr. Kreitzman has over 30 years of experience, the past nine as the CEO of the business/technology consulting group Experture. He has served as the Chief Technology Executive for seven years at The Blackstone Group. During Harold’s five years at Merrill Lynch, he managed process reengineering for technology infrastructure. He also served five years as a data center manager and spent many years managing application systems development. His consulting assignments and research studies have enabled him to stay on the leading edge of technology and business practices. Mr. Kreitzman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer Science from SUNY Potsdam and a Masters in Business Administration from SUNY Albany.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Big Data 102: Cisco Solutions
• Big Data 103: Anatomy of a Deal
• Application-Driven Opportunities for Account Managers
• Application-Centric Infrastructure for Account Managers
• Data Center Discovery Workshop for Enterprise AMs
IGNAZ KRAEHENMANN
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2009
- Over 30 years of IT experience in network and systems architecture, design and development
- Technology Consultant and industry professional

PROFILE
Ignaz was a systems programmer on mainframe systems for fifteen years before he moved into the IT networking area. For the last one and a half decades he touched most of the specialization areas in networking, from SNA integration to data center technologies in enterprises as well as service provider environments.

Ignaz has developed many training courses, a network college and a CCIE bootcamp. He has run training courses around the world on many different technologies. He led the training department of a training provider in the past. A balanced engagement between training and projects is important to Ignaz to guarantee practical background in his courses.

He loves to teach as it ensures in-depth knowledge of the technologies. The convergence and interaction of server, storage and networking technologies in the data center allows Ignaz to draw from his long-time experience in the IT industry.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
- Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Nexus 9000, and UCS Test Drives™
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems Innovation Workshop
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9k Switches in NX-OS Mode
- Unified Computing Systems Implementation

"Excellent instructor, great experience to draw from with examples. Was able to answer all questions even on many other Cisco products and technologies for comparison and interoperability examples (Firefly Student)"
KYLE ANDERSON
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS

Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)
Unified Computing Technology

LANGUAGES

English

AWARDS

2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

www.fireflyeducate.com

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2012

• Over 23 years of experience as a technical instructor
• Expertise in Cisco UCS, Data Center, Security, Route-Switch and Virtualization

PROFILE

Kyle currently serves as Technical Instructor at Firefly, where he teaches Cisco Unified Computing.

In his consultant role providing Cisco UCS and Data Center design, deployment and support for Pinnacle Consulting, Kyle gained expertise in virtualization, compute node, fabric interconnect, layer 3 switch infrastructure, storage networks and firewalls.

Kyle has more than 17 years of experience preparing students for Cisco certification exams

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Design
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™
• Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals
• Cisco Unified Computing System Core

Kyle did a great job at presenting the material. Very engaging with the class. One of the better instructors I’ve had in a very long time. I would highly recommend him to anyone. (Firefly Student)
SHARON CHELL
PRODUCT LINE DIRECTOR
CONTENT DEVELOPER
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English
French

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

www.fireflyeducate.com

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2007
• Over 9 years of experience as a technical instructor
• Firefly Product Line Director for Citrix product training

PROFILE
Sharon currently serves as Citrix Product Line Director, Technical Instructor and Course Developer at Firefly. She has expertise in Citrix CloudBridge and NetScaler and Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Nexus, and UCS, as well as NetApp FlexPod.

Over the course of her career, Sharon has gained vast experience in network design, and in government and private organizations as Lead Architect, Network Designer, Network Architect, and Customer Solutions Architect. Both colleagues and students have lauded her in-depth knowledge of networking. In 2016, she was honored with the CCSI Instructor Excellence award by Cisco.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Fundamentals for SEs Cisco HyperFlex Systems Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
• Citrix NetScaler ACI Solution Workshop
• Citrix NetScaler SD-WAN Test Drive™
• Citrix NetScaler Test Drive™
• FlexPod Test Drive™ for Technical Decision Makers

“Sharon was amazing, she has an in-depth knowledge of the subject and was able to answer all questions…great teacher…could explain any questions of networking and ACI. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2011

• Over 16 years of experience as a technical instructor
• Expertise in Cisco UCS

PROFILE

Joey’s areas of expertise include Cisco Unified Computing, Network Architecture, VoIP, Cloud Computing, Routing, Network Design, and Data Center.

In addition to his instructor experience, Joey is founder and Solutions Architect for the “BE Whiteboard Project”, working on multisite Cisco collaboration solutions. Joey has been lauded by colleagues for his technical and interpersonal skills. He earned a degree in Engineering Mathematics/Mathematics and Computing from Queens University in Canada.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Cisco Unified Computing System Core
• Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training

“(Joey) presented the material lucidly and at a comfortable pace. His whiteboarding helped clarify the material, and his ordering of the material was logical. If I were to take further UCS courses from Firefly, I would look for this instructor again. Excellent teacher. (Firefly Student)"
JOHN RILEY
SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

LANGUAGES

English

I’ve attended a lot of training at Cisco and online, John Riley is the best instructor I’ve ever had. He brought insight and experience as many other instructors do, but he also brought passion for the material. Unlike many other instructors he’s not just knowledgeable, but also a real teacher. (Firefly Student)

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2010

- Over 25 years of experience in IT in various disciplines and roles
- Success in building (or re-building) multiple solution integrators in U.S. and Canada
- Early adoption of client server and networking technologies, Advanced Data Centre technologies from vendors such as Cisco, EMC, NetApp, VMware, and more
- Assisted large manufacturers to achieve their sales adoption and acceleration goals with a new product line through training and GTM strategy

PROFILE

John’s experience includes over 25 years of Information Technology in various disciplines and roles. In 15 of those years, John specifically designed solutions, migrations and roadmaps for organizations by providing the tools and systems to enable companies to achieve their goals.

John’s background includes consulting, design, marketing, management and engineering. John strives to maintain knowledge and relationships with manufacturers and technologies that could positively impact customers and the way they do business. With this knowledge and experience, he has provided strategic technology directions and architected solutions for many industries such as Healthcare, Financial, Government, Legal, Education and many more.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Agile IT Innovation Workshop
- Agile IT Workshop for Sales Teams
- Application-Driven Opportunities for Account Managers
- Aryaka Foundation Course for Sales Teams
- Cisco Metapod™ Sales Acceleration
- Customer Analytics: 360 degree view of the customer
  Big Data Analytics
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2014

- Over 11 years of experience delivering Cisco training
- Specialized knowledge in Data Center training and course development

PROFILE

Juan Carlos began his career in Venezuela before moving to Europe where he has been working as a Cisco Certified Systems Instructor. Over his career he has built on his technical experience with interpersonal skills and education methodology. As a Network Engineer his work has included implementing Wireless Enterprise Networks, configuring and maintaining ASAs 5510, implementing IAS Services, monitoring and troubleshooting MPLS networks, re-design and re-configuration of AAA services, and many more consultancy projects. He has designed and delivered ILT and OILT in UK, USA, Ireland, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Sweden, and Norway. With both ‘hands-on’ experience and experience managing lab environments and seminars he is able to convey complex technical concepts simply and easily. He has delivered training to Engineers, Pre-sales, and Sales professionals.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI, MDS, Nexus 9000, ONE, and UCS Test Drives™
- Enterprise Networking Self Drive
- Network as a Sensor Self-Drive
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
- Cisco Unified Computing System Core
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- UCS Director Implementation Essentials
- VersaStack Systems Test Drive™

Excellent instructor with great knowledge and technical abilities. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015

- Over 4 years of experience as a technical instructor
- Cisco Data Center expertise: Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Nexus 9000, ONE and UCS

PROFILE

Khaled’s areas of expertise include:
- Cisco Data Center technologies
- Cisco Routers
- Firewalls
- Network Design and DNS
- Network Security
- OSPF
- CCIE
- NetApp
- Nexus 5K
- Nexus 7K
- Nexus 1000V
- Virtualization

In addition to his instructor experience, Khaled has worked professionally as a technical lead on Data Center projects

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, ONE, and UCS Test Drives™
- Citrix NetScaler Test Drive™
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in ACI Mode
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in NX-OS Mode
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems Innovation Workshop
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- VersaStack Systems Test Drive™

“Very knowledgeable instructor with real-life implementation experiences. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2007

- Over 14 years of experience in the IT field
- Specialties: Cisco DataCenter, Fibre Channel switches, SAN, Nexus, UCS, deep understanding of disaster recovery/business continuity (DR/BC), HPC, WAAS, UNIX, IP networking, security, data storage, data protection, data virtualization, and data management

PROFILE

Konrad’s technical engineering career began as a System/Network administrator for Matrix and HP. His solid understanding of technology’s impact on business processes made Konrad a valuable team member. In 2005, Konrad became a Senior Engineer and Tech Support for EMC. There he gained recognition for his remarkable aptitude for technical problem solving, especially in the area of SAN switches. Konrad joined Firefly as an instructor in 2007. He now provides training, professional services, consultancy, and storage networking designs. His focus includes CCIE DC training, Cisco Nexus family (from 1000v to 9000 and ACI), Cisco UCS, and Cisco MDS Fibre Channel switches.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI, HyperFlex and UCS Test Drives™
- Cisco Nexus Implementation Professional
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in ACI Mode
- Data Center Network Manager for LAN

"Instructor was absolutely outstanding. His knowledge was far above everything presented during the course which gave us an opportunity to learn best practices & restrictions or impact of operations we were performing. He always perfectly knew what could be wrong in what we were doing and was always able to help. Totally brilliant guy!" (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2012

- Over 23 years of experience as a technical instructor
- Expertise in Cisco UCS, Data Center, Security, Route-Switch and Virtualization

PROFILE

Kyle currently serves as Technical Instructor at Firefly, where he teaches Cisco Unified Computing.

In his consultant role providing Cisco UCS and Data Center design, deployment and support for Pinnacle Consulting, Kyle gained expertise in virtualization, compute node, fabric interconnect, layer 3 switch infrastructure, storage networks and firewalls.

Kyle has more than 17 years of experience preparing students for Cisco certification exams

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Design
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training
- Cisco UCS Test Drive™
- Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals
- Cisco Unified Computing System Core

“Kyle did a great job at presenting the material. Very engaging with the class. One of the better instructors I’ve had in a very long time. I would highly recommend him to anyone.” (Firefly Student)
SHARON CHELL
PRODUCT LINE DIRECTOR
CONTENT DEVELOPER
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English
French

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2007
• Over 9 years of experience as a technical instructor
• Firefly Product Line Director for Citrix product training

PROFILE
Sharon currently serves as Citrix Product Line Director, Technical Instructor and Course Developer at Firefly. She has expertise in Citrix CloudBridge and NetScaler and Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Nexus, and UCS, as well as NetApp FlexPod.

Over the course of her career, Sharon has gained vast experience in network design, and in government and private organizations as Lead Architect, Network Designer, Network Architect, and Customer Solutions Architect. Both colleagues and students have lauded her in-depth knowledge of networking. In 2016, she was honored with the CCSI Instructor Excellence award by Cisco.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Fundamentals for SEs Cisco HyperFlex Systems Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
• Citrix NetScaler ACI Solution Workshop
• Citrix NetScaler SD-WAN Test Drive™
• Citrix NetScaler Test Drive™
• FlexPod Test Drive™ for Technical Decision Makers

“Sharon was amazing, she has an in-depth knowledge of the subject and was able to answer all questions…great teacher…could explain any questions of networking and ACI. (Firefly Student)
KRAIG SCHRIPSEMA
INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English

Exceptional instructor! Outstanding understanding of new technologies and outstanding presentation of the material!

I could not rate Kraig Schripsema any higher... great style and real life business examples
(Firefly Students)

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2005

- Networking and sales professional with over 20 years experience in pre- and post-sales technical consulting, technical readiness, and course development
- Expert in Cisco ACI, SDN, VSPEX, Vblock, IP Networking and Virtual data center design including OTV, Vxlan, NVGRE, System automation with CIAC, Cloupia and VCloud director, IP Telephony, Security, Wireless, and Application Networking Services

PROFILE
As a former Cisco Systems Engineer, Kraig has a deep understanding of the issues that drive Cisco account strategies, and he has continued to leverage this unique perspective as an educational consultant on a wide range of Cisco curricula. While at Cisco, Kraig won several Cisco SE awards, including Account Team of the Year, System Engineer of the Year, and Competitive Win of the Year, for his work on major accounts such as The Home Depot, GTE Mobilnet, and SunTrust. Most recently, Kraig has been a key contributor to Firefly’s Global Cisco AM Training Program, including the popular Application Business Relevance (ABR) and Data Center Discovery Workshop (DCDW) courses, and is the lead instructor for the Borderless Networking Value Selling Workshop (BNVS). He has also been providing account planning and mentoring services to Cisco reseller partners through Firefly’s Partner Enablement Program.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
- Application Business Relevance for VSPEX
- Cisco ACI, HyperFlex Test Drives™
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems for SEs
- Citrix NetScaler, NetScaler SD-WAN Test Drives™
- Cisco Unified Computing System Core
- Vblock Systems Test Drive™
MARIANO SCHULER
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
- Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
- Cisco Certified Network Instructor (CCNI)
- Cisco Certified Internetwork Professional (CCIP)

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015
- Over 7 years of experience as a technical instructor
- Expertise in Cisco MDS, CCIE Routing and Switching

PROFILE
Mariano currently serves as Technical Instructor at Firefly. He has delivered Cisco authorized training courses and custom courses throughout Argentina and Latin America.

Additionally, Mariano has expertise in networking, telecommunications, IT and broadcasting.

Mariano has more than 7 years of experience preparing students for Cisco certification exams.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
- Configuring Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches

LANGUAGES
- English
- Spanish

www.fireflyeducate.com
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2007

- Over 23 years experience in network design, pre- and post-sales support and implementation, including 9 years with Cisco as Consulting Systems Engineer
- Expert in Cisco Nexus 1000V, 5000 and 6000 switch ranges, Cisco UCS, vBlock, Wide Area Application Optimization and Cloud architectures

PROFILE

Wide experience in data networking including IP Multicast, LAN Layer 2 and Layer 3 switching/routing design, Wireless LAN and security, SDN and related architectures such as OpenStack, Server Virtualization and management, Storage area networks, Unified networks with FCoE and Infiniban, Virtual Switch networking, and WAN and WAN Optimization.

While at Cisco, Mark worked mainly in a pre-sales role supporting customers adopting new technologies and products. This involved working with key insertion accounts, leading trials, and guiding partners and OEMs to understand and use Cisco technology. As well, Mark worked with Cisco business unit engineers and executives to ensure success for Cisco and their customers.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, Nexus 9000, UCS Test Drives™
- Cisco HyperFlex Fundamentals for SEs
- Cisco Nexus 9000 SE Bootcamp
- Firefly Essentials for OpenStack®

“Very happy with the in-depth, technical knowledge of the instructor.

The instructor played a big role in making this a valuable training session.

(Firefly Students)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2010

- Over 7 years of experience as a technical instructor
- Qualified on VCP4/5, DCUCI (Cisco UCS Implementation), DCUCD (Cisco UCS Design), CCNA, and also holds a CCNA in RS.
- MCSE, MCDBA, and a Hyperion Certified Engineer

PROFILE

Matthew Taylor began his journey in IT as a Server Manager. His other corporate experience includes managing equipment purchase and rollout for AT&T. His work was recognized by AT&T as a “Legend,” an honor received by only .0001% of employees. Later at Brand Energy he managed a Data Center migration from St Louis to Atlanta as well as their transition from physical to virtual servers. For this role he was awarded the Chairman’s Award.

Matthew joined Firefly in 2010 to enhance his leadership and consulting skills and was quickly promoted to Consulting Engineer. Matt has been instrumental in developing Firefly’s Mentored Services line of business.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Configuring Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches

"Matt is an EXCELLENT instructor. He demonstrated a complete knowledge of the products, did an excellent job presenting the information and was VERY helpful with any issues/questions that came up. Definitely one of the very best instructors I’ve had. (Firefly Students)"
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2005

- Over 25 years of experience in IT and Data Center
- Expertise in WAN, Storage, Data Center, Cisco UCS

PROFILE

Tony Costa’s career in IT started as a development engineer for the US Air Force, writing FORTRAN code for Cray I finite element simulations in 1980. Tony completed his Bachelor’s degree in Energy and Power Systems Engineering at the University of New Mexico in 1984 and moved to an IT operations management role in the US Marine Corps. He also performed systems programming for the Marine’s IBM 370 MVS and CICS environments. After resigning his commission in the Marine Corps in 1995 Tony took a position with a Cisco Channel and Training Partner. In this capacity Tony earned CCIE #4140 (Route & Switch) which led to his accepting a position with Cisco Systems in 1998. As a Consulting Systems Engineer with Cisco’s Service Provider Technical Operation, Tony designed and implemented WAN architectures for major service providers. In 2001 Tony moved to Cisco’s Advanced Services organization where he was Team Lead in Cisco’s Central Engineering organization. In 2006 Tony took a Technical Marketing Engineer role with the newly formed Nuova Systems. There he created technical documentation for Nuova’s Nexus 5000 and Nexus 2000 platforms as well as the Unified Computing System, then known as Project California. Tony contributed to product feature definition for UCS and Nexus products during their development by Nuova and performed feature and performance testing prior to introduction of the products by Cisco Systems.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI Test Drive™
- Cisco Unified Computing for Implementation Professionals,
- Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training

“Tony has an amazing depth of practical knowledge that added tremendous depth to the discussion. He answered all questions and was vital to each discussion. (Firefly Student)
MIKE WERTZ
PRODUCT LINE DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English

AWARDS
2016-2017 Cisco Live Distinguished Speaker Award
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award
2012 Cisco GLP Top Quality Instructor Award

PROFILE
Mike Wertz has over 16 years of experience in Service Provider and Data Center networks. His teaching experience includes instructing at Cisco Systems with a focus primarily on Route/Switch and Data Center. Mike has led several service provider rollouts, MPLS networks, and data center migration projects. One recent project involved linking 5 next-gen DCs using BGP for an alternative energy provider.

In 2012, Mike was awarded the title of “Top Quality Instructor” among Cisco Global Learning Partners (awarded to Instructors in each region who consistently focus on delivering quality training with average customer satisfaction scores above 4.6 annually). He also received the 2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award. Mike is currently Lead Developer for Cisco Authorized ACI product training (SDN platform) – DCAC9K, ACI Test Drive™, and ACI advanced SE training (ACI-WIN).

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Service Provider Route, SP and Advanced Route SP Edge and SP Core
• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• Cisco ACI Advanced SE Training
• Cisco Data Center Unified Fabric Implementation
• Implementing and Configuring Cisco Nexus 7k and 5k
• Nexus 9500 Test Drive™
• Cisco Nexus Architecture Overview

Michael has an excellent delivery style and it is abundantly clear that he not only understands the material presented in this class, but possesses a vast and in-depth knowledge of networking in general. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2013

- Over 35 years of experience in IT systems and technologies
- Expertise in Cloud, ACI, UCS, IT as a Service, Software as a Service, Data Center orchestration and automation, and big data applications

PROFILE

Nick is a veteran IT professional with in-depth technical and business experience. Over his long career, he has served in multiple engineering and management roles, including DC practice lead for a regional VAR and Cisco Advanced Services.

He is a veteran IT professional with outstanding people skills, deep insights, a “hands on” practical approach, a positive enthusiastic attitude, and direct experience with best practices across multiple industries. Notable among his accomplishments are projects that are massive in scope and complexity, such as building massive Data Centers and Cloud Solutions, Canada-wide Service Provider MPLS and Internet Networks, huge Enterprise IT Solutions, and a Control Centre for a major provincial energy supplier literally from the ground up including new buildings as well as custom software development and development of the network/server/storage infrastructures.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Optimizing a Cisco UCS Environment
- Cisco HyperFlex Systems Test Drive™
- Cisco ACI Test Drive™
- Cisco UCS Test Drive™

"I can’t say enough good things about Nick. He has tons of relevant industry experience and was able to provide an immense amount of real life experiences to demonstrate his points. I go to a lot of sales trainings and this one was my best in eight years. The content was the most effective I’ve seen for teaching people how to sell the value of the product instead of just a line card." (Firefly Student)
TADAHIDE NISHIO
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)

LANGUAGES
English
Japanese

AWARDS
2016 CCSI Instructor Excellence Award

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2014
• Over 20 years of IT experience in Network and System Architecture, Design and Development
• Technology Consultant & Industry Professional

PROFILE
Nishio started his career in IT as a systems developer and user interface designer for Fujitsu.

Nishio discovered his real passion was teaching and began teaching RedHat and Microsoft in the early 2000’s. He later added Cisco, Juniper, ISS, Checkpoint, and NetApp to his repertoire.

Today he is focused on Cisco DC technologies including ACI and Cisco cloud technologies. Being native to Japan, he is uniquely suited to sharing how these technologies apply to Japan’s specific business practices and culture.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Optimizing a Cisco UCS Environment
• Cisco HyperFlex Systems Test Drive™
• Cisco Next Generation Firewall Test Drive™
• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™

“Excellent instructor, great experience to draw from with examples. Was able to explain with not only networks but also Server, Storage and Application area. (Firefly Student)”
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015

• Over 30 years teaching and consulting on next-generation technologies

PROFILE

Karim has helped design scalable data centers for HP, Nortel, and Oracle since the mid 90’s. He first began leveraging cloud-based solutions for his customers in the late 2000’s, before it was mainstream.

During this time he helped Eloqua, now owned by Oracle, to migrate towards an IaaS cloud-based model. Recently, Karim has helped the transformation of a traditional transportation fleet management application to a micro-services-based model, leveraging data analytics, and enabled it to scale it from managing 17,000 to 750,000 vehicles.

Karim has deployed technologies ranging from OpenStack, ACI, NSX, Hadoop, and Ceph. His projects have ranged from building private cloud infrastructures, to migrating applications for use in AWS and Azure, to consulting on cloud native applications, DevOps, and IoT initiatives.

Today, he complements his project work with his passion for teaching and sharing knowledge with others through formal classroom training.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Metapod Road Show
• Cisco ACI Test Drive™
• Cisco HyperFlexTest Drive™
• Cisco UCS Test Drive™

Karim is an exceptional instructor. He delivered the material in an engaging manner. I truly enjoyed this course. (Firefly Student)
**INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015**

- Over 18 years of hands-on industry experience serving as a trainer, developer, architect, project manager, consultant, and technical evangelist
- Owen has developed and taught a variety of courses for multiple vendors and technologies including OpenStack, Microsoft, Cisco, VMware and EMC.

**PROFILE**

Before joining forces with Firefly, Owen was a pioneer-turned-veteran in cloud and network technologies. He has worked for major IT companies including NTT, Microsoft, Cisco Systems, and IBM. Currently, Owen spends most of his time working with Rackspace training on cloud technologies since 2008.

For internal Rackspace employees, Owen has spearheaded programs such as “Hot Labs”, teaching engineers how to implement Rackspace’s tools and products, and also covered topics such as OpenStack, Chef, Ansible, Jenkins, RabbitMQ, Docker, and Linux. Owen also co-developed content and internal certifications for “Cloud Savvy,” a program to teach the business language and benefits of the cloud.

For public facing programs, Owen teaches OpenStack and cloud networking plus SDN technologies through the Rackspace Open Cloud Academy. He was one of the first OpenStack trainers in 2012, continuing to hone his skills through today. He was also a significant contributor to Rackspace’s CloudU, an online, self-paced environment, boasting tens of thousands of online graduates.

**RECENT COURSES DELIVERED**

- Cisco Hybrid IT Test Drive™
- Cisco ACI Test Drive™
- Firefly Storage Architecture for OpenStack®
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2010

- Consultant and Trainer with over 30 years of cross-cultural experience across 6 continents and 31 countries.
- Expertise in IT engineering, Cisco Data Center technologies, Cloud, Nexus 9000, Storage & Virtualization, and VMware

PROFILE

Jason has enjoyed a career engaged in a broad spectrum of technologies including application deployments and infrastructure build-outs in capacities ranging from implementation, consulting and training.

Over the past 6 years, Jason has worked extensively with Firefly on a number of projects.

In the past year, Jason has conducted over 20 trainings and workshops focused on Cloud and Automation earning himself several awards.

Earlier in his career he trained for Microsoft and deployed servers and applications leveraging automation and scripting for companies like Kaiser Permanente. He has also worked with a broad array of storage and virtualization technologies.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco ACI Test Drive™
- Cisco Hyperflex Test Drive™
- Cisco UCS Test Drive™
- Dell EMC VxRail Test Drive™ (VXRail-TD)
- Configuring Cisco Nexus 9000 Switches in NX-OS Mode (DCINX9K)

Instructor very friendly and knowledgeable. Added extra value to a good solid class. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2013

• Over 13 years experience in IT training
• Certified from multiple IT vendors including Microsoft (MCT, MCTP, MCSA, MSCE), VMware (VCP, VCI, vSphere VCP), Dell, HP, EMC, and Cisco Systems (CCNA, CCSI)

PROFILE


In 2010, Steve collaborated with John Hales and Brian Eiler on writing the “Administering vSphere 5” book that is currently available on Amazon.com. Most recently, Steve has been working on projects for VMware to create an online e-learning solution. Currently Steve teaches storage for EMC Corporation and develops custom courseware for Dell’s EMEA division, which covers Windows Server 2008 and other Microsoft applications.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Cisco ACI, HyperFlex, and UCS Test Drive™
• FlexPod Test Drive™
• Vblock Systems Test Drive™
• Optimizing a Cisco UCS Environment
• Cisco UCS Accelerated Accreditation Training

Steve was highly organized and very knowledgeable about the subject matter. He was also very patient and presented an adequate amount of real world scenario questions that were highly applicable to the course material. (Firefly Student)
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2016

• 20 years of experience in IT including technical instruction and courseware development

PROFILE

Christophe has been teaching and consulting for nearly 20 years across a wide range of technologies. In 2003, he founded the IT training and services company **Allyans**, which focuses on the specific needs of France’s technology and business markets.

Recently Christophe has been involved in several ACI deployments and passionately shares this knowledge through teaching a variety of SDN and Cloud courses. Christophe also works closely with Cisco France Advanced Services Team assisting them for important customers such as:

• CMA-CGM: a leading WW shipping company (deployment of ACI/Nexus9K)
• L’Occitane: a multinational cosmetic company (deployment of ACI/Nexus9K/Flexpod/UCSD)
• Jaguar Network: a major French Telco & Cloud Services provider (Tailored-CCNP/CCIE SP and DC training for Internal IT Staff members)
• Euclyde: one of the biggest and newest DC based in South of France (IPV6/BGP/MPLS/ASR9K training sessions)
• Pôle Emploi: the biggest national public company in France (ACI/Nexus9K tailored courses)

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

• Cisco ACI Workshop for Cisco France
• SDN Workshop for Cisco France
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2015

- Over 40 years experience in IT, Technology and Sales
- 29 years serving IBM in their Mainframe and Large Systems divisions
- 8 years at Cisco in Data Center Business Development and as a Cloud Evangelist
- Experienced Cisco Educator and Subject Matter Expert (SME)

PROFILE

Viktor is experienced as an educator, sales person, and engineer. His passion is to share his encyclopedic knowledge of the industry to enable the adoption of new technologies through a business relevant sales approach.

His extensive and varied experiences have allowed him to effectively communicate to both technical and business audiences up through the C-Suite. With experience ranging from Mainframe computing, to High Performance applications to Cloud deployment models, he is one of the few IT professionals who can credibly consult across all business and IT models.

SPECIALIZATIONS

- Cloud Computing
- Cloud-driven Business Models
- Enterprise Applications
- Business Development
- Data Center Technologies
CHRISTOPHE DERVIEUX
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

LANGUAGES
English
French

AWARDS
Data Center Instructor Excellence Award 2015

INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2016
• 20 years of experience in IT including technical instruction and courseware development

PROFILE
Christophe has been teaching and consulting for nearly 20 years across a wide range of technologies. In 2003, he founded the IT training and services company Allyans, which focuses on the specific needs of France’s technology and business markets.

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• Jaguar Network: a major French Telco & Cloud Services provider (Tailored-CCNP/CCIE SP and DC training for Internal IT Staff members)
• Euclyster: one of the biggest and newest DC based in South of France (IPV6/BGP/MPLS/ASR9K training sessions)
• Pôle Emploi: the biggest national public company in France (ACI/Nexus9K tailored courses)

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
• Cisco ACI Workshop for Cisco France
• SDN Workshop for Cisco France
INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2016

- 22 + years of experience as a Technical Trainer and Engineering Lead
- Firefly Product Line Director for Cisco Security
- Expert knowledge of Cisco Secure Data Center and Next-Generation Firewall technologies, as well as Business Continuity Planning and Security Policies, Design and Implementation, IT Project Management, LAN and WAN Networks, Penetration testing, LAN and WAN Networks, and the Writing and Review of Security Concepts

PROFILE

Boris has been teaching and consulting for over 22 years with a focus on Cisco Security.

His business experience includes serving as Enterprise Design Authority (EDA) and Lead Architect for Verizon Enterprise Solutions, where he is responsible for leading an engineering team, serving global enterprise customers worldwide.

Recent projects include the technical lead on the successful delivery of a large outsourcing project of an Energy Trading Company, with a technical focus on Network, Security and Data Center consulting. Other projects executed include Network and Security Design and implementation for companies of various size. He also worked as an ISO 27001 / IT Grundschutz Auditor, Security Consultant and Network Penetration tester. Boris learned IT networking from the foundation in SMB environments up to delivering services for global Enterprise customers today. Boris has been dealing with IoT and SmartHome since 2009.

He has authored two books on creative coding techniques, which have been translated to English, Spanish and French.

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED

- Cisco Next-Generation Firewall Test Drive™ (NGFW-TD)
- Cisco Secure Data Center Test Drive™ (SDC-TD)
MENG-RU (LETTUCE) TSAI
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

CERTIFICATIONS
VMware VCIX-NV
Cisco Certified Systems Instructor (CCSI)
Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP: RS, DC)
3 x CCIE Data Center, Wireless, Service Provider, Routing/Switching
MCSE 2003

LANGUAGES
English
Chinese
Japanese

RECENT COURSES DELIVERED
Cisco ACI Test Drive™ (ACI-TD)
Cisco Hybrid IT Test Drive™ (HBIT-TD)
Cisco HyperFlex Systems Test Drive™ (HX-TD)
Cisco Infrastructure Automation for Architects (IA-ARCH)
Cisco MDS Test Drive™ (MDS-TD)
Optimizing a Cisco UCS Environment (UCS-OPT)
Cisco UCS Test Drive™ (UCS-TD)