Networking

## What is good about this stream

This course was a great asset to my project as we spent a lot of time on practicals and worked via CLI, which was a huge limitation in my project. From looking back at my notes, I was able to pick out the commands I needed in order to retrieve the information I required to draw up a client proposal and helped me navigate around the client network and figure out which addresses to ping to ensure the networks were communicating.

This course also gave me an understanding of why clients may choose to configure their network a specific way, and looked at best practices that should be in place.

Hardware was available for practice 24/7 which was excellent and allowed us to get some hands on experience before diving into the real world - found this extremely useful as opposed to just being handed theory books.

These courses I attended at Ara as part of the networking stream. At a stretch, I could say that the material learnt in these courses allowed me to efficiently navigate around the client’s server environment to determine how many users are in the network, any connected storage options and what devices are in the network i.e. printers to be put on the network documentation.

The CCNA and CCNP Cisco courses were the most important of the courses that helped with this project. The CCNA and CCNP course provided the background on the project in regards to the networking component of my project.

The CCNA courses covered the network aspect of my project, that course created the foundation of my project and without it I would have needed to do a lot of extra research on protocols and other aspects of my project, what instead happened was that I already knew a number of points and only had to build on it a bit more to bring that skill into the project.

Directory Services and courses like it helped create the foundation of my virtual model, these courses focused on using hypervisors to create virtual networks, directory services was more useful because it focused on Active Directory and the creation of domain controllers, while not a large part of my project this did help on building on it.

## Recommendations

There is nothing that I would recommend for this course.

While I know that not a lot can be changed with these courses because they are following Cisco who created them, I would recommend that Ara give some access or even links to places that can help go to a greater depth then what cisco does, this would be in both the theory and practical side of things, it would also be a good idea to suggest other courses that could build on the skills that the CCNA and CCNP courses teach students, while not always having hardware a virtual environment is common these days so it would be useful in my opinion.