

## *Networked, From the Mine Shaft to the Mountaintop*

**June 20, 2005** North America's most dedicated networking gurus descend upon Las Vegas this week for the Cisco annual Networkers conference. These Cisco users hold over 677 Cisco Certified Internetworking Expert (CCIE®) accreditations, widely considered to be the industry's most rigorous IT certification program. By sea, by air, and by land these professionals are dedicated to their jobs, working 24x7 in the most remote and sometimes socially awkward locations in order to provide real-time response in their job roles.

Being "connected" has taken over the networking professionals' daily lives. In a survey given by Cisco, the bathroom was the frequent response Networkers attendees cited as "the most awkward place they have turned on their laptops". One survey respondent says, "My wife says I'm a tech-bitionist. I'll boot up any time, any place, in front of anyone."

The Top 10 oddest places for Cisco users to log on:

- In the bathroom, to participate in conference call
- Outside church in order to stop a denial of service attack
- In elevators: the inside of an elevator shaft and grain elevator
- Stuck on a ski gondola
- In jail
- At the Eiffel Tower
- In a mine shaft
- At the top of a 40 foot tank, hanging on with one hand, the laptop on a ledge and using the other hand to type with (had to store the laptop in his pants in order to climb the tower.)
- In jungles (rainforests of South Africa and Indonesian jungle)
- On a military plane, connected to a Humvee via microwave, which was connected to a mobile command shelter via a spool of fiber.