CCIE Methodology

This is from a doc I created related to non-technical (almost) aspects of the CCIE labs. It may help many people that fail for some reason that may not be technical sometimes. It does not apply to a specific track. **CCIE MYTHS** · Lab is impossible to pass · 2000 hours of lab practice are necessary · 10 years of experience · Sacrifice your life for the lab **PLANNING TO TAKE THE LAB** · Blueprint is very important · Try to see where you will have to make an effort · Understand the parts of the labs · Speak with your family - sometimes they may not understand why you work so hard and it may not help · Where will you practice labs? · Relax **PREPARATION OF THE LAB** · Work every part separately (if possible). By doing a lot of master practice labs you might lose precious time that you could spend on getting a deeper knowledge of some point of the lab. Usually we do not have infinite time to prepare for the lab so time management is a key point. · Be sure to know every way a technology (protocol...) can be configured · If you think you don't understand some point at 100% then work harder to understand it. · If you think ? this topic will not come at the exam? you are probably wrong · Do scenarii "mentally" and repeat step by step how to configure any topic of the lab blueprint · When close to the lab date I (you don't have to do it) enter in "lab mode" where I recheck mentally again and again everything so at lab time configuring a specific topic should be easier. **DAY BEFORE THE LAB** · Sleep well · See where the lab will take place · Remind all the steps for configs to refresh what you know · Try to avoid last minute work , just do it to sleep well if needed!! · Relax (if possible)- **Stress is your worst ennemy at the lab. Many people I know failed because of the stress even if technically ready!! This point is 50% of your lab, don't forget it. DURING THE LAB** · Write down all configuration steps that you may forget later.. This would depend on the lab you are taking · Read the lab · Spot tricky points (and annotate not to forget later) · Better go slow but well instead of fast and bad · Try to avoid troubleshooting more than 10 minutes · If there is a question you don't know then don't fight, do not do it, you would lose time for what you know · At the end of the lab check if what you have done is still working · Do not change a critical part at 30 minutes of the end **Between Attempts** · Learn from failure · Try to figure out what you did not understand well · Prepare for next attempt · There should be a short time between attempts not to forget what you've learnt That's it. Fabien CCIE #6684 R&S/Security/Voice