

# BSD Certification

## Status of the BSD Certification Presentation of the Beta Exam at BSDConTR

# Who is the BSDCG?

- NetBSD
- FreeBSD
- DragonFly BSD
- OpenBSD

# Why have a BSD certificate?

- Break no-support myth
- Business adoption
- Standard objectives
- Help for HR
- Revaluation of IT professionals

# Problems with traditional certs

- Made to sell software
- Made to sell trainings
- Expire to sell updates
- Test knowledge of tools, not of technique
- No input from examinees

# Value for employers

- Cost is not the real problem
- Consensus
- Don't always believe the hype
- All BSDs based on evolution, not on revolution  
-> good investment

# Value for employers (continued)

- Relatively cheap
- Difficult
- BSDCG values community input -> regular update procedure
- Vendor-independent

# Disadvantages

- No practical test

# Pros of certification for employees

- Extra asset
- Employer demand
- Compare yourself to others
- Confident about the future
- ...
- Who needs a cert anyway?



# Cons of a certification

- Time
- Money
- Risk of not passing
- Limit your own competences

# How a test is created?

- Job task analysis (JTA)
- Exam objectives
- Now: paper based
- Later: test platform (free software!)

# Cost of the exams

- NOCA certification: USD 35.000
- Vue/Prometric: USD 8.000/exam/version/language -> cooperation with LPI in Europe
- Development of own platform: USD 15.000
- Trademarks/copyrights: USD 4.000

# What is tested? (general)

- Distribution independent -> test understanding, not memory capacity
  - Upgrade/install
  - Security
  - Data and file systems
  - User and group management
  - Basic system/network management
  - UNIX knowledge

# Quality Assurance

- Psychometrics:
  - Questions are fair
  - Questions are accurate
  - No trick questions
  - Precise measurement of knowledge

# Quality Assurance (continued)

- Scientific methods for:
  - Scoring procedure
  - Passing score
  - Equality of different test versions
  - Rotation scheme

# Questions?

- More info at
  - <http://www.bsdcertification.org>
  - <http://wiki.bsddgroup.de/Geschichte>

# Thank you!

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