

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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