BSD Certification

The BSD Certification
Presentation of the BSDA at FOSDEM

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

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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

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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?

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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 mesurement of knowledge

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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.bsdgroup.de/Geschichte

Thank you!

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