

BSD Certification

The BSD Certification Presentation of the BSD Associate Exam

House rules



Who is the BSDCG?



The NetBSD Project
"Of course it runs NetBSD"



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 update
- 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?

Cons of a certification

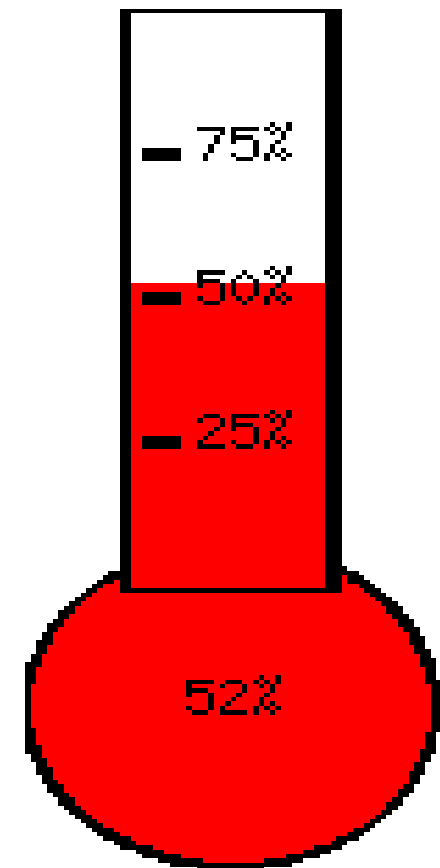
- Time
- Money
- Risk of not passing
- Limit your own competences

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: € 22.500
 - Vue/Prometric: € 5.100
per exam/version/language
 - Development of own platform:
€ 10.000
 - Trademarks/copyrights: € 2.500
- => Buy CDs or donate!



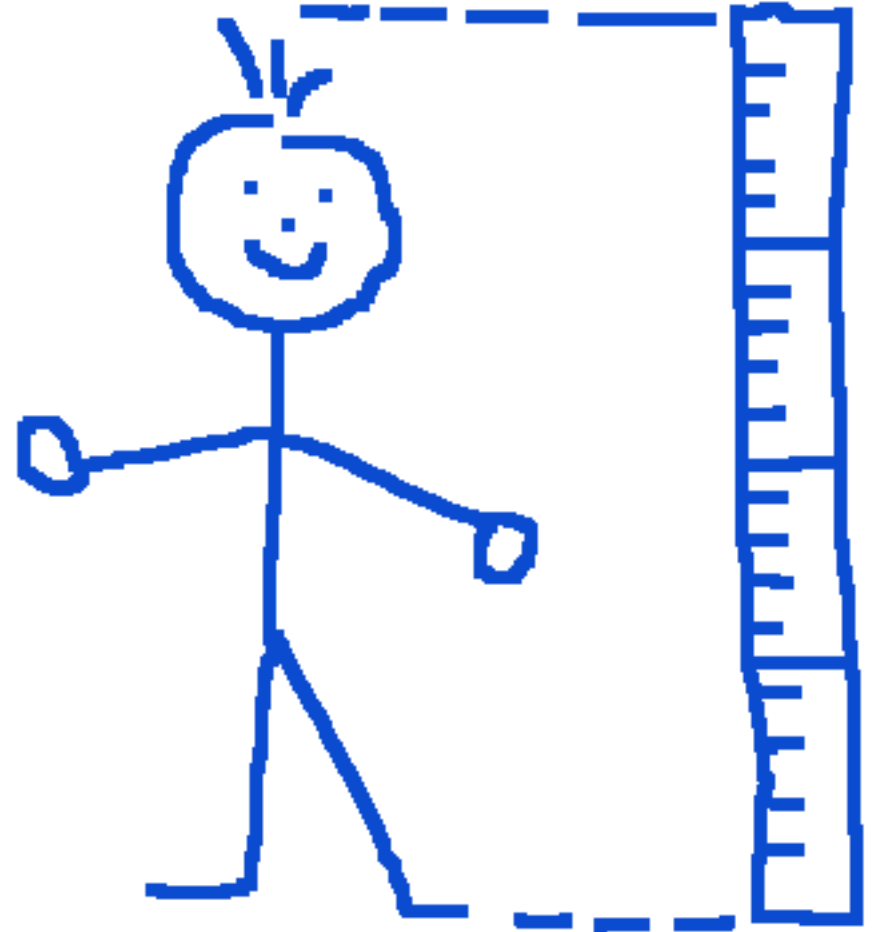
What is tested?

Distribution independent: test understanding and experience, not memory capacity

- Upgrade/install
- Security
- Data and file systems
- User and group management
- Basic system/network management
- UNIX knowledge

Psychometrics

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



Quality Assurance

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

Practical infos

- Cost of the exam: USD 75 -> today EUR 48
(half price for participants in beta)
- Where: at conferences and events
- Results: 4-6 weeks

Questions?

- <http://www.bsdcertification.org>
- <http://wiki.bsddgroup.de/Geschichte>
- bsdcert@lists.nycbug.org
- machtelt@garrels.be
- asg@grunix.de

Thank you!

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