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
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.bsdgroup.de/Geschichte
Thank you!

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