BSD Certification

The BSD Certification
Presentation of the BSD Associate Exam
House rules

- No dogs
- No guns
- No cell phones
Who is the BSDCG?

FreeBSD

OpenBSD

NetBSD

"Of course it runs NetBSD"

DragonFly BSD
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

\[ \rightarrow \quad $$$ \]
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.bsdgroup.de/Geschichte
- bsdcert@lists.nycbug.org
- machtelt@garrels.be
- asg@grunix.de
Thank you!

bsdcert@lists.nycbug.org

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