Towards a BSD Certification

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This presentation will cover...

- The Organization of the BSDCG
- The BSDCG's mission
- Our Goals
- The Importance of Psychometrics
- Existing Test Delivery Mechanisms
- Exam Availability
- Becoming Involved
- Questions
Organization of BSDCG:

- The BSD Certification Group Inc. is a non-profit incorporated in the state of New Jersey
- Bylaws are published on website
- 3 board of directors
- 19 BSDCG members with voting rights
- 5 Advisory Board members
Organization of BSDCG:

It is also a community driven effort with:

- ~1000 subscribers to 2 mailing lists
- ~90 translators for 22 languages
- Donated hardware, bandwidth, system administration, and web development
The BSDCG's Mission:

To create and support a standardized certification process to assist system administrators and employers validate competence in the implementation of BSD best practices.
Our Goals:

- Work closely with the BSD community and employers to create high quality exams
- Provide exams which are globally available and globally affordable
- Where practical, use Open Source operating systems and applications
The Importance of Psychometrics:

- What is it?
- From wikipedia: Psychometrics is the field of study concerned with the theory and technique of psychological measurement, which includes the measurement of knowledge, abilities, attitudes, and personality traits.
The Importance of Psychometrics:

- In other words: Psychometrics ensures an exam is unbiased and accurately reflects the audience and exam objectives.
- Questions are analyzed to see if too easy or too hard.
- Statistics are gathered over exam lifetime to watch for anomalies.
- Provides legal defensibility.
The Importance of Psychometrics:

- Expensive: depending upon agency, costs range from 15,000 to 35,000 USD per exam
- Translations average 8,000 USD per exam
- Initial review for first exam is a startup cost; subsequent reviews can be built into exam price
Existing Test Delivery Mechanisms: Pros

- Existing infrastructure of registration/payment facilities and testing centers
- Available in over 145 countries
Existing Test Delivery Mechanisms: Cons

- Assumes high volume in order to “break even”
- Publication fee required for each exam edition
- Over 50% of exam price goes to test delivery vendor
- Exams are expensive
- Requires expensive hardware, MS licenses, IE at testing center
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Minimum Requirement</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>Pentium III, 1 GHz</td>
<td>Prefer Pentium 4, 2 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Windows XP Professional or Windows 2000 Professional</td>
<td>Must be installed with latest release and supported Service Pack applied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>512 MB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Drive</td>
<td>4 GB available space</td>
<td>Prefer 10 GB on delivery workstation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor</td>
<td>17&quot; monitor or 15&quot; LCD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN Connection</td>
<td>100 Mbps network throughput</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer</td>
<td>Laser quality 600 dpi with Postscript support</td>
<td>Accessible from administration and exam delivery workstations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Browser</td>
<td>Internet Explorer 5.5 SP2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Existing Test Delivery Mechanisms: Alternatives?

- Custom solution based on PostgreSQL (back-end), SSH/SSL (middle) and hardened “live” BSD (at testing center)
- Custom engine could be licensed to other Open Source projects and “open the door” for other projects to validate skills
- Requires development funds, developer, and marketing
Exam Availability

- Once the startup costs are raised, allow 3-4 weeks for question generation and another 2-3 weeks for psychometric analysis.
- Once test uploaded, publication takes ~4 weeks with existing delivery mechanisms; alternate delivery method would be immediate but require development time.
Becoming Involved:

- Read and distribute our publications
- Spread the word to employers and educational institutions
- Join one of the mailing lists
- Volunteer your skills
- Donate money!
Did I mention?

- We need financial support!
- See me during the conference to make a donation
- Or contribute through paypal at the BSD Certification website
Questions:

http://www.bsdcertification.org

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