Towards a
BSD Certification

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This presentation will cover...

- The Organization of the BSDCG
- The BSDCG's mission
- Our Goals
- Creating an Infrastructure
- Our Current Publications
- The Importance of Psychometrics
- 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

- 18 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 in delivering the exam

Creating an Infrastructure:

Certification Tasks

- ✔ Define exam audience

- ✔ Define skills to certify

- Define testing methodology

- Create exam questions

- Ensure exam questions are unbiased and reflect the audience and measured skills

Creating an Infrastructure:

Infrastructure Tasks

✔ Create an organizational structure

✔ Create a financial structure

✔ Promote organization (marketing)

✔ Generate startup costs (fund raising)

• Liaison with training and testing centers

• Generate awareness within HR

Our Current Publications:

All publications are:

- Available for download from the website

- Freely redistributable

- Published under a Creative Commons license

- Created with Open Source applications

- Written by volunteers within the BSDCG and the community

Our Current Publications:

- Monthly newsletter available in several languages

- Press releases available in several languages

- Task Analysis Survey Report

- Roadmap

- BSD Usage Survey

- BSDA Certification Requirements

Task Analysis Survey Report:

- Comprehensive survey, available in 9 languages

- Completed by 637 responders from 60 different countries

- Part 1 collected demographics

- Part 2 rated administrative tasks for both difficulty and necessity

- Part 3 asked about the "ideal" exam

Task Analysis Survey Report:

- Respondents concerned about "paper" certification

- Community split on one-BSD v.s. multi-BSD exam

- Indicated need for 2 distinct levels of testing candidates

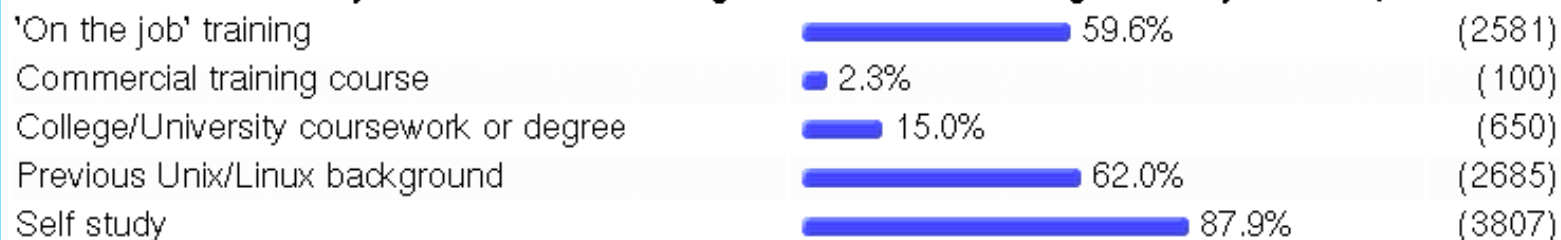- Results assisted in the creation of BSDA exam objectives

Roadmap:

- Available in English and Mexican Spanish

- Published as a guideline defining the tasks to be accomplished

- Deadlines are projected and may change due to unforeseen circumstances

BSD Usage Survey:

- Report is available in English and Mexican Spanish

- Survey itself was available in 6 languages

- Completed by 4330 responders indicating BSD usage in nearly 100 countries

- Report indicates % of which BSD(s) are used and how they are used and administered

Sample Result:

8. Where did these system administrators get the skills to manage BSD systems? (check all that apply):

'On the job' training	59.6%	(2581)
Commercial training course	2.3%	(100)
College/University coursework or degree	15.0%	(650)
Previous Unix/Linux background	62.0%	(2685)
Self study	87.9%	(3807)

BSDA Certification Requirements:

- Available in English and Mexican Spanish

- Defines the BSDA candidate

- Provides detailed exam objectives for the BSDA

- Provides a "rosetta stone" like study chart for required commands

BSDA Description:

The BSDA (BSD Associate) Certification is for those with light to moderate skills in BSD Unix system administration. The successful candidate understands and uses basic system administration commands and demonstrates proficiency in the following areas:

1. Installing and Upgrading the OS and Software

2. Securing the Operating System

3. Files, Filesystems and Disks

4. Users and Accounts Management

5. Basic System Administration

6. Network Administration

7. Basic Unix Skills

Each area contains detailed exam objectives that are fully described in the 'BSDA Certification Requirements Document', available at the BSD Certification Group website www.bsdcertification.org.

Excerpt from Study Chart:

Command or File	Dragonfly BSD	FreeBSD	NetBSD	OpenBSD
ac(8)	X	X	X	X
accton(8)	X	X	X	X
acl(3)	X	X		
adduser.conf(5)	X	X		
adduser(8)	X	X		X
afterboot(8)			X	X
aliases(5)	X	X	X	X
altq.conf(5)			X	

The Importance of Psychometrics:

- Ensures exam is unbiased and accurately reflects the audience and exam objectives

- Provides legal defensibility

- Expensive! (~35,000 USD)

- Initial review for first exam is a startup cost; subsequent reviews can be built into exam price

Becoming Involved:

- Spread the word!

- Donate money!

- Join the mailing list

- Volunteer your skills

- Read and distribute our publications

Questions:

http://www.bsdcertification.org

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