Linux Certification

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Introduction

Novell created the Certified Novell Engineer (CNE) program in 1989

The availability of CNE encouraged the adoption of Novell Netware

Sun, Microsoft, IBM and others have all created their own certification programs

What is Linux certification?

Linux certification evaluates an individual's ability to use Linux

Linux certification is usually received as the result of passing an exam

What does Linux certification offer to an individual?

Increased salary and job opportunities
Allows a person to broaden their marketable skills

What does Linux certification offer to a company?

A pool of people that meet certain minimum requirements

Offering Linux certified individuals may allow a company to charge a higher billing rate

May be used to help measure effectiveness of training programs

Things to consider when choosing a Linux certification program

Is it available in my area?
Is the exam tied to a specific distribution?
Are there any continuing requirements?
Verification of certification?
Am I ready for this?
How much does it cost?

Problems with Linux certification

Anyone can offer Linux certifications: Bill & Ted's House of Excellent Linux Certification

Several programs are currently available. Which to choose?

Lack of training materials

Version- or distribution-specific certifications

Emphasis on knowledge rather than on problem solving

What companies are offering Linux certifications?

Brainbench
CyberTech
Digital Metrics
Linux Professional Institute (LPI)
ProsoftTraining.com
Red Hat
Sair

Brainbench

Brainbench offers a variety of certification programs from Accounting to Windows 98

Brainbench offers the following Linux certifications

Brainbench Certified Linux Administrator
Brainbench Red Hat Certified Linux Administrator

Brainbench Certified Linux Administrator

Initial Requirements : Pass one exam
Continuing Requirements : Must renew annually
Cost : $25-$50
Perks : Certificate, Master Rating
Summary : Good first certification

Brainbench Red Hat Certified Linux Administrator

Initial Requirements : Pass one exam

Continuing Requirements : Must renew annually

Cost : $25-$50

Perks : Certificate, Master Rating

Summary : Same as Brainbench Certified Linux Administrator except with an increased emphasis on Red Hat

CyberTech

CyberTech offers a variety of certification programs from Access 2000 to Y2k Administrator

CyberTech offers the following Linux certifications

CyberTech Linux Certification

CyberTech Linux Certification

Initial Requirements : Pass one exam

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $95

Perks : Certificate, Inclusion of resume in on-line database

Summary : Offers on-line training materials. CyberTech may be good first certification.

Digital Metrics

Digital Metrics offered one of the first Linux certification programs. Digital Metrics has merged with the Linux Professional Institute (LPI).

Digital Metrics offered the following Linux certifications

Digital Metrics Certified Linux Administrator (dmCLA)

Digital Metrics Certified Linux Administrator (dmCLA)

Initial Requirements : Had to pass one exam

Continuing Requirements : None

Perks : Certificate

Summary : An early program. Listed for historical reasons.

Linux Professional Institute (LPI)

Linux Professional Institute is a non-profit company committed to creating a vendor-neutral certification.

LPI offers the following Linux certifications

LPI Certified (LPIC) Level 1
LPI Certified (LPIC) Level 2
LPI Certified (LPIC) Level 3

Linux Professional Institute Certified (LPIC) Level 1

Initial Requirements : Pass two exams

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $100 per exam

Perks : Certificate

Summary : LPIC Level 1 is the first level of LPI certification. LPI will likely emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

Linux Professional Institute Certified (LPIC) Level 2

Initial Requirements : Possess LPIC Level 1 Certificate, Pass two exams

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $100 per exam

Perks : To be determined

Summary : LPIC Level 2 is the second level of LPI certification. LPI will likely emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

Linux Professional Institute Certified (LPIC) Level 3

Initial Requirements : Possess LPIC Level 2 Certificate, Pass two exams

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $100 per exam

Perks : To be determined

Summary : LPIC Level 3 is currently the highest level of LPI certification. LPI will likely emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

ProsoftTraining.com

ProsoftTraining.com offers certification on a variety of topics. They have merged their Linux certification with the Linux Professional Institute (LPI).

ProsoftTraining offered the following Linux certifications

Linux Certified Administrator

ProsoftTraining.com Linux Certified Administrator

Initial Requirements : Had to pass one exam
Continuing Requirements : None
Perks : Certificate
Summary : No longer offered

Red Hat

Red Hat is the creator of one of the most popular Linux distributions.

Red Hat offers the following Linux certifications

Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE)
Red Hat Certified Engineer II (RHCE II)
Red Hat Certified Examiner (RHCX)

Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE)

Initial Requirements : Hands-on lab exam, regular exam

Continuing Requirements : Must recertify for new versions of Red Hat

Cost : $749

Perks : Certificate

Summary : RHCE is offered by one of the premiere Linux Vendors. The hands-on lab exam increases the validity of the program. Offered in a limited number of locations.

Red Hat Certified Engineer II (RHCE II)

Still in development

Red Hat Certified Examiner (RHCX)

Initial Requirements : RHCE certified, training class, pass 1 exam.

Continuing Requirements : Must recertify for new versions of Red Hat

Cost : $2498

Perks : Certificate

Summary : Required to be able to proctor RHCE exams. Not really useful except for that purpose.

Sair

Sair was established in 1992. In 1999 Sair began offering Linux Certifications.

Sair offers the following Linux certifications

Linux Certified Professional (LCP)
Linux/GNU Certified Administrator (LCA)
Linux/GNU Certified Engineer (LCE)
Master Linux/GNU Certified Engineer (MLCE)
Linux/GNU Certified Trainer

Sair Linux Certified Professional (LCP)

Initial Requirements : Pass either the Install & Configuration (I&C1) or System Administrators (SA1) Exam.

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $99

Perks : Certificate, access to on-line forums

Summary : LCP entry level exam for Sair Linux certification. Sair is likely to emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

Sair Linux Certified Administrator (LCA)

Initial Requirements : Pass 4 exams, 3 if already an LCP

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $99 per exam

Perks : Certificate, access to on-line forums, inclusion in on-line resource database

Summary : LCA is the second level of Sair Linux certification. Sair is likely to emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

Sair Linux/GNU Certified Engineer (LCE)

Initial Requirements : Hold LCA, Pass 4 exams

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $99 per exam

Perks : Certificate, access to on-line forums, inclusion in on-line resource database

Summary : LCE is the third level of Sair Linux certification. Sair is likely to emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

Sair Master Linux/GNU Certified Engineer (MLCE)

Initial Requirements : Hold LCE, Pass 4 exams

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $99 per exam

Perks : Certificate, access to on-line forums, inclusion in on-line resource database

Summary : LCE is the fourth level of Sair Linux certification. Sair is likely to emerge as one of the more popular certification programs.

Sair Linux/GNU Certified Trainer

Initial Requirements : Take training class, must be certified in topic to teach

Continuing Requirements : None

Cost : $1000 training class

Perks : Certificate, access to on-line forums, inclusion in on-line resource database

Summary : Required to be able to offer official training for Sair Linux/GNU certification preparation classes.

Future of Linux certification

Additional vendors will offer certification programs
Better training materials
Linux community ranking of certifications
More specific certifications

Summary

Linux certification programs will play an important role in the acceptance of Linux into the commercial and government sectors.

Q & A

Questions?