

Quick Update on BSD Certification

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Certification 101

Traditional exam delivery costs: \$75,000 USD annually to participate, extra fees for changing exam

Monopoly on exam delivery (VUE/Prometric) --this is just starting to change

Exam delivery software is proprietary, currently no open source delivery solutions exist

To go beyond multiple choice, exam organization must create their own lab-based software (usually flash based) or provide their own testing lab

Our Goals

Community Based

Involve those who understand the value and can benefit from the assessment:

- working sysadmins or those looking for employment
- those who hire/manage them
- trainers/professors
- those who advocate use of BSD

Our Goals

Practical

- assess real world, on the job skills
- assess experience, not the capability to learn or memorize exam questions--this is why we do not provide sample test questions and instead provide a comprehensive Command Reference for the Exam Objectives
- quality over quantity: we prefer providing a quality assessment to selling a large amount of exams

Our Goals

Use Open Source Software/Principles

- for infrastructure
- for exam delivery solutions
- planning/work is transparent and occurs over mailing lists, IRC, and social media sites
- anyone is welcome to comment and get involved

Our Goals

Psychometrically Valid

- exam assesses skills, not ability to understand what is being asked
- exam is understandable even if English not first language
- exam matches exam objectives
- exam is delivered in trusted, proctored environment

BSDA

Available since February 2008

Target audience is junior sysadmin with 6 months experience

Covers 7 knowledge domains

Scored for 100 questions

Passing score is 500 of scale between 200 and 700

BSDA

BSDA Candidates:

1771 BSDCG IDs issued (residing in 107 countries)

191 have taken exam (residing in 21 countries)

129 have passed exam (some not scored yet)

average score: 67%

BSDP

Process

JTA Report published March 2010:

http://www.bsdcertification.org/downloads/BSDP_JTA_Report.pdf

Exam Requirements document currently a work in progress:

<http://bsdwiki.reedmedia.net/wiki/BSDP.html>

Need reviewers for Exam Requirements and SMEs to help write the BSDP exam and lab questions

BSDP

Delivery

Exam delivery will have 2 components: a paper based exam and a virtualized lab-based environment

Consideration for the BSD Professional Exam:

http://www.bsdcertification.org/downloads/bsd_p_thoughts.pdf

BSDP

Audience: senior admins with 3-5 yrs experience

of Study Domains: 11

Format: both paper- and lab-based

BSDP JTA Survey Report:

http://www.bsdcertification.org/downloads/BSDP_JTA_Report.pdf

BSDP Exam Objectives: to be published late July or early August

How You Can Help

Help us review the BSDP Exam Requirements
<http://bsdwiki.reedmedia.net/wiki/BDSP.html>

Spread the word—tell your school, employer, user group, write an article, blog, twitter, etc.

Read our publications

Take the exam!

Donate \$ (e.g. purchase study DVD)

How You Can Help

Host or proctor an exam event

Become an SME

Help us develop an open source exam delivery solution

Help us create training materials or donate existing materials

Incorporate exam objectives into training programs