

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

<i>Item</i>	<i>Minimum Requirement</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Processor	Pentium III, 1 GHz	Prefer Pentium 4, 2 GHz
Operating System	Windows XP Professional or Windows 2000 Professional	Must be installed with latest release and supported Service Pack applied.
RAM	512 MB	
Hard Drive	4 GB available space	Prefer 10 GB on delivery workstation.
Monitor	17" monitor or 15" LCD	
LAN Connection	100 Mbps network throughput	
Printer	Laser quality 600 dpi with Postscript support	Accessible from administration and exam delivery workstations.
Internet Browser	Internet Explorer 5.5 SP2	

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



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Questions:

<http://www.bsdcertification.org>

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