

Linux
Professional
Institute



LPI: The World's Linux Certification

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Linux Professional Institute

About LPI

- **Concept started late 1998 as a community initiative**
- **“What does Linux need to gain mainstream acceptance”?**
- **Incorporated as NPO in Canada 1999**
- **International HQ in Toronto, directors on 3 continents**
- **Original mission: to advance Linux professionalism worldwide**
- **Blend of grassroots and professional resources**
- **Sponsorship from IBM, HP, intel, Mandrake, Novell, and other major FOSS players**



Why certification?

- **Originally, to counter the "Linux has no support" argument**
- **Accelerate and facilitate corporate adoption of open source by matching companies using Linux with people skilled in it**
- **Provide standard target for training centers, courseware developers and publishers**
- **Assist in the hiring process for Linux professionals**



But most IT certifications ...

- ... are created to sell software or training
- ... use “official” courseware to build market share
- ... expire in order to sell upgrades
- ... test tools, not techniques
- ... have no input from the people being tested

- **Would you go to Ford for your driver's license?**
- **Does your doctor's degree come from a drug company?**
- **Is an “engineer” someone who configures software?**



Basic principles of LPI

- **Quality**
- **Integrity**
- **Accessibility**





LPI Certification Goals

- **Educational assessment, not marketing**
- **Beyond vendor-neutral to vendor-independent**
- **Develop standards by following standards**
- **Distribution neutral (following LSB specifications)**
- **Preparation-method neutral**
- **Psychometric methodologies**
- **Development by professionals managers and grassroots volunteers**
- **Available and affordable worldwide**



LPI Today

- **Two levels of certification for Linux system administration (LPIC1, LPIC2)**
- **LPIC programs are pre-requisites of certifications from Novell and IBM**
- **More than 60,000 exams delivered to date, and more than 15,000 people certified**
- **Active development of open source courseware**
- **Extensive use of psychometrics and public participation**
- **NCCA application is close to approval; ISO 17024 compliance is under development**





LPI Worldwide

- **Testing centres in almost every country**
- **LPI website is translated into 17 languages**
- **Exams are now delivered in English, German, Japanese, French, Chinese(simplified), Spanish, Portuguese**
- **New international affiliate program provides local revenue, cultural sensitivity, publicity**
- **Affiliates in Japan, Germany, U.S., Canada, U.K., Brazil, China, Australia, South Africa, Bulgaria and elsewhere**
- **Special “exam lab” events reduce costs and make certification more accessible**



FOSS, standards, and the protection of intellectual property





Standards Protect Innovation

- **The ultimate intellectual property is the right of a creator to own and control the results of that creation**
- **Closed-source, anti-standards IP practice puts control of data in the hands of the toolmaker, not the creator**
- **If your ability to use the tool goes away, so does your access to your own work**



Standards need to be public

- **Users need to be in control of their own data**
- **Real standards cannot be encumbered by proprietary intellectual property**
- **Access to source code is not enough**
- **Even free software is sometimes not enough**
- **Patents and proprietary licenses are to be resisted, even if free-of-cost**
- **Protection against private standards pretending to be public, such as MS-Word XML**



User-driven Standards

- **Standards *must* be unencumbered by proprietary rights to be in the users' interest**
- **Open standards are enforced by requiring at least one open source implementation**
- **Government and intergovernmental bodies (ie, ISO) have a role to play**
- **Vendors get the second sale, and FOSS projects maintain their own value through quality and service, not by enacting barriers to change**





www.lpi.org

Thank you!

