

The Most Popular Linux Certification In India

Introduction

All of our past articles have reviewed the concept of IT certifications in the Indian marketplace in some format or another. For example, we have looked at the most popular IT certifications in the general IT market (these included Database, Programming, Networking, Security, Cloud and Server Administration); we have also examined the most popular IT certifications as it relates specifically to IT Security; we have also examined how to deal with the enormous of costs and expenses of obtaining a popular IT certification; and in our last article, we also probed more closely into what the most popular Database certification is.

That turns out to be the 'The MCSA SQL Server 2012' certification, coming straight from Microsoft.

It is also important to note that in this last article as well, we also made the distinction between Open Sourced Software and Closed Source Software. For instance, with the former, the source code which creates the application is very easily accessible.

The primary benefits of this type of software platform are that the source code can be very easily and quickly modified, and also, it is free to download. But however, if a software developer needs some assistance with tackling a particular technical glitch, he or she cannot directly call a tech support line.

Rather, they have to resort to the various online forums and blog sites in order to find the answer to their question or issue. In this regard, it is the Linux Operating System which is the most widely available Open Source Software. In terms of the latter, the source code cannot be accessed, and as a result of this, there is a limit to exactly how much a particular software application can be customized to meet the needs of a client.

This type of platform tends to be very expensive, as they are dependent upon a Licensing Model. But, one of the primary advantages of this is that there is tech support quickly available-for a software developer, it is just merely a phone call away. In this fashion, it is the Microsoft Windows Operating System which is the most widely utilized.

But, truth be told, much of the IT landscape in India is now starting to shy away from using Windows for software application and development. Rather, the marketplace is now leaning much more heavily upon the use of Linux.

Although its free distribution and use are one the primary adoption drivers, its ease of use and the close collaboration environment which it inspires are other factors as well for Indian companies to jump upon the Open Source Software bandwagon.

A Brief History Into Linux

The origins of Linux actually trace back into the early 19060s. During this timeframe, Brian Kernighan of Bell Labs actually developed the first true Open Source Software model, known as UNIX. This platform is still widely used in many parts of the business sector in India.

UNIX has proven to be a very 'lightweight' Operating System (OS) to use, in that it does not consume a lot of memory and processing power. Building upon this, Linus Torvalds, a Finnish student, decided to

extend the UNIX OS into a widely available and free distribution. Thus, this gave birth to the Linux OS in 1991. In fact, it is UNIX which forms the backbone for a bulk of the Source Code used to create Linux.

Today, Linux is composed of 18,000,000 lines of source code, versus the 50,000,000 lines of source code needed to create the Windows platform. Also, Linux is free to download and use from the GNU Project, under the GNU General Public License Scheme.

How To Obtain The Linux Certification

Given how popular Linux is now in India, this of course correlates into a very strong demand for software developers whom possess a deep knowledge in its use. Of course, one of the best ways to showcase one's knowledge in this area, is to once again obtain the right certification. Since Linux is based upon the Open Source Software methodology, it has a far and extending reach into many other IT platforms as well, which include:

- The Cloud (more specifically the IaaS, the PaaS, and the SaaS);
- Databases (primarily Oracle);
- Network Security;
- Big Data Analysis and Computations.

Because of this, there are many certifications which are now available for Linux. Probably the most popular and in demand Linux cert is that of the CompTIA Linux+. This is considered to be an all purpose type of certification, in that it does not focus in on just area, rather it examines and tests upon a wide range of IT subjects. For example, this includes everything ranging from server administration to Web based security to database administration.

In order to acquire this prestigious certification, there are two exams which are required, and they are as follows:

- The LXO-103:

This exam tests such knowledge as the Linux programming command line structure, task maintenance which include adding users to the right policy groups, backup/restore/shutdown/restart of Linux based servers, and how to install and configure a Linux based workstation and connecting to both a Local Area Network (LAN) and a Wide Area Network (WAN).

- The LXO-104:

This exam tests for the knowledge which was acquired in preparing for LXO-103, but also examines for the more sophisticated functionalities of Linux such as shells, scripting, data management, the creation of Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs), more in depth administrative tasks, networking fundamentals, and systems services and security.

Here are some of the details onto both of these strenuous and challenging exams:

- There are 60 multiple choice questions for each one;
- Each test is timed for a maximum of 90 minutes for completion;

- A testing candidate should have at least one year of either networking or Linux administration experience;
- The minimum passing score is considered to be 500, on a scale of 200-800.

The downside of obtaining the CompTIA Linux+ is once again the cost. Although it is not nearly as expensive to obtain as are the Microsoft and Oracle IT certs, but each exam can cost almost as \$3000 take (for a total of \$600). But, these exams are available to take anytime and anywhere through the PearsonVUE and Prometric testing centers.

But keep in mind since Linux is an Open Source Platform, there is no uniform or standard book or testing materials which will prepare you for both of those exams. Rather, there are a lot of them out there; therefore, you need to choose carefully which testing prep material will work the best for you. One of the best ways to find this out is to post this question to the many Web based Linux forums to get feedback.

But after you get this much coveted certification, the financial rewards are great: You can expect to earn anywhere from \$70,000 to well over \$100,000 USD.