

LPI does not ordinarily indulge in competitive statements around IT certifications given our values on industry co-operation. However, it is important to emphasize there are a number of factors that determine the relative value and quality of a certification program.

I invite you to visit our website FAQ on exams at http://www.lpi.org/en/lpi/english/certification/faq/2_exams. In particular, see FAQ 2.17 which leads to an independently written article comparing the various Linux certifications--although the article is a few years old it is still relevant today.

The proponents of "hands-on" testing frequently neglect to mention that there is some debate on the psychometric value of their exams. Psychometrics is the statistical science which measures the accuracy of testing systems. With some exam regimes it is very difficult to demonstrate the objective validity of exam questions, that questions are fair, and that they truly test for the skill sets involved. LPI has always placed a high emphasis on rigorous psychometric evaluation of our exams such that we are THE ONLY PROFESSIONAL IT CERTIFICATION to be independently accredited (see: http://www.lpi.org/en/lpi/english/news/news_archives/2005/linux_professional_institute_certification_program_receives_endorsement_of_standards_organization).

This dedication to the highest level of exam standards is part of the reason why LPI is embraced around the globe. We participate in many venues in promoting IT professionalism and Free and Open Standards. In particular, Jim Lacey serves on the Board of Directors of the Free Standards Group and LPI is frequently invited to address government representatives at high level UN think tanks and policy conferences.

However, an important factor for LPI's stature as the world's leading Linux certification is that we are vendor and distribution neutral. In varying regions, some Linux distributions are more popular than others. LPI avoids this issue by testing on a wide range of Linux skills. For example as noted in the thread below, LPI exams test for both Debian and Red Hat package management. This ability for candidate's to demonstrate that they are familiar with both forms of package management will become increasingly important as the popularity of such Debian-based distributions as Ubuntu, Knoppix, Linspire and Xandros grow in popularity.

In the end, it is a matter of personal choice. What does the IT professional want in an certification? Time and time again I hear from IT professionals that they have chosen LPI as it does not "lock" them into one system: they can choose multiple means of test preparation and training; they can take their certification exams at their convenience at over 7000 testing locations throughout the globe; and finally (and perhaps most valuably) they can say with confidence to clients and prospective employers that their certification demonstrates that they are able to choose the "right" Linux distribution, training and support services for the job--not the services and solutions proposed by a single vendor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

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