

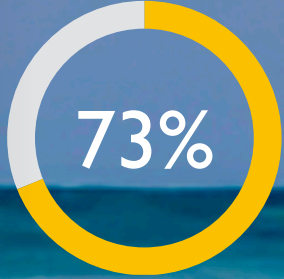


2024

Annual Review

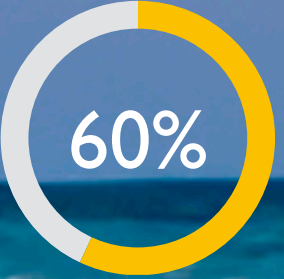


Photo: iStock.com/jeremyRichards



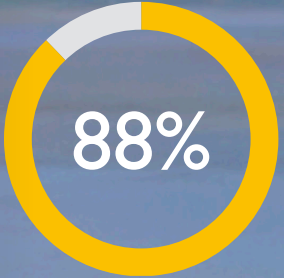
73% of IT professionals said employer-provided training and certification was important in their job choice

- Open Source Professionals Job Survey Report 2024



60% of professionals felt the quality of their work improved after certifying their IT skills

- Skillssoft IT Skills & Salary Report 2024



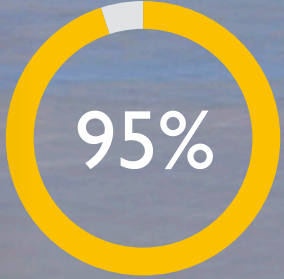
88% of technology professionals agree that open source allows organizations to innovate faster

- Open Source Software Developer Report 2024



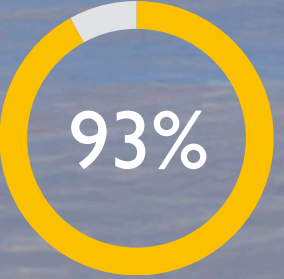
Linux, Kubernetes, and Docker are among the top open source skills most critical to organizations worldwide

- State of Open Source Report 2024



95% of organizations worldwide increased or maintained their use of open source software this year

- State of Open Source Report 2024



93% of IT professionals worldwide report being certified in at least one specialized field

- Skillssoft IT Skills & Salary Report 2024

Greetings from the Chair of the Board



It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Linux Professional Institute (LPI) Board, contributing to an organization that has been at the forefront of open source education and certification for over two decades. Stepping into this role after Jon "maddog" Hall, whose visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to the free software community set a remarkable standard, I am deeply committed to advancing LPI's mission of empowering individuals and organizations through open source knowledge and skills.

In 2024, LPI continued to build on its strong foundation, focusing on innovation, relevance, and accessibility. One of our key priorities is the ongoing development and modernization of our certification programs. We are working diligently to update the LPIC-2 and DevOps Tools Engineer exams, which are slated for release in 2025. These updates will ensure that our certifications remain aligned with the latest industry practices and technologies, equipping professionals with the tools they need to thrive in today's fast-paced IT landscape.

Beyond certification updates, LPI is actively working to expand the presence of our certifications as foundational elements in academic curricula worldwide. By partnering with universities and educational institutions, we aim to integrate LPI certifications into their programs, creating a seamless pathway for students to gain industry-recognized credentials. This initiative not only benefits the students by enhancing their employability and career prospects, but also strengthens the open source community by fostering a new generation of skilled and passionate professionals.

As we look to the future, LPI remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting open source values and empowering individuals through education. Together, we can continue to drive innovation, collaboration, and growth within the global open source ecosystem.

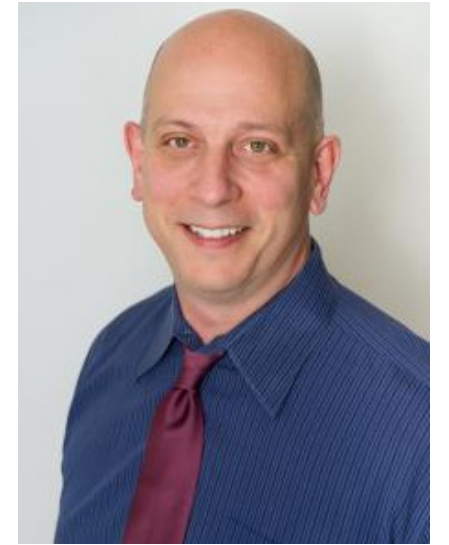
Thank you for your continued support and trust in LPI. I am excited about what lies ahead and look forward to working with all of you to shape the future of open source.

Warm regards,



Uirá Ribeiro
Chair of the Board
Linux Professional Institute

Greetings from the Executive Director



Welcome to the 2024 Annual Review of the Linux Professional Institute (LPI). This document is a celebration and recap of our activities and accomplishments throughout 2024. These accomplishments could be achieved only through efforts of our community of members, volunteers, partners, and staff to fulfill our mission to "promote the use of open source by supporting the people who work with it."

This year saw the launch of our fourth certificate and Learning materials in the Essentials program; Open Source Essentials. While we take a break from creating other Essentials-level certificates, we have been hard at work on updates to the LPIC-2 and DevOps Tools Engineers certifications, which will be released in 2025.

We also have some new initiatives planned for 2025, which will be announced as they come to fruition. The most notable and beneficial one for our certification holders is the initiative to provide digital badges, which will complement the physical certificates that credential holders receive. For news on program launches and other initiatives, please consider subscribing to our newsletter. The subscription form is available on our home page.

Thank you for your interest in LPI and the effort we make to encourage people to undertake a career path that includes the use of free and open source software. If you'd like to help us in this effort in any capacity, reach out to us at volunteer@lpi.org. We'll find a way that we can work together to help others discover and learn the value of using open source technologies in their careers and lives.

Have a wonderful, prosperous, and safe 2025,



G. Matthew Rice
Executive Director
Linux Professional Institute

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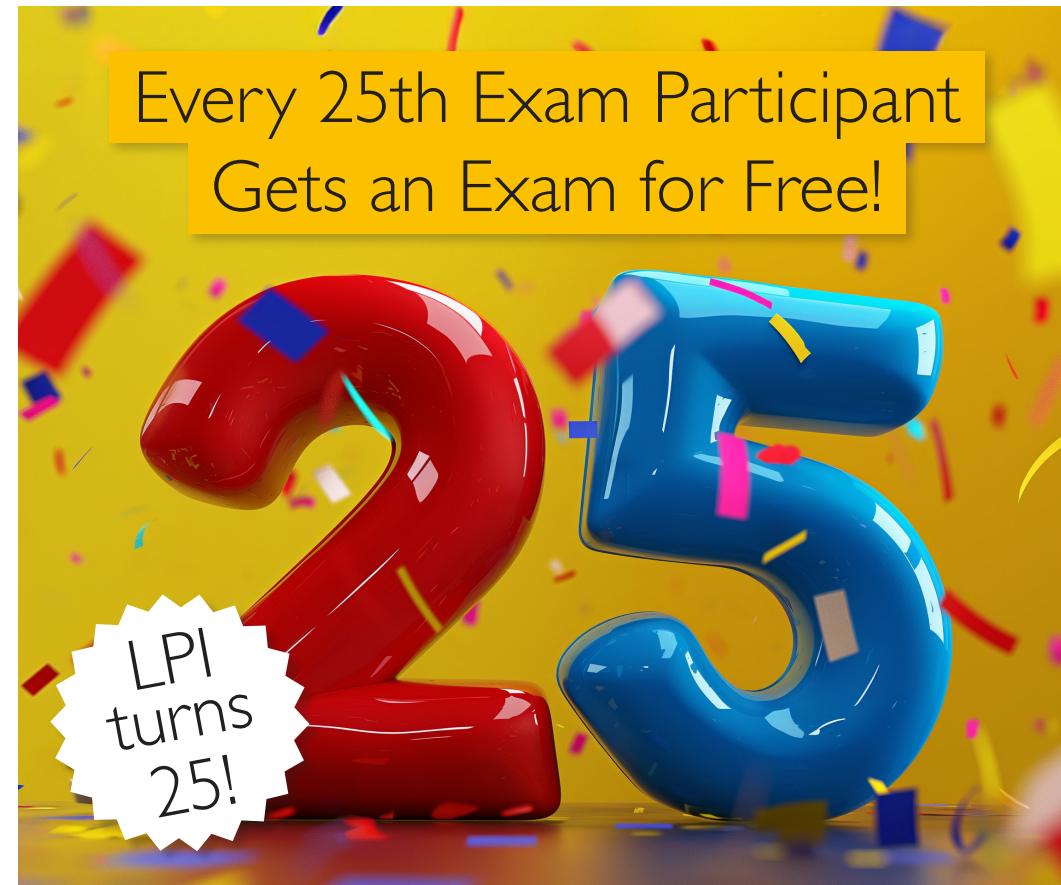
A Year to Remember: Celebrating 25 Years of Linux Professional Institute

In 2024, Linux Professional Institute (LPI) reached a major milestone—25 years of championing Linux and open source expertise and certification. Founded in 1999, LPI began as a community-driven project to create vendor-neutral exams that accurately measure real-world Linux skills. Fast forward to today, and LPI has become a global nonprofit that supports thousands of professionals, educators, and companies who rely on open source technology every day.

A Look Back: The Early Days and Beyond

When LPI was founded, Linux was still a passion project for many tech enthusiasts and had not yet entered the mainstream. But even then, the LPI founding team recognized the potential of Linux and open source software to reshape the IT world. Their mission was simple: to offer a certification program that sets high standards, is psychometrically validated, remains neutral in regard to vendors, open source operating systems, and software distributions, does not use certification as a means to sell “official training,” and remains open to input from the broader community.

That approach proved surprisingly effective. From the very first LPIC-1 exam, LPI’s certifications quickly gained traction. Employers began to recognize that an LPI-certified candidate wasn’t just book-smart—they knew how to troubleshoot real problems on real systems. Over time, new certifications (like LPIC-2 and LPIC-3) were introduced to help professionals deepen their expertise. And the range



of available certifications has expanded well beyond Linux-specific offerings. In addition to the DevOps Tools Engineer and BSD Specialist certifications, LPI has established entry-level certificates such as Linux Essentials, Security Essentials, Web Development Essentials, and Open Source Essentials. Meanwhile, educational institutions and training companies around the globe signed on to align their programs with LPI standards, spreading LPI’s influence far and wide.

LPI25: A Global Celebration

To mark its silver anniversary, LPI launched a year-long celebration called LPI25. The campaign included special offers for certificate holders and candidates, as well as discounts for those who switched to Linux from another operating system. All with the aim of bringing together open source fans from all over the world. The result was overwhelming: millions of impressions on various platforms and tons of positive feedback from professionals who credited LPI certifications for their career or first big IT job.

Amid the flood of stories, one theme kept popping up: LPI’s commitment to community. Whether it was a seasoned sysadmin reminiscing about earning their LPIC back in the early 2000s, or a newcomer who discovered Linux Essentials while exploring a career in tech, people consistently praised LPI’s supportive, inclusive culture.

That’s what LPI is all about for its Executive Director G. Matthew Rice to this day. “For 25 years, we’ve stood by our commitment to support Linux and

open source professionals at every stage of their careers. We never forget that our strength comes from the community. Seeing so many people celebrate with us during LPI25 is incredibly inspiring. It’s a real honor to know that we’ve contributed to so many success stories around the globe,” he reflects on the journey so far.

Looking Ahead

What’s next for LPI? As open source continues to drive emerging areas such as DevOps, containerization, web development, and cybersecurity, LPI is constantly aligning its certifications and Learning Materials with changing technologies and frameworks. The goal is to ensure that learners - whether they are brand new to Linux or seasoned professionals - always have reliable and up-to-date resources

at their fingertips. Ongoing partnerships with training providers, universities, and open source communities will help to further extend LPI’s value to the community.

Above all, however, the 25th anniversary is a moment for Linux Professional Institute to pause, celebrate, and thank the people who have helped shape the organization. After all, it is the global community of contributors, exam takers, training partners, and volunteers that has transformed the original vision into a worldwide movement. If the excitement surrounding LPI25 is any indication, there is every reason to believe that the next 25 years of LPI will bring just as much success - if not more - to its certification holders and partners, as well as businesses and governments worldwide.

“LPI programs are not merely educational milestones, but stepping stones toward becoming an integral part of a community that’s shaping the future of technology.”

[Read his story ...](#)

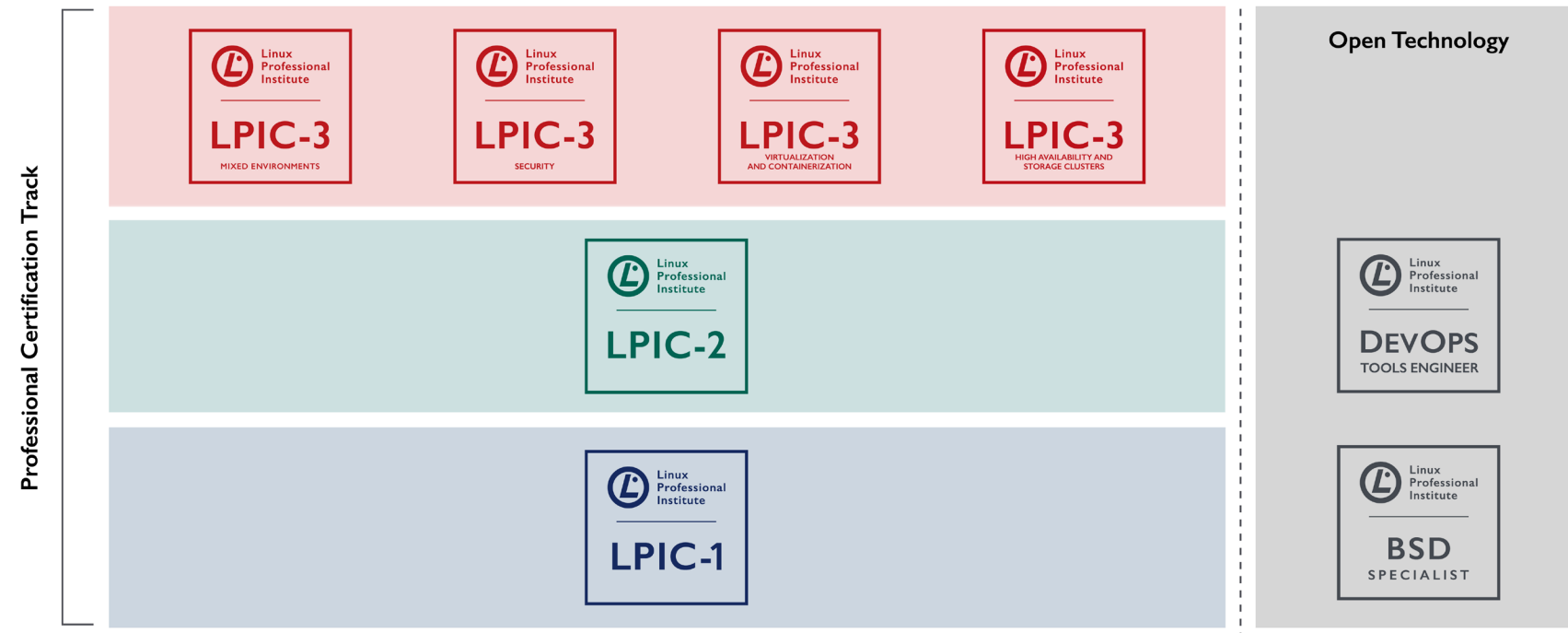
Moreno Razzoli
Linux Educator
MorrenoLinux, Italy



Certifications

Linux and open source certifications provide a tangible measurement to employers of certification holders' knowledge and capability, allowing professionals to stand out against other job applicants and receive fair compensation for their valuable skill sets. For self-employed Linux and open source professionals, certification clearly signals knowledge and professionalism to clients. Becoming certified can improve upon existing skills and create a more thorough understanding of Linux. Linux Professional Institute currently offers vendor-neutral Linux, BSD, and DevOps certification.

Updates to LPIC-2 and DevOpsTools Engineers certifications are currently in development to provide open source professionals with the opportunity to certify their abilities in the most current technologies. Release of updates to LPIC-2 and DevOps are planned for 2025.

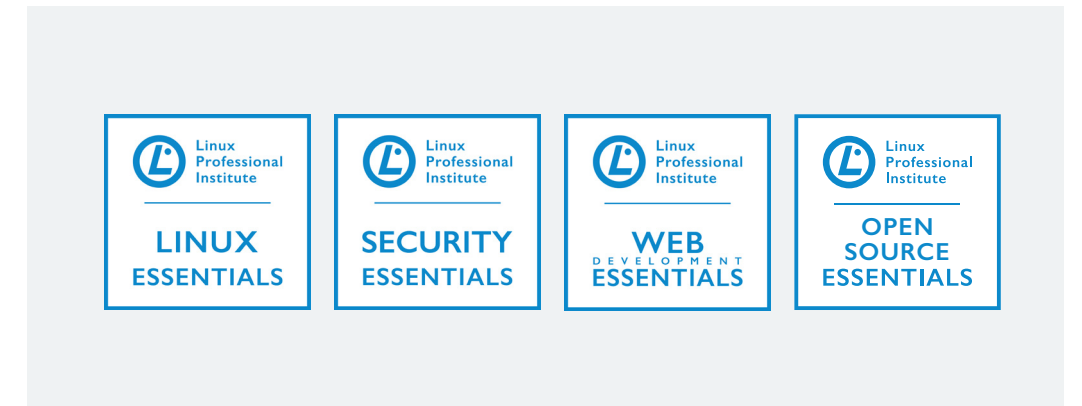


Certificates

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) Essentials certificates help individuals new to computer technology discover opportunities in IT with an internationally recognized credential.

Supported by free LPI Learning Materials, studying for Essentials certificates enables students, professionals, and tech enthusiasts to solidify their knowledge, and to pave the way for a more robust career and education in technology.

Essentials certificates currently cover Linux, Security, Web Development, and Open Source. LPI aims to expand development of the Essentials track to cover all major disciplines in IT, with a special focus on relevant, cutting-edge industry needs and open source technologies.



[Start your Essentials journey](#)



“Linux Essentials was a revelation—I was instantly hooked. Within six months, I enrolled in an LPIC-1 course to deepen my understanding. The journey [to LPIC-3 and BSD] has solidified my passion for open-source technologies and has significantly advanced my career.”

[Read his story ...](#)

Christopher Pliatsikas
OT Cyber Security Engineer
Power Factors, Greece

Open Source Essentials

Linux Professional Institute released Open Source Essentials in early Q2 of 2024 after a successful beta launch in Q4 of 2023. Candidate feedback was used to enhance the psychometric strength of Open Source Essentials exams, culminating in a robust certificate endorsed by industry specialists and Training Partners.

Free Learning Materials were released in conjunction with the certificate to help candidates expand their knowledge and prepare for the exam. This resource has since been translated into six languages and can be viewed on the [LPI Learning Portal](#).

Open Source Essentials certifies that candidates from any professional background possess the knowledge to work successfully within an open source environment or business. This knowledge will allow developers, managers, lawyers, and any other professional working in the field of open source to communicate, share a common perspective and terminology, and collaborate successfully.

The certificate covers fundamental aspects of free and open source software, open content, and open technology. It includes topics from various industries, such as business and law, allowing individuals to understand the concepts behind open source and engage with the open source community.

Open Source Essentials can be taken via Pearson VUE test centers and remotely on the OnVUE platform. Exam objectives can be reviewed on the LPI website.

For more information, please visit:
https://wiki.lpi.org/wiki/Open_Source_Essentials_Objectives_V1.0

“I believe that every legal professional dealing with digital law should be familiar with the legal foundations of Open Source. The Open Source Essentials certificate demonstrates a professional’s ability to delve into highly complex areas—an approach that our partners notice and appreciate.”

[Read his story ...](#)

Andrea Palumbo
Technology and Open Source Lawyer
Freelance, Italy



Exam topics

- 051: Software Fundamentals
- 052: Open Source Software Licenses
- 053: Open Content Licenses
- 054: Open Source Business Models
- 055: Project Management
- 056: Collaboration and Communication

Exam code: 050-100

Languages available: English

Validity period: Lifetime



Online Exams

Linux Professional Institute offers our Essentials and LPIC track exams online via the [Pearson VUE OnVUE](#) testing system. All exams can be taken in English online. Linux Essentials, Web Development Essentials, LPIC-1, LPIC-2, LPIC-3, and DevOps exams have been translated into additional languages.

While LPI exams have traditionally been held physically on-site, online proctoring has opened new opportunities for candidates to become certified, allowing exams to be written at home or in the office. During the online exam, a live proctor monitors candidates through the webcam on their workstation to provide a secure exam experience.

For more information, visit: <https://www.lpi.org/online-testing>.

Ready to schedule your Linux Professional Institute exam online?



Learning Materials

Linux Professional Institute Learning Materials break down objectives from LPI certification exams into 1-2 hour lessons. Each lesson includes relevant assignments and an answer guide. The format of LPI Learning Materials easily translates to classroom environments and provides structure for independent students.

Thanks to the efforts of more than 65 professionals from all over the world, free Learning Materials were made available for Essentials certificates in Linux, Security, Web Development, and Open Source in addition to LPIC-1 certification. The Learning Materials are available online at <https://learning.lpi.org/>



New translations were created in 2024 for Vietnamese, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, French, and Hungarian! Check out the Learning Portal to explore. Language availability varies between resources.

Learning Material Translations

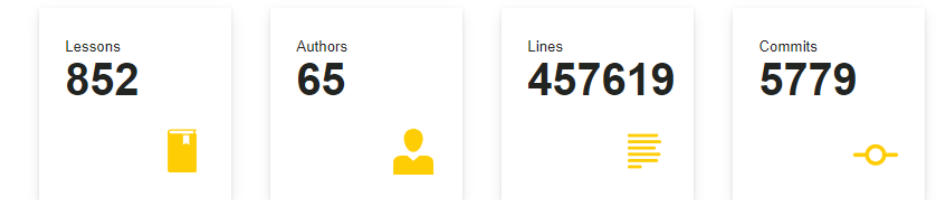
It is important to us that the knowledge required for Linux Professional Institute exams be accessible to as many people as possible. The best way to do this is to make study materials available in the native language of candidates. That is why LPI collaborates with many volunteers to translate our Learning Materials into as many languages as possible.

Linux Essentials and Web Development Essentials Learning Materials are available in more than ten languages. For more details on available translations and materials for Security Essentials, Open Source Essentials, and LPIC-1, visit: <https://learning.lpi.org/en/about/translations/>

Exam	Linux Essentials	Security Essentials	Web Development Essentials	Open Source Essentials
Exam Code	010	020	030	050
English				
Bosnian / Croatian				
French				
German				
Greek				
Hungarian				
Italian				
Japanese				
Polish				
Portuguese				
Spanish				
Turkish				
Ukrainian				
Vietnamese				

The tables below give you an overview of the availability of our exams and Learning Materials.

	The exam can be taken in this language.
	The Learning Materials are completely available.
	The Learning Materials are still in development, but parts have already been published.



Translations are a great first step into the LPI community.

If you know the technical background of one of our exams, and you want to translate the Learning Materials into your language, write an email message to learning@lpi.org and join our network of contributors!

Approved Trainers

Linux Professional Institute actively supports educators who help cultivate and guide our FOSS community. The LPI Approved Trainer program helps Linux educators demonstrate their credibility with endorsement from LPI (such as use of an LPI Approved Trainer logo.) LPI Members with professional levels of certification (such as LPIC-1) are eligible to apply by submitting a CV or LinkedIn profile and a video submission of the applicant teaching material from the LPI certification track.

For more information on prerequisites and how you can apply, visit us at: <https://www.lpi.org/become-trainer>

Approved Trainers

Trainers approved by Linux Professional Institute benefit from:



- Access to all Member benefits
- Access to updates about certifications and materials
- Use of the LPI Approved Trainer logo
- Downloadable
- Discounts available for their students
- Dedicated area on [discuss.lpi.org](https://www.lpi.org/discuss)

25 Approved Trainers and counting!

Join the feedback committee in 2025 for PDUs! Let us know how we can:

- Better support you as an Approved Trainer.
- Involve you in the selection process for future Approved Trainers.
- Integrate your thoughts on policy decisions.



Bigani Sehurutshi
System Administrator, Linux Educator
University of Botswana, Botswana

“Becoming an Approved Trainer has been a pivotal achievement in my career. It was a chance to meet the educational needs of my community and further the adoption of free and open source software in Africa. Moreover, it was an opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals and learn from the best.”

[Read his story ...](#)

Membership Program

LPI Membership has helped 500+ open source professionals pursue career objectives by helping candidates get the most out of their LPI certification. In addition to providing discounts and exclusive soft skill resources, LPI Membership offers candidates the option of accruing Professional Development Units (PDUs) as an alternative way to maintain the active status of their certification. To learn more about our LPI Membership Program, visit: <https://www.lpi.org/member>

PDUs allow LPI Members to use work and volunteer experience to prove an understanding of cutting-edge Linux technologies, in place of renewing their certification every five years. Listed below are some of the most popular PDU activities supported by LPI:



Attending Courses



Working in an area related to your certification



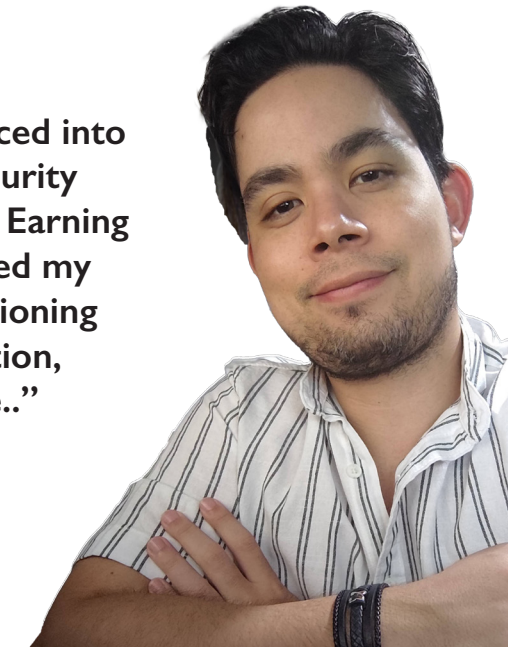
Achieving an additional certification from another organization

More than 3660+ PDUs processed to increase the value of certification!

“After achieving my LPIC-1 certification, my career advanced into system administration and security roles, where I currently work. Earning LPIC-3 in Security strengthened my expertise, and now I’m transitioning into SRE, focusing on automation, security, and system resilience..”

[Read his story ...](#)

Jose Alvarez
System Administrator & Security Lead,
Kyndryl, Costa Rica



Partner Programs

find.lpi.org



ACADEMIC PARTNER

Add value to your IT training program (Training Partner) and support undergraduate candidates at your school, college, or university (Academic Partner.) with discounts on exams and complimentary courseware with options for co-branding.



TRAINING PARTNER



PUBLISHING PARTNER

Have published LPI exam material promoted to our partners in academia and IT training, and be featured on our website.



SOLUTION PROVIDER

Multi-level benefits for organizations offering Linux and open source system solutions and services.



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Opportunities for cooperative promotions at LPI events. Access to a joint marketing fund and discounts on exams. Designed for organizations with their own communities and partner groups.



CHANNEL PARTNER



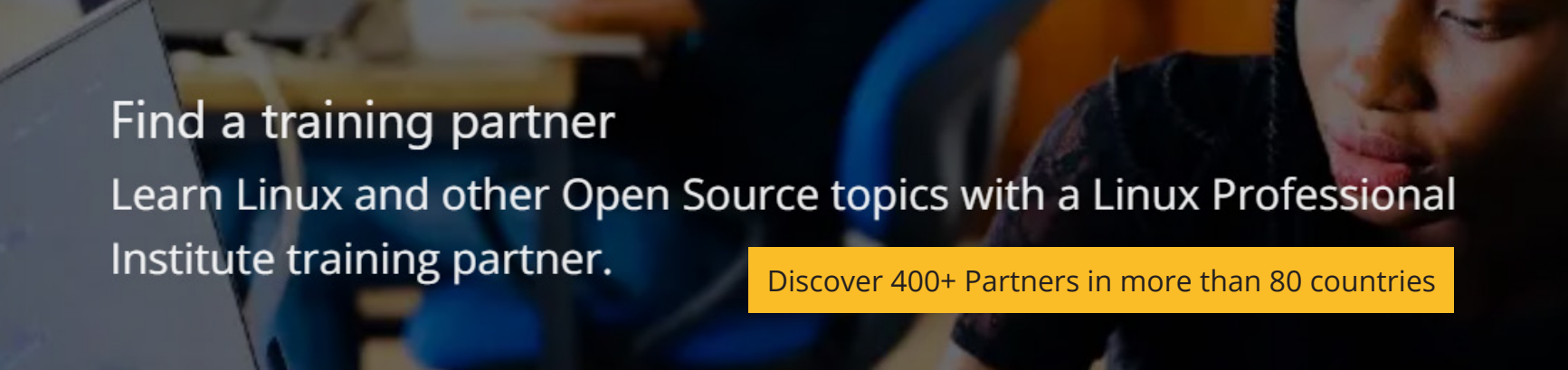
HIRING PARTNER

Appear in LPI newsletters and gain access to our georeferenced Member base (opt-in, no names displayed – filtered by certification level).



MISSION SUPPORTER

Gain community access, value services, recognition, and marketing to our community of 500,000+ IT professionals (250k+ certified).



Find a training partner
Learn Linux and other Open Source topics with a Linux Professional Institute training partner.

Discover 400+ Partners in more than 80 countries

Linux Professional Institute created find.lpi.org to help open source professionals and organizations browse the global network of LPI Partners. Community members can easily find relevant organizations for training and related needs. The site offers filters for geographic location, language, course delivery method, exam topics, and terms chosen by the user. This tool also helps celebrate LPI partners and their role in supporting open source.

LPI community members can opt-in to have their profiles searchable on find.lpi.org, helping certified open source professionals obtain new opportunities at potential employers. Members can add or update their profile at <https://people.lpi.org/profile>.

You can test find.lpi.org for yourself by following one of the Partner categories linked below.

[Channel Partners](#)

[Academic Partners](#)

[Training Partners](#)

[Community Partners](#)

[Members](#)

Volunteer Programs



Authors

Volunteer authors from many different regions of the world share their open source success stories, experiences, and tips with the readers of the LPI blog at <https://www.lpi.org/blog>.



Booth Buddies

Our Booth Buddies act as important representatives of LPI and the Linux community. Booth volunteers provide assistance and support at community events. To help at community events, contact us at volunteer@lpi.org.



Translators

LPI translations are made possible through international volunteers. Thanks to community support, the LPI website is now available in ten languages. Our exams can be taken in English, German, Japanese, Portuguese (Brazilian), Chinese, and Spanish.

Translations are required for website content, technical articles, brochures, social media, our blog, news, and events. If you are interested in becoming a contributor, contact us at volunteer@lpi.org.

Many volunteers around the world are involved with Linux Professional Institute. They are what makes LPI strong and firmly rooted in the community.

Volunteer Programs



Exam Development Team Members

The exam development team is always looking for additional help in creating, reviewing, and translating the exam content to ensure that questions are correct, current, and fair. Your contributions can help challenge and improve the experience of future Linux users taking our exam.

Contact us at volunteer@lpi.org to become involved in the future of LPI certification.



Learning Materials Team Members

Learning Materials are continuously expanded and updated by a worldwide community of Linux and open source users. Volunteers are needed to help author, review, and translate the Learning Materials.

Contact us at learning@lpi.org to help improve freely available education in Linux.
















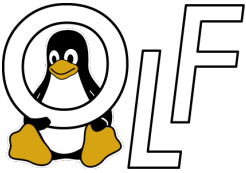




Committee Members

LPI has a variety of committees that give community members the opportunity to collaborate on projects with like-minded individuals and provide LPI with important feedback and guidance. Committee members have the opportunity to propose new ideas that can be supported by LPI.

For more information on how you can become involved, visit <https://www.lpi.org/committees>.

Events

Throughout 2024, LPI continued to expand its engagement with developers in the FOSS community through events. LPI has experienced tremendous growth in virtual event hosting and partnership. Some successes include:

			
 <p>Japan</p>		 <p>Mexico</p>	
 <p>France</p>		 <p>Germany</p>	
 <p>Poland</p>		 <p>Spain</p>	
 <p>Vietnam</p>		 <p>Philippines</p>	
 <p>Spain</p>		 <p>Bulgaria</p>	
 <p>Brazil</p>		 <p>Germany</p>	
 <p>United States</p>		 <p>United States</p>	
 <p>Spain</p>		 <p>Korea</p>	
		 <p>Germany</p>	

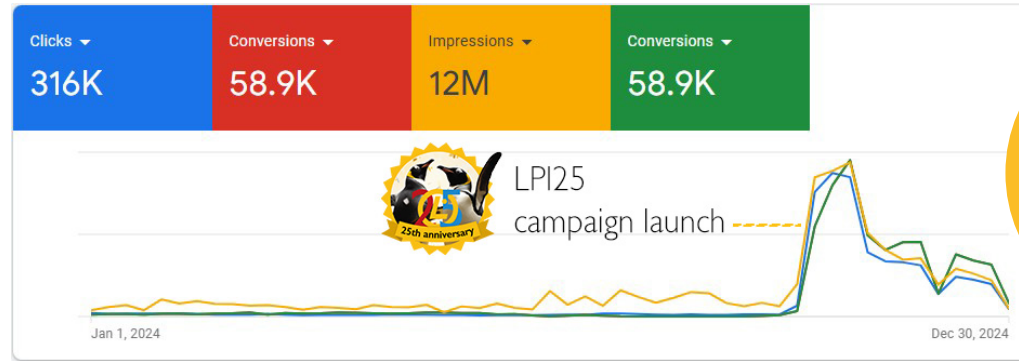
LPI at the United Nations

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) was thrilled to be invited to United Nation's New York headquarters to participate in the "Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) for Good" conference. During the event, LPI contributed to discussions on how OSPOs and open source policy can improve global community development. LPI invited key stakeholders from its international network of partners (which includes representatives from governments and universities worldwide) to participate and share high-impact ideas at the event.



24/07/09-10

Marketing and Social Media



Ad Grants:
544K impressions,
51.2K clicks,
7.45K conversions

Google Ads:
12M impressions,
316K clicks,
58.9K conversions

Added Korean and Chinese languages to the website and improved translations in other languages

Started global and regional Bluesky social media accounts

SEO improvements:
1.63M impressions and 78.6K clicks in organic Google Search

37K reactions and 59K clicks on social media posts, 700+ comments

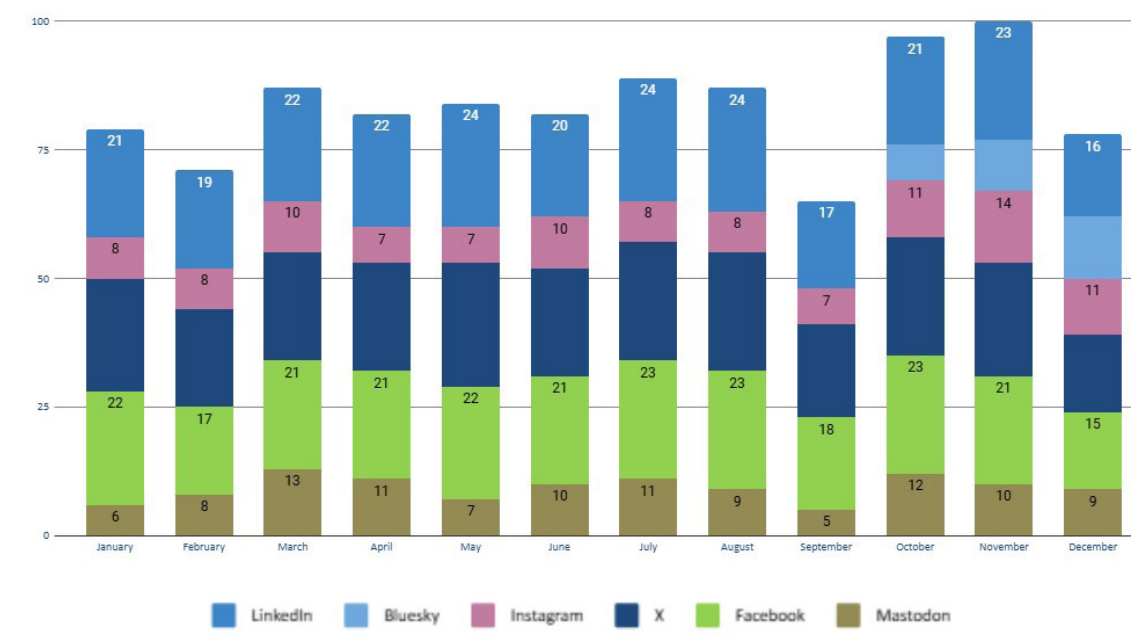
Estimated monthly traffic value of \$107,316 USD on lpi.org

More than 12M post impressions over all social media channels

Marketing and Social Media

 140,000+ Followers https://www.facebook.com/LPICconnect	 85,000+ Followers https://www.linkedin.com/company/linux-professional-institute/	 5,000+ Followers https://www.instagram.com/lpi_org/	 750+ Followers https://fosstodon.org/@LPI	 250+ Followers https://bsky.app/profile/lpi.org	 14,000+ Followers https://x.com/lpicconnect
---	--	---	---	---	--

Month	Posts
January	79
February	71
March	87
April	82
May	84
June	84
July	90
August	87
September	65
October	97
November	102
December	80



Open Source Software Used at LPI



BigBlueButton

[BigBlueButton](#)

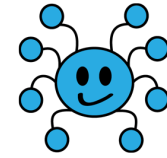
Conference software with a chatbox, optional video calling, recording, and screenshare.



Nextcloud

[Nextcloud](#)

Cloud storage. Securely share documents with your team.



[Mindmap](#)

Mind-map creation tool for visualizing and planning projects.



[OmegaT](#)

Translation Memory tool intended for professional translators. Includes auto-complete and extensive glossaries.



[Mailman](#)

Manages electronic mail discussion and e-newsletter lists.



[MariaDB](#)

Open source database management with options for high availability and cloud support.



[Discourse](#)

Forum management software. Used to run <https://discuss.lpi.org>.



[Odoo](#)

ERP platform.



“One certification that has particularly inspired me is LPIC-I. I highly recommend anyone looking to deepen their Linux knowledge to pursue this certification and take the related courses. It’s an investment that pays off tremendously in terms of knowledge and preparedness.”

[Read his story ...](#)

Daniele Briguglio
Unix System Engineer
Italy, SORINT.Lab

Open Source Software Used at LPI



[OBS Software](#)

Streams meetings and webinars on platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.



[Bluespice](#)

A derivative of MediaWiki, the basis of Wikipedia. Wiki platform used at LPI to run our intranet operatives.



[Weblate](#)

Used for internal infrastructure and tools development.



[ASCIIDoctor](#)

Text editor that converts AsciiDoc to formats such as PDF and HTML5. Simplifies software documentation.



[Docker](#)

Container management. Containers are a single package containing all libraries and dependencies needed to run software.



[Debian](#)

A distribution of Linux OS used throughout the internal infrastructure at LPI.



[OpenVPN](#)

Secure Virtual Private Network software.



[LimeSurvey](#)

Questionnaire and survey builder.



[Git](#)

Software for tracking changes in source code.



[GitLab](#)

An open source DevOps platform. Used for projects completed by our Product Development team.



[WordPress](#)

Content hosting software that powers roughly 43% of all sites on the web - including lpi.org.



[Mastodon](#)

Ad-free open source social media platform.



[OpenProject](#)

Team project management software. Supports agile, classic, and hybrid project strategy tracking.



[Mattermost](#)

Chat client software for internal and partner communication.



[Hugo](#)

Static website generator. The world's fastest framework for building websites.

Board of Directors

Linux Professional Institute would like to extend our thanks to the Board of Directors, who guided our mission of elevating FOSS practitioners and bringing global equity through free software in 2024:



Uirá Ribeiro

Prof. Uirá Ribeiro is the Board Chair of LPI and a Senior C-Level Executive with a background in Information Technology, Software Development, and Internet Architect Engineering. He has served as headmaster of a Brazilian University for more than 15 years.

Uirá holds a masters degree in Informatics and bachelors degree in Data Processing, among fifteen other IT certifications. He is the author of 11 books, published in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian, as CEO and founder of Linux Certification Edutech. For 15 years he has taught Linux online classes, with more than 14,000 certified students.



Brian Clemens

Brian Clemens is the Vice Chair of LPI, the Founder and the Vice President of the Rocky Enterprise Software Foundation, and a founder and the Program Manager of Rocky Linux. His interest and experience with Linux and FOSS began with Fedora Core 4, since which he has championed FOSS across a wide range of organizations. Since co-founding Rocky Linux in 2020, he has worked exclusively on Open Source full-time.

Having worked a diverse range of IT careers, from running cable to supporting multinational telecom infrastructure deployments, he brings a wide breadth of experience and understanding to the organizations he participates in.

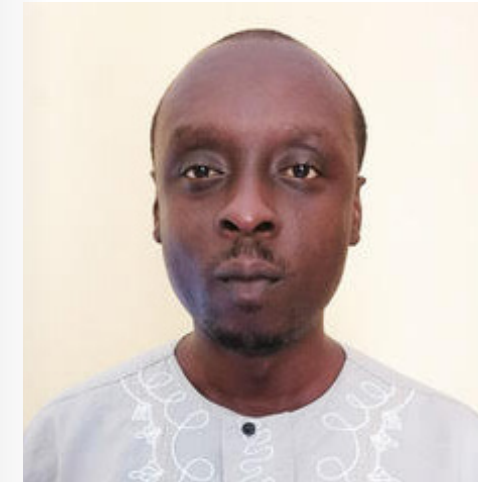


Ricardo Prudenciano

With a graduate degree in Information Technology and post-graduate work in Computer Networks, Ricardo Prudenciano has 20 years of career experience with FOSS. With a focus on support and administration of systems and their services, Ricardo has worked in senior positions leading and coordinating teams. He has contributed to organizations small to large, such as IBM, Telecom, and Vivo.

In the past 5 years, Ricardo has taught and mentored more than 41,000 students. He has published courses on Introduction to GNU/Linux, Shell Script Programming, and Preparations for LPIC Certifications.

Board of Directors



Emmanuel Nguimbus

Emmanuel Nguimbus is a computer engineer and co-founder of open source projects Open Telemedicine System (OpenTMS) and OpenStudi, as well as Chair of the OPENSECURE Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting open source and cybersecurity.

Emmanuel is a consultant in for several private and government open source projects. He is a member of private and public working groups, project teams, and monitoring and steering committees. Emmanuel is experienced with issues of training, management, entrepreneurship, strategy, and governance.



Klaus Knopper

Klaus Knopper is an Electrical Engineer with a history of three decades of system administration in Unix (different brands) and especially Linux, a developer of customized Linux-based operating systems, and a passionate hardware+software tinkerer.

He is a regular professor for Software Engineering, IT Security, and Informatics in the programs of Business Informatics / Information Management (Bachelor + Master) in the faculty of Business Economics, and Vice President for Digitalization at the University of Applied Sciences Kaiserslautern / Germany. Klaus is also a self-employed software developer and consultant.



Dorothy Gordon

Dorothy is the current Chair of the Inter-Governmental Council for UNESCO's Information for All Programme. She is a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence expert working group on innovation and commercialization. Previously she served on the Global Commission on Internet Governance and worked for many years as a manager with the United Nations Development Programme.

As the founding Director-General of the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, she ensured that the backend systems ran exclusively on open source technology.

Board of Directors



Ted Matsumura

Ted Matsumura has worked in the tech industry since the mid 1980s. As a product manager for Adaptec Japan, he has promoted Linux and FOSS at start-ups as well as larger companies as a product manager including Intel, Packet Engines, Penguin Computing, and smaller companies.

Ted has contributed to Crouton, which enables Linux to run on Chromebooks, and worked with Linux kernel developers to develop the first Gigabit Ethernet Linux drivers. Ted has taught Linux and computer science as an adjunct professor, and currently works at a multinational firm on secure cloud environments and DevSecOps.



Thiago Sobral

Thiago Sobral has worked with Linux and with free and open ssoftware since 1998. He has worked with infrastructure to applications, covering networks, security, and all the issues that come up in customer environments. He is a former employee of Conectiva, Red Hat, and SUSE.

Thiago is part of the Digital Law Commission in São Paulo, was a lecturer and trainer, created FOSS events, and participated in hundreds of events. Today he is Global Offering Manager for Open Source at IBM. He is heavily involved in various communities around the world.



Jill Ratkevic

Jill's first "Silicon Valley job" was for the very first open source embedded Linux company. She has advocated for open source at Capitol Hill on behalf of Sun's Scott McNealy and Java's James Gosling. Her journey has spanned from advocacy in 1999 to being central to the SCO v. IBM lawsuit as a ZDNet reporter. This career has brought Jill the fortune of being sought out by CEOs from Sun to Salesforce and many others now undergoing a revamp.

Jill is happy to support the community after 25 years, moving from foundation to enforcement. She calls for ethical mavericks to step up.

Board of Directors



Michinori Nakahara

Michinori Nakahara spent over 33 years at IBM Japan in various leadership positions, including Manager of Linux business development, working closely with IBM's global partners. He then served as Chief Training Officer for a Tokyo-based open source software start-up. In November 2022, he was made Japan General Manager for AutoGrid Systems.

Nakahara has studied in both the U.S. and Japan, with extensive experience working with Japanese, US, and European IT companies. He has served on various committees and forums, and in organizations dedicated to Linux and open source education and policies.



Jon "maddog" Hall (Chair Emeritus)

Jon "maddog" Hall is the Chair Emeritus of the Board of the Linux Professional Institute. Since 1969, Hall has been a programmer; systems designer; systems administrator; product manager; technical marketing manager; author; and educator; currently working as an independent consultant.

Hall helped formulate some of the concepts of LPI and donated personal money to allow the first 200 tests to be administered for psychometric purposes. He has traveled the world speaking on the benefits of open source software. Hall received his BS in Commerce and Engineering from Drexel University, and his MSCS from RPI.

Hall of Fellows

The Linux Professional Institute Hall of Fellows recognizes people for their long-term and significant contributions to the FOSS community and the Linux Professional Institute. The Hall of Fellows is a permanent record of their accomplishments for the benefit of future generations of FOSS users. The first person in LPI's Hall of Fellows is its Board Chair Emeritus, Jon "maddog" Hall, who was awarded this honor for his significant contributions to the FOSS community and the Linux Professional Institute.

Since 1969, having received his BS in Commerce and Engineering from Drexel University, and his MSCS from RPI in Troy, New York, Mr. Hall has been a programmer, systems designer, systems administrator, product manager, technical marketing manager, author and educator, and independent consultant.

In addition to being a charter (founding) sponsor of LPI, Jon "maddog" Hall helped formulate the concepts and vision of what has become the Linux Professional Institute. He personally donated funds to help create psychometrically sound certifications and deliver the first 200 exams during the initial roll out.

Jon "maddog" Hall has concentrated on Unix systems since 1980 and Linux systems since 1994, when he first met Linus Torvalds and correctly recognized the commercial importance of Linux and Free and open source Software.

Since 1995 maddog has been the President of Linux International(TM). He has traveled extensively speaking to large groups, consulting with governments, NGOs, and industry leaders around the globe, as well as being a prolific author on the benefits of free and open source software.

Visit our **Hall of Fellows:**
www.lpi.org/hall-of-fellows



Jon "maddog" Hall
Board Chair of the Linux Professional Institute (LPI) from 2015 to 2024. Charter (founding) Individual Sponsor of LPI during its founding in 1999.

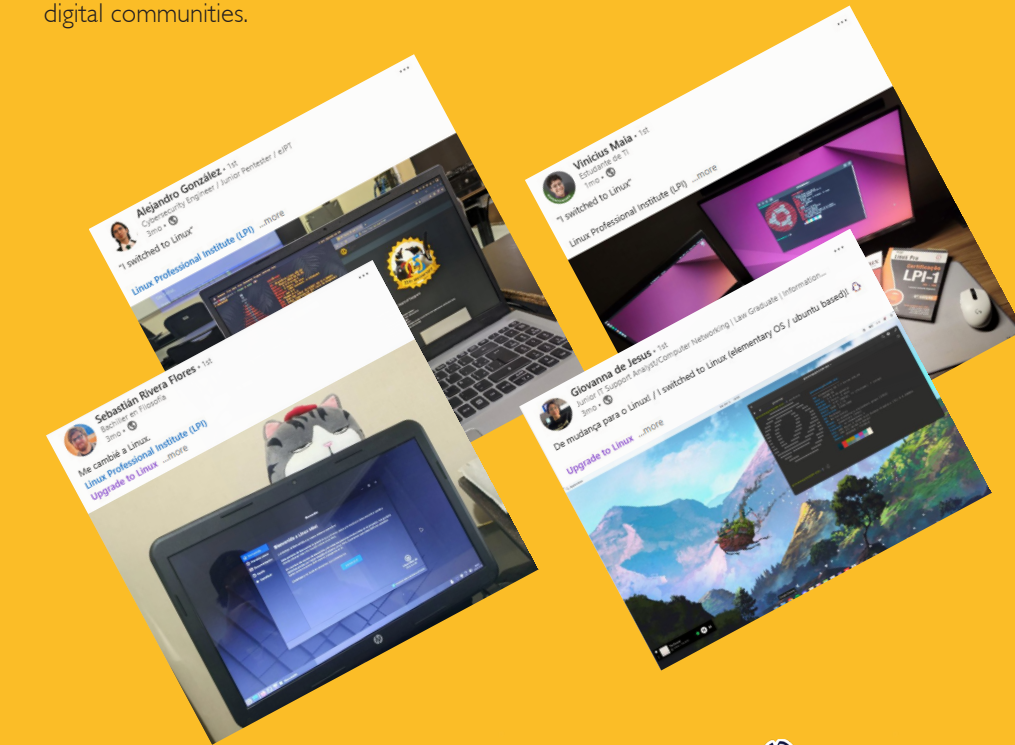
Awarded for his significant contributions to the FOSS community and the Linux Professional Institute

[Learn more >](#)

Upgrade to Linux



As part of our 25th anniversary celebration, LPI offered a 25% discount on Linux Essentials for users who shared their #switchtoLinux with users online. More than 300 people participated to spread open source awareness and spark new discussion within digital communities.



Upgrade to Linux (UTL) is an initiative by open source enthusiasts (including staff of Linux Professional Institute) to encourage adoption of Linux and FOSS.

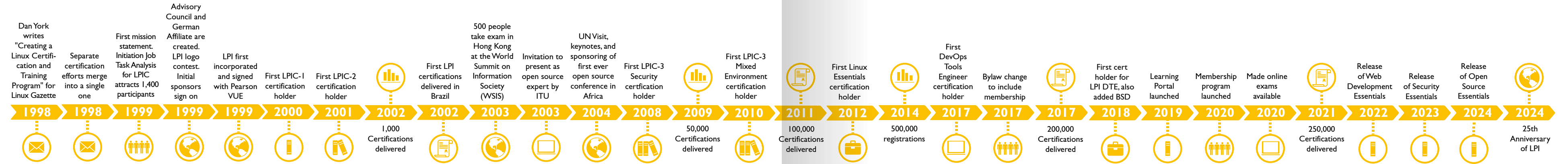
The UTL website offers resources to help new users understand and adopt open source, emphasizing benefits such as hardware optimization and free use to reduce e-waste and financial burdens for schools, governments, businesses, and individuals. You can view these resources at www.upgradetolinux.com.

UTL welcomes volunteer translators, bloggers, and partners from all over the world. Visit [our website](#) to participate.

Print free #LinuxInside stickers!



History



History

How LPI filled the certification gap for FOSS

The spheres of certification and open source were long distinct. The entry of Linux into mission-critical applications and corporate environments in the late 1990s changed the equation. These pages lay out the history of Linux Professional Institute from its first conception to the present.

Back in 1998, Apple released the iMac and Microsoft released Windows 98. Unix was still a force on server computers, but Microsoft Windows NT was threatening to make major inroads into the server space. On the other hand, Linux was rapidly becoming a growing phenomenon with millions of users worldwide.

Upstart companies, such as Red Hat and SUSE, were attracting the attention of corporate users with their commercial packaging and support of Linux.

In the beginning...

In 1998, two separate community efforts were building momentum to try to address one of the perceived deep gaps in Linux support. If a company chose to deploy Linux, how would an IT manager be able to find qualified people to install, maintain, and support it? At the time, there were a large number of certification programs for Microsoft Windows systems, providing guidelines

for companies trying to understand someone's expertise with Windows. Could there be some similar kind of certification program for Linux?

Red Hat started to develop its own certification for its Linux distribution. Several other distribution vendors started to publicly discuss creating their own certifications. The fragmentation of these corporate efforts prompted some people within the Linux community to express concern that we might wind up with multiple small Linux certifications that wouldn't help advance the deployment of Linux as much as a common certification.

In October 1998, Dan York published in the Linux Gazette an article calling for a community Linux certification program, resulting in an active community discussion group. Dan would go on to write a series of articles that were noticed by Linuxcare, a startup offering Linux support. Linuxcare contacted Dan and employed him to build the certification program ultimately offered by LPI.

Meanwhile, a separate discussion led by Evan Leibovitch at the Canadian Linux Users Exchange promoted a similar initiative. Jon "maddog" Hall, President of Linux International, who knew both Evan and Dan, introduced them, and they merged

their efforts into a single project to create a community-based Linux certification program. The agreed objective was to take a different path from most IT certifications of the day, by being:

- non-profit
- neutral with regard to vendors, open source operating systems, and software distributions
- opposed to using certification as a tool to sell "official training"
- psychometrically validated
- multilingual and globally accessible

Making it happen

By the spring of 1999, the certification effort caught the attention of Benoy Tamang at Caldera, a Linux distributor, who was considering launching their own independent certification program. Benoy paid for Dan and Evan to meet with Caldera and make a pitch for funding. The day before the pitch—April 4, 1999—Dan and Evan ducked into the single meeting room of the La Quinta Inn in Orem, Utah and designed the three-tier program now known as Linux Professional Institute Certification. Caldera liked what they saw the next day and decided to cancel their own certification program in favor of becoming

History

LPI's first corporate sponsor. Soon other sponsors, including IBM and SUSE, came on board.

Next, a team needed to be formed. Dan and Evan were joined by community members Charles "Scudder" Mead and Tom Peters. Rounding out the initial team was Scott Murray, a psychometrician who would ensure that the effort's exams could be scientifically validated and uphold a high standard of quality from the very start. These five were the original incorporators of LPI.

The non-profit was officially incorporated in the province of New Brunswick, Canada, because Canada was considered to be politically neutral and New Brunswick was one of the few jurisdictions that allowed virtual board meetings in 1999.

Many in the Linux community liked the program that LPI was proposing - including Jon "maddog" Hall, who became the first Platinum Individual Charter Sponsor by contributing 1,000 USD of his own money so LPI could deliver its first 200 tests.

The community expands

During this time, the entirely volunteer LPI team expanded to include people working on many different aspects of the program. The team performed an extensive "job-task analysis" to ensure that the exams covered cutting-edge topics. Another group worked with VUE (later part of Pearson) to work out how to deliver the exams electronically through VUE's network of testing centers. Other volunteers worked on marketing

and promotion, while yet others solicited donations and ensured the evolution of the organization's operations. All of this happening through email lists and occasional conference calls.

Going global

After the first Level 1 exams were delivered in 2000, followed by Level 2 in 2001, LPI started gaining international acceptance and community



support. Like-minded groups quickly helped create local presences around the world, first in Japan and then in Germany and Brazil.

Realizing that testing centers were not available in all parts of the world, and wanting to make LPI certifications as accessible as possible, the LPI team also developed a mechanism for delivering the

exams on paper in a proctored setting. In October of 2002, Jon "maddog" Hall cooperated with 4Linux, an early supporter of LPI in Brazil, to deliver 101 paper exams in Sao Paulo while on a trip to Latin America.

In November 2003, LPI hosted more than 500 people at its exam lab at LinuxWorld Hong Kong, the largest of many such events. LPI has since certified people in more than 190 countries and territories and delivered exams in nine languages.

Later in 2003, LPI participated in the first-ever United Nations World Summit on the Information Society with a delegation of 23 people, promoting open source and distributing thousands of Linux CDs to diplomats and NGOs. A partnership with L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) brought low-cost open source certification to some of the world's least developed economies.

Expanding the program offerings, LPIC-3 was offered in 2007. In the following years, LPI launched new employment programs, continued to participate in open source conferences everywhere, and supported its partners in local advocacy efforts.

LPI launched the introductory Linux Essentials program in 2012 and its DevOps certification in 2017. It began work with the BSD Certification Group in 2017, leading to the 2019 launch of the BSD Specialist program. Adding BSD and DevOps to LPI certifications began the path of extending

History

support for Linux vendor-neutrality into support for a broader scope of IT skills and professions.

Over time, the LPI network of partners has expanded in both numbers and geographic reach, now numbering more than 500 partners in more than 190 countries and territories. In 2015, the Network Development Group (NDG) released the first in a series of courses, bringing LPI-focused education to the thousands of institutions and millions of students in the Cisco Networking Academy.

Community governance

For its 20th anniversary in 2019, the LPI Board introduced Membership as part of a substantial change in the organization's governance and direction. This change would enable LPI-certified individuals to become Members of LPI, elect its Board, and help shape its direction.

In 2019, LPI introduced a learning portal that offered the first in a series of free study guides that assists students and trainers alike. During the COVID-19 years in the early 2020s, LPI started offering at-home certification exams using Pearson's OnVUE system.

Our first-ever Board election was held at the Board's Annual General Meeting in June 2021. As part of these governance changes, LPI also introduced a Code of Ethics and committed to promoting professional conduct and personal development within its community of certified open source practitioners.

In 2022, LPI launched the Upgrade to Linux initiative, a multi-stakeholder program designed to address the needs of users unable to upgrade their computers to Windows 11 (offering a path instead to "Upgrade to Linux.") The project has attracted Linux vendors, groups, and community participation from around the world.

Creating New Career Opportunities

Also in 2022, the Essentials track tripled its offerings with the Web Development Essentials and Security certificates. In 2023, Open Source Essentials certificate beta exams were launched, culminating in the official release of the certificate and its Learning Materials in 2024. The certificate empowered both FOSS and FOSS-adjacent professionals to prove their specialized knowledge of open source communities, businesses, legal environments, and culture to new employers.

In recent years, LPI Learning Materials have continued to grow in first-language accessibility worldwide in order to provide as many global learners as possible with access to open source knowledge.

New partnerships, certification programs, languages, accessibility initiatives, and free training materials are consistently in development, with LPIC-1 also seeing translation into Japanese in 2024.

In April of 2024, LPI in conjunction with its partner Linux New Media, released the first edition of

"The Open Source Job Survey Report." The report collected the career values of nearly 600 open source professionals, creating a guide for hiring managers to architect roles that better suited industry professionals.

25 Years of FOSS

2024 marked the 25th anniversary of LPI's support for open source adoption and career development. LPI wants to thank everyone who has helped it grow from a couple of mailing lists into the world's largest open source skills certification program. This includes the companies Linuxcare and Starnix for supporting LPI founders during its early formation, and most importantly: you, one of our many dedicated community members.

Thanks to your support, LPI looks forward to many more years of continuing its mission: to encourage the use of open source by supporting the people who work with it.





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