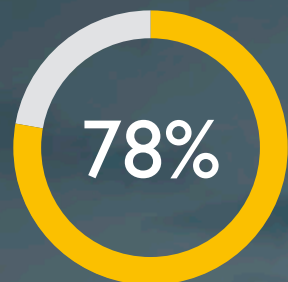Linux
Professional
Institute
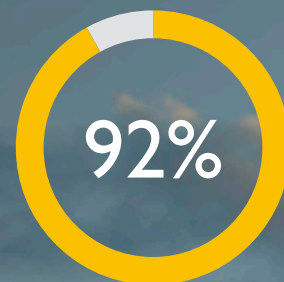
2021

Annual
Review

78%

78.1% said that getting certified has improved their workplace productivity.

- Certification Magazine 2019 Salary Survey Extra: Deep Focus on LPIC-1

92%

92% of employers say IT-certified employees receive higher starting salaries.
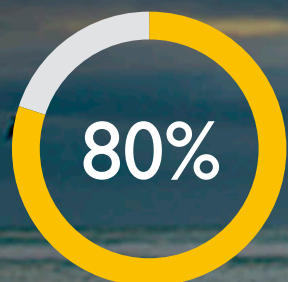
- NDG Linux Career Guide 2018

The certifications that gained the most value over the past three months in the sysadmin space were all Linux-related: LPIC-2, LPIC-3, and Red Hat Certified Systems Administrator.

- Foote Research Group
IT Skill Certs Pay Data Trend 2021

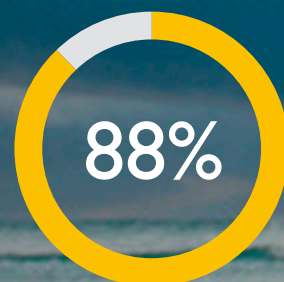IT Managers are the employees most in demand in the US IT business.

- NDG Linux Career Guide 2018

80%

80.5% said that getting certified has increased their ability to solve problems.

- Certification Magazine 2019 Salary Survey

88%

88% respondents said certification provides greater motivation for them to keep their skills up to date.

- Pearson VUE's 2018
Value of IT Certification survey

lpi.org

As the Board Chair, I write this on the eve of the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Linux Professional Institute (LPI) since LPI started the Membership Program under our new Bylaws.

A lot has happened, but the most important thing is that LPI has moved from being an organization that does "Linux Certifications" to one of creating and sustaining Open Source Professionals.

The most interesting part of this (to me) is that in the beginning of the organization, in 1999, our original incorporating documents stated that developing "Open Source Professionals" was the actual goal set by the founders, not "Certifying Linux People".

Therefore we have developed a program to allow people to maintain their certifications by continuing to develop themselves as open source professionals. Yes, you can do this by simply continuing to study and take the LPI Certification tests, but you can also do other things such as community participation, contributing to professional associations, volunteering at non-profit organizations, speaking at conferences, writing blogs or white-papers, and many other ways. Not only is this an easy way to keep your accreditation current, but also helps to give you exposure in the open source community.

LPI feels that these type of activities not only grow your own expertise, but can also expand open source acceptance among the general public.

Our goal is that our membership program will allow our members to have more participation in the organization itself, beyond certification. We hope that our members will take command of the different committees and working groups we have in LPI, and indeed even create additional working groups to treat different needs in the open source community.

Perhaps it will be you writing this forward some day.

Carpe Diem!

Jon 'maddog' Hall
Chairman of the Board
Linux Professional Institute

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Review for the Linux Professional Institute (LPI). This document represents the culmination of five years of reshaping how LPI lives up to and achieves its core mission to "promote the use of open source by supporting the people who work with it".

Over this time, LPI has completed its governance changes such that certification holders, through gaining official membership with the organization, are the ones with the ultimate say in LPI, its purpose, and how LPI reaches out to the world.

We've also developed a broader and gentler introduction to helping others gain initial open source skills. The expanded Essentials and new Learning Materials projects will definitely aid us in our search for more and new enthusiasts and professionals.

Our volunteer and partnering programs have been formalized to make it as easy as possible for other groups and individuals to teach, learn, and help LPI in its efforts to share essential and invaluable open source knowledge.

All of these accomplishments, and more, were made possible with the great work of the dedicated staff and board members at LPI as well as many exceptional volunteers from around the world. A big thanks to all of you.

In closing, I encourage you to look around the website and get more details on our programs and to join us on our discussion site any time.

Thanks for reading this review. Take care,

G. Matthew Rice
Executive Director
Linux Professional Institute

Table of Contents

Turning passion into profession for more than 20 years

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) was founded as a non-profit body in 1999. Our goal has always been to address the needs and goals of the practitioners who have turned to open source technologies as the basis for their day-to-day lives. The companies and projects producing and supporting open source software are well represented through various groups, but we saw a lack of support for those who seek employment, education, and entrepreneurship working with Linux and similar technologies.

Technical certification was our first main effort - and remains the core project of LPI today - because of the important role that it plays in helping match open source workers with those who would hire or employ them. It's what our community most needed, and we've delivered a multi-faceted credential respected in more than 180 countries. Since our founding, we've enhanced the original certifications and added new ones while welcoming hundreds of supporting partner organizations around the world. But all that we do is driven by our core principles.
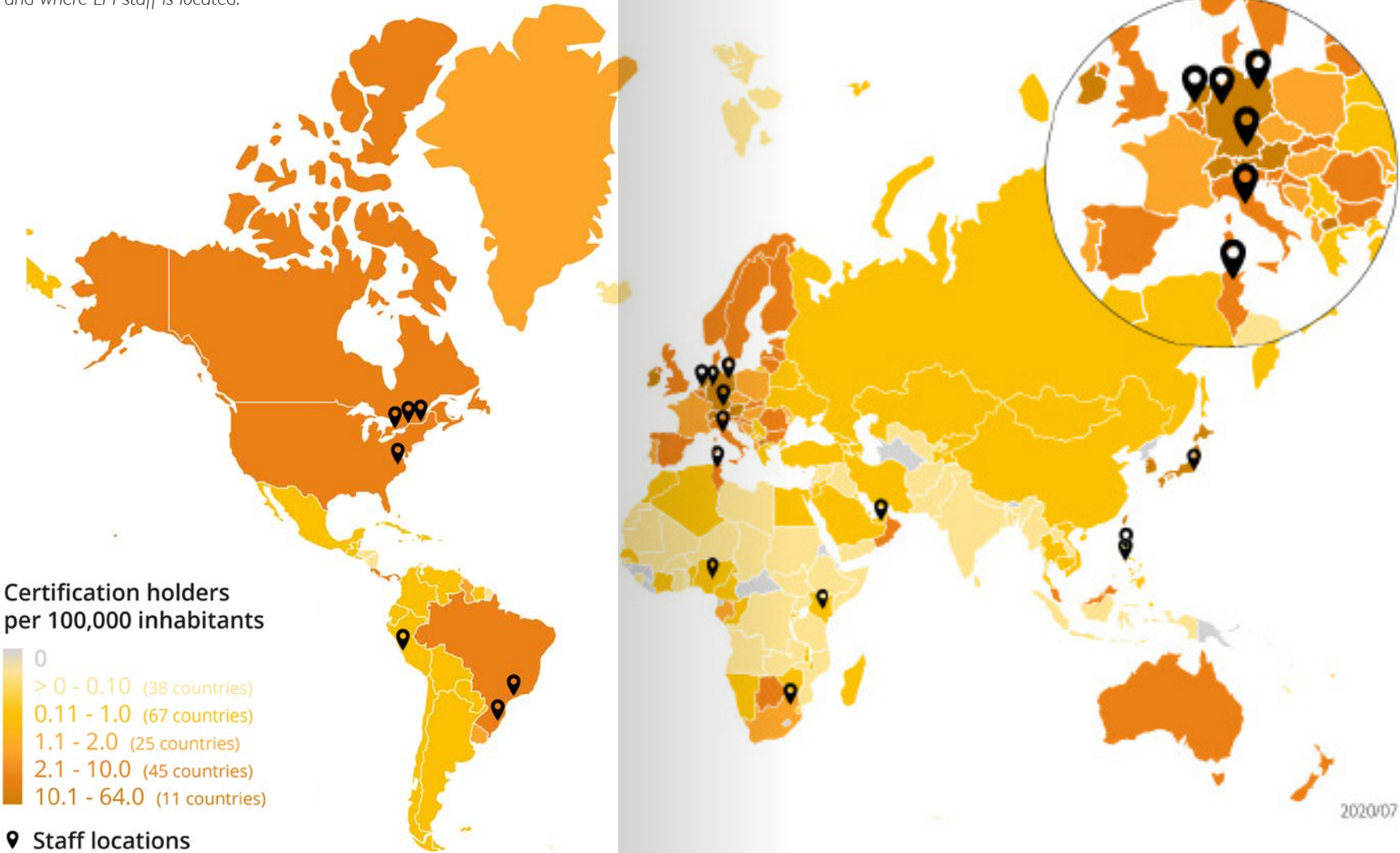
"LPI has changed my life and helped me in pursuing my goals into a practical, usable career path."
Read his story ...

Mehdi Hamidi, Iran
DevOps Specialist, LPIC-1 certification holder

Overview of the density of Linux Professional Institute (LPI) certification holders around the world and where LPI staff is located.

Europe

**Certification holders
per 100,000 inhabitants**

- 0
- > 0 - 0.10 (38 countries)
- 0.11 - 1.0 (67 countries)
- 1.1 - 2.0 (25 countries)
- 2.1 - 10.0 (45 countries)
- 10.1 - 64.0 (11 countries)

📍 **Staff locations**

2020/07

We're different from most IT certifications that are driven either by vendors or associations of vendors, by emphasizing the needs of the open source professional. To accomplish this we've done some things a little differently. By both culture and policy we strive to be:

- **Neutral** regarding Linux vendors, distributions, and methods of training. While we're happy to support the partners working with us, you'll never see a single "official" LPI training program for sale. And someone who passes our Linux certifications will be able to work on almost any distribution used in business.

- **Accessible** by making our exams available around the world, in multiple languages, at prices adjusted to the relative ability to pay in different countries. We are researching ways to reduce the cost of exams to enable as many as people possible to use our programs to advance their careers.

- **Relevant** by listening to our global community. We have a great network of partners, volunteers, and diverse staff across five continents. A new membership program enables certificate holders to become stakeholders and take advantage of programs designed to assist with personal advancement. Ongoing development of certification delivery programs are designed to keep meeting the needs of open source professionals everywhere. And of course we are always working to keep our certifications as high quality, current, and comprehensive as possible.

For more details, please read from our blog
"Zigging when others are zagging"

Certifications

Linux and open source certification provides a tangible measurement to employers of 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 communicates of knowledge and professionalism to clients. Becoming certified can improve upon existing skills and create a more thorough understanding of Linux.

Essentials   Linux Professional   Open Technology

SECURITY ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

LINUX ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

WEB DEVELOPMENT ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

IoT ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

LPIC-1 — Linux Professional Institute

LPIC-2 — Linux Professional Institute

LPIC-3 ENTERPRISE MIXED ENVIRONMENT — Linux Professional Institute

LPIC-3 ENTERPRISE SECURITY — Linux Professional Institute

LPIC-3 ENTERPRISE VIRTUALIZATION AND CONTAINARIZATION — Linux Professional Institute

LPIC-3 ENTERPRISE HIGH AVAILABILITY SYSTEMS AND STORAGE — Linux Professional Institute

DEVOPS TOOLS ENGINEER — Linux Professional Institute

BSD SPECIALIST — Linux Professional Institute

Linux Essentials is LPI's entry level certificate. It serves as a great introduction to the more complete and advanced Linux Professional certification track. Other certificates for beginners are on their way, including Security Essentials, Web Development Essentials, and IoT Essentials.

Linux Professional Institute's certifications are neutral regarding Linux distributions. Our certifications cover Linux installation and shell scripting (LPIC-1), network security and the Linux kernel (LPIC-2), and a final specialization in Mixed Environments, Security, High Availability, or Virtualization and Containerization (LPIC-3).

With the Linux Professional Institute DevOps Tools Engineer and BSD Specialist certifications, LPI also offers proofs of knowledge for professionals working with other open source tools and systems.

Changes to Certifications

LPIC-3 Version 3.0

The Linux Professional Institute LPIC-3 exams will be updated in 2021. Beta testing began in early 2021 and finalized in late May. LPIC-3 has the largest number of new exam questions created to date. The new LPIC-3 exams will be released individually in 2021.

The previous LPIC-3 exam "Virtualization and High Availability" (304) will be divided into "Virtualization and Containarization" (305) and "High Availability" (306). 304 will be discontinued in 2022.

"I chose this route because I use Linux everyday at work and at home, and I would like to further my career into more Linux roles. Plus, LPI covers topics I either do daily or will need to do later."
Read her story ...

Brittany Gates, USA
Creative writer who turned tech professional

New Essentials Certificates

New Essentials certificates are in development. Objective and exam planning has begun for **Security Essentials** and **IoT Essentials**. Objectives and exam development for **Web Development Essentials** have been completed, beta exams are currently being prepared.

WEB DEVELOPMENT ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

SECURITY ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

IoT ESSENTIALS — Linux Professional Institute

Upcoming in 2021

LPIC-2 Objectives Review
Review and update the 201 and 202 objectives

SortiNot
• First set of microservices running on Kubernetes
• Ongoing tests
• Beta tests and translations being prepared (staged for various components, starting with a new candidate portal)

Online Exams

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) offers the Linux Essentials, LPIC-1 (101 and 102), and LPIC-2 (201 and 202) exams via the Pearson VUE OnVUE testing system. LPI exams have traditionally been held physically on-site, and therefore are dependent on external factors and the ability of candidates to travel. With online proctoring, candidates can write their exams at home or in the office to get certified. This saves them time and travel expenses and significantly reduces health risks in times of COVID-19. The online exams can be taken in the following languages:
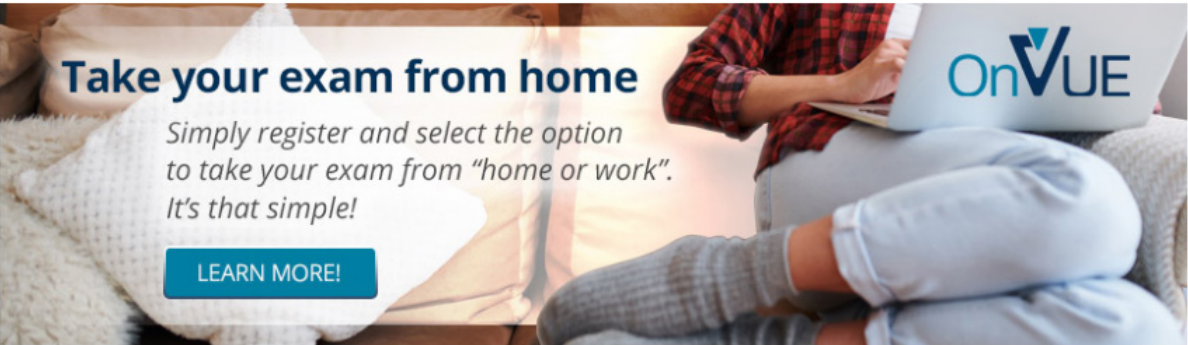
Screenshot of https://home.pearsonvue.com/lpi, where candidates can schedule their exams in a test center or online.

During the online exam, a live proctor will monitor them through the webcam on their work station to provide a secure exam experience.

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

Exam Translations

Linux Professional Institute continued to work towards our goal of international open source support in 2020. Exams were translated into five new languages:

| Japanese | Brazillian (Portugese) | Spanish | Dutch | Italian |

Here is an overview of the availability of the LPI exams in the different langauges:

Learning Materials

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

Thanks to the efforts of more than 45 professionals from 14 countries, free Learning Materials were made available for Linux Essentials and the entirety of the LPIC-1 certification. Learning Materials are currently in development for the Web Development Essentials, DevOps Tools Engineer, and BSD Specialist certifications.

The Learning Materials are available online at https://learning.lpi.org/en/.

Linux Essentials
Version 1.6
English
010

LPIC-1
Version 5.0
English
101

LPIC-1
Version 5.0
English
102

Learning Materials

Translations

Learning Materials for Linux Essentials have been translated into nine languages: English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese, Hungarian, Polish, and Portuguese. It is Linux Professional Institute's most language-diverse resource. Additional translations are currently in development. Our focus on allowing the fundamentals of Linux to be freely accessible in as many languages as possible has improved international access to an education in open source.

Other translations for Learning Materials are:

Web Development Essentials (Upcoming)
In Development: EN, ES, PT

LPIC-1 (101)
Complete: EN, ES, PT, FR, IT, JA, PL

LPIC-1 (102)
Complete: EN, PT
In Development: ES, FR, IT, JA

Numbers

Lessons	Authors	Lines	Commits
428	46	246845	4244

"Our mission was clear: to repair as many old computers as we could, and possibly buy some new ones. On one condition, though: they had to run a GNU/Linux distro!"
Read his story ...

Alejandro Egea Abellán, Spain
Technical Consultant at the Ministry of Education in Murcia, part of the Learning Materials team.

Partnership

Partner Programs Deployed

Linux Professional Institute
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.

Linux Professional Institute
TRAINING PARTNER

Linux Professional Institute
PUBLISHING PARTNER

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

Linux Professional Institute
COMMUNITY PARTNER

Linux Professional Institute
CHANNEL PARTNER

Designed for organizations with their own communities and partner groups, the Community and Channel Partner programs help provide opportunities for cooperative promotions at LPI events. These partners also gain access to a joint marketing fund and discounts on exams.

Linux Professional Institute
HIRING PARTNER

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

Next

Linux Professional Institute
SOLUTION PROVIDER

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

Linux Professional Institute
CORPORATE SPONSOR

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

Linux Trainers

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) actively supports the educators who help cultivate and guide our FOSS community. Linux Trainers can first become registered through their partner organization, and then have the option of applying to become an LPI approved trainer.

Registered Trainer

Trainers who have been registered through their partner organization

- Updates on:
  - Certifications
  - Learning materials
  - Program changes
  - News
- Priority access to trainer webinars

Approved Trainer

Trainers approved by Linux Professional Institute

- Access to all member benefits
- Updates on certifications and materials
- Use of LPI Approved Trainer logo
- Welcome letter (includes link to downloadable certificate)
- DIscounts available for their students
- Dedicated area on discuss.lpi.org
- Eligible to join the Advisory Commitee (AAC or AT specific)

For more information on the prerequisits for both stages of our Trainer Partnership, and how you can apply, visit us at https://www.lpi.org/become-trainer

"I wanted to give to my academy platform the same consistency. This is the reason why now Masterdemy is now an LPI Partner: to promote Linux and Open Source to people in my country." **Read his story ...**

Tola Leng, Cambodia
Founder of Masterdemy, LPI Training Partner

Volunteer Projects

Authors

Volunteer authors from many different regions of the world share their opensource 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 help provide assistance and support at community events. If you would like to participate in future booth events, contact us at volunteer@lpi.org.

Translators

LPI's translations are made possible through international volunteers. In 2020, thanks to community support, our website content was made available in five new languages. Our exams can now be taken in English, German, Japanese, Portuguese (Brazilian), and Spanish.

Translations are required for the LPIC-1 Learning Materials, website content, technical articles, 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 the Linux Professional Institute. They are what makes LPI strong and firmly rooted in the community.

Volunteer Projects

Exam Development Team Members

The certification development team is always looking for additional help in creating, reviewing and translating the exam content to ensure 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 project who:

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

Committee Members

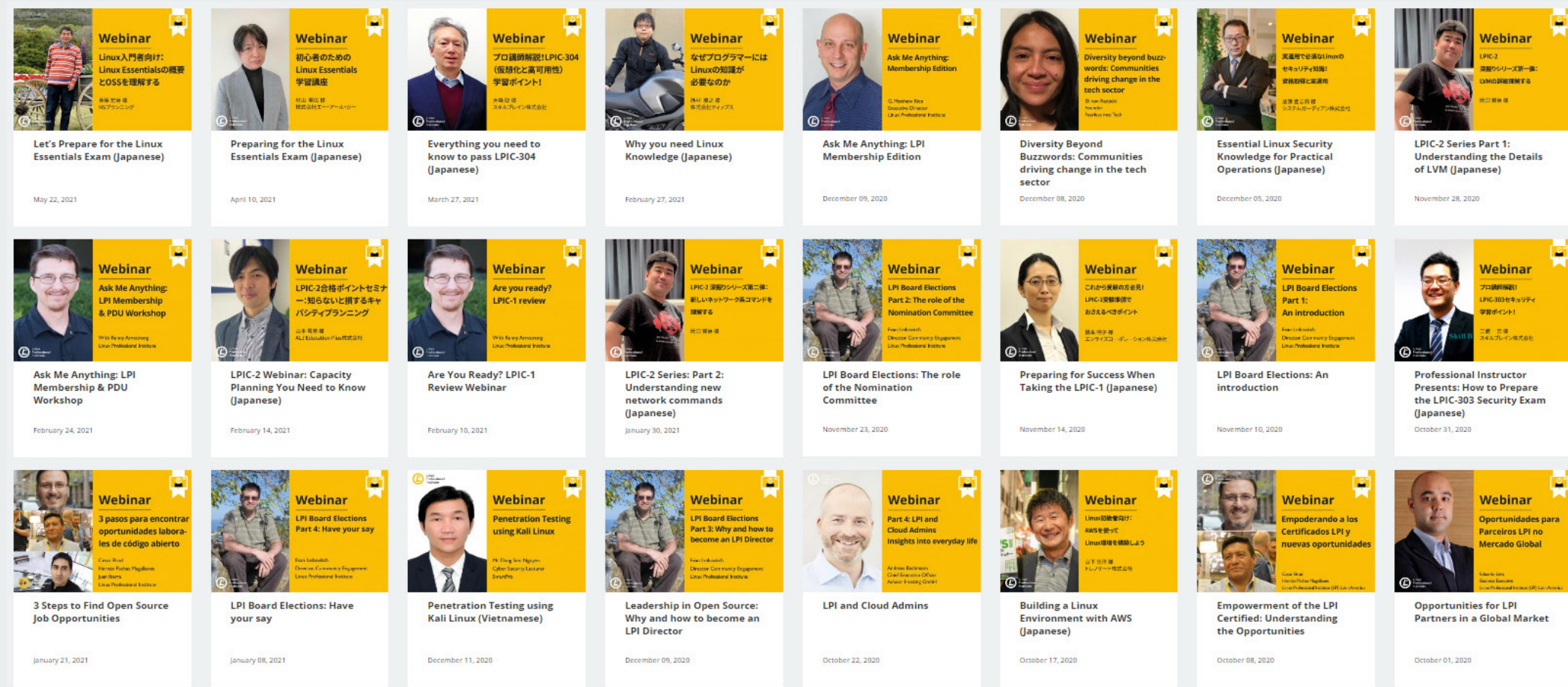LPI has a variety of committees designed to give community members the opportunity to collaborate on projects with like-minded individuals and provide LPI with important feedback and guidance. Committee members have the opportunity to propose new projects that can be supported (financially or developmentally)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

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

Let's Prepare for the Linux Essentials Exam (Japanese) — May 22, 2021

Preparing for the Linux Essentials Exam (Japanese) — April 10, 2021

Everything you need to know to pass LPIC-304 (Japanese) — March 27, 2020

Why you need Linux Knowledge (Japanese) — February 27, 2021

Ask Me Anything: LPI Membership Edition — December 09, 2020

Diversity Beyond Buzzwords: Communities driving change in the tech sector — December 08, 2020

Essential Linux Security Knowledge for Practical Operations (Japanese) — December 05, 2020

LPIC-2 Series Part 1: Understanding the Details of LVM (Japanese) — November 28, 2020

Opportunities for LPI Partners in a Global Market — September 24, 2020

Series part 3: LPI and Azure (German) — September 24, 2020

Ask Me Anything: LPI Membership Edition — September 23, 2020

Series part 2: LPI and Homeautomation (German) — September 17, 2020

Webinar: The importance of hosting in web positioning (Spanish) — May 29, 2020

Webinar: Why Linux is like Pizza: How to choose a distribution — May 28, 2020

Webinar: Join our LPIC-1 Preparation Webinar (Japanese) — May 23, 2020

Webinar: Understanding Linux Professional Institute Learning Materials — May 20, 2020

Ask Me Anything: LPI Membership & PDU Workshop — February 24, 2021

LPIC-2 Webinar: Capacity Planning You Need to Know (Japanese) — February 14, 2021

Are You Ready? LPIC-1 Review Webinar — February 10, 2021

LPIC-2 Series: Part 2: Understanding new network commands (Japanese) — January 30, 2021

LPI Board Elections: The role of the Nomination Committee — November 23, 2020

Preparing for Success When Taking the LPIC-1 (Japanese) — November 14, 2020

LPI Board Elections: An introduction — November 10, 2020

Professional Instructor Presents: How to Prepare the LPIC-303 Security Exam (Japanese) — October 31, 2020

Getting Started with Linux! (Japanese) — September 12, 2020

Series part 1: LPI and AWS (German) — September 10, 2020

Linux Beginners Series: How to Start Learning Linux — September 10, 2020

Summer of Code: Creating successes and opportunities — July 23, 2020

Webinar: Knowledge to Manage Security Linux distributions (Spanish) — May 08, 2020

Webinar: Installing a web server in the cloud (Spanish) — May 07, 2020

Webinar: Pentesting APIs and Linux Microservices (Spanish) — May 07, 2020

Webinar: Professional Opportunities in Linux and Open Source (Spanish) — May 01, 2020

3 Steps to Find Open Source Job Opportunities — January 21, 2021

LPI Board Elections: Have your say — January 08, 2021

Penetration Testing using Kali Linux (Vietnamese) — December 11, 2020

Leadership in Open Source: Why and how to become an LPI Director — December 09, 2020

LPI and Cloud Admins — October 22, 2020

Building a Linux Environment with AWS (Japanese) — October 17, 2020

Empowerment of the LPI Certified: Understanding the Opportunities — October 08, 2020

Opportunities for LPI Partners in a Global Market — October 01, 2020

27 Years of FreeBSD and Why You Should Get Involved! — June 24, 2020

Improving my Privacy and Security on the Internet (Spanish) — June 12, 2020

Join our LPIC-1 Preparation Session (Japanese) — June 07, 2020

Free software tools for education (Spanish) — June 05, 2020

Webinar: There are No Shortcuts to the Magical World of Technology (Spanish) — April 24, 2020

Join our Linux Professional Institute LPIC-1 Preparation Webinar — March 03, 2020

Train the Trainer Webinar: Linux Essentials - In Spanish — February 28, 2020

Train the Trainer Webinar: Linux Essentials - In Portuguese — February 27, 2020

Many events that could not take place in 2020, or could only take place virtually. Linux Professional Institute compensated with a series of webinars to help its staff and partners engage with the open source communities across multiple languages and countries. We saw a lot of interest and engagement when partners hosted webinars that we could support. Webinars brought attention to our communities and partners by shining a spotlight on them and helping to share their stories, best practices, and expertise. LPI looks forward to hosting more webinars in 2021.
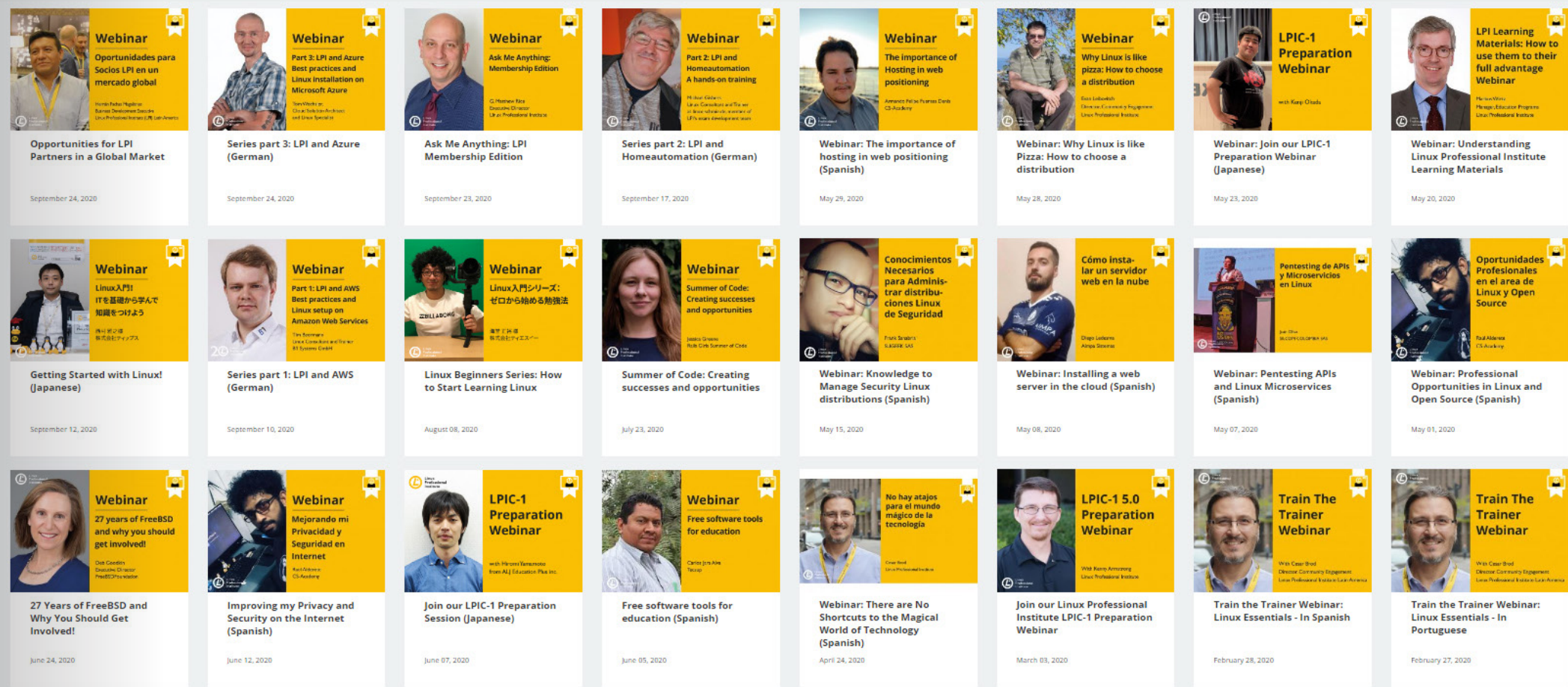
Recordings of previous webinars, such as "Are you ready for LPIC-1?", "Why FreeBSD?", or "Creating Successes and Opportunities" provide hours of freely available resources that users can access through our website: https://www.lpi.org/webinars/.

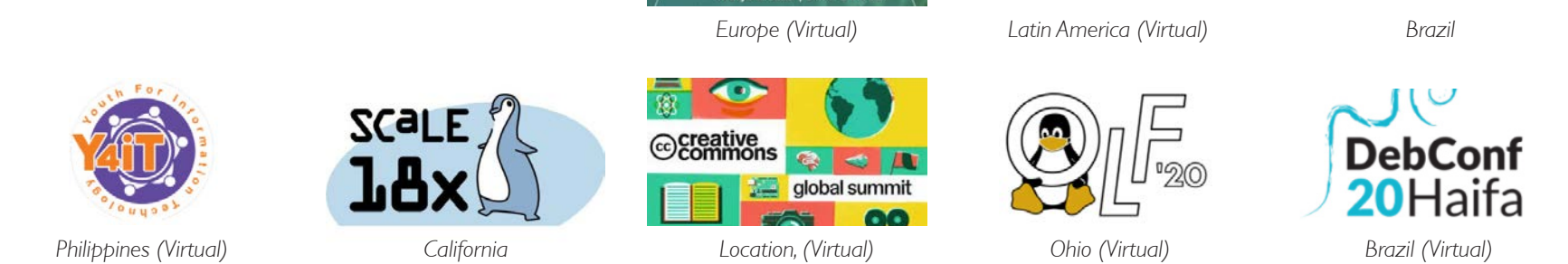In 2020 LPI hosted over 45 webinars in 5 languages

Events

Throughout 2020, LPI continued to expand its engagement with developers in the FOSS community, through events. While COVID-19 precautions shifted event venues online, LPI has experienced tremendous growth in virtual event hosting and partnership. Some successes from 2020 include:

Supported over 50 events from January 2020 - May 2021:

FOSDEM *Central Europe*	ともにつくる 2020 *Tokyo, Japan*	**Informática 2020** *Havana, Cuba*
EduTECH *Asia (Virtual)*	**LINUX CONF** *Australia (Virtual)*	**Developer Land @Home** *Latin America (Virtual)*

THE DEVELOPER'S CONFERENCE *Brazil (Virtual)*	**TDC ONLINE** *Brazil (Virtual)*

Presented at over 30 events:

openexpo virtual experience "Charlas de experTUX" por Linux Professional Institute 17-21 junio 2020 | 5 PM - 8 PM CET *Europe (Virtual)*	**campus party** Digital Edition *Latin America (Virtual)*	**DevOpsDays** Vitoria *Brazil*
Y4iT *Philippines (Virtual)*	**SCaLE 18x** *California*	**creative commons global summit** *Location, (Virtual)*

OLF '20 *Ohio (Virtual)*	**DebConf 20 Haifa** *Brazil (Virtual)*

In 2021, LPI extended our event reach to EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa) and APAC (Asia-Pacific and Europe, the Middle East, and Africa).
Two regional partner events are scheduled to take place by the end of 2021.

Grant Programs

Employability Program

Designed to enable access to training, certification, and employment opportunities to candidates in need that are willing to develop careers in open source, through the network of LPI Partners.
- Ready to go (well defined, structured, and documented)
- Takes advantage of LPI partner network
- Free Linux and open source training and certification for people in need
- Starting pilots with five training partners around the world
- Looking for hiring opportunities for candidates

General Grants

For projects aligned with LPI's core mission, such as open source software development, support of FOSS community activities, etc.
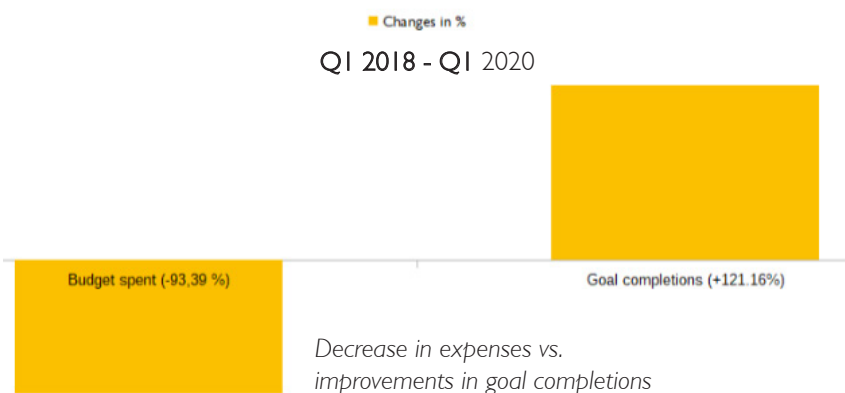
Entrepreneur Program

In the design stage. Main idea is to match up candidates' knowledge and skills diversity (tech, biz, project management, etc.) and come up with entrepreneurial models and templates in order to create future FOSS solution providers.

Marketing + Social Media

Linux Professional Institute has shifted marketing from paid promotions to organic growth. This means creating content that is more relevant, helpful, and entertaining for open-source communities.

As a result of our changes, online engagement has flourished (121%). Our revised approach allows LPI to reach more IT professionals and inform them of the community support and certification tools needed to succeed.

With expenses reduced to 6.6% of that in 2018, our budget has been refocused to initiatives that greater benefit the FOSS community.

■ Changes in %

Q1 2018 - Q1 2020

Budget spent (-93,39 %)   Goal completions (+121.16%)

Decrease in expenses vs. improvements in goal completions

Google Ads:
17,216,967 impressions
56,256 clicks
1,748 conversions

Ad Grants:
701,176 impressions
69,658 clicks
5,001 conversions

Established global guidelines for social media and content, updated Brand Book

Modified lpi.org website design: new navigation, banners for promotions

Published more than 50 blog and news articles on lpi.org

Nearly 1K new subscribers on YoutTube

Added new sections for Community, Membership, Webinars, and Committees on lpi.org

1,994,485 pageviews on lpi.org

Marketing + Social Media
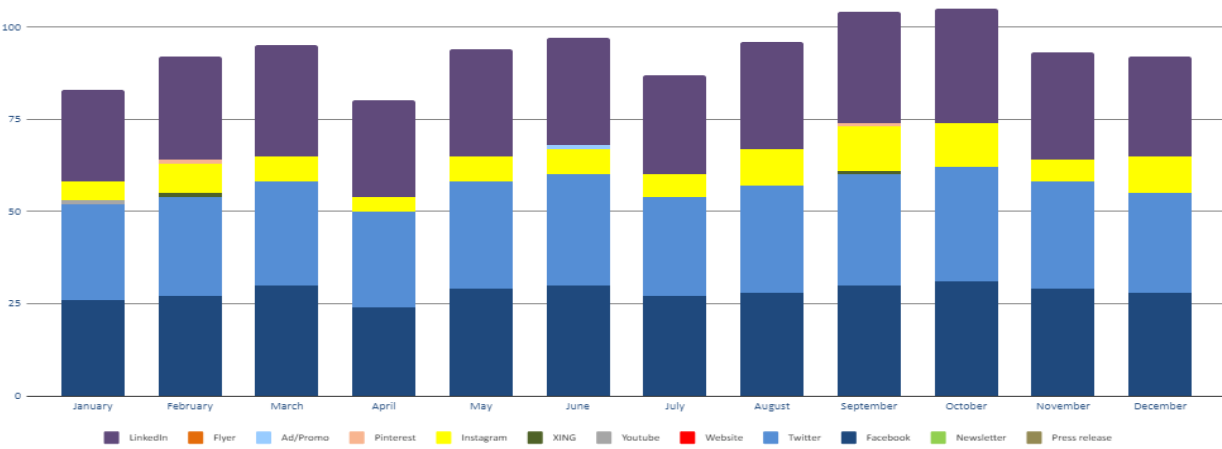
10,000+ Followers

145,000+ Likes

50,000+ Followers

2,000+ Subscribers

https://twitter.com/lpiconnect   https://www.facebook.com/LPIConnect   https://www.linkedin.com/company/linux-professional-institute/   https://www.instagram.com/lpi_org/

Month	Posts
January	83
February	92
March	95
April	80
May	94
June	97
July	87
August	96
September	104
October	105
November	93
December	92

In 2020 Linux Professional Institute published 339 postings on Facebook, 339 postings on Twitter, 340 postings on LinkedIn, and 94 postings on Instagram.

Open Source Software Used at LPI
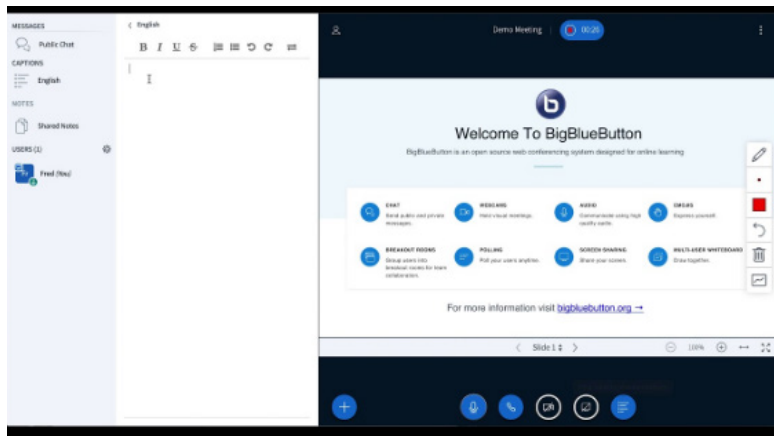
Part of Linux Professional Institute's mission is to promote the use of open source software. Here are some of the FOSS programs that help LPI achieve our goal of elevating users:

BigBlueButton *(left)* is LPI's conference software of choice. BigBlueButton runs in-browser with all the standard necessities (chatbox, optional video calling, and screenshare) and the added bonus of a shared notepad and whiteboard.

GitLab

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

Mattermost

Chat client software of choice for internal communication.

Nextcloud

Cloud storage. Securely share documents with your team.

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

Libre web-based translation tool. Used in translations for the LPI Learning Materials project.

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 that LPI operations rely on.

Open-source Software Used at LPI

Debian

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

OpenVPN

Secure Virtual Private Network software.

LimeSurvey

Questionnaire and survey builder used to collect feedback from our community.

Drupal

Content hosting software. Provides a back-end framework for 13% of all sites on the web - including lpi.org.

Mastodon

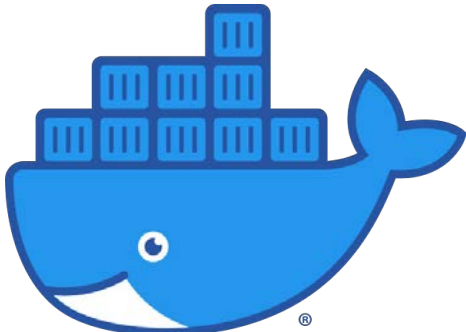Ad-free open source social media platform.

OpenProject

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

Open Source Software Used at LPI

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 dependecies needed to run software.

OmegaT

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

Hugo

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

Git

Software for tracking changes in source code. Used by developers collaborating on a project.

Membership Program

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) membership offers benefits and privileges that will support you, your professional path, and the growth of the open source community.

LPI's Membership program has grown to include certified professionals from all across the globe, embodying the international community Linux Professional Institute represents.

As a non-profit organization, LPI has stakeholders, not shareholders. Our focus is dedicated to our mission of elevating users over profit. The governance model of LPI is designed to give our certified open source practitioners a say in the direction of the organization.

This year contains the first AGM where Members will not only get to vote for new Board of Director candidates, but also have the opportunity to run for a position themselves.

Our transformation to a member-based organization allows the open source community to guide the future of LPI in a way that best supports their needs. The ability to vote or run for Board of Directors allows members to form an LPI government that represents their values, concerns, and ideas.

To facilitate the move to a member-based organization, LPI has inducted its first independent Nominating Committee to determine the best candidates for the Board and produce a valuable selection of candidates for the Members to vote on.

These changes will empower the people we aim to support most, guiding us as a community to increased education, professional recognition, and elevation through Linux.

The mission of LPI is ultimately to elevate and support the users of FOSS — certification being a means to do so, but not an end.
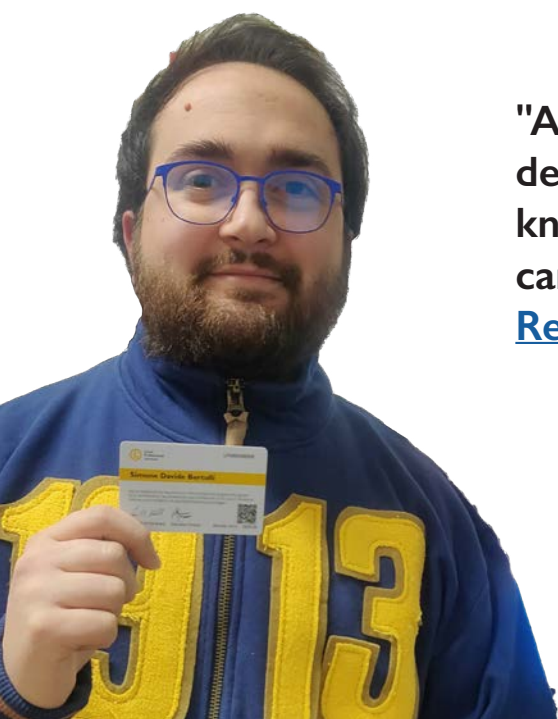
"An IT certification is what provides you with a well-defined path and a clear, specific target to translate the knowledge you already learned into a practical, usable career path."
Read his story ...

Simone "Simo" Bertulli, Italy
Cyber Security Expert and a Linux Enterprise Specialist

Membership Program

Although studying for a new certification is a valuable investment, members now also have the option of accruing Professional Development Units (PDUs) as an alternative way to maintain the active status of their certification. This allows members to use work and volunteer experience as proof of an up-to-date understanding of Linux. Examples include publishing FOSS content, contributing to community projects, or working as an open-source educator.

Other benefits provided for members include:

Discounts on LPI exams.

Subsidies for training materials, software, and hardware.

Membership certificate and usage of the LPI Membership logo for use online and in print.

Access to exclusive articles and webinars covering topics in technology and soft skills.

To learn more about our LPI membership program, visit: https://www.lpi.org/member.

Together we can promote open source use and education around the world!

Board of Directors

In light of our first our election in 2021, Linux Professional Institute would also 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 2020:

Jon "maddog" Hall

Jon "maddog" Hall is the Chairman 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 and donated personal money to allow the first 200 tests be tested for psychometrics. 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.

Christopher (Duffy) Fron

Duffy Fron is a business leader with over 20 years of experience in the high tech and telecommunications industries. Duffy is known for turning around under-performing businesses and growing ecosystems in emerging markets.

Duffy holds a Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University and a Master of International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He spent 18 years in marketing leadership roles at IBM, several years leading sales teams in the telecommunication sector, and is currently the Chief Commercial Officer at Asponte Technology.

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.

Evan Leibovitch

Evan Leibovitch is a co-founder of LPI, author of its charter, and first Chair of its Board.

Evan has been heavily involved in the worlds of open source software, open standards, and open access to technology. He has previously served as Community Technology Access Coordinator for the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). He was also a founder of the Internet Society Canada Chapter, and has played key roles advocating the public interest within ICANN, WSIS, the ITU, and other multilateral bodies and initiatives. He has written more than 100 articles on Linux and the phenomenon of open source.

Bryan J Smith

Bryan J Smith's enterprise experience has focused on open source-based infrastructure in large-scale (10K+ instance) data centers. His work in the Americas includes some of the first and largest OSS storage, VDI, and related IaaS, PaaS, and DevOps solutions on behalf of several industry leaders.

He is a graduate of UCF's College of Engineering and Computer Science, holds four dozen IT certifications from a dozen different programs, and has been involved with the development of several, including LPI, for over a decade.

Torsten Scheck

Torsten Scheck works as a software engineer for SAP, a market leader in enterprise application software. As member of the SAP HANA core team, he is in charge of the toolchain for an innovative, large-scale C++ development environment on Linux. He drives regional LUG activities and spreads the word through articles and talks.

He holds a degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Cooperative Education Mosbach and an MSc Management from the University of Glamorgan Business School.

Timeline

1998 — Dan York writes "Creating a Linux Certification and Training Program" for Linux Gazette.

1998 — Separate certification efforts merge into a single one.

1999 — First mission statement, "Initiation Job Task Analysis" for LPIC attracts 1,400 participants.

1999 — Advisory Council and German Affiliate are created. LPI logo contest. Initial sponsors sign on.

1999 — LPI first incorporated and signs agreement with Pearson VUE.

2000 — First LPIC-1 certification holder.

2001 — First LPIC-2 certification holder.

2002 — Cert 1,000 delivered.

2002 — First LPI certifications delivered in Brazil.

2003 — 500 people at exam lab in Hong Kong. World Summit on Information Society.

2003 — Invitation to present as open source expert by ITU.

2004 — UN Visit, keynotes and sponsoring of first-ever open source conference in Africa.

2008 — First LPIC-3 Security certfication holder.

2009 — Cert 50,000 delivered.

2010 — First LPIC-3 Mixed Environment certification holder.

2011 — 100,000 Certifications delivered.

2012 — First Linux Essentials certification holder.

2014 — 500,000 registrations.

2017 — First DevOps Tools Engineer certification holder

2017 — Bylaw change to include membership.

2017 — 200,000 Certifications delivered.

2018 — First cert holder for LPI DTE, also added BSD.

2019 — Learning Portal launched.

2020 — Membership program launched.

2020 — Made online exams available.

2021 — 250,000 Certifications delivered.

Back in 1998, Apple had released the iMac and Microsoft did Windows98. Unix was still a force on server computers, but Linux was rapidly becoming a growing phenomenon with millions of users worldwide. Upstart companies such as Red Hat and Caldera were attracting the attention of corporate users with their commercial packaging and support of Linux, but analysts and IT journalists maintained Linux would never get beyond a niche presence without dramatic increases in support.

That year, 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?

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. Meanwhile, a separate discussion led by Evan Leibovitch at the Canadian Linux Users Exchange was promoting a similar initiative. Jon "maddog" Hall knew both leaders, introduced them, and they merged their efforts into a single project to create a community-based Linux certification
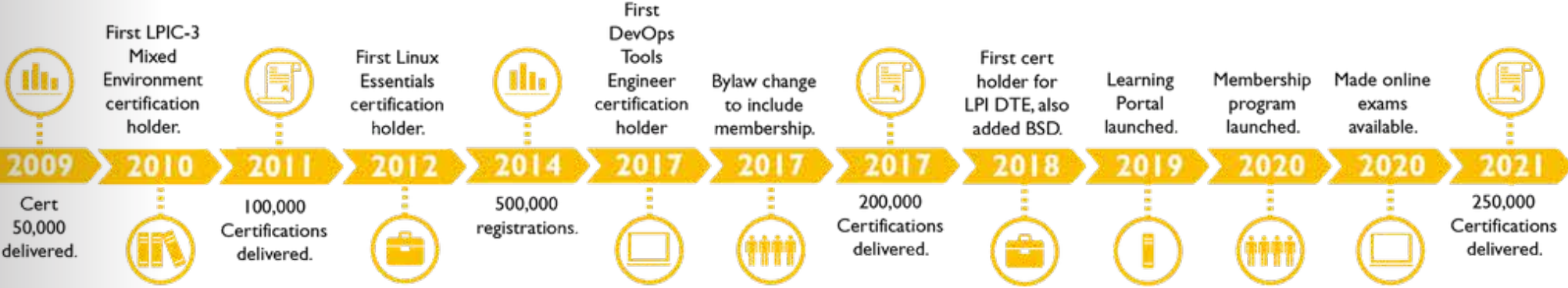
program. The agreed objective was to take a different path from most IT certifications of the day, by being:
- Non-profit
- Neutral with regard to vendors, open source operating systems, and software distributions
- Opposed to using certification as a tool to sell "official training"
- Psychometrically validated
- Multilingual and globally accessible

By the spring of 1999, the certification effort caught the attention of Benoy Tamang at Linux distributor Caldera, which paid for Dan and Evan to meet with the company and make a pitch for funding. The day before the pitch — April 4, 1999 — they snuck into the single meeting room of the La Quinta Inn in Orem, Utah where the three-tier program now known as Linux Professional Institute Certification was created. (While other

LPI programs have since been added, the "LPIC" track remains functionally identical to the 1999 design.) Caldera liked what they saw the next day and became LPI's first corporate sponsor. Other sponsors, including IBM and SUSE, came on board soon after.

With a structure and preliminary funding in place, a team needed to be formed. Dan and Evan were

History

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 it was one of the few jurisdictions that allowed virtual board meetings in 1999, and because Canada was considered to be politically neutral.

After the first Level 1 exams were launched in 2000, followed by Level 2 in 2001, LPI gained international acceptance and community support. Level 3 followed in 2007. LPI launched the introductory Linux Essentials program in 2012 and DevOps certification in 2017. We began work with the BSD Certification Group in 2017, leading to the 2019 launch of the BSD Specialist program. In 2019 we introduced learning.lpi.org, a portal for learning materials that offered the first in a series of free study guides aimed to assist students and trainers alike.

International affiliates were established around the world, first in Germany, Japan, and Brazil. In November 2003, LPI hosted more than 500 people at its exam lab at LinuxWorld Hong Kong, the largest of many such events we have held. 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. More recently we have launched new employment programs, are participating in Software Freedom Day worldwide, continue to participate in open source conferences everywhere, and have supported our partners in local advocacy efforts. Over time, the LPI network of partners has

expanded in both numbers and geographic reach. And last year (2020) we formalized a relationship with Network Development Group (NDG) that will make LPI programs more available to the thousands of institutions and millions of students in the Cisco Networking Academy.

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. Our first-ever Board election is being held at its Annual General Meeting in June 2021. As part of 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.

As it passes through the COVID years, now offering at-home certification exams, LPI's history continues to be written. New partnerships, certification programs, languages, accessibility initiatives, and free training materials are in the works.

All of us at LPI want to thank everyone who has helped it grow from a couple of mailing lists into the world's largest open source skills certification program. Special recognition is due to the companies Linuxcare and Starnix for keeping Dan and Evan respectively on their payrolls while they worked on LPI during its early formation.

Thank you.