2023 Annual Review
98% of organizations use open source software.

- Software Bill of Materials and Cybersecurity Readiness Report 2022

98% of hiring managers state that certification and formal training are a priority for evaluating job candidates.

- Open Source Jobs Report 2022

72% of hiring managers are hiring the same or more open source professionals.

- Open Source Jobs Report 2022

78% of companies report open source talent is given higher salary increases than other business areas.

- Open Source Jobs Report 2022

58% of candidates are more confident in their abilities after certification.

- Pearson VUE Value of IT Certification Report 2023

92% of candidates are more confident in their abilities after certification.

- Pearson VUE Value of IT Certification Report 2023

72% of hiring managers state that certification and formal training are a priority for evaluating job candidates.

- Open Source Jobs Report 2022

98% of organizations use open source software.

- Software Bill of Materials and Cybersecurity Readiness Report 2022

78% of hiring managers are hiring the same or more open source professionals.

- Open Source Jobs Report 2022

58% of companies report open source talent is given higher salary increases than other business areas.

- Open Source Jobs Report 2022

92% of candidates are more confident in their abilities after certification.

- Pearson VUE Value of IT Certification Report 2023
Foreword

Writing this introduction to the 2023 LPI Annual Review is bittersweet for me, as this will be the last introduction I write as the Board Chairman of the Linux Professional Institute and will be the last time I sit on the Board of Directors.

The new Bylaws allow for a three-year term plus the option of being elected for a second three-year term for a total of six consecutive years. Before there was a term limit, I’ve been on the board for nine years and I’ve run for a second, three-year term I would still be on the board at 70 years of age, with the last time I was doing systems administration work or “professional programming” more than two decades ago. I have been honored to be on the Board and the Board Chair since 2015, and I feel it is both time for new leadership and time for me to finish some of the other projects that I have been working on for a long time.

I have also been honored to work with a great staff who are excited to be working for LPI and came up with innovative ideas and programs such as “Upgrade to Linux” and “Linux Clubs.”

This year is a good time to step down. Due to the term limit provisions of the Bylaws, we will have five board positions (including mine) up for re-election as well as three board seats that could be filled with member-nominated candidates on a member-driven ballot. That would be a total of five to eight new board members to bring new ideas to the organization.

I will not be disappearing from LPI’s plan on helping with blog articles and conference presentations when people ask, as I always have over the years, but I will pass on the formal board position to others who may have more energy than I currently have.

As an example, since I will not be on the Board nor running for the Board I am eligible (according to the Bylaws) to work directly with the Nominating Committee and some of my old friends. So I hope that you will give back to LPI by joining the Board of Directors or by joining one of our technical committees. Maybe we will work together in the future.

Pax Vobiscum,

Jon Valvano,
Board Chairman :
Linux Professional Institute

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Review for the Linux Professional Institute (LPI). This document represents the ongoing work we do here at LPI alongside our members, certifications holders, partners, and volunteers to further our shared desire to fulfill the core mission to "promote the use of open source by supporting the people who work within it.”

2023 has seen the beta launch of the Open Source Essentials (OSE) program and certifcate. The final launch and general availability is taking place in February 2024. This is the fourth Essentials-level certificate program and joins last year’s Security Essentials and our launch of Web Development Essentials and Linux Essentials.

We’ve developed a broader and gentler introduction to open source knowledge and associated skills. The expanded Essentials and Learning Materials programs have aided us in our search for more and new enthusiasts and professionals. Visit our website for more details on the OSE program and keep an eye on the Learning Materials site for free content that can aid in your studies, be used for teaching, or as a reference for you to create your own materials.

As always, we continue to grow our programs and volunteer base. Our volunteer program is one of the primary ways in which we reach the rest of the world. Please consider joining our outreach efforts to help others to teach, learn, and use Linux and open source tools if you have some time available.

To everyone who is already helping out, a big hug and thanks to all of you. All of the accomplishments that we’re sharing in this annual review 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.

Thanks for reading this review and let us know how we’re doing. If you aren’t certain how you can help, send us an email at volunteer@lpi.org or join us on our discussion site any time and we’ll come up with some ideas together.

Take care and have a safe, fruitful, and healthy 2024.

G. Matthew Rice
Executive Director
Linux Professional Institute
## Table of Contents

04 Forewords
08 Partners Sharing Their Knowledge
10 Certifications
11 Online Exams
12 Essentials Certificates
13 Open Source Essentials
14 Learning Materials
16 Membership Program
17 find.lpi.org
18 Partnership
19 Linux Trainers
20 Volunteer Programs
22 Events
23 Upgrade to Linux
24 Marketing and Social Media
26 Open Source Software Used at LPI
28 Board of Directors
32 History of LPI
Partners Sharing Their Knowledge

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) has many hundreds of partners around the world. They form the backbone of a strong community dedicated to promoting the use of open source by supporting people who work with it. Our partners do this in a variety of ways, acting above all as partners of our certification holders themselves.

Partners provide support for learning about Linux and open source technologies through training, exam taking, technical support, jobs, and publications. In short, they represent concentrated knowledge on open source topics. A large amount of knowledge those seeking certification is available to a wide audience free of charge, providing useful tips and guidance to the community of several hundred thousand certification holders and those who want to become one.

Blog Series About Security Essentials

The past Spring partners worked with us to introduce the new Security Essentials certificate. They explained in a blog series why IT security is important for everyone and how to prepare for the new exam. The blog series received more than 2 million impressions just on Facebook, with more than 20,000 people clicking on it.

About Different Certification Levels

The security series was followed by a series that emphasized the special features of the individual LPI certificates and certifications and explained what content they convey. For whom is each Essentials program aimed? For whom is LPC-1 interesting? how can you build on achieving this certification? Why is certification important for employee development and retention? The LPI community honored this series with more than 4.4 million Facebook impressions and more than 30,000 clicks.

Introduction to Web Development Essentials

What’s it all about? How do I prepare for the exam? Does this career path have a future or will AI replace developers one day? Our partners shared their knowledge and gave their assessments. More than 5 million impressions and almost 50,000 clicks were the result, thanks to an enthusiastic audience.

And a Lot More

In addition to the series that various partners created together, some partners contributed their own series, such as the fantastic YouTuber Morrolinux from Italy and the great learning materials author Marco Colombo. Throughout the year, the former repeatedly gave practical tips on working with Linux, from recovery tools and games to building your own WiFi repeater in six blog postings. Marco Colombo described in detail how to prepare for Web Development Essentials. These two series also received an overwhelming amount of attention, both on social media and on lpi.org.

We are very happy to be able to work with such great partners. We also hope to work with more partners in 2024 to increase and spread knowledge of Linux and open source tools.

If you are an LPI partner and would like to participate in one of the next series, just send an email to communications@lpi.org.
Certifications

Linux and open source certifications provide 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 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, as well as certificates in Linux, Web Development, Open Source, and Security.

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 and Japanese online. Linux Essentials and LPIC-1 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.

Online Exams

Ready to schedule your Linux Professional Institute certification exam?

Take your exam from home

Simply choose “Online at my home or office” when presented with exam options.

Learn more

Screenshot of https://home.pearsonvue.com, where candidates can schedule their exams in a test center or online. 

During the online exam, a live proctor monitors candidates through the webcam on their workstations to provide a secure exam experience.

For more information, visit: https://www.lpi.org/online-testing.
Linux Professional Institute (LPI) released beta exams for the latest certificate in the Essentials series, Open Source Essentials, in Q4 of 2023. Following the successful beta launch, candidate feedback was used to further build the psychometric strength of Open Source Essentials exams. The official launch of Open Source Essentials is scheduled to take place in 2024.

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.

Exam objectives can be reviewed on the LPI website. Open Source Essentials will be released for Pearson VUE test centers, remotely on the OnVUE platform, and at all events where LPI hosts exam labs.

Exam code: 050-100
Languages available: English
Validity period: Lifetime

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

“Thanks to LPI and the support of my colleagues, I have gained confidence, expanded my knowledge, and discovered new opportunities for growth. This experience has reinforced my belief in the power of certifications and their ability to validate skills, open doors, and enhance career prospects.”
Read her story ...

Lilia Sfaxi
Computer Science & Mathematics Assistant Professor
Institut National des Sciences Appliquées et de Technologie, Tunisia

““For me, Linux Professional Institute (LPI) is a reference point, and I know how gratifying it is to be someone with an LPI certificate. I know how important certifications are, and I believe every professional [in IT-related fields] should have one.”
Read her story ...

Isabela Fedrigo
Information Security Analyst
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 Linux Essentials, Web Development Essentials, and the entirety of the LPIC-1 certification. Further Learning Materials are currently in development for other certificates, such as Security Essentials.

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

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.

For Linux Essentials, Learning Materials are available in 14 languages, with more in preparation. Web Development Essentials have already been translated into 11 languages. For more details on available translations and materials for LPIC-1, DevOps, and BSD, visit: https://learning.lpi.org/en/about/translations/

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 to learning@lpi.org and join our network of contributors!
Membership Program

Linux Professional Institute (LPI) reached more than 250 active members in 2023. LPI Members 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 instead of certification renewal to prove an understanding of recent changes to Linux technologies. Examples include publishing FOSS content, contributing to community projects, or working as an open-source educator. To learn more about our LPI Membership Program, visit: https://www.lpi.org/member.

Additional benefits of the Membership Program include:

- Discounts on LPI exams.
- Access to exclusive articles and webinars covering technology and soft skills.
- Subsidies for training materials, software, and hardware.
- Membership certificate and usage of the LPI Membership logo for use online and in print.

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

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 via CV or LinkedIn profile and a video submission of the applicant teaching material from LPI certification track.

Approved Trainers

Trainers approved by Linux Professional Institute benefit from:

- Access to all Member benefits
- Access to updates about 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

13 Approved Trainers and counting!

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

“My involvement with LPI has broadened my horizons considerably, sparking my interest in areas like DevOps (my next target for certification), cloud computing, FinOps, and data science. Association with LPI has encouraged the University to explore other skill-development partnerships.”

Read his story...

Bigani Sehurutshi
System Administrator Linux Educator
University of Botswana

“Achieving the long-awaited LPIC-1 and LPIC-2 certifications were pivotal moments, leading to a period of time where I delivered speeches at prestigious events such as Campus Party and renowned FISL conferences [later becoming a Linux teacher, author, and graduate of Computer Engineering].”

Read his story...

Prof Juliano Ramos
Linux Educator, Consultant, and Analyst
Grupo Utah, Share RH, Prodesp, Brazil
Partnership

Partner Programs

- 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.
- Have published LPI exam material promoted to our partners in academia and IT training, and be featured on our website.
- Multi-level benefits for organizations offering Linux and open source system solutions and services.

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

Linux Professional Institute implemented 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 will offer 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 seven languages. Our exams can be taken in English, French, 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.

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.

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

Throughout 2023, 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:

- LPI supported over 25 events from January - December 2023.

Upgrade to Linux

Upgrade to Linux (UTL) was launched in 2022 as an initiative by open source enthusiasts (including staff of Linux Professional Institute) to encourage adoption of Linux and FOSS.

UTL provides resources to help users understand the benefits of open source, with an emphasis on optimizing hardware longevity and free use - reducing e-waste and financial burdens for schools, governments, and organizations.

The UTL website offers How-Tos, recommended FOSS tools, communities, and other features such as testimonials and events.

You can view these resources at www.upgradetolinux.com.
Marketing and Social Media

Launched the new website based on WordPress and improved findability

Started a Mastodon account on FOSSstodon.org

Added Vietnamese language to the website and improved translations in other languages

Established new communications strategy that puts LPI partners in the spotlight

Started Open Marketing, inviting everyone at LPI to share ideas and efforts

Growth over all social media channels, globally and regionally, to 250,000+ followers overall

Ad Grants:
- 871,226 impressions, 64,766 clicks, 5,533 conversions

Google Ads:
- 5,120,760 impressions, 54,543 clicks, 13,277 conversions

In 2023 Linux Professional Institute published 234 posts on Facebook, 236 posts on X, 234 posts on LinkedIn, 88 posts on Instagram, and 93 on Mastodon.
Open Source Software Used at LPI

**Discourse**

**Odoo**
ERP platform.

**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.

**OBS Software**
Streams meetings and webinars on platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.

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

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

**Mattermost**
Chat client software for internal and partner communication.

**Nextcloud**
Cloud storage. Securely share documents with your team.

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

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

**Git**
Software for tracking changes in source code.

**OBS Software**
Streams meetings and webinars on platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.

**Mastodon**
Ad-free open source social media platform.

**OBS Software**
Streams meetings and webinars on platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.

**Mastodon**
Ad-free open source social media platform.

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

**OmegaT**
Translation Memory tool intended for professional translation. Includes auto-complete and extensive glossaries.

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

**Hugo**
Static website generator. The world’s fastest framework for building websites.

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

**OmegaT**
Translation Memory tool intended for professional translation. Includes auto-complete and extensive glossaries.

**Hugo**
Static website generator. The world’s fastest framework for building websites.

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

**OmegaT**
Translation Memory tool intended for professional translation. Includes auto-complete and extensive glossaries.

**Hugo**
Static website generator. The world’s fastest framework for building websites.

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

**OmegaT**
Translation Memory tool intended for professional translation. Includes auto-complete and extensive glossaries.

**Hugo**
Static website generator. The world’s fastest framework for building websites.

“Thanks to the LPIC-1 certification and industry experience, I pursued an IT career opportunity in the finance industry. This experience unveiled to me Linux and Unix software that I had never worked with before and solidified my focus in enterprise open source!”

Read his story...

Sam Wachira
Sr Technical Account Manager
Red Hat UK
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 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.

Dorothy Gordon

Dorothy is the current Chair of the Intergovernmental 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 commercialisation. 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.

VM (Vicky) Brasseur

VM (aka Vicky) is a corporate strategist specializing in free and open source software in business. She is the author of “Forge Your Future with Open Source” the first and only book to detail how individuals can contribute to free and open source software projects. Vicky has been a moderator and author for opensource.com, an author for Linux Journal and FOSSlife, the Vice President of the Open Source Initiative and a frequent and popular speaker at open source conferences. She is the proud winner of the Perl White Camel Award (2014), the O’Reilly Open Source Award (2016) and two Open-source.com Moderator’s Choice Awards (2018, 2019).

Emmanuel Nguimbus

Emmanuel Nguimbus is a computer engineer with more than 12 years of experience. He is also the co-founder of open source projects Teledocta and OpenStudia, 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.
Uirá Ribeiro
Prof. Uirá Ribeiro is a Senior C-Level Executive with a solid Information Technology background, Software Developer, and Internet Architect Engineer. As an educator, he has reached the top, as headmaster of a Brazilian University for more than 15 years. He 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 an LPI Publishing Partner. CEO and founder of Linux Certification Edutech. For 15 years he has taught Linux online classes, with more than 14,000 certified students.

Michinori Nakahara
Michinori Nakahara spent over 30 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.

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 large companies as a product manager including Intel, Packet Engines, Penguin Computing, and smaller companies. Ted has contributed to CreoLinux, which enables Linux to run on Chromebooks, and worked with Linux kernel developers to develop the first Gigabit Ethernet Linux driver. Ted has taught Linux and computer science as an adjunct professor and currently works at a multinational firm on secure cloud environments, and DevSecOps.

Michinori Nakahara
Michinori Nakahara spent over 30 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.

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 large companies as a product manager including Intel, Packet Engines, Penguin Computing, and smaller companies. Ted has contributed to CreoLinux, which enables Linux to run on Chromebooks, and worked with Linux kernel developers to develop the first Gigabit Ethernet Linux driver. Ted has taught Linux and computer science as an adjunct professor and currently works at a multinational firm on secure cloud environments, and DevSecOps.

Ulirá Ribeiro
Ulirá Ribeiro is a Senior C-Level Executive with a solid Information Technology background, Software Developer and Internet Architect Engineer. As an educator, he has reached the top, as headmaster of a Brazilian University for more than 15 years. He 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 an LPI Publishing Partner. CEO and founder of Linux Certification Edutech. For 15 years he has taught Linux online classes, with more than 14,000 certified students.

Michinori Nakahara
Michinori Nakahara spent over 30 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.

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 large companies as a product manager including Intel, Packet Engines, Penguin Computing, and smaller companies. Ted has contributed to CreoLinux, which enables Linux to run on Chromebooks, and worked with Linux kernel developers to develop the first Gigabit Ethernet Linux driver. 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 source software 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.

Ricardo Prudenciato
With a graduate degree in Information Technology and post-graduate work in Computer Networks, Ricardo Prudenciato 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.
History

How LPI filled the certification gap for FOSS

The spheres of certification and open source were long distinct. The strengths and importance of Linux Professional Institute from its first conception to the present.

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 someone's expertise with Windows.

For Linux, there was a large number of distribution companies that wouldn't help advance the deployment of Linux as much as a common certification. 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 need a separate discussion led by Evan Leibovitch at the Canadian Linux Users Exchange promoted a similar initiative, "Join "making" Yes!", 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:

• neutral with regard to vendors, open source operating systems, and software distributions
• opposed to using certification as a tool to sell
• non-profit
• multilingual and globally accessible
• opposed to using certification as a tool to sell
• made online and available

History

How LPI filled the certification gap for FOSS

The spheres of certification and open source were long distinct. The strengths and importance of Linux Professional Institute from its first conception to the present.

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 someone's expertise with Windows.

For Linux, there was a large number of distribution companies that wouldn't help advance the deployment of Linux as much as a common certification. 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 need a separate discussion led by Evan Leibovitch at the Canadian Linux Users Exchange promoted a similar initiative, "Join "making" Yes!", 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:

• neutral with regard to vendors, open source operating systems, and software distributions
• opposed to using certification as a tool to sell
• non-profit
• multilingual and globally accessible
Making it happen

By the spring of 1999, the certification effort caught the attention of Bensen Tamang at Caldera, a Linux distributor who was considering launching their own independent certification program. Bensen got in touch with Dave and Evan to meet with Caldera and make a pitch for funding. The day before the pitch—April 4, 1999—Dave and Evan stumbled upon the meeting room of the Linux Quentin in Orem, Utah and designed the three-tier program while they were there. The five were the original incorporators of LPI.

The community expands

The team needed to be formed. Dan and Evan were joined by community members Charles “Scudder” Mead and Tom Peters. Rushing out the initial team was Scott Murray, a psychometrician who would ensure that the effort’s exams could be scientifically validated and upheld 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 the non-profit was officially incorporated in the province of New Brunswick, Canada, because of the very start. These five were the original incorporators of LPI.

The community expands

Many in the Linux community liked the program that Caldera liked what they saw the next day and decided to cancel their own certification program. By the spring of 1999, the certification effort had caught the attention of Benoy Tamang at Caldera, who was considering launching their own independent certification program. The day before the pitch—April 4, 1999—Dave and Evan stumbled upon the meeting room of the Linux Quentin in Orem, Utah and designed the three-tier program while they were there. The five were the original incorporators of LPI.

Going global

After the first Level 1 exams were delivered in 2000, the LinuxWorld LInux Expo 2000, supported by a competition of national and local presences around the world, the first in Japan and then Germany, and Brazil.

ThePearson-VUE collaboration was not LPI’s earliest effort at remote test delivery. 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 2003, LPI’s “ finalists” had co-sponsored with RHU, an early supporter of LPI in Brazil, to deliver their beta 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 worked with VUE to develop a mechanism for delivering the exams in nine languages. In 2003, LPI also participated in the first-ever United Nations World Summit on the Information Society with a delegation of 23 people, promoting open source and distributing Linux software around the world.

LPI Crowned a multi-stakeholder program designed to address the needs of users unable to upgrade to bring low-cost open source certification to new educators with sponsors to cultivate FOSS and FOSS-adjacent professionals to prove their specialized knowledge of open source skills. The Linux Club guide created by Stu Keroff, LPI began a program to connect to use Linux essentials.

In 2012, LPI started offering at-home certification exams using Pearson’s OnVUE system. As part of these governance changes, LPI also launched the Code of Ethics and committed to promoting professional conduct and personal development within its community of certified open source practitioners.

In 2015, LPI started the Upgrade to Linux initiative, a multi-stakeholder program designed to address the needs of users unable to upgrade to bring low-cost open source certification to new educators with sponsors to cultivate FOSS and FOSS-adjacent professionals to prove their specialized knowledge of open source skills. The Linux Club guide created by Stu Keroff, LPI began a program to connect to use Linux essentials.

In 2022, LPI started the Upgrade to Linux initiative, a multi-stakeholder program designed to address the needs of users unable to upgrade to bring low-cost open source certification to new educators with sponsors to cultivate FOSS and FOSS-adjacent professionals to prove their specialized knowledge of open source skills. The Linux Club guide created by Stu Keroff, LPI began a program to connect to use Linux essentials.

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. Special recognition is due to the companies Linuxcare and Starnix, for supporting LPI founders during its early formation.