1.108.2
Find Linux documentation on the Internet
Weight 3

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Outline

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1 Context

Topic 108 Documentation [8]

1.108.1 Use and manage local system documentation [4]

2 Objective

Description of Objective
Candidates should be able to find and use Linux documentation. This objective includes using Linux documentation at sources such as the Linux Documentation Project (LDP), vendor and third-party websites, newsgroups, newsgroup archives, and mailing lists.

Key files, terms, and utilities include:
not applicable

3 Main Internet Sources

Main Internet Sources

- The Linux Documentation Project: http://tldp.org/ provides these documents in many formats:
  - HOWTOs about a large number of topics
    - Of variable quality and currency
  - Guides: free online books
  - FAQs: frequently asked questions, with answers
- Search using Google: http://www.google.com/
- Google Groups in http://groups.google.com/, and
- Usenet: news://comp.os.linux.*/
  - Free 1 GB/month feed currently available from http://yottanews.com/

4 Usenet

comp.os.linux.* Usenet groups

- Can browse these from http://groups.google.com.au/groups/dir?lnk=gh&hl=en&sel=33583540
- Can use a newsreader like Pan or Gnus (in Emacs) to browse a news server
5. Mailing Lists

Mailing Lists

- A mailing list is a discussion group over email

- comp.os.linux
- comp.os.linux.admin
- comp.os.linux.advocacy
- comp.os.linux.alpha
- comp.os.linux.announce
- comp.os.linux.answers
- comp.os.linux.development
- comp.os.linux.embedded
- comp.os.linux.hardware
- comp.os.linux.help
- comp.os.linux.m68k
- comp.os.linux.misc
- comp.os.linux.network
- comp.os.linux.networking
- comp.os.linux.portable
- comp.os.linux.powerpc
- comp.os.linux.questions
- comp.os.linux.redhat
- comp.os.linux.security
- comp.os.linux.setup
- comp.os.linux.x
- comp.os.linux.xbox

Distribution Documentation

- Red Hat provides plenty of very high quality online books and documentation. These URLs are current 26 Oct 2005: http://www.redhat.com/docs/, http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/enterprise/. After you have read the Red Hat Enterprise Linux Step by Step Guide, I particularly recommend the Red Hat Enterprise Linux Introduction to System Administration, and the Red Hat Enterprise Linux System Administration Guide. Reading previous versions of these provided enough background for me to earn my RHCE.

- Ubuntu: http://wiki.ubuntu.com/

- Debian volunteers have created much useful documentation at http://www.au.debian.org/doc/
  - Read http://www.au.debian.org/doc/manuals/apt-howto/about APT

- Gentoo has some great documentation: http://www.gentoo.org/doc/en/

6. Asking Questions on a Mailing List

Asking Questions on a Mailing List

Before sending questions to a mailing list, read Eric Raymond’s How To Ask Questions The Smart Way: http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html. Summary:

- Choose your forum carefully
- Write in clear, grammatical, correctly-spelled language
- Web and IRC forums directed towards newbies often give the quickest response
- Send questions in formats that are easy to understand
- As a second step, use project mailing lists
- Be precise and informative about your problem
- Use meaningful, specific subject headers
- Volume is not precision
- Make it easy to reply
- Don’t claim that you have found a bug

Mailing Lists — Examples

- Red Hat and Fedora lists: http://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo
- Debian lists: http://lists.debian.org/plus many others (I subscribe to about 40!)
- Apache lists: http://httpd.apache.org/lists.html
- Samba lists: http://lists.samba.org/
7. Online Magazines

Online Magazines

Some online magazines include:


- **Alan Cox’s Portaloo**: [http://www.linux.org.uk/Portaloo.cs](http://www.linux.org.uk/Portaloo.cs) This site is surprisingly useful; it collects the headlines from about 25 web sites with technical news, so that you can review the headlines from all the sites, and click on any headline that looks interesting. This takes you directly to the story. It saves me a lot of time.

- **Apache Week**: [http://www.apacheweek.com/](http://www.apacheweek.com/)


- **LinuxGazette**: [http://linuxgazette.net/](http://linuxgazette.net/)
  - note that the staff have moved from their original site at [http://linuxgazette.com/](http://linuxgazette.com/)


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