Get a Great Job in the Open Source Workforce

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How's the Water?

The Market for Open Source Jobs

- Linux Foundation Jobs Report(s)
  - Excellent source for good news
  - Released Yearly
- The Job Search Sites
  - Simplyhired.com – 11,000 “Linux Admin” Jobs
  - Dice.com – Seattle Lists 455
  - Upwork.com – Become a Freelancer
- Who ISN’T Using Open Source?
  - Shrinks daily
  - Don't say Microsoft….

What are the HOTTEST Jobs?

Kernel Developer

- More than 80% are Salaried

Software-Defined Networking

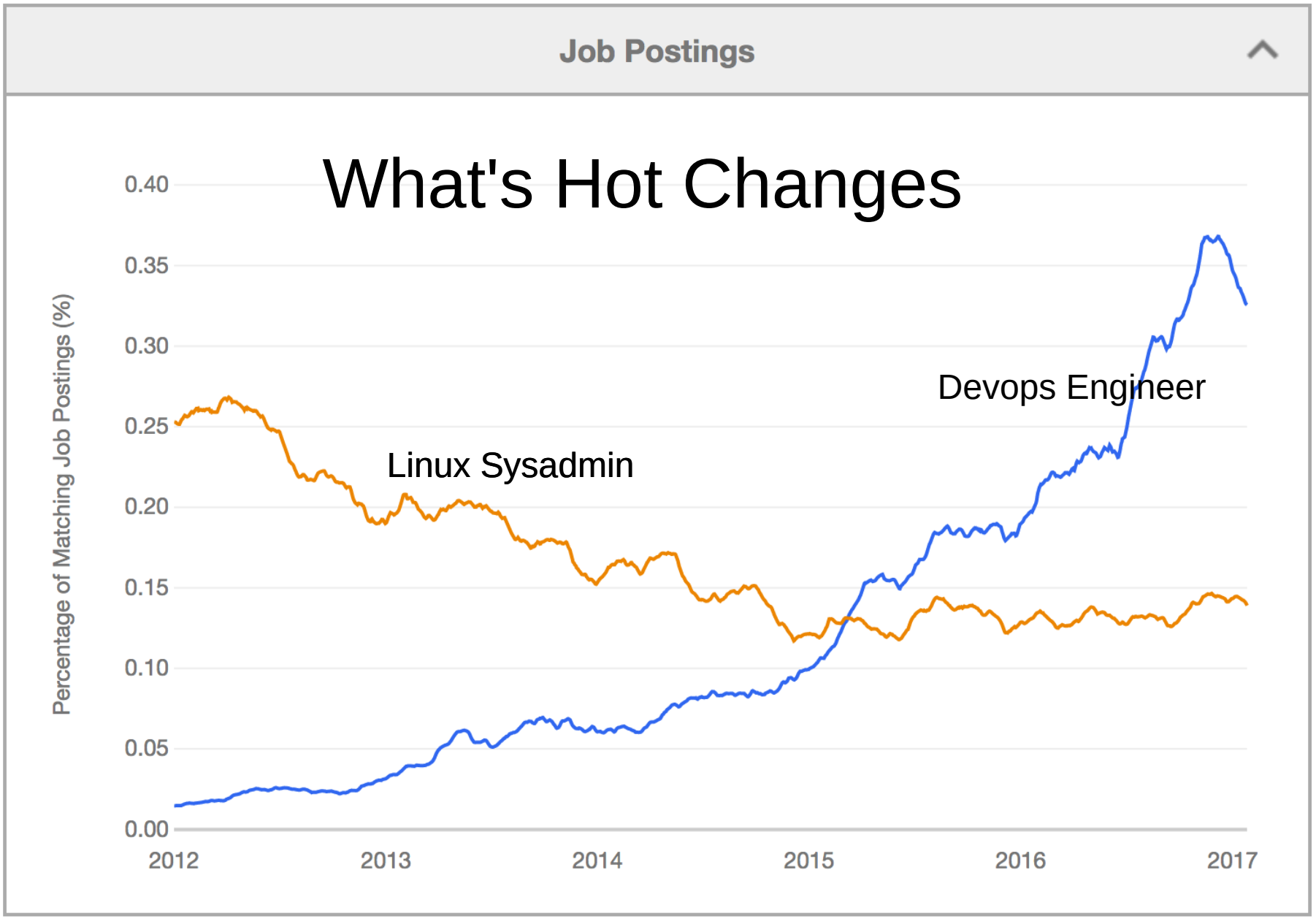
- Growing rapidly, as the market does

OpenStack/Cloudstack

- SUSE's fastest growing role

Prerequisites for these Jobs

- Almost ½ of hiring managers suggest certification
- Nearly the same number REQUIRE it


Job Postings
What's Hot Changes
Percentage of Matching Job Postings (%)
0.40
0.35
0.30
0.25
0.20
0.15
0.10
0.05
0.00
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Linux Sysadmin
Devops Engineer

Job Postings

Get Your Skills On

It’s Easier Than You Think to Switch

- Do you already know an OS?
  - Picking up another one is relatively easy
  - It’s all file placement and toolsets, setup routines and utilities, and well, package managers
- Windows > Linux is easier than ever
  - Build a mental Router Table of both
  - Put your email and personal files on Linux
  - Try to do EVERYTHING with Linux

Start Wide and Then Go Specific

- Vendor Neutral in the beginning
  - Linux Foundation LFCS
  - LPI LPIC-1 Server Pro
  - Learn LINUX, not a flavor
- Then go specific
  - When you need to install, or get a job
  - Red Hat is biggest in US/UK
  - SUSE is biggest Worldwide
  - Canonical is growing

Getting that First (Open Source) Job

4 Steps to Getting That Job

- Education
- Credentials
- Experience
- Interview

Edumacation

- Got a degree?
  - Broad skills development
  - It'll help, but not absolutely necessary
- Degrees are by nature not very specific
  - HR People hate unspecific skillsets
  - Don't make them work too hard

Credentials

- College is for LIFE education
  - Or Drinking and Poker skills, whatevs
- Certifications are
  - College to Job Market Adapters
  - Like a twister touching down
- Job Req's mention specific phrases
  - If your Certification contains them, easier match

Experience

- You need it, it's hard to get
  - First job or first job in a new field, hard to convince people to take a chance on you
- You need just enough to get that 1st job
  - Then keep moving up, or at worst sideways
  - Take short term cuts to make long term gains

Getting Your First Experience

- How Exactly Do You Do This?
- Practice on your family and friends
- Set up sample machines
- Network them
- Administer them

Getting Your (Next) First Experience

- Volunteer with anyone who'll have you
  - All orgs of a sufficient size have IT needs
  - They all need websites, email, doc sharing
- Do an inventory of your organizations
  - Go convince them to let you experiment
  - Don't screw it up totally, hopefully
  - Claim that as your first experience

Organizational Possibilities

- Church, Civic Groups
- Sports Teams – Yours or the Kid's
- Charitable Organizations
- School Labs, Libraries etc.
- Computer User Group/LUG

The Interview

- Got the Other Three Down?
  - Now you can get an interview
- Go buy “What Color is Your Parachute”
  - Seriously, order the eBook now…
  - Possibly the most helpful book about getting a job ever written
  - In it’s 3,000th revision ← only a slight exaggeration
- “All First Dates are Interviews.” -- Van Wilder
- Write that down…

The Technical Interview

- I should write a book. Wait, I did.
- Should have done the thing you are trying to get employed for
- Don’t Waste Your T.I.’s Time
- If you are still majority learning during this, you’re not ready

Working for an Open Source(-ish) Company

Getting a Job at SUSE/Partners

- SUSE growing rapidly
  - 900+ employees
  - 60-100 open req's on average
- Open, from the Java Janitor on UP
- Hot Jobs:
  - Engineers, Product Mgmt, Project Mgmt, Training, Partner and Sales Executives, Product Support

SUSE.com/Careers

- Locations are listed
  - Very often the role is tele-presence or not tied to a specific location
- Aggresively Online and Work-from-Home
- Teams often span multiple timezones/territories
- Weirdly-functional 24 hour Operating Environment

Open Source Companies to Work For

- Google
- Rackspace
- Facebook
- Disney
- Yahoo (really!)
- Government
  - Certifications a MUST, DISA, STIG's etc.
- Consulting Agencies (heavily OSS)

Career Planning for the Long Term

- Plan Your Career Exquisitely
- and Loosely

- I've been
  - Printer-Boy, Sysadmin, Database Nerd, Instructor, Instructor Manager, Web Master, Social Media Manager, Certification Developer, Courseware Designer, Member Services Director, and now finally, Certification Architect.

Career Planning for the Long Term

Notice a pattern?

- I'm loosely centered around training and certification, stick to that CORE, but go in loose cycles with other things

- Life's like that, don't be afraid
- Experiment and round out your skills set, but don't get down a career ecological backwater, aka TOO focused so that you can't recover if something fails or goes down

Why (and How) to Get Certified?

SUSE Training Team (most of us...)

Certifications are….

- A great way to show you are minimally-qualified
  - How awesome you are is up to YOU!
- Virtually a requirement to get an interview
- Easy to get, if you are properly developing your skills
- An awesome way to show advancement
  - Managers often use them as milestones
- How those who cannot technically vet you understand your skill-sets

Certifications are….

- Not Training, they are measure of the SUCCESS of your training
- Can help you secure further training!
- Not usually tied to training, but can be bundled if you need both

Why Certify with SUSE?

Gaining SUSE Skills

- "SUSE-ification" is the process of **gaining** appropriate skills with SUSE products/services

- "SUSE-ness" is the state of **proving** a 'sufficiency of proficiency' with SUSE product/services

- People with SUSE product skills are in high demand in the industry
- The demand is increasing rapidly

SUSE Certifications Help You (& Us)

- Get access to jobs in the “SUSE-Sphere”
  - SUSE is # 1 worldwide in instances and # 2 in the US
  - Partner organizations have many hundreds of open requisitions for SUSE specialists
- Many large, medium and small customer organizations need SUSE qualified professionals
- Learning “vendor neutral Linux” is cool but...
  - You install and use distributions
  - Sysadmins typically don't manage only Linux, they manage services and protocols

SUSE Includes More than Linux

- SUSE OpenStack Cloud
  - Industrial-grade Infrastructure, so easy to deploy and use
  - SUSE constantly wins the “Rule the Stack” contests
  - 91% of Senior IT Pro's want the cloud for security simplification
  - 2/3 of companies are making the move to OpenStack
- SUSE Enterprise Storage
  - Storage needs growing with no end in sight, for everyone
  - SES is software-defined storage at it's most reliable
  - Software-defined-storage professional positions are rapidly expanding

How to Virtually Guarantee Careers

- Everything is virtually virtual
  - Soon the only physical servers will be the ones virtual machines run on (slight majority of them are SUSE SLE)
  - OpenStack Cloud is the predicted infrastructure choice, SUSE the clear front-runner with SUSE OpenStack Cloud
  - Every virtual machine needs access to software-defined storage, and SUSE Enterprise Storage is the easiest, has the right features
  - All those systems need to be managed, and SUSE Manager can handle all your SUSE, Red Hat and more systems, assets, provisioning, package and patch management and more

  - If you know Linux, OpenStack or CEPH, make a career in the SUSE World

Questions and Answers

Come find out how SUSE can help enhance your career!
training.suse.com

Thank you.

Questions? Email us via
suse-training@suse.com

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