

Re: I am interested in Linux Admin, wanted to self learn, what are important things in Admin?

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GS wrote:

> *Guys:*

>

> *Interested in Linux admin, wanted to self learn, please let me know*

> *what are important things I have to learn for Admin point of view. By*

> *looking at On-line postings, I came to know these are important,*

> *besides these what else are important to learn:*

>

> *1) Samba installation and setup*

> *2) Web server setup*

> *3) User account creation*

>

> *Besides those three, is there any things are important, also which*

> *Distribution is better for Server side as well as Client side*

> *(especially for small businesses point if view).*

>

> *Thanks for your time.*

> *GS.*

>

It's all important.

What is administration, anyway? It's making the machine do whatever it is its owners need it to do. You may not need to know the details of applications (though that may not be the case always) but you certainly have to know how the apps being used affect the OS and the hardware and vice-versa. An administrator may not be a "performance expert" or a "storage expert" or an "* expert", but you do need familiarity with all those things. And because Windows boxes will undoubtedly be in the mix, you need at least some knowledge of that crapola also (pardon my prejudice – does it show?).

An administrator, then, is a generalist. Unless you know ahead of time that you will be working for XYZ and their environment consists of a, b and d, you can't afford to spend too much time learning too many details. I don't mean to imply that superficiality is your goal, but

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you have to balance depth against breadth and realize that administrators usually need breadth more than depth. It's a tough act sometimes – I know I constantly find myself learning more than I really wanted to know about Y and wishing I had the time to really dig into Z.

One thing you might find useful is my Linux Skills Tests at <http://aplawrence.com/Tests/Linux> . I originally developed these for testing tech job applicants – I'd sit down with the person and have them verbally answer a few dozen questions like this.. it gave me a real good idea of how broad their skills were (tech folk need perhaps even broader skills than admins).. anyway, it might help show you where your weak areas are. Some of the questions are very basic, some aren't, but if you find yourself really thrown by a lot of them, you need a lot of work. Most of the people who answer questions here would likely waltz through them and quit out of boredom rather soon – if that's your experience, you are probably well prepared to be an admin. And if not.. well, learning just takes time and effort, right?

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Unix/Linux/Mac OS X resources: <http://aplawrence.com>