

Is the Linux Professional Institute Certification (LPIC) Level one for you? If you plan on going over practice exams and walking in there to take the test, save your time and money, this alone will not give you a passing score. This certification is for students who are not taking a big load of classes and are interested in learning Linux administration. If you are not interested in learning Linux, DON'T! It is pretty difficult to make yourself learn something you are not interested in, and you can probably do a lot better on the Microsoft test just from what you already know. If you have been using Linux for a while then I would say you have the upper hand.

I can give some pointers on what would help and what wouldn't help in studying for the first test. I would definitely recommend becoming a lab rat. All being a lab rat entails is making sure no one walks out of the lab with any lab equipment, while at the same time allowing you to study. In fact being a lab rat makes you study, which is good for procrastinators. I installed Linux on one of the machines in the lab and did hands on exercises out of a study guide. I also recommend buying Boson testing software, this was a very good way to learn and freshen up on the material. Boson comes with about 250 questions and flash cards as well; I may have relied on this too heavily! If you read the LPI website, buy some of the recommend reading materials, and put some time into this you should do fine.

Now I will share some mistakes that either I or some of my friends have made in hopes that you don't make them as well. First of all, do not think if I do not pass this test I will fail the class. This may be true but if you worry about that too much then you do not focus on the material enough and you may psyche yourself out. So go in to the test having a positive attitude and remember to get plenty of sleep. Some of these questions can be thought through and if you pulled an all-nighter studying you may not be your sharpest. Secondly, do not rely on practice exams too heavily. These practice exams are good to see how you are coming along; if you use them too often then you will

memorize the answers and will not have any way to judge your progress. Finally, don't wait until a month before the semester ends to start studying, being a lab rat will help with this last one a lot.