



## CASE STUDY

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*UKFast is one of Europe's fastest-growing technical companies, and is the UK's largest privately-owned hosting and colocation firm as ranked by Deloitte.*

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## LPI PROFESSIONALS RANK 1<sup>st</sup> FOR UKFAST

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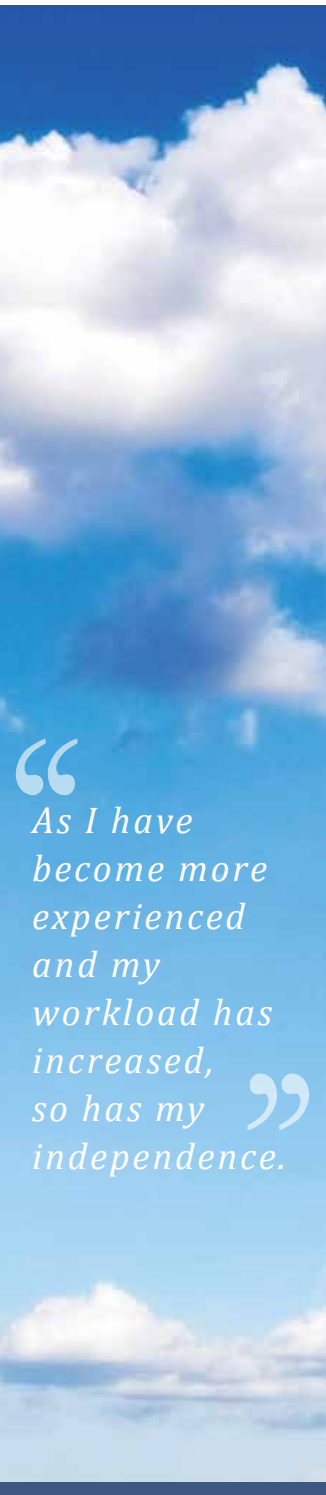
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*Ultimately the LPIC Certification has been a hugely positive experience, as well as a great source of information with the steep learning curve that comes with the job.*”

Founded in Manchester in 1999 by entrepreneur Lawrence Jones, the business is today listed as a Sunday Times Top 100 company in the UK due to its constant innovation, new technology and in-house training.

Possessing its very own energy-efficient, bespoke data centres that boast state-of-the-art technology, UKFast enables its 5000 clients to stay at the heart of business thanks to its constant super-speeds and unwavering reliability, delivered 24/7/365.

Built upon the firm belief that the very best customer service and innovation comes from within, UKFast opted to begin delivering to its staff industry-standard qualifications that would guarantee the UKFast team is constantly at the pinnacle of technology and creation.





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*As I have become more experienced and my workload has increased, so has my independence.*”

The LPIC Certification offered by the Linux Professional Institute is the world's most popular Linux Certification. It provides a globally recognised vendor-neutral certification that validates the fundamental knowledge and skills of Linux engineers. It provides clear training and a progression pathway that helps develop the raw ingredients in talented junior engineers in order for them to become experts in their field.

As Linux plays a key part in UKFast's service delivery, it was keen to develop a partnership which would build an army of in-house, certified engineers who could bring a unique, human expertise to the successful implementation of computerised systems within its ever-expanding boundaries. Aaron Saxton, Director of Training at UKFast, explained the value of training UKFast staff to Linux standard.

He said: "UKFast has its people at the very heart of what it does. Our CEO, Lawrence Jones, firmly believes that it is the employees who create a company, its infrastructure, its culture and its future.

"UKFast intends to develop the most highly-qualified and knowledgeable Linux engineers in the country. We've invested millions of pounds into building a state of the art training facility, training team and curriculum to ensure that our engineers are retained and continue to work for our business.

"The LPIC Certification has helped to enhance the methods our engineers use to perform their jobs, and in turn has improved the speed of their development, productivity and quality of support they are providing to our customers.

"A well-qualified and knowledgeable technical team will always increase public confidence in the products and services we provide, and our brand as a whole, so UKFast will continue to deliver qualifications to its team because we believe they are the key to our future success."

Kirsty Lewis began studying for her LPIC Certification after starting a career as a Linux engineer with UKFast in September 2013. She's valued the extra training and the benefits it brings to her work.

She said: "I started out with a limited amount of knowledge in Linux and was lucky UKFast

gave me the opportunity to learn whilst on the job. Using the study guides and training videos, my first couple of weeks were spent studying the LPIC 1 materials, alongside shadowing the more experienced engineers.

"Alongside hands-on experience of dealing with customer's issues and helping with various problems on Linux servers, I continued studying and passed the first LPIC exam. Learning the material gave me the chance to step back and conceptualise the actual purpose of specific flags, as well as alternatives to various commands. This allows me to give much more information to customers about the solutions we provide for them, as well as confidently take on problems I may not have seen before.

"As I have become more experienced and my workload has increased, so has my independence. I fit in studying when I can, and for me this means using the study guides to address specific 'real life' issues I see whilst working, and fitting in videos in quiet periods.

"Ultimately the LPIC Certification has been a hugely positive experience, as well as a great source of information with the steep learning curve that comes with the job."

UKFast believes in progression, development and nurturing, and the fact the LPIC qualifications embodies all these factors is what has guaranteed a synonymous and unique relationship between the hosting firm and the Linux Professional Institute.



## KEY CONTACTS

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