# Transcript: C851 Overview with Radha Sundararajan, Kristopher Goodell, and John Galliano

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Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Hello, Welcome to the podcast. In this podcast, we're going to talk about the course C851 Linux Foundations, and address some of the most common questions that our students have in this course. My name is Radha Sundararajan and I'm one of the course instructors. I have here with me, my amazing colleagues, Professor Kristopher, and Dr. John Galliano. Kristopher, welcome to the podcast.

Speaker #3 (Kristopher Goodell):

Hello. Happy to be here.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

John, welcome to the podcast.

Speaker #4 (John Galliano):

Thank you, professor Radha. A pleasure to be with you this evening.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

First and foremost, let's talk about what this course is all about, and what our students can expect from this course. John, can you please elaborate on this?

Speaker #4 (John Galliano):

Absolutely. Once again, thank you for having me. C851 Linux Foundations is a course designed to introduce students to Linux, open-source concepts, and the Linux command line. WGU provides students with the content expert instructors like Professor Radha and Professor Kristopher here with us this evening, as well as step-by-step labs to ensure that you have what you need in terms of hands-on access to practice, Linux command line concepts and really build your skills. Linux is a widely used operating system in many different industries and all the way from servers down to embedded devices. It's really exciting that our students have this opportunity to be exposed to Linux, to learn about it, and to even build some skills that they can put to good use in either cybersecurity or information technology. Students should expect to study and to practice in learning the Linux command line because they do need to build their skills in order to prepare to take the LPI Linux essentials certification exam. Then, I'll just wrap this up by saying that there are no prerequisites for the course.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Wonderful. Thank you very much for that detailed explanation. Can you also elaborate what a student can expect in the exam and what would be the format of the exam?

Speaker #4 (John Galliano):

Yes, I can. The Linux Professional Institute or LPI Linux essentials certification exam verifies that the person sitting for the exam understands really the basic concepts of Linux, but also can demonstrate through knowledge-based questions, that they have actually practiced those skills on the command line. It is a 40-question exam and students have 60 minutes to complete the 40 questions. It's a mix of question types. About 75 percent multiple-choice, single select, around 20 percent multiple-choice, multiple select. Then the remaining roughly 5 percent or so of fill-in-the-blank questions. I like to think of those as a field on a web form. They might put some information to that web field. The exam does use scale scoring. I know many of our students are familiar with that system from Comp TIA certification exams. LPI uses a scale of 200-800 with a minimum passing score on that scale of 500, which roughly equates to about a 60 percent passing score required to earn the certification. There are five topics on the exam, the Linux community and a career in open-source, finding your way in a Linux system, the power of the command line, the Linux operating system, and security and file permissions. All of those topics except for the first one will involve learning skills on the command line. My best advice to students is, don't underestimate this exam. Even though it seems like it's a short exam with a small number of questions and a relatively low passing score when compared to other certifications, if you do not learn the command line skills required, then it's extremely difficult to earn that minimum passing score. I think as Professor Kristopher likes to say, practice, practice. That's all I have on that, Professor Radha.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Thank you, Professor Galliano. It is invaluable to know that even though it has a low passing score, it's important that students have to learn all the five topics. Also, it is good to know that this Linux Foundation is a lifetime certification and it is widely recognized in the industry, and Linux is a widely used operating system. Professor Kristopher, as Dr. Galliano explained, can you also tell the students what would be the best approach to prepare in this course and to prepare for the exam.

Speaker #3 (Kristopher Goodell):

The best approach to studying would be practicing. As they have said is practice, practice, practice. This examination is slightly different than others, where it's not based on general knowledge. You need that muscle memory. They're going to ask you questions such as, how do you extract a tar archive? Well, how do I know that unless I've tried it and how would I know the order of the options unless I've tried it. We have those labs, and I encourage everybody to try every single command. If there's any command that you don't know or you haven't seen know it's worth taking the five seconds to Google it or to look into that because there's a good chance that it could be on the exam and it's worth trying. We have a lab too. This is a wonderful environment where you can just jump in there and see this desktop environment to try any commands. There's no worry about breaking it or catching fire because it's a lab, it can be reset. There's no worry at all. Practice every single command, just practice all of them. Back to you.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Wonderful. Is there any pre-assessment for this course?

Speaker #3 (Kristopher Goodell):

It's a widely asked question. Unfortunately, it's not a pre-assessment as it's an external certification. We really don't know the specific questions and what's going to be on the exam, that's kept secret, industry secrets. But we do have access to practice tests. There is a total of eight practice tests on [inaudible 00:07:00], which is included in tuition. There's also practice exams on the Pluralsight website that we have access to. There are general knowledge pre-assessment available, although not like traditional objective assessments at school, they do test for general knowledge. You may come back from the exam thinking, well, those pre-assessments were nothing like the exam. It was nothing, didn't prepare me at all. Well, they prepare you for general knowledge, not for hands-on knowledge. Back to that practice, practice. Got to try every command.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Excellent advice. Professor Galliano, how can a student look for additional study to sources in this course?

Speaker #4 (John Galliano):

That's another great question, and I just want to thank Professor Kristopher for his emphasis on practice with the command line. I can't underscore the importance out of mouth so, thank you for that, professor Kristopher. The course itself are WGU course utilizes three main components. There's the 2020 Edition of the side bags study guide for the Linux essentials certification exam. You have access to that in an e-book format via ProQuest. That is a bonafide certification preparation guide, so it will take you through all of the exam topics, and there are questions that you can practice on at the end of each chapter and the answers are included at the end of the book. That's a great reference source, and I hardly recommend you spend some time studying in those chapters in that e-book. In addition to that, we have the CBT Nuggets videos. Many students, particularly my students who are new to Linux, really like the way that Sean Powers explains things. He's a very animated guy, he uses whiteboarding and really breaks things down nicely. Anything about that, as you can follow along with Sean Powers, have your virtual machine up and practice these commands as he shows them to you during the video. As Professor Kristopher alluded to, we do have some high-quality labs featuring the Oracle Linux distribution, which is a clone of Red Hat, via the learn on-demand hosted labs, again, that's accessible through the course. Sometimes students have a little bit of difficulty finding the link to the labs, but if you expand all sections in the left-hand navigation, you will see towards the end, there is a link to the labs there. As Professor Kristopher mentioned, at anytime, you can go into those labs and use those. Even if you don't have a machine, you can dedicate to Linux or you're not sure how to load up virtualization software for your own VM, you can always just top into that provided hosted labs through the course. In addition to those, we have some supplemental courses available and some tools. Some of those include the course pacing guides so you can gauge your progress and how long it'll take you to get through materials and such. We provide you the LPI exam, FAQs, and then we have a recorded cohort session for each one of these sub-domains in the five topics for the exam that we have recorded over the past year and many students like to watch those as well. Then many other supplemental resources that are available to you.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Thank you very much Dr. Galliano for the detailed explanation of the various tips and suggestions on study guides that are available. I want to emphasize that almost all of the cohort sessions that are offered by Dr. Galliano they are well recognized by all of our students. Thank you for that. Now, let's assume a student has prepared well for this exam and now he's ready to schedule the exam. How do they go about it since it is an external objective type cosine so what do they have to do at this point? Professor Kristopher, can you please elaborate on this.

Speaker #3 (Kristopher Goodell):

The approval process is quite interesting and it has to do a lot with the external nature of the exam. We do provide vouchers for the first two attempts, but you will need to go to the Pearson VUE website and create an account. They will also require you to create an LPI account, which is very easy to do. You'll obtain an LPI ID and the LPI ID will be used on the scheduling platform. Now when you go to schedule it, there will be an option for a voucher. Where does the voucher fit into this? How does approval fit into this? The WGU side of this is that because it's the next one application, we need to make sure that you're actually committed to the course and going through with this, so when you choose the approval button, then we get the request, we determine if you're ready. We reach out if we need to, make sure that you have the resources available. We approve your request. The second step of that is that you submit for scheduling. That means that another team will send an authorize voucher. I website, it negates the cost of the exam. The important part is on the scheduling feature. You must be able to schedule during these specific times. If you run into problems later down the road, LPI could set some cool down period where you're unable to schedule for seven days or 30 days or some amount of time. There's a slight disconnect between WGU and LPI. LPI has their policies and WGU has their policies. An example would be that during the course and you're requesting approval to take the exam. Sure. Your assigned course instructor will approve your request if they see, and that you will go through the voucher process, you'll schedule your exam and you'll go right along as you would expect to take to your examination. Don't be late because it is based on time zones and I have seen it where a student thinks that they're scheduling for a specific time, but they were choosing the wrong time zone and now there are not sure about the technicality. Then afterwards that you'll receive this examination and completion report, and it's critical to the success of the course because we also need to see that examination report and the scores department also needs that report. It will indicate the knowledge gaps or success of your skills, so we need that. What else service is there? I got to get off topic there.

Speaker #2 (Radha Sundararajan):

Wonderful. Thank you, Professor Kristopher for the detailed explanation. Now this concludes our podcast, but before leaving I would like to recommend all the students to contact the instructor as soon as you get enrolled in the course and get suggestions, tips, and study guides. We're always here to help you. Thank you both Dr. Galliano, and Professor Kristopher, for all the tips and suggestions. Thank you all for listening and tuning in. Bye now.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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