UNIX® Cerfication

The program

The UNIX® Certification program provides formal recognition of a product's conformance to the Single UNIX Specification. Suppliers are able to make and substantiate clear claims of conformance to the standard. Buyers are able to specify and successfully procure conforming products.

Certification applies to a product or product family marketed by a supplier, and means that a configuration matching a particular Product Standard will be delivered in full. Certification indicates confidence in the supplier's ability to stand behind their registered products and provide a commitment to buyers.

Anyone buying a certified product is guaranteed that:

- The product conforms to the Single UNIX Specification.
- The product is guaranteed to remain conformant throughout fixes, functional enhancements, and performance improvements. If it does not continue to conform, its registration and the supplier's eligibility to use the trademark will be lost.
- Any conformance problem will be fixed within a prescribed timescale.

Procurements

One of the main objectives of The Open Group is to simplify IT procurement.

Through user and industry participation, The Open Group has produced the UNIX Product Standards reflecting market requirements as an aid to procurers. Many major IT tenders require guarantees of conformance by using The Open Group UNIX Product Standards, and a number of governments and other organizations specify the UNIX system for their procurements.

In the past few years, the value of worldwide procurements requiring UNIX and other certified products of The Open Group was more than US$55 billion. Suppliers with products certified by The Open Group gain access to this important marketplace.

More information

For more information, please contact:

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The UNIX trademark

The Open Group owns the UNIX trademark and grants licenses through the UNIX certification program.

Suppliers are granted a license to use the UNIX trademark in connection with a product when:

- The product has been demonstrated as passing the applicable certification test suites.
- The supplier has formally agreed to the terms of the certification program.

Product Standards

The UNIX certification program is structured as a series of documents known as Product Standards which contain the Conformance Requirements for discrete areas of the technology.

Product Standards provide a mapping between certification, the specifications, and the test suites needed to demonstrate conformance. A Product Standard details the technical Conformance Requirements, specific testing requirements, and, if applicable, migration information from previous versions of the Product Standard.

Product Standards within the UNIX certification program include UNIX 03, UNIX 03 Server, UNIX 98, UNIX 98 Workstation, UNIX 98 Server, and UNIX 95.

A full list of the Product Standards is available on The Open Group website.

The TMLA

The Open Brand Trademark License Agreement (TMLA) governs the use of the UNIX trademark. Suppliers wishing to register a product for certification must first sign this agreement. By signing the TMLA, the supplier "warrants and represents" that any products they register will fully conform to the identified Product Standadrd(s) and will continue to do so. The terms of the TMLA allow the supplier to use the UNIX registered trademark in connection with their registered products. This is crucial for successful tenders in procurement situations where the buyer stipulates conformance to a Product Standard.

The Agreement must be signed in advance of registering products for certification. By Signing the TMLA and registering a product, royalties are payable for use of the trademarks.

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Registering a product for certification

The Product Registration Form is part of the TMLA. The supplier lists the Product Standards for which certification is requested, the product name, and operating environment. When certification is awarded (and thereafter), by signing this form the supplier warrants that the registered product complies with the Product Standards. The Conformance Statement is the supplier's documented set of claims describing the way in which their product meets the Conformance Requirements of the Product Standard. The information is useful for end-users, and application developers involved for portability purposes. Included in the Conformance Statement are: the operating environment in which the conformance is warranted, details of the specific configuration used to validate conformance, in sufficient detail to enable the results of any applicable tests to be reproduced, and any optional functionality described in the Product Standard that has been implemented in the supplier's product.

Testing a product for certification

Before a product can be certified, it must demonstrate that it meets the Conformance Requirements. This means submitting test results from authorized Test Suites for inspection by The Open Group. For practical reasons, the coverage of any Test Suite is incomplete. Test Suites cannot prove conformity – they can only demonstrate certain non-conformities. So "passing" the tests is treated as an "indicator" of compliance rather than "proof" of compliance. What the indicator of compliance provides is high confidence for the supplier that their product conforms to the Product Standard.

Certification

To qualify for certification, a product must "pass" the relevant Test Suite(s) and the supplier must "warrant and represent" that the product conforms to the applicable Product Standard. After initial certification, The Open Group may periodically request re-testing of the certified product. For example, where the Test Suite has been updated, testing may be requested using the latest version.

Register of Certified Products

The Open Group maintains a Register of Certified Products which is published on The Open Group website. All products certified as conforming to the UNIX and Common Desktop Environment (CDE) Product Standards are published in the Register. The Conformance Statement is linked to the supplier's certified product in the Register. In addition, unique certificates are issued to the supplier for each product certified.

Program fees

Annual fees apply, which are referenced by the TMLA. They are: the license fee for the TMLA to remain in place, product registration fees, and program fees (royalties). Separate fees apply for Test Suites.

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service. Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

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www.opengroup.org/certification/idx/unix.html