About the Series
This is the fourth in a series of booklets that SAGE is presenting to the system administration community. They are intended to fill a void in the current information structure, presenting topics in a thorough, refereed fashion, but staying small enough and flexible enough to grow with the community. Therefore, these booklets will be “living documents” that are updated as needed.

Series Editor: William LeFebvre

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   By David Kuncicky and Bruce Alan Wynn

About SAGE and USENIX
SAGE, The System Administrators Guild is a Special Technical Group within the USENIX Association dedicated to advancing the profession of systems administration.

USENIX is the Advanced Computing Systems Association.
Educating and Training System Administrators: A Survey

By David Kuncicky and Bruce Alan Wynn

Published by the USENIX Association for SAGE, the System Administrators Guild 1998
Acknowledgments

This document has benefited from review by a number of people who generously donated their time and expertise. The authors thank the following for their detailed and helpful suggestions: Eric Berglund, David Jones, Evi Nemeth, and David Parter.
Foreword

As any practice makes the transition to a profession, nothing could be more important than a proper education. System Administration is one of the newest professions in the world of advanced technology, and has rapidly become one of the most critical. One of the goals of the Short Topics in System Administration series is to enhance recognition of system administration as a profession. Without such recognition on a large scale, there is little motivation for the establishment of formal educational programs.

I hope that this booklet will serve as a catalyst for more focused discussion and communication concerning the proper education of our future system administrators. The authors have spent years studying this issue from two different perspectives: collegiate and commercial. The results of their study provide insight into the current state of education and should be the seed for further ideas. Education is key to meeting the demands that will be placed on this critically important industry.

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Alpharetta, Georgia
Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction
   1.1 The Current State of Affairs
   1.2 The Student’s Point of View
   1.3 The Educator’s Point of View
   1.4 The Employer’s Point of View

2.0 The System Administration Job
   2.1 Introduction
   2.1 Technical Skill Requirements
   2.2 Nontechnical Skill Requirements
   2.3 The Educator’s Task

3.0 Formal Education Programs
   3.1 Introduction
   3.2 Curriculum Design
   3.3 The System Administration Course
   3.4 The Networks with Applications Course
   3.5 The System Administration Seminar
   3.6 The Experiential Component
   3.7 Competency Checklist Development

4.0 Commercial Training
   4.1 Introduction
   4.2 In-House Training
   4.3 Vendor-Based External Training
   4.4 Third-Party Trainers
   4.5 Corporate-Academic Partnerships
   4.6 Professional Conferences
5.0 Independent Study 26
  5.1 Introduction 26
  5.2 UNIX System Administration Independent Learning (USAIL) 27
  5.3 Regent's External Degree Program 28

6.0 Case Studies 29
  6.1 Introduction 29
  6.2 Case Study 1: FSU Master's Program in Computer and Network System Administration 29
  6.3 Case Study 2: Pencom's Internal Web-Based Training 31

7.0 Goals and Directions 33

Appendix: Web-Accessible Courses, Programs, and Resources 35

References 38