

TechForward Crash Course OpenStack Session at VMworld 2016

If you're going to be at VMworld in Las Vegas, I've got a fun and informative set of demo sessions running for a new initiative called **TechForward**. Please click on the [link below to go to the Eventbrite page](#) for the session.

TECH=FORWARD.IO

presents a crash course in



Join me on **Wednesday August 31st at 2:00 PM PT** to watch a demo of OpenStack, and to get caught up on where the open source private cloud platform is and why it matters to you. The demo will show some of the basics of the OpenStack, and we will review the concepts and features with some great discussion in the booth presentation theater so you don't even have to leave the expo hall.

You don't need a ticket to attend, but it is helpful for me to understand who will be there, plus it also gives you the ability to add to your calendar so you can get a reminder on the day of.

Looking forward to seeing you in Las Vegas! Look for more TechForward posts including one on [Mesosphere DC/OS](#), and one on [Kubernetes](#) as well.

Keep watching <http://TechForward.io> for more updates as well in the coming weeks.

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[TechForward Crash Course Mesosphere DC/OS Session at VMworld 2016](#)

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Join me on **Wednesday August 31st at 1:00 PM PT** to watch a demo of [Mesosphere DC/OS](#), and to get caught up on just what this very cool datacenter OS concept is, and why you will want to dig in to it. The demo will show some of the basics of the open source DC/OS, and we will review the concepts and features with some great discussion in the booth presentation theater so you don't even have to leave the expo hall.

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TechForward Crash Course Kubernetes Session at VMworld 2016

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presents a crash course in



kubernetes

Join me on **Wednesday August 31st at 11:00 AM** to watch a demo of Kubernetes, and to get caught up on just what this whole container orchestration juggernaut is. The demo will show some of the basics of Kubernetes, and we will review how to do some of the first tasks on Kubernetes and how it relates to what you may be doing today.

You don't need a ticket to attend, but it is helpful for me to understand who will be there, plus it also gives you the ability to add to your calendar so you can get a reminder on the day of.

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VCP550 - Time to Put This Experience to the Test

One of the things that has been long on my mind was the certification path for a number of technologies that I'm working with. When I started my career in technology I did it in a very non-traditional way by many standards. While I was working with technology since I was very young, I took a long break in the middle working in a variety of pretty interesting, but non-IT jobs.

When I made the decision to dive back in thanks to inspiration from a friend, I took a month while working my full time job to do 6-8 hours a day of study. My friend was giving me lots of training with hands-on work as we built PCs and installed lots of server OS builds to get familiar.

Two weeks into my month long plan of training, my friend says "Do you think you could pass the CNE (Certified Novell Administrator) test in a week?" to which I said I could if I was able to just study. He then said "I hope you can because I booked you already for it". And one week later I was a Certified Novell Administrator. Then I left my full time job to take a leap of faith into IT.

A month later I was a Certified Lotus Professional on Lotus Notes. 2 months later I was an MCP on Windows NT. I was furiously reading and studying with a clear goal to get back into the technology world. Along the way over the past 10 years I've gotten my MCSE, CCNA, individual MCP exams, and then over the past 3-4 years I realized that I have been focusing more on my day-to-day and learning technologies, but haven't kept up on my certifications.

Fast forward to spring 2014. It was time for me to get back to my certification, but this time it's VMware time!

Close, but no Cigar: The Pain of the Near Miss

In the spring I took my VCP exam on the original VCP5 blueprint. I had taken the required course through Global Knowledge with a great instructor and actually met some of my VMUG members there which was a lot of fun. I made the choice to take the exam immediately after.

There was a "second chance" test feature through GK that gave me the idea of just burning off the first attempt to see what the test format was like. After all, it had been a while since I've done a certification exam.

Test day came. With a decent amount of production virtualization experience, and a ton of work done in the VMware community, I was as ready as I could be. But then the first questions hit and I realized that something wasn't in my plan.

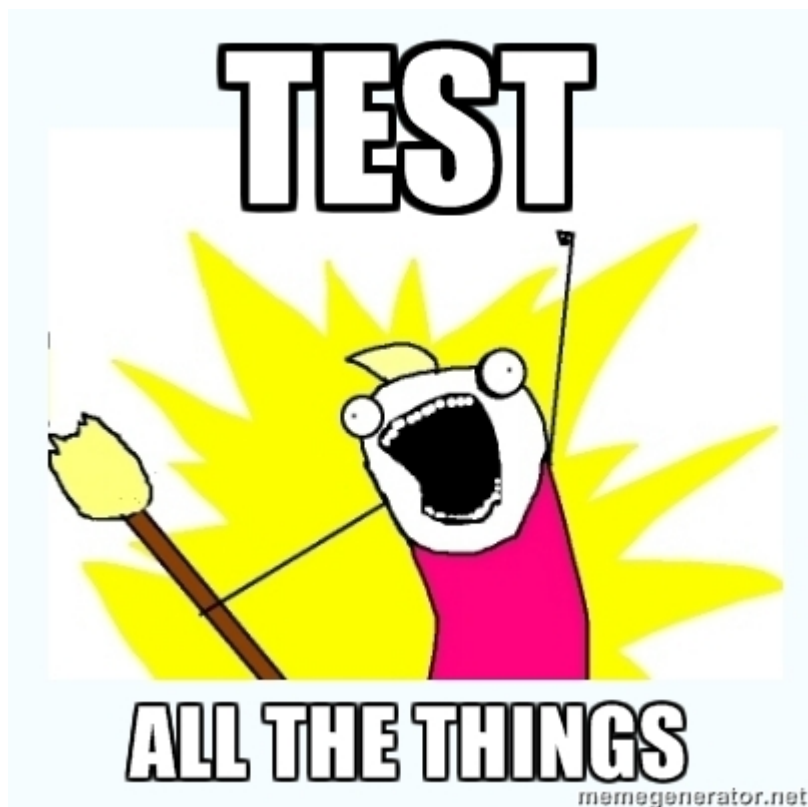
I was getting question after question about vSphere maximums. And something didn't look right. I had been working with vSphere 5.1 for a while and all of the questions were mismatched. The maximums had changed since vSphere 5.1 and I was pretty familiar with the new settings and something was already telling me that this was going to be a close call.

Then the final page showed up. I clicked "Finish Exam" and waited for the result which I was pretty sure wasn't going to be the one I needed. And exactly as I had feared, I came up 270 out of the necessary 300. It was brutal to imagine how I had been unprepared like this, but luckily I had that second attempt certificate...or so I thought.

As it turns out, you only get the second try certificate from taking one of the GK courses, but not the Install and Configure course that I had taken.

Fast Forward to August 2014

Time to put myself back into the fray of certification. I've been lucky to have some amazing inspiration from someone who has really helped me once again to get back to my certification track. VCP on 5.5 this time, and then right on to the next step.



After working on the Virtual Design Master event and all of the great community work that I've been lucky enough to be involved in, I am committing back to myself. I hope to have a successful story to tell very soon on the VCP550 experience, and if you have any study tools that you would recommend, please feel free to drop a comment below!

Thanks and wish me luck!!

[Introduction to OpenStack on Pluralsight is live!](#)

There are many celebrations happening today with Canada Day being one of them. It is with lots of joy as a Canadian that I also get to have my own proud moment because of the launch of my recently authored [Introduction to OpenStack on Pluralsight!](#)

Eric Wright



Eric Wright is a Systems Architect, VMware vExpert, and Cisco Champion with a background in virtualization, VMware, OpenStack, Business Continuity, PowerShell scripting and systems automation in many industries including financial services, health services and engineering firms. As the author behind DiscoPosse.com, a technology and virtualization blog, Eric is also a regular contributor to community driven technology groups such as the VMUG organization in Toronto, Canada. When Eric is not working in technology, you may find him with a guitar in his hand or riding a local bike race or climbing over the obstacles on a Tough Mudder course. Eric also commits time regularly to charity bike rides and running events to help raise awareness and funding for cancer research through a number of organizations.



Course

Author

Level

Rating

Duration

Released

Introduction to OpenStack 

Eric Wright

Beginner

★★★★★

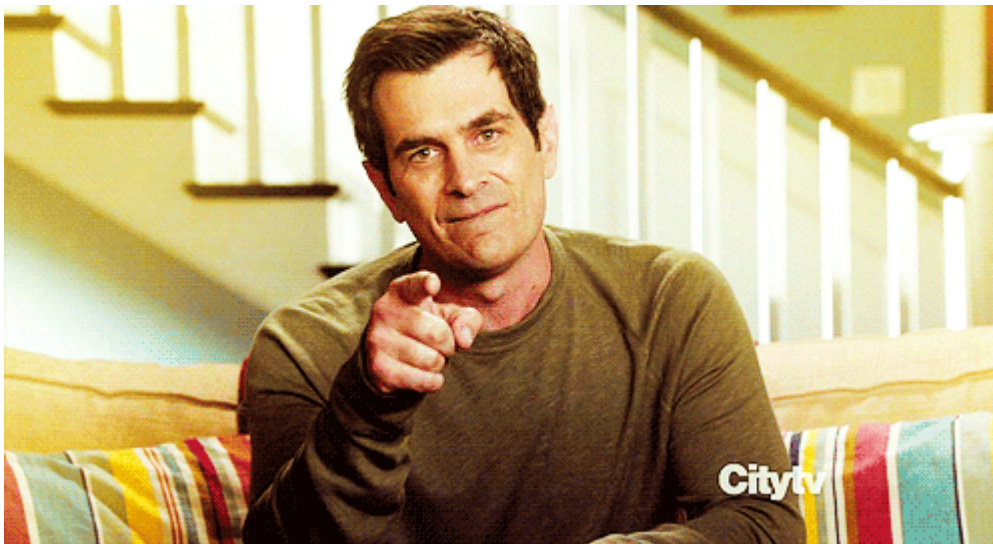
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1 Jul 2014

Introduction to OpenStack

The course is designed to target those who are new to OpenStack or those who need a refresher on the OpenStack ecosystem. It was a lot of fun creating the course content and I put a little bit of everything in there to make sure that you will come out with a good overall understanding of how OpenStack works, how it was created and maintained, and the features of the different projects within OpenStack.

Designed by, and for community, this course is the beginning of much more that I plan to produce to help people along their journey with OpenStack and much more thanks to the great team at Pluralsight.



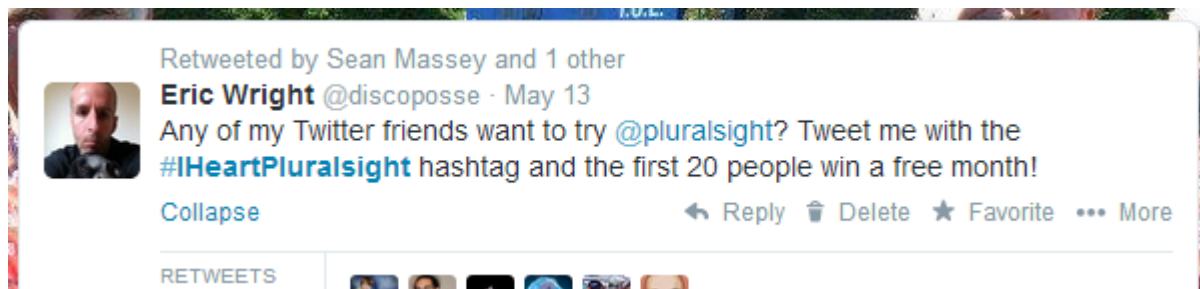
Thank you, because you made this happen!

In fact, I want to be sure that you get to share this experience with me because I will be looking for lots of feedback on what kind of content you would like to see as we move into the next courses. This is an exciting way for me to ensure that I am building for the needs of the community which is the real reason that I'm putting this together.

Want to Try Pluralsight?

If you aren't already a member of Pluralsight, don't worry because thanks to the team there I have been given 20 free 30-day passes for newcomers to the Pluralsight platform.

Winning is easy because all you have to do is **write a comment below and share this post on one or more of your social media channels** (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Google+) and add the hashtag #IHeartPluralsight similar to this:



I hope that you like the course, and if you do, please make sure to rate it and let me know what the cool parts are that you enjoyed. Your feedback (yes, even the non-positive stuff) is what makes me better at creating the next content.

Thank you! and Thank you to Pluralsight who made this happen for me. I have to also say a big thanks to David Davis and Chris Wahl who both helped me along the way with this, plus they are both wickedly good authors for Pluralsight. So while you're rocking your 30-day trial, make sure that you have a listen to the great content that they have created at Pluralsight.com.

[Coming soon: Introduction to OpenStack on Pluralsight](#)



This year just keeps getting more and more exciting for me, and I am proud to announce today that I am working with the team at Pluralsight to bring more content to my audience in a new way!

First, I need to thank all of you for what you've done to bring this opportunity. As readers and community members, your feedback and support have been the driving force to inspire me to do more to give back.

At this time I have my first Pluralsight course in the QA process which is titled **Introduction to OpenStack**. This course is an introductory look at the OpenStack projects and general concepts around the OpenStack ecosystem.

This is especially fun to be able to grow the number of ways that I can spread the word on great technologies like OpenStack, and with my upcoming trip to be a part of the [vBrownBag team](#) at the [OpenStack Summit in Atlanta May 12-16](#), I hope to have some Pluralsight goodies to share as well as some of my new DiscoPosse.com stickers to swag up your laptop!

But wait, there's more!

I know that many of my readers may already be at or beyond the point where they need an introduction to OpenStack, so I can happily say that my next goal is to continue to create and share course content through Pluralsight as well as my continued commitment to open community content sharing through my site.

As more details are available about the course release date and other information, I will be sure to share with all of you. Thank you again for making it so fun to share content, and I look forward to the release of Introduction to OpenStack with Pluralsight.com and to being able to create and share much more!

Keep watching here for more news and if you aren't already using [Pluralsight.com](#), make sure to head on over and take a look at the great library of offerings they have for you.