



Congratulations!
Students Certified in September...

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- Eric Deasy



LTS Lowdown

October 2011

The Zen of Lab

Tech Tip of the Month...

Cut, copy, and paste. Not the most exciting functions, but by far some of the most useful! Sure, you can always use your trusty mouse, but consider speeding up the process with some essential keyboard shortcuts. First, highlight the text you want to copy or cut, then....

Copy

Press *Ctrl-C* (hold down the *Ctrl* and press *C*) to copy.

On a Mac, use *Command-C* (press *C* while holding down the Apple key).

Paste

Press *Ctrl-V* (hold down the *Ctrl* key and press *V*) to paste.

On a Mac, use *Command-V* (hold down the Apple key and press *V*).

Cut

Press *Ctrl-X* (hold down the *Ctrl* key and press *X*) to cut.

On a Mac, use *Command-X* (hold down the Apple key and press *X*).

We've all experienced it. Read the coursework, follow the steps, and successfully complete the section. The enlightenment of labwork as its completion adds depth and knowledge to your study of the IT sciences. You feel your confidence in the material expand. Calm. Peace. Tranquility. Prepared for your exam.

Ka-boom! With the force of a charging rhinoceros the exam displays work that you may not recognize. Where did this come from you ask?

Ok, so let's back up. You were working the labs, took the steps and then the coursework displayed an error so it helped you correct with the right information. Done! Passing score! Really clear? Actually, clear as mud.

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The student's approach to labwork must be based on **understanding the underlying technology and not just completing the task.** But it's not really the student's fault that coursework has been based on completion of material. Earlier coursework from past certifications emphasized getting it done. Everyone has noticed the new Microsoft coursework. Cisco has never been a pushover. The current labs are designed to push the student. Expand the line of thinking. There is also the assumption of underlying basics. Cisco assumes you know networking fundamentals. Microsoft assumes you know something about client server relationships. It is meant to be frustrating because you are problem solving and as a teacher and an experienced network professional, I can say with the utmost confidence...there is nothing that will teach you more than problem solving. Labwork is not about speed and quantity. It's about quality and depth. Really, no pain no gain!

BTW... Zen Roshi is a beloved, old man teacher. If you've been in my class this is exactly what I am. Right? Bwahhhh – ha – ha –ha –ha!

- "Zen Roshi" Mike Videll

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