

Bootlin training course evaluation

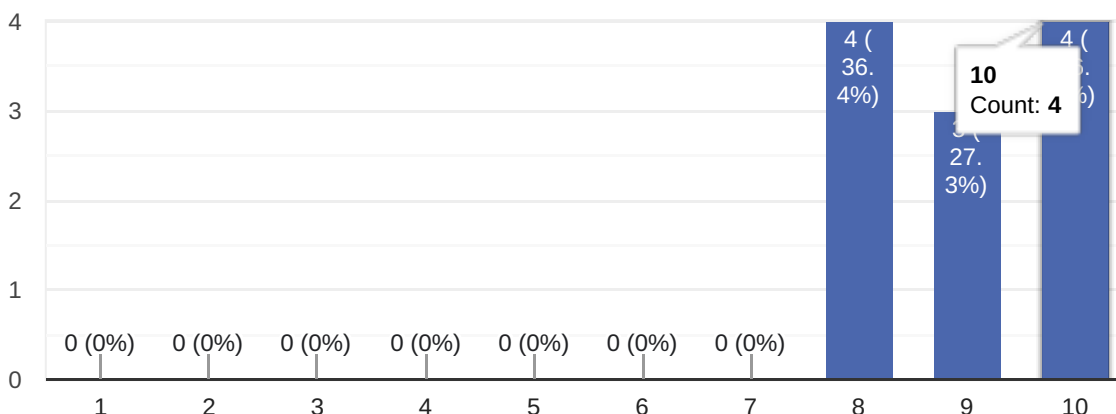
11 responses

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Overall rating of the course

 Copy

11 responses



Comments and suggestions

2 responses

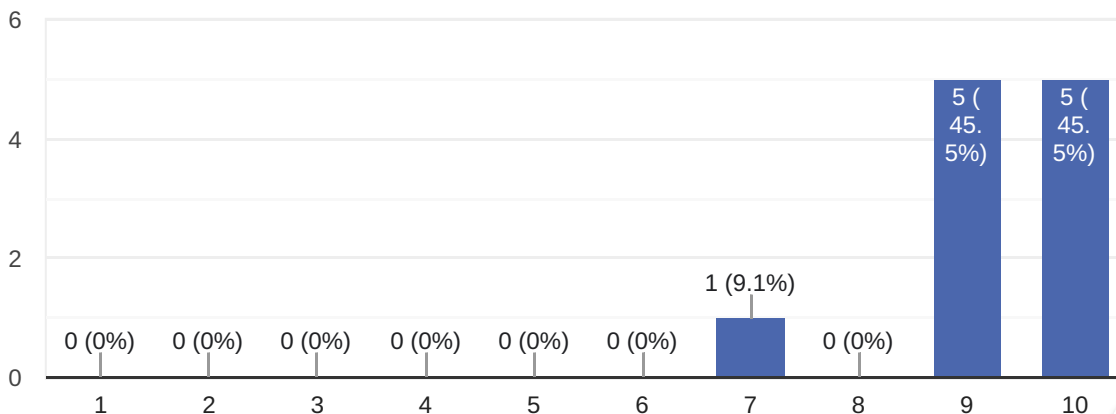
It felt very dense and the daily lecture can lead to an overload. Maybe it could help to have one lecture per week with the labs as homework. Then the labs could be discussed either at the beginning of each lecture, or in a separate date. Alternatively the lab could be discussed after a few days on the Matrix chat.

I just would like to have one or two more elaborated like bug finding problem.

How useful were the lectures?

 Copy

11 responses



Comments and suggestions

2 responses

The learning materials a quite clear, concise and exposes the content in a relatable way (especially when compared with the primary sources). Clearly a lot of effort has gone into curating this course to the state where it is now, well done!

A couple of suggestions:

- personally, I would like to see (even) more visuals alongside the information being presented (e.g. diagrams, graphs, etc.). I find that these kind of representations really help in the early stages, especially when modelling entirely new concepts.

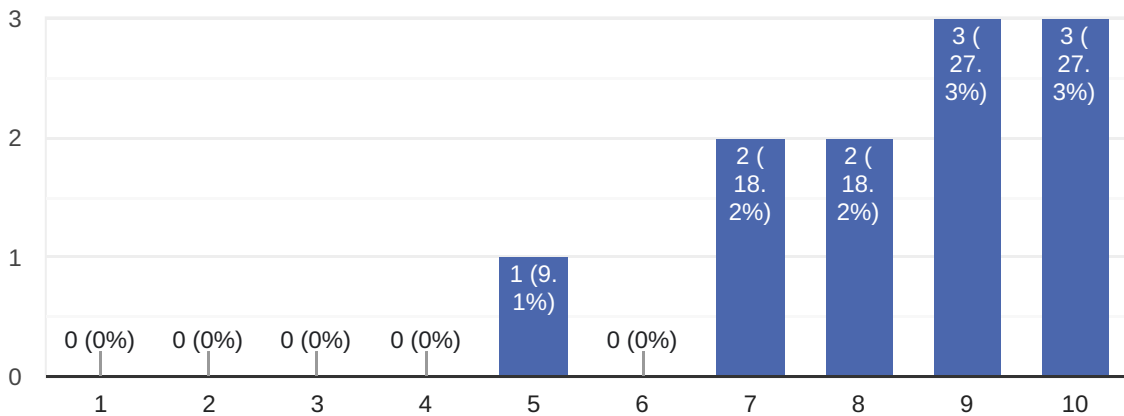
- a lot of the content revolves around presenting tools that are often somewhat overlapping (this very fact was mentioned at times). To help differentiate between them, perhaps it would be useful to present a sort of comparison slide at the end of each chapter, perhaps with a table distinguishing the different features.

A final summary page with all the different tools to analyze user space and kernel space would have been helpful given there were so many tools and wrappers for the base functionality. Also maybe breaking up the profiling/tracing topics to memory, I/O and CPU usage could be helpful for learning such as vast set of tools.

How useful were the practical demos?



11 responses



Comments and suggestions

3 responses

It would be great to have remote access that is provided so that we can run the labs or play around in general without having to worry about the exact environment. For another course I have used nomachine and found it quite helpful . Also since we perform many steps in the labs, summarizing the learnings after would've been useful.

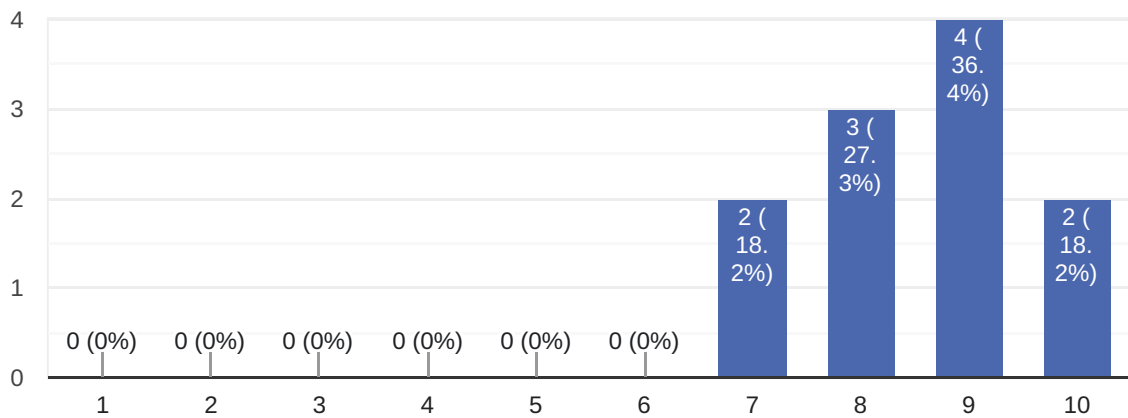
It was nice to have simple clear examples about how to use tools.

I really like the real time debugging process from which I learnt a lot of new techniques.

How would you rate the overall organization of the course?



11 responses



Comments and suggestions

3 responses

I prefer shorter sessions but for longer period

Really happy with the entire organization. Took basically 0 overhead to get started.

Idea (not sure whether this would actually work in practice): consider a slightly different "format" for the online courses: instead of interleaving between each lecture and lab chapters, perhaps the practical demonstrations could be done as soon as the new topic/tool is presented.

This comes with a couple of advantages in my opinion:

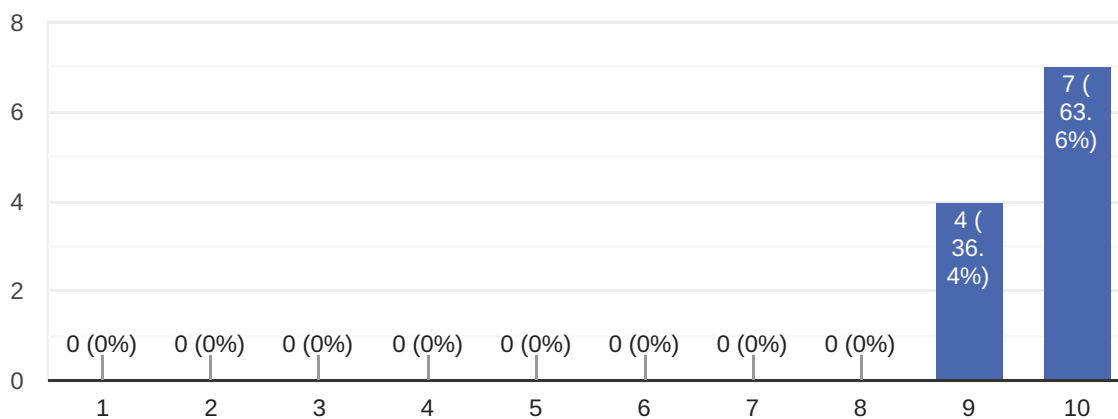
- the theoretical chapters can be quite overwhelming when going through so much information at once. Having those small demo breaks might feel better in terms of "rhythm".
- often times, new concepts/tools build on top of the previous each other. If each concept is given more time, including a practical demonstration, it might result in a more efficient learning experience.

I'd suggest to consider other video conferencing options. Jitsi meet service was pretty unreliable. I was dropped several times. Our instructor was dropped two times. I constantly had to switch from Firefox to Chrome and back for being able to join the meeting.

How would you rate the trainer?

 Copy

11 responses



Comments and suggestions

5 responses

Definitely expert at this field, proper person

Luca is an exceptional trainer. Super clear and always calm even in the face of unexpected issues or when addressing tough questions. Thanks for all your effort!

In the future, would be happy to hear some more stories/anecdotes, about professional challenges/situations encountered in the past (loosely) related to the topics at hand. These are always fun to hear about!

Luca was very good with the slides and labs and patiently answered all our questions.

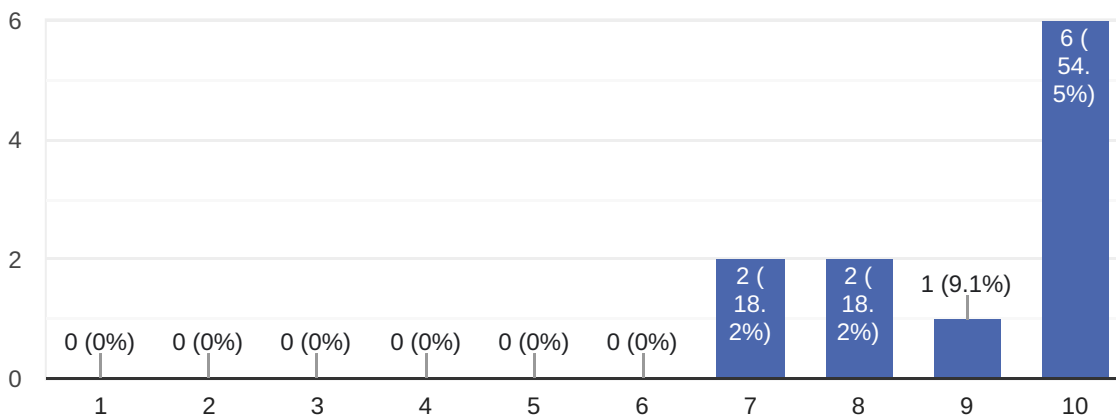
I sense trainer more experienced in Kernel space than user space, then I noted he hesitate to answer some questions, mainly at the first half o the training when we focused more in working with user space tools.

The instructor did a great job on collecting all the questions he wasn't ready to answer right away, analyzing them outside of the training and then presenting us the answers later during the course.

How did the course meet your learning objectives?



11 responses



Comments and suggestions

2 responses

I was expecting more profiling, tracing, performance analysis also for userland and less kernel development and debugging. As stated above, the tightly packed curriculum overloaded me a bit so I had a hard time concentrating at times.

I was expecting a demo/lab with eBPF and/or BCC in virtual platform maybe.



What part(s) of the course did you like most?

6 responses

Application Debugging

Differentiation of different tools, clear explanation how tracing differs from profiling.

perf probe

I think it is a nice course, well designed to balance theory and practice. I like several topics were covered targeting core functionalities.

The practice of debugging user-space applications

system wide profiling

What part(s) of the course did you like least?

4 responses

no answer

The eBPF/BCC demo absence.

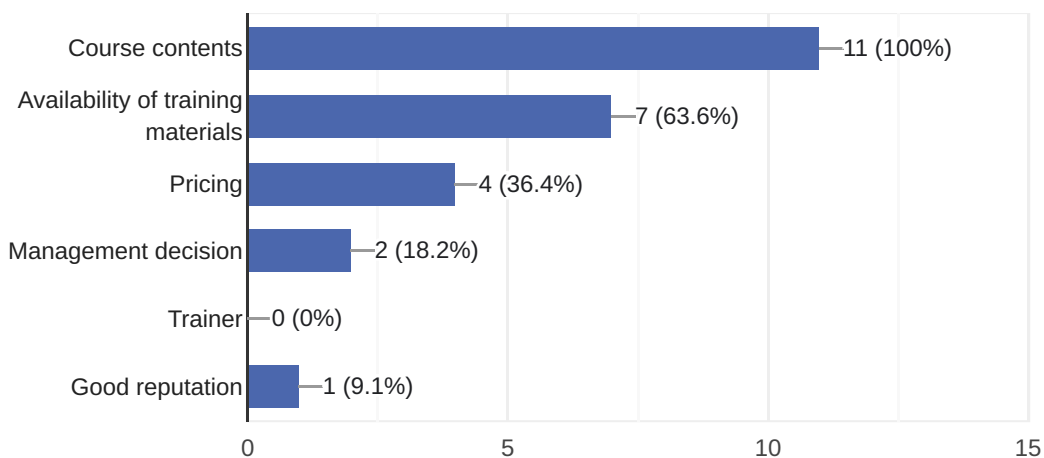
The practice of debugging in the kernel space

Not being able to replicate in live the exercises.

What reasons prompted you to choose a Bootlin course?



11 responses



Comments

3 responses

I wouldn't say I chose the course for the price (and I didn't do any comparisons) but the pricing was absolutely fair!

I think the training tools are aimed to find/solve behavioral and performance issues but I still feel there is a gap between the tool usage and the investigation strategy/methodology to discover the issue's root cause. I understand those are skills which depend on the developer's experience and the problem context. So, I think sharing use cases from experienced trainers would help to fill/close the gap. It could be like short stories to view/read out of training time which show the training knowledge applied in real/elaborated cases.

My main concern is a lack of network debugging/profiling + eBPF has been gaining a lot of traction since a few years, we should have a bigger deep dive.

Further training needs?

3 responses

Embedded Linux connectivity (networking, USB, BLE, Cellular, Wifi...)

Maybe a production level embedded linux application development course could be useful to many. As in best practices to follow while setting up a linux system for a product in terms of uboot, kernel, userspace, toolchain, build system (buildroot vs yocto), CI/CD etc

eBPF mostly

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