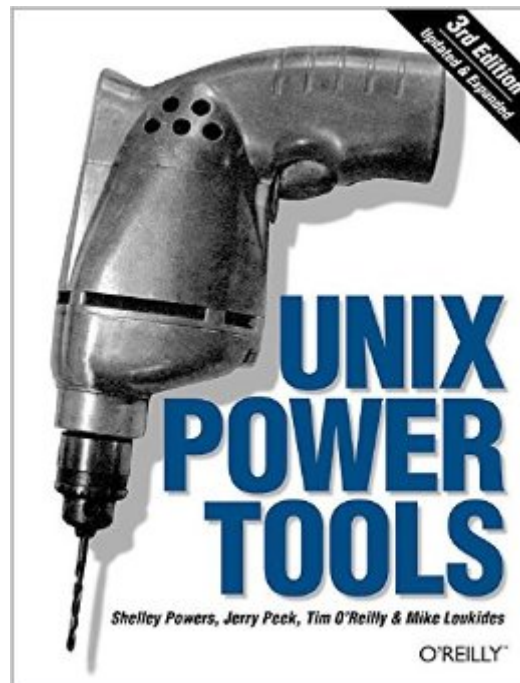


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Unix Power Tools, Third Edition



Synopsis

With the growing popularity of Linux and the advent of Darwin, Unix has metamorphosed into something new and exciting. No longer perceived as a difficult operating system, more and more users are discovering the advantages of Unix for the first time. But whether you are a newcomer or a Unix power user, you'll find yourself thumbing through the goldmine of information in the new edition of Unix Power Tools to add to your store of knowledge. Want to try something new? Check this book first, and you're sure to find a tip or trick that will prevent you from learning things the hard way. The latest edition of this best-selling favorite is loaded with advice about almost every aspect of Unix, covering all the new technologies that users need to know. In addition to vital information on Linux, Darwin, and BSD, Unix Power Tools 3rd Edition now offers more coverage of bash, zsh, and other new shells, along with discussions about modern utilities and applications. Several sections focus on security and Internet access. And there is a new chapter on access to Unix from Windows, addressing the heterogeneous nature of systems today. You'll also find expanded coverage of software installation and packaging, as well as basic information on Perl and Python. Unix Power Tools 3rd Edition is a browser's book...like a magazine that you don't read from start to finish, but leaf through repeatedly until you realize that you've read it all. Bursting with cross-references, interesting sidebars explore syntax or point out other directions for exploration, including relevant technical details that might not be immediately apparent. The book includes articles abstracted from other O'Reilly books, new information that highlights program tricks and gotchas, tips posted to the Net over the years, and other accumulated wisdom. Affectionately referred to by readers as "the" Unix book, UNIX Power Tools provides access to information every Unix user is going to need to know. It will help you think creatively about UNIX, and will help you get to the point where you can analyze your own problems. Your own solutions won't be far behind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm an analog IC designer moonlighting as a linux hacker (I'm actually addicted). I try to build software, write shell scripts and customize my desktop to death. I picked up this book a year or two back and I think I've probably used it almost every single day to look up something or the other. I probably own about 20 linux related books (more than my engineering books) but this is the one that I would run out with when the firealarm sounds. Here is my short summary of my feelings about this book.- this book (primarily) caters to intermediate to advanced users- I would still recommend this for linux beginners as a reference to check up when every other beginner book fails. There are introductory chapters on shell scripting which could put some of the dedicated shell scripting books to shame- One of the fundamental holy grail that linux books try to achieve (and in which they often fail) is to find a good balance between breadth and depth - both qualities which the subject of Unix do not shy away from. So a Linux beginner picks up an introductory book which addresses just one linux issue and before he knows it-he has gathered enough knowledge and the book just picks up dust. Or he could pick up a book that claims to be a reference and skims over all the items with little depth and boom when he really needs information about a particular topic he finds that the book is too shallow. The "Unix Power Tools" book, I'm happy to say achieves this good balance between depth and breadth in very good measure. Ex. When I was confused about the intricacies of bash quoting or I/O redirection, this book came to my rescue.

Here is a quote taken from Unix Power Tools which demonstrates the attitude, shared by the authors, that unix allows you to make things easier. "'Ugh!', you say, 'that's just what I hate about UNIX. All these long filenames and options I can't remember. Who wants to type all that stuff!' Precisely. That's why UNIX makes it so easy to create custom commands, in the form of aliases and shell scripts." Unix Power Tools is true to the spirit and philosophy of unix in focusing on the command line environment with its rich abundance of command interpreters, shell languages, system utilities, commands, and the like. This is the realm of real power. The book is aimed squarely at the user who wants to learn what's under the hood of the unix (and Linux) system. It's not about how to change your wallpaper or install the latest media player, or configure your desktop, although

this new edition may touch on these topics, too. It's really about using unix to greatest advantage, about tapping its real power, the power of its simplicity, of its flexibility, of tapping into I/O streams, and using the tool-box approach to solving real problems. It's about using 'pipes', 'redirection', and 'filters', to automate the big jobs. My copy of this book is tattered from all the use it's had over the last ten years. I'm always hunting it down, as my associates at work are constantly borrowing it to help them solve a problem. That's okay, though. I am ordering another copy, just for me.

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