

LEARNING THE UNIX OPERATING SYSTEM

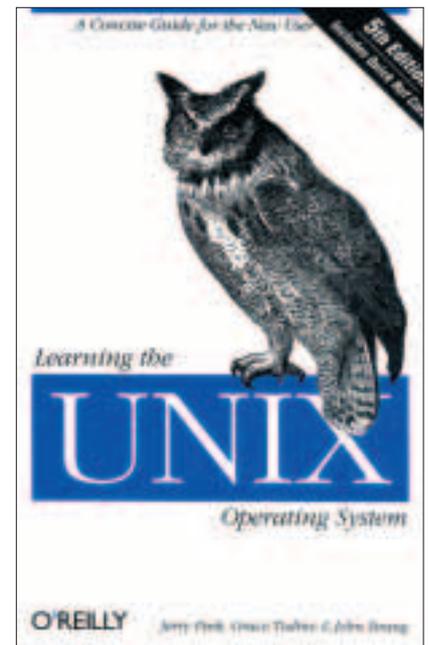
This, the fifth edition of this handbook, has been fully updated from the last edition nearly four years ago. It now covers the pico text editor, pine email, lynx Web browser, two interactive chat programs and a chapter on networking. Other sections have been updated to cover newer systems and the glossary and index have been expanded and improved.

The book concentrates on teaching basic commands to give the user a good grounding on using their Unix system without overwhelming them with detail. Exercises and examples are included, as is a quick reference card, to pull out and keep by your computer. The book is a very handy guide for new users of Unix; it covers all the most frequently used areas and explains clearly and concisely what to do. It only touches the surface of what's possible, but for those who want to go further

into the subject there are plenty of weightier tomes out there to help.

It doesn't cover any systems administration and assumes that there is a competent systems administrator around to ensure that all is running as it should be. The authors assume no prior knowledge of computing so that many sections may seem a bit too basic but, all the same, it is a useful quick reference guide to basic Unix commands and is easily navigated without getting confused by all the detail that so many user guides are full of.

Author Jerry Peek, Grace Todino & John Strang
Publisher O'Reilly
Price £13.95
ISBN 0-596-00261-0



LINUX SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

In contrast to the previous book this book assumes that you want to be your own systems administrator and it sets out to give you the knowledge to do just that. It opens with a useful comparison of the different distributions with pros and cons and contact Web sites, and continues with ideas of where to find help, from the manual pages of the program to Usegroups.

The book goes into great detail right from the start. It tries not to assume any particular distribution is being used though this means that some explanations are, perhaps, a little more complex than they might otherwise be. Having said that, the book is very user friendly and talks you through installation and use in a straightforward and entertaining manner. Some chapters contain sections on specific distributions; each

chapter ends with a list of resources to help with aspects covered in that chapter, usually Web sites but also books.

All the major topics are covered in depth with an emphasis on the necessity for security and there are plenty of tips and tricks to make your life easier. Whether you are administering a company system or simply setting up your own at home this book will guide you through the maze and help configure your system, as you want it. Some chapters are more readable than others, but on the whole this is a very accessible work on a complex subject.

Author Marcel Gagné
Publisher Addison Wesley
Price £34.99
ISBN 0-201-71934-7

