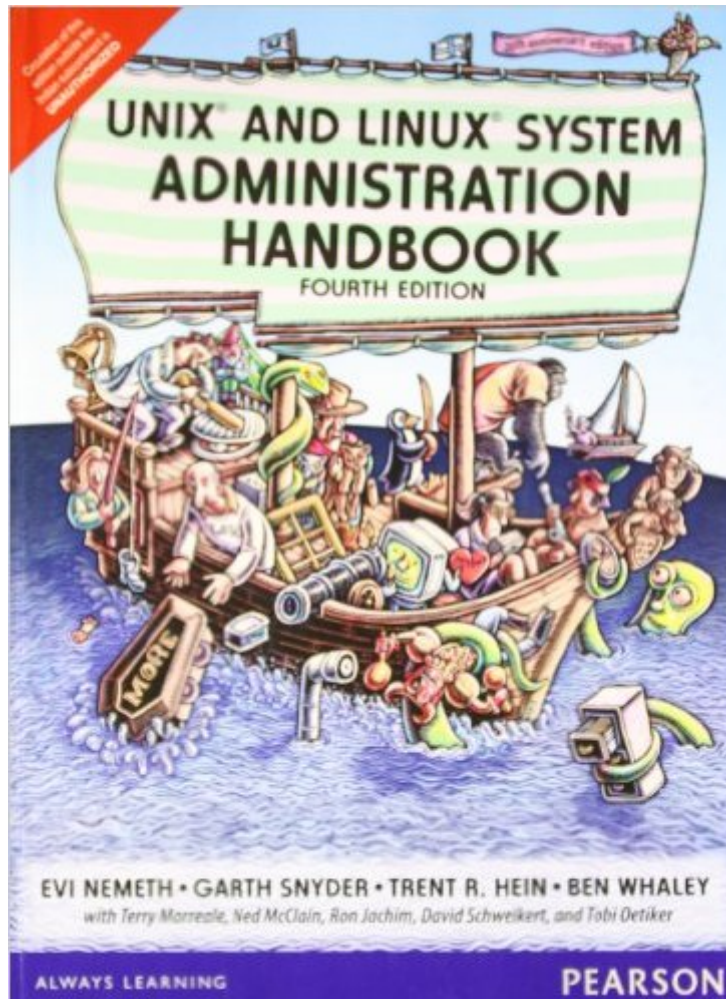


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Unix And Linux System Administration Handbook



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Customer Reviews

There's a reason this book receives glowing reviews, and it doesn't have much to do with what's in it. It has to do with what's not in it. I am so accustomed to really miserable, overly verbose tech writing by people who are clearly not good writers that finding this book blew me away. In an era of disposable and free blog writing, I forgot how good tech writing can be. We need more writing like this. I bought the paperback and the Kindle edition. First time, ever, that I bought a book twice. When they come out with a new edition, I'll buy that one, too. Another first. Tech book publishers, take note of why this book works:- There aren't equally-weighted discussions about every single option available.- There's not a lot of BS filler.- There's historical context which aids in memorization. Stories teach.- There's a lot of "do this, here's why" aka "best practices".- There aren't pages and pages of useless code that nobody cares about.- There are no gimmicks (free CD/DVDs and the like) attached to the book.- The writing style assumes you are busy and treats your time as valuable. In this book is practical wisdom and tested/tried techniques to get you started on most things you will do as an admin. The authors know you have Google, and they don't kill you wasting your time. They give you a description of the technology, the most appropriate way(s) to handle it (with syntax), how to think about it, and how it differs (if it differs) between versions of Linux/UNIX.

Also not designed to teach you how to run Linux in your basement (but you can take everything they say and still apply yourself to that if you choose.) I was almost scared off when I read that in the

preface, since I didn't have large systems to test on. Fear not however, the book is a masterpiece and even non-pro users will find themselves discovering the power of Unix/Linux, and I mean the full power, they don't leave many stones unturned in this book. However this book is targeted to larger system deployments and real world large systems. Which is fantastic, everything to get Linux users to the 'next' level is here. IT/IS professionals who have for the most part mastered basic *Nix commands will find this book extraordinary. I have the e-book version of this, but I really needed to get the paper one too. That is how good this is, and I have read just about everything in it at this point. The book is well laid out, unlike my review it stays focused within each section. So much content is in here I can't even pull out half of the parts I found useful so I won't even try. If you're a Unix/Linux user (IT/IS pro), buy it. If you're learning how to walk in Linux, you might want to stay away for a little bit, though it does do a reasonable job of refreshing the memory of most users, there is not THAT much introductory level information in this book to get you all the way up to speed. If you're ambitious enough I guess a new user could make use of this book, but I would suggest reading other material before this. Best Linux book I have purchased ever to date.

I used and liked a much earlier edition of this book; the new one looks as good. The 4 stars is for the book, the Kindle edition would get 1-2 stars because of the following flaws: 1) The book contains many tables of text information. These were apparently formatted as images, or at least they are images in the Kindle edition. The result is that the tiny text cannot be magnified. Worse, the characters are a very light gray which is very difficult to read. 2) The newer go-to-page-number feature is not supported in this edition; perhaps the feature wasn't available at the time. Since the authors make many references to other page numbers, go-to-page-number is necessary. I hope the publisher improves the Kindle edition; otherwise get the print version.

The problem that I've had with most Linux/Unix Sys Administration books is the fact that they're either too easy (assume that you've never touched a command line and don't want to) or they teach the material in the most obfuscated/difficult to understand manner. This book is great! I've been a sys admin for around a year and a half and I've learned so much from this book. Unlike other books, it details the history of certain concepts to enforce the concept rather than just to provide you with a history lesson. Definitely pick this book up!

The 3rd edition is great, the 4th edition updates that greatness. This book had been out for about a week when I noticed it and I had to get my hands on it! There is a change I am bummed out about...

They removed FreeBSD as one of their example systems but included OpenSolaris (Oracle killed OpenSolaris after buying Sun). Thankfully FreeBSD has it's own Bible, Absolute FreeBSD: The Complete Guide to FreeBSD, 2nd Edition, by Michael W. Lucas (must have for FreeBSD admins). Besides the OpenSolaris/FreeBSD change, this is still a solid book worthy of 5 stars. Since this might be the last edition of The Handbook I am glad to see an update. There is more Linux in this edition compared to the 3rd, they added a great introduction to scripting chapter, updated chapters for with the latest technologies, and removed references and chapters on obsolete tech. If this is their last edition good way to go out. I hope someone else can put together a similar book for the future that can live up to this classic. Again, MUST HAVE!!!

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