

Bash Cookbook



By

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Introduction:

Users who are new to Linux or Unix may have heard the term “shell” and wondered what that meant. Experienced users may have heard about bash and wondered what it was all about. Other Linux and Unix users of all experience levels may be interested in being able to do more with command line scripting. Regardless of who you may be, any Linux or Unix user who fits into any of the aforementioned categories may do well to check out “*Bash Cookbook*”, published by O'Reilly Media, Inc.

Comments

The book starts off rather quickly in explaining just what a shell is, then follows up with some great examples on using the command line to get what you want. For those who are experienced at working with the command line in Linux or Unix, The first few chapters will seem more of a review than anything else. For those who got used to working in Linux via a GUI, the first few chapters will give some useful insight into how to use some of the various commands at the command line.

By starting with using Linux at the command line, the authors are able to lead into combining the commands into scripts, which is where the power of working with the bash shell is realized. Right from the get-go, the book is just full of useful examples that users of all levels will be able to take advantage of.

More experienced users will be happy to see that as the book progresses into more challenging scripts, the authors have also included chapters on secure coding, advanced scripting, as well as customizing the bash shell. People like myself who tend to be more of a slow typist will appreciate Chapter 17, which deals with routine housekeeping tasks. Novice users will appreciate the chapter on common pitfalls that novices make. Users of all levels will appreciate the discussions that follow each of the examples throughout the book.

Conclusion

“Bash Cookbook” is a great addition to any Linux or Unix user's library. New Linux users, or those who are new to the command line, would do well to couple this book with O'Reilly's *“Running Linux”* as well as O'Reilly's *“Linux in a Nutshell”*.