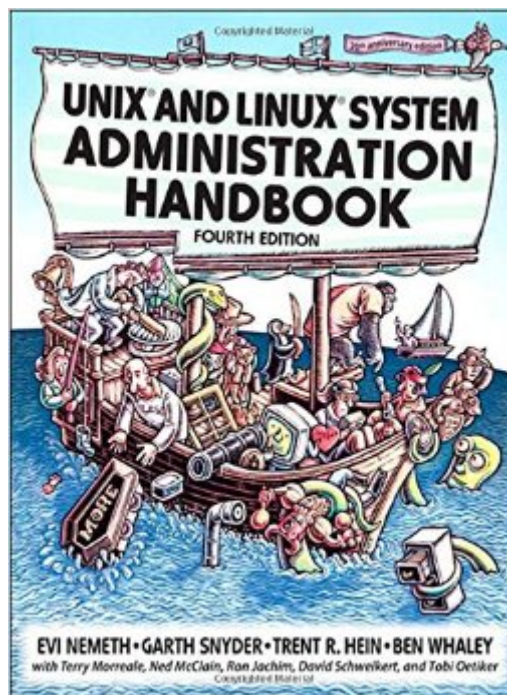




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# UNIX And Linux System Administration Handbook, 4th Edition



## Synopsis

“As an author, editor, and publisher, I never paid much attention to the competition except in a few cases. This is one of those cases. The UNIX System Administration Handbook is one of the few books we ever measured ourselves against. From the Foreword by Tim O'Reilly, founder of O'Reilly Media

“This book is fun and functional as a desktop reference. If you use UNIX and Linux systems, you need this book in your short-reach library. It covers a bit of the systems history but doesn't bloviate. It's just straightforward information delivered in colorful and memorable fashion.

Jason A. Nunnalley

“This is a comprehensive guide to the care and feeding of UNIX and Linux systems. The authors present the facts along with seasoned advice and real-world examples. Their perspective on the variations among systems is valuable for anyone who runs a heterogeneous computing facility.

Pat Parseghian The twentieth anniversary edition of the world's best-selling UNIX system administration book has been made even better by adding coverage of the leading Linux distributions: Ubuntu, openSUSE, and RHEL. This book approaches system administration in a practical way and is an invaluable reference for both new administrators and experienced professionals. It details best practices for every facet of system administration, including storage management, network design and administration, email, web hosting, scripting, software configuration management, performance analysis, Windows interoperability, virtualization, DNS, security, management of IT service organizations, and much more. UNIX and Linux System Administration Handbook, Fourth Edition, reflects the current versions of these operating systems: Ubuntu Linux, openSUSE Linux, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Oracle America Solaris (formerly Sun Solaris), HP HP-UX, IBM AIX

## Book Information

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Evi Nemeth has retired from the Computer Science faculty at the University of Colorado. She is currently exploring the Pacific on her 40-foot sailboat named Wonderland. Garth Snyder has worked at NeXT and Sun and holds a BS in Engineering from Swarthmore College and an MD and an MBA from the University of Rochester. Trent R. Hein is the co-founder of Applied Trust, a company that

provides IT infrastructure consulting services. Trent holds a BS in Computer Science from the University of Colorado. Ben Whaley is the Director of Enterprise Architecture at Applied Trust. Ben earned a BS in Computer Science from the University of Colorado. He is an expert in storage management, virtualization, and web infrastructure.

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.

Acquiring this book has marked the start of a great new career for me. I would recommend this book to anyone who needs a text that focuses on all the baseline skills required to be a great Linux / Unix administrator. This book includes both succinct technical information along with a light and gayliss humor that makes it very pleasant to read.

Excellent introduction to Linux systems administration and a good reference for mid-level sysadmins. The introductory chapters provide an excellent overview of UNIX-like operating systems and the basics of interacting with them, but it presupposes a general understanding of computers. Windows sysadmins and power users looking to learn Linux will find this book very helpful, but genuine beginners will probably be lost. Also, the focus is very much on medium to large multi-user deployments, so if you're looking for info about running Linux as a desktop OS this probably isn't the

book for you. The book is well organized, concise, and easy to read. Each chapter is more-or-less stand-alone, but there is minimal repetition, so it works well whether you read it cover to cover or just pick out the chapters that interest you. The version I have (4th ed) is slightly outdated in that it doesn't address systemd, which has replaced init in many Linux distributions, but the fundamentals are the same so it's not a huge problem as long as you can figure out the new commands.

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!

Excellent resource. I've been working as a Jr Linux Engineer for the past 5 months. I bought this book 3 months ago but have not read much of it until today. Simply cannot put this book down!!! This book was recommended to me and now I see why. Great for any new system administrators -- no matter how well you think you know Linux already! The part on BASH scripting made the BASH scripting language finally make sense to me. I have experience with software development in Python, Ruby, C, C++, PHP, Java, JavaScript, and Swift but for some reason BASH never made much sense to me. Once I finish reading this I will finally be able to dig into Classic Shell Scripting and hopefully advance my career further. I do, however, wish they covered virtualization in the same detail as networking.

The foreword to this volume is by Tim O'Reilly. In it he states that an earlier incarnation of this book, now in its fourth edition, served as the benchmark for what his own System Administration book would have to strive for in terms of content and accessibility. I'm not a rabid consumer of O'Reilly books. Some of them are the best games in town, some not worth the paper etc. But in this case he is echoing my own sentiment with respect to the Unix and Linux System Administration Handbook (4th Edition). This book teems with useful advice honed over four editions, more than 20 years of experience half a dozen different flavors of the "unix-like" operating systems available, from Solaris through a rainbow of Linux variants to AIX, the mutant elephant in the room. The tone is not always agnostic, but if there are dissenting opinions to the view being expressed, they are presented and attributed. I like that approach a lot. Too much of the Sys Admin dialectic is needless (and all to

often ranting) evangelism of this or that O/S rather than a cogent discussion of the matter at hand. Here, all voices are heard. The range of subjects covered is, to these eyes, a definitive and complete set, making this book a swiss army knife for the Sys Admin. Recommended.

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