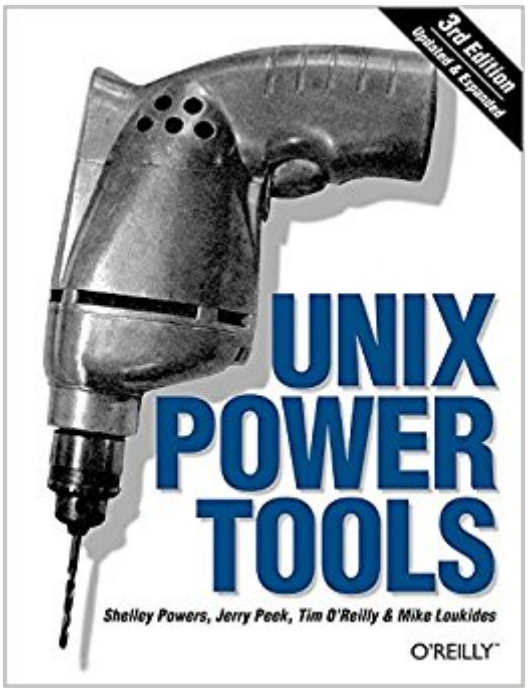
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# Unix Power Tools, Third Edition




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## 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

The mark of a craftsman is his familiarity with his tools, the speed with which he can use them to solve simple problems, and his cleverness in using them to solve more complicated challenges. The latest edition of Unix Power Tools explores the standard Unix tools in greater depth than ever, and with better coverage of Linux, FreeBSD, and even the Darwin environment of Mac OS X. It's also been improved by the addition of sections on Perl and Python, programming languages that can often solve Unix problems more adeptly than any specific utility. This detail-filled book distinguishes itself from other guides for Unix gurus with its organizational structure (it's a series of articles that can be absorbed sequentially or individually) and carefully designed and executed index. Like its esteemed predecessors, this book is one you will keep handy.The authors have achieved a nearly ideal balance in the pages of this book. It's not just a collection of recipes (such collections tend to leave you hanging if you want to do something a little differently), it's not just a book of documentation (books like that have application mainly as references for people who know a lot already), and it's not just a conceptual how-to guide. Unix Power Tools is all of those things, and the overall effect is impressive indeed. If you work with any flavor of Unix, whatever your level of experience, you will benefit by having this book. --David Wall Topics covered: How to work efficiently, elegantly, and creatively with the Unix tool suite, as well as (to a lesser extent) with Perl and Python scripts. Tips and strategies on customization, document generation, process management, and networking abound in this wisdom-rich volume.

"Highly recommended." - Tony Houghton, Cvu, June 2003

This is one of the best technical book that I bought in the last 10 years, at least from the organizational and layout point of the view. It contains hundreds of short articles, page or two in length organized in a remarkable way of cross-referenced, alamanc-like book.Articles are logically organized in chapters so you can read the book from cover to cover if you wish. However more likely you'll end up reading the book more randomly, following the cross-references. (I have some bad experience with the books organized in this way but this one is a clear exception.)The book is

written for beginners and experts alike, since I’m a Unix newbie I can only confirm that; I hate to say but the life of Unix SA would be much easier if the man pages would be organized in a similar way -- including examples that’re almost never there.I’m waiting for O’Reilly to update their "Unix CD Bookshelf" with third edition of this book because it’s a little too heavy for carrying it with me.

As someone with a fairly limited knowledge of any unix flavor (I was comfortable with only the very basic command line tools and googling the rest), I have found this book to be very useful, interesting and readable. Be warned though, it’s huge (fat telephone book-sized). The font, margins and line spacing a generous, which accounts for some of it. Some of the example use-cases are silly, but the basic ones are usually solid and you often pick up interesting facts and unix history from chapters (which I need to stay to stay interested). It’s not written in the most academic fashion, which is fine, though I had to get used to the conversational style.Cons: wordy, could be a bit more academically written, "common tasks and ways of doing them" style is not my favoritePros: Detailed, contains interesting historical info, multiple authors provide different perspectives, humorous, enjoyable to read, feels like I’ve got a bunch of gurus sitting next to me at my desk

Still a definitive reference for Unix Command Line programming - highly highly recommended. I own both a physical copy and a kindle version. The physical copy is frankly preferred because I refer to it so regularly.

Back in 1995 I started working at a client and all the UNIX guys had this book on their desk. I was a newbie at that time and the book helped me out a lot. It was clear and to the point. There is so much useful information. Recently I got my own copy because I had to jump back into the UNIX world and having this book around make me feel like I can handle any task that may be required. This is a must have if you want to dabble or become a pro in UNIX.

This book is a good reference for some one who knows Linux, it is a collection of articles on how to do things. This book is not for someone who wants to learn Linux.

A great refresher/reference and learning tool. Will definately be well worn by me in time. It’s fun to just open up a random page and try out whatever is there.

I’ve worked in IT for 20+ years, and this is one of the best books I’ve found. What an index! And

even the text of the book has reference "pointers" (for lack of a better term) sprinkled throughout it. Even if you don’t initially find what you are looking for, you can usually read a couple of paragraphs and find a link to what you need. This book is a "keeper!"

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 redirecition, this book came to my rescue. The Unix command "find" which was buried under a 4-year old alias for me owing to it’s complexities, suddenly developed a fascination for me after I discovered it’s myriad use and value from the multiple pages that this book devoted to it’s demystifcation.- I bought the O’Reilly books - "Linux in a Nutshell" and "Essential system Administration" with the purpose of using them as references - The first one was just too shallow for my requirements and taste and I use it basically as a replacement for online man pages. The second one has it’s very niche, but only in specific circumstances. So they have been put to use probably just 1/10th of what the "Power Tools" book has been put to- I’m not a guy who is driven to write reviews i.e unless I am totally ecstatic or totally disgusted with a product and you probably have guessed where I stand with this one. I waited 1 or two years and I somehow felt that I owe this review to this book.

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