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# The Linux Reading List HOWTO

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Revision History		
Revision 3.0	2004-02-04	esr
Major update. Removed out-of-date books, added a new one.		
Revision 2.1	2003-10-28	esr
Added TAOUP.		
Revision 2.0	2003-07-31	esr
Major revision, cleaned out obsolete stuff.		
Revision 1.21	2003-02-22	esr
LDP site has moved.		
Revision 1.20	2001-06-14	esr
Removed "Practical Unix Security"; it's five years old and the material is now covered better by other books.		
Revision 1.19	2001-06-14	esr
Added Ross Anderson's "Security Engineering". Corrected ISBNs.		

## Abstract

This document lists the books I think are most valuable to a person trying to learn Unix (especially Linux) top to bottom.

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## Introduction

### Purpose of this document

This document lists what I consider to be the essential book-length references for learning Unix (especially Linux) and how to program under it.

## New versions of this document

New versions of the Linux Reading List HOWTO will be periodically posted to `comp.os.linux.answers` [`news:comp.os.linux.answers`]. They will also be uploaded to various Linux WWW and FTP sites, including the LDP home page.

You can also view the latest version of this on the World Wide Web via the URL `http://sunsite.unc.edu/LDP/HOWTO/Reading-List-HOWTO.html` [`http://sunsite.unc.edu/LDP/HOWTO/Reading-List-HOWTO.html`].

## Feedback and Corrections

If you have questions or comments about this document (or just want to suggest a book that you think should be on it), please feel free to mail Eric S. Raymond, at `<esr@thyrsus.com>`. I welcome any suggestions or criticisms.

## Related Resources

For on-line HOWTOs, magazines, and other non-book material, see the Linux Documentation Project home page [`http://www.tldp.org/`].

Some years ago I wrote a less Linux-focused Unix bibliography that may still be of some interest and retains a certain amusement value. You can find the Loginataka here [`http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/loginataka.html`].

SAGE, the System Administrator's Guild, maintains an excellent list of relevant books [`http://www.usenix.org/sage/sysadmins/books/booklist.html`].

## Conventions Used In This Document

Comments not in quotes below are either mine, or I have seen no reason to change them from those of Jim Haynes (previous maintainer of this document). Comments sent in by others are in quotes, and have the name of the commentator before them (JH is Jim Haynes).

"See" URLs attached to publishing information point directly into the publisher's web catalog and typically take you to a page containing a cover shot, blurbs, and ordering information. Books that don't have these lack them because the publisher is using frames and the catalog pages can't be bookmarked.

Topic listings go roughly from the outside in (culture to user-land programming to kernel programming to hardware). Within sections I have tried to list the most useful books first insofar as I am familiar with them. It's just an embarrassing coincidence that this lists one of my books first, honest! (Suggestions for a better organization cheerfully accepted.)

# Basic Linux and Unix bibliography

## Books on Culture, History, and Pragmatics

*The New Hacker's Dictionary*. Third Edition. Eric S. Raymond. Copyright © 1996. ISBN 0-262-68092-0. MIT Press. 547pp..

*A Quarter Century of Unix*. Peter H. Salus. Copyright © 1994. ISBN 0-201-54777-5. Addison-Wesley. 255pp..

*The Mythical Man Month*. Anniversary Edition. Frederic P. Brooks. Copyright © 1995. ISBN 0-201-83595-9. Addison-Wesley.

*The Cathedral and the Bazaar*. Second Edition. Eric S. Raymond. Copyright © 1999. ISBN 0-596-00131-2. O'Reilly & Associates. 240pp..

## Linux basics

*Linux System Administrator's Guide*. Lars Wirzenius. Copyright © 1997. Linux Documentation Project.

*Linux in a Nutshell*. Fourth Edition. Ellen Siever. Stephen Figgins. Aaron Weber. Copyright © 2003. ISBN 0-596-00482-6. O'Reilly & Associates.

*Running Linux*. Fourth Edition. Matt Welsh. Matthias Dallheimer. Terry Dawson. Lar Kaufman. Copyright © 2002. ISBN 0-596-00272-6. O'Reilly & Associates.

*A Practical Guide to Linux*. Mark G. Sobell. Copyright © 1998. ISBN 0-201-89549-8. Addison-Wesley. 1072pp..

*Essential System Administration*. 3rd Edition. Eileen Frisch. Copyright © 2002. ISBN 0-596-00343-9. O'Reilly & Associates.

## System Security

*Security Engineering*. A Guide to Building Dependable Distributed Systems. Ross Anderson. Copyright © 2001. ISBN 0-471-38922-6. Wiley.

*Real World Linux Security*. Intrusion Prevention, Detection, and Recovery. 2nd edition. Bob Toxen. Copyright © 2003. ISBN 0-13-046456-2. Prentice-Hall.

## Books on Shell, Script, and Web Programming

*Programming Perl*. Third Edition. Larry Wall, Tom Christiansen, and Jon Orwant. Copyright © 2000. ISBN 0-596-00027-8. O'Reilly & Associates. 1104pp..

*Programming Python*. Second Edition. Mark Lutz. Copyright © 2001. ISBN 0-596-00085-5. O'Reilly & Associates.

*HTML & XHTML: The Definitive Guide*. Fifth Edition. Chuck Musciano and Bill Kennedy. Copyright © 2002. ISBN 0-596-00382-X. O'Reilly & Associates. 680pp..

*The Unix Programming Environment*. Brian Kernighan and Rob Pike. Copyright © 1984. ISBN 0-13-937681-X. Prentice-Hall.

## Tex and LaTeX

*The LaTeX Companion*. Michael Goossens, Frank Mittelbach, and Alexander Samarin. Copyright © 1994. ISBN 0-201-54199-8. Addison-Wesley. 530pp..

*LaTeX: A Document Preparation System*. Leslie Lamport. Copyright © 1994. ISBN 0-201-52983-1. Addison-Wesley. 256pp..

*The TeXbook, Volume A of Computers and Typesetting*. Donald Knuth. Copyright © 1986. ISBN 0-201-13448-9. Addison-Wesley. 496pp..

*The METAFONT Book, Volume C of Computers and Typesetting.* Donald Knuth. Copyright © 1986. ISBN 0-201-13444-6. Addison-Wesley. 386pp..

## Good Programming Style

*The Practice of Programming.* Brian Kernighan and Rob Pike. Copyright © 1999. ISBN 0-201-61586-X. Addison-Wesley.

*Programming Pearls.* (Second Edition). Jon Bentley. Copyright © 2000. ISBN 0-201-65788-0. Addison-Wesley.

*The Art of Unix Programming.* Eric S. Raymond. Copyright © 2003. ISBN 0-131-42901-9. Addison-Wesley. 512pp..

*Code Reading.* The Open Source Perspective. Diomedis Spinellis. Copyright © 2003. Addison-Wesley.

*Writing Efficient Programs.* Jon Bentley. Copyright © 1982. ISBN 0-13-970251-2 or 0-13-970244-X. Prentice-Hall.

## C and C++

*The C Programming Language.* (Second Edition). Brian Kernighan and Dennis Ritchie. Copyright © 1988. ISBN 0-13-110362-8. Addison-Wesley. 272pp..

*Who's Afraid of C++?.* Steve Heller. Copyright © 1996. ISBN 0-12-339097-4. Academic Press. 508pp..

## C System Call Interface

*POSIX Programmer's Guide: Writing Portable Unix Programs.* Donald Lewine. Copyright © 1992. ISBN 0-937175-73-0. O'Reilly & Associates. 607pp..

*Advanced Programming in the Unix Environment.* W. Richard Stevens. Copyright © 1993. ISBN 0-201-56317-7. Addison-Wesley.

*Linux Application Development.* Michael K. Johnson and Erik W. Troan. Copyright © 1998. ISBN 0-201-308215. Addison-Wesley.

## Books on Networking

*Unix Network Programming, volume 1 -- Networking APIs: Sockets and XTI.* W. Richard Stevens. Copyright © 1998. ISBN 0-13-490012-X. Prentice-Hall.

*Unix Network Programming, volume 2 -- Interprocess Communication.* Richard Stevens. Copyright © 1998. ISBN 0-13-081081-9. Prentice-Hall.

*Linux Network Administrator's Guide.* Olaf Kirch. Copyright © 1995. ISBN 1-56592-087-2. O'Reilly & Associates.

*TCP/IP Network Administration.* Craig Hunt. Copyright © 1992. ISBN 0-937175-82-X. O'Reilly & Associates. 472pp..

*DNS and BIND.* Second Edition. Paul Albiz and Cricket Liu. Copyright © 1998. ISBN 1-56592-512-2. 502pp.. O'Reilly & Associates.

*Sendmail.* Third Edition. Bryan Costales and Eric Allman. Copyright © 2002. ISBN 1-56592-839-3. 1232pp.. O'Reilly & Associates.

## Ancestors of Linux

*The Design of the Unix Operating System.* Maurice J. Bach. Copyright © 1996. ISBN 0-13-201799-7. 470pp.. Prentice-Hall.

*Operating Systems, Design and Implementation.* Andrew S. Tanenbaum. Copyright © 1987. ISBN 0-13-638677-6. 940pp.. Prentice-Hall.

## The Linux kernel

*The Linux Kernel book.* Rémy Card, Èric Dumas, and Frank Mével. Copyright © 1998. ISBN 0-471-98141-9. John Wiley & Sons.

*LINUX Kernel Programming.* (Third Edition). Michael Beck, Harold Bohme, Mirko Dziadka, Robert Magnus, Claus Schroter, and Dirk Verworner. Copyright © 2002. ISBN 0-201-719754. Addison-Wesley. 480pp..

## Relatives of Linux

*The Design and Implementation of the 4.4BSD Unix Operating System.* Marshall Kirk McKusick, Keith Bostic, Michael J. Karels, and John S. Quarterman. Copyright © 1996. ISBN 0-201-54979-4. Addison-Wesley.

## Books on Intel and PC hacking

*80386 Programmer's Reference Manual.* Intel Corporation. Copyright © 1986. ISBN 1-55512-022-9.

*80386 System Software Writer's Guide.* Intel Corporation. Copyright © 1987. ISBN 1-55512-023-7.

*Programming the 80386.* John H. Crawford and Patrick P. Gelsinger. Copyright © 1987. ISBN 0-89588-381-3. 774pp..

*80386 Hardware Reference Manual.* Intel Corporation. Copyright © 1986. ISBN 1-55512-024-5.

*The Indispensable PC Hardware Book.* Hans-Peter Messmer. Copyright © 1993. ISBN 0-201-62424-9. 1000pp.. Addison-Wesley.

## A. Administrivia

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# History

This was originally a mini-HOWTO maintained by Jim Haynes. I have changed the emphasis somewhat, trying to make it more a standalone document and less reliant on the various USENET bibliographic postings. The unattributed mini-reviews are mine rather than his.