

BRIEF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....xxiii

Introduction.....xxv

PART 1: LEARNING THE SHELL

Chapter 1: What Is the Shell?.....3

Chapter 2: Navigation.....7

Chapter 3: Exploring the System.....13

Chapter 4: Manipulating Files and Directories.....25

Chapter 5: Working with Commands.....39

Chapter 6: Redirection.....49

Chapter 7: Seeing the World as the Shell Sees It.....59

Chapter 8: Advanced Keyboard Tricks.....69

Chapter 9: Permissions.....77

Chapter 10: Processes.....95

PART 2: CONFIGURATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Chapter 11: The Environment.....109

Chapter 12: A Gentle Introduction to vi.....121

Chapter 13: Customizing the Prompt.....139

PART 3: COMMON TASKS AND ESSENTIAL TOOLS

Chapter 14: Package Management.....149

Chapter 15: Storage Media.....159

Chapter 16: Networking.....175

Chapter 17: Searching for Files.....	187
Chapter 18: Archiving and Backup.....	201
Chapter 19: Regular Expressions.....	215
Chapter 20: Text Processing.....	233
Chapter 21: Formatting Output.....	267
Chapter 22: Printing.....	285
Chapter 23: Compiling Programs.....	297

PART 4: WRITING SHELL SCRIPTS

Chapter 24: Writing Your First Script.....	309
Chapter 25: Starting a Project.....	315
Chapter 26: Top-Down Design.....	325
Chapter 27: Flow Control: Branching with if.....	333
Chapter 28: Reading Keyboard Input.....	347
Chapter 29: Flow Control: Looping with while and until.....	357
Chapter 30: Troubleshooting.....	363
Chapter 31: Flow Control: Branching with case.....	375
Chapter 32: Positional Parameters.....	381
Chapter 33: Flow Control: Looping with for.....	393
Chapter 34: Strings and Numbers.....	399
Chapter 35: Arrays.....	415
Chapter 36: Exotica.....	423
Index.....	433

CONTENTS IN DETAIL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

xxiii

INTRODUCTION

xxv

Why Use the Command Line?	xxvi
What This Book Is About	xxvi
Who Should Read This Book	xxvii
What's in This Book	xxvii
How to Read This Book	xxviii
Prerequisites	xxviii

PART 1 LEARNING THE SHELL

1

WHAT IS THE SHELL?

3

Terminal Emulators	3
Your First Keystrokes	4
Command History	4
Cursor Movement	4
Try Some Simple Commands	5
Ending a Terminal Session	6

2

NAVIGATION

7

Understanding the Filesystem Tree	7
The Current Working Directory	8
Listing the Contents of a Directory	8
Changing the Current Working Directory	9
Absolute Pathnames	9
Relative Pathnames	9
Some Helpful Shortcuts	10

3.

EXPLORING THE SYSTEM

13

More Fun with ls.....	13
Options and Arguments.....	14
A Longer Look at Long Format.....	15
Determining a File's Type with file.....	16
Viewing File Contents with less.....	17
A Guided Tour.....	19
Symbolic Links.....	22

4

MANIPULATING FILES AND DIRECTORIES

25

Wildcards.....	26
mkdir—Create Directories.....	28
cp—Copy Files and Directories.....	28
mv—Move and Rename Files.....	30
rm—Remove Files and Directories.....	31
ln—Create Links.....	32
Hard Links.....	32
Symbolic Links.....	32
Let's Build a Playground.....	33
Creating Directories.....	33
Copying Files.....	33
Moving and Renaming Files.....	34
Creating Hard Links.....	35
Creating Symbolic Links.....	36
Removing Files and Directories.....	37
Final Note.....	38

5

WORKING WITH COMMANDS

39

What Exactly Are Commands?.....	40
Identifying Commands.....	40
type—Display a Command's Type.....	40
which—Display an Executable's Location.....	41
Getting a Command's Documentation.....	41
help—Get Help for Shell Builtins.....	41
--help—Display Usage Information.....	42
man—Display a Program's Manual Page.....	42
apropos—Display Appropriate Commands.....	43
whatis—Display a Very Brief Description of a Command.....	44
info—Display a Program's Info Entry.....	44
README and Other Program Documentation Files.....	45
Creating Your Own Commands with alias.....	46
Revisiting Old Friends.....	47

6

REDIRECTION

49

Standard Input, Output, and Error.....	50
Redirecting Standard Output.....	50
Redirecting Standard Error.....	51
Redirecting Standard Output and Standard Error to One File.....	52
Disposing of Unwanted Output.....	52
Redirecting Standard Input.....	53
Pipelines.....	54
Filters.....	55
uniq—Report or Omit Repeated Lines.....	55
wc—Print Line, Word, and Byte Counts.....	55
grep—Print Lines Matching a Pattern.....	56
head/tail—Print First/Last Part of Files.....	56
tee—Read from Stdin and Output to Stdout and Files.....	57
Final Note.....	58

7

SEEING THE WORLD AS THE SHELL SEES IT

59

Expansion.....	59
Pathname Expansion.....	60
Tilde Expansion.....	61
Arithmetic Expansion.....	62
Brace Expansion.....	63
Parameter Expansion.....	64
Command Substitution.....	64
Quoting.....	65
Double Quotes.....	65
Single Quotes.....	67
Escaping Characters.....	67
Final Note.....	68

8

ADVANCED KEYBOARD TRICKS

69

Command Line Editing.....	70
Cursor Movement.....	70
Modifying Text.....	70
Cutting and Pasting (Killing and Yanking) Text.....	70
Completion.....	72
Using History.....	73
Searching History.....	74
History Expansion.....	75
Final Note.....	76

9

PERMISSIONS

77

Owners, Group Members, and Everybody Else.....	78
Reading, Writing, and Executing.....	79
chmod—Change File Mode.....	81
Setting File Mode with the GUI.....	84
umask—Set Default Permissions.....	84
Changing Identities.....	87
su—Run a Shell with Substitute User and Group IDs.....	87
sudo—Execute a Command as Another User.....	88
chown—Change File Owner and Group.....	90
chgrp—Change Group Ownership.....	91
Exercising Your Privileges.....	91
Changing Your Password.....	93

10

PROCESSES

95

How a Process Works.....	96
Viewing Processes with ps.....	96
Viewing Processes Dynamically with top.....	98
Controlling Processes.....	100
Interrupting a Process.....	101
Putting a Process in the Background.....	101
Returning a Process to the Foreground.....	102
Stopping (Pausing) a Process.....	102
Signals.....	103
Sending Signals to Processes with kill.....	103
Sending Signals to Multiple Processes with killall.....	106
More Process-Related Commands.....	106

PART 2

CONFIGURATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

11

THE ENVIRONMENT

109

What Is Stored in the Environment?.....	110
Examining the Environment.....	110
Some Interesting Variables.....	111
How Is the Environment Established?.....	112
Login and Non-login Shells.....	112
What's in a Startup File?.....	113

Modifying the Environment.....	115
Which Files Should We Modify?.....	115
Text Editors.....	115
Using a Text Editor.....	116
Activating Our Changes.....	118
Final Note.....	119

12

A GENTLE INTRODUCTION TO VI **121**

Why We Should Learn vi.....	122
A Little Background.....	122
Starting and Stopping vi.....	122
Editing Modes.....	123
Entering Insert Mode.....	124
Saving Our Work.....	124
Moving the Cursor Around.....	125
Basic Editing.....	126
Appending Text.....	127
Opening a Line.....	127
Deleting Text.....	128
Cutting, Copying, and Pasting Text.....	129
Joining Lines.....	131
Search and Replace.....	131
Searching Within a Line.....	131
Searching the Entire File.....	131
Global Search and Replace.....	132
Editing Multiple Files.....	133
Switching Between Files.....	134
Opening Additional Files for Editing.....	134
Copying Content from One File into Another.....	135
Inserting an Entire File into Another.....	136
Saving Our Work.....	137

13

CUSTOMIZING THE PROMPT **139**

Anatomy of a Prompt.....	139
Trying Some Alternative Prompt Designs.....	141
Adding Color.....	142
Moving the Cursor.....	144
Saving the Prompt.....	146
Final Note.....	146

PART 3

COMMON TASKS AND ESSENTIAL TOOLS

14

PACKAGE MANAGEMENT

149

Packaging Systems.....	150
How a Package System Works.....	150
Package Files.....	150
Repositories.....	151
Dependencies.....	151
High- and Low-Level Package Tools.....	152
Common Package Management Tasks.....	152
Finding a Package in a Repository.....	152
Installing a Package from a Repository.....	153
Installing a Package from a Package File.....	153
Removing a Package.....	154
Updating Packages from a Repository.....	154
Upgrading a Package from a Package File.....	154
Listing Installed Packages.....	155
Determining Whether a Package Is Installed.....	155
Displaying Information About an Installed Package.....	155
Finding Which Package Installed a File.....	156
Final Note.....	156

15

STORAGE MEDIA

159

Mounting and Unmounting Storage Devices.....	160
Viewing a List of Mounted Filesystems.....	161
Determining Device Names.....	164
Creating New Filesystems.....	167
Manipulating Partitions with fdisk.....	167
Creating a New Filesystem with mkfs.....	169
Testing and Repairing Filesystems.....	170
Formatting Floppy Disks.....	171
Moving Data Directly to and from Devices.....	171
Creating CD-ROM Images.....	172
Creating an Image Copy of a CD-ROM.....	172
Creating an Image from a Collection of Files.....	172
Writing CD-ROM Images.....	173
Mounting an ISO Image Directly.....	173
Blanking a Rewritable CD-ROM.....	173
Writing an Image.....	173
Extra Credit.....	174

16

NETWORKING

175

Examining and Monitoring a Network.....	176
ping—Send a Special Packet to a Network Host.....	176
traceroute—Trace the Path of a Network Packet.....	177
netstat—Examine Network Settings and Statistics.....	178
Transporting Files over a Network.....	179
ftp—Transfer Files with the File Transfer Protocol.....	179
lftp—A Better ftp.....	181
wget—Non-interactive Network Downloader.....	181
Secure Communication with Remote Hosts.....	182
ssh—Securely Log in to Remote Computers.....	182
scp and sftp—Securely Transfer Files.....	185

17

SEARCHING FOR FILES

187

locate—Find Files the Easy Way.....	188
find—Find Files the Hard Way.....	189
Tests.....	189
Actions.....	194
A Return to the Playground.....	198
Options.....	200

18

ARCHIVING AND BACKUP

201

Compressing Files.....	202
gzip—Compress or Expand Files.....	202
bzip2—Higher Compression at the Cost of Speed.....	204
Archiving Files.....	205
tar—Tape Archiving Utility.....	205
zip—Package and Compress Files.....	209
Synchronizing Files and Directories.....	211
rsync—Remote File and Directory Synchronization.....	212
Using rsync over a Network.....	213

19

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

215

What Are Regular Expressions?.....	216
grep—Search Through Text.....	216
Metacharacters and Literals.....	217
The Any Character.....	218
Anchors.....	219

Bracket Expressions and Character Classes.....	220
Negation.....	220
Traditional Character Ranges.....	220
POSIX Character Classes.....	221
POSIX Basic vs. Extended Regular Expressions.....	224
Alternation.....	225
Quantifiers.....	226
?—Match an Element Zero Times or One Time.....	226
*—Match an Element Zero or More Times.....	227
+—Match an Element One or More Times.....	227
{ }—Match an Element a Specific Number of Times.....	228
Putting Regular Expressions to Work.....	229
Validating a Phone List with grep.....	229
Finding Ugly Filenames with find.....	230
Searching for Files with locate.....	230
Searching for Text with less and vim.....	231
Final Note.....	232

20

TEXT PROCESSING

233

Applications of Text.....	234
Documents.....	234
Web Pages.....	234
Email.....	234
Printer Output.....	234
Program Source Code.....	235
Revisiting Some Old Friends.....	235
cat—Concatenate Files and Print on Standard Output.....	235
sort—Sort Lines of Text Files.....	236
uniq—Report or Omit Repeated Lines.....	242
Slicing and Dicing.....	243
cut—Remove Sections from Each Line of Files.....	243
paste—Merge Lines of Files.....	246
join—Join Lines of Two Files on a Common Field.....	247
Comparing Text.....	249
comm—Compare Two Sorted Files Line by Line.....	249
diff—Compare Files Line by Line.....	250
patch—Apply a diff to an Original.....	253
Editing on the Fly.....	254
tr—Transliterate or Delete Characters.....	254
sed—Stream Editor for Filtering and Transforming Text.....	256
aspell—Interactive Spell Checker.....	263
Final Note.....	266
Extra Credit.....	266

21

FORMATTING OUTPUT

267

Simple Formatting Tools.....	268
nl—Number Lines.....	268
fold—Wrap Each Line to a Specified Length.....	271
fmt—A Simple Text Formatter.....	271
pr—Format Text for Printing.....	274
printf—Format and Print Data.....	275
Document Formatting Systems.....	278
The roff Family and T _E X.....	279
groff—A Document Formatting System.....	279
Final Note.....	283

22

PRINTING

285

A Brief History of Printing.....	286
Printing in the Dim Times.....	286
Character-Based Printers.....	286
Graphical Printers.....	287
Printing with Linux.....	288
Preparing Files for Printing.....	288
pr—Convert Text Files for Printing.....	288
Sending a Print Job to a Printer.....	290
lpr—Print Files (Berkeley Style).....	290
lp—Print Files (System V Style).....	291
Another Option: a2ps.....	292
Monitoring and Controlling Print Jobs.....	294
lpstat—Display Print System Status.....	294
lpq—Display Printer Queue Status.....	295
lprm and cancel—Cancel Print Jobs.....	296

23

COMPILING PROGRAMS

297

What Is Compiling?.....	298
Are All Programs Compiled?.....	299
Compiling a C Program.....	299
Obtaining the Source Code.....	300
Examining the Source Tree.....	301
Building the Program.....	302
Installing the Program.....	305
Final Note.....	306

PART 4

WRITING SHELL SCRIPTS

24

WRITING YOUR FIRST SCRIPT 309

What Are Shell Scripts?.....	309
How to Write a Shell Script.....	310
Script File Format.....	310
Executable Permissions.....	311
Script File Location.....	311
Good Locations for Scripts.....	312
More Formatting Tricks.....	312
Long Option Names.....	313
Indentation and Line Continuation.....	313
Final Note.....	314

25

STARTING A PROJECT 315

First Stage: Minimal Document.....	315
Second Stage: Adding a Little Data.....	317
Variables and Constants.....	318
Creating Variables and Constants.....	318
Assigning Values to Variables and Constants.....	320
Here Documents.....	321
Final Note.....	323

26

TOP-DOWN DESIGN 325

Shell Functions.....	326
Local Variables.....	328
Keep Scripts Running.....	330
Final Note.....	332

27

FLOW CONTROL: BRANCHING WITH IF 333

Using if.....	334
Exit Status.....	334
Using test.....	336
File Expressions.....	336
String Expressions.....	338
Integer Expressions.....	340

A More Modern Version of test.....	341
(())—Designed for Integers.....	342
Combining Expressions.....	343
Control Operators: Another Way to Branch.....	345
Final Note.....	346

28

READING KEYBOARD INPUT 347

read—Read Values from Standard Input.....	348
Options.....	351
Separating Input Fields with IFS.....	351
Validating Input.....	353
Menus.....	355
Final Note.....	356
Extra Credit.....	356

29

FLOW CONTROL: LOOPING WITH WHILE AND UNTIL 357

Looping.....	358
while.....	358
Breaking out of a Loop.....	360
until.....	361
Reading Files with Loops.....	362
Final Note.....	362

30

TROUBLESHOOTING 363

Syntactic Errors.....	363
Missing Quotes.....	364
Missing or Unexpected Tokens.....	365
Unanticipated Expansions.....	365
Logical Errors.....	366
Defensive Programming.....	367
Verifying Input.....	368
Testing.....	369
Stubs.....	369
Test Cases.....	369
Debugging.....	370
Finding the Problem Area.....	370
Tracing.....	371
Examining Values During Execution.....	373
Final Note.....	373

31

FLOW CONTROL: BRANCHING WITH CASE

375

case.....	376
Patterns.....	377
Combining Multiple Patterns.....	378
Final Note.....	379

32

POSITIONAL PARAMETERS

381

Accessing the Command Line.....	381
Determining the Number of Arguments.....	382
shift—Getting Access to Many Arguments.....	383
Simple Applications.....	384
Using Positional Parameters with Shell Functions.....	385
Handling Positional Parameters En Masse.....	385
A More Complete Application.....	387
Final Note.....	390

33

FLOW CONTROL: LOOPING WITH FOR

393

for: Traditional Shell Form.....	393
for: C Language Form.....	396
Final Note.....	397

34

STRINGS AND NUMBERS

399

Parameter Expansion.....	399
Basic Parameters.....	400
Expansions to Manage Empty Variables.....	400
Expansions That Return Variable Names.....	401
String Operations.....	402
Arithmetic Evaluation and Expansion.....	404
Number Bases.....	405
Unary Operators.....	405
Simple Arithmetic.....	405
Assignment.....	406
Bit Operations.....	408
Logic.....	409
bc—An Arbitrary-Precision Calculator Language.....	411
Using bc.....	412
An Example Script.....	413
Final Note.....	414
Extra Credit.....	414

35

ARRAYS

415

What Are Arrays?	415
Creating an Array	416
Assigning Values to an Array	416
Accessing Array Elements	417
Array Operations	418
Outputting the Entire Contents of an Array	419
Determining the Number of Array Elements	419
Finding the Subscripts Used by an Array	420
Adding Elements to the End of an Array	420
Sorting an Array	420
Deleting an Array	421
Final Note	422

36

EXOTICA

423

Group Commands and Subshells	423
Performing Redirections	424
Process Substitution	424
Traps	426
Asynchronous Execution	429
wait	429
Named Pipes	430
Setting Up a Named Pipe	431
Using Named Pipes	431
Final Note	432

INDEX

433