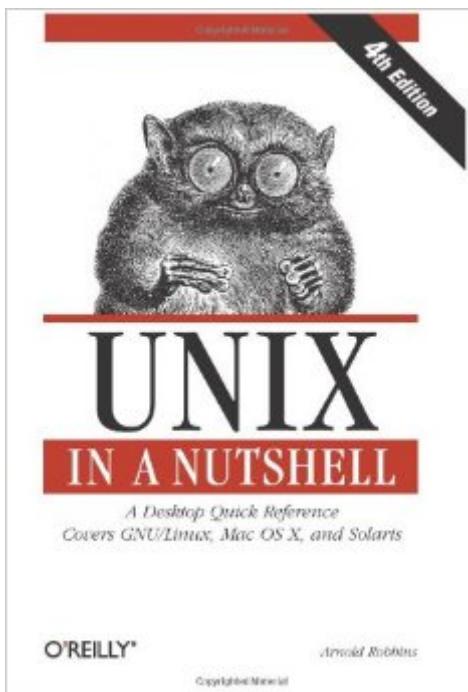


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# Unix In A Nutshell, Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

As an open operating system, Unix can be improved on by anyone and everyone: individuals, companies, universities, and more. As a result, the very nature of Unix has been altered over the years by numerous extensions formulated in an assortment of versions. Today, Unix encompasses everything from Sun's Solaris to Apple's Mac OS X and more varieties of Linux than you can easily name. The latest edition of this bestselling reference brings Unix into the 21st century. It's been reworked to keep current with the broader state of Unix in today's world and highlight the strengths of this operating system in all its various flavors. Detailing all Unix commands and options, the informative guide provides generous descriptions and examples that put those commands in context. Here are some of the new features you'll find in Unix in a Nutshell, Fourth Edition:

Solaris 10, the latest version of the SVR4-based operating system, GNU/Linux, and Mac OS X Bash shell (along with the 1988 and 1993 versions of ksh) tsch shell (instead of the original Berkeley csh) Package management programs, used for program installation on popular GNU/Linux systems, Solaris and Mac OS X GNU Emacs Version 21

Introduction to source code management systems

Concurrent versions system

Subversion version control system

GDB debugger

As Unix has progressed, certain commands that were once critical have fallen into disuse. To that end, the book has also dropped material that is no longer relevant, keeping it taut and current. If you're a Unix user or programmer, you'll recognize the value of this complete, up-to-date Unix reference. With chapter overviews, specific examples, and detailed command.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've got two versions of this book: the blue cover version and the one that came in my CD bookshelf. I'm usually quite positive about nutshell books. Usually. While this is pretty much the only one-stop Unix reference in town when you don't have the man pages to hand, there are some perplexing omissions from the "unix command" section. Nothing to do with networking, for example. No netstat, ifconfig, nslookup. Odd, in a world when a non-networked computer is surely a rarity. Yes, the stuff is probably in the networking O'Reilly books (mine are on order as I type) but you'd think in this day and age... Yesterday I was flipping through and noticed there was no entry for "mount" or "umount" either. You should probably own one of these if you have a job in the Unix computing biz, but before long you might find yourself asking "what will I need today that won't be in a nutshell?" Seriously, O'Reilly should be looking into rewriting this little gem to make it properly comprehensive again. [EDIT 2/4/14] Please see MR Jones's interesting response in the comments below for an alternative view of this book's usefulness and audience before dismissing it. [/EDIT]

Thrown into the unix world with no preparation, I needed an easy way to find reminders. Familiar with DOS from years back, I thought it would be second nature to run with unix, but found remembering everything to be more than I was able to do. This book is getting heavy use reminding me of syntax and usage, so it is exactly what I need to help me out. If you want to learn unix, this book is not the book for you. If you want a quick handy reference to remind or reinforce what you DO know, this is the book.

My old (1992) edition was getting a bit beat and out of date, so I got this new one. What a pain to use! I still end up using the old copy most of the time. Maybe it's my old eyes, or O'Reilly trying to squeeze everything into one book, but the print is smaller, lighter, and generally harder to read. The bold-faced headings are smaller and less bold. The page headings are smaller and non-bold compared to the actual command headings. Put the old and new editions side-by-side and the new one looks like the output of a laser printer whose toner cartridge need to be replaced. And who thought it was a good idea to divide the critical chapter on commands (Ch.2) into 5 sections? Now there are potentially 5 places to look something up. And opening randomly to chapter 2, one can flip forward and backward alphabetically to the correct spot, only to find you've been in the wrong section. Content: \*\*\*\*\* (as usual, O'Reilly books are definitive) Usability: \*

I'm taking an Introduction to Linux class. It's been years since I worked in a Unix environment, and I

didn't want to spend a ton of money on a reference book. This seems to be man pages on paper. Not a bad thing, and the commands are grouped better. It breaks out the differences between Unix, Linux, and Apple's OS, where appropriate. I like having this book, because when I'm in vi, for instance, I don't want to break out of it, or open another terminal, just to look up a command, or its syntax. And, the index actually helps, because it's a quick way to skim the available shell commands. With man, you have to know the command you are looking for, before you can find it. It is thick, but it seems to be covering everything I need in this class. I don't plan on being a 'Nix Sys Admin, so I don't need the material that was left out of the previous edition. If I change my mind, I can get it then.

This is one of the few books that I can honestly say I have more than gotten my money's worth from. Having bought my first copy of this way back in the late '80s, I've made sure to get new copies over the years, if only due to my older copies getting too worn out due to too much use. The O'Reilly Unix in Nutshell guide was the way I first learned how to use the Unix environment, and after I became a full time Unix Sys Admin after college, it made the best reference possible. The greatest use I've found for it is when writing a quick script in one of the languages I don't use very often, as it gives excellent examples and provides a dictionary-style comprehensive guide to bash/sh and tcsh as well as general Unix commands. Combining this with the also excellent Perl in a Nutshell and you have 98% of my desktop Unix reference books.

Good book for use with directory management and other shell commands. A word of caution for those who are new to Unix that this book is a little advanced, however with practice and time you will come to enjoy this book. I would recommend to others interested in learning the Unix/Linux/Sun systems/Mac systems, this book is for you. I take the book with me on my travels just in case my contract requires me to work on Unix computers.

As a UNIX noob in a UNIX job, this book has become my "bible". Actually, the Bible is my bible, but I digress. After a few short weeks, it has become filled with stick-on tabs, highlighter marks, and scribbles. I actually find this book easier and more useful than Googling. It's thorough but concise, and I can finally figure out what all of those darned parameters are for. It also has useful sections on the various UNIX operating systems and utilities, as well as information on shell scripting. It never leaves my sight at work!

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