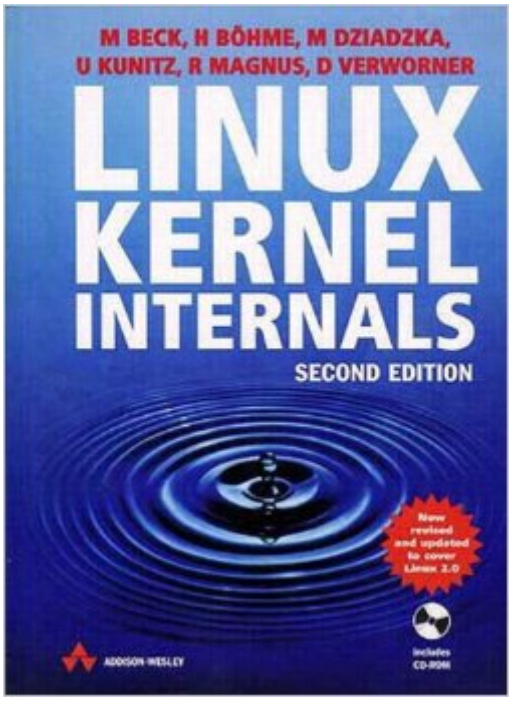
Linux Kernel Internals (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

Since the introduction of Linux version 1.2 in March 1995, a whole community has evolved of programmers from all over the world who were attracted by the reliability and flexibility of this completely free operating system. Now at version 2.0, Linux is no longer only the operating system of choice for hackers, but is being successfully employed in commercial software development, by Internet providers and in research and teaching. This book is written for anybody who wants to learn more about Linux. It explains the inner mechanisms of Linux from process scheduling to memory management and file systems, and will tell you all you need to know about the structure of the kernel, the heart of the Linux operating system. The accompanying CD-ROM contains the Slackware distribution 3.1 together with its complete source code, the Linux kernel sources up to version 2.1.21, the PC speaker driver, and a wealth of documentation, as well as the program for generating the source-oriented index. This second edition of Linux Kernel Internals: * has been thoroughly updated throughout to cover Linux 2. * shows you how the Linux operating system actually works so that you can start to program the Linux kernel for yoursel * introduces the kernel sources and describes basic algorithms and data structures, such as scheduling and task structur * helps you to understand file systems, networking and how systems boot

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was quite disappointing. I don’t feel that I learned anything that I couldn’t have learned in a similar amount of time spent by reading through source code. What’s worse, the book wasn’t any

better at presenting that information.I give some credit for not resorting to simply printing the kernel sources in bound format as other books have done, but apart from that, there's not much good to say here.First off, the authors' command of the English language, as presented in final form by the book's editorial staff, leaves much to be desired. The prose is very conversational and awkward, and although generally understandable (words are strung together in grammatical correctness), the text doesn't clearly present ideas.Second, the book suffers from a lack of clear focus on a specific reader. At times, very detailed descriptions of things like slow/fast IRQ handling are discussed, but then at other times the authors spend a great deal of time talking about the specific quirks of the 8253 timer chip in the ISA PC architecture. I would have preferred if the majority of this book were discussing the ideas involved in the Linux kernel design, but it wanders in and out of describing things that most readers who would buy the book based on its title already know.Finally, in general the book is vague just when you'd want it to be specific, in describing the way things really fit together in the Linux kernel. They've attempted to simplify the explanations of complicated, optimized subroutines, and that's great, bt in dissecting everything into little pieces, I'm left with a very small picture of how the whole system actually fits together.As if all this weren't enough, the book is really only 300pp of useful information.

Command Line