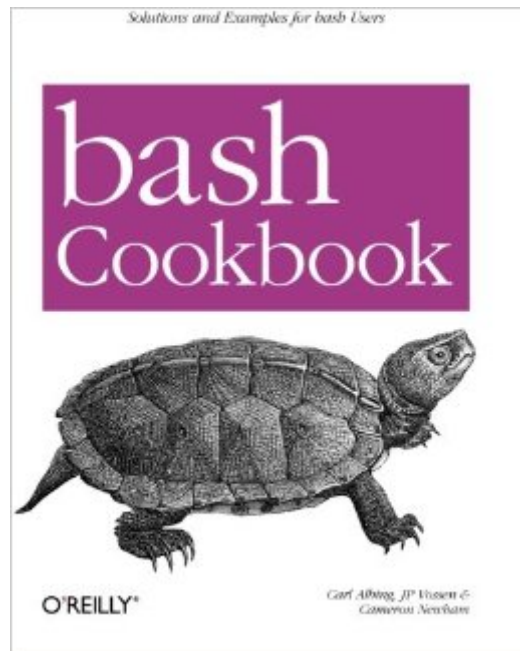# Bash Cookbook: Solutions And Examples For Bash Users (Cookbooks (O'Reilly))

Synopsis

The key to mastering any Unix system, especially Linux and Mac OS X, is a thorough knowledge of shell scripting. Scripting is a way to harness and customize the power of any Unix system, and it's an essential skill for any Unix users, including system administrators and professional OS X developers. But beneath this simple promise lies a treacherous ocean of variations in Unix commands and standards.bash Cookbook teaches shell scripting the way Unix masters practice the craft. It presents a variety of recipes and tricks for all levels of shell programmers so that anyone can become a proficient user of the most common Unix shell -- the bash shell -- and cygwin or other popular Unix emulation packages. Packed full of useful scripts, along with examples that explain how to create better scripts, this new cookbook gives professionals and power users everything they need to automate routine tasks and enable them to truly manage their systems -- rather than have their systems manage them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book covers the GNU Bourne Again Shell, which is a member of the Bourne family of shells that includes the original Bourne shell sh, the Korn shell ksh, and the Public Domain Korn Shell pdksh. This book is for anyone who uses a Unix or Linux system, as well as system administrators who may use several systems on any given day. Thus, there are solutions and useful sections for all levels of users including newcomers. This book is full of recipes for creating scripts and

interacting with the shell that will allow you to greatly increase your productivity.Chapter 1, "Beginning bash" covers what a shell is, why you should care about it, and then the basics of bash including how you get it on your system. The next five chapters are on the basics that you would need when working with any shell - standard I/O, command execution, shell variables, and shell logic and arithmetic. Next there are two chapters on "Intermediate Shell Tools". These chapters' recipes use some utilities that are not part of the shell, but which are so useful that it is hard to imagine using the shell without them, such as "sort" and "grep", for example. Chapter nine features recipes that allow you to find files by case, date, type, size, etc. Chapter 10, "Additional Features for Scripting" has much to do with code reuse, which is something you find even in scripting. Chapter 11, "Working with Dates and Times", seems like it would be very simple, but it's not. This chapter helps you get through the complexities of dealing with different formats for displaying the time and date and converting between various date formats.Chapter 12, "End-User Tasks As Shell Scripts", shows you a few larger though not large examples of scripts.

O'Reilly's "Cookbook" series sometimes gives complex recipes for large tasks, but unfortunately a lot of its listings are just the basic commands of the language in question. That's the case with its BASH COOKBOOK.Thus one finds recipes like "How to separate variable names from surrounding text" (consisting of nothing more than an encouragement to use ${...}), "How to export variables" (which is only a mention of the "export" syntax), or "Renaming many files" (the solution is a simple for loop). These are real basics of bash, or shells in general. So, if you have already read O'Reilly's Learning the bash Shell and Classic Shell Scripting, which I would strongly recommend, then this book will not be of much use to you. A proficient bash/Unix user would already know the vast majority of stuff in here.If you have *not* read those or a comparable introduction to bash and Unix piped commands in general, then you won't really understand much this book, you would just be blindly copying commands. And if you just want to cargo-cult code, then there are innumerable free resources on the web to do so, which you can reach with just a quick Google search of the form "bash" + problem.

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