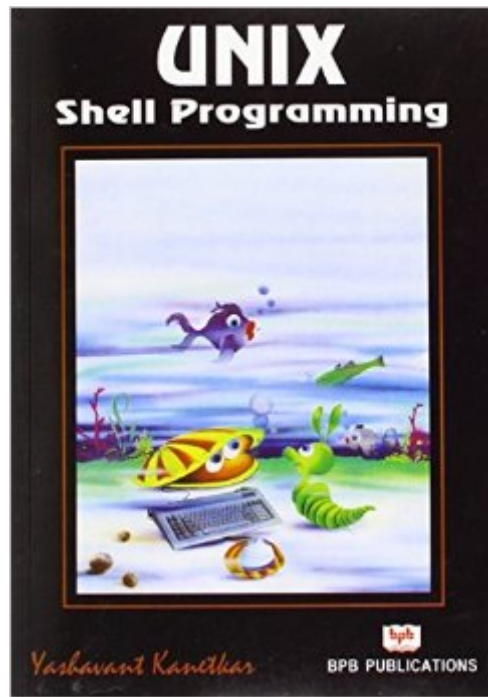


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Unix Shell Programming



Book Information

Paperback: 486 pages

Publisher: BPB Publications (August 11, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 8170297532

ISBN-13: 978-8170297536

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #601,784 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Operating Systems > Unix > Shell](#) #27 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > APIs & Operating Environments > Unix](#) #4648 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Software](#)

Customer Reviews

This book was both more and less than what I expected. Two-and-a-half stars would be a better rating, but it's unavailable. It was recommended (by my instructor of a newbie class for Linux) for its shell programming material, but it's a good introduction to UNIX in general, also. The shell programming coverage is very good and the other material is useful. However, in both cases, shell and UNIX introductory material, many topics are explained well, but there are "holes" and outdated material. The book was first published in 1996, with just a reprint in 2003. Some commands are given that are no longer available, such as Banner. It was published in India and thus has many examples of a "thick British accent" that aren't decipherable to an American. There are just a few outright spelling mistakes, but the type-print is poor (lots of artifacts from partial letters and fading ink), paper is too thin and the book was literally falling apart after less than ten days of daily reading. Definitely, only buy a used copy of this book. By "holes" I mean that the material is lacking some examples, definitions or just missing a topic altogether. Also, the index is far from being complete, which lessens its value as a reference after you've finished reading. The index is inaccurate in several cases as well and he cares not to indicate when more than one page applies to an entry, i.e., 267 may be given instead of 267-72. There are cases when you want to write a double-exclamation point alongside a sentence or paragraph because the explanation is that good. I really liked some of the tables he gives and some of the review questions at the end of each chapter. He writes in an informal style, as if talking to you as a guest in his living room.

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