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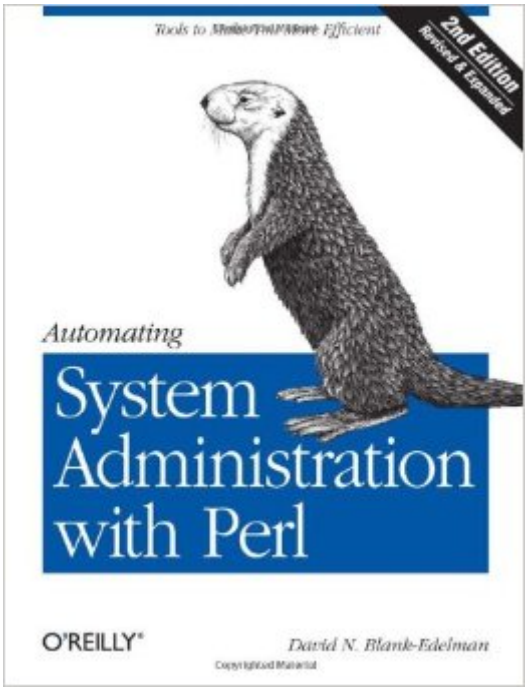
Automating System Administration With Perl: Tools To Make You More Efficient



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Synopsis

If you do systems administration work of any kind, you have to deal with the growing complexity of your environment and increasing demands on your time. Automating System Administration with Perl, Second Edition, not only offers you the right tools for your job, but also suggests the best way to approach specific problems and to securely automate recurring tasks. Updated and expanded to cover the latest operating systems, technologies, and Perl modules, this edition of the "Otter Book" will help you: Manage user accounts Monitor filesystems and processes Work with configuration files in important formats such as XML and YAML Administer databases, including MySQL, MS-SQL, and Oracle with DBI Work with directory services like LDAP and Active Directory Script email protocols and spam control Effectively create, handle, and analyze log files Administer network name and configuration services, including NIS, DNS and DHCP Maintain, monitor, and map network services, using technologies and tools such as SNMP, nmap, libpcap, GraphViz and RRDtool Improve filesystem, process, and network security This edition includes additional appendixes to get you up to speed on technologies such as XML/XPath, LDAP, SNMP, and SQL. With this book in hand and Perl in your toolbox, you can do more with less--fewer resources, less effort, and far less hassle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perl occupies the sweet spot between shell scripting and C programming, with the ability to lean as far as you'd like in either direction. As a sysadmin, Perl is better than a tool -- its the perfect tool for

building tools, and this book is at the top of a very short list of texts which help bring to bear the full power of the best language for cutting down complex tasks down to size.I've read a lot of Perl books and I own most of the O'Reilly books on the topic. The Otter Book, however, is the one which I cart around with me in my laptop bag wherever I go and is the first place I look for hints on how to attack problems that I face at work or home. It's chocked full of working examples and hints and tips on how to customize them, as well as plenty of context as to why these suggestions work the way they do.The book is very well written and I highly recommend it to anyone, whether they are a professional admin or just want to cut out some of the repetitive tasks of managing their own workstation.

On times I think that having books on Unix or current computing topics in general is an oddity at best. Isn't all the information we need readily available via Google, some blogs and for Perl CPAN? But then again as I was reviewing the second installment of Davids Otter book I found my self quite often amazed at all the little gotchas and tricks David added in. There are so many tools available today that this book severs as an invaluable guide through the jungle of possibilities in doing efficient System Administration. David does not praise a single solution to all problems. He rather gives detailed advice on succeeding in various scenarios. Yes the book is also about doing sysadmining with perl, but it comes natural and is in no way a language advocacy piece on the finer points of perl programming. It is both wide and deep by providing detailed examples in actual working code. I can highly recommend this book for both seasoned as well aspiring master craftsmen.

I'm more of an ETL guy but there are times where I have to write some system code for something related to what I'm doing. It's always that other 20% that you have to do that's odd one offs. I bought this book for the SNMP chapter in it which helped me out, I could quickly clone from some code in here. Now I'm coming back to this book again for the Windows User code/advice because I need to write a script to LDAP pull user/group info over to some linux machines and create user and database user accounts with it.The author is clear and straight forward. The coding examples are well written and easy to read. This is one of those books that you'll pickup for a section, borrow a design pattern, and then put it down. This is for intermediate to advanced perl users that know how to download and install a module so that they can use the module references in the code samples. I like all the O'reilly books for perl and also use perlmonks.com for code snippets when coding, that's also another great resource.

Definitively this book will learn you about how to use greatful cpan modules, and how to make administrative tasks automatically with perl. I love it much more than python related bookVery completed, talking about logging, network diagnostic, monitoring, advanced perl topics like pack/unpack ...Very recommendable

The original Otter book was published in 2000, and had a place on just about every sysadmin's shelf as well as most anyone who regularly used Perl. I expect this new 2009 edition will likewise be a "must have" for anyone serious about System Administration and Perl (and any Perl coder, really, given the wide range of topics). While it will likely serve as an excellent reference, I'd also recommend this edition to newcomers to Perl (up there with Llama, Camel and Perl Cookbook) due to the "real world" nature of the tasks covered and the author's obvious depth of knowledge and wealth of experience.This edition is much updated from the 2000 original, with four new chapters ("Working with Configuration Files" and "Experiential Learning" being two favorites of mine) and two new appendices (including the "10 minute XPath tutorial). Some of what I like best about the book is the exploration of "best of breed" CPAN modules and "Pros and Cons" sections that compare modules for particular tasks. All-in-all very highly recommended!

This book has a lot of good tidbits that you'll find useful as a System Administrator. There are a ton of tools out there for any job in Perl, but this book helps point out some of the better ones and the best way to go about using them. The author has a good style of writing that makes it a lot easier to read.

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