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Red Hat Linux Internet Server



Synopsis

* Red Hat Linux X Internet Server takes the reader through all of the steps of setting up an Internet server using the Red Hat Linux operating system. * It begins by describing Red Hat Linux networking basics, two example networks and the basics of DSL Internet connections, firewalls and troubleshooting in Part 1. This sets the foundation for all subsequent examples and provides readers with problem solving tools. * Part 2 describes how to construct and manage a secure web server that is connected to a database. Part 3 shows the reader how to construct basic Internet services such as DNS, sendmail, FTP and Samba. Part 4 deals with advanced management techniques. * The final part describes how to secure your network and servers. This part goes beyond the average coverage by showing advanced as well as basic security techniques and tools. ABOUT THE CD-ROM The CD-ROM has an open-source high-availability system/server created by the author and appropriate GPL server and security software.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Setting up a Red Hat Internet Server? Then "Red Hat Linux Internet Server" is the book for you. I had previously read Red Hat Press's "Red Hat Linux Networking and System Administration" by Collings and Wall. Though a good book, I had expected a bit more from one blessed by Red Hat. "Red Hat Linux Internet Server" does live up to its expectations of being blessed by Red Hat. "Red Hat Linux Internet Server" is the better of the two books. This book is better focused on its subject of setting up an Internet server and its more common Internet services. There is lots of practical advice

based on what is considered SOP for good Unix/Linux Internet server schemes. (From my own experiences, I did not find anything to disagree with them on and I liked their take on learning the CLI first before going off into GUI-land.) At least a quarter of the book is focused on security (a good thing). I suspect this has much to do with Jay Beale, being from the Bastille Project. Noteworthy are chapter 3 on setting up DSL, chapter 10 on the Postfix mail server and chapter 13 doing backups via Amanda. If you are new to Red Hat Linux and can afford it, buy both books. If you've been around awhile in the Red Hat world, then Sery & Beale's book is the better choice.

I like the book's "get right to work" attitude, providing code that implements configurations that are not academic, but actually useful. But, once a book has adopted this philosophy, I expect that they provide correct code, or else the value significantly is diminished. An example of this is found in Chapter 4, "Building a Firewall" in which firewall code is provided. On p. 84 (and 89-90), one sees code such as: `iptables -A INPUT -i eth0 -p -s $PRIV -j ACCEPT`. The problem is that the environment variable `PRIV` has not been defined in the book (and never is). This is a "show stopper" error in the book for us. I looked to the publisher's website, wiley.com, for errata but found no support for the book. I contacted Wiley by e-mail and they forwarded us an unpublished URL:

[website] Unfortunately, the updates (errata) section is empty and the downloads section not only has the above error in the online version of the firewall rules collection, but has additional variables that are referenced without being defined (`SWCP`, `SRC`, `SON`). These types of errors make me wonder if the code in the book was properly tested... and worse, increase my concern that the code in the book in other areas will prove to be unreliable. The errors in the book, compounded by poor website support, compel me to reduce the rating of this book to only 3 stars.

This is not a detailed narrative or technical language book. I was expecting a more detailed technical explanation of the topic, but instead I was faced with extensive examples that made no sense to help with learning. The book uses examples that were not well introduced, such as the network topology of the examples, server names, etc... there is no reference or appendix that remembers what is the topology of each example, so if you cannot use the book as just a reference as you lose track of what the examples are about. For this type of topic a more graphic book is important. To conclude, I believe the book has some good content but it was poorly structured and written, so it vanishes among its pages. I gave up of trying to learn from this book.

It appears that IF you buy a used copy of this book, you have to download the Red Hat ISO images

in order to install the operating system, which happens to be RH version 7.2. As of the time that I post this comment on this, the ISOs can be downloaded at <ftp://archive.kernel.org/redhat-archive/redhat/linux/7.2/en/> . I recommend using the Filezilla ftp client for the download. I wish the writers of the book HAD specified WHICH version to use somewhere near the beginning of the book.

The book is good, but like I said before is there any page without an error????? There is no published errata for the book too!!!

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