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Sams Teach Yourself UNIX System Administration In 24 Hours (Sams Teach Yourself In 24 Hours)
In the wake of the highly successful Sams Teach Yourself Unix in 24 Hours, this book focuses on the additional Unix commands that an advanced user or beginning system administrator needs to know in order to administer and maintain a Unix system. The book includes coverage of the key Unix variations: Red Hat Linux, Solaris, HP-UX, and Apple's Mac OS X environment. The book will not be a comprehensive solution to all problems facing new system administrators, but instead is a tutorial introduction to the process of learning about and maintaining a running Unix server.

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There are a bunch of things I like about this book. First off, I like that the author covers not only Linux, but also Solaris and Mac OS X. By discussing them all, you get a good sense of how different Unix can be on different platforms. It's also the first book I've seen that discusses command-line based Mac OS X administration at all, so that by itself was very interesting (if occasionally weird) reading. The writing style is very good too -- I have read other Unix books by Dave Taylor and he not only understands this stuff inside-out, but explains it in a way that makes this material interesting and fun. Finally, I really appreciated that he emphasizes problem solving (showing how, time and again, to use Unix tools to track down bugs, configuration problems, etc) rather than a bunch of canned solutions. If you're a Unix person, or wannabe, this book is highly recommended, even if you'll never admin your system.
I'm not sure what the 1-star reviewer's problem is. Who wants to wade through MAN pages for hours? The whole reason I buy books is to compile the information in one handy place. This is a useful source to fill in general holes in your knowledge. If you already know this stuff cold, I'm not sure why you'd be interested in the book at all (either to praise or pan.) Bottom line: good, general book for those who want to bootstrap themselves.

I have seen many different UNIX SA books, but this one is the very best. It covers all the important topics and concepts, and has detailed examples for everything the author discusses. This book is very easy to read and follow.

UNIX administration is notoriously difficult and sophisticated because one has to understand many things in their complexity. This books does not provide the complete coverage but there is no book that possibly could. If you found yourself struggling and having a difficulty with reading this one it means you need more background with UNIX to deal with administration. I found here on "UNIX Essentials" DVD that is complete UNIX course recorded and it can bring you to the point you will be able to work with book like that. It is very well written book and it is very important! I had some books on UNIX administration that I simply gave up! This one is easy to read and it makes many things simpler and it is good thing. I use this one as a cross reference volume.

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