

WICKED COOL SHELL SCRIPTS: 101 Ways to Customize Linux, UNIX, and Mac OS X Systems

San Francisco, CA – The UNIX shell is the main scripting language of every Linux, Mac OS X and UNIX system, whether a rescued laptop or a million-dollar mainframe. The introduction of Apple's Mac OS X and the continued growth of the Linux installed base mean that more and more users are finding that they have a UNIX system on their desk. Although UNIX can be complex to work with, the fact that users can tweak their systems to do what they want with just a few lines of shell scripting code makes UNIX incredibly fun and powerful to use.

Wicked Cool Shell Scripts (No Starch Press, US \$29.95) gives Linux, UNIX, and Mac OS X power users 101 customizable shell scripts that they can use to solve common problems, personalize their computing environment, and soup up Web and Internet productivity. "Harnessing the power of UNIX is often perceived as a job for complex programming languages (e.g. Perl, C, C++), but if readers can type a command at the command line, they can create shell scripts and customize their UNIX environment," explains author Dave Taylor.

As the author of the popular computer books *Learning UNIX for Mac OS X Panther* (O'Reilly) and *Teach Yourself UNIX in 24 Hours* (Sams), among others, Taylor knows that a good computer book should be focused. So instead of delving into all issues of the shell, this book provides a cookbook-style collection of scripts that let command line users get down to business right away. "What makes *Wicked Cool Shell Scripts* unique is that it focuses on functional solutions rather than a long discussion of computer programming terms, concepts and capabilities," Taylor explains.

The 101 scripts, written in Bourne Shell (sh) syntax, help to improve existing tools on all Linux, Mac OS X, and UNIX systems, and let users create new tools that are missing from ordinary systems. The scripts include:

- * An interactive spell checker that identifies and fixes spelling and typing errors in any document
- * A disk backup utility that keeps files safe in the event of a system crash
- * Web logfile analysis tools that measure the traffic to a web site, identify the most popular pages, and report any errors
- * A weather tracker that reports the current temperature and UV Index, as well as facts like population and latitude and longitude
- * Shell script games, including the old favorite, Hangman
- * And 96 more!

With thorough explanations of the syntax and techniques used to build the example scripts that show readers how to write their own sophisticated shell scripts, *Wicked Cool Shell Scripts* is a must have for any geek, wanna-be, or computer aficionado. As Taylor describes it, "this book is for everyone from system administrators looking for new tips and tricks to the savvy home user who enjoys pushing their skills envelope, and it's great fun too!"

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

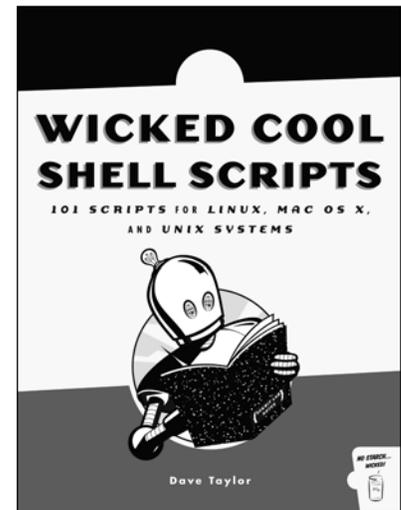
Sample scripts from the book (scroll down for links): <http://nostarch.com/frameset.php?startat=wcss>

Cover image: http://nostarch.com/frameset.php?startat=wcss_big

Author's site: www.intuitive.com/wicked/

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Taylor has a Masters degree in Education, an MBA, and has written a dozen technical books, including *Learning UNIX for Mac OS X Panther* (O'Reilly), *Solaris for Dummies* (Wiley), and *Teach Yourself UNIX in 24 Hours* (SAMS). He was a contributor to BSD 4.4 UNIX, and his software is included in many major UNIX distributions.



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