



# RED HAT LINUX ADMINISTRATOR'S GUIDE

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This book is easily understandable no matter what the reader's background is, be it traditional UNIX user, new Linux devotee, or even Windows user. Each topic is presented in a clear, complete fashion and very few assumptions are made about what the reader knows.

Linux Administrator's Guide covers the technical aspects of Linux and bases its teaching on real-life experiences and examples. Geared towards small network administration, this book can be applied just as easily to large corporate use as well. It covers some of the contemporary trends now emerging in the corporate world in regards to Linux. It also gives attention to bringing Linux into a more key function role, such as its application as a desktop workstation.

The author offers a pragmatic and readable guide that covers:

- Step-by-step instructions showing how to configure various routines, functions and programs.
- Real-life examples illustrating issues and explaining the more technical jargon for beginners.

- Practical and day-to-day issues rather than just on the technical aspects of Linux.

The book is divided into four major sections each covering some aspect of Linux administration. Each section has been again sub divided into number of chapters relevant to the section that helps the reader gain maximum knowledge about the subject.

The first section comprising of chapters 1 to 5, explains some of the basics concerning installing and configuring a Linux machine. It also looks at managing the most basic functions of Linux such as starting up and shutting down the system, moving through directory structure and understanding shells and file types. This section examines the role of root or super user in basic system administration and also some of the basic security issues.

The management of the users is discussed in detail in the second section of the book. It discusses how to add and delete new users to the system. Linux machine can support hundreds of accounts as it allows for true multi-tasking. This section also looks at many processes that run simultaneously, each carrying out a specific function. With all this activity, there must be some maintenance and cleaning up done by the system. The

cleaning up done by the system. The author provides an extensive coverage on the practical aspects of the task automation in Linux, which makes it self-maintaining system. The author ventures into the task of performing backups, archiving data and restoring the former data, logging and checking file systems is another important aspect to Linux administration which is included in the text.

The third section helps the user to become friendly with the Linux environment by introducing methods of installing new programs. Author has discussed about proper GUI interface to the system, which have become extremely popular and have made Linux appear as diverse as the many operating systems currently on the market. Author focuses on printing, customizing Linux Kernel and many of the diverse programs, which are available on Linux.

The last section discusses how Linux communicates with other Linux machines on a LAN based network. Author has extended the discussion on the protocols involved for networking and how it shares and transmits files. It includes mounting system from multiple of servers to simply dialing up your ISP, the section offers examples and

steps to complete most networking tasks. Author has also covered the e-mail and security related topics.

Each chapter is given bulleted overview of all key points in the beginning and ends with the conclusion of the material covered by that chapter. This book is extremely useful as a reference, as it contains appendixes at the end of the book including the comprehensive list of many Linux sites which assist the readers to learn more and gather additional information. Appendix B deals with the most basic Linux technology and commands encountered when using Command-Line interface. In Appendix C, a sample ipchains firewall configuration is described that can be used to lock down any Linux machine. Appendix D is particularly designed by keeping a Linux user in mind. This explains how to mount the device into the right partition and how to access the GNU ward CD.

This book serves as a guiding light for students of various professional courses. This comprehensive book includes many scripts and examples which make technical aspects lucid and self-explanatory to the reader.