

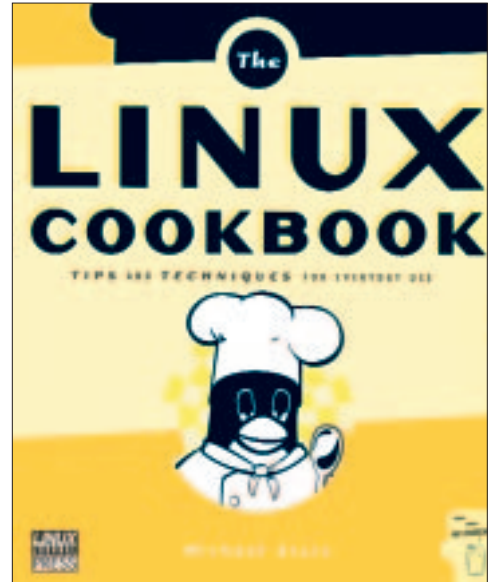
THE LINUX COOKBOOK

ALISON DAVIES

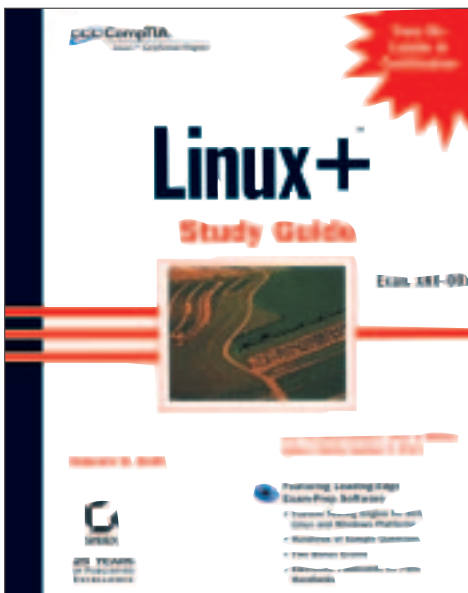
Aimed at providing tips and techniques for everyday use. This soft backed tome is split into seven key areas. Few screenshots are used but the book does cram a wealth of information into its 396 pages. Every page is filled with useful information and with the comprehensive index and contents pages is ideal, not just as a tips book but as a reference book, whenever you need that little bit of help. It explains how to do tasks not just with one tool but with whatever you have. For example using ImageMagick and Gimp on images or Emacs and vi for text. Clear simple examples are given with the results displayed along side. The book is written for a Debian system, meaning that the commands should work with all

distributions rather than just one or just one desktop system. The author's aim is not to set up a system from scratch but more to find tools and use them to make life easier. He deals with stable open source software so you can be confident that it will work on your system rather than having to find new libraries for beta downloads. I would have added this to my Christmas list but it is too important to wait. It now resides with my other favourite reference books. ■

Author	Michael Strutz
Publisher	No Starch Press
Price	£20.99
ISBN	1-886411-48-4



LINUX + STUDY GUIDE



A hard backed study manual with CD-Rom. The book is targeted at the CompTIA's Linux + exam which is an off shoot of the A+ exam system. The exam can be taken at the Prometric centres around the country. Each section of the book starts with an assessment test so you can gauge just how much you need to study. The chapters themselves explain the topics and a short crammer of essential points is just before the review questions. The Linux + exam is geared towards producing technical engineers who could fix any Linux based system and does not rely on just a single distribution. The hardware troubleshooting chapters are quite detailed and explain such issues as forked SCSI chains and evaluating swap space. Showing examples of recent window managers the book is very up to

date. How long this remains relevant depends on how often the exams are updated. The CD contains hundreds of practice questions and flash cards to download onto your Palm Pilot. Within the Windows community the A+ exams are usually seen as a technically competent exam for engineers as opposed to the MSCE and Cisco treadmills. Whether this exam takes off for Linux will depend on whether employers trust those with the qualification or not. If the actual exam is like the test exams supplied then the qualification will be well received as it is so practically based. ■

Author	Roderick W. Smith
Publisher	Sybex
Price	£36.99
ISBN	0-7821-2939-0