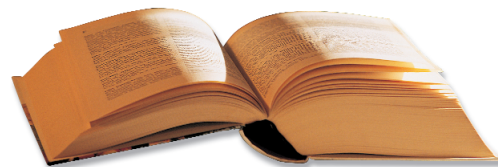


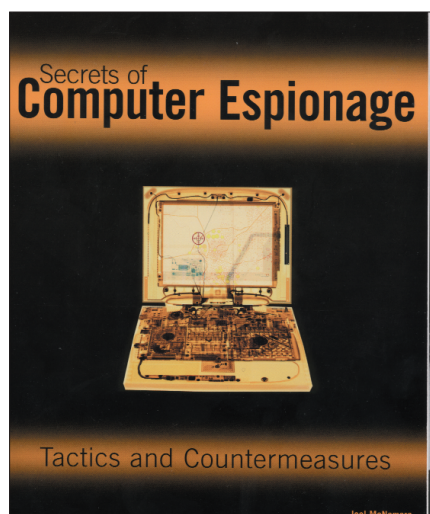
Book Reviews



Secrets of Computer Espionage

The Secrets of Computer Espionage is aimed at those who are concerned that someone may be spying on them.

The first half of the book describes various types of spies and how they operate. Each of these sections is then matched to describing countermeasures and how effective they are against the particular exploit.



The book takes you through the thought processes to become an espionage expert, based on knowing the enemy is half the task to devising a workable solution to ensure you reach the level of safety that you require.

The boxouts present throughout the book are full of real stories about spies and provide a nice light relief to such an important subject.

The twenty page chapter on Spying and the law is obviously concerned with the American legal system, but it was still a worthwhile read and showing that it was up to date included the USA Patriot Act of 2001 and its implications.

The book was well researched and included lists of BIOS backdoor passwords, which although well known are useful collated together.

The book is not limited to Linux and covers just about any situation you are likely to find in real life. These range from hardware keyloggers to wireless eavesdropping with the Pringles antenna.

The final section of the book deals with more unusual techniques such as Wim van Eck's monitoring and Echelon surveillance.

Throughout the book there are plenty of links so you can check and do your own research, but the level of detail within the book is sufficient for any wannabe industrial spy. Drawings of the latest technology is also included and shows just how modern the book is.

For the paranoid this book would confirm that everyone is out to find information about you. For those a little more down to earth the book will confirm that everyone is out to find information about you.

A good read and one that you will make time for, even if it means you end up with the desire to buy some better locks. ■

Joel McNamara

362 pages

Wiley, 0-7645-3710-5

£24.50, US \$35.00, EUR 27.49

Google Hacks

If, like me, you have ever been faced with pages and pages of results from a Google query and wished for some way to filter out the dross from the gold, then this is the book for you.

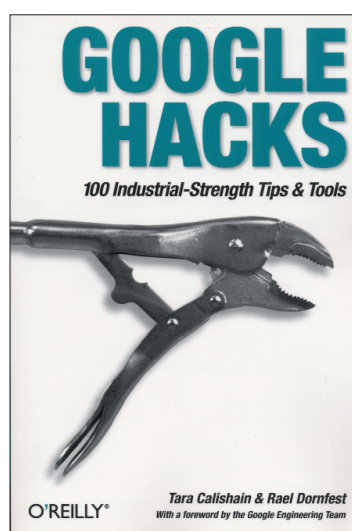
Some of the "hacks" are obvious ones that you have probably used already. I already use the "images" search tab regularly and was disappointed that there were not more ways to filter those. Some sections are barely relevant here in the UK. The phonebook was fun to play with, but with only US listings was of limited use.

There was a considerable amount of repetition, but this is a book that is meant to be dipped into instead of read from cover to cover so I suppose points need to be mentioned whenever relevant to avoid confusion.

Some of the hacks, I felt, were too long winded to be worth trying, the functionality gained did not seem to be worth the pain of typing in the hack, but that is a purely personal thing, other people have different criteria.

I was slightly disappointed that no mention was made of the problems caused by "Google bombing" as I was hoping for some suggestions to get around this.

All in all "Google Hacks" is a fun book to read through and to play with the



examples to see what you get.

I've yet to remember to look in the book when I have become really frustrated trying to locate some information, but I'm sure that eventually I will find the hack to meet my needs and surfing the web will become a little less like drowning in a tide of information. ■

Tara Calishain and Rael Dornfest

325 pages

O'Reilly, 0-596-00447-8

£17.50, US \$24.95, EUR 23.38

The Linux Development Platform

This book is part of the Bruce Perens' Open Source Series. As such it deals with the tools and needs of the Open Source community.

In this issue the book aims to produce a full development platform with nothing but Open Source tools.

Although when first thinking about this, Open Source would have everything, you do start to wonder if it really can cope with a full development platform necessary for a commercial operation.

The first chapter deals with the basics of software development, from life cycle to the components of just such a development system.

A large part of the book deals with working with text editors. Here we have basics such as Emacs commands and finish with VIM tools.

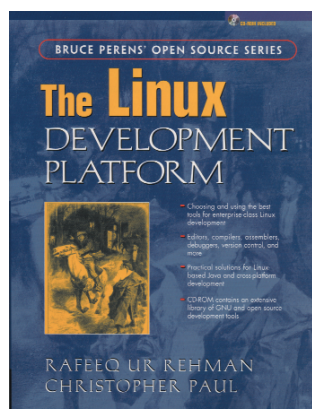
The part of the book which deals with compilers and assemblers goes into a little more depth in its description of gcc and briefly covers other languages such

as Pascal and Ruby. Providing listings of all the gcc options without a description did seem like a method just to fill pages. At least the chapters on make and the debugger gdb had some examples.

CVS was explained, again with a long list of options. No description of what they do, just a listing with both short and long forms.

The section on miscellaneous tools was more valuable in that it mentioned utilities that are not normally mentioned in other books such as ranlib and nm.

The section on cross platform development was a welcome relief in that unless you have the particular development board, you are unlikely to be familiar with the process and so the chapter imparted some new information and was an interesting read.



The final chapter dealt with developing for any platform using Java.

Having finished the book I wonder just who it is aimed at. Developers should already be familiar with the tools they need and prefer, managers will also be familiar with their staff's requirements. As a walk through

for a teaching course the book was a little long winded. Maybe you need a book just like this. Unfortunately I cannot imagine what you would use it for. Limiting to Open Source tools is a noble goal, but not to mention any Rapid application tools was a little of an oversight. ■

Rafeeq ur Rehman and Christopher Paul
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Prentice Hall PTR, 0-130-09115-4
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