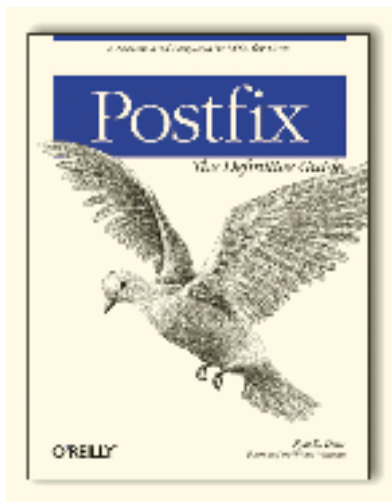


Postfix – The Definitive Guide

Postfix is a widely used mail transfer agent found in many a large organization. Normally, books that try to claim the title of definitive guide fall short of the award – unless they are written by the program author. For this reason I was initially skeptical about such a book.

Postfix is one of those programs that you either love or hate, depending on your working relationship with it. I was lucky with the book in that I managed to devote enough time to read through, rather than stopping and starting. This time taken made a big difference to my appreciation of Postfix. That alone was worth the cover price.



The book covers the basics behind Postfix and the fundamental architecture of how messages enter and are queued in the system. The initial configuration chapter is suitable for all ranges of experience, from the novice just setting up a test system to the seasoned professional trying to meet a client's wishes. This book really starts to come into its own with the chapters on advanced configuration, more specifically with the topic of spam.

The three and a half pages at the end on FAQ's are informative and worth reading, if only to realize some of the

power behind the program. The book explains the principle behind an idea then gives a short example. In this way it is like a super manpage, but designed with a more gentle approach.

The part on content filtering although adequate, left me feeling that there was more to be discovered and explored, whereas the section on writing an auto responder was comprehensive and treated as a step by step guide, which is never a bad thing to do.

Postfix might never make it to being my favorite MTA, but at least I now feel confident to tackle servers knowing they will do as planned, rather than the unexpected. ■

Kyle D Dent

261 pages

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£24.95, US\$ 34.95, EUR 34.00

Linux New Media AG, based in Munich, Germany, is the world's leading supplier of Linux content. Linux-Magazin, the company's first publication, was founded in 1994 and is one of the longest-running Linux magazines worldwide. The English-language Linux Magazine, launched in 2000, has grown rapidly from a local UK publication to an internationally-active leader in the Linux Community. In total, Linux New Media currently publishes six monthly Linux magazines, produces eight Linux-oriented web sites, and organizes the LinuxPark exhibition at major European trade shows such as CeBIT.

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