Kernel Projects for Linux

By Gary Nutt

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With Kernel Projects for Linux, Professor Gary Nutt provides a series of 12 lab exercises that illustrate how to implement core operating system concepts in the increasingly popular Linux environment. The makeup of the manual allows readers to learn concepts on a modern operating system—Linux—while at the same time viewing the source code. This hands-on manual complements any core OS book by demonstrating how theoretical concepts are realized in Linux. Part I presents an overview of the Linux design, offering some insight into such topics as runtime organization and process, file, and device management. Part II consists of a graduated set of exercises where readers move from inspecting various aspects of the operating systems's internals to developing their own functions and data structures for the Linux kernel. This book is designed for programmers who need to learn the fundamentals of operating systems on a modern OS. The progressively harder exercises allow them to learn concepts in a hands-on setting.

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Editorial Review

From the Author
I have written Kernel Projects for Linux as a textbook to be used in the classroom (it is NOT a self-help reference book). Linux is an exciting OS because of its open source policy, resulting rapid development, and importance in the commercial world. This book is intended to introduce the Version 2.2.12 kernel to undergraduate students who may have only a year of programming experience, and who have not previously seen kernel code. The book begins with a 50-page overview of the kernel. The second part of the book is a dozen programming problems with graduated difficulty. Choosing problems in the Linux environment is especially difficult since most desirable additions or modifications have already been done. Each problem has an explanation of relevant concepts the student will need to solve the problem, and some hints about how to solve the problem. As an applied software book, the explanations and examples are bound to meet the disapproval of some readers ! -- have you ever seen a program or documentation that everyone thought was wonderful? Even so, the reviewers (instructors at very well-respected universities) and my students have found the book to be accurate and useful. Since it is a textbook rather than a technical reference book, its value would be greatly diluted by publishing the solutions to the dozen exercises, therefore (as is traditional in the textbook market) the publisher and I agreed to only distribute solutions to instructors -- sorry. Gary Nutt

From the Back Cover

This is a lab manual that provides a dozen specific lab exercises on Linux internals, illustrating how theoretical Operating System concepts are implemented in Linux. Part I presents an overview of the Linux kernel and how it handles key OS concepts such as: runtime organization and process, file, and device management. Part II presents a series of twelve progressively more difficult exercises that can be completed in a lab environment. This book can be used in conjunction with any core operating systems textbook, and is also available in a special academic package with Nutt: Operating Systems: A Modern Approach that includes a free copy of Red Hat Linux.

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About the Author

Gary J. Nutt is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Colorado. He has also worked as researcher at Xerox PARC and Bell Labs, and as a corporate Vice President and manager of the Boulder office of Interactive Systems. His research interests are in operating systems, distributed systems, performance, and collaboration technology. He teaches in these areas as well as object-oriented software and networks.

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Users Review

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