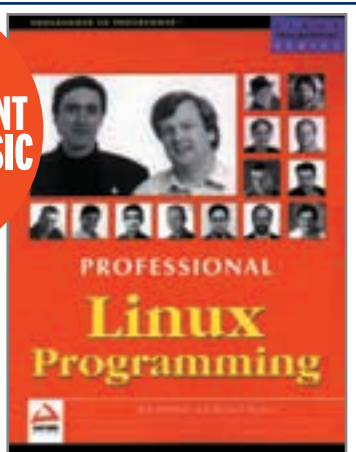




INSTANT CLASSIC



## Professional Linux Programming

**Author:** Neil Matthew et al  
**Publisher:** Wrox Press  
**ISBN:** 1861003013  
**Price:** £43.99  
**Reviewer:** Martin Howse

Continuing in Wrox's superb Programmer to Programmer series, this is a worthy successor to *Beginning Linux Programming*. The pitch, style and format is again excellent, with clear, well-written code applied to real-world examples and plenty of background material.

For a book on advanced programming, it's very readable and would make a good introduction to areas such as database programming, LDAP and Python. The range of material is well chosen, with chapters covering core themes relating to the example application interwoven with 'take a break' sections which diversify from these central themes. General areas such as tackling bugs and security issues are not ignored in this application-based approach.

*Professional Linux Programming* is well worth the cover price, even if only a few chapters are relevant to the programmer's current situation. Clear, concise information is a high-value commodity – one which is presented in abundance here.



## Linux Music & Sound

**Author:** Dave Phillips  
**Publisher:** No Starch Press  
**ISBN:** 1886411344  
**Price:** £37.49  
**Reviewer:** Daniel James

If any proof was required that Linux has arrived on the desktop, an entire volume dedicated to audio applications serves amply.

*Linux Music & Sound* begins with a useful section on digital audio theory, explaining the various technologies used in Linux audio. Another essential chapter covers getting sound cards properly configured with either OSS, OSS/Free or Alsa drivers.

A wide range of available audio applications is reviewed, ranging from hard disk recording and network audio packages to high-level computer music languages. Many of these packages are included on accompanying CD-ROM, though inevitably these will soon lose their currency as new versions are released.

Primarily aimed at musicians and broadcasters, the book also includes coverage of more generally useful applications, such as IP telephony.

As the first book on the subject of Linux and audio, Dave Phillips' work is a must-have for anyone interested in the area.



## Linux In a Nutshell 3rd Edition

**Author:** Ellen Siever et al  
**Publisher:** O'Reilly  
**ISBN:** 0596000251  
**Price:** £18.95  
**Reviewer:** Martin Howse

*Linux In a Nutshell* was recently covered in *LinuxUser*, but with the release of this third edition, it's worth taking a look at this updated classic. Of course, the beautiful style remains, but there's now plenty of new material bringing it bang up to date.

Key changes and developments in the world of Linux are mirrored here in a nutshell. There's new material on the GNOME and KDE desktops, Debian and Red Hat package management and an extended rundown of CVS for version control. The structure has changed, however, and is not so intuitive to use. It has also lost an all-important chapter covering Perl.

For some, the addition of screengrabs of GUI tools may ruin the streamlined feel of earlier editions, but there is much important new information and this is a long-awaited update to an essential reference work.



## Teach Yourself Linux in 24 Hours

**Authors:** Craig and Coletta Witherspoon  
**Publisher:** SAMS  
**ISBN:** 0672319934  
**Price:** £17.99  
**Reviewer:** Martin Howse

Now reaching its third edition, this book aims to get the newcomer up and running with Linux as quickly as possible with 24 one-hour lessons.

These lessons cover a wide range of areas and provide plenty of background information and theory, question and answers, and task-based tutorials.

Each hour is either related to a specific area of use, such as backing up, or to general Linux theory.

It's very well-structured and the theory material is particularly thorough, covering topics such as processes, the shell, and understanding the operating system as a whole. The main tasks and lessons are very much command-line based, with only the much later hours devoted to GUI tools.

For the confident beginner, this is an excellent introduction which covers enough material to transform the newbie into a skilful Linux user.



## Linux Core Kernel Commentary

**Author:** Scott Maxwell  
**Publisher:** Coriolis  
**ISBN:** 1576104907  
**Price:** £28.49  
**Reviewer:** Martin Howse

It's rare to come across a book as heavyweight in all senses of the word as the *Linux Core Kernel Commentary*.

This is a big book with big ambitions, covering a huge amount of code.

A selection of the Linux 2.2.5 kernel source code is printed in an easy-to-read format. This code is cross-referenced to additional commentary provided by the author in the latter part of the work.

Beginning with a brief introduction to Linux, its history, features and kernel architecture, the commentary is divided into key themed sections covering areas such as memory and SMP.

A brief introduction is provided to each essential area, and this material is very well structured.

This is probably the only major printed version of substantial amounts of a recent kernel, and as such it provides an important inside look at the architecture and functionality that lies at the heart of every Linux system.

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