

Caldera OpenLinux System Administration

Expert Insight

This book provides, in one place, the core information a system administrator needs to know to administer any system that has Caldera OpenLinux including:

- Networking in NT, NetWare, and UNIX Environments
- Filesystem and Disk Management
- Backups and Disaster Recovery
- Configuring the X-Window System
- Shells and Scripting
- System Monitoring and Tuning
- Internet Services

Authoritative Advice

Implement the advice from expert author Thomas Schenk to meet all of your OpenLinux system administration needs

SAMS

Unleashed

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO MASTERY

Contents

Introduction 1

So You Want to Be a System Administrator	1
Who Is This Book's Intended Audience?	1
What Do You Need to Know Prior to Reading This Book?	1
What Will You Learn from This Book?	2
What Software Will You Need?	2
How This Book Is Organized	2
Conventions Used in This Book	4

PART I Introduction to Linux System Administration 5

1 What Is a Systems Administrator? 7

The Linux System Administrator	8
A Simple Definition	8
The SAGE Definition	9
Required Background and Skills	11
The Linux Person	11
Customer Service Orientation	12
The Ability to Thrive on Challenge.....	12
System Administrator Duties and Responsibilities	13
User Management	13
Hardware and Software Maintenance	14
Network Administration	14
Summary	15

2 Essential Tools for System Administrators 17

Power Tools for Superusers	18
UNIX Commands for Power Users.....	18
The Caldera OpenLinux Administration System (COAS) and LISA.....	31
Web Resources for Administrators	33
The Linux Documentation Project	34
Linux Kernel Archives and Kernelnotes	35
Linuxcare	36
Linux Today.....	37
Other Web Sites of Interest	38
Other Sources of Information	38
Mailing Lists	39
FTP Archives	40
Newsgroups	41
Summary	42

PART II Linux Essentials 43

3 Installation Strategies 45

Default Installation Versus Customized Approaches	46
Individual Installations	46
Scalability Issues	48
Cloning Installations	48
A Homegrown Approach.....	48
A Template-Based Approach	59
Establishing an Installation Template	60
Class-Based Customization	62
An Implementation Example.....	64
Summary	66

4 Where Do I Find...? 67

Hand Me That Map, Please	68
The Filesystem Hierarchy Standard	68
The Caldera Filesystem Layout.....	75
Examining Processes	77
The proc File System.....	77
Process Status Tools	83
Checking Devices	87
Device-Naming Scheme	93
Assigned Major and Minor Numbers	93
An Alternative Device Management Scheme	94
Summary	95

5 Starting Up and Shutting Down 97

Linux Boot Loaders	98
Boot Loader Overview	98
LILO, The Linux Loader.....	99
LILO Tips and Tricks	107
Alternatives to LILO	113
The Linux Boot Process and System Initialization Scripts	114
Kernel Startup and Device Initialization	114
/etc/inittab and rc Scripts	115
More About Runlevels.....	120
Shutting Down	123
Changing Runlevels.....	123
The shutdown Commands	124
Summary	125

6 System Failure Diagnosis and Recovery 127

Kernel Oops	128
Kernel Panic	129

Hardware Errors	129
BIOS Problems	130
Plug-and-Play (PnP) Devices	131
PCI Devices	131
Diagnostic Tools	133
Using /proc for Diagnosis	133
The isapnp Program	134
Network Interface Card (NIC) Diagnostics	134
DOS Diagnostics	137
Building and Using Rescue Disks	137
Building (or Borrowing) a Rescue Disk	138
Starting a Rescue Session	139
Rescue Disk Toolkit	139
Rebuilding LILO	139
Rewriting Configuration Files	140
Repairing a Partition	140
Emergency File Copying	141
Recovering Deleted Files	142
Analysis of System Logs	143
Interpreting Log Messages	143
Locating the Source of Kernel Errors	145
Decoding Kernel Errors	147
Using the System.map File	149
Seeking Assistance	150
Summary	151

PART III Filesystem and Disk Management 153

7 Filesystems 155

The Physical Realm	156
Single Versus Multiple Disks	156
Partitioning Strategies	157
Partitioning Using fdisk	159
Partitioning Using cfdisk	162
Partitioning Using sfdisk	164
Partitioning Using Lizard	167
Filesystem Creation and Management	168
Filesystem Tools	168
Developing Space Allocation Strategies and Estimating Growth	177
Filesystem Types	178
The Minix Filesystem	178
The Extended 2 Filesystem	179
Other Filesystem Types	179

Space Management and Quotas	180
Monitoring Space Usage	180
Local Versus Shared Filesystems	185
Establishing Filesystem Quotas.....	185
Summary	190
8 Adding or Replacing Disks 191	
IDE Device Naming	192
IDE Disk Device Interface	192
Managing the /etc/fstab File	194
/etc/fstab File Format.....	194
Dissecting a Filesystem Configuration File (/etc/fstab)	195
SCSI Concerns	196
Selecting a Controller	198
Cabling Requirements	201
Device Termination and SCSI IDs	201
SCSI Device Naming	203
Other Devices	204
Summary	205
9 Linux and RAID 207	
RAID Overview	208
Objectives of RAID.....	208
RAID Levels	210
Linux Software RAID.....	215
RAID Tools	215
Supported RAID Levels	220
Implementing Software RAID	226
Booting from a RAID Device	244
Hardware RAID and Linux	245
RAID Controller Drivers	246
External RAID Devices.....	247
Other Sources of Information	247
Summary	248
10 Removable Media Devices 251	
Removable Media Devices	252
Floppy Drives	252
CD-ROM Drives	253
CD-R and CD-RW Drives	254
Parallel Port Storage Devices	265
Adding Support to Your Kernel.....	266
Configuring Zip Drives	267
Configuring Other Parallel Port ATAPI/IDE Devices	268
Using COAS For Device Configuration	269

Granting Access to Users	270
The <i>mtools</i> Package	270
Giving Users the Power to Mount.....	271
Automatic Mounting of Removable Media	273
A Hybrid Approach	274
Summary.....	275

PART IV Backups and Data Recovery 277

11 What to Back Up and How 279	
Files to Back Up	280
System Configuration Files	280
User Files.....	281
Task-Oriented Files	281
Finding New Files	282
Determining Which Device to Use.....	283
Backup Strategies	283
Backup Commands	285
Choosing What to Back Up.....	287
Selecting a Strategy	288
Full Backups and Incrementals.....	291
Developing a Rotation Schedule	292
Rotation Example 1	293
Rotation Example 2	295
Reusing Backup Media	297
Developing Backup Scripts	300
Using the <i>tar</i> Command	301
Using <i>dump</i> and <i>restore</i>	302
Using <i>cpio</i>	303
Testing the Script.....	304
Third-Party Backup Software	304
Evaluating Backup Software	305
Summary	306
12 Media Selection and Storage 307	
Sources of Information	308
Device Selection Criteria	308
The Autoloader Question.....	309
Media Selection Criteria	310
4mm DDS	311
8mm Exabyte.....	311
DLT	312
8mm/AIT	312

Tape Driver Interfaces	313
Floppy Tape Devices	313
ATAPI Tape Drives	313
SCSI Tape Devices	314
Storage Issues	315
Onsite Storage	315
Offsite Storage	315
Multiple Copies	316
Tape Escrow Services	316
Summary	317

13 Recovery from Data Loss 319

Some Data Loss Scenarios	320
User Errors	320
Viruses and Other Destructive Software	327
System Crackers and Malcontents	330
Hardware Failure	331
Other Disaster Scenarios	334
The Cost of Data Recovery	334
Direct Costs	334
Indirect Costs	335
Disaster Recovery Planning	336
Plan Development	337
Plan Maintenance	338
Summary	339

PART V Networking 341

14 TCP/IP and Ethernet 343

Network Layers	344
Network Access Layer	345
Internet Layer	345
Transport Layer	346
Application Layer	347
IP Addresses	347
Address Classes	347
Classless IP Addresses	348
Subnetting	349
Running TCP/IP over Ethernet	349
Ethernet Cards and Cables	350
Ethernet Hubs	351
Switches	351
Choosing Ethernet Media	352

Adding an Ethernet Interface	353
Routing	356
The Routing Table	357
Dynamic Routing.....	361
Name Services	367
DNS	368
Name Services on UNIX-Like Systems	369
Network Information Service	376
Summary	380
15 Sharing Resources 381	
Sharing with Linux/UNIX Hosts	382
Sharing with Other Operating Systems	382
Setting Up Print Queues	383
Setting Up a Local Printer.....	383
Granting Access to Others.....	387
Setting Up a Remote Printer	391
Network File Services.....	392
NFS Server Configuration.....	393
The /etc/exports File	395
Using exports	397
NFS Client Configuration	398
AFS and Coda	400
The Automount Daemon and autofs.....	401
The BSD Automount Daemon	401
Linux autofs	404
Summary	406
16 Network Monitoring 407	
Why Monitor?.....	408
Monitoring Systems	408
The Network Access Point	409
Packet Capture System	409
The Analysis Engine	413
Logging Subsystem	413
User Interface	413
Network Monitoring System Requirements	414
Deployment Methods	414
Sniffers	415
tcpdump	416
Uses for Sniffers	419
Dangers of Sniffers	421
Protecting Against Sniffers	422

Traffic Analyzers.....	422
ntop	423
Determining Network Bottlenecks	429
Analyzing Types of Traffic	430
Summary	432

17 Integrating with Windows NT Networks 433

Networking the Windows Way	434
Speaking the Lingo	434
A Simple NT Network	435
Linux and Samba in an NT Environment.....	436
Samba Overview	436
Analyzing the Samba Configuration File	449
Linux and Samba as a Client OS	456
Linux and Samba as a Server OS	459
Sources of Samba Help	463
Summary	464

18 Integrating with Other Network Operating Systems 465

Using the Right Tool for the Job	466
Linux in a NetWare Environment.....	467
NetWare Interoperability Options	467
The IPX Protocol.....	468
Linux as NetWare Client	469
Linux as NetWare Server	470
Starting the <code>marsnwe</code> Server.....	483
Linux in an AppleTalk Environment	484
Configuring Kernel AppleTalk Support	484
Configuring AppleTalk Services on Linux	485
Starting the Netatalk Server	495
Summary	496

PART VI Internet Services 497

19 Setting Up Internet Services 499

Choosing Services to Offer.....	500
Low-Level Services	500
Internet Services	500
Other Internet Services	501
The Internet Server <code>inetd</code>	501
The <code>/etc/inetd.conf</code> File	502
Using TCP-Wrappers	504
Logging	505
Access Control.....	505
Testing <code>tcpd</code> Configuration	507

xinetd as an Alternative to inetd	508
Standard Services: Remote Login, Execution, and File-Copy	511
telnet	511
The R-Commands	512
Secure Shell	517
Summary	521

20 Electronic Mail 523

MTAs, MUAs, and MDAs	524
SMTP Services	525
POP and IMAP Services	525
Dealing with Spam	527
Choosing an MTA.....	528
<i>sendmail</i>	528
<i>smail</i>	535
<i>qmail</i>	543
<i>exim</i>	544
<i>fetchmail</i>	547
Supporting Multiple Email Clients.....	549
Spool Access	549
Locking Issues.....	549
Using Popular Linux Email Clients	550
<i>mail</i> and <i>mailx</i>	550
<i>elm</i> and <i>pine</i>	551
<i>xfmail</i>	551
Managing Aliases	552
Structuring Aliases.....	552
Mandatory Aliases	553
Aliases Versus Mailing Lists	554
Distributed Management of Aliases	554
Mailing Lists with <i>majordomo</i>	554
Moderated Versus Unmoderated Lists.....	555
Open Versus Closed Lists	556
Privacy and Security	556
To Archive or Not to Archive	556
Archiving and FTP	557
Configuring a Digest-Only List.....	557
Summary	569

21 FTP and Anonymous FTP 571

FTP Objectives	572
FTP Connection Types	573

Allowing FTP Access to Your Servers	573
wuarchive-ftp.....	574
wu-ftpd Information Sources	579
Alternative FTP Servers	581
Security and Legal Issues	582
Protecting Your FTP Servers	583
Modifying File Permissions and Removing Unneeded Files	594
Dealing with Warez D00dz	594
Summary	599

22 Web Serving 601

Apache	602
About the Apache Project	603
Installing Apache	604
Starting and Stopping Apache	605
Configuring Apache.....	606
Various Configuration Techniques	612
Security Tips	616
Apache Modules	617
Virtual Hosts	620
Apache Add-ons	624
Squid	625
Features of Squid.....	626
Starting Squid	626
Configuring Squid	627
Other Web Servers	628
Roxen Challenger	628
Stronghold	628
IBM HTTP Server Powered by Apache	629
Boa.....	629
dhttpd	629
fhttpd	629
ghttpd	630
thttpd	630
WN.....	630
Summary	631

23 News Services 633

So You Want to Run a News Server?	634
Capacity Planning	634
Running a News Server.....	636
Outsourcing News Services.....	637

INN and Friends	637
Installing INN	638
Choosing an Article Storage Format.....	642
Configuring INN	643
Spam Filtering Options with INN.....	661
Diablo	661
Using nntpcache	662
News Clients	664
Text Clients	664
Graphical Clients	666
Alternatives for Reading News	670
Places to Ask Questions and Find Answers	670
Summary	671
 24 Internet Telephony and Conferencing 673	
The Problems	675
Latency	675
Quality of Service	675
Packet Dropping	675
Software Requirements	676
Monopoly Power	676
Hardware Requirements	676
The Multicast Backbone	677
Internet Relay Chat (IRC).....	680
ircII	681
Zircon, an X11 Client for IRC	683
kSirc.....	685
BitchX	686
ICQ and Clones.....	687
ICQ, IP-Masquerading, and Firewalls.....	687
JavaICQ from Mirabilis.....	687
licq	689
micq	690
Multimedia Conferencing Tools	691
Speak Freely	693
Q-SeeMe	694
CU-SeeMe	695
Summary	695
 PART VII Security and Firewalls 697	
 25 Security Principles 699	
Determining Your Security Needs	700
Types of Attacks	701

Securing Your Caldera Server	702
Passwords	702
System Files	708
Physical Security: Minimizing the Physical Risks	723
Securing Services	724
Check Your Log Files	726
Check Your Network Interfaces	727
Check for New setuid/setgid Files	727
Check /var/spool/cron	727
Check /var/spool/atjobs	728
Check for Altered System Files	728
Be Aware of the Latest Threats	728
Keep Your Software Up-To-Date!	728
Developing Security Policies	729
Setup Policies	729
Maintenance Policies	730
Reaction Policies	730
Making the Rules	730
Enforcing Strict Compliance	731
Dealing with Infractions	731
Summary	734

26 Firewalls 735

Types of Firewalls	736
Bastion Hosts	737
Firewall Policy	739
Linux Proxy Services	740
Linux Kernel Configuration	741
Transproxy 0.3	743
SOCKS Proxy Server	744
Squid 2.2	747
TIS Firewall Toolkit	749
Setting Up a Firewall	753
Packet Filtering	753
Packet Filtering with Linux	753
Debugging Firewalls	764
Summary	765

27 The Security Administrator's Toolbox 767

Building Your Security Administrator's Toolbox	768
Granting Privileges with sudo	768
Other Useful Tools	776
Sources of Security Tools	779

Security Resources on the Web	780
The USENIX Web Site	781
Caldera Security Information	781
Linux Portal Sites	781
Other Sources of Information	782
comp.security.announce and Other Usenet Newsgroups	782
Security Mailing Lists	784
Summary	786
28 I've Been Hacked...What Now? 787	
Intruder Alert! Rules of Engagement	788
Gathering Evidence of Intrusion	789
Determining the Extent of Intrusion	790
Analyzing System Logs	790
Intrusion Detection Tools	792
Trinux as a Security Tool	793
Cleaning Up	798
Starting from Scratch	799
Deciding When to Throw in the Towel	799
Trusting Your Backups	800
Reinstalling from Media	801
Summary	801
PART VIII User Management and Interaction 803	
29 Users and Groups 805	
Working with Users and Groups	806
Establishing Groups	806
The Evils of Shared Accounts	807
Adding and Deleting User Accounts	808
Dealing with Disgruntled Users	808
Adding a User Manually	808
Some Notes on Editing /etc/passwd and /etc/group Manually	811
Adding a User Using the Command-Line Tools	811
Adding a User Using the GUI Tools	812
Editing Users with COAS	815
Manipulating User Accounts in Batch Mode	820
Disabling User Accounts	820
Deleting a User Account	820
userdel	821
Searching for User Files	821
Working with System Files	822
The /etc/passwd file	822
The /etc/group File	823

The /etc/shadow File	824
The /etc/gshadow File	825
The /etc/login.defs File	826
The /etc/skel and /etc/skel.d Directories	826
Using Groups Effectively	826
groupadd	827
groupdel	827
groupmod	827
grpck	828
Adding a Group Using the GUI Tools	828
Creating Groups with Clear Boundaries.....	829
Using Groups to Grant Permissions	829
Using the newgrp and sg Commands	830
newgrp	830
sg	830
Employing Other System Commands Related to Users and Groups	831
chage	831
chfn	831
chgrp	832
chown	832
chsh	833
gpasswd	833
groups	834
passwd	834
su	834
usermod	835
Summary	836

30 Helping Users 837

Users Are Not Losers	838
Establishing the Ground Rules	838
Dealing with Interruptions.....	841
Developing a Help Desk.....	844
Qualities of a Good Help Desk	845
Help Desk Manning Strategies	846
An Open Source Solution	847
Alternatives to WREQ.....	858
Learning How to Say No	859
The Customer Isn't Always Right.....	859
Dealing with Troublesome Users	860
Granting No Exceptions	862
Summary	863

31 Shells 867

Getting Started with Shells	868
Shell Differences and Similarities	868
Selecting a Shell for Interactive Use	870
Interactive and Noninteractive Modes	870
bash: The Bourne Again Shell	870
Features of bash.....	871
Wildcards.....	871
Aliases	873
Command-Line Completion	874
Pipes.....	875
Input and Output Redirection	875
History	876
Command-Line Editing	878
Job Control	879
Built-In Commands	881
Startup for Interactive Sessions	882
Startup for Noninteractive Sessions	883
Quoting	883
bash Variables	884
Modifying the Command Prompt	886
Advantages and Disadvantages of bash	887
tcsh: The Enhanced C Shell	887
Features of tcsh	887
Wildcards	888
Aliases	888
Command-Line Completion	889
Spelling Correction	889
Pipes.....	889
Input and Output Redirection	889
History	890
Job Control	891
Built-In Commands	892
Key Bindings	893
Startup and Shutdown for Interactive Sessions	896
Automatic, Periodic, and Timed Events	897
Variables	897
Editing the Command Prompt.....	899
Advantages and Disadvantages of tcsh	900

Other Shells.....	900
The Z Shell	901
The Public Domain Korn Shell	901
The K Desktop Environment.....	902
Summary	902

32 Shell Scripting 903

Introduction to Shell Scripting	904
The Importance of Shell Scripting	904
Interpreted Versus Compiled	906
Selecting Your Scripting Shell.....	907
Standardization	908
Shell Scripting Using bash	908
bash Syntax	909
Creating and Using Variables	911
Expressions	915
Control Structures	919
Built-In Commands	925
Parsing Command-Line Parameters	934
Using Functions.....	936
Some Sample bash Scripts	938
Debugging Shell Scripts	940
Perl Scripting	941
Features of Perl	941
Getting Started with Perl	942
Control Structures	943
Learning More	944
Other Scripting Languages	945
Tcl/Tk	945
Python	946
Programming Tools.....	947
make	947
RCS	948
CVS	949
Summary	949

33 Automation 951

Managing Chaos	952
Automating Tasks	954
Automation Is Your Friend	955
Using at for One-Time Tasks	956
The at Utility.....	956
Examples of Using at	959

The batch Utility	961
The atq Utility.....	962
The atrm Utility	963
The atrun Utility	963
The at Daemon	964
Specifying Which Users Can Use at	965
Using cron	965
cron Startup.....	966
Using crontab Effectively.....	967
The Anatomy of a crontab Entry.....	969
Global cron Files	972
Examples of Using cron	972
Specifying Which Users Can Use cron.....	973
Debugging cron Jobs	974
Capturing Output.....	974
Using printf and echo as Debugging Tools.....	974
Examining the Log Files	976
Summary	977

PART X System Tuning and Kernel Building 979

34 Tuning Your Linux System 981

Tuning Considerations	982
General Tuning Areas	982
Unrequired Services	984
Weighing Costs and Benefits of Tuning	985
Hardware and Man Hours	985
Risk	986
Performance Measurement Techniques	987
Console Tools	988
Graphical Utilities	994
Real-Time Versus Gathered Performance Data.....	996
Process Management	997
Checking the Network Interface	998
Memory and Swap Space	999
Choosing the Right Amount of RAM	999
Swap Space Priorities	1002
Swap Partitions Versus Swap Files	1005
Kernel Tuning via /proc	1006
What Is /proc?	1007
Tunable Parameters in /proc	1009
Using echo to Alter System Behavior	1009
Summary	1010

35 Customizing the Linux Kernel 1011

Using the Source.....	1012
Why Recompile?	1012
Obtaining the Source	1013
Kernel Sources and Patches Provided by Caldera	1016
Kernel Source Code Layout	1018
Patching the Kernel Source	1019
Official Versus Unofficial Patches.....	1020
Where to Obtain Patches	1021
Kernel Loadable Modules.....	1022
Advantages of Modular Kernels	1023
Enabling Module Support	1024
The Module Utilities	1025
When Not to Use Modules	1026
Kernel Building.....	1027
Configuring the Linux Kernel.....	1027
Tweaking the Makefile	1052
Handling Multiple Versions of the Kernel	1053
Custom Installation Scripts	1057
Running make.....	1058
Summary	1059

36 Case Study 1061

A Brief Background	1062
Organizational Initiatives.....	1062
Director of Technology	1062
The Challenge	1063
Against the Odds	1063
Requirements	1064
Constraints	1065
Facilities and Connectivity	1065
Budget Constraints	1065
Technical Expertise and Knowledgeable Management.....	1066
The Carlos Effect	1067
Enter Linux and Caldera's OpenLinux 2.2	1067
OpenLinux Helps APISD Meet Requirements	1068
OpenLinux and the Internet.....	1069
Specifications	1069
Short-Term Objectives.....	1070
Long-Term Objectives	1070
Documenting the Project	1071
Web Server	1072

Network Authentication, Access, and User Administration	1073
Networking Macintosh Computers in the Linux Environment	1075
Administrative Control	1077
Internet Access.....	1078
Distributing the TAAS Grading Application.....	1079
Electronic Mail	1079
Centralized Management.....	1080
Content Management Using TCP Wrappers	1082
Using an FTP Server	1083
Reviewing the Aransas Pass Independent School District Case Study	1083
Index	1085