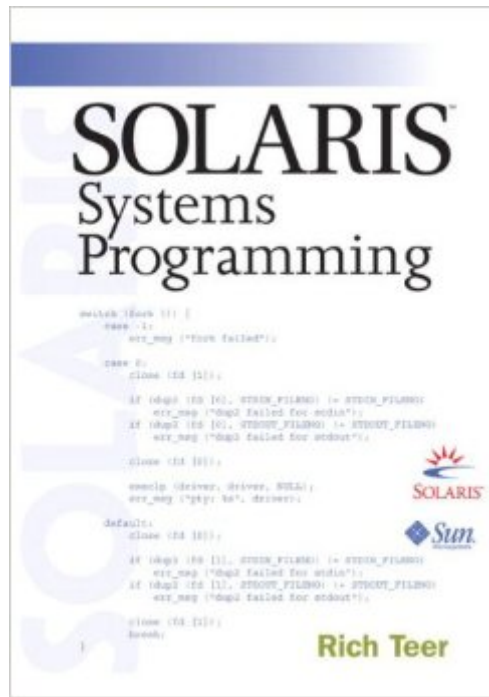# The book was found

Solaris Systems Programming

Synopsis

This book is one that any Solaris systems programmer will want on their shelf. Sun Microsystems' Solaris Operating Environment boasts a significant installed base, but the intricacies of programming in this UNIX environment have been previously unaddressed in book format. In this thorough new book, the author provides context that allows the reader to better understand the subtleties of the Solaris Operating Environment. He explains not only the "how's" but also the "why's" of Solaris programming, complete with a brief history of the operating system. The result is a comprehensive text that Solaris practitioners will refer to time and again as they face and overcome the significant challenges of their everyday work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would recommend Thomas E. Dickey's web page to anybody with open mind to decide on this issue.[...]I would certainly not pass my English Composition classes if I would be paraphrasing that much from somebody's work without proper references.

At first sight, the book appeared to be typical/average.However, when checking for specific details to post anopinion of the book I noticed something strange -paraphrasing of material from Stevens' "Advanced Programmingin the Unix Environment". Teer does not credit the materialwhich is borrowed. Read more details here -[...]

Despite the claim on the back cover, the book is far away from the tradition of Richard Stevens' "Advanced Programming in the UNIX Environment". In contrast to APUE, which truly enlightens the reader with all sorts of historical, portability, and background information, Teer's book is not much more than a Solaris API description.Many of the examples in it will not work unmodified on Linux, BSD, or other platforms. It will thus not be of much help to a novice Unix programmer unless he actually wants to write Solaris-only programs - not a common scenario in the Unix/POSIX world. But a more experienced programmer can just use the Solaris manual pages to get most of the information contained in the book.Also the book contains one of the most stupid code examples I have ever seen: an snprintf() emulation that works by calling vsprintf() first, then checking its return value to see if the buffer size was large enough, possibly exiting with an error message:int snprintf (char *buf, size_t n, const char *fmt, ...) { [...]len = vsprintf (buf, fmt, ap); [...]if (len >= n) err_quit ("snprintf: \"%s\" caused a buffer overflow", fmt);But when such an overflow is actually exploited on the stack by an attacker, vsprintf() may not return at all, rendering the check useless. The code thus gives a false impression of security. This might be regarded even more dangerous than code that does not perform overflow checks at all, especially in the context of a book.I have to admit that I did not look at too many examples, but I would recommend to be cautious with the book until somebody has verified that this is the only fundamental security error in its code.

This is an excellent book for writing in C on the Solaris UNIX platform. If you are familiar with "UNIX Network Programming" (Stevens, Fenner, and Rudoff) and "Advance Programming in the UNIX Environment" (Stevens), then you will be comfortable with this volume. All of them contain excellent documentation and good examples, as well as a nice clean format. Although catering to Solaris, much of it is applicable to other UNIX environments as well. If you use Solaris, you will want this book.The text is clear and easy to read, making things easy to find and use, thereby making you more productive. There are 1200+ pages, but you wouldn't think so. The paper is thin, but durable (a sign of quality publishing) and fits in with other professional publications.This book really has a ton of stuff in it. From specific 64-bit programming topics to library function documentation to secure programming. The sections on I/O are extensive and detailed -- there could be more information on network programming (the author also refers the reader to the same "UNIX Network Programming" that I mentioned, so that is a good sign). However interprocess communications is covered very well (e.g., pipes, FIFOs, message queues, semaphores, and shared memory).The appendices have some useful information. In addition to a function summary, the section on internationalization is good and surprisingly forward-looking. The exercises make it useful as a classroom text / reference

as well.This book already can replace several books on my shelf. Just an amazing book for your reference.

I was very disappointed that a book that claims to be "in the tradition of W. Richard Stevens" adds little to no value beyond what the original APUE (and now APUE2!) has taught generations of Unix programmers for many years. I already had a beat up copy of APUE on my shelf for years and recently purchased APUE2 (the *real* second edition of APUE). Considering SSP is very, very, very similar to APUE, I don't see the value of buying another book that doesn't add a lot of value beyond what I could figure out on my own by using APUE and Solaris manuals.If Rich Teer was sincere in his claims of admiration for Stevens, he would have properly credited him for the majority of the "borrowed" content - not doing so is not only questionable ethics for an author but truly disrespectful to a legend that is no longer here to defend himself.If you really want to do Solaris system programming, do yourself a favour - get a copy of APUE2 (ISBN: 0201433079), read the Solaris man pages and go hang out on developers.sun.com

This book has been very helpful to me and will enhance my understanding of Unix and more specifically, Solaris.Before this book, I held the book, "Unix Internals: A Systems Operations Handbook" by Shaw and Shaw as the bible of figuring out the innards of Unix. Rich Teer's new book, "Solaris Systems Programming," has taken that title and will now be my favorite Unix internals book.The book is well-written, thorough and has many examples. I wish Teer would have put in more details on threads programming, but I guess you can only go so far.I have recommended this book to almost all of my colleagues and will recommend it to anybody with any kind of programming background as a good reference for not only learning Unix systems programming, but learning Unix and how it works from a more detailed stand-point than the "Intro" books.

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