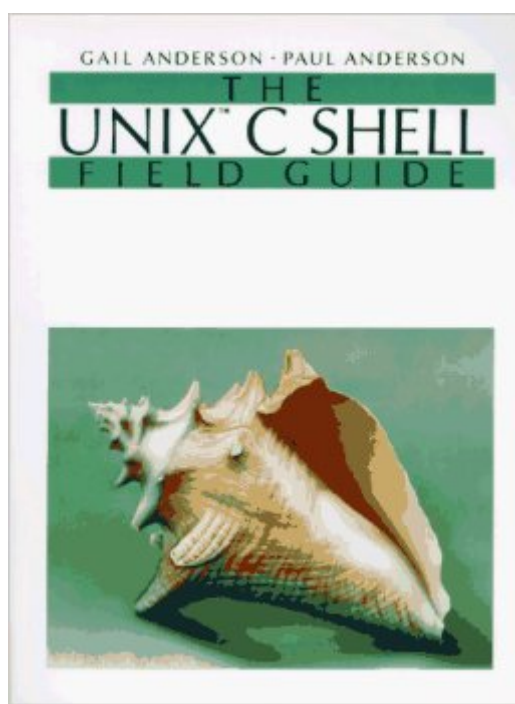


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The Unix C Shell Field Guide



Synopsis

An in-depth reference which shows how to take advantage of the practicality of C Shell features and use them effectively. Covers the C Shell as it runs under UNIX 4.2BSD, 4.3BSD, System V, System III, XENIX and Version 7.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The C shell (csh) is a Unix shell developed by Bill Joy for the BSD Unix system. It was originally derived from the 6th Edition Unix /bin/sh, the predecessor of the Bourne shell. Its syntax is modeled after the C programming language. The C shell added many feature improvements over the Bourne shell, such as aliases and command history. Today, the C shell is not widely used because it has been superceded by other shells such as the Tenex C shell (tcsh), the Korn shell (ksh), and the GNU Bourne-Again shell (bash). The C shell's scripting capability came under criticism in the early-to-mid 1990s for its ambiguity, especially with respect to quoting and redirection. An example of possibly unwelcome behavior of csh scripts is the following: `if ( ! -e foo ) echo bar > foolt` would appear to say "if file 'foo' does not exist, create it with contents 'bar'". But it will in fact create an empty file, as the line is parsed such that the output redirect is set up before the file existence is tested. However, if you are a big fan of the C Shell or legacy code has forced you to deal with it, this is the definitive guide to it, even if it is 20 years old. The book is organized as follows: Chapters 1 and 2 introduce the shell. Chapter 1 discusses what it is, what it does, and how you use it. Chapter 2 gives a brief tour of the shell with a sample terminal session. Chapters 3 through 6 present the C Shell as an interactive command language. Chapter 3 presents the C shell's basic command forms.

Chapter 4 shows the C shell's power - its command shorthand. Chapter 5 shows how to juggle your commands using job control. Chapter 6 covers the history and alias mechanisms, which are the C shell's original claims to fame. Chapters 7 and 8 present the shell as a programming language.

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