



Linux Security Cookbook: Security Tools & Techniques

By Daniel J. Barrett, Richard E. Silverman, Robert G. Byrnes

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Computer security is an ongoing process, a relentless contest between system administrators and intruders. A good administrator needs to stay one step ahead of any adversaries, which often involves a continuing process of education. If you're grounded in the basics of security, however, you won't necessarily want a complete treatise on the subject each time you pick up a book. Sometimes you want to get straight to the point. That's exactly what the new *Linux Security Cookbook* does. Rather than provide a total security solution for Linux computers, the authors present a series of easy-to-follow recipes--short, focused pieces of code that administrators can use to improve security and perform common tasks securely. The *Linux Security Cookbook* includes real solutions to a wide range of targeted problems, such as sending encrypted email within Emacs, restricting access to network services at particular times of day, firewalling a webserver, preventing IP spoofing, setting up key-based SSH authentication, and much more. With over 150 ready-to-use scripts and configuration files, this unique book helps administrators secure their systems without having to look up specific syntax. The book begins with recipes devised to establish a secure system, then moves on to secure day-to-day practices, and concludes with techniques to help your system stay secure. Some of the "recipes" you'll find in this book are:

- Controlling access to your system from firewalls down to individual services, using iptables, ipchains, xinetd, inetd, and more
- Monitoring your network with tcpdump, dsniff, netstat, and other tools
- Protecting network connections with Secure Shell (SSH) and stunnel
- Safeguarding email sessions with Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)
- Encrypting files and email messages with GnuPG
- Probing your own security with password crackers, nmap, and handy scripts

This cookbook's proven techniques are derived from hard-won experience. Whether you're responsible for security on a home Linux system or for a large corporation, or somewhere in between, you'll find valuable, to-the-point, practical recipes for dealing with everyday security issues. This book is a system

saver.

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Editorial Review

Review

"I really enjoyed this book. I think my machine is more secure than before I read this book. The advice is good and pitched at, for me, the right level. References were up-to-date as far as I could see. I would certainly recommend this book to anyone wanting to secure, or test the existing security, of a Linux system."
- Mick Farmer, Linux Security Cookbook - news@UK, September 2003

About the Author

Dan Barrett has been immersed in Internet technology since 1985. Currently working as a software engineer, Dan has also been a heavy metal singer, Unix system administrator, university lecturer, web designer, and humorist. He has written several O'Reilly books, as well as monthly columns for Compute! and Keyboard Magazine. Dan and his family reside in Boston.

Richard E. Silverman has a B.A. in computer science and an M.A. in pure mathematics. Richard has worked in the fields of networking, formal methods in software development, public-key infrastructure, routing security, and Unix systems administration. He is the co-author of SSH, The Secure Shell: The Definitive Guide.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Cornelius:

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