

Foreword

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 is more a platform of technologies than an operating system. With this release, Red Hat has focused on integrating a range of open source technologies to deliver true server and storage virtualization.

The challenge for the intermediate-to-advanced Linux user now is learning how to harness the power of virtualization. Whether your goal is to learn about server consolidation, hardware abstraction, or resource management, Tammy has provided a concise step-by-step guide in Appendix B, “Creating Virtual Machines.” This includes how to use the new graphical utility, Virt-Manager, for administering all aspects of the virtualized system or libvirt and virsh, the new library and command-line utility, to implement your own management tools.

Security remains a cornerstone of Red Hat offerings, and Tammy has done a great job of explaining the background and history of the Linux Audit System and Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux). You will notice how Tammy has used the theory to bring a better understanding to the day-to-day commands that you need to ensure you stay on top of system security.

Software management of Red Hat Enterprise Linux has also evolved with the introduction of yum. You may already be familiar with yum from your use of Fedora or other Linux distributions, but of great value in this book is Tammy’s excellent overview of this new utility and importantly how to use yum and its new functionality with your Red Hat Network subscriptions.

For me though I think the real benefit of Tammy’s new book is that being part of the Unleashed series it builds upon a solid foundation of comprehensive information built up over the years, covering everything from installation to backups.

Tammy’s fresh approach to presenting information in a concise, easy to follow way makes it a great technical library asset for the general user and system administrator alike. Having had the pleasure of working with Tammy for a number of years at Red Hat, it was an honor to have the opportunity of writing this foreword for her new book. Tammy’s experience both with Red Hat Enterprise Linux and technical writing means that you are making a great decision purchasing this book.

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