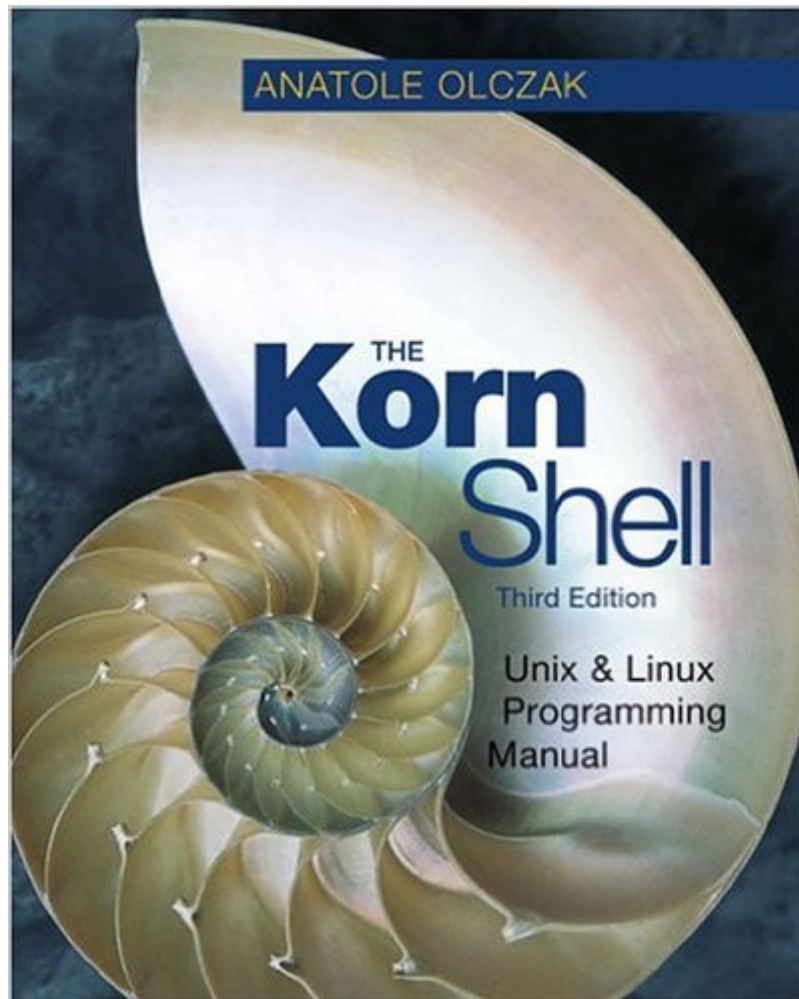


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# The Korn Shell: Unix & Linux Programming Manual



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## Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Addison-Wesley; 3RD edition (2001)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Each "piece" of ksh syntax is presented with a good, full explanation and a tiny example. This makes it an "easy read" for me, and easy to jump on the particular bit of syntax which I'm interested in at the moment. There's [just] a few longer examples of useful scripts in an appendix. I like the inclusion of the man(1) page for ksh & pdksh (in an appendix). Overall, a fully worthwhile purchase (although nothing earth-shaking beyond what you could probably get from the online man page.)

I'm not a heavy duty shell programmer... Perl, and especially Python, are my preferred scripting languages. However, every once in a while the appropriate tool for the job is a shell script. I've found that this book covers all the bases, but doesn't go deep. I was frustrated by the book yesterday when I need to write a script to check all the executable files in a directory for what libraries they were linked to. On page 172 the author says: "Because manipulating files is so important in programming, the Korn shell provides a whole range of file operators." Absolutely right. He then shows examples of only 5 of the tests in small code examples. No others are mentioned or even alluded to. My "Learning Perl" book (O'Reilly) has a table listing 25 file tests (including the one I needed). I also needed to do some string comparisons and manipulations. A pretty common task.

Head for the index and look for entries for "string". You get one: string length. What is in the book is well presented and an easy read, but the lack of depth will limit your productivity.

I purchased this book as a quick reference that has enough detailed explanation. It does exactly that - but only for a limited number of system calls/commands. And for others, they aren't even mentioned. I guess it might be a good "beginner" book, but not a reference.

This book has several code examples broken down into their smallest form. It has an easy to read, easy to learn lay-out. It is a great book for beginners to read or for experts to use as a reference. This is the best computer book which I have ever bought.

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