Linux DNS Server Administration
(Craig Hunt Linux Library)

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The Craig Hunt Linux Library provides the advanced information that Linux professionals and systems administrators need to keep their Linux servers up and running at maximum efficiency. Developed by noted Linux and TCP/IP guru Craig Hunt and written by acknowledged Linux experts, these books dig deeper into each of the eight key Linux topics -- Samba, Apache, DHCP, NFS and Automounter, Sendmail, DNS, security, and system administration—than any other book on the market. The Domain Name System (DNS) is one of the keys to the Internet, facilitating the translation of English-like domain names (www.com) into Internet Protocol (IP) addresses (208.216.182.15). In this detailed examination, Linux and TCP/IP guru Craig Hunt takes you deep into the guts of DNS, explaining the architecture, protocols, and BIND; illustrating basic configuration of the resolver, caching servers, and slave servers; and demonstrating how to create subdomains and use Dynamic DNS. Includes coverage of how to implement DNS security, test DNS, and debug and troubleshoot DNS.

**Synopsis**

If you can only buy one book for running BIND on Linux, this is your book. Craig Hunt walks you through configuring DNS for many straightforward, day to day configurations, as well as some quite esoteric setups and needs. The coverage of security and BIND is quite good, with ample explanations of the security issues of running a DNS server, ways to stop the "common" hacks of
BIND, and options to look into for greater security (DNSSec, dedicated DNS server, keysigning, etc). The book’s organization lends itself to reading cover to cover, picking up more details and better understanding as you go, while skipping areas that may or may not be germane to your particular situation (BIND 9, DNSSec etc). This series of books from Sybex is turning out to be one of the best for Linux Administrators, the other titles (that I own) cover SAMBA and Apache, and are just as well written and competent. While there are other books on BIND out there (such as DNS & BIND by O’Reilly) this one is the most approachable, and without sacrificing technical details of an often misunderstood topic.

After struggling for two weeks trying to figure out Linux Server setups (specifically DNS) I got this book. This was the third book I bought (the other two just confused me more) and I wish I bought it first. It is clear and concise with good examples. It is readable and not just DBA-jargon and for once someone understood that if you are going to buy a book on how to set up a DNS, it means that you most probably are not familiar with all the little hidden details that needs to be remembered along the lines. I would suggest this book to everyone, from the first-timers (newbies?) to the more proficient webmaster looking for some more internet security! All I can say is "It’s a great book!"

Okay, rarely do I rave about computer books ... especially books on such dry topics as running a DNS server. I’m just one of those book buyers who tries to do a little pre-purchase research and who expects those books that I *do* purchase to at least meet their billing. But this book far surpassed what I expected from it! Craig Hunt’s writing style could be compared to that of other tech writers like Mark Minasi or Tony Redmond (both of whom normally cater to the MS world, of course). This book reads like the author is speaking to you, moves quickly through the basics, spends just the right amount of time on the key issues, warns you of pitfalls you need to avoid, and gives you some important "heads up" pointers on things to look for down the road. If you’re new to Linux and are tasked with setting up a reliable, fire and forget DNS server based off of the BIND package, this book is your ticket to getting it done right the first time. It’s both a hands-on tutorial and a light reference tome in one handy package. Worth the money and then some!

I bought all of Craig’s Linux Library books but NFS and Samba. They are all great books and easier to read than O’Reilly but I find myself using my O’Reilly DNS and Bind book over this one because Craig doesn’t cover Bind 9 in detail such as mdc. He also dropped the ball on giving complete info on how to install and configure Bind 9. I hope the second edition is better. Until then, get O’Reilly’s
DNS book. You'll be glad you did.

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