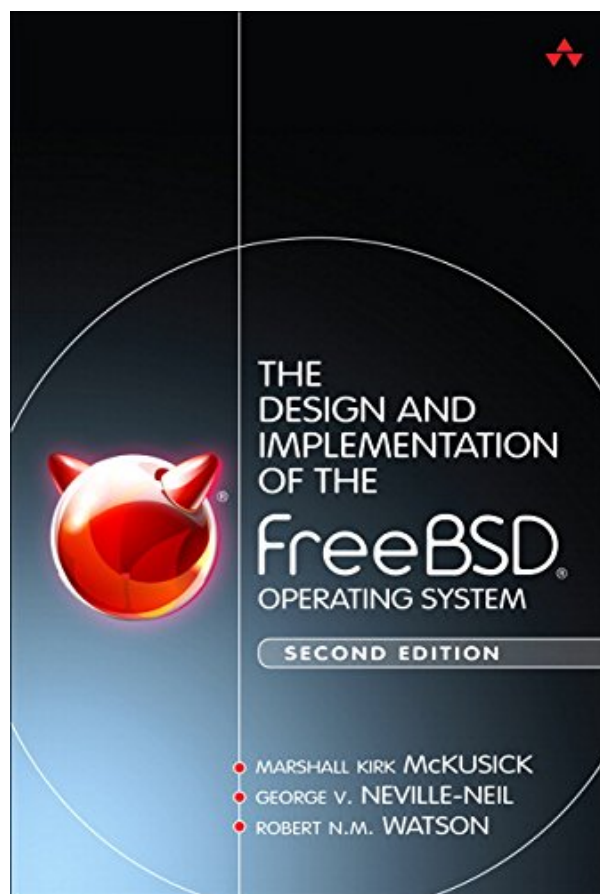
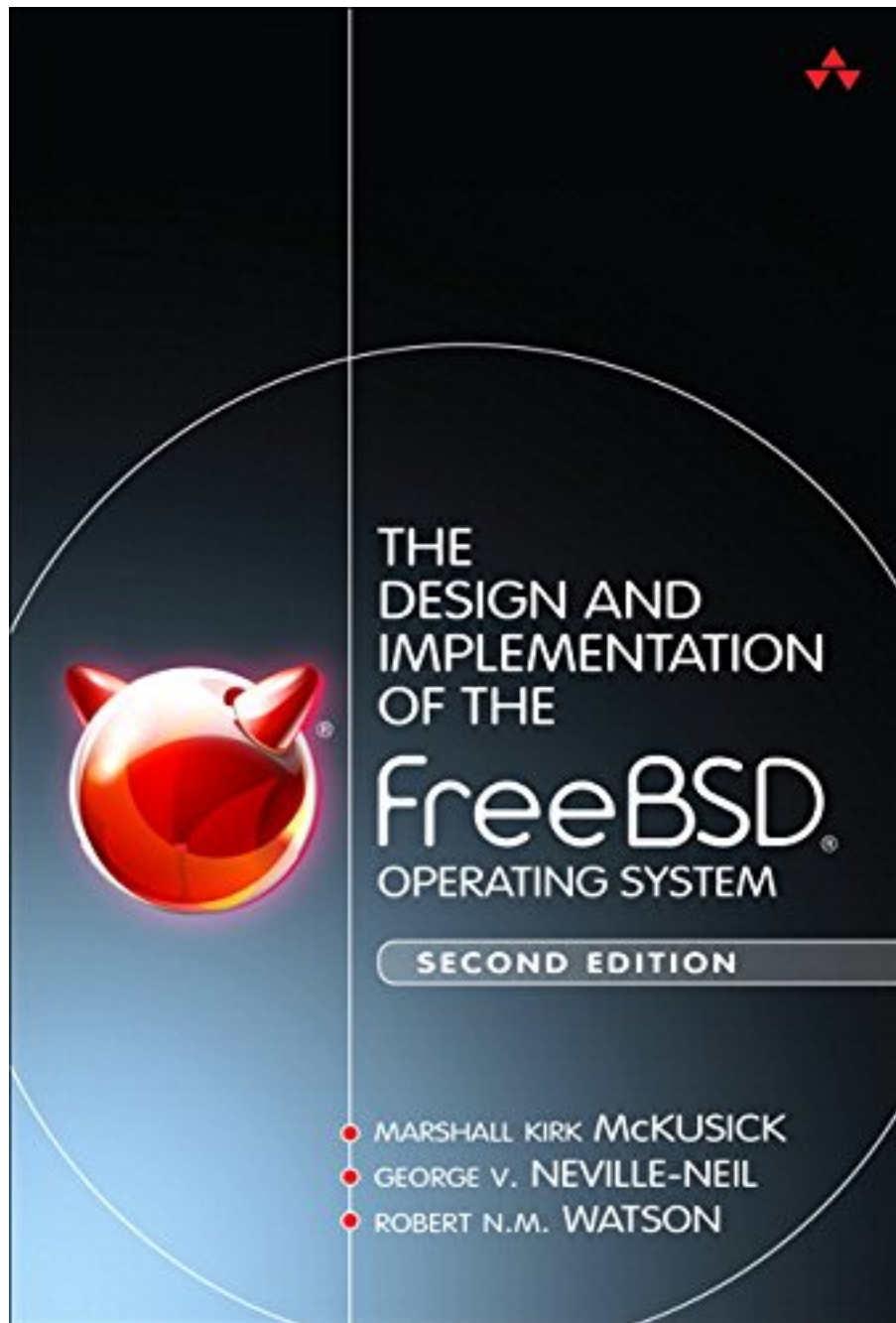


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The essential FreeBSD architecture guide is back

By brad

Loved the first edition and so far this is not disappointing. The topic coverage includes a lot of fundamental details that might be useful for understanding any free unix-like kernel, but most of the good stuff focuses on details that are FreeBSD-specific. I'm glad that this isn't just republishing material that is freely available in the FreeBSD handbook, which is also a fantastic resource but you'll need this book to understand the motivations for various design choices.

Its worth noting that this book is not a generic OS design book. The focus of the book relates to FreeBSD-specific details. This book is also not really an exploration of POSIX or any other attempt to standardize system interfaces. This book is definitely not a programming guide....for that, I recommend "Advanced Programming in the Unix Environment" (aka APUE) which has coverage of BSD apis (as well as linux)...which is an excellent companion for this work.

I would like to see a perpetual electronic version of this book...on the back cover there was only a reference to free 45 day access. That is disappointing in 2014.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Solid coverage of a great OS!

By D. Leimbach

I love the organization of this book! It feels like something you could really read cover to cover if you wanted to, but you can definitely skip around too.

If you're thinking about doing FreeBSD development, this is a must-have resource! So glad it's been updated!

If there's a kindle version made available I'll buy that too.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Another masterpiece

By S. Moon

Outstanding technical writing. Somehow the authors manage to make dense technical topics readable. A worthwhile update of the previous version. For example, chapter 10 has an excellent description of ZFS in about 25 pages -- a monumental change to FreeBSD involving an extra 250,000 lines of code.

Many technical books focus on "how". There are plenty of excellent biographical accounts of teams or individuals -- the "who". This book focuses more on the "what" and, more importantly, the "why". Not everyone needs to have this depth of understanding, but when you've hit a plateau in understanding infrastructure, this book will definitely help you "level up". Even if you're not a big user of FreeBSD there is a ton of useful information about a wide variety of topics relevant to other Unix/Linux systems, networking, storage, and even Windows.

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