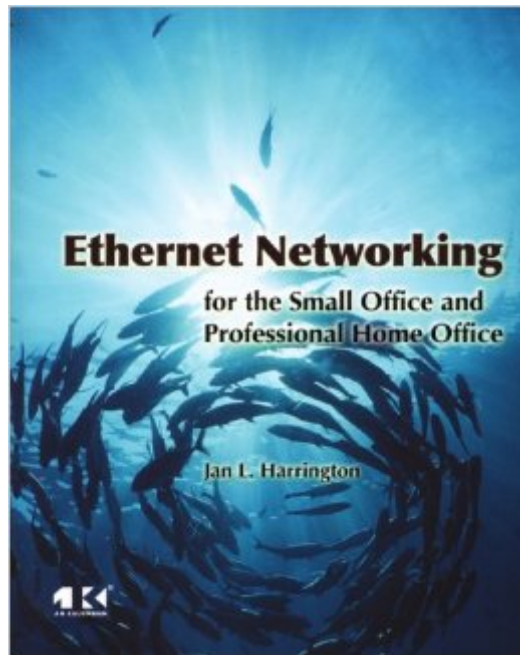


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Ethernet Networking For The Small Office And Professional Home Office



Synopsis

In a local area network (LAN) or intranet, there are many pieces of hardware trying to gain access to the network transmission media at the same time (i.e., phone lines, coax, wireless, etc.). However, a network cable or wireless transmission frequency can physically only allow one node to use it at a given time. Therefore, there must be some way to regulate which node has control of the medium (a media access control, or MAC, protocol). Ethernet is a MAC protocol; it is one way to regulate physical access to network transmission media. Ethernet networking is used primarily by networks that are contained within a single physical location. If you need to design, install, and manage a network in such an environment, i.e., home or small business office, then this book will give you an in-depth understanding of the technology involved in an Ethernet network. One of the major goals of this book is to demystify the jargon of networks so that the reader gains a working familiarity with common networking terminology and acronyms. In addition, this book explains not only how to choose and configure network hardware but also provides practical information about the types of network devices and software needed to make it all work. Tips and direction on how to manage an Ethernet network are also provided. This book therefore goes beyond the hardware aspects of Ethernet to look at the entire network from bottom to top, along with enough technical detail to enable the reader to make intelligent choices about what types of transmission media are used and the way in which the various parts of the network are interconnected. *Explains how the Ethernet works, with emphasis on current technologies and emerging trends in gigabit and fast Ethernet, WiFi, routers, and security issues* Teaches how to design and select complementary components of Ethernet networks with a focus on home and small business applications* Discusses the various types of cables, software, and hardware involved in constructing, connecting, operating and monitoring Ethernet networks

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Customer Reviews

The book was a great overview of small office and home networking. Note that the Ethernet standard (part of the title of this book) applies to almost all networking today. So if you're not sure what networking protocols you should be learning, you can rest assured this book will cover what you need to know for your needs. This book does a fantastic job of explaining the "why" of networking fundamentals. If you're looking for a resource that will tell you what to buy and how to plug it in, this is not the book for you. In fact, you should probably hire a technician who already knows the "why" and "how" of networking. On the other hand, this book will arm you with a great general knowledge of how to assemble and troubleshoot a small computer network rather than the tactical details of doing it. To me, that is much more valuable than a set of instructions. I noticed some other reviews which thought the book was too advanced for beginners. However, I thought the book was great for both beginners and folks with experience in other computing fields who need to wrap their heads around the general concepts of networking. But, if you are an absolute beginner, to get the most from it, you'll need to be prepared to grind through the details, re-read some sections more than once, and focus on the "why" instead of the "how".

As a preface, I had very limited understanding of networking prior to reading this book. Overall, the book was easy to read, interesting enough to hold my attention, and covers the foundations of a home/small business network. The examples within the book, while dated, add to the overall presentation and provide a good visualization of the more difficult material. The book never goes too in-depth for the reader to get lost, but also gives enough detail to really wrap your head around how networks work. The end of the book examples were great as well, as they gave actual home/small business network examples, complete with diagrams and hierarchies of the network tree. However, there were some drawbacks. There were spelling mistakes everywhere... not just once or twice, but upwards of 15 or more errors. While not necessarily disruptive, it does seem to hurt the credibility of the author while you read. Some of the pictures and information were also outdated, but that is not unheard of considering how quickly technology evolves these days. To conclude, I would recommend this book to anyone interested in learning the foundations of a network and has limited

understanding of the jargon and the technology. Pros-Easy read for beginners-Appropriate Depth-Covers major areas of networking-Meaningful examples Cons-Numerous spelling mistakes-Some of the information is outdated

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