# Effective awk Programming: Universal Text Processing and Pattern Matching

*Arnold Robbins*

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When processing text files, the *awk* language is ideal for handling data extraction, reporting, and data-reformatting jobs. This practical guide serves as both a reference and tutorial for POSIX-standard *awk* and for the GNU implementation, called *gawk*. This book is useful for novices and *awk* experts alike.

In this thoroughly revised edition, author and *gawk* lead developer Arnold Robbins describes the *awk* language and *gawk* program in detail, shows you how to use *awk* and *gawk* for problem solving, and then dives into specific features of *gawk*. System administrators, programmers, webmasters, and other power users will find everything they need to know about *awk* and *gawk*. You will learn how to:

- Format text and use regular expressions in *awk* and *gawk*
- Process data using *awk*'s operators and built-in functions
- Manage data relationships using associative arrays
- Define your own functions
- "Think in *awk*" with two full chapters of sample functions and programs
- Take advantage of *gawk*'s many advanced features
- Debug *awk* programs with the *gawk* built-in debugger
- Extend *gawk* by writing new functions in C or C++

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