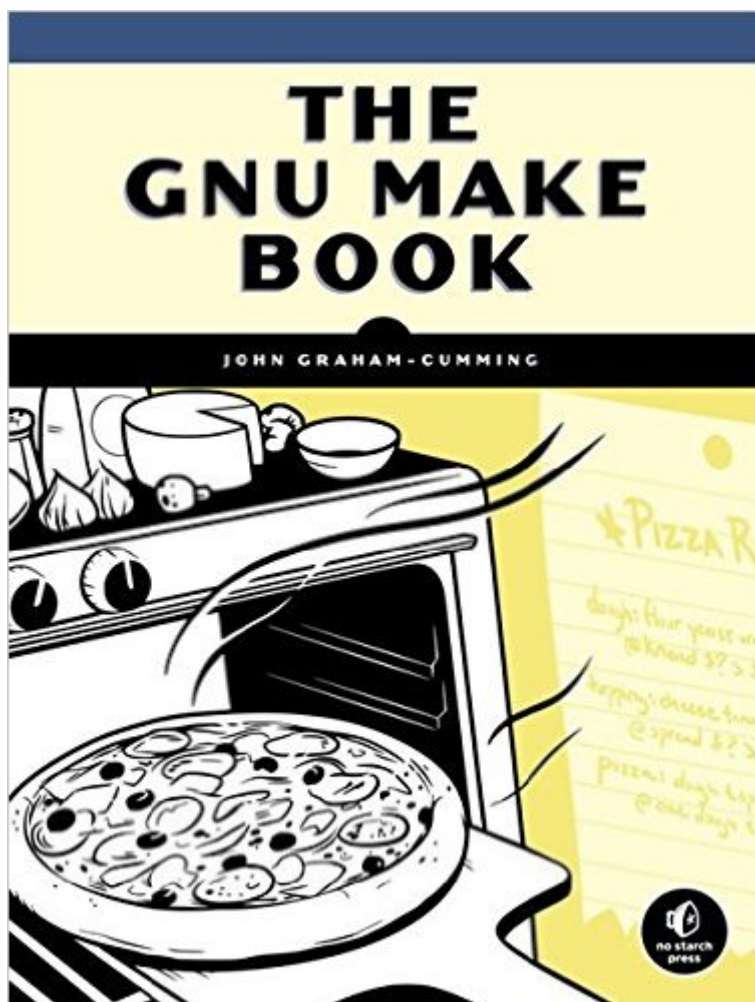# The book was found

The GNU Make Book

Synopsis

GNU make is the most widely used build automation tool, but it can be challenging to master and its terse language can be tough to parse for even experienced programmers. Those who run into difficulties face a long, involved struggle, often leaving unsolved problems behind and GNU make's vast potential untapped.The GNU Make Book demystifies GNU make and shows you how to use its best features. You'll find a fast, thorough rundown of the basics of variables, rules, targets, and makefiles. Learn how to fix wastefully long build times and other common problems, and gain insight into more advanced capabilities, such as complex pattern rules. With this utterly pragmatic manual and cookbook, you'll make rapid progress toward becoming a more effective user.You'll also learn how to:Master user-defined functions, variables, and path handlingWeigh the pitfalls and advantages of GNU make parallelizationHandle automatic dependency generation, rebuilding, and non-recursive makeModify the GNU make source and take advantage of the GNU Make Standard LibraryCreate makefile assertions and debug makefilesGNU make is known for being tricky to use, but it doesn't have to be. If you're looking for a deeper understanding of this indispensable tool, you'll find The GNU Make Book to be an indispensable guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The GNU Make Book is intended for people who already have an understanding of GNU Make, what it is, and the basics of how and why someone would use it. The reader is assumed to know

enough about programming and source code, about compiling and creating software executables to not need an introduction. The book begins by talking about setting environment variables in your makefile. If you know what this means, you will likely benefit from the book. If you donâ ™t, you arenâ ™t ready for this book.I think this book is fantastic. It does have one weakness that, once addressed, would be likely to broaden its appeal and earn the review 5 stars instead of just 4. Many people who want or need to learn to use GNU make more effectively do not yet have the foundational knowledge necessary for reading or benefiting from this book. That could be remedied in a 15-20 page introductory chapter covering topics like â œwhat is make?â • and â œhow is make typically used?â • The descriptions could be short, but would set the context for the rest of the book and ease the nervous reader in. Perhaps starting with something like, â œGNU make is a tool that enables you to automate the generation of program executables from program source codeâ • would be useful and could be followed by, â œThis is typically accomplished by writing a Makefile, which includes a list of instructions for make to use as it does its work.â •

GNU Make is an automation tool for software builds. With that said, this book is intended for readers who have experience working in a Linux or Mac OS X environment, experience with programming, know what GNU Make is, and how they can use it to their advantage. If you are new to GNU Make, I recommend that you read up on GNU Make and work with it a little first before reading this book to better grasp the concept.The author does well in explaining and elaborating the content. The code is easy to read and to follow along. The pages are structured well so that you can easily distinguish what is code and what is text. Here is a list of topics discussed in the book:A thorough rundown of the basics of variables, rules, targets, and makefiles.Fix wastefully long build times and other common problems.Gain insight into more advanced capabilities.Master user-define functions, variables, and path handling.Weigh the pitfalls and advantages of GNU make parallelization.Handle automatic dependency generation, rebuilding, and non-recursive make.Modify the GNU Make source and take advantage of the GNU Make Standard Library.Create makefile assertions and debug makefiles.Overall, this is a great GNU Make book that has a lot of useful content from a highly credible author.

A coworker once told me that "GNU Make isn't the build system you need, it's the build system you deserve." I have to agree with that. GNU Make is a real-world tool for real-world problems and is arguably rough around the edges because of this.Appropriately, "The GNU Make Book" is a well-written walk through on how to debug and understand GNU Make and its quirks. It is a book

written for programmers with more than a few scars on their fingertips. While you should look elsewhere for a tutorial or a complete reference, this one of a kind book will at least give you an umbrella as you weather the storm of tears that often comes with inheriting someone else's Makefile. Nowhere else will you find as many high-quality and in-depth examples for flexing the mainstream features of a Makefile, profiling a slow build, and debugging the various things that can go wrong.It's relatively short and relatively cheap. Would buy again. A+++.

Supposedly this book is for beginners, but the author starts with explaining all kinds of make variable expansion. IMHO it would make a lot more sense to teach Make by example, building and evolving a hello world project for example. You are much better of buying the book Autotools (also from No Starch Press) that does exactly that - a much better resource when it comes to learning Make in my opinion.

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