I know that when I was in university, it seemed like there were always a couple specific courses I needed to find a book for and then just begrudgingly spend the money on. One of those books was Unix Shell Programming by Yashwant Kanetkar, which I found online for free at this site. If you are taking an introductory course of any kind, learning to code or otherwise have little programming experience, I would absolutely recommend this book. The first few chapters walked me through some very basic concepts of programming and got me ready to tackle some actual problems. That was the best part about the book. It was self contained enough that I didn't feel like I needed to read another book in addition to this one, but also had enough examples to help me understand what else I would need in later sections. To get started, the author introduces himself and his goals for the book. The examples are separated by programming language, which reduced redundancy and made it very easy to find specific material when you were learning a new language. He also uses many common examples to teach you how to do things like get user input or get information from a database rather than just telling you how to use it. Once I had made it through all the chapters of that, he moves on to explaining concepts like loops and outputting data. Now, I am not a programmer by trade and was new to coding even though I had taken a lot of basic programming classes in high school and college (you know, the fun programming classes where you write complete programs for nothing). While I think this book could be learned by people who have little or no programming experience, it is more geared toward people who already know the basics of C, C++ and Java. To be honest, as someone who really dislikes those languages as a whole (and has no desire to learn them more than necessary), those were probably my favorite parts of this book. The format of the book was very similar to InfoWorld's Learning C++, which is a book I have read quite a few times. It has some nice exercises on each chapter and I would definitely recommend getting it if you are new to programming or want to brush up on the first few chapters. One of the reasons I chose this book over more technical books was that it actually had exercises at the end of each chapter. Some programming books use them as an afterthought at the end of each chapter but this book actually gave instructions for how to do the exercises. That was a nice change from books that sometimes don't even have examples in the book at all. The chapter on shell programming was probably my least favorite because I knew very little about it going in and I felt like the chapters were a little over my head. The chapter on sed and awk was probably my favorite, though, because it had a lot of practical uses and examples for both commands. I've always been interested in learning shell scripting because it seemed like something that could help you do things without having to learn another language. If you are looking for more information on the topic, I do recommend this book but I would suggest getting some other books on Bash command line too so you can work with everything this book covers.

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