Managing Projects with GNU Make (Nutshell Handbooks)

Robert Mecklenburg, Andy Oram, Steve Talbott

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The utility simply known as *make* is one of the most enduring features of both Unix and other operating systems. First invented in the 1970s, *make* still turns up to this day as the central engine in most programming projects; it even builds the Linux kernel. In the third edition of the classic *Managing Projects with GNU make*, readers will learn why this utility continues to hold its top position in project build software, despite many younger competitors.The premise behind *make* is simple: after you change source files and want to rebuild your program or other output files, *make* checks timestamps to see what has changed and rebuilds just what you need, without wasting time rebuilding other files. But on top of this simple principle, *make* layers a rich collection of options that lets you manipulate multiple directories, build different versions of programs for different platforms, and customize your builds in other ways.This edition focuses on the GNU version of *make*, which has deservedly become the industry standard. GNU make contains powerful extensions that are explored in this book. It is also popular because it is free software and provides a version for almost every platform, including a version for Microsoft Windows as part of the free Cygwin project. *Managing Projects with GNU make*, 3rd Edition provides guidelines on meeting the needs of large, modern projects. Also added are a number of interesting advanced topics such as portability, parallelism, and use with Java.Robert Mecklenburg, author of the third edition, has used *make* for decades with a variety of platforms and languages. In this book he zealously lays forth how to get your builds to be as efficient as possible, reduce maintenance, avoid errors, and thoroughly understand what *make* is doing. Chapters on C++ and Java provide makefile entries optimized for projects in those languages. The author even includes a discussion of the makefile used to build the book.

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