Chapter 11

Text Formatting and Document Production
The chapter looks at some of the tools available under Linux for text formatting and document production. There is coverage of both conventional paper document production and electronic document production. A document could be

- a letter
- coursework
- a report
- a research paper
- a dissertation
- a manual
- Web pages

and can be a combination of text and graphical material. Unix has been used for document production since its very beginning at Bell Labs in the 1970s. The paper by Kernighan et al is dated 1978 and provides a good background to using a general purpose system for document production.

We are seeing an increasing use of the Web as a mechanism for information dissemination and being able to use a program or package to target both printed and Web copies is obviously very useful.

**Electronic publishing basics**

Most people have used a word processor for producing documents and may find the idea of splitting a document into two parts a little strange. These are the text and the mark-up that defines how things will get laid out. More experienced users will probably have got used to using so-called style sheets which help get a consistent look and feel to a document.

The first systems at Bell Labs had the following programs for document production

- NRoff – Run Off, targeting simple output devices
- Troff – Typesetter Roff, targeting high quality typesetting devices
- Tbl – Table generating program
- Eqn – Equation setting program