

# No place to hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA and the Surveillance State

**Ben Everard** bought this book in cash so GCHQ doesn't know he read it...

**E**ven before the Snowden revelations, Glenn Greenwald had a history of writing about the US government's spying making him the perfect person to lead the reporting on the subject.

*No Place to Hide* is divided into five chapters. The first two are the story of how Greenwald and Snowden met and began working together. The subsequent chapters each deal with different aspects of what happened next. First, Greenwald talks about what the leaks actually said about how the governments of America and the UK colluded to invade the privacy of a huge proportion of the world's citizens. Then he goes on to look into the dangerous effect on society such an invasion has, and finally he talks about the nature of the current media establishment on both sides of the pond.

These are all matters of deep importance to Greenwald, and he writes well and with

passion. However, when writing about a variety of subjects in 250 pages, there is a risk that none of them will be covered in sufficient detail. The detail of the history of the leaking stopped abruptly in Hong Kong, so we don't get to learn Greenwald's perspective on Snowden's exile in Russia.

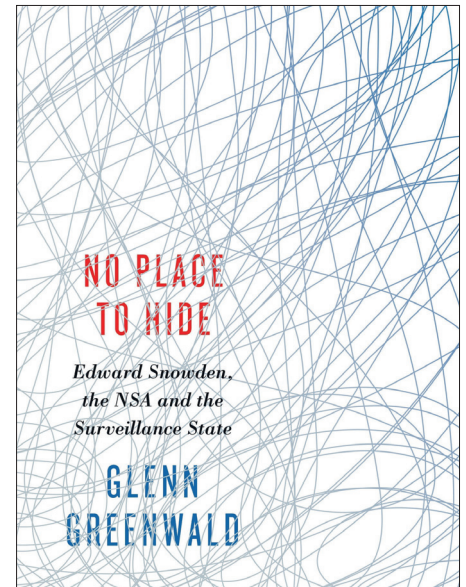
For anyone who feels they haven't followed the news as closely as they'd like, this is an good way to catch up, but there is little new material here.

**LINUX VOICE VERDICT**

**Author** Glenn Greenwald  
**Publisher** Hamish Hamilton  
**ISBN** 978-0241146699  
**Price** £20

An excellent recount of the Snowden saga, but it isn't the explosive finale we had hoped for.

★★★★★



No Place to Hide, other than – presumably – Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport.

# Head First JavaScript Programming

**Graham Morrison** is thinking of upgrading linuxvoice.com with a little JavaScript.

**W**e love O'Reilly's Head First series. They're nearly always brilliant and totally unlike the majority of other books that try to teach you technical subjects. They're visual, entertaining and easy to read, and you're never overwhelmed by data or source code. And while O'Reilly uses phrases like 'multi-sensory' and 'cognitive science' to explain its strategy, all we can really say is that it works. JavaScript is particularly well suited to this approach. There are probably more non-programmers programming in JavaScript than any other language. And nearly all of them must be using it to add interaction to websites, which is the obvious target audience for this book.

## The BASIC language of the web

*Head First JavaScript* assumes very little prior knowledge, and takes the reader from the humble beginnings of dealing with variables and loops, passing through object-oriented

code about a third of the way through, before finishing up with prototypes and app building. It's a comprehensive and digestible overview. We sometimes have a problem with the words – the section of functions has the title 'getting functional' which could be confusing, and there's relatively little on JQuery or JSON. But that makes it perfect for its target audience, which is beginners. And it avoids the classic problem with beginners' books, and that's scaring off the audience. Good work.

**LINUX VOICE VERDICT**

**Author** Eric T Freeman and Elisabeth Robson  
**Publisher** O'Reilly  
**ISBN** 978-1449340131  
**Price** £38.50

If you can live with the West Coast bonhomie, there's no better book for JavaScript newbies

★★★★★



As much as we love the editorial style inside Head First books, we've a phobia against the large heads and small feet on their covers.

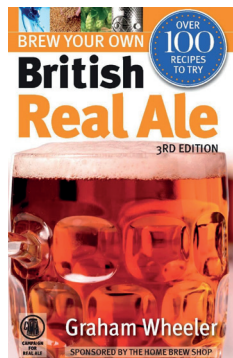
# Brew your own British Real Ale

Need another excuse for a BrewPi? **Graham Morrison** finds 100

If our BrewPi tutorial in LV001 has got you brewing your own (perfect!) beer, and you're looking to move on from kits, this is the perfect next step. Here's a book full of recipes for many of the most popular ales found throughout the United Kingdom, from Black Sheep and Old Peculier, to Wadworth 6X to Arkell's Mash Tun Mild. What we like mostly about this book is that it includes malt extract recipes alongside fully mashed recipes when the ingredients make the extracts viable. This can save several hours of effort and still yield excellent results. We're lazy brewers.

### Plato, they say, could stick it away...

What you won't find is very much background information on how to actually brew your beer, although the first couple of chapters give you enough details if you've already done a few kits. Each recipe is little more than a list of quantities, times and temperatures. For this reason, we'd recommend practising



Beer. The perfect prop for politicians and Linux journalists.

with a few cheaper brews first. But when you've cracked the method, the results are awesome. Hic...

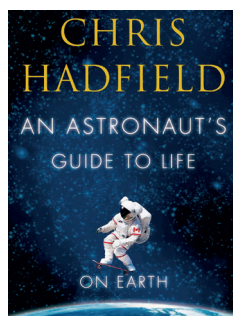
**LINUX VOICE VERDICT**  
 Author Graham Wheeler  
 Publisher Campaign for Real Ale  
 ISBN 978-1-85249-258-8  
 Price £14.99  
 A book with 100 beer recipes published by the Campaign for Real Ale. Enough said.  
 ★★★★★

# An Astronaut's Guide to Life On Earth

**Ben Everard** is going to be an astronaut when he grows up.

An Astronaut's Guide to Life On Earth is two narratives woven together. One is a biography of an astronaut and the other is a self-help guide based on that astronaut's experiences at NASA and CSA (Canadian Space Agency). The biography part of the book manages to capture the majesty of space in a way that will be familiar to anyone who's watched his popular videos on life in space. Of course, time in space counts for only a small portion of any astronaut's career and this book also covers Hadfield as he performs a wide range of duties from training to communications and robotics.

The second narrative thread of this book is less impressive. Hadfield exposes a view that we should all follow NASA's modus operandi and focus on everything we do in excruciating detail. As he puts it: 'sweat the small stuff'. Unfortunately, we don't all have NASA's budget or the luxury of being able to spend years preparing for a single mission. If we had followed this guide at



Without gravity, how would a skateboarder stay on the board?

Linux Voice, our first issue would still be at least 18 months away, by which point we would have run out of money (although if it did arrive, it wouldn't have any typos).

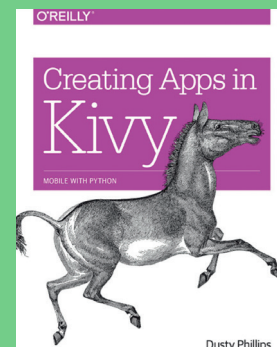
**LINUX VOICE VERDICT**  
 Author Chris Hadfield  
 Publisher Macmillan  
 ISBN 978-1447257103  
 Price £18.99  
 Some parts are really enjoyable but the book's let down by impractical advice.  
 ★★★★★

# ALSO RELEASED...



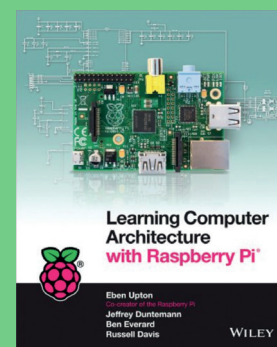
Who'd have thought WordPress would come so far?

**Building Web Apps with WordPress**  
 It's no longer a humble blogging platform, and this book aims to take your use of WordPress even further by writing plugins, using PHP and JQuery and even by developing native Android and iOS apps.



Kivy, because all the good names have been taken.

**Creating apps in Kivy**  
 Is that a mule, a donkey or a horse? We're not sure. But as this book is about Kivy, a mobile touch-based GUI framework for Python, perhaps it's been scared by the large snake hiding in the undergrowth.



Keep it secret, keep it safe.

**Learn Computer Architecture with RPi**  
 What's this we spy? A new book from Mr Everard and chums? Shhh... don't tell anyone. It's not due out until the end of the year, but we love the idea of a modern version of the *Amiga Hardware Reference Manual*.