



Schneier on Security

Bruce Schneier

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Schneier on Security will be divided into sections:

- Computer Security
- Security and Privacy
- Economics of Security
- National Security and Terrorism

Sample articles:

- Why Vista's DRM Is Bad For You
- When the Internet Is My Hard Drive, Should I Trust Third Parties?
- Steal This Wi-Fi
- Lessons From the Facebook Riots
- The ID Chip You Don't Want in Your Passport
- Camera Phones vs. Crime: Now We're Talking
- MySpace Passwords Aren't So Dumb
- An American Idol for Crypto Geeks
- Why Smart Cops Do Dumb Things
- How Security Companies Sucker Us With Lemons

Each section will have a significant introduction by the author. As well, the author will be writing at least 6-10 never-before-published articles.

Schneier on Security Details

Date : Published October 1st 2008 by John Wiley & Sons (first published September 29th 2008)

ISBN : 9780470395356

Author : Bruce Schneier

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Genre : Nonfiction, Science, Technology, Computer Science, Computers, Hackers

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From Reader Review Schneier on Security for online ebook

Darrenglass says

Bruce Schneier is a very smart man, who thinks about things in interesting ways. As a quote on the front of this book says, he is "the closest thing the security industry has to a rock star" which is certainly true (even if that still puts him pretty far from a rock star). That said, this collection of essays didnt really work for me. It is basically a compilation of 1-2 page blog posts and essays he wrote for his newsletter and for Wired magazine, and this leads to absolutely no cohesion and lots of redundancy. It also exposes the crankier side of Schneier, which is more likely to criticize existing security measures than to say anything productive about what should be done to improve airport/internet/other security. If you have never read his writings before, check out his blog as he has good things to say. But this book is not the best way of experiencing him.

Rick Mavrick says

A roughly collated collection of mini-essays focusing on the economics, politics or pop. psychology of security issues. The scatter-shot selection of the essays enjoyably and pragmatically covers a broad collection of topics if only to say (from 2009) "See I told you that was crap, in Wired, in 2002". The grumpiness is mostly endearing and "the way things should be" is jingoistically American but perhaps not insidiously so.

AJ Armstrong says

I am an enormous fan of Bruce Schneier, and his expertise and the depth of his thinking on issues of security (ranging from cyber- to physical) are clear in these essays. My only critique, and the reason it is not 5 stars, is that due to the fact that this is a collection of stand-alone essays, it often seems repetitive with the same points and illustrations---originally made months apart for different publications---appearing a scant few pages apart. It is far better read in bits and pieces than in a lengthy sitting to avoid the appearance of pedantry.

Angelo says

While I love Bruce Schneier's writing, it it really tough to plod through all of this material in a single book.

If only there were an indexed, searchable, digital way to expose this material. It would form a web of articles, all in a single site; how about calling it a "website?"

Benjamin says

As always, Schneier presents a variety of security problems and solutions of varying levels of complexity,

examines and scrutinizes others' security proposals in a straight-forward manner, and explains the logic he used to reach his conclusions, and does all of this very well. Though all of it is interesting, his ideas on systems of economic incentives and disincentives, voting security, and security and politics are of particular noteworthiness.

Fredrik says

There are interesting nuggets here, but the book is nothing more than a collection of his writing. For long time readers there'll be repetition and some of the content is somewhat less relevant years after it first came out. Worth a read though.

Paul Childs says

Schneier has a great view on things when it comes to security and this book reflects that. He has chapters that discuss all the important topics of the day from air line safety, to the Internet, and Homeland Security. The topics tend to be more about the general ideas and themes of security rather than the nuts and bolts of how to be more secure.

He correctly points out that we often do what makes us think we are more secure, even when it doesn't really make it so. Our government would be better off if the people in the Congress had to read his book before passing anymore laws that cost too much for to little (or no) benefit.

If there is a downside to this book, it is that it is a compilation of his essays from various magazines and blogs. If you already read his blog, chances are that you already know what a lot of this book says.

Jonathan says

A nice collection of short essays grouped together by topic that provides a better view of each topic as a whole. Slightly disjointed simply because it is a collection of making it difficult to build a larger overall case without any framing of the essays as examples. A good read but not outstanding.

Lukas says

It's a wake up call in some ways and I like the way he pounds his points home. Certainly got me thinking a lot more about ubiquitous security. However as a book - this is more a collection of all his published articles so they are repetitive as his points evolve. I wish it was written more like a book.

waitsforsleep says

Required reading for anybody who builds software systems for a living or fun. Schneier's style of stating his case is simple and clear enough that you might end up learning something even if you are not a "technical" person and just have a passing interest on how we make security trade-offs in our day to day lives

Teo 2050 says

[Schneier B (2008) (11:19) Schneier on Security

Introduction

01. Terrorism and Security

- What the Terrorists Want (*Originally published in Wired, 24 August 2006*)
 - Movie-Plot Threats (*Originally published in Wired, 8 September 2005*)
 - Fixing Intelligence Failures (*Originally published in Crypto-Gram, 15 June 2002*)
 - Data Mining for Terrorists (*Originally published in Wired, 9 March 2006*)
 - The Architecture of Security (*Originally published in Wired, 19 October 20*
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Jason says

This is a collection of Bruce Schneier writings, from his blog, various websites, etc. It's organized by topic, rather than date or original source, so you get sections on security, privacy, etc.

Each individual article is filled with Schneier's usual brilliance. It's obvious they weren't meant to be all put together, though. Each article is a standalone piece. There's no flow between them, he often hits the same idea repeatedly in different ways, etc. I don't fault any of the individual articles, but sitting down and reading it sequentially doesn't work well.

If you're not familiar with Bruce Schneier, I'd recommend starting with his other books, like *Beyond Fear*, rather than this. If you're looking for a collection of his material, this works, even though it doesn't make a very good read as a whole.

David says

So many people claim to be experts in our field and spout the same old rhetoric. Bruce truly has a grasp of the principles that make our field interesting to me. I do not agree with everything he says, but even when I disagree, I find his arguments compelling and challenging.

This series of articles is well worth the read for people in and out of the security field. Bruce addresses many topics from the predicted technical security, to identity theft and on to terrorism.

Pick it up and enjoy... or at least be challenged.

Matthew says

I'd read a number of selections in other places, but having it all in one place makes this a great book for someone trying to understand the security landscape of the modern world. Lots of points to dive in where your interests align.

Daniel Bernardes says

Bruce Schneier is a well-known and colorful figure in the security industry and distinguishes himself for his broad interests related to security and for being a good story teller. These traits can be found in his book, which is a collection of essays on various security topics.

The book is particularly suited for layman audience but can be a little bit repetitive. Admittedly, the points stressed over and over are important and worth remembering, particularly the notions that security decisions always involve trade-offs, that security systems design often entail unintended consequences and the potential "externalities" of the current digital presence.

Similar notions can typically be found the field of economics, which makes the parallel between the two areas interesting. Schneier mentions the link between security and economics loosely in several occasions and draws public policy implications which are often unconvincing. It is possible that the advocated policy ideas are the result of an in-depth economic analysis, which did not make it to the book, but I am skeptical. In particular, many policies seem to ignore Public Choice Theory analysis. To be fair, one cannot blame him for not being a trained economist, but precisely because of that it might have been better to focus less on pushing policy and instead make the parallel between economics and security more concrete.

On a positive note, it was interesting to read his essays about the NSA data collection, published in a time where they were mostly speculative and contrast it the recent revelations on the various NSA programs: they confirm to large extent the author's insights about surveillance programs.

In a nutshell, the book is interesting but also a bit superficial in its analysis.
