Preface

The constantly increasing trend of cyber-attacks and global terrorism makes it vital for any organization to protect and secure its network and computing infrastructure. With the continuous progress the Internet is facing, companies need to keep up by creating and implementing various software products and by utilizing advanced network and system equipment that need to be protected against various attacks. Data stored in our computers can also be subject to unauthorized access. Attackers can modify our data, steal our critical information including personal information, read and alter our e-mail messages, change program code, and possibly mess with our photos including using them for wicked purposes. Intruders can also employ our computers to attack other computers, websites, and networks without our knowledge. By enforcing security of networks and other computing infrastructure, the possibility of losing important data, privacy intrusion, and identity theft can be countermeasured. Many professionals working in computer technology consider security as an afterthought. They only take it seriously when a security problem occurs. It is imperative that society should start accepting security as the new norm.

Computer and Network Security Essentials will introduce the readers to the topics that they need to be aware of to be able to protect their IT resources and communicate with security specialists in their own language when there is a security problem. It introduces IT security to the public at large to improve their security knowledge and perception. The book covers a wide range of security topics including computer security, network security, cryptographic technologies, biometrics and forensics, hardware security, security applications, and security management. It introduces the concepts, techniques, methods, approaches, and trends needed by security specialists to improve their security skills and capabilities. Further, it provides a glimpse of future directions where security techniques, policies, applications, and theories are headed. The book is a rich collection of carefully selected and reviewed manuscripts written by diverse security experts in the listed fields and edited by prominent security researchers.

University of Detroit Mercy, USA   Kevin Daimi

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