Computer Forensics: Computer Crime Scene Investigation (Networking Series) (Charles River Media Networking/Security)

By John R Vacca

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Using personal computers as their weapons, hackers and criminals (some only 11 years old) have attacked the Internet, government agencies, financial companies, small businesses, and the credit card accounts of unsuspecting individuals. This completely updated book/CD package provides a complete overview of computer forensics from information security issues to "crime scene investigation," seizure of data, determining the "fingerprints" of the crime, and tracking down the criminals. The book's companion CD-ROM contains demos of the latest computer forensics software. Numerous exercises, case studies, and vignettes of actual crimes enhance the topics under discussion, and provide the reader with solutions to computer crime in the real world.

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- Sales Rank: #1387842 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Charles River Media
- Published on: 2005-05-27
- Released on: 2005-05-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.90" h x 7.34" w x 9.04" l, 3.16 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 832 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
The mightiest fortresses in the world can fail, and when that happens all you can do (you being the person responsible for castle security) is figure out what went wrong, what damage was done, and by whom. If the castle was located in the right kind of kingdom--to take a metaphor too far--you can hope to prosecute the perpetrator. *Computer Forensics: Computer Crime Scene Investigation* explains how to gather evidence of computer crimes in such a way that it will be more likely to lead to a conviction in a criminal court. It's an interesting legal area--after all, it's almost always you, and not any law enforcement agency doing the surveillance and evidence-gathering on your computer systems--and John Vacca has done a fair bit of research. This book will probably expand your thinking on the subject of information security.

On the other hand, though Vacca gives good general advice (don't lose volatile information by shutting a compromised machine down midattack; do be prepared to translate memory dumps into jury-readable form), he sometimes meanders into generalizations and irrelevancies. The fact that terrorists distribute their plans via public Web sites is certainly scary, but hardly helpful to someone wanting to prosecute the guy who vandalized the corporate Web site. Similarly interesting, but practically irrelevant to most of us, are discussions of high-energy radio frequency (HERF) and electromagnetic pulse (EMP) weapons that can knock out information systems from a distance. More focus on evidence collection in organizational computing environments would make this book useful, rather than just generally informative. *--David Wall*

Topics covered: How to gather evidence of a hack attack after the fact, and a lot of general-interest information on the state of crime and law enforcement in computer technology. Coverage is almost all general in nature, dealing with how to formulate a strategy and deal with events without getting into details of any operating system or computing environment.

From the Publisher
KEY FEATURES - Comprehensive overview of the subject from definitions to data recovery techniques to auditing methods and services - Discusses data seizure and analysis, preservation of computer evidence, reconstruction of events and information warfare - Case studies and vignettes of actual computer crimes are used - CD includes demos of the latest computer forensics and auditing software

About the Author
John Vacca is an experienced author and security official. He served with NASA as a computer security official and has over twenty books on computer-related topics to his credit.

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