

Handbook of Information Security Management

Reviewed by Choton Basu

To cite this article: Reviewed by Choton Basu (2011) Handbook of Information Security Management, *Journal of Information Privacy and Security*, 7:1, 74-75, DOI: [10.1080/15536548.2011.10855907](https://doi.org/10.1080/15536548.2011.10855907)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15536548.2011.10855907>



Published online: 10 Sep 2014.



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Book Review

Handbook of Information Security Management

Micki Krause and Harold F. Tipton

CRC Press LLC

ISBN: 0849399475

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This is an online book or resource that is made available by the CISSP Open Study Guides Web Site in collaboration with Auerbach. The authors for the Handbook are Krause and Tipton and it is made available by Clement Dupuis.

This is a comprehensive book and covers all the topics necessary for the CISSP exam. The book is divided into ten different domains which have chapters focused in areas under each domain. This handbook has been around for a while now and here is an excellent quote that explains it: *"Since 1993, Information Security Management Handbook has served not only as an everyday reference for information security practitioners but also as an important document for the intense review necessary to prepare for exams (CISSP) Certified Information Systems Security Professional."*

In the most recent version of the Handbook the ten domains are as follows:

Domain 1: Access Control

Domain 2: Communications Security

Domain 3: Risk Management and Business Continuity Planning

Domain 4: Policy, Standards, and Organization

Domain 5: Computer Architecture and System Security

Domain 6: Law, Investigation and Ethics

Domain 7: Application Program Security

Domain 8: Cryptography

Domain 9: Computer Operations Security

Domain 10: Physical Security

My favorite domains were 6, 7, and 10. The domain 6 covers a wide-breadth of topics including 17 computer abuse methods in section 6-1-1. These methods range in complexity and cover topics such as eavesdropping, spying, scanning, masquerading, piggyback, tailgating,

superzapping, scavenging, Trojan horses and others. The descriptions are focused and provide a brief understanding of each of the concepts. Similarly, Federal and State Computer Crime Laws, Computer Investigation are discussed and section 6-3 focuses on Information Ethics. This section talks about understanding computer users which is the key to understanding the ethics of computer usage.

Domain 7 focuses on Application program Security and the most important section in this domain is the security models for Object-Oriented Data Bases. Given the importance of object oriented methodologies and the use of relational database management systems in most modern applications it is necessary to understand the security implications. In domain 10 the book actually addresses the issue of Physical Security requirements and issues which is usually not covered in most books. The facility requirements, personnel physical access control are some of the topics addressed in this section.

Overall this book has been around since 1993 and is well received for anyone preparing for the CISSP exam or otherwise. The book is certainly better as a reference, though it can be used as a great starting point for anyone interested in computer and information security.

Choton Basu is an Associate Professor in the Management Computer Systems (MCS) program at The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He also serves as the Director of the campus' Global Business Resource Center. Dr. Basu's interest is in the area of Global Information Technology and Strategic Management. He is well established in the global arena as an educator, business consultant and entrepreneur. As the Director of the GBRC, his key entrepreneurial achievements since 2001 include overseeing four major federal grants, several intramural grants, assisting companies to transition successfully into global markets. Also he was involved in launching Digital Measures a company he started with his students, now active in over 15 countries. Dr. Basu has continued to publish his research in journals such as the Journal of Global IT Management (JGITM), Decision Sciences, Educause Quarterly, International Journal of Information Management, and is currently the President of Global IT Management Association. He is the Executive Editor for the Journal of Information Privacy and Security (JIPS) and also serves as a reviewer for other journals and conferences.