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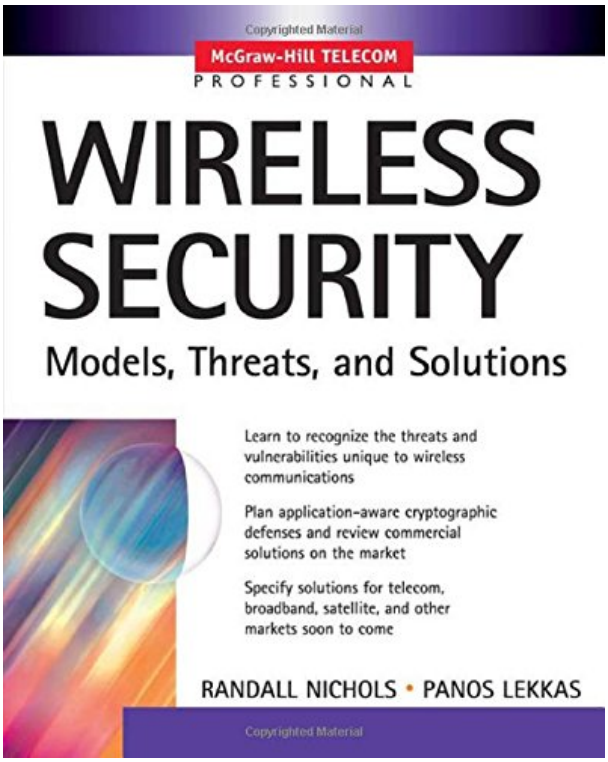

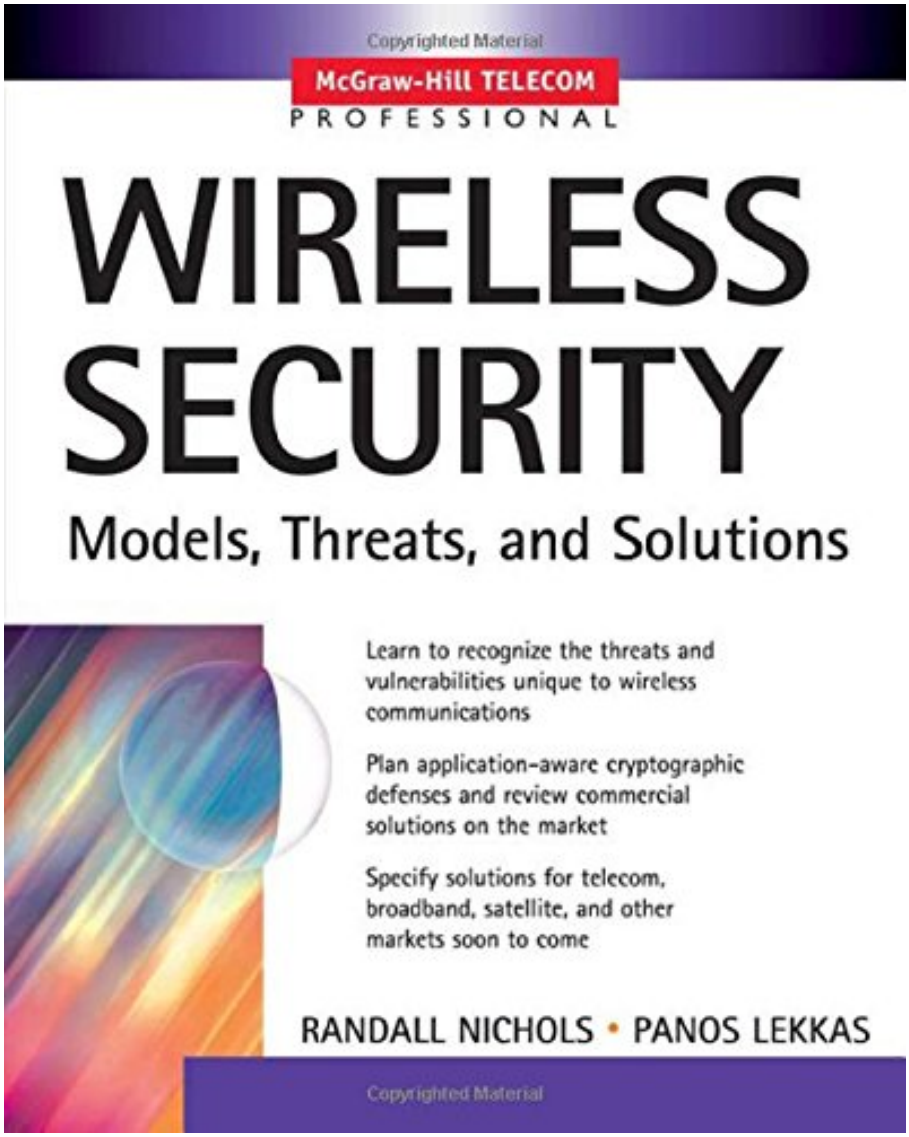

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Review

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This book is also an encyclopedic guide to the state of the art with: Encryption algorithms you can use now, End-to-end hardware solutions and field programmable gate arrays, An extensive guide to speech cryptology, Authentication strategies and security protocols for wireless systems, Infosec and infowar experience, Adding satellites to your security mix and much more. The book is another blockbuster... (The Cryptogram, Journal of the American Cryptogram Association 2002-03-01)

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Most helpful customer reviews

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.
Impressive work on a very hard-to-define subject!

By A Customer
The subject of security in the wireless field is a rather confusing one. It relies on an intricate web of multiple and tightly interweaved technical and scientific disciplines way beyond what the average Berkeley "kid" will ever dream to hack. One is usually not an expert in all of these areas. The field has therefore been and pretty much remains the domain of a few top-notch pros.
To master the subject however does not mean that one has suddenly come up with an all-encompassing solution or a magic checklist. It rather means that one has acquired a broad and dense set of knowledge from communications theory to cryptography and from electrical engineering to network design that will allow one to apply discernment as to what may go wrong in a project and what options there are to address the issues, what may work and what may not work and above all why. Before you cook you must know what a kitchen is and what utensils are needed for what purpose.
WIRELESS SECURITY is not a cookbook. It is a massive and scholary exposition of lots of inter-related material much of which cannot be easily found elsewhere and even that which can be found elsewhere will require time and money until one produces it on one's desk, like the material on stream ciphers, on voice processing, or on embedded end-to-end secure systems that transcend vocoders and network infrasrtuctures.
Besides themselves, the authors have put together an impressive list of individual contributors to this book that reads like a Who's Who list from the government military and intelligence communications field and this brings an extra aura of authority and competence to this book. Many books these days are written by a self-appointed expert, usually a fly-by-night quasi-consultant, whose academic credentials at best span an evening class at a local community college and whose major technical accomplishment is that they can safely....start a C-language compiler from the command line, yet they portray themselves as undisputed experts on a cutting-edge subject.
Well WIRELESS SECURITY is not one of those books. It is a heavy-duty impressive textbook that has been clearly written by professionals for readers with a broad thirst and a deep desire to understand the multiple dimensions of the problem of wireless security. It does not give answers to all your questions, in fact it will generate many more questions in your head, but it will help you form a clear idea of contexts, possibilities, ramifications and implications, and more importantly it will steer you to the right direction for subsequent research on a subject. Isn't that however what a good textbook is supposed to be all about?
The book makes the reader sensitive about issues that many people (even professionals) today are simply not even aware about. It covers lots and lots of material from many relevant and seemingly remote areas, spanning from cryptography and voice processing all the way to integrated systems design, and from high-power eavesdropping techniques in the era of CDMA to weaknesses in the set up of wireless LANs.
Of course, if one is looking for a crytography-fundamentals book there are others that are much better suited to the subject. Or if one is looking for a How-To-set-up-your-LAN-by-grilling-your-vendors type of book full of checklists, then this is not for you. There are several other books on certain aspects of wireless security in the market, that are much less scholarly, and certainly less pricey than this one.
If one however wants to take a thorough and comprehensive look over the field of Wireless Security at large, then there should be no doubt that THIS is and by far THE book on the subject. There are no subfields in the area that it does not cover and the authors manage to do it in a nicely flowing style that never becomes boring, no matter how esoteric the subject is.
It is extremely well documented with lots of references and useful footonotes. The care of the authors and their passion about the subject is manifest all over the book. The only small weakness of this book is it has some annoying typos in a couple of places (however nothing critical in terms of overall correctness of text) including some of the earlier figures. If it goes to a 2nd edition the publisher had better address these with a competent copy editor as they do injustice to an overall superb effort.
I am working in the area of advanced DSP-based wireless communications security and in short, I find this book very useful. I refer to it very often during my work. I strongly recommend WIRELESS SECURITY to anyone seriously interested in the subject.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.
The most comprehensive all around
By Marco De Vivo
The Approach:
You can find elsewhere any of the issues covered by this book. But only in this book, they are presented all together in detail. Every wireless security related field is discussed and the correspondent defensive and preventive countermeasures are proposed.
The Book:
657+ pages, well structured into 13 chapters. Literally, hundreds of useful references, and plenty of figures, tables, and photos.
The contents:
- Wireless Basics
- Wireless Information Warfare
- Telephone System Vulnerabilities
- Satellite Communications
- Cryptographic Security
- Speech Cryptology
- WLAN
- WAP
- WTLS
- Bluetooth
- Voice Over IP
- E2E Wireless Security
- Optimizing Wireless Security with ASICs and FPGAs
- Extensive Bibliography
The Bottom Line:
As a researcher and professor of Computer Networks Security, I consider this book as a very useful reference for my students. Even if they use the book mostly to learn about WLAN, WAP, WTLS, and Bluetooth security issues, many of them (the students) have been exploring the rest of the book to improve their knowledge. As far as I know, they use particularly: the cryptographic chapters to complement the regular (Dr. Stallings) textbook, and the Wireless Information Warfare chapter to improve their general background.
A unique in its kind book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.
Extremely Useful!
By Shunysuke Takahara
I'm an active systems architect from Sweden working with multiple types of wireless communications devices(cellular, Bluetooth, etc.). I have been looking for a comprehensive coverage of security aspects in RF transmissions for quite some time. A colleague of mine recommended this book to me.
My first reaction was surprise due to the breadth of its coverage. It gives a well-rounded view of the subject in a very scholarly fashion. It is very meticulously written, clearly by people who know what they are talking about, and it includes some interesting issues like voice processing and cryptography without ever becoming boring. It provides a great deal of references so one can pursue further and deeper study of the subjects that one is interested in. Lots of footnotes and explanations show the authors' attention and care about detail.
My interest happens to be in implementing embedded integrated systems and this book provided me with ample food for thought with its original coverage of issues related to cipher synchronization in real-time wireless communications protocol stacks. To my knowledge, the subject is not covered anywhere else.
Besides a couple of typos probably due to the publisher's rush to bring the book to the market, I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the area of wireless communications security.

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