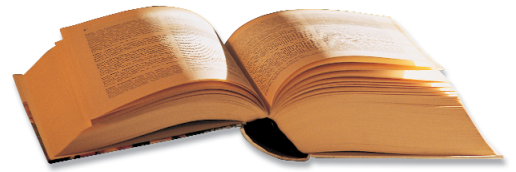


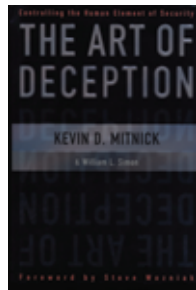
Book Reviews



The Art of Deception

Set a thief to catch a thief, the old adage goes and “The art of deception” by Kevin Mitnick is the ultimate realization of that. The world’s most famous hacker has turned gamekeeper in this guide to keep corporations from falling victim to modern data crime.

The book is full of examples of “social engineering”, pulling the 21st century equivalent of the three card trick on employees who give away the smallest



piece of information. Some examples are drawn from Mitnick’s own experiences. Most capitalize on the fact that companies tend to trust their own computer security systems and tend to neglect the human element that can destroy the best laid plans.

After each anecdote, Mitnick analyses where things went wrong and how security could be improved in the future, but what it boils down to is training,

training, training and don’t trust ANYONE.

The only problem about this book is that it makes everything seem so easy. The temptation is there just to pick up the phone, try out a new persona and take part in a little “social engineering” of one’s own. But it can’t be that easy,.... can it? ■

Kevin Mitnick

368 pages

John Wiley & Sons, 0-471-23712-4

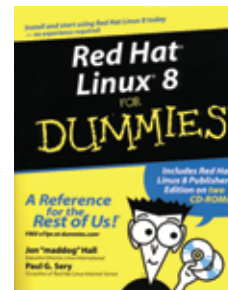
£19.95, US \$27.50, EUR33.00

Red Hat Linux 8 for Dummies

This well known series of beginners guides is justifiably popular among Windows users and has now turned its sights on Linux. If you are new to Linux and like the humor that the “Dummies” guides insert at every available opportunity then this is as good a place to start as any. There is a step by step guide to installing – right from creating a partition, if you already have Windows (or anything else) running, to creating user accounts and customizing your desktop. It even covers how to do things from the command line if necessary.

There is a guide to installing a firewall and how to make your computer secure. Having logged you onto the Internet and then got you playing your favorite music in the background, the book finally becomes a little more technical, covering file management and the creation of servers and networks – nothing too demanding though.

A general troubleshooting guide concludes the book with appendices on discovering your hardware, how to



configure X windows and where to look to find out more of what you can do with Linux. As it has suggestions on where to go next, it could be a valuable introduction to any new user who needs persuading to dabble their toes in an

open source operating system. ■

Jon “maddog” Hall

384 pages

John Wiley & Sons, 0-7645-1681-7

£22.50, US \$29.99, EUR33.40

Building Secure Servers with Linux

If you have read Kevin Mitnick’s book on deception (see above) you may be worrying about what you can do to keep your network secure. This book covers all the aspects of securing your system

and is suitable for everyone, whether they have charge of one or a hundred computers. It is not about building firewalls, instead it concentrates on

general topics, which could then be applied to firewalls, but will remain relevant to all systems. Although not aimed at the absolute beginner, the book is straightforward and does not demand much technical expertise to work through.

The book is based on Bauer’s Paranoid Penguin column, but it has been greatly updated and expanded. The first part of the book deals with definitions and risk assessment and it then goes on to cover various applications that can be used to improve security. It includes instructions on securing the most common services,

explaining risks, solutions and practical examples to overcome the potential threats.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the book is the final appendix which includes the start up scripts for IPTable filtering, rather than the usual IPchains. We all need to be aware of potential security risks on our systems and to do what we can to minimize attacks and to safeguard our assets. ■

Michael Bauer

448 pages

O’Reilly & Associates, 0-596-00217-3

£31.95 US \$44.95, EUR48.00

