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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

(Page 2 a - Review by Yogender Bansal, PGI, Chandigarh, North India)



FEATURED BOOK

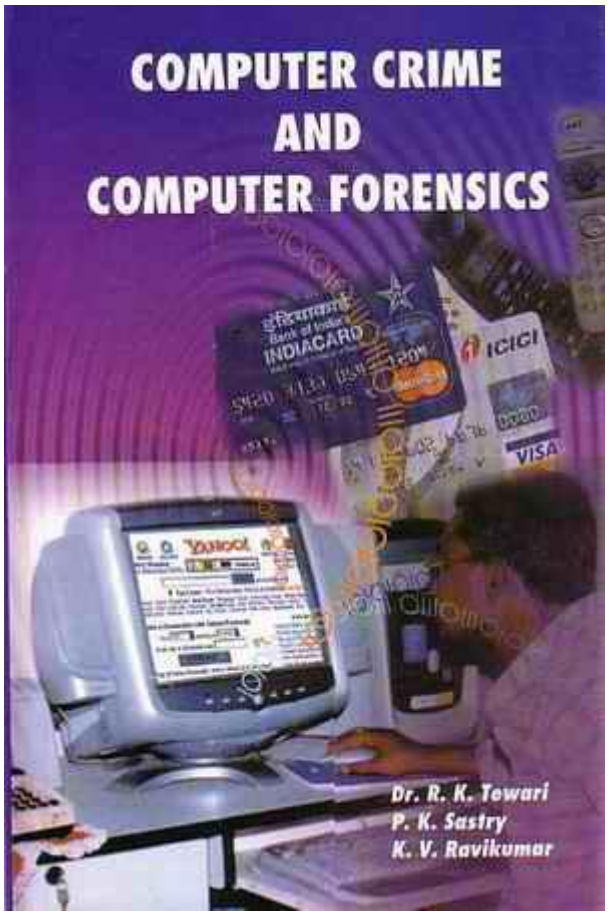
A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Rating : 9.0

★★★★★★★★★ (9/5)

Computer Crime and Computer Forensics, *by* Dr. R.K. Tewari, P.K. Sastry and K.V.Ravikumar. Hard Bound, 5.5" x 8.5".

Select Publishers, Publishers and Distributors, C-73/B, (Gr. Floor), Pandav Nagar, Patparganj (Near Mother Dairy), Delhi-110092. . . Email: ssbook@rediffmail.com. Publication Date 2002. xvi + 321 pages, ISBN 81-901135-3-4. Price Indian Rupees 595.00, US $30.00



We live in the information age, depending so very much on computer technology for research work, most businesses and personal activities, to name a few. But think of a situation when we lose trust in the security of these conveniences. Should we still use them then ?, is a million dollar question nagging the minds of those whose lives are dependent on these technological advances.

Nowadays more and more companies are hiring forensic experts and incident - response consultants to track the culprits. But unfortunately there are only a limited number of experts dealing with these issues. There are many books in print catering to the topic 'Computer Forensics', but only a few have given such intricate details as the book under review.

The authors of 'Computer Crime and Computer Forensics' have encompassed references on this topic concisely. The book opens with a description on various hi -tech digital crimes such as computer and cyber crimes and how Computer Forensics came into existence. A very interesting information regarding communication protocols is included in the tables. In table 2.2, for instance, the authors described layers of TCP/IP communication protocol. Authors then described e-commerce, it's future and the concept of Digital cash, which is a series of numbers that have an intrinsic value in some form of currency. That day is not far when it will be as popular as hard cash.

In chapter 3, the authors have elaborated the classification of Computer Attack. Figure 3.1 showed different types of Malicious Programme. Malicious codes including Trojan horses, Trapdoors, Bacteria, Viruses, and Worms, have been detailed in a separate chapter.

Elaborate discussion about Internet Crimes is given in chapter 5. Investigators of such crimes can have tips on various topics such as Computer Hacking and Cracking, Password Sniffing, Cyber Squatting, Cyberventing as well as various Internet Crimes such as Credit Card Frauds and few

other such white collar crimes is well documented. Authors discussed at length about Cyber laundering, Cyber Terrorism, Cyber Warfare and their preventable measures.

...The Authors have to be commended for the exhaustive research into the history and evolution of various cyber laws. Salient features and important information like provision of penalties up to Rs 1 crore for damaging computer systems and three year jail term with a fine of Rs 2 lakh for the hacker come in handy for the people dealing with legal issues...

An important aspect of this book is it's chapter on Investigation of Computer Crimes. Supposing that the expert investigating the case finds some evidence of Digital crime, where does that leave him. This chapter specifically discusses, from an expert's perspective, what investigations must be performed, what and how this digital evidence must be collected and preserved, so that it can be presented at the trial. For instance, table 8.2 describes methods of 'Write Protecting' the storage media.

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The IT Act 2000 has been dealt with in great detail. The Authors have to be commended for the exhaustive research into the history and evolution of various cyber laws. Salient features and important information like provision of penalties up to Rs 1 crore for damaging computer systems and three year jail term with a fine of Rs 2 lakh for the hacker come in handy for the people dealing with legal issues. Even the inadequacies in the IT Act 2000, such as security of Web transaction, topics like digital enterprising, data protection, cyber fraud and its protection needs attention. References of various websites related to the legal issues are well listed, enabling even a layman to access much sought after legal information.

All in all, an interesting book indeed, extremely useful for all those in Forensics, Legal specialties as well as white collar crime writers. This reviewer would recommend this book to his colleagues and everyone interested in this hi-tech sub-specialty of forensic science.



-Yogender Bansal
Dr. Yogender Bansal graduated from the prestigious Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, and then went on to complete his postgraduate specialization in forensic medicine from the same college. He is currently working as Assistant Professor In the Deptt of Forensic Medicine Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. His main areas of interest are - computer crime investigations and detection of hacking frauds. He has written pathbreaking articles on Brain Fingerprinting and fMRI Techniques. He has several publications to his credit in reputed journals. Dr. Bansal can be contacted by clicking here.

Review 1 by Yogender Bansal , North India

Review 2 by V.V.Pillay, South India

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