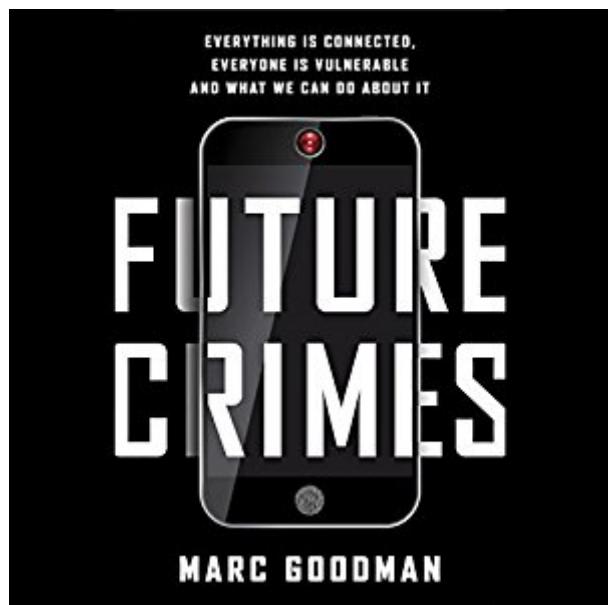


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Future Crimes: Everything Is Connected, Everyone Is Vulnerable And What We Can Do About It



Synopsis

One of the world's leading authorities on global security, Marc Goodman takes listeners deep into the digital underground to expose the alarming ways criminals, corporations, and even countries are using new and emerging technologies against you - and how this makes everyone more vulnerable than ever imagined. Technological advances have benefited our world in immeasurable ways, but there is an ominous flip side: Our technology can be turned against us. Hackers can activate baby monitors to spy on families, thieves are analyzing social media posts to plot home invasions, and stalkers are exploiting the GPS on smart phones to track their victims' every move. We all know today's criminals can steal identities, drain online bank accounts, and wipe out computer servers, but that's just the beginning. To date, no computer has been created that could not be hacked - a sobering fact given our radical dependence on these machines for everything from our nation's power grid to air traffic control to financial services. Yet, as ubiquitous as technology seems today, just over the horizon is a tidal wave of scientific progress that will leave our heads spinning. If today's Internet is the size of a golf ball, tomorrow's will be the size of the sun. Welcome to the Internet of Things, a living, breathing, global information grid where every physical object will be online. But with greater connections come greater risks. Implantable medical devices such as pacemakers can be hacked to deliver a lethal jolt of electricity and a car's brakes can be disabled at high speed from miles away. Meanwhile, 3-D printers can produce AK-47s, bioterrorists can download the recipe for Spanish flu, and cartels are using fleets of drones to ferry drugs across borders. With explosive insights based upon a career in law enforcement and counterterrorism, Marc Goodman takes listeners on a vivid journey through the darkest recesses of the Internet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm writing this review on the day in which the news reported a massive hack at Anthem, exposing the private information of 80 million Americans, including names, birth dates, social security numbers, email addresses...everything an identity thief could use to good advantage to ruin your life. So the title of the book is actually wrong. These crimes are not from the future, they are happening even as I write this. The subtitle, "Everything is connected, everyone is vulnerable and what we can do about it" is misleading. From all I can see, there's very little the average person can do. Even if you dropped off the grid this second, closing your Google gmail account, your Facebook account, your online banking account, it wouldn't make a difference, since their information can be stored indefinitely. You will live in cyber space for generations to come. I recently had occasion to look for work, and many companies required me to check their website rather than approach them in person. When I found a position, the application was online. My new job requires an email address. If I go into a bricks and mortar store, my credit card history is stored in their computers. When I go to the doctor, the whole clinic has an electronic platform with my medical history. There is no escape. Is it convenient for people to shop, access medical and financial records, search the Internet, play games, watch movies, and chat with friends online? Absolutely. Our lives are much easier because of technology. But the law of unintended consequences applies, and what is easier for us is easier for thieves. They can topple governments and corporations and the little guy alike. This is an interesting book, but unfortunately it is also extremely depressing and frightening. The way the author sets it up heightens the pessimism, since he goes on for hundreds of pages of examples of the ways we are at risk. There is a very small section at the end with a few suggestions for change. I would have given it three stars because of the unrelieved gloom, except that the subject matter is timely and every intelligent adult should be aware of the ramifications of modern life and technology, like it or not.

Marc Goodman knows digital security. He can also talk about it in detail without getting lost in technical language that may bore the reader. While there could have been repetitive stuff removed from this long tomb, he clearly understands the vulnerability of being connected, and how easily we all want the convenience of cloud storage, online banking, online shopping, or having our social media open to anyone to admire and praise. Cybercrime pays and Goodman wrote 392 pages telling the story of how cyber criminals have been getting away with this. Innovative Marketing, Inc (a

company also known by the FTC by other names such as Billingnow, BillPlanet PTE Ltd., Globedat, Innovative Marketing Ukraine, Revenue Response, Sunwell, Synergy Software BV, Winpayment Consultancy SPC, Winsecure Solutions, and Winsolutions FZ-LLC) and Partnerkas are two felonious companies he sets as an example, but there are others out there. The first trick is to embed the virus in a legitimate ad or program so that unsuspecting people can download these and reinfect their own systems. Then there are the big crime gangs, the mafia, who control so much of the cyber crime internationally. They can control the world because they have some of the best hackers working for them, and making good money for it. Some of the stories Goodman recounts are quite hairy, such as doing quick google searches of business executives at airports via smart phones to determine which business executive is the most profitable (to kidnap). Then there's the tactic of crowd sourcing, where a business places a fake ad for employment, only to unwittingly recruit people to commit a crime. Some of these stories are so unbelievable, they are frightening. This book is a little more detailed in the types of cyber crimes out there. Besides the usual far-away hacker in Russia, China, Pakistan, we now have crimeware software whose sole mission is to upload virus-looking pop-ups on customers' computers, thinking they had gotten a malware virus. Then the (fake)company would demand the customer wire \$49 to undo the damage. This was from a legitimate business selling infected ads to its clientele. Goodman's years fighting cybercrime have paid off. He knows the underground web, the black web, and knows which websites do the more horrific deeds. This book is quite a thrill to read, but also a bit shocking as there's nothing now anywhere online that can help us restore lost or damaged identity. Well worth the read.

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