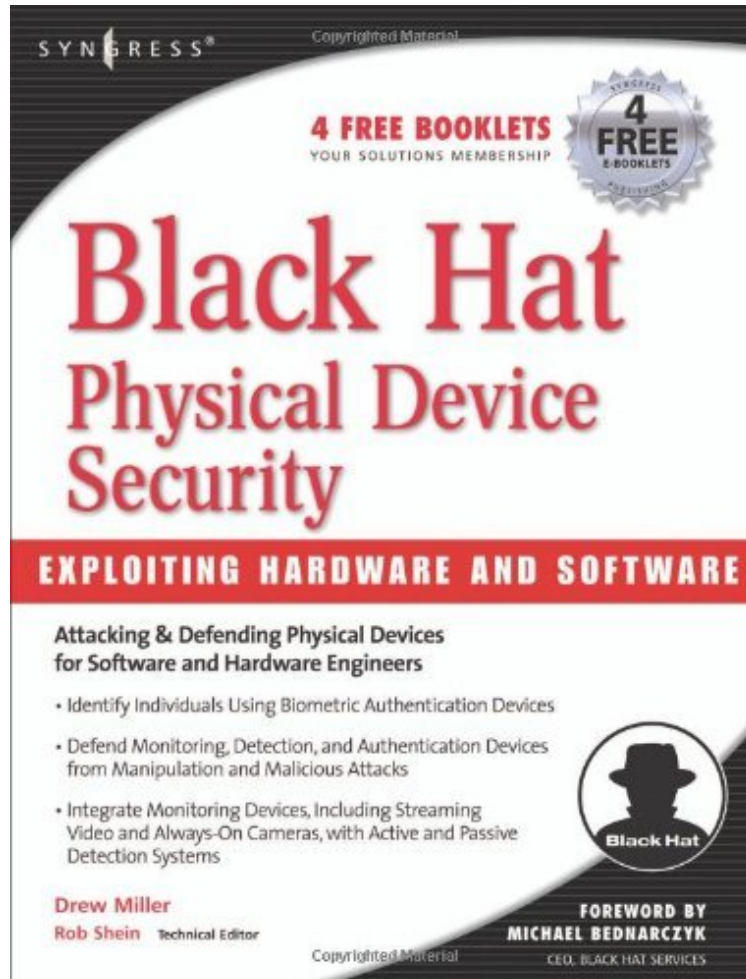


Black Hat Physical Device Security: Exploiting Hardware and Software

Drew Miller

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Drew Miller : Black Hat Physical Device Security: Exploiting Hardware and Software before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Hat Physical Device Security: Exploiting Hardware and Software:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Adolphus E. Jefferies Jr. Lots of great info in this book for professional security IT people. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not Exactly What The Title Suggests By Jordan Grotepas I expected this book to be provide moderate coverage of alarm system and physical access control security with a focus on hardware level attacks and defenses. My expectations were only partially met. Instead what I got was a book about general security design and assessment principles that didn't talk about hardware until the last few chapters. The book took a more abstract and high level approach than I would have liked. The only time the book went into detail was in the appendix, where it discussed at length a method of factoring numbers: A topic that is

only tangentially related to the rest of the book. But there was an informative discussion about security devices, especially biometric controls. The central theme of the book is to not trust. Every chapter discusses problems that can be traced to the incorrect assumption that certain input should be trusted. And the solution is to always validate, authenticate, encrypt, hash, and minimize storage and transmission of sensitive information. This applies even if the data is coming from a different part of the same system. The constant dire warnings about misplaced trust and the author's other suggestions are backed by analysis and anecdote, but not data. While I agreed with most of the advice, I felt the author spent too much effort conveying the possibility of attackers being able to decrypt secure tunnels and not enough attention to more likely attacks. But the attention to that possibility did make me realize how often I assume that because something is encrypted it is therefore safe. Overall Black Hat Physical Device Security was poorly edited. I found many places where words were misspelled or even left out entirely. Sentences were sometimes poorly worded and redundant. And the code examples added almost nothing. I enjoyed this book and picked up some great ideas. I don't regret reading it, but can't say I'd recommend it.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Poor writing, assertions without any logic, rambling text

By jose_monkey_org

As an author, I understand the difficulty of writing a good book and the sting of a poor review. I'm reluctant to do so, but here I feel I have no choice. This book is simply very poorly done. I don't know quite what the author was hoping to achieve, but I think it's somewhere along the lines of the philosophy behind security. Drew fails to deliver, instead we get rambling text, bad anecdotes, poor writing, and no focus. When we finally do get to some technical material, it's poorly presented (eg the crypto code in Chapter 3). Errors are also rife throughout the text. For example, in chapter 3 the author attempts to describe connection attributes to enforce for a connection. One of these is the MAC address of a host 2 hops away. Anyone with any understanding of TCP/IP networking would know that if a host is 2 hops away, then the MAC address belongs to your router. The attack Drew describes isn't going to see the router change out from under the system. While there's a lot of terms thrown around, there aren't any useful concepts really taught or well presented. I don't think anyone will learn much of anything from this book. The title of the book suggests that we'll be hitting hardware, too, but it's not until the last third of the book that this is introduced, and just as poorly as key concepts in software security (defense, attacks, etc), and only for one chapter. I just don't have anything positive to say about this book, and for that I truly apologize to the author (and as a fellow author). This isn't personal (I don't know Drew, I believe, nor do I harbor any malice towards him or anyone he knows), it's just not a very good product. If you're looking for a comprehensive overview of infosec, look at something like Bishop's tome "Introduction to Computer Security".

Black Hat, Inc. is the premier, worldwide provider of security training, consulting, and conferences. Black Hat Physical Device Security: Exploiting Hardware and Software, the Black Hat experts show readers the types of attacks that can be done to physical devices such as motion detectors, video monitoring and closed circuit systems, authentication systems, thumbprint and voice print devices, retina scans, and more. The Black Hat Briefings held every year in Las Vegas, Washington DC, Amsterdam, and Singapore continually expose the greatest threats to cyber security and provide IT mind leaders with ground breaking defensive techniques. There are no books that show security and networking professionals how to protect physical security devices. This unique book provides step-by-step instructions for assessing the vulnerability of a security device such as a retina scanner, seeing how it might be compromised, and taking protective measures. The book covers the actual device as well as the software that runs it. By way of example, a thumbprint scanner that allows the thumbprint to remain on the glass from the last person could be bypassed by pressing a "gummy bear" piece of candy against the glass so that the scan works against the last thumbprint that was used on the device. This is a simple example of an attack against a physical authentication system.

First book by world-renowned Black Hat, Inc. security consultants and trainers

First book that details methods for attacking and defending physical security devices

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