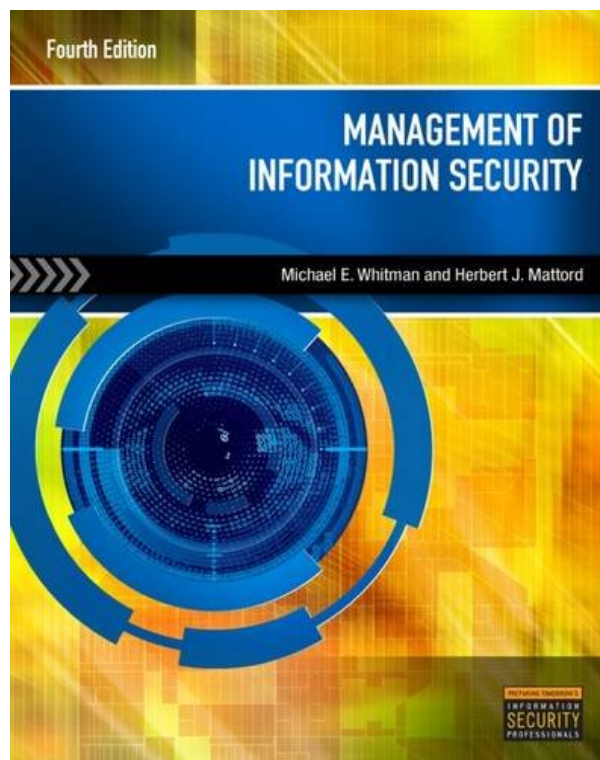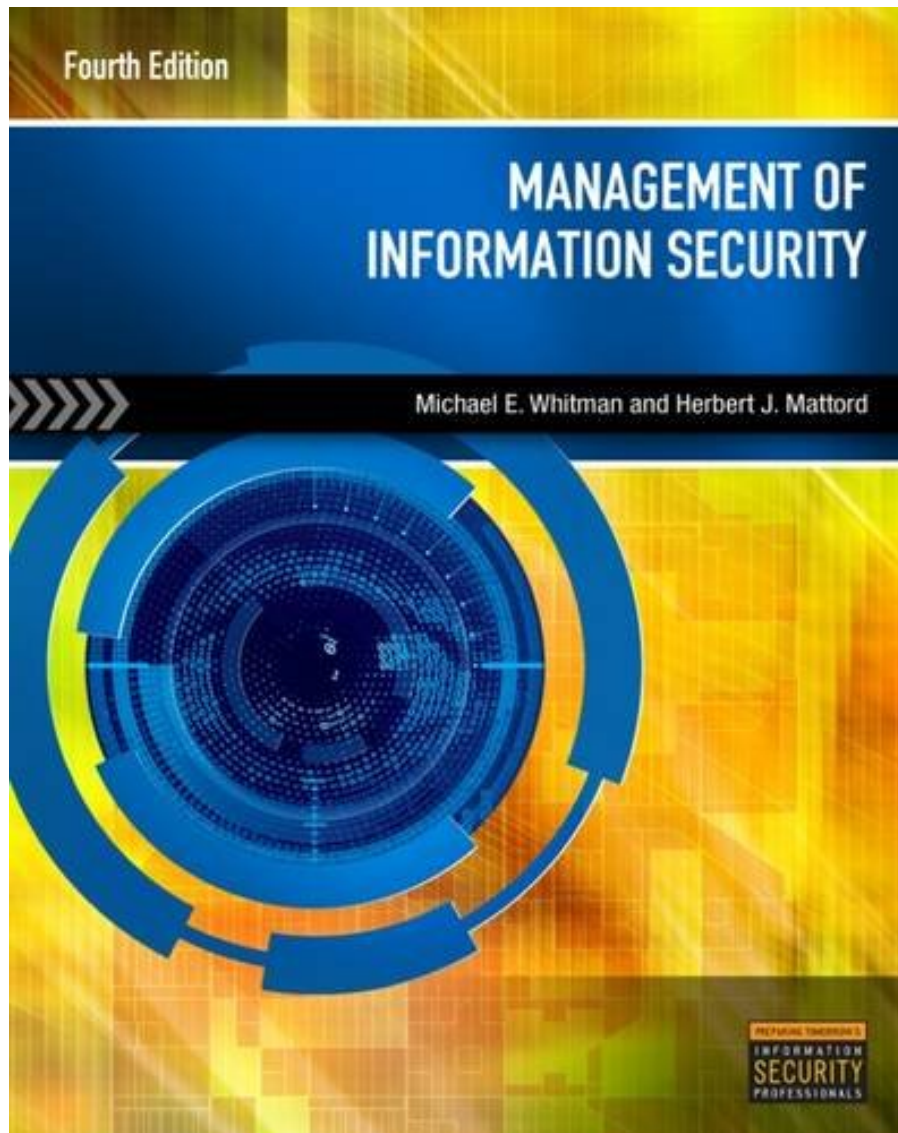# MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SECURITY BY MICHAEL E. WHITMAN, HERBERT J. MATTORD

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Most helpful customer reviews

24 of 28 people found the following review helpful.
Philosophical (Textbook) exposition of InfoSec
By Patrick Thompson
If you're looking to get down into the nitty-gritty of infosec, for ways and methods of securing networks and systems, then this probably isn't the book you need. This is a textbook and so it overs a fairly high level viewpoint, even philosophical approach, to infosec. The granualarity just isn't there for the practising person to gain much from this in a substantive way.

That said, the book does provide a readable and useful overview of all aspects of the infosec planning and administration process. Each chapter has questions yet no answers. Chapters include:

Introduction to the management of info sec
Planning for infosec
Planning for contingencies
Information security policy
Developing the security program
Security Management models and practices
Risk Management: identifying and assessning risk
RIsk Management: Assessing and controlling risk
Protectiion Mechanisms

Personnel and security
Law and Ethics
Information Security Project management (the weakest chapter in the book...meant as an introduction)

While the authors won't tell you how to configure a firewall for example, they will teach you who, how and why this must be done and what must be done to guide and support decisions like this in an organizational environment. This book is about top down security management. It teaches you to use policy, procedures, people, programs, projects and planning in a three dimenional security matrix: confidentiality, integrity, availability, security, transmission, processing, policy, technology and education/training with regard to people, data, hardware, software and procedures, all within the methodology of the secSDLC. So it is a philsophical journey thorugh the heart of the matter written by two guys who obviously know and enjoy their subject.

This books is well written and has a number inserts highlighting differrent things like different types of attacks, concepts like human firewalls and such that enhance the readability while leading a connection to reality that threatens to become a little tenuous when dealing with much abstraction.

SO, a good textbook. I used it for a subject I took and found it useful. WHile it may be a little dry at times, due to the technical nature of the material, if you are serious about learning information security then the need to be consistently entertained is probably just a little alien to your nature anyway. This book will give you an excellent grounding in the things you should be condisering and doing when planning, analyzing, designing, implementing and managing and maintaining infosec.

An excellent addition and support for the material presented in the book- as referred by the authors- is bunch of free materials published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, found at the computer security resource center. These include papers such as SP 800-12, SP 800-14, and so forth. The website is [...] It is important to check this out if you are serious about infosec. This book is a good starting point for deliving deeper into that world.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.
Hard to Read
By Paul S. Heath
My teacher assigned this book for our class and it is one of the hardest and driest books to read. I feel like every chapter is the same and I am reading a slightly different versions of chapter one. To top it off I have to take a quiz on the information. Even the powerpoints that accompany the book are 55 slides or more.
I think this book suffers mainly from lazy writing and lazy editing. If this book had been properly edited it would have been a third of the size that it is and the student would walk away with the meat of the subject instead of a little meat and a whole lot of fat.

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful.
Let's be as unclear as possible...
By Simon
The book is quite frustrating if you need to use it for your studies as I do.

A lot of it is really obvious, but the authors do like to repeat and rehash points in quite a confusing order. They would be better off providing more examples that fit exactly with what they are trying to explain, but instead they grabbed too many examples from other sources, which do not appear to fit as neatly with their processes as I suspect would be best. It certainly fills up the pages, but adds confusion. It's a big subject, so it will never be an easy task, but surely these guys can employ writers to look at their work objectively. Too many technical people write books with the notion of the book being very good because they think everyone

thinks like they think... Wrong.

And to be honest it is a boring book. It's not even like it's a boring subject, because it really does affect so much of our working and personal lives nowadays. Somehow they just seemed to be able to make it seem more excruitatingly boring than it really is!... I suppose that's a skill in itself!

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