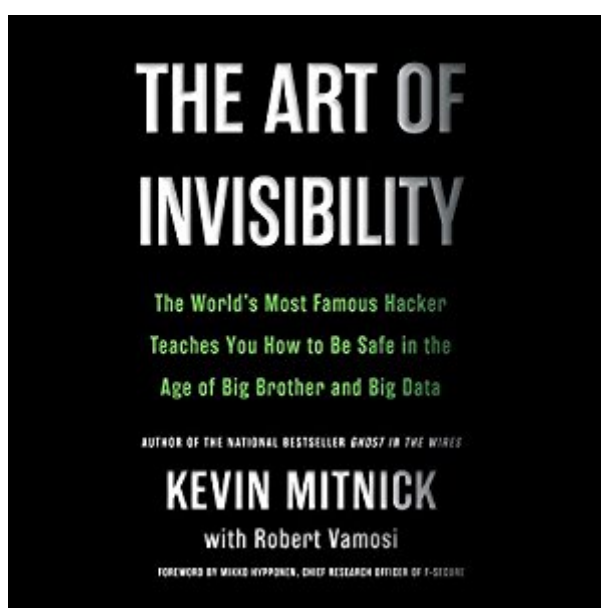


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The Art Of Invisibility: The World's Most Famous Hacker Teaches You How To Be Safe In The Age Of Big Brother And Big Data



Synopsis

Kevin Mitnick, the world's most famous hacker, teaches you easy cloaking and countermeasures for citizens and consumers in the age of Big Brother and Big Data. Like it or not, your every move is being watched and analyzed. Consumers' identities are being stolen, and a person's every step is being tracked and stored. What once might have been dismissed as paranoia is now a hard truth, and privacy is a luxury few can afford or understand. In this explosive yet practical book, Kevin Mitnick illustrates what is happening without your knowledge - and he teaches you "the art of invisibility". Mitnick is the world's most famous - and formerly the most wanted - computer hacker. He has hacked in to some of the country's most powerful and seemingly impenetrable agencies and companies, and at one point he was on a three-year run from the FBI. Now, though, Mitnick is reformed and is widely regarded as the expert on the subject of computer security. He knows exactly how vulnerabilities can be exploited and just what to do to prevent that from happening. In *The Art of Invisibility* Mitnick provides both online and real-life tactics and inexpensive methods to protect you and your family, in easy step-by-step instructions. He even talks about more advanced "elite" techniques, which, if used properly, can maximize your privacy. Invisibility isn't just for superheroes - privacy is a power you deserve and need in this modern age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THE ART OF INVISIBILITY is a little bit scary. The authors, Kevin Mitnick and Robert Vamosi, document the myriads of ways that others can spy on our activities. You might think no one knows

what you are doing, but you are wrong: "Each and every one of us is being watched." If you carry a cell phone, "You are being surveilled." Mitnick tells the story of how the famous John McAfee, on the lam, was found supposedly by coordinates listed in the meta data of a photo posted online. The authors snicker, "Take it from me: if you're trying to get off the grid and totally disappear, you don't want to start a blog." Some of the pointers are pretty basic, such as using strong passwords, and being careful to setup your home Wifi using the latest security protocols. A large chunk of the book relates to securing wireless internet access. "Public Wi-Fi wasn't created with online banking or e-commerce in mind. It is merely convenient, and it's also incredibly insecure." More advanced suggestions are for those who feel they need extreme online privacy. These tactics include things such as using "burner" phones, paid for with cash, and using encryption tools to hide the data on our laptop. Law enforcement has come a long way in tracking down fugitives. The authors explain how authorities use devices to mimic cellular base stations, and "designed to intercept voice and text messages." Using another tactic, the FBI has successfully tracked criminals by getting the cell tower data, and correlating their cell phone records. I was surprised to learn of certain recent laws regarding data preservation. In the event of a legal investigation, you must preserve your entire browser history. You can be arrested--and people have been, for clearing the history. The really meaty parts of the book provide extreme tactics to remain anonymous on the internet. Mitnick advises creating a complete new persona, "one that is completely unrelated to you. . . . When you're not being anonymous, you must also rigorously defend the separation of your life from that anonymous identity." The first thing to do in making yourself anonymous is to get a cheap standalone laptop--used only for your anonymous persona. "Don't ever use the anonymous laptop at home or work. Ever." Here are a few more tips for becoming anonymous: * When you travel, don't bring electronics that store sensitive information with you. * Encrypt the confidential data on your laptop. The authors present a LOT of different ways to make your online persona more invisible. The authors admit, however, that even with all their precautions, it is still tough to be 100% anonymous. The main idea is to make it much more difficult for the intruder. So, put up "so many obstacles that an attacker will give up and move on to another target. . . . Being anonymous in today's digital world requires a lot of work and constant vigilance." All in all, I found THE ART OF INVISIBILITY to be an interesting, fairly-practical read. It was good to be reminded about the proper setup of networks, and how vulnerable public systems can be. I don't feel the need to go out and buy a "burner" phone anytime soon, but it's good to know. Advance Review Copy courtesy of the publisher.

This book has something for the simply curious to those looking for how-to instructions. It is informative to see just how broad and deep surveillance goes in modern society. If privacy and security interest you daily, this book is a must read. Even if you will not do everything presented, you will be better informed.

The book blends basic information about achieving anonymity with specific instructions and tool recommendations. I would have loved to see more detail, but it's a good read for those interested in understanding how data about you is gathered and potentially used against you.

This book outlines the absolute extremes necessary to be invisible - measures that are nearly impossible to put into practice, but which still serve to start a discussion on where and how we should choose to be visible, and the tradeoffs associated with them.

Interesting read. Great explanations about privacy in the age of computers. Mitnick provides a lot of useful information which is eye opening. If you wish to go to the extreme to protect your privacy, or just learn how be more sensible with your personal information, he tells you how to go about it.

This book is one that all people who are concerned about cyber security should read. I feel we each who takes it seriously will take away something of value. You decide!

The quality of the writing is of the "self help" level quality. Clearly, the author is not a writer by trade. That said, the information is really well presented and clear. It goes into a level of detail that a more sophisticated computer user can understand, but not a novice. (If you don't know what a VPN or IP address is, this book is probably too complicated for you) That said, the book doesn't get into super complicated scripting lingo. And the take away from the book is amazing. Not only is the government able to look at everything you do digitally, but it describes step by step how it's almost impossible to opt out of this process, even if you want to. Crazy stuff. And while it's never directly stated in the book, it makes it pretty clear if this information were ever to be used maliciously by the government, very bad things could happen. This should be a wake-up call to people. It won't be, because very few people will read the book. But it should be.

Kevin provides excellent insight into the variety of ways that we are all being tracked and how data can be used to possibly understand us better than we understand ourselves. Two major themes are

recurring throughout the book as to the why. Theme one is surveillance. Theme two is advertising/marketing. One thing is crystal clear. Technological advances have changed the world in dramatic ways. Some of these changes will become readily apparent after reading this book. Interesting and good to know.

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