The Art of Deception, Controlling the Human Element of Security

Jeffrey Barlow
Pacific University

Recommended Citation

This Book/Site Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Interface: The Journal of Education, Community and Values at CommonKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Volume 3 (2003) by an authorized administrator of CommonKnowledge. For more information, please contact CommonKnowledge@pacificu.edu.
The Art of Deception, Controlling the Human Element of Security

Description

Rights
Terms of use for work posted in CommonKnowledge.

This book/site review is available at CommonKnowledge: https://commons.pacificu.edu/inter03/41
The Art of Deception, Controlling the Human Element of Security

Posted on August 1, 2003 by Editor

By Jeffrey Barlow <barlowj@pacificu.edu>


Kevin Mitnick was the personal face put upon the first wave of anxiety regarding electronic communication: the arch-hacker who led law enforcement agencies a complicated electronic chase for several years before his indictment for illegal entry into corporate computers in 1996. (For an electronic inventory of relevant legal documents see http://www.kevinmitnick.com/ the “Free Kevin Mitnick” www site.) Released in 2000, Mitnick wrote this book on what he calls “Social Engineering”, or obtaining the information necessary to hack into protected computer systems by lying to and manipulating corporate employees. This anxiety about the safety of computer systems is clearly one of the major impacts of the Internet, and hence an appropriate subject for an Interface review.

To my surprise, Mitnick’s success in gaining entry into closely guarded sites had a lot less to do with his hacking expertise than his ability to manipulate employees, usually over the telephone, to give him the information he needed to crack into a guarded computer system. His examples are also frightening ones in that weeks and sometimes months of planning went into his efforts. It is terribly easy to imagine him being successful with just about any site he targeted.

The book has real value. Mitnick demonstrates how very important it is that corporations and institutions train their employees in properly controlling all information pertinent to protecting electronic security. On the other hand, you may feel, as did I, that Mitnick takes his past crimes very lightly.

The organizational device followed in the book is one common to “true crime” treatments, a recounting of spectacular examples of successful “social engineering” or penetrations of
institutional security under the understanding that these were stories told to Mitnick rather than actual examples of his own crimes. But it is difficult to escape the feeling that these events are figuratively accompanied by a broad wink as he ascribes them to others.

While one hates to see any criminal benefit from his or her crimes, this book is a valuable one for anyone interested in securing valuable information. The many examples of actual scams demonstrate the many human weaknesses in most security programs. The last two chapters lay out the broad outlines of possible corporate training programs intended to keep others like Kevin Mitnick out of their computers and are well worth reading by anyone involved in protecting computer systems.

Jeffrey Barlow
Editor, Interface.

This entry was posted in Uncategorized by Editor. Bookmark the permalink.
[http://bcis.pacificu.edu/interface/?p=2767].

6 THOUGHTS ON “THE ART OF DECEPTION, CONTROLLING THE HUMAN ELEMENT OF SECURITY”

http://kliniksehatbahagia.com/
on January 30, 2014 at 1:24 AM said:

I don’t even know how I ended up here, but I thought this post was great. I don’t know who you are but certainly you are going too a famous blogger if youu aren’t already 😊 Cheers!

Http://Www.Ezietell.Com/Lurlenesam
on January 31, 2014 at 6:06 PM said:

Great information. Lucky me I came across your website by chance (stumbleupon).

I have bookmarked it for later!

?????????????? hay day
on February 4, 2014 at 10:48 PM said:
I meet with my team and we work through what we anticipate will be a solid plan for the following week. Using some of the rainwater for constructive use means less potential flood water poring down the drains or onto land.

00, but can change or be adjusted due to economic conditions.

---

**website design galway**  
on **February 5, 2014 at 1:56 AM** said:

There are some definitions for the term, but not all describe and define the term properly. These small businesses hired local teenagers to deliver products too other businesses and many were parishioners at the local churches and synagogues. Be it hand-sketch designing, computer-generated layout or snapwd photograph, the image galplery should seamlessly integrate with corporate identity and enhance its brand appeal.

---

**London Accountant**  
on **February 5, 2014 at 9:53 PM** said:

Hello, all is goinɡ sound here and ofcourse every one is sharing information, that’s genuinely good, keep up writing.

---

**selection of plus size lingeri**  
on **February 6, 2014 at 11:01 AM** said:

However, there are two crucial things you have to keep in mind while investing in lingerie; your comfort and body shape. A twddy usually a one-piece garment hat resembles the combination of a camisole and panties. There is something about the sexy lingerie that attracts women to buy.