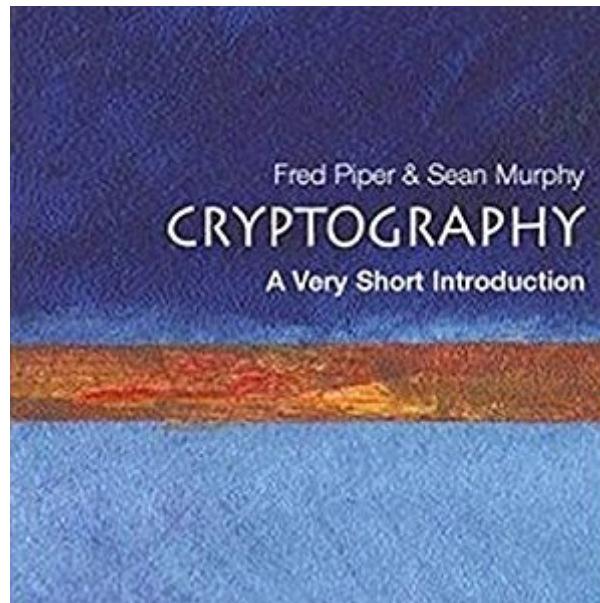




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Cryptography: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

This book is a clear and informative introduction to cryptography and data protection--subjects of considerable social and political importance. It explains what algorithms do, how they are used, the risks associated with using them, and why governments should be concerned. Important areas are highlighted, such as Stream Ciphers, block ciphers, public key algorithms, digital signatures, and applications such as e-commerce. This book highlights the explosive impact of cryptography on modern society, with, for example, the evolution of the internet and the introduction of more sophisticated banking methods. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Be aware that there are multiple errors on page 30, so don't get flustered and give up. It's a practice exercise, and a fun one, but if you get stumped, just use some ingenuity and keep moving through. I did a quick skim afterward for an answer key and a "surprise, we threw in some errors!", but didn't find it. So, if you think you're solving it and then a wrench gets thrown into the gears, just keep going and assume that it's one of the errors. With Kryptos, there are both intentional and accidental errors, so I just assumed each one was an error after I checked my own deduction, and kept going. Sure enough, things made sense, but there are "typos", so don't let that stop you. I was doing it in my head, so I got very frustrated having to second-guess myself, thinking that I made a mistake, because I DID make one letter mistake which I caught when it made its second appearance, before any of the errors were against me. Not having anything on paper, realizing a mistake that I made,

and then coming across more mistakes which I couldn't blame on myself and correct was very frustrating and confusing. Do it on paper and laugh at the sloppy mistakes, or do it in your head and know that you don't have to quadruple-check that it's not your own fault. Check once, know that they messed up, and don't let it ruin the fun...it almost ruined my fun. ...And that's how I spent my Thursday night without a girlfriend anymore. I'm not new to the idea of encryption since my background is in IT, but I wanted to do some serious learning and start from the ground floor to better understand the algorithms in practice. This book is the first of three I'm reading to correct any misunderstandings I may have had, and it's an easy and good read so far. I haven't finished it yet (I often get bored and skim, then move to a new book), but I may as well warn others of page 30 in the event I don't update my review. Good starter book. I'm glad I got it.

Great intro to cryptology book. I wanted something that covered the basics and set me up to dive deeper into the subject. I'm pleased to report this book did exactly that! It covers both the history and practical sides of cryptology. It also had a ton of examples and visual demonstrations which really helped me grasp the concepts behind cryptology. After reading this I am proud to say: DCDB CGTM ZXJH HZIY OCDN WJJF!

This is a fast trip from fundamental concepts to the everyday use of cryptography. I particularly enjoyed the stops at the use of encryption and at the key distribution challenges. The whole thing is put together in practical examples and you are then set to dive in details following the recommended references.

I was surprised that the booklet goes into the history of cryptography, but it's relatively thorough. Great resource if you need a quick, accurate, and complete review of the subject for people who aren't cryptologists or cryptographers.

It is hard to find a crypto book that achieves a good balance between math, theory and practice. This book scores a bullseye in balancing all three. I recommend it for newbies learning about crypto and also for security practitioners who want more perspective on the crypto aspects of their field. The only people it would not be suitable for are crypto specialists. In 133 pages of text, this book provides insight into history, algorithms, mathematical foundations and practical applications. It is also an enjoyable read!

If you want an accurate introduction to the concepts and vocabulary of cryptography, this is the book for you. The authors are clearly knowledgeable but manage to make the information provided accessible to the beginner. There are simple examples to acquaint you with some of the principles of coding and breaking codes. This is a complex subject and some of the ideas will take you into deep water. There is an excellent bibliography that one can refer to for more technical details. The book would benefit from a glossary of acronyms as some of the terminology was hard to keep straight. There could have been a little less discussion of key management. Over all a very useful and informative book.

Excellent readable discussion of a complex subject.

I didn't know about this series-- but they get RIGHT to the important issues. They don't have space to be fancy or complete, but to get a quick intro--- really excellent.

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