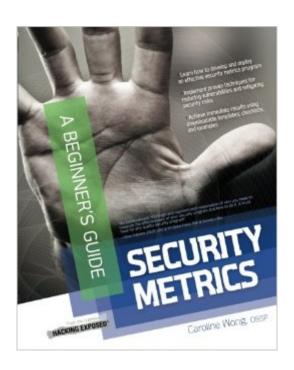# Security Metrics, A Beginner's Guide

Synopsis

Security Smarts for the Self-Guided IT Professional â œAn extraordinarily thorough and sophisticated explanation of why you need to measure the effectiveness of your security program and how to do it. A must-have for any quality security program!â • â •Dave Cullinane, CISSP, CISO & VP, Global Fraud, Risk & Security, eBay Learn how to communicate the value of an information security program, enable investment planning and decision making, and drive necessary change to improve the security of your organization. Security Metrics: A Beginner's Guide explains, step by step, how to develop and implement a successful security metrics program. This practical resource covers project management, communication, analytics tools, identifying targets, defining objectives, obtaining stakeholder buy-in, metrics automation, data quality, and resourcing. You'll also get details on cloud-based security metrics and process improvement. Templates, checklists, and examples give you the hands-on help you need to get started right away. Security Metrics: A Beginner's Guide features: Lingo--Common security terms defined so that you're in the know on the job IMHO--Frank and relevant opinions based on the author's years of industry experience Budget Note--Tips for getting security technologies and processes into your organization's budget In Actual Practice--Exceptions to the rules of security explained in real-world contexts Your Plan--Customizable checklists you can use on the job now Into Action--Tips on how, why, and when to apply new skills and techniques at work Caroline Wong, CISSP, was formerly the Chief of Staff for the Global Information Security Team at eBay, where she built the security metrics program from the ground up. She has been a featured speaker at RSA, ITWeb Summit, Metricon, the Executive Women's Forum, ISC2, and the Information Security Forum.

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Customer Reviews

There are plenty of books on the market that explain various security technologies. There are plenty of books that explain theory. And there are plenty that explain processes. Caroline Wong in her book, "Security Metrics: A Beginner's Guide" fills a much needed gap: how do make all this technology, theory and processes worthwhile.Every once in a while we get to read something that is so startlingly clear that we wonder why it took so long for somebody to write it. It isn't that we didn't know each step, it's we needed somebody to put the steps in order so we can get where we want to go. Caroline articulates where we want to go in a well thought out, logical, calculated and justifiable manner. Caroline provides the objective, justification and process for creating an exquisitely managed security metric program. She provides the justification for metrics, the approach to meaningful analysis, the process for defining and executing the project. The she demonstrates how to assure that management gets the right information at the right time.My only problem with this book is that the title suggests that it's not for seasoned or experienced security professionals. This is not just a beginner's guide; rather it is a practical and well-thought out roadmap for implementing a security metric program. Caroline even provides templates and checklists to support such a program. With this book in hand security teams are well armed to comply with the maxim: you have to measure it in order to manage it.

I was searching for a book that would provide a concise and easily understandable step-by-step guide to setting up a practical security metrics program. What I got was a disjointed and rambling master's thesis on how security metrics may be over complicated and turned into a program that would take 5 people and 200 hours a week to set up and maintain. If you are the CISO at Ford Motor Company, this might be a good book for you. If you are at a reasonably sized organization and are trying to share pragmatic security metrics with your board, or senior management, this is the farthest thing from helpful. Of the four books I puchased on metrics, this was by far the most pedantic. The checklists mentioned in another review are non-existent, and the section designed to put theory into action are not actions, they instead come up with something ridiculous that would get you thrown out of a metrics peer review meeting, let alone a boardroom. Great for a masters thesis, or if you are in a job that does nothing else but security metrics, or you are recovering at home for six weeks from a car accident, but you still won't come away with much that is actionable.

I have a master's degree in information security and have been in industry a little over a year now. After reading this book, I have a better understanding of how to prioritize my projects and utilize resources more efficiently. One of my struggles thus far has been to get buy-in from management. This book addressed some of my concerns by giving tips on how to use historical data and time parameters to my advantage. This is an easy read and the author does a great job of making the readers think by asking questions throughout the chapters. I believe this is a great guide for any security professional, not just beginners!

Finally, a good resource on security metrics that doesn't take a degree in calculus to implement! A great how-to book on metrics, but also goes beyond to explain the fundamentals for an information security program. - Lisa Lee, an Information Security Professional

Caroline Wong has done an excellent job with providing the reader with all the important selling points for a Security Program. How will you know you are successful if you don't measure your results? In each chapter, she provides her own experiences with thoughtful and witty commentary. I love the checklists and templates she provides! With this book, you will get the results you need and drive your program ahead. Excellent, excellent book! I recommend it to anyone who is either entering into the field or others already in the field, but want a new look at how to measure their success.

I am a security consultant and one of the more common questions I get is, "How do I create good security metrics?" I always recommend they start by reading Caroline's book. The book takes you through the basics of security metrics, what makes a good metric and what doesn't, along with guidelines on building out a set of metrics that are meaningful to you.I have had the luck to meet and hear Caroline Wong. When I read this book, I can hear Caroline's voice. It is true to her voice. Go search Caroline Wong on Youtube and then buy the book.

For the people studying the IT field this book has good information. The forms can be adapted at the real work environment, very helpful. I will recommend the book.

Security Metrics, A Beginner's Guide Social Security & Medicare Facts 2016: Social Security Coverage, Maximization Strategies for Social Security Benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security

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