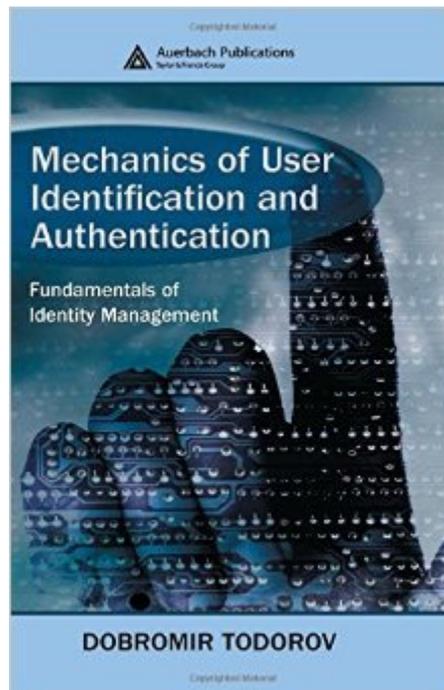# Mechanics Of User Identification And Authentication: Fundamentals Of Identity Management

Synopsis

User identification and authentication are essential parts of information security. Users must authenticate as they access their computer systems at work or at home every day. Yet do users understand how and why they are actually being authenticated, the security level of the authentication mechanism that they are using, and the potential impacts of selecting one authentication mechanism or another?Introducing key concepts, Mechanics of User Identification and Authentication: Fundamentals of Identity Management outlines the process of controlled access to resources through authentication, authorization, and accounting in an in-depth, yet accessible manner. It examines today's security landscape and the specific threats to user authentication. The book then outlines the process of controlled access to resources and discusses the types of user credentials that can be presented as proof of identity prior to accessing a computer system. It also contains an overview on cryptography that includes the essential approaches and terms required for understanding how user authentication works.This book provides specific information on the user authentication process for both UNIX and Windows. Addressing more advanced applications and services, the author presents common security models such as GSSAPI and discusses authentication architecture. Each method is illustrated with a specific authentication scenario.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are a practicing security professional, buy this book! Todorov has spent a lot of time in the lab working through how our authentication technologies work and offers clear descriptions and sage

advice on how they actually work and should be used in practice.This is not a rehash of vendor documentation and RFCs but a real look "under the covers" at a core capability our security infrastructure must support.It's probably not a book you'll read from cover to cover as it's too detailed. But I would strongly encourage you to read the indtroductory material and then dip into the chapters dealing with the particular methods you use (or are thinking about using) in your own work.Then place the book on your shelf as a ready reference when you need a well-organized reference to a particular technology.

This is a great reference book for those in the IT field. This really helps develop an understanding of how authentication technologies work under the hood in a clear and concise manner. There really aren't many other sources out that explain the amount of technologies covered in this book...To those who say this is old, the computer security field is too fast paced to keep up with! Read this book so you develop an understanding of how the technologies operate under the hood and it will be easier to understand the new stuff.Mr. Todorov, I tip my hat to you! Thanks!

I apply Enterprize Architecture techniques to my work and in short this considers the interlinking importance of business, information, applications, and technology in any analysis. Mechanics of User Identication and Authentication is firmly in the technology layer with some overlap in the application layer. It includes considerable depth in this area not only based on its 726 page count but also in the considerable detail provided and therefore provides a high degree of value for the dollar. If you are looking for one identity management technical reference book then you should consider this one. However if you are looking for an introductory book in identity management then this book is not for you. It offers separate chapters on UNIX and Windows and subsequent chapters drill into considerable detail into other authentication and related protocols. I do not have the knowledge to comment on the technical accuracy of this book but it will be the first one I reach for as my identity management project proceeds.

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