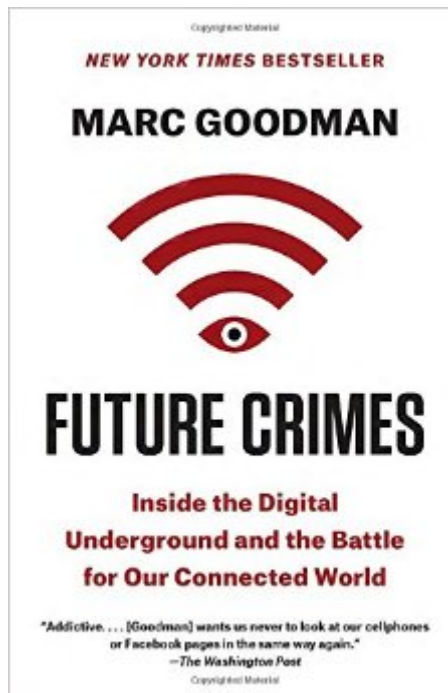# Future Crimes: Inside The Digital Underground And The Battle For Our Connected World

Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES and WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLERTechnological advances have benefited our world in immeasurable ways, but there is an ominous flip side: our technology can be turned against us. And just over the horizon is a tidal wave of scientific progress that will leave our heads spinning—from implantable medical devices to drones and 3-D printers, all of which can be hacked, with disastrous consequences. With explosive insights based on a career in law enforcement and counterterrorism, leading authority on global security Marc Goodman takes readers on a vivid journey through the darkest recesses of the Internet. He explores how bad actors are primed to hijack the technologies of tomorrow. Provocative, thrilling, and ultimately empowering, Future Crimes will serve as an urgent call to action that shows how we can take back control of our own devices and harness technology's tremendous power for the betterment of humanity—before it's too late.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm writing this review on the day in which the news reported a massive hack at Anthem, exposing the private information of 80 million Americans, including names, birth dates, social security numbers, email addresses...everything an identity thief could use to good advantage to ruin your life. So the title of the book is actually wrong. These crimes are not from the future, they are happening even as I write this. The subtitle, "Everything is connected, everyone is vulnerable and what we can do about it" is misleading. From all I can see, there's very little the average person can do.Even if you dropped off the grid this second, closing your Google gmail account, your Facebook

account, your online banking account, it wouldn't make a difference, since their information can be stored indefinitely. You will live in cyber space for generations to come. I recently had occasion to look for work, and many companies required me to check their website rather than approach them in person. When I found a position, the application was online. My new job requires an email address. If I go into a bricks and mortar store, my credit card history is stored in their computers. When I go to the doctor, the whole clinic has an electronic platform with my medical history. There is no escape.Is it convenient for people to shop, access medical and financial records, search the Internet, play games, watch movies, and chat with friends online? Absolutely. Our lives are much easier because of technology. But the law of unintended consequences applies, and what is easier for us is easier for thieves. They can topple governments and corporations and the little guy alike.This is an interesting book, but unfortunately it is also extremely depressing and frightening.

Marc Goodman knows digital security. He can also talk about it in detail without getting lost in technical language that may bore the reader. While there could have been repetitive stuff removed from this long tomb, he clearly understands the vulnerability of being connected, and how easily we all want the convenience of cloud storage, online banking,online shopping, or having our social media open to anyone to admire and praise.Cybercrime pays and Goodman wrote 392 pages telling the story of how cyber criminals have been getting away with this. Innovative Marketing, Inc (a company also known by the FTC by other names such as Billingnow, BillPlanet PTE Ltd., Globedat, Innovative Marketing Ukraine, Revenue Response, Sunwell, Synergy Software BV, Winpayment Consultancy SPC, Winsecure Solutions, and Winsolutions FZ-LLC) and Partnerkas are two felonous companies he sets as an example, but there are others out there. The first trick is to embed the virus in a legitimate ad or program so that unsuspecting people can download these and reinfect their own systems.Then there are the big crime gangs, the mafia, who control so much of the cyber crime internationally. They can control the world because they have some of the best hackers working for them, and making good money for it. Some of the stories Goodman recounts are quite hairy, such as doing quick google searches of business executives at airports via smart phones to determine which business executive is the most profitable (to kidnap). Then there's the tactic of crowd sourcing, where a business places a fake ad for employment, only to unwittingly recruit people to commit a crime. Some of these stories are so unbelievable, they are frightening.

It always bothers me when I concur with a book's core assertions, and must recommend audiences not read it anyway. With nonfiction, this usually happens when an author draws our attention to

neglected topics, especially those which have often unexamined implications, but the author doesn't stage the argument well. Maybe it reflects my background in teaching composition, but nothing sours my appreciation like an undifferentiated firehose of information. Such is the case with Marc Goodman.Ex-LAPD turned global digital security consultant, Marc Goodman has participated in increasing corporate and private security measures. This gives him boots-on-the-ground familiarity with how organized crime, espionage specialists, and crafty teenagers abuse today's networked world. When ordinary citizens send credit card information across WiFi or smartphones, when social networks market access to private eyeballs, and when market trackers create massive profiles of everybody online, we're unprecedentedly vulnerable. As Goodman puts it, "Mo' Screens, Mo' Problems."My problem isn't anything Goodman says. Informed audiences should already understand his broad outline, though he helpfully provides clarifying details. Those Terms of Service agreements you accept without reading? The average American would need 76 eight-hour workdays annually to read them all. PayPal's Terms of Service runs nearly 40,000 words--longer than Dostoevsky's Notes From Underground, without characters or motivations. Even if you read them, most include stipulations that "they" can change terms without notice.Meanwhile, criminals have developed elaborate processes to circumvent security. Goodman notes, security specialists must anticipate every possible attack; lawbreakers need only find one liability.

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