

Preface to the 2nd Edition

When I met Ron Krutz at a security seminar in Brooklyn, N.Y., in December 1999, neither of us had any idea what was ahead of us.

We became friendly enough to lunch together at Junior's, a long-time NYC landmark, renowned for its New York-style cheesecake. When the class was done, we returned to our respective home bases and kept in touch.

Ron and I had discussed writing a book that would aid CISSP candidates in scaling the huge mountain of study material required to prepare for the CISSP exam, and with the help and patience of Carol Long the "CISSP Prep Guide" came to fruition.

During those months of writing the text, we never imagined the impact this book would have. When the book was published in August 2001, it immediately became a nonfiction best seller. It stayed on the Amazon Hot 100 list for more than four months, and was the top-selling computer book of the year.

The information systems security community's endorsement of the book was heartening, and we were very pleased to receive feedback from readers, that ran along the lines of:

"...this book is the key to the kingdom."

"...is exactly what CISSP candidates need to prepare for the exam."

"I've been teaching the CISSP material for some time now and will make this our new text. This is a GREAT book - must have"

"This book is a great review book. It's easy-to-read."

"...very detailed, more organized, and overall a better preparation for the exam than [another] book."

"The authors got right to the point, which when studying for this test can save you hours upon hours."

"...written in a very clear style that flows well."

"...the additional information provided in each appendix make this not only a required study tool, but also a 'must have' reference."

"Consider it required reading."

"I passed the test the first time and I attribute that fact to this book."

The "Prep Guide" has spawned a raft of information systems security material, including: six additional books between us; translations of our books into Korean, Finnish, Japanese, two Chinese dialects and other languages; the creation of Wiley's popular security certification book series; and the development of our new security certification training seminars.

But since that time, some things have endured and flourished, not the least being my continuing friendship with Ron Krutz. His professionalism and integrity have been an example for me,

especially through the dark days after 9/11 and into our continuing work combating cyber-terrorism.

But the most important thing we have recognized is this: The fundamental tenets of computer security must be understood by everyone who works in information technology, not just those with a security background. We feel genuine satisfaction that we're helping others learn how to protect computing infrastructure globally.

Through the "CISSP Prep Guide," a computer professional can get his or her feet wet in the many disparate domains that comprise the world of information systems security. We're happy to have played a part.

And we're still crazy about Junior's cheesecake.

Russell Dean Vines

December 15, 2003