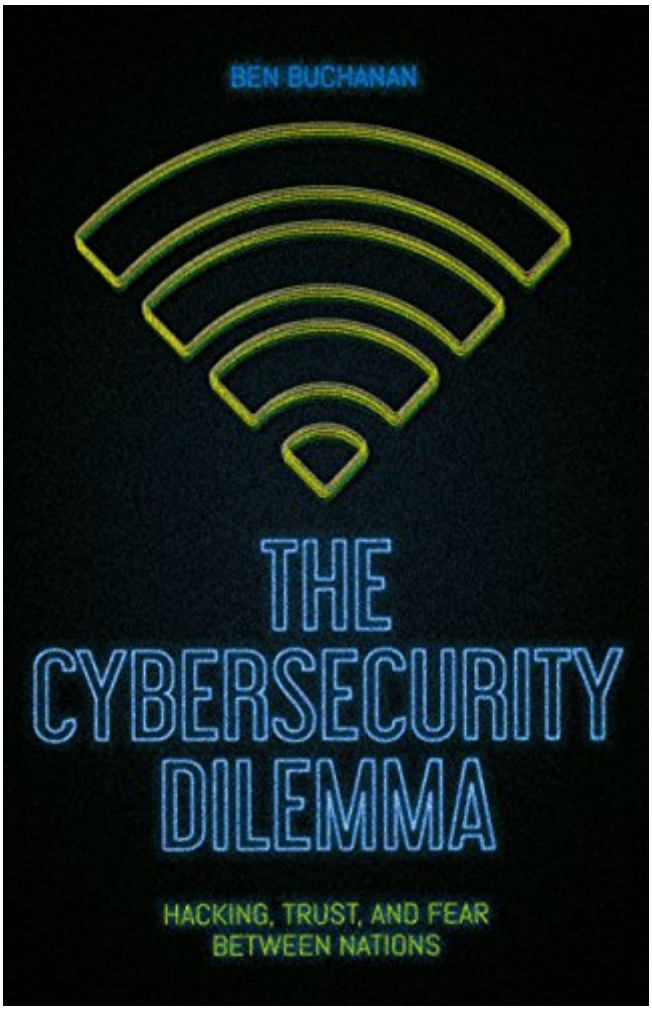
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The Cybersecurity Dilemma: Hacking, Trust And Fear Between Nations



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Synopsis

Why do nations break into one another’s most important computer networks? There is an obvious answer: to steal valuable information or to attack. But this isn’t the full story. This book draws on often-overlooked documents leaked by Edward Snowden, real-world case studies of cyber operations, and policymaker perspectives to show that intruding into other countries’ networks has enormous defensive value as well. Two nations, neither of which seeks to harm the other but neither of which trusts the other, will often find it prudent to launch intrusions. This general problem, in which a nation’s means of securing itself threatens the security of others and risks escalating tension, is a bedrock concept in international relations and is called the ’security dilemma’. This book shows not only that the security dilemma applies to cyber operations, but also that the particular characteristics of the digital domain mean that the effects are deeply pronounced. The cybersecurity dilemma is both a vital concern of modern statecraft and a means of accessibly understanding the essential components of cyber operations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Accessible. Interesting. Flawless. Buchanan manages to provide a comprehensive yet succinct overview of the cybersecurity dilemma, tying fascinating historical examples to a completely objective analysis with seamless ease. Even under the most critical eye, his writing would leave no room for objection, as he has carefully addressed and acknowledged the matter from all angles and perspectives. I am left only with questions regarding how the dilemma will play out in our future - as there is no doubt that such thorough research has answered every other question I might have had about our current state of affairs. I am particularly impressed by Buchanan's aptitude for captivating laymen and experts alike, especially given his incredible and detailed mastery of this subject. He is perhaps most gifted in his ability to present such a formidably complicated idea in a way that does not scare or demean an inexperienced reader. His book is truly for everyone.

Buchanan provides an illuminating synthesis of the strategic and the tactical by combining concepts from international relations with a keen technical understanding of cyber capabilities and operations. In doing so, he shows how the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“security dilemma,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• long a central principle of IR, can be applied in cyberspace to better understand the risks that nations run from both offensive and defensive cyber operations. Importantly, he demonstrates that, even when operating with a purely defensive intent, a nationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s cyber actions can lead to escalations of tension and, ultimately, to the very cyber conflicts it seeks to avoid. By drawing on a wide array of technical reports, declassified documents, and policy perspectives, and by making judicious use of documents released by Edward Snowdon, Buchanan has created an accessible book that is readable, well sourced, and laced with powerful examples. This cogent text will be an important reference for those trying to design effective cyber policies and operations and for all who seek a clearer understanding of this murky field.

The transparency Dr. Buchanan presents is useful not only for the spatial properties of cybersecurity. I am finding this work beneficial as a new perspective on furtive methods I could never dream of on my own. The relations between subjectivity, objectivity, and intersubjectivity outlined in The Cybersecurity Dilemma provides an unclouded honeypot axiom for me.It is a pleasure reading this newly published book!

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