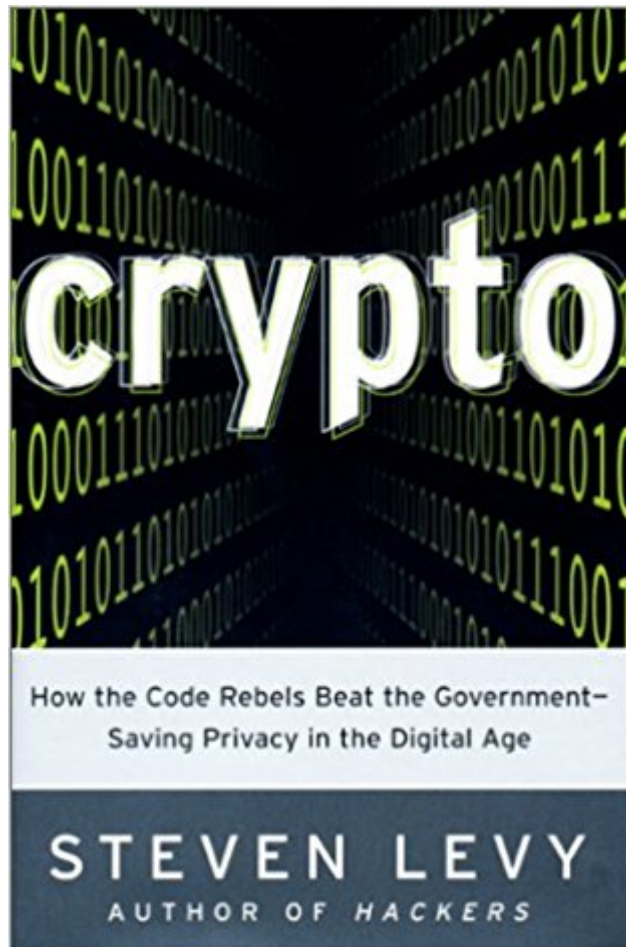


The book was found

Crypto: How The Code Rebels Beat The Government--Saving Privacy In The Digital Age



Synopsis

From the author who made "hackers" a household word, a groundbreaking book about the most hotly debated subject of the digital age. Crypto is about privacy in the information age and about the nerds and visionaries who, nearly twenty years ago, predicted that the Internet's greatest virtue-free access to information-was also its most perilous drawback: a possible end to privacy. Levy explores what turned out to be a decisive development in the crypto wars: the unlikely alliance between the computer geeks and big business as they fought the government's stranglehold on the keys to information in a networked world. The players come alive here in a narrative that reads like the best of futuristic spy fiction. There is Whit Diffie, the long-haired Newton of crypto who invented the astounding "public key" solution; David Chaum, whose "anonymously digital money" actually threatened the global financial infrastructure; and "cypherpunks" like Phil Zimmermann, who freely distributed military-strength codes under the nose of the U. S. government. There is also the first behind-the-scenes account of what the secretive National Security Agency really had in mind when it created the controversial "clipper chip"-and how the Clinton administration bungled the operation. Cryptography-the use of secret codes-has traditionally been the province of puzzle geeks and government spies. But just in time for the Internet-which radically alters the way we share information-a band of outsiders triggered a revolution in this once-cloistered field. But this was a revolution that the government wanted to kill....

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Viking Adult; First Edition edition (January 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670859508

ISBN-13: 978-0670859504

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (65 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #770,805 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #178 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Security & Encryption > Encryption](#) #195 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Security & Encryption > Cryptography](#) #264 in [Books > Computers & Technology > History & Culture > History](#)

Customer Reviews

Levy is one of my favorite essayists. He finds a compelling story, researches it exhaustively, and then shares his excitement. The history of Internet cryptography is a perfect subject for Levy, who delights in recounting stories about technoradicals with new ideas who see them through to fruition. Encryption truly is one of the most critical technologies necessary for a smoothly functioning virtual world, and is very much the case that the U.S. Federal Government successfully delayed the general availability of strong encryption for at least a decade. (Future economists may point back to the last two decades of the 20th century and show how this failed government policy was responsible for the loss of U.S. dominance in the high-tech market.) It would have been easy to take the politically correct road and portray the Feds as being evil conspirators, bent on maintaining their own power and pride at the expense of the entire world. Levy chooses a more balanced approach, depicting the NSA in nearly heroic terms. He is especially sympathetic towards Clint Brooks (a name I did not know), an NSA lifer who developed the key escrow concept as a compromise that would allow widespread public utilization of strong encryption while still allowing law enforcement (and of course, intelligence agencies), the ability to intercept communications under controlled circumstances. If both the NSA and their philosophical opponents are heroes with noble goals, a tragic ending is inevitable, which adds an element of pathos to this triumph of democracy. As a former software vendor, I've been totally frustrated by both the crypto export laws and by the NSA attitude of "If you only knew what we knew, you wouldn't even ask that question."

This book is an entertaining account of many of the people and episodes involved in making cryptography and cryptanalysis a respectable and important topic of work for scientists and engineers not affiliated with any government agency. The incidents recounted that I happen to know about personally are well and accurately described here. But there are a couple of gaps. First, some of the key players "on the outside" are not mentioned; this may well be because most of those who aren't mentioned by now are "insiders." But this results in some of this book being a bit misleading. For example, serious work on cryptanalysis by outsiders, including one piece of work that Admiral Inman, when head of NSA, described as "the most brilliant piece of civilian cryptanalysis since World War II", was already going on by the late 1970s; this had serious national security implications, and helps to explain why NSA was so ambivalent about "outsiders" engaging in *any* crypto research. Overall, although NSA goofed badly several times, I think they managed to keep a more balanced view on the issue than I might have expected. The fact that Levy doesn't mention some of the key "outsider" work suggests to me that he may not have talked with (or at least didn't gain the confidence of) such people as Cipher Deavours and David Kahn, who could have given

him perspective on the "outsider" work that he doesn't discuss. Secondly, I infer that he was unable to get any of the NSA side of the story from NSA itself. This is a pity. It's presumably not Levy's fault; NSA only talks to people it decides to talk to, and then says only what it decides needs to be said. I assume that Levy tried to get information from NSA and failed; I don't know.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government--Saving Privacy in the Digital Age Online Privacy and Social Media (Privacy in the Online World) Judas Priest: Metal Gods (Rebels of Rock) (Rebels of Rock (Paperback)) Grateful Dead: What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been (Rebels of Rock) (Rebels of Rock (Paperback)) Cryptocurrency: Guide To Digital Currency: Digital Coin Wallets With Bitcoin, Dogecoin, Litecoin, Speedcoin, Feathercoin, Fedoracoin, Infinitecoin, and ... Digital Wallets, Digital Coins Book 1) 2012 International Plumbing Code (Includes International Private Sewage Disposal Code) (International Code Council Series) Postcards from the Underground: Portraits of the Beat Era (Portraits of the Beat Generation) Money: Saving Money: Success: Get More Money & Success In Your Life Now!: 3 in 1 Box Set: Money Making Strategies, Saving Money Strategies & World's Best ... Tips for Personal Finance & Life Success) Money: Saving Money: The Top 100 Best Ways To Make Money & Save Money: 2 books in 1: Making Money & Saving Money (Personal Finance, Making Money, Save Money, Wealth Building, Money) Personal Finance: Budgeting and Saving Money (FREE Bonuses Included) (Finance, Personal Finance, Budget, Budgeting, Budgeting Money, Save Money, Saving Money, Money) Barron's AP U.S. Government and Politics, 9th Edition (Barron's AP United States Government & Politics) American Government : Test Prep Workbook for Government Government Jobs Insider: Cashing in on the US Government Job Hiring Boom Government is Killing the Economy: The Economic Impact of Regulation and Government Mismanagement on the U.S. Economy ? Common Sense Thoughts on Finding A Cure Science for Sale: How the US Government Uses Powerful Corporations and Leading Universities to Support Government Policies, Silence Top Scientists, Jeopardize Our Health, and Protect Corporate Profits How to Get Free Government Grant Money for Almost Anything: How to Get Free Government Grants and Money Cost Management and Control in Government: A Proven, Practical Leadership Driven Management Approach to Fighting the Cost War in Government (Managerial Accounting Collection) Digital Painting Techniques: Practical Techniques of Digital Art Masters (Digital Art Masters Series) Photography: DSLR Photography Secrets and Tips to Taking Beautiful Digital Pictures (Photography, DSLR, cameras, digital photography, digital pictures, portrait photography, landscape photography) Photography: Complete Guide to Taking Stunning, Beautiful Digital Pictures (photography, stunning digital, great pictures, digital photography, portrait ... landscape

photography, good pictures)

[Dmca](#)