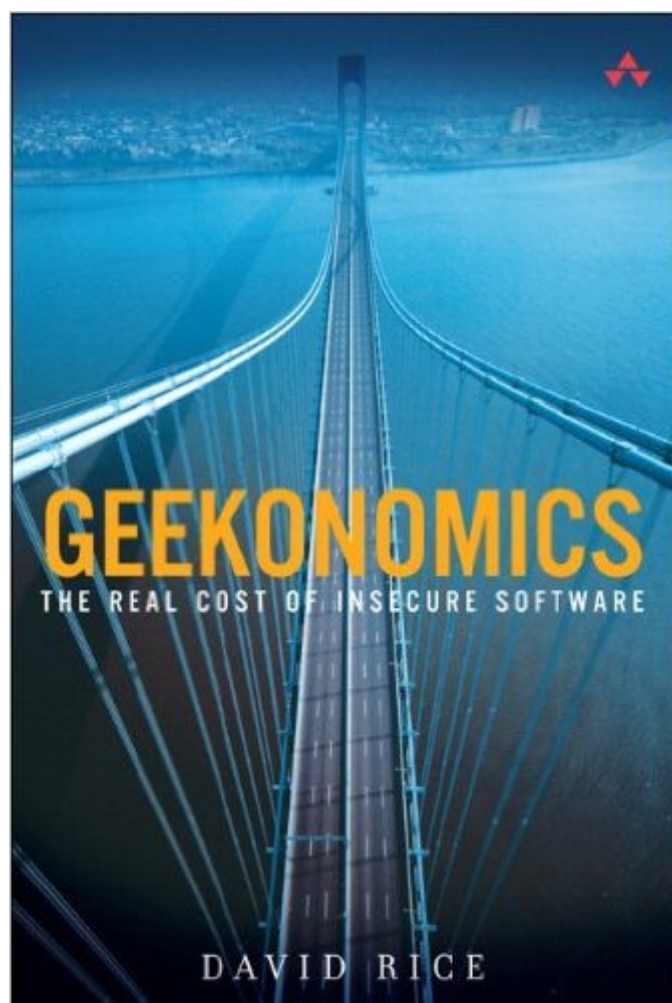# Geekonomics: The Real Cost Of Insecure Software (paperback)

Synopsis

The Real Cost of Insecure Software Â â ¢Â Â In 1996, software defects in a Boeing 757 caused a crash that killed 70 peopleâ | â ¢Â Â In 2003, a software vulnerability helped cause the largest U.S. power outage in decadesâ | â ¢Â Â In 2004, known software weaknesses let a hacker invade T-Mobile, capturing everything from passwords to Paris Hiltonâ ™s photosâ | â ¢Â Â In 2005, 23,900 Toyota Priuses were recalled for software errors that could cause the cars to shut down at highway speedsâ | â ¢Â Â In 2006 dubbed â œThe Year of Cybercrime,â • 7,000 software vulnerabilities were discovered that hackers could use to access private informationâ | â ¢Â Â In 2007, operatives in two nations brazenly exploited software vulnerabilities to cripple the infrastructure and steal trade secrets from other sovereign nationsâ | Software has become crucial to the very survival of civilization. But badly written, insecure software is hurting peopleâ "and costing businesses and individuals billions of dollars every year. This must change. In Geekonomics, David Rice shows how we can change it. Â Rice reveals why the software industry is rewarded for carelessness, and how we can revamp the industryâ ™s incentives to get the reliability and security we desperately need and deserve. Youâ ™ll discover why the software industry still has shockingly little accountabilityâ "and what we must do to fix that.   Brilliantly written, utterly compelling, and thoroughly realistic, Geekonomics is a long-overdue call to arms. Whether youâ ™re software user, decision maker, employee, or business owner this book will change your lifeâ |or even save it.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Addison-Wesley Professional; 1 edition (December 9, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0321735978

ISBN-13: 978-0321735973

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #962,221 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #21 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing & Engineering > Quality Control   #476 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science > Systems Analysis & Design   #523 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Security & Encryption > Privacy & Online Safety

Customer Reviews

I really, really liked Geekonomics, and I think all security and even technology professionals should read it. Why not give the book five stars then? The reasons are twofold: 1) the book fails to adequately differentiate between safety and security; and 2) the chapter on open source demonstrates fundamental misconceptions that unfortunately detract from the author's message. If you are kind enough to keep the thoughts in this review in mind when reading Geekonomics, you will find the book to be thoughtful and exceptionally helpful.It is important to remember that Geekonomics is almost exclusively a vulnerability-centric book. Remember that the "risk equation" is usually stated as "risk = vulnerability X threat X impact". While it is silly to assign numbers to these factors, you can see that decreasing vulnerability while keeping threat and impact constant results in decreased risk. This is the author's thesis. Rice believes the governing issue in software security is the need to reduce vulnerability.The problem with this approach is that life is vulnerability. It is simply too difficult to eliminate enough vulnerability in order to reduce risk in the real world. Most real world security is accomplished by reducing threats. In other words, the average citizen does not reduce the risk of being murdered by wearing an electrified, mechanized armor suit, thereby mitigating the vulnerability of his soft flesh and breakable neck. Instead, he relies on the country's legal system and police force to deter, investigate, apprehend, prosecute, and incarcerate threats.Consider now the issue of safety vs security. The author makes comparisons using the London sewer, various aspects of driving, and the New York subway system.

Depending on who you ask, mankind has survived on this planet for somewhere between 10,000 and 160,000 years. However, we are the first generation to be dependent on software. Geekonomics opens with a discussion of the importance of cement and how crucial it is to our civilization. From roads to sewers, cement is our infrastructure and I could not agree more. After the driest summer since they have been measuring such things, the rain has been falling and falling and falling and my farm is one big mudhole. Every unimproved road is dangerous and some of the asphalt is failing. So I am replacing and improving with cement. It is expensive, but cement roads will outlast me, my son and his sons. Software is as important to infrastructure as cement as a foundation of civilization asserts the author of Geekonomics, David Rice, but while considerable energy has been expended to normalize the manufacture and application of cement, much less work has been done with software.While the cement roads we are putting in will last a hundred or more years, the author points out that software is often essentially obsolete by the time the consumer takes possession of it. In fact, consumers value innovation so much, that it is prized

above security even if a quick look at the news shows us the cumulative effect of software failure leading to data breach. At this exact moment, according to privacyrights.org, 216,770,536 consumer records have been lost. As Rice points out, in the 1970s the criminal underground realized there was more money to be made, at less risk of being caught, trafficking in drugs than other forms of crime, so it became a big thing.

Geekonomics: The Real Cost of Insecure Software (paperback) Geekonomics: The Real Cost of Insecure Software The Mystery at Jamestown (Real Kids, Real Places) (Real Kids! Real Places! (Paperback)) The Real Book of Real Estate: Real Experts. Real Stories. Real Life Insecure in Love: How Anxious Attachment Can Make You Feel Jealous, Needy, and Worried and What You Can Do About It Rsmeans Assemblies Cost Data: Assemblies Cost Data RSMeans Concrete and Masonry Cost Data 2016 (Rsmeans Concrete/Masonry Cost Data) RSMeans Building Construction Cost Data 2012 (Means Building Construction Cost Data) RSMeans Heavy Construction Cost Data 2012(Means Heavy Construction Cost Data) Cost Management and Control in Government: A Proven, Practical Leadership Driven Management Approach to Fighting the Cost War in Government (Managerial Accounting Collection) Software Engineering Classics: Software Project Survival Guide/ Debugging the Development Process/ Dynamics of Software Development (Programming/General) Surreptitious Software: Obfuscation, Watermarking, and Tamperproofing for Software Protection: Obfuscation, Watermarking, and Tamperproofing for Software Protection Real Estate: 25 Best Strategies for Real Estate Investing, Home Buying and Flipping Houses (Real Estate, Real Estate Investing, home buying, flipping houses, ... income, investing, entrepreneurship) Real Estate: 30 Best Strategies to Prosper in Real Estate - Real Estate Investing, Financing & Cash Flow (Real Estate Investing, Flipping Houses, Brokers, Foreclosure) Real Science-4-Kids Chemistry Pre-Level I Student Workbook (Real Science-4-Kids (Paperback)) The Real Cost of Fracking: How America's Shale Gas Boom Is Threatening Our Families, Pets, and Food Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World Real-Time Systems and Programming Languages: Ada, Real-Time Java and C/Real-Time POSIX (4th Edition) (International Computer Science Series) What NOT to Write: Real Essays, Real Scores, Real Feedback (California Edition) (LawTutors California Bar Exam Essay Books) Yellow Roses Student Book: Real Girls. Real Life. Real Hope. (NavPress Devotional Readers)