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You Have Mail: True Stories Of Cybercrime (24/7: Science Behind The Scenes: Spy Files)



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Book Information

Series: 24/7: Science Behind the Scenes: Spy Files

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Customer Reviews

I bought many titles from this series for my middle and high school students. They were popular with both boys and girls. Boys are particularly difficult to provide for in a reading classroom, this series resolved that problem. They were excited to read them and didn't resent writing about what they'd read. I recommend the 24/7 series to all teachers. They're a great classroom library builder.

Edit: This is a fine book with (mostly) good information. See my comments about pp. 26 and 51, below. I only wish it had been a bit more truthful when discussing the risk of large-scale cyberattack. From p. 24: "...none of these attacks were launched by terrorists. Most experts say that terrorists

don't yet have the hacking skills needed to wage cyberwar. They believe it's unlikely that terrorists could ever launch an assault that would cripple the country."Well, strictly speaking, that's true, if by terrorists you mean non-state actors. But the sentence is quite misleading. In 2007, many essential services in the small, but highly computerized, country of Estonia were taken offline. Google for Estonia cyber attack and you'll get many accounts, from Wired, The Guardian, NBC, US News and others. Among the web sites attacked and driven offline: The presidency and parliament, many government ministries, political parties, newspapers, banks, news organizations... you get the idea. This "Cyber War I" should have been mentioned, even highlighted. Added: On p. 26, this book says that the Internet isn't always risky, "especially if users are careful." I disagree. There are drive-by downloads from legitimate web sites that either themselves have been hacked, or that are using third-party web services like advertising, logins, e-commerce, etc., and THOSE services have been hacked. Visit those legitimate web sites and WHAM! your computer is hacked. Or your browser is hijacked. If you share an account across multiple device, like, say, running the Google Chrome browser on both Windows and iOS, a browser hijack on Windows will sync over to an iOS device. This happened to me. I had to uninstall Google Chrome from my iPad, and my iPhone, and use the more powerful disinfection tools on my Windows computer to clean up my Google profile. This is hard work! On p. 51 the book says "Protect yourself by installing strong firewalls and anti-virus software. Be sure to update it regularly." Several points here: 1) Just installing anti-virus software isn't enough. Review the settings and, when you understand what a setting does, make it more restrictive. Pay close attention to the scan schedule. (At least one well-regarded antivirus software -- Avast -- has a fine free version. But you must initiate scans yourself.) 2) Sometimes it's worth getting the "internet protection suite" instead of just the antivirus program. You want to prevent intrusions, not just find 'em after they've infected your computer. 3) Install one or more supplementary programs (not a second anti-virus program; only one of those at a time). I like MBAM and MBAE. I get the free versions. Again, the subscription versions ("pro" versions) have advantages. 4) What is a "strong firewall." You mean the firewalls built into Windows and macOS are inadequate? What about my iOS devices, and my Android devices, and my e-readers, and my game consoles? 5) It's generally a good idea to update the operating system whenever new updates are offered. But iOS 10 has recently had a couple or three updates that first introduced the "Battery Bug" and then did not fix it. And Microsoft has started bundling several updates together so that if an update goes bad you can't back out the bad one until a fix comes along. 6) Just updating the OS doesn't update the apps you have installed. You might need to take separate steps to update them. 7) Adobe Flash, and Java, are frequently attacked, and frequently need security updates. If

possible, remove them from your system.8) What about your household WiFi router?There's a lot of detail "covered" by the happy, easy sentences on this page.Overall, I like the brisk tone and interest-generating approach this book uses. But ... where do curious readers go for more serious information?Page 54 ("Do You Have What It Takes?"), about getting a job protecting the Internet, looks GREAT! Love those questions!

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