

Forward to [A Data-Driven Computer Security Defense](#)

Here's a simple question. Suppose you manage the bus transit system for a large city. One of your lines, call it X, doesn't have enough busses to load all awaiting passengers, while all of your other lines are able to board those waiting. Would it be more prudent to add an additional bus or two to line X or replace all of your busses with shiny new ones?

Assuming there are no other significant issues at play, such as the need to convert to more energy efficient busses, the answer should be a no brainer. Yet, many companies are doing exactly the opposite when it comes to computer security. Instead of using a few resources to address the threats they actually experience, they're buying costly products that do not solve their security problems.

It doesn't have to be this way, and that's why this book is so important. After explaining why security defenses are not aligned with security risks, it shows how the problem can be corrected.

Roger Grimes knows what he's talking about. He's had decades of experience helping hundreds of companies identify their security problems and determine what they need to do to fix them. He knows what works – and what doesn't.

Roger won't tell you to buy some expensive security product that won't mitigate you're biggest problems. He'll show you how to spend your dollars wisely to defend against the threats you actually face.

The trick to establishing a sound security program rests on two key principles. First, base your decisions on solid data about how hackers subvert your network. Second, prioritize your threats so that you put your resources where they're most needed. The objective is to manage your risk and do so efficiently.

It won't do you any good to install the latest security gizmo if the hackers are exploiting your unpatched software. You need to know how they are getting in and align your security defenses accordingly.

This book will show you how to do that. It's also a good read.

Dorothy E. Denning
Emeritus Distinguished Professor
Naval Postgraduate School