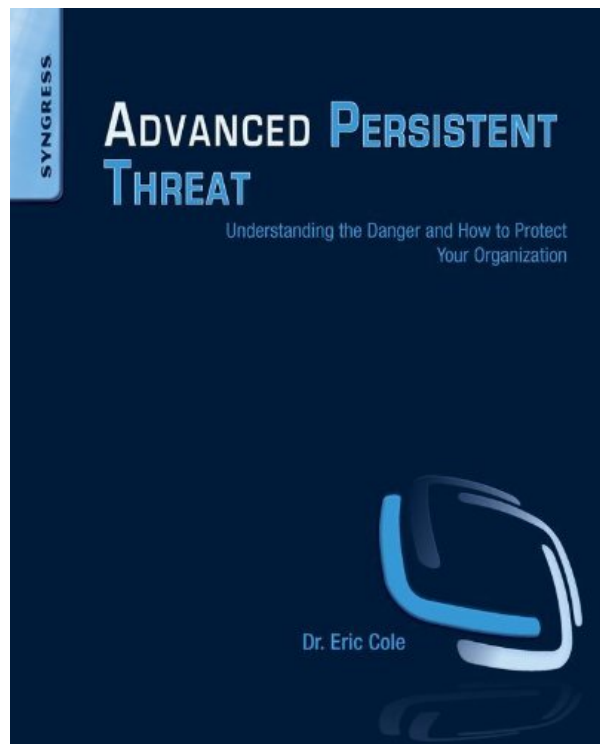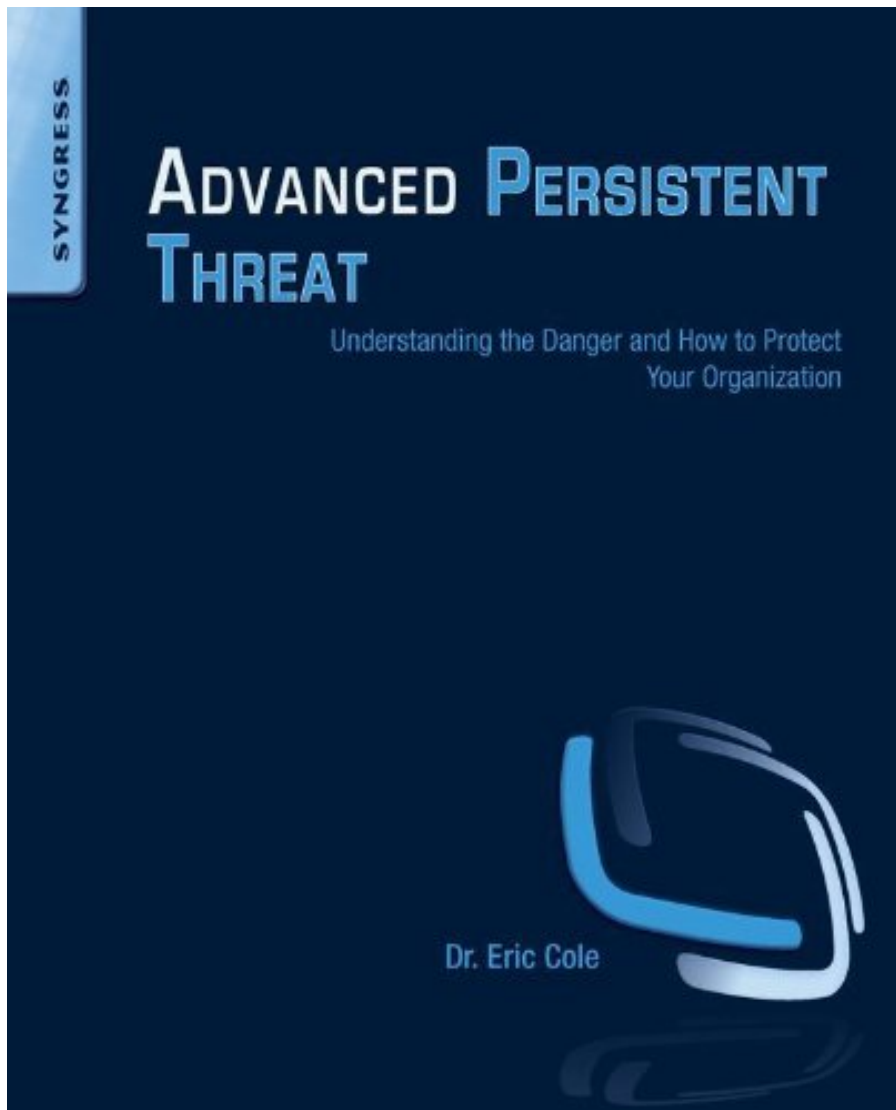# ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT: UNDERSTANDING THE DANGER AND HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ORGANIZATION BY ERIC COLE

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Review

"Cole explains why advanced persistence threats are able to bypass security measures on many large computer systems and recommends how to protect an organization's data from these well-organized attackers." --Reference and Research Book News, August 2013

"This book should come in handy to anyone who's tasked with protecting an organization's networks… definitely worth it, as it is clear, concise, and thought provoking." --HelpNetSecurity.com, February 2013

About the Author
Dr. Eric Cole is an industry recognized security expert, technology visionary and scientist, with over 15 year's hands-on experience. Dr. Cole currently performs leading edge security consulting and works in research and development to advance the state of the art in information systems security. Dr. Cole has over a decade of experience in information technology, with a focus on perimeter defense, secure network design, vulnerability discovery, penetration testing, and intrusion detection systems. Dr. Cole has a Masters in Computer Science from NYIT, and Ph.D. from Pace University with a concentration in Information Security. Dr. Cole is the author of several books to include Hackers Beware, Hiding in Plain Site, Network Security Bible and Insider Threat. He is also the inventor of over 20 patents and is a researcher, writer, and speaker for SANS Institute and faculty for The SANS Technology Institute, a degree granting institution.

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ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT: UNDERSTANDING THE DANGER AND HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ORGANIZATION BY ERIC COLE PDF

The newest threat to security has been categorized as the Advanced Persistent Threat or APT. The APT bypasses most of an organization's current security devices, and is typically carried out by an organized group, such as a foreign nation state or rogue group with both the capability and the intent to persistently and effectively target a specific entity and wreak havoc. Most organizations do not understand how to deal with it and what is needed to protect their network from compromise. In Advanced Persistent Threat: Understanding the Danger and How to Protect your Organization Eric Cole discusses the critical information that readers need to know about APT and how to avoid being a victim.

Advanced Persistent Threat is the first comprehensive manual that discusses how attackers are breaking into systems and what to do to protect and defend against these intrusions.

- How and why organizations are being attacked
- How to develop a "Risk based Approach to Security"
- Tools for protecting data and preventing attacks
- Critical information on how to respond and recover from an intrusion
- The emerging threat to Cloud based networks

- Sales Rank: #770450 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-12-31
- Released on: 2012-12-31
- Format: Kindle eBook

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decade of experience in information technology, with a focus on perimeter defense, secure network design, vulnerability discovery, penetration testing, and intrusion detection systems. Dr. Cole has a Masters in Computer Science from NYIT, and Ph.D. from Pace University with a concentration in Information Security. Dr. Cole is the author of several books to include Hackers Beware, Hiding in Plain Site, Network Security Bible and Insider Threat. He is also the inventor of over 20 patents and is a researcher, writer, and speaker for SANS Institute and faculty for The SANS Technology Institute, a degree granting institution.

Most helpful customer reviews

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.
A solid grounding in security
By Stephen Northcutt
I would like to start off with the bottom line first. There is a LOT of great information in the book, but the layout of the book makes it a bit hard to find the key points even with the incredibly detailed table of contents. Syngress should adopt call outs, text boxes and other publishing techniques to highlight key information instead of producing one huge "run on" manuscript.

In light of that what I would like to do in this review is highlight some of the practical tips in the book. A major theme is that while protection is ideal, detection is a must. Dr. Cole, a practitioner in the field, has learned what we all need to understand. The odds are very high that any organization is already compromised. The key is to detect the information as the attackers try to exfiltrate it.

Some other points, that are not to be missed:
Page 15 Do not allow HTML mail unless you absolutely need it for your business
Page 16 Do not allow documents with macros unless you absolutely need it for your business
Page 29 Activity does not equal security, tackle the highest priority risk
Page 31 Assume the attackers are already in your network
Page 39 Focus on protecting your critical data (data centric security)
Page 71 237 rules in your firewall equals ANY ANY ANY ANY - ALLOW
Page 91 The advice here will not be popular, but if you do not absolutely need it for your business, get rid of it
Page 107 The entire section on data classification is a must read, must implement
Page 140 More hard, but valuable advice, do not allow email attachments unless you absolutely need them for your business
Page 176 Repeat after me, users are the target, this is the root of most successful attacks
Page 193 Begins a section on the 20 Critical Controls - read, memorize and act
Page 212 You cannot fight the cloud (amen)
Page 234 The APT Defendable Network section is a must read
Page 243 Expands on the points on page 29, glad that got fleshed out
Chapter 11 talks about some common sense solutions including sandboxing and whitelisting. For the life of me, I cannot understand why more organizations have not adopted both
Chapter 12 is essentially a recap. A suggestion to the reader is read chapter 12 first. It is filled with a number of key points that you can pick up when you read the rest of the book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
Great Book that will make you Work, and Think
By D. Lewis
Very good set of ideas & concepts very badly presented. Core ideas and strategic approach to defending against APTs is very good, possibly brilliant. Reader must be willing to fight through horrible structure and terrible editing to extract them, however. Not an easy read. Like mining gold or diamonds, you'll need to

bring heavy machinery to get what you want. Buried in this mess is a great book. Somewhere. In the end: worth the work.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.
Practical Advice from in the Trenches
By Ted Demopoulos
Plenty of people could have written a book on the APT, but Dr. Cole has the vast experience across multiple industries to write the definitive book.

This could have been merely a "fun" and easy to read book capitalizing on the latest buzzwords, terms, and acronyms like APT, and that could have been good.

Instead this book, which while a fun read, has practical advice from in the trenches on how to combat persistent and dedicated attackers who often have vast resources, such as that of nation-states and other formidable adversaries.

No hype, just what works, and with a fascinating section on "The Future and How to Win."

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