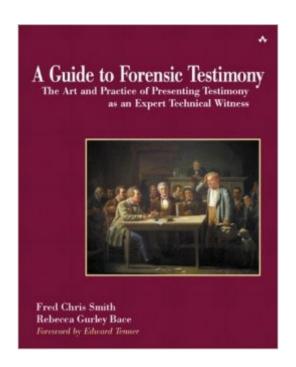
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A Guide To Forensic Testimony: The Art And Practice Of Presenting Testimony As An Expert Technical Witness





Synopsis

Information technology is an increasingly large factor in legal proceedings. From large cases, such as the US Government's anti-trust suit against the Microsoft Corporation, to small civil lawsuits filed over the failure of a network, to criminal cases in which the authenticity of electronic evidence is questioned, the testimony of a technical expert is essential. But an understanding of the technology in question is not enough; an expert technical witness needs to understand much more in order to ensure the effectiveness of his or her testimony.

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This book might sound like the most boring security book that was ever written. It is also full of confusing and hard to readlegalese. However, security professionals that might have to deal with law enforcement due to various information security incidents (that means everybody, sooner or later) will have to buy and read it anyway and will be happy they did. The content of the book is simply exclusive. Many of the security books simply collect stuff found on the Internet and package it together - this book shines like a solid gold of unique author's experiences and research. The interesting thing that while the book tries to convince the reader that doing expert testimony on computer security subjects might be a good thing, it is not clear that every reader will indeed be convinced of that upon reading it. The whole legal system thing is just too big and very different from other IT security professional responsibilities, so that the book might actually project the opposite impression - namely, don't mess with it. The "duty" might not be motivating enough to take a stand and testify, suffer from cross-examination, etc. Understandably, it might be good for professional

reputation. It also sees from the book that such reputation can also be destroyed by the expert testimony. The book first provides a complete history of expert testimony invarious fields, naturally leading the reader to the computer security case. The authors (Rebecca Bace is a renowned expert in the field of security) have clearly done their homework extremely well and managed to present their findings just as well. The coverage of relevant material seems to be exceptional aswell.

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