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## TOP COMPUTER SECURITY RESEARCHER SHEDS NEW LIGHT
## ON THREATS AND RISKS OF EVERYDAY COMPUTING

*First book by Michal Zalewski unravels the mystery behind many security and privacy dangers*

**December 15, 2004, San Francisco –** Michal Zalewski has long been known and respected in the hacking and security communities for his intelligence, curiosity and creativity. Unlike malicious hackers who disrupt and harm computer systems for no purpose, Zalewski (http://lcamtuf.coredump.cx/) has made his name finding and resolving security flaws and researching the undiscovered threats of tomorrow. In **Silence on the Wire: A Field Guide to Passive Reconnaissance and Indirect Attacks**, Zalewski shares his expertise and experience to explain how computers and networks work, how information is processed and delivered, and what security threats lurk in the shadows. No humdrum technical white paper or how-to manual for protecting one's network, this book is truly unlike anything else out there. It's a fascinating narrative that explores a variety of unique, uncommon and often quite elegant security challenges that defy classification and eschew the traditional attacker-victim model.

Rather than approaching computer security as a separate discipline, **Silence on the Wire** delves into the nuts and bolts of modern-day computing so that readers will ponder network design and their own computing activities from a new perspective. Where other books merely chronicle security exploits, Zalewski provides explanations. He addresses real, significant lapses in computer security that are not well known or, in some cases, aren't even well understood by experts. More narrative than reference book, **Silence on Wire** follows the path of a piece of information, from the moment the user's hands touches the keyboard to the instant when it is received by a remote party on the other end of the wire. Zalewski explains that these security concerns don't stem from a set of isolated faults that can be worked around, but are issues associated with every process and system and, therefore, they need to be understood and studied in that context.

This book will be riveting reading for security professionals and students as well as technophiles interested in learning about how computer security fits into the big picture and high-level hackers seeking to broaden their understanding of their craft. Mixing elements of computer science, mathematics and electronics, **Silence on the Wire** is provocative and challenging.

**Silence on the Wire** includes an introduction by Solar Designer, a noted figure in the hacking community who also served as the book's technical adviser. Among the attacks Zalewski describes are numerous unexpected data interception and gathering scenarios, some of the more unexpected attacks on cryptography and privacy, and others.

Among the book's contents:
- How a monitor screen can be read remotely via electromagnetic radiation it emits (Ch. 3: Ten Heads of the Hydra)
- How flashing lights on a router can give away information about data being transmitted (Ch. 5: Blinkenlights)
- How "idle" scanning allows others to locate vulnerabilities in a system and ways to camouflage against it (Ch. 13: Smoke and Mirrors)

"Michal's novel take on the whole issue of computer security makes **Silence on the Wire** a valuable and informative resource, but it's also just a great read," said No Starch Press founder Bill Pollock. "It's eye-opening to learn how

these attacks can be perpetrated and why security needs to be a primary consideration in computer and network design."

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**:
Michal Zalewski is a security researcher who has worked on topics ranging from hardware and OS design principles to networking. He is also an avid programmer and dabbles in the fields of chemistry, physics, applied mathematics and electronics as well.

**Silence on the Wire: A Field Guide to Passive Reconnaissance and Indirect Attacks by Michal Zalewski**
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