Contents in Depth

ABOUT THE AUTHOR xi
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xiii
INTRODUCTION xv
INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS xix

PART 1
PROTECTING YOUR MACHINE

CHAPTER 1 GREMLINS IN YOUR MACHINE 3
Why Should You Care? 4
CHAPTER 2 WHEN SOFTWARE ATTACKS: ALL ABOUT VIRUSES 7
Evil Schemes 7
Viruses, Worms, and Trojans 9
Spyware and Adware 11
Why Do People Write Viruses? 13
When Software Sneezes 15
CHAPTER 3 FROM SNEAKS TO SLAMMERS: HOW VIRUSES GET ON YOUR SYSTEM 17
Dueling Perspectives 17
How Viruses Spread 21
Are We Paranoid Yet? 36
CHAPTER 4 THE BUILT-IN DOCTOR: ANTIVIRUS PROGRAMS 37
How Antivirus Programs Work 37
Where Antivirus Programs Fail 42
Choosing Antivirus Software 45

CHAPTER 5 GUARDIANS AT THE GATE: FIREWALLS 51
How Firewalls Work 52
Where Firewalls Fail 58
Choosing a Firewall 62
Firewalls, Online Gaming, and Other Services 68
Things to Remember 79
CHAPTER 6 LOCKING UP, PART 1: SOFTWARE UPDATES 81
Updating New Computers 83
Using Windows Update 83
Automatic Windows Update 90
Fake Update Notices 91
Into the Home Stretch 92
CHAPTER 7 LOCKING UP, PART 2:
SYSTEM AND APPLICATION CONFIGURATION 93
E-Mail Settings 93
Turn on Display File Extensions 96
Sharing Drives 97
Turn off Services 98
Change Your Login 100
Wireless Networks 102
Is Life Possible Without Microsoft? 105
Safe at Last! (More or Less) 106
CHAPTER 8 BACKUPS: THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU'LL
PROBABLY NEVER DO 107
Why Back Up Your Data? 107
What About Applications? 109
Backup Techniques 110
A Simple Backup Strategy 111
CHAPTER 9 WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HIT 113
Introduction to Readers Who Are Starting Here 114
Some Advice Before You Start 114
Don't Read This Chapter 116
The Task List 123
Are We Safe Yet? 138
Wait, Don't Leave Yet! 139

PART II
PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

CHAPTER 10 WHEN THEY THINK IT'S YOU, BUT IT ISN'T: IDENTITY THEFT 143
What Identity Thieves Want 144
How They Get It 147
I Browse, Therefore I Exist 157
CHAPTER 11 PASSWORDS: YOUR KEY TO THE INTERNET 159
Password Strategies 159
Passwords and the Evils of Automatic Login 164
Beyond Passwords 172
CHAPTER 12 THE TRACES YOU LEAVE BEHIND: WHAT YOUR MACHINE SAYS ABOUT YOU 173
Footprints on Your Machine 173
Browser Footprints and How to Erase Them 175
The Files That Wouldn't Die 181
How Secure Do You Need to Be? 186
Privacy Software 187
Encryption: Privacy for Data You Want to Keep 187
Stepping Out 189
CHAPTER 13 EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE, THEY'LL BE WATCHING YOU 191
Hypermarketing 192
How They Track You, and What You Can Do to Prevent It . . 195
Spyware and Adware 201
It's OK to Lie: Web Sites and Newsgroups 207
Let Freedom Ring 211

PART III
PROTECTING YOURSELF

CHAPTER 14 CHAT ROOMS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE 215
Let's Look at Some Statistics 215
Chat Rooms 217
Instant Messenger Programs 218
If You Have to Meet Someone You Met Online 219
When Trouble Strikes 220
Are We Safe Yet? 221

CHAPTER 15 SCAMS 223
Top Scams 224
Is It a Scam, or Isn't It? 227
How Not to Get Taken 229
Urban Legends 230
Parting Words 231

PART VI
APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A EVERYDAY SECURITY 235
Protecting Your Computer 235
Using Your Computer 237
Links 239
APPENDIX B REGISTRY TRICKS 243
Using the Registry Editor 243
Which Programs Are Viruses? 246
Disabling CD Autorun 248
APPENDIX C A NOTE FOR PARENTS 251
Teenagers Aren't Children 252
The $99 Security Budget 252
Grow Your Own IT Manager 253
Don't Expect Perfection 253
Don't Rely on Technology to Teach Values 253
Final Thoughts 254

INDEX 255