
More Advance Praise for Blown to Bits

“Most writing about the digital world comes from techies writing about technical matter for other techies or from pundits whose turn of phrase greatly exceeds their technical knowledge. In *Blown to Bits*, experts in computer science address authoritatively the practical issues in which we all have keen interest.”

—Howard Gardner, Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education,
Harvard Graduate School of Education,
author of *Multiple Intelligences* and *Changing Minds*

“Regardless of your experience with computers, *Blown to Bits* provides a uniquely entertaining and informative perspective from the computing industry’s greatest minds.

A fascinating, insightful and entertaining book that helps you understand computers and their impact on the world in a whole new way.

This is a rare book that explains the impact of the digital explosion in a way that everyone can understand and, at the same time, challenges experts to think in new ways.”

—Anne Margulies, Assistant Secretary for Information Technology and
Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

“*Blown to Bits* is fun and fundamental. What a pleasure to see real teachers offering such excellent framework for students in a digital age to explore and understand their digital environment, code and law, starting with the insight of Claude Shannon. I look forward to you teaching in an open online school.”

—Professor Charles Nesson, Harvard Law School,
Founder, Berkman Center for Internet and Society

“To many of us, computers and the Internet are magic. We make stuff, send stuff, receive stuff, and buy stuff. It’s all pointing, clicking, copying, and pasting. But it’s all mysterious. This book explains in clear and comprehensive terms how all this gear on my desk works and why we should pay close attention to these revolutionary changes in our lives. It’s a brilliant and necessary work for consumers, citizens, and students of all ages.”

—Siva Vaidhyanathan, cultural historian and media scholar
at the University of Virginia and author of *Copyrights and Copywrongs:
The Rise of Intellectual Property and How it Threatens Creativity*

“The world has turned into the proverbial elephant and we the blind men. The old and the young among us risk being controlled by, rather than in control of, events and technologies. *Blown to Bits* is a remarkable and essential Rosetta Stone for beginning to figure out how all of the pieces of the new world we have just begun to enter—law, technology, culture, information—are going to fit together. Will life explode with new possibilities, or contract under pressure of new horrors? The precipice is both exhilarating and frightening. Hal Abelson, Ken Ledeen, and Harry Lewis, together, have ably managed to describe the elephant. Readers of this compact book describing the beginning stages of a vast human adventure will be one jump ahead, for they will have a framework on which to hang new pieces that will continue to appear with remarkable speed. To say that this is a ‘must read’ sounds trite, but, this time, it’s absolutely true.”

—Harvey Silverglate, criminal defense and civil liberties lawyer and writer

Blown to Bits

Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion

Hal Abelson
Ken Ledeen
Harry Lewis

◆ Addison-Wesley

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