

FORWARD

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We recognize the fundamental role of Informational and Communication Technologies (ICT) for social and economic development. Similarly, we recognize that there cannot be an effective use of ICT in the absence of a safe and trusted ICT environment. Thus, IT security plays a prime role in helping creating the environment needed to set the ground for implementing successful national ICT plans, e-Government or e-Commerce activities, as well as sectoral projects, such as, for example, in the areas of education, health, or finance.

IT security is a complex topic and evolves almost as fast as technology does. The authors have succeeded in providing technology-independent best practices, as well as recommendations for particular IT environments. As technology evolves, the accompanying web site (www.infodev-security.net) will provide updates as appropriate, allowing for a constant dissemination of developments in the field of IT security. While the opinions and recommendations made in this book do not necessarily reflect the views of infoDev or The World Bank Group, we believe that the combination of the book and its supporting web site will make a valuable contribution to the understanding of IT security around the globe.

The book is composed of five parts, each of which can be read independently. After an introduction to general issues of IT security, the book addresses issues relevant specifically to individuals, small and medium organizations, government, and technical administrators. Although most of the research and publications on IT security comes from developed countries, the authors have attempted to provide practical guidance applicable anywhere and to include examples from developing countries.

We hope that this book and its supporting web site will provide the beginning of an interactive process, where the content and best practices will evolve overtime as technology advances, but more importantly, as readers will share their experiences and best practices with their peers.

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