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# Official (ISC)2 Guide to the CISSP CBK, Second Edition ((ISC)2 Press)

*Harold F. Tipton CISSP*
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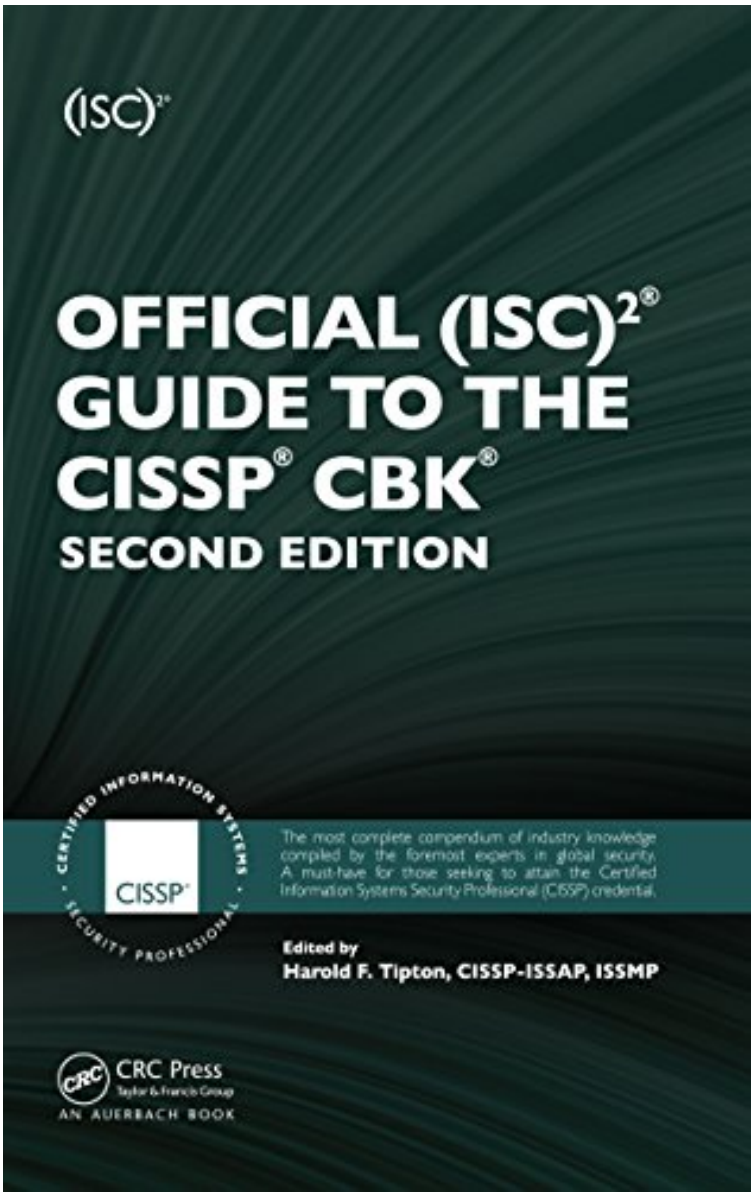


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**Harold F. Tipton CISSP : Official (ISC)2 Guide to the CISSP CBK, Second Edition ((ISC)2 Press)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Official (ISC)2 Guide to the CISSP CBK, Second Edition ((ISC)2 Press):

64 of 65 people found the following review helpful. An improvement?By M. HawkMany people have commented that

the Second Edition of the Official (ISC)2 Guide to the CISSP CBK was a big improvement over the first edition. I have to wonder how bad the first edition must have been?Before getting into the details of my concerns, let's look at the layout of this hardbound, 968 page "brick".The book is organized in a 1:1 correspondence with the 10 Domains of the CISSP CBK (i.e. one chapter per domain). This organization is nice as compared with the All-In-One CISSP 4th Edition, which has something like 12 chapters to cover the 10 domains (which can make it hard to cross reference concepts).Each domain is written by a different author (or authors) who are CISSP's and experts in the field covered by the domain. In concept this is a good idea, and in a few places it was clear that the authors tried to impart some real-world knowledge and experience (such as the BCP/DRP chapter). However, it also leads to contrasting writing styles and some issues with "continuity".As one might expect, many domains have concepts that overlap. On occasion, the text of the book will call attention to areas that relate or overlap with other domains, but this is inconsistent and sometimes results in the reader having some questions in their mind about the 'big picture' of the concepts. Given the CISSP is primarily a managerial level certification, understanding the big picture is critically important.In general, the content seemed relevant, though the organization left something to be desired (more on that later). However, I was a bit surprised to see quite a bit of disparate information in this book when compared with the official (ISC)2 Review Seminar course material. There were at least a few topics covered in one, but not the other. I would have expected there to be better alignment between two current and "official" (ISC)2 sources, and it left me somewhat questioning which resource to focus on.Speaking of the content, as compared to the All-In-One CISSP (Shon Harris) book mentioned above, this book is more of a traditional technical guide. Shon Harris' books occasionally interject opinion that borders on 'soapbox' material. And I find her "jokes" to generally not be funny, and often distracting. Some might consider the Official (ISC)2 Guide to be dry in comparison, but in technical reference books I prefer clear and succinct writing.As mentioned, the layout of the individual chapters could be improved. The book does follow a typical hierarchy for introducing concepts (i.e. the main topic introduced with large, bold font, sub-topics using smaller fonts, italics, etc). However, in many cases the context of the material was not introduced well at the start, leading the reader to question whether a "sub-heading" represents a new topic, or a topic relating to the previous topic. In many cases the material gets nested 5 or 6 layers deep, making it hard to differentiate whether a new section is a sub-topic or a new upper level topic. This is a bit hard to explain so I hope that is clear. Again, this certification is not about memorization, but rather concepts and how they interrelate, so the book's organization is important.Another area that was lacking was the use of tables, figures, and diagrams. There are some tables, etc, but there really should have been a few more. This could have really helped in providing additional context for some of the topics (see previous paragraph). This is an area where the Shon Harris All-In-One CISSP is better.I also wish the editor/publisher would have taken a bit more time to improve the index. How can key elements such as "Software Development Lifecycle" and "Common Criteria" not even have index entries? My recommendation is when reading this book and taking notes, be sure to notate page numbers in your own notes for future reference.There were also the usual amount of typo's and a few technical errors. The quantity of errors in tech books seems to be on a slow, steady rise, so I'd consider this book to be typical or maybe only slightly worse than typical.Ultimately, for those studying for the CISSP I would recommend this book simply because no single book covers the entire CISSP scope. Couple this book with either the CISSP All-in-One Exam Guide, Fifth Edition, or perhaps the CISSP For Dummies 3rd Edition if you are looking for a cheaper option that might serve an an easier introduction to the material.UPDATE: I forgot to add that I did pass the CISSP using primarily this book, coupled with the Review Seminar mentioned above. Took the test August 8 of 2010, received notification that I passed in September, and received my certificate in October.My approach was as follows:I started studying for the exam in late May, targeting a test date of August 8 (note the date on my review was August 7). I basically counted the number of days I had to prepare, subtracted 1 week for review time and about 7 "off" days to allow for days off or catch up. I also subtracted one week for the review seminar course that I took the week prior to the exam. I then took the number of remaining days an divided the number of pages in the book by that to set a pages per day goal. I think the result was something like 18 or 19 pages per day.That was my goal - read 19 pages per day and take notes as I read. The next day I'd review the previous day's notes, and read another 19 pages and take notes. I used the Shon Harris book as a supplement to fill in gaps that I felt were unclear.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not pretty but it worksBy shalimaronI used this book as my primary resource in preparing for the CISSP exam (I passed).The book is a compilation of reviews of knowledge domains by a collection of authors with widely varying styles.The variations in depth of coverage across domains is breathtaking. In some domains the coverage is superficial (but adequate); in other domains the authors seem determined to intimidate, rather than inform, the reader.The primary culprit in this regard is the author of the cryptography domain. I was very impressed by the author's grasp of the material. I have no doubt but that many of his friends consider him to be a very clever fellow; but he seems to have totally lost sight of who would be reading his chapter--and why. Everyone would have been better served if the editor had gently reminded the author that the material was supposed to take an experienced (5 or more years) security professional and fill in small gaps of knowledge in domains outside the scope of their day-to-day practice. I do not believe the intent was for every reader to be able to manually reproduce the inner workings of various algorithms; in fact, dragging readers to those depths obscures what I believe he should have attempted: To

provide every reader a sound basis for making decisions regarding the practical implementation of encryption technologies (and, along the way, passing the exam). If he had accomplished this primary objective I could have forgiven his self-indulgence. As it is, I had to rely on personal experience and other sources (see below) to deal with that domain on the test.I was surprised by the number of typos and grammatical errors throughout the book. While those shortcomings distract, they are not so eggregious as to prevent the reader from understanding the material. The review questions are oftentimes badly worded and in at least one case the "correct" answer is contradicted in the text. Still, having seen the exam, I can tell you that the questions and answers in the book and the exam are about equally bad.I began my preparation several years ago using the first edition of this book. In the weeks leading up to the exam I found myself consulting both references.I would recommend that anyone preparing for the test take their time, use multiple references, and--most important--talk through any areas you're not sure you understand with someone who does.Best of luck.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Passed the CISSP with the help of this bookBy MikeLike many others, I read the very popular Shon Harris All-in-one exam preparation first and switched to the Official Guide to the CISSP late in the game. I wish I had picked-up this book first because it presented the material in a very direct and logical manner. The highlights and example questions were similar to those offered on the exam, which was very helpful when preparing for the actual test. The 10 chapter format made it very easy to cross-reference material and navigate through the 10 domains. The book did not waste a lot of time with commentary and unrelated stories that added little to the subject, and I appreciate that as I only had a limited amount of time to study. I spent approximately 5 - 8 hours on each chapter, and supplemented the content in this book with the video mentor, this was especially helpful for encryption and Law, Investigation, and Ethics. The book is an easy read if you have sufficient background knowledge in Information Security and at least a few of the 10 domains.

With each new advance in connectivity and convenience comes a new wave of threats to privacy and security capable of destroying a companyrsquo;s reputation, violating a consumerrsquo;s privacy, compromising intellectual property, and in some cases endangering personal safety. This is why it is essential for information security professionals to stay up to date with the latest advances in technology and the new security threats they create. Recognized as one of the best tools available for the information security professional and especially for candidates studying for the (ISC)2 CISSP examination, the Official (ISC)2reg; Guide to the CISSPreg; CBKreg;, Second Edition has been updated and revised to reflect the latest developments in this ever-changing field. Endorsed by the (ISC)2, this book provides unrivaled preparation for the certification exam that is both up to date and authoritative. Compiled and reviewed by CISSPs and (ISC)2 members, the text provides an exhaustive review of the 10 current domains of the CBKmdash;and the high-level topics contained in each domain. Earning your CISSP is a deserving achievement that makes you a member of an elite network of professionals. This book not only provides you with the tools to effectively study for the exam, but also supplies you with ready access to best practices for implementing new technologies, dealing with current threats, incorporating new security tools, and managing the human factor of securitymdash;that will serve you well into your career.

... ideal not only for information security professionals attempting to achieve CISSP certification but also for those who are trying to decide which, if any, certification to pursue. Executives and organizational managers who want a more complete understanding of all the elements that are required in effectively protecting their enterprise will also find this guide extremely useful.?Tony Baratta, CISSP-ISSAP, ISSMP, SSCP, Director of Professional Programs, (ISC)2About the AuthorHarold F. Tipton, HFT Associates, Villa Park, California, USA