

Preface

Industrial Espionage and Technical Surveillance Countermeasures

Undoubtedly, the protection of intellectual property and confidential data in the information era is vital, not only for the evolution of a company but also for just keeping it “alive” in the modern, extremely competitive market. Unlike the “traditional” espionage that is conducted for national security purposes, the practice of collecting confidential information without authorization from its owner for commercial or financial purposes is called industrial, corporate, commercial, or economic espionage. Despite the fact that the techniques that information “spies” use and the industrial espionage incidents themselves look like they have stemmed out of a movie, the truth is that it is a real, existing problem, more severe than ever. This book tries to shed more light on this subject and inform the readers about the risks involved as well as about the ways they can protect themselves and their companies.

In the first chapter, we analyze the phenomenon, giving statistics and describing real incidents in the past recent years. The major contribution of this book is the extensive description of the equipment and techniques used by potential eavesdroppers in order for the right precautionary measures to be taken. In that manner, the second chapter is dedicated to the interception of ambient conversations, the third one to data interceptions, the fourth one to intercepting fixed line communications, and the fifth is dedicated to intercepting mobile communications. These chapters are accompanied with a rich collection of photos while also including practical advice for reducing the associated risks. The sixth chapter presents an example of a malware that can be used for industrial espionage or as a personal spyware and a way to protect from it. The book concludes with the seventh chapter which includes an equally extensive description of the countermeasures that can be implemented for protecting intellectual property both on a legal and on a technical

level. It also deals with detecting interceptions using specialized equipment. The same chapter further presents guidelines and methodologies for audit controls and also for selecting the appropriate contractor for a successful countersurveillance project.

Athens
November, 2015

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Industrial Espionage and Technical Surveillance
Counter Measurers

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2016, XIII, 126 p. 74 illus., 65 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-28665-5