

# The Cybersecurity Canon:

best list of go-to  
cybersec books



**CAE**  
IN CYBERSECURITY  
COMMUNITY

**CYBERSECURITY**  
**CAN**  **N**

Julia Armstrong

The Ohio State University

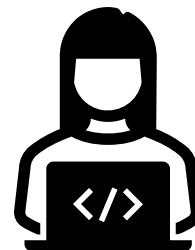
Institute for Cybersecurity & Digital Trust

<https://icdt.osu.edu>

# One Challenge in Cybersecurity Education



vs.



resources

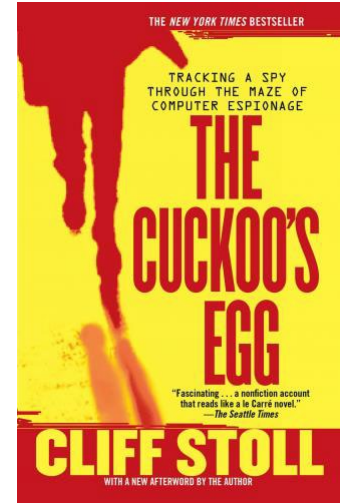
The challenge:  
separating “cyber wisdom”  
from “cyber noise”

# What is the Cybersecurity Canon?

“**Must-read** books for all cybersecurity practitioners—be they from industry, government or academia—where the content is **timeless**, genuinely represents an aspect of the community that is **true and precise**, reflects the highest **quality** and, if not read, will leave a hole in the cybersecurity professional’s education that will make the practitioner incomplete.”

# History of the Cybersecurity Canon

- Started 10+ years ago by Palo Alto Networks' CISO
- Goal: Help cybersecurity professionals stay informed
- Transitioned to The Ohio State University under care of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Digital Trust (ICDT)

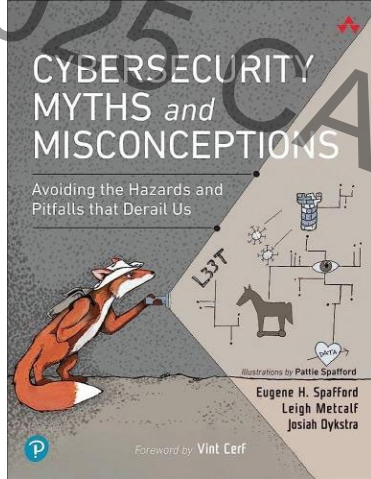


*First Hall of Fame Winner*  
<https://icdt.osu.edu/cuckoos-egg>

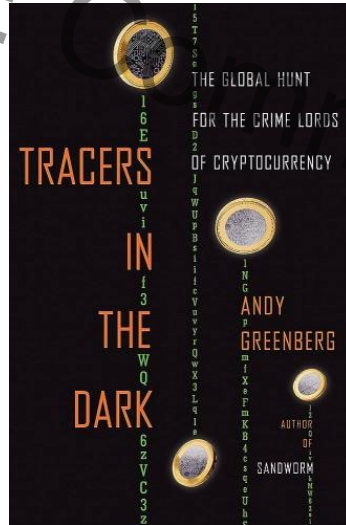
# How Are Books Chosen?

- Crowdsourced recommendations
- Committee members read, review, recommend
  - Nominate for Hall of Fame
  - Niche Audience
  - Do Not Read
- Committee votes on Hall of Fame recommendations
  - Remains a candidate for 5 years
- Hall of Fame winners are awarded each spring

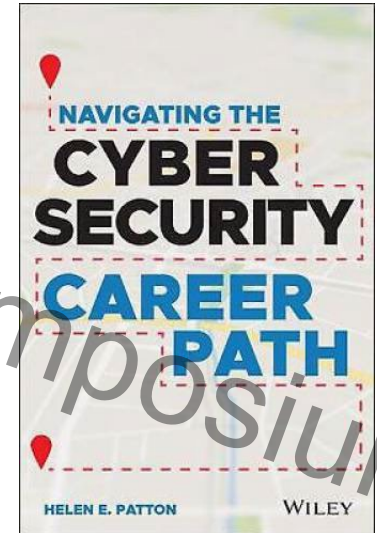
# Recent Hall of Fame Winners



2024



2025

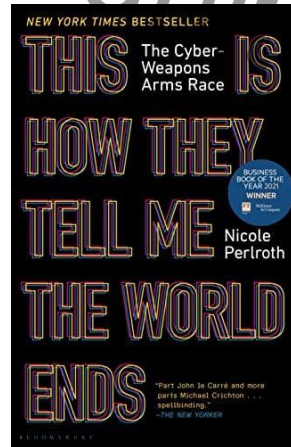


<https://cybersecuritycanon.com>

**CYBERSECURITY**  
**CANON**

# Educators Use

- Individual or group studies
- Book clubs for students and practitioners – student or faculty led
- Integration into coursework (in part or whole)



# How Can I Get Involved?

Enhance the future of the Canon!

1. Join or create a committee; invite others (build cross-disciplinary and cross-sector relationships)
2. Build out resources for discussion groups
3. Create toolkits for curricular integration
4. Submit a new review, with your recommendation, to the Canon



Connecting cybersecurity practitioners with cybersecurity wisdom.

# 2025 CAE THE CYBERSECURITY CANON PROJECT

Generously supported by The Ohio State University  
Institute for Cybersecurity & Digital Trust

<https://cybersecuritycanon.com>