book review

# Securing the Virtual Environment

## How to Defend the Enterprise Against Attack

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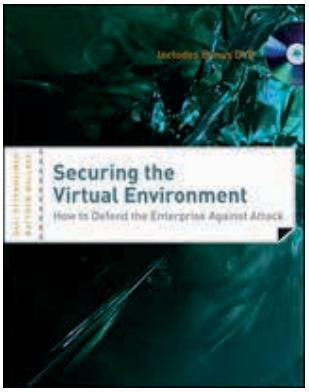
More than 60 percent of businesses utilize the cloud for performing IT-related operations, and over the next five years there is expected growth of 44 percent annually for public cloud use versus 8.9 percent growth for on-premises computing.[1] *Securing the Virtual Environment: How to Defend the Enterprise Against Attack* explains that some advantages of virtualization include increased IT agility, greater hardware utilization, improved disaster recovery abilities and better business continuity capabilities.




By Davi Ottenheimer and Matthew Wallace

However, there is security risk, which is likely to contribute to an increasingly risky environment associated with cloud use in the future. In fact, ransomware attacks soared by 113 percent in 2014,[2] and statistics show that no industry is immune to cybercrimes.[3] Even companies that are not yet using the cloud may be doing so in some form soon. Based on the increased amount of cyberattack activity, those who move to the cloud should first have a firm understanding of security and compliance in virtual and cloud computing environments. *Securing the Virtual Environment: How to Defend the Enterprise Against Attack* can help enterprises begin to understand the challenges associated with the use of new virtual technologies.

This book is aimed at anyone with an interest in security and compliance in virtualized and cloud environments—appealing to both technical and nontechnical readers. For the nontechnical, there is information on the risk and rewards of the virtualized and cloud environments and examples of these are provided throughout the book. The book does not delve deeply into any particular cloud platform, but provides good coverage of the basics of virtualized environments, which makes it an excellent primer on the subject. For technical readers, the authors suggest beginning with the appendix and the included DVD to find instructions on how to build a virtual attack lab for use in the hands-on sections of the book. The authors aim to allow the reader to see that technology can be beneficial—not just for the advantages it brings, but also to empower organizations with tools to better manage their security environment.

One of the most useful aspects of this book is the inclusion of security basics that made what could be a complex topic (attacks in a virtual infrastructure environment) much more understandable. The book leads the reader through that journey, starting with an introduction on the basics of the cloud and security and then addressing attacks, risk, favored attack methods and virtualization compliance. Since virtualization and the cloud change so rapidly, the book also provides suggestions on web resources that can help enterprises navigate through securing their virtual environment. Through this book, readers not only get an education in cloud and virtualization, but gain a better understanding of how this technology has been implemented in their enterprise environment.

## Endnotes

1 Woods, J.; "20 Cloud Computing Statistics Every CIO Should Know," SiliconANGLE, 27 January 2014, *http://siliconangle.com/blog/2014/01/27/20-cloud-computing-statistics-tc0114/*
2 Symantec, 2015 *Internet Security Threat Report, Volume 20*, 2015, *www.symantec.com/security_response/publications/threatreport.jsp*
3 Kassner, M,; "New Ponemon Report Shows Cybercrime Is on the Rise," *TechRepublic*, 3 November 2014, *www.techrepublic.com/article/new-ponemon-report-shows-cybercrime-is-on-the-rise/*

## Editor's Note

*Securing the Virtual Environment: How to Defend the Enterprise Against Attack* is available from the ISACA® Bookstore. For information, visit *www.isaca.org/bookstore*, email *bookstore@isaca.org* or telephone +1.847.660.5650.

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