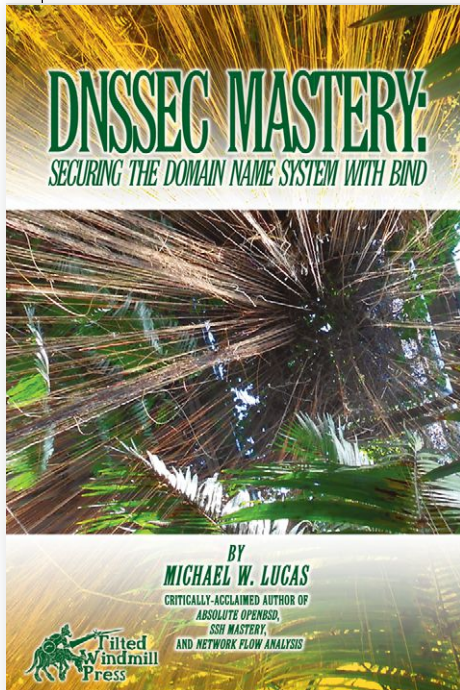


BOOKreview

by Joseph Kong



DNSSEC Mastery

Michael W. Lucas

2013 Tilted Windmill Press • ISBN 978-1484924471 • 130 pages

I'll admit right away that I'm probably not the target audience for this book, because I never have and, hopefully, never will have to secure the Domain Name System (DNS) with Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC). However, being a security professional, I read Michael W. Lucas's *DNSSEC Mastery* to gain some familiarity with DNSSEC.

This book is right on target and does not waste your time. If you understand DNS and want to learn how to secure it, *DNSSEC Mastery* is for you. It's a clear and concise guide with a ton of handholding and plenty of examples. Also, at a little over 100 pages in length, it can be read in one sitting (I know, because I did just that).

Using his own domains, Lucas describes in detail how DNSSEC works, how to set it up, how to debug it when things go wrong (as they inevitably do), and how to maintain it. There's even a chapter on how to use DNSSEC as a cryptographically verified distribution method, so that you can, for example, verify SSL certificates without contacting a certificate authority (CA).

If I had one gripe with this book (and it's a minor one), it's that the topic is kind of boring. This isn't Lucas's fault. He does a great job of keeping your attention by injecting humor throughout. For example, on page 27 he states:

A mob with torches and pitchforks is impractical these days, but should you have the urge to organize one, an obsolete registrar merits it.

And on page 44 he writes:

I abbreviate the hostnames in the key name, because I'm not that much of a masochist.

Bits of humor like this are sprinkled throughout the book, which I greatly appreciated (however, a case might be made for others not liking it).

Overall, read this book if you're looking to deploy DNSSEC. It'll save you time and spare you a headache.

Joseph Kong is a self-taught computer enthusiast who dabbles in the fields of exploit development, reverse code engineering, rootkit development, and systems programming (FreeBSD, Linux, and Windows). He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Designing BSD Rootkits* and *FreeBSD Device Drivers*. For more information about Joseph Kong, visit www.thestackframe.org.

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