PRAGMATIC Security Metrics: Applying Metametrics to Information Security

By W. Krag Brotby, Gary Hinson

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Other books on information security metrics discuss number theory and statistics in academic terms. Light on mathematics and heavy on utility, **PRAGMATIC Security Metrics: Applying Metametrics to Information Security** breaks the mold. This is the ultimate how-to-do-it guide for security metrics.

Packed with time-saving tips, the book offers easy-to-follow guidance for those struggling with security metrics. Step by step, it clearly explains how to specify, develop, use, and maintain an *information security measurement system* (a comprehensive suite of metrics) to help:

- Security professionals systematically improve information security, demonstrate the value they are adding, and gain management support for the things that need to be done
- Management address previously unsolvable problems rationally, making critical decisions such as resource allocation and prioritization of security relative to other business activities
- Stakeholders, both within and outside the organization, be assured that information security is being competently managed

The PRAGMATIC approach lets you home-in on your problem areas and identify the few metrics that will generate real business value. The book:

- Helps you figure out exactly *what* needs to be measured, *how* to measure it, and most importantly, *why* it needs to be measured
- Describes, scores and ranks more than 150 potential security metrics to demonstrate the value of the PRAGMATIC method
- Highlights security metrics that are widely used and recommended, yet turn out to be rather poor in practice
- Describes innovative and flexible measurement approaches such as maturity metrics with continuous scales
- Explains how to minimize both measurement and security risks using complementary metrics for greater assurance in critical areas such as governance and compliance

In addition to its obvious utility in the information security realm, the

PRAGMATIC approach, introduced for the first time in this book, has broader application across diverse fields of management including finance, human resources, engineering, and production--in fact any area that suffers a surplus of data but a deficit of useful information.

Visit SecurityMetametrics.com supporting the global community of professionals adopting the innovative techniques laid out in *PRAGMATIC Security Metrics.* If you, too, are struggling to make much sense of security metrics, or searching for better metrics to manage and improve information security, Security Metametrics is the place for you.

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Editorial Review

Review

Like all books on metrics, **PRAGMATIC Security Metrics: Applying Metametrics to Information Security** makes the statement that "you can't manage what you can't measure". The authors claim that other books on information security metrics discuss number theory and statistics in academic terms. This title promises to be light on mathematics and heavy on utility and is meant as a how-to-do-it guide for security metrics.

As to the title, PRAGMATIC is an acronym for the basis of the method of the book, in using metrics that are **p**redictive, **r**elevant, **a**ctionable, **g**enuine, **m**eaningful, **t**imely, **i**ndependent and **c**ost. After reading the first chapter, **PRAGMATIC Security Metrics: Applying Metametrics to Information Security** looks like it may live up to its promise of being able to use metrics not only to track and report performance but to identify problem areas and opportunities, and drive information security improvements. If so, this could be *the* metrics book a lot of information security professionals have been waiting for.
?Ben Rothke, CISSP, CISM, Information Security Manager, Wyndham Worldwide; and author of *Computer Security: 20 Things Every Employee Should Know, writing on the RSA Conference Blog, www.rsaconference.com*

About the Author
Krag Brotby CISM CGEIT has 30 years' experience in enterprise computer security architecture, governance, risk, and metrics. He is the principal author/editor of ISACA's Certified Information Security Manager Review Manual, plus Information Security Governance: Guidance for Boards of Directors and Guidance for Information Security Managers; Information Security Management Metrics; and Information Security Governance: A Practical Development and Implementation Approach. Krag has served on ISACA committees and the California High Tech Task Force Steering Committee, and frequently presents conference workshops and seminars. Krag was the principal architect for Xerox BASIA enterprise security and the SWIFT Next Gen PKI; served as technical director at RAND Corporation and chief security strategist for TransactPlus. He developed policies for several U.S. banks and consulted for Australia Post, New Zealand Inland Revenue, Singapore Infocom Development Agency, Microsoft, Unisys, AT&T, BP Alyeska, Countrywide Financial, Informix, Visa, VeriSign, Digital Signature Trust, Zantaz, Bank Al-Bilad, J.P. Morgan Chase, KeyBank, Certicom, and Paycom, among others. Krag delivers courses in metrics, governance?risk?compliance (GRC) and risk, and holds a foundation patent for digital rights management.

Dr Gary Hinson PhD MBA CISSP has worked in IT system and network administration, information security and IT auditing with multinationals in the pharmaceuticals/life sciences, utilities, IT, engineering, defense, and financial services industries, since the 1980s, and consulting since 2000. His day job involves preparing security awareness materials for NoticeBored (NoticeBored.com), an innovative subscription service. He is also responsible for ISO27001security.com, the ISO27k Toolkit and Forum supporting a global user community. Gary was originally a scientist researching bacterial genetics. The rational scientist and metrician still lurks deep within.

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