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Book Information

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Text-to-Speech: Enabled
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Purchased the kindle version 2 weeks ago. Took and pass the exam today. The material and presentation was very good. The author made a good effort to expand and reiterate some topics by revisiting them in different chapters/domains. The 2 minute drills were very helpful for last minute cramming/review. Take the time to do the Performance-Based questions at the end of the chapters--I ignored them and thus wasn’t prepared for them on the actual exam. The Total Tester was very good but not enough questions (200). The book boasts 400 but I believe 200 are in the book. Would have been nice if the Total Tester included those questions and the performance questions. This book was more useful to me than the other kindle book I purchased a month ago: CompTIA Security+ Study Guide: SY0-401 6th Edition (Dulaney).

This was the only resource I used when studying for the Security+ SY0-401 exam. I recently lost my job and needed something to work towards during my time off. I studied this book from front to back for 5-6 days straight putting in about 10-12 hours a day. I took the exam today and I passed with an 819/900. The book is organized in such a way that makes it easy to read. The chapters were well written and flow nicely together. I received the hardcopy of this text and used the included cd as well. For the most part the digital content was great however there were a few discrepancies in some of the test engine questions. For example, there was one multiple choice question where answer C and D were the same and the correct answer wasn’t one of the listed answers. (It was about M-and-N ratios). I usually find that the test engines in any certification book that I bought were more of an after thought usually do not get the same attention as the text. That being my only complaint, I found this book extremely useful and highly recommend it if you are looking to get certified.

Been working hard with this book for a couple of weeks, eventually did well on all of the
end-of-chapter tests, took the exam today and BARELY passed. It was kind of unnerving how close it was. The 900 point test required 750 to pass, I got 756. Yikes! I felt confident going into the exam too. Unfortunately there were quite a few questions/scenarios on the test that weren't covered in the book. There was stuff in the book that wasn't covered AT ALL in the test, like twisted-pair wire, coax and fiber optic fundamentals. The text also had 7 or 8 "simulations" that were much more involved than the single experienced-based items at the end of each chapter test. Those almost broke my brain. Seriously, there weren't ANY questions like the ones posed in the book. I suspected that the test wouldn't be a super-close match to the book, but the difference was significant feeling. And lest you think I'm some kind of luddite, I have been in software for over 20 years. I have been a programmer for the last 15. I'm no sys admin, but I'm very comfortable with technology. I actually found the book kind of interesting in a lot of areas. It fleshed out a lot of stuff that I knew a tiny bit about. The hardest prep was the memorization of port numbers and what bit-rate goes with each 802.11 flavor, encryption standards with whichever access technology. That's stuff I'd never just "know", I'd look it up. I doubt even security pros have this stuff memorized (well, maybe the ports...). Granted, I wouldn't have passed the test without this book, but if I were reading this and needing to take the Security+ exam I would make sure I didn't use ONLY this book. Be warned!

I recently took the Security Plus exam and failed the first time out. It was not the fault of this book. Glen Clarke’s Security+ study guide is very good. The objectives are all explained thoroughly as well as clearly. This is a very readable book that even a layman could use. My one caveat is that the chapter questions are far too simplistic. They cover the material in the chapter, but aren’t good preparation for the exam. On the plus side, this book comes with a CD that includes an extra 200 test prep questions as well as a pdf of the book. What’s great is that these questions are presented as you would see them on a COMP TIA exam. However, even these questions, while more difficult than those in the book are still not enough to pass the exam if you have limited experience in IT security. If a person fails the exam, it’s not the fault of the various books. I also used Darril Gibson’s security plus book and it too was excellent. The problem with multiple choice tests is that you are presented with two right answers to the question. You have to know which answer is more correct than the other, because there is the COMP TIA way of thinking and there is the real world way of thinking. They aren’t the same. As a result, what you consider is the right answer, may not be right and that has messed up a lot of people. If you have some experience in IT, this book may be all that you need. For people with less experience, having a couple of books along with some of the testing APPs could be helpful. My advice for passing the exam? Know authentication. Know
authentication. Know authentication and cryptography.