


# Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government--Saving Privacy in the Digital Age

*By Steven Levy*

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**Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government--Saving Privacy in the Digital Age** By Steven Levy

From the author who made "hackers" a household word, a groundbreaking book about the most hotly debated subject of the digital age.

*Crypto* is about privacy in the information age and about the nerds and visionaries who, nearly twenty years ago, predicted that the Internet's greatest virtue-free access to information-was also its most perilous drawback: a possible end to privacy.

Levy explores what turned out to be a decisive development in the crypto wars: the unlikely alliance between the computer geeks and big business as they fought the government's stranglehold on the keys to information in a networked world.

The players come alive here in a narrative that reads like the best of futuristic spy fiction. There is Whit Diffie, the long-haired Newton of crypto who invented the astounding "public key"solution; David Chaum, whose "anony-mous digital money"actually threatened the global financial infrastructure; and "cypherpunks"like Phil Zimmermann, who freely distributed military-strength codes under the nose of the U. S. government. There is also the first behind-the-scenes account of what the secretive National Security Agency really had in mind when it created the controversial "clipper chip"-and how the Clinton administration bungled the operation.

Cryptography-the use of secret codes-has traditionally been the province of puzzle geeks and government spies. But just in time for the Internet-which radically alters the way we share information-a band of outsiders triggered a revolution in this once-cloistered field. But this was a revolution that the government wanted to kill....

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**Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government--Saving Privacy in the Digital Age By Steven Levy Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
If the National Security Agency (NSA) had wanted to make sure that strong encryption would reach the masses, it couldn't have done much better than to tell the cranky geniuses of the world not to do it. Author Steven Levy, deservedly famous for his enlightening *Hackers*, tells the story of the cypherpunks, their foes, and their allies in *Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government*. From the determined research of Whitfield Diffie and Marty Hellman, in the face of the NSA's decades-old security lock, to the commercial world's turn-of-the-century embrace of encrypted e-commerce, Levy finds drama and intellectual challenge everywhere he looks. Although he writes, "Behind every great cryptographer, it seems, there is a driving pathology," his respect for the mathematicians and programmers who spearheaded public key encryption as the solution to Information Age privacy invasion shines throughout. Even the governmental bad guys are presented more as hapless control fetishists who lack the prescience to see the inevitability of strong encryption as more than a conspiracy of evil.

Each cryptological advance that was made outside the confines of the NSA's Fort Meade complex was met with increasing legislative and judicial resistance. Levy's storytelling acumen tugs the reader along through mathematical and legal hassles that would stop most narratives in their tracks--his words make even the depressingly silly Clipper chip fiasco vibrant. Hardcore privacy nerds will value *Crypto* as a review of 30 years of wrangling; those readers with less familiarity with the subject will find it a terrific and well-documented launching pad for further research. From notables like Phil Zimmerman to obscure but important figures like James Ellis, *Crypto* dishes the dirt on folks who know how to keep a secret. --*Rob Lightner*

From Publishers Weekly
The author of the 1994 sleeper Hackers reveals how a group of men developed methods for encrypting digital transmissions for use in the private sector. As the digital age was dawning in the late 1970s, a major stumbling block to delivering information and conducting transactions via high-speed networks was the lack of security from outside parties who might wish to intercept the data (even though the National Security Agency had acres of computers dedicated to protecting government secrets and even more designed to decode other countries' messages). Widely available systems only began to emerge after a range of free thinkers, including such crypto legends as Whit Diffie and Marty Hellman, began to devote their considerable mind power to the issue. After a slow start, Levy's story steadily builds momentum as the crypto pioneers do battle with the NSA, look for ways to commercialize their discoveries and fight for the federal government's approval of the strongest encryption methods. The chief technology writer for Newsweek, Levy locates the heart of the matter in the struggle to balance the need for the most effective encryption possible with the government's need to decode messages that might endanger national securityAa struggle in which privacy, so far, has prevailed. Agent, Dominick Abel . (Jan. 8) Forecast: Levy's reputation grows with each book, and publicity that links this title to his bestselling Hackers will ensure strong sales. The title is backed by a six-city author tour and national radio satellite tour. The major promo campaign online, where Levy is minor royalty, may be most effective, but the book's biggest boost will come from the planned excerpt in Newsweek.
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From Library Journal
What happens to privacy when computer geeks and big business battle the government for free access to

information? From the author of Hackers.
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**Todd Jacobs:**

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Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a guide will give you a lot of new information. When you read a publication you will get new information since book is one of several ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, studying a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you studying a book especially hype book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you are able to share your knowledge to others. When you read this Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government--Saving Privacy in the Digital Age, you can tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a guide.

**Annamarie Hernandez:**

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