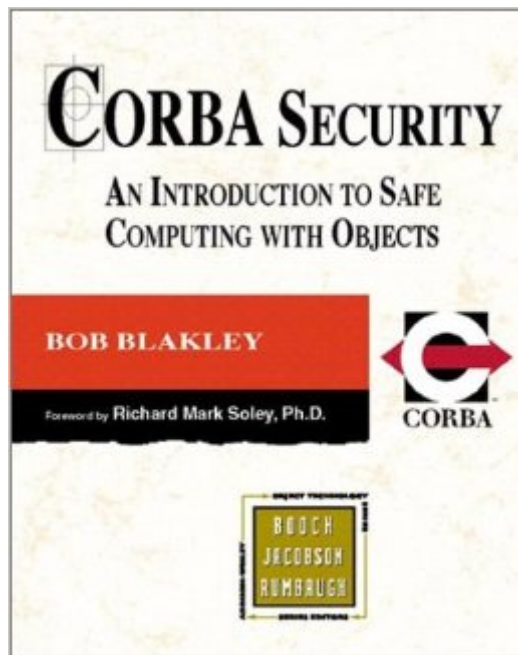


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# CORBA Security: An Introduction To Safe Computing With Objects (The Addison-Wesley Object Technology Series)



## Synopsis

The CORBAsecurity specification adopted by the Object Management Group (OMG) represents a major step forward in making object technology suitable for business application development. The specification document, however, is long, detailed, and complex; it is a time-consuming task for software developers to make their way through it, and it is inaccessible to CIOs and other technical managers who need to understand object security and its impact on their organizations. CORBA Security provides a readable and less technical overview of the specification and a guide to the security of object systems. Written from a policy point of view, the book will help you decide what security policies are appropriate for your organization and evaluate the object-based security options that can help you manage those policies. For those unfamiliar with basic security and object technology concepts, clear introductions to these topics will bring you up to speed. The book also provides a list of questions you can ask your secure object system vendor-questions that will get behind the jargon and acronyms and give you the information you need to determine just how safe the product really is. Readers will get an in-depth look at each element of computer security and how the CORBAsecurity specification fulfills each of these security needs. Topics covered include identification, authentication, and privilege; access control; message protection; delegation and proxy problems; auditing; and, non-repudiation. The author also provides numerous real-world examples of how secure object systems can be used to enforce useful security policies.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I would highly recommend this book for organizations needing "information security (INFOSEC)" as it pertains to the Object Management Group's (OMG's) Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) standard. The book takes a less technical overview to the OMG CORBASecurity specification and what CORBASecurity standard is trying to accomplish. It does this by using less technical jargon and acronyms which are sometimes confusing to neophytes unfamiliar with the very technical and complex world of INFOSEC. In my view, the most important part of the book is its last chapter (i.e., Chapter 10 entitled "Questions to Ask Your Secure Object System Vendor"). Why? Because this chapter outlines thirteen questions that end user organizations can ask their vendors (in this case, Object Request Broker (ORB) vendors and referred to in the book as "secure object system vendors"). These thirteen questions are simple security questions that will get to the bottom line of capabilities of what ORB vendors may or may not supply with their ORB's security service. Thus, it can be used as a buyers guide to the types of security capabilities that your organization may desire with an ORB product.

The world of information security is replete with conjecture, confusion, and outright fiction. In brilliant contrast, Bob Blakley's "CORBA Security - An Introduction to Safe Computing with Objects" stands as a testimony of precision, clarity, and truth, with one exception: the book's title. While the volume addresses architectural aspects of CORBA Security and provides a healthy discussion of object-specific security issues, it is really about a much more pervasive subject. Namely, how the fundamental tenant of Security Policy design can and should be woven through Identity, Authentication, Privilege, and Access Control. It also tackles two of the most misunderstood, yet critical security issues in modern N-tier distributed systems: Delegation and Non-Repudiation. The writing style, like the author himself (whom I'm acquainted with on a professional level) is modest, direct, and inclusive. All terminology is progressively defined and clearly communicates the underlying concepts. As a budding security architect and veteran software engineer I highly recommend this book to managers, system designers, security administrators, and members of the legal and causality communities. In short anyone needing a deeper understanding of policy-driven, distributed computer security systems, CORBA or no CORBA. "CORBA Security" is very much in the classic vein of "The Elements of Style" (E.B. White) - concise, accessible, and durably relevant. A true classic!

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