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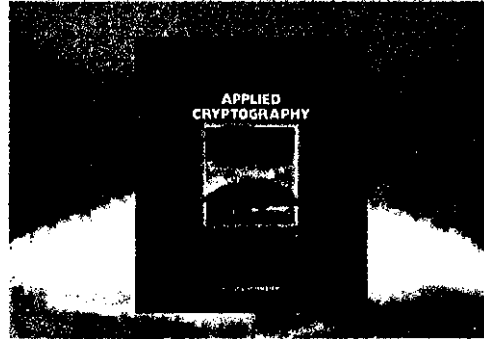
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## One-Stop Cypher Shop

and for all, there's a book that collects the history and truth about data encryption and presents it in no-bullshit easy-to-understand English. It's the book that the National Security Agency wanted never to be published.

Author Bruce Schneier's premise is a simple one: Good encryption should be available to all. Just as people have the right to **hide** their letters in whatever kind of vault they wish, he reasons, so too should they have the right to protect their digital **information** with the most impenetrable cryptography. The federal government certainly isn't going to provide citizens with strong encryption tools (the Clipper chip fracas proves that), so Schneier felt a duty to provide a single sourcebook of **useful** algorithms for people who wish to keep their **private** business **private**.



Applied Cryptography: Cure for the Clipper chip blues.

The first hundred pages of **Applied Cryptography** contain the best Introduction to cryptography I've ever seen. Part two teaches the techniques and tricks necessary to **tell** a good crypto system from a bad one. Part three is the **down-and-dirty** description of each algorithm. And part **four** covers political issues.

Roughly a hundred pages of the book is devoted to source code **for** the most important crypto systems. Anybody seriously interested in cryptography, though, should get the two-disk set for **\$30** and save all that typing.

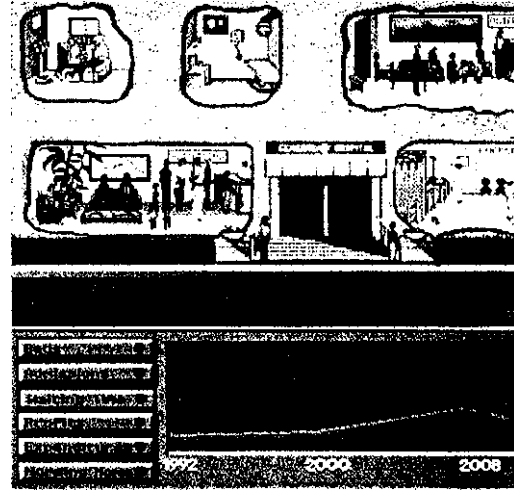
Because we have a First Amendment in this country, **Schneier's** book can be printed and exported, despite how the National Security Agency might feel. **But**, incredibly, since the First Amendment doesn't cover books on floppy **disks**, it's a federal crime for Schneier to mail source code on his floppies outside the US. Go figure. - *Simson L. Garfinkel*

*Applied Cryptography*, by Bruce Schneier, US\$44.95. John Wiley & Sons. +1(212)8506000.

## SimHillary

Want to take your part in the national health care look at **SimHealth**, from **Maxis**, the creators of and - my favorite - **SimAnt**. Because the **health** Car commercial sparkle of, say, dinosaur making, Max creating it: the **Markle** Foundation, an organization porting high-minded mass media efforts, with the **venting** digital technology from **coming** to **resembl** commercial television,

**SimHealth's** tone surfaces in the opening screen, images of street and hospital. **The** program's **aim** is complexities of the choices involved in health care from 1992 to 2008. The premise is simple: **You** are injured less by the impact than by the shock of **dea** insurance system. So, still lightheaded **after** the **office**, and win. You are then faced With an **intimid**



**SimHealth** Concoct your own health care plan for **America**

choices on policies, financing plans, and so on, **al** literalized political **chips**. According to the **choice**: feedback: poll results, graphs of costs and **medica**: vivid of all, visible evidence of prosperity or deter, eye view **of** Main Street, USA disturbingly like the Gulf War videos of **smart** bombs meeting **their** tar

The game's basic assumptions can vary- But **t** of the game is making the highly variable choic racy and efficiency, individual rights and equal good dose of **MacNeil-Lehrer** can bring home as the issue's inherent combination of vital import crunching **tedium**.

It all makes me nostalgic **for** **SimAnt**, where the and the values clear cut: survival **of** the **nest**, **exp**: lawn, and **expulsion** of the humans from the **near** "An ant," reads our favorite line from the **SimAnt** the processing power of a **Mac II**." But who could equation for a member of Congress? - *Phil Patton*

*SimHealth* for DOS: US\$29.95 Maxis: (800) 336 2947, +1 (510) 254 9700.