



## Jay's Monthly Book Review – November 2021

Smith, Brad and Carol Ann Browne. *Tools and Weapons: The Promise and the Peril of the Digital Age*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2021 (updated from original 2019 version).

This book is a fun read and an important read! We regularly get technical speakers or cybersecurity management speakers at our symposia, chapter meetings, mini-seminars, or training events. Occasionally we will hear about the interface between human psychology and cybersecurity. BUT - Although the authors do not say so, when was the last time you took a breath and thought hard about the philosophy of technology, and how cybersecurity, privacy, and data protection relate to it? Not just what we do and how we do it, but ***why we do it!***

The book reads like an adventure story. If the significant people, but otherwise non-cyber pros in your life wonder what you do, have them read this book!

*Logistics: Pages: 464. My extremely limited sample: (Passive Voice: 0%, Reading Grade Level: 12). Cost and Availability: You should be able to get it (paperback) online, including shipping, for about \$16. There are also multiple copies available in the Pikes Peak Library District system.*

### **Abbreviated Table of Contents:**

- The Cloud
- Cybersecurity
- Surveillance
- Technology and Public Safety
- Privacy
- Nation-State Attacks
- Protecting Democracy
- Social Media
- Digital Diplomacy
- Consumer Concerns
- Rural Broadband
- The Talent Gap
- AI and Ethics - **Carson's favorite chapter!**





- AI and Facial Recognition
- AI and the Workforce
- Democratizing the Future
- The United States and China
- Tech and the Nation-State
- Tech in a Pandemic

Brad Smith is the President of Microsoft and Carol Ann Browne is his Chief of Staff. On page xiii, Bill Gates states in the Forward: “Tools and Weapons covers an expansive range of issues, including cybersecurity, the diversity of the IT workforce, and the relationship between the United States and China. If I had to pick the most important chapter, it would be the one on privacy.”

Mr. Gates goes on to say “The ability to collect huge amounts of data is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it empowers governments, businesses, and individuals to make better decisions. On the other hand, it raises big questions about how we can use that data while protecting people’s right to privacy.”

OK, this book was written for the general public - not specifically for the cybersecurity and/or privacy professional. That certainly does not mean you, as a pro, won't both be fascinated and educated by this book!

*Back to you next month - Happy professional reading!*

*Jay Carson*  
ISSA Member-at-Large

Note: Opinions expressed are the book review author's own.

P.S. - I am always interested in good cybersecurity reading. While the best idea is for me to read your book review, if you do not have the time or inclination, please email me your suggestions at member-at-large4@issa-cos.org. Thanks!

P.P.S - If you think I am a knucklehead for writing a particular book review but are too well-mannered to say so in public, let me know that too! You will help me to improve!



