

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I purchased insurance for the first time in 2015, not long after I had started thinking about cyberinsurance as a possible area of research. Risk averse to my core, I selected the most expensive option for every type of coverage my new employer offered, except pet insurance. I had not even known before then that a person could buy insurance coverage for accidental death and dismemberment or long-term disabilities, but now that I knew such policies existed, I never wanted to be without them again. To be clear: I loved insurance and I knew absolutely nothing about it.

Over the course of writing this book, many people who know much more about insurance than I ever will very patiently explained to me some of the industry's inner workings and history. I am especially indebted to Daniel Schwarcz, who invited me to speak at the 2021 symposium on The Role of Law and Government in Cyber Insurance Markets and provided invaluable feedback on several chapters, and Daniel Woods, who offered thoughtful notes on this manuscript as well as many crucial reading suggestions. I'm also grateful to Lori Bailey, Tom Baker, Adam Bobrow, Kevin Coughlin, Arnold D'Angelo Jr., Tom Finan, Steve Haase, and Trey Herr for taking the time to talk with me and offer their perspectives on cyberinsurance. Bill Lehr worked with me on some of my earliest forays into cyberinsurance and provided many important economic insights. David Clark gave me the confidence to extend my interest in cybersecurity incidents and liability to topics outside my expertise and a sense of unshakeable optimism about the potential for new ideas and approaches to improve cybersecurity.

Torie Bosch at *Slate* let me write my first ever piece about cyberinsurance back in 2014 and has been a source of ideas, friendship, and above all, incredibly clear-eyed, crisp editing ever since graduate school. It was a joy to get to work with Susan Rigetti at the *New York Times* and have the opportunity to appreciate her skills not just as a brilliant writer but also as an extraordinary editor.

I feel very fortunate to have had another chance to work with Sandra Braman and Gita Manaktala at the MIT Press, who provided crucial guidance and encouragement for this project from start to finish. I am also grateful to the New America Cybersecurity Initiative, the Atlantic Council Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Cisco Systems, and the Charles Koch Foundation for supporting this project.

I began working on this book at the Rochester Institute of Technology, a school that provided me with many benefits beyond insurance, including incredible friends and collaborators in Sarah Burns, Stephanie Godleski, Andrea Hickerson, Eric Hittinger, Priti Kalsi, Mehdi Mirakhorli, Sumita Mishra, Yin Pan, Sandra Rothenberg, Jamie Winebrake, Matthew Wright, and Bo Yuan. In 2019, I moved to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and was fortunate to join another group of remarkable scholars and generous colleagues. I am especially grateful to Steve Block, Bhaskar Chakravorti, Tom Dannenbaum, Dan Drezner, Alnoor Ebrahim, Leila Fawaz, Kathleen Fisher, Jeff Foster, Kelly Sims Gallagher, Carolyn Gideon, Francesca Giovannini, Ian Johnstone, Sulmaan Khan, Michael Klein, Rachel Kyte, Susan Landau, Abi Linnington, Melissa McCracken, Chris Miller, Cyndi Rubino, Julie Schaffner, Elaine Schaertl Short, Jeff Taliaferro, Joel Trachtman, Dan Votipka, and Matthew Woodward.

Returning to Cambridge allowed me to reunite not just with Fenway Park and Formaggio Kitchen, but also with several friends in the Boston area and along the Northeast Corridor, including Kendra Albert, Eileen Costello, Sharon Gillett, John Hess, Alex and Claire Jacquillat, Patrick Gage Kelley, Alexis Levinson, Lily Hay Newman, Emily Prud'hommeaux, Adrienne Raphael, and Alicia Solow-Niederman, who provided much needed distractions and even occasionally pretended to be interested when I talked about insurance.

Bob and Renee Wolff entrusted me with the maintenance of their email account and gamely agreed to move their Great Books group of more than fifty years online when COVID-19 prevented them from holding their monthly meetings at the local library. Whenever a particularly grim cybersecurity incident left me feeling dismayed, nothing restored my faith in the Internet faster than watching them and a dozen of their octogenarian and nonagenarian friends discuss *The Turn of the Screw* from little Zoom boxes (some with virtual backgrounds!). Sheila and Mort Klass did not live to see this book, but I can vividly imagine the conversations I would have

had with each of them about it—Mort would have believed it was going to change the world, and Sheila would have told me that it sounded very impressive but she really couldn't understand a word I was saying. She is, as ever, the person whose work ethic I most aspire to channel when I sit down to write.

Most of this manuscript was written during 2020 and early 2021, when the world very suddenly went into lockdown in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic. I was lucky during that period not just to have hundreds of pages of research on cyberinsurance to throw myself into but also to have the company of Lisa Ho, Anatol Klass, Tommy Leung, and Nathan Perkins. We ate dinner together every night for some 400 nights—performing carefully controlled, triple-blind science experiments to determine the best type of vanilla bean, the tastiest Greek yogurt, and the perfect olive oil, playing bridge and *Mario Kart*, celebrating half-Christmas on half-Thanksgiving, eating Lynne Rosetto Kasper's Friday-night spaghetti with tuna and black olives, and assembling a cheese journal worthy of entry into the *Congressional Record*. Lisa introduced me to the joys of homemade ice cream and let me introduce her to a Midori ten-year diary. Tommy carefully tracked everyone's dessert consumption, designed a highly demanded DuckDuckGo weather widget with hourly precipitation predictions, and took three days off from work to cook a Chinese feast for my birthday. Far and away the most competent member of the pod, Nathan endured endless abuse about Siri's gaffes as well as his mispronunciation of German composers and Cantonese phrases, but he still fixed all of our Apple devices, assembled the enormous nineteenth-century post office desk where I wrote this book, and gave me the computer I wrote it on. As for Anatol, he mostly sang songs about Pete Buttigieg (and occasionally mee goreng), taking breaks every now and then to have a meltdown about whatever he was cooking, or to comment on this manuscript, or to read hundreds of books on modern Chinese history in preparation for his oral exams—in short, he was indispensable. It has been a true pleasure and privilege to get to watch him beat Excitebike Arena and grow into a formidable scholar and remarkable researcher. I will be forever grateful to the four of them for their company during that strange, scary, and sad year of quarantine and for filling those days with tremendous, unexpected joy.

While the rest of us were blithely blindfolding vanilla beans, Orlando Klass spent the pandemic working long shifts in the hospital, but he somehow still

managed to find time to take incredible care of our grandparents and to ship a Cheez-It cake to Cambridge.

Perri Klass and Larry Wolff are my very favorite people in the whole world, and I strongly suspect that would still be true even if they weren't my parents (though in that case I might have to cede the hotly contested title of their favorite daughter). Growing up, I learned how to write books from watching them: stay up too late, don't clean the house, and don't let anything get in the way. Over the years, they bought me so many books that I am still using the discounts they accumulated at Harvard Book Store; they read me so many books that I still hear their voices when I read Louisa May Alcott, Jane Austen, E. F. Benson, and Maud Hart Lovelace; and they wrote so many books that I just assumed someday I would, too.

This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/13665.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/13665.001.0001)

Cyberinsurance Policy

Rethinking Risk in an Age of Ransomware, Computer Fraud, Data Breaches, and Cyberattacks

By: Josephine Wolff

Citation:

*Cyberinsurance Policy: Rethinking Risk in an Age of Ransomware,
Computer Fraud, Data Breaches, and Cyberattacks*

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DOI: 10.7551/mitpress/13665.001.0001

ISBN (electronic): 9780262370752

Publisher: The MIT Press

Published: 2022

The open access edition of this book was made possible by
generous funding and support from MIT Press Direct to Open



The MIT Press

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The MIT Press would like to thank the anonymous peer reviewers who provided comments on drafts of this book. The generous work of academic experts is essential for establishing the authority and quality of our publications. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of these otherwise uncredited readers.

This book was set in Bembo by Westchester Publishing Services.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Wolff, Josephine, author.

Title: Cyberinsurance policy : rethinking risk in an age of ransomware, computer fraud, data breaches, and cyberattacks / Josephine Wolff.

Description: Cambridge, Massachusetts : The MIT Press, [2022] | Series:

Information policy series | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021045988 | ISBN 9780262544184 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Computer insurance. | Computer security—Management. |

Cyberspace—Security measures—Management. | Computer crimes—Prevention. |

Risk management.

Classification: LCC HG9963.5 .W65 2022 | DDC 658.4/78—dc23/eng/20220114

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021045988>