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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Preface -- Organization -- Contents -- Future Access Networks -- Systematic Analysis of Quantum Key Distribution Network Simulations Tools and Platforms -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Previous Research -- 3 The Role of QKD Network in Secure Communication -- 3.1 Distinguishing Characteristics of QKD and Classics Key Distribution -- 3.2 QKD Network Parameters and Architecture -- 4 Overview of QKD Network Simulation Platforms -- 4.1 Discrete-Event Simulation Platforms -- 4.2 Non Discrete-Event Simulation Platforms -- 5 Analysis of QKD Network Simulators Characteristics -- 6 Conclusion -- References -- A Blockchain Patient-Centric Records Framework for Older Adult Healthcare -- 1 Introduction -- 1.1 Older Adults and Co-morbidities -- 1.2 EHR Gaps -- 1.3 A Case for Patient-Centric Healthcare -- 2 Review of Literature -- 2.1 Blockchain Applications in Healthcare -- 2.2 Blockchain Frameworks and Platforms -- 2.3 Analysis and Machine Learning in Healthcare -- 2.4 Proxy Re- encryption -- 2.5 Blockchain Application Evaluation Strategies -- 3 Proposed System -- 3.1 The Framework -- 3.2 The Agents -- 3.3 The Workflow -- 3.4 Other Building Blocks -- 3.5 Security Analysis and Data Accuracy -- 4 Prototype -- 4.1 The Agent Panel and Features -- 4.2 Data Transfer -- 4.3 Algorithms -- 4.4 Queries -- 5 Conclusion -- References -- Analysis of Serious Challenges Faced by the Aviation

Industry -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Challenge of Big Data Management -- 3  
 Challenge of B737 MAX Aircraft Grounding -- 4 Conclusion --  
 References -- Internet of Vehicle Moving Objects Detection System  
 for the Rural Road Networks -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Related Work -- 2.1  
 Design of Rural Road Infrastructure -- 3 Internet of Vehicles  
 and Communications in the Traffic Environment -- 4 Potential Dangers  
 and Protection of Living Moving Objects on Rural Roads.  
 5 Internet of Vehicle Moving Objects Detection System Designed  
 for the Rural Road Networks -- 6 Conclusions -- References --  
 Sustainable Communications and Computing Infrastructures --  
 Photogrammetry in a Virtual Environment -- 1 Introduction -- 1.1  
 Photogrammetry and Its Current State -- 2 Methodology -- 2.1 Data  
 Collection -- 2.2 The Process of Creating a Virtual Room -- 3 Results  
 -- 4 Conclusion -- References -- Enhancing Circular Economy Using  
 Expert Systems -- 1 Introduction -- 1.1 The Circular Economy  
 of Selected Materials in the Motorsport -- 2 Definition of Expert  
 Systems -- 3 Results and Discussion -- 3.1 Utilization of Acquired Data  
 Using Expert Systems -- 4 Conclusion -- References -- Digital Twin  
 Ecosystem Built with PLM Software for Smart Factory -- 1 Introduction  
 -- 1.1 Literature Review -- 2 Methodology -- 2.1 Case Study -- 3  
 Results -- 4 Conclusion -- References -- Empirical Evaluations of  
 Machine Learning Effectiveness in Detecting Web Application Attacks --  
 1 Introduction -- 2 Related Work -- 3 Background -- 3.1 XSS: Cross-  
 Site Scripting -- 3.2 SQL Injection Attack -- 4 System Methodology --  
 4.1 Design Choice -- 4.2 System Work Flow -- 5 Experimental Results  
 -- 6 Conclusion -- References -- Parameters of Sustainability  
 in the Context of Decarbonization and Circular Construction Sector --  
 1 Introduction -- 2 Literature Review -- 2.1 Sustainability and Its  
 Aspects -- 2.2 Sustainability of Buildings -- 2.3 Decarbonization  
 and Its Impact on Industry -- 2.4 Circular Construction -- 3 Research  
 Methodology and Data -- 3.1 Research Aim -- 3.2 Data Collection  
 and Research Sample -- 3.3 Research Step and Methodology -- 4  
 Results and Discussion -- 4.1 Green Taxes, Energy Taxes -- 4.2 Waste  
 and Recycling -- 5 Conclusion -- References -- Smart Environment  
 Applications/Scenarios -- Online Monitoring and Control FDM Devices:  
 Study.  
 1 Introduction -- 2 Fused Deposition Modeling Method -- 2.1  
 OctoPrint and Software -- 3 Research and Discussion -- 4 Conclusion  
 -- References -- Possibilities of Applying Augmented Reality Elements  
 in the Concept of Lean Management -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Methods  
 and Tools -- 2.1 Lean Management -- 2.2 Augmented Reality -- 3  
 Possibilities of Applying Augmented Reality for Selected Methods  
 of Lean Management -- 3.1 Shop Floor -- 3.2 Value Stream Mapping  
 -- 3.3 Single Minute Exchange to Dies -- 4 Conclusion -- References  
 -- Detection of Energy Consumption Cyber Attacks on Smart Devices  
 -- 1 Introduction -- 1.1 Motivation and Contribution -- 1.2  
 Organization of the Paper -- 2 Related Work and Background -- 3  
 Proposed Algorithm -- 3.1 Packet Measurements -- 3.2 Energy  
 Measurements -- 3.3 Calculation of Normal and Abnormal Behaviors --  
 4 Experimentation and Discussion -- 4.1 The Testbed Scenario -- 4.2  
 Experimental Results -- 5 Conclusion and Future Work -- References  
 -- An Efficient Strategy for Deploying Deception Technology -- 1  
 Introduction -- 2 Background -- 2.1 Problem Statement -- 2.2  
 Deception -- 2.3 HoneyNet -- 2.4 HoneyPot -- 3 Methodology -- 3.1  
 Testing Lab Components -- 3.2 Phases -- 3.3 Steps -- 3.4 Proposed  
 Framework -- 3.5 Consider Data Ex-Filtration Detection Using  
 Deception -- 3.6 Network Scanning -- 4 Lab Testing Use Cases -- 4.1  
 Scenario 1: Scanning the Network Using Nmap (two Types of Network

Scan: Normal Nmap Scan and Silent Scan) -- 4.2 Scenario 2: Password Spray Was Not Identified by Snort IDS but Got Detected by Dejavu Open-Source Deception Platform -- 5 Conclusion -- References -- The Use of Data in BIM Technology and Effects on Profitability of Construction Projects in Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia -- 1 Introduction and Problem Statement -- 2 Data in BIM Technology and Profitability Indicators -- 3 Methodology. 3.1 Research Aim and Research Problem -- 3.2 Data Collection and Data Processing -- 3.3 Research Sample -- 3.4 Research Limitations -- 4 Results and Discussion -- 5 Conclusion -- References -- Author Index.

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ISBN	9786612904615 9781282904613 1282904612 9780226534329 0226534324
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 242 pages) : illustrations, maps
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Disciplina	526/.82
Soggetti	Mercator projection (Cartography) Cartography - Social aspects Loxodrome Peters projection (Cartography) Navigation
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 207-229) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Bearings straight? an introduction -- Early sailing charts -- Mercator's resume -- Revealing replicas -- The Wright approach -- Travelers' aide

-- Soldiering on -- On track -- Wall maps and worldviews -- Size matters -- Points of view.

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## Sommario/riassunto

In *Rhumb Lines and Map Wars*, Mark Monmonier offers an insightful, richly illustrated account of the controversies surrounding Flemish cartographer Gerard Mercator's legacy. He takes us back to 1569, when Mercator announced a clever method of portraying the earth on a flat surface, creating the first projection to take into account the earth's roundness. As Monmonier shows, mariners benefited most from Mercator's projection, which allowed for easy navigation of the high seas with rhumb lines-clear-cut routes with a constant compass bearing-for true direction. But the projection's popularity among nineteenth-century sailors led to its overuse-often in inappropriate, non-navigational ways-for wall maps, world atlases, and geopolitical propaganda. Because it distorts the proportionate size of countries, the Mercator map was criticized for inflating Europe and North America in a promotion of colonialism. In 1974, German historian Arno Peters proffered his own map, on which countries were ostensibly drawn in true proportion to one another. In the ensuing "map wars" of the 1970's and 1980's, these dueling projections vied for public support-with varying degrees of success. Widely acclaimed for his accessible, intelligent books on maps and mapping, Monmonier here examines the uses and limitations of one of cartography's most significant innovations. With informed skepticism, he offers insightful interpretations of why well-intentioned clerics and development advocates rallied around the Peters projection, which flagrantly distorted the shape of Third World nations; why journalists covering the controversy ignored alternative world maps and other key issues; and how a few postmodern writers defended the Peters worldview with a self-serving overstatement of the power of maps. *Rhumb Lines and Map Wars* is vintage Monmonier: historically rich, beautifully written, and fully engaged with the issues of our time.

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