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Mr. Anderson is the professor of security engineering at Cambridge University. He was one of the founders of the academic discipline, economics of information security. Mr. Anderson was also a seminal contributor to the idea of peer-to-peer systems and an inventor of the Advance Encryption Standard finalist encryption algorithm "Serpent."

He has written publications on other technical security topics, including hardware tamper-resistance, emission security, copyright marking and the robustness of Application Programming Interfaces. He is a fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Engineering and Technology, and the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications. He also wrote the standard textbook, Security Engineering—A Guide to Building Dependable Distributed Systems.