Foreword
by Howard A. Schmidt

Few can argue that “the cloud” gives us tremendous capabilities and efficiencies that are like nothing we have seen before. Governments, businesses, academia, and all other organizations that embrace cloud computing are achieving competitive advantages from the better utilization of IT resources and faster services for their customers. The US government has adopted a “cloud first” policy, and this supports better fiscal responsibilities, so we can achieve necessary spending cuts without cutting into essential services. Cloud also makes the government more responsive to the needs of its citizens and increases the collaboration and coordination between agencies. Through data.gov, recovery.gov, and other related .gov projects, cloud has demonstrated its capability for increased interactions with the public, allowing for more feedback and easier contact with interested parties. New cloud datacenters use power more efficiently than the traditional IT infrastructures, while supporting the same workload. This can dramatically reduce the carbon footprint and encourage the society’s move into the green IT era.

Many of us talk about the challenges to privacy and security in the cloud. Much of this can be enhanced with good planning, requirement setting, and full understanding of the environment. Taking the US government as an example again, federal and state CIOs need to report to the legislators on how data is being kept private and secure in the cloud. Data is often handled by many departments and agencies with varying levels of sensitivity, such as the intelligence and law enforcement reports, the citizens’ personally identifiable information, and a host of other types of data. The security and privacy protection requirements are complex and varied; therefore, a cloud environment must be well understood in order to achieve the above goals in the cloud and in parity to what we have done for an on premise environment. Strategic planning will help us to achieve the goals in a coordinated effort.

The book, *Enabling the New Era of Cloud Computing: Data Security, Transfer, and Management*, comes at a critical time when existing markets need to keep the cloud adoption momentum, and emerging markets want to land in the cloud in the right way. Indisputably, data is the core asset, and we should understand how it can be secured, transferred, accessed, and managed in the cloud. I am impressed that all of the authors have shared their insights in this book from the different perspectives through their unique experiences.

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Howard A. Schmidt brings together talents in business, defense, intelligence, law enforcement, privacy, academia, and international relations gained from a distinguished career spanning 40 years. He currently serves as a partner in the strategic advisory firm, Ridge Schmidt Cyber, an executive services firm that helps leaders in business and government navigate the increasing demands of cybersecurity. He serves in this position with Tom Ridge, the first secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. He also serves as executive director of The Software Assurance Forum for Excellence in Code (SAFECODE). Mr. Schmidt served as Special Assistant to the President and the Cybersecurity Coordinator for the federal government. In this role, he was responsible for coordinating interagency cybersecurity policy development and implementation and for coordinating engagement with federal, state, local, international, and private sector cybersecurity partners. Previously, Mr. Schmidt was the President and CEO of the Information Security Forum (ISF). Before ISF, he served as Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Security Strategist for eBay Inc., and formerly operated as the Chief Security Officer for Microsoft Corp. He also served as Chief Security Strategist for the US-CERT Partners Program for the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Schmidt also brings to bear over 26 years of military service. Mr. Schmidt holds a master’s degree in organizational management (MAOM) from the University of Phoenix, and an Honorary Doctorate degree in Humane Letters. He was an Adjunct Professor at GA Tech, GTISC, Professor of Research at Idaho State University, Adjunct Distinguished Fellow with Carnegie Mellon’s CyLab, and a Distinguished Fellow of the Ponemon Privacy Institute.