

# Preface

The inspiration for this book comes from an innocuous personal story. It is hard to believe that a few simple events in the course of my day translated into a complete book.

There was a time when I knew even less about XML Security than I do now (I should hope to convince the reader that I know *something* about the subject). We shall see. In particular, I remember researching something brand new called an *XML Signature*. At the time, I knew nothing about XML, but knew a few things about security. Needless to say, after staring blankly at the XML Signature Candidate Recommendation, I instantly knew that the marriage of XML and Security is a world all its own, with its own personality traits, which are separate and distinct from “traditional” applied security. Although XML Security shares common bonds with traditional applied security, a whole new viewpoint and set of conceptual tools are needed to understand the subject in its entirety. At the moment I made this realization, I realized the scope of the research and work ahead of me. I only wished that I had a guide that would explain everything to me in an easy, understandable manner. The piece of inert wood byproducts in your hands represents my best attempt at this vision.