Press Release

DECT Forum Announces DECT and CAT-iq Security Certification

Berne, December 23, 2009. The DECT Forum announces security updates of the DECT standard and a formal certification of DECT and CAT-iq devices. These security measures based on state-of-the-art cryptography mitigate attacks on DECT's authentication and encryption scheme discovered over the past year.

Following research showing that some DECT devices do not use the existing security algorithms to their full extent, new research shows that even when these algorithms are used, calls can sometimes be intercepted[1]. The DECT Forum, the worldwide association of the home and enterprise communication industry, has worked closely with the researchers of deDECTed.org in designing short-term and long-term countermeasures to all currently known attacks.

The DECT Forum takes the attack scenarios seriously and continues to investigate their applicability in a security task force consisting of representatives from several DECT manufacturers. This task force was set up in collaboration with the researchers of deDECTed. The joint work throughout 2009 has produced a number of short-term improvements within the current DECT standard as well as a security roadmap for integrating state-of-the-art cryptography into the CAT-iq next-generation standard.

The short-term updates to the DECT standard were worked out in close cooperation with ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) and will be ratified as early as spring 2010. Furthermore, the DECT Forum is in the process of establishing a formal certification of DECT devices to assure security best practices for DECT implementations based on the formal requirements and latest updates of the standard. The longer-term improvements in the standard are currently being discussed with ETSI SAGE (Security Algorithms Group of Experts) and deDECTed; details will be announced once a standard draft is available for public review.

The DECT Forum would like to give special recognition to valuable contributions from the members of the deDECTed group. Going forward the DECT Forum hopes to continue this cooperation and draw upon the expertise that the deDECTed members can provide.

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[1] The new research by deDECTed.org will be presented at the 26C3 congress in Berlin (December 27-30, 2009).

About DECT Forum:

The DECT Forum is the international industry association of the home and enterprise communication industry. With more than 800 million devices sold and growing by more than 80 million devices per year, DECT, DECT 6.0 and CAT-iq are worldwide-adopted technologies with high relevance for wireless voice and broadband home and enterprise communication. The DECT Forum is located in Berne, Switzerland. Full members of the DECT Forum are currently: Ascom, AVM, CCT, Deutsche Telekom, DSP Group, Gigaset Communications, GN Netcom, Lantiq, Panasonic, Philips, Plantronics, Polycom, RTX, Sagem, SiTel, SGW Electronics, Snom, Swissvoice, Thomson, Uniden, Vtech. Please visit: www.dect.org www.cat-iq.org

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