Two out of Five Digital Households Worldwide at Cyber Risk, Avast Reveals

Scan of 16 million home networks uncovers new vulnerabilities in smart homes across the globe

- 40.8% of digital households worldwide, and 35.2% of U.S. and 35.1% of Spanish households have at least one vulnerable device, putting the whole home network at risk
- 59.7% of household routers worldwide are vulnerable, in the U.S. the number is higher with 69.8% and in Spain lower with 40.4% of routers vulnerable
- Apart from routers and network devices, media boxes, security cameras and printers are the most vulnerable household devices

MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS, Barcelona, Spain, 25 February 2019 - Avast (LSE: AVST), the global leader in digital security products, today announced that two out of five digital households are vulnerable to cyber attacks. The Avast Smart Home Report 2019 contains insights from over 16 million smart home networks, revealing that 40.3% of homes worldwide have more than five smart devices connected (U.S.: 62.0%, Spain: 45.6%), and 40.8% of these digital homes worldwide (U.S.: 35.2%, Spain: 35.1%) contain at least one vulnerable connected device. This illustrates how many homes are at risk from Internet of Things devices as it only takes one vulnerable device to compromise the security of the whole home network.

"People use their smart TV to watch their favorite Netflix series or connect their baby monitor to their home network, however often they don't know how to maintain their devices' security," said Ondrej Vlcek, President, Consumer at Avast. "It only takes one weak device to let in a bad hacker and once they are on the network, they can access other devices, and the personal data they stream or store, including live videos and voice recordings. Simple security steps like setting strong, unique passwords and two-factor authentication for all device access, and ensuring software patches and firmware updates are applied when available, will significantly improve digital home integrity."

Weak credentials and out of date software
The majority (69.2%) of vulnerable devices in households worldwide (U.S.: 60.9%, Spain: 65.0%) were discovered to be vulnerable due to having weak credentials, such as passwords or

only using one-factor authentication. A further 31.8% of these devices worldwide (U.S.: 39.4%, Spain: 35.6%) were vulnerable due to not being patched.

Avast also scanned 11 million routers worldwide and found that over half (59.7%) worldwide either have weak credentials or software vulnerabilities. In the U.S., more than two third (69.8%), and in Spain, two out of three (40.4%) routers are vulnerable. Out-of-date software is often the weakest link in the security chain, making it an easy gateway for cybercriminals looking to access other connected devices.

The most vulnerable devices
The research found that the top five most spread vulnerable devices were:

Worldwide:
1. Printer, 32.9%
2. Network device (a connection point that can send and receive data such as a hub), 28.9%
3. Security camera, 20.8%
4. NAS (Network Attached Storage), 7.8%
5. Media streaming box (set-top boxes, Chromecasts, TiVos), 5.3%

U.S.:
1. Printer, 40.8%
2. NAS, 17.7%
3. Security camera, 14.7%
4. Network device, 14.6%
5. Media streaming box, 3.7%

Spain:
1. Network device, 25.9%
2. Printer, 25.1%
3. NAS, 21.0%
4. Security camera, 20.1%
5. Media streaming box, 4.6%

Printers were found to be the most prevalent vulnerable device worldwide, featuring in the top three list in every single country scanned and topping the list in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Singapore, South Korea and Japan. Media streaming boxes (e.g. set-top boxes, Chromecasts, TiVos) have entered the top five, and are incidentally the third most prevalent IoT device found in digital homes, after TVs and printers.

A link to the full report can be found here:

https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/486579/avast_smart_home_report_feb_2019.pdf

About Avast Smart Life
Avast's Artificial Intelligence-based IoT security platform, Smart Life, provides insights into anomalies in smart home network traffic and alerts users if any devices start to behave abnormally, e.g. their fridge starts sending masses of emails for no obvious reason. Avast is currently working on delivering the Smart Life service to mobile users through carrier partnerships, and will also offer a plug and play solution based on Smart Life, directly to consumers.

About Avast
Avast (LSE:AVST) is the global leader in digital security products. With over 400 million users online, Avast offers products under the Avast and AVG brands that protect people from threats on the internet and the evolving IoT threat landscape. The company's threat detection network is among the most advanced in the world, using machine learning and artificial intelligence technologies to detect and stop threats in real time. Avast digital security products for Mobile, PC or Mac are top-ranked and certified by VB100, AV-Comparatives, AV-Test, OPSWAT, West Coast Labs and others. Visit: www.avast.com.