

Security by Design: Gaining trust by guaranteeing secure applications

This week Rudy Stroh joined the panel “Security in a Digital World: Recommendations for Politics and Economy” organized by Siemens and the Munich Security Conference to present NXP’s position on cybersecurity. The event counted with the presence of prominent authorities and experts on the topic.

It’s estimated that by 2020, over 20 billion devices will be connected to the internet of things (IoT) while daily 280,000 new kinds of malware join the existing pool of 600 million. The widespread impact of massive attacks like “WannaCry” or “IoT Reaper” damaged the public trust severely over the past years. The annual financial losses caused by cybercrime amount to US \$ 400 billion and it’s estimated that this number will spike to US \$ 2 trillion in just two years. The security of the expanding ecosystem of connected devices is a top priority.

Governmental involvement on regulation of digital security standards across Europe was at the center of the table at the MSC. "We need to establish minimal levels of security to each digital component of the supply chain, these standards must be enforced across borders at a European level and ultimately in a global scale", stated Mr. Stroh when inquired about the fragmented standards of cybersecurity in German in the light of the discovery of strong vulnerabilities in wind turbine farms around the country.

While Europe is already taking steps to countermeasure cybercrime much more effort must be put in place. The GDPR, or General Data Protection Regulation that will get into full enforcement in May of next year is one of the first steps. GDPR promises to provide harmonization of the data protection regulations throughout the EU by outlining protocols of security in the management of the personal data of all European citizens.

Standardization is a complex process, and one of its most difficult steps is to ensure that the new protocols are compatible with existent and often outdated devices. According to Mr. Stroh, “NXP’s ‘secure-by-design’ philosophy is one of our most important pillars of development, it helps our customers and partners mitigate risk of security breaches, stay ahead of new rules and security demands set forth by authorities, and empowers the IoT ecosystem. In contrast, many other manufacturers favor development speed and lower costs over cybersecurity, while this might translate in faster profits it’s a very dangerous practice that endangers the reputation of the manufacturers and the safety of their clients in the long term, security can no longer be optional, strong rules and sanctions must be imposed by the competent authorities”.

Although considerable work is left, much more involved and aware consumers and manufactures are slowly helping to create an environment that will ensure a safer digital experience in the years to come. NXP is committed to collaborate in the planning and development of the critical frameworks that will help to guarantee a safer and more connected world.