

The Internet of Things and Cyber Risk

How You Could Be Victimized



Smart, instrumented devices are everywhere. Consumers use them. Businesses adopt them. Manufacturers produce them. With any technology the power to do good also introduces risk. The purpose of this alert is to highlight a recent Internet of Things (IoT)¹ based Denial of Service (DoS) attack for your awareness and possible action.



On September 27, 2016 Brian Krebs' (popular cybersecurity journalist) website was subject to a Denial of Service attack. It was noted to be the largest Denial of Service attack ever seen, peaking at 620 Gbps. On September 30, 2016 the source code for the botnet software that powered this attack was leaked on a hacker forum. After analyzing the code it was determined that it targets IoT devices and tries to log in using default credentials and spreads from there to other IoT devices. This botnet spread to about 400,000 IoT devices and was able to launch a high volume Denial of Service attack as a result. Being that there are known to be other competing botnets that comprise of IoT devices, we suspect more high volume attacks like the one described are possible. There is at least one other known IoT botnet tool that has compromised around 1 Million devices!

Why is such an attack possible? What makes a client's environment vulnerable? The issue is that many organizations who have set up their IoT devices do not administer them after installing them. Some IoT devices do not have the ability to receive a patch. In other words, once the IoT device is installed if the business does not take proactive action the IoT remains vulnerable to compromise and thus used in this type of attack.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO

- Make an inventory of your IoT usage within your business. You cannot defend what you don't know you have.
- If the IoT platform comes with a default ID and Password change them. Attackers know these platforms and their defaults. If you don't change them you are essentially handing them the keys.
- When changing the password use what is considered a Strong password
 - 8 characters minimum
 - At least one number, one letter, and one Capital letter should be used at a minimum. If allowed at least one punctuation character should be included
- Passwords should be rotated regularly but not at the expense of complex passwords.
- If the IoT platform can be patched practice a regular timely patch schedule.
- If the IoT platform allows enable automatic updates and patching to occur.
- Disable remote administration and features that you don't need or want
- If possible do not allow unfiltered access to the device from the Internet; only allow whitelisted (trusted) connections via IP filtering or other security controls.
- Do not enable Universal Plug and Play on IoT devices
- Use secure protocols where possible like HTTPS and SSH for device communications
- Include IoT devices in regular vulnerability management programs.

END-TO-END RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FROM AIG

When your organization or employees suffer a cyber-attack, there's more than data at stake. In a rapidly changing landscape, a cyber breach or attack may cause property damage, broad business interruption, or harm to customers. That's why AIG provides clients with proactive risk services, comprehensive insurance coverage, and long-standing breach response and claims teams to help you stay ahead of cyber-related exposures. To learn more, visit www.aig.com/cyberedge

¹ IoT devices are comprised of DVR's, IP Cameras, Refrigerators, Smart Meters, Phones, Coffee

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Offering and/or Competency Name
Product Profile

Product/Service Name



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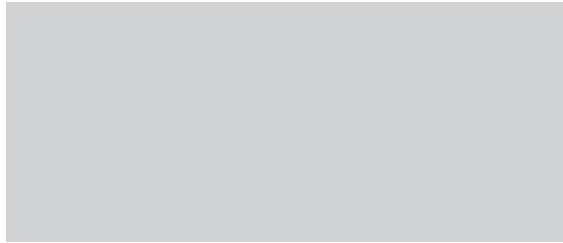
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