EICAR introduces a Minimum Standard for Anti-Malware Products

Leading vendors back the initiative

Munich, 13 July, 2015. The European Expert Group for IT Security (EICAR) today announces the "EICAR Minimum Standard for Anti-Malware Products", a voluntary performance standard designed to enhance customer trust in IT Security Products. Products that meet the standard will be awarded the EICAR Seal of Quality.

Consumer trust in security products has been damaged recently following reports of solutions being hacked or tampered with and being in the focus of intelligence agencies, among other things. Many consumers don't know what basic standards they can and should expect from the security products they buy.

EICAR has taken on the task of providing clarification and leading the industry towards a defined set of minimum standards. The standards announced today address Anti-Malware Products. Other IT security products will be covered in the future, including routers, firewalls, and intrusion detection.

Details of the new standard

The EICAR Minimum Standard represents the basic requirements for an IT security product. The aim is to ensure that all products:

- Comply with Data Protection (Privacy) regulations
- Offer product and feature transparency to the user
- Can provide assurance that they have not been manipulated

Since the standards are still in development and several stakeholders are involved in their definition and implementation, a number of steps are involved:

- Step 1: The development of the "Minimum Standard for Anti-Malware Products" and its implementation in the form of a "Self Declaration", approved by EICAR
- Step 2: The development of a "Minimum Standard for AV Test-Labs/security product testers"
- Step3: The development of standardised test procedures to verify minimum standards
- Step 4: The implementation of the procedures and the execution of tests by a certified tester, to verify compliance with the standard

- On-going: A proposals for research in the area of evaluation and certification, cryptography and legal aspects

„The standard was developed with the support of different stakeholders", says Rainer Fahs, Chairman of EICAR. "Academics, IT security experts, vendors, test laboratories, and many more have joined forces to back the standard. We feel that the time is right to introduce the EICAR Minimum Standard."

EICAR (www.eicar.org) is a not-for-profit, independent, international group of experts in the field of IT security. The membership comprises a mixture of independent representatives from research and development, academic research, government organizations and industry. As an ambassador for the end-user, ECIAR develops solutions that enhance IT security and awareness. The "EICAR Minimum Standard for Anti-Malware Products" is such a solution.

About EICAR: The **E**uropean **I**nstitute for **C**omputer **A**nti-Virus **R**esearch (EICAR) was founded in 1991 and represents an independent and impartial platform for IT-Security experts in the field of science, research, development, implementation and management. The institute initiates information exchange on a global basis as well as synergy building to enhance computer network and telecommunication-security. EICAR supports all kinds of initiatives in terms of technical solutions or preventive measures against writing and proliferation of malicious code like computer viruses or Trojan Horses, and against computer crime, fraud and the misuse of computers or networks, inclusive malicious exploitation of personal data. The institute is dealing with all kinds of technical, organisational, legal and psychological aspects in the context of IT-Security. EICAR is bundling expert know-how from leading scientists and academics as well as recognized researchers, official institutions and global players of the industry.

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