

New security standard for IT products published

cyberintelligence.institute (CII) and EICAR join forces: Joint development of the new "Product Cybersecurity Standard" (PCS) for more product-related cybersecurity

Frankfurt, January 23, 2025: cyberintelligence.institute and the European Expert Group for IT Security (EICAR) present the new "Product Cybersecurity Standard" (PCS). The new security standard for IT products is the further development of the "EICAR Minimum Standard" and aims to actively support the comprehensive implementation of product-related "Security by Design" by defining basic, generally applicable security requirements. The aim of the PCS is not only to generally improve the trustworthiness of IT products, but also to take particular account of the fatal security situation in the IoT sector. CII and EICAR are therefore jointly calling on manufacturers, importers and distributors of IT products to publicly commit to the core values of the PCS. Companies can demonstrate their commitment to greater product-related cyber security by displaying a corresponding seal Without sufficiently secure products, there can be no sufficiently secure processes: Cyber attackers regularly take advantage of the lack of IT security in networked products to successfully compromise IT systems and computer networks. As a result, companies are confronted with security gaps in their IT of which they often have no knowledge or control. In this way, the product-related security risk, which is actually the responsibility of the manufacturer, is passed on to users, which can result in significant cyber threats due to a lack of knowledge and resources. In order to counter this situation, the European Union has introduced regulations such as the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) to ensure higher security standards for all products with digital elements in future. The new "Product Cybersecurity Standard" (PCS) supports the implementation of "security by design" in IT products, i.e. the consideration of cybersecurity from the start of development through to their discontinuation from the market, by defining basic requirements that characterize data-secure and data protection-compliant digital and networked products, taking into account the current digital threat situation. On the one hand, such a set of requirements is helpful in the timely preparation of the implementation standards of the CRA, and on the other hand, it supports companies in actively starting to lay the foundations for greater IT security of their products

through an initially voluntary public commitment and thus meeting the increased manufacturer responsibility in the area of IT security. In this way, the PCS contributes to more comprehensive product-related cyber security. **What does the standard represent and what phases will it go through?** The standard defines cross-product requirements for security by design of networked IT products.

It takes into account the following aspects, among others:

- Securing the digital supply chain
- Control over the source code and data processing
- Compliance with data security and data protection requirements
- Patch management and provision of CVD policies
- Emergency management
- Legal compliance
- Protection against backdoors and unpublished product functions
- International data transfer
- Transparency, product documentation and user information

Prof. Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker: “The EICAR was ahead of its time with the development of its minimum standard. We have supplemented the work that has already gone into the standard to bring it up to date. The result is a contemporary concept of “Security by Design”, which should help to improve product-related cyber security across the board.”

“The collaboration with the cybrintelligence.institute was excellent in terms of expertise and content,” commented Rainer Fahs, Chairman of EICAR. “Embedding the minimum standard in the concept of security by design makes sense and is the logical next step in its further development. The time was ripe for this alliance.”
The Product Cybersecurity Standard can be viewed from January 23 at www.cyberintelligence.institute/PCS as well as on the EICAR website (www.eicar.org).

CII profile in brief: New times need a new form of research: the cyberintelligence.institute (CII) - a place where innovation, technology, strategy and resilience meet. At the interface between business and science, NGOs and start-ups, the CII in Frankfurt am Main develops new solutions for a secure digital future. The core idea is cooperation, dialog and the interdisciplinary and global exchange of information and knowledge in order to make the state, economy and society more resilient. What is needed here are holistic concepts that understand cyber security not just as an abstract technical and organizational guarantee responsibility, but as a task for society as a whole to protect common European values. The cyberintelligence.institute thus actively advocates greater digital security in an age of new digital challenges. Further information can be found on the CII website at www.cyberintelligence.institute.

Brief profile of EICAR: EICAR was founded in 1991 as a registered association in Germany. Initially with the aim of pooling know-how in the field of antivirus research, EICAR is now a recognized IT security expert network. The institute sees itself as a

platform for the exchange of information for all security experts working in the fields of research and development, implementation and management. This is intended to promote global cooperation in the field of computer security. The aim of the institute is to develop solutions and preventive measures against all types of computer crime, such as the writing and distribution of computer viruses, fraud and the spying of personal data. The institute works very closely with companies, political organizations and university institutions as well as media, technology and legal experts.

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