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Concerns and Implications Surrounding IoT Forensics

Legal Concerns and Implications

The legal implications of IoT forensics are not entirely clear, but it is a topic that has recently been gaining more attention not just in the tech world but outside of it as well. Data protection as well as liability are both terms that are bound to appear in any conversation surrounding this topic. Recently there has been litigation surrounding these ideas, however this is still an emerging section of the legal world which has yet to be fully explored or understood. It is worth noting that there is little to no standardization surrounding IoT devices, so data protection is an issue which is most prominent. The lack of standardization means that data both stored and in-transit will be handled differently between different devices and manufacturers. Liability is also an issue at the forefront because of the issue of transparency. Manufacturers of these devices face legal challenges when the use of their products results in damages to a client, and if the workings of a system are not transparent then these challenges become even more complicated.

Mitigation

The main workarounds for these issues, should they become significant, is documentation and research. Faced with data protection, it is important to document any and all findings in detail to get a clear picture of how data is handled, and to take future steps accordingly. Related to liability, it is important to do extensive research to understand the inner workings of these devices so that all findings are complete. Liability will not be as pertinent an issue to this project as data protection.

Sources

The sources below cover separate topics. The first is directly related to these issues, and is a conference paper published by Mohamed Sedky from Staffordshire University. The paper deals with both legal and technical challenges of IoT forensics. The second source is a report from the University of New Haven discussing the results of a survey conducted relating to IoT forensic challenges and future directions of research. The survey also considered definitions surrounding IoT, which is useful when discussing the topic, as well as understanding the current climate and general knowledge surrounding IoT.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343628711_The_Forensic_Swing_of_Things_The_Current_Legal_and_Technical_Challenges_of_IoT_Forensics

https://digitalcommons.newhaven.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1094&context=electricalcomputerengineering-facpubs