Europe bands together to fight against botnets

eco coordinates Advanced Cyber Defence Center with EU support

Cologne, 13.02.2013 – eco – Association the German Industry together with 28 partners from 14 European countries are launching a project against one of the biggest Internet security threats: Every fifth computer is currently estimated to be part of a botnet used by cyber criminals to infect end user computers with malware and gain remote access to them. Kicking off today in Frankfurt, the association begins its work as the coordinator of the Advanced Cyber Defence Center (ACDC) which is supported by the European Union. The project will offer a full range of services for increased cyber security ranging from malware recognition to prevention. The campaign partners are large public network providers, software producers, scientific institutions, law enforcement and administrative bodies, banks, as well as certification authorities.

"Working together to combat botnets is fundamentally important: From providers to the police and all the way to the end users. We have seen how effective that can be at the national level with the Anti-Botnet-Advisory Center. We look forward to taking this effective approach to defy botnets in Europe together with our strong partners. With the Advanced Cyber Defence Center we can develop an eco cyber security service in addition to the existing Anti-Botnet-Advisory Center and the Initiative-S," says eco CEO Harald Summa.

The Advanced Cyber Defence Center is an important building block for the cyber security strategy of the EU. At the launch press conference on February 7th, EU-Commissioner Neelie Kroes said: "We need to protect our networks and systems and improve their resilience. To this end we should ensure that all actors play their part in fighting botnets and malware. Cyber threats are not contained to national borders: nor should cyber security be." The Head of Unit DG Connect of the European Commission, Giuseppe Abbamonte, adds: "ACDC is the first initiative launched in the context of the EU Cyber Security Strategy. This project will improve protection of our networks and systems against botnets and malware."

At the center of the EU pilot project is the Clearing House which receives reports from the project partners on security issues like spam campaigns in their networks, stolen data, or DDoS attacks. Affected parties such as end users, mobile phone providers, and banks, providers of security solutions or hosting providers are then informed of the incidents and receive support via the central website www.botfree.eu from national support

centers to remove the malware. The support centers are supposed to offer the necessary downloadable tools. What's more, small and mid-sized companies receive support if their websites are infected with malware.

In addition, the Advanced Cyber Defence Center is committed to identifying infected websites and committed to removing malware programs. Participating providers will also detect anomalies in their networks, botnets in the cloud, and within mobile networks and report them to the Clearing House.

The pilot project has a total budget of 16 million Euros and is supposed to initially run for 30 months.

A fact sheet about the project is available at
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/apps/projects/factsheet/index.cfm?project_ref=325188.

The speech given by EU-Commissioner Neelie Kroes at the launch of the EU Cyber Security Strategy is available at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-104_en.htm.

eco (www.eco.de) has been the associationof the German Internet industry for over 15 years and it represents the industry's interests in politics and on international panels. We shape the Internet together with about 600 member companies: We develop markets, we promote technology and create framework conditions. In our competence network we deal with issues of infrastructure, law and regulation, innovative applications, and content use.

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