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STEERING BOARD APPROVES UPDATES TO PREVENT 'MAN IN THE MIDDLE' ATTACKS

Updates to Technical Specification (TS) Protect Smart TVs Supporting Interactivity.

Geneva – 23 February, 2017 – At its 85th meeting, the DVB Steering Board approved updates to TS 102 809 “Signaling and carriage of interactive applications and services in Hybrid broadcast/broadband environments” introducing an authentication mechanism to help prevent ‘Man in the Middle’ attacks in Smart TVs supporting interactivity.

This update was triggered by a security researcher demonstration showing that it was possible for attackers to modify the broadcast TV signal and so exploit bugs in the software of Smart TVs to gain control over the TV. A successful ‘Man in the Middle’ attack could enable a hacker to access TV features such as its camera, microphone, and potentially other devices connected to the set. The new version will provide additional security to interactive solutions like the HbbTV specification, which relies heavily on TS 102 809.

The updated specification enables broadcasters to add authentication information to the signaling of their interactive services. In essence, the television receiver learns the legitimate transmission on each channel and will then identify and reject any subsequent tampering. This provides an extra layer of defense for TV sets and their owners in addition to manufacturers’ activities to improve their products security.

Commenting on this important action by the Steering Board, DVB Chairman, Peter MacAvock said “Although ‘Man-in-the-Middle’ attacks have been demonstrated, there is little real-world evidence of such attacks. Even so DVB acknowledges the potential risks, and has moved to address these with a comprehensive and appropriate specification to re-assure consumers and industry alike.”

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About DVB

Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulators and others from around the world committed to designing open interoperable technical standards for the global delivery of digital media and broadcast services.

DVB standards cover all aspects of digital television from transmission through interfacing, conditional access and interactivity for digital video, audio and data.

DVB dominates the digital broadcasting environment with thousands of broadcast services around the world using DVB's standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment. To date there are over a billion DVB receivers shipped worldwide.

Further information about DVB can be found at: www.dvb.org, www.dvbservices.com and www.dvbworld.org.

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