

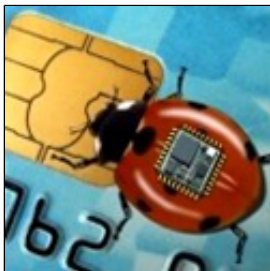
WhiteSparks

+44 (0) 844 247 4538

whitesparks@whiterockglobal.com

www.whiterockglobal.com

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WhiteRock at Milipol: Miniaturisation Just Got Smaller

At a time when studies forecast a growth of the global security market by a remarkable 7.5% in 2011 alone, industries worldwide face the biggest espionage threat ever. Furthermore, this threat, which could cost every successful firm millions, comes in the most unpredictable shapes and in barely detectable sizes.

Imagine checking in to a hotel. You are given an access card to your room, which you put into your pocket on your way to a confidential meeting. You are completely unaware that the innocent looking key will record every word during the meeting and will provide third parties with up to 11 hours of your most sensitive business information.

A high-quality audio recorder that is planted into a chip card is hard to detect even upon close inspection since its three microphone holes are the size of pinpoints and the device is available on the market for only €2,600. However, the potential damage this device can cause is enormous, as apart from being used in a hotel room key, it may be also planted into a credit card or nameplate on an executive's desk.

WhiteRock's Research and Development team, who attended Milipol – one of the world's largest security events in Paris last month, highlighted these printed and unprinted 'chip and pin' cards displayed by a Swiss surveillance manufacturer as one of the most dangerous new espionage devices.

Milipol 2011, which took place on 18-21 October, also proved that there is a huge demand for specialist spyware and underlined the fact that each accountable player in the TSCM industry has to be on top of the most current trends in surveillance devices.

This year's Milipol had grown considerably compared to the last one in Paris in 2009 and exhibited 888 companies and organisations from 48 countries. The alarming indication that the market demand for surveillance devices has increased rapidly over the last two years was due to the fact that the number of companies offering technical surveillance equipment in Milipol had almost doubled.

Spyware production is a global and highly lucrative industry, offering high-quality easy-to-use tools for a very small price to pay for getting hold of the competitor's most guarded trade secrets. Also, due to the miniature size of such devices, one can plant them almost anywhere - coffee cups, table legs, cupboard doors, just to name a few.

The agendas of senior corporate executives are full of casual post-event meetings and dinners, where the most strategic plans are often discussed. These carefully prepared strategies, however, can be scrapped with a simple dinner plate that contains a thin transmitter, not much larger than a SIM card. Crockery bugs used to be a government play only, now however, these are available commercially, as seen at Milipol. The sensitive strategies can be intercepted real-time with the information gatherers simply sitting in the car, outside of the house where the conversation takes place.

"High-definition image capture and crystal clear audio clarity has introduced an era of incredibly effective and incomparable miniature covert devices," says Raili Maripuu, WhiteRock Managing Director, "The real progression of bugging devices

today is not their method of concealment or deployment, but rather their capacity to capture, store and transmit data.”

Furthermore, with higher compression rates and better quality transmitters, espionage devices are able to send hours worth of information worldwide in seconds. In many cases, the data is transmitted in a digital format using micro SIM cards over public mobile frequencies. That makes the transfer of information harder to detect in modern business environments than ever before.

Milipol demonstrated that the espionage threats are omnipresent and the devices are even harder to detect. As the surveillance technology develops fast, only companies with a full focus on counter measures are able to keep up-to-date with the threat market and ensure that their clients are well protected.



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