

Privoro's Third Annual 'State of Smartphone Security' Report Shows Rise in Awareness, but Not Understanding

Year-over-year trends reveal consumers are changing mobile habits, yet grasp of risks is elementary

Chandler, AZ, August 31, 2019 -- Privoro, a leading provider of mobile hardware security solutions, today released its 2019 'State of Smartphone Security' Report that highlights consumer trends on mobile device cybersecurity, in partnership with Corus, a provider of market research software and advanced analysis, based on its survey of over 540 mobile phone users. In the report, Privoro reveals the gap between consumer awareness and actual understanding of mobile device vulnerabilities – following many high-profile mobile attacks in 2019, including of [Amazon CEO, Jeff Bezos](#).

The report found that 55% of respondents claim that they either rarely or never discuss sensitive information on their smartphone. This is an 11% jump, from 2017 to 2019, proving that mobile users are being more cautious about their mobile conversations. However, only 1% saw 'microphones' as their biggest concern in a mobile cyberattack, which has been ranked lowest since 2017 amongst other factors like email (10%), photos (10%), GPS (7%), and text messages (6%), despite [cybersecurity expert concerns over audio](#).

Mike Fong, founder and CEO of Privoro, said, "Headline-making cyberattacks have been occurring for years and smartphone specific news has been growing. Consumer perception is not in sync and security experts need to do a better job at educating the general public on mobile cybersecurity, especially since smartphones – with their microphones, cameras and troves of personal data – are a natural target for hackers."

Privoro and Corus' survey gathered online responses on August 15, 2019, from a statistically valid and random sample of more than 540 mobile phone users. Additional highlights and findings from the survey include:

1. **Mobile devices are rising to become the highest concern for being hacked amongst connected devices.** PCs remain the greatest concern at 34%, but as a close second, 31% chose mobile devices.
2. **Personal digital privacy is a concern for a majority of respondents,** reaching 94% in 2019 – a 4% rise from 2018.
3. **Financial information continues to be the greatest concern for consumers.** When asked what their biggest concern would be if their phone was hacked, 58% chose financial information. Since 2017, this has jumped 20% - overshadowing concerns for email (10%), photos (10%), text messages (6%), and camera (4%).
4. **Consumers remain unaware of mobile vulnerabilities in airplane mode.** In 2017, 2018, and 2019 only 40% of respondents were aware that their phones were not safe in airplane mode. For example, phones are still vulnerable to Wi-Fi and Bluetooth cyberattacks, and hackers can still execute malware.

[Click here](#) for an Infographic look at the results.

About Privoro

Founded on the belief that people deserve a way of opting out of the mobile revolution's unwarranted collection of data and surveillance, Privoro looked beyond the vulnerable smartphone ecosystem and software-only solutions to pioneer first-of-its-kind mobile security hardware protections. These protections allow individuals, enterprises and governments to take back control of their most important information. Today, a number of high-profile, security-

conscious organizations are employing Privoro's SafeCase – a unique mobile hardware accessory with an independent Hardware Root of Trust (HROT) – to protect against unwarranted surveillance. The core components of the SafeCase platform hold the keys to an exciting roadmap of high-security, hardware-based alternatives for a number of critical use cases. For more details on Privoro and the SafeCase, visit: www.Privoro.com.

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