

Challenges for Humans and their Inter-networked *Toys*

Sotiris Ioannidis

Distributed Computing Systems Lab (DCS)
Institute of Computer Science (ICS)
Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH)

2 April 2008 The Future of the Internet Sotiris Ioannidis

The Driving Force: Miniaturization



- Miniaturization of computer systems is driving the penetration of intelligent appliances in every human activity
 - Server room -> office -> home -> lap -> pocket -> body
- Two interesting dimensions:
 - Increasing percentage of ordinary people use "computers" in their every day activities
 - "Computers" will greatly outnumber the number of people on earth
- An increasing number of non-specialists will be called to handle a very large number of "computers"

The Result: Smart Appliances



- Smart appliances have evolved into complex devices which store personal and professional confidential information:
 - Easy to lose or steal
 - Loss of privacy
 - Stalking
- We should think of smart appliances as terminal devices to various Internet transactions
 - With all the associated risks of attacks that have been successfully carried out in past environments
 - But new attacks as well

The Threat: New Environment to Attack Humans and their Devices



- New landscape opens new possibilities for attackers
 - Target "users on the go"
- Attacks can be more successful
 - Users constantly carry their devices
 - Environments differ from the familiar desktop
 - Users have a different mindset
- We are entering/have entered the "continuously digital" world
 - We must reconsider assumptions
 - Build systems that are resilient to these types of attacks