

New Avnet Embedded EMEA XP paper reveals denial, danger & hacking

Maidenhead, UK, 26 November 2013 - Avnet Embedded, a business group of Avnet Electronics Marketing EMEA, a business region of [Avnet](#), Inc. (NYSE: AVT), today announced the publication of an opinion paper showing that the forthcoming withdrawal of support for Microsoft's Windows XP operating system creates a huge cybercriminal risk and that businesses are simply failing to take action against the dangers that it represents. Come April 8th 2014, the paper reports, these businesses will become immediate targets for hackers – putting users' and consumers' cash at risk all over the world.

In the paper, entitled *Panic? What panic? Is the industry in denial over the death of XP?*, Software Director of Avnet Embedded Nick Donaldson explains that the withdrawal of XP support means the end of security patches and updates, leaving many thousands of XP-based payment devices worldwide vulnerable to “zero day” hacker exploits. These devices range from chip and PIN terminals, to EPOS tills, to toll barriers, parking machines, and many others.

Additionally, the withdrawal of support will mean that the PCI (Payments Card Industry) organisation that oversees the security of online transactions will no longer certify these devices and payment methods and may impose fines of up to £400,000 for non-compliance.

Simple migration to a newer operating system, however, isn't much of an option: the paper explains that neither Windows 7 nor Windows 8 will run successfully on all the devices that XP currently supports, nor offer PCI-compliant security on them. Yet few of the businesses that manufacture, distribute or use these devices have apparently realised this, with 40% of respondents polled saying they had “yet to even start migrating off XP” and 20% saying they “were not planning to do so at all.”

Donaldson comments: “Put simply, many businesses are in denial about the dangers that these changes represent. We are talking here about an instantaneous loss of security that will immediately become exploitable by cybercriminals, leading potentially to the theft of millions. The businesses that manufacture, distribute and use these payment devices and mechanisms have been lulled into a false sense of security that they can simply deploy Windows 7 or 8 to do the same job as XP – but this just isn't true. Basically, if these businesses don't identify workable, PCI-compliant alternatives soon, there will be widescale consequences.”

The paper is available to download here <http://www.avnet-emb.eu/white-papers/the-death-of-xp>. For more information, and to speak to an Avnet Embedded spokesperson, use the contact information below.

About Avnet Embedded

Avnet Embedded is a product business group within Avnet Electronics Marketing EMEA, an operating region of Avnet, Inc., (NYSE: AVT). Avnet Embedded serves the market-wide need for displays, embedded computing hardware, software, networking and wireless products. It enables leading industrial equipment and device manufacturers to develop better and smarter devices for their end customers, across sectors including industrial, automotive, retail, digital signage, gaming, IT channel, medical/healthcare and green energy.

The group also provides customers with finished or customised products and training, system integration and ODM (Original Design Manufacturer) services through its European technical centres and partners. Avnet Embedded is based across 11 offices, serving 19 countries in EMEA, and has over 3,000 customers, including household names like Bosch, GE Healthcare, H&M, Olivetti, Siemens, and many others.

www.avnet-embedded.eu

For more information please contact:

Karine Boisseau -Manager Communications Avnet Embedded
14 rue Carnot
91349 Massy Cedex, France
Phone: + 33 1 64 47 99 98
karine.boisseau@avnet.eu

Anja Woithe -PR Manager Avnet Electronics Marketing EMEA
Im Technologiepark 2-8
D-85586 Poing
Phone: +49 (0) 8121 774 459
Email: anja.woithe@avnet.eu

Simon Fletcher
Consultant Communications Director,
The IT Marketing Agency
+44 (0) 7983 563032
simon@TheITMarketingAgency.com