Abstract Submission	
Name	Conor Murray
Full Title of Degree	M.Sc. in Management of Information Systems
Title of Dissertation	Smartphone Security Risks: The Extent of User Security Awareness
Name of Supervisor	Aideen Keaney
Year	2014

Abstract

"The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it." (Weiser, 1991, p.94).

Mark Weiser envisioned an environment where computers and communication capabilities were seamlessly integrated with human users. Smartphones, with their mobility, connectivity capabilities and growing array of sensors providing improved context awareness of the surrounding environment, are increasingly fitting this description.

However, as smartphones collect, store and transmit copious amounts of personal data, users need to be aware of the security and privacy implications of utilising this technology.

The primary objective of this research is to explore the extent to which smartphone users are aware of the potential security risks when using their smartphone. This dissertation also seeks to determine whether smartphone users are actually concerned about the risks and if they are taking any steps to protect their personal data on their smartphone.

An online survey was chosen as the most suitable strategy for answering the research question. 143 individuals, predominantly from Ireland, responded.

The findings of the survey indicated that the majority of the respondents did, in fact, have a high degree of awareness regarding security risks to their smartphone devices. It was observed that respondents did not indicate a high level of concern with respect to the security risks presented to them. The findings also suggested that the majority of users were not concerned about the privacy and protection of their personal data, with some believing that they did not have anything worth taking. Smartphone users considered security software to be unnecessary, instead relying on rudimentary screenlock or password protection mechanisms to protect the data on their smartphone.