Keeping bad actors out of European television

If only we could prevent bad acting

How do you secure a T.V.?

Televisions are ubiquitous. In Europe, over 270 million households own at least one, accounting for more than 95% of the population. And yet very few owners think about security when they reach for the remote.

With the advent of pay-TV, broadcasters and Pay TV operators realized they needed a method to protect both their own content and their viewer's data—and that it had to be built into the device.

With so many televisions from so many different manufacturers, the only practical approach was to standardize the technology. In 2002, the European Commission (Directive 2002/22/EC) mandated the use of DVB CI v1 standard (Digital video broadcasting common interface, version 1) in all televisions sold across Europe.

It worked great. Until it didn't.

CI Plus—defining a higher standard for HD TV

By the early 2000's, new features like HD programming, DVRs and internet-connected set-top boxes were quickly becoming the norm.

The problem? DVB CI v1 couldn't support any of the new technologies. Even worse, it only offered one-sided encryption, which means data sent back from the conditional access module was unprotected.

In 2007, Neotion, Panasonic, Phillips, Samsung, SmarDTV and Sony

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