

US FTC leaders will target AI that violates civil rights or is deceptive

WASHINGTON — Leaders of the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said on Tuesday the agency would pursue companies who misuse artificial intelligence to violate laws against discrimination or be deceptive.

concerns around the world about the possible use of the innovation for wrongdoing even as companies are seeking ways to use it to enhance efficiency.

artificial intelligence, which can be used to produce high-quality deep fakes, could be used to make more effective scams or otherwise violate laws.

"It's not okay to say that your algorithm is a black box" and you can't explain it, he said.

Slaughter noted that the agency had throughout its 100-year history had to adapt to changing technologies and indicated that adapting to ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools were no different.



SONY's WF-C700N in Lavender and Sage Green

Sony Philippines to launch latest wireless earphones

SONY Philippines is set to release this week its latest noise-cancelling wireless earbuds, the WF-C700N.

The WF-C700N, priced at P6,999, will be available at Sony Authorized Dealers nationwide starting April 21 in three colors: black, white, lavender and sage green.

"The WF-C700N are small and lightweight for all-day comfort, perfect for those looking for their first pair of truly wireless noise-cancelling earbuds," Sony Philippines said in a statement on Friday.

The company said the earbuds are designed to ensure comfort and stability for varied ear shapes.

"Sony has designed the WF-C700N by utilizing extensive ear shape data collated since it introduced the world's first in-ear headphones in 1982, as well as evaluation of the sensitivity of various types of ears.

The hybrid silicone rubber earphones come in a cylindrical charging case.

The WF-C700N features noise cancelling to turn off your surroundings using its Noise Sensor Technology. It also has an Ambient Sound mode to let you stay connected to the world outside.

"In Ambient Sound Mode, the feedforward mics capture more of the ambient sound around you, so you can enjoy a natural listening experience while staying connected to your environment.

The earbuds also have an Adaptive Sound Control feature that adjusts ambient sound settings depending on where you are.

"It recognizes locations that you frequently visit, such as your workplace, the gym or a favorite cafe, and switches the sound modes that suit the situation.

"The WF-C700N delivers high-quality sound with its Digital Sound Enhancement Engine. Plus, with the help of Sony's original 5-mm driver unit, the WF-C700N packs a punch, producing powerful bass and stunningly clear vocals despite their small size, bringing out the best in whatever genre or entertainment you choose.

The WF-C700N has a Multipoint connection feature that allows the

earphones to be paired with two Bluetooth devices at the same time.

"So, when a call comes in, your earbuds know which device is ringing and connects to the right one automatically. The WF-C700N also provides reliable call quality thanks to the Wind Noise Reduction Structure which delivers your voice clearly, even on a windy day," Sony Philippines said.

The earbuds have a battery life of up to 15 hours, the company said. They also have an IPX4 water resistance rating.

WH-1000XM5 in MIDNIGHT BLUE

Meanwhile, Sony Philippines will launch on May 12 the Midnight Blue version of its WH-1000XM5 noise-cancelling headphones, which is priced at P20,999.

"Since the launch of the WH-1000XM5 in 2022, the wireless headphones have received numerous awards and critical acclaim for their industry-leading noise cancellation and superior sound quality," it said.

Both the WF-C700N and the WH-1000XM5 Midnight Blue were designed with sustainability in mind, the company said, as zero plastic is included in their packaging material, "reflecting Sony's commitment to reducing the environmental impacts of their products and practices."

Bettina V. Roc

Filipino fintech app users say security is as important as user experience, features

By Jan Sysmans

A RESILIENT economy bolstered by robust fundamentals and a potential rebound make 2023 a good year for Filipinos to build and diversify their investment portfolios, according to local market analysts.

This bullish outlook, coupled with financial technology (fintech) and trading and investment apps that make buying and selling stocks and trading currencies easier than ever, are reasons to be optimistic.

The Filipino digital wave is surging on the back of 168.3-million cellular mobile connections (144.5% of the population). Research also revealed that 76.7% of local consumers increased their mobile app use over the past 12 months, with e-wallet adoption and usage on the rise.

Filipinos have also embraced crypto. The Philippines is the second-ranked country in the 2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index released by blockchain analysis firm, Chainalysis, which tracks the most active cryptocurrency nations.

Most Filipinos likewise have high expectations when it comes to mobile app security, according to Appdome's recent survey. Many rank security as important as a great user experience. They have good reason to demand the best because studies show that 77% of financial apps have at least one vulnerability.

1. FAKE APPS

Fake financial services apps are a big threat. One app masquerading as an Asian trading company targeted social media and dating site users, and when they opened the app and inputted financial data, this triggered a fund transfer to cybercriminals.

2. OVERLAY ATTACKS

Malware such as Xenomorph and Sharkbot use overlay attacks. This is when a fake screen or a window controlled by an attacker is placed on top of a legitimate application to trick users into revealing data.

3. JAILBREAK AND ROOTING THREATS

Private keys are the security essentials in crypto and decentralized finance. Stolen private keys allow hackers to steal from investors. While custodial wallets were provided to help investors manage their private keys, other offerings enabling users to self-manage their private keys have been introduced.

Securing devices is also vital. Hackers can steal private keys and confidential information, and the risk is raised on a jailbroken or rooted device, when the

original security protocols of a device are compromised, allowing attackers to control operating systems and payment and investment apps. Tools to block Magisk and detect jailbreak bypass tools such as Liberty Lite are highly recommended.

4. WEAK ENCRYPTION

Looking at the top five attacks on investment apps, several were found to use an unencrypted SQL lite database in their Android app, which makes them vulnerable. Unencrypted data in the application sandbox or SD card in areas like NSUserDefaults or the clipboard are common channels targeted.

5. DYNAMIC RUNTIME ATTACKS

Modified investment apps equipped with emulators, simulators, or on-device malware can be used to create fake accounts, perform malicious trades, and transfer cryptocurrency from one app to another.

Hackers constantly look for "easy marks," and if your app is missing one or two security features, scammers will exploit the defensive weakness. Investment app developers, therefore, must keep providing great services, as well as security to address new threats. It is a tough balancing act, but one that is nonnegotiable.

Jan Sysmans is the Mobile App Security Evangelist at Appdome.

Official document from the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, Philippines, regarding City Ordinance No. 2023-060. It lists the present members of the council, the secretary, and the ordinance details, including its purpose and enforcement.