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word. But Dore says Amazon does a pretty job of explaining to consumers that it is always in such a state. "People can make a choice," he says.


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Sinan Eren, a vice president at the Avast security firm, says that "any embedded device will remain a great target because it presents a significant return on investment to hackers and nation-state actors. Even though compromising mobile systems and smart devices takes significant financial investment and manpower to do so, once they're in they'll likely get several years of use out of their malicious toolkits."

Should consumers be paranoid over the WikiLeaks revelations? "I think paranoia is a strong word," Dore says. But he does believe consumers should be "skeptical" every time they bring a device into the home that is connected to the Internet, something that is increasingly taking place with the trend towards "always-connected" Internet of Things (IoT) appliances and gadgets.

"We are literally coating our house, our most personal space, in new Internet of Things devices that are being rushed to market, usually without much thought in terms of data security," Dore says.

Cybersecurity specialist Pierre Roberge, chairman of the global cyber defense firm ARC4DIA, agrees: IoT devices and smart TVs have shown "very low security resilience to attacks in the last few years," he says. "Our smart TVs, phones and PCs are constantly at risk and not only by the CIA as they are only, but one, state sponsored actor in the world amongst many."

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