

Canadian Multistakeholder Process on Enhancing IoT Security

ISED Comment on Year-One Draft Report

The department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is pleased to support and comment on the draft report of the Canadian Multistakeholder Process on Enhancing Internet of Things (IoT) Security.

ISED's Engagement

ISED and other Government of Canada departments have actively contributed to the IoT initiative. This process has leveraged Canadian expertise across the private sector, civil society, technical community and government, to develop recommendations to reduce the risks to consumers and businesses adopting IoT applications. ISED became a member of the IoT security initiative planning committee on January 10, 2018.

While this is not a government-led initiative, Government of Canada participation includes activity across a dozen departments and agencies. The government has benefited from information sharing and collaboration with the community on IoT security issues. The network built by this initiative is a model for further collaboration in and outside government to foster adoption, build trust, and mitigate risk of IoT and other transformative technology applications.

The Government of Canada is a longstanding supporter of the multistakeholder approach internationally. For ISED, this means inclusive and transparent policymaking where stakeholders affected by a public policy challenge have the chance to be involved in addressing it. The initiative demonstrates consistency with these principles in the methodology section of the report.

Narrative of the report

The current draft report reflects the high quality of thought and collaboration put into each working group of the IoT initiative. The public comment period provides an opportunity for the IoT initiative participants and the Canadian Internet community as a whole to express which pieces they see as a priority. Comments can also inform how to convey these priorities in the final drafting of the report.

This final report is a Canadian contribution to the global debate on IoT security issues. The report reflects that all stakeholders have a role to play in fostering adoption, building trust, and mitigating risks of IoT applications. Canadian framework policies on privacy, competition and consumer protection offer examples of a technology-neutral and forward-looking approach. The report recommendations and narrative should highlight the existing frameworks, considerations for their improvement, and their interplay with non-government efforts on IoT consumer education, labelling and network resilience.

On consumer education and awareness

ISED believes the 'Shared Responsibility Framework' provides an important model for future efforts in consumer education and awareness on IoT and broader digital literacy campaigns. ISED believes that all stakeholders have a role to play and a responsibility in addressing risks throughout an IoT device's lifecycle.

ISED also welcomes efforts to work with and support non-government initiatives that implement the recommendations and content of the Consumer Education and Awareness Working Group.

On labelling

ISED acknowledges the proposed voluntary label framework for IoT devices as a template for manufacturers to demonstrate compliance with existing legal requirements and national standards. An effective label should also provide information to help consumers make well-informed decisions when purchasing and using an IoT device.

ISED will continue engaging in Canadian and international standards bodies to address standards gaps related to IoT issues.

On network resilience

ISED welcomes the progress made towards technical solutions to IoT challenges - including the development of secure home gateways and the Manufacturer Usage Description (MUD) protocol at the IETF. We will engage with these efforts as they progress.

ISED also welcomes efforts to work with Internet Service Providers and other network operators on technical and business solutions to mitigate foster adoption, build trust, and mitigate risk of IoT applications.

Next Steps

ISED will continue engaging in the multistakeholder process and the Canadian Internet community to both finalize the report and implement the recommendations identified at the conclusion of this process. We appreciate efforts of all stakeholders in participating in this collaborative and innovative process.

Sincerely,

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