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ERI CEO responds to NAID study on PII in secondhand electronics

John Shegerian says the study's results are an "urgent warning of an ongoing threat to our national security."

March 31, 2017
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John Shegerian, chairman and CEO of ERI (https://eridirect.com/), a Fresno, California-based recycler of electronic scrap and an information technology asset disposition (ITAD) and cybersecurity-focused hardware destruction company, has issued a statement about "alarming" new study results recently released (http://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/naid-electronics-personally-identifiable-information.aspx) by the National Association of Information Destruction (NAID) (http://www.naidonline.org/), Phoenix, about privacy and secondhand electronic devices.

Shegerian calls the study results an "urgent warning of an ongoing threat to our national security and individual privacy as Americans."

NAID announced the results (http://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/naid-electronics-personally-identifiable-information/) of what it says is the largest study to date of the presence of personally identifiable information (PII) on electronic devices sold on the secondhand market. The study shows that 40 percent of devices resold via publicly available resale channels contain PII. For the study, used devices analyzed included used hard drives, mobile phones and tablets.

Shegerian says the data is timely and should serve as a warning to businesses and individuals.

"This eye-opening data from NAID is only the 'tip of the iceberg' of the potential exposure anyone can have to hardware hacking," says Shegerian, adding, "because many organizations that claim to recycle electronics and destroy data are not, in fact, doing the job properly."

He continues, "When a device is responsibly recycled here in the U.S., part of that process should always include complete, NAID-certified physical data destruction. The hardware security issue we face can lead to the wholesale liquidation of our national security and the security of the corporations and individuals of the United States. Recycling or refurbishing these devices is vitally important, but it must be done the right way."

ERI is certified to demanufacture and recycle every type of electronic scrap in an environmentally friendly manner. ERI says it processes more than 275 million pounds of electronic waste annually at eight locations, serving every zip code in the United States.

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