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International standardization of Korean mobile security technology

- Korea leads in laying the foundation for developing the international standard for a "multi-authentication mechanism for mobile devices" -

The National Radio Research Agency (Director General Dong-Hyung Lee) of the Korea Communications Commission announced at the September meeting of the "ITU-T information protection study group (SG 17)" that Korea will lead the standardization of a "multi-authentication mechanism using mobile devices."

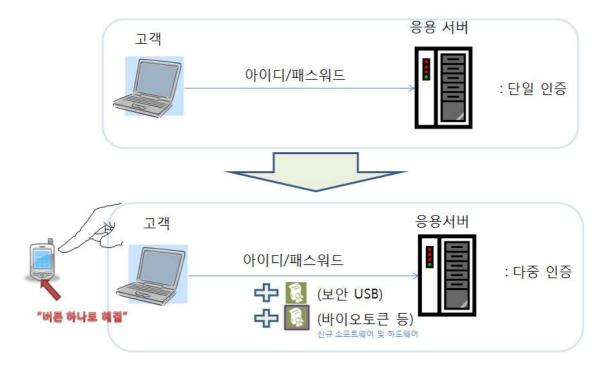


At this meeting, Korea had the standardization of its authentication method supported by research institutes, corporations (such as Microsoft) and most ITU member countries like the U.S., Canada and China. In particular, Prof. Heung-Ryeol Yeom of Soonchunhyang University was appointed as the editor who will lead development of the standard. This is an opportunity to make mobile security technologies developed in Korea into international standards.

^{*} In the ITU, an Editor leads the development of an international standard, e.g. prepares the draft, from the moment when a new target for standardization is identified to the moment when the development of the international standard is adopted.

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If the fixed and mobile environment is implemented with a single authentication mechanism consisting of an ID and password only, it can be easily exposed to vulnerabilities, so security incidents are very likely to occur. In contrast, a multi-authentication mechanism for mobile devices goes through the authentication process more than twice, making authentication safer and more effective.



New software and hardware

According to this decision, the ITU will develop an efficient multi-authentication standard for implementing different combinations of various authentication mechanisms (ID/password + certificate, ID/password + security token, ID/password/bio token, etc.) by 2015.

Terrestrial analog TV ends in 2012 and the age of digital TV broadcasting begins!

As financial, retail, government and social network services are increasingly being provided via smartphones, the need for a safe yet convenient means of authentication becomes more critical. If an international standard for multi-authentication is developed, the mechanism will surely prove to be very useful worldwide.