New GURU App Feature Strengthens Cybersecurity

TO HELP SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS improve the security of their video surveillance installations, March Networks has introduced a new Security Audit feature in the latest version of its free GURU Smartphone App.

The audit capability now available in GURU 2.3 automatically analyzes and rates how secure the configuration of installed March Networks recorders is against a list of potential vulnerabilities. It then provides guidance on how to make the configuration more secure, such as changing a password that's been left at the default setting or closing ports that don't need to be open.

Technicians can act on the recommendations to further harden the system, and email a report to themselves, a supervisor or a customer for future reference — all using their smartphone or tablet and a wireless connection to the recorder.

"The Security Audit provides technicians with a very quick and convenient way of assessing the security of the configuration by running through a checklist for them and offering fixes for possible errors," said Ru Wadasinghe, March Networks CIO and Vice President of Professional Services. "Video surveillance devices are like any other on the network — they can be hacked if they aren't securely configured, which can leave corporate networks and data vulnerable.

"Some vendors are providing integrators with guidelines to check recorders for configuration vulnerabilities, but as a leader in the video surveillance space, we wanted to go one step further."

A checklist on a piece of paper can easily get lost, dog-eared or left to collect dust on a shelf. It takes time for a technician to go through it at the customer's site and can be easily overlooked if they are in a hurry. GURU's new Security Audit automates the process and instantly identifies configuration vulnerabilities.

"We've all seen media reports about hackers using security systems to access an enterprise environment," said Wadasinghe. "The GURU Security Audit is one way to reassure the installer and customer that the system has been configured in a secure manner. It's a great addition to the many capabilities already available via the app and one we know our certified partners are going to use frequently."

The March Networks GURU Smartphone App runs on iPhones, iPads and Android devices and can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. It works in conjunction with the unique QR code present on the front panel of all March Networks 8000 Series Hybrid NVRs and RideSafe GT Hybrid Transit NVRs to help technicians easily access a recorder's serial number and warranty status, troubleshoot possible issues, process RMAs on the spot, and run valuable installation — and now security — audits.

"The recently introduced Installation Audit gives our partners and end users peace of mind knowing that the installation was performed properly," said Wadasinghe. "This new Security Audit does the same thing by supplying partners and customers with a secure configuration verification report emailed directly from the technician's GURU app." ▼

Disclaimer: The GURU Security Audit is a configuration hardening tool to help identify security vulnerability exposures associated with the configuration of March Networks NVRs. A failure to follow March Networks recommendations or industry-best practices associated with device configuration may increase the risk associated with security vulnerabilities. The security of a video surveillance network is dependent on the entire ecosystem, including device manufacturers, integrators and service providers, as well as the end user organization.