SMART TV SNOOPING

LG TV shown scanning LAN for third-party phones and other devices

"It doesn't cost a lot to store text forever."

SCHARON HARDING – 8 SEPT 2026 23:52 | 188



An LG TV. Credit: LG

TEXT SETTINGS

LG TVs are facing scrutiny due to a video seemingly showing the devices' capability to track users when the TVs are off.

YouTube channel Gamers Nexus worked with Level1Techs, a technology-focused YouTube channel, and security researchers to analyze LG TVs' tracking capabilities. They shared packet captures that pointed to the TVs, including LG's pricey G5 OLED TV, scanning the LAN for other devices.

ADVERTISING

“The [G5] crawled our entire network and found dozens of unrelated devices, including smartwatches and phones of our staff who didn’t even know we were working on this,” Steve Burke, Gamers Nexus’ editor-in-chief, said.

transmitted to external servers by the TVs in real time).

LG OLED65G3PUA | Wireshark Testing | GamersNexus				
Input	Different Endpoints Connected To	Total Connections	Connections to Alphonso ACR	Data Sent to Alphonso ACR
Laptop Connected via HDMI (before agreements)	8	12	0	0 MB
Laptop Connected via HDMI (after agreements)	29	107	44	4.0 MB
Note: Collected from two 1-hour Wireshark captures on our LG OLED65G3PUA.				

Gamers Nexus' video shows results from Wireshark testing of LG's OLED65G3PUA, which currently has a starting MSRP of $2,500. Credit: GamersNexus/YouTube

LG’s ad business, LG Ad Solutions, has said in recent marketing materials that it can reach 363 million “addressable secondary devices” in the US.

When reached for comment, a company representative shared a statement from LG Electronics via email:

> LG TVs can identify compatible devices on the same network to enable features such as device connectivity, content sharing or smart home functionality.

The YouTube channel used Wireshark, a network protocol analyzer tool, and inspected the TV’s firmware and found that LG TVs “are capable of identifying your IP address, geographic location, name of every Wi-Fi network in the vicinity and signal strength, channel numbers of neighboring Wi-Fi networks in range, and other devices on the network, even if not connected to the TV in any way, and the internal IP address of other devices on the network, alongside others.”

ARS VIDEO

How Lighting Design In The Callisto Protocol Elevates The Horror



It's unclear if LG TVs use this functionality for any purpose
information is all sent to LG. It remains concerning, howev
unsuspecting owners' homes.

ADVERT

"This is the TV's native functionality. This didn't require vu

In its statement, LG said that "to provide smart TV functior
to nearby devices on the same network."

"This is a standard function commonly provided by smart

Burke pointed out that "even using an LG smart TV as a du
functionality we're talking about today," while pointing to
further:

> Internet service providers sometimes have dual SSID
> from customer routers, such as with Comcast's Xfinit
> which are sometimes autoconnected to by devices w
> apartment building from neighbors using such route
> looking for smart TVs regardless of the brand.

Listening when offline

The video also demonstrated an LG TV's ability to record s

"We were even able to capture microphone audio while th
audio was reportedly stored locally via plaintext, which co
connects online again."

Level1Techs' representative, Wendell Wilson, noted that "i

In response to these claims, LG's statement said:

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> When the TV is in standby mode and appears to be tu
> have previously enabled the Far-Field feature. If no w
> detection is processed locally on the TV, promptly de

The statement added that LG TVs do not "collect, record o
voice functionality has been intentionally activated by the

ADVERTI

The statement added that audio processing "**only when** v
wake [word] (such as 'Hi LG') is detected."

Smart TV problems

The video underscores the myriad privacy concerns surrou
ways that smart TVs can track the activity of people in the
isn't tracking anything if it's not connected to the Internet.

Per Gamers Nexus' report, it's possible that LG TVs can trac
subsequently share that data with LG should the device be

The video also highlights the complexities of understandir
that smart TV manufacturers and operating system (OS) ov
activity, even clandestinely. Smart TV OS operators lament
customers' right to privacy.

While this is a concern for all smart TV brands, LG TVs' repc
company is known for making some of the most expensive
and less user tracking than budget brands, but that reputa

That includes last month's revelation that LG monitors we

With all this in mind, you may want to check out Ars' guide

And you can watch Gamers Nexus' video, which also inclu
currently going through the disclosure process, below:

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This article was updated with comment from LG.



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Scharon is a Senior Technology Reporter at Ars
gadgets and services. She's been reporting on te
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188 COMMENTS

PREV STORY

MOS



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