Application: 5703

Blancco Autopilot Detection Flags Potential Data Security Trapdoor in IT Asset Recycling

Page: General Information

Provide information about the company to be considered for the award. If you will be nominating an individual, specify the nominee's employer.

Name of Organization/Company

Blancco Technology Group

[redacted]

Additional Contacts

I do not wish to list additional contacts

Page: Entry Information

Entry Title

Blancco Autopilot Detection Flags Potential Data Security Trapdoor in IT Asset Recycling

Category

Q03. Technical Innovation of the Year - Information Technology

Technical Innovation of the Year Submission Format

Written Answers

a. Briefly describe the organization that achieved the nominated technical innovation: its history and past performance (up to 200 words). Required

Blancco Technology Group provides organizations with secure, compliant, and automated solutions that accelerate the transition to the circular economy. Each year, tens of millions of Blancco erasures allow top-tier organizations to protect end-of-life data against unauthorized access, safely redeploy data storage assets, and firmly comply with increased data protection and privacy requirements. Blancco's precise device diagnostics help move used IT assets confidently into the circular economy, enabling enterprises, IT asset disposition (ITAD) vendors and recyclers, and mobile industry stakeholders to operate more sustainably.

With 40+ patented or patent-pending ideas, Blancco continues to expand the number of innovative solutions global companies can rely on to accelerate operations, secure their data, and grow their businesses.

Augmenting an already robust suite of secure data erasure solutions, Blancco continues to support customer mandates for privacy, regulatory compliance, and sustainability when processing remarketable laptops, desktops, loose data storage drives, and data center servers. Blancco launched Autopilot Detection globally in November 2024. This innovative technology empowers its ITAD customers, which play a pivotal role in transitioning end-of-life assets into the circular economy, preventing landfill overflow from shredding, degaussing, or costly stockpiling. Autopilot Detection brings time-saving ingenuity to ITADs and ultimately the large enterprises they serve.

b. Outline the nominated technical innovation. Be sure to describe it in terms that someone with limited knowledge of the technology can understand and appreciate (up to 250 words). Required

By 2030, electronic waste (e-waste) is expected to grow to nearly 75 million metric tons globally(see sources - 1). With enterprise IT as one major contributor, ITADs are frontline ambassadors that help extend the lives of the vast number of devices suited for a second life. ITADs depend on trustworthy solutions that meet the needs of their enterprise customers and their internal operations—all while helping them bring more product securely to the secondary market and grow their businesses.

One security challenge ITADs face when processing thousands of devices on a daily or weekly basis is Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) enrollment tools such as Microsoft's Windows Autopilot and Intune. Once enrolled, devices connect to the network and the system then automatically synchronizes data between the device and the management server. While enterprise data synchronization fills a need when devices are active within an organization, this function can also redownload data onto sanitized devices intended for resale, posing an immense security risk.

Blancco Autopilot Detection was developed specifically to enable ITADs to overcome the UEM challenge. It is the first and only enterprise-scale offering that programmatically identifies and flags the presence of UEM enrollments in used devices during the erasure process. Prior to Blancco's innovation, all devices had to be individually powered on, assessed for the UEM data risk impact, then flagged appropriately and quarantined. This multi-step, manual process created bottlenecks and the potential for sensitive corporate data to be overlooked on devices slated for the circular economy.

c. Explain why the technical innovation you have highlighted is unique or significant (up to 250 words). Required

With Microsoft owning(see sources: 2) more than 73% of the global desktop operating systems market in 2024, UEMs pose a significant challenge for ITADs. Furthermore, approximately 20% of the PCs and laptops processed by ITADs are registered to a UEM. With a fifth of these devices subject to redownloading data, ITADs have been faced with the process-stalling situation of manually checking each unit to see if it is enrolled in Autopilot or another UEM—dragging down profit potential by increasing labor costs, delaying the asset's entry into the circular economy, and increasing data security risk due to potential for human error.

Blancco's automated solutions significantly reduce processing time and administrative overhead while reducing risk, accelerating ITAD time to market, and optimizing resource efficiency. As the market's first automated approach to identifying risk-laden UEM-enrolled devices as part of a single erasure step, Blancco Autopilot Detection significantly increases ITAD processing accuracy. As a result of Blancco's innovation, each asset takes only 2.5 minutes to process, a 75% time reduction, ensuring all machines can be processed and detected.

Blancco Autopilot Detection is a feature in Blancco's flagship drive sanitization product, Blancco Drive Eraser: used by ITADs worldwide for certified, verified data erasure. Thanks to Blancco Autopilot Detection's innovative functionality, integration, and focused specialization, ITADs can be even more confident that no device moves forward containing data, enabling ITADs to more stringently protect their customers' data and further support their reputation of providing secure, trustworthy, and environmentally sustainable services.

d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words). Optional

Supporting Materials

Links referenced:

Part B: (1) By 2030, electronic waste (e-waste) is expected to grow to nearly 75 million metric tons globally. https://ewastemonitor.info/the-global-e-waste-monitor-2024/

Part C: (2) With Microsoft owning more than 73% of the global desktop operating systems market in 2024, UEMs pose a significant challenge for ITADs. https://gs.statcounter.com/os-market-share/desktop/worldwide/2024

Attachments:

Blancco Autopilot Detection Product Sheet

Blancco Autopilot Detection Overview

[REDACTED FOR PUBLICATION]

Webpage Link 2

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Would you like to add an additional webpage link?

Yes

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Would you like to add an additional supporting document?

By your submission of this entry to The Stevie Awards, you verify that you have read and agreed to abide by the regulations, terms and conditions of the competition (https://www.asia.stevieawards.com/rules-and-terms-conditions-competition).

Terms and Conditions

I Agree