For Immediate Release

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Hardware Hacking Made Easy

Stukenbrock, July 16th 2013 - The „Starterkit: Hardware Hacking" allows everyone to hack everyday appliances without prior hacking knowledge. Appliances can be read out, remotely controlled and interconnected. Applications such as controlling a garage door with a smart phone, receiving a text message from a smoke detector in case of fire and controlling devices at home over the internet can be realized by beginners.

For a long time hacking of everyday appliances was only possible for experts with specialist knowledge. With the Starter Kit: Hardware Hacking it is now possible for everyone to hack his favorite gadget, at which the functionality of the hardware can be modified and extended. Hacking of electrical devices with small voltages is the main focus. The Kit can be used for two classes of applications:

The first class is the detection of digital signals. It is for example possible to detect the state of a device by tapping into the control signal of an LED. Reading out the state of an LED is very easy and generic, it is a task that can be implemented by everyone. One application for reading out LEDs is to find out the state of smoke detectors.

The second class is the switching of electrical signals. This allows to bypass switches and buttons or to control motors directly. It is for example possible to hack remote controls to allow a PC, Rapsberry Pi, smart phone or tablet to control garage doors, mains switches, TVs and similar.

Two remote control mains switches are included in the Kit. The hacking can immediately commence. An extensive documentation explains how the state of LEDs and similar can be read out and how switches can be bypassed. The documentation additionally has several different illustrated hacking projects that can be replicated.

The modules of the Starter Kit can be extended based on the system of building blocks from Tinkerforge. It is possible to program the modules with an intuitive and easy-to-use API by programming languages such as C, C++, C#, Delphi, Java, PHP, Python, Ruby or .NET languages. Also a direct control over TCP/IP is possible. The modules can be interconnected over Ethernet, Wi-Fi, USB and RS485 (Modbus). The building blocks were awarded the „CHIP AWARD for Product of the Year 2012".

The Starter Kit: Weather Station is available until July 31st 2013 for the introductory price of 79.99€ in the Tinkerforge shop (http://www.tinkerforge.com/en/shop).

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