CHECKLIST · SCAMS & SECURITY

Google and partners shut a botnet hidden in 1.3 million Android TV boxes

Published 3 November 2026. Read the full story, sources and any updates at digitaladvisors.com.au/journal/android-tv-box-botnet-xcpe-australia/

- [ ] **Find every Android TV box, stick and projector in the house or business.** Include menu screens, waiting-room TVs and anything plugged into a TV that came cheap or unbranded.
- [ ] **Check whether each one is Play Protect certified.** In the Play Store app, tap your profile icon, then Settings, then About.
- [ ] **Replace any box that is unbranded, uncertified or on Synthient's published model list.** Owners can't remove this backdoor themselves, so a new device from a reputable maker is the reliable fix.
- [ ] **Delete apps that pay you for "unused bandwidth" or "sharing your internet".** Google says these are a main way illicit proxy networks grow.
- [ ] **Keep Google Play Protect switched on.** Check it's active on any Android device you keep.
- [ ] **Keep work logins off TV boxes and other unmanaged devices.** Use devices the business manages for work systems, including at home.

NOTES

General information only, not legal, tax or financial advice. Check the full story and its sources before acting.