

# Notes regarding Android OS System Development and Security as of Android 2.3.4

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August 19, 2011

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## 1 Compiling the Android OS Platform

This section will focus on successfully compiling the Android OS Platform. This includes all aspects of the OS development as well as the SDK, NDK, and various other toolchains used for Android application development. It will focus on the Ubuntu Operating System Version 10.04.2. This is the version used by Android developers at this time, at least until the next Ubuntu LTS release.

### 1.1 Required Libraries

The latest Sun Java JDK will need to be installed from the Ubuntu partner repositories. For Gingerbread on the sun-java6-jdk will be used.

Use the following libraries with apt-get install:

```
git-core gnupg flex bison gperf build-essential zip curl zlib1g-dev libc6-dev
lib32ncurses5-dev ia32-libs x11proto-core-dev libx11-dev lib32readline5-dev
lib32z-dev libgl1-mesa-dev gcc-multilib g++-multilib libc6-i386 libc6-dev-
i386 git-core gnupg flex bison gperf build-essential zip curl zlib1g-dev libc6-
dev lib32ncurses5-dev ia32-libs x11proto-core-dev libx11-dev lib32readline5-
dev lib32z-dev libgl1-mesa-dev
```

### 1.2 Obtaining the Android OS sources

The documentation for obtaining the android sources is here: <http://source.android.com/source/downloading.html>. The documentation does not mention that the default download will download the latest *unstable* branch of the Android OS platform. A list of current stable builds as of is cupcake, donut, eclair, froyo, gingerbread. Note that they are the same as the codenames for the latest releases of the Android mobile platforms. You can then issue the following command to shift branches “`repo init -u`

`git://android.git.kernel.org/platform/manifest.git -b <NewBranchHere>`”  
before syncing.

### 1.3 Building the Platform

While outdated, the rest of google’s documentation is adequate for an initial build. The documentation can be found at: <http://source.android.com/source/building.html>.

Commands provided by the build environment that are not mentioned in this document, but also useful include:

- *croot*: Changes directory to the top of the tree.
- *m*: Makes from the top of the tree.
- *mm*: Builds all of the modules in the current directory.
- *mmm*: Builds all of the modules in the supplied directories.
- *cgrep*: Greps on all local C/C++ files.
- *jgrep*: Greps on all local Java files.
- *mgrep*: Greps on all makefiles
- *resgrep*: Greps on all local res/\*.xml files.
- *godir*: Go to the directory containing a file.
- *printconfig*: tells you what configuration you are currently building.
- *choosecombo*: A more fine-grained alternative to lunch.
- *make dataclean*: clean the staging area for your data partition (i.e. data used by the emulator).
- *make installclean*: Cleans data related to switching between build variants.
- *make clean*: Remove everything.
- *make module1 module2 snod*: Builds provided modules and then rebuilds the system image without following dependencies.

- `BUILD_TINY_ANDROID=true make`: Builds a minimal version of the Android OS useful for kernel testing, debugger included.

## 1.4 Notes on the Android Kernel

The android kernel's used when building the platform are pre-built binaries that are downloaded with the Repo. To build a custom kernel variant for Android please refer to Section 2. To see what changes were made by Google in creating the Android kernel refer to Section 2.7.

## 1.5 Notes On Building For The x86 Platform

There is currently an Android-x86 project<sup>1</sup> whose goal is to port Android to the x86 platform in a fully working manner. This is a recommended way of obtaining a functional x86 version of Android as any required code modifications have already been done. A comprehensive set of build instructions can be found on their website. Much of the information for building the ARM versions of android apply.

*Notes:* The Gingerbread source tree had a number of errors out of the box. The Froyo tree compiled fine following their instructions. In order to run in VirtualBox, disable Mouse Integration.

## 1.6 Installing Android build on the Nexus One

The steps must be done in this *exact* order.

1. Run the `build/envsetup.sh` script
2. Run the `device/htc/passion/extract-files.sh`
3. Run “`lunch full_passion-userdebug`”
4. Run `make`
5. Reboot the phone into fastboot mode (“`adb reboot fastboot`” or hold the volume button down while turning the phone on).
6. Type ‘`fastboot -w flashall`’

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.android-x86.org/>

## 2 Compiling the Android OS Kernel

The primary target for compiling the Android kernel is the ARM platform. This is what a number of the Android OS builds default to. It is possible to build for the x86 platform as well, however that requires being able to build the Android OS platform for x86, a non-trivial task.

### 2.1 Obtaining the Android Kernel Source

The Android project contains a number of kernel variants in their GIT repository. These variants include:

- kernel/common - Common Android Tree
- kernel/experimental
- kernel/linux-2.6 - Mirror of Linus's kernel sources
- kernel/lk
- kernel/msm
- kernel/omap
- kernel/qemu - Branch for use with the simulator
- kernel/samsung
- kernel/tegra

To obtain the source run the following command:

`git clone git://android.git.kernel.org/kernel/qemu` or another target kernel repo. To obtain version information about the branch downloaded run `git branch -r` in the downloaded git repo directory. **NOTE:** If the kernel will be used with Android Emulator you *must* use a kernel with Goldfish in the branch name. The following was posted on the official build list regarding Goldfish.

The Android emulator runs a virtual CPU that Google calls Goldfish. Goldfish executes ARM926T instructions and has hooks for input and output – such as reading key presses from or displaying video output in the emulator. These interfaces are implemented in files specific to the Goldfish emulator and will not be compiled into a kernel that runs on real devices.

To switch to a different kernel branch, the following two commands can be run:

- `git checkout -track -b <branch name> <branch location>`
- `git branch`

## 2.2 ARM Kernel Limitations

Linux does not officially support ARM SYSCALL auditing in its current form. However, a patch currently exists that enables auditing support in the ARM kernel. The files exist for both android-goldfish-2.6.29, linux-2.6.39.3, and linux-3.0 kernel versions.

## 2.3 Android MSM Kernel v2.6.35 Compilation Issues

The MSM kernel can be downloaded from the kernel/msm project on the Android GIT Repository site. The default configuration for the Nexus One is mahimahi\_defconfig. It is also possible to pull the configuration file off a running nexus one.

The 2.6.36 branch of the Android kernel/common currently has two compile issues for the ARM platform. The first is that EM\_ARM shows as undeclared. This can be fixed by adding 'include <asm/elf.h>' to the top of the 'arch/arm/kernel/ptrace.c' file. An include must also be added to <linux/audit.h> as well.

## 2.4 Obtaining Kernel Configurations

There are two ways in which a kernel configuration for the build can be obtained. The first is to run “ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=AndroidWorkingDirectory/-prebuilt/linux-x86/toolchain/arm-eabi-4.4.0/bin/arm-eabi- make menuconfig” and manually add the required Android options stated in “Documentation/android.txt”. The second is to issue the following command if the computer is connected to a phone (assuming the kernel option is enabled) or if the emulator is running: “adb pull /proc/config.gz”.

## 2.5 Building The ARM Kernel

Building the kernel is quick after obtaining a configuration. The following command is all that is needed: “ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=AndroidWorkingDirectory/-prebuilt/linuxx86/toolchain/arm-eabi-4.4.0/bin/arm-eabi- make”. This method of cross compilation works with toolsets other than the one provided by Android. It has been tested to work with Code Sourcery Lite’s<sup>2</sup> toolset as well.

## 2.6 Using the kernel

**Kernel in the Emulator** In order to use the newly built kernel the following argument can be used with the emulated “-kernel <PathToKernel>/zImage”. Options can be passed to the kernel using the “-qemu -append options=values” command line argument.

**Kernel in a Phone** The kernel is installed as part of the boot.img file loaded with fastboot. In order to modify the kernel boot parameters the “ file must be modified.

## 2.7 Differences in Kernel Sources

Linux For Devices did a thorough examination of Kernel changes by Google to the mainline Kernel so that it runs properly with Android devices<sup>3</sup>. Modifications were made to support the Goldfish platform (i.e. Google’s android emulator), the YAFFS2 file system that runs on the phone, Bluetooth bug fixes, Scheduler modifications, power management, and miscellaneous changes to various subsystems (mainly additions). The major additional functionality Google added to the kernel was support for the IPC Binder, and Low Memory Killer, the Ashmem shared memory system, a RAM console and log device, and support for the Android Debug Bridge An annotated Kernel diff can be found on the Linux For Devices site as well<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.codesourcery.com/sgpp/lite/arm/portal/subscription?@template=lite>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.linuxfordevices.com/c/a/Linux-For-Devices-Articles/Porting-Android-to-a-new-device/>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.linuxfordevices.com/files/misc/porting-android-to-a-new-device-p3.html>



## 3 Porting \*nix Applications To Android

While Android does have a linux kernel and is based on the \*nix platform, porting applications to the Android platform is a non-trivial task. This section will explain how to build new native applications into the Android Platform itself. Documentation for building native applications using the Android NDK can be found at <http://developer.android.com/sdk/ndk/index.html>. Section 4 includes more specifics on the differences between Android's bionic libc and Linux's GNU Libc.

### 3.1 Updating the build environment

First create a directory for the application in the “<WorkingFolder>/external” directory. Do not include the version of the application or anything besides the name of the application itself. If it is a shared library, then the standard convention also applies. The “external” directory includes a number of ported applications such as quake, strace, iptables, and bzip2. Make sure all the application's sources are in its directory.

### 3.2 Creating the Make files

Android uses its own build environment and also has its own makefiles, Android.mk. These files must in every directory that has a binary or library that is to be built. The basic structure of Android.mk files and a description of their various attributes are included in the Android NDK documentation. A Number of useful entries are:

- LOCAL\_MODULE - The name of the local application or library
- LOCAL\_MODULE\_TAGS - The Android Build environment you want this application build in to
- LOCAL\_SRC\_FILES - The \*.c or \*.cpp files required to build the application or library
- LOCAL\_C\_INCLUDES - The location of every directory with includes
- LOCAL\_CFLAGS - The CFLAGS to pass to the compiler

- `LOCAL_LDLIBS` - The compiled/linked libraries needed by the linker
- `LOCAL_PRELINK_MODULE` - true/false variable needed when building shared libraries in the project source environment (must be set to false)
- `PRODUCT_COPY_FILES` - `<local file>:<file on target>` - Places a local file in the target directory in the build. Useful for including default configuration files as all system directories in the emulator are read only.

### 3.3 Building the ported application

When all `Android.mk` files are added and correct, the application will be built as part of the general Android build process.

### 3.4 Notes on Kernel Header Locations

The android platform is confusing in that it has two directories for Linux kernel headers, the “external” directory and the “bionic/libc/kernel/common” directory. The “external” directory is not the headers that should be linked to and an open question remains of why there is a kernel-headers directory there. The “bionic/libc/kernel/common” directory is the official directory for the Linux kernel headers. The problem is, however, that this directory does not include all of the Linux kernel headers included with the kernel source itself so any downloaded kernel directory might be required to make up for these extra headers. One example is the “linux/audit.h” header that is included in official kernel packages but not in the “bionic/libc/kernel/common” directory. ARM specific headers are included in “bionic/kernel/arch-arm”.

Documentation included specifically states that the bionic headers are “clean” linux headers for inclusion into userland applications. These are created through a number of scripts in the “bionic/libc/kernel/tools” directory. The “clean” headers only contain type and macro definitions. A list of directories and their explanations follows, information originally in the “README.txt” in the project.

- *bionic/kernel/original* — “contains a set of kernel headers as normally found in the ‘include’ directory of a normal Linux kernel source tree.

note that this should only contain the files that are really needed by Android (use 'find\_headers.py' to find these automatically)."

- *bionic/kernel/common* — “contains the non-arch-specific clean headers and directories (e.g. linux, asm-generic and mtd)”
- *bionic/kernel/arch-arm* — “contains the ARM-specific directory tree of clean headers.”
- *bionic/kernel/arch-arm/asm* — “contains the real ARM-specific headers”
- *bionic/kernel/arch-x86* — “similarly contains all headers and symlinks to be used on x86”
- *bionic/kernel/tools* — “contains various Python and shell scripts used to manage and re-generate the headers”

Details on using the tools and the process in which they worked are detailed in the same “bionic/kernel/README.txt” file. The document also includes a diatribe on why the Android maintainers do this.

### 3.5 Android init.rc format

The init.rc file will be used by Android to start certain services and create certain system mountpoints.

A resource for the Android boot process can be found at [http://elinux.org/Android\\_Booting](http://elinux.org/Android_Booting). The “/init/readme.txt” is always a useful file.

## 4 Differences between Android Libc and Linux Libc

The Android Bionic libc (blibc) is significantly cut down compared to the GNU libc (glibc) used on Linux distributions. The blibc library is missing a number of headers, functions, and pre-processor macro definitions that are included in glibc. These differences can make porting applications difficult in the least, and near impossible in the worst.

It is specifically mentioned in the blibc documentation that Android does *not* support System V IPC. Google states the reason for not supporting these

facilities is due to global kernel resource leakage. The header files effected are:

- `<sys/sem.h>`
- `<sys/shm.h>`
- `<sys/msg.h>`
- `<sys/ipc.h>`

Google also mentions that the blibc library is primarily a port of the BSD C library to the Android Linux kernel. It includes no support for locales, no support for wide characters, a small implementation of pthreads based on futexes, and support for x86, ARM, and ARM thumb CPU instruction sets/kernel interfaces. There is also no support for libthread\_db or libm. To quote Google:

Bionic doesn't want to implement all features of a traditional C library, we only add features to it as we need them, and we try to keep things as simple and small as possible. Our goal is not to support scaling to thousands of concurrent threads on multi-processors machines; we're running this on cell-phones, damnit !!

There has been debate within the linux community starting in 2010 on whether or not the Android OS was Linux or not Linux. The important point to note from this is that with later versions of the Linux kernel, all Android specific code was removed.

## 4.1 Alterantive Embedded gLibc's

While the Android group developed their own (bionic) libc for use with the Android platform, there are embedded (and compatible) versions to the glibc library. One example is the “eglibc” library <sup>5</sup> and uClibc<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup><http://www.eglibc.org/home>. Supported features can be found at <http://www.eglibc.org/cgi-bin/viewcvs.cgi/trunk/libc/option-groups.def?view=markup>.

<sup>6</sup><http://www.uclibc.org/>

## 4.2 Cross Compilation vs. Android's Build Environment

There are two methods to compile ported applications for Android. The first is to use Android's built-in build environment. The second is to cross compile with a toolchain that supports ARM EABI. Both of these methods have caveats.

### 4.2.1 Cross Compilation Platforms

**Scratchbox 1** This is the original Scratchbox platform<sup>7</sup>. It provides a emulated virtual to enable the cross-compilation of programs for the ARM platform. When started it creates a chrooted area with a complete system so that any applications compiled and installed will think of themselves as running on the ARM platform. The downside to this program is that it requires root access to install and the ARM tool-chain released with the latest version does not properly copy over the files it needs. Also, after following the installation instructions provided, the environment still will not properly compile/run ARM applications.

**Scratchbox 2** This is a new version of scratchbox available with Ubuntu. It is similar to Scratchbox 1 in that it creates an emulated virtual environment, but operates from userland.

**Code Sourcery Lite Toolchain** This provies a set of tools precompiled to create ARM binaries on an X86 system.

## 4.3 Syscalls not in Android

Android and Linux syscalls differ as well. The list of Android syscalls can be found in "bionic/libc/SYSCALLS.TXT". Linux system calls were obtained by using the command "`man syscalls`". The following list of system calls were found in the linux man page but were not found when doing a search through "SYSCALLS.TXT". The functions are included below only if Android did not have the function in any form. For example Android contains "getegid32" but not "getegid". As no difference could be seen in the man pages, "getegid" was

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<sup>7</sup><http://www.scratchbox.org/>

not included in the list. This list includes roughly 152 system calls that are included in Linux and not in Android. When building the linux kernel from the 2.6.29 goldfish target, the build script specifically warns that `fadvise64`, `migrate_pages`, `pselect6`, `ppoll`, and `epoll_pwait` are not implemented.

<code>_sysctl</code>	<code>inotify_init1</code>	<code>msgget</code>
<code>accept4</code>	<code>io_cancel</code>	<code>msgrcv</code>
<code>add_key</code>	<code>io_destroy</code>	<code>msgsnd</code>
<code>adjtimex</code>	<code>io_getevents</code>	<code>munlockall</code>
<code>alarm</code>	<code>io_setup</code>	<code>nfservctl</code>
<code>alloc_hugepages</code>	<code>io_submit</code>	<code>nice</code>
<code>bdflush</code>	<code>ioperm</code>	<code>oldstat</code>
<code>break</code>	<code>iopl</code>	<code>oldlstat</code>
<code>create_module</code>	<code>ipc</code>	<code>oldolduname</code>
<code>dup3</code>	<code>kexec_load</code>	<code>oldstat</code>
<code>epoll_create1</code>	<code>keyctl</code>	<code>olduname</code>
<code>epoll_pwait</code>	<code>lgetxattr</code>	<code>pciconfig_iobase</code>
<code>faccessat</code>	<code>linkat</code>	<code>pciconfig_read</code>
<code>fadvise64</code>	<code>listxattr</code>	<code>pciconfig_write</code>
<code>fadvise64_64</code>	<code>llistxattr</code>	<code>personality</code>
<code>fallocate</code>	<code>lookup_dcookie</code>	<code>phys</code>
<code>fchown</code>	<code>lremovexattr</code>	<code>pivot_root</code>
<code>fgetxattr</code>	<code>lsetxattr</code>	<code>ppoll</code>
<code>flistxattr</code>	<code>madvisel</code>	<code>preadv</code>
<code>free_hugepages</code>	<code>mbind</code>	<code>pselect6</code>
<code>fremovexattr</code>	<code>migrate_pages</code>	<code>putpmsg</code>
<code>ftime</code>	<code>mknodat</code>	<code>pwritev</code>
<code>futimesat</code>	<code>mlockall</code>	<code>query_module</code>
<code>get_kernel_syms</code>	<code>modify_ldt</code>	<code>quotactl</code>
<code>get_mempolicy</code>	<code>move_pages</code>	<code>readahead</code>
<code>get_robust_list</code>	<code>mpx</code>	<code>readdir</code>
<code>get_thread_area</code>	<code>mq_getsetattr</code>	<code>readlinkat</code>
<code>getcpu</code>	<code>mq_notify</code>	<code>recv</code>
<code>getpagesize</code>	<code>mq_open</code>	<code>remap_file_pages</code>
<code>getsid</code>	<code>mq_timedreceive</code>	<code>removexattr</code>
<code>getxattr</code>	<code>mq_timedsend</code>	<code>request_key</code>
<code>gtty</code>	<code>mq_unlink</code>	<code>restart_syscall</code>
<code>idle</code>	<code>msgctl</code>	<code>rt_sigpending</code>

rt_sigqueueinfo	sethostname	symlinkat
rt_sigreturn	setxattr	sync_file_range
rt_sigsuspend	sgetmask	sysfs
sched_getaffinity	shmat	tee
sched_setaffinity	shmctl	tgkill
semctl	shmdt	time
semget	shmget	timerfd_create
semop	signal	timerfd_gettime
semtimedop	signalfd	timerfd_settime
send	signalfd4	unshare
set_mempolicy	sigreturn	uselib
set_robust_list	splice	utime
set_tid_address	spu_create	utimensat
setdomainname	spu_run	vhangup
setfsuid	ssetmask	vm86old
setfsuid32	stime	vmsplice
setfsuid	swapoff	
setfsuid32	swapon	

#### 4.4 Functions not in Android Libc

The method for obtaining this list included running “`nm -D`” on “`/lib/libc.so.6`” and “`/WORKING_DIR/out/debug/target/product/generic/obj/SHARED_LIBRARIES-  
/libc_intermediates/LINKED/libc.so`”. The output was grepped to only include symbols in the text (code) section (“T”) and starting with a lower-case alphanumeric character (a-z). The two files were then diff’ed. There are roughly 587 functions included in the GNU libc environment that are not included in the Bionic libc environment.

a64l	authnone_create
abs	authunix_create
accept4	authunix_create_default
addseverity	callrpc
argz_delete	catclose
atof	catgets
authdes_create	catopen
authdes_getucrcd	cbc_crypt
authdes_pk_create	cfgetispeed

cfgetospeed	endprotoent
cfmakeraw	endrpcent
cfsetispeed	endsgent
cfsetospeed	endspent
cfsetspeed	endttyent
chflags	endutxent
clearerr_unlocked	envz_add
clnt_broadcast	envz_entry
clnt_create	envz_get
clnt_pcreateerror	envz_merge
clnt_perrno	envz_remove
clnt_perror	envz_strip
clnt_screateerror	epoll_create1
clnt_serrno	epoll_pwait
clnt_serror	ether_aton
clntraw_create	ether_aton_r
clnttcp_create	ether_hostton
clntudp_bufcreate	ether_line
clntudp_create	ether_ntoa
clntunix_create	ether_ntoa_r
confstr	ether_ntohost
create_module	faccessat
ctermid	fallocate
cuserid	fallocate64
des_setparity	fattach
dprintf	fchflags
drand48_r	fcvt
dup3	fcvt_r
dysize	fdetach
ecb_crypt	feof_unlocked
ecvt	ferror_unlocked
ecvt_r	fexecve
endaliasent	fflush_unlocked
endfsent	ffsl
endgrent	fgetgrent
endhostent	fgetpos64
endnetent	fgetpwent
endnetgrent	fgets_unlocked



fgetsgent	getgrent_r
fgetspent	getgrgid_r
fgetws_unlocked	getgrnam_r
fgetxattr	gethostbyaddr_r
flistxattr	gethostbyname2_r
fmemopen	gethostent_r
fntmsg	gethostid
fopencookie	getifaddrs
fputc_unlocked	getip4sourcefilter
fputs_unlocked	getloadavg
fputwc_unlocked	getlogin_r
fputws_unlocked	getmsg
fread_unlocked	getnetbyaddr_r
freeifaddrs	getnetbyname_r
fremovexattr	getnetent
freopen64	getnetent_r
fsetpos64	getnetgrent
fsetxattr	getnetname
fstatvfs	getpass
ftw	getpmsg
futimens	getprotobyname_r
futimesat	getprotobynumber_r
fwrite_unlocked	getprotoent
gcvt	getprotoent_r
get_current_dir_name	getpublickey
get_kernel_syms	getpwent
get_myaddress	getpwent_r
getaliasbyname	getpwnam_r
getaliasbyname_r	getpwuid_r
getaliasent	getrpcbyname
getaliasent_r	getrpcbyname_r
getdate	getrpcbynumber
getdirentries	getrpcbynumber_r
getdomainname	getrpccent
getfsent	getrpccent_r
getfsfile	getrpcport
getfsspec	getsecretkey
getgrent	getservbyname_r

getservbyport_r	iconv
getsgent	iconv_close
getsgent_r	iconv_open
getsgnam	if_freenameindex
getsgnam_r	if_nameindex
getsid	inet6_opt_append
getsourcefilter	inet6_opt_find
getspent	inet6_opt_finish
getspent_r	inet6_opt_get_val
getspnam	inet6_opt_init
getspnam_r	inet6_opt_next
getsubopt	inet6_opt_set_val
getttyent	inet6_option_alloc
getttynam	inet6_option_append
getutmp	inet6_option_find
getutmpx	inet6_option_init
getutxent	inet6_option_next
getutxid	inet6_option_space
getutxline	inet6_rth_add
getw	inet6_rth_getaddr
getwchar_unlocked	inet6_rth_init
getwd	inet6_rth_reverse
getxattr	inet6_rth_segments
glob	inet6_rth_space
globfree	inet_lnaof
gnu_dev_major	inet_makeaddr
gnu_dev_makedev	inet_netof
gnu_dev_minor	inet_network
grantpt	innetgr
gtty	inotify_init1
hcreate	insque
hcreate_r	ioperm
hdestroy_r	iopl
host2netname	iruserok
hsearch	iruserok_af
hsearch_r	isastream
htonl	isfdtype
htons	key_decryptsession

key_decryptsession_pk	mlockall
key_encryptsession	mprobe
key_encryptsession_pk	mrnd48_r
key_gendes	mtrace
key_get_conv	munlockall
key_secretkey_is_set	muntrace
key_setnet	netname2host
key_setsecret	netname2user
l64a	nfsservctl
labs	nftw
lchmod	nftw
lcong48	nftw64
lfind	nftw64
lgetxattr	nl_langinfo
linkat	ntp_gettime
listxattr	ntp_gettimex
llabs	obstack_free
llistxattr	open_memstream
localeconv	open_wmemstream
lockf	parse_printf_format
lrand48_r	passwd2des
lremovexattr	pivot_root
lsearch	pmap_getmaps
lsetxattr	pmap_getport
lutimes	pmap_rmtcall
malloc_info	pmap_set
mblen	pmap_unset
mbtowc	posix_fadvise
mcheck	posix_fadvise64
mcheck_check_all	posix_fallocate
mcheck_pedantic	posix_fallocate64
memfrob	posix_madvise
mkfifo	posix_spawn
mkfifoat	posix_spawn_file_actions_addclose
mkostemp	posix_spawn_file_actions_adddup2
mkostemps	posix_spawn_file_actions_addopen
mkostemps64	posix_spawn_file_actions_destroy
mkstemps64	posix_spawn_file_actions_init

posix_spawnattr_destroy	putwc_unlocked
posix_spawnattr_getflags	putwchar_unlocked
posix_spawnattr_getpgroup	pwritev
posix_spawnattr_getschedparam	pwritev64
posix_spawnattr_getschedpolicy	qecvt
posix_spawnattr_getsigdefault	qecvt_r
posix_spawnattr_getsigmask	qfcvt
posix_spawnattr_init	qfcvt_r
posix_spawnattr_setflags	qgcvt
posix_spawnattr_setpgroup	qsort_r
posix_spawnattr_setschedparam	query_module
posix_spawnattr_setschedpolicy	quick_exit
posix_spawnattr_setsigdefault	quotactl
posix_spawnattr_setsigmask	rand
posix_spawnnp	rand_r
ppoll	rcmd
preadv	rcmd_af
preadv64	readlinkat
printf_size	realpath
printf_size_info	recvmsg
psiginfo	regex
psignal	registerrpc
pthread_attr_getinheritsched	removexattr
pthread_attr_setinheritsched	remque
pthread_cond_broadcast	revoke
pthread_cond_destroy	rexec
pthread_cond_init	rexec_af
pthread_cond_signal	rpmatch
pthread_cond_timedwait	rresvport
pthread_cond_wait	rresvport_af
pthread_setcanceltype	rtime
putgrent	ruserok
putmsg	ruserok_af
putpmsg	ruserpass
putpwent	sched_getaffinity
putsgent	sched_getaffinity
putspent	sched_getcpu
pututxline	sched_setaffinity

sched\_setaffinity  
seekdir  
semtimedop  
setaliasent  
setdomainname  
setfsent  
setfsgid  
setfsuid  
setgrent  
sethostent  
sethostid  
sethostname  
setipv4sourcefilter  
setlogin  
setnetent  
setnetgrent  
setprotoent  
setpwent  
setrpcent  
setsgent  
setsourcefilter  
setspent  
setttyent  
setutxent  
setxattr  
sgetsgent  
sgetspent  
sigaddset  
sigandset  
sigdelset  
sigemptyset  
sigfillset  
siggetmask  
sighold  
sigignore  
sigisemptyset  
sigismember  
signalfd

sigorset  
sigrelse  
sigset  
sigstack  
socketatmark  
splice  
sstk  
statvfs  
stime  
strerror\_l  
strfmon  
strfry  
strtof  
strtold  
stty  
svc\_exit  
svc\_getreq  
svc\_getreq\_common  
svc\_getreq\_poll  
svc\_getreqset  
svc\_register  
svc\_run  
svc\_sendreply  
svc\_unregister  
svcerr\_auth  
svcerr\_decode  
svcerr\_noproc  
svcerr\_noprogram  
svcerr\_progvers  
svcerr\_systemerr  
svcerr\_weakauth  
svcfld\_create  
svccraw\_create  
svctcp\_create  
svcudp\_bufcreate  
svcudp\_create  
svcudp\_enablecache  
svcunix\_create

svcunixfd\_create  
swab  
symlinkat  
sync\_file\_range  
tcflow  
tcflush  
tcgetsid  
tcsendbreak  
tcsetattr  
tee  
telldir  
timegm  
timerfd\_create  
timerfd\_gettime  
timerfd\_settime  
tmpnam\_r  
tr\_break  
ttyslot  
ualarm  
unshare  
updwtmpx  
uselib  
user2netname  
ustat  
utimensat  
utmpxname  
versionsort  
vhangup  
vlimit  
vmsplice  
vswscanf  
vtimes  
vwscanf  
wcstof  
wcstol  
wcstold  
westoimax  
wcstold  
westoimax  
wctomb

wordexp  
wordfree  
xdecrypt  
xdr\_accepted\_reply  
xdr\_array  
xdr\_authdes\_cred  
xdr\_authdes\_verf  
xdr\_authunix\_parms  
xdr\_bool  
xdr\_bytes  
xdr\_callhdr  
xdr\_callmsg  
xdr\_char  
xdr\_cryptkeyarg  
xdr\_cryptkeyarg2  
xdr\_cryptkeyres  
xdr\_des\_block  
xdr\_double  
xdr\_enum  
xdr\_float  
xdr\_free  
xdr\_getcredres  
xdr\_hyper  
xdr\_int  
xdr\_int16\_t  
xdr\_int32\_t  
xdr\_int64\_t  
xdr\_int8\_t  
xdr\_key\_netstarg  
xdr\_key\_netstres  
xdr\_keybuf  
xdr\_keystatus  
xdr\_long  
xdr\_longlong\_t  
xdr\_netnamestr  
xdr\_netobj  
xdr\_opaque  
xdr\_opaque\_auth

xdr_pmap	xdr_uint16_t
xdr_pmaplist	xdr_uint32_t
xdr_pointer	xdr_uint64_t
xdr_quad_t	xdr_uint8_t
xdr_reference	xdr_union
xdr_rejected_reply	xdr_unixcred
xdr_replymsg	xdr_vector
xdr_rmtcall_args	xdr_void
xdr_rmtcallres	xdr_wrapstring
xdr_short	xdrmem_create
xdr_sizeof	xdrrec_create
xdr_string	xdrrec_endofrecord
xdr_u_char	xdrrec_eof
xdr_u_hyper	xdrrec_skiprecord
xdr_u_int	xdrstdio_create
xdr_u_long	xencrypt
xdr_u_longlong_t	xprt_register
xdr_u_quad_t	xprt_unregister
xdr_u_short	

## 5 Android System Security

### 5.1 Binder, IPC, and VM Jailing

An overview of the security architecture and permissions can be found in <http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/security/security.html>. This subsection will contain a brief overview.

#### 5.1.1 Binder and IPC

Android itself does not implement the traditional SysV IPC structure (See Sec. 4). It instead uses Binder as a method for allowing permissions based IPC between applications. Binder exists as both a Kernel driver and a userspace library. Work by Enck et al. makes brief mention of Binder describing it as a “component-based processing and IPC framework designed for BeOS, extended by Palm Inc., and customized for Android [1].” Binder serializes data objects into parcels and then passes the parcels between processes via a kernel module. The interface documentation for IBinder in

the Google SDK provides more details on Binder's functionality (<http://developer.android.com/reference/android/os/IBinder.html>).

### 5.1.2 Application Permissions

An Android application, by default, has no permissions at all, thus it can't access a number of Android OS system functionalities (e.g. the GPS unit). An application must request all the permissions it wants in the manifest file.

There are certain permissions assigned via the user/group system. These permissions can vary by manufacturer and are included in the `/system/etc/permissions.xml` file. A current application can check the groups it belongs to as well as its uid by running the "id" command. This command is available in both 2.2 and 2.3.4.

Applications can also define their own permissions in order to limit what other code can start its activities. User defined permissions have similar attributes in regards to their permission group and protection level that android system permissions have. These permissions can be used to declare who can start activities and services, who can send broadcasts to an associated receiver, who can access certain data in a content provider, and also who can read intents sent out by a context. The specific URI permission structure is in place to allow third party applications specific access to URI elements. The example given in the documentation is an email program sending an image attachment to an image view. The image viewer must have a way of receiving a read permission to that image so that it can be opened.

Applications that request too many permissions can have their permissions decreased upon reboot when the `"/data/system/packages.xml"` file is edited <sup>8</sup>.

Each application is able to have read, write, and execute status to its own local directory at `/data/data/<Package Name>`. When an application is inserted here it is bound by some permissions [FIGURE OUT EXACTLY HOW THIS WORKS].

**Ping Experiment** The experiment used to test the permissions was performed by attempting to run a custom compiled (for the Android platform) ping binary. In this case the binary was the already compiled version that it housed in the `<root>/external` directory. The file was placed in the "as-

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<sup>8</sup>[http://elinux.org/Android\\_Security](http://elinux.org/Android_Security)



set" directory of an Android project. The application, when installed, would then write the ping application from the "asset" directory to its own personal /data/data/ directory. It then attempted to modify permissions on this file and run it locally. The application, however, gave the following error: "socket: Permission denied". This message changes to "icmp open socket: Operation not permitted" after the INTERNET permission is granted. The permission violations are caused by the ping application requesting to open a RAW socket. The ping application requires root access to perform this (the same goes for any other Linux kernel distribution). The ping application will then drop down to normal user privileges after opening the RAW socket.

**Permission Checks** Permission checks occur in the System API's. For example the WifiService.java file in "/frameworks/base/services/java/com/android/server" contains a number of references to the methods `enforceAccessPermission` and `enforceChangePermission`. These methods then refer to a method called `mContext.enforceCallingOrSelfPermission`. The android operating system maintains a list of all installed applications and their requested permissions in the "/data/system/packages.xml" file. There are known applications which will modify this file to prove a "user permission" firewall of sorts after applications have been installed<sup>9</sup>.

A current test was performed attempting to run a "ping" application from this directory. It failed with a permission denied error. However, the system "ping" application worked. This is due to the system ping having the setuid bit set to run as root.

### 5.1.3 Applications Running In The Same Process

Two applications can run as the same user ID if they are signed by the same private key and request to be run in the same userID (<http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/manifest/manifest-element.html#uid>).

## 5.2 Application Installation and the Android Market

The android market is the primary method for installing applications on the Android phone system. Each application on the market is signed with a

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developers private key. Some of the benefits of having all applications by the same developer signed with their own key are discussed in Section 5.1.3. The following site has details on what system changes occur during application installs: <http://benno.id.au/blog/2007/11/18/android-package>.

### 5.2.1 The Android Market

The application to access the Android Market from the Android platform is market.apk. Devices must be certified compatible by Google before they receive official access to the market.apk and other official google .apk files. If they do not obtain the compatibility certification or fail the certification, the only way to obtain these applications is via third party providers.

### 5.2.2 Installing non-Market APK files

This process is sometimes referred to as “sideloading”. Some US cellular carriers restrict their users from installing applications that are not in the official Google Android Market. In order to install these applications a user had to follow a process of “sideloading” the applications. Sideloaded involves plugging the phone into a computer via the USB cable and installing the application using Google’s “adb” program. It is possible this process might require the phone to be “rooted”, i.e. have the “su” program installed on the phone.

Some phones allow direct installation of applications on the phone. This feature is generally provided by third party roms (third party versions of android to install on mobile phones). This process generally requires a checkbox option to be selected on the phone that allows applications to be installed from third party sources.

## 6 APK File Structure and notes

The APK files that are distributed with the Android applications contain the DEX compiled java files as well as the resources the application uses. The APK files themselves are compressed files like JARs. The AndroidManifest.XML file contained therein, however, is repacked and no longer a text based XML file.

## 7 Android Escalation of Privilege Attacks

Two attacks against the Android platform currently exist. These attacks allow a user-level privilege to gain root privileges on the Android platform. They both exploit userland vulnerabilities in Android. Some of these exploits have been fixed, but the fixes depend on the manufacturer<sup>10</sup>.

### 7.1 Rage Against The Cage

The Rage Against The Cage exploit takes advantage of a bug in the adb code. The adb code on android performs certain actions as root at start up but then drops root privileges using `setuid`. The exploit is in that the adb code does not check if the `setuid` call succeeds or fails. If the call fails adb will continue to run as the root user. Rage Against The Cage works by forking enough children processes to reach the `NPROC` limit on the machine and attempts to restart adb while `NPROC` is maxed. When this happens, the `setuid` call will fail in adb and it will continue to run with root privileges.

Details can be found at <http://intrepidusgroup.com/insight/2010/09/android-root-source-code-looking-at-the-c-skills/>.

### 7.2 Exploit

The exploit vulnerability takes advantage of the `udev` system on Android. The Google developers removed a large amount of code from `udev` as it would be implemented on Linux and moved the code into the `init` daemon. The dilemma is that the `udev` code used is susceptible to a bug that existed in `udev` prior to 1.4.1 that did not verify that kernel messages it received came from the kernel. In the Android OS this means that `init` would receive these requests and `init` runs as root. A brief overview of the exploit is as follows:

1. Exploit copies it to a system directory writable to the shell user
2. It then sends a “`NETLINK_KOBJECT_UEVENT`” message to the kernel.
3. Copied executable checks to see if it is running as root..
4. When running as root, remounts system partition as read-write

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<sup>10</sup><http://c-skills.blogspot.com/2011/01/adb-trickery-again.html>

5. Finally copies `/system/bin/sh` to `/system/bin/rootshell` and `chmod`'s to `04711` to always run as root.

Details can be found at <http://intrepidusgroup.com/insight/2010/09/android-root-source-code-looking-at-the-c-skills/>.

### 7.3 KillingInTheNameOf

The `KillingInTheNameOf` exploit is slightly different in that it takes advantage of google's custom `shmem` interface "`ashmem`". The program maps the system properties into a processes address space. The vulnerability is that they are not mapped as write protected. The vulnerability then finds the `ro.secure` property of `adb` and flips it. That allows any shell started by `adb` to run as root. Rough details can be found in <http://jon.oberheide.org/files/bsides11-dontrootrobots.pdf>.

### 7.4 ZimperLich

The `ZimperLich` follows the same structure as the `Exploit` vulnerability. There are two major differences, though. First, `ZimperLich` attacks the `Zygote` process on android and its lack of a check against the failure of `se-tuid`. The `Zygote` process is the parent process which all `Dalvik` jails are forked from. the other difference is that attacking `Zygote` does not require a shell with a `uid` so the `ZimperLich` attack can be run from an `APK`. The source code for `ZimperLich` can be found at <http://c-skills.blogspot.com/2011/02/zimperlich-sources.html>.

### 7.5 GingerBreak

The `GingerBreak` exploit works in a similar manner to the `Exploit` vulnerability. The difference is that in this case the exploit takes advantage of the "`vold`" daemon improperly trusting messages recieved. A buffer underflow attack is committed that causes an escalation of privilege attack. The attack was found to work on a number of devices from `Android 2.2` to `Android 3.0`. The vulnerability is `CVE-2011-1823`. The very general description can be found at [https://groups.google.com/group/android-security-discuss/browse/\\_thread/thread/1ac1582b7307fc5c](https://groups.google.com/group/android-security-discuss/browse/_thread/thread/1ac1582b7307fc5c). Source code for the exploit

can be found at <http://c-skills.blogspot.com/2011/04/yummy-yummy-gingerbreak.html>.

This has supposedly been fixed in newer versions of the Android source<sup>11</sup> as of May 2nd.

## 8 ARM ABI vs. ARM EABI

The Android platform is built and runs on ARM EABI code. ARM introduced EABI to improve the floating point performance of their processors. It also modifies the system call convention for the ARM processor. This is important to know in certain activities where the Linux kernel must be modified. If the kernel is using the EABI instruction set, then the variables passed to the system call and the system call's number will be in different locations. The EABI supports 64-bit function parameters that are passed to even-numbered registers. The other major change is the system call number is passed to r7 whereas in ABI it was packed in with the base memory location.

Debian's discussion of the port to EABI is discussed here: <http://wiki.debian.org/ArmEabiPort>. This is useful information for Ubuntu as well. The Linux kernel handles both but the discrepancies are abstracted away when dealing with C-code in the kernel (except when accessing individual ARM registers).

## 9 Audit Linux Kernel Subsystem and Audit package

The Audit Linux kernel subsystem and the Audit tool package for Linux work together to allow the monitoring of a Linux system. The audit package contains a number of programs that can be used.

- `auditd` – The daemon that interfaces with the audit kernel subsystem. If run with the `-f` option from a superuser command line, `auditctl` must be run first to load the rules.
- `auditctl` – A tool to add rules to the `audit.rules` file (this can be done manually as well). Also used when `auditd` is init'd to load all rules.

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<sup>11</sup><http://www.androidpolice.com/2011/05/03/google-patches-gingerbreak-exploit-but-dont-worry-we>

- `audispd` – A tool that is able to provide a userland daemon access to processed output from `auditd`.
- `aureport` – A tool used to produce summary reports of the audit logs.

## 9.1 Installing Linux Auditing

On most modern distributions the kernel is already configured to enable auditing and syscall auditing. All that needs to be done is for the user to install the audit package. However, in systems where the kernel must be manually compiled, the following configuration options need to be enabled: `CONFIG_AUDIT`, `CONFIG_AUDITSYSCALL`, `CONFIG_INOTIFY` and optionally `CONFIG_SECURITY_SELINUX`.

## 9.2 Audit Kernel Subsystem

The system call tracing occurs in the `do_syscall_trace` function in “`ptrace.c`”. This function is called via the “`entry-common.S`” assembly file. When entering a system call the kernel checks to see if the “`TIF_SYSCALL_AUDIT`” flag is set. If it is, it performs a special slow system call path and calls the `syscall_trace` function. This function then enters the code in “`ptrace.c`”. When the kernel performs the same check, with slightly different logic, when it returns from a fork.

## 9.3 Audit Logging Process

The `Auditd` program interacts with the audit system in the kernel by connecting through a netlink socket. If the daemon is not present, the events are recorded to the `syslog` daemon with `printk`. When syscall auditing is enabled the system calls number and timestamp are recorded at entry. When the syscall is exited, more information regarding the syscall is filled in.

## 9.4 Auditd on Android

In order to run the port of `auditd` on android it must be run from a root shell. This means that it must be initiated at OS startup or run through the `adb` shell. The process for starting `auditd` with `spade` is the following:

1. Login in to phone via root shell

2. Start auditd with (auditd or auditd -n)
3. Start spade-audit

#### 9.4.1 Compiling audit Userland

The userland audit program must be configured prior to being set-up to work with the Android build system. This is because the “make” command must be run under the lib directory to generate the proper table header files for use with the system. The following instructions should compile all needed files:

1. `./configure --with-debug --disable-gssapi-krb5 --with-armeb --without-libwrap`
2. `cd ./lib`
3. `make`

#### 9.4.2 The Porting Process

The audit system was not a straightforward port to Android. A number of modifications needed to be made to the audit source where the source used references to unavailable functions or definitions. All references to `pthread_cancel` were switched to `pthread_kill` for this reason. The checks in “auditd.c” regarding permissions of executables it starts were removed as it was unable to properly read the permissions. The audit library also did not create the proper lookup tables for the arm platform used by the Android emulator. The google emulator’s machine name returns as “armv5tejl”. This was added to the `machinetab.h` file which creates the `machinetabs.h` file during the “make” process. The machine name of each arm phone is slightly different and will need to be added for each device. A new thread flag was created, `_TIF_SYSCALL_WORK`, that is equal to `(TIF_SYSCALL_TRACE | TIF_SYSCALL_AUDIT)`. This flag is checked whenever entering or exiting a system call (or fork) to check for tracing.

Two things created large bugs on the arm platform. The first was that setting one thread flag equal to another via `#define`’s did not work. The new code path did not execute properly. The second was the comments for the “ip” register were backwards. When tracing, `ip = 0` is an exit, `ip = 1` is an entry.

Another dilemma is that auditd will not start in daemon mode from the Android init.rc file, however auditctl will run. Auditd will run in daemon mode if started from the command line, however.

The list of kernel files currently modified are. Locations are from the kernel source base directory:

1. init/Kconfig
2. arch/arm/kernel/ptrace.c
3. arch/arm/include/asm/thread\_info.h

## 9.5 Creating a Kernel Patch

1. Download the latest stable kernel source.
2. Create a copy of the kernel source directory and rename it so that it's clear it is the modified branch.
3. Create a patch using the following command: `diff -uprN -X linux-3.0-vanilla/Documentation/dontdiff linux-3.0-vanilla linux-3.0-modified > arm-audit-patch`
4. Check the patch for formatting issues with the following command: `perl linux-3.0-vanilla/scripts/checkpatch.pl arm-audit-patch`
5. Manually check patch for errors

## 10 Mobile Malware Detection Techniques

### 10.1 Software Based Attestation

## 11 Notes of FaceNiff Android APK

The FaceNiff application can be downloaded at <http://faceniff.ponury.net/>. The goal of the application is to sniff WiFi packets and obtain the sessions cookies that websites send over HTTP. FireSheep<sup>12</sup> could be considered to be the odler cousin of this application. What makes FaceNiff an

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<sup>12</sup><http://codebutler.com/firesheep>



interesting specimen is that it is able to provide low level system functionality not formerly thought possible on the Android platform. It does so by wrapping a C-based application in an Android APK. The limitation is that this application must be run as root on a rooted phone. The application can not only sniff wireless traffic but can perform ARP spoofing. As the primary functionality is performed in the C-code, the reverse engineering of the DEX code only provided the run-time wrapper for the program.

Much of the application interacts with the “/proc” virtual filesystem. The Java portion executes certain IP tables commands. [WHAT DO THEY DO?]. The C application accesses much of the network routing functionality such as /proc/net/route and /proc/net/arp.

The following comments are made based on a “string” dump of the C application. The application makes use of SOCK\_DGRAM sockets for a portion of its operation. The ARP spoofing are potentially done with SOCK\_PACKET or SOCK\_RAW sockets. Packet capturing is done with the libpcap library and the application supports Promiscuous mode. Due to certain hints in the dump such as “./iconv/skeleton.c”, “./iconv/loop.c”, “glibc-ld.so.cache1”, it is quite possible the author statically compiled in a version of glibc. Considering the binary is 726K, this is a possibility.

Note: The author has also offered to make a WiFi jamming application as well.<sup>13</sup>

## 12 Literature Review

### 12.1 A Window into Mobile Device Security

Symantec’s paper describes a broad overview of security in the iOS and Android operating systems. The technical paper focuses on the corporate environment. Symantec focuses on six different types of threats in its analysis: web-based and network-based attacks, malware, social engineering attacks, resource and service availability abuse, malicious and unintentional data loss, and attacks on the integrity of the device’s data. Symantec considers the implementations of both iOS and Android to be based on five different security pillars: traditional access control, application provenance, encryption, isolation, and permissions-based access control.

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<sup>13</sup><http://faceniff.freeforums.org/wifi-jammer-t52.html>

Apple's iOS provides traditional access control in the form of password configuration and account lockouts. The application provenance mechanism in iOS is very strong. Apple requires a membership to obtain both development tools and access to the apple application store. The cost is considerable and the developer is required to provide proof of identity. Also, all app submissions to the application store go through a testing process that apple does not divulge publically [Ed. - Although they divulge what your app must do to pass []]. While circumventing this process is possible, the authentication requirements mean that it will be difficult for malware authors to cheaply create multiple accounts. Jailbreaking an iOS device removes many of these protection measures and there have been two computer worm attacks effecting jailbroken iOS devices.

iOS makes use of full device encryption in iOS 4 using AES-256. An additional layer of encryption is used for email, and other sensitive data items. The downside to this design choice is the decryption key must be kept in memory at all times. The decryption key can be ex-filtrated if an individual has physical access to a device and can jailbreak it.

iOS provides application sandboxing. Each process is run inside it's own user id and has minimal access to the system. Applications cannot even determine if another app is running on the device. Applications must receive specific user participation for making phone calls an sending SMS messages. The following actions require no specific privilege requests:

1. Internet access
2. Address book access
3. Devices unique iOS id
4. The device's phone number
5. Device's music, video, and photo files
6. The safari search history
7. The auto-completion history
8. Recently viewed Youtube videos
9. WiFi connection logs

## 10. The microphone and camera

The sandboxing functions limit the dangers of malware on the device and protect resource abuse in most situations. With this sandboxing structure comes permissions-based access control. The iOS permissions are coarse grained only providing the following permissions: access to the location data from the GPS, the ability to receive remote notification alerts, the ability to initiate an outgoing call, and the ability to send an outgoing sms or email.

iOS currently has 200 different vulnerabilities found since its initial release. A majority of these are low severity. Very few allow privilege escalation vulnerabilities that allow for an attacker to gain control of the device. Apple takes an average of 12 days to patch these vulnerabilities. The following malware are examples of those found on the platform: Aurora Feint, Storm 8, iPhoneOS.Ikee, and iPhoneOS.Ikee.B

The Android platform uses a non-standard java platform to run applications on its phones. The security is provided by direct linux permissions as well as fine grained permissions implemented in its framework. Applications by default can only access the following resources: a list of applications on the devices and its programming logic, the SD card's data (read-only), and may launch other applications.

The permission based access control allows permissions to various sub-systems in the Android OS. Symantec provides the following high level categories: networking, device identifiers, messaging, calendar and address book, multimedia and image files, external memory card access, global positioning system, telephony system, logs and browsing history, and task list.

Android's digital signing model is much less rigid as Apple's. The Android digital signing model ensures applications cannot be tampered with and the applications author can be identified. Google, however, does not make rigid checks of developer provided personal information and the fee is considerably less. There is less cost to malware authors creating fake accounts to deliberate their malware on the store.

Android currently does not offer full device encryption for its phones although data encryption capabilities are in Android 3.0 for tablets. The platform has been found to have 18 vulnerabilities since its initial release. These have been patched in an average of eight days. The problem is that many of these patches take significant time to make it to the consumers due to the involvement of cellular providers and manufacturers. This structure creates ethical conflicts in the quick patching of problems. For exam-

ple, Google had to exploit an escalation-of-privilege attack to remove the Android.Rootcager vulnerability. Example malware on the Android system include: Android.Pjapps, Android.Geinimi, AndroidOS.FakePlayer, Android.Rootcager, and Android.Bgserv.

Mobile antivirus scanners don't exist for iOS devices and they are impossible to implement due to iOS's strict isolation model. Antivirus tools exist on the Android platform but provide no support about unknown malware. Symantec assumes traditional AV scanners on mobile phones will be replaced with cloud-enabled reputation-based protection.

## 12.2 Android Permissions Demystified

Felt et al.'s paper focuses on the fine-grained permission system in the Android OS. Specifically they focus on identifying applications that request permissions well beyond what are needed. They do so by analyzing the Java Framework used by developers for Android. Their self stated contributions are the following:

1. The development of STOWAWAY, a tool to detect overprivileged. It's used to evaluate 940 applications.
2. Identify and quantify patterns of developer error.
3. Map out Android's access control policy.

There are three levels of permissions in the Android system: normal, those that protect API access; dangerous, those that allow for money expenditure and private information gathering; signature/system, these regular access to very dangerous or fundamental permissions such as deleting applications and backing up the phone. Permissions are obtained at install time when application developers request them. Permission enforcement is done in the API. The permissions not enforced by the framework are INTERNET, WRITE\_EXTERNAL\_STORAGE, and BLUETOOTH. Those permissions are enforced via filesystem groups and the Linux kernel.

The API testing was performed in three steps. The first was feedback-directed testing. The second was customizable test case generation. The third was manual verification. Feedback-directed testing involved the use of the Randoop utility (automated feedback-directed OO test generator for

Java). To cover limitations of Randoop, the manual test cases were generated. The map generated from the first two methodologies was then checked manually.

The authors counted 1,665 classes in the framework with 16,732 public and private methods. They obtained 85% coverage of the API through the API calls. The uncovered portion of the API was due to native calls. The authors did not think there were any new permission checks hidden in these files. During this process the authors found errors in the documentation. 1207 API calls have permission checks, 779 of those are normal APIs and 428 are proxy interfaces. 20 of the 134 Android-defined permissions are unused. A number of permissions also have hierarchical relations.

The STOWAWAY application parses DEX files and identified standard API calls and also deals with Java reflection. WebView are specifically detected as well for INTERNET permission and an APK's XML files are parsed for mentions of WRITE\_EXTERNAL\_STORAGE. Using STOWAWAY on 940 Android 2.2 applications, the authors found that 323 (35.8%) had unnecessary permissions. The manual training phase found 42.5% (17/40) applications as having unnecessary permissions. The authors provide a number of reasons for developer in error for requesting these permissions: permission name confusion, confusion with related methods, copy and paste errors, actions from deputies, and artifacts from testing.

### 12.3 A Study of Android Application Security

Enck et al. study the data misuse of applications in the Android market including dangerous functionality and vulnerabilities. In order to analyze applications in this manner they produce a Dalvik decompiler (ded) and analyze 21 million lines of code from the top 1,100 free Android applications.

## References

- [1] W. Enck, P. Gilbert, B. Chun, L. Cox, J. Jung, P. McDaniel, and A. Sheth, "Taintdroid: An information-flow tracking system for realtime privacy monitoring on smartphones," in *Proceedings of OSDI*, 2010.

# Appendix

## Useful Commands

- `'ls -lt /var/lib/dpkg/info/*.list'` – List the installed packages ordered by time/date they were installed.
- `'mount -o rw,remount -t yaffs2 /dev/block/mtdblock3 /system'` – Remount Android /system with read/write privileges
- `'cat /proc/mounts'` – Get mounted drives