09-09-14

Review of assignment 1 by Joakim Harbitz

Review by Synne Østern

Is the mechanism described so that it is understandable to a knowledgeable reader while not being trivial?

Yes. The definition on Trusted Path is explained in the beginning. And the language is very good and understandable to me. It is still quite technical but not too much. However the are some acronyms that I would have liked to get explained, e.g. TSE.

Does the mechanism described as a Trusted path conform with the definition of a Trusted path in the TCSEC, i.e., "A mechanism by which a person at a terminal can communicate directly with the Trusted Computing Base. This mechanism can only be activated by the person or the Trusted Computing Base and cannot be imitated by untrusted software."? Note that "person at a terminal" refers to the user and "trusted computing base" refers to the operating system.

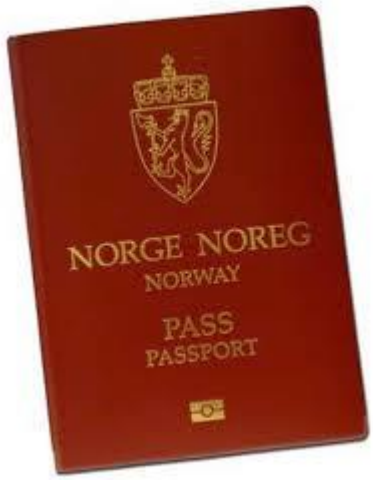
Yes. Joakim explains the fingerprint mechanism and the secure solution for the apps. He has also supported this with relevant figures. However the explanation regarding the app is a bit insufficient, and would have liked more details.

I would also liked in genereal to get more details about this solution. E.g. how TSE encrypts and maybe why "Jailbroken" iPhones cannot have a trusted path to every app. And additionally I miss an explanation on Sandboxing and how Apple uses this in more details, since it on the title.

Are references included that support the description of the mechanism?

Sort of. The are no references in the text, only afterward. I would have like Joakim to put the numbers as either a Harvard or Vancouver-style (others styles are welcomed as well) . IEEEs is also recommended as a reference style. And reference on the figures as well.

Furthermore, I'm not sure the Wikipedia is a good reference because it's a secondary source. A secondary source always find its information from an another source (the primarly (frst) source). I academia it is not widely accepted to use secondary sources without special reasons.



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PS. If you did not get the reference, you have passed ☺