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Weekly Article Summary #3

CSCI 373 – Heroux

09/17/2013

Summarized Article: <http://www.infoworld.com/d/mobile-technology/mobile-security-ios-vs-android-vs-blackberry-vs-windows-phone-212733>

Article #2: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2518037.2491245&coll=DL&dl=ACM&CFID=246415790&CFTOKEN=75617428>

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is one of the new and growing trends in the enterprise world, and many companies on the mobile market are making their case for IT to adopt their platforms for internal company usage. In his article, Galen Gruman of InfoWorld highlights the shifting landscape of mobile security, and examins the differences that are found in iOS, Android, BlackBerry, and Windows Phone. He also gives a quick synopsis on what devices are winning the battle for IT adoption, and gives his opinion on each of the platforms adoptability.

Gruman argues, that the two fundamental areas of mobile security are in each platform’s adoption of “Microsoft’s EAS policies” and also their implementation of security-based native APIs. Essentially, the EAS policy is used to sync email, contacts, tasks, etc., and at this point in time, all of the major mobile form groups have some form of EAS policy in place. What is more of the major concern for security, as Gruman describes it, is the amount of access a company could have to the phone’s OS, and how they can alter it to form different security standards. Some areas that I thought noteworthy of mentioning are below:

* All platforms allow for device encryption
* All devices can be wirelessly wiped of their data
* None of the devices have a feature to turn of personal email accounts
* None have policies to require encryption or signing of emails
* All but Android can restrict the use of the app store
* All but Android can require that apps downloaded be signed with a certificate
* All but Android and Microsoft can restrict the use of iCloud/Microsoft Account/Google Account sync and storage procedures

Overall, Gruman points out in his article that iOS and BlackBerry offer the greatest amount of control of how a mobile device is allowed to behave, while Microsoft and Google sorely lack in their support. As such, anyone should be able to see after reading this article why Gruman does say that it is a “no-brainer that iOS and BlackBerry 10 have what it takes for almost any business’s security needs.” Although these platforms do have their options for security, it is Apple and BlackBerry that far out due the platforms, and are thus, taking over the market.