



# Where DYLD you hide?

## Leveraging the Mach-O Format and the iOS Dynamic Linker

### For Advanced Injection Techniques and Research

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```

__int64 dummy_function()
{
    size_t v0; // x0
    unsigned __int64 j; // [xsp+18h] [xbp-28h]
    const char *image_name; // [xsp+20h] [xbp-20h]
    uint32_t i; // [xsp+2Ch] [xbp-14h]
    char v5; // [xsp+3Fh] [xbp-1h]

    for ( i = 0; i < _dyld_image_count(); ++i )
    {
        image_name = _dyld_get_image_name(i);
        if ( image_name )
        {
            for ( j = 0LL; j < 2; ++j )
            {
                v0 = strlen((&off_8038)[j]);
                if ( !strncmp(image_name, (&off_8038)[j], v0) )
                {
                    v5 = 1;
                    return v5 & 1;
                }
            }
        }
    }
    v5 = 0;
    return v5 & 1;
}

```

# Agenda

- Background
- Utilized DYLD's Behavior for Malicious Purposes
- Debugging and Research Methodologies
- Mitigations and Recommendations

# Background

# Mach-O Format

- Mach Header
- Load Commands
  - LC\_SEGMENT
  - LC\_LOAD\*\_DYLIB
  - LC\_MAIN
- Segments
  - \_\_TEXT
  - \_\_DATA
  - \_\_LINKEDIT
- Sections
  - \_\_text
  - \_\_data
  - \_\_mod\_init\_func

## Shared Library (ARM64\_ALL)

### Mach64 Header

### Dynamic Loader Info

#### ✓ Load Commands

##### ✓ LC\_SEGMENT\_64 (\_\_TEXT)

Section64 Header (\_\_text)

Section64 Header (\_\_stubs)

Section64 Header (\_\_stub\_helper)

Section64 Header (\_\_const)

Section64 Header (\_\_cstring)

Section64 Header (\_\_unwind\_info)

> LC\_SEGMENT\_64 (\_\_DATA\_CONST)

> LC\_SEGMENT\_64 (\_\_DATA)

> LC\_SEGMENT\_64 (\_\_DATA\_DIRTY)

LC\_SEGMENT\_64 (\_\_LINKEDIT)

LC\_ID\_DYLIB (libdyld.dylib)

LC\_DYLD\_INFO\_ONLY

LC\_SYMTAB



> otool

# What Happens When You Click an Application?

# iOS Dynamic Linker (DYLD)

Load	Dyld loads the executable and libraries
Rebase	Adjusts memory addresses
Bind	Resolves and links symbols
Initialize	Calls initialization functions and constructors
Execute	Transfers control to the app's entry point

# iOS Dynamic Linker (DYLD)

**dyld**

The dynamic linker that loads and links dynamic libraries before app launch

**MH\_DYLINKER**

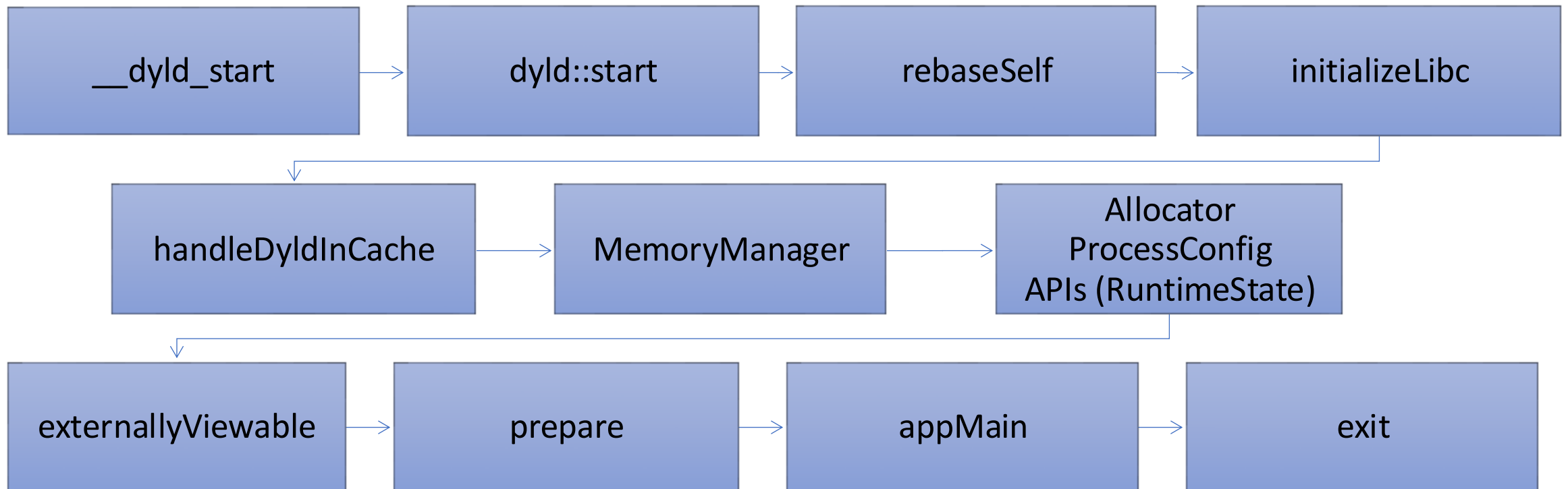
**libdyld.dylib**

Provides APIs to interact with dyld at runtime

**MH\_DYLIB**



# dyldMain.cpp start()



# Utilized DYLD's Behavior for Malicious Purposes

# Static Load Command Injection

```
> ./optool install -c load -p "@executable_path/Frameworks/notmalicious.framework/notmalicious" -t ./testerapp.app/testerapp
```

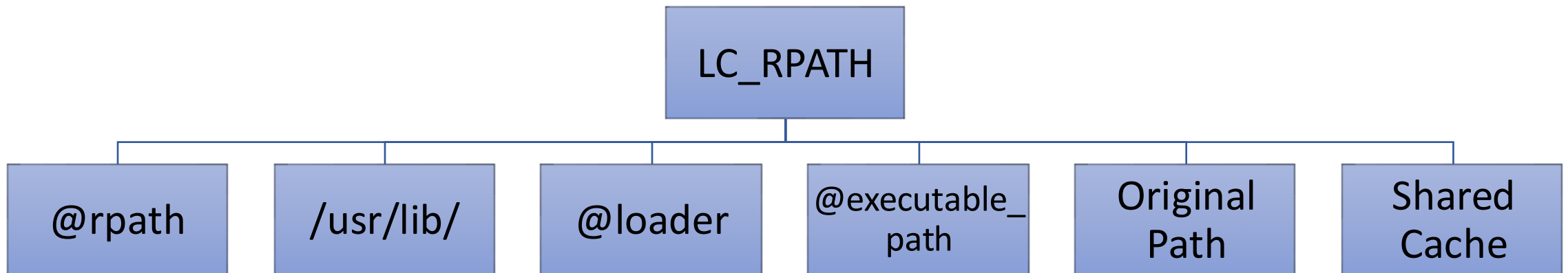
LC\_LOAD\_DYLIB (UIKit)  
LC\_RPATH  
LC\_RPATH  
LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS  
LC\_DATA\_IN\_CODE  
LC\_CODE\_SIGNATURE  
> Section64 (\_\_TEXT,\_\_text)



LC\_LOAD\_DYLIB (UIKit)  
**LC\_LOAD\_DYLIB (notmalicious)**  
LC\_RPATH  
LC\_RPATH  
LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS  
LC\_DATA\_IN\_CODE  
LC\_CODE\_SIGNATURE  
> Section64 (\_\_TEXT,\_\_text)

# DYLD Search Path Hierarchy

- **LC\_RPATH** specifies a runtime search path for locating dynamically linked libraries
- **DYLD\_\*\_PATH** environment variables
- **getLoader()** in **dyldMain`prepare()**



# Dylib Hijacking



# Dynamic Dylib Hijacking

- Set Path Related Environment Variables
  - DYLD\_IMAGE\_SUFFIX
  - DYLD\_FRAMEWORK\_PATH
  - DYLD\_LIBRARY\_PATH
  - DYLD\_FALLBACK\_FRAMEWORK\_PATH
  - DYLD\_FALLBACK\_LIBRARY\_PATH

DyldProcessConfig`PathOverrides

```
find path "/usr/lib/system/introspection/libdispatch.dylib"
  possible path(DYLD_IMAGE_SUFFIX): "/var/log/libdispatch_suffix.dylib"
  possible path(DYLD_FRAMEWORK/LIBRARY_PATH): "/var/log/libdispatch.dylib"
  possible path(DYLD_IMAGE_SUFFIX): "/usr/lib/system/introspection/libdispatch_suffix.dylib"
  possible path(DYLD_FRAMEWORK/LIBRARY_PATH): "/usr/lib/system/introspection/libdispatch.dylib"
  found: already-loaded-by-path: "/usr/lib/system/introspection/libdispatch.dylib"
```

# Dynamic Injection

- Use **DYLD\_INSERT\_LIBRARIES** environment variable to load a library before other dylibs

dyldMain`DyldProcessConfig.cpp

```
else if ( strcmp(keyEqualsValue, "DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES", 21) == 0 ) {
    setString(allocator, _insertedDylibs, value);
    if ( _insertedDylibs[0] != '\0' ) {
        _insertedDylibCount = 1;
        for (const char* s=_insertedDylibs; *s != '\0'; ++s) {
            if ( *s == ':' )
                _insertedDylibCount++;
        }
    }
}
```

# Dynamic Injection – Dopamine (RootHide)



- Set **DYLD\_INSERT\_LIBRARIES** environment variable to inject **launchdhook.dylib**
- `initSpawnHooks` use Method Swizzling on `posix_spawn`

```
void initSpawnHooks(void)
{
    MSHookFunction(&posix_spawn, (void*)posix_spawn_hook, (void**)&posix_spawn_orig);
    MSHookFunction(&__posix_spawn, (void*)new__posix_spawn, (void**)&orig__posix_spawn);

    MSHookFunction(&__reboot, (void*)reboot_hook, (void**)&reboot_orig);
    MSHookFunction(&sysctlbyname, (void *)new_sysctlbyname, (void**)&orig_sysctlbyname);
}
```

```
initSpawnHooks();
initIPCHooks();

// This will ensure launchdhook is always reinjected after userspace reboots
// As this launchd will pass environ to the next launchd...
setenv("DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES", jbrootPath(@"/basebin/launchdhook.dylib").fileSystemRepresentation, 1);
```



# Dynamic Injection – Dopamine (RootHide)



- `spawn_hook_common` inserts **systemhook.dylib** into all binaries spawned
- Set **DYLD\_INSERT\_LIBRARIES** environment variable

```
// 1. Make sure the about to be spawned binary and all of it's dependencies are trust cached  
// 2. Insert "DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES=/usr/lib/systemhook.dylib" into all binaries spawned
```

```
int spawn_hook_common(pid_t *restrict pid, const char *restrict path,  
                      const posix_spawn_file_actions_t *restrict file_actions,  
                      const posix_spawnattr_t *restrict attrp,  
                      char *const argv[restrict],  
                      char *const envp[restrict],  
                      void *orig)
```

```
    envbuf_setenv(&envc, "DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES", newLibraryInsert, 1);
```

# Interposing

```
// From mach-o/dyld-interposing.h
#define DYLD_INTERPOSE(_replacement, _replacee) \
    __attribute__((used)) static struct{ const void* replacement; const void* replacee; } \
        _interpose_##_replacee \
        __attribute__((section("__DATA,__interpose"))) = { (const void*)(unsigned \
            long)&_replacement, (const void*)(unsigned long)&_replacee };

DYLD_INTERPOSE(my_printf, printf);
DYLD_INTERPOSE(my_open, open);
```

```
__interpose:000000000000C068 ; =====
__interpose:000000000000C068
__interpose:000000000000C068 ; Segment type: Regular
__interpose:000000000000C068 AREA __interpose, DATA, ALIGN=3
__interpose:000000000000C068 ; ORG 0xC068
__interpose:000000000000C068 __interpose_printf DCQ __my_printf
__interpose:000000000000C070 DCQ __imp__printf
__interpose:000000000000C078 __interpose_open DCQ __my_open
__interpose:000000000000C080 DCQ __imp__open
__interpose:000000000000C080 ; __interpose ends
interpose:000000000000C080
```

# Interposing

dyldMain`prepare

```
// check for interposing tuples before doing fixups
state.buildInterposingTables();

// do fixups
{ ... }

// if there is interposing, then apply interpose tuples to the dyld cache
if ( !state.interposingTuplesAll.empty() ) {
    Loader::applyInterposingToDyldCache(state);
}
```

# Interposing – Dopamine (RootHide)



- **execve\_hook** – Controls process launches
- **open\_hook** – Manages file access
- **dlopen\_hook** – Restricts library loading
- **ptrace\_hook** – apply debug flags to when needed
- **sandbox\_init** - Enforces sandbox policies

**systemhook.dylib** – BaseBin/systemhook/src/main.c

```
DYLD_INTERPOSE(posix_spawn_hook, posix_spawn)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(posix_spawn_np_hook, posix_spawn_np)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execve_hook, execve)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execl_hook, execl)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execlp_hook, execlp)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execv_hook, execv)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execl_hook, execl)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execvp_hook, execvp)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(execvp_hook, execvp)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(dlopen_hook, dlopen)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(dlopen_from_hook, dlopen_from)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(dlopen_audited_hook, dlopen_audited)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(dlopen_preflight_hook, dlopen_preflight)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(sandbox_init_hook, sandbox_init)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(sandbox_init_with_parameters_hook, sandbox_init_with_parameters)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(sandbox_init_with_extensions_hook, sandbox_init_with_extensions)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(ptrace_hook, ptrace)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(fork_hook, fork)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(vfork_hook, vfork)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(forkpty_hook, forkpty)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(daemon_hook, daemon)
DYLD_INTERPOSE(reboot3_hook, reboot3)
```

# Useful DYLD API Functions

- `_dyld_image_count(void)` returns the number of loaded images
- `_dyld_get_image_name(index)` returns the name of a given library index
- `_dyld_get_image_header(index)` returns the base address of a given library index
- `_dyld_register_func_for_add_image(callback)` allows to install callbacks which will be called by dyld whenever an image is loaded or unloaded

```

__int64 dummy_function()
{
    size_t v0; // x0
    unsigned __int64 j; // [xsp+18h] [xbp-28h]
    const char *image_name; // [xsp+20h] [xbp-20h]
    uint32_t i; // [xsp+2Ch] [xbp-14h]
    char v5; // [xsp+3Fh] [xbp-1h]

    for ( i = 0; i < _dyld_image_count(); ++i )
    {
        image_name = _dyld_get_image_name(i);
        if ( image_name )
        {
            for ( j = 0LL; j < 2; ++j )
            {
                v0 = strlen((&off_8038)[j]);
                if ( !strncmp(image_name, (&off_8038)[j], v0) )
                {
                    v5 = 1;
                    return v5 & 1;
                }
            }
        }
    }
    v5 = 0;
    return v5 & 1;
}

```

# How Malicious Dylibs Can Avoid Detection

```
// Return 1 as the image count
uint32_t _my_dyld_image_count(void)
{
    uint32_t orig_count = _dyld_image_count();
    uint32_t ret = 1;
    printf("Change image_count from: %d to: %d\n", orig_count, ret);
    return ret;
}

// Return only the first image name
const char *_my_dyld_get_image_name(uint32_t image_index)
{
    const char *orig_name = _dyld_get_image_name(image_index);
    const char *ret = _dyld_get_image_name(0);
    printf("Change image_name from: %s to: %s\n", orig_name, ret);
    return ret;
}
```

```
DYLD_INTERPOSE(_my_dyld_image_count, _dyld_image_count);
DYLD_INTERPOSE(_my_dyld_get_image_name, _dyld_get_image_name);
```

# Dynamic Interposing

- Use `_dyld_dynamic_interpose` to hide libraries from `_dyld_*` APIs.

```
// https://github.com/opensource-apple/dyld/blob/master/include/mach-o/dyld_priv.h
// Update all bindings on specified image.
// Looks for uses of 'replacement' and changes it to 'replacee'.
// NOTE: this is less safe than using static interposing via DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES
// because the running program may have already copy the pointer values to other
// locations that dyld does not know about.
struct dyld_interpose_tuple {
    const void* replacement;
    const void* replacee;
};
extern void dyld_dynamic_interpose(const struct mach_header* mh, const struct dyld_interpose_tuple array[], size_t count);

const struct mach_header *mach_header = (const struct mach_header *)_dyld_get_image_header(0);

static const struct dyld_interpose_tuple interposers[] = {
    { (const void *)_my_dyld_image_count, (const void *)_dyld_image_count},
    { (const void *)_my_dyld_get_image_name, (const void *)_dyld_get_image_name},
};
size_t interposers_count = sizeof(interposers) / sizeof(struct dyld_interpose_tuple);
dyld_dynamic_interpose(mach_header, interposers, interposers_count);
```



# Dynamic Interposing

- No related section in the binary
- Static Interposing

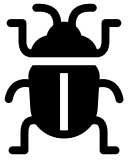
```
LC 02: LC_SEGMENT_64 Mem: 0x00000c000-0x10000 __DATA
Mem: 0x00000c000-0x00000c098 __DATA.__la_symbol_ptr (Lazy Symbol Ptrs)
Mem: 0x00000c098-0x00000c148 __DATA.__objc_const
Mem: 0x00000c148-0x00000c150 __DATA.__objc_selrefs (Literal Pointers)
Mem: 0x00000c150-0x00000c158 __DATA.__objc_classrefs (Normal)
Mem: 0x00000c158-0x00000c1a8 __DATA.__objc_data
Mem: 0x00000c1a8-0x00000c1c0 __DATA.__data
Mem: 0x00000c1c0-0x00000c1e0 __DATA.__interpose
Mem: 0x00000c1e0-0x00000c208 __DATA.__bss (Zero Fill)
```

- Dynamic Interposing

```
LC 02: LC_SEGMENT_64 Mem: 0x00000c000-0x10000 __DATA
Mem: 0x00000c000-0x00000c098 __DATA.__la_symbol_ptr (Lazy Symbol Ptrs)
Mem: 0x00000c098-0x00000c148 __DATA.__objc_const
Mem: 0x00000c148-0x00000c150 __DATA.__objc_selrefs (Literal Pointers)
Mem: 0x00000c150-0x00000c158 __DATA.__objc_classrefs (Normal)
Mem: 0x00000c158-0x00000c1a8 __DATA.__objc_data
Mem: 0x00000c1a8-0x00000c1c0 __DATA.__data
Mem: 0x00000c1c0-0x00000c1e8 __DATA.__bss (Zero Fill)
```

# Defensive Position Debugging and Research Methodologies

# Debugging using Environment Variables



DYLD\_PRINT\_LIBRARIES

DYLD\_PRINT\_LOADERS

DYLD\_PRINT\_INITIALIZERS

DYLD\_PRINT\_SEGMENTS

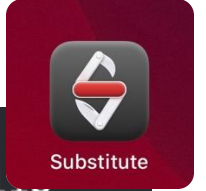
DYLD\_PRINT\_SEARCHING

DYLD\_PRINT\_APIS

DYLD\_PRINT\_BINDINGS

DYLD\_PRINT\_INTERPOSING

# Substitute



```
dyld: Mapping /usr/lib/libsubstitute.dylib (slice offset=16384)
dyld: Speculatively read offset=0x00004000, len=0x0002A140, path=/usr/lib/libsubstitute.dylib
    __TEXT at 0x1021D0000->0x1021EBFFF with permissions r.x
    __DATA_CONST at 0x1021EC000->0x1021EFFFF with permissions rw.
    __DATA at 0x1021F0000->0x1021F3FFF with permissions rw.
    __LINKEDIT at 0x1021F4000->0x1021FA13F with permissions r..
                0x1021D4000->0x1021E8000 configured for FairPlay decryption
dyld: Mapping /usr/lib/substitute-loader.dylib (slice offset=16384)
dyld: Speculatively read offset=0x00004000, len=0x00325FC0, path=/usr/lib/substitute-loader.dylib
    __TEXT at 0x102A10000->0x102CA3FFF with permissions r.x
    __DATA_CONST at 0x102CA4000->0x102CA7FFF with permissions rw.
    __DATA at 0x102CA8000->0x102CEBFFF with permissions rw.
    __LINKEDIT at 0x102CF0000->0x102D39FBF with permissions r..
                0x102A14000->0x102CA4000 configured for FairPlay decryption
dyld: Mapping /usr/lib/libsubstrate.dylib (slice offset=16384)
dyld: calling -init function 0x19363f2e4 in /System/Library/Frameworks/CoreFoundation.framework/CoreFoundation
dyld: calling initializer function 0x1034e5afc in /usr/lib/substitute-inserter.dylib
dyld: loaded: <181F3AA8-66D9-3165-AC54-344385AC6E1D> /usr/lib/libobjc-trampolines.dylib
dyld: calling initializer function 0x195c87f1c in /usr/lib/libnetwork.dylib
dyld: loaded: <4B291A7E-AE4C-3CE2-82C2-0A3B729E8425> /usr/lib/libsubstitute.dylib
dyld: loaded: <0B9B80FE-7EBD-301D-9FAB-72A262ED54CA> /usr/lib/substitute-loader.dylib
dyld: calling initializer function 0x103720194 in /usr/lib/substitute-loader.dylib
dyld: loaded: <52123F7C-E68A-36DC-8D3F-93DCA9C4DAD6> /usr/lib/libsubstrate.dylib
```

# Trace Dylib Hijacking With DYLD\_PRINT\_SEARCHING

	Offset	Data	Description	Value
LC_BUILD_VERSION				
LC_SOURCE_VERSION				
LC_MAIN				
LC_ENCRYPTION_INFO_64				
LC_LOAD_DYLIB (dummy)	00000A88	0000000C	Command	LC_LOAD_DYLIB
LC_LOAD_DYLIB (Foundation)	00000A8C	00000038	Command Size	56
LC_LOAD_DYLIB (libobjc.A.dylib)	00000A90	00000018	Str Offset	24
LC_LOAD_DYLIB (libSystem.B.dylib)	00000A94	00000002	Time Stamp	Thu Jan 1 02:00:02 1970
LC_LOAD_DYLIB (CoreFoundation)	00000A98	00010000	Current Version	1.0.0
	00000A9C	00010000	Compatibility Version	1.0.0
	00000AA0	4072706174682F64756D6D7...	Name	@rpath/dummy.framework/dummy

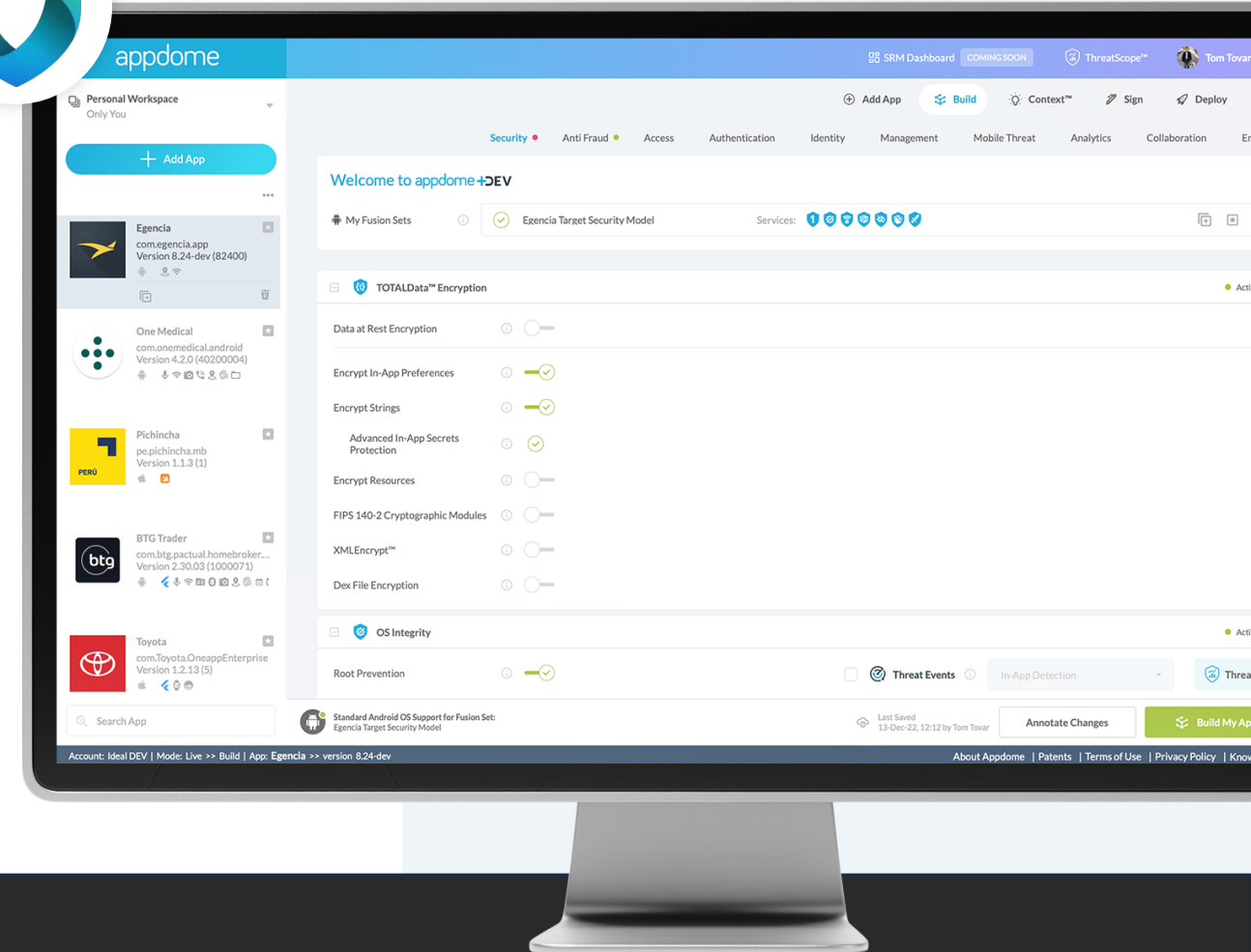
```
dyld[487]: find path "@rpath/dummy.framework/dummy"
dyld[487]:   LC_RPATH '@executable_path/Frameworks' from
'/private/var/containers/Bundle/Application/480A75F5-A5B8-456B-9DAB-7175CB56CA38/testerapp
.app/testerapp'
dyld[487]:   possible path(@path expansion):
"/private/var/containers/Bundle/Application/480A75F5-A5B8-456B-9DAB-7175CB56CA38/testerapp
.app/Frameworks/dummy.framework/dummy"
dyld[487]:   found: dylib-from-disk:
"/private/var/containers/Bundle/Application/480A75F5-A5B8-456B-9DAB-7175CB56CA38/testerapp
.app/Frameworks/dummy.framework/dummy"
```

# About Appdome

Our mission is to protect all mobile apps and users from threats and potential risks such as injection techniques, compromised environments, and debugging.

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# THANK YOU

Questions?