DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Master's Thesis in Informatics

Analysis of Android Cracking Tools and Investigations in Counter Measurements for Developers

Johannes Neutze



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Analyse von Android Crackingtools und Untersuchung geeigneter Gegenmaßnahmen für Entwickler Author: Johannes Neutze Supervisor: TODO: Supervisor Advisor: TODO: Advisor

Submission Date: TODO: Submission date



I confirm that this master's thesis in informatics all sources and material used.	is my own work and I have documented
Munich, TODO: Submission date	Johannes Neutze

Acknowledgments

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Assumptions

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Abstract

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Glossary

API An Application Programming Interface (API) is a particular set of rules and specifications that a software program can follow to access and make use of the services and resources provided by another particular software program that implements that API.

computer is a machine that....

valid device a device which is allowed to run software specified by the license.

Acronyms

API Application Programming Interface.

TUM Technische Universität München.

1 Introduction

sis is a text

1.1 Licensing

Was ist licensing? Ziele von Licensing was für möglichkeiten gibt es (lvl, amazon, samsung)

1.2 Motivation

Piracy lose money from sale/IAP lose ad revenues others earn the money - ad ID replacement no control at all when cracked and in other m

no control at all when cracked and in other markets -> no fixes/updates (https://youtu.be/TNnccRimhsI?t=

for user: when downloading pirated apk, no idea what they changed (malware, stealing data,privacy, permissions) wont notice any difference since in backgound unpredicted traffic for your server, be prepared to block pirated traffic cracking can lead to bad user experience, e.g. copied apps, mostly for paid apps

awesome algorithms can be stolen

similar problems with inapp billing

best way to counter: license verification libraries

encryption can be dumped from memory

generell piracy!!!

enthält als Abschluss SCOPE

1.3 Related Work

related work

2 Foundation

sis is a text

2.1 Software Piracy

http://www.xda-developers.com/piracy-testimonies-causes-and-prevention/

2.1.1 Overview

What is Software Piracy?

History of Software Piracy

Forms of Software Piracy

Release Groups, blackmarket, app beispiele, foren etc

2.1.2 Threat to Developers

scahden für entwickler (ad id klau,)

2.1.3 Risks to Users

malware, bad user experience

2.1.4 Piracy on Android

Poor model, since self-signed certificates are allowed, 27 http://newandroidbook.com/files/Andevcon-Sec.pdf

http://www.fiercedeveloper.com/story/preventing-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-android-applications-piracy-possible-requenting-application-applic

2.2 Android

sis is text

flow wie funktioniert android und warum ist es so einfach zu piraten https://net.cs.uni-bonn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/plohmann/2012-Schulz-Code_Protection_in_Android.pdf

2.2.1 Introduction

What is Android? Where is it used? When was it founded? Who does it belong to?

2.2.2 Evolution of the Android Compiler

sis is text

Java Virtual Machine

sis is text

Dalvik Virtual Machine

sis is text

Android Runtime

im Moment abwärtskompatibilität dex in oat (tools zum extrahieren nennen)

2.2.3 Basics of Android

sis is text

2.2.4 Root on Android

what is it? how is it achieved? what can i do with it? (good/bad sides)
Android insecure, can be rooted and get apk file http://androidvulnerabilities.
org/all search for root

2.3 License Verification Libraries

This chapter contains the LVL which will be looked at What is a lvl? why are they used? connection to store http://www.digipom.com/how-the-android-license-verification-library-is-lulling-you-into-a

2.3.1 Amazon

Amazon DRM

Implementation

sis is text

Functional Principle

sis is text

Example

anhand eigener app

2.3.2 Google

License Verification Library

http://www.digipom.com/how-the-android-license-verification-library-is-lulling-you-into-a related https://developers.google.com/games/services/android/antipiracy http://android-developers.blogspot.de/2010/09/securing-android-lvl-applications. html

Implementation

sis is text

Functional Principle

how does google license check work http://android.stackexchange.com/questions/22545/how-does-google-plays-market-license-check-work sis is text

Example

anhand eigener app

2.3.3 Samsung

Zirconium

Implementation

sis is text

Functional Principle

sis is text

Example

anhand eigener app

2.4 Reengineering Tools

main tools

https://mobilesecuritywiki.com/

https://net.cs.uni-bonn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/plohmann/2012-Schulz-Code_Protection_in_Android.pdf

2.4.1 Reengineering

https://net.cs.uni-bonn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/plohmann/2012-Schulz-Code_Protection_in_Android.pdf

2.4.2 Dex

mein custom script erklären

2.4.3 baksmali

https://github.com/JesusFreke/smali

2.4.4 Java

Androguard

https://github.com/androguard/androguard

jadx

https://github.com/skylot/jadx

2.4.5 Diff

https://wiki.ubuntuusers.de/diff

- -N: Treat absent files as empty; Allows the patch create and remove files.
- -a: Treat all files as text; Allows the patch update non-text (aka: binary) files.
- -u: Set the default 3 lines of unified context; This generates useful time stamps and context.
- -r: Recursively compare any subdirectories found; Allows the patch to update subdirectories.

script erklären

can also be used to learn the code -> was nacher das allgemeine problem ist

3 Cracking Android Applications with LuckyPatcher

http://lucky-patcher.netbew.com/

3.1 What is LuckyPatcher and what is it used for?

wer hat ihn geschrieben?
auf welcher version basiere ich
su nicht vergessen
was kann er alles
was schauen wir uns an?
install apk from palystore -> have root -> open lucky -> chose mode
similar cracking tools:
or manual: decompile and edit what ever you want

3.2 Operation

wo arbeitet er? warum dex und nicht odex anschauen? patterns und patching modes grob erklären (modi von luckypatcher die verschiedene operationen (pattern) auf app anwenden) => vorgehensweise zur

3.3 What patterns are there and what do they do?

was greift jedes pattern an? wie wird der mechanismus ausgeklingt? was ist das result?

3.4 What are Patching Modes are there and what do they do?

kombination von patterns. welche modes gibt es? welche patterns benutzen sie? welche apps getestet und welche results?

3.5 Learnings from LuckyPatcher

was fällt damit weg? erklären warum (2) 5.1.2 Opaque predicates zb nicht geht, da auf dex ebene einfach austauschbar simple obfuscation for strings? x -> string (damit name egal)

4 Counter Measurements for Developers

am besten mit example

4.1 Tampering Protection

Environment and Integrity Checks siehe masterarbeit 2 just as easy to crack as LVL when you know the code evtl create native versions because harder to crack should work for amazon/lvl/samsung -> beweis! (amazon die signature den die seite vorgibt?)

4.1.1 Prevent Debuggability

sis is text

4.1.2 Root Detection

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/10585961/way-to-protect-from-lucky-patcher-play-licens SafetyNet provides services for analyzing the configuration of a particular device, to make sure that apps function properly on a particular device and that users have a great experience. https://developer.android.com/training/safetynet/index.html Checking device compatibility with safetynet

4.1.3 LuckyPatcher Detection

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/13445598/lucky-patcher-how-can-i-protect-from-it http://android-onex.blogspot.de/2015/07/anti-piracy-software-activated-solved. html com.dimonvideo.luckypatcher, // Lucky patcher com.chelpus.lackypatch, // Another lucky patcher

```
com.blackmartalpha, // Black Mart alpha
org.blackmart.market, // Black Mart
com.android.vending.billing.InAppBillingService.LUCK,// Lucky patcher 5.6.8
cc.madkite.freedom, // Freedom
com.allinone.free, // All-in-one Downloader
com.repodroid.app, // Get Apk Market
org.creeplays.hack, // CreeHack
com.baseappfull.fwd // Game Hacker
-> can be also done for black markets
package me.neutze.licensetest.security.tampered;
import android.content.Context;
import android.content.pm.PackageInfo;
import android.content.pm.PackageManager;
public class LuckyPatcher {
    public static boolean checkInstall(final Context context) {
       boolean result = false;
       String[] luckypatcher = new String[]{
               // Lucky patcher
               "com.dimonvideo.luckypatcher",
               // Another lucky patcher
               "com.chelpus.lackypatch",
               // Black Mart alpha
               "com.blackmartalpha",
               // Black Mart
               "org.blackmart.market",
               // Lucky patcher 5.6.8
               "com.android.vending.billing.InAppBillingService.LUCK",
               // Freedom
               "cc.madkite.freedom",
               // All-in-one Downloader
               "com.allinone.free",
               // Get Apk Market
               "com.repodroid.app",
               // CreeHack
```

```
"org.creeplays.hack",
           // Game Hacker
           "com.baseappfull.fwd"
   };
   for (String string : luckypatcher) {
     if(checkInstallerName(context, string)){
     }
       result = checkInstallerName(context, string);
       if (result) {
           android.os.Process.killProcess(android.os.Process.myPid());
   }
   return result;
private static boolean checkInstallerName(Context context, String string) {
   PackageInfo info;
   boolean result = false;
   try {
       info = context.getPackageManager().getPackageInfo(string, 0);
       if (info != null) {
           android.os.Process.killProcess(android.os.Process.myPid());
           result = true;
       }
   } catch (final PackageManager.NameNotFoundException ignored) {
   }
   if (result) {
       android.os.Process.killProcess(android.os.Process.myPid());
   return result;
}
```

```
already in some roms https://www.reddit.com/r/Piracy/comments/3gmxun/new_way_to_disable_the_antipiracy_setting_on/
https://github.com/AlmightyMegadeth00/AntiPiracySupport
https://www.reddit.com/r/Piracy/comments/3eo8sj/antipiracy_measures_on_android_custom_roms/
example roms http://www.htcmania.com/archive/index.php/t-1049040.html
```

4.1.4 Sideload Detection

 $\verb|http://stackoverflow.com/questions/10809438/how-to-know-an-application-is-installed-from-linear application-is-installed-from-linear application-is-install$

4.1.5 Signature Check

once in code
save to use signature in code?
http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=2279813&page=5

4.1.6 Remote Verification and Code nachladen

certificate an server, get signature and send to server content direkt von server laden (e.g. all descriptions, not sure if dex possible) e.g. account auf seite erstellen, ecrypted dex ziehen der von loader stub geladen wird (like packer) kann wiedermal dann gezogen werden und dann als custom patch verteilt werden

4.2 LVL Modifications

siehe masterarbeit 2 http://www.digipom.com/how-the-android-license-verification-library-is-library

4.2.1 Modify the Library

google

4.2.2 Checken ob ganzer code abläuft und dann nacheinander elemente aktivieren

master1 - testen

damit die ganzen blöcke durchlaufen werden müssen

4.2.3 dynamische Codegeneration

4.3 Prevent Reengineering

sis is text https://blog.fortinet.com/post/how-android-malware-hides http://www.hotforsecurity.com/blog/mobile-app-development-company-fights-off-android-malw html

4.3.1 Basic Breaks for Common Tools

pros and cons sagen?

https://github.com/strazzere/APKfuscator

 $\verb|http://www.strazzere.com/papers/DexEducation-PracticingSafeDex.pdf|$

https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=811

Filesystem

make classname to long

https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=985 works except for the class

breaks only baksmali

Inject bad OPcode or Junkbytes

JUNKBYTES

use bad opcode in deadcode

code runs but breaks tools

put it into a class you do not use -> care proguard, it will not use it since it is not included

-> fixed...

https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=1163

reference not inited strings

https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYn0I?t=1459

Throw exceptions which are different in dalvik than in java

recursive try/catch? -> valid dalvik code https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=1650

Increase headersize

you have to edit every other offset as well https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=1890 dexception, dex within a dex by shifting this is a packer/encrypter slowdown automatic tools https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=1950

Endian Tag?

reverse endian breaks tools works on device (odex) lot work for little gain https://youtu.be/Rv8DfXNYnOI?t=2149

4.3.2 Optimizors and Obfuscators

Obfuscators/Optimizors definition remove dead/debug code potentially encrypt/obfuscate/hide via reflection https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=243

Relfection

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv8DfXNYnOI irgendwo erklären

Proguard

https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=419 https://net.cs.uni-bonn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/plohmann/2012-Schulz-Code_ Protection_in_Android.pdf http://developer.android.com/tools/help/proguard.html optimizes, shrinks, (barely) obfuscates -> free, reduces size, faster gutes bild https://youtu.be/TNnccRimhsI?t=1360 removes unnecessary/unused code merges identical code blocks performs optimiztations removes debug information renames objects restructures code removes linenumbers -> stacktrace annoying https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=470 ->hacker factor 0 does not really help

Dexguard

master2 **OVERVIEW** son of proguard the standardprotection optimizer shrinekr obfuscator/encrypter, does not stop reverse engineering https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=643 WHAT DOES IT DO everything that proguard does automatic reflection strign encryption asset/library encryption class encryption(packign) application tamper protection file->automatic reflection->string encryption->file https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=745 class encryption= packer, unpackers do it most of the time in few seconds, aber aufwand auf handy, nicht so einfach wie pattern in luckypatcher CONS
may increase dex size, memory size; decrease speed removes debug information string, etc encryption best feature: automatic reflection with string encryption reversible with moderate effort hacker protection factor 1

Allatori

http://www.allatori.com/clients/index.php https://net.cs.uni-bonn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/plohmann/2012-Schulz-Code_ Protection_in_Android.pdf WHAT DOES IT name obfuscation control flow flattening/obfuscation debug info obfuscation string encryption **RESULT** decreases dex size, memory, increases speed remvoes debug code not much obfuscation Proguard+string encryption easily reversed hacker protection factor 0.5 https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw

Dexprotector

master2

4.3.3 Protectors

stub fixes broken code which is normally not translated by tools, breaks static analysis https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=347

APKprotect

https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw

chinese protector

also known as dexcrypt, appears active but site down, clones might be available

anti-debug, anti-decompile, almost like a packer

string encryption

cost ???

tool mangles code original code

-modifies entrypoint to loader stub

-prevents static analysis

during runtime loader stub is executed

-performs anti-emulation

-performs anti-debugging

-fixes broken code in memory

FUNCTION

dalvik optimizes the dex file into momory ignoring bad parts

upon execution dalvik code initiates, calls the native code

native code fixes odex code in memory

execution continues as normal

RESULT

slight file size increase

prevents easily static analysis

hard once, easy afterwards

easily automated to unprotect

still has string encryption (like DexGuard, Allatori) afterwards

not much iteration in the last time, do not knwo if still alive

hacker protection factor 3, no public documentation, but every app is the same

4.3.4 Packers

break static analysis tools, you ahve to do runtime analysis

like UPX, stub application unpacks, decrypts, loads into memory which is normally hidden from static analysis

http://www.fortiguard.com/uploads/general/Area41Public.pdf

 $\label{local-state-equal-state-equal-state-equal} https://books.google.de/books?id=ACjUCgAAQBAJ&pg=PA372&lpg=PA372&dq=ijiami+integrity&source=bl&ots=NTf7YaqJiZ&sig=M5GKDCcQB5dcwXR3hjtIv8pMlAA&hl=de&sa=X&ved=OahUKEwjH3umt1b3JAhXGLA8KHYhwDGsQ6AEIMDAC#v=onepage&q=ijiami%20integrity&$

```
f=false
```

https://www.blackhat.com/docs/asia-15/materials/asia-15-Park-We-Can-Still-Crack-You-Gener pdf

https://www.virusbtn.com/conference/vb2014/abstracts/Yu.xml

https://www.virusbtn.com/pdf/conference_slides/2014/Yu-VB2014.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vFcEJ2jgOw

https://books.google.de/books?id=ACjUCgAAQBAJ&pg=PA372&lpg=PA372&dq=ijiami+integrity&source=bl&ots=NTf7YaqJiZ&sig=M5GKDCcQB5dcwXR3hjtIv8pMlAA&hl=de&sa=X&ved=OahUKEwjH3umt1b3JAhXGLA8KHYhwDGsQ6AEIMDAC#v=onepage&q=ijiami%20integrity&f=false

concept erklären und dann die beispiele nennen, nicht mehr aktiv/gecracked aber prinzip ist gut

hosedex2jar

https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=1776

PoC packer

not available for real use

appears defunct

near zero ITW samples

mimics dexception attack from dex education 101

FUNCTION

encrypts and injects dexfile into dex header (deception)

very easy to spot

very easy to decrypt, just use dex2jar

static analysis does not work since it sees the encrypted file

on execution loader stub decrypts in memory and dumps to file system

loader stub acts as proxy and passes events to the dex file on system using a dexClass-

Loader

RESULT

simple PoC

slight file size increase

attempts to prevent static analysis - kind of works

lots of crashing

easily automated to unpack

easy to reverse, good for learning

hacker protection factor 0.5

Pangxie

https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=1982 anti-debug anti-tamper appears to be defunct product little usage/samples ITW FUNCTION

https://youtu.be/6vFcEJ2jgOw?t=2040 encrypts dex file and bundles as asset in APK very easy to find, logcat has to much information dalvik calls JNI layer to verify and decrypt easy to reverse, both dalvik and native, excellent for beginners to Android and packers aes used only for digest verification easily automated, 0x54 always the key or dynamically grab app_dex folder slightly increase file size prevents static analysis - though easy to identify uses static 1 byte key for encryption easily automated to unpack very easy to reverse, good for learning good example of an unobfuscated packer stub for cloning hacker protection faktor 1.5 only working till <4.4 simple packer, increase encryption with key, do not just dump on filesystem

4.3.5 BANGCLE

anti-debugging
anti-tamper
anti-decompilation
anti-runtime injection
online only service, apk checked for malware
detected by some anti virus due to malware
cost 10k
no one has done it before...
stopped working on 4.4
FUNCTION

dalvik execution talks launched JNI

JNI launches secondary process

chatter over PTRACE between the two processes

newest process decrypts dex into memory

original dalvik code proxies everything to the decrypted dex

RESULT

well written, lots of anti-* tricks

seems to be well supported and active on development

does a decent job on online screening - no tool released for download (though things clearly to slip through)

not impossible to reverse and re-bundle packages

current weakness (for easy runtime unpacking) is having a predictable unpacked memory location

hacker protect faktor 5

probably best tool out there but lag when updating since online approval

4.4 External Improvements

sis is text

4.4.1 Service-managed Accounts

https://youtu.be/TNnccRimhsI?t=1636

check on server what content should be returned or logic on server

kann man einen lagorithus haben um rauszufinden was man auslagern kann?

if not possible remote code loading

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSH6dnUTDZo was ist dann geschützt? content, servers, time constrained urls, obfuscation by using reflection combined with SE -> makes slow but no static analysis

very very slow, e.g 10kHz so no big calculations possible 250bytes, 200ms

http://amies-2014.international-symposium.org/proceedings_2014/Kannengiesser_Baumgarten_Song_AmiEs_2014_Paper.pdf

4.4.2 ART

art hat masschinen coed wenn reengineerbar dann nicht gut

4.4.3 Secure Elements

new section trusted execution environment trusttronic letzte conference samsung knox –>gelten eher sicher

5 Evaluation

Evaluation der vorgeschlagenen punkte mit pro cons und umsetzbarkeit

http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=2279813

5.1 Tampering Protection

5.1.1 Prevent Debuggability

5.1.2 Root Detection

5.1.3 LuckyPatcher Detection

https://forums.oneplus.net/threads/patch-disable-the-antipiracy-feature-on-all-roms-survi 334772/

5.1.4 Sideload Detection

5.1.5 Signature Check

maps checks for signature?

 $\label{lem:http://stackoverflow.com/questions/13582869/does-lucky-patcher-resign-the-app-it-patches-https://developers.google.com/android/guides/http-auth.http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=2279813&page=5$

5.1.6 Remote Verification and Code nachladen

trotzdem doof wenn einmal geladen kann man das file extrahieren etc

5.2 Prevent Reengineering

5.2.1 Basic Breaks for Common Tools

Filesystem

Inject bad OPcode

Throw exceptions which are different in dalvik than in java

Increase headersize

Endian Tag?

5.2.2 Optimizors and Obfuscators

Relfection

Proguard

Dexguard

Allatori

Dexprotector

5.2.3 Protectors

APKprotect

5.2.4 Packers

already cracked https://www.google.de/search?q=hosedex2jar&oq=hosedex2jar&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i60j69i59j69i60l3.1680j0j7&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=91&ie=UTF-8http://www.hotforsecurity.com/blog/mobile-app-development-company-fights-off-android-malwhtml

hosedex2jar

Pangxie

5.2.5 BANGCLE

5.3 External Improvements

sis is text

5.3.1 Service-managed Accounts

5.3.2 ART

art hat oat files aber die haben dex files

5.3.3 Secure Elements

new section trusted execution environment trusttronic letzte conference samsung knox –>gelten eher sicher

6 Conclusion

auch wichtig weil wenn crackable dann upload zu stores und dann malware http://www.hotforsecurity.com/blog/mobile-app-development-company-fights-off-android-malware-with-obfuscation-tool-3717.html

6.1 Summary

sis is text alles hilft gegen lucky patcher auf den ersten blick, jedoch custom patches können es einfach umgehen -> deswegen hilft nur reengineering schwerer zu machen every new layer is another complexity

6.2 Discussion

sis is text http://www.digipom.com/how-the-android-license-verification-library-is-lulling-yo-What Google should have really done

http://programmers.stackexchange.com/questions/267981/should-i-spend-time-preventing-pirace You are asking the wrong question. Technical safeguards such as proguard are a must but are trying to solve the problem the hard way.

content driven http://stackoverflow.com/questions/10585961/way-to-protect-from-lucky-patcher google sagt http://android-developers.blogspot.de/2010/09/securing-android-lvl-applications.html

6.3 Future Work

art?
smart cards
google vault
all papers with malware and copyright protection is interesting since they also want to

hide their code

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