

Malicious APK File Analysis
No. 5

In this Assignment 2 phase 2, we did 3 distinct tasks. The first task was running the APK file through virus total to see what was detected and by how many different security vendors.

The second task was decompiling the APK file and looking at the code looking at the code to investigate the malicious content and discover our secret key. Finally, we performed some analysis using a sandbox.

A) Virus Total Screening

When running the APK through virus total, we got a score of 19/66 which indicates the presence of malware. When looking at why it was flagged. When can notice that Android Trojan, Android Backdoor are used to describe why it was flagged as malicious.

Thus, we think that this malware might result in some process injection, giving remote access to a specific IP address on the infected device as soon as the apk file is opened.

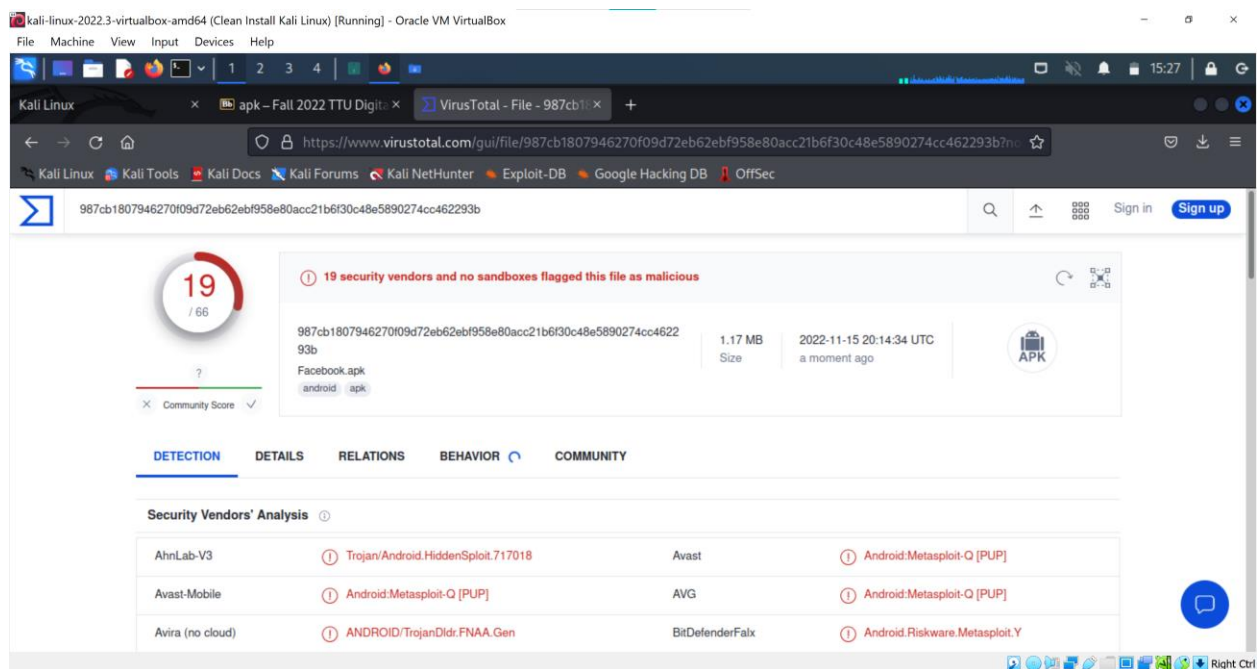
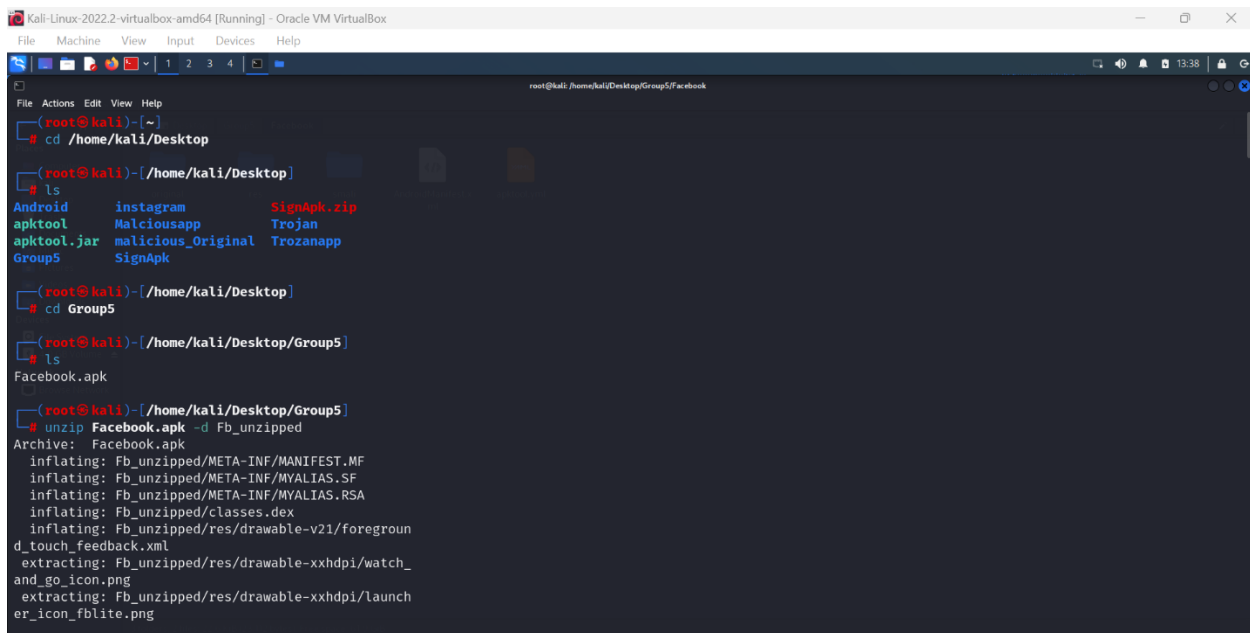


Figure 1: Virus total scan

B) Investigating the code

The Facebook.apk file is unzipped using the command : `unzip Facebook.apk -d Fb_unzipped`.



```
root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5/Facebook
File Machine View Input Devices Help
1 2 3 4
root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop
# cd /home/kali/Desktop

root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop
# ls
Android          instagram        SignApk.zip
apktool          Maliciousapp    Trojan
apktool.jar      malicious_Original  Trozanapp
Group5           SignApk

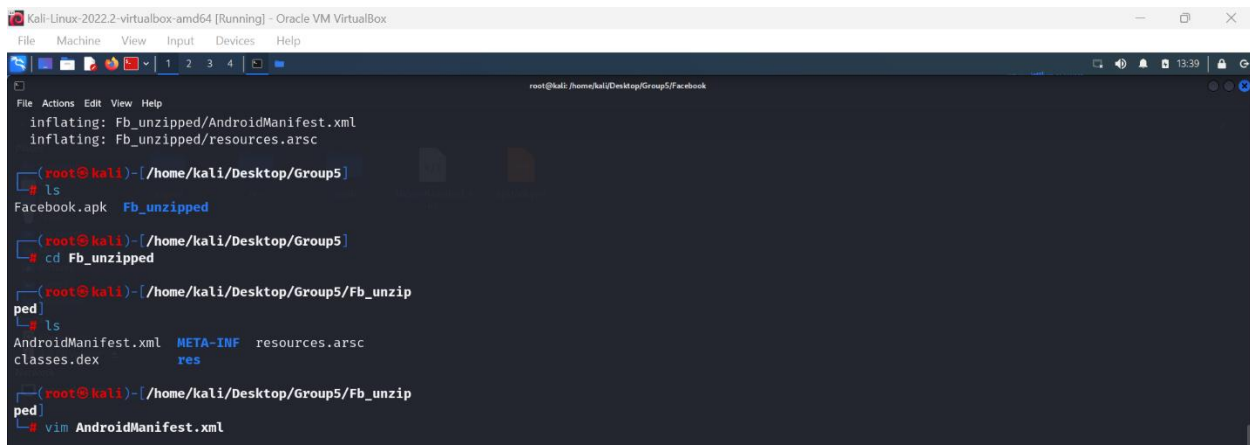
root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop
# cd Group5

root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5
# ls
Facebook.apk

root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5
# unzip Facebook.apk -d Fb_unzipped
Archive:  Facebook.apk
  inflating: Fb_unzipped/META-INF/MANIFEST.MF
  inflating: Fb_unzipped/META-INF/MYALIAS.SF
  inflating: Fb_unzipped/META-INF/MYALIAS.RSA
  inflating: Fb_unzipped/classes.dex
  inflating: Fb_unzipped/res/drawable-v21/foreground_touch_feedback.xml
  extracting: Fb_unzipped/res/drawable-xxhdpi/watch_and_go_icon.png
  extracting: Fb_unzipped/res/drawable-xxhdpi/launcher_icon_fblite.png
```

Figure 2: Unzip the APK file

After the file unzip the xml file,resources.arsc,res,classes.dex,META-INF are created.



```
root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5/Facebook
File Machine View Input Devices Help
1 2 3 4
root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5
# ls
Facebook.apk  Fb_unzipped

root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5
# cd Fb_unzipped

root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5/Fb_unzip
# ls
AndroidManifest.xml  META-INF  resources.arsc
classes.dex          res

root@kali: /home/kali/Desktop/Group5/Fb_unzip
# vim AndroidManifest.xml
```

Figure 3: Components in the unzipped file

When the AndroidManifest.xml file is opened it is in an unreadable format.

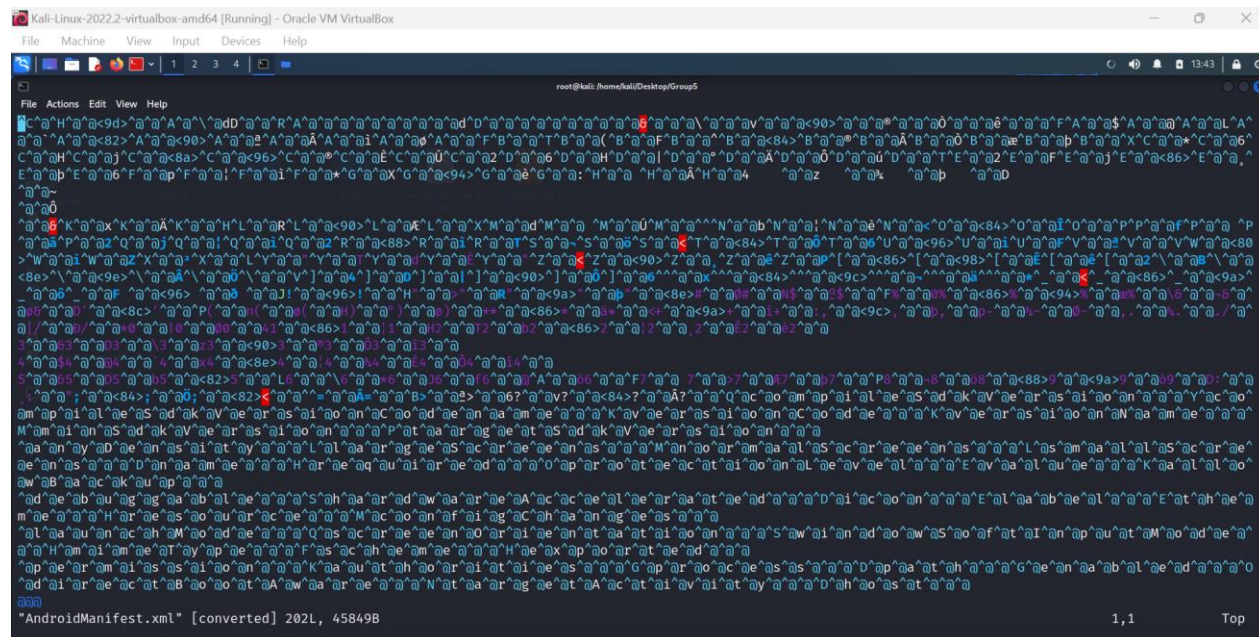


Figure 4: Android Manifest.xml

We use the command: `java -jar apktool.jar d /home/kali/Desktop/Group5/Facebook.apk -f` and path name of apk file to decompile and deobfuscate our APK.

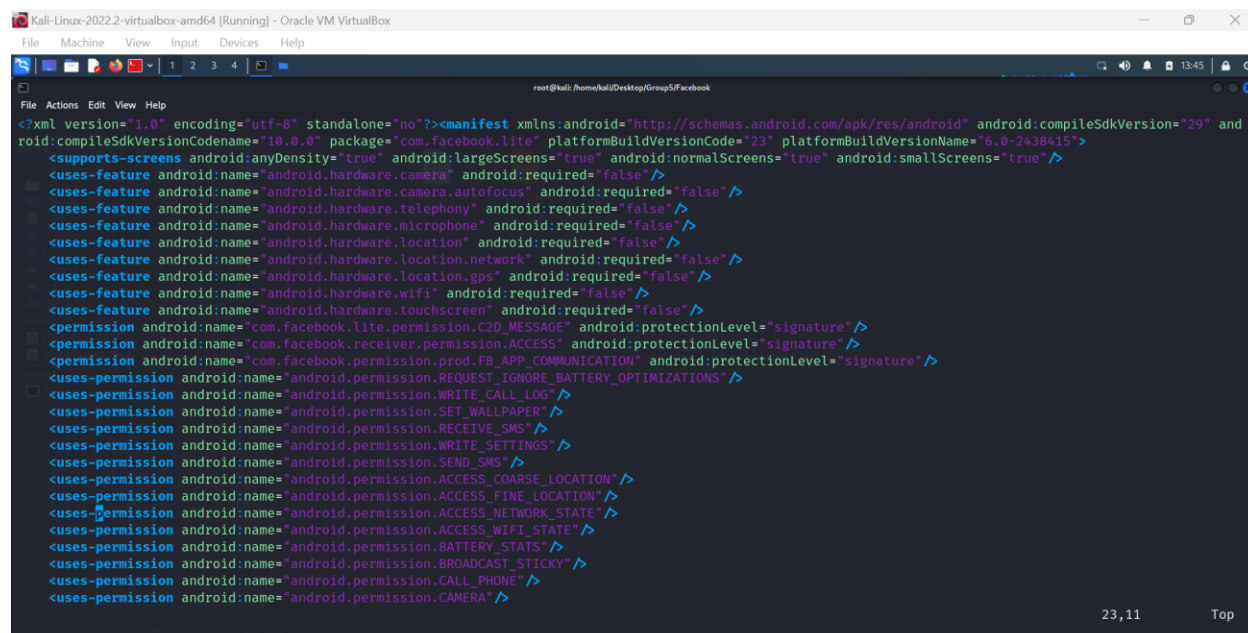


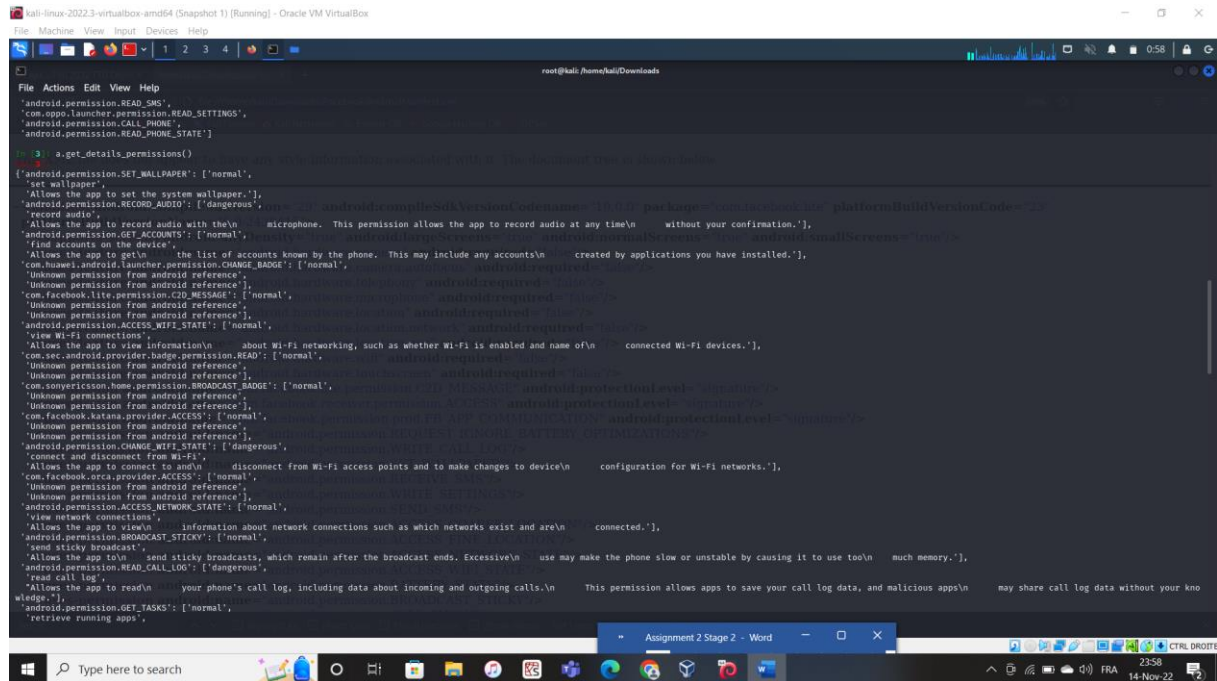
Figure 5: Android Manifest.xml and its permissions

The APK file has 3525 classes and 4 activities:

- Main
- AlbumGalleryActivity
- PreviewActivity
- WaitForInitActivity

The WaitForInit activity seems a bit vague.

Let's review the permissions with Androguard.



```
File Actions Edit View Help
'android.permission.READ_SMS',
'com.oppo.launcher.permission.READ_SETTINGS',
'android.permission.CALL_PHONE',
'android.permission.READ_PHONE_STATE']

In [3]: a.get_details_permissions()
Out[3]: {'android.permission.SET_WALLPAPER': ['normal'],
'set wallpaper',
'Allows the app to set the system wallpaper.',
'android.permission.RECORD_AUDIO': ['dangerous'],
'record audio',
'Allows the app to record audio with the microphone. This permission allows the app to record audio at any time without your confirmation.',
'android.permission.GET_ACCOUNTS': ['normal'],
'find accounts on the device',
'Allows the app to get the list of accounts known by the phone. This may include any accounts created by applications you have installed.',
'com.huawei.android.launcher.permission.CHANGE_BADGE': ['normal'],
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'com.facebook.lite.permission.C2D_MESSAGE': ['normal'],
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'android.permission.ACCESS_WIFI_STATE': ['normal'],
'view Wi-Fi connections',
'Allows the app to view information about Wi-Fi networking, such as whether Wi-Fi is enabled and name of connected Wi-Fi devices.',
'com.sec.android.provider.badge.permission.READ': ['normal'],
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'com.sonyericsson.home.permission.BROADCAST_BADGE': ['normal'],
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'com.facebook.katana.provider.ACCESS': ['normal'],
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'android.permission.CHANGE_WIFI_STATE': ['dangerous'],
'connect and disconnect from Wi-Fi',
'Allows the app to connect to and disconnect from Wi-Fi access points and to make changes to device configuration for Wi-Fi networks.',
'com.facebook.stcra.provider.ACCESS': ['normal'],
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'Unknown permission from android reference',
'android.permission.ACCESS_NETWORK_STATE': ['normal'],
'view network connections',
'Allows the app to view information about network connections such as which networks exist and are connected.',
'android.permission.BROADCAST_STICKY': ['normal'],
'send sticky broadcast',
'Allows the app to send sticky broadcasts, which remain after the broadcast ends. Excessive use may make the phone slow or unstable by causing it to use too much memory.',
'android.permission.READ_CALL_LOG': ['dangerous'],
'read call log',
'Allows the app to read your phone's call log, including data about incoming and outgoing calls. This permission allows apps to save your call log data, and malicious apps may share call log data without your knowledge.',
'android.permission.GET_TASKS': ['normal'],
'retrieve running apps'}
```

Figure 8: Get permission details

Some of these permissions have been flagged as dangerous:

- The malicious app can record audio without permission, this is a dangerous permission
- It can also change the WiFi state at will, an attacker would take advantage of this.
- It can also read the call log
- The app can monitor and change or delete messages that come into the phone without showing them to the user.
- The app can also access your precise location
- It can access the phone features of the device.

These are all features that are unnecessary to a Social Media application.

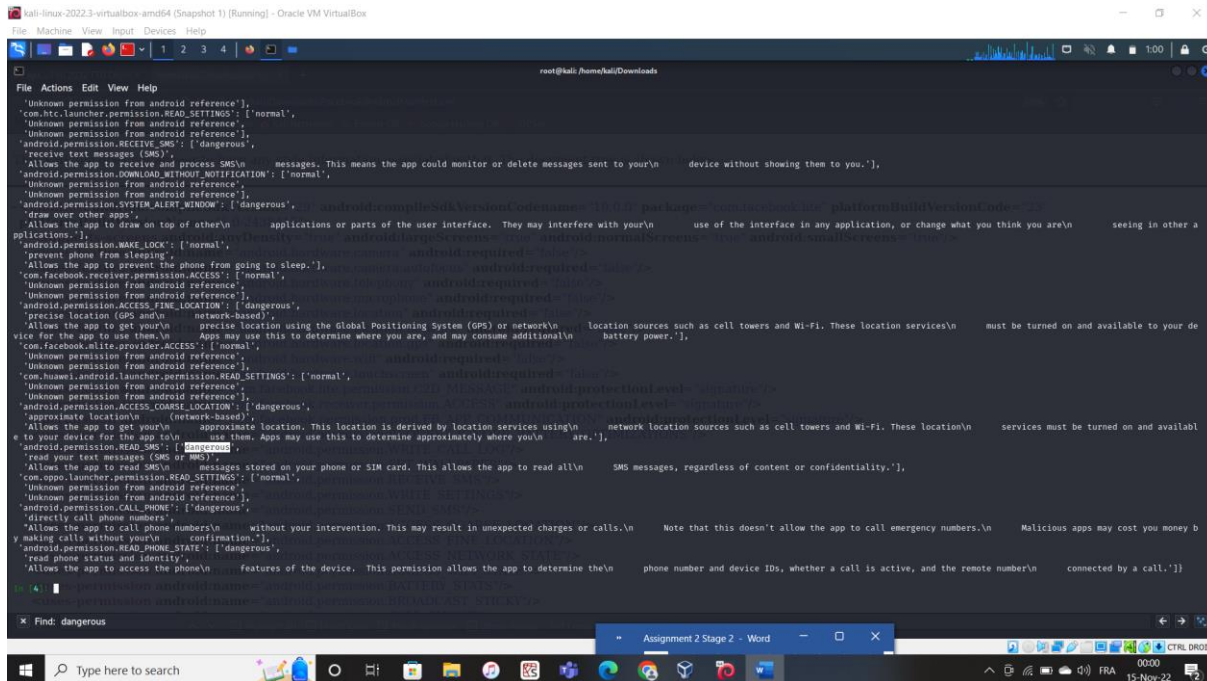


Figure 9: Get Permission Details

For a more in-depth analysis, let's analyze this file using a sandbox.

Just as we identified, we see that the APK has the permissions listed in the image below:

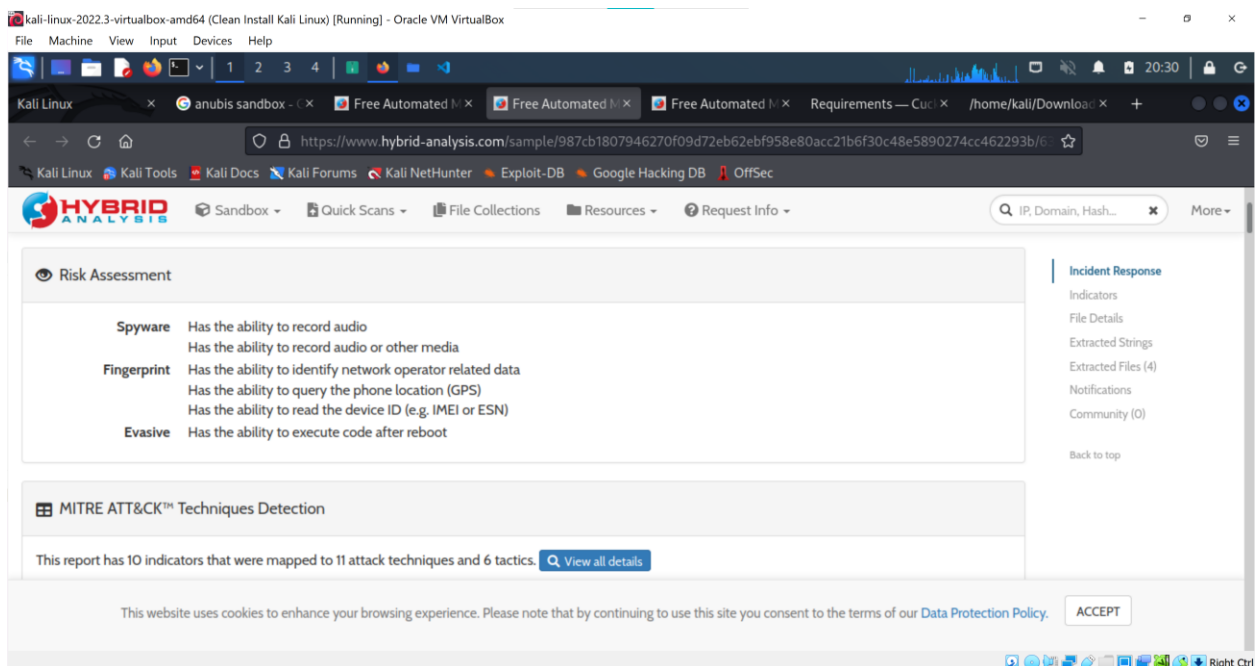


Figure 10: Sandbox Analysis - Malicious indicators

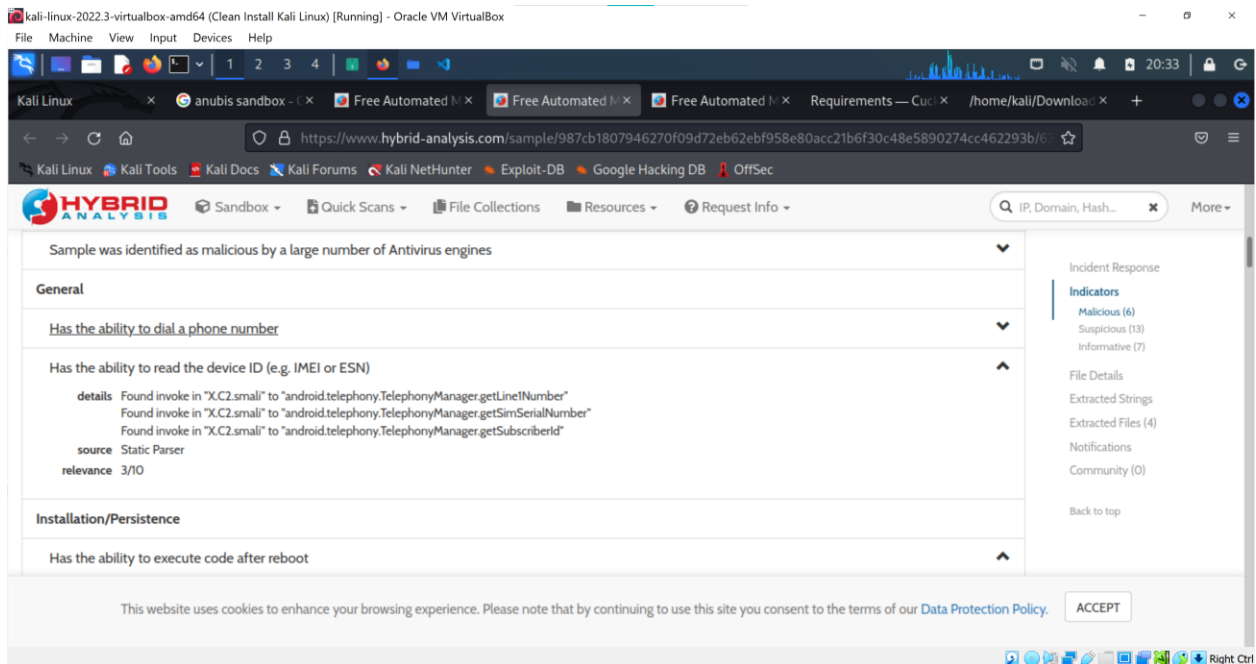


Figure 11: The APK can dial a phone number, this is dangerous

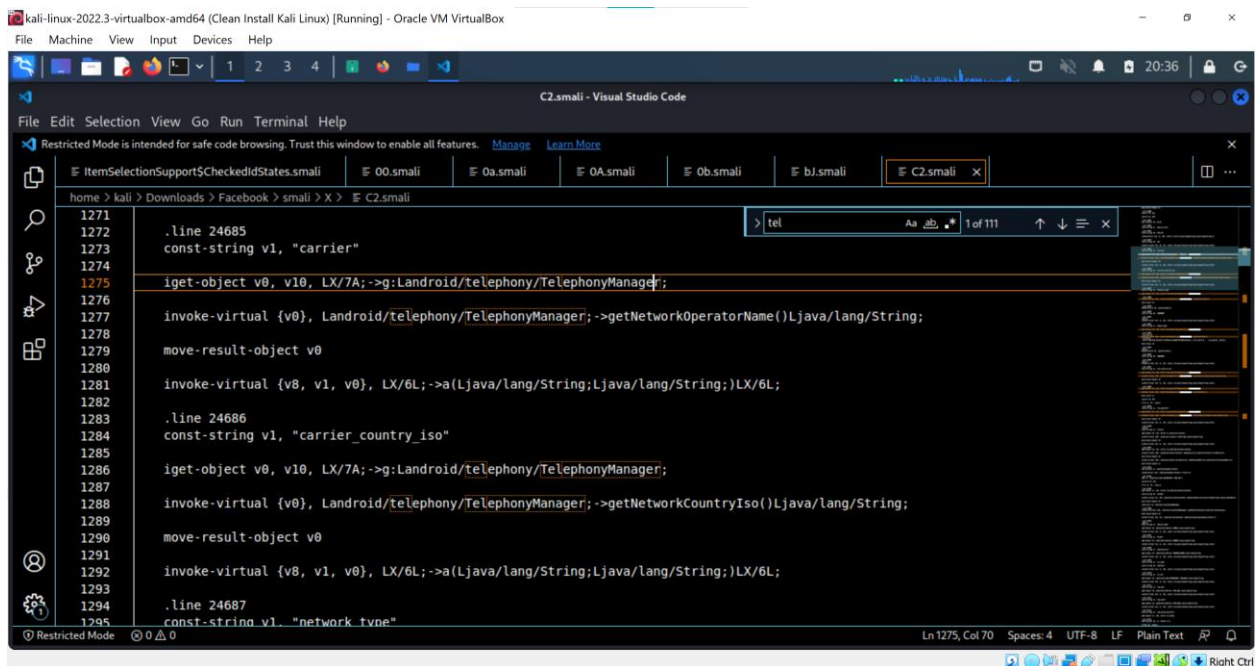


Figure 12: X.C2.smali file

This permission is added discreetly and the APK can then dial phone numbers without permission. This is very dangerous and beyond the necessities for a social media application.

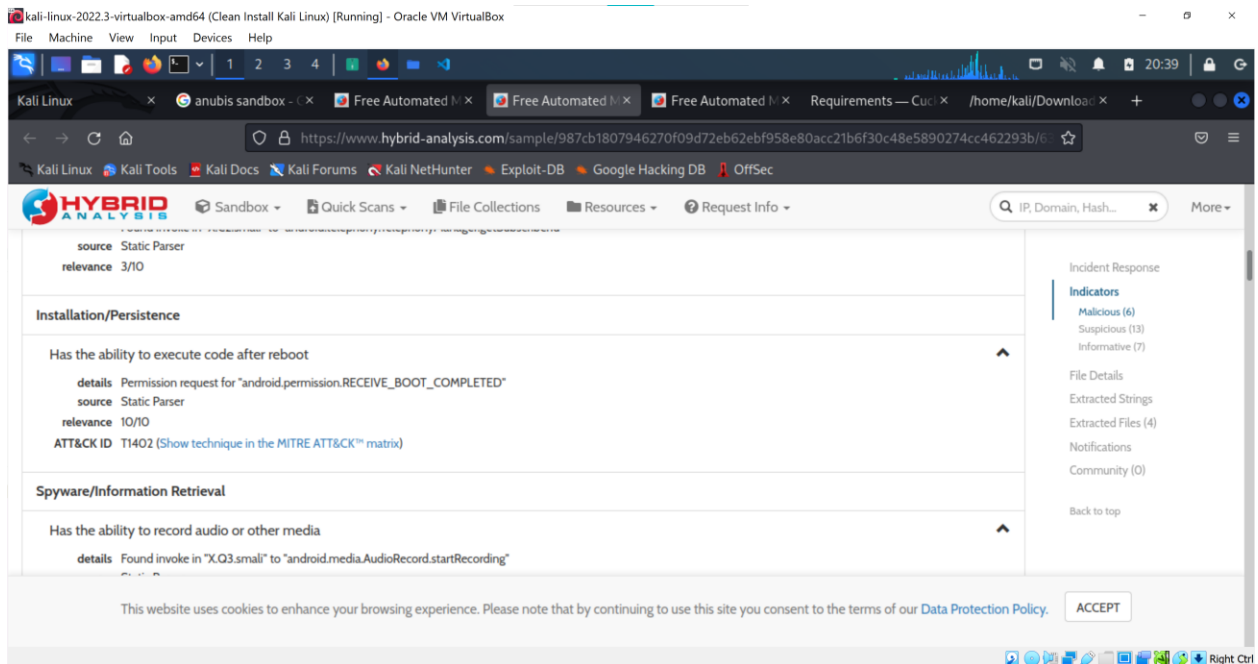


Figure 13: The APK can also execute code upon reboot and record media - malicious

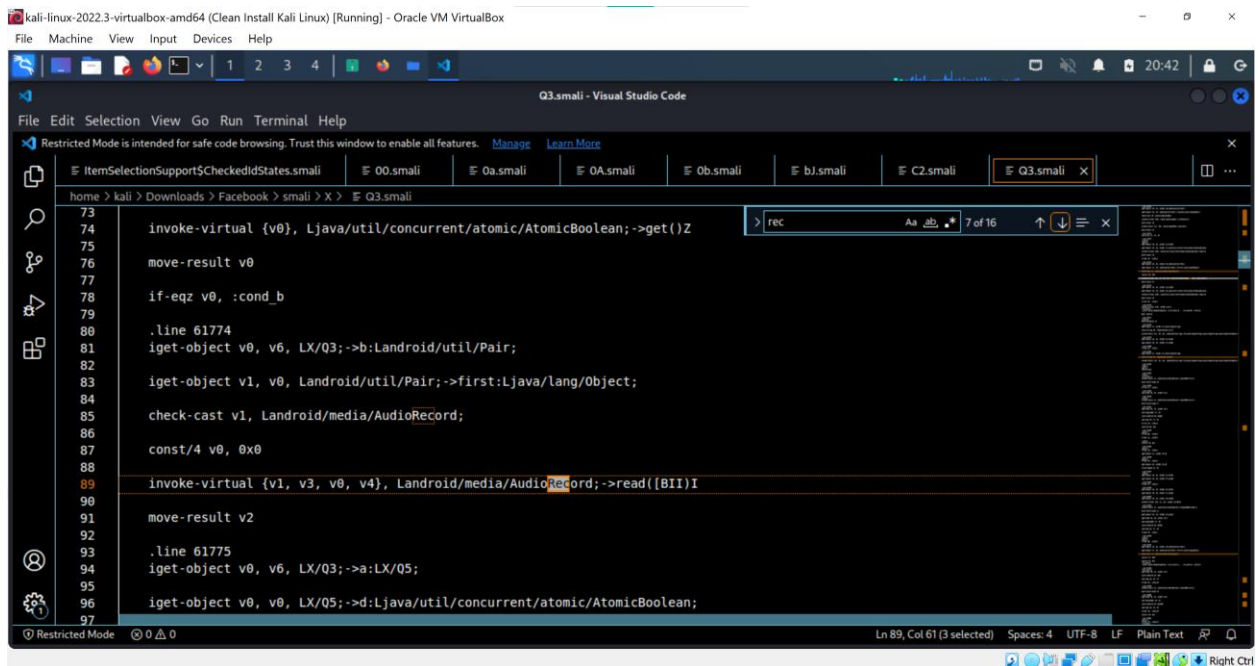


Figure 14: X.Q3.smali file

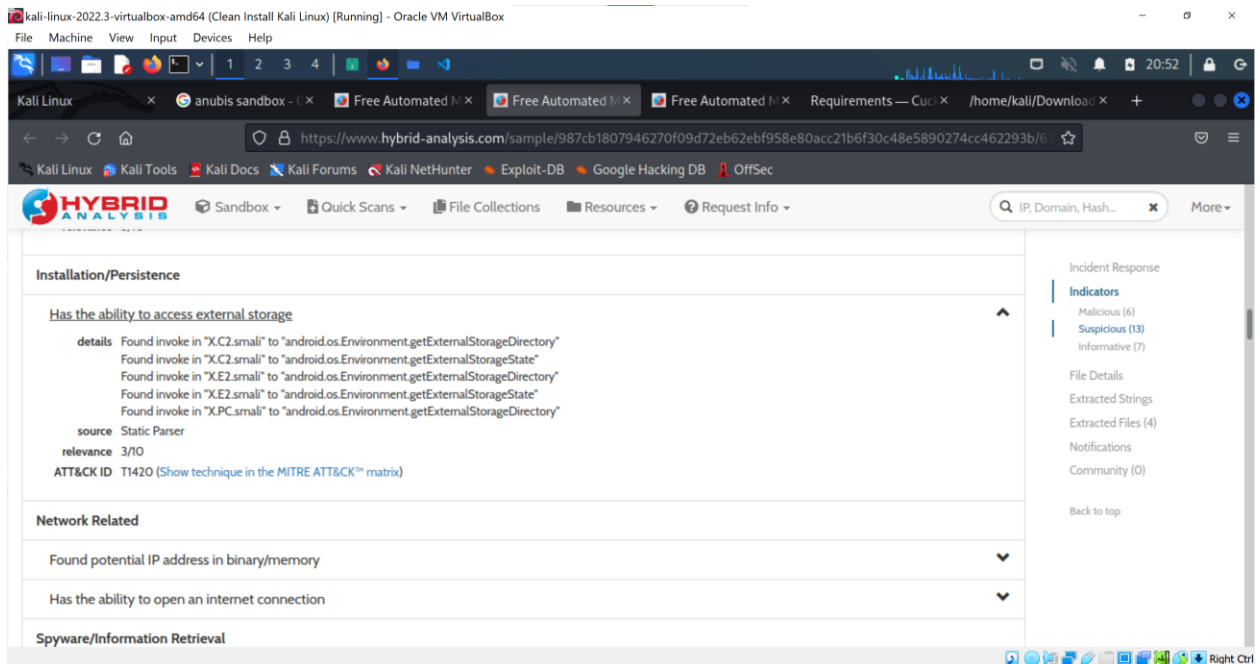


Figure 15: The APK can access external storage

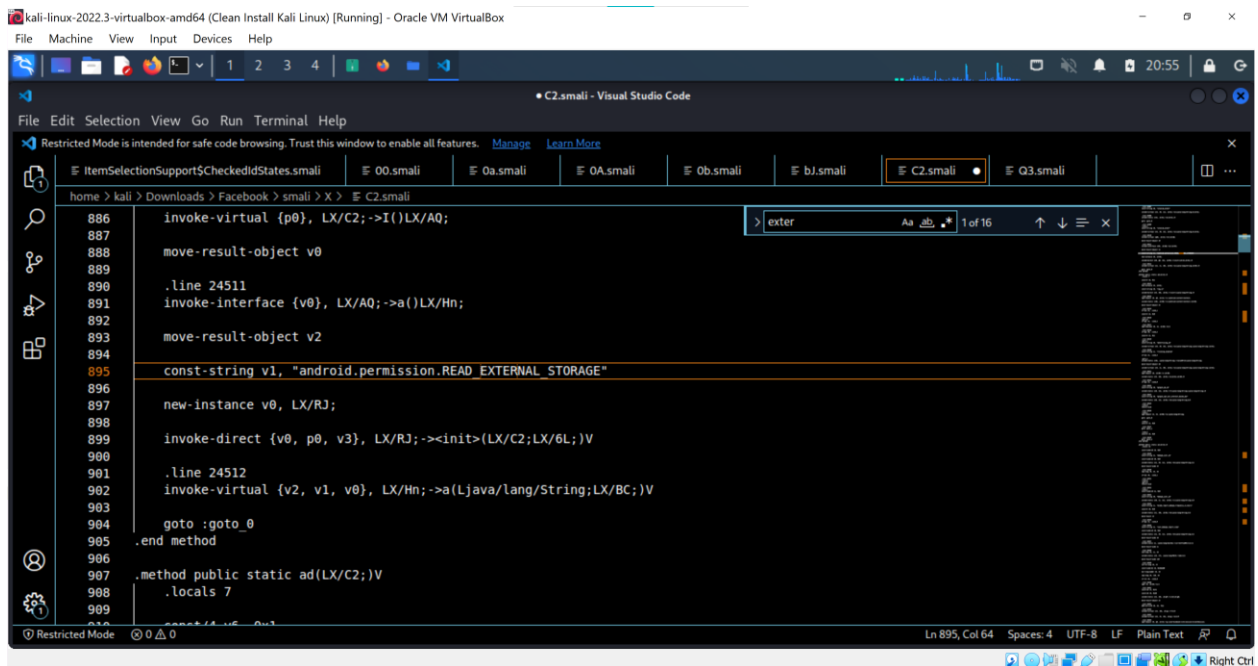


Figure 16: X.C2.smali – Malicious Code

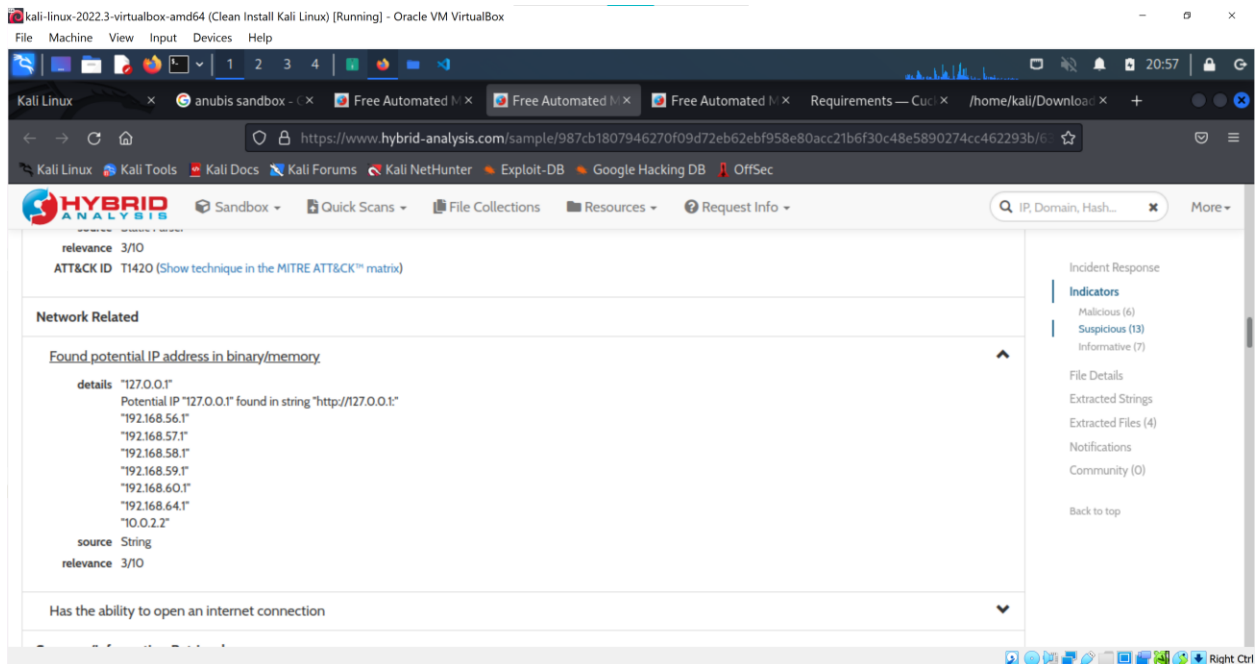


Figure 17: IP Addresses Found! - Malicious

Just like the popular meterpreter reverse-shell exploit, it seems this application allows a remote attacker at the IP address listed in Figure 17 access into the victims' phone once the application is installed.

Summary:

In conclusion, the Facebook.apk android application is malicious and opens a backdoor into the user personal files, audio, contacts, sms, call history once installed. It also can execute code upon installation. After decompiling, we noticed a folder marked “X” in the smali folder. The name alone did not match other, and common folder nomenclature within android applications. The folder contains several other similarly named smali files, which from our Sandbox Analysis contains a lot of the malicious code for this app.

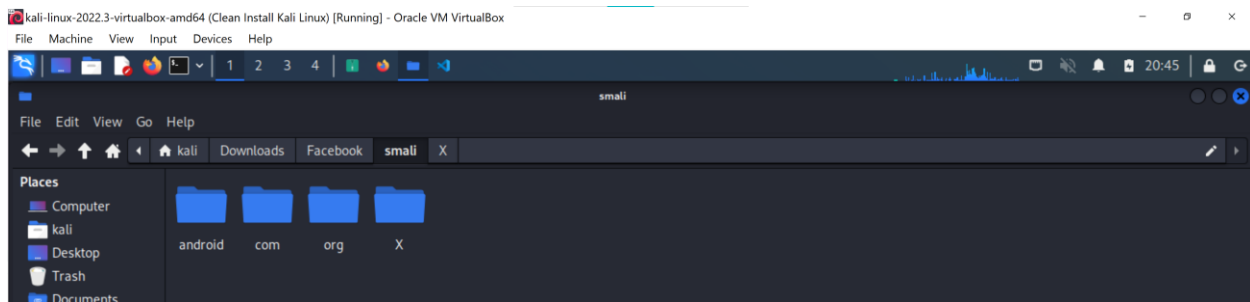


Figure 18: Folder X in Facebook.apk decompiled

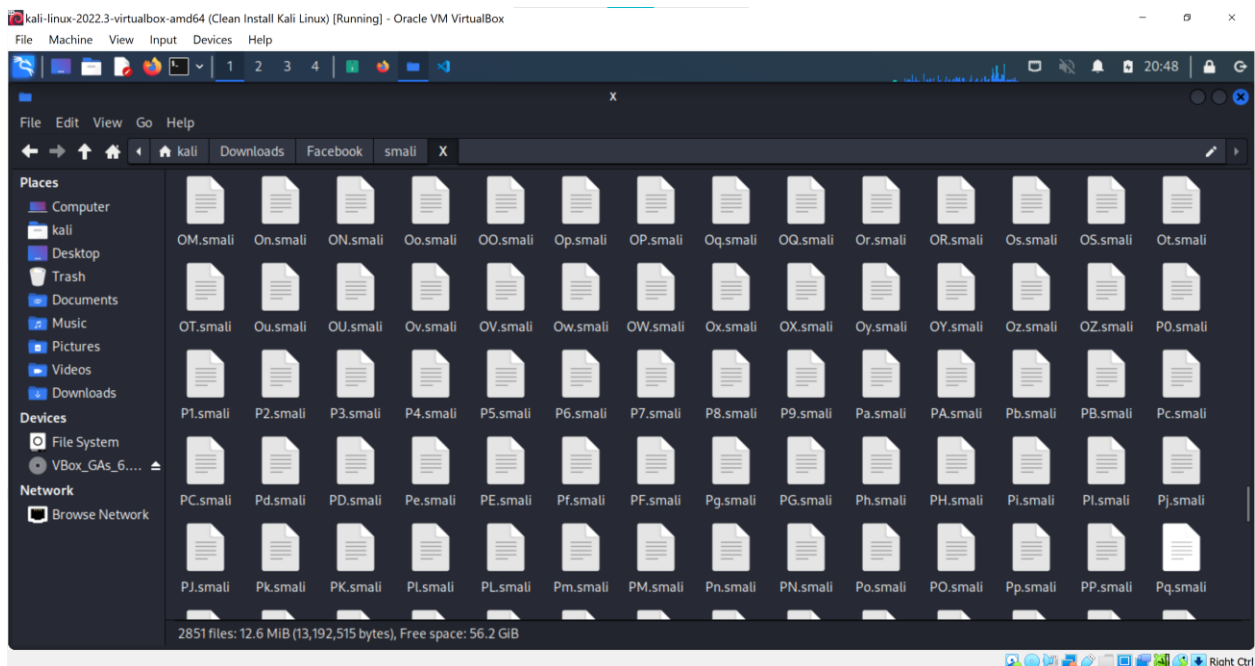


Figure 19: Folder X contents

All the malicious techniques used in this APK, their description and indicators are identified in Figures 20 – 26.

MITRE ATT&CK™ Techniques Detection

Execution

ATT&CK ID	Name	Tactics	Description	Malicious Indicators	Suspicious Indicators	Informative Indicators
T1402	Broadcast Receivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistence Execution 	An intent is a message passed between Android application or system components. Learn more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the ability to execute code after reboot 		

Persistence

ATT&CK ID	Name	Tactics	Description	Malicious Indicators	Suspicious Indicators	Informative Indicators
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Download as CSV Close

Figure 20

MITRE ATT&CK™ Techniques Detection

Persistence

ATT&CK ID	Name	Tactics	Description	Malicious Indicators	Suspicious Indicators	Informative Indicators
T1402	Broadcast Receivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistence Execution 	An intent is a message passed between Android application or system components. Learn more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the ability to execute code after reboot 		

Discovery

ATT&CK ID	Name	Tactics	Description	Malicious Indicators	Suspicious Indicators	Informative Indicators
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Figure 21

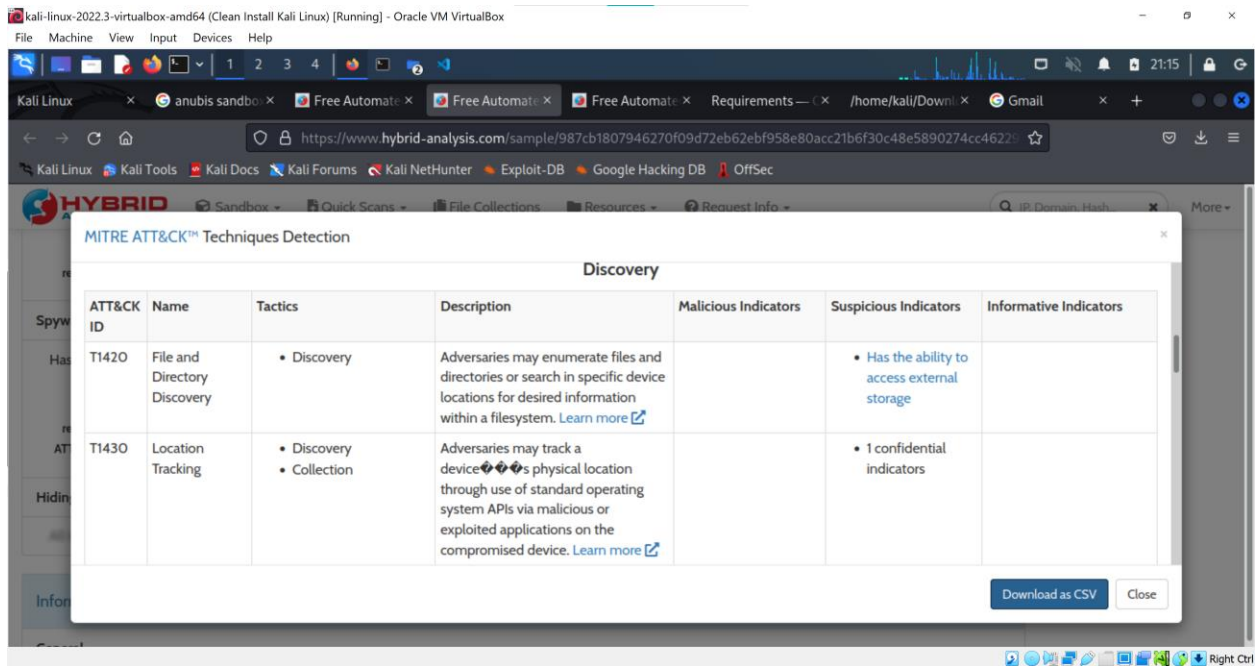


Figure 22

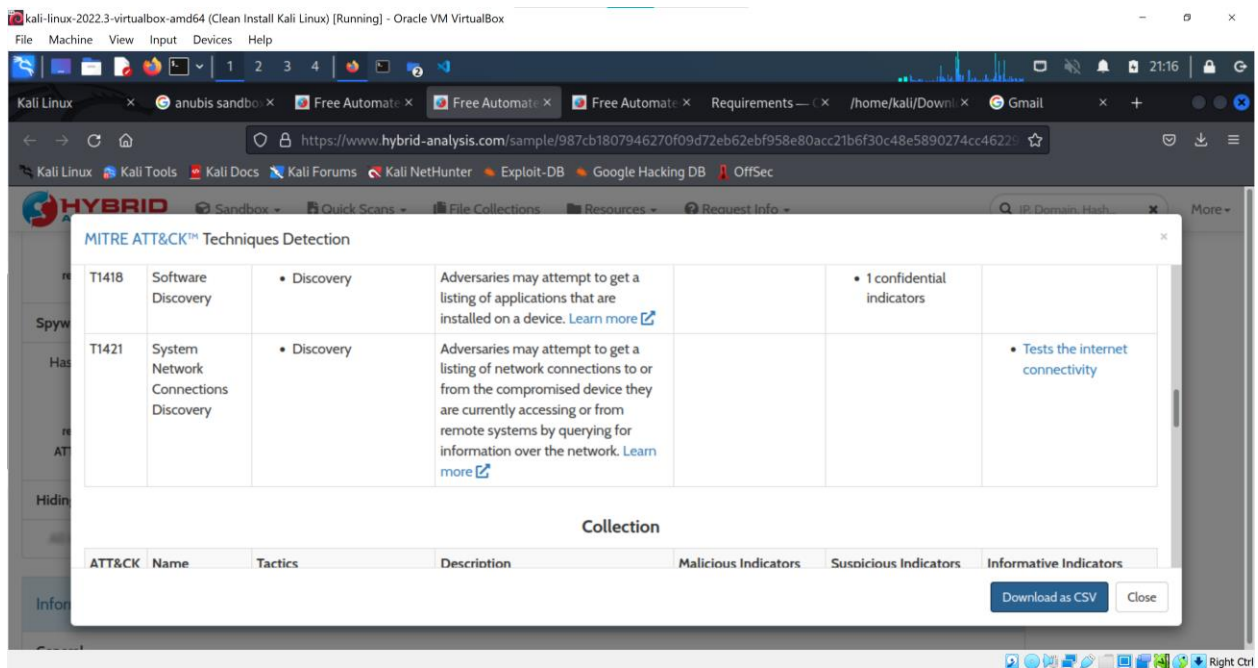


Figure 23

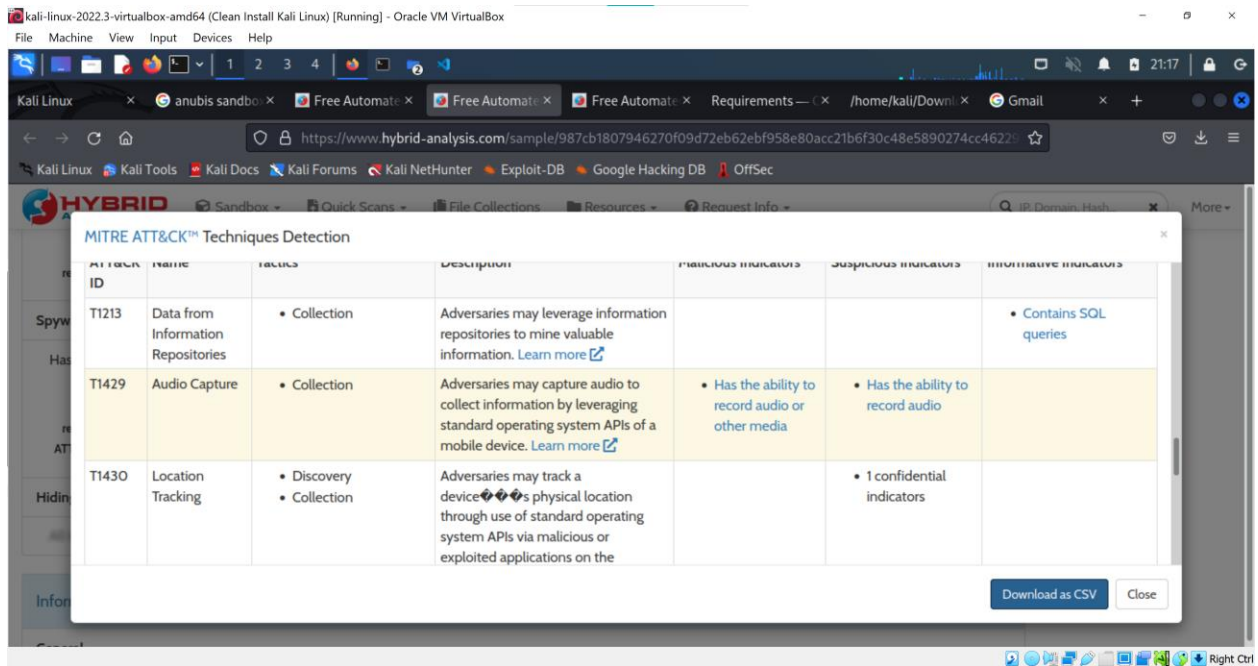


Figure 24

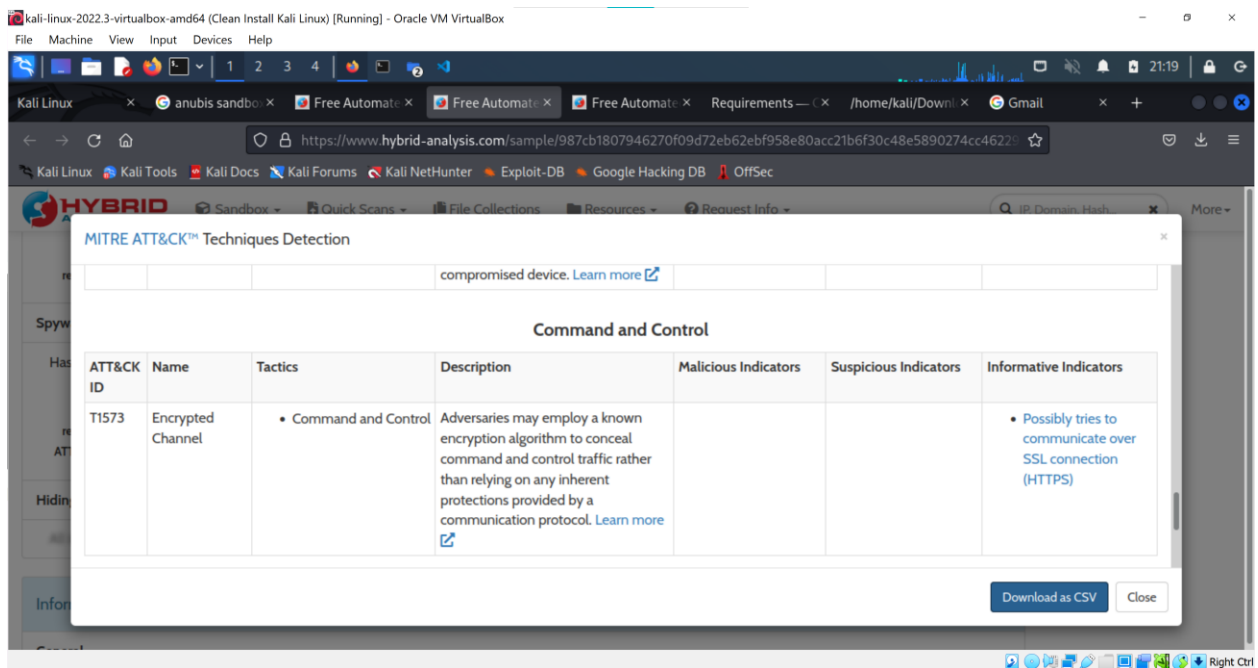


Figure 25

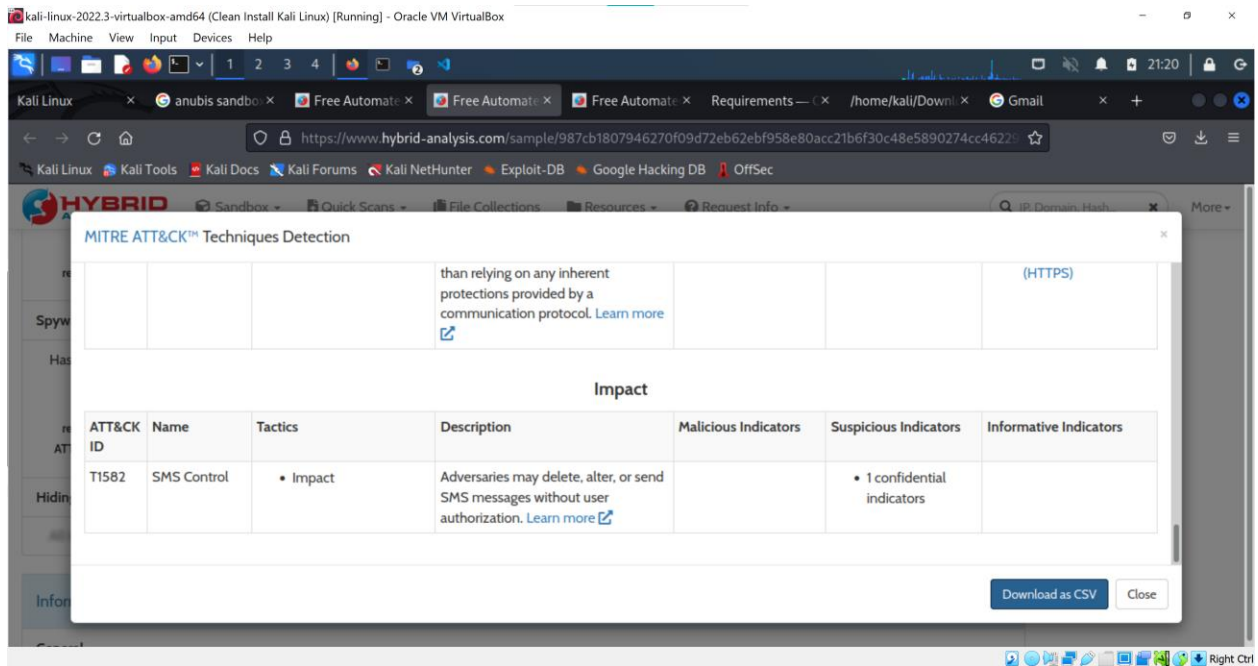


Figure 26