**71% of Android users Run on outdated Security Patches**

In a recent report on Mobile Threat Intelligence, Skycure revealed that 71% of android users that are running phone services on five major US carriers run at least 2 months old security patches. The report was based on trends in mobile threat in the year 2016 and studied three different vectors which were network, malware and app/operating systems vulnerabilities.

A common argument that comes up whenever discussing android vs. iOS security is that iOS regularly gets security updates for the single reason that Apple is the sole manufacturer of iPhones. Android, on the other hand, has many manufacturers. Skycure’s report also deems this argument true as there are a number of steps that have to be taken by mobile carrier and OEM of Android devices.

1. Discovering the vulnerability
2. Notifying to developer
3. Developing a successful patch
4. Making every carrier-specific patch available
5. Distributing the patch
6. Installing the patch

Whereas approximately 27% of Android devices run security patches that are one month old or less, the aforementioned process leaves majority of Android users susceptible to known vulnerabilities. This report by Skycure also confirms 2016 Year in Review by Google which stated that approximately half of Android devices at the end of 2016 had not installed a security update in the entire year. While skycure’s report is U.S specific, Google draws global statistics in its reports. But either way, it goes on to show that too many Android devices go unpatched against latest vulnerabilities.

Another interesting trend was also revealed in the report. These included a shift in popular malware types. It was found that there was a significant increase in incidents related to malware such as Hidden Apps, Adware and Trojans, whereas Potentially Unwanted which was the most common malware in the start of 2016, finished in the 4th place by the end of the year.