**Apple Extends its App Transport Security Deadline for Developers**

On December 21st, 2016 Apple announced that it has extended its App Transport Security deadline given earlier to app developers. According to the deadline, which was previously declared as Jan 1, 2017, all app developers were mandatorily required to use App Transport Security when submitting their apps to the App Store. The App Transport Security is a standard introduced for iOS app security in the iOS 9 and OS X 10.11. It improves the privacy and security of users by requiring apps to operate on secure network connections over HTTPS.

According to an official statement on their website for Developer News, Apple declared that it is giving more time to developers to prepare for ATS and a new update will be given when a new deadline is confirmed.

The App Transport Security was introduced to improve iOS app security in 2015 as a method to force apps to transfer all data securely. Other protocols similar to this have already been running in internet service provider companies, banks and other organizations that deal with sensitive user data.

The App Transport Security feature is currently enabled by default in the development toolset. However, it has not been made mandatory yet and developers are at disposition to disable the feature. It was declared during the Worldwide Developers Conference in 2016 that the feature would be enforced as a compulsory measure from 1st Jan, 2017.

A minor controversy was sparked with the introduction of ATS in 2015 when Google publicly announced its technique of bypassing the network security protocol. It had come into the knowledge of Google that ATS was hindering ads from being displayed in some mobile apps, hence it proposed the bypassing technique as a short term fix by inserting HTTPS exception in affected links.

With these exceptions already having taken place, the ATS that supposedly improves iOS app security may not be a final solution to mobile app security and could still put end users at risk.