**Android’s Gooligan malware takes the Lead as Biggest Google Accounts Theft**

A recent Android malware variant known as Gooligan is said to have become the biggest theft of Google Accounts so far. Since August, it has infected around 1.3 million Android devices by stealing tokens given to users for verification of their accounts. The motive behind this proliferation is not to gather any particular data on Google Docs or Gmail, but rather to download fraudulent apps, thus making money of worth $320,000 a month approximately.

What’s alarming is that Gooligan is fastly spreading at a rate of 13,000 new attacks per day. According to Check Point’s security researchers, the malware works by infecting a device from which the user visits a website such as an adult site, where the user is encouraged to install some software in order to be able to access more content. Or it can also infect a device when a user downloads a third party app from a third party app store. Once inside a device, Gooligan determines the type of Android phone and performs a series of exploits to root the device and take over its control completely.

After taking full control of your phone, Gooligan draws off your Google account to a remote server, from where it can be used for gaining access to your Google Drive, Gmail, Google Docs, Photos and other Google data – including programs that require two-factor authentication. Researchers at Check Point managed to trace the server and uncover around 1.3 million authentic Google accounts. They also determined that infected phones were downloading around 30,000 apps daily, thus making it to a total of 2 million till now. This also includes many corporate Google Accounts as well.

To make this happen, hackers are using long-existing vulnerabilities like Towelroot and VROOT in Android 4 and 5 devices, that include Jelly Bean, KitKat and Lollipop. As much as 40 percent of these affected devices are in Asia, 19 percent in the Americas with a majority in North America, and 12 percent in Europe.