**HummingWhale Android Malware Infecting Apps in Google Play**

Security researchers have recently discovered the existence of a new android malware known as HummingWhale which has infected many apps in the Google Play Store. The malware is a variant of another previous malware known as HummingBad.

According to Check Point, the security vendor that discovered HummingWhale, the malware found its way into Play Store with the help of fake names of Chinese developers. The malware was found to have infected more than 20 applications and bypassed Google’s security measures.

The malware bypasses android app security with its smart techniques and thus generates revenue for the developers by conducting ad frauds. For example, a disguised Android Application Package file is used to act like a dropper which then downloads and runs more apps. This file that acts as a dropper makes use of an Android Plugin – made by Qihoo 360, a Chinese security vendor – and uploads malicious apps to a virtual machine. With the help of a virtual machine, HummingWhale can then install many other apps without taking app permissions, and also disguise all of its malicious activities. This technique lets HummingWhale infest Google Play, said Check Point.

HummingWhale poses a much serious threat to Android app security, as it can install unaccountable amount of malicious apps with the help of virtual machine and does all that without even having the need to root Android devices. Also, the virtual machine helps HummingWhale avoid overloading the mobile devices even after installing innumerable fraudulent apps. Just like Gooligan malware, HummingWhale also uses fake comments and ratings to get good ratings on Google Play.

Check Point said that the aim behind HummingWhale and its predecessor HummingBad is to gain monetary benefit through fake apps installation and ad frauds. In July 2016, Check Point released a report that showed how HummingBad malware was used by Chinese mobile analytics and advertising company to earn revenue. The malware was one of the most prevalent threats to android app security las year as it infected more than 10 million devices and allowed Yingmob to earn approximately US$300,000 per month.