**Tesla cars can be stolen by hacking Tesla App**

According to a new research by Promon, a Norwegian app security firm, and hackers can take control Tesla vehicles, thereby locating, unlocking and driving the car away. This hack is made possible because of a vulnerability in the Tesla smartphone application.

A video released by Promon shows their experts hacking into the smartphone app and taking control of a vehicle. It shows how they can locate the position of the car, open its door and enable keyless functionality of the car. This issue highlights the importance of mobile app security, and repercussions associated with the use of IoT devices.

One of the ways for hackers to gain access and attack the mobile app is by setting up a WiFi hotspot close to a Tesla charging point. Once a Tesla user logs in to visit the page, the hacker forwards an advertisement aimed at car owners, such as offering them a free meal. Once the user clicks the ad and downloads the app, hackers enter your mobile device and attack Tesla application.

According to Tom Lysemose Hansen, founder and CTO at Promon, “Mobile-focused criminals are more skilled than ever before, and are using a lack of security in mobile apps as an increasingly lucrative source of revenue. Remotely controlling and stealing Tesla cars is a particularly dangerous example of just what can be done, but in theory, any app without the necessary protection in place could be affected.

Hansen believes that this scenario indicates a need for a better and stronger mobile app security. According to him, “One way to achieve this is by introducing self-defending app software that protects the app from the inside out, greatly reducing the possibility of a cyber-attack. By moving away from having a physical car key to unlock the door, Tesla is basically taking the same step as banks and the payment industry. Physical tokens are replaced by 'mobile tokens'. Hence, we strongly believe that Tesla and the car industry needs to provide a comparable level of security, which is certainly not the case today.”

Curently, Promon is having a dialogue with Tesla for addressing their mobile app security issue.