**mHealth Apps are Now a Priority – but Security Still Isn’t**

According to a new survey, healthcare providers are now embracing technology in the health sector and promoting the use of mHealth platforms in hospitals. But they are not doing much to inculcate security in health related apps.

Device management company Jamf found out that only 22 percent of IT budget is invested in mobile app security testing and deployment by healthcare providers. About 27 percent of healthcare providers studied by Jamf say they are unsure about the effectiveness of their mobile device management platforms, whereas less than half say they cannot fully control the apps installed over their network. Some of the previous research suggests that healthcare companies spend more money on the development of apps rather than on their security, even though they are well aware of the risks.

Former CMO of Arxan Technologies, Patrick Kehoe says that in a race to bring new apps into the market, organizations often tend to ignore mobile app security testing and other security measures that are crucial for customer retention. Still then, 90 percent of healthcare officials believe that their apps are fully secured, while the truth is that 86 percent of mHealth apps are not secured.

The use of mobile devices in healthcare sector is increasing, and so is the challenge to overcome associated security problems. A 2015 study published in Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association suggested that security and privacy policies of two thirds of health apps focused on developer homepage only and did not have any points related to the app itself. Another study by Future of Privacy Forum in August 2016 revealed weaknesses in the security protocols of health and wellness apps. Around 56 percent of them claimed to have complete control over content being downloaded n the mHealth devices, 29 percent believed to have little control, while another 11 percent said that they don’t have any control at all over the downloads. Now that healthcare sector is indulging in technological solutions for better management of healthcare services, it is important for mHealth app owners to conduct mobile app security testing and improve the standing of their apps by complying with security standards.