

INTER-APP COLLUSION:

EXPLOITING THE IMPROPER EXPORT OF ANDROID APPLICATION
COMPONENTS FOR PRIVILEGE ELEVATION & CREDENTIAL THEFT

BY EDWARD WARREN



AGENDA

#WHOAMI

OVERVIEW OF ANDROID SECURITY CHALLENGES

MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

CASE STUDIES

#WHOAMI

Security Analyst at  **SEDARA™**

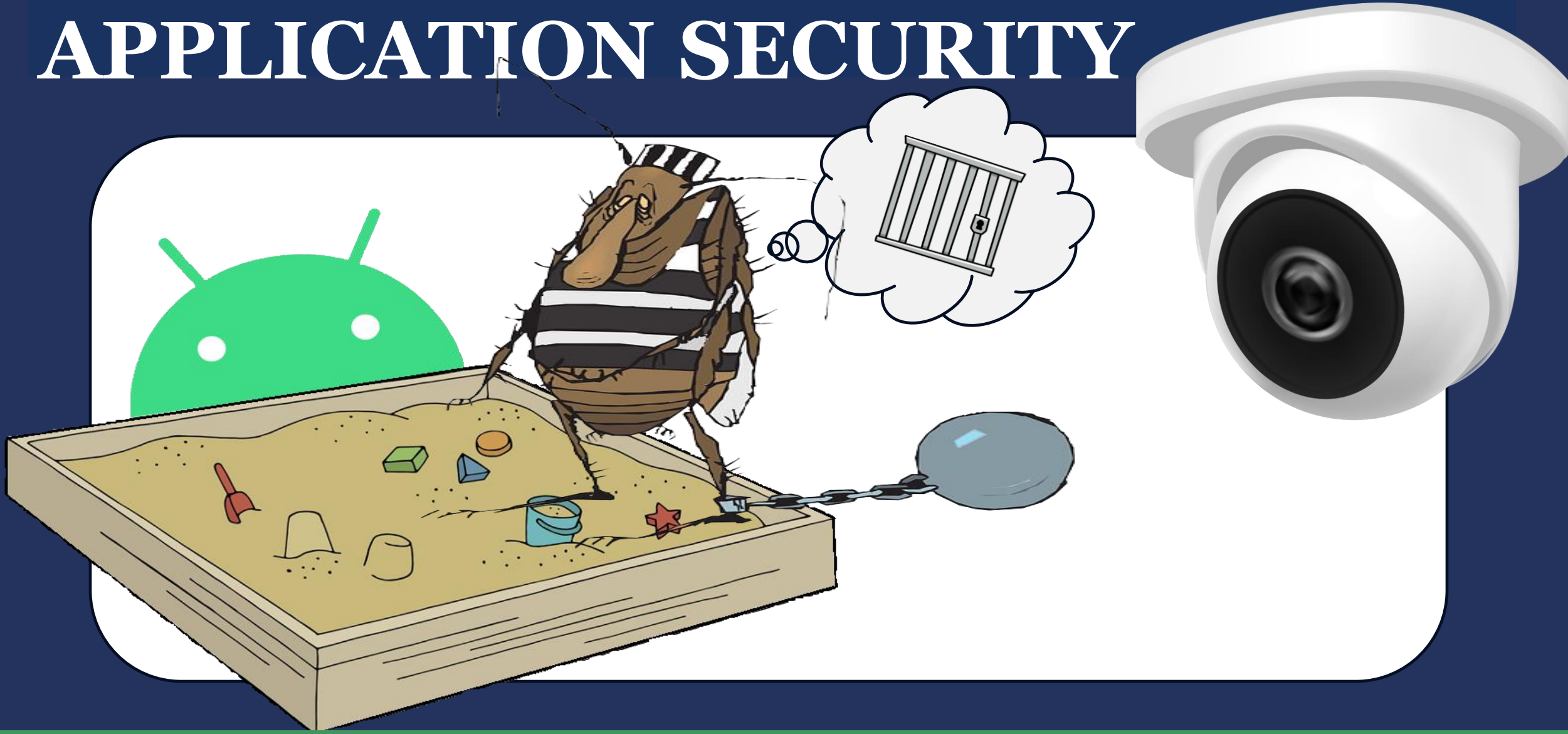


#WHOAMI

Bug Enthusiast =)



A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ANDROID APPLICATION SECURITY



THE ANDROID SANDBOX



Android's Foundation

- Built on the Linux Kernel & tailored for mobile devices.



Security Focus

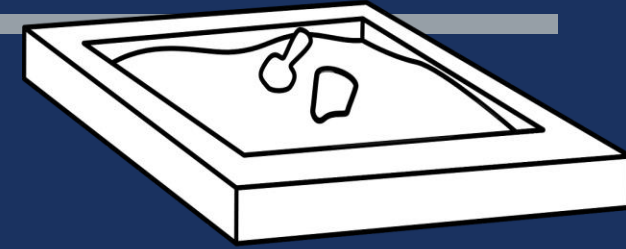
- Critical in mobile computing due to personal data sensitivity.



Sandbox Concept

- Isolates application processes for enhanced security.

THE ANDROID SANDBOX



Unique User IDs (UIDs)

- Each app assigned a distinct UID at install time.

Process Isolation

- Apps run in isolated processes, limiting interaction and data access.

Permission System

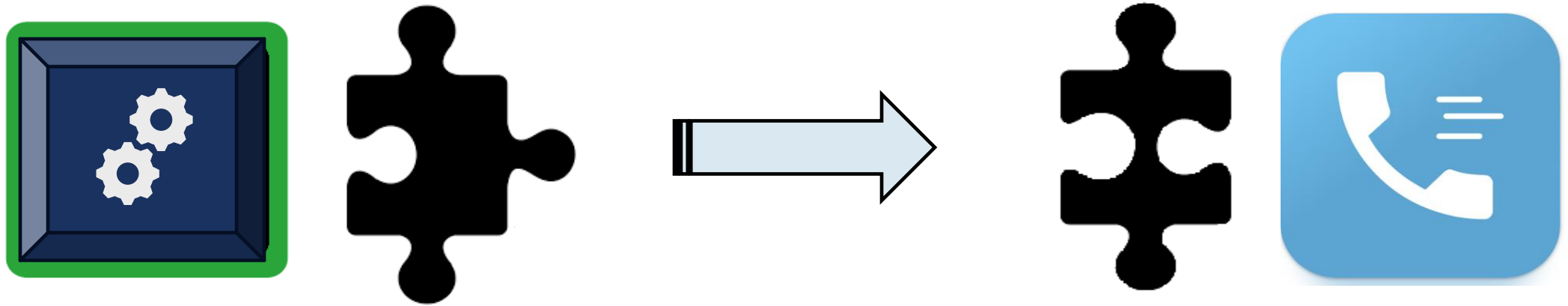
- Access to resources like *Phone, Internet, Camera, Contacts & Location* requires user consent.

Inter-Process Communication (IPC)

- Controlled and secure communication channels between apps.

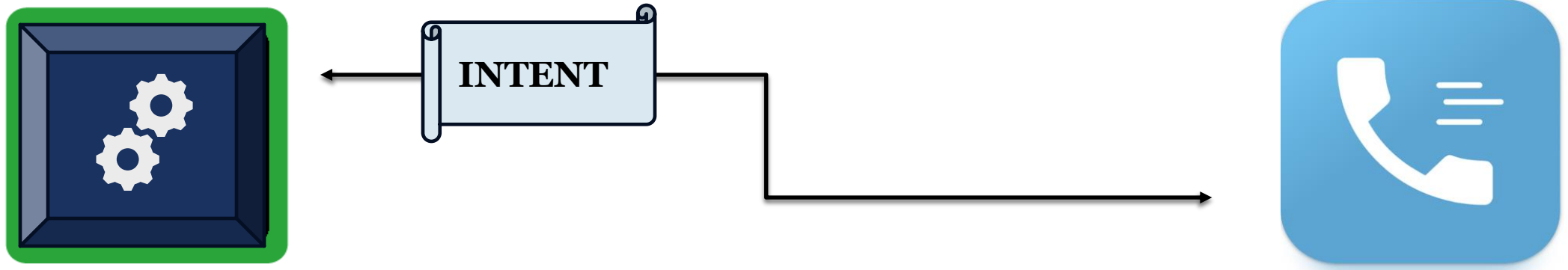
MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

Inter-Process Communication (IPC)



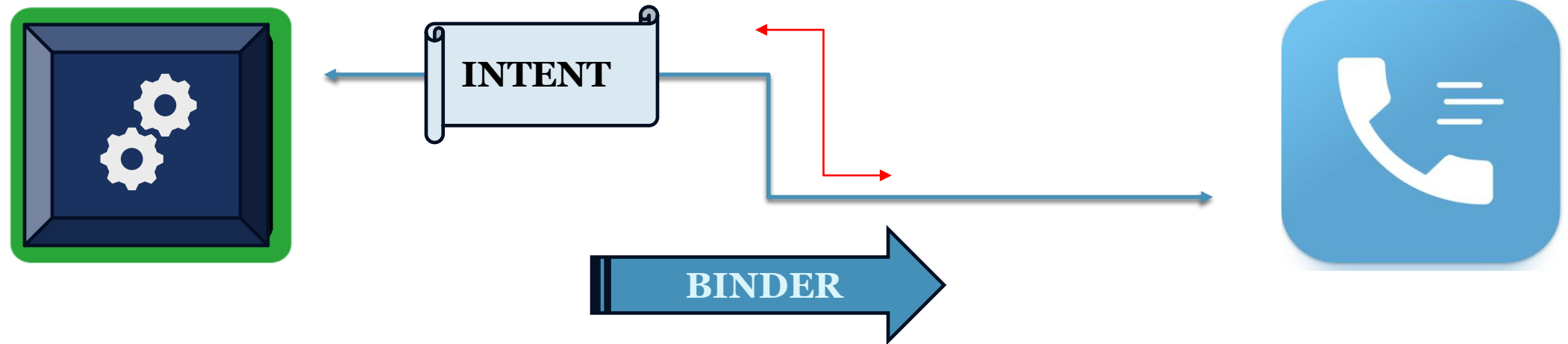
MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

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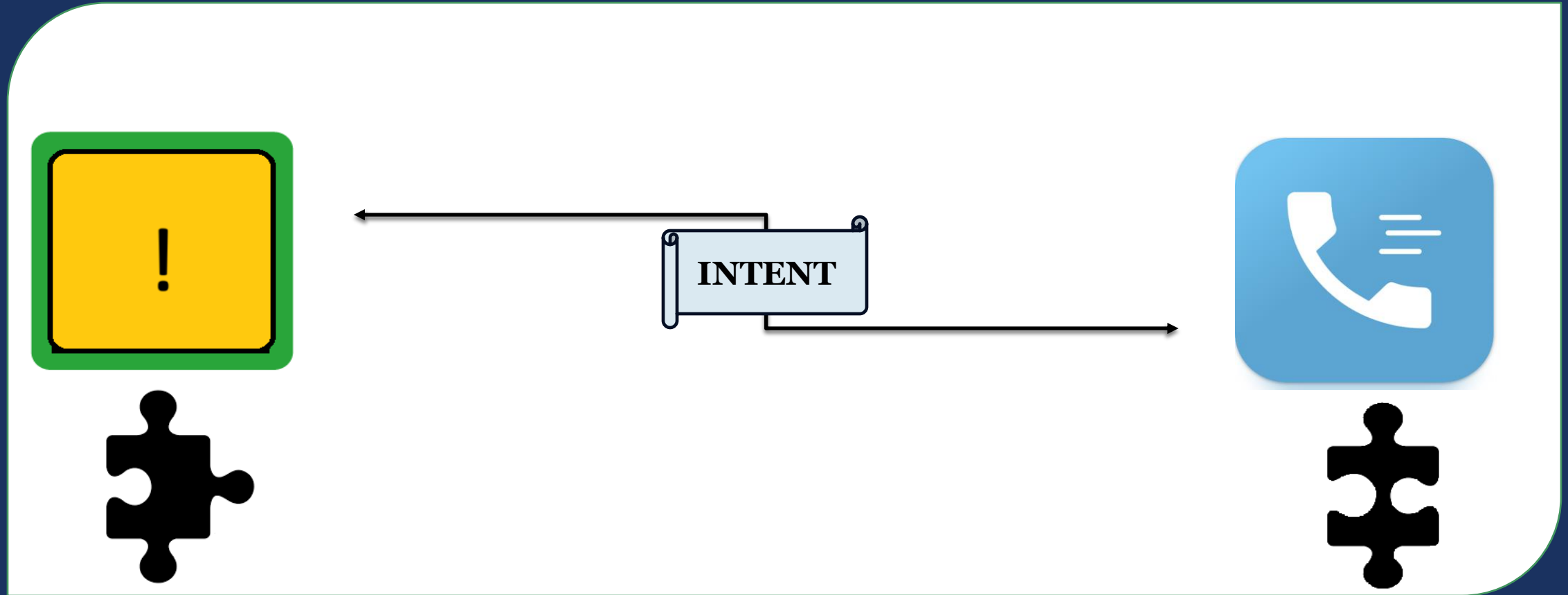


MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

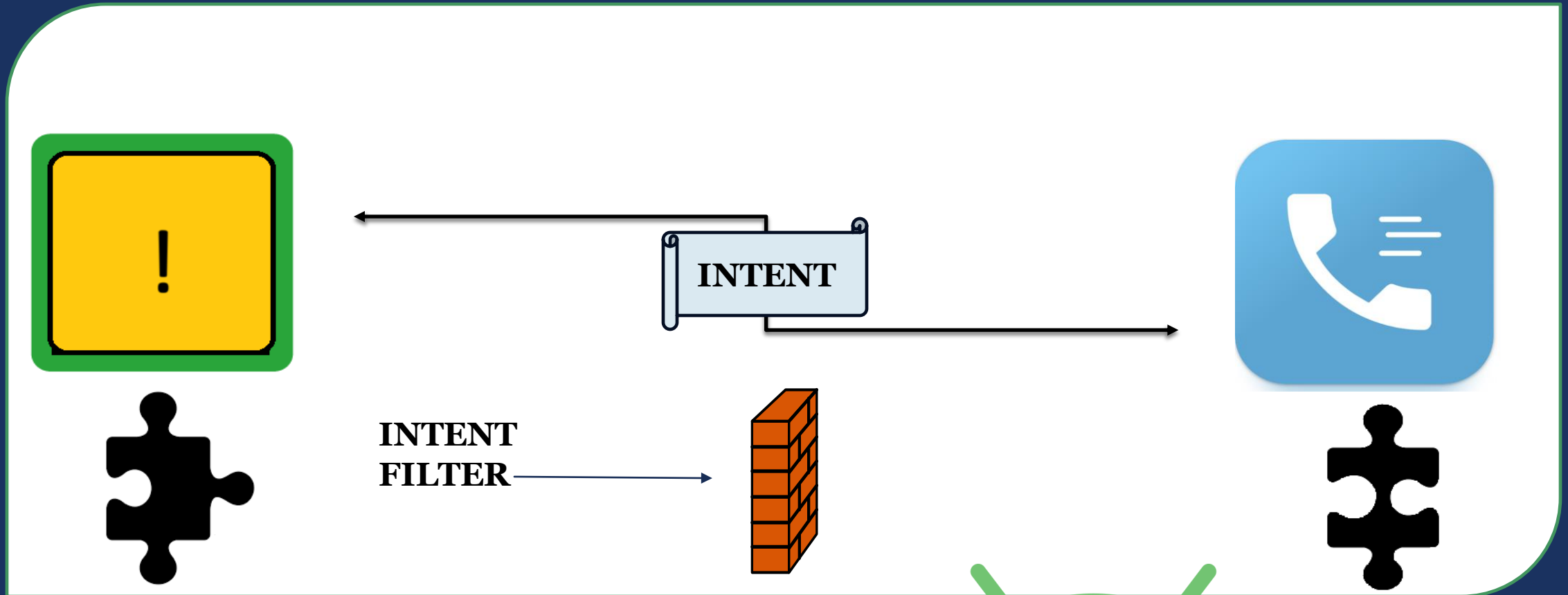
Inter-Process Communication (IPC)



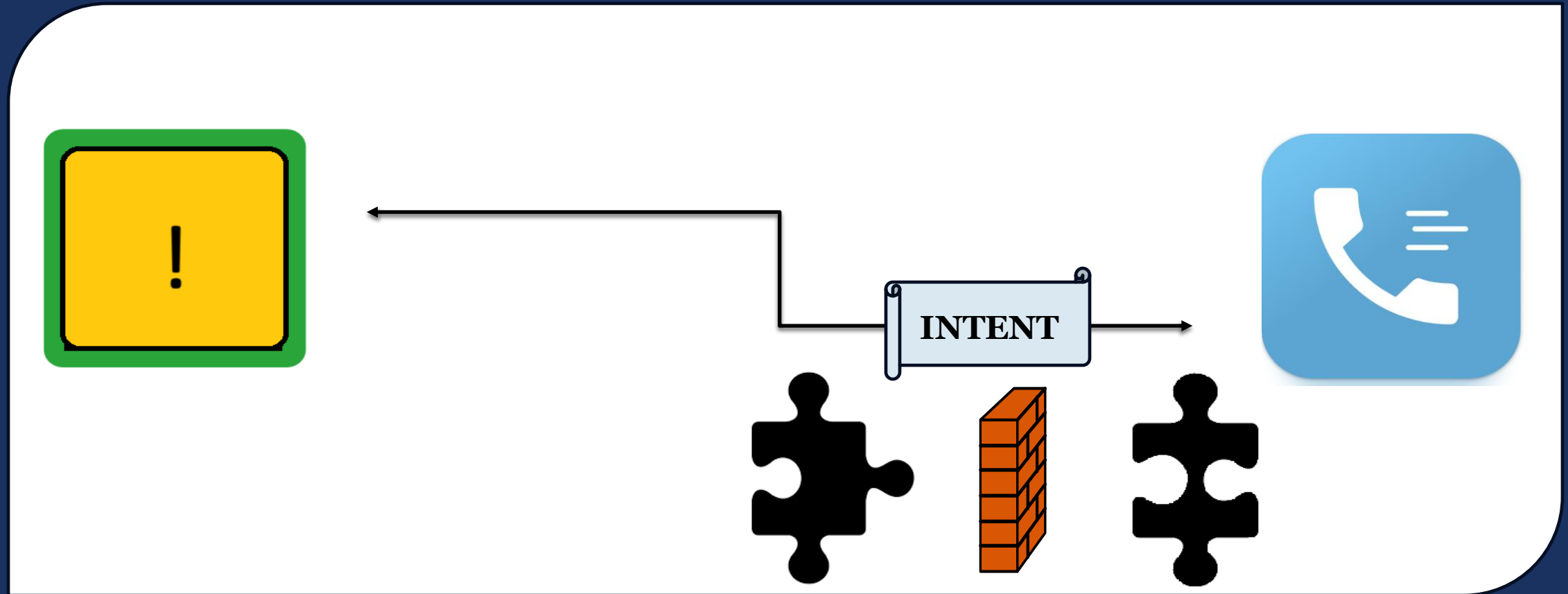
MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION



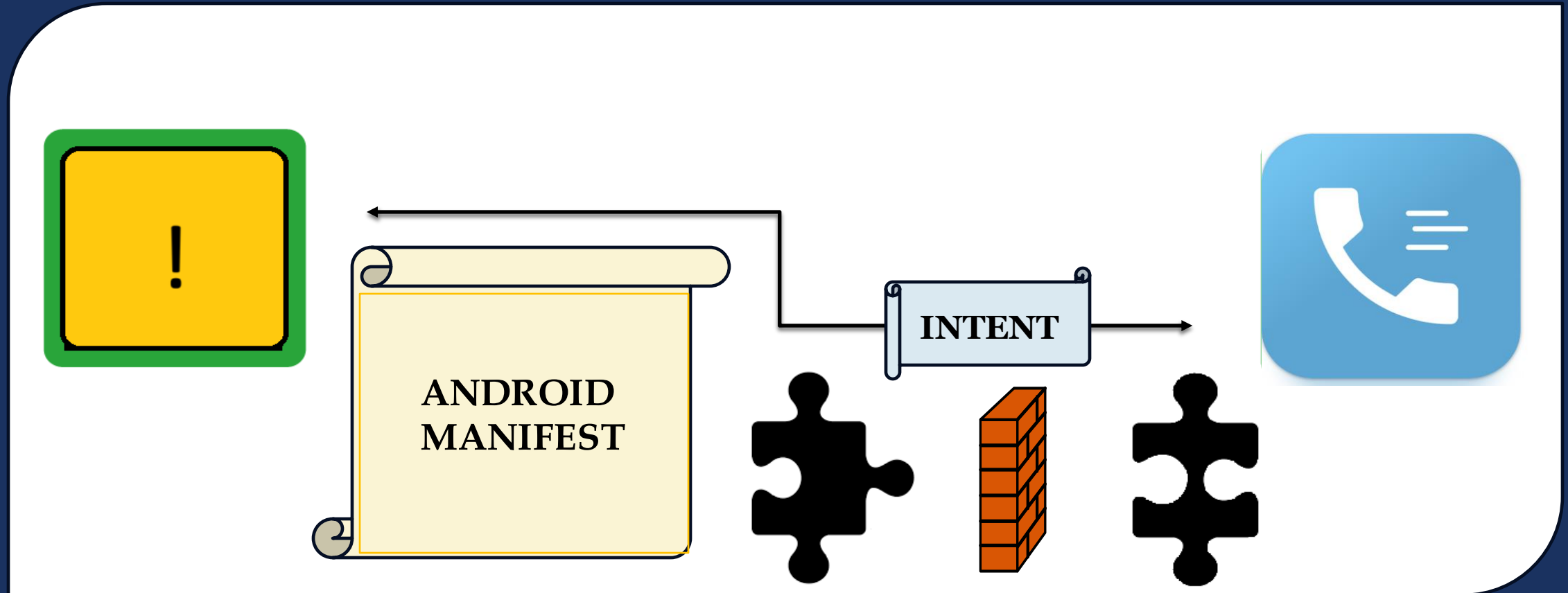
MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION



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MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

Android Manifest

```
<activity android:name="com.funprime.calldialer.ui.activities.OutgoingActivity" android:exported="true">
    <intent-filter>
        <action android:name="android.intent.action.CALL"/>
        <category android:name="android.intent.category.DEFAULT"/>
        <data android:scheme="tel"/>
    </intent-filter>
</activity>
```



THE ANDROID SANDBOX

Permission Types:



Normal Permissions – Normal



Dangerous Permissions – Runtime Permissions



Special Permission – System Permissions



NORMAL PERMISSIONS

Normal Permissions

- `ACCESS_NETWORK_STATE` : Access network information.
- `ACCESS_WIFI_STATE` : Access Wi-Fi network information.
- `INTERNET` : Open network sockets.
- `SET_WALLPAPER` : Set the wallpaper.
- `RECEIVE_BOOT_COMPLETED` : Receive broadcast after booting.
- `VIBRATE` : Access the vibrator.
- `WAKE_LOCK` : Prevent processor sleeping/screen dimming.
- `ACCESS_NOTIFICATION_POLICY` : Access Do Not Disturb mode.

DANGEROUS PERMISSIONS

Dangerous Permissions

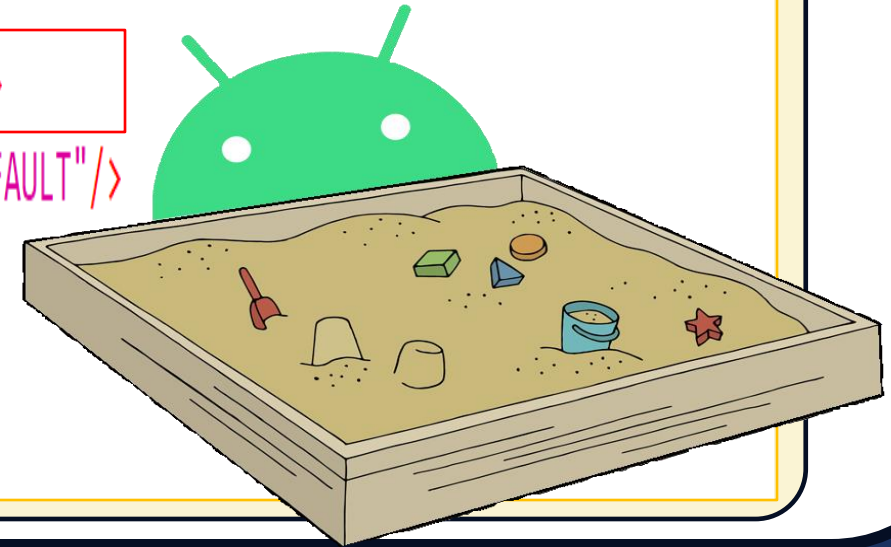
- **CAMERA** : Access the camera device.
- **READ_CONTACTS** : Read user's contacts.
- **WRITE_CONTACTS** : Write to user's contacts.
- **ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION** : Access precise location.
- **ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION** : Access approximate location.
- **RECORD_AUDIO** : Record audio.
- **READ_PHONE_STATE** : Access phone state.
- **CALL_PHONE** : Initiate phone calls without user intervention.
- **READ_CALL_LOG** : Read the call log.

- **WRITE_CALL_LOG** : Write to the call log.
- **ADD_VOICEMAIL** : Add voicemails.
- **USE_SIP** : Use SIP service.
- **PROCESS_OUTGOING_CALLS** : Intercept outgoing calls.
- **BODY_SENSORS** : Access body sensor data.
- **SEND_SMS** : Send SMS messages.
- **RECEIVE_SMS** : Receive SMS messages.
- **READ_SMS** : Read SMS messages.
- **RECEIVE_WAP_PUSH** : Receive WAP push messages.
- **RECEIVE_MMS** : Receive MMS messages.
- **READ_EXTERNAL_STORAGE** : Read from external storage.
- **WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE** : Write to external storage.

MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

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`Intent.ACTION_DIAL` : Opens phone dialer. No special permission needed.

`Intent.ACTION_CALL` : Places a direct phone call. Requires `CALL_PHONE` Permission.

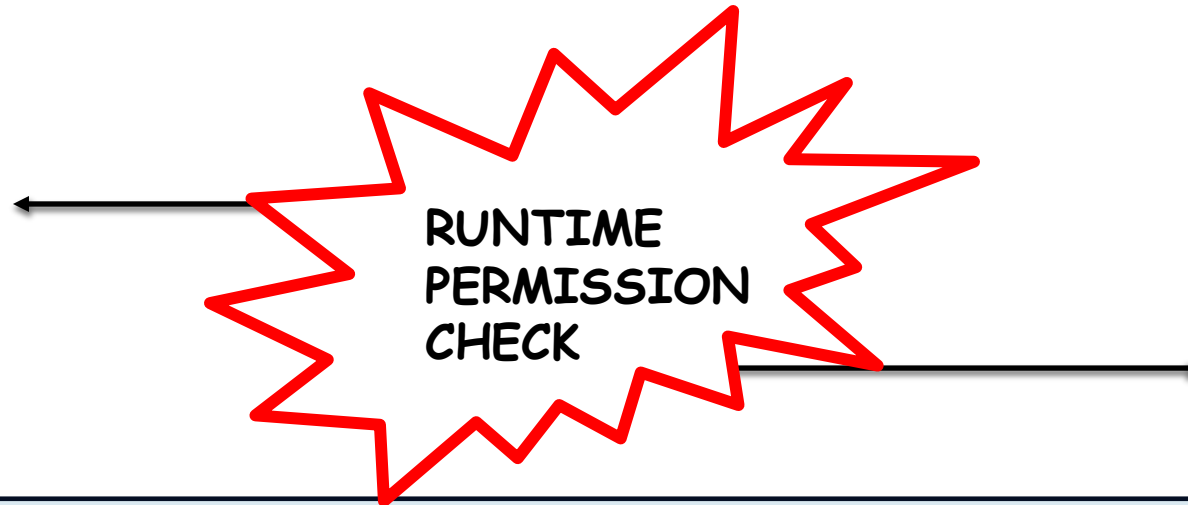
MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION



```
Intent callIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_CALL);  
callIntent.setData(Uri.parse("tel:1234567890"));  
callIntent.setClassName("com.sinous.voice.dialer",  
                        "com.sinous.voice.dialer.OutgoingActivity");
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MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION



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MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION

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DANGER



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MECHANISM OF INTER-APP COLLUSION



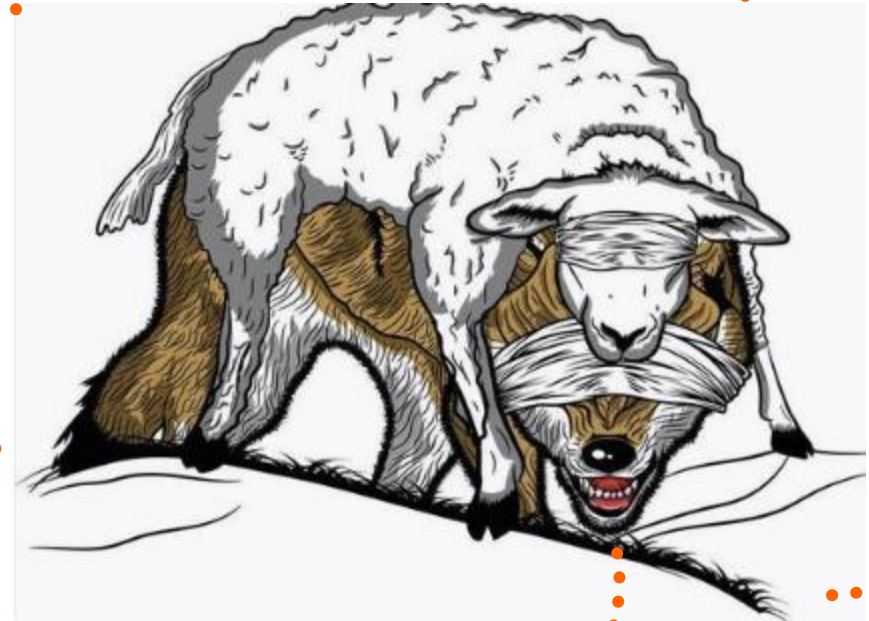
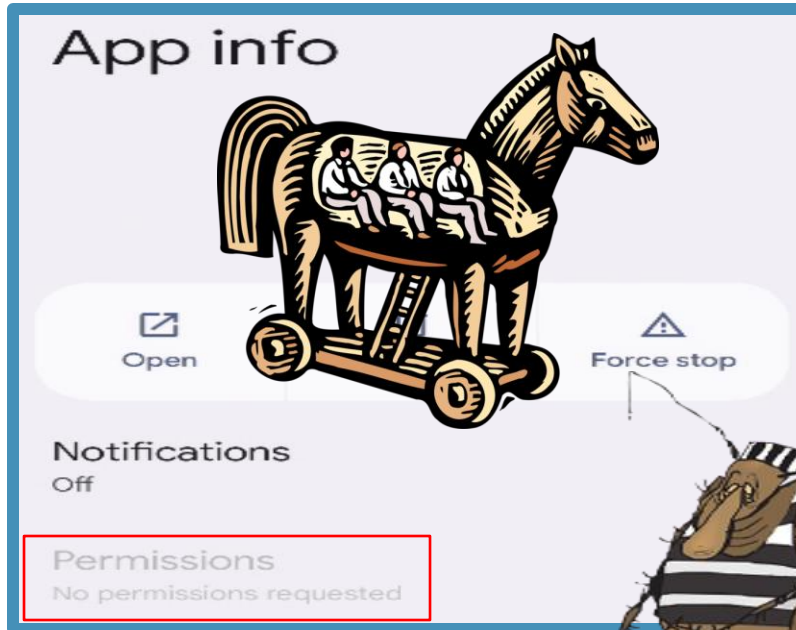
```
<activity android:name="com.funprime.calldialer.ui.activities.OutgoingActivity" android:exported="true" android:screenOrientation="portrait">
  <intent-filter>
    <action android:name="android.intent.action.CALL"/>
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  </intent-filter>
</activity>
```

THREAT MODEL

A malicious installed application with *no* permissions can leverage adjacent applications to achieve Elevation of Privileges via insecure intent handling the exported activity endpoint.



THREAT MODEL



■ Case Study #1

'com.sinous.voice.dialer'

CVE-2023-49002 | CVSS 7.5

■ Case Study #1

🚫 CVE-2023-49002 Detail

Description


An issue in Xenom Technologies (sinous) Phone Dialer-voice Call Dialer v.1.2.5 allows an attacker to bypass intended access restrictions via interaction with com.funprime.calldialer.ui.activities.OutgoingActivity.

Severity

CVSS Version 3.x

CVSS Version 2.0

CVSS 3.x Severity and Metrics:

 **NIST:** NVD

Base Score: 7.5 HIGH

Vector: CVSS:3.1/AV:N/AC:L/PR:N/UI:N/S:U/C:N/I:H/A:N

CVE-2023-49002 | CVSS 7.5

■ Case Study #2

'com.tcl.browser'

CVE-2023-43481 | CVSS 9.8

■ Case Study #2

🔔 CVE-2023-43481 Detail

Description

An issue in Shenzhen TCL Browser TV Web BrowseHere (aka com.tcl.browser) 6.65.022_dab24cc6_231221_gp allows a remote attacker to execute arbitrary JavaScript code via the com.tcl.browser.portal.browse.activity.BrowsePageActivity component.

Severity

CVSS Version 3.x

CVSS Version 2.0

CVSS 3.x Severity and Metrics:

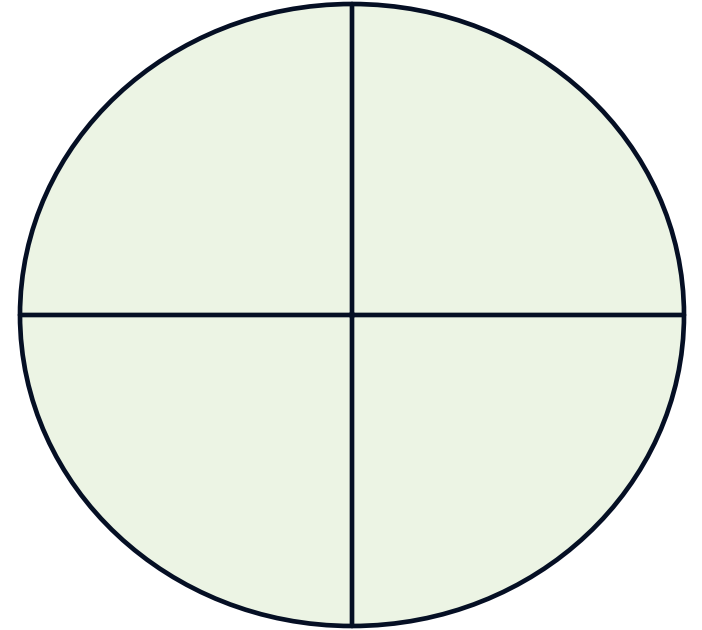
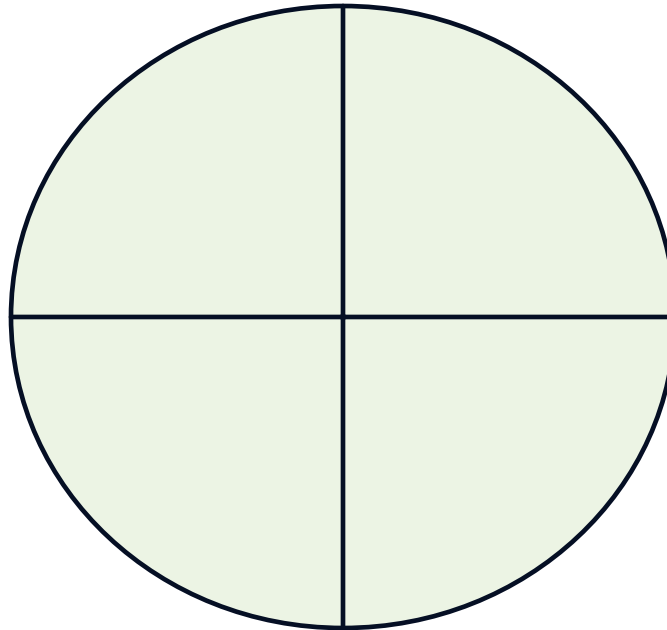
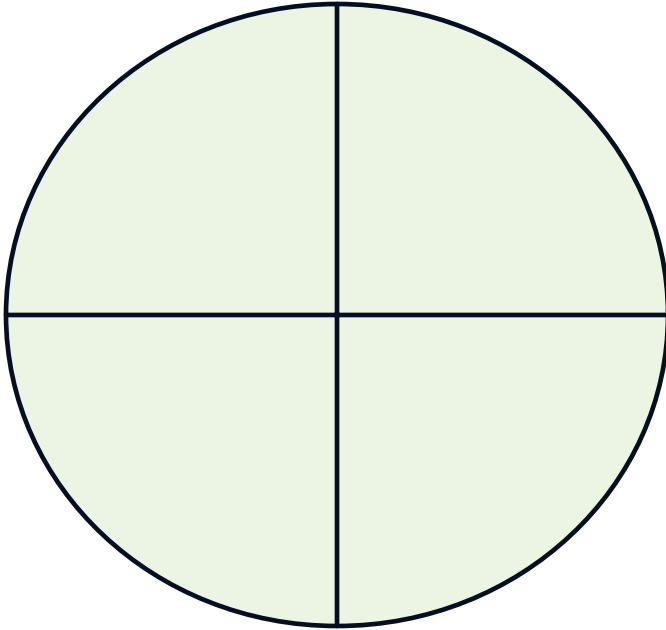


NIST: NVD

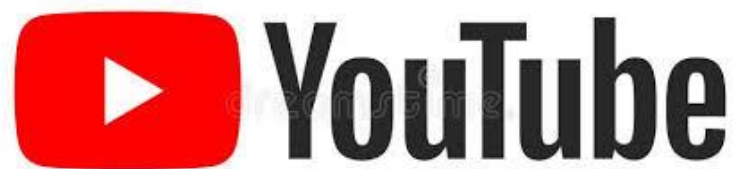
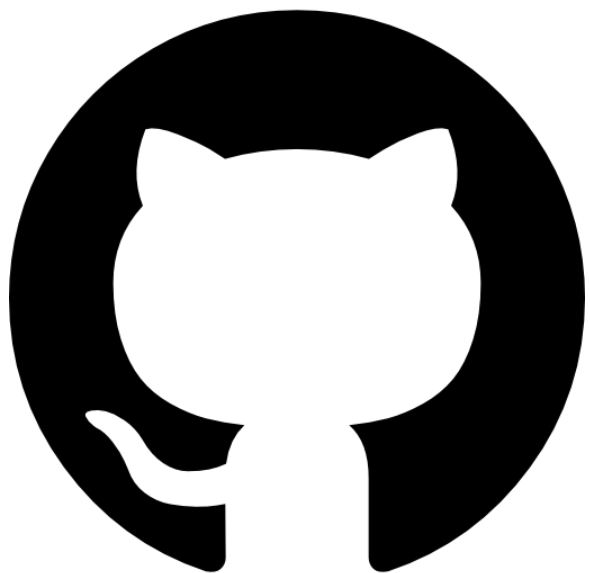
Base Score: 9.8 CRITICAL

Vector: CVSS:3.1/AV:N/AC:L/PR:N/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H

CVE-2023-43481 | CVSS 9.8



Quick Stats



@Actuator

THANK YOU!

SOCIALS:

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[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@ACTUATOR](https://www.youtube.com/@ACTUATOR)

[HTTPS://INFOSEC.EXCHANGE/@ACTUATOR](https://infosec.exchange/@ACTUATOR)

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