Applications, for Android are generally written in Java using the Android Software Development Kit (SDK) [[1]](#footnote-1). But there are other development tools available, for example a Native Development Kit, for applications written in C or C++[[2]](#footnote-2). Another tool worth mentioning is the Google App Inventor[[3]](#footnote-3), which is an application building environment for developers with little or no programming experience. Android applications use a packaging system, much like the packaging systems in other Linux based operating systems like Ubuntu. Ubuntu for example uses .deb packages[[4]](#footnote-4), where the android applications are called .apk files[[5]](#footnote-5). When installing Android applications, the user will be asked to agree to give the application access to certain areas of the phone. Depending on the application, these permissions can have different purposes. For example, it makes sense that an application like “ASTRO File Manager”[[6]](#footnote-6) needs read/write permission to the phones SD-card. But why exactly does it require access to full internet access? This could be if the application has abilities to manage remote files also, but in the end you will never know exactly what applications uses these permissions to. In theory, an application could require access to a function called “Phone calls”. The application would then have full access to the TelePhonyManager Libraries in Android, which again gives access to the getDeviceId() and getSubscriberId() functions, which are the functions used to access the IMEI and IMSI numbers. Of course some applications accesses the “Phone Calls” with a legitimate purpose, for example the “Krak” application, which checks a database, if an unkown caller is calling. The application can then display who is calling, even though the caller isn’t in the called phones phonebook.

1. <http://developer.android.com/sdk/index.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://developer.android.com/sdk/ndk/index.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.appinventorbeta.com/about/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/PackagingGuide/HandsOn> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://sites.google.com/site/io/inside-the-android-application-framework> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://market.android.com/details?id=com.metago.astro [↑](#footnote-ref-6)