



NowSecure

CONNECT 2019

The Premier Mobile DevSecOps and OSS Event
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APKiD

Fast Identification of Appshielding Products

Eduardo Novella

Outline

Main ideas

- **Introduction**
Edu Novella and APKiD OSS (RedNaga community)
- **Android Malware Detection**
What APKiD was initially designed for
- **Android Code Obfuscation**
Identification of obfuscators, packers, appshielding and RASP products
- **Demos**
Detection of the most common Android protectors in the market
- **Takeaways**
Things learned after this presentation



\$ whoami

"I stay with problems longer"

- Mobile Security Research Engineer @ NowSecure
 - Focused on **Android** Reverse Engineering
- Previously (Reverse Engineering)
 - Android **mobile** security: cloud-based payments (HCE wallets), DRM and TEE solutions
 - **Embedded** security : smartcards, smartmeter, PayTV, HCE, modem, any hardened IoT dev
 - Crypto: side-channel & fault injection attacks (hw). Whitebox cryptography (sw)
- Personal @ enovella.github.io
 - Based in London (UK)
 - Chess player, swimmer and nature lover



RedNaga Security

Mobile Security Team

- Banded together by the love of **hot sauces** & 0-days
- Disclosures/lessons/training, **OSS** tools, malware analysis
- **Slack** channel talking about mobile sec
- Sources:
 - <https://rednaga.io>
 - <https://github.com/rednaga>
 - <http://slack.rednaga.io>



Tim Strazzere



Caleb Fenton



Red Naga



Repositories 21

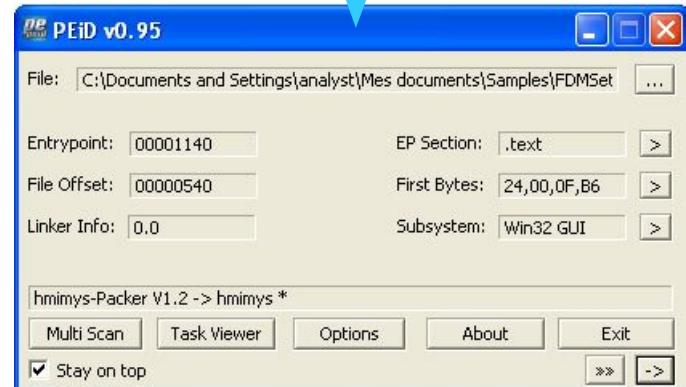


People 4

Why We Are Here

We love spicy assembly, and you?

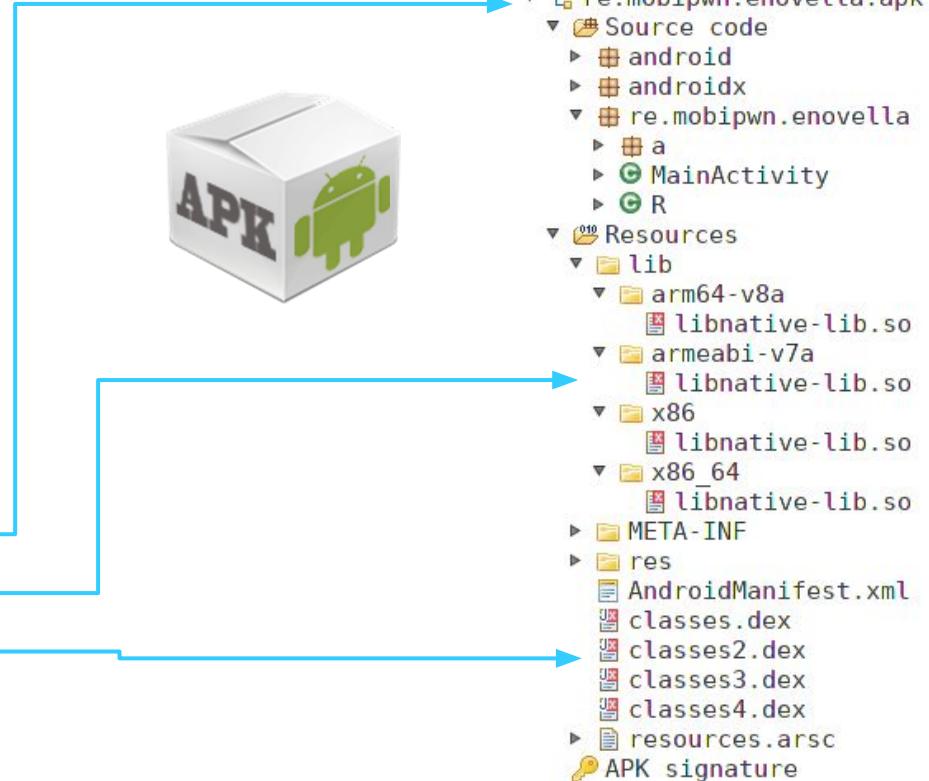
- Showcase **APKiD**: The “**PEiD**” of Android Apps
- APKiD can be used for many purposes:
 - Which apps could potentially contain malware? Tampered?
 - **Which apps are obfuscated/packed? Which protector?**
 - Has the DEX been compiled in unusual ways? Anomalies?
 - Anti-debugging, anti-emulation, ...



How APKiD works

Android Application Packaging (APK)

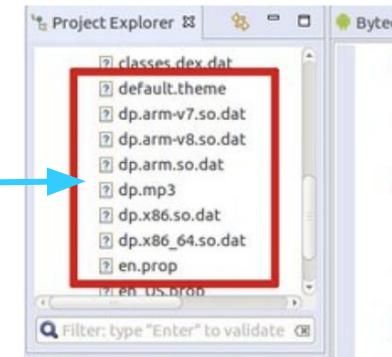
- **APKiD workflow**
 - Unpack APK == ZIP
 - Read magic number
 - Apply Yara rules
 - Print results if matches
- **Yara rules**
 - APK
 - Native code
 - DEX bytecode



How APKiD works

APK Yara rules

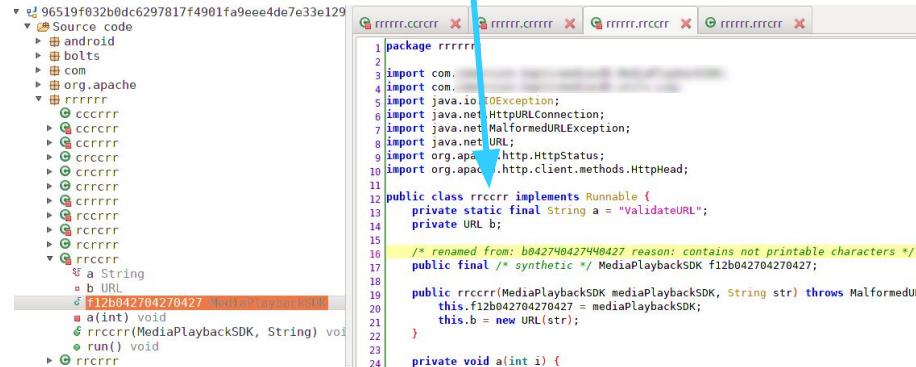
```
1 15 rule dexprotector_b : packer
164 {
165     // Possible newer version
166
167     meta:
168         author      = "Eduardo Novella"
169         description = "DexProtector"
170         url        = "https://dexprotector.com/"
171         sample      = "dca2a0bc0f2605072b9b48579e73711af816b0fa1108b825335d2d1f2418e2a7"
172
173     strings:
174         //           assets/com.package.name.arm.so.dat
175         $encrptlib_1 = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\arm\v7\so.dat/
176         $encrptlib_2 = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\arm\v8\so.dat/
177         $encrptlib_3 = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\arm\so.dat/
178         $encrptlib_4 = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\dex\dat/
179         $encrptlib_5 = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\x86\so.dat/
180         $encrptlib_6 = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\x86_64\so.dat/
181
182         $encrptcustom = /assets\[A-Za-z0-9.\]{2,50}\mp3/
183
184     condition:
185     |155 is_apk and 2 of ($encrptlib_*) and $encrptcustom and
186         not dexprotector_a and
187         not dexprotector
188 }
```



How APKiD works

DEX Yara rules

```
1 113 rule arxan : obfuscator
114 {
115     meta:
116         description = "Arxan"
117         url = "https://www.arxan.com/products/application-protection-mobile/"
118         sample = "7bd1139b5f860d48e0c35a3f117f980564f45c177a6ef480588b5b5c8165f47e"
119         author = "Eduardo Novella"
120
121     strings:
122         // Obfuscated Lpackage/class/: "L([a-z]\1{5}\/[a-z]\{6\}\/".
123         // AFAIK, Yara does not support backreferences at the moment, thus this is the combo:
124         $pkg = /L(a{6}|b{6}|c{6}|d{6}|e{6}|f{6}|g{6}|h{6}|i{6}|j{6}|k{6}|l{6}|m{6}|n{6}|o{6}|p{6}|
125
126         // Obfuscated methods are found to follow a pattern like:
127         // 1 byte size + 1 byte ASCII + [7-26] non-ASCII bytes + 00 (null terminator)
128         $m1 = { 10 62 (6? | 75) [14] 00 }
129         $m2 = { (0b | 0d) 62 d0 [15] 00 }
130         $m3 = { (0e | 10) 62 30 34 3? [15] 00 }
131         $m4 = { (0b | 0d) 62 30 34 3? [13] 00 }
132         $m5 = { (08 | 0b | 0d | 0e) 62 [7-13] 00 }
133         $m6 = { 0a 62 (30 34 3? | d? ?? ??) [11] 00 }
134         $m7 = { (0d | 0b | 11) (62 d1 8? | 6? ?? ??) [14] 00 }
135
136     condition:
137         is_dex and
138         $pkg and
139         6 of ($m*)
140 }
```



3

```
rrrrrr.rrrrr X rrrrrr.rrrrr X rrrrrr.rrrrr X rrrrrr.rrrrr X
1 package rrrrrr
2
3 import com.
4 import com.
5 import java.io.IOException;
6 import java.net.HttpURLConnection;
7 import java.net.MalformedURLException;
8 import java.net.URL;
9 import org.apache.http.HttpStatus;
10 import org.apache.http.client.methods.HttpHead;
11
12 public class rrrrr implements Runnable {
13     private static final String a = "ValidateURL";
14     private URL b;
15
16     /* renamed from: b042740427440427 reason: contains not printable characters */
17     public final /* synthetic */ MediaPlaybackSDK f12b042704270427
18
19         rrrrr(MediaPlaybackSDK mediaPlaybackSDK, String str) throws MalformedURLException {
20             this.f12b042704270427 = mediaPlaybackSDK;
21             this.b = new URL(str);
22         }
23
24     private void a(int i) {
```

How APKiD works

ELF Yara rules

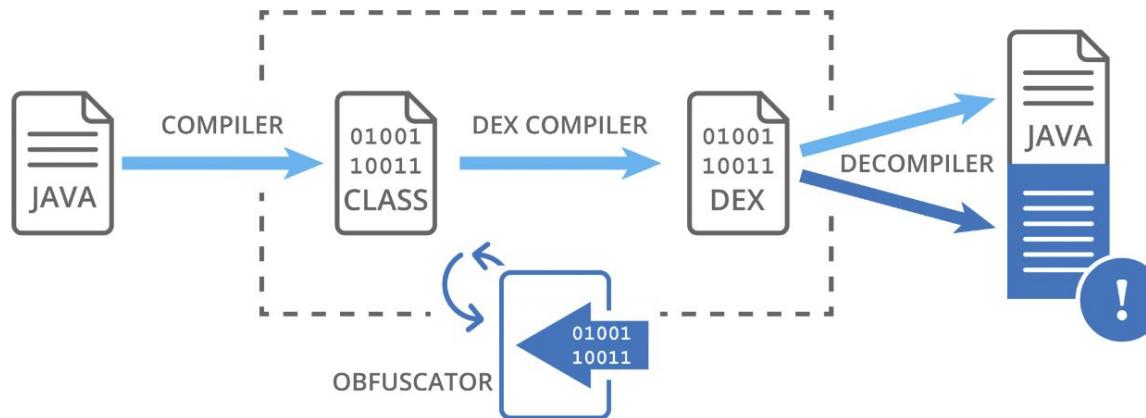
```
174
175 strings:
176 // Library below heuristic is found inside of is normally named "libaurorabridge.so"
177 $segment = ".firehash"
178 $opcodes_arm = {
179     04 00 2D E5 // STR    R0, [SP,#var_4]!
180     00 00 0F E1 // MRS    R0, CPSR
181     01 00 51 E1 // CMP    R1, R1
182     02 00 00 ?A // BNE    loc_F0854
183     00 F0 29 E1 // MSR    CPSR_cf, R0
184     04 00 9D E4 // LDR    R0, [SP+4+var_4],#4
185     ?? ?? ?? EA // B    loc_F0828
186 }
187
188 condition:
189 → elf.machine == elf.EM_ARM and all of them
190 }
```

Malware & Piracy detection

Initial uses of APKiD

Android Compiler Fingerprinting:

- `dx` → Java .class files (source code)
- `dexmerge` → Not used manually, only by IDEs (source code)
- **`dexlib` (smali)** → DEX files (**not** source code)



Why would a legitimate developer ever need to use smali?
They do have the source

Malware & Piracy detection

Initial uses of APKiD

- Hypothesis:
- If app compiled with **dexlib**, probably tampered
- If tampered, probably was not the developer
- Tampered apps are likely either:
 - pirated / cracked
 - malware
 - Not necessarily tampered but obfuscated / packed



App is tampered → App is interesting

DEMO

NowSecure Protector APK
repackaged with Frida-gadget
via Objection



```
[00:23 edu@NowSecure 01-tampering] > apkid NowSecureProtect_v1.0.apk
[+] APKID 2.0.2 :: from RedNaga :: rednaga.io
[*] NowSecureProtect_v1.0.apk!classes.dex
| -> anti_debug : Debug.isDebuggerConnected() check
| -> anti_vm : Build.BOARD check, Build.FINGERPRINT check, Build.MANUFACTURER check, Build.MODEL check, Build.PRODUCT check, Build.SECURE check, possible vm check
| -> compiler : dx
[*] NowSecureProtect_v1.0.apk!classes2.dex
| -> compiler : dx
[00:23 edu@NowSecure 01-tampering] > objection patchapk --source NowSecureProtect_v1.0.apk
No architecture specified. Determining it using `adb`...
Detected target device architecture as: arm64-v8a
Using latest Github gadget version: 12.6.1
Patcher will be using Gadget version: 12.6.1
Unpacking NowSecureProtect_v1.0.apk
An error may have occurred while extracting the APK.
S: WARNING: Could not write to (/home/edu/.local/share/apktool/framework), using /tmp instead...
S: Please be aware this is a volatile directory and frameworks could go missing, please utilize --frame-path if the de

App already has android.permission.INTERNET
Target class not specified, searching for launchable activity instead...
Reading smali from: /tmp/tmp_yc4aoyc.apktemp/smali/com/nowsecure/android/ui/welcome/WelcomeActivity.smali
Injecting loadLibrary call at line: 6
Attempting to fix the constructors .locals count
Current locals value is 0, updating to 1:
Writing patched smali back to: /tmp/tmp_yc4aoyc.apktemp/smali/com/nowsecure/android/ui/welcome/WelcomeActivity.smali
Creating library path: /tmp/tmp_yc4aoyc.apktemp/lib/arm64-v8a
Copying Frida gadget to libs path...
Rebuilding the APK with the frida-gadget loaded...
Rebuilding the APK may have failed. Read the following output to determine if apktool actually had an error:

S: WARNING: Could not write to (/home/edu/.local/share/apktool/framework), using /tmp instead...
S: Please be aware this is a volatile directory and frameworks could go missing, please utilize --frame-path if the de

Built new APK with injected loadLibrary and frida-gadget
Signing new APK.
Signed the new APK
Performing zipalign
Zipalign completed
Copying final apk from /tmp/tmp_yc4aoyc.apktemp.aligned.objection.apk to NowSecureProtect_v1.0.objection.apk in current directory
Cleaning up temp files...
[00:24 edu@NowSecure 01-tampering] > apkid NowSecureProtect_v1.0.objection.apk
[+] APKID 2.0.2 :: from RedNaga :: rednaga.io
[*] NowSecureProtect_v1.0.objection.apk!classes.dex
| -> anti_debug : Debug.isDebuggerConnected() check
| -> anti_vm : Build.BOARD check, Build.FINGERPRINT check, Build.MANUFACTURER check, Build.MODEL check, Build.PRODUCT check, Build.SECURE check, possible vm check
| -> compiler : dexlib 2.x
[*] NowSecureProtect_v1.0.objection.apk!classes2.dex
| -> compiler : dexlib 2.x
```

Android Code Obfuscation

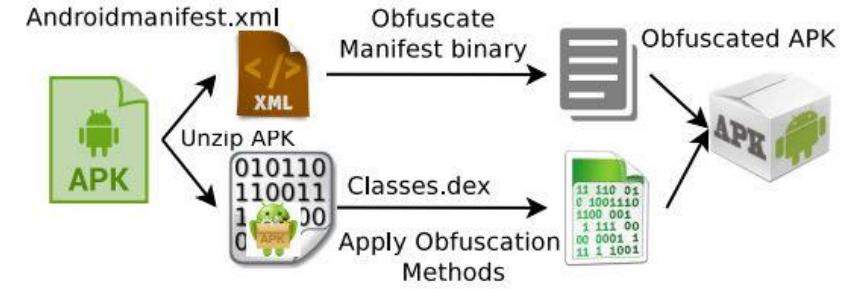
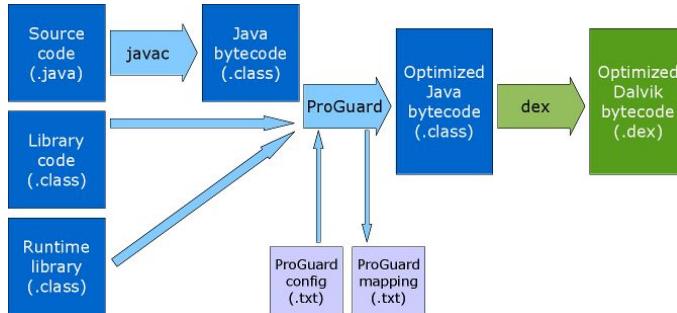
Obfuscators, packers, protectors, appshielding, RASP...



Android Code Obfuscation

Obfuscators, packers, protectors, appshielding, RASP...

- Protect intellectual property
- Make reverse engineering harder → slow down attackers
- Ensure mobile security: (requirement)
 - Mobile payment (HCE wallets [Analyzing the security of Cloud-Based Payment apps on Android](#))
 - Content protection (DRM)
 - Whitebox cryptography
 - Cryptocurrency wallets, time-based token generators, VPN client, ...
 - Any financial app in the market



Android Code Obfuscation

Obfuscators, packers, protectors, appshielding, RASP...

Product	Anti-Tampering	Anti-Hooking	Anti-Debugging	Anti-Emulator	Code Obfuscation	White-Box Cryptography	Device Binding	Root Detection	Anti-Keylogger	Anti-Screen Reader	Data Encryption	Secure Communication
Arxan for Android	✓	✓	✓	.	✓	✓	.	✓	.	.	✓	.
DNP HyperTech CrackProof	✓	.	✓	✓	.	.	.	✓
Entersekt Transakt	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	.	.
Gemalto Mobile Protector	.	✓	✓	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓	.	.	.
GuardSquare DexGuard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	✓
Inside Secure Core for Android	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓	.	✓
Intertrust WhiteCryption	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓	.	✓
PreEmptive DashO	✓	.	✓	✓	✓	.	✓	✓
Promon SHIELD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SecNeo AppShield	✓	.	✓	.	✓	✓	.

Table 1: Overview of RASP products and their advertised features.

Source: "[Honey, I shrunk your app security: The state of Android app Hardening](#)"

Android Code Obfuscation

Obfuscators, packers, protectors, appshielding, RASP...

Sample	#	Language-based			Runtime-based				TIRO	Sensitive APIs	
		Reflection	Dynamic loading	Native code	DEX file hooking	Class data overwriting	ArtMethod hooking	Instruction hooking		Iterations	Before
aliprotect	2	•	n	•	•	•			3	0	44
apkprotect	1	•	d	•					2	8	52
appguard	1	•		•	•				2	0	16
appsolid	1	•	n	•					2	0	82
baiduprotect	1	•	n	•	•	•			2	1	3
bangcle	1	•	n	•					2	1	4
dexguard	3	•							2	0	4
dexpredictor	3	•	r	•					4	0	80
dxshield	2	•	n	•	•				2	3	25
ijiamipacker	2	•	n	•	•	•	•	•	2	1	98
liapp	1	•	n	•					2	4	90
naga	1	•	n	•	•				2	2	4
naga_ph	1	•	n	•	•	•	•	•	2	0	6
nqprotect	1	•	d	•					2	1	12
qihoopacker	3	•	n	•	•				2	3	217
secshell	2	•	r,n	•	•	•			2	200	287
secneo	1	•	n	•					3	0	12
sqlpacker	2	•	d	•					2	1	31
tencentpacker	2	•	n	•	•				3	3	504
unicomsdk	2	•	d	•					2	226	237
wjshell	1	•	d	•	•				2	8	18

Android Code Obfuscation

Obfuscators, packers, protectors, appshielding, RASP...

Choose your sauce:



No Spicy



Mild



Medium Spicy



Very Spicy



Add a Kick with
Dynamite Sauce!

Android Code Obfuscation

*Renameing of classes, methods, fields and variables
String encryption*

```
v0_1 = new RootLog();  
}  
  
label_8:  
    HashMap v2_1 = new HashMap();  
    ffiiii.a("\u000B\t\n\u0010{\u0011\u0013\u0001\u0015\u0017\u0016\u0003\b\u0015\u000B\r", '\u0087', '\u0000');  
    ffiiii.a("G7=0F4005:8", '\u0016', v10);  
    ffiiii.a("uqpt^qq]oolWi[Vgb`PS^RR", '\u0003');  
    ffiiii.a("\u0011\u000F\u0010\u0016\u0002\u001A\n\u0018\u001A\u0011\u0018\u0018", '\u000F', v9);  
    ffiiii.a("\u0017\f\t\u0007\t\u000B\u0003{\u0012\u007F\f\f\u0001\u0006\u0004", '\u0090', 'K', '\u0001');  
    ffiiii.a("MKLR>LJUW", 'Z', v8);  
    ((Map)v2_1).put(ffiiii.a("\u001C\u001A\u001B!\r\"$\\u0012&(\u0014\u0019&\u001C\u001E", '8', '\u0000'), v0_1.a());  
    ((Map)v2_1).put(ffiiii.a("%\u0015\u001B\u000E$\u0012\u001E\u0013\u0018\u0016", '|', v10), wwwww.b());  
    ((Map)v2_1).put(ffiiii.a("JHIO;PR@TVUBVJGZWWIN[QS", '\u00e4', v9), v0_1.b());  
    ((Map)v2_1).put(ffiiii.a("VTU[G_O_V]]", '!', '\u0000'), wwwww.b());  
    ((Map)v2_1).put(ffiiii.a("\f\u0003\u0002\u0006\n\u0004~\u0017\u0007\u0015\u000E\u0015\u0015", '\u0018', v8), wwwww.a());  
    ((Map)v2_1).put(ffiiii.a("A=<@*62;;", 'e', '\u0001'), v0_1.c());  
    ((List)v1).add(v2_1);  
    return ((List)v1);
```



Android Code Obfuscation

*Dynamic code loading / Class encryption
Reflection (anti-static analysis)*

```
public static Object f() {
    Object object2;
    Object objecti;
    Object objecto;
    short s = ((short)QC$a.e[0x14]);
    String string0 = QC$a.j(s, ((byte)(s | 0x28)), ((byte)QC$a.e[0xBF]));
    short s1 = ((short)QC$a.e[0xD]);
    String string1 = QC$a.j(s1, ((byte)(s1 & 0x2A)), ((byte)QC$a.e[0x2F]));
    int i = 2;
    try {
        object0 = Class.forName(QC$a.j(0x4F, ((byte)(-QC$a.e[6])), ((byte)QC$a.e[9]))).getMethod(
            QC$a.j(0x9B, ((byte)QC$a.e[0x44])), ((byte)QC$a.e[0x47]), String.class, String.class)
            .invoke(null, string0, string1);
    } catch(Throwable throwable0) {
        throw throwable0.getCause();
    }
    byte[] array_b = new byte[]{-84, -71, 0x60, -63, 3, -24, 6, -120, -17, 2, -38, -32, -30, 0x29,
        -89, 0x29};
    String string2 = QC$a.j(0x61, ((byte)(QC$a.e[0x1E] - 1)), ((byte)QC$a.e[0x31]));
    int i1 = 2;
    try {
        object1 = Class.forName(QC$a.j(((short)QC$a.e[0x3A]), ((byte)(-QC$a.e[6])), ((byte)QC$a.
            e[0x3A])).getDeclaredConstructor(byte[].class, String.class).newInstance(array_b,
            string2));
    } catch(Throwable throwable0) {
        throw throwable0.getCause();
    }
    byte[] array_b1 = new byte[]{0x5A, 6, -2, -75, 0x63, 0x4B, 0x20, 0x66, 0xC, -125, 0xB, 0x6E,
        -2, 9, 0x64, 0x48};
    try {
        object2 = Class.forName(QC$a.j(0x73, ((byte)(-QC$a.e[6])), ((byte)(-QC$a.e[0x1D]))).getDeclaredConstructor(
            byte[].class).newInstance(array_b1);
    } catch(Throwable throwable0) {
        throw throwable0.getCause();
    }
    i1 = 3;
    try {
        array_object1 = new Object[i1];
        array_object1[2] = object2;
        array_object1[1] = objecti;
        array_object1[0] = new Integer(2);
        Class class0 = Class.forName(QC$a.j(0x4F, ((byte)(-QC$a.e[6])), ((byte)QC$a.e[9])));
        string2 = QC$a.j(((short)QC$a.e[0x2F]), ((byte)QC$a.e[0x14]), ((byte)(-QC$a.e[6])));
        Class[] array_class = new Class[3];
        array_class[0] = Integer.TYPE;
        array_class[1] = String.class;
        array_class[2] = Object.class;
    }
```



Android Code Obfuscation

*Dynamic code loading
Class encryption*

FRIDA

```
[Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.Cipher]
[] Received: [Reflection -> setMethod => getInstance => public static final javax.crypto.Cipher javax.crypto.Cipher.getInstance(java.lang.String,java.lang.String) throws java.security.NoSuchAlgorithmException,java.security.NoSuchProviderException,java.crypto.NoSuchPaddingException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.spec.SecretKeySpec]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.spec.IvParameterSpec]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.Cipher]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.security.Key]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.security.spec.AlgorithmParameterSpec]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => init => public final void javax.crypto.Cipher.init(int,java.security.Key,java.security.spec.AlgorithmParameterSpec) throws java.security.InvalidKeyException,java.security.InvalidAlgorithmParameterException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.Cipher]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => doFinal => public final byte[] javax.crypto.Cipher.doFinal(byte[],int,int) throws javax.crypto.IllegalBlockSizeException,java.crypto.BadPaddingException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.util.zip.Inflater]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.util.zip.Inflater]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => setInput => public void java.util.zip.Inflater.setInput(byte[],int,int)]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.util.zip.Inflater]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => inflate => public int java.util.zip.Inflater.inflate(byte[]) throws java.util.zip.DataFormatException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => dalvik.system.DexFile]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => write => public void java.io.OutputStream.write(byte[],int,int) throws java.io.IOException]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => getFD => public final java.io.FileDescriptor java.io.FileOutputStream.getFD() throws java.io.IOException]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => sync => public native void java.io.FileDescriptor.sync() throws java.io.SyncFailedException]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => close => public void java.io.OutputStream.close() throws java.io.IOException]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => getAbsolutePath => public java.lang.String java.io.File.getAbsolutePath()]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => getAbsolutePath => public java.lang.String java.io.File.getAbsolutePath()]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => dalvik.system.DexFile]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => loadDex => public static dalvik.system.DexFile dalvik.system.DexFile.loadDex(java.lang.String,java.lang.String,int) throws java.io.IOException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => dalvik.system.DexFile]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => loadClass => public java.lang.Class dalvik.system.DexFile.loadClass(java.lang.String,java.lang.ClassLoader)]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => dalvik.system.DexFile]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => close => public void dalvik.system.Dexfile.close() throws java.io.IOException]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => delete => public boolean java.io.File.delete()]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => delete => public boolean java.io.File.delete()]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.Cipher]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => getInstance => public static final javax.crypto.Cipher javax.crypto.Cipher.getInstance(java.lang.String,java.lang.String) throws java.security.NoSuchAlgorithmException,java.security.NoSuchProviderException,java.crypto.NoSuchPaddingException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.spec.SecretKeySpec]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.spec.IvParameterSpec]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.Cipher]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.security.Key]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.security.spec.AlgorithmParameterSpec]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => init => public final void javax.crypto.Cipher.init(int,java.security.Key,java.security.spec.AlgorithmParameterSpec) throws java.security.InvalidKeyException,java.security.InvalidAlgorithmParameterException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => javax.crypto.Cipher]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => doFinal => public final byte[] javax.crypto.Cipher.doFinal(byte[],int,int) throws javax.crypto.IllegalBlockSizeException,java.crypto.BadPaddingException]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.util.zip.Inflater]
[] Received: [Reflection => forName => java.util.zip.Inflater]
[] Received: [Reflection => getMethod => setInput => public void java.util.zip.Inflater.setInput(byte[],int,int)]
```



Android Code Obfuscation

Anti-disassembly tricks

```
Q.oWe X
}
protected java.lang.String findLibrary(java.lang.String r9) {
    /* JADX: method processing error */
/*
Error: jadx.core.utils.exceptions.JadxRuntimeException: Unreachable block: B:5:0x0011
at jadx.core.dex.visitors.blocksmaker.BlockProcessor.modifyBlocksTree(BlockProcessor.java:248)
at jadx.core.dex.visitors.blocksmaker.BlockProcessor.processBlocksTree(BlockProcessor.java:52)
at jadx.core.dex.visitors.blocksmaker.BlockProcessor.visit(BlockProcessor.java:38)
at jadx.core.dex.visitors.DepthTraversal.visit(DepthTraversal.java:31)
at jadx.core.dex.visitors.DepthTraversal.visit(DepthTraversal.java:17)
at jadx.core.ProcessClass.process(ProcessClass.java:34)
at jadx.api.JadxDecompiler.processClass(JadxDecompiler.java:296)
at jadx.api.JavaClass.decompile(JavaClass.java:62)
*/
/*
    /*
    r8 = this;
    goto L_0x0019;
L_0x0001:
    r7 = move-exception;
    r0 = new java.lang.RuntimeException;
    r0.<init>(r7);
    throw r0;
    L_0x0008:
    r0 = 61;
    r2 = 61;
    $$I1 = r2;
    goto L_0x0012;
    goto L_0x0013;
L_0x0012:
    goto L_0x001c;
L_0x0013:
    goto L_0x001c;
L_0x0014:
    r0 = move-exception;
    r0 = r0.getCause();
L_0x0019:
    r1 = o.We.class;
    goto L_0x0008;
L_0x001c:
    r5 = 0;      Catch:{ all -> 0x0014 }
    r6 = r1.getClassLoader();  Catch:{ all -> 0x0014 }
    r0 = r6.getClass();      Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r1 = "findLibrary";      Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r2 = 1;      Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r2 = new java.lang.Class[r2];  Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r3 = java.lang.String.class;  Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r4 = 0;      Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r2[4] = r3;  Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r7 = r8.newInstance(r0, r1, r2);  Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r0 = 1;      Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
    r7.setAccessible(true);  Catch:{ Exception -> 0x0001 }
```



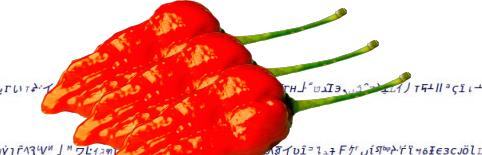
Android Code Obfuscation

Renaming

```

v5 = v5; // L<>_L17: <new> L18;
int v1_1 = 0;
while(v5 != null) {
    int v2 = v0_1 + 1;
    this._L18.v1_1 = v2;
    int v1_2 = v4 + 1;
    this._L18.v1_2 = v2;
    int v1_3 = v2_1 + 1;
    this._L18.v1_3 = v2;
    if(v5.v1_3 == null) {
        v0_1 = v2_2 + 1;
        this._L18.v0_1 = v2;
    }
    else {
        int v6 = v5.v1_3;
        int v1_4 = v2_2 + 1;
        this._L18.v1_4 = v2;
        int v2_3 = 0;
        while(v2_3 < v6) {
            this._L18.v2_3 = v2_3;
            ++v2_3;
            ++v1_4;
        }
        v0_1 = v1_4;
    }
    v5 = v5.v1_3;
}

```



This snippet illustrates an obfuscation technique where variables are renamed. In the original code, variables like `v1_1`, `v1_2`, and `v1_3` are used to track indices or pointers. After obfuscation, they are replaced by new names: `v0_1`, `v2`, `v3`, and `v4`. The class name `this._L18` is also present, indicating the current state of the variable during the loop iteration. The condition `v5 != null` is checked at the start of the loop.

Native Code Obfuscation

String encryption

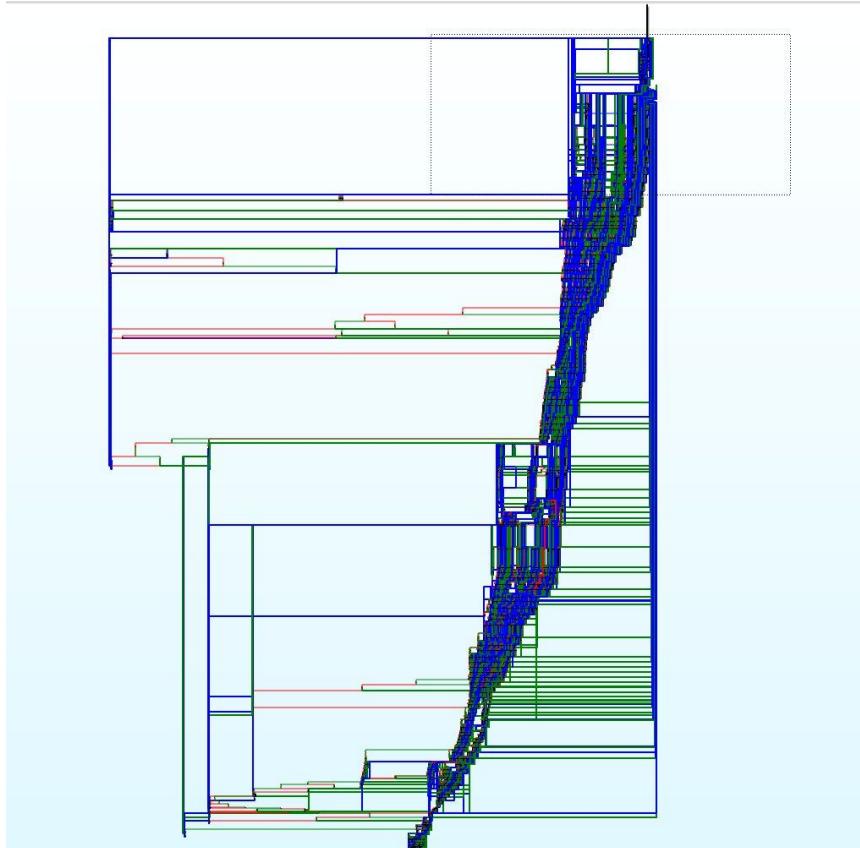
```
34| char v117; // r2
35| int v118; // r4
36| int (__fastcall *v119)(int, int); // r5
37| int v120; // r0
38| int v122; // [sp+17Ch] [bp+Ch]
39|
40| v86 = a1;
41| a26 = -1836023616;
42| BYTE2(a29) = -91;
43| a27 = 1980321002;
44| a28 = 21516214;
45| a24 = 1535148118;
46| a23 = -588862745;
47| a25 = -1643676290;
48| LOWORD(a29) = 2347;
49| while ( (unsigned __int8)a23 != 238 )
{
50|     *(((_BYTE *)&a23 + (unsigned __int8)a23 % 0x1Au + 1)) += 3;
51|     LOBYTE(a23) = a23 + 1;
52}
53| a11 = 622181664;
54| a12 = 1390984027;
55| a13 = 355746589;
56| a14 = -2112483426;
57| a15 = 9;
58| while ( (unsigned __int8)a11 != 40 )
{
59|     *(((_BYTE *)&a11 + (a11 & 0xF) + 1)) += 3;
60|     LOBYTE(a11) = a11 + 1;
61}
62| a36 = 848482653;
63| a35 = 1986857018;
64| a31 = 777837714;
65| a32 = -1217557589;
66| a37 = 9969;
67| a30 = -1206877002;
68| a33 = -1791457705;
69| a34 = -1080671916;
70| while ( (unsigned __int8)a30 != 183 )
{
71|     *(((_BYTE *)&a86 + (unsigned __int8)a30 % 0x1Du - 227)) += 3;
72|     LOBYTE(a30) = a30 + 1;
73}
74| v87 = (unsigned int8)a32 ^ BYTE2(a35);
```



Native Code Obfuscation

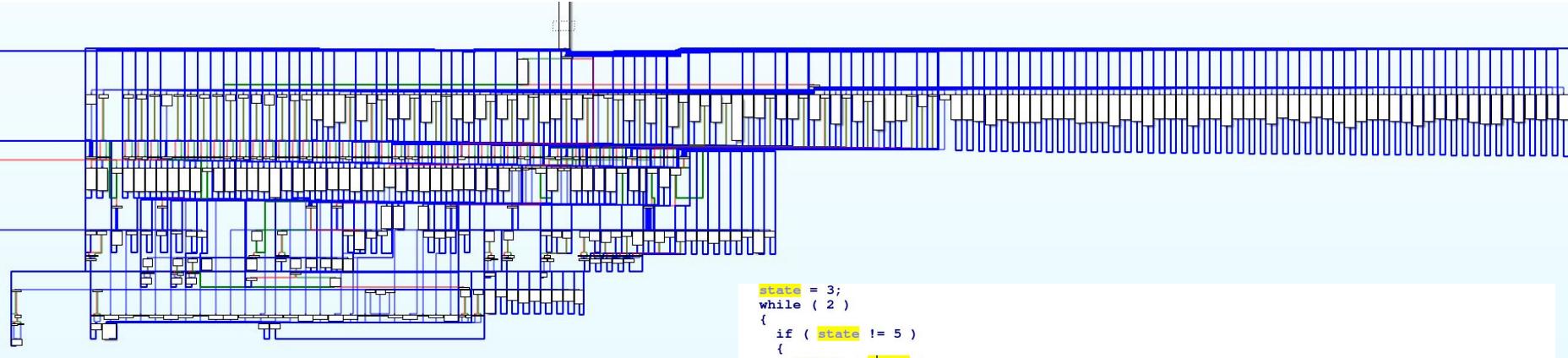
Junk code

Opaque predicates



Native Code Obfuscation

Control Flow Graph flattening



```
state = 3;
while ( 2 )
{
    if ( state != 5 )
    {
        switch ( state )
        {
            case 0:
                v80 = (0x38B09FBF * v54) >> 17;
                v72 += 0xE65788BD2;
                state = -v80 & 7;
                continue;
            case 1:
                v72 *= 2;
                v72 &= 0xE27D31AD;
                goto LABEL_27;
            case 2:
                state = (unsigned __int64)sub_545B4(v130, *(__QWORD *) (v51 + 8), &v147, 2LL) != 0;
                v54 = 0x86E65A89;
                continue;
            case 3:
                v72 *= 0x69641CFA;
                state = 2;
                continue;
            case 4:
                v72 *= 2;
                state = 5;
                continue;
            default:
                continue;
        }
    }
    break;
}
```



Native Code Obfuscation

Anti-disassembly tricks



```
| 0xc774a [gp]
| ; CODE XREF from fcn.000c7684 (0xc772c)
| ; CODE XREF from syscall.0.1 (+0xd2)
| 0x000c774a 0020          movs r0, 0
| 0x000c774c 0d90          str r0, [sp + local_34h]
| 0x000c774e 0d9b          ldr r3, [sp + local_34h]
| ; 0xc7768
| 0x000c7750 05a0          adr r0, 0x14
| 0x000c7752 00ea0301      and.w r1, r0, r3
| 0x000c7756 4ff00202      mov.w r2, 2
| 0x000c775a 02fb01f1      mul r1, r2, r1
| 0x000c775e .dword 0x0003ea80 ; aav.0x0003ea80
| 0x000c7762 0844          add r0, r1
| 0x000c7764 8746          mov pc, r0

| 0xc7bbe [gAv]
| ; CODE XREFS from fcn.000c7684 (0xc7b22, 0xc7bb4)
| 0x000c7bbe 4e98          ldr r0, [sp + local_138h]
| 0x000c7bc0 0121          movs r1, 1
| 0x000c7bc2 5090          str r0, [sp + local_140h]
| 0x000c7bc4 0128          cmp r0, 1
| ;-- aav.0x000c7bc6:
| ; UNKNOWN XREF from aav.0x00542704 (+0x18)
| 0x000c7bc6 .dword 0x0004f04f ; aav.0x0004f04e
| 0x000c7bca 08bf          it eq,[gBk]

| f t
| |
| |
| .
|
| 0xc7bcc [gBk]
| ; CODE XREF from fcn.000c7684 (0xc7bca)
| 0x000c7bcc 0221          movs r1, 2
```

Native Code Obfuscation

Obfuscated function calls

Functions window

Function name	Segi ^
ObfuscatedCall<ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>>(...)	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>(char *,int)>::original(void)	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<int (*)>(void *,int)>::original(void)	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>(char *)>::original(void)	.text
strlen	.text
pAB7771827B1F51FA3E703EE417D1A4FE(char *,func_info...)	.text
pFB3268AF3FB1EBD7DCB3D5976048615(char *,func_inf...)	.text
p88113D1ADA765D25AE4E7A343F98DAA8(char const*,fu...)	.text
find_hexunker_feature(void)	.text
sub_15E84	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)(_JNIEnv *)>::original(void)	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>(char *,char *,int,int)>::origi...	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>(char)>::original(void)	.text
ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>(void *,int,int)>::original(voi...	.text
JNI_OnLoad	.text
sub_19328	.text
sub_19A08	.text
sub_19AF4	.text
sub_19BDC	.text
sub_19C98	.text
pD1C5995441BDE309801AA2D6599D7D72	.text
p7F782C775179F8B6311393E00D93C5CF	.text
p75BAEF8CD621B5EF6A86CD883CFFE175	.text
pE4179E5B7B934B31C6DA2EFACBE38B40	.text

Line 196 of 1046

Graph overview

IDA View-A Pseudocode-B Pseudocode-A Hex View-1 Structures Enums

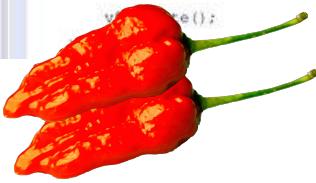
```
2666 }  
2667 }  
2668 if ( byte_4E088[4] )  
2669     goto LABEL_150;  
2670 if ( p3A986CD02384F03165D40910A7CD9F37 <= 0 )  
2671 {  
2672     if ( p87A0F4CD3F3E115EB8DF9B8F839AF245 == 1 )  
2673     {  
2674         v199 = &loc_1A6A4;  
2675         v200 = 288;  
2676         v43 = ObfuscatedCall<ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>>((char *)&loc_1A6A4 + 1, 288);  
2677         goto LABEL_74;  
2678     }  
2679     v219 = &loc_DCF6;  
2680     v220 = 449;  
2681     v41 = (int (__fastcall *)(void *))ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)(_JNIEnv *)>::original(&v219);  
2682     v42 = v194;  
2683 }  
2684 else  
2685 {  
2686     v217 = sub_41668;  
2687     v218 = 527;  
2688     v41 = (int (__fastcall *)(void *))ObfuscatedAddress<void (*)>::original();  
2689     v42 = needle;  
2690 }  
2691 v43 = v41(v42);  
2692 LABEL_74:  
2693     p75BAEF8CD621B5EF6A86CD883CFFE175(v43);  
2694     memset(&src, 0, 0x15u);  
2695     v667 = -36;  
2696     v659 = -47;  
2697     v662 = -43;  
2698     v668 = -47;
```

000169F2 JNI_OnLoad:2681 (169F2)



Android Packers

Dynamic code loading



The screenshot shows an Android studio-like IDE interface with several panes:

- Project Explorer:** Shows files like `classes.dex.dat`, `default.theme`, `dp.arm-v7.so.dat`, etc. A red box highlights the `protectedkonyapplication` folder.
- Bytecode/Disassembly:** Displays Java code with some parts in Chinese. A red box highlights the `ProtectedKonyApplication` class definition.
- Bytecode/Hierarchy:** Shows the class hierarchy for `com.konylabs.LibKonyApplication` and `ProtectedKonyApplication`.
- File Explorer:** Shows the file structure with a red box highlighting the `ProtectedMyApplication` folder.
- Bytecode/Disassembly:** Displays assembly code for `ProtectedMyApplication` with comments in Chinese.
- File Explorer:** Shows the file structure for `ProtectedMyApplication`.

Android Code Protectors

Too many

- Arxan
- Appdome
- ADVObfuscator
- Allatori
- AppSuit
- DexGuard
- DexProtector
- MetaFortress
- Firehash
- Obfuscator-LLVM
- AliPay obfuscator
- Promon
- Gemalto Mobile Protector
- DxShield
- Amazon Kiwi
- WhiteCryption
- Baidu
-
- Secenh
- SecShell
- SecNeo
- Bangcle
- AppSealing
- AppSuit
- ApkGuard
- AppGuard
- APKProtect
- AppSolid
- ApkToolPlus (Jagu)
- Gaoxor
- ChornClickers
- UPX
- Kiro
- NQ Shield
- Medusah
- Qihoo 360
- Yidun ...

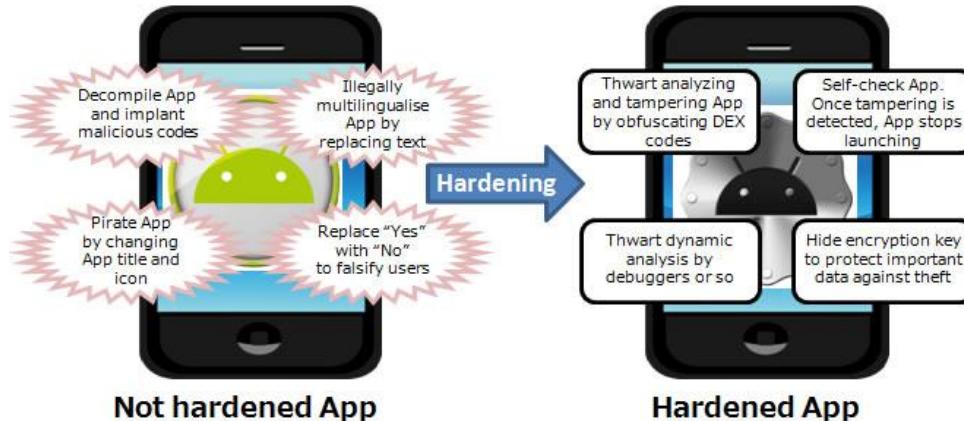
DEMOS



Takeaways

Before we go

- APKiD identifies **tampered** (repackaged), packed, obfuscated and **protected** Android apps
- **Automation** (multiple instances) → APKiD can store JSON data into DB
- Yara rules are **fast** → **Combine** static + dynamic analysis
- APKiD can be easily **extended** for your own purposes
- Easy to reuse rules that might be applicable to **other** environments → iOS, ELF binaries, ...
- Once a new obfuscator rule released → Vendors often modify codebases to **avoid** detection



THANK YOU!

Q&A

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