

Android Security Testing

The following topics will be covered in this lab:

- Secure source code review patterns for Android
- Privacy and sensitive information review
- General process of APK security analysis
- Static secure code scanning with QARK

Privacy scanning with Androwarn

To automate the privacy scanning with APK, we can use the tool Androwarn which is a Python script to do the privacy information scanning.

Step 1 -- scanning of an APK

The execution of Androwarn takes some parameters, such as the APK, the report format, the level of verbosity, and the lookup to Google Play. The Google Play lookup is recommended to be disabled if the testing environment can't connect to the internet, as follows:

```
cd C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07\androwarn

python androwarn.py -i ./_SampleApplication/bin/SampleApplication.apk -r html -v 3
```

For detailed usage of Androwarn, refer to `python [androwarn.py -h]`

Step 2 -- review the report

If you have specified the HTML report output in the previous step, then the report will be generated in the current directory as follows:

Androwarn Report com.androwarn.sampleapplication

APPLICATION INFORMATION
Application Name
Application Version
Package Name
Description
ANALYSIS RESULTS
Telephony Identifiers Leakage
Device Settings Harvesting
Location Lookup
Connection Interfaces Exfiltration
Telephony Services Abuse
Audio Video Eavesdropping
Suspicious Connection Establishment
Pim Data Leakage
Code Execution

Telephony Identifiers Leakage

This application reads the phone's current state

This application reads the current location of the de

This application reads the unique device ID, i.e the

This application reads the software version number

This application reads the numeric name (MCC+MNC)

This application reads the operator name

This application reads the SIM's serial number

This application reads the unique subscriber ID, for

This application reads the Location Area Code value

This application reads the Cell ID value

General process of APK security analysis

This is a list of the tools for the reverse engineering of APK and security analysis:

Tools	Usage in security testing
apktool_2.1.0.jar	The APKTool is used to reverse the APK file into Smali, resource files and also extract the manifest.xml
JADX	It's used to reverse the APK file into Java source code
goatdroid.apk	It's the vulnerable sample APK

Here is how we place these tools in the folder for the purposes of the coming demonstration:

Folder structure of the testing environment

```
\jadx
\APKscan
+----- apktool_2.1.0.jar
+----- goatdroid.apk
+-----\JavaSource1
+-----\JavaSource2
+-----\Output
```

Step 1 -- use APKTool to reverse the APK to Manifest.xml, Smali and resources

The purpose of this step is to generate the Smali, resource files, and [manifest.xml] for initial security analysis. There are some security issues that can be identified by these file types, such as sensitive information exposure and incorrect permission settings, as follows:

```
cd C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07

Java -jar apktool_2.1.0.jar d goatdroid.apk -o JavaSource1 -f
```

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19042.1586]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>cd C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07

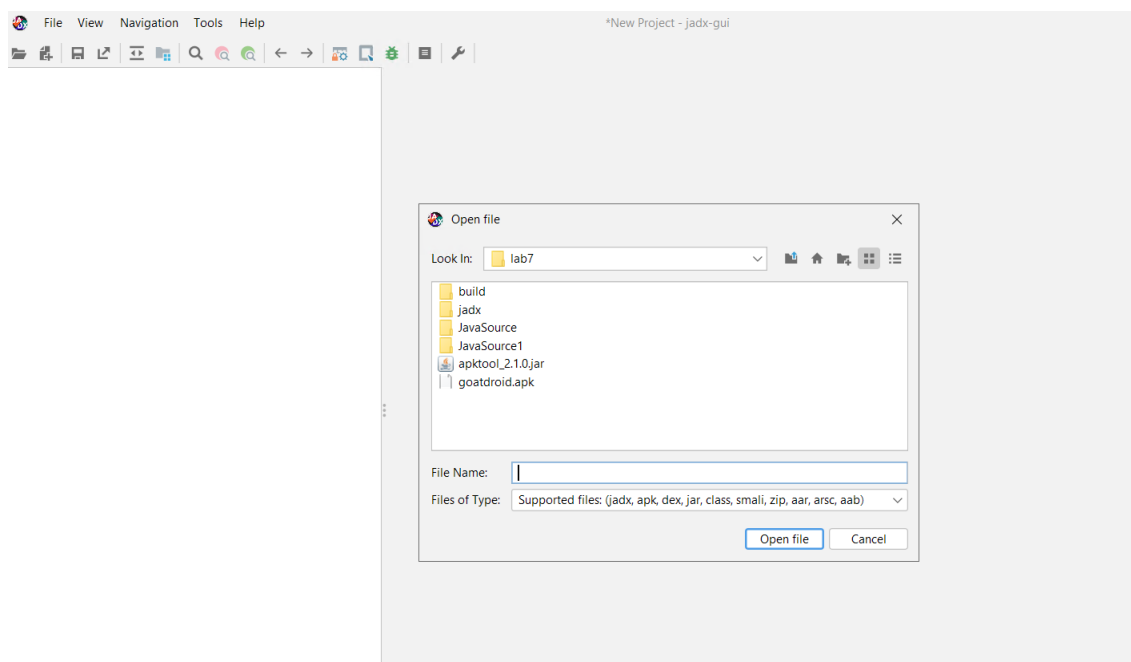
C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>
C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>Java -jar apktool_2.1.0.jar d goadroid.apk -o JavaSource1 -f
I: Using Apktool 2.1.0 on goadroid.apk
I: Loading resource table...
I: Decoding AndroidManifest.xml with resources...
I: Loading resource table from file: C:\Users\fenago\apktool\framework\1.apk
I: Regular manifest package...
I: Decoding file-resources...
I: Decoding values */* XMLs...
I: Baksmaling classes.dex...
I: Copying assets and libs...
I: Copying unknown files...
I: Copying original files...

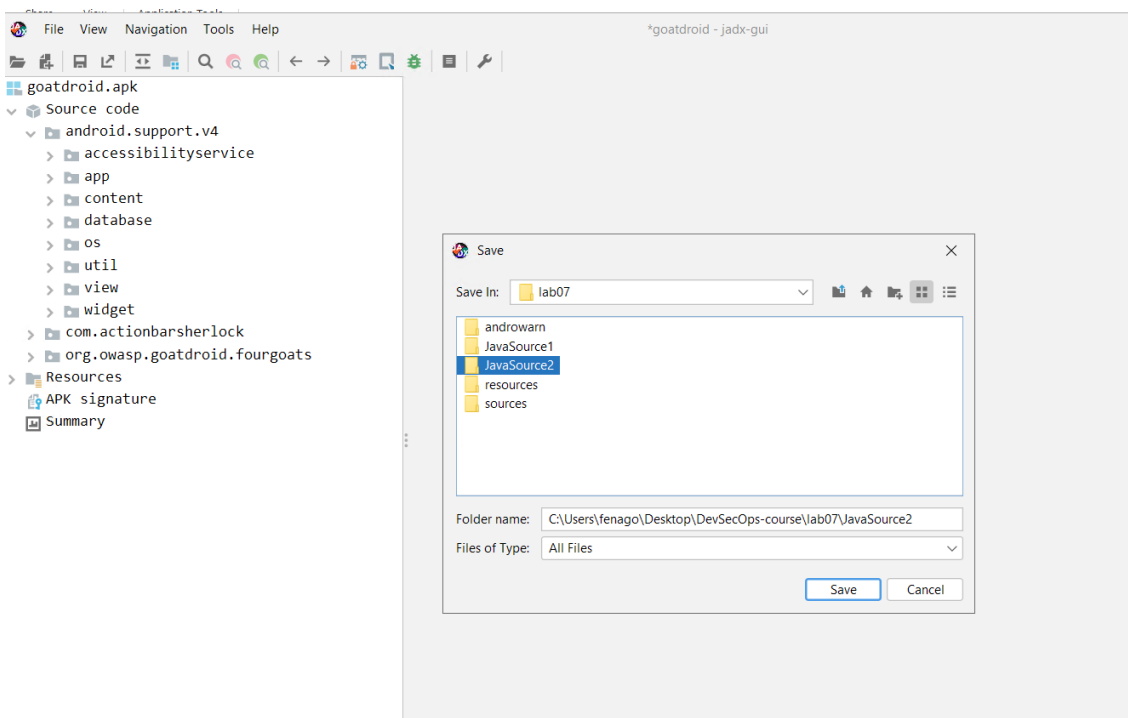
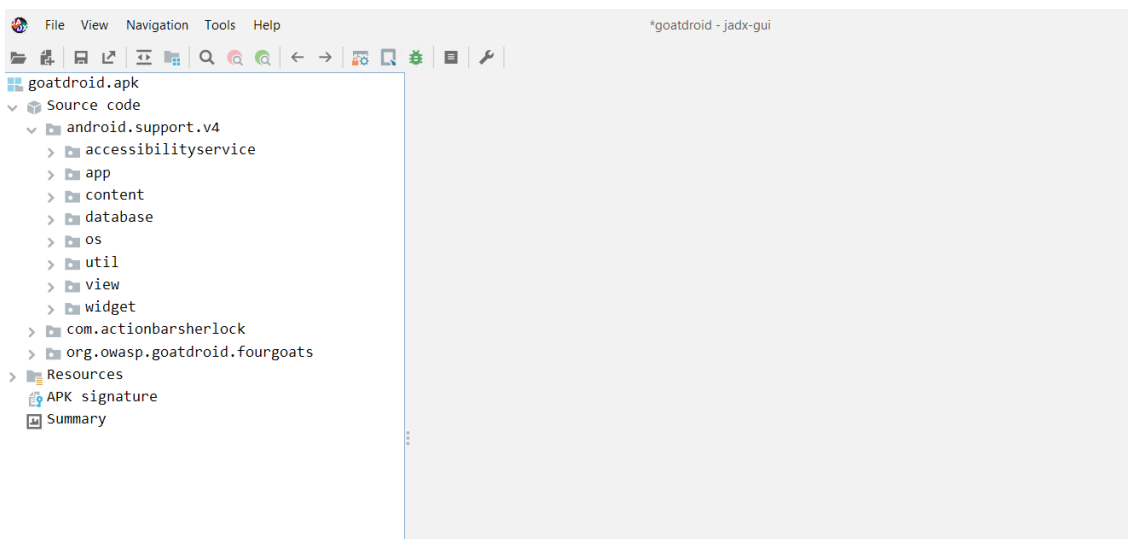
C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>
```

Step 2 -- use JADX to reverse the APK into Java source code

This will reverse the APK into Java source code. Then, we can do static secure code scanning in the next setup.

Launch `jadx-gui-1.3.4.exe` located in **Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07** folder to start Jadx GUI:





To save Java source code, Click **File** and select **Save All** and save in `JavaSource2` folder.

Step 3 -- APK scanning with QARK

To scan the APK, execute the python script [qarkMain.py] with parameters, as follows:

```
cd C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07

qark --java ./JavaSource2
```

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19042.1586]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

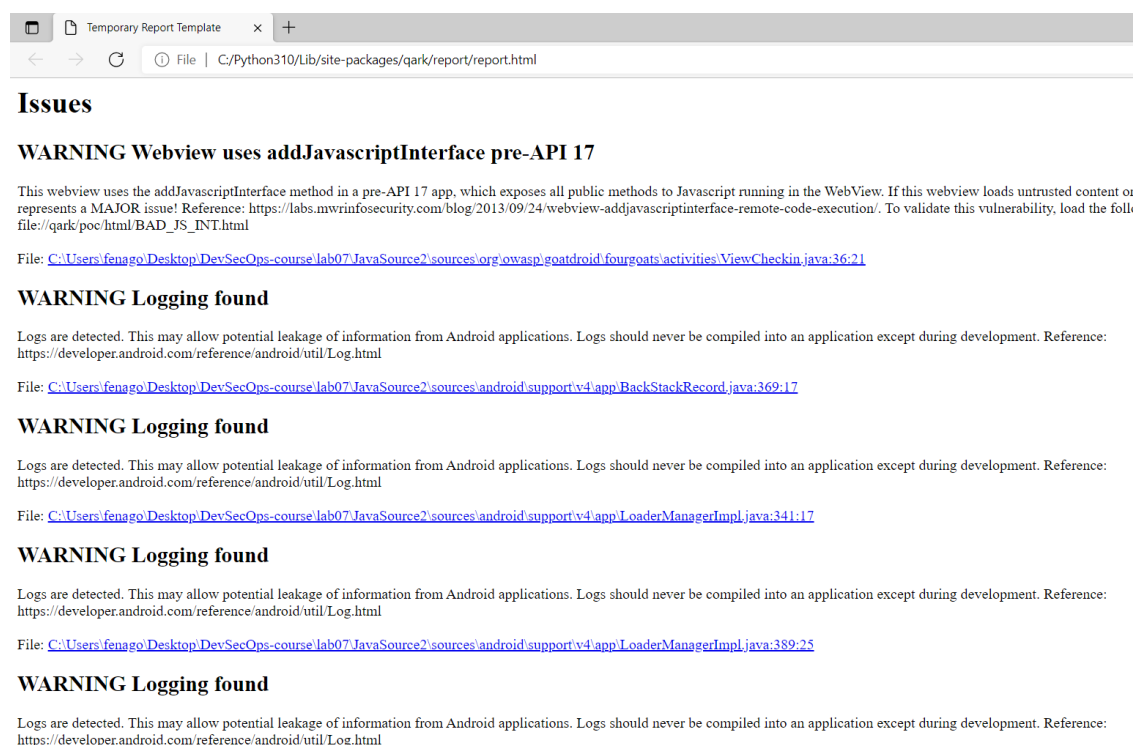
C:\Users\fenago\Downloads>cd C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07

C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>
C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>qark --java ./JavaSource2
Decompiling...
Running scans...
Finish scans...
Writing report...
Finish writing report to C:\Python310\Lib\site-packages\qark\report\report.html ...

C:\Users\fenago\Desktop\DevSecOps-course\lab07>
```

Step 3 -- review the results

The report will be generated under the [C:\Python310\Lib\site-packages\qark\report\report.html]. The following screenshot shows the scanning report of the `goatdroid.apk` source code:



Summary

To automate these security and privacy security reviews, we applied different tools based on the scenario. Androwarn is used to do privacy scanning for any APK files. We used QARK to do the automated APK static security scanning.

In the next lab, we will discuss the infrastructure security for system hardening, secure communication and configurations.