Pegasus Spyware - Overview Pegasus spyware

Is malicious software that is designed to enter a device,gather your data, and then forward it to a third party without the consent of the user.

• Pegasus was developed in 2010 by the Israeli firm, the NSO Group.

• Pegasus spyware was first discovered in an iOS version in 2016 and then a slightly different version was found on Android.

• Pegasus spyware is able to read the victim's SMS messages and emails, listen to calls, take screenshots, record keystrokes, and access contacts and browser history.

• Hackers can hijack the phone's microphone and camera, turning it into a real-time surveillance device.

• Pegasus can send back to the hacker the target's private data, including, contact lists, calendar events, passwords, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps".

• The target's phone camera and microphone can be turned on to capture all activity in the phone's vicinity, expanding the scope of the surveillance.

• Pegasus has evolved from a crude system that was reliant on social engineering to software that can compromise a phone without the user having to click on a single link. This is called Zero-click attack.

What Pegasus spyware can do

SMS

WhatsApp

iMessage

Unknown Vulnerability

It can be installed via

It can harvest

SMS

Email

Photos & Videos

Contacts

Record Callls

WhatsApp Chats

Calendar

Activate Microphone

Activate Camera

GPS Data

Evolution of Pegasus Spyware

• In 2016, It infected smartphones using a technique called "spear-fishing": the hackers send malicious links to the target via text messages and emails.

• In 2019, Pegasus was able to infiltrate a device with a missed call on WhatsApp and could even delete the record of this missed call. This makes it difficult for the user to know that they were targeted.

• In the same year, WhatsApp said Pegasus exploited a bug in its code to infect more than 1,400 iPhones and Android phones. These include journalists, government officials and human rights activists. It soon fixed the bug.

• July 2021: The Pegasus Project, an international investigative journalism effort, revealed that various governments used the software to spy on opposition politicians, government officials, activists, journalists and many others. It said the Indian government used it to spy on around 300 people between 2017 and 2019.

How can one detect the Pegasus Spyware?

 Researchers at Amnesty International have developed a tool to see whether your phone is targeted by spyware. The tool is called Mobile Verification Toolkit (MVT), the tool is aimed to help you identify if the Pegasus spyware has targeted your phone. It works with both Android and iOS devices.