Android Mobile Pentest 101

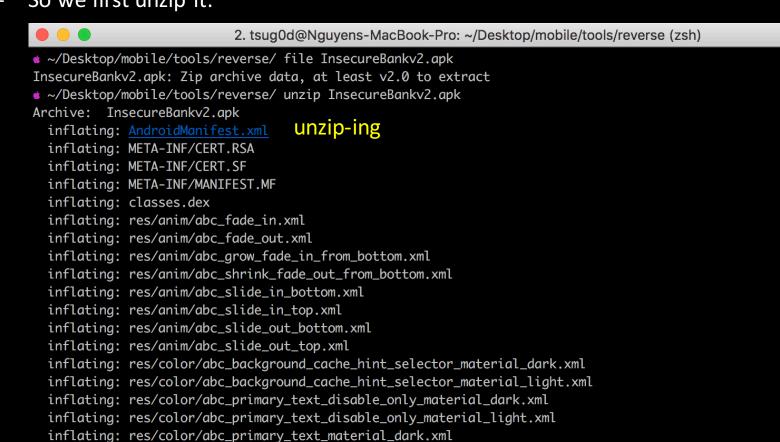
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Lecture 4 – Reversing The App

Goal: Got some basic reverse skill on android app

- APK (Android application package) is an app creator for Android, it contains all the elements that an app needs to install correctly on mobile device
- Like EXE on windows, you can place APK file on mobile device to install. Manually installing apps using APK is called sideloading
- Below is a list describing the most prominent files and folders:
- META-INF/: Contains the manifest file, signature, and a list of resources in the archive
- lib/: Native libraries that run on specific device architectures (armeabi-v7a, x86, etc.)
- res/: Resources, such as images, that were not compiled into resources.arsc
- AndroidManifest.xml: Describes the name, version, and contents of the APK file
- classes.dex: The compiled Java classes to be run on the device (.DEX file)
- resources.arsc: The compiled resources, such as strings, used by the app (.ARSC file)

- APK files are a type of archive file, specifically in zip format-type packages, based on the JAR file format, with .apk as the filename extension.
- So we first unzip it:



We can see what we said above

```
2. tsug0d@Nguyens-MacBook-Pro: ~/Desktop/mok
~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/ ls -la
total 19304
drwxr-xr-x 8 tsug0d staff 256 Sep 12 11:23 .
                            480 Sep 12 11:22 ...
drwxr-xr-x@ 15 tsug0d staff
-rw-r--r-@ 1 tsug0d staff
                              7384 Dec 31 1979 AndroidManifest.xml
-rw-r--r-@ 1 tsug0d staff 3632378 Sep 12 11:22 InsecureBankv2.apk
                               160 Sep 12 11:23 META-INF
drwxr-xr-x@ 5 tsug0d staff
-rw-r--r-@ 1 tsug0d staff 5789092 Dec 31 1979 classes.dex
                                896 Sep 12 11:23 res
drwxr-xr-x@ 28 tsug0d staff
-rw-r--r--@ 1 tsug0d staff
                             447308 Dec 31 1979 resources.arsc
```

- But it's not good enough for our reversing phase (because it's just unzip, and most of the file is in binary format).
- Let Decompile it!

- <u>APKTool</u> is the very first tool you want to use, it is capable of decompiling the AndroidManifest file to its original XML format, the resources arsc file and it will also convert the classes.dex (and classes 2.dex if present) file to an intermediary language called SMALI, an ASM-like language used to represent the Dalvik VM opcodes as a human readable language.
- Type command:

apktool d InsecureBankv2.apk

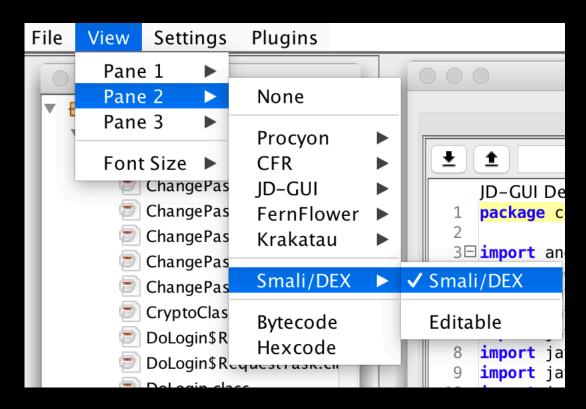
Once finished, the InsecureBankv2 folder is created and you'll find all the output of apktool in there (included small code).

```
    ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/ ls
AndroidManifest.xml apktool.yml original res smali
```

- You can also get java source code using dex2jar (output is jar file)
- Read the java source code in jar using jd-gui

Just inform the basic, no need to follow, we can do all the task with ByteCode Viewer (remember? ©)

- We will talk about SMALI, let look at some smali code
- Load the apk to ByteCode Viewer
- Choose like this:



- Now open Insecurebankv2.apk/com/android/insecurebankv2/DoLogin\$RequestTask.class, we got

smali code in panel 2

```
Smali Decompiler - Editable: false
    .class Lcom/android/insecurebankv2/DoLogin$RequestTask;
    .super Landroid/os/AsyncTask;
   # annotations
    .annotation system Ldalvik/annotation/EnclosingClass;
        value = Lcom/android/insecurebankv2/DoLogin;
    .end annotation
    .annotation system Ldalvik/annotation/InnerClass;
11
        accessFlags = 0x0
12
        name = "RequestTask"
    .end annotation
14
    .annotation system Ldalvik/annotation/Signature;
16⊟
        value = {
17
            "Landroid/os/AsyncTask",
18
19
            "Ljava/lang/String;",
20
            "Ljava/lang/String;",
21
            "Ljava/lang/String;",
22
23
    .end annotation
25
26
    # instance fields
    .field final synthetic this$0:Lcom/android/insecurebankv2/DoLogin;
29
30
    # direct methods
    .method constructor <init>(Lcom/android/insecurebankv2/DoLogin;)V
33
        .registers 2
34
35
        iput-object p1, p0, Lcom/android/insecurebankv2/DoLogin$RequestTask;->this$0:Lcom/android/insecur
36
37
        invoke-direct {p0}, Landroid/os/AsyncTask;-><init>()V
38
39
        return-void
    .end method
```

- Remember the "devadmin" bypass login? We will take a look at it in java bytecode (smali) ©

```
if (this.this$0.username.equals("devadmin"))
{
   localHttpPost2.setEntity(new UrlEncodedFormEntity(localArrayList));
   localHttpResponse = localDefaultHttpClient.execute(localHttpPost2);
}
else
{
   localHttpPost1.setEntity(new UrlEncodedFormEntity(localArrayList));
   localHttpResponse = localDefaultHttpClient.execute(localHttpPost1);
}
```

- So we first find this string in small code

```
const-string v5, "devadmin"

invoke-virtual {v4, v5}, Ljava/lang/String;->equals(Ljava/lang/Object;)Z

move-result v4

if-eqz v4, :cond_11c

and
```

- What it does is compare our input (v4) with the string "devadmin" (v5) by calling Java.lang.String.equals() method, if equal return 1, else 0
- Then the result is saved in v4
- The program call the condition if-eqz (if equal zero), so if the input is not "devadmin", it goes to :cond_11c

We look the code after if-eqz fail and the code at :cond_11c

Equals to "devadmin"

```
413
         -if-eqz·v4, cond_11c
414
         new-instance v2, Lorg/apache/http/client/entity/UrlEncodedFormEntity;
416
          invoke-direct {v2, v1}, Lorg/apache/http/client/entity/UrlEncodedFormEntity;-><init>(Ljava/util/List;)V
417
418
          invoke-virtual {v3, v2}, Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpPost;->setEntity(Lorg/apache/http/HttpEntity;)V
419
420
          invoke-interface {v0, v3}, Lorg/apache/http/client/HttpClient;->execute(Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpUriRequest;)Lorg/apache/http/HttpResponse;
421
422
423
          move-result-object v0
424
425
          goto_99
```

Not Equals to "dev-admin"

```
:cond_11c
new-instance v3, Lorg/apache/http/client/entity/UrlEncodedFormEntity;
invoke-direct {v3, v1}, Lorg/apache/http/client/entity/UrlEncodedFormEntity;-><init>(Ljava/util/List;)V
invoke-virtual {v2, v3}, Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpPost;->setEntity(Lorg/apache/http/HttpEntity;)V
invoke-interface {v0, v2}, Lorg/apache/http/client/HttpClient;->execute(Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpUriRequest;)Lorg/apache/http/HttpResponse;
move-result-object v0
goto/16 :goto_99
```

- Evaluate equal condition:

```
-if-eqz·v4, +cond_11c—

new-instance v2, Lorg/apache/http/client/entity/UrlEncodedFormEntity; v2=new UrlEncodedFormEntity;

invoke-direct {v2, v1}, Lorg/apache/http/client/entity/UrlEncodedFormEntity;-><init>(Ljava/util/List;)V v2(v1 local_list) == new UrlEncodedFormEntity(v1)

invoke-virtual {v3, v2}, Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpPost;->setEntity(Lorg/apache/http/HttpEntity;)V v3.setEntity(v2)

invoke-interface {v0, v3}, Lorg/apache/http/client/HttpClient;->execute(Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpUriRequest;)Lorg/apache/http/HttpResponse;

move-result-object v0

igoto_99
```

- The above code is equal to in java source

```
{
  localHttpPost2.setEntity(new UrlEncodedFormEntity(localArrayList));
  localHttpResponse = localDefaultHttpClient.execute(localHttpPost2);
}
```

So what v3 is? Next-slide ©

```
const-string v3, "/devlogin" v3="/dev/login"
 361
                                                                                                      v1.append(v3) => v1.append('/dev/login')
 362
 363
           invoke-virtual {v1, v3}, Ljava/lang/StringBuilder;->append(Ljava/lang/String;)Ljava/lang/StringBuilder;
 364
 365
           new-instance v3, Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpPost; v3=new HttpPost
 366
           invoke-virtual {v1}, Ljava/lang/StringBuilder;->toString()Ljava/lang/String; v1.toString()
 367
 368
 369
           move-result-object v1
 370
371
           invoke-direct {v3, v1}, Lorg/apache/http/client/methods/HttpPost;-><init>(Ljava/lang/String;)V
                                                                                                                   Call HttpPost(v1)
```

- The above code is equal to in java source

```
localStringBuilder2.append("/devlogin");
HttpPost localHttpPost2 = new HttpPost(localStringBuilder2.toString());
```

- Basically, if we input "devadmin", it will do POST request to http://mobile-server/devlogin which allow us to free login ©

- So you may ask why should we have to read the small code? Why won't we read the clear java source code instead?

The answer is, we have to detect it, to patch the program! (talk later)

I: Copying original files...

- Now we will talk about how to patch an android app (no smali in this talk, great ©)
- A **patch** is a software update comprised code inserted (or **patched**) into the code of an executable program.
- Remember apktool? We use it to decompile the apk first apktool d InsecureBankv2.apk

```
* ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/ apktool d InsecureBankv2.apk
I: Using Apktool 2.3.4 on InsecureBankv2.apk
I: Loading resource table...
I: Decoding AndroidManifest.xml with resources...
I: Loading resource table from file: /Users/tsug0d/Library/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...
```

- So we go to res folder to find something interesting (why? Because this folder contains resource, and modify it is fun ☺)
- Quickly found this in InsecureBankv2/res/values/strings.xml

```
<string name="create_calendar_message">Allow Ad to create a calendar event?</string>
61
         <string name="create_calendar_title">Create calendar event</string>
62
         <string name="decline">Decline</string>
63
         <string name="hello world">Hello world!</string>
64
         <string name="is_admin">no</string>
65
         <string name="loginscreen password">Password:</string>
66
         <string name="loginscreen username">Username:</string>
67
         <string name="mr_media_route_button_content_description">Cast</string>
68
         <string name="mr media route chooser searching">Searching for devices...</string>
69
```

- If you want to be a good pentester, you must keep in your mind:
- "If someone say no, punch him, and say yes instead ©"
- So modify it to yes

```
<string name="hello_world">Hello world!</string>
<string name="is_admin">yes</string>
<string name="loginscreen_password">Password:</string>
<string name="loginscreen_username">Username:</string>
</string>
```

- We go back to base folder
- ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/ ls

InsecureBankv2.apk

- And re-compile the application:

apktool b InsecureBankv2

- ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/ apktool b InsecureBankv2
- I: Using Apktool 2.3.4
- I: Checking whether sources has changed...
- I: Smaling smali folder into classes.dex...
- I: Checking whether resources has changed...
- I: Building resources...
- I: Building apk file...
- I: Copying unknown files/dir...
- I: Built apk...

Failure [INSTALL_PARSE_FAILED_NO_CERTIFICATES]

total 6568

- Note that the re-compile apk is located in "dist" folder, not the old apk in current folder.

~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/ ls -la InsecureBankv2/dist

- Oops, Failed! Its because <u>Every new compiled Android .apk needs to be signed if it is going to be installed on a phone</u>

- We are going to sign it!
- Create key using:

keytool -genkey -v -keystore my-release-key.keystore -alias alias_name -keyalg RSA -keysize 2048 -validity 10000

★ ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ keytool -genkey -v -keystore my-release-key.keystore -alias alias_name -keyalg RSA -keysize 2048 -validity 10000

```
Enter keystore password:
Re-enter new password:
What is your first and last name?
  [Unknown]: nguyen
What is the name of your organizational unit?
  [Unknown]: nguyen
What is the name of your organization?
  [Unknown]: tsu
What is the name of your City or Locality?
  [Unknown]: hcm
What is the name of your State or Province?
  [Unknown]: hcm
What is the two-letter country code for this unit?
  [Unknown]: sg
Is CN=nguyen, OU=nguyen, O=tsu, L=hcm, ST=hcm, C=sq correct?
  [no]: yes
Generating 2,048 bit RSA key pair and self-signed certificate (SHA256withRSA) with a validity of 10,000 days
        for: CN=nguyen, OU=nguyen, O=tsu, L=hcm, ST=hcm, C=sg
Enter key password for <alias_name>
       (RETURN if same as keystore password):
Re-enter new password:
[Storing my-release-key.keystore]
```

- Sign using:

Enter Passphrase for keystore:

jarsigner -verbose -sigalg SHA1withRSA -digestalg SHA1 -keystore my-release-key.keystore InsecureBankv2.apk alias_name

★ ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ jarsigner -verbose -sigalg SHA1withRSA -digestalg SHA1 -keystore my-release-key.keystore InsecureBankv2.apk alias_name

```
adding: META-INF/MANIFEST.MF
adding: META-INF/ALIAS_NA.SF
adding: META-INF/ALIAS_NA.RSA
signing: resources.arsc
signing: res/mipmap-mdpi/ic_launcher.png
signing: res/anim/abc_slide_in_bottom.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_slide_out_top.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_fade_out.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_slide_in_top.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_slide_in_from_bottom.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_shrink_fade_out_from_bottom.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_slide_out_bottom.xml
signing: res/anim/abc_fade_in.xml
```

```
signing: res/drawable-ldrtl-hdpi-v17/abc_ic_ab_back_mtrl_am_alpha.png
signing: res/drawable-ldrtl-hdpi-v17/abc_ic_menu_cut_mtrl_alpha.png
signing: res/drawable-ldrtl-hdpi-v17/abc_spinner_mtrl_am_alpha.9.png
signing: AndroidManifest.xml
signing: classes.dex
jar signed.
```

- We change its name to make it clearer compare to original apk:

mv InsecureBankv2.apk InsecureBankv2_patched.apk

- Then install
- ◆ ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ mv InsecureBankv2.apk InsecureBankv2_patched.apk
- ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ adb install InsecureBankv2_patched.apk

InsecureBankv2_patched.apk: 1 file pushed. 93.8 MB/s (3395957 bytes in 0.035s)

pkg: /data/local/tmp/InsecureBankv2_patched.apk

Failure [INSTALL_FAILED_UPDATE_INCOMPATIBLE]

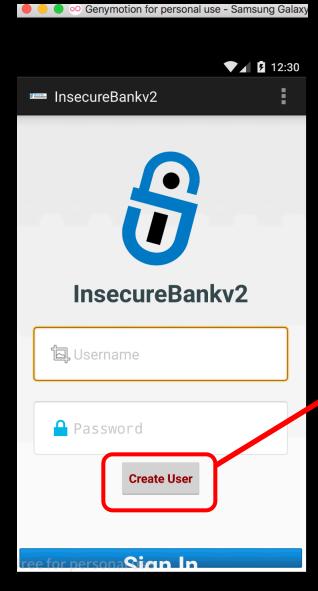
- Still fail? It means the application which you want to install is already installed. just remove the old one and try again.
- ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ adb uninstall com.android.insecurebankv2
 Success
- ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ ls InsecureBankv2_patched.apk my-release-key.keystore
- ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/InsecureBankv2/dist/ adb install InsecureBankv2_patched.apk

InsecureBankv2_patched.apk: 1 file pushed. 92.4 MB/s (3395957 bytes in 0.035s)

pkg: /data/local/tmp/InsecureBankv2_patched.apk

Success

- Open it again:

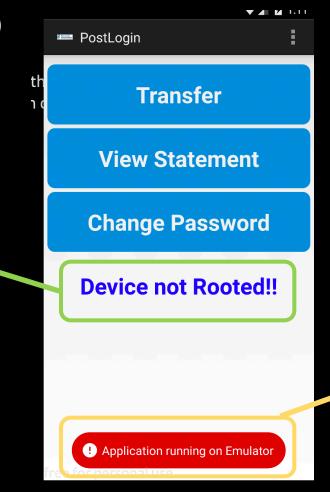


Good one, we got Create User button! That's admin module ☺

Detection

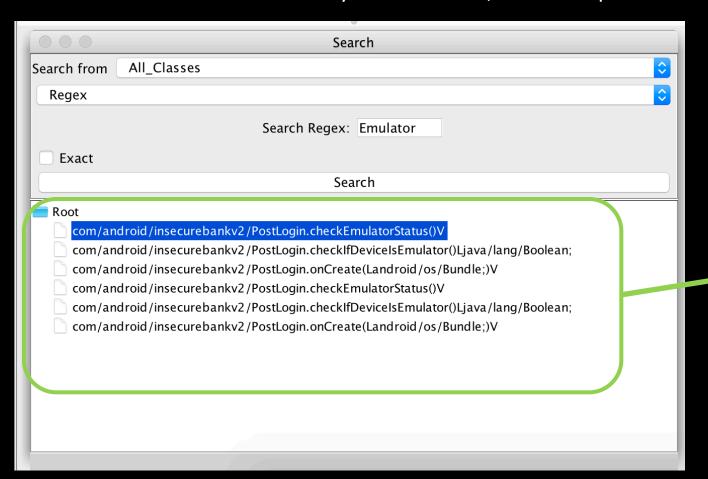
- "Life is not easy", it's true, at least in this lecture ©
- The application can contain detection code, to prevent attacker analysis it, usually are:
- 1. Root Detection (or anti-root)
- 2. Emulator Detection (or anti-vm)
- Back to the app, we see this:

It got root detection code, but the code fail, so we are safe.
I'll talk later ©



Emulator detected, we are running this app on galaxy s6 based on genymotion right?

- So we come to Anti-emu bypass. We saw this alert on PostLogin section, so we check its code
- Or we can search it => Go to Bytecode Viewer, load the apk and search for "Emulator"



Search result!

We found the code in com/android/insecurebankv2/PostLogin.class

```
private void checkEmulatorStatus()
{
   if (checkIfDeviceIsEmulator().booleanValue() == true)
   {
        Toasteroid.show(this, "Application running on Emulator", Toasteroid.STYLES.ERROR, 1);
        return;
   }
   Toasteroid.show(this, "Application running on Real device", Toasteroid.STYLES.SUCCESS, 1);
}

private Boolean checkIfDeviceIsEmulator()
{
   if ((!Build.FINGERPRINT.startsWith("generic")) && (!Build.FINGERPRINT.startsWith("unknown")) &&
        (!Build.MODEL.contains("google_sdk")) && (!Build.MODEL.contains("Emulator")) && (!Build.MODEL.contains("Android SDK built for x86")) &&
        (!Build.MANUFACTURER.contains("Genymotion")) && ((!Build.BRAND.startsWith("generic")) || (!Build.DEVICE.startsWith("generic"))) &&
        (!"google_sdk".equals(Build.PRODUCT))) {
        return Boolean.valueOf(false);
   }
   return Boolean.valueOf(true);
}
```

- We can see the checkEmulatorStatus() call checkIfDeviceIsEmulator(), this function find the string defined in FINGERPRINT, MODEL, MANUFACTURE, BRAND, DEVICE, etc... to detect, in our case: "Genymotion"
- This time not easy patch like before, because this is code check, if we want to patch, we must modify SMALI (yes, small again ©).

- So step one is to find the small code match with anti-emu check in java code
- We already known the check is the function checkEmulatorStatus(), search for it ©

```
.method private checkEmulatorStatus()V
    .registers 4
    const/4 v2, 0x1
    invoke-direct {p0}, Lcom/android/insecurebankv2/PostLogin;->checkIfDeviceIsEmulator()Ljava/lang/Boolean;
    move-result-object v0
    invoke-virtual {v0}, Ljava/lang/Boolean;->booleanValue()Z
    move-result v0
    if-ne v0, v2, :cond 13
    const-string v0, "Application running on Emulator"
    sget-object v1, Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid$STYLES;->ERROR:Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid$STYLES;
    invoke-static {p0, v0, v1, v2}, Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid;->show(Landroid/app/Activity;Ljava/lang/String;Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid$STYLES;I)V
    goto_12
    return-void
    cond 13
    const-string v0, "Application running on Real device"
    sget-object v1, Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid$STYLES;->SUCCESS:Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid$STYLES;
    invoke-static {p0, v0, v1, v2}, Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid;->show(Landroid/app/Activity;Ljava/lang/String;Lcom/marcohc/toasteroid/Toasteroid$STYLES;I)V
    goto goto_12
.end method
```

- Note that variable name, condition name, etc... is different based on decompile tool.

- If you reverse the app, you don't really need to understand all the work, you just find what you need, and hack it ©
- Some points:

```
if-ne v0, v2, :cond_13
const-string v0, "Application running on Emulator"
:cond_13
```

const-string v0, "Application running on Real device"

- if-ne vx, vy, target == "Jumps to target if vx!=vy. vx and vy are integer values."
- So the code above can be explained:

If v0 != v2, then go to :cond_13 (:cond_13 means the app is running on real device, not emulator), else continue to "Emulator detect" part

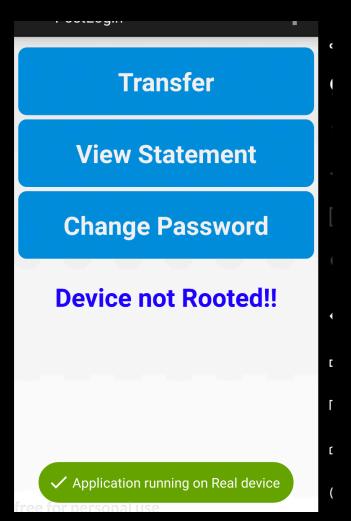
- So we need to find out what v0, v2 is, and do blah, blah, blah, super power, zeronight, 0day xyz to bypass it?.... Um no, there is a easier way
- Look at this:

```
if-ne v0, v2, :cond_13
If ... not equal ... jump to cond_13 (right part)
```

- So what happens if we remove the "not equal" and force it always go to :cond_13?
- => The flow will always jump to :cond_13 ©
- Let try it:

```
if-ne v0, v2, :cond_13 goto :cond_13
```

- With this idea, let change it in InsecureBankv2/smali/com/android/insecurebankv2/PostLogin.smali
- Then re-compile to get a new patched apk, sign it.
- Open & see the result ©:



Detection -> Anti-root

- So why the anti-root code failed to detect us? We can see the code is here:

```
void showRootStatus()
{
    int i;
    if ((!doesSuperuserApkExist("/system/app/Superuser.apk")) && (!doesSUexist())) {
        i = 0;
    } else {
        i = 1;
    }
    if (i == 1) {
        this.root_status.setText("Rooted Device!!");
        return;
    }
    this.root_status.setText("Device not Rooted!!");
}
```

It check if /system/app/Superuser.apk existed?

Yes => detected, else no.

Detection -> Anti-root

- To find out what is happened, we access to our device

```
    ~/Desktop/mobile/tools/reverse/test/ adb shell
root@vbox86p:/ # uname -a
Linux localhost 4.4.10-genymotion #1 SMP PREEMPT Fri Oct 28 09:28:26 UTC 2016 x86_64 GNU/Linux
```

- Then find it

```
root@vbox86p:/ # ls -la /system/app/Superuser.apk
/system/app/Superuser.apk: No such file or directory
```

That's why we pass the check by default

- Basically, its located here ©:

```
root@vbox86p:/ # ls -la /system/app/Superuser/
-rw-r--r root root 927685 2018-05-21 20:16 Superuser.apk
drwxr-xr-x root root 2018-05-21 20:16 x86
```