

QuickShell

**Sharing is caring about an RCE attack
chain on Quick Share**



Or Yair



Security Research Team Lead at SafeBreach



7+ years in Security Research



Past research in Linux, embedded, Android



4 years Windows research



Shmuel Cohen - Contributer



6+ years in Security Industry



Past APT Malware Researcher



4+ years Windows research



Agenda

Why Quick Share

Protocol Overview

Fuzzing

Research Approach Shift + Vulnerability Discovery

RCE Chain

Takeaways

GitHub + Q&A



What is Quick Share?



Quick Share





Why Quick Share?

Quick Share Windows Version

 Quick Share for Windows

Wireless sharing with your PC, made easy.

Send and receive photos, documents, and more between nearby Android devices¹ and Windows PCs².

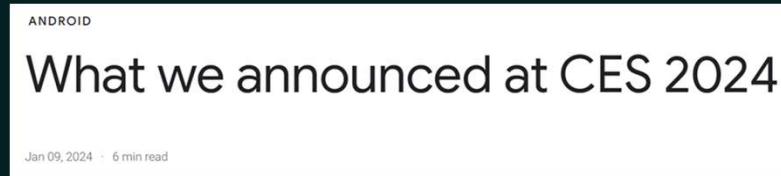
To get started, install Quick Share for Windows to your PC. Send yourself the link to download it.

By downloading Quick Share for Windows, you agree to the [Google Terms of Service](#). The [Google Privacy Policy](#) describes how Google handles information from Quick Share for Windows.

[Download Quick Share](#) 

Quick Share Pre-installation

Google:



“we’re working with leading PC manufacturers like LG to expand Quick Share to Windows PCs as a pre-installed app.”

Quick Share Communication Methods

Various communication
methods

1st time by Google
on Windows



WebRTC



DIRECT



HOTSPOT



Previous Research

2019 by Daniele Antonioli, Nils Ole Tippenhauer,
Kasper Rasmussen:

“Nearby Threats: Reversing, Analyzing, and Attacking
Google’s ‘Nearby Connections’ on Android”

- About Nearby Connections API
- Only Android
- No CVEs

<https://francozappa.github.io/publication/rearby/paper.pdf>

Nearby & Chromium Open-Source Repos

Contain part of the code for Quick Share for Windows

 [google / nearby](#) Public

 A collection of projects focused on connectivity that enable building cross-device experiences.

 developers.google.com/nearby

 Apache-2.0 license

 696 stars  151 forks  Branches  Tags

 [chromium / chromium](#) Public

The official GitHub mirror of the Chromium source

 chromium.googlesource.com/chromium/src/

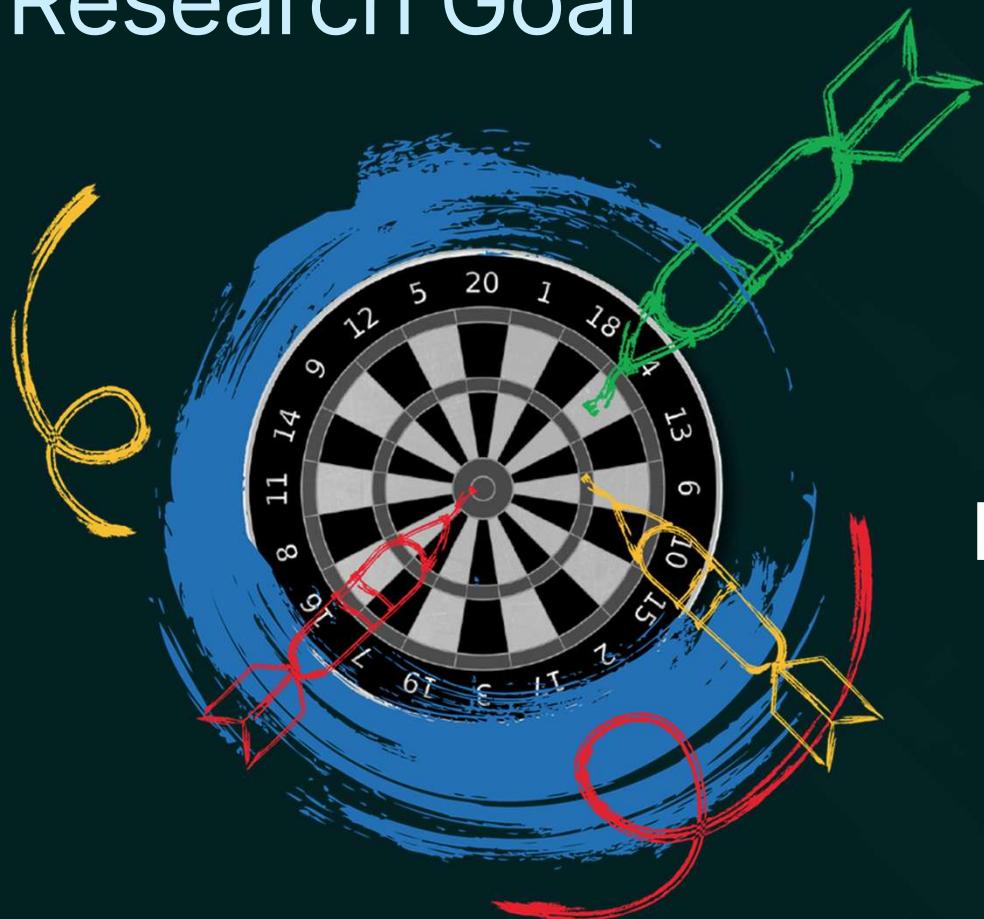
 BSD-3-Clause, BSD-3-Clause licenses found

 18.3k stars  6.8k forks  Branches  Tags

Why Quick Share

- ✓ New Windows App — New App New vulns
 - ✓ Windows app will be pre-installed
 - ✓ Various communication methods — Various attack vectors
 - ✓ Google's first Windows app to use these APIs
 - ✓ Some of the code is open-source
 - ✓ No CVEs
-

Research Goal



First RCE in Quick Share



Protocol Investigation

Investigating The “nearby” repo

Finding the communication functions – Send & Recv:

```
ExceptionOr<ByteArray> BaseEndpointChannel::Read(PacketMetaData& packet_meta_data)
```

Protobuf and Offline Frames

```
OfflineFrame frame;  
frame.ParseFromString(std::string(bytes))
```

Protobuf and Offline Frames

offline_wire_formats.proto

```
message OfflineFrame {
    enum Version {
        UNKNOWN_VERSION = 0;
        V1 = 1;
    }
    optional Version version = 1;

    // Right now there's only 1 version, but if there are more, exactly one of
    // the following fields will be set.
    optional V1Frame v1 = 2;
}
```

QuickSniff – 1st Tool

Hooking Quick Share to sniff
sent and received Offline
Frames on Windows

```
initiator_to_responder:  
v1:  
    payloadTransfer:  
        packetType: DATA  
        payloadChunk:  
            body:  
                v1:  
                    introduction:  
                        fileMetadata:  
                            - id: '585290039179534374'  
                            mimeType: image/png  
                            name: TFMyMDI0MDYxMzEzMzM1Ni5wbmc=  
                            payloadId: '-8969229381597391197'  
                            size: '622679'  
                            type: IMAGE  
                    type: INTRODUCTION  
                    version: V1  
                    flags: 0  
                    index: 0  
                    offset: '0'  
                    payloadHeader:  
                        id: '-5778571142958742193'  
                        isSensitive: false  
                        totalSize: '85'  
                        type: BYTES  
                    type: PAYLOAD_TRANSFER  
                    version: V1
```



Protocol Overview

Nearby Connections API

Nearby Connections API



Quick Share Implementation



Nearby Connections API

Discover and establish direct communication channels with other devices without having to be connected to the Internet. Enables seamless nearby interactions such as multiplayer gaming, realtime collaboration, forming a group, broadcasting a resource, or sharing content.

The Nearby Connections API is available for Android and iOS, and enables communication between the two platforms.

Nearby Connections API

Protobuf Based



Encryption - Google's Ukey2



Advertisement based on Service ID

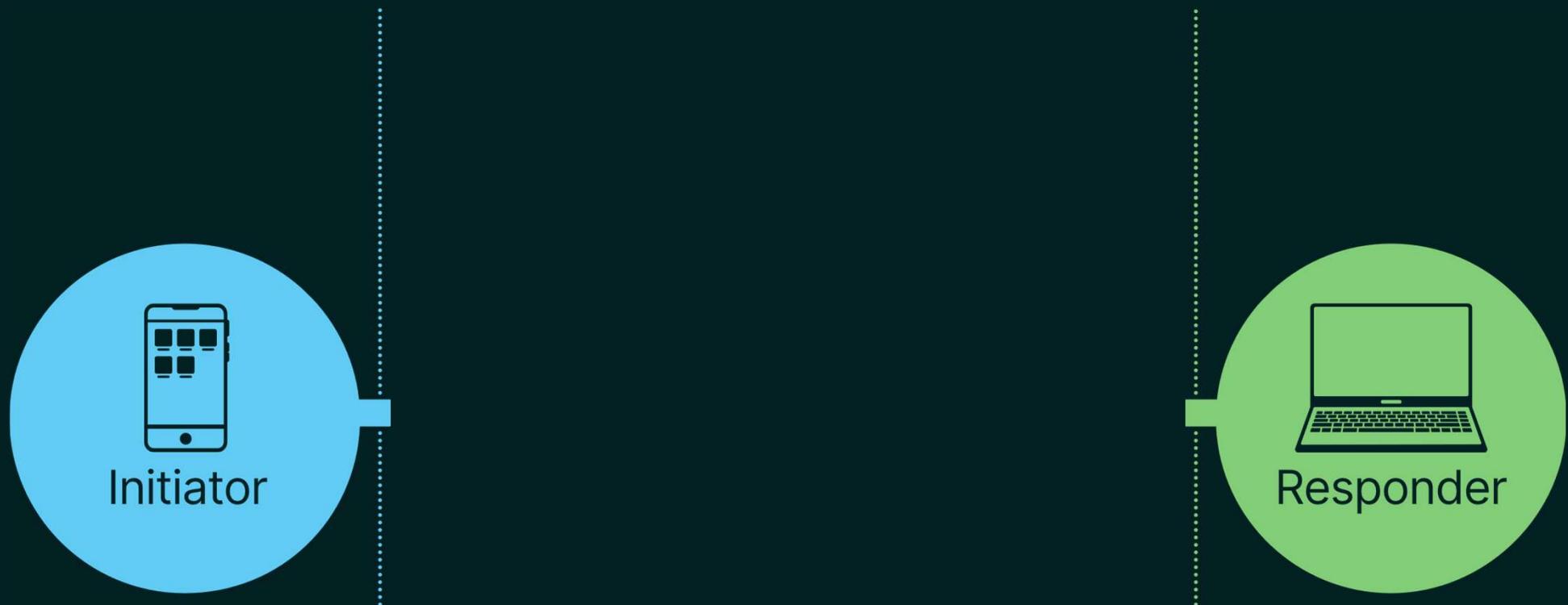


Multiple Connections Strategies

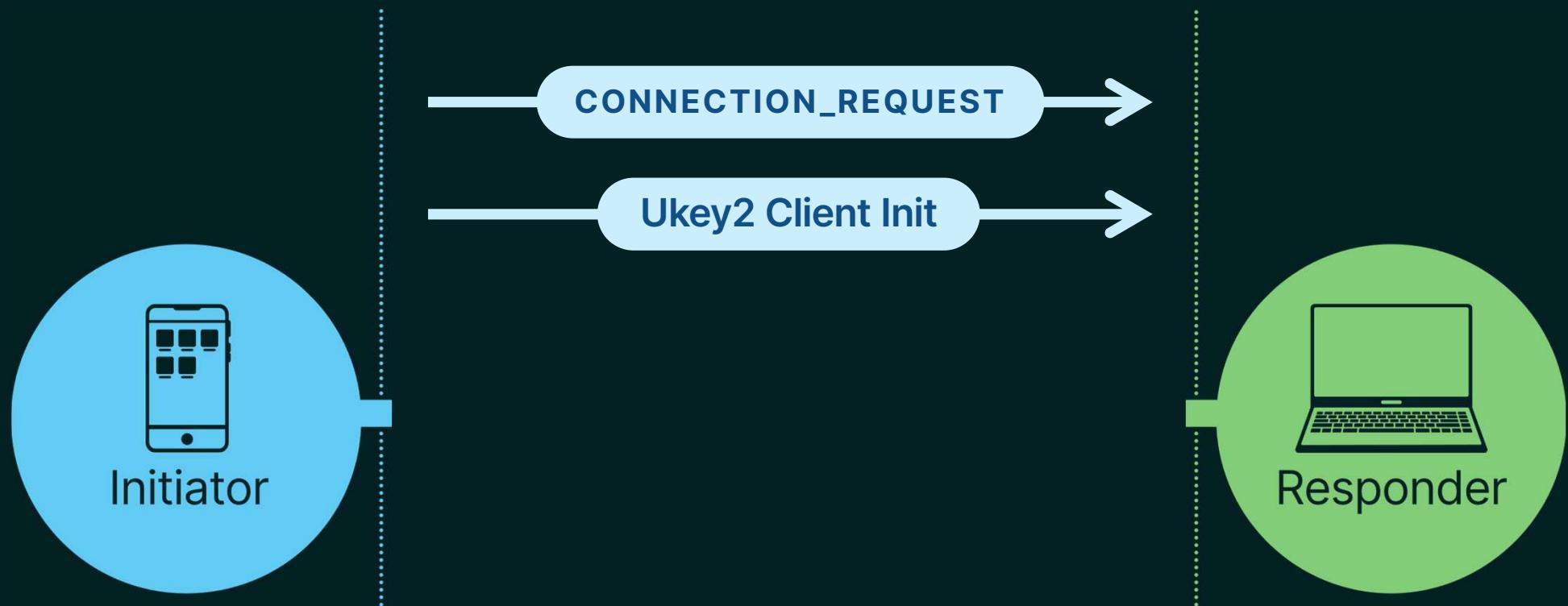
- P2P, Star, Cluster
-



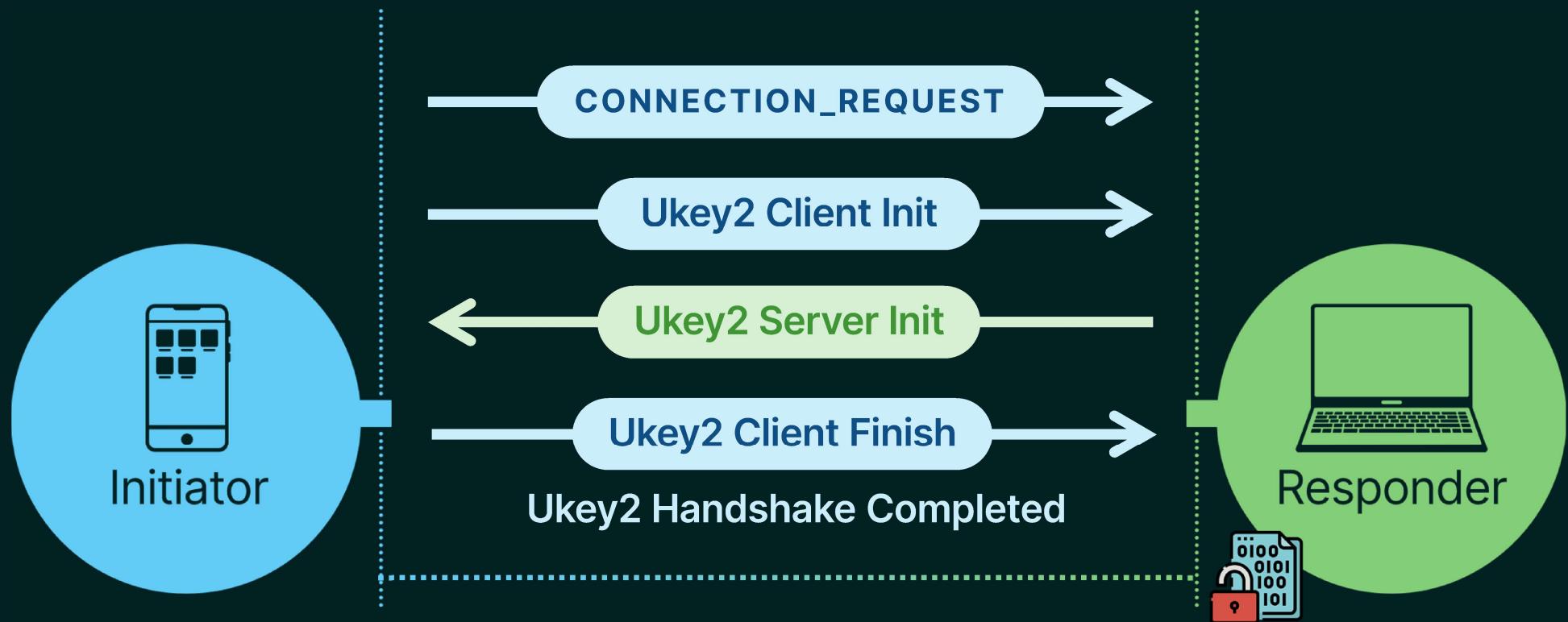
Quick Share Protocol Overview



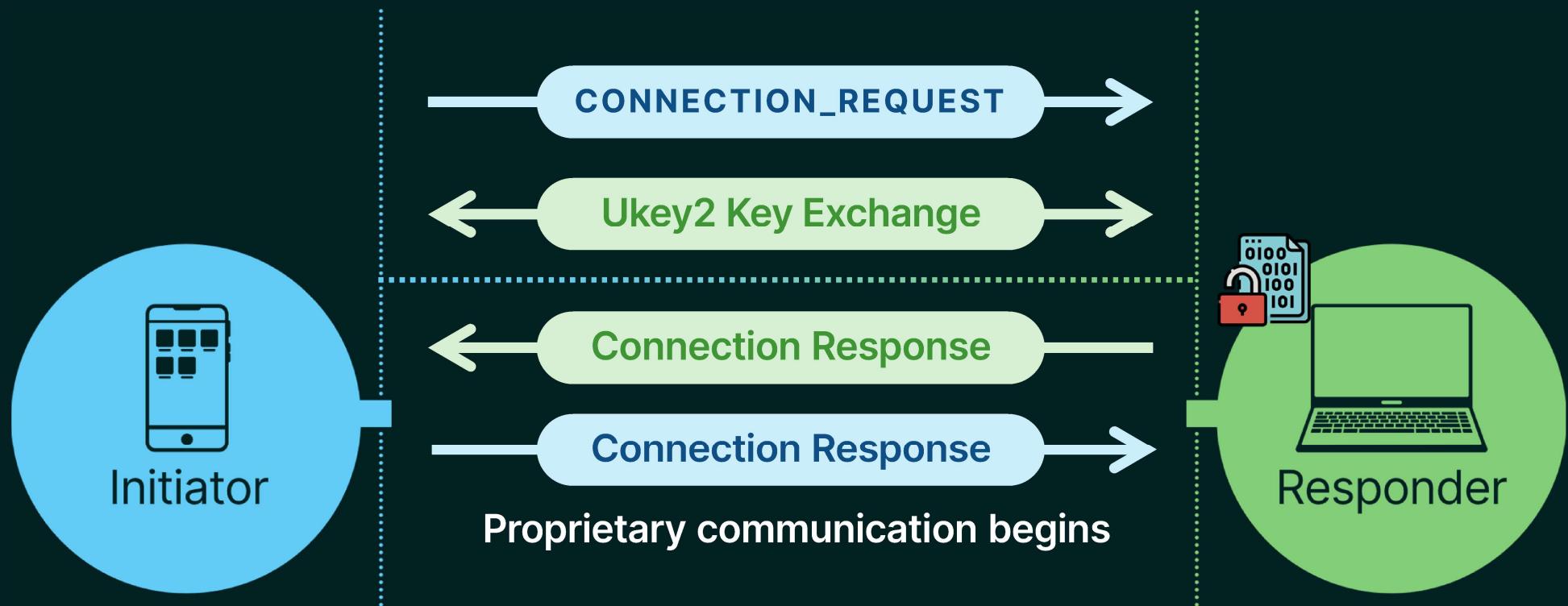
Quick Share Protocol Overview



Quick Share Protocol Overview



Quick Share Protocol Overview



Packet Types

```
enum FrameType {  
    UNKNOWN_FRAME_TYPE = 0;  
    CONNECTION_REQUEST = 1;  
    CONNECTION_RESPONSE = 2;  
    PAYLOAD_TRANSFER = 3;  
    BANDWIDTH_UPGRADE_NEGOTIATION = 4;  
    KEEP_ALIVE = 5;  
    DISCONNECTION = 6;  
    PAIRED_KEY_ENCRYPTION = 7;  
    AUTHENTICATION_MESSAGE = 8;  
    AUTHENTICATION_RESULT = 9;  
    AUTO_RESUME = 10;  
    AUTO_RECONNECT = 11;  
    BANDWIDTH_UPGRADE_RETRY = 12;  
}
```

Packet Types

```
enum FrameType {  
    UNKNOWN_FRAME_TYPE = 0;  
    CONNECTION_REQUEST = 1; ←  
    CONNECTION_RESPONSE = 2; ←  
    PAYLOAD_TRANSFER = 3;  
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}
```

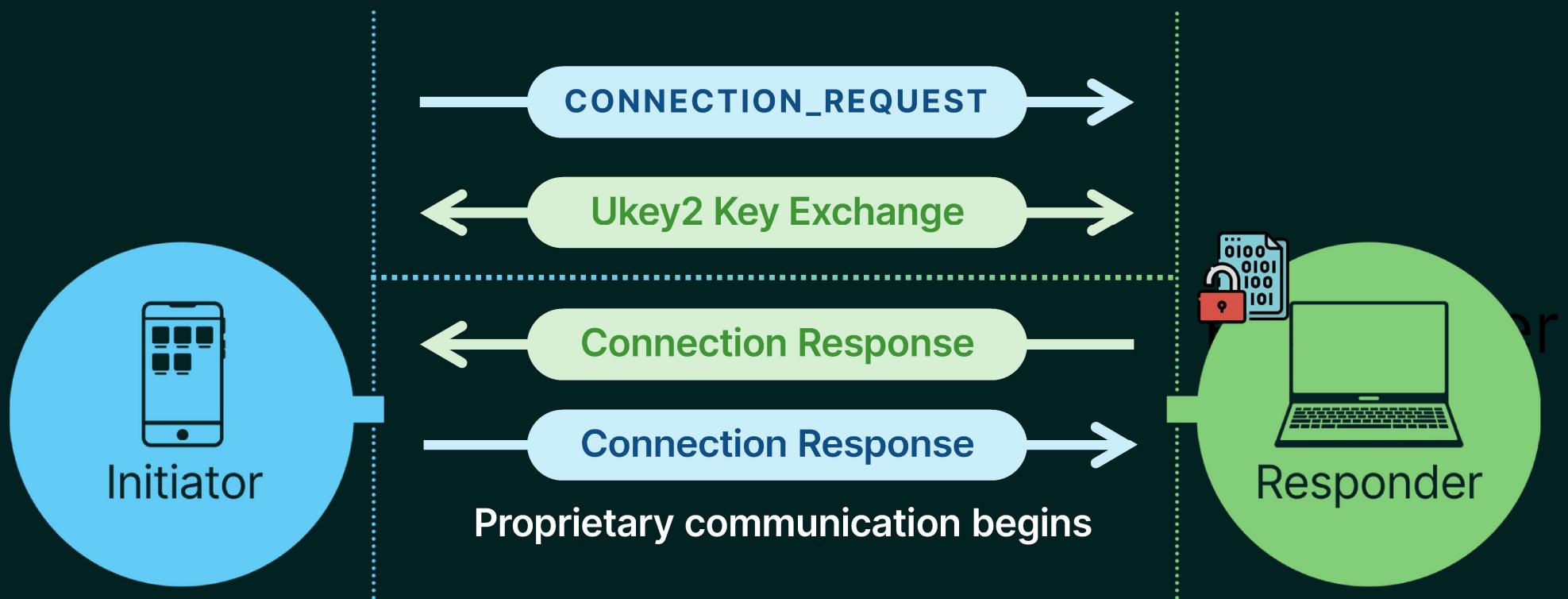
Packet Types

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enum FrameType {  
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}
```



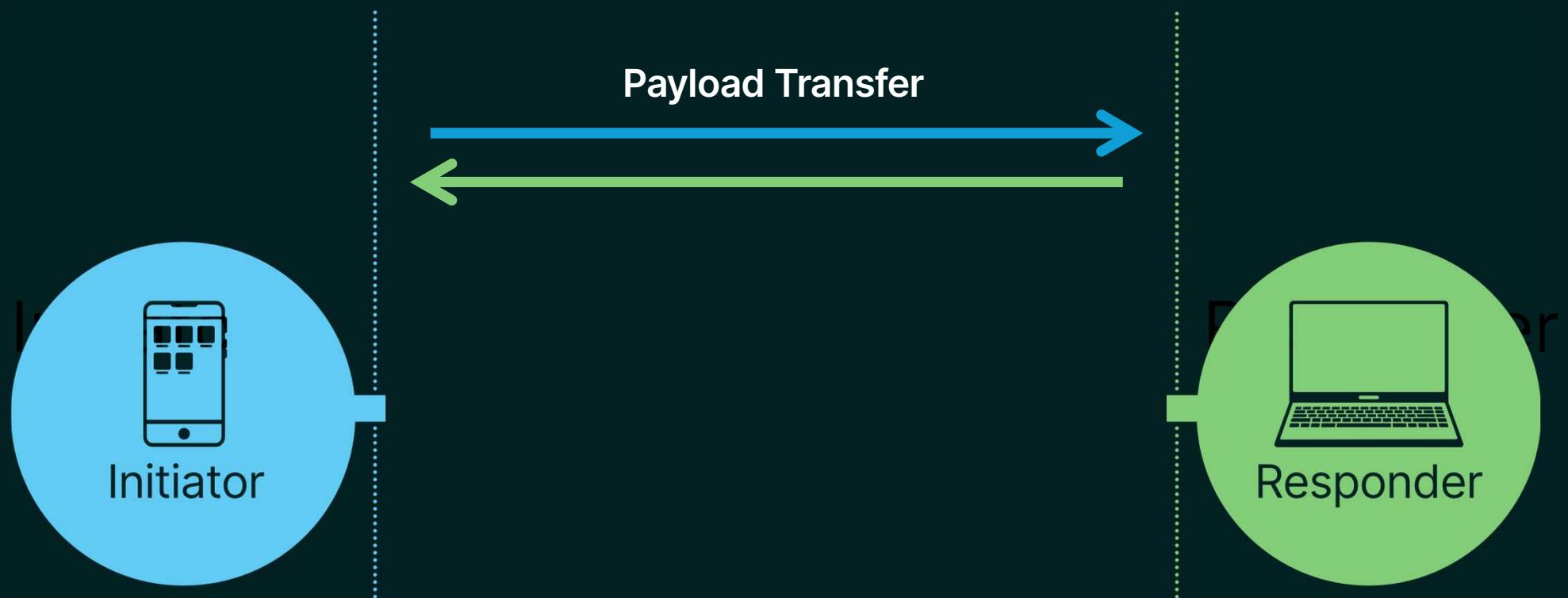
Quick Share Implementation

Recap



Payload Transfer

Enforces “Contacts” and “Your Devices” modes



Quick Share Implementation

Custom protobuf data in
Payload Transfer Payload

```
v1:  
  payloadTransfer:  
    packetType: DATA  
    payloadChunk:  
      body: CAESYggBE14KWgoIYmFzZS5hcGs ???  
      flags: 0  
      index: 0  
      offset: '0'  
    payloadHeader:  
      id: '-5454771653010976901'  
      isSensitive: false  
      totalSize: '102'  
      type: BYTES  
    type: PAYLOAD_TRANSFER  
  version: V1
```

Quick Share Implementation

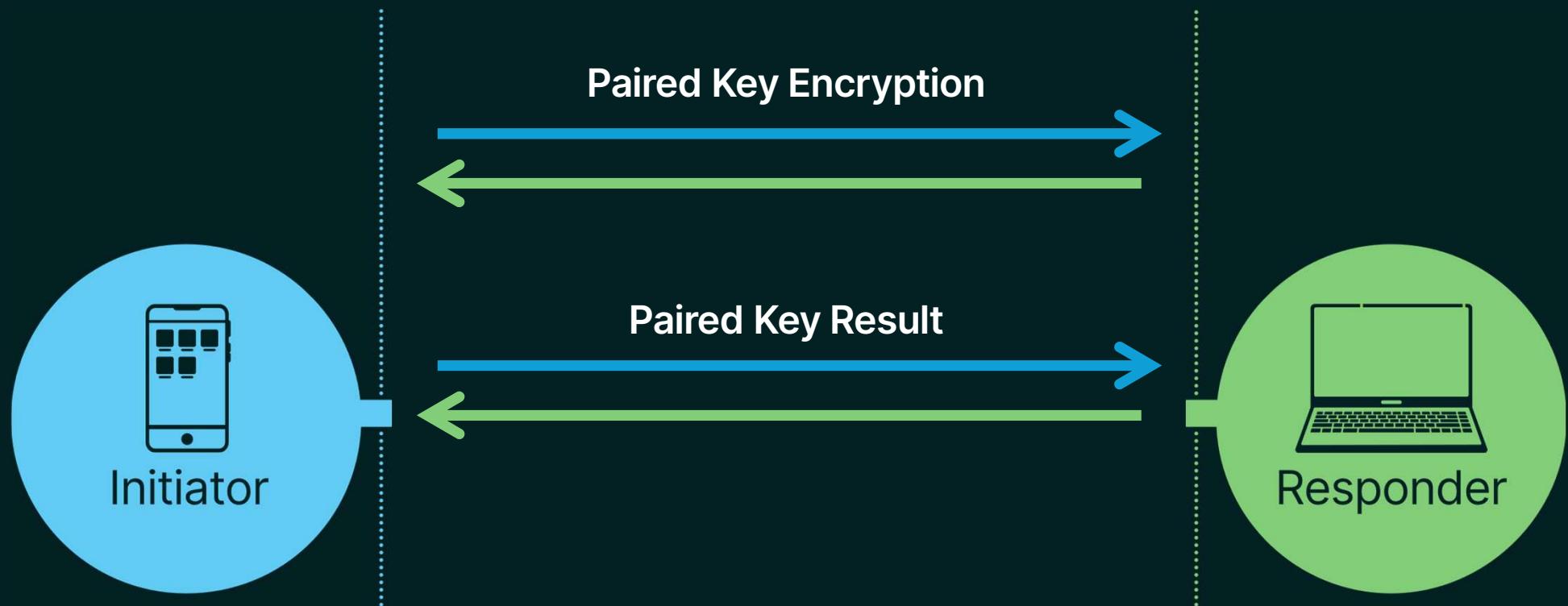
Custom protobuf data in
Payload Transfer OfflineFrame

```
v1:  
  payloadTransfer:  
    packetType: DATA  
    payloadChunk:  
      body: CAESYggBE14KwgoIYmFzZS5hcGs  
      flags: 0  
      index: 0  
      offset: '0'  
    payloadHeader:  
      id: '-5454771653010976901'  
      isSensitive: false  
      totalSize: '102'  
      type: BYTES  
  type: PAYLOAD_TRANSFER  
  version: V1
```

```
v1:  
  payloadTransfer:  
    packetType: DATA  
    payloadChunk:  
      body:  
        v1:  
          pairedKeyEncryption:  
            secretIdHash: palHIL+r  
            signedData: MEUCIQC24J1oLakk1ypg7.  
            type: PAIRED_KEY_ENCRYPTION  
            version: V1  
          flags: 0  
          index: 0  
          offset: '0'  
        payloadHeader:  
          id: '-5454771653010976901'  
          isSensitive: false  
          totalSize: '102'  
          type: BYTES  
    type: PAYLOAD_TRANSFER  
    version: V1
```

Payload Transfer

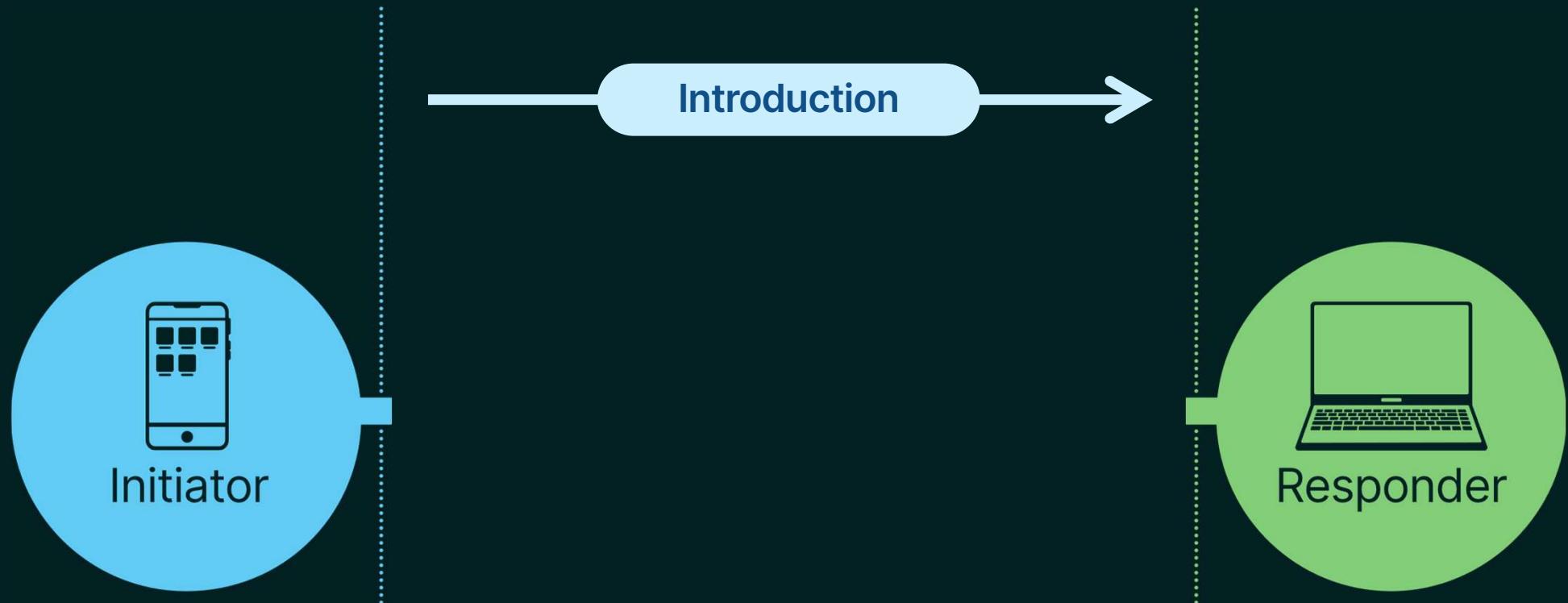
Enforces “Contacts” and “Your Devices” modes



Payload Transfer

INTRODUCTION & ACCEPT

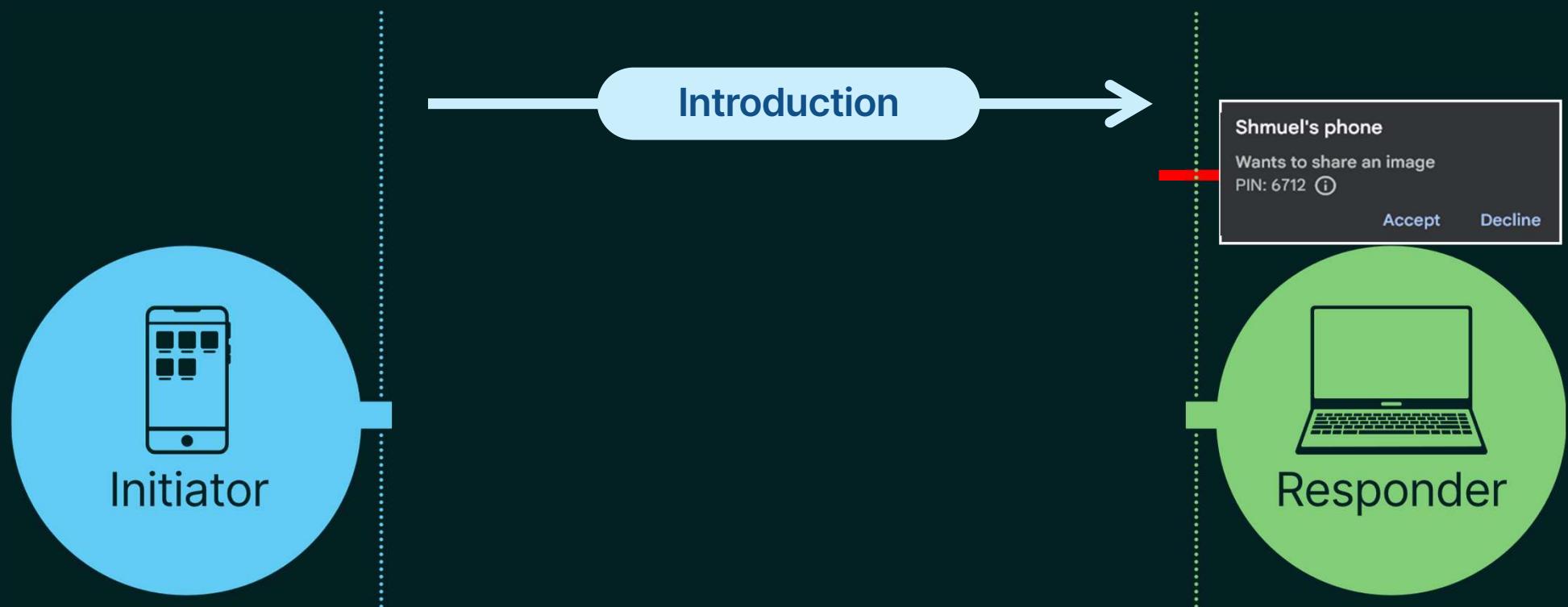
After paired Key Encryption:



Payload Transfer

INTRODUCTION & ACCEPT

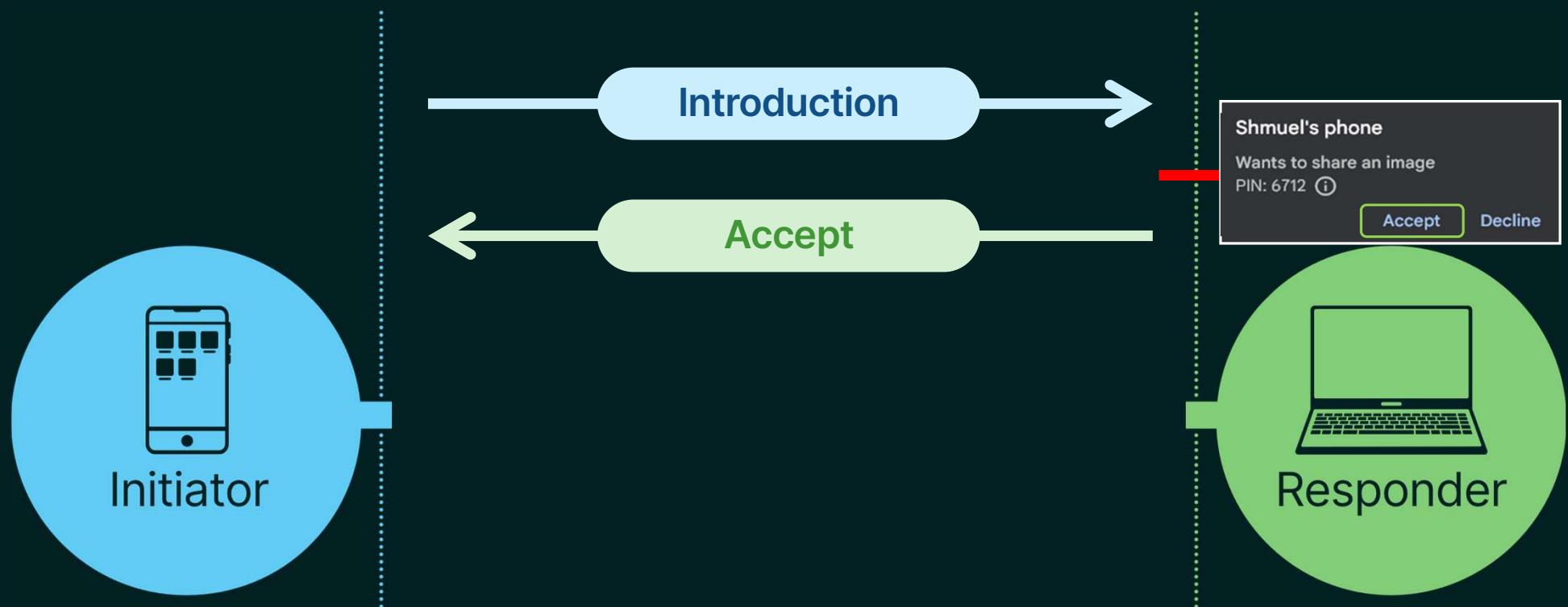
After paired Key Encryption:



Payload Transfer

INTRODUCTION & ACCEPT

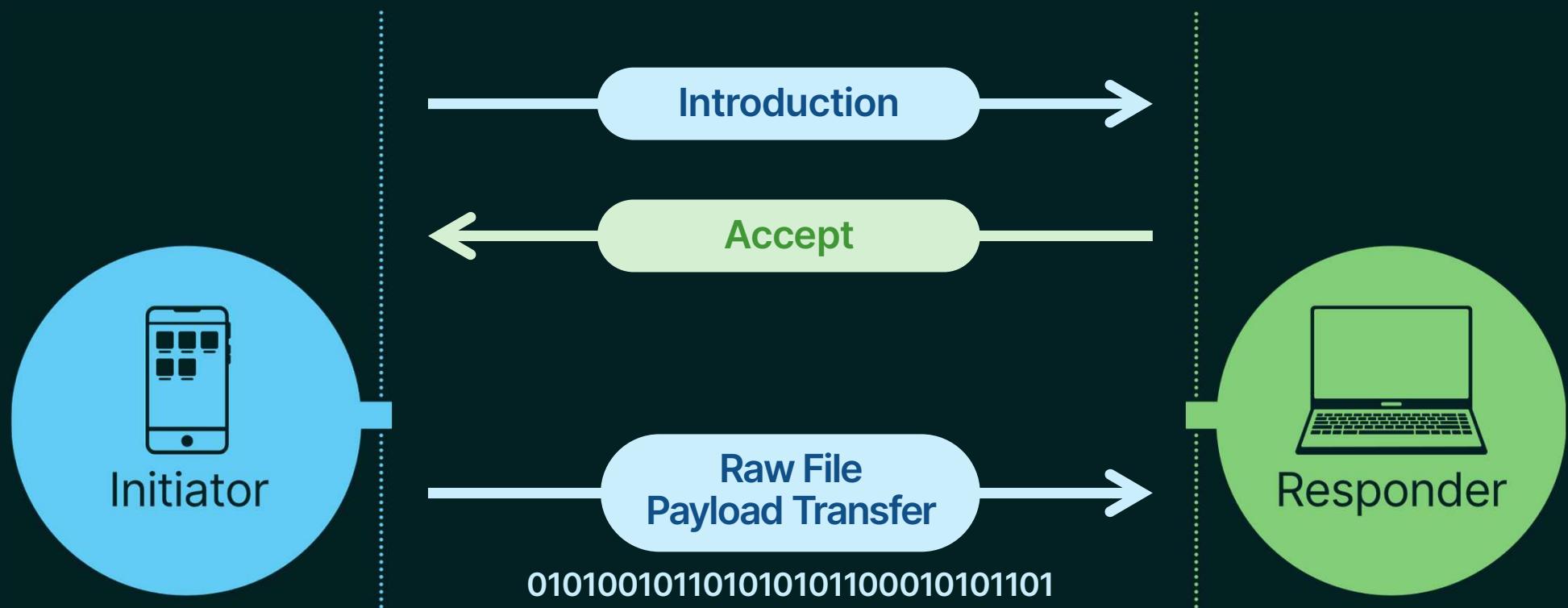
After paired Key Encryption:



Payload Transfer

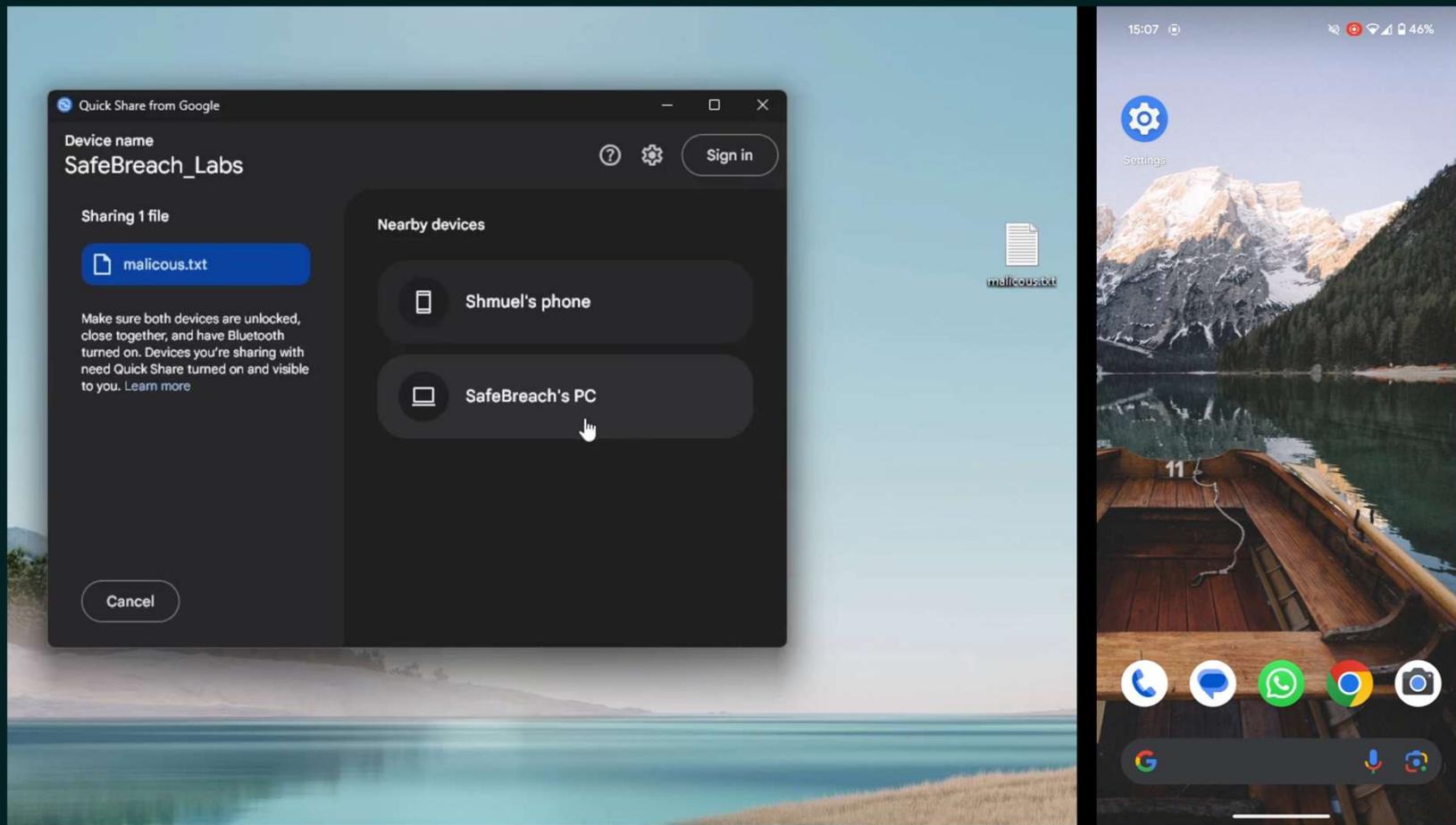
INTRODUCTION & ACCEPT

After paired Key Encryption:



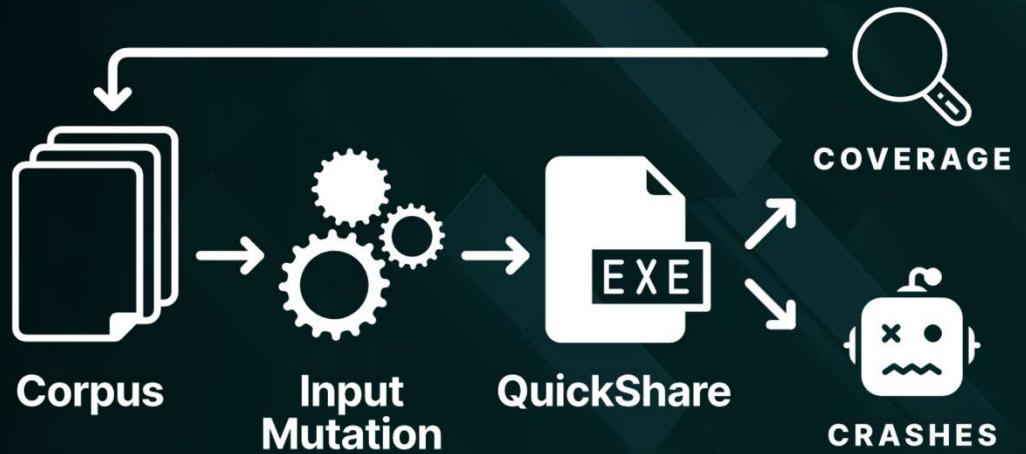
Payload Transfer

Introduction & Accept

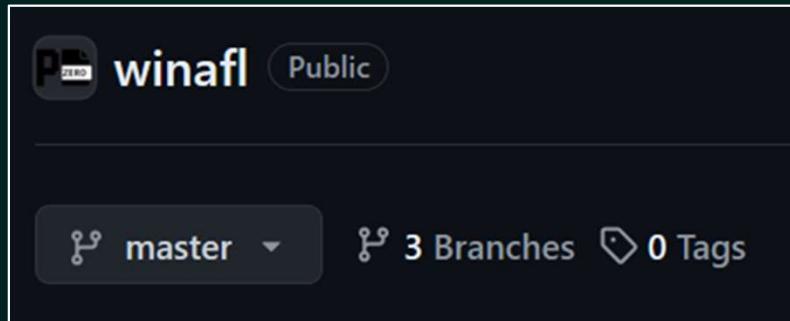




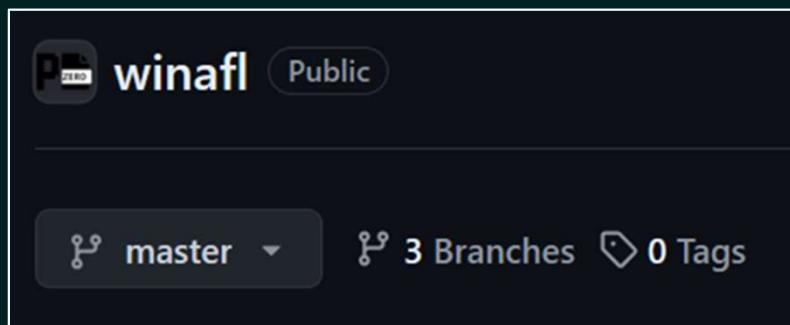
Fuzzing Quick Share



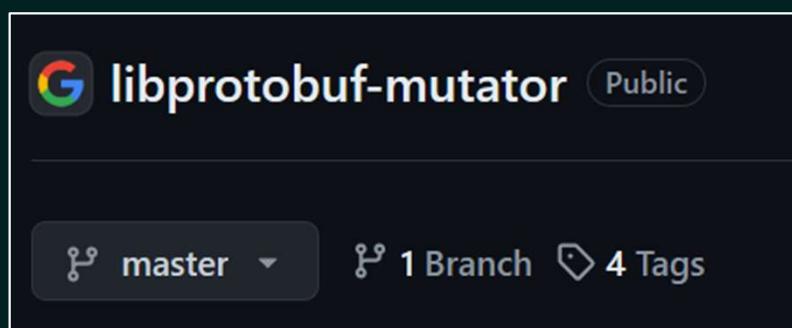
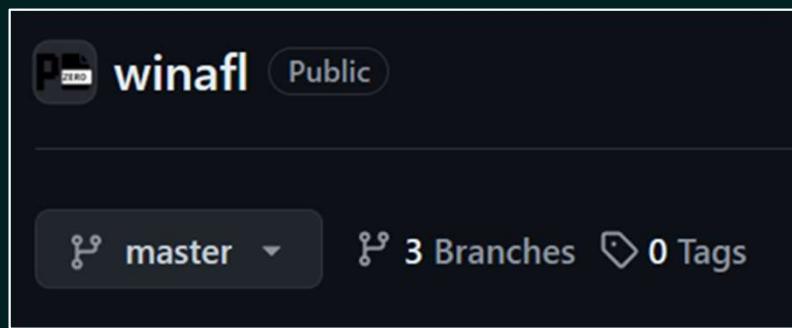
Fuzzing Infrastructure



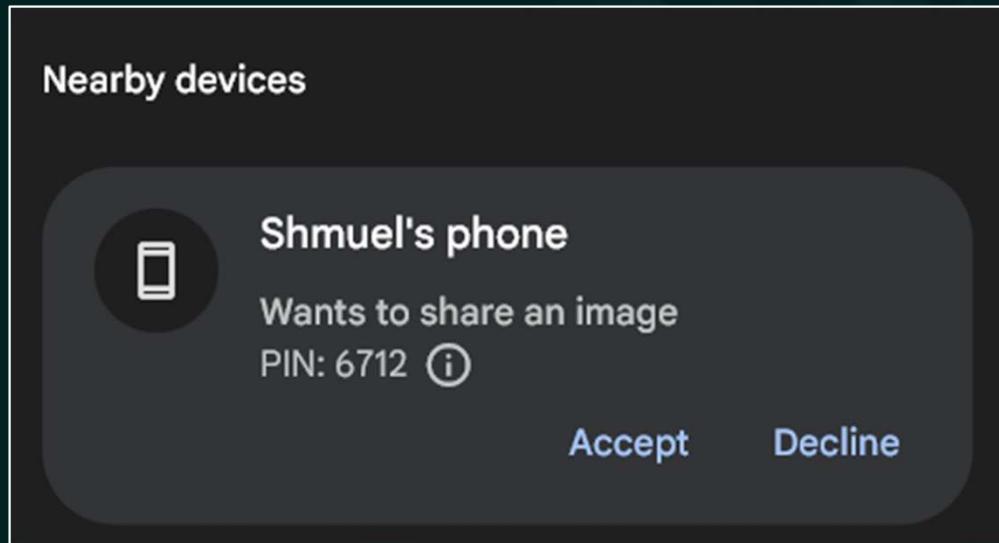
Fuzzing Infrastructure



Fuzzing Infrastructure



“Accept” Patch



Auto-Accept feature

```
if (base::FeatureList::IsEnabled(features::kNearbySharingSelfShare)) {  
    // Auto-accept self shares when not in high-visibility mode.  
    if (share_target.for_self_share && !IsInHighVisibility()) {  
        NS_LOG(INFO) << __func__ << ": Auto-accepting self share.";  
        Accept(share_target, base::DoNothing());  
    }  
}
```

Auto-Accept feature

```
// Auto-accept self shares when not in high-visibility mode.  
if (share_target.for_self_share && !IsInHighVisibility()) {  
    NS_LOG(INFO) << __func__ << ": Auto-accepting self share.";  
    Accept(share_target, base::DoNothing());  
}  
}
```

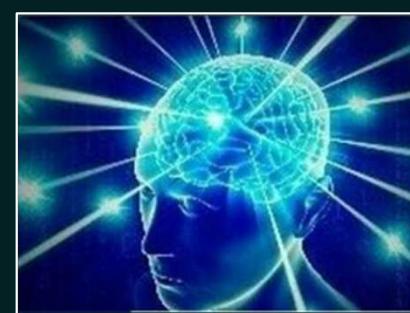
Stateless to Stateful

Custom format to hold all packets of an entire session.

[DWORD Length] [Serialized Offline Frame]



Stateless



Stateful

```
WinAFL 1.17 based on AFL 2.43b (nearby_share.exe)

- process timing -----+ overall results -----+
  run time : 0 days, 0 hrs, 0 min, 19 sec | cycles done : 0
  last new path : 0 days, 0 hrs, 0 min, 18 sec | total paths : 2
last uniq crash : none seen yet | uniq crashes : 0
last uniq hang : none seen yet | uniq hangs : 0
- cycle progress -----+ map coverage -----+
  now processing : 0 (0.00%) | map density : 28.53% / 34.41%
  paths timed out : 0 (0.00%) | count coverage : 1.31 bits/tuple
- stage progress -----+ findings in depth -----+
  now trying : calibration | favored paths : 1 (50.00%)
  stage execs : 23/40 (57.50%) | new edges on : 2 (100.00%)
  total execs : 64 | total crashes : 0 (0 unique)
  exec speed : 1.28/sec (zzzz...) | total tmouts : 0 (0 unique)
- fuzzing strategy yields -----+ path geometry -----+
  bit flips : 0/0, 0/0, 0/0 | levels : 2
  byte flips : 0/0, 0/0, 0/0 | pending : 2
  arithmetics : 0/0, 0/0, 0/0 | pend fav : 1
  known ints : 0/0, 0/0, 0/0 | own finds : 0
  dictionary : 0/0, 0/0, 0/0 | imported : n/a
    havoc : 0/0, 0/0 | stability : 67.35%
    trim : n/a, n/a +-----+
-----+ [cpu000001: 12%]stage
times
```

Reproducible Crashes

4 non exploitable DoS vulnerabilities:

Invalid UTF8 continuation byte

Empty “Endpoint ID”

“Payload ID” set to 0

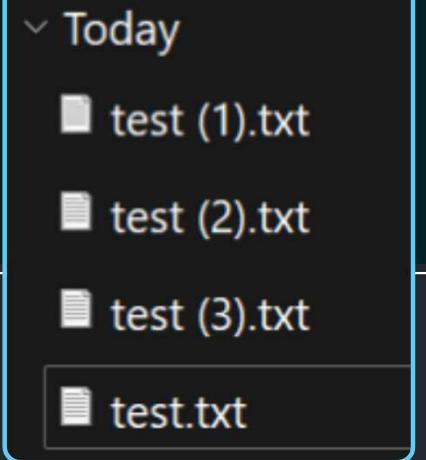
Fast 2 connections:

- same “nonce” in Connection Request
 - UNKNOWN_VERSION set in Connection Response
-

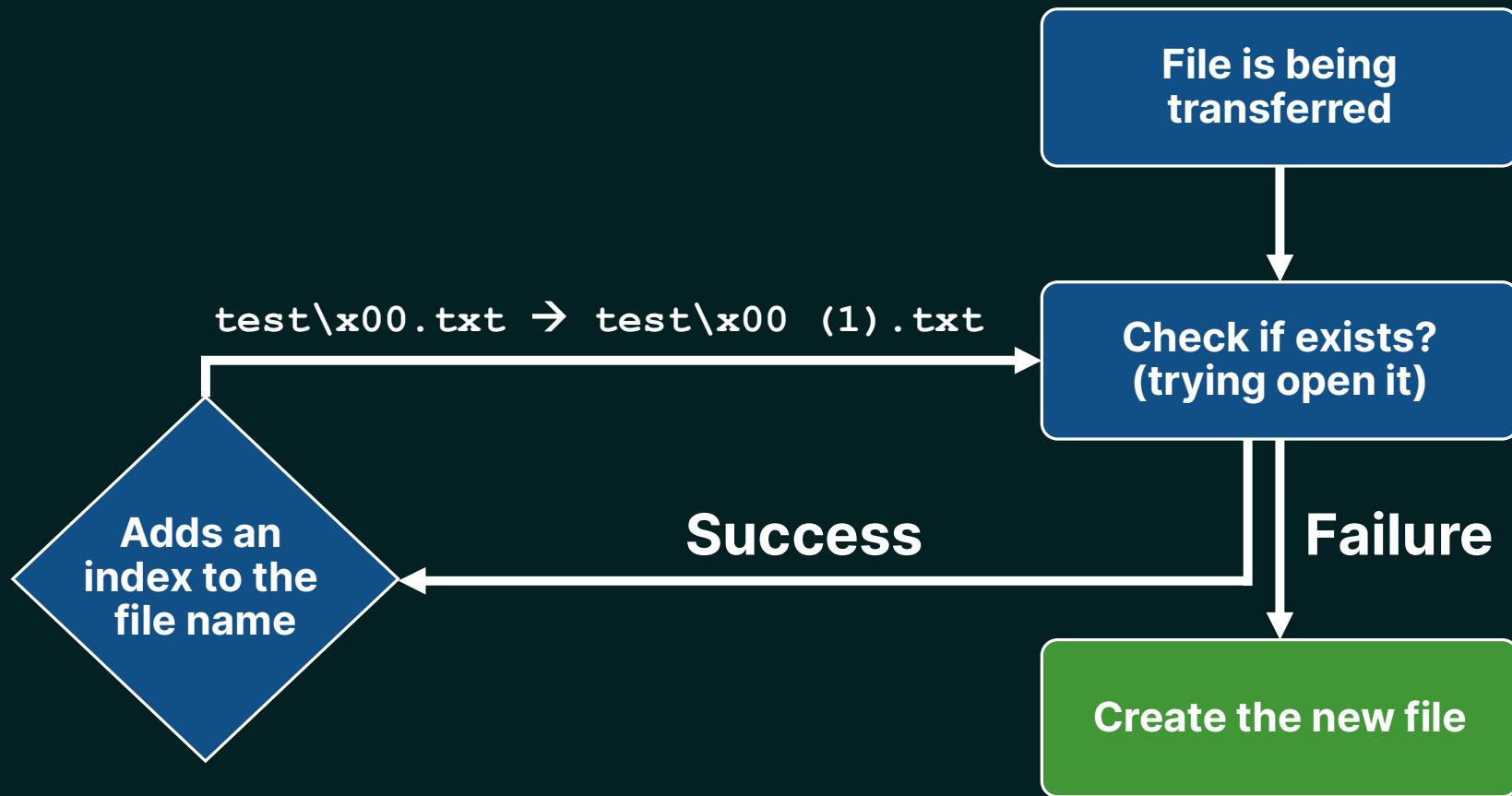
Reproducible Timeout

test.exe → **test(1).exe**

```
// Break the string at the dot.  
auto file_name1 = file_name.substr(0, first);  
auto file_name2 = file_name.substr(first);  
...  
// While we successfully open the file, keep incrementing the count.  
int count = 0;  
while (!(file.rdstate() & std::ifstream::failbit)) {  
    file.close();  
    target = (folder + file_name1 + L" (" + std::to_wstring(++count) + L")" + file_name2);  
    ...  
    file.open(target, std::fstream::binary | std::fstream::in);  
}
```



Reproducible Timeout



Time For Reflection

Fuzzer is running (slow but works)

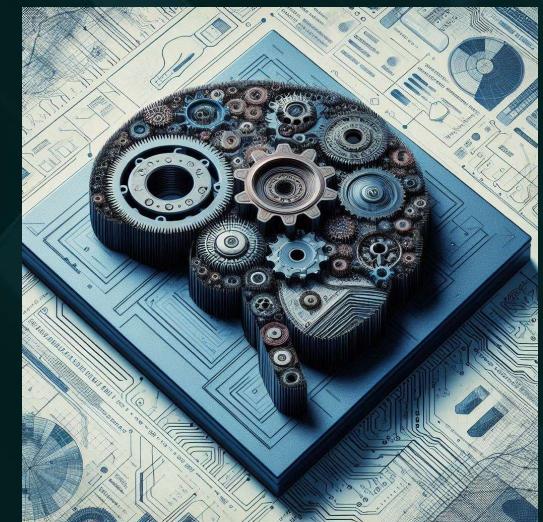
Some unexploitable findings

Moving on to search for logic vulnerabilities, instead of creating the perfect fuzzer





Logic Vulnerabilities

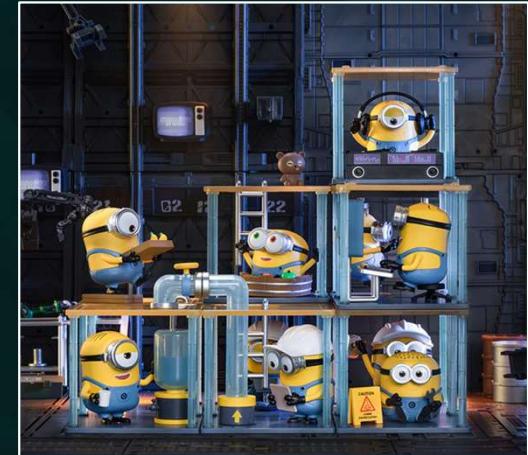


Google Quick Share's Code Design

Extremely generic

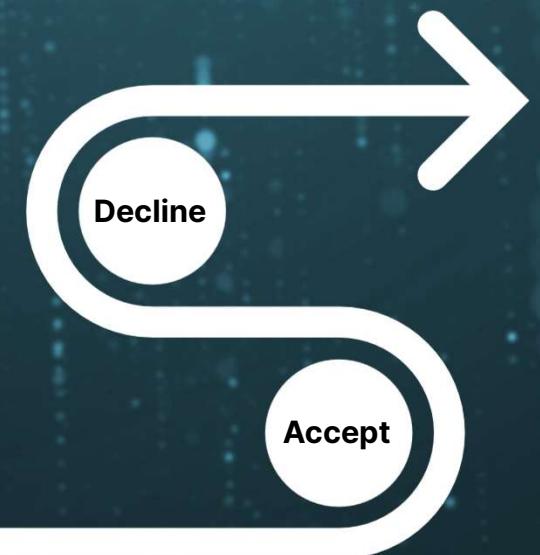
Handler class for each packet type

Code is full of thread creations all over the place





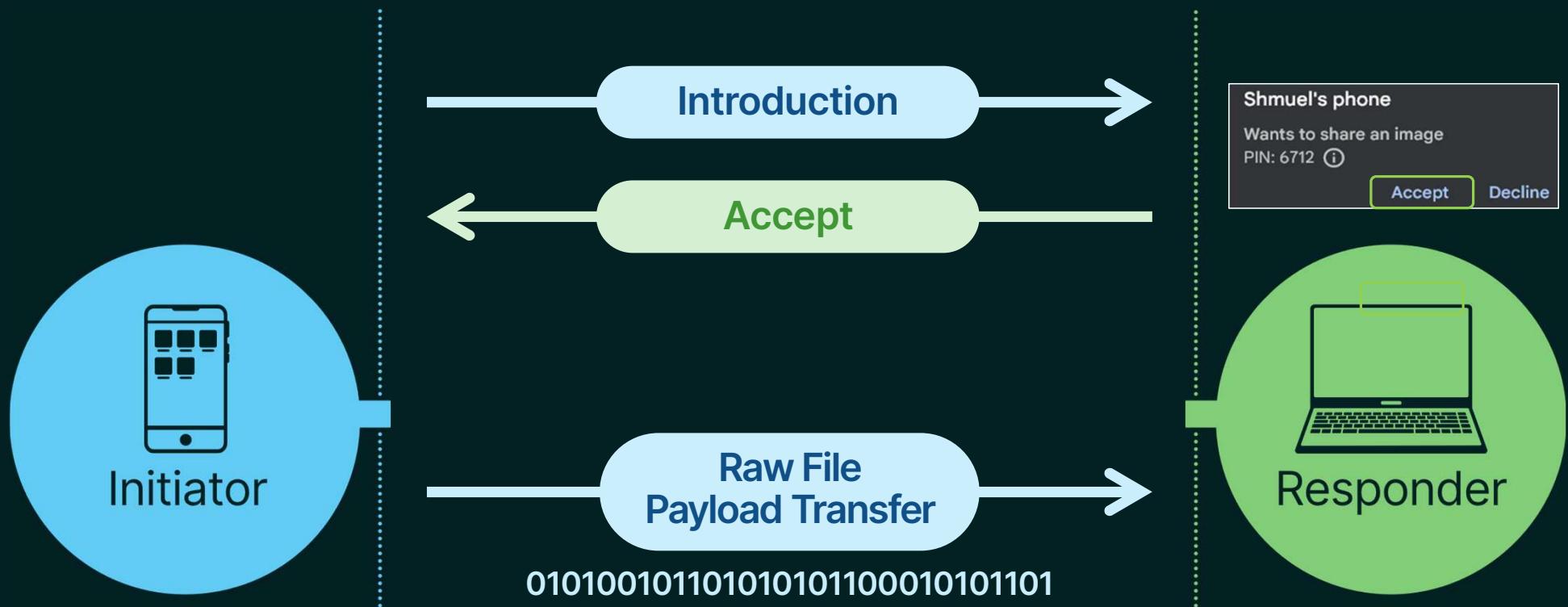
File Acceptance Bypass



Payload Transfer

INTRODUCTION & ACCEPT

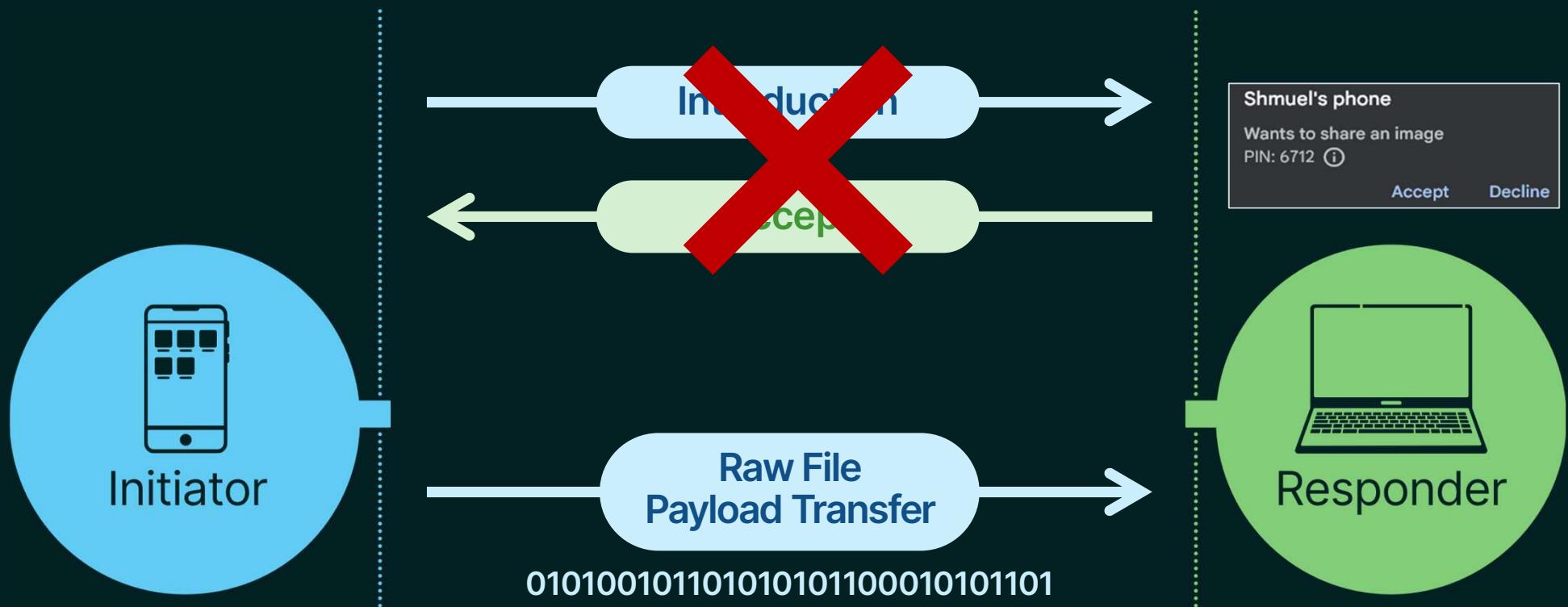
After paired Key Encryption:



Payload Transfer

INTRODUCTION & ACCEPT

After paired Key Encryption:



File Transfer Acceptance Bypass

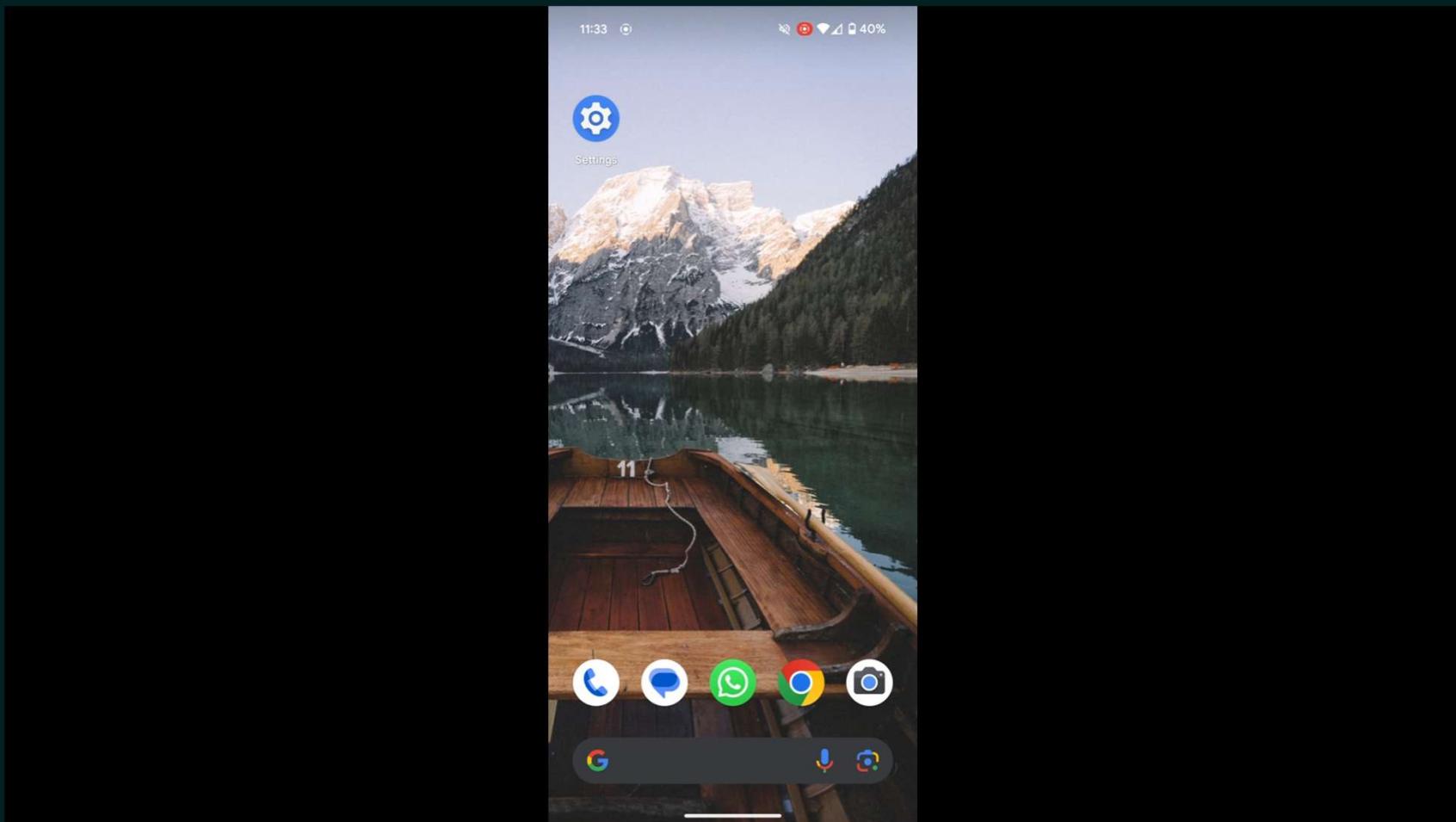
Bypasses all “Accept” in all visibility modes:

Your Devices

Contacts

Everyone

Acceptance Bypass - Demo





Forcing WiFi Connection

Connecting endpoints to
our own AP



Bandwidth Upgrade Negotiation

Medium can be changed during the session.

```
// Accompanies Medium.WIFI_HOTSPOT.  
message WifiHotspotCredentials {  
    optional string ssid = 1;  
    optional string password = 2;  
    optional int32 port = 3;  
    optional string gateway = 4 [default = "0.0.0.0"];  
    // This field can be a band or frequency  
    optional int32 frequency = 5 [default = -1];  
}
```

```
// Accompanies Medium.WIFI_AWARE.  
message WifiAwareCredentials {  
    optional string service_id = 1;  
    optional bytes service_info = 2;  
    optional string password = 3;  
}
```

```
// Accompanies Medium.WIFI_LAN.  
message WifiLanSocket {  
    optional bytes ip_address = 1;  
    optional int32 wifi_port = 2;  
}
```

```
// Accompanies Medium.BLUETOOTH.  
message BluetoothCredentials {  
    optional string service_name = 1;  
    optional string mac_address = 2;  
}
```

```
// Accompanies Medium.WEB_RTC  
message WebRtcCredentials {  
    optional string peer_id = 1;  
    optional LocationHint location_hint = 2;  
}
```

Past Research

Android devices forced to connect to a WiFi network

~30 seconds' max

Mitigated by Google

- Android devices no longer connect to internet through a Quick Share Bandwidth Upgrade WiFi network
-

Quick Share on Windows

**Internet access is permitted through
a Bandwidth Upgrade WiFi network!**

Quick Share on Windows

Internet access is permitted through
a Bandwidth Upgrade WiFi network!

We can now sniff responder internet traffic



Standard stones may sometimes
be forged into deadly drones

Primary Abilities We Achieved

Create files in “Downloads” without approval

WiFi MITM (30 sec max)

Crash Quick Share

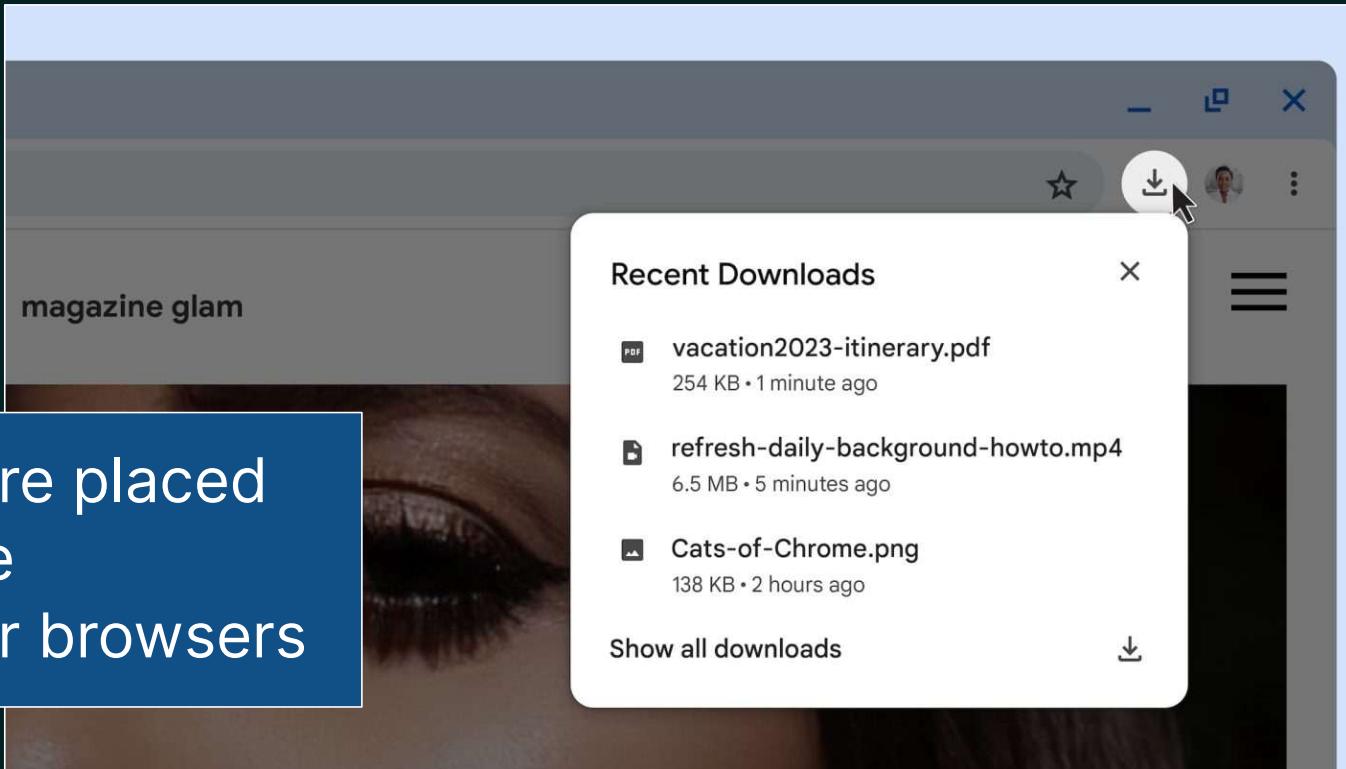
Force Quick Share to continuously open a file

WiFi MITM — Application Layer Encryption

Encrypted application layer is a standard.
Leveraging MITM for straight forward RCE won't
work for most use cases.



Downloading an Insight



Quick Share's files are placed
in “Downloads” - the
downloads folder for browsers

Potential RCE Goal

Goal:

Overwrite an executable downloaded by a victim before it runs

Needed Abilities:

 Know downloaded executable file names

 Overwrite files (not just create)

Potential RCE Goal



Lasting WiFi MITM



Trying to bridge the gaps anyway, starting with making the WiFi connection last

Lasting WiFi Connection



Quick Share's Relaunch Scheduled Task

Quick Share Relaunch Scheduled Task –
Every 15 minutes

 Quick Share Relaunch At 1:27 AM on 7/2/2024 - After triggered, repeat every 15 minutes indefinitely.

Force
WiFi
Connection



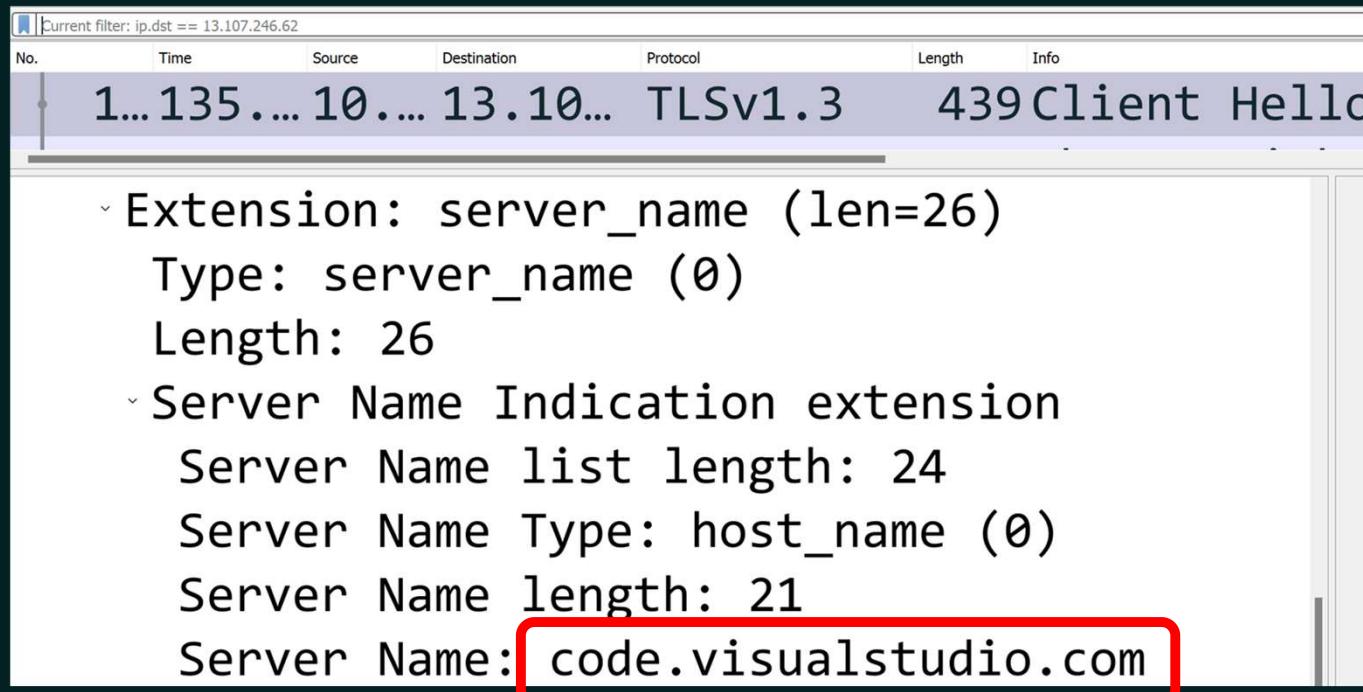
Crash

We're now
MITM

Knowing Downloaded File Names



Downloaded Files Metadata - Domain TLS Client Hello - Server Name Indication Extension



Current filter: ip.dst == 13.107.246.62

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1...	135....	10....	13.10...	TLSv1.3	439	Client Hello

Extension: server_name (len=26)
Type: server_name (0)
Length: 26

Server Name Indication extension
Server Name list length: 24
Server Name Type: host_name (0)
Server Name length: 21
Server Name: code.visualstudio.com

Downloaded Files Metadata - Size

Single TCP session per download



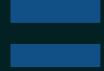
Approximate download size

Knowing Downloaded File Names

Installer Domain



Approximate Size

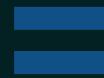


File Name Accurate Guess

code.visualstudio.com



95 MB



VSCodeUserSetup-x64-1.91.0.exe

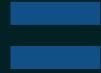


Knowing Downloaded File Names

Installer Domain



Approximate Size



File Name Accurate Guess

code.visualstudio.com



95 MB

`VSCodeUserSetup-x64-1.91.0.exe`

Improvement – Monitoring Domain Paths

notepad-plus-plus.org



Improvement – Monitoring Domain Paths

notepad-plus-plus.org



github.com/.../npp.8.6.9.Installer.x64.exe



Improvement – Monitoring Domain Paths

notepad-plus-plus.org



github.com/.../npp.8.6.9.Installer.x64.exe



objects.githubusercontent.com



New MITM Technique

Map “Domain Paths” to executables + their sizes

Wait for “Domain Path” hit

Count TCP data

If - TCP data \leq actual executable size + 15%:

We know it's the executable

Force
WiFi
Connection



Crash

Detect EXE
Download
Name

Potential RCE Goal

Goal:

Overwrite an executable downloaded by a victim before it runs

Needed Abilities:



Know downloaded executable file names



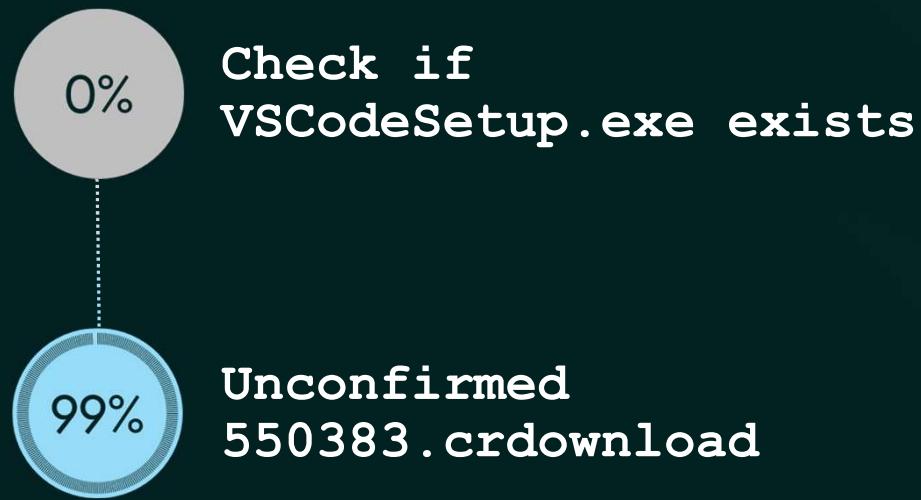
Overwrite files
(not just create)

Chrome's Download Process

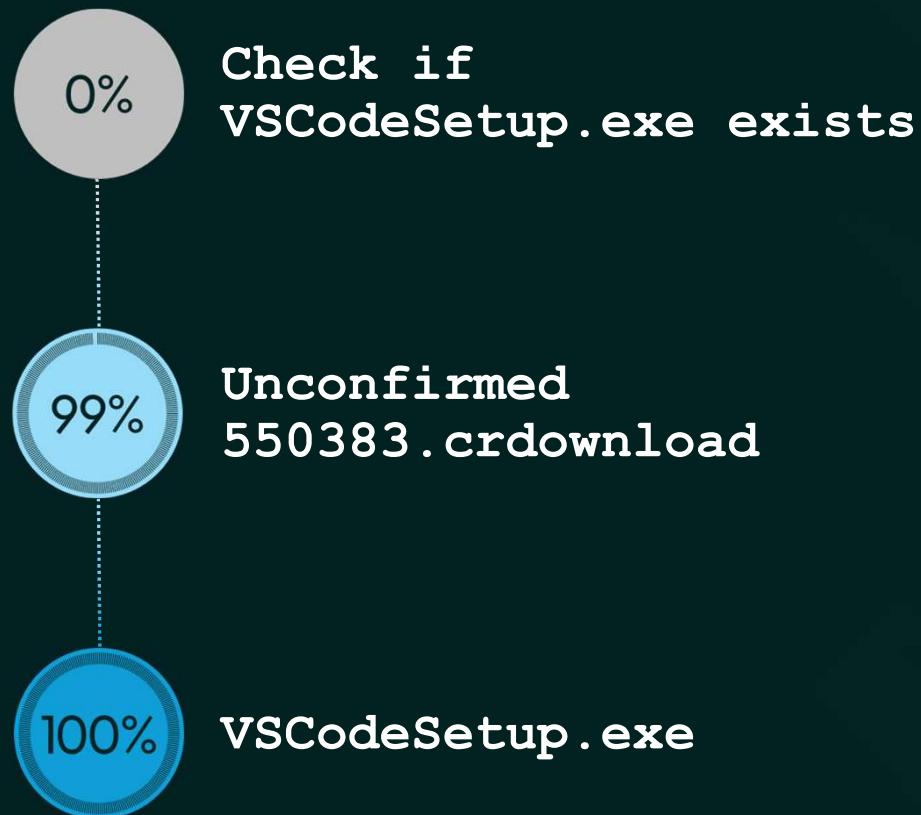
0%

Check if
VSCodeSetup.exe exists

Chrome's Download Process



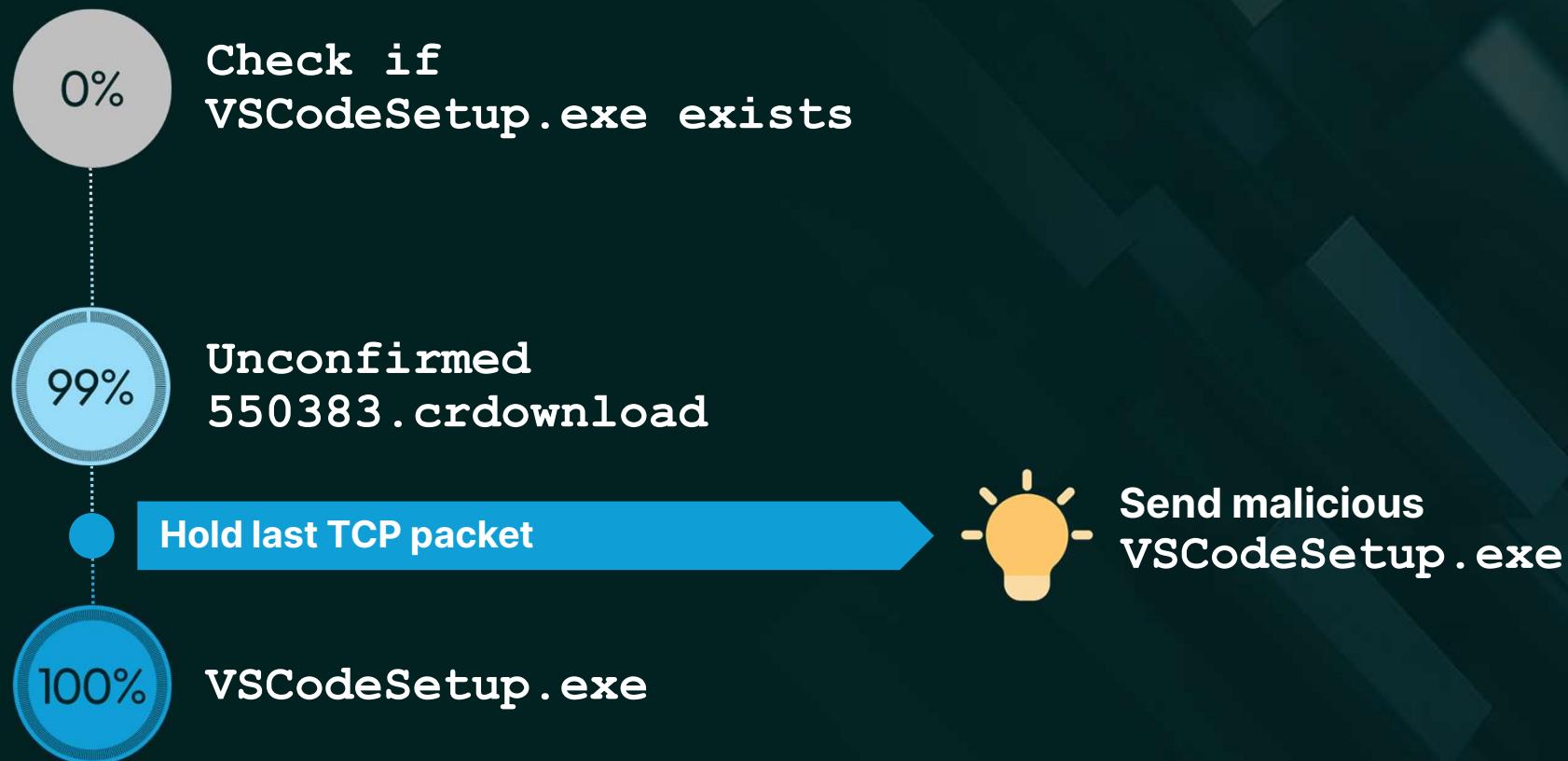
Chrome's Download Process



Overwriting Files

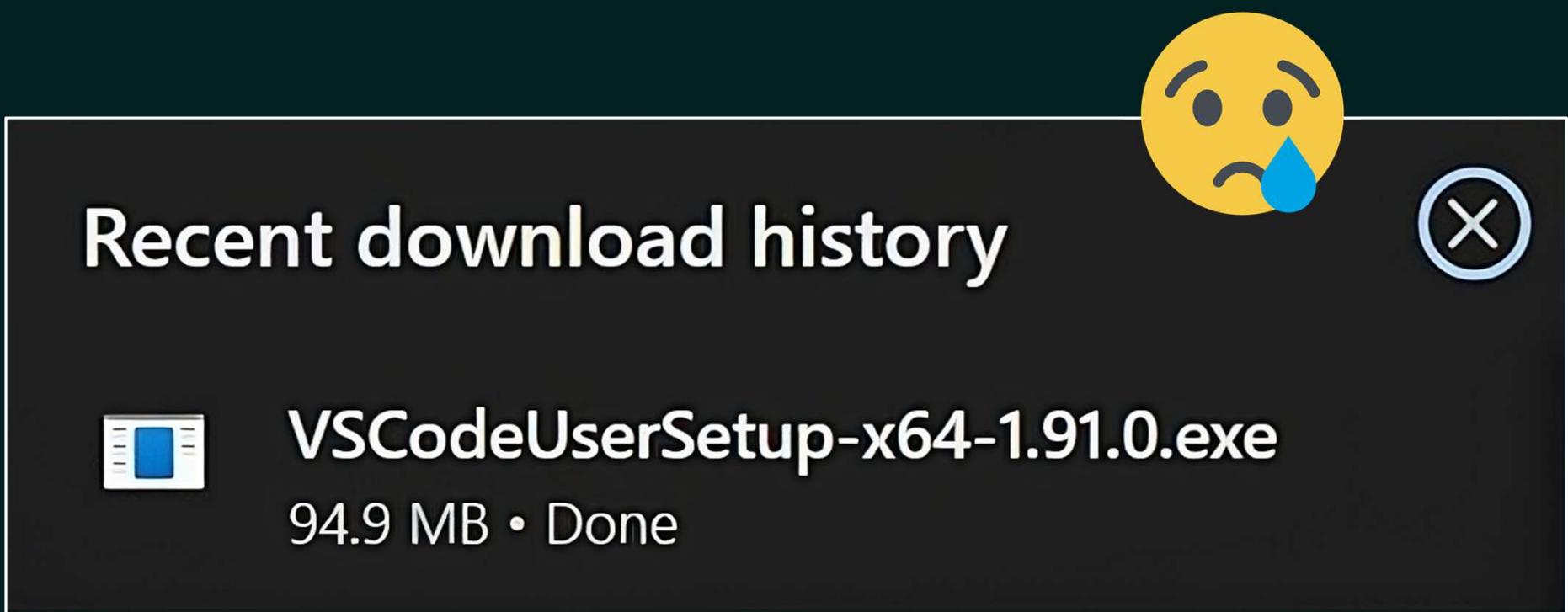


Overwriting Files



Overwriting Chrome's Download

.crwd is renamed and our file is deleted



Overwriting Chrome's Download

Can we maybe prevent our file from being deleted?

1. Send malicious
`VSCodeSetup.exe`
2. Make Quick Share continuously open
`VSCodeSetup.exe`

Overwriting Chrome's Download

Result:

Chrome deletes the .crdownload file

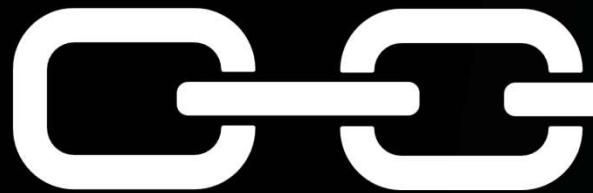
Leaves our malicious file in place

Reports successful download completion

Refers to our malicious file



**Force
WiFi
Connection**



Crash

**Detect EXE
Download
Name**



**Send a File
Without
Approval**

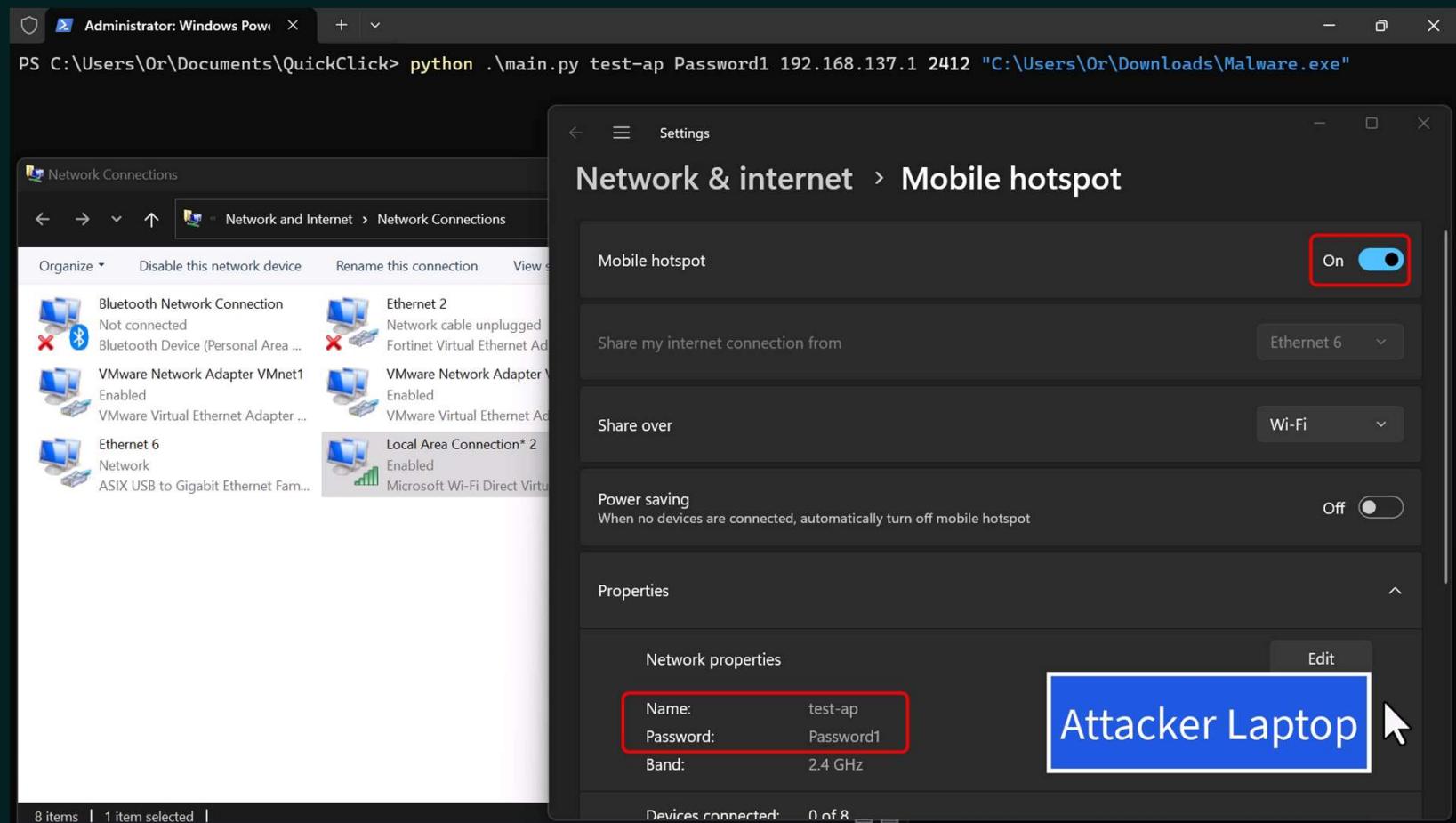


**Force
Continuous
Open**



**QuickShell
RCE**

Demo



Extra Vulnerabilities

Limited path traversal (only to parent folder)

DoS (based on the MagicDot research)

10 Vulnerabilities

1. Remote Unauthorized File Write in Quick Share for Windows
 2. Remote Unauthorized File Write in Quick Share for Android
 3. Remote Forced WiFi Connection in Quick Share for Windows
 4. Remote Directory Traversal in Quick Share for Windows
 5. Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Endless Loop
 6. Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Assert Failure
 7. Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Assert Failure
 8. Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Unhandled Exception
 9. Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Unhandled Exception
 10. Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Unhandled Exception
-

Fixed Vulnerabilities

-  Remote Unauthorized File Write in Quick Share for Windows
 -  Remote Unauthorized File Write in Quick Share for Android
 -  Remote Forced WiFi Connection in Quick Share for Windows
 -  Remote Directory Traversal in Quick Share for Windows
 -  Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Endless Loop
 -  Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Assert Failure
 -  Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Assert Failure
 -  Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Unhandled Exception
 -  Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Unhandled Exception
 -  Remote DoS in Quick Share for Windows – Unhandled Exception
-



Fixes & Patch Bypasses



Patch – Invalid UTF8 Continuation Byte

Reported to Google about Invalid UTF8 continuation bytes crashing Quick Share

Example we provided – “\x00FileName”

Google’s patch – Verifies file names don’t start with “\x00”

Bypass – Invalid UTF8 Continuation Byte

Instead of “\x00”, setting a different invalid UTF8 continuation byte in file names

Example – “\xc5\xffFileName”

Result:

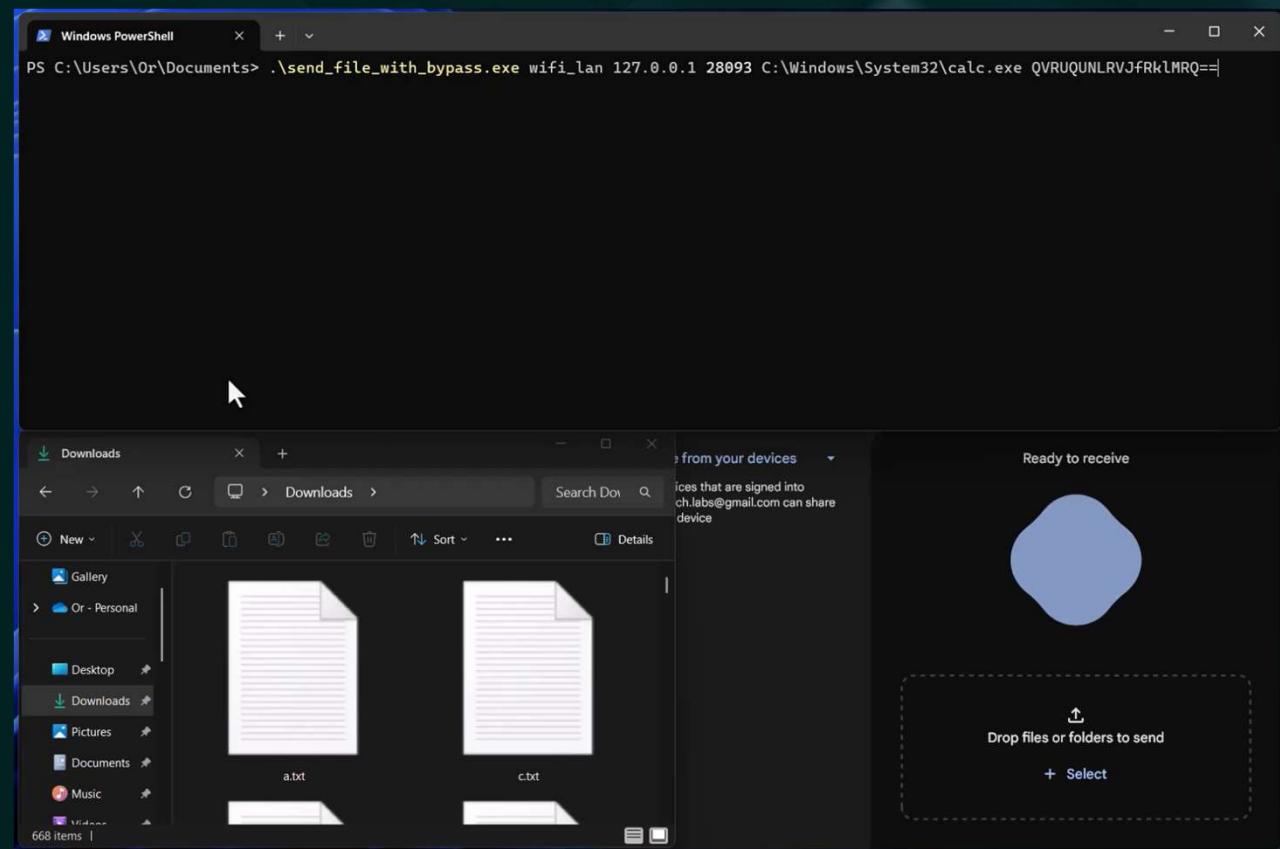
Quick Share crashes again

Patch - Remote Unauthorized File Write

Files are still written to disk on Windows but are later deleted.

Google calls them:

“Unknown Files”



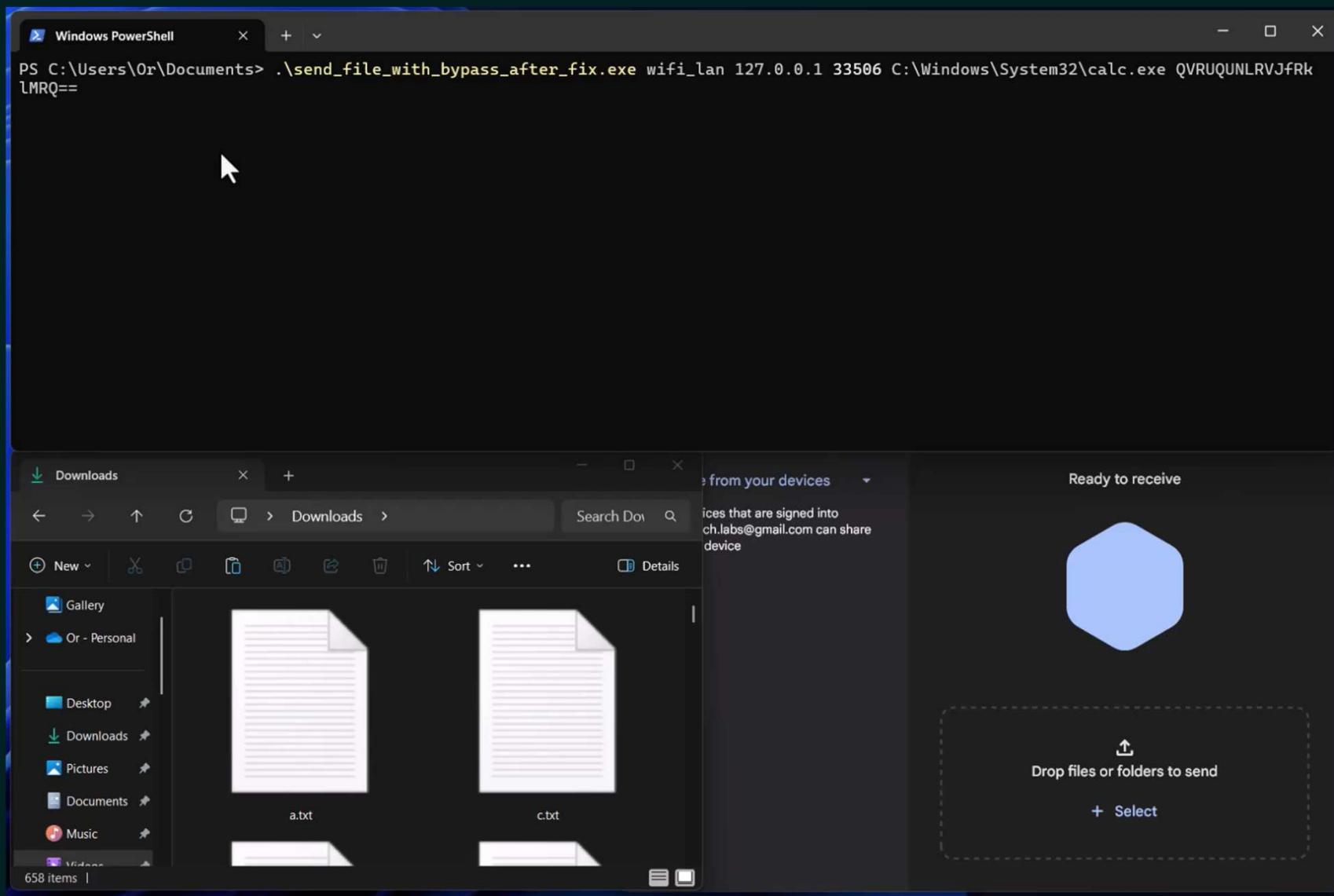
```
void NearbySharingServiceImpl::RemoveIncomingPayloads(
    const IncomingShareSession& session) {
    LOG(INFO) << __func__ << ": Cleaning up payloads due to transfer failure";
    nearby_connections_manager_->ClearIncomingPayloads();
    std::vector<std::filesystem::path> files_for_deletion;
    auto file_paths_to_delete =
        nearby_connections_manager_->GetAndClearUnknownFilePathsToDelete();
    for (auto it = file_paths_to_delete.begin(); it != file_paths_to_delete.end();
         ++it) {
        VLOG(1) << __func__ << ": Has unknown file path to delete.";
        files_for_deletion.push_back(*it);
    }
    std::vector<std::filesystem::path> payload_file_path =
        session.GetPayloadFilePaths();
    files_for_deletion.insert(files_for_deletion.end(),
                             payload_file_path.begin(),
                             payload_file_path.end());
    file_handler_.DeleteFilesFromDisk(std::move(files_for_deletion), []() {});
```

Bypass - Remote Unauthorized File Write

Send two FILE Payload Transfer Frame with the same
Payload ID

Result:

Only the first file is deleted



Google's Response

"We greatly appreciate research from the security community that helps keep our users safe. We have deployed fixes for all of the reported vulnerabilities. To our knowledge, these vulnerabilities have not been exploited in the wild. No action is required by Quick Share users. The fixes will be automatically applied.

Developers using the open source repository can refer to the CVEs for further information on how to apply the fixes:

CVE-2024-38271

CVE-2024-38272

July 23rd, 2024

CVEs

CVE-2024-38271 – Forcing a lasting WiFi connection

CVE-2024-38272 – File approval dialog bypass

CVE-2024-10668 - Fix Bypass for CVE-2024-38272



Takeaways



Takeaways



Standard stones may sometimes be forged into deadly drones

Takeaways



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It's crucial for vendors and organizations not to underestimate seemingly simple bugs or known issues

Takeaways



Standard stones may sometimes be forged into deadly drones

It's crucial for vendors and organizations not to underestimate seemingly simple bugs or known issues

It's crucial to not fixate solely on memory corruption and fuzzing techniques when examining a program's security

GitHub + Q&A



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QuickShell