CMC TELECOM

8th Floor, CMC Tower, 19 Street, Tan Thuan EPZ, District 7, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: +842871090100| Fax:   
+84 28 3925 9755| [cmctelecom.vn](https://cmctelecom.vn/)

**SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**ASSESSMENT SUBJECT: SafeNote.apk**

*Ho Chi Minh City, 2023*

**CMC TELECOM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Version** | 1.0 |
| **Target** | SafeNote.apk |
| **Date** | 06/04/2023 |
| **Document Type** | Report |
| **Prepared By** | Tran Truong Giang |

**MỤC LỤC**

[**MỤC LỤC** 3](#_Toc131755213)

[**I.** **Overview** 4](#_Toc131755214)

[**1.** **Synopsis** 4](#_Toc131755215)

[**2.** **Method of implementation** 4](#_Toc131755216)

[**3.** **Classification of Vulnerabilities** 5](#_Toc131755217)

[**4. Scope of Work** 6](#_Toc131755218)

[**5. Summary of Testing Process** 7](#_Toc131755219)

[**II.** **Details of Implementation** 9](#_Toc131755220)

[**1.** **Application Information** 9](#_Toc131755221)

[**2.** **Summarized findings and Vulnerability Graph** 10](#_Toc131755222)

[**3.** **Vulnerability List** 11](#_Toc131755223)

[**4. Vulnerability details** 12](#_Toc131755224)

[**4.1** **Application Backup Enabled** 12](#_Toc131755225)

[**4.2 Weak Cryptography** 15](#_Toc131755226)

[**4.3  Insecure Content Provider Access** 19](#_Toc131755227)

[**4.4  Debug Mode Enabled** 20](#_Toc131755228)

[**4.5  Insecure Storage in Database** 22](#_Toc131755229)

[**4.6  Insecure Storage in Shared Preferences** 23](#_Toc131755230)

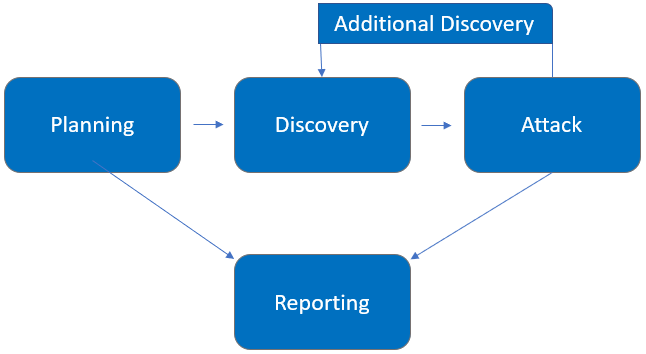
# **Overview**

## **Synopsis**

From March 07, 2023 – March 10, 2023 CMCCS and REDACTED had collaborated to conduct the penetration test for the app SafeNote.apk. All tests follow the OWASP standards.

**The assessment procedure includes:**

* Planning: Identify the subject and scope for assessment
* Discovery: Test, Scan, Search and Identify intel relevant to the test subject including Versions, Vulnerabilities, Weakness, Sensitive data, etc
* Attack: CMC Personnel will perform attacks and exploits on discovered vulnerabilities.
* Reporting: Document the vulnerabilities along with the method of exploit recognised on the test subject, and recommendation for remedy.



## **Method of implementation**

Gray Box Pen-testing: In this method, the internal structure of the application is known partially (usually internal account or test account)

With Grey Box Pentesting, CMC will be provided with an internal account along with necessary information of the system to conduct the test.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

## **Classification of Vulnerabilities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASSIFICATION OF VULNERABILITY** | | |
| **Level** | **CVSS V3 Scoring** | **Description** |
| **Critical** | 9 – 10 | Vulnerabilities that allow hackers to attack from the outside in with the highest privilege, exposing sensitive or full data, impacting severely the information integrity (data is modified or completely erased) as well as its availability (all services are shut down) |
| **High** | 7 – 8,9 | Vulnerabilities allowing attackers to impact the system within a certain scope such as taking over user authority to access a device without authentication, exposing large amount of data (but have low level of sensitivity), data is subjected to modification and its integrity is affected, leading to the system being stalled of interrupted. However, the impact is not too severe to the reputation of the organisation and only affects a group of users |
| **Medium** | 4 – 6,9 | Vulnerabilities at this level is usually used as a predecessor for future attacks and exploits to potentially affect the system at a higher level. These types of vulnerabilities can cause nuisance for users but usually do not affect the availability of the service directly |
| **Low** | 0,1 – 3,9 | Vulnerabilities that leak data at a low level where said data are not valuable for exploits and does not affect the integrity of the information as well as the activities of the system. The fix is often feasible and easy with little to no cost. Organisations' reputation is not affected |

## **4. Scope of Work**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Method of Implementation | Test Object |
| Black Box  Pen-testing | App SafeNote.apk |

## **5. Summary of Testing Process**

After discussing with REDACTED on ensuring the continual availability of the app SafeNote.apk. CMC proposed conducting the penetration test from 27/03/2023 – 08/04/2023. The detail of work is as follow:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STT** | **Contents of work performed** | | **Condition** |
| 1 | Collection  Of  Information | Determine the types of data connections that the app uses 3G, WiFi connection, NFC connection, Bluetooth. | **PASS** |
| The permissions that the app requires when installing. | **PASS** |
| Collect information about unfamiliar domains or IP connections in the application. | **PASS** |
| Collect information about the SDK if built into the app. | **PASS** |
| 2 | Static  Analysis | Evaluate the authentication mechanism. | **FAIL** |
| Check the anti-root, anti-vm, cert-pinning mechanisms (if any) of the application. | **PASS** |
| Check the app’s permission configurations. | **PASS** |
| Check the configuration in the Manifest (Activity Hijacking) file. | **PASS** |
| Check session management mechanisms and insecure cookie storage. | **PASS** |
| Check for sensitive information in logs, code, in directories or in sqlite. | **FAIL** |
| Check information about libraries, dependencies, and open source from 3rd parties. | **PASS** |
| Data transport cascade assessment. | **PASS** |
| Evaluate the possibility of decompiling source code and tampering with applications. | **FAIL** |
| 3 | Dynamic  Analysis | Evaluate Web App issues related to the application: XSS, Command Injection, CRSF, SQL Injection, Cookies … | **PASS** |
| Evaluation of the application’s encryption machanisms. | **FAIL** |
| Analyze files created during application installation. | **PASS** |
| Memory analysis. | **PASS** |
| Evaluation of authentication mechanisms. | **FAIL** |
| Evaluating the authorization mechanism. | **PASS** |
| Evaluation of session management mechanisms. | **PASS** |
| Data transfer layer assessment. | **PASS** |
| Evaluate server-side attacks from the application. | **PASS** |

# **Details of Implementation**

## **Application Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Platform | Android |
| Package Name | com.els.safenote |
| Version | Android 11 |
| Min SDK | 16 |
| Target SDK | 24 |
| MD5 | 3ea6097be40583e9f11a940afbe02fcc |
| SHA1 | 950c546d2555f36579d0731d519735bc10fe220c |
| SHA256 | a1728c0740bb6e0d3fe8241c6418201a9e9927a90c9245de6bc73ac75a3a6fcd |

## **Summarized findings and Vulnerability Graph**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Classification** | **Quantity** |
| **Target** | **SafeNote.apk** |
| **Total vulnerabilities found** | **04** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CRITICAL/ HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW** | **01** | **02** | **01** | **00** |

## **Vulnerability List**

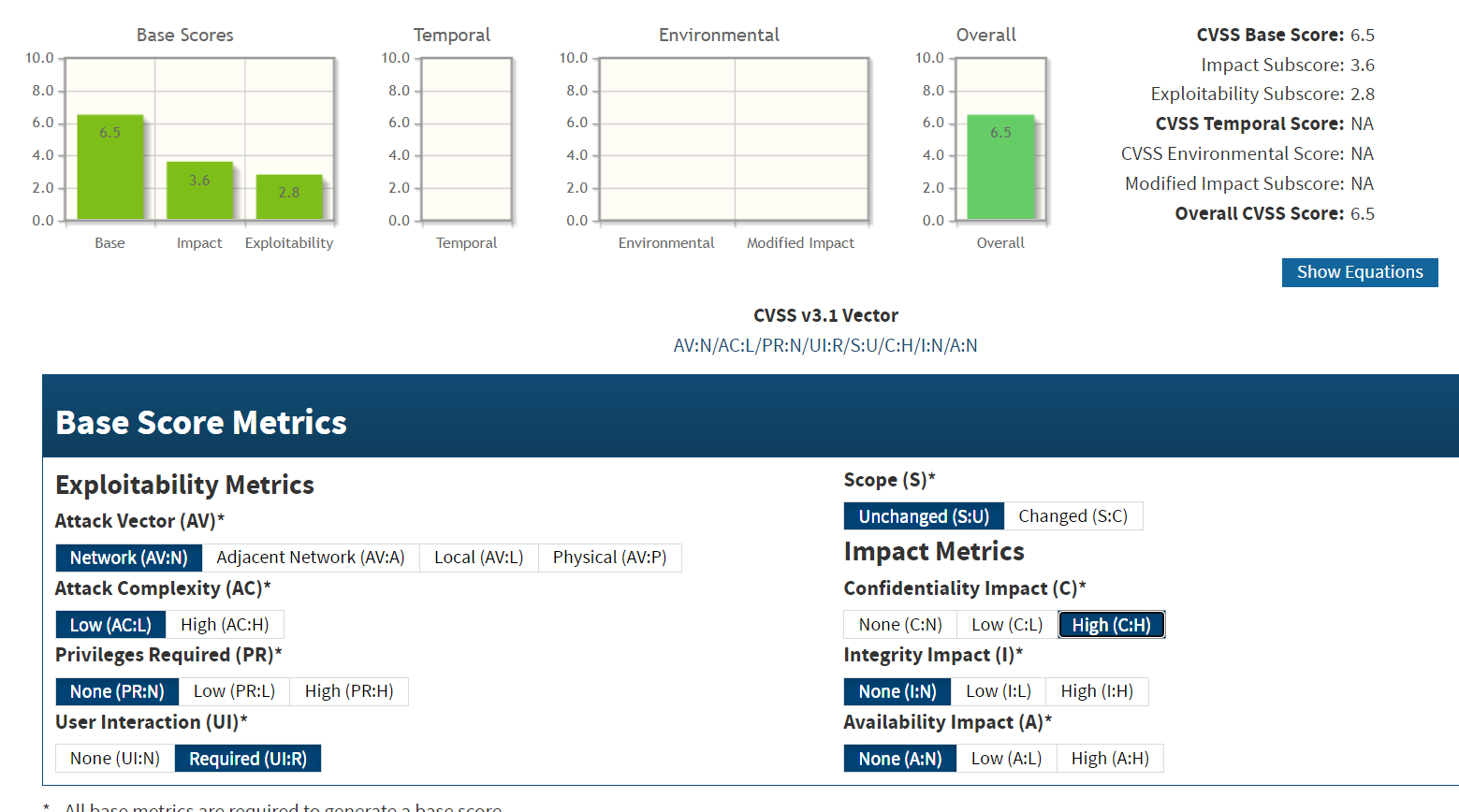
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **VULNERABILITY LIST** | **STATUS** |
| **1** | **Application Backup Enabled** | **MEDIUM** |
| **2** | **Weak Cryptography** | **HIGH** |
| **3** | **Debug Mode Enabled** | **CRITICAL** |
| **4** | **Insecure Storage in Shared Preferences** | **HIGH** |

## **4. Vulnerability details**

### **Application Backup Enabled**

***The following summaries the vulnerability’s severity ratings.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Possibility** | **HIGH** | **Technical Impact** | **MEDIUM** | **Business Impact** | **MEDIUM** |



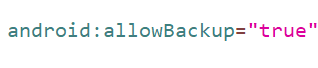
***Description:***

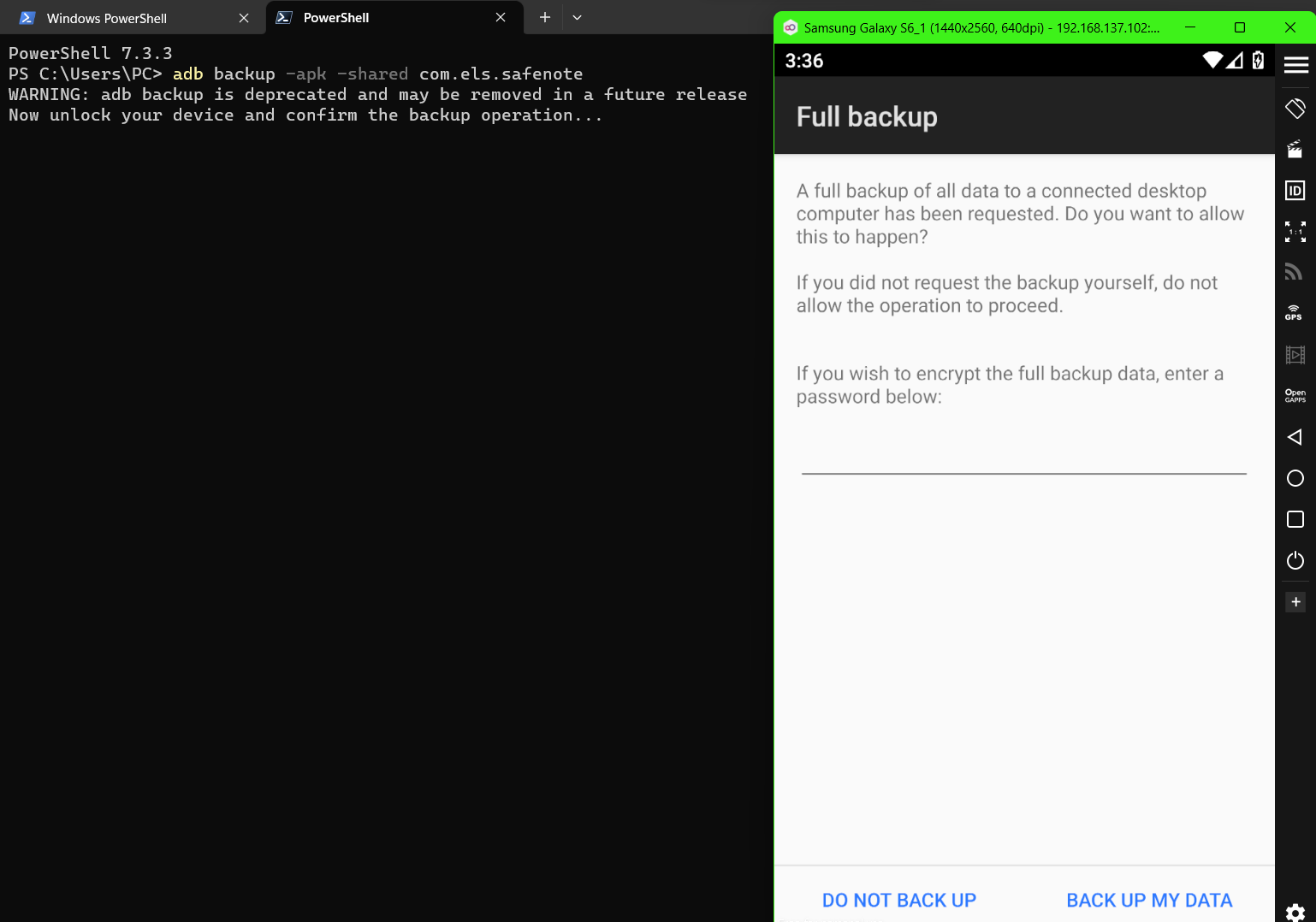
**This is a feature that is used to enable a backup storage device such as an external hard drive or an online cloud storage account. When enabled, a copy of the data stored on the primary storage device is backed up to the secondary device on a regular basis. This provides an extra layer of protection if the primary storage device fails or is damaged.**

**In this case, the application did not control which kind of data will be backed up. Therefore, the attacker can backup the data the get the sensitive information.**

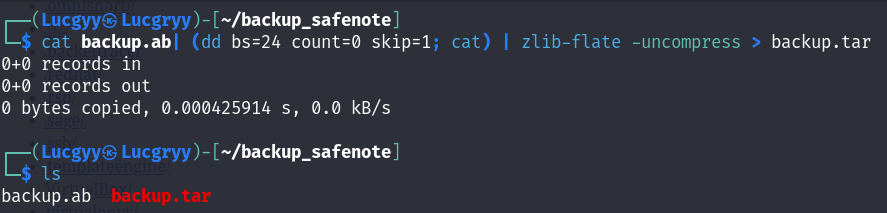
***Proof of Concept:***

Use jadx to reverse the apk file. In AndroidManifest.xml, we can see that this application allow backup feature

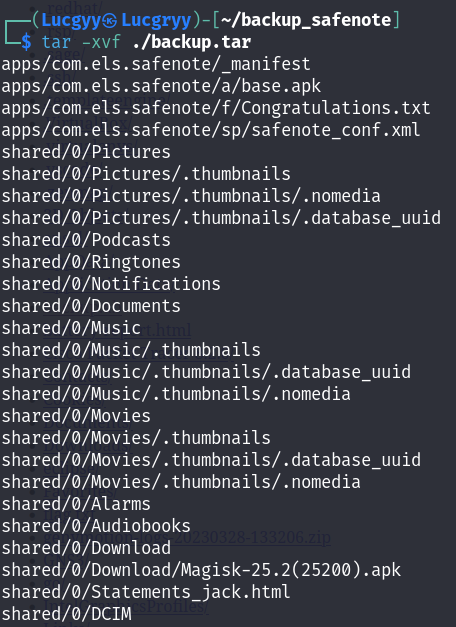


Use adb backup com.els.safenote to create a backup file. In the device, it will ask for permission to backup, choose backup my data, we will get the file named backup.ab 

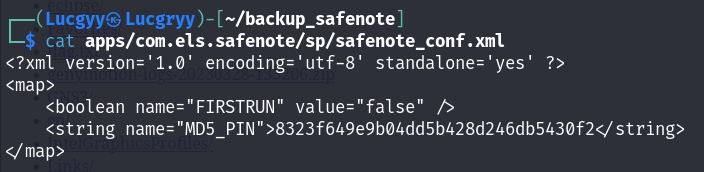
Convert the backup.ab into backup.tar like below



Extract that .tar file



We can read the content of the Shared Preferences



***Exploitation Tool:***

adb, Genymotion, jadx, Test Manual

***Recommendation:***

Set up the back up rule to control which kind of information in backed up. More detail here: [Back up user data with Auto Backup  |  Android Developers](https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/data/autobackup)

If the application do not allow backup, set the allowBackup to false in AndroidManifest.xml

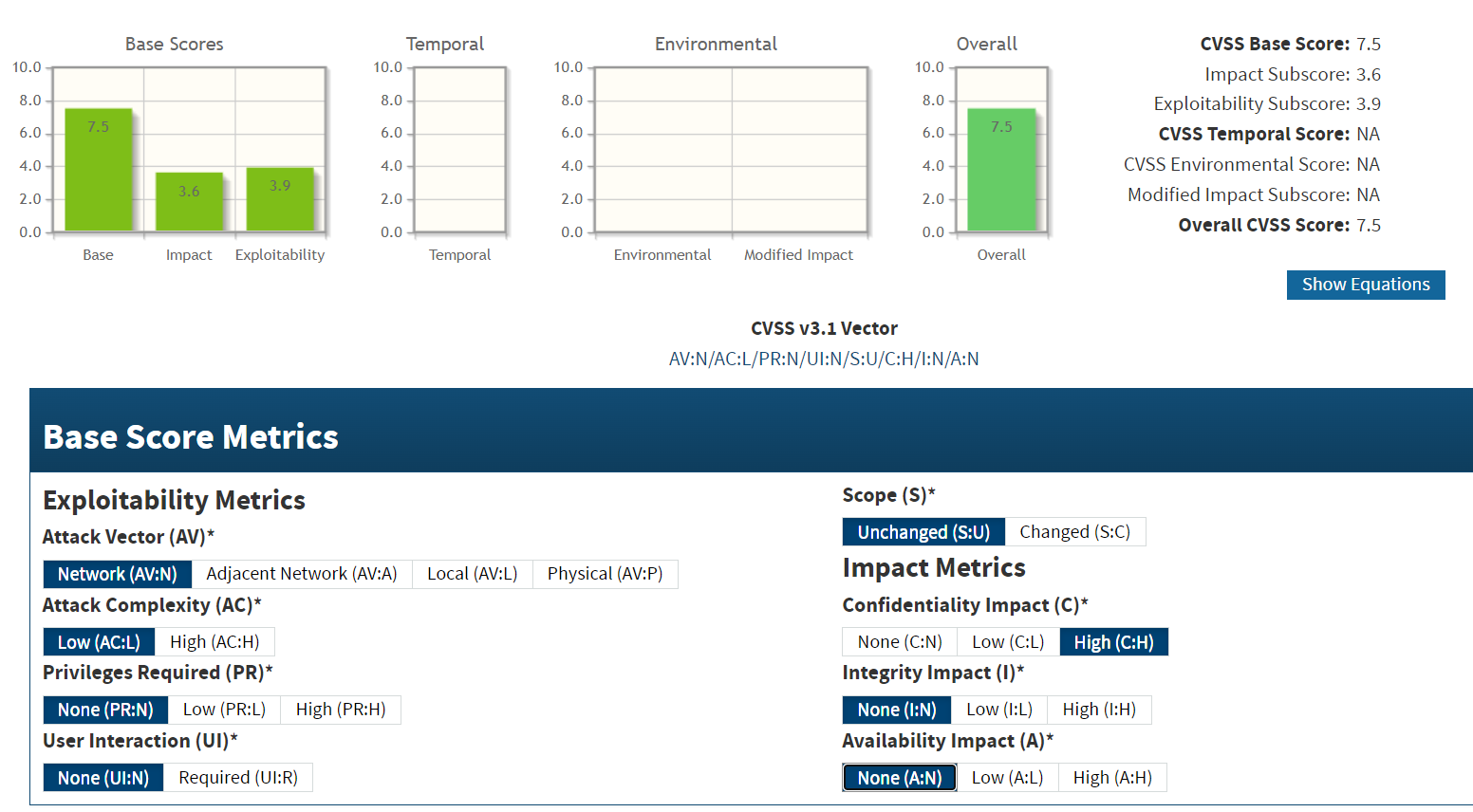
***References****:*

[Back up user data with Auto Backup  |  Android Developers](https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/data/autobackup)

### **4.2 Weak Cryptography**

***The following summaries the vulnerability’s severity ratings.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Possibility** | **HIGH** | **Technical Impact** | **HIGH** | **Business Impact** | **HIGH** |



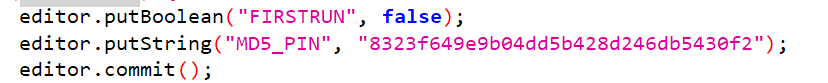
***Description:***

This is the vulnerable that cryptographic algorithm that is easily broken or cracked by a motivated attacker. It is considered to be vulnerable because it lacks the necessary strength or complexity to withstand a determined attack. Weak algorithms can be used to encrypt data or authenticate access, but they are easily broken by attackers due to their lack of robustness.

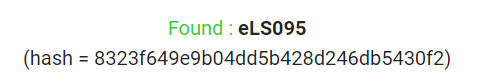
In this case, the programmer used MD5 algorithm, a very popular algorithm with poor security. Moreover, the programmer use hard-coded MD5 hash value for cryptographic purpose

***Proof of Concept:***

Using jadx to reversing the apk file. In the class named Login , we can see the variable MD5\_PIN in Shared Preferences: " 8323f649e9b04dd5b428d246db5430f2"



Using website [MD5 Online | Free MD5 Decryption, MD5 Hash Decoder](https://www.md5online.org/md5-decrypt.html?) to crack the MD5 hash, we get: eLS095



Enter that PIN code, we login successfully



***Exploitation Tool:***

Genymotion, jadx, Test Manual

***Recommendation:***

Use android Keystore system to store key securely

Get the key:

KeyGenerator keyGenerator;

SecretKey secretKey;

try {

    keyGenerator = KeyGenerator.getInstance("AES");

    keyGenerator.init(256);

    secretKey = keyGenerator.generateKey();

 } catch (Exception e) {

    e.printStackTrace();

 }

Initialize the IV:

byte[] IV = new byte[16];

SecureRandom random;

random = new SecureRandom();

random.nextBytes(IV);

Encryption:

public static byte[] encrypt(byte[] plaintext, SecretKey key, byte[] IV) throws Exception {

    Cipher cipher = Cipher.getInstance("AES");

    SecretKeySpec keySpec = new SecretKeySpec(key.getEncoded(), "AES");

    IvParameterSpec ivSpec = new IvParameterSpec(IV);

    cipher.init(Cipher.ENCRYPT\_MODE, keySpec, ivSpec);

    byte[] cipherText = cipher.doFinal(plaintext);

    return cipherText;

 }

Decryption:

public static String decrypt(byte[] cipherText, SecretKey key, byte[] IV) {

    try {

        Cipher cipher = Cipher.getInstance("AES");

        SecretKeySpec keySpec = new SecretKeySpec(key.getEncoded(), "AES");

        IvParameterSpec ivSpec = new IvParameterSpec(IV);

        cipher.init(Cipher.DECRYPT\_MODE, keySpec, ivSpec);

        byte[] decryptedText = cipher.doFinal(cipherText);

        return new String(decryptedText);

    } catch (Exception e) {

        e.printStackTrace();

    }

    return null;

 }

* Use SHA256 hashing algorithm instead of MD5

***References****:*

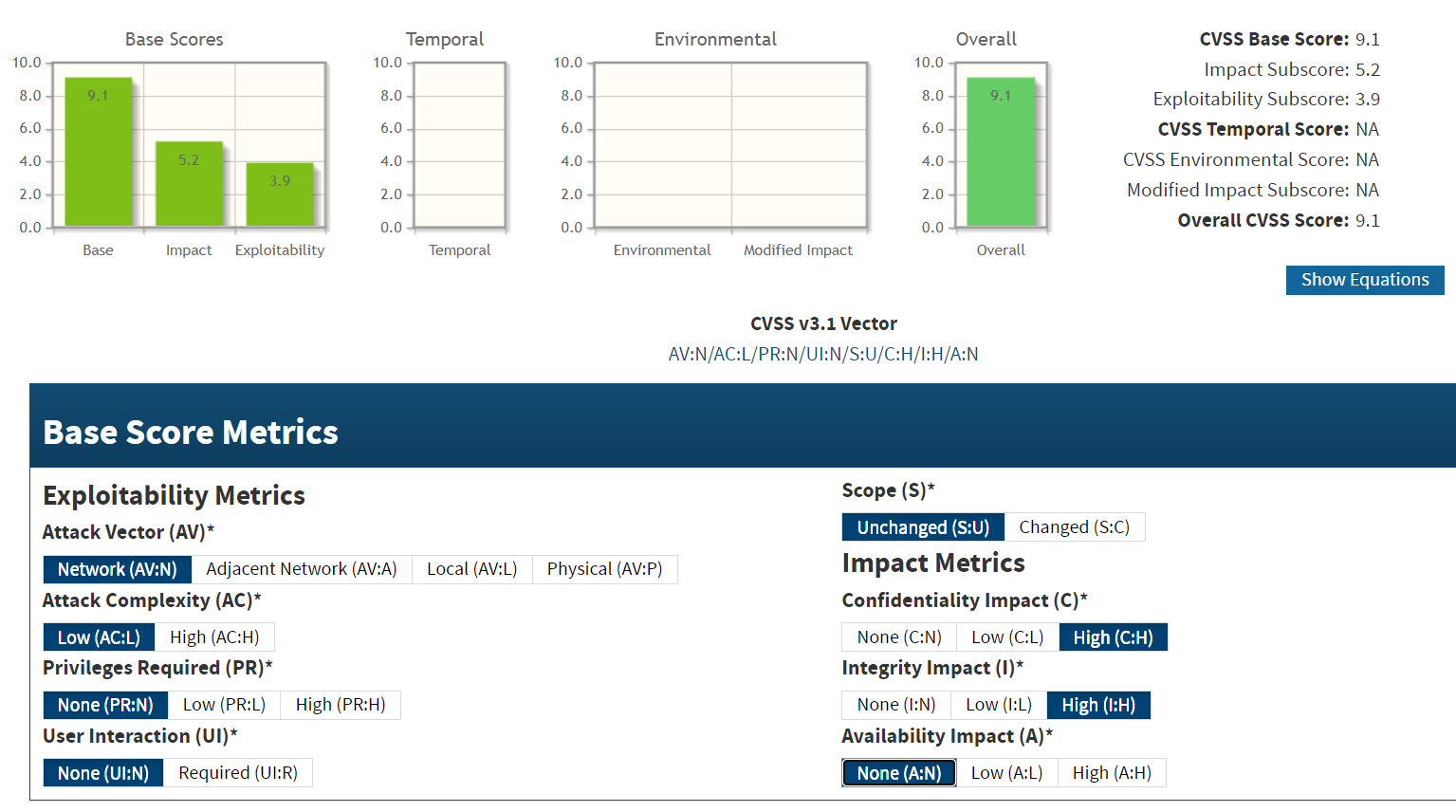
[AES 256 Encryption and Decryption in Android with Example (amarinfotech.com)](https://amarinfotech.com/how-to-do-aes-256-encryption-decryption-in-android.html)

[Android Keystore system  |  Android Developers](https://developer.android.com/training/articles/keystore)

### **4.3  Debug Mode Enabled**

***The following summarises the vulnerability’s severity ratings.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Possibility** | **HIGH** | **Technical Impact** | **CRITICAL** | **Business Impact** | **HIGH** |



***Description:***

This is a security vulnerability that allows a user to access the application’s debug mode and bypass certain security checks. This can be exploited to gain access to sensitive data, modify application configurations, or execute malicious code

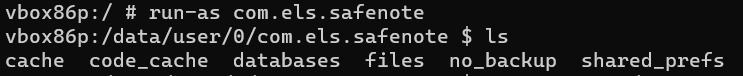
In this case, the developer forget to disable the debugging feature

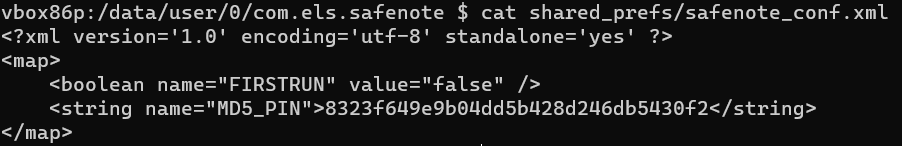
***Proof of Concept:***

Use jadx to reverse the apk file. In AndroidManifest.xml, we can see that this application enabled debugging



  With that feature, the attacker can access the application’s data as non-rooted user for example sqlite, shared preferences,...





***Exploitation Tool:***

adb, Genymotion, jadx, Test Manual

***Recommendation:***

In AndroidManifest.xml, set the ‘debuggable’ attribute to ‘false’

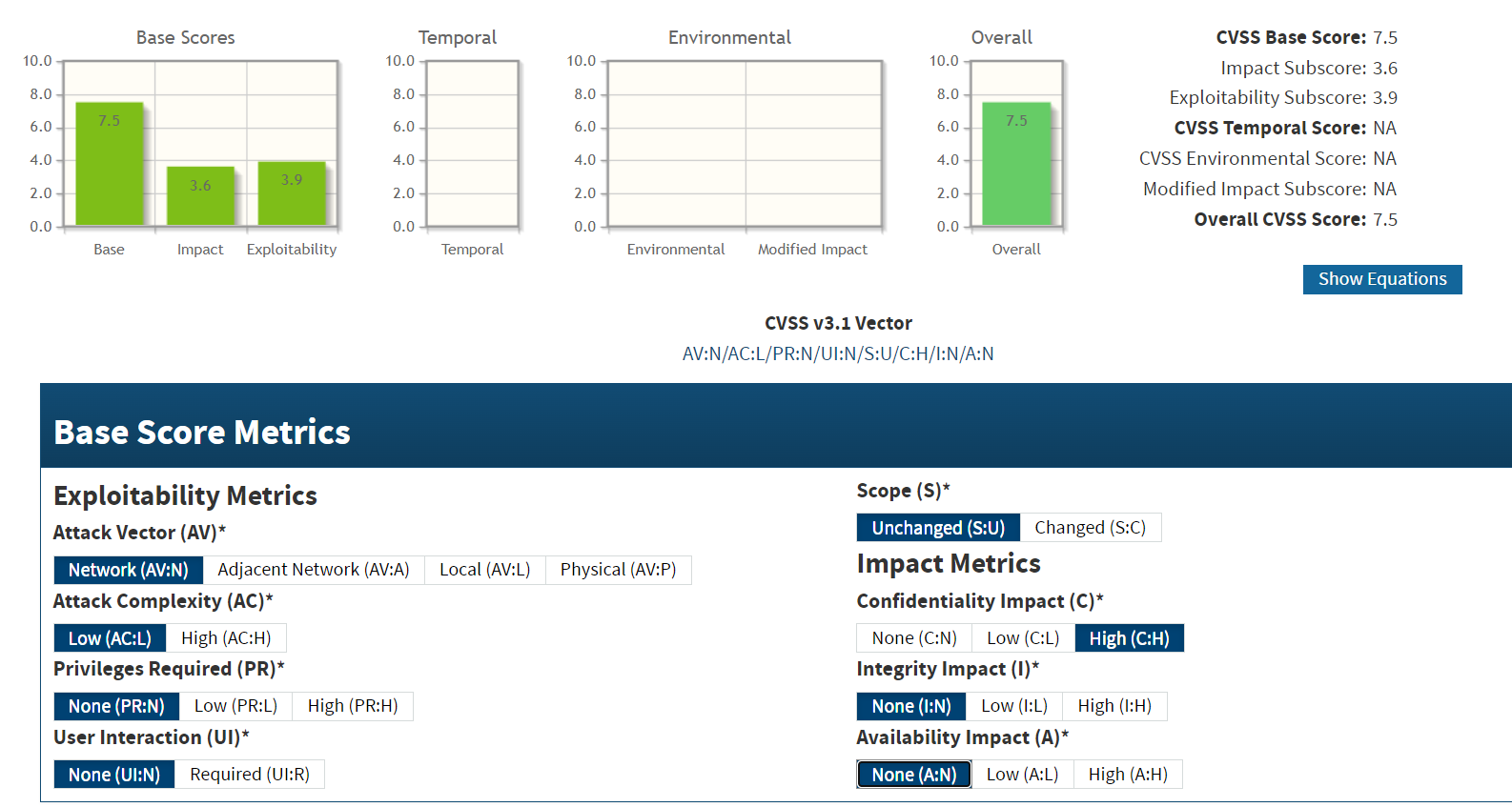
***References****:*

[Exploiting debuggable android applications | Infosec Resources (infosecinstitute.com)](https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/topic/android-hacking-security-part-6-exploiting-debuggable-android-applications/)

### **4.4  Insecure Storage in Shared Preferences**

***The following summaries the vulnerability’s severity ratings.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Possibility** | **HIGH** | **Technical Impact** | **MEDIUM** | **Business Impact** | **MEDIUM** |

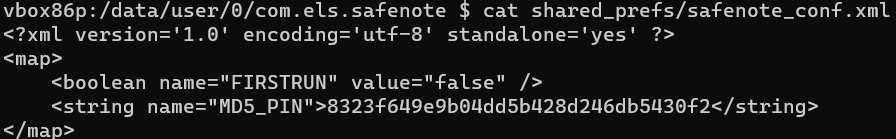


***Description:***

This application use Shared Preferences to stored the MD5 value of the pin code which can get access to the ‘Safe Note’ service. This is dangerous because the attacker can easily get access to the Shared Preferences.

***Proof of Concept:***

The Shared preferences is stored in /data/data/com.els.safenote/shared\_prefs



***Exploitation Tool:***

adb, Genymotion, jadx, Test Manual

***Recommendation:***

Do not stored sensitive data in Shared Preferences.

***References****:*

[Data Storage on Android - OWASP MASTG (gitbook.io)](https://mobile-security.gitbook.io/mobile-security-testing-guide/android-testing-guide/0x05d-testing-data-storage)