

July week4

# Progress

# Reading Paper

App in the Middle:  
Demystify **Application Virtualization** in Android  
and **its Security Threats**

*Proceedings of the ACM on Measurement and Analysis of Computing Systems, 2019*

# Demand of customizing



Android users tend to...



# Demand of customizing



Android user



Solution:

**App virtualization !**

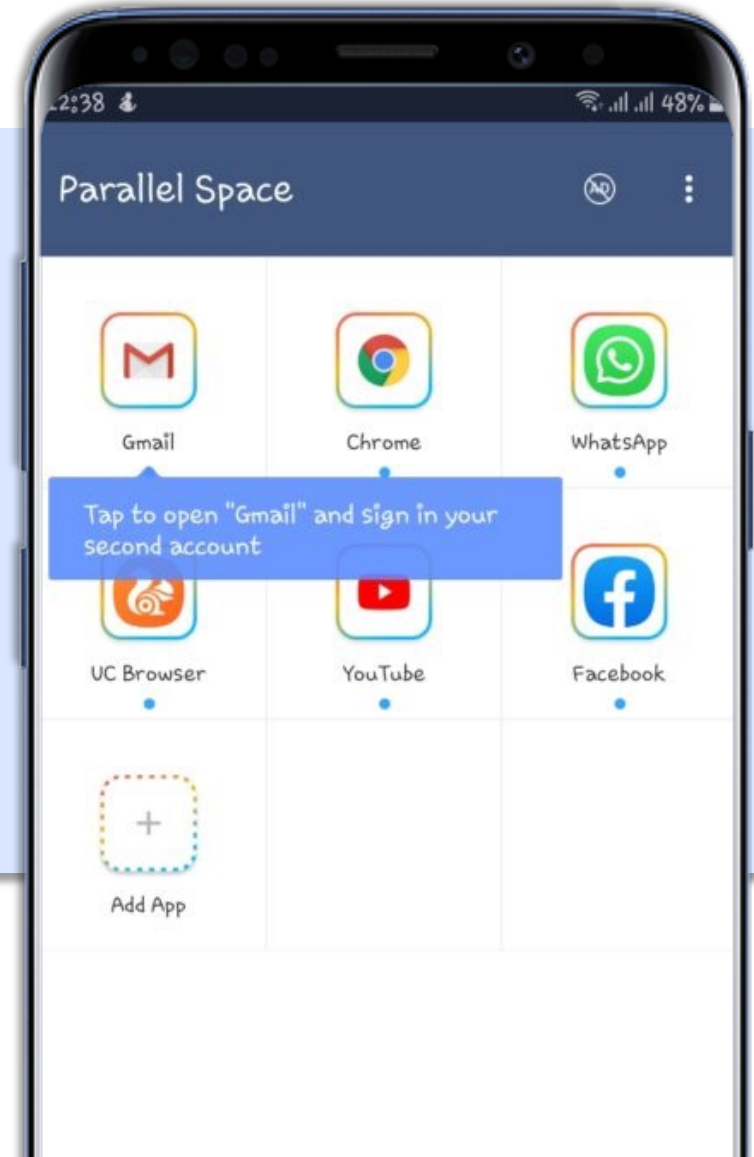
# Do you know parallel space?



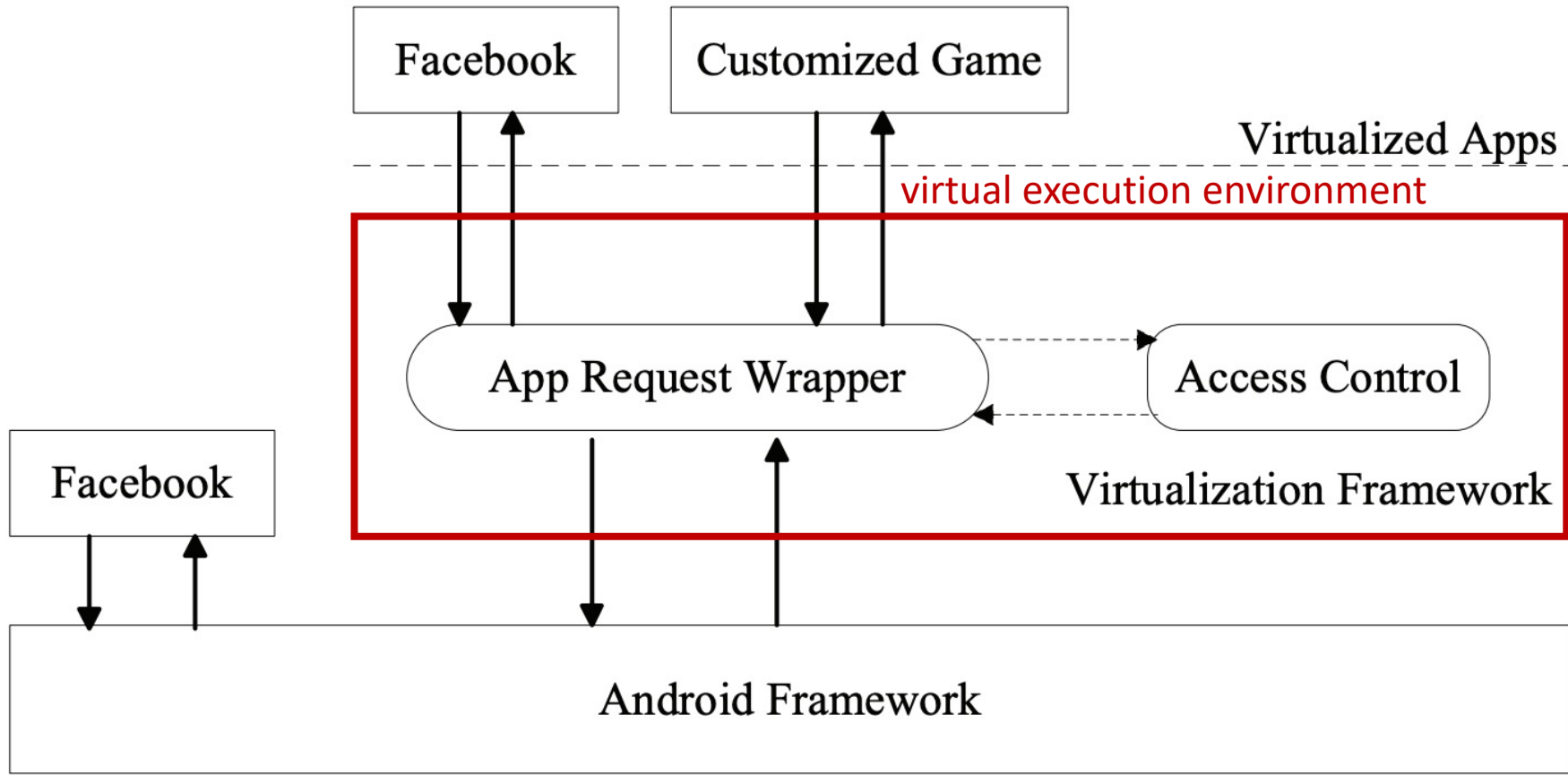
## Parallel Space

Multi accounts, online simultaneously

- ◆ Sign in two different social accounts on just one device
- ◆ Play two game accounts, switch with just one tap
- ◆ Install apps only in Parallel Space through Incognito Installation

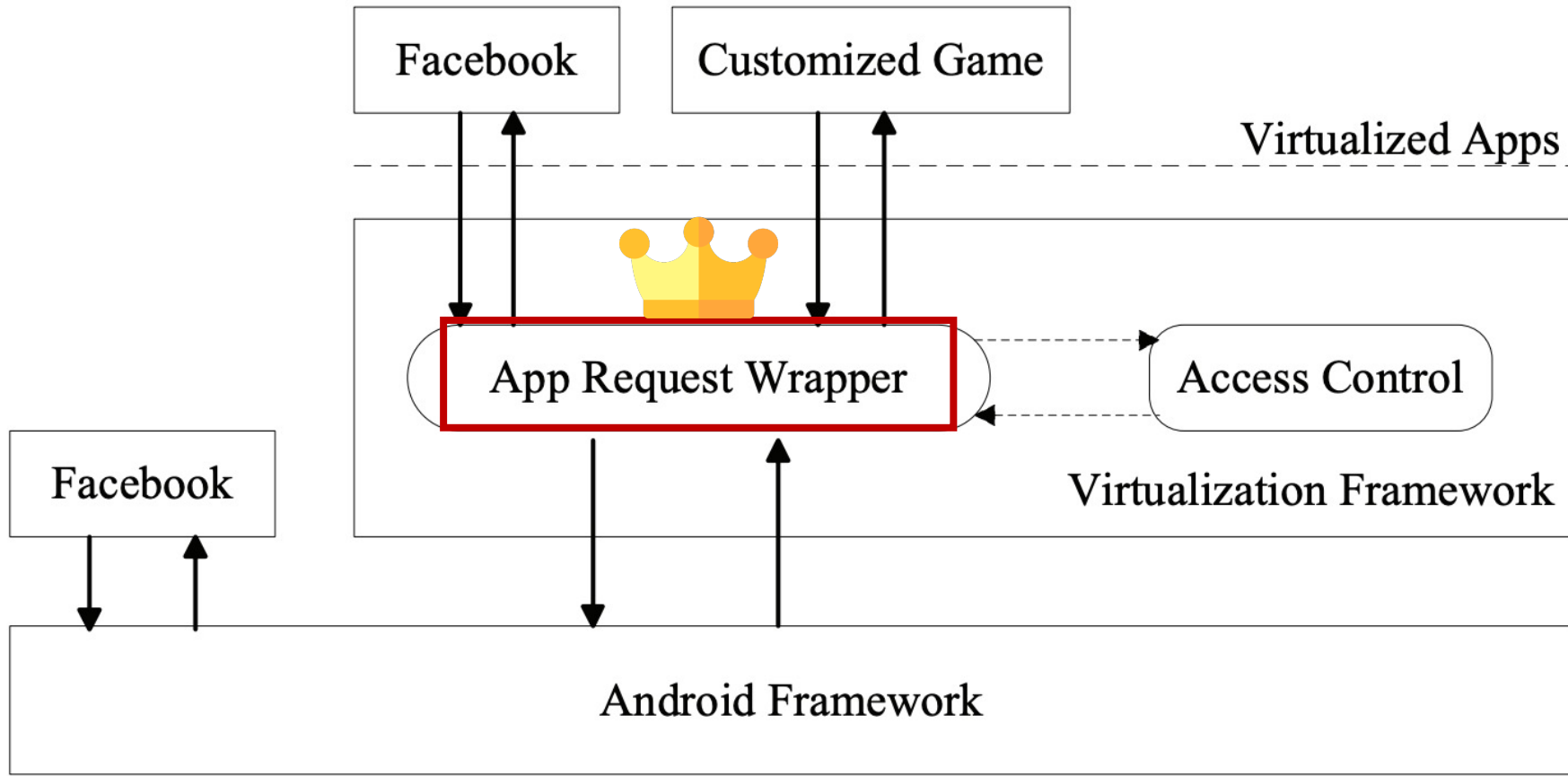


# App virtualization framework

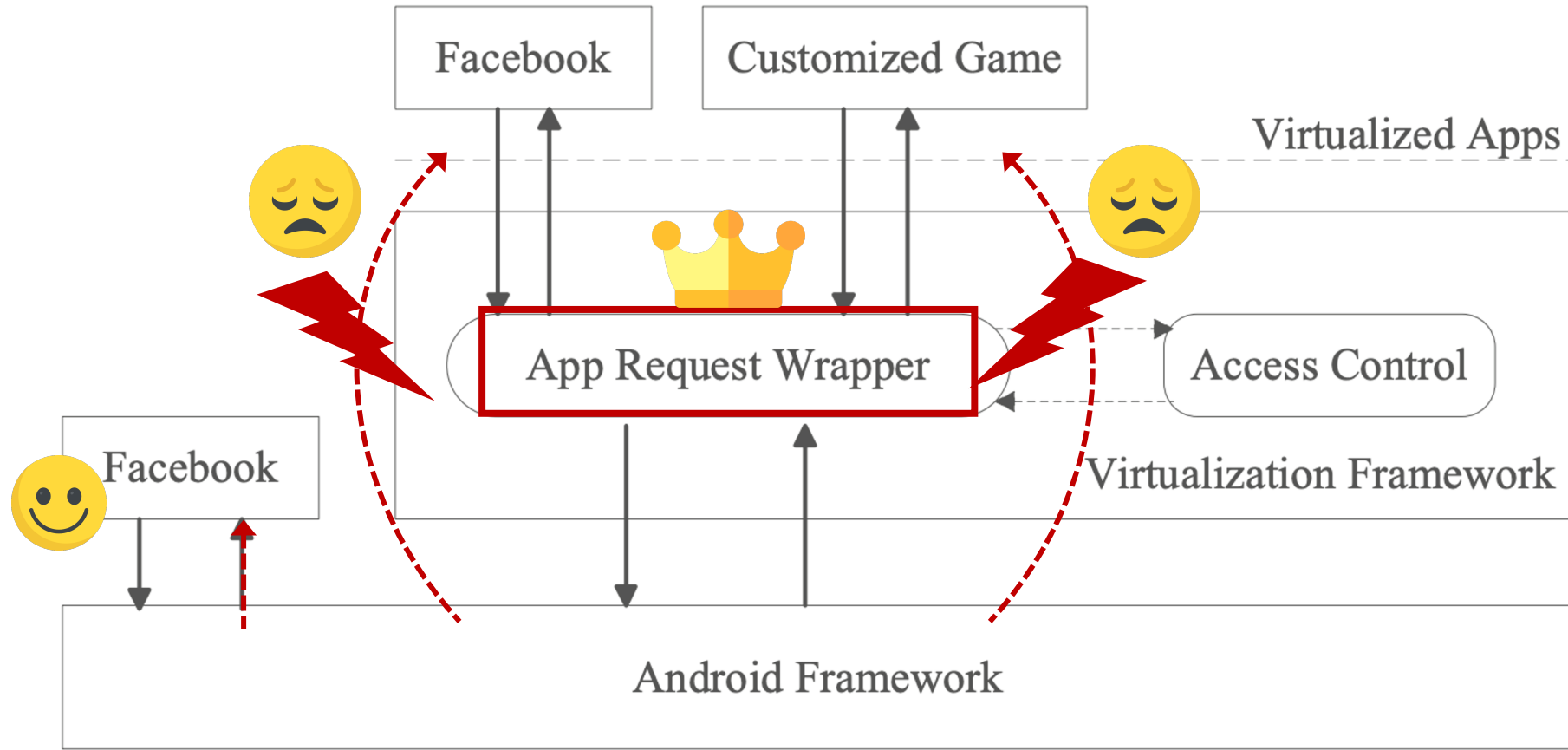




# App virtualization framework



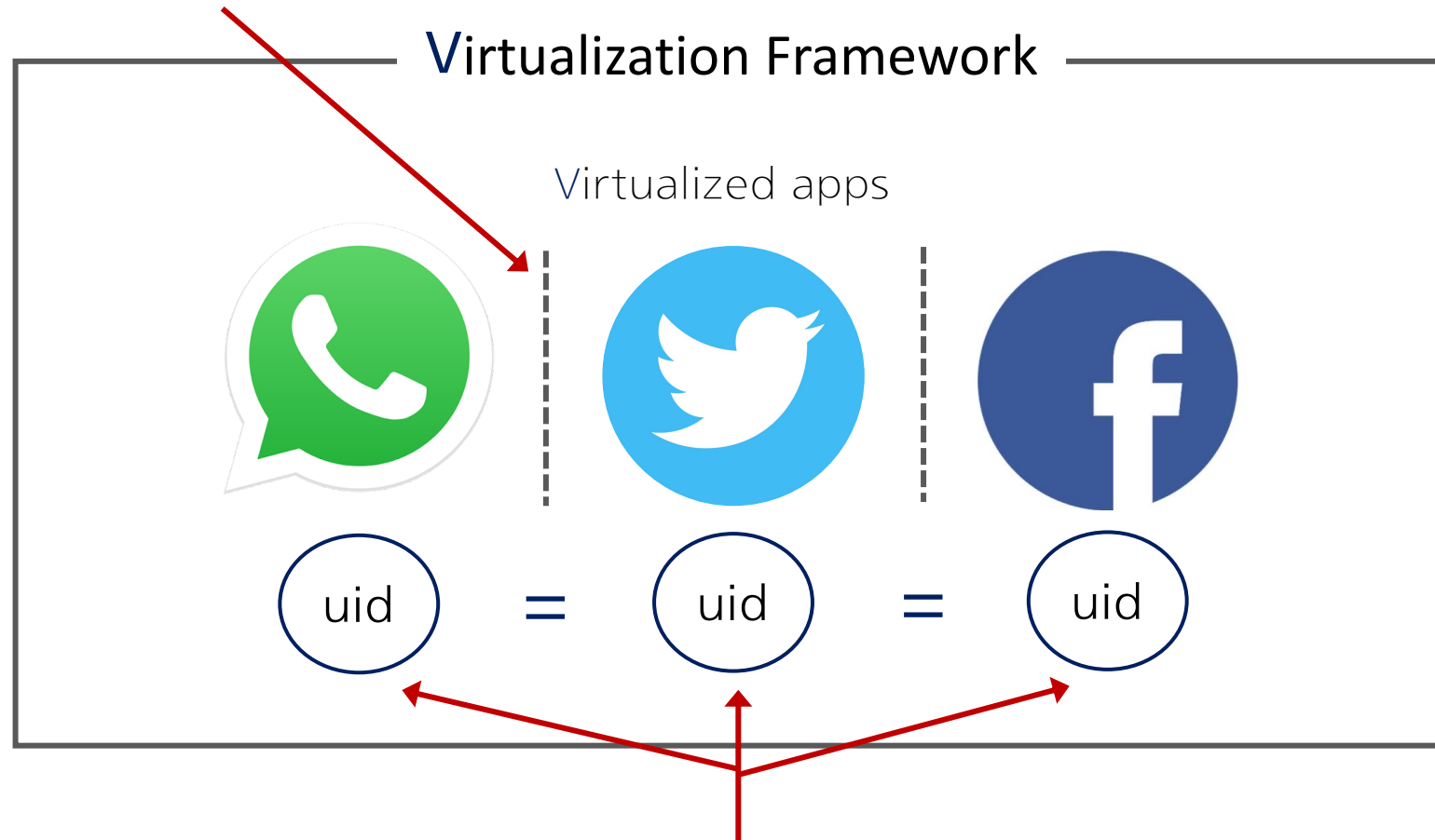
# Invalid Android access control policies



No direct communication

# Invalid Android access control policies

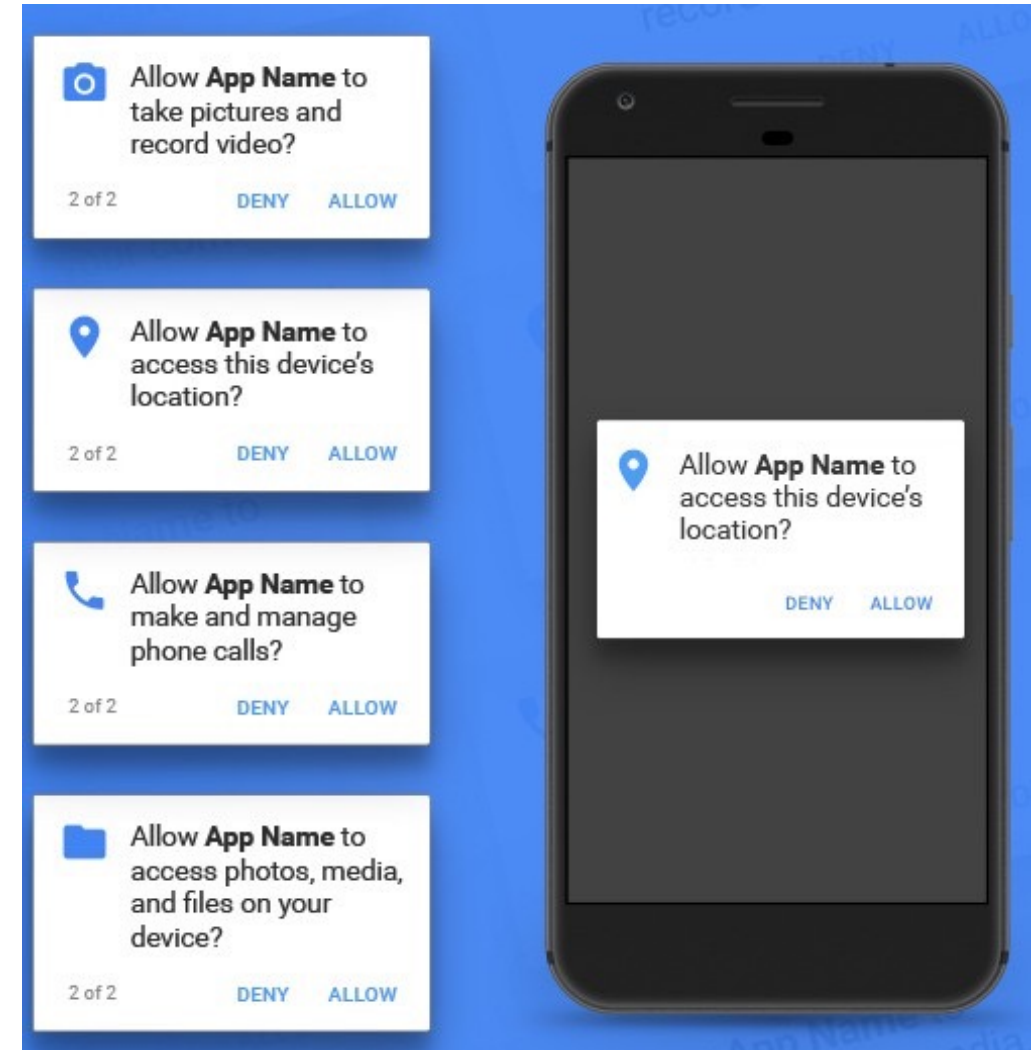
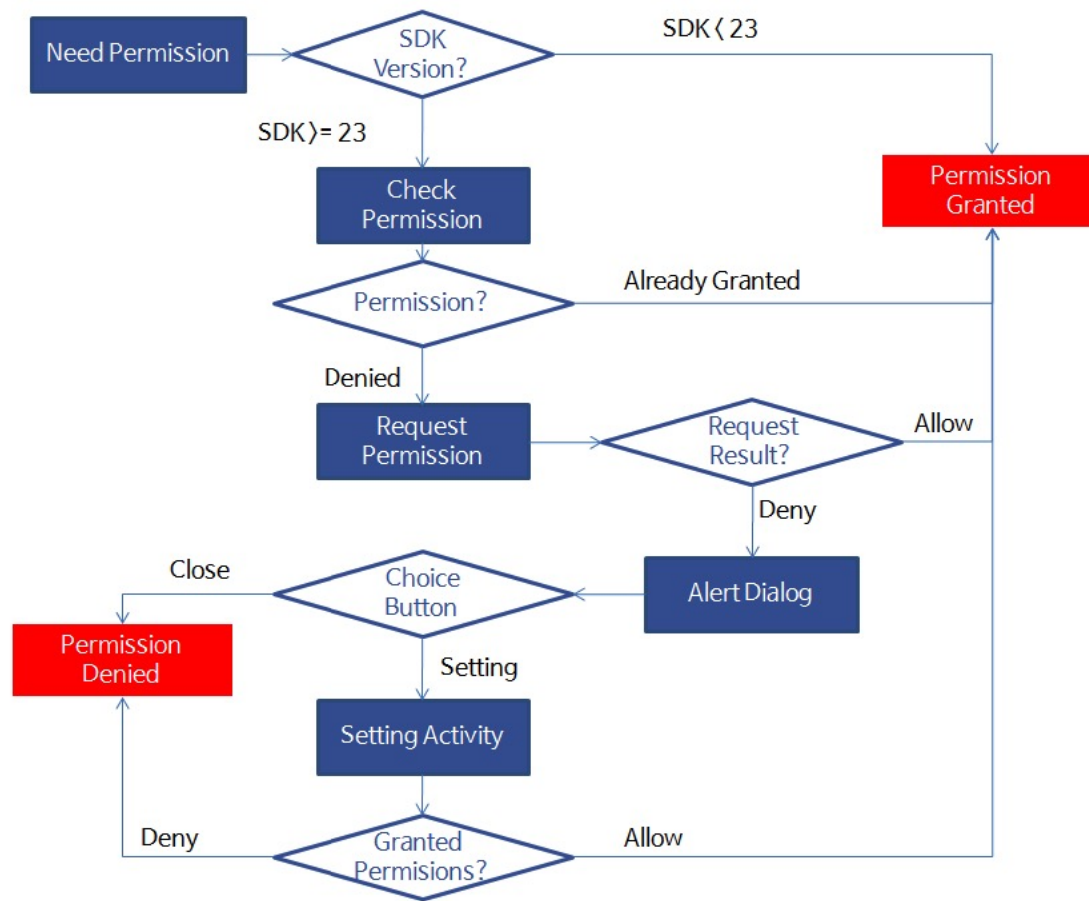
the isolation mechanism is broken



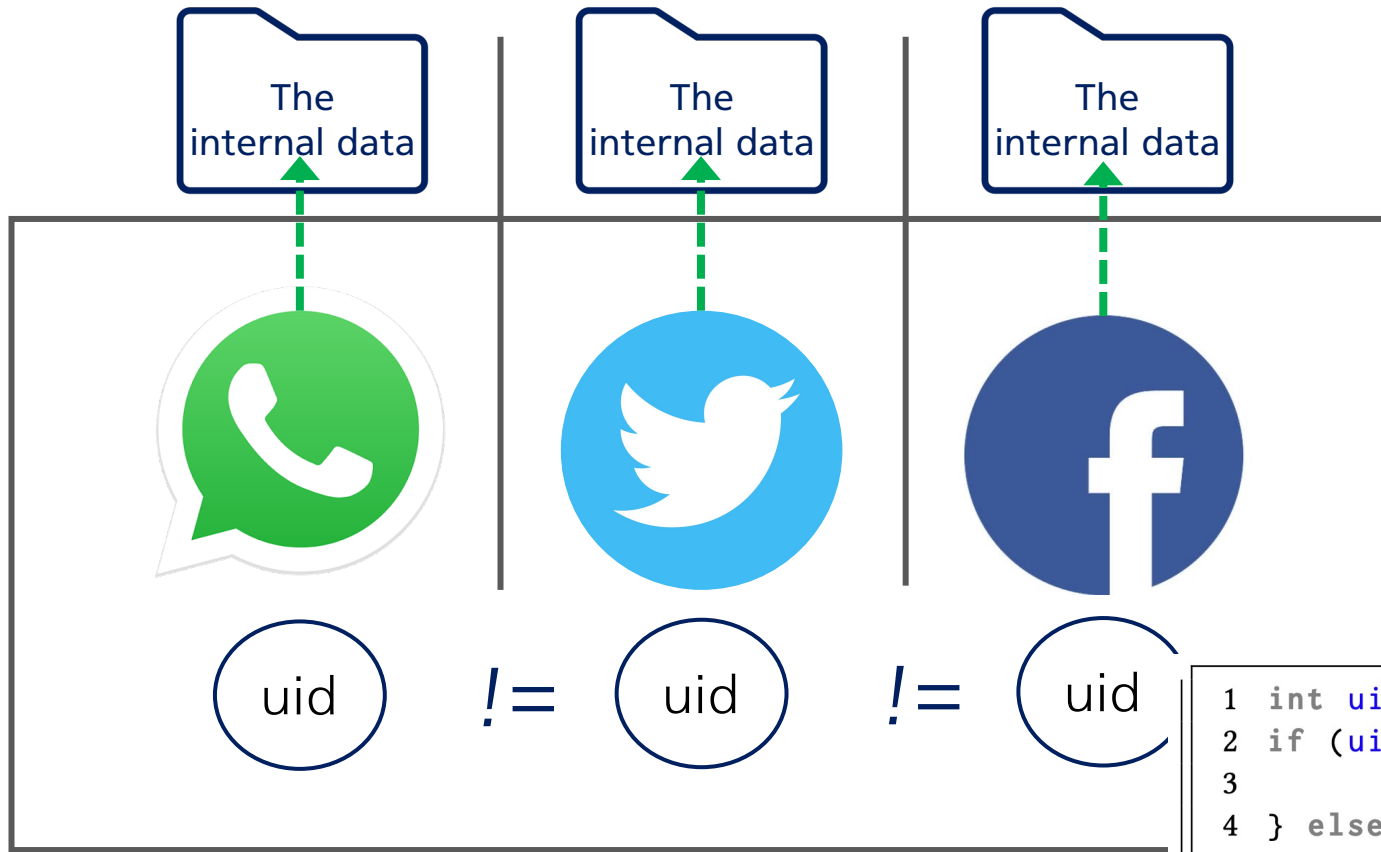
the uid of the Virtualization framework

# Android access control policies

# 1. Permissions



## 2. App-level Isolations

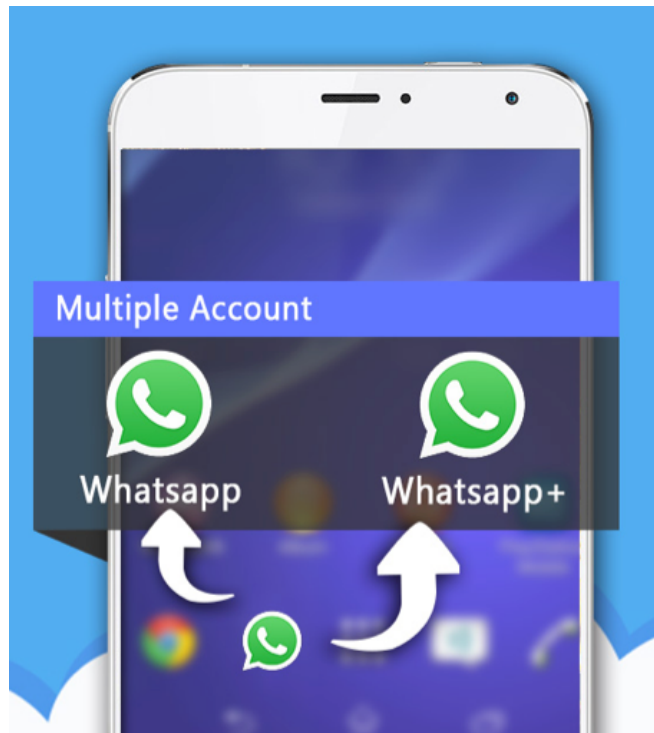


checking its uid

```
1 int uid = Binder.getCallingUid();
2 if (uid == System_UID){
3     # sensitive operation
4 } else {
5     throw new SecurityException(... ..);
6 }
```

# Vulnerabilities of virtualization frameworks

# A motivating example



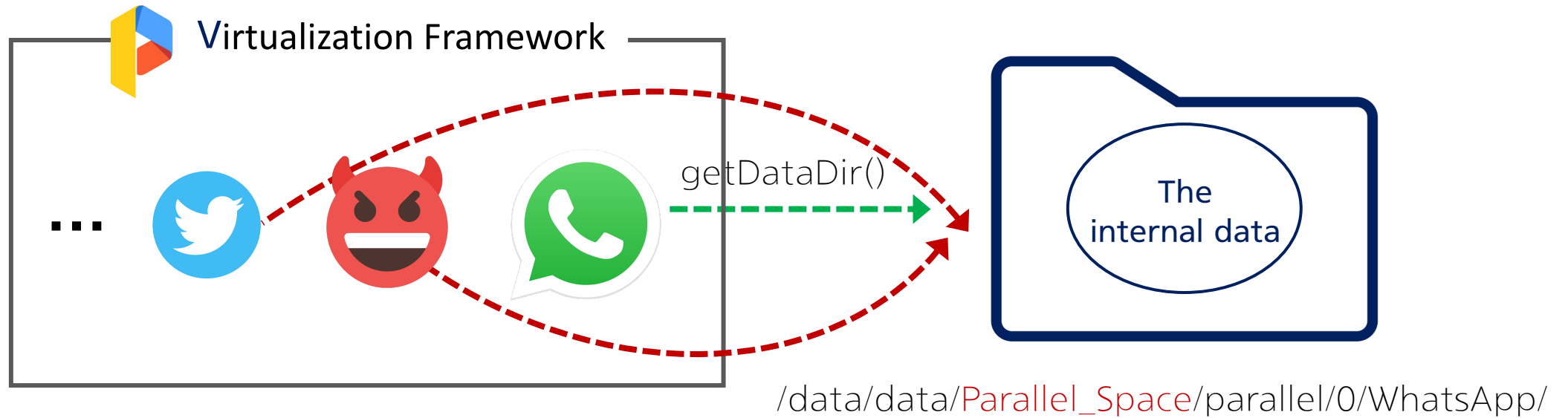
getDataDir()



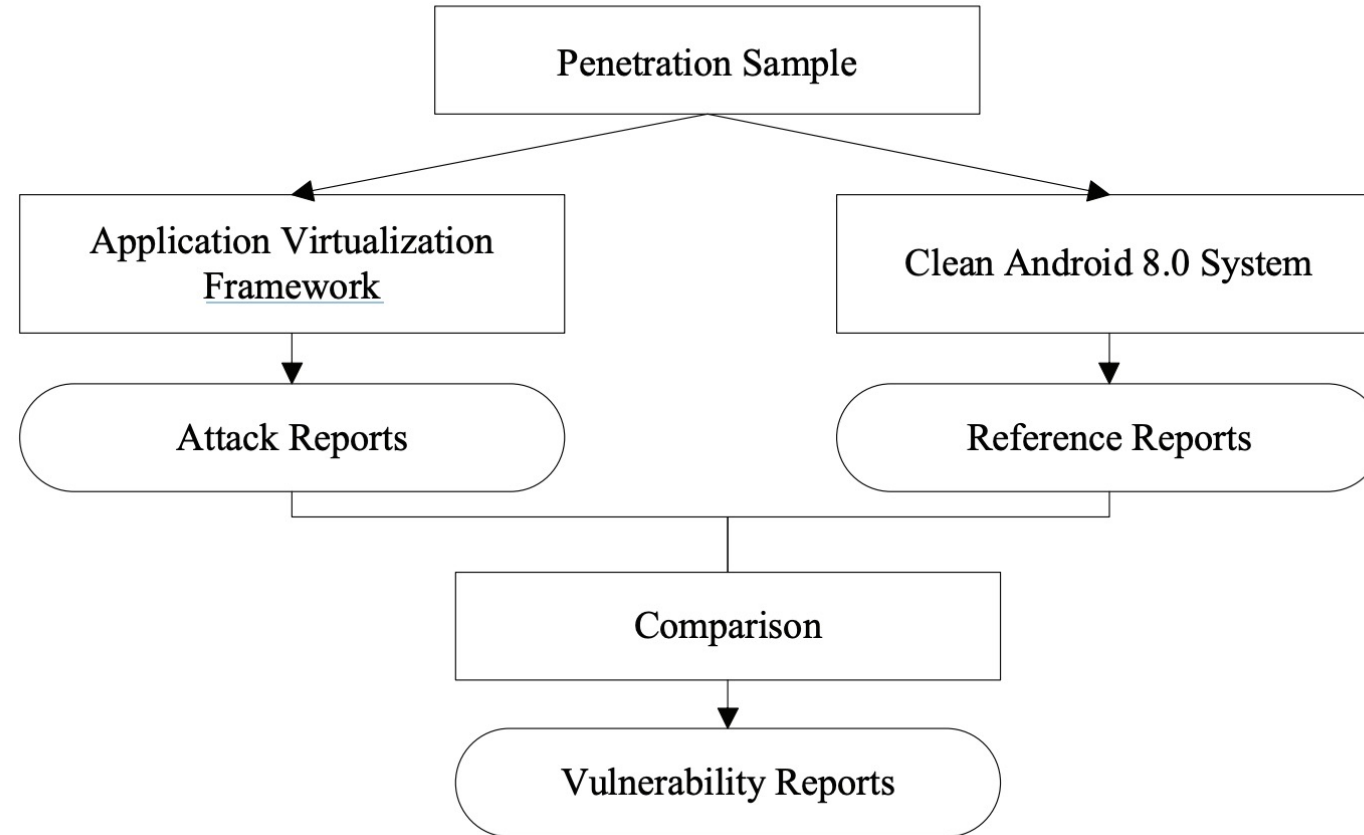
/data/data/ WhatsApp/



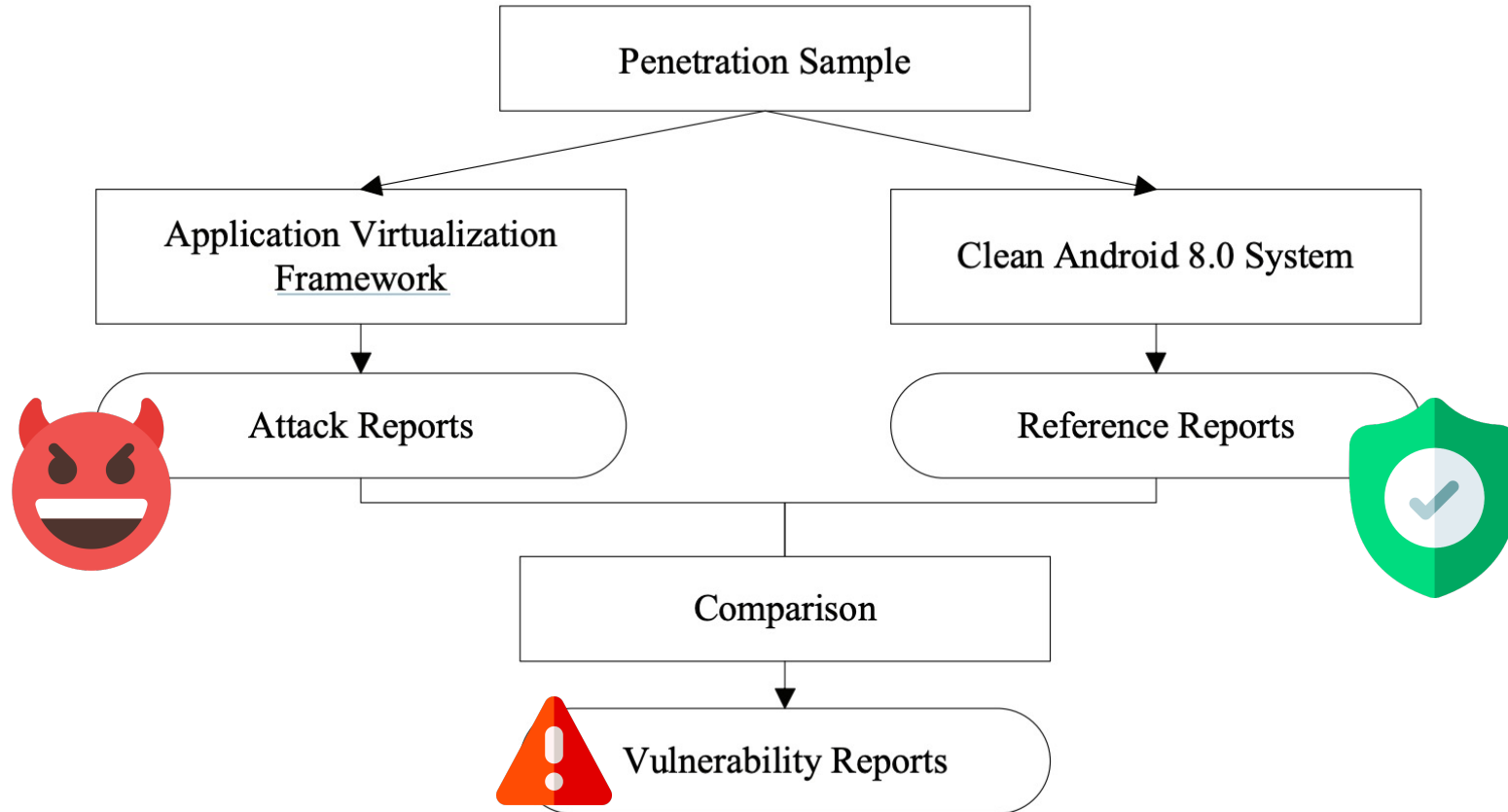
# A motivating example



# Architecture of methodology

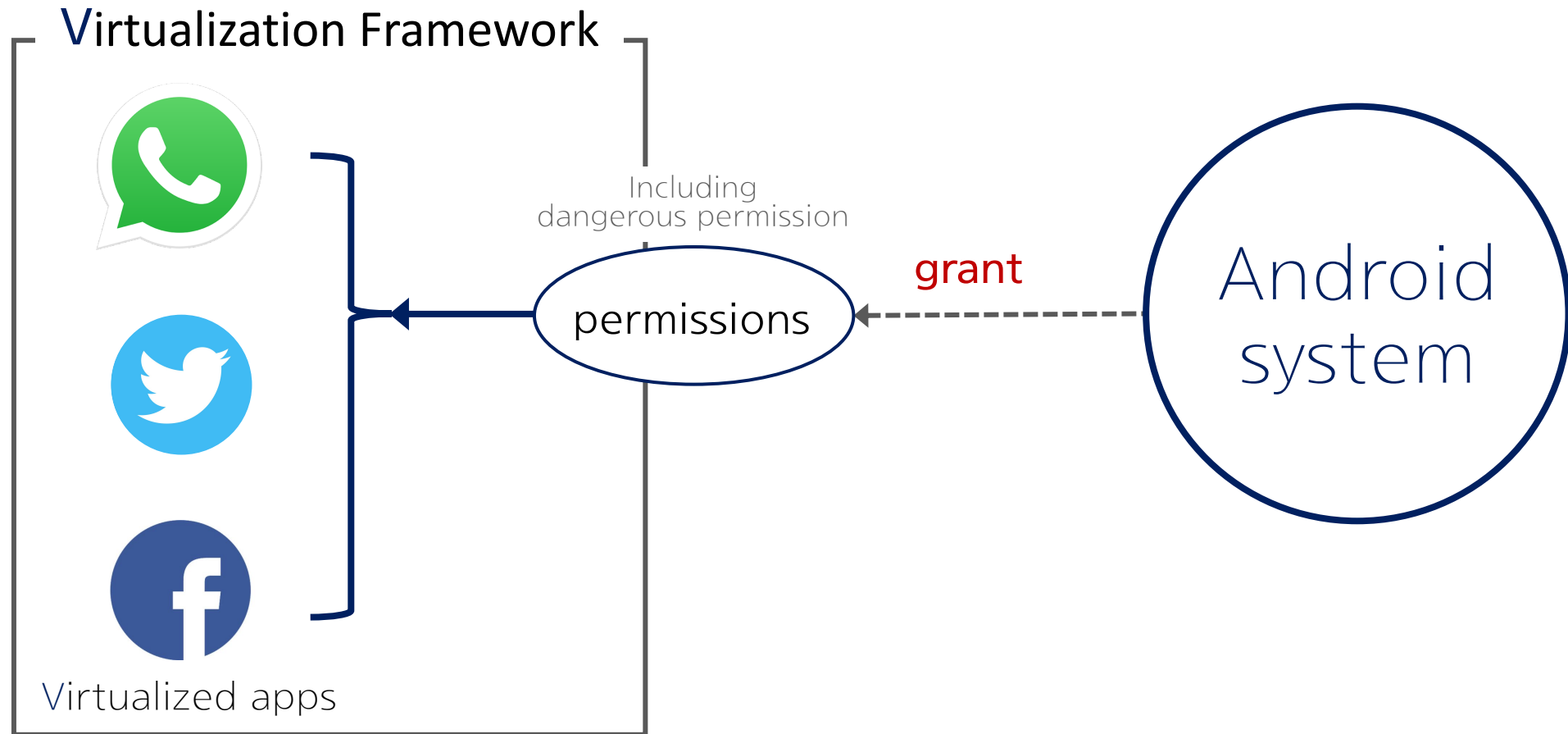


# Architecture of methodology

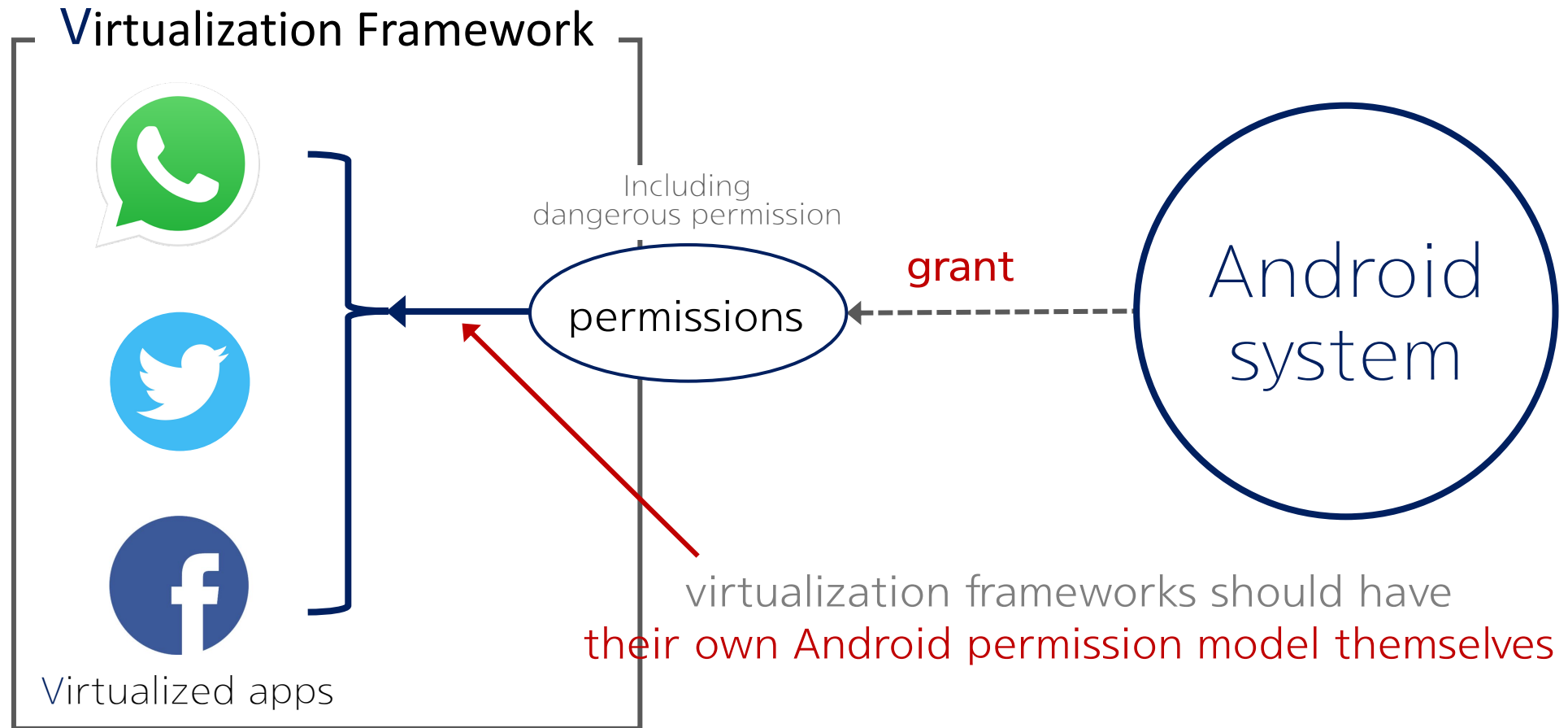


# Penetration test configuration

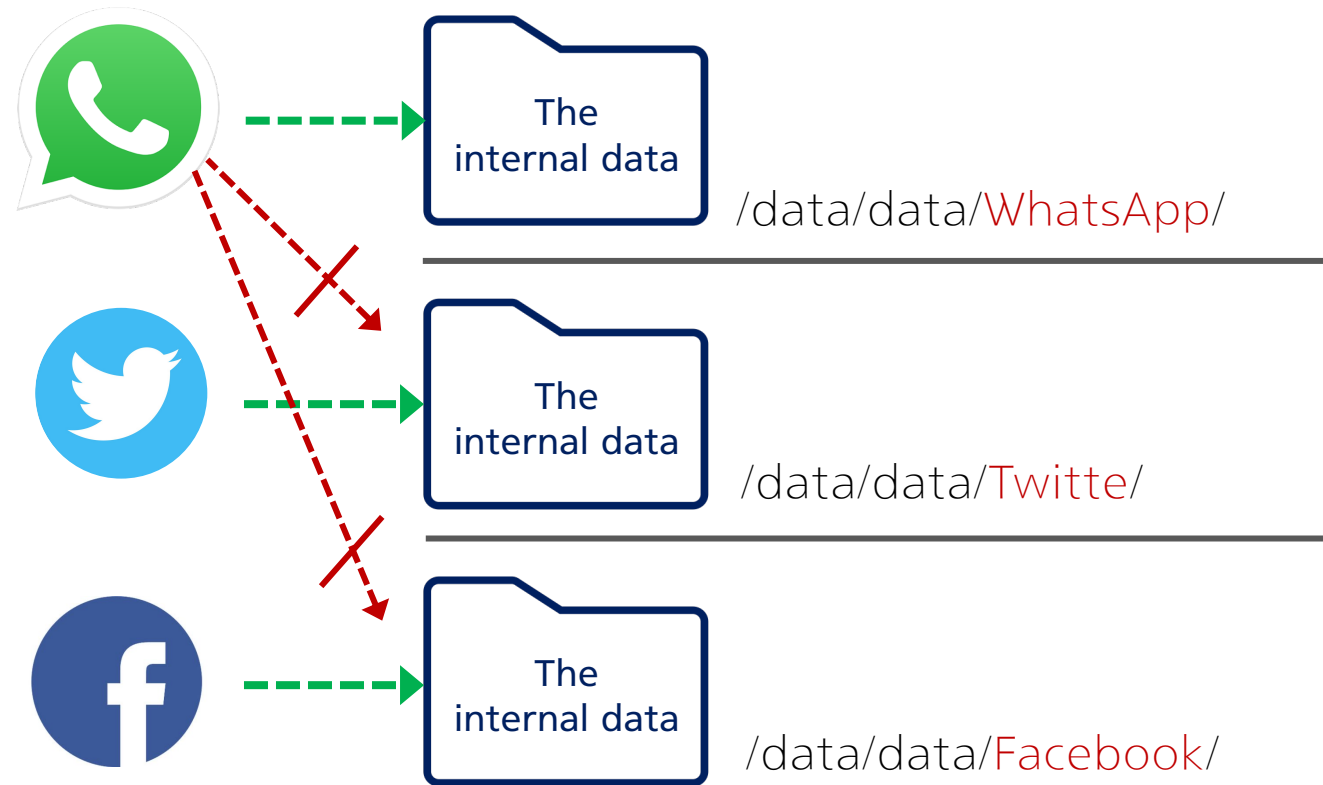
# Permissions



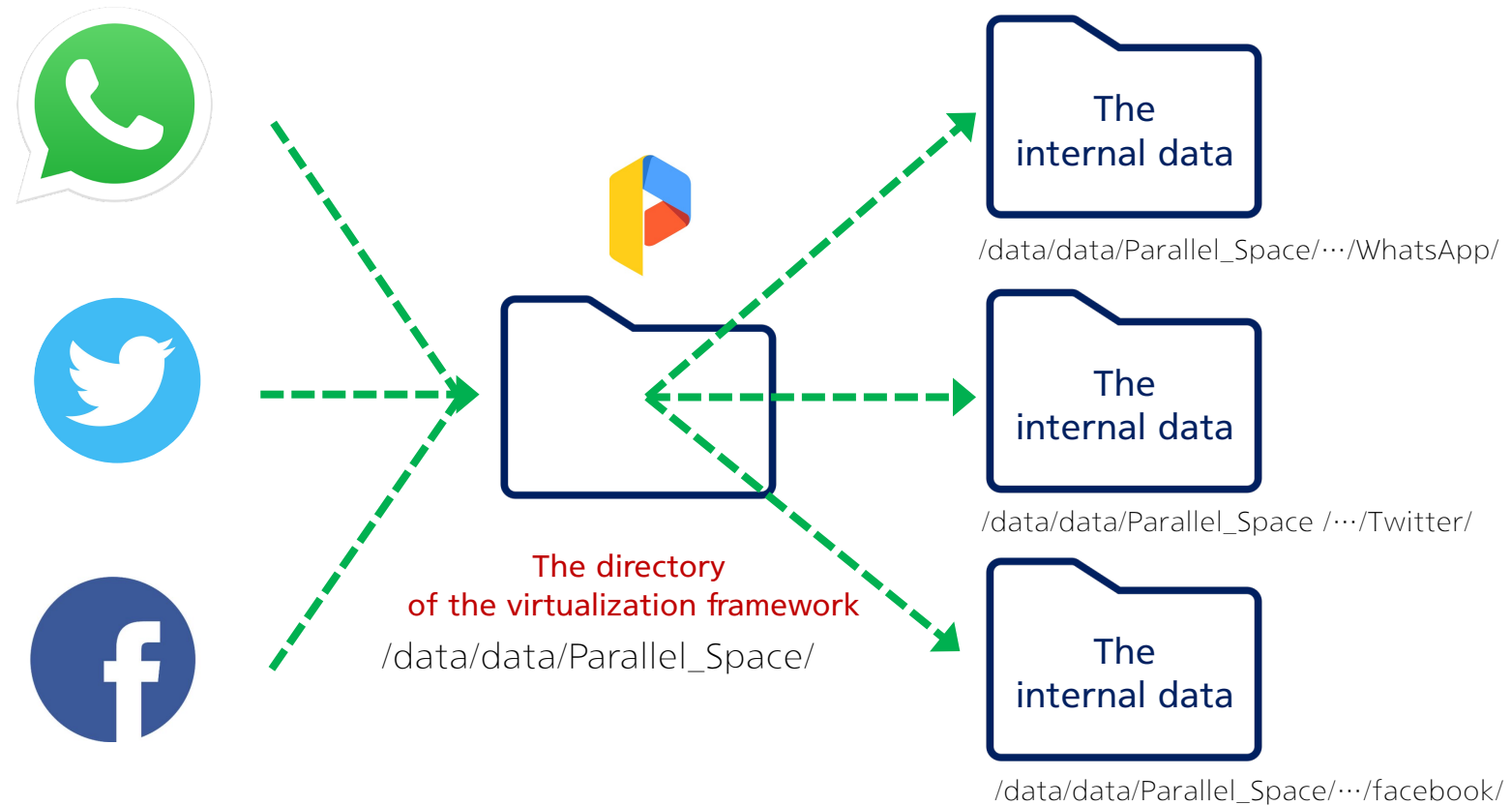
# Permissions



# Internal storage



# Internal storage

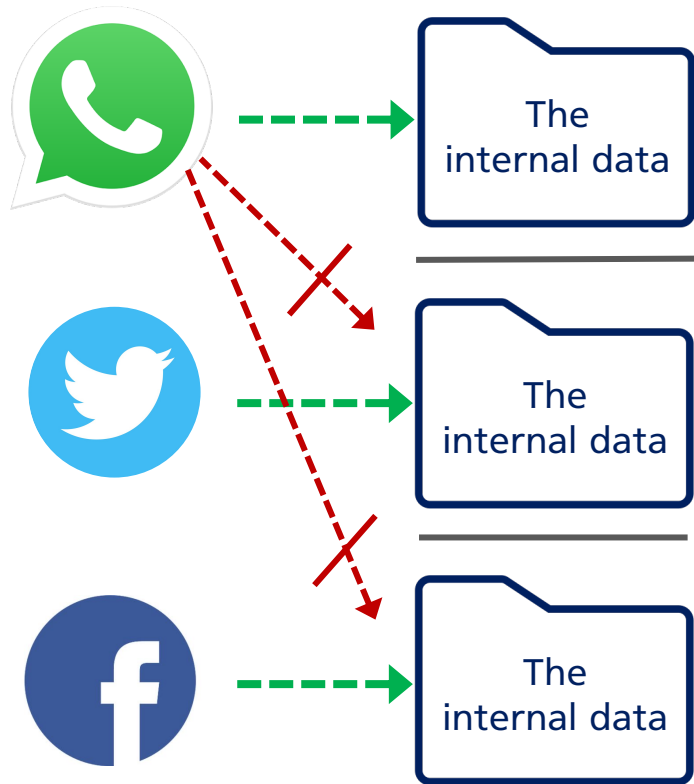




# Protected external storage

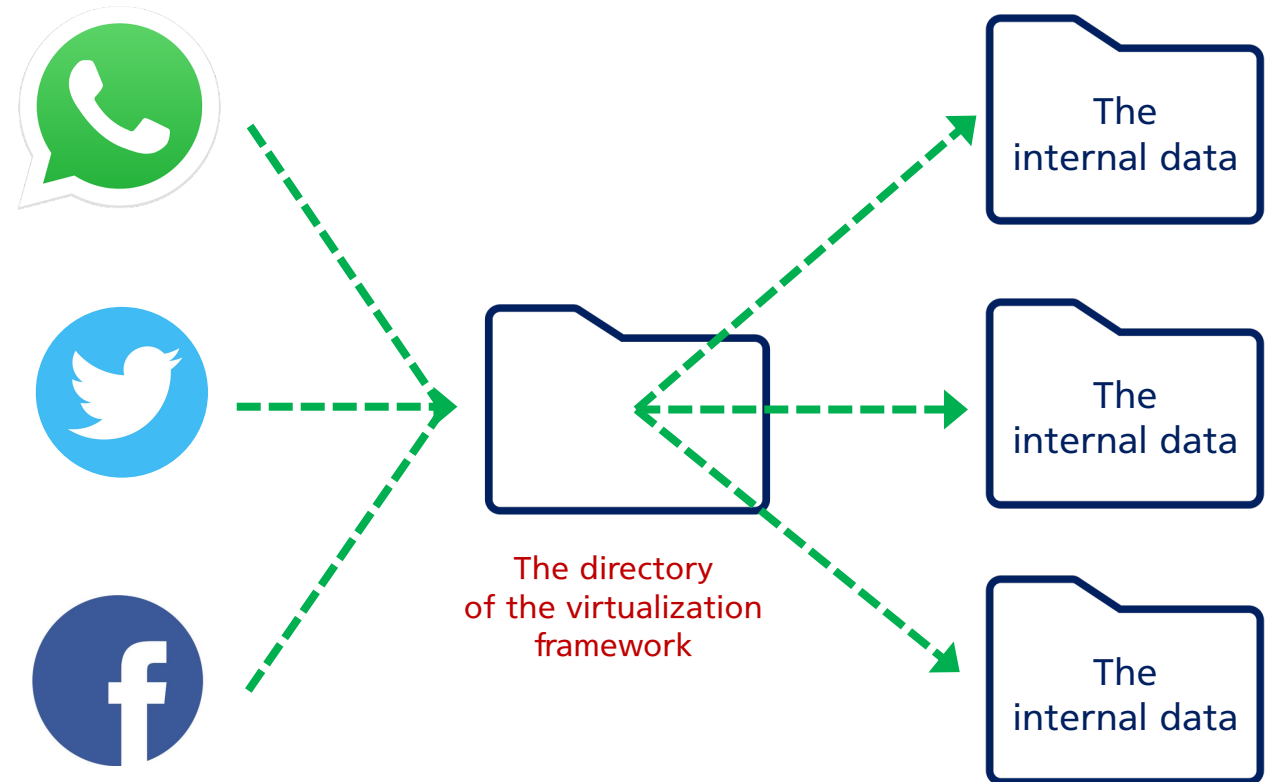
(Similar to internal storage)

in general...



/sdcard/Android/data/package\_name/

in **virtualization frameworks**...



**also redirected to a subdirectory of the framework itself**

# Android App Programming

Almost finished reading

## Plan

Android App  
Reverse  
Engineering 101



Finish tutorial quickly

