Proposal – Mobile Encryption

Our research is around mobile encryption and the impacts of implementing backdoor access to devices to monitor for nefarious activity. Our goal is to provide evidence that creating a backdoor to software and hardware creates more risk and opens the door for bad actors to create more harm than the backdoor would potentially prevent.

Our research will primarily be referring to how the law enforcement, local and federal, in the United States are pushing for software companies to develop ways for law enforcement to breach secure systems to gather data on people who are suspected of breaking laws. The research done by our group will provide evidence that shows that removing encryption on devices and leaving backdoors will always lead to more harm to the user of the devices. Our research will also show how the protections that it provides are invaluable to normal everyday citizens all the way up to the federal government. We will also provide evidence that providing backdoors to systems can’t only be given to certain “Super Users” and these backdoors can be exploited by any bad actor.

Each team member will research the areas of this topic that they find important, and the group will come together to merge ideas and thoughts that will provide a cohesive paper. Our anticipation is to have an outline of our paper by June 28th and a rough draft done by July 19th with the final research paper delivered by August 15th.

We landed on this topic because end to end encryption that provides privacy for users is a important topic that impacts every phone user on the planet. Encryption is an important tool that provides security to citizens, governments and companies.

References to be used:

<http://www.s3.eurecom.fr/~zaddach/docs/Recon14_HDD.pdf>

<https://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/case-study/fbi-apple-security-vs-privacy>

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323932963_Building_A_Backdoor_to_the_iPhone_What_Dilemmas_Did_Tim_Cook_Face>

<https://www.scirp.org/html/8-7800491_81897.htm>

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339095204_No_Backdoors_Investigating_the_Dutch_Standpoint_on_Encryption>

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/216953666.pdf>

<https://ctc.usma.edu/banning-encryption-to-stop-terrorists-a-worse-than-futile-exercise/>