



Throw Your (App)Integrity Out the Window

Bypassing Device Integrity Checks on iOS

May 20, 2023



Priyank Nigam



Bio

- Red Team @Microsoft
- Previous
 - Offensive Security Consulting
 - App Dev (C++)
- Research Interests
 - AppSec (Web/mobile)
 - IoT
 - Network Sec
 - MS Azure
- Blue team @Home
 - My toddler in YOLO'ing, RED team mode





Agenda

- Why Device Integrity?
- Overview of the Apple's DeviceCheck Framework
 - DCDevice
 - DCAppAttestService
- Bypass App Implementations
 - Runtime Instrumentation
 - Attacks on Server-side APIs
- Best Practices
 - For App developers
 - For Red teamers



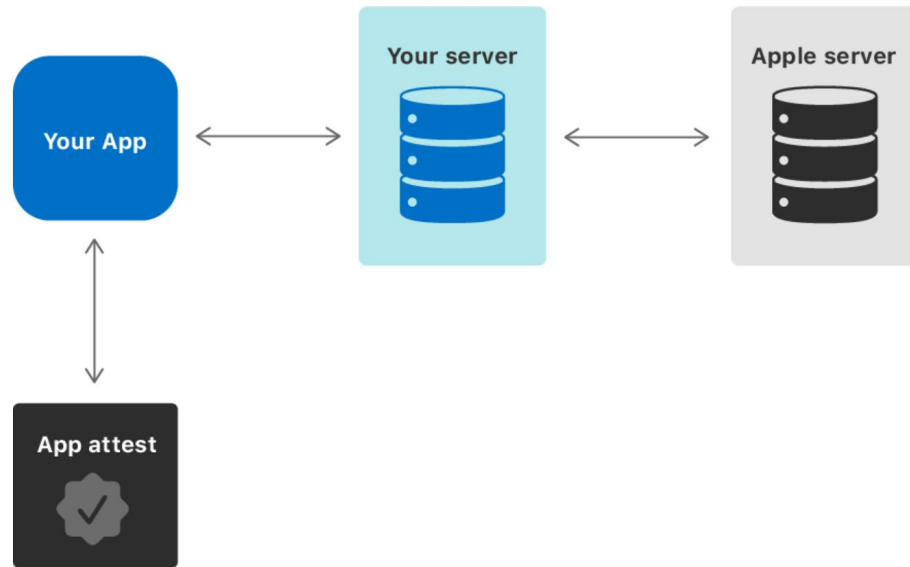
Why Device Integrity

App's logic cannot be relied to perform security checks on itself

Leverage Hardware-based, cryptographic key that uses Apple servers to certify that the key belongs to a valid instance of your app.

Use the service to cryptographically sign server requests using the certified key





- Reduce fraudulent use of your services
- `DCDevice` – Verify device authenticity while maintaining user privacy
 - Use case – Identify devices which have already taken advantage of a promo
- `DCAppAttestService` – Verify App validity via one-time challenge-response implementation, leveraging a unique, hardware-backed key.
 - Use cases – Game cheats, ad removal, verify if app is not running a jailbroken device

- No single policy can eliminate all fraud.
 - Cannot definitively pinpoint Jailbroken device
- However, this info can be integrated into the overall risk assessment of the device

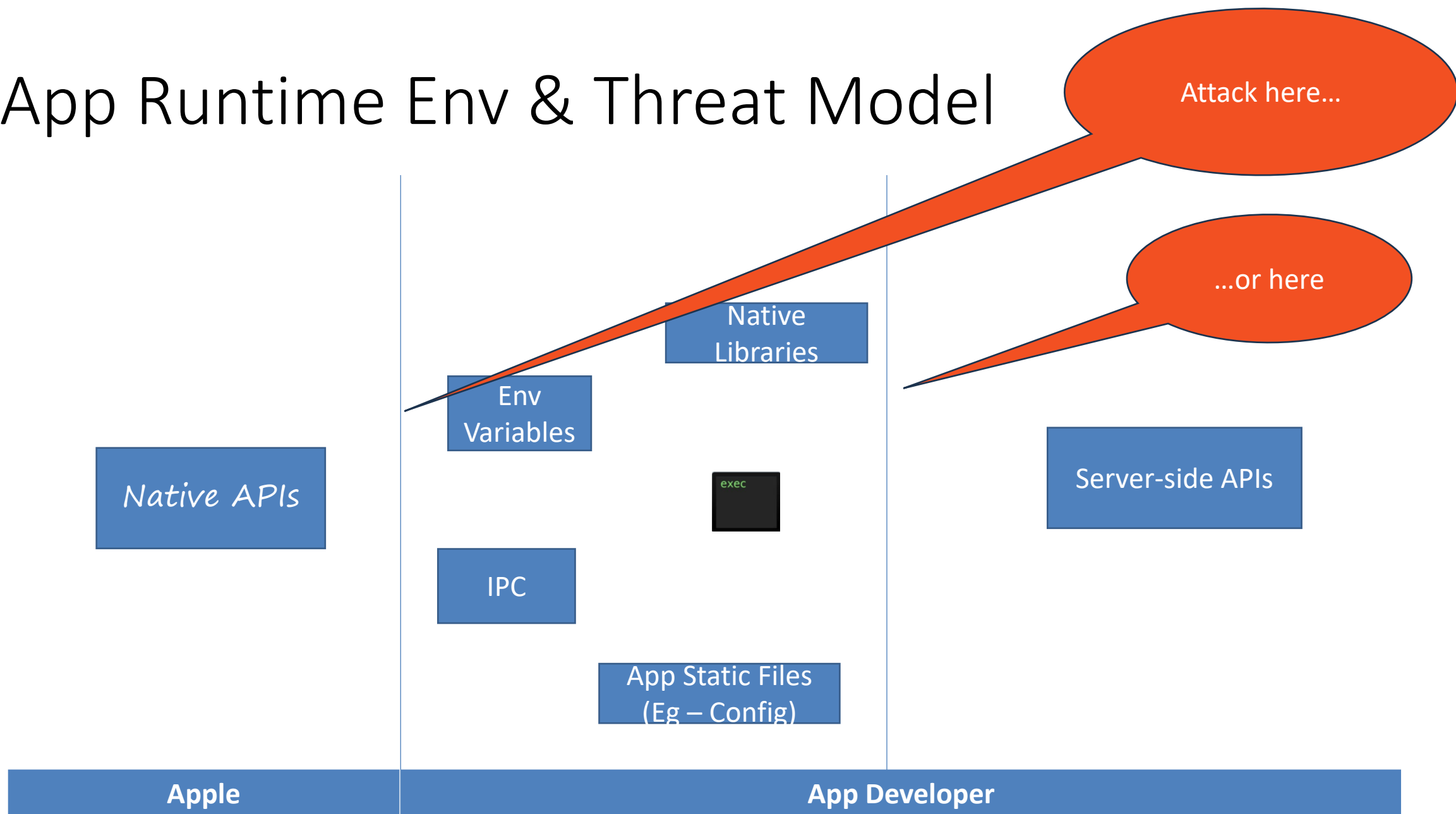


A collection of abstract geometric shapes in teal, orange, purple, and red, including circles, triangles, and arcs, scattered across the left side of the slide.

Attacks on the app implementations

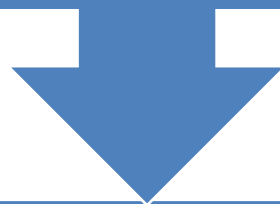
- Runtime Instrumentation
- Attacks on Server-Side APIs

App Runtime Env & Threat Model



Dynamic Instrumentation Crash course **FRIDA**

Frida¹ lets you inject snippets of JavaScript or your own library into native apps



Full access to the target processes

Process memory

Hook functions

Call native functions

¹<https://frida.re/>

Bypass Device Integrity Checks

Easy Mode- Swizzle these to false!

- `DCDevice isSupported()`
- `DCAppAttestService isSupported()`

- Returns a boolean value that indicates whether the device supports the corresponding DeviceCheck APIs.

Check if the DeviceCheck API is loaded

```
for (var className in ObjC.classes)
{
    if (ObjC.classes.hasOwnProperty(className))
    {
        console.log(className);
    }
}
```

Bypass DCDevice API

```
if DCDevice.current.isSupported { // Always
test for availability.

    DCDevice.current.generateToken { token,
error in

        guard error == nil else { /* Handle
the error. */ }

        // Send the token to your server.

    }
}
```

```
***entered -[DCDevice isSupported]
[-] New Return Value:- 0x0
```

```
if (ObjC.available) {

try {
var className = "DCDevice";
var funcName = "- isSupported";
var hook = eval('ObjC.classes.' + className + '[' +
funcName + ']');

Interceptor.attach(hook.implementation, {
    onLeave: function(retval) { console.log("[*]
Class Name: " + className);
        console.log("\t[-] Type of return value: " +
typeof retval);
        console.log("\t[-] Original Return Value: " +
retval);
        newretval = ptr("0x0")
        retval.replace(newretval)
        console.log("\t[-] New Return Value: " +
newretval) } });
catch(err) { console.log("[!] Exception2: " +
err.message); } }

else {
    console.log("Objective-C Runtime is not
available!");
}
```

Level-up

- What if `-[DCDevice isSupported]` is not called?

```
*** entered +[DCDevice currentDevice]
Caller: 0x1047c0350 /private/var/containers/Bundle/Application/2405AEA1-60E4-4105-8855-28FA0CBDC23A/[REDACTED].app/[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]!-[RNDeviceCheck getToken]
retval: <DCDevice: 0x280d2b3c0>
*** exiting +[DCDevice currentDevice]
*** entered -[DCDevice generateTokenWithCompletionHandler:]
Caller: 0x1047c0394 /private/var/containers/Bundle/Application/2405AEA1-60E4-4105-8855-28FA0CBDC23A/[REDACTED].app/[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]!-[RNDeviceCheck getToken]
generateTokenWithCompletionHandler: <__NSStackBlock__: 0x16baa2538>
retval: <__NSStackBlock__: 0x16baa2538>
*** exiting -[DCDevice generateTokenWithCompletionHandler:]
```

Patch the calling method...

```
-(void) getDeviceToken {  
    if (@available(iOS 11.0, *)) {  
        [DCDevice.currentDevice generateTokenWithCompletionHandler:^(NSData * token, NSError * _Nullable error){  
            NSLog(@"deviceToken: %@", token);  
            NSString *tokenString = [token base64EncodedStringWithOptions: 0];  
            _successCallback(@[tokenString]);  
        }];  
    } else {  
        NSError *error = [NSError errorWithDomain:@"com.microsoft.[REDACTED]" code: 1 userInfo:@{NSLocalizedDescriptionKey:@"Please update IOS version to at least 11.0+"}];  
        _errorCallback(error);  
    }  
}
```

..to return null

```
const method = ObjC.classes.[REDACTED]DeviceCheck['- getToken'];
Interceptor.replace(method.implementation, new NativeCallback(function(sbai)
{
//do nothing
return 0x0;
}, 'void', ['pointer']))
);

-----

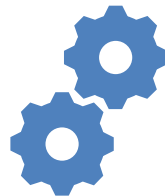
$frida -U -l .\RNDeviceCheck_getDeviceToken.js -f com.microsoft.REDACTED --no-pause
```

App Crashes! Since the method's callback expects a token (Success) or error message (for errors)

Simple Solution#1 - Attack the API



Inspect the Network Traffic by installing a root CA on the device



If SSLPinning is implemented, those can be bypassed using runtime instrumentation ¹



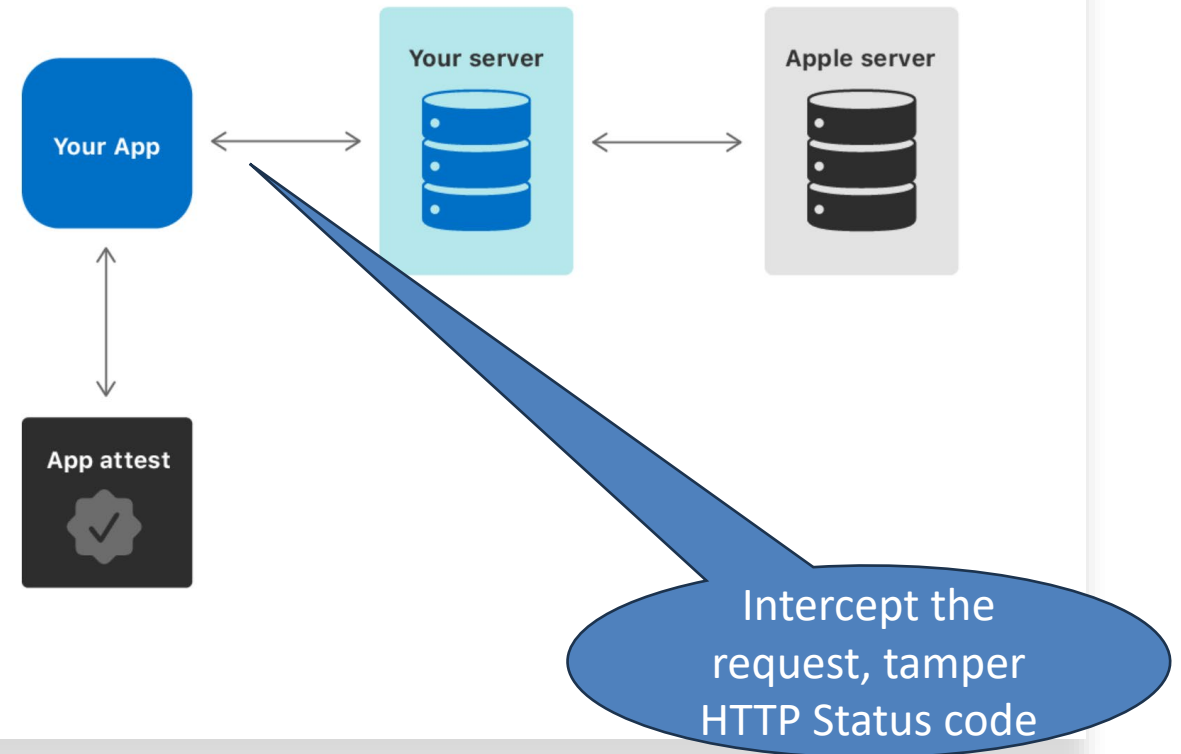
Zoom out!

For this target, the API endpoint did not distinguish between an Android and iOS client

¹<https://codeshare.frida.re/@federicodotta/ios13-pinning-bypass/>

Simple(er) Solution #2 – Fool the Client

- Return a 200 OK by tampering with the HTTP Response.
- The iOS client isn't wiser.



Best Practices for developers

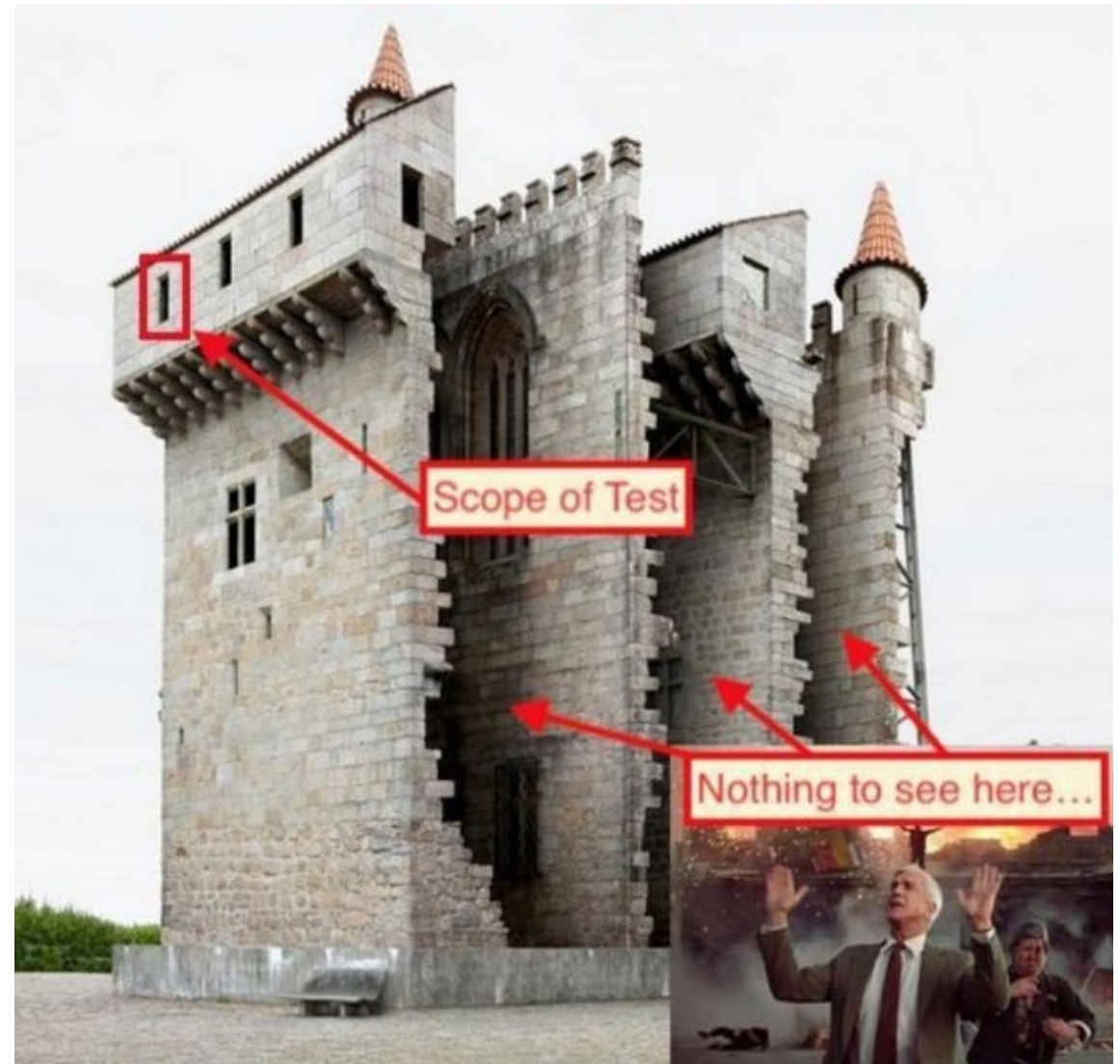
- Design solutions with Defense in depth
 - DeviceCheck Framework
 - Root detection in native code
 - SSL Pinning
 - Additional challenge-Response between the app and the app server
 - Prevent replay attacks
- Design secure fail-safe solutions
 - Your app server is down?
 - HTTP 503 – AppAttest service unavailable?

Best Practices for Red Teamers

Think holistically about the overall solution.

Attack different trust boundaries

Cryptography is not attacked, it is bypassed.



Questions?

@Rev_Octo