

[FAQ] System Applications to Block/Allow #518

New issue

🔔 Open

Gitoffthelawn opened this issue on Mar 19, 2016 · 13 comments



Gitoffthelawn commented on Mar 19, 2016

Contributor

It will be useful to create a FAQ documenting which Android system applications must be allowed, and which can be blocked. For each Android system application, any side-effects of blocking the application will be notated.

I'll get the ball rolling, and then others can make corrections and add to this. Together, we can work towards an accurate document.

Common System Apps

(adb) - Android Debug Bridge

- If blocked, ADB will not be able to communicate over the
- Rec: Block if not using ADB over a wireless connection, otherwise enable only for connection type being used

(drm) - Digital Rights Management service

- If blocked, cannot view content that requires Android DRM
- Rec: Block if not viewing any content that requires Android DRM content, otherwise allow for connection type(s) being used

(gps) - GPS

- If blocked, GPS may not be able to receive AGPS data (needs to be verified)
- Rec: Research if AGPS data can still be obtained if blocked; if so, block

(Kernel) - Linux Kernel

- Cases where it needs to be enabled for all connection types (LAN, WiFi, Cell data)
- Rec: Allow for all connection types (including LAN)

(media) - Media server

- Need more info
- Rec: Until more info provided, allow for connection types except LAN

(NTP) - Internet time servers

- Cell network devices can still obtain current time/date from cell network even if this is blocked
- Rec: Block for cell devices, Allow for connection types except LAN for other devices

(shell) - Linux shell

- Cases where it needs to be enabled for connection types except LAN (WiFi, Cell data)
- Rec: Allow for connection types except LAN

(Tethering) - DHCP+DNS services

- If blocked, will not be able to tether over the connection types blocked
- Rec: Block if not tethering, otherwise enable only for connection types being used for tethering

Assignees

No one assigned

Labels

General

Howtos

Projects








None yet

Milestone

No milestone

Notifications

8 participants



(vpn) - VPN Networking

- If blocked, will not be able to use a VPN over the connection types blocked
- Rec: Block if not using a VPN, otherwise enable only for connection types being used to connect to the VPN

ConfigUpdater

- Function unclear
- Rec: Allow for WiFi, block for other connection types

Downloads, Media Storage, Download Manager

- Required to for apps to download content
- Rec: Allow for connection types except LAN

DRM Service

- If blocked, cannot view content that requires DRM
- Rec: Block if not viewing any DRM content, otherwise allow for connection type(s) being used

GoogleAccount Manager, Google Play services, et al.

- If blocked, cannot use Google apps
- Rec: Block if not using Google apps, otherwise allow for all connection types except LAN

Google Partner Setup

- No one seems to know what this does and what data it transmits/receives
- Rec: Block

Google Play Store

- If blocked, cannot use the Google Play store
- Rec: Block if not using the Google Play store, otherwise allow for all connection types except LAN

Market Feedback Agent

- If blocked, cannot use Google to submit feedback to app developers when apps crash
- Rec: Block if not using the Google Play store, otherwise allow for all connection types except LAN

PacProcessor

- Unclear what this does and what data it transmits/receives
- Rec: Block

ProxyHandler

- Function not completely clear
- Rec: Allow for all connection types except WiFi; might be good to block if not using any proxies

Self Service

- Unclear what this does and what data it transmits/receives
- Rec: Block

Setup Wizard

- Unclear what data this transmits/receives
- Rec: Block

Smart Device Manager

- Unclear exactly what this data this transmits/receives, but may be required for some tracking tools (finding lost device, for example)
- Rec: Block, unless determined that it is needed for any lost device finding tools

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ukanth commented on Mar 20, 2016

Owner

Like the idea. You could edit the wiki and update yourself.

+1 @CHEF-KOCH



Gitoffthelawn commented on Mar 20, 2016

Contributor

@ukanth Sounds good. Thanks. I didn't want to edit the wiki without your consent.

I believe it is best to use this thread (issue) to get some of the details worked out and errors fixed. After the information is a bit more solid, I'll add it all to the wiki.

Thanks again for AFWall+



Gitoffthelawn commented on Mar 27, 2016

Contributor

@CHEF-KOCH Do you have any corrections, changes, or additions to the above list?



CHEF-KOCH commented on Mar 28, 2016

Contributor

Uargh, sorry guys I will merge/add this next week into the wiki. Over eastern I had not really the time/motivation, was on Revision 2016 party.

We need more supporters like you, thanks! 👍

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CHEF-KOCH commented on Mar 30, 2016

Contributor

I'm not really happy with the current look, any suggestions? I added into the todo that we might switch to table view, anything speaks against this? (I'm not a mobile user ... just saying).

Just hard to write on Wiki without feedback.



Gitoffthelawn commented on Mar 30, 2016

Contributor

@CHEF-KOCH Are you referring to the current look of the wiki?



ukanth added **Howtos** **General** labels on Mar 30, 2016



haarp commented on Apr 17, 2016 • edited ▼

uid 1000 (Android System, others) - unblock all. Blocking this causes the dreaded exclamation mark (indicating "no internet") next to the Wifi/Radio icon.

edit: Turns out I can edit the Wiki. Added it myself!



an0n981 commented on Apr 17, 2016 • edited ▼

Contributor

@haarp an alternative to allowing 1000 is simply running a terminal command once after a fresh install:

```
su -c "settings put global captive_portal_detection_enabled 0"
```



CHEF-KOCH commented on May 24, 2016

Contributor

Read also [here](#).

I will look that I can update the list soon, since a lot have changed.



somenet commented on Aug 10, 2016

Most of your recommendations are wrong for me/my device.
As the first rule of security is: Block anything except stuff you need/want.
There should be no general list of what to allow, just a list of what does what.



Gitoffthelawn commented on Aug 17, 2016

Contributor

Most of your recommendations are wrong for me/my device.

@somenet If you would like to make a contribution, please do so. Criticism of other people's contributions, without providing contributions of your own, is not very helpful. Thanks for your understanding.



Tony-il-Capo commented on Sep 26, 2016

I also don't have any connection problems with blocking everything, but I have scripts for custom DNS server and to route traffic through Orbot for apps that need access to internet. I've been using it like this for much more than a year.

I don't use a bunch of apps, I only use a few that I really need, don't have any google app but maps, so yes, maybe there's cases where you need to allow system applications.



cjsin commented on Feb 7, 2017

On my device I have two Setup Wizard apps with different user ids. One looks like a basic app. The other one has user id 1000 and seems combined with Android System, Settings, and more, and also a com.Qualcomm.timeservice

I've observed one of the two (most likely the one with ID 1000 if I remember correctly) to be used for the Google "walled garden check".

It does something like try to make a http connection to a site something like 'connectivitycheck.google.com' and if it is blocked on your wifi for example then the system will choose to continue to try to send data over your 3g/4g data connection instead of the WiFi.

I also observed it attempting to use port 123 which is NTP network time protocol, presumably from the com.qualcomm.timeservice service.

This is on cyanogen not stock android though.

If you have a web server and DNS server on your home WiFi you can fix the connectivity check issue when you're there at least, Google generate_204 for instructions