

# iOS Application Security

*Mobile Security 2025*

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Some slides based on material by **Johannes Feichtner**

# Outline

- App Internals
  - Application Format
  - Sandbox
  - Code Signing
- App Distribution
- App-Level Security on iOS
- iOS Malware & Jailbreaking
- App Analysis on iOS



## Malware With Screen Reading Code Found in iOS Apps for the First Time

Wednesday February 5, 2025 11:47 am PST by [Juli Clover](#)

Malware that includes code for reading the contents of screenshots has been found in suspicious [App Store](#) apps for the first time, according to a report from [Kaspersky](#).



Dubbed "SparkCat," the malware includes OCR capabilities for sussing out sensitive information that an [iPhone](#) user has taken a screenshot of. The apps that Kaspersky discovered are aimed at locating recovery phrases for crypto wallets, which would allow attackers to steal bitcoin and other cryptocurrency.

The apps include a malicious module that uses an OCR plug-in created with Google's ML Kit library to recognize text found inside images on an iPhone. When a relevant image of a crypto wallet is located, it is sent to a server accessed by the attacker.

Source: <https://www.macrumors.com>

## What?

Apps requested access to photo library

- Tried to find screenshots
- Used OCR to extract text
- Looked for
  - crypto wallet credentials
  - Other passwords
- Sent info back to server

## Problems?

- Users *agree* on access to photo library for different purposes
  - Requested for in-app "chat support"
- Even App Store review process did not detect the malware

# Application Security

Even on a perfectly hardened platform

- Malicious applications may compromise sensitive data
- Insecure applications can open doors to attackers!

iOS platform limits potential attack surface to a minimum

- Code Signing
- Sandboxing

App developers need to

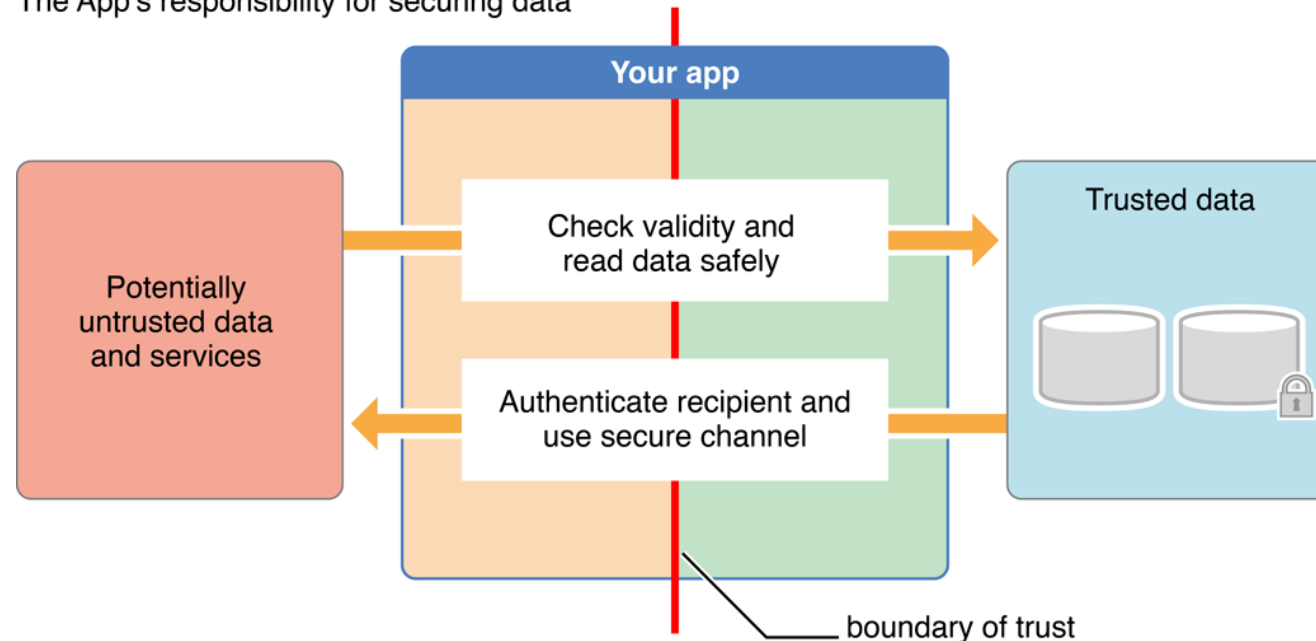
- Submit applications to Apple for review before publishing
- Follow security guidelines

# Application Security

From Apple's Developer Documentation:

“The most important thing to understand about security is that it is not a bullet point item. You cannot bolt it on at the end of the development process. You must consciously design security into your app or service from the very beginning, and make it a conscious part of the entire process from design through implementation, testing, and release.”

The App's responsibility for securing data



# App Internals

# App Files

- Distributed in **IPA format** (“iOS App Store Package”)
- ZIP archive with all code + resources

```
$ unzip SuperPassword.ipa -d mobsecdemo
```

```
$ ls -R mobsecdemo/
```

```
/Payload/SuperPassword.app/
```

```
-> SuperPassword
```

```
-> Info.plist
```

```
-> MainWindow.nib
```

```
-> Settings.bundle
```

```
-> _CodeSignature
```

```
-> further resources
```

```
/iTunesArtwork
```

```
/iTunesMetadata.plist
```

App itself + static resources

Binary executable (ARM-compiled code)

Bundle ID, version number, app name to display

Default interface to load when app is started

App-specific preferences for system settings

Signatures of resource files

Language files, images, sounds, more GUI layouts (nib)

512x512 pixel PNG image -> app icon

Developer name + ID, bundle identifier,

copyright information, etc.

# FairPlay DRM

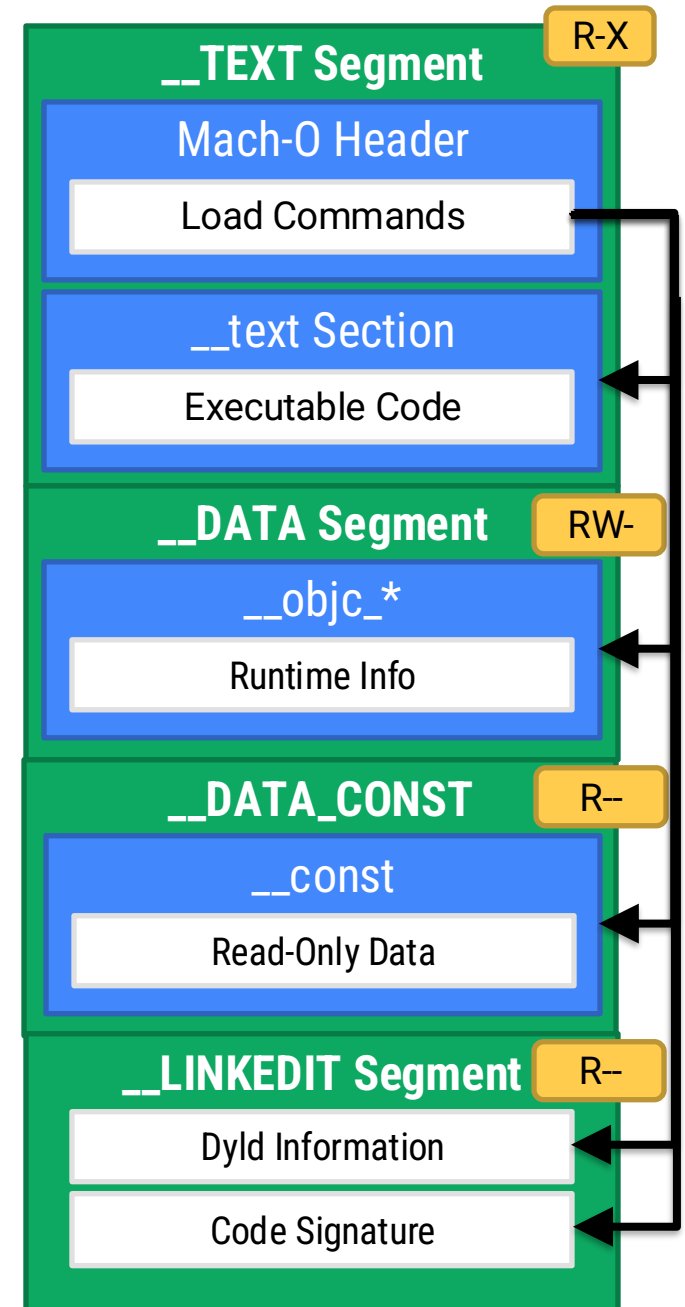
Not to be confused with Code Signing!  
(Covered in a few minutes)

- The executable binary inside the IPA file is DRM-protected
  - Encrypted using Apple's FairPlay DRM scheme
- At runtime, it is transparently decrypted by the kernel
  - Apple Protect Pager: Transparently decrypts file when mapping into memory
  - FairPlay DRM system is heavily obfuscated and only partly reverse-engineered
- Encryption is carried out by Apple, and only affects some distribution ways
  - Most notably: App Store distribution
- DRM can be removed by using a Jailbroken device
  - Dump the application's memory at runtime



# iOS Executables

- Binaries are in **Mach-O** format (once decrypted)
- Contains *segments* of one or multiple *sections*
  - Header
    - Architecture
    - Load Commands
      - Virtual Memory Layout
      - Libraries
      - Encryption
  - Data
    - Executable code
    - Read / write data
    - Objective C runtime information
    - Code signature



# App Installation

- The application and its data are spread across multiple file system locations
  - /private/var/mobile/Containers/Bundle/Application/<APP UUID>/
    - Extracted IPA contents
  - /private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Application/<CONTAINER UUID>/
    - User-generated app data. Container UUID changes with every new launch.
    - Subfolder „Library“: Cookies, caches, preferences, configuration files (plist)
    - Subfolder „tmp“: Temp files for current app launch only (not persisted)
    - Subfolder „Documents“: Visible through iTunes File Sharing and Files app (if enabled)
  - /private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/<APP UUID>/
    - To share with other apps & extensions of same app group

# Application Sandbox

# Application Sandbox

- Isolate apps from each other and the system
  - Restricts resource access and system integration of third-party applications
  - App must hold *Entitlements* for advanced interactions with system
  - Apps may request access to some system-wide data by asking user permission
- Limits file system access to app's container
  - `/var/mobile/Containers`
- Disallows most system calls
  - Prevent sandbox escape

# Recall: Mandatory Access Control (MACF)

- Various hooks scattered throughout syscall implementations in kernel
- Hooks call out to Policy Modules for checking if operation permitted
- Foundation for central iOS security features
  - Code Signing Policy Module: AppleMobileFileIntegrity.kext
  - **Sandbox Policy Module: Sandbox.kext**



# Sandbox.kext

## MACF Policy Module that implements the application sandbox

- Can be configured through *Profiles*
  - Compiled from proprietary Sandbox Profile Language (SBPL)
  - Specifies what is allowed and what not
  - iOS only supports profiles hard-coded into the kernel extension
  - Dynamically extended
    - Depending on user-granted access (e.g. Media Library)
    - Depending on app entitlements
- Profiles enforced in hooks of > 100 system calls

# Code Signing

# Code Signing

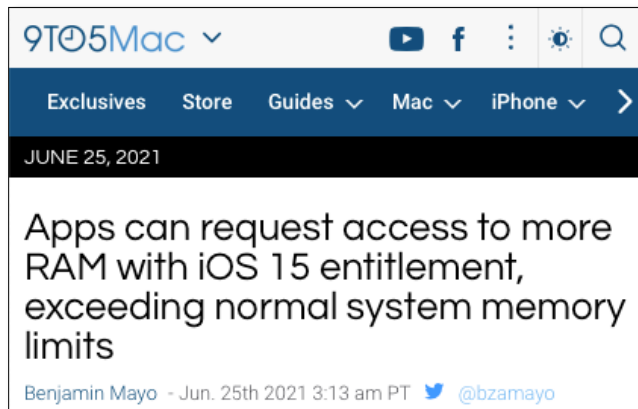
## **All code executed on iOS must be signed**

- Protects the integrity of applications
- Ensures that Apple had a chance to screen developer and/or application
- Signature also contains and protects app entitlements
- Exceptions for some Apple apps
  - Holding a special entitlement (discussed later)
  - E.g. Javascript JIT in Safari
- Exceptions for apps controlled by a debugger
  - Development!

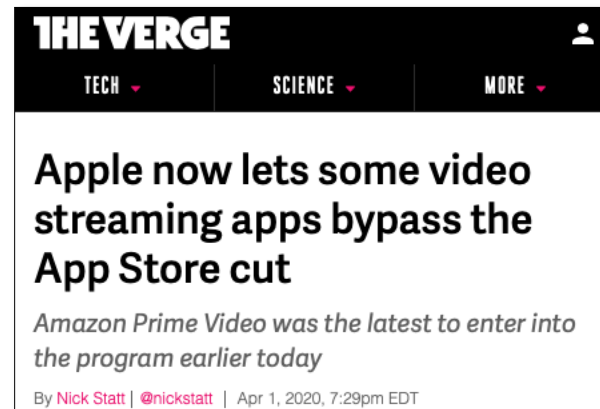


# Entitlements

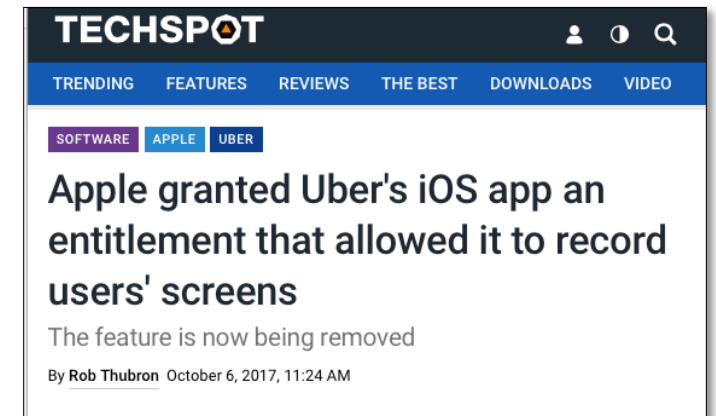
- Define degree to which application can integrate and interact with system
- Enforced by kernel and system before sensitive operations
- Granted by Apple to the developer for a specific app
- More than 6200 entitlements defined throughout subsystems on iOS 18
  - Only a fraction are officially documented and allowed to normal third-party apps



Source: [9to5mac.com](https://9to5mac.com)



Source: [theverge.com](https://theverge.com)



Source: [techspot.com](https://techspot.com)

# Code Signatures

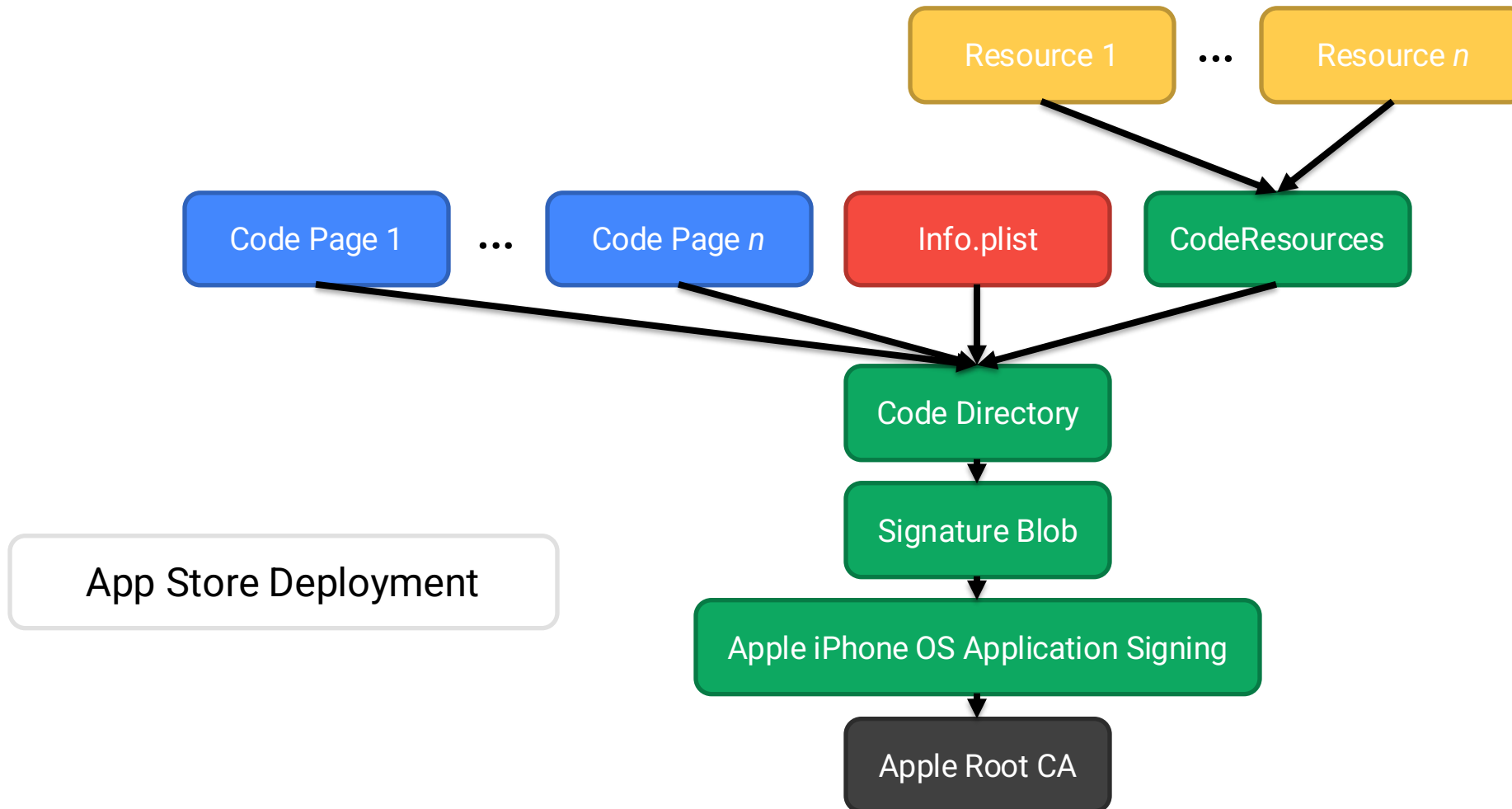
- Two parts
  - Application Seal: `_CodeSignature/CodeResources`: Hashes of all resources
  - Embedded Signature: Actual code signature

## The Embedded Signature

- Stored in `__LINKEDIT` segment of the MACH-O binary
- Consists of Codesigning Blobs:
  - **Entitlements Blob**: List of app's entitlements
  - **Requirements Blob**: Specify rules for validating the app signature
  - **Code Directory Blob**: Hash of code pages, App Seal and Codesigning Blobs
  - **Signature Blob**: Signs all these hashes

# Code Signatures

Code Signature forms a **signed tree of hashes**, rooted at Apple CA certificate



# Code Signature Enforcement

## But how is it implemented?

### Before starting a process (in the exec system call)

- Kernel extracts the Code Signature from the binary
- Stores it in special *Unified Buffer Cache*

### On page faults

- Handler checks whether page belongs to a code-signed object
- Requests MACF policies to validate the signature of the page
  - **AppleMobileFileIntegrity.kext!**

# AppleMobileFileIntegrity.kext (AMFI)

- Basic validation of Code Signature format and hashes
- Check CodeDirectory Hash (*CDHash*) against Trust Cache
  - Preinstalled system applications
- Third-party apps: pass to user-space amfid daemon
  - Don't parse complex signature format in kernel
- Also hooks into mmap and mprotect system calls
  - Ensure requested memory protections do not allow execution

# AMFI Userspace Daemon (amfid)

- Enforces rules from Requirements Blob
- Inspects certificate chain in the Signature Blob
  - Complex PKI parsing
- Queries installed Provisioning Profiles
  - To complete chain from Developer Certificate to Apple CA
- This is the weakest point in Code Signing Enforcement
  - Most jailbreaks manipulate amfid to circumvent code signing

# Entitlements Vulnerability (“Psychic Paper”)

- A vulnerability in iOS <13.5 enabled apps to gain arbitrary entitlements
- Exploited differences between XML parsers in kernel and user space

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <!-- these aren't the droids you're looking for -->
  <!--><!-->
  <key>platform-application</key>
  <true/>
  <key>com.apple.private.security.no-container</key>
  <true/>
  <key>task_for_pid-allow</key>
  <true/>
  <!-- -->
</dict>
</plist>
```

## User Space (amfid):

No entitlements

## Kernel (AMFI.kext):

- task\_for\_pid-allow: true
- platform-application: true
- com.apple.private.security.no-container: true

# App Distribution



# Application Sideloading (Only in EU!)

- The EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA) forced Apple to allow app sideloading
  - Install apps from sources other than Apple App Store (web sites, 3rd party stores)
  - Apple's DMA compliance still is questionable
- 3rd Party App Stores
  - Operators pay a fee of 0.5€ per app store installation / update
  - Developers pay a Core Technology Fee of 0.5€ per app installation / update
    - For apps that generate *some* revenue
  - Distributed apps still need to be notarized by Apple
- Web Distribution
  - Core Technology Fee and Notarization required

# Distribution Options

- Apple tightly restricts the possibilities for installing software on iOS
  - Jailbroken devices: Code signing usually disabled

Distribution	Developer Account	Notarization / Review	Devices
App Store (Apple or 3rd party) or Web	Paid (99\$/yr)	Yes	All
TestFlight	Paid (99\$/yr)	Yes (if <i>public</i> beta test)	Limited
Enterprise	Enterprise (*) (299\$/yr)	No	All that have <i>Provisioning Profile</i>
Development / Ad-Hoc	Free	No	Limited, Preregistered

(\*) Eligible only companies of more than 100 employees, for in-house distribution of proprietary software

# Provisioning Profiles

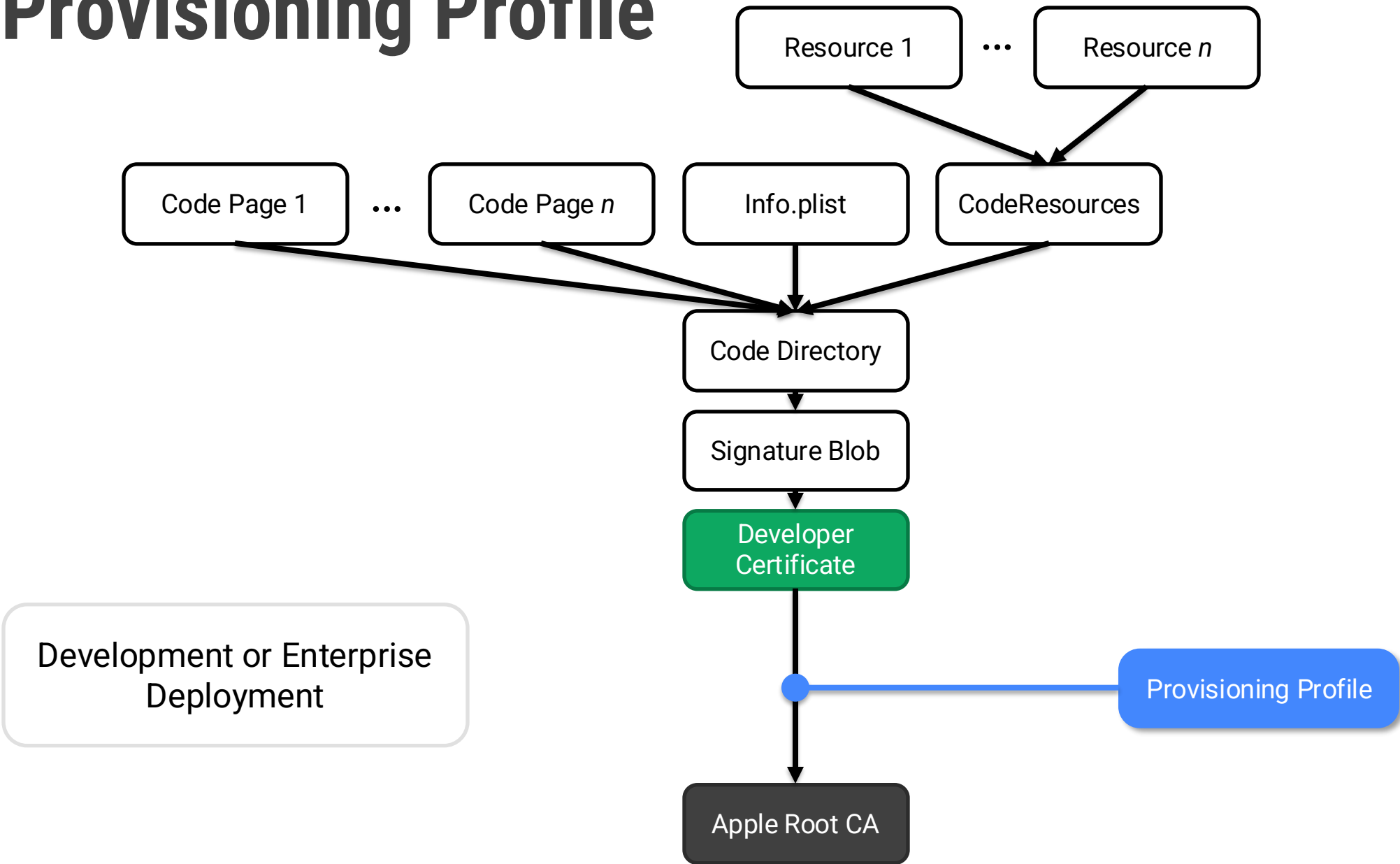
- Apps that do not go through a notarization process cannot be signed by Apple
  - Developers sign them using a *Development Certificate* issued by Apple
- How to restrict the power of this development certificate?
  - Restrict it to certain application, devices, entitlements
- How?
  - Provisioning Profiles

# Provisioning Profile

- Link between developer certificate and Apple CA
  - Must be installed on the device (may be embedded in IPA)
  - Only needed for development and enterprise distribution
    - Others: Signed by Apple after review
- Contains:
  - Application Identifier: Dev. Certificate can only sign specified app
  - Device UDIDs: Profile may only be installed on specified devices
  - Entitlement Restrictions: The entitlements a signed app may have at most
  - Developer Certificate: The corresponding private part signs the application
- Signed and issued by Apple

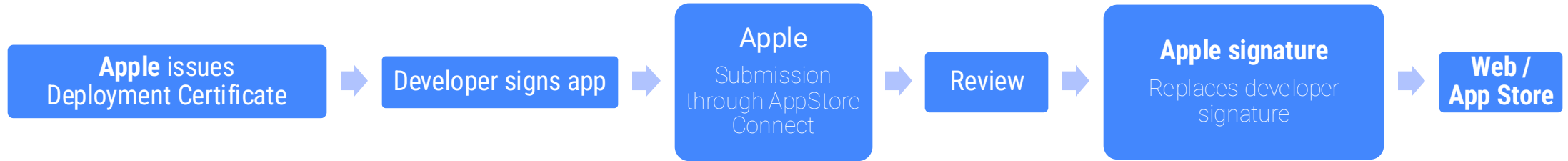
Wildcard possible!

# Provisioning Profile



# Application Signing

## Web / App Store Distribution:



## Development Distribution:



Please note the key pair for the development and deployment certificates must be supplied by the developer in both cases  
Signing an app involves using the private key for the development/deployment certificate.

# App Notarization vs. App Store Review

- Any apps published to unlimited devices need to be notarized by Apple
- Screened for
  - **Content**: No user deception, lawfulness
  - **Functionality**: No malfunction
  - **Privacy & Security**: No vulnerabilities or malicious behavior
- For publication to Apple's App Store, apps need to follow further rules
  - **Content**: No nudity, intellectual property, ...
  - **Monetization**: Only Apple's In-App-Purchase framework is allowed
  - **Quality**: Bad user feedback might lead to rejection

# Review / Notarization

“On average, 90% of apps are reviewed in 24 hours.”

Source: [apple.com](https://apple.com)

## Process:

1. Developer uploads app
  2. Enter queue for review (on re-upload: back to start)
  3. After review
    - On reject: Notification with reason
    - On success: App release
- + Quality control and nearly no evil apps
  - Not possible to fix bugs / security issues quickly (2 expedited reviews / yr)
  - Used to be a very opaque process
    - Some details (App Review process back then) leaked during Apple vs Epic lawsuit



# App Review Process

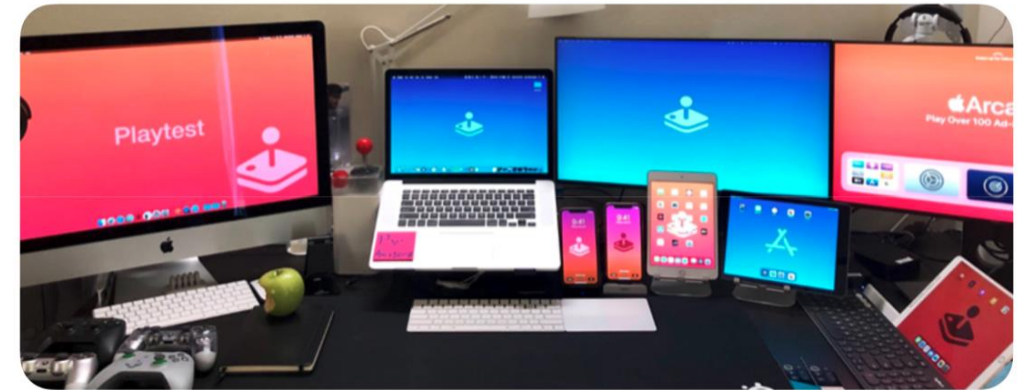
(Much of this also applies to App Notarization)

## Multiple steps

- **Automated Static Analysis**
  - Analyse application binary
- **Automated Dynamic Analysis**
  - Detect runtime behavior using random user input
- **Manual Reviews**
  - Manually check for guideline violations



Dynamic Analysis



Manual Analysis

Source: [Epic vs. Apple: Testimony of Trystan Kosmynka](#)

# App Review Process: Dynamic Analysis

34

Display a menu

# Dynamic Analysis

SPI	Network
Crash Logs	Memory
CPU	File System Access
Battery Usage	iCloud Usage
IDFA Usage	canOpenURL
Link Analysis	Text Analysis
Screenshot Recording	AV Recording
UI Testing	Access Photos
Location Services	Access Contacts
Access Microphone	Access Bluetooth
Access Camera	Access Health
Access HomeKit	Access Motion & Fitness
Use Apple Pay	Use IAP

● Functionality ● Safety ● Diagnostics ● User Experience ● Input

Details

File properties

Owner  
Apple Epiclit

Uploader  
Apple Epiclit

Created  
7 May 2021, 03:51

Modified  
7 May 2021, 03:51

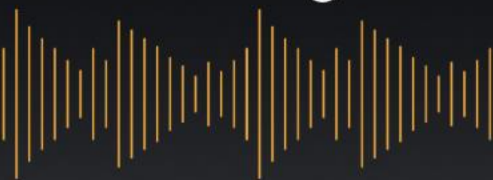
Size  
4.2 MB

# App Review Process: Static Analysis

## Static Signature

Screenshots	Preview
IAP	Description
Size	Keywords
Name	Localizations
What's New	Static Analysis
Entitlements	RDiff
Assembly Analysis	Strings

### 1.0 Static Signature



Details

File properties

Owner

Apple Epiclit

Uploader

Apple Epiclit

Created

7 May 2021, 03:51

Modified

7 May 2021, 03:51

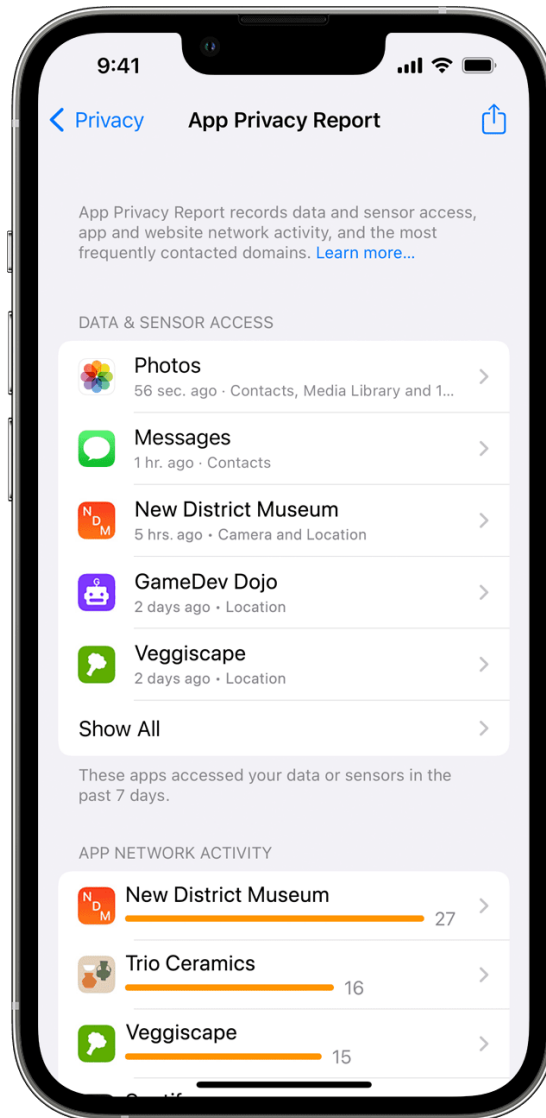
Size

4.2 MB

# App Review Process: Manual Analysis

- More than 500 people review 100,000 apps per week
- Process is assisted by automation
  - E.g. automatically identifying changes in app updates
- Decisions regarding high-profile apps may be overruled by ERB
  - Executive Review Board
    - Phil Schiller, VP of Marketing at Apple

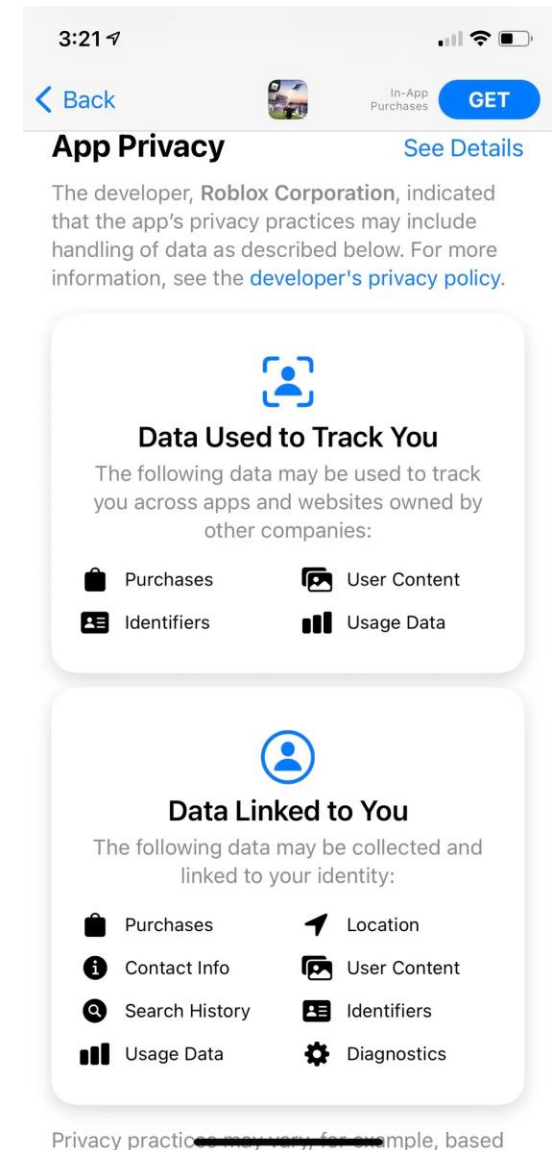
# iOS Privacy Features



Privacy Report

- iOS dynamically analyses apps
  - During runtime
- Developers are required to disclose data processing
  - Scope
  - Purpose
- Developers not always honest
  - Xiao et al: **Lalaine: Measuring and Characterizing Non-Compliance of Apple Privacy Labels**, Usenix Security 2023

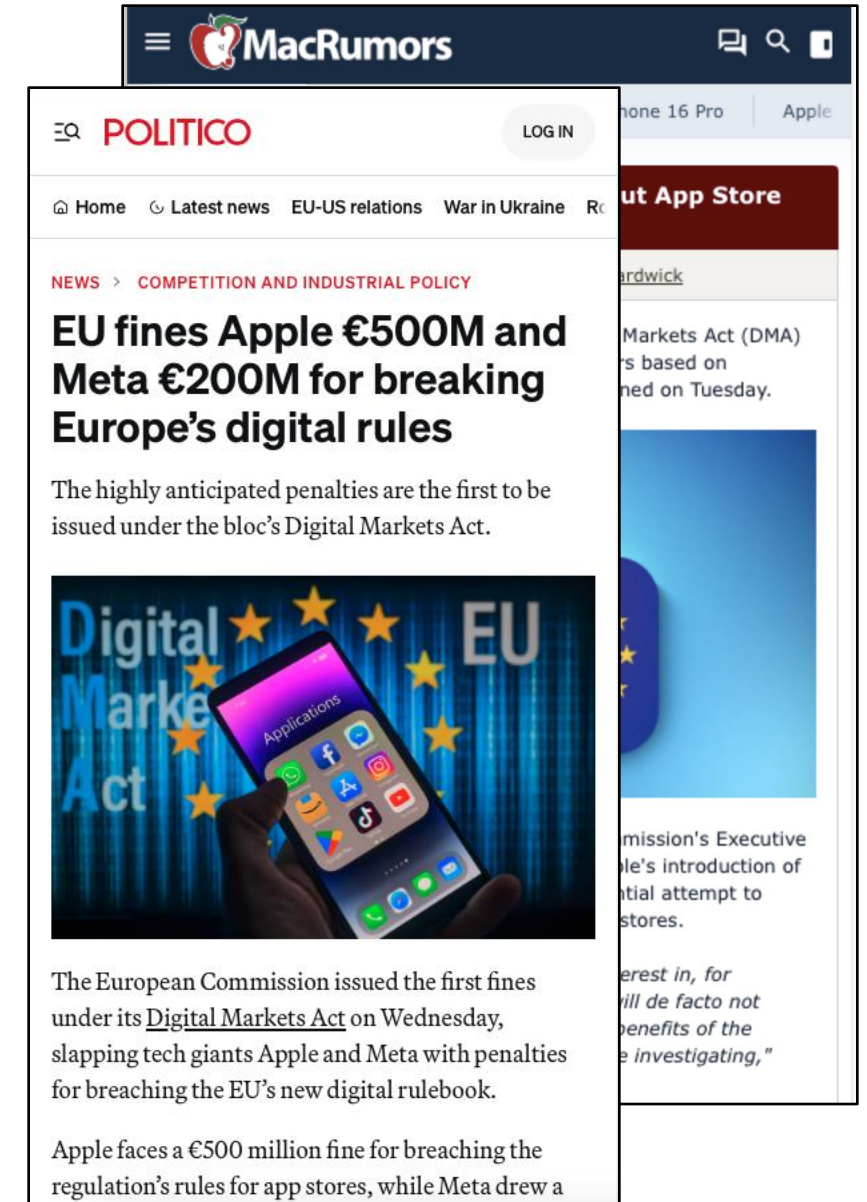
## App Privacy Nutrition Labels





# App Distribution: Future

- Several ongoing investigations
- EU investigates sideloading restrictions
  - Core Technology Fee
  - Paid developer account
  - Notarization
- In 2025, Apple was fined for breaching DMA
  - Prevented developers from informing about offers outside of Apple App Store

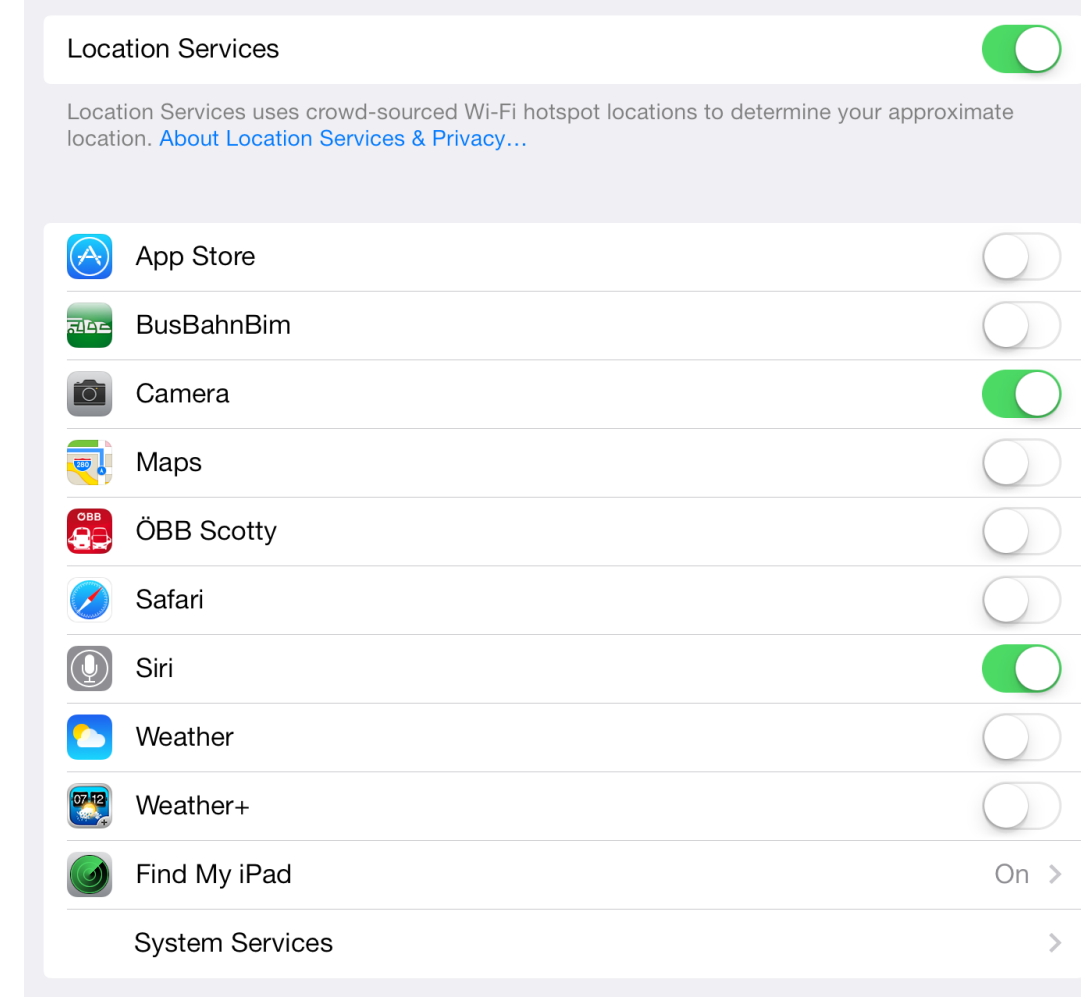


# App-Level Security

# iOS Permissions

- Users can grant certain permissions
  - Apps show permission dialog at runtime
- Can be revoked in app settings
- Workflow
  - First API access: Request user permission
  - Further API access:  
Refer to saved permission state

*Note:* Only way to remove Internet access for app  
→ Turn off your WiFi / LTE connection...





# iOS Permissions

- Apps do not *directly* (statically) request permissions
  - Developers do not have to specify which they want to use
  - Depending on use of sensitive APIs
- **Example:** App wants to access user's contacts
  - App calls method from `CNContactStore` class
  - Since iOS 10: Apps must present description how requested data is used
  - API access blocked until permission granted / denied



- **Sensitive APIs**

Contacts, Microphone, Calendar, Camera, Reminders, Photos, Health, Motion Activity & Fitness, Speech Recognition, Location Services, Bluetooth Sharing, Media Library, Social Media Accounts

# iOS Cryptography APIs

- CommonCrypto iOS 2+
  - Low-level C library for symmetric encryption, message digests, KDF, HMAC
- CryptoKit iOS 13+
  - High-level Swift library for asymmetric & symmetric crypto, MAC, digests
- Security Framework iOS 2+
  - Low-level C library for cryptographically secure random numbers
- Network Framework iOS 12+
  - Low-level Swift library for TLS (and TCP, UDP)
- URLSession API iOS 7+
  - High-level ObjC/Swift library for HTTPS (and HTTP, FTP, ...)

# App Transport Security (ATS)

iOS 9+

- Requires that all URLSession requests are made over HTTPS (instead of HTTP)
  - And that the connection employs modern TLS standards
- Configurable in Info.plist dictionary
  - Specify exceptions
    - For specific domains
    - For specific contents (e.g. for Media)
  - Exceptions must be justified for App Review!

Certificate Pinning or Self-Signed Certificates still relatively difficult!

# iOS Malware & Jailbreaking

# Malware?

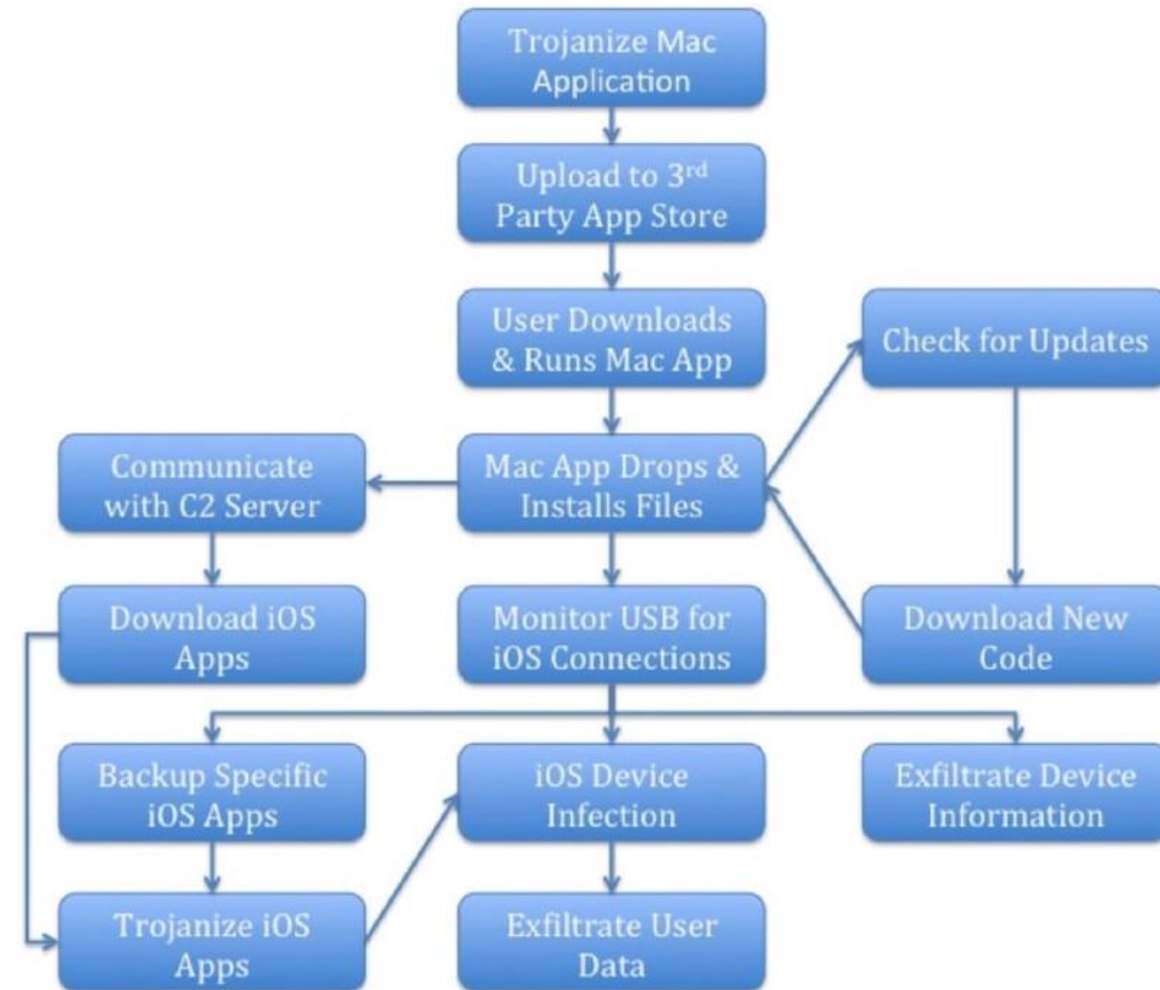
- Advanced protections
  - Code Signing
  - Sandbox
- Reduced attack surface → stripped down OS
  - Lots of useful binaries missing, e.g. no `/bin/sh` → no „shell“ code ☹
  - Even if shell → no `ls`, `rm`, `ps`, etc.
- Privilege separation
  - Most processes run as user „mobile“
    - Mobile Safari, Mobile Mail, Springboard, etc
  - Many resources require root privileges

# Wirelurker Malware (2014)

- Maiyadi App Store
  - 3rd Party Mac AppStore in China
  - Hosts „free“ apps
- Code signatures can be disabled on macOS

## Attack scenario

1. macOS infection
2. App installed via cable on iPhone, signed with enterprise app store cert (User has to trust Provisioning Profile!)



Source: [paloaltonetworks.com](http://paloaltonetworks.com)

# XcodeGhost (2015)

- Maliciously modified version of the Xcode compiler
- Added backdoors to apps during compilation
- Particularly wide-spread in Chinese applications
- Infected applications could be remotely controlled
  - Steal device information
  - Hijack opening of URLs
- Affected more than 128 million users
  - According to Apple's estimation

Source: [paloaltonetworks.com](https://paloaltonetworks.com)



Source: [macrumors.com](https://macrumors.com)

# Pegasus (2016-now)

- Spyware exploits zero-click vulnerabilities for essentially jailbreaking device
  - Location tracking
  - Application monitoring
  - Intercepting messages
  - Recording calls
- Sold by NSO Group to nation state actors for surveiling suspects
  - Also used by some authoritarian governments against political opponents
- Supports very recent iOS versions (Documented: up to iOS 16, likely higher!)



Research > Targeted Threats

# Triple Threat

## NSO Group's Pegasus Spyware Returns in 2022 with a Trio of iOS 15 and iOS 16 Zero-Click Exploit Chains

By Bill Marczak, John Scott-Railton, Bahr Abdul Razzak, and Ron Deibert

April 18, 2023

### Key Findings

- In 2022, the Citizen Lab gained extensive forensic visibility into new NSO Group exploit activity after finding infections among members of Mexico's civil society, including two human rights defenders from Centro PRODH, which represents victims of military abuses in Mexico.
- Our ensuing investigation led us to conclude that, in 2022, NSO Group customers widely deployed at least three iOS 15 and iOS 16 zero-click exploit chains against civil society targets around the world.
- NSO Group's third and final known 2022 iOS zero-click, which we call "**PWNYOURHOME**," was deployed against iOS 15 and iOS 16 starting in October 2022. It appears to be a novel *two-step* zero-click exploit, with each step targeting a *different* process on the iPhone. The first step targets *HomeKit*, and the second step targets *iMessage*.

# Jailbreak

## All third-party applications on iOS are jailed

- Must be signed by Apple (or Apple-approved developer)
- Restricted to very few syscalls
- Can only access its own data container

## We want to use the device to its full potential

- Run arbitrary unsigned apps
- Use all syscalls, access full file system, ...
- Example: Run Emulator with JIT

## How?

- We sneak out of the jail and open the doors for others to escape

# Jailbreak Variants

- **Untethered Jailbreak**
  - Persists across reboots
  - Hardest to achieve
- **Tethered Jailbreak**
  - Requires USB connection to host for rebooting
  - Jailbreak is accomplished by manipulating the USB stack of BootROM or iBoot
- **Semitethered Jailbreak**
  - Manually run app on device after reboot
  - Bootstrap re-jailbreaking from a normal sandboxed app

# Jailbreaking: General procedure

1. Run code on device
  - Install enterprise app **or** exploit built-in app **or** exploit Lockdown (iTunes) services
2. Bypass code signing
  - Run any code we need
3. Escape Sandbox
  - Execute arbitrary syscalls, access full file system
  - Exploit unprotected built-in service or allowed kernel interface
4. Elevate privileges
  - Obtain root access to modify system files or other processes
5. Kernel patching
  - Disable AMFI and Sandbox for other processes

# From code execution to kernel

- Usually involves exploiting multiple vulnerabilities
  - In built-in services or kernel interfaces
- Hindered by code signing!
  - Use Return Oriented Programming (ROP) to chain gadgets of existing functions
- Additional challenge posed by Pointer Authentication (Apple A12+)
  - Pointers are signed to prevent modifications

# Kernel Patching

## Kernel Address Space Layout Randomization (KASLR)

iOS 6+

**Problem:** Kernel loaded at different random offsets for each boot

**Solution:** Find patch targets by scanning kernel memory

- Look for unique instruction sequences or strings

## Kernel Patch Protection (KPP)

iOS 9+

**Problem:** Program in protection level EL3 checks for kernel modifications

**Solution:** Quickly patch and unpatch between checks

- Obtain task port for kernel\_task (tfp0)

## Kernel Text Readonly Region (KTRR)

A10 / iPhone 7+

**Problem:** Modern chips catch write attempts to protected kernel pages in HW

**Solution:** Attack before KTRR is set up (iBoot) or find r/w kernel struct

# Full Jailbreak Writeup

- Full jailbreaks are complex to find and take years of experience
  - The more countermeasures, the harder it gets
- For the interested: Have a look at the early modern jailbreaks
  - Evasi0n:
    - iOS 6 Jailbreak (2013)
    - The first to deal with KASLR
    - Source Code Released in 2017 Source: [github.com](https://github.com)
    - Writeups for User Space Source: [www.accuvant.com](http://www.accuvant.com)
    - And Kernel Patches Source: [blog.azimuthsecurity.com](http://blog.azimuthsecurity.com)

# iOS App Analysis



# Application Analysis

→ Traditionally two approaches

- Dynamic Analysis: Monitor live file access using jailbroken device
- Static Analysis: Look for file API calls + parameters in binary dump
  - Still needs jailbroken device to obtain decrypted application binary

## Challenge?

- iOS apps are compiled down to native code
  - Analysis on disassembly, e.g. using Ghidra or Hopper
  - Compilation removes high-level information
  - Still, the dynamic nature of Objective-C is helpful here!
    - Swift is a little more difficult to reverse!

# Case Study: Viber



Source: [apps.apple.com](https://apps.apple.com)

Objective-C Selectors Visible!

```
-[VIBEncryptionContext initWithContext:]  
-[VIBEncryptionContext context]  
-[VIBEncryptionContext params]  
-[VIBEncryptionContext setParams:]  
-[VIBEncryptionContext .cxx_destruct]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager initWithInjector:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager dealloc]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager checkEncryptionAbilityForAttachment:completion:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager checkEncryptionForConversation:completion:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager beginEncryptionWithContext:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager encryptData:length:withContext:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager endEncryptionWithContext:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager popEncryptionParamsForContext:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager encryptData:encryptionKey:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager calculateMD5ForAttachment:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager decryptAttachment:completion:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager decryptData:withEncryptionParams:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager decryptFile:withEncryptionParams:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager handleSecureStateChanged:]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager supportedMediaTypes]  
-[VIBEncryptionManager .cxx_destruct]
```

# Case Study: Viber

```
000632fa str    r4, [sp, #0x100 + var_100]
000632fc movw   r2, #0x412e
00063300 movt   r2, #0xd9
00063304 mov    r1, r6
00063306 add    r2, pc
00063308 mov    r3, r8
0006330a mov
0006330c blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
00063310 mov
00063312 blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_retainAutoreleasedReturn
00063316 str    r0, [sp, #0x100 + var_C8]
00063318 mov    r0, r5
0006331a blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_release
0006331e ldr.w   r0, [fp]
00063322 mov    r1, sl
00063324 blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
00063328 mov    r7, r7
0006332a blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
0006332e str    r4, [sp, #0x100 + var_100]
00063330 movw   r2, #0x410a
00063334 movt   r2, #0xd9
00063338 mov    r1, r6
0006333a add    r2, pc
0006333c mov    r3, r8
0006333e mov    r5, r0
00063340 blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
00063344 mov    r7, r7
00063346 blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
0006334a str    r0, [sp, #0x100 + var_B8]
0006334c mov    r0, r5
0006334e blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_release
00063352 ldr.w   r0, [fp]
00063356 mov    r1, sl
00063358 blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
0006335c mov    r7, r7
0006335e blx    imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
00063362 str    r4, [sp, #0x100 + var_100]
00063364 movw   r2, #0x40e6
00063368 movt   r2, #0xd9
0006336c mov    r1, r6
0006336e add    r2, pc
00063370 mov    r3, r8
00063372 mov    r5, r0
```

Method calls have to go through objc\_msgSend  
Facilitates reverse-engineering

```
; @"Viber can not verify this number. This may be the result of an error or a breach.\\nPlease verify %@ again"
; @"Viber can not verify this number. This may be the result of an error or a breach.\\nPlease verify %@ again"
; argument #2 for method imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
; @"Viber can not verify this number. This may be the result of an error or a breach.\\nPlease verify %@ again"

; objc_cls_ref_NSBundle,_OBJC_CLASS_$_NSBundle, argument #1 for method imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend

; @"Messages sent by participants in this conversation are encrypted and %@ is Verified", :lower16:(cfstring_)
; @"Messages sent by participants in this conversation are encrypted and %@ is Verified", :upper16:(cfstring_)
; argument #2 for method imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
; @"Messages sent by participants in this conversation are encrypted and %@ is Verified"

; objc_cls_ref_NSBundle,_OBJC_CLASS_$_NSBundle, argument #1 for method imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend

; @"This conversation cannot be encrypted. This may be the result of an error or a geo-location limitation",
; @"This conversation cannot be encrypted. This may be the result of an error or a geo-location limitation",
; argument #2 for method imp___picsymbolstub4_objc_msgSend
; @"This conversation cannot be encrypted. This may be the result of an error or a geo-location limitation"
```

# Outlook

- 23.05.2025
  - Mobile Hardware Security
- 06.06.2025
  - Mobile Network Security