

# Mobile Apps - Hands On

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**Development**  
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# Clear up some misconceptions

Apple's iOS has been a huge success for Apple

Together with Android, they have re-defined mobile telephony

Apple has made great advances in security

They are still far from really good

Not even sure if they're pretty good



# Hardware encryption

Each iOS device (as of 3g) has hardware crypto module

Unique AES-256 key for every iOS device

Sensitive data hardware encrypted

Sounds brilliant, right?

Well...



# Encryption on Android

Android 2.2 has software based encryption

- Standard Java classes

- Bouncy Castle works too

Android 3.0 and 4.0 include hardware based encryption

- But our apps can't rely on this

See <http://www.unwesen.de/2011/06/12/encryption-on-android-bouncycastle/>



# iOS crypto keys

GID key - Group ID key

UID key - Unique per dev

Dkey - Default file key

EMF! - Encrypts entire  
file system and HFS  
journal

Class keys - One per  
protection class

Some derived from UID +  
Passcode



# iOS NAND (SSD) mapping

Block 0 - Low level boot loader

Block 1 - Effaceable storage

Locker for crypto keys,  
including Dkey and EMF!

Blocks 2-7 - NVRAM  
parameters

Blocks 8-15 - Firmware

Blocks 8-(N-15) - File system

Blocks (N-15)-N - Last 15  
blocks reserved by Apple



# WHAT?!

Yes, these keys are stored  
in plaintext

No, you *shouldn't* be able  
to access them

But in reality...



# Jailbreaks

Apple's protection architecture is based on a massive digital signature hierarchy

Starting from bootloader

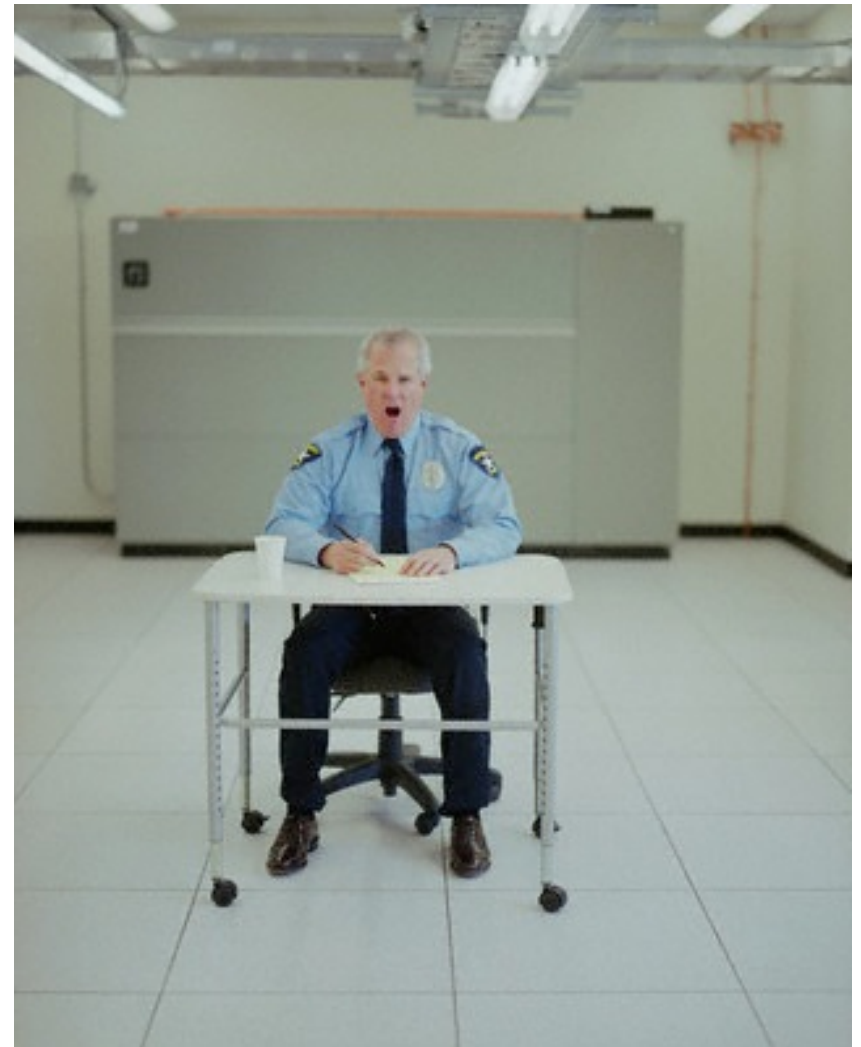
Through app loader

DFU mode allows USB vector for boot loader

Jailbreaks exploit software weaknesses in boot loader protocol

As of today, works on 6.1 to all except A5-based systems

No ATV3, I5, etc.





# Keychains

Keychain API provided  
for storage of small  
amounts of sensitive data

Login credentials,  
passwords, etc.

Encrypted using hardware  
AES

Also sounds wonderful

Wait for it...



# Built-in file protection limitations

## Pros

Easy to use, with key management done by iOS

Powerful functionality

Always available

Zero performance hit

## Cons

For Complete, crypto key is UDID + Passcode

- 4 digit PIN problem

Your verdict?



# Built-in file protection classes

iOS (since 4) supports file protection class

NSFileProtectionComplete

NSFileProtectionCompleteUnlessOpen

NSFileProtectionCompleteUntilFirstUserAuthentication

NSFileProtectionNone





# OWASP Mobile Top 10 Risks

**M1- Insecure Data Storage**

**M6- Improper Session Handling**

**M2- Weak Server Side Controls**

**M7- Security Decisions Via Untrusted Inputs**

**M3- Insufficient Transport Layer Protection**

**M8- Side Channel Data Leakage**

**M4- Client Side Injection**

**M9- Broken Cryptography**

**M5- Poor Authorization and Authentication**

**M10- Sensitive Information Disclosure**

# Biggest issue: lost/stolen device

Anyone with physical access to your device can get to a wealth of data

- PIN is not effective

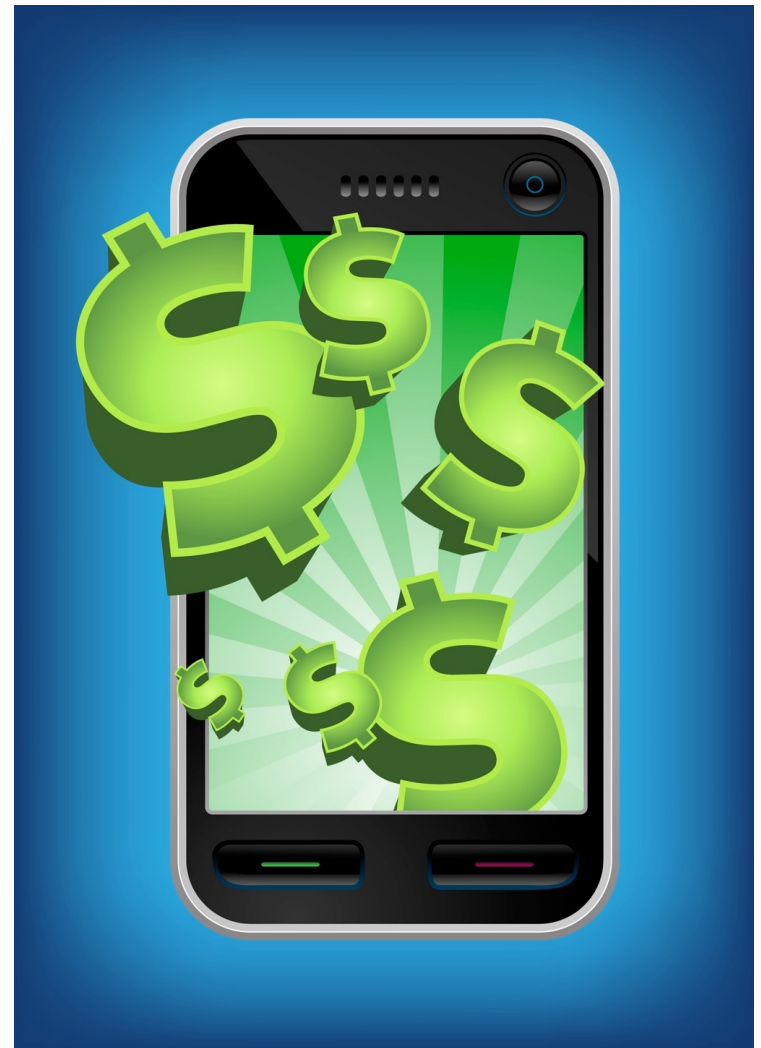
- App data

- Keychains

- Properties

Disk encryption helps, but we can't count on users using it

See forensics results



# Second biggest: insecure comms

Without additional protection, mobile devices are susceptible to the “coffee shop attack”

Anyone on an open WiFi can eavesdrop on your data

No different than any other WiFi device really

Your apps **MUST** protect your users’ data in transit



# Let's consider the basics

We'll cover these (from the mobile top 10)

Protecting secrets

- At rest
- In transit

Input/output validation

Authentication

Session management

Access control

Privacy concerns



# Attack vector: lost/stolen device

Anyone with physical access to your device can get to a wealth of data

PIN is not effective

App data

Keychains

Properties

See forensics studies

Your app must protect users' local data storage







# M1- Insecure Data Storage

- Sensitive data left unprotected
- Applies to locally stored data + cloud synced
- Generally a result of:
  - Not encrypting data
  - Caching data not intended for long-term storage
  - Weak or global permissions
  - Not leveraging platform best-practices

## Impact

- Confidentiality of data lost
- Credentials disclosed
- Privacy violations
- Non-compliance

# M1- Insecure Data Storage



```
public void saveCredentials(String userName, String password) {  
  
    SharedPreferences credentials = this.getSharedPreferences(  
        "credentials", MODE_WORLD_READABLE); — Very Bad  
    SharedPreferences.Editor editor = credentials.edit();  
    editor.putString("username", userName); — Convenient!  
    editor.putString("password", password);  
    editor.putBoolean("remember", true);  
    editor.commit();  
}
```





# M1- Insecure Data Storage

## Prevention Tips

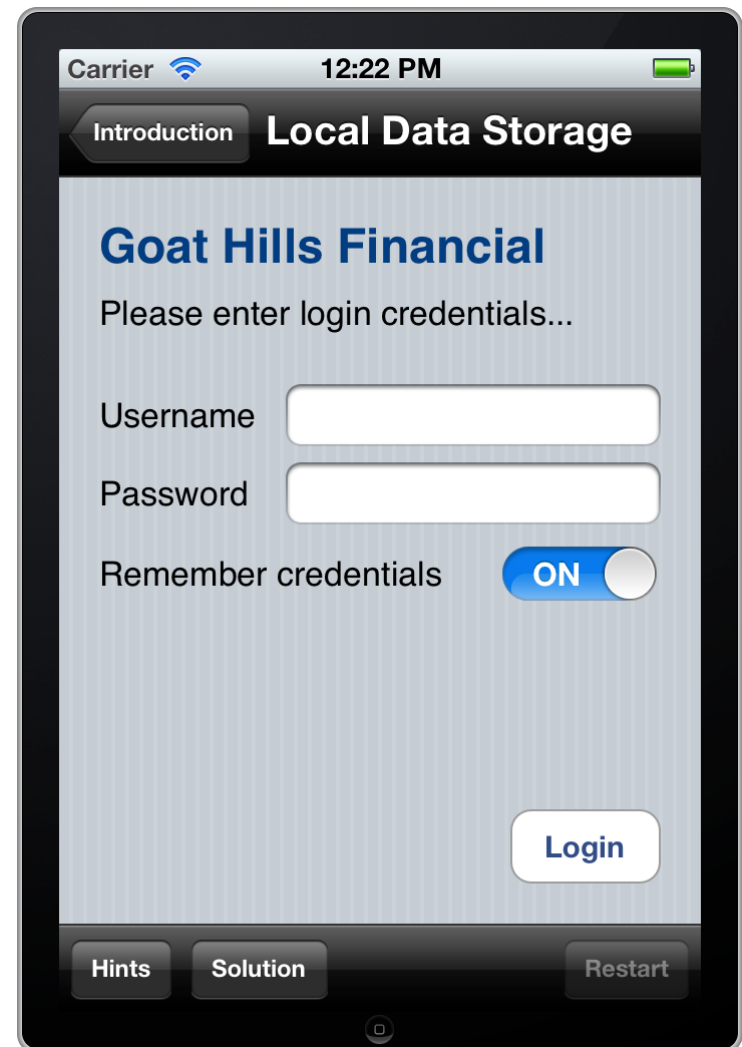
- Store **ONLY** what is absolutely required
- Never use public storage areas (ie- SD card)
- Leverage secure containers and platform provided file encryption APIs
- Do not grant files world readable or world writeable permissions

Control #	Description
1.1-1.14	Identify and protect sensitive data on the mobile device
2.1, 2.2, 2.5	Handle password credentials securely on the device

# SQLite example

Let's look at a database app that stores sensitive data into a SQLite db

We'll recover it trivially by looking at the unencrypted database file



# Protecting secrets at rest

Encryption is the answer,  
but it's not quite so simple

Where did you put that key?

Surely you didn't hard code it  
into your app

Surely you're not counting on  
the user to generate and  
remember a strong key

*Key management is a non-  
trivially solved problem*



# How bad is it?

It's tough to get right  
Key management is  
everything

We've seen many  
examples of failures  
Citi and others

Consider lost/stolen device  
as worst case

Would you be confident of  
your app/data in hands of  
biggest competitor?



# Static analysis of an app

## Explore folders

./Documents

./Library/Caches/\*

./Library/Cookies

./Library/Preferences

## App bundle

Hexdump of binary

plist files

## What else?



# Examples

## Airline app

Stores frequent flyer data in plaintext XML file

## Healthcare app

Stores patient data in plist file

- But it's base64 encoded for protection...





# Tools to use

## Mac tools

Finder

iExplorer

hexdump

strings

otool

otx ([otx.osxninja.com](http://otx.osxninja.com))

class-dump

([iphone.freecoder.org/  
classdump\\_en.html](http://iphone.freecoder.org/classdump_en.html))

## Emacs (editor)

## Xcode additional tools

Clang (build and  
analyze)

- Finds memory leaks and others

# What to examine?

## See for yourself

There is no shortage of sloppy applications in the app stores

Start with some apps that you know store login credentials



# Let's go further

Consider jailbreaking to further analyze things

Get outside of app sandbox

All OS files exposed

- Keylog, SMS, email

Tethered vs. untethered

Tools and notes

Works up to 7.0.x on iPhone

5S

- Evasi0n and others
- Plus Cydia, of course...



# Further still

## Disassembly of binary

Must get around app store encryption

- Not so hard

IDAPro is your friend



# Resources

Hacking and Securing iOS Applications, Jonathan Zdziarski, O'Reilly, 2012

Evasi0n, popular jailbreaking tool, <http://www.evad3rs.com/>

# Attack vector: coffee shop attack

Exposing secrets through non-secure connections is rampant

Firesheep description

Most likely attack targets

Authentication credentials

Session tokens

Sensitive user data

At a bare minimum, your app needs to be able to withstand a coffee shop attack





# M3- Insufficient Transport Layer Protection

- Complete lack of encryption for transmitted data
  - Yes, this unfortunately happens often
- Weakly encrypted data in transit
- Strong encryption, but ignoring security warnings
  - Ignoring certificate validation errors
  - Falling back to plain text after failures

## Impact

- Man-in-the-middle attacks
- Tampering w/ data in transit
- Confidentiality of data lost



# M3- Insufficient Transport Layer Protection

## Prevention Tips

- Ensure that all sensitive data leaving the device is encrypted
- This includes data over carrier networks, WiFi, and even NFC
- When security exceptions are thrown, it's generally for a reason...DO NOT ignore them!

Control #	Description
3.1.3.6	Ensure sensitive data is protected in transit



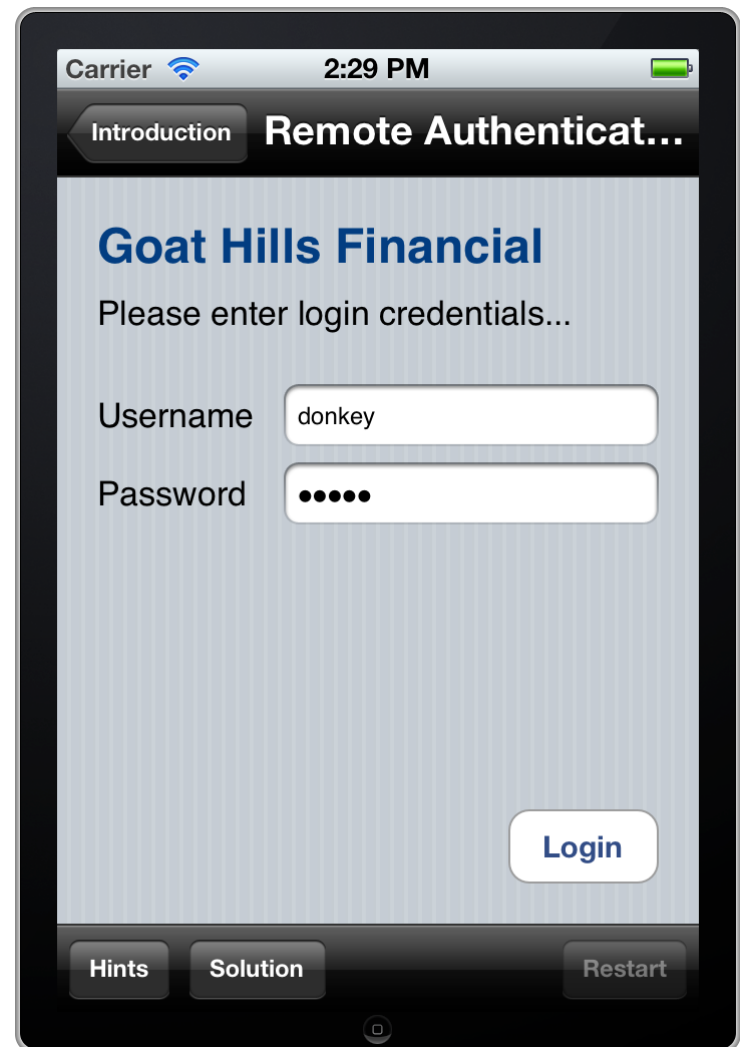
# Exercise - coffee shop attack

This one is trivial, but let's take a look

In this iGoat exercise, the user's credentials are sent plaintext

Simple web server running on Mac responds

If this were on a public WiFi, a network sniffer would be painless to launch



# Protecting users' secrets in transit

Always consider the coffee shop attack as lowest common denominator

We place a lot of faith in SSL

But then, it's been subjected to scrutiny for years



# Most common SSL mistake

We've all heard of CAs  
being attacked

That's all important, but...

(Certificate pinning can help.)

Failing to properly verify  
CA signature chain

Biggest SSL problem by far

Study showed 1/3 of Android  
apps fell to this

Cannot happen by accident



# How bad is it?

Neglecting SSL on network comms is common

Consider the exposures

- Login credentials
- Session credentials
- Sensitive user data

Will your app withstand a concerted coffee shop attacker?



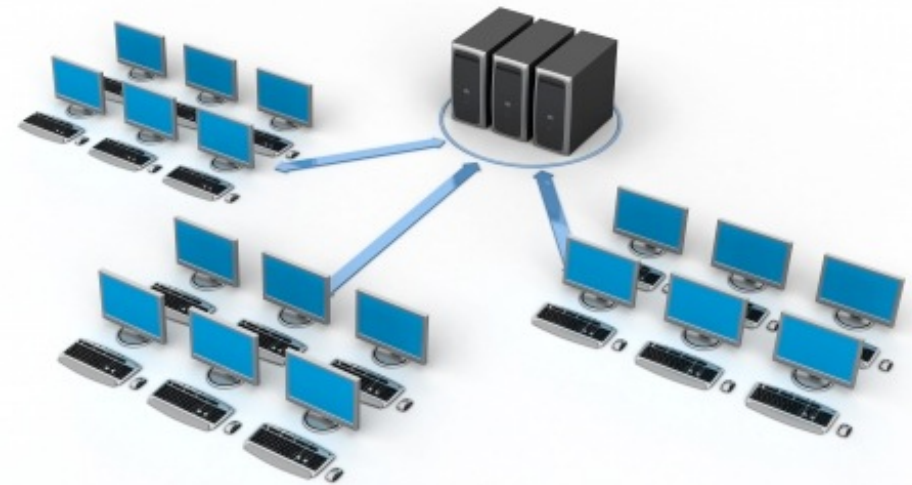
# Attack vector: web app weakness

Remember, modern mobile devices share a lot of weaknesses with web applications

Many shared technologies

A smart phone is sort of like a mobile web browser

- Only worse in some regards



# Input and output validation

## Problems abound

Data must be treated as dangerous until proven safe

No matter where it comes from

## Examples

Data injection

Cross-site scripting

*Where do you think input validation should occur?*



# SQL Injection

## Most common injection attack

Attacker taints input data with SQL statement

Application constructs SQL query via string concatenation

SQL passes to SQL interpreter and runs on server

## Consider the following input to an HTML form

Form field fills in a variable called “CreditCardNum”

Attacker enters

- ‘
- ‘ --
- ‘ or 1=1 --

What happens next?

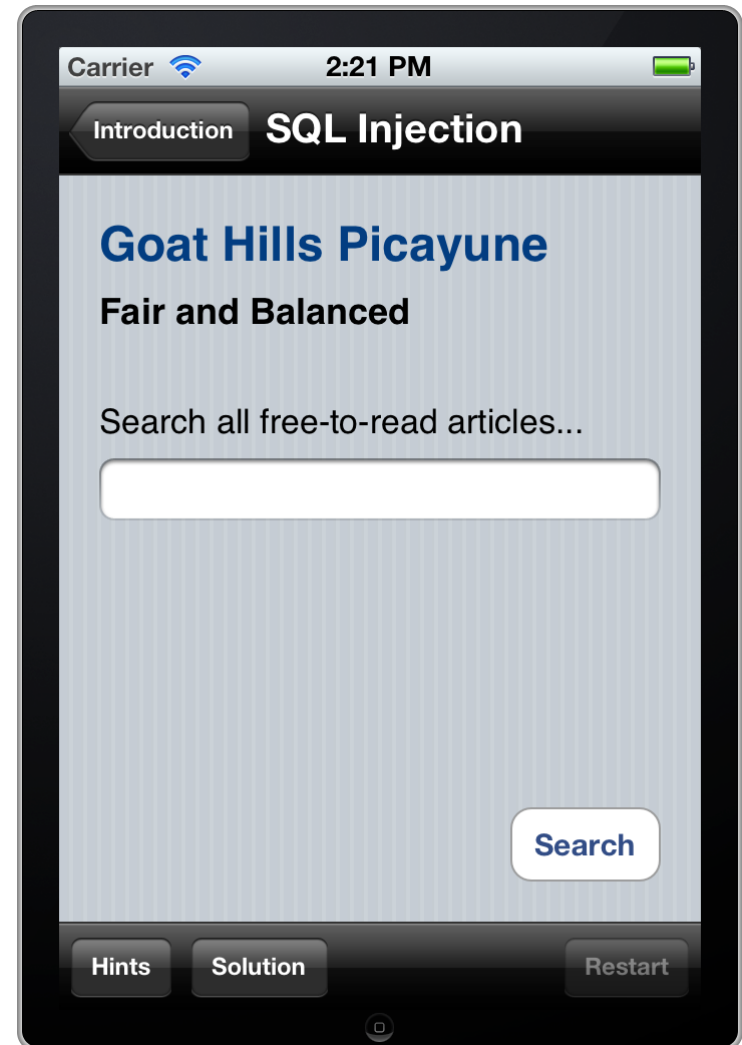
# SQL injection exercise - client side

In this one, a local SQL db contains some restricted content

Attacker can use “SQLi” to view restricted info

Not all SQLi weaknesses are on the server side!

Question: Would db encryption help?







# M5- Poor Authorization and Authentication

- Part mobile, part architecture
- Some apps rely solely on immutable, potentially compromised values (IMEI, IMSI, UUID)
- Hardware identifiers persist across data wipes and factory resets
- Adding contextual information is useful, but not foolproof

## Impact

- Privilege escalation
- Unauthorized access



# M5- Poor Authorization and Authentication

```
if (dao.isDevicePermanentlyAuthorized(deviceID)) {  
    int newSessionToken = LoginUtils.generateSessionToken();  
    dao.openConnection();  
    dao.updateAuthorizedDeviceSession(deviceID,  
        sessionToken, LoginUtils.getTimeMilliseconds());  
    bean.setSessionToken(newSessionToken);  
    bean.setUserName(dao.getUserName(sessionToken));  
    bean.setAccountNumber(dao.getAccountNumber(sessionToken));  
    bean.setSuccess(true);  
    return bean;  
}
```



# M5- Poor Authorization and Authentication Prevention Tips

- Contextual info can enhance things, but only as part of a multi-factor implementation
- Out-of-band doesn't work when it's all the same device
- Never use device ID or subscriber ID as sole authenticator

Control #	Description
4.1-4.6	Implement user authentication/authorization and session management
8.4	Authenticate all API calls to paid resources



# M6- Improper Session Handling

- Mobile app sessions are generally MUCH longer
- Why? Convenience and usability
- Apps maintain sessions via
  - HTTP cookies
  - OAuth tokens
  - SSO authentication services
- Bad idea= using a device identifier as a session token

## Impact

- Privilege escalation
- Unauthorized access
- Circumvent licensing and payments



# M6- Improper Session Handling Prevention Tips

- Don't be afraid to make users re-authenticate every so often
- Ensure that tokens can be revoked quickly in the event of a lost/stolen device
- Utilize high entropy, tested token generation resources

Control #	Description
1.13	Use non-persistent identifiers
4.1-4.6	Implement user authentication/authorization and session management

# M4- Client Side Injection

## Garden Variety VCC

```
@Override
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {

    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    setContentView(R.layout.demo);
    context = this.getApplicationContext();
    webView = (WebView) findViewById(R.id.demoWebView);
    webView.getSettings().setJavaScriptEnabled(true);
    webView.addJavascriptInterface(new SmsJSInterface(this),
        "smsJSInterface");
    GetSomeInfo getInfo = new GetSomeInfo();
    getInfo.execute(null, null);
}

public String generateHTML(String untrustedData) {

    return "<b>Check this out!</b><br>" + untrustedData;
}
```

## With access to:

```
public class SmsJSInterface implements Cloneable {

    Context mContext;

    public SmsJSInterface(Context context) {

        mContext = context;
    }

    public void sendSMS(String phoneNumber, String message) {

        SmsManager sms = SmsManager.getDefault();
        sms.sendTextMessage(phoneNumber, null, message, null, null);
    }
}
```



# M4- Client Side Injection

## Prevention Tips

- Sanitize or escape untrusted data before rendering or executing it
- Use prepared statements for database calls...concatenation is still bad, and always will be bad
- Minimize the sensitive native capabilities tied to hybrid web functionality

Control #	Description
6.3	Pay particular attention to validating all data received from and sent to non-trusted <del>third party apps before</del>
10.1-10.5	Carefully check any runtime interpretation of code for errors



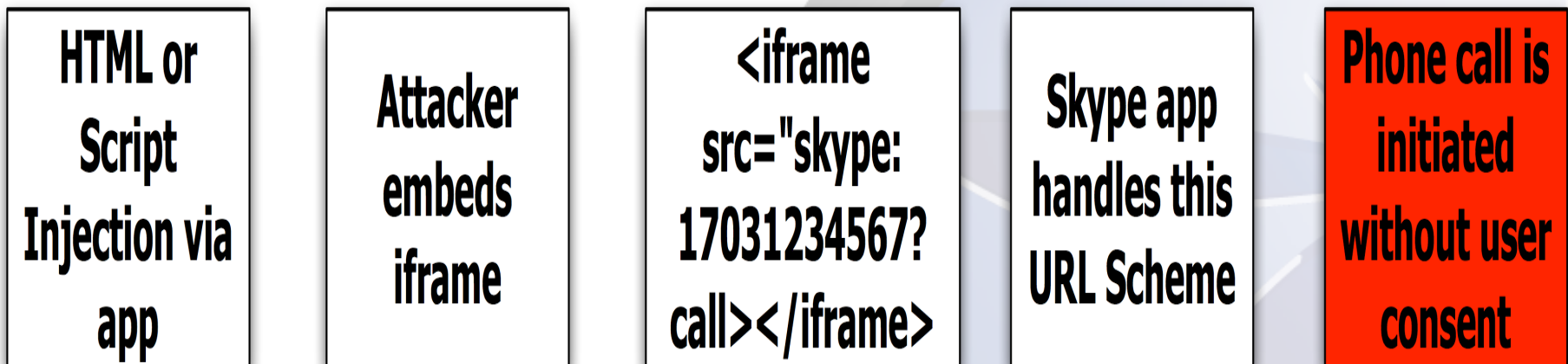
# M7- Security Decisions Via Untrusted Inputs

- Can be leveraged to bypass permissions and security models
  - Similar but different depending on platform
    - iOS- Abusing URL Schemes
    - Android- Abusing Intents
  - Several attack vectors
    - Malicious apps
    - Client side injection
- ## Impact
- Consuming paid resources
  - Data exfiltration
  - Privilege escalation



# M7- Security Decisions Via Untrusted Inputs

## Skype iOS URL Scheme Handling Issue



- <http://software-security.sans.org/blog/2010/11/08/insecure-handling-url-schemes-apples-ios/>



# M7- Security Decisions Via Untrusted Inputs

## Prevention Tips

- Check caller's permissions at input boundaries
- Prompt the user for additional authorization before allowing
- Where permission checks cannot be performed, ensure additional steps required to launch sensitive actions

Control #	Description
10.2	Run interpreters at minimal privilege levels



# M8- Side Channel Data Leakage

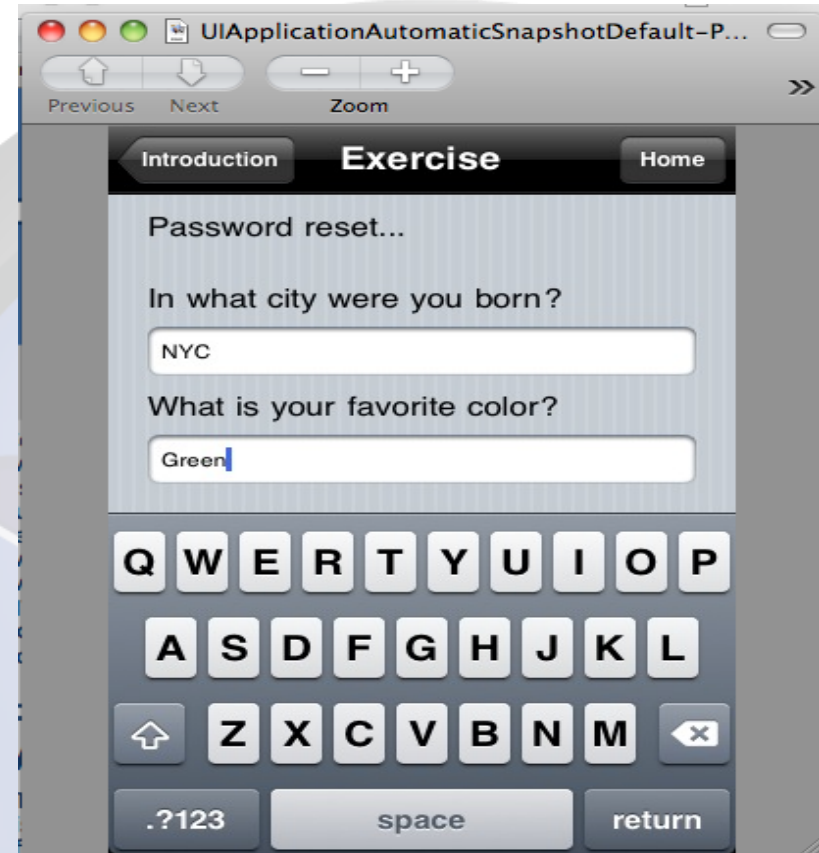
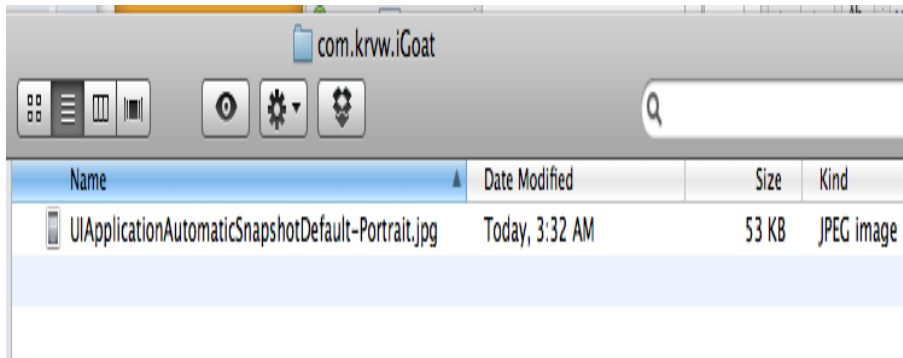
- Mix of not disabling platform features and programmatic flaws
- Sensitive data ends up in unintended places
  - Web caches
  - Keystroke logging
  - Screenshots (ie- iOS backgrounding)
  - Logs (system, crash)
  - Temp directories
- Understand what 3<sup>rd</sup> party libraries in your apps are doing with user data (ie- ad networks, analytics)

## Impact

- Data retained indefinitely
- Privacy violations

# M8- Side Channel Data Leakage

## Screenshots



## Logging

```
try {  
    userInfo = client.validateCredentials(userName, password);  
    if (userInfo.get("success").equals("true"))  
        launchHome(v);  
    else {  
        Log.w("Failed login", userName + " " + password);  
    }  
} catch (Exception e) {  
    Log.w("Failed login", userName + " " + password);  
}
```



# M8- Side Channel Data Leakage Prevention Tips

- Never log credentials, PII, or other sensitive data to system logs
- Remove sensitive data before screenshots are taken, disable keystroke logging per field, and utilize anti-caching directives for web content
- Debug your apps before releasing them to observe files created, written to, or modified in any way
- Carefully review any third party libraries you introduce and the data they consume
- Test your applications across as many platform versions as possible

Control #	Description
7.3	Check whether you are collecting PII, it may not always be obvious
7.4	Audit communication mechanisms to check for unintended leaks (e.g. image



# M10- Sensitive Information Disclosure

- We differentiate by stored (M1) vs. embedded/hardcoded (M10)
- Apps can be reverse engineered with relative ease
- Code obfuscation raises the bar, but doesn't eliminate the risk
- Commonly found "treasures":
  - API keys
  - Passwords
  - Sensitive business logic

## Impact

- Credentials disclosed
- Intellectual property exposed



# M10- Sensitive Information Disclosure

```
if (rememberMe)
    saveCredentials(userName, password);
//our secret backdoor account
if (userName.equals("all_powerful")
    && password.equals("iamsosmart"))
    launchAdminHome(v);
```

```
public static final double SECRET_SAUCE_FORMULA = (1.2344 * 4.35 - 4 + 1.442) * 2.221;
```



# M10- Sensitive Information Disclosure Prevention Tips

- Private API keys are called that for a reason...keep them off of the client
- Keep proprietary and sensitive business logic on the server
- Almost never a legitimate reason to hardcode a password (if there is, you have other problems)

Control #	Description
2.10	Do not store any passwords or secrets in the application binary



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