

MOBILE APP HARDENING

Against Reverse Engineering

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- **Objective:** Harden mobile apps against RE and without using commercial tools
- What is Mobile App Hardening?
- Various app hardening techniques
 - Build Settings
 - Code Hardening
 - Data
 - Cryptography
- Case Study - R2Pay
- Discussion and Conclusion

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1. App Hardening

2. Build Settings
Techniques

3. Code Hardening
Techniques

4. Data Hardening

5. Crypto Hardening

6. Discussion

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How to improve the security skills of mobile app developers? Comparing and contrasting expert views

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Programmers' lack of knowledge and ability in secure development threatens everyone who uses mobile apps. There's no consensus on how to empower app programmers to get that knowledge. Based on interviews with twelve industry experts we argue that the discipline of secure app development is still at an early stage. Only once industry and academia have produced effective app developer motivation and training approaches shall we begin to see the kinds of secure apps we need to combat crime and privacy invasions.

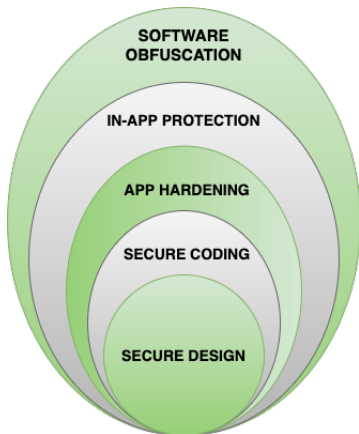
- "We found little existing work about how programmers learn application security."
- In summary, limited resources to motivate and train developers for application security.

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- *App hardening* is used in multiple contexts
- Hardening against exploitation
 - Stack Canaries, PIE code
- Self protection for a mobile app
 - RASP, Obfuscation
- Ensure the security of an app even on a hostile or breached OS/device.
- In this presentation, app hardening against reverse engineering is discussed.
 - Against both static and dynamic analysis.

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- Mobile app security can be implemented in a multi-layered approach - onion layers.



■ Absence of hardening doesn't make an app insecure.
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- **Threat modeling** is necessary to determine depth of hardening needed.
 - If RE is not a risk, then hardening against RE is not required

- Having critical business assets.
 - Protection of IP
 - Sensitive data

- Providing sensitive services
 - Payment
 - Digital Banking
 - Govt services - Digital Identity (e.g: driving licenses)

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- There are multitude of commercial tools
 - In-app protections, Code obfuscation, Symbol obfuscation
 - Arxan, Dexguard, Preemptive etc.
- Before using commercial tools, many techniques can be applied by developers.
- Techniques discussed not always present in commercial tools.
- Goal is to slow down RE attacks
- Most ideas are language agnostic, applicable for all platforms
 - Until mentioned otherwise
 - Many native code techniques applicable to ObjC and Swift code.

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Static Analysis

- Understanding working of a binary without running it.
- Tools: Jadx, IDA Pro, Ghidra

Dynamic Analysis

- Understanding workings of a binary by executing it.
- Tools: Debuggers, FRIDA, EdXposed

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1. App Hardening

2. Build Settings
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3. Code Hardening
Techniques

4. Data Hardening

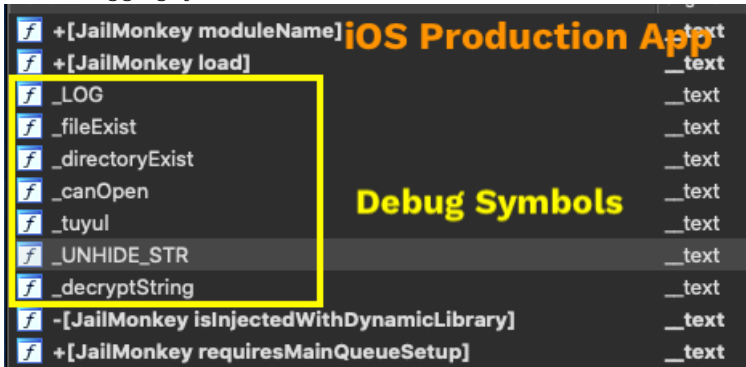
5. Crypto Hardening

6. Discussion

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Stripping Symbols

- Remove all the information not needed for execution of the binary
 - Debugging symbols



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Stripping Symbols

- ELF binary: strip *.comment*, *.strtab*, *.symtab* sections
 - *APKID* uses information from these sections

```
$ apkid app-release_without_specialstrip.apk apkid can detect obfuscators if
[+] APKID 2.1.2 :: from RedNaga :: rednaga.io not properly stripped
[*] app-release_without_specialstrip.apk\classes.dex
|-> compiler : r8
[*] app-release_without_specialstrip.apk\lib/arm64-v8a/libnative-lib.so
|-> obfuscator : Obfuscator-LLVM version 4.0
[*] app-release_without_specialstrip.apk\lib/armeabi-v7a/libnative-lib.so
|-> obfuscator : obfuscator-LLVM version 4.0
```

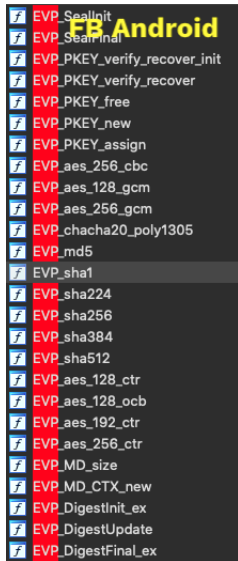
```
$ apkid app-release_with_specialstrip.apk
[+] APKID 2.1.2 :: from RedNaga :: rednaga.io
[*] app-release_with_specialstrip.apk\classes.dex
|-> anti_vm : Build.FINGERPRINT check, Build.MANUFACTURER check
|-> compiler : r8
```

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Visibility Hidden Flag

- For native code
- Remove symbols that are private to shared library.
- `-fvisibility=hidden` make **all** symbols hidden by default.
 - Explicitly mark the symbols to be exported by setting visible attribute.

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Static Linking Libraries

- Binary merging or having one monolith binary with minimal symbols
- Symbols will be statically linked.
 - Functions called directly using address
 - No exported symbols
- In Android, easier to obfuscate symbols with Proguard
- Only works if a module's source code is available.
 - Or compiled as static lib for native code.

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- In Java if app is compiled with *BouncyCastle's* code

```
import d.a.a.c.c;
import java.nio.ByteBuffer;
import java.security.MessageDigest;
import java.security.NoSuchAlgorithmException;
import javax.crypto.Mac;
import javax.crypto.spec.SecretKeySpec;
import me.zhanghai.android.materialprogressbar.BuildConfig;

private static byte[] h(a aVar, byte[] bArr, byte[] bArr2) {
    String str = "Hmac" + aVar.toString();
    Mac instance = Mac.getInstance(str);
    instance.init(new SecretKeySpec(bArr, str));
    return instance.doFinal(bArr2);
}
```

Without Static Linking BouncyCastle

```
import d.b.a.d.c;
import d.b.a.d.d;
import d.b.a.d.e;
import d.b.a.d.f;
import java.nio.ByteBuffer;

private static byte[] h(b bVar, byte[] bArr, byte[] bArr2) {
    int i = a.f3790a[bVar.ordinal()];
    d.b.a.e.a aVar = i != 1 ? i != 2 ? i != 3 ? null : new d.b.a.e.a(new f()) : new d.b.a.e.a(new e()) : new d.b.a.e.a(new d());
    aVar.d(new d.b.a.f.a(bArr));
    aVar.e(bArr2, 0, bArr2.length);
    byte[] bArr3 = new byte[aVar.c()];
    aVar.a(bArr3, 0);
    return bArr3;
}
```

With Static Linking BouncyCastle

Symbols Obfuscation

The screenshot displays the Android Studio interface with two main panels. The left panel shows a list of function names, and the right panel shows assembly code. Annotations highlight obfuscated symbols.

Function name list:

- sub_6CF1AC
- sub_6CF1D4
- sub_6CF268
- sub_6CF448
- Java_vcvuysrmb00alab_dhhhhhd_A9jFNx
- sub_6CFA60
- sub_6D0EA8
- sub_6D0EF8
- Java_vcvuysrmb00alab_dhhhhhd_RvOaKP
- sub_6D10F0
- sub_6D11B8
- sub_6D11F0
- sub_6D1440
- sub_6D1588
- sub_6D15C0
- sub_6D1688
- sub_6D16A4
- Java_vcvuysrmb00alab_dhhhhhd_qLEpT_1
- sub_6D17F0
- sub_6D18C8
- sub_6D1908
- sub_6D1924
- sub_6D1A6C
- sub_6D1AC8
- sub_6D5048
- sub_6D511C
- sub_6D516C
- sub_6D5284
- sub_6D5314
- sub_6D5370
- sub_6D5C04
- sub_6D5E0C
- sub_6D5E44
- Java_vcvuysrmb00alab_dhhhhhd_FYTt0t
- sub_6D5FC4
- sub_6D6DD8

Annotations:

- BARCLAYS ANDROID**: A yellow label with arrows pointing to the function names `sub_6CF1AC`, `sub_6D11F0`, `sub_6D1440`, and `sub_6D1688`.
- Obfuscated Func Names**: A yellow label with arrows pointing to the function names `sub_6D11F0`, `sub_6D1440`, `sub_6D1688`, and `sub_6D16A4`.
- Obfuscation too**: A yellow label with a circle around the assembly code `loc_6D17E8` in the bottom panel.

Assembly Code (Right Panel):

```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
EXPORT Java_vcvuysrmb00alab_dhhhhhd_qLEpT_1
Java_vcvuysrmb00alab_dhhhhhd_qLEpT_1
var_74= -0x74
var_70= -0x70
var_20= -0x20
var_20= -0x20
var_10= -0x10
var_s0= 0
; unwind {
SUB SP, SP, #0xC0
STR X21, [SP, #0x98+var_20]
STP X20, X19, [SP, #0x80+var_10]
STP X20, X30, [SP, #0x80+var_s0]
ADD X29, SP, #0x80
MOV X19, X2
MOV X20, X1
MOV X21, X0
MRS X8, TPIDR_EL0
LDR X8, [X8, #0x28]
STUR X8, [X29, #var_28]
LDR WB, [SP, #0x00+var_74]
WB, WB, #0
MOV WB, #3
CSINC WB, WB, WZR, EQ
STR X8, [SP, #0x80+var_70]
ADR X9, sub_6D17F0
MVN X8, X8
ANDS X9, X9, X8
SUB X9, X9, X10
B.EQ loc_6D17E4
```

Assembly Code (Bottom Panel):

```
SUB SP, SP, #0
loc_6D17E8
SUB X9, X9, X10
loc_6D17E8
ADD X9, X9, X10
BR X9
```

1. App Hardening
2. Build Settings Techniques
3. Code Hardening Techniques
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Code Hardening

Non-simple Return Types

- To prevent simple hooking or patching
 - Avoid *Boolean* return values
- Paypal iOS has simple boolean return value
 - For SSL pinning check

```

loc_182087D38
STR      X25, [SP,#0xC+var_00]
ADRP    XB, #off_183E0CE20@PAGE
NOP
LDR     X2, [XB,#off_183E0CE20@PAGEOFF]
MOV     X8, X23 ; ld
MOV     X1, X26 ; SEL
BL      -objc_msgSend
MOV     X29, X29
BL      -objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
MOV     X24, X8
ADRP    XB, #selRef_spk1HashCache@PAGE
LDR     X1, [XB,#selRef_spk1HashCache@PAGEOFF] ; SEL
MOV     X8, X22 ; ld
BL      -objc_msgSend
MOV     X29, X29
BL      -objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
MOV     X27, X8
MOV     X8, X28 ; int
MOV     X1, X26 ; SEL
MOV     X2, X27 ; ld
MOV     X24, X8
BL      -objc_release
MOV     X9, X24 ; ld
BL      -objc_release
STR     X25, [SP,#0xC+var_00]
CBZ    X25, loc_182087E00

loc_182087E00
STR      X19, [SP,#0xC+var_C0]
ADRL   XB, cfstr_PinValidationFailed ; "Pin validation failed for %s"
BL      sub_1820840F8
CMP    X25, #1
B.NE   loc_182087E20

loc_182087E20
ADRP    XB, #off_183E0CE30@PAGE
NOP
LDR     X2, [XB,#off_183E0CE30@PAGEOFF]
MOV     X8, X27 ; ld
MOV     X1, X26 ; SEL
BL      -objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
MOV     X24, X8
ADRP    XB, #selRef_spk1HashCache@PAGE
LDR     X1, [XB,#selRef_spk1HashCache@PAGEOFF] ; SEL
MOV     X8, X22 ; ld
BL      -objc_msgSend
MOV     X29, X29
BL      -objc_retainAutoreleasedReturnValue
MOV     X27, X8
MOV     X8, X28 ; int
MOV     X1, X26 ; SEL
MOV     X2, X27 ; ld
MOV     X24, X8
BL      -objc_release
MOV     X9, X24 ; ld
BL      -objc_release
STR     X19, [SP,#0xC+var_C0]
ADRL   XB, cfstr_PinValidationSucceeded ; "Pin validation succeeded for %s"
BL      sub_1820840F8
MOV     X26, #1
B      loc_182087E24
  
```

Boolean Return Value

Thanks!!

Pin validation failed for %s

Pin validation succeeded for %s

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Non-simple Return Types

- Bypassing with FRIDA in couple of lines of JS

```
Interceptor.attach(  
    ObjC.classes.IRoot['- jailbroken'].implementation,  
    {  
        onLeave: function(retval){  
            retval.replace(0x0);  
        }  
    });
```

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Anti-Replay Return Values

- Both, non-simple return type and anti-replay protection

The screenshot shows a debugger window with assembly code on the left and a 'General registers' window on the right. In the assembly view, the instruction `ADD X1, SP, #0x20+var_A8` is highlighted with a yellow box containing the address `6C4342D1F3386A1D`. A yellow arrow points from this address to the `X0` register in the 'General registers' window, which contains the value `0C4342D1F3386A1D`. Other registers shown include X1 through X18, with various values and pointers to memory locations like `[anon:libc_malloc]`.

The screenshot shows the 'General registers' window with register `X0` highlighted in red, containing the value `104E09A5CF6597B3`. Other registers (X1-X18) contain various values, including pointers to `[anon:libc_malloc]` and memory addresses like `000000760657A800`, `000000760657A700`, and `00000076A35D3540`.

System APIs

- Avoid using libc except for memory management
 - replace libc calls with open source memcpy, memset, string functions and `inline` them
 - replace file operations with `syscalls` for critical operations

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```
__attribute__((always_inline))
static inline
void* my_memset(void* dst, int c, size_t n)
{
    char* q = (char*)dst;
    char* end = q + n;
    for (;;) {
        if (q >= end) break; *q++ = (char) c;
        if (q >= end) break; *q++ = (char) c;
        if (q >= end) break; *q++ = (char) c;
        if (q >= end) break; *q++ = (char) c;
    }
    return dst;
}

__attribute__((always_inline))
static inline int
my_strcmp(const char *s1, const char *s2)
{
    while (*s1 == *s2++)
        if (*s1++ == 0)
            return 0;
    return (*(unsigned char *)s1 - *(unsigned char *)--s2);
}

__attribute__((always_inline))
static inline int my_openat(int __dir_fd, const void* __path, int __flags, int __mode){
    return (int) __syscall4(__NR_openat, __dir_fd, (long)__path, __flags, __mode);
}

__attribute__((always_inline))
static inline ssize_t my_read(int __fd, void* __buf, size_t __count){
    return __syscall3(__NR_read, __fd, (long)__buf, (long)__count);
}

__attribute__((always_inline))
static inline int my_close(int __fd){
    return (int) __syscall1(__NR_close, __fd);
}
```

Custom impl of libc

syscall alternative for libc file operations

System APIs

- Use reflection for accessing Java System APIs such as Keystore.
 - further requires string obfuscation

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String Data Structures

- Don't use immutable data structures for storing critical values
 - Memory cannot be zero'd
- Avoid **Strings** in Java, **NSData/NSString** in ObjC
 - Need to be dependent on GC or ref counting for variable to be destroyed
- Use byte arrays, as its easy to manipulate the lifetime.
 - XOR masking when kept in memory
 - Zero it when no more used

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Reduce Variables Memory Lifetime

- Critical values wiped with 0s or random before *free*-ing the memory
- Example: passwords, keys

Mask Sensitive Values when in Memory

- XOR mask the values.
- Unmask when to be used and mask them back again.
- Example: crypto keys

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- Data at rest gives juicy information whether any sensitive or personal info is stored even if encrypted
- A malware or root application can dump the sandbox data and analyze the contents
- While protecting data at rest, assume sandbox is broken

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- Famous OTP apps such as Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator stores sensitive data in clear.
- **Google Authenticator** SQLite DB.

_id	email	secret	counter	type	provider	issuer	original_name
1	test	H4VDKJCDFBNDQS2UPIYWSYJWHY5CSOSDOZBGGZKJZGC6TUIA3A	1	1	0	NULL	test

- *counter* and *secret* for HOTP algo in clear.
- Column names very descriptive as well.

Obfuscated database							
_id	_a	_b	_d	_e	_f	_g	
1	33d1e99028fc25b7	3a0e3a911aa...	b54406d42ebaa455cdbabc1f723524b7	b54406d42ebaa455cdbab...	ea94f189599658...	da34c0e2-1692-4666-aa9f-	

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- Security sensitive apps use certificate pinning to ensure the app is communicating with intended server
 - Easy to bypass certificate pinning in the absence of RASP
 - If Certificate pinning is bypassed, all data in transit is exposed

- Strengthening the obfuscation of data in transit
 - Obscure key names in JSON payload
 - Create a tunnel on top of TLS
 - Provisioning crypto keys, user sensitive information (credit card number) requires high protection

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Inline sensitive functions

- Inline sensitive functions
 - No separate function in final binary
 - Xref analysis won't work either
- Compiler directive `__attribute__((always_inline))` to inline sensitive functions in C

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System APIs

- Avoid using system APIs for crypto
 - Leaks info on crypto mechanisms with simple static analysis
 - Use 3rd party libraries, and statically link them
- On iOS, use *OpenSSL* or other libs, build with source code.
 - Instead of using *CryptoKit*, *CCCrypt* APIs
 - Link statically

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```

loc_1EF24
ADRP X1, #a!bedtls@PAGE ; "MBEDTLS"
ADRP X2, #a!EncryptedInto@PAGE ; "[i] Encrypted into buffer:"
ADD X1, X1, #a!bedtls@PAGEOFF ; "MBEDTLS"
ADD X2, X2, #a!EncryptedInto@PAGEOFF ; "[i] Encrypted into buffer:"
MOV W0, #2
BL __android_log_print
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8
BL .mbedtls_gcm_init
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8
ADD X2, SP, #0x2F0+var_200
MOV W1, #2
MOV W3, #0x80
BL .mbedtls_gcm_setkey
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8 ; int
ADD X2, SP, #0x2F0+var_210
MOV W1, #1
MOV W3, #0x10
MOV X4, XZR
MOV X5, XZR
BL .mbedtls_gcm_starts
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8 ; int
ADD X3, SP, #0x2F0+var_250
MOV W1, #0x20 ; ''
MOV X2, X19
ADD X24, SP, #0x2F0+var_250
BL .mbedtls_gcm_update
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8
BL .mbedtls_gcm_free
ADRL X0, @helloWorld, "hello world"
MOV W1, #0xC
BL __strlen_chk
CBZ X0, loc_1F008

```

Symbols show up when
crypto library is not built
with visibility-hidden

```

loc_9374
ADRP X1, #a!bedtls@PAGE ; "MBEDTLS"
ADRP X2, #a!EncryptedInto@PAGE ; "[i] Encrypted into buffer:"
ADD X1, X1, #a!bedtls@PAGEOFF ; "MBEDTLS"
ADD X2, X2, #a!EncryptedInto@PAGEOFF ; "[i] Encrypted into buffer:"
MOV W0, #2
BL __android_log_print
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8
BL sub_28070
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8
ADD X2, SP, #0x2F0+var_200
MOV W1, #2
MOV W3, #0x80
BL sub_280AC
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8 ; int
ADD X2, SP, #0x2F0+var_210
MOV W1, #1
MOV W3, #0x10
MOV X4, XZR
MOV X5, XZR
BL sub_282B4
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8 ; int
ADD X3, SP, #0x2F0+var_250
MOV W1, #0x20 ; ''
MOV X2, X19
ADD X74, SP, #0x2F0+var_250
BL sub_285C0
ADD X0, SP, #0x2F0+var_1E8
BL sub_28AF0
ADRL X0, @helloWorld, "hello world"
MOV W1, #0xC
BL __strlen_chk
CBZ X0, loc_9458

```

Crypto symbols are
stripped out

System APIs

- On Android use BouncyCastle and build with source code
 - Instead of using *java.crypto* APIs
 - Call BC APIs directly, instead of via *Java Provider* route

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Uses System APIs

```
private static byte[] generateHash(HashAlgorithm algorithm, byte[] key,
    throws NoSuchAlgorithmException, InvalidKeyException {
    String algo = "Hmac" + algorithm.toString();

    Mac mac = Mac.getInstance(algo);
    mac.init(new SecretKeySpec(key, algo));

    return mac.doFinal(data);
}
```

Cannot be obfuscated

```
import d.a.a.a.c.c;
import java.nio.ByteBuffer;
import java.security.MessageDigest;
import java.security.NoSuchAlgorithmException;
import javax.crypto.Mac;
import javax.crypto.spec.SecretKeySpec;
import me.zhanghai.android.materialprogressbar.BuildConfig;
```

```
private static byte[] h(a aVar, byte[] bArr, byte[] bArr2) {
    String str = "Hmac" + aVar.toString();
    Mac instance = Mac.getInstance(str);
    instance.init(new SecretKeySpec(bArr, str));
    return instance.doFinal(bArr2);
}
```

Without Static Linking BouncyCastle

Uses Bouncycastle APIs

```
private static byte[] generateHash(HashAlgorithm algorithm, byte[] key, byte[] data) {
    HMAC hmac = null;
    byte[] out;
    switch(algorithm) {
        case SHA1:
            hmac = new HMAC(new SHA1Digest());
            break;
        case SHA256:
            hmac = new HMAC(new SHA256Digest());
            break;
        case SHA512:
            hmac = new HMAC(new SHA512Digest());
            break;
    }
    hmac.init(new KeyParameter(key));
    hmac.update(data, 0, data.length);
    out = new byte[hmac.getMacSize()];
    hmac.doFinal(out, 0);
    return out;
}
```

Can be obfuscated

```
import d.b.a.d.c;
import d.b.a.d.d;
import d.b.a.d.e;
import d.b.a.d.f;
import java.nio.ByteBuffer;
```

```
private static byte[] h(b bVar, byte[] bArr, byte[] bArr2) {
    int i = a.f3798a[bVar.ordinal()];
    d.b.a.e.a aVar = i != 1 ? i != 2 ? i != 3 ? null : new d.b.a.e.a(new f()) : new d.b.a.e.a(new e()) : new d.b.a.e.a(new d());
    aVar.e(bArr2, 0, bArr2.length);
    byte[] bArr3 = new byte[aVar.c()];
    aVar.a(bArr3, 0);
    return bArr3;
}
```

With Static Linking BouncyCastle

Crypto Constants

- Constants are used by crypto algorithms.
- SHA256 uses the following as one of the constant

```

139 #ifndef SHA256_ASM
140 static const SHA_LONG K256[64] = {
141     0x428a2f98UL, 0x71374491UL, 0xb5c0fbcFUL, 0xe9b5dba5UL,
142     0x3956c25bUL, 0x59f111f1UL, 0x923f82a4UL, 0xab1c5ed5UL,
143     0xd807aa98UL, 0x12835b01UL, 0x243185beUL, 0x550c7dc3UL,
144     0x72be5d74UL, 0x80deb1feUL, 0x9bdc06a7UL, 0xc19bf174UL,
145     0xe49b69c1UL, 0xefbe4786UL, 0x0fc19dc6UL, 0x240ca1ccUL,
146     0x2de92c6FUL, 0x4a7484aaUL, 0x5cb0a9dcUL, 0x76f98daUL,
147     0x983e5152UL, 0xa831c66dUL, 0xb00327c8UL, 0xbf597fc7UL,
148     0xc6e00bf3UL, 0xd5a79147UL, 0x06ca6351UL, 0x14292967UL,
149     0x27b70a85UL, 0x2e1b2138UL, 0x4d2c6dfcUL, 0x53380d13UL,
150     0x650a7354UL, 0x766a0abbUL, 0x81c2c92eUL, 0x92722c85UL,
151     0xa2bfe8a1UL, 0xa81a664bUL, 0xc24b8b70UL, 0xc76c51a3UL,
152     0xd192e819UL, 0xd6990624UL, 0xf40e3585UL, 0x106aa070UL,
153     0x19a4c116UL, 0x1e376c08UL, 0x2748774cUL, 0x34b0bcb5UL,
154     0x391c0cb3UL, 0x4ed8aa4aUL, 0x5b9cca4fUL, 0x682e6ff3UL,
155     0x748f82eeUL, 0x78a5636fUL, 0x84c87814UL, 0x8cc70288UL,
156     0x90befffaUL, 0xa4506cebUL, 0xbef9a3f7UL, 0xc67178f2UL
157 };
    
```

```

174 static void sha256_block_data_order(SHA256_CTX *ctx, const void *in,
175                                     size_t num)
176 {
177     unsigned MD32_REG_T a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, s0, s1, T1, T2;
178     SHA_LONG X[16], l;
179     int i;
180     const unsigned char *data = in;
181
182     while (num-- > 0) {
183
184         a = ctx->h[0];
185         b = ctx->h[1];
186         c = ctx->h[2];
187         d = ctx->h[3];
188         e = ctx->h[4];
189         f = ctx->h[5];
190         g = ctx->h[6];
191         h = ctx->h[7];
192
193         for (i = 0; i < 16; i++) {
194             (void)HOST_C21(data, l);
195             T1 = X[i] = l;
196             T1 += h + Sigma1(e) + Ch(e, f, g) + K256[i];
197             T2 = Sigma0(a) + Maj(a, b, c);
198         }
199     }
    
```


- Perform critical code in native, harder to reverse
- Use *Openssl* or *mbedtls*
 - Use *-fvisibility=hidden*
 - Use static linking
- Diffing or pattern matching can help in reversing popular crypto libraries
 - Crypto constants can easily indicate the matching functions
 - Use OLLVM to obfuscate the control flow and protect the strings

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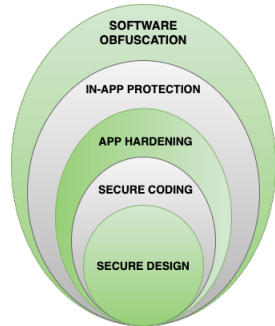
Similarity	Confid	Change	EA Primary	Name Primary	EA Secondary	Name Secondary	Co	Algorithm	Matched B	Basic Block	Basic Block	Matched Inst	Instructions F	Instruct
1.00	0.99	-----	0003E304	mbedtls_gcm_finish	00028754	sub_00028754		Edges Flow Graph MD Index	15	15	15	117	117	117
0.97	0.99	G---E-C	0001C810	mbedtls_gcm_auth_decrypt	000289B4	sub_000289B4		Call Reference	16	17	16	79	83	79
0.97	0.99	G---E--	0001D520	mbedtls_gcm_starts	000282B4	sub_000282B4		Call Reference	23	24	23	125	129	125
0.97	0.99	G---E--	0001CFC0	mbedtls_gcm_update	000285C0	sub_000285C0		Call Reference	24	25	24	101	105	101
0.96	0.99	G---E-C	0001D6A0	mbedtls_gcm_setkey	000280AC	sub_000280AC		Call Reference	10	11	10	130	134	130
0.94	0.99	G---E--	0001CB80	mbedtls_gcm_crypt_and_tag	00028928	sub_00028928		Call Sequence (Sequence)	19	21	19	152	160	152
0.83	0.96	G---E--	0001D680	mbedtls_gcm_free	00028AF0	sub_00028AF0		Call Reference	6	8	6	19	27	19
0.59	0.98	G---E--	0001D8C0	mbedtls_gcm_init	00028070	sub_00028070		Call Reference	1	2	1	15	19	15

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1. App Hardening
2. Build Settings Techniques
3. Code Hardening Techniques
4. Data Hardening
5. Crypto Hardening
6. Discussion

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- Often the mobile app hardening discussion starts and stops at RASP
- RASP is a good starting point.
 - But not necessarily always sufficient.
 - **Depends on the threat model.**
- RASP techniques are often standard and known
 - Without additional hardening, easy to defeat
- **App hardening against RE will enhance RASP protection.**



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- Open source CTF code R2Pay incorporates the above discussed points
- Code obfuscation
 - proguard for Java
 - OLLVM obfuscator for C
- Code hardening
 - Inlining of sensitive code
 - RASP calls are inlined as part of the core logic
 - libc apis replaced with custom code and syscalls
 - byte arrays used for all sensitive data
 - memory wiped just after use

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- Crypto obfuscation
 - Symbols removed
 - no traces of which crypto library being used
 - Crypto constants derived at runtime from arbitrary constants
 - Open source WBC to hide crypto key

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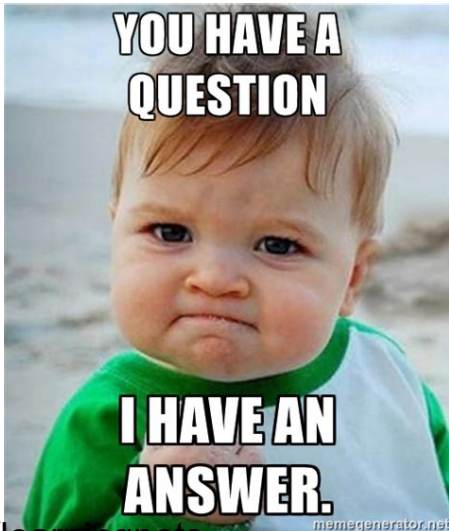
DEMO

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- Discussed what is app hardening and its importance
- Discussed with hardening techniques
 - Build Settings
 - Code
 - Data
 - Crypto
- Case study on R2Pay
- One technique in itself will not be sufficient, use all of them for maximum benefit.
- It is an iterative process
- Determine your threat model and use accordingly.

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- Slides at: <https://github.com/su-vikas/Presentations>



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