



Android Security Workshop

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(NowSecure)

Connecting next generation talent with the heavy duty industry to
keep vehicles secure

August 16-20, 2021 | Detroit (USA)

Outline

Main ideas

- **Introduction Android**

Android OS internals
Automotive Android OS

- **Android Reverse Engineering**

Static & Dynamic analysis
Tools used for RE-ing Android apps

- **CyberTruck Challenge CrackMe Walkthrough**

Vulnerable keyless Android app to wirelessly unlock vehicles with your mobile
“Mobile Keyless Remote System”

- **Takeaways**

Things learned after this workshop



\$ whoami

"I stay with problems longer"

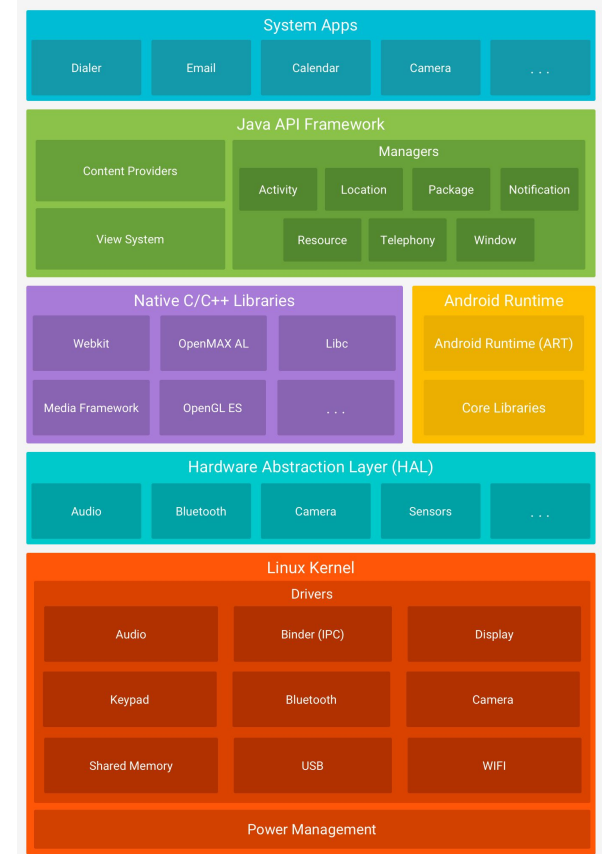


- Mobile Security Research Engineer @ **NowSecure**
 - Focused on **Android** Reverse Engineering
- **Previously** (Reverse Engineering)
 - Android **mobile** security: cloud-based payments (HCE wallets), DRM and TEE solutions
 - **Embedded** security : smartcards, smartmeter, PayTV, HCE, routers, any hardened IoT dev
 - Crypto: side-channel & fault injection attacks (hw). Whitebox cryptography (sw)
- Personal @ [enovella.github.io](https://github.com/enovella)
 - Based in Europe
 - Chess player, swimmer and nature lover

Android OS

Architecture

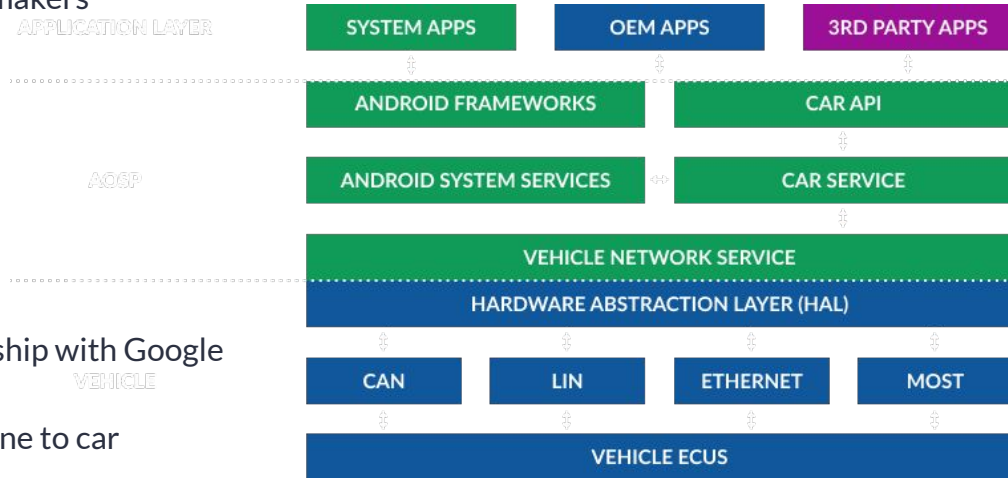
- Android OS developed by Google
 - Based on Linux (Open Source) with kernel- and user-space
 - Hardware manufacturers, app developers, AOSP contributors
 - Components:
 - Android Runtime (Dalvik VM vs ART)
 - Native core libraries (c/c++/rust), Linux Kernel, Java API
 - System apps, HAL, third-party applications
- Application Sandbox - least privilege
 - Each app operates in its own isolated environment (sandbox)
 - Unix-style permission model
 - Data directory `/data/data/package-name-app/`
 - App data sharing via IPC (content providers)
 - UID - User Identity. Greater than 10000 for normal apps



Automotive Android OS (AAOS)

Architecture

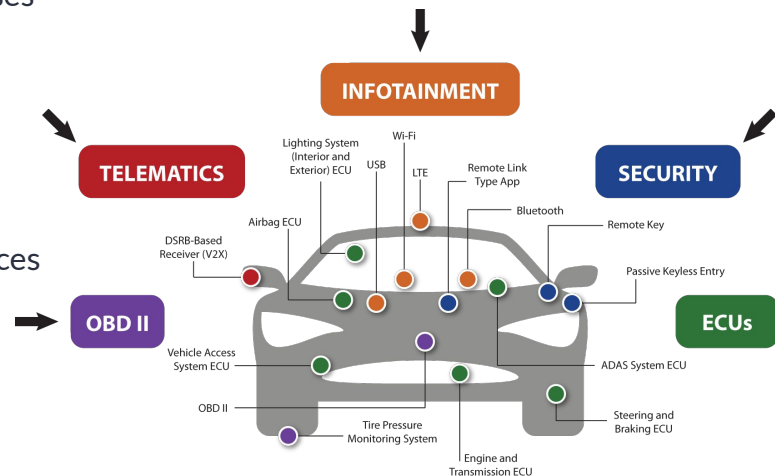
- Android Automotive OS (AAOS) - “Android for Cars”
 - Infotainment system built into cars by carmakers
 - Interface designed for car screens
 - Components
 - In-vehicle Infotainment (IVI)
 - Google Automotive Services (GAS)
 - Vehicle Map Service (VMS)
 - Exterior View System (EVS)
 - Heating, ventilation & AC (HVAC)
 - OEM receives access to GAS via a partnership with Google
- Android Auto
 - A framework to connect your Android phone to car



Android Threat Modelling

Attack Surface

- Physical access
 - USB port (ADB). Developer Options enabled
 - Hardware ports (UART, JTAG,...) for debugging purposes
 - Pull out proprietary apps from automotive vendors
 - Jailbreak from kiosk
 - ...
- Vendor's Applications
 - Identify critical assets within the app
 - IP, crypto, databases, Android shared preferences
 - Proprietary protocols and crypto
 - Network protocols (MITM), tracking, GPS spoofing
 - App security can be tampered with
 - Firmware updates for automotive components
 - ...
- Non-physical access
 - Wireless (WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC, LTE, Baseband)
 - Vulnerabilities on old Android OS
 - Web server accessible via browser
 - ...



Android Reverse Engineering

Tools

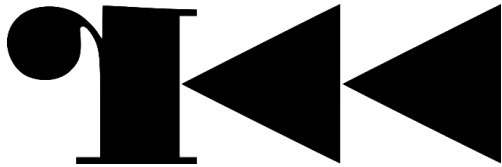
- Java/Kotlin → Dalvik Bytecode
 - **JADX**
 - Bytecode Viewer
 - JEB
 - **Apktool**
 - Baksmali/smali
- Native
 - IDA Pro
 - **Radare2**
 - **Ghidra**
 - Binary Ninja
 - Hopper
- Dynamic Binary Instrumentation
 - **Frida**
 - Xposed
- Source code
 - Android Studio + AVD emulators



Android Reverse Engineering

Most powerful OSS tools

- JADX
 - DEX decompiler
- Ghidra
 - Native decompiler
- Radare2
 - Unix-like reverse engineering framework
- Frida
 - Dynamic Binary Instrumentation
- R2frida
 - The ultimate static analysis on dynamic steroids



APK

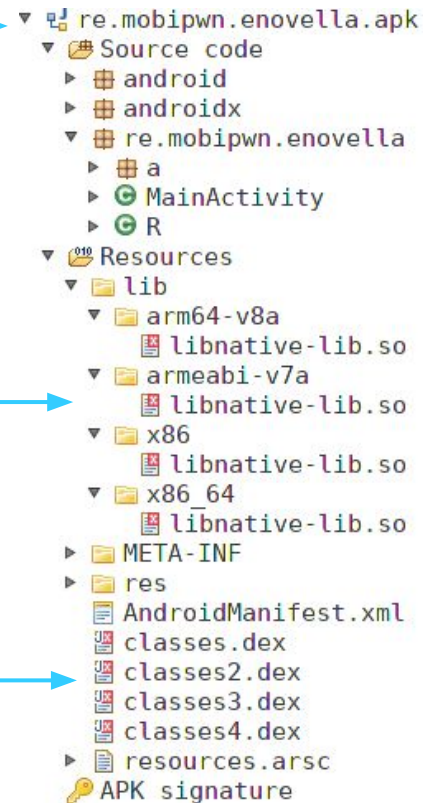
Android Application Packaging (APK)

- **APK**

- APK == ZIP
- Manifest XML
- Assets folder
- Resources folder

- **Reverse Engineering**

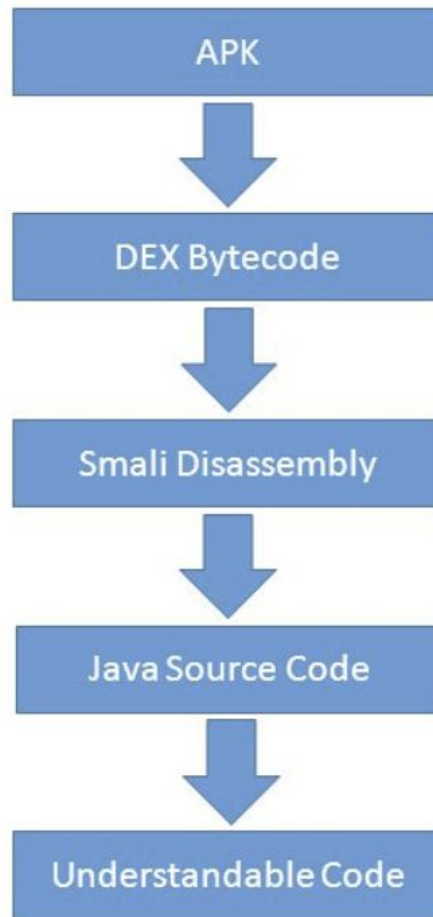
- APK ←
- Native code ←
- DEX bytecode ←



Android RE

Static Analysis

- Static Analysis
 - Understand app logic
 - Find security bugs
 - Reveal critical assets
 - Locate places to perform dynamic analysis
- Steps
 - Decompile binary code → Pseudo code (readable)
 - Navigate codebase & search for
 - strings, crypto keys, passwords, network traffic, ..
 - obfuscation
 - Rename variables, functions (if stripped)
 - Tamper with the app integrity
 - Include your modifications
 - enable logging
 - disable checks
 - GPS locations



Android Reverse Engineering

Dynamic Analysis

- Dynamic Binary Instrumentation (DBI)

“A method of analyzing the behavior of a binary application at runtime through the injection of instrumentation code”

- Access process memory (stack,heap,code,...)
- Hook, trace, intercept functions
- Change return values, variables, globals, function args,...
- Overwrite function implementations while app is running
- Call arbitrary functions from imported classes
- Find object instances on the heap
- Bypass client-side security checks

FRIDA
DYNAMIC INSTRUMENTATION TOOLKIT



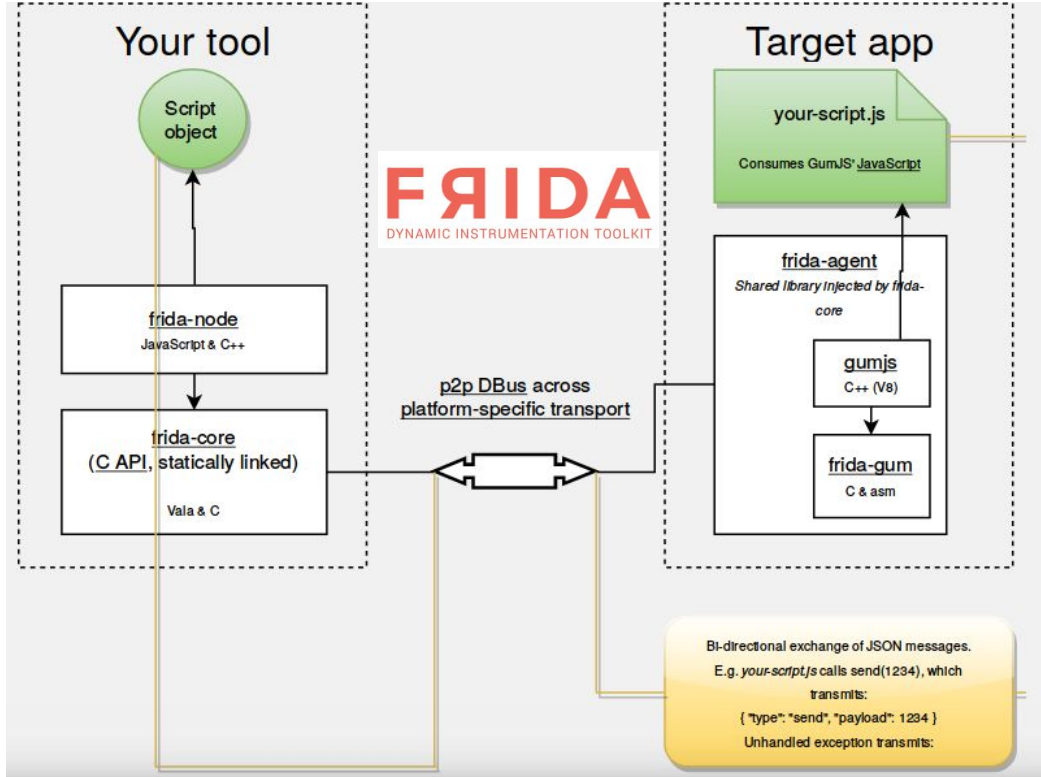
embedded



injected

Android Reverse Engineering

Process Injection via Frida



Android CyberTruck Crackme

Can you unlock this uncrackable car keyless system?

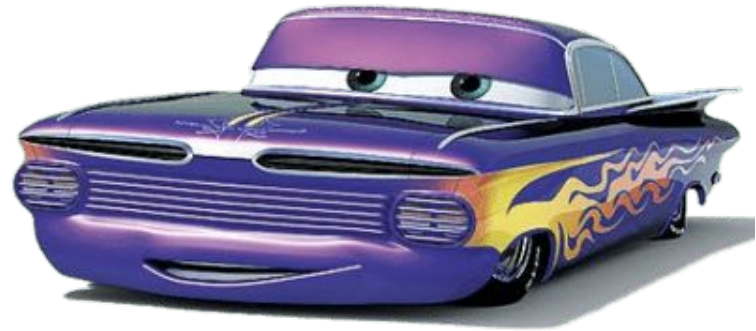


<https://github.com/nowsecure/cybertruckchallenge19>

Android CyberTruck Challenge Crackme

“Unlock your truck with your Android”

- **Mobile CrackMe simulating an app capable of unlocking vehicles via bluetooth**
 - Material: <https://github.com/nowsecure/cybertruckchallenge19>
 - Android CTF-like challenge (3 static + 3 dynamic flags = **6 flags** in total)
 - Run it in Android emulator
 - 1h workshop + extra time
 - Enable the TamperProof switch if you're brave :-)
- **Rules**
 - Don't share flags with other mates
 - Up to you how to solve the challenges



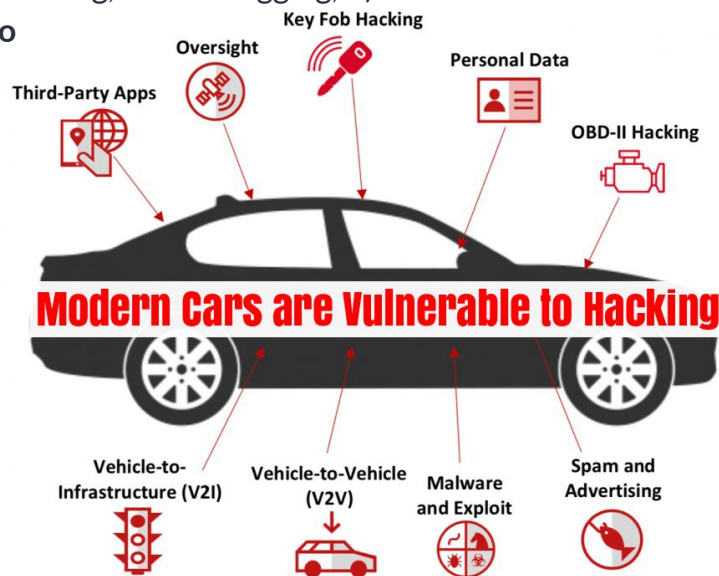
Mobile CTF

Let's
play!



Takeaways

- Secure vehicles can be hard → Security by obscurity is not the solution
- Focus on the **design** and ensure **strong** key hierarchy → Client-side apps will be eventually compromised
- Follow security **guidelines** → OWASP MSTG
- **Minimum** privilege principle → Reduce the attack surface
- Do not **hardcode** secrets within your code → Use **encryption** at rest
- Use **hardware-backed** keystore to keep secrets instead of SW-based implementations
- Protect IP → **Code hardening** (obfuscation, anti-tampering, anti-rooting, anti-debugging, ...)
- Ensure proper **randomness** source → Use strong & secure **crypto**
- Implement multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- Enforce certificate pinning to slow down MITM attacks
- Bug **bounty** your application before you got hacked
- Employ hardened OS features → **TrustZone** (TEE)
- Google security → **SafetyNet**



Links

Where to search

- [Radare2 & Frida \(NowSecure\)](#)
- [The Mobile Security Testing Guide \(MSTG\)](#)
- [Awesome Mobile CTFs](#)
- [Awesome Frida & Frida CodeShare](#)
- [MOBISec lectures](#)
- [Android App Reverse Engineering 101](#)
- [RedNaga Security](#)
- [Gio's blog](#)
- A bunch of mobile security blog posts on the Internet





THANK YOU!

Q&A

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Special thanks to
@RomainKraft @fs0c131y @Hexplotable
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