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FireEye Study Identifies Top Mobile Application Security Issues

Researchers Analyze 7M Applications to Identify Leading Android Attack Methods and New iOS Attacks

MILPITAS, CA -- (Marketwired) -- 02/27/15 -- FireEye, Inc. (NASDAQ: FEYE), the leader at stopping today's advanced cyber attacks, today released "*Out of Pocket: A Comprehensive Mobile Threat Assessment of 7 Million iOS and Android Apps*," an in-depth look the vulnerabilities of mobile apps. The report reveals that Android malware is growing more pervasive, and iOS devices are also increasingly at risk.

FireEye threat researchers analyzed seven million mobile apps on both Android and iOS platforms from January to October 2014. Researchers reviewed popular apps with more than 50,000 downloads to assess their exposure to a common vulnerability, and found that 31% of them were exposed to it. Of those, 18% were in categories with potentially sensitive data, including finance, medical, communication, shopping, health, and productivity. Additional research conducted in the second half of 2013 found a 500% increase in the number of Android apps designed to steal financial data.

"Today, mobile apps represent a significant threat vector for enterprises," said Manish Gupta, senior vice president of products at FireEye. "Worse, most enterprises have little or no information on mobile security risks nor any way to deal with an advanced attack on a mobile device. Our findings highlight the threat apps pose and why enterprises must implement a mobile security policy that focuses on applications."

The report identifies a new delivery channel for iOS malware that bypasses the Apple App Store review process. Attackers can take advantage of enterprise/ad-hoc provisioning to deliver malicious apps to end users, either through USB connections or over the air. FireEye researchers found more than 1,400 iOS apps publicly available on the Internet introducing variants of security issues, signed and distributed using enterprise provisioning profiles.

FireEye's analysis indicates that mobile users face risks on many fronts today including:

- Malicious apps that steal information once installed
- Legitimate apps written insecurely by developers
- Legitimate apps using insecure or aggressive ad libraries
- Malware/aggressive adware that pass Google Play checks and are thus assumed 'safe'
- Identity theft
- Premium rate phone and SMS fraud

Mobile devices are being adopted across the world as PC manufacturers see sales in PC's and laptops in decline as consumers choose simpler, lighter devices to make life easier. This evolution underscores, as Gartner recently recommended, that enterprises, "Abandon device-centric lockdown security models in favor of app-centric models." (Source: How Digital Business Reshapes Mobile Security, 11 February 2015, Gartner).

To view a full copy of the report please visit: <https://www2.fireeye.com/WEB-2015RPTMobileThreatAssessment.html>

About FireEye, Inc.

[FireEye](#) has invented a purpose-built, virtual machine-based security platform that provides real-time threat protection to enterprises and governments worldwide against the next generation of cyber attacks. These highly sophisticated cyber attacks easily circumvent traditional signature-based defenses, such as next-generation firewalls, IPS, anti-virus, and gateways. The FireEye Threat Prevention Platform provides real-time, dynamic threat protection without the use of signatures to protect an organization across the primary threat vectors and across the different stages of an attack life cycle. The core of the FireEye platform is a virtual execution engine, complemented by dynamic threat intelligence, to identify and block cyber attacks in real time. FireEye has over 3,100 customers across 67 countries, including over 200 of the Fortune 500.

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Source: FireEye, Inc.

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