Identifying Back Doors, Attack Points, and Surveillance Mechanisms in iOS Devices

JONATHAN ZDZIARSKI
JONATHAN@ZDZIARSKI.COM

@JZDZIARSKI

Whois NerveGas

- Worked as dev-team member on many of the early jailbreaks until around iOS 4.
- Author of five iOS-related O'Reilly books including "Hacking and Securing iOS Applications"
- Designed all of the iOS forensics techniques used in law enforcement and commercial products today
- Consulted closely with federal and local law enforcement agencies and US military on high profile projects and criminal cases
- Trained law enforcement worldwide in iOS forensics and penetration arts

iOS Operating System

- Subject of interest among forensics, law enforcement, and criminal communities
- As leaked by Der Spiegel, iOS was targeted by NSA for targeted collection
- Later found more evidence of C&C capabilities in DROPOUTJEEP leaks via close access methods
- Attacked for everything from cases of national security to nude photos of marginally attractive celebrities
- A number of forensic techniques exist to acquire data

What This Talk Is

- Overview of a number of undocumented high-value forensic services running on every iOS device
 - How they've evolved
 - What kind of data they provide
- Examples of forensic artifacts acquired that should never come off the device without user consent
- Surveillance mechanisms to bypass personal security (intended for enterprises), but make potential targets
- Suspicious design omissions in iOS that make collection easier

What This Talk Is NOT

- A talk about fun Odays and how we can have a little temporary fun with them for a few days.
 - The content discussed here has been around for many years, and are low level operating system components
 - Apple is well aware of these components, and has clearly been updating them and supporting them for reasons unknown
 - I have emailed both Tim Cook and Steve Jobs at various times to ask for an explanation about these services, citing them as "back doors", and have received no reply
 - I *have* received replies from Tim Cook about Apple's crummy warranty service, so I know he gets my email

Centralized Control

- Apple has worked hard to make iOS devices reasonably secure against typical attackers
- Apple has worked hard to ensure that Apple can access data on end-user devices on behalf of law enforcement
- To their credit, iPhone 5* + iOS 7 is more secure from everybody except Apple (and .gov)
- Apple's Law Enforcement Process Guidelines:
 - https://www.apple.com/legal/more-resources/lawenforcement/

Law Enforcement Process

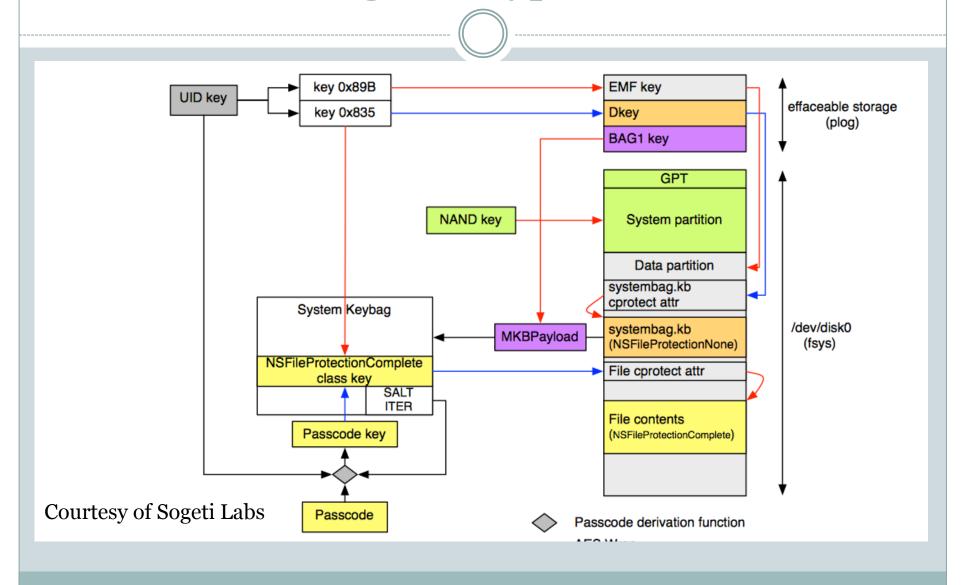
- Requires a warrant for actual content from iCloud, iTunes, or from the device itself
- A subpoena appears good enough for "metadata"
- Recent changes will notify all customers unless a confidentiality order is included; so most agencies are now getting confidentiality orders with every warrant.
- When provided with the physical device, Apple will retrieve and return NSProtectionNone data from passcode locked devices; rumors of a PIN brute forcer are floating around, but I'm told this practice stopped around iOS 5.
- Process is now taking about four months on average, and costs about \$1,000, so LE is looking for streamlined / inexpensive tools to collect evidence.

Apple Law Enforcement Process

Extracting Data from Passcode Locked iOS Devices

Upon receipt of a valid search warrant, **Apple can extract certain categories of active data from passcode locked iOS devices**. Specifically, the **user generated active files** on an iOS device that are contained in Apple's native apps and for which the **data is not encrypted using the passcode** ("user generated active files"), can be extracted and provided to law enforcement on external media. Apple can perform this data extraction process on iOS devices running iOS 4 or more recent versions of iOS. Please note the only categories of user generated active files that can be provided to law enforcement, pursuant to a valid search warrant, are: **SMS**, **photos**, **videos**, **contacts**, **audio recording**, **and call history**. Apple cannot provide: email, calendar entries, or any third-party App data.

iOS 4 Storage Encryption Overview



Encryption in iOS 7: Not Much Changed

- Almost all native application / OS data is encrypted with a key not married to the passcode, but rather encrypted with a hardware deduced key (NSProtectionNone)
- As of iOS 7, third party documents are encrypted, but Library and Caches folders are usually not
- Once the device is **first unlocked** after reboot, most of the data-protection encrypted data can be accessed until the device is shut down
 - Screen Lock != Encrypted
- The undocumented services running on every iOS device help make this possible
- Your device is almost always at risk of spilling **all** data, since it's almost always authenticated, even while locked.

Law Enforcement Technologies

- Latest commercial forensics tools perform deep extraction using these services
- Tablet forensics in the field can acquire a device at a routine traffic stop, or during arrest before device can be shut down (leaving encryption unlocked)
- Federal agencies have always been interested in black bag techniques (compromised docking stations, alarm clocks, etc).
- Snowden Docs: Computer infiltration was used

Undocumented Services

- Accessed through *lockdownd*, requiring pairing authentication. (Explain Pairing)
- MACTANS talk demonstrated how easy Juice Jacking can be to establish pairing
 - o iOS 7 trust dialog helps, but third party accessories are making people stupid again ... and people are naturally stupid too
- Law enforcement agencies moving to tablet devices for pairing and acquisition in the field; USB thumb drive to scan computers for pairing records
- Der Spiegel outlined black bag techniques to access a target's computer, where pairing records live

Der Spiegel

• "The documents state that it is possible for the NSA to tap most sensitive data held on these smart phones, including contact lists, SMS traffic, **notes** and **location information** about where a user has been. In the internal documents, experts boast about successful access to iPhone data in instances where the NSA is able to **infiltrate the** computer a person uses to sync their iPhone. Mini-programs, so-called "scripts," then enable additional access to at least 38 iPhone features."

Undocumented Services

- Bypasses "Backup Encryption" mechanism provided to users
- Can be accessed both via USB and wirelessly (WiFi, maybe cellular); networks can be scanned for a specific target
- If device has not been rebooted since user last entered PIN, can access all data encrypted with **data-protection** (third party app data, etc)
- Other (more legitimate) services enable software installation, APN installation (adding proxy servers) for continued monitoring

Undocumented Services

- Most services are not referenced by any known Apple software (we've looked)
- The raw format of the data makes it impossible to put data back onto the phone, making useless for Genius Bar or carrier tech purposes (cpio.gz, etc)
- The personal nature of the data makes it very unlikely as a debugging mechanism
- Bypassing backup encryption is deceptive
- Services are available without developer mode, eliminating their purpose as developer tools

DROPOUTJEEP

- DROPOUTJEEP describes techniques, most of which are possible with Apple's undocumented services
- SMS messaging suggests either jailbreak or baseband code

DROPOUTJEEP

(TS//SI//REL) DROPOUTJEEP is a STRAITBIZARRE based software implant for the Apple iPhone operating system and uses the CHIMNEYPOOL framework. DROPOUTJEEP is compliant with the FREEFLOW project, therefore it is supported in the TURBULENCE architecture.

(TS//SI//REL) DROPOUTJEEP is a software implant for the Apple iPhone that utilizes modular mission applications to provide specific SIGINT functionality. This functionality includes **the ability to remotely push/pull files from the device**, **SMS retrieval, contact list retrieval, voicemail, geolocation**, hot mic, camera capture, **cell tower location**, etc. Command, control, and data exfiltration can occur over SMS messaging or a **GPRS data connection**. All communications with the implant will be covert and encrypted.

(TS//SI//REL) The initial release of DROPOUTJEEP will focus on **installing the implant via close access methods**. A remote installation capability will be pursued for a future release.

Starting Services

- Connect to lockdownd (tcp:62078) via usbmux or TCP
- Authenticate with intercepted / generated pairing record
- Invoke "StartService" command with name of the service we wish to start
- Profit*
- * A number of commercial law enforcement forensic manufacturers have started tapping these services:
 - o Cellebrite
 - AccessData (Mobile Phone Examiner)
 - Elcomsoft

Open Source!

- Nearly all *lockdownd* protocols have been documented in the libimobiledevice project (libimobiledevice.org).
- Been around since 2009 but many of these services haven't been re-examined since then; initially benign
- A number of private tools and source are out there as well to take advantage of these services

com.apple.pcapd

- Immediately starts libpcap on the device
- Dumps network traffic and HTTP request/response data traveling into and out of the device
- Does not require developer mode; is active on every iOS device
- Can be targeted via WiFi for remote monitoring
- No visual indication to the user that the packet sniffer is running.

WHY DO WE NEED A PACKET SNIFFER RUNNING ON 600 MILLION PERSONAL IOS DEVICES?

com.apple.pcapd



Example from iOS 7.1.2

Developer Mode NOT turned on

Packet sniffing now available on 600 million iOS devices ©

- Biggest forensic trove of intelligence on the device
- Found in /usr/libexec/mobile_file_relay on device
- Provides *physical* artifacts vs. *logical* (databases; deleted records can be recovered)
- Transmits large swaths of raw file data in a compressed cpio archive, based on the data source requested.
- Completely bypasses Apple's backup encryption for end-user security.
- Once thought benign, has evolved considerably, even in iOS 7, to expose much personal data.
- Very intentionally placed and intended to dump data from the device by request

• File Relay sources in iOS v2:

AppleSupport

Network

WiFi

UserDatabases

CrashReporter

SystemConfiguration

• File Relay sources in iOS 7:

Accounts

AddressBook

AppleSupport

AppleTV

Baseband

Bluetooth

CrashReporter

CLTM

Caches

CoreLocation

DataAccess

DataMigrator

demod

Device-o-Matic

EmbeddedSocial

FindMyiPhone

Game Kit Logs

itunesstored

IORegUSBDevice

HFSMeta

Keyboard

Lockdown

MapsLogs

MobileAsset

MobileBackup

MobileCal

MobileDelete

MobileInstallation

MobileMusicPlayer

MobileNotes

NANDDebugInfo

Network

Photos

SafeHarbor

SystemConfiguration

tmp

Ubiquity

UserDatabases

VARFS

VPN

Voicemail

WiFi

WirelessAutomation

- <u>Accounts</u> A list of email, Twitter, iCloud, Facebook etc. accounts configured on the device.
- <u>AddressBook</u> A copy of the user's address book SQLite database; deleted records recoverable.
- <u>Caches</u> The user cache folder: suspend screenshots (last thing you were looking at), shared images, offline content, clipboard/pasteboard, map tile images, keyboard typing cache, other personal data

- <u>CoreLocation</u> GPS logs; cache of locations taken at frequent intervals (com.apple.routined)
 - o fileslockCache_encryptedA.db and cache_encryptedA.db
 - Similar to the old consolidated.db database from iOS 4
 - Timestamps span ~60 days on my phone

- <u>HFSMeta</u> (New in iOS 7!) A complete metadata disk sparseimage of the iOS file system, sans actual content.
 - o Timestamps, filenames, sizes, creation dates of **all** files
 - When device was last activated / wiped
 - All applications installed on a device and filenames of all documents (e.g. Dropbox documents, etc)
 - The filenames of all email attachments on the device
 - All email accounts configured on a device
 - Host IDs and timestamps of all devices paired with the device
 - Phone numbers and timestamps of everyone for whom an SMS draft was saved
 - Timeline of activity based on timestamp data

- <u>Keyboard</u> A copy of the keyboard autocorrect cache
 - DynamicDictionary-4: First half contains all recent typed content from all applications, consolidated and in the order it was typed
 - DynamicDictionary-5: Improved, contains words and word counts only
- <u>MobileCal, MobileNotes</u> Complete database images of the user's calendar, alarms, and notes databases in SQLite format (deleted records recoverable).
- <u>Photos</u> Complete dump of user's photo album (not just camera roll) stored on the device

- <u>UserDatabases</u> (Been around since v2) dump of address book, calendar, call history, SMS database, email metadata (envelope index); SQLite databases (deleted records recoverable)
- <u>VARFS</u> (predecessor to HFSMeta) virtual file system metadata dump in statvfs format.
- Voicemail Copy of user's voicemail database and audio files (AMR format)

com.apple.mobile.house_arrest

- Originally used to allow iTunes to copy documents to/from third party applications
- Even though iTunes doesn't permit it through GUI, the service allows access to the Library, Caches, Cookies, Preferences folders as well
- These folders provide highly sensitive account storage, social/Facebook caches, photos and other data stored in "vaults", and much more.

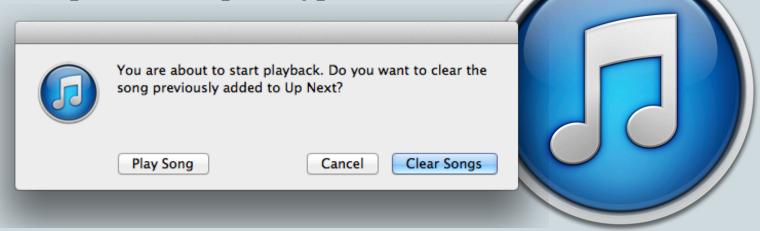
Example: Twitter

- Recent photos from my stream
- Most recent timeline
- Private message database; numerous deleted messages recovered
- Screenshots of my last use of Twitter
- OAuth tokens (when combined with consumer key/ secret, can be used to spy on all future correspondence remotely)

Example: Photo Vaults

- Copies of the actual photos the vaults are "protecting"
- Configuration files including the PIN, or a hash of the PIN
- Occasionally, developer will actually encrypt files
- Sometimes encryption keys or PIN dumped to syslog

- Maybe iTunes or Xcode use them? No.
 - o iTunes uses com.apple.mobilesync, backup2, and other facilities, but none use file relay or pcap
 - iTunes uses house_arrest, but only for accessing Documents; there's no need to allow access to Library, Cache, or other privileged folders
 - o iTunes respects backup encryption



- Maybe for Genius Bar or Apple Support? No.
 - O Data is in too raw a format to be used for tech support
 - o Can't be put back onto the phone in any way
 - Tech support use shouldn't call for bypassing backup password
 - O Data is far too personal in nature for mere tech support



- Maybe for Developers for Debugging? No.
 - Actual developer tools live on the developer image, and are only available when Developer Mode is enabled
 - Xcode does not provide a packet sniffing interface for developers
 - Developers don't need to bypass backup encryption
 - Developers don't need access to such sensitive content
 - Apple wants developers to use the SDK APIs to get data
 - o There are no docs to tell developers about these "features"

```
-(vole)handleImageDiskWithInformation:(NSTimer*)aTimer

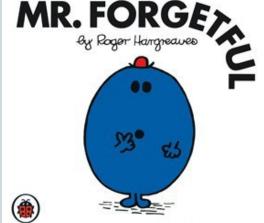
{
    if (![aTimer isValid])
        return;
        NSDictionary* Inics | Edit All in Scope | Lion alloc] initWithDiskInfos:infos];
        CoperationQueue add | SAFE_RELEASE(op);
}

Start Screen Saver
```

- Maybe for Engineering / Debugging? No.
 - o Not all 600 million devices need debugging always on
 - By preventing localhost connections, Apple must know these services are being abused by malware
 - You still wouldn't need to bypass backup encryption
 - Engineering wouldn't need access to such personal data



- Maybe old debug code they forgot was in there? No.
 - Apple has been maintaining and enhancing this code, even with iOS 7; they know it's there
 - Have emailed Apple's CEOs and gotten no response
 - o It's not buried; it's listed in Services.plist
 - While house_arrest security issues might be "bugs", file relay and pcap most certainly aren't



The More Benign Services

- While more benign, the following services are good attack targets for forensic artifacts:
- com.apple.iosdiagnostics.relay Provides detailed network usage per-application on a per-day basis
- <u>com.apple.mobile.installation_proxy</u> Given an enterprise certificate, can use this to load custom software onto the device (which can run invisibly and in the background)
- <u>com.apple.syslog_relay</u>: Syslog, provides a lot of details about what the device is doing, and often leaks user credentials from 3rd party apps via NSLog()

Invisible Malware

- Installing invisible software that backgrounds is still easy to do in iOS 7
- Apple made a crucial security improvement in iOS 7: prevented socket connections to localhost / local IP
 - Prior to this, I had spyware running invisibly that could dump a phone and send its contents remotely anywhere. (never released for obvious reasons)
- This stopped a number of privately used spyware apps in their tracks; they can not connect to localhost:62078
- Future spyware: phones attacking other phones on the network (zomg zombies)

Invisible Malware

• Info.plist:

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

Backgrounding Malware

```
[ [ UIApplication sharedApplication ]
setKeepAliveTimeout: 600 handler:^(void)
{
    /* Do bad things in background */
}
```

In iOS 7, you can still capture:

- All socket connections (netstat data)
- Process information (ps data)
- A number of personal files on the device
- Launch some very closely-held-to-the-vest userland exploits

But Wait. I paid \$600 for a Fingerprint Reader

- Fingerprint reader: Doesn't add any additional encryption beyond basic PIN
- Has shown to be spoofed with the right equipment
- Allows GUI access, therefore allowing pairing, therefore allowing forensic dumps
- Oh, and... there's a bypass switch for pairing anyway

Pairing Bypass

- Added for supervised devices to be accessible (e.g. employee dies, leaves on bad terms, criminal investigation).
- Devices try to call home when first configured to download automatic configurator profile. (likely used for large-scale MDM rollouts).
- An electronic alternative to interdiction could be deployed by spoofing Apple's certificates and configuring / pairing the device out of the box.
- OR by penetrating a targeted organization, supervisor records can be used to pair with and access **any** device they're supervising.

MCCloudConfiguration

- Deny all pairing
- Allow pairing, but prompt the user
- Allow pairing with no user prompt (and while locked)
- Allow pairing with a challenge/response

Pairing Bypass

```
; Check -[ MCProfileConnection hostMayPairWithOptions:challenge: ]
 text:0001938E
                                               R0, [R8,#0xC]
                                               sub 5754
 text:00019392
                               CMP
                                               R0, #0
 text:00019396
                               BNE.W
                                               loc 19AA8
 text:00019398
                                               R1, [R8, #0x1C]
 text:0001939C
                               LDR.W
 text:000193A0
                                               R2, SP, #0x7E8+var 420
 text:000193A2
                               ADD
                                               R3, SP, #0x7E8+out
text:000193A4
                               MOV
                                               R0, R4
text:000193A6
                                               sub 1F100
              ; Pairing is explicitly forbidden by MC
                               CMP
 text:000193AA
                               BEO.W
text:000193AC
                                               loc 19AB0
              ; Pairing is allowed by MC, but with challenge/response
 text:000193B0
                               LDRB.W
                                               R0, [SP, #0x7E8+out]
                                               R0, #0
 text:000193B4
text:000193B6
                               BNE.W
                                               loc 19AC2
              ; Pairing is allowed by MC while locked / untrusted without
              ; any challenge/response (pairing security is bypassed)
                                                                          <- Profit
                                               RO, [SP,#0x7E8+var 420]
text:000193BA
                               LDRB.W
                                               R0, #0
 text:000193BE
                               CMP
text:000193C0
                               BNE.W
                                               loc 19B06
              ; Pairing is allowed while locked / untrusted if the device
              ; doesn't support it
 text:000193C4
                                               RO, #(cfstr Hasspringboa 1 - 0x193D0); "HasSpringBoard"
 text:000193CC
                                               RO, PC ; "HasSpringBoard"
                               ADD
                                               MGGetBoolAnswer
 text:000193CE
 text:000193D2
                               CMP
                                               RO, #1
 text:000193D4
                               BNE.W
                                               loc 19B06
              ; Actual pairing security routines (check device lock, whether
              ; user has pressed "Trust", and so on)
 text:000193D8
                               MOVS
 text:000193DA
                               BLX
                                                MKBGetDeviceLockState
```

In Pseudocode

```
if (mc_allows_pairing_while_locked || device_has_no_springboard_gui)
  goto skip_device_lock_and_trust_checks; /* Skip security */
/* Pairing Security */
if (device_is_locked == true) {
  if (setup_has_completed) {
    if (user_never_pushed_trust) {
      error(PasswordProtected);
```

Calling Home

- On setup, teslad connects to <u>https://iprofiles.apple.com</u>
 - o /resource/certificate.cer
 - o /session and /profile
 - Capable of downloading MCCloudConfiguration
- Could be used for electronic interdiction, either with technology or secret FISA order
- MCCloudConfiguration affects pairing bypass
- Build in mechanism to bypass SSL validation. WTF.
 - MCTeslaConfigurationFetcher checks for MCCloudConfigAcceptAnyHTTPSCertificate

Calling Home

- Once configured, a new cloud configuration can be downloaded via periodic check-in
- -[MCProfileConnection retrieveCloudConfiguration FromURL:username:password:anchorCertificates: completionBlock:]
 - o Great attack surface if you can get past the SSL
 - Not necessary if you have a secret FISA order

Questions for Apple

- Why is there a packet sniffer running on 600 million personal iOS devices instead of moved to the developer mount?
- Why are there undocumented services that bypass user backup encryption that dump mass amounts of personal data from the phone?
- Why is most of my user data *still* not encrypted with the PIN or passphrase, enabling the invasion of my personal privacy by YOU?
- Why is there still no mechanism to review the devices my iPhone is paired with, so I can delete ones that don't belong?

Pairing Locking

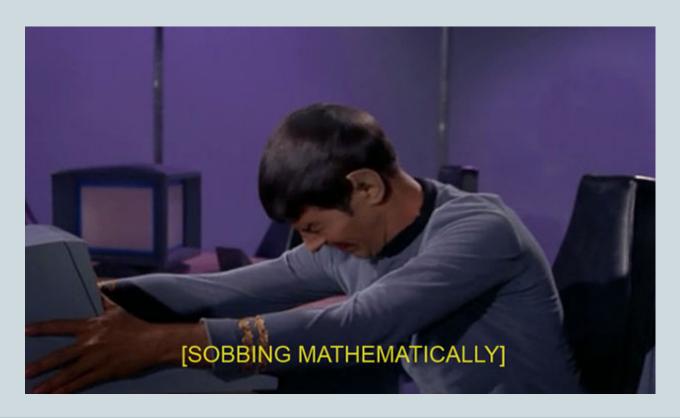
```
; Check -[ MCProfileConnection hostMayPairWithOptions:challenge: ]
 text:0001938E
                                              R0, [R8,#0xC]
                                              sub 5754
 text:00019392
                                              R0, #0
 text:00019396
                                              loc 19AA8
 text:00019398
                              BNE.W
                                              R1, [R8, #0x1C]
 text:0001939C
                              LDR.W
 text:000193A0
                                              R2, SP, #0x7E8+var 420
 text:000193A2
                                              R3, SP, #0x7E8+out
 text:000193A4
                              MOV
                                              R0, R4
text:000193A6
                                              sub 1F100
              ; Pairing is explicitly forbidden by MC
                                                          <- HOW DO WE MAKE THIS WORK?</p>
text:000193AA
text:000193AC
                              BEQ.W
                                              loc 19AB0
              ; Pairing is allowed by MC, but with challenge/response
 text:000193B0
                              LDRB.W
                                              R0, [SP, #0x7E8+out]
text:000193B4
                                              R0, #0
 text:000193B6
                              BNE.W
                                              loc 19AC2
              ; Pairing is allowed by MC while locked / untrusted without
              ; any challenge/response (pairing security is bypassed)
 text:000193BA
                              LDRB.W
                                              RO, [SP, #0x7E8+var 420]
 text:000193BE
 text:000193C0
                              BNE.W
                                              loc 19B06
              ; Pairing is allowed while locked / untrusted if the device
             : doesn't support it
 text:000193C4
                                              RO, #(cfstr Hasspringboa 1 - 0x193DO); "HasSpringBoard"
 text:000193CC
                                              RO, PC ; "HasSpringBoard"
                              ADD
                                              MGGetBoolAnswer
 text:000193CE
 text:000193D2
                              CMP
                                              R0, #1
 text:000193D4
                              BNE.W
                                              loc 19B06
              ; Actual pairing security routines (check device lock, whether
              ; user has pressed "Trust", and so on)
 text:000193D8
                              MOVS
 text:000193DA
                              BLX
                                               MKBGetDeviceLockState
```

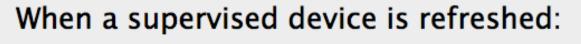
Apple Configurator

- Free in the Mac App Store
- Allows you to set enterprise MDM restrictions on your device
- Can be used to prevent pairing even when unlocked
- Pair once with your desktop, then never again... OR (if you're paranoid) delete all pairing records and prevent any comms.
- Won't help you if device sent to Apple; should still use a complex passphrase
- Removable later if you change your mind

Forensics Tools

• Every commercial forensics tool, after pair locking with Configurator:





Remove apps and profiles Configurator did not install

Name: Supervised Device

Number sequentially starting at 1

Supervision:

Options...

Allow devices to connect to other Macs

Update iOS: When update is available

Erase before installing

Profiles:





Pairing Profile





Restrictions1 Payload Configured



Global HTTP Proxy Not configured



Web Content Filter Not configured



Wi-Fi Not configured



- ✓ Allow users to accept untrusted TLS certificates
- Allow automatic updates to certificate trust settings
- **✓** Allow installing configuration profiles (supervised only)
- ✓ Allow modifying account settings (supervised only)
- Allow modifying Find my Friends settings (supervised only)
- ✓ Allow pairing with non-Configurator hosts (supervised only)
- Allow documents from managed apps in unmanaged apps
- **✓** Allow documents from unmanaged apps in managed apps

RESTRICTION



Restrictions

Disables pairing with iTunes.

Design Suggestions

- Asymmetric cryptography to allow encryption of incoming SMS, Photos, etc. without requiring decryption
- File system equivalent of "session keys" for memory resident processes (CommCenter) to uniquely decrypt shadow copy of certain data (AddressBook)
- Add boot password to encapsulate existing FS encryption; makes stronger / complex passwords less inconvenient
- When pairing, encrypt all keys and EscrowBag sent from phone using backup password, so can't be used without something you know.

Summary

- Apple is dishing out a lot of data behind our backs
- It's a violation of the customer's trust and privacy to bypass backup encryption
- There is no valid excuse to leak personal data or allow packet sniffing without the user's knowledge and permission.
- Much of this data simply should never come off the phone, even during a backup.
- Apple has added many conveniences for enterprises that make tasty attack points for .gov and criminals
- Overall, the otherwise great security of iOS has been compromised... by Apple... by design.

Thank You

Questions?

@JZdziarski