Secure Development on iOS

Advice for developers and penetration testers

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ISECPARTNERS

Outline

- Intro to iOS
- Objective-C Primer
- Testing Setup
- Security-Relevant APIs
 - TLS and Networking
 - Data Storage
 - The Keychain
 - Backgrounding
 - IPC
 - App URLs
 - Copy/Paste
- **5** UDIDs
- Common Attack Scenarios
 - Old C Stuff
 - New Objective-C Stuff
- Secure coding checklist

Intro

- My perspective is that of a penetration tester (not developer)
- Info here is ideally of use to both testers and developers
- Assumes little to no iOS knowledge
- Focus is app security, not OS security
- Takeaways: be able fix or break your own or others' iOS apps



Intro to iOS

It's an OS, but with an i

- High-level API, "Cocoa Touch"
- Development in XCode
 - So yes, you need a Mac
- iOS Simulator (not emulator)
 - Compiles iOS apps to native code to run locally
- Applications written primarily in Objective-C



Objective-C

How to spot it from a very long way away

- C + Smalltalk...ish
- Uses "infix" notation:
 - [Object messagePassedToObject:argument];
- It is not to everyone's tastes
- Some of us have very refined tastes



Objective-C in 1 slide

Defining Interfaces

```
@interface Classname : NSParentObject {
SomeType aThing; // instance variables
}
+(type)classMethod:(vartype)myVariable;
-(type)instanceMethod:(vartype)myVariable;
@end
```

These go in .h files, and define the structure of objects (like C structs).

Objective-C in 2 slides

Alternative interface declaration

```
#import "NSParentClass.h"

@interface Classname : NSParentClass {
    @public NSURL *blorg;
    @private NSString *gurgle;
}

@property(readonly) NSURL *blorg;
@property(copy) NSString *gurgle;
```

This is the "2.0" way to declare interfaces.

Objective-C in 3 slides or so

Infix and dot notation

This is the "implementation", stored in .m files. @synthesize creates getter/setter methods for properties.

Objective-C Notsubclassing

Categories

- Simple method for adding functionality to classes without subclassing
- Just define a new @interface and implementation with new methods

```
@implementation NSURL (CategoryName)

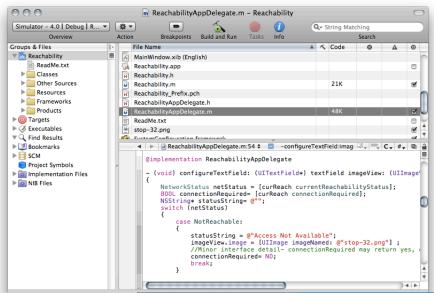
- (BOOL) isPurple;
{
   if ([self isColor:@"purple"])
      return YES;
   else
      return NO;
}
@end
```

Memory Management

Retain/Release

- No garbage collection in iOS
- Must track with "retain" and "release" methods

XCode



Testing Setup

Intercepting secure communications

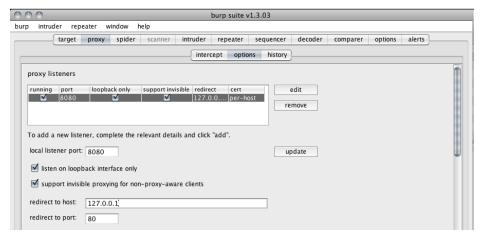
- Standard proxy intercept won't work
- Cert errors are a hard failure
- Options:
 - Change source to use HTTP
 - Use device + cert for proxy
 - Use simulator with \rightarrow proxy \rightarrow real site

Stunnel config.

```
; SSL client mode
client = yes

; service-level configuration
[https]
accept = 127.0.0.1:80
connect = 10.10.1.50:443
TIMEOUTclose = 0
```

Proxy Config



The Sandbox Mechanism

- aka "Seatbelt"
- Based upon TrustedBSD MAC framework
- Unlike Android's UID-based segregation, apps run as one user
- Seatbelt policies provide needed segregation. Probably.
- Sandbox policies now compiled and rolled into the kernel
- On jailbroken devices, sandbox no longer applies



Jailbreaking

- On jailbroken devices, sandbox no longer applies
- However, devs for sideloaded apps can voluntarily hop into one
- Documented profiles for OSX:

```
kSBXProfileNoNetwork (= "nonet")
kSBXProfileNoInternet (= "nointernet")
kSBXProfilePureComputation (= "pure-computation")
kSBXProfileNoWriteExceptTemporary (= "write-tmp-only")
kSBXProfileNoWrite (= "nowrite")
```

http://iphonedevwiki.net/index.php/Seatbelt

Jailbreak Detection

- No more official Apple jailbreak detection API
- If you must determine whether a device is jailbroken, some (obviously defeatable) possible checks:
 - /bin/bash
 - /bin/ssh
 - /private/var/lib/apt
- But discriminating against jailbroken devices is not necessarily a great idea
- And Apple app review may flag it

ASLR, PIE & you

- NX support available for quite a while
- iOS 4.3 introduces ASLR protections
- Which are quite weak without PIE
- Change project linker flags to add -W1,-pie

- Useful for black box testing or self-testing
- Disassembly of Mach-O binary format quite clean
- Several useful tools: otool, otx, class-dump
- Use for reversing other applications, or finding what info would be available to a third party
- Obfuscation is generally pretty futile, but especially in ObjC
- Encrypted binaries easily dumped²

²http://www.246tnt.com/iPhone/

otool

```
otool -toV /Applications/iCal.app/Contents/MacOS/iCal/Applications/iCal.app/
    Contents/MacOS/iCal
Objective-C segment
Module 0x22b52c
        . . .
        Class Definitions
        defs[0] 0x00204360
                       isa 0x0020a560
               super class 0x001a5f44 CALCanvasItem
                      name 0x001c6574 CALCanvasAttributedText
                       . . .
                       ivars 0x00224300
                         ivar count 13
                          ivar name 0x001a54e2 text
                          ivar type 0x001a53d0 @"NSMutableAttributedString"
                       ivar offset 0x0000012c
                          ivar name 0x001a54e8
```

otx

http://otx.osxninja.com/

```
-(BOOL)[NSString(NSStringExtras) isFeedURLString]
+0 00003488 55
                                 pushl
                                         %ebp
+1 00003489 89e5
                                 movl
                                         %esp,%ebp
+3 0000348h 53
                                 pushl
                                         %ehx
+4 0000348c 83ec14
                                 subl
                                         $0x14,%esp
+7 0000348f 8b5d08
                                 movl
                                         0x08(%ebp),%ebx
+10 00003492 c744240844430700
                                  mov1
                                          $0x00074344,0x08(%esp)
feed:
+18 0000349a a180a00700
                                  mov1
                                          0x0007a080,%eax
    web hasCaseInsensitivePrefix:
+23 0000349f 89442404
                                  movl
                                          %eax,0x04(%esp)
+27 000034a3 891c24
                                  mov1
                                          %ebx.(%esp)
+30 000034a6 e850420800
                                  calll
                                          0x000876fb
    -[(%esp,1) web hasCaseInsensitivePrefix:]
```

class-dump

```
http://iphone.freecoder.org/classdump_en.html (or via Cydia)
```

Static Analysis

XCode & Clang

- Clang analyzer merged into XCode
- "Build & Analyze" option
- Identifies memory leakage, use-after-free, etc.
- Note: in some recent XCode versions, Analyzer results only show for device SDK builds. Meh

Static Analysis

Output

```
▼ ReachabilityAppDelegate.m:62 
▼ ConfigureTextField:imageView:reachability: 

▼
                                                                                          U_ = C_ #_ B 2
1. Method returns an Objective-C object with a +1 retain count (owning reference)
                                                                                               (◀ ▶) (Done)
       NetworkStatus netStatus = [curReach currentReachabilitvStatus]:
       BOOL connectionRequired= [curReach connectionRequired]:
       NSString* statusString= @"":

→switch (netStatus)

           case NotReachable:
              NSString *myString = [[NSString alloc] init];
               statusString = @"Access Not Available"; Method returns an Objective-C object with a +1 retain count (ownin...
               imageView.image = [UIImage imageNamed: @"stop-32.png"] ;
               //Minor interface detail- connectionRequired may return ves. even when the host is unre
               connectionRequired= NO:
                [myString release];
                                                                                               Object released
              [myString release];
                                                                       Reference-counted object is used after it is released
               break:
           case ReachableViaWWAN:
               statusString = @"Reachable WWAN":
               imageView.image = [UIImage imageNamed: @"WWAN5.png"]:
               break:
           case ReachableViaWiFi:
                statusString= @"Reachable WiFi":
               imageView.image = [UIImage imageNamed: @"Airport.png"]:
```

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Keyboard Caching

- Keyboard cache used for form autocompletion
- /root/Library/Keyboard/dynamic-text.dat
- Already disabled for password fields (i.e. setSecureTextEntry:YES)
- Should be disabled for any potentially sensitive fields
- Set UITextField property autocorrectionType = UITextAutocorrectionNo

TLS and NSURL Handling

- Standard method for working with URLs
- SSL/TLS handled properly! Bypassing failed verification not allowed by default.³
- So, of course, people turn it off

³Oops, maybe not. http:

^{//}blog.recurity-labs.com/archives/2011/07/26/cve-2011-0228 ios certificate chain validation_issue_in_handling_of_x_509_certificates/index.html

TLS and NSURL Handling

- Check for NSURLRequest verification bypass via setAllowsAnyHTTPSCertificate
- SSL verification bypass via NSURLConnection delegation
 - Search for continueWithoutCredentialForAuthenticationChallenge⁴
- Extra bonus stupid: Define category method to slip by Apple's private API checks⁵

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⁴http://stackoverflow.com/questions/933331/

⁵http://stackoverflow.com/questions/2001565/

NSStreams

Good for non-HTTP traffic or going slightly lower-level

CFStreams

- Slightly lower-level still
- Security defined by kCFStreamPropertySSLSettings
- Has sad set of constants ~

```
CFStringRef kCFStreamSSLLevel;
CFStringRef kCFStreamSSLAllowsExpiredCertificates;
CFStringRef kCFStreamSSLAllowsExpiredRoots;
CFStringRef kCFStreamSSLAllowsAnyRoot;
CFStringRef kCFStreamSSLValidatesCertificateChain;
CFStringRef kCFStreamSSLPeerName;
```

Local Data Storage

The Various Mechanisms

A few ways data is stored (and potentially exposed):

- SQLite
- Core Data
 - Internally, SQLite
- Cookie management
- Caches
- plists

Anatomy of an App

- ~/Library/Application Support/iPhone Simulator/Applications/(appID)
- ./Documents → properties, logs
- ./Library/Caches → cachey things
- ./Library/Caches/Snapshots → screenshots of your app
- ./Library/Cookies \rightarrow cookie plists
- ./Library/Preferences → various preference plists
- ./Library/WebKit ightarrow WebKit local storage
- ./Appname.app o app resources: binary, graphics, nibs, Info.plist
- ./ $tmp \rightarrow tmp$

Cookies

NSHTTPCookie Accept Policy Only From Main Document Domain Phnglui Mglwnafh Cthul huRlyeh Wgahnagl fhan Mglwnafh Mglwna

- Manipulated by the URL loading system
- Can alter cookieAcceptPolicy to:
 - NSHTTPCookieAcceptPolicyNever
 - NSHTTPCookieAcceptPolicyOnlyFromMainDocumentDomain
- Note that this may affect other running applications
 - In OS X, cookies and cookie policy are shared among apps
 - In iOS, only cookie policy is shared

SQLite and SQL injection

Dynamic SQL

```
NSString *uid = [myHTTPConnection getUID];
NSString *statement = [NSString StringWithFormat:@"SELECT username FROM users
    where uid = '%@'",uid];
const char *sql = [statement UTF8String];
```

SQLite and SQL injection

Parameterized SQL

```
const char *sql = "SELECT username FROM users where uid = ?";
sqlite3_prepare_v2(db, sql, -1, &selectUid, NULL);
sqlite3_bind_int(selectUid, 1, uid);
int status = sqlite3_step(selectUid);
```

Caching

- HTTP & HTTPS requests cached by default
- Can be prevented by NSURLConnection delegate

Geolocation

Best Practices

- Use least degree of accuracy necessary
- Check for graceful handling of locationServicesEnabled and authorizationStatus method responses
- If you don't want to handle subpoenas from divorce lawyers:
 - Don't log locally
 - Anonymize server-side data
 - Prune logs

Geolocation

Accuracy Settings

Several accuracy constants:

```
CLLocationAccuracy kCLLocationAccuracyBestForNavigation;
CLLocationAccuracy kCLLocationAccuracyBest;
CLLocationAccuracy kCLLocationAccuracyNearestTenMeters;
CLLocationAccuracy kCLLocationAccuracyHundredMeters;
CLLocationAccuracy kCLLocationAccuracyKilometer;
CLLocationAccuracy kCLLocationAccuracyThreeKilometers;
```

- Keychain is where secret stuff goes
 - Argh! Do not store this data in NSUserDefaults!
- Encrypted with device-specific key
 - Apps "can't read", not included in backups
- Simpler API than OS X: SecItemAdd, SecItemUpdate, SecItemCopyMatching
- Not available in simulator for pre-4.0



cause it's act kevs in it, see

Key protection

Pass an appropriate kSecAttrAccessible value to SecItemAdd:

```
CFTypeRef kSecAttrAccessibleWhenUnlocked;
CFTypeRef kSecAttrAccessibleAfterFirstUnlock;
CFTypeRef kSecAttrAccessibleAlways;
CFTypeRef kSecAttrAccessibleWhenUnlockedThisDeviceOnly;
CFTypeRef kSecAttrAccessibleAfterFirstUnlockThisDeviceOnly;
CFTypeRef kSecAttrAccessibleAlwaysThisDeviceOnly;
```

Shared keychains

- For using the same keychain among different apps⁶
- Used by setting kSecAttrAccessGroup on init
- Apps must have same keychain-access-groups
- Apps can only have one access group
- On jailbroken phone...all bets off

Certificates

- On device, can be installed via e-mail, Safari or iTunes sync
- On older simulators, no such luck
- Certs still verified, but no way to install new ones
 - Since they're stored in the Keychain
- Stubs necessary for detecting simulator vs. device

Data Protection

Improving file and keychain protection

- By default, data encrypted with "hardware" key
- In iOS 4, "hardware" key can supplemented with PIN
- Developers can also mark files as "protected"
- Files encrypted, unreadable while device is locked

Data Protection

Usage

- 2 methods for enabling
- Pass NSDataWritingFileProtectionComplete to writeToFile method of NSData object
- Set NSFileProtectionKey to NSFileProtectionComplete on NSFileManager object
- Again, data not accessible when device is locked
 - Check for data availability before use⁷
 - Clean up when UIApplicationProtectedDataWillBecomeUnavailable

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⁷http://developer.apple.com/library/ios/#documentation/iPhone/Conceptual/ iPhoneOSProgrammingGuide/StandardBehaviors/StandardBehaviors.html

Entropy

How does it work?

- Using Cocoa, not /dev/random
- Gathered via SecRandomCopyBytes
 - Again, does not work in simulator
- Obviously, rand(), random(), arc4random() are all non-starters

```
int result = SecRandomCopyBytes(kSecRandomDefault, sizeof(int), (uint8_t*)&
    randomResult);
```

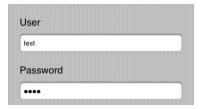
Backgrounding

Initiating Background Tasks

- Probably most security-relevant API in iOS 4.0
- Use beginBackgroundTaskWithExpirationHandler method to initiate background tasks
 - Needs matching endBackgroundTask method
- Remaining task time stored in backgroundTimeRemaining property

Backgrounding

Concerns



- Note: app is snapshotted upon backgrounding
- Prior to this, application should remove any sensitive data from view
 - Use splash screen or set hidden or alpha properties of UIWindow
 - Or set hidden attribute on sensitive fields

Backgrounding

State Transitions

- Detect state transitions
- Key state transition methods:

```
application:didFinishLaunchingWithOptions:
applicationDidBecomeActive:
applicationWillResignActive:
applicationDidEnterBackground:
applicationWillEnterForeground:
applicationWillTerminate:
```

Application URL Schemes

- Apps can register their own URL handlers added by editing the plist, usually from XCode
- Called just like any URL, with multiple parameters, e.g.

```
openURL:[NSURL URLWithString:@"myapp://?foo=urb&blerg=gah"];
```

- Can be called by app or web page
 - Without user confirmation...
- Params accessible to receiving app via a delegate

Application URL Schemes

Deprecated delegation method:

```
- (BOOL)application:(UIApplication *)application handleOpenURL:(NSURL *)url
```

New method:

```
    (BOOL)application:(UIApplication *)application openURL:(NSURL *)url
sourceApplication:(NSString *)sourceApplication annotation:(id)
annotation
```

- Allows for determining calling application, receives data in plist form
- Obviously, sanitization is key here, especially given...

URL handler conflicts

- What happens if two apps use the same handler?
 - If an Apple app uses it: Apple app launches
 - Third-party apps: "Undefined"

"If your URL type includes a scheme that is identical to one defined by Apple, the Apple-provided application that handles a URL with that scheme (for example, "mailto") is launched instead of your application. If a URL type registered by your application includes a scheme that conflicts with a scheme registered by another third-party application, the application that launches for a URL with that scheme is undefined."

- May go to the last claiming app...ew.
- Hence: be wary of passing private data in app URLs

Push Notifications

Registering for notifications:

```
[[UIApplication sharedApplication] registerForRemoteNotificationTypes:
    (UIRemoteNotificationTypeBadge | UIRemoteNotificationTypeSound)];
```

Receiving notifications:

```
- (void)application:(UIApplication *)application
    didReceiveRemoteNotification:(NSDictionary *)userInfo
```

```
- (BOOL)application:(UIApplication *)application
    didFinishLaunchingWithOptions:(NSDictionary *)launchOptions
```

Check for validation of userInfo and launchOptions

Pasteboards

- Obligatory dig at Apple re: copy/paste debacle
- 2 system UIPasteboard access methods:
 - UIPasteboardNameGeneral & UIPasteboardNameFind
- Pasteboards marked "persistent" will be kept in local storage



Pasteboards

- Also "private" application pasteboards, which (in true Objective-C form) are not in any way "private"
- Occasionally used as IPC hack
 - ullet Migrating data from free o paid app
 - I saw one suggestion to transfer private keys with the pasteboard $\ddot{\sim}$
- Bottom line: avoid sensitive data here & clean up after yourself
 - Clear pasteboard on applicationWillTerminate
 - pasteBoard.items = nil

Example Abuse

How not to pasteboard: Twitter OAuth library⁸

```
- (void) pasteboardChanged: (NSNotification *) note {
    UIPasteboard *pb = [UIPasteboard generalPasteboard];

    if ([note.userInfo objectForKey:UIPasteboardChangedTypesAddedKey] == nil)
        return;
    NSString *copied = pb.string;

    if (copied.length != 7 || !copied.oauthtwitter_isNumeric) return;
    [self gotPin:copied];
}
```

⁸3rd-party library, not by Twitter

Disabling it

• Possible mitigation: For fields with sensitive data, disable copy/paste menu

```
-(BOOL)canPerformAction:(SEL)action withSender:(id)sender {
    UIMenuController *menuController = [UIMenuController sharedMenuController];
    if (menuController) {
        [UIMenuController sharedMenuController].menuVisible = NO;
    }
    return NO;
}
```

Can also disable menu items individually⁹

⁹http://stackoverflow.com/questions/1426731/

UDIDs

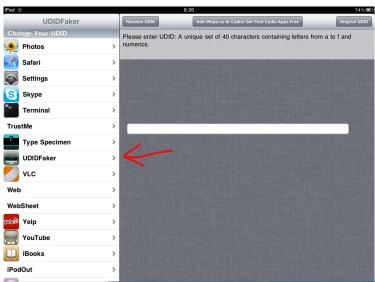
Use and Abuse

- Unique identifier derived from hardware information
- Often abused as a user tracking mechanism¹⁰
- Occasionally abused as an authenticator
 - See: Tapulous
- Contrary to popular belief, this is mutable

¹⁰http://www.pskl.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/

UDIDs

UDIDFaker available on Cydia



UDIDs

Don't use them.

Summary:

- Don't rely on UDID for anything ever
- Don't use it for tracking, it gets you bad press
- If you really need to track users, use hash of UDID + salt
- Check code for USe of [[UIDevice currentDevice] uniqueIdentifier]

Classic C Attacks

Nothing new here

- Still has the same classic issues
- Buffer overflows
- Integer issues, especially with malloc()
 - Why are you malloc'ing, grandpa? We are in the future here
 - Sanitize int calculations with checkint(3)
- Double-frees
- Format strings

Object use after release

- Exploitable! Under some circumstances. 11
- Procedure:
 - Release object
 - Release some other object
 - Allocate space of same size as first object
 - Write your code to the new buffer
 - ...
 - Send message or release to original object

¹¹ http://felinemenace.org/~nemo/slides/eusecwest-STOP-objc-runtime-nmo.pdf

iOS & Format Strings

- withFormat/appendingFormat family
- %x works %n does not ~
- %n does still work with regular C code...

Format Strings

Format string confusion

• Found on pentest:

```
NSString myStuff = @"Here is my stuff.";
myStuff = [myStuff stringByAppendingFormat:[UtilityClass formatStuff:
    unformattedStuff.text]];
```

Bzzt. NSString objects aren't magically safe.

```
NSString myStuff = @"Here is my stuff.";
myStuff = [myStuff stringByAppendingFormat:@"%@", [UtilityClass formatStuff
    :unformattedStuff.text]];
```

Format Strings

Likely culprits

- [NSString *WithFormat]
- [NSString stringByAppendingFormat]
- [NSMutableString appendFormat]
- [NSAlert alertWithMessageText]
- [NSException]
- [NSLog]

Secure coding checklist

Or penetration tester's hit list

- HTTPS used and correctly configured (i.e. not bypassed by delegation or setAllowsAnyHTTPSCertificate)
- All format strings properly declared
- General C issues (malloc(), str*, etc.)
 - Any third-party C/C++ code is suspect
- Entropy gathered correctly
- Secure backgrounding

Secure coding checklist

Continued

- UIPasteBoards not leaking sensitive data
- Correct object deallocation, no use-after-release
- URL handler parameters sanitized
- Secure keychain usage
- No inappropriate data stored on local filesystem
- CFStream, NSStream, NSURL inputs sanitized/encoded
- No direct use of UDID

QUESTIONS?

HTTPS://WWW.ISECPARTNERS.COM

For Further Reading I



H. Dwivedi, C. Clark, D. Thiel

Mobile Application Security.

McGraw Hill, 2010



Neil Archibald

STOP!!! Objective-C Run-TIME.

http:

//felinemenace.org/~nemo/slides/eusecwest-STOP-objc-runtime-nmo.pdf



Dino Dai Zovi

Apple iOS 4 Security Evaluation

http://trailofbits.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/ ios-security-evaluation.pdf



Apple, Inc.

iOS Application Programming Guide

http://developer.apple.com/library/ios/#documentation/iPhone/ Conceptual/iPhoneOSProgrammingGuide/Introduction/Introduction.html

For Further Reading II



Other resources

```
http://culater.net/wiki/moin.cgi/CocoaReverseEngineering
http://www.musicalgeometry.com/archives/872
http://www.pskl.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/
iPhone-Applications-Privacy-Issues.pdf
```