

WILL ANDROID TROJAN, WORM OR ROOTKIT SURVIVE IN SEANDROID AND CONTAINERIZATION?

Rowland YU and William Lee

Sophos

Email: rowland.yu@sophos.com.au, william.lee@sophos.com.au

Abstract

SEAndroid and containerization have become buzzwords in mobile security over the last year. Both of them supply an isolated working environment for Android devices. Moreover, both have a main goal of trying to minimize the damage that can be caused by malicious applications, intruders, exploits and vulnerabilities.

SEAndroid stands for Security Enhancements for Android, which defines and enforces a system-wide security policy over all processes, objects and operations. It blocks extra privileges escalated by applications, separates applications from each other and the system, or prevents the bypass of security features. On the other hand, containerization refers to the ability to separate an encrypted zone on a device and manage access to the zone. In other words, it not only secures data on device, but also controls how applications can access, share and use the data.

Android 5.0 is trying to set itself up as a safe corporate mobile operating system by touting SEAndroid and containerization. The enforcements of SEAndroid and containerization have been changing the way OEMs and Security vendors respond to security issues. Besides, this paper will prove that, even with these security enhancements, you can still be infected; still have data stolen; still have corporate data leaked, or experience exploration of kernel vulnerabilities.

1. Introduction

Android is a Linux kernel based mobile operating system [1]. The Linux kernel provides a multi-user nature and discretionary access control (DAC) enforcement module on top of which all Android layers are sitting. Android utilizes the kernel-level sandboxing and isolation mechanism to separate apps from one another, and control the communication between apps or resource accesses.

In Linux DAC mechanism, all users have a user ID and a group ID, with a unique numerical identification number associated to user ID (UID) and a group ID (GID) respectively. The use of groups allows additional privileges and access purposes. When an Android app is installed, it gets a unique UID and GID. The same UID and GID are set to the app's home directory and data to allow the app full access. Moreover, Android maintains special groups for Internet, Bluetooth, external storage and more. For instance, when an app granted the INTERNET permission, it is automatically added to the "*inet*" group by the Android system.

However, Android has some inherent weaknesses associated with DAC in its security model [2]. As a result, these can cause vulnerabilities in the system's security. The vulnerabilities can be divided into two primary aspects [3]: the inconsistency between Subject (whereby an active entity performs an action, such as a process) and Object (a passive entity which has a set of privileges, such as file or socket) makes it possible for unauthorized parties to access certain resources. And, flawed or malicious applications can bypass permission system, escalate their privileges and directly access resources in the kernel.

Security Enhancements for Android (SEAndroid) is introduced to mitigate the above shortcomings. It deploys a mandatory access control (MAC) mechanism piggybacking on the existing Android DAC model. Also a centralized security policy configuration is set up for all processes, objects, and operations as per defined security context. In general, SEAndroid intends better to control access to applications data and resources, protect and confine system services, protect users from potential flaws and reduce the effects of malicious apps [4].

In addition, over the last decade, there has been a tremendous growth in the number of mobile users on a global scale. More and more employees bring their own mobile devices to their enterprise workplace. This so-called BYOD (bring your own device) phenomenon has posed a threat to corporate data. Therefore, containerization is adopted by organizations in mobile device management (MDM) to provide employees with a secured access to corporate data and also prevents the misuse of malware, intruders or other apps.

The remainder of this paper is as follows. Firstly, we provide a description of fundamental information of SEAndroid and containerization in Section 2. Then in Section 3, an overview analysis of how existing malware will survive in the above security enhancements is given. The evaluation of existing vulnerabilities and bootkits is included too. Afterwards, we try to estimate the evolution of Android malware and vulnerabilities with respect to these enhancements in the future. Finally we offer a conclusion.

2. The Fundamentals of SEAndroid and Containerization with Related Impacts

This section gives an overview of the enhancements made to Android via adding SEAndroid and containerization. The main objective of this section is to provide background information on SEAndroid and containerization as well as their impact on OEMs and Security vendors.

2.1 Security Enhancements for Android (SEAndroid)

Starting with Android 4.3, SELinux plays a significant part in the Android security architecture, to enforce mandatory access control (MAC) over all processes, objects and operations in a system-wide security policy [5]. SELinux is capable of confining privileged processes access to files and network resource even processes running with *root* or *superuser* identity. Moreover, it provides a centralized security policy configuration and automating policy creation against potential harm from a confined daemon that becomes compromised.

SEAndroid refers to Security Enhancements for Android (SE for Android) project [6] which has been implanted in Android Open Source Project (AOSP). SEAndroid widened the scope of SELinux and enabled the integration of SELinux and run-time Middleware MAC (MMAC) into Android in a comprehensive and coherent manner. Figure 1 gives a high level view of SEAndroid Framework [7]. The framework can be spanned to three parts: kernel space, user space as well security policy and configuration files.

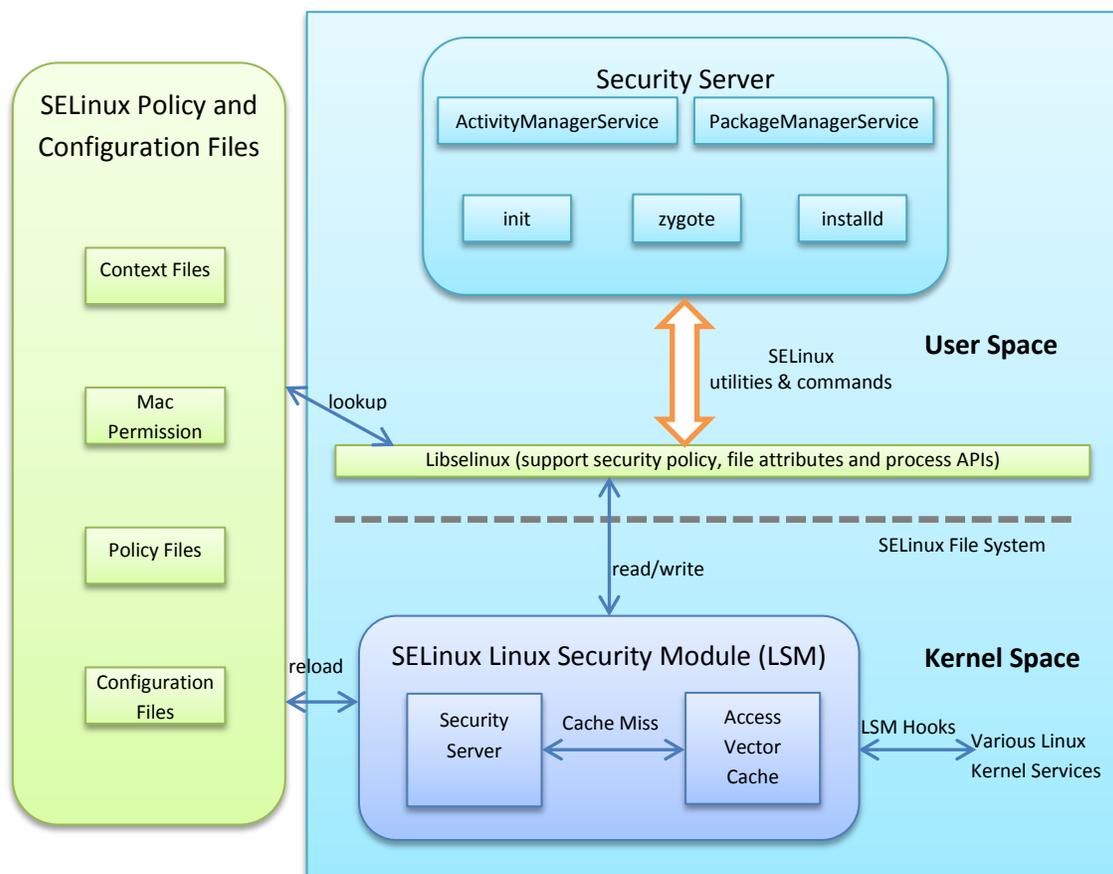


Figure 1. The overview of SEAndroid framework

2.1.1 Kernel Space

In the kernel, SELinux depends on the Linux Security Module (LSM), audit subsystem, and file system. The LSM contains an Access Vector Cache and Security Server. The Security Server has capability of permitting or denying the use of an Object by a Subject. The SELinux decisions, including permitting or denying access, are cached in order to increase performance. The cache is known as the Access Vector Cache (AVC).

As a variant of the Linux, Android introduces a number of new kernel subsystems and drivers such as Binder, ashmem, logger, and wakelocks. As a result, major changes have been made to define new hooks in the LSM security module and insert calls and corresponding SELinux permission checks to these hooks into security relevant subsystems such as Binder. Furthermore, SELinux in Android file system has gained additional support of extended attribute for security labeling.

2.1.2 Policy and Configuration Files

All operating system access control is based on certain type of access control attribute associated with objects and subjects [8]. The access control attribute in SELinux is described as a security context. The security context of SEAndroid is based on the concepts of Type Enforcement (TE), role-based access control and multilevel security. Under Type Enforcement, subjects accessing objects is governed through a set of rules. Subjects also named as domain are processes; while objects are files, sockets, network hosts and others on the system. Subjects and objects are labeled with a single security context, which has four elements: user, role, type, and mls_level with the following format:

```
user:role:type:mls_level
```

SEAndroid includes several unique configuration files and policy definition files to compute security contexts. The table below contains the configuration files that can be found on the devices.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <code>file_contexts</code> | Declare default security contexts for labeling all files on the system |
| <code>seapp_contexts</code> | Contain information to label security contexts of application processes (domain) |
| <code>property_contexts</code> | The file is unique for Android, and declare default security contexts for Android properties services |
| <code>service_contexts</code> | Declare default security contexts for Android subsystem like Android servicemanager |
| <code>mac_permissions.xml</code> | Contains certificate info used by the <i>seinfo</i> attribute during the installation of an app. The <i>seinfo</i> attribute is also part of the middleware MAC for inter-process communication (IPC) |

As described in Section 2.1.1, Access Vectors are the rules that determining a domain's access rights to an object. An Access Vector rule contains the subject, object, class, and the permissions granted to the

subject[9]. The policy rule has the format of: `<av_action> <domain> <type>:<classes> {<permissions>}` as explained below:

- `av_action` defines permitted actions including `allow`, `auditallow`, `dontaudit` and `neverallow`.
- `Domain` is a label for the subject (e.g. process) or set of processes.
- `Type` is a label for the object (e.g. file, socket) or set of objects.
- `Class` is the kind of object (e.g. file, socket) being accessed.
- `Permission` is the operation (e.g. read, write) being performed.

The `*.te` (Type Enforcement) policy files under the `external/sepolicy/` directory of Android Open Source Project contain all the required `allow`, `type_transition` and other rules for each domain. These `.te` files also determine access to objects via calling macros. Macros are common grouping of classes, permissions, and rules to simplify the writing of rules. All policy files are built into a non-human readable kernel policy matrix file named `sepolicy` and installed by default in the root directory.

These configuration files in above table are also installed as parts of the SEAndroid policy files. These policy files are compiled as part of the Android build and added into the ramdisk image so that they can be interpreted by `init` process at very early stage in boot. Once the partitions have been mounted, the kernel policy as well as other policy configuration files such as `file_contexts` and `property_contexts` will be reloaded by setting a trigger of `selinux.reload_policy` property in the `init.rc` configuration.

Since this paper mainly focuses on the condition of Android malware in the SEAndroid environment, the MAC policy configuration file, `mac_permissions.xml`, is the primary concern that will be explained in Section 3. The file is used for the install-time check of application permissions against the MAC policy. It utilizes the value of signature and `seinfo` tags to assign policy stanzas for a given app or all apps from either platform or third-parties. Besides, denied Android permissions can be specified via a blacklist (deny-permission) while a whitelist is used for allow-permissions, but not both. As a result, an application cannot be installed if the permission is not allowed, or can't be run after updated policy.

Shown in the following example of `mac_permissions.xml`, apps with the platform certificate can have allow-all permissions. On the other side, third party apps fall into the default `seinfo` tag and cannot access several permissions such as location, camera, and calling home. However, appendix A tells a different story in the real world, that is, there is no any restriction on permissions for third party apps.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<policy>
<!--
  Sample signer stanza for install policy
  Rules:
  Sample stanzas are given below based on the AOSP developer keys.
-->
<!-- Platform dev key with AOSP -->
<signer signature="...b357" >
  <allow-all />
  <seinfo value="platform" />
</signer>
<!-- shared dev key in AOSP -->
<signer signature="...6f84" >
```

```

<allow-permission name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
<allow-permission name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />
<allow-permission name="android.permission.ACCESS_NETWORK_STATE" />
<allow-permission name="android.permission.ALLOW_ANY_CODEC_FOR_PLAYBACK" />
<allow-permission name="android.permission.BIND_APPWIDGET" />
<allow-permission name="android.permission.BIND_WALLPAPER" />
<allow-permission name="android.permission.CALL_PHONE" />
....
<seinfo value="shared" />
</signer>
<!-- All other keys -->
<default>
  <seinfo value="default" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.AUTHENTICATE_ACCOUNTS" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.CALL_PHONE" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.CAMERA" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.READ_LOGS" />
  <deny-permission name="android.permission.WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE" />
</default>
</policy>

```

The information of *seinfo* tag will be used in the *seapp_contexts* configuration file shown as follows. Applications signed by the platform signatures run in the processes with the domain named “*platform_app*”, and the type of its data file is “*app_data_file*”. On the other hand, the “*untrusted_app*” domain is the default assignment in *seapp_contexts* for all non-system apps as well as to any system apps that are not signed by the platform key.

```

# Input selectors:
#   isSystemServer (boolean)
#   user (string)
#   seinfo (string)
#   name (string)
#   path (string)
#   sebool (string)
#...
isSystemServer=true domain=system_server
user=system domain=system_app type=system_app_data_file
user=bluetooth domain=bluetooth type=bluetooth_data_file
user=nfc domain=nfc type=nfc_data_file
user=radio domain=radio type=radio_data_file
user=shared_relo domain=shared_relo
user=shell domain=shell type=shell_data_file
user=isolated domain=isolated_app
user=_app seinfo=platform domain=platform_app type=app_data_file
user=_app domain=untrusted_app type=app_data_file

```

The type enforcement policy rules of *untrusted_app* can be found in *untrusted_app.te*. From there, we find that any untrusted application never allows sending/receiving uevent and netlink messages, reading information in debugfs, registering services, or accessing Android properties. In general, these rules attempt to isolate untrusted apps from kernel and address the privilege escalation from an unprivileged app via exploit.

2.1.3 User Space

In SEAndroid userspace, two aspects, the SELinux API library and app security labeling, will be explained, since security contexts for processes and app data directories may affect behaviors of Android malware.

A minimal port of the SELinux API library named *libselinux* is created for Android. *libselinux* positions itself in the middle of the kernel and userspace. The library hides the low level functionalities of the kernel while providing interfaces and functions for apps to get and set process and file security contexts, and to obtain security policy decisions.

The *zygote* process, typically via the request of the *ActivityManagerService* (AMS), initiates the startup of all Android apps. Each process is assigned the DAC credentials (UID, GID and supplementary GIDs) when it is forked from *zygote*. In addition to DAC, the security context is required for app processes in SEAndroid. The *seinfo* argument described in Section 2.1.2 is used to generate security context via the AMS for the particular app being started.

Furthermore, each app data directory needs to be set the corresponding security label when created. The Android *installd* daemon is responsible of the creation of the app data directories. The *installd* receives the *seinfo* value from the *PackageManagerService* then labels the security contexts for data directories based on the configuration file *seapp_contexts*.

2.2 Containerization

Containerization, also known as secure container, offers the ability to set up a separate and encrypted zone on a device. Within the secure protected zone, enterprise applications are able to run isolated from personal applications. Moreover, it protects sensitive resources including business email, documents, contacts, calendars and intranet browsing alongside personal data. Furthermore, containerization allows a company to deploy itself over hundreds of devices without headache of app wrapping and data pushing.

However, containerization has some limitations. First of all, it cannot protect everything [10]: it only works on a handful of apps and data identified by the container vendor but not others. Secondly, containerization may cause compatibility problems and break other functionalities; it may prevent other processes accessing the device's contact list and message conversations. Thirdly, the potential vulnerabilities and exploits of Android or other personal apps may subvert the system of containerization. An attacker can embed malicious code into alternative keyboard apps, turning these apps into actual keylogging spyware [12].

2.3 Impacts of SEAndroid and Containerization on OEMs and security vendors

Starting from the Android 5.0 release, Android has shifted from partial enforcement to full enforcement and made several significant improvements listed as follows. It means OEMs and security vendors have to better understand and scale their implementations and apps on SEAndroid to provide compatible devices and comprehensive security respectively [4].

- Everything is in full enforcement since the 5.0 release.
- More than 60 domains including crucial domains (*installd*, *netd*, *vold*, and *zygote*) are enforced.
- Only *init* process is able to run in the *init* domain.
- Any generic denial prevents any special domain from starting.

On the other side, several enterprise mobile management and security providers have implemented containerization since the container approach can offer strong values in securing enterprise data. In the next five years, 65 percent of enterprises will adopt a mobile device management (MDM) system with containerization functionality embedded [11]. However, companies must be aware that container solutions cannot offer absolute security and infection is inevitable.

3. The survival of existing Android malware based on above enforcements

This section analyses a set of Android malware discovered by SophosLabs in the last twelve months. We divide these malware into different classifications including SMS sender, Trojan backdoor, Spyware, FakeApp, Ransomware, and potentially unwanted app (PUA). It provides a general description of their functionalities and corresponding permissions. Subsequently, the analysis and tests of these families are performed on the basis of SEAndroid and containerization.

3.1 Classifications of Android Malware

During the last 12 months, SophosLabs has recorded near 1.5 million unique malware. Figure 1 shows the classifications of these malware. Premium SMS Sender is the largest malware family and owns 55.6% in total number of malware. Backdoor Trojan holds the second position and occupies near 21%. The third largest classification is Spyware. The rest of the malware families such as Rootkit, Banker Trojan, and Ransomware only hold 7.5%.

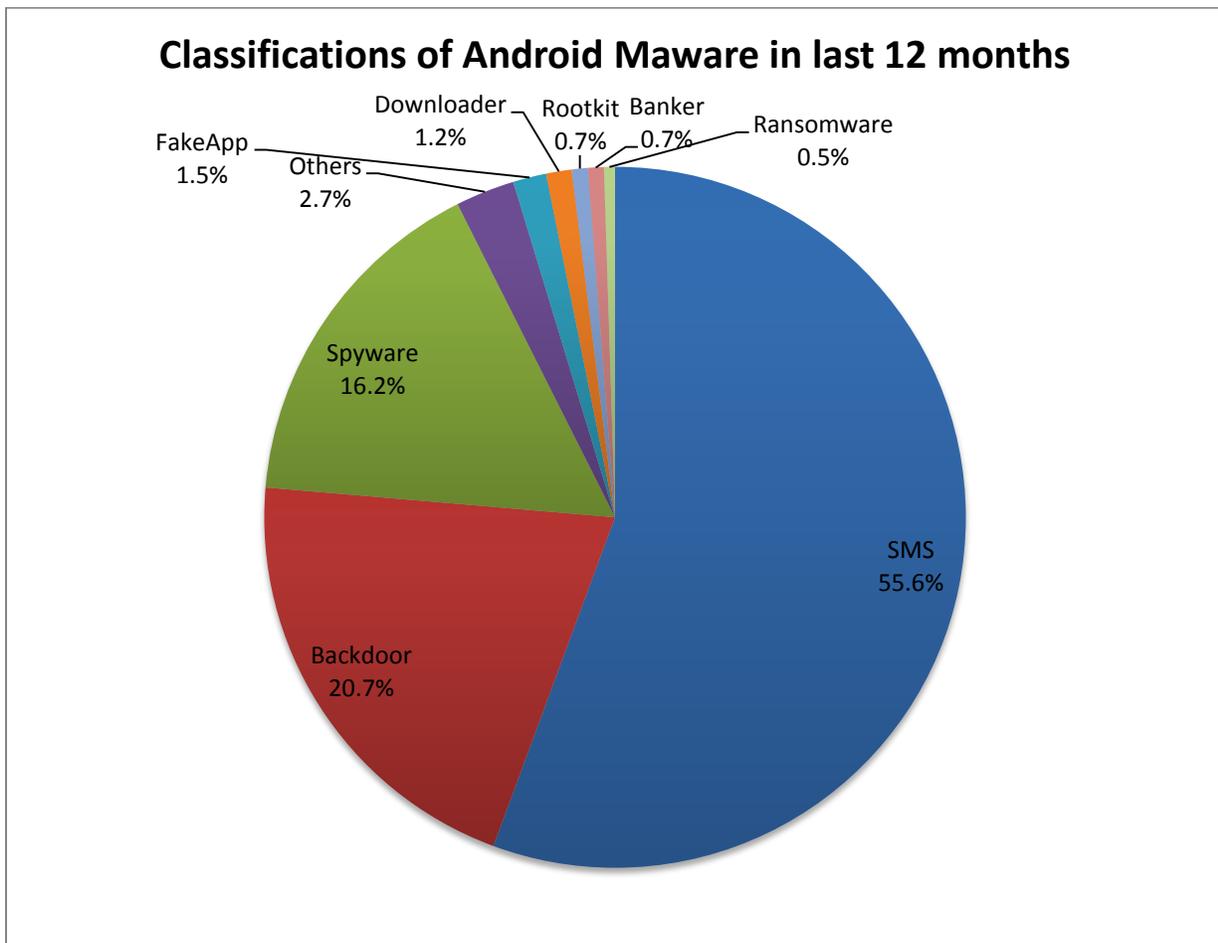


Figure 2. Android Malware Classification from 2014-May to 2015-April

3.2 Premium SMS Sender

Over the last couple of years, the premium SMS Sender Trojans have become the largest threat plaguing Android because this is the easiest way for cybercriminals to make easy money fast. SMS Trojans usually take advantage of social engineering techniques and masquerade as popular apps, games, pornographic attraction and more.

Cybercriminals can register short codes via premium SMS providers, and deploy into their malicious apps. These apps in Android are required only one necessary permission, which is "android.permission.SEND_SMS"; then use *sendTextMessage* () method to silently send SMS at the premium SMS short code from above. And, we demonstrate that this is still an achievable way under the enforcement of SEAndroid and containerization.

3.3 Backdoor

Android Backdoors refer to advanced mobile Trojans and usually have capability of performing multiple tasks as follows:

- Set up or distribute via mobile Botnet
- Send or intercept SMS messages
- Download, install, or activate any Android app without user knowledge
- Make arbitrary phone call
- Clear user data, uninstall existing applications, or disable system applications
- Upload sensitive information including device id, locations, application usage, call log and SMS history to remote websites
- Execute command & control services

Android Backdoors are one of the most complicated malware families. And malware writers use a variety of methods and techniques into their malicious apps. Therefore, it is hard to measure the effectiveness of SEAndroid and containerization in addressing the threat of Android backdoors. If SEAndroid enabled, normal backdoor Trojan will have trouble carrying out functionalities such as installing itself into system directory, disabling system apps, or gaining access to apps' data. But, it is still able to steal and upload sensitive info, download and ask to install applications, and set up mobile botnets when setting proper Android permissions.

However, sophisticated backdoors like CoolReaper [13] are hidden in ROM images by either legitimate OEMs or third party distributors. As a result, such kind of backdoors have the *superuser* privilege and can accomplish any tasks without worry of SEAndroid and containerization because the security setting can be easily customized or disabled by the OEMs or distributors.

3.4 Spyware & Banker Trojan

Android Spyware and Banker Trojan have key functionalities in common, which aim to gather sensitive information about a person, organization, or device and send such information to another entity without user content [14]. In Android, the information contains device id, apps info, call and SMS log, contacts, locations, and login and password details. The information could be sent out via Internet or SMS messages. Moreover, Banker Trojan is able to scan for legitimate banking apps, replace them with bogus apps, and attempt to disable any mobile security software.

In SEAndroid, most functionalities of Spyware and Banker Trojan can be achieved via declaring suitable permissions such as "android.permission.READ_SMS", "android.permission.RECEIVE_SMS", "android.permission.READ_PHONE_STATE", and "android.permission.READ_CONTACTS". Additionally, malware writers can steal bank login information via launching a pop-up activity like a phishing website. However, with SEAndroid enabled, this kind of malware is not able to delete legitimate bank apps and disable security software silently. Also, containerization is able to prevent the leakage of enterprise data even the access to SMS or contact information since enterprise data is locked inside the container and only authorized apps can access.

3.5 FakeApp and Ransomware

FakeApps, especially FakeAV, report fake alerts to scare victims to pay money for simulated removal of malware. The payment can be made via online credit card or Premium SMS. The writers of FakeApps may perform additional tasks of downloading and installing malware, and stealing sensitive information. Some FakeApps and Android Ransomware take a further step to lock up your devices with a pop-up that freezes out all other apps. Moreover, Crypto Ransomware such as SimpleLocker has the ability to encrypt documents, pictures, audios, and videos.

In general, both FakeApps and Ransomware can survive in the SEAndroid and containerization enforcement and cause damage to personal information. However, FakeApps and Ransomware are not able to access or steal sensitive information in enterprise security containers. Nevertheless, the malicious behavior of lock-out and encryption will seriously decrease the usability of your devices. And these malware can only be removed by either rebooting into safe mode or performing a factory reset.

3.6 Rootkit and Bootkit

In summary, SEAndroid is designed to minimize risks from exploits and vulnerabilities for Android. It can effectively block existing exploits and vulnerabilities during their execution [5]. In fact, it is difficult for SEAndroid to prevent the operating system from being compromised. The Samsung Galaxy S4 built upon SEAndroid has been rooted just a few months after released [15]. Also, the latest Samsung Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge have been rooted by PingPong exploit [16] less than 30 days after their first released. The S6 and S6 Edge are running on Samsung Knox extending SEAndroid.

In the real world, the number of rooted devices is far greater than the expectation. A study [17] from Chinese Internet portal Tencent shows that 27.44% mobile users actually rooted their devices in order to remove build-in apps or customized the devices. Considering that China now has 386 million active Android users [18], the count of rooted devices is huge. As users usually download rootkit from third party stores or buy rooted devices from grey markets, it comes as no surprise that malicious rootkit being so popular, and bootkit malware like Oldboot can infect hundred thousand devices [19].

4. The Evolution of Android Malware and Vulnerabilities in the Near Future

SEAndroid introduces security enhancements with SELinux based mandatory access control (MAC) to provide centralized policy management for every device. On the other side, Containerization creates a separate encrypted zone on a device for enterprise resources and supplies another layer for secure access to these resources in the container. The goal of both enhancements is to limit or block the damage or information leakage caused by malware [20, 21].

In fact, none of the security enhancements addresses one of the core issues related with Android permission model. Permissions are the key to control if an Android app can access sensitive information. However, it is hard to distinguish malicious apps from clean apps only with requested permission information. Appendix C shows the permission information from 8,000 popular clean apps, majority of them contain the dangerous permissions that also widely used in Android malware. So far, both SEAndroid and Containerization could not tackle the critical problems as a significant malware increase has been recorded by SophosLabs.

As a result, Google I/O 2015 introduces a new app permissions model that allows user to pick and choose what permissions an app can access at runtime [22]. The proposal tries to address leftover security issues from SEAndroid and containerization. That would be better move, but most users have little knowledge of the scope and implications of permissions and may not make correct security decisions. So it will rely heavily on OEMs and security service providers to continue their effort delivering better solutions.

In summary, the uprising trends will keep dominating Android malware attacks in 2015. Also, Android malware has been getting smarter and aiming to generate more profit. Since SMS mobile payments are still a popular and common method in some regions [23], the incentive of Premium SMS sender for mobile malware developers is simple and clear. Moreover, where Windows has gone, Android has followed: the Android Ransomware – Koler and SimplerLocker – borrow the method of operation from similar one on Windows. Last but not least, rootkit and bootkit will emerge time and time again because of the open nature of Android and habit of rooting devices.

5. Conclusion

The paper explains the need of SEAndroid enhancement due to the inherent weaknesses associated with its DAC security model. It also describes the management control of containerization for content and apps. Additionally we show their impact on OEMs and security vendors. However, both of them have failed to meet their objectives against the damage or information leakage caused by Android malware. The failures have been demonstrated through the significant increase and case studies of Android malware. Furthermore, we expect the continuing increase of smarter Android malware in the future, which effectively takes advantage of social engineering and bypasses these security enhancements.

References

- [1] Android (operating system). http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android_%28operating_system%29
- [2] Android and Security. <http://viewpoint.sasken.com/?p=422>
- [3] Daniel J. Thompson, Xiaofang Wang, Xiaoyong Zhou. A Study of the Consistency of Android Permissions and Linux DAC. Indiana University School of Informatics
- [4] Security-Enhanced Linux in Android. <http://source.android.com/devices/tech/security/selinux/>
- [5] Stephen Smalley and Robert Craig. Security Enhanced (SE) Android: Bringing Flexible MAC to Android. Trusted Systems Research National Security Agency
https://www.internetsociety.org/sites/default/files/02_4.pdf
- [6] Security Enhancements (SE) for Android™. <http://seandroid.bitbucket.org/index.html>
- [7] SEforAndroid. <http://morris--notes.blogspot.com.au/2013/05/seforandroid.html>
- [8] SELinux Concepts. <http://www.informit.com/articles/article.aspx?p=606586>
- [9] SELinux concepts from Google.
<https://source.android.com/devices/tech/security/selinux/concepts.html>
- [10] Pros and cons of using secure containers for mobile device security.
<http://searchconsumerization.techtarget.com/feature/Pros-and-cons-of-using-secure-containers-for-mobile-device-security>
- [11] Mobile enterprise management tools are targeted by spyphones, researchers warn.
http://www.cio.com.au/article/456368/mobile_enterprise_management_tools_targeted_by_spyphones_researchers_warn/
- [12] How Mobile Malware Bypasses Secure Container Solutions. <https://www.lacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/BypassingTheContainer-180613.pdf>
- [13] CoolReaper Revealed: A Backdoor in Coolpad Android Devices.
<http://researchcenter.paloaltonetworks.com/2014/12/coolreaper-revealed-backdoor-coolpad-android-devices/>
- [14] Spyware. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spyware>
- [15] Mobile Security Myth 2: Deploying Containers Will Lock Down Corporate Data.
<https://bluebox.com/business/mobile-security-myth-2-deploying-containers-will-lock-down-corporate-data/>
- [16] PingPongRoot ***S6 & S6 Edge Root Tool***. <http://forum.xda-developers.com/galaxy-s6/general/root-pingpongroot-s6-root-tool-t3103016>

[17] Over 27.44% Users Root Their Phone(s) In Order To Remove Built-In Apps, Are You One Of Them?. <http://www.androidheadlines.com/2014/11/50-users-root-phones-order-remove-built-apps-one.html>

[18] China now has 386 million active Android users. <https://www.techinasia.com/china-386-million-active-android-users-q2-2014/>

[19] Most Sophisticated Android Bootkit Malware ever Detected; Infected Millions of Devices. <http://thehackernews.com/2014/04/most-sophisticated-android-bootkit.html>

[20] SELinux for Android and Samsung KNOX. <http://www.all-things-android.com/content/selinux-android-and-samsung-knox>

[21] Google Slashes Android Malware in Half. <http://blogs.csc.com/2015/04/06/google-slashes-android-malware-in-half/>

[22] Google Locks Down Excessive Android App Permissions. <https://threatpost.com/google-locks-down-excessive-android-app-permissions/113051>

[23] Report: Huge spike in mobile malware targets Android, especially mobile payments. <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2691668/report-huge-spike-in-mobile-malware-targets-android-especially-mobile-payments.html>

Appendices

A. Sample `mac_permissions.xml` from a Nexus 5 running on Android 5.1.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>
<!-- AUTOGENERATED FILE DO NOT MODIFY -->
<policy>
  <signer signature="...e26a">
    <seinfo value="platform"/>
  </signer>
  <default>
    <seinfo value="default"/>
  </default>
</policy>
```

B. Sample `untrusted_app.te` policy

```
### Untrusted apps
###
### untrusted_app includes all the appdomain rules, plus the
### additional following rules:
###

type untrusted_app, domain;
app_domain(untrusted_app)
net_domain(untrusted_app)
bluetooth_domain(untrusted_app)

# Some apps ship with shared libraries and binaries that they write out
# to their sandbox directory and then execute.
allow untrusted_app app_data_file:file { rx_file_perms execmod };

allow untrusted_app tun_device:chr_file rw_file_perms;

# ASEC
allow untrusted_app asec_apk_file:file r_file_perms;
# Execute libs in asec containers.
allow untrusted_app asec_public_file:file { execute execmod };

# Allow the allocation and use of ptys
# Used by: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jackpal.androidterm
create_pty(untrusted_app)

# Used by Finsky / Android "Verify Apps" functionality when
# running "adb install foo.apk".
# TODO: Long term, we don't want apps probing into shell data files.
# Figure out a way to remove these rules.
allow untrusted_app shell_data_file:file r_file_perms;
allow untrusted_app shell_data_file:dir r_dir_perms;

# b/18504118: Allow reads from /data/anr/traces.txt
# TODO: We shouldn't be allowing all untrusted_apps to read
# this file. This is only needed for the GMS feedback agent.
# See also b/18340553. GMS runs as untrusted_app, and
# it's too late to change the domain it runs in.
# This line needs to be deleted.
allow untrusted_app anr_data_file:file r_file_perms;

#
```

```

# Rules migrated from old app domains coalesced into untrusted_app.
# This includes what used to be media_app, shared_app, and release_app.
#

# Access /dev/mtp_usb.
allow untrusted_app mtp_device:chr_file rw_file_perms;

# Access to /data/media.
allow untrusted_app media_rw_data_file:dir create_dir_perms;
allow untrusted_app media_rw_data_file:file create_file_perms;

# Write to /cache.
allow untrusted_app cache_file:dir create_dir_perms;
allow untrusted_app cache_file:file create_file_perms;

###
### neverallow rules
###

# Receive or send uevent messages.
neverallow untrusted_app domain:netlink_kobject_uevent_socket *;

# Receive or send generic netlink messages
neverallow untrusted_app domain:netlink_socket *;

# Too much leaky information in debugfs. It's a security
# best practice to ensure these files aren't readable.
neverallow untrusted_app debugfs:file read;

# Do not allow untrusted apps to register services.
# Only trusted components of Android should be registering
# services.
neverallow untrusted_app service_manager_type:service_manager add;

# Do not allow untrusted apps to connect to the property service
# or set properties. b/10243159
neverallow untrusted_app property_socket:sock_file write;
neverallow untrusted_app init:unix_stream_socket connectto;
neverallow untrusted_app property_type:property_service set;

# Allow verifier to access staged apks.
allow untrusted_app { apk_tmp_file apk_private_tmp_file }:dir r_dir_perms;
allow untrusted_app { apk_tmp_file apk_private_tmp_file }:file r_file_perms;

```

C. High Risk Permissions in Top 8000 Android Apps From Google Play

| Permission | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| INTERNET | 98.1% |
| WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE | 75.3% |
| READ_PHONE_STATE | 43.4% |
| ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION/ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION | 25.3% |
| READ_EXTERNAL_STORAGE | 16.3% |
| CAMERA | 13.8% |
| READ_CONTACTS | 12.6% |

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| SYSTEM_ALERT_WINDOW | 8.8% |
| CALL_PHONE | 6.9% |
| RECEIVE_SMS | 5.0% |
| SEND_SMS | 4.7% |
| READ_SMS | 3.8% |
| READ_CALENDAR | 3.1% |
| MOUNT_UNMOUNT_FILESYSTEMS | 2.6% |
| READ_CALL_LOG | 1.9% |
| PROCESS_OUTGOING_CALLS | 1.9% |