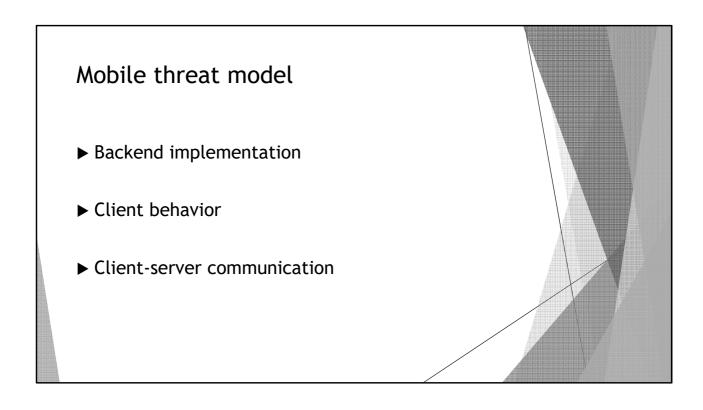
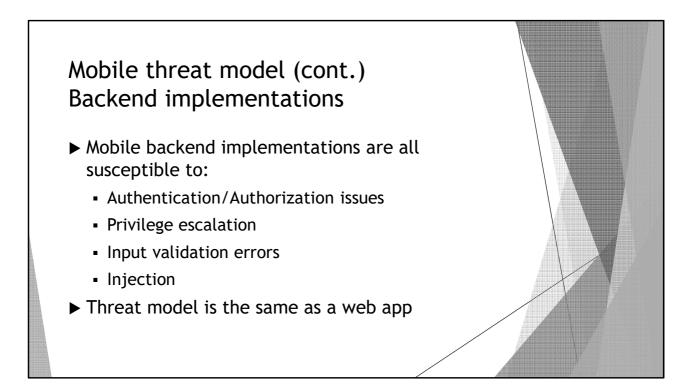




Background

- Mobile application penetration testing is an up and coming security testing need that has recently obtained more attention with the introduction of the Android, iPhone and other mobile platforms.
- With the growing consumer demand for smartphone applications, including banking and trading, people and companies are rushing to develop a new applications or porting old applications to work with the smartphones.
- ► These applications often deal with personally identifiable information (PII), credit card and other sensitive data.





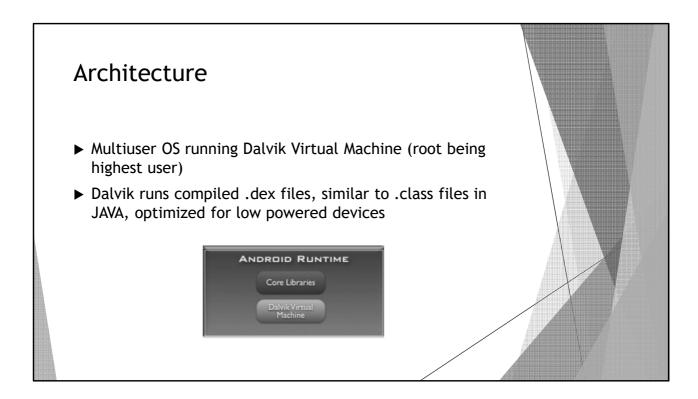
Mobile threat model (cont.) Client behaviors:

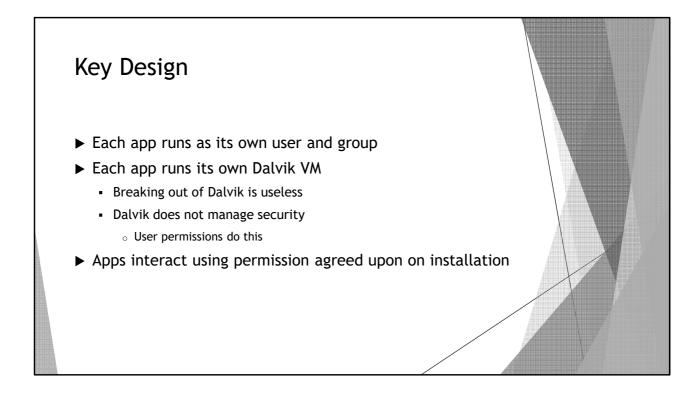
- ► Insecure data storage
- Poor cryptography
- ▶ Old Android versions or applications
- ► Memory leakage
- ► Input validation
 - Eg. Skype XSS bug
- ► Threat includes lost/stolen phone and mobile malware

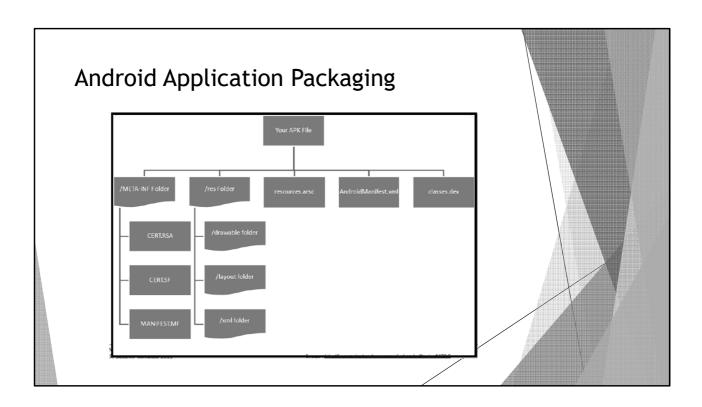
Mobile threat model (cont.) Client-server communication

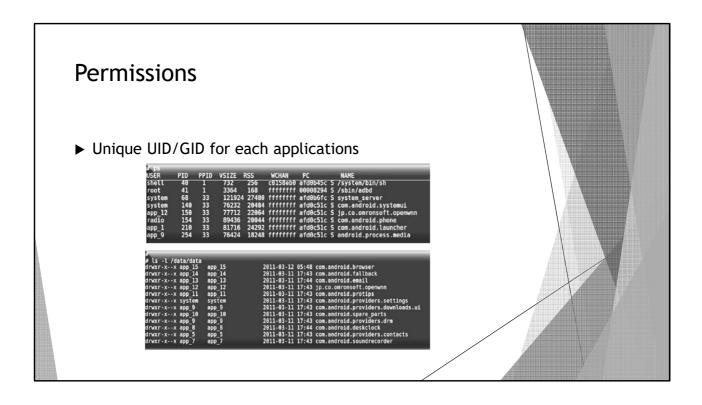
- ► Insecure communication
 - Not using SSL/TLS
- ► Leaking sensitive data
 - GPS, identifying phone information, etc...
- ► Threat includes Man-in-the-Middle attacks
 - Malicious wifi hotspots
 - Malicious GSM base station

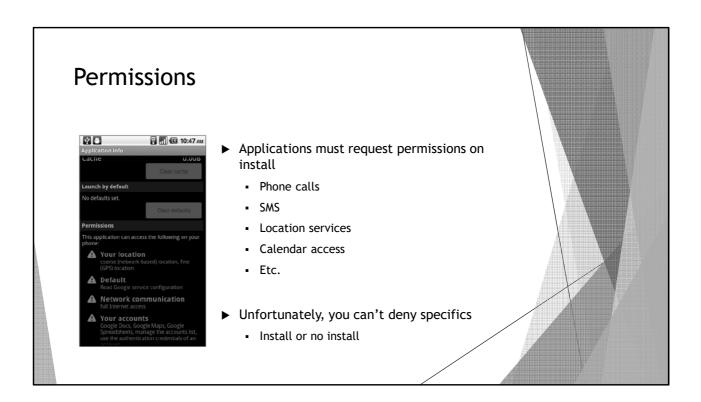


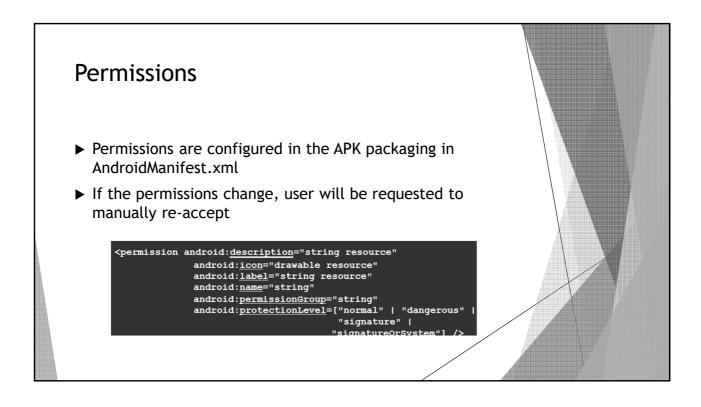


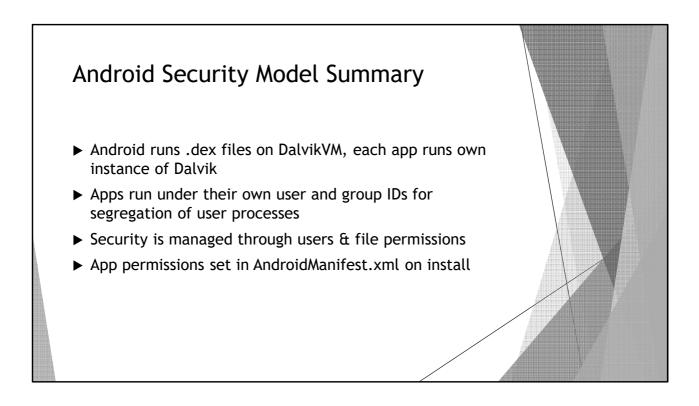




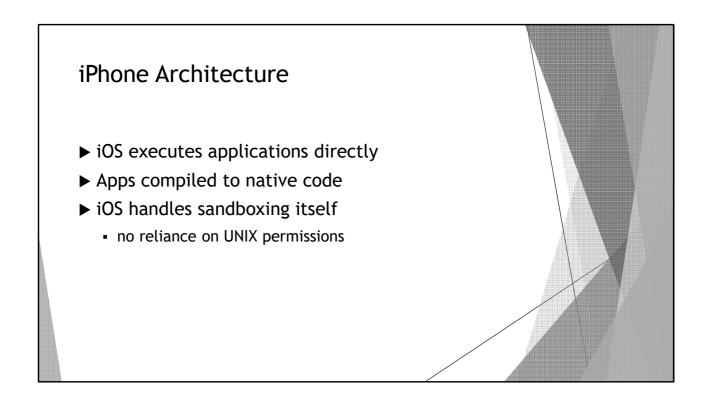


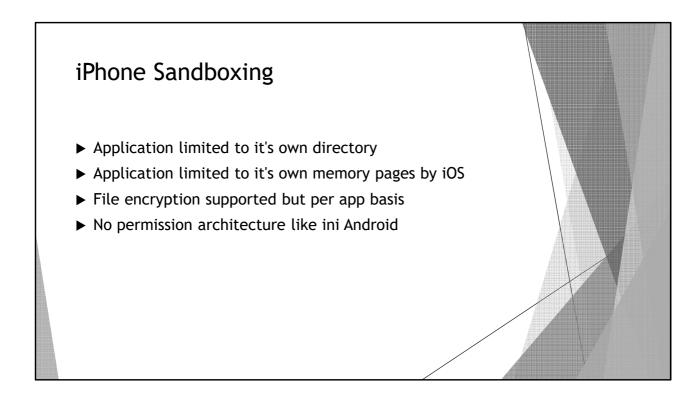








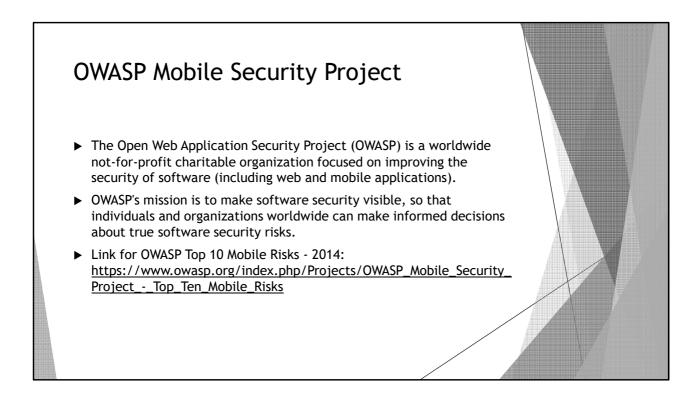


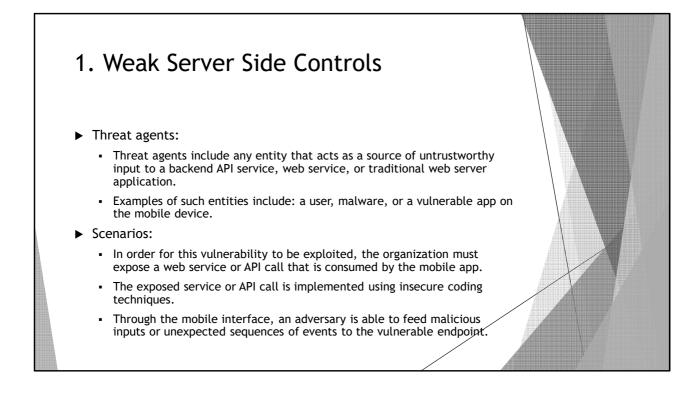


Application Distribution

- Android
 - ► Installs from APK files or Market
 - Market is vetted less strictly than Apple
 - ► Sandboxing of apps managed by file permissions and UID/GID
 - ▶ Permissions between apps managed by Manifest file on install
 - ▶ Each app spawns its own Dalvik VM
- ▶ iPhone
 - ► App Store vetted by Apple
 - Apps compiled to native code
 - Sandboxing managed by OS (not by permission)

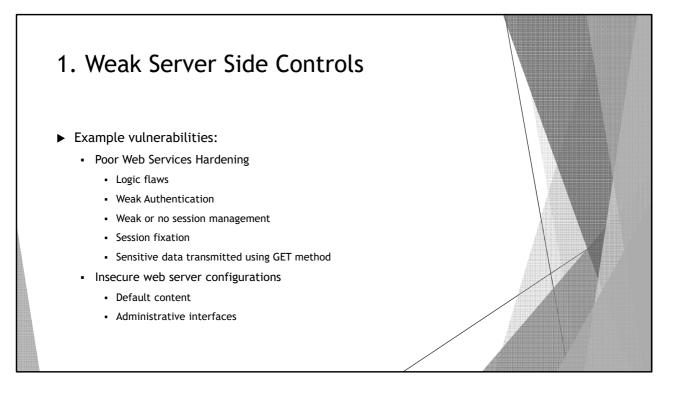


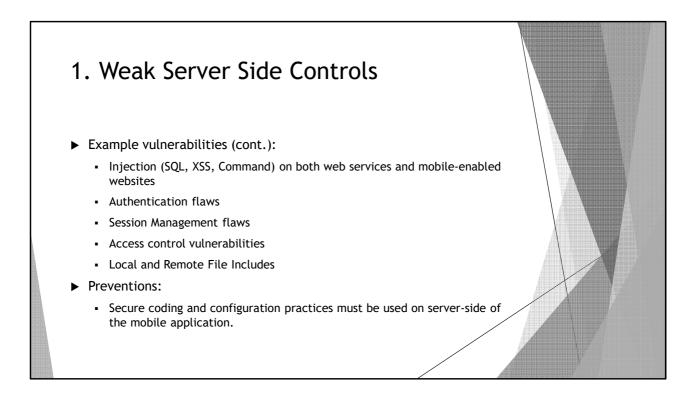


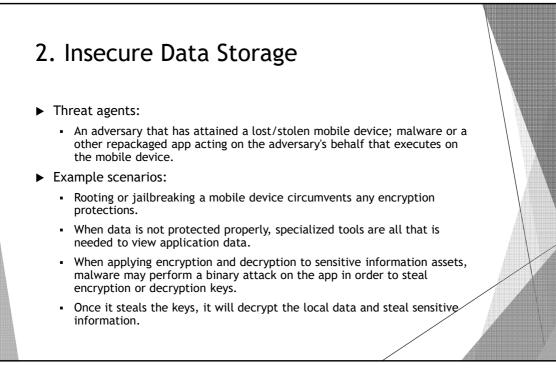


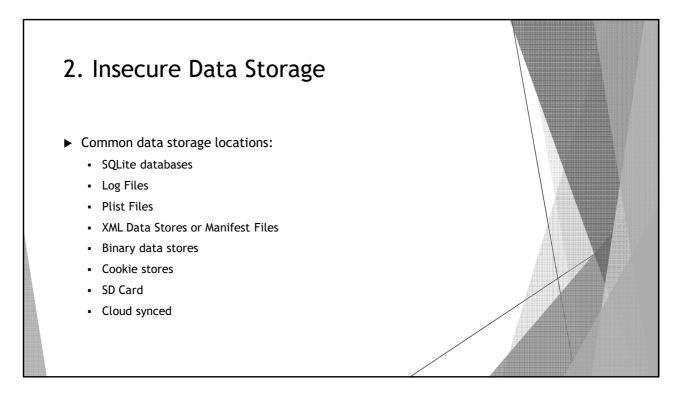
1. Weak Server Side Controls

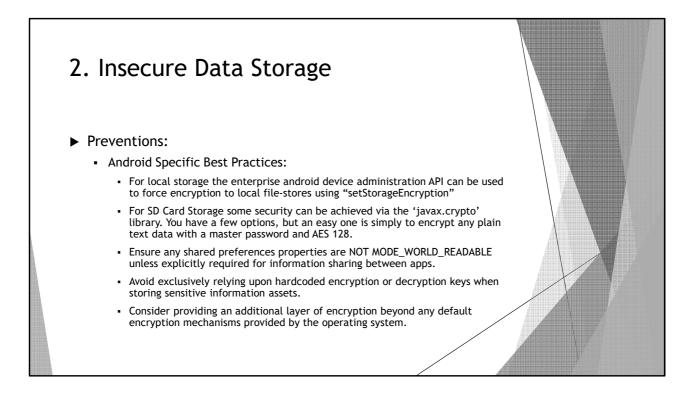
- ► Common cause factors:
 - Rush to market;
 - Lack of security knowledge because of the new-ness of the languages;
 - Easy access to frameworks that don't prioritize security;
 - Higher than average outsourced development;
 - Lower security budgets for mobile applications;
 - Assumption that the mobile OS takes full responsibility for security; and
 - Weakness due to cross-platform development and compilation.

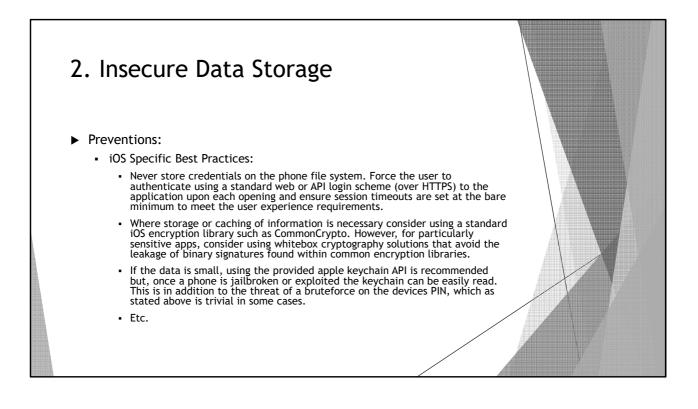












▶ Threat agents:

- When designing a mobile application, data is commonly exchanged in a client-server fashion.
- When the solution transmits its data, it must traverse the mobile device's carrier network and the internet.
- Threat agents might exploit vulnerabilities to intercept sensitive data while it's traveling across the wire.
- The following threat agents exist:
 - An adversary that shares your local network (compromised or monitored Wi-Fi);
 - Carrier or network devices (routers, cell towers, proxy's, etc); or
 - Malware on your mobile device.

- ► Common scenarios:
 - Mobile applications frequently do not protect network traffic.
 - They may use SSL/TLS during authentication but not elsewhere.
 - This inconsistency leads to the risk of exposing data and session IDs to interception.
 - Observe the phone's network traffic.
 - Inspecting the design of the application and the applications configuration, the use of transport security does not mean the app has implemented it correctly.

► Preventions:

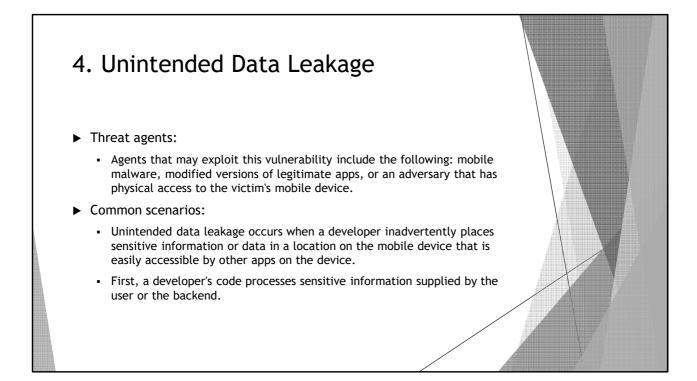
- Assume that the network layer is not secure and is susceptible to eavesdropping.
- Apply SSL/TLS to transport channels that the mobile app will use to transmit sensitive information, session tokens, or other sensitive data to a backend API or web service.
- Account for outside entities like third-party analytics companies, social networks, etc. by using their SSL versions when an application runs a routine via the browser/webkit. Avoid mixed SSL sessions as they may expose the user's session ID.
- Use strong, industry standard cipher suites with appropriate key lengths.

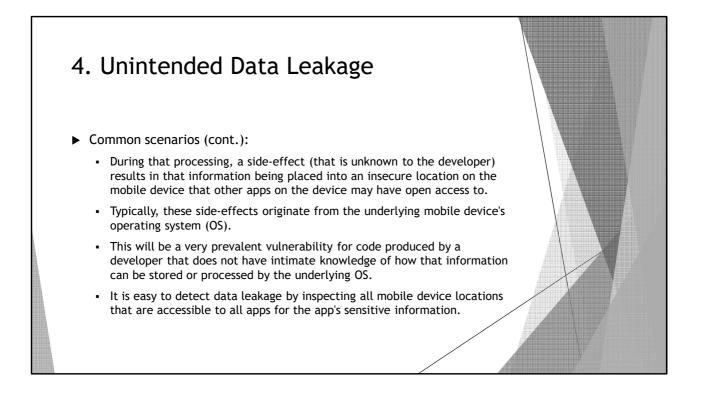
- ▶ Preventions (cont.):
 - Use certificates signed by a trusted CA provider.
 - Never allow self-signed certificates, and consider certificate pinning for security conscious applications.
 - Always require SSL chain verification.
 - Only establish a secure connection after verifying the identity of the endpoint server using trusted certificates in the key chain.
 - Alert users through the UI if the mobile app detects an invalid certificate.
 - Do not send sensitive data over alternate channels (e.g, SMS, MMS, or notifications).

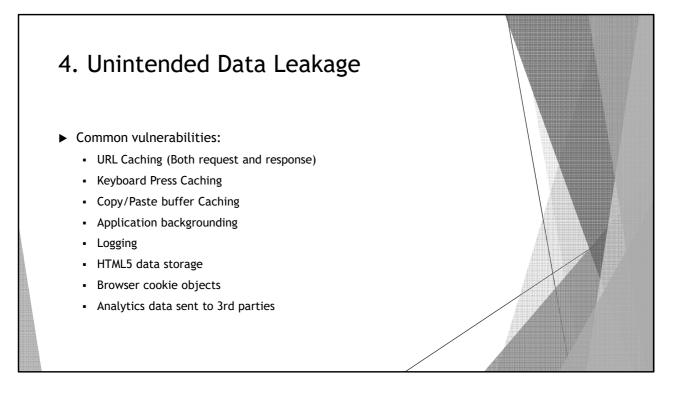
- ▶ Preventions (cont.):
 - If possible, apply a separate layer of encryption to any sensitive data before it is given to the SSL channel.
 - In the event that future vulnerabilities are discovered in the SSL implementation, the encrypted data will provide a secondary defense against confidentiality violation.

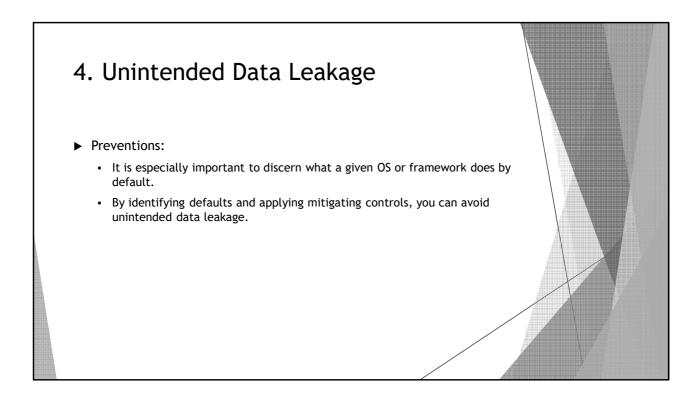
- ► Common vulnerabilities:
 - Lack of Certificate Inspection
 - The mobile app and an endpoint successfully connect and perform a SSL/TLS handshake to establish a secure channel. However, the mobile app fails to inspect the certificate offered by the server and the mobile app unconditionally accepts any certificate offered to it by the server. This destroys any mutual authentication capability between the mobile app and the endpoint. The mobile app is susceptible to man-in-the-middle attacks through a SSL proxy
 - Weak Handshake Negotiation
 - The mobile app and an endpoint successfully connect and negotiate a cipher suite as part of the connection handshake. The client successfully negotiates with the server to use a weak cipher suite that results in weak encryption that can be easily decrypted by the adversary. This jeopardizes the confidentiality of the channel between the mobile app and the endpoint;

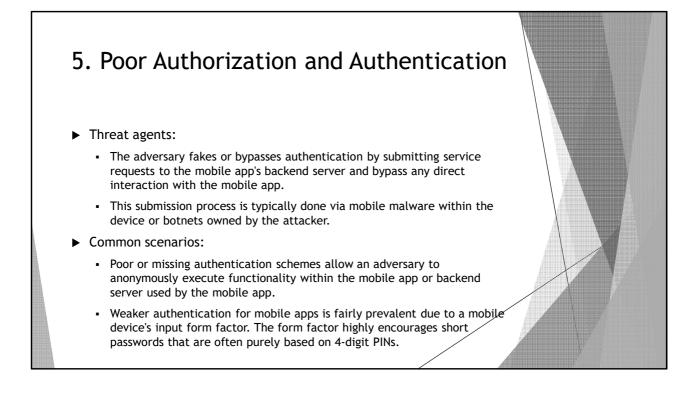
- ► Common vulnerabilities (cont.):
 - Privacy Information Leakage
 - The mobile app transmits personally identifiable information to an endpoint via non-secure channels instead of over SSL. This jeopardizes the confidentiality of any privacy-related data between the mobile app and the endpoint.

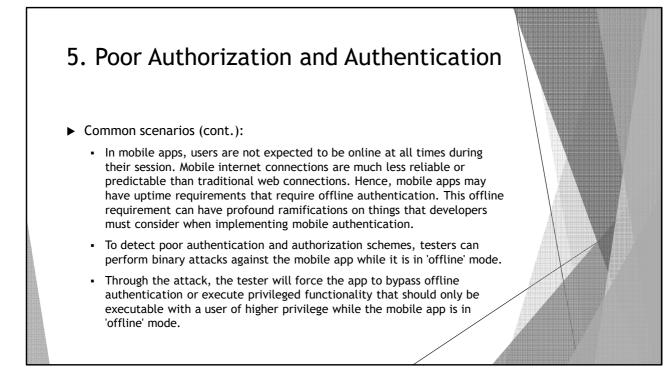


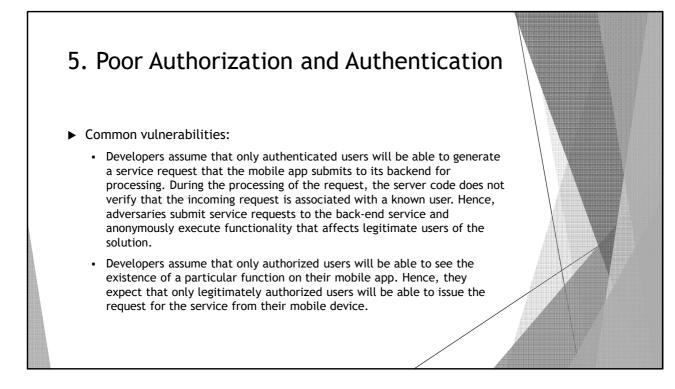


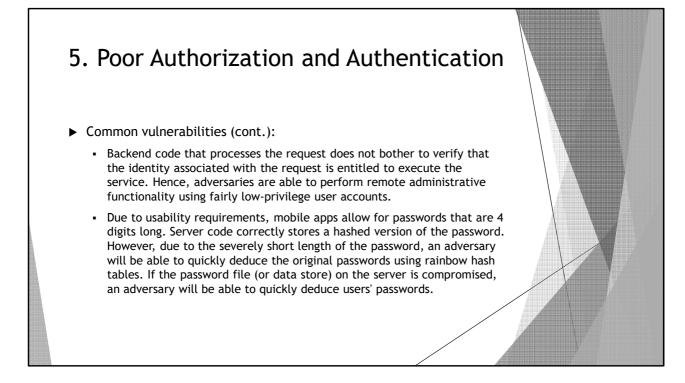


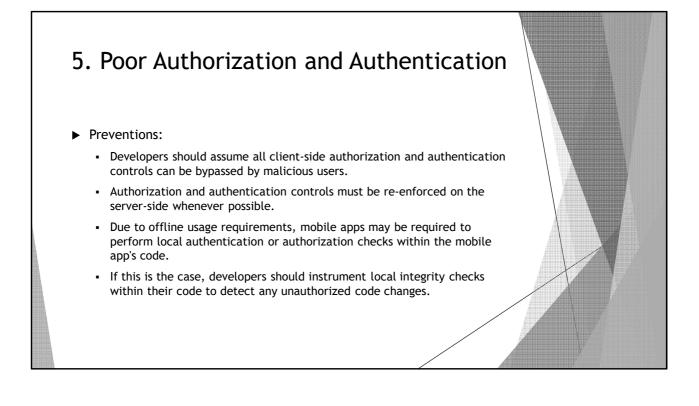


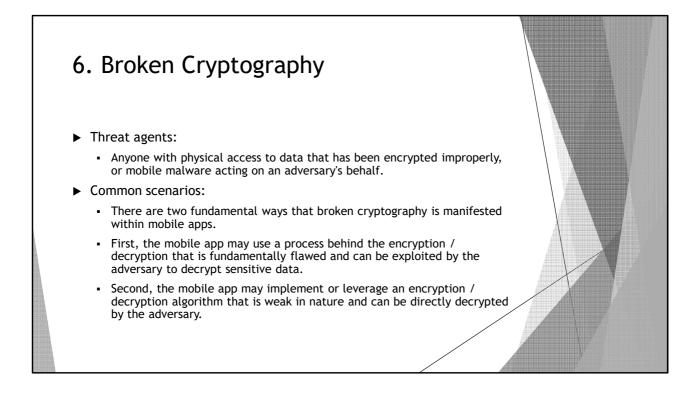


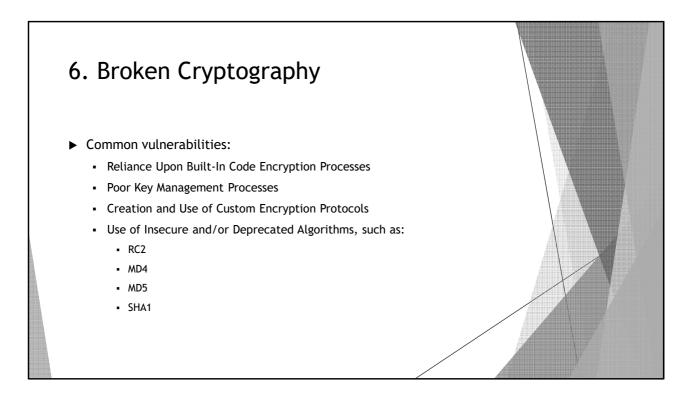


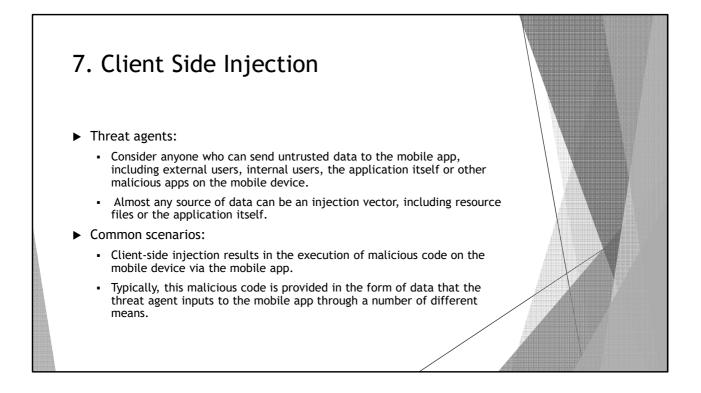


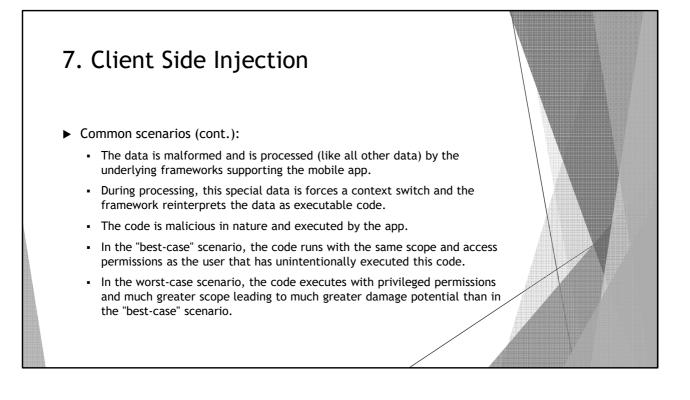


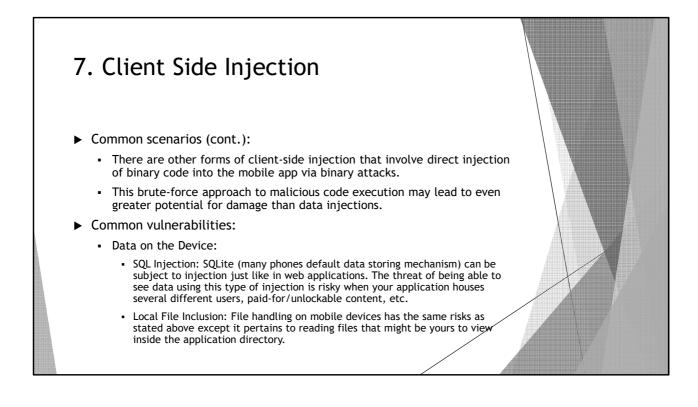


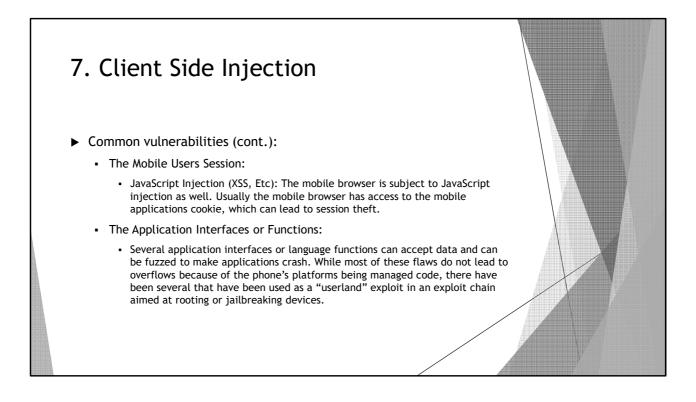


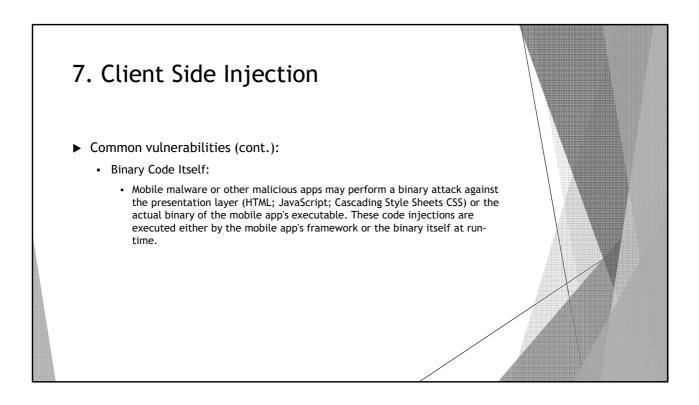


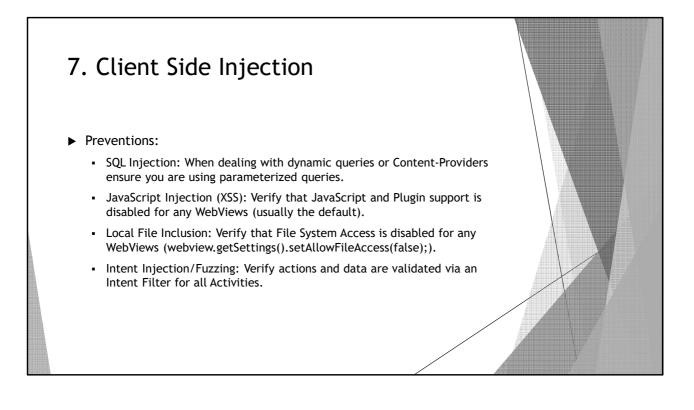












8. Security Decisions Via Untrusted Inputs

- ► Threats agents:
 - Threat Agents include entities that can pass untrusted inputs to the sensitive method calls.
 - An attacker with access to app can intercept intermediate calls and manipulate results via parameter tampering.
- ► Common scenarios:
 - Developers generally use hidden fields and values or any hidden functionality to distinguish higher level users from lower level users.
 - An attacker can intercept the calls (IPC or web service calls) and temper with such sensitive parameters.

8. Security Decisions Via Untrusted Inputs

- ► Common scenarios (cont.):
 - Weak implementation of such functionalities leads to improper behavior of an app and even granting higher level permissions to an attacker.
 - This can easily be exploited through hooking functionality.
- Preventions:
 - If there is a business requirement for IPC communication, the mobile application should restrict access to a white-list of trusted applications
 - Sensitive actions which are triggered through IPC entry points should require user interaction before performing the action
 - All input received from IPC entry points must undergo stringent input validation in order to prevent input driven attacks
 - Do not pass any sensitive information through IPC mechanisms, as it may be susceptible to being read by third party applications under certain scenarios

