Mobile Security Application Challenges

SANS AppSec 2011
03/08/11
Don Williams
Application Security Team
"What are the top mobile security challenges?"
Mobile Challenges

- Increased Risk
  - Due to the very nature of mobile apps and the fact code and data is stored on the device, code and data can be extracted, decompiled/disassembled, and investigated/attacked.
  - More and more corporate and personal data/media is stored on smartphones and SD cards all of which may be targeted.
  - Smartphone's are easy to lose or misplace.
    - "Apple employee misplaces prototype of Apple’s recent iPhone upgrade found in a California bar"
  - Select mobile applications have been compromised.
    - Recent examples: Gawker, Trapster,
Complexity

- Applications are platform specific (i.e. Android, RIM, iOS) each with differing security models and API’s.
- Unlike traditional web apps, mobile apps increase the scope of security testing/risks where an app is multiplied by the number of platforms it runs on.
- Testing (QA/Security) of mobile applications is significantly different by platform, and predominately manual.
Mobile Challenges

- **Malware**
  - Mobile malware is on the rise (zombies, smishing Trojans (baited apps), infectious links, etc)

- **Talent Acquisition**
  - Difficult to find seasoned talent

- **Tools/Training Limited**
  - Limited training offerings with focus on mobile security.
Questions and Discussion

Thank You

don.williams@verizonwireless.com

Remember tinkerbell in 05?