



# Keep it Like a Secret: When Android Apps Contain Private Keys

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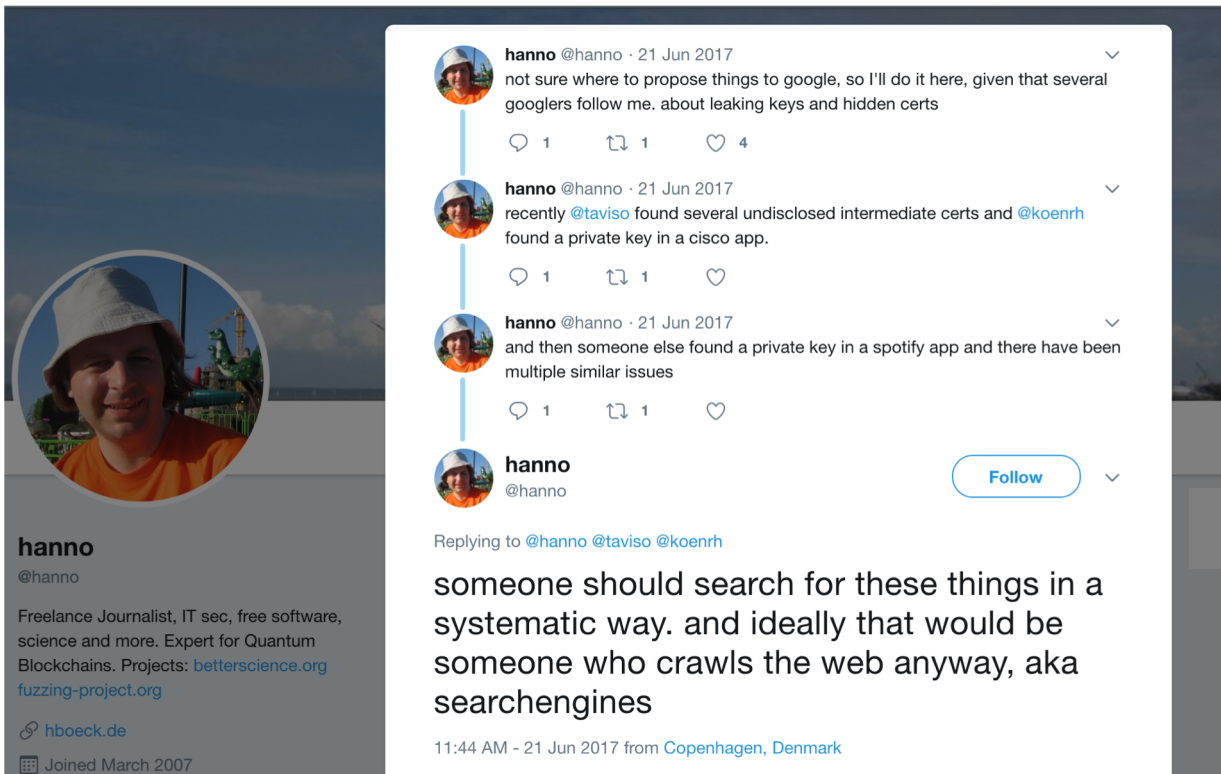
DM18-0416

Keep it Like a Secret: When Android Apps Contain Private Keys

# Background



# The Inspiration



**hanno**  
@hanno  
Freelance Journalist, IT sec, free software, science and more. Expert for Quantum Blockchains. Projects: [betterscience.org](http://betterscience.org) [fuzzing-project.org](http://fuzzing-project.org)  
[hboeck.de](mailto:hboeck.de)  
Joined March 2007

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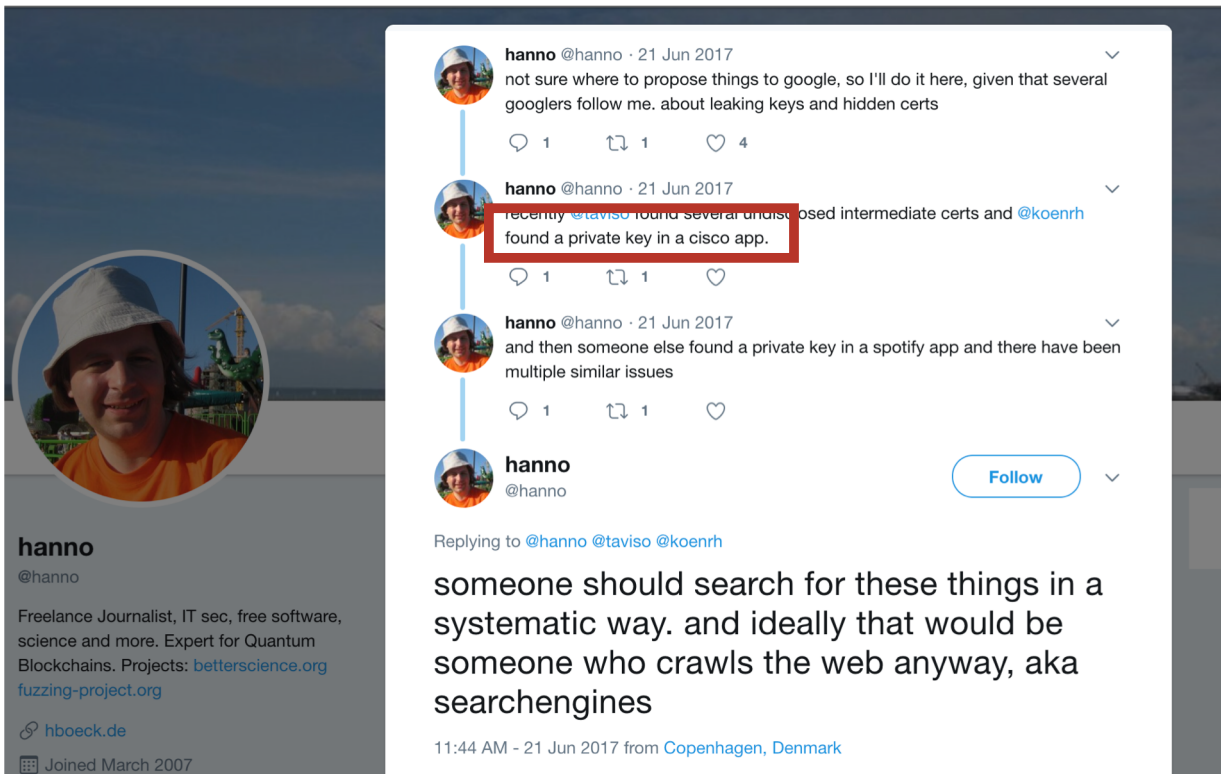
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@hanno [Follow](#)

Replying to [@hanno](#) [@taviso](#) [@koenrh](#)

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11:44 AM - 21 Jun 2017 from [Copenhagen, Denmark](#)

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# The Inspiration

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter thread. On the left is the profile of user 'hanno' (@hanno), a freelance journalist and IT expert. The thread consists of four tweets. The second tweet, which is highlighted with a red box, states: 'recently @taviso found several undisclosed intermediate certs and @koenrh found a private key in a cisco app.' The third tweet continues: 'and then someone else found a private key in a spotify app and there have been multiple similar issues'. The fourth tweet, also highlighted with a red box, says: 'someone should search for these things in a systematic way. and ideally that would be someone who crawls the web anyway, aka searchengines'. The thread is dated June 21, 2017, and is from Copenhagen, Denmark.

**hanno**  
@hanno

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Follow

Replying to @hanno @taviso @koenrh

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11:44 AM - 21 Jun 2017 from Copenhagen, Denmark

# Prior Android Work

## The Numbers

#RSAC

	Total	Percent
Free Apps Tested	1,000,500	Most?
Vulnerable Apps Discovered	23,667	2.4%
Vulnerable App Authors Notified	23,301	98.5%
Email responses	1,593	6.8%
Email responses with fix details	25	0.1%

“There are now 1 million apps in the [Google Play](#) store.”

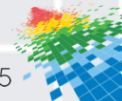
July 24, 2013

<http://mashable.com/2013/07/24/google-play-1-million/>



Software Engineering Institute  
Carnegie Mellon.

RSAConference2015



<https://www.rsaconference.com/events/us15/agenda/sessions/1638/how-we-discovered-thousands-of-vulnerable-android>

# Prior Android Work

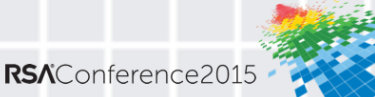


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# Why Private Keys Matter



# Why Look For Private Keys?

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Private key files can be used for a number of purposes, including:

- Signing Android Applications
- Signing IOS Applications
- Encrypting HTTPS traffic
- More!

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# Getting Android Apps



# Downloading APK Files

```
while true; do
    cat /usr/share/hunspell/*.dic | sed 's/\\[^\]*$//' | shuf \
        | xargs -n1 python apkspider.py -k
    echo "Download stopped!?"
    sleep 60
done
```



# Processing steps

1. Search for term with gplaycli

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<https://github.com/matlink/gplaycli>

<https://github.com/androguard/androguard>



# Learning from mistakes

Don't end up with a directory with > 1M files in it!

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by\_sha256/c9/ab/34/

c9ab3448251e8a866fb9415b0376022c30aec6e22a5179e64daf24913c32de5d/com.facebook.orca.apk

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# Picking out Key Files

Problem: You have over **2 billion** files from Android apps. Which to look at?

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Problem: You have over **2 billion** files from Android apps. Which to look at?

Answer: Leverage your sqlite database.

```
select file from files where apkpath = ? and (  
file like '%.key' or  
file like '%.pem' or  
file like '%.der' or  
file like '%.p12' or  
file like '%.bks' or  
file like '%.pfx' or  
type like '%key%')
```

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# Key File Formats





# PKCS#1

```
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----  
MIIBOwIBAAJBANxtmQ1Kccdp7HBNT8zgTai48Vv617bj4SnhkcMN99sCQ2Naj/sp  
... (snip) ...  
NiCYNLIcawBbpZnYw/ztPVACK4EwOpUy+u19cMB0JA==  
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

- RSA only
- Not password protected

<https://github.com/kjur/jsrsasign/wiki/Tutorial-for-PKCS5-and-PKCS8-PEM-private-key-formats-differences>

# PKCS#5 - Protected

```
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----  
Proc-Type: 4,ENCRYPTED  
DEK-Info: DES-EDE3-CBC,E83B4019057F55E9  
  
iIPs59nQn4RSd7ppch9/vNE7PfRSHLoQFmaAjaF0DxjV9oucznUjJq2gphAB2E2H  
... (snip) ...  
y5IT1MZPgN3LNkVSsLPWko08uFZQdfu0JTKcn7NPyRc=  
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

- RSA only
- Encryption details included (mode, seed)

<https://github.com/kjur/jsrsasign/wiki/Tutorial-for-PKCS5-and-PKCS8-PEM-private-key-formats-differences>

# PKCS#8 - Plain

```
-----BEGIN PRIVATE KEY-----  
MIIBVAIBADANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAASCAT4wggE6AgEAAkEA6GZN0rQFKRIVaPOz  
... (snip) ...  
LaLGdd9G63kLg85e1dSy55uIAXsvqQIgfSYaliVtSbAgyx1Yfs3hJ+CTpNKzTNv/  
Fx80EltYV6k=  
-----END PRIVATE KEY-----
```

- Multiple algorithms
- Not password protected

<https://github.com/kjur/jsrsasign/wiki/Tutorial-for-PKCS5-and-PKCS8-PEM-private-key-formats-differences>

# PKCS#8 - Protected

```
-----BEGIN ENCRYPTED PRIVATE KEY-----  
MIIBpjBABgkqhkiG9w0BBQ0wMzAbBgkqhkiG9w0BBQwwDgQIU9Y9p2EfWucCAgga  
... (snip) ...  
IjsZNP6zmlqf/RXnETsJjGd0TXRWaEdu+X00yVyPskX2177X9DUJoD31  
-----END ENCRYPTED PRIVATE KEY-----
```

- Multiple algorithms
- Password protected

<https://github.com/kjur/jsrsasign/wiki/Tutorial-for-PKCS5-and-PKCS8-PEM-private-key-formats-differences>

# DER Encoding

Key files can be PEM (base64) or DER (binary) encoding

```
openssl asn1parse -inform der -in KEYFILE
```

If “prim: OBJECT” is in the results, and openssl returns with exit code 0, you have a DER-encoded key.

# PKCS#12

PKCS12 is a **container** for public keys, private keys, certificates, etc.

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# PKCS#12

PKCS12 is a **container** for public keys, private keys, certificates, etc.

- Password-protection is optional
- A password causes container-level encryption
- You won't know if a protected PKCS12 file contains a private key until **after** you crack it

# Java KeyStore

JKS is a **container** for public keys, private keys, certificates, etc.

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- Private keys share the same password as the container by default

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BKS is a **container** for public keys, private keys, certificates, etc.

- Password-protection is optional
- **No** container-level encryption is used
- Private keys share the same password as the container by default
- BKS-V1 keystores use only 16 bits for container-level integrity  
<https://insights.sei.cmu.edu/cert/2018/03/the-curious-case-of-the-bouncy-castle-bks-passwords.html>

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# Key File Deception



# MIME Magic to the Rescue

Some apps try to hide their keys. But androguard lists files and their MIME type based on their magic bytes. Here are some Java KeyStore files that have been found:

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- `/assets/key2.txt`

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- `/assets/data/10305.bin`



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- `/assets/www/res/bin/md-trucks.apk`

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- `/assets/fonts/data.ttf`

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- `/assets/ic_launcher-web.png`

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# Password Cracking



# Why crack passwords?

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- You don't know what's in a PKCS#12 keystore until you've decrypted it.

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- The impact of a key leak is related to its protection

# GPU hardware

GPUs are massively parallel, which is a great match for password cracking.



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The diagram illustrates the hardware components of a CPU. It features a yellow 'Control' block on the left, a 2x2 grid of four light green 'ALU' blocks to its right, an orange 'Cache' block below the ALUs, and a larger orange 'DRAM' block at the bottom. The entire structure is labeled 'CPU' at the bottom center.

**Control**

**ALU**

**ALU**

**ALU**

**ALU**

**Cache**

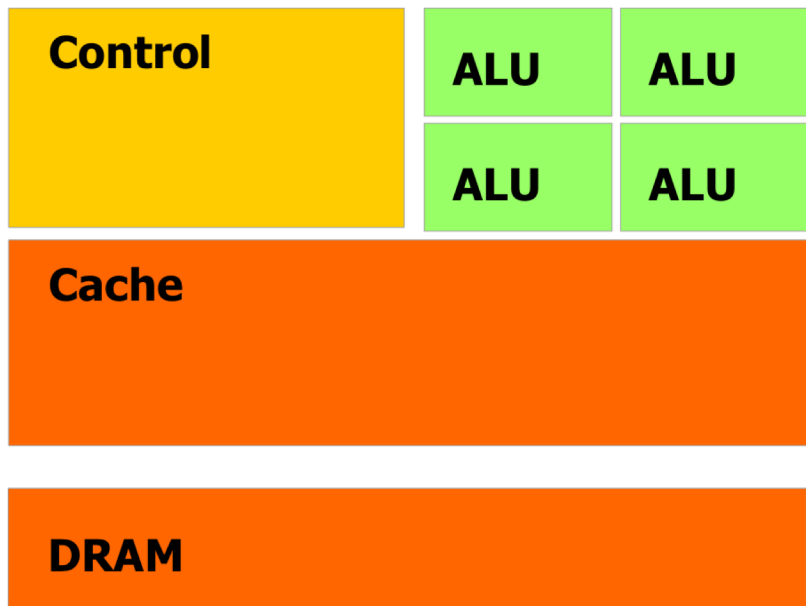
**DRAM**

**CPU**

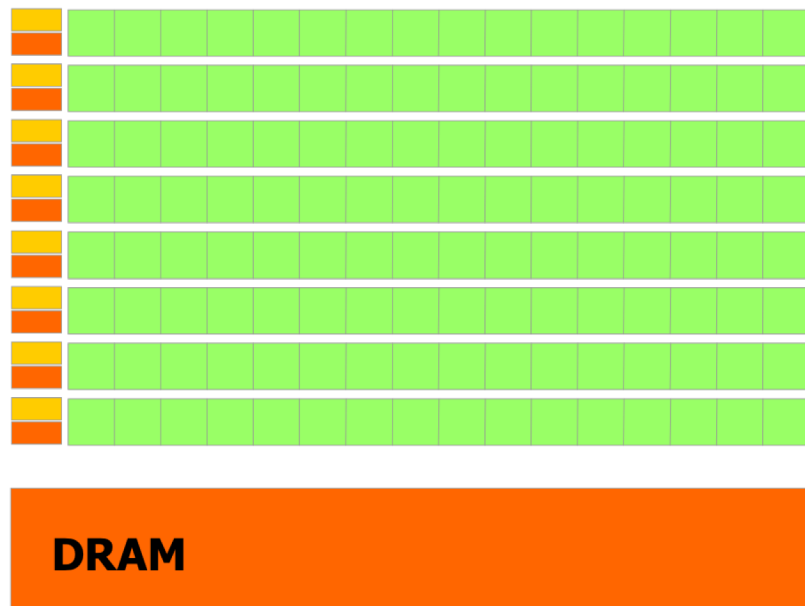
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cpu-gpu.svg>

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**CPU**



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# Password-cracking software

John the Ripper

<https://github.com/magnumripper/JohnTheRipper>

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Hashcat

<https://hashcat.net/hashcat/>

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# Password Strength



# Password strength

One measure of password strength is its resistance to bruteforce attacks. This is a factor of:

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- Charset size

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- Charset size
- Length



# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

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Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: 1

# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: 1

Total passwords: 10 ( $10^1$ )

# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

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Length: 2

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Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: 1

Total passwords: 10 ( $10^1$ )

Length: 2

Total passwords: 100 ( $10^2$ )

# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: 1

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Length: 2

Total passwords: 100 ( $10^2$ )

Length: 3

# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: 1

Total passwords: 10 ( $10^1$ )

Length: 2

Total passwords: 100 ( $10^2$ )

Length: 3

Total passwords: 1000 ( $10^3$ )

# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: 1

Total passwords: 10 ( $10^1$ )

Length: 2

Total passwords: 100 ( $10^2$ )

Length: 3

Total passwords: 1000 ( $10^3$ )

Increasing password length  
grows password strength  
**exponentially!**



# Password strength example

Symbols used: digits 0-9 (Charset size:10)

Length: **1**

Total passwords: 10 ( $10^1$ )

Length: **2**

Total passwords: 100 ( $10^2$ )

Length: **3**

Total passwords: 1000 ( $10^3$ )

Increasing password length  
grows password strength  
**exponentially!**

# Real-world password cracking times

Password	Charset size	Length	Crack Time
TMAE	26	4	1 second
66aK	62	4	2 seconds
tcdely	26	6	2 seconds
v4lz6o	36	6	27 seconds
>^	32	2	162 seconds
dcgkrnel	26	8	186 seconds
8C;e	84	4	407 seconds (7 mins)
QFsRe7	62	6	1022 seconds (17 mins)
147wyf7g	36	8	9569 seconds (3 hours)

Random passwords found via MD5 with John the Ripper incremental mode on 64 CPU cores

# Real-world password cracking times

Password	Charset size	Length	Crack Time
147wyf7g	36	8	9569 seconds (3 hours)
:@{(	32	3	16459 seconds (5 hours)
QLvD:	74	5	59861 seconds (17 hours)
KDJCTFWY	26	8	279959 seconds (3 days)
ahpcwckjq	26	9	472538 seconds (5 days)
{~>[	22	4	475956 seconds (5 days)
lavyovfass	26	10	619300 seconds (7 days)
ob13zgx33	36	9	796192 seconds (9 days)
fqmRDnGY	52	8	1874245 seconds (22 days)

Random passwords found via MD5 with John the Ripper incremental mode on 64 CPU cores

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# Example Passwords



# Which passwords are good?

## Rules of the game:

Given an example password, tell me if the password is **weak** or **strong**.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**changeit**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**changeit**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**changeit**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

Reason:  
Present in “rockyou” password list

<https://github.com/danielmiessler/SecLists/tree/master/Passwords>



# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**7y6t5r4e**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**7y6t5r4e**

Answer:

**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**7y6t5r4e**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

Present in “rockyou” password list

<https://github.com/danielmiessler/SecLists/tree/master/Passwords>

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**7y6t5r4e**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

Reason:  
Present in “rockyou” password list



<https://github.com/danielmiessler/SecLists/tree/master/Passwords>

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<https://github.com/danielmiessler/SecLists/tree/master/Passwords>

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**Huawei@123**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**Huawei@123**

Answer:

**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**Huawei@123**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

Cracked by hashcat “naïve” strategy

<https://github.com/brannondorsey/naive-hashcat>

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
Huawei@123

- Capitalize first letter



Answer:  
**WEAK**

Reason:  
Cracked by hashcat “naïve” strategy

<https://github.com/brannondorsey/naive-hashcat>



# Weak or Strong?

Password:

Huawei@123



- Capitalize first letter
- Numbers and symbols at end

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

Cracked by hashcat “naïve” strategy

<https://github.com/brannondorsey/naive-hashcat>

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

Huawei@123



Answer:

**WEAK**

- Capitalize first letter
- Numbers and symbols at end
- Hashcat rules target human nature

Reason:

Cracked by hashcat “naïve” strategy

<https://github.com/brannondorsey/naive-hashcat>

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**de1aunay55**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**de1aunay55**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**de1aunay55**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

Reason:  
Author left a note.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**de1aunay55**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

Reason:  
Author left a note.

```
$ cat "assets/Sign/code app singin Credentials.txt"
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:  
**de1aunay55**

Answer:  
**WEAK**

Reason:  
Author left a note.

```
$ cat "assets/Sign/code app singin Credentials.txt"
  signingConfigs {
    config {
      keyAlias 'codehospitality'
      keyPassword 'de1aunay55'
      storeFile file('C:/Users/Al/keystores/codehospitality.jks')
      storePassword 'de1aunay55'
    }
  }
}
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**SamSam1cooke!**



# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**SamSam1cooke!**

Answer:

**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**SamSam1cooke!**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

Author left a note.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**SamSam1cooke!**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

Author left a note.

```
$ cat /assets/www/config/README.txt
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**SamSam1cooke!**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

Author left a note.

```
$ cat /assets/www/config/README.txt
The apple developer credentials are:
```

```
@
```

```
The Google Play credentials are:
```

```
@
```

```
The password for the sean.p12 file:
SamSam1cooke!
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**yXPZ1gzxFkV68NKquIpa93BLeHiC7Yjd**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**yXPZ1gzxFkV68NKquIpa93BLeHiC7Yjd**

Answer:

**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**yXPZ1gzxFkV68NKquIpa93BLeHiC7Yjd**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**yXPZ1gzxFkV68NKquIpa93BLEHiC7Yjd**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

```
$ cat res/values/strings.xml
```



# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**yXPZ1gzxFkV68NKquIpa93BLeHiC7Yjd**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

```
$ cat res/values/strings.xml
...
<string
name="lyfpay_certificate_password">yXPZ1gzxFkV68NKquIpa93BLeHiC7Yjd
</string>
...
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**305P6N2cE14nkH!T\$1q\***

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**305P6N2cE14nkH!T\$1q\***

Answer:

**WEAK**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**305P6N2cE14nkH!T\$1q\***

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**305P6N2cE14nkH!T\$1q\***

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

```
$ cat decompiled/com/ / /security/SecurityUtil.java
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**305P6N2cE14nkH!T\$1q\***

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

```
$ cat decompiled/com/.../security/SecurityUtil.java
public class SecurityUtil {
    private static final char[] certPass;

    static {
        SecurityUtil.certPass = new char[]{'3', '0', '5', 'P', '6',
'N', '2', 'c', 'E', '1', '4', 'n', 'k', 'H', '!', 'T', '$', '1', 'q',
'*'};
    }
}
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**gaypark@1lespark#gzxyindex.php**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

`gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php`

Answer:

**WEAK**



# Weak or Strong?

Password:

`gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php`

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

`gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php`

Answer:

**WEAK**

Decompiled `liblespark.so` in IDA:

Reason:

It's in the application.

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

Decompiled liblespark.so in IDA:

```
EXPORT
Java_com_redwolfama_peonylespark_util_jni_PasswordUtil_getSSLPassword
Java_com_redwolfama_peonylespark_util_jni_PasswordUtil_getSSLPassword
PUSH        {R3,LR}
LDR         R3, [R0]
LDR         R1, =(aGayparkLespark - 0x11FE)
LDR.W      R3, [R3,#0x29C]
ADD        R1, PC ; "gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php"
BLX        R3
POP        {R3,PC}
; End of function
Java_com_redwolfama_peonylespark_util_jni_PasswordUtil_getSSLPassword
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php**

Answer:

**WEAK**

Reason:

It's in the application.

Decompiled liblespark.so in IDA:

```
EXPORT
Java_com_redwolfama_peonylespark_util_jni_PasswordUtil_getSSLPassword
Java_com_redwolfama_peonylespark_util_jni_PasswordUtil_getSSLPassword
PUSH        {R3,LR}
LDR         R3, [R0]
LDR         R1, =(aGayparkLespark - 0x11FE)
LDR.W      R3, [R3,#0x29C]
ADD        R1, PC ; "gaypark@lespark#gzxyindex.php"
BLX        R3
POP        {R3,PC}
; End of function
Java_com_redwolfama_peonylespark_util_jni_PasswordUtil_getSSLPassword
```

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**T.G-8~KvkNwvB&7g**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**T.G-8~KvkNwvB&7g**

Answer:

**STRONG**

# Weak or Strong?

Password:

**T.G-8~KvkNwvB&7g**

Answer:

**STRONG**

Reasons:

- It is long enough
- It uses a large character set
- It has no patterns recognizable by a cracker

# Keys used by apps

If a private key is contained within and used by an application...



# Keys used by apps

If a private key is contained within and used by an application...

it doesn't matter how strong you've made it!

Keep it Like a Secret: When Android Apps Contain Private Keys

# Case Study: Samsung SmartHome



# Samsung SmartHome

**Samsung Smart Home**  
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. Tools ★★★★★ 5,768  
Everyone

Add to Wishlist Install

**Samsung Home**  
Going out Coming home Good night Good morning  
Start your smart home experience here  
Add device

**Add device**  
Select an appliance you want to register.  
Air Conditioner  
Room AC  
System AC  
Air Purifier  
Washer  
Dryer

**Settings**  
General  
Screen lock Off  
Notification On  
Auto scan On  
Country Korea  
Edit home  
Add device  
Reorder device list

# Samsung SmartHome

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Updated

February 5, 2018

### Installs

1,000,000 - 5,000,000

### Current Version

3.1072.19.203

### Requires Android

4.0 and up

### Content Rating

Everyone

[Learn more](#)

### Permissions

[View details](#)

### Report

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

### Offered By

Samsung Electronics  
Co., Ltd.

### Developer

Email [smartappliance@samsung.com](mailto:smartappliance@samsung.com)

[Privacy Policy](#)

129, Samsung-ro, Yeongtong-gu, Suwon-si,  
Gyeonggi-do, 16677, Rep. of KOREA

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129, Samsung-ro, Yeongtong-gu, Suwon-si,  
Gyeonggi-do, 16677, Rep. of KOREA

# Finding a private key used by a popular app

```
sqlite> select file, keyused, dlcount from keys inner join apks on keys.appname = apks.appname  
where file like '%COMMON14K_M_priv%' order by apks.dlcount desc;
```

# Finding a private key used by a popular app

```
sqlite> select file, keyused, dlcount from keys inner join apks on keys.appname = apks.appname
where file like '%COMMON14K_M_priv%' order by apks.dlcount desc limit 10;
keys/com.samsung.smarthome/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|0|1000000
keys/com.samsung.smarthome.refrigerator/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|1|10000
keys/com.samsung.smarthome.dvm/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|0|10000
keys/com.samsung.dacorsmarthome/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|0|500
sqlite>
```

# Finding a private key used by a popular app

```
sqlite> select file, keyused, dlcount from keys inner join apks on keys.appname = apks.appname
where file like '%COMMON14K_M_priv%' order by apks.dlcount desc limit 10;
keys/com.samsung.smarthome/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|0|1000000
keys/com.samsung.smarthome.refrigerator/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|1|10000
keys/com.samsung.smarthome.dvm/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|0|10000
keys/com.samsung.dacorsmarthome/assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem|0|500
sqlite>
```



# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ grep -rI COMMON14K_M_priv.pem .
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ grep -r1 COMMON14K_M_priv.pem .  
decompiled/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.java  
smali/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.smali  
original/META-INF/MANIFEST.MF  
original/META-INF/CERT.SF  
strings.txt  
$
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ grep -r1 COMMON14K_M_priv.pem .  
decompiled/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.java  
smali/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.smali  
original/META-INF/MANIFEST.MF  
original/META-INF/CERT.SF  
strings.txt  
$
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ cat decompiled/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.java
...
String[] v0_1 = new String[4];
    v0_1[0] = "DHE-RSA-AES128-SHA";
    v0_1[1] = "DHE-RSA-AES256-SHA";
    v0_1[v4] = "AES128-SHA";
    v0_1[3] = "AES256-SHA";
    SSLswitch.setServerCiphers(v0_1);
    SSLswitch.setClientCiphers(v0_1);
    SSLswitch.setRunSSL(this.getApplicationContext(), true);
    SSLswitch.setShp_certificates("ca-certificates_20151109.crt");
    SSLswitch.setCertChain("CertChain.pem");
    SSLswitch.setMyCert("COMMON14K_M_CertChain.pem");
    SSLswitch.setPrivateKey("COMMON14K_M_priv.pem");
    SSLswitch.setPassword("KKJSB04XvDQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4=");
    SSLswitch.setDHParam("dh_param_1024.pem")
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ cat decompiled/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.java
...
String[] v0_1 = new String[4];
    v0_1[0] = "DHE-RSA-AES128-SHA";
    v0_1[1] = "DHE-RSA-AES256-SHA";
    v0_1[v4] = "AES128-SHA";
    v0_1[3] = "AES256-SHA";
    SSLswitch.setServerCiphers(v0_1);
    SSLswitch.setClientCiphers(v0_1);
    SSLswitch.setRunSSL(this.getApplicationContext(), true);
    SSLswitch.setShp_certificates("ca-certificates_20151109.crt");
    SSLswitch.setCertChain("CertChain.pem");
    SSLswitch.setMyCert("COMMON14K_M_CertChain.pem");
    SSLswitch.setPrivateKey("COMMON14K_M_priv.pem");
    SSLswitch.setPassword("KKJSB04XvDQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4=");
    SSLswitch.setDHParam( dn_param_10z4.pem )
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ echo 'KKJSB04XvdQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4=' | base64 -D
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

```
$ echo 'KKJSB04XvdQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4=' | base64 -D  
(RN4
```

```
J+2,xUGG_`
```

# Finding the reference to the private key

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$ cat decompiled/com/samsung/smarthome/refrigerator/SmartHomeLauncherActivity.java
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```



# Decoding the key password

```
$ cat decompiled/com/sec/smarthome/framework/security/SSLswitch.java
```

# Decoding the key password

```
$ cat decompiled/com/sec/smarthome/framework/security/SSLswitch.java
...

public static void setPassword(String arg1) {
    SSLswitch.password = PswGenerator.decryptPBE(arg1);
}
```

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public static void setPassword(String arg1) {
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}
```

# Decoding the key password

```
$ cat decompiled/com/sec/smarthome/framework/security/PswGenerator.java
// Decompiled by JEB v2.3.10.201802032133

package com.sec.smarthome.framework.security;

...

public static String decryptPBE(String arg9) {
    String v0_5;
    byte[] v1_1;
    String v4 = null;
    int v3 = 0;
    byte[] v6 = PswGenerator.createKey(PswGenerator.salt, PswGenerator.key_data);
    ...
}
```

# Decoding the key password

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    ...
}
```

**VERY COMPLICATED**

# Decoding the key password

```
$ cat decompiled/com/sec/smarthome/framework/security/PswGenerator.java
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...

public static String decryptPBE(String arg9) {
    String v0_5;
    byte[] v1_1;
    String v4 = null;
    int v3 = 0;
    byte[] v6 = PswGenerator.createKey(PswGenerator.salt, PswGenerator.key_data);
    ...
}
```

**VERY COMPLICATED**  
**... but it doesn't matter!**





# Using the existing code

```
$ cat PswGenerator.Java.diff
--- PswGenerator.orig.java 2018-02-16 14:20:53.930636617 -0500
+++ PswGenerator.java 2018-02-20 13:17:30.717678481 -0500
@@ -1,8 +1,8 @@
 // Decompiled by JEB v2.3.10.201802032133
...

+
+ public class PswGenerator {
+
+ public static void main(String[] args)
+ {
+ String pw;
+ System.out.println("Attempting to decode 'KKJSB04XvDOMC0rm2LHTHhAvK3iBVfpHBuOCXwKEYN4=' ...");
+ pw = PswGenerator.decryptPBE("KKJSB04XvDQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4=");
+ System.out.println("Decoded password: %s\n", pw);
+ }
+
+ }
```

# Running their code to get the password

```
$ javac PswGenerator.java
```

# Running their code to get the password

```
$ javac PswGenerator.java  
$ java PswGenerator
```

# Running their code to get the password

```
$ javac PswGenerator.java
$ java PswGenerator
Attempting to decode 'KKJSB04XvDQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4='...

Decoded password: 1%^t[REDACTED]
$
```

# Running their code to get the password

```
$ javac PswGenerator.java
$ java PswGenerator
Attempting to decode 'KKJSB04XvDQMC0rm2LHTHhAyK3iBVfpHBuQCXwKEYN4='...

Decoded password: 1%^t [redacted]
$
```



# Decrypting the key

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t
```



# Decrypting the key

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t
```

```
-----BEGIN PRIVATE KEY-----
```

```
MIIEvQIBADANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAASCBAcwggSjAgEAAoIBAQCq48EeXQV031cA  
YIHYYrIB4dAepFvvmWAI1lN1v214Hhq1X+0hhXE8iNX7Kn1kGkBLfiu3nxTvb+fB  
tL5ZifIJDbBY2ZoXwq4pfb6cwkAlLgZ1grZ4BY7LZp5eMtQw0dbPCL8ySjrmDca8  
YW70qZAZlGWY+1NGV4ydGih3t6OwGS0opwt6dptX0lzV+euKsy5pAJNIJ7JgkR/d  
uMcNNK4tYaPyAHVdmcxxJw+e33AdcWCZIGGFbfbAVuNl+05B93lxZHF3jM/uhL0l  
/ei3uG8febIDb73mEWD8g3obVeaImU6+cm7KyFCP1Pw1w3xjAV90jqJkIrNXfk92  
zqS1l0XfAgMBAAEcggEAQDqKAxeDPznCQWoEXSRDM2HkDyBHTa6f4bJse/007+6g
```

```
...
```

```
jmbxYeD9BQKBgQDP6gT3G31ju+rVTzvLoYl6DJ3urI2j8QlZ7y/koqiKnSnbu5a7  
Y2hq01VsHMdbjX+roVphrbAEUmoDpx05KaJr-fW2VKMcYSAvjXR/JAH1NPneSjDgp  
srgog/yrJvMXAXIEIE245KcC4UKqbDGV8GP7/XZJYE+W33Yls8d81Y2vRQKBgEoc  
s0I0WYMQtzK0qTZZPpv6XmfSnTmx16Lyre/Xl3q1QELsWGXRt1S9Ge7t8IE0tNPT  
5d/50tSgWED4hLv59yV8gVNu0bLlfsQbbU0+PG4aee07mMJU+khjccvhB03Sbk8R  
7yWlSImPF8a2mbA60Ps0yILycVKYYprI6MeOJP6pAoGAD38lqdZk5azOnuu0/mC9  
KT2GmbdlUENz3FIfnjzde1a766+dovDEnfZxXCAXi/Ycy87ABX/kwroD8zpec6tl  
oxfi+Ww1I3dAJgemYpe71po/HJaNBV3V2rLyZ5ur7vI8Ya/d36ldg4vea5dXzK5d  
yzkb0/Odq8A00aztCY1eWgU=
```

```
-----END PRIVATE KEY-----
```

# Getting the public key from the private key

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t ██████████ -pubout
```

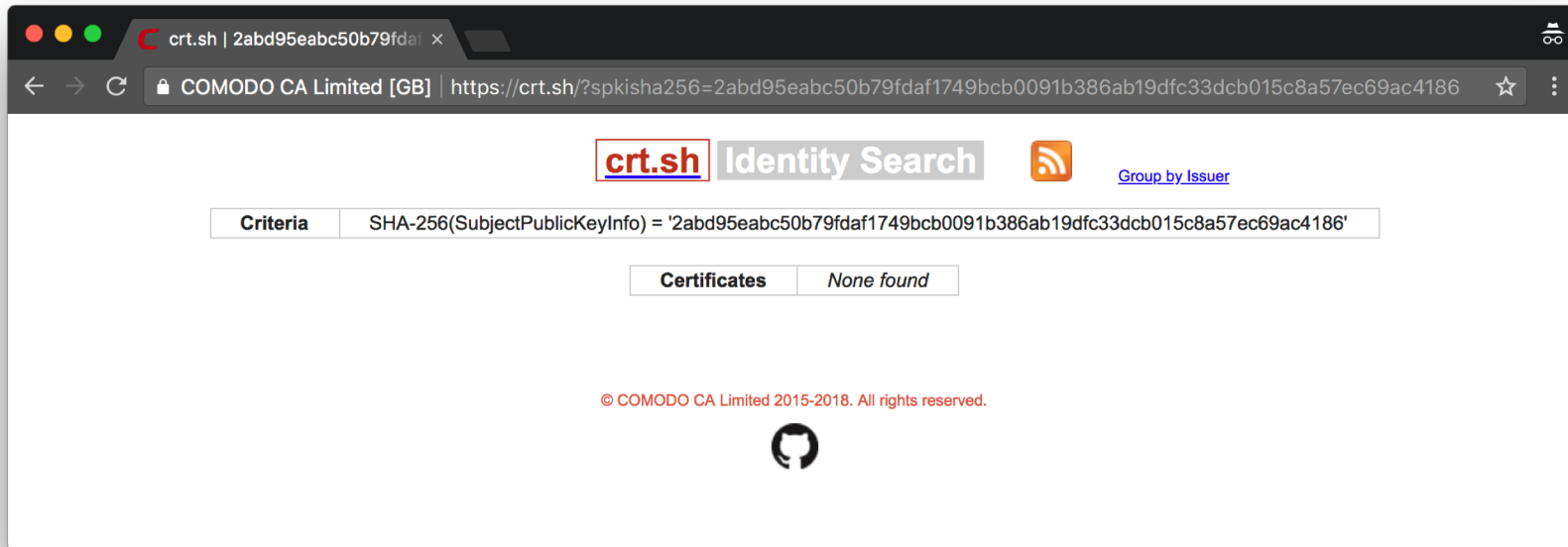
# Getting the public key from the private key

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t ██████████ -pubout
-----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY-----
MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEAquPBHl0FTt9XAGCBx2Ky
AeHQHqRb75lgCNZTdb9teB4atV/tIYVxPIjV+yp9ZBpAS34rt58U72/nwbS+wYny
CQ2wWNmaF8KuKX2+nMJAJS4GdYK2eAW0y2aeXjLUMDnWzwi/Mko65g3GvGFu9KmQ
GZRlmPtTRleMnRood7ejsBkjQcLenabV9Jc1fnrirMuaQCTSCeyYJEf3bjHDTSu
LWGj8gB1XZnMcScPnt9wHXFgmSBhhW32wFbjZft0Qfd5cWRxd4zP7oS9Jf3ot7hv
H3myA2+95hFg/IN6G1XmiJlOvnJuyshQj9T8JcN8YwFfdI6iZCKzV35Pds6kpZdF
3wIDAQAB
-----END PUBLIC KEY-----
```

# Getting the public key hash

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t ██████████ -pubout  
-outform der | sha256sum  
2abd95eabc50b79fdaf1749bcb0091b386ab19dfc33dcb015c8a57ec69ac4186 -
```

# Checking if public key hash is in crt.sh



# Comparing the Private Key Modulus to the Public one

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t | \
| openssl rsa -noout -modulus | openssl sha256
```

# Comparing the Private Key Modulus to the Public one

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t | \
| openssl rsa -noout -modulus | openssl sha256
(stdin)= 1c03a8197edd52063a9694ee76d789ca2a53fc6962638831e3af2f0ff281405a
```

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(stdin)= 1c03a8197edd52063a9694ee76d789ca2a53fc6962638831e3af2f0ff281405a
$ openssl x509 -noout -modulus -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_CertChain.pem \
| openssl sha256
```



# Comparing the Private Key Modulus to the Public one

```
$ openssl pkey -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_priv.pem -passin pass:1%^t [REDACTED] \  
| openssl rsa -noout -modulus | openssl sha256  
(stdin)= 1c03a8197edd52063a9694ee76d789ca2a53fc6962638831e3af2f0ff281405a  
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| openssl sha256  
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| openssl sha256  
(stdin)= 1c03a8197edd52063a9694ee76d789ca2a53fc6962638831e3af2f0ff281405a
```

The modulus hashes match, so the certificate is for the private key!

# Getting certificate details

```
$ openssl x509 -text -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_CertChain.pem
```

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```
$ openssl x509 -text -in assets/certificates/COMMON14K_M_CertChain.pem
```

```
Certificate:
```

```
  Data:
```

```
    Version: 3 (0x2)
```

```
    Serial Number: 10 (0xa)
```

```
  Signature Algorithm: sha1WithRSAEncryption
```

```
    Issuer: C=KR, O=Samsung Electronics, CN=RemoteAccessCA(CE)
```

```
  Validity
```

```
    Not Before: Jan  1 00:00:00 1960 GMT
```

```
    Not After : Jan  1 00:00:00 2060 GMT
```

```
  Subject: C=KR, O=Samsung Electronics, CN=COMMON14K_M/emailAddress=COMMON14K_M@samsung.com
```

```
...
```

```
  X509v3 Basic Constraints:
```

```
    CA:TRUE
```

```
  X509v3 Subject Alternative Name:
```

```
    DNS:samsung.com, DNS:localhost
```

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Not Before: Jan  1 00:00:00 1960 GMT
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Not After : Jan  1 00:00:00 2060 GMT
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```
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```

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Validity
```

```
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```

```
Not After : Jan  1 00:00:00 2060 GMT
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```
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```

```
...
```

```
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```

```
CA:TRUE
```

```
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```

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DNS:samsung.com, DNS:localhost
```



# Samsung private key conclusions

- A private key for a certificate authority (CA) is included in multiple Android apps

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- The certificate for said key can also be used to identify both “localhost” and “samsung.com” hosts

# Samsung private key conclusions

- A private key for a certificate authority (CA) is included in multiple Android apps
- The certificate for said key can also be used to identify both “localhost” and “samsung.com” hosts

Don't worry too much, as the certificate isn't trusted by OS/browser versions I've seen.

# Private Key Details From Samsung

- Older appliances and low-end Android devices do not have a trusted execution environment (TEE), such as TrustZone. This required that the key be included in the Android application.

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- One of the old plug-in's for Smarthome app supporting older models lacked the protection mechanisms to protect sensitive information including the private key. So Samsung applied protections to protect the private key updated to app store.
- Newer devices use SmartThings, which uses a trusted execution environment (TEE, Secure Element, or Artik) to protect keys securely.
- Samsung also implemented their IoT services in accordance with the common IoT standard, based on device unique certificates and Mutual SSL.



Keep it Like a Secret: When Android Apps Contain Private Keys

# Things App Authors Say



# Things App Authors Say

Don't understand. What do I do?

# Things App Authors Say

```
I left this file (res/raw/clientv01.bks) in the actual app only to confuse a potential hacker who would try to hack my app.
```

# Things App Authors Say

Indeed, there is a static certificate saved in the app code. However, the reason for this is that the app is a *\*honeypot\** and the key is needed for emulating a "valid" HTTPS connection.

# Things App Authors Say

Hola, muchas gracias por su correo.

Tengo alguna pregunta que espero pueda responderme:

1) Mi aplicación es muy sencilla, se basa en html + JQuery y está compilada con Phonegapp. No esoty seguro de tener los conocimientos como para poder solucionar el problema. ¿Cómo podría arreglar el problema que usted me está reportando?

2) Si no consigo arreglar el el problema ¿Van a retirar la app de la PlayStore?

La app es gratuita y sin publicidad, es un recurso de lectura, un trabajo cultural sin ánimo de lucro.

# Things App Authors Say

```
The keys you refer to were not place by design by me -  
they were added by default by the program used - Appinventor.
```

# Things App Authors Say

```
The key included in "SSH Server" application is our intention.  
This key is for consistence host key verification when user upgrades the app.
```

# Things App Authors Say

```
how much bounty you want ???
```



# Things App Authors Say

Good Morning,

Thank you very much for your interest in our [REDACTED]

Good luck with your outdated initiatives!

# Things App Authors Say

Thank you so much and Good Job CERT Coordination Center.

Keep it Like a Secret: When Android Apps Contain Private Keys

# Private Key Statistics



# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930

# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549

# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549
PKCS#8	240

# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549
PKCS#8	240
PKCS#12	2,119

# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549
PKCS#8	240
PKCS#12	2,119
Java Keystore (JKS)	3,215



# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549
PKCS#8	240
PKCS#12	2,119
Java Keystore (JKS)	3,215
Bouncy Castle Keystore (BKS) V1	8,450

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APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
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Bouncy Castle Keystore (BKS) V2	1,668
Openvpn (OVPN)	103

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APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549
PKCS#8	240
PKCS#12	2,119
Java Keystore (JKS)	3,215
Bouncy Castle Keystore (BKS) V1	8,450
Bouncy Castle Keystore (BKS) V2	1,668
Openvpn (OVPN)	103 (64 unique)

# File Type Counts

File Type	Count
APK (Android applications)	1,701,930
PKCS#1/5	549
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Java Keystore (JKS)	3,215
Bouncy Castle Keystore (BKS) V1	8,450
Bouncy Castle Keystore (BKS) V2	1,668
Openvpn (OVPN)	103 (64 unique)
PGP Private	10

# Key Property Counts

Key Property	Count
Private keys	6,180

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Key Property	Count
Private keys	6,180
Unprotected private keys	650

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Keys for certs seen by crt.sh	119



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Google Play signing private keys	1,948

# Key Property Counts

Key Property	Count
Private keys	6,180
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Keys for certs seen by crt.sh	119
Google Play signing private keys	1,948
Apple Push Services private keys	87

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Keys for certs seen by crt.sh	119
Google Play signing private keys	1,948
Apple Push Services private keys	87
Apple iPhone Developer private keys	21

# Key Property Counts

Key Property	Count
Private keys	6,180
Unprotected private keys	650
Keys for certs seen by crt.sh	119
Google Play signing private keys	1,948
Apple Push Services private keys	87
Apple iPhone Developer private keys	21
Apple iPhone Enterprise private keys	68

# PKCS#12 Password Cracking Statistics

Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	2119	100%

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Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	2119	100%
rockyou.txt password list	870	41.4%

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Strategy	Count	Percent
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Strings from app code	729	34.4%

# PKCS#12 Password Cracking Statistics

Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	2119	100%
rockyou.txt password list	870	41.4%
Strings from app code	729	34.4%
Manual analysis	18	0.8%



# Java Keystore Password Cracking Statistics

Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	3215	100%

# Java Keystore Password Cracking Statistics

Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	3215	100%
rockyou.txt password list	453	14.1%

# Java Keystore Password Cracking Statistics

Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	3215	100%
rockyou.txt password list	453	14.1%
Strings from app code	35	1.1%

# Java Keystore Password Cracking Statistics

Strategy	Count	Percent
Total	3215	100%
rockyou.txt password list	453	14.1%
Strings from app code	35	1.1%
hashcat-naive	1714	53.3%

Keep it Like a Secret: When Android Apps Contain Private Keys

# Conclusions



# Conclusions

If an application includes a private key, it:

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If an application includes a private key, it:

- might be an accident.

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If an application includes a private key, it:

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- might not have the best design, if it is not an accident.



# Conclusions

If an application includes a private key, it:

- might be an accident.
- might not have the best design, if it is not an accident.
- has an impact that depends on what the key is used for.

# Recommendations for Google and Apple

If an application includes a private key:

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If an application includes a private key:

- don't necessarily block the application from being uploaded, but...

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If an application includes a private key:

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- warn the user upon submission to the app store.

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## Result: Fewer Mistakes

# Contact Information

## Presenter

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