Exploiting Unpatched iOS Vulnerabilities for Fun and Profit

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Scope of this Presentation

• The process of getting unsigned code executed as root, outside the sandbox, in iOS 7.1 – 7.1.2

• Does not cover iOS kernel vulnerabilities
Agenda

• iOS security to prevent rooting
  – Why is rooting an iOS device hard?
• How were previous jailbreaks performed?
  – General steps
  – Steps in evasi0n7
• How was evasi0n7 patched?
  – Patch logs in iOS 7.1
  – Which steps were fixed?
Agenda

• Analysis of patched/unpatched vulnerabilities
  – What steps need to be re-exploited?
• Discovery of new vulnerabilities to replace patched vulnerabilities
• Steps for Jailbreaking iOS 7.1.2
iOS Security Overview

• Why is rooting an iOS device hard?
  – Secure Boot Chain
  – Mandatory Code Signing
  – App Sandbox
  – Privilege Isolation
iOS Security – Secure Boot Chain

• Encrypted firmware
  – Encrypted with GID key of the device.
  – Image is only decrypted on the device.
    • GID key is not designed to be leaked.

• Chained code signing check
  – Hard to inject and run unsigned code.
iOS Security – Mandatory Code Signing

• Code signing check
  – Enforced by kernel (AMFI), handled by a user-space daemon (amfid)
  – Mandatory code signing

• RWX protection
  – Disallows write and execute permissions on any single memory page (except for dynamic-codesign Entitlement holders)
iOS Security – App Sandbox

• All third party apps residing at /var/mobile/Applications/* will be contained by a built-in sandbox profile named container
  – Enforced by kernel.

• For some built-in binaries, the sandbox is initiated by invoking APIs in libsandbox.dylib.
  – /usr/libexec/afcd, etc.

• Running a third party app outside of the container will trigger the “outside_of_container && ! i_can_has_debugger” exception

• Refer to “The Apple Sandbox” talk in BH DC 2011
iOS Security – Privilege Isolation

• UID of Apps
  – mobile (501) is used for regular apps
    • For all Developer, Enterprise, and App Store apps.

• A few daemons run as root
  – syslogd, lockdownd.
Why is Rooting an iOS Device Hard?

• Extremely restricted environment in sandbox
  – Mandatory for user-written or App Store apps
• Unable to run unsigned code
  – One must bypass code signing checks to run attack code
• Privilege escalation is required
  – All apps are running as mobile (uid=501) user
• Cannot permanently modify kernel image
  – Integrity checking is enforced
General Methods for Jailbreaking

• Bypass code signing
  – Exploit vulnerabilities in dyld during loading of code.
    • evasi0n7, Pangu
  – Use R.O.P. or exploit the process with dynamic code signing.
    • MobileSafari
General Methods for Jailbreaking

• Escape the sandbox
  – Exploit an un-sandboxed process.
  – Exploit design flaw in sandbox implementation.
  – Override sandbox functions in libsandbox.dylib.
    • Run the sandboxed process without really invoking the sandbox functions.
  – For apps in the container, kernel patching is required.
General Methods for Jailbreaking

• Root Privilege Escalation
  – Exploit vulnerabilities in a root daemon.
    • CrashHouseKeeping, etc.
General Methods for Jailbreaking

• Patch the kernel
  – Disable code signing.
  – Disable kernel-enforced sandbox.
  – Enable RWX mapping.
  – Enable kernel debugging (task_for_pid 0).
General Methods for Jailbreaking

• Apply Permanent Changes
  – Overwrite the root partition
    • Remount with read/write permission (ver < iOS 7), or use afcd (iOS 7.0.x).
  – Do not modify critical parts that are involved in the boot sequence
    • Chained integrity check could block boot process.
evasi0n7

• Exploited multiple vulnerabilities to bypass code signing checks, escape the sandbox, and overwrite the root partition.
• Exploited a kernel vulnerability to patch the kernel.
• Thanks to evad3rs for their jailbreak tool.
• Thanks to geohot for his detailed write-up.
#1 Install an app with crafted Info.plist

#2 Get execution of afcd

#3 Enable access to /tmp for afcd

#4 Inject environment variable with installd

#5 Bypass Code signing

#6 Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process

#7 Get access to the root partition

#8 Overwrite root filesystem

#9 Launch a kernel exploit
#1 Install an app with crafted Info.plist

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#9 Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #1

• Install an app with crafted Info.plist
  – Crafted Info.plist forces installd to install the app outside of the container
    • Using ../../../../../../ in CFBundleExecutable field
  – Prepare the original executable in that folder
  – Installation will succeed

```
11 <key>CFBundleExecutable</key>
12 <string>../../../../../../var/mobile/..../Downloads/WWDC.app/WWDC</string>
```
evasi0n7 Workflow

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp for afcd
4. Inject environment variable with installld
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #2

- Gain execution of afcd
  - Since afcd has access to the /var/mobile/Media/ Downloads/ directory, a PC can ask afcd to change the content of an app executable to a hashbang
  - `#!/usr/libexec/afcd -S -d / -p 8888`

- Clicking the app icon will trigger the execution of “afcd” with forged arguments
#1 Install an app with crafted Info.plist

#2 Get execution of afcd

#3 Enable access to /tmp for afcd

#4 Inject environment variable with installd

#5 Bypass Code signing

#6 Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process

#7 Get access to the root partition

#8 Overwrite root filesystem

#9 Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #3

• Enable access to /tmp for afcd
  – Symlink bug in sandbox policy.
  – Afcd creates a symlink to “../../../../../tmp” at /var/mobile/Media/Downloads/a/a/a/a/a/a/a
    • Move the symlink to the upper directory
  – Then afcd gains access to /tmp.
evasi0n7 Workflow

#1 Install an app with crafted Info.plist

#2 Get execution of afcd

#3 Enable access to /tmp for afcd

#4 Inject environment variable with installld

#5 Bypass Code signing

#6 Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process

#7 Get access to the root partition

#8 Overwrite root filesystem

#9 Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #4

• Inject an environment variable using installd
  – During the installation of an app, installd will create a temporary directory at `/tmp/install_staging.XXXXXX/foo_extracted`, and then unzip the ipa file into that directory
  – Exploit: Ask afcd to create a symlink at `foo_extracted`
    • The symlink links to `/var/mobile/Library/Caches/`
    • Installd will drop files into `/var/mobile/Library/Caches/`
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #4

• By overwriting `com.apple.mobile_installation.plist` (in `/var/mobile/Library/Caches/`), evasi0n7 can specify the `DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES` environment variable for a target app

```xml
<key>EnvironmentVariables</key>
<dict>
  <key>CFFIXED_USER_HOME</key>
  <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D</string>
  <key>DYLD_FORCE_FLAT_NAMESPACE</key>
  <string></string>
  <key>DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES</key>
  <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D/Documents/libexit.dylib</string>
  <key>HOME</key>
  <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D</string>
  <key>TMPDIR</key>
  <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D/tmp</string>
```
#1 Install an app with crafted Info.plist

#2 Get execution of afcd

#3 Enable access to /tmp for afcd

#4 Inject environment variable with installld

#5 Bypass Code signing

#6 Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process

#7 Get access to the root partition

#8 Overwrite root filesystem

#9 Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #5

• Inject an unsigned dylib and bypass code signing (gameover.dylib)
  – Size of the code section is 0
  • dyld will ignore this section and will not valid its signature
  – But some executable parts exist
  – And can override some functions
evasi0n7 Workflow

#1 Install an app with crafted Info.plist

#2 Get execution of afcd

#3 Enable access to /tmp for afcd

#4 Inject environment variable with installd

#5 Bypass Code signing

#6 Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process

#7 Get access to the root partition

#8 Overwrite root filesystem

#9 Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n 7 – Vulnerability #6

• Clicking the app icon will trigger the execution of “afcd” and load gameover.dylib.

• Since gameover.dylib nullifies the sandbox functions, afcd now runs as mobile outside of the sandbox.
evasi0n7 Workflow

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp for afcd
4. Inject environment variable with installd
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #7

• afcd running outside the sandbox now can create a symlink anywhere.

• CrashHouseKeeping, running as root, will do the following:
  – chmod (“/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleSupport”, 775)
  – chown (“/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleSupport”, 501, 501)
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #7

• Use afcd to create a symlink that points to “..../..../..../..../..../..../dev/rdisk0s1s1” at “/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleSupport”

• With this symlink, CrashHouseKeeping will change /dev/rdisk0s1s1 to be readable/writable by the mobile user
evasi0n7 Workflow

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp for afcd
4. Inject environment variable with installld
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #8

- afcd, running outside of the sandbox, further gains access to the block device
  - With –S option in afcd, it can access special files such as block device.
    - #!/usr/libexec/afcd –S –d / -p 8888
  - Using the AFC protocol, a PC can overwrite the root partition
    - Open /dev/rdisk0s1s1
    - Traverse sub-directories
    - Write files
evasi0n7 – Vulnerability #9

• A kernel vulnerability is used to patch the kernel
  – Disable code signing check
  – Enable RWX page
  – Enable task_for_pid 0 (debugging kernel process)
  – Enable PE_i_can_has_debugger flag
    • Allow execve of unsigned binary outside of container
      – e.g. executing unsigned /bin/sh
How was evasi0n7 Patched?

- Patch log from iOS 7.1
  - Patch for bypassing code signing

- dyld

  Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

  Impact: Code signing requirements may be bypassed

  Description: Text relocation instructions in dynamic libraries may be loaded by dyld without code signature validation. This issue was addressed by ignoring text relocation instructions.

CVE-ID

CVE-2014-1273 : evad3rs
How was evasi0n7 Patched?

• Patch log from iOS 7.1
  – Patch for escaping the file system sandbox

- Backup

  Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

  Impact: A maliciously crafted backup can alter the filesystem

  Description: A symbolic link in a backup would be restored, allowing subsequent operations during the restore to write to the rest of the filesystem. This issue was addressed by checking for symbolic links during the restore process.

CVE-ID

CVE-2013-5133 : evad3rs
How was evasi0n7 Patched?

• Patch log from iOS 7.1
  – Patch for the symlink bug in CrashHouseKeeping

- Crash Reporting

Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

Impact: A local user may be able to change permissions on arbitrary files

Description: CrashHouseKeeping followed symbolic links while changing permissions on files. This issue was addressed by not following symbolic links when changing permissions on files.

CVE-ID

CVE-2014-1272 : evad3rs
How was evasi0n7 Patched?

• Patch log from iOS 7.1
  – Patch for the kernel vulnerability

- Kernel

Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

Impact: A local user may be able to cause an unexpected system termination or arbitrary code execution in the kernel

Description: An out of bounds memory access issue existed in the ARM ptmx_get_ioctl function. This issue was addressed through improved bounds checking.

CVE-ID

CVE-2014-1278 : evad3rs
How was evasi0n7 Patched?

• Via binary analysis, the “–S” option for afcd was removed
# Missing Pieces

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp for afcd
4. Inject environment variable with installd
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
Our Work

• Attempt to reconstruct the chain of exploits:
  – Find new exploit paths
  – Discover new vulnerabilities
Using Developer Licenses to Enable #3 and #5

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp
4. Inject environment variable with installld
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
Use Developer Licenses to Enable #3 and #5

- #3: Third party apps have access to /tmp for free
  - Use app to access /tmp to create symlink on exploit #6

- #5: Sign the code with Developer/Enterprise License
  - Load developer-signed dylib in exploit #6
Take a Short Break

• What can we do with just these two vulnerabilities?
  – A malicious app can trick the user to install another app. During this process, it can overwrite many system configurations.
Modifying Configurations

• Restriction Settings
  – In iOS, there exists an option to disable certain features from the device.
  – Using the vulnerability in installd, we could overwrite those settings.
Modifying Configurations

• Restriction Settings
  – We can overwrite the passcode for this restriction settings.
  – Since the passcode is not known to the user, the user cannot disable it.
New Vulnerability for Permission Downgrading

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp
4. Inject environment variable with installd
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
Syslogd Chown Symlink Bug

• grep –E ‘chmod|chown’ -r ./
  – Find all programs that invoke chmod/chown in /usr/libexec

• ps -aux
  – List all daemons running as root in iOS 7.0.6

We are lucky. Find a new one in syslogd in 5 mins
Syslogd Chown Symlink Bug

• chown("/var/mobile/Library/Logs/CrashReporter", 501, 501)
  – UID 501 is mobile
• chmod("/var/mobile/Library/Logs/CrashReporter", 755)
  – rwxr-xr-x mobile:mobile
Overwriting the Root Partition with Injected dylib

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp
4. Inject environment variable with installd
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Launch a kernel exploit
Overwriting the Root Partition with Injected dylib

- By injecting our dylib into afcd running out of the sandbox, the dylib gains access to /dev/rdisk0s1s1
  - Direct read/write to the block device is possible!
Use lockdownd to obtain root (replaces kernel patching)

1. Install an app with crafted Info.plist
2. Get execution of afcd
3. Enable access to /tmp
4. Inject environment variable with installd
5. Bypass Code signing
6. Inject dylib into a non-sandboxed process
7. Get access to the root partition
8. Overwrite root filesystem
9. Getting the root with lockdownd
Unprotected lockdownd Plist

• Plist files in LaunchDaemons are embedded in dyld_cache file.

• Services.plist in lockdownd is unprotected
  – lockdownd can also launch new services/apps with root privileges.

• Modify Services.plist to run target executables under our control as root.
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #3 Accessing /tmp
  – Install a developer signed app
  – Create symlink as same as evasi0n7 did with afcd
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #5: Forge a dylib to have a constructor, then sign with a developer license
  – Similar to .ctors in ELF
  ```c
  __attribute__((constructor))
  static void initialize() {
  ```
  – Constructor is called when the dylib is loaded
    • This is before afcd initiates its own sandbox.
    • Injected dylib will be executed outside of sandbox.
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #7: Dump root partition using syslogd exploit, then modify it
  – Download it to PC through AFC
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #8: Override libmis.dylib
  – Build dylibs to return 0 for all sandbox functions

```c
int MISValidateSignature(char *a, char *b)
{
    syslog(0, "### Nullifying Codesign: MISValidateSignature is called");
    return 0;
}
```

```c
int MISValidateSignatureAndCopyInfo(char *a, char *b)
{
    syslog(0, "### Nullifying Codesign: MISValidateSignatureAndCopyInfo is called");
    return 0;
}
```

– If injected, code signing check will be disabled.
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #8: Override libmis.dylib
  – Inject into /usr/lib
  – Touch /System/Library/Caches/com.apple.dyld/enable-dylibs-to-override-cache

// check for file that enables dyld shared cache dylibs to be overridden
struct stat enableStatBuf;
sDylibsOverrideCache = ( ::stat(IPHONE_DYLD_SHARED_CACHE_DIR "enable-dylibs-to-override-cache", &enableStatBuf) == 0 );

Sourcecode of dyld, from opensource.apple.com
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #8: Override libmis.dylib
  – If we make iOS to load /usr/lib/libmis.dylib, it will fail to boot
    • Injected libmis.dylib is signed by developer license
    • amfid must be started to allow developer license
      – Otherwise, provisioning profiles will not be loaded.
    • A chicken-and-egg problem
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #8: Override libmis.dylib
  • Create symlink enable-dylibs-to-override-cache pointing to /tmp/bypass_codesign
  • At boot time, since tmpfs is a kind of ramdisk, it is empty
  • dyld will not load /usr/lib/libmis.dylib
    – dyld checks existence with stat(), not lstat()

```c
// check for file that enables dyld shared cache dylibs to be overridden
struct stat enableStatBuf;
sDylibsOverrideCache = ( ::stat(IPHONE_DYLD_SHARED_CACHE_DIR "enable-dylibs-to-override-cache", &enableStatBuf) == 0 );
```
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #9: Kill amfid & installd
  – We create /tmp/bypass_codesign after the boot process
    • amfid & installd are already loaded with stock libmis.dylib
  – Then we kill and reload the daemons
    • Killing amfid requires root permissions.
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #9: Edit /System/Library/Lockdown/Services.plist

Script for killing amfid

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<dict>
  <key>com.apple.killamfid</key>
  <dict>
    <key>AllowUnactivatedService</key>
    <true/>
    <key>Label</key>
    <string>com.apple.killamfid</string>
    <key>ProgramArguments</key>
    <array>
      <string>/bin/lunchctl</string>
      <string>stop</string>
      <string>com.apple.MobileFileIntegrity</string>
    </array>
    <key>UserName</key>
    <string>root</string>
  </dict>
</dict>
```

Script for killing installd

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<dict>
  <key>com.apple.killinstalld</key>
  <dict>
    <key>AllowUnactivatedService</key>
    <true/>
    <key>Label</key>
    <string>com.apple.killinstalld</string>
    <key>ProgramArguments</key>
    <array>
      <string>/bin/lunchctl</string>
      <string>stop</string>
      <string>com.apple.mobile.installd</string>
    </array>
    <key>UserName</key>
    <string>root</string>
  </dict>
</dict>
```
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• Writeback root partition, then reboot
  – Upload disk image with AFC
  – open(/dev/rdisk0s1s1);
  – Write modified data...
Modified Steps for Jailbreaking 7.1.2

• #9: Kill daemons with lockdownd
  – lockdownd is a service that processes commands from USB connections.
  • Can be called by a USB connection
  • Can be called by connecting to 127.0.0.1:62078
Demo Video
Jailbreak Complete

• Attacker can execute code outside of the sandbox
  – A dylib injected into afcd already does this

• Attacker can execute unsigned code
  – Newly started amfid & installd will load modified libmis.dylib
    • Attacker can install & run unsigned binaries

• Attacker has a privileged root process
  – Via hooking daemons running as root
Limitations

• Our exploit does not use a kernel vulnerability
  – We cannot patch the kernel

• We cannot:
  – Execute a non-container binary
    • Can be replaced with fork() & dlopen()
  – Disable sandbox of container binary
    • Can be delegated to a sandbox-free process
  – Debug the kernel
Lessons

- Jailbreak usually requires multiple vulnerabilities to achieve.
- Fixing some of vulnerabilities on the chain may block the current jailbreak attack.
- Incompletely patching the disclosed vulnerabilities still leaves the door for other attacks.
References

1. https://github.com/comex/datautils0/blob/master/make_kernel_patchfile.c
3. http://theiphonewiki.com/wiki/Evasi0n7 (will be updated per each write-ups)
Questions?

• Thank you for your attention!
• Thanks to evad3rs for their jailbreak tool.
• Thanks to geohot for his detailed write-up.