



CoRIIN 2024

Apple Sysdiagnose For iOS Forensics



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Presentation Plan

I. Problem Statement

II. iOS Forensics

III. Existing Projects

IV. Sysdiagnose

V. Open Source Contribution





I. Problem Statement



The Need for Device Analysis

Our smartphones contain a lot of sensitive data

- Emails and conversations
- Photos and videos

And they have many sensors

- Camera
- Microphone
- GPS

Access to this data and sensors is a serious concern regarding the security and privacy of individuals



Sophisticated Cyber Threats

Sophisticated cyber threats have emerged targeting iOS devices

- Zero-click exploits
- CVEs, kernel exploits, ...

More sensitive roles are being attacked

- Politicians
- Journalists
- Activists
- ...

Necessity for iOS forensics to safeguard the privacy and the security



Bring Your Own Device



66%

Mobiles belong to employees

25%

European smartphone user
has already had at least 1 malware

Source: study carried out by Zimperium in 2022 <https://www.zimperium.com/global-mobile-threat-report/>

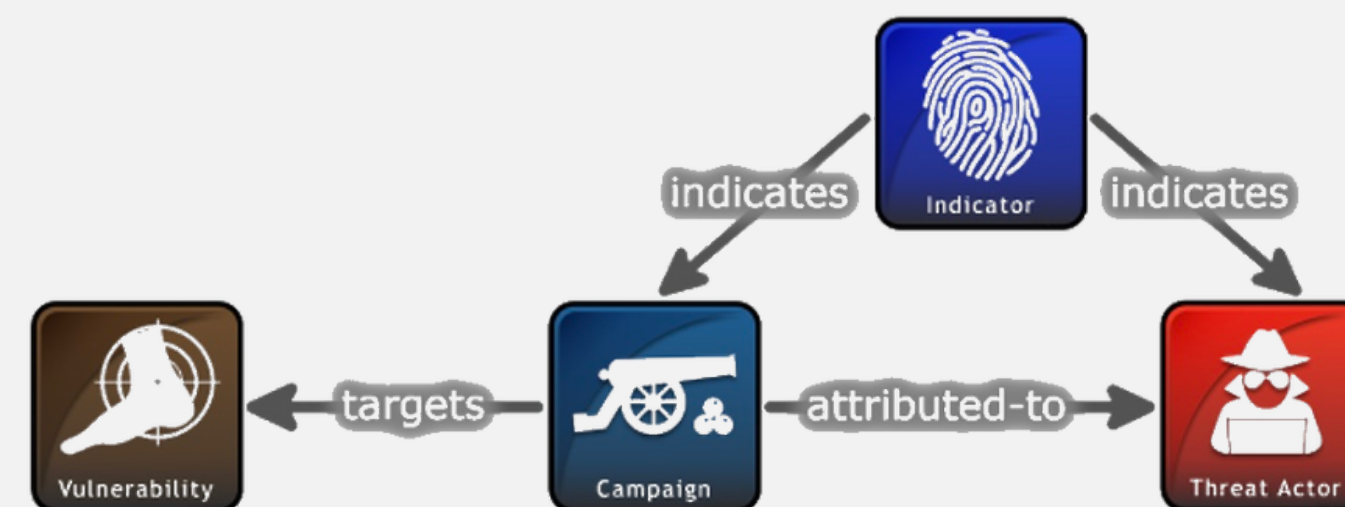


II. iOS Forensics

Indicator of Compromise

An IOC refers to any piece of information that can be used to detect malicious activity or a security breach

- File traces
- Suspicious processes and URLs
- Binary Hashes
- Network Traffic
- Provisioning profiles
- Trusted certifications



STIX 2 Relationship Example

STIX is a way to describe IoCs and to set them into relation

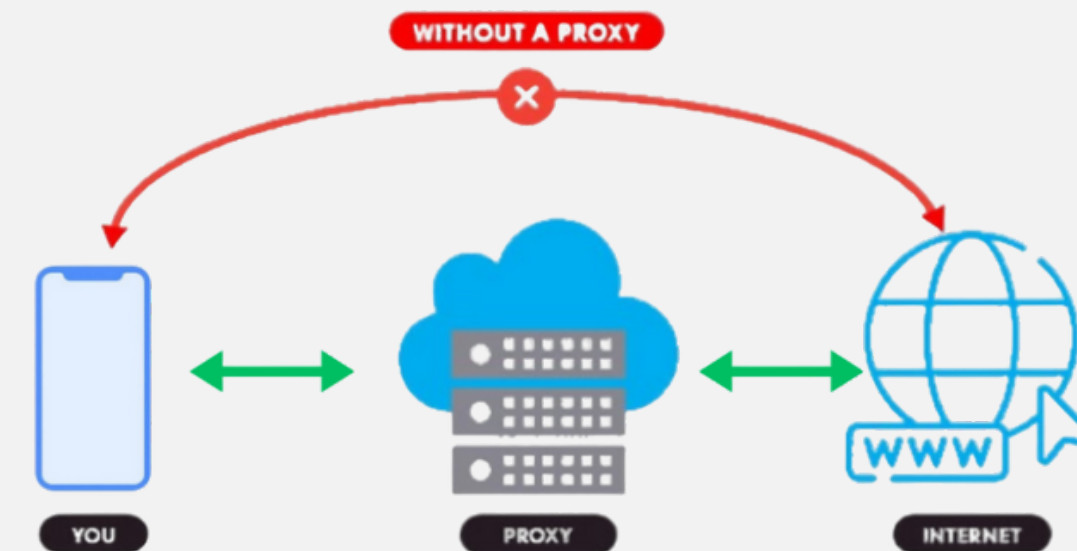


1. Network Traffic Analysis



Network Traffic Analysis

- **Analyse connections between iOS devices and external servers**
- **Detection of potentially malicious activities in real time**
 - Malicious domain names
 - Data uploads to C&C servers
- **Used by kaspersky to detect Operation Triangulation**
 - Multiple connections to C&C domains
 - Malicious iMessage attachment



Time	Server Name	Destination	Destination Port	Protocol
222.577175	init.ess.apple.com	62.115.253.208	443	TLSv1.3
223.248546	kt-prod.ess.apple.com	17.145.0.2	443	TLSv1.3
250.471089	p113-caldav.icloud.com	17.250.84.36	443	TLSv1.2
301.339923	edge-102.sesto4.icloud-content.com	17.250.84.37	443	TLSv1.3
302.194211	p31-content.icloud.com	17.250.84.22	443	TLSv1.2
314.766744	setup.icloud.com	17.250.84.19	443	TLSv1.2
339.869951	backuprabbit.com	104.21.21.154	443	TLSv1.3
359.630968	gsa.apple.com	17.32.194.2	443	TLSv1.2
360.605764	backuprabbit.com	104.21.21.154	443	TLSv1.3
361.092903	pds-init.ess.apple.com	62.115.253.218	443	TLSv1.3
368.065719	cloudsponcer.com	104.21.79.172	443	TLSv1.3
377.414078	backuprabbit.com	104.21.21.154	443	TLSv1.3



2. File System Analysis

iTunes Backup

→ What does an iTunes backup save?

- **Media files:** photos, videos, and other media files.
- **Application Data:** App settings, preferences, data, documents and install profiles.
- **Settings:** Network settings (Wi-Fi hotspots, VPN settings, network preference), Paired Bluetooth devices.
- **Other Data:** Notes, Calendar events, ...

Encrypted backups include:

- Keychain data
- Wi-Fi settings
- Website history
- Health data
- Call, messages history

Encrypted backups don't include Face ID, Touch ID or device passcode data

iTunes Backup

→ How to create a backup ?

- Commercial Forensic Tools (Cellebrite, Elcomsoft, Magnet axiome, oxygen,...)
- iMazing
- iTunes (now Finder)
- iPhone Backup Extractor
- libimobiledevice
- ...

→ Where to start ?

- Narrow down a timeline of events
- identify any applications that may be exhibiting odd behavior
- Do the same with any services (i.e. microphone, camera)
- Research avenues that data could get onto the device (messaging apps, email, bluetooth, web history/downloads)

iTunes Backup - Analysis

- **DataUsage.sqlite**

	ZFIRSTTIMESTAMP	ZTIMESTAMP	ZBUNDLENAME	ZPROCNAME
> ZCHECKUPEVENT				
> ZDEMOLIVEUSAGE	726955973.718179	726955973.71818	com.apple.shortcuts	1FB47783-A2FE-47D9-B2...
> ZEVENT				
> ZEVENTSCENE	726955973.708038	726955973.708039	com.apple.mobileslides...	1FB47783-A2FE-47D9-B2...
> ZLIVEUSAGE				
> ZPEER	726955973.702991	726955973.702991	com.apple.news	1FB47783-A2FE-47D9-B2...
> ZPROCESS	726955973.698969	726955973.698969	com.apple.iBooks	1FB47783-A2FE-47D9-B2...
> ZTSHOOTINGDATA				
> ZWIFIDATA	726955973.710393	726955973.710395	com.apple.MobileAddre...	1FB47783-A2FE-47D9-B2...
> Z_METADATA				
> Z_MODELCACHE	726955973.716978	726955973.71698	com.apple.findmy	1FB47783-A2FE-47D9-B2...
> Z_PRIMARYKEY				

iTunes Backup - Analysis

- Can Artifacts tell the story: Check the app permissions

TCC.db - know which services your applications are using

service	client	client_type	auth_value	last_modified
kTCCServiceMotion	com.apple.Health	0	2	1705263229
kTCCServiceWebKitIntelligentTrack...	com.apple.mobilesafari	0	2	1705321343
kTCCServiceAddressBook	com.atobits.Tweetie2	0	2	1706533691
kTCCServiceFocusStatus	com.apple.MobileSMS	0	2	1706705478
kTCCServiceAddressBook	org.whispersystems.signal	0	2	1707147318
kTCCServiceCamera	com.wireguard.ios	0	2	1707209019
kTCCServiceWebKitIntelligentTrack...	com.apple.SafariViewService	0	2	1707594729
kTCCServiceLiverpool	com.apple.mobilesafari	0	2	1707901072



iTunes Backups may take hours depending on the size of the files on the device
Limited amount of data is available

Full File System Extraction

More complete !

App Usage Time

- ➔ CurrentPowerlogs.plsql
- Size > 426 tables
 - /private/var/containers/Shared/SystemGroup/<GUID>/Library/BatteryLife/CurrentPowerlog.PLSQL

	timestamp	BackgroundTime	ScreenOnTime	BundleID
1245	2016-04-02 17:00:00	2312.881339	0.0	com.apple.SafariViewService
1246	2016-04-02 17:00:00	22.20416	0.0	com.apple.mobilemail
1247	2016-04-02 18:00:00	173.04662	0.0	net.whatsapp.WhatsApp
1248	2016-04-02 18:00:00	4064.636366	0.0	com.apple.SafariViewService

Full File System Extraction

Detecting blocked OTA Update

➔ **`/var/mobile/Library/Preferences/com.apple.softwareupdateservicesd.plist`**

-> Download iOS Updates

SUDisableAutoDownload

-> Install iOS Updates

SUAutomaticUpdateV2Enabled

-> Security Responses & System Files

SUAutoInstallSystemDataFiles

**Settings -> General -> Software Update
-> Automatic Updates**



Need to jailbreak the device



3. Diagnostic Information



Diagnostic Information

- **Crashlogs:**
 - Investigate crashlogs to identify patterns or anomalies
 - Look for indications of malicious activities or vulnerabilities
- **Sysdiagnose:**
 - Analyze sysdiagnose reports for system-level information
 - Identify any irregularities that may point towards security breaches



III. Existing Projects

Network Analysis - TinyCheck

- Developed by Kaspersky
- Analyzes outgoing traffic from a device, using a Wi-Fi connection, and identifies interactions with known sources, such as servers linked to stalkerware
- The project makes it possible to detect in certain cases the presence of more sophisticated implants implemented by malicious actors

Backup Analysis - MVT

- Public project: <https://github.com/mvt-project/mvt>
- Developed by Amnesty International
- Processing and parsing records from numerous iOS system and apps databases, logs and system analytics
- Comparing extracted records to malicious indicators in STIX2 format
- Generating a unified chronological timeline of extracted records



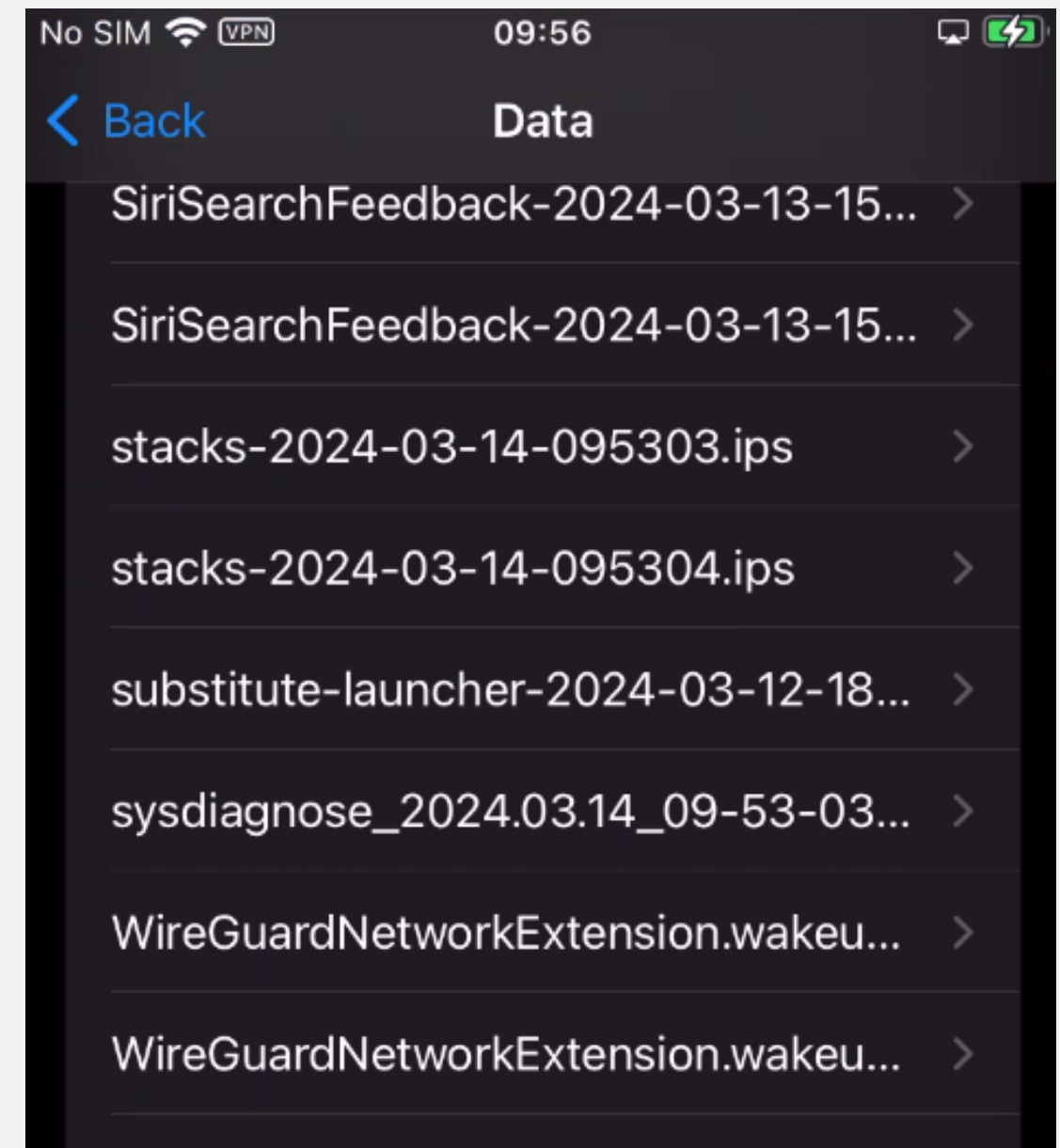
Has access to private user data



IV. Sysdiagnose

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

- The sysdiagnose tool gathers system diagnostic information helpful in investigating system performance issues
- **Generation**
 - Simultaneously pressing and releasing both volume buttons + the Side (or Top) button for 1 to 1.5 seconds.
 - Can take up to 10 min.
 - Locate it on settings > Privacy > Analytics & Improvements > Analytics Data
- **How to retrieve it:**
 - libimobiledevice: `idevicecrashreport` command
 - Finder/Airdrop
 - Commercial Tools:
 - Cellebrite
 - Magnet Forensics
 - ...



Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

- **Think about privacy !**

Sysdiagnose contains no user data but lots of metadata

- Apps installed
- Hardware details
- Device configuration
- Network configuration & connections
- Logs
- Usage overview
- Results of commands run on the device
- ...

Different formats of files:

- SQLite
- Plist
- CSV
- ASCII Text
- GZIP Files

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

■ Interesting files

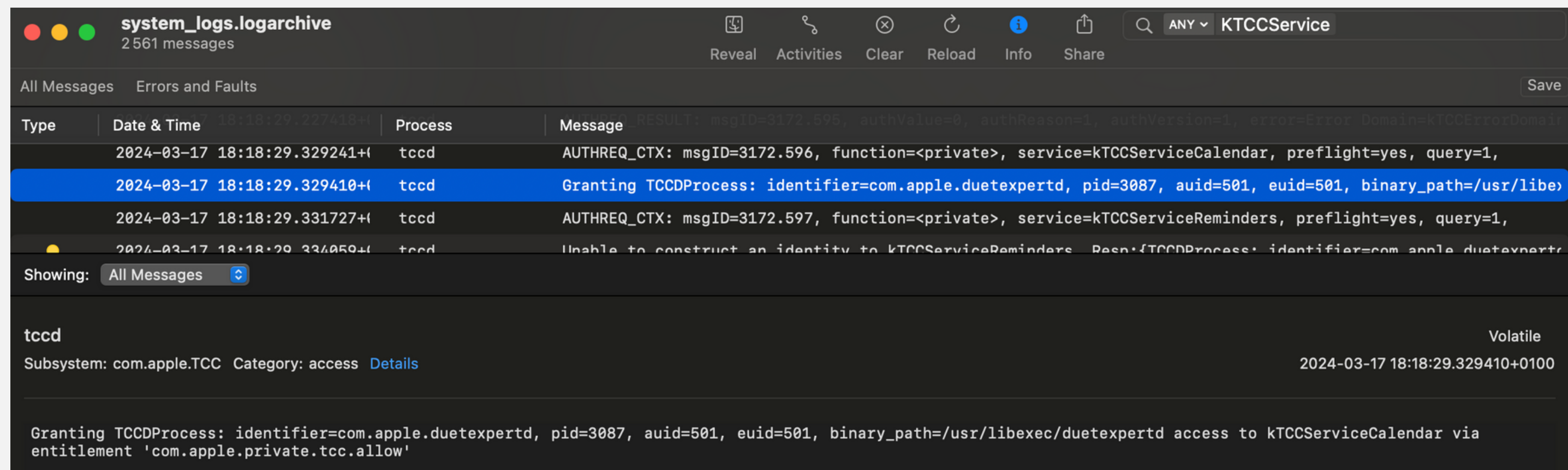
- ./ps.txt
- Ps_thread.txt
- ./*/logs/MobileContainerManager
- ./*/logs/powerlogs/powerlog_*: extracted from the CurrentPowerlog.PLSQL
- logs/Networking
- logs/MobileInstallation
- Wifi, Airdrop, Bluetooth data in details

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

■ Unified Logs

- A collection of logs from the iOS device located in: **system_logs.logarchive** folder on a sysdiagnose
- Can be viewed with the native Mac OS Console
- Record as much information as possible regarding the device's activity
- Have a limited duration

Example of a log emitted by **tccd**, this line tells that the process **duetexpertd** has been granted access to **kTCCServiceCalendar**



```
system_logs.logarchive
2561 messages

Reveal Activities Clear Reload Info Share
ANY KTCCService
All Messages Errors and Faults Save
Type Date & Time Process Message
2024-03-17 18:18:29.227418+0 tccd AUTHREQ_CTX: msgID=3172.595, function=<private>, service=kTCCServiceCalendar, preflight=yes, query=1,
2024-03-17 18:18:29.329410+0 tccd Granting TCCDProcess: identifier=com.apple.duetexpertd, pid=3087, auid=501, euid=501, binary_path=/usr/libexec/duetexpertd access to kTCCServiceCalendar via entitlement 'com.apple.private.tcc.allow'
2024-03-17 18:18:29.331727+0 tccd AUTHREQ_CTX: msgID=3172.597, function=<private>, service=kTCCServiceReminders, preflight=yes, query=1,
2024-03-17 18:18:29.334059+0 tccd Unable to construct an identity to kTCCServiceReminders. Resp: {TCCDProcess: identifier=com.apple.duetexpertd, pid=3087, auid=501, euid=501, binary_path=/usr/libexec/duetexpertd}

Showing: All Messages
tccd Volatile
Subsystem: com.apple.TCC Category: access Details 2024-03-17 18:18:29.329410+0100

Granting TCCDProcess: identifier=com.apple.duetexpertd, pid=3087, auid=501, euid=501, binary_path=/usr/libexec/duetexpertd access to kTCCServiceCalendar via entitlement 'com.apple.private.tcc.allow'
```

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

■ Settings modified by malware

MCSettingsEvents.plist

- Contains logs of settings changes
- Path:

{Sysdiag_root}/logs/MCState/Shared/MCSettingsEvents.plist

```
"allowAppAnalytics" => {
  "restrictedBool" => {
    " " => {
      "value" => {
        "event" => "set"
        "process" => "com.b[REDACTED]"
        "timestamp" => 2021-02-01 13:59:52 +0000
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```
"allowDiagnosticSubmissionModification" => {
  "ask" => {
    "event" => "set"
    "process" => "com.b[REDACTED]"
    "timestamp" => 2021-02-01 13:59:53 +0000
  }
}
```

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

■ MCSettings.plist entries:

allowUntrustedTLSPrompt	Select to allow the device user to accept untrusted HTTPS certificates.
allowDiagnosticSubmission	Sends diagnostics to apple
allowAppRemoval	If false, disables removal of apps from iOS devices
allowUIConfigurationProfileInstallation	If false, the user is prohibited from installing configuration profiles and certificates interactively.
allowAutomaticAppDownloads	If false, it prevents automatic downloading of apps purchased on other devices.
allowSafetyDataSubmission	Check whom the device is sharing information with, restrict Messages and FaceTime to the iPhone, reset system privacy permissions for apps
allowSystemAppRemoval	If false, the system disables the removal of system apps from the device

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

■ Configuration Profiles

- Configuration profiles automate the configuration of settings, accounts, restrictions and credentials
- These files can be created by an MDM solution or Apple Configurator for Mac or manually
 - Passcode and password policies
 - Restrictions on device features (for example, disabling the camera)
 - Network and VPN settings
 - Microsoft Exchange settings
 - Mail settings
 - Account settings
 - ...

Diagnostic Information - Sysdiagnose

■ Detect Installation of Alternative App Store Apps

- Detection using webclip profiles
- Web clips allow to add quick-access icons to the home screen of an iPad or iPhone that links directly to specified web pages.
- Path: **{sysdiagFolder}/logs/MCState/Shared/profile-{ALNUMPSEUDORANDOM}.stub**

```
"PayloadContent": [  
  {  
    "PayloadIdentifier": "com.apple.webClip.managed.45F86F99-A026-4B7A-A308-D4A8756085EE",  
    "PayloadDescription": "Configures settings for a web clip",  
    "Label": "iOSGods App",  
    "FullScreen": true,  
    "PayloadType": "com.apple.webClip.managed",  
    "PayloadUUID": "45F86F99-A026-4B7A-A308-D4A8756085EE",  
    "URL": "https://app.iosgods.com/store/",  
    "PayloadVersion": 1,  
    "IgnoreManifestScope": false,  
    "PayloadDisplayName": "Web Clip",  
    "SavedIdentifier": "D81A2C48B74B42EAA91EE39C40C68AED",  
    "IsRemovable": true  
  }  
]
```

Scan Report : 🍏 Device sysdiagnose : iPhone

Scan time : 2023-12-07 15:30:05.951509088

Overview

A forensic scan was conducted on **Device sysdiagnose : iPhone** at **2023-12-07 15:30:05.951509088**. The device UDID is the following: **14df62f75c47b4858504c082a722c5b0a862ca94**.

This document summarizes potential threats and vulnerabilities carried by the device.

Conclusion

The level of threat on your device has been assessed as **HIGH** with :

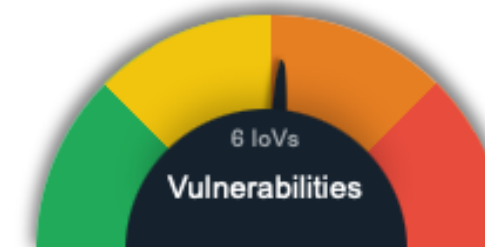
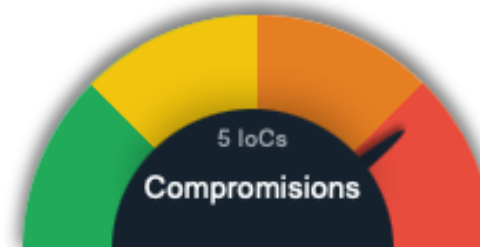
- a compromission score of **8 / 10**
- a vulnerability score of **5.15 / 10**

5 threats detected

Your device is severely infected !

29274 entries have been scanned

11 security concern(s) in total !





V. Open source contribution



Jérôme == **Dev** != Cyber

Sysdiagnose is a Mess



An archive with :

- a lot of folders and files
- some are archives
- some are databases
- some are text
- some are structured (plist, xml, json ...)

It's a real skill to get what we need



Ambitious :

- Specific parsers
- Strict data structures



```
old_parser.rs +  
  
impl DeserialiseParser for ListOfScannedNetworksWithPrivateMacParser {  
    type DeserializedType = VecListOfScannedNetworksWithPrivateMac;  
  
    fn deserialize_reader(&self, reader: impl Read + Seek + 'static)  
        -> Result<Self::DeserializedType, ParseError> {  
        Ok(plist::from_reader(reader)?)  
    }  
}
```

Reality check :

- Tedious !
- Fragile ! (versions !)
- Code duplication (not D.R.Y.)

```
old_parser.rs +  
  
#[derive(Default, Debug, Clone, PartialEq, Deserialize)]  
#[serde(rename_all = "camelCase")]  
pub struct VecListOfScannedNetworksWithPrivateMac {  
    #[serde(rename = "List of scanned networks with private mac")]  
    pub list_of_scanned_networks_with_private_mac: Vec<ListOfScannedNetworksWithPrivateMac>,  
}  
  
#[derive(Default, Debug, Clone, PartialEq, Deserialize)]  
#[serde(rename_all = "camelCase")]  
pub struct ListOfScannedNetworksWithPrivateMac {  
    #[serde(rename = "MacGenerationTimeStamp")]  
    pub mac_generation_time_stamp: Option<String>,  
    #[serde(rename = "PrivateMacFutureMacAddress")]  
    pub private_mac_future_mac_address: Option<plist::Data>,  
    #[serde(rename = "BlockRotation")]  
    pub block_rotation: Option<bool>,  
    // ...  
    // 50 MORE LINES  
    // ...  
    #[serde(rename = "FailureCountThresholdCurrent")]  
    pub failure_count_threshold_current: Option<i64>,  
    #[serde(rename = "NetworkWasCaptive")]  
    pub network_was_captive: Option<bool>,  
}
```

Let's talk json !

And

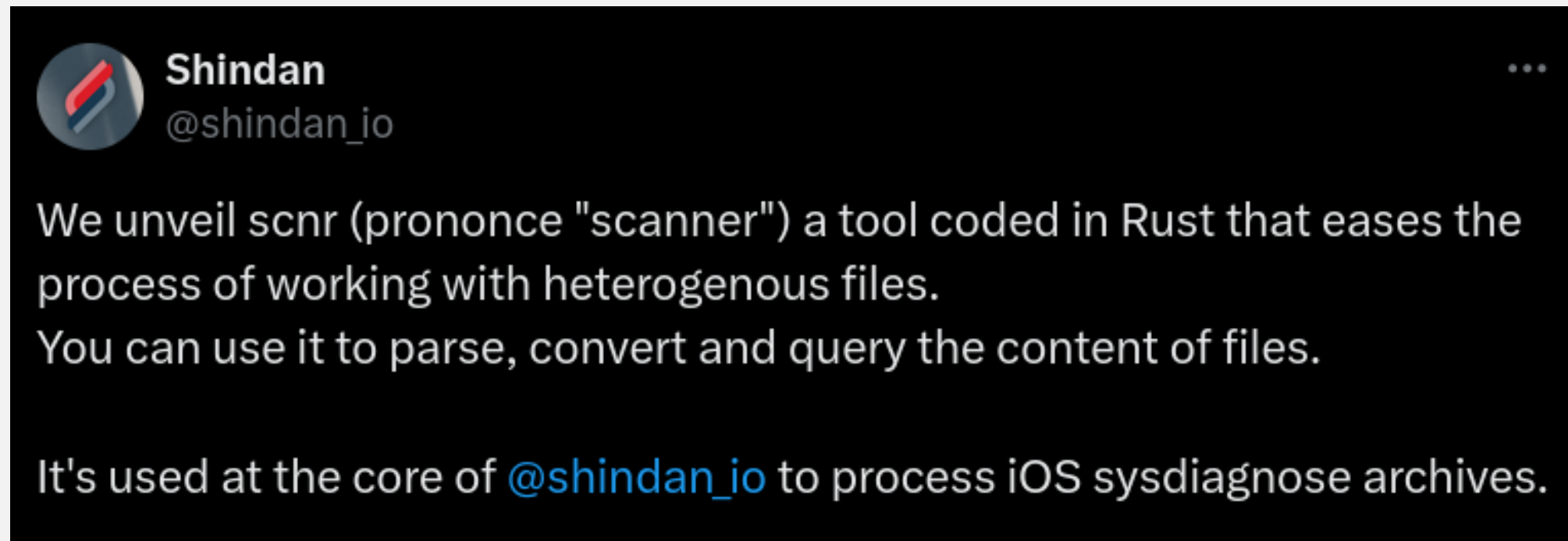
let's query with jq !

./jq
{.json}

```
new_parser.rs +
crate::parse::scnr::impl_scnr_parser_json!(
    ListOfScannedNetworksWithPrivateMacParser,
    "**/WiFi/com.apple.wifi-private-mac-networks.plist",
    |json, root_path, rel_path| {
        let objs = jq(
            json,
            r#"
                ."List of scanned networks with private mac"[]
                | select( type == "object" )
                | select( .lastJoined != null )
                | { "addedAt": .lastJoined, "open": .IsOpenNetwork, "ssid":.SSID_STR }
            "#,
        )?;

        for obj in objs {
            // .. do something with JSON values
        }
    }
);
```

And so we open sourced our “digging” layer



Shindan
@shindan_io

We unveil scnr (pronounce "scanner") a tool coded in Rust that eases the process of working with heterogenous files.
You can use it to parse, convert and query the content of files.

It's used at the core of @shindan_io to process iOS sysdiagnose archives.

<https://github.com/shindan-io/scnr>



Yet another sysdiagnose digging tool ?

<https://github.com/EC-DIGIT-CSIRC/sysdiagnose>



Choose your flavor

command line (as a rust lib too of course !)

```
scnr_jq.sh +  
  
scnr jq \  
-i $1 \  
-f "**/logs/SystemVersion/SystemVersion.plist" \  
-q "{ ProductName, ProductVersion, ProductBuildVersion, BuildID, SystemImageID }"
```

python

```
scnr_python.py +  
  
import py_scnr  
import sys  
  
for jq_result in py_scnr.jq( \  
    input = sys.argv[1], \  
    filter = ["**/logs/SystemVersion/SystemVersion.plist"], \  
    query = "{ ProductName, ProductVersion, ProductBuildVersion, BuildID, SystemImageID }", \  
):  
    print(jq_result)
```

In an archive ? no problem

already_decompressed.sh +

```
scnr jq \  
-i sysdiagnose_2023.10.26_14-40-37+0200_iPhone-OS_iPhone_19H349 \  
-f "**/logs/SystemVersion/SystemVersion.plist" \  
-q "{ ProductName, ProductVersion, ProductBuildVersion, BuildID, SystemImageID }"
```

dont_give_a_f.sh +

```
scnr jq \  
-i sysdiagnose_2023.10.26_14-40-37+0200_iPhone-OS_iPhone_19H349.tar.gz \  
-f "**/logs/SystemVersion/SystemVersion.plist" \  
-q "{ ProductName, ProductVersion, ProductBuildVersion, BuildID, SystemImageID }"
```

SAME RESULT =>

output.json +

```
{  
  "ProductName": "iPhone OS",  
  "ProductVersion": "15.7.6",  
  "ProductBuildVersion": "19H349",  
  "BuildID": "F66FFDFE-E5A9-11ED-B408-720BCFA60583",  
  "SystemImageID": "5FAC5A2B-DB57-4EDD-A576-4C662CD5B428"  
}
```

More examples

```
scnr_scan_to_grep.sh +  
scnr scan -i _samples -f *w.tar.gz/*.db | grep -B 2 -A 2 Islands
```

- grep through sqlite ?
- in an archive ?

```
console_output.txt +  
  
{  
  "country_id": 32,  
  "country": "Faroe Islands",  
  "last_update": "2020-12-23 07:12:13"  
},  
--  
{  
  "country_id": 106,  
  "country": "Virgin Islands, U.S.",  
  "last_update": "2020-12-23 07:12:14"  
},
```

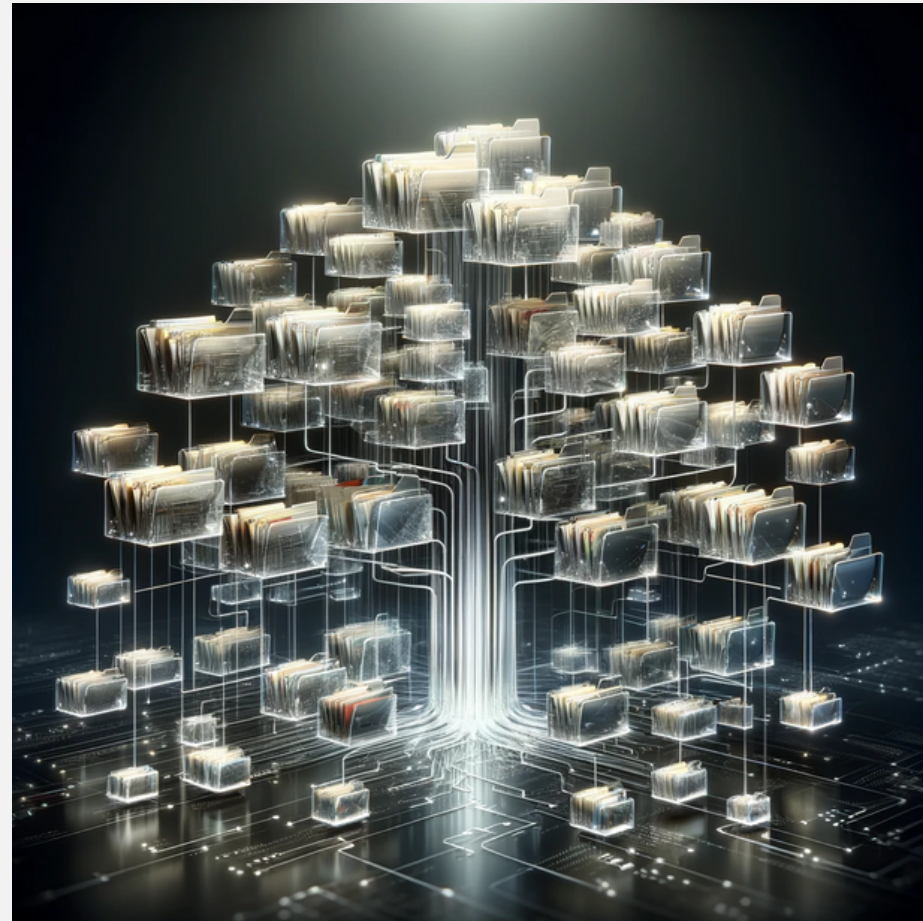
\$ scnr extract

```
scnr_extract_dbs_in_archives_as_json.sh +  
  
scnr extract -i sysdiagnose_*_20I444.tar.gz -o sysdiag_expanded -p sysdiagnose  
more sysdiag_expanded/...../logs/Accessibility/TCC.db/access
```

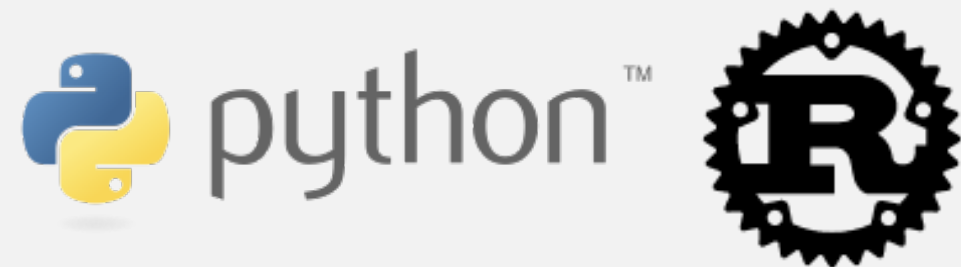


```
TCC.db/access.json +  
  
[  
  {  
    "service": "kTCCServiceMotion",  
    "client": "com.apple.Health",  
    "client_type": 0,  
    "auth_value": 2,  
    "auth_reason": 4,  
    "auth_version": 1,  
    "csreq": null,  
    "policy_id": null,  
    "indirect_object_identifier_type": 0,  
    "indirect_object_identifier": "UNUSED",  
    "indirect_object_code_identity": null,  
    "flags": 0,  
    "last_modified": 1684007050  
  },  
  // ...  
]
```

Archives transparency



Rust + Python libs



\$ scnr scan ..

dumps json & txt to console

\$ scnr jq ..

query each json and output the result

\$ scnr extract ..

recursive extract & transform to json when possible

- performances ?
- more file types ?
- bindings in more languages ?
- more output types ?
- more query types ?

WTF section :

- DuckDB extension ?
- GraphQL api ?
- in browser ? (WASM)



...and it's open, so **you** can contribute :

- use it, ask for use cases
- fork, improve, build your own ...
- issues & PR are welcome !



References & acknowledgments

References & acknowledgments

- Lib Mobile Device => <https://libimobiledevice.org>
- iOSbackup => <https://github.com/avibrazil/iOSbackup>
- SysDiagnose => <http://www.for585.com/sysdiagnose>
- Operation Triangulation => <https://securelist.com/?s=operation%20triangulation>
- Scnr => <https://github.com/shindan-io/scnr>
- Shindan's blog => <https://shindan.io/posts/>
- Tiny Check => <https://tiny-check.com>



Merci !





Questions ?

Retrouvez-nous sur notre stand ! le **A1**

