## Claim What You Need: Towards a Simplified Permission Requests Management for Android Mobile Apps

### Mingkui Wei, Xi Gong and Wenye Wang IEEE GlobeCom 2016

NC State University

April, 2013

## Outline



### 2 Related Work

3 System Model





## Outline

## 1 Motivation

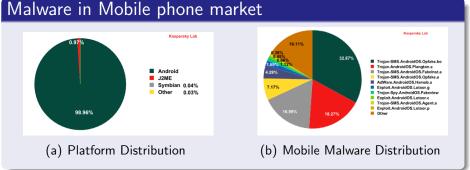
- 2 Related Work
- 3 System Mode

### 4 Evaluation

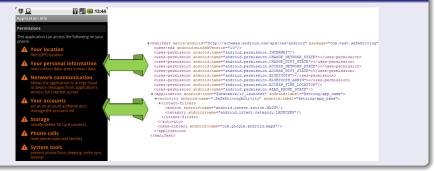


### Malware

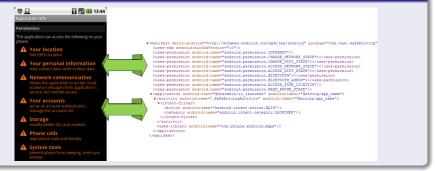
Malware, short for malicious (or malevolent) software, is software used or programmed by attackers to disrupt computer operation, gather sensitive information, or gain access to private computer systems.



## Background: Android permission mechanism



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# However...

### Android permission mechanism: not effective



### Android permission mechanism: not effective



# Therefore...

### Question

can we precisely summarize the functionality of an app and furthermore predict the corresponding necessary permissions?

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### 5 Conclusion

## Background and Related Work

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### Related Work

Enck et al: Compare requested permissions against a preset-rule, which defines "dangerous" permissions-combination

Peng et al: App risk ranking based on score, which was derived from studying permission combination pattern

Code based approach.

## Background and Related Work

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### Shortage

- Computationally intensive: Download package, unzip package, find certain file, parse permission requested, ....
- Code not always available: packages are encrypted
- Error prone: "Dangerous combination" is not dangerous, as long as developers mean it, and users know it

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## System Model: Introduction

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### Goal

- Detect inconsistency between *Description* and *Permission requested*.
- Regulate developers' behavior: write sensible description, request resonable permission.

### Example 1: Reasonable

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### Example 1: Reasonable



#### YOUR MESSAGES

READ YOUR TEXT MESSAGES (SMS OR MMS)

Allows the app to read SMS messages stored on your tablet or SIM card. This allows the app to read all SMS messages, regardless of content or confidentiality. Allows the app to read SMS messages stored on your phone or SIM card. This allows the app to read all SMS messages. regardless of content or confidentiality.

DEFAULT

#### ACCESS MAIL INFORMATION

Allows the app to access information about your mail.

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\*Choose from 5 different basketball styles

"The ability to "shoot baskets" right on your home screen (with sounds)

\*Animated fans in team colors

\*SMS and Email notification in ticker

\*Day and Night detection with in arena lighting.

\*Classic Mode for a top-down court display

\*Made with official release software to ensure quality and performance

\*Officially licensed release from the NBA

\*All 30 teams have a live wallpaper available for in-app purchase:

### Example 2: Unreasonable

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### Example 2: Unreasonable



#### YOUR LOCATION

#### APPROXIMATE LOCATION (NETWORK-BASED)

Allows the app to get your approximate location. This location is derived by location services using network location sources such as cell towers and Wi-Fi. These location services must be turned on and available to your device for the app to use them. Apps may use this to determine approximately where you are.

#### PRECISE LOCATION (GPS AND NETWORK-BASED)

Allows the app to get your precise location using the Global Positioning System (OPS) or network location sources such as cell towers and WF-T. These location service must be turned on and available to gour device for the app to use them. Apps may use this to determine where you are, and may consume additional battery power. YOLIN PERSONAL INFORMATION

#### READ YOUR WEB BOOKMARKS AND HISTORY

Allows the app to read the history of all URLs that the Browser has visited, and all of the Browser's bookmarks. Note: this permission may not be enforced by third-party browsers or other applications with web browsing capabilities. WRITE WEB BOOKMARKS AND NISTORY

Allows the app to modify the Browser's history or bookmarks stored on your tablet. This may allow the app to ensaic or modify Browser data. Note, this permission may note be enforced by third-party browsers or other applications with we browsing capabilities. Allows the app to modify the Browser's history or bookmarks stored on your phone. This may allow the app to ensaic or modify Browser data. Note: this permission may note be enforced by third-party browsers or other applications with we browsing capabilities.

#### PHONE CALLS

#### READ PHONE STATUS AND IDENTITY

Allows the app to access the phone features of the device. This permission allows the app to determine the phone number and device IDs, whether a call is active, and the remote number connected by a call.

### Example 2: Unreasonable



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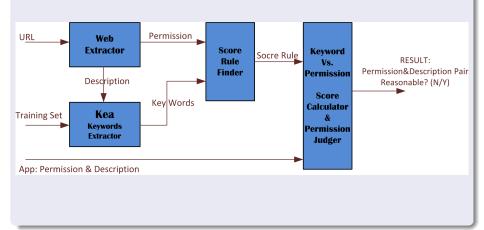
If you are American football fan you will undoubtedly be ardent fan of the American football wallpapers. A great number of wallpapers are offered, just take your time and select your favorite one. Throw a pass on your screen but don't forget the helmet! -Easy-to-browse interface enables you to find the desired background in no time! - Customize the wallpaper to fit your taste and screen!

- Zoom, un-zoom, rotate, move, scale, adjust brightness, add various effects and save your background design!

American Football NFL is a tough contact sport that dominates the American sporting scene and is gaining popularity in Europe. It is a game requiring all-round physical fitness. Players have to be fast, strong, and proficient in the six basic skills. Some of them are passing and catching. But running and blocking are not less important. American football has always been associated with a large number of injuries, not surprising when the game commonly, involves players in excess of 240 pounds colliding with each other at full speed. In the United States, it is estimated that more than 300 000 high school players, 35 000 college players. and half of the National Football League players are injured to some extent each season. Head and neck injuries are common: there are approximately 250 000 incidents of concussion each year. Some injuries have been fatal or have resulted in players becoming permanent guadriplegics. However, the number of very severe injuries has declined in recent years. This is probably due to rule changes concerning tackling and blocking with the head. and improvements in protective equipment which were introduced in 1976. There has also been a greater emphasis in training on strengthening the muscles of the neck and learning good tackling techniques. This is particularly important in the younger age group.

### Description-based text-mining approach





## Web Extractor (Python)



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### Kea Keyword Extractor (Java)



Overview Download Description Examples Publications

Keywords and keyphrases (multi-word units) are widely used in large document collections. They describe the content of single documents and provide a kind of semantic metadata that is useful for a wide variety of purposes. The task of assigning keyphrases to a document is called *keyphrase indexing*. For example, academic papers are often accompanied by a set of keyphrases freely chosen by the author. In libraries professional indexers select keyphrases from a controlled vocabulary (also called *Subject Headings*) according to defined cataloguing rules. On the Internet, digital libraries, or any depositories of data (flickr, del.icio.us, blog articles etc.) also use keyphrases (or here called content tags or content labels) to organize and provide a thematic access to their data.

KEA is an algorithm for extracting keyphrases from text documents. It can be either used for free indexing or for indexing with a controlled vocabulary.

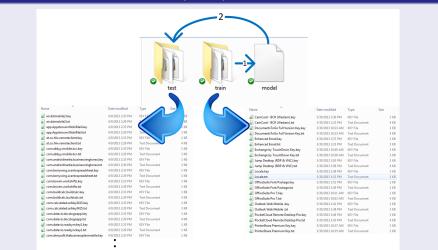
KEA is implemented in Java and is platform independent. It is an open-source software distributed under the <u>GNU General Public License</u>.

In real life, the Kea is one of New Zealand's native parrots, famed for theft, destroying cars and cameras, forming street gangs, pecking sheep to death for their delicious kidney fat, and other cutesy antics.



Thanks to Cordan Dounter, who has areats the original

### Kea Keyword Extractor (Java)



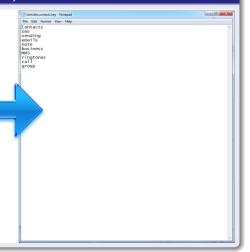
### Kea Keyword Extractor (Java)

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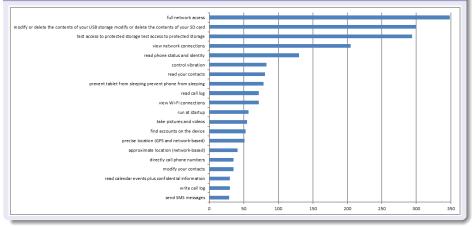
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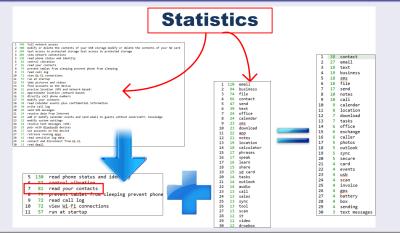
DW Contacts & amp; PhoneIs a powerful (MUST HAVE) extension for your stock dialer, contacts and phone management applicationIt focuses on business functions. Improve the efficiency of your work.KEY FEATURES-----+ you can write a note for the call records+ In call widget: extended incoming call view (show organization, group, notes, group picture, edit note in calling)+ Call filter: blocking incoming calls on free definable date- and time zones+ Call Statistics: Show the duration of your call. When the end of the free talk time to be notified.+ Quick-jump: show a window, where you can click the first letter of your contact and quickly jump/scroll to it+ Contact details: Displays all the contact information together (sms, call log, call Statistics, events)+ multi-language support (Thank all the enthusiastic user provides translation for DWC)+ most functions are accessible by using the \*LONG PRESS\* (tap and hold) on any item or use \*MENU\* key+ very flexible to configure the design of every view (sort order, fonts size, color, transparency)+ configurable contact view, how it should show the list (\*show contacts as\* / \*sort order\* for last name, first name, nick name, ...)+ tab bars: hide & sortable, include gesture switching to different views (phone, history, favorites, contacts, search, groups, organization, titles, events, toolbox)+ full management for your contacts (create, add, change, delete, copy contacts, copy to another account, groups, organization, titles in single- and multi select mode)+ batch mode for mass delivery with SMS. MMS, emails on single- and multi selection (contacts, groups, organizations, titles)+ search contacts by any attribute (name, nick name, phone number, organization, notes, address, email, relationships, websites, birthday, ...) + voice search+ support for layered groups, sub-groups (sub-group via Business.VIP = Business -> VIP)+ set ringtones on single- and multi select (contacts, groups, organizations, titles)+ contact event notification and contact event management (birthday. anniversary) + support for lunar calendar format+ easy sending event greetings to your contacts+ create shortcut to home on any contact item or on any tab via toolbox+ share contacts (text.ycard) via SMS, email. ...+ display call history with summary for single- or multi-select contacts, groups, organization, titles, ...+ dialer(phone) with T9-search - has many options to make it exactly to your wishes "> dialer and dialpad scalable and adjustable in size, background, color, font size can be changed -> full T9-search on all contacts fields and configurable -&dt; quick dial manager: Supports up to 1000 speed dial numbers. Dialing 100th number by entering #100 -> quick dial last number: -> display call history on dialer -> edit number before dialingPlease honor our work and buy the PRO version, which is very favorable in the light of functionality!Hints: We can not contact you in the Google market, if you post your questions or thoughts. If you have any suggestion for improvements -> please write on forum; http://forum.dw-o.net or use the \*Feedback via email\* function in settings menu. If you upgrade to a newer version and it fails to start (if download or install is not possible), please try to uninstall previous version before. More tips & amp: tricks see on forum http://forum.dwp.net/viewforum.php?f=9Please try our software and recommend it to your friends.Free version is limited on some functions: - advertising messages theme customizations are limited - multi-select limited to 5 items per



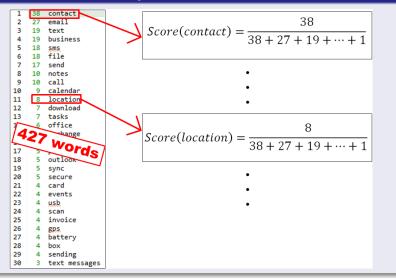
### Score-Rule Finder: The Observation

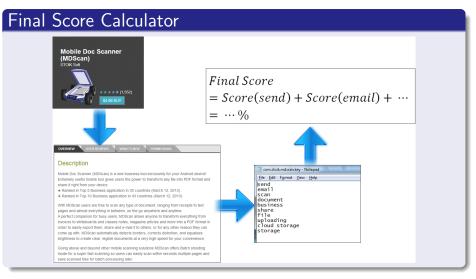


#### Score-Rule Finder: The Idea

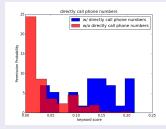


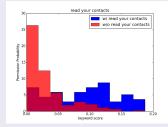
#### Score-Rule Finder: Keyword Score

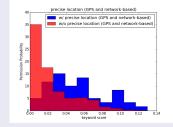


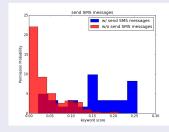


### Score-Rule Finder: Distribution

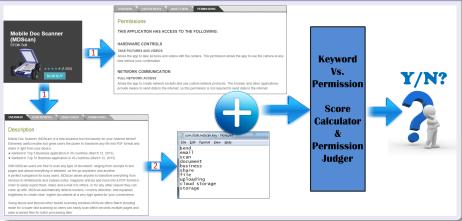








### Score-Rule based Classification Model



### Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Related Work
- 3 System Mode
- 4 Evaluation



### Evaluation

#### Table: Prediction Summaryp

	Precision	False Positive
directly call phone numbers	0.695652	0.304348
precise location	0.652174	0.347826
read your contacts	0.782609	0.173913
send SMS messages	0.739130	0.173913

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#### Conclusion

We proposep a machine learning based framework discovering permission-description patterns behind Android apps, and utilize this framework to detect the potential inconsistency between the *description* and the *permission* of a untrusted app.

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### Contribution

1. First to propose permission-abuse detection from *text-mining* approach

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- 2. First to propose finding relationship link between *description* and *permission*

#### Conclusion

We proposep a machine learning based framework discovering permission-description patterns behind Android apps, and utilize this framework to detect the potential inconsistency between the *description* and the *permission* of a untrusted app.

#### Contribution

- 1. First to propose permission-abuse detection from *text-mining* approach
- 2. First to propose finding relationship link between *description* and *permission*
- 3. Rudimentary study shows a promising result (Our future work!)

### Future Work

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#### $1. \ \, \text{Diversity}$

- Larger data set within one category
- More categories
- Category-less

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- Larger data set within one category
- More categories
- Category-less

#### 2. More precise key word extraction:

- More, more comprehensive training set for Kea
- More precise keyword extractor algorithm?



# Thank You! Questions please