

Chinese Police & CloudPets

DeepSec

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Who am I?

- ★ Director at [7ASecurity](https://7asecurity.com), public reports, presentations, etc. here: 7asecurity.com/publications
- ★ Former Team Lead & Penetration Tester at [Cure53](#) and [Version 1](#)
- ★ Co-Author of [hands-on 7ASecurity courses](#):
 - **Pwn & Fix JS apps, shells, injections and fun!** a Node.js & Electron course
 - **Hacking Android, iOS and IoT** a Mobile App Security course
- ★ Author of **Practical Web Defense**, a hands-on attack & defense course: www.elearnsecurity.com/PWD
- ★ Founder and leader of **OWASP OWTF**, and **OWASP flagship project**: owtf.org
- ★ Some presentations: www.slideshare.net/abrahamaranguren/presentations
- ★ Some **sec certs**: CISSP, OSCP, GWEB, OSWP, CPTS, CEH, MCSE: Security, MCSA: Security, Security+
- ★ Some **dev certs**: ZCE PHP 5, ZCE PHP 4, Oracle PL/SQL Developer Certified Associate, MySQL 5 CMDev, MCTS SQL Server 2005

Public Mobile Pentest Reports - I

Smart Sheriff mobile app mandated by the South Korean government:

Public Pentest Reports:

- Smart Sheriff: Round #1 - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_smartsheriff.pdf
- Smart Sheriff: Round #2 - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_smartsheriff-2.pdf

Presentation: "Smart Sheriff, Dumb Idea, the wild west of government assisted parenting"

Slides: <https://www.slideshare.net/abrahamaranguren/smart-sheriff-dumb-idea-the-wild-west-of-government-assisted-parenting>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbGX67CuVBQ>

Chinese Police Apps Pentest Reports:

- "Study the Great Nation" 09.2019 https://7asecurity.com/reports/analysis-report_sgn.pdf
- "BXAQ" (OTF) 03.2019 - https://7asecurity.com/reports/analysis-report_bxaq.pdf
- "IJOP" (HRW) 12.2018 - https://7asecurity.com/reports/analysis-report_ijop.pdf

Public Mobile Pentest Reports - II

Other reports:

- Exodus iOS Mobile App - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_exodus.pdf
- imToken Wallet - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_imtoken.pdf
- Whistler Apps - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_whistler.pdf
- Psiphon - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_psiphon.pdf
- Briar - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_briar.pdf
- Padlock - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_padlock.pdf
- Peerio - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_peerio.pdf
- OpenKeyChain - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_openkeychain.pdf
- F-Droid / Baazar - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_fdroid.pdf
- Onion Browser - https://7asecurity.com/reports/pentest-report_onion-browser.pdf

More here:

<https://7asecurity.com/publications>

Agenda

3 different security audits with interesting backgrounds:

1. **CloudPets:**

- Preliminary work & epic track record
- What we found
- What happened afterwards

2. **"IJOP"** Chinese Police app:

- Police enter data manually, fill out forms

3. **"BXAQ"** Chinese Police app:

- Police install an app that grabs data from a phone

"BXAQ" and **"IJOP"** are related to surveillance of ethnic minorities, but in different ways.

PART 1: CloudPets



What are CloudPets?



How do CloudPets work?



CloudPets Summary - I

Intended usage:

- **Parent** (far from home) **sends messages** to children using a **mobile app**
- **Children** receive these messages on the **Soft Toy**
- **Children** can send messages via the **Soft Toy**
- **Parent** receives messages on the **mobile app**

The Toys:

- Use Bluetooth LE → To communicate with the mobile app
- Have a Microphone
- Have a speaker

CloudPets Summary - II

Mobile app on parent phone = Away from the toy

→ **Sends/Receives messages** to/from:

CloudPets servers and Amazon S3

Mobile app on children device = Close to the toy

→ **Sends/Receives messages** to/from:

CloudPets servers and Amazon S3

→ **Uploads/Downloads messages** to/from Toy via: **Bluetooth LE**

What could possibly go wrong? Any ideas?



The image shows a promotional banner for CloudPets. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the CloudPets logo on the left and links for Home, How It Works, Getting Started, Support, and a red Buy Now button on the right. Below the navigation bar is a row of six plush toys: a grey elephant, a black and white cat, a brown dog, a blue dog, a brown bear, and a white unicorn with a purple horn. A smartphone is placed in front of the blue dog, displaying the CloudPets app interface. Below the toys, the text 'A Message You Can Hug™' is displayed in blue, followed by '...Now with Lullabies & Interactive Games Too!' in smaller black text. Below this text are two buttons: a blue 'Watch the Commercial' button and a red 'Buy CloudPets Today' button. At the bottom are two app store download buttons: 'Download on the App Store' and 'ANDROID APP ON Google play'.

CloudPets

Home How It Works Getting Started Support [Buy Now](#)

A Message You Can Hug™

...Now with Lullabies & Interactive Games Too!

[Watch the Commercial](#) [Buy CloudPets Today](#)

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Previous Work: #1 - Mongo DB without auth

Full access to all messages ever sent between parents and children!

Summary:

- **Mongo DB exposed to the internet without authentication**
- **Unauthorized parties downloaded the database**
- **3 Ransom requests**
- **Indexed by Shodan**
- **821k user records** at risk.
- Spiral Toys (CloudPets's company) claimed to **never** have found evidence of any breach.....

Previous Work: #1 - Mongo DB without auth

Robomongo 0.9.0-RC9

45.79.147.159 (5)

- System
 - admin
 - local
- cloudpets-staging
 - Collections (24)
 - System
 - AppStoreProduct
 - FriendAcceptanceNotificat...
 - FriendRecord
 - NotificationState
 - PlushToy
 - PrivateProfile
 - Profile
 - ProfilePortrait
 - Purchase
 - VoiceMessage
 - _AppBuildVersion
 - _Cardinality
 - _EventDimension
 - _Index
 - _Installation
 - _JobSchedule
 - _PushStatus
 - _SCHEMA
 - _Session
 - _User**
 - _dummy
 - fs.chunks
 - fs.files
 - Functions
 - Users
 - cloudpets-test
 - test

db.getCollection('_User').find({})

45.79.147.159 45.79.147.159:27017 clo

```
db.getCollection('_User').find({})
```

_User 0.378 sec. 821296

Key	Value
(22) zzhaflkdEs	{ 14 fields }
(23) zziP6Y4Sal	{ 8 fields }
(24) zziuLr8lvi	{ 8 fields }
(25) zzizgB5LSC	{ 14 fields }
(26) zzjz2XEBzG	{ 14 fields }
(27) zzk20F3wF6	{ 14 fields }
(28) zzlBvKVYHK	{ 14 fields }
(29) zzlDKjnDUr	{ 14 fields }
(30) zzlPWXSuWk	{ 14 fields }
_id	zzlPWXSuWk
_perishable_to...	Xw17Ji5zfGMYrhlwh7C...
_auth_data_an...	null
_created_at	2016-03-19 18:48:04.84...
_updated_at	2016-03-19 18:50:10.171Z
username	[REDACTED]@icloud.com
_session_token	lrTBH4G1ntQVELRlucQt...
_hashed_pass...	\$2a\$10\$0h0kDjil.dAnLw...
_acl	{ 1 field }
_wperm	[1 element]
email	[REDACTED]@icloud.com
emailVerified	true
_email_verify_t...	VB3yedZ3tNYuZEialwz...
_rperm	[1 element]
(31) zzlqtKAhHT	{ 14 fields }
(32) zzm2O6odQf	{ 11 fields }
(33) zzm8ir3dYF	{ 8 fields }
(34) zzmP8lalW9	{ 14 fields }
(35) zznrAXOvNa	{ 14 fields }

Previous Work: #1 - Mongo DB without auth

Password hashes, emails, links to all voice recordings from children and parents, etc.

```
1 "000YUZd89U", "██████████@gmail.com", "██████████@gmail.com", "$2a$10$A0Xd3w7zebK
iDsnUpgeYVePRB7H7MDGwy7ILywnCEUMJoUKVrjctC", 2015-09-17T21:48:17.668Z
2 "0015b6opXD", "██████████@aol.com", "██████████@aol.com", "$2a$10$WVDWVZrp53fgcKIyw
Mzd/.t4C8zhb4BUyuXsVetE27z5kZJIvtt/S", 2016-02-14T20:45:09.302Z
3 "0032t1HtBA", "██████████@yahoo.com", "██████████@yahoo.com", "$2a$10$UTMQ4IU
cW4oH4HqfOwbrPuuHV.c0rbCpYGfdgGMaUDkK96mPfcCOa", 2016-09-10T02:52:56.238Z
4 "0035THs1eh", "██████████@gmail.com", "██████████@gmail.com", "$2a$
10$crbnoezQ1Fxdb5RAqdjUgujJ/
K4roBU3P7v6RYB521A59FQXuj4gq", 2015-07-23T01:02:42.647Z
```

<https://www.troyhunt.com/data-from-connected-cloudpets-teddy-bears-leaked-and-ransomed-exposing-kids-voice-messages/>

Previous Work: #2 - First Ransom

***“You DB is backed up on our servers, send 1 BTC to
1J5ADzFv1gx3fsUPUY1AWktuJ6DF9P6hiF then send your ip address
to email:kraken0@india.com”***

<https://twitter.com/nmerrigan/status/817289743817998337/photo/1>

<https://pastebin.com/BqJADkqW>

Previous Work: #3 - Initial Timeline

2016.12.30 - 2017.01.04:

Multiple security researchers alert to CloudPets via multiple means

2017.01.07:

Ransom #1: Original databases **deleted** + **ransom demand** left on the system via "PLEASE_READ" message

2017.01.08:

Ransom #2: Demand left for "README_MISSING_DATABASES"

Ransom #3: Demand left for "PWNED_SECURE_YOUR_STUFF_SILLY"

2017.01.13:

No databases were found to still be publicly accessible

<https://www.troyhunt.com/data-from-connected-cloudpets-teddy-bears-leaked-and-ransomed-exposing-kids-voice-messages/>

Previous Work #4: Toy Security

Paul Stone's research: <https://www.contextis.com/en/blog/hacking-unicorns-web-bluetooth>

The Toy has:

- **No built-in Bluetooth** security features.
- **No authentication** for **bonding/pairing** between the **device** and **phone**.
- **Anyone can connect** to the toy as long as it is **switched on**. (!)
- **Unencrypted firmware** upgrades only **validation** is a **CRC16 checksum**.
- Possible to **remotely modify** the toy's **firmware**.

Previous Work #4: Paul Stone's demo



Previous Work #5: Vendor Response

- Write-ups on **lack of the security** of the toy and **lack of use of built-in security features** published.
- All **attempts** to **warn** Spiral Toys **fail**.
- Spiral Toys confirms that they **did not reply** to the **data breach emails**, and rather decided to fix them.

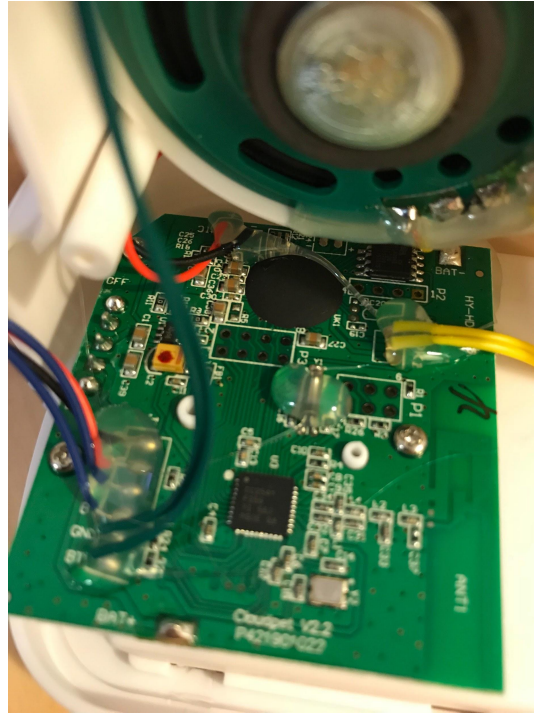
Question: What did they fix?

Mozilla asks: Are toys safe now?

Our Work: Viking Style



Unicorn Analysis:



What could possibly go wrong?



PET-01-001 Backend: *Tour domain is for sale and used over clear-text HTTP (High)*

CloudPets app directs users to <http://mycloudpets.com/tour> for tutorials and help.

- **Domain is currently on sale.**
- **Anybody** can **purchase** the **domain** and **influence** users.
- i.e. **prompting** users for their CloudPets credentials.
- i.e. prompt users to **download malicious apps**.

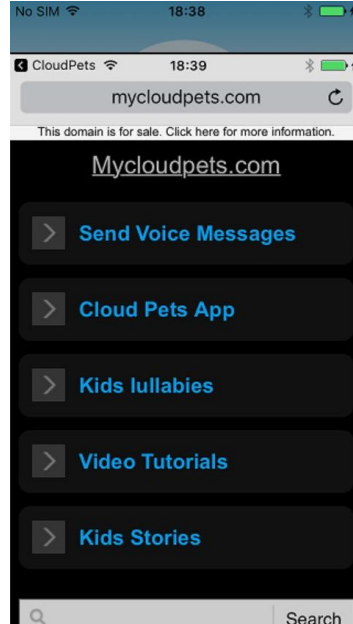
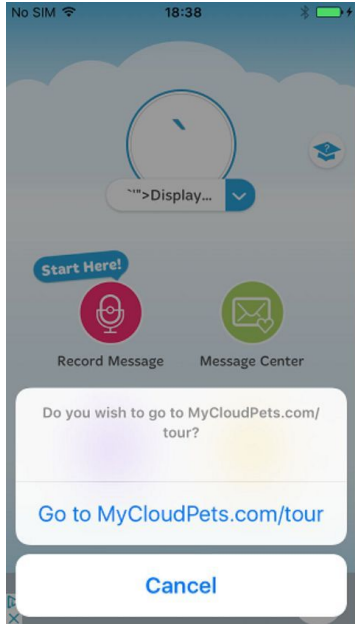
PET-01-001 Backend: *Tour domain is for sale and used over clear-text HTTP (High)*

Also:

- The page is **requested via clear-text HTTP**.
- This makes it easier for a malicious attacker on the local network (i.e. Public WIFI) to trivially **modify the Tour page**.
- Allows attackers to target users.
- i.e. ask for user credentials.
- i.e. prompt users to **download malicious apps**.

PET-01-001 Backend: *Tour domain is for sale and used over clear-text HTTP (High)*

Taps on the help icon:



PET-01-001 Backend: *Tour domain is for sale and used over clear-text HTTP* (High)

Demo

PET-01-002 Toy: *Authless attacks via Bluetooth remain possible (Critical)*

Paul Stone's **public PoC** remains working **without any changes**:

<https://github.com/pdjstone/cloudpets-web-bluetooth>

<https://pdjstone.github.io/cloudpets-web-bluetooth/index.html>

- **Strangers** can still connect to the toys **without authentication**.
- **Push audio & play it on the Toy:**
Anyone can interact with the child: i.e. "Open the door..."
- **Download audio from the toy:**
Turns the toys into **spy devices**.

PET-01-003 Toy: No firmware protections is in place (*High*)

Lack of adequate firmware verification remains:

- A **discovery** was made **during** the **initial setup** of the **device**.
- **Firmware is installed** into the device from the app **via BLE**.
- The **installation** process **still** has **no verification**:
 - **NO signature or integrity** checks in place.
- The only “**protection**” is a **CRC16 checksum**.

PET-01-004 Backend: CloudPets voice recordings world-reachable (*High*)

- Audio recordings created from the device are still being saved at **cloudpet-prod.s3.amazonaws.com**.
- When users upload a new avatar or message, the application will post the data through the **API** and carries out a **DNS** lookup to **cloudpet-prod.s3.amazonaws.com**.
- The **S3 Bucket** has no authorization or authentication in place.
- There are **no limitations** when it comes to **accessing** the **files** placed in the basket.

CloudPets Summary

- **CloudPets** Toys, can store and replay **voice messages**
- Exposed personal **information** of more than **800k customers**.
- Effectively turned the toys into potential spy devices
- Mozilla asked for a retest of issues:

Spiral toys didn't fix much, other than the Mongo DB without authentication

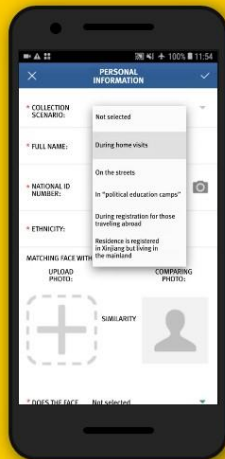
- Toys now removed from Amazon, Walmart, etc.

<https://www.mic.com/articles/189673/target-and-walmart-stop-selling-the-superhackable-kids-toy-cloudpets-after-pressure-from-mozilla>

Part 2: Chinese Police Apps - IJOP & BXAQ

The app prompts government officials to collect a wide array of information from ordinary people in Xinjiang.

IJOP



BXAQ

Brief Background

The **Chinese government** uses IJOP and BXAQ to evaluate the “threat level” of their **minority Muslim population in Xinjiang**

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/05/01/chinas-algorithms-repression/reverse-engineering-xinjiang-police-mass-surveillance>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) requested a project funded by the **Open Technology Fund (OTF)** to report and document the findings of the apps:

To investigate the **potential violation of human rights**

Question:

Is “The system of systems” IJOP potentially compromising the human rights of a minority Chinese population?



What is the IJOP app?

How did the Chinese government use this?

- The **Integrated Joint Operations Platform** or (**IJOP**) is a policing program
- Based on **big data analysis**.
- The program **aggregates data about people**, often without their knowledge.
- **Flags data** it deems **potentially threatening** to officials.

Source: From Memo on IJOP provided by HRW

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/02/26/china-big-data-fuels-crackdown-minority-region>

What is the IJOP app?



Details on IJOP

- Originally developed by **China Electronics Technology Group Corporation (CETC)**, a state-owned military contractor.
- The company was set up in **2017** as a research centre at **UTS**, the University of Technology, Sydney.
- They primarily focused on areas such as:
 - **Artificial Intelligence**
 - **Mapping**
 - **Big data**

Preliminaries #1: Language barrier

App written for Chinese Police is in Chinese, obviously :)

Had to:

1. Decompile APK → apktool d ijop.apk
2. Translate strings.xml → Google Translate
3. Recompile APK → apktool + sign + install

<3 <https://ibotpeaches.github.io/Apktool/>

Result:

Broken-English app version :)

Preliminaries #2: Setting up Tor

Just in case :)

Goal: Refrain from any form of behavior that could be perceived as “noisy” and, thus, alert the maintainers of the application and/or server owners.

Had to:

1. Setup Tor in test environment
2. Setup Burp to use Tor as outbound proxy
3. MitM app to send traffic through Burp

Result:

We can inspect traffic, but without leaking our IPs

Preliminaries #3: What is after the login?

Problems:

1. App requires authentication to Chinese Police servers = **We cannot login**
2. We **don't know how (politically) bad** the info on the screen is

Solution: **Show after-login screens to human right activists**

1. Export all app activities
2. Provide tweaked build to activists to access all activities
3. Provide list of ADB commands to activists to see activities
4. Activists can now run a script to review after-login screens quickly

What we Found in the "IJOP" app

XJ1-01-002 NewCollection activity tracks blood type and political views (**Proven**)

The **HRW's** question was as follows:

“Recording of Height and Blood Type: We want to know to what extent the authorities can justify this by saying this is all for counter-terrorism. So far, I see only a few mentions of terrorism.”

XJ1-01-002 NewCollection activity tracks blood type and political views (**Proven**)

- IJOP app indulges in data collection likely for **anomaly detection**
- It is **assumed** that the **goal** of this **data collection** is to have more **reference data**.
- Namely, to **mine** and **gather data** on **individuals**.
- With increasingly **strong indicators**, **data that does not match** the **information** from the **HQ**, may reveal more **suspicious** and **problematic** subsets of **users/actual people** and **groups**.

XJ1-01-002 NewCollection activity tracks blood type and political views (Proven)

Gathered personal information around height and blood type:

Affected File:

Collected Material/readable/code/com/fec/report/dao/PersonInfoDao.java

Affected Code:

```
localObject = "CREATE TABLE " + str + "\"PERSON_INFO\" (" + "ID\" INTEGER PRIMARY  
KEY AUTOINCREMENT ,\"SERVICE_ID\" TEXT,\"BUILDING_ID\" INTEGER,\"HOUSE_ID\"  
INTEGER,\"NAME\" TEXT,\"CARD\" TEXT,\"ADDRESS\" TEXT,\"PHOTO\"  
TEXT,\"MODIFY_TYPE\" INTEGER,\"PHONE\" TEXT,\"CAR\" TEXT,\"WORK\"  
TEXT,\"EDUCATIONAL\" INTEGER,\"RELIGIOUS_ATMOSPHERE\" INTEGER,\"RELIGIOUS_NAME\"  
INTEGER,\"RELIGIOUS_NAME_OTHER\" TEXT,\"POLITICAL_STATUS\"  
INTEGER,\"POLITICAL_STATUS_OTHER\" TEXT,\"BIRTHDAY\" TEXT,\"HEIGHT\"  
TEXT,\"BLOOD\" INTEGER,\"NATION\" TEXT,\"RELATIONSHIP\"  
INTEGER,\"RELATIONSHIPOTHER\" TEXT,\"ADD_USER\" TEXT,\"PERSON_TYPE\"  
TEXT,\"PERSON_TYPE_OTHER\" TEXT,\"CARD_TYPE\" INTEGER,\"CARD_NUMBER\"  
TEXT,\"DESTINATION_COUNTRY\" TEXT,\"EXIT_TIME\" TEXT,\"EXIT_REASON\"  
INTEGER,\"EXIT_OTHER_REASON\" TEXT,\"COLLECTION_THEME\" INTEGER,\"CERTI_AGREE\"  
INTEGER,\"TO_CENSUS\" TEXT,\"IS_CHANGE_IDIN\" INTEGER,\"NEW_NAME\"  
TEXT,\"NEW_CENSUS\" TEXT,\"NEW_ID_CARD\" TEXT,\"NEW_NATION\" TEXT,\"PASSPORT\"  
TEXT,\"ASYLUM_EDUCATE_REASON\" TEXT,\"ACTION\" TEXT,\"DESCRIPTION\"  
TEXT,\"CURRENT_ADDRESS\" TEXT,\"SEND_PHOTO\" TEXT,\"COUNT\" INTEGER);"
```

XJ1-01-002 NewCollection activity tracks blood type and political views (**Proven**)

NewCollection activity with the items of concern.

Personnel Information

个人信息采集

原户籍地址： 原户籍地址

迁入户籍地址： 迁入户籍地址

height： 未选择

blood type： 未选择

degree： 未选择

professional： professional

political look：

车辆信息采集

XJ1-01-005 App receives electricity consumption data from HQ (**Proven**)

HRW wanted to know about application's data on **electricity consumption**.

Authorities logging people's electricity use, **how is it problematic?**

HRW's take:

- “ Is it problematic because the **authorities are logging everyone's electricity use**. “
- “ They are trying to see if there's a **reason** for “**abnormal**” level of **electricity use**. “
- The application **employs a database** which fetches various **utility data** about an **individual**.

XJ1-01-005 App receives electricity consumption data from HQ (**Proven**)

- A police officer receives a **new task** from the **HQ**.
- A **police officer** can **file** a **report** to **investigate** the occurrence of **unusual power consumption**.
- They can do so on any **given date** and may mark **any reasons** for the same.
- This prepares the **ground** for further **investigation** by the **public security agency**.

XJ1-01-005 App receives electricity consumption data from HQ (**Proven**)

- In case of a **false positive**, the officer can **file** in the **actual electricity meter value**.
- A **justification** by **law enforcement** might be to monitor the use of electricity for
 - **Cryptocurrency mining**
 - **Growing cannabis indoors.**
- These **types** of **activities** lead to **increased consumption**.

XJ1-01-005 App receives electricity consumption data from HQ (Proven)

Rendered Activity for CheckElcInfoActivity



用电异常情况反馈

phone number unknown

reported object name unknown

electric meter number unknown

power address unknown

Power abnormal date 1 unknown

power consumption degree 1 unknown

power abnormal date 2 unknown

power consumption degree 2 unknown

power abnormal date 3 unknown

power consumption degree 3 unknown

normal power range unknown

XJ1-01-005 App receives electricity consumption data from HQ (**Proven**)

What do you think?

- Should the government be able to monitor how much electricity everybody uses?
- Is this a privacy intrusion?
- Can this stop terrorist attacks?

XJ1-01-006 Reporting feature for problematic tools (**Proven**)

HRW had doubts about the tools. Specifically,

- “Tools they use and possess: An option under “electronic” appears to refer to **problematic tools**.”
- “These includes tools that may be implemented to make **explosives**.”

XJ1-01-006 Reporting feature for problematic tools (**Proven**)

Proven Facts

- **Officers** can **submit** a **report** to the **HQ** about **explosive materials** and **tools**.
- Furthermore, an **officer** can **ask** for an **investigation** of the matter.
- This **investigation** can be further **handed over** and **carried on** by the **public security agency**.

XJ1-01-006 Reporting feature for problematic tools (**Proven**)

Rendered Activity for CheckElcInfoActivity

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for reporting electricity usage anomalies. The title bar is blue with a back arrow and the text "用电异常情况反馈". Below the title bar, there is a text input field for "Click to select a region, county, township, village" and another for "detailed address". A question "Is there a blasting tool or material *" is followed by two radio buttons labeled "yes" and "no". Below this is a section titled "Exception reason *" with several checkboxes: "Add new home appliances", "renovation", "farming", "I found the use of non-home appliances such as cutting machines and electric welders unreasonable", "Unable to explain, there is suspicious", and "other" with a text input field labeled "其他异常原因". At the bottom, a question "Do you need public security agencies to investigate *" is followed by two radio buttons labeled "yes" and "no". Two blue buttons labeled "SUBMIT" and "SAVE" are at the bottom of the form.

Fig.: Rendered Activity for CheckElcInfoActivity.

XJ1-01-014 PII collection via MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity (**Assumed**)

HRW was also curious about the MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity:

→ *“This refers to when someone’s gone off grid — **suddenly stopped using their phone.**”*

Summary answer:

Reviewing the activity and data processing from the decompiled source code provides evidence of tracking this information.

XJ1-01-014 PII collection via MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity (**Assumed**)

The following list summarizes the fields used by the app for this purpose:

addUser, addUserName, expression, expressionDesc, fkMptv, id, latitude, locationDescription, longitude, missTrailReason, note, otherReason, police, policeCheck, policeReason, relationship, telNumber, userOrgName, userOrganizationId

Investigated launching the activity as follows:

ADB Command:

```
adb shell am start -n  
"com.hbfec.xjoneproject/com.fec.xjoneproject.ui.task.miss_phone_trail.activity.M  
issPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity"
```


XJ1-01-014 PII collection via MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity (**Assumed**)

This resulted in the following PII collection form being rendered:

The image displays three sequential screenshots of a mobile application interface for data collection. The title bar for all three is '没有手机号码轨迹' (No mobile number trail).

- First Screenshot:** Shows the '事件描述' (Event Description) field and a '新增走访对象' (Add visit object) button.
- Second Screenshot:** Shows the '走访对象' (Visit Object) section with fields for '姓名' (Name), '身份证号' (ID Number), '手机号' (Phone Number), and '地址' (Address). It also includes dropdowns for '* name:', '* ID number:', '* 地址:', '* 号码开户人与走访对象关系:' (Relationship), and '* 未产生轨迹原因:' (Reason for no trail).
- Third Screenshot:** Shows the bottom section with '现实表现' (Current Performance) radio buttons (有异常, 无异常), '备注说明' (Remarks), '是否需要公安机关深入调查' (Need for in-depth investigation by public security organs), and 'SUBMIT' and 'SAVE' buttons.

Fig.: Data collection form rendered by MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity.

XJ1-01-014 PII collection via MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity (**Assumed**)

Upon closer inspection of the decompiled source code of the application, it was found that MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity **makes use of the MissPhoneTrailFeedbackViewModel**.

File:

*com/fec/xjoneproject/ui/task/miss_phone_trail/activity/
MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity.java*

Code:

```
this.mBinding.setViewModel((MissPhoneTrailFeedbackViewModel)getViewModel());  
protected void onCreate(Bundle paramBundle)  
{  
    super.onCreate(paramBundle);  
    this.mBinding =  
    ((ActivityMissPhoneTrailFeedbackBinding)DataBindingUtil.setContentView(this,  
2131427398));  
    setViewModel(new MissPhoneTrailFeedbackViewModel(this,  
getIntent().getStringExtra("key_warn_id"), 28));
```

XJ1-01-014 PII collection via MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity (**Assumed**)

The sequence submits the information to the API in a fashion illustrated next and making use of a **MissPhoneTrailResEntity**.

File:

*com/fec/xjoneproject/ui/task/miss_phone_trail/viewModel/
MissPhoneTrailFeedbackViewModel.java*

Code:

```
public void submit()
{
    MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity localMissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity =
(MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity)getActivity();
    String str = localMissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity.check();
    if (TextUtils.isEmpty(str))
    {
        getActivity().mWaitingDialog.show("正在上传.....");
        Gson localGson = new Gson();
        HashMap localHashMap = new HashMap();
        ((MissPhoneTrailResEntity)this.resEntity.get()).setAddUser();

        ((MissPhoneTrailResEntity)this.resEntity.get()).setLongitude(getActivity().getLo
ngitude());
        [...]
```

XJ1-01-014 PII collection via MissPhoneTrailFeedbackActivity (**Assumed**)

From the MissPhoneTrailResEntity.java file, a more readable list of fields was collected.

Command:

```
cat $(find . -name MissPhoneTrailResEntity.java) | grep -i private|cut -f5 -d" "|cut -f1 -d';' | sort -u | tr "\n" ", "|sed 's|,|, |g'
```

Output:

addUser, addUserName, expression, expressionDesc, fkMptv, id, latitude, locationDescription, longitude, missTrailReason, note, otherReason, police, policeCheck, policeReason, relationship, telNumber, userOrgName, userOrganizationId

XJ1-01-022 HQ communications for investigations and arrest (**Assumed**)

HRW was also wondering about the following:

“How does the officer communicate with the HQ?”. I see there are terms like “immediate arrest” or “detain for investigation”—are these decisions made by officers or HQ makes.”

Most likely communication and some form of chat exchange takes place via the XMPP protocol. This can be assumed from the functions shown next.

Affected File:

com/fec/xjoneproject/ui/LoginFragment.java

XJ1-01-022 HQ communications for investigations and arrest (Assumed)

Affected Code:

```
private void initAccount()
{
    String str1 = this.mXmppConfig.getString("uum_username", "");
    String str2 = this.mXmppConfig.getString("uum_password", "");
    if (this.loginFlag == 1)
    {
        ...
    }
    private void initXmppConfig()
    {
        String str = this.mXmppConfig.getString("xmpp_host", "61.182.226.81");
        int i = this.mXmppConfig.getInt("xmpp_prot", 5222);
        ConnectionConfiguration localConnectionConfiguration = new
            ConnectionConfiguration(str, i, "");
        localConnectionConfiguration.setSecurityMode(
            ConnectionConfiguration.SecurityMode.enabled);
        localConnectionConfiguration.setSASLAAuthenticationEnabled(true);
        localConnectionConfiguration.setReconnectionAllowed(true);
        localConnectionConfiguration.setSendPresence(true);
        ConnectionUtils.setHostPord(str, i);
        ConnectionUtils.setConnectionConfig(localConnectionConfiguration);
        Log.d("LoginFragment", "init XMPP host:" + str + " port:" + i);
    }
}
```

XJ1-01-022 HQ communications for investigations and arrest (**Assumed**)

- **Unclear** how exactly these variables are used in the context of the app
- There are **indicators that information pushed by the HQ**
- Setting the values for immediate investigations and immediate arrests
- However, it seems **police officers might be able to edit this information as well.**

Affected File:

Collected Material/readable/code/com/fec/xjoneproject/ui/task/radio_personnel/
CheckRadioPersonnelInfoFragment.java

XJ1-01-022 HQ communications for investigations and arrest (Assumed)

Affected Code:

```
private String checkInput()  
{  
    String str = CheckUtils.check(this.mScrollView);  
    Object localObject = this.mImmediateArrestLinearLayout;  
    int i = ((LinearLayout)localObject).getVisibility();  
    if (i == 0)  
    {  
        localObject = this.mArrestCheckBox;  
        boolean bool = ((CheckBox)localObject).isChecked();  
        if (!bool)  
        {  
            bool = TextUtils.isEmpty(str);  
            if (bool) {  
                str = "请选择反馈已抓捕";  
            }  
        }  
    }  
    return str;  
}  
  
private void getDataFromNet(String paramString)  
{  
    try  
    {  
        localObject = AttendanceService.getApi();  
        Call localCall =  
            ((AttendanceApi)localObject).getRadioPersonDetail(paramString);  
        localObject = new  
            com/fec/xjoneproject/ui/task/radio_personnel/CheckRadioPersonnelInfoFragment$3;  
        ((CheckRadioPersonnelInfoFragment.3)localObject).<init>(this, this);  
        localCall.enqueue((Callback)localObject);  
        return;  
    }  
    catch (RetrofitUrlNullException localRetrofitUrlNullException)  
    {  
        for (;;)   
        {  
            Object localObject = IMSDroid.getContext();
```


Sources of IJOP

The **multiple sources** or “**sensors**” for intel through [IJOP](#) are as follows:

- **CCTV cameras** with **facial recognition** and **night vision**.
- **WiFi sniffers** that **track** computers, smartphones, and other networked devices.
- Other sources are **licence plate numbers**, **citizen ID card numbers**.
- Vehicle ownership, health insurance, family planning, banking, and legal records.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/05/01/chinas-algorithms-repression/reverse-engineering-xinjiang-police-mass-surveillance>

Current Status of IJOP

- There are few checks on police surveillance powers.
- **No effective privacy** against government intrusions in China.
- **China has no unified privacy or data protection law** to protect personally identifying information from misuse.
- There is very **little information** available about how **securely**, the **data collected** by IJOP is stored.
- There is **no formal system** for people to find out what **information** is held about them in IJOP.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/05/01/chinas-algorithms-repression/reverse-engineering-xinjiang-police-mass-surveillance>

Data Collecting Machines/ Data Doors



<https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3029333/chinas-data-doors-scoop-information-straight-your-phone>

Conclusion

- It is **unclear** how the **IJOP** and **Police Cloud** are **related**.
- It is **unclear** if, and how, **IJOP connects** to other **databases** on **people** the **police manage** or have **access to**
- Capable of collecting and managing vast amounts of **very specific data**
- **Data** has the potential to become a basis for further action concerning a specific group
- The application has a **tracking** of power over **energy consumption**, the recording of **political views** and the **religious atmosphere**

Conclusion

- **Review** of the [IJOP mobile app](#) was carried out in close **collaboration** with the **Human Rights Watch team**
- At the same time, it should be noted that **we operated** as a purely **technically-driven** team and an **unbiased investigating entity**
- We worked from a premise of **technical evidence**, which is **based** on **reverse-engineering** operations

A police officer checks a Uighur man's ID documents in Kashgar, Xinjiang, in March 2017



(Credits: Thomas Peters/Reuters)

What is the "BXAQ" app?

- Widely known by the name of **Feng Cai**, BXAQ is an app used to scan the device in which it is installed, even on tourist phones:

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/7xgame/at-chinese-border-tourists-forced-to-install-a-text-stealing-piece-of-malware

- It is supposedly used in **specific regions** of China by **Law Enforcement personnel**.
- Has the potential to **Gather & Manage** massive amount of data about **specific** group.

What is the "BXAQ" app?



BXAQ Project

- Access to App **APK** was provided by **OTF**
- Assessment focused on the mobile application for **Android** phones
- The project followed the so-called **white-box methodology**.
- The assessment tackled both the **source code** and the **running application**.

BXAQ Project

- **Open Technology Fund (OTF) requested and sponsored** the assessment of the **BXAQ** mobile application used by the **Chinese government**.
- The app **isn't available** in the **Google Play Store** for **download** and needs to be **installed** by "**side-loading**" or **requesting** certain **permissions**.
- The **research** was carried about as **delicately** as possible.
- **Loud display** would **raise** an **element** of **suspicion** and **alert** the **server owners** and **maintainers** of the app.

BXA-01-001 - Information gathering (**Proven**)

The information that was **collected** through the app **included**:

- Calendar entries, phone contacts, country codes and dialed numbers
- (IMEI, IMSI, PhoneSN, WifiMac, BluetoothMac, and if the device is rooted
- Android Model (CPU_ABI, BOARD, HARDWARE)
- Texts Messages: Sent and Received
- Information about the current base-station
- Used hardware (Mac Addresses)

BXA-01-001 - Information gathering (**Proven**)

- Information accessible for various installed apps + an MD5 hash of the app
- Extracted information searched by the **GetVirAccount** application which searches the /sdcard for specific data of specific China-related apps. This information contains phone numbers and email addresses
- Every call and message details are extracted and could be used to arrive at a conclusion about visits to **foreign countries**.

BXA-01-001 - Information gathering (**Proven**)

- GetVirAccount is one of the applications shipped by the police-app
- Extracted and stored in the apps data storage during installation process.
- GetVirAccount gets executed by the app
- GetVirAccount parses the id.conf file, which is shipped by the app as well

BXA-01-001 - Information gathering (Proven)

The id.conf file contains the following data:

```
com.tencent.mobileqq    tencent/MobileQQ/    DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
com.tencent.mobileqq    Tencent/MobileQQ/    DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
com.tencent.mobileqq    tencent/QWallet/    DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
com.tencent.mobileqq    Tencent/QWallet/    DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
com.renren.mobile.android
Android/data/com.renren.mobile.android/cache/talk_log/    FILE    talk_log_([0-9]+)_.*
com.duowan.mobile    yymobile/logs/sdklog/    FILE_CONTENT    logs-yypush_*.txt
safeParseInt ([0-9]*)
com.immomo.momo    immomo/users/    DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
cn.com.fetion    Fetion/Fetion/    DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
com.alibaba.android.babylon
Android/data/com.alibaba.android.babylon/cache/dataCache/    FILE    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
#"phone": "18551411****"
com.sdu.didi.psnger    Android/data/com.sdu.didi.psnger/files/omega
FILE_CONTENT    e.cache    "phone": "([0-9]*)"
#aaaa
com.sankuai.meituan    Android/data/com.sankuai.meituan/files/elephant/im/
DIR    (^[1-9][0-9]+)
com.sogou.map.android.maps    Android/data/com.sogou.map.android.maps/cache/
FILE_CONTENT    cache    "a": "([^\"]*)"
#com.sina.weibo    loginname=red***@163.com&
com.sina.weibo    sina/weibo/weibolog/    FILE_CONTENT    sinalog.txt
loginname=([^&]*)&
```

BXA-01-001 - Information gathering (**Proven**)

- All the **referenced file paths** are looked up inside the **/sdcard/** folder of the phone
- App is searching for **phone numbers** and **login names** of the defined apps
- App uses its **SMS permissions** to dump all stored text messages and includes them in the report
- **Wifiscan** application does check all files stored on the SD card via hash comparison
- All extracted information is bundled as a **ZIP file**, without applying **Password protection**

BXA-01-002: File transmission and protection (**Proven**)

- There was an indication of a **WiFi server**, but the code **doesn't** contain a **feature** which **supports** an **open hotspot**.
- Alternatively, the **code** gives **indication** of getting **connected** to a specific **WLAN connection**.
- The **authentication** details of the **connection** are **dismissed** once the **app** is **uninstalled**.

BXA-01-002: File transmission and protection (**Proven**)

File:

app/src/main/java/com/fenghuo/qzj/WelcomeActivity.java

Affected Code:

```
uninstall.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener()
{
    public void onClick(View paramAnonymousView)
    {
        [...]
        paramAnonymousView = (WifiManager) getSystemService("wifi");
        int i = WelcomeActivity.this.getConnectionWifiSsid(paramAnonymousView);
        paramAnonymousView.removeNetwork(i);
        paramAnonymousView.saveConfiguration();
        if (Build.VERSION.SDK_INT >= 23) {
            paramAnonymousView.disableNetwork(i);
        }
    }
}
```

BXA-01-002: File transmission and protection (**Proven**)

However, the app uses the Android AllowAllHostnameVerifier hostname-verifier which could lead to **Man-in-the-Middle** issues.

File:

/com/fenghuo/http/TrustAllSSLSocketFactory.java

Affected Code:

```
setHostnameVerifier(new AllowAllHostnameVerifier());
```

BXA-01-002: File transmission and protection (**Proven**)

Official Android documentation about the AllowAllHostnameVerifier:

(<https://developer.android.com/reference/org/apache/http/conn/ssl/AllowAllHostnameVerifier>)

The ALLOW_ALL HostnameVerifier essentially turns hostname verification off.

This implementation is a no-op, and never throws the SSLException.

Furthermore, the app has an empty implementation of **checkServerTrusted** which could also cause **Man-in-the-Middle** problems.

BXA-01-002: File transmission and protection (Proven)

File:

/com/fenghuo/http/HttpsManager.java

Affected Code:

```
@Override
    public void checkServerTrusted(X509Certificate[] arrx509Certificate,
String string2) throws CertificateException {
    }

    @Override
    public X509Certificate[] getAcceptedIssuers() {
        return null;
    }
```

File:

/com/fenghuo/http/TrustAllSSLSocketFactory.java

Affected Code:

```
    public void checkServerTrusted(X509Certificate[]
paramArrayOfX509Certificate, String paramString)
    throws CertificateException
    {}

    public X509Certificate[] getAcceptedIssuers()
    {
        return null;
    }
```

BXA-01-002: File transmission and protection (**Proven**)

“Is data dumped in the SD Card from where it could be retrieved later without even entering the PIN to unlock the device?”

- The application stores all scan-related data in its own data directory
- The only file stored on the SD card is the cjlog.txt file
- The file is stored in an encrypted form
- Contains information about when the last scan took place

BXA-01-005 Similarities & differences between BXAQ & IJOP (Assumed)

The following figure shows the icons of BXAQ, JingWang and IJOP in the mentioned order:

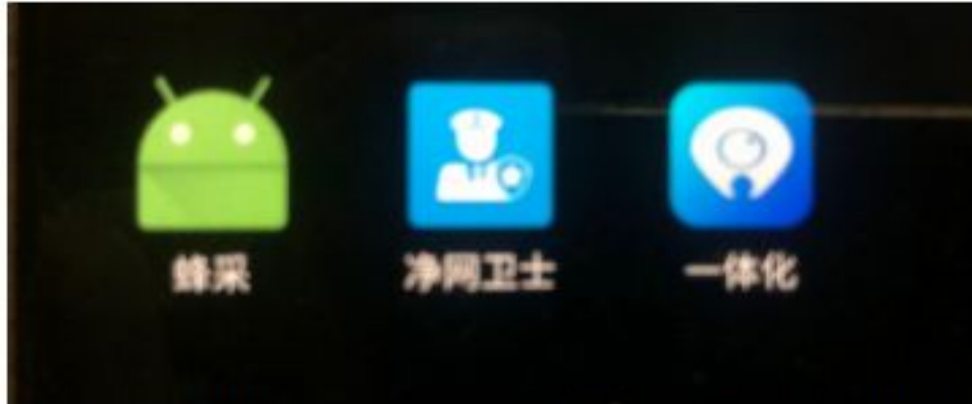
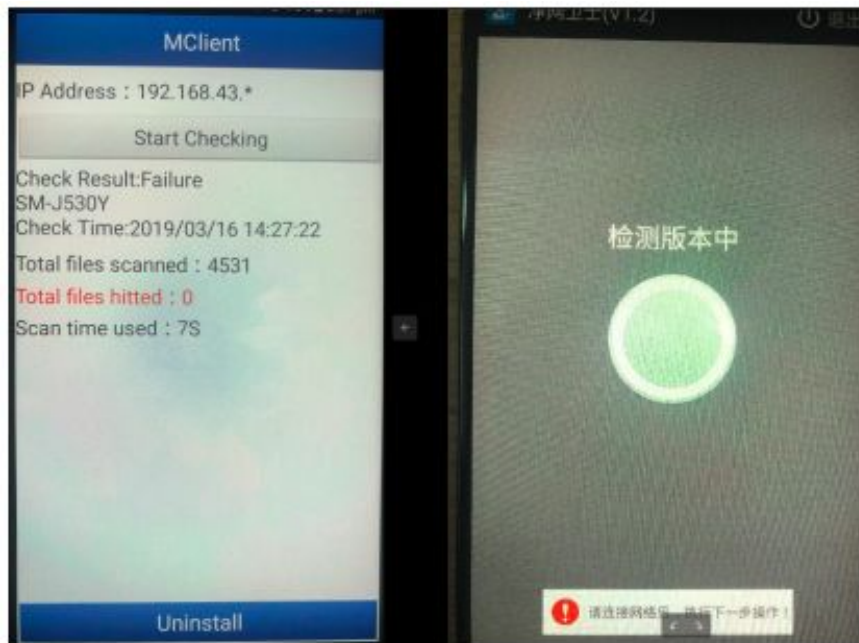


Fig.: The BXAQ app relies on the default Android icon while JingWang and IJOP have official icons.

BXA-01-005 Similarities & differences between BXAQ & IJOP (Assumed)

Different UI designs between **BXAQ** and **JingWang**



BXA-01-005 Similarities & differences between BXAQ & IJOP (Assumed)

The **BXAQ** App serves only one activity with three features:

1. **Scan**
2. **Upload**
3. **Uninstall**

IJOP makes a more official impression as it contains official icons and tries to establish a connection to a **public server**.

Local server contacted by **BXAQ**:

192.168.43.1:8080

Public server contacted by **IJOP**:

47.93.5.238:8081

Analysis

- The main aspects that should be **highlighted** among the findings with differently evaluated severities pertain to:
 - Plethora of information-gathering executed by the app (see **BXA-01-001**).
 - Transmission of a lot of data to a local file server (see **BXA-01-002**).

Conclusion

- The **items** discovered in all of the apps, namely, **IJOP** and **BXAQ** Chinese police apps, were considered to be **potential violation** to the **Human Rights**.
- Activists along with the HRW **raised concern**
- The **reports** produced **reflected** highly on the **loopholes** in all of the **systems**.
- The **team** conducting the **research** and **creation** of the **report** was **unbiased** and completely **technically-driven**.

Want to hack these and more cool apps?

- Global AppSec Amsterdam, EU: 23-25 September 2019
- c0c0n, Kochi, India: 25-26 September 2019
- LASCON, Austin, TX, USA: 22-23 October 2019

Cannot make it?

ping admin@7asecurity.com for training portal access.



Q & A

Any questions? :)

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- > [@owtfp](#) [OWASP OWTF - owtf.org]

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