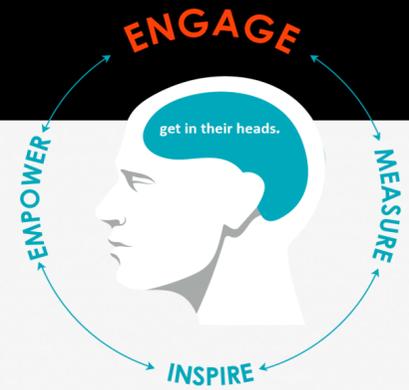


June 2019

HACK LIFE



Risk Factory's Monthly Information Security Awareness Bulletin

STORY OF THE MONTH: BACKDOORS - GOOGLE SHOULD 'TRIADA

When we excitedly receive our shiny new Android devices, wrapped in cellophane and fresh out of the box, you would expect that at that moment in time they are 100% secure. I mean, you haven't even switched it on yet, so how could there be malware in place already!? Unfortunately though this is no longer the case. Google has now confirmed, that via a supply chain attack, a range of globally sold, budget Chinese smart phones were infected with a rather nasty banking Trojan called 'Triada'. The answer to how this happened in the first place is down to how device manufacturers go about populating their devices with apps 'straight out of the box'. If the vendor wants to include a feature that isn't part of the official Android project then they use a 3rd party to develop the app specifically and it's at this point that the backdoor ends up being installed on your shiny new unboxed device. The good news is that the threat has been mitigated via Google and we here in the UK were unlikely to have purchased these budget devices. The bad news is that this threat goes all the way back to 2017 and it's only fully coming to light now. The other bad news is that it isn't only the budget vendors that avail themselves of 3rd party app developers, so just because you paid the big bucks for a brand name device doesn't automatically mean you are safe. Our advice; check the veracity of any pre-packaged apps that comes with your phone.

DID YOU KNOW?

While we are on the subject of Android devices, did you know that every month Google release a series of patches designed to keep your device secure and ensure that it's operating at its optimum capacity? June is to be a bit of a bumper month with no fewer than 22 flaws addressed. If you have a native Google branded device like Pixel you will have already received these, otherwise you will need to rely on your carrier or vendor to have tested and deployed the fixes. Check your device update history to see



RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

...And still on the subject of Android, if you're worried that your phone could be one of those infected by the Triada Trojan, 'Bleeping Computer' have very helpfully detailed the full list. You can access via their news page [HERE](#)



MONTHLY QUIZ

What well known provider of budget fast food had their reward scheme compromised? For a 'slice' (clue alert) of the action just email us your answer - our winner will be chosen randomly from correct answers and will win a HACK LIFE t-shirt! info@eriskology.com

