

Exploiting Unpatched iOS Vulnerabilities for Fun and Profit

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Scope of this Presentation

 The process of getting unsigned code executed as root, outside the sandbox, in iOS 7.1 – 7.1.2

Does not cover iOS kernel vulnerabilities

Agenda

- iOS security to prevent rooting
 - Why is rooting an iOS device hard?
- How were previous jailbreaks performed?
 - General steps
 - Steps in evasi0n7
- How was evasi0n7 patched?
 - Patch logs in iOS 7.1
 - Which steps were fixed?

Agenda

- Analysis of patched/unpatched vulnerabilities
 - What steps need to be re-exploited?
- Discovery of new vulnerabilities to replace patched vulnerabilities
- Steps for Jailbreaking iOS 7.1.2

iOS Security Overview

- Why is rooting an iOS device hard?
 - Secure Boot Chain
 - Mandatory Code Signing
 - App Sandbox
 - Privilege Isolation

iOS Security – Secure Boot Chain

- Encrypted firmware
 - Encrypted with GID key of the device.
 - Image is only decrypted on the device.
 - GID key is not designed to be leaked.
- Chained code signing check
 - Hard to inject and run unsigned code.

iOS Security – Mandatory Code Signing

- Code signing check
 - Enforced by kernel (AMFI), handled by a userspace daemon (amfid)
 - Mandatory code signing
- RWX protection
 - Disallows write and execute permissions on any single memory page (except for dynamic-codesign Entitlement holders)

iOS Security – App Sandbox

- All third party apps residing at /var/mobile/ Applications/* will be contained by a built-in sandbox profile named container
 - Enforced by kernel.
- For some built-in binaries, the sandbox is initiated by invoking APIs in libsandbox.dylib.
 - /usr/libexec/afcd, etc.
- Running a third party app outside of the container will trigger the "outside_of_container &&!
 i can has debugger" exception
- Refer to "The Apple Sandbox" talk in BH DC 2011

iOS Security – Privilege Isolation

- UID of Apps
 - mobile (501) is used for regular apps
 - For all Developer, Enterprise, and App Store apps.
- A few daemons run as root
 - syslogd, lockdownd.

Why is Rooting an iOS Device Hard?

- Extremely restricted environment in sandbox
 - Mandatory for user-written or App Store apps
- Unable to run unsigned code
 - One must bypass code signing checks to run attack code
- Privilege escalation is required
 - All apps are running as mobile (uid=501) user
- Cannot permanently modify kernel image
 - Integrity checking is enforced

- Bypass code signing
 - Exploit vulnerabilities in dyld during loading of code.
 - evasi0n7, Pangu
 - Use R.O.P. or exploit the process with dynamic code signing.
 - MobileSafari

- Escape the sandbox
 - Exploit an un-sandboxed process.
 - Exploit design flaw in sandbox implementation.
 - Override sandbox functions in libsandbox.dylib.
 - Run the sandboxed process without really invoking the sandbox functions.
 - For apps in the container, kernel patching is required.

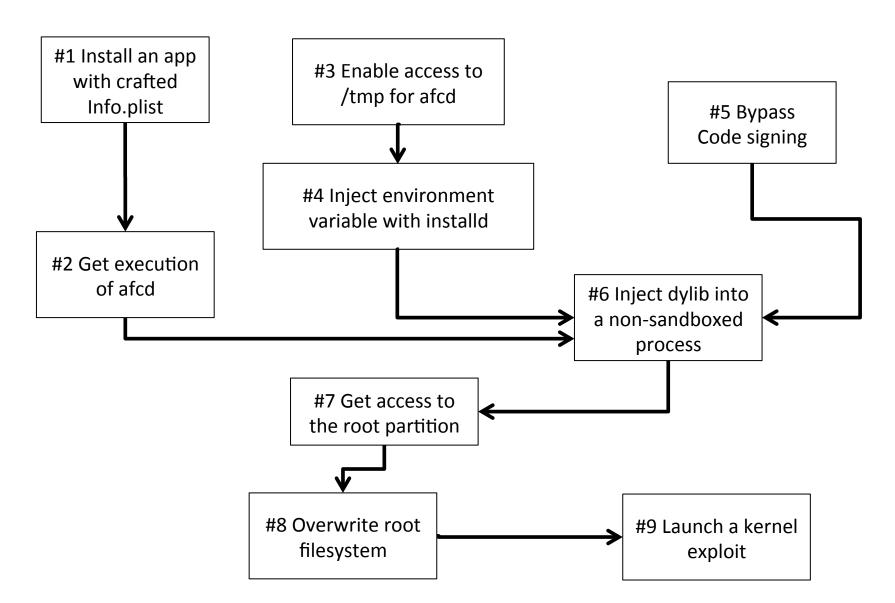
- Root Privilege Escalation
 - Exploit vulnerabilities in a root daemon.
 - CrashHouseKeeping, etc.

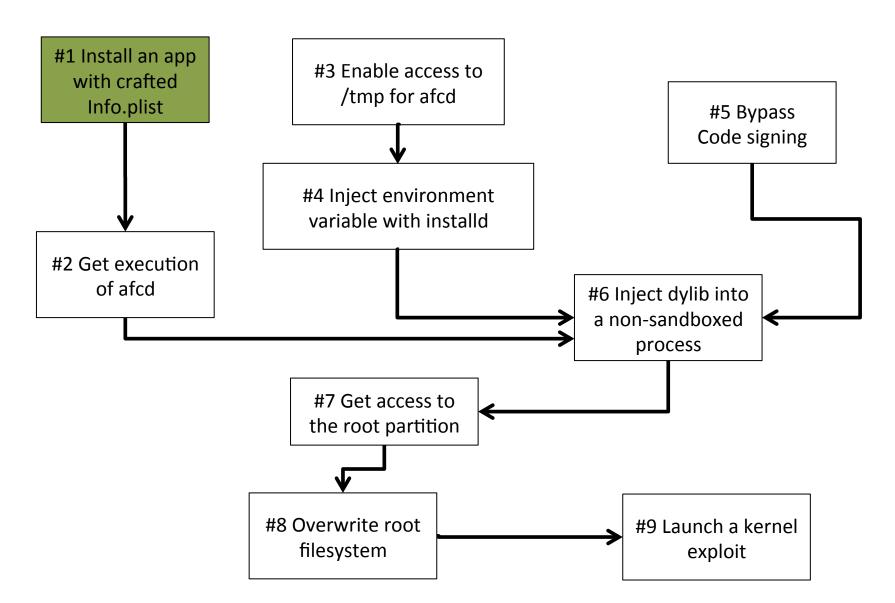
- Patch the kernel
 - Disable code signing.
 - Disable kernel-enforced sandbox.
 - Enable RWX mapping.
 - Enable kernel debugging (task_for_pid 0).

- Apply Permanent Changes
 - Overwrite the root partition
 - Remount with read/write permission (ver < iOS 7), or use afcd (iOS 7.0.x).
 - Do not modify critical parts that are involved in the boot sequence
 - Chained integrity check could block boot process.

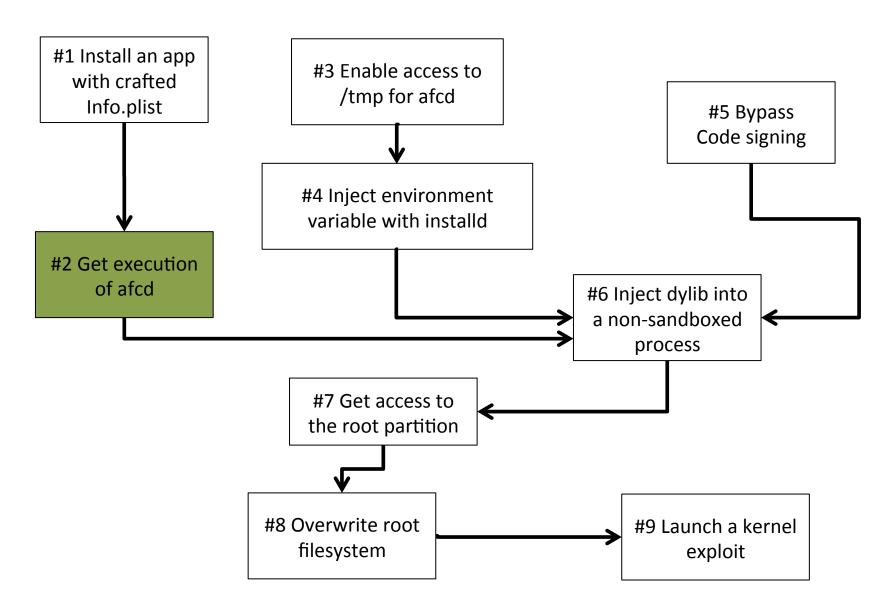
evasi0n7

- Exploited multiple vulnerabilities to bypass code signing checks, escape the sandbox, and overwrite the root partition.
- Exploited a kernel vulnerability to patch the kernel.
- Thanks to evad3rs for their jailbreak tool.
- Thanks to geohot for his detailed write-up.



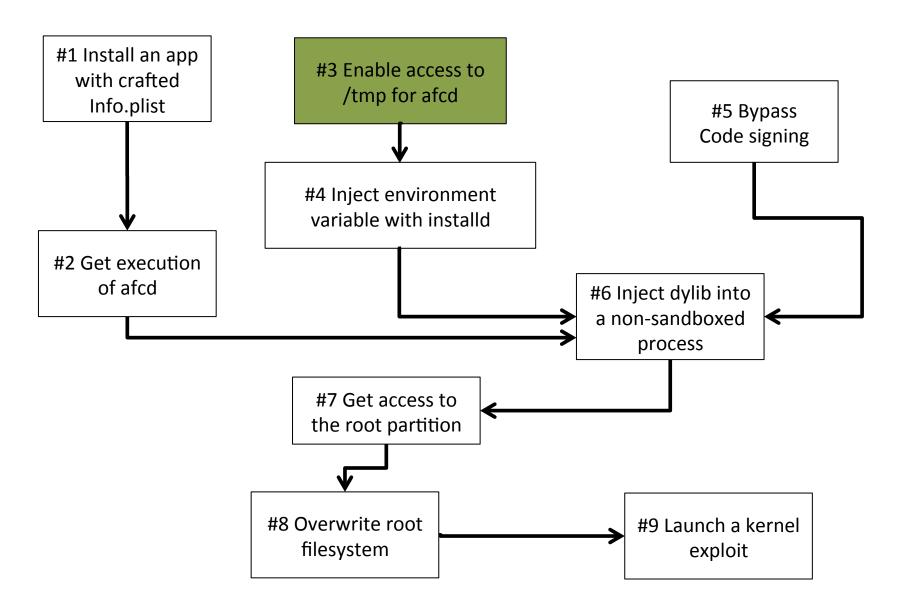


- Install an app with crafted Info.plist
 - Crafted Info.plist forces installd to install the app outside of the container
 - Using ../../../ in CFBundleExecutable field
 - Prepare the original executable in that folder
 - Installation will succeed
 - 11 <key>CFBundleExecutable</key>
 - 12 <string>../../../var/mobile/Media/Downloads/WWDC.app/WWDC</string>

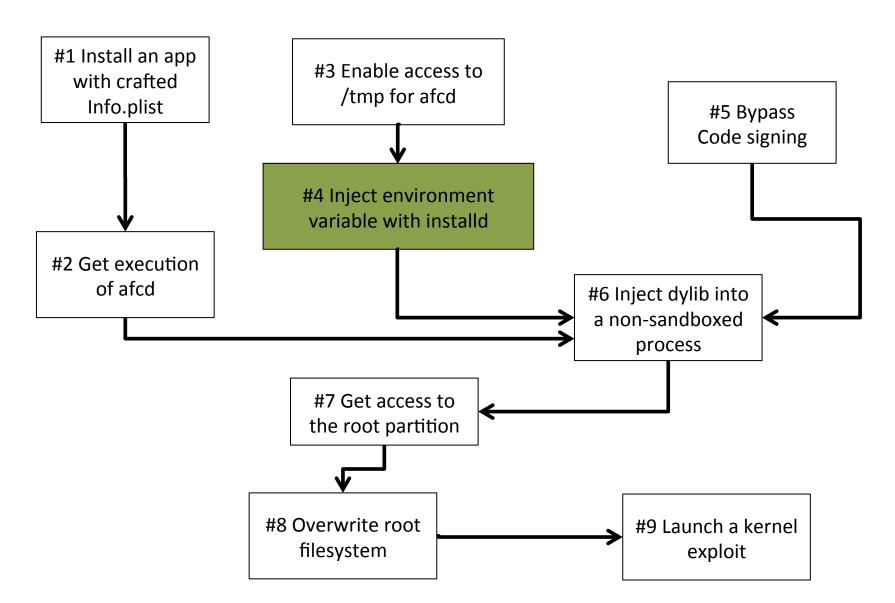


- Gain execution of afcd
 - Since afcd has access to the /var/mobile/Media/
 Downloads/ directory, a PC can ask afcd to change the content of an app executable to a hashbang
 - #!/usr/libexec/afcd –S –d / -p 8888
- Clicking the app icon will trigger the execution of "afcd" with forged arguments

Aug 6 09:37:38 Yeong-Jin-Jangs-iPhone afcd[437] <Error>: Got XPC error on listener connection: Connection invalid
Aug 6 09:37:38 Yeong-Jin-Jangs-iPhone com.apple.launchd[1] (UIKitApplication:developer.apple.wwdc-Release[0x96bc] [437]) <Error>:
(UIKitApplication:developer.apple.wwdc-Release[0x96bc]) Exited with code: 1
Aug 6 09:37:38 Yeong-Jin-Jangs-iPhone com.apple.launchd[1] (UIKitApplication:developer.apple.wwdc-Release[0x96bc]) <Notice>:
(UIKitApplication:developer.apple.wwdc-Release[0x96bc]) Throttling respawn: Will start in 2147483647 seconds
Aug 6 09:37:38 Yeong-Jin-Jangs-iPhone backboardd[31] <Warning>: Application 'UIKitApplication:developer.apple.wwdc-Release[0x96bc]'
exited abnormally with exit status 1



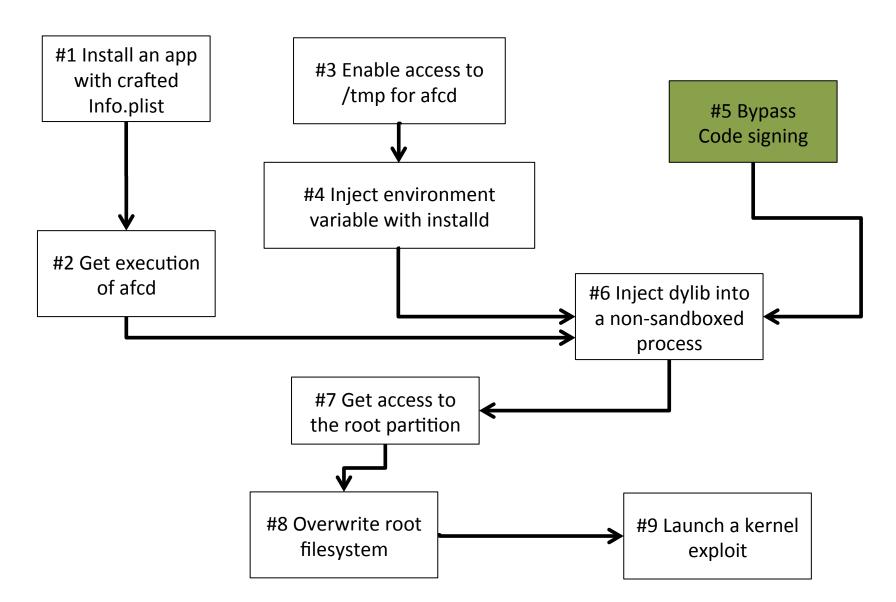
- Enable access to /tmp for afcd
 - Symlink bug in sandbox policy.
 - Afcd creates a symlink to "../../../../../tmp" at / var/mobile/Media/Downloads/a/a/a/a/a/a
 - Move the symlink to the upper directory
 - Then afcd gains access to /tmp.



- Inject an environment variable using installd
 - During the installation of an app, installd will create a temporary directory at /tmp/ install_staging.XXXXXX/foo_extracted, and then unzip the ipa file into that directory
 - Exploit: Ask afcd to create a symlink at foo_extracted
 - The symlink links to /var/mobile/Library/Caches/
 - Installd will drop files into /var/mobile/Library/Caches/

 By overwriting com.apple.mobile_installation.plist (in /var/mobile/Library/Caches/), evasi0n7 can specify the DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES environment variable for a target app

```
6848
          <key>EnvironmentVariables</key>
6849
          <dict>
6850
            <key>CFFIXED_USER_HOME</key>
6851
            <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D
6852
            <key>DYLD_FORCE_FLAT_NAMESPACE</key>
6853
            <string></string>
6854
            <key>DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES</key>
            <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D/Documents/libexit.dylib/string>
6855
6856
            <key>HOME</key>
6857
            <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D
6858
            <key>TMPDIR</key>
            <string>/private/var/mobile/Applications/13117B80-C279-4222-80AC-6444FA9CF81D/tmp</string>
```



- Inject an unsigned dylib and bypass code signing (gameover.dylib)
 - Size of the code section is 0
 - dyld will ignore this section and will not valid its signature
 - But some executable parts exist
 - And can override some functions

```
_SANDBOX_CHECK_NO_REPORT
                                       0000001B
sandbox check
                                      0000003A
sandbox_extension_consume
                                      0000005B
_sandbox_extension_issue_file
                                      0000007F
sandbox free error
                                      00000099
sandbox init
                                       000000AD
sandbox init with parameters
                                       000000D1
_SANDBOX_CHECK_NO_REPORT
                                       00000001
sandbox init with parameters
                                       00000002
```

seaname

nreloc 0

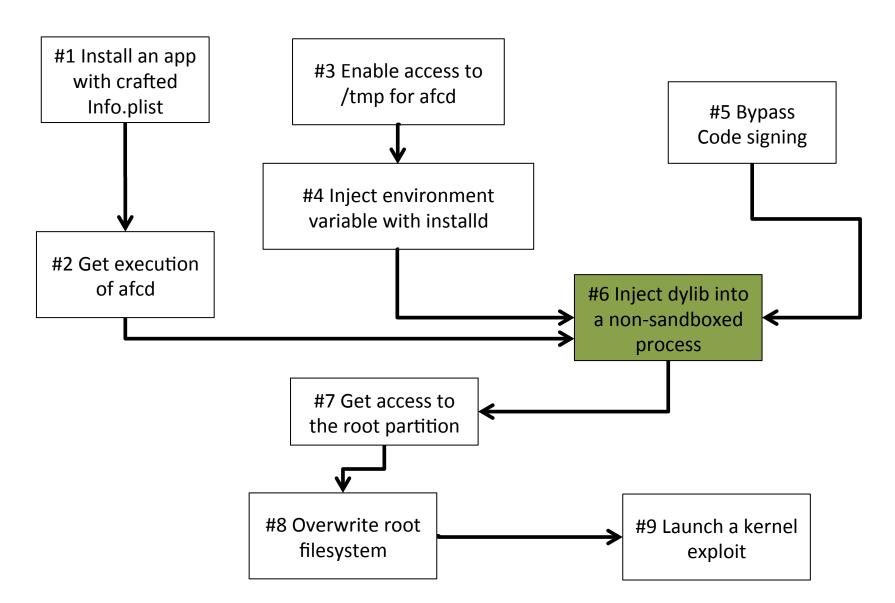
reserved1 0 reserved2 0

align 2^0 (1)

flags 0x80000500

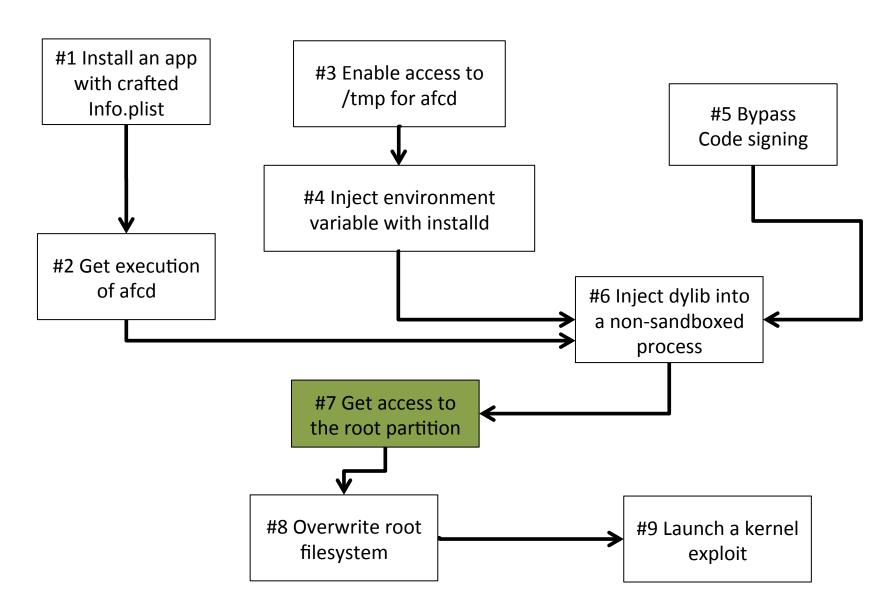
size 0x0000000000000000

28



 Clicking the app icon will trigger the execution of "afcd" and load gameover.dylib.

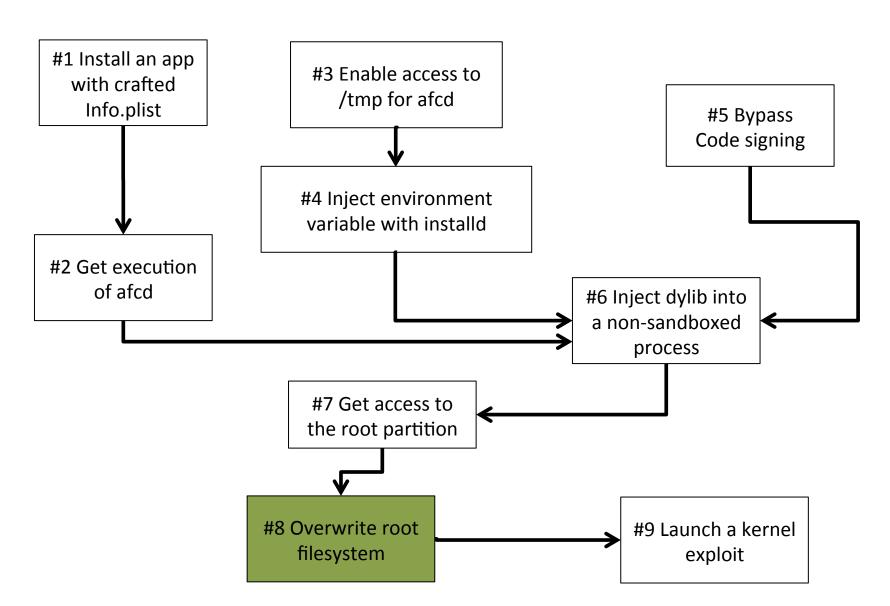
 Since gameover.dylib nullifies the sandbox functions, afcd now runs as mobile outside of the sandbox.



- afcd running outside the sandbox now can create a symlink anywhere.
- CrashHouseKeeping, running as root, will do the following:
 - chmod ("/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleSupport", 775)
 - chown ("/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleSupport", 501, 501)

```
text:00002D80 loc 2D80
                                                    ; CODE XREF: sub 2ABO+2BE'j
                                            RO, #(:lower16:(aPrivateVarMo 1 - 0x2D90)); "/private/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleS"...
text:00002D80
                             MOVW
text:00002D84
                             MOV
                                            RO, #(:upper16:(aPrivateVarMo 1 - 0x2D90)); "/private/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleS"...
text:00002D86
                             MOVT.W
text:00002D8A
                             MOV
                                                   ; "/private/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleS"...
text:00002D8C
                                            RO, PC
                             ADD
text:00002D8E
                             BLX
                                            chown
                                                 RO, #(:lower16:(aLibraryLogsApp - 0x2CA2)); "/Library/Logs/AppleSupport"
text:00002C90
                                MOVW
text:00002C94
                                                 R1, #0755; mode t
                                MOVW
                                                 RO, #(:upper16:(aLibraryLogsApp - 0x2CA2)); "/Library/Logs/AppleSupport"
text:00002C98
                                MOVT.W
                                                 R6, [SP,#0xD8+var 48]
text:00002C9C
                                STR
                                                 RO, PC ; "/Library/Logs/AppleSupport"
text:00002C9E
                                ADD
text:00002CA0
                                BLX
                                                  chmod
```

- Use afcd to create a symlink that points to "../../../../../dev/rdisk0s1s1" at "/var/mobile/Library/Logs/AppleSupport"
- With this symlink, CrashHouseKeeping will change /dev/rdisk0s1s1 to be readable/ writable by the mobile user



- afcd, running outside of the sandbox, further gains access to the block device
 - With –S option in afcd, it can access special files such as block device.
 - #!/usr/libexec/afcd -S -d / -p 8888
 - Using the AFC protocol, a PC can overwrite the root partition
 - Open /dev/rdisk0s1s1
 - Traverse sub-directories
 - Write files

- A kernel vulnerability is used to patch the kernel
 - Disable code signing check
 - Enable RWX page
 - Enable task_for_pid 0 (debugging kernel process)
 - Enable PE_i_can_has_debugger flag
 - Allow execve of unsigned binary outside of container
 - e.g. executing unsigned /bin/sh

- Patch log from iOS 7.1
 - Patch for bypassing code signing

dyld

Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

Impact: Code signing requirements may be bypassed

Description: Text relocation instructions in dynamic libraries may be loaded by dyld without code signature validation. This issue was addressed by ignoring text relocation instructions.

CVE-ID

CVE-2014-1273 : evad3rs

- Patch log from iOS 7.1
 - Patch for escaping the file system sandbox

Backup

Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

Impact: A maliciously crafted backup can alter the filesystem

Description: A symbolic link in a backup would be restored, allowing subsequent operations during the restore to write to the rest of the filesystem. This issue was addressed by checking for symbolic links during the restore process.

CVE-ID

CVE-2013-5133: evad3rs

- Patch log from iOS 7.1
 - Patch for the symlink bug in CrashHouseKeeping

Crash Reporting

Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

Impact: A local user may be able to change permissions on arbitrary files

Description: CrashHouseKeeping followed symbolic links while changing permissions on files. This issue was addressed by not following symbolic links when changing permissions on files.

CVE-ID

CVE-2014-1272: evad3rs

- Patch log from iOS 7.1
 - Patch for the kernel vulnerability

Kernel

Available for: iPhone 4 and later, iPod touch (5th generation) and later, iPad 2 and later

Impact: A local user may be able to cause an unexpected system termination or arbitrary code execution in the kernel

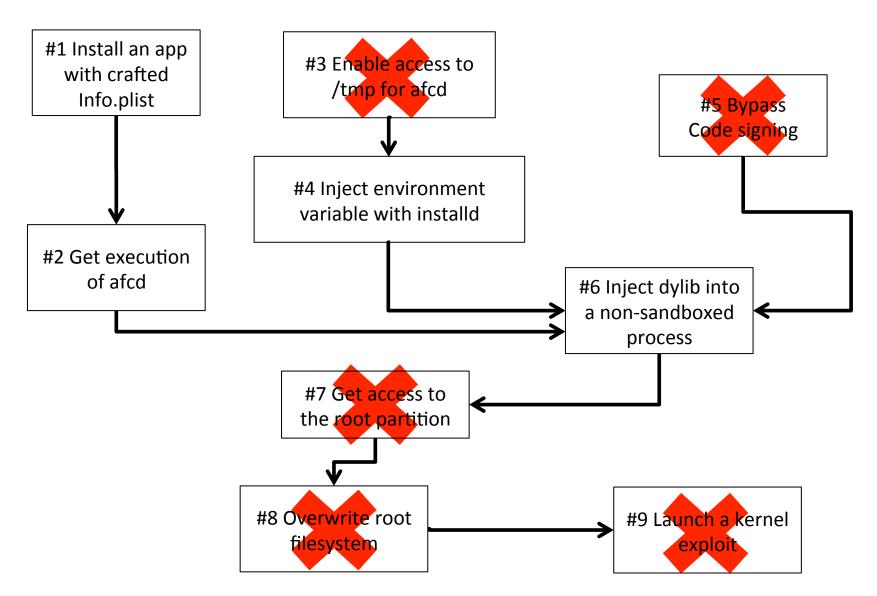
Description: An out of bounds memory access issue existed in the ARM ptmx_get_ioctl function. This issue was addressed through improved bounds checking.

CVE-ID

CVE-2014-1278: evad3rs

 Via binary analysis, the "-S" option for afcd was removed

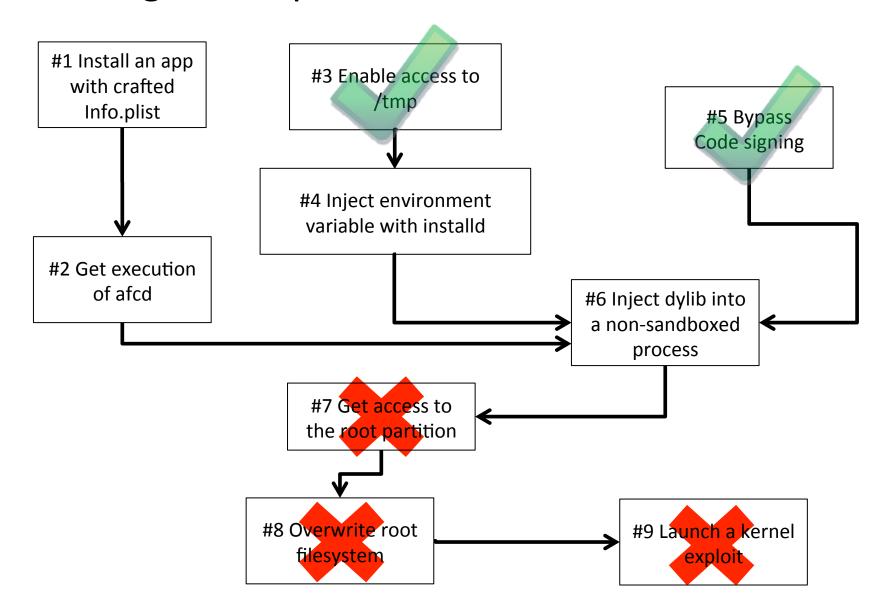
Missing Pieces



Our Work

- Attempt to reconstruct the chain of exploits:
 - Find new exploit paths
 - Discover new vulnerabilities

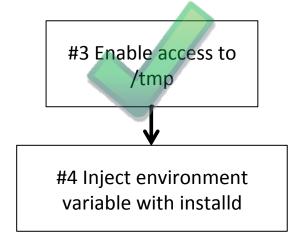
Using Developer Licenses to Enable #3 and #5



Use Developer Licenses to Enable #3 and #5

- #3: Third party apps have access to /tmp for free
 - Use app to access /tmp to create symlink on exploit #6
- #5: Sign the code with Developer/Enterprise License
 - Load developer-signed dylib in exploit #6

Take a Short Break

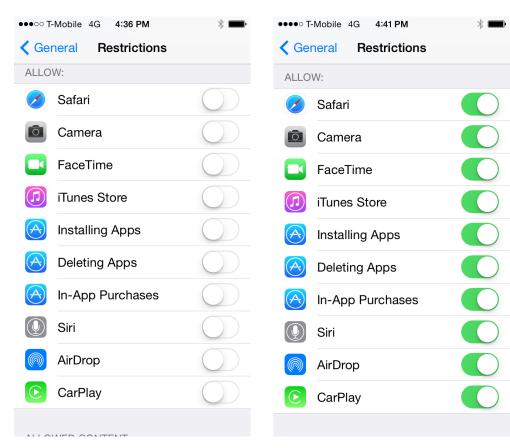


- What can we do with just these two vulnerabilities?
 - A malicious app can trick the user to install another app. During this process, it can overwrite many system configurations.

Modifying Configurations

- Restriction Settings
 - In iOS, there exists

 an option to disable
 certain features
 from the device.
 - Using the vulnerability in installd, we could overwrite those settings.

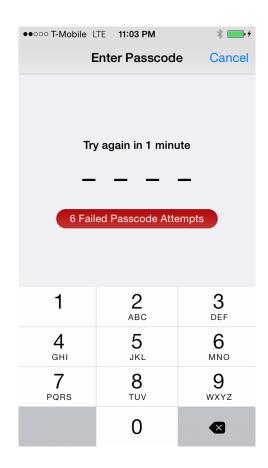


Before the attack

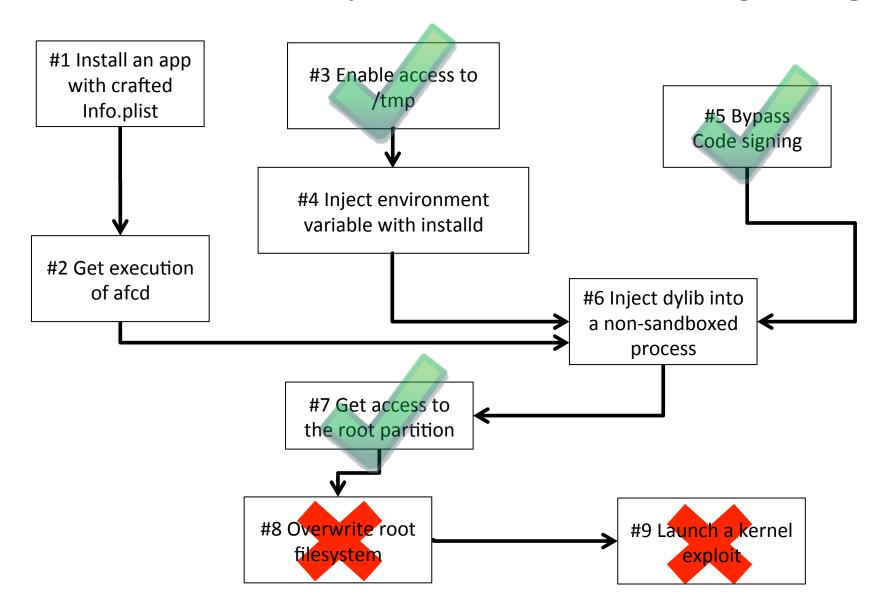
After the attack

Modifying Configurations

- Restriction Settings
 - We can overwrite the passcode for this restriction settings.
 - Since the passcode is not known to the user, the user cannot disable it.



New Vulnerability for Permission Downgrading



Syslogd Chown Symlink Bug

- grep –E 'chmod|chown' -r ./
 - Find all programs that invoke chmod/chown in / usr/libexec
- ps -aux
 - List all daemons running as root in iOS 7.0.6

We are lucky. Find a new one in syslogd in 5 mins

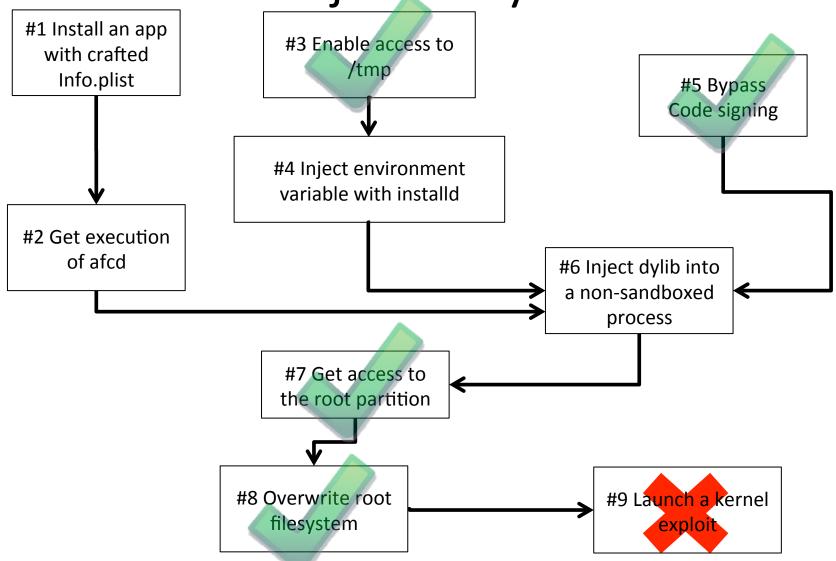


Syslogd Chown Symlink Bug

- chown("/var/mobile/Library/Logs/ CrashReporter", 501, 501)
 - UID 501 is mobile
- chmod("/var/mobile/Library/Logs/ CrashReporter", 755)
 - rwxr-xr-x mobile:mobile

```
R4, #(:lower16:(aVarMobileLib 0 - 0xBC32)); "/var/mobile/Library/Logs/CrashReporter
text:0000BC1E
                               MOVW
text:0000BC22
                               MOVW
                                               R1, #501; uid t
                                               R4, #(:upper16:(aVarMobileLib 0 - 0xBC32)); "/var/mobile/Library/Logs/CrashReporter"
text:0000BC26
                               MOVT.W
text:0000BC2A
                               MOVW
                               ADD
                                                          "/var/mobile/Library/Logs/CrashReporter"
text:0000BC2E
                               MOV
text:0000BC30
text:0000BC32
                               BLX
text:0000BC36
                               MOV
                                               RO, R4 ; char *
                               MOVW
                                               R1, #0755; mode t
text:0000BC3C
                               BLX
```

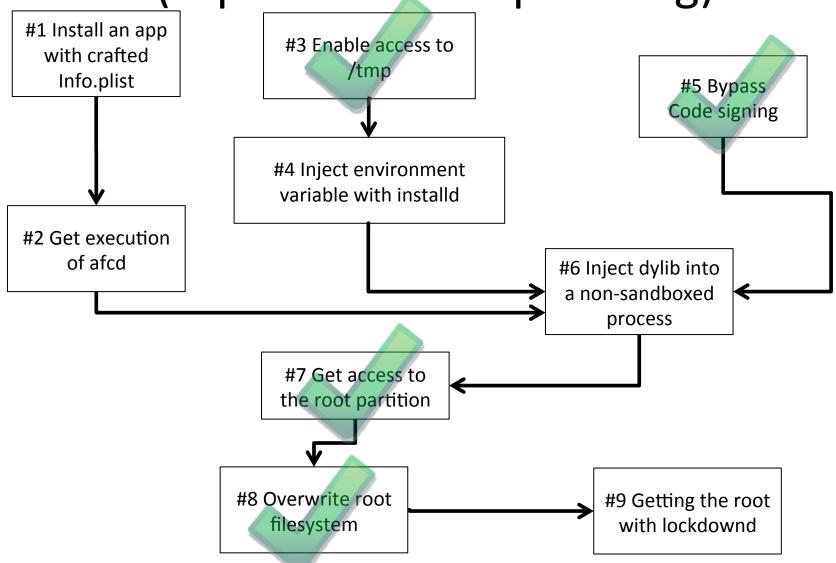
Overwriting the Root Partition with Injected dylib



Overwriting the Root Partition with Injected dylib

- By injecting our dylib into afcd running out of the sandbox, the dylib gains access to /dev/ rdisk0s1s1
 - Direct read/write to the block device is possible!

Use lockdownd to obtain root (replaces kernel patching)



Unprotected lockdownd Plist

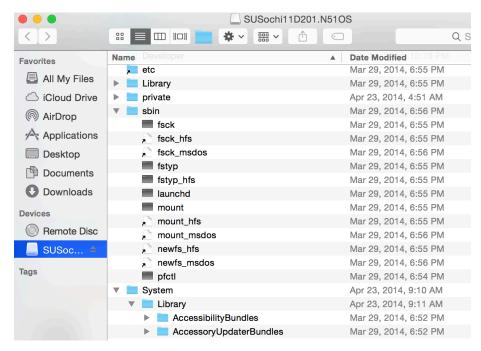
- Plist files in LaunchDaemons are embedded in dyld_cache file.
- Services.plist in lockdownd is unprotected
 - lockdownd can also launch new services/apps with root privileges.
- Modify Services.plist to run target executables under our control as root.

- #3 Accessing /tmp
 - Install a developer signed app
 - Create symlink as same as evasi0n7 did with afcd

- #5: Forge a dylib to have a constructor, then sign with a developer license
 - Similar to .ctors in ELF
 __attribute__((constructor))
 static void initialize() {
 - Constructor is called when the dylib is loaded
 - This is before afcd initiates its own sandbox.
 - Injected dylib will be executed outside of sandbox.

- #7: Dump root partition using syslogd exploit, then modify it
 - Download it to PC through AFC





- #8: Override libmis.dylib
 - Build dylibs to return 0 for all sandbox functions

If injected, code signing check will be disabled.

- #8: Override libmis.dylib
 - Inject into /usr/lib
 - Touch /System/Library/Caches/com.apple.dyld/ enable-dylibs-to-override-cache

```
// check for file that enables dyld shared cache dylibs to be overridden
struct stat enableStatBuf;
sDylibsOverrideCache = ( ::stat(IPHONE_DYLD_SHARED_CACHE_DIR "enable-dylibs-to-override-cache", &enableStatBuf) == 0 );
```

Sourcecode of dyld, from opensource.apple.com

- #8: Override libmis.dylib
 - If we make iOS to load /usr/lib/libmis.dylib, it will fail to boot
 - Injected libmis.dylib is signed by developer license
 - amfid must be started to allow developer license
 - Otherwise, provisioning profiles will not be loaded.
 - A chicken-and-egg problem

- #8: Override libmis.dylib
 - Create symlink enable-dylibs-to-override-cache pointing to /tmp/bypass_codesign
 - At boot time, since tmpfs is a kind of ramdisk, it is empty
 - dyld will not load /usr/lib/libmis.dylib
 - dyld checks existence with stat(), not lstat()

```
// check for file that enables dyld shared cache dylibs to be overridden
struct stat enableStatBuf;
sDylibsOverrideCache = ( ::stat(IPHONE DYLD SHARED CACHE DIR "enable-dylibs-to-override-cache", &enableStatBuf) == 0 );
```

- #9: Kill amfid & installd
 - We create /tmp/bypass_codesign after the boot process
 - amfid & installd are already loaded with stock libmis.dylib
 - Then we kill and reload the daemons
 - Killing amfid requires root permissions.

 #9: Edit /System/Library/Lockdown/ Services.plist

```
Script for killing amfid
```

Script for killing installd

- Writeback root partition, then reboot
 - Upload diskimage with AFC
 - open(/dev/rdisk0s1s1);
 - Write modified data...

- #9: Kill daemons with lockdownd
 - lockdownd is a service that processes commands from USB connections.
 - Can be called by a USB connection
 - Can be called by connecting to 127.0.0.1:62078

```
AMDeviceConnect(device);
assert(AMDeviceIsPaired(device));
assert(AMDeviceValidatePairing(device) == 0);
assert(AMDeviceStartSession(device) == 0);
printf("APP PATH: %s\n", app_path);
CFStringRef path = CFStringCreateWithCString(NULL, app_path, kCFStringEncodingASCII);
CFURLRef relative_url = CFURLCreateWithFileSystemPath(NULL, path, kCFURLPOSIXPathStyle, false);
CFURLRef url = CFURLCopyAbsoluteURL(relative_url);

CFRelease(relative_url);

// read file
int afcFd;
assert(AMDeviceStartService(device, CFSTR("com.apple.killinstalld"), &afcFd, NULL) == 0);
assert(AMDeviceStopSession(device) == 0);
assert(AMDeviceDisconnect(device) == 0);
```

Demo Video

Jailbreak Complete

- Attacker can execute code outside of the sandbox
 - A dylib injected into afcd already does this
- Attacker can execute unsigned code
 - Newly started amfid & installd will load modified libmis.dylib
 - Attacker can install & run unsigned binaries
- Attacker has a privileged root process
 - Via hooking daemons running as root

Limitations

- Our exploit does not use a kernel vulnerability
 - We cannot patch the kernel
- We cannot:
 - Execve a non-container binary
 - Can be replaced with fork() & dlopen()
 - Disable sandbox of container binary
 - Can be delegated to a sandbox-free process
 - Debug the kernel

Lessons

- Jailbreak usually requires multiple vulnerabilities to achieve.
- Fixing some of vulnerabilities on the chain may block the current jailbreak attack.
- Incompletely patching the disclosed vulnerabilities still leaves the door for other attacks.

References

- 1. https://github.com/comex/datautils0/blob/master/make-kernel-patchfile.c
- 2. http://geohot.com/e7writeup.html
- 3. http://theiphonewiki.com/wiki/Evasi0n7 (will be updated per each write-ups)
- 4. https://conference.hitb.org/hitbsecconf2013ams/materials/D2T1%20-%20Pod2g,%20Planetbeing,%20Musclenerd%20and%20Pimskeks%20aka%20Evad3rs%20-%20Swiping%20Through%20Modern%20Security%20Features.pdf
- 5. http://theiphonewiki.com/wiki//System/Library/Lockdown/Services.plist
- 6. http://support.apple.com/kb/HT6162
- 7. http://support.apple.com/kb/HT6208
- 8. http://securitylearn.net/wp-content/uploads/iOS%20Resources/Apple%20iOS%204%20Security%20Evaluation%20WP.pdf
- 9. http://www.semantiscope.com/research/BHDC2011/BHDC2011-Slides.pdf

Questions?

- Thank you for your attention!
- Thanks to evad3rs for their jailbreak tool.
- Thanks to geohot for his detailed write-up.