Written by Marco Attard 22 July 2016

There is no such thing as a completely secure mobile device, Check Point insists-- according to the security company devices infected with the HummingBad malware already total 10 million globally.



HummingBad is allegedly developed by Yingmob, the highly organised Chinese group behind the Yispector iOS malware. It infects devices through the search of that most basic of needs, pornography, requires very little in terms of technical effort to run and generates revenues worth over \$300000 monthly in fraudulent ad clicks.

CheckPoint adds HummingBad represents a disturbing first step for its creators-- emboldened by its success, Yingmob can potentially take mobile malware to entirely new directions, creating powerful botnets to conduct highly-targeted attacks or sell access to devices to the highest bidder.

But how can one repel such attacks? While one can never stop users from accessing dodgy online materials, internet and mobile service providers should integrate security functions upfront. One example Germany-based secucloud, whose cloud-based service already has a number of big customer, including T-Mobile in the Netherlands.

Being cloud-based, secucloud integrates all security mechanisms (from firewall and behaviour analysis to reputation services and virus detection) into either service provider infrastructure or the cloud, thus blocking malware before it can get near any devices, without need for users to install any security software or even update the OS inside their devices.

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The service can be provided as a software-as-a-service offering as part of a smartphone or tablet contract, and promises enterprise-level security at consumer prices.

Go From HummingBad to Worse: Analysis of the HummingBad Android Malware Campaign

Go HummingBad: 40000 Avoidable Infections in Germany Alone