



# iOS Automation Primitives



**OWASP**

The Open Web Application Security Project

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# iOS Automation Primitives

*(Hacking in context)*

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## Security Researcher at SYNACK

Working on low level emulation with QEMU and iPhone automation.

## Graduate of Polytechnic University/ISIS Lab 2005

a.k.a New York University Tandon School of Engineering

## Masters in Software Engineering from Oxford University 2014

Exeter College



СССР 1986

Intel 8080 Clone

1.78MHz CPU

32KB RAM

2KB ROM

450 Rubles

[Wikipedia-RU](#)





Why automation?

**Time saving**

**More thorough**

**Repeatable**

**API Discovery**

**Code Coverage**

**Discover Preinstalled Malware**

*“When you automate tests of UI interactions, you free critical staff and resources for other work.” – Apple*

*Cameras arrived with malware from Amazon*



# Getting started with iOS

- Get iPhone 5s
  - Swappa
- Apply Jailbreak
  - Install OpenSSH via Cydia
  - Use tcpprelay to SSH over USB
- Start exploring
  - [Debugserver](#)
- Objective-c: Phrack 0x42
  - <http://phrack.org/issues/66/4.html>
- [iOS App Reverse Engineering](#)
  - The world's 1st book of very detailed iOS App reverse engineering skills :)
- [TCP Relay](#)



Pangu



TaiG





The goal

*“We want to dissect and study an application that we have no developer control over”*





# Static Analysis

- Use [dumpdecrypted](#) by Stefan Esser to acquire the binary
- IDAPro for reverse engineering
- [Class-dump](#) to get the Objective-C meta data.
  - Objective-C is automation's best friend



Let's explorer how Objective-C  
calls methods



```
@interface TestObject : NSObject {  
    -(void)print;  
@end  
  
@implementation TestObject  
    -(void)print {  
        NSLog(@"Test Object");  
    }  
@end  
  
...  
  
TestObject* obj = [TestObject alloc];  
[obj print];
```



\_\_text:0000000100000DB0  
\_\_text:0000000100000DB7  
\_\_text:0000000100000DBE  
\_\_text:0000000100000DC2  
\_\_text:0000000100000DC5  
\_\_text:0000000100000DC9  
\_\_text:0000000100000DCE  
\_\_text:0000000100000DD2  
\_\_text:0000000100000DD6  
\_\_text:0000000100000DDD  
\_\_text:0000000100000DE0

Static Call



```
mov     rsi, cs:classRef_TestObject
mov     rdi, cs:selRef_alloc
mov     [rbp+var_38], rdi
mov     rdi, rsi
mov     rsi, [rbp+var_38]
call    _objc_msgSend
```

Dynamic Call



```
mov     [rbp+var_18], rax
mov     rax, [rbp+var_18]
mov     rsi, cs:selRef_print
mov     rdi, rax
call    _objc_msgSend
```



```
[obj print];
```

```
id objc_msgSend(id self, SEL op, ...)
```

```
objc_msgSend(obj, "print");
```

```
void __cdecl -[TestObject print]  
(struct TestObject *self, SEL)
```

```
-[TestObject print](obj, "print");
```



# Dynamic Analysis

- Verbose nature of Objective-C
  - Query Objects
  - Trigger method calls
- Debugging
  - Cypript
  - Frida
  - Custom DYLIB
- Injecting into the App
  - MobileSubstrate
  - DYLD\_INSERT\_LIBRARIES



# Dynamic tools

- Frida
  - Binary Instrumentation using JavaScript
  - Mostly for debugging and tracing
  
- Cypcript
  - Injectable debugger
  - Manipulate and examine objects
  - [iOS Spelunking](#) (Talk and OWASP NYC)
    - Showing how to rewire an application to discover more.



# Network tools

- MITMProxy
  - Intercept network data
  - Write custom scripts for transformations
  
- iOS Disable Certificate pinning
  - <https://github.com/iSECPartners/ios-ssl-kill-switch>
  - **WARNING: THIS TWEAK WILL MAKE YOUR DEVICE INSECURE** 🌐





## Available Frameworks

*“Appium is an open source test automation framework for use with native, hybrid and mobile web apps. It drives iOS and Android apps using the WebDriver protocol.” - [Appium](#)*

*“You can use the Automation instrument to automate user interface tests in your iOS app through test scripts that you write.” - [Apple UI Instruments](#)*



All frameworks require  
you to be the app  
developer!

Not nice for blackbox  
testing.

JAILBREAKERS TO THE  
rescue!

# So, you want to roll your own?



- Simulate the user



- Read and understand the UI



# Generating Events

- SimulateTouch
  - <http://api.iolate.kr/simulatetouch/>
  - Generate TouchUp/TouchDown
  - Generate Swipes
  
- SimulateKeyboard
  - <https://github.com/iolate/SimulateKeyboard>
  - Generate Key presses
  - Mechanical and Virtual



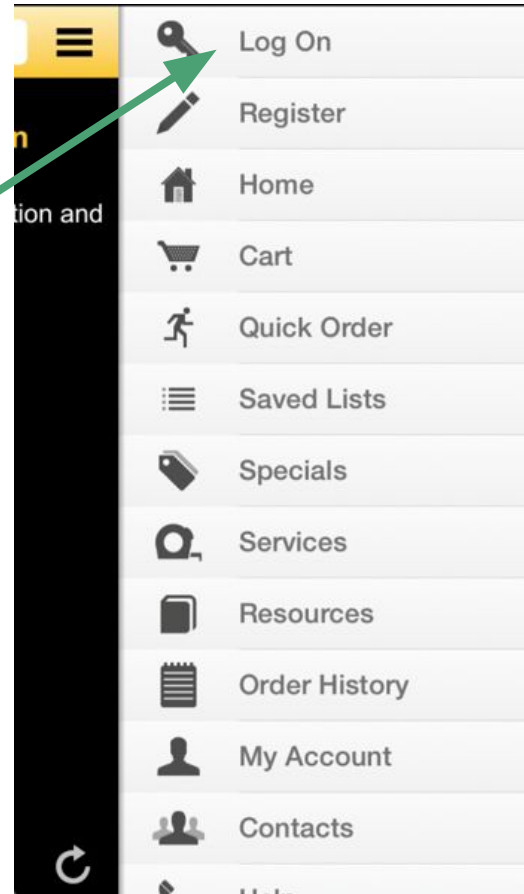
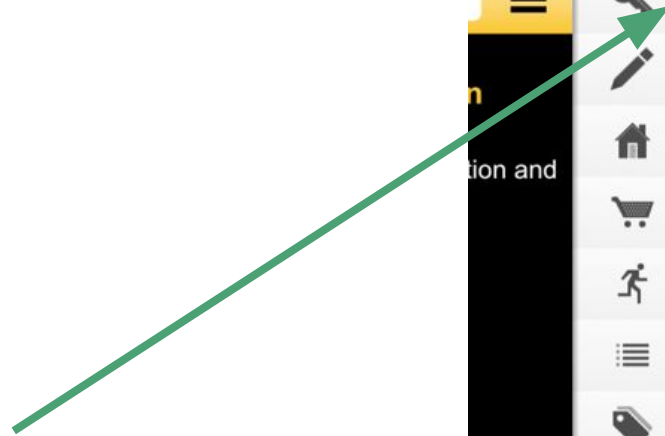
# Reading the UI

- UIView
  - The source of everything
    - Stems from **UIApp.keyWindow**
  - Constructs a tree structure
  - UILabel
  - UIButton
  - UITextField
  - etc.



Let's peek in

UILabel and UIButton in a  
UIScrollView





# Sneaking a peek

cy# UIApp.keyWindow

```
<UIWindow; frame = (0 0; 320 568); gestureRecognizers = <NSArray>;>
  | <TiRootViewNeue; frame = (0 0; 320 568); autoresize = W+H; layer = <CALayer>>
  ...
<TiUITableViewController; baseClass = UITableViewController; text = 'Log On';>
  | <TiGradientLayer;> (layer)
  | <UITableViewControllerContentView; frame = (0 0; 256 43.5); layer = <CALayer>>
  |   | <UITableViewControllerLabel; frame = (74 0; 167 43.5); text = 'Log On'>
  |   | <UIImageView; frame = (15 0; 44 43.5); layer = <CALayer>>
  | <_UITableViewControllerSeparatorView; frame = (74 43.5; 182 0.5); layer = <CALayer>>
```



Putting it all together





*“An engine for driving the UI while doing  
blackbox testing of an iOS App”*

- CHAOTICMARCH (On [github](#))



# CHAOTICMARCH

- **Lua Scriptable Logic**
- Standard functions for touching the device
- Options for record/replay
- **Finding UI Components**
- Regulating speed of execution
- Support for multiple targets
- **Mechanisms for generic logic**
- Lightweight injected module



*“Lua is a powerful, fast, lightweight, embeddable scripting language ... means "Moon" in Portuguese ... Please do not write it as "LUA", which is both ugly and confusing”*

[lua.org](http://lua.org)



# Lua Layout

lua

├─ `chaotic_march.lua`

├─ `com.gs.pwm.external-1-login.lua`

├─ `com.hdsupply.hdsupplyfm-1-search.lua`

├─ `post_all-click_around.lua`

├─ `pre_all-common.lua`

└─ `pre_all-wait_to_start.lua`



# Initialization

1. Dylib reads and executes `chaotic_march.lua`
2. Execute all `pre_all*.lua` scripts
  - a. Library functions
  - b. Generic logic
3. Execute all `[bundle_id]*.lua`
  - a. Target specific logic
4. Execute all `post_all*.lua`
  - a. Any sort of common clean up
  - b. Close out the execution



## CHAOTICMARCH - Target

*“Engine is injected into all apps and so  
it has to situate itself”*

`getBundleID()` ->

`“com.hdsupply.hdsupplyfm”`



# Basic Logic

```
while true do
  local button = getButton(clickedButtons)

  -- put some info in.
  fill_all_fields()
  click_button(button)

  if(button["text"] ~= nil) then
    clickedButtons[button["text"]] = 1
  end
  usleep(2 * 1000000)
end
```



# Finding elements

```
local buttons = findOfTypes(  
    "UIButton", "UINavigationControllerItemButtonView",  
    "UINavigationControllerItemView", "_UIAlertControllerActionView",  
    "UISegmentLabel", "UILabel", "")
```

Basically anything we might consider clickable.





## Other interesting functions

`inputText(String text) ->`

Enter the text into whatever component is holding the focus.

`hasTextAt(String txt, boxes_x, boxes_y, box_x, box_y) ->`

Same as component but the engine will look for text at a specified box.

`findOfTypes(String type1, ..., String "") ->`

Returns a dictionary of the locations of particular types of components.



# Element representation

```
{  
  "x": [x - coordinate, top-left corner],  
  "y": [y - coordinate],  
  "width": [number],  
  "height": [number],  
  "text": [best guess at text of the button],  
  "title": [Closest title to the element]  
}
```

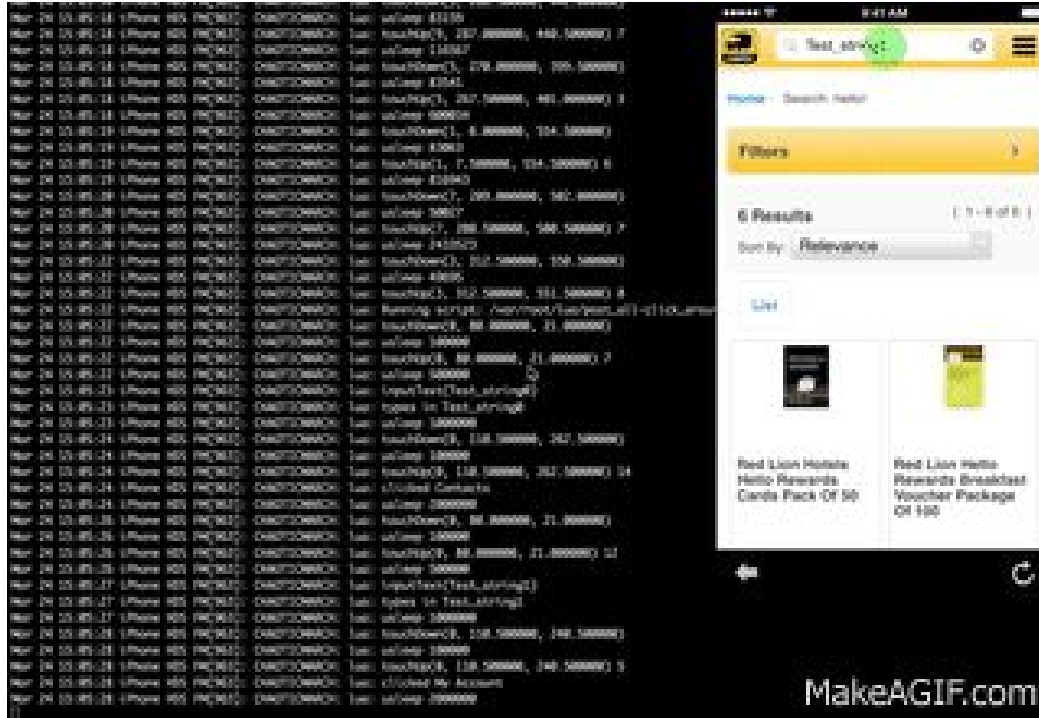


# Challenges/Research areas

- Identifying an interesting event
- Recording path to event
- Accurately identifying what the user sees
  - Clickables: Not all are buttons
- Instrumentation
- Repeated triggering
- Handling games and custom UI's



# Demo!



- HD Supply test case
- Replay raw touch
- Fill in forms
- Click buttons

[Youtube link](#)



Why?

*Together we can build a great library  
of testing logic for all kinds of apps!*



Thank you!

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<https://github.com/synack/chaoticmarch>

<http://debugtrap.com/>