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Android Malware Detection Test

Consumer Product

2024 Feb

... Celebrating Technology Innovation

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Chap.1 Background

Android is a mobile operating system developed by Google. It is based on a modified version of the Linux kernel and other open-source software, and is designed primarily for touchscreen mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. In addition, Google has further developed Android TV for televisions, Android Auto for cars, and Wear OS for wrist watches, each with a specialized user interface. Variants of Android are also used on game consoles, digital cameras, PCs and other electronics. Android's smartphone share will hover with around 85% throughout the forecast. Volumes are expected to grow at a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.7% with shipments approaching 1.36 billion in 2022. Android maintained its position as the leading mobile operating system worldwide in January 2022, controlling the mobile OS market with a close to 70 percent share. Google's Android and Apple's iOS jointly possess over 99 percent of the global market share. Overall this is a positive sign that consumers are seeing the benefits of moving to a slightly more premium device than they likely previously owned.

Aside from the clear advantages to build mobile devices on Android, the platform also introduces numerous security risks to the platform users. Among them the following malicious activities:

1. Send messages to "premium service" SMS numbers that cost extra money.
2. Send your personal information to unknown parties.
3. Turn your phone into a part of a botnet so others can execute commands remotely for nefarious purposes, such as spam, DDOS attack, and more.
4. Non-authorized persons may monitor your phone calls and text messages.
5. Open you to blackmail, if something embarrassing can be found and sent elsewhere.
6. Trick you into entering financial information, such as account number, birth date, and more.
7. Even stuff on your PC if you connect your PC to your smartphone.

Clearly, to protect user's system and the data from the listed threats and the others, Android-based security applications exist and their efficiency is to be evaluated regularly against the permanently evolving threats.

This test is designed to independently assess the efficiency of consumer security solutions for Android OS on detecting currently spread malicious mobile apps.

Chap.2 Test Process & Test Software

Detailed process is as follows:

1. Several Android based mobile devices are prepared and backup images are created then. Platform: Android 13 on XiaoMi 8.
2. 805 malware samples and 499 different clean android applications installers are collected, and delivered in a mixed set to the internal storage of mobile devices. The malware is collected from multiple sources (including China region-based ones), clean apps are taken from Google AppStore and other legitimate app stores.
3. Install selected security applications on the physical mobile devices in default configuration.
4. Update the security applications and their antivirus bases.
5. Run full scan of the collection by the security application. Malware detection and false positive rates are recorded.
6. Install each missed malicious sample and then run it, detection (if happened) is recorded.
7. Installation process against clean apps is not executed.
8. Test date: February, 2024.

<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Software</i>	<i>Version</i>
<i>AhnLab</i>	<i>AhnLab V3 Mobile Security</i>	<i>3.8.1.1(Build 4100)</i>
<i>Avast</i>	<i>Avast Mobile Security</i>	<i>24.3.0-1004091-eca47dbf6</i>
<i>Avira</i>	<i>Avira Antivirus Security for Android</i>	<i>7.23.0 build No. 240206004</i>
<i>Dr.Web</i>	<i>Dr.Web Mobile Security Suite</i>	<i>12.9.3(2)</i>
<i>ESET</i>	<i>ESET Mobile Security</i>	<i>v. 9.0.21.0-15</i>
<i>Kaspersky</i>	<i>Kaspersky Plus for Android</i>	<i>11.110.4.11307</i>
<i>McAfee</i>	<i>McAfee Mobile Security</i>	<i>8.0.0.600</i>
<i>NortonLifeLock</i>	<i>Norton 360 (Norton Mobile Security)</i>	<i>5.81.0.240212879</i>
<i>Total Defense</i>	<i>Total Defense Mobile Security</i>	<i>3.5.0.4</i>

Chap.3 Tested Result (The test results are shown on the following tab)

Vendor	Total Samples	Missed Samples	Detected Samples	Detection Rate	False Positive Counts	Total Score
Kaspersky	805	0	805	100.00%	0	100.00
Avira	805	1	804	99.88%	0	99.88
Avast	805	1	804	99.88%	0	99.88
ESET	805	2	803	99.75%	0	99.75
NortonLifeLock	805	5	800	99.38%	0	99.38
McAfee	805	5	800	99.38%	0	99.38
Total Defense	805	18	787	97.76%	0	97.76
AhnLab	805	32	773	96.02%	0	96.02
Dr.Web	805	272	533	66.21%	0	66.21

- For each security solution, a Final Score is calculated once the full test is performed:

$$\text{Final Score} = (\text{Detection \%}) * 100 - 0.2 * \text{FP}$$

- Basing on the Final Score, the correspondent rating is grated to each participating security solution, in accordance with the tab below:

final score	monthly award
98.00 - 100.00	5-star rating
95.00 - 97.99	4-star rating
90.00 - 94.99	3-star rating

Chap.4 Test Summary & Monthly Award

- Monthly Award:

2024 February	Android Malware Detection Test from Testing Ground Labs
Kaspersky Avira Avast ESET NortonLifeLock McAfee	 5 Star Monthly Award 2024 February
Total Defense AhnLab	 4 Star Monthly Award 2024 February

Chap.5 Compliance

This test was made in accordance with the requirements of the AMTISO Testing Protocol Standard v.1.3 <https://www.amtso.org/standards/>, and is confirmed by AMTISO as the compliant with the Standard.

Details about the test compliance are available on page:

<https://www.amtso.org/tests/testing-ground-labs-android-malware-detection-test-december-2023-consumer/>



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