

# 101 REVERSING ANDROID MALWARE

Hugo Gonzalez

The HoneyNet Workshop - Jun 4, 2025

# CONTENT

- Whoami
- Objective
- Why reversing
- Android introduction
- Tools
- Crackmes (3)
- SMSStealer - find url
- Scareware - find the password
- New one ???
- Conclusions

# WHOAMI

# OBJECTIVE

Give a brief introduction about Android platform and how to reverse engineering APKs to find the malicious or interesting part using open source tools.

# WHY REVERSING

- Open question

# WHY REVERSING

1. Understand malware behaviour
2. Develop detection signatures
3. Identify vulnerabilities
4. Attribution
5. Threat Intelligence (IoCs)
6. Help in incident response

**ANDROID**



## System Apps

Dialer

Email

Calendar

Camera

...

## Java API Framework

Content Providers

View System

### Managers

Activity

Location

Package

Notification

Resource

Telephony

Window

## Native C/C++ Libraries

Webkit

OpenMAX AL

Libc

Media Framework

OpenGL ES

...

## Android Runtime

Android Runtime (ART)

Core Libraries

# Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL)

Audio

Bluetooth

Camera

Sensors

...

## Linux Kernel

### Drivers

Audio

Binder (IPC)

Display

Keypad

Bluetooth

Camera

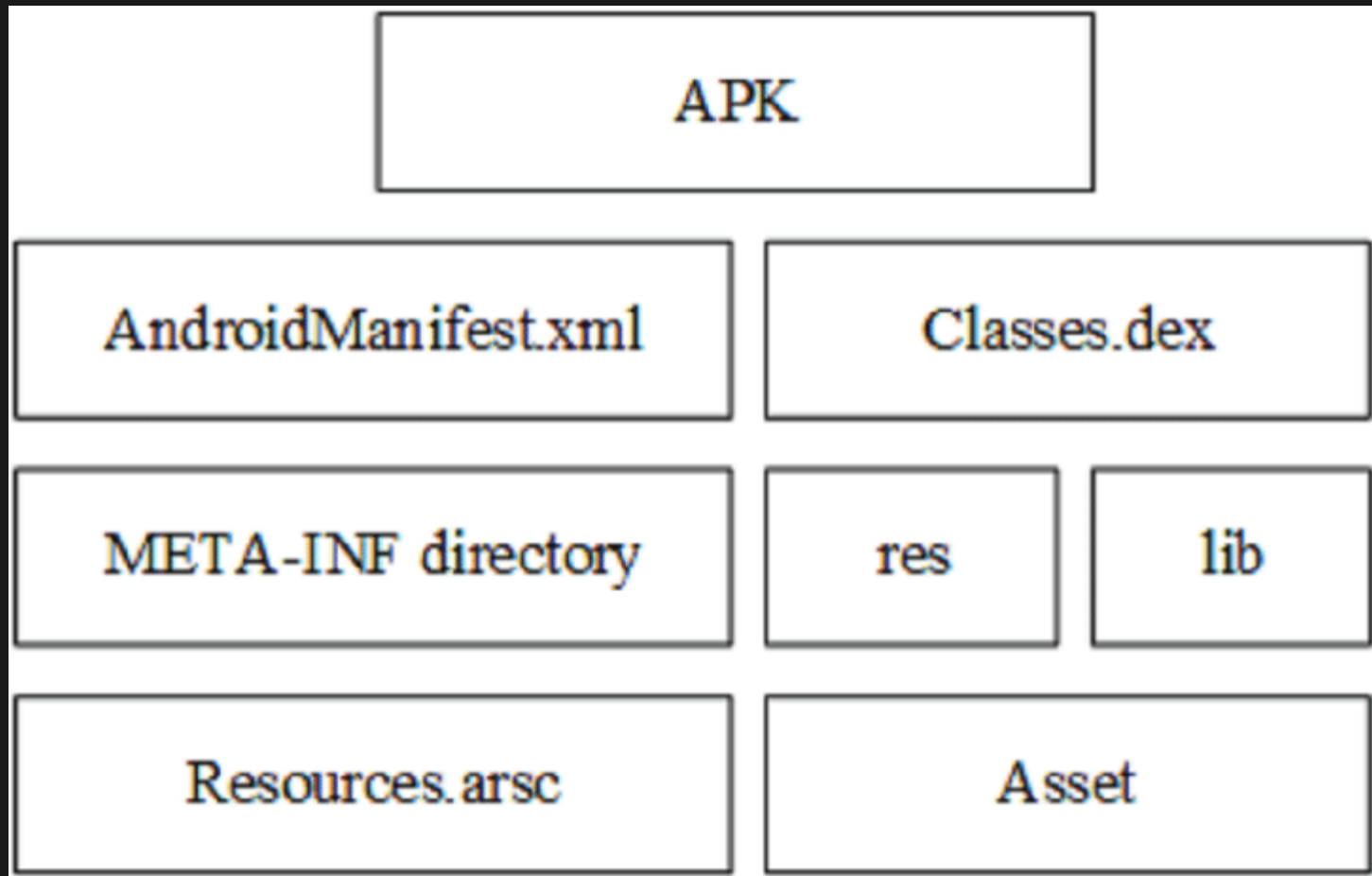
Shared Memory

USB

WIFI

Power Management

Stack

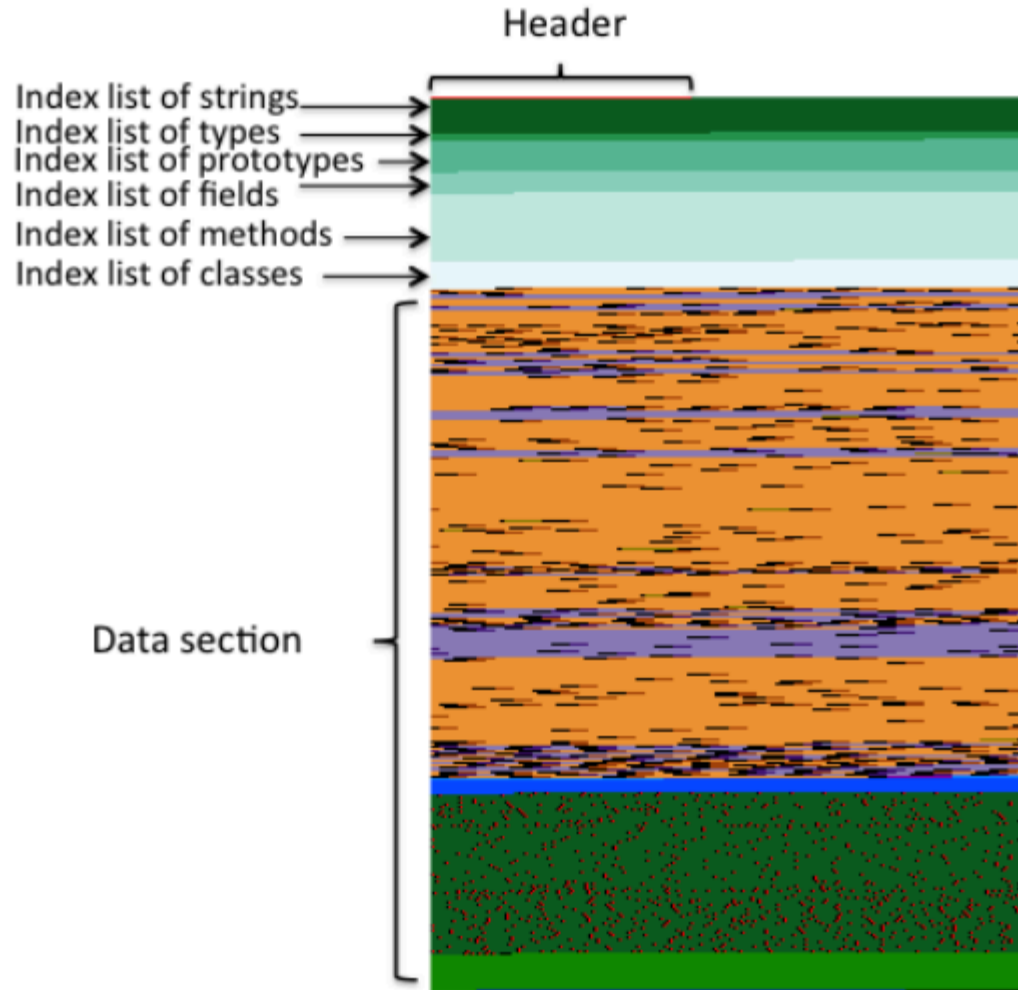


Apkfile

header	Structural information
string_ids	Offset list for strings
type_ids	Index list into the string_ids for types
proto_ids	Identifiers list for prototypes
field_ids	Identifiers list for fields
method_ids	Identifiers list for methods
class_defs	Structure list for classes
data	Bytecode and data
link_data	Data for statically linked files.

**Figure 1: The layout of a .dex file**

# Conceptual dexfile



The structure of a typical plain .dex file.

Dexfile

**WHERE TO START?**

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    package="com.program1.buttons"
    android:versionCode="1"
    android:versionName="1.0" >

    <uses-sdk
        android:minSdkVersion="8"
        android:targetSdkVersion="17" />

    <application
        android:allowBackup="true"
        android:icon="@drawable/ic_launcher"
        android:label="@string/app_name"
        android:theme="@style/AppTheme" >
        <activity
            android:name="com.program1.buttons.MainActivity"
            android:label="@string/app_name" >
            <intent-filter>
                <action android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN" />

                <category android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER" />
            </intent-filter>
        </activity>
    </application>
</manifest>

```

# Manifest

- Main Activity
- Receivers
- Filters
- Intents

**WHERE TO GET APKs?**

# TOOLS

- Android Studio
- Android Emulator
- Apktool
  - Smali
- dex2jar
- smali\_emulator

# BASICS OF STATIC ANALYSIS

- unpack
- Manifest
  - Entries
- Strings
- Permissions
- Specific Code

**CRACKME 1**

**CRACKME 2**

**CRACKME 3**

**SMSSTEALER**

**SCAREWARE**

# FRESH SAMPLE MALWARE

- Crocodilus

# CONCLUSIONS

# CONTACT INFO

- @hugo\_glez
- hugo.gonzalez@upslp.edu.mx
- linkedin.com/in/hugoxglez