# Pinning

Not as simple as it sounds

**SYNOPSYS**<sup>®</sup> Silicon to Software<sup>®</sup>

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#### \$ whoami

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  - Technical strategist
    - Synopsys Software Integrity Group
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  - Mobile application security
    - Secure Design
    - Static Analysis
    - Binary Protection
    - Security Research





Trust and PKIX

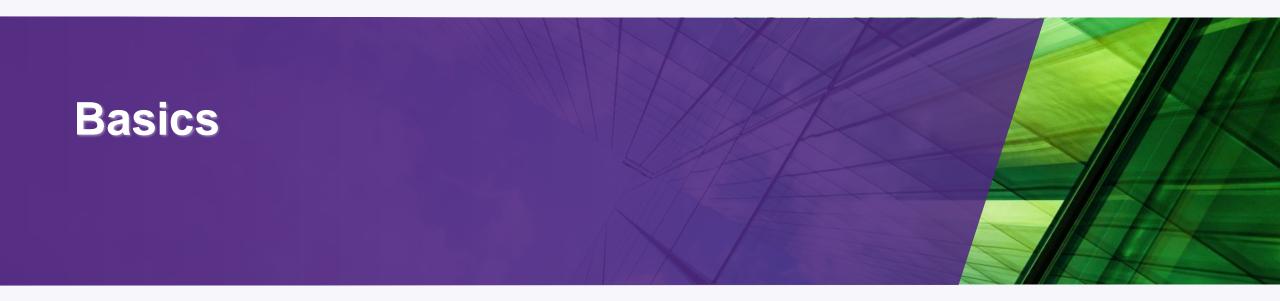
Pinning fundamentals

Common implementation mistakes

New platform support

Questions







#### **Protecting communications**

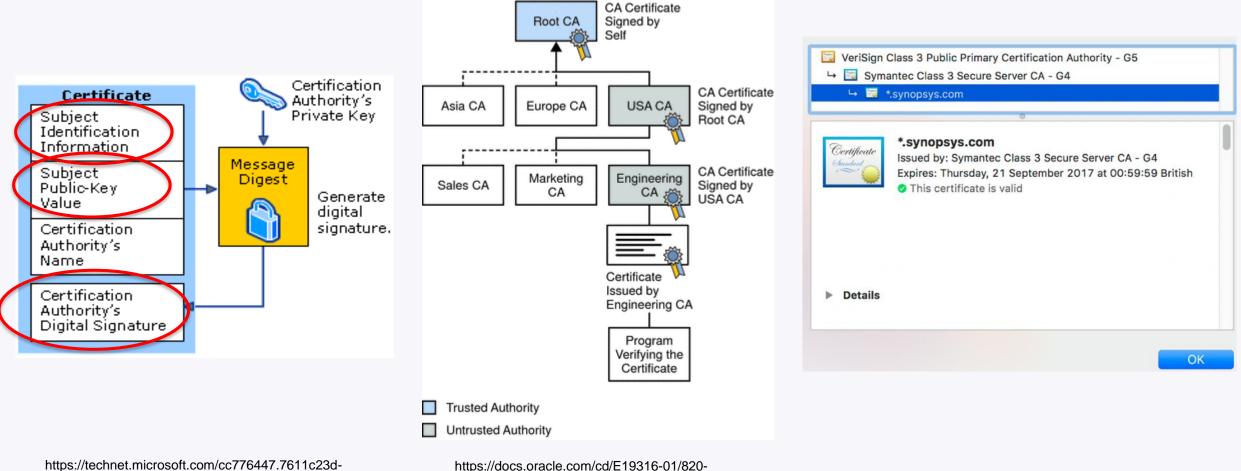
- Sensitive traffic?
  - -Banking credentials, credit card details, PII, emails etc
  - Use TLS
- Non-sensitive traffic?
  - -Use TLS!
- If no TLS...
  - -MitM can modify traffic, inject exploits, replace content, track you etc

#### • TLS

- Confidentiality, Integrity, peer authentication...
- -HTTPS: secure by default
- -SSL Sockets: not secure by default

#### **Certificates & X509 chains**

Certs bind an identity to Public Key



baf0-4398-bea2-e2d7972f3f17(en-us,WS.10).gif

#### https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19316-01/820-2765/images/chn.gif

#### **Trust evaluation**

- 1. Verify presented certificate is valid and chains to trusted anchor
- 2. Verify presented certificate was issued for the host you want
- 3. Verify backend holds private key corresponding to certified public key
- Recursive X.509 certificate chain validation
  - Client has trusted anchors store
  - Client receives 1..N certs from server
  - -Client assembles valid chain from received end-entity cert to a trusted anchor
  - Checks constraints & other cert fields of every cert

#### But.. mobile apps know their server

- Problem PKIX solves: Client does not know server's identity
- But.. Most mobile apps do know the identity of their server
- Can we do better than PKIX?

# FUNDAMENTALS

PINNING





# Why Pinning?

- Pinning goals
  - -Control the process yourself, not depend on PKIX / CAs
  - -Raise the bar above PKIX security guarantees
  - Shrink attack surface
- Protection against certificate forgery
  - -Rogue CAs
  - Compromised CAs
  - -Mistakes by CAs
  - -Users phished into inserting certs to device trust store
    - Android 7.0 fix

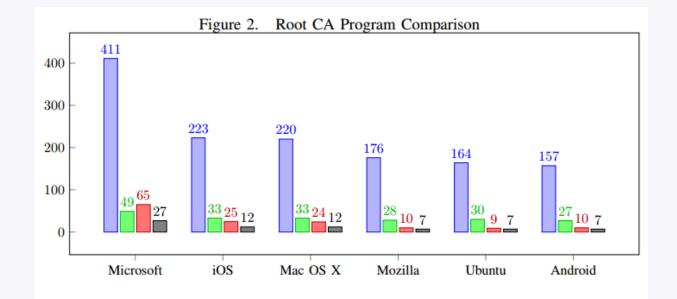
#### **Trusted authorities?**

Fake & mis-issued certificates

"Questioning the chain of trust" report & series of talks by Andrew Blaich

- Government entities
- Small organizations
- CAs controlling other CAs
- Android device vendors add extra certs
- Removing bad CA from devices is not easy





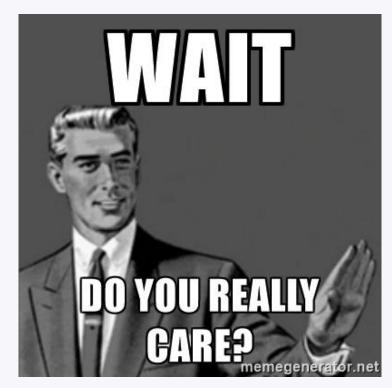
Trusted Root Certificates
 Distinct Countries of Origin
 Certificates owned by Governmental Institutions
 Distinct Governments owning a Certificate

Trust me, I'm a Root CA! Analyzing SSL Root CAs in Modern Browsers and Operating Systems. (ARES '15)

Android 5: 162	iOS 8: 201*
Android 6: 158	iOS 9: 187*
Android 7: 148	iOS 10: 165*
Android 7.1: 156	* Fully trusted

Past Failures	Researchers collided certificates on existing CA certificates
This section is 'further reading' for those interester	
Governments Want/Require Interce     Highligh	hts in failures of trust:
Certified      http://support.gc     GlobalS	Sign [2016] // /dns_hijack_service_updated/ &
Symantec employees fire rogue HTTPS certificate f	
Unauthorised credential was trusted by all browsers, b	ting-cell-phone-calls/ &
https://w • Interception proxies     GlobalS	Sign [2011]
Mobile Inter <ul> <li>http://blog.crypto</li> <li>Lawful ir</li> <li>HTTPS is broken</li> <li>India C</li> </ul>	Already on probation, Symantec issue more illegit HTTPS certificates
Carriers car         • www.cs.aucklan         • No refer     • The Internet is Broken :)	
	ing.com/2012/02/how-to-fix-internet.html &
<ul> <li>http://isc.sans.edu/diary.html?storyid=11500</li></ul>	https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Talk:Certificate_and_Public_Key Pinning#Past_Failures
<ul> <li>Researchers created Rogue CAs</li> </ul>	
http://www.win.tue.nl/hashclash/rogue-ca/	SYNOPS

#### **Before pinning**



- Concerned about *maliciously issued certificates*?
  - Yes: pin it
  - Maybe: good idea
  - -Not really: PKIX good enough

#### The downside

- <u>Will not</u> protect against a compromised *pinned* certificate
- <u>Will</u> create a single point of failure
- <u>Will</u> require a mature process to avoid operational headaches
- <u>May</u> cause security issues like broken SSL validation
- <u>May</u> impact performance

#### **Barclays Bank – Black Friday**

On November 24, 2016 (Thanksgiving Day), an emergency situation arose whereby mobile application users of Barclays Bank would no longer be able to conduct transactions due to the pinning of an obsolete intermediate certificate in the application. The bank, through its application provider Axsy, urgently contacted Symantec to request a new certificate for \*.payliquid.com <<u>http://payliquid.com/</u>> chained to the older intermediate

"The recent change to the intermediate certificate negatively impacted Barclay's SSL pinning solution. As a result, connection to our mobile application will fail for all users imminently. The only other option to fix this issue is underway and requires us to modify our existing iOS and Android mobile application code. This will take several weeks, including security testing, app store submission, approval and rollout.

https://cabforum.org/pipermail/public/2016-November/008989.html

#### Not against local attacks

- Will not stop reverse engineers
  - Frida, Xposed modules to unpin, debugging, repackaging all work
- Will not help if device is rooted/jailbroken

- Client-side controls: you can't win, but can raise the bar
  - -Look into binary hardening, tamper detection, obfuscation, move to native
  - Look into SafetyNet Attestation

#### What's a vulnerability?

- "Certificate Pinning bypassed using XXX local technique" – NOT a vulnerability
- "Absence of Certificate Pinning"
  - -NOT a vulnerability, unless mandated by policy
- "Broken pinning implementation"
  - IS a vulnerability
    - Remote pinning bypass (low severity)
    - Remote TLS validation bypass (critical severity)

#### **Decisions**, decisions

- 1. Which identity to pin to?
- 2. Pin to full cert or public key?
- 3. How to handle compromise?
- 4. How to handle rotation?
- 5. How to handle pin failures?
- 6. How to deploy the pins?

#### OWASP AppSecEU 2016 talk

https://koz.io/certificate-pinning-owasp-appseceu16



#### Bugs, flaws and bad designs

"I see broken code"





#### Apps doing "custom" chain validation

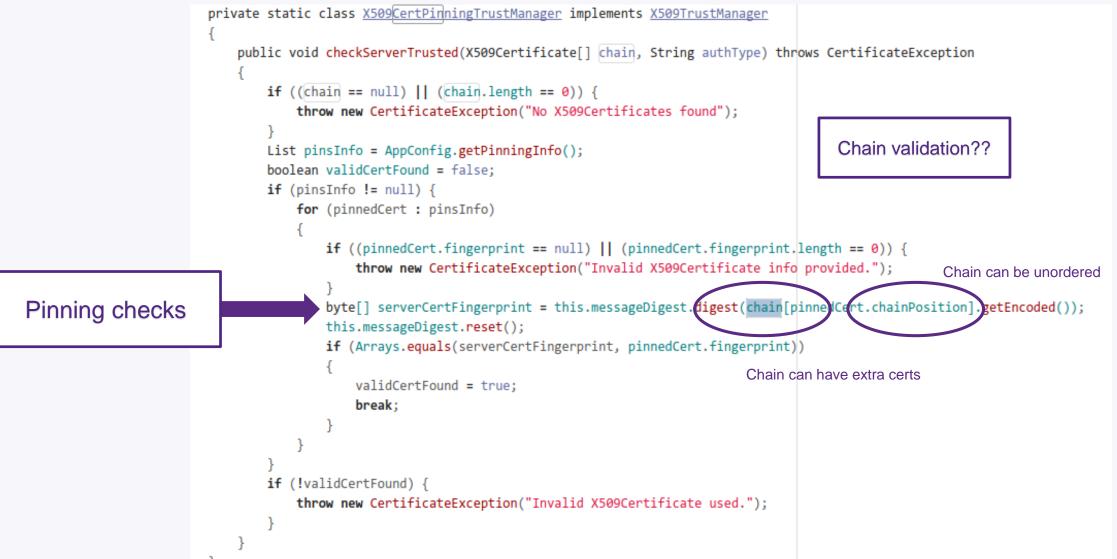
- Please do not roll your own X.509 chain validation
  - Extremely complex
  - Use the system's validation routines or 3<sup>rd</sup> party library like OpenSSL
  - Do not roll your own "chain cleaning" function either

#### **Custom trust managers**

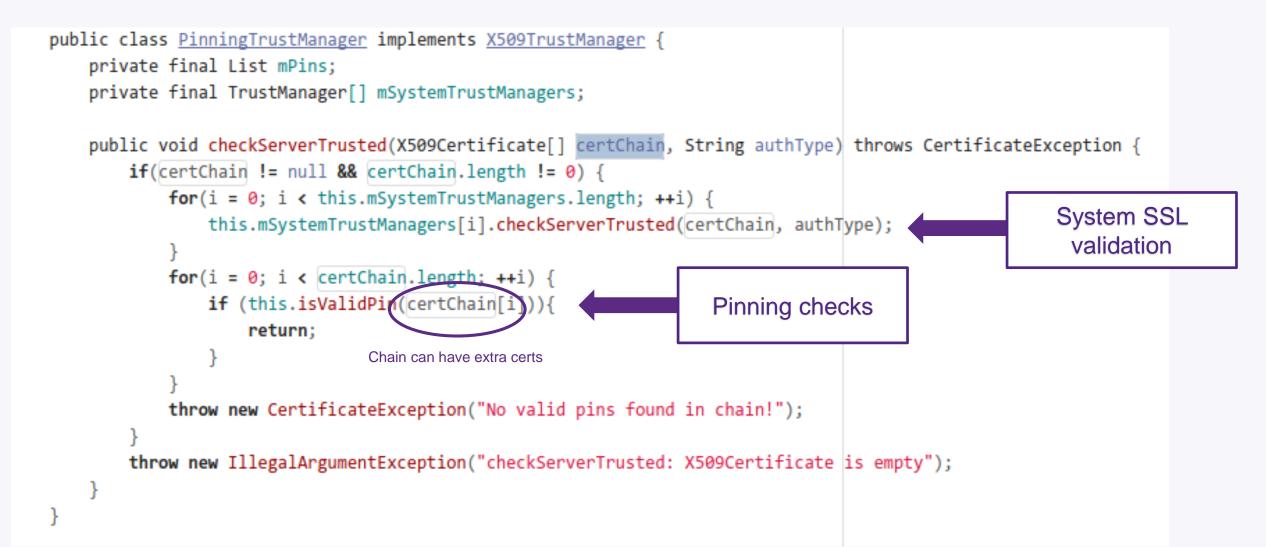
```
customtrustManager = new X509TrustManager() {
   @Override
   public void checkClientTrusted( final X509Certificate[] chain, final String authType ) {
   @Override
   public void checkServerTrusted( final X509Certificate[] chain, final String authType ) {
   @Override
   public X509Certificate[] getAcceptedIssuers() {
        return null;
};
```

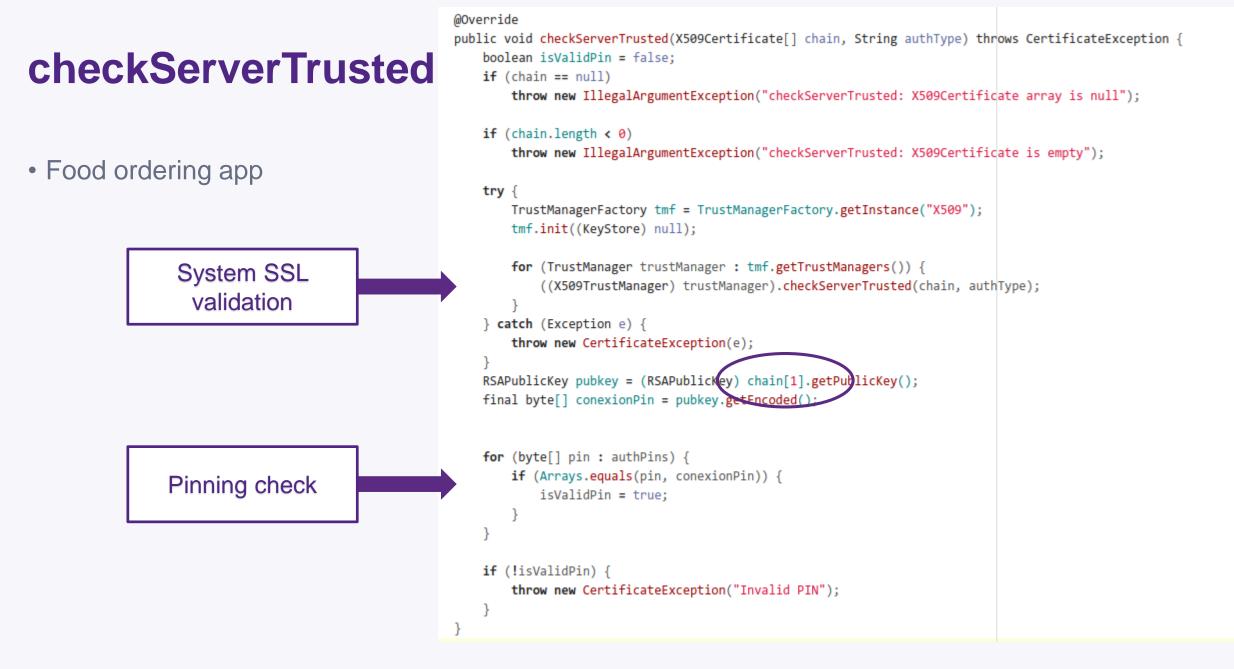
• Don't do this – not even in debug builds

#### checkServerTrusted – payment processor SDK



#### checkServerTrusted – mobile payments app





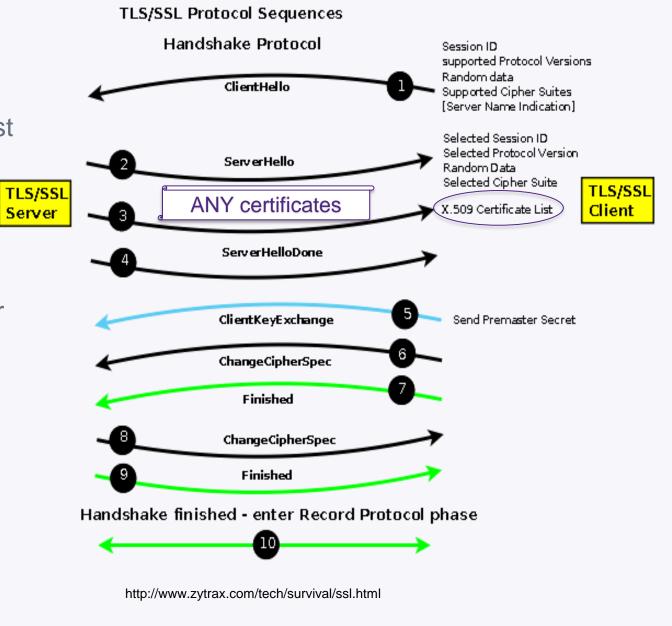
#### **OkHttp library**

```
Check that the certificate pinner is satisfied by the certificates presented.
route.address.certificatePinner.check(route.address.uriHost,
                                                                  Peer Certificates?
   sslSocket.getSession().getPeerCertificates());
    public void check(String hostname, Certificate... peerCertificates)
       throws SSLPeerUnverifiedException {
      List<ByteString> pins = hostnameToPins.get(hostname);
      if (pins == null) return;
     for (Certificate c : peerCertificates) {
       X509Certificate x509Certificate = (X509Certificate) c;
        if (pins.contains(sha1(x509Certificate))) return; // Success!
      }
```

# What's going on?

• Server can send ANYTHING in its certificate list

- getPeerCertificates() and checkServerTrusted() return all certs AS SENT by server
- MitM attacker can send all certs the real server would send to client including pinned certs

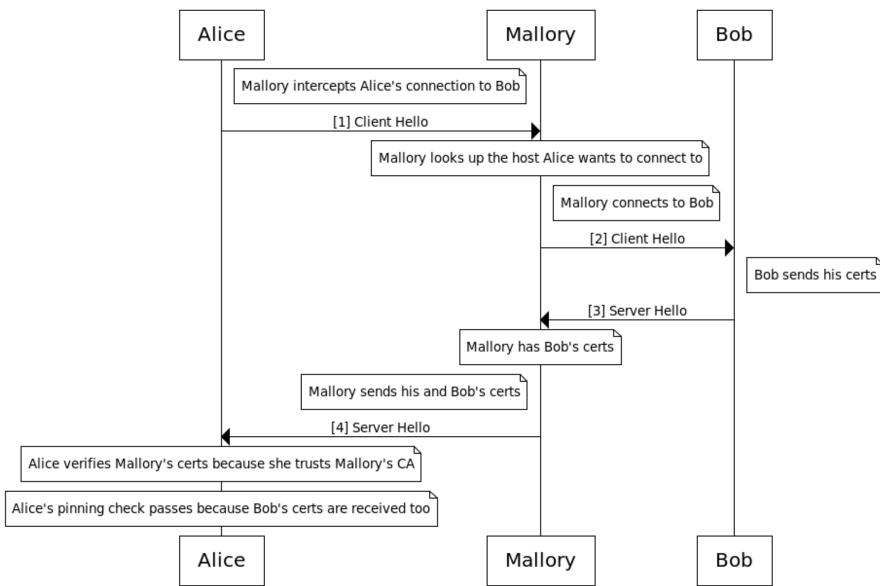


#### getPeerCertificates() bug impact

- Pinning rendered completely ineffective
- 6 US & UK banks, 4 retailers, 2 payment apps
- 10s other less well known apps I've checked
- 6 libraries & SDKs used by 100s of apps
  - -OkHttp < 3.1.2 & < 2.7.5 CVE-2016-2402
  - SSLCertificateChecker-PhoneGap-Plugin < 4.0.0 if checkInCertChain=True
  - Including 2 commercial Android obfuscation products
- Several Java apps

- <u>https://koz.io/pinning-cve-2016-2402/</u> [ testing tools ]
- <u>https://www.cigital.com/blog/ineffective-certificate-pinning-implementations/</u>

#### **Pinning Attack**



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#### **Fixing custom implementations**

- Pins MUST checked on VALID chain, unless pinning to end-entity cert (check chain[0])
- Android & Java did not expose good APIs for this in the past
- Android
  - Since API 17: X509TrustManagerExtensions returns clean valid chain
    - Corner cases fixed in API 24
- Oracle Java
  - -Bug status: "Issue fixed in main codeline, scheduled for a future Critical Patch Update"
  - "SSLSession.getPeerCertificates() should be sanitized"
  - -Java SE 9 getPeerCertificates() documentation updated

Note: The returned value may not be a valid certificate chain and should not be relied on for trust decisions.

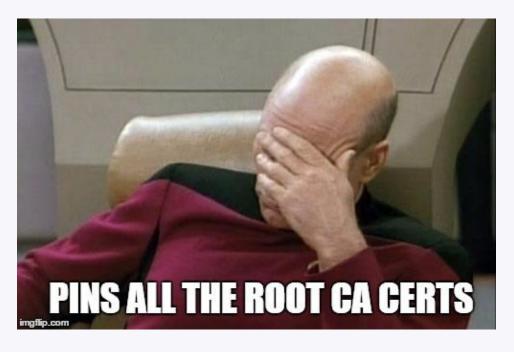
### **Apps skipping X509 chain validation**

public void checkServerTrusted(X509Certificate[] chain, String authType) Cleaning / reordering cert chain? cleanChain = CertificateChainCleaner.getCleanChain(chain); for (X509Certificate certificate : cleanChain) { Checking clean chain against pins? if (isValidPin(certificate)) { return; Certificate chain validation? public void checkServerTrusted(X509Certificate[] chain, String authType) cleanChain = CertificateChainCleaner.getCleanChain(chain); for (TrustManager systemTrustManager : systemTrustManagers) { systemTrustManager.checkServerTrusted(cleanChain, authType); Always do this for (X509Certificate certificate : cleanChain) { if (isValidPin(certificate)) { return;

#### Apps pinning all the things

- App replaces system's trust store with custom trust store
- Custom trust store holds the 20 most popular root CA certificates

- DO: Pin only to certs on your chain
  - Possibly add one off-chain backup



#### Apps using any pin for any host

- App connects to 10 different hosts
- App holds pins for 10 different hosts
- App uses <u>any</u> stored pin for <u>any</u> host
- DO: Pin to Host mapping



#### **TOCTOU** bugs

- App uses pin validation for first connection to \$HOSTNAME
- App skips pin validation for all new connections to \$HOSTNAME



- Pin validation should be done for every full SSL handshake to pinned hosts
  - Connection pooling & SSL caching not always used

#### **Broken caching**

- App skips pin validation if ping previously checked (cert found in cache)
- OK if caching end-entity cert. Broken if caching CA certs.

```
public void checkServerTrusted(X509Certificate[] certChain, String authType) {
    for (pinnedCert : this.cache)
    {
        if(certChain.contains(pinnedCert)) {
            return;
        }
    }
    cleanChain = this.certChainCleaner(certChain);
    this.checkSystemTrust(cleanChain, authType);
    pinnedCert = this.checkPinTrust(cleanChain);
    this.cache.add(pinnedCert);
}
```

#### **Broken Hostname Verification**

• App does pinning correctly, but...

```
HttpsURLConnection.setDefaultHostnameVerifier(new HostnameVerifier() {
    public boolean verify(String hostname, SSLSession session){
        return true;
    }
});
```

```
• OR...
HttpsURLConnection.setDefaultHostnameVerifier(new HostnameVerifier() {
    public boolean verify(String hostname, SSLSession session){
        return hostname.equals("www.oursafebank.com");
    }
});
```

• Look closely: Verification always succeeds, SSLSession never checked

• Also please don't use ALLOW\_ALL\_HOSTNAME...

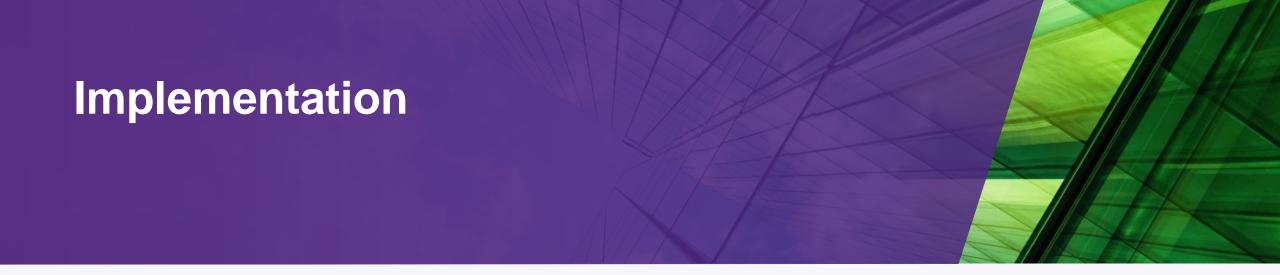
#### **Multiple connection handlers**

- Apps consist of several libraries and classes
  - -Each class or library might have its own connection handling & pinning code
  - Have seen app with 4 networking stacks
    - 3 out of 4 did pinning
    - 1 pinning implementation was broken
    - 1 didn't have any pins
- Sometimes people \*think\* they use pinning, but they really don't
- Pin all connections to important hosts
- Try to take control of ALL connections in your app
- Centralize your implementation

#### Insecure fallback design

- App decides to use fallback certificate to avoid self-DoS
- Normal pin: end-entity certificate
- Fallback pin: CA certificate
- Flexibility: You can reissue a certificate using the same CA without DoS
- But: system as secure as pinning just to CA certificate
- No gain by pinning to end-entity
  - -just added complexity
  - -Could pin just to CA instead

• Optimal strategy: fallback pins should maintain the same security guarantees





### Taxonomy

#### • TYPE I

 – System SSL validation using custom trust anchors

#### • TYPE II

 – Custom SSL validation using custom trust anchors

#### • TYPE III

 Pins checked against end-entity certificate – no SSL validation performed

#### • TYPE IV

– Pins checked after system validation using system trust anchors

#### • TYPE V

– Pins checked after custom validation using system trust anchors

#### • TYPE VI

– Pins checked after custom validation using custom trust anchors (overkill)

### Handling pinned connections

- Use Android Network Security Config (API 24+)
- Use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party networking library with a pinning feature
- Centralize connection handling in one place within the app
- Invoke your library API for each connection
- Automatically direct most\* connections to your API
  - -iOS: NSURLprotocol swizzling
  - Android: URL.setURLStreamHandlerFactory()
    - Not the easiest API to use

\* excludes WebViews, non-HttsUrlConnection APIs etc

### **Android Libraries**

#### • <u>OkHttp</u>

- -By Square Jesse Wilson (@swankjesse) and others
- -Full featured, fast, efficient connection handling
- Cert pinning API in ConnectionBuilder
- <u>CWAC-NetSecurity</u>
  - By Mark Murphy (@commonsguy)
  - Limited backport of Network Security Config up to API 17 supports TOFU mode

#### <u>TrustKit-Android</u>

- -By Datatheorem Alban Diquet (@nabla-c0d3) and others
- Limited backport of Network Security Config to up to API 17 supports reporting mode
- -Less invasive than CWAC-NetSecurity, can be deployed down to API 15 in disabled mode

#### <u>AndroidPinning</u>

- -By Moxie Marlinspike (@moxie)
- -GPLv3, dated, includes 4 year old trust anchor store

### **Custom implementation**

• Android:

-X509TrustManager.checkServerTrusted()

- Avoid if used, always do cert chain cleaning & call system trust managers using clean chain
- -X509TrustManagerExtensions.checkServerTrusted() (API 17+)
  - Check pins on returned validated cert chain
- -For SSLSockets: X509ExtendedTrustManager (API 24+)

• iOS:

-SecTrustEvaluate(SecTrustRef trust, SecTrustResultType \*result);

- System's OpenSSL library
  - Don't. Not great benefit, also restricted in API 24+
- Statically compile OpenSSL (or other)
  - More resistant to local attacks, tricky

## **Pinning & WebViews**

- WebViews have two components
  - 1. Connection handler
  - 2. Rendering engine
- Android API 24+
  - -Use Network Security Config ! Pinning works, usesCleartextTraffic may work in API 26
- Android API < 24
  - Intercept outbound requests using shouldInterceptRequest()
  - -Load request using own handler, feed response data back into WebView
  - -Not clean, synchronous, issues with POST requests
- iOS
  - Intercept connections using NSURLprotocol:startLoading()
  - -load using own handler, feed response data back to protocol
  - Pinning & WKWebView = complicated didReceiveAuthenticationChallenge()

### Native OS pinning support

Things are getting better





### Strict Mode & usesCleartextTraffic

- StrictMode
  - For app debugging..
  - -detectCleartextNetwork() since API 23
  - Deep packet Inspection
    - Checks outgoing connections for TLS Client Hello bytes

```
StrictMode.setVmPolicy(
    new StrictMode.VmPolicy.Builder()
    .detectCleartextNetwork()
    .penaltyDeathOnCleartextNetwork()
    .build()
);
```

• usesCleartextTraffic manifest flag <application android:usesCleartextTraffic="false" />

- API 23+ but ignored in API 24+ if Network Security Config exists
- -BEST EFFORT: Just an indication
  - for some system-provider connection APIs and popular 3<sup>rd</sup> party libraries
  - WebViews do NOT respect this (yet)

### **Android Network Security Configuration**

res/xml/network\_security\_config.xml:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<network-security-config>
    <domain-config>
       <domain includeSubdomains="true">example.com</domain>
       <pin-set expiration="2018-01-01">
           <pin digest="SHA-256">7HIpactkIAg2Y49orF000KurWxmmSFZhBCo0YcRhJ3Y=</pin>
           <!-- backup pin -->
           <pin digest="SHA-256">fwza0LRMXouZHRC8Ei+4PyuldPDcf3UKg0/04cDM1oE=</pin>
       </pin-set>
    </domain-config>
                                          <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
</network-security-config>
                                          <network-security-config>
                                              <domain-config>
                                                  <domain includeSubdomains="true">secure.example.com</domain>
                                                  <domain includeSubdomains="true">cdn.example.com</domain>
                                                  <trust-anchors>
                                                       <certificates src="@raw/trusted roots"/>
                                                  </trust-anchors>
                                              </domain-config>
                                          </network-security-config>
```

### **Android Network Security Configuration**

Policies

-Which anchors to use

- default: system & user API <24, only system API 24+
- Static certificate pinning, with backup pins & optional expiration time
- -What to do with cleartext traffic
- Flexible: app-wide, per-domain or debug-only config
- Hidden features
  - "Debug only" config files! /res/xml/my\_config\_file\_debug.xml
  - -HSTS enforcement NOT quite there yet...
  - CertificateTransparancy enforcement SOON? ③

#### **HSTS enforcement**

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<network-security-config>
<domain-config hstsEnforced="true">
<domain includeSubdomains="true">secure.example.com</domain>
</domain-config>
</network-security-config>
```

As of API 25, not used anywhere yet  $^{(\mathcal{Y})}$  - But WebView supports HSTS (chromium)

#### **Android Network Security Configuration deep dive**

- Surprisingly similar to solution provided by the "Pin it!" paper by SBA-Research
- App gets set up at runtime with an Android Network Security Policy Provider (AndroidNSSP)

// TODO: More clever name than this

put("Alg.Alias.TrustManagerFactory.X509", "PKIX");

super("AndroidNSSP", 1.0, "Android Network Security Policy Provider");
put("TrustManagerFactory.PKIX", PREFIX + "RootTrustManagerFactorySpi");

int pos = Security.insertProviderAt(new NetworkSecurityConfigProvider(), 1); public NetworkSecurityConfigProvider() {

- Creates custom NetworkSecurityTrustManager <sup>}</sup>
  - Extends X509ExtendedTrustManager which implements X509TrustManager
  - Creates new keystore, adds all configured or default anchors
  - Creates a new trustManagerImpl for keystore
  - Implements checkServerTrusted() properly, checking pins in trusted path
    - Also checks pinSet expiration time and if pinning is enabled
- NetworkSecurityTrustManager is installed as the default TrustManager of the runtime

### **New APIs - NetworkSecurityPolicy**

- NetworkSecurityPolicy class since API 23
- isCleartextTrafficPermitted() since API 23
- isCleartextTrafficPermitted(String hostname) since API 24
- isCertificateTransparencyVerificationRequired(String hostname) API 26?
  - False by default, but conscrypt support is there
  - Controlled using system properties, e.g. conscrypt.ct.enforce.com.google.www
- Problem: Some apps modify AppConfig at runtime using reflection. Fixed upstream.

### **New APIs - X509TrustManagerExtensions**

- X509TrustManagerExtensions **since API 17**
- checkServerTrusted()
  - returns validated trusted path
- isUserAddedCertificate(cert) since API 21
  - Checks if cert inside /data/misc/user/0/cacerts-added
- isSameTrustConfiguration(host1, host2)
  - SystemAPI for now, checks if two hosts share the same network security config

#### New APIs - X509ExtendedTrustManager

- X509ExtendedTrustManager since API 24
- Before: chain checks in TLS layer, hostname verification at layer above (HTTPS/LDAPS etc)
- Problem: Too many developers using SSLSocket without hostname verification
- Now: X509ExtendedTrustManager does both checks for SSL Sockets
- New checkServerTrusted() and checkClientTrusted() APIs
  - $-\,3^{rd}$  argument is <code>Socket</code> or <code>SSLEngine</code>
  - -checks peer's identity in <code>SSLParameters</code> vs end-entity X509 certificate
  - Checks SSLParameters algorithm constraints for every cert in path
    - subject public key, signature algorithm, key usage, extended key usage etc
- conscrypt's TrustManagerImpl changed to this

### **Apple App Transport Security**

• App Transport Security (ATS) – introduced in iOS 9

-Blocks all non-HTTPS connections, similar to Android's StrictMode

• WWDC (June 2016) At the end of 2016, Apple will make ATS mandatory for all developers who hope to submit their apps to the App Store.

• August 2016

Google gives developers code to disable iOS 9 app security to continue to serve ads

• 21 December 2016:

-ATS enforcement postponed

App Transport Security (ATS), introduced in iOS 9 and OS X v10.11, improves user security and privacy by requiring apps to use secure network connections over HTTPS. At WWDC 2016 we announced that apps submitted to the App Store will be required to support ATS at the end of the year. To give you additional time to prepare, this deadline has been extended and we will provide another update when a new deadline is confirmed.

#### **Android ideas**

- Extend policy to cipher selection?
  - Enforce TLS1.2 or TLS1.3, drop SHA1 certs etc
- Runtime policy configuration is needed by some apps – e.g. for runtime pin updates
- Configurable policies per content source
  - -allow non-HTTPS media content, allow insecure content in WebViews etc
- HSTS
- HPKP (?)
- Certificate Transparency





Not everyone needs pinning

Pinning doesn't stop local attacks

Pinning is an operational headache – design it carefully

Too easy to get custom implementation wrong

Use Android Network Security Configuration

.. or a good 3<sup>rd</sup> party library





# **Thank You**



#### **Questions?**

#### **Contact Information**

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