Secure Communication

Hacking/Hustling Workshop @ Eyebeam



About me

Liz!

She/Her

Electrical Engineer/Embedded developer

Teaching for a while

Overview

Signal is one example of a third-party app for secure texting.

We'll go over what it does and why it's important.

We'll install it.

We might get to protonmail.

We might get to PGP.

Insecure Texting

SMS/MMS

Short Message Service and Multimedia Message Service

Insecure Texting

Texts are relayed through "Short Message Service Centers" which store and attempt to forward message to recipient.

Insecure Texting

SMS/MMS is unencrypted.

You do not have control over which Short Message Service Center your text goes through.

You do not have control over what that center does with your text.

What to do

There are several insecurities in standard texting.

I will break it down into types of general attacks, and show how Signal addresses these attacks.

Refer to your threat models.

Listening Attack

An attacker on an untrusted network listens in on your conversation.





Listening Attack: Defense

A: Don't use untrusted networks

Listening Attack: Defense

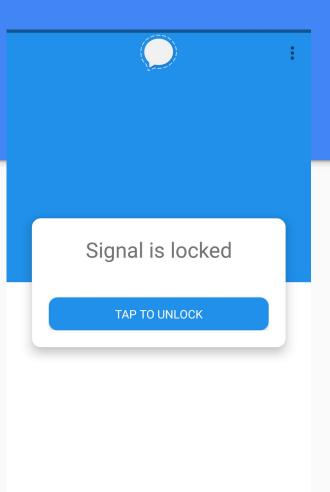
B: Use encryption - Signal

Physical Attack

An attacker has physical access to your device.

Physical Attack: Defense

A: Use a password



Physical Attack: Defense

B: Use Disappearing messages

Disappearing messages

Off

5 seconds

Your messages will not expire.

CANCEL

OK

Person in the Middle Attack

An attacker impersonates the person you are trying to talk to.

Or

An attacker impersonates you.

Person in the Middle Attack: Defense

A: Encryption keys

Person in the Middle Attack: Defense

B: Registration PIN

Install Signal



Open Source vs Proprietary

Server location

National Security

Apple vows to resist FBI demand to crack iPhone linked to San Bernardino attacks

Trusted Provider

Common usage and your threat model

Trusted provider and OS

Person in the W



Email

Similar to SMS, however goes across Internet Service Providers

Insecure Email

Email is generally unencrypted, and is vulnerable to person in the middle attacks.

Protonmail

protonmail.com

Encrypts communication between protonmail emails.

Protonmail

Servers hosted in Switzerland

Install Protonmail



Some Language

End-to-End Encryption

Zero Access Encryption

Some Language

TLS - Transport Layer Security

PGP

"Pretty Good Privacy"

openpgp.org

Requires both parties to use PGP

OpenPGP example

