

IMPROVING ACCURACY OF ANDROID
MALWARE DETECTION WITH
LIGHTWEIGHT CONTEXTUAL
AWARENESS

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ACSAC'18

STATE OF ANDROID ECOSYSTEM



New Android Malware Framework Turns App

Fortnite players using Android phones at risk of malware infections

Yet Another Android Malware Infects Over 4.2 Million Google Play Store Users



“Android/LokiBot has targeted more than 100 financial institutions around the world. By our estimate LokiBot has generated close to \$2 million in revenue from kit sales on the ‘dark web.’”

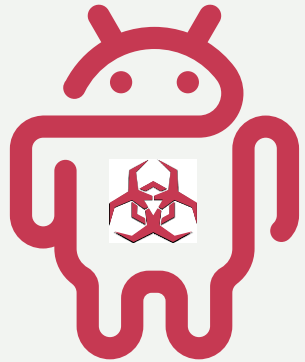
Sreenu Pillutla
Sr. Director, Software Engineering

07/25/2018 | Bochum, Author: Christian Lueg

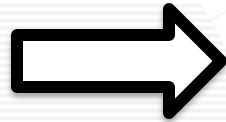
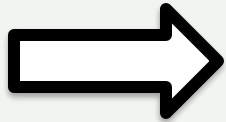
Malware figures for Android rise rapidly

G DATA security experts discovered a new malware strain every 7 seconds in the second quarter. Cyber criminals are attacking Android users with increasing force.

HOW TO INTERPRET AN APP'S INTENT?



Fireleaker Malware



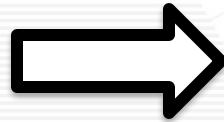
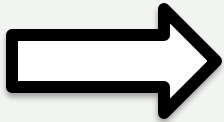
Remote Server

**Exfiltrates contacts
to find new victims**

HOW TO INTERPRET AN APP'S INTENT?



Fireleaker Malware

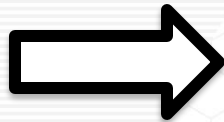
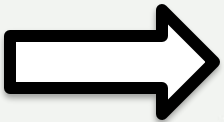


Remote Server

Exfiltrates contacts to find new victims



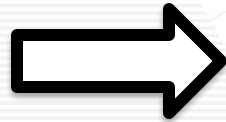
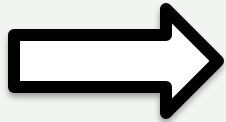
Uber



Remote Server

Syncs contacts to refer friends

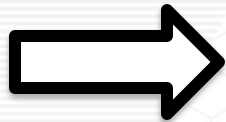
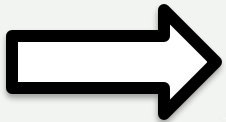
HOW TO DEFINE BEHAVIOR AS MALICIOUS?



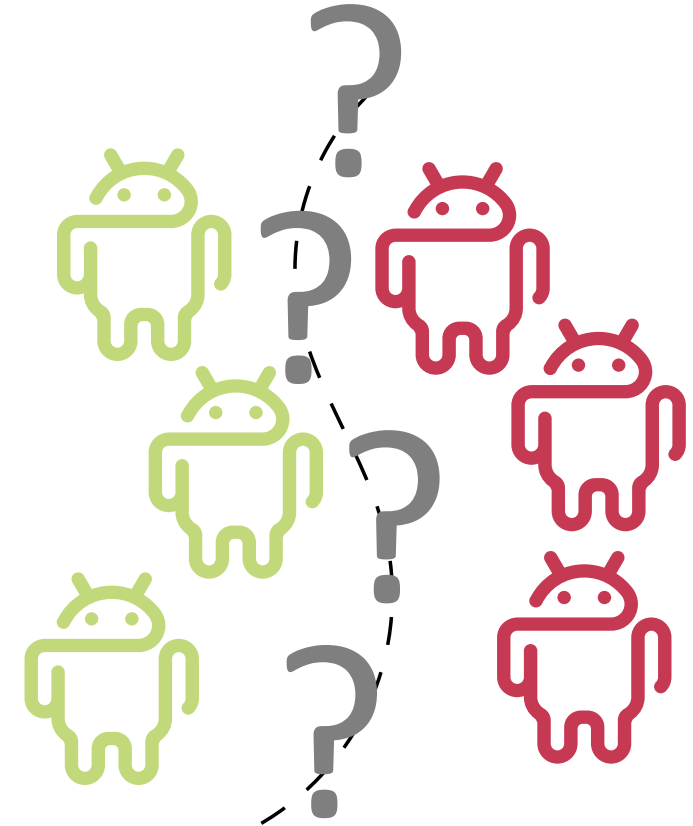
Remote Server



Uber



Remote Server



HOW WAS BEHAVIOR TRIGGERED?



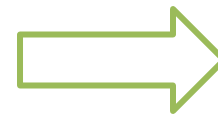
Fireleaker Malware



Remote Server



Uber



Remote Server

- Detecting sensitive behavior is not enough...
- Embed how a behavior was invoked into infer intent.

Android Context-Based Systems

Framework	Context Factors
Whyper (USENIX'13)	Textual Description
DroidSift (CCS'14)	API-Dependencies, Entrypoints, Data Dependencies
AppContext (ICSE'15)	Triggering Events, System Information, Entrypoints
MudFlow (ICSE'15)	Information Flow
MaMaDroid (NDSS'17)	Abstracted call-sequences
EnMobile (ICSE'18)	Network Provenance

CONTEXT FACTORS: EXAMPLE

```
1 public class MaliciousReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {
2     public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {
3         ...
4         // Check if device is an emulator.
5         if (telephonyManager.getDeviceId() == null) {
6             return;
7         } else {
8             smsManager.sendTextMessage(...)
9         }
10        ...
11    }
12 }
```


CONTEXT FACTORS: SENSITIVE API

```
1 public class MaliciousReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {  
2     public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {  
3         ...  
4         // Check if device is an emulator.  
5         if (telephonyManager.getDeviceId() == null) {  
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8             smsManager.sendTextMessage(...)  
9         }  
10        ...  
11    }  
12 }
```



SMS

CONTEXT FACTORS: CONSTRAINT DEPENDENCY

```
1 public class MaliciousReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {  
2     public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {  
3         ...  
4         // Check if device is an emulator.  
5         if (telephonyManager.getDeviceId() == null) {  
6             return;  
7         } else {  
8             smsManager.sendTextMessage(...)  
9         }  
10        ...  
11    }  
12 }
```



Device
Info



SMS

CONTEXT FACTORS: ENTRYPOINT

```
1 public class MaliciousReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {  
2     public void onReceive(Context context, Intent intent) {  
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12 }
```



Broadcast
Entrypoint

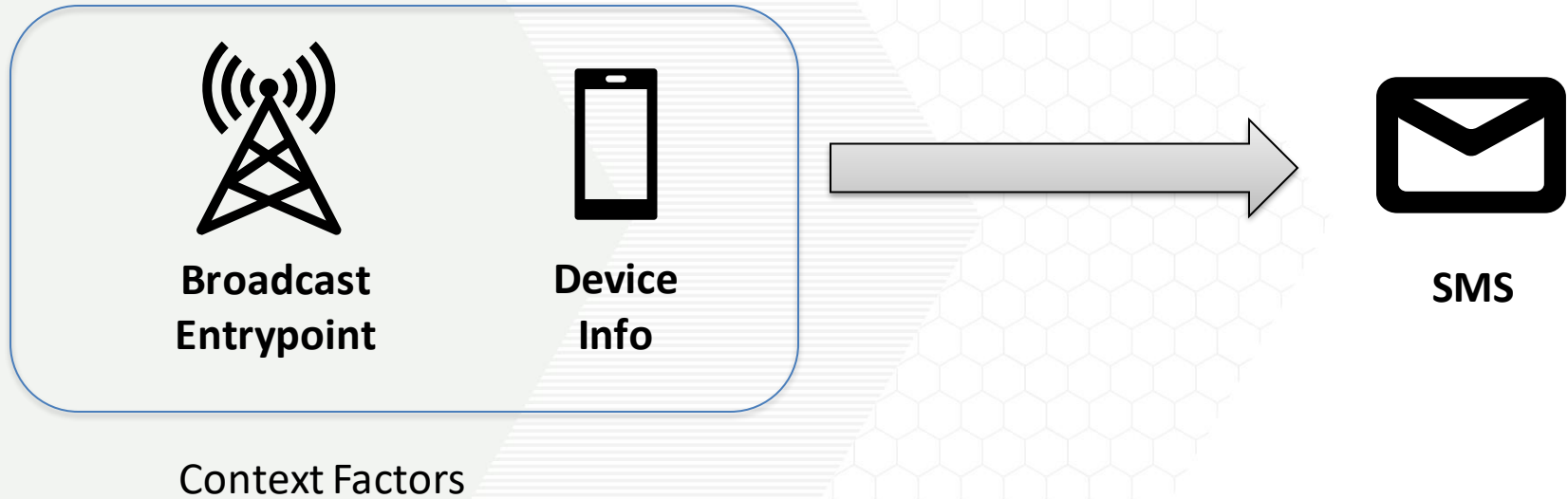


Device
Info



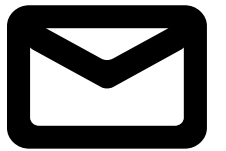
SMS

CONTEXT FACTORS: ENTRYPOINT



- Classification is too tailored to samples in training set.

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SMS

- Classification is too tailored to samples in training set.



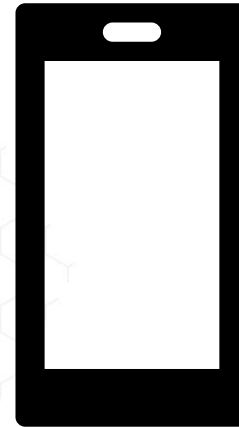
- Classification is too tailored to samples in training set.

Family-specific Signatures

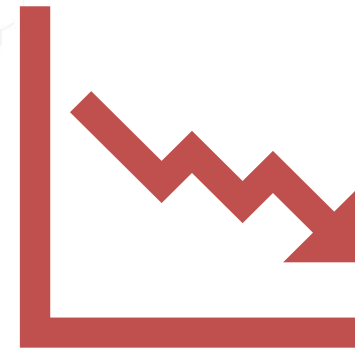
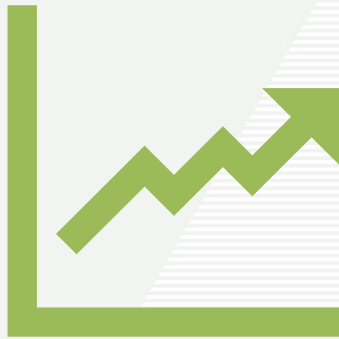
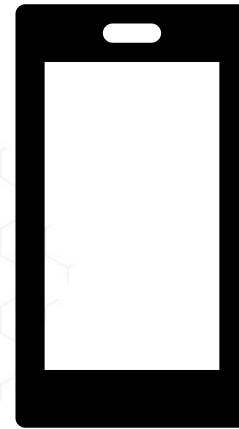


SMS

- **Non-Informative Context Factors**

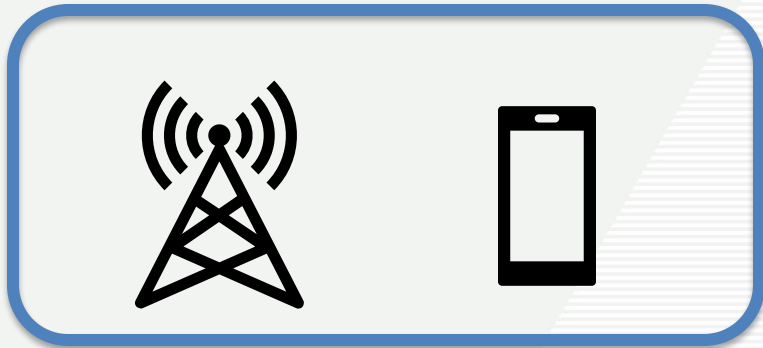


- **Non-Informative Context Factors**



Lightweight Context

- Rely on **most-informative** contextual factors.
- Refine Context factors used

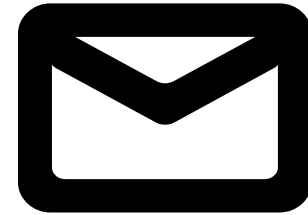
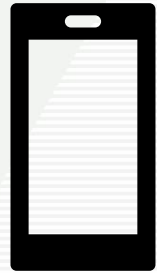


Refined Context Factors

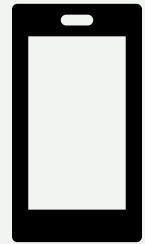


Informative Context Factors

CASE STUDY



Purpose: Which Context Factors are most informative?



Device Info



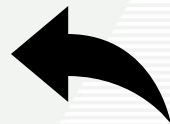
Network Info



Database



UI Behavior



Entrypoints

Context Factors



Network Communication



Email



Phone



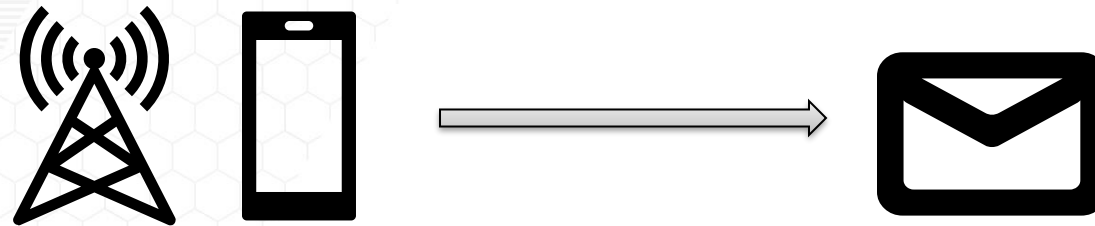
Media Access



SMS

Sensitive APIs

- Mapped Android APIs to Categories
 - 17 Behavior Categories
 - 8 Context Categories
- Dataset
 - 54,000 Contextual Dependency Graphs
- Feature Ranking
 - Ridge Regression



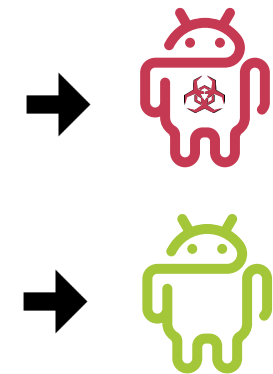
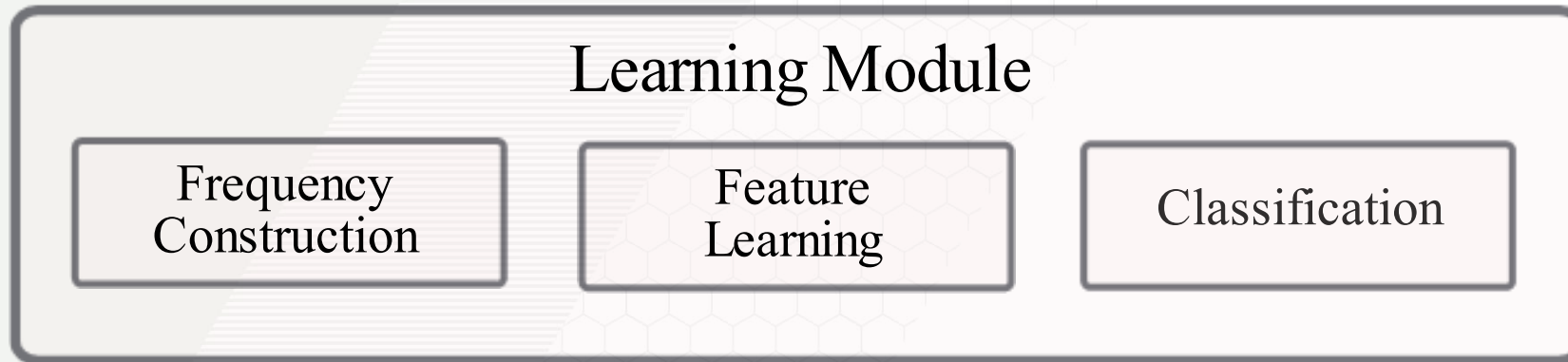
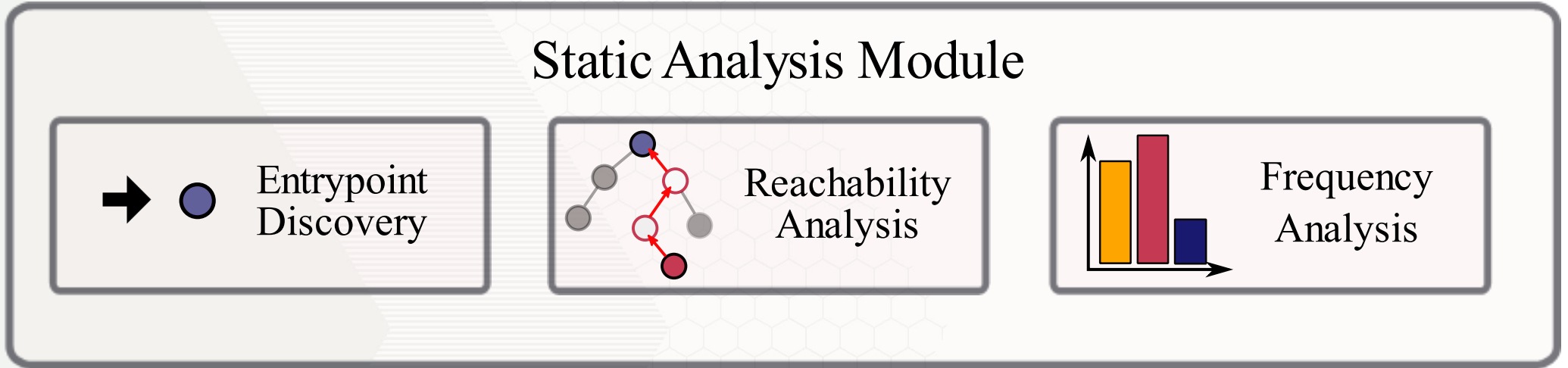
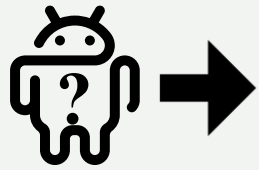
Contextual Dependency Graph

CASE STUDY: FEATURE IMPORTANCE



Behavior Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<u>Class Loading</u>	Activity Entrypoints	Service Entrypoints	UI Entrypoints	Receiver Entrypoints
<u>Account Information</u>	Activity Entrypoints	UI Entrypoints	Service Entrypoints	Intent Information
<u>Location Information</u>	Activity Entrypoints	Intent Information	Device Information	Network Information
<u>Phone State</u>	Service Entrypoints	Activity Entrypoints	UI Entrypoints	Receiver Entrypoints

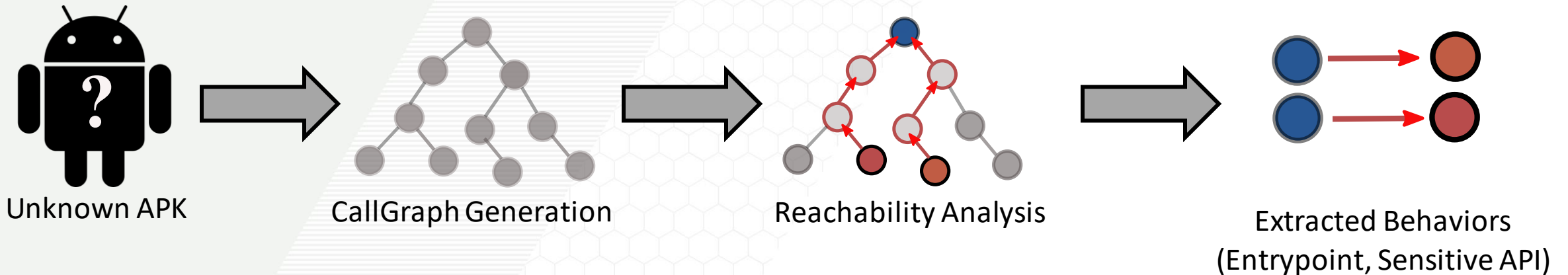
PikaDroid



Purpose: Extract Sensitive Behavior and Context

Sensitive Behaviors: Android APIs in SUSI & PScout

Context Factors: Entrypoints



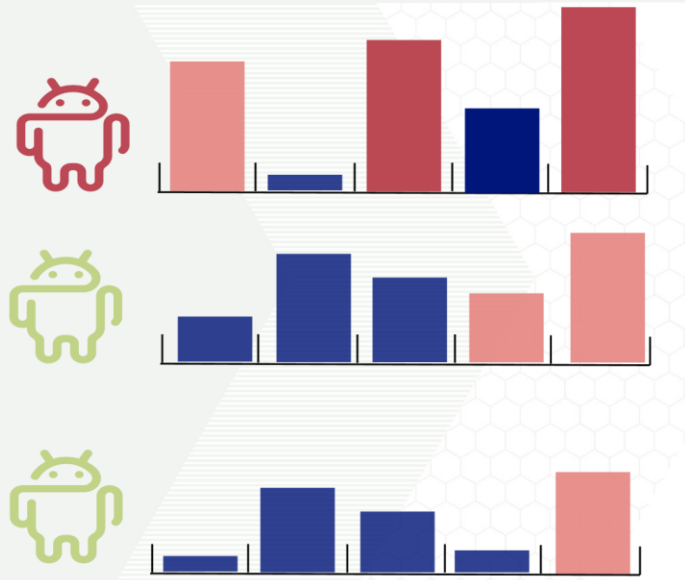
Frequency Analysis

- **Input:** Training Set of Entrypoint-API (e, s) pairs
- **Output:** s -- Ratio of malicious to benign apps using (E, S)

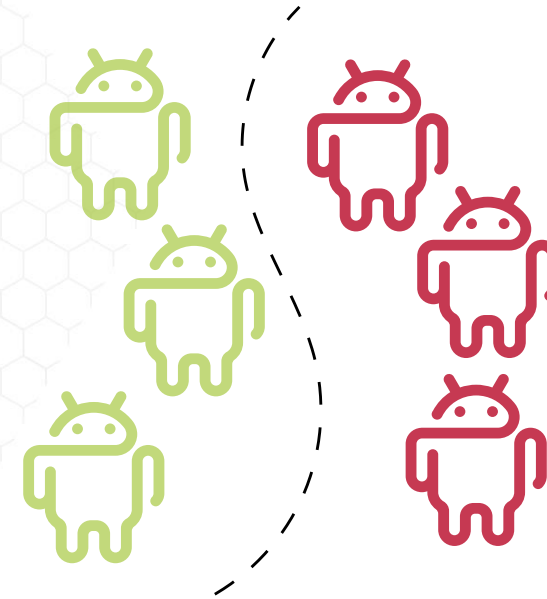
$$s_{e, t} = R(e, t)$$



- **App Features:** $a_{e,t} = s_{e,t}$ if (e, t) in A else 0
- **Classification:** Random Forest



Feature Construction



Classification

Dataset Evaluation

Dataset

- Apps from 2010 – 2018

Benign Apps

- Crawled from Google Play.

Malicious Apps

- Crawled from 16 different app markets.

Category	Time Period	# Samples
Malware	2010 – 2012	3,970
	2013 – 2015	2,158
	2016 – 2018	2,270
Adware	2010 - 2012	1,524
	2013 - 2015	1,325
Benign	2010 – 2012	3,788
	2013 – 2015	3,596
	2016 – 2018	5,000
Total	2010 – 2018	23,631

Benign vs Malware

- Both Systems perform well.
- PikaDroid outperforms MaMaDroid in 4/4 experiments.

F1-Score for Benign vs. Malware

Time Period	PikaDroid	MaMaDroid
2010 - 2012	97.65%	94.64%
2013 - 2015	97.89%	96.70%
2016 - 2018	96.07%	94.27%
2010 - 2018	97.41%	94.58%

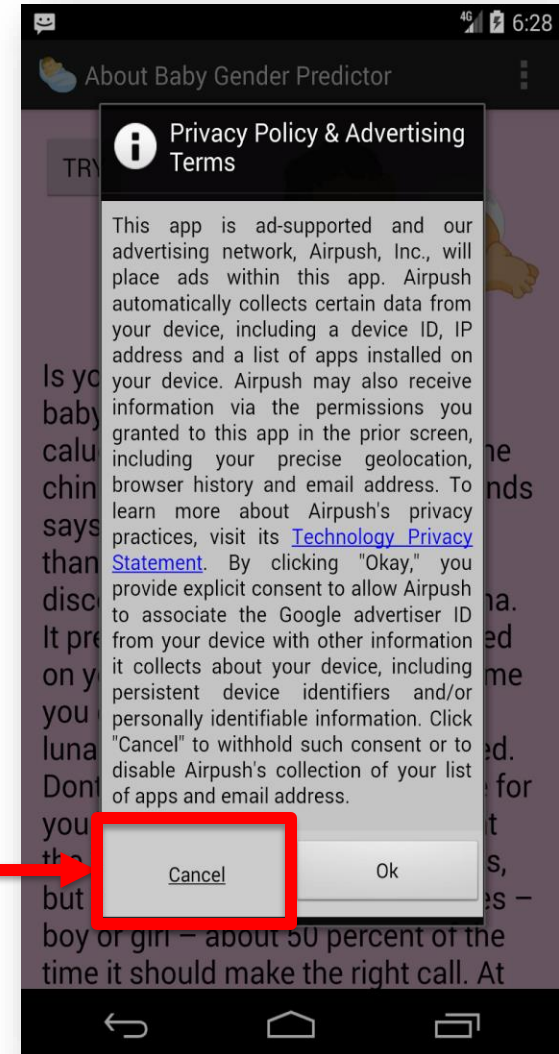
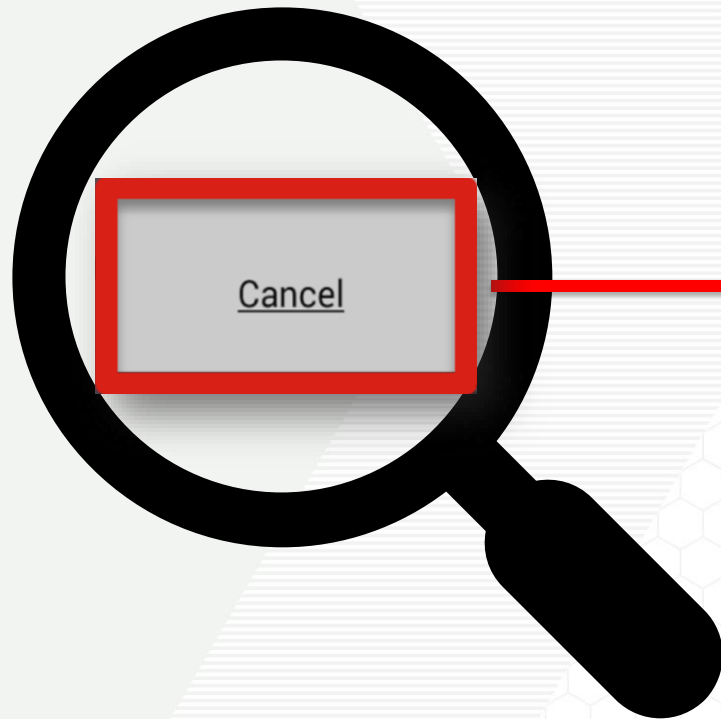
Benign vs Adware

- PikaDroid has significantly higher F1-Score.
- PikaDroid outperforms MaMaDroid in 3/3 experiments.

F1-Score for Benign vs. Adware

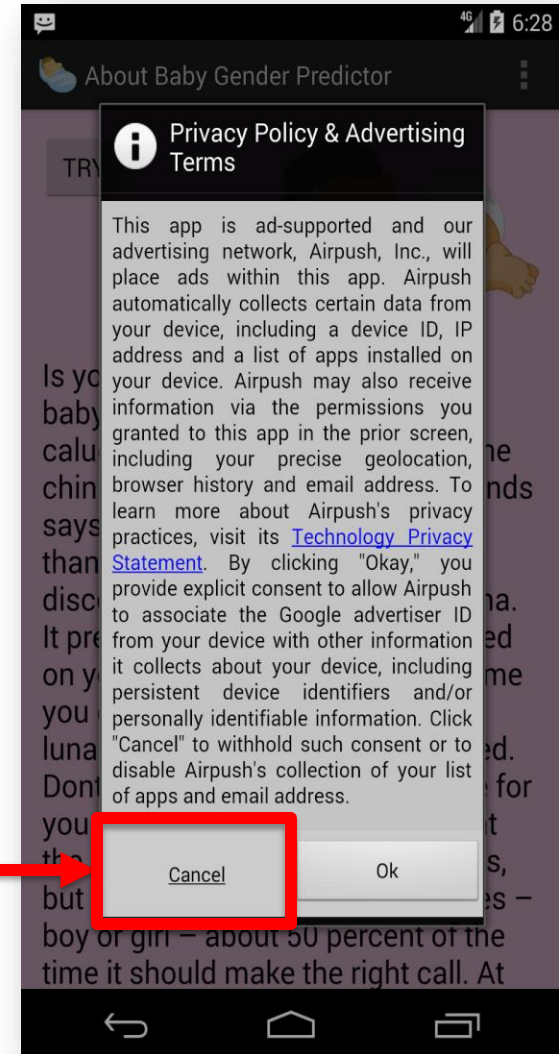
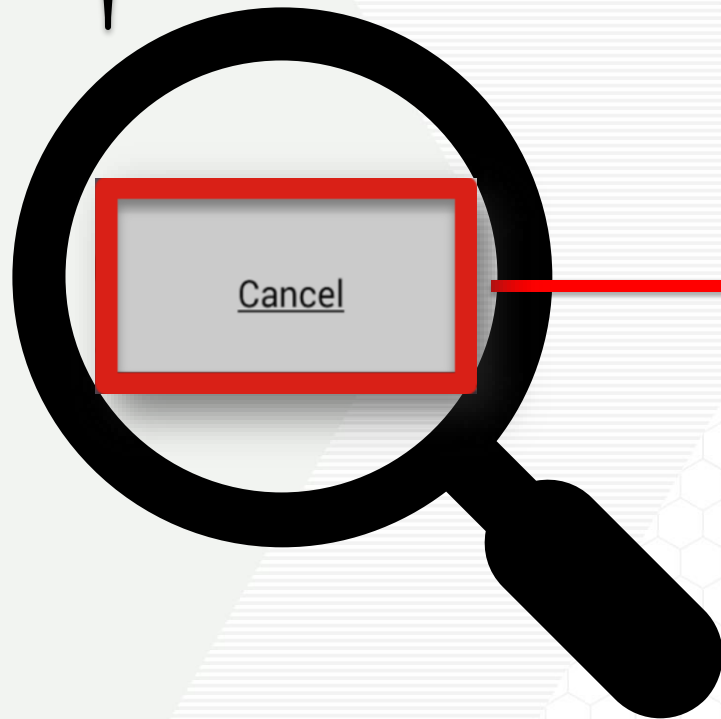
Tie Period	PikaDroid	MaMaDroid
2010 - 2012	96.74 %	92.02 %
2013 - 2018	94.04 %	85.45 %
2010 - 2018	94.15 %	86.78 %

`android.content.DialogInterface.OnClickListener`
`android.content.DialogInterface.OnCancelListener`



EVALUATION: PIKADROID VS MAMADROID

`android.content.DialogInterface.OnClickListener`
`android.content.DialogInterface.OnCancelListener`



Side-by-Side Evaluation of PikaDroid and APIMiner

1.45-3.02x less False-Positives during evaluation.

Entrypoint (E)	Targeted API(T)	Ratio (E,T)	Ratio (T)
Service.onStart	FileWriter.write	3.06	1.20
Service.onStart	DataOutputStream.writeBytes	18.71	0.256
Service.onCreate	TelephonyManager.getDeviceID	11.05	0.401

CONCEPT DRIFT



CREATING THE NEXT®



Malware Families Evolve



Malware Families Evolve



New Malware Families



Malware Families Evolve

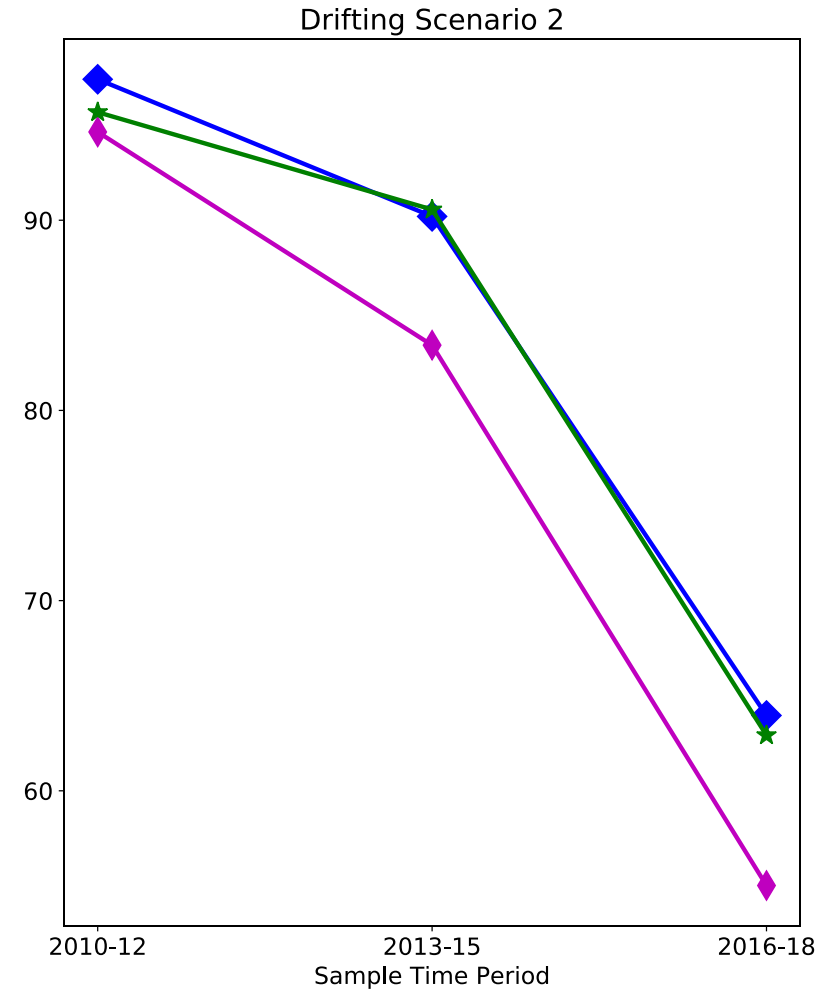
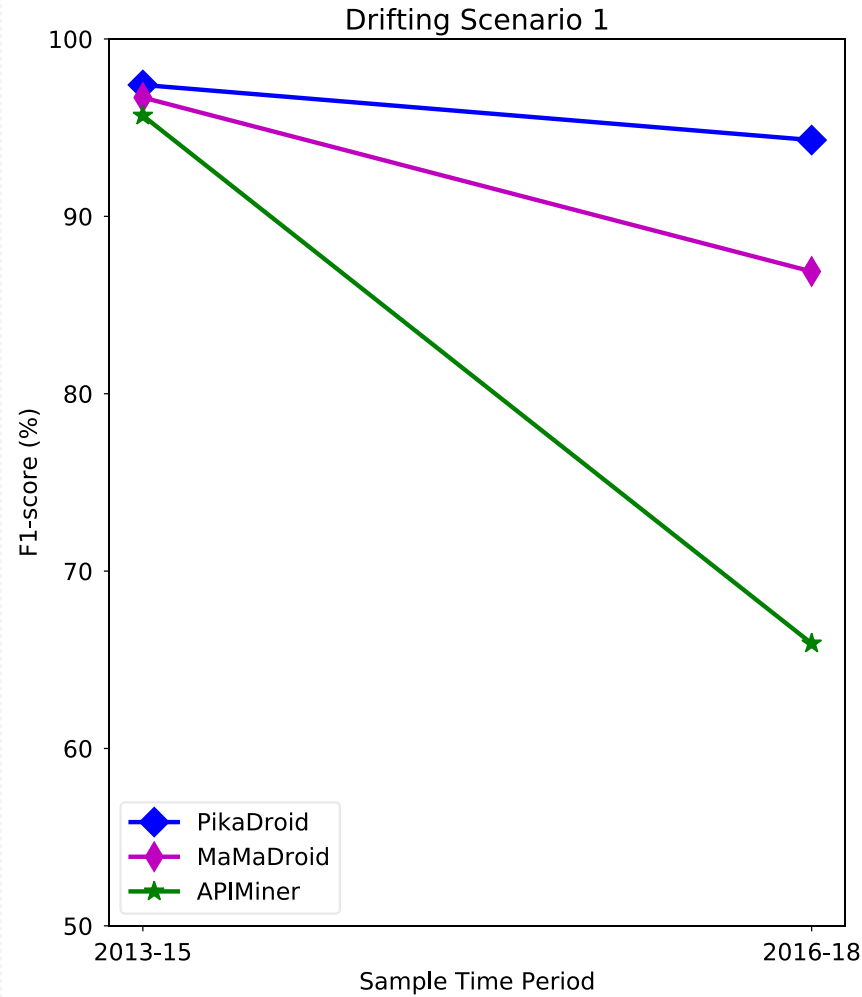


New Malware Families

Classification
Model Becomes
Outdated!!!!

Two drifting scenarios

Evaluation sensitive to undersampling



Inherit limitations of Static Analysis

- Java Reflection, Dynamic-Code Loading, Native Code, Incomplete call graph, etc.

Entrypoint Manipulation

- Adversary leverages complex ICC chains to invoke sensitive behavior.

New APIs added to framework

- PikaDroid cannot handle new APIs like abstraction-based systems.

Questions?