

國立交通大學

資訊科學與工程研究所

碩士論文

藉由選擇性符號操作執行之
Android APPs 隨性測試

Fuzz Testing on Android APPs by
Selective Symbolic Execution

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摘要

智慧型手機、平板電腦等行動裝置已日益成為個人的必備工具，軟體市集的商業模式也蓬勃發展，並成為智慧型裝置的應用軟體主要來源。然而這些智慧型裝置往往包含著大量個人化的資訊，同時也能進行發送簡訊等付費行為，因此執行於其上的應用軟體的品質與可靠性也逐漸成為備受關注的議題。但是一般使用者並沒有能力判斷市集上的軟體品質，而官方市集以及第三方市集也都無法保證架上的軟體是否不含缺陷問題。在此論文中，我們描述如何建立一個 Android APP 測試環境，採用符號執行 (Symbolic execution) 技術，可以自動化對市集中的應用程式進行品質檢測，透過探測程式的可能執行路徑，以發掘出未被執行之潛在品質缺陷或隱含可能有威脅疑慮之執行路徑。我們實作改良原有之軟體品質測試與脅迫平台：CRAX，進行 Android APP 之測試，稱為 CRAXdroid，已成功實驗於實際應用之 Android 程式，證明此方法可行性高。

關鍵詞：符號運算、擬真運算、市集軟體、軟體測試、軟體品質、程式安全

Fuzz Testing on Android APPs by Selective Symbolic Execution

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Abstract

Mobile devices such as smart phone and tablet PC are becoming common personal devices. The business model of software market is also thriving and turning into a major source of software on those devices. However, such intelligent devices often contain lots of private information, and also can be used to conduct operations involving payment, like sending SMS. As a result, the quality of software on mobile devices becomes a critical issue. But ordinary users do not have the ability to check whether software on the shelf contains defective behavior or potential vulnerabilities, and neither the official APP market nor third party markets can ensure their software have no privacy risk. In this thesis, we proposed to build a platform for android APP testing, based on symbolic execution technique. By exploring all possible paths, we can find potential software vulnerabilities. We revised our software quality assurance and exploit generation platform, called *CRAX*, to apply in the Android APPs. It is called the *CRAXdroid* subsystem. We perform several experiments on Android market applications to prove the feasibility of our method.

Keywords : Symbolic Execution, Concolic Execution, Market App Software, Software Testing, Software Quality, Secure Programming

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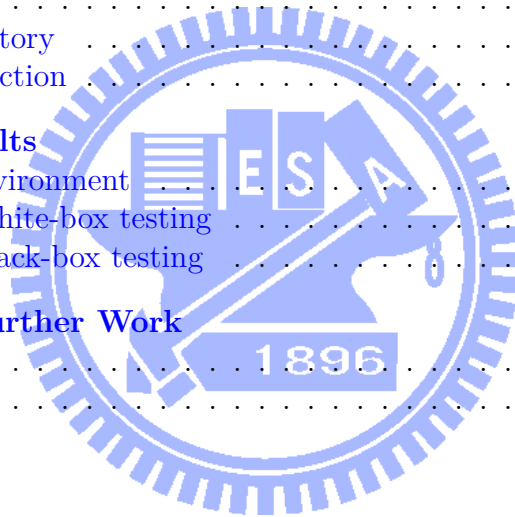
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Chapter 1

Introduction

Smartphones and tablets are becoming increasingly ubiquitous in recent years. Typical usages like photographing and reading e-mails can be done by these devices in our daily life. It may carry personal private information on smartphones, while users still do not assure, whether their sensitive data could be leaked by using market software applications. The privacy threats are getting more serious, while user's sensitive data are exposable and could be tracked. These threats are originated from the applications downloaded from Android Market or other third-party providers.

If market administrators could actively eliminate the malicious application being publish to Android Market, the threats will be significant reduced. However, application in binary package is not easy to analyze without source code, and it is a time consuming task. In this thesis, *CRAXdroid* based on symbolic execution are able to leverage path coverage feature to automatically explore the potential unexecuted malicious code.

1.1 Motivation

We observed that application(“Apps”) platform could not provide sufficient quality assurance with the Apps provision. Terms of service and developer distribution agreement[1, 2] of Google Play show that they do not promise about their services and customer information. Moreover, Google Play currently applies either limited manual validation or no validation at all.[3] Various studies and survey have shown that malware was not caught by Google Bouncer and was still available on Android Market.[4, 5, 6]

Manual analysis of these Apps is a time-consuming and difficult task without source code. Besides, analysis and validation process requires not only the low-level knowledge of operating system and Android framework, but also have to manually analyze the security and privacy violation issues of the Apps. In software testing field, some research and techniques aim to improve the security of mobile Apps through permission-based filtering[4, 7, 8] and privacy leak filtering[9, 10]. However, some conditions of privacy leakage may not be triggered and detected as malicious activities because of the hardness to find behaviors during program execution.

In this thesis, we propose an automated quality assurance platform that analyzes Apps through symbolic execution and generates reports for Market administrators to enhance the quality of service.

1.2 Objective

The purpose of this work is to perform Quality Assurance(QA) and Vulnerability Assessment(VA) on the Android Apps. We have targeted at two different roles for using *CRAXdroid* platform, that is, Market administrator and App developer.

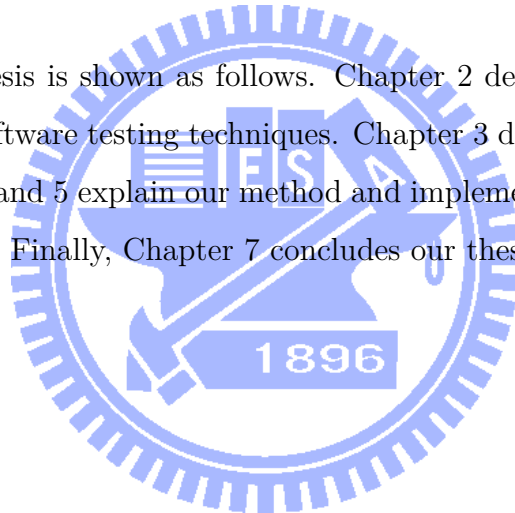
- Quality Assurance
 - “Quality assurance is hunting for bugs in the software, and it aims to reduce the defects.”[11] Testing does not cover all the quality assurance issues, but it is a part of quality assurance process. Various of testing methods(Section 2.2), testing frameworks(i.e., Android testing framework[12]) and tools(i.e., JUnit[13], Monkey[14]) are available for the developer to debug their application within developing process. We introduced an alternative testing platform for the developer, which leverages different testing techniques for bugs finding. In addition, crash is a common defects in the software. *CRAXdroid* can detect App crash and feedback the information to the developer.
- Vulnerability Assessment

- “Testing and trying to break into someone else’s software or system.”[11] Apps are not only sources of bugs, but Android platform could also be the source of bugs. Beside the App-level bugs, we dig deeper go through platform-level and system-level to figure out the problems.

We present the design and implementation of *CRAXdroid*. *CRAXdroid* makes testing easier for the developers and integrates seamlessly with development activities. *CRAXdroid* is a practical platform that help users by adding extra protections, and assists Market administrator to reduce potential vulnerable Apps with low cost.

1.3 Overview

The structure of this thesis is shown as follows. Chapter 2 describes the background of Android platform and software testing techniques. Chapter 3 describes and compares the related work. Chapter 4 and 5 explain our method and implementation. Chapter 6 shows the experimental results. Finally, Chapter 7 concludes our thesis with future work.



Chapter 2

Background

Smartphone is widely used in daily life, to access the information and rich content over Internet such as reading news on web browsers, E-mailing, social networking, and photo sharing. This functionality of the smartphone are backed by the operating system, which supports different hardware on the devices and provides multi-threading capability to execute the application.

Android was chosen in this study because (1) Google releases the Android source code as open source (2) it is a popular platform with a huge amount of users and developer community and (3) it provides an open application market leading itself for experimentation in the laboratory. Android was described in the first section and in the subsequent sections we describe software testing techniques and method of vulnerability analysis.

2.1 Android

Android is an open source project, free of charge, and Linux-based mobile devices platform led by Google and Open Handset Alliance(OHA). Figure 1 shows that Android software stack includes Linux operating system, middleware and build-in applications. Most of the phone functionality implemented as an application running on top of customized middleware, which includes Android runtime, native libraries, and application framework. Application framework programmed in Java language, event driven and component based to support extendable third-party application installation.

At the bottom of Android, hardware layer designed for the ARM architecture and continues to be the primary development platform of the OHA with hundreds of companies contributing to the Android on ARM codebase[15]. It is flexible to integrate with various of vendor, such as HTC, Samsung and others.

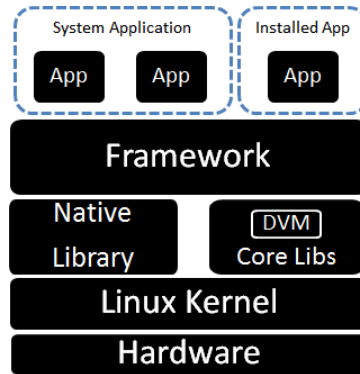


Figure 1: Android Software Stacks

2.1.1 Android Market

Google Play¹ is an official Apps digital-distribution service for Android platform. Centralize provision mechanism is use to provide Apps as a service, any Android devices pre-installed with “Play Store” App could access it. Multimedia-content includes Android applications, games, books and music can be download by free or purchase through Internet access.

2.1.2 Android APP and Dalvik VM

Figure 2 shows that Android application(“Apps”) is common written in Java language. Once App is ready to deploy, Java sources code will be compile to Java bytecode, e.g. *.class file. Multiple *.class file are also converting into single Dalvik Executable bytecode(DEX) file with 3rd party libraries, e.g. classes.dex. Finally, Android package file, e.g. *.apk file is a packaging file format consist DEX bytecode which ready to deploy Apps in Android platforms and Market(Section 2.1.1).

¹Google Play(<http://play.google.com/>).

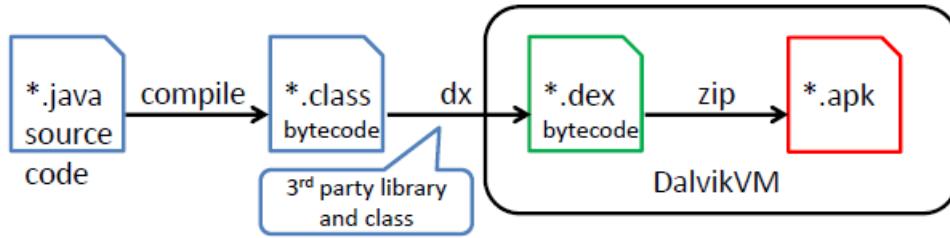


Figure 2: Apps deploy flow.

Dalvik Virtual Machine (Dalvik VM)[16] is implemented by C language as the process virtual machine and Dalvik bytecode parser. Android software stack is able to execute multiple App simultaneously, each App executed within its own unique Dalvik interpreter instance and UNIX privilege.

2.1.3 Android Security and Privacy

We have several terms definitions[17] for the following discussion:

- **Jailbroken:** An apple iPhone or iPad that has had its apple iOS operating system covertly “unlocked” to gain full root access, removing all apple imposed limitations on applications, and essentially exposing all of an application’s features. This idea also could apply on Android devices, as known as “rooted” with full root access.
- **Malware:** A general term used by computer professionals to mean a variety of forms of hostile, intrusive, annoying software or program code.
- **Spyware:** A type of malware that collects information and makes it available, usually secretly sent to a third party. The presence of spyware is typically hide from the user and can be difficult to detect.
- **Sandbox:** A security mechanism for separating running programs.

2.1.3.1 Security

Android software stack is based on Linux kernel. In other words, it inherits the same weakness from desktop Linux operating system. However, kernel porting is an essential task for the vendor to support the hardware components on their devices. Thus, this would be another possible to punch a hole on Android platform to provide vulnerable

entries.

Beside, on top of kernel layer, Android has their own security architecture[18] associated with the permission framework[19]. Each Android Apps should be executed in “sandbox” mode. which have specify permission and privilege-separated environment. Some studies [7, 8] show that privilege escalation attacks is able to break out “sandbox” mode and bypass the restrictions. In the meantime, we found some Apps such like z4root[20], Superuser[21] is used to “rooted” the Android devices.

Furthermore, in our previous work AndWar[22], we successfully evaluated privilege escalation attacks was not only happen at application-level, but system-level also affected such as pre-installed Webkit browser, i.e. CVE-2010-1119, CVE-2010-1759, CVE-2010-1807. We realize that what is the worst scenario if Malware and Spyware used the same technic to attack user.

2.1.3.2 Privacy

Privacy is “the ability to determine for ourselves when, how and to what extent information about us is communicated to others” [23, 24]. Sensitive data is the basic material for ‘information about us’, includes geographic location, contacts, unique identifiers number, photo, etc.

2.2 Software Testing

2.2.1 White-box Testing

“White-box testing is a method of testing software that tests internal structures.”[25] A prerequisite for white-box testing is to having access to the source code, before the internal structure inspections, code reviews, and code auditing. Various types of static analysis(Section 2.3.1) methods are commonly used as inspections and reviews in software development.

2.2.1.1 Code Coverage

When a function or statement need to examine and ensures that has been tested, code coverage tools can be used to evaluate the completeness of the executions. Unit test method or test suite may co-operate in the examination process, to increase higher coverage rate.

2.2.2 Black-box Testing

The opposite to White-box testing, that is black-box testing. Instead of internal structure inspections, black-box testing method tests the functionality of an applications without source code.

2.2.3 Fuzz Testing

Fuzz testing is one of the common technique of software testing, which can be defined as “A highly automated testing technique that covers numerous boundary cases using invalid data (from files, network protocols, API calls, and other targets) as application input to better ensure the absence of exploitable vulnerabilities.”[11] Fuzz testing often threats the application under test as a black box, especially useful in analyzing closed-source, off-the-shelf software and proprietary systems, because in most cases it does not require any access to the source code.

Fuzzer is a kind of tools in fuzz testing, that will generate data or events to repeatedly feet the application with random input. The fuzz input domain of the conditional branch statement “if (x==10)” has only one in 2^{32} chances being exercised if x is a randomly chosen 32-bit input value. This intuitively explains why random testing usually provides low code coverage.[26] Fuzzer is fast because programs concretely executed, but the coverage is probably low because the inputs are generated randomly.

Fuzzing is likely to spend much time to wildly explore the execution paths. Consequently, fuzz testing is inefficient for covering all execution paths of the program, but is good at getting some input automatically to crash applications.

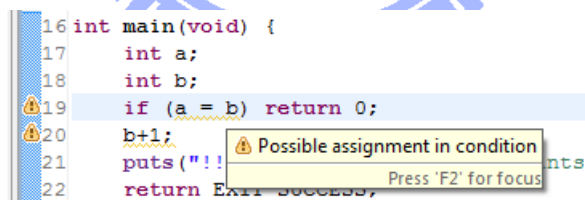
2.2.4 Symbolic Execution

Symbolic execution was first introduced around the 1975s[27] and it is a popular software testing technique in recent. The main idea of symbolic execution is to replace the concrete value to symbolic expressions that can assume any value. Its objective is to systematically explore as many paths in a program as possible. Various studies show that symbolic execution has been applied on applications in desktop domain[28] and Web servers[29] for program analysis and bug exploration.

2.3 Vulnerability Analysis

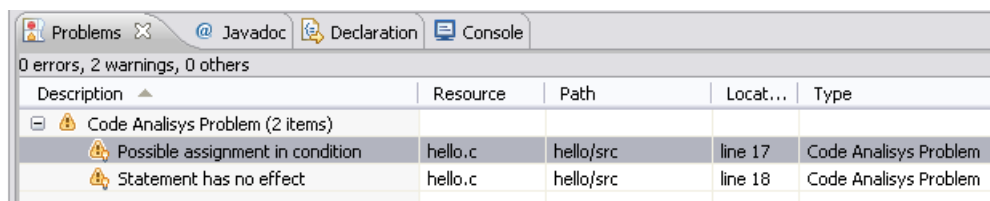
2.3.1 Static Analysis

“Static analysis is off-line analysis that is done to the source code without any requirement to run the code.”[11] Static analysis is mainly syntax checking of the code and manually reviewing by developer to find bugs. Some of the integrated development environment (IDE e.g., Eclipse) have supported with static analysis plugins, developer can benefit from it to develop and debug in the same time within their development progress. Those plugins (e.g., Findbugs[30], PMD[31]) usually perform real time analysis on the code to find common defects, violation of policies, etc.[32]



```
16 int main(void) {
17     int a;
18     int b;
19     if (a = b) return 0;
20     b+1;
21     puts("!!");
22     return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Figure 3: Snapshot of static analyzer highlight the problems.[32]



Description	Resource	Path	Locat...	Type
Code Analysis Problem (2 items)				
Possible assignment in condition	hello.c	hello/src	line 17	Code Analysis Problem
Statement has no effect	hello.c	hello/src	line 18	Code Analysis Problem

Figure 4: Snapshot of problem details provided by static analyzer.[32]

2.3.2 Dynamic Analysis

In contrast to static analysis, “Dynamic analysis is a runtime method that is performed while the software is executing.” [11] Dynamic analysis is more accurate than static analysis, but its analysis overhead is expensive.

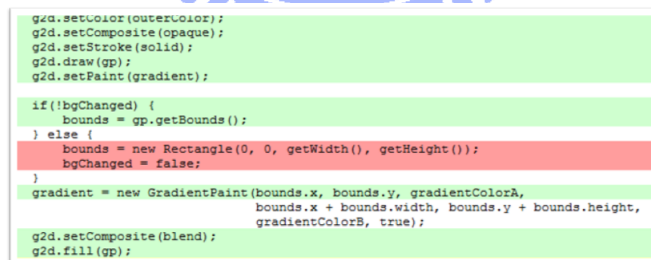


Chapter 3

Related Work

3.1 EMMA

EMMA is an open-source toolkit for monitors and reports Java code coverage.[33] It can instrument the Java classes for coverage either *offline* or *on-the-fly*(dynamic). EMMA supported coverage types such as *class*, *method*, *line*, and *basic block*. For example, a Java application used to instrument by EMMA, each line of executable code will be monitored and code coverage reports will generated when the application was terminate. Figure 5 shown that the partial result of code coverage reports integrate with the source code, which highlighted the executed line of code that monitor before.



```
g2d.setColor(outerColor);
g2d.setComposite(opaque);
g2d.setStroke(solid);
g2d.draw(gp);
g2d.setPaint(gradient);

if(!bgChanged) {
    bounds = gp.getBounds();
} else {
    bounds = new Rectangle(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());
    bgChanged = false;
}

gradient = new GradientPaint(bounds.x, bounds.y, gradientColorA,
                             bounds.x + bounds.Width, bounds.y + bounds.height,
                             gradientColorB, true);

g2d.setComposite(blend);
g2d.fill(gp);
```

Figure 5: Snapshot of highlighted executable source code(green color).

3.2 TaintDroid

TaintDroid[9] is a privacy-aware system which tracks the flow of privacy-sensitive data through third-party applications. *TaintDroid* primary goals are to detect when sensitive

data leaves the system via untrusted applications. Once sensitive data was left via network on user's phone, an real-time alert messages will notify users about data leaks.

TaintDroid uses dynamic taint tracking, an approach to label privacy-sensitive data and the label propagates through program variables, files, and interprocess messages. Figure 6 shown that a diagram of sensitive data was tainted by *TaintDroid*, and a real-time notification message was shown for user.

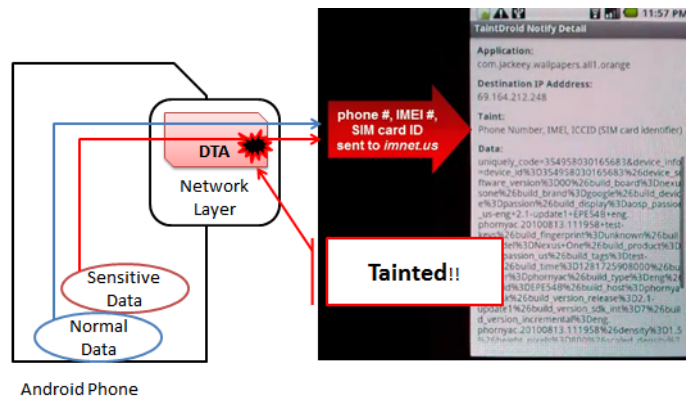


Figure 6: Diagram of sensitive data was tainted by *TaintDroid*.

In order to achieve monitoring the behavior of App, unmodified Android on user's phone has to replaced by *TaintDroid*.

3.3 AppInspector

AppInspection[3] is an automated security validation system. It is a successor project of the TaintDroid(Section 3.2) reseearch group. *AppInspection* is not realized and public available yet, but the ideas are aim to improve the security of mobile applications by detecting malicious or abnormal behavior. To achieve identifies Apps that exhibit malicious behavior, tracking Apps's behavior have two parts, such as security violation and privacy violations. *AppInspection* has proposed symbolic execution (Section 2.2.4) in their system, and used to explore diverse paths of a specific third-party App.

Figure 7 shown that *AppInspector* was compare with *CRAXDroid* in detail.

	AppInspector	CRAXDroid
Input Generator	UI Input, Sensor input (Automatically)	Manually Operating (will replace by UI Fuzzer)
Symbolic Components	Local variable, operands, fields (modify Dalvik VM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File, Networking I/O (modify Android Kernel) • Local variable (Integer, Char) (JNI Library) • Identifiable data (IMEI, IMSI)
Symbolic effectiveness	App Layer (Concrete in Library and System)	System Wide
	AppInspector	CRAX

Figure 7: Details of comparison between *AppInspector* and *CRAXDroid*.

3.4 Leakalizer

Leakalizer[24] is a system that aims for data leak detection in smartphone applications. It is a successor project of the S²E platform. S²E is a system wide symbolic execution(Section 2.2.4) platform on x86 architecture. *Leakalizer* is not realized yet, they proposed a proof-of-concept by modify S²E-ARM to integrate with Android emulator. S²E-ARM is another branch of S²E which is inherit the original functionality and porting to ARM architecture.

3.5 Comparison of related work

	EMMA	TaintDroid	AppInspector	CRAXDroid
Functionality	Code Coverage	Privacy Leak	Security Testing and Validation	VA, QA
White Box	V			V
Black Box		V	V	V
Fuzz			V	V
No False Positive & Negative			V	V
Control Flow			V	V
Data Flow		V		
Code Coverage (Basic Block)	V		V (modify Dalvik VM)	
Symbolic Execution (Branch Coverage)			V	V
Exception Detection				V
Ready for use	V	V		V
	EMMA	TaintDroid	AppInspector	CRAX

Figure 8: Comparison of related work.

Chapter 4

Methods

Our method is mainly based on symbolic execution environment to achieve automatically vulnerability assessment and quality assurance. Symbolic components is a sets of entry point used to propagate symbolic values. UI fuzzer uses fuzzing technique(Section 2.2.3) to generate user interface events, and it try to trigger symbolic execution when symbolic components was accessed. When symbolic execution was propagate through symbolic components, path explorer used to trace the execution within traverse each condition path when the condition was satisfied. During path traverse, some implicit path will be executed cause an unpredictable crash and exception, exception handler used to record those condition and execution states for the report and diagnose purpose. We describes all the details in this chapter.

4.1 Symbolic Components

The core concept for symbolic components is able to be a generic output interface that provides symbolic values. By using symbolic value to construct a component, modules, services, or libraries etc., it become a sets of entry point to propagate symbolic values into the application. For example, an App request to access a file on internal storage, when the file system was already become symbolic component, this *activity* will trigger to perform symbolic execution.

However, not every files on the file system should become a symbolic component, this is meaningless act to leverage symbolic execution without objective. Moreover, other sys-

tem and services are also need to access the same file system. If symbolic execution was performed on every files, this is an extra overhead on our testing environment.

How to trade-off between performance overhead and meaningful testing, we proposes two method to strive for both advantages.

- Selective symbolic execution
 - In order to reduce performance overhead, we setup a Boolean flag in testing environment to decide when the symbolic execution should be enable to perform.
- Filtering the information that we interested
 - Not all the information that are useful, so we can ignore it by filtering. For example, Apps are usually access file on external storage(“/sdcard”), then we focus on this directory and skip other like system directory(“/system”).

4.2 UI Fuzzer

Fuzzer that used to generate random input is called Monkey[14], as know as Application Exerciser which is kind of testing tools come with Android SDK that used to generate user’s event, e.g. clicks, touches, gestures and repeatedly feed the application. Fuzzer can be configured to automatically generate user’s event to fuzz the application, instead of manually operating by human. Those events are used to simulate user’s behavior to exerciser the usages logic of the application. In the same time, some of those events may trigger an *activity* to access the symbolic components.

4.3 Path Explorer

Path explorer is the most important part in our testing environment. Exploration of execution paths can be done by using static(Section 2.3.1) and dynamic(Section 2.3.2) approaches. Symbolic execution is one of the dynamic approaches. Its more accurate than existing tools, no false negatives and false positives are the major superior in our

work.

We expect path explorer to explore as many paths as possible during the testing flows, includes explicit paths and implicit paths. In the same time, we trace the program state, execution path and branch condition for diagnoses purpose.

4.4 Exception Handler

Exception is an uncontrollable situation which can not handle by programs. For example, crash is an unpredictable programs termination usually happen in real world. This main reason for situation caused by the programmers that they do not assigned the error handler in source code. Other reasons such as buffer overflow, memory corruption may effected by some input or read and write memory very frequently. In the other hand, an invalid input may also affect the control flow lead to the exception happening.

The explicit flows will always to be executed, since the *if* condition was only satisfied by the “*conditional true*” expression in the control flow. Exception in explicit flows will easily discover by executing the program, but not suitable for implicit flows because its not always to be executed.

As mention in Section 4.3, during the progress of path exploration, explicit flows and implicit flows would covered and executed by symbolic exploration engine. In this part, we focused on an external exception handler to intercept the crash signal without inspect the application’s source code.

Chapter 5

Implementation

In this chapter, we explain the details about our method was implemented on top of S²E[34], which is a system wide symbolic execution platform. Our symbolic environment on S²E that assist symbolic propagation through symbolic components over black-box and white-box mode. To gain faster testing life cycle, we reduced testing time by porting our environment to x86 Android[35]. Moreover, we have modified Android kernel to intercept system call and collecting exception signal for further diagnosis.

5.1 Symbolic Environment

5.1.1 The architecture of S²E

S²E platform has an ability to perform symbolic execution on the whole operation system rather than applications. This platform come with the combination of QEMU[36] and KLEE[37]. KLEE is a symbolic execution engine build on top of the LLVM compiler infrastructure. It implement symbolic execution by interpreting LLVM bitcode. QEMU is a process emulator that relies on dynamic binary translation to translate instructions between two different CPU architecture. Whenever any programs test inside QEMU emulator accessed symbolic data, S²E platform switch to LLVM back-end to translate instructions into LLVM bitcode and feed KLEE engine to perform symbolic execution over the whole system. The architecture of S²E is shown in Figure 9

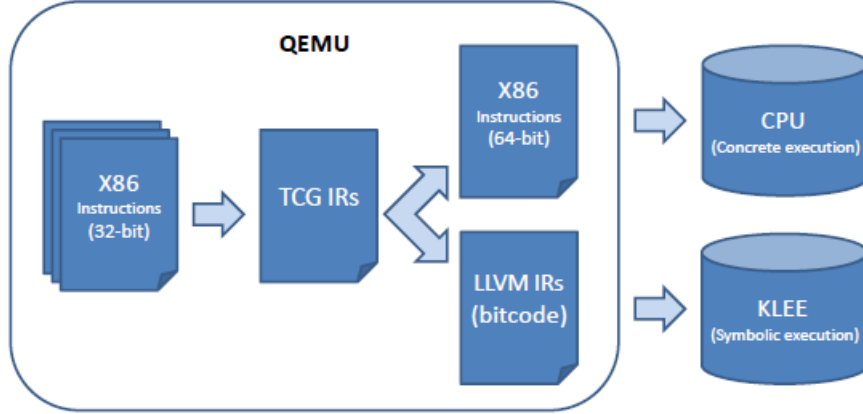


Figure 9: The architecture of S²E.

5.1.2 ARM Android on S²E

The official Android is formerly designed for ARM architecture and processor. ARM-based processors provide greater power efficiency with higher performance and lower power consumption.[38] Most of the smartphone vendors are embedded ARM-based CPU to gain performance and long lasting battery life.

In the development phase, developer allow to test and debug their application in emulator that emulates Android environment by Android QEMU come with Android Software Development Kits(SDK). The emulator is not targeted for specify ARM System-On-Chip(SoC), instead Android QEMU used to create a virtual ARM SoC called *Goldfish*[39] to replace the functionality of real hardware and periphery devices. Figure 10 shown that the emulator(as known as Android QEMU) run as virtual machines in a process on the guest operating system. At the first step, Android QEMU uses dynamic binary translation(DBT) to translate ARM instructions into x86 instructions to emulate a smartphone environment. For the second step, S²E emulate whole system environment and prepare to performs symbolic execution. We do not recommend to experiment on this approach, since S²E QEMU takes more than 5 minutes to boot Windows 7 as the guest operating system, and we still not successful yet to boot Android on Android QEMU. Emulator that executed in another emulator is complicated and it slow down the testing life cycle.

Leakalizer in Section 3.4 proposed their prototype by porting S²E to ARM. They modified parts of S²E to boot an Android software stack inside S²E.



Figure 10: The architecture of ARM Android on top of S²E and the screenshot of the Android emulator that emulates virtual smartphone devices to run Android software stack on x86 S²E QEMU.

5.1.3 x86 Android on S²E

x86 Android[35] is another unofficial branch of Android, which enabling Android software stack executed on x86 CPU. Besides ARM-based smartphones, x86 Android also porting to some netbooks PC such like Asus EeePC to run Android as a native operating system. Since x86 Android aim for non-smartphone devices, some phone functionality and *Goldfish* is not necessary to virtualize and implement, i.e. telephone communication, camera, sensors and others. Although lack of some basic phone functionality, Internet access and App usages still work well in x86 Android.

Figure 11 shown that x86 Android run as native operating system on S²E without emulate *Goldfish*. *CRAXdroid* based this approach to construct an environment for black-box and white-box testing mode.



Figure 11: The architecture of x86 Android on top of S²E and the screenshot of the x86 Android run as native operating system.

5.1.4 The architecture of CRAXdroid

The overall architecture of our *CRAXdroid* testing environment is based on x86 Android on top of S²E platform shown at Figure 12. In this figure, testing is divided into two parts which is black-box and white-box mode. Furthermore, three outcome provides by *CRAXdroid* such as branch coverage details, exception information, and white-box verification.

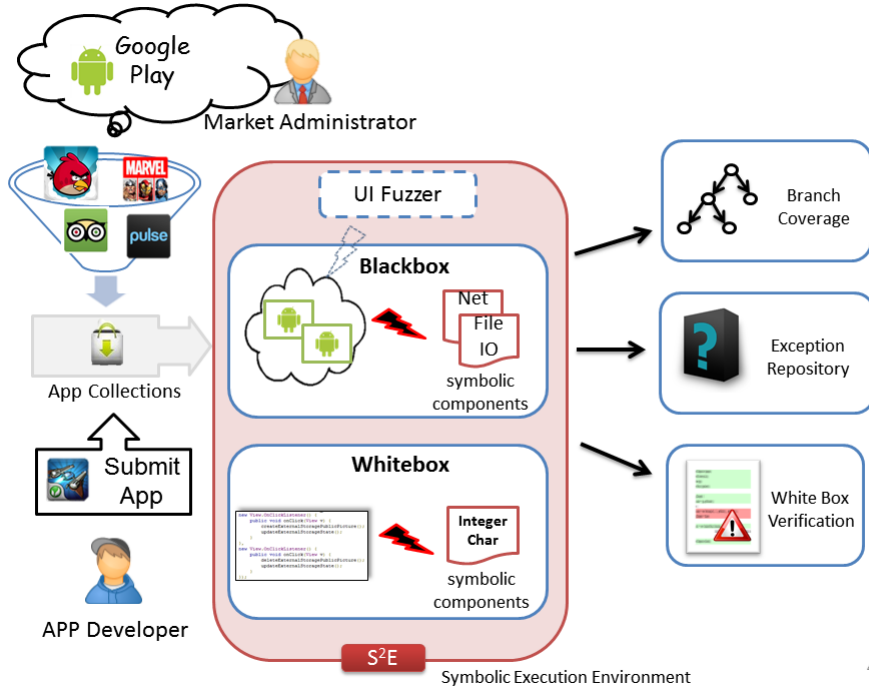


Figure 12: The architecture of CRAXdroid.

5.2 Symbolic Components

Figure 13 shown that *CRAXdroid* establishes communication between Android and S²E at three abstraction levels, Java code, C/C++ code, and assembly code. The left side shows that white-box testing is relied on platform layer, while black-box testing at the right side is relied on system layer. We discuss the details in following sub section.

5.2.1 Platform Layer

We defined platform layer which is middleware of Android, i.e. Android runtime, Android API. Android runtime is an essential core libraries that used to support the environment

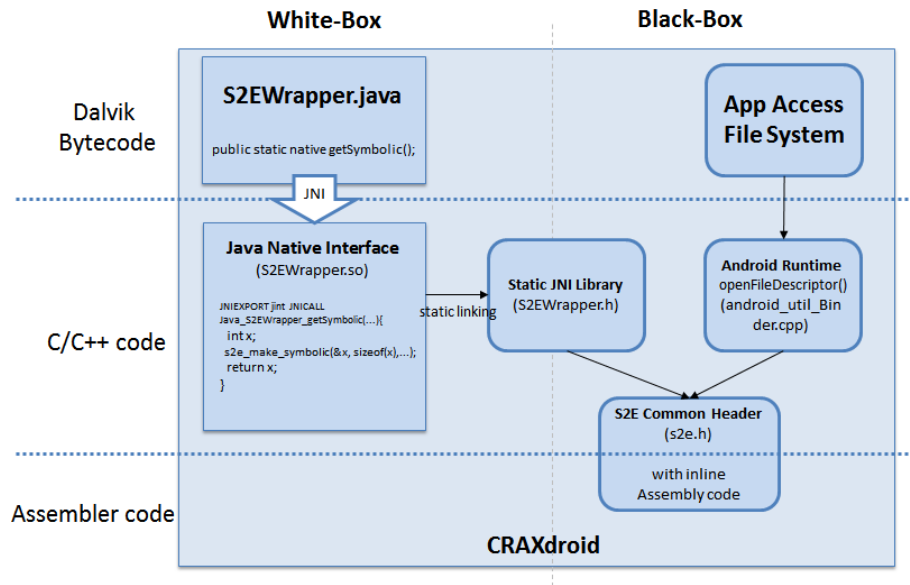


Figure 13: The implementation of symbolic value propagate through white-box and black-box mode.

for Apps to run smoothly on Android. To archive Apps testing purpose, various of testing units can be inject into the Android runtime. In this layer, we bridge the connection to lower layer(i.e. System-layer) and carry out the symbolic value to construct the testing units(e.g, *Char*, *Int*).

For example, *Char* and *Int* are the common *types* used in programming language. Developer is able to leverage the symbolic execution technique by using this types of variable in their source code. The symbolic value can assigned to variable by the native function in Appendix 7, which connected to symbolic interfaces.

5.2.2 System Layer

We defined system layer which is OS level, i.e. Linux kernel, Java Native Interface(JNI). In contrast with the platform-layer, system-layer do not need to modify the variable or operands within the Apps source code. Instead, *CRAXDroid* passively provide the symbolic units “outside the box” as the external components for Apps environment. While the Apps testing in black-box mode, App may require to access the external components such as file I/O, and network I/O. Once the Apps was accessed the external components, symbolic execution will be perform.

5.3 Symbolic Interfaces

S²E platform has provides the x86 inline instructions (i.e., op-codes in s2e.h) to operate the symbolic execution in QEMU. In order to perform symbolic execution in our testing environment, *CRAXDroid* have to construct the fundamental instruments for Android testing environment to bridge the connection within S²E. Those instruments was designed for read-only, since the symbolic value have to propagate from outside to inside, we follow the rule of using S²E platform.

5.3.1 JNI

The Java Native Interface(JNI) is a programming interface that enables Java programmers to integrate native code (i.e., C, C++, and assembly) into Java their applications.

5.3.2 File I/O

File Input and Output are the most common interface for storing the contents in file format, such as photos, songs, PDF documents etc. File I/O interface simply provides *read* and *write* operation to the file content is essentially needed for Android API.

Figure 14 shown that the ideas how *CRAXDroid* hook the file I/O entry points. The *read* operation in *harmony_io_openImpl()* function was intercepted by replace the file descriptor to symbolic file descriptor. Listing 1 shows the details of interception between original file descriptor and symbolic memory.

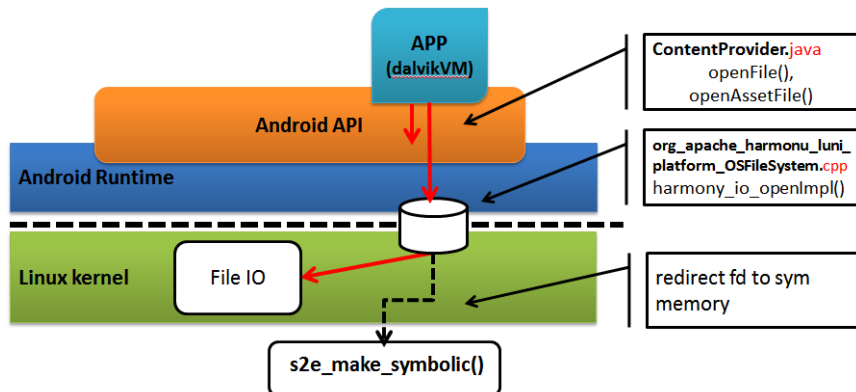


Figure 14: The implementation of file hooking and redirect to symbolic file.


```
Code 1: org_apache_harmony_luni_platform_OSFileSystem.cpp (partial code)
```

```
441  jint fd = open(&path[0], flags, mode);
442      /* intercept start */
443      int s2e = open(    , flags, mode);
444      char *m = mmap(...);
445      s2e_make_symbolic(m, 1, buffer );
446      /* intercept end */
447  fd = s2e;
```

Figure 15: The implementation of redirect file descriptor to symbolic memory.

5.4 Exception Repository

5.4.1 Crash Detection

As mention at Section 2.1.2, each Android Apps executed in its own process virtual machine, which is own instance of Dalvik VM. The process VM design has many benefits compared to a single system VM instance that serves all processes in the system.[40] For example, when a single process crash it does not affect other process.

In order to monitor crash happen, we hook the controller that manage life cycle of the Dalvik VM. Once the exception signal was received by controller to terminal the Dalvik VM, we could know that App was crash and terminal in abnormal state.

Chapter 6

Experimental Results

In order to test our method, two experiments we have finished to prove that white-box and black-box testing mode is feasible.

6.1 Experimental Environment

All experiments performed in a virtual machine including 4 vCPU and 4GB vRAM on a 2.7Ghz i7 CPU with 12GB RAM physical machine, Ubuntu 10.10 64-bit desktop edition for the host OS. A VirtualBox 4.1.16 virtual machine within host OS used to install our Android testing environment which is supported networking and allow to upload the experimental Apps into testing environment. S²E QEMU used to boot the installed Android testing environment to enable perform symbolic execution. Our testing environment is based on x86 Andorid(Froyo-2.2.2, Linux kernel 2.6.38, eeepc version) and S²E 1.1 version.

6.2 Evaluation for White-box testing

In the first part of experiments, we evaluate a test case to prove the feasibility of white-box testing method within *CRAXdroid*. Besides, this method provide App developers an alternative environment to test and debug their App by inject the symbolic components in their code.

Listing 2 shows a Java simple code can be deploy as an App to our testing environment.

In this code, an integer variable x which is assigned symbolic value by native function `getSymbolicInt`(supported from JNI library in Section 5.3.1). Following by a *if* condition statement, variable x is able to decide the condition and execute the next statements depend on its value.

In case of line 2 do not exist, variable x contain an integer value of 101, condition statement at line 4 will be satisfied and line 5 will be executed next, this *if* condition statement was successfully come to the end with a single path of branch condition.

Since variable x was assigned a symbolic value at line 2, symbolic execution engine will treat the variable x as an abstract symbol (“ λ ”). When line 4 was executed, $\lambda == 101$ will trigger a serial of symbolic execution in symbolic execution engine to solving the solution for λ to fulfill every possible condition in the statements.

Code 2: Java code within white-box testing mode

```
1  int x = 101;
2  x = getSymbolicInt("s");
3
4  if (x == 101) {
5      killState(1, "if branch 'x == 101'. example: "+ getExampleValue(x));
6  } else if (x >= 50) {
7      if(x == 75 ){
8          printWarning("x==75, CRASH!");
9          throw new Bad();
10     }
11
12     killState(3, "elseif branch 'x >= 50'. example: "+ getExampleValue(x));
13 } else {
14     killState(4, "else branch 'x != 101'. example: "+ getExampleValue(x));
15 }
```

As the results, Listing 4 shows the partial results of symbolic execution during traverse all the possible condition statement as we expected. We notice line 4,18,24 are corresponding to line 14,12,5 Listing 2 in order, this result had proven symbolic execution within the white-box testing mode is feasible.

In addition, we also evaluate the exception handler(Section 4.4) and test case genera-

tor.

- **Exception handler:** An exception we prepared at line 9 “throw new Bad()” used to crash the App, and we expect the exception handler is able to capture exception while performing symbolic execution. Figure 16 shown that a warning message from our testing environment when App crash(Figure 17) was happened.
- **Test case generator:** By using native function *getExampleValue*(supported from JNI library in Section 5.3.1), symbolic executor will able to return an example value of λ in the current state. This is useful information for developer used to debugging what the value will leading the condition statement to execute current path. For example, Line 18 in Listing 4 “elseif branch ‘x >= 50’ . example : 1073741824” shown that λ has resolved in the equation $\lambda \geq 50$ by the constraint solver, and return an example value 1073741824 for λ which is satisfied the equation $\lambda \geq 50$.

Code 3: Line 8-10 of the Code 4.

```
8 x==75, CRASH!
9 s2e_pathid : 2
10 uncaught exception [1] threadId : 1
```

Figure 16: Message shows that crash has detected.

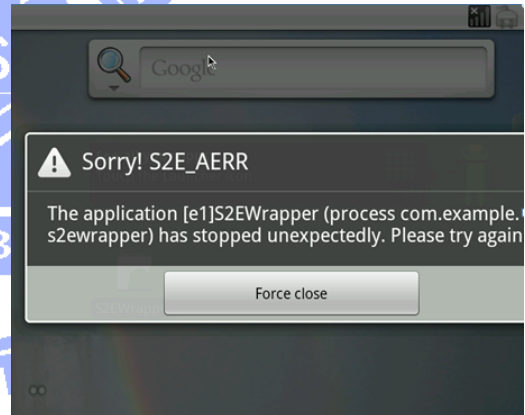


Figure 17: A snapshot of GUI that our App was crashed.

The time spent during the first experiment is shown at the following Table 2.

Table 1: Evaluation for white-box testing

Test Case	Line of Code	Crash / States	Total execution time(sec.)*	Total symbolic time(sec.)	Average time per state(sec.)
symbolic int	-	1 / 4	168	3	1

* time counted from booting Android testing environment to symbolic execution was finish

Code 4: Results of white-box testing mode with symbolic execution (partial)

```
1 ...
2 166 [State 1] Killing state 1
3 166 [State 1] Terminating state 1 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
4     message: "else branch ' x < 50. example: 0"
5     status: 4'
6 166 [State 1] Switching from state 1 to state 2
7 ...
8 166 [State 2] Message from guest (0x816a068): x==75, CRASH!
9 167 [State 2] Message from guest (0xbfce85e3a): s2e_pathid: 2
10 167 [State 2] Message from guest (0xbfce85e3a): @@@ uncaught exception [1]threadId: 1
11 167 [State 2] Killing state 2
12 167 [State 2] Terminating state 2 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
13     message: "kill state!'
14 167 [State 2] Switching from state 2 to state 3
15
16 167 [State 3] Killing state 3
17 167 [State 3] Terminating state 3 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
18     message: "elseif branch 'x >= 50'. example: 1073741824"
19     status: 3'
20 167 [State 3] Switching from state 3 to state 0
21
22 168 [State 0] Killing state 0
23 168 [State 0] Terminating state 0 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
24     message: "if branch 'x == 101'. example: 101"
25     status: 1'
26
27 All states were terminated
```

6.3 Evaluation for Black-box testing

In the second part of experiments, we evaluate Apps from developer, Android Market(Section 2.1.1) and pre-installed App with black-box testing method within *CRAX-droid*. We have to change our testing strategy and switch to another symbolic components(Section 4.1), since those Apps are needed to test without source code.

Listing 5 shows the Java code we used to deploy as our testing App. This sample App demonstrate to access a file on the device, the contents of the file become a condition for the *if* statement at line 6.

Code 5: Java code used to deploy as App

```

1  FileInputStream fs = new FileInputStream("/sdcard/test.txt");
2
3  /** Byte 1 */
4  c=fs.read();
5
6  if(c >100){
7      printWarning("Char[0]: >100\n");
8      if(c==101){
9          printWarning("\tChar[0]: == 101\n");
10         killState(101, "Symbolic Execution at ==101 ");
11     }else{
12         printWarning("\tChar[0]: != 100\n");
13         killState(102, "Symbolic Execution at !=101 ");
14     }
15 } else{
16     printWarning("Char[0]: <100\n");
17     if(c==0){
18         printWarning("\tChar[0]: == 0\n");
19         killState(0, "Symbolic Execution at ==0 ");
20     }else{
21         printWarning("\tChar[0]: != 0\n");
22         killState(1, "Symbolic Execution at !=0 ");
23     }
24 }

```

The testing output messages at Listing 6 was similar to white-box testing, but the different is those Apps in this experiment are test in black-box mode which sources code are avoidable.

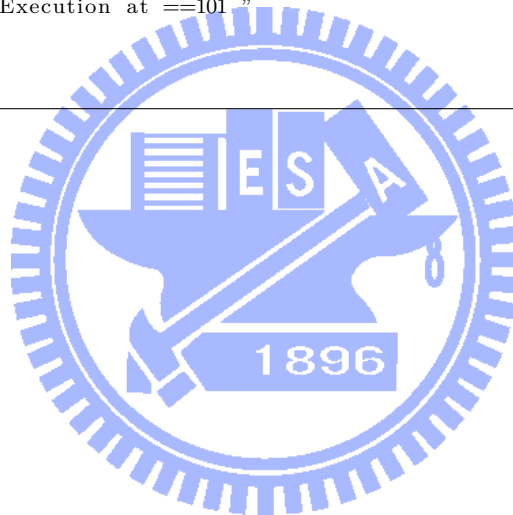
Table 2: Evaluation for black-box testing

Test Case	Line of Code	Crash/ States	Total execution time(sec.)*	Total symbolic time(sec.)	Average time per file(sec.)	File accessed.
S2EWrapper (symbolic file)	-	- / 4	192	5	5	1
File Manager (pre-installed)	-	1 / 14	205	18	6	3

* time counted from booting Android testing environment to symbolic execution was finish

Code 6: Outputs of black-box testing with symbolic execution (partial)

```
1 ...
2 190 [State 0] Message from guest (0x824de18): Char[0]: >100
3 ...
4 191 [State 0] Switching from state 0 to state 3
5
6 191 [State 3] Message from guest (0x824de30): Char[0]: != 100
7 192 [State 3] Killing state 3
8 192 [State 3] Terminating state 3 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
9     message: "Symbolic Execution at !=101 "
10     status: 102'
11 192 [State 3] Switching from state 3 to state 0
12
13 192 [State 0] Message from guest (0x824de30): Char[0]: == 101
14 192 [State 0] Killing state 0
15 192 [State 0] Terminating state 0 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
16     message: "Symbolic Execution at ==101 "
17     status: 101'
18 ...
```



Chapter 7

Conclusions and Further Work

7.1 Conclusion

In this thesis, we have implemented the *CRAXdroid* - an App validation platform. We aim at quality assurance and vulnerability assessment to enhance the quality of service for Android Market. Our App validation process is kind of “certification services” using automated software testing as a service (TaaS[41]), which can publicly provide measured reliability and safety for Android Apps. By reducing the defect density during Apps development process, developers are able to eliminate bugs to maintain quality assurance. Market administrators also have the responsibility to clean up malicious Apps through vulnerability assessment.

We implemented white-box and black-box testing in tailored environment on top of S²E, on sample Apps. Our experiment results reveal that it is feasible to test with Apps on the Market by symbolic execution without source code.

7.2 Future Work

Our *CRAXdroid* are still with limitations, due to issues not resolved. We discuss future work in the following.

- More symbolic components
 - Our implementation tries to bridge the gap between symbolic components and symbolic interfaces. In order to increase the coverage ratio, developing the low-level symbolic interface is essential to support more symbolic components.

As has mentioned, more entry points to trigger symbolic execution will introduce more overhead. We do not consider yet to make symbolic variables for all the local variable, operands and fields within the App, instead we seek for an objective by asking a question “Are those components are of our interests for quality assurance purpose?”. For example, we may symbolize the unique device identified number (UID, e.g. IMSI, IMEI) to detect the suspicious App which leaks UIDs and causes the privacy violations. Moreover, symbolic network IO is a possible aid to analyze symbolic values transferred through network by Apps.

- Data Leak Prevention (DLP)
 - When user’s privacy (Section 2.1.3.1) was leaked to the third-party organization, it will cause the privacy violation. Since the “privacy” information is store as program data, dynamic taint analysis like *TaintDroid* (Section 3.2) try to monitor the data flow, as known as Data Leak Detection.

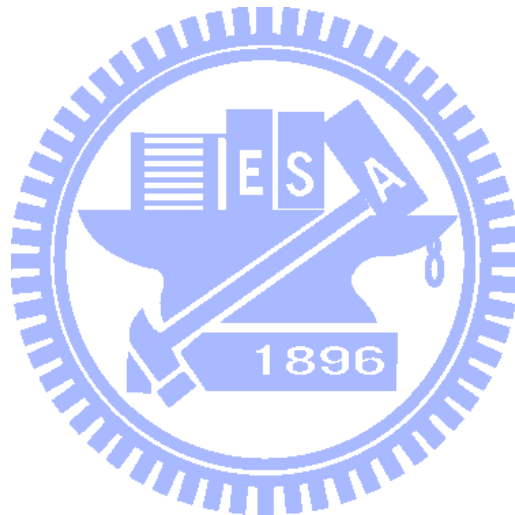
We cover dynamic taint analysis in *CRAXdroid*, by replacing the privacy data with the symbolic values. While the symbolic value was propagated through all the execution paths, we can treat the propagation flow as data flow. When the symbolic values go through network interfaces, *leaking behaviors* is highly suspicious.

- UI Fuzzer
 - To leverage fully automate testing flow, UI fuzzer is required to simulate manual operation by human. However, the coverage rate for UI fuzzing flow was probably low, since fuzzing do not have control flow or “step-by-step” mechanism.

In addition, we may consider to use symbolic value to fuzz as an input at UI widgets, e.g textbox, Spinners(drop down list), and Pickers(date selector).

- x86/ARM JNI

- x86 Android was chosen as our testing environment. Our environment is fast, and it is able to be deployed in large scale or in the *cloud* environment. Unfortunately, part of Apps are using native ARM libraries for their JNI. Due to hardware limitation, instructions within ARM libraries were unable to execute on x86 CPU. This type of Apps cannot be tested in white-box nor black-box mode in *CRAXdroid*. We look forward to seeking a reliable solution for this challenge.



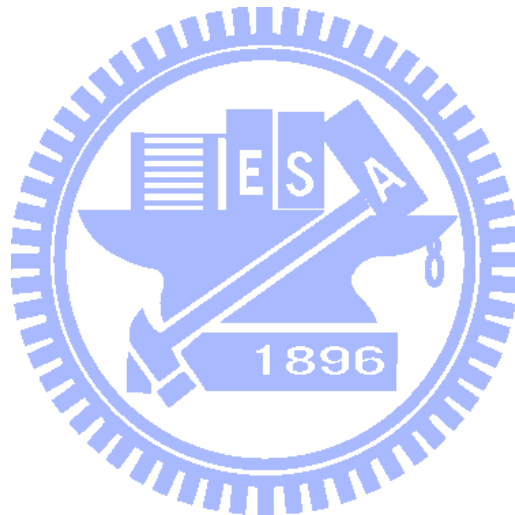
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Appendix A

Simple codes and raw output results

Code 7: Native function through JNI.

```
1 public class S2EWrapper
2 {
3     public static native int getVersion();
4     public static native void printMessage(String message);
5     public static native void printWarning(String warning);
6     public static native void enableForking();
7     public static native void disableForking();
8     public static native void killState(int status, String message);
9
10    public static native int getSymbolicInt(String name);
11    public static native char getSymbolicChar(String name);
12    public static native String getTime();
13
14    public static native int getExampleValue(int symbvar);
15    public static native int concretize(int var);
16    public static native void assertThat(boolean condition, String failMessage);
17
18    //Load the library from JNI
19    static {
20        System.loadLibrary("S2EWrapper");
21    }
22
23 }
```

Code 8: Outputs of white-box instrument and symbolic execution (full version)

```
165 [State 0] Inserting symbolic data at 0xbfc85a7c of size 0x4 with name 's'
165 [State 0] Forking state 0 at pc = 0x82408758 into states:
    state 0 with condition (Eq (w32 101)
      (ReadLSB w32 0 v0_s_0))
    state 1 with condition (Not (Eq (w32 101)
      (ReadLSB w32 0 v0_s_0)))
165 [State 0] Switching from state 0 to state 1

165 [State 1] Forking state 1 at pc = 0x82408798 into states:
    state 1 with condition (Slt (ReadLSB w32 0 v0_s_0)
      (w32 50))
    state 2 with condition (Not (Slt (ReadLSB w32 0 v0_s_0)
      (w32 50)))
166 [State 1] Killing state 1
166 [State 1] Terminating state 1 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
    message: "else branch 'x < 50'. example: 0"
    status: 4'
166 [State 1] Switching from state 1 to state 2

166 [State 2] Forking state 2 at pc = 0x82408758 into states:
    state 2 with condition (Eq (w32 75)
      (ReadLSB w32 0 v0_s_0))
    state 3 with condition (Not (Eq (w32 75)
      (ReadLSB w32 0 v0_s_0)))
166 [State 2] Message from guest (0x816a068): x=-75, CRASH!
167 [State 2] Message from guest (0xbfc85e3a): s2e_pathid: 2
167 [State 2] Message from guest (0xbfc85e3a): @@@ uncaught exception [1]threadId: 1
167 [State 2] Killing state 2
167 [State 2] Terminating state 2 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
    message: "kill state!'
167 [State 2] Switching from state 2 to state 3

167 [State 3] Killing state 3
167 [State 3] Terminating state 3 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
    message: "elseif branch 'x >= 50'. example: 1073741824"
    status: 3'
167 [State 3] Switching from state 3 to state 0

168 [State 0] Killing state 0
168 [State 0] Terminating state 0 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
    message: "if branch 'x == 101'. example: 101"
    status: 1'
```

All states were terminated

Code 9: Outputs of black-box instrument and symbolic execution (full version)

```
187 [State 0] Forking state 0 at pc = 0x82408858 into states:
    state 0 with condition (Slt (w32 100)
      (And w32 (SExt w32 (Read w8 0 v2_txtbuf[a]_2))
        (w32 255)))
    state 1 with condition (Not (Slt (w32 100)
      (And w32 (SExt w32 (Read w8 0 v2_txtbuf[a]_2))
        (w32 255))))
187 [State 0] Switching from state 0 to state 1

187 [State 1] Message from guest (0x824de18): Char[0]: <100
187 [State 1] Forking state 1 at pc = 0x824088d0 into states:
    state 1 with condition (Eq (w32 0)
      (And w32 (SExt w32 (Read w8 0 v2_txtbuf[a]_2))
        (w32 255)))
    state 2 with condition (Not (Eq (w32 0)
      (And w32 (SExt w32 (Read w8 0 v2_txtbuf[a]_2))
        (w32 255))))
188 [State 1] Switching from state 1 to state 2

189 [State 2] Message from guest (0x824de30): Char[0]: != 0
189 [State 2] Killing state 2
189 [State 2] Terminating state 2 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
message: "Symbolic Execution at !=0 "'
    status: 1'
189 [State 2] Switching from state 2 to state 1

190 [State 1] Killing state 1
190 [State 1] Terminating state 1 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
message: "Symbolic Execution at ==0 "'
    status: 0'
190 [State 1] Switching from state 1 to state 0

190 [State 0] Message from guest (0x824de18): Char[0]: >100
190 [State 0] Forking state 0 at pc = 0x82408758 into states:
    state 0 with condition (Eq (w32 101)
      (And w32 (SExt w32 (Read w8 0 v2_txtbuf[a]_2))
        (w32 255)))
    state 3 with condition (Not (Eq (w32 101)
      (And w32 (SExt w32 (Read w8 0 v2_txtbuf[a]_2))
        (w32 255))))
191 [State 0] Switching from state 0 to state 3

191 [State 3] Message from guest (0x824de30): Char[0]: != 100
192 [State 3] Killing state 3
192 [State 3] Terminating state 3 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
message: "Symbolic Execution at !=101 "'
    status: 102'
```

192 [State 3] Switching from state 3 to state 0

192 [State 0] Message from guest (0x824de30): Char[0]: == 101

192 [State 0] Killing state 0

192 [State 0] Terminating state 0 with message 'State was terminated by opcode
message: "Symbolic Execution at ==101 "
status: 101'

All states were terminated

