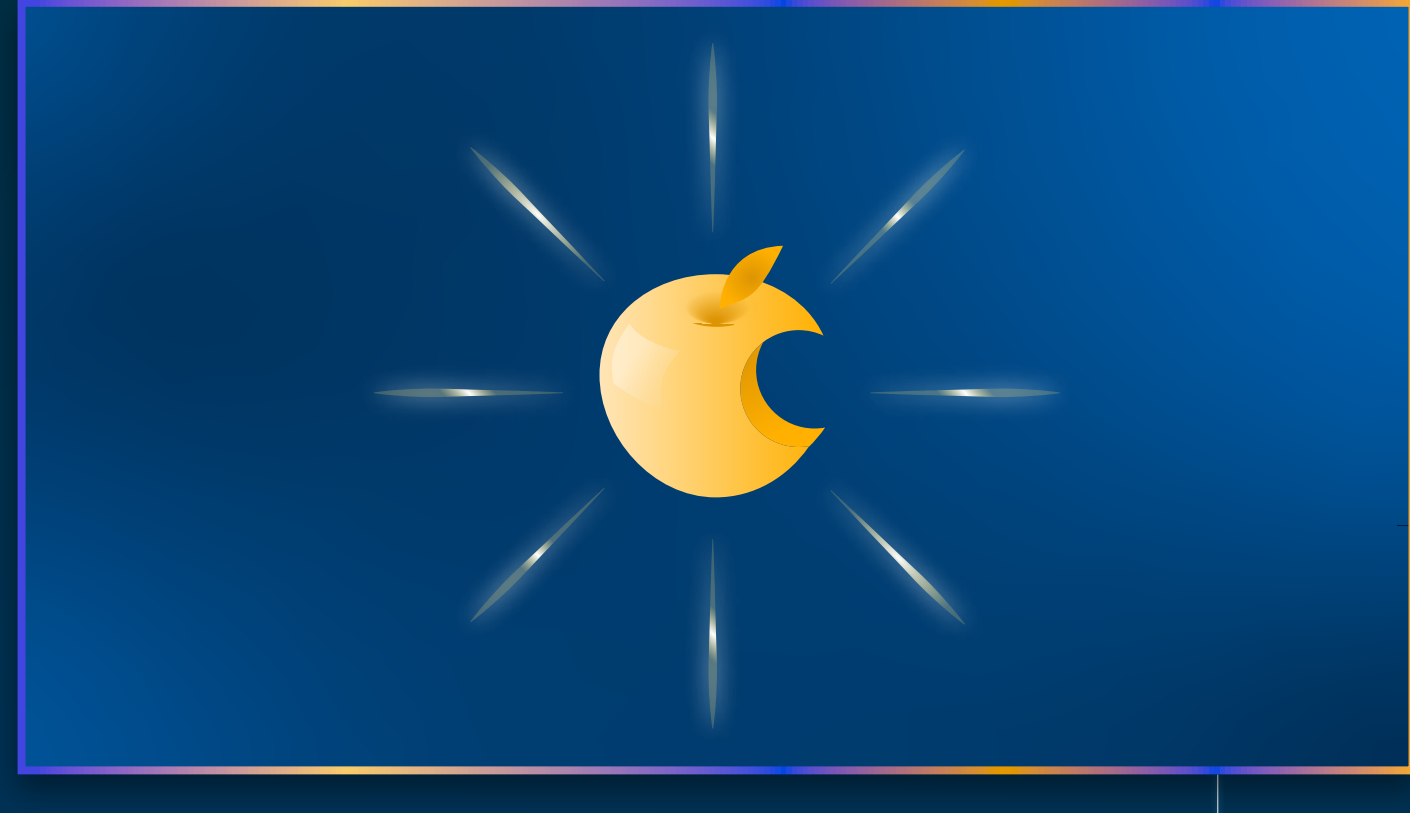
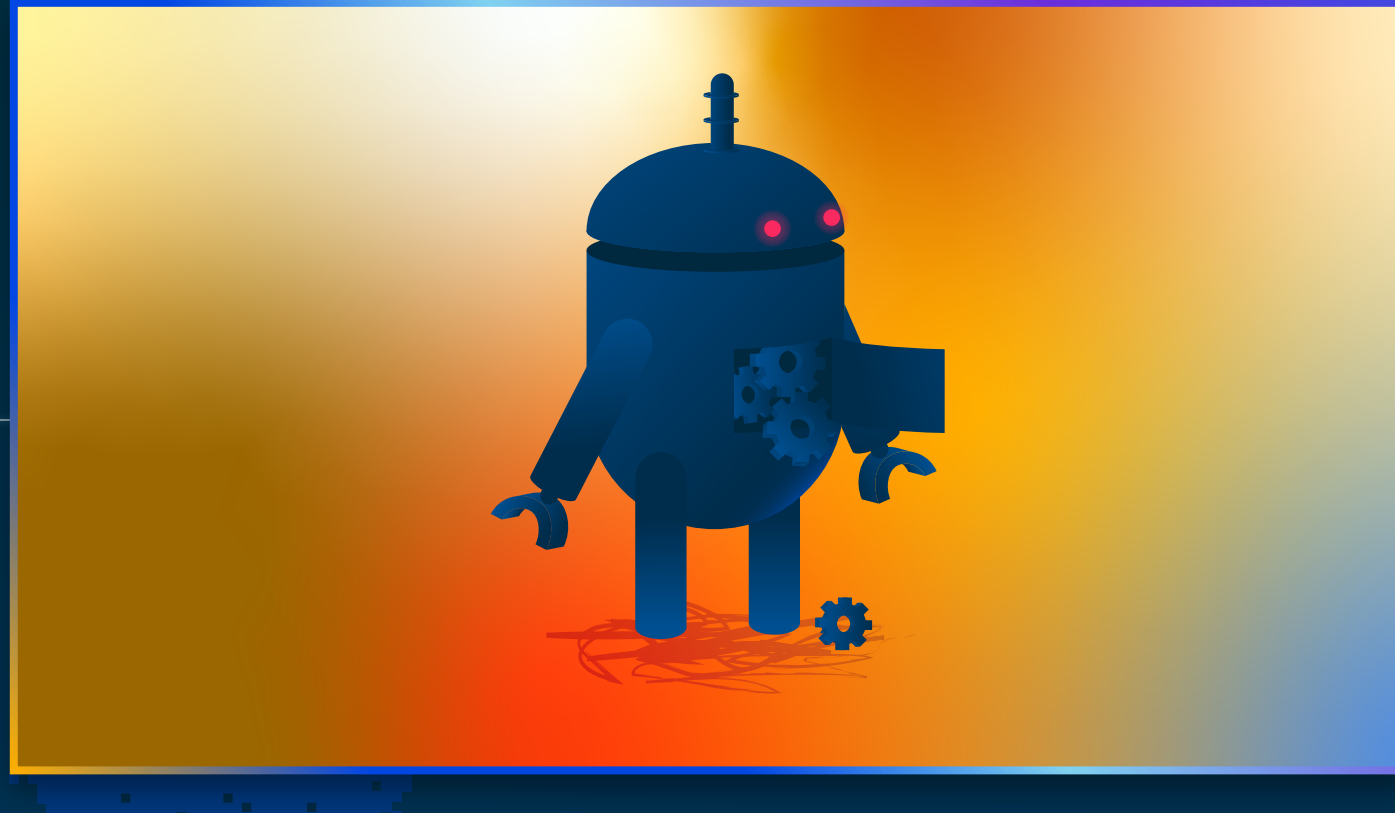


iOS App Security: Is it really better than Android?

It's easy to get caught up in the myths and misconceptions about how secure your app will be when it's released into the wild, but perhaps **the biggest misconception is that iOS security is better than Android.**



VS



Here's a deeper dive into iOS security, and the impact this could have on your mobile app.

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Apple's "Walled Garden"

Apple has long touted its tightly controlled iOS ecosystem as being more secure than Android's more open platform. Think this "Walled Garden" keeps the app store safe?
Think again.



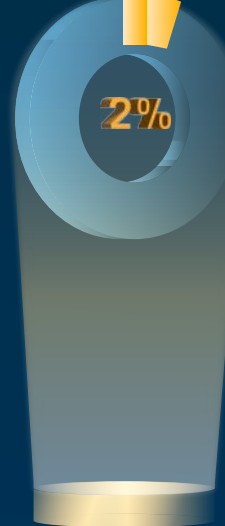
"Fleeceware" apps

commonly found in the App Store, use fake customer reviews to move up in the rankings and persuade customers to pay a higher price for services offered elsewhere.

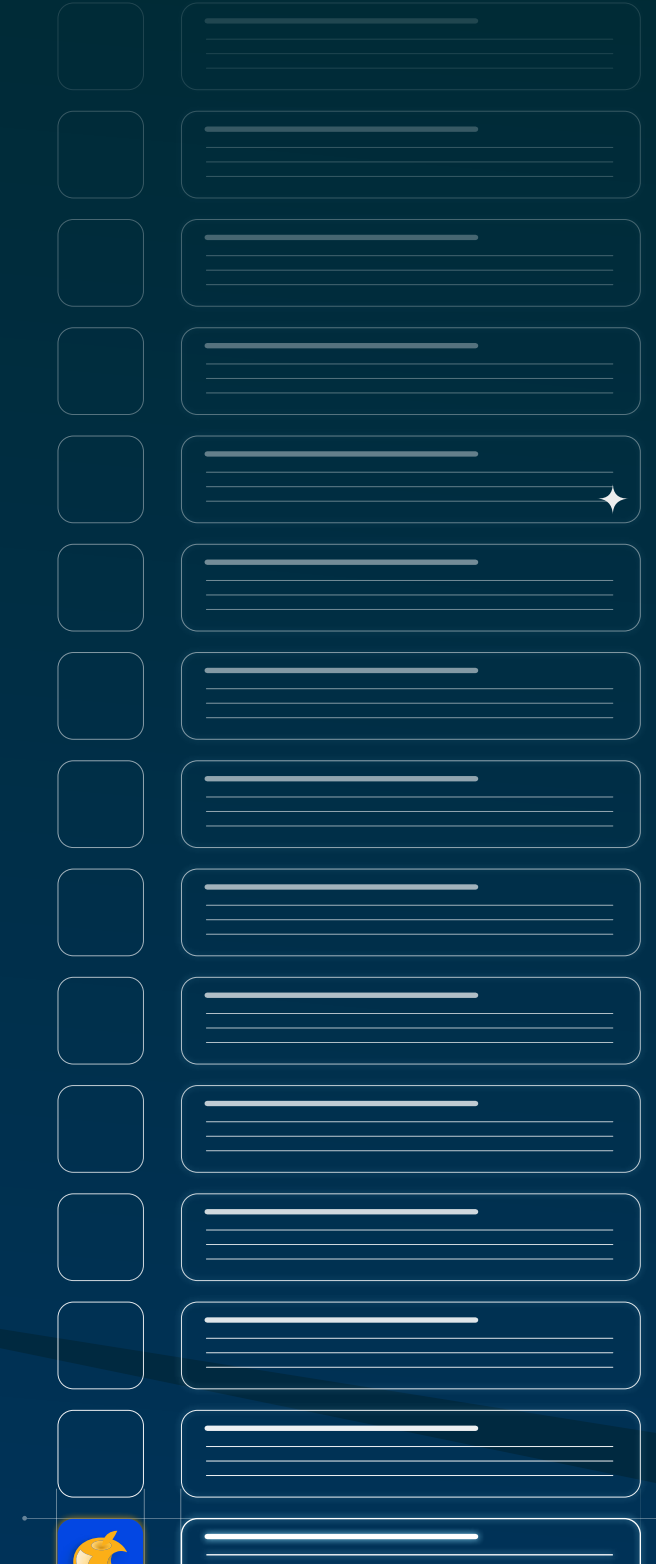
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1/3 of the 3,000 top grossing iOS apps that access cloud services leak data



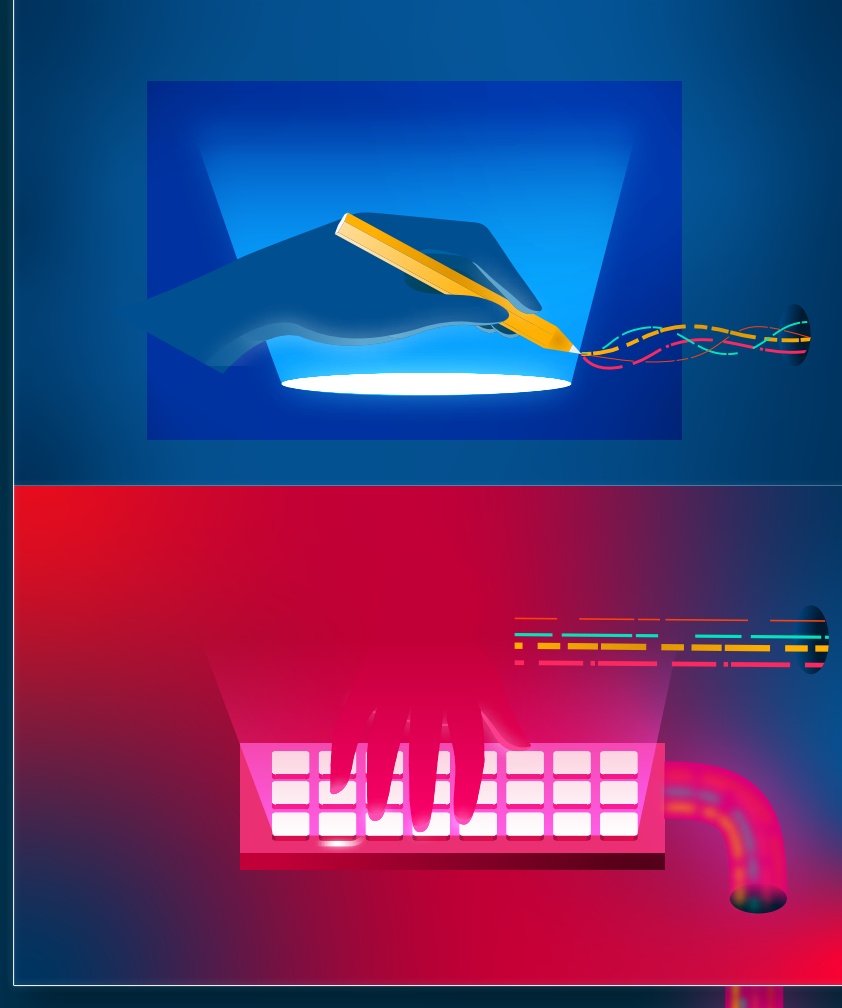
2% of the top grossing 1,000 apps on the App Store are scams



guardsquare.com

Apple's code signing

One of the main ways Apple protects its ecosystem is its complex code signing process aimed at preventing code tampering and re-distribution.
But is it adequate?



There are 3 methods for bypassing code signing:

Apple's free temporary developer signing certificates can be used to locally modify, install, and use a modified app on a personal device.

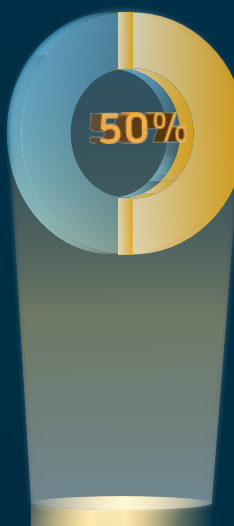
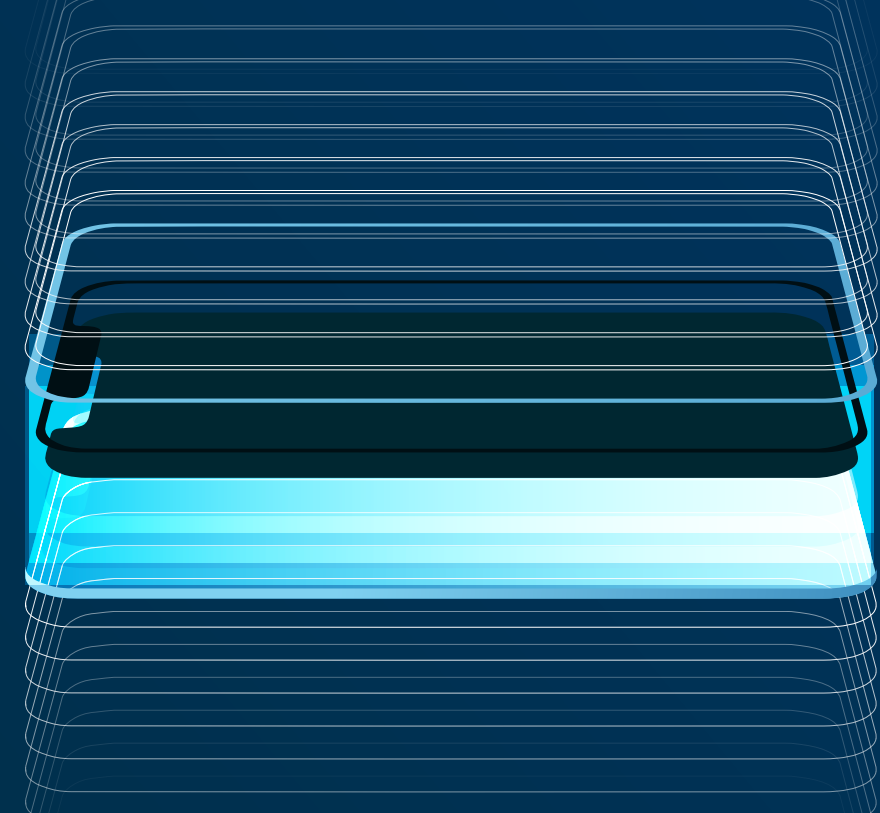
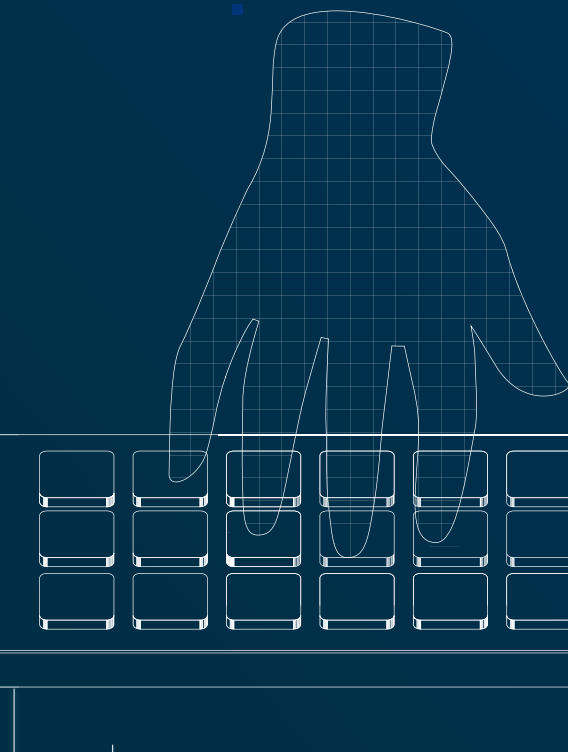
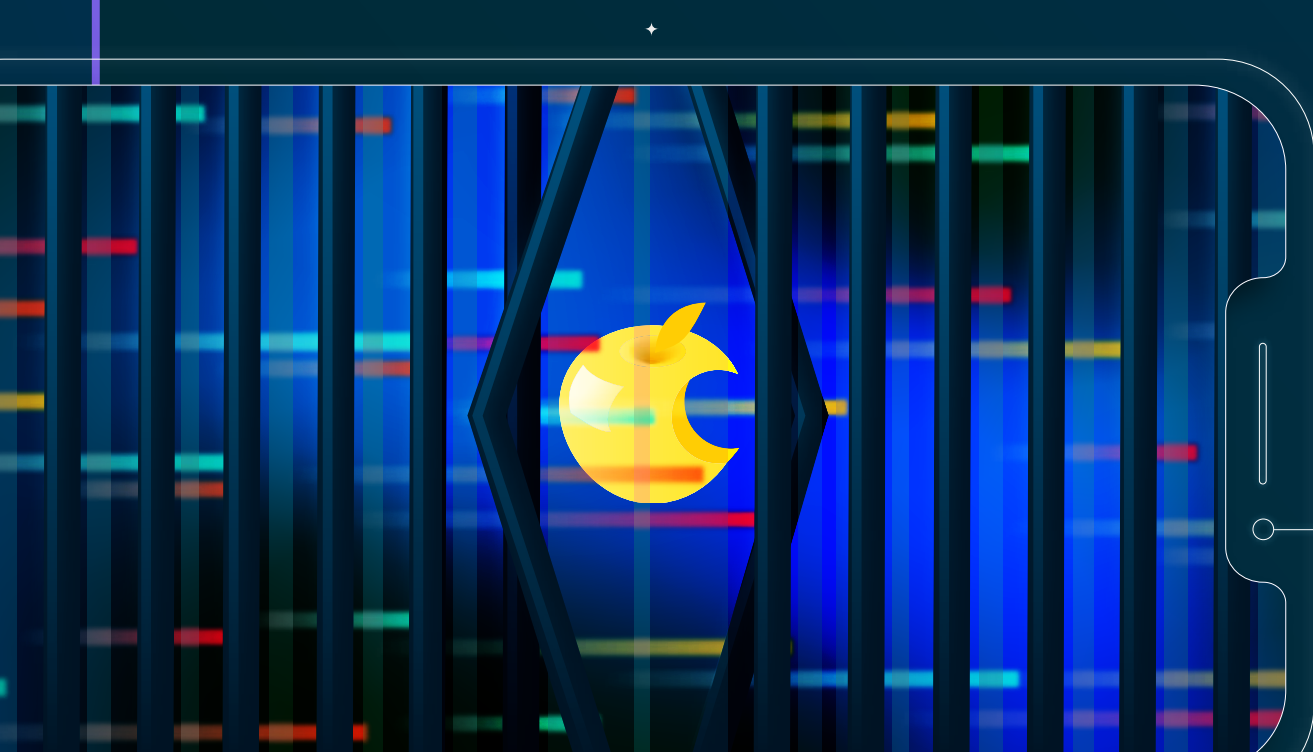
Enterprise certificates can be used to set up online signing services, enabling the distribution of modified apps in third-party app stores.

Jailbroken devices can be used to bypass certificate checks to run modified apps.

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iOS can be jailbroken

Many perceive the Apple operating system to be more secure, but all iOS versions have eventually been **jailbroken**.



In fact, **50% of iOS versions released to date have been jailbroken** within about a month after release.

The reality?

Jailbreaking is common for iOS, and Apple's narrow device options in the market makes the operating system an enticing target for maximizing the exposure of an exploit.

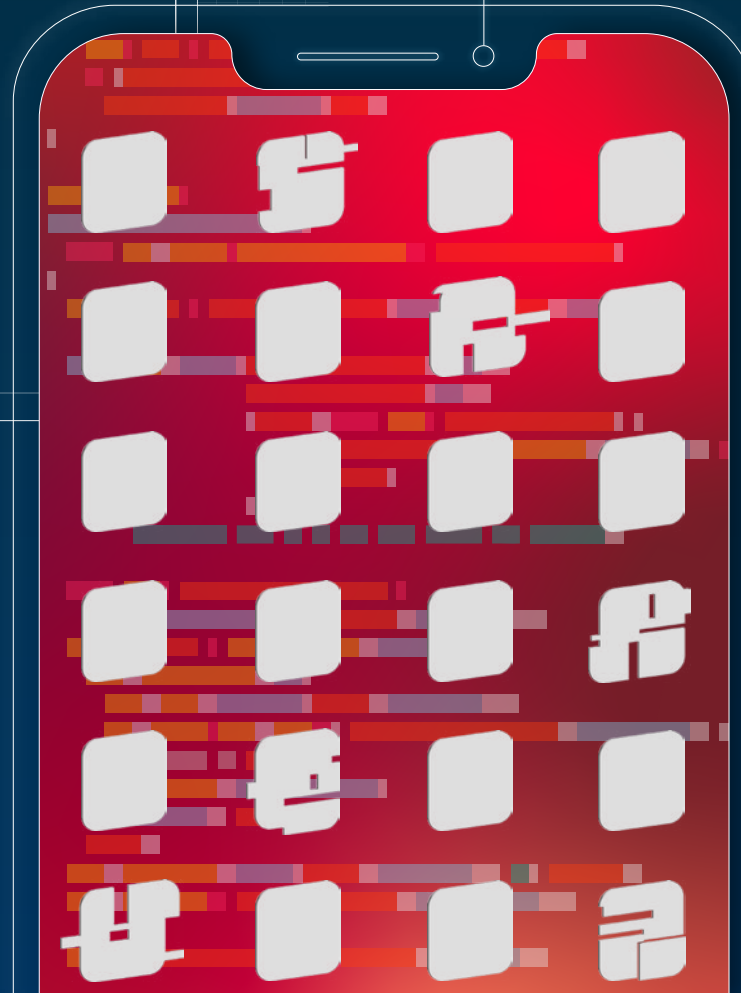
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Sideload is a problem

Despite Apple reportedly removing roughly **one million malicious apps from the App Store**, attackers continue to find ways to distribute app clones and malicious apps.



In fact, **6.8% of iOS & 3% of Android devices** are connected to third-party app stores.



A web search of "alternative iOS app store" produces more than **200 million results**, revealing a number of third party app stores to choose from. This also highlights the demand to access them.

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The stakes

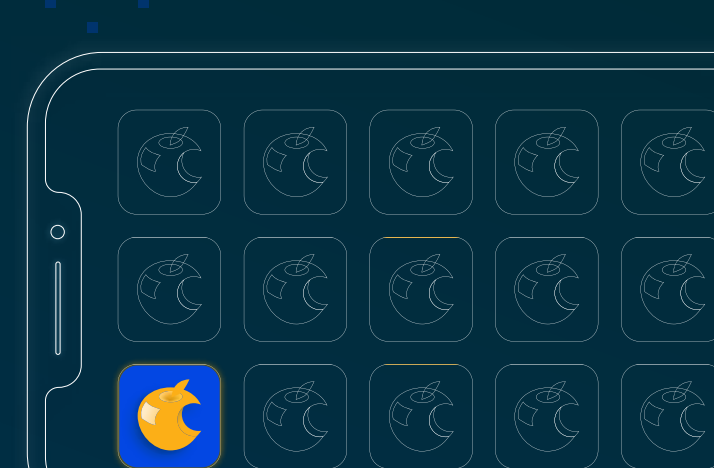
After analyzing 200+ tweaks, or scripts that modify the behavior of iOS apps, Guardsquare found that 93% were designed to provide free access to premium content or features.

Clearly, Apple's "Walled Garden" isn't enough to mitigate scams, app clones, and intellectual property theft.

93% are scams

\$2,485,824 annual losses

\$48M generated by scam apps



Looking at the impact from a tweak on just one leading photo app, at an estimated loss of \$8.31 per user each month, **the publisher could be losing \$2,485,824 annually.**

And remember those scam apps found in the Apple Store?

These scam apps generated \$48M in revenue.

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The Guardsquare approach

Guardsquare's iOS app protection solution **iXGuard fits seamlessly into the development process.**

Our solution implements **multiple layers of obfuscation** and encryption.

Runtime Application Self-Protection (RASP) checks **thwart real-time attacks.**

Protections are applied differently with every build, **resetting the clock** on attackers' malicious attempts to gain access to your app's code.

We protect iOS apps from both **static and dynamic attacks.**

Learn more

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