Wednesday, August 22nd, 2012

Search

August 22, 2012, 11:38AM

Fake Flash Player, Laden with Malware, Making Rounds (/en_us/blogs/fake-flash-player-laden-malware-making-rounds-082212)

by **Christopher Brook** (/author /Christopher Brook)

7

(http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/fake-flash-player-laden-malware-making-rounds-082212) Scammers have already begun to take advantage of Adobe's recent decision to remove its Flash Player from Android's Google Play marketplace. Last week's removal has prompted scammers to start promoting fake versions of the software to unsuspecting smartphone owners. While researching the scamware, security firm GFI Labs uncovered a separate fake version of the Flash Player that's not only bogus but an SMS Trojan that comes bundled with adware.

According to a post on the company's blog (http://www.gfi.com/blog/fake-flash-player-app-is-an-sms-trojan-and-adware /?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+SunbeltBlog+%28GFI+Labs+%28OLD%29%29) , the app named 'adobeflashinstaller.apk' comes replete with adware from the mobile ad network AirPush. Once installed, the app tricks users into following a series of steps to root their phone before downloading another .APK file. This file, hosted on a XDA-Developers forum post, is a hacked version of Adobe's Flash Player app. While the app isn't necessarily malicious, it's not authorized by the company, meaning it's possible the app could grant or install permissions without the users' knowledge further down the line.

Meanwhile, the app's adware leads to the installation of advertisements on the phone. If the user tries to deletes them, the adware will simply add more of them. The adware also will change the users' home page; send pop-up ads to the phone's status bar every fifteen minutes and even read and send the users' phonebook contacts to advertisers.

Adobe ceased development on Flash Player for Android on August 15 after announcing it was shifting its focus to AIR, a runtime environment that allows apps that utilize Flash to run on devices natively. Adobe added that the current version of Flash Player as it stands may exhibit "unpredictable behavior" (http://www.pcmag.com/article2 /0,2817,2408526,00.asp) when the next version of Android, Jelly Bean (http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/android-41-jelly-bean-includes-full-aslr-implementation-071612) , is further rolled out.

Recommended Reads

Commenting on this Article will be automatically closed on November 22, 2012.

Comments

Post new comment

Your name:

Anonymous

E-mail:

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Comment: *

(#)

Path: p (javascript:;)   (javascr

[Save] [Preview]