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## **New Malware Takes Over your Smartphone Camera by Posing as a Popular App**

A terrifying new virus that can stealthily film and record smartphone owners is spreading across the world – and you might already be infected. The malware is called GhostCtrl and often disguises itself as popular apps like WhatsApp and Pokemon Go.

Victims who download the fake apps — which look exactly like the real deal — inadvertently install a backdoor to their phone. This grants hackers access to their camera, web browser history and searches and lets them intercept text messages. They can also surreptitiously record voice or audio and upload it to their computer servers. “The data GhostCtrl steals is extensive, compared to other Android info-stealers,” cyber security researchers Trend Micro explained in a blogpost. A version of GhostCtrl was used in a large-scale attack which recently targeted Israeli hospitals.

The digital assault used a “worm” called RETADUP to steal information from desktop PCs, but it appears that hackers have used similar code to create an Android bug that could spread worldwide. “We can only expect it to further evolve,” Trend Micro warned. More than 200,000 victims in 150 countries were recently infected by malware known as WannaCry in May. If an app on the Google Play store doesn’t have a star rating or several reviews, be very wary of it.