



*Issued 11/29/17*

## **Google Detects New Android Malware That Can Spy on Users**

Google discovered a new form of malware injected into a series of apps published on the Google Play Store and capable of stealing sensitive data from compromised devices.

The search firm says it first detected the Tizi backdoor in September 2017 when Google Play Protect discovered an application with rooting capabilities on an Android device downloading an app from the Play store. Google Play Protect is the company's own security solution for apps published in the store, and it automatically scans every download to make sure no malware is injected. Google explains the malware primarily targeted Android users in Africa and was capable of recording calls from instant messaging apps like WhatsApp and Skype, send and receive SMS messages, get access to call, logs, and photos, record ambient audio and take pictures with the camera without letting the user know.

Google used the Play Store to remove the infected apps from a total of 1,300 compromised devices, and the company recommends users to check permissions for each installed app, secure the lock screen, update devices, and enable Google Play Protect.