

Priv.-Doz. DI Mag. Dr. Edgar Weippl

SBA Research / TU Wien



Security Weaknesses in Cloud-Based Services

Mobile applications are only really useful if combined with cloud-based services. We have observed that the increasingly short time to market of these applications may cause serious design flaws in their security architecture. In this talk I will highlight some flaws discovered in the past and point to directions to improve them.

Specifically, we have looked at nine popular mobile messaging and VoIP applications and evaluated their security models with a focus on authentication mechanisms. We find that a majority of the examined applications use the user's phone number as a unique token to identify accounts; they contain vulnerabilities allowing attackers to hijack accounts, spoof sender-IDs or enumerate subscribers.

Other examples pertain to problems in cloud-based storage services such as Dropbox which have in part meanwhile been solved.

Zeit: Donnerstag, 7. Februar 2013, 13:00 Uhr

Ort: Johannes Kepler Universität Linz

Informatik-Gebäude, SCP 3, HS 19

Short-Bio

Edgar Weippl is research director of SBA Research and Privatdozent at the Vienna University of Technology. His research focuses on applied concepts of IT-security and e-learning.

After graduating with a Ph.D. from the Vienna University of Technology, Edgar worked in a research startup for two years. He then spent one year teaching as an assistant professor at Beloit College, WI. From 2002 to 2004, while with the software vendor ISIS Papyrus, he worked as a consultant in New York, NY and Albany, NY, and in Frankfurt, Germany. In 2004 he joined the Vienna University of Technology and founded the research center SBA Research together with A Min Tjoa and Markus Klemens.

Edgar (CISSP, CISA, CISM, CRISC, CSSLP, CMC) is member of the editorial board of Computers & Security (COSE) and he organizes the ARES conference.