Mobile App Development Forum on Privacy and Security The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong 21 April 2016

Mobile App Development Forum on Privacy and Security

Stephen Kai-yi Wong
Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data





Number of Active SIM Cards and Smartphones in Use

- 7 millions population
- 14.9 millions active SIM cards in use
- 5 millions smartphones in use

	Public Mobile Customers					
				Activated	2.5G + 3G + 4G	
Month	Post-paid SIM	Pre-paid SIM	Total ¹	Pre-paid SIM ²	Customers ^{3,4}	
11/2015	7,965,302	8,619,576	16,584,878	6,241,233	14,187,136	
10/2015	7,956,171	8,585,959	16,542,130	6,258,780	14,115,459	
9/2015	7,940,477	8,689,966	16,630,443	6,180,365	14,223,157	
8/2015	7,927,852	8,792,736	16,720,588	6,157,613	14,270,075 ⁸	
7/2015	7,893,835	8,801,842	16,695,677	6,198,946	14,183,881 ⁸	
6/2015	7,875,469	8,824,485	16,699,954	6,200,411	14,027,892 ⁸	
5/2015	7,863,759	8,729,561	16,593,320	6,209,401	12,875,708 ⁸	
4/2015	7,856,429	9,009,456	16,865,885	6,365,807	13,069,462 ⁸	
3/2015	7,854,627	9,104,828 ⁸	16,959,455 ⁸	6,459,188 ⁸	13,166,436 ⁸	
2/2015	7,841,065	9,413,754 ⁸	17,254,819 ⁸	6,648,817 ⁸	13,449,428 ⁸	
1/2015	7,856,955	9,601,768 8	17,458,723 ⁸	6,883,017 ⁸	13,598,092 ⁸	
12/2014	7,851,393	9,520,606	17,371,999	6,996,924	12,765,744 ⁸	

Low Privacy Awareness by the Public

- the public was not sensitised to the privacy issues in the use of smartphones and apps
- 57% did not know what data would be accessed by apps
- 51% did not know social network apps would read and upload contact lists



Media Statements

Date: 21 November 2012

A Survey Revealed Low Privacy Awareness among Smartphone Users Privacy Commissioner Advises Smartphone Users to Get Smarter about Privacy

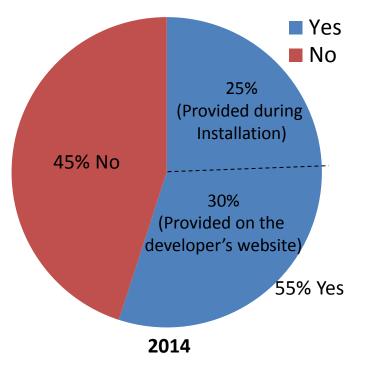
- 1.The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("the Commissioner") Mr. Allan Chiang released today (21 November 2012) the findings of a survey¹ on the privacy awareness among smartphone users in Hong Kong.
- •Over 90% of users have installed apps but only 27% of them read and consider the apps privacy policy before installing the apps;
- •57% of apps users do not know what personal data on their phones are accessed by the apps installed;
- •51% of social apps users do not know that their contacts and social relationship data would be uploaded to a central server;
- •Only 53% of users take steps to protect their phones and personal data by means such as screen lock and anti-virus software.

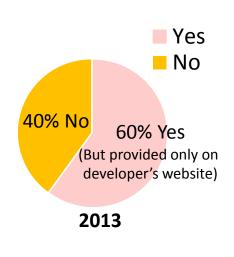


Sweep Exercise Revealed Low Awareness by Developers

Number of apps provided privacy policy statement

 nearly half of Hong Kong apps* surveyed in 2013 (40%) and 2014 (45%) did not provide privacy policy

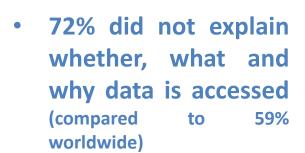




* only apps that read data from mobile devices were surveyed



Transparency of HK Apps Inadequate







Media Statements

Date: 15 December 2014

Privacy Commissioner Finds Transparency of Privacy Policies Wanting in Local Mobile Applications

(15 December 2014) The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD") conducted a survey¹ of 60 popular mobile applications ("apps") developed by Hong Kong entities and found that their transparency in terms of privacy policy was clearly inadequate and there was no noticeable improvement compared with the results of a similar survey conducted in 2013.

	2014 Survey (Hong Kong)(total = 60 apps)	2014 Sweep (Global)(total = 1,211)
Unclear or missing information as regards whether data would be accessed, and if yes, what data and why	43(72%)	715(59%)
Permission of data access being sought went beyond user's expectation based on app's functionality ⁵	5 (85%) total = 60 apps)	281(31%)(total =



Enforcement Actions Taken on Apps

enforcement
 actions were
 taken in 2014 on
 two apps due to
 excessive
 collection of
 personal data
 and security
 flaw

Media Statements

Date: 15 December 2014

by Worldwid

they enrolled

enquiries ab

developed b Worldwide T

App users the

policy, app r

2. The two c

1 to the Pers



Excessive Collection of Personal Data through Mobile Application by Worldwide Package Travel Service Operating with No Privacy Policy

(15 December 2014) The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD")

published ar Media Statements

Date: 15 December 2014



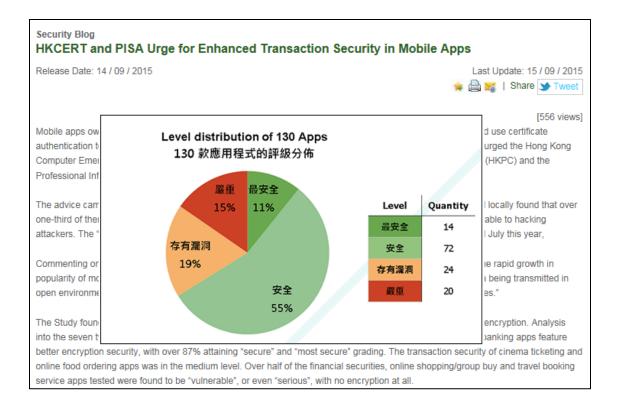
Personal Data Leaked through Inadvertent Use of Mobile Application "TravelBud" by HKA Holidays

(15 December 2014) The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD") published an investigation report today concerning the leakage of personal data of the customers of an airline services company, HKA Holidays Limited ("HKA Holidays") through "TravelBud", a mobile application ("app") running on iOS platform. This stems from the failure of the app maintenance contractor, BBDTEK Company ("BBDTek"), in responding to the new privacy protection feature of iOS7 which blocked the reading by apps of MAC address¹ as a device identifier. HKA Holidays as the data user has contravened Data Protection Principle ("DPP") 4(1) in Schedule 1 to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (the "Ordinance").

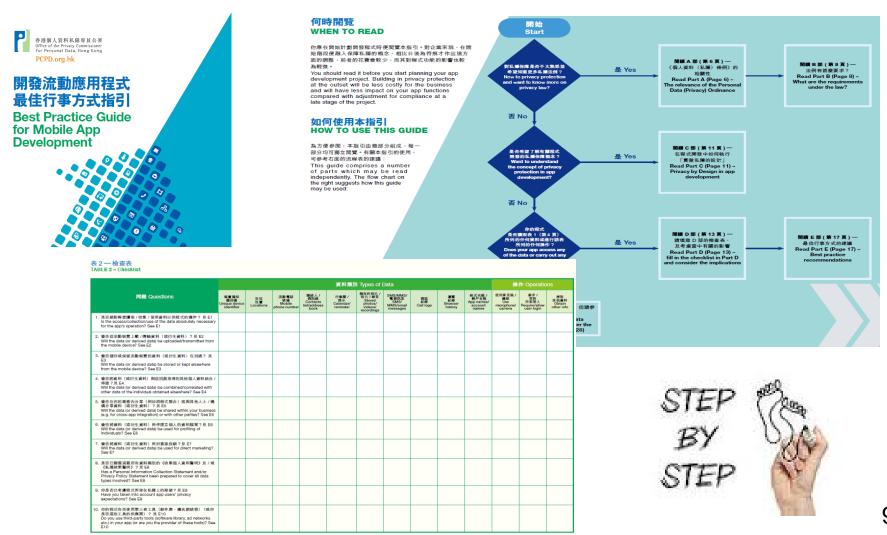


HK Apps were Found to Have Inadequate Encryption

one-third of apps
 were found to have
 encryption flaw –
 either not done or
 easily crackable



Best Practice Guide for Mobile App Development





Developing Mobile Apps: Privacy Matters 應用程式重私隱 創新科技贏信任



Co-organised by



















Supported by



















Office of the Government Chief Information Officer



Messages to Mobile Apps Developers

- individuals' personal data privacy must be respected (especially members of the young generation)
- provide transparent privacy policy to users on what information the app would access/use
- give users the choice to opt-out from such access/use as appropriate
- individuals can make decisions in exercising control over their own data



Privacy as a Competitive Advantage

 privacy and personal data protection can be an asset and a business edge





