THE INVESTIGATOR

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Malware on Your Smartphone

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Malware

These are 8 of the worst malware that you as a consumer need to be aware of:

1) Loozfon - created to steal information. The criminals use various versions of this malware to trap their victims into giving them their personal information. Usually an email is sent and a link is attached with it in which the user clicks on this link and is taken to a hoax website that steals contacts details from the user's address book and the user's details too.

2) FinFisher - spyware that is designed to control the handheld device's components. Once installed on the phone, the device can be controlled and monitored no matter its location. This malware can easily be linked to a phone as a user follows a web link or opens a text message that covers-up the spyware as a system upgrade.

3) Geinimi Trojan - offenders attach this malware to already existing and trusted apps then redistribute the corrupted software behind the scenes of Android app stores. When people download the game or app, their whole phone gets taken over. Text messages, contacts and location information can be sent to a remote server, and the hackers take over your phone, downloading files, placing phone calls and sending text messages.

4) SMS Android Trojan - this malware is aimed at text messages. Once downloaded in the "Movie Player" app that it was concealed in, it starts sending text messages to premium-rate numbers, such as international numbers and starts racking your phone bill up to a fairly large amount.

5) 3D Anti-terrorist - this was a game that was created but is malware. It is similar to SMS Trojan but this malware is downloaded onto a phone and makes international calls instead of text messages.

6) TapSnake - this app that constantly records your phones location and reports to a nearby server. It had also been found to download an app called "GPS Spy" which steals data from the phone and sends it to the criminal

7) Red Bunny Trojan - this malware attacks and targets mainly Chinese-language users and it is still not known what its capabilities are so far, however what is known is that it acts as a mobile browser and goes to specific sites that are "pay-per-click" sites. This malware may also be accessing pages that have ads and accessing these ad's in order to push up your phone bill.

8) Ikee Worm - when users want to download a specific app but need to disable their security settings, this is known as "jailbreaking" your phone. This malware is designed for these types of users and it changes your phone background to an image of 80s pop star Rick Astley and then the malware goes into hiding and uses the connections between WiFi and other phones to search for other phones that have undergone "jailbreaking" to infect.

These are just some examples of the malware that are currently present in smartphone safety and security issues. Users need to be aware and vigilant.