



Protecting Government-Issued Devices from Banned or Prohibited Mobile Apps with Zimperium Mobile Threat Defense



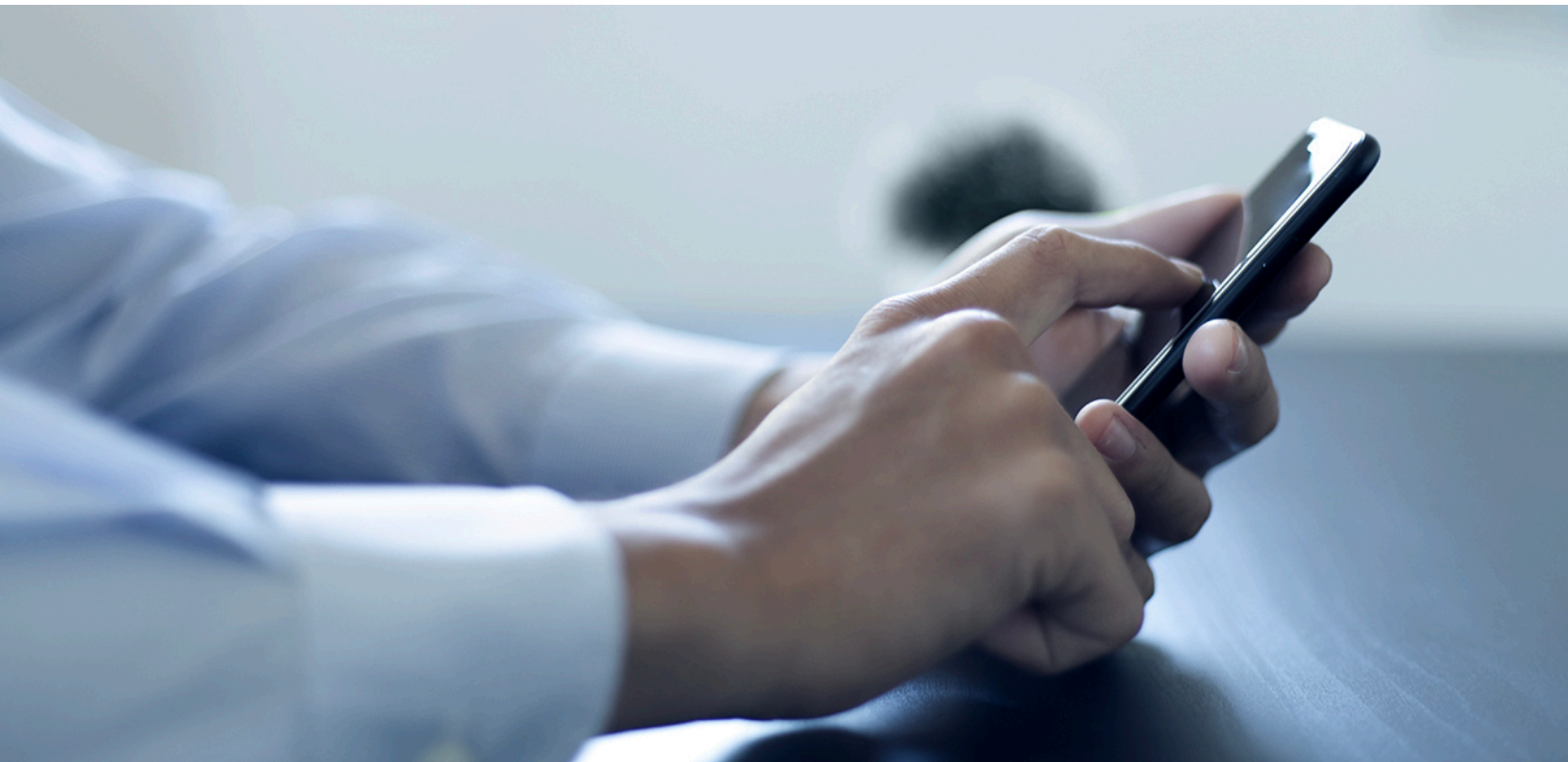
Today, government employees have access to the same data through their government-issued mobile devices as they do on their office computers. **Securing government-issued mobile devices against malicious apps, spyware, and the latest zero-days is critical to national security. With attacks on the rise, certain popular mobile apps have been considered non-compliant due to the likelihood of capturing sensitive data from the device. As a result, the U.S. government has banned its employees from installing certain apps on government-issued mobile devices nationally.**

Why Are Mobile Apps a Security Threat?

Despite the popularity, 60% of top mobile apps store information from private conversations, and 80% collect data on the messages sent and received.¹ Mobile apps can collect and share a user's location, personally identifiable information (PII), and health data. In addition, a mobile device itself has sensitive information such as the device's brand, model, operating system (OS) version, browsing history, apps installed, file names, keystrokes, and mobile carrier – all of which can also pose a security threat. Lastly, app developers can also request access to specific device functions in order to provide the user with customized content. Unfortunately, not all apps are upfront about the extent of the data they track and share with third parties.

Should You Block a Mobile App?

Whether devices are government-issued or Bring-Your-Own-Approved-Devices (BYOAD), understanding the mobile threat landscape is crucial in preventing the installation of a subset of malicious mobile apps. Considering the security and data privacy issues that mobile apps pose, it's up to an organization or a security mandate to make this decision.



How Does Zimperium Help?

Zimperium Mobile Threat Defense (MTD) – formerly known as ZIPS – is a privacy-first mobile security solution that provides comprehensive mobile security for organizations. Zimperium protects an employee's corporate-owned or BYOD from advanced persistent threats without sacrificing privacy or personal data.

Zimperium MTD can help organizations identify which mobile devices have risky or banned apps by pinpointing what servers these apps are connecting to and blocking these apps and browsers from sending data off the device to the domains to which the app connects. By leveraging zero-touch activation, Zimperium MTD can automatically enforce conditional access controls as part of a zero-trust strategy, which prevents the use of enterprise apps and access to sensitive corporate data while these banned apps are installed.

Zimperium can be deployed with minimal effort as outlined below:



Identify

1. Identify risky or banned apps automatically using the App Policy Engine or manually with an external Policy.
2. Mark the app as Out of Compliance (OOC).
3. An OOC app threat is created for each device.
4. User is notified to remove the OOC app from their device.



Block

1. Identify specific domains in the OOC app's technical app report.
2. Add app-specific domains to access the control list in a blocked category.
3. Leverage Content Filtering and block app-specific domains.



Enforce

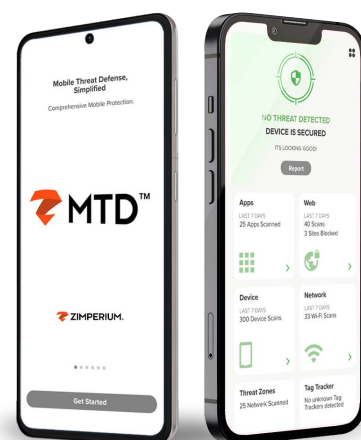
1. Set the Conditional Access policy for OOC App threat.
2. Notify your users that their access could be impacted if the app is not removed.
3. Enforce the Conditional Access policy.

Zimperium MTD is the only on-device mobile security solution that protects against the latest zero-day attacks. As the mobile attack surface expands and evolves, so does Zimperium's dynamic on-device threat detection. Zimperium MTD detects across all four threat categories — device compromises, network attacks, phishing and content, and malicious apps.

To learn more about protecting your devices from untrustworthy mobile apps, [contact us](#) today to set up a demo.

Sources:

1 <https://venturebeat.com/security/report-80-of-popular-mobile-apps-collect-data-on-your-messages/>



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