

# Public Safety Communications Research Program

## **Panel on Security Risks in Mobile Application for Public Safety**

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Public Safety Communications Research

Computer Security Division

National Institute of Standards and Technology

# Panel Description

Mobile applications connect first responders to data that enables them with actionable information from situational awareness to real-time video communications. However, the risks associated with mobile applications may threaten operations if gone unchecked. Critical security and performance flaws enable the intentional exploitation of vulnerabilities by malicious actors or the unintentional consequences brought forth by poor code development and review practices. This session explores the current state of mobile applications risks, discusses opportunities for improvement on the status quo, and provides analysis for practitioners on available mitigations that address the risks articulated.

# Acknowledgement

- Funding for the PSCR work presented was provided by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC)

# PSCR Mobile Application Security Efforts

- Participate in hackathons to develop public safety mobile applications
  - Understand and encourage good mobile application development practices
  - AT&T Mobile App Hackathon in Palo Alto, CA on May 18-19, 2013
  - AT&T Mobile App Hackathon in DC on May 2-3, 2014
- A limited mobile application vetting experiment
  - Seven public safety mobile applications from AppComm
  - Leveraged an existing demonstration mobile application vetting and testing portal
    - Developed for DoD's Defense Information System Agency (DISA) by NIST's Computer Security Division
    - <http://csrc.nist.gov/projects/appvet/#AppVet>
  - Four apps had at least one undocumented API call

# PSCR Mobile Application Security Efforts

- Held half-day workshop on February 25, 2014 in Orlando
  - In cooperation with APCO and FirstNet
  - Identify and document mobile application security requirement relevant to the public safety community
  - Developing a document that captures the input received from the workshop

# Panelist

- Alex Kreilein
  - Technology Policy Strategist
  - Office of Emergency Communication (OEC)
  - Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Traviss Green
  - Senior Staff & Principal Project Sponsor
  - Lockheed Martin Corporation
- Theodra Titonis
  - Vice President of Mobile
  - Veracode

# Questions and Answers





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