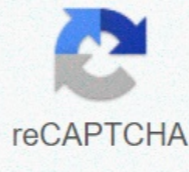I'm not robot

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Google analytics app android

There's been a lot of news lately about a security or judgment error -- both, indeed -- at Apple, which allows iOS apps to borrow their contact details and send it to unknown parties without your consent. Apple has addressed the issue of members of the Us Congress and will take steps to maintain tighter scrutiny in a future iOS update. That's good news, and we're glad to see it happen. But does it stay with Android? During all these focus on apps that do things without the explicit permission of the user, you see people who refer to the Android permissions model. We're going to ruin everything for you. It's not perfect, but it works pretty well -- and it's certainly better than no permission system. Let's get for example through permissions on Android and you need to make sure you're breaking up. By design, no Android app is allowed to perform any operation that would have a negative impact on other applications, operating system or user. For an app to have access to things like private contact details, another app's data, network access, or even something as trivial as writing its own data into your device's storage, the app must declare that it will have permissions to do so, and then you must accept this permission before you can install the app. When you install an app, you are presented with a list of permissions that the app declares. And note that we say apps are declaring permissions, and not necessarily requesting them. Semantics, we suppose, but there's no box that says hey, Jerry! I'm an app, and I'd love for you to let me take a look at the contact information. Is that okay? Instead, Android apps are more direct, saying Yo, Jerry. I'm an app. Here's a list of what I can do, just sauce ya know. Take it or leave it. Android apps declare the permissions they have access to and thus what sandboxes they can play in. And you can either choose to accept and install the app or not. Permissions - in advance and personal in Android Market Here shows if you install, say, Path. Get the macro list of permissions that Path declares. Tap one and explain this permission in a larger detail. This is what it looks like if you install an app on Android Market. You'll need to scroll through the list to see them all. A bit of modes down is the one that got Path (and others) into all sorts of issues on iOS. In its Android form, you can clearly see that Path declares permission for your Personal Data - read your contact details. Tap this permission and get more details: So Path told you it has access to your contact details. It doesn't necessarily tell you what it's going to do with it (if we hadn't just brought it up, would you really want to know?), but not Say it can be read. Apps outside Android Market But what if you sideload an app? Or use Amazon Appstore? Apps should still declare the permissions they use, and you see that list when you install the app. (Remember that Amazon Appstore sideloads apps, so what you see is exactly the same as if you installed an app from an email or download.) Here would show sideloading Gmail. The only real difference between lateral uploading and installation on Android Market, as far as permissions go, is that when sideload, you won't get more detailed permissions descriptions. Why all this? Android apps are sandbox - they play in their own space and have their own data files in that sandbox. They can only share play in someone else's sandbox after explicitly asking for permission, and this is done through the screens you see above. When you accept these permissions and install the app, give that app permission to play in the sandboxes where the app says it wants to play. On the developer side ... and how consumers need to do their part behind the scenes, app developers declare these permissions in the AndroidManifest file.xml, which is a necessary part of the source code for an Android app. These statements are static and each of them is presented to the user so we have seen above. Android has no way to grant dynamic permissions to run-time, because according to developers of Android operating systems complicates the user experience at the expense of security. Forcing an app to tell you what it wants to do in advance and never be able to change -- this is the biggest security model. The other side? It is also easiest for users to ignore. We know all about what happened to Path on iOS. Like many other iOS apps, he used the contact without permission. Not for nefarious purposes, but nevertheless without any permission in advance, and without asking later. Path for Android sent all sorts of data to its servers, just did on iOS. But, so I showed in this post, in Android, Path must declare permission first. Or, more specifically, declare permission and either accept it or reject it. The problem is when you install an app, you'll most likely go right beyond the permissions section. We shouldn't, but we all do. The fact that permissions are not written in plain language is part of the problem. But even if it were, most of us would click on the past right anyway. That's juts is, on every platform. On the other hand, there are those who are scared because they don't understand them. Again, easier-to-use language would help here. One of the alternatives to this is to have the application request permissions at run-time when it wants to do something you can't normally do. I've already read that the Android team thinks this is uncomfortable and unsafe, so it's not likely to happen. Another is to allow the selected permissions, just like RIM does with BlackBerry. You end up with apps that only work half because you denied permissions, just like BlackBerry. There is no very safe method besides reading read all when you install that app and try to understand what it requires you to do and why it requires it. This is where we all come in. Some of us understand the app's permissions more than others, and when an app does something it shouldn't do, you hear the prec. Read the permissions. Read the market comments. Read Android Central. When something goes wrong, you'll hear about it. And one more thing... A special note must go here about security vulnerabilities. Every computer program -- and that means every mobile operating system, too -- is full of them. When a vulnerability is found that allows an app to bypass the security model, Google will quickly patch it. This happens, and it will always happen. How quickly this update gets rolled to you depends on the people who make the phone. They deserve credit when they do it the right way, and despise it when they take too long and do it wrong. That's not something that's going to leave any time soon, and we're right there with you to call an OEM that doesn't keep things as safe and secure as they should be. If you want to dive deeper into Android permissions, check the Google Developer page on them. Every week, Android Central Podcast brings you the latest tech news, analysis and hot take, with familiar co-hosts and special guests. Subscribe to Pocket Casts: Audio Subscribe to Spotify: Audio Subscribe to iTunes: Audio We could earn a commission for purchases using our links. learn more. The eponymous Google app controls Google Home and Chromecast devices and opens up new content worlds for both. Whether you need to set up a new Chromecast, refine Your Home actions, or just find something to share, Google Home has covered you. The homepage of the Google Home app is quite busy, but at least it's pretty easy to find your way. The main feed on the app's home screen provides trending and recommended content. After all, Chromecasts aren't very fun without something to throw at them. The Stream of the Watch tab starts with popular Videos from YouTube and other toss-enabled apps that you've installed. When it runs out of installed apps, new apps are recommended to install them on the Discover tab. Discover offers a lot of movies, TV shows and apps for you to expand your entertainment horizons with, but the true diamond in the rough for Discover comes when you search for a movie using the app's search button. Once you find a movie that you want to buy or rent and share, Google Home will give you the price of the movie in each of the compatible stores you've installed. Devices Device Section view and configure Cast devices and Cast groups. Press the three-line menu button at the top of any device card, and you'll be able to restart your device, turn on Guest Mode, or edit device settings. Touching your device card will also reveal the settings you can view and edit. Within the device you can edit a device's name, Wi-Fi network, and if it's Google Home, you can edit apps that are linked in Google Assistant through Google Actions. If you've connected a new device nearby that needs to be configured, the installation will be a large retention action at the bottom of its device card. What's more: Privacy Google Home Guest Mode for Chromecast and Chromecast Audio (including Google Home) allows users to share it without being on the same network, which is great for parties or friends you'd rather not give Wi-Fi connection. Google Home comes with a few accessibility settings to help users hear better when your device is listening. By checking the settings on this page, you can have Google Home play a tone which it starts and stop listening to commands. You can also see Chromecast Audio groups on the Devices page. By tapping a Cast group, you can rename it, remove devices from the group, or delete the group altogether. Set up and use Chromecast Audio groups The main menu in Google Home without and with a Google Home attached to your google account. Returning to the main page, we also have a menu hidden under the three-line menu icon in the upper-left corner of the screen. If you own a Google Home, you'll see a lot more because Google Assistant services are managed here. The first few items here are quite simple: The things to address show a basic list of commands that Google Home will accept, Music chooses which app responds to song or album requests, and the shopping list takes you to a Google Keep list that Google Home can add to. Home control allows you to monitor connected home devices currently connected to Google Assistant, such as Philips Hue bulbs and Nest thermostats. The rest of the Assistant's functions are under More settings, such as the news sources you hear when you request titles, and what services Google Home will allow you to order an Uber. to confiscate and customize Google Assistant on Pixel Now, the rest of the settings in the main menu here may seem banal, but do not write them yet. Above the Assistant settings is the cast screen/sound, which lets you broadcast your device screen to mirror your device on a Chromecast. It will drain the battery faster (partly because you have to keep the screen on all the time), but it can help you broadcast apps that don't have native support for this feature. Devices take you back to the Devices page that I covered at the top of the article. Account preferences are the places where you can refine the emails Google sends you about the devices and services you express. This includes chromecast Preview, which can show you the new features Google is working on. Offers take you to the offers available for cast devices. There's normally at least one available for your device, new or old, so check back here from time to time for free and discounted goodies. to Express takes you to Google Google support so you can see Chromecasts work and it can be helpful if you're trying to show a visiting relative to put cat videos on your TV. The Google Store link below also sends you to the Google Store website in your chosen browser. The setting at the bottom of the menu is one that you'll probably overlook, but that you should absolutely use: Help and Feedback. This brings a web view of the site help if you need to troubleshoot your device and also brings a large blue feedback button so you can help Google improve its products. Once you've set things up, you may not think there are many reasons to go back to the Google Home app, but it's certainly not an app worth looking for on your phone. From the handy price comparisons of Discover Offers to providing useful feedback, there are plenty of reasons to make yourself at home in the Google Home app. More: 10 tips and tricks for Google Home Home