Security Configuration Benchmark For

Apple iPhone OS 2.2.1
Version 1.0.0
March 2009
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Overview

This document, Security Configuration Benchmark for Apple iPhone OS 2.2.1, provides prescriptive guidance for establishing a secure configuration posture for the Apple iPhone OS version 2.2.1. This guide was tested against the Apple iPhone OS 2.2.1 and the iPhone Configuration Utility (ICU) v1.1.043. To obtain the latest version of this guide, please visit http://cisecurity.org. If you have questions, comments, or have identified ways to improve this guide, please write us at feedback@cisecurity.org.

Consensus Guidance

This guide was created using a consensus review process comprised of volunteer and contract subject matter experts. Consensus participants provide perspective from a diverse set of backgrounds including consulting, software development, audit and compliance, security research, operations, government, and legal.

Intended Audience

This document is intended for system and application administrators, security specialists, auditors, help desk, end users, and platform deployment personnel who plan to use, develop, deploy, assess, or secure solutions that incorporate the Apple iPhone OS 2.2.1.

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Typographic Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stylized Monospace font</td>
<td>Used for blocks of code, command, and script examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monospace font</td>
<td>Used for inline code, commands, or examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Configuration Levels

This section defines the configuration levels that are associated with each benchmark recommendation. Configuration levels represent increasing levels of security assurance.

**Level-I Benchmark settings/actions**

Level-I Benchmark recommendations are intended to:
- be practical and prudent;
- provide a clear security benefit; and
- do not negatively inhibit the utility of the technology beyond acceptable means.

**Level-II Benchmark settings/actions**

Level-II Benchmark recommendations exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:
- are intended for environments or use cases where security is paramount
- acts as defense in depth measure
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology

**Scoring Status**

This section defines the scoring statuses used within this document. The scoring status indicates whether compliance with the given recommendation is discernable in an automated manner.

**Scorable**

The platform’s compliance with the given recommendation can be determined via automated means.

**Not Scorable**

The platform’s compliance with the given recommendation cannot be determined via automated means.

**Recommendations**

**1. Settings on the iPhone**

This section provides guidance on the secure configuration of the iPhone.

**1.1 System Settings**

This section provides guidance on the secure configuration of system settings.
1.1.1 Update firmware to latest version (Level 1, Not Scorable)

Description:
 iPhones ship with whichever version of the firmware was current when it was manufactured, but updates may have been released since then. It is recommended that the iPhone firmware remain current.

Rationale:
Firmware updates include not only new features and bug fixes, but security fixes, as well. Also, the iPhone must be running firmware version 2.2.1 for these benchmark recommendations to apply; if a newer version of the firmware is available, some recommendations may not apply.

Remediation:
1. Connect the iPhone to the computer.
2. Open iTunes.
3. Click on the iPhone under “Devices” in the source list.
4. Click on “Check for Update”.
5. Click “Download and Install”.
6. Do not disconnect the iPhone until the update is finished.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap About.
4. Confirm that “Version” is 2.2.1.

References:

1.1.2 Turn on Airplane Mode (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to disable all receivers and transceivers. This option is called Airplane Mode. When Airplane Mode is on, no phone, radio, Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth signals are emitted from the iPhone and GPS reception is turned off. It is recommended that Airplane Mode be enabled when these capabilities are unneeded or where security is paramount.

Rationale:
If the user enters an environment where no signal transmission or reception is intended, Airplane Mode can be turned on to ensure that the iPhone does not initiate or respond to any signals. This reduces the remote attack surface of the device.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Turn Airplane Mode on.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Confirm that Airplane Mode is on.

References:

1.1.3 Turn off Wi-Fi (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to participate in Wi-Fi networks. It is recommended that Wi-Fi be disabled when not needed or where security is paramount.

If Wi-Fi is turned off, then the iPhone connects to the Internet via the cellular data network, when available. The iPhone can run Mail, Safari, YouTube, Stocks, Maps, Weather, and the App Store over a cellular data network connection, but not the iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store.

Rationale:
Disabling the Wi-Fi interface will reduce the remote attack surface of the device. Additionally, at present, the cellular data network is a more difficult medium to sniff than Wi-Fi.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Wi-Fi.
3. Turn Wi-Fi off.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Wi-Fi.
3. Confirm that Wi-Fi is turned off.

References:

1.1.4 Forget networks to prevent automatic rejoin (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to forget Wi-Fi networks that it has previously associated with. By default, the iPhone will remember and automatically join networks that it has previously associated with. It is recommended that networks be forgotten after use in use cases where security is paramount.

Rationale:
A trusted but unauthenticated Wi-Fi network may be spoofed and automatically joined if it is not forgotten after last use. Additionally, if such a network has a common SSID, such as “default” or “linksys”, it is probable that the iPhone will encounter an untrusted instance of a same-named Wi-Fi network and automatically join it.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Wi-Fi.
3. Tap the Wi-Fi network to forget.
4. Tap “Forget this network.”

Note: the Wi-Fi network must be in range for it to appear in the list of available networks to forget; if the Wi-Fi network is no longer in range, the user will not be able to selectively forget it, but instead must reset all network settings to forget all Wi-Fi networks.

**Audit:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Reset.
4. Tap Reset Network Settings.
5. Tap Reset Network Settings again.

**References:**

---

**1.1.5 Turn Off Ask to Join Networks (Level 2, Not Scorable)**

**Description:**
When the user is trying to access the Internet, by using Safari or Mail for example, and the user is not in range of a Wi-Fi network the user has previously used, this option tells the iPhone to look for another network. The iPhone displays a list of all available Wi-Fi networks that the user can choose from. If “Ask to Join Networks” is turned off, the user must manually join a network to connect to the Internet when a previously used network or a cellular data network is not available. It is recommended that this capability be disabled in environments where security is paramount.

**Rationale:**
Requiring the user to manually configure and join a Wi-Fi network reduces the risk of inadvertently joining a similarly named yet untrusted network (i.e. “default” vice “defualt”).

**Remediation:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Wi-Fi.
3. Turn “Ask to Join Networks” off.

**Audit:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Wi-Fi.
3. Confirm that “Ask to Join Networks” is turned off.

**References:**

---

**1.1.6 Turn VPN off when not needed (Level 1, Not Scorable)**

**Description:**
The iPhone can connect to VPNs that use the L2TP, PPTP, or Cisco IPSec protocols. VPN connections can be established over both Wi-Fi and cellular data network connections. It is recommended that VPN connections be disabled when not in use.

**Rationale:**
If the user has a VPN connection configured, it should only be turned on when VPN access is required. If the VPN is left on, the user may not be mindful of the nature of the information they are transmitting on the network. Additionally, malicious or exploited iPhone applications may access VPN resources.

**Remediation:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Network.
4. Tap VPN.
5. Turn VPN off.

**Audit:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Network.
4. Tap VPN.
5. Confirm that VPN is turned off.

**References:**

1.1.7 **Turn Bluetooth off when not needed (Level 1, Not Scorable)**

**Description:**
The iPhone can connect wirelessly to Bluetooth headsets and car kits for hands-free talking. It is recommended that Bluetooth be disabled when not in use.

**Rationale:**
If the user does not need Bluetooth enabled for hands-free talking, it should be disabled to prevent discovery of and connection to supported Bluetooth services.

**Remediation:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Bluetooth
4. Turn Bluetooth off.

**Audit:**
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Bluetooth.
4. Confirm that Bluetooth is turned off.
References:

1.1.8 Turn Location Services off (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
Location Services allows applications such as Maps and Camera to gather and use data indicating the user’s location. The user’s approximate location is determined using available information from cellular network data, local Wi-Fi networks (if the user has Wi-Fi turned on), and GPS if the user has an iPhone 3G. If the user turns Location Services off, the user will be prompted to turn it back on again the next time an application tries to use this feature. It is recommended that location services be disabled in environments where security is paramount.

Rationale:
The iPhone OS enables the user to grant or deny individual applications access to location services. If the user does not intend to use location services at all, turning it off ensures that a previously allowed application will no longer be able to use location services by default.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Turn Location Services off.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Confirm that Location Services is turned off.

References:

1.1.9 Set a passcode (Level 1, Not Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to require a passcode before allowing usage via the touch screen. By default, the iPhone does not require a passcode to unlock it. It is recommended that a passcode be set.

Rationale:
In the event of a physical security incident, a passcode will not guarantee data integrity, but it will raise the bar of effort required to compromise the device.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Passcode Lock.
4. Tap in a four-digit passcode.
5. Tap in the same four-digit passcode.

The passcode can also be set via the iPhone Configuration Utility (ICU) as described in section iPhone Settings in ICU.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Confirm that Passcode Lock is turned on.

References:

1.1.10 Set auto-lock timeout (Level 1, Not Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to auto-lock after a pre-defined inactivity period. By default, if a passcode is defined, the iPhone will automatically lock after one minute of inactivity. It is recommended that an inactivity timeout be set.

Rationale:
If the user has set an auto-lock interval of greater than five minutes, there is a greater risk that the iPhone will be in an unlocked state during a physical security breach.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Auto-Lock.
4a. For typical use cases, tap "5 Minutes" or less.
4b. For high-security use cases, tap "1 Minute".

Note: The auto-lock timeout can also be set via the iPhone Configuration Utility (ICU) as described in section iPhone Settings in the ICU.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3a. For typical use cases, confirm that the Auto-Lock is set to 5 minutes or less.
4a. For high-security use cases, confirm that the Auto-Lock is set to 1 minute.

References:

1.1.11 Disable show SMS preview when iPhone is locked (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
If the iPhone is passcode locked and receiving SMS messages, the messages are still previewed on the display. It is recommended that SMS previews be disabled in environments where security is paramount.
Rationale:
Parties who do not know the passcode lock should not have read access to the iPhone’s SMS traffic.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Passcode Lock.
4. Turn Show SMS Preview off.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Passcode Lock.
4. Confirm that Show SMS Preview is turned off.

References:

1.1.12  Erase data upon excessive passcode failures (Level 1, Not Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to erase the user's settings and data as stored on the device after excessive (10) passcode failures. It is recommended that this feature be enabled.

Rationale:
Excessive passcode failures typically indicate that the device is out of physical control of its owner. Upon such an event, erasing data on the phone will ensure the confidentiality of information stored on the device is protected when facing a novice attacker.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Passcode Lock.
4. Turn Erase Data on.

Note: The “Erase data upon excessive password failures” setting can also be set via the iPhone Configuration Utility (ICU) as described in section iPhone Settings in the ICU.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Passcode Lock.
4. Confirm that Erase Data is turned on.

References:
1.1.13  Erase all data before return, repair, or recycle (Level 1, Not Scorable)

Description:
In normal operations, the iPhone does not use a secure delete function to erase data from the disk, allowing it to persist in a recoverable state. Therefore, the disk should be overwritten via the “Erase All Content and Settings” setting before the iPhone is out of the user's control.

Rationale:
Overwriting the iPhone's disk before it is out of the user's control will reduce an attacker's ability to recover sensitive information from the device.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap General.
3. Tap Reset.
4. Tap Erase All Contents And Settings.

Audit:
To verify that the iPhone disk has been overwritten, it is necessary to install a warranty-voiding forensics recovery toolkit that is not within the scope of this document. Please review the references for more information.

References:
2. iPhone Forensics - http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596153588/

1.2  Safari Settings
This section provides guidance on the secure configuration of settings related to the Safari application on the iPhone.

1.2.1  Disable JavaScript (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
JavaScript lets web programmers control elements of the page—for example, a page that uses JavaScript might display the current date and time or cause a linked page to appear in a new pop-up page. It is recommended that JavaScript be disabled in environments where security is paramount.

Rationale:
JavaScript should only be enabled before browsing trusted sites.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Safari.
3. Turn JavaScript off.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Safari.
3. Confirm that JavaScript is turned off.

References:

1.2.2 Disable plug-ins (Level 2, Not Scorable)

Description:
A plug-in provides Safari with the ability to play audio and video files and to display Microsoft Word files and Microsoft Excel documents. It is recommended that plug-ins be disabled in environments where security is paramount.

Rationale:
Plug-ins should only be enabled before browsing trusted sites.

Remediation:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Safari.
3. Turn Plug-ins off.

Audit:
1. Tap Settings.
2. Tap Safari.
3. Confirm that Plug-ins is turned off.

References:

2. iPhone Settings in the ICU

This section provides guidance on the secure configuration of the iPhone with the iPhone Configuration Utility (ICU), version 1.1.043. The iPhone Configuration Utility is a download available from Apple at http://www.apple.com/support/iphone/enterprise that lets users create, maintain, and sign configuration profiles, track and install provisioning profiles and authorized applications, and capture device information including console logs.

2.1 Passcode Settings

This section provides guidance on the secure configuration of passcode settings.

2.1.1 Require passcode on device (Level 1, Scorable)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to require a passcode before allowing access through the touchpad. By default, the iPhone does not require a passcode to unlock the device after a period of inactivity. It is recommended that a passcode be set.

Rationale:
Requiring a passcode to unlock the device increases the effort required to compromise the features and data of the iPhone in the event of a physical security breach.

**Remediation:**
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left window pane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right window pane.
4. Click on the “Require passcode on device” checkbox in the lower right window pane.
5. Install the configuration profile on the device.

**Audit:**
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>forcePIN</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<true/>`.

**References:**
1. iPhone And iPod Enterprise Deployment Guide – Fourth Edition

2.1.2 Require alphanumeric value (Level 1, Scorable)

**Description:**
The iPhone can be configured to require that the passcode be comprised of both numeric and alphabetic values. By default, the iPhone does not enforce a passcode complexity policy. It is recommended that both numeric and alphabetic values comprise the passcode.

**Rationale:**
Requiring a mix of alphabetical and numerical characters increases the complexity of the passcode an attacker may attempt to brute-force in order to gain access to the device.

**Remediation:**
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left window pane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right window pane.
4. Click on the “Require alphanumeric value” checkbox in the lower right window pane.
5. Install the configuration profile on the device.

**Audit:**
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>requireAlphanumeric</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<true/>`.

**References:**
1. iPhone And iPod Enterprise Deployment Guide – Fourth Edition

2.1.3 Set minimum passcode length (Level 1, Scorable)

**Description:**
The iPhone can be configured to require that the passcode be at least a pre-determined length. By default, the minimum passcode length is only four characters. It is recommended that passcode length be at least five (5) characters.

**Rationale:**
Requiring at least five characters increases the complexity of the passcode an attacker may attempt to brute-force in order to gain access to the device. Additionally, requiring at least five characters prevents a user from selecting typically weak values, such as a year, date, or last four digits of a phone number, for their passcode.

**Remediation:**
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left windowpane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right windowpane.
4. Click on the “Minimum passcode length” textbox in the lower right windowpane.
5. Enter the number “5”.
6. Install the configuration profile on the device.

**Audit:**
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>minLength</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<real>5</real>`.

**References:**
1. iPhone And iPod Enterprise Deployment Guide – Fourth Edition

2.1.4 *Set a minimum number of complex characters (Level 2, Scorable)*

**Description:**
The iPhone can be configured to require non-alphanumeric characters in the passcode. By default, the iPhone does not require complex characters in the passcode. It is recommended that a non-alphanumeric character be used in the passcode.

**Rationale:**
Requiring at least one complex character increases the complexity of the passcode an attacker may attempt to brute-force in order to gain access to the device.

**Remediation:**
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left windowpane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right windowpane.
4. Click on the “Minimum number of complex characters” textbox in the lower right windowpane.
5. Enter the number “1”.
6. Install the configuration profile on the device.

**Audit:**
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>minComplexChars</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<real>1</real>`.

References:
1. iPhone And iPod Enterprise Deployment Guide – Fourth Edition
2. NIST Electronic Authentication Guideline –
   [http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-63/SP800-63V1_0_2.pdf](http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-63/SP800-63V1_0_2.pdf)

2.1.5 Set maximum passcode age (Level 2, ScorableView)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to expire the passcode after a pre-determined amount of time. By default, the iPhone does not require a passcode to expire after a pre-determined amount of time. It is recommended that passcode expiration be set.

Rationale:
Requiring a passcode to expire after 42 days reduces the window of opportunity for an attacker who has discovered the passcode to exploit it, and reduces the risk that a user may reuse a passcode from another device or system that could be discovered by an attacker.

Remediation:
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left windowpane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right windowpane.
4. Click on the “Maximum passcode age (in days)” textbox in the lower right windowpane.
5. Enter the number “42”.
6. Install the configuration profile on the device.

Audit:
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>maxPINAgeInDays</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<real>42</real>`.

References:
1. iPhone And iPod Enterprise Deployment Guide – Fourth Edition

2.1.6 Set auto-lock timeout (Level 1, ScorableView)

Description:
The iPhone can be configured to auto-lock after a pre-defined inactivity period. By default, if a passcode is defined, the iPhone will automatically lock after one minute of inactivity. It is recommended that an inactivity timeout be set.

Rationale:
Preventing the user from setting a long inactivity period reduces the risk that the iPhone will be unlocked in the event of a physical security breach.

**Remediation:**
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left window pane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right window pane.
4. Click on the “Auto-lock (in minutes)” drop-down menu in the lower right window pane.
5. Select the number “5”.
6. Install the configuration profile on the device.

Note: The auto-lock timeout can also be set via the iPhone UI as described in section [Settings on the iPhone](http://manuals.info.apple.com/en_US/Enterprise_Deployment_Guide.pdf).

**Audit:**
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>maxInactivity</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<real>5</real>`.

**Reference**

### 2.1.7 Erase data upon excessive passcode failures (Level 1, Scorable)

**Description:**
The iPhone can be configured to erase the user's settings and data as stored on the device after excessive (10, configurable from 1 to 11) password failures. It is recommended that this feature be enabled.

**Rationale:**
Excessive password failures typically indicate that the device is out of physical control of its owner. Upon such an event, erasing data on the phone will ensure the confidentiality of information stored on the device is protected when facing a novice attacker.

**Remediation:**
1. Open ICU.
2. Click on “Configuration Profiles” in the left window pane.
3. Click on the “Passcode” tab in the lower right window pane.
4. Click on the “Maximum number of failed attempts” combo box in the lower right window pane.
5. Select the number “10”.
6. Install the configuration profile on the device.

Note: The password failure limit can also be set via the iPhone UI as described in section [Settings on the iPhone](http://manuals.info.apple.com/en_US/Enterprise_Deployment_Guide.pdf).

**Audit:**
1. Open the configuration profile XML file.
2. Search for `<key>maxFailedAttempts</key>`.
3. Observe if the next line is `<integer>10</integer>`.

Reference
1. iPhone And iPod Enterprise Deployment Guide – Fourth Edition
Appendix A: References


Appendix B: Change History

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Public Release</td>
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