Android Data Privacy

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11/20/13

http://www.geekculture.com/joyoftech/joyarchives/1897.html

DISCLAIMER

- This is my experience. I am not an expert. YMMV.

- There is NOT a lot of information out there on this subject

- I'm sure this is not the only way to accomplish my goals

- This may not be the best way to accomplish my goals

- Alternatives are welcome!

Why I moved from iPhone to Android

- I found myself not using my smartphone for things I should have been

- Keyboard too small

- Keyboard not replaceable

- Harassment of BLU members

- Requires iTunes/Windows/Outlook for syncing

- Syncing and updates failed regularly

The Problem

- Android devices are designed, first and foremost, to be data collection devices for Google
- Under normal usage (if you're an average user not actively trying to prevent it), they get access to all of your contacts, calendar, configuration settings, Facebook contacts, etc
- Even if I were not a bit of a privacy nut, I don't feel I have the right to give out other peoples' contact information
- Not syncing your data is not an options because it can't practically be backed up without rooting

The Solution

- Sync data with your own server(s)

- Use cross-platform programs

- Use programs that can back up or export their data

- Use programs with built-in web servers

- Use programs that are usable on your phone

Limitations

- Decide what information you MUST protect and what data is OK to share if you must. Some data will be harder than others to protect

- Remember there's a time/labor/money cost to most things you'll do in the name of privacy

- What apps you install later can greatly affect your privacy

- The application-level permissions are VERY coarse-grained

- I do not want to steal content, data, media, etc

Solution: OwnCloud

- Web-based calendar with CalDav server

- Web-based contacts with CardDav server

- File Sync with cross-platform clients*

- Music sharing

- Bookmarks, notes, task list, and many other applications

- Requires your own server

- Needs a work-around for an Android bug to maintain account information

Solution: AirDroid

- http://airdroid.com/

- Drag and drop file transfers over wireless

- Send text messages from your computer via phone

- View photos, videos on your phone

- Remote phone locking/locating

- Take pictures using your phone's camera

- Share clipboards

- Make calls

Solution: mSecure Password Manager

- https://msevensoftware.com/msecure_android

- 256 bit Blowfish Encryption

- Auto lock, auto field hiding, Optional self-destruct

- Password Generator to create unguessable passwords.

- Many templates, categories, for ease of use

- Many syncing options, including emailing encrypted DB

- Cross-platform (though not Linux)

- Built-in browser with auto-fill fields

Solution: HanDBase

- http://www.ddhsoftware.com/handbase.html

- Powerful database application with views, filtering, sorting and (soon on Android) forms

- VERY usable right on the smartphone

- Lots of field types, including lookups into other databases

- Web server for upload/download of databases as well as import and export of records as CSV files

- Field-level and database-level encryption

- Cross-platform (though not Linux)

Solution: Wiki

- The most reliable way to to securely sync data is to not sync data

- Information on a wiki is available and editable from everywhere

- I use Foswiki (http://www.foswiki.org), which is a branch of TWiki

    - Real user/group/permission authorization

    - MANY plugins enabling advanced functionality

    - Great support team on IRC and email

    - Pretty good WYSIWYG editor

    - Page metadata allows for "applications"

Solution: Toodledo

- https://www.toodledo.com/

- Web-based task manager

- This does NOT run on my server. This was a compromise

- Many compatible client applications for smartphones, plus mobile website

- Back up and restore, export and import, so you're not locked into it

Solution: AmazonMP3

- http://www.amazonmp3.com

- Amazon sells DRM-free MP3s that will work on any device. If you don't like lossy compression, then find another service.

- When you buy music from them it's available in the cloud, and accessible from their Android and IOS apps.

Solution: Hardware IO

- Creating and editing content on the S4 is much easier for me than on the iPhone, but it's still challenging at times due to selecting, no delete, moving around

- Bluetooth keyboard works great, including arrow keys

- Bluetooth mouse works great

- USB mouse/keyboard work with OTG adapter