

RecDroid Smartphone Security

A method employing crowdsourcing techniques

The technology

With the number of mobile apps developed within the past few years reaching well over 1 million and the average user downloading approximately 26 apps/month, there is a need to produce a security system to accurately measure mobile app legitimacy to ensure safety with each download. Researchers at VCU have produced such a system to recommend safety features for mobile apps by crowdsourcing information from expert and non-expert users. Expertise level of users is continuously evaluated by a unique voting algorithm, which is expected to lead to an increased network of trusted expert reviewers. Users will be able to maintain security control of each third-party downloadable app by choosing settings based on recommendations.

Benefits

- » Allows users to make safer decisions on downloadable applications
- » Grants user access to set permission control limits on applications
- » Utilizes crowdsourcing from expert and non-expert users
- » Recommendations generated by a unique algorithm that ranks expert and non-expert reviews
- » Increases expert framework through voting algorithm

Applications

- » Mobile device applications
- » Smartphone security
- » Expert reviews for applications

Patent status:

Patent pending: U.S. and foreign rights are available.

License status:

This technology is available for licensing to industry for further development and commercialization.

Category:

Software & informatics

VCU Tech #:

15-028

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Investigators:

[Rashidi, B., et al. \(2014\)](#)
[Rashidi, B., et al. \(2015\)](#)
[Rashidi, B. & Fung, C. \(2015\)](#)

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