

# Pwning Apple Wallet ecosystem and its apps

The Hidden Dangers  
Lurking in Your Pocket

Priyank Nigam



Microsoft Red Team



Make the world a safer place

# Bio

- Senior **Red** Teamer @Microsoft
- Bug Bounties/Responsible Disclosures
- Research Interests
  - AppSec (Web/mobile/AI/LLMs)
  - IoT
  - Network Sec
  - MS Azure
- ~~Senior~~ **Blue** Teamer @Home
  - My toddler (+ infant) -> Learn from folks who know no “rules” -> Just like real-world Threat actors! 😊



# Agenda

- Attack Wallet App
- Attack all apps which support adding passes to wallet
  
- Fun!

*DISCLAIMER: All material is for research and educational purposes only. Any actions and or activities related to the material contained within this talk is solely your responsibility. The authors will not be held responsible in the event any criminal charges resulting from the misuse of this information and for breaking of federal and local laws.*

# What is a Wallet Pass?

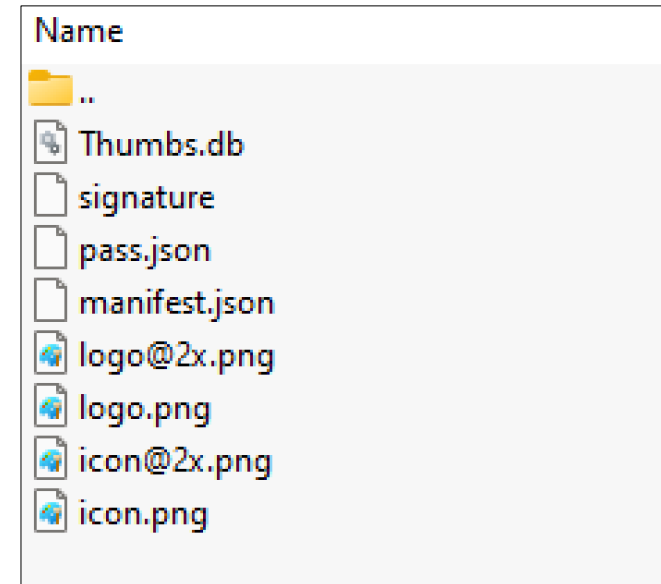
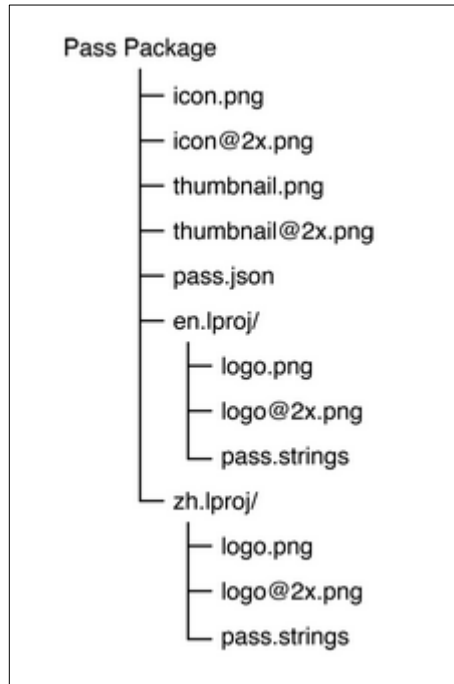


- Passes are a digital representation of information that might otherwise be printed on small pieces of paper or plastic.
- They let users take an action in the physical world.
- Passes can contain images and a barcode, and you can update passes using push notifications.
- The pass library contains the user's passes, and users view and manage their passes using the Wallet app

# What's inside it?

- Passes are created as a package (also referred to as a bundle) containing a `pass.json` file that defines the pass, and image assets such as the logo and the icon.

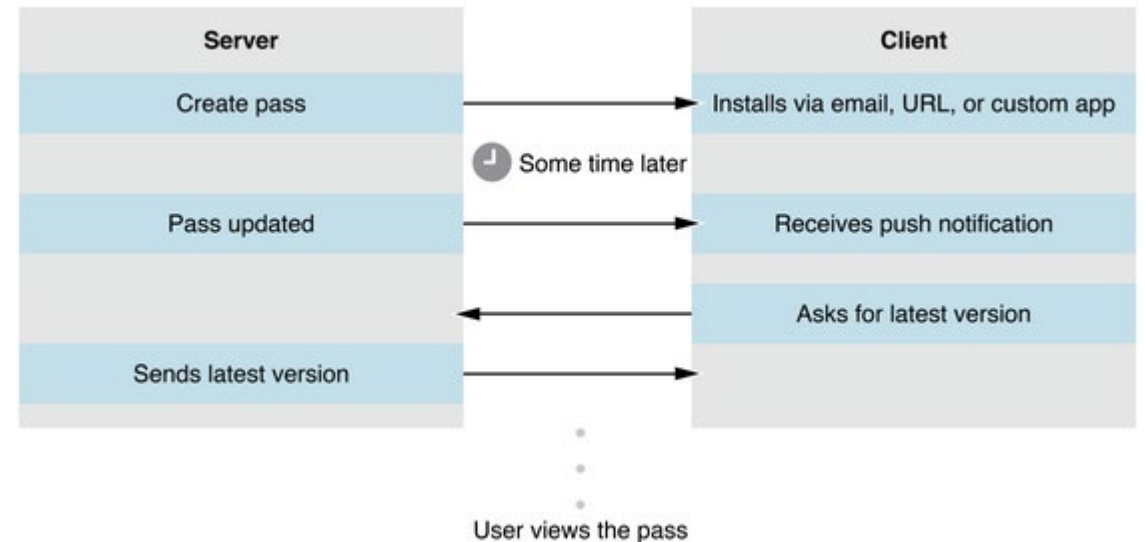
Every pass has a pass type identifier associated with a developer account.



# How does it work?

- User is redirected to an online service which hosts the Pass
- They install it via the default Wallet app on iOS
- They present it whenever they need to utilize a service

- They live happily ever after



# How does it ACTUALLY work?



# If .pkpass is not well formed

```
15:01:45.543992-0400    Pass Viewer    Unable to load object dictionary: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "Failed to read data
15:01:45.548877-0400    Pass Viewer    ERROR: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "The pass cannot be read because it isn't valid

Pass Viewer (PassKitCore) ERROR
Subsystem: com.apple.passkit Category: General Details 2024-05-23 15:01:45.543992-0400

Unable to load object dictionary: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "Failed to read data" UserInfo={NSLocalizedDescription=Failed to read data,
NSUnderlyingError=0x600002c4ff60 {Error Domain=NSCocoaErrorDomain Code=260 "The file "pass.json" couldn't be opened because there is no such file."
UserInfo={NSFilePath=/var/folders/54/mpbb4bhj2872z5bmxp8gry_m0000gn/T/com.apple.Pass-Viewer/com.apple.Passbook/D2821D17-
A048-4C46-8CEA-45A8D9A61362.pkpass/pass.json, NSUnderlyingError=0x600002c4ff90 {Error Domain=NSPOSIXErrorDomain Code=2 "No such file or directory"}}}}
```



# If any file is tampered

```
14:58:37.526627-0400    Pass Viewer    Verifying structure and signature for pass <private>
14:58:37.543262-0400    Pass Viewer    Signature validation: succeeded
14:58:37.545483-0400    Pass Viewer    Invalid data error reading pass pass [REDACTED]/24-NIGAM/P
14:58:37.547241-0400    Pass Viewer    ERROR: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "The pass cannot be read because it isn't valid"

Pass Viewer (PassKitCore) ERROR
Subsystem: com.apple.passkit Category: General Details 2024-05-23 14:58:37.545483-0400

Invalid data error reading pass pass [REDACTED]. For file pass.json, manifest's listed SHA1
hash 82e4efd95b76c8da0c55084d53f10094cdc93478 doesn't match computed hash, 10f852f7c1bb78e0e95f0f21c3aebe757f0bad39
```

# Tamper the manifest?

```
1 {  
2   "icon@2x.png": "3c17a8785b133da6523153bc145c9b3936600954",  
3   "icon.png": "5e317f12ffb0eee3f67a372a4fbe923390ef5058",  
4   "footer@2x.png": "88e037381118984992bc4cdd11c8c20f3e61e2e0",  
5   "pass.json": "10f852f7c1bb78e0e95f0f21c3aebe757f0bad39",  
6   "logo.png": "75e217dca490a648020cf4db818a540388d738c2",  
7   "logo@2x.png": "a752b503a011b5fcb3bf09a3fb6cafbce9d12dd5"  
8 }
```

# If the hash itself is tampered

```
15:05:45.448029-0400    Pass Viewer    Verifying structure and signature for pass <private>
15:05:45.455248-0400    Pass Viewer    CMS verification error: -25293
15:05:45.455359-0400    Pass Viewer    Signature validation: *** FAILED ***
● 15:05:45.455399-0400    Pass Viewer    Invalid data error reading pass pass. [REDACTED]-NIGAM/P
15:05:45.457236-0400    Pass Viewer    ERROR: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "The pass cannot be read because it isn't valid"
```

```
15:45:12.140300-0400    MobileSafari   Verifying structure and signature for pass <private>
15:45:12.144584-0400    MobileSafari   CMS verification error: -25293
15:45:12.144742-0400    MobileSafari   Signature validation: *** FAILED ***
● 15:45:12.144790-0400    MobileSafari   Invalid data error reading pass pass [REDACTED]-NIGAM/P
● 15:45:12.145518-0400    MobileSafari   PassBook Pass download failed: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "(null)"
```

```
ERROR: Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "The pass cannot be read because it isn't valid." UserInfo={NSLocalizedDescription=The pass cannot be read because it isn't valid., NSUnderlyingError=0x600002f520a0 {Error Domain=PKPassKitErrorDomain Code=1 "Manifest signature did not verify successfully" UserInfo={NSLocalizedDescription=Manifest signature did not verify successfully}}}
```

So tampered passes cannot be installed



# But what happens AFTER the install?

## Install Location

```
drwxr-xr-x  5 mobile mobile 160 Jun 19 15:19 hgxbqyagOuCYPZL15B3Uk4keKhg\=.cache/  
drwx----- 10 mobile mobile 320 Jun 19 15:23 g+1NKwFUhh1z-QLoATzxtpnCXM0\=.pkpass/  
drwx-----  9 mobile mobile 288 Jun 19 17:34 hgxbqyagOuCYPZL15B3Uk4keKhg\=.pkpass/
```

# All same files!

```
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile 2870 Jun 19 15:19 icon.png
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile 3294 Jun 19 15:24 pass.json
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile 3313 Jun 19 19:19 signature
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile  278 Jun 19 19:19 manifest.json
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile 2969 Jun 19 19:19 logo@2x.png
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile 5675 Jun 19 19:19 logo.png
-rw----- 1 mobile mobile 1430 Jun 19 19:19 icon@2x.png
```

# Let's edit and reload?

```
{ "barcode": { "format": "PKBarcodeFormatAztec", "messageEncoding": "iso-8859-1", "altText": "", "message": "$1$PSd$mkfyjOIdRNqBHYp4THJ1/rw$nVGsJ/yF/amPyw==" }, "associatedStoreIdentifiers": [578661564], "associatedApps": [ { "idGooglePlay": "io.walletpasses.android" } ], "logoText": "", "foregroundColor": "rgb(255,255,255)", "backgroundColor": "rgb(0,197,53)", "boardingPass": { "headerFields": [ { "label": "GATE", "value": "23", "key": "gate", "changeMessage": "Gate changed to %@" } ], "primaryFields": [ { "label": "SAN FRANCISCO", "value": "SFO", "key": "depart" }, { "label": "NEW JERSEY", "value": "EWR", "key": "arrive" } ], "secondaryFields": [ { "label": "PASSENGER", "value": "Not My Name", "key": "passenger" } ], "auxiliaryFields": [ { "label": "DEPART", "value": "2:25 PM", "key": "boardingTime", "changeMessage": "Boarding time changed to %@" }, { "label": "FLIGHT", "value": "815", "key": "flightNewName", "changeMessage": "Flight number changed to %@" }, { "label": "DESIG.", "value": "C
```

```
{
  "description" : "Boarding pass for October 4, San Francisco to
  London",
  "formatVersion" : 1,
  "passTypeIdIdentifier" : "pass.com.example.boarding-pass",
  "serialNumber" : "123456",
  "boardingPass" : {
    "primaryFields"
    "label" : "San Francisco",
    "value" : "SFO"
    ds" : [
      {
        "key" : "origin",},
      {
        "key" : "destination",
        "label" : "London",
        "value" : "LHR"
      }},
    "secondaryFields" : [{
      "key" : "boarding-gate",
      "label" : "Gate",
      "value" : "F12"
    }],
    "auxiliaryFields" : [{
      "key" : "seat",
      "label" : "Seat",
      "value" : "7A"
    },
    {
      "key" : "passenger-name",
      "label" : "Passenger",
      "value" : "John Appleseed"
    }],
    "transitType" : "PKTransitTypeAir"
  } }
```

Which files/fields  
can be tampered?



# Impact



Loyalty and  
rewards cards



Coupons



Boarding  
Passes



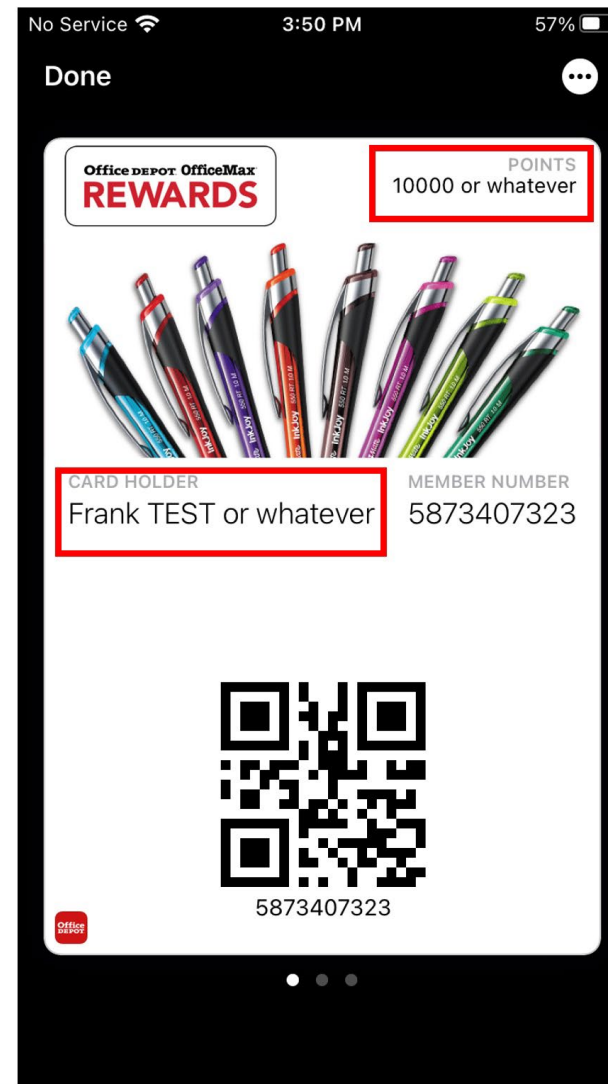
Movie/Event  
Tickets

*\* Apple Pay Not Affected*

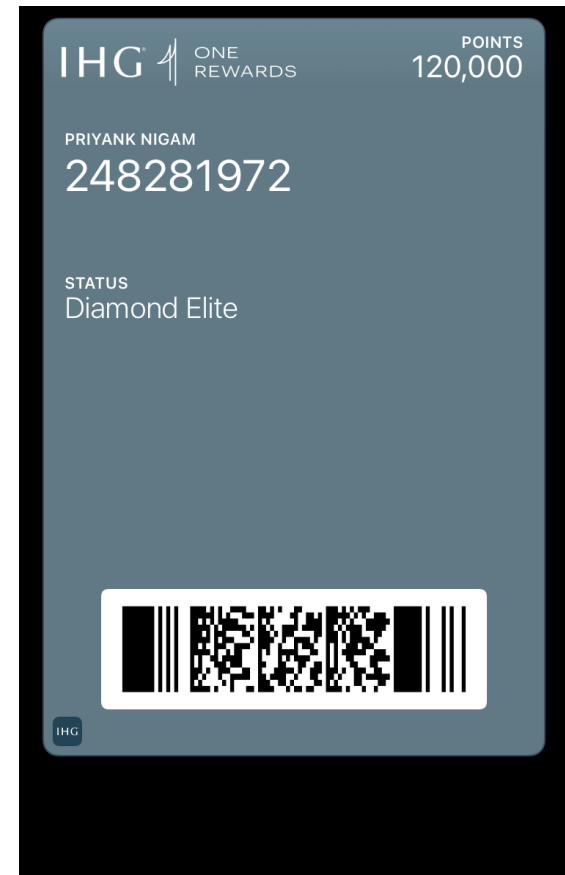
# (Live?) Demo

```
{
  "formatVersion": 1,
  "serialNumber": "c6611f0e-e6b7-4add-9769-6d8028f440be",
  "passTypeIdentifier": "pass.com.lufthansa.mbp",
  "webServiceURL": "https://once.lufthansa.com/apple",
  "authenticationToken": "11e87XXXXX/gatX",
  "description": "Lufthansa Mobile Boarding Pass",
  "teamIdentifier": "25EFLW88R4",
  "organizationName": "Lufthansa",
  "foregroundColor": "#05164D",
  "backgroundColor": "#FFAD00",
  "labelColor": "#05164D",
  "beacons": [],
  "locations": [],
  "barcodes": [
    {
      "format": "PKBarcodeFormatAztec",
      "altText": "Sec. no. 0097",
      "message": "MINIGAM/YOLO",
      "messageEncoding": "ISO-8859-1"
    }
  ],
  "boardingPass": {
    "headerFields": [
      {
        "key": "seat",
        "label": "Seat",
        "value": "40C"
      },
      {
        "key": "group",
        "label": "GRP",
        "value": "5"
      },
      {
        "key": "gate",
        "label": "Gate",
        "value": "6"
      }
    ],
    "primaryFields": [
      {
        "key": "origin",
        "label": "Copenhagen",
        "value": "CPH"
      },
      {
        "key": "destination",
        "label": "Frankfurt",
        "value": "FRA"
      }
    ],
    "secondaryFields": [
      {
        "key": "passenger-name",
        "label": "Passenger",
        "value": "NIGAM, YOLO MR"
      },
      {
        "key": "class",
        "label": "Class",
        "value": "Economy"
      },
      {
        "key": "status",
        "label": "Status",
        "value": "UAP"
      }
    ],
    "auxiliaryFields": [
      {
        "key": "flight",
        "label": "Flight",
        "value": "LH 000"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

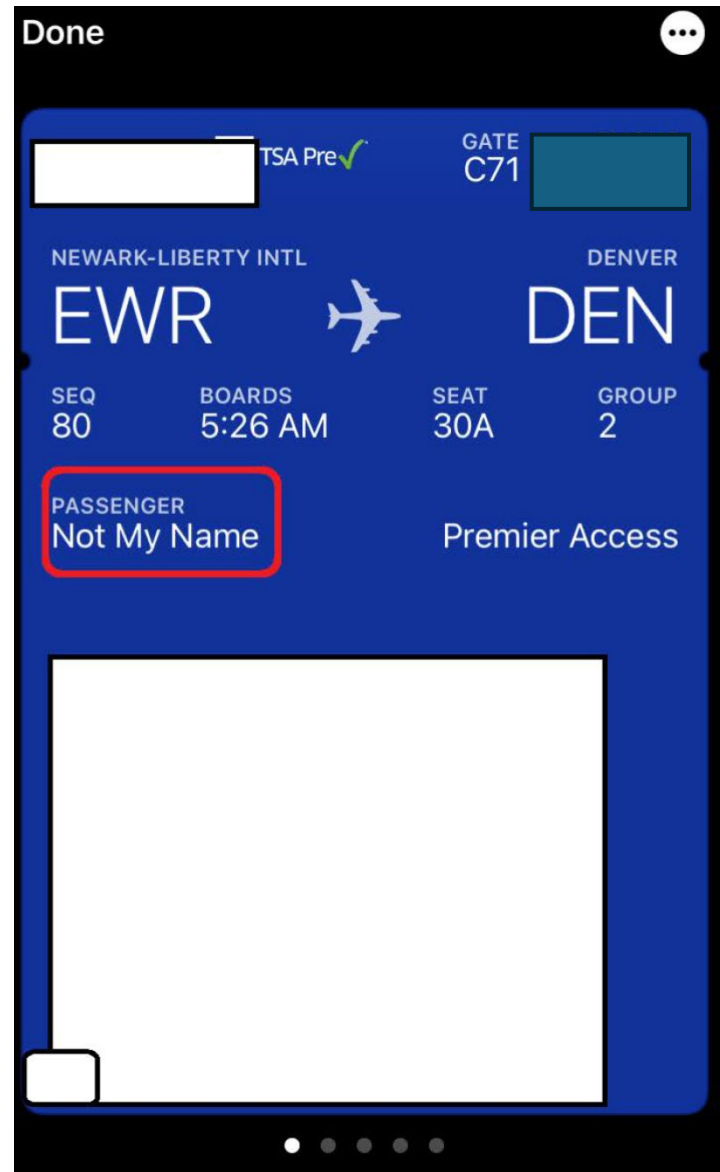
# Impact



# Impact?



Huh?



# Case – Boarding Passes



The Bar Coded Boarding Pass (BCBP) standard covers the data and symbologies for paper or mobile devices to be used as boarding passes. However, it does not cover the distribution methods (how to send the barcodes to the devices) or other aspects of the implementation.

The following fields define a unique BCBP, without storing personal data:

- Date of flight (Julian date)
- Operating carrier code
- Flight number
- Check-in Sequence number
- From city / airport code



# Encoding Algorithms for BCBP



2-D PDF417



Data Matrix ISO16022



Aztec ISO 24778



QR (Quick Response) Code

*\*<https://www.qrcode.com/en/history/>*

# Case – Boarding Passes – QR Code

## BAR CODED BOARDING PASS (BCBP) Structure



M1NIGAM/PRIYANK      EXXXXXX      LHRFRALH      1651 220Y030A0080      15D>018 00

W32XXBXX                      2AXXXXXXXXXX56270 UA LH LOYATYNO



^XX0MEQCIAM48hDwD+p1r4nVY16DesRgBE37R/a0Xsk1x9puQ/eAiBXtXAQjuoJcyrPGtaEg  
FMErrm3ynbuiA7SSRaFWLInrA==



# Impact depends on the server aka the “reader”

At the gate



At the Security Check



# (Typical) Apple Response

*“If you are able to demonstrate this issue on a non-jailbrok3n device, we'd be interested in investigating that scenario”*



# Me:

Let me reiterate the threat model - The end user is incentivized to jailbreak their device and exploit this.



# Apple Product S3curity:

*“We Apologize for our last messages and thanks for your reply.*

*Are you able to perform transactions or use any of your modified passes with live services? If so, which passes were successful and did the transaction use the modified valu3s?”*

# Me:

The `signature` file is already present within the `.pkpass` directory, so all that is needed is validate against it, and bail out on failure.

Apple can only verify the pass at the time it is loaded, since it does do the validation on pass installation (time-of-check-to-time-of-use); otherwise, the pass is essentially equivalent to a screenshot or a picture containing the same information, such as a boarding pass or a store card. Obviously, one is more credible than the other.

# Ok..?



We reproduced the issue and are investigating.

Our engineers are investigating the root cause of the issue you reported. If we need more information from you, we'll add a comment and send you an email.





# Apple Product S3curity:

*“We've investigated your report further and have forwarded it to the engineering team as a potential future enhancement.”*

Later...



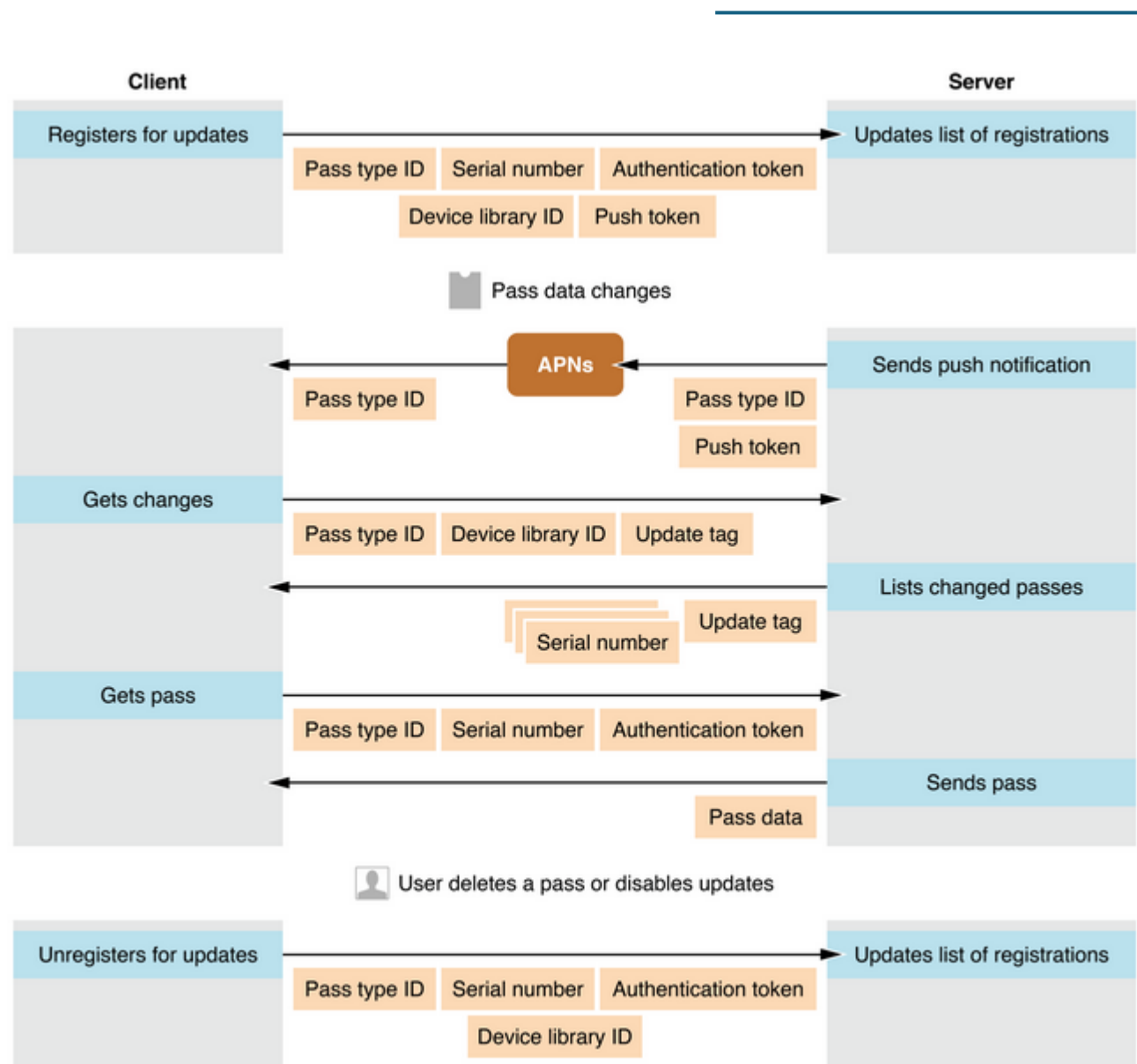
**We're unable to identify a security issue in your report.**

We reviewed your report and were unable to identify a security issue. If you have new information that you didn't include in your report, providing it now may allow us to review your report further.

# Moving on..

- Apple being apple, has most likely pushed a fix, and will not credit the researcher.
- But WCGW even if this is fixed?

# PKPass Updates



# Authentication Token?

- Static for a vendor 😞
- The only secret is the serial#

- UUIDs -> Secure
  - Numeric identifier -> Not so much
- 
- Attack the update API?

# Forge the fields

- Can't access other users' PKPass but can forge your own?
- Mobile API to “generate” a PKPass? Obviously signed by the vendor

# Whatever fields we want..

```
cmptaceid : spj-inaac3wzmmmsujxjazw ,
"barcodeMessage": {
  "data": "1006211129321",
  "altText": "ID:1006211129321"
},
"headerFields": [
],
"secondaryFields": [
  {
    "key": "sField1",
    "label": "Member Name",
    "value": "Frank Tiramisu",
    "align": "PKTextAlignmentLeft"
  },
  {
    "key": "sField2",
    "label": "Member ID",
    "value": "1006211129322",
    "align": "PKTextAlignmentLeft"
  }
],
"backFields": [
  {
    "key": "bField1",
    "label": "EXPRESS (Not Really)",
    "value": "1 Express Drive Columbus, OH 43230",
    "align": "PKTextAlignmentLeft"
  },
  {
    "key": "bField2",
    "label": "Online Customer Service",
    "value": "1-888-EXP-1980",
    "align": "PKTextAlignmentLeft"
  }
],
```

## Response

```
Pretty Raw Hex Render JSON Decoder
1 HTTP/2 200 OK
2 Content-Type: application/json
3 Content-Length: 1939
4 Date: Mon, 30 Oct 2023 05:32:09 GMT
5 X-Amzn-Requestid: 39402fda-6cd7-4873-ab7d-67396c7655d6
6 X-Amz-Apigw-Id: Nmbp6G5GoAMEM5w=
7 X-Amzn-Trace-Id: Root=1-653f3fd8-3d35d1327567e82010f50del
8 X-Cache: Miss from cloudfront
9 Via: 1.1 5a588475f9a075d76c33229107634f8e.cloudfront.net
  (CloudFront)
10 X-Amz-Cf-Pop: JFK50-P6
11 X-Amz-Cf-Id:
  1I7rtsLZx-UulkImTQvSIw2vtqEF1_7J05S6ffx9p08cocDgtvT3XA==
12
13 {
  "_links": {
    "self": {
      "href":
        "https://pass.3c.com/pass/dflx[REDACTED]"
    }
  },
  "representation": {
    "formatVersion": 1,
    "issuedDate": "2023-10-30T01:32:08.972-0400",
    "id": "dflxm[REDACTED]",
    "serialNumber": "elja73d7nff[REDACTED]",
    "authenticationToken": "[REDACTED]"
  }
},
```

# Download & Save

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser's developer tools, specifically the Network tab. It displays an HTTP request and its corresponding response.

**Request:**

- Method: GET
- URL: /pass/du2hncf3[REDACTED]
- Host: pass.[REDACTED]
- User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhone OS 14\_4\_2 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/14.0.3 Mobile/15E148 Safari/604.1
- Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,\*/\*;q=0.8
- Accept-Language: en-us
- Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
- Connection: keep-alive

**Response:**

- Status: 200 OK
- Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store, max-age=0, must-revalidate
- Content-Disposition: attachment; filename=du2hnc[REDACTED].pkpass
- Content-Type: application/vnd.apple.pkpass; charset=UTF-8
- Date: Fri, 14 Jun 2024 03:41:05 GMT
- Expires: 0
- Pragma: no-cache
- Server: Apache-Coyote/1.1
- X-Application-Context: application:10010
- X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
- X-Frame-Options: DENY
- X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block
- Connection: keep-alive
- Content-Length: 427081

The response body contains a PKPass file, which is a binary format used for Apple Wallet passes. The content is partially obscured by a redacted area.



# Some airline..

```
POST /api/checkin HTTP/2.0
Host: app.airline.com
Content-type: application/json
```

...omitted for brevity...

```
{
  "confirmation_no": "XXXXXX",
  "priority_boarding": true,

  "message" : "M1/NAME/LASTNAME
  ^XX0MEQCIAMM48hDwD

  "Seat" : "29A",
  "boardingGroup" "1",
  "status" : "Platinum",
  "isFastLane" : "true",

}
```



```
HTTP/2 200 OK
Content-Disposition: attachment;
filename=xnfc_pass.pkpass
Content-Type:
application/vnd.apple.pkpass; charset=UTF-8
```

```
PK<^WsignatureAVS
```

# Can we “steal” passes?



The image shows a network traffic capture in a browser's developer tools. The left pane displays the request details, and the right pane displays the response details.

**Request**

```
1 POST /users/69396208/apple/token HTTP/1.1
2 Host: services-mob. [REDACTED]
3 Cookie: ak_bmsc=
[REDACTED]
4 Content-Type: application/json
5 Accept: */*
6 Billingid: 69396208
7 Auth_token: [REDACTED]
8 Appversion: 4.83.2
9 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
10 Accept-Language: en-us
11 Api_token: bcf0be75-0de6-4af0-be05-13d7470a85f2
12 Deviceid: A292CD8C-EB01-439D-9098-46563642F1E7
13 User-Agent: [REDACTED]
14 Connection: keep-alive
15 Content-Length: 32
16
17 {
  "loyaltyNumber": "624017204840"
}
```

**Response**

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
3 Content-Length: 32
4 Vary: Accept-Encoding
5 Date: Fri, 14 Jun 2024 03:19:33 GMT
6 Connection: keep-alive
7 X-Req: 23 [REDACTED]
8
9 {
  "passToken": "-wvAc6cdW [REDACTED]"
}
```



# But Hold on..

All you need is a developer certificate to build your own!

To sign and compress the pass, use the official `signpass` tool to sign the pass package

```
$/signpass -p yolo.pass
```

# Some Services will sign it for you (free/paid)

Store cards, event tickets, coupons and membership cards on your customer's smartphone

TEST FOR FREE

NAME Shawna Rossi

My Points 7,673

Redeemable Rewards \$23.00

CUSTOMERS PRICING SUPPORT BLOG LOGIN FREE TRIAL

## MOBILE REACH

Harness the potential of Apple and Google Wallet

PassKit EXPLORE SOLUTIONS CUSTOMERS PRICING SUPPORT BLOG LOGIN

FREE TRIAL

Design your Apple Wallet and Google Wallet Passes online

No coding required

TRY FOR FREE NOW

# Conclusion

<b>EXPECTATION...</b>	<b>STRONG AUTHENTICATION DATA INTEGRITY USER NON-REPUDIATION SIGNED ISSUER IDENTITY</b>
<b>REALITY...</b>	<b>IT'S JUST A SCREENSHOT</b>

# Wallet Apps Cheat Sheet

Issue	Solution
Business Use Case	<b>Seriously, what problem are you trying to solve?</b>
PKPass Generation	AppSec Best Practices 101 – Server-to-Server authentication
PKPass Delivery	Strong User Authentication/Authorization
PKPass Update	Strong identifiers/Dynamic authentication
PKPass Storage	Signed <code>message</code> field -> Don't rely on Apple Limit end user PII, since any reader can read this info
PKPass Fields	Sensitive Information -> Accessible by end-user!
PKPass Validation	Online Verification, Challenge/Response protocol Verify the Signing Authority

# Questions/Feedback?



@Rev\_Octo



Slides will be published later:  
<https://github.com/priyankn/Talks-Publications>

Let's connect!

<https://linkedin.com/in/priyanknigam> Or scan below:

