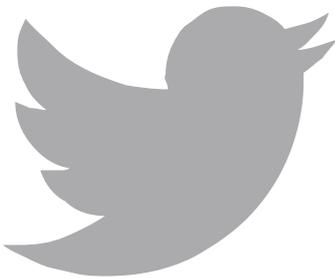


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Apple patches three zero-day exploits after activist is hacked

Image credit:

Cyber crime group NSO targeted human rights defender Ahmed Mansoor in the United Arab Emirates, Citizen Lab reports.



Jessica Conditt, @JessConditt
August 25, 2016

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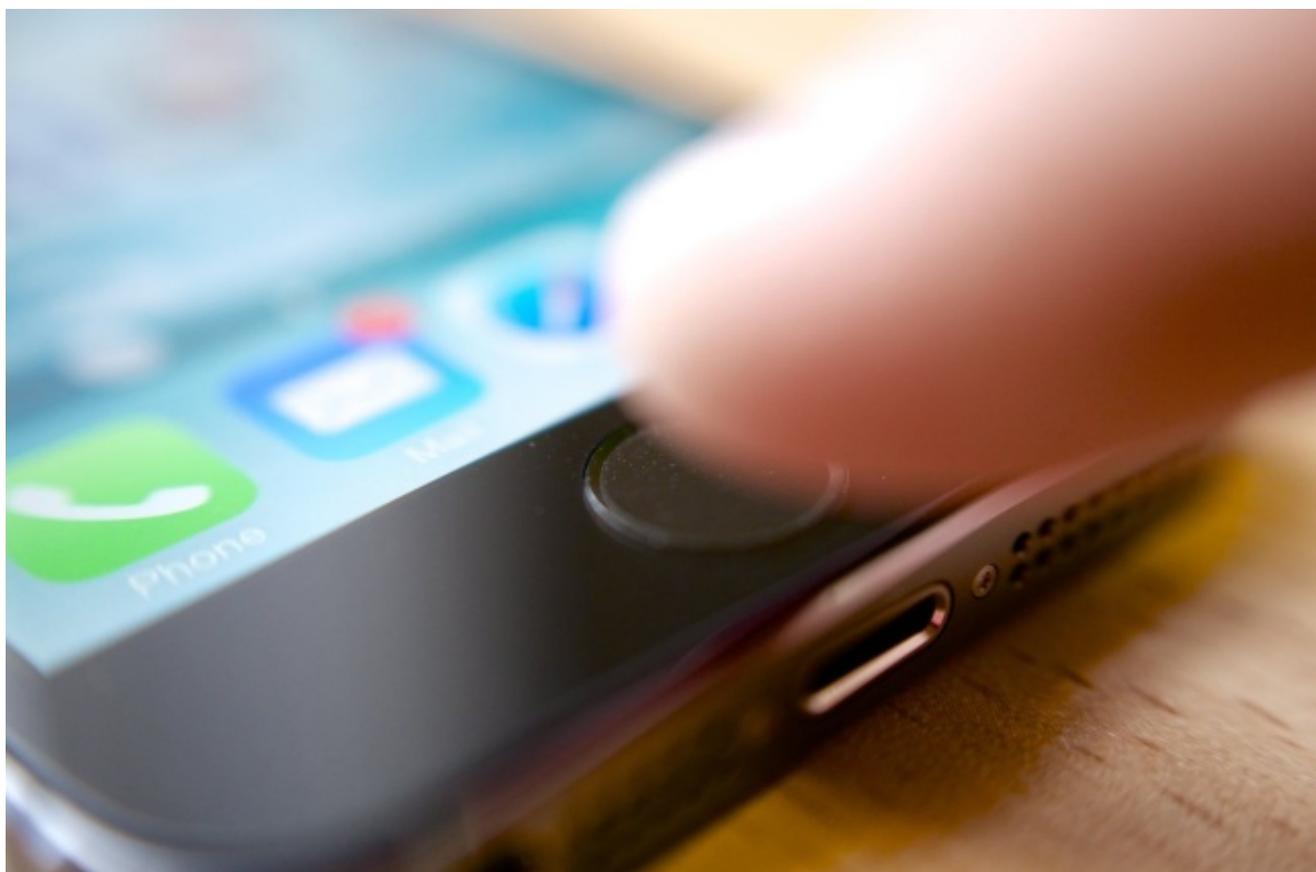
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Apple has [rolled out a patch](#) for three previously unknown zero-day exploits that were used to target the iPhone 6 of Ahmed Mansoor, an award-winning human rights activist based in the United Arab Emirates. Security company [Lookout](#) and internet watchdog group [Citizen Lab](#) investigated the attack on Mansoor's iPhone and found it to be the product of NSO Group, a "cyber war" organization based in Israel that's responsible for distributing a powerful, government-exclusive spyware product called Pegasus.

The attempted hack took advantage of three zero-day exploits that would have allowed the attackers to jailbreak Mansoor's iPhone and install spyware to track his movements, record his WhatsApp and Viber calls, log his messages and access his microphone and camera. Mansoor did not click on the link sent to his phone that would have enabled these capabilities, instead alerting Citizen Lab researchers.

Given the high cost of iPhone zero-days and the use of a government-specific spyware product, Citizen Lab believes the UAE is behind the attack. The UAE has [previously targeted](#) Mansoor.

"We are not aware of any previous instance of an iPhone remote jailbreak used in the

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Once Citizen Lab discovered the zero-days, it contacted Apple and says the company responded promptly. Apple released a software update today, [iOS 9.3.5](#), that addresses the three flaws.

In this article: activism, apple, exploit, gear, hack, iOS, mobile, politics, security, UAE, UnitedArabEmirates, update, zeroday

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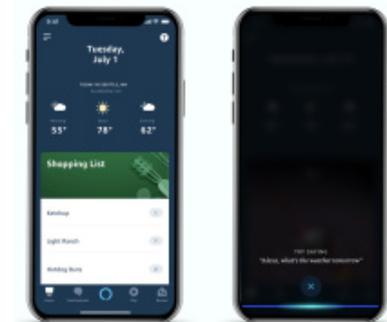
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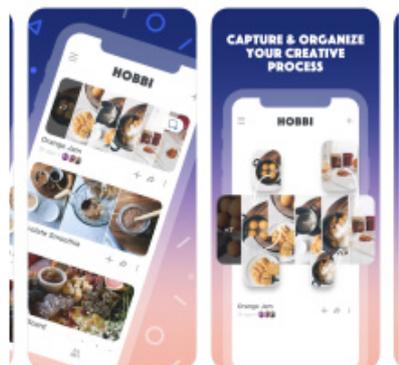
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