# SHAREit app bug can help hack your data

**The bugs can be exploited to run malicious code on smartphones using SHAREit app**

A bug in Android file sharing app SHAREit which has been downloaded over 1 billion times in Google Play Store contains several unpatched vulnerabilities that can be abused by hackers to leak sensitive data of its users.

The bugs can be exploited to run malicious code on smartphones where the SHAREit app is installed, according to a new report by cyber security firm Trend Micro.

Now banned in India, SHAREit was one of the most downloaded applications in 2019, which means millions of Indian users may also be at data leaking risk. "We discovered several vulnerabilities in the application named SHAREit. The vulnerabilities can be abused to leak a user's sensitive data and execute arbitrary code with SHAREit permissions by using a malicious code or app," said Echo Duan, a security researcher with Trend Micro.
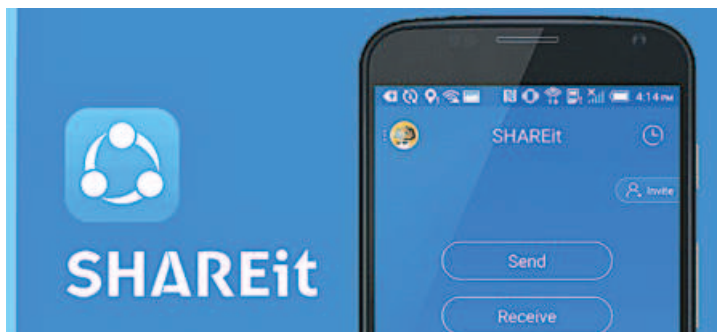


We discovered several vulnerabilities in the application named SHAREit. The vulnerabilities can be abused to leak a user's sensitive data and execute arbitrary code with SHAREit permissions by using a malicious code or app

"They can also potentially lead to Remote Code Execution (RCE). In the past, vulnerabilities that can be used to download and steal files from users' devices have also been associated with the app," he said in a statement late on Monday. While the app allows the transfer and download of various file types, such as Android Package (APK), the vulnerabilities related to these features are most likely unintended flaws.

The security researchers have reported these vulnerabilities to the vendor, who has not responded yet.

"We decided to disclose our research three months after reporting this since many users might be affected by this attack because the attacker can steal sensitive data and do anything with the apps' permission. It is also not easily detectable," Trend Micro elaborated.

SHAREit was part of the first lot of 59 Chinese apps that were temporarily banned in India in June last year. In January, the Union Government decided to permanently ban those 59 Chinese mobile applications.

"Security should be a top consideration for app developers, enterprises, and users alike. For safe mobile app use, we recommend regularly updating and patching mobile operating systems and the app themselves," Trend Micro said.

## Nothing Tech acquires Essential

NOTHING Technologies, the newly-launched venture of OnePlus co-founder Carl Pei, has acquired smartphone brand Essential that shut shop last year, the media reported on Tuesday.

According to a report in 9to5Google, the Essential brand which was launched by Android co-founder Andy Rubin but did not succeed and the company was closed last year, is now officially owned by Pei's Nothing Technologies.

Recent filings at the UK Intellectual Property Office show that Rubin has signed over ownership of his one-time smartphone brand Essential to Pei's Nothing Technologies Limited. This process was completed as of January 6, 2021, with the application being made as early as November 11, 2020, the report said.

It means that all existing trademarks, logo, and the entire Essential brand are now the intellectual property of Pei's Alphabet-invested startup. Nothing aims to expand its operations in Europe with headquarters in London and release its first smart device, likely to be a hearable one, in the first half of this year.

Last week, the consumer technology company announced it has raised $15 million in a Series A round led by GV (formerly Google Ventures), a venture capital investment arm of Alphabet which is the parent company of Google.

London-based Nothing has so far raised over $22 million. In December, the company raised $7 million in seed financing in December that included tech leaders and investors such as Tony Fadell, Casey Neistat, Kevin Lin, Steve Huffman and Josh Buckley.



---

# TATA COMM JOINS GOOGLE CLOUD, TO TRANSFORM COS

DIGITAL ecosystem enabler Tata Communications on Tuesday announced a partnership with Google Cloud to drive cloud adoption and transform businesses in the country.

The partnership will enable organisations to deploy and access Google Cloud services through Tata Communications' IZO Managed Cloud, expanding their managed Public Cloud services portfolio.

As organisations migrate to Google Cloud, they need a partner that will support them across their entire IT ecosystem and deliver a unified cloud management platform that offers greater transparency, control and security of their data and applications, said Rajesh Awasthi, Global Head of Cloud and Managed Hosting Services at Tata



Communications. As a Google Cloud India Partner, Tata Communications will support organisations with services across infrastructure modernisation, data centre transformation, application modernisation, smart analytics, multi-cloud deployments and more.

Through our partnership with Tata Communications, we will be able to provide our customers with a unified, end-to-end experience that will remove the complexity in cloud management and help them transform at speed and scale, said

Amitabh Jacob, Head of Partners and Alliances at Google Cloud India.

Tata Communications IZO Managed Cloud provides a comprehensive view of IT resource utilisation (across on-premise, private, Google Cloud), thus enabling greater control for the customer, resulting in cost efficiencies and improved productivity.

According to a recent IDC survey, more than 60 per cent of Indian organisations plan to leverage cloud platforms for digital innovation, as they re-strategise their IT spending plans.

The current demands on enterprises to manage and optimise their cloud solutions has never been more important, especially in the wake of Covid-19 and our increasing reliance on cloud infrastructure, Awasthi said.

---



## Google fined $1.3mn over misleading ratings for hotels

A French watchdog has slapped a 1.1 million euros ($1.3 million) fine on Google over misleading star ratings for hotels on its search engine in France. Google has agreed to pay the fine, according to the Directorate General for Competition, Consumption and the Repression of Fraud (DGCCRF).

"An investigation by the DGCCRF, initiated in 2019, demonstrated the misleading nature of the ranking of hotels by Google, in particular on its search engine," the watchdog said in a statement late on Monday.

The tech giant applies its own algorithmic system of ratings for hotels applied via Search and Google Maps. The DGCCRF probe revealed that the tech giant had replaced the standard classification system of the public tourist board with a star rating system powered by its own criteria.

Google applied the new system to more than 7,500 establishments, reports TechCrunch. A Google spokesperson said that they have now settled with the DGCCRF and "made the necessary changes to only reflect the official French star rating for hotels on Google Maps and Search".

According to the French watchdog, the practice was particularly damaging for consumers who were "misled about the level of services what they could expect when booking accommodation".

"The companies Google Ireland Ltd and Google France corrected their practices and, after the agreement of the public prosecutor of Paris, agreed to pay a fine of 1.1 million euros as part of a criminal transaction," the DGCCRF informed.

---

## Apple watch OS update to fix charging glitches

APPLE has released watchOS 7.3.1 update with a big fix for those using an Apple Watch Series 5 or Apple Watch SE related to Power Reserve.

"WatchOS 7.3.1 addresses an issue that prevented some Apple Watch Series 5 and Apple Watch SE devices from charging after entering Power Reserve," the company said in an update on Monday. The watchOS 7.3.1 update can be downloaded for free through the dedicated Apple Watch app on the iPhone via the Software Update option.

To install the new software, the Apple Watch needs to have at least 50 per cent bat-



tery, it needs to be placed on a charger, and it needs to be in the range of the iPhone.

Apple's previous update, watchOS 7.3, was released on January 26. The updates include the Unity watch face, Time to Walk for Apple Fitness + subscribers, an update to the EKG app and irregular heart rhythm notifications in select countries, and a fix for a Control Center issue. Recently, Apple noted that some Apple Watch Series 5 and SE models running watchOS 7.2 or 7.3 have been stubbornly refusing to charge after being put in Power Reserve mode. Users affected by this issue can now contact Apple Support and organise to mail their Watch to an Apple Repair Centre for a free fix.

---

## Social media app Parler returns online

CONSERVATIVE social media app Parler that was forced to go offline in the wake of encouraging violence during the Capitol chaos in the US, is now back online. The company said on Monday that it is now accessible for users with existing accounts and will accept new signups starting next week.

Parler, that fired its CEO and co-founder John Matze, has announced a new interim CEO, Mark Meckler, who previously co-founded the right-wing group Tea Party Patriots. The company said



that its platform has now been relaunched with a "robust, sustainable, independent technology." Amazon Web Services' (AWS) in January decided to shut down Parler. Amazon had said it was "troubled" by repeated policy violations by Parler and it "cannot provide services to a customer that is unable to effectively identify and remove content that encourages or incites violence against others." Google and Apple removed Parler from their respective app stores after they found that Parler did not take stronger action to remove posts that sought "to incite ongoing violence" in the US.