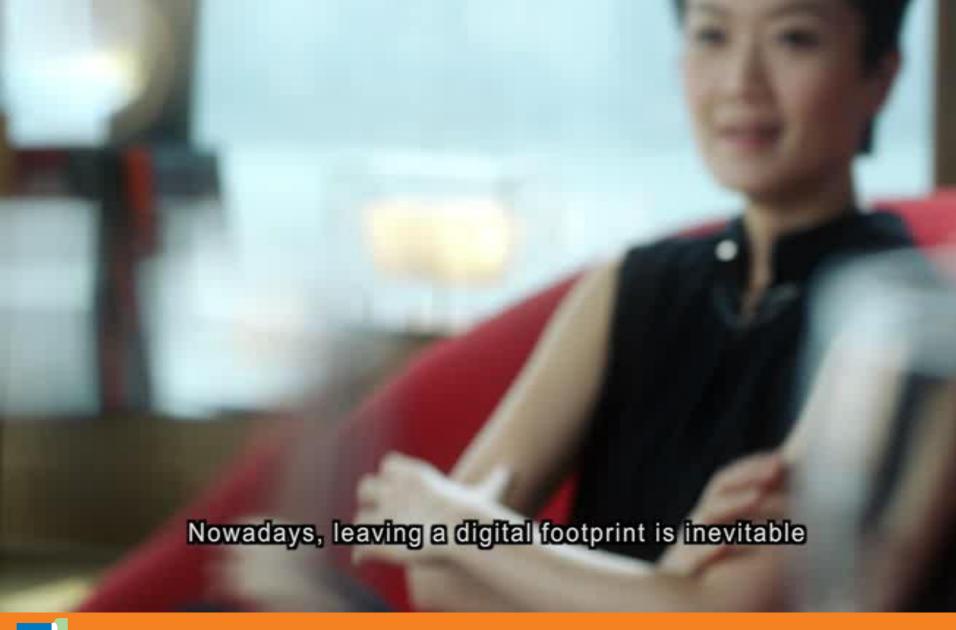
## Electronics and Telecommunications Training Board Seminar Vocational Training Council 31 March 2016

# Smartphone Privacy from a Regulator's Perspective

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Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data







### Number of Active SIM Cards and Smartphones in Use

- 7 millions population
- 14.9 millions active SIM cards in use
- 5 millions smartphones in use

	Public Mobile Customers				
Month	Post-paid SIM	Pre-paid SIM	Total <sup>1</sup>	Activated Pre-paid SIM <sup>2</sup>	2.5G + 3G + 4G Customers <sup>3,4</sup>
11/2015	7,965,302	8,619,576	16,584,878	6,241,233	14,187,136
10/2015	7,956,171	8,585,959	16,542,130	6,258,780	14,115,459
9/2015	7,940,477	8,689,966	16,630,443	6,180,365	14,223,157
8/2015	7,927,852	8,792,736	16,720,588	6,157,613	14,270,075 8
7/2015	7,893,835	8,801,842	16,695,677	6,198,946	14,183,881 <sup>8</sup>
6/2015	7,875,469	8,824,485	16,699,954	6,200,411	14,027,892 <sup>8</sup>
5/2015	7,863,759	8,729,561	16,593,320	6,209,401	12,875,708 8
4/2015	7,856,429	9,009,456	16,865,885	6,365,807	13,069,462 <sup>8</sup>
3/2015	7,854,627	9,104,828 8	16,959,455 <sup>8</sup>	6,459,188 <sup>8</sup>	13,166,436 <sup>8</sup>
2/2015	7,841,065	9,413,754 8	17,254,819 <sup>8</sup>	6,648,817 <sup>8</sup>	13,449,428 <sup>8</sup>
1/2015	7,856,955	9,601,768 8	17,458,723 <sup>8</sup>	6,883,017 8	13,598,092 <sup>8</sup>
12/2014	7,851,393	9,520,606	17,371,999	6,996,924	12,765,744 8



### Low Privacy Awareness by the Public

 the public was not sensitised to the privacy issues in the use of smartphones and apps



#### **Media Statements**

Date: 21 November 2012

#### A Survey Revealed Low Privacy Awareness among Smartphone Users Privacy Commissioner Advises Smartphone Users to Get Smarter about Privacy

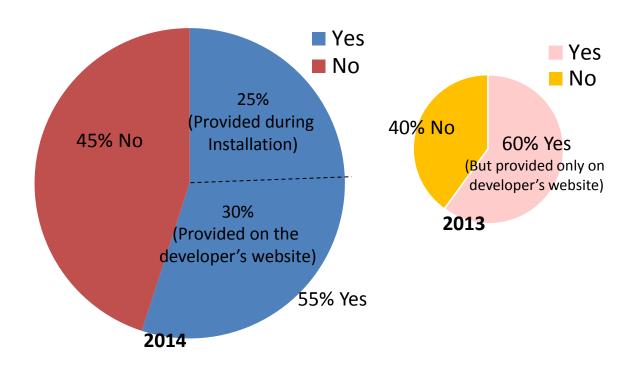
- 1.The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("the Commissioner") Mr. Allan Chiang released today (21 November 2012) the findings of a survey<sup>1</sup> on the privacy awareness among smartphone users in Hong Kong.
- •Over 90% of users have installed apps but only 27% of them read and consider the apps privacy policy before installing the apps;
- •57% of apps users do not know what personal data on their phones are accessed by the apps installed;
- •51% of social apps users do not know that their contacts and social relationship data would be uploaded to a central server;
- •Only 53% of users take steps to protect their phones and personal data by means such as screen lock and anti-virus software.



### **Sweep Exercise Revealed Low Awareness by Developers**

#### Number of apps provide privacy policy statement

 nearly half of Hong Kong apps surveyed in 2013 and 2014 did not provide privacy policy





### **Transparency of HK Apps Inadequate**

- 72% did not explain whether, what and why data is accessed (compared to 59% worldwide)
- 85% suspected to over-collect personal data (compared to 31% worldwide)



#### **Media Statements**

Date: 15 December 2014

#### Privacy Commissioner Finds Transparency of Privacy Policies Wanting in Local Mobile Applications

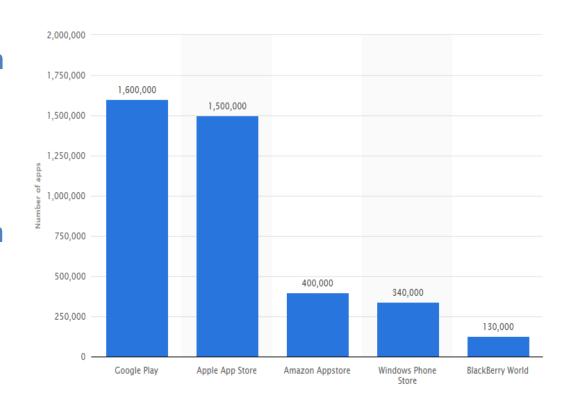
(15 December 2014) The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD") conducted a survey¹ of 60 popular mobile applications ("apps") developed by Hong Kong entities and found that their transparency in terms of privacy policy was clearly inadequate and there was no noticeable improvement compared with the results of a similar survey conducted in 2013.

	2014 Survey (Hong Kong)(total = 60 apps)	2014 Sweep (Global)(total = 1,211)
Unclear or missing information as regards whether data would be accessed, and if yes, what data and why	43(72%)	715 (59%)
Permission of data access being sought went beyond user's expectation based on app's functionality <sup>5</sup>	5 (85%) total = 60 apps)	281(31%)(total =



### **Number of Apps Available in Marketplaces**

- number of apps in marketplaces are escalating
- impact can be large even when a small proportion of them have privacy issues



### **Enforcement Actions Taken on Apps**

enforcement
 actions were
 taken in
 2014 on two
 apps due to
 excessive
 collection of
 personal
 data and
 security flaw

#### **Media Statements**

Date: 15 December 2014

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Excessive Collection of Personal Data through Mobile Application by Worldwide Package Travel Service Operating with No Privacy Policy

(15 December 2014) The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD")

#### published ar Media Statements

Date: 15 December 2014



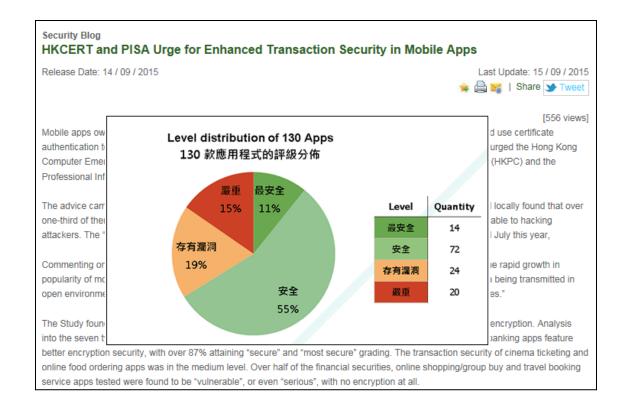
Personal Data Leaked through Inadvertent Use of Mobile Application "TravelBud" by HKA Holidays

(15 December 2014) The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data ("PCPD") published an investigation report today concerning the leakage of personal data of the customers of an airline services company, HKA Holidays Limited ("HKA Holidays") through "TravelBud", a mobile application ("app") running on iOS platform. This stems from the failure of the app maintenance contractor, BBDTEK Company ("BBDTek"), in responding to the new privacy protection feature of iOS7 which blocked the reading by apps of MAC address¹ as a device identifier. HKA Holidays as the data user has contravened Data Protection Principle ("DPP") 4(1) in Schedule 1 to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (the "Ordinance").



### **HK Apps were Found to Have Inadequate Encryption**

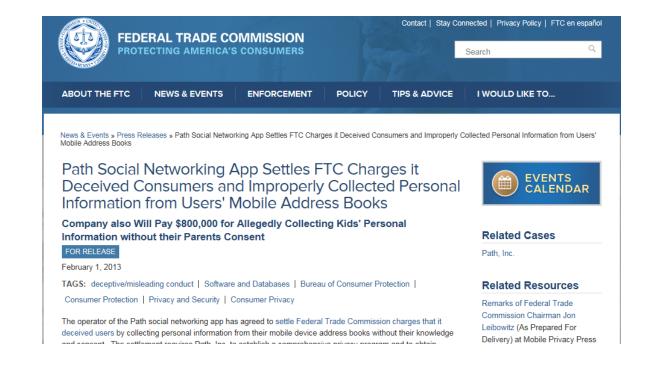
 one-third of apps were found to have encryption flaw – either not done or easily crackable





### FTC Fined 'Path' for Deception

the app PATH
 was fined by
 FTC for failing
 to inform
 customers
 about data
 collection

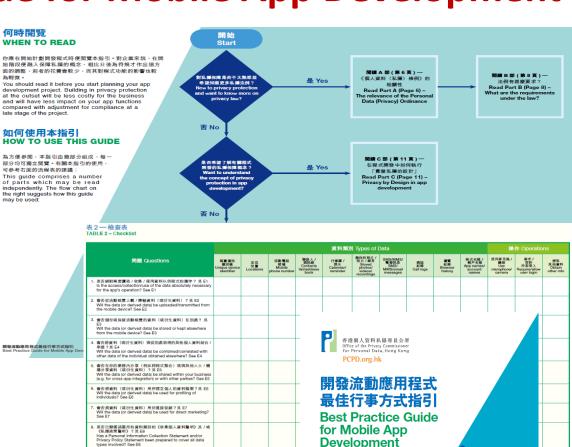


### **Best Practice Guide for Mobile App Development**

 你是否已考慮程式用家在私隱上的朔望?見 E9 Have you taken into account app users' privac expectations? See E9

mar(知知上無防明期間) ? 見 E10
Do you use third-party tools (software library, ad networks etc.) in your app (or are you the provider of these tools)? Sec

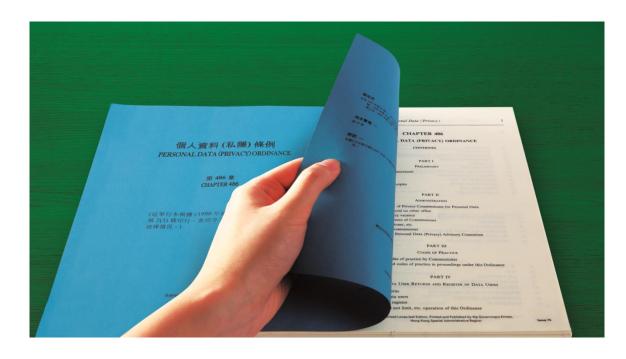
a joint effect
 with the
 industry to
 publish
 practice guide
 on privacy friendly app
 development





### **Penalty for Contravention**

contravention of enforcement notice is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to HK\$50,000 and imprisonment for up to two years



### **Privacy as a Competitive Advantage**

 privacy and personal data protection can be an asset and a business edge





