

Screen After Previous Screens: Spatial-Temporal Recreation of Android App Displays from Memory Images

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A Crime To Investigate...

Before the investigation began,
the suspect was interacting
with their apps...

Without access to the suspect's
password or breaking Telegram's
fully encrypted storage!

Memory Forensics ...or Mission Impossible?

```
Memory dump
2FF0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3000 AF 21 F4 31 CD 1F 31 21 EB 31 CD 1F 31 CD 89 46
3010 21 00 50 11 F0 03 CD 8F 46 21 00 58 11 FF 07 36
3020 70 23 1B 7B B2 20 F8 CD 98 46 CD B9 46 CD 3E 00
3030 CD 1B 00 FE 53 CA 3F 30 FE 31 CA 00 00 18 F1 06
3040 BE AF 21 2C 31 77 23 10 FC 3E 18 32 FE 31 21 50
3050 D0 11 98 03 CD 8F 46 AF 32 26 31 32 4F 31 21 EB
3060 31 CD 1F 31 32 F7 31 32 F8 31 3E 03 32 25 31
3070 CB 52 22 27 31 3E 08 32 F9 31 CD 8D 47 0E 18
3080 32 DE 31 CD 52 41 CD 95 33 3E 01 32 2B 31 3E 08
3090 32 D9 31 AF 32 DB 48 32 DC 48 32 DF 48 32 DE 48
30A0 32 DD 48 21 00 00 22 4A 31 22 4D 31 21 00 01 22
30B0 54 31 11 56 31 CD A8 35 11 6F 31 CD A8 35 11 88
30C0 31 CD A8 35 11 A1 31 CD A8 35 11 BA 31 CD A8 35
30D0 11 00 00 AF CD 33 00 CD 3E 00 21 56 31 11 17 00
30E0 19 36 20 11 19 00 19 36 30 19 36 50 19 36 60 19
30F0 36 20 CD BF 48 C3 01 32 06 13 21 63 D0 11 27 00
3100 3E 76 77 19 10 FC 06 13 21 64 D0 11 29 00 3E 77
3110 77 19 10 FC 06 28 0E 3C 21 28 D0 CD 56 3D C9 77
3120 23 77 23 77 C9 03 00 BA D2 00 00 01 00 01 01 03
3130 00 8B 50 02 0D 00 1F 3C 0A 04 3E 00 00 20 3C 31
3140 3C 8B 53 20 00 00 00 17 54 00 0E 00 01 00 00 03
3150 FF D0 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3160 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 20 00 00
3170 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

New Message

- New Group
- New Secret Chat
- New Channel

CONTACTS

- CD Christopher Dan last seen Mar 14 at 09:44
- G George Fleming last seen Mar 11 at 06:06
- M Madison last seen yesterday at 04:25
- S Steve Thomas last seen yesterday at 04:34

Steve Thomas last seen yesterday at 04:34

March 11

Hi. Are we going to the movie 05:55 ✓✓

Yes! Just not iron man! Too much radiation last time... 05:56

Batman vs superman then 05:56 ✓✓

I don't like alien movies 05:57

Let's go to Finding Nemo 05:58

Did you see that? 05:58

That's old man, do you mean finding dory 05:59 ✓✓

If you did then you didn't say anything 05:59

No, I didn't 05:59 ✓✓

That explains why you didn't say 05:59

Lets meet tonight

Telegram

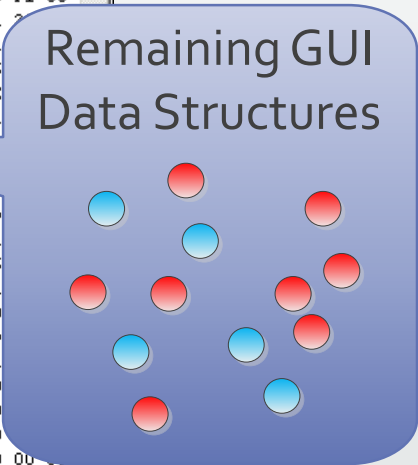
- Amazon trip ✓✓ Fri You: Brazil!
- Madison Fri ...oh the suspense!!
- Buddies ✓✓ Fri You: It was a great place, maybe n...
- George Fleming ✓✓ Fri Xavier?
- Steve Thomas Fri That explains why you didn't say
- CD Christopher Dan ✓✓ Fri Did you see that?

Time: →

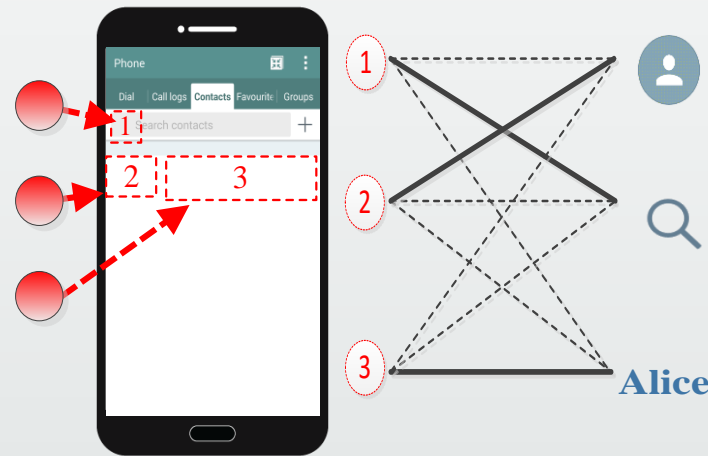
State of the Art: GUITAR - GUI Tree ARchaeology

[CCS '15, Best Paper]

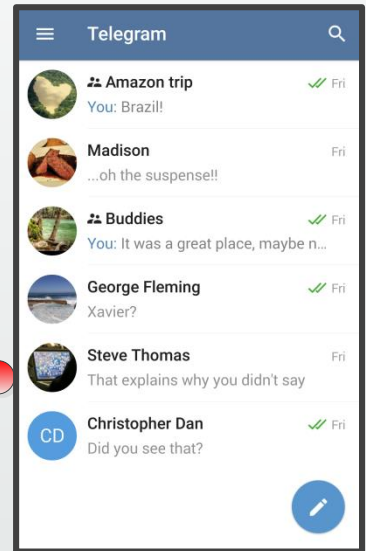
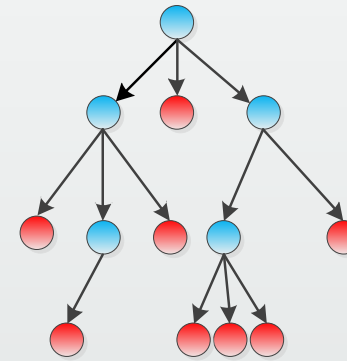
```
Memory dump
2FF0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3000 AF 21 F4 31 CD 1F 31 21 EB 31 CD 1F 31 CD 89 46
3010 21 00 50 11 F0 03 CD 8F 46 21 00 58 11 FF 07 36
3020 70 23 1B 7B B2 20 F8 CD 98 46 CD B9 46 CD 3E 00
3030 CD 1B 00 FE 53 CA 3F 30 FE 31 CA 00 00 18 F1 06
3040 BE AF 21 2C 31 77 23 10 FC 3E 18 32 FE 31
3050 D0 11 98 03 CD 8F 46 AF 32 26 31 32 4F 31
3060 31 CD 1F 31 32 F7 31 32 F8 31 3E 03 32 25
3070 CB 52 22 27 31 3E 08 32 F9 31 CD 8D 47 0E
3080 32 DE 31 CD 52 41 CD 95 33 3E 01 32 2B 31
3090 32 D9 31 AF 32 DB 48 32
30A0 32 DD 48 21 00 00 22 4A 31 22 4D
30B0 54 31 11 56 31 CD A8 35 11 6F 31 CD A8
30C0 31 CD A8 35 11 A1 31 CD A8 35 11 BA 31 CD
30D0 11 00 00 AF CD 33 00 CD 3E 00 21 56 31 11
30E0 19 36 20 11 19 00 19 36 30 19 36 50 19 36
30F0 36 20 CD BF 48 C3 01 32 06 13 21 63 D0 11
3100 3E 76 77 19 10 FC 06 13 21 64 D0 11 29 00
3110 77 19 10 FC 06 28 0E 3C 21 28 D0 CD 56 3D
3120 23 77 23 77 C9 03 00 BA D2 00 00 01 00 01
3130 00 8B 50 02 0D 00 1F 3C 0A 04 3E 00 00 20
3140 3C 8B 53 20 00 00 00 17 54 00 0E 00 01 00
3150 FF D0 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3160 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3170 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```



Drawing-Content-Based Bipartite Graph Matching

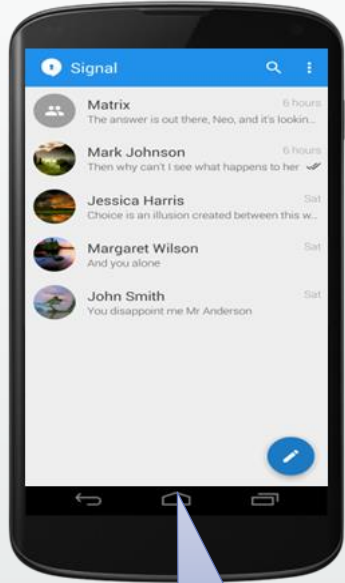


GUI Tree

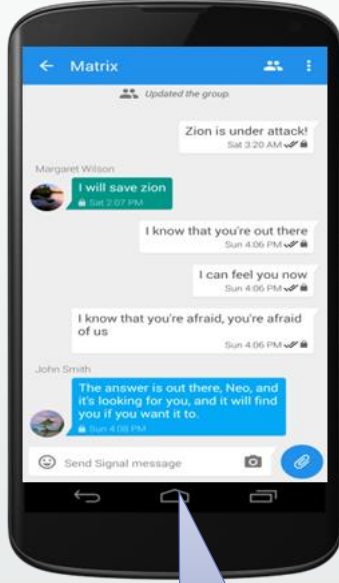


The "Screen 0" Limitation of GUITAR

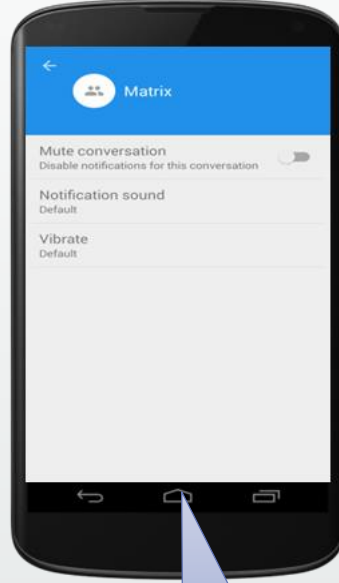
Screen -5



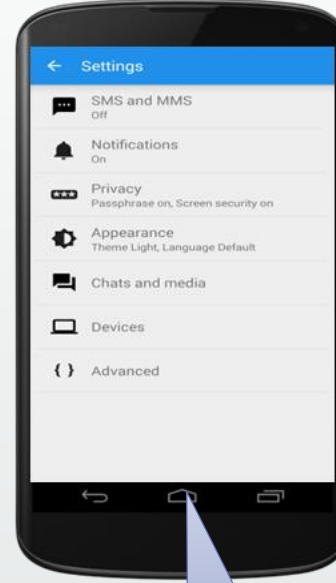
Screen -4



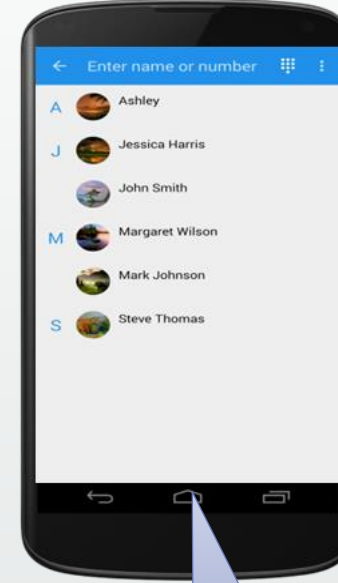
Screen -3



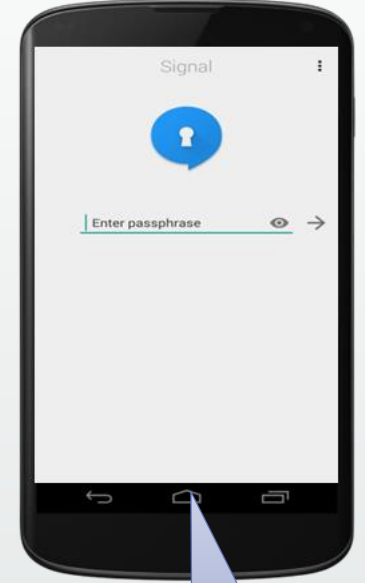
Screen -2



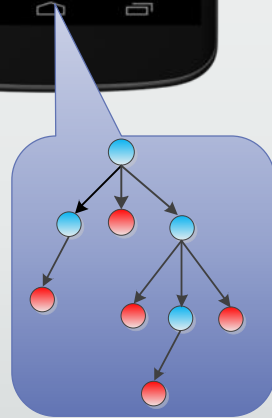
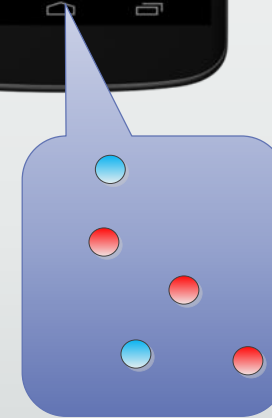
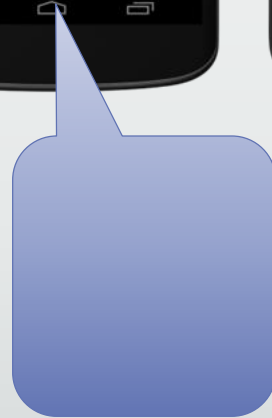
Screen -1



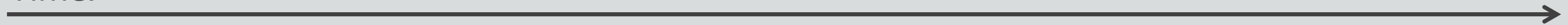
Screen 0



In Memory
GUI Data:

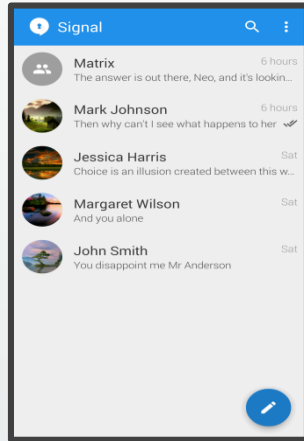


Time:

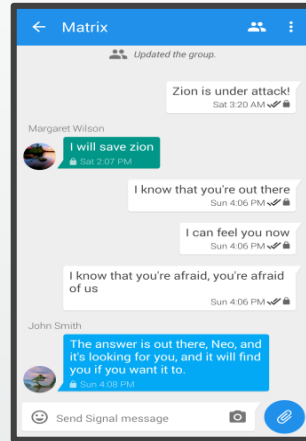


Are The Old Screens Really Gone?

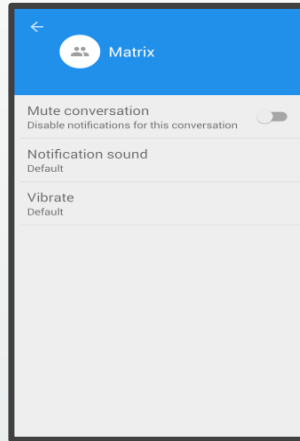
Screen -5



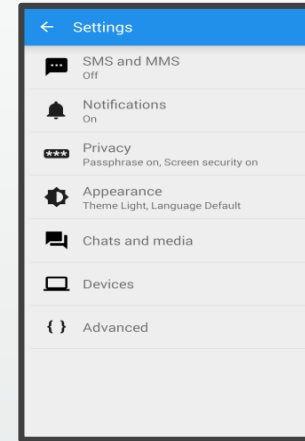
Screen -4



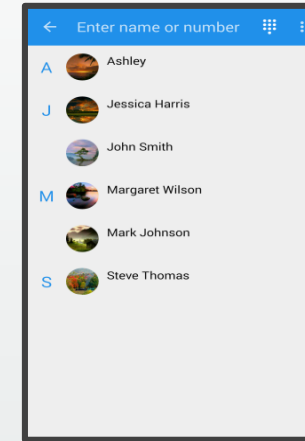
Screen -3



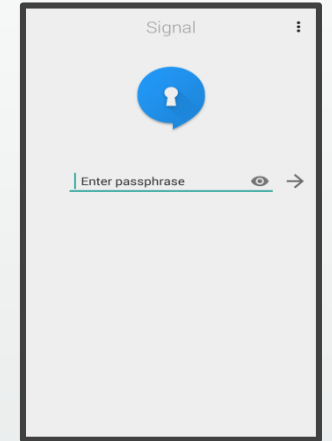
Screen -2



Screen -1



Screen 0



App screen changes are **highly dynamic**

How can every screen be **fully rebuilt** so fast?

Some **data must remain** to bring the screens back

Are The Old Screens Really Gone? ... Yes and No

Screen -5

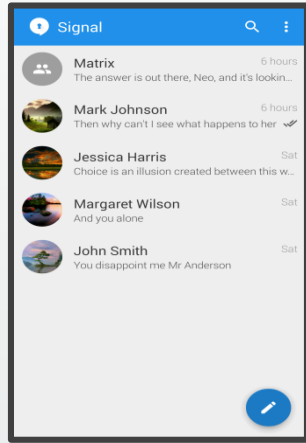
Screen -4

Screen -3

Screen -2

Screen -1

Screen 0

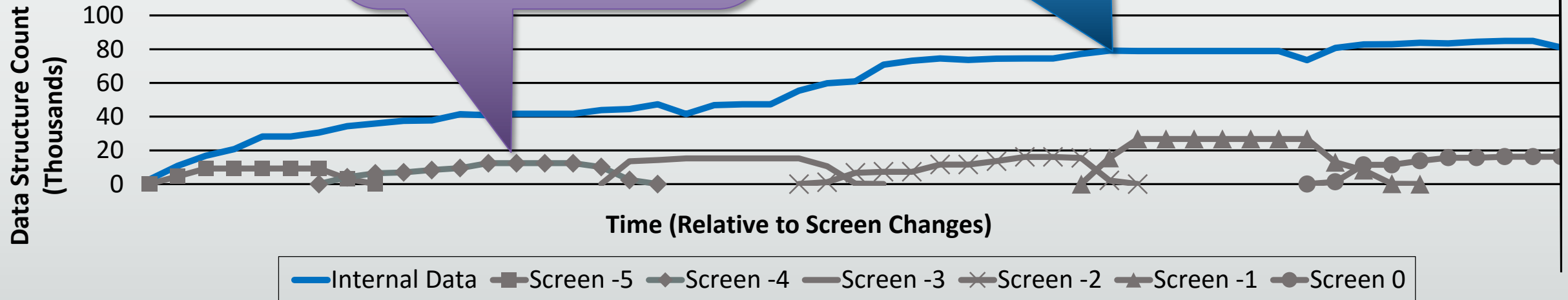


GUI Screen Data

GUITAR's Target:
GUI Tree,
Draw Ops, ...

App Internal Data

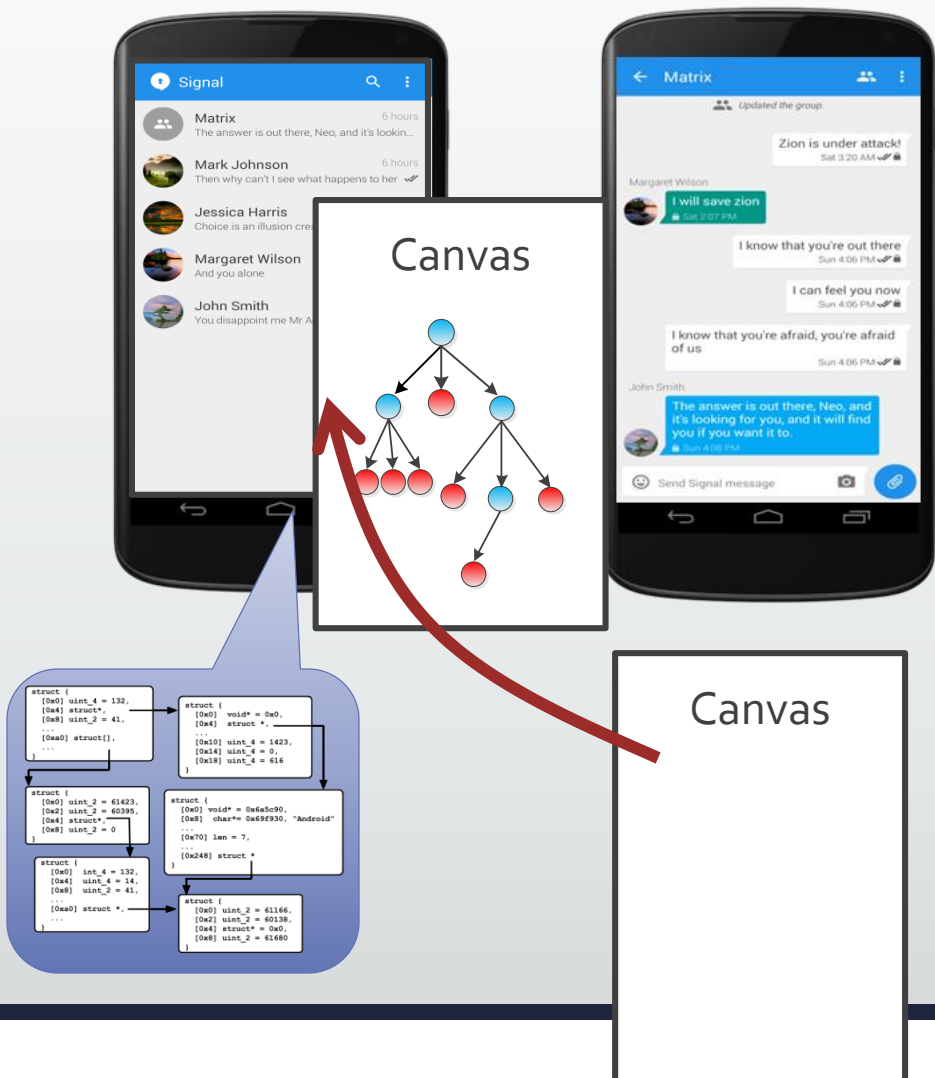
Not for GUI drawing:
Raw Chat Strings,
Account Balance, ...



Android Asks The App To Draw A Screen

Android sends a **Redraw Command**

- 1) A **Canvas** is sent for the app to fill
 - Apps register *draw* routines with Android
- 2) The app **builds GUI structures** which “package” the internal data
 - Destroying the previous screen!
- 3) The filled canvas is **rendered** on the device's screen



Idea: Ask The Memory Image To Draw A Screen

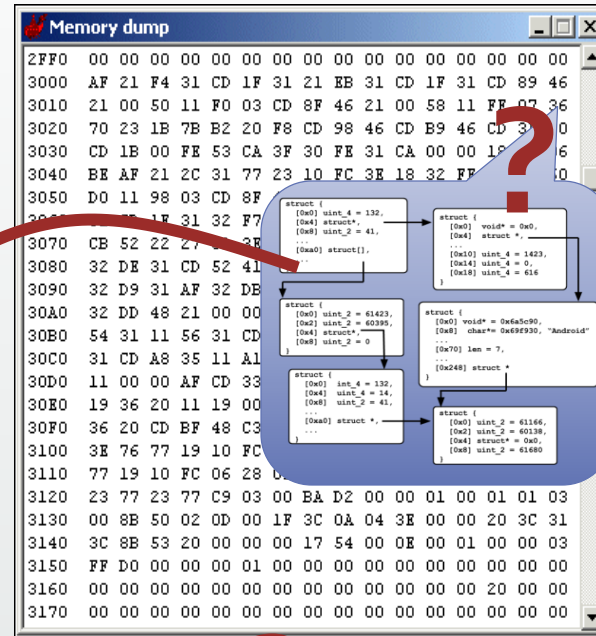
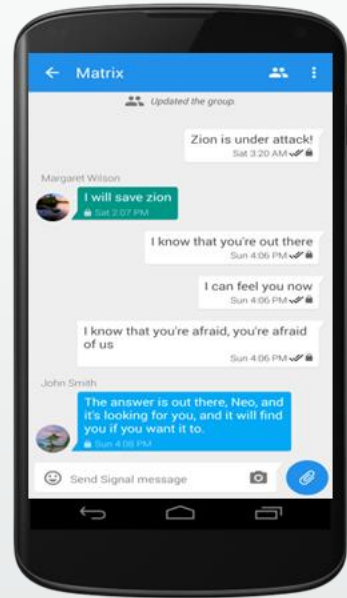
Challenges:

1) How to inject the Redraw Command?

- Screen-specific *draw* routines

3) Memory = Static Data

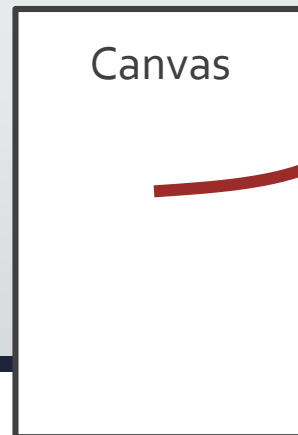
- Execution context is gone



2) Need to understand the app internal data?

Previous Approaches:

- Data structure signature scanning
- App-specific reverse engineering

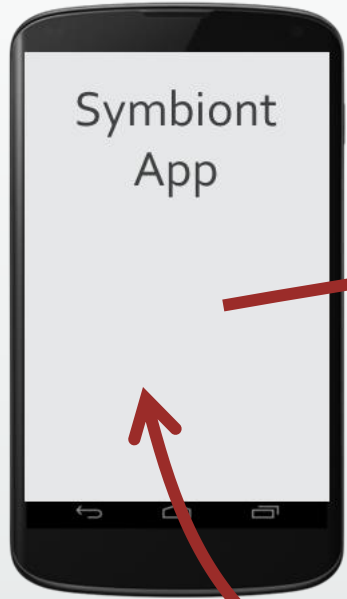


Redraw Command

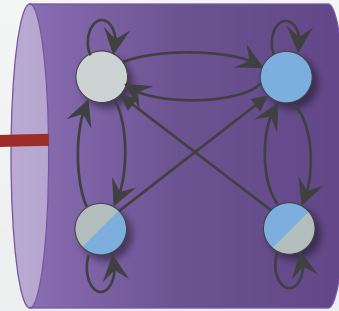
Our Goal: "Plug And Play"
App-Agnostic Recovery



RetroScope: Spatial-Temporal Display Recreation



Interleaved Re-Execution Engine



Memory dump

```

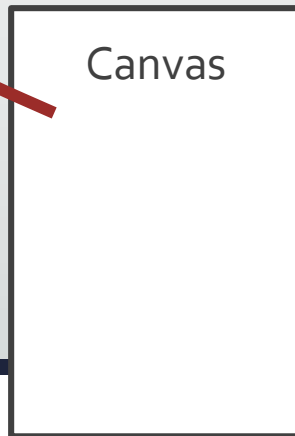
2FF0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3000 AF 21 F4 31 CD 1F 31 21 EB 31 CD 1F 31 CD 89 46
3010 21 00 50 11 F0 03 CD 8F 46 21 00 58 11 FF 07 36
3020 70 23 1B 7B B2 20 F8 CD 98 46 CD B9 46 CD 37 0
3030 CD 1B 00 FE 53 CA 3F 30 FE 31 CA 00 00 18 00 6
3040 BE AF 21 2C 31 77 23 10 FC 3E 18 32 FF 00 00
3050 D0 11 98 03 CD 8F 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3060 31 CD 1F 31 32 F7 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3070 CB 52 22 27 31 3E 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3080 32 DE 31 CD 52 41 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3090 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
30A0 32 DD 48 21 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
30B0 54 31 11 56 31 C0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
30C0 31 CD A8 35 11 A1 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
30D0 11 00 00 AF CD 33 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
30E0 19 36 20 11 19 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
30F0 36 20 CD BF 48 C3 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3100 3E 76 77 19 10 FC 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3110 77 19 10 FC 06 28 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3120 23 77 23 77 C9 03 00 BA D2 00 00 01 00 01 01 03
3130 00 8B 50 02 0D 00 1F 3C 0A 04 3E 00 00 20 3C 31
3140 3C 8B 53 20 00 00 00 17 54 00 0E 00 01 00 00 03
3150 FF D0 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3160 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3170 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
  
```

Structural analysis of memory dump:

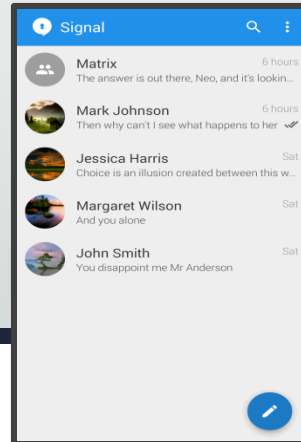
- struct { [0x0] uint_4 = 132, [0x4] struct*, [0x8] uint_2 = 41, [0xa0] struct* }
- struct { [0x0] void* = 0x0, [0x4] struct*, [0x10] uint_4 = 1423, [0x14] uint_4 = 0, [0x18] uint_4 = 616 }
- struct { [0x0] int_2 = 61423, [0x2] uint_2 = 60395, [0x4] struct*, [0x8] uint_2 = 0 }
- struct { [0x0] int_4 = 132, [0x4] uint_4 = 14, [0x8] uint_2 = 41, [0xa0] struct* }
- struct { [0x0] void* = 0x6a5c90, [0x4] char* = 0x699330, "Android", [0x70] len = 7, [0x248] struct* }
- struct { [0x0] int_2 = 61166, [0x2] uint_2 = 60138, [0x4] struct* = 0x0, [0x8] uint_2 = 61880 }

Performs app-agnostic screen reconstruction from an app's internal data within a memory image

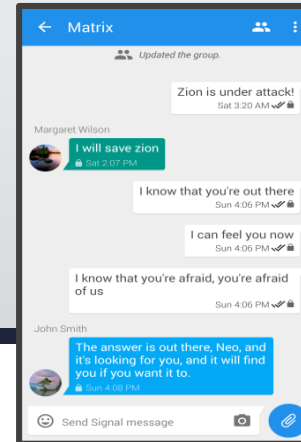
Redraw Command



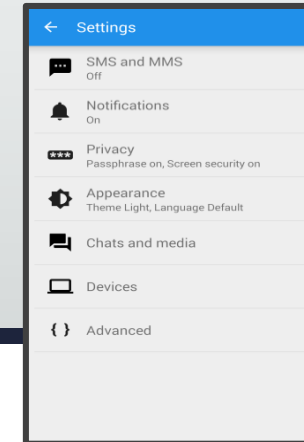
Screen -3



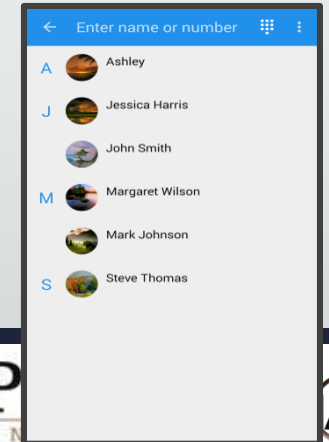
Screen -2



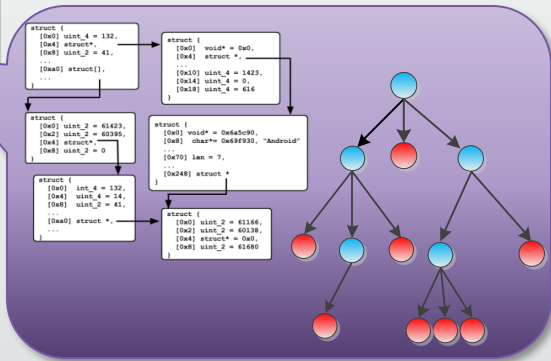
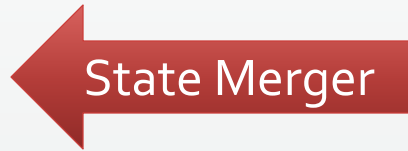
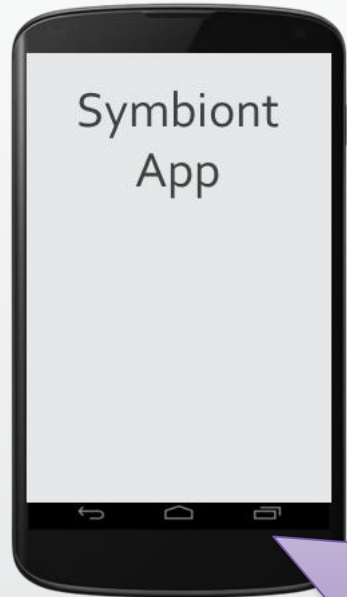
Screen -1



Screen 0



Symbiont App: Two Apps In One



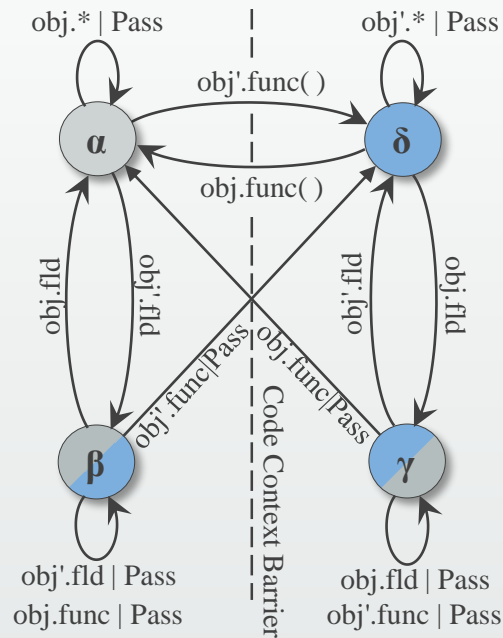
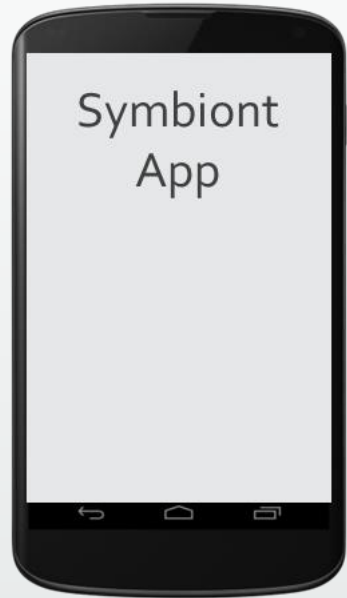
```
Memory dump
2FF0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3000 AF 21 F4 31 CD 1F 31 21 EB 31 CD 1F 31 CD 89 46
3010 21 00 50 11 F0 03 CD 8F 46 21 00 58 11 FF 07 36
3020 70 23 1B 7B E2 20 F8 CD 98 46 CD B9 46 CD 3E 00
3030 CD 1B 00 FE 53 CA 3F 30 FE 31 CA 00 00 18 F1 06
3040 BE AF 21 2C 31 77 23 10 FC 3E 18 32 FE 31 21 50
3050 D0 11 98 03 CD 8F 46 AF 32 26 31 32 4F 31 21 EB
3060 31 CD 1F 31 32 F7 31 32 F8 31 3E 03 32 25 31 21
3070 CB 52 22 27 31 3E 08 32 F9 31 CD 8D 47 0E 16 AF
3080 32 DE 31 CD 52 41 CD 95 33 3E 01 32 2B 31 3E 08
3090 32 D9 31 AF 32 DB 48 32 DC 48 32 DF 48 32 DE 48
30A0 32 DD 48 21 00 00 22 4A 31 22 4D 31 21 00 01 22
30B0 54 31 11 56 31 CD A8 35 11 6F 31 CD A8 35 11 88
30C0 31 CD A8 35 11 A1 31 CD A8 35 11 BA 31 CD A8 35
30D0 11 00 00 AF CD 33 00 CD 3E 00 21 56 31 11 17 00
30E0 19 36 20 11 19 00 19 36 30 19 36 50 19 36 60 19
30F0 36 20 CD BF 48 C3 01 32 06 13 21 63 D0 11 27 00
3100 3E 76 77 19 10 FC 06 13 21 64 D0 11 29 00 3E 77
3110 77 19 10 FC 06 28 0E 3C 21 28 D0 CD 56 3D C9 77
3120 23 77 23 77 C9 03 00 BA D2 00 00 01 00 01 01 03
3130 00 8B 50 02 02 00 1F 3C 0A 04 3E 00 00 20 3C 31
3140 3C 8B 53 20 00 00 17 54 00 0E 00 01 00 00 03
3150 FF D0 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3160 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 20 00 00
3170 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

Step 1) Start the **Symbiont App** to host the memory image

Step 2) **Move** the memory image state into the Symbiont App

- Map memory segments
- Merge Java runtimes
- Register *draw* functions

Interleaved Re-Execution Engine



Memory dump	
2FF0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3000	AF 21 F4 31 CD 1F 31 21 EB 31 CD 1F 31 CD 89 46
3010	21 00 50 11 F0 03 CD 8F 46 21 00 58 11 FF 07 36
3020	70 23 1B 7B B2 20 F8 CD 98 46 CD B9 46 CD 3E 00
3030	CD 1B 00 FE 53 CA 3F 30 FE 31 CA 00 00 18 F1 06
3040	BE AF 21 2C 31 77 23 10 FC 3E 18 32 FE 31 21 50
3050	D0 11 98 03 CD 8F 46 AF 32 26 31 32 4F 31 21 EB
3060	31 CD 1F 31 32 F7 31 32 F8 31 3E 03 32 25 31 21
3070	CB 52 22 27 31 3E 08 32 F9 31 CD 8D 47 0E 16 AF
3080	32 DE 31 CD 52 41 CD 95 33 3E 01 32 2B 31 3E 08
3090	32 D9 31 AF 32 DB 48 32 DC 48 32 DF 48 32 DE 48
30A0	32 DD 48 21 00 00 22 4A 31 22 4D 31 21 00 01 22
30B0	54 31 11 56 31 CD A8 35 11 6F 31 CD A8 35 11 88
30C0	31 CD A8 35 11 A1 31 CD A8 35 11 BA 31 CD A8 35
30D0	11 00 00 AF CD 33 00 CD 3E 00 21 56 31 11 17 00
30E0	19 36 20 11 19 00 19 36 30 19 36 50 19 36 60 19
30F0	36 20 CD BF 48 C3 01 32 06 13 21 63 D0 11 27 00
3100	3E 76 77 19 10 FC 06 13 21 64 D0 11 29 00 3E 77
3110	77 19 10 FC 06 28 0E 3C 21 28 D0 CD 56 3D C9 77
3120	23 77 23 77 C9 03 00 BA D2 00 00 01 00 01 01 03
3130	00 8B 50 02 0D 00 1F 3C 0A 04 3E 00 00 20 3C 31
3140	3C 8B 53 20 00 00 00 17 54 00 0E 00 01 00 00 03
3150	FF D0 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3160	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 20 00 00
3170	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

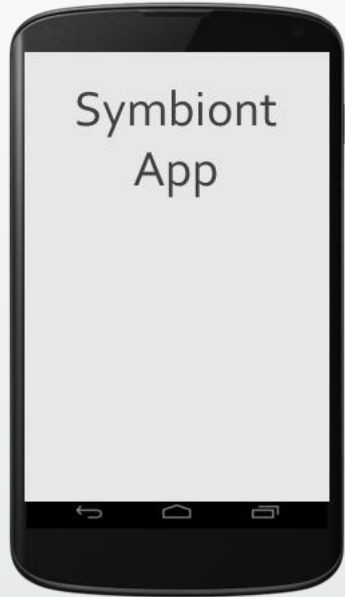
Step 3) Initialize the Interleaved Re-Execution Engine (IRE)

Formally modeled the interleaving of states as a finite automata

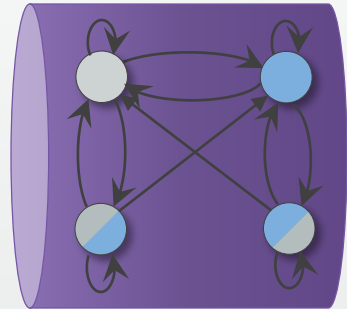
Transition rules guided by executing instruction semantics

The Overly Simple Explanation:
Live Code outputs to Live Environment &
Old Code reads from Old Environment

Interleaved Re-Execution Engine

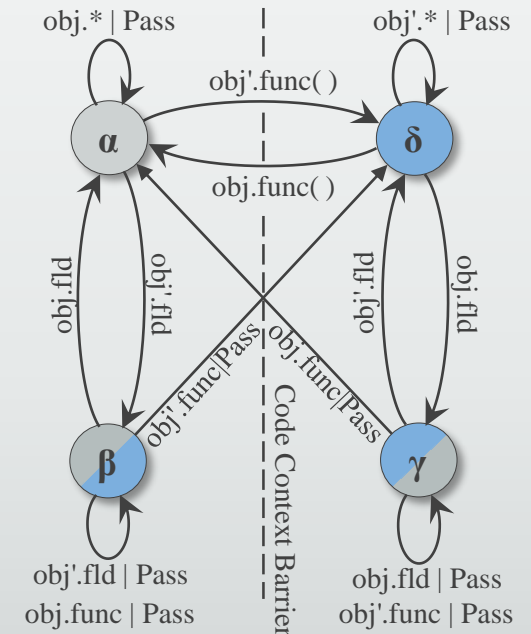


Interleaved Re-Execution Engine

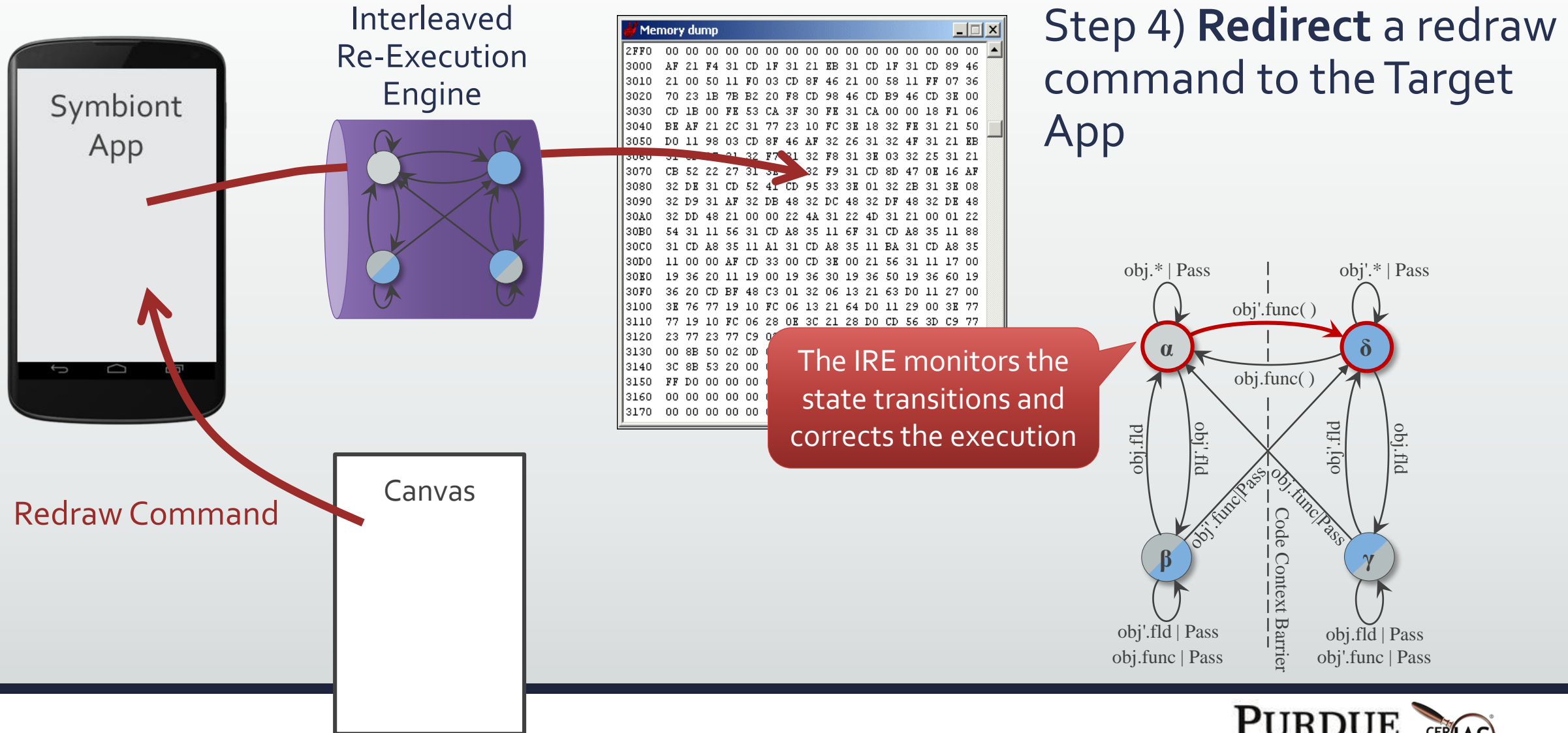


Memory dump	
2FF0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3000	AF 21 F4 31 CD 1F 31 21 EB 31 CD 1F 31 CD 89 46
3010	21 00 50 11 F0 03 CD 8F 46 21 00 58 11 FF 07 36
3020	70 23 1B 7B B2 20 F8 CD 98 46 CD B9 46 CD 3E 00
3030	CD 1B 00 FE 53 CA 3F 30 FE 31 CA 00 00 18 F1 06
3040	BE AF 21 2C 31 77 23 10 FC 3E 18 32 FE 31 21 50
3050	D0 11 98 03 CD 8F 46 AF 32 26 31 32 4F 31 21 EB
3060	31 CD 1F 31 32 F7 31 32 F8 31 3E 03 32 25 31 21
3070	CB 52 22 27 31 3E 08 32 F9 31 CD 8D 47 0E 16 AF
3080	32 DE 31 CD 52 41 CD 95 33 3E 01 32 2B 31 3E 08
3090	32 D9 31 AF 32 DB 48 32 DC 48 32 DF 48 32 DE 48
30A0	32 DD 48 21 00 00 22 4A 31 22 4D 31 21 00 01 22
30B0	54 31 11 56 31 CD A8 35 11 6F 31 CD A8 35 11 88
30C0	31 CD A8 35 11 A1 31 CD A8 35 11 BA 31 CD A8 35
30D0	11 00 00 AF CD 33 00 CD 3E 00 21 56 31 11 17 00
30E0	19 36 20 11 19 00 19 36 30 19 36 50 19 36 60 19
30F0	36 20 CD BF 48 C3 01 32 06 13 21 63 D0 11 27 00
3100	3E 76 77 19 10 FC 06 13 21 64 D0 11 29 00 3E 77
3110	77 19 10 FC 06 28 0E 3C 21 28 D0 CD 56 3D C9 77
3120	23 77 23 77 C9 03 00 BA D2 00 00 01 00 01 01 03
3130	00 8B 50 02 0D 00 1F 3C 0A 04 3E 00 00 20 3C 31
3140	3C 8B 53 20 00 00 00 17 54 00 0E 00 01 00 00 03
3150	FF D0 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
3160	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 20 00 00
3170	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

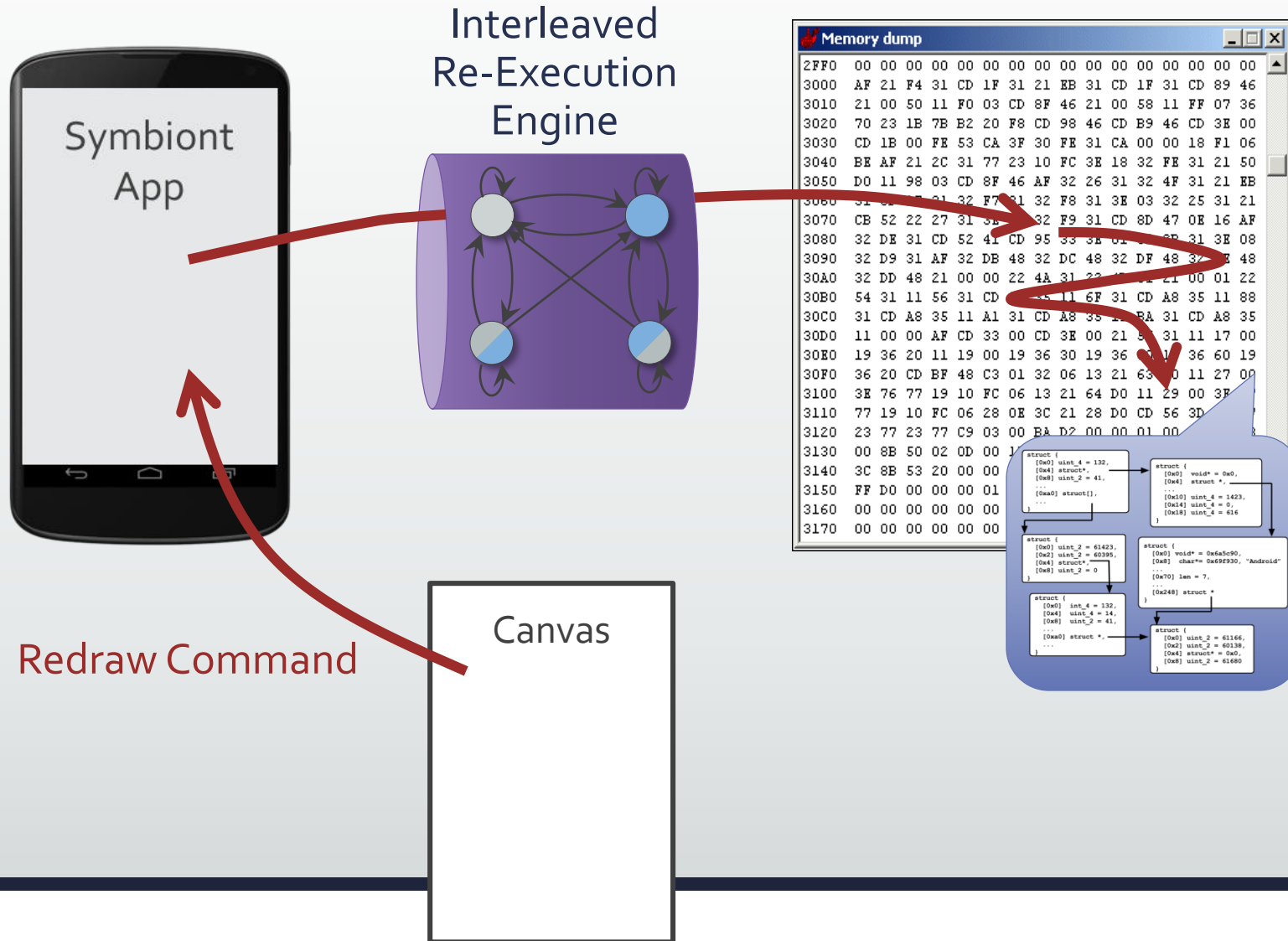
Step 3) Initialize the Interleaved Re-Execution Engine (IRE)



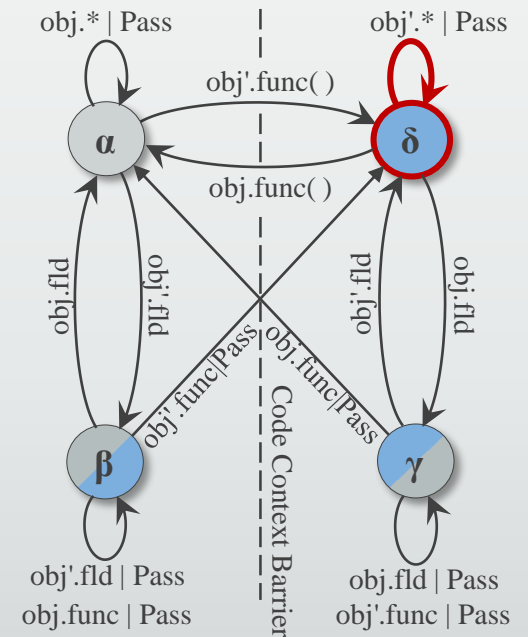
Selective Reanimation



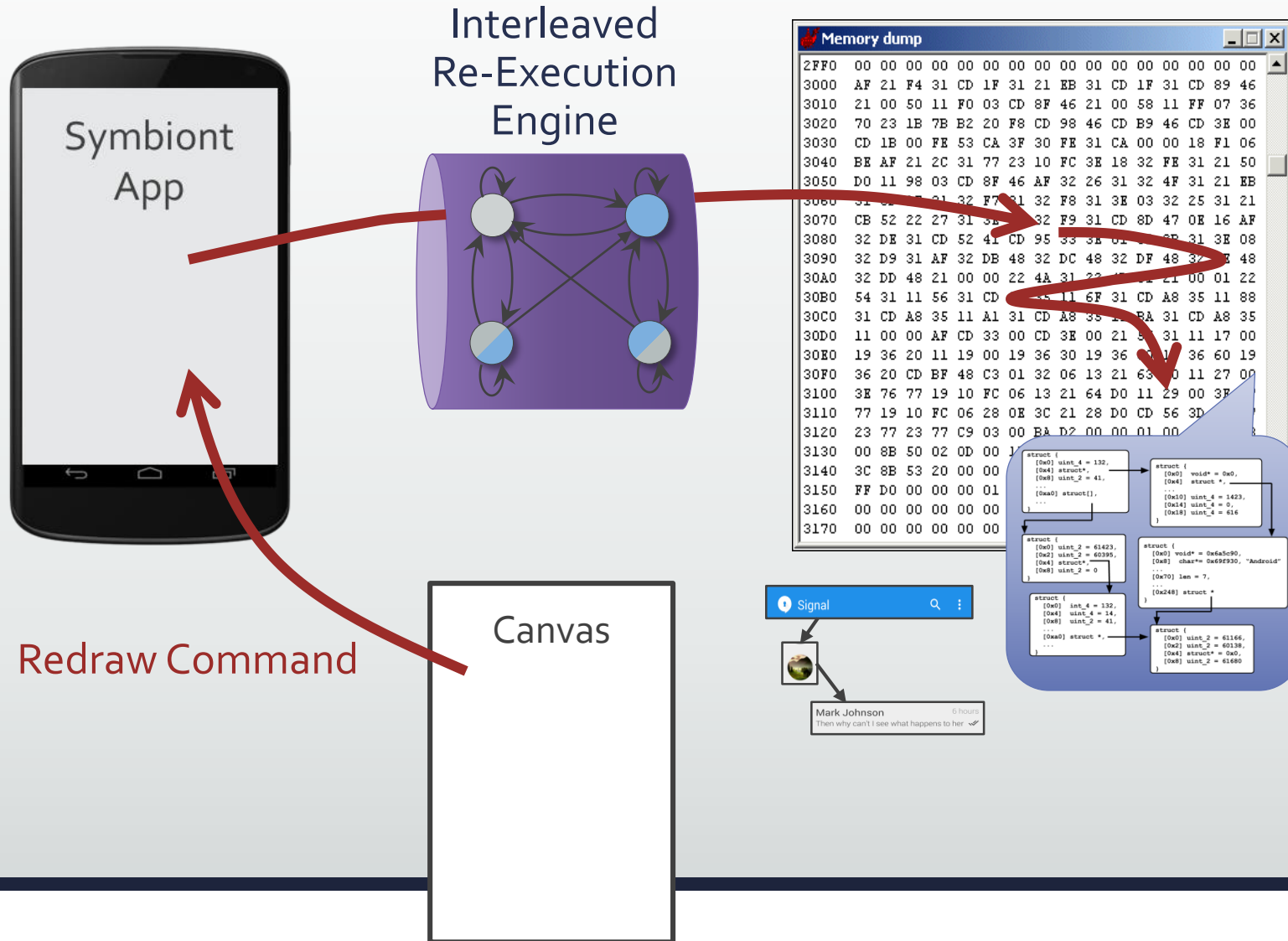
Selective Reanimation



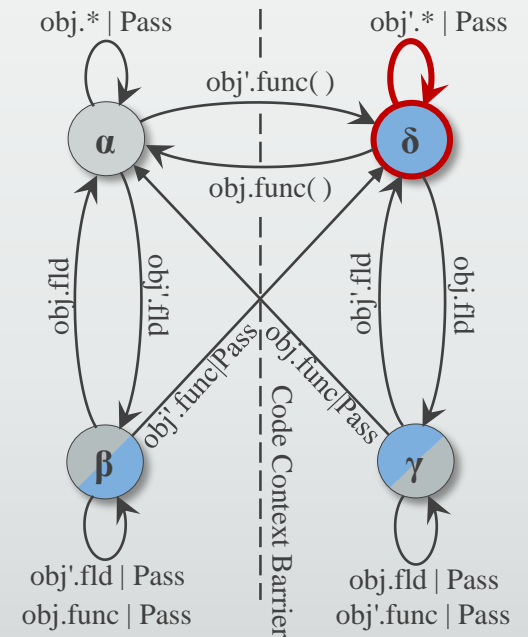
Memory image app's *draw* routines naturally accesses its internal data



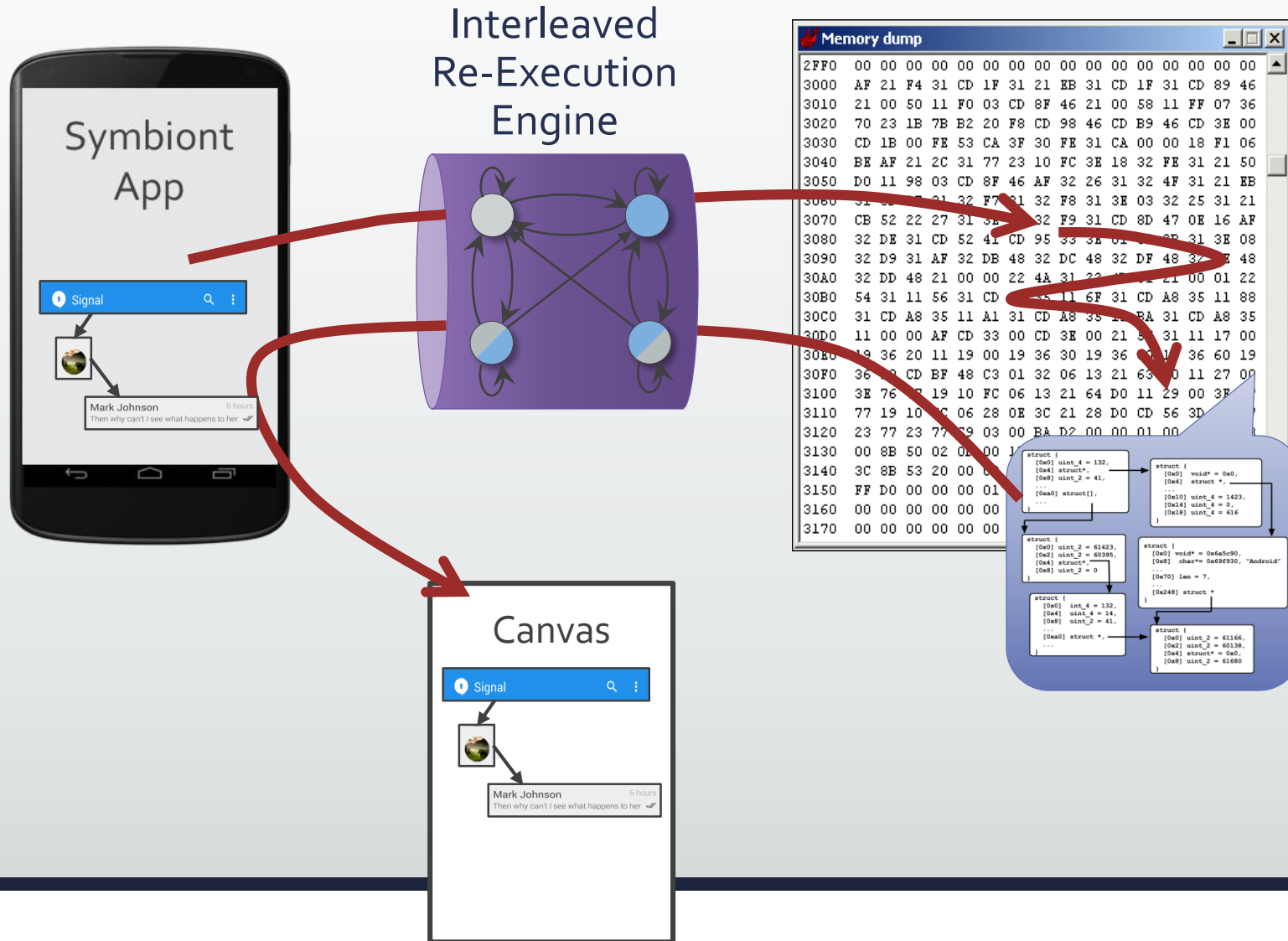
Selective Reanimation



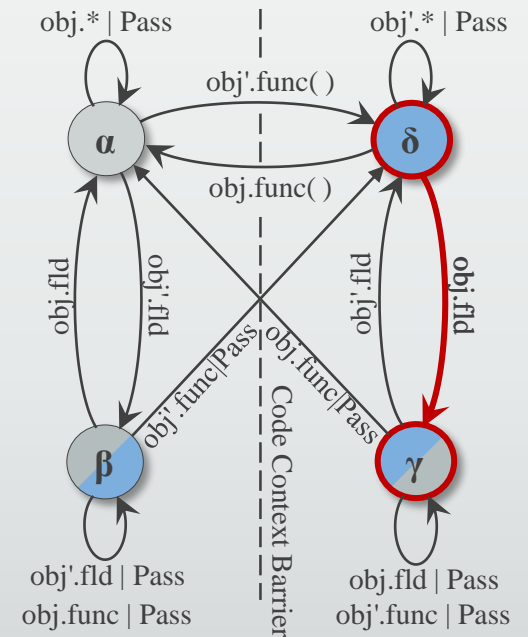
Memory image app's *draw* routines naturally accesses its internal data



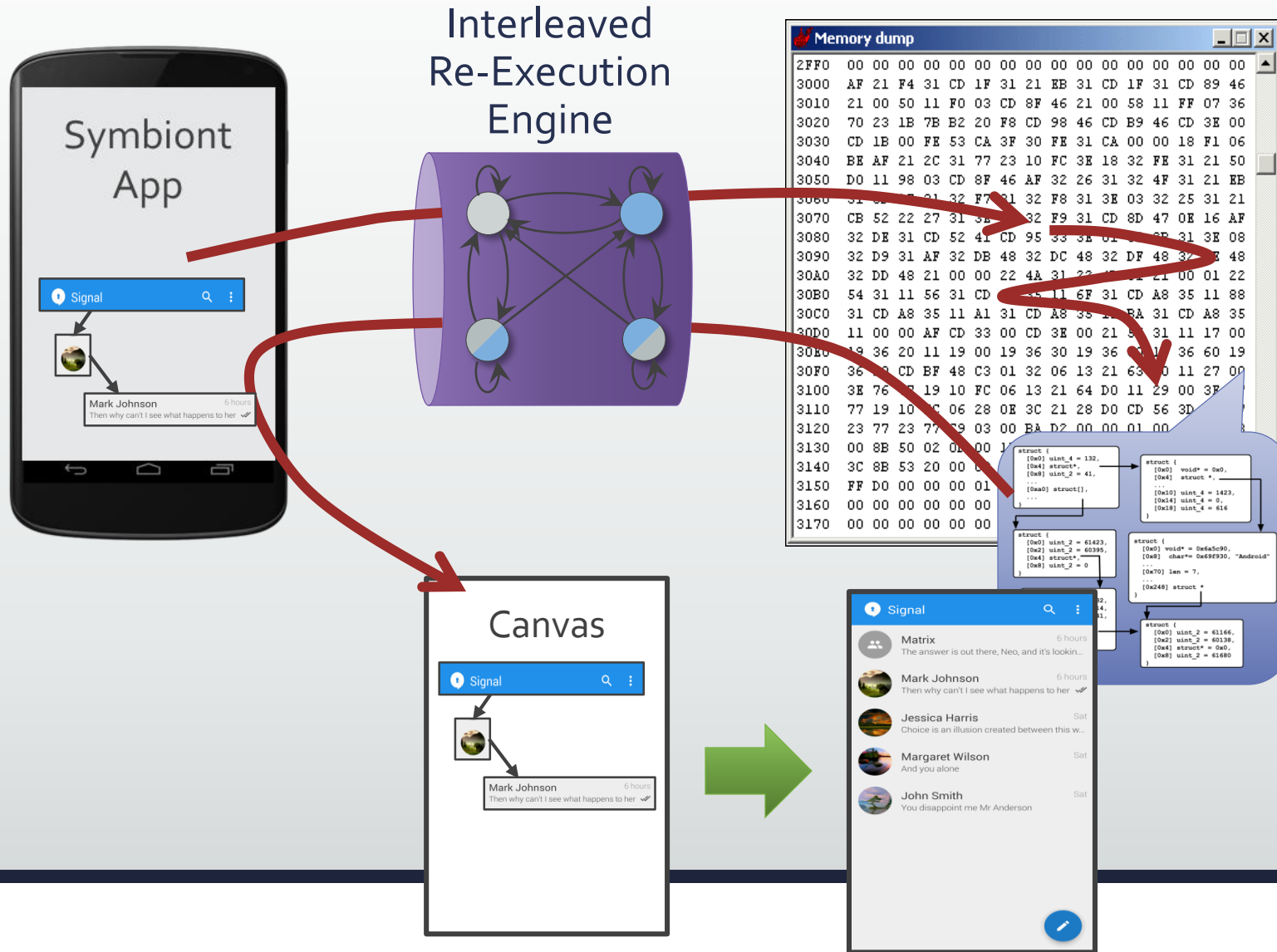
Selective Reanimation



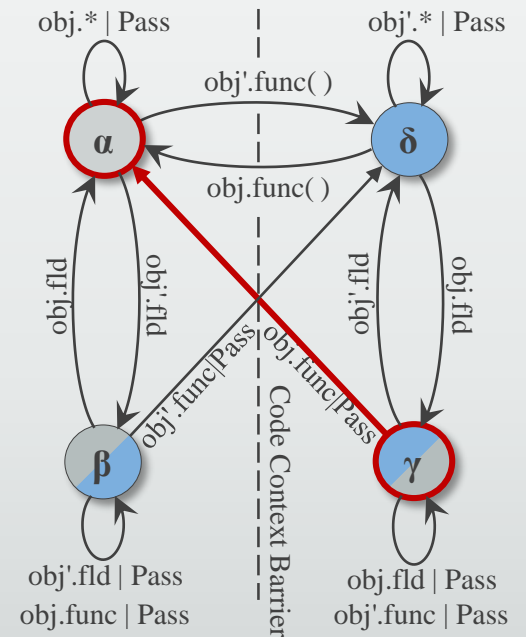
IRE ensures that function calls to the new canvas are directed to the live GUI system



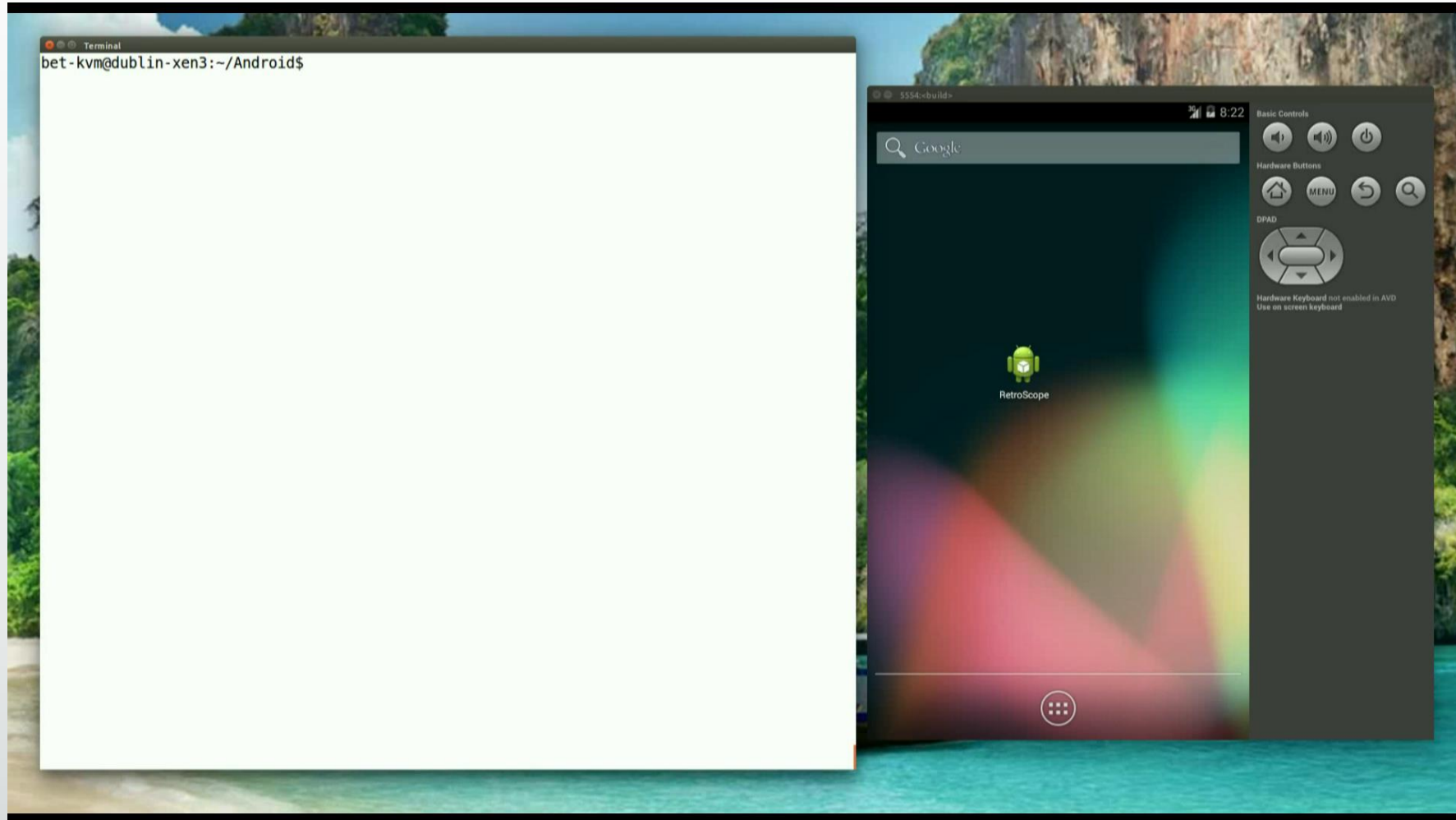
Selective Reanimation



The newly filled Canvas is rendered by the live GUI system and saved



Breaking The Case Wide Open!



Evaluation

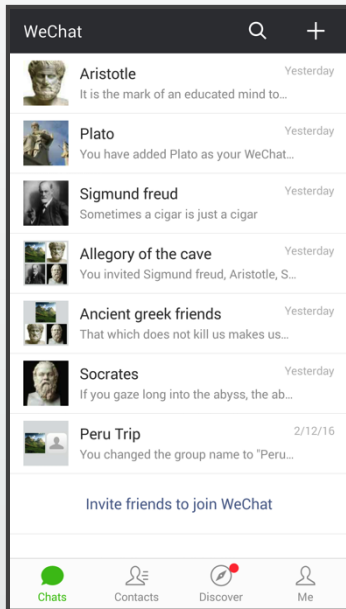
15 Apps on 3 "Suspect" Devices: HTC One, LG G3, Samsung Galaxy S4

App	Screens Recovered	Ground Truth (lower bound)	Byte Code Inst. Re-Executed	New Java Objects	New C/C++ Structures	
HTC One (More In Paper)	Calendar	6	6	197316	732	102642
	Chas			584587	2091	266965
	Cont			190847	723	71578
	Face			382522	1451	95516
	Gma			235973	929	129804
	Instagram	5	5	86829	433	42037
	Messaging	4	4	93971	287	45085
	TextSecure	7	8	231891	924	98571
	WhatsApp	6	6	321229	1571	104216

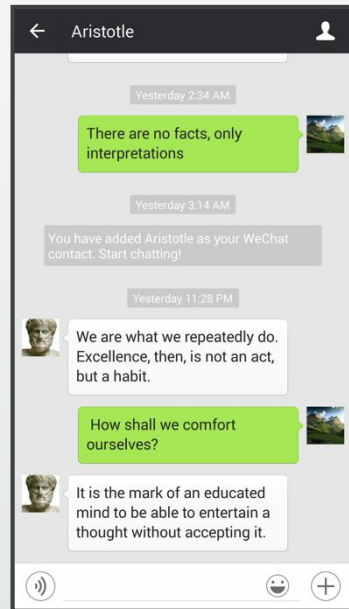
Average of:
 41,078 Byte-Code Instructions,
 158 New Java Objects, and
 13,535 New C/C++ Structures
 Per Screen

Case 1: WeChat (And Others) Deleted Messages

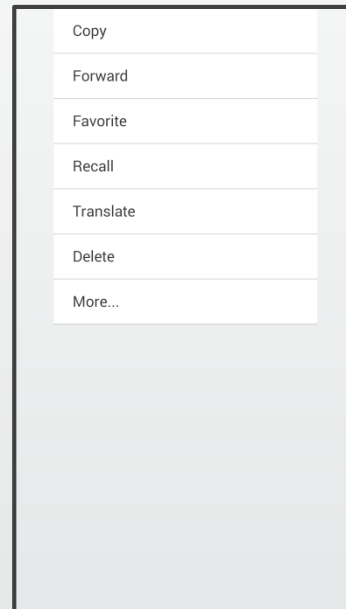
Screen -4



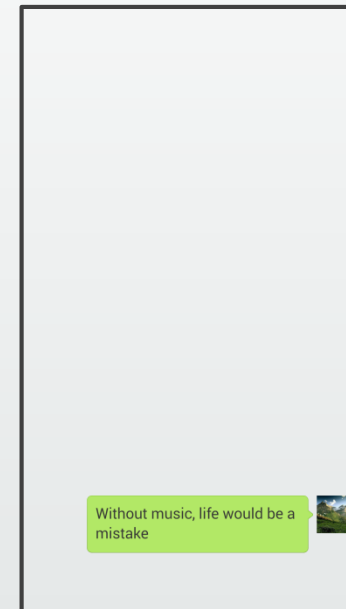
Screen -3



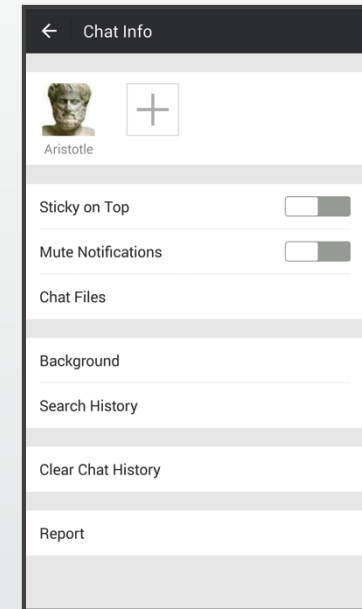
Screen -2



Screen -1



Screen 0



From LG G3 Device

Case 2: WhatsApp Background Update

Screen -5

Screen -4

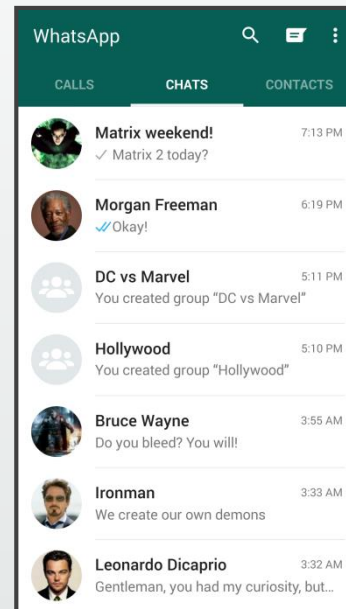
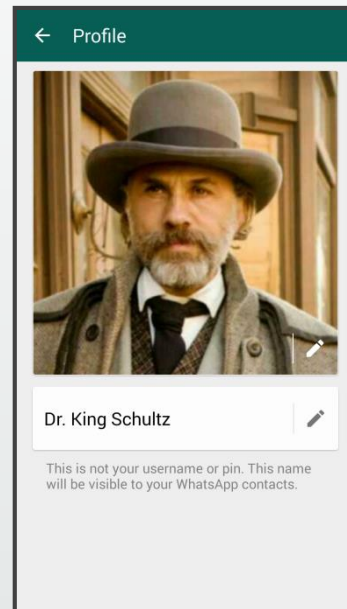
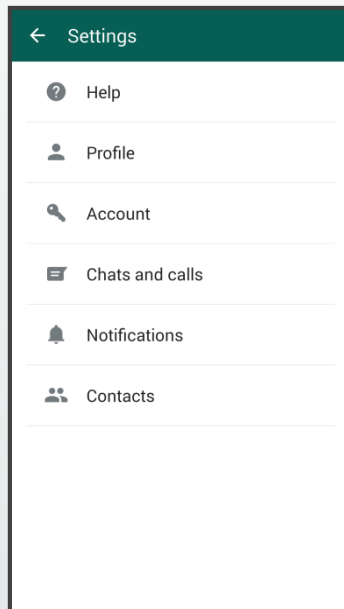
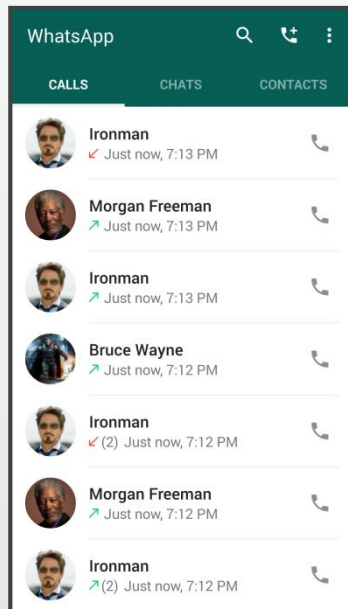
Screen -3

Screen -2

Screen -1

Screen 0

Screen +1



From Samsung Galaxy S4 Device

Related Works

B. Saltaformaggio, Z. Gu, X. Zhang, and D. Xu. DSCRETE: Automatic Rendering of Forensic Information from Memory Images via Application Logic Reuse. In Proc. USENIX Security, 2014. Best Student Paper.

M. Carbone, W. Cui, L. Lu, W. Lee, M. Peinado, and X. Jiang. Mapping kernel objects to enable systematic integrity checking. In Proc. CCS, 2009.

B. Dolan-Gavitt, A. Srivastava, P. Traynor, and J. Giffin. Robust signatures for kernel data structures. In Proc. CCS, 2009.

J. Lee, T. Avgerinos, and D. Brumley. TIE: Principled reverse engineering of types in binary programs. In Proc. NDSS, 2011.

A. Slowinska, T. Stancescu, and H. Bos. Howard: A dynamic excavator for reverse engineering data structures. In Proc. NDSS, 2011.

R. Walls, B. N. Levine, and E. G. Learned-Miller. Forensic triage for mobile phones with DECoDE. In Proc. USENIX Security, 2011.

Conclusion

RetroScope represents a new paradigm of **spatial-temporal** memory forensics for app GUI screens

RetroScope's novel IRE selectively reanimates an app's screen redrawing functionality **without** any app-specific knowledge

Recovers visually accurate, temporally ordered screens (ranging from 3 to 11 screens) for a wide variety of **privacy-sensitive apps**

Thank you!

Questions?

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Privacy Implications of RetroScope?

The privacy-sensitive apps are not broken, per se

- Unlike disk or network, memory is assumed private
- Little incentive to “protect” memory
- E.g., Malware in your app’s memory = all bets are off

RetroScope is just emulating the standard behavior of Android

- To disrupt RetroScope would also hinder an app’s ability to draw screens
- Encrypting memory doesn’t work because RetroScope would reanimate the decryption logic
- Privacy vs. Usability
 - E.g., Zeroing data would require getting it back in order to redraw (slowing down the UI)

Citizens’ privacy is protected by strict legal protocols and regulations (see [9,21])

- Search warrants & strict chain of custody documentation prior to performing “invasive” forensics