Life of a QR code. To scan or not to scan, that is the question?

Warren Finch



How to use QR code





QR Code



QR CODE IS AN ABBREVIATION FOR **QUICK RESPONSE** CODE;

IT IS A TYPE OF 2-D BARCODE;

INVENTED IN 1994 BY A JAPANESE AUTOMOTIVE COMPANY NAMED, DENSO WAVE; CONSISTS OF A SET OF SQUARE DOTS ARRANGED IN A SQUARE GRID PATTERN WITH WHITE BACK GROUND.

		QR Code	PDF417	DataMatrix	Maxi Code
Developer (Country)		DENSO (Japan)	Symbol Technology (USA)	RVSI Acuity CiMatrix (USA)	UPS (USA)
Example					
	Туре	Matrix	Stacked Bar Code	Matrix	Matrix
	Numeric	7,089	2,710	3,116	138
Data	Alphanumeric	4,296	1,850	2,355	93
Capacity	Binary	2,953	1,018	1,556	-
	Kanji	1,817	554	778	-
Main Features		- Large Capacity - Small Size - High Speed Scan	- Large Capacity	- Small Size	- High Speed Scan
Standardization		- AIM International - JIS - ISO	- AIM International - ISO	- AIM International - ISO	- AIM International - ISO

Examples of 2D Barcodes

Rise of the QR code

- 2011 6.2% of people used a QR code in the USA
- 2016 \$5.5 trillion paid with smartphones in China, compared to \$112 billion in USA. WeChat Wallet was only released in China in 2015
- 2017 Visa, Mastercard and Amex combined to launch the world's first interoperable QR code acceptance system. That was in India.
- 2017 EMV card payment specs, unveiled two QR code payment specifications – one for merchant-presented codes, one for and consumerpresented.
- Any camera phone can scan them, and the cost of displaying them for a merchant is virtually zero

https://mobileecosystemforum.com/2017/08/31/scan-rise-fall-possible-rise-qr-codes/



A QR 2D bar code as specified by [ISO/IEC 18004:2015]

Contact Information



Geo Location



Text



Micro QR Code



Calendar Events



Phone Number





Frame QR



Email Address



SMS



WiFi Key

QR code usage

- Autonomous vehicles / systems
- Payment systems
- Sharing information
- Ticketing systems





Lost in Translation



https://myFakeWhatsApp.site



- Phishing attacks
- Malicious software distribution
- Redirect to malicious site
- Physical Tampering
- Replacing the QR code
- Impersonation

By replacing legitimate merchants' codes with malevolent copies, fraudsters can gain access to consumers' data and even raid their bank accounts







Boarding pass hacker Przemek Jaroszewski. 🙆 ANDY GREENBERG

AS THE HEAD of Poland's Computer Emergency Response Team, Przemek Jaroszewski files 50 to 80 times a year, and so has become something of a connoisseur of airlines' premium status lounges. (He's a particular fan of the Turkish Airlines lounge in Istanbul, complete with a cinema nutting

MalQR is a collection of malicious QR Codes & Barcodes that can be used to test the security of scanners and applications

- SQLi
- XSS
- Command injection
- Fuzzing

https://malqr.shielder.it





https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Qrljacking

QRLJacking

QRLJacking

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C 🗄 🔒 infosec.**rm-it.de**/2018/03/24/ios-camera-qr-code-url-parser-bug/

iOS camera QR code URL parser bug

Posted on 2018-03-24

I've learned recently that the iOS 11 camera app will now automatically scan QR codes and interpret them.

This is pretty cool, until now you needed special apps to do that for you on iOS. When scanning a QR code which contains a URL – in this case https://infosec.rm-it.de/ – iOS will show a notification like this:



Naturally the first thing I want to try is to construct a QR code which will show an unsuspicious hostname in the notification but then open another URL in Safari.

And this is exactly what I found after a few minutes. Here it is in action:

iOS camera QR code URL parser bug

https://xxx\@facebook.com:443@infosec.rm-it.de/



Creating QR codes

- Determine which encoding mode to use
- Encode the data
- Generate error correction codewords
- Interleave blocks if necessary
- Place the data and error correction bits in the matrix
- Apply the mask patterns and determine which one results in the lowest penalty
- Add format and version information

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What makes a QR code



Version information

Format information

Data and error-correction area



Position detection pattern



Timing pattern

Quiet zone

https://www.swisseduc.ch/informatik/theoretische_informatik/qr_codes/docs/qr_standard.pdf

Rebuild a QR code



https://www.cyberchallenge.com.au/pdf/CySCA2014_Random.pdf



The intro

Last week France 2 broadcasted a documentary about Bitcoin. <u>They</u> <u>interviewed @rogerkver</u> who decided to offer \$1000 in Bitcoin to the quickest viewer. Unfortunately, the QR code and the private key were obfuscated by France 2.



https://medium.freecodecamp.org/lets-enhance-how-we-found-rogerkver-s-1000-wallet-obfuscated-private-key-8514e74a5433

Protect Against Malicious QR Codes

- Observe before use
- Look at URL before proceeding
- Be suspicious
- Never give personal or login information
- Use a QR code scanner that has security features

Disable QR code scanning

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Se	ettings		
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7	Wi-Fi	Ashmead	8
8	Bluetooth	On	2
	Cellular		9
0	Personal Hotspot	Off	2
•	Notifications		5
8	Control Center		2
C	Do Not Disturb		ż
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Scan QR Codes	
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Security features for QR Codes

Q Platform

SQRC

FrameQR

Q-revo trace

Q-revo protection

Q Platform

• A cloud server that generates, reads, and logs QR Code



SQRC

https://www.denso-wave.com/en/system/qr/product/sqrc.html

• A single QR Code can carry public data and private data.



Cloud integration



- Q-revo protection
 - Checking authenticity
- Q-revo trace
 - Traceability service

FrameQR

- Released in Oct 2014
- A combination of a hologram and QR Code which can be used for anti-forgery measures and traceability.
- Is not compatible with normal QR Codes and requires different software to generate and read the codes



QR Code Reader "Q"

- To read the newer features, get the latest QR code reading software
 - https://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/公式qrコードリーダーq/id911719423?mt=8
 - <u>https://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/%E5%85%AC%E5%BC%8Fqr%E3%82%B3%E 3%83%BC%E3%83%89%E3%83%AA%E3%83%BC%E3%83%80%E3%83%BC-q/id911719423?mt=8</u>
 - https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.arara.q&hl=ja

Supported Smartphones	Android / iPhone (iOS 7 or later)		
Price	Free		
Supported	2D codes	QR Code models 1 and 2 (GS1 format),Micro QR Code, SQRC, FrameQR, and MapQR	
Codes	Bar codes	AN-13, EAN-8 (JAN-13 and JAN-8), UPC-A, UPC-E, and UPC/EAN with add-ons	