

No.10 (6)/2016-Coord
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Science and Technology

Islamabad, the 19th May, 2025

Subject: **CYBER SECURITY ADVISORY-MALICIOUS APPS FOUND ON
GOOGLE PLAY STORE (ADVISORY NO. 09/2025)**

Enclosed please find herewith Cabinet Division's U.O No.1-5/2023/24(NTISB-II) dated 16th May, 2025 on the subject cited above. The content of the letter is reproduced under for strict compliance, please.

Context. In March 2025, Google identified and removed several malicious applications from the Play Store, including those associated with the **KoSpy spyware** and the **Anatsa (TeaBot) banking trojan**. These apps, often disguised as utility tools like file managers or security applications, posed significant threats to user privacy and device security.

2. **Technical Details**

a. **KoSpy Spyware.** Attributed to North Korean groups APT-37 (ScarCruft) and APT-43 (Kimsuky), KoSpy can collect extensive data, including SMS messages, call logs, location, files, audio recordings, and screenshots. It has been distributed through fake utility apps such as Phone Manager, File Manager, Smart Manager, Kakao Security, and Software Update Utility.

b. **Anatsa (TeaBot) Banking Trojan.** Disguised as a file manager and document reader, this trojan targets banking applications to steal credentials and financial information. It has been downloaded over 220,000 times, highlighting its Widespread impact.

3. **Recommendations**

- a. Immediately remove any of the identified malicious apps from your device.
- b. Stick to trusted sources and verify app legitimacy before installation.
- c. Avoid downloading apps from unknown developers or those requesting excessive permissions.
- d. Enable Google Play Protect to automatically detect and prevent the installation of harmful applications.

2. This message is to all concerned in your organization for ensuring necessary protective measures, Please.

Encl: As above.

Distribution:

All Head of Organizations

Copy for information to:

All Heads of Wing, MoST

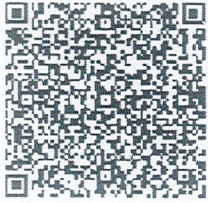
(RIDA NOOR)
Section Officer (Coord)

Tel: 9202520

Central Registry NUTECH	
✓ Rector	✓
Pro-Rector	
Dy Dir (Coord)	
GSO-1 (Coord)	Q
Head Clk	✓
Dte/Office	ICT
Diary No	
Date	19/5/25

ICT

Priority



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
CABINET DIVISION



SUBJECT: CYBER SECURITY ADVISORY-MALICIOUS APPS FOUND ON GOOGLE PLAY STORE
(ADVISORY NO. 09/2025)

Context.

In March 2025, **Google** identified and removed several malicious applications from the **Play Store**, including those associated with the **KoSpy spyware** and the **Anatsa (TeaBot) banking trojan**. These apps, often disguised as utility tools like file managers or security applications, posed significant threats to user privacy and device security.

2. Technical Details

a. KoSpv Spyware.

Attributed to **North Korean** groups APT-37 (ScarCruft) and APT-43 (Kimsuky), KoSpy can collect extensive data, including SMS messages, call logs, location, files, audio recordings, and screenshots. It has been distributed through fake utility apps such as Phone Manager, File Manager, Smart Manager, Kakao Security, and Software Update Utility.

b. Anatsa (TeaBot) Banking Trojan.

Disguised as a file manager and document reader, this trojan targets banking applications to steal credentials and financial information. It has been downloaded over 220,000 times, highlighting its Widespread impact.

3. Recommendations

a. Immediately remove any of the identified malicious apps from your device.

b. Stick to trusted sources and verify app legitimacy before installation.

c. Avoid downloading apps from unknown developers or those requesting excessive permissions.

d. Enable Google Play Protect to automatically detect and prevent the installation of harmful applications.

4. Kindly disseminate the above information to all concerned in your organization, attached/affiliated departments and ensure necessary protective measures.

Major Hafiz Adnan Rana
Assistant Secretary NTISB-II

Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division(CAB), Islamabad

Secretary Establishment Division, Establishment Division(ESTAB), Islamabad

Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs(MOFA), Islamabad
Secretary Finance, Ministry of Finance(MOF), Islamabad
Secretary, Ministry of Defence (Defence Division)(MOD), Rawalpindi
Secretary (DP), Ministry of Defence Production(MODP), Rawalpindi
Secretary Climate Change, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental

Coordination(MOCC), Islamabad

Secretary, Ministry of Commerce(MOC), Islamabad
Federal Secretary (MoCommunication), Ministry of Communications,Islamabad(MOCM),

Islamabad

Secretary, Ministry of Energy Power Division, Islamabad(MOEPWD), Islamabad
Secretary (Education), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training(MOFEP),

Islamabad

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works(MOHW), Islamabad
Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights(MOHR), Islamabad
Secretary, Ministry of Industries & Production(MOIP), Islamabad
Secretary MoIBC, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MOIBC), Islamabad
Secretary IT, Ministry Of Information Technology and Telecommunication(MoIT),

Islamabad

Secretary of Interior, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control(MOI), Islamabad
Secretary IPC, Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination(MOIPC), Islamabad
Secretary Kashmir Affair,Gilgit Baltistan & SAFRON, Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit
Baltistan(MOKAGB), Islamabad

Secretary LAW & Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice(MOLJ), Islamabad
Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs(MOMA), Islamabad
Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research(MONFSR), Islamabad
Federal Secretary of MoNHS, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and

Coordination(MONHS), Islamabad

Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division(NHCD), Islamabad
Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development(MOPHRD),

Islamabad

Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division)(MOPNR), Islamabad
Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs(MOPA),

Islamabad

Secretary Planning, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives(PC), Islamabad
Secretary, PA&SS Division, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety(PASS), Islamabad
Secretary, Privatisation Division(PRIDIV), Islamabad
Secretary (Railways), Ministry of Railway, Islamabad(MOR), Islamabad
Secretary, Revenue Division(REVDIV), Islamabad
Secretary Religious Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony(MORA),

Islamabad

Secretary Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology(MOST), Islamabad
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources(MOWR), Islamabad
Secretary SIFC, Special Investment Facilitation Council(SIFC), Islamabad
Secretary ECP, Election Commission of Pakistan(ECP), Islamabad
Additional Secretary(Admin), National Assembly Secretariat(NAS), Islamabad
Secretary Revenue Div/Chairman FBR, Federal Board of Revenue(FBR), Islamabad
Accountant General, Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR)(AGPR), Islamabad

Chairman, Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority, Islamabad(PEMRA), Islamabad
Chairman HEC, Higher Education Commission(HEC), Islamabad
Chairman OGRA, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA)(OGRA), Islamabad
Chairman PTA, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority(PTA), Islamabad
Director General (Admn), FEDERAL OMBUDSMAN OF PAKISTAN(FOP), Islamabad
Director General, Directorate General Immigration & Passports(DGIP), Islamabad
Director General (IDB), Intelligence Bureau Division(IBD), Islamabad
Director General FIA, Federal Investigation Agency, G-9/4 , Mauve Area, Islamabad(FIA),
Islamabad

Director General - Admin, National Information Technology Board(NITB), Islamabad
Secretary, National Security Division(NSD), Islamabad
DG -(nCERT), NCERT(NCERT), Islamabad
Managing Director, National Telecommunication Corporation, Islamabad(NTC), Islamabad
Secretary To The President, AIWAN-E-SADR(PS), Islamabad
Special Secretary, Prime Minister's Office(PMO), Islamabad
Cabinet Division No.1-5/2003/24(NTISB-II) Dated 16 May , 2025

Rida Noor
Section Officer Coordination
16 May , 2025, 03:38:35 PM