Privacy and local Mobile Apps

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Context

Privacy Talks made it to the news

Presidential Elections Endorsements Leaks

Biometric ID Bill
State of the Art: Legal Framework

*Privacy as a constitutional Right

*National Authority for Personal Data Protection (INDP)

*Convention 108 Ratification
CONNECTIVITY IN NUMBERS

48

Percent of the population is using internet

7.8

Data Subscription
How do local mobile apps deal with Users privacy?
Research Start

Point/idea:

While installing or updating mobile apps, there's always that famous pop-up that asks to allow the app to use specific features of the phone.

What kind of permissions do local mobile apps usually ask for?

And how safe it is for a user to give these permissions?
Apps Selection

A dataset of **43** Applications selected manually from Play Store
8 Sectors

Banking Sector
Media
E-commerce
Brands
Services
ISPs/Operators
Public Institutions
Sport clubs
Permissions:

18 sub-Categories: Microphone, Contacts, Storage, SMS, Camera, Location, WiFi, Phone, Device, Identity, Network, Bluetooth, Sensors, TimeZone & Alarm, Notification, Packages, Wallpaper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highly Dangerous</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Trivial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Storage:</strong> Read / Modify or delete the contents of your USB storage.</td>
<td><strong>Wifi:</strong> view Wi-Fi connections.</td>
<td>Alarm, Notification, Wallpaper, Sensors...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contacts:</strong> Find/ Read/ Modify accounts on the device.</td>
<td><strong>SMS:</strong> receive text messages (SMS)', 'send SMS messages</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Receive Location</td>
<td><strong>Device:</strong> retrieve running apps.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phone:</strong> Read phone status and identity.</td>
<td><strong>Storage:</strong> Format external storage, mount/unmount</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Camera:</strong> Take pictures and videos.</td>
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<td><strong>Microphone:</strong> record audio...</td>
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Findings:

Apps Ranking:
- Less privacy friendly: Globalnet
- Most privacy friendly: La Post

Permissions Per Sectors:
Location – Banking
Storage – Media
Contacts – Telecom Companies / Clubs

Sectors Ranking:
1/Brands
2/Media
3/Banks
Recommendations

- Privacy Policies Importance
- Developpers / Pms education
- Activating the process - INDPD
Next Steps

- Extend Our research to report 9 MENA countries
- Publish a final report
- Develop a privacy Awareness Index based on local apps analysis