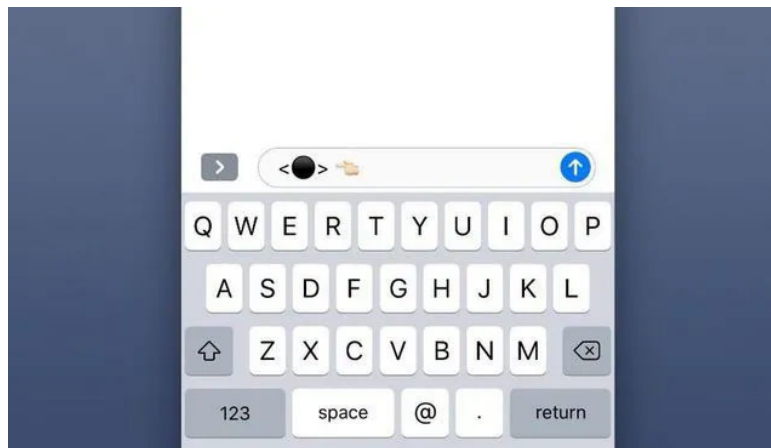


# Google detected an iMessage error that caused the iPhone to become 'brick'.

This new iMessage error can make the device hard reset, forcing users to remove all data and reinstall the entire device, even turning iPhone into a brick.

When working on a Google project to "hunt down" zero-day vulnerabilities that have not been fixed, researcher Natalie Silvanovich has accidentally discovered a new iMessage error on the iPhone phone.

Specifically, this new iMessage error, which was found on MacOS, could cause the computer to crash, restart. This error is even more dangerous when trying on the iPhone, which can cause the device to be reset "hard", forcing users to remove all data and reinstall the entire device, even turning the iPhone into "brick". .



Error "black spot" message via iMessage makes the iPhone hanged, causing many users a headache.

Similar to previous iMessage errors, your iPhone will only fail if you receive a message containing certain syntax from someone deliberately "playing bad", or being "terrorized" by "bombs". message".

Immediately after receiving information about this error, Apple immediately corrected by a patch via iOS 12.3 update released on May 13 and now announced.

**Issue 1826: iMessage: malformed message bricks iPhone**  
Reported by [natashenka@google.com](mailto:natashenka@google.com) on Thu, Apr 18, 2019, 7:44 PM EDT Project Member [Code](#) [Prev](#) 12 of 12 [Back to list](#)

The method `-[IMBalloonPluginDataSource individualPreviewSummary]` in `IMCore` can throw an `NSException` due to a malformed message containing a property with key `IMEExtensionPayloadLocalizedDescriptionTextKey` with a value that is not a `NSString`. This method calls `-[IMBalloonPluginDataSource _summaryText]` which returns the property assuming it is a string, but this is not checked. The calling method then calls `-[IMBalloonPluginDataSource _replaceHandleWithContactNameInString:]` which calls `im_handleIdentifiers` on the `'NSString'` which is really an `NSNumber`, which throws an exception as the selector does not exist in that class.

On a Mac, this causes soagent to crash and respawn, but on an iPhone, this code is in Springboard. Receiving this message will cause Springboard to crash and respawn repeatedly, causing the UI not to be displayed and the phone to stop responding to input. This condition survives a hard reset, and causes the phone to be unusable as soon as it is unlocked. The only way I could find to fix the phone is to reboot into recovery mode and do a restore. This causes the data on the device to be lost though.

To reproduce the issue:

- 1) install frida (pip3 install frida)
- 2) open `sendMessage.py`, and replace the sample receiver with the phone number or email of the target device
- 3) in the local directory, run:

```
python3 sendMessage.py
```

This bug is subject to a 90 day disclosure deadline. After 90 days elapse or a patch has been made broadly available (whichever is earlier), the bug report will become visible to the public.

Silvanovich also shared more about how to fix this error, which is to restart the computer under recovery mode, then reset the data, but then all the data on the device will be deleted.

In 2018, Apple devices also used the "Black Dot" bug that caused the user's iPhone to hang up the application after receiving a joke from friends and relatives.

To fix the problem caused by the new iMessage error and fix security holes, Apple advises users to check regularly and upgrade to new iOS versions as soon as possible.

1. iOS 13 has a special feature that makes the iPhone battery not fully charged 100%
2. On iOS 12.3 iPhone Lock cannot change the ICCID code directly on the phone and this is a fix

You finished reading the article "**Google detected an iMessage error that caused the iPhone to become 'brick'.**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.