

# The dangers of spyware on iPhone

Installing spyware on an iPhone was once considered a difficult task. Apple's strict security settings and iOS architecture make it difficult to install spyware.

Nearly all spyware (spyware) on smartphones will record everything the phone does without being detected. A spyware-infected device can be tracked via GPS, stolen text messages and incoming call logs, and even have remote access to photos, videos and browser history.

Installing spyware on an iPhone was once considered a difficult task. Apple's strict security settings and iOS architecture make it difficult to install spyware. That hasn't changed, but spyware developers have learned to break many of the anti-spyware protection mechanisms on iOS.

If you suspect someone has harmed your iPhone or wondered how to detect spyware on an iPhone, here's what you need to know.

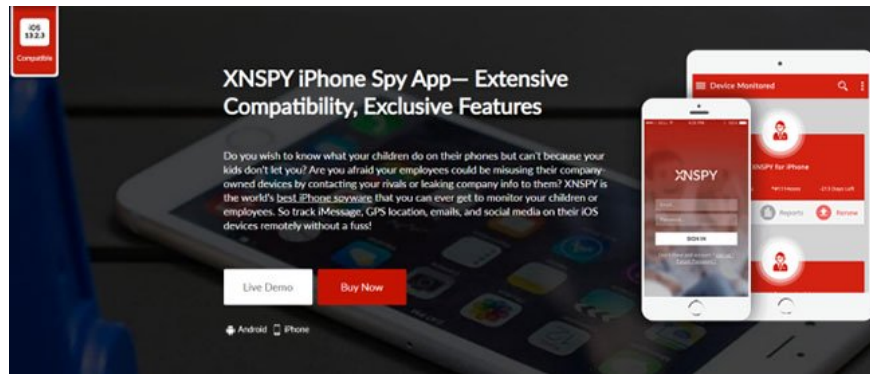
## What are the security risks for iPhone spyware?

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## Is there a legitimate use case for spyware?

Spyware, by its very nature, is designed to snoop on people. Anyone who is planning to install such a software is probably not interested in this. Or you can find a reason to justify your actions.

Whatever your reasons, think about how you would feel if someone did the same thing to you.



Most spyware is sold extensively on the market. Not only are they advertised to snoopers, want to track an individual's location, or get information about someone's use of a smartphone, but are advertised as a security tool. legal. This is the worst violation of privacy.

Unfortunately, you can't change everyone's mindset, but it can help those attracted to dishonest 'awakened' marketers.

Parents should review the use of spyware to monitor their children. There are many free and secure ways to share locations from iPhones (and other Apple devices) that you can find at the end of this article.

Sometimes, spyware marketing is targeted at employers. Employers should not use spyware to track employees. If you want to use the Mobile Device Management (MDM) policy on employee hardware, do not use the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy in conjunction with it.

There is no doubt that MDM policy is important. But an individual device should be kept private and installing MDM software compromises the device's privacy.

## Is it difficult to install spyware on iPhone?

For a long time, no spyware in the world has been able to accomplish its goal, without voiding the iPhone's warranty. This includes tracking any activity, tracking any location, uploading videos and camera images, etc.

Parents who install iPhone spy software invalidate the warranty on their children's devices. Spouses / lovers void their warranty on their spouse's iPhone if spyware is installed. And the same thing happens with employers, etc.

'Unauthorized modification of iOS is a violation of iOS's end-user software license agreement and for this reason Apple may refuse to apply a service policy to the iPhone, iPad or iPod touch with any part installed. It's illegal. '

That's because the strongest iPhone forms of spyware require jailbreaking before allowing access to all private data. Not all legal explanations about jailbreaking and warranty terms agree with Apple's explanation. But if something happens to the device during jailbreak, Apple can use it against you.

Jailbreaking will also invalidate any AppleCare after-sales warranty. You can perform a jailbreak if it's your iPhone and understand the risks involved. An incorrect jailbreak process could turn your iPhone into a brick. But jailbreaking other people's devices without their consent is not a good thing to do.

## Install spyware on jailbroken iPhone

Compared to Android, installing spyware on iPhone is very difficult. Apple takes a tough and commendable approach to security and privacy. iPhone is not designed to run non-Apple software. Doing so is considered a security breach. Interfering with software at the system level is not illegal, but Apple can and will detect any changes, even if you take your device for basic repair.



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Android, meanwhile, does things differently. Uncheck a box in the **Settings** section that allows installation of non-Google Play apps. This process is reversible right away, but still allows those applications to stay.

Jailbreaking involves loading custom firmware into the iPhone. Jailbreak brings more freedom on the device, allowing users to run unsigned software. The most advanced spyware is not always certified, for two reasons: Spyware will violate the rights of iOS and Apple will never allow such spyware on the App Store in the first place.

## Is jailbreak easy or fast?

In the early days of the new jailbreak, new vulnerabilities were found regularly.

The jailbreak of iOS is relatively easy, allowing the installation of custom applications (and in this case, spyware). It is possible to jailbreak an old iOS device in minutes, with just a little preparation.

Recent versions of iOS are more secure and take longer for jailbreak developers to crack. At the time of writing, jailbreaks exist for Apple devices running up to iOS 12.4. The jailbreak process is also significantly faster. The latest jailbreak method (at the time of writing) takes a few minutes to complete and doesn't require you to connect your iPhone to your computer at any time.

There was a long time that jailbreakers could not find a new exploit to exploit. Installing and updating the most invasive forms of spyware during those times is difficult. Unfortunately, iOS 12.4 version made a flaw discovered by jailbreakers and quickly launched a new option.

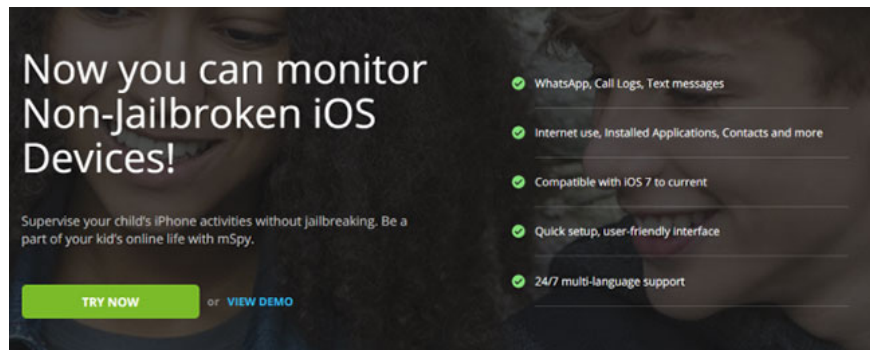
## Are unauthenticated iOS apps safe?

Unauthenticated applications are likely to include malware. If the SSH root password remains unchanged after the jailbreak process is completed, the malware may run uncontrollably on your phone. Without Apple monitoring software, you have to rely on third-party developers. Spyware is malicious software marketed as legitimate software.

jailbroken iPhones and other iOS devices can sometimes have trouble running legitimate App Store apps. Developers have a way to detect jailbreaks and can now prevent jailbroken devices from using their services. An example is DIRECTV which provides video streaming and another reported application is Skype for iOS. Many banking applications, like PayPal, are also restricted for obvious reasons. Getting these apps working again is like playing a 'cat and mouse' game between the developers and the jailbreak community.

## Spyware does not need jailbreak on iPhone

The time when there was no option to jailbreak the latest version of iOS led spies to look for other spyware options. A range of non-jailbroken spyware applications are available. Non-jailbroken iPhone spyware applications can provide the same level of data as spyware installed using a jailbreak exploit process.



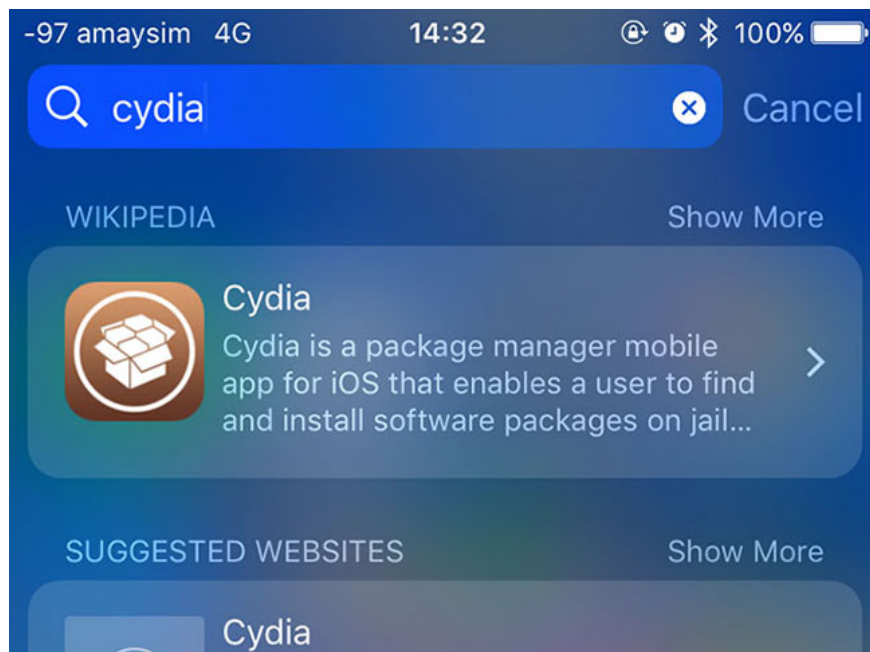
Spyware without jailbreaking on iPhone uses the victim's iCloud login information and exploits the data found there. The spyware application can then use built-in iCloud services like Find My iPhone to track the target device or read the victim's iMessage history without anyone noticing.

## How to detect spyware on iPhone

There is no guarantee you will find evidence of spyware on iPhone. As you might have guessed, the spyware design developers remain hidden and operate without a trace.

Instead, you are more likely to encounter other iPhone issues related to spyware. For example, you can find evidence of a jailbreak, instead of a spyware application. You can also note whether the device uses a lot of battery or data capacity decreases faster than normal.

The most obvious sign is the Cydia application. The Cydia app installs during the jailbreak process and is the gateway to jailbreaking unauthenticated apps, as well as unofficial iOS edits. Even if the spy hides Cydia from the home screen, you will still find it using the home screen search function of iOS.



There is no guarantee that Cydia will be found and spies who are careful to try to hide all signs of jailbreak. Other apps to look for, which may indicate a sign of jailbreak, include Installer, Icy, SBSettings, Absinthe and Installous. Similarly, installing an application like PayPal (mentioned above) may reveal problems, if the application refuses to run.

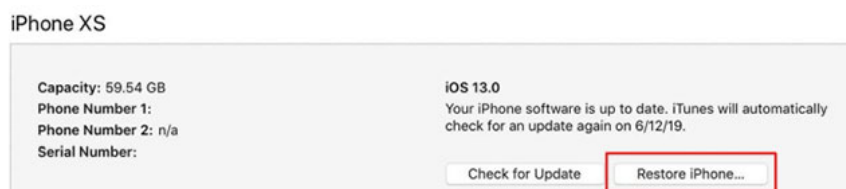
To learn more about iPhone spyware detection methods, see the article: [How to protect yourself from unethical or illegal espionage.](#)

## How to remove spyware on iPhone

Jailbreak is a cat and mouse game between Apple and the jailbreak community. Keeping your device up-to-date and making all iOS updates reduces the chance of installing the most invasive iPhone spyware forms.

Apple quickly fixes security holes and jailbreak exploits. Bringing iPhone back to an older firmware version is rarely an option. Thus, even if someone has jailbroken your iPhone, reversing the problem is simple.

If you suspect spyware is on your iPhone, restoring to factory settings is the easiest option to restore your device and privacy. Although Apple tracks the unique identifier (UDID) of jailbroken devices via the App Store, it seems that restoring a 'like new' phone will erase all jailbreak traces.



To restore iPhone on macOS or Windows PC, first launch iTunes. Then go to **Summary**> **Restore iPhone**. You can select **Back Up Now** before the firmware restoration process begins, this will save your personal data.

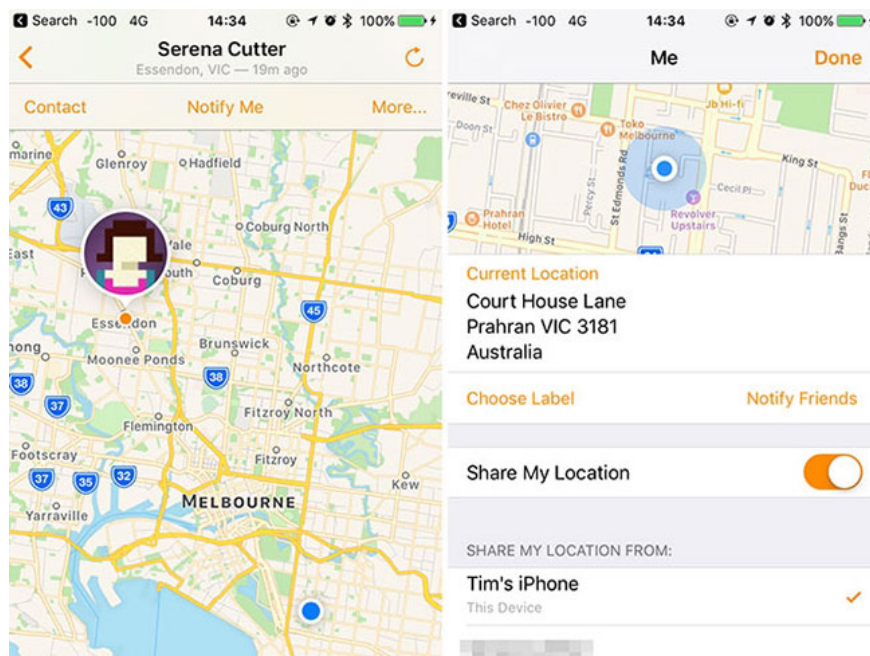
If you choose to backup and restore, there is a chance that some evidence of a jailbreak will remain, but the jailbreak will not exist. If your phone needs attention from Apple (covered by a 12-month warranty or extended AppleCare package), Apple technicians may reject you, if they detect it by jailbreaking.

## Should parents install spyware on their child's iPhone?

There are two easy ways to use spyware on iPhone for parents who are concerned about this issue.

Find My Friends works on Apple devices and uses Apple ID to connect friends and family. By authorizing a friend or family member to see your location in Find My Friends, they will be able to see where you are whenever they want. If you have children, you can turn on location sharing in Find My Friends, then use iOS restrictions to prevent changes to Location Services.

The Find My Friends application works best with user consent. You can use Find My Friends as an opportunity to establish a reliable system with your children. The application will not record messages, phone calls or camera activity as this is not spyware. It is a tool to keep in touch or open a safe, personal conversation with your child.



The second way to share location between iOS devices is through the Messages app. Just open a conversation on the device, press the 'i' button in the upper right corner and click **Share My Location** or **Send My Current Location**. You can choose to do so for an hour, a day or indefinitely. You can then stay in touch by opening the same conversation on another device and pressing the 'i' button.

Spyware on iPhone is dangerous for many reasons (they include data theft, malware, scams, etc.) This is also a lesson about morality and beliefs between you and your children, or may need to have a conversation with your boss about personal space and respect.

Remember, spyware is not the only iOS security issue you should know about. Refer to the article: [How to overcome 5 common security threats on iPhone and iPad](#) for more details.

You finished reading the article "[The dangers of spyware on iPhone](#)" 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

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