


ATTACK SPOTLIGHT

**SHINING A LIGHT ON THE
LATEST SECURITY THREATS**

MALICIOUS QR CODE READER APPLICATIONS

Many people find it convenient to scan a QR code with their smartphones to quickly access information. Unfortunately, QR codes are also convenient for cybercriminals, who create malicious QR scanner apps, sometimes called barcode scanners. These apps may appear to function normally, but they are designed to infect your device with additional malware.



QR CODES
AND READER
APPS CAN BE
CONVENIENT. JUST
MAKE SURE THEY'RE
SAFE BEFORE YOU
SCAN!

Here are a couple tips for avoiding malicious QR code apps:

- Stick to apps from known developers, and that have a history of recent updates.
- Look for specific user reviews, and high numbers of downloads (into the millions, for a popular function like QR reading).
- Be suspicious of emails or ads that invite you to download a QR code reader.

If you receive a suspicious email containing a QR code at work, report it to your IT security team *immediately*.