Maya Wang 王松莲 @wang_maya · 21h

2 years ago, we started getting reports about Xinjiang's political education camps. In one interview with a Xinjiang resident, my colleague @SophieHRW had the genius to asked this simple, but essential Q: How do the police know who to put in camps?

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To this question, the interviewee said, there's a computer system called "yitihua" ("Integrated") and described seeing the system spits out lists of names for police interrogation and detention.

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That's how it all started. In the course of researching our Feb 2018 press release about the IJOP, I found the app publicly available.

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Not knowing what, if, anything, can be done to an app, I contacted our director of information security @seamustuohy, who recently joined @hrw, because I have a security Q: Is it safe to download it?

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.@seamustuohy had experience looking into surveillance apps before. So he did his magic, and gave me a bunch of files which I hardly understand. But in it there are "text strings"--phrases in Chinese like "suspicious person" "immediate arrests" "religious atmosphere"

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But it was really difficult to know how the phrases relate to each other because they are in snippets of code. So that's where the reverse engineering part comes in: we enlisted Cure53.

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I don't read code; Seamus/Cure53 doesn't read Chinese. So we essentially combined our brains through an intensive, reiterative process of reverse engineering the app.

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Just to say the reverse engineering was very, very difficult: first, working on