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# Fake apps may mar football season

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**Pune:** The popularity of FI-FA World Cup is at its peak and so is the demand for soccer apps. Security experts, however, advise caution while downloading from the Android Play Store, which, they say, is flooded with fake soccer gaming apps.

Govind Rammurthy, managing director and chief executive officer of eScan, a mobile security solutions company, said, "When a user unknowingly downloads a malicious or fake app created by the hacker onto his/her smartphone, it helps these hackers to steal their banking credentials, access their call logs and phonebook, send SMSs, change their security configuration, and start any activity which does not require user's permis-

Graphic: Abir

**SAFETY TIPS**

- > Before installing any gaming app or a live streaming app during tournament time, **conduct a background check on various forums via search engines to understand the problems** faced by users of that app
- > **Cross check the vendor's website** before downloading any software from the **Android Play Store**
- > Ensure you download **only from legitimate online markets** and not from a third-party website
- > **Carefully read and understand the features** of your phone the app asks to access
- > **Check the reviews and number of downloads** of the app to ensure it is legitimate

**GET A GOOD ANTI-VIRUS INSTALLED**



sion."  
Security experts say that if a gaming app administrator asks for access to data that has nothing to do with the

app's functioning such as contacts, location, call logs, access to storage device and to other accounts on the phone, then the user needs to be alert. Many of these apps

are also malware in the hiding, which may hack into the phone and gather sensitive data like credit card details or account information. "Since the Android Play Store is an open market, one needs to be extremely careful about downloading unknown or fishy apps," says cyber security expert Dominic K. "Some malware are smart and update if the operating system is updated, hence is difficult to get rid of them" he said.

"The worst part is, users have to pay for many of these malicious apps," said Altaf Halde, managing director of Kaspersky Lab, South Asia. "The football season is spawning its fair share of fake gaming apps and one must be very careful about what he/she is downloading into their Android phones," he added.