Comparison of Mobile Apps and Web Services

In previous work we found evidence that apps are really different in comparison to even mobile websites. The amount of traffic differs. The amount of web bugs differs. The contacted servers differ. Some encrypt, some do not. More in case of apps or less or equal? Are different data centers used? Does it make a difference to use the emulated device or a real android phone? Here again, current evidence suggests that the differences are small, yet in particular advertisements may be affected. Can the purpose of certain connections be classified?

As the work is planned to extend a previous thesis, the main motivation is to review existing experiments and broaden the spectrum of analyzed apps and services to be more representative. The idea is that after this thesis, answers to the aforementioned questions can be given with more confidence due to a more complete picture.

- Further automate and improve experimentation framework
- Understand and reconsider framework code
- Define research question (Are apps different? More detailed and more sub-questions.)
- Include further apps
- Include more aspects into data logging and evaluation
- Continuous experiments and evaluation over many experiments

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