



Please Hack My Phone

The Japanese Feature Phone
game preservation crisis and
how you can help



Please Hack My Phone

Coney Island Maker Faire - October 2023

In This Image

- Steam Deck showing video footage of Rockman Dash: Great Adventure on Five Islands
- 2011 Sharp mobile phone with parallax 3D
- Licensed Evangelion phone
- Licensed FFVII phone featured in Advent Children
- Live stream brute force effort to find device key for Cryptomeria Cipher
- Separate pile of phones



What is a Japanese Feature Phone?

- Japanese Feature Phones: Mobile devices before the smartphone era (iOS, Android) with advanced features
 - Ex: Digital wallet, video calls, online game streaming
- Offered an exclusive library of high quality mobile games



ATLUS

CAPCOM[®]


LEVEL5


**BANDAI
NAMCO**

 **HUDSON**[®]


TAITO[®]

KONAMI

SQUARE ENIX

SEGA[®]

Famous Publishers



BEFORE CRISIS
FINAL FANTASY.VII

レイトン教授と
死鏡の館[®]

ポケモン

ロックマンエグゼ[®]
アドバンスネットワーク

ロックマン
DASH
5つの島の大冒険!

ロックマンエグゼ[®]
アドバンスネットワーク

なかよし
チャオ!


二国[®]
ホットロイトストーリーズ

TETRIS[®]
DJ

Original Games

FINAL FANTASY IV
THE AFTER

月の帰還



FINAL FANTASY IV
THE AFTER YEARS.



Games Made International

Why Have I Not Heard of This??

- No physical library
 - Cannot be collected easily like game cartridges
- Strict copyright controls
 - Very risky to attempt game preservation in Japan
- Specialized market
 - Many phone users in Japan only used phones for calls and messaging, not gaming
- Lost in translation
 - Most games have no documentation in English - all articles are in Japanese

Preservation EMERGENCY

- All online markets to download games are now closed
- Thus, there are only two ways to recover games
 - 1. Auction lottery: buy a lot of used phones and hope some of them still have data
 - 2. Contacting a phone owner in Japan: difficult because of linguistic/cultural barriers and strict copyright laws
- Devices are old (15-25 yrs) and will soon expire
- We still do not know how to extract data from most phones

We need your help to save these games!

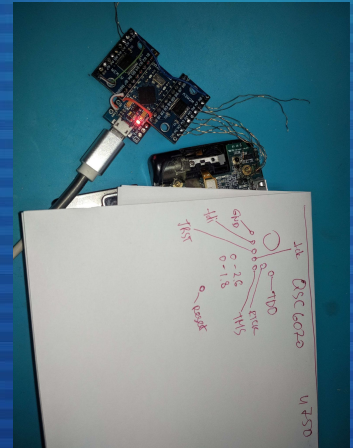
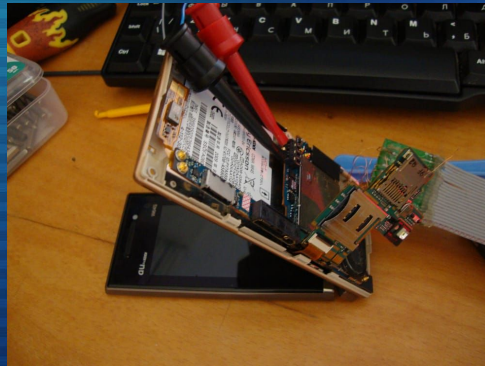
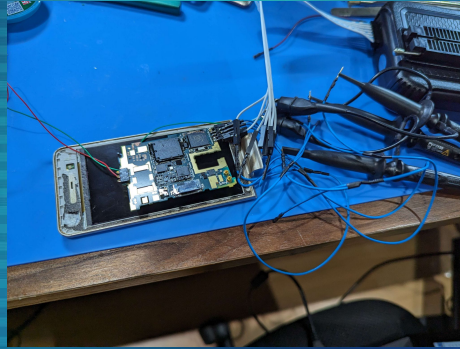
What can
we do?

We need Hardware hackers!

- Japanese mobile phones use BGA chips
- Most mobile phones use proprietary flash memory chips with almost no documentation

To Do

- Remove surface mounted Flash Memory and attempt read with chip programmer (ex: XGecu T48)
- Find JTAG test points and read them with JTAG tools (ex: Riff Box V2)

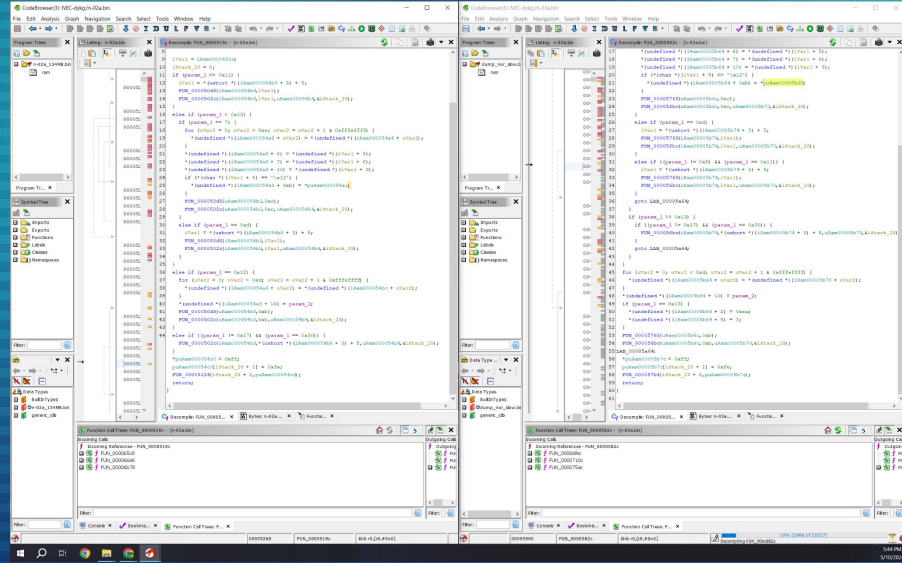


We need Firmware hackers!

- Firmware dumped from phone chips must be analyzed and extracted.
- If software exploits are found, data can be dumped less destructively

To Do:

- Analyze firmware using Ghidra to understand how data is stored and find exploits
- Use currently known exploits to try and dump groups of similar phone models



We need Java programmers!

- Most feature phone games refuse to launch without a network connection.
- This requirement must be patched out directly

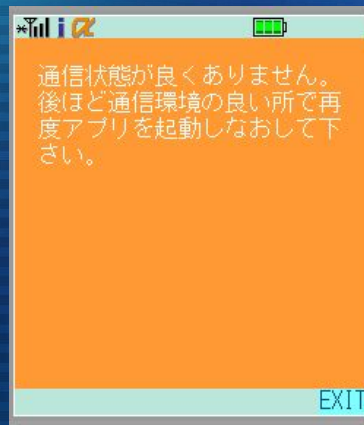
To do:

- Decompile .jar files and identify the functions that prevent the game from loading
- Remove network check requirements and recompile the .jar

Before:



After:



We need archivists!

Keitai Wiki
One moderator - Me!

To Do:

- Create articles for feature phone games that don't have one
- Write summaries with screenshots for feature phone games based on available documentation (mostly articles and Wayback Machine)


Pokémate

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Pokémate is a Pokémon mobile game developed by Square Enix. Much like *Pokémon Go*, it was an online game dedicated to catching and collecting Pokémon. Overall, very little is known about this game, as even pre-installed versions are unable to run due to network requirements.

[Gallery](#) [edit | edit source]

Images from Official Pages [edit | edit source]



Developer(s):	Square Enix
Publisher(s):	Square Enix
Pre-installed:	FOMA P902IS
Language(s):	Japanese
Series:	Pokémon
Preserved?:	No
Website:	Pokémate Official Page

Tools [hide]

- Actions
- Move
- Purge
- General
- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Get shortened URL
- Cite this page
- Create Redirect
- Share this
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hackmanhattan.com



You can also chat
with members of
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Discord channel

Kahvi
break

International Team

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