

---

# ACMate-Lite

## Installation and Quick User Guide

SVV - 6 March 2016

---

---

# Introduction

ACMate is a framework for testing and reverse-engineering access control (AC) policies. It is developed by the SVV Laboratory, SnT, University of Luxembourg.

Here we present ACMate-Lite - the reduced version of ACMate tool, with the basic functions for access control testing.

ACMate-Lite is a Java-based extension module for Burp Suite (<https://portswigger.net/burp/>) that can be loaded and run seamlessly with Burp Suite proxy and spider. ACMate-Lite provides hand-on testing functions to support the Web application developers to test the access control implemented in their web-based products.

ACMate-Lite contains the following key components:

- Mining input specification from logs
- Smartly generating AC requests using pairwise combination strategy
- Executing AC tests, taking into account contextual parameters

This document will walk you through the installation of the ACMate-Lite and show you how to quickly use with the help of an example.

---

# Installation

## Prerequisites

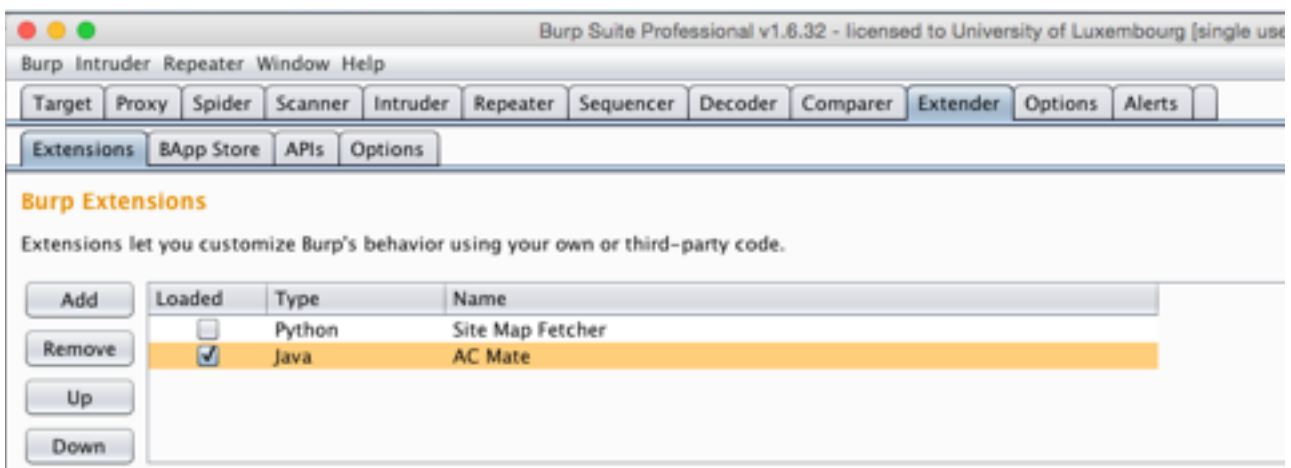
- Java (version 6 or later)
- BurpSuite Professional, version 1.6 or later, it is a security tool suite available here <https://portswigger.net/burp/download.html>

We use in this guide BurpSuite Professional version 1.6.30.

If this is the first time you use BurpSuite, it is recommended that you follow its user guide, especially these key features: Proxy, Target, and Spider.

## Loading ACMate-Lite

- Download ACMate-Lite from <http://people.svv.lu/nguyen/public/ACMate-Lite-dir.zip>
- Unpack the package to a directory — we call this dir acmate-dir from now on
- Launch BurpSuite
- Select Extender tab, Click Add to open Burp Extension Loader
- Follow the dialog to Select Java Type and Select file acmate-dir/ACMate-Lite.jar .
- Click Open to load ACMate-Lite

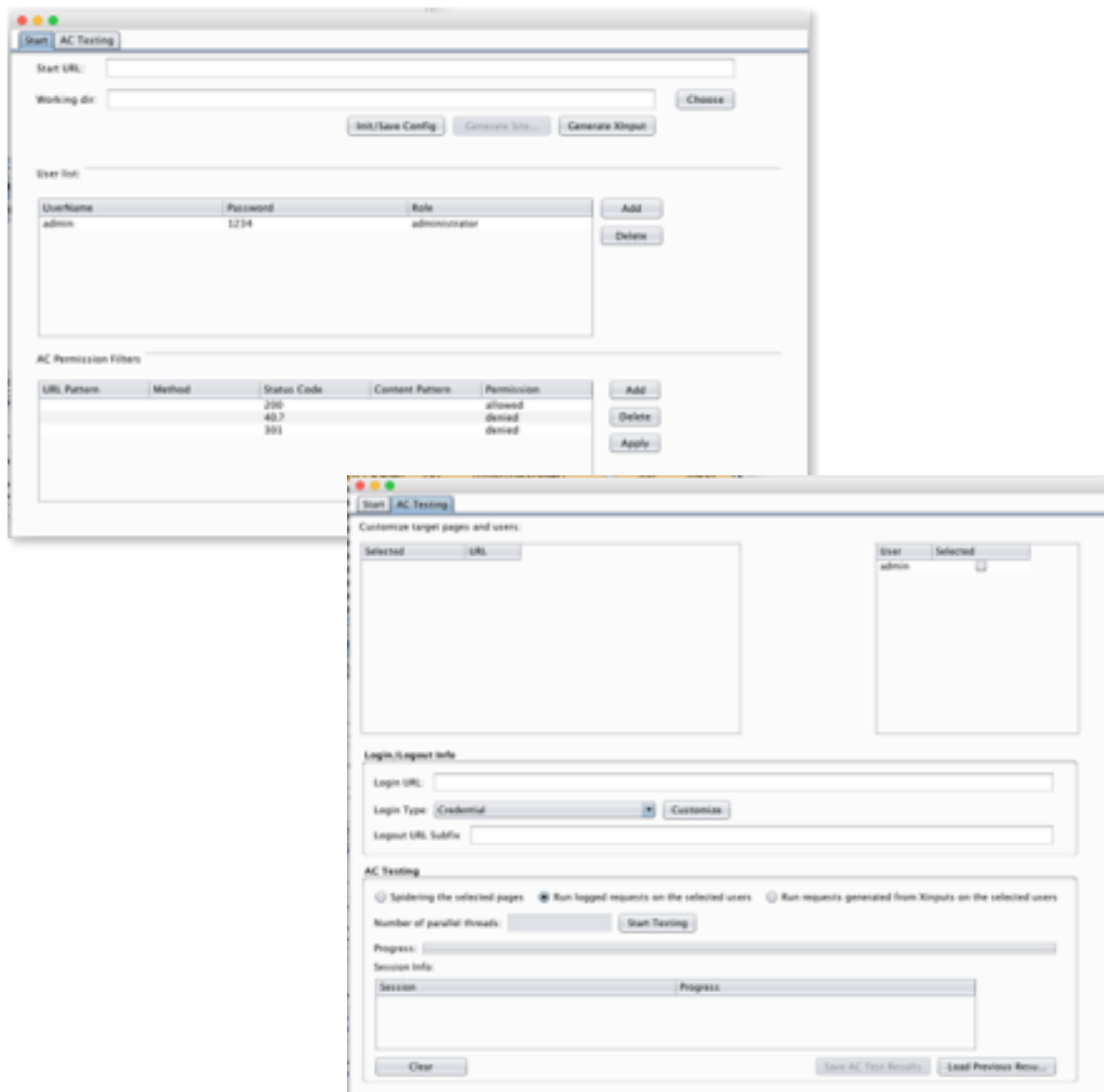


If there is no error and the ACMate-Lite is successfully loaded, you can close Load Burp Extension window and start using ACMate-Lite.

## ACMate-Lite GUIs

Current version of ACMate-Lite has two panels:

1. **Start**, where users, permission filters, and working directory can be configured
2. **AC Testing**, to run AC tests



---

## A Quick use of ACMate-Lite with Example

In this part, we assume that you know how to use Burp Suite proxy and spider to capture the interaction between the target application with its end users and explore the application. With that assumption, we prepare an example to help you get a hand-on experience with ACMate-Lite quickly. The example is stored in the subdirectory called **itrust** located at **acmate-dir/itrust**, in which we put:

- a BurpSuite state file containing some initial access logs of the sample target application (we use iTrust - can be downloaded at <http://agile.csc.ncsu.edu/iTrust/wiki/doku.php>)
- configuration files containing information of users and permission filters

We will show you step-by-step how to use ACMate-Lite to launch the AC testing on the example application, including:

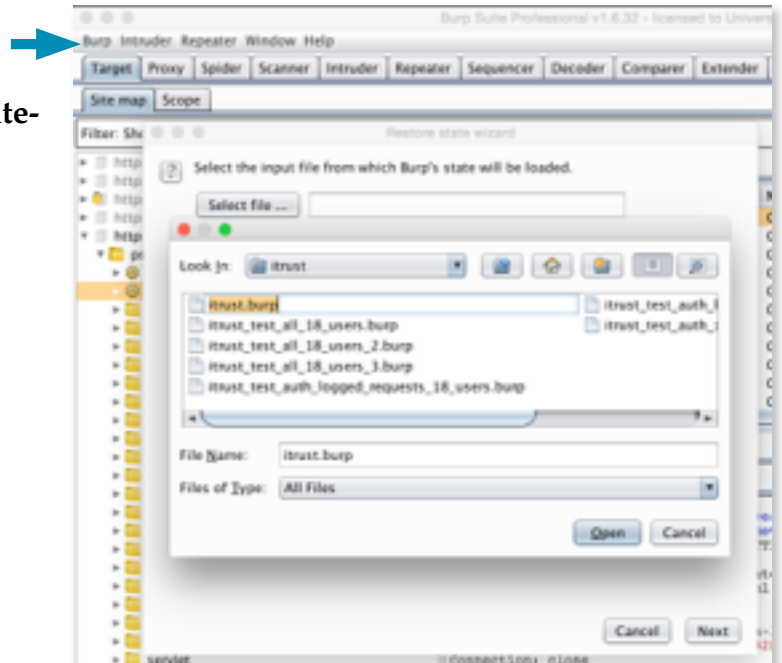
- Setting up the environment
- Launching tests
- Saving and inspecting test results

### 1. Setting Environment

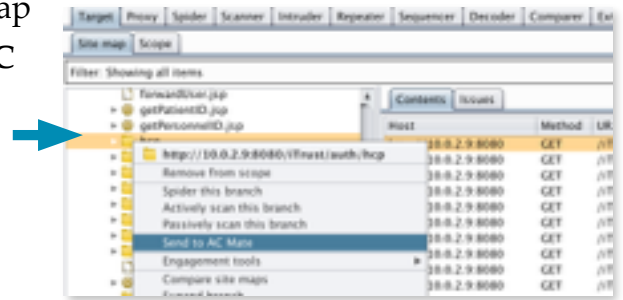
In this step, we prepare for the AC testing. We will configure the testing environment, declare the users list, define the permission filter, and the xinput specification.

To load the captured state:

- Select menu Burp > Restore State
- Follow the dialog to open file **acmate-dir/itrust/iTrust-state**



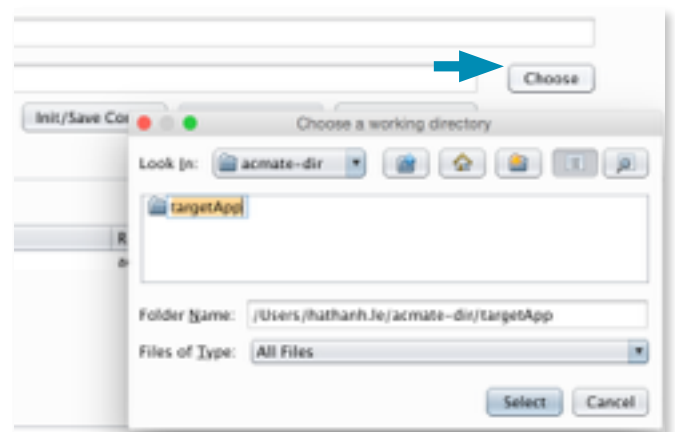
Select the tab **Target** of Burp Suite, in the Site map view **Select a folder** (e.g., ...) and choose “**Send to AC Mate**”



Switch to ACMate-Lite window. On the Start tab, you will see the link to the selected resource has been put into **Start URL**.

**Step 1.1: Define a working directory and initialise the test configuration (tab Start)**

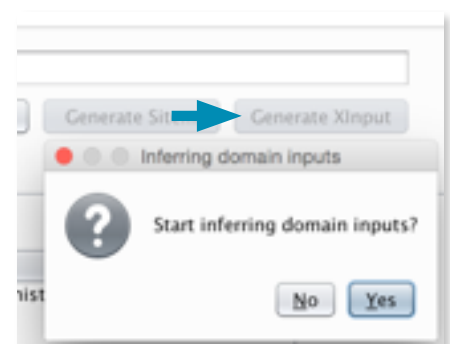
Choose a working dir by “Choose” and then select the folder **acmate-dir/itrust**. You need to create a new folder (or use an existing one) to store all the files created during the test session.



Tip: In Mac OS, you can choose the working folder by select a directory in Finder, drag and drop it into **Working dir:** text box.

Click **Init/Save Config** to save the configuration and permission filters to the *config.xml* and *filters.xml* files accordingly in the working directory.

Click **Generate XInput** to scan the proxy log and generate the inputs specification, which is saved in the *xinput.xml* file in the working directory.



### Step 1.2: Specify list of users credential used in the AC test

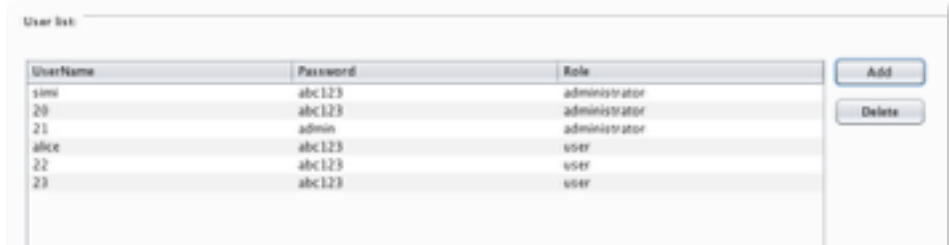
Here you will specify the list of authorised users' credential which are already created in the target application.

Click **Add** next to User list to open **Add an user** dialog box and enter user credential data includes username, password, user's role. The role can be selected from the exiting roles in the **Role** dropdown list. If the user role is not available in the roles list, type new role name into **New Role** text box and press **Enter** to confirm adding new role. The new role will be added into the role list. Finally, click **Add** to add user credential data into the current users list.



Double click on the row of a user to modify that user data.

To delete a user account, you can select the user's record (row) from User list, and press **Delete** a user from the list.

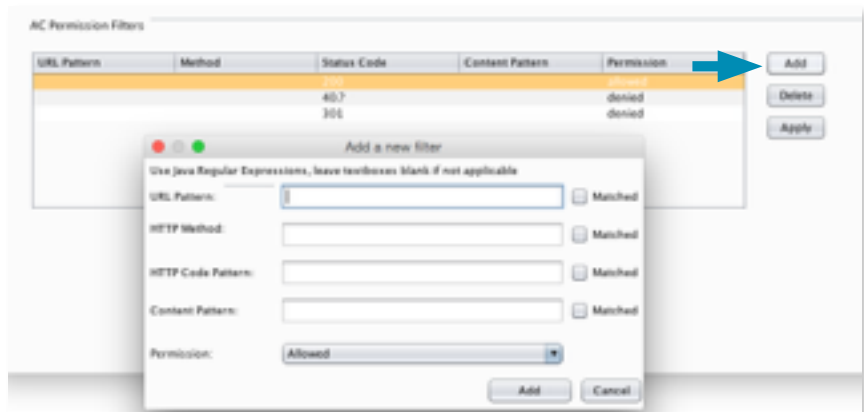


### Step 1.3: Define AC permission filters.xml

Now you define a set of filters that determine how the target application grants and denies permissions to the AC requests. By default, ACMate-Lite creates three common sense permission filters but you can always modify or delete them to fit your testing requirements.

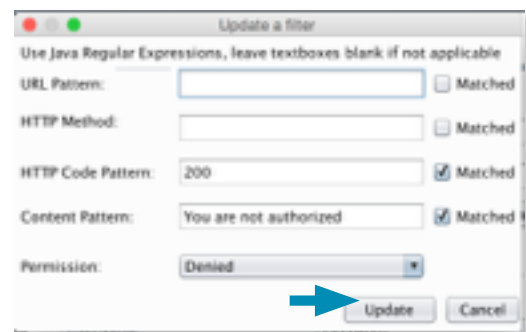
Click button **Add** in AC Permission Filters area to add new permission filter.

The filter conditions are declared by the URL pattern, HTTP method, HTTP response code and response content. The ACMate-Lite will match the response with these filter conditions and conclude the permission (*allowed/denided*) accordingly.

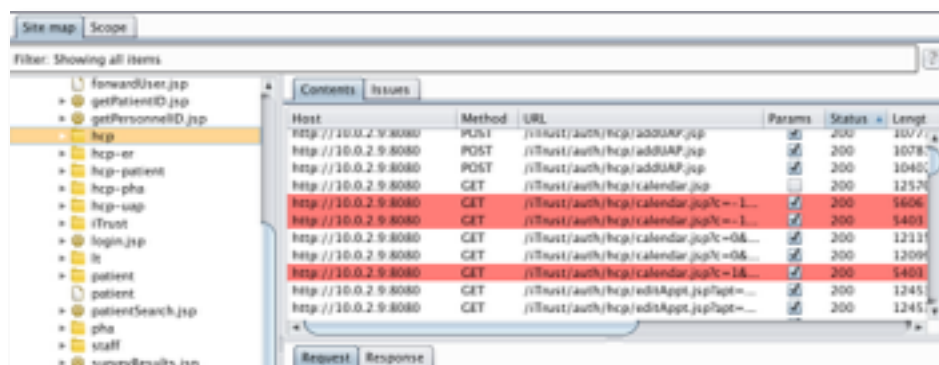
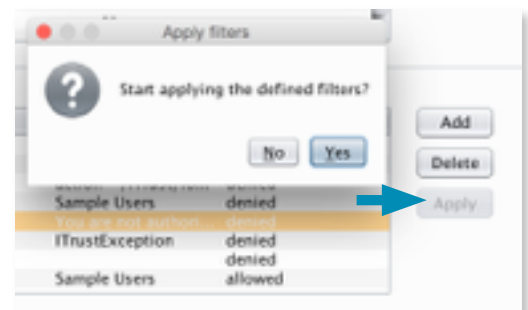


Finally, click **Add** to save the new filter.

To modify a permission filter, double click the selected rule, change the filter conditions and press **Update**.



To preview the requests/responses if they match the defined AC permission filters, press **Apply**. In application site map, the request/response pair will be marked in **Green** if it matches an “allowed” filter rule, in **Red** for “denied” filter rule, and no color if it does not match any defined filter rules. Using this feature, you can quickly focus the classified requests/responses for further analysis (e.g., you may want to create new permission filter rules)



**IMPORTANT:** Before going to next stage, you should save the users list and permission filters. Click **Init/Save Config** and press **Yes** to write the updated data into the *config.xml* and *filters.xml* file in the working directory.

**TIP:** If you want to restore or reuse the settings in an old test, simply open the test's working directory in ACMate-Lite. ACMate-Lite will read and load the saved configuration, value domain Xinput, users list and defined permission filter rules for your new AC test project. It is recommended that you create a different working directory and



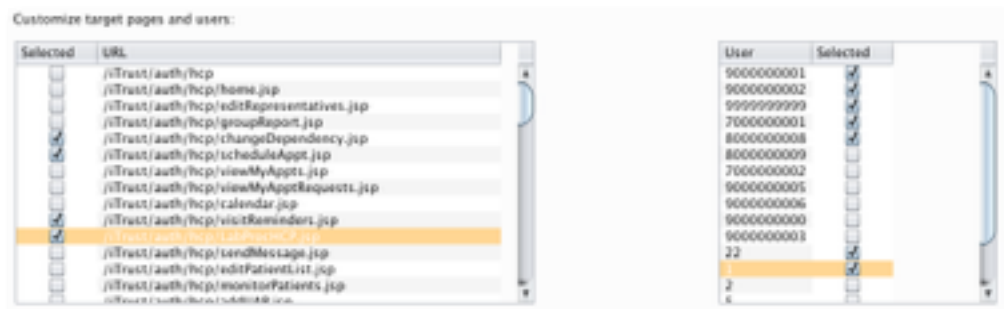
save these settings for the new test. If you don't provide new working directory, the files created in the new test will overwrite the existing files of the old test and you will lose the old test's result.

## 2. Launching Tests

In this stage, you will run the AC tests. Based on the settings in the previous stages, you select the target resources and set of users' credential used in the test. You also need to define the Login/Logout schema for the target application. ACMate-Lite test engine will send test requests to the target application and analyse the received responses and determine access permission based on the defined filters.

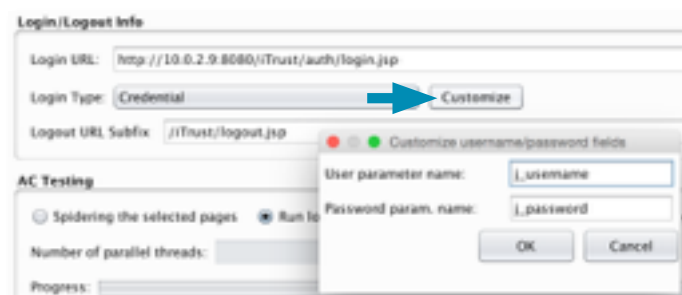
### *Step 2.1: Select the target resources and set of users' credential for AC test*

You can select a subset of target resources (pages) and users' credential for the AC test. ACMate-Lite test engine will only generate and send test requests to the selected target resources in the working session of selected users.



### *Step 2.2: Specify the Login/Logout schema*

In order to successfully log in the target application during the test, you must specify the *link* to the application's login page, the *username input field* and *password input field*. In **Login Type**, select *Credential* and press button **Customize**. In the opened "Customize username/password fields" dialog, enter the user parameter name and password parameter name. For example, in the case of iTrust, you must enter *j\_username* and *j\_password* as shown in the picture.



The logout procedure requires the logout URL. As the full URL to the application is already specified in the Login URL, you only need to enter the Logout URL Subfix.

### *Step 2.3: Run AC test*

There are three AC testing modes:

- **Spidering the selected pages:** ACMate-Lite test engine calls Burp Suite spider to crawl the target application. The crawling starts from the selected pages onward.
- **Run with existing requests on all users:** ACMate-Lite test engine tests the requests previously captured to the selected target resources for the selected users.
- **Run with existing requests and Xinputs on all users:** ACMate-Lite generates the test requests using Xinputs combinatorial testing-based specification. Then the generated test requests are used to test the selected target resources for the selected users.

Once a testing mode is selected, click **Start Testing** to start the ACMate-Lite test engine. The progress bar shows how much work of the test has been done while the Session Info lists the current running session. ACMate-Lite also shows the number of threads running in parallel.



### 3. Saving and Inspecting Test Results

Once testing sessions are finished, you can **Save AC Test Results** to export AC testing results to output XML file for inspection.

Test results are stored following this XML structure:

```
<Sessions>
  <Session>
    <ACTest>
      <Request>
      </Request>
      <AccessResponse permissionColor="green"> </AccessResponse>
    </ACTest>
  </Session>
  <Session>
  </Session>
</Sessions>
```

The colour is interpreted as follows:

- **green:** allowed

- 
- **red**: denied
  - **orange**: cannot classified based on the defined filters

## ACMate-Lite Configurations

Please notice that ACMate-Lite has been pre-configured so that the AC tests are executed with following settings:

- Use BurpSuite callback HTTP only
- Follow server redirections
- No group requests to a web page based on their set of parameters
- Remove the ending forward slash from URL, this makes URL/folder/ equals URL/folder

You may need to consider these settings when running the AC tests for the target applications.

This is all you need for ACMate-Lite. You can get the extension at the link provided.

If you have questions or comments about the tool, please send a message to [hathanh.le@uni.lu](mailto:hathanh.le@uni.lu)