

# HOW TO AVOID SECURITY VULNERABILITIES OF AEM

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## Speaker



## Andrey Pinchuk

### Professional Experience:

- Back-end development;
- 5 years IT-engineering;
- Senior AEM Developer.

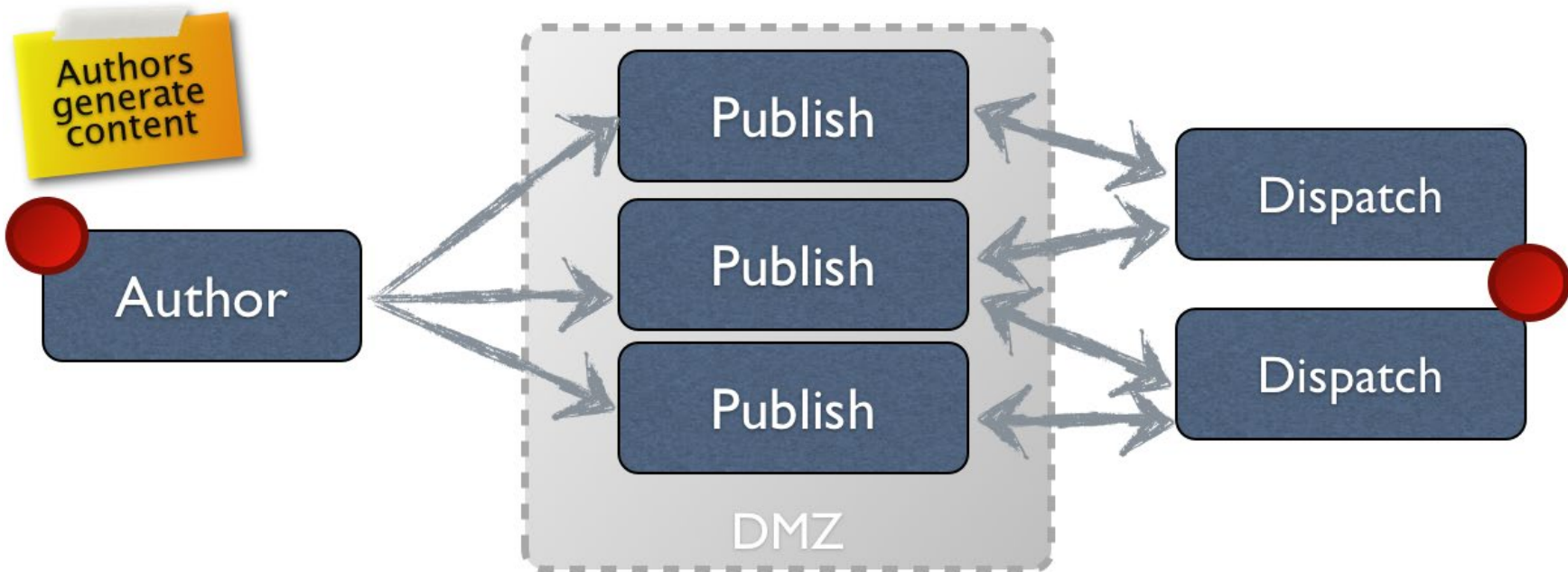
### Key Solutions:

- Adobe Analytics
- Adobe Campaign
- Dynamic Media

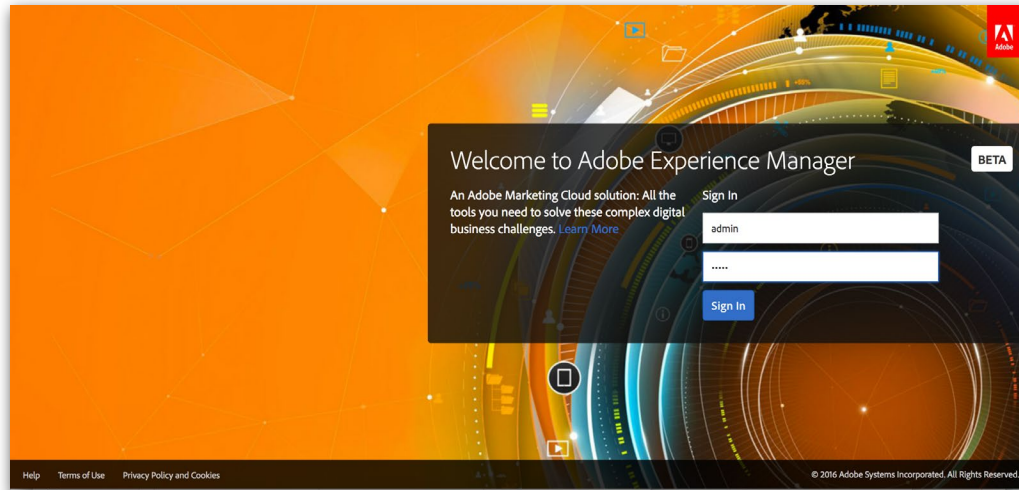
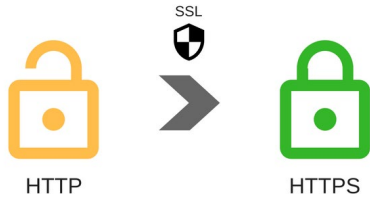
## Agenda

1. AEM Author Security
2. AEM Publish Security
3. Dispatcher security
4. CSRF Protection Framework
5. Denial of Service (DoS) Attacks

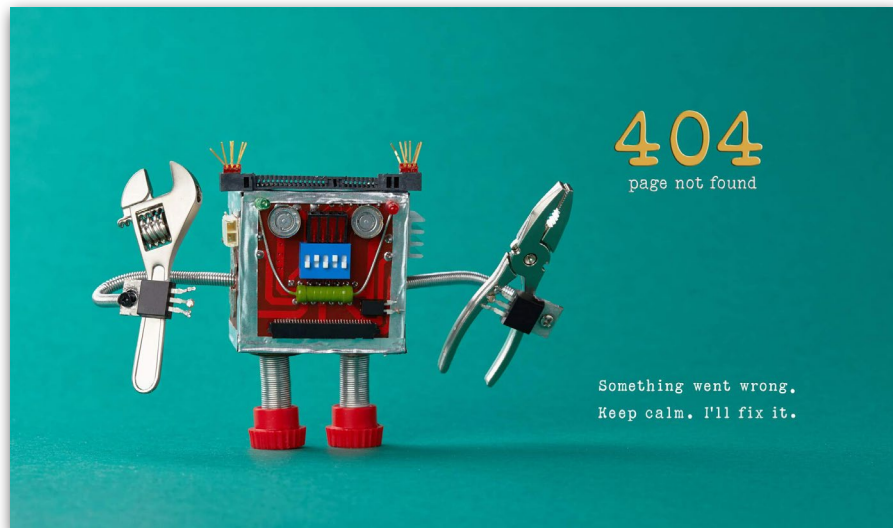
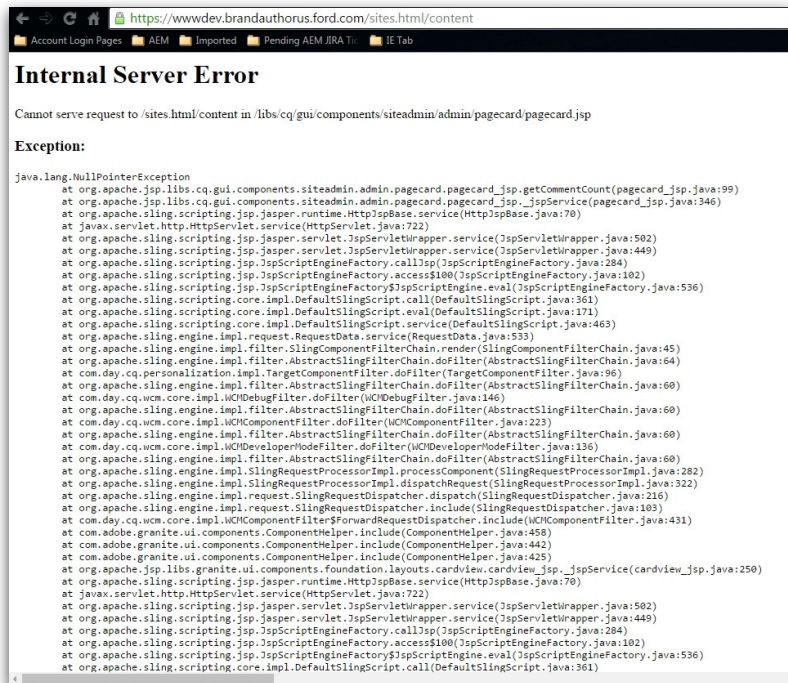
## General overview



## General Tips



# General Tips



## Internal Server Error

500 | An unexpected error occurred



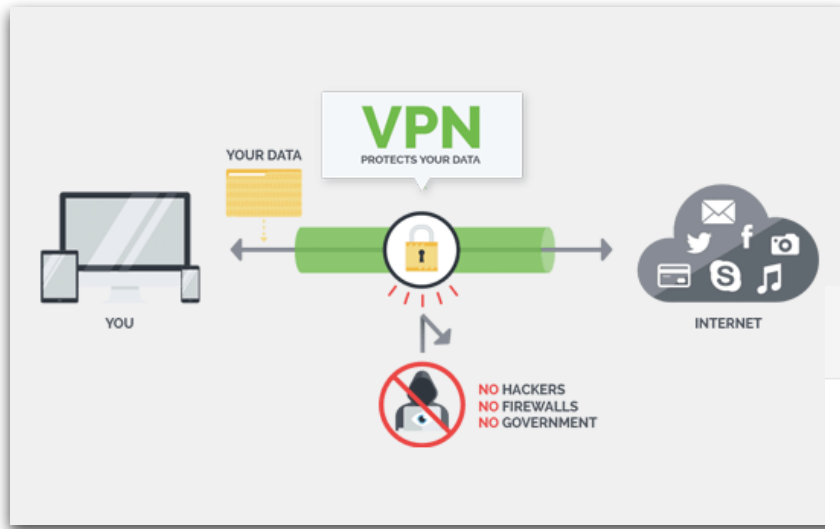
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# AXAMIT

# AEM Author Security



The screenshot shows a Google search results page for the query 'site:www.seroundtable.com'. The search bar at the top shows the query and the number of results: 'About 7,450 results (0.12 seconds)'. A red arrow points from the 'Google' logo to the search results. The left sidebar shows filters: 'Everything', 'Images', 'Videos', 'News', 'Shopping', and 'More'. The main results list includes:

- [Try Google Webmaster Tools](#)  
[www.google.com/webmasters/](#) Do you own [www.seroundtable.com](#)? Ge
- [Is Google Mixing Paid Results With Free Results?](#)   
[www.seroundtable.com](#) > Google News - [Cached](#)  
10 posts - 9 authors - Last post: Feb 22, 2010  
A few weeks back, Google started testing enhanced Google Maps results. Watcher noticed it and said that Google was doing ...
- [Should Website Content Be Updated or Augmented?](#)   
[www.seroundtable.com](#) > SEO Copywriting > SEO Copywriting - [Cached](#)  
2 posts - 1 author - Last post: Sep 13, 2010  
Search Engines like to include web pages in their query results that provide content, either directly or through ...

At the bottom, there is a section for 'Suffern, NY 10901' with a 'Change location' link and a 'More' link.

## AEM Author Security

4. Create a separate replication user to use in replication agent configuration.

- Admin should not be used for replicating anywhere.

5. Limit the number of users in admin groups.

6. CRXDE in prod author should be limited to certain users.





## AEM Publish Security

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1. Publish instances should not be accessible to an outside of the intranet.
2. Anonymous permissions should be checked & make sure not every directory accessible.
3. **Apache Sling Referrer Filter** must be configured to handle unwanted publish requests.
4. The cross-site forgery framework should be enabled to filter requests.
5. All default tools (CRXDE) etc should be disabled.
6. Not all users should be able to install packages directly.

# AEM Publish Security - Apache Sling Referrer Filter

Apache Sling Referrer Filter

Request filter checking the referrer of modification requests.

Allow Empty

☒

Allow an empty or missing referrer (allow.empty)

Allow Hosts

saml.test.com

⚠ List of allowed hosts for the referrer which are added to the list of default hosts. (allow.hosts)

+

-

Allow Regexp Host

List of allowed regexp for the referrer. (allow.hosts.regexp)

+

-

Filter Methods

POST

PUT

DELETE

These methods are filtered by the filter. (filter.methods)

+

-

+

-

+

-

Configuration Information

Persistent Identity (PID)

org.apache.sling.security.impl.ReferrerFilter

Configuration Binding

lauchpad:resources/install/5/org.apache.sling.security-1.0.10.jar

Apache Sling Security (org.apache.sling.security), Version 1.0.10

Cancel

Reset

Delete

Unbind

Save

# Dispatcher security

## 1. Check rules & filters in dispatcher.any configuration file

```
/filter
{
  # Deny everything first and then allow specific entries
  /0001 { /type "deny" /glob "*" }

  # Open consoles
  # /0011 { /type "allow" /url "/admin/*" } # allow servlet engine admin
  # /0012 { /type "allow" /url "/crx/*" } # allow content repository
  # /0013 { /type "allow" /url "/system/*" } # allow OSGi console

  # Allow non-public content directories
  # /0021 { /type "allow" /url "/apps/*" } # allow apps access
  # /0022 { /type "allow" /url "/bin/*" }
  # /0023 { /type "allow" /url "/content*" } # disable this rule to allow mapped content only

  # /0024 { /type "allow" /url "/libs/*" }
  # /0025 { /type "deny" /url "/libs/shindig/proxy*" } # if you enable /libs close access to proxy

  # /0026 { /type "allow" /url "/home/*" }
  # /0027 { /type "allow" /url "/tmp/*" }
  # /0028 { /type "allow" /url "/var/*" }

  # Enable extensions in non-public content directories, using a regular expression
  /0041
  {
    /type "allow"
    /extension '(css|gif|ico|js|png|swf|jpe?g)'
  }
}
```

```
/0001 { /type "allow" /glob "*" /index.html "*" }
```

# Dispatcher security

## 2. Limit the request headers information.

Request headers are passed in every request to AEM publish based on dispatcher configuration.

### Apache Module `mod_headers`

Availa

<b>Description:</b>	Customization of HTTP request and response headers
<b>Status:</b>	Extension
<b>Module Identifier:</b>	headers_module
<b>Source File:</b>	mod_headers.c

#### Summary

This module provides directives to control and modify HTTP request and response headers. Headers can be merged, replaced or removed.

#### ▲ Order of Processing

The directives provided by `mod_headers` can occur almost anywhere within the server configuration, and can be limited in scope by enclosing them in [configuration sections](#).

Order of processing is important and is affected both by the order in the configuration file and by placement in [configuration sections](#). These two directives have a different effect if reversed:

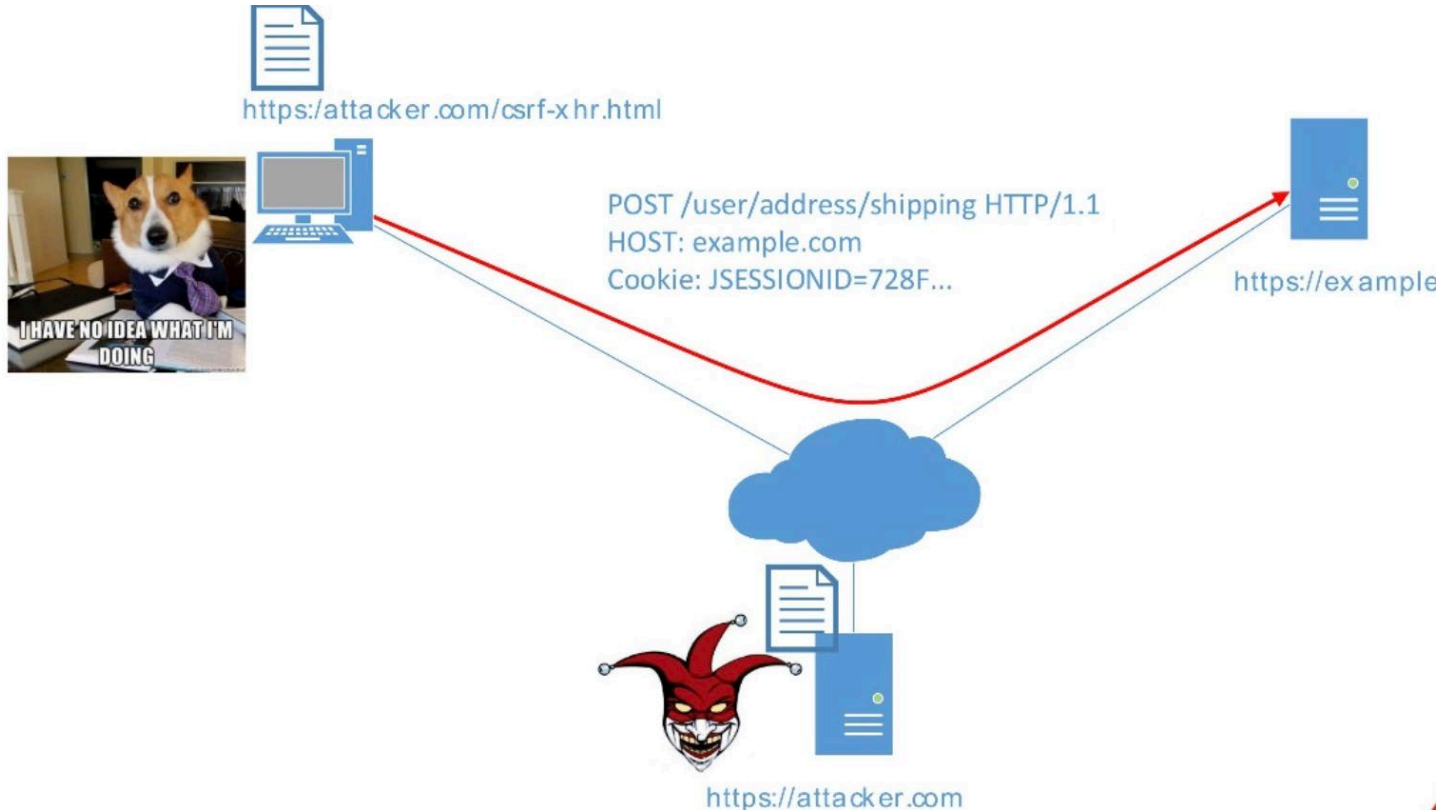
```
RequestHeader append MirrorID "mirror 12"  
RequestHeader unset MirrorID
```

This way round, the `MirrorID` header is not set. If reversed, the `MirrorID` header is set to "mirror 12".

## Dispatcher security

3. Do not allow cross-origin requests. Set the SAME origin header at the web server level.
  4. Proper input validation should be done in POST Requests & dispatcher filter should allow only certain POST requests
  5. Caching of selectors & URL extensions should be defined.
- !Not every selector or extension should be cacheable.  
DOS or DDOS attacks are very easy to do in AEM application.

# Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)



## Protect against Cross-Site Request Forgery

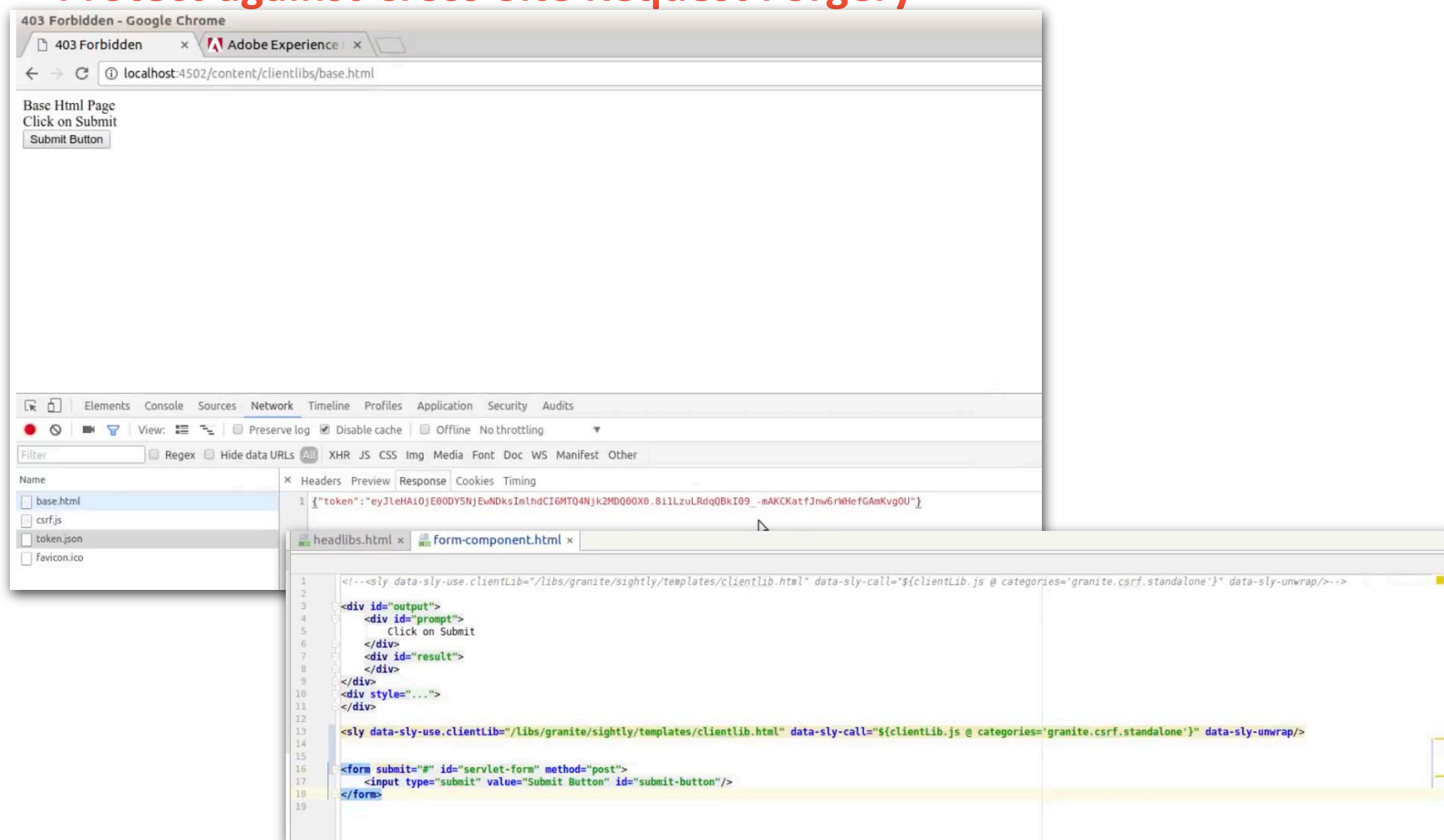
AEM 6.1 ships with a mechanism that helps protect against Cross-Site Request Forgery attacks, called the CSRF Protection Framework.

### **The Sling Referrer Filter**

The referrer filter service is an OSGi service that allows you to configure:

- which http methods should be filtered;
- whether an empty referrer header is allowed
- a white list of servers to be allowed in addition to the server host.

# Protect against Cross-Site Request Forgery





## Protect against Cross-Site Request Forgery

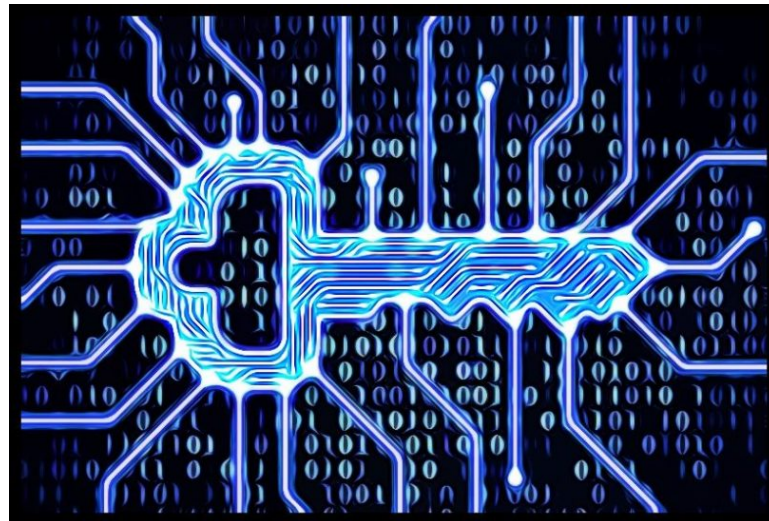
The framework makes use of tokens to guarantee that the client request is legitimate

### Dependencies

Any component that relies on the **granite.jquery** dependency will benefit from the CSRF Protection Framework automatically. If this is not the case for any of your components, you must declare a dependency to **granite.csrf.standalone** before you can use the framework.

### Replicating the Crypto Key

In order to make use of the tokens, you need to replicate the **/etc/keys/hmac** binary to all of the instances in your deployment.



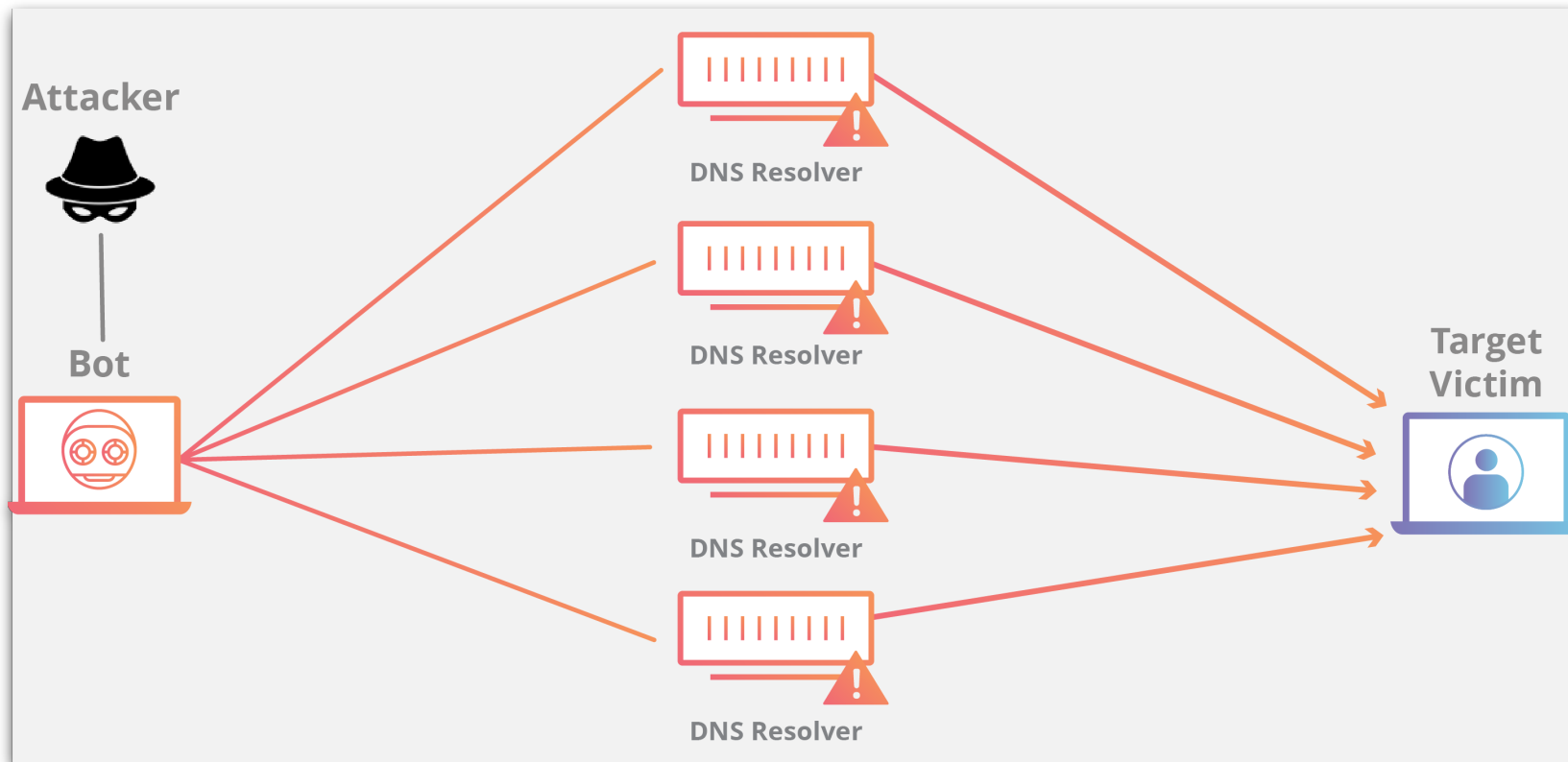
## Generating the CSRF token

1. An authenticated user can only generate the CSRF token. It implies unauthenticated access to the system is prevented.
2. Accessing `/libs/granite/csrf/token.json` will generate the token as `{"token": "eyJ...U0"}`.
3. This token will consists of two values. `{"exp": "iat":}`.

**Injection:** The generated token has to be sent as a header to the post request like CSRF-TOKEN:.

**NOTE:** The dispatcher configuration need to allow the url `/libs/granite/csrf/token.json` and CSRF-TOKEN header.

## Denial of Service (DoS/DDos) Attacks



## What can we do?

- Control the selectors in your application, so that you only serve the explicit selectors needed and return 404 for all others.
- Prevent the output of an unlimited number of content nodes.  
In particular the JSON renderer which can transverse the tree structure over multiple levels.
- <http://localhost:4502/.json> could dump the whole repository in a JSON representation.
- This would cause significant server problems.  
For this reason **Sling** sets a limit on the number of maximum results.

To limit the depth of the JSON rendering you can set the value for:  
JSON Max results (**json.maximumresults**).  
Use a firewall to filter access to your instance.

# Questions & Answers

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