

Bug Bounty Report

Target Application: OWASP Juice Shop

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Scope: Authentication vulnerabilities

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1. Executive Summary

During the security assessment of the target application OWASP Juice Shop, several authentication vulnerabilities were identified that could potentially compromise the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the system. The vulnerabilities mainly revolve around weak authentication mechanisms and improper input validation. Authentication Vulnerabilities were exposed by brute forcing weak login protection and SQL injection.

2. Vulnerability Findings

2.1. Authentication Vulnerability (Brute Force – Weak Login Protection)

Impact:

An attacker can perform automated login attempts using a wordlist (e.g., rockyou.txt) to guess valid credentials. Without protections such as account lockout, rate-limiting, or CAPTCHA, brute-force attacks can eventually succeed, allowing unauthorized access to user accounts. This could lead to compromise of sensitive data and potential privilege escalation if administrative accounts are targeted.

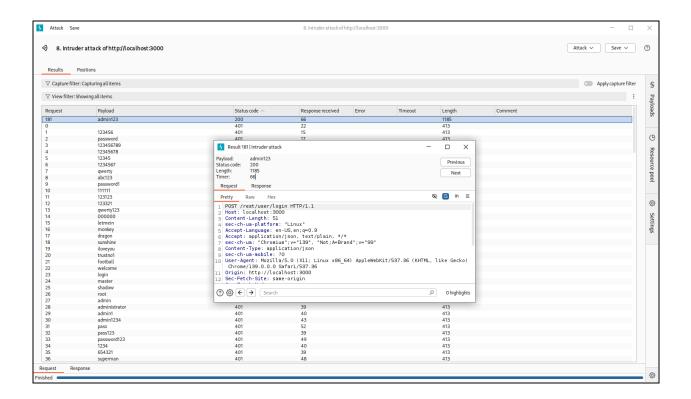
Remediation:

- Implement account lockout or temporary suspension after a defined number of failed login attempts.
- Introduce CAPTCHA or multi-factor authentication (MFA) to prevent automated login attempts.
- Enforce strong password policies (length, complexity, expiration).
- Monitor login attempts and alert on abnormal activity such as repeated failures from the same IP.

Proof of Concept:

Enumerated the admin email and used it in the login page for capturing the login request via Burp Suite. The request was sent to Intruder and brute forced potential passwords with a wordlist. Successfully obtained the password for admin which was then used to login and access sensitive contents and privileges. Some of them include admin profile page, order history, payment credentials and address information.





2.2. Authentication Vulnerability (SQL Injection – Authentication Bypass)

Impact:

By exploiting SQL injection in the login form, an attacker can bypass authentication entirely without knowing valid credentials. This could result in direct access to administrative accounts, exposure of sensitive data, and full compromise of the application. Successful exploitation could also allow further attacks, such as data extraction, privilege escalation, and complete takeover of the database server.

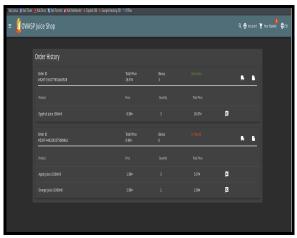
Remediation:

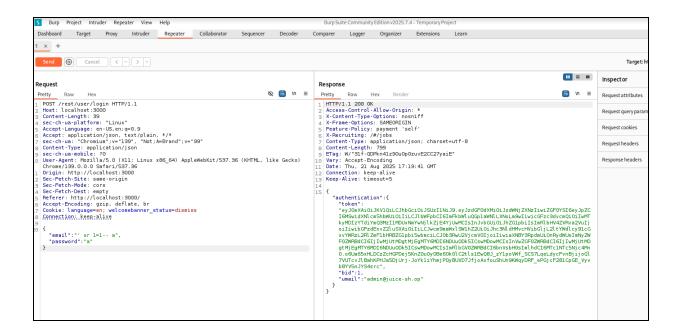
- Use parameterized queries (prepared statements) to handle user input safely.
- Apply input validation and sanitization to ensure special characters (e.g., ', --) are not directly executed in SQL statements.
- Implement the principle of least privilege for database accounts (e.g., the application should not connect with admin-level rights).
- Regularly perform security testing, including automated scans and manual code reviews, to identify injection flaws.

Proof of Concept:

SQL injection was utilized in login query to bypass and authenticate the admin account. The single quote (') is used to prematurely terminate the string in the SQL query, allowing the attacker to manipulate the logic of the statement. By injecting the clause 0R 1=1, which always evaluates to true, the condition in the query is bypassed, resulting in the system treating the input as valid. Consequently, this grants unauthorized access, often defaulting to the first user in the database (commonly the administrator account). The -- operator is used to comment out the remainder of the query, effectively disabling any additional security checks or constraints.







2.3. Authentication Vulnerability

(Insecure Password Reset Mechanism – Account Takeover)

Impact:

The application's password reset functionality relies on predictable security questions rather than secure, token-based recovery. An attacker can easily guess or brute-force the answers to these questions and reset the password of another user. Successful exploitation leads to **full**

account takeover, granting unauthorized access to sensitive user data and account functionality. If high-privileged accounts (e.g., administrators) are targeted, this could result in complete compromise of the application environment.

Remediation:

- Eliminate knowledge-based questions (e.g., "What's your favorite color?") as the sole recovery method.
- Implement **time-limited**, **single-use reset tokens** sent to a verified email or phone number.
- Enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for account recovery operations.
- Log and alert unusual password reset attempts (e.g., multiple failed recovery attempts).
- Conduct periodic reviews of password reset mechanisms against OWASP ASVS requirements.

Proof of Concept:

Navigated to the forgot password page and entered the email of the target account obtained from enumeration in review comments. Provided the answer to the predictable security question using Google recon. Application allowed the password reset without further verification. After setting a new password logged in successfully confirming the account takeover.

