

Session Hijacking

Module - 11

Types of Session Hijacking :

1. **Application Level** : Session ID Sniffing, Session Fixation, Session Donation, Session ID brute Force.
2. **Network Level** : Blind hijacking, Session Sniffing, IP Spoofing, UDP hijacking

Attack Vector :

1. Man in the middle Attack : rogue wifi, DNS spoofin
2. Man in the Browser : Malware, browser add-ons
3. Brute Forcing : enumerating session IDs
4. Cross Site Scripting : Social Engineering
5. Session ID Leakage : referrer in outbound links, exposed log files

The Impact of Session Hijacking :

The Victim can be impersonated by the attacker
The System believes the attacker is a legitimate user

Session Persistence in Web Applications :

The Stateless Nature of HTTP :

Each Assets require a new connection request

Session ID
Token
Auth Cookie

Session Persistence in Cookies :

Good :

1. Cookies are automatically persisted on each Request
2. Cookies usually aren't logged in normal requests
3. The Session ID can be Persistent once the site is left or browser closed

Bad :

1. Cookies can be vulnerable to cross site scripting (XSS) attacks
2. You can only have one active session per browser

Session Persistence in Website :

Good :

1. You can have multiple simultaneous Sessions in the one browser
2. This mechanism still works if the client doesn't accept the cookies

Bad :

1. The Session ID is lost once you leave the website
2. The Session ID will be sent in the referrer from an HTTP Source
3. The Session ID Will be stored In the cache or logs

Session Persistence in Hidden Form Field :

Good :

1. You can have multiple simultaneous sessions in the one browser
2. The Mechanism still works if the client doesn't accept the cookies

Bad :

1. The Session ID is lost once you leave the website
2. Every request need to be POST (Session ID is Lost on GET)
3. You can't Secure embedded resources (i.e. videos in the page)

Hijacking Sessions in Web Applications :

- Hijacking Cookies with Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

-> Fiddler is a http Proxy tool , Debugging for web application

HTTP Session Hijacking (Sometimes called “Sidejacking”) is when attacker gets a hold of a user’s cookie, allowing them to do anything the user can do on a particular Websites.

Session Sniffing :

Session Fixation :

Brute Forcing Session IDs

Network and Client Level Session Hijacking :

TCP SPOOFING :

Blind Hijacking : Attacker unable to see the traffic but it only predicts the sequence number

Man in the Middle :

IP Spoofing : Doesn’t require to guess the sequence number , Attacker creates the source routed packets
Attacker needs to desynchronize the connection

UDP SPOOFING :

UDP Hijacking :

There is no concept of desynchronizing of connection as TCP
as victim sends any request ... before the server responds the attacker responds back means there is a race condition.

#Man in the Browser :

Mitigation the Risk of Session Hijacking :

1. Use Strong Session ID
2. Keep session ids out of the url
 - People will copy and paste URL
 - They will be passed in the referred header
 - They’ll get logged at various points
3. Don’t reuse session id for auth
 - Session Fixation exploits reused session IDs
 - Transfer the session to a new ID post-auth
 - or don’t attach the authid state to the session
4. Always Flag Session id cookie as HTTP Only
 - Session IDs are used by the server to persist sessions
 - There is no reason to access them from client script
 - Flagging the cookie as HTTP Only makes it inaccessible via java script
5. Transport Layer Security :
 - Consider Session IDs to be sensitive
 - Sensitive data requires transport layer security
 - Transport layer security mitigates multiple session hijacking risks
 - A man in the middle sniffing the cookie
 - DNS poisoning
 - The referer header is not sent
6. Always Flag session ID Cookies as Secure
 - The Session ID cookies should never be sent in the clear
 - It can be flagged to ensure that can’t inadvertently occur
7. Session Expiration and Using Session Cookies
 - Session can only be hijacked while there’s a valid reason
 - Expire the Cookie and the actual Session early
 - But remember there’s a usability aspect
 - Don’t “rehydrate” an expired session with the same ID

Understanding Sliding Session Expiry Understanding Absolute Session Expiry



9. Encourage user to log out

10. Re authentication Before key actions

The session hijacking risk should not mean credentials are exposed

if an authentication challenge is presented before an action, session hijacking is mitigated

This also protects against attacker having direct access to the machine

Automating Session Hijack Attacks :

Tools:

1. OWASP Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP)
2. BurpSuite
3. Netsparker
4. Juggernaut
5. Hunt
6. Ettercap