02 WEB APPLICATION TESTING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We tested DVWA for the OWASP Top-10 (2021). The application exhibited multiple intentional vulnerabilities as expected for a training VM. The most severe findings were SQL Injection (Critical) and Local File Inclusion (High), both allowing data disclosure. Several medium-severity weaknesses (weak session cookies, missing TLS, XSS) were confirmed. Remediation recommendations (parameterized queries, secure session handling, input/output handling, patching) are included.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

- **Scope:** DVWA instance and web server on Metasploitable2 only.
- **Techniques used:** Manual testing (browser + Burp Suite), automated tools (sqlmap, ffuf, nmap, nikto,), request/response capture.
- **Security level during tests:** DVWA security=low used for initial PoC verification; some tests repeated at higher levels to confirm behavior.

FINDINGS

001 — SQL INJECTION (CRITICAL)

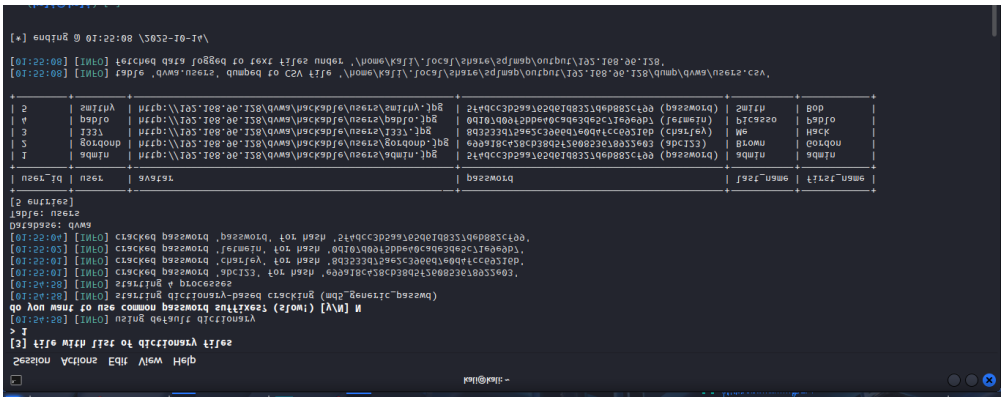
Target URL: http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli/
How found: Manual payloads in Burp Repeater (1' OR '1'='1) returned additional rows; time-based payload (1' AND SLEEP(5)--) induced response delay. Confirmed and enumerated with sqlmap.
Proof-of-Concept:

- Burp Repeater: modified id=1 → id=1' OR '1'='1 returned extra records.
- sqlmap dump: sqlmap enumerated dvwa DB

Impact: Full disclosure of database contents (usernames, hashed/cleartext password field depending on DVWA setup). Potential pivot to other attacks.

Severity: Critical

Recommendation: Use parameterized queries/prepared statements; apply input validation; use least-privilege DB accounts; remove debugging banners and error outputs.



002 — FILE UPLOAD / XXE (HIGH)

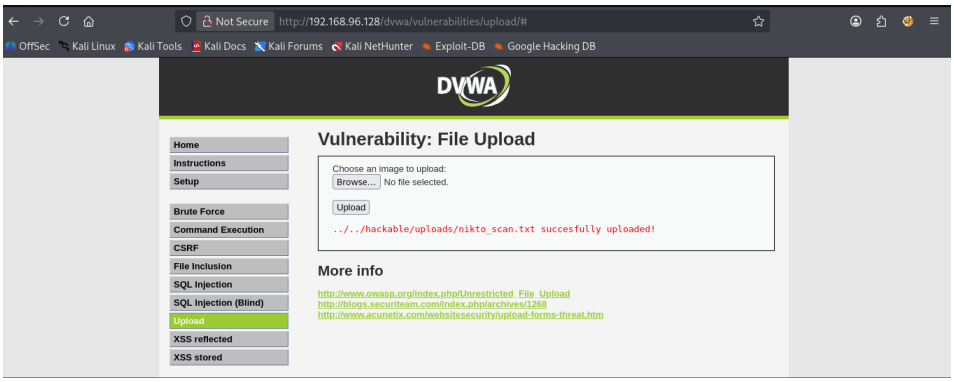
Target URL: http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/upload/

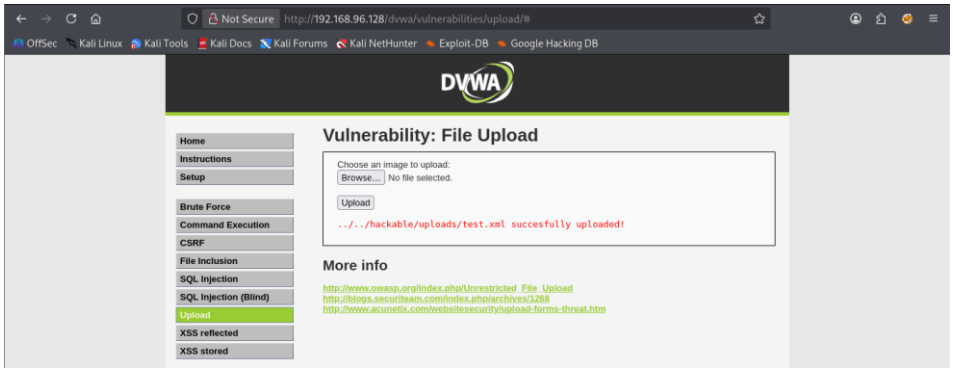
How found: Located upload form, uploaded test files , intercepted request in Burp, modified filename/content-type to bypass filters. Submitted XML payload with external entity.

Impact: Disclosure of sensitive system files; potential remote code execution via malicious upload or XXE.

Severity: High

Recommendation: Restrict file types, validate filenames, store uploads outside webroot, disable external entities in XML parsers, and prevent directory traversal (..).





003 — CROSS-SITE SCRIPTING (XSS) (MEDIUM)

Target URL: http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_r/ and xss_s/

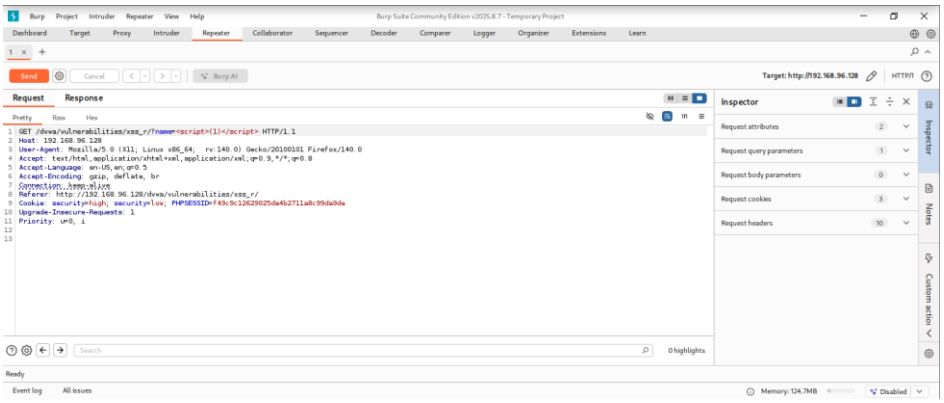
How found: Payload <script>alert(1)</script> and <script>alert('xss')</script> reflected

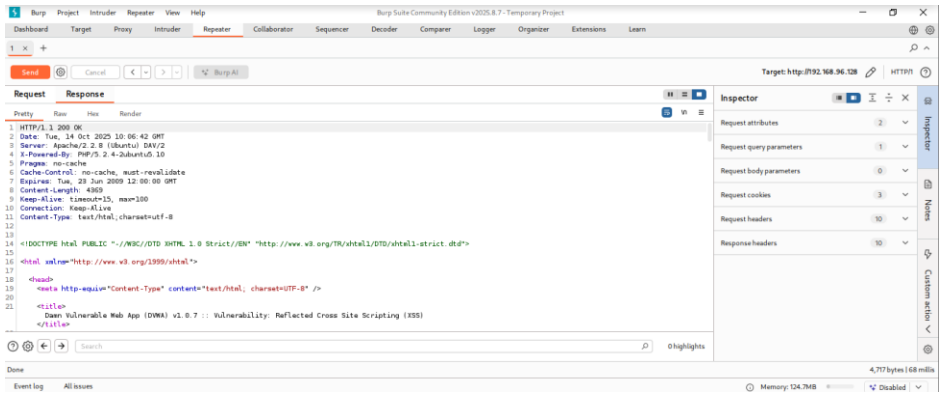
unsanitized in response and executed in browser.

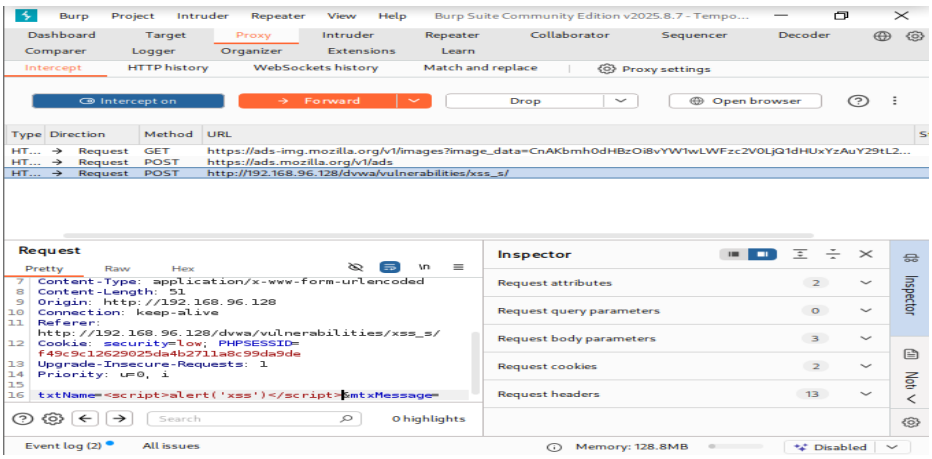
Impact: Cookie theft, session hijacking, CSRF amplification, or user-targeted attacks.

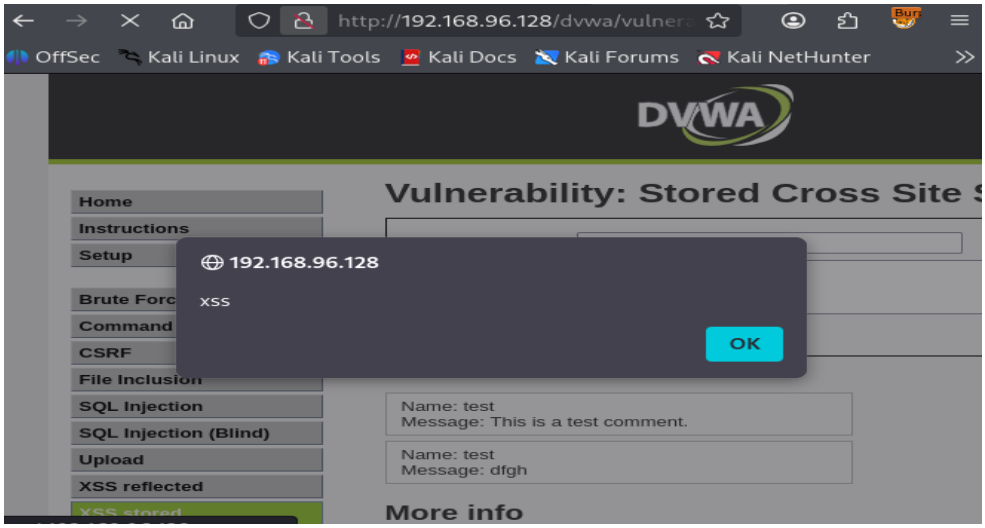
Severity: Medium

Recommendation: Output-encode all user-supplied data for the correct context (HTML/attribute/JS), implement Content Security Policy (CSP) where applicable, and validate input.









004 — SECURITY MISCONFIGURATION (MEDIUM)

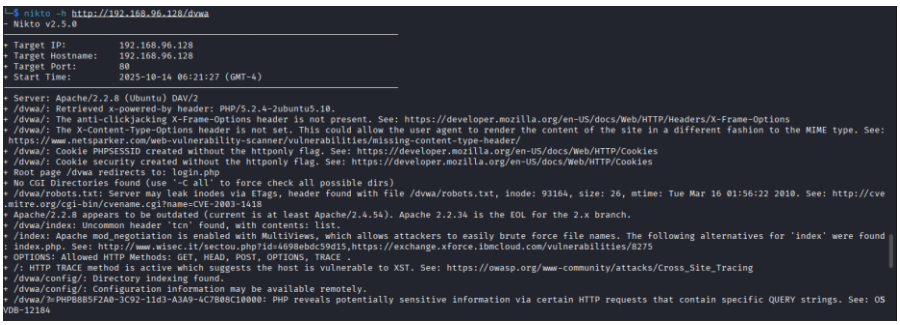
Target URL: http://192.168.96.128/dvwa

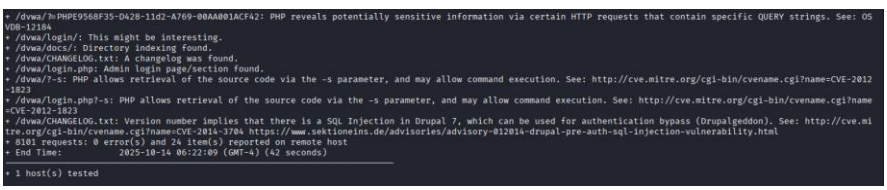
How found: Server response headers included Server and X-Powered-By banners; nikto discovered default files and sample pages. Directory listing present on some paths.

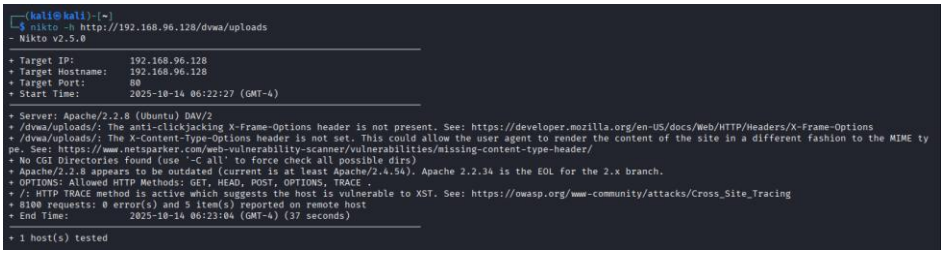
Impact: Increased fingerprinting ease for attackers; exposes outdated components.

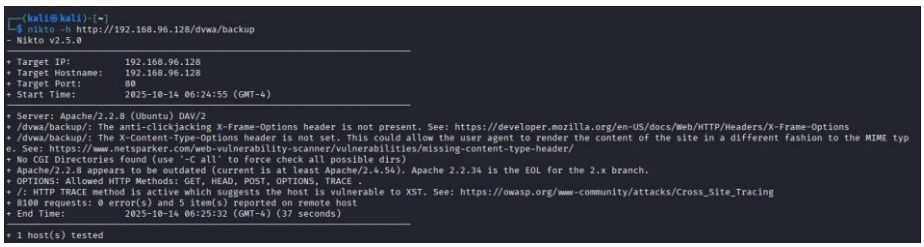
Severity: Medium

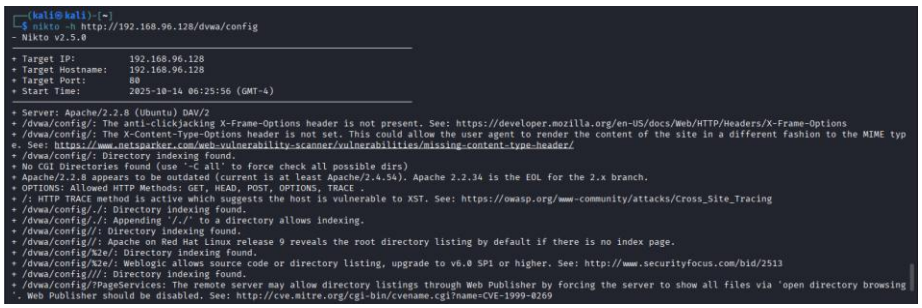
Recommendation: Hide server version info, disable directory listing, remove default files, and harden server configuration.

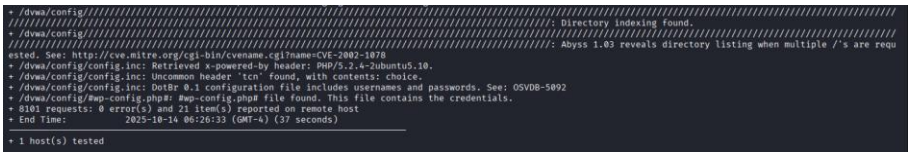












005 — OUTDATED COMPONENTS (INFORMATION)

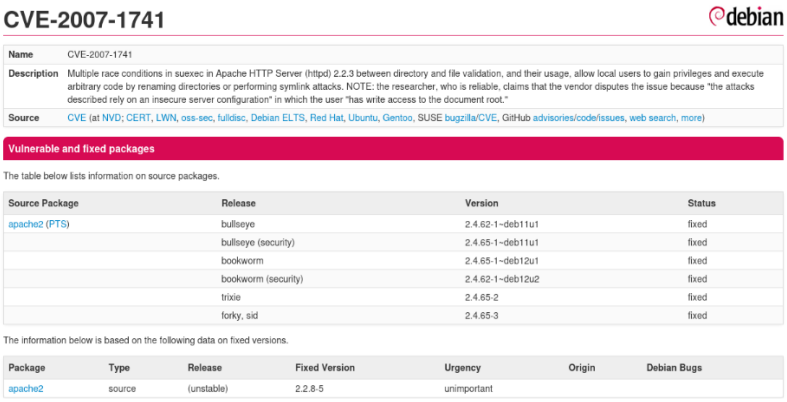
Target: 192.168.196.128

How found: nmap -sV and response headers revealed older PHP/Apache versions common to Metasploitable.

Impact: Possible exposure to known CVEs for outdated versions.

Severity: Medium (for production this is high)

Recommendation: Patch and update software; subscribe to CVE feeds and apply mitigations.



CVE-2007-1741

debian

Name	CVE-2007-1741
Description	Multiple race conditions in suexec in Apache HTTP Server (httpd) 2.2.3 between directory and file validation, and their usage, allow local users to gain privileges and execute arbitrary code by renaming directories or performing symlink attacks. NOTE: the researcher, who is reliable, claims that the vendor disputes the issue because "the attacks described rely on an insecure server configuration" in which the user "has write access to the document root."
Source	CVE (at NVD; CERT, LWN, oss-sec, fulldisc, Debian ELTS, Red Hat, Ubuntu, Gentoo, SUSE bugzilla/CVE, GitHub advisories/code/issues, web search, more)

Vulnerable and fixed packages

The table below lists information on source packages.

Source Package	Release	Version	Status
apache2 (PTS)	bullseye	2.4.62-1~deb11u1	fixed
	bullseye (security)	2.4.65-1~deb11u1	fixed
	bookworm	2.4.65-1~deb12u1	fixed
	bookworm (security)	2.4.62-1~deb12u2	fixed
	trixie	2.4.65-2	fixed
	forky, sid	2.4.65-3	fixed

The information below is based on the following data on fixed versions.

Package	Type	Release	Fixed Version	Urgency	Origin	Debian Bugs
apache2	source	(unstable)	2.2.8-5	unimportant		

LOG

Test ID	Vulnerability	Severity	Target URL
001	SQL Injection	Critical	http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli/
002	Reflected XSS	Medium	http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_r/
003	Stored XSS	Medium	http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_s/
004	Security Misconfiguration	Medium	http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/
005	File Upload / XXE	High	http://192.168.96.128/dvwa/vulnerabilities/upload/
006	Outdated Components	Informayion	http://192.168.96.128/

CONCLUSION / SUMMARY

Performed OWASP Top 10 tests on DVWA (192.168.1.200) using Burp, sqlmap, and ZAP. Found exploitable SQL injection enabling login bypass and reflected XSS in form inputs. Verified weak session controls and lack of CSRF protection. Recommendations: parameterized queries, output encoding, session-hardening, and CSRF tokens to mitigate findings.