

WAPH-Web Application Programming and Hack-ing

Instructor: Dr. Phu Phung

Student

Name: Bhargavi Murari

Email: muraribi@mail.uc.edu



Figure 1: Bhargavi's headshot

Repository Information

Repository's URL: <https://github.com/BhargaviMurari22/waph-muraribi.git>

Hackathon 1 Report:

Overview and outcomes:

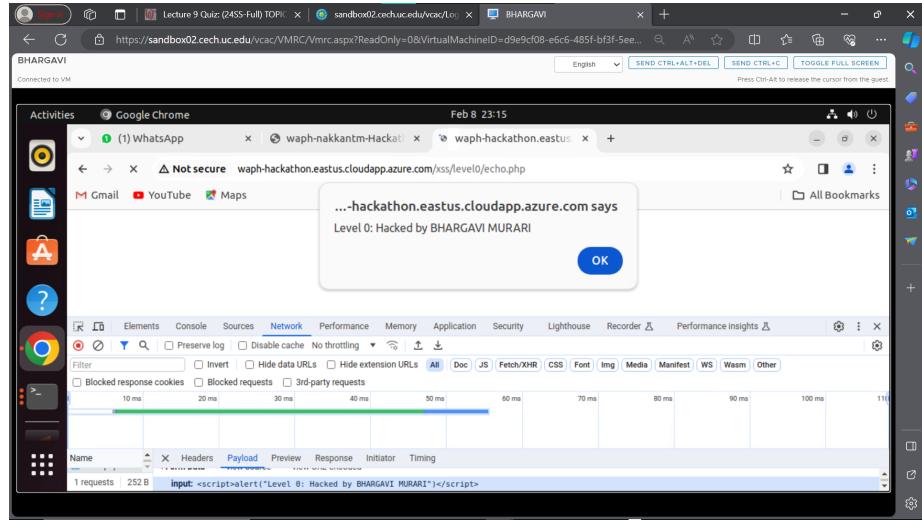
The “Cross-site Scripting Attacks and Defenses” hackathon offers participants a thorough exploration of online application security, placing special emphasis on addressing the pervasive threat of cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks. Through hands-on lab exercises, attendees gain firsthand experience in understanding the risks associated with XSS vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities pose serious threats to user data, session cookies, and the overall system integrity of web applications, allowing the injection and execution of scripts on legitimate web pages. The hackathon aims to empower participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to both exploit and defend against XSS vulnerabilities. The primary focus is on implementing robust defense strategies to significantly mitigate these risks. Using the attached GitHub link, access the lab materials: <https://github.com/BhargaviMurari22/waph-muraribi/tree/main/labs/hackathon1>

Task 1:

LEVEL 0:

URL used: (<http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level0/echo.php>)

Script used for attacking: `<script>alert("Level0: Hacked by BHARGAVI MURARI")</script>`



LEVEL 1:

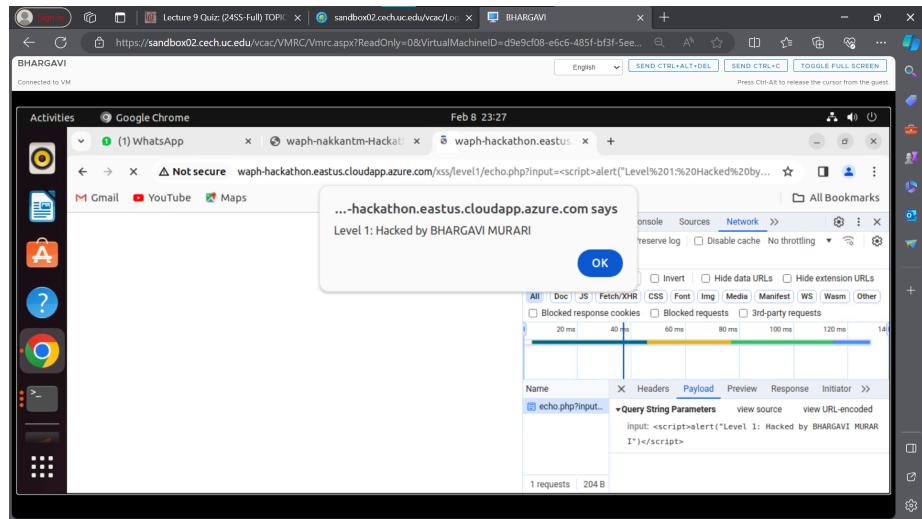
URL used:

(<http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level1/echo.php>)

Script was written at the end of the URL as a path variable.

The attacking script used was given below,

```
?input=<script>alert("Level 1: Hacked by BHARGAVI MURARI")</script>
```



LEVEL 2:

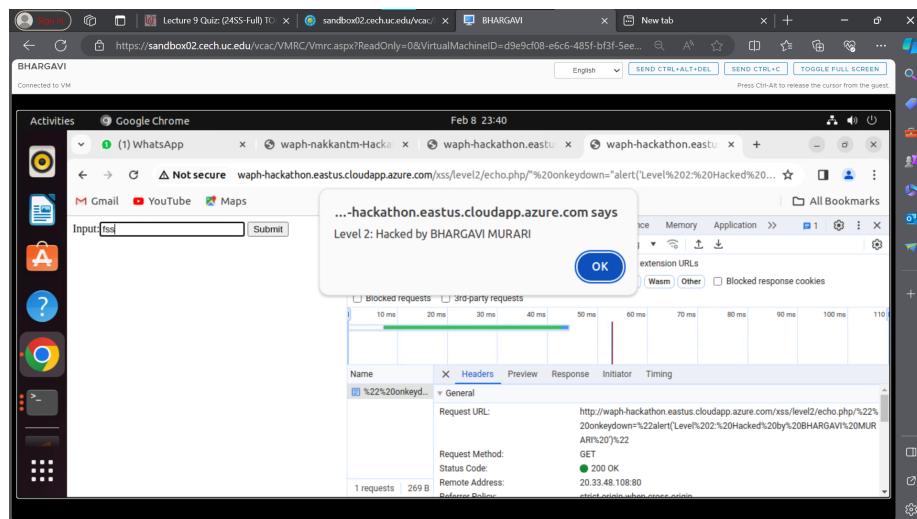
URL used:

(<http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level2/echo.php>) This HTTP request has been converted into a basic HTML form as it does not include an input field and does not allow a path variable. The employment of a hacking script is then made easier by the attacking script being guided through this form.

```
<script>alert("Level2 Hacked by BHARGAVI MURARI")</script>
```

Source Code Guess:

```
if(!isset($_POST['input'])){
    die("{\"error\": \"Please provide 'input' field in an HTTP POST Request\"}");
} else {
    echo $_POST['input'];
}
```



LEVEL 3:

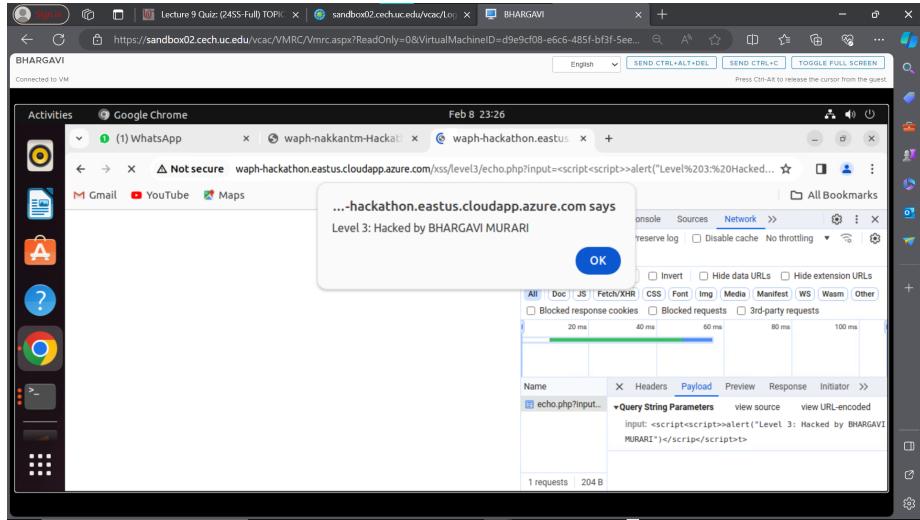
URL used:

(<http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level3/echo.php>) This degree of security prevents the script tag from being directly entered into the input variable. To take use of this URL, the code was broken up into several pieces and connected to cause a warning to appear on the website.

Script tag used for attacking:

```
?input=<script<script>>alert("Level 3 Hacked by BHARGAVI MURARI")</script></script>t
```

Source code guess: Script tag may be substituted with a blank, `str_replace(['<script>', '</script>'], ' ', $input)`



LEVEL 4:

URL used:

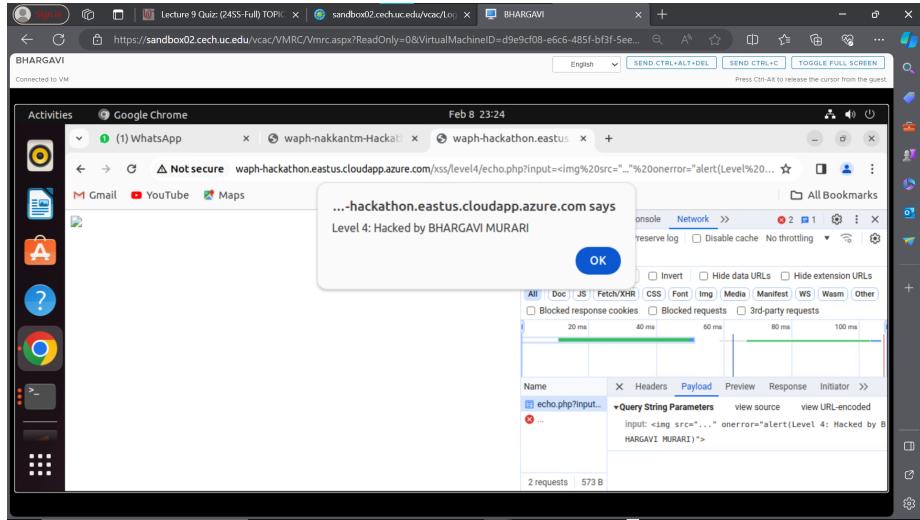
(http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level4/echo.php) At this point, the script tag is fully filtered, thus it won't be able to be blocked even if the string is broken up and then joined together. Using the onerror() method of the tag to inject the XSS script allowed me to set off an alarm.

Script tag used:

```
?input=<img%20src="..." onerror="alert(Level 4: Hacked by BHARGAVI MURARI)">
```

Code injected:

```
?input=<button onclick="alert('Level4')"></button>
Source code guess:
$data = $_GET['input'];
if (preg_match('/<script\b[^>]*>(.*)?</script>/is', $data)) {
exit('{"error": "No \'script\' is allowed!"}');
} else {
echo $data;
}
```



LEVEL 5:

URL used:

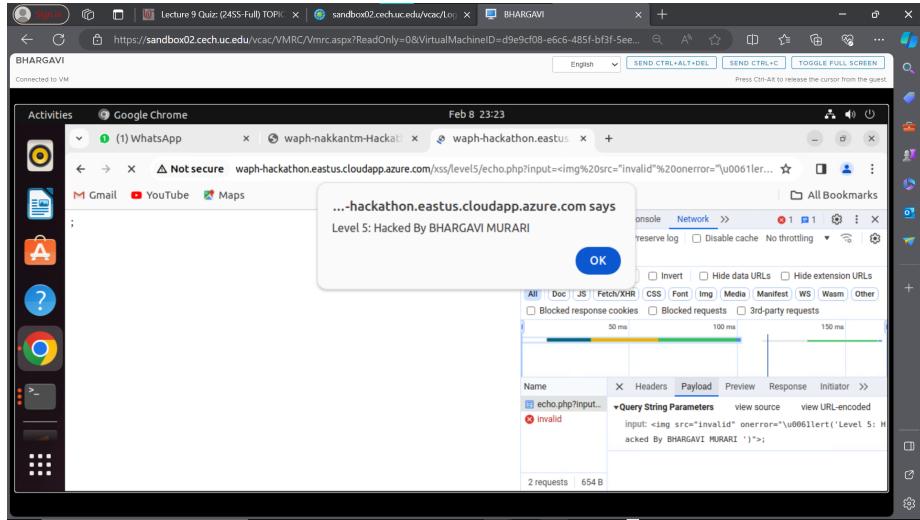
(http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level5/echo.php) Both the alert function and the tag are filtered at this level. I combined the button tag's onerror function with unicode encoding to raise the popup alert.

Code injected:

```
?input=
```

Source Code Guess:

```
$data = $_GET['input'];
if (preg_match('/<script\b[^>]*>(.*)<\/script>/is', $data) || stripos($data, 'alert') !==
exit('{"error": "No \'script\' is allowed!"}');
} else {
echo $data;
}
```



LEVEL 6:

URL used:

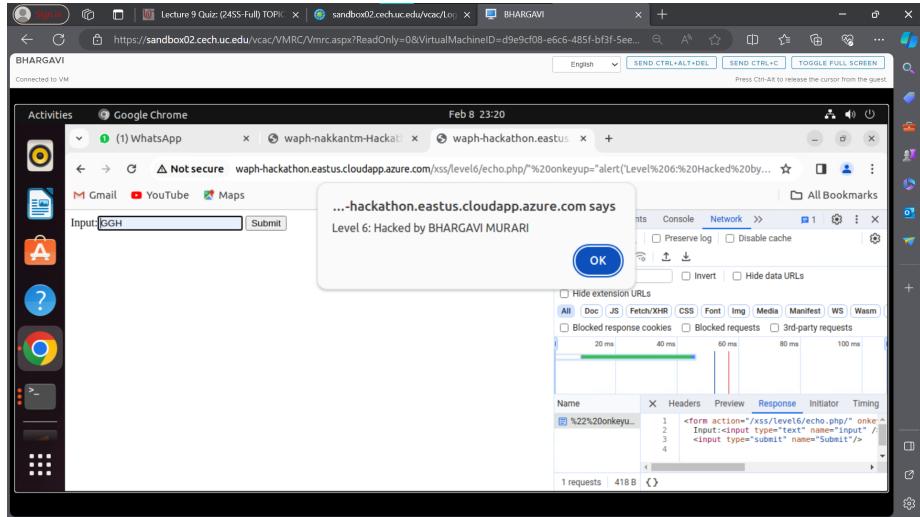
(<http://waph-hackathon.eastus.cloudapp.azure.com/xss/level6/echo.php>)

This level still takes input even though I think the original code uses the `htmlentities` method to translate necessary characters into their correct HTML entities. As a result, the webpage shows user input as plain text. In certain situations, JavaScript event listeners like `onmouseover`, `onclick`, `onkeyup`, and `onmouseenter` can be used to initiate an alert. In this case, every time a key is hit in the input field, the `onmouseenter` event listener that I used triggers an alarm on the website. The input form element is altered when the script is inserted through the URL, as shown in the illustration below. It appends to the code.

```
<form action="/xss/level6/echo.php/" onkeyup="alert('Level 6 : Hacked by BHARGAVI MURARI')"
Input:<input type="text" name="input" />
<input type="submit" name="Submit"/></form>
```

Source Code Guess:

```
echo htmlentities($_REQUEST['input']);
```



Task 2.

A. By adding code for input validation and editing the echo.php file, Lab 1's defensive measures against XSS were put into place. After a preliminary check to make sure the input is empty, PHP is stopped from running. When the input is verified as genuine, the htmlentities technique is used to clean it up. It then gets converted into the appropriate HTML characters so that it shows up on the page as text only.

```
echo.php defence <?php if(!isset($_REQUEST["data"])){ die("{\\"error\\":\n\"Please provide 'data' field\\\"}"); } echo htmlentities($_REQUEST['data']); ?>
```

B. Once external input points were identified, the waph-muraribi.html code underwent a significant change. After each of these inputs was verified, the result texts were edited. i) There is now validation applied to the input data for the HTTP GET and POST request forms. The request cannot be handled until the user input has been validated thanks to the introduction of a new function called validateInput.

- ii) InnerText was substituted for innerHTML in cases when the display was plain text and HTML rendering was not required.
- iii) To improve security by cleaning replies, a newly added function named encodeInput has been developed. To prevent cross-site scripting attacks, this entails transforming special characters into the proper HTML entities before adding them to the HTML content. As a result, the material is not executable and is handled as text only. InnerText is the material that is injected into a newly generated div element by the code. It is then given back as HTML content.

The screenshot shows a GitHub commit page for a file named echo.php. The commit title is "echo.php revised; added defense mechanism". The commit message indicates it was made by BhargaviMurari22 1 minute ago and is verified. The commit has 1 parent, b07b031, and a commit hash of 5cac2298f9ddacd130e67262dd53b0fb5164bf9. The code diff shows a single change: line 2 was modified to include an if condition that checks if the 'data' key is not set in the \$_REQUEST array, and if so, it prints an error message. The code also includes a call to htmlspecialchars on the received data.

```

echo.php revised; added defense mechanism
main
BhargaviMurari22 committed 1 minute ago Verified
Showing 1 changed file with 4 additions and 1 deletion.
diff --git a/labs/lab1/echo.php b/labs/lab1/echo.php
--- a/labs/lab1/echo.php
+++ b/labs/lab1/echo.php
@@ -1,3 +1,6 @@
<?php
echo $_REQUEST["data"];
+if(!isset($_REQUEST['data'])){
+die("Error\nPlease provide 'data' field");
+
+echo htmlspecialchars($_REQUEST['data']);
}

```

0 comments on commit 5cac229

Figure 2: Revised echo.php with added defense mechanism

The screenshot shows a GitHub commit page for a file named waph-muraribi.html. The commit message is "Interaction with forms". The code diff shows significant changes, with 40 additions and 21 deletions. The changes involve adding form elements and event listeners (onsubmit and onkeyup) to handle HTTP GET and POST requests. The code includes logic to validate input and log messages to the console.

```

Showing 1 changed file with 40 additions and 21 deletions.
diff --git a/waph-muraribi.html b/waph-muraribi.html
--- a/waph-muraribi.html
+++ b/waph-muraribi.html
@@ -54,31 +51,31 @@ <h3> Student: Bhargavi Murari</h3>
      <div>
        <form with an HTTP GET Request/>
        <form action="echo.php" method="GET">
-          Your input: <input name="data">
+          <input type="text" name="data" id="data-get" onkeyup="console.log('Just clicked a key')">
          Your input: <input name="data"> ->
-          <input type="submit" value="Submit">
+          <input type="submit" value="Submit">
      </form>
    </div>
    <div>
      <form with an HTTP post Request/>
      <form action="echo.php" method="POST">
-        Your input: <input name="data">
+        <input type="text" name="data" id="data-post" onkeyup="console.log('Just clicked a key')">
          <input type="submit" value="Submit">
    </form>
  </div>

```

Figure 3: waph-muraribi.html defense code

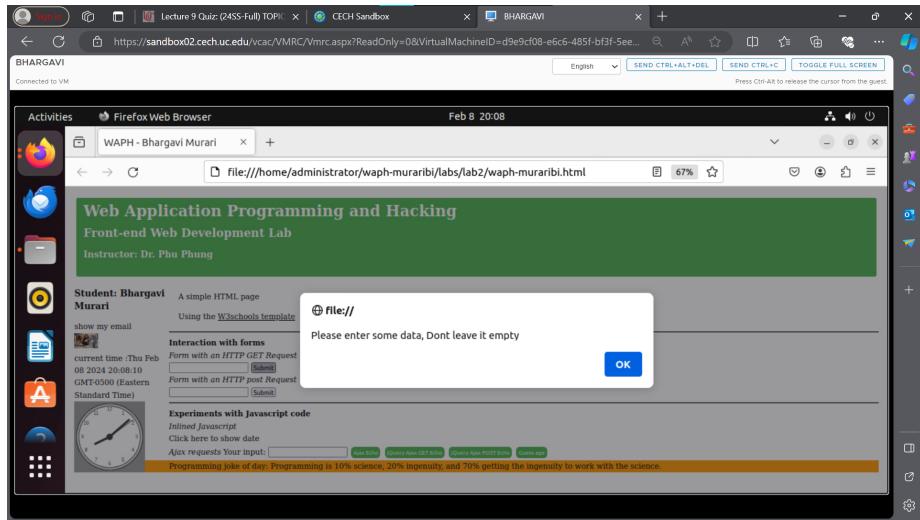


Figure 4: Validating inputs

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a diff view. The top bar indicates 'Showing 1 changed file with 38 additions and 19 deletions.' The code editor displays the following diff:

```

@@ -152,6 +158,19 @@
      @0 <h3> Student: Bhargavi Murari</h3>
      ctx.translate(radius, radius);
      radius=radius * 0.99;
      setinterval(drawclock, 1000);
+     function validateinput(inputid) {
+         var input = document.getElementById(inputid).value;
+         if(input.length == 0){
+             alert("Please enter some data, Dont leave it empty");
+             return false;
+         }
+         return true;
+     }
+     function encodeInput(input){
+         const encodeddata = document.createElement('div');
+         encodeddata.innerText=input;
+         return encodeddata.innerHTML;
+     }
      function drawClock(){
          drawarc(ctx,radius);
          drawnumbers(ctx,radius);

```

Figure 5: Modified html to text



Figure 6: Validated Output

```

function encodeInput(input){
const encodedData = document.createElement('div');
encodedData.innerText=input;
return encodedData.innerHTML;
}

```

The screenshot shows a code editor with a diff view. It highlights changes made to an input encoding function. The changes include:

- Adding an input field with type="text" and name="data".
- Changing the form action to "echo.php" with method="POST".
- Adding inline JavaScript to manipulate the date value.
- Adding comments explaining the changes.

Figure 7: Encode input function

- iv) Updates have been made to the joke retrieval API to guarantee the accuracy of the results that are received. New validations have been added, which verify that jokes in JSON are not empty. An error notice appears when the result is null.

The screenshot shows a code editor with a diff view. It highlights changes made to an asynchronous function guessAge. The changes include:

- Validating the result age to ensure it is not null or zero.
- Returning an error message if the result is null or empty.
- Ensuring the response is not empty before displaying it.

Figure 8: Defense to displaying joke

- v) It is confirmed that the asynchronous method guessAge's received result is either empty or non-zero. In addition, the data entered by the user is checked to make sure it is not null or empty. An error notification appears on each of these occasions.

```

if(result.age==null || result.age==0)
return $("#response")

```

```
.text("An error occurred at this moment, So age can't be displayed");
$("#response").text("Hello "+name+" , your age should be "+result.age);
```



Figure 9: Validated Guess Age