



BACHELOR	OF	SCIENCE	WITH	HONOURS	IN
<b>CYBERSECUR</b>	RITY				

Final Year Project Report

"Bookworm" A Secure Bookstore Web Application

Reported by: Kyaw Zin Latt

Supervisor: Zulkifli Bin Jalil

Due Date: 13 June 2024





BSc (Hons) Computing Science/Cyber Security Final Year Project Report

# **DECLARATION STATEMENT**

I certify that all the information given in this curriculum vitae is in accordance with my knowledge and experience. I take full responsibility for the truthfulness of the provided information below. Moreover, I understand that if I have deliberately given any false information, I am liable for prosecution for fraud and/or perjury.

Student Full Name: Kyaw Zin Latt

Student Registration Number: 14096552

Recoverable Signature

X Latt

Kyaw Zin Latt Student

Signed: Signed by: db976590-df14-4d25-9504-e1d955f8962a





# **ABSTRACT**

In this paper, I am going to focus on the development of my prototype which is a secure bookstore web application. This website is a user-friendly platform with robust security features which protect user data and transactions. This report consists of detailed analysis of the system's architecture, the system's design, and the implementation. The implementation section can be comprised of building, security testing, and the deployment plan.





# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In this section, I want to express my sincere gratitude towards my professor for helping me throughout this project.





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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since online shopping has rigorously increased, it is necessary to develop secure and user-friendly e-commerce platforms. My developed web application which name is bookstore, it is primarily aim at customers' data security, and usability. In this web application, a wide range of cybersecurity measures have been utilized. The main objective is to protect user data, provide an incredible shopping experience, and secure users' transactions.

There are mainly four chapters in this report. The analysis section outlines the functional and non-functional requirements of Bookworm website. The design chapter explained the project's architecture. The building section is composed of building, functionality testing, and penetration testing of this web application. A short summary of this report will be placed in the last part.





# 2. ANALYSIS

# 2.1 Functional Requirements

Function	Description		
Registration	Users and admin can be able to create an account by providing their email and password. The prototype validates the input and store users' details in the database securely.		
Password Hashing	Passwords are hashed before storing in the database by utilizing PHP's default password hashing function.		
Login	After registration, admins and users can login with their email and passwords stored in the database.		
OTP Verification	For additional security during the login process, I have implemented one-time-password (OTP) system. They will receive 6-digits OTP via their registered email.		
Forgot Password	In case of forgetting password, Bookworm have also included the feature of resetting password. On successful OTP verification, users can set a new password.		
SSL Certificate	The website utilizes SSL certificate to ensure data transmission between the user and the server.		
Message Encryption	Users input messages are encrypted in the database with AES symmetric encryption system. The encryption key is generated with openssl and stored securely using environmental variables.		
User Features	<ul> <li>About: Provide information about the Bookworm.</li> <li>Order: Display order details.</li> <li>Contact: Able to communicate with admin.</li> <li>Shop: Display products to purchase.</li> <li>Cart: Add purchased products in the cart and checkout.</li> </ul>		
Admin Panel	<ul> <li>Dashboard: Provide overview statistics</li> <li>Product: Can add, update and delete products.</li> <li>Order: Can manage users' orders.</li> <li>Users: Can manage users' details.</li> <li>Messages: View users' messages and respond directly to users' emails.</li> </ul>		
<b>Security Functions</b>	<ul> <li>Used code sanitization to handle cross site scripting attacks.</li> <li>Define CSRF tokens generations in login and registration form to prevent CSRF attacks.</li> <li>The login form detects and log SQL injection attacks.</li> </ul>		





# 2.2 Non-functional Requirements

Function	Description		
Performance	During the designing of website's database, I have ensured that it can handle vast number of users, available products, orders, and users' messages.		
Availability	Admins and users can access the website at any time by configuring ports in the apache server.		
Data Integrity	Maintain users' data securely in the database by implementing robust security features.		
Security Features	<ul> <li>Data Encryption: I have utilized SSL certificate in Xampp apache server to ensure data transmission securely.</li> <li>Message Encryption: Use symmetric encryption algorithm to enhance security.</li> <li>Password Security: Implement password hashing which is stored in the database.</li> <li>SQL Injection Prevention: Use prepared statements to detect SQLi attacks.</li> <li>XSS Prevention: Secure programming such as input sanitization and validations are used to prevent XSS.</li> <li>CSRF Protection: Use CSRF tokens to protect against crosssite request forgery (CSRF) attacks.</li> <li>Environmental variables: Database connections and encryption keys are store in environmental variable.</li> </ul>		



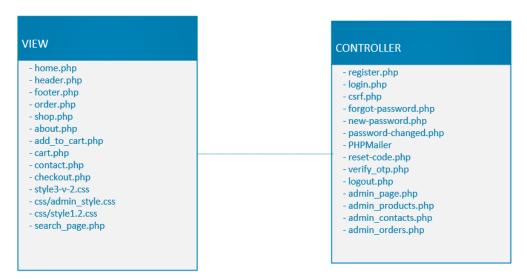


## 3. DESIGN

## 3.1 Model View Controller (MVC) Pattern

The following diagram shows the Model View Controller (MVC). I have created my project's directory structure according to MVC pattern.





#### Figure 1 MVC Diagram

In Model, files serve as the medium between localhost and the database. I have added user facing pages and styling files in the view category. The controller has especially the managing and security feature files. The controllers cooperate with models to store data and render views to present data to the users. Files in the view display data from model as instructed by the controller' files.





## 3.2 Database Design

The structure of the database for this project can be understood by viewing the following diagram. The below image is the Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) of the Bookworm web application. There are four entities which is made up of users, products, orders, and messages. Users represent both admin and the customers. Admin will update stocks in the products and users can orders from those updated stocks. In messages, users' communication with admins will be stored.

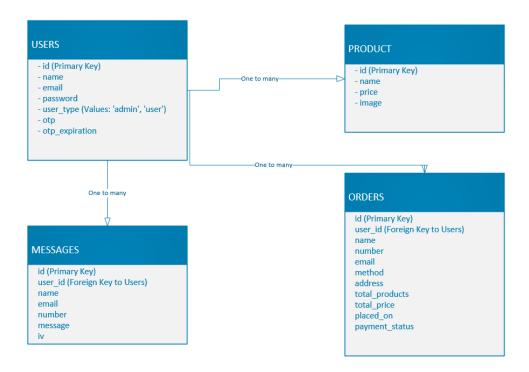


Figure 2 Entities Relationship Diagram





## 4. IMPLEMENTATION

In this implementation section, the security features and secure programming included in this project will be briefly explained.

## 4.1 Building

#### 4.1.1 Server Setup

Since I am building a website by using local host, I have selected Xampp control panel to manage the localhost server and create the database.

- Install Xampp from the official website.
- Start Apache and MySQL services from Xampp control panel.
- Create a project file named Bookworm in htdocs.
- Open that file in Visual Studio Code for the coding.

## 4.1.2 Database Configuration

In design section, I have already explained the structure of database by illustrating Entities Relationship Diagram. Firstly, I have created config.php in my project directory which will connect with my database. After that, I have created database according to ERD. Since the file such as connection to database is vulnerable to some malicious attacks, so that I have encrypted the config.php by implementing the symmetric algorithms AES-256-CBC which uses base-64 encoding.

```
encrypt_config.php
      <?php
      $data = [
          'server' => 'localhost'.
          'username' => 'kyaw',
           'password' => 'Latt1234!'
           'database' => 'bookworm'
 8
      $encryption_key = 'my_secret_key';
      $iv = random_bytes(openssl_cipher_iv_length('aes-256-cbc'));
10
      $encrypted_data = openssl_encrypt(json_encode($data), 'aes-256-cbc', $encryption_key, 0, $iv);
12
      file_put_contents('config.enc', base64_encode($iv . $encrypted_data));
13
      echo "Config data encrypted and saved to config.enc";
```

Figure 3 Encryption Algorithm for Database Configuration

The above encryption algorithm outputs a config.enc file. I did not follow the secure coding method here. I have been getting errors in storing my encryption key in the environmental variables because I have already stored the message encryption key which I will explain later in this section.



**Figure 4.1 Encryption Output** 





In that way, I have created an encrypted database configuration file in which database details are encrypted. The code decrypts the file by using encryption key and the config.enc.

```
config.php
 2
      $encryption_key = 'my_secret_key';
 3
      $encrypted_content = file_get_contents(__DIR__ . '/config.enc');
      $decoded_content = base64_decode($encrypted_content);
      $iv_length = openssl_cipher_iv_length('aes-256-cbc');
      $iv = substr($decoded_content, 0, $iv_length);
      $encrypted_data = substr($decoded_content, $iv_length);
 10
      $decrypted_data = openssl_decrypt($encrypted_data, 'aes-256-cbc', $encryption_key, 0, $iv);
12
      $config = json_decode($decrypted_data, true);
13
14
      $server = $config['server'];
15
      $username = $config['username'];
      $password = $config['password'];
$database = $config['database'];
17
18
19
      $conn = mysqli_connect($server, $username, $password, $database);
20
21
      if (!$conn) {
22
          die("<script>alert('Connection Failed.')</script>");
23
24
```

**Figure 5 Database Connection** 

## 4.1.3 Password hashing in User Registration

Since I have been focusing on secure programming, I have implemented user registration with input validation and password hashing. I have made sure that the users' passwords will be hashed and stored in the database securely. For password hashing algorithms, PHP default built-in function has been used. It uses Bcrypt password hashing function which utilizes the Blowfish block cipher. The main advantages of this algorithm are:

- It uses one way hashing technique which is difficult to reverse.
- It cannot be penetrated by rainbow table attacks since it generates a cryptographic salt automatically.
- Using this function also protect against brute force attacks by its adaptive hashing function.

The following image depicts the utilization of PHP password hash function.

**Figure 6 Password Hashing Function** 





#### 4.1.4 SQL Injection Detection in User Login Form

In login form, I have implemented a SQL injection detection system to safeguard against common attack vector in Cybersecurity which is SQL injection. I have created a function called detect\_sql\_injection which scans user inputs. In that function, I have defined an array that contains common SQL injection patterns.

```
login.php
43
      function detect_sql_injection($input) {
44
          $patterns = [
45
               '/select\s.*\sfrom\s.*/i', // SELECT statements
               '/union\s.*\sselect\s.*/i', // UNION SELECT statements
46
47
               '/insert\sinto\s.*/i', // INSERT statements
               '/update\s.*\sset\s.*/i', // UPDATE statements
48
               '/delete\sfrom\s.*/i', // DELETE statements
49
               '/drop\s.*\stable\s.*/i', // DROP TABLE statements
50
               '/--/', // Comment sequence
51
52
               '/#/', // Comment sequence
               '/\/\*/', // Comment sequence
53
54
          foreach ($patterns as $pattern) {
55
56
              if (preg_match($pattern, $input)) {
57
                  return true;
58
59
60
          return false;
61
62
```

**Figure 7 SQL Injection Detection System** 

#### **4.1.5** Two Factor Authentication (2FA)

In both login and registration forms, verification with one time password (OTP) have been placed to enhance security. I have used PHPMailer library and google app password in building the OTP verification. Along with this, I have used Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) port 587 which is the default port. This port is set with TLS encryption so that the email is submitted securely, and it follows the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) guidelines. Moreover, SMTP port 587 is not block in most upstream network. I avoid using the TLS port which is SMTP port 465 here since it is not compliance with the Request For Comments (RFC).

Firstly, I imported necessary libraries from PHPMailer in both login and registration forms and then define sentOTP function. After that I created an OTP verification file.

```
1
     <?php
 2
     include 'config.php';
     include 'csrf.php';
     require 'PHPMailer/src/PHPMailer.php';
 4
 5
     require 'PHPMailer/src/SMTP.php';
 6
     require 'PHPMailer/src/Exception.php';
 8
     use PHPMailer\PHPMailer\PHPMailer;
     use PHPMailer\PHPMailer\Exception;
10
11
     date_default_timezone_set('Asia/Singapore');
```

Figure 8 Imported Libraries from PHPMailer





```
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      function sendOTP($email, $otp) {
14
         $mail = new PHPMailer(true);
15
         try {
             $mail->isSMTP();
16
             $mail->Host = 'smtp.gmail.com';
17
             $mail->SMTPAuth = true;
18
19
             $mail->Username = 'rafiqjama159@gmail.com';
             $mail->Password = 'akjx vtlu rpmq bxbm';
20
21
             $mail->SMTPSecure = PHPMailer::ENCRYPTION_STARTTLS;
22
             $mail->Port = 587;
23
24
             $mail->setFrom('rafiqjamal159@gmail.com', 'Bookworm 2FA');
25
             $mail->addAddress($email);
26
27
             $mail->isHTML(true);
             $mail->Subject = 'Your OTP Code';
28
29
                           = "Your OTP code is $otp";
             $mail->Body
30
31
             $mail->send();
32
             return true;
33
         } catch (Exception $e) {
34
             error log("Mailer Error: " . $mail->ErrorInfo);
35
             return false;
36
37
```

**Figure 9 Sending OTP Function** 

**Figure 10 OTP Verification Mechanisms** 





## 4.1.6 CSRF Tokens Generation

To handle against Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) attacks, I have implemented the CSRF token generation. It makes sure that a unique CSRF token is generated for every user session.

```
csrf.php
  1
      <?php
 2
      if (session_status() == PHP_SESSION_NONE) {
  3
          session_start();
 4
 5
 6
      function csrf_token() {
 7
          if (empty($_SESSION['token'])) {
 8
              $ SESSION['token'] = bin2hex(random bytes(32));
 9
 10
          return $_SESSION['token'];
 11
 12
13
      function validate_csrf_token($token) {
          if (!isset($_SESSION['token']) || $token !== $_SESSION['token']) {
15
              return false;
16
 17
          return true;
 18
 19
```

Figure 11 Generation of CSRF Token

#### **4.1.7 Forgot Password and Reset Code Features**

In case of user forgetting their password, I have defined the password reset function with OTP verification. Users can set a new password if they remember their registered email address.

Figure 12 Checking User Email Prior to Password Reset





```
if(isset($_POST['check-reset-otp'])){
        $_SESSION['info'] = "";
         $otp_code = mysqli_real_escape_string($conn, $_POST['otp']);
40
41
         $check_code = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE otp = '$otp_code' AND otp_expiration > NOW()";
42
         $code_res = mysqli_query($conn, $check_code);
43
         if(mysqli_num_rows($code_res) > 0){
44
             $fetch_data = mysqli_fetch_assoc($code_res);
45
             $email = $fetch_data['email'];
46
             $_SESSION['email'] = $email;
             $info = "Please create a new password that you don't use on any other site.";
47
             $_SESSION['info'] = $info;
48
49
             header('location: new-password.php');
50
             exit();
51
          }else{
52
             $errors['otp-error'] = "You've entered incorrect code!";
53
```

Figure 13 Checking the Reset Code

Figure 14 Update Password in Database

## 4.1.8 Message Encryption and Decryption

For confidentiality and security purposes, I have implemented massage encryption system using symmetric message encryption system. I have used AES-256-CBC encryption algorithm which utilizes 16 bytes (128bits) initialization vector (IV). The building of encryption system also stores IV in hexadecimal format in the database. For AES-256-CBC encryption, the key should be 32 bytes (256 bits) long, so I have generated base 64 encryption key by using Openssl in the command prompt. For the security enhancement, I have avoided hardcoding the encryption key in the php file and stored securely in the environmental variable. By implementing this system, users' messages are encrypted in the database, and they are decrypted in the admin panel.

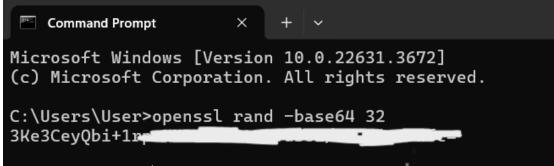


Figure 15 Generate Encryption Key with Openssl





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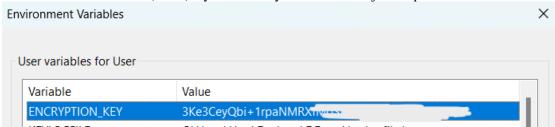


Figure 16.1 Stores Encryption Key in the Environmental Variable

```
function encrypt message($message, $encryption_key, $iv) {
    return openssl_encrypt($message, 'AES-256-CBC', $encryption_key, 0, $iv);
18
19
20
        $encryption_key = getenv('ENCRYPTION_KEY');
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
33
33
33
34
35
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
         if (!$encryption_key) {
    die('Encryption key not set');
        if (isset($_POST['send'])) {
              $name = mysqli_real_escape_string($conn, $_POST['name']);
$email = mysqli_real_escape_string($conn, $_POST['email']);
              $number = $_POST['number'];
$msg = mysqli_real_escape_string($conn, $_POST['message']);
               // Generate a secure 16-byte IV
              $iv = random_bytes(16);
               // Encrypt the message
              $encrypted_msg = encrypt_message($msg, $encryption_key, $iv);
               // Convert IV to hexadecimal for storage
              $iv hex = bin2hex($iv);
              $select_message = mysqli_query($conn, "SELECT * FROM `message` WHERE name = '$name' AND email = '$email' AND number =
'$number' AND message = '$encrypted_msg' AND iv = '$iv_hex'") or die('query failed');
               if (mysqli_num_rows($select_message) > 0) {
                     $message[] = 'Message sent already!';
                 else {
                    mysqli_query($conn, "INSERT INTO `message`(user_id, name, email, number, message, iv) VALUES('$user_id', '$name',
'$email', '$number', '$encrypted_msg', '$iv_hex')") or die('query failed');
$message[] = 'Message sent successfully!';
```

Figure 17 Message Encryption Algorithm

```
admin_contacts.php
13
      // Decryption function
14
      function decrypt_message($encrypted_message, $encryption_key, $iv) {
15
        return openssl_decrypt($encrypted_message, 'AES-256-CBC', $encryption_key, 0, hex2bin($iv));
16
17
18
      // Retrieve the encryption key from the environment variable
19
     $encryption_key = getenv('ENCRYPTION_KEY');
      if (!$encryption_key) {
20
        die('Encryption key not set');
22
```

Figure 18 Message Decryption Algorithm

#### 4.1.9 Using HTTPS with SSL Certificate

My website has become more secure with the free SSL certificate which I installed from ssl.indexnl.com. This essential improvement securely encrypts all data exchanges between our server and user browsers, thereby shielding private information from illegal access. The implementation of SSL certification enhances user data integrity and confidentiality and fosters user trust by indicating a secure connection, denoted by the 'https' protocol in the web address. This action reflects our dedication to upholding top-tier web security practices and ensuring the privacy of our users.





First, ssl.indexnl.com provides the certificate for me. Next, I set up the virtual host, windows host file, and SSL files in the Xampp apache extra folder. I then installed the certificate after that and added it into the Trusted Root Certificate Authorities folder.

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@www.kyawzin.dom
    DocumentRoot "C:\xampp\htdocs\Bookworm"
    ServerName kyawzin.dom
    ServerAlias www.kyawzin.dom
    ErrorLog "logs/www.kyawzin.dom-error.log"
    CustomLog "logs/www.kyawzin.dom-access.log" common
</VirtualHost>
```

#### Figure 19 Configuration of Port 80

```
<VirtualHost *:443>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@www.kyawzin.dom
    DocumentRoot "C:\xampp\htdocs\Bookworm"
    ServerName kyawzin.dom
    ServerAlias www.kyawzin.dom
    SSLEngine on
        SSLCertificateFile "C:\xampp\apache\conf\ssl.crt\kyawzin.dom.crt"
        SSLCertificateKeyFile "C:\xampp\apache\conf\ssl.key\kyawzin.dom.key"
        <FilesMatch "\.(cgi|shtml|phtml|php)$">
        SSLOptions +StdEnvVars
        </FilesMatch>
        ErrorLog "logs/www.kyawzin.dom-error.log"
        CustomLog "logs/www.kyawzin.dom-access.log" common
</VirtualHost>
```

#### Figure 20 Configuration of Port 443

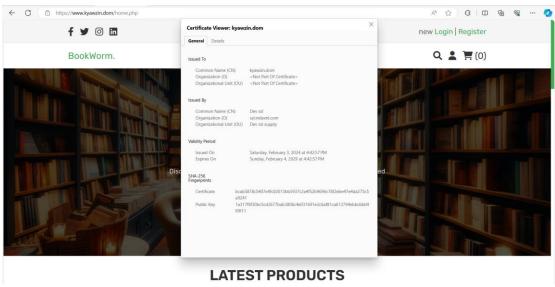


Figure 21 SSL Certificate in my Bookworm Webpage





# 4.2 Functionalities Testing

The testing of implemented functionalities will be undergone here.

## 4.2.1 Registration, Login, OTP Verification and Password Hashing

As I have inserted forms such as registration and login, and verification with two factor authentication while users' registration and login. Additionally, users' registered passwords are stored securely in the database. The below screenshots will demonstrate these functionalities.

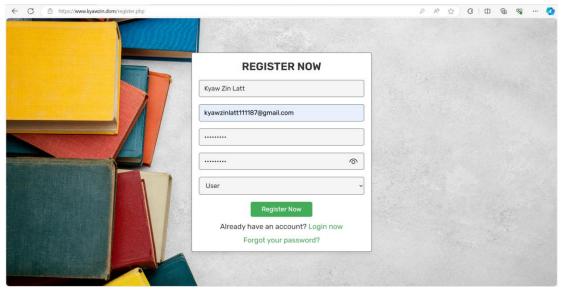
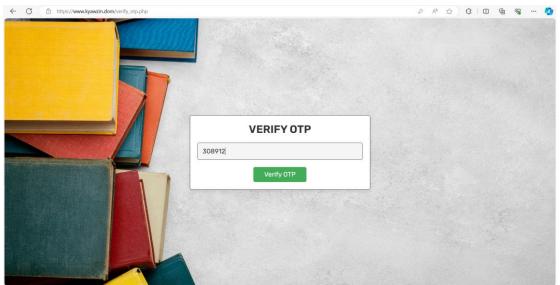


Figure 22 User Registration



Figure 23 Receiving OTP in their Gmail



**Figure 24 OTP Verification** 







Figure 25 Access to the Webpage after Authentications



Figure 26 Passwords are Hashed in Database

#### 4.2.2 Forgot-password Feature

In case users have forgotten their password, they can recover their account with their gmail. The password reset code will be sent to their gmail account and they can set a new password. The following pictures are the demonstration of password reset feature.

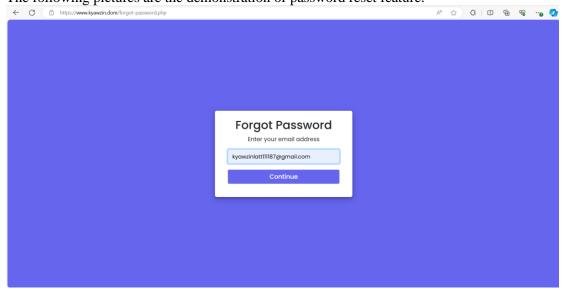


Figure 27 Recovering Password with Gmail

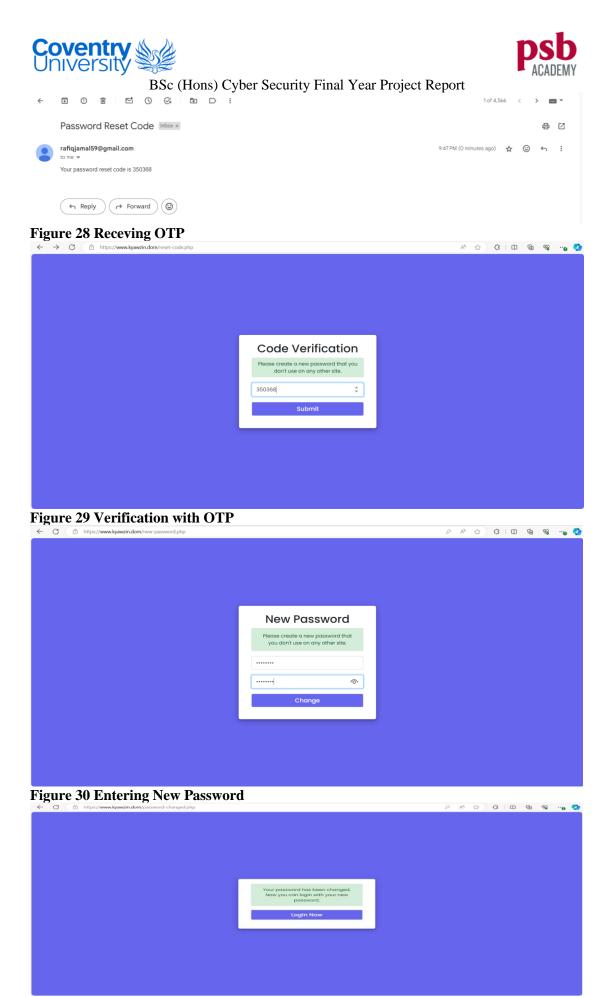


Figure 31 Successfully Changed Password





## 4.2.3 Storing Encrypted Messages in Database

Messages are stored securely in the database. In case the database has been compromised, malicious actors cannot read the users' messages.

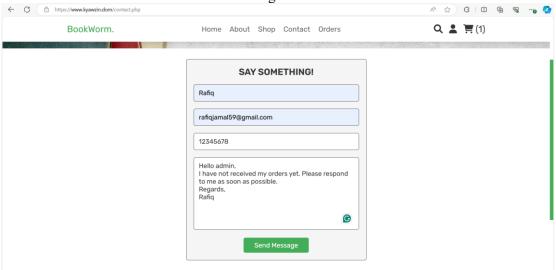


Figure 32 User Sending Message

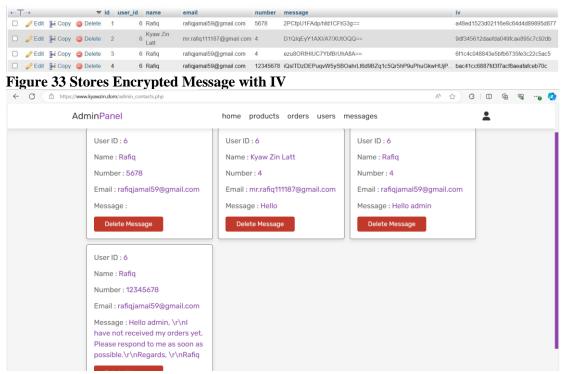


Figure 34 Reading Messages from Admin Panel

#### 4.2.4 Shopping Books from Bookworm

Users can shop a variety of books from the website by adding into the cart. There is also the checkout procedure when a user wants to pay for the items in their cart. Users can also see their order details from the order tab. Admin can see users' details and order details from admin panel.





## BSc (Hons) Cyber Security Final Year Project Report product added to cartl \$39/-Romance

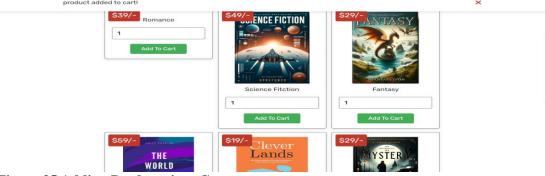


Figure 35 Adding Products into Cart

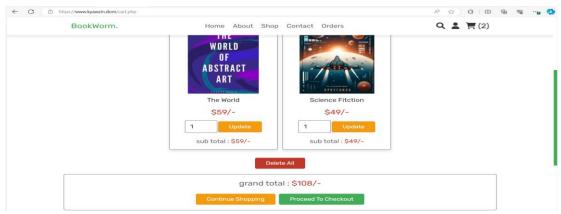
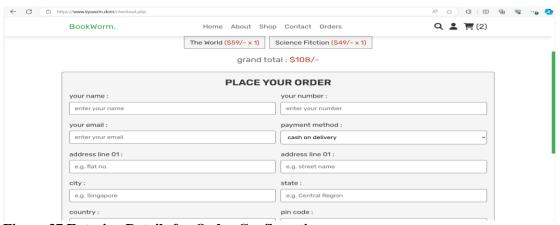


Figure 36 Proceeding to Checkout from Cart



**Figure 37 Entering Details for Order Confirmation** 

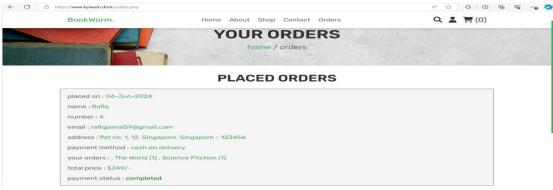


Figure 38 Order Details in User Interface





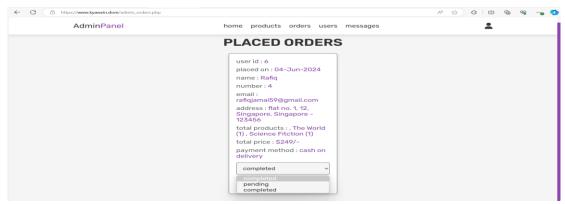


Figure 39 Managing Order in Admin Panel

#### 4.2.5 CSRF Token Generation

As CSRF tokens generation is implemented, the CSRF token will be seen when viewing the page source.

```
Line wrap \bigcup \text{ ine wrap \bigcup \bigcup \bigcup \text{ ine wrap \bigcup \big
```

Figure 40 CSRF Token





## 4.3 Penetration Testing

Penetration testing will be performed on this section. Common attacks such are cross-site scripting and SQL injection are demonstrated. Moreover, automated testing with OWASP ZAP has also been conducted.

## 4.3.1 SQL Injection

Due to the implementation of SQL injection detection system, when a user tries to input sql injection statements, the warning of input validation and error alerts will be shown.

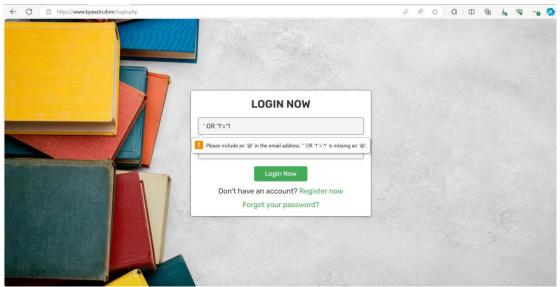


Figure 41 Warning Message

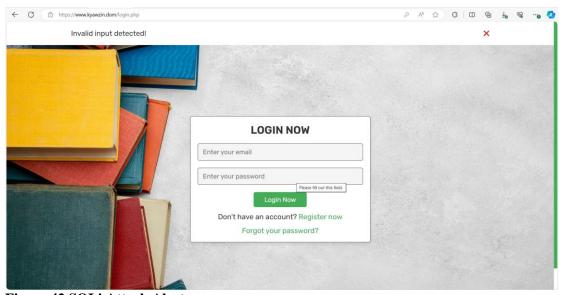


Figure 42 SQLi Attack Alert





#### 4.3.2 XSS Attack

The XSS attack also does not work due to the implementation of input validation and code sanitizations.



Figure 43 Performing XSS Attack

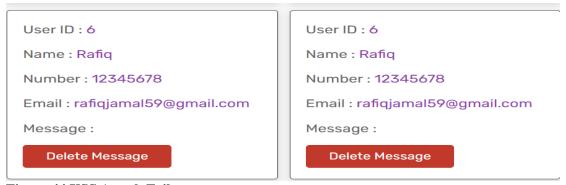


Figure 44 XSS Attack Fails





## 4.3.3 Automated Testing with OWASP ZAP

I have utilized OWASP ZAP automated penetration testing tool to carry out the security testing. I will not explain in depth the testing, however, during the testing only medium risk is found.

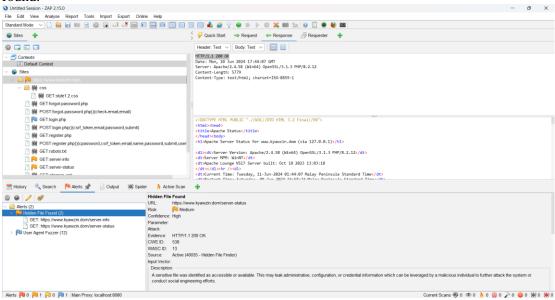


Figure 45 Testing on login.php

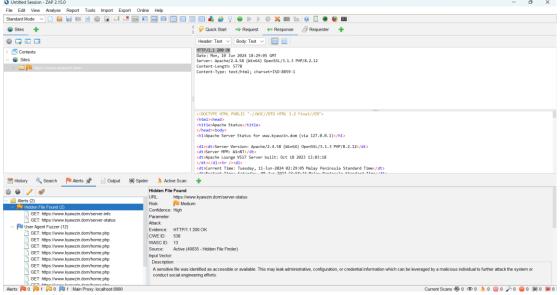


Figure 46 Testing on home.php





## 5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the development of Bookworm web application facilitates the necessity of security for e-commerce websites in this advanced technology era. During the building and implementation of this web application, I have mainly focused on confidentiality, integrity and availability (CIA) of user data, the security features of website, convenient of shopping experience for users, and safeguarding of users' transactions. This is my final year project report and I have practiced all the knowledge which I have learned throughout my classes. With these reflections of my learning journey, I have successfully implemented robust security features, functionalities and various cybersecurity measures.





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