

Department of Computer Science College of Engineering & Physical Sciences

CS3SP Coursework

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ClarityCheck

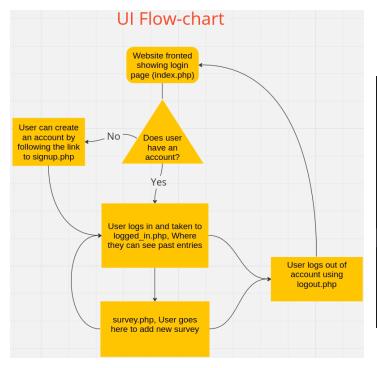
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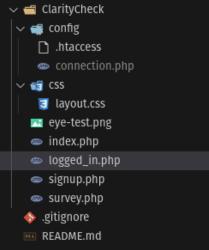
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Introduction to our Application

Clarity Check is a web application where users can take a survey to determine their eye prescriptions and view their past eye prescriptions allowing them to monitor their eye health throughout life.

Clarity Check is fronted by a login page requiring the user to provide a username and password. Upon logging in, the user is taken to their personal prescription portal where they can view their past prescriptions. Within this portal, a link can be found inviting the user to fill out a new survey and then it is added to a persistent storage that is unique to the user that filled it out.





User Security

One of the most important aspects of application security is making sure users and their accounts are protected. To achieve this, several controls were implemented during the signup and login process.

The first control implemented during the signup process was password validation. This follows best practice by requiring the user to provide a password with at least eight characters including an uppercase and lowercase letter, a special character, and a number. Without this mitigation, a user would be able to input a weak password (CWE-521) such as "123" which is easily vulnerable to brute force attacks. This was implemented on both the client-side and server-side as an attacker can manipulate POST requests to bypass the validation if there is no server-side validation.

```
// Mitigation: Server-side password validation (https://www.codexworld.com/how-to/validate-password-strength-in-php/)

$uppercase = preg_match('@[A-Z]@', $password);

$lowercase = preg_match('@[a-z]@', $password);

$number = preg_match('@[0-9]@', $password);

$specialChars = preg_match('@[^\w]@', $password);

if(!$uppercase || !$number || !$specialChars || strlen($password) < 8) {

echo 'Password must contain at least 8 characters including one uppercase and lowercase letter, one number, and one special character';

else {
```

The second control implemented was password hashing. Password hashing is the practice of algorithmically turning a password into ciphertext, or an irreversibly obfuscated version of itself (Stytch, 2022). Password hashing helps to protect against packet sniffing attacks and is especially important to have on HTTP websites where passwords are sent in plaintext (CWE-256), and packets are not encrypted. It also protects the user in the case where the database table is breached, and their credentials are exposed as the attacker would have to crack the hashed password requiring additional time and effort.

The final control implemented was the use of prepared statements to prevent SQL injection (CWE-89). This attack falls under Injection within the OWASP Top 10 and is ranked the third highest security risk for web applications. Prepared statements are best practice for preventing SQL injection as they separate the data and the query so that the query cannot be maliciously manipulated and only data can be inputted.

```
# Insecure code - Query vulnerbale to SQL Injection
$sql = "INSERT INTO users VALUES('". $username . "', '" . $password . "');";
$result = mysqli_query($con, $sql);

# Mitigation: Prepared Statement
$params = array($username, $hashed_password);
$result = $con->execute_query("INSERT INTO users VALUES(?, ?)", $params);
```

```
// Insecure code - Query vulnerbale to SQL Injection
$sql = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username='". $username . "' AND password='" . $password . "';";
$result = mysqli_query($con, $sql);

// Mitigation: Prepared statement
$params = array($username);
$result = $con->execute_query("SELECT * FROM users WHERE username=?", $params);
```

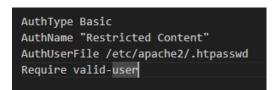
Upon penetration testing the insecure code, I was able to login as any user by entering a random username and 'OR' 1=1 as the password value. I discovered that it was also possible to inject multiple, and more dangerous statements such as 'OR' 1=1; DROP TABLE users if the PHP programming supports multiple statements. For example, mysqli_multi_query().

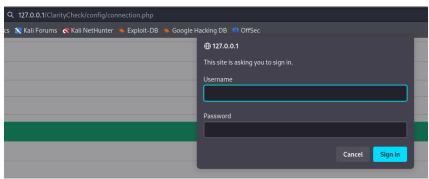
ran	dom			
Pass	word			
'OR	'1=1			
Don't	have an	accou	nt?	

Apache Server Security

It is important to consider security-in-depth when developing an application and as many security controls should be implemented as possible whether it is the configuration of the server or secure programming.

The first Apache control implemented was separating the MySQL connection details from the root directory and restricting access to it through an .htaccess file. An attacker would need to login with credentials hidden on the server in the .htpasswd file to access it.





The second Apache control implemented was disabling Apache2 modules such as autoindex, status, info, and userdir. These modules give an attacker sensitive information like the version, IP, and port of the Apache2 server as well as the architecture of the application, which can be used to form attack vectors.



Index of /ClarityCheck

<u>Name</u>	Last modified	Size Description
Parent Director	ry.	-
ClarityCheck/	2023-11-08 15:56	-
README.md	2023-11-08 15:42	41
Report/	2023-11-08 15:42	-

Apache/2.4.58 (Debian) Server at 127.0.0.1 Port 80

There are many other Apache hardening techniques that we would implement before launching this application such as firewalls, HTTPS, security headers and content-security-policy (CSP), multi-factor authentication (MFA), and disabling unused network services like FTP to help prevent an attacker from injecting a web shell (Tutorialspoint, 2023).

Prescription Portal Security

Once a user successfully creates an account, they will be taken to their own personal content page located in file `logged_in.php`

This page uses prepared statements to prevent SQL injection (CWE-89), as mentioned above in the report. This is needed because the code uses '\$_SESSION["username"]' global variable as input to search for the matching username in the database and retrieve the user's survey information.

```
// Insecure code - Query vulnerbale to SQL Injection "vulnerbale": Unknown word.
//$sql = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username='". $username."';
//$result = mysqli_query($con, $sql);

// Mitigation: Prepared statement
$username = $_SESSION['username'];
$params = array($username);
$result = $con->execute_query("SELECT data FROM user_prescriptions WHERE username=?", $params);
```

Prevention Against XSS and Stored XSS attacks

Cross Site Scripting (XSS) is client-side code injection attack. (Acunetix) (2017)

The attacker embeds malicious code into a genuine website, so when the user visits this site, the user's browser will execute the malicious code and exfiltrate the user's current session / cookies to the attacker.

A web page or web application is vulnerable to XSS if it uses Un-sanitized user input in the output that it generates (Acunetix) (2017)

That is why there is input validation on all data that is inputted into our WebApp.

The 'survey.php' contains the survey which takes in the user's input and saves it into the database. Below is a screenshot of our code that runs input and type validation to make sure that the correct data is stored in our database.

```
// do some server side validation before inserting into database
Sage = $pOST["age"];
Sirritation = $pOST["friritation"];
Sglasses = $pOST["glasses"];
Sight_eye = $pOST["left-eye"];

if (!filter_var(sage, FILTER_VALIDATE_INT, ["options" => ["max_range" <= 100], ["min_range" => 1]]) !== false) {
    echo "chi style='color: red'>Invalid age range, must be between 0 to 100</hl>";
    exit();
}

if (Sirritation !== "Yes" && Sirritation !== "No") {
    echo "chi style='color: red'>Invalid irritation value, must be Yes or No</hl>";
    exit();
}

if (Sglasses !== "Yes" && Sglasses !== "No") {
    echo "chi style='color: red'>Invalid glasses value, must be Yes or No</hl>";
    exit();
}

if (!filter_var($right_eye, FILTER_VALIDATE_FLOAT, ["options" => ["max_range" => 5], ["min_range" > 0]]) !== false) {
    echo "chi style='color: red'>Invalid right eye range value, must be below 5 and above 0</hl>";
    exit();
}

if (!filter_var($left_eye, FILTER_VALIDATE_FLOAT, ["options" => ["max_range" => 5], ["min_range" > 0], ["decimal" < 2]]) !== false) {
    echo "chi style='color: red'>Invalid left eye range value, must be below 5 and above 0</hl>";
    exit();

    You, 30 seconds ago * Uncommitted changes

Sleft_eye = number_format($left_eye, 2);
$right_eye = number_format($right_eye, 2);
}
```

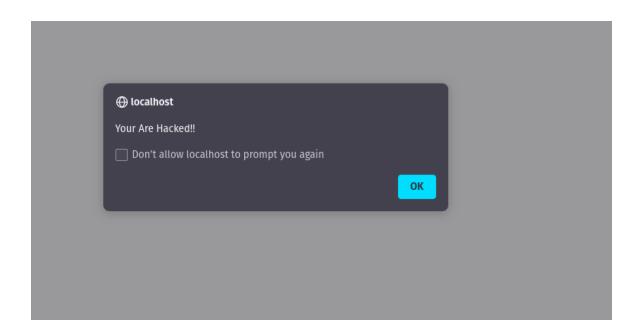
There are also Stored XSS attacks, which is when malicious code finds its way inside persistence storage inside our WebApp. For this reason, it is important to sanitize code when displaying it back to the user, especially if the data came from the user to begin with.

Below is a screenshot of our code inside the file 'logged_in.php' using the function 'htmlspecialchars()' this is needed because we are displaying html data with user input, and it must be sanitized using the mentioned function.

```
Age: " . $new_value1[1] . ",
Do you feel any irritation in your eyes?: " . $value2 . ",
Do you currently wear glasses?: " . $value3 . ",
Right Eye: +" . $value4 . ",
Left Eye: +" . $new_value5 . "

";
// code vulnerable to Stored XSS attack, when moving the variable $stored_xss_attack inside the $html variable, the script is executed
// echo $html;
// MITIGATION, htmlspecialchars() function will not execute the script , instead will just print it out as a string
echo '<h3><br>' .htmlspecialchars($html, ENT_QUOTES, 'UTF-8'). '</h3>';
```

Now instead of using the 'htmlspecialchars()' function and just echoing the data we could fall victim to a stored XSS attack. As shown below, I have a variable containing a script, I will add this variable to be executed by the 'echo \$html' which will then run the script in my browser.



References

Code:

- CodexWorld (2022), How to Validate Password Strength in PHP, [online] Available at https://www.codexworld.com/how-to/validate-password-strength-in-php/ [Accessed 7 November 2023]
- Dreamhost (2023), Password protecting your site with an .htaccess file, [online] Available at https://help.dreamhost.com/hc/en-us/articles/216363187-Password-protecting-your-site-with-an-htaccess-file [Accessed 2 November 2023]
- W3Schools (2023), How to Create a Login Form, [online] Available at:
 https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto css login form.asp [Accessed 2 November 2023]

Report:

- Tutorialspoint (2023), 10 Apache Web Server Security and Hardening Tips, [online] Available at https://www.tutorialspoint.com/10-apache-web-server-security-and-hardening-tips [Accessed 8 November 2023]
- Sytch (2023), What is password hashing?, [online] Available at: https://stytch.com/blog/what-is-password-hashing/#:~:text=Password%20hashing%20is%20the%20practice.the%20threat%20of%20password%20breaches [Accessed 7 November 2023]
- Acunetix (2017). What is Cross-site Scripting and How Can You Fix it? [online] Acunetix. Available at: https://www.acunetix.com/websitesecurity/cross-site-scripting/.

Source Code

Connection.php:

.htaccess:

```
ClarityCheck > config > .htaccess

# Reference - https://help.dreamhost.com/hc/en-us/articles/216363187-Password-protecting-your-site-with-an-htaccess-file

AuthType Basic

AuthName "Restricted Content"

AuthUserFile /etc/apache2/.htpasswd

Require valid-user
```

Index.php:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
   <title> Clarity Check Login </title>
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
   <!-- Form and CSS styling copied from https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto css login form.asp -->
   <form action="<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']; ?>" method="POST">
           <label for="username"><b>Username</b></label>
           <input type="text" placeholder="Enter Username" name="username" required>
           <label for="password"><b>Password</b></label>
           <input type="password" placeholder="Enter Password" name="password" required>
           <button class="default-button" name="submit" type="submit">Login</button>
           <a href="signup.php"> Don't have an account? </a>
    if ($_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] === 'POST') {
       if (isset($_POST['submit'])) {
            $username = $_POST["username"];
            $password = $_POST["password"];
            //$sql = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username='". $username . "' AND password='" . $password . "';";
            $params = array($username);
$result = $con->execute_query("SELECT * FROM users WHERE username=?", $params);
```

Singup.php:

```
signup.php ×

              <meta charset="utf-8" />
              <title> Clarity Check Signup </title>
              <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
              <!-- Form and CSS styling copied from https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_login_form.asp -->
<form action="<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']; ?>" method="POST">
                         <label for="username"><b>Username</b></label>
                         cinput type="text" placeholder="Enter Username" name="username" pattern="^[a-zA-Z0-9]*$"
oninvalid="this.setCustomValidity('Username must only contain letters and numbers')"
                               oninput="setCustomValidity('')" required>
                         <label for="password"><b>Password</b></label>
                          <input type="password" placeholder="Enter Password" name="password"
pattern="^(?=.*[a-z])(?=.*[A-Z])(?=.*[@$!%*?&])[A-Za-z\d@$!%*?&]{8,}$"
oninvalid="this.setCustomValidity('Password must contain at least 8 characters including one uppercase and lowercase letter,</pre>
                               oninput="setCustomValidity('')" required>
                          <button class="default-button" name="submit" type="submit">Create Account</button>
                          <a href="index.php"> Already have an account? </a>
               include("config/connection.php");
              if ($_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] === 'POST') {
   if (isset($_POST['submit'])) {
      $username = $_POST["username"];
      $password = $_POST["password"];
                          $params_check_unique_username = array($username);
                          $result = $con->execute_query("SELECT * FROM users WHERE username=?", $params_check_unique_username);
```

```
if (mysqli_num_rows($result) > 0) {
    echo "ch3 style='color: red;'>Username already taken, Please try again with a different username</hb>";

} else {
    // stifugation: Server-side password validation (https://www.codexworld.com/how-to/validate-password-strength-in-php/)
    Supercate = reg match("gla-2]p", $password);
    Supercate = reg_match("gla-2]p", $password);
    Supercate = reg_match("gla-2]p", $password);
    Supercate = reg_match("gla-2]p", $password);
    Supercate = reg_match("gla-2]p", $password);
    Supercate = preg_match("gla-2]p", $password, password);
    Supercate = preg_match("gla-2]p", $password, password, passw
```

Logged_in.php:

```
nogged_in.php ×
 ClarityCheck > 😭 logged_in.php
                               session_start();
                               include("config/connection.php");
                               <!DOCTYPE html>
                                               <meta charset="utf-8" />
                                                <title> Clarity Check Login </title>
                                              k href="css/layout.css" rel="stylesheet" />
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
                                                 <!-- \  \, \text{Form and CSS styling copied from } \  \, \text{https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css\_login\_form.asp} \, \, --> \  \, \text{https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css\_login\_form.asp]} \, \, --> \  \, \text{https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css\_login\_form.asp]} \, \, --> \  \, \text{https://www.w3sch
                                                  if ($_SESSION['login'] === true) {
                                                                   echo "<h1> Welcome: " . $_SESSION['username'] . "</h1>";
                                                                     $html =
                                                                     echo $html;
                                                                     // Insecure code - Query vulnerbale to SQL Injection
//$sql = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username='". $username."';
```

Survey.php:

```
🦛 signup.php M 🗙
             <meta charset="utf-8" />
             <title> Clarity Check Signup </title>
             <link href="css/layout.css" rel="stylesheet" />
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
             <!-- Form and CSS styling copied from https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_login_form.asp -->
<form action="<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']; ?>" method="POST">
                  <div class="container
                       <!-- Validate username --> <label for="username"><b>Username</b></label>
                        <input type="text" placeholder="Enter Username" name="username" pattern="^[a-zA-Z0-9]*$"</pre>
                            oninvalid="this.setCustomValidity('Username must only contain letters and numbers')'
                             oninput="setCustomValidity('')" required>
                       <label for="password"><b>Password</label>
<input type="password" placeholder="Enter Password" name="password"</pre>
                            pattern="^(?=.*[a-z])(?=.*[a-z])(?=.*[a/z])(?=.*[a/s!*])[a-za-z\d@$!%*?&][8,}$"

oninvalid="this.setCustomValidity('Password must contain at least 8 characters including one uppercase and lowercase letter,
                             one number, and one special character')
                             oninput="setCustomValidity('')" required>
                        <button class="default-button" name="submit" type="submit">Create Account</button>
                        <a href="index.php"> Already have an account? </a>
              include("config/connection.php");
              if ($_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] === 'POST') {
                  if (isset($_POST['submit'])) {
      $username = $_POST["username"];
                        $password = $_POST["password"];
                       $params_check_unique_username = array($username);
$result = $con->execute_query("SELECT * FROM users WHERE username=?", $params_check_unique_username);
                        if (mysqli_num_rows($result) > 0) {
```

Layout.css:

```
# layout.css ×
    /* ~~~~~~~ LOGIN & SIGNUP PAGE (CSS styling taken from https://www.w3schools.com/howto/howto_css_login_form.asp) ~~
       border: 3px solid ■#f1f1f1;
    input[type=text], input[type=password] {
     width: 100%;
     padding: 12px 20px;
     margin: 8px 0;
     display: inline-block;
     border: 1px solid ■#ccc;
     box-sizing: border-box;
     .default-button {
      background-color: ■#04AA6D;
      color: ■white;
     padding: 14px 20px;
     margin: 8px 0;
     border: none;
     width: 100%;
    .default-button:hover {
    opacity: 0.8;
    padding: 16px;
        .round-button-top-right {
          position: fixed;
          top: 20px; /* Adjust this value to change the vertical position */
          right: 20px; /* Adjust this value to change the horizontal position */
          width: 100px;
          height: 100px;
          background-color:  red;
          border: none;
          border-radius: 50%;
          color: White;
          text-align: center;
          font-size: 20px;
          cursor: pointer;
          /* Style for button hover effect (optional) */
        .round-button-top-right:hover {
          background-color: ■darkred;
```

Contribution

Jonah Reader:

- > Index.php & Signup.php

- htaccess
 Layout.css
 Report pages 3, 4-5, 6

Khaled Qasim:

- survey.php
 logged_in.php
 Layout.css
 Report pages 3, 7-9