

Assignment II – Preventing Web Application Vulnerabilities

CPS 499-02/592-02

Software/Language Based Security

Fall 2020

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URL: <https://github.com/Krimpenfort23/autumn-2020/tree/master/assignments/assignment2>

Task 0: Web Administration – Preparation

a. Database Setup

i. Imported the database and created a new user

```
[11/24/20]seed@VM:~/.../www.myblog.com$ mysql -u krimpenfortel -p
Enter password:
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 6
Server version: 5.7.19-0ubuntu0.16.04.1 (Ubuntu)

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affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective
owners.

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

mysql> show databases;
+-----+
| Database |
+-----+
| information_schema |
| blog      |
+-----+
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Figure 1: The database

ii. Demonstration

```
<?php

$dblink = mysqli_connect("localhost", "krimpenfortel", "bobgeorge", "blog");
if (mysqli_connect_errno()) {
    printf("Connect failed: %s\n", mysqli_connect_error());
    exit();
}

?>
```

Figure 2: classes/db.php

b. Deployment

iii. Using IP Address

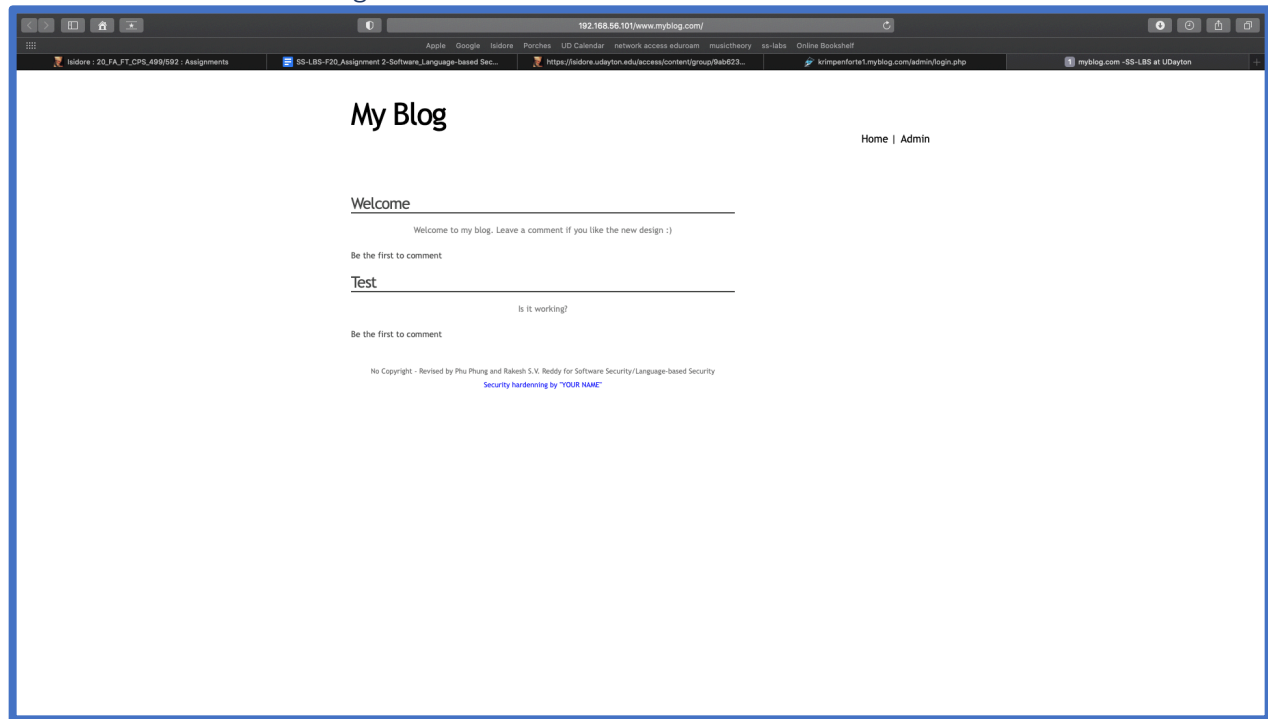


Figure 3: <http://192.168.56.101/www.myblog.com/>

- iv. With local domain name
1. SEEDVM

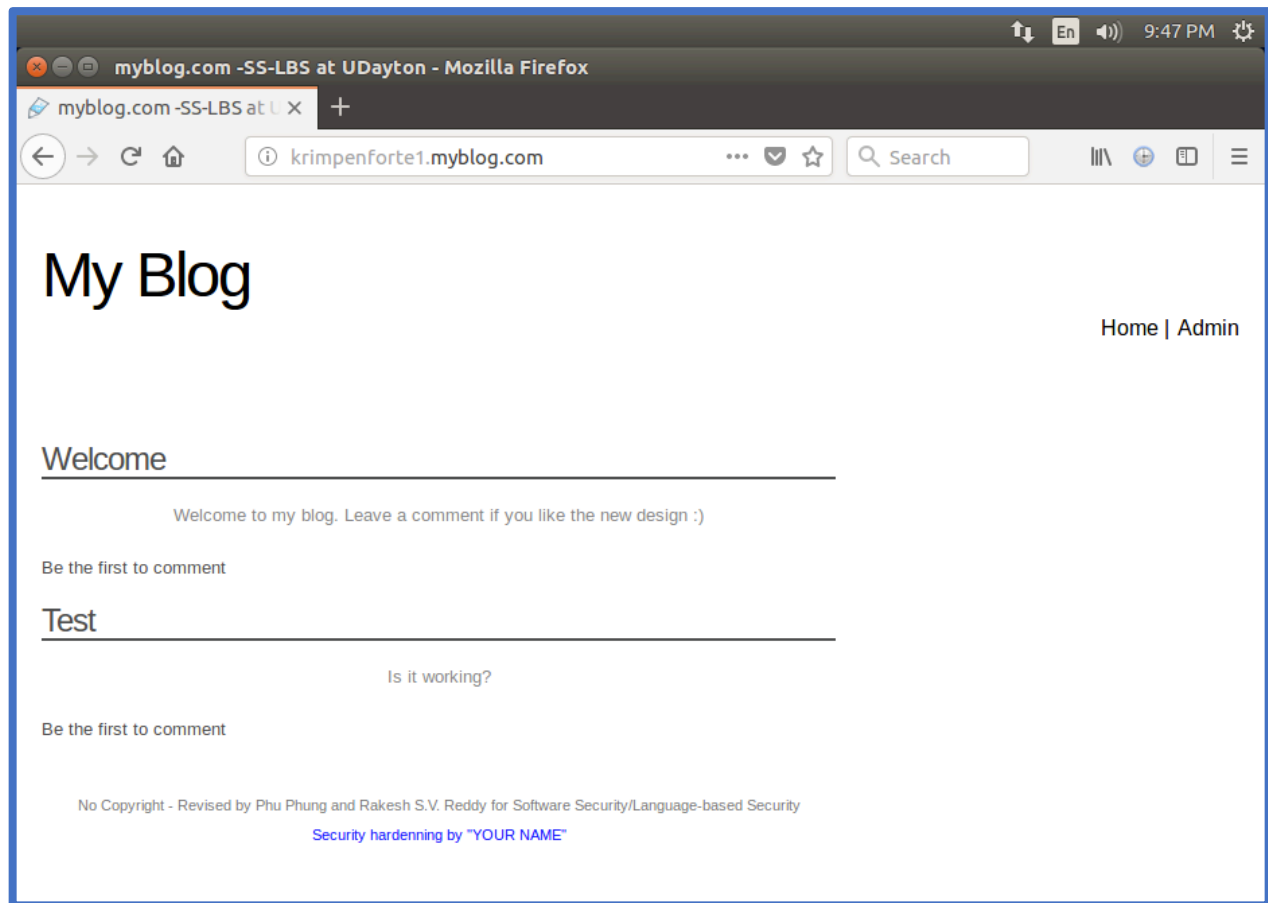


Figure 4: <http://krimpenforte1.myblog.com/> on the VM

2. Personal Computer

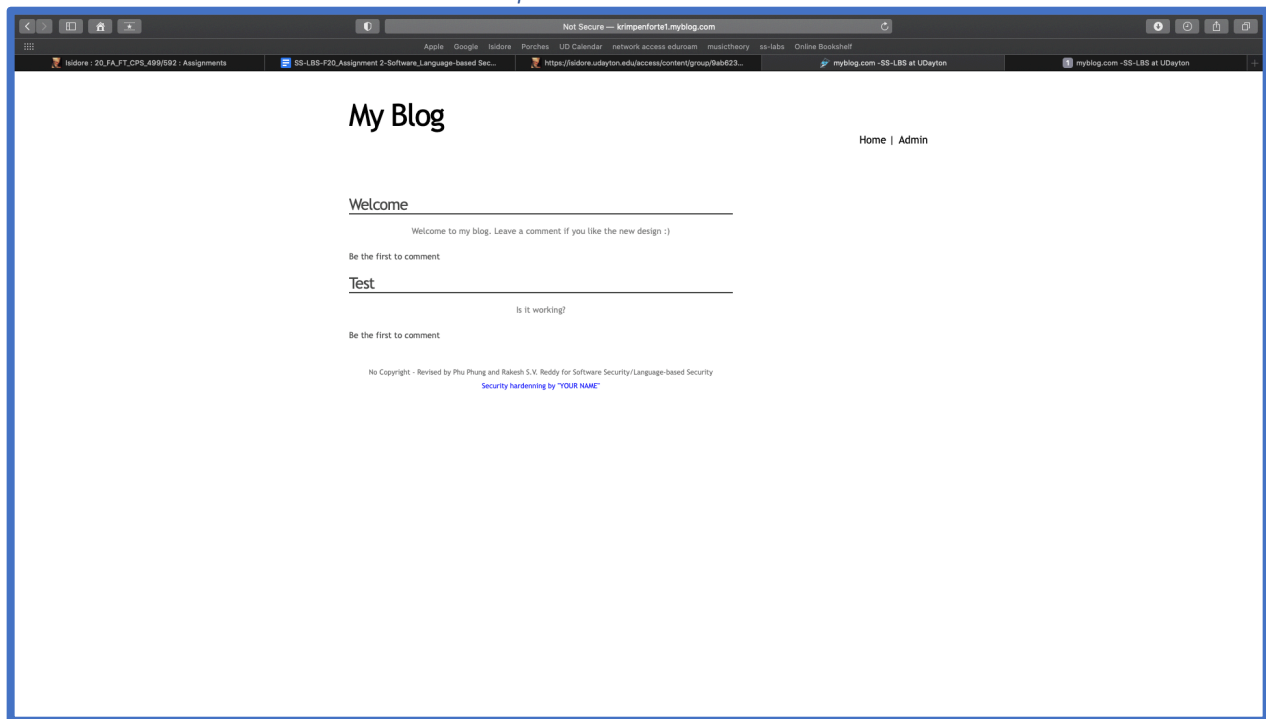


Figure 5: <http://krimpenforte1.myblog.com/> on the Mac

c. Misconfiguration Security

v. Deleted the database file (blog.sql)

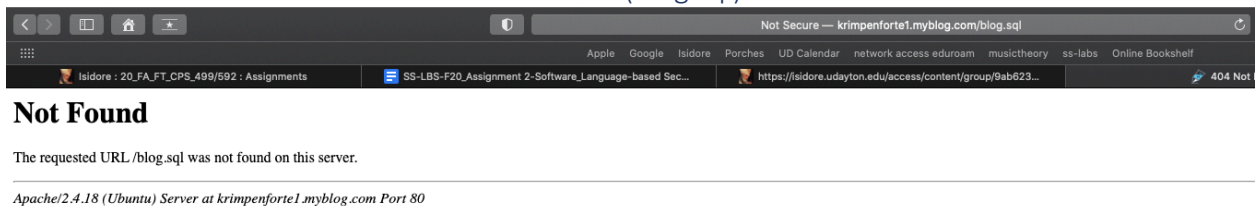


Figure 6: <http://krimpenforte1.myblog.com/blog.sql> not found

vi. Changed default username and password

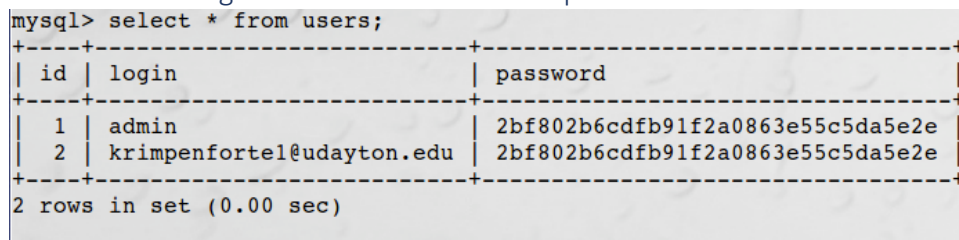


Figure 7: Users available

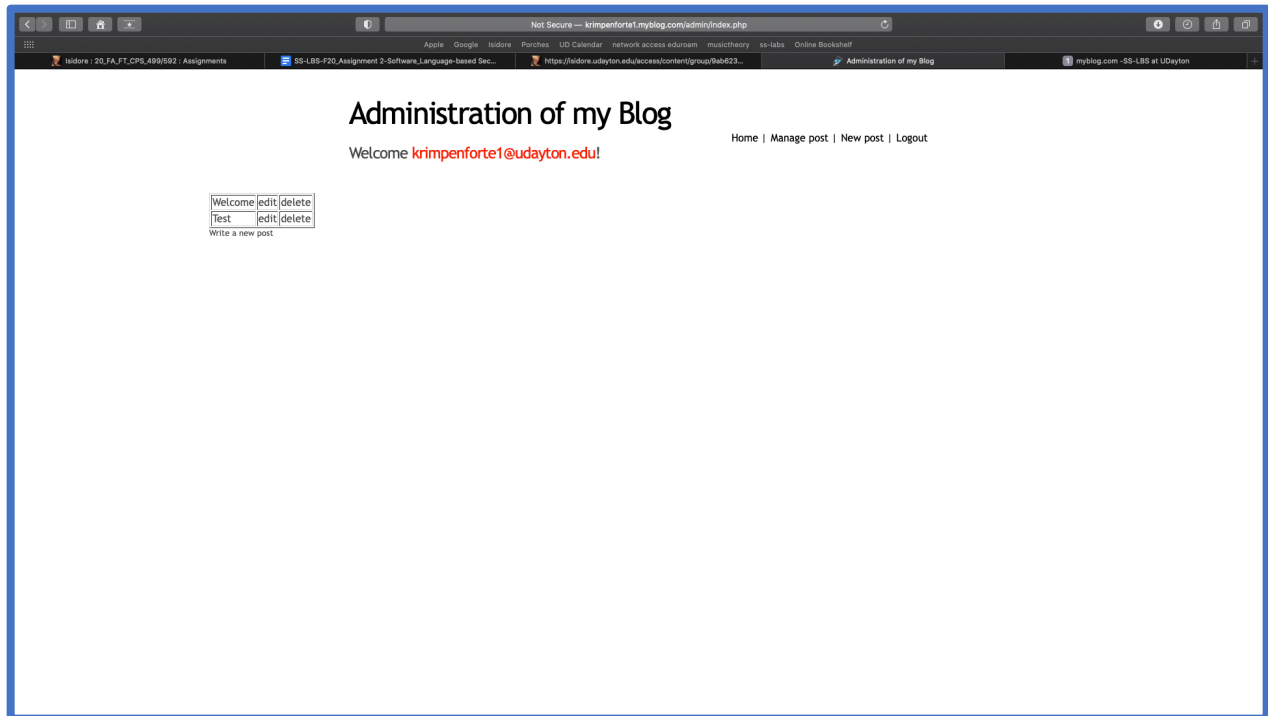


Figure 8: can log in with krimpenforte1@udayton.edu

d. HTTPS Setup

vii. Certificate was made

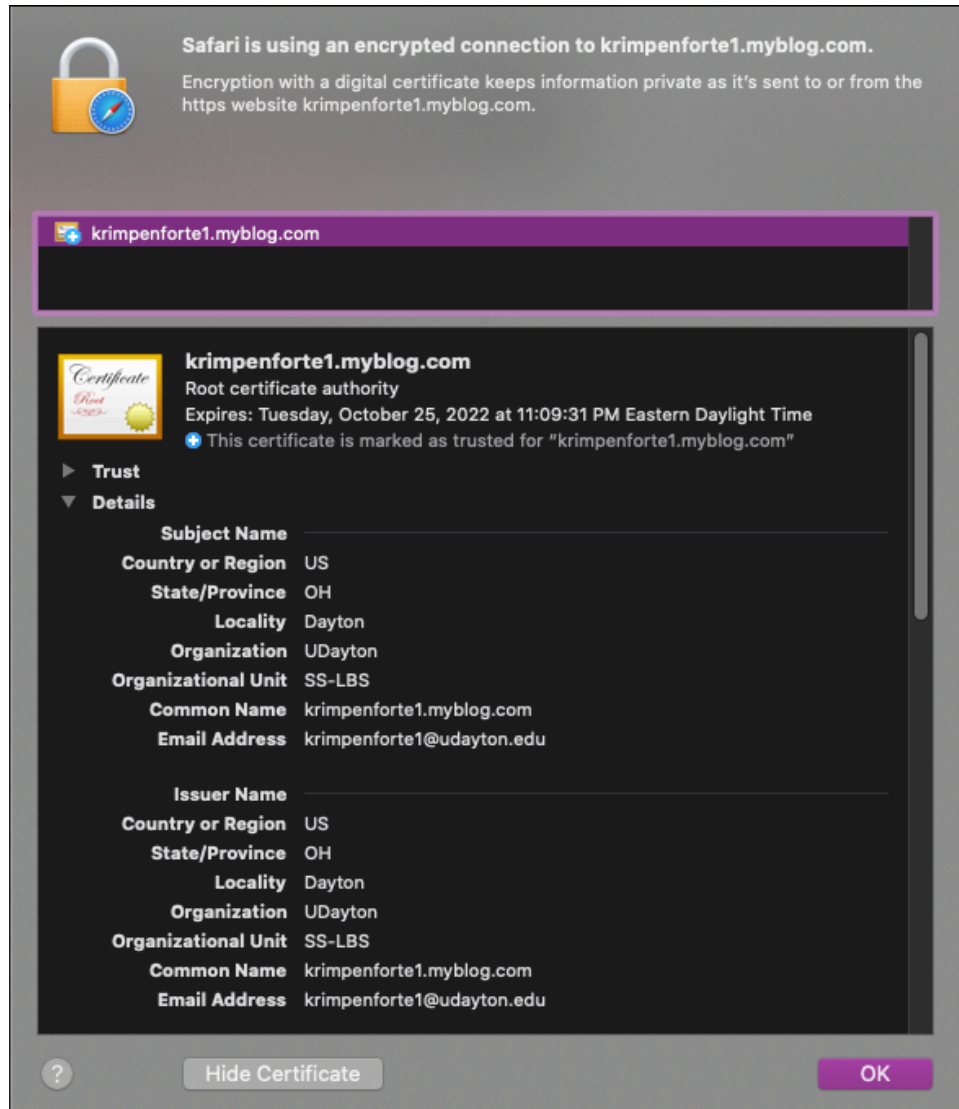


Figure 9: Certificate Details

viii. Deployment was done

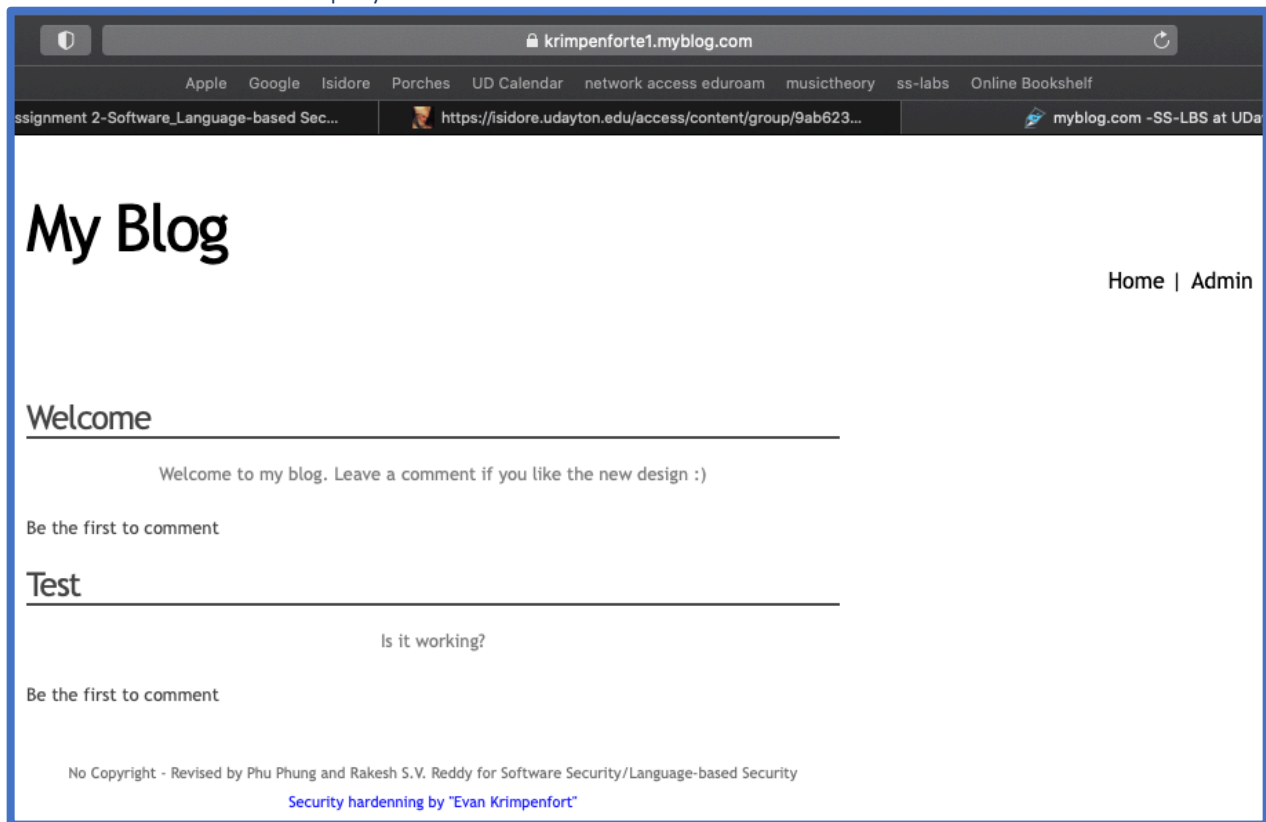


Figure 10: Site has https and the footer has been changed

e. Repository

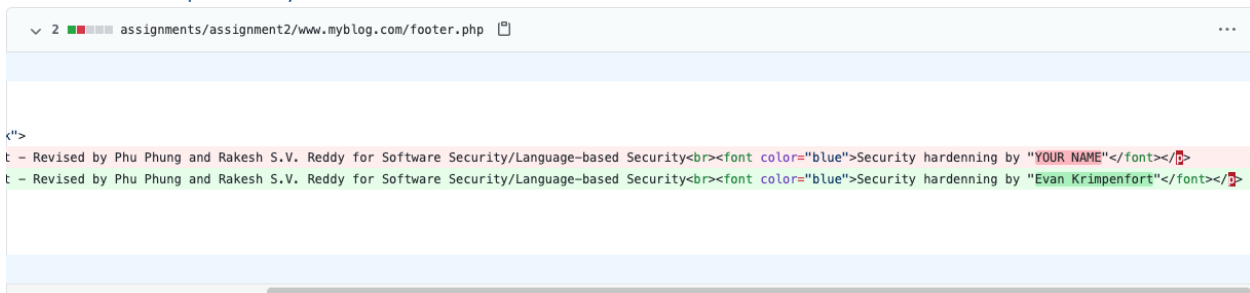


Figure 11: Footer was changed

Task I: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) Prevention

a. XSS vulnerability in post.php code

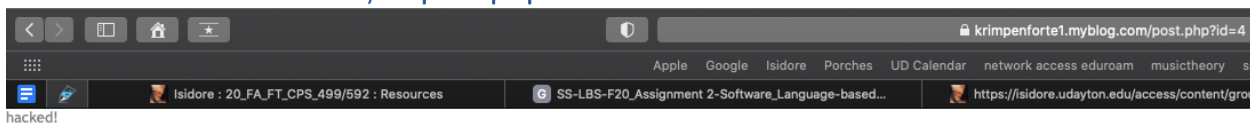


Figure 12: hacked in post.php?id=4

By placing in the code `<script.document.body.innerHTML=hacked!";</script>`, whoever is to click on the post of *Task I – Part I*, they will be taken to a page that modifies the HTML to this text. We can fix the problem by going into our code of *classes/post.php* and encapsulate the `$comment->text` block of code (line 81). By doing this, we can see that in Figure 13 the first comment has been prevented of manipulation. Another fix that we can do is better help the function *htmlentities(..)* by encapsulating the inputs before they go into the database. We can do this by encapsulating those calls `$_POST[<insert name>]` with *htmlspecialchars(..)*. By doing this protection, we can see that in Figure 13 the second comment has been changed to show the specific html characters used.

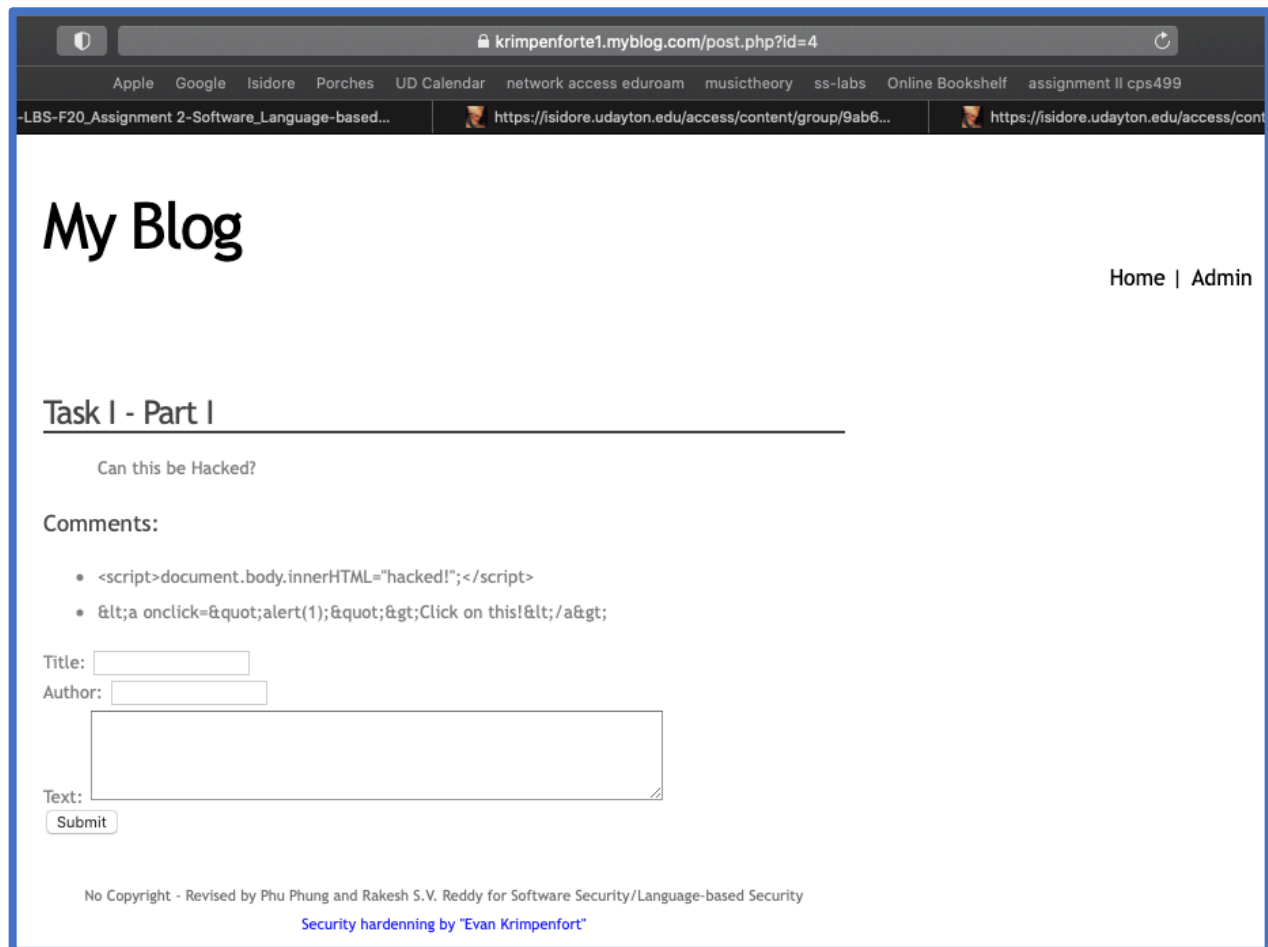


Figure 13: fixed code with *htmlspecialchars* and *htmlentities*

By doing these fixes, we can safely say that the *classes/post.php* code has been protected from XSS scripting attacks. In Figure 14 the code is pushed and the changes are shown.

```

8 assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/classes/post.php
...
@@ -65,9 +65,9 @@ function render() {
65 65     function add_comment() {
66 66         global $dblink;
67 67         $sql = "INSERT INTO comments (title,author, text, post_id) values ('";
68 68         $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["title"]).",";
69 69         $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["author"]).",";
70 70         $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["text"]).",";
71 71         $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["title"])).",";
72 72         $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["author"])).",";
73 73         $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["text"])).",";
74 74         $sql .= intval($this->id).")'";
75 75         $result = mysqli_query($dblink, $sql);
76 76         echo mysqli_error();
77 77     }
78 78     @@ -78,7 +78,7 @@ function render_with_comments() {
79 79         $sstr = "<p>".htmlentities($this->text)."</p></div>";
80 80         $sstr = "\n\n<div class='comments'><h3>Comments: </h3>\n<ul>";
81 81         foreach ($this->get_comments() as $comment) {
82 82             $sstr = "\n\t<li>".$comment->text."</li>";
83 83             $sstr = "\n\t<li>".htmlentities($comment->text)."</li>";
84 84         }
85 85         $sstr = "\n</ul></div>";
86 86         return $sstr;
87 87     }
88 88 }
89 89
90 90
91 91
92 92
93 93
94 94
95 95
96 96
97 97
98 98
99 99
100 100

```

Figure 14: Fixed code

However, with these protections put in place, are there other areas where the code can be protected? Part b will show this.

b. Further Revisions

Another location that allows someone to post malicious code could be inside of the admin page. But, *index.php* is being protected by *classes/phpfix.php* with the function *h(..)*. The only further locations with revisions that could be made were further in *classes/post.php*. They were inside the *update(..)* and *create()* functions. In Figure 15, a new post shows the fix.

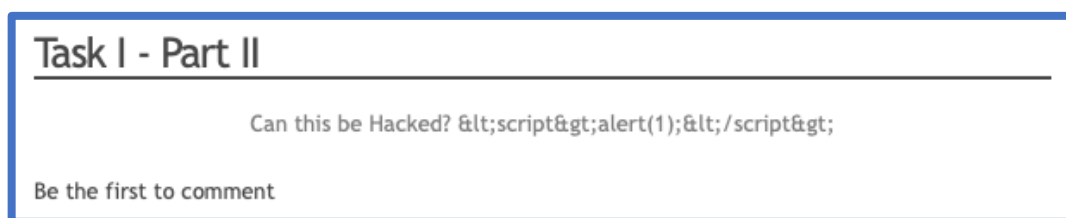


Figure 15: Further Fix made for the actual post itself

The encapsulation used in each function was the *htmlspecialchars(..)* function for further sanitation. However, that was all I could find. The update to the repo can be found in Figure 16.

```

8 assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/classes/post.php
@@ ~131,8 +131,8 @@ function delete($id) {
131 131 function update($title, $text) {
132 132     global $dblink;
133 133     $sql = "UPDATE posts SET title='";
134 - $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["title"])."',text='";
135 - $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["text"])."' WHERE id=";
134 + $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["title"])."',text='";
135 + $sql .= mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["text"])."' WHERE id=";
136 136     $sql .= intval($this->id);
137 137     $result = mysqli_query($dblink,$sql);
138 138     $this->title = $title;
@@ ~142,8 +142,8 @@ function update($title, $text) {
142 142 function create(){
143 143     global $dblink;
144 144     $sql = "INSERT INTO posts (title, text) VALUES ('";
145 - $title = mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["title"]);
146 - $text = mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, $_POST["text"]);
145 + $title = mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["title"]));
146 + $text = mysqli_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["text"]));
147 147     $sql .= $title."'";
148 148     $sql .= $text."'";
149 149     $result = mysqli_query($dblink,$sql);

```

Figure 16: Further fixed code

Task II: Session Hijacking Prevention

a. Secure the Cookies

Expires	Size	Secure	HttpOnly	SameSite
12/4/2020, 12:02:37 AM	35 B	✓	✓	—

Figure 17: Secured the cookies

b. Defense in Depth

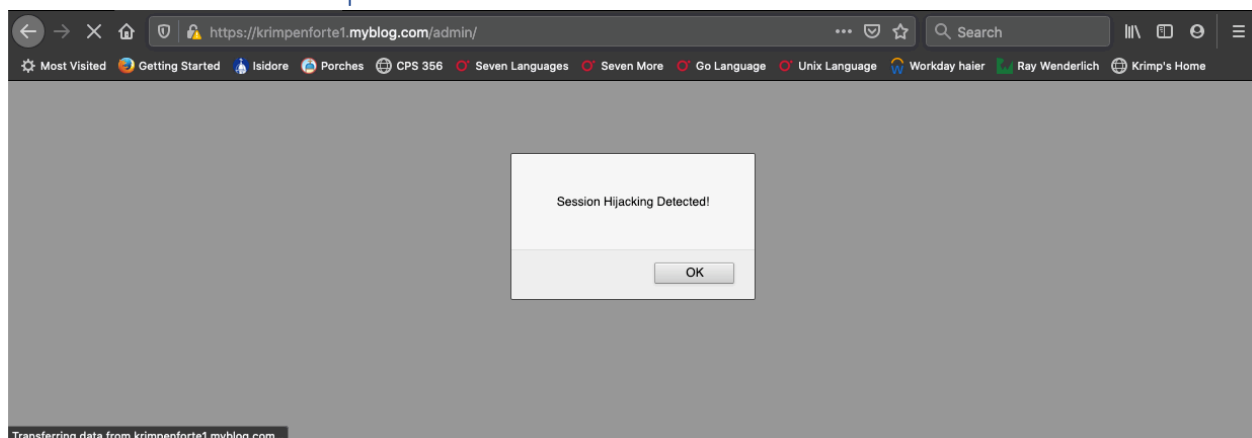


Figure 18: Session Hijacking Prevented

```
13 assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/classes/auth.php
... @@ -1,4 +1,9 @@
1 1 <?php
2 + $httponly = TRUE;
3 + $path = "/";
4 + $domain = "krimpenfortel.myblog.com"; // Your local domain
5 + $secure = TRUE;
6 + session_set_cookie_params (60*15,$path,$domain,$secure,$httponly);
7 session_start();
8 require('../classes/db.php');
9 require('../classes/user.php');
@@ -7,12 +12,16 @@
7 12 if (User::login($_POST["user"],$_POST["password"])){
8 13     $_SESSION["admin"] = User::SITE;
9 14     $_SESSION["user"] = $_POST["user"];
15 +     $_SESSION["browser"] = $_SERVER["HTTP_USER_AGENT"];
10 16 }
11 17
12 -
13 18 if (!isset($_SESSION["admin"]) or $_SESSION["admin"] != User::SITE) {
14 19     header( 'Location: /admin/login.php' );
15 20     die();
16 21 }
17 -
22 + if ($_SESSION["browser"] != $_SERVER["HTTP_USER_AGENT"])
23 + {
24 +     echo "<script>alert('Session Hijacking Detected!')</script>";
25 +     die();
26 + }
18 27 ?>
```

Figure 19: Additions for Session Hijacking Prevention

Task III: CSRF Prevention

a. CSRF vulnerability in the code of admin/new.php

This attack is able to happen because someone with administrative access logged in and they were able to use their access against them to post something. As we see in Figure 20, a post was made because the logged in user went to the <http://192.168.56.101/csrflab.html> page.

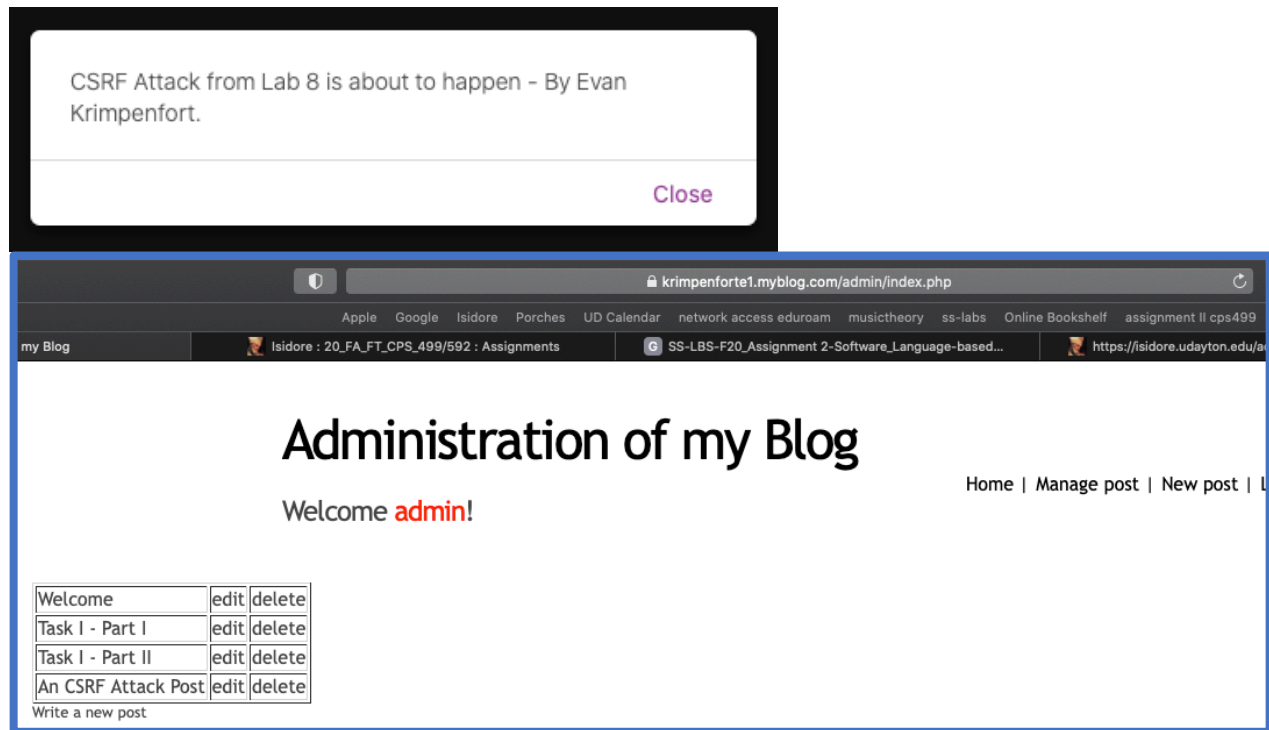


Figure 20: CSRF Attack

This attack is prevented by implementing a Secret Validation Token. We could have implemented other methods previously discussed in class like the Referrer Validation methodology or the Custom HTTP Header methodology, but the Secret Validation Token seemed quickest to implement and enough for the point of defending against a CSRF Attack.

The Secret Validation Token involves working in *admin/new.php* and *admin/index.php*. While inside of *admin/new.php*, a random variable is made and stored in the session. While inside of *admin/index.php*, that random variable is retrieved during the attack and is checked to see if *\$nocsrftoken* is even set or if it matches. If the variable is not set or doesn't match, there is a CSRF attack taking place and that will trigger the site. The demonstration can be viewed in Figure 21.

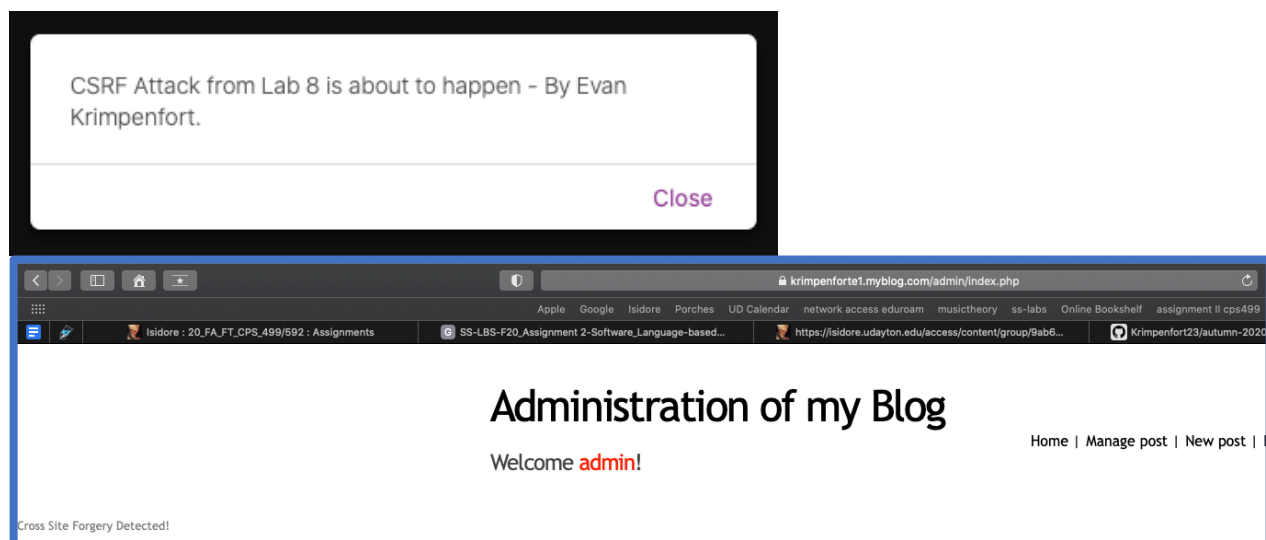


Figure 21: CSRF Prevention

The code that was developed during this prevention can be viewed in Figure 22.

```

6 assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/admin/index.php
@@ -7,6 +7,12 @@
7 7 require("../classes/comment.php");
8 8
9 9 if(isset($_POST['title'])){
10 + $nocsrftoken = $_POST["nocsrftoken"];
11 + if (!isset($nocsrftoken) or ($nocsrftoken != $_SESSION['nocsrftoken']))
12 + {
13 + echo "Cross Site Forgery Detected!";
14 + die();
15 + }
10 16 Post::create();
11 17 }
12 18 ?>

3 assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/admin/new.php
@@ -4,13 +4,16 @@
4 4 require("../classes/db.php");
5 5 require("../classes/phpfix.php");
6 6 require("../classes/post.php");
7 + $rand = bin2hex(openssl_random_pseudo_bytes(16));
8 + $_SESSION["nocsrftoken"] = $rand;
7 9 ?>
8 10
9 11 <form action="index.php" method="POST" enctype="multipart/form-data">
10 12 Title: <input type="text" name="title" /><br/>
11 13 Text: <textarea name="text" cols="80" rows="5">
12 14 </textarea><br/>
13 15
16 + <input type="hidden" name="nocsrftoken" value="<?php echo $rand ?>" />
14 17 <input type="submit" name="Add" value="Add">
15 18
16 19 </form>

```

Figure 22: Fixed Code for CSRF Attack

b. Further Revisions

Further Revisions could be found in both the *admin/edit.php*, *admin/index* and *admin/del.php* files. These scripts could allow CSRF attacks to happen. Therefore, additions were in need of making. Edit was just like new in that it was a `$_POST` so the same randomization and check in the index file could be done. However, with delete being a `$_GET` call, the randomization had to be placed in the index file, sent via the URL, and finally checked inside of the del file. By making these changes, the CSRF attacks could be stopped. All of those adjustments can be seen in Figure 27.

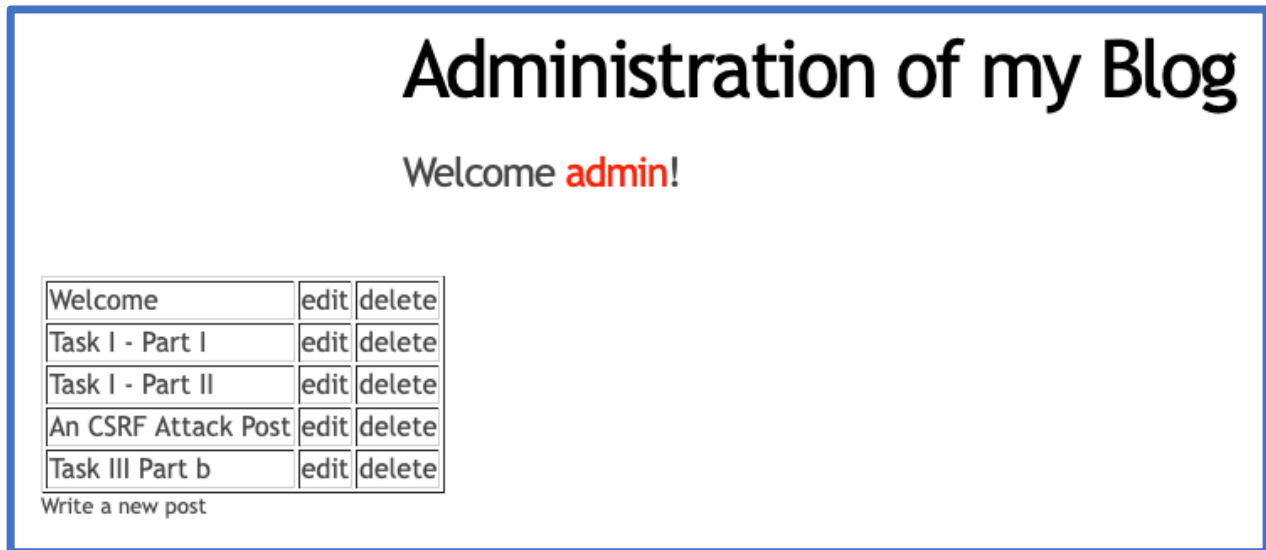


Figure 23: Successful add of a post

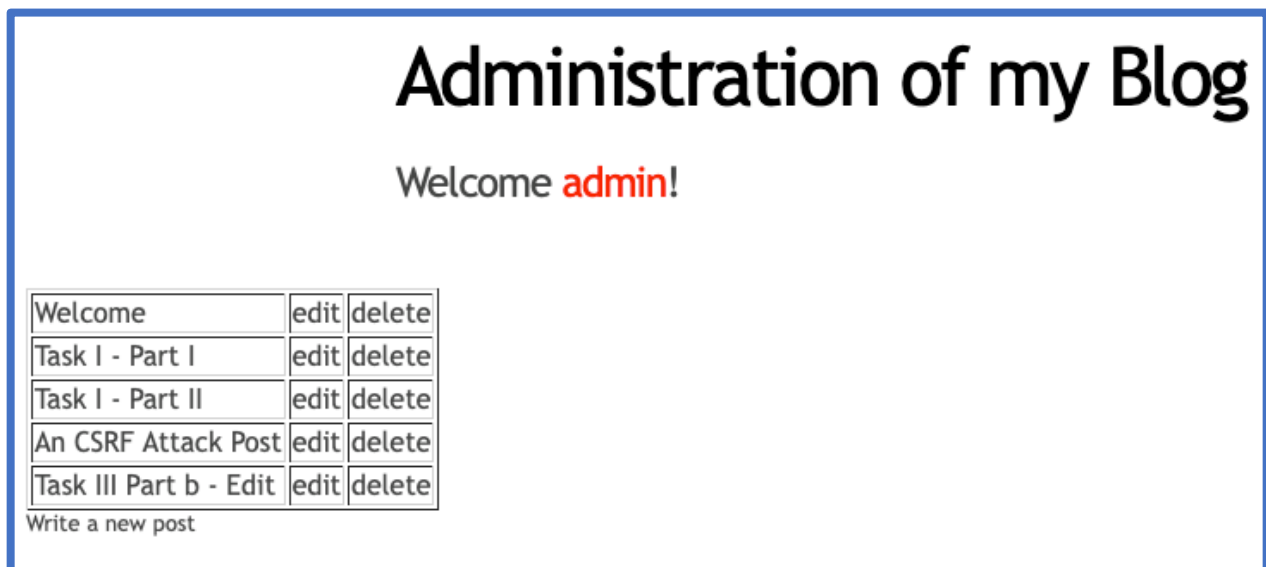


Figure 24: Successful edit of a post

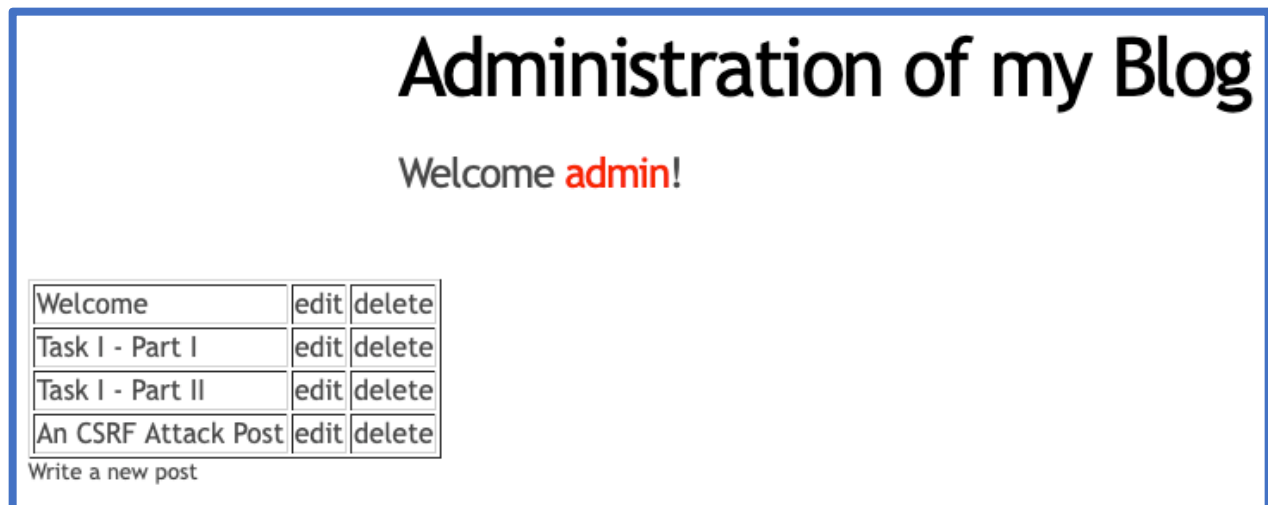


Figure 25: Successful Deletion of a post

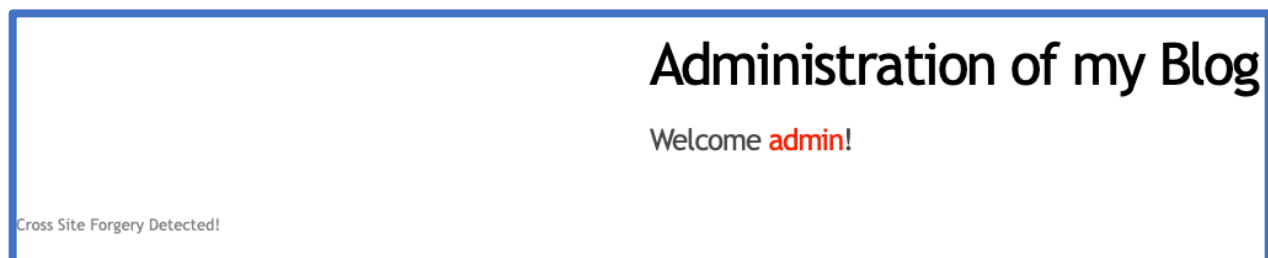


Figure 26: Still Successful Protection Against CSRF

All changes made regard a successful admin account experience.

10
assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/admin/del.php

```

@@ -4,12 +4,16 @@
4 4 require("../classes/db.php");
5 5 require("../classes/phpfix.php");
6 6 require("../classes/post.php");
7 7 -
8 8 - $rand = bin2hex(openssl_random_pseudo_bytes(16));
9 9 - $_SESSION["nocsrftoken"] = $rand;
10 7 ?>
11 8
12 9 <?php
10 10 + $nocsrftoken_get = $_GET["nocsrftoken_get"];
11 11 + if (!isset($nocsrftoken_get) or ($nocsrftoken_get != $_SESSION['nocsrftoken_get']))
12 12 + {
13 13 +     echo "Cross Site Forgery Detected!";
14 14 +     die();
15 15 + }
16 16 +
13 17 $post = Post::delete((int)($_GET["id"]));
14 18 header("Location: /admin/index.php");
15 19 ?>

```

4
assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/admin/index.php

```

@@ -23,12 +23,14 @@
23 23 <div>
24 24 <?php
25 25 $posts= Post::all();
26 26 + $rand = bin2hex(openssl_random_pseudo_bytes(16));
27 27 + $_SESSION["nocsrftoken_get"] = $rand;
26 28
27 29 foreach ($posts as $post) {
28 30     echo "<tr>";
29 31     echo "<td><a href='../post.php?id=".h($post->id)."\>".h($post->title)."</a></td>";
30 32     echo "<td><a href='edit.php?id=".h($post->id)."\>edit</a></td>";
31 31 -     echo "<td><a href='del.php?id=".h($post->id)."\>delete</a></td>";
32 32 +     echo "<td><a href='del.php?id=".h($post->id)."&nocsrftoken_get=".h($rand)."\>delete</a></td>";
33 33 +     echo "</tr>";
34 34 }
35 35 ?>

```

6
assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/admin/edit.php

```

@@ -5,6 +5,9 @@
5 5 require("../classes/phpfix.php");
6 6 require("../classes/post.php");
7 7
8 8 + $rand = bin2hex(openssl_random_pseudo_bytes(16));
9 9 + $_SESSION["nocsrftoken"] = $rand;
10 10 +
8 11 $post = Post::find($_GET['id']);
9 12 if (isset($_POST['title'])) {
10 13     $post->update($_POST['title'], $_POST['text']);
@@ -17,8 +20,9 @@
17 20 Text:
18 21 <textarea name="text" cols="80" rows="5">
19 22 <?php echo htmlentities($post->text); ?>
20 20 - </textarea><br/>
21 21 + </textarea><br/>
22 22 + <input type="hidden" name="nocsrftoken" value="<?php echo $rand ?>" />
23 23 <input type="submit" name="Update" value="Update">
24 24 </form>

```

Figure 27: Code Revisions Seen in del.php, index.php and edit.php

Task IV: SQL Injection Prevention

a. SQLi in admin/post.php

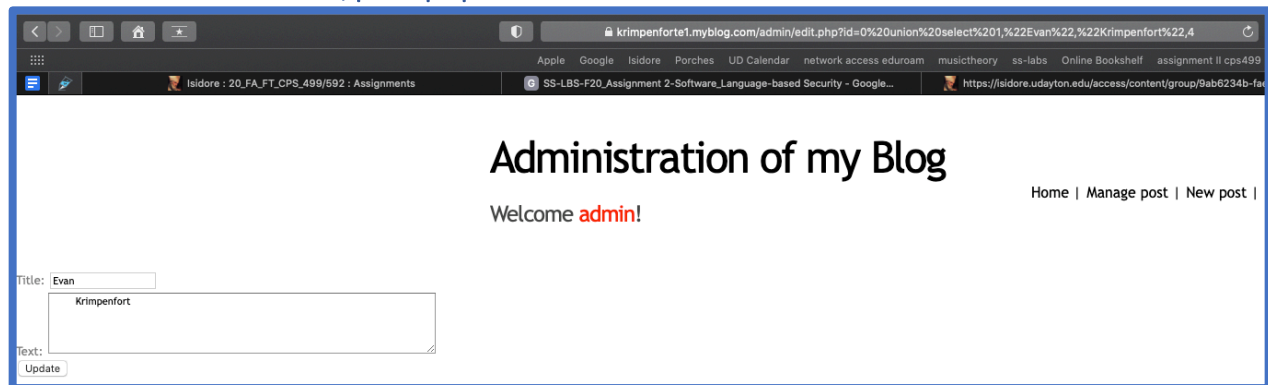


Figure 28: Execution of the SQLi Attack

The reason this attack can happen in Figure 28 is because *id* is not protected inside of admin. The user asking doing this attack is not validated. Therefore, this needs to be protected by validating the user doing this attack.

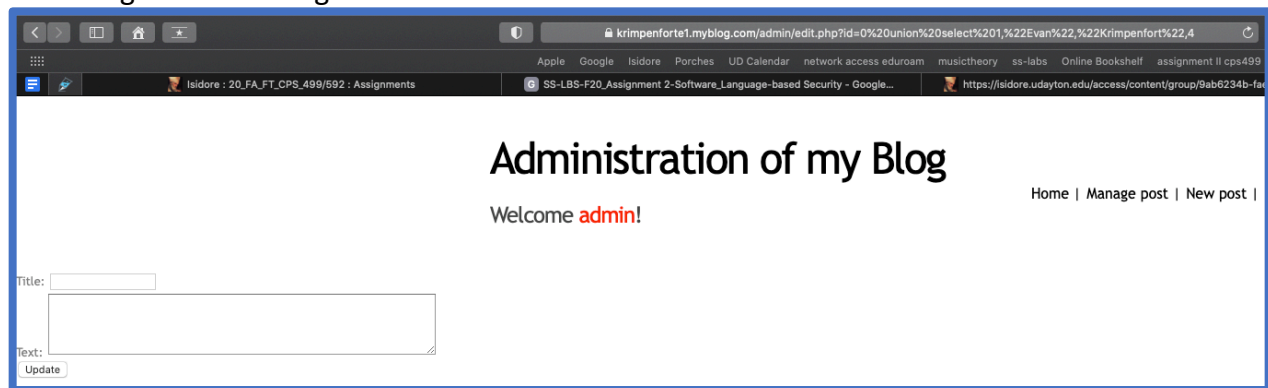


Figure 29: SQLi Prevention

The prevention demonstrated in Figure 29 was done by disabling the ability to give user input in the first place. Union should not work now. By doing a *\$prepared_sql*, update can no longer allow union to work. The code for that is shown in Figure 30.

```

@@ -112,19 +120,31 @@ function get_comments() {
112 120
113 121     function find($id) {
114 122         global $dblink;
123 +     /*
115 124         $result = mysqli_query($dblink, "SELECT * FROM posts where id=".$id);
116 125         $row = mysqli_fetch_assoc($result);
117 126         if (isset($row)){
118 127             $post = new Post($row['id'],$row['title'],$row['text'],$row['published']);
119 128         }
129 +     */
130 +     $prepared_sql = "SELECT id, title, text, published FROM posts WHERE id=?";
131 +     $stmt = mysqli_prepare($dblink, $prepared_sql);
132 +     mysqli_stmt_bind_param($stmt, 'i', $id);
133 +     mysqli_stmt_execute($stmt);
134 +     mysqli_stmt_bind_result($stmt, $id, $title, $text, $published);
135 +     if (mysqli_stmt_fetch($stmt))
136 +     {
137 +         $post = new Post($id, $title, $text, $published);
138 +     }

```

Figure 30: Code Revisions in Update(..) for SQLi

b. Further Revisions

In Figure 30, a demonstration on editing a post that doesn't exist doesn't cause an error and union was not able to post 2 and 3, thus keeping the SQLi Prevention.

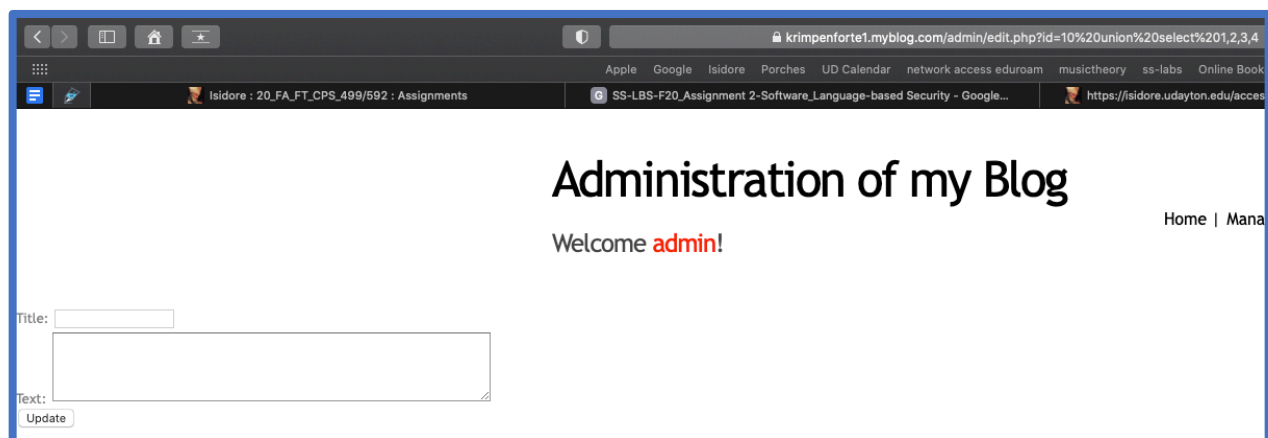


Figure 31: Fixing edit through update by making sure it's null (which it is)

By going through all of *classes/post.php*, All methods besides the fix made all had protections. Whether that was integer assertion or escape protections. A snippet of this can be seen in Figure 32.

```
25 assignments/assignment2/www.myblog.com/classes/post.php ...

@@ -15,6 +15,8 @@ function all($cat=NULL,$order=NULL) {
15 15     $sql = "SELECT * FROM posts";
16 16     if (isset($order))
17 17         $sql .= "order by ".mysql_real_escape_string($dblink, $order);
18 +
19 + /* Code Review: This part is okay b/c of mysql_real_escape_string. */
18 20     $results= mysql_query($dblink, $sql);
19 21     $posts = Array();
20 22     if ($results) {

@@ -68,6 +70,8 @@ function add_comment() {
68 70     $sql .= mysql_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["title"])).",";
69 71     $sql .= mysql_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["author"])).",";
70 72     $sql .= mysql_real_escape_string($dblink, htmlspecialchars($_POST["text"])).",";
73 +
74 + /* Code Review: This part is okay b/c of mysql_real_escape_string. */
71 75     $sql .= intval($this->id).",";
72 76     $result = mysql_query($dblink, $sql);
73 77     echo mysql_error();

@@ -89,6 +93,8 @@ function get_comments_count() {
89 93     if (!preg_match('/^[0-9]+$/', $this->id)) {
90 94         die("ERROR: INTEGER REQUIRED");
91 95     }
96 +
97 + /* Code Review: This part is okay b/c of the integer assertion. */
92 98     $comments = Array();
93 99     $result = mysql_query($dblink, "SELECT count(*) as count FROM comments where post_id=".$this->id);
94 100     $row = mysql_fetch_assoc($result);

@@ -100,6 +106,8 @@ function get_comments() {
100 106     if (!preg_match('/^[0-9]+$/', $this->id)) {
101 107         die("ERROR: INTEGER REQUIRED");
102 108     }
109 +
110 + /* Code Review: This part is okay b/c of the integer assertion. */
103 111     $comments = Array();
104 112     $results = mysql_query($dblink, "SELECT * FROM comments where post_id=".$this->id);
105 113     if (isset($results)){
```

Figure 32: Further Analysis Snippet