HTML and CSS injection in pipeline error message on /pipelines/new page

HackerOne report #1362405 by joaxcar on 2021-10-07, assigned to GitLab Team:

Report | Attachments | How To Reproduce

Report

Summary

The error message from failed pipeline runs on the "https://gitlab.com/NAMESPACE/PROJECT/-/pipelines/new" view are presented without proper HTML encoding. Leading to HTML and CSS injection.

When a user enters a non-existing or broken YML file as a pipeline configuration the "new pipeline" page will present an error message similar to

The project 'namespace/project' with the file 'filename' is broken

The problem is that neither 'namespace/project' nor 'filename' are HTML encoded prior to being sent to v-safe-html in the Vue view. So if an attacker configures the project to use a file named <h1>hack</h1>.yml (which is a valid filepath and filename. Path <h1>hack< and filename h1>.yml) the error message will present the word hack in huge font.

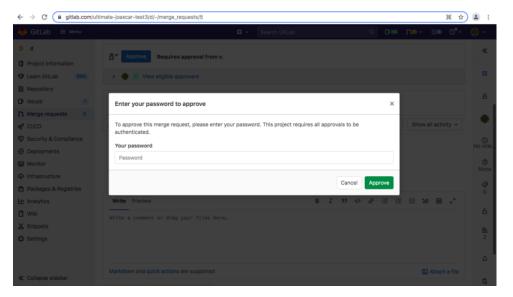
The injected payload is run through DOMPurify (by v-safe-html) which prevents most of the really serious issues such as full XSS and since a month or two also from abuse of data-* attributes. The positioning of the injection still makes it quite dangerous as I will show.

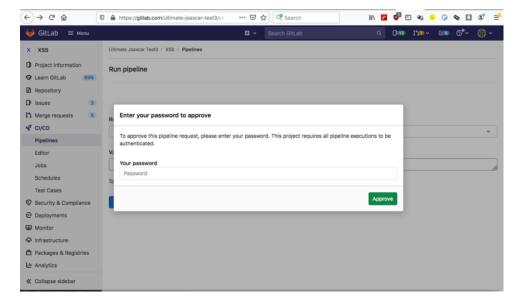
If you just want to confirm the behavior skip to POC. I will now explain how this could be abused.

The first most basic abuse of the injection is to overlay the whole page with an invisible link to a malicious site. Leading to the victim in most cases being redirected to the malicious site as there is no indication that the page is a big link.

The other attack scenario is to use the flow of GitLab to lure a victim to give away their password. This can be achieved by mimicking the approval of merge request setting added to GitLab in 12.0 link. As this is an official workflow victims that encounter the same behavior in another part of GitLab would be more likely to actually enter their password if a similar modal when it is presented as part of a different flow.

The idea is that when a victim press the "run pipeline" button, a similar modal will appear prompting the user for a password before the pipeline is triggered. This will resemble the flow of MR approval. The problem is that the pipeline file setting is limited to 255 characters. To build a convincing modal the attacker could use CSS injection in conjunction with HTML injection and use CSS import functionality to load a arbitrary sized CSS file into the page and thus be able to create the modal, and hide the original error message. I will post first an image of the official "approval by password" modal





The CSS import works on Gitlab.com by bypassing CSP in the same way as with XSS and linking to a CSS file in a pipeline job artifact.

When the attacker gets the request containing the password the attacker can go to the pipeline log of the project to find out which user made the request. Thus, there is no need to trick the victim of entering a username.

The payload

My final payload to mimic the password modal takes advantage of some tricks to stay below the 255-character limit. The payload looks like this when pulled apart

First of the payload needs to present a "valid filename" which is the a.yml part in the beginning. Then there is the @ separator to tell the parser that the rest of the string is a project path. As I need an @ sign in the CSS import the payload needs to be put in the path and not the file name to not be treated as a filename separator. I then import a CSS from GitLab and creates a skeleton of HTML tags for the CSS to target. All text in the modal is subsequently added by CSS as :before and :after content. All tags left open will be properly closed by DOMPurify before being injected into the page, saving a I error message should encode the filenames of failed pipelines.ot of characters. It could definitely be improved, but it shows the possibilities even with the limited payload size. The imported CSS will also hide the original error message.

Steps to reproduce

I will show this working through the "compliance framework" functionality which is a feature only available for Unlimited subscription plan. This is no problem as the Unlimited trail lets anyone access this. The attack is possible through regular project pipeline settings as well, but this path is a bit easier to follow. If you want to use the regular project pipeline you have to actually create the payload as a file (which is possible). Write back if you want me to do a write-up of that as well.

- 1. Create a user user01
- 2. Log in as user01 and create a group attack_group by visiting https://gitlab.com/groups/new
- Go to https://gitlab.com/-/graphql-explorer and run this query to create a pipeline instruction in a compliance framework

```
mutation {
  createComplianceFramework(input: {
   namespacePath: "attack_group",
  params: {
    name: "hack",
    pipelineConfigurationFullPath:"a.yml@<style>[@]import \"/xep/x/-/jobs/1653666563/artifacts/raw
    description:"hack",
    color:"#3cb371"
```

```
}
}) {
    errors
}
```

a simpler version that does not rely on my CSS file stored on Gitlab.com could be used to prove the impact, this one just puts in a large text in the error message

```
mutation {
  createComplianceFramework(input: {
    namespacePath: "attack_group",
    params: {
     name: "hack",
     pipelineConfigurationFullPath:"a.yml@<h1>hack</h1>",
     description:"hack",
     color:"#3cb371"
    }
}) {
    errors
}
```

- 4. Go to https://gitlab.com/attack_group and click the "New project" button to create a new project in the group. Name it attack_project
- 5. Create a .gitlab-ci.yml file in the project (can be empty, does not matter), for example by going to the web ide https://qitlab.com/-/ide/project/attack_group/attack_project/tree/main/-/
- 6. Go to the project settings at https://gitlab.com/attack_group/attack_project/edit and expand the "Compliance framework". Pick the framework we created called "hack" in the drop-down.
- 7. Go to https://gitlab.com/attack_group/attack_project/-/pipelines/new and click "Run pipeline"
- 8. The fake modal will pop up, this will happen to any user in the group trying to run a pipeline. Test to invite another member if you wish to test this.

Impact

HTML and CSS injection in pipeline error message can force a victim to visit a malicious site, show new or alter the content of the page or try to lure the victim to expose their credentials.

What is the current bug behavior?

The pipeline error messages on "pipeline/new" does not HTML encode filenames. This unencoded names are then presented in the error message through v-safe-html which strips dangerous tags but allows regular HTML and CSS.

What is the expected correct behavior?

The error message should encode the filenames of failed pipelines.

Output of checks

This bug happens on GitLab.com

I put this at a severity based on a similar finding patched in 14.3.1 link

Impact

HTML and CSS injection in pipeline error message can force a victim to visit a malicious site, show new or alter the content of the page or try to lure the victim to expose their credentials.

Attachments

Warning: Attachments received through HackerOne, please exercise caution!

- <u>fake.png</u>
- real.png

How To Reproduce

Please add $\underline{\text{reproducibility information}}$ to this section:

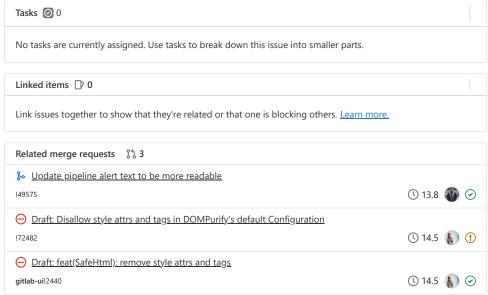
- 1.
- 2.

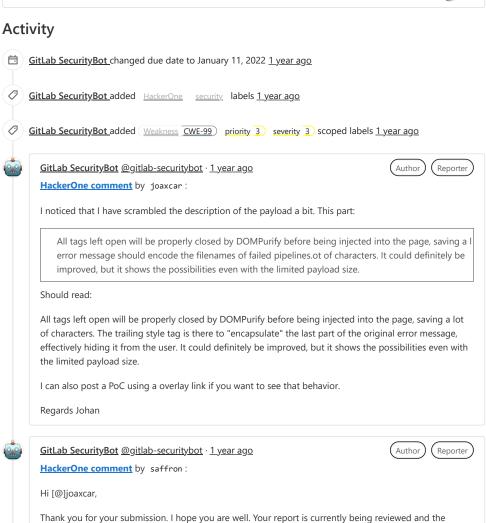
Proposed solution (updated as of March 31st)

· Backend to sanitize the error input

Edited 7 months ago by Laura Montemayor

1 Drag your designs here or click to upload.





HackerOne triage team will get back to you once there is additional information to share.

Have a great day!



<u>GitLab SecurityBot</u> @gitlab-securitybot · 1 year ago



Reporter

<u>HackerOne comment</u> by saffron:

HackerOne comment by saffron:

Automatically assigned to H1 Triage after changing state to Needs More Info.



GitLab SecurityBot @gitlab-securitybot · 1 year ago

Author

Reporter

Hi [@]joaxcar,

Thank you for the report! Unfortunately, I was unable to completely evaluate this report.

At https://gitlab.com/-/graphql-explorer, I observe the error 'Not permitted to create framework', therefore, I request if you can please indicate if I need to perform any other steps prior to the attack? I can confirm I've used the 'Owner' account to reproduce the steps.

Thank you for your help!

Regards, [@]saffron

Attachments

Warning: Attachments received through HackerOne, please exercise caution!

• <u>1362405-Error.png</u>



GitLab SecurityBot @gitlab-securitybot · 1 year ago



Reporter

<u>HackerOne comment</u> by joaxcar:

Hi [@]saffron thank you for looking into the report!

It might be that you are trying to cerate the framework with a user/project that does not have an Ultimate subscription. As I mentioned this way of attacking is the "easiest" and most effective. But it does require an Ultimate license. If you do not have that to your disposal, I could write up an alternative route for regular users.

Will get beck with that as soon as I have it ready!

/Johan



 $\underline{\textbf{GitLab SecurityBot}} \ \underline{\textcircled{@gitlab-securitybot}} \cdot \underline{\textbf{1 year ago}}$



Reporter

HackerOne comment by joaxcar:

So you could try this [@]saffron:

- 1. Create a new project
- 2. Go to https://gitlab.com/GROUP/PROJECT/-/new/main to create a new file
- 3. Name the file <h1>hack</h1>.gitlab-ci.yml and write hack (anything goes) in the file body
- 4. Create the file
- 5. Go to https://gitlab.com/GRUP/PROJECT/-/settings/ci_cd and expand "General Pipelines"
- 6. Enter $\hdots \hdots \hdot$
- 7. Go to https://gitlab.com/GROUP/PROJECT/-/pipelines/new and click "Run pipeline"
- 8. The error should display hack in h1 font size

This will prove the problem in the error message injecting HTML. I have not managed to use this path for the final "password modal" attack as the @ sign causes some trouble. But with some testing the same result should be achievable. The Framework attack path is a bit more stealth as it does not require any weird files in the project directory and the payload is completely hidden for any victim user in the project where it is applied (the file does not even need to exist, and the framework setting does not expose the path of the file).



Author

HackerOne comment by turtle_shell: Hello [@]joaxcar, Thank you for your submission! We were able to validate your report, and have submitted it to the appropriate remediation team for review. They will let us know the final ruling on this report, and when/if a fix will be implemented. Please note that the status and severity are subject to change. Thanks, [@]turtle_shell <u>GitLab SecurityBot</u> @gitlab-securitybot · 1 year ago Author Reporter HackerOne comment by turtle_shell: Summary of the Issue The endpoint at https://gitlab.com/GROUP/PROJECT/-/pipelines/new suffers from HTML injection on the CI/CD configuration file. Steps to reproduce 1. Create a new project 2. Go to https://gitlab.com/GROUP/PROJECT/-/new/main to create a new file 3. Name the file <h1>hack</h1>.gitlab-ci.yml and write hack (anything goes) in the file body 5. Go to https://gitlab.com/GRUP/PROJECT/-/settings/ci_cd and expand "General Pipelines" 6. Enter <h1>hack</h1>.gitlab-ci.yml as CI/CD configuration file and save changes. 7. Go to https://gitlab.com/GROUP/PROJECT/-/pipelines/new and click "Run pipeline" 8. The error should display hack in h1 font size Impact statement Higher phishing chances If you have any questions or concerns around this report, please reassign the report to H1 Triage via the action picker with a comment indicating your request. Thanks, [@]turtle shell Attachments Warning: Attachments received through HackerOne, please exercise caution! • Screenshot 2021-10-12 at 11.09.03.png $\underline{\textbf{GitLab SecurityBot}} \ \underline{\textcircled{@gitlab-securitybot}} \cdot \underline{\textbf{1 year ago}}$ Author Reporte HackerOne comment by turtle_shell: Based on your bounty policies. GitLab Bot added type bug scoped label 1 year ago (abels 1 year ago Costel Maxim added group source code scoped label 1 year ago Ostel Maxim removed label 1 year ago

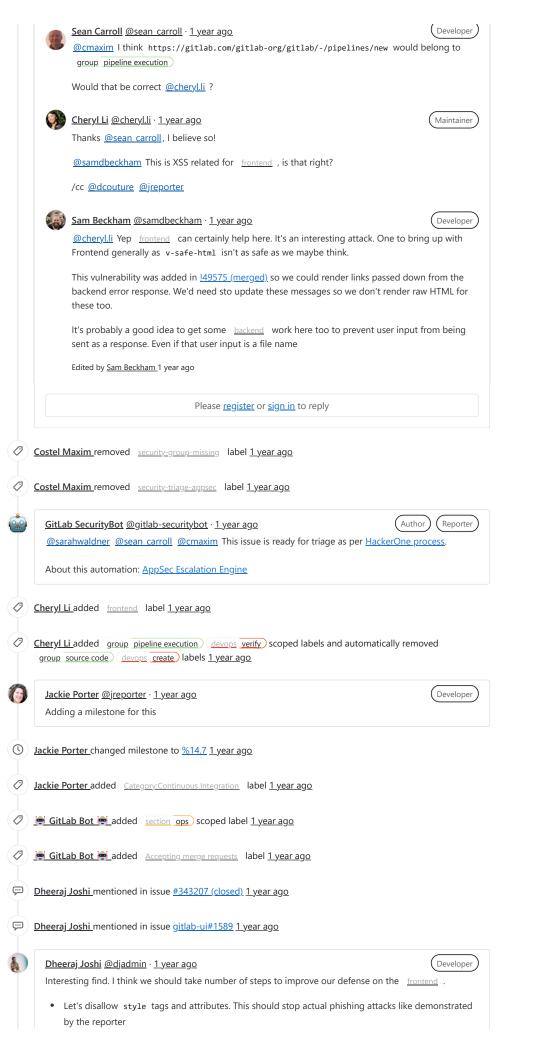


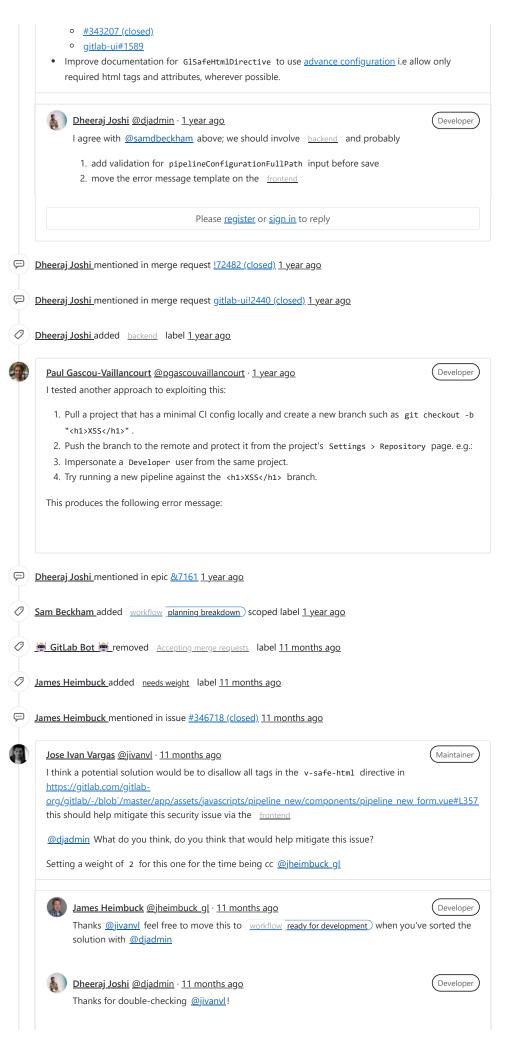
Costel Maxim @cmaxim · 1 year ago

Developer

/cc <u>@sean carroll</u> <u>@sarahwaldner</u> Not sure if this issue is for <u>group source code</u> or <u>group editor</u>.

Please reassign if needed. Thanks





It should indeed mitigate the security issue, but we might break the "learn more" link added in <u>!49575 (merged)</u>. If that's acceptable, we can work with UX to include the (generic) documentation link with the title, something like:

▶ PoC

Alternative approaches:

- We could allow only anchor tags with v-safe-html, but that can potentially be (ab)used to link to the attacker's website.
- HTML escape the error messages 1, 2, and other potential places, but this is not future proof



Jose Ivan Vargas @jivanvl · 11 months ago

Maintainer

@djadmin Love that PoC, let's ask UX

@v mishra We had a question regarding this security issue, we have to change some configuration that will break the current design of the error message for the pipeline creation, Dheeraj has a great suggestion for a design change to keep the documentation link location and help mitigate the issue, what do you think?



Veethika M @v mishra · 11 months ago

Developer

We had a question regarding this security issue, we have to change some configuration that will break the current design of the error message for the pipeline creation, Dheeraj has a great suggestion for a design change to keep the documentation link location and help mitigate the issue, what do you think?

By assessing the gravity of the security threat users are exposed to currently, I support this change. My suggestion would be to use a (?) help icon with a popover here so we don't diverge from the design system standards.

The text in the popover could read: Some actions on a protected branches are not available for users with insufficient permissions. Learn more

Where learn more links tohttps://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/pipelines/#pipeline-security-on-protectedbranches

(@rdickenson this would need your inputs)

Also, what's the likelihood of us being able to support a link in the error message in future? Based on that I could create a ux-debt issue.

@annabeldunstone and @nadia sotnikova since you were involved in the !49575 (merged) and this proposal is like to revert it, I'd like to know what you think of the proposal here.



Annabel Dunstone Gray @annabeldunstone · 11 months ago

(Maintainer

@v mishra The proposal (with (?) help icon) seems good to me! Sorry for introducing the vulnerability in the first place everyone 😓

Edited by Annabel Dunstone Gray 11 months ago



Dheeraj Joshi @djadmin · 11 months ago

Developer

Sorry for introducing the vulnerability in the first place everyone

@annabeldunstone please don't be. It's a vulnerability by design and not by the changes you introduced. I'm glad that it was reported which gives us ample opportunity to improve our defense and add all missing validations.



Dheeraj Joshi @djadmin · 11 months ago

Developer

@v mishra @annabeldunstone thank you, using a help icon is a great idea

The text in the popover could read: Some actions on a protected branches are not available for users with insufficient permissions. Learn more

Where learn more links to https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/pipelines/#pipeline-security-onprotected-branches

@jivanvl with the proposal, we should be able to remove the "learn more" link and in fact remove the v-safe-html altogether and replace it with v-text or $\{\{\}\}$.

However, we would still have to figure out a way to pass the documentation link from https://gitlab.com/gitlab-

org/qitlab/blob/c52747208039dddafadb361a0625c590a58b5ae2/lib/qitlab/ci/pipeline/chain/valida te/abilities.rb#L26 to the vue component. Since it is not ideal to display the aforementioned link (#pipeline-security-on-protected-branches) for every error message related to pipeline failure.

Maybe we can pass it to the error() method as an argument? 😤





Russell Dickenson @rdickenson · 11 months ago

Maintainer





Veethika M @v mishra · 11 months ago

Sorry for introducing the vulnerability in the first place everyone

@annabeldunstone i did not mean to put it this way 💜 You worked on making the product more usable, this was just something that happened.

I support your proposal, including your suggested message.

Thanks @rdickenson

Edited by Veethika M 11 months ago



Jose Ivan Vargas @jivanvl · 11 months ago



Thank you everyone!

Maybe we can pass it to the error() method as an argument?



@djadmin I don't think we can send the docs link as an argument, we might have to interpolate the docs link using <code>help_page_path</code> , looking at the error function definition it looks like the arguments point to other types of functionality https://gitlab.com/gitlaborg/gitlab/-/blob/c52747208039dddafadb361a0625c590a58b5ae2/lib/gitlab/ci/pipeline/chain/help ers.rb

Edited by Jose Ivan Vargas 11 months ago



Dheeraj Joshi @djadmin · 11 months ago

Developer

You're right @jivanvl

I'm just thinking out loud if there's a feasible way to tell frontend about the error type. So we link off the documentation only when it's relevant, and not for every error message. There's are dozens of pipeline failure error messages which are rendered by the same Vue component.

- lib/gitlab/ci/config/external/file/base.rb
- lib/gitlab/ci/pipeline/chain/populate.rb
- lib/gitlab/ci/pipeline/chain/validate/abilities.rb

A boring solution comes to my mind:

- we can remove the v-safe-html and generate the doc link in the frontend as you mentioned
- show the help icon/tooltip only when the error message contains "insufficient permissions"

This is not scalable but fixes the security issue with just frontend resources, and keeps the UX intact.

Further iterations

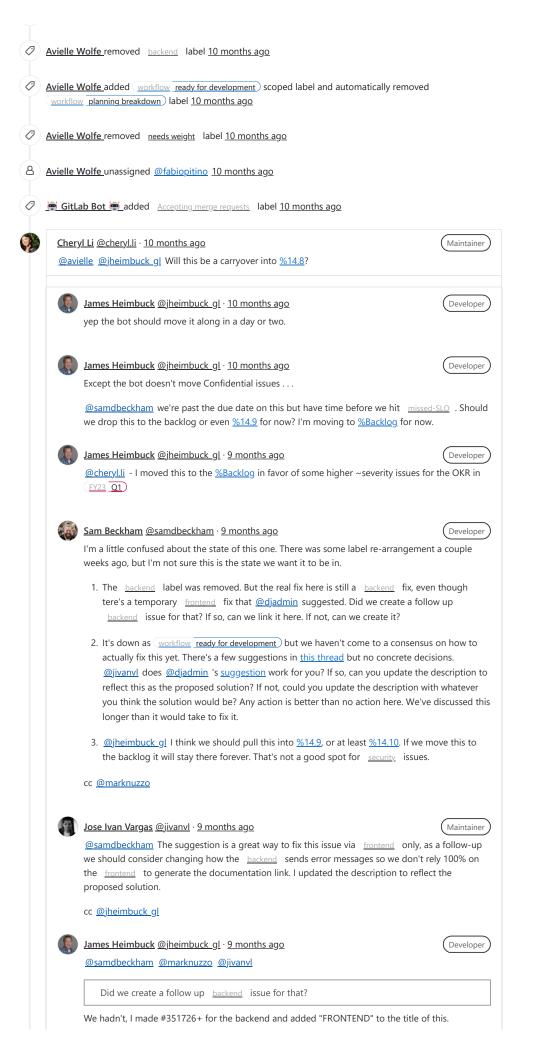
We can create a separate backend issue to work towards making the error helper more flexible, supporting multiple parameters. We can then remove our boring/hacky solution.

I'm sure there's a better way to tackle this, so happy to discuss alternative ideas.

Please register or sign in to reply



🛆) Jose Ivan Vargas changed weight to 2 11 months ago



It's down as <u>workflow</u> ready for development but we haven't come to a consensus on how to actually fix this yet.

Thanks @jivanvl for updating the proposal for this

I think we should pull this into <u>%14.9</u>, or at least <u>%14.10</u>. If we move this to the backlog it will stay there forever. That's not a good spot for <u>security</u> issues.

Added to M14.10 I'd suggest we make this a Stretch issue since it's not an OKR



$\underline{\textbf{Sam Beckham}}~\underline{\textbf{@samdbeckham}} \cdot \underline{\textbf{8 months ago}}$

Developer

<u>@jheimbuck_gl_given_@marknuzzo</u> 's comment in our 1:1:1 today What do you think about bumping the priority up on this one?



James Heimbuck @jheimbuck gl · 8 months ago

Developer

@samdbeckham we could bump priority but given the number of issues already in %14.9 I don't think it would get done any sooner



Laura Montemayor @lauraX · 7 months ago

Maintainer

Hi <u>@samdbeckham</u> <u>@marknuzzo</u> - I want to clarify the scope of this issue and proposed solution, since there is a lot of discussion here and it mostly pertains to frontend.

After looking into this and chatting with José and Payton, and we decided that a backend solution only might be sufficient. The backend will be to sanitize the pipeline errors, which should strip away the HTML tags before we send them to the frontend, so the frontend won't have to do any magic or hacky solutions. I think this should also cover the case that Paul posted above, so even better.

WDYT? (weight is probably the same)

<u>@djadmin</u> - since you were involved in this earlier, I wanted to see if you had any thoughts on this. You suggested we make the errors helper more flexible, but that solution would require some frontend as well, and I think this might be simpler and more effective. But I may be missing something!



Mark Nuzzo @marknuzzo · 7 months ago

Developer

Hi <u>@lauraX</u> - thank you for your note here and for elaborating on the details. I think the approach you outlined makes sense to me. I fully agree that if we can cleanse all of the errors prior to <u>frontend</u> serving up the page, it would at least reduce any additional complexity by ignoring certain HTML. We can then remove <u>frontend</u> labeling as well since there won't be any joint effort here.

/cc @samdbeckham



Sam Beckham @samdbeckham · 7 months ago

Developer

<u>@lauraX</u> I 100% agree. Preventing code injection from being sent to the frontend is always better than trying to filter it out on the frontend. I think we need to look at our use of v-safe-html across frontend, especially in errors like this but that's a larger, seperate effort.



Laura Montemayor @lauraX · 7 months ago

Maintainer

Awesome, thank you <a>@marknuzzo and <a>@samdbeckham! Sam - agreed on the v-safe-html , I was pretty surprised to learn that it wasn't as safe as I thought



Dheeraj Joshi @djadmin · 7 months ago

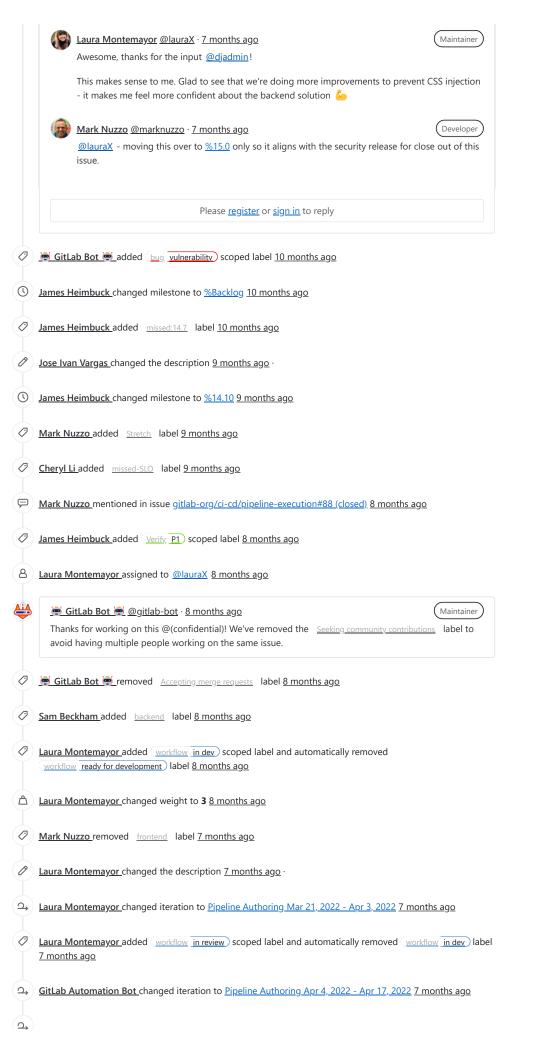
Developer

Thanks for the ping <u>@lauraX</u>! I like the implementation plan <u>le</u> It's always a good idea to validate and sanitize user input on the backend.

v-safe-html

 $v\text{-safe-htm1}\ \ \text{was designed to protect against Cross-site scripting \& similar attacks, but it is not full proof against HTML injection by default. It's mainly because frontend can't identify if the provided HTML has any user input.}$

However, at this point we can try preventing CSS Injection with <u>&7161</u>. We'll also explore other ideas to make v-safe-html safe by default.



	GitLab Automation Bot removed iteration 7 months ago
Ø	<u>Laura Montemayor</u> added <u>workflow</u> <u>awaiting security release</u> scoped label and automatically removed <u>workflow</u> <u>in review</u> label <u>7 months ago</u>
P	<u>Laura Montemayor</u> mentioned in issue <u>gitlab-org/ci-cd/pipeline-authoring#57 (closed)</u> 7 months ago
0	Mark Nuzzo changed milestone to %15.0 7 months ago
(P)	James Heimbuck mentioned in issue gitlab-org/ci-cd/pipeline-execution#93 (closed). 7 months ago
2,	GitLab Automation Bot removed iteration 7 months ago
2,	GitLab Automation Bot changed iteration to Pipeline Authoring Apr 18, 2022 - May 1, 2022 7 months ago
0	James Heimbuck removed Stretch label 7 months ago
Ø	James Heimbuck added Deliverable label 7 months ago
	GitLab Bot 🙀 added missed-deliverable label 7 months ago
	dittab bot badded missed-deliverable label / months ago
Ø	Laura Montemayor added (workflow production) scoped label and automatically removed workflow awaiting security release) label 6 months ago
I	<u>Laura Montemayor</u> added (<u>workflow</u> <u>production</u>) scoped label and automatically removed
	Laura Montemayor added workflow production scoped label and automatically removed workflow awaiting security release label 6 months ago
	Laura Montemayor added workflow production scoped label and automatically removed workflow awaiting security release label 6 months ago Laura Montemayor closed 6 months ago Andrew Kelly @ankelly · 6 months ago
	Laura Montemayor added workflow production scoped label and automatically removed workflow awaiting security release label 6 months ago Laura Montemayor closed 6 months ago Andrew Kelly @ankelly · 6 months ago Assigned CVE-2022-1416 and fixed in the 14.10.1 security release GitLab SecurityBot @gitlab-securitybot · 5 months ago @dcouture - this HackerOne bug vulnerability issue was closed 30 days ago and should be made public. Please follow the process for disclosing security issues. If the issue needs to stay confidential, please add the keep confidential label. If you removed confidential data from the issue description before making it public, make sure that the