

CEH Module 6: System Hacking

Assignment - 03

(Marepalli Rakesh)

Given Lab Scenario

For a professional ethical hacker or pen tester, the first step in system hacking is to analyse the target system using information obtained and loopholes found in the system's access control mechanism. In this step, you will use various techniques such as password cracking, vulnerability exploitation, and social engineering to gain access to the target system. Password cracking is the process of recovering passwords from the data transmitted by a computer system or stored in it. It may help a user recover a forgotten or lost password or act as a preventive measure by system administrators to check for easily breakable passwords; however, an attacker can use this process to gain unauthorized system access.

Password cracking is one of the crucial stages of system hacking. Hacking often begins with password cracking attempts. A password is a key piece of information necessary to access a system. Consequently, most attackers use password-cracking techniques to gain unauthorized access. An attacker may either crack a password manually by guessing it or use automated tools and techniques such as a dictionary or brute-force method. Most password cracking techniques are successful, because of weak or easily guessable passwords. Vulnerability exploitation involves the execution of multiple complex, interrelated steps to gain access to a remote system. Attackers use discovered vulnerabilities to develop exploits, deliver and execute the exploits on the remote system. The labs in this exercise demonstrate how easily hackers can gather password information from your network and demonstrate the password vulnerabilities that exist in computer networks

Given Lab Objectives:

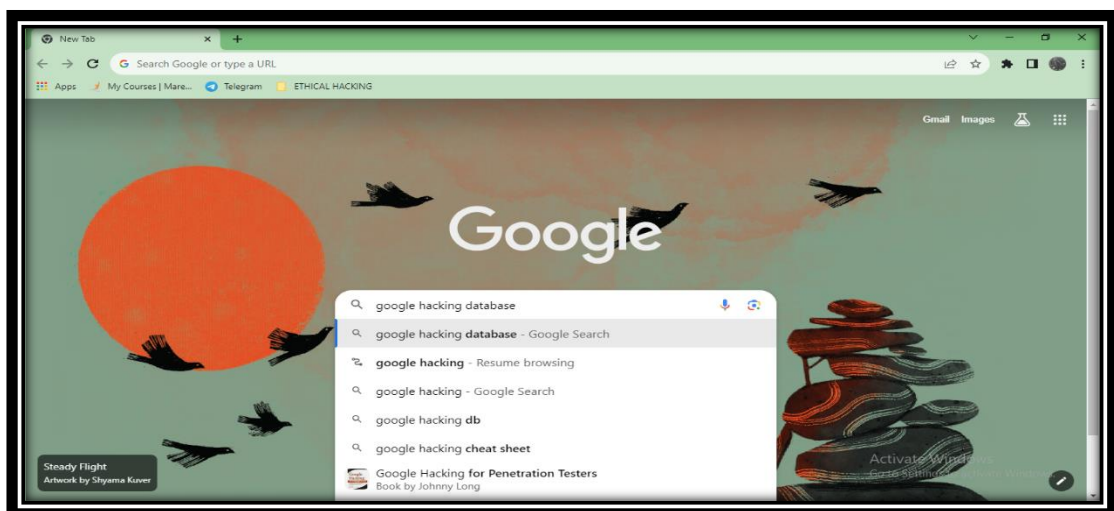
- Find vulnerabilities on exploit sites
- Intercept traffic using Burp suite software
- Perform vulnerability research using ZAP

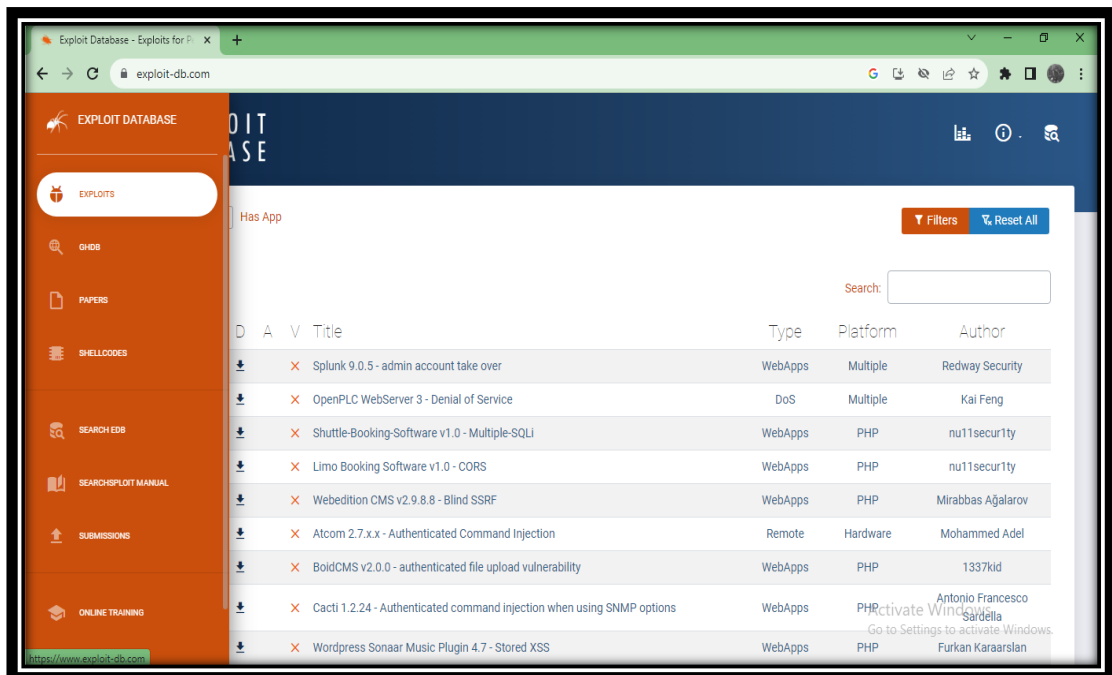
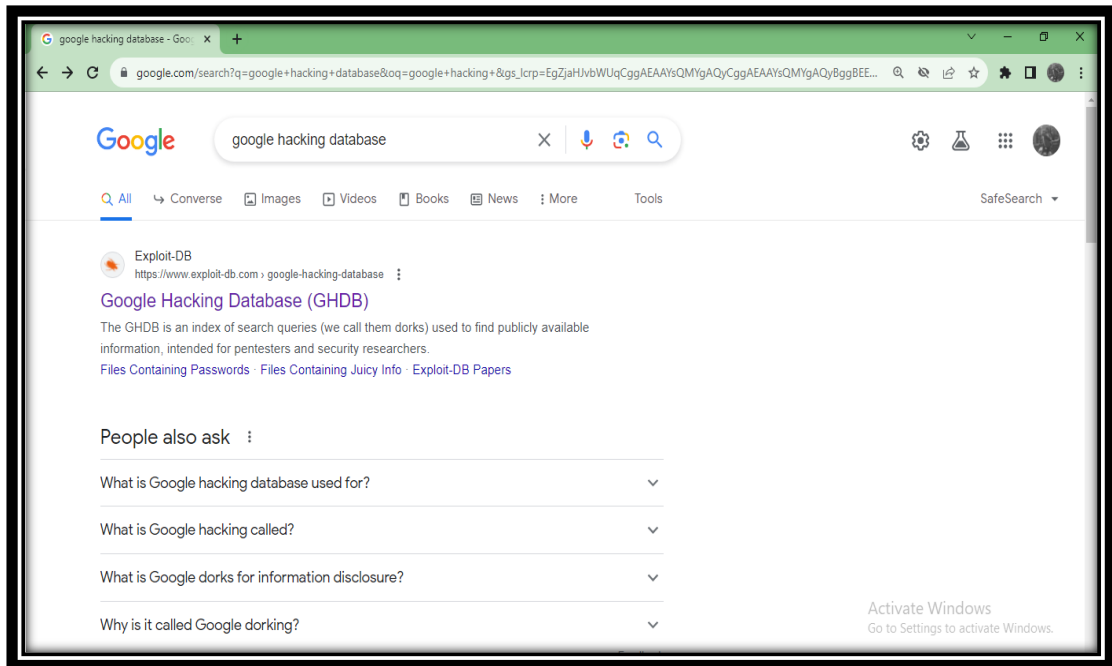
Objective: 01

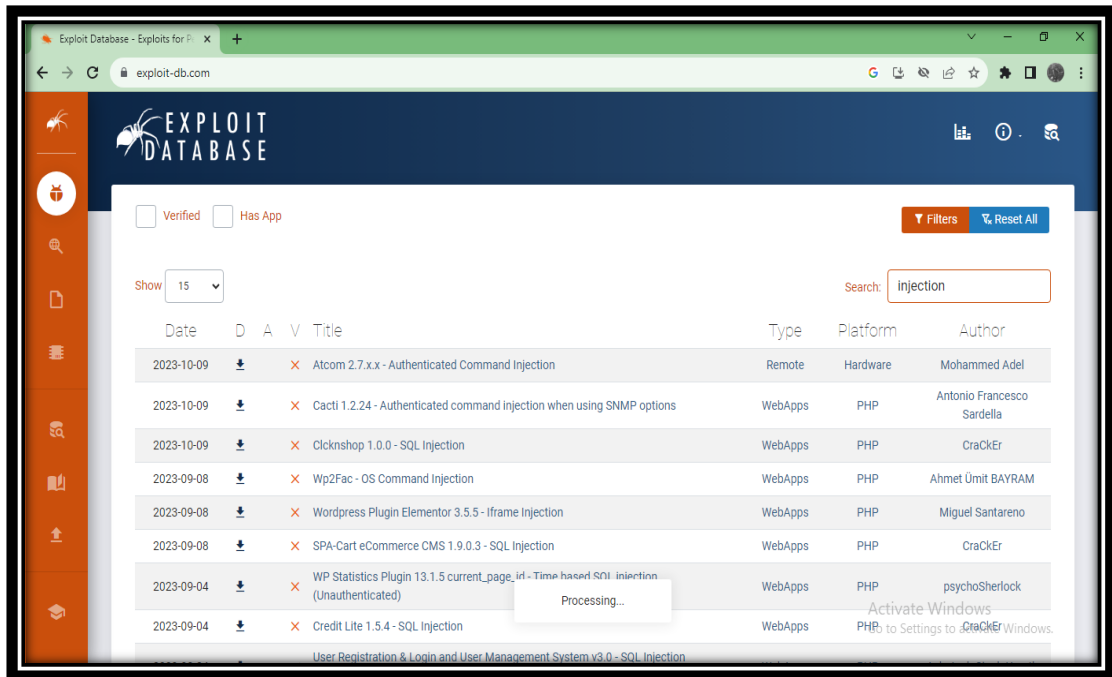
Find vulnerabilities on exploit sites

General:

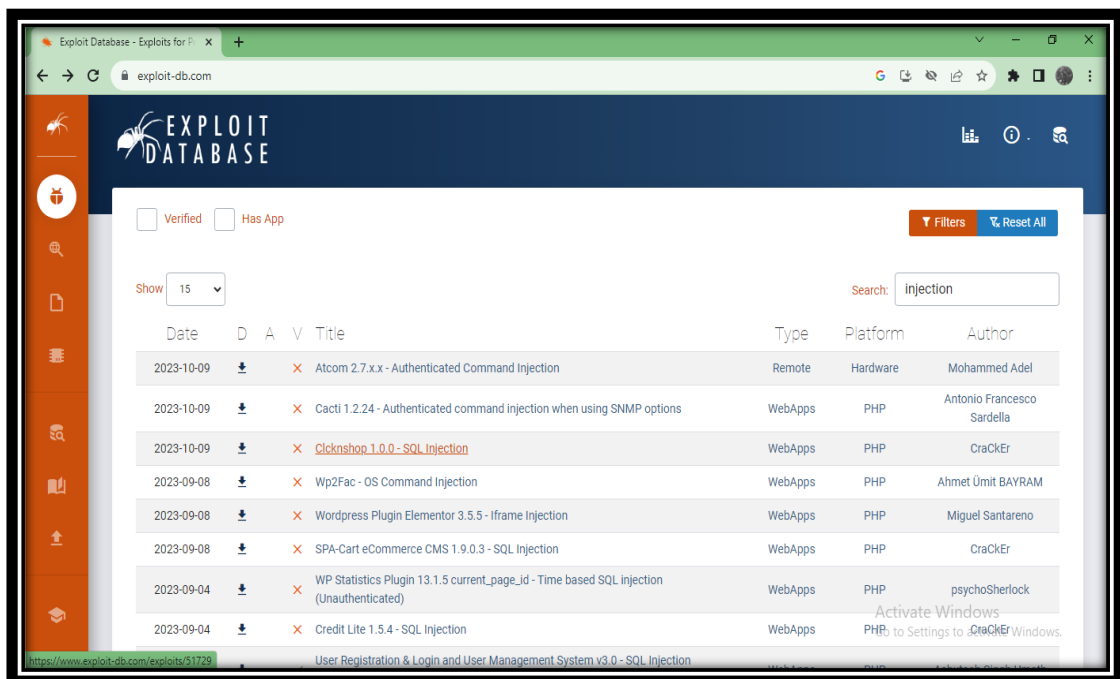
- In the realm of cybersecurity, identifying and addressing vulnerabilities is of paramount importance. Vulnerabilities are potential weaknesses in software, systems, or networks that can be exploited by malicious actors, leading to security breaches or data compromises. One fertile ground for discovering and understanding vulnerabilities is through exploit sites.
- Exploit sites serve as virtual meeting points where security researchers, hackers, and enthusiasts exchange information about software vulnerabilities, known as "exploits," and share insights into their potential impact. This lab assignment focuses on the critical task of finding vulnerabilities within such exploit sites, with the goal of gaining deeper insights into the world of cybersecurity.
- The aim of this assignment was to explore vulnerabilities by utilizing online exploit databases, specifically the Google Hacking Database (GHDB) and the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) database.
- To commence the assignment, I opened a web browser and conducted a search for the Google Hacking Database (GHDB), a resource recognized for its extensive collection of vulnerabilities identified by security professionals. Also referred to as "exploit db," I accessed the GHDB and, on the left side of the interface, I located and clicked the 'Exploits' section. In the search bar, I entered the term "injection" as my focus was on identifying injection vulnerabilities, a common type. The GHDB yielded numerous injection vulnerabilities.

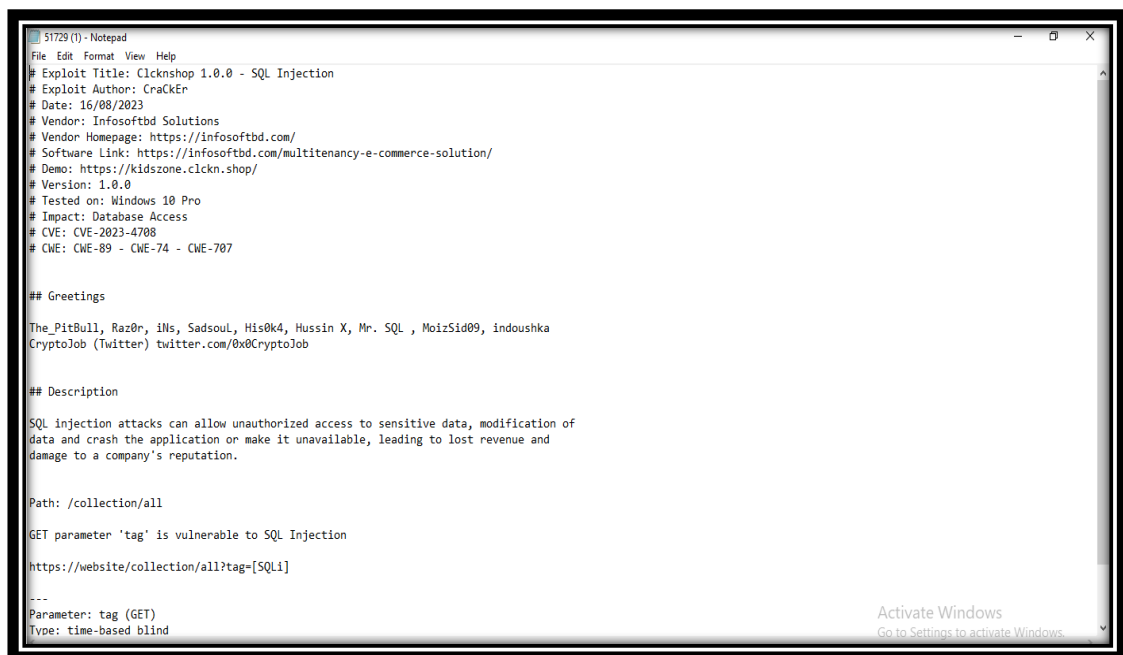
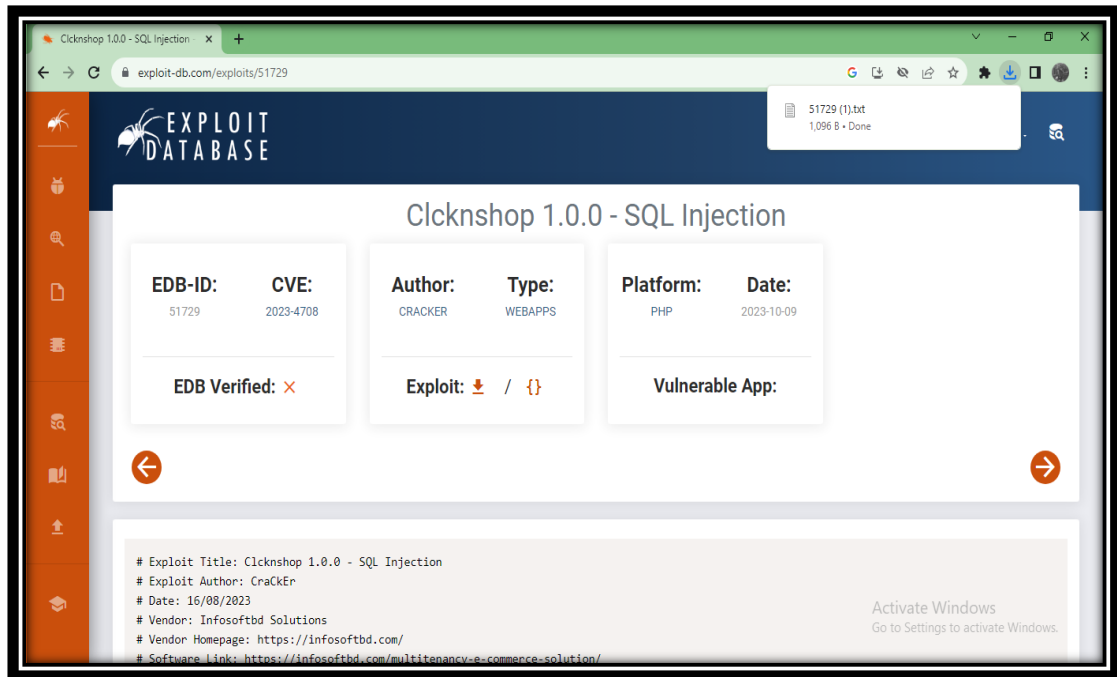




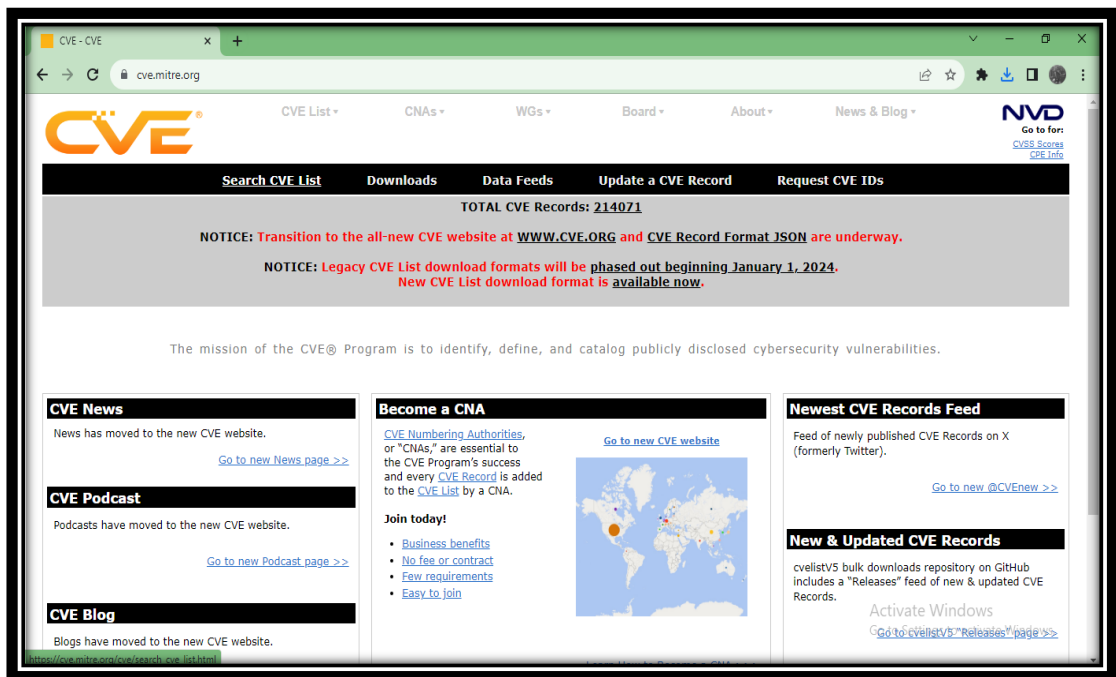
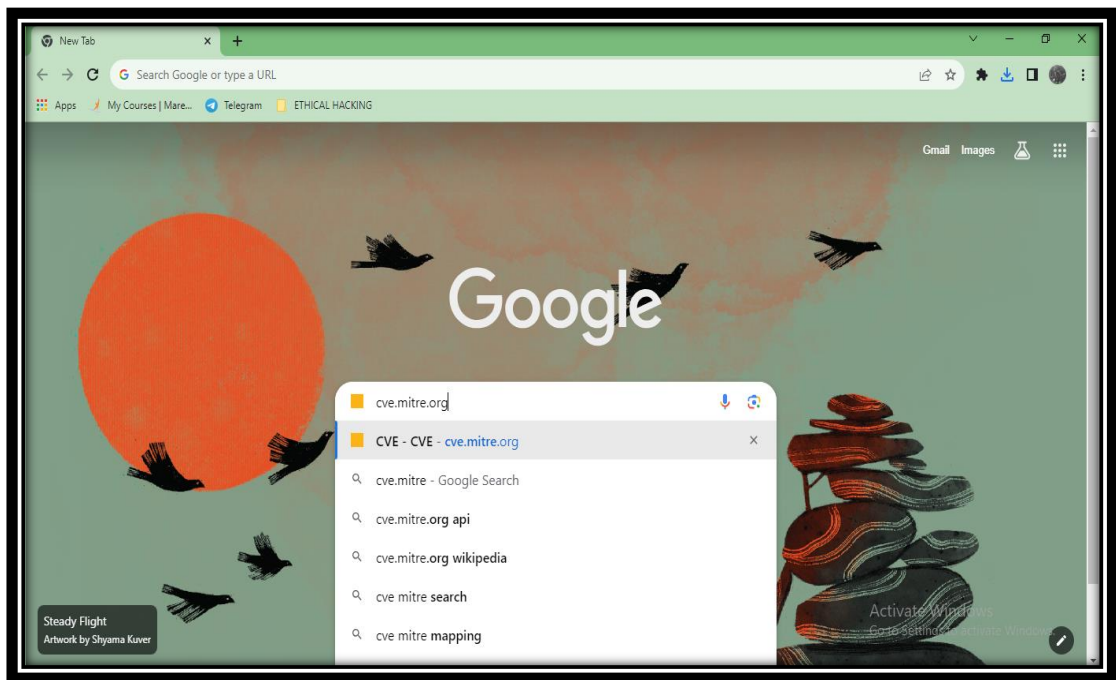


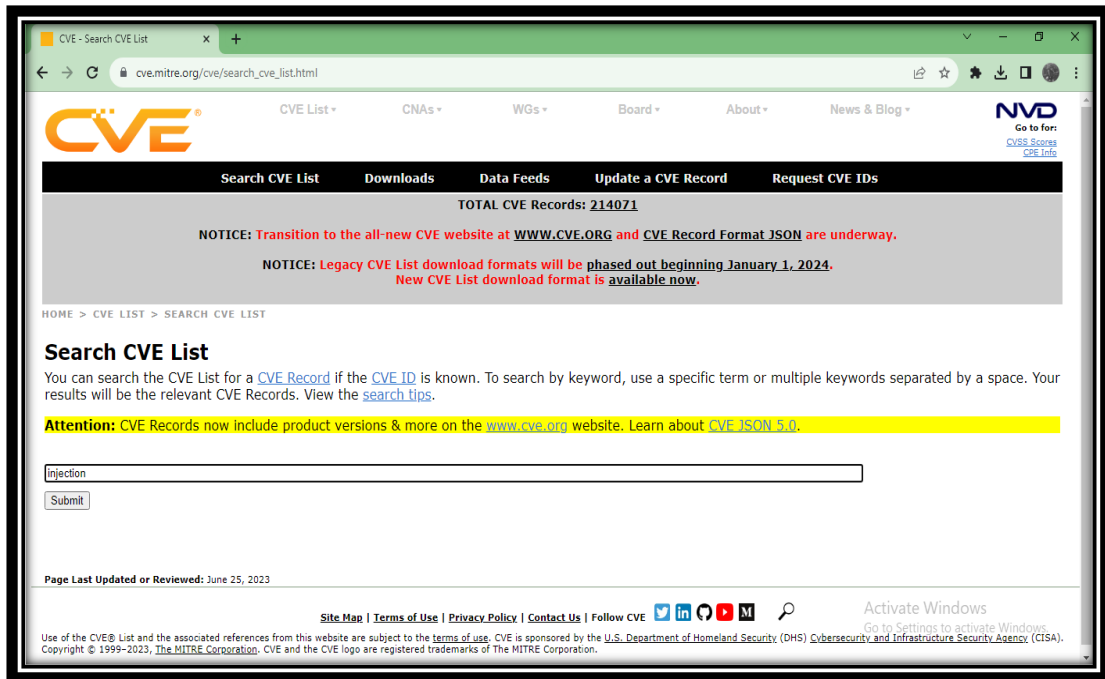
- Specifically, I selected the "SQL Injection" vulnerability, which led me to a dedicated page containing various options related to this specific vulnerability. Among these options, I chose to download the details of the vulnerability in text format, which included essential information such as the exploit title, author, date, description, path, parameters, and other pertinent data for comprehensive understanding.



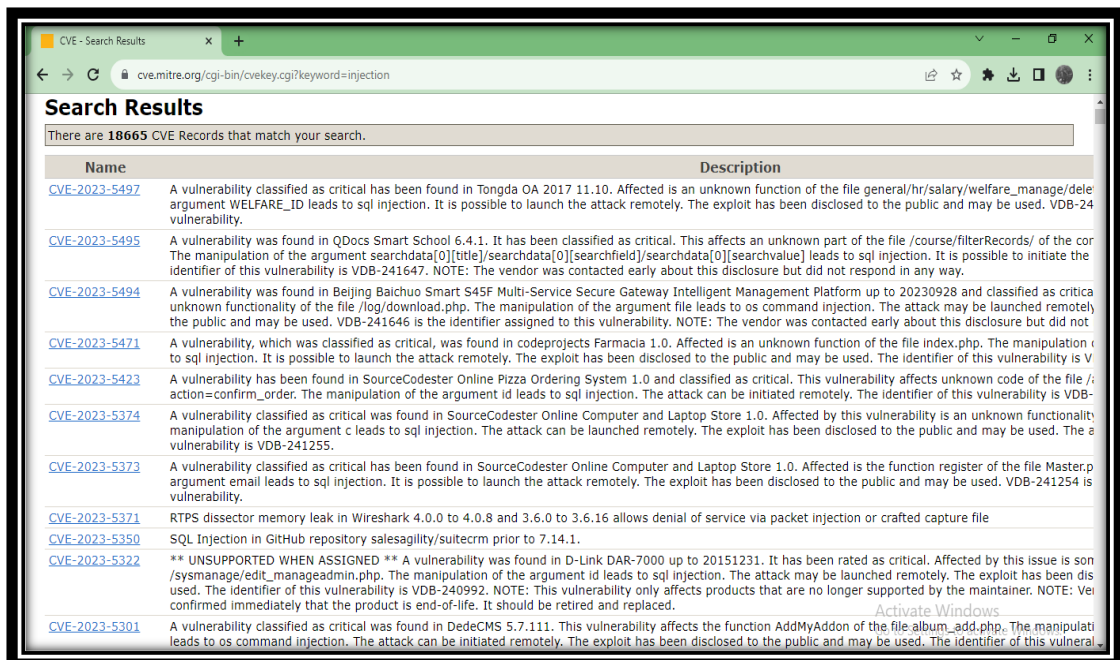


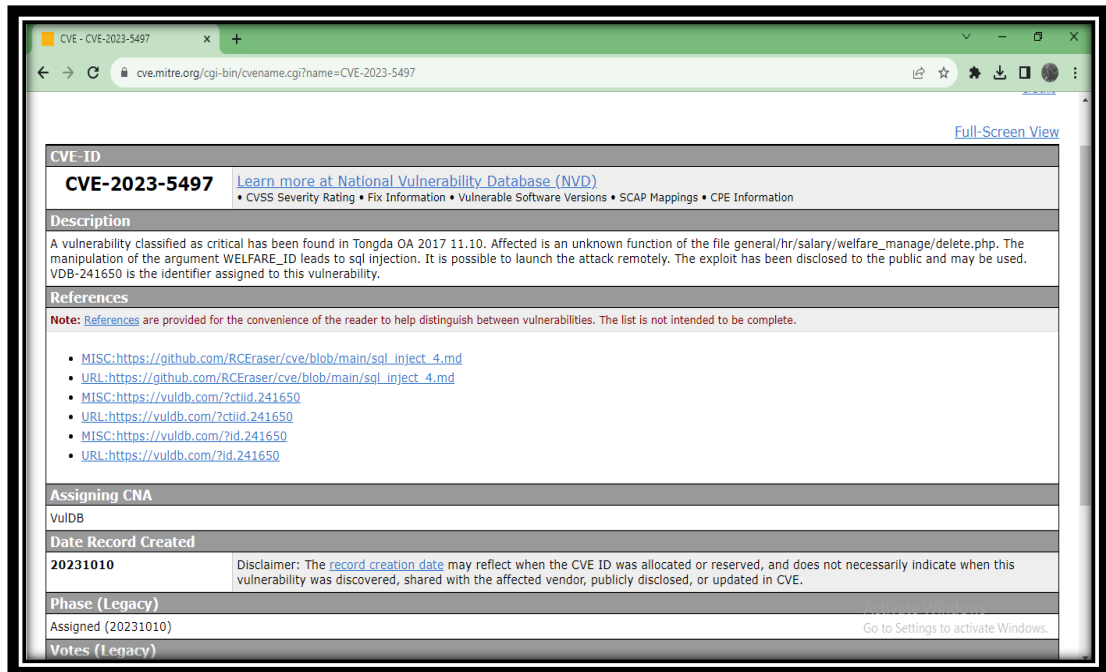
- Subsequently, I explored another exploit database, cve.mitre.org, and upon entering this site, I observed an option located at the top-left corner labelled 'Search CVE List.' Upon clicking this option, a search bar appeared, and I once again conducted a search for injection vulnerabilities by typing "injection" and submitting the query.





- The search results displayed a list of injection vulnerabilities denoted by numbers and accompanied by brief descriptions. By selecting one of these numbered vulnerabilities, I accessed a detailed page that provided additional information about the specific vulnerability, including extended descriptions, reference URLs, and other relevant details.



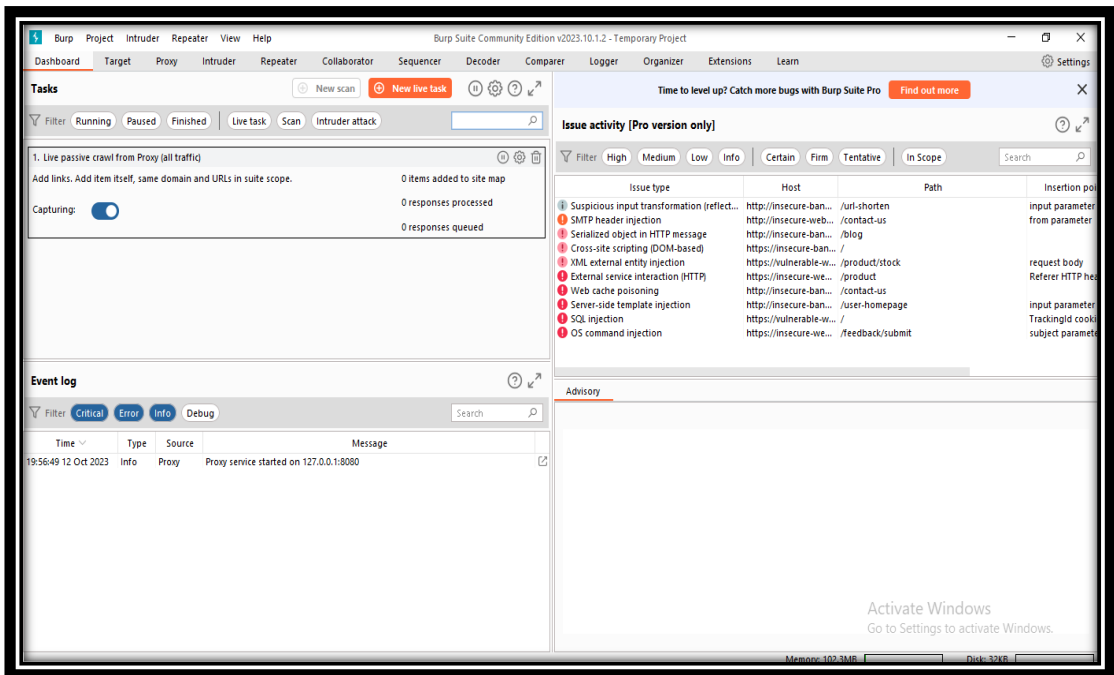
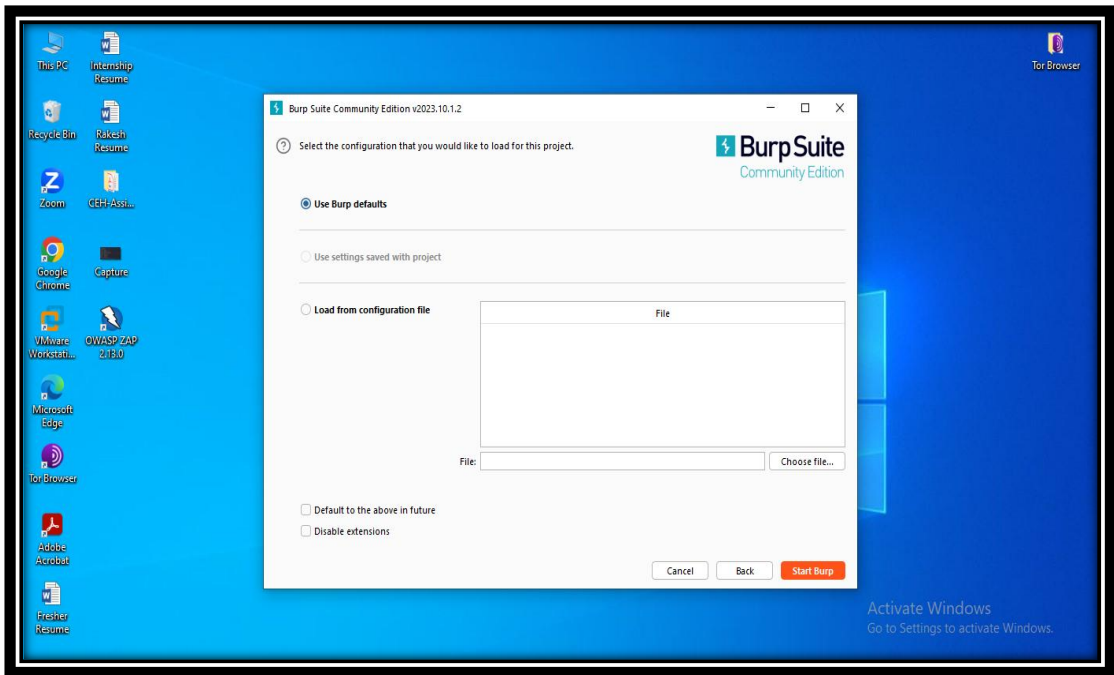


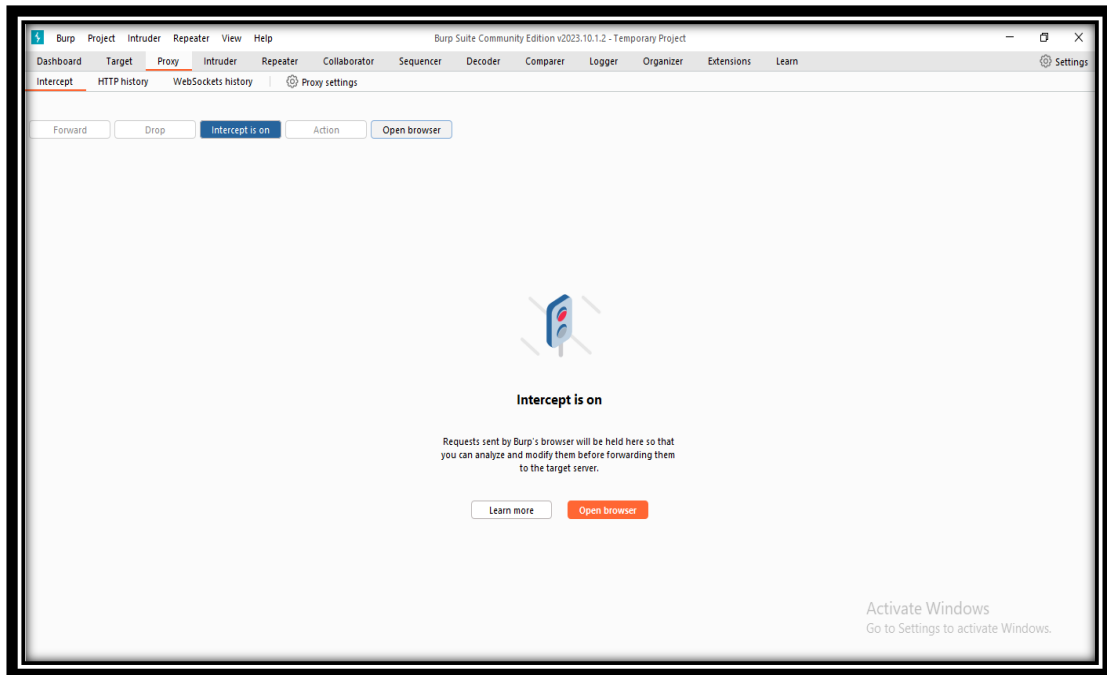
- This assignment allowed me to gain insights into vulnerabilities and their documentation through these two valuable exploit databases.

Objective: 02

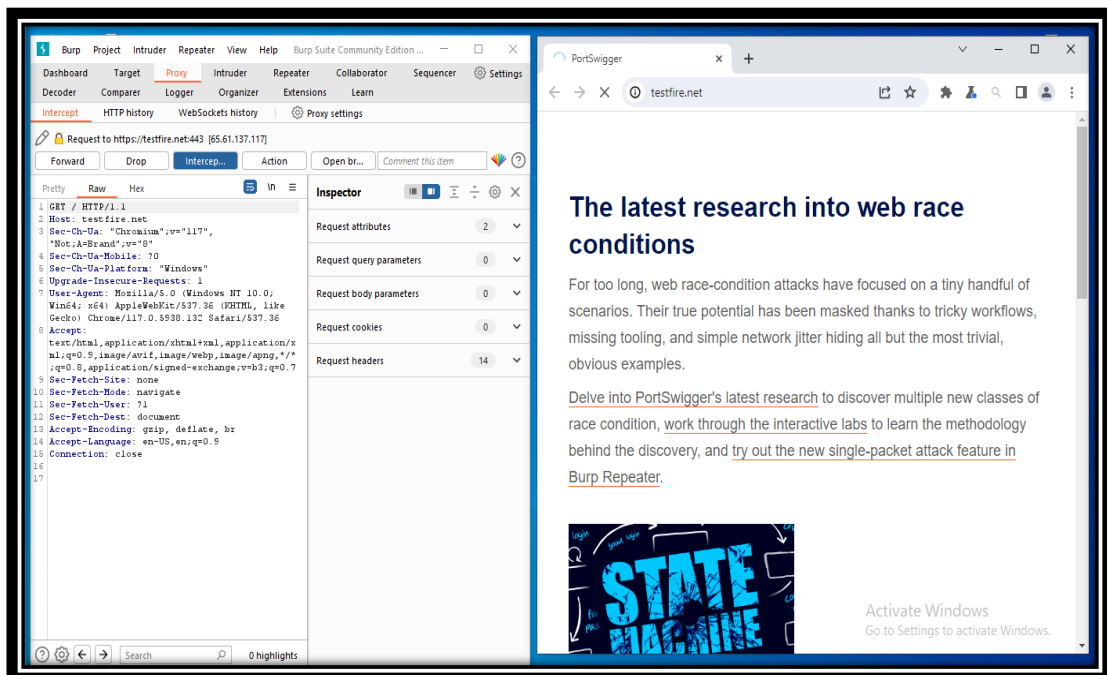
Intercept traffic using Burp suite software

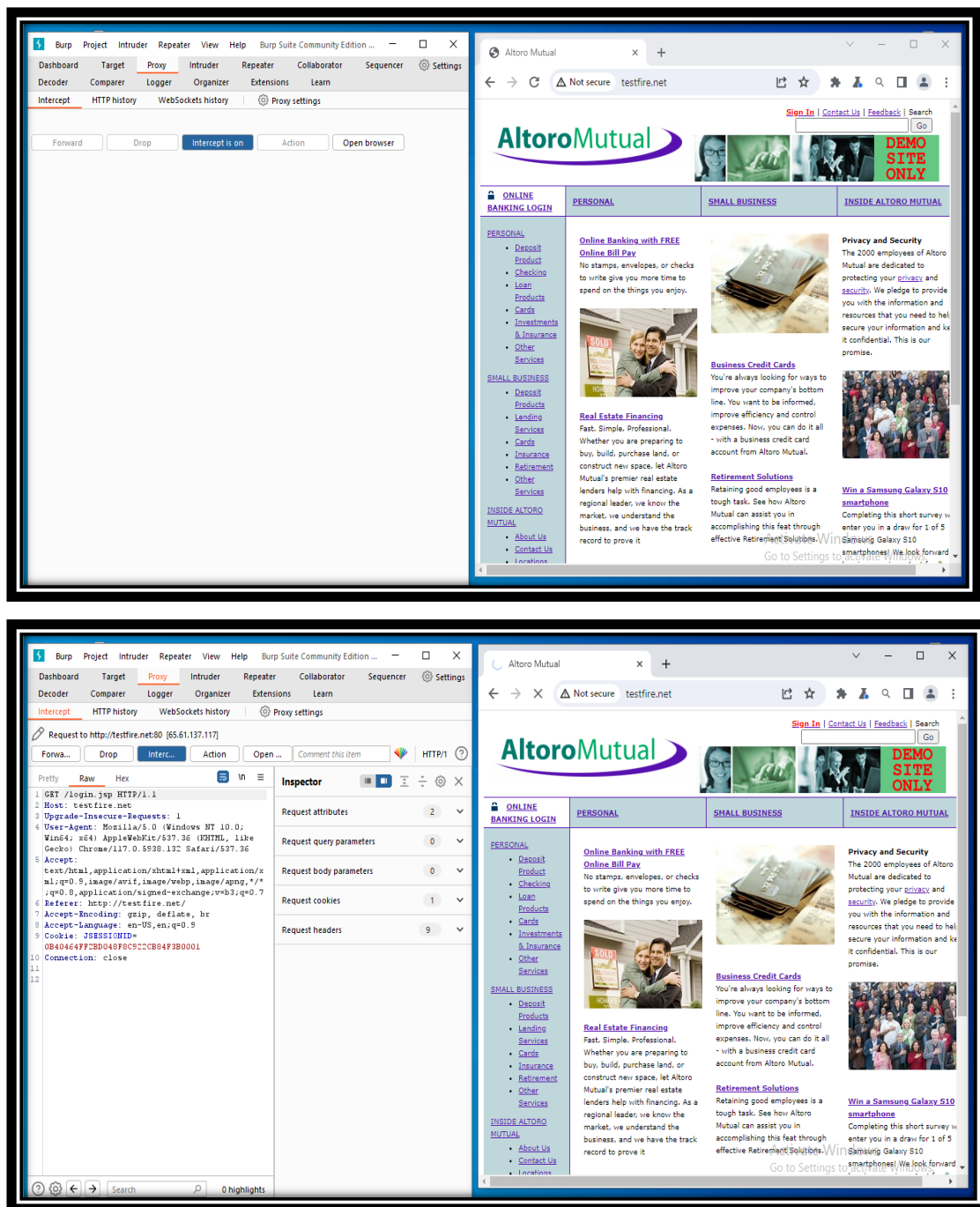
- In the dynamic field of cybersecurity, the ability to intercept and scrutinize network traffic is a pivotal skill for security professionals and ethical hackers. Understanding the flow of data within a network and being capable of intercepting this data is essential for identifying vulnerabilities, maintaining data integrity, and safeguarding against potential threats. This lab assignment is dedicated to the fundamental task of intercepting network traffic using an indispensable tool: Burp Suite.
- To start, I downloaded Burp Suite and launched it on my base machine, selecting a temporary project. Upon opening Burp Suite, I accessed the dashboard. In the dashboard, I navigated to the "Proxy" option, which presented several sub-options, including "Intercept" and "Proxy Settings." Within the "Proxy" section, I activated the "Intercept" option and then clicked on the "Browser" option.



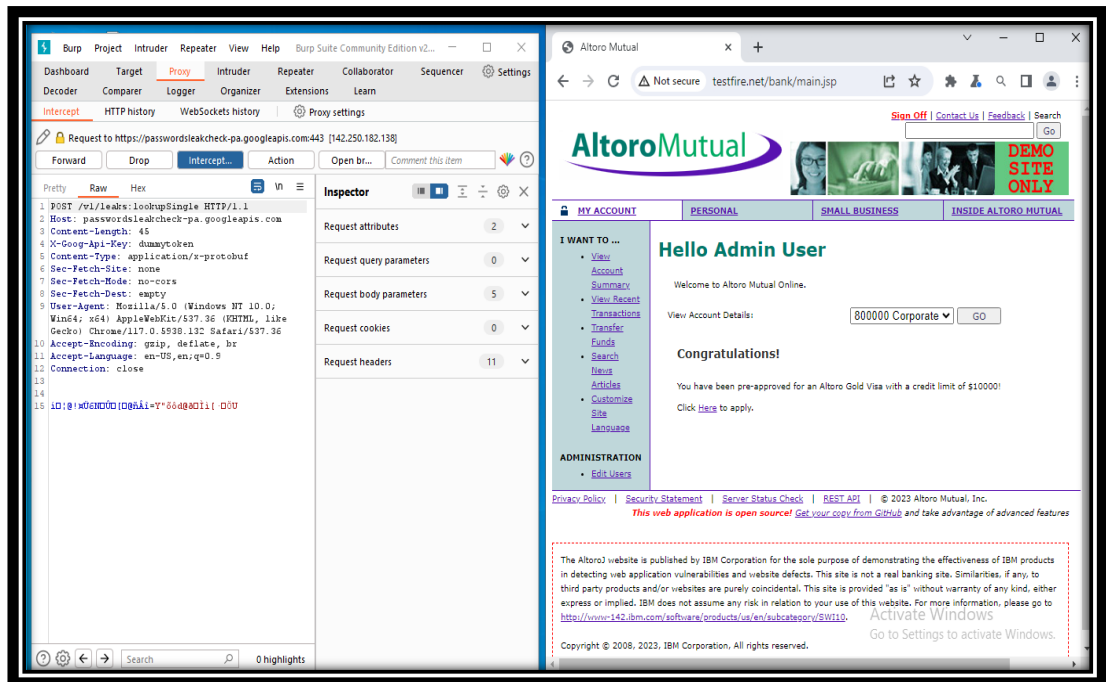
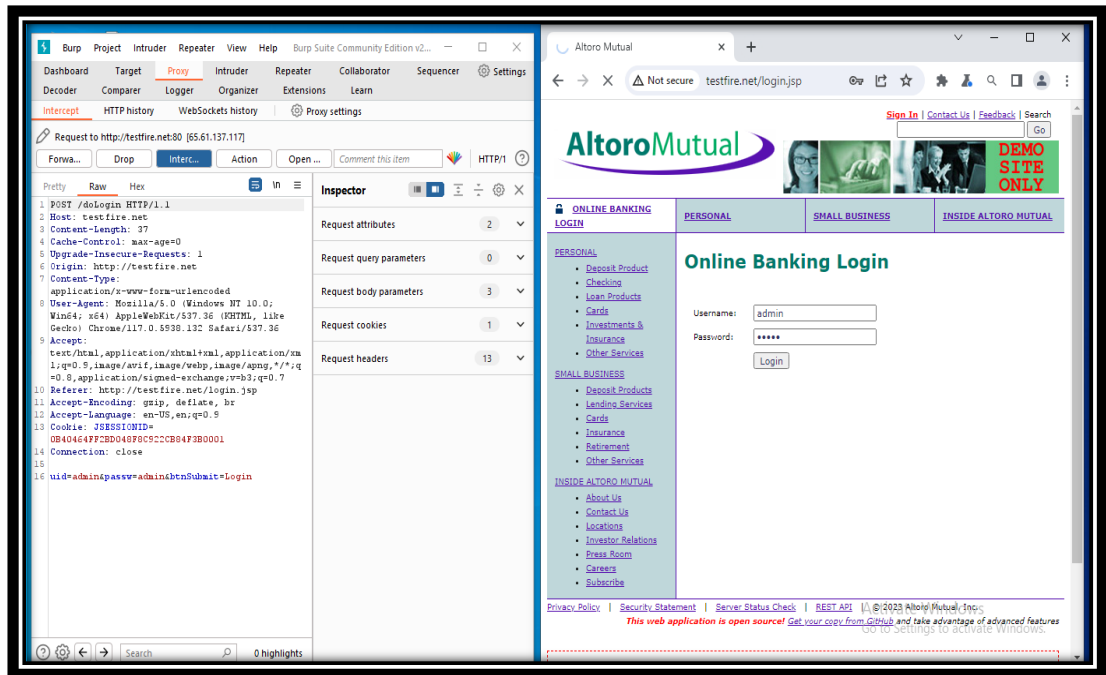


- With the browser interface open, I entered the target web application's URL, **testfire.net** "Altoro Mutual Banking web application." Returning to Burp Suite, I observed that it had intercepted the web traffic, capturing various pieces of information. I clicked "Forward" in Burp Suite and then returned to the browsers. As a result, the target web application, Altoro Mutual Banking, opened in the browser.





- Proceeding with the assignment, I clicked on the "Sign In" option within the target web application. Returning to Burp Suite, it continued to capture all traffic. Clicking "Forward" in Burp Suite once again, I returned to the browser interface, where I could access the login portal. Here, I entered my login credentials and clicked the "Login" button.



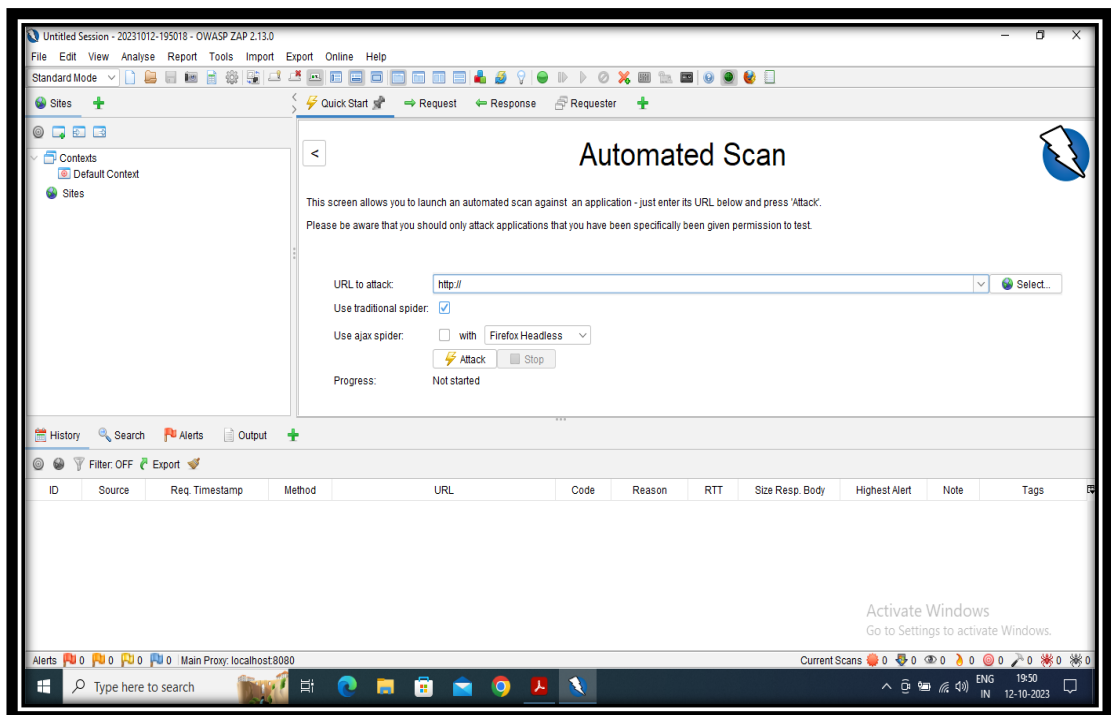
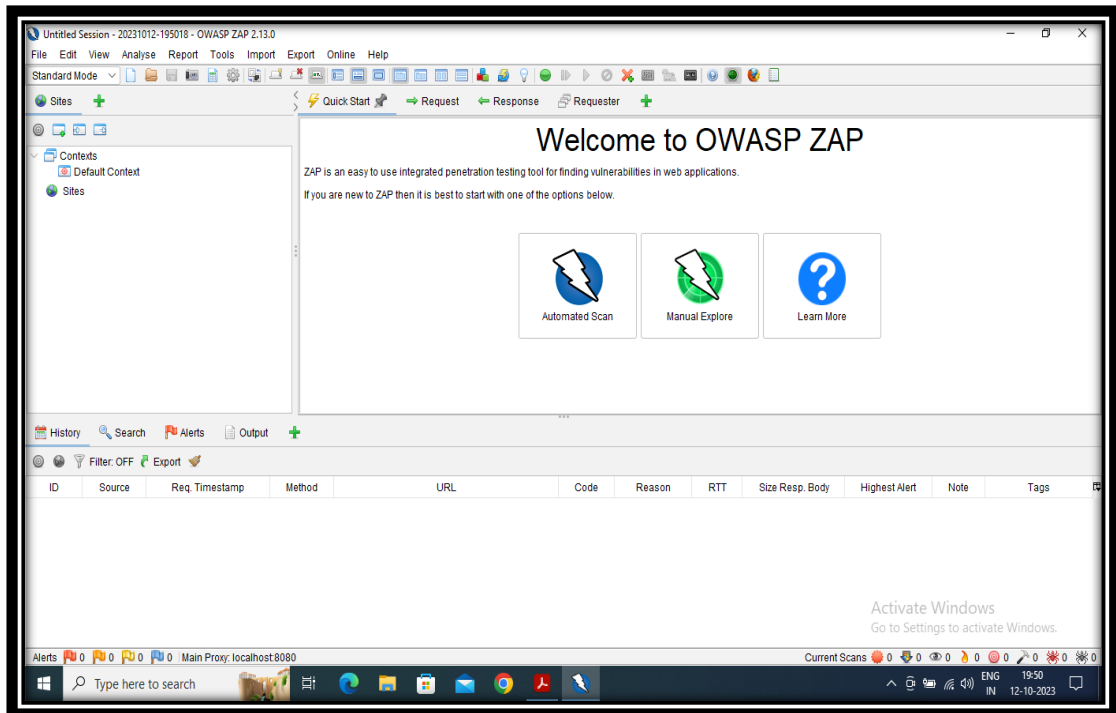
- Back in Burp Suite, I could see the entire web traffic, including my login credentials. This assignment demonstrated how Burp Suite is a valuable tool for capturing and analysing web traffic, offering insights into its functionality for security and testing purposes.

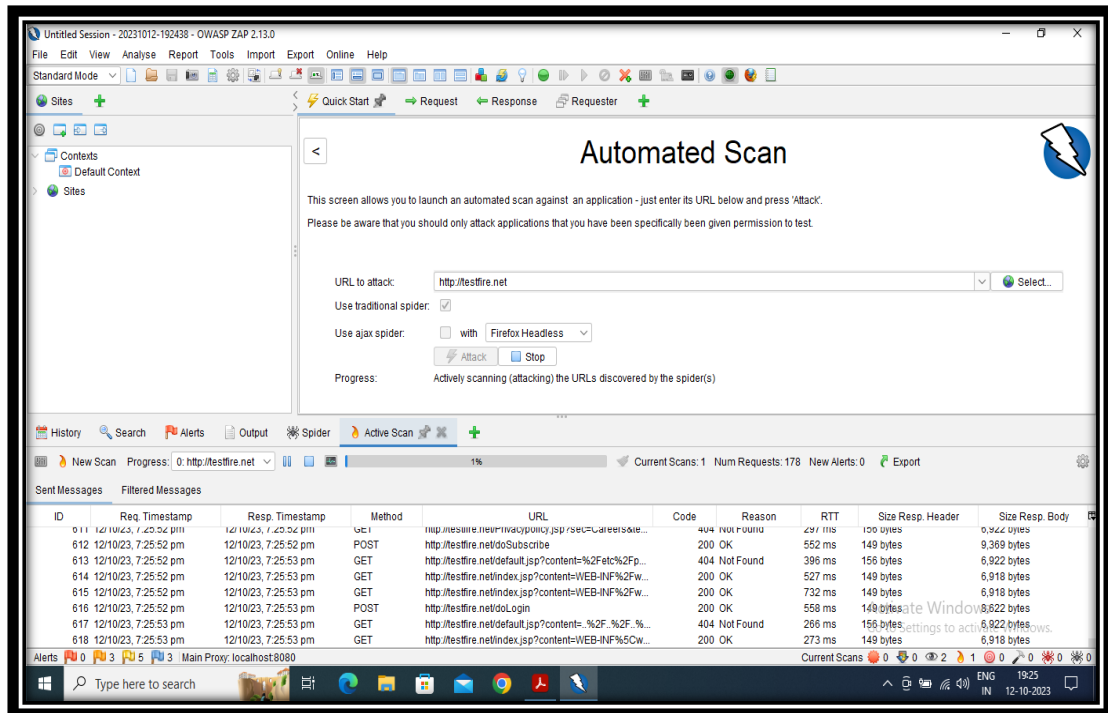
Objective: 03

Perform vulnerability research using ZAP

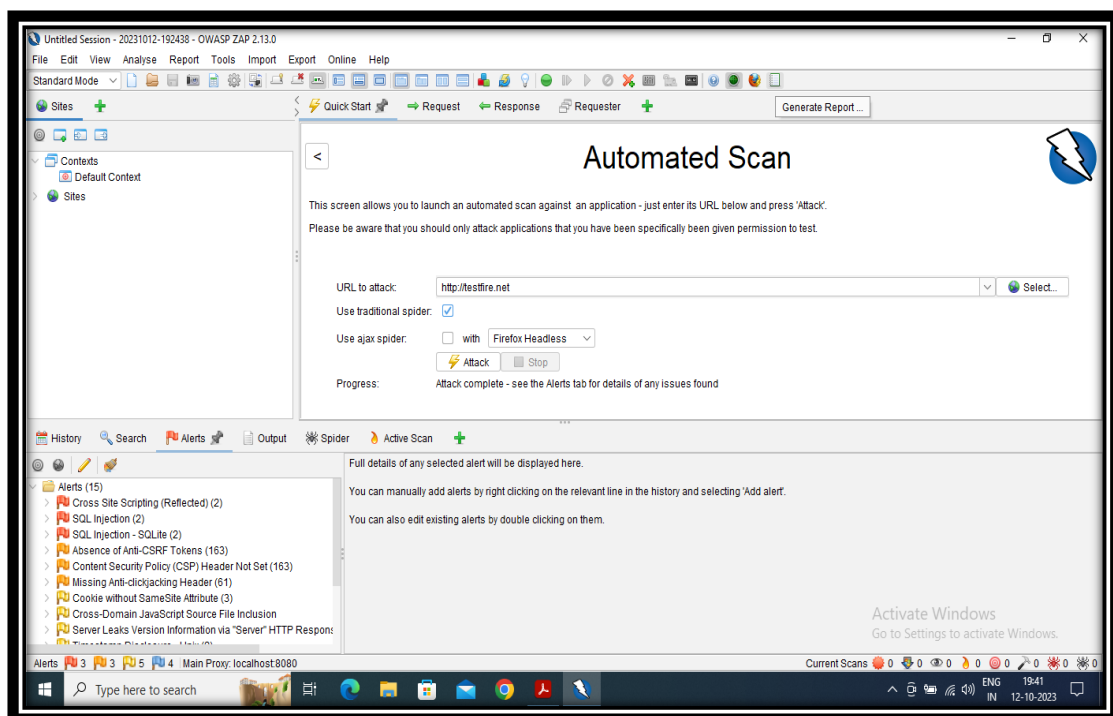
- In the ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity, staying one step ahead of potential threats is paramount. Vulnerability research is the cornerstone of this proactive approach, enabling us to unearth and address vulnerabilities in software, systems, and applications before malicious actors can exploit them. This lab assignment is dedicated to the essential task of conducting vulnerability research using the formidable ZAP, also known as the Zed Attack Proxy.
- The goal of this assignment was to perform vulnerability research using the ZAP (Zed Attack Proxy) tool and understand its capabilities in identifying and reporting vulnerabilities.
- To begin, I downloaded the ZAP tool and launched it. Upon opening ZAP, I was greeted with a dashboard containing several options. I navigated to the "Automated Scan" option and proceeded to enter my target URL for testing, which was "testfire.net." After inputting the target URL, I initiated the scanning process by clicking the "Attack" button. The scanning process began, and I patiently waited for it to complete.

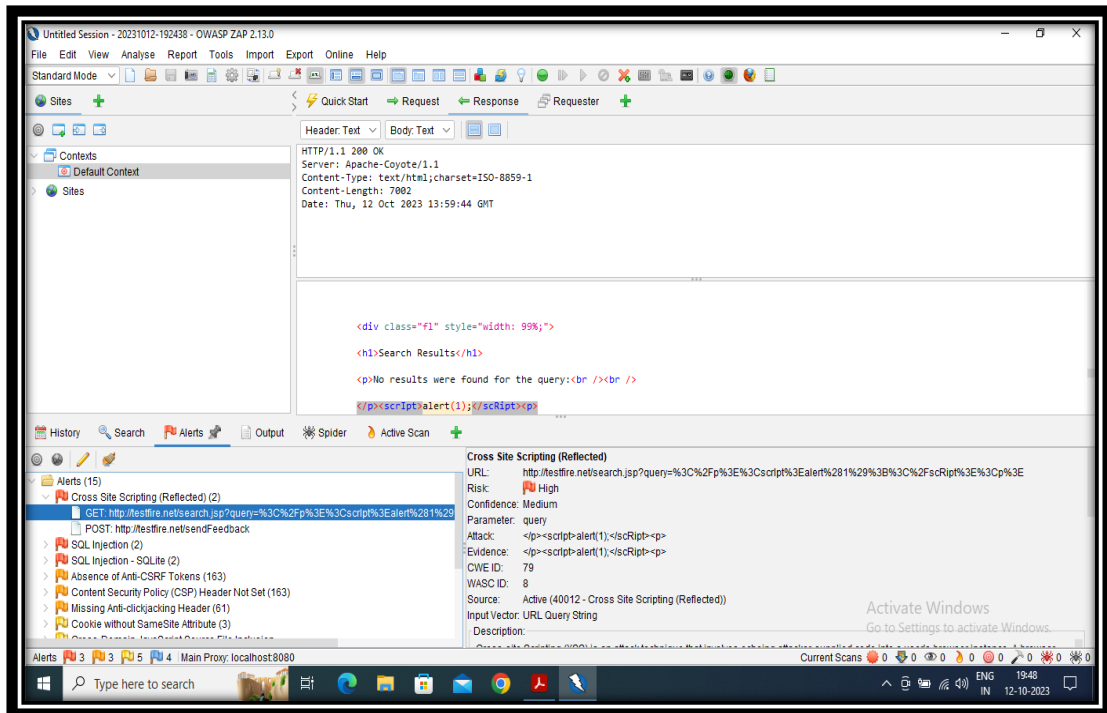




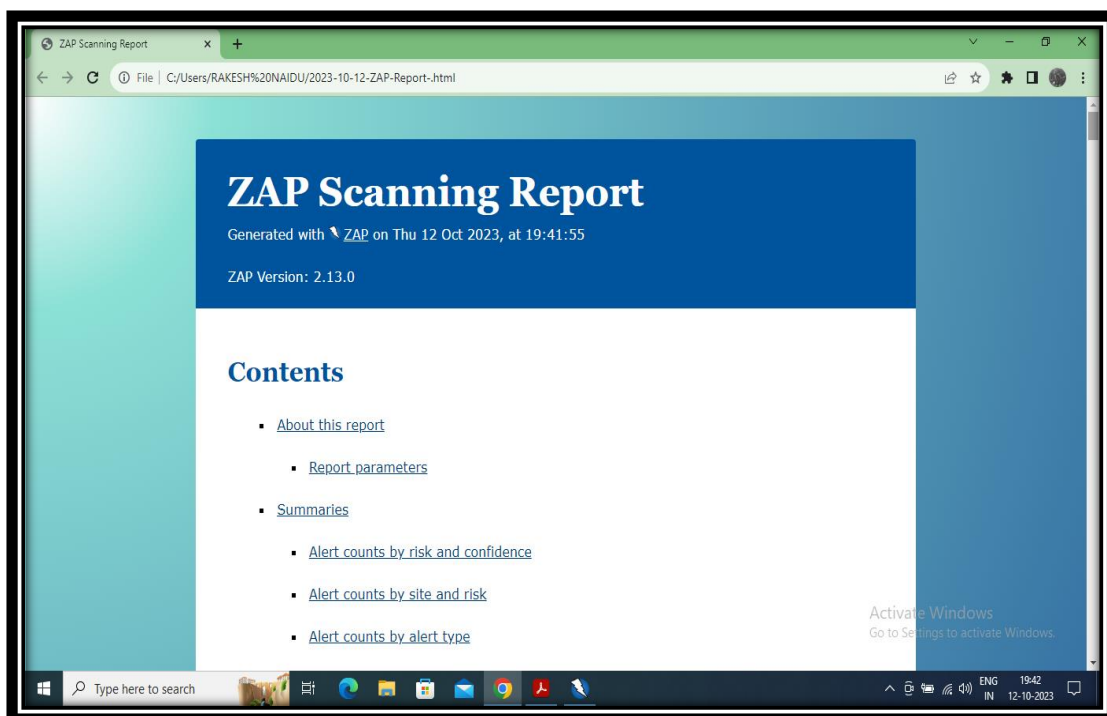


- Upon the completion of the scan, I discovered a multitude of vulnerabilities within my target web application. To access detailed information about these vulnerabilities, I checked the "Alerts" option, which provided a comprehensive list of each vulnerability along with its description.





- A notable feature of ZAP was the "Generate Report" option, which I utilized. Clicking this option generated a comprehensive scanning report for the entire session. This report was presented in a well-understood format, including risk percentages, various alerts, different types of vulnerabilities, and their respective risk factors.



ZAP Scanning Report

File | C:/Users/RAKESH%20NAIDU/2023-10-12-ZAP-Report-.html

Alert counts by risk and confidence

This table shows the number of alerts for each level of risk and confidence included in the report.

(The percentages in brackets represent the count as a percentage of the total number of alerts included in the report, rounded to one decimal place.)

	User	Confidence				Total
		Confirmed	High	Medium	Low	
Risk	High	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (20.0%)
	Medium	0 (0.0%)	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)	3 (20.0%)
	Low	0 (0.0%)	1 (6.7%)	3 (20.0%)	1 (6.7%)	5 (33.3%)
	Informational	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (26.7%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (26.7%)
	Total	0 (0.0%)	2 (13.3%)	11 (73.3%)	2 (13.3%)	15 (100%)

Activate Windows
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Type here to search

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ZAP Scanning Report

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Alert counts by alert type

This table shows the number of alerts of each alert type, together with the alert type's risk level.

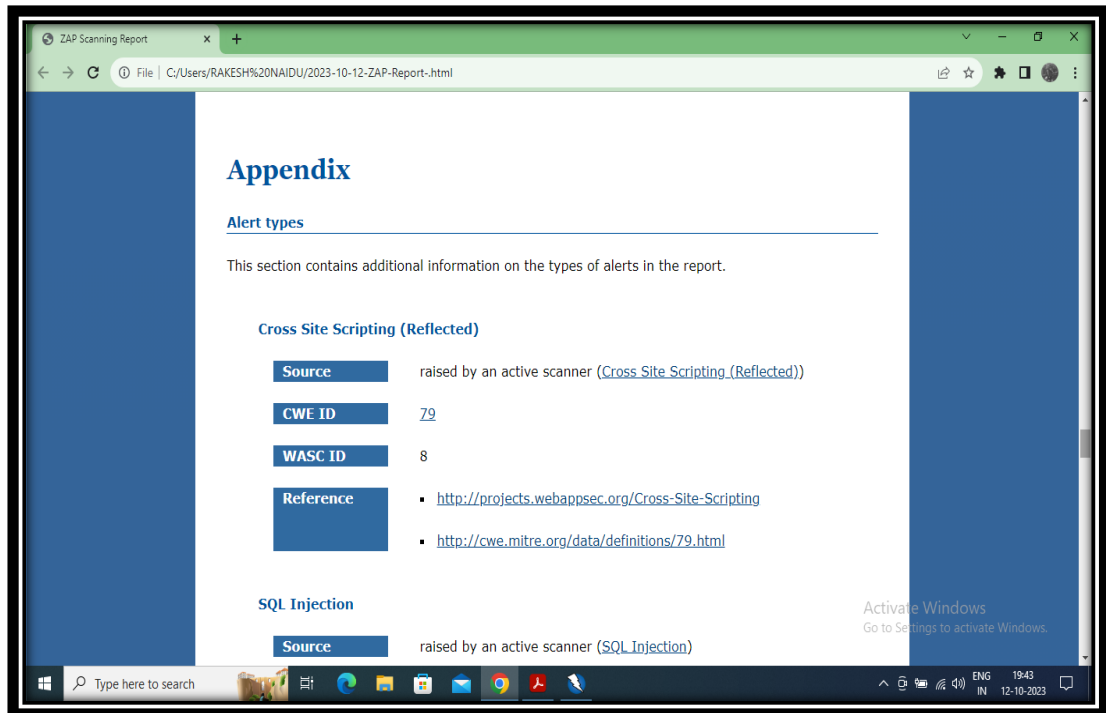
(The percentages in brackets represent each count as a percentage, rounded to one decimal place, of the total number of alerts included in this report.)

Alert type	Risk	Count
Cross Site Scripting (Reflected)	High	2 (13.3%)
SQL Injection	High	2 (13.3%)
SQL Injection - SQLite	High	2 (13.3%)
Absence of Anti-CSRF Tokens	Medium	163 (1,086.7%)
Content Security Policy (CSP) Header Not Set	Medium	163 (1,086.7%)
Missing Anti-clickjacking Header	Medium	61 (406.7%)

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- This assignment demonstrated how ZAP is an effective tool for conducting vulnerability research, offering in-depth insights into the security posture of a web application and providing clear and informative reports.

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