Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

Web Security - IE2062

Journal Report

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Group Y2S2.CS

SLIIT
Discover Your Future

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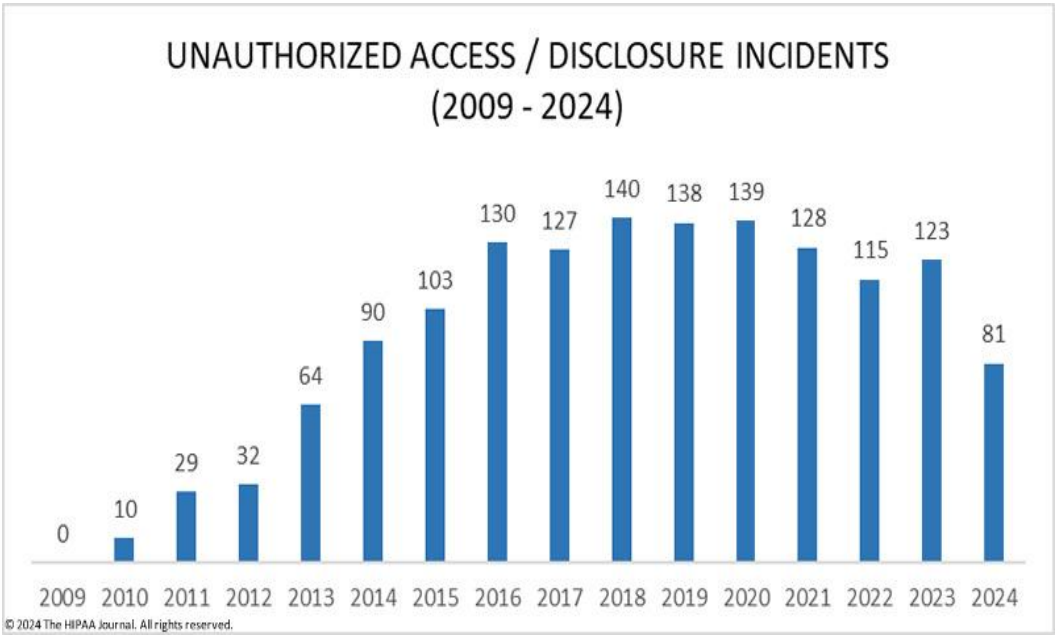
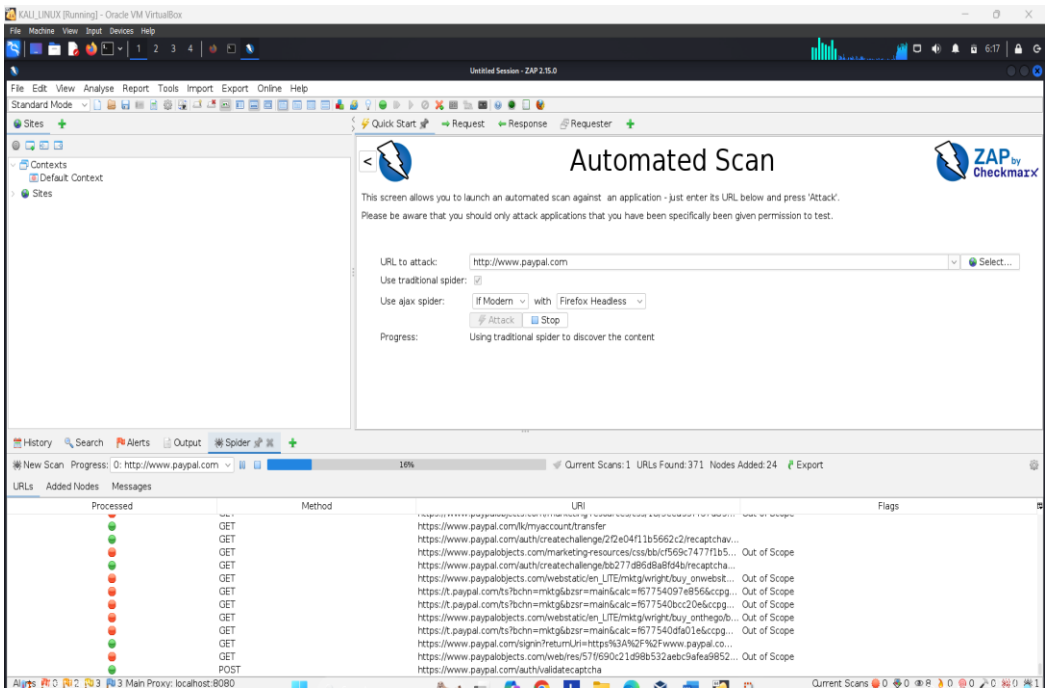
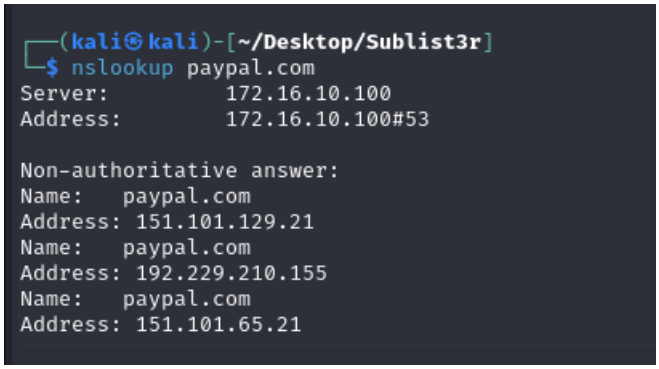
1. INTRODUCTION

- In the journey of understanding and mastering cybersecurity, particularly in the realms of web security and Bug Bounty Hunting, each day brings forth unique challenges, insights, and learning experiences. This report chronicles my daily experiences, from uncovering vulnerabilities like PII disclosure and cross-domain script inclusion to exploring advanced tools such as OWASP ZAP, Burp Suite, and Nikto. These daily reflections not only highlight the technical aspects of the vulnerabilities discovered but also emphasize the significance of implementing effective mitigation strategies. Through these experiences, I have gained a deeper appreciation of the complexities involved in safeguarding information systems and the critical role of continuous learning in staying ahead of emerging threats.

2. Day 1

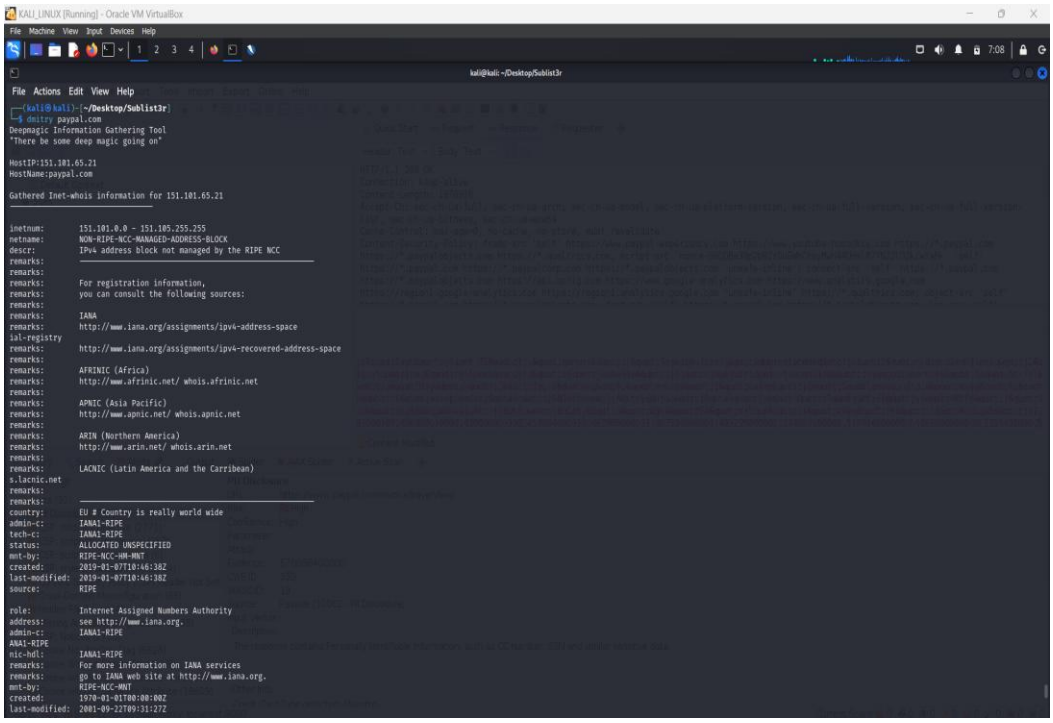
Date	2024/10/06
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 1. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and particularly PII disclosure, Vulnerable js Libarary, Cookie without secure flag vulnerabilities. 
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ PII Disclosure. ▪ Vulnerable JS Libarary. ▪ Cookie with Secure Flag.
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	▪ Time Consuming – Use Automation tools. ▪ Access to Resource and tools – Coloboration with Security Vendors.

New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ OWASP ZAP  ▪ Nslookup 

- Nmap

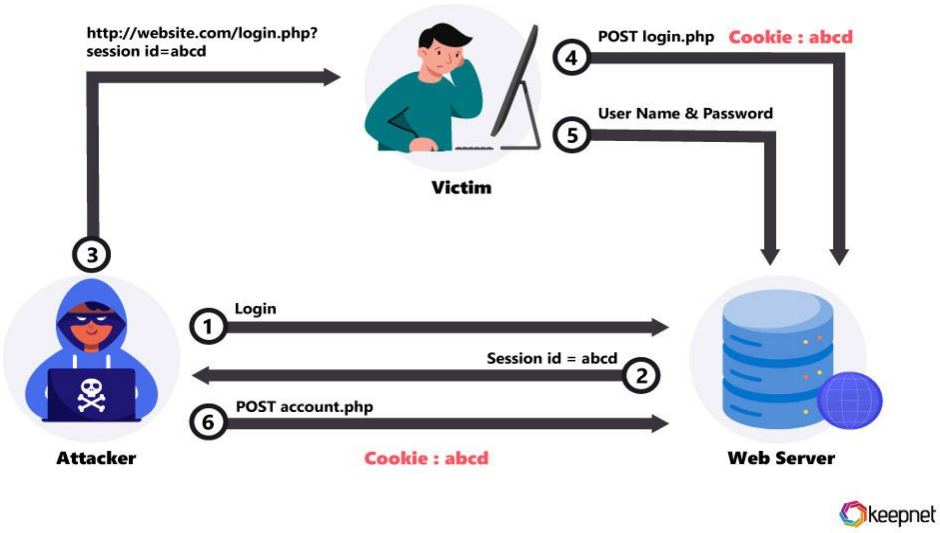
```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop/Sublist3r]
└─$ nmap 172.16.10.100
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-09-30 07:00 EDT
Nmap scan report for MADCSTD01.sliitstd.local (172.16.10.100)
Host is up (0.011s latency).
Not shown: 997 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT     STATE SERVICE
53/tcp   open  domain
8008/tcp open  http
8010/tcp open  xmpp

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 5.00 seconds
```

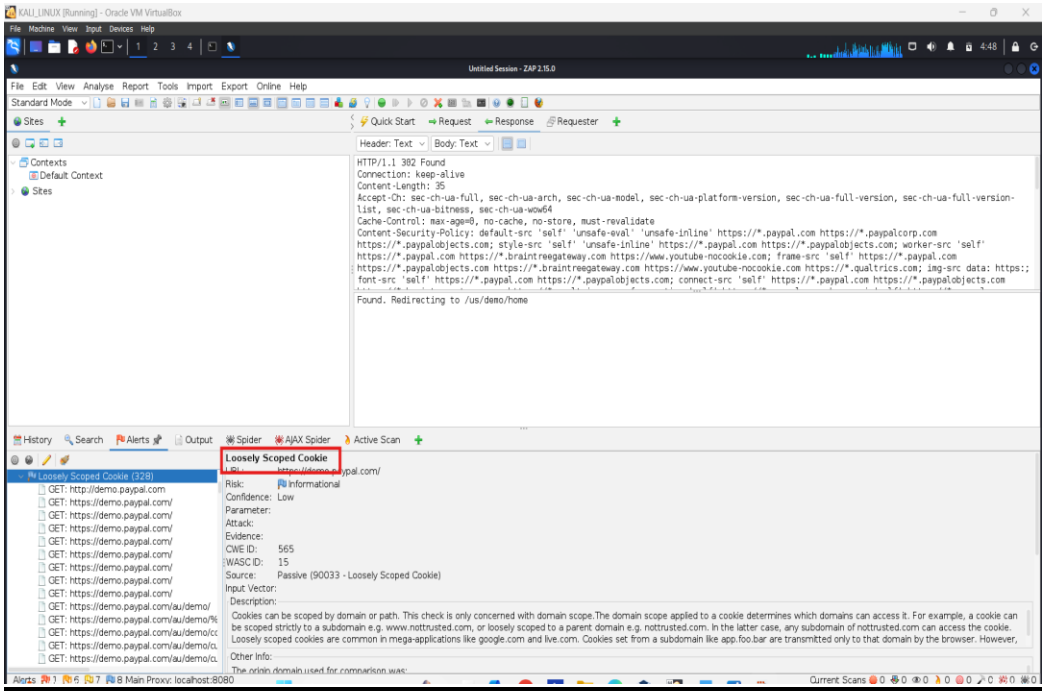
- Dmitry

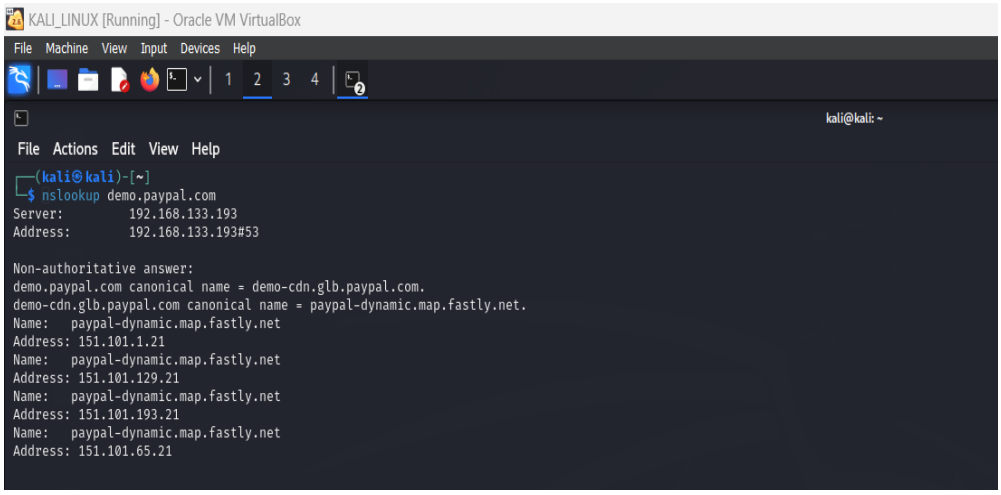


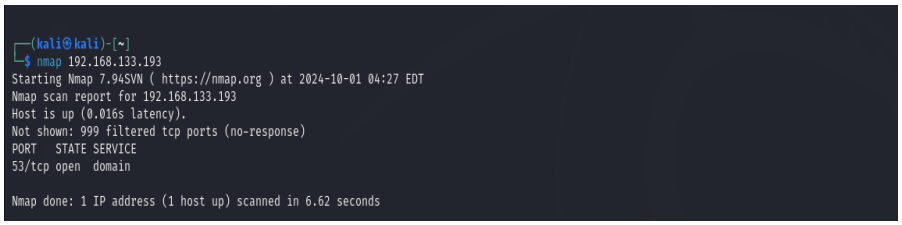
Reflections and takeaways	▪ The sharing of info that traces a person's identity with the government or any institition (PII) creates a lot of threats leading to for instance stealing a person's identity among other risks. In order to protect PII when embedded within documents, organizations must adopt strong policies such use as encryption and regular audits whilst user sensiation regarding the protection of the information must also be encouraged. On top of that, using 3rd party JavaScript libraries that are outdated or poorly written may open an application to a wide range of threats including, x cross-site forging (CSF) which can also be referred to as cross-site scripting. However, it is important because tonics to treat XSS do not work on some of the libraries and changes to the libraries have proven rather elusive. In addition, cookies that are not secure flagged tend to be dropped during activities and that exposes information they held to external parties. To mitigate this threat, every organization should implement secure flag, HttpOnly and SameSite attributes out of the cookies. In a nutshell, this means that there should be no complacency in dealing with these weaknesses, the combination of proper data handling, software engineering and education of the end users should be employed in dealing with the situation.

3. Day 2

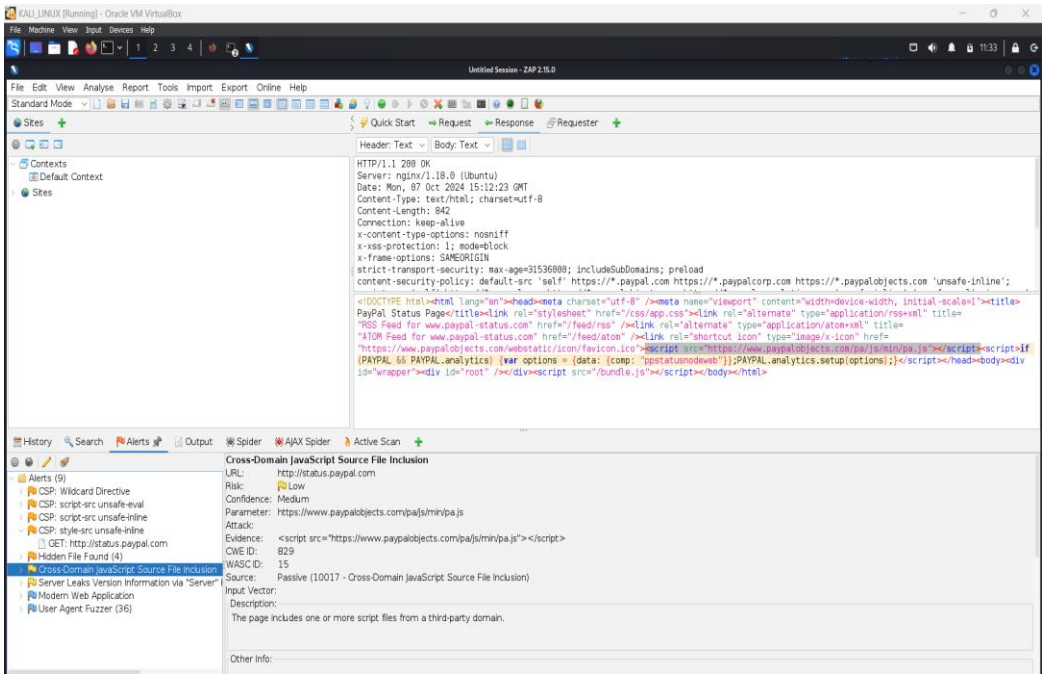
Date	2024/10/07
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 2. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Cookie poisoning, Loosely Scooped Cookie vulnerabilities. 
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Cookie poisoning ▪ Loosely Scooped Cookie
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	▪ Human Error and oversights - Establish clear procedures and checklists for critical tasks to minimize errors.

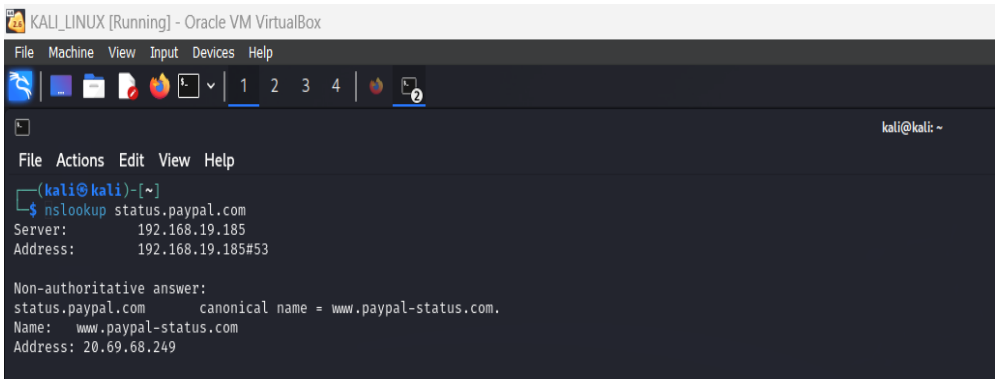
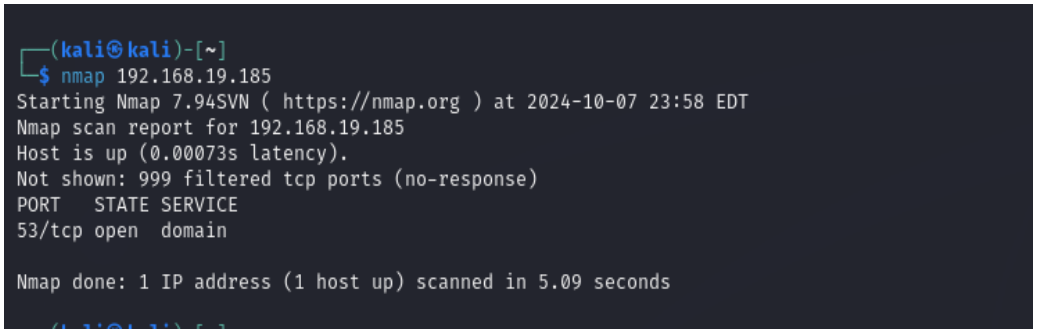
New tools,techniques or concepts learned	



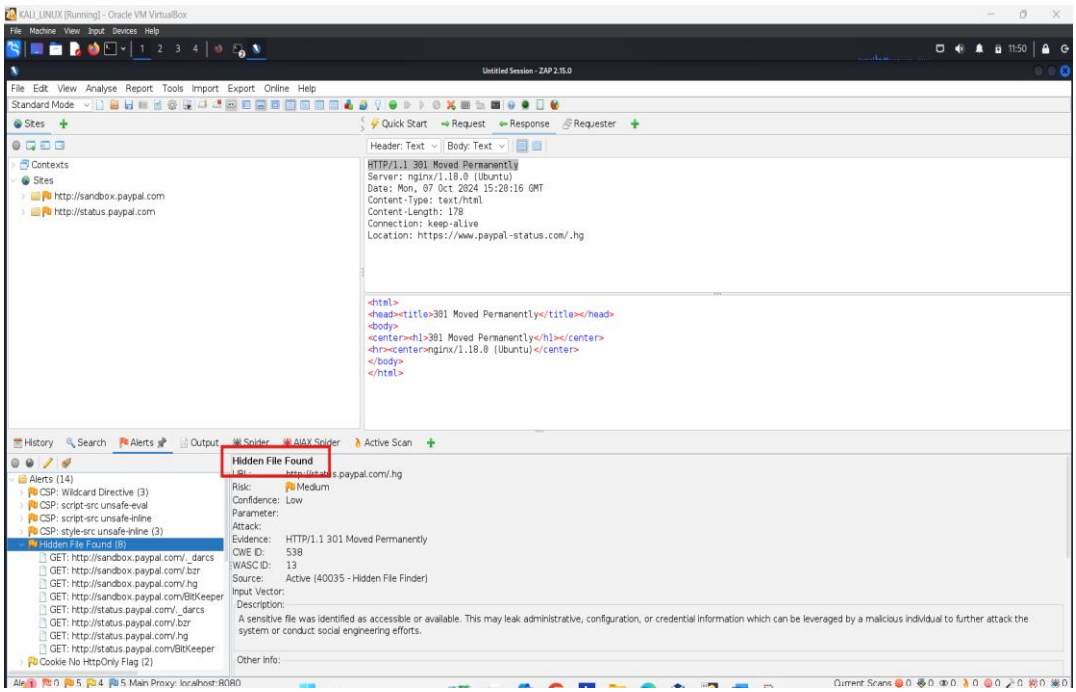
	
Reflections and takeaways	▪ poisoning and poorly scoped cookies are two web security issues that pose serious threats resulting into access and information compromise. In other words cookie poisoning is manipulation of the cookie data by a malicious user in an attempt to obtain unwarranted access and usurp another user's authority in order to breach the user's sensitive information and the application as a whole. Loosely scoped cookies are referred to as cookies that do not have strict domain or path limitation; making them available for cross application or across different subdomains usage, hence increasing risks of csrf and other attacks. In order to protect from such threats, it is very important for developers to make sure that cookie data is correctly validated and sanitized and only safe data is allowed to be used. Application of such secure attributes for cookies such as Secure, HttpOnly, SameSite and others is also effective in improving the security of the cookies. On the whole, vigilance and preventive actions are key in preventing exploitation of cookies and ensuring that user information remains secure.

4. Day 3

Date	2024/10/08
Summary Of the day's activities	Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in Bug Bounty Hunting day 2. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Cross domain java script source file inclution vulnerabilities.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Cross domain java script source file inclution
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	
New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ OWASP ZAP 

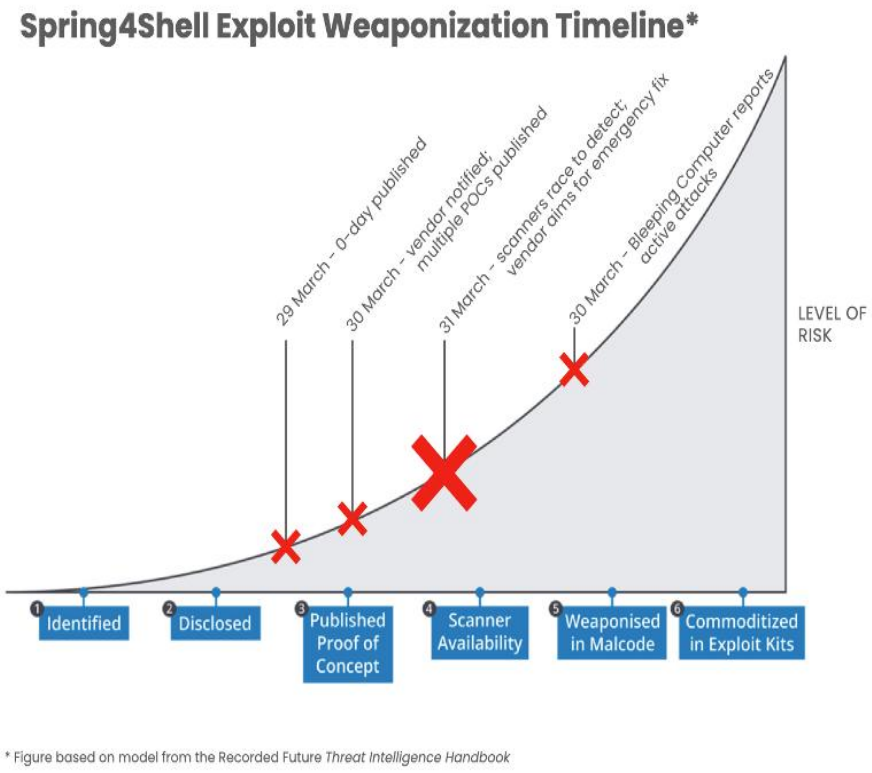
	▪ Nslookup  ▪ Nmap 
Reflections and takeaways	▪ Cross-domain JavaScript source file incorporation poses grave security risks when a web application is built to incorporate and run scripts from different domains. Such vulnerabilities can result in several forms of attacks, including but not limited to, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), and information theft whereby an attack uses included scripts to run a code against a victim session. The central scope that is to be emphasized is the fact that very strict measures ought to be put in place regarding the use of external scripts; applications should allow the use of external scripts only from trusted sources and even that, it is best if a Content Security Policy (CSP) is put in place to define the permitted sources. Moreover, the application of risk reduction principles, such as, checking and cleaning any data engaged in incorporating a script can be of assistance. In addition, it is necessary for the developers to conduct audits on the external sources and the dependencies on a regular basis in order to maintain them patched and risk-free. In conclusion, ensuring regards development as an activity that must expose no risks and safe coding measures are employed while being aware of cross domain risks, would help curb the misuse of applications.

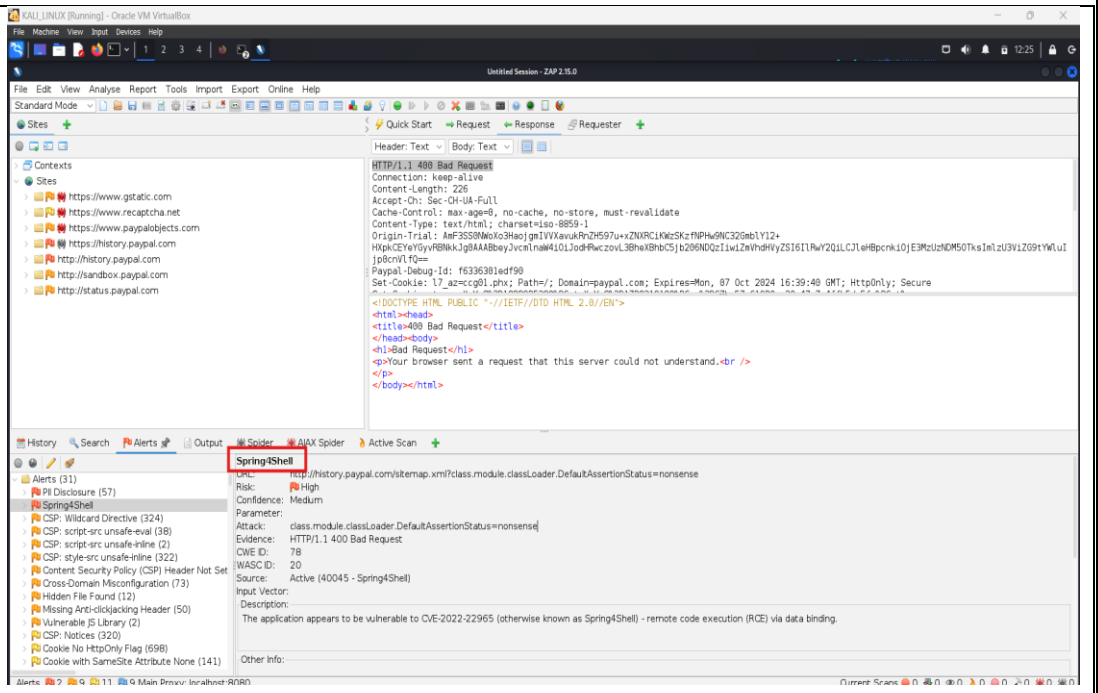
5. Day 4

Date	2024/10/09
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 4. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Hidden file found vulnerabilitiy.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Hidden file found.
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	▪ Technical understanding – Documentation and Resources
New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ OWASP ZAP 

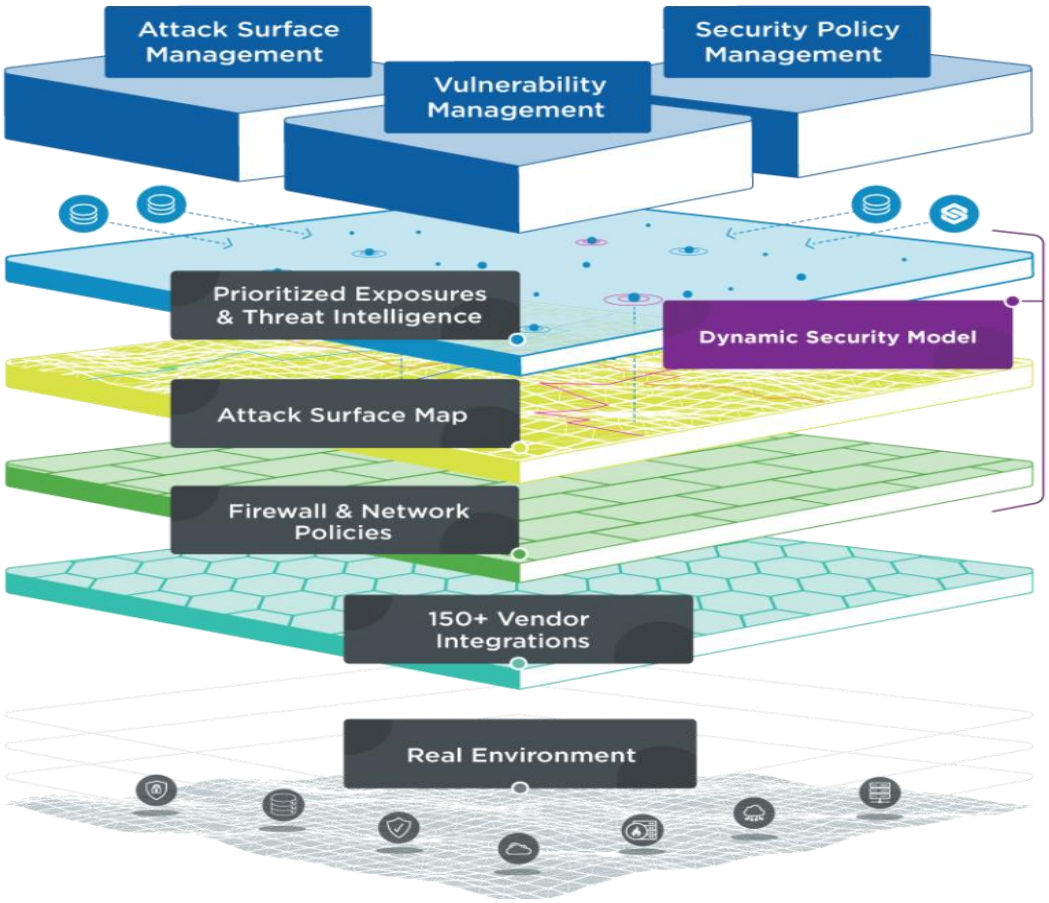
Reflections and takeaways	▪ Finding any concealed files in a web application or a server is very serious in terms of security. Such files may include sensitive data or even configuration settings that can be exploited by attackers. One of the critical issues that come to mind is whether there should be security audits carried out after a certain amount of time. Also, regular scans should be done in order to find such files that would not be available to anyone unelevated. As hidden files may be a way through which an attacker can access secured areas, other measures, such as access control, and ensuring that the elevations are done correctly, are also necessary. It is also worth reminding any reader that maintaining security in such cases entails certain measures, such as updating the system's server software from time to time or installing a reliable firewall. Most importantly, it should be emphasized that the so-called least privileged access policy must be followed, as it is very important that a user is able to access only those files that are needed in their work. In general, it is commendable to educate programmers and network administrators about the dangers posed by hidden files in order to promote a culture of protecting information from possible leaks.

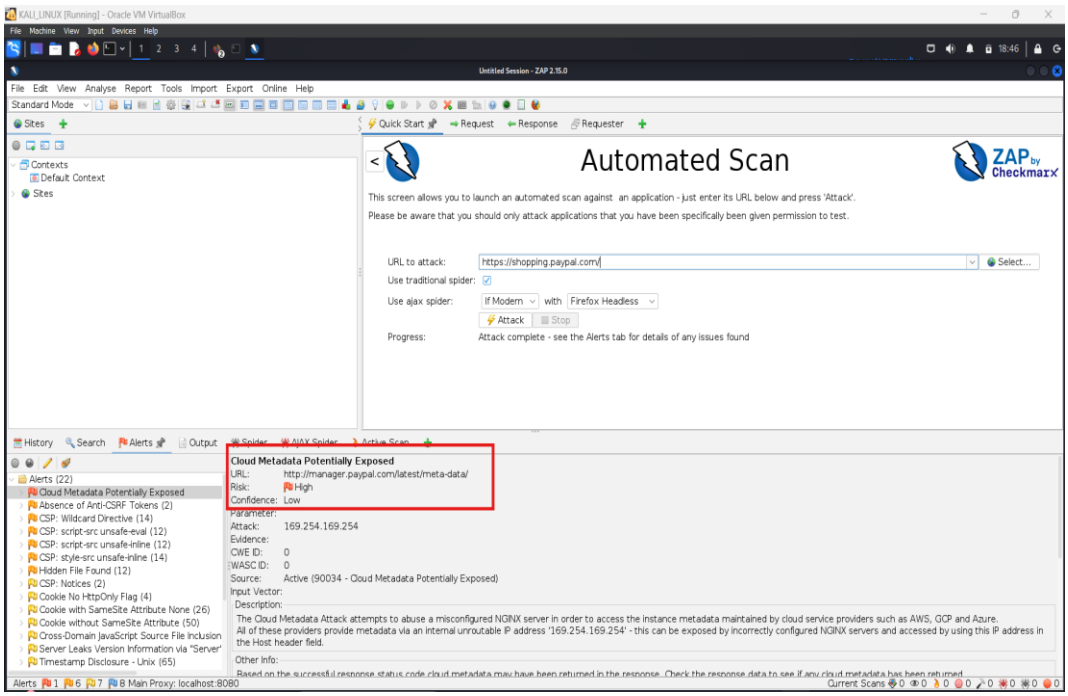
6. Day 5

Date	2024/10/10
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 5. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Hidden file found vulnerabilitiy
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Spring 4 shell. 
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	
New tools,techniques	▪ OWASP ZAP

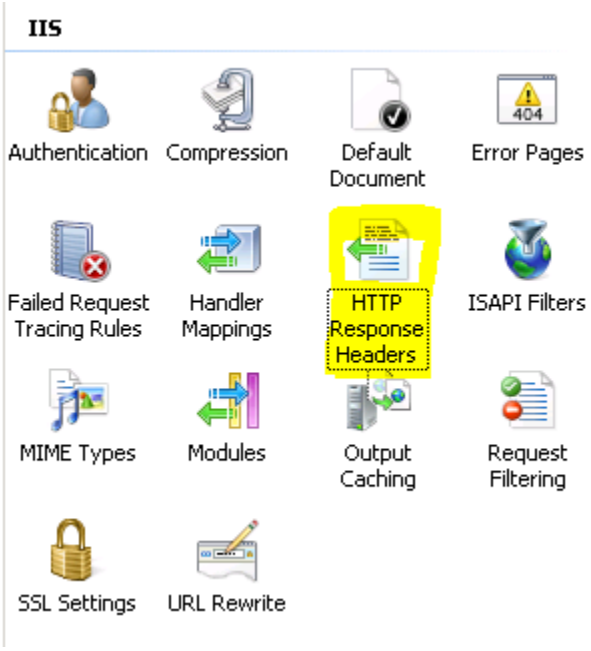
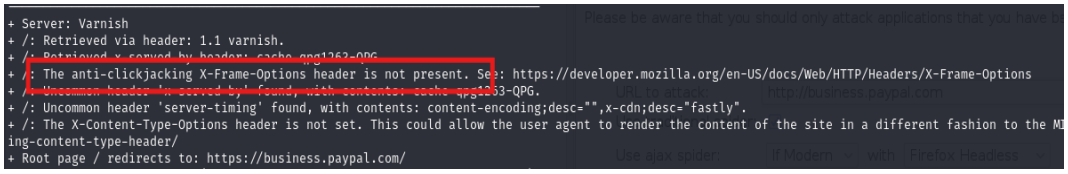
or concepts learned	
Reflections and takeaways	▪ Spring 4 Shell is an interactive command line application creation framework for Spring based applications that allows for quick iteration and efficient management of Spring based applications. One thing to note about it is that it eases testing and debugging of applications without having to employ an entire user interface. One can interactively probe the application context and manipulate it, making it easier to understand how the application works and help in troubleshooting. One critical assumption is that introducing Spring Shell will not be enough without knowing what Spring can do. This includes learning about Spring's beans and dependency injection which makes development easier and enables more advanced command implementations. In addition, Spring Shell fosters good software engineering practices as it advocates for writing easily maintainable and testable command with high level of clarity and succinctness.

7. Day 6

Date	2024/10/11
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 6 . I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Cloud meta data potentially Exposed vulnerabilitiy.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Cloud meta data potentially Exposed. 
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	▪ Limited time Resource - Prioritization of tasks. ▪ Access to resources and tools – Coloboration with Security Vendors.

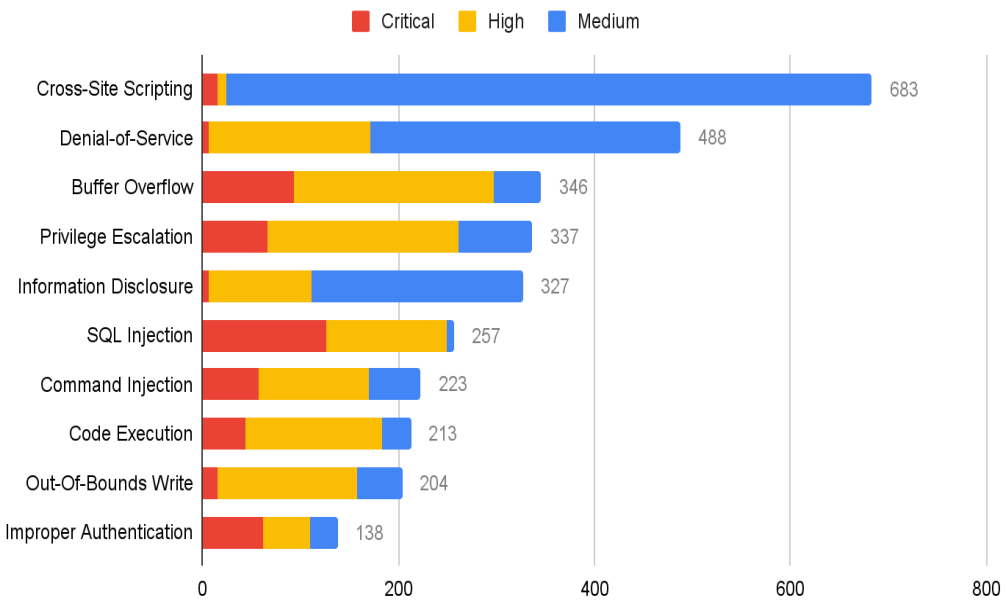
New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ OWASP ZAP 
Reflections and takeaways	▪ The risk of security breaches increases dramatically with the unintentional exposure of cloud metadata, which often includes details on cloud resources, configurations, and user identities. One of the main critiques associated with the task is the understanding that a number of businesses do not pay considerable attention to whether any nd endpoints are secured or not and this is a weakness that can be easily exploited. This in turn could lead to the exposure of critical internal services to unauthorized parties, breaches resulting into loss of data as well as complete takeover of accounts and thus obsolete the rather limited oriented policies. The main point is that these services shall be well protected from every potential user except those that have been authorized to access the services of the cloud metadata management. It is advisable for the enterprises to put in place identity and access management (IAM) restrictions that limit access to their services as much as possible. So, effective monitoring and logging of the use of metadata endpoints will allow for detecting the signs of the occurrence of any breach and its trespassers' real time tendencies.

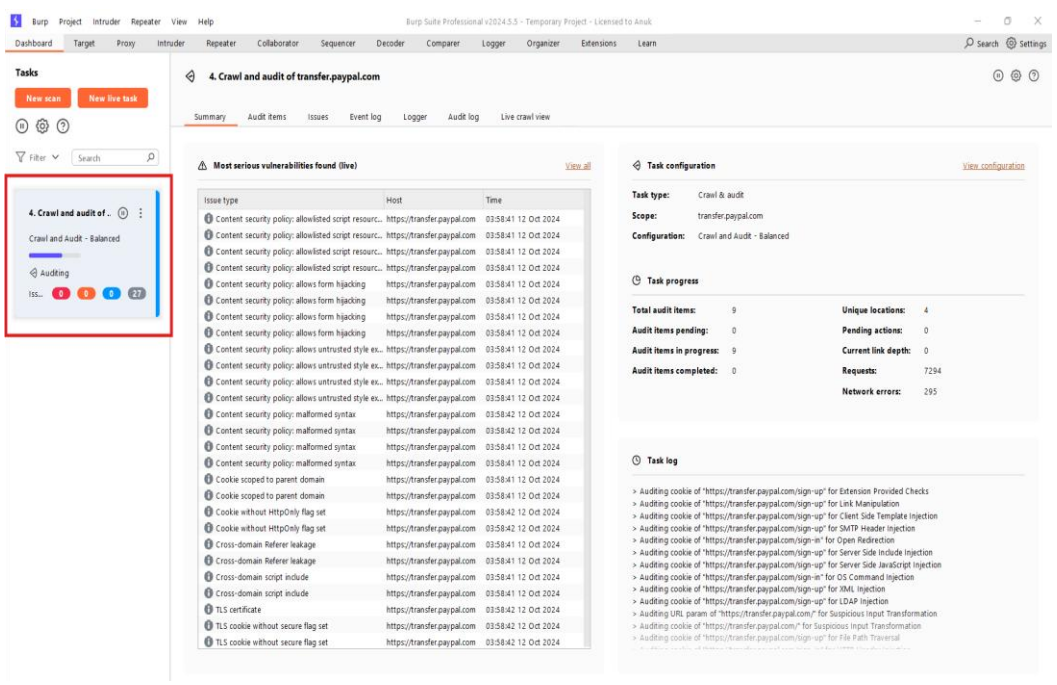
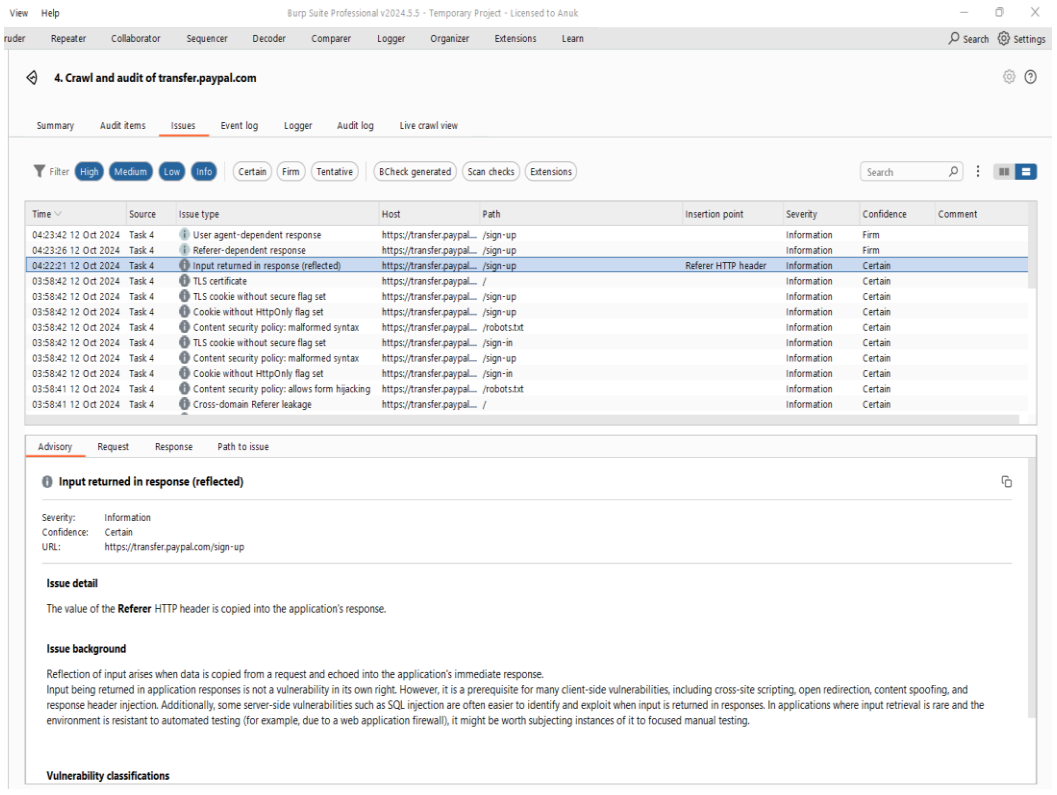
8. Day 7

Date	2024/10/12
Summary Of the day's activities	• Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 7. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Anti clickjacking x – frame-option header not found vulnerabilitiy.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Anti clickjacking x – frame-option header not found. 
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	
New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ NIKTO 

Reflections and takeaways	▪ The risk of clickjacking attacks is high in systems or applications where the X-Frame-Options security feature is not made available. Clickjacking refers to social engineering attacks where web users are tricked into clicking on objects on a webpage without their knowledge and effecting some action without their permission. One of the reflections is the realization that appropriate use of this security header is crucial such that web applications are not exposed to such threats. The X-Frame-Options header covers the scope of the clickjacking the ability to click on an embedded window that, although appears to be the top-level window, is not. ▪ There is an essential reminder that developers and security teams should always be in the contingency planning mode by making sure the X-Frame-Options header is provided for in the application security policies. Companies must require that all web applications feature this argument, along with suitable directives, such as DENY or SAMEORIGIN where applicable. Security audits and vulnerability scans overtime can assist in addressing security headers that are missing and the compliance to all best practices.

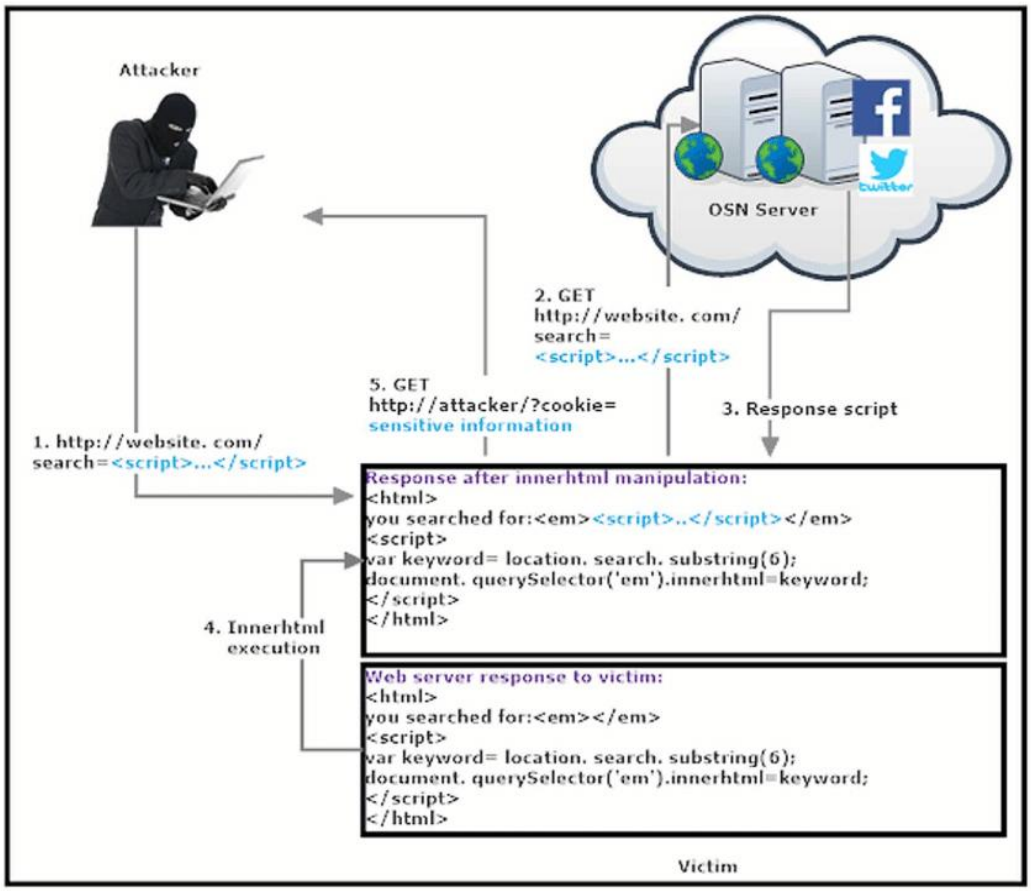
9. Day 8

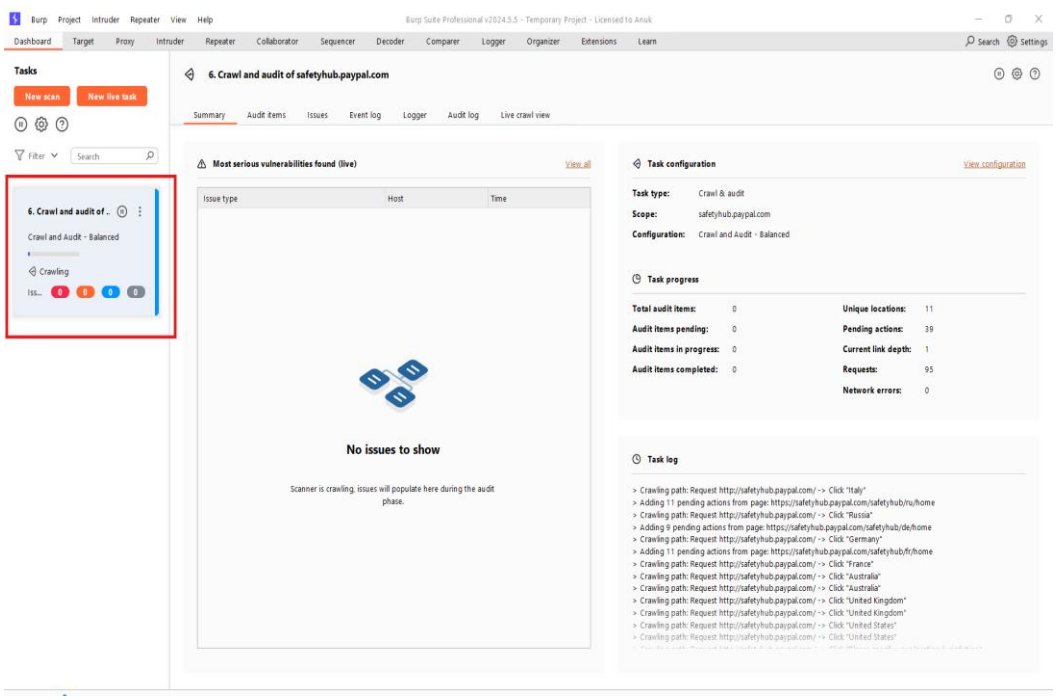
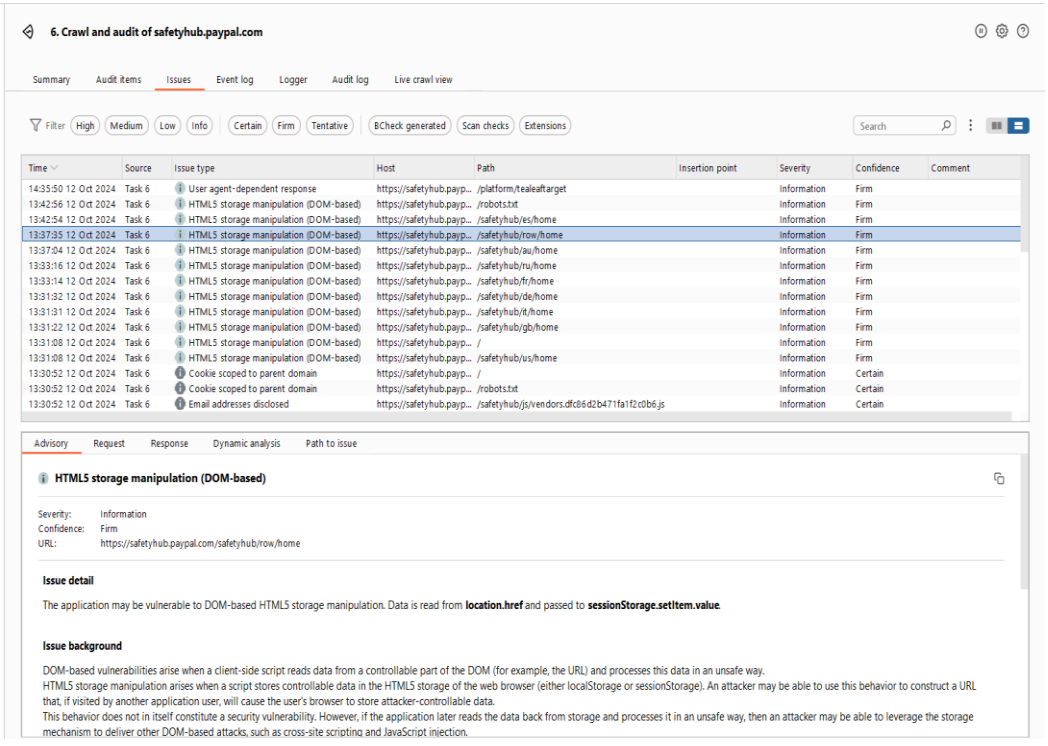
Date	2024/10/13
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 8. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and Input returned in response (Reflected Cross-Site Scripting (XSS))vulnerability.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ Input returned in response (Reflected Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)) 
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	▪ Time Consuming – Use Automation tools.

New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ Burpsuite  

Reflections and takeaways	▪ Reflected Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) is a general web application security vulnerability that is caused when a web application returns any untrusted data in the response without validating or escaping it. One important reflection on this issue is to consider the fact that any user input no matter how trivial it is; provided that it is incorporated in the application, such as query parameters or form submissions, could be used to run a script in context of the user's session. This makes it imperative to implement proper input validation and output encoding techniques in order to prevent such attacks.

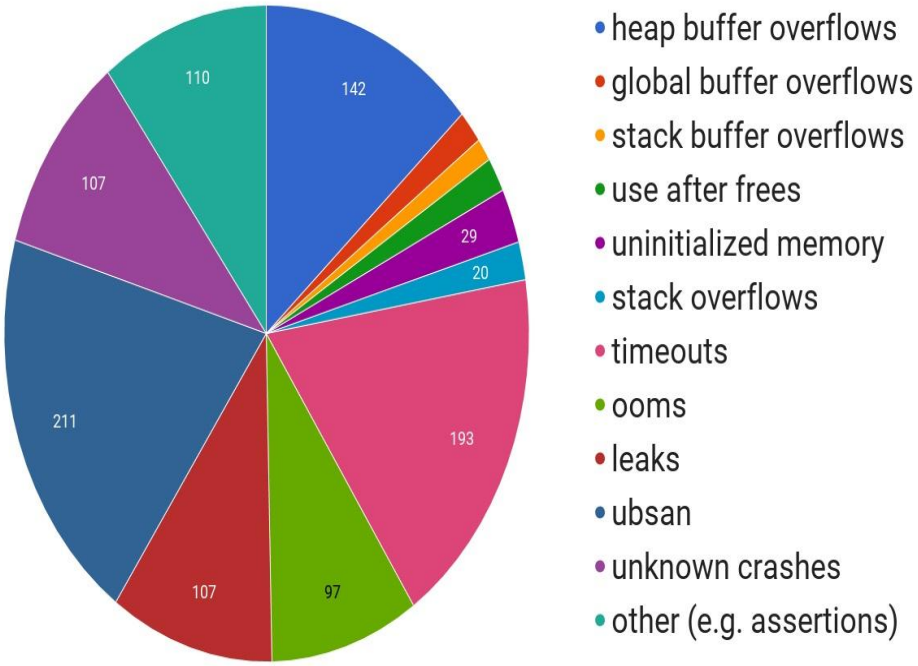
10. Day 9

Date	2024/10/14
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 9. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and vulnerability.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ HTML 5 Storage Manipulation (DOM-based). 
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	▪ It takes a long time to scan.

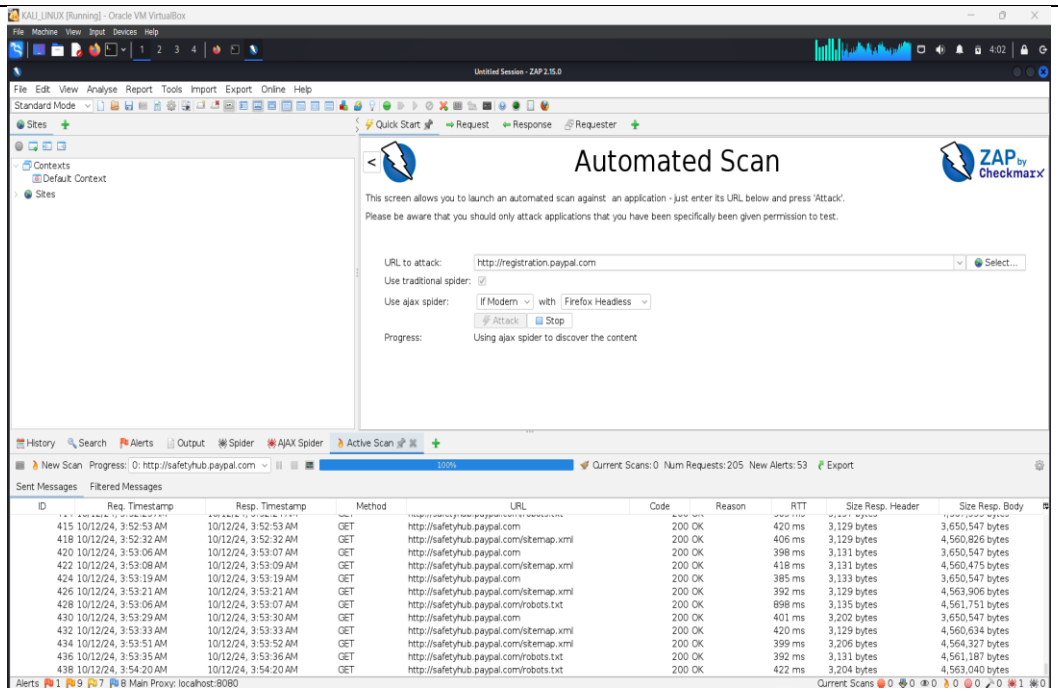
New tools,techniques or concepts learned	▪ Burpsuite  

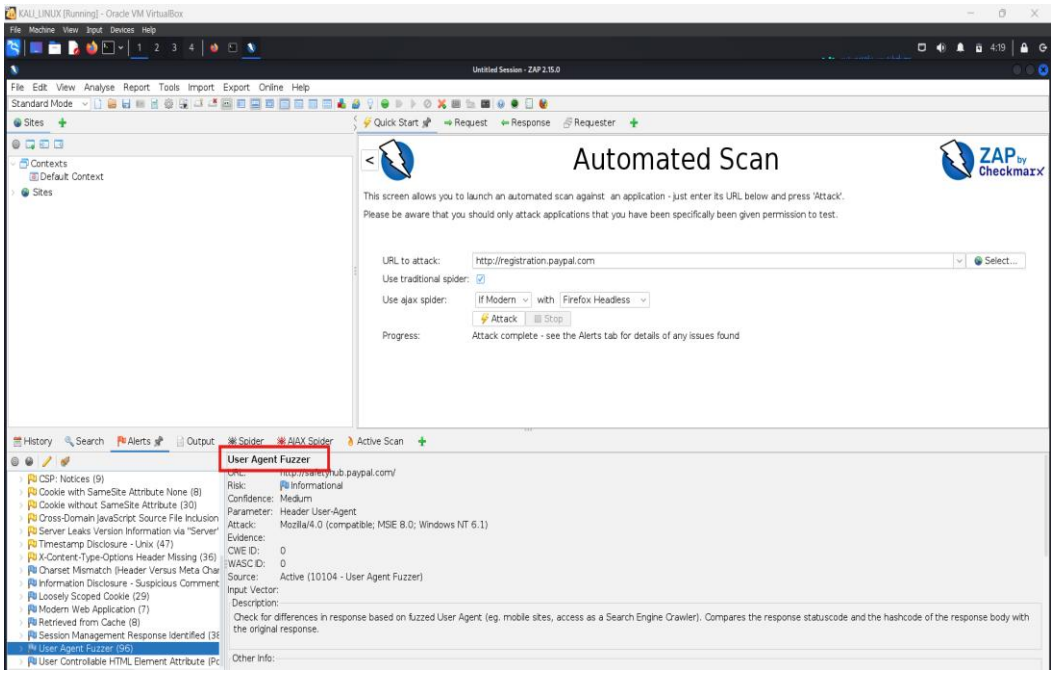
Reflections and takeaways	▪ HTML5 Storage Manipulation (DOM-based) vulnerabilities happen due to lack of adequate security measures in web applications that make use of web storage APIs like localStorage and sessionStorage to store user data. One prominent insight concerning the relayed concern is the perception that although HTML5 storage helps in storing, managing, and retrieving data efficiently on the client side, it can prove to be more harmful than beneficial when used without proper precautions. Users may be able to exploit such a flaw and change other data that is stored in the application that may lead to some undesired consequences such as retrieval of previously protected data.

11. Day 10

Date	2024/10/15
Summary Of the day's activities	▪ Today was a another productive day focused on enhancing my skills in cybersecurity and Bug Bounty Hunting day 10. I dedicated time to learning about data privacy and vulnerability.
Vulnerabilities discovered or explored	▪ User Agent Fuzzer. 
Challenges faced and how they were overcome	
New tools,techniques	▪ OWASP ZAP

or concepts learned





Reflections and takeaways	▪ The User Agent Fuzzer refers to a software testing tool for web applications' security, which allows for changing the user agent string of a browser. Implicit in the use of the User Agent Fuzzer, however, is that applications are capable of handling all sorts of user agents, as well as validating the input of users. Security testers doing this can detect issues like mishandling of requests, both of which are security concerns and may even cause the application to behave improperly. ▪ The important lesson here, is that user agent strings are useful tools not just in testing but can be employed for the security of the application. In this sense, there are ways in which the user agents can be used against the application and thus, the input validation mechanisms can be improved and application controls can be tightened. Furthermore, it highlights the need to understand user agent strings as a vector of attack for purposes that include but are not limited to impersonation and getting around security measures.

12. CONCLUSION

- The ten days of intensive learning and vulnerability exploration have significantly enhanced my understanding of web security. This journey underscored the importance of a proactive approach in identifying, analyzing, and mitigating security threats. By utilizing a combination of automated tools, collaboration, and strategic planning, I developed a comprehensive perspective on securing web applications. The insights gained have reinforced the need for a thorough, multifaceted approach to cybersecurity, one that blends technical expertise with a commitment to vigilance and adaptability. As I continue this path, I am equipped with a stronger foundation and a renewed resolve to tackle the challenges in the ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity.