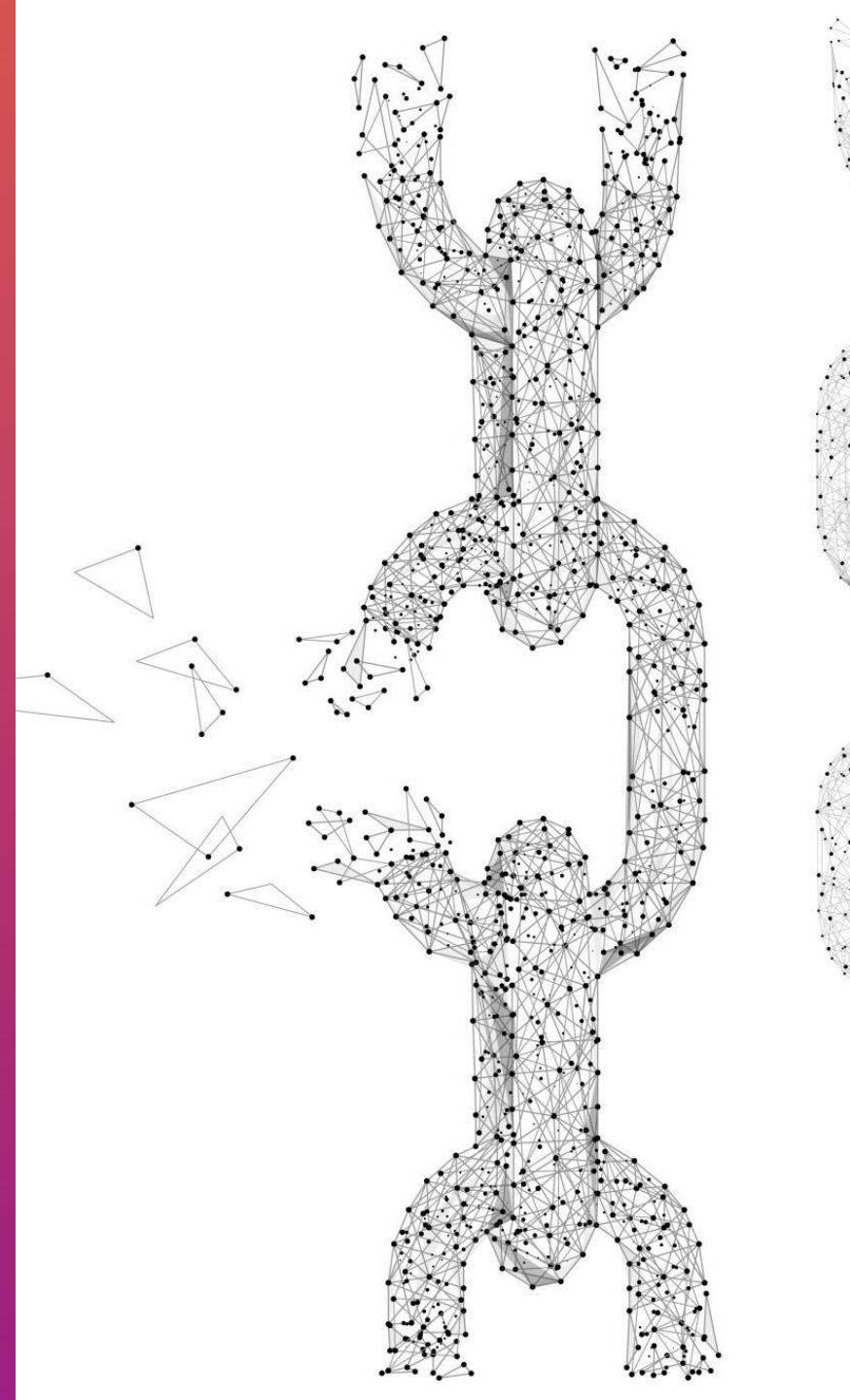


BY: HARSH BOTHRA

# TALE OF CHAINING BUGS FOR ACCOUNT TAKEOVERS



# WHO AM I?

Application Security Enthusiast and Learner

Triage @H1 | Core Lead Pentester @Cobalt.io  
| Community & Product Growth @Akto.io

Author - 2 Books | Learn365 |  
SecurityExplained

Blogger | Content Creator | Speaker

Bugcrowd All Time Top 200

# AGENDA

Account  
Takeovers –  
Vulnerability  
Class or Impact?

Ignored  
Vulnerabilities –  
Low Hanging  
Fruits

Tale of Chaining  
Bugs for  
Account  
Takeovers

# ACCOUNT TAKEOVERS

## VULNERABILITY CLASS OR IMPACT?

POLL ON TWITTER  
@HARSHBOTHRA\_



# IGNORED VULNERABILITIES - LOW HANGING FRUITS

Open Redirection

CRLF Injection

GraphQL Introspection

Missing Cookie Security  
& HTTP Security  
Headers

Host Header Injection

API Fuzzing (Lack of  
Rate Limit on Path)

Lack of Server-Side  
Validation

External SSRF

Prototype Pollution

Deeplink  
Misconfiguration

OAuth Misconfiguration

HTML Injection

# TALE OF CHAINING BUGS FOR ACCOUNT TAKEOVERS

GraphQL Introspection to  
Account Takeover

Host Header Injection to Account  
Takeover

CRLF to XSS leading to Account  
Takeover

Open Redirection to Account  
Takeover

# GRAPHQL INTROSPECTION TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER

## Bug Description:

- The application allowed an unauthenticated user to access and run **Introspection Queries** (Informative – In General).
- After digging and visualising their GraphQL operations, I found a couple of interesting operations allowing to **Get User ID by Email and Generate Auth Token using Email**.
- Authenticated with Attacker User and Performed the Operation using **/graphql** endpoint to query victim user's ID and later tried using it to get the Auth token but it didn't work.
- Next, tried **Logical Manipulation (or Parameter Pollution)** and supplied IDs like **attackerId**, **victimId** and it returned **Victim's Auth Token**.

# GRAPHQL INTROSPECTION TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER (CONT'D....)

## Bug Description (Cont'd...):

- Using victim's auth token, changed their email address to **Attacker Controlled Email** and reset their password and had full control of their account.

**Severity Bump:** Informative to Critical

**Program & Platform:** Private Program (Out of Platform)

**Reward Issued:** \$\$\$\$\$ (5-Digit)



# HOST HEADER INJECTION ON EMAIL CHANGE TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER

## Bug Description:

- The application shared the same interface for external and internal users. The point of validation was the internal user's had their accounts with **@company.com** and some extra privileges.
- I had access to one of their GSuite account as part of a Pentest engagement.
- I tried Host Header Injection (mainly on password reset as we all do) but no luck on any endpoints.
- Next, I fuzzed the application using **Collaborator Everywhere** and observed that this **email change endpoint** was reflecting the External Host via **X-Forwarded-Host** header.
- Using the attacker account (external user), I requested an email change for [knownuser@company.com](#) with attacker controlled Host.

# HOST HEADER INJECTION ON EMAIL CHANGE TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER (CONT'D...)

## Bug Description (Cont'd...):

- I was able to steal the confirmation token and use it to change email to my attacker (external user) account.
- Relogged in and got the privileges escalated to internal user dashboard that allowed to reset the password for any external user.

**Result:** Mass Account Takeover

**Severity:** Critical

**Program and Platform:** Private (Through Pentest)

**Award: Bonus in \$\$\$\$**

# CRLF TO XSS LEADING TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER

## Bug Description:

- The application was vulnerable to **Self Cross-Site Scripting** via **Non-Existing Cookie Parameter. (Informative)**.
- Fuzzed the application and found it vulnerable to **CRLF Injection** through double encoding.
- Used CRLF Injection to Inject the Non-Existing Cookie Parameter and Created a PoC like: something.com/<injectionpayload>=cookie:<xss payload>
- XSS was executed successfully (**Medium**)
- Now, further created a PoC to steal session token as the JWT was passed in the Cookies as well and there was no HTTPOnly flag.
- Successfully Hijacked User's Session – Changed Email – Reset Password – Full Account Takeover.

# CRLF TO XSS LEADING TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER (CONT'D...)

**Result:** Full Account Takeover

**Severity:** Informative to Critical

**Program and Platform:** Private

**Award:** \$\$\$\$ + \$\$\$ (Bonus)

# OPEN REDIRECTION TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER

## Bug Description:

- The application had multiple sub-applications and it used Auth Code to authenticate the sub applications and it was possible to access the sub-applications allowing account takeover.
- The redirection to sub-application was using **OAuth** flow and had **redirection** parameter that sent the auth token to the sub-application
- Found an open redirection that allowed to steal the auth token of the application.
- Attacker was able to successfully access the sub application. **(High)**
- Later, I also found an privilege escalation that allowed access from Sub-App to Main-App but that's a different Privilege Escalation Story.

# OPEN REDIRECTION TO ACCOUNT TAKEOVER (CONT'D...)

**Result:** Limited Account Takeover

**Severity:** High

**Program and Platform:** Private

**Award:** \$\$\$

# OTHER INTERESTING ATO VECTORS

- HTML Injection to AWS Metadata Leak leading to AWS Takeover
- Insecure Deeplink allowing Account Takeover
- Password Reset Poisoning to Account Takeover
- Mass Assignment Leading to Account Takeover
- IDOR leading to Account Takeover
- Lack of Server-Side Validation in Email during Registration leading to Account Takeover

**NEXT PLANS?  
WILL LAUNCH AN UPDATED  
MINDMAP ON DIFFERENT  
TECHNIQUES FOR ACCOUNT  
TAKEOVER**



# SUMMARY

**THANK YOU  
FOLKS!**