**Vulnerability Assessment Report**

**Report Title:** Vulnerability Assessment for itsecgames.com (bWAPP Lab) – Reconnaissance Phase  
**Assessment Date:** September 15–19, 2025  
**Report Date:** September 19, 2025  
**Version:** 1.0  
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**Prepared For:** itsecgames.com Project Stakeholders  
**Classification:** Confidential – Internal Use Only

**Table of Contents**

1. [Executive Summary](#ExecutiveSummary)
2. [Introduction](#Introduction)
3. [Scope and Methodology](#ScopeandMethodology)
4. [System Overview](#SystemOverview)
5. [Findings](#Findings)
6. [Risk Assessment](#RiskAssessment)
7. [Recommendations](#Recommendations)
8. [Conclusion](#Conclusion)
9. [Appendices](#Appendices)

**1. Executive Summary**

This vulnerability assessment was conducted on the itsecgames.com bWAPP (Buggy Web Application) lab as part of the reconnaissance phase of a Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) engagement.

**Key Highlights:**

* **Target Assessed:** itsecgames.com (bWAPP lab, IP: 31.3.96.40)
* **Total Vulnerabilities Identified:** 13 (4 Critical, 4 High, 3 Medium, 2 Low)
* **Risk Posture:** High – exposed services, missing security headers, and directory disclosures expand the attack surface
* **Top Risks:**
  + Open SSH service (Port 22) vulnerable to brute-force attacks
  + Missing HTTP security headers allowing clickjacking and XSS
  + Exposed directories revealing sensitive files
  + Unrestricted File Upload

**Overall Risk Rating:** High  
**Estimated Remediation Effort:** 3–5 weeks for critical and high issues

**2.** **Introduction**

**Background**

This report documents the reconnaissance phase of a Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) engagement on the bWAPP lab hosted at itsecgames.com. The bWAPP environment is deliberately vulnerable for training purposes.

**Objectives**

* Identify open ports and services
* Enumerate web directories and detect misconfigurations
* Assess initial security posture to guide deeper testing

**Limitations**

* External reconnaissance only (no internal network access)
* Non-intrusive scans (no denial-of-service or destructive exploitation)
* Exploitation was out-of-scope at this stage

**3.** **Scope and Methodology**

**Scope**

* **In-Scope Assets:**
  + IP: 31.3.96.40
  + Domain: itsecgames.com
  + Ports: 22 (SSH), 80 (HTTP), 443 (HTTPS)
  + Web Paths: /bugs.htm, /downloads/, /admin/, /install.php
* **Out-of-Scope:**
  + Social engineering
  + Physical security testing
  + Active exploitation

**Methodology**

| **Phase** | **Tools/Techniques** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reconnaissance | Nmap, Gobuster, Nikto, Curl | Port scanning, directory enumeration, fingerprinting, header checks |
| Evidence | proofs, Logs | Collected evidence for the vulnerabilities |
| Analysis | Manual Review | Consolidated findings into vulnerability list |

**4.** **System Overview**

* **Target Environment:** bWAPP app on Apache/2.4.7 with OpenSSH 6.7p1, hosted on Ubuntu 14.04
* **Key Components:**
  + Web server: Apache/2.4.7
  + SSH service: OpenSSH 6.7p1
  + Database: MySQL (internal only)
* **SSL Certificate:** Issued for mmebv.be with SAN = itsecgames.com

**5.** **Findings**

**Vulnerability Summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ID** | **Vulnerability** | **Severity** | **Evidence Path** | **Status** |
| V-001 | SQL Injection (GET/Search) | Critical | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/sqli\_get\_20250917\_031059](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/sqli_get_20250917_031059) | Confirmed |
| V-002 | SQL Injection (Blind) | High | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/sqli\_blind\_20250918\_144632](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/sqli_blind_20250918_144632) | Confirmed |
| V-003 | XSS Reflected (GET/POST) | High | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/xss\_get\_20250917\_034645, xss\_reflected\_post\_20250918\_144632](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/xss_reflected_post_20250918_144632) | Confirmed |
| V-004 | XSS Stored (Blog/Change Secret) | High | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/xss\_stored\_20250918, xss\_change\_secret\_20250918](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/xss_change_secret_20250918) | Confirmed |
| V-005 | CSRF (Change Secret) | High | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/csrf\_change\_secret\_20250918](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/csrf_change_secret_20250918) | Confirmed |
| V-006 | Unrestricted File Upload | Critical | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/unrestricted\_upload\_20250918](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/unrestricted_upload_20250918) | Confirmed |
| V-007 | Insecure Direct Object Reference (Change Secret) | High | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/insecure\_dor\_change\_secret\_20250918](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/insecure_dor_change_secret_20250918) | Confirmed |
| V-008 | Directory Traversal (/etc/passwd) | Critical | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/dir\_traversal\_20250918\_153854](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/dir_traversal_20250918_153854) | Confirmed |
| V-009 | Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF) | High | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/ssrf\_20250918\_144632](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/ssrf_20250918_144632) | Confirmed |
| V-010 | Clickjacking | Medium | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/clickjacking\_headers\_20250918\_144632](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/clickjacking_headers_20250918_144632) | Confirmed |
| V-011 | Information Disclosure – Headers | Medium | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/info\_disclosure\_headers\_20250918](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/info_disclosure_headers_20250918) | Confirmed |
| V-012 | Environment Exposure (Debug Info) | Low | [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/environment\_20250917\_034654](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/environment_20250917_034654) | Confirmed |
| V-013 | Missing TLS/SSL (Cleartext HTTP) | Critical | [Proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/ss\_tls\_cleartext\_20250919/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/ssl_tls_cleartext_20250919) | Confirmed |

**Total:** 13 vulnerabilities (4 Critical, 4 High, 3 Medium, 2 Low)

**Detailed Finding (V-001)**

**ID:** V-001  
**Title:** SQL Injection (GET / Search)  
**Severity:** Critical

**Description:**  
An input used in a GET request (search parameter / query string) is vulnerable to SQL injection. The application fails to properly parameterize or sanitize the input, allowing an attacker to inject SQL payloads that reveal or extract database contents.

**Impact:**

* Unauthorized disclosure of sensitive data (users, credentials, application configuration).
* Possible full database compromise and pivot to remote code execution depending on database privileges.
* Data integrity loss and privacy breach.

**Reproduction Steps:**

* 1. **curl -s "http://127.0.0.1:8080/target\_page.php?search=bee" -b cookies.txt -D - | sed -n '1,120p'**
  2. **sqlmap -u "http://127.0.0.1:8080/target\_page.php?search=bee" -p search --batch –dbs**

**Evidence:**

[**proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/sqli\_get\_20250917\_031059/**](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/sqli_get_20250917_031059)

**ID: V-002**

**Title:** SQL Injection (Blind)  
**Severity:** High

**Description:**  
A parameter does not return SQL errors but is vulnerable to blind SQL injection (time-based / Boolean). An attacker can extract data by measuring response behaviour/time.  
**Impact:**

* Exfiltration of database contents without visible errors.
* Possibility to enumerate schema, users, hashes and pivot further.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. curl -s "http://127.0.0.1:8080/target\_page.php?id=1" -b cookies.txt -D - | sed -n '1,120p'
2. Run sqlmap time-based test:

sqlmap -u "http://127.0.0.1:8080/target\_page.php?id=1" -p id --batch --risk=3 --level=5 --technique=T

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/sqli\_blind\_20250918\_144632/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/sqli_blind_20250918_144632)

**ID: V-003**

**Title:** Cross-Site Scripting (Reflected — GET / POST)  
**Severity:** High

**Description:**  
User input returned in responses without proper output encoding. Payloads in query/body can execute in victim browsers. Both GET and POST reflected XSS confirmed.  
**Impact:**

* Session theft, CSRF escalation, phishing, account takeover for logged-in users.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. Reflected (GET):

curl -s "http://127.0.0.1:8080/search.php?q=<script>alert(1)</script>" -b cookies.txt -D - | sed -n '1,120p'

1. Reflected (POST):

curl -s -X POST -b cookies.txt -d "comment=<script>alert(1)</script>" http://127.0.0.1:8080/comment.php -D -

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/xss\_get\_20250917\_034645/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/xss_get_20250917_034645)  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/xss\_reflected\_post\_20250918\_144632/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/xss_reflected_post_20250918_144632)

**ID:V-004**

**Title:** Cross-Site Scripting (Stored — Blog / Change Secret)  
**Severity:** High

**Description:**  
User content stored by the application is rendered later without sanitization (stored XSS). Payloads persist and execute in any visitor/admin context.

**Impact:**

* Persistent site-wide XSS, potential remote code execution in some contexts, user/session compromise.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. Submit payload to blog or change-secret endpoint:

curl -s -b cookies.txt -d "entry=<script>alert('xss')</script>" http://127.0.0.1:8080/blog.php -D -

1. Visit blog page and observe execution.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/xss\_stored\_20250918/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/xss_stored_20250918)  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/xss\_change\_secret\_20250918/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/xss_change_secret_20250918)

**ID: V-005**

**Title:** Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF — Change Secret)  
**Severity:** High

**Description:**  
State-changing form (change secret) lacks anti-CSRF token and can be triggered by third-party sites.  
**Impact:**

* Attackers can change user secrets/settings if victims visit a malicious page while authenticated.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. Create a simple HTML page that POSTs to /csrf\_3.php with login=bee and action=change and secret=attacker.
2. Host page and have victim visit it while logged in; observe secret changed.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/csrf\_change\_secret\_20250918/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/csrf_change_secret_20250918)

**ID:** **V-006**

**Title:** Unrestricted File Upload  
**Severity:** Critical

**Description:**  
File upload accepts arbitrary file types (text allowed) and the app links to uploaded file under webroot. Allows storing non-image content and potentially executable webshells.  
**Impact:**

* Remote code/shell upload if server executes uploaded files, stored XSS via uploaded HTML, data exfiltration.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. printf 'test' > /tmp/upload\_test.txt
2. curl -s -b cookies.txt -F "file=@/tmp/upload\_test.txt" -F "form=Upload" http://127.0.0.1:8080/unrestricted\_file\_upload.php -D -
3. Visit the returned /images/upload\_test.txt URL.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/unrestricted\_upload\_20250918/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/unrestricted_upload_20250918)

**ID: V-007**

**Title:** Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR / Insecure DOR — Change Secret)  
**Severity:** High

**Description:**  
Application uses direct identifiers (e.g., username/ID) in hidden fields without authorization checks, allowing one user to change another’s secret by supplying their login value.  
**Impact:**

* Unauthorized modification of other users’ data (privacy breach, account takeover).

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. Observe form contains <input type="hidden" name="login" value="bee">.
2. Replace login value with another user and submit; if change succeeds, IDOR confirmed.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/insecure\_dor\_change\_secret\_20250918/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/insecure_dor_change_secret_20250918)

**ID: V-008**

**Title:** Directory Traversal (/etc/passwd disclosure)  
**Severity:** Critical

**Description:**  
Application allows path traversal sequences to access files outside webroot (e.g., ../../../../etc/passwd). Note: captured evidence files were initially empty — re-capture recommended.  
**Impact:**

* Exposure of sensitive system files (passwords, configuration), which greatly aid attackers.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. curl -s -b cookies.txt --get --data-urlencode 'page=../../../../../../etc/passwd' "http://127.0.0.1:8080/" -D -
2. Check response body for /etc/passwd contents.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/dir\_traversal\_20250918\_153854/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/blob/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/dir_traversal_20250918_153854/dir_traversal_page.html)

**ID: V-009**

**Title:** Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)  
**Severity:** High

**Description:**  
Application makes server-side HTTP requests using attacker-controlled input (e.g., URL fetch) enabling internal network probing or access to metadata services.  
**Impact:**

* Internal service access, metadata/credential disclosure, pivot to internal network.

**Reproduction Steps:**

curl -s -b cookies.txt -G --data-urlencode "url=http://127.0.0.1:80/admin" "http://127.0.0.1:8080/ssrf.php" -D –

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/ssrf\_20250918\_144632/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/ssrf_20250918_144632)

**ID: V-010**

**Title:** Clickjacking (Missing X-Frame-Options / CSP frame-ancestors)  
**Severity:** Medium

**Description:**  
Responses lack anti-framing headers (X-Frame-Options or Content-Security-Policy: frame-ancestors), enabling UI redressing attacks (clickjacking).  
**Impact:**

* Trick users into performing actions in framed interfaces (e.g., change settings).

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. curl -I http://127.0.0.1:8080/ and observe no X-Frame-Options header.
2. Build a page with <iframe src="http://127.0.0.1:8080/..."> and verify embedding.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/clickjacking\_headers\_20250918\_144632/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/clickjacking_headers_20250918_144632)

**ID: V-011**

**Title:** Information Disclosure — Server / PHP Headers  
**Severity:** Medium

**Description:**  
HTTP responses reveal server software and PHP version via headers (e.g., Server: Apache/2.4.7, X-Powered-By: PHP/5.5.9), which leaks actionable version info for attackers.  
**Impact:**

* Attackers can look up targeted CVEs for those versions.

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. curl -I http://127.0.0.1:8080/
2. Observe Server and X-Powered-By headers in the response.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/info\_disclosure\_headers\_20250918/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/info_disclosure_headers_20250918)

**ID: V-012**

**Title:** Environment Exposure (Debug Info / Image / Container metadata)  
**Severity:** Low

**Description:**  
Extra environment data (docker inspect, image info, sha256sums) was captured in environment\_20250917\_034654/ showing metadata about the environment that isn't needed publicly. May include image fingerprints or container logs.  
**Impact:**

* Information may help fingerprint environment and find relevant exploits; low risk but should not be public.

**Reproduction Steps:**  
 List captured files:

ls -la proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/environment\_20250917\_034654/

cat proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/environment\_20250917\_034654/docker\_inspect.json

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/environment\_20250917\_034654/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/environment_20250917_034654)

**ID: V-013**

**Title:** Missing SSL/TLS Certificate & Weak HTTPS Configuration  
**Severity:** Medium

**Description:**  
The application on port 443 does not present a valid SSL/TLS certificate when probed. Our openssl s\_client output showed *“no peer certificate available”* and no valid cipher negotiation. This indicates that HTTPS is either misconfigured or entirely absent, leaving the service without encryption in transit.  
**Impact:**

* Users cannot securely connect via HTTPS.
* Risk of man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks, credential theft, and data exposure.
* Negative trust indicators in browsers (invalid certificate warnings).

**Reproduction Steps:**

1. Run openssl s\_client -connect 127.0.0.1:8080 </dev/null
2. Observe: *“no peer certificate available”*.
3. Nmap SSL scripts (ssl-cert, ssl-enum-ciphers) fail to retrieve certificate details.

**Evidence:**  
 [proofs/detected\_vulnerabilities/ssl\_tls\_misconfig\_20250919/](https://github.com/SAIBHAVYAE/itsecgames-vapt/tree/main/2_vulnerability_detection/proofs/detected_vulnerabilities/ssl_tls_cleartext_20250919)

**6.** **Risk Assessment**

**Risk Matrix**

| **Vuln ID** | **Vulnerability** | **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Risk Level** | **Business Impact** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **V-001** | SQL Injection (GET/Search) | High | Critical | Critical | Full database compromise; exposure of sensitive data |
| **V-002** | SQL Injection (Blind) | Medium | High | High | Data extraction possible with time; increased attacker persistence |
| **V-003** | XSS Reflected (GET/POST) | Medium | Medium | Medium | User session hijacking, phishing risk |
| **V-004** | XSS Stored (Blog/Change Secret) | High | High | Critical | Persistent session hijacking, privilege escalation |
| **V-005** | CSRF (Change Secret) | High | High | Critical | Unauthorized state change; attacker controls victim’s account settings |
| **V-006** | Unrestricted File Upload | High | Critical | Critical | Remote code execution possible; server takeover |
| **V-007** | Insecure Direct Object Reference (Change Secret) | Medium | High | High | Unauthorized access to sensitive objects; data manipulation |
| **V-008** | Directory Traversal (/etc/passwd) | Medium | High | High | Disclosure of system files; aid in privilege escalation |
| **V-009** | Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF) | Medium | High | High | Pivot to internal network; possible metadata/API key exposure |
| **V-010** | Clickjacking | Medium | Medium | Medium | Trick users into malicious actions; reputational/legal risk |
| **V-011** | Information Disclosure – Headers | Low | Medium | Low | Reveals stack versions (Apache, PHP); aids attacker reconnaissance |
| **V-012** | Environment Exposure (Debug Info) | Low | Medium | Low | Leakage of configuration/debug details; increases attacker knowledge |
| **V-013** | Missing TLS/SSL Encryption (Cleartext HTTP) | Critical | Critical | Critical | Cleartext HTTP → MITM, credential theft. |

**7.** **Recommendations**

| **Priority** | **Vuln ID** | **Vulnerability** | **Recommendation** | **Effort** | **Timeline** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Critical | V-004 | Outdated Apache Version | Upgrade Apache to 2.4.62+ (latest stable). Apply vendor patches regularly. | High | 2 weeks | SysAdmin |
| Critical | V-005 | Accessible install.php | Remove or restrict /install.php. Use file permissions or delete after installation. | Low | 1 week | DevOps |
| Critical | V-010 | Unrestricted File Upload | Enforce MIME/extension whitelisting, scan uploads, store outside web root. | Medium | 2 weeks | DevOps |
| Critical | V-013 | Missing TLS/SSL (Cleartext HTTP) | Enable HTTPS, configure TLS 1.2+/1.3, enforce secure cookies, redirect HTTP→HTTPS. | Medium | 2 weeks | SysAdmin |
| High | V-002 | Missing Security Headers | Add headers: X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN, X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff, Content-Security-Policy: default-src 'self'. | Low | 1 week | DevOps |
| High | V-001 | Open SSH Port | Enable fail2ban, restrict SSH to trusted IPs, enforce key-based auth, disable root login. | Medium | 2 weeks | SysAdmin |
| High | V-006 | SQL Injection (GET/POST) | Use parameterized queries (prepared statements), sanitize inputs, enforce least privilege DB user. | High | 3 weeks | Dev + DBA |
| High | V-007 | Cross-Site Scripting (Reflected/Stored) | Apply output encoding, validate input server-side, use Content Security Policy. | Medium | 2 weeks | Dev |
| Medium | V-003 | Exposed Directory (/downloads/) | Restrict directory browsing, move sensitive files out of web root, apply access controls. | Low | 1 week | DevOps |
| Medium | V-008 | CSRF (Change Secret / Change Password) | Use anti-CSRF tokens, enforce SameSite cookies, validate referrers. | Medium | 2 weeks | Dev |
| Medium | V-011 | Directory Traversal | Sanitize user input (../ filtering), use allowlist for file access, run app with least privilege. | Medium | 2 weeks | Dev |
| Low | V-009 | Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) | Add proper authorization checks before accessing objects. Use indirect references (mapping IDs). | Low | 2 weeks | Dev |
| Low | V-012 | Information Disclosure (Headers/PHP) | Disable server signature and X-Powered-By in Apache/PHP. Configure ServerTokens Prod. | Low | 1 week | SysAdmin |

**General:** Schedule quarterly scans, automate with OWASP ZAP, train staff on secure config.

**8.** **Conclusion**

The reconnaissance and vulnerability detection phases identified **13 confirmed vulnerabilities** in the bWAPP lab, including **4 critical risks** (SQL Injection, Stored XSS/CSRF, Unrestricted File Upload, and Directory Traversal). These findings highlight significant weaknesses in input validation, access control, and server configuration, which could lead to **database compromise, remote code execution, or persistent account hijacking** if exploited.

**Immediate remediation** of critical and high-severity issues is strongly recommended to reduce the attack surface and mitigate exploitation risk.

**Next Steps:**

* Address critical vulnerabilities within 1–2 weeks.
* Re-test after remediation to validate fixes.
* Proceed into the **exploitation and post-exploitation phase by October 1, 2025** to further validate security controls under real-world attack scenarios.

**9.** **Appendices**

**A: Glossary**

* **CVSS:** Scoring system for vulnerabilities
* **bWAPP:** Buggy Web App for training
* **Nmap:** Network Mapper, used for port scanning/service discovery.
* **Nikto:** Web server vulnerability scanner.
* **Gobuster:** Directory/file brute-forcing tool.
* **Burp Suite:** Proxy/interceptor for manual testing (we used it lightly for CSRF/XSS POC).
* **CSRF/XSS/SQLi:** expand acronyms at least once in glossary for clarity.

**B: References**

* OWASP Testing Guide v4 – Industry standard methodology for web application security testing.
* NIST SP 800-115 – Technical Guide to Information Security Testing and Assessment.
* CVE Details (<https://cve.mitre.org/>) – Reference database for Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures.
* OWASP Top Ten 2021 – Most critical web application security risks.
* Penetration Testing Execution Standard (PTES) – Reconnaissance and vulnerability assessment phases used for alignment.