



# Session Hijacking

Session 3



# Overview

1. Review of XSS
2. XSS Demo
3. Quiz time! (cookies to be awarded)
4. What is a session?
5. HTTP and State Management
6. Basic principles of Session Hijacking
7. Quiz time again! (more cookies to be awarded)
8. Defending



# XSS Review

- XSS: cross-site scripting
- Using XSS to obtain client cookies
  - Reflective XSS
  - Persistent XSS



# What's **cross-site scripting** again?

- Injecting arbitrary JavaScript code into web applications
- It's generally done to web pages viewable by all users, but theoretically it can be targeted at specific users
  - Example: a website has a Private Message feature that suffers from XSS
- It's called cross-site because scripts not authored by the website are treated by the browser **as if** it is



# What's **Reflective XSS**?

- The malicious JavaScript code is sent through an HTTP request to the server
- The server puts the original code directly in the web page
- The browser thinks the code is part of the original page and executes it
- ???
- **Profit**



# What's **Persistent XSS**?

- The malicious JavaScript code is sent through an HTTP request to the server
- The server puts the original code directly in the **database**
- Upon request, the server loads the original code from the database and puts it directly in the web page
- The browser thinks the code is part of the original page and executes it
- ???
- **Profit**



# Reflective vs Persistent XSS

- In reflective XSS, since the malicious code is specific to a request (usually embedded in the URL), it's less powerful:
  - Users can inspect the URL to find the malicious code
  - Browsers can inspect the URL to **automatically block** reflective XSS
- Neither users nor browsers can tell persistent XSS from genuine code



# Demo Recap: DVWA





Go to **kahoot.it** for a review



# What is a **Session ID**?



**When you go to [facebook.com](https://facebook.com), how  
does Facebook know it's you?**





# HTTP and State Management



# HTTP is stateless

- A HTTP request is followed up with an HTTP response
- You don't, by default, know whether a HTTP request is sent by the same person
  - Simplifies server programming!



# Persistent State Over HTTP

- Uses valid tokens to identify who requesters are
- Server
  - Receives a token (unique identifier)
  - Pull session data from its database or a cache layer
  - (alternatively) the token IS the session data, encrypted



# Session Persistence in Cookies

- Cookies are **persisted** by the browser on each request
- Session IDs are stored in cookies, so they are persisted
- Cookies can be stolen in XSS
- One active session per browser





# Session tracking - cookies

## First Response



client A



### Http Response

HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
Location: <http://www.abod.com/login>  
**Set-Cookie: JSESSIONID=09AZ1**  
Domain=.abod.com;path=/;HttpOnly  
.....



Container



## Subsequent Requests



client A



### Http Request

POST/login.do HTTP/1.1  
Host: [www.abod.com](http://www.abod.com)  
**Cookie: JSESSIONID=09AZ1**  
.....



Container

# Cookies are everywhere

(websites are tracking you!)



**After you log in to CCLE, how does CCLE continue to know it's you?**



×

CCLE

?

Find a site

Search...

Q

Type: ☒ Collab ☒ Course

Search: ☒ Title ☒ Description

Browse by

Subject area

Division

Instructor

Collaboration sites

ccle.ucla.edu/my/

My sites

×

36

Q Search

All Storage Application Cache

Cookies — ccle.ucla.edu

Local Storage — ccle.ucla.edu

Session Storage — ccle.ucla.edu

Name	Value	D...	P...	E...	S...	...	S...	S...
CC_MID	60...	...	/	S...	5...			
MoodleSession	9ccja...	c...	/	S...	3...		✓	
iwe_term_student_urn%3Ama...	181	...	/	S...	9...			
iwe_term_enrollment_urn%3...	19W	...	/	S...	9...			
_shibsession_64656661756c...	_bc0...	c...	/	S...	1...	✓	✓	
_gid	GA1...	...	/	1...	3...			
_gat	1	...	/	1...	5 B			
_ga	GA1...	...	/	1...	2...			
_utma	1255...	...	/	1...	6...			
_unam	6f39...	...	/	1...	3...			

Filter

All Errors Warnings Logs

Console opened at 2:52:25 PM



# What is **Session Hijacking**?



**tl;dr: Log in as  
someone else, after  
stealing their  
cookies/session ID**



# Demo: CCLE

```
document.cookie.split('; ').filter(t => t.startsWith('MoodleSession='))[0]
```



# Websites can protect their own cookies from being stolen

- Just like XSS is caused by sloppy coding, cookies that can be stolen is caused by sloppy coding
- Websites (like CCLE) can prevent cookies from being stolen in this way:
  - Set-Cookie: *<cookie-name>=<cookie-value>; HttpOnly*





Go to **kahoot.it** for a quiz



**Cookies may be inadvertently  
revealed in error logs**



## Error Log for ROOT on RD00155D44E191

RSS FEED | RSS DIGEST | DOWNLOAD LOG | HELP | ABOUT

Errors 1 to 15 of total 15 (page 1 of 1). Start with [10](#), [15](#), [20](#), [25](#), [30](#), [50](#) or [100](#) errors per page.

Host	Code	Type	Error	User	Date	Time
RD00155D44E191	0	Sql	Unclosed quotation mark after the character string ". <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:38 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid DateTime. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid DateTime. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid DateTime. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid DateTime. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid DateTime. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM
RD00155D44E191	0	Format	String was not recognized as a valid Boolean. <a href="#">Details...</a>		11/27/2017	11:17 PM

Powered by [ELMAH](#), version 1.2.14706.955. Copyright (c) 2004, Atif Aziz. All rights reserved. Licensed under [Apache License, Version 2.0](#). Server date is Tuesday, 28 November 2017. Server time is 00:34:47. All dates and times displayed are in the Coordinated Universal Time zone. This log is provided by the In-Memory Error Log.

CERT_KEYSIZE	
CERT_SECRETKEYSIZE	
CERT_SERIALNUMBER	
CERT_SERVER_ISSUER	
CERT_SERVER_SUBJECT	
CERT_SUBJECT	
CONTENT_LENGTH	0
CONTENT_TYPE	
GATEWAY_INTERFACE	CGI/1.1
HTTP_ACCEPT	text/html, application/xhtml+xml, */*
HTTP_ACCEPT_ENCODING	gzip, deflate, peerdist
HTTP_ACCEPT_LANGUAGE	en-US
HTTP_CONNECTION	Keep-Alive
HTTP_COOKIE	ASP.NET_SessionId=3qxnhhkjdkfrkw3Jey0q1fhs; VisitStart=11/27/2017 11:38:12 PM; ARRAffinity=d756a894d1ec0af96afc15fd205e14a4fbfd70ccc0abc087f24f08f3cff44916; _ga=GA1.2.1560452873.1511822226; _gid=GA1.2.869614182.1511822226; _gat=1
HTTP_DISGUISED_HOST	hackyourselffirst.troyhunt.com
HTTP_HOST	hackyourselffirst.troyhunt.com
HTTP_MAX_FORWARDS	10
HTTP_USER_AGENT	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko
HTTP_WAS_DEFAULT_HOSTNAME	hackyourselffirst.azurewebsites.net
HTTP_X_ARR_LOG_ID	c35e50a1-5d42-4ade-97f0-dad7080fbbc0
HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR	204.11.5.125:14066
HTTP_X_ORIGINAL_URL	/CarsByCylinders?Cylinders=V8'%20or%201=1
HTTP_X_P2P_PEERDIST	Version=1.0
HTTP_X_SITE_DEPLOYMENT_ID	hackyourselffirst
HTTP_X_WAWS_UNENCODED_URL	/CarsByCylinders?Cylinders=V8'%20or%201=1
HTTPS	off
HTTPS_KEYSIZE	
HTTPS_SECRETKEYSIZE	
HTTPS_SERVER_ISSUER	



# Browser consoles



Blizzard-Overwatch - Go...Introduction to Session - Su...Home PageSupercar Showdown - Su...

hackyourselffirst.troyhunt.com

Responsive1280 x 77675%Online

Supercar ShowdownLeaderboardRegisterLog inSearch


# Nissan best car ever

The supercar of the PlayStation generation, Nissan's "Godzilla" is one of the most technically advanced supercars of its era and one of the quickest yet around the Nürburgring.


[View the best car ever](#)

Top manufacturers


Who's the best of the best



Nissan: 5 votes



McLaren: 4 votes



Pagani: 3 votes

Application

Manifest

Service Worker

Clear storage

Storage

Local Storage

Session Storage

IndexedDB

Web SQL

Cookies

http://hackyourselffirst.troyhunt.com

Cache

Cache Storage

Application Cache

Frames

top

Name	Value	D...	P...	E...	Si...	H...	S...
ASP.NET_SessionId	c0mqhj5jymzw12p5p...	h...	/	S...	41	✓	
__ga	GA1.2.789145101.15...	.t...	/	2...	29		
__gat	1	.t...	/	2...	5		
__gid	GA1.2.1413550564.1...	.t...	/	2...	31		

# DEMO



# Steps

- Go to <https://affiliable-forts.000webhostapp.com>
- Register an account and log in
- Notice your username on the upper left side of the screen
- Insert an entry into the student database
- Wait for instructions

/





# CSRF



# What is **Cross Site Request Forgery** ?

- Cookies are persisted on each request
- Session IDs can be persistent once the site is left or the browser is closed
- Cookies are vulnerable to XSS  
(`console.log(document.cookie)`)
- One active session per browser

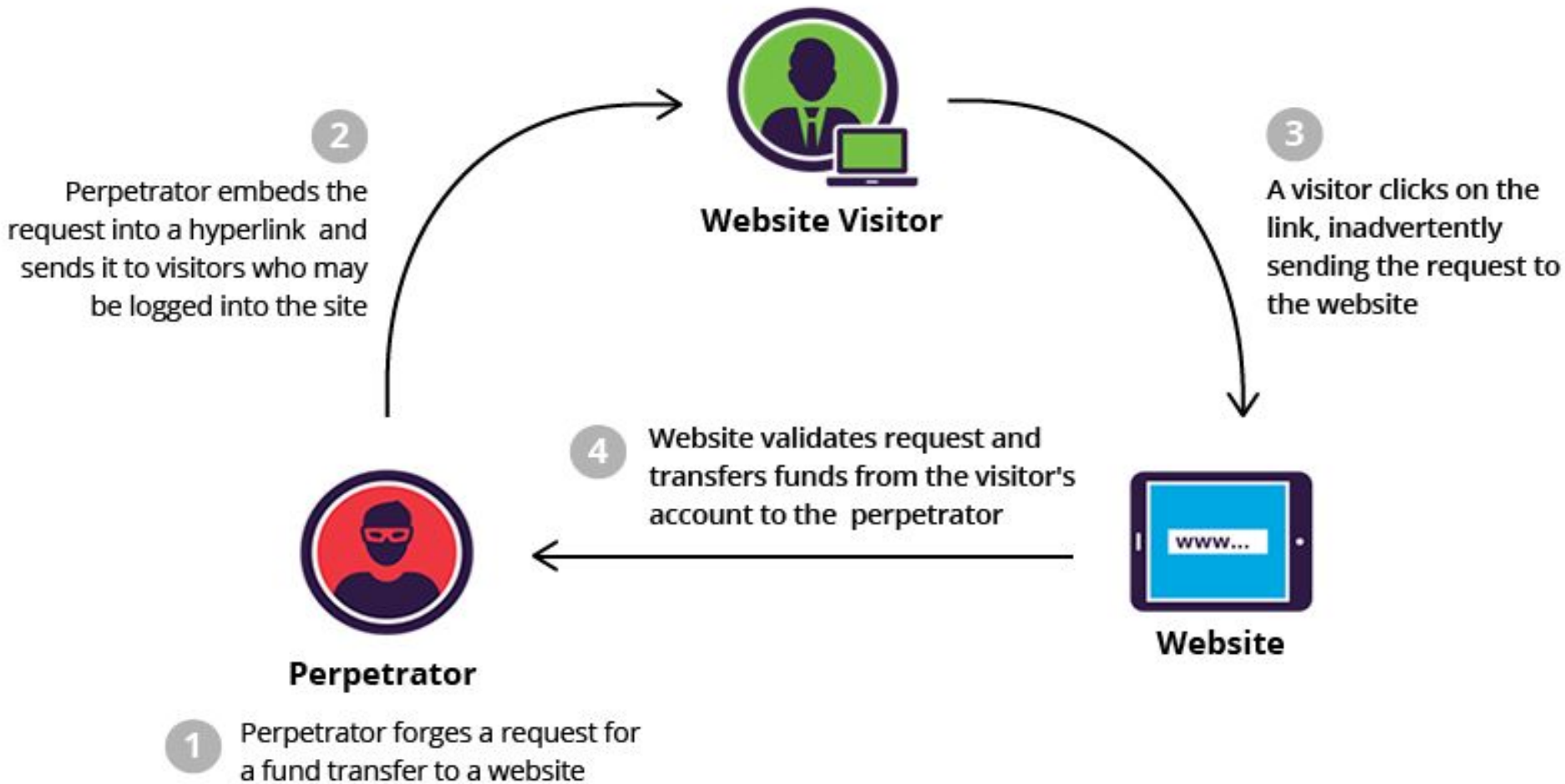


Hooray we've logged in! We're safe... right?

Attacker forces an end user to execute unwanted actions on a web application in which they're currently authenticated

Target state changing requests





GET http://bank.com/transfer.do?acct=BOB&amount=100 HTTP/1.1

http://bank.com/transfer.do?acct=MARIA&amount=100000

<a href="http://bank.com/transfer.do?acct=MARIA&amount=100000">

View my Pictures!

</a>

What would be an even smarter way to run the exploit without the target realizing?



# Defending Against CSRF



**Check Origin and Referer Headers**

**Anti-CSRF Tokens**

**Re-Auth, OTPs, and Captcha**

**Same Site Cookies**



# Interactive XSS Game





# Thank you!

[tinyurl.com/ydbf929w](https://tinyurl.com/ydbf929w)

