

# Front-end Security

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- Engineer (MSc in Civil Engineering), hiker, biker, snowboarder...
- Currently automation QA at NewsUK (The Sun, The Times, The Sunday Times)
- QA should include Security Testing (personal opinion)



#### Contents

- Evolution of client-side applications
- Common security misconceptions
- Overview of common vulnerabilities
  - What is it?
  - O A quick demo.
  - What is the impact?
  - O How to prevent?
  - o How to test?
  - o + more.

# Evolution of client-side applications

- Static page stage
  - Back-end MVC model
- AJAX stage
  - 2004 Gmail, GMaps
- Front-end MVC stage
  - 2010 Backbone.js (first front-end MVC)
- SPA stage
  - Now React, Angular, Vue





# Common security misconceptions

- Myth: The app is secure when we validate input on the client-side.
- Fact: Client-side input validation does nothing. Output sanitization on the other hand will.



# Common security misconceptions

• Myth: Client-side vulnerabilities do not pose a threat.

• Fact: Client-side vulnerabilities may sometimes have disastrous effects.



Every XSS is an account takeover.

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# Common security misconceptions

 Myth: We have modern frameworks and modern browsers, so client-side vulnerabilities are dead...

• Fact: They are only dead if the target 1) knows about security measures and 2) implements them correctly

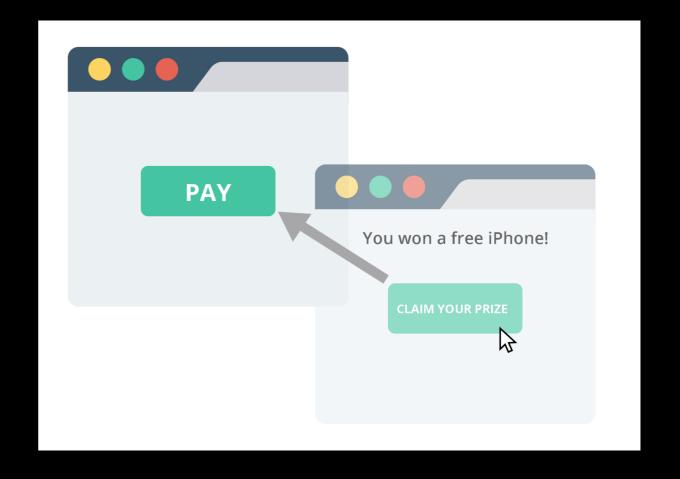


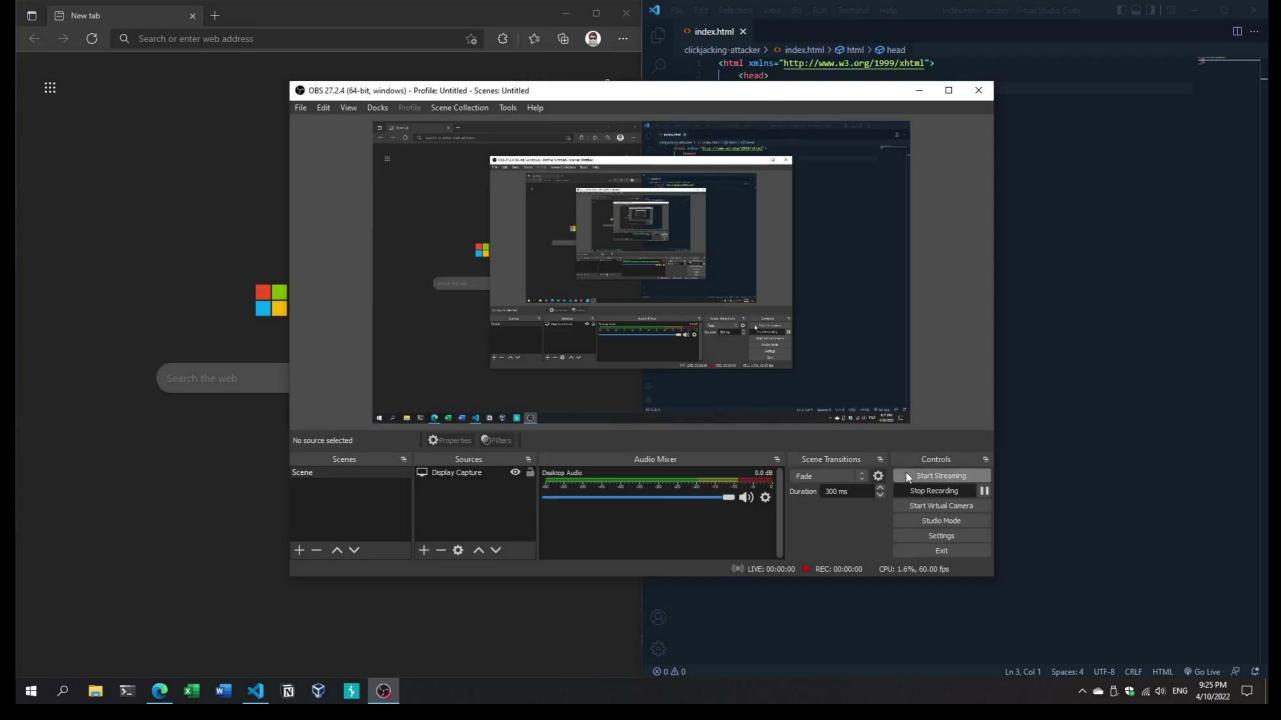
## Overview of common vulnerabilities

- Clickjacking
- Cross-site Scripting (XSS)
- O Cross-site Leaks (XSL)

# Clickjacking

- What is clickjacking?
  - Tricks a user into clicking something.
- How does it work?
  - Frames a vulnerable web pages and overlays fake CSS over it.





# Impact of Clickjacking

- Forces the user to make dangerous requests
  - Payments
  - Account deletion
  - o etc.

# Prevent Clickjacking Attacks

- Client-side defenses (for example Framekiller JS)
- X-Frame-Options header
- Content Security Policy (CSP)

```
<script type="text/javascript">
  if (top != self) top.location.replace(location);
</script>
```

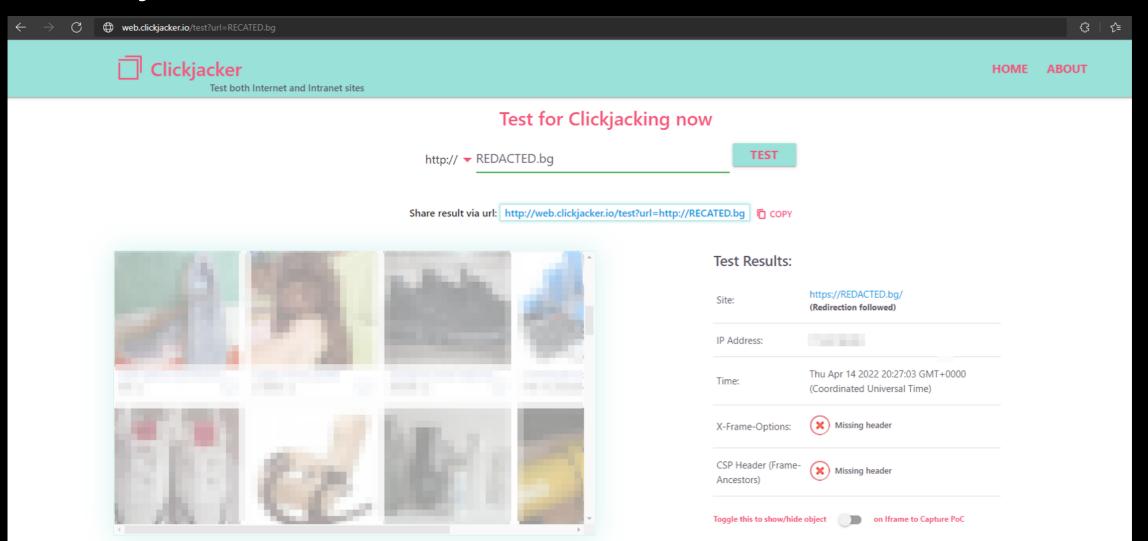
X-Frame-Options: OENY

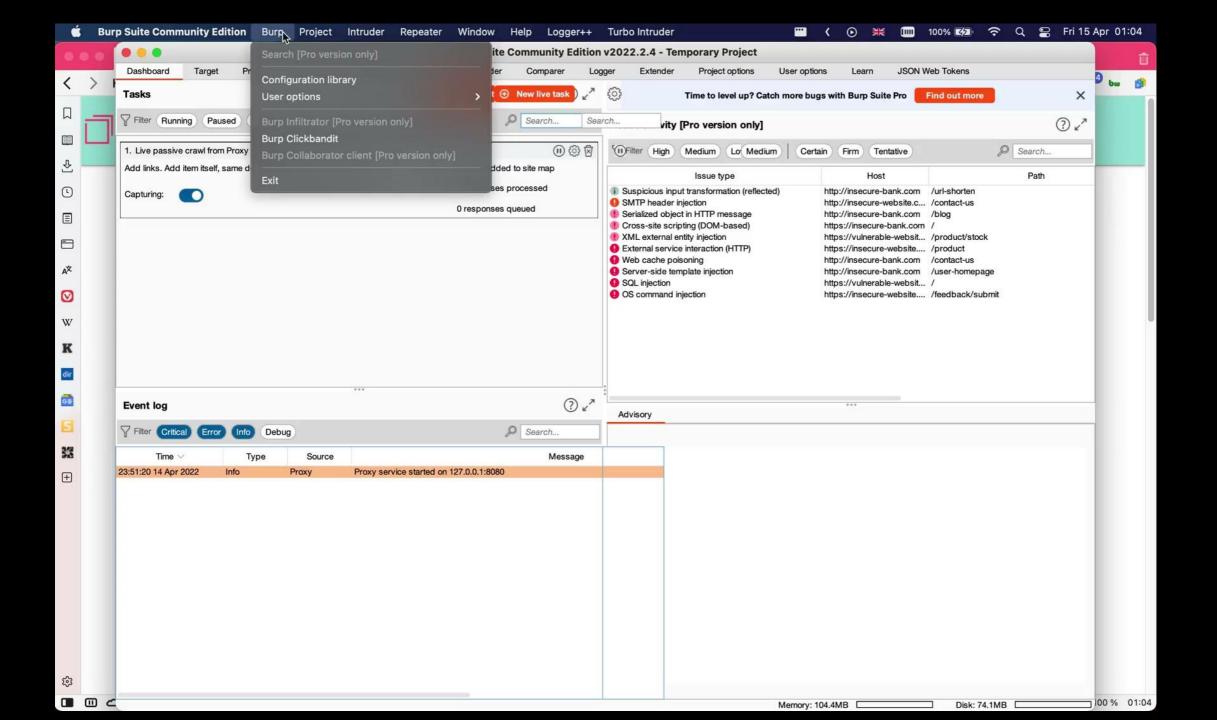
CSP Header frame-ancestors 'self' (Frame-Ancestors) https://REDACTED.com

#### How to test?

- Manual testing clickjacker.io, online.attacker-site.com
- Burp Suite -> Burp Clickbandit (PoC with Record mode & Review mode)
- OWASP ZAP (cmd, daemon/headless, jenkins integration, github actions)

#### web.clickjacker.io

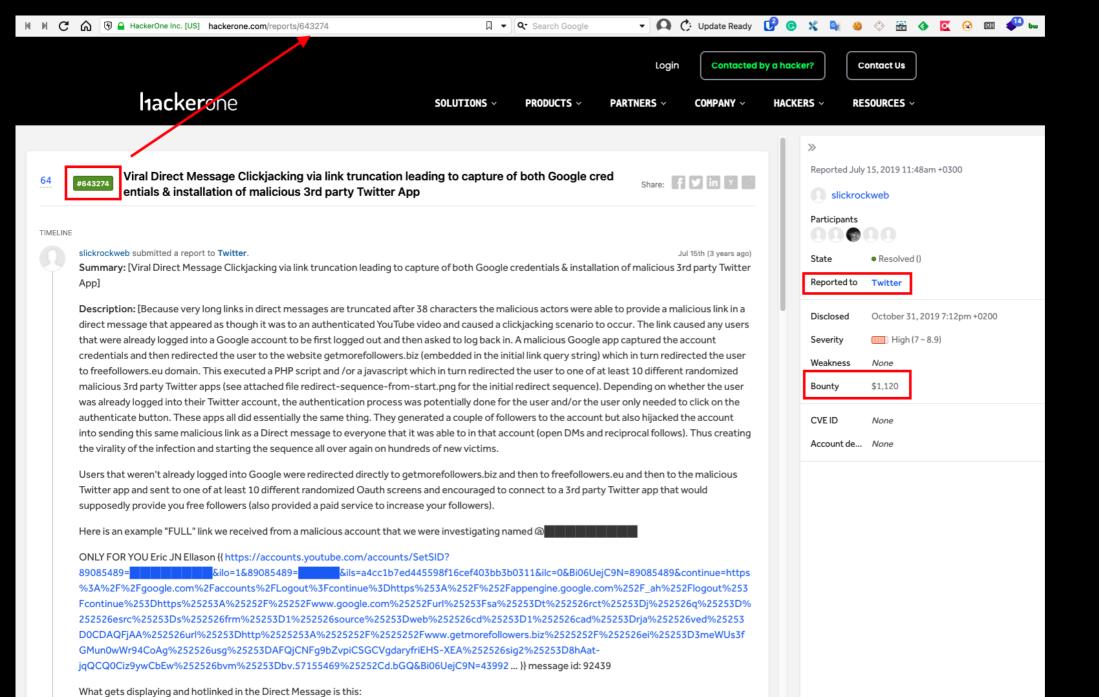




### **Program Statistics**

#### Clickjacking most commonly disclosed on:

- **Legalrobot** 8 reports Clickjacking: X-Frame-Options header missing (#163646)
- **Yelp** 8 reports CLICKJACKING at Yelp Reservations Resulting in exposure of victim Email info + Victim Credit Card (#163646)
- Yahoo 7 reports Bypass of the Clickjacking protection on Flickr using data URL in iframes \$250 (#7264)
- Mailru 7 reports Clickjacking on o2.mail.ru \$150 (#8724)
- Twitter 7 reports Viral Direct Message Clickjacking via link truncation lead to capture Google credentials \$1,120 (#643274)
- Wordpress 7 reports Account takeover vulnerability by editor role privileged users/attackers via clickjacking (#388254)
- Automattic 4 reports Exploiting clickjacking vulnerability to trigger self DOM-based XSS \$150 (#953579)
- **Coinbase** 3 reports OAuth authorization page vulnerable to clickjacking \$5,000 (#65825)
- **Gratipay** 3 reports Bypassing X-frame options (#283951)
- **Gitlab** 3 reports Gitlab.com is vulnerable to reverse tabnabbing via AsciiDoc links (#213114)



# Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

- What is cross-site scripting?
  - Javascript code injection
- How does it happen?
  - Dangerous functions
  - DOM reflection



#### **Historic Overview**

0A.X. = 1999 A.D.

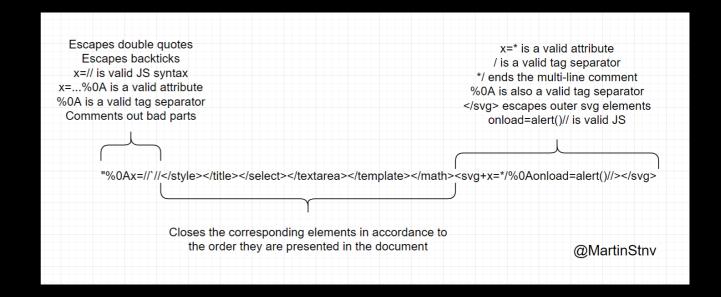
23 years later, the XSS is still here

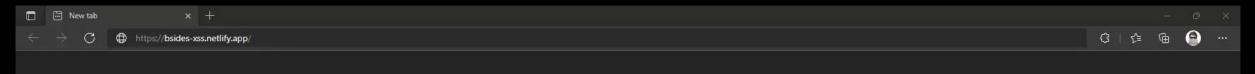
Microsoft coined the term XSS after having a lot of alternatives

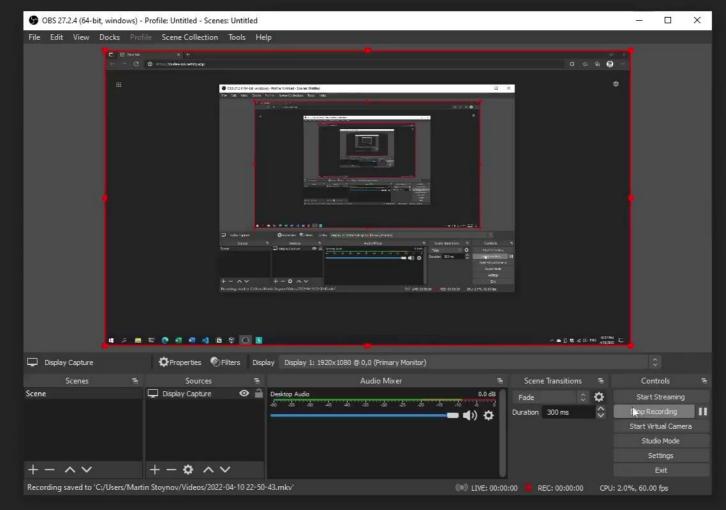
- some particular, some quite absurd, and one fitting in place.
- Unauthorized Site Scripting
- Unofficial Site Scripting
- URL Parameter Script Insertion
- Cross-Site Scripting (CSS != XSS)
- Synthesized Scripting
- Fraudulent Scripting

# Types of XSS

- Persistence-based
  - O Stored XSS (Persistent)
  - O Reflected XSS (Non-Persistent)
- Context-based
  - DOM XSS
  - mXSS (Mutation XSS)
  - Polyglot







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# Impact of XSS

- PII leakage
- Request forgery
- Credential theft
- Account takeover

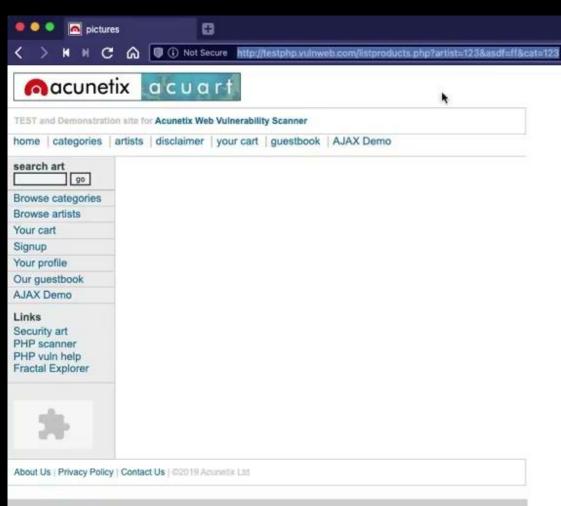
Basically XSS is the same as somebody who has logged in your account without permission.

#### Prevent XSS attacks

- Avoid using known dangerous function
- ALWAYS filter user input & UI output
- Use built-in security policies & mechanisms
  - Content Security Policy (CSP)

#### How to test for XSS?

- Dalfox <a href="https://github.com/hahwul/dalfox">https://github.com/hahwul/dalfox</a> (1,7k)
- XSStrike <a href="https://github.com/s0md3v/XSStrike">https://github.com/s0md3v/XSStrike</a> (10,2k)
- XSSHunter <a href="https://xsshunter.com">https://xsshunter.com</a> (blind XSS)



V 0 6 2 9

☐ ▼ Q\* Search DuckDuckGo

Warning: This is not a real shop. This is an example PHP application, which is intentionally vulnerable to web attacks. It is intended to help you test Acunetix. It also helps you understand how developer errors and bad configuration may let someone break into your website. You can use it to test other tools and your manual hacking skills as well. Tip: Look for potential SQL Injections, Cross-site Scripting (XSS), and Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF), and more.

### Program Statistics - Generic: 881; Stored: 359; Reflected: 277, DOM: 106;

#### XSS most commonly disclosed on:

- Mail.ru 71 reports Home page reflected XSS \$250 (#9318)
- **Shopify** 50 reports XSS in experts.shopify.com **\$500** (#57459)
- **DoD** 42 reports XSS vulnerability on an Army website (#187881)
- Mail.ru 63 reports Stored XSS in e.mail.ru (payload affect multiple users) \$750 (#217007)
- GitLab 24 reports Stored XSS on Files overview by abusing git submodule URL (#218872)
- NewRelic 23 reports Stored XSS in Brower `name` field reflected in two pages \$3000 (#348076)
- Mail.ru 54 reports Reflected XSS on frag.mail.ru (#214642)
- DoD 32 reports Reflected XSS in a DoD Website (#217108)
- Mail.ru 17 reports XSS in biz.mail.ru/error \$500 (#268245)
- Rockstar Games 10 reports dom based xss in <a href="http://www.rockstargames.com/GTAOnline/">http://www.rockstargames.com/GTAOnline/</a> \$500 (#261571)

A personal research on XSS over the course of 2021 has shown that over 10% of bulgarian websites are vulnerable.

I have personally tested over 1000 bulgarian websites in which I have found 100+ valid XSS vulnerabilities.

These vulnerabilities have all been responsibly disclosed.

# Cross-site Leaks (XSL)

- Takes advantage of small pieces of information.
- This information is exposed from cross-site communication.
- The pieces of information usually have a binary form and are referred to as "oracles".
- Oracles generally answer with YES or NO to cleverly prepared questions in a way that is visible to an attacker.

# Example

Oracles generally answer with YES or NO to cleverly prepared questions in a way that is visible to an attacker.

- Does the word secret appear in the user's search results in another web application?
- Does the query ?query=secret return an HTTP 200 status code?
- Does loading a resource from ?query=secret in the application trigger the onload event?

The above query could be repeated by an attacker for many different keywords, and as a result the answers could be used to infer sensitive information about the user's data.

Browsers provide a wide range of different APIs that, while well-intended, can end up leaking small amounts of cross-origin information.

#### XSL Resources

- xsleaks.dev wiki
- xsinator.com browser test suite
- "Massive XS-Search over multiple Google products" terjanq.medium.com

