

CS 370: INTRODUCTION TO SECURITY

05.18: ADVANCED WEB SECURITY III

Tu/Th 4:00 – 5:50 PM

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TOPICS FOR TODAY

- Advanced web security
 - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)
 - Cookies
 - Session
 - CSRF attacks
 - Defenses (and their potential weaknesses)
 - UI attacks
 - Clickjacking
 - Phishing
 - 2FA (and their potential weaknesses)

SECURITY RISKS ON THE INTERNET

- Risk III

Rank	ID	Name	Score	KEV Count (CVEs)	Rank Change vs. 2021
1	CWE-78	Out-of-bounds Write	64.20	62	0
2	CWE-79	Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')	45.97	2	0
3	CWE-89	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')	22.11	7	+3 ▲
4	CWE-20	Improper Input Validation	20.63	20	0
5	CWE-125	Out-of-bounds Read	17.67	1	-2 ▼
6	CWE-78	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')	17.53	32	-1 ▼
7	CWE-416	Use After Free	15.50	28	0
8	CWE-22	Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory ('Path Traversal')	14.08	19	0
9	CWE-352	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)	11.53	1	0
10	CWE-434	Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type	9.56	6	0
11	CWE-476	NULL Pointer Dereference	7.15	0	+4 ▲
12	CWE-502	Deserialization of Untrusted Data	6.68	7	+1 ▲
13	CWE-190	Integer Overflow or Wraparound	6.53	2	-1 ▼
14	CWE-282	Improper Authentication	6.35	4	0
15	CWE-798	Use of Hard-coded Credentials	5.66	0	+1 ▲
16	CWE-862	Missing Authorization	5.53	1	+2 ▲
17	CWE-77	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in a Command ('Command Injection')	5.42	5	+8 ▲
18	CWE-306	Missing Authentication for Critical Function	5.15	6	-7 ▼
19	CWE-119	Improper Restriction of Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer	4.85	6	-2 ▼
20	CWE-276	Incorrect Default Permissions	4.84	0	-1 ▼
21	CWE-918	Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)	4.27	8	+3 ▲
22	CWE-362	Concurrent Execution using Shared Resource with Improper Synchronization ('Race Condition')	3.57	6	+11 ▲
23	CWE-400	Uncontrolled Resource Consumption	3.56	2	+4 ▲
24	CWE-611	Improper Restriction of XML External Entity Reference	3.38	0	-1 ▼
25	CWE-94	Improper Control of Generation of Code ('Code Injection')	3.32	4	+3 ▲

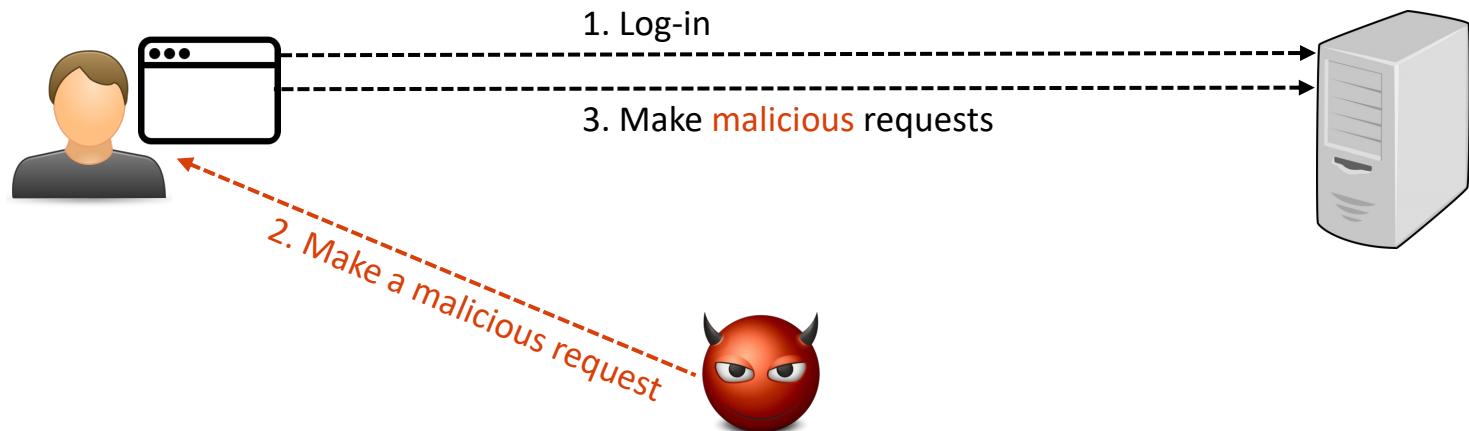
¹https://cwe.mitre.org/top25/archive/2022/2022_cwe_top25.html

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
 - Make legitimate users to send malicious requests to the server
 - The attacker impersonates a legitimate user
 - The user's browser will automatically attach (malicious) cookies
(It exploits the cookie-based authentication mechanism)

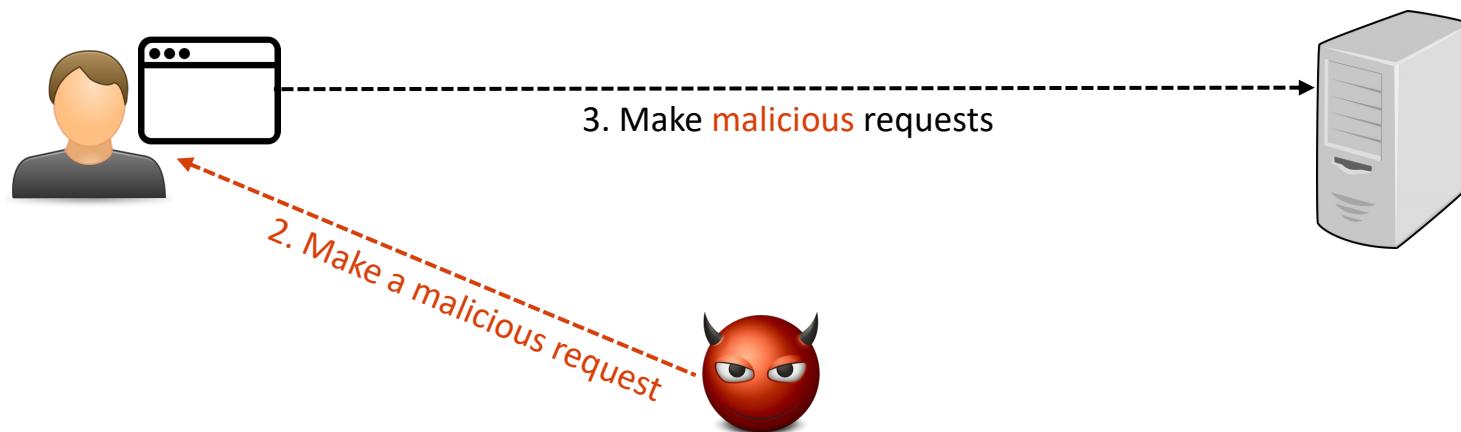
CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
 - Attack Illustration
 - A user authenticates to the server
 - The attacker tricks the user into making a malicious request
 - The server accepts the malicious request from the legitimate user
 - The server is **the target!**



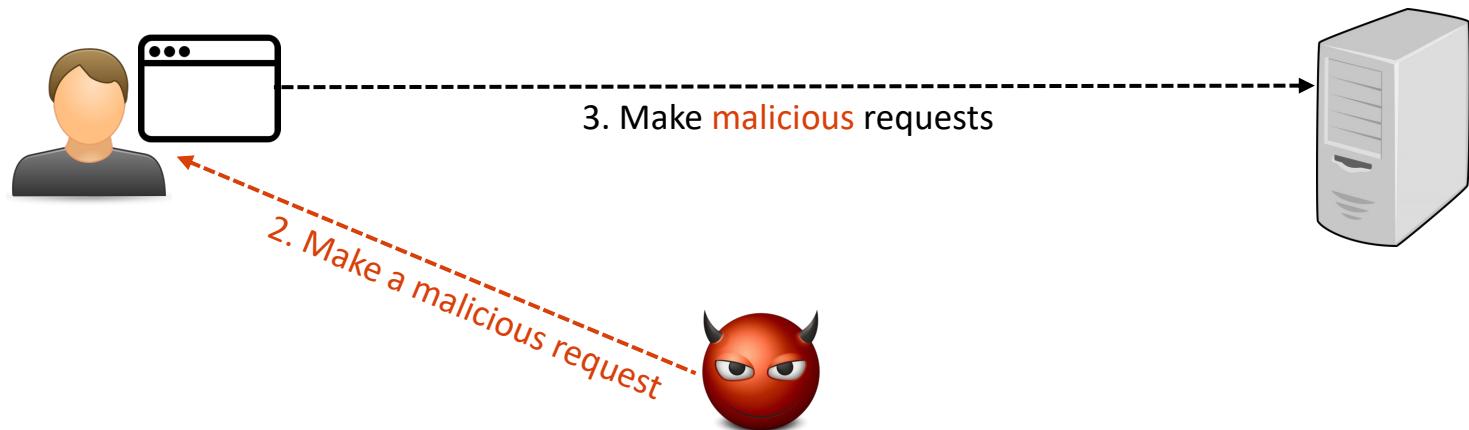
CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
 - How can an adversary trick the user?
 - GET request:
 - Make the user into clicking a link (SMS, Spam, ...)
 - `https://bank.com/transfer?amount=10000&to=Mallony`
 - Put some html on a website the victim will visit (1x1 pixel image with a request)
 - ``



CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
 - How can an adversary trick the user?
 - Post request:
 - Make the user into clicking a link (run JavaScript on the website a user opens)
 - ex. The link opens an attacker's website, and it runs some JavaScript code
 - Put some JavaScript on a website the user will visit
 - ex. The attacker pays for an ad. and put JavaScript code there



CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF != Reflected XSS
 - Reflected XSS: Make the user (victim) run malicious scripts
 - CSRF : Make the server run malicious scripts

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Real-world examples ([Facebook](#), [YouTube](#))

Facebook SMS Captcha Was Vulnerable to CSRF Attack



Lokesh Kumar · [Follow](#)

2 min read · Oct 17, 2022



498



3



This post is about an bug that I found on Meta (aka Facebook) which allows to make any Endpoint as POST request in SMS Captcha flow which leads to CSRF attack.

After reporting [Contact Point Deanonymization Bug](#) I started to find any way to bypass it in Account recover flow, but when sending multiple OTP code request I got hit with SMS captcha flow.

Vulnerable Endpoint:

```
https://m.facebook.com/sms/captcha/?next=/path
```

when digging deeper in captcha page I found that `next=` parameter is vulnerable to CSRF attack. because the Endpoint doesn't have any CSRF

CNET

Your guide to a better future

News > Privacy

Researchers find security holes in NYT, YouTube, ING, MetaFilter sites

Attackers could have used vulnerabilities on several Web sites to compromise people's accounts, allowing them to steal money, harvest e-mail addresses, or pose as others online.



Elinor Mills

Oct. 2, 2008 2:31 p.m. PT

2 min read

Updated at 1:30 p.m. PDT with the New York Times saying they fixed the hole.

A new report from researchers at Princeton University reveals serious Web site security holes that could have been exploited to steal ING customers' money and compromise user privacy on YouTube, *The New York Times*' Web site, and MetaFilter.

The sites have all fixed the holes after being notified by the report's (PDF) researchers, William Zeller and renowned security and privacy researcher and Princeton computer science professor Edward Felten.

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

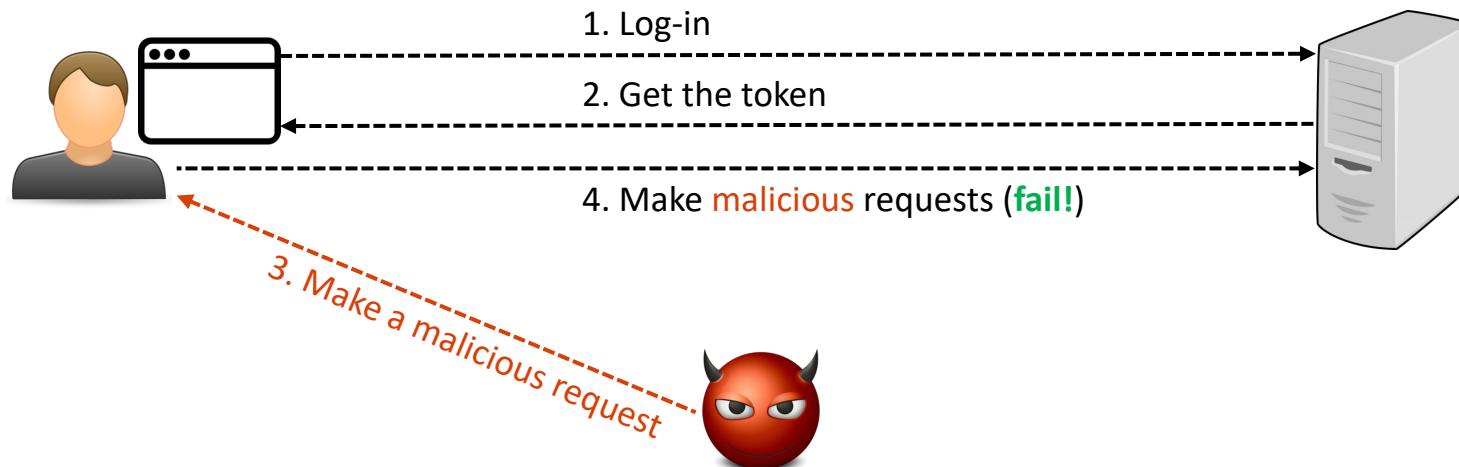
- Defenses
 - CSRF tokens
 - Referer validation
 - Same-site cookie attribute

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Defenses
 - CSRF tokens
 - A **secret value** that the server provides to the user
 - The user must include the same value in the request for the server
 - Note
 - The token **should not be sent** to the server **in a cookie**
 - The token **must be sent somewhere else** and stored to a **separate** storage
 - The token shouldn't be like a session token (it should expire after 1-2 requests)
 - Example:
 - HTML forms: vulnerable to CSRF (the attacker can do a POST request with their forms)
 - If a user requests from a form, the server attaches a CSRF token as a *hidden form* field
 - The attacker's JavaScript won't be able to create a valid form

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Defenses
 - CSRF tokens
 - A secret value that the server provides to the user
 - The user must include the same value in the request for the server



CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Defenses
 - CSRF tokens
 - Referer header
 - A **header** in an HTTP request that shows which webpage made the request
 - In CSRF, the user makes malicious requests from a different website
 - “Referer” is a 30-year typo in the HTTP standard...
 - If we make a request from “facebook.com” then the header is “`https://www.facebook.com`”
 - If an “img” tag on a forum makes your browser to make a request then the Referer header will be “the forum’s URL”
 - If JavaScript on an attacker’s website makes your browser to make a request then the header will be “the attacker’s website URL”
 - The server checks the Referer header
 - Reject if it’s **not** from the same-site
 - Accept if it’s from the same-site

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Defenses
 - CSRF tokens
 - Referer header
 - A **header** in an HTTP request that shows which webpage made the request
 - Potential issues:
 - The server can “observe” the user’s private info. from the header
(ex. “facebook.com/<your-friend-name>/posting_1234”)
 - Oftentimes, network firewalls (or your browsers) remove this header...
 - The header is optional; some requests can come without the header (what should we do...)

CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Defenses
 - CSRF tokens
 - Referer header
 - Same-site cookies
 - Set a **flag** on a cookie unexploitable by CSRF attacks
 - The browser will send requests when the domain of the cookie = that of the origin
 - SameSite = none
 - SameSite = **strict**: check if the domain matches
 - Potential issue: not all browsers implements this attribute

TOPICS FOR TODAY

- Advanced web security
 - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)
 - Cookies
 - Session
 - CSRF attacks
 - Defenses (and their potential weaknesses)
 - UI attacks
 - Clickjacking
 - Phishing
 - 2FA (and their potential weaknesses)

OVERVIEW

- UI attacks
 - What is it?
 - The attacker **tricks** the victim into thinking
 - They are taking an intended action when they are actually **taking a malicious action**
 - What to exploit?
 - **User interfaces:** the trusted path between the user and the computer
 - Your browser blocks the website to interact across different origins (SOP)
 - But trusts the user to do whatever they want
 - Two representative attacks
 - Clickjacking: Trick the victim into clicking on something from the attacker
 - Phishing: Trick the victim into sending the attacker personal information

CLICKJACKING

- Clickjacking
 - What is it?
 - Trick the victim into **clicking on something from the attacker**
 - What to exploit?
 - **User interfaces:** the trusted path between the user and the computer
 - Your browser trusts “your clicks”
 - If you click something, the browser believes you intend to click that
 - What can the attacker do?
 - Download a malicious program
 - Like a YouTube video(s), Instagram pages, or Amazon products
 - Steal keystrokes (once sth is downloaded)
 - Good luck to your credit card numbers, passwords, or any personal info.

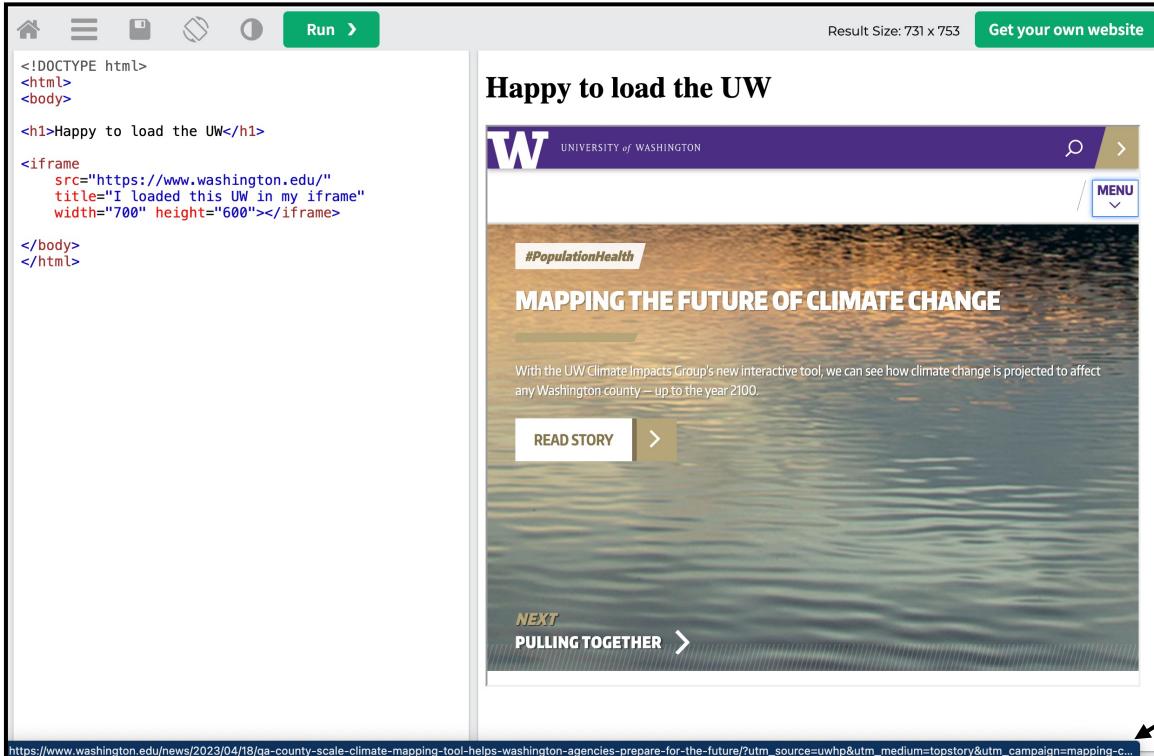
CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Download buttons
 - What is the *right* button?
 - What happens if I click the *wrong* button(s)?

The screenshot shows a web page from CNET Download.com. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Reviews, News, Download, CNET TV, How To, and Deals. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation, there's a large green "Start Download" button. To its left, a box lists "3 Steps for a faster install & scan": 1. Click "Start Download", 2. Run the quick scan, 3. Scan & Fix up to 100 errors. On the right side of the main content area, there's a sidebar with a "Free Antivirus Download" section, a "Remove Windows Trojans" section, and a "Windows 7 Driver Download" section. The main content area features a large image of the Malwarebytes Anti-Malware software interface. On the left side of the main content, there are social sharing buttons for LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and StumbleUpon, along with a "Download Now" button. Below these, there are sections for "CNET Editors' Rating" (4.5 stars, Outstanding) and "Average User Rating" (4.5 stars, out of 5,573 votes). A "Editors' Choice" badge from April 2009 is also visible.

CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- “iframe” can be vulnerable



Result Size: 731 x 753 Get your own website

Happy to load the UW

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

#PopulationHealth

MAPPING THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

With the UW Climate Impacts Group's new interactive tool, we can see how climate change is projected to affect any Washington county – up to the year 2100.

READ STORY >

NEXT PULLING TOGETHER >

https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/04/18/qa-county-scale-climate-mapping-tool-helps-washington-agencies-prepare-for-the-future/?utm_source=uwhp&utm_medium=topstory&utm_campaign=mapping-c...

Note: any links on the website in the iframe are “washington.edu”

Users can click it, but we cannot make the website automatically click this link due to the same origin policy

CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- “iframe” can be vulnerable – let’s change the code a bit

The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/04/18/qa-county-scale-climate-mapping-tool-helps-washington-agencies-prepare-for-the-future/?utm_source=uwhp&utm_medium=topstory&utm_campaign=mapping-c.... The page title is "Happy to load the UW". On the left, the browser's developer tools show the HTML code. A red box highlights the iframe tag, which contains the CSS style "style='opacity: 1.0;'". Another red box highlights the paragraph below it, which contains the text "My original website is in Here!". To the right of the browser window, two yellow callout boxes provide analysis:

- "Put style: opacity to control the ‘opacity’"
- "There’s a text behind the iframe loaded the ‘washington.edu’"

CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- “iframe” can be vulnerable – let’s add some opacity

Result Size: 731 x 753 Get your own website

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>Happy to load the UW</h1>

<iframe style="opacity: 0.6;" src="https://www.washington.edu/" title="I loaded this UW in my iframe" width="700" height="600"></iframe>

<p style="margin-top: -400pt">
 &nbsp&nbsp&nbsp&nbsp
 My original website is in Here!</p>

</body>
</html>

Happy to load the UW

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

My original website is in Here!

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READ STORY >

NEXT
PULLING TOGETHER >

Put style: opacity to control the “opacity”

There's a text behind
the iframe loaded the
“washington.edu”

CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

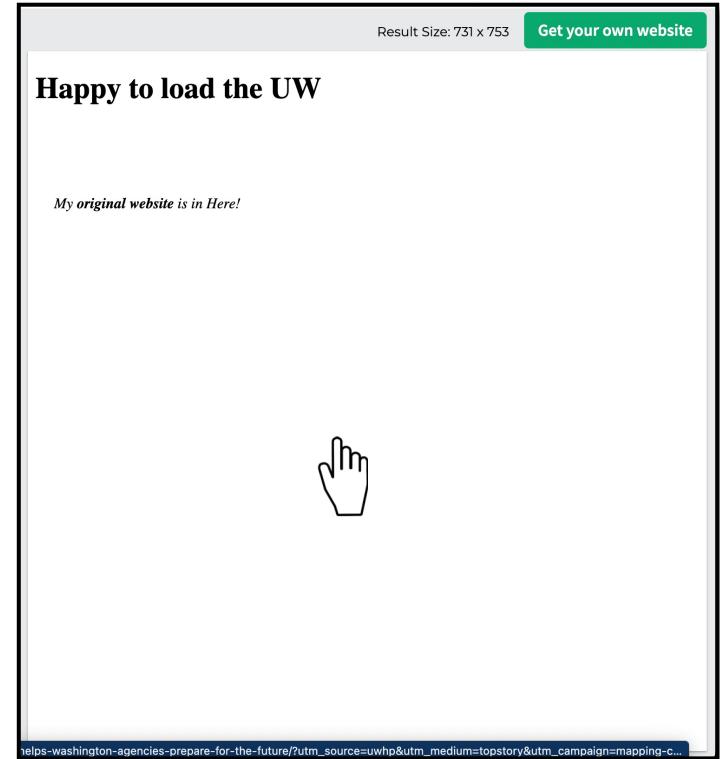
- “iframe” can be vulnerable – some more (or do extremely)

The screenshot shows a web-based code editor interface with the following details:

- Code Area:** Displays the HTML code for a page titled "Happy to load the UW". The code includes an `iframe` element with its style set to `opacity: 0.0`. A red dashed arrow points from this line of code to the first yellow callout box.
- Output Area:** Shows the rendered page with the heading "Happy to load the UW" and a paragraph below it stating "My original website is in Here!".
- Callout Boxes:**
 - Top Box:** Text: "Now the website is completely opaque" (with "opaque" in red).
 - Bottom Box:** Text: "But you can still click something on this website ... ?!"
- Page URL:** The bottom of the editor shows the URL: https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/04/18/qa-county-scale-climate-mapping-tool-helps-washington-agencies-prepare-for-the-future/?utm_source=uwhp&utm_medium=topstory&utm_campaign=mapping-c...

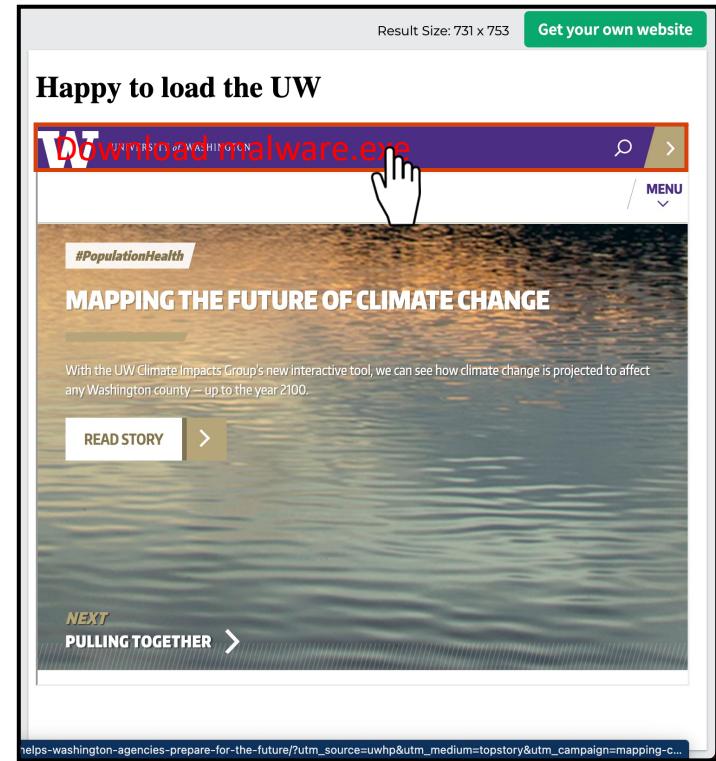
CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Invisible “iframe”s
 - The attacker puts an iframe onto the attacker’s site **invisibly**, over visible, enticing content
 - Users (victims) think they click on the attacker’s website
 - But the click is actually happened on the legitimate website
 - ex. You click sth, but it’s the Facebook like btn



CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Invisible “iframe”s – cont’d
 - The attacker puts an iframe onto the legitimate site **invisibly**, under invisible, malicious content
 - Users (victims) think they click on the legitimate website
 - But the click is actually happened on the attacker’s website
 - ex. You click sth, and it downloads malware



CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Invisible “iframe”s – cont’d

Express Checkout

PayPal Checkout

or continue below

Already have an account? [Log in](#) for a faster checkout.

1 Shipping details

*Email for order confirmation

*First name

Order summary (1) [Edit Cart](#)

Violet T-Shirt \$0.99
Qty: 1
More Details ▾

Enter a promo code

Redeem a gift card

Subtotal	\$0.99
Shipping	\$0.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00
Total	\$0.99

- The attacker frames the legitimate site, with the visible malicious contents
- ex. You click the checkout, and I wish you the best!

CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

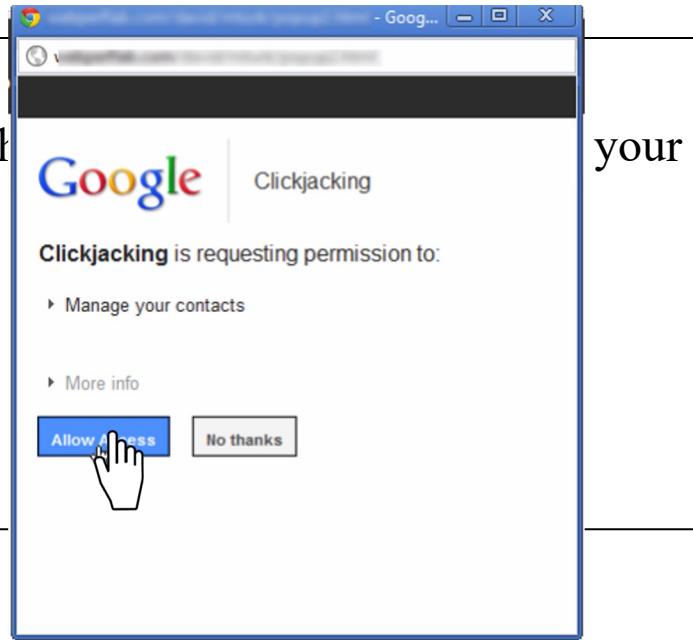
- Temporal attack
 - Process
 - The attacker uses JavaScript
 - that detects the position of your cursor
 - and change the website right before you click on sth.

CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Temporal attack
 - Example:

Instructions:

Please double-click on the content



CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Cursorjacking
 - CSS can style the appearance of your cursor
 - JavaScript can track a cursor's position
 - We can create a fake cursor to trick users into clicking on sth.

Instructions:

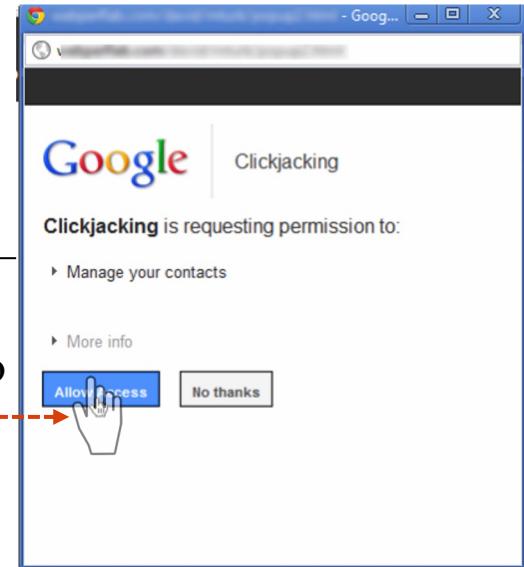
Please double-click on the Click here link to content

Real cursor: created by JavaScript or with CSS

Click here

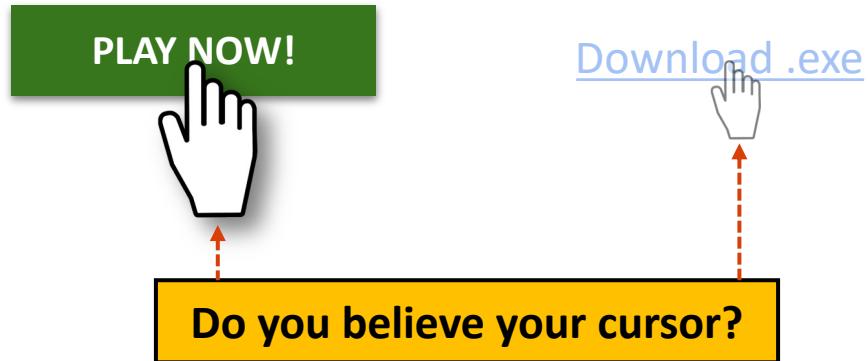


Fake cursor: created by JavaScript or with CSS



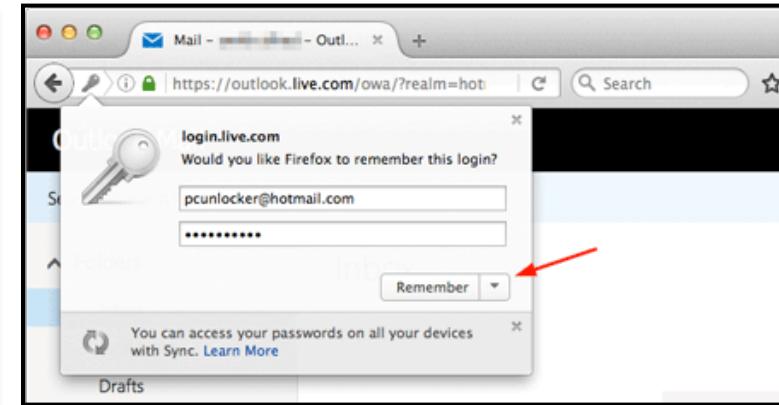
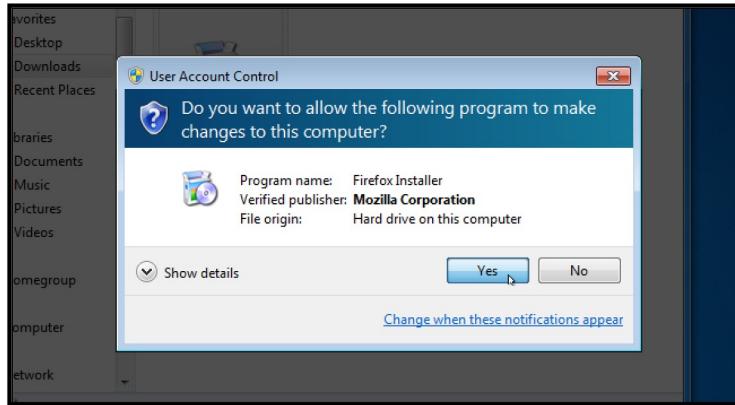
CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Cursorjacking
 - CSS can style the appearance of your cursor
 - JavaScript can track a cursor's position
 - We can create a fake cursor to trick users into clicking on sth.



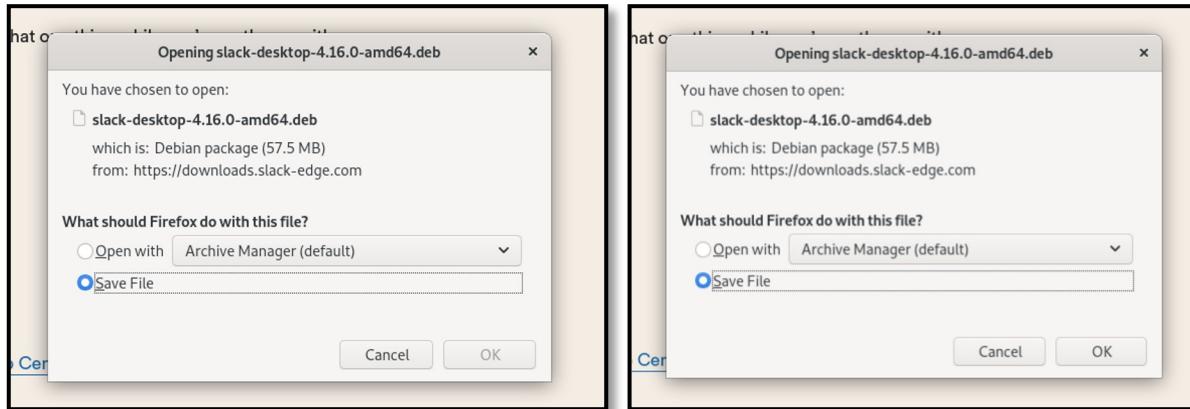
CLICKJACKING DEFENSES

- Enforce visual integrity
 - Clear visual separation between important alerts and content
 - Examples:
 - Windows “User Account Control” darkens the entire screen and freezes the desktop
 - Firefox dialogs “cross the boundary” between the URL bar and content
(Only the valid dialog can do this!)



CLICKJACKING DEFENSES

- Enforce temporal integrity
 - Sufficient time for a user to register what they are clicking on
 - Example:
 - Firefox blocks the “OK” button until 1 second after the dialog has been focused



CLICKJACKING DEFENSES

- **Require confirmation** from users
 - The browser needs to confirm that the user's click was intentional
 - Downside: asking for confirmation annoys users

- Frame-busting

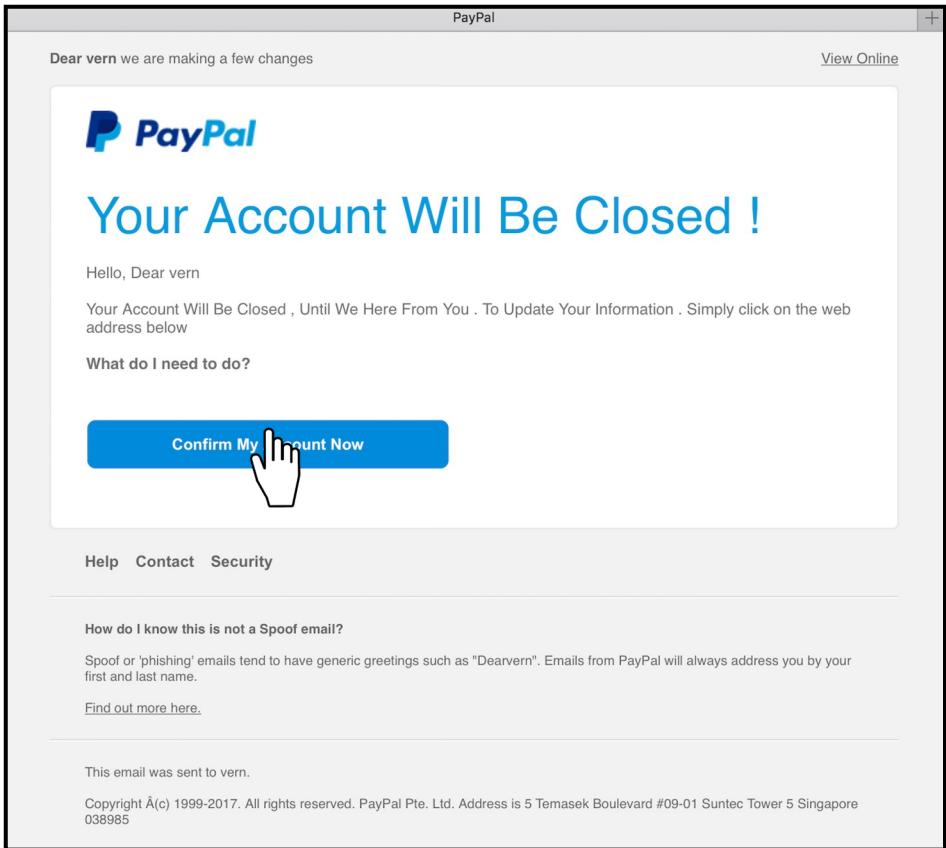
- The legitimate website forbids it
 - Defeats the invisible iframe attack
 - Can be enforced by Content Security Policy
 - Can be enforced by X-Frame-Options

TOPICS FOR TODAY

- Advanced web security
 - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)
 - Cookies
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 - UI attacks
 - Clickjacking
 - Phishing
 - 2FA (and their potential weaknesses)

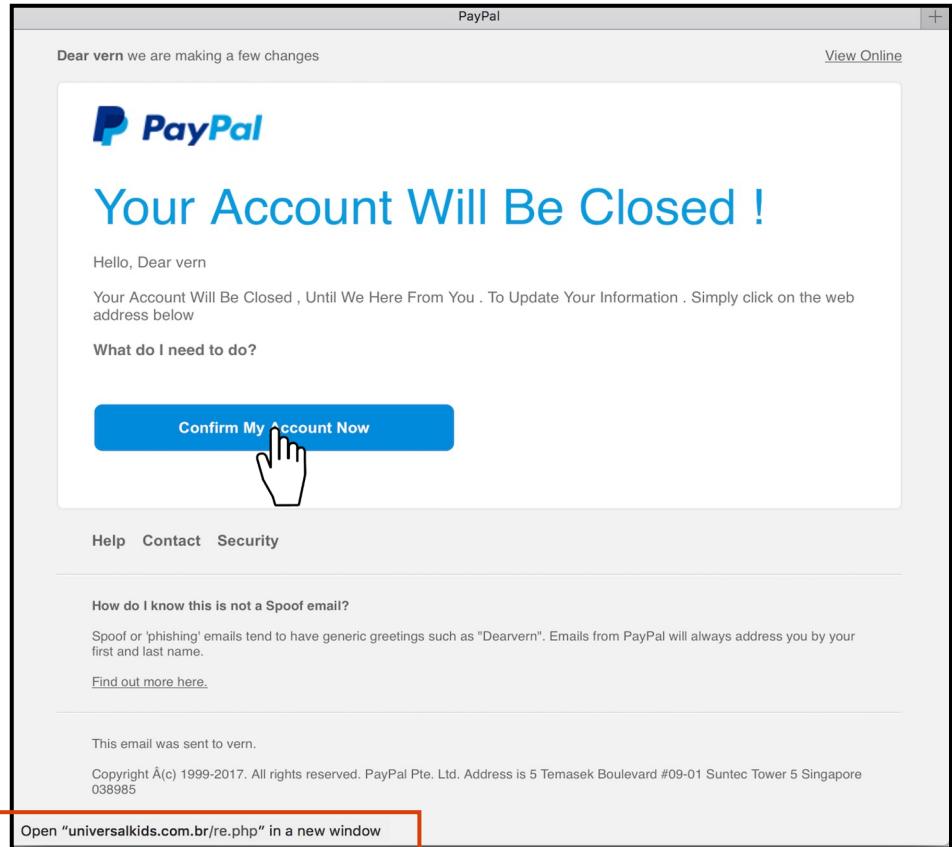
PHISHING

- Your account will be closed!



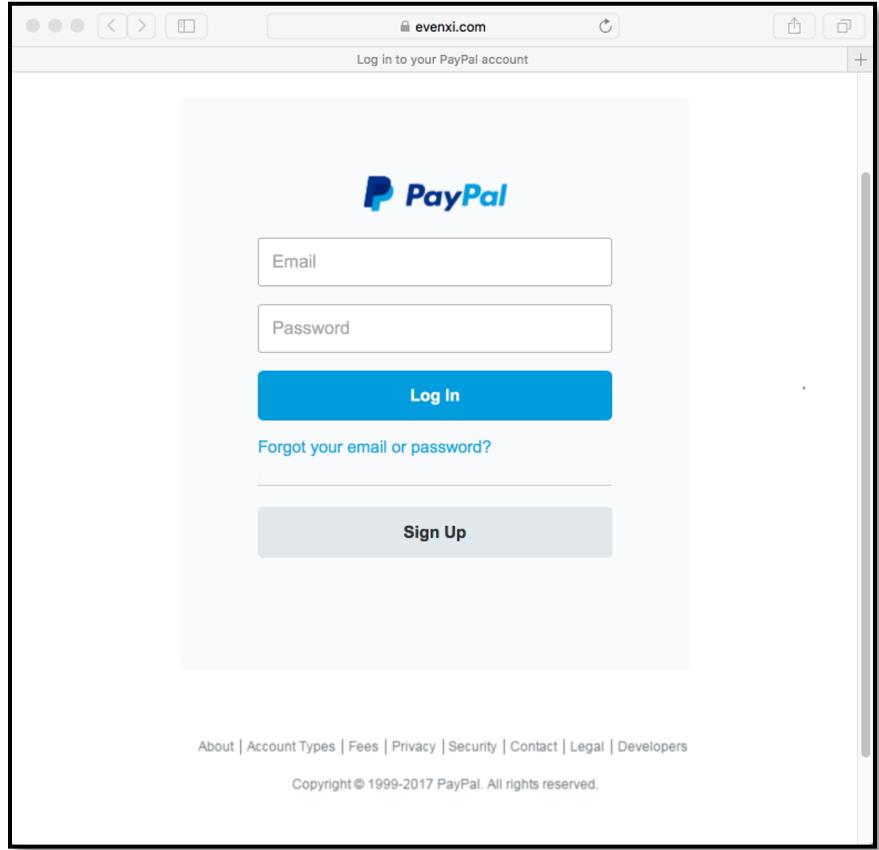
PHISHING

- Your account will be closed!
- ... is it?



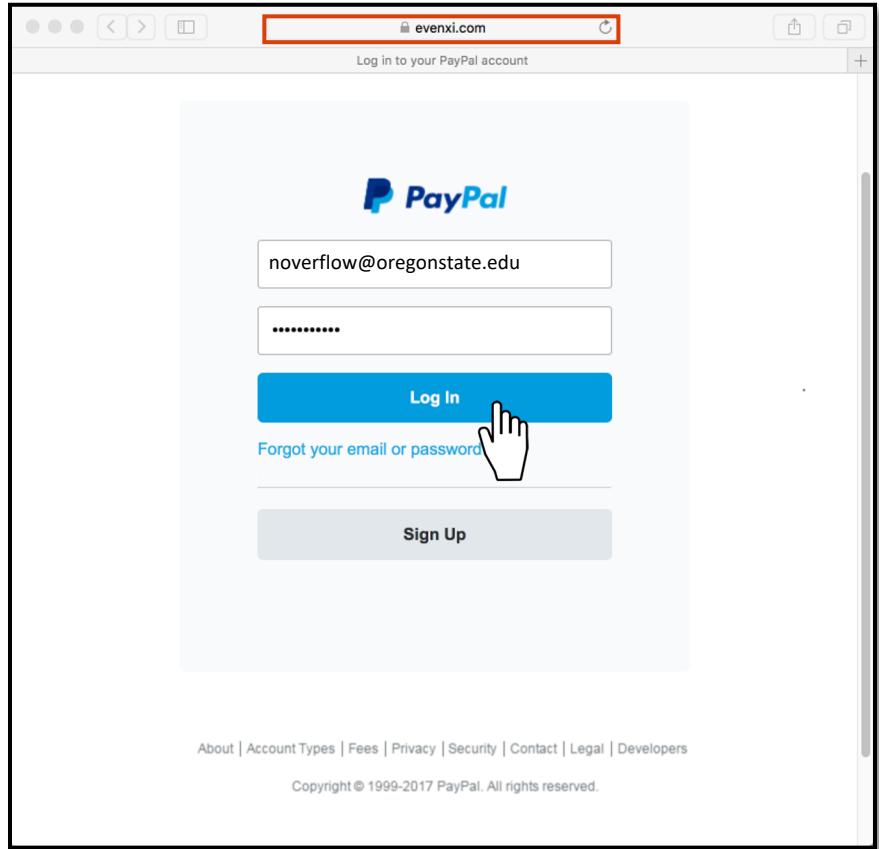
PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal



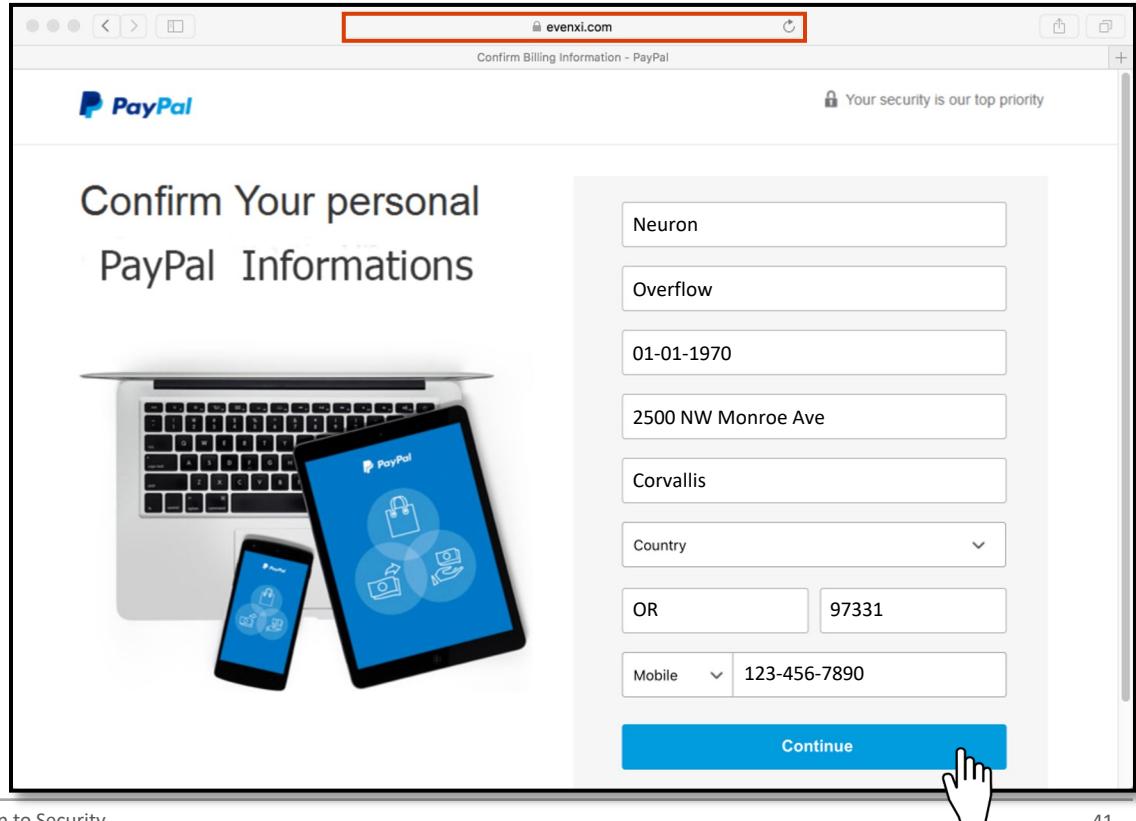
PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal
- ... is it?



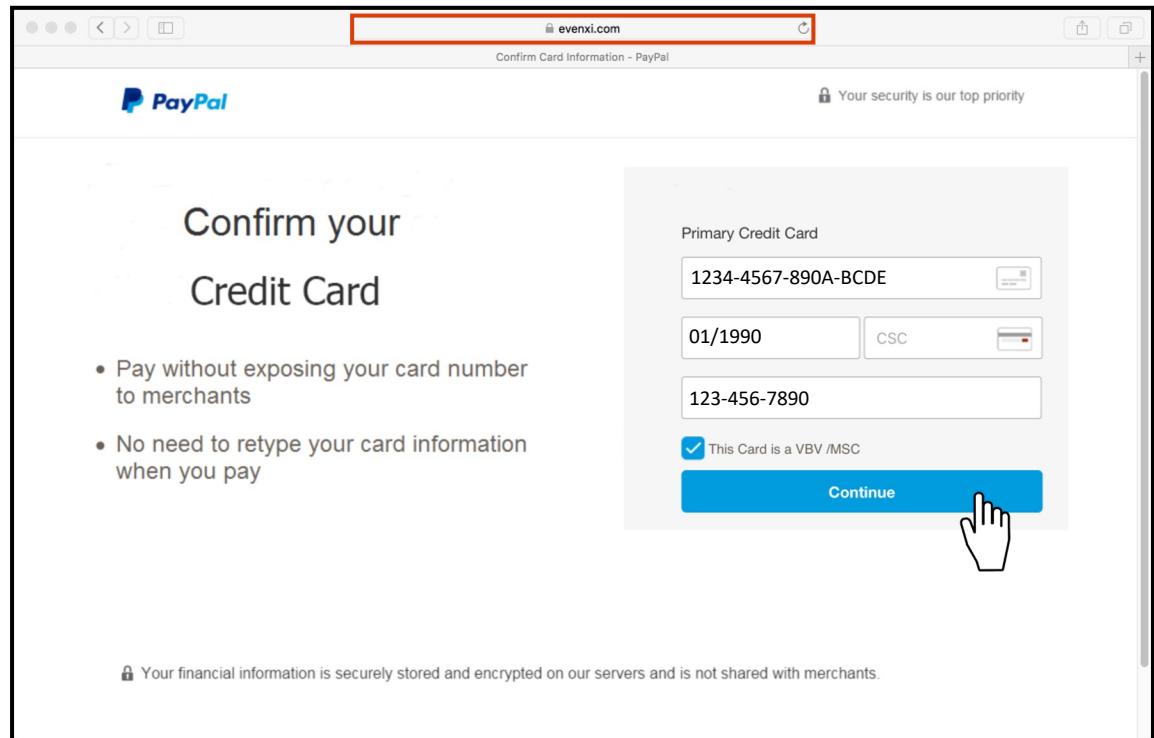
PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal
- ... is it?
- ... is it?



PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal
- ... is it?
- ... is it?
- ... is it?

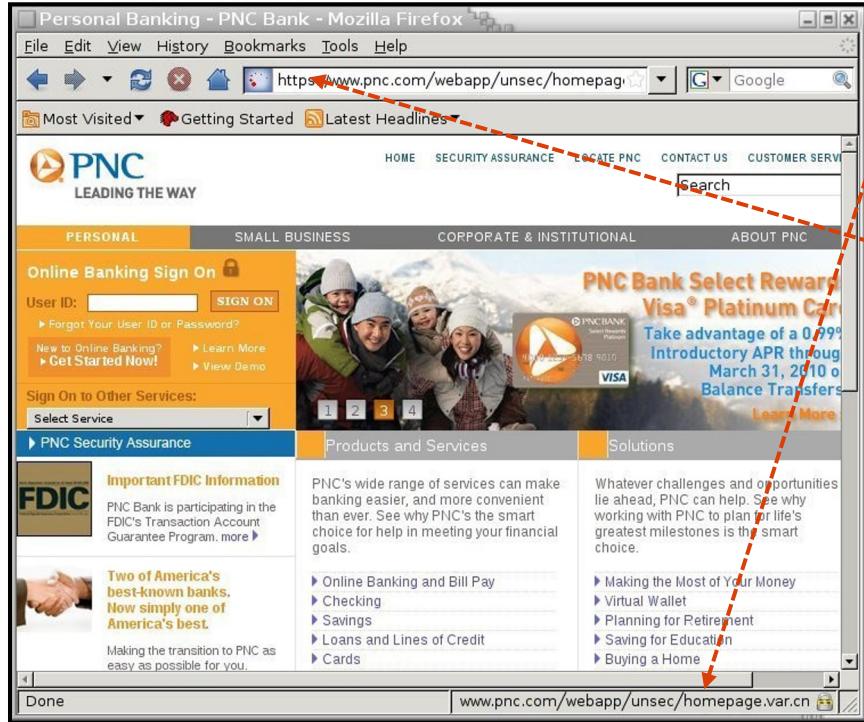


PHISHING

- Phishing
 - Trick the victim into sending the attacker personal information
 - Exploit:
 - Users can't distinguish between a legitimate website and a website impersonating the legitimate website

PHISHING: CHECK THE URL?

- Is this website real?



“www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn” is an entire domain!

The attacker can also register an HTTP certificate for this valid domain

PHISHING: CHECK THE URL?

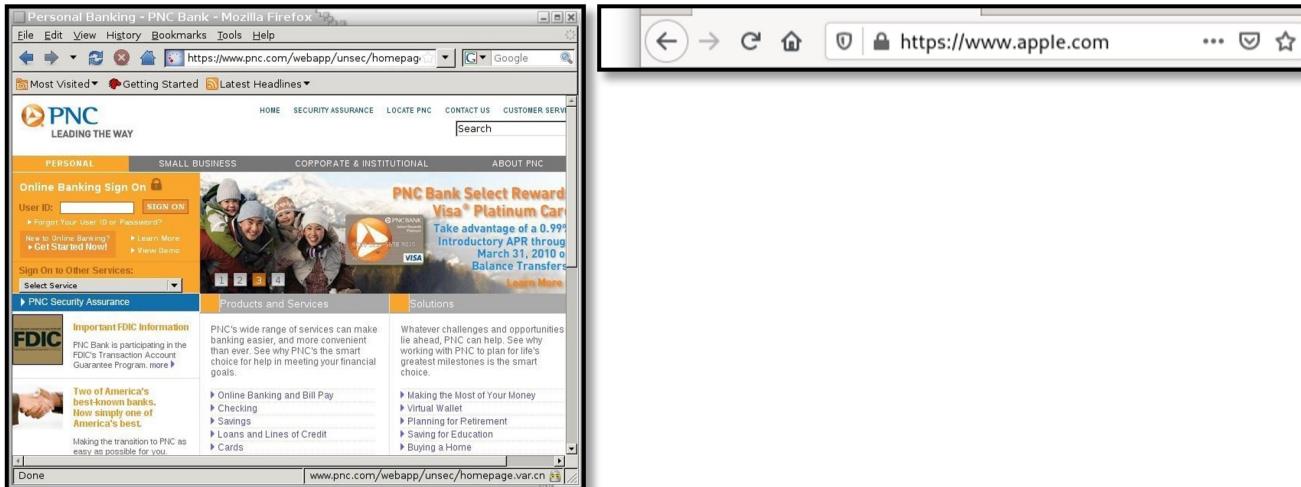
- Is this website real?



These letters come from the Cyrillic alphabet, not the Latin alphabet! They're rendered the same but have completely different bytes!

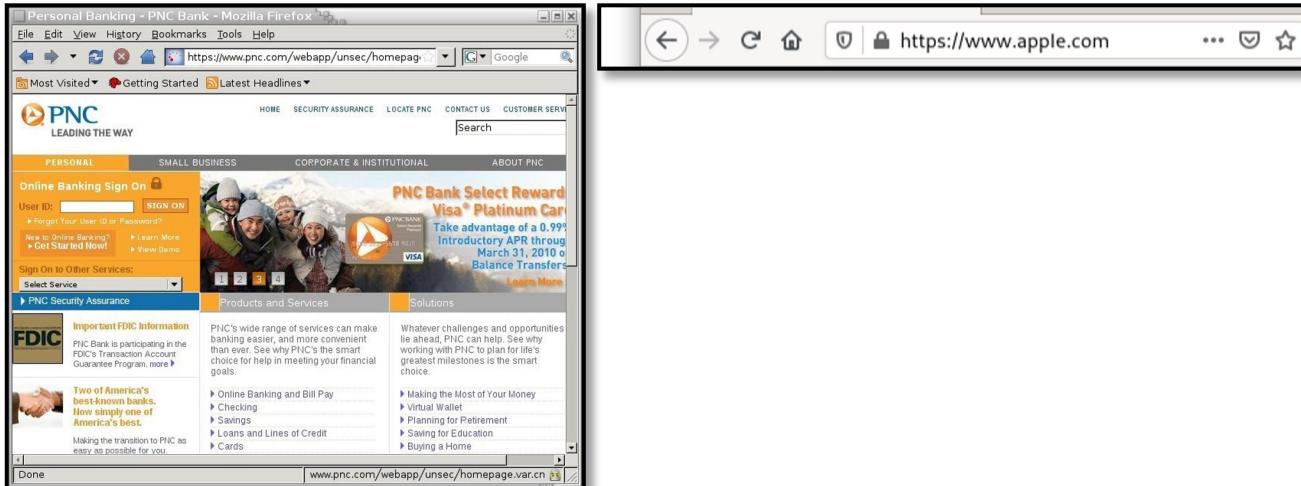
PHISHING: HOMOGRAPH ATTACK

- Homograph attack
 - Create malicious URLs that look similar (or the same) to legitimate URLs
 - Homograph: two words that look the same, but have different meanings



PHISHING: HOMOGRAPH ATTACK

- Homograph attack
 - Create malicious URLs that look similar (or the same) to legitimate URLs
 - Homograph: two words that look the same, but have different meanings



PHISHING: CHECK EVERYTHING

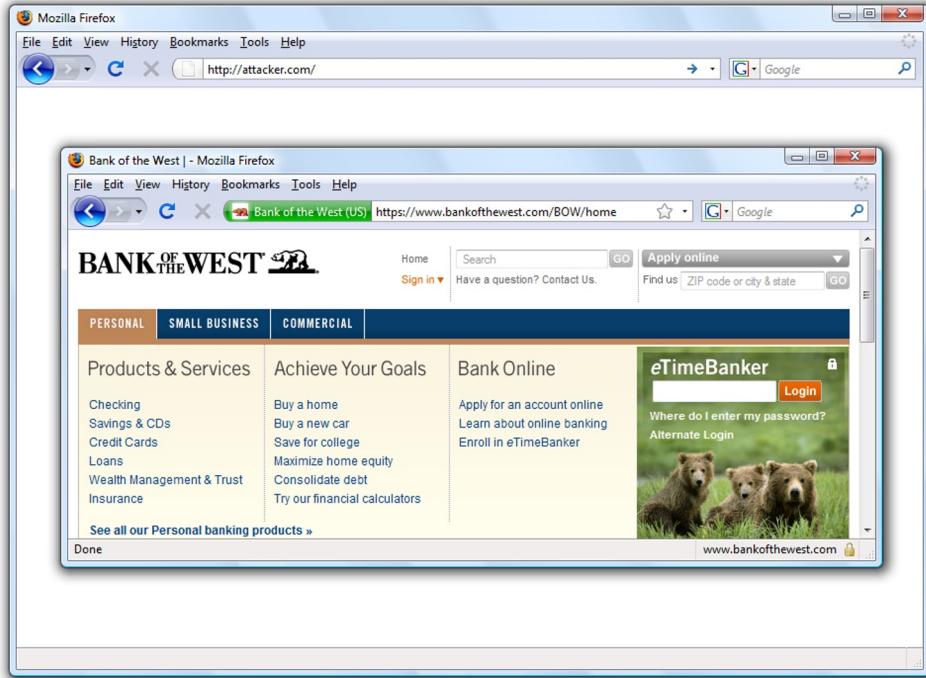
- ... hmm it looks legit!



Extended Validation: CA verified the identity of the site (not just the domain)

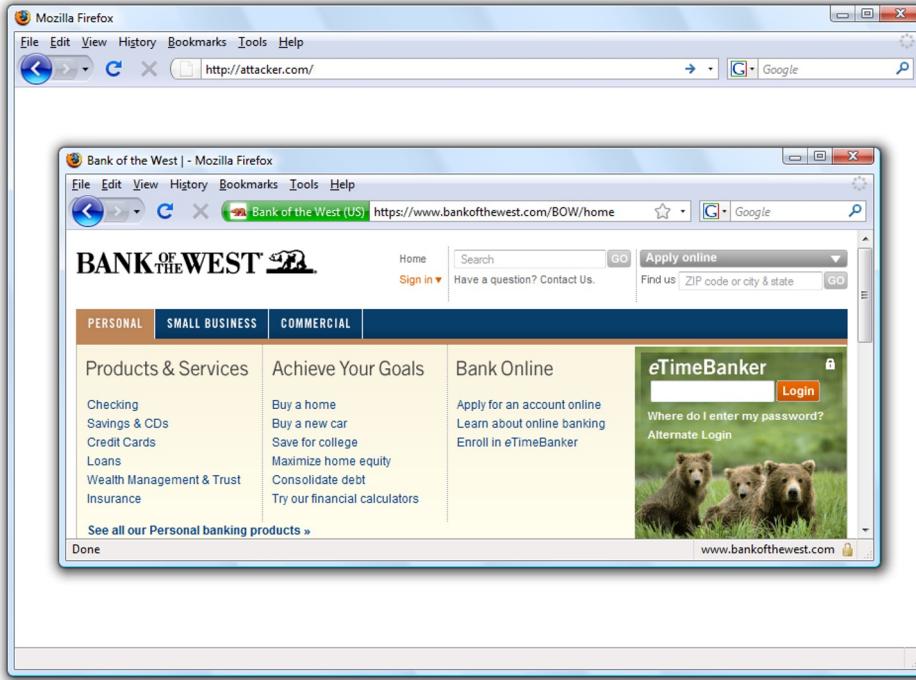
PHISHING: CHECK EVERYTHING

- ... hmm it looks legit!
 - Is it?



PHISHING: BROWSER-IN-BROWSER ATTACK

- Browser-in-browser attack
 - The attacker simulates the entire web browser with JavaScript



PHISHING: NOW WHO'S THE FAULT?

- Let's not blame the users
 - They are not security experts
 - Attacks are rare
 - Users do not always suspect malicious action
 - Detecting phishing is hard, even if you're on the lookout for attacks
 - Legitimate messages often look like

Title: Your Final Grades
Sender: Hóng (sanghyun@oregonstate.com)

Hey Guys,

There are some corrections on your final exam scores.
I need you to confirm your scores immediately from
[here](#).

Thanks,
Sanghyun

PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA

- Two-factor authentication
 - Motivation
 - Phishing attacks may expose your passwords to the attackers
 - You want to make that the password is not sufficient for logging in
 - Two-factor authentication (2FA)
 - Prove their identity in two different ways before successfully logging-in
 - Three main ways for a user to prove their identity
 - Something the user knows: password, security questions
 - Something the user has: mobile devices, security keys
 - Something the user is: fingerprint, face ID
 - Stealing **one factor (password)** is not enough

PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA

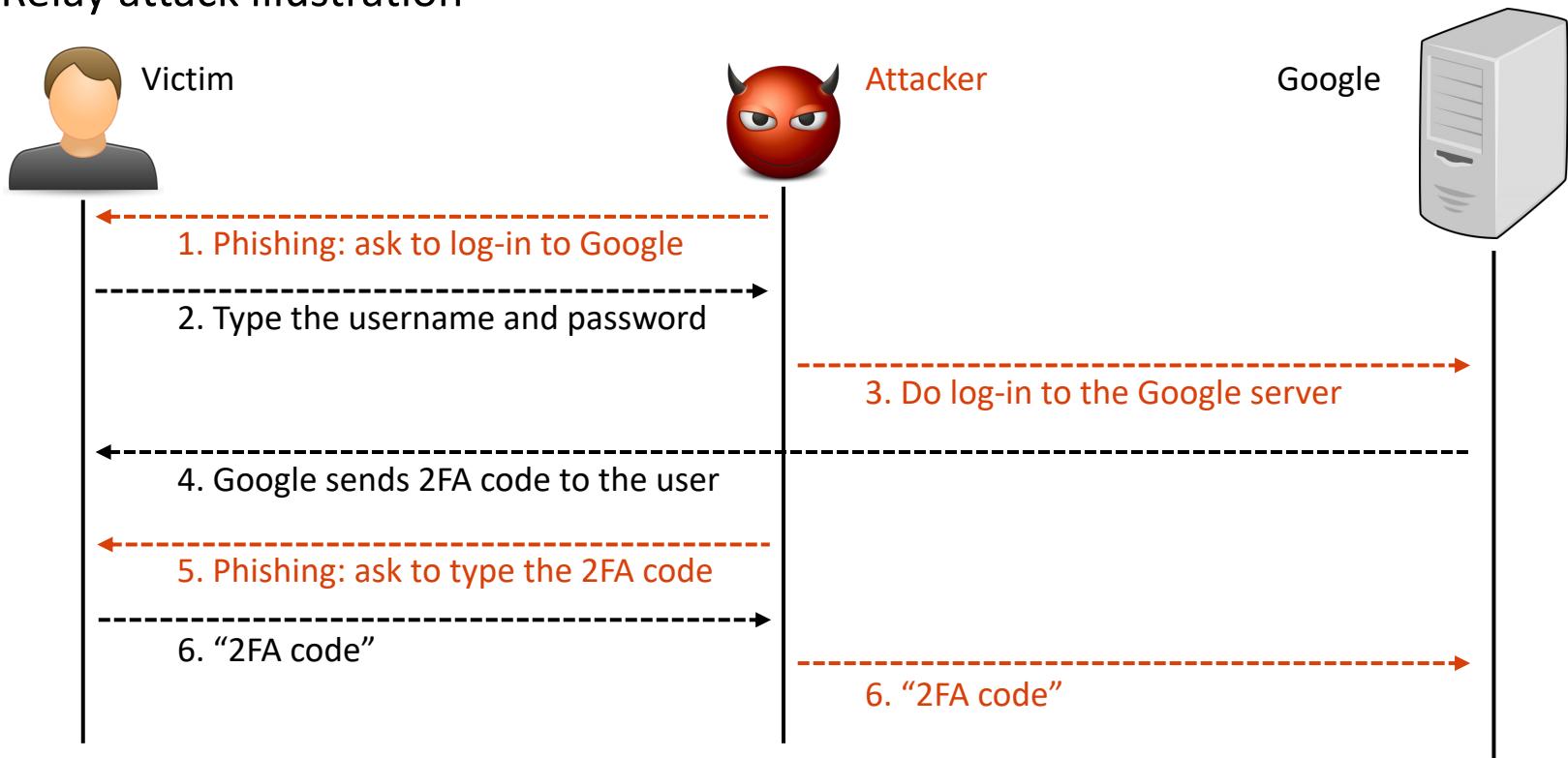
- Two-factor authentication
 - Protection scenarios
 - An attacker steals the password file and performs a dictionary attack
 - The user re-uses passwords on two different websites.
The attacker compromises one website and tries the same password on the 2nd one

PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA WEAKNESS

- Relay attack
 - The attacker steal both factors in a single phishing (one stone for two birds)
 - Attack example
 - User uses 2FA
 - 1st : Password (something the user knows)
 - 2nd: A code sent to the user's mobile device (something the user owns)
 - Procedure
 - The phishing website asks the user to input their password (1st factor)
 - The attacker immediately tries to log-in to the actual website as the user
 - The actual website sends a code to the user
 - The phishing website asks the user to enter the code (2nd factor)
 - The attacker enters the code to log in as the user

PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA WEAKNESS

- Relay attack illustration



PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA WEAKNESS

- Social engineering
 - Hijacking your phone
 - Attackers can call your phone provider (e.g., T-mobile)
 - Tell them to activate the attacker's SIM card, and will be done
 - They receive your texts
 - 2FA via SMS is not great but better than nothing
 - Bypassing customer service
 - Attackers can call customer support and ask them to deactivate 2FA!
 - Companies should validate identity if you ask to do this (but not all do)

PHISHING DEFENSE: AUTHENTICATION TOKEN

- Auth token
 - A device that generates secure second-factor codes
 - Examples:
 - RSA SecurID and Google Authenticator
 - Usage
 - The token and the server share a common secret key k
 - When the user wants to log in, the token generates a code $\text{HMAC}(k, \text{time})$
 - The time is often truncated to the nearest 30 seconds for usability
 - The code is often truncated to 6 digits for usability
 - The user submits the code to the website
 - The website uses its secret key to verify the HMAC
 - Downside(s):
 - Vulnerable to relay attacks
 - Vulnerable to online brute-force attacks
 - Possible fix: add a max number of times you can request!

PHISHING DEFENSE: SECURITY KEY

- Security key
 - A 2nd factor designed to defeat phishing
 - User **owns** the security key
 - Usage scenario
 - User signs up for a website; the security key generates a new public/private key pair
 - User gives the public key to the website
 - If the user wants to log in, the server sends a nonce to the security key
 - The security key signs the nonce, website name (from the browser), and key ID
 - User gives the signature to the server
 - Security keys prevent phishing
 - In phishing, the security key generates a signature with the attacker's website name, not with the legitimate website name
 - Impervious to relay attacks!

Thank You!

Tu/Th 4:00 – 5:50 PM

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