



Security

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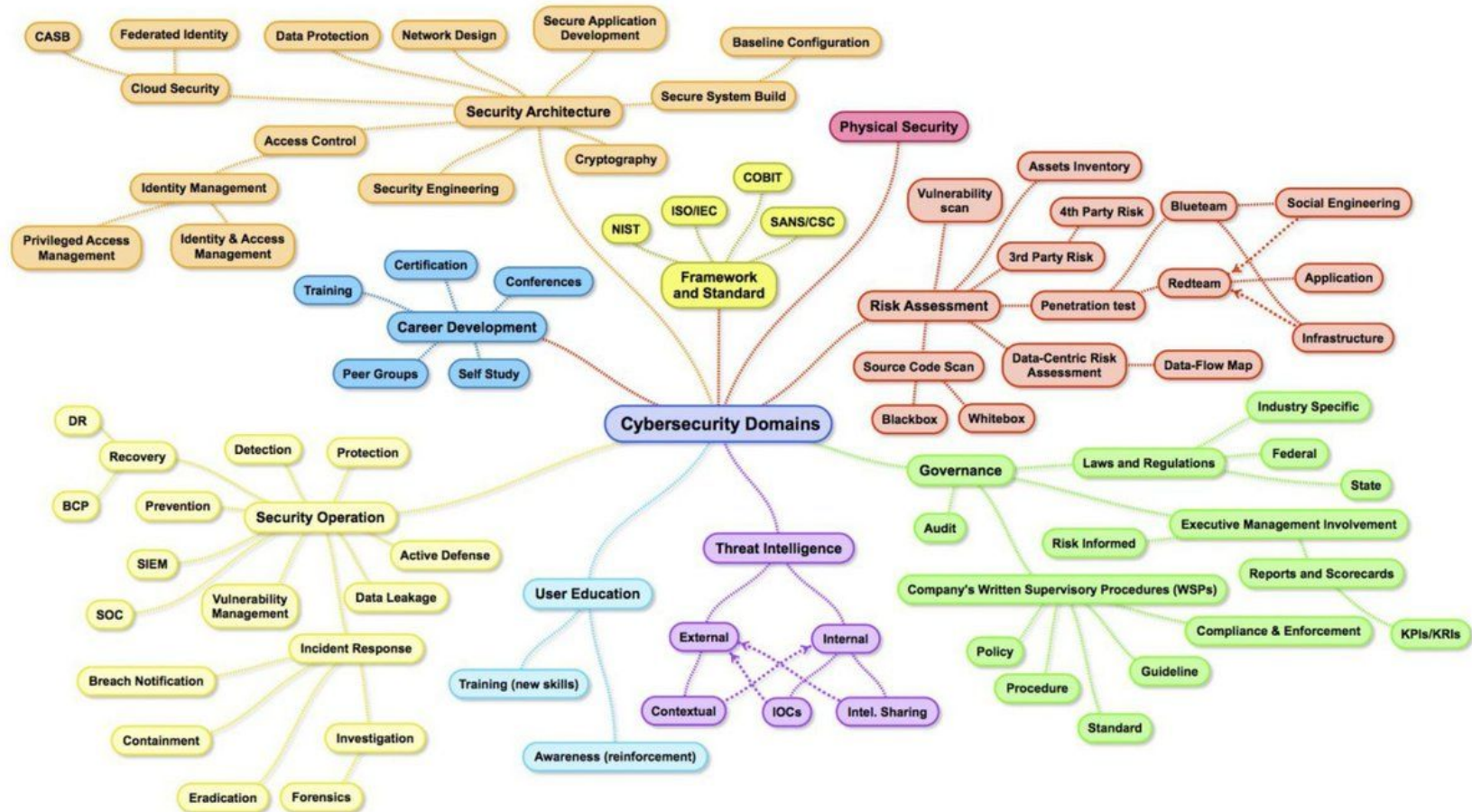
Senior Cloud Engineer, MentorMate

What is the impact of poor security?

- Economic costs
- Reputational costs
- Regulatory costs



Source: [Statistics](#)



Security is everyone's
responsibility!

Today's Agenda

- Security goals and principles
- Web Security
 - Authentication vs Authorization
 - Cookies & Tokens
 - Hashing vs Encryption
 - Security Scanning
 - Secrets management
 - Server security checklist



Security Goals

The CIA triad

- Confidentiality

Confidentiality measures protect information from unauthorized access and misuse.

- Integrity

Integrity measures protect information from unauthorized alteration.

- Availability

Availability measures protect timely and uninterrupted access to the system.



Other general principles

- **Least Privilege**
- **Defense in Depth**
- **KISS** - Keep It Simple and thus Secure
- **Authentication** and **Authorization**
- **Accountability** and **Auditing**
- **Security by design** - [principles](#)

Authentication & Authorization

Authentication is the process of
verifying **who** a user is, while
Authorization is the process of
verifying **what** they have access to!

Identification, Authentication & Authorization

- Secure user authentication in Node.js

- [Passport.js](#)

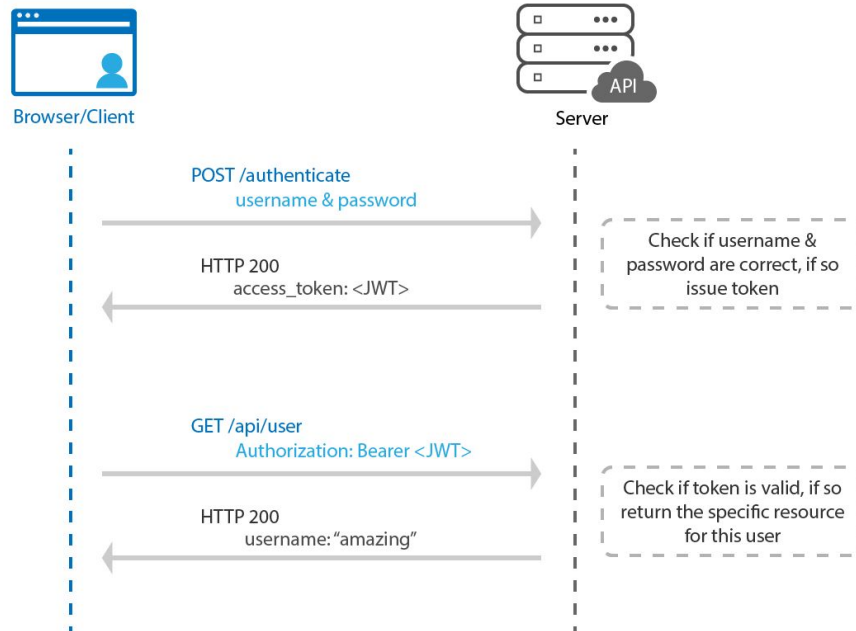
- MFA with Node.js

- [Tutorial](#) with Okta in Express.js

- Passwordless

- Third-party authentication
 - Slack's [idea](#)

- Roles



Cookies & Tokens

Cookies & Sessions

- What is a cookie?
 - ES6 [Cookies](#) & usage [example](#) with Express.js

small piece of data stored on the user's computer by the web browser while browsing a website.

- What is a Session?
 - Usage [examples](#) with Express.js

A session is a place to store data that you want access to across requests. Each user that visits your website has a unique session.

- Storing session data in cookies
- Cookies vs sessions vs tokens
 - Explained [here](#) and [here](#)



Cookies vs. Sessions

Cookies

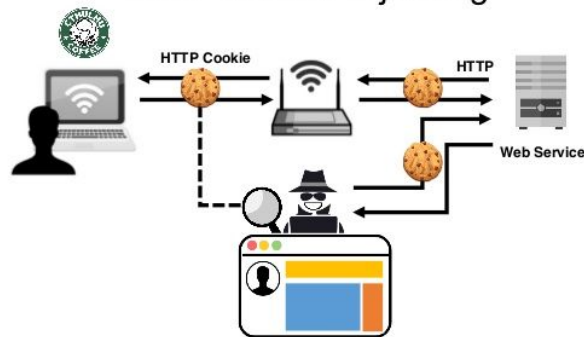
- ❑ Cookies are stored on client side
- ❑ Cookies can only store strings.
- ❑ Cookies can be set to a long lifespan.

Sessions

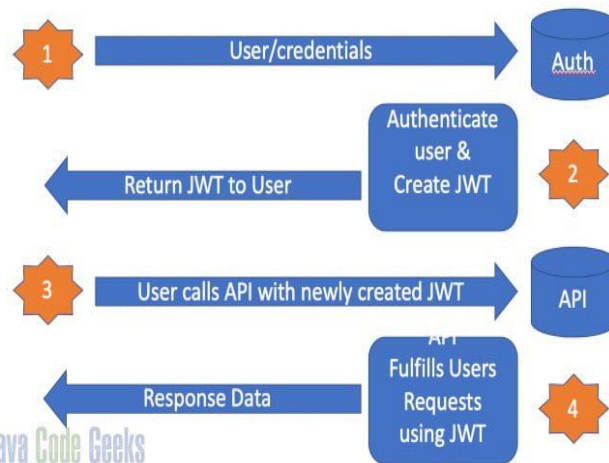
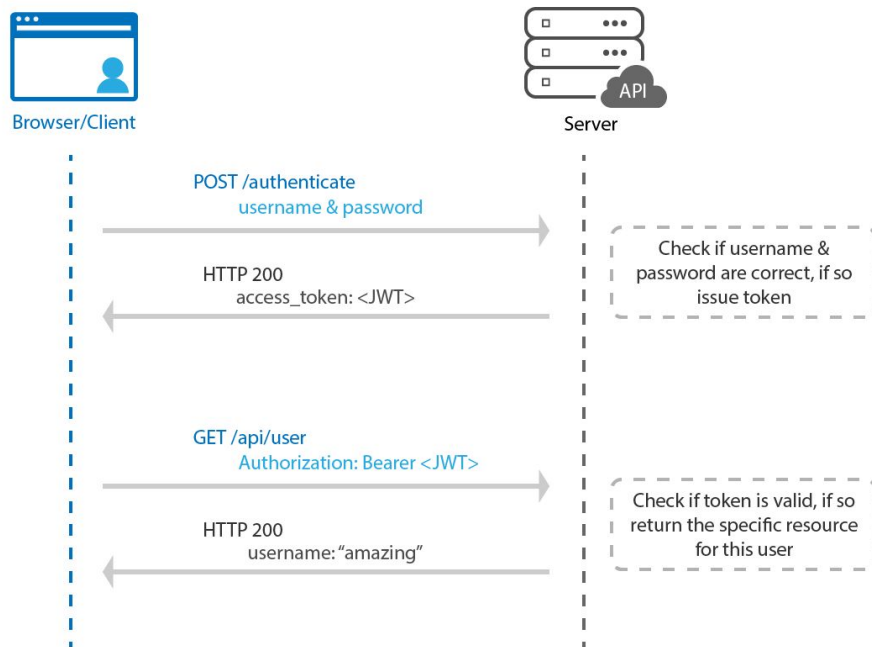
- ❑ Sessions are stored on server side
- ❑ Sessions can store objects.
- ❑ When users close their browser, they also lost the session.



HTTP Cookie Hijacking



Token Based Authentication Flow



Tokens

- [JWT](#) (JSON Web Token)
 - [jsonwebtoken](#) [library](#)
- JWT [guide](#) for Express.js
- Refresh Tokens

1 eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJzdWIiOiIxMjM0NTY3ODkwIiwibmFtZSI6IkpvaG4gRG9lIiwiaWF0IjoxNTE2MzIyMjYyLmV9.XbPfbIHMI6arZ3Y922BhjWgQzWXcXNr0ogtVhfEd2o 2 3

1 Header

```
{
  "alg": "HS256",
  "typ": "JWT"
}
```

2 Payload

```
{  
  "sub": "1234567890",  
  "name": "John Doe",  
  "id": 1516239022  
}
```

3 Signature

```

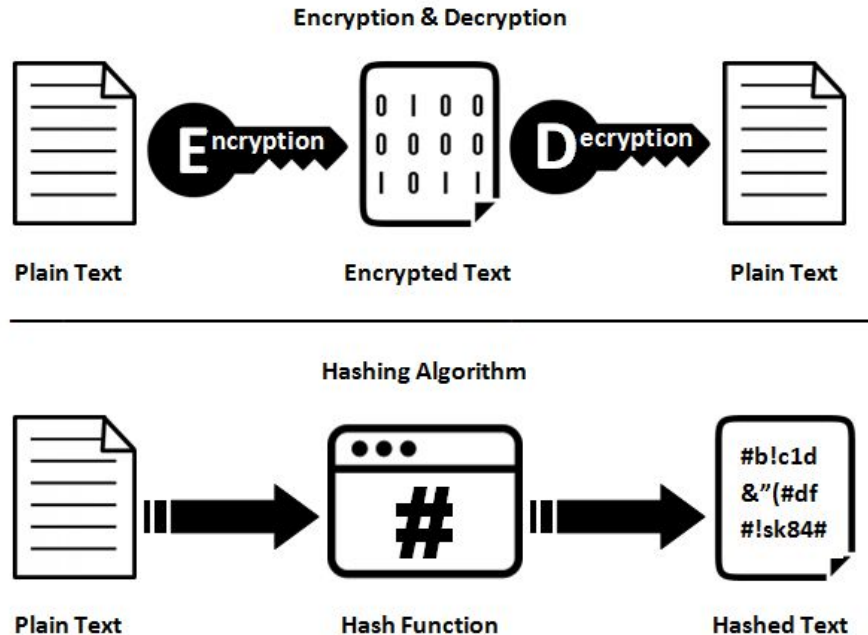
HMACSHA256(
  BASE64URL(header)
  .
  BASE64URL(payload) ,
  secret)

```

Hashing & Encryption

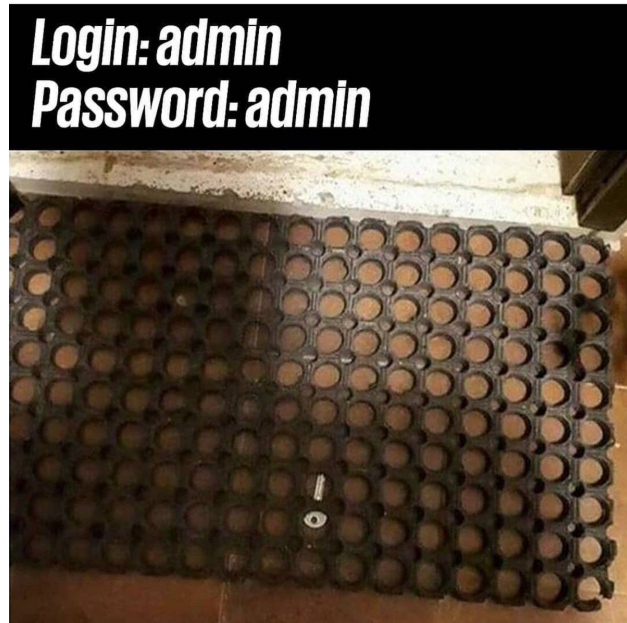
Hashing & Encryption

- Use **Hashing** for:
 - Passwords
- **Encryption** is used for:
 - Data Transfer
 - Data at rest
 - Any storage and secure communication.
 - HTTPS



Password storing recipe

- Enforce strong password rules for users
- Never ever store passwords in plain text!
- Use [Bcrypt](#) unless you have a good reason not to.
- Use a strong hashing algorithm (never MD5!)
 - Learn [how](#) attackers crack password hashes
- Set a reasonable [work factor](#) for you system.
- Use a [salt](#)
- Make sure that the database password is strong
- Make sure that the production database is encrypted.



Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability scanners

- Known vulnerabilities of dependencies:
 - npm audit
 - [Snyk](#)
 - [OWASP Dependency Check](#)
- Static security code scanners
 - [nodejsscan](#)
 - SonarQube

Secrets Management

Types of secrets

- Database connection strings
- User credentials
- Cryptographic keys
- API keys
- Access tokens
- Cloud service access credentials



Never **hardcode these in the codebase!**

Never **commit them to version control!**

Web Server Security

Node.js Security Checklist

- Use appropriate security headers
 - Use a [helmet](#)!
 - OWASP Secure headers [project](#)
- Perform input validation
- Take precautions against brute-forcing
 - Express-bouncer, express-brute, rate-limiter, captcha
- Only return what is necessary in routes
- Keep your packages up-to-date
- Bookmark [this](#) page (Node.js Security Cheat Sheet)

OWASP Top 10 Security Risks

1. **Injection**
2. **Broken Authentication**
3. **Sensitive Data Exposure**
4. **XML External Entities (XXE)**
5. **Broken Access Control**
6. **Security Misconfiguration**
7. **Cross-Site Scripting XSS**
8. **Insecure Deserialization**
9. **Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities**
10. **Insufficient Logging & Monitoring**



OWASP [NodeGoat](#) Project

Environment to learn how OWASP Top 10 security risks apply to web applications developed using Node.js and how to effectively address them