We Test Pens Incorporated

PENETRATION TEST REPORT FOR Bank of UniMelb - WEB APPLICATION

Report delivered: 12/06/2022

Executive Summary

We Test Pens Incorporated was contracted by Bank of UniMelb to conduct a penetration test in order to determine the vulnerabilities of the web application http://assignment-plutus.unimelb.life/. We Test Pens Incorporated conducted one penetration test activity automatically and the rest of the other activities manually.

At the conclusion of the test, five vulnerabilities and their associated risks have been uncovered:

- 1: Bypassing client-side authentication;
- 2: IDOR via a hidden parameter;
- 3: Authentication weakness leading to account takeover;
- 4: Privilege escalation; and
- 5: Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development.

These risks range in severity from high to low, with the most concern falling on the Bypassing client-side authentication in developer login functionality (Finding 1). This vulnerability allows attackers to obtain the developer login authority and perform any unauthorized actions as a developer. As a result, attackers impersonate developers will make bank sensitive information leakage and banking system crash.

The second extreme-risk vulnerability is Privilege escalation(Finding 4) in admin login functionality. An attacker exploiting this vulnerability could promote any user to admin or reset the admin to the normal user.

The last extreme-risk vulnerability is Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability (Finding 5) in the Server directory listing. About this vulnerability, the attacker could not need to have a valid set of user credentials and obtain the sensitive information on the server through the automated tool.

The first high-risk vulnerability (Finding 2) is the Insecure direct object references via a hidden parameter vulnerability. The IDOR vulnerability was found in "profile.php". Attackers could access the profile information of all users by guessing the hidden variable and iterating its value.

The last high-risk vulnerability (Finding 3) is Authentication weakness leading to account takeover vulnerability in change password functionality. An attacker exploiting this vulnerability could bypass the authentication and modify the branch manager account directly. When an attacker takes over the administrator account, the attacker can perform unauthorized operations such as viewing and freezing user accounts.

Based on these findings, this web application is not enough for production release

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Summary of Findings

A brief summary of all findings appears in the table below, sorted by Risk rating.

Risk	Reference	Vulnerability		
Extreme	Finding 1	Bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability in developer login functionality		
Extreme Finding 4 Privilege escalation vulnerab		Privilege escalation vulnerability in admin login functionality		
1 - 1		Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability in the Server directory listing		
High Finding 2		Insecure direct object references via a hidden parameter vulnerability in user profile.		
High	Finding 3	Authentication weakness leading to account takeover vulnerability in change password functionality.		

Detailed Findings

Finding 1 - Bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability in developer login functionality.

Description	Risk Statement: The attacker impersonates the developer's identity due to bypassing the client-side authentication vulnerability in the developer login function, which leads attackers to perform unauthorized actions as a developer of the Bank of UniMelb. The web application of Bank of UniMelb is vulnerable to a bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability via its developer login functionality in "developer-login.php". The authentication procedures, methods or codes are delivered to the client and executed to determine whether a user has access has never been secure[1]. The attacker determines the logic of the verification method by consulting the source code from the client-side, bypassing verification to obtain operations on higher privileges. However, this vulnerability requires attackers to have login credentials as normal users and then exploit the source code of "developer-login.php" to bypass authentication.			
Proof of Concept	The bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability was found in the source code of "developer-login.php".The authenticate() function leaked validation logic even code was encoded with jjencode.			
	A detailed proof of concept is presented in AppendixII(2.1)			
Consequence	Catastrophic: An attacker could obtain the login password of the developer. Attackers can impersonate a developer to perform unauthorized operations. The attacker gets the developer's account, which means the attacker can take over the entire system. This vulnerability allows attackers to gain access to sensitive information and even destroy the banking system.			
Likelihood	Likely: Reviewing the source code of web pages is the most common method for attackers to obtain information about the web application. The exploitation requires the attacker to have a set of valid credentials to authenticate into a web application as a user. The attacker obtaining a valid credential is also very easy by opening new accounts in Bank of UniMelb, although it requires background checking.			

Risk Rating	Extreme Based on the risk matrix shown in Appendix I, the bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability belongs to the Extreme level. Attackers easily discover the bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability, and the consequences of taking over the entire system by an attacker gains developer privileges are catastrophic.
Recommendation	1: To reduce the pressure on the server, more complex encryption algorithms can be used to perform security authentication on the client-side. The security strength depends on the difficulty of the encryption algorithm applied to the code statement. 2: Shift to server-side validation.
References	1: https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/topic/the-pitfalls-of-client-side-authentication-solutions-to-net-force-javascript-ctf-challenges/

Finding 2 - Insecure direct object references via a hidden parameter vulnerability in user profile.

Description	Risk Statement: An attacker can access other users' profile pages without authorization due to an Insecure direct object references vulnerability in the "profile.php", which leads to other usersensitive information data leakage.			
	The Bank of UniMelb application is vulnerable to an Insecure direct object references via a hidden parameter in "profile.php". IDOR is a straightforward vulnerability to test; the standard way is to iterate ID values until finding helpful information[1]. At present, attackers could iterate the value of a hidden parameter "id" to view other users' information.			
Proof of Concept	The Insecure direct object references was found in the "profile.php". The attacker could keep trying to guess the hidden variable and iterate its value to view other user information.			
	A detailed proof of concept is presented in Appendix II(2.2).			
Consequence	Moderate: An attacker could view all users' profile information. However, an attacker could not make malicious modifications to other users' profile information, so this vulnerability's impact is Moderate.			
Likelihood	Likely: The Insecure direct object references is a straightforward vulnerability to test. The exploitation requires attackers to have user credentials. However, it is easy for attackers to obtain user credentials so the likelihood of this vulnerability is likely.			
Risk Rating	High Based on the risk matrix shown in Appendix I, the Insecure direct object references via a hidden parameter vulnerability belong to the High-level risk. An attacker could use scripts or tools to get useful information automatically.			
Recommendation	Execute the privilege check before retrieving the object information			
References	[1] Lecture20 - IDOR and Method of Testing			

Finding 3 - Authentication weakness leading to account takeover vulnerability in change password functionality.

Description	Risk statement: Other users' accounts, even the account of branch managers, could be a takeover by attackers due to authentication weakness vulnerability existing in "settings.php", which leads the personal information leakage and allows attackers to perform unauthorized actions such as freeze other user's accounts. Authentication weakness leading to account takeover vulnerability was found in changing password functionality. At present, attackers can access any application functionality or manager account without authentication[1]. This can result in attackers takeover a branch manager's account and executing unauthorized actions such as seeing or freezing other users' accounts.
Proof of Concept	This vulnerability arises when an attacker malicious modifies the post request body. Attackers could delete the "old" parameter to bypass the authentication and set a new password to the designated branch manager account.
	A detailed proof of concept is presented in Appendix II(2.3).
Consequence	Major: An attacker could change the branch manager's password without any authentication. So the attacker could perform unauthorized viewing and freezing operations. However, the attacker could not change the password for other users but only can change the password for the branch manager account corresponding to the login account.
Likelihood	Possible: Capturing packets to obtain authentication mechanism information is also a common method used by hackers.
Risk Rating	High The risk rating of the exploited authentication weakness vulnerability is high based on the risk matrix shown in Appendix I. It is possible an attacker could change the password of the branch manager account, resulting in data leakage and account takeover with the major consequence for the bank.
Recommendation	1:The system must verify the user's authentication status before performing each user action or request. 2: the "user" should not allow modification on the client-side.
References	[1] https://affinity-it-security.com/what-is-weak-authentication/

Finding 4 - Privilege escalation vulnerability in admin login functionality.

Description	Risk statement: The attacker unauthorized access to the admin panel due to the Privilege Escalation vulnerability in admin login functionality which leads to higher privilege tasks such as user promotion can be performed by attackers.			
	The Bank of UniMelb application is vulnerable to a privilege escalation vulnerability via its admin login functionality in "admin.php". At present, attackers begin with a normal user account and can expand or elevate this account to gain complete admin privileges[1]. This type of attack is called vertical privilege escalation.			
Proof of Concept This vulnerability arises when an attacker malicious the cookies and the parameter in the POST request attacker can complete the privilege escalation by bruthe role group number and modifying the specified upon the proof of Concept.				
	A detailed proof of concept is presented in AppendixII(2.4)			
Consequence	Major An attacker could promote any user to be an admin and reset admin to a normal user, which makes the bank's management system of users will be chaotic. Unauthorized promotion of normal users to admin by attackers can also lead to sensitive information leakage.			
Likelihood	Likely Capturing packets to obtain authentication mechanism information and checking cookies are common ways for attackers to exploit privilege escalation vulnerability.			
Risk Rating	Extreme The risk rating of the Privilege escalation vulnerability being exploited is high as an attacker likely modified the parameter in the request or cookies to obtain higher authority, resulting in sensitive information leakage and the user management system not working with major consequences to the bank. The risk matrix is shown in Appendix I			
Recommendation	Shift to server-side validation. User interface and admin interface should be different.			
References	[1] https://www.icann.org/en/blogs/details/what-is-privilege-escalation-18-2-2016-en			

Finding 5 - Sensitive files / directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability in the Server directory listing

Description	Risk statement: The data breach may occur due to the sensitive files/directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability, which leads to more vulnerabilities in Servers will be discovered by attackers. The web application of Bank of UniMelb is vulnerable to		
	Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability in the Server directory listing. The attacker could read arbitrary files on the server by Directory traversal[1]. This might lead to the disclosure of hidden or sensitive files on the server, making it easier for attackers to discover system vulnerabilities.		
Proof of Concept	This vulnerability arises when an attacker use directory traversal on the server. Attackers could use automated tools such as dirbuster to brute force the server's directories.		
	A detailed proof of concept is presented in AppendixII(2.5)		
Consequence	Major: An attacker could access arbitrary files on the server that is running an application. However, the attacker could not modify these files, which means the attacker only can read these files. But considering that attackers can find more system vulnerabilities through this file information, the impact of this vulnerability is rated as Major.		
Likelihood	Likely: Exploiting this vulnerability can be done through automated tools, reducing the difficulty of the attack. On the other hand, the attacker could exploit this vulnerability without providing valid user credentials. Therefore the likelihood of this vulnerability is rated as likely.		
Risk Rating	Extreme The risk rating of the Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability being exploited is extreme based on the risk matrix shown in Appendix I. An attacker likely scans the server's directory with automated tools, resulting in sensitive information leakage, and more vulnerabilities will be discovered with a major consequence for the bank.		

Recommendation	 Disable the directory listing. Check for unusual queries based on query rate and volume. And filter these query behavior that may be initiated by automated tools. 		
References	[1]https://portswigger.net/web-security/file-path-traversal		

Appendix I - Risk Matrix

All risks assessed in this report are in line with the ISO31000 Risk Matrix detailed below:

Consequence

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	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
Likely	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Almost Certain	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

Appendix 2 - Additional Information

2.1: Proof of Concept of Bypassing client-side authentication vulnerability.

Step 1:

Code:

Explanation:

Check the source code of the "developer-login.php"

Finding:

When click "LOG IN" button, the authenticate() function will be execute. The code statement of authenticate() encode by jiencode.

Step 2:

Code:

Explanation:

Decrypt the ciphertext to obtain the original code statement.

Finding:

Obtain the value of "pass" variable and unsorted value of FLAG.



Step 3:

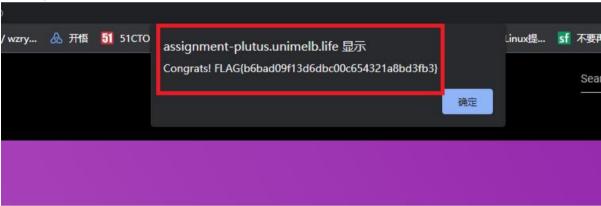
Code:

"ashdfh2i3uh8f9erhf98h234f8ghw79ghr8egyh98hern98gh89j2w48fj403wofj"

Explanation:

Type the value of "pass" to the password textblock.

Finding:



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2.2: Proof of Concept of Insecure direct object references via a hidden parameter vulnerability.

Step 1:

Code:

http://assignment-plutus.unimelb.life/profile.php?user_id=1 http://assignment-plutus.unimelb.life/profile.php?id=1

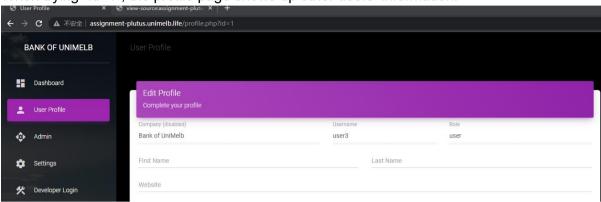
http://assignment-plutus.unimelb.life/profile.php?pid=1

Explanation:

Try some common parameters in IDOR vulnerability.

Finding:

When trying "id=1", the profile page shows up other users' information.



Step 2:

Code:

GET /profile.php?id=§1§ HTTP/1.1 Host: assignment-plutus.unimelb.life

Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like

Gecko) Chrome/101.0.4951.54 Safari/537.36

Accept:

text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*; q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate Accept-Language: zh-CN,zh;q=0.9

Cookie: PHPSESSID=pb1l21c5gvldvt93n6081mnsa3;

CSRF_token=FHksFoKMpB4pWJfNp1qHvKHoX1n7kos7Uh8BLZ0kXtUmyWozlpl3rPTsMEC

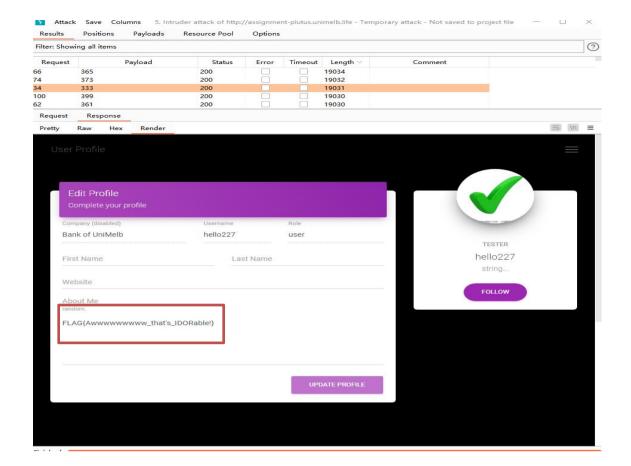
Frmqo; admin=false Connection: close

Explanation:

Use burp's intruder to find valid information.

Finding:

Find a flag when id is 333



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2.3: Proof of Concept of Authentication weakness leading to account takeover vulnerability.

Step 1:

Code:

Type"yicguan" in current password bar and "123456" in new password bar.

Explanation:

Capture the packet

Finding:

Three parameters show up in the post request.



Step 2:

Code:

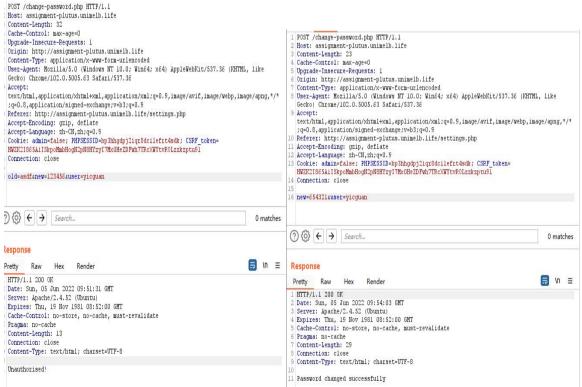
- 1: old=asdf&new=123456&user=yicguan
- 2: new=654321&user=yicguan

Explanation:

Try to bypass the authentication.

Finding:

When the old password is not correct then the response will be Unauthorised. However if delete the "old" parameter, the change password functionality is still working.



Step 3:

Code:

new=123456&user=user3

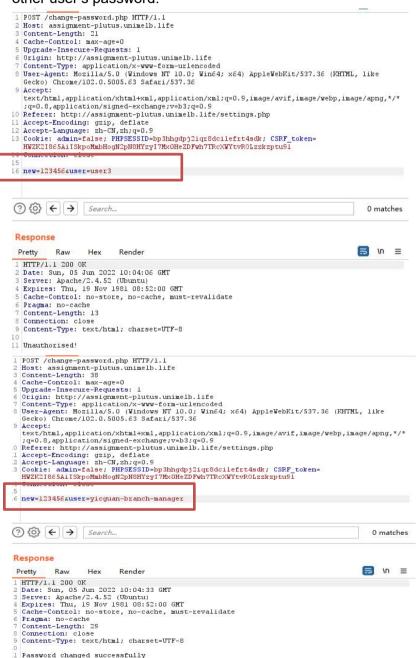
new=123456&user=yicguan-branch-manager

Explanation:

The "user" can be modify to other user name.

Finding:

Change password successfully when user is "yicguan-branch-manager", but can not change other user's password.



Step 4:

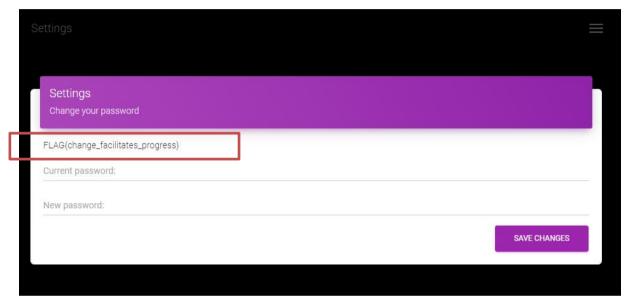
Code:

Explanation:

Login to the branch manager account with new password.

Finding:

Login successful and find the flag in the "settings.php".



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2.4: Proof of Concept of Privilege escalation vulnerability.

Step 1:

Code:

Explanation:

Capture the packet

Finding:

When click the "admin" button will response "Unauthorised".

The the parameter in cookie is "admin=false".



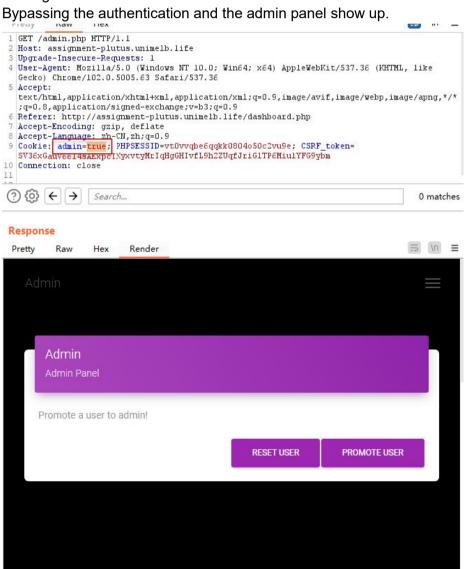
Step 2: Code:

Cookie: admin=true

Explanation:

Modify the parameter in cookie.

Finding:



Step 2:

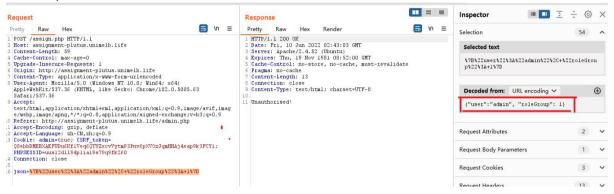
Code:

json=%7b%22user%22%3a%22yicguan%22%2c%20%22roleGroup%22%3a%201%7d

Explanation:

Modify the parameter json and change the user from admin to "yicguan" Finding:

The response is "Unauthorised".



Step 3:

Code:

Explanation:

Use burp's intruder to find valid number of "role group".

Finding:

When "roleGroup" is 9, the response is promoted. And back to the "dashboard.php", the Flag is show up.

9	9			200	285
0				200	290
1	1			200	290
2	2			200	290
3	3			200	290
4	4			200	290
5	5			200	290
6	6			200	290
7	7			200	290
8	8			200	290
10	10			200	290
11	11			200	290
12	12			200	290
13	13			200	290
14	14			200	290
15	15			200	290
16	16			200	290
17	17			200	290
18	18			200	290
19	19			200	290
20	20			200	290
21	21			200	290
Request	Response				
Pretty	Raw	Hex	Render		



2.5: Proof of Concept of Sensitive files / directories left behind during testing /development vulnerability.

Step 1:

Code:

Explanation:

Check the source code of "login.php"

Finding:

Seem some useful information save in the "test"

Step 2:

Code:

Explanation:

Access the "http://assignment-plutus.unimelb.life/test/" and check the "sensitive" file

Finding

The contain of "sensitive" files how up is "250".

Index of /test

Name Last modified Size Description Parent Directory sensitive 2021-05-14 11:23 4

Apache/2.4.52 (Ubuntu) Server at assignment-plutus.unimelb.life Port 80



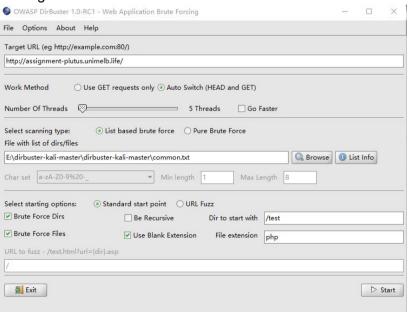
Step 3: Code:

Explanation:

Use DirBuster tool to scan for hidden files and paths.

Finding:

The ".git/HEAD" file stored in "test".



Files found during testing:

Files found with a 200 responce:

/test/sensitive
/test/.git/HEAD

Step 4: Code:

Explanation:

Go through the files which are save in the ".git".

Finding:

Find the Flag In the "/.git/logs/HEAD" file.

```
### Casignment-plusu.nnimelb.life/test/.git/logs/HEAD

### assignment-plusu.nnimelb.life/test/.git/logs/HEAD

### assignm
```

```
commit: Added in something else
commit: Oh something else: FLAG {gitters_R_us}
commit: Pushing data into the system
```

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