

# XSS and SQL injection

slides

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hack of the day

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  - “...be very aware of third-party components and how you’re using them”

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- [Zoom Whiteboard XSS vulnerability found](#)
  - whiteboard can execute JS in browser/app
  - security researcher “spaceraccoon” found flaw
  - input sanitization not comprehensive enough, could run arbitrary JS on any computer in call
  - “...be very aware of third-party components and how you’re using them”
  - “regexes are tricky to do yourself, use libraries”



general questions, concerns, etc.

# XSS and SQL injection's relevance

Rank	ID	Name	Score
[1]	CWE-79	Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')	46.82
[2]	<a href="#">CWE-787</a>	Out-of-bounds Write	46.17
[3]	<a href="#">CWE-20</a>	Improper Input Validation	33.47
[4]	<a href="#">CWE-125</a>	Out-of-bounds Read	26.50
[5]	<a href="#">CWE-119</a>	Improper Restriction of Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer	23.73
[6]	<a href="#">CWE-89</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')	20.69
[7]	<a href="#">CWE-200</a>	Exposure of Sensitive Information to an Unauthorized Actor	19.16
[8]	<a href="#">CWE-416</a>	Use After Free	18.87
[9]	<a href="#">CWE-352</a>	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)	17.29
[10]	<a href="#">CWE-78</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')	16.44
[11]	<a href="#">CWE-190</a>	Integer Overflow or Wraparound	15.81
[12]	<a href="#">CWE-22</a>	Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory ('Path Traversal')	13.67
[13]	<a href="#">CWE-476</a>	NULL Pointer Dereference	8.35
[14]	<a href="#">CWE-287</a>	Improper Authentication	8.17
[15]	<a href="#">CWE-434</a>	Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type	7.38
[16]	<a href="#">CWE-732</a>	Incorrect Permission Assignment for Critical Resource	6.95
[17]	<a href="#">CWE-94</a>	Improper Control of Generation of Code ('Code Injection')	6.53

# recap: same-origin policy

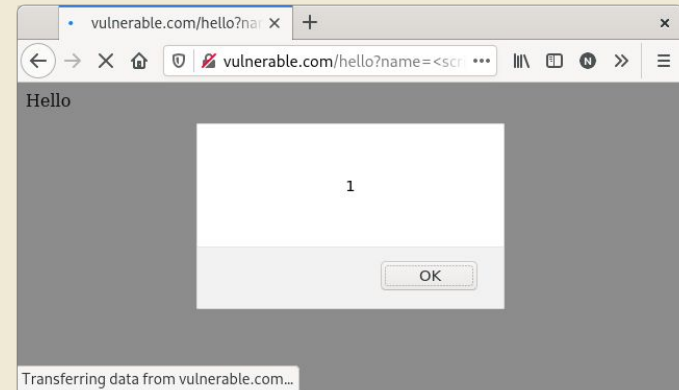
- two webpages with different origins should not be able to access each other's resources
- JS on `https://evil.com` can't access `https://bank.com`

# cross-site scripting

- injecting javascript into websites viewed by other users

```
func handleSayHello(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    name := r.URL.Query()["name"][0]  
    content := "<html><body>Hello "+name+"!</body></html>"  
    fmt.Fprint(w, content)  
}
```

```
https://vulnerable.com/hello?name=<script>alert(1)</script>
```



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# cross-site scripting (XSS)

- injecting javascript into websites viewed by other users
- subverts same-origin policy
  - how?
  - javascript on the webpage itself runs with the origin of the webpage
- two types: **stored** and **reflected** XSS

# stored XSS

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- malicious javascript is stored on a legitimate server (e.g., on facebook.com)

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- malicious javascript is stored on a legitimate server (e.g., on facebook.com)
  - visiting a user with malicious javascript on their profile leads to the javascript executing in your browser

# reflected XSS

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  - if you make a request to `http://google.com/search?q=evanbot`, the response will say “10,000 results for `evanbot`”



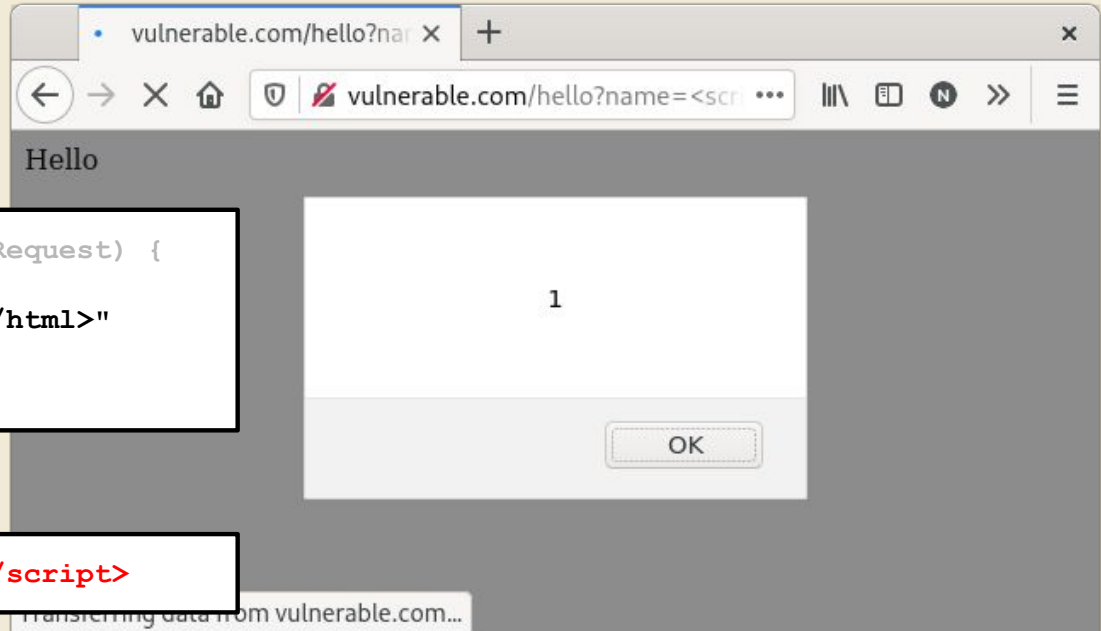
# reflected XSS

- causes victim to input javascript into request
  - if you make a request to `http://google.com/search?q=evanbot`, the response will say “10,000 results for `evanbot`”
  - if you make a request to `http://google.com/search?q=<script>alert(1)</script>`, the response will say “10,000 results for `<script>alert(1)</script>`”

# reflected XSS

```
func handleSayHello(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    name := r.URL.Query()["name"][0]  
    content := "<html><body>Hello "+name+"!</body></html>"  
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}
```

`https://vulnerable.com/hello?name=<script>alert(1)</script>`



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- **both:** victim makes attacker's request to legitimate website
- **reflected XSS:** HTTP response contains malicious javascript, executed on **client side**
- **CSRF:** malicious HTTP request made (with user's cookies), executed on **server side**

# XSS defenses

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- **html sanitization:** escape dangerous characters like <, >, etc.



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- **html sanitization:** escape dangerous characters like <, >, etc.
  - why?

# XSS defenses

- **html sanitization:** escape dangerous characters like `<`, `>`, etc.
  - why?
    - `<script>` malicious stuff `</script>`

# HTML sanitization

## Handler

```
func handleSayHello(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    name := r.URL.Query()["name"][0]  
    fmt.Fprintf(w, "<html><body>Hello %s!</body></html>", html.EscapeString(name))  
}
```

## URL

```
https://vulnerable.com/hello?name=<script>alert(1)</script>
```

## Response

```
<html><body>Hello &lt;script&gt;alert(1)&lt;/script&gt;!</body></html>
```

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- **html sanitization:** escape dangerous characters
- **content security policy (CSP):**
  - browser can only load resources from specified places
  - can disallow inline scripts like `<script>alert(1)</script>`
  - only allow scripts from certain sources/domains

# UI attacks

# UI attacks

- clickjacking: cause user to click on something from attacker

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  - temporal attacks: change visual when user about to click

# temporal attack

**Instructions:**

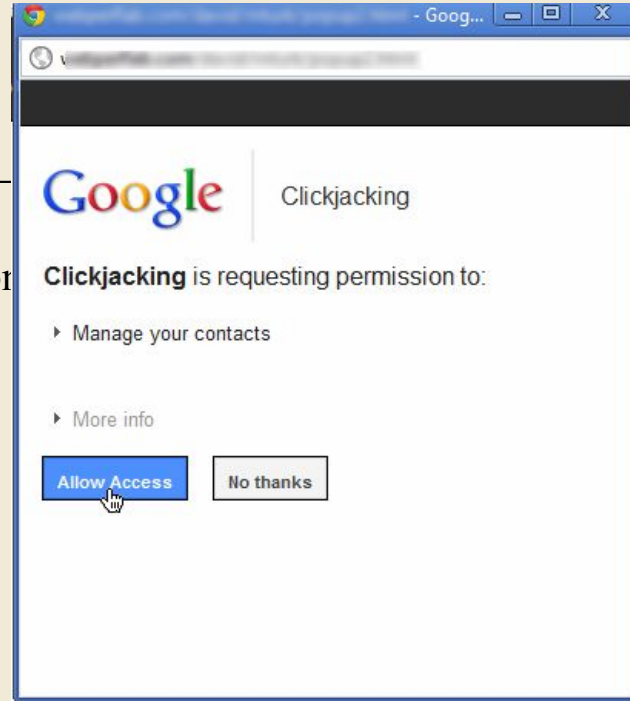
Please double-click on the button below to continue to your content

[Click here](#)

# temporal attack

**Instructions:**

Please double-click on the button



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- clickjacking: cause user to click on something from attacker
  - temporal attacks: change visual when user about to click
  - cursorjacking: make duplicate cursor



# cursorjacking



which one are you really clicking on?

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- phishing: make victim believe malicious website is a real website
  - allows attacker to learn password, etc.

# UI attacks

- clickjacking: cause user to click on something from attacker
  - temporal attacks: change visual when user about to click
  - cursorjacking: make duplicate cursor
- phishing: make victim believe malicious website is a real website
  - allows attacker to learn password, etc.
  - mitigation: two-factor authentication

**worksheet**  
(on 161 website)

# SQL injection

# SQL: example query

```
SELECT name FROM bots
WHERE age < 2 OR id = 1
```

name
evanbot
pintobot
2 rows, 1 column

(selected because id is 1)

(selected because age is 1.5)

bots			
id	name	likes	age
1	evanbot	pancakes	3
2	codabot	hashes	2.5
3	pintobot	beans	1.5
3 rows, 4 columns			

- outputs rows with the columns given in the SELECT statement that match query conditions



# SQL: INSERT

```
INSERT INTO bots VALUES  
(4, 'willow', 'catnip', 5),  
(5, 'luna', 'naps', 7)
```

This statement results in two extra rows being added to the table

<i>bots</i>			
id	name	likes	age
1	evanbot	pancakes	3
2	codabot	hashes	2.5
3	pintobot	beans	1.5
4	willow	catnip	5
5	luna	naps	7
5 rows, 4 columns			

- adds rows to bots based on given tuples

# SQL syntax

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- -- (two dashes) represents comment

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- -- (two dashes) represents comment
- semicolons separate different statements
  - `UPDATE items SET price = 2 WHERE id = 4;`  
`SELECT price FROM items WHERE id = 4`

# SQL injection

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- inject SQL into queries constructed by server

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- inject SQL into queries constructed by server
- allows attacker to execute arbitrary SQL
  - leak data
  - add records
  - modify records
  - delete records/tables
  - basically anything that the SQL server can do

# SQL injection: example

## Handler

```
func handleGetItems(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    itemName := r.URL.Query()["item"][0]  
    db := getDB()  
    query := fmt.Sprintf("SELECT name, price FROM items WHERE name = '%s'", itemName)  
    row, err := db.QueryRow(query)  
    ...  
}
```

## URL

```
https://vulnerable.com/get-items?item='; DROP TABLE items --
```

## Query

```
SELECT item, price FROM items WHERE name = ''; DROP TABLE items --'
```



# SQL injection: example

## Handler

```
func handleGetItems(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    itemName := r.URL.Query()["item"][0]  
    db := getDB()  
    query := fmt.Sprintf("SELECT name, price FROM items WHERE name = '%s'", itemName)  
    row, err := db.QueryRow(query)  
    ...  
}
```

For this payload: End the first quote ('), then start a new statement (DROP TABLE items), then comment out the remaining quote (--)

## URL

`https://vulnerable.com/get-items?item='; DROP TABLE items --`

## Query

`SELECT item, price FROM items WHERE name = ''; DROP TABLE items --'`

# SQL injection defenses

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- input sanitization
  - disallow special characters OR
  - escape special characters
    - escape with backslash to be treated as character
  - problem: hard to build a good escaper

# SQL injection defenses

- input sanitization
  - disallow special characters OR
  - escape special characters
- prepared statements
  - parse the SQL first, then insert data

```
func handleGetItems(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    itemName := r.URL.Query()["item"][0]  
    db := getDB()  
    row, err := db.QueryRow("SELECT name, price FROM items WHERE name = ?", itemName)  
    ...  
}
```



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  - disallow special characters OR
  - escape special characters
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  - parse the SQL first, then insert data
  - untrusted input never has to be parsed

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  - disallow special characters OR
  - escape special characters
- prepared statements
  - parse the SQL first, then insert data
  - untrusted input never has to be parsed
  - problem: not part of SQL standard

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