University of Guilan

Technical College

Title:

Discovering security vulnerabilities in the services and websites of Guilan University and testing its penetration

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1-1- Introduction

- A penetration test is a method of evaluating the security level of a computer (usually a server) or a network by simulating attacks by a penetration tester (which does not have access). In this method, all systems, programs and services installed on the network are tested to find security problems and then provide appropriate solutions to these problems.

1-2- Project objectives

- Examining the internal services and website of guilan.ac.ir and discovering security weaknesses, describing all its bugs and vulnerabilities, and proposing security solutions to fix the bugs.

1-3- Requirements

- High linux os proficiency
- penetration testing distribution (the distro used is kali)
- Familiarity with Web Application Analysis tools
+ Scripting in languages bash, html, javascript, Python, php and others
- Knowledge of security vulnerabilities

2-1- Test Summary Reports

- The penetration test began on 25/2/2021 using the Black Box method and ended on 3/2/2021.

- First we get comprehensive information from the website and determine the state of the ports. To do this we need special software, such as the Nmap tool.

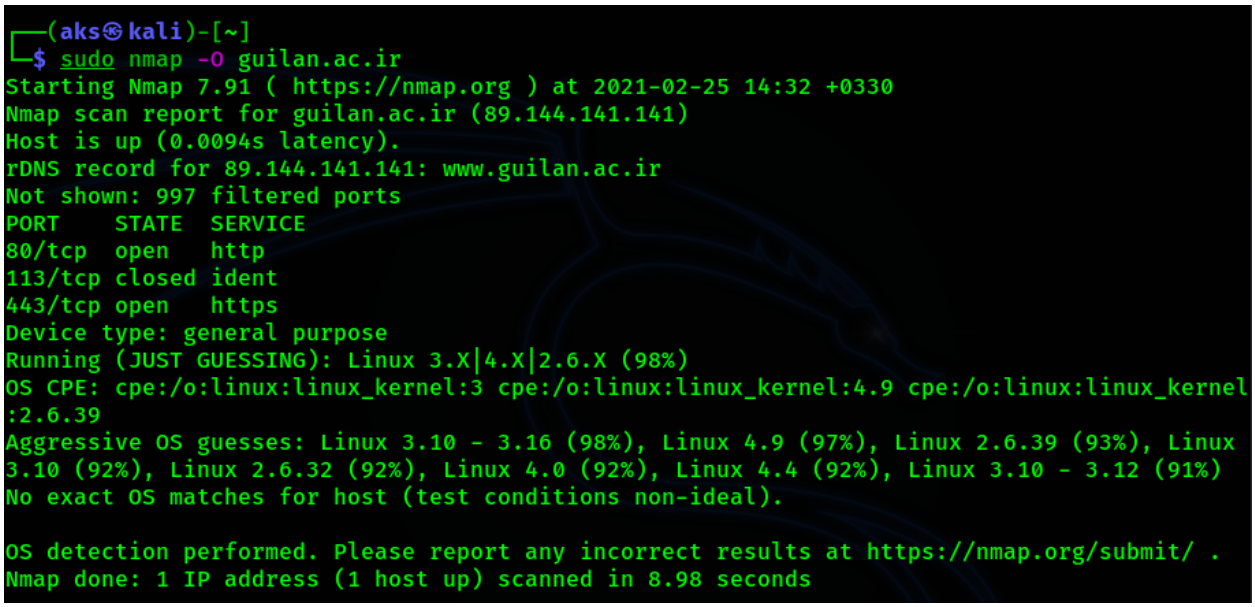
❖ Nmap - Network mapper software features :

- Host discovery – Identifying hosts on a network (based on a ping response or an open port)
- Port scanning
- Determine the version of software and services
- Operating system detection
- Scriptable interaction with the target – using Nmap Scripting Engine (NSE) and Lua programming language.
- Nmap can provide further information on targets, including reverse DNS names, device types, and MAC addresses.

- First we collect the required information, this information includes server specifications, open ports (tcp & udp), services offered, installed software versions, etc.

- To detect the operating system, we can use the following command

$ sudo nmap -O guilan.ac.ir



result (1)

- To gather more information, we scan the target with external and internal IP addresses, and in the following results we will see the difference in the output.

- Installed ports and services are identified using these commands

$ sudo nmap -sU -sT -p0-65535 guilan.ac.ir (by external ip)

```
┌──(aks㉿kali)-[~/sparta]
└─$ sudo nmap -sU -sT -p0-65535 guilan.ac.ir
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-02-25 15:00 +0330
Nmap scan report for guilan.ac.ir (89.144.141.141)
Host is up (0.025s latency).
Not shown: 65533 filtered ports, 65530 open|filtered ports
PORT     STATE  SERVICE
80/tcp   open   http
113/tcp  closed ident
443/tcp  open   https
520/udp  closed route
1144/udp closed fuscript
2000/udp closed cisco-sccp
3784/udp closed bfd-control
3799/udp closed radius-dynauth
8014/udp closed unknown

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 249.26 seconds
```

result (2)

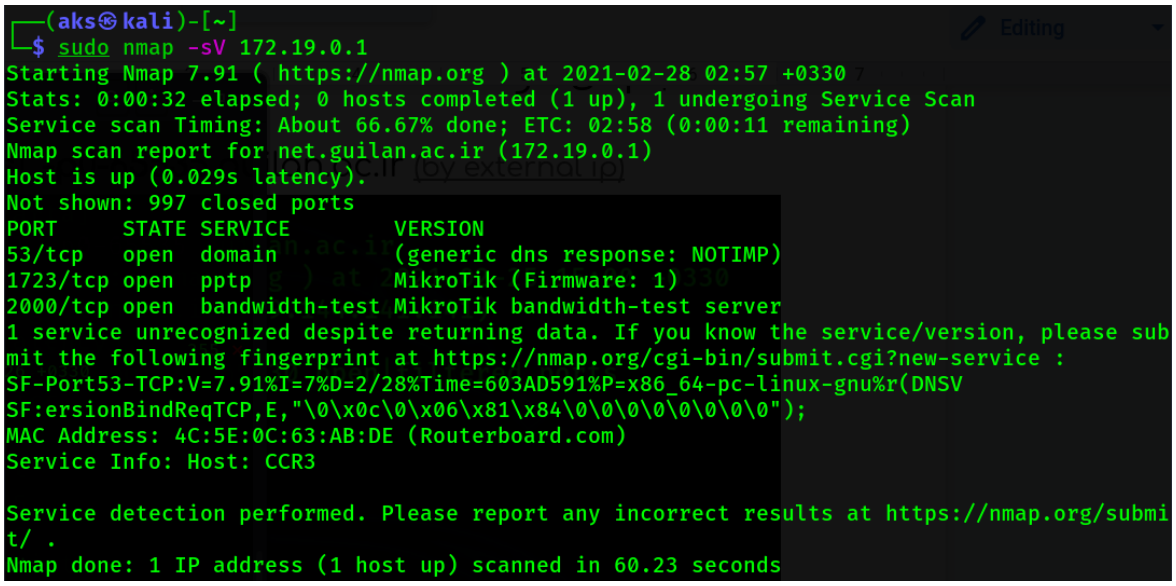
$ sudo nmap -sV guilan.ac.ir (by internal ip)

```
Nmap scan report for guilan.ac.ir (192.168.8.13)
Host is up (0.023s latency).
Not shown: 992 filtered ports
PORT     STATE  SERVICE    VERSION
22/tcp   open   ssh        OpenSSH 7.4 (protocol 2.0)
80/tcp   open   http
113/tcp  closed ident
443/tcp  open   ssl/https
2000/tcp open   tcpwrapped
5060/tcp open   tcpwrapped
5432/tcp closed postgresql
8080/tcp open   http-proxy
```

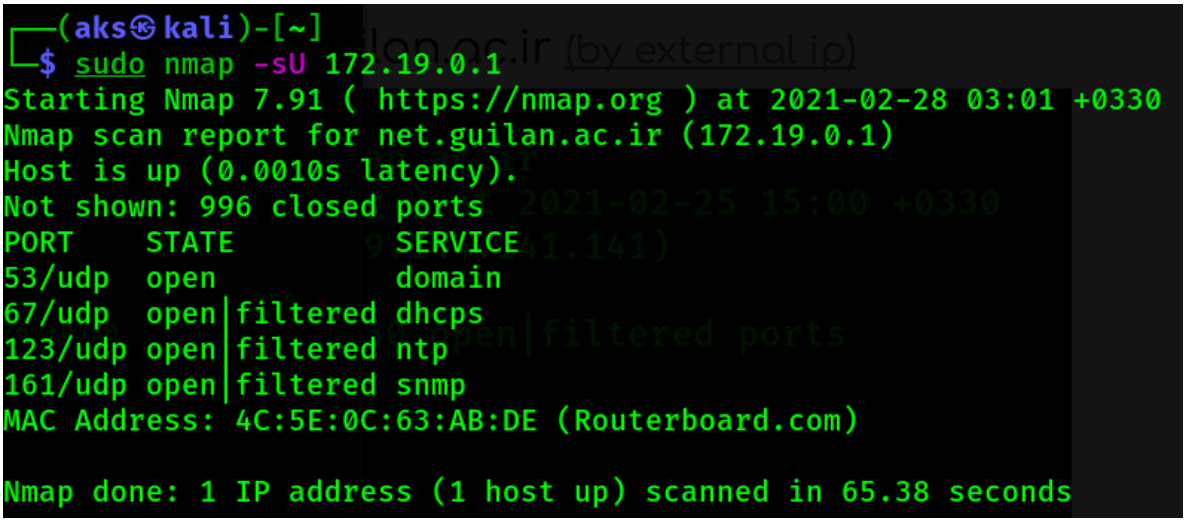
result (3)

- Checking the university's Internet server net.guilan.ac.ir

tcp ports



udp ports



result (4)

2-2- Identifying vulnerabilities in target sites :

- After the process of discovering the operating system, versions of software and services installed on the server, we move on to web tools. One of the most famous of these tools is Vega. It is a scanner used for penetration testing and can be useful for setting up the site by the administrator.

❖ Vega tool features :

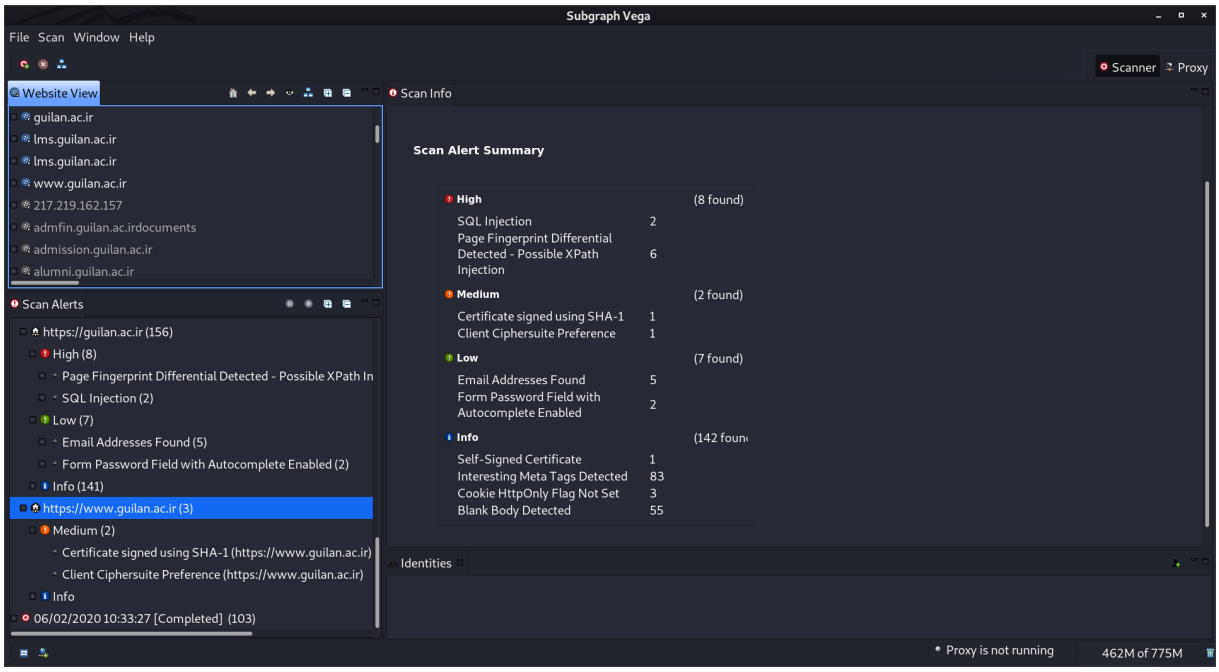
- Scan the GET entries of the desired website.
- Scan the POST entries of the desired website.
- Testing some attacks on the server side.
- Vulnerability scanning : sql injection, cross site scripting, directory check, remote file injection, HTTP headers, etc.
- Divide vulnerabilities into four levels :

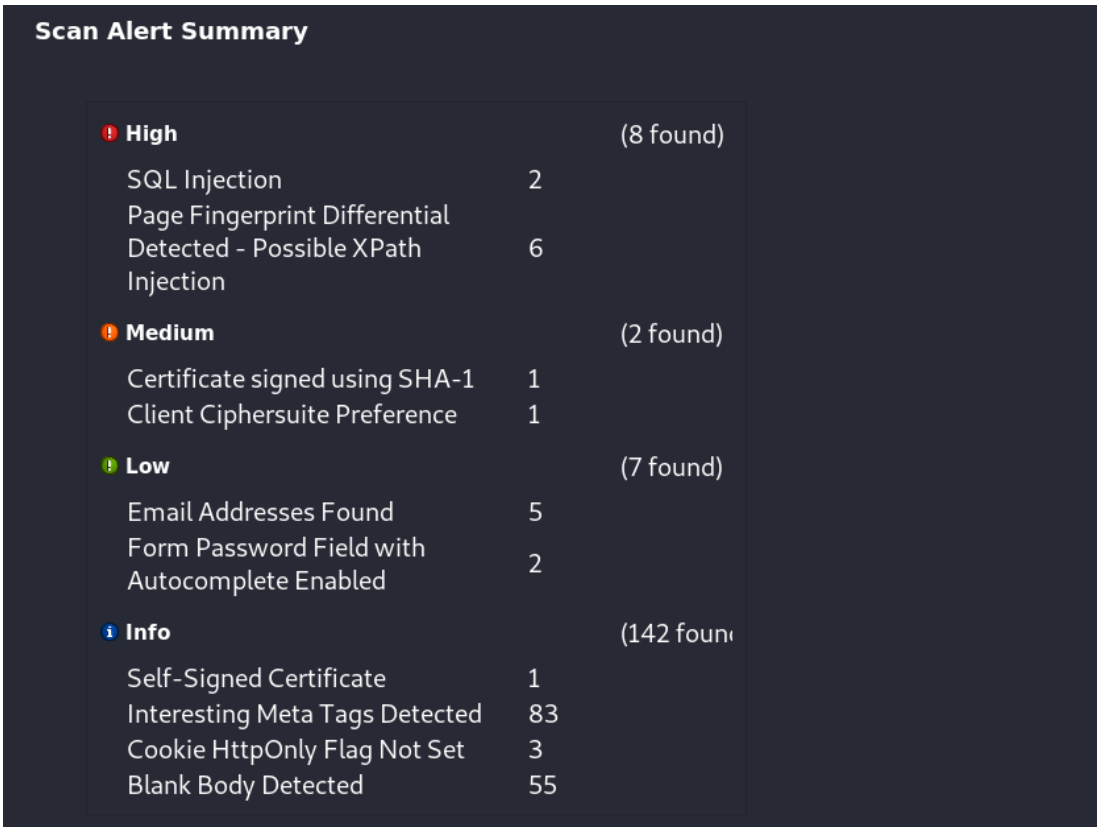
  1-High 2-Medium 3-low 4-info
- To scan the desired site, it is enough to have the site address.

❖ Tool requirements :

- Java jdk > 8.0
- Java jre > 8.0
- libwebkitgtk-1.0-0 (Web content engine library for GTK+)

Scan bugs on guilan.ac.ir





result (5)

2-3- Define the vulnerabilities that were found :

1. SQL Injection bug (High)

- This attack occurs by injecting SQL code into the database through input. The logic of this bug is that the database information is extracted by a malicious query. In this bug we can read database information by some methods (UNION SELECT). This bug exists in all databases such as MariaDB, Microsoft SQL, Oracle, Mysql, etc. This vulnerability has nothing to do with the weakness of these database, but is caused by programmer errors in PHP, ASP, and other web and server-side languages, and sometimes, If there are non-standard server configurations, this issue makes the website more vulnerable and allows the user to set and execute database commands through input.

- The purpose of this bug is different, once you can execute database commands via URL you can do almost anything. Such as access the username and password of admin and users, access and change of all site content, etc.

SQL Injection

AT A GLANCE

Classification	**Input Validation Error**
Resource	**https://guilan.ac.ir/search**
Parameter	**_3_INSTANCE_r4iLfkdAc3jb_keywords**
Method	**GET**
Detection Type	**Blind Arithmetic Evaluation Differential**
Risk	**High**

REQUEST

GET /search?p_p_id=3_INSTANCE_r4iLfkdAc3jb&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=1&_3_INSTANCE_r4iLfkdAc3jb_struts_action=/search/search&_3_INSTANCE_r4iLfkdAc3jb_assetCategoryIds=&_3_INSTANCE_r4iLfkdAc3jb_keywords=%200%200%20-%20-

RESOURCE CONTENT

```
<!DOCTYPE html> <html class="rtl" dir="rtl" lang="fa-IR" locale="fa" test="fa_IR"> <head> <meta charset="utf-8"> <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" cor
```

DISCUSSION

Vega has detected a possible SQL injection vulnerability. These vulnerabilities are present when externally-supplied input is used to construct a SQL query. If precautions are not taken, the externally-supplied input (usually a GET or POST parameter) can modify the query string such that it performs unintented actions. These actions include gaining unauthorized read or write access to the data stored in the database, as well as modifying the logic of the application.

IMPACT

- Vega has detected a possible SQL injection vulnerability.
- These vulnerabilities can be exploited by remote attackers to gain unauthorized read or write access to the underlying database.
- Exploitation of SQL injection vulnerabilities can also allow for attacks against the logic of the application.
- Attackers may be able to obtain unauthorized access to the server hosting the database.

SQL Injection

AT A GLANCE

Classification	**Input Validation Error**
Resource	**https://guilan.ac.ir/show-content**
Parameter	**p_p_lifecycle**
Method	**GET**
Detection Type	**Blind Text Injection Differential**
Risk	**High**

REQUEST

GET /show-content/?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_lxbuSsEUUOQ5&p_p_lifecycle=0'%20UNION%20SELECT%208%2C%20table_name%2C%20'vega'%20FROM%20information_schema.tables%20WHERE%20table_1&p_p_col_count=1&_101_INSTANCE_lxbuSsEUUOQ5_struts_action=/asset_publisher/view

DISCUSSION

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IMPACT

- Vega has detected a possible SQL injection vulnerability.
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- Attackers may be able to obtain unauthorized access to the server hosting the database.

result (6)

2. XPATH Injection bug (High)

- This attack is implemented on XML documents; The XPATH command is a command used in XML documents and is very widely used to search and find data in XML files. XPath Injection attacks, similar to SQL Injection, occur when a website uses user-supplied information to construct an XPath query for XML data.

- By submitting incorrect information to the website, the attacker can find out how the XML data is constructed or gain access to data that he might not normally have access to, even if the XML data is used for authentication, the attacker may be able to increase access level.

result (7)

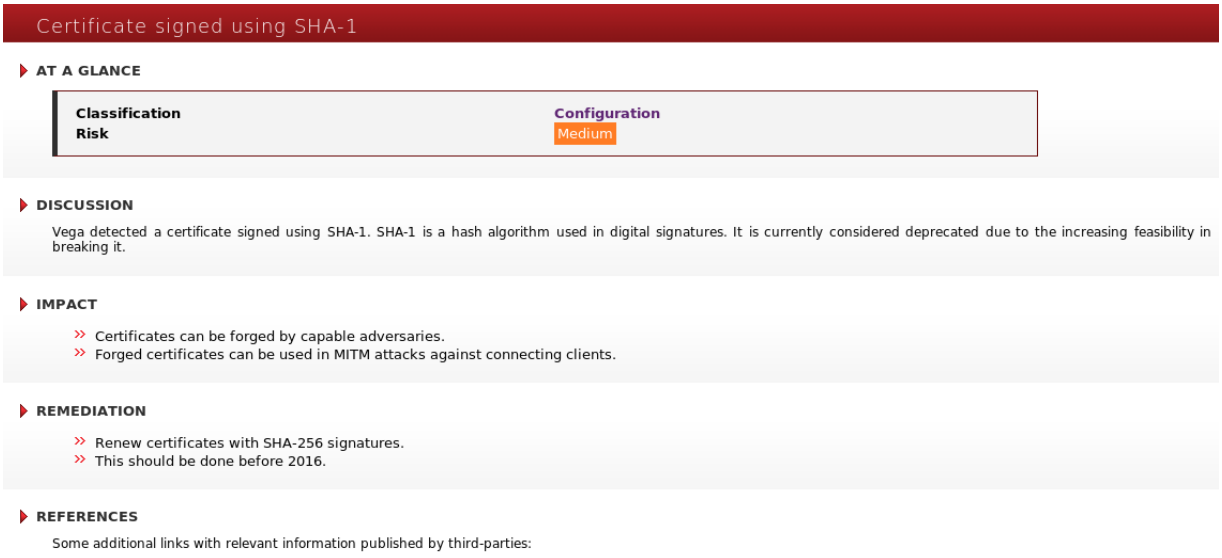
3. Certificate signed using SHA-1 bug (Medium)

- Git in its structures uses the SHA-1 synchronization function not for protection, but to ensure that the data is not changed. And of course, Git is so successful with this algorithm, for example, if you store data in it and after 5 years you want to look at your data, you will see that the data is guaranteed to be unchanged.

Encryption analysis and evaluation

- When we have a message digest of length L, in most cases we can attack the encrypted message with the same length with the complexity of 2 to the power of L by brute force and expose it, it is also called Preimage Attack, which even It can be independent of the message length or computational conditions of the attack.

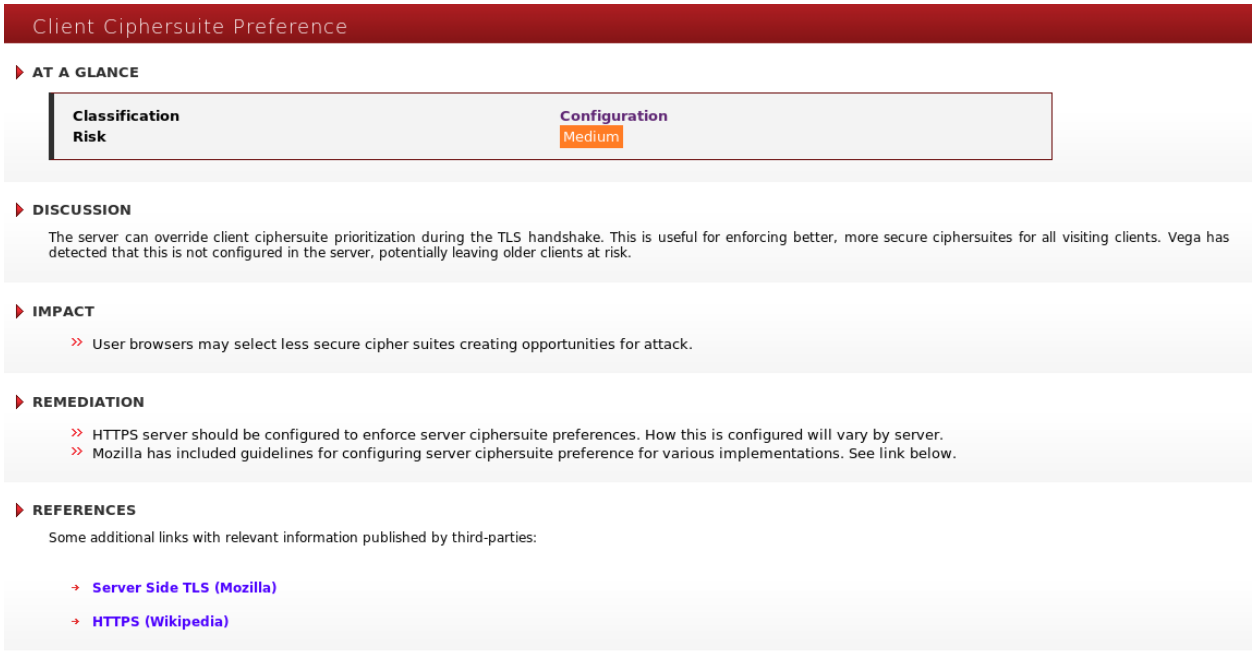
- The second problem here is to find two different encryption algorithms that both produce the same message digest. In such cases, we say that a collision has occurred and the time required to discover it is from the order of 2 to the power of L/2.



result (8)

4. Client cipher suite preference bug (Medium)

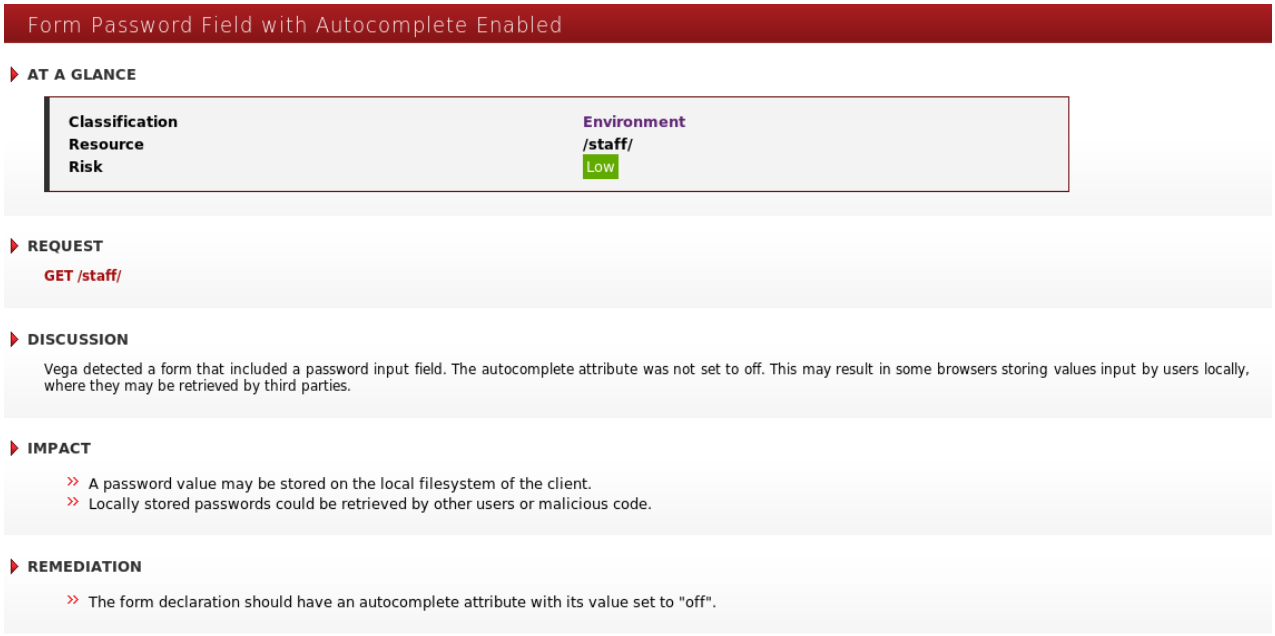
- One of the most important parts of SSL/TLS configuration is to disable vulnerable algorithms and CipherSuites in a way that also enables forward secrecy to ensure security. User browsers may choose less secure cipher suites, which creates an opportunity for attack. User browsers may select less secure cipher suites creating opportunities for attack.



result (9)

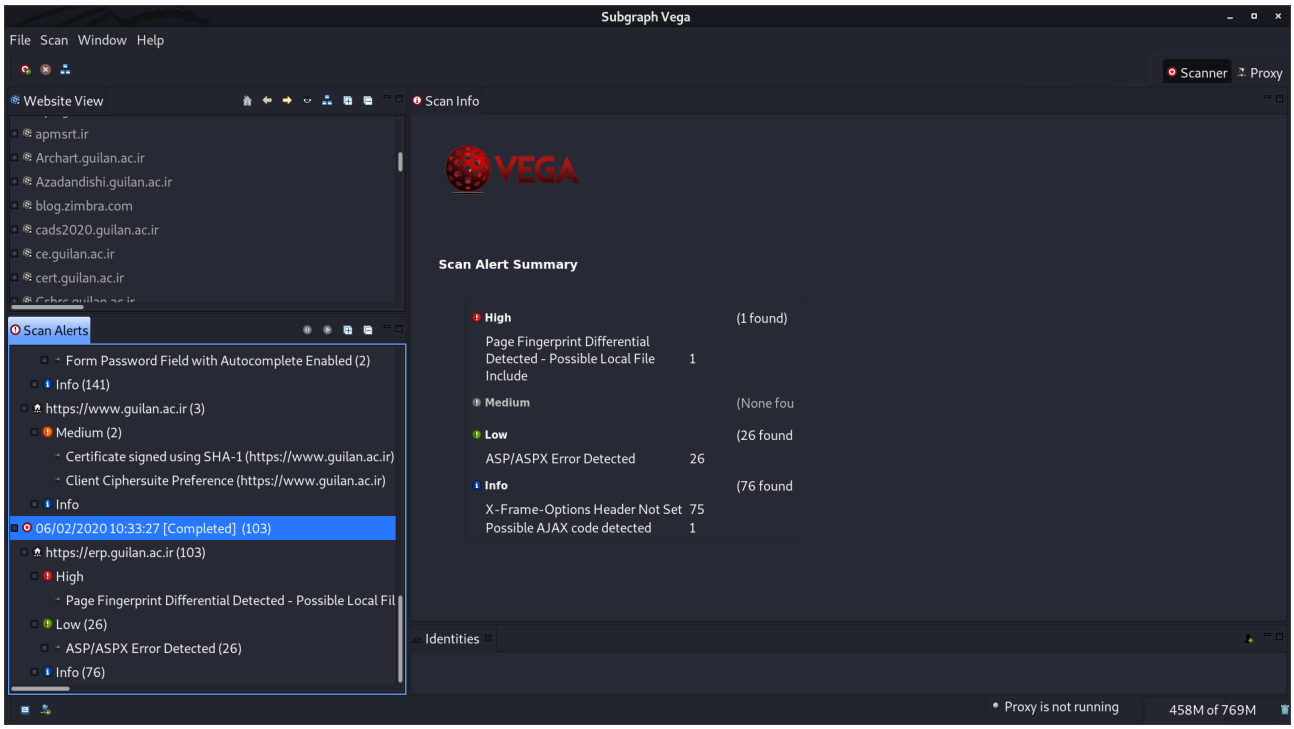
5. Form Password Field with Autocomplete Enabled bug (Low)

- Vega detected a form that included a password input field. The autocomplete attribute was not set to off. This may result in some browsers storing values input by users locally where they may be retrieved by third parties.



result (10)

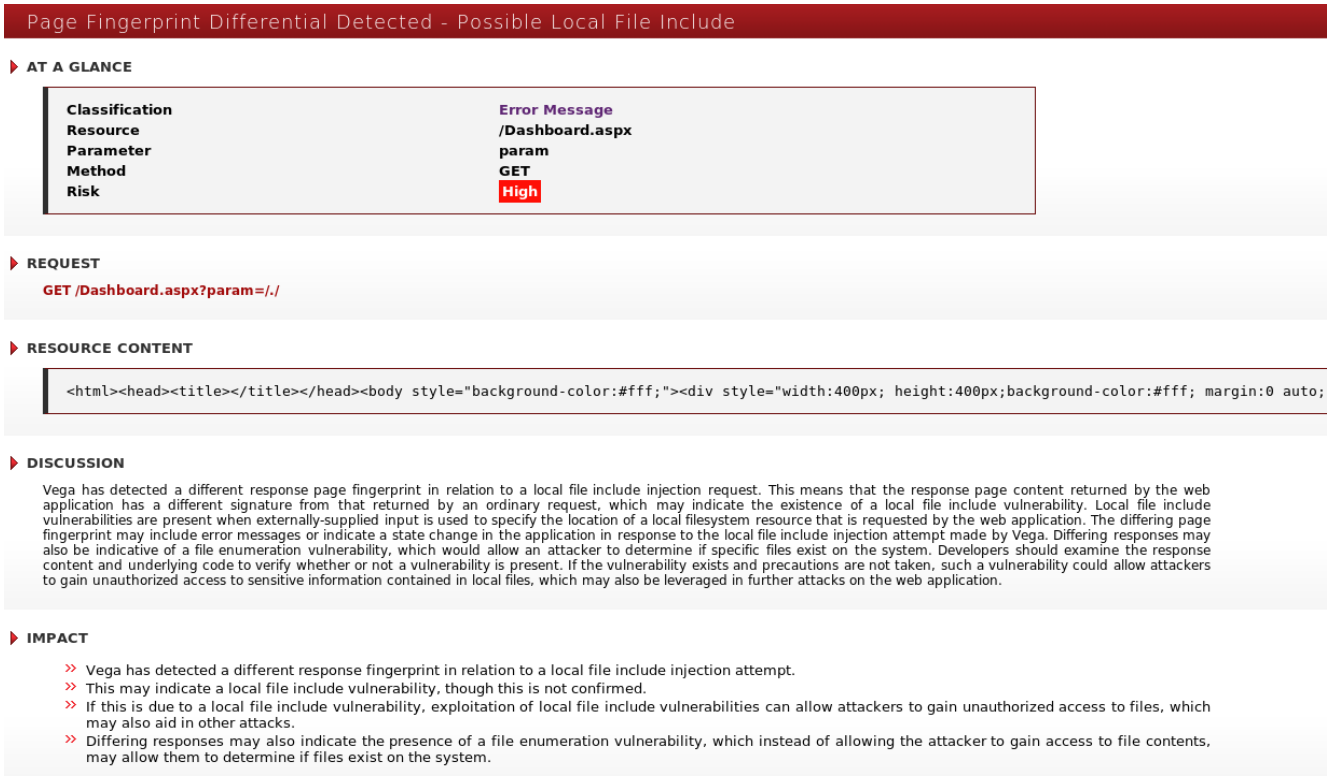
Scan bugs on erp.guilan.ac.ir



6. Local File Include bug (High)

- The LFI bug, which stands for local file inclusion, occurs when the site programmer has used functions such as include to call web pages and has not filtered illegal characters such as (.) and (/).

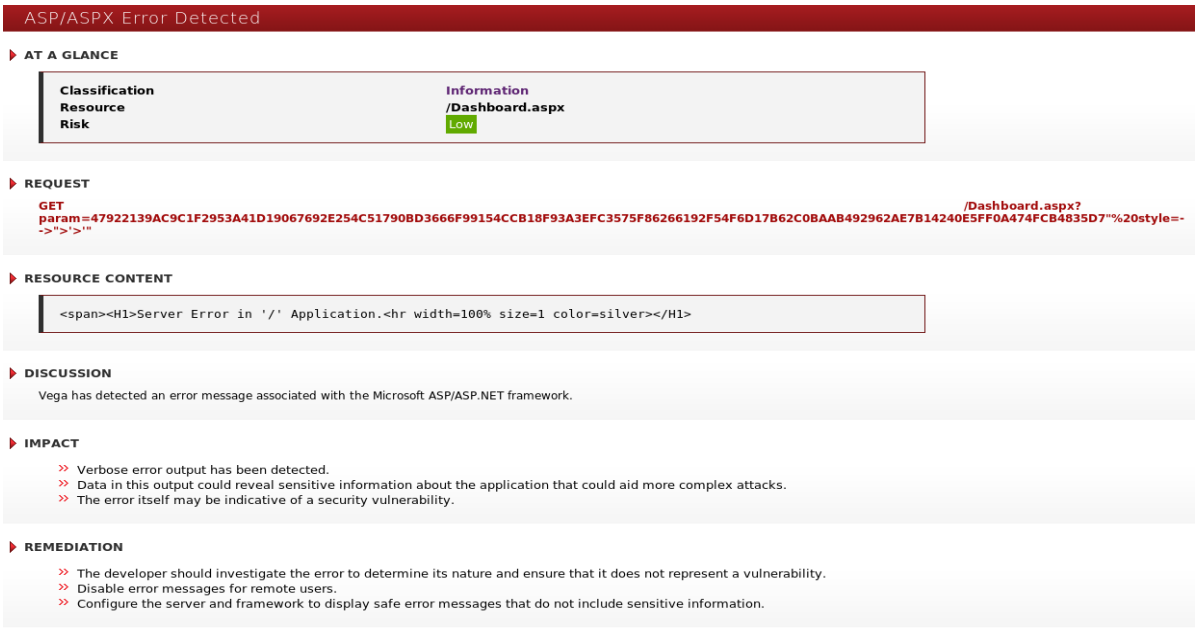
- In this case, the attacker can call an important file such as /etc/passwd/ which contains the site's username and passwords.



result (11)

7. ASP/ASPX Error Detected bug (Low)

- Vega has detected an error message associated with the Microsoft ASP/ASP.NET framework.
- Data in this output could reveal sensitive information about the application that could aid more complex attacks.



ASP/ASPX Error Detected

AT A GLANCE

Classification	Information
Resource	/Dashboard.aspx
Risk	Low

REQUEST

GET /Dashboard.aspx?param=47922139AC9C1F2953A41D19067692E254C51790BD3666F99154CCB18F93A3EFC3575F86266192F54F6D17B62C0BAAB492962AE7B14240E5FF0A474FCB4835D7'"%20style=-->">'>'"

RESOURCE CONTENT

```
<span><H1>Server Error in '/' Application.<hr width=100% size=1 color=silver></H1>
```

DISCUSSION

Vega has detected an error message associated with the Microsoft ASP/ASP.NET framework.

IMPACT

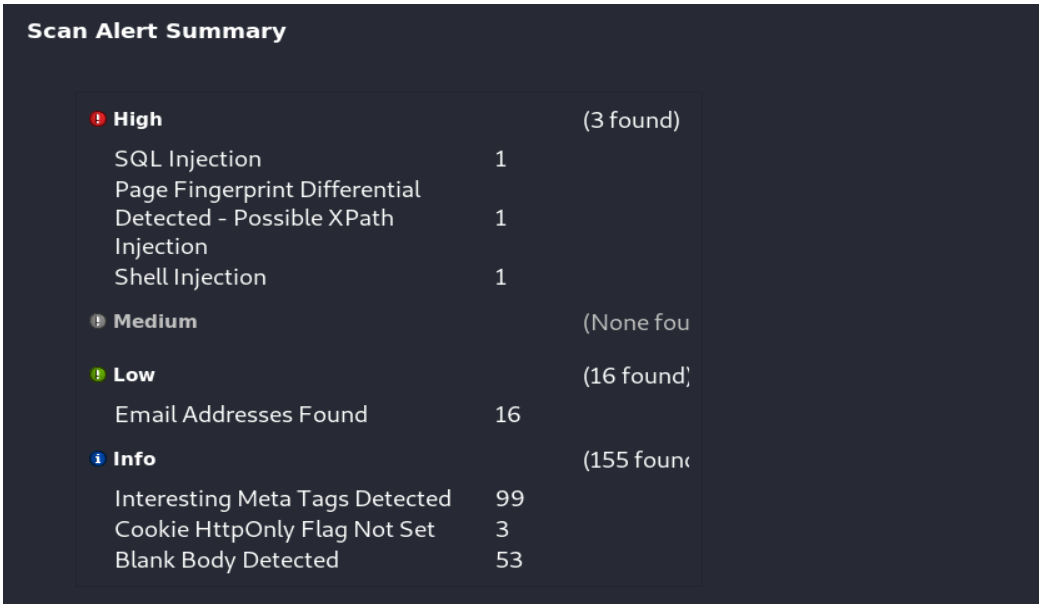
- Verbose error output has been detected.
- Data in this output could reveal sensitive information about the application that could aid more complex attacks.
- The error itself may be indicative of a security vulnerability.

REMEDIATION

- The developer should investigate the error to determine its nature and ensure that it does not represent a vulnerability.
- Disable error messages for remote users.
- Configure the server and framework to display safe error messages that do not include sensitive information.

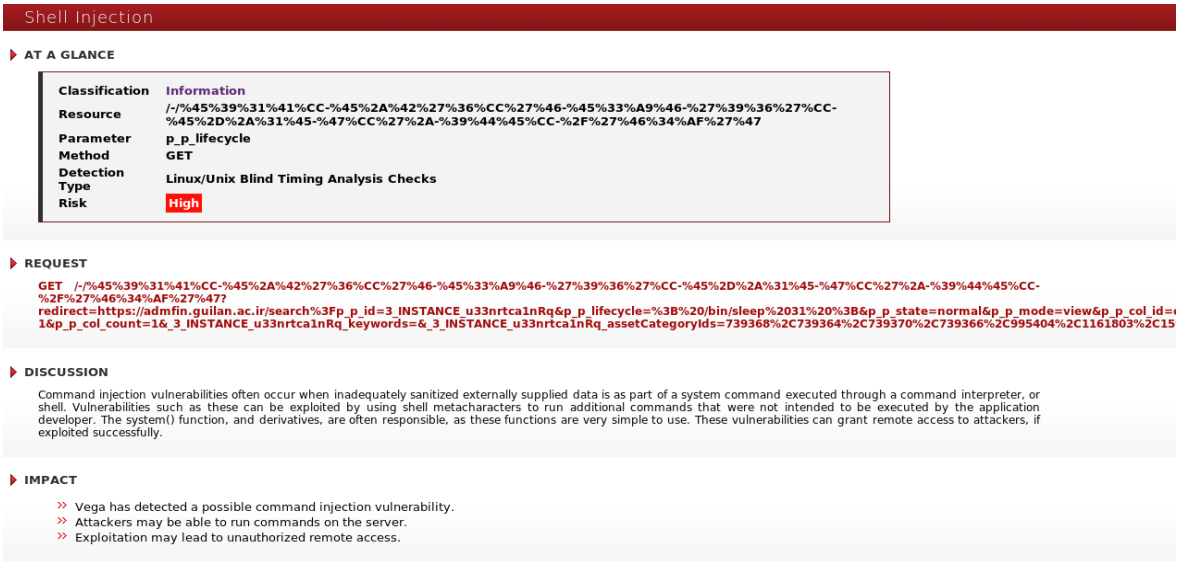
result (12)

Scan bugs on admfin.guilan.ac.ir



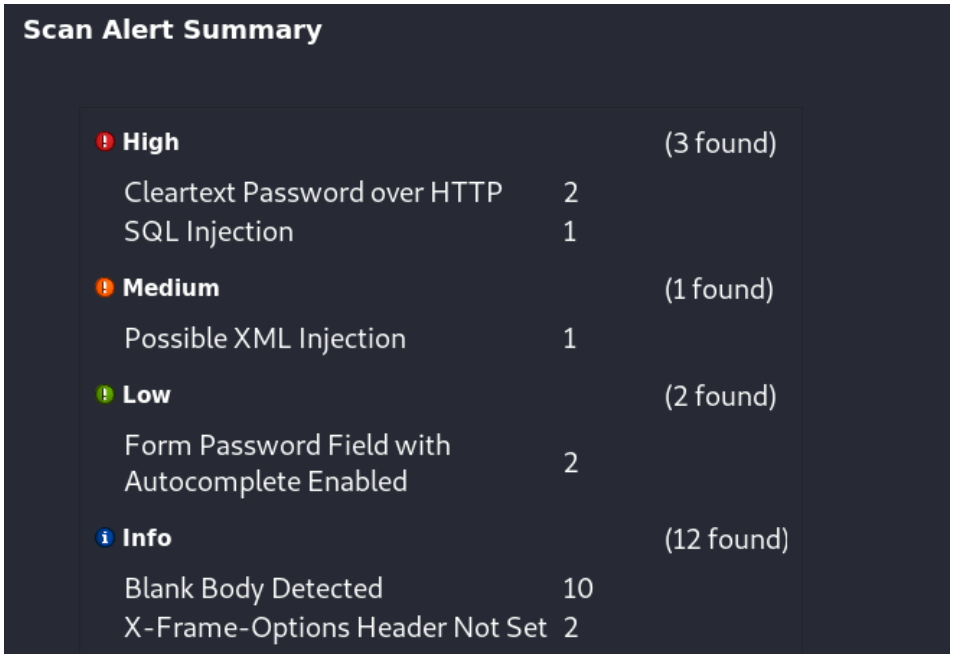
8. Shell Injection bug (High)

- Shell injection is the exploitation of bugs in a computer system that leads to the execution of unwanted commands in the system. By using injection attacks, the attacker can change the direction of the program in any direction he wants.



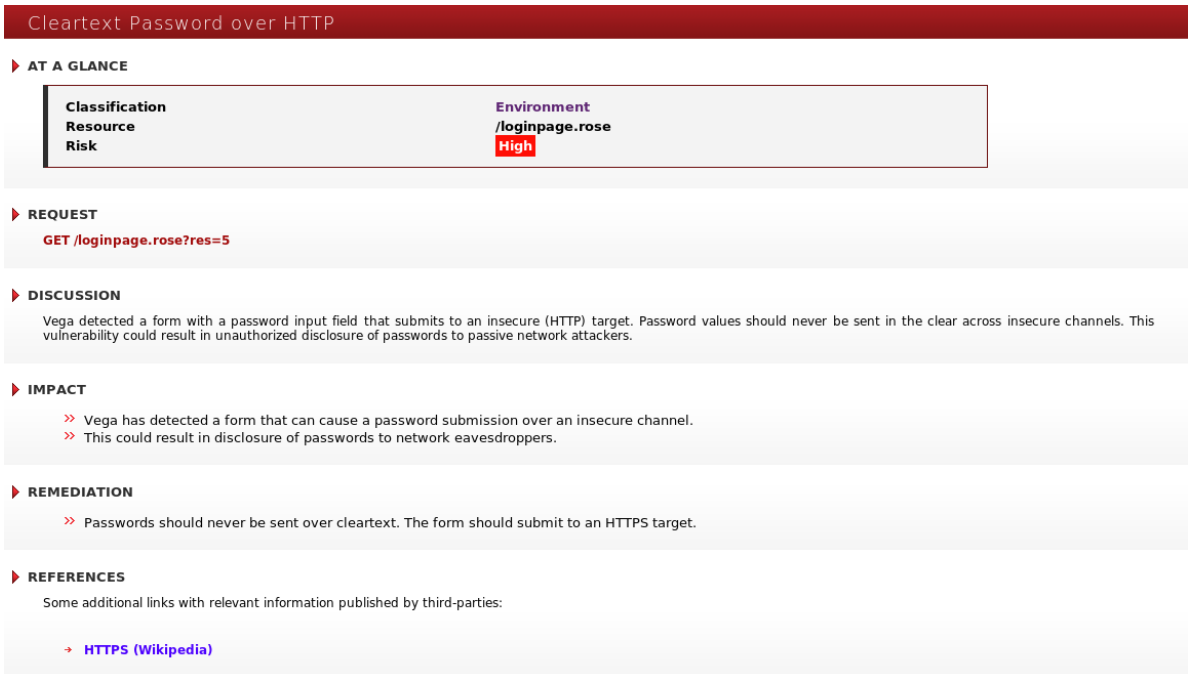
result (13)

Scan bugs on food.guilan.ac.ir

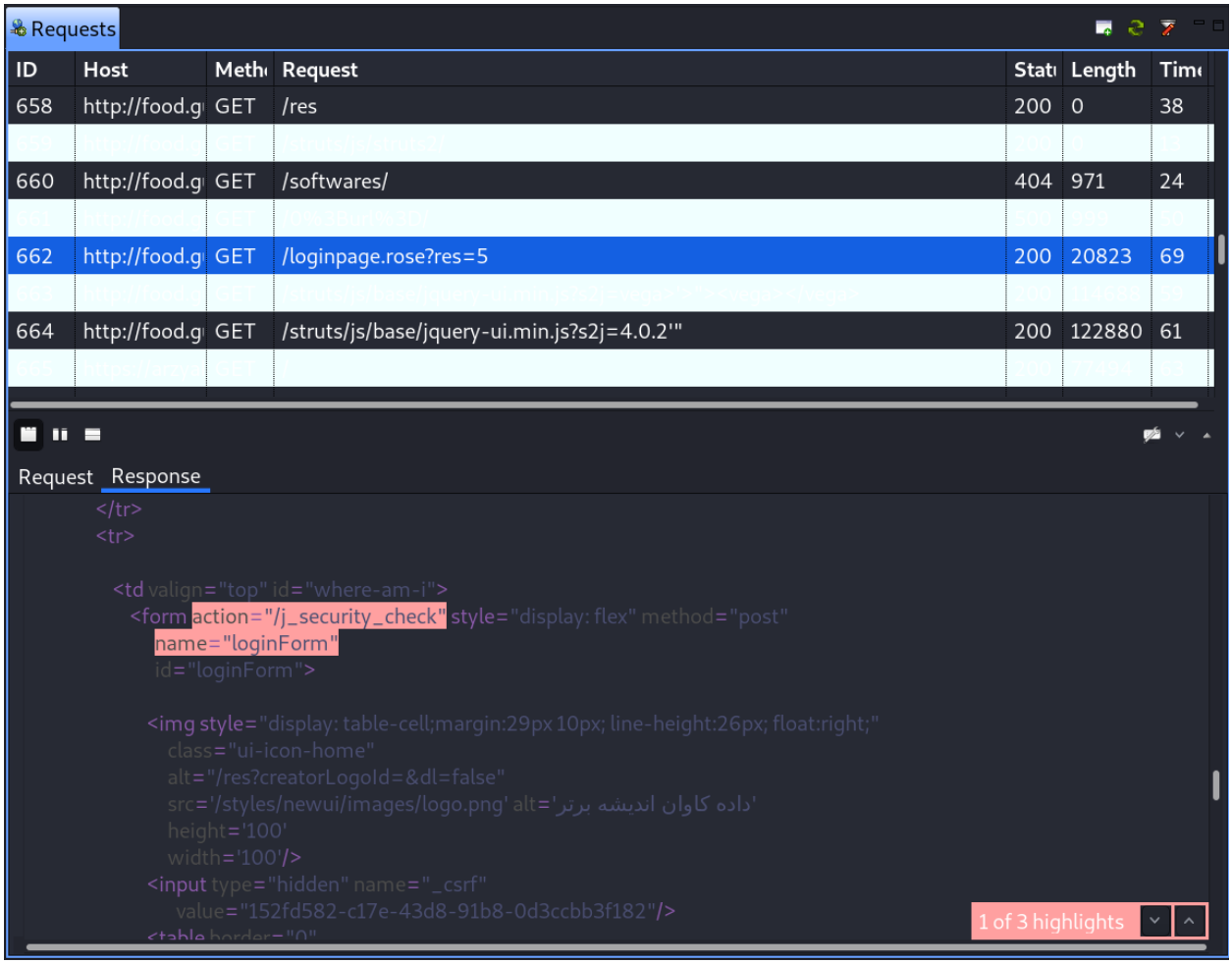


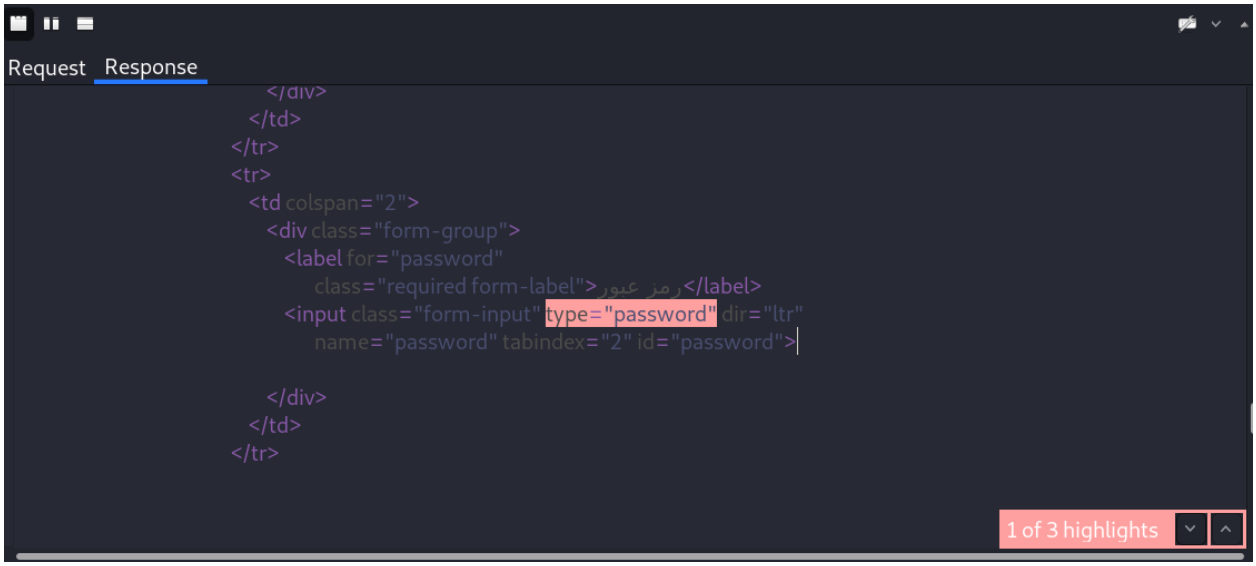
9. Cleartext Password over HTTP bug (High)

- Vega has detected a form that can cause a password submission over an insecure channel.



result (14)


Requests
ID
Host
Meth
Request
Stat
Length
Tim
658
http://food.g
GET
/res
200
0
38
660
http://food.g
GET
/softwares/
404
971
24
662
http://food.g
GET
/loginpage.rose?res=5
200
20823
69
664
http://food.g
GET
/struts/js/base/jquery-ui.min.js?s2j=4.0.2'"
200
122880
61
Request
Response
</tr>
<tr>
<td valign="top" id="where-am-i">
<form action="/j_security_check" style="display: flex" method="post"
name="loginForm"
id="loginForm">
<img style="display: table-cell;margin:29px 10px; line-height:26px; float:right;"
class="ui-icon-home"
alt="/res?creatorLogoId=&dl=false"
src='/styles/newui/images/logo.png' alt='داده کاوان اندیشه برتر'
height='100'
width='100'/>
<input type="hidden" name="_csrf"
value="152fd582-c17e-43d8-91b8-0d3ccbb3f182"/>
1 of 3 highlights


Request
Response
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">

<label for="password"
class="required form-label">رمز عبور</label>
<input class="form-input" type="password" dir="ltr"
name="password" tabindex="2" id="password">

</td>
</tr>
1 of 3 highlights

result (15)

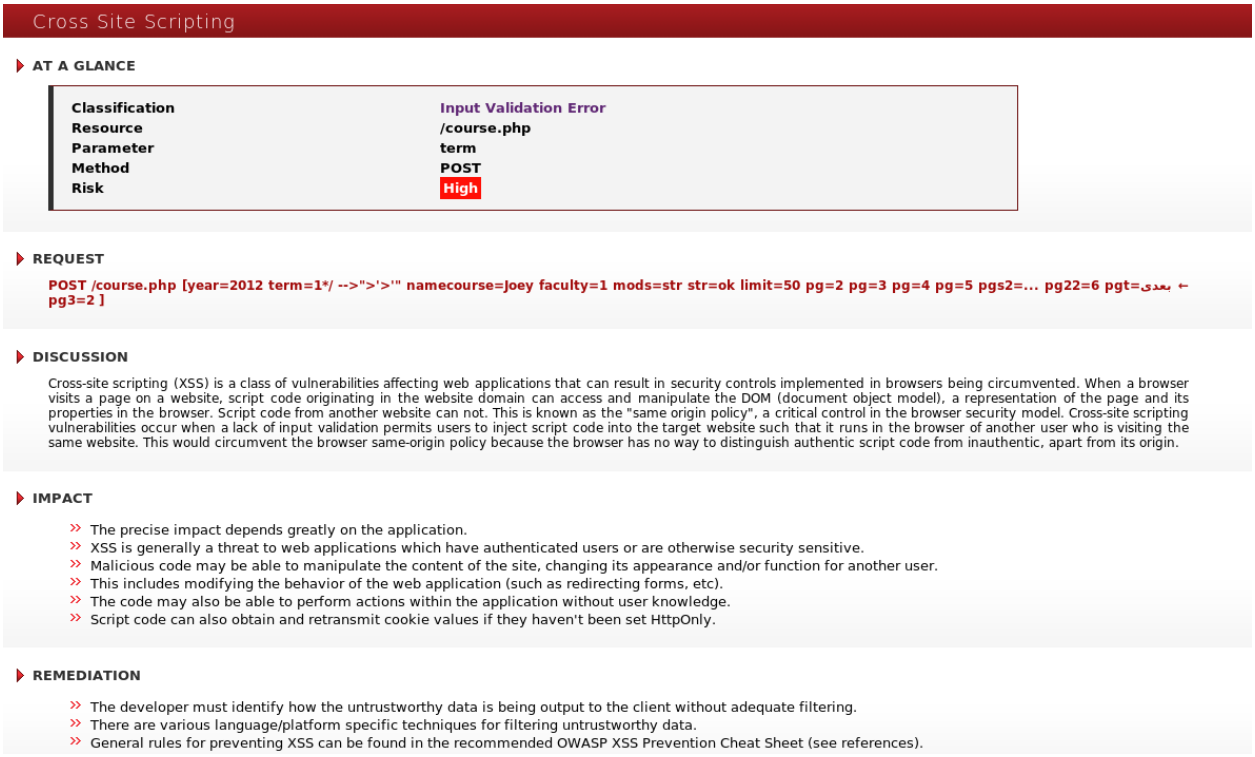
Scan bugs on courses.guilan.ac.ir

Scan Alert Summary

High		(16 found)
Session Cookie Without Secure Flag	1	
Session Cookie Without HttpOnly Flag	1	
Cleartext Password over HTTP	3	
Shell Injection	5	
Cross Site Scripting	2	
SQL Injection	3	
Page Fingerprint Differential Detected - Possible XPath Injection	1	
Medium		(3 found)
HTTP Trace Support Detected	1	
Possible Source Code Disclosure	2	
Low		(3 found)
Form Password Field with Autocomplete Enabled	3	
Info		(25 found)
X-Frame-Options Header Not Set	21	
HTTP Error Detected	3	
Blank Body Detected	1	

10. Cross Site Scripting XSS bug (High)

- This bug allows the attacker to execute his own script on the website. These scripts can only be client-side languages, which means it is visible to the user.



Cross Site Scripting

AT A GLANCE

Classification	Input Validation Error
Resource	/course.php
Parameter	term
Method	POST
Risk	High

REQUEST

POST /course.php [year=2012 term=1*/ -->">'>'" namecourse=Joey faculty=1 mods=str str=ok limit=50 pg=2 pg=3 pg=4 pg=5 pgs2=... pg22=6 pgt=بعدی ← pg3=2]

DISCUSSION

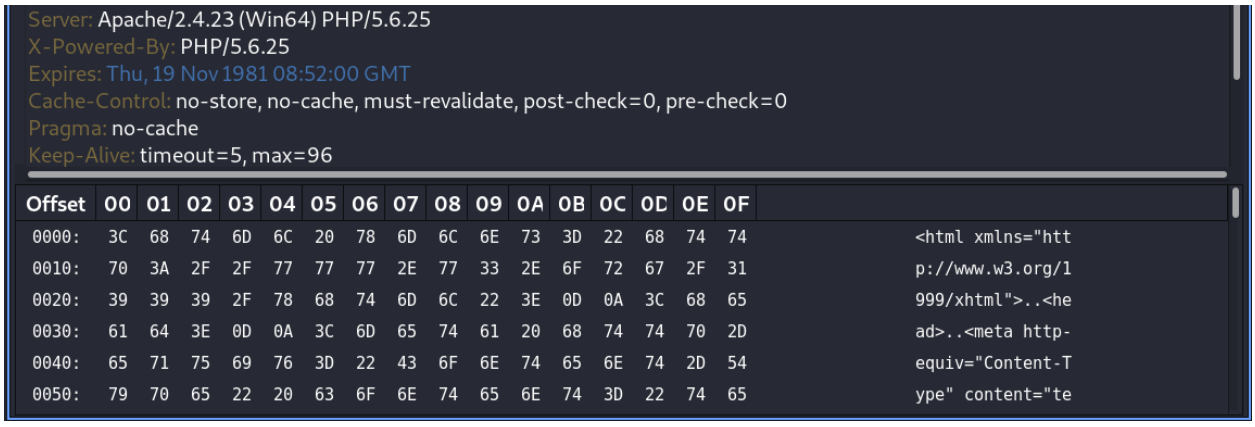
Cross-site scripting (XSS) is a class of vulnerabilities affecting web applications that can result in security controls implemented in browsers being circumvented. When a browser visits a page on a website, script code originating in the website domain can access and manipulate the DOM (document object model), a representation of the page and its properties in the browser. Script code from another website can not. This is known as the "same origin policy", a critical control in the browser security model. Cross-site scripting vulnerabilities occur when a lack of input validation permits users to inject script code into the target website such that it runs in the browser of another user who is visiting the same website. This would circumvent the browser same-origin policy because the browser has no way to distinguish authentic script code from inauthentic, apart from its origin.

IMPACT

- The precise impact depends greatly on the application.
- XSS is generally a threat to web applications which have authenticated users or are otherwise security sensitive.
- Malicious code may be able to manipulate the content of the site, changing its appearance and/or function for another user.
- This includes modifying the behavior of the web application (such as redirecting forms, etc).
- The code may also be able to perform actions within the application without user knowledge.
- Script code can also obtain and retransmit cookie values if they haven't been set HttpOnly.

REMEDIATION

- The developer must identify how the untrustworthy data is being output to the client without adequate filtering.
- There are various language/platform specific techniques for filtering untrustworthy data.
- General rules for preventing XSS can be found in the recommended OWASP XSS Prevention Cheat Sheet (see references).



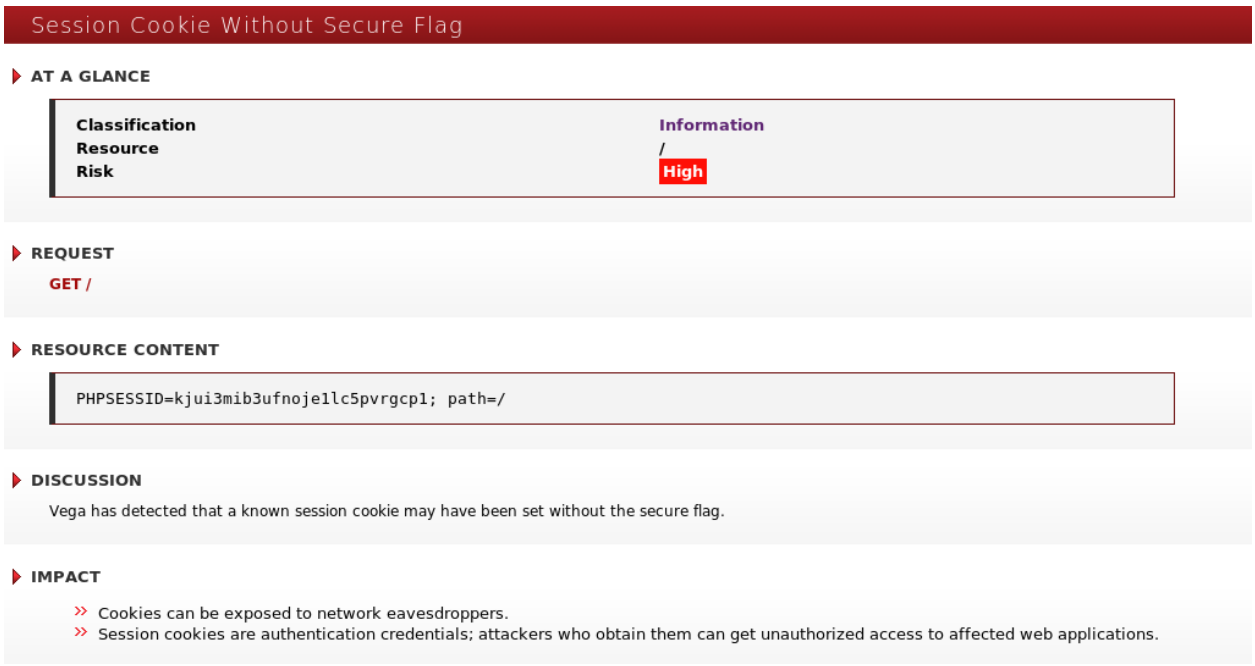
Server: Apache/2.4.23 (Win64) PHP/5.6.25
X-Powered-By: PHP/5.6.25
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0
Pragma: no-cache
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=96

Offset	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	
0000:	3C	68	74	6D	6C	20	78	6D	6C	6E	73	3D	22	68	74	74	<html xmlns="htt
0010:	70	3A	2F	2F	77	77	77	2E	77	33	2E	6F	72	67	2F	31	p://www.w3.org/1
0020:	39	39	39	2F	78	68	74	6D	6C	22	3E	0D	0A	3C	68	65	999/xhtml">..<he
0030:	61	64	3E	0D	0A	3C	6D	65	74	61	20	68	74	74	70	2D	ad>..<meta http-
0040:	65	71	75	69	76	3D	22	43	6F	6E	74	65	6E	74	2D	54	equiv="Content-T
0050:	79	70	65	22	20	63	6F	6E	74	65	6E	74	3D	22	74	65	ype" content="te

result (16)

11. Session Cookie Without Secure Flag bug (High)

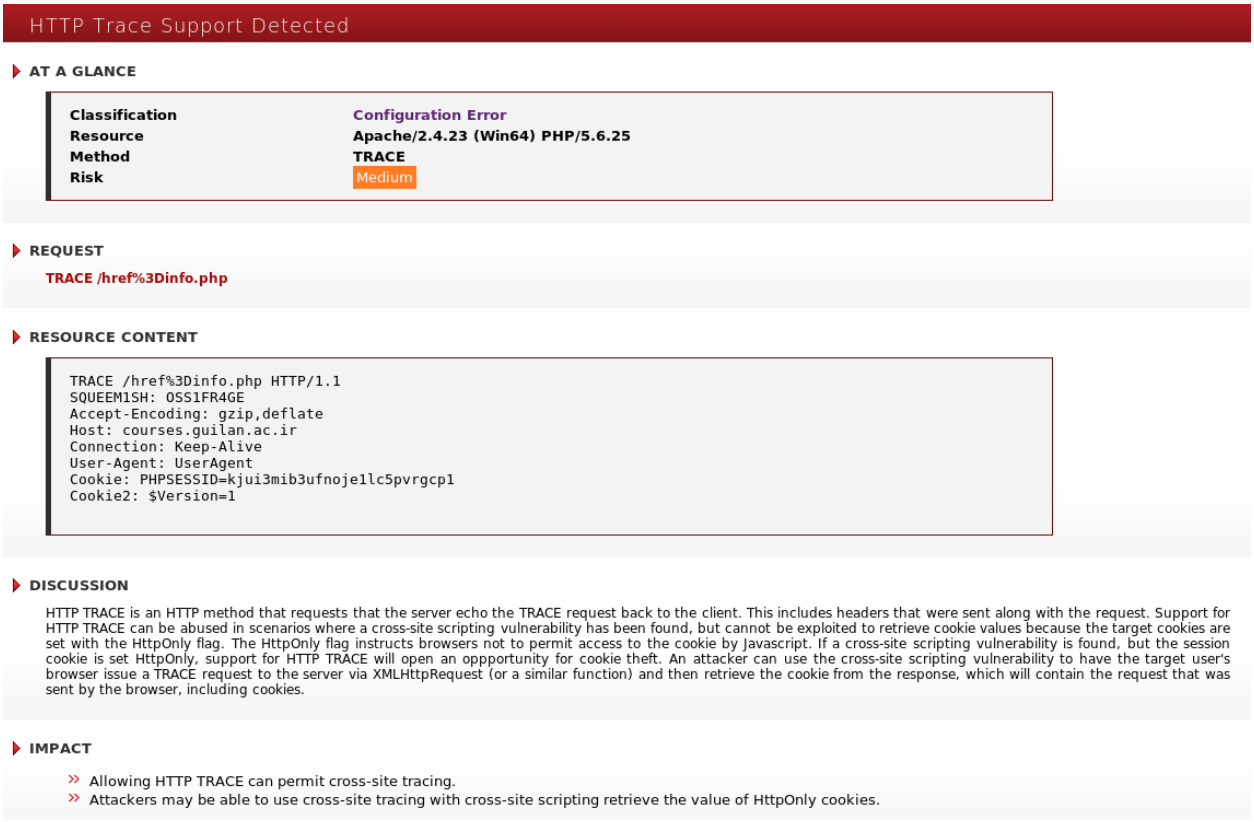
- A cookie is a client-side file that contains information, this information can be items in your shopping cart or your username and password. attackers who obtain them can get unauthorized access to affected web applications.



result (17)

12. HTTP Trace Support Detected bug (High)

- By this bug, attackers may be able to use cross-site tracing with cross-site scripting to retrieve the value of HttpOnly cookies.



result (18)

13. Session Cookie Without Secure Flag bug (High)

- With this bug, an attacker can obtain server source code from a web application, which may contain sensitive information such as database connection strings, usernames, and passwords.

Page Fingerprint Differential Detected - Possible XPath Injection

AT A GLANCE

Classification	**Error Message**
Resource	**/search**
Parameter	**p_p_col_id**
Method	**GET**
Detection Type	**XPath 2.0 Blind Injection Differential Checks**
Risk	**High**

REQUEST

GET /search?
p_p_id=3_INSTANCE_r4iLfkdAc3jb&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=e"%20or%201%20eq%201%20or%20"a"%20=%20"a&p_p_col_count=1&_3_INST

DISCUSSION

Vega has detected a different response page fingerprint in relation to an XPath injection request. This means that the response page content returned by the web application has a different signature from that returned by an ordinary request, which may indicate the existence of an XPath injection vulnerability. The differing page fingerprint may include error messages or indicate a state change in the application in response to the XPath injection attempt made by Vega. Developers should examine the response content and underlying code to verify whether or not a vulnerability is present. If the vulnerability exists and precautions are not taken, depending on the nature of the affected XPath query, such a vulnerability could allow attackers to bypass authentication or gain unauthorized access to sensitive XML data.

IMPACT

- Vega has detected a different response fingerprint in relation to an XPath injection attempt.
- This may indicate an XPath injection vulnerability, though this is not confirmed.
- If this is due to an XPath vulnerability, depending on the nature of the XPath query, exploitation could allow attackers to bypass authentication or gain unauthorized access to sensitive XML data.

Session Cookie Without Secure Flag

AT A GLANCE

Classification	**Information**
Resource	**/**
Risk	**High**

REQUEST

GET /

RESOURCE CONTENT

```
PHPSESSID=kjui3mib3ufnoje1lc5pvrgcp1; path=/
```

DISCUSSION

Vega has detected that a known session cookie may have been set without the secure flag.

IMPACT

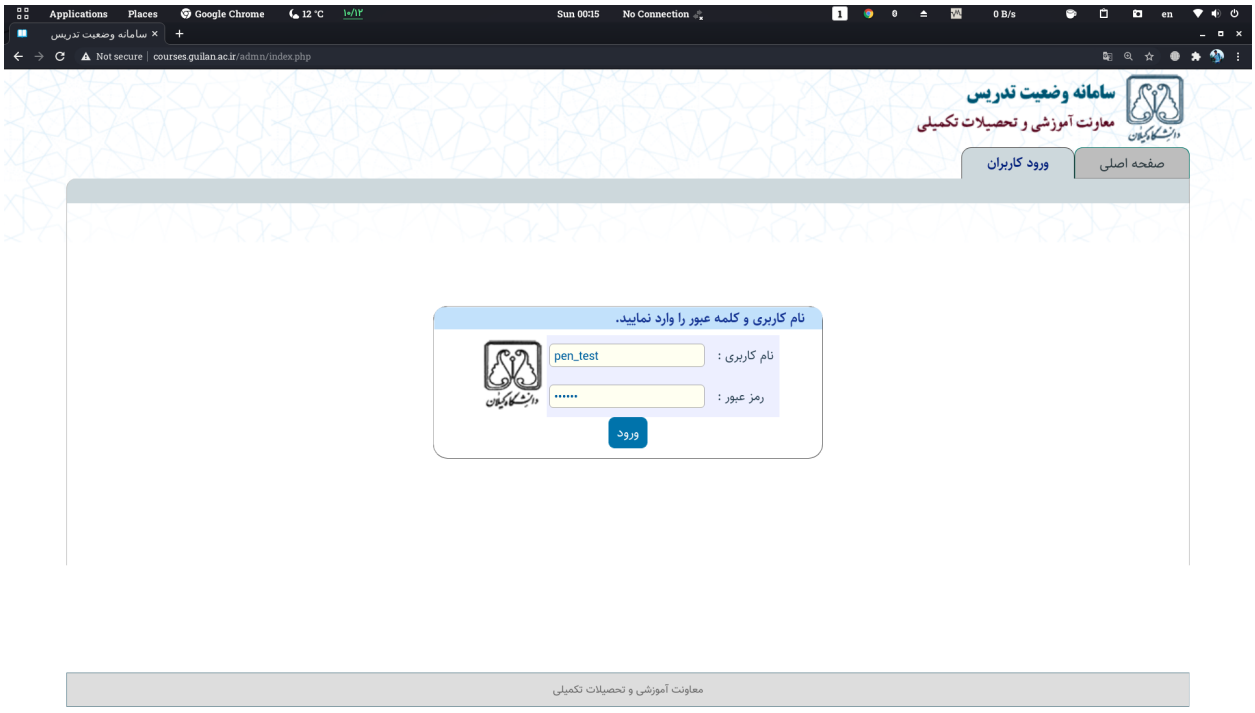
- Cookies can be exposed to network eavesdroppers.
- Session cookies are authentication credentials; attackers who obtain them can get unauthorized access to affected web applications.

result (19)

- As we can see, the last site has the most sensitive and largest number of security bugs. In this case, we can start the penetration test on the same site.

Exploitation of the bug Cleartext Password over HTTP

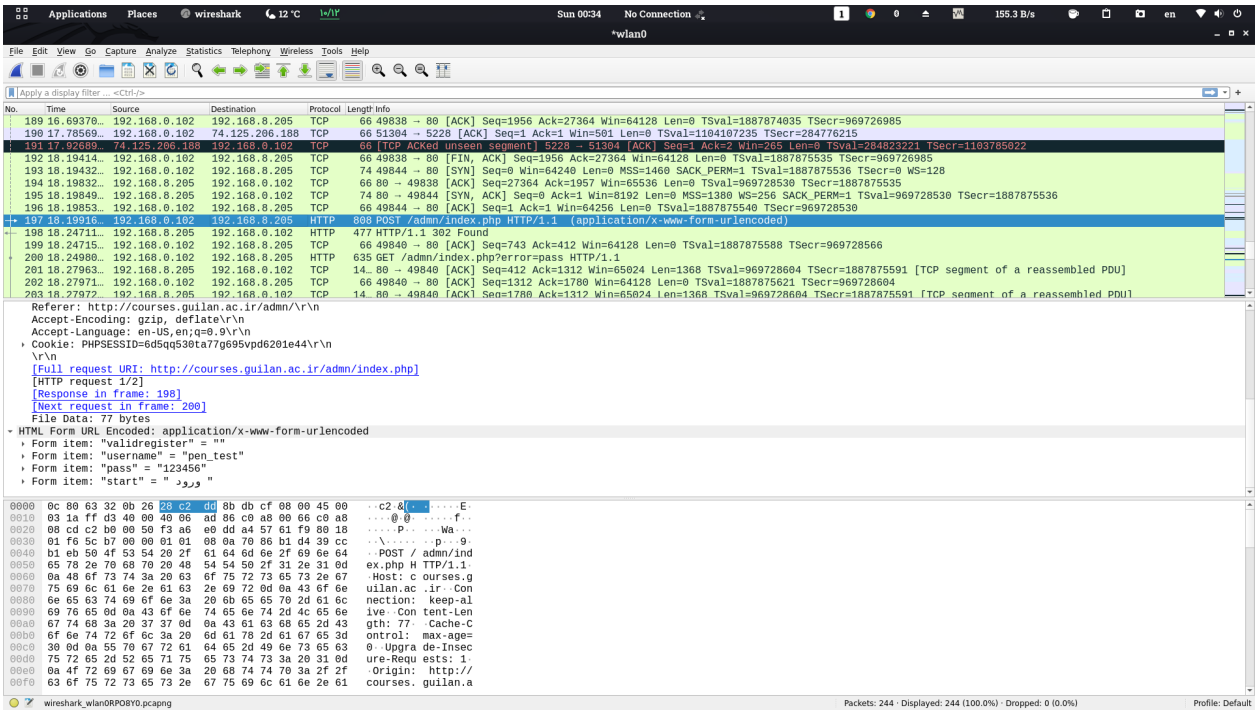
- One of the best penetration testing tools in this field is Wireshark. With this tool, we can obtain the data exchanged between the server and user, which in the following test, we can easily see the username and password in text form.
- First, we open the wireshark tool and start a new session, then we enter the target site with the desired browser, and go to the user login section, then enter the username and password.



❖ in the image above, we used (pent_test) as username and (123456) as password

3-1- Conclusion

- As we can see, the wireshark tool showed us the targeted data, in the image below the package number 197 shows the information that we entered in the previous image using the Cleartext Password over HTTP vulnerability.



Referer: http://courses.guilan.ac.ir/admn/\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate\r\n
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9\r\n
Cookie: PHPSESSID=6d5qq530ta77g695vpd6201e44\r\n
\r\n
[Full request URI: http://courses.guilan.ac.ir/admn/index.php]
[HTTP request 1/2]
[Response in frame: 198]
[Next request in frame: 200]
File Data: 77 bytes
HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Form item: "validregister" = ""
Form item: "username" = "pen_test"
Form item: "pass" = "123456"
Form item: "start" = " ورود "

result (20)

The end