

Hearts Card Game

Secure Software Design and Programming
ISA/SWE 681

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

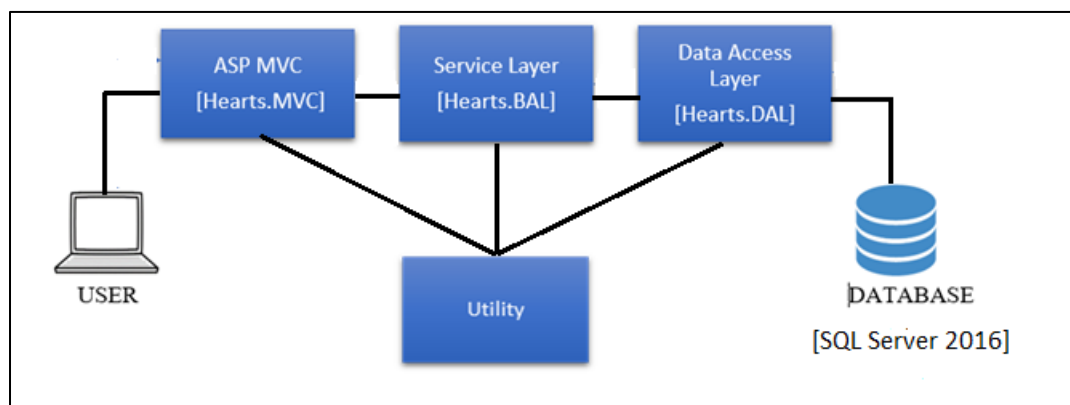
Hearts is a very easy game with many possible variations. The one created for our project uses pass the trash option and with four players. The objective of this game is to gain the lowest points possible while trying to eliminate all the cards in hand. The game ends when any one of the player reaches a total of 100 points. The player with the lowest number of points is declared as the winner.

2. DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE CODE

This section involves the description of the major components that are a part of the games functionality.

2.1. ARCHITECTURE

Our game uses a client server architecture modeled using ASP.NET MVC architecture (.NET Framework) that separates the Model, View and Control of the Code. We have used .Net and Entity framework to develop the game. The image below shows architecture



2.1.1. Components

2.1.1.1. Database-SQL Server 2016:

We have created an instance of SQL server with Mixed Mode authentication, i.e., an application can access the database with username and password.

2.1.1.2. Hearts.DAL

This layer is the data access layer, used by the Hearts.BAL layer to access the database for CRUD [create/read/update/delete] operations. We have used Entity Framework 6.1.3 with Database First Approach. It allows the developer to use LINQ to Entity approach to save data to the database. This does not involve direct concatenation of SQL parameters and masks the underlying query.

2.1.1.3. Hearts.BAL

This layer contains the business logic of the application. The entire rules of the gameplay are developed in this layer. It is this layer that performs all the server-side validation of the inputs and actions of the users. It is also responsible for passing data from the MVC to DAL layer and vice versa.

2.1.1.4. Hearts.MVC

This is the client of the game, modelled using MVC Framework. It contains the web pages which interact with the players. This layer also uses SignalR nuget package to send game play updates as push notifications to the players.

2.1.1.5. Hearts.ViewModels

This component contains the models used by Hearts.MVC project. For example, PlayerModel, GameModel, LoginModel, etc.

2.1.1.6. Utility

This component contains features which are accessed by all the other components. It includes the logic for Hashing, Encryption/Decryption, Logging and Custom Exception Handling.

2.2. FUNCTIONALITY

The functionalities provided in this application are listed below:

2.2.1. Log in/Register/Logout

A user can view certain features of the website without logging into the website, ex. rules, score board, etc. But, needs to create an account to play the game with other players. For this we have added registration, login and logout.

2.2.2. Join existing game or create a new game

A user can create a new game and wait for other players to join or join an existing game.

2.2.3. Play the game

This feature allows the user to play the game. A list of cards are dealt to the players and the website prompts the user to play when it's their turn.

2.2.4. View Score Board

This page contains the scores and the count of wins, losses and draws of all the players

2.2.5. View Rules

This game list all the rules incorporated in the gameplay.

3. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Download Microsoft Visual Studio 2017.
2. Install SQL Server 2016.
3. Turn on IIS in Windows Features.
4. Create the game database using the DBScript.sql file.
5. Open the .sln file from the directory where the file is located.
6. Change the database connection string in the Web.config file based on the instance of the SQL server installed in machine.
7. Build the solution and publish the Hearts.MVC project to IIS Manager.
8. Run the website locally using the assigned port number.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Players must have an account or create one to play the game. Once they log in, they can join an existing game or create a new one.
2. The game starts when all four players join the game room. The game waits 90 secs for sufficient players to join the room, else the game is aborted.
3. Once the game has started, the players are dealt 13 cards each and asked to pass 3 cards as trash. The direction of the trash being passed depends on the round. After all the trashed cards are passed, the game begins.
4. An unauthenticated user can view the Home page, About, Rules page, Leader-Board page and Contact us page.
5. **The website allows multiple games to be proceed simultaneously, however, one player is restricted to only one game at a time.**

5. GAME RULES

Players and Cards

Hearts is most commonly played by 4 people. A standard 52 card deck is used without any trump suit. Each heart is worth one penalty point and the queen of spades is worth 13 penalty points. The other cards have no value.

Object of Game

The object is to avoid scoring points. The game is ended by someone reaching or going over 100 points, and the winner is the player with the lowest score at this point.

Deal and Passing

Deal and play are clockwise. All the cards are dealt out one at a time, so that everyone has 13.

On the first hand, after the deal, each player passes any three cards(except the 2 of Clubs) face-down to the player to their left. When passing cards, you must first select the cards to be passed and place them face-down, ready to be picked up by the receiving player; only then may you pick up the cards passed to you, look at them and add them to your hand.

On the second hand each player passes three cards to the player to their right, in the same way. On the third hand each player passes three cards to the player sitting opposite. On the fourth hand no cards are passed at all. The cycle then repeats until the end of the game.

The Play of the Hand

The person who holds the Two of clubs must lead it to the first trick. The other players, in clockwise order, must play a card of the suit which was led if possible. If they do not have a card of that suit, they may play any card. The person who played the highest card of the suit led wins the trick and leads the next trick.

It is illegal to lead a heart until after a heart has been played to a previous trick, unless your hand contains nothing but hearts. Discarding a heart, thus allowing hearts to be led in future, is called breaking hearts. In general, discarding a penalty card on a trick is called painting the trick.

A player whose hand consists entirely of hearts may lead any heart, thereby breaking hearts, even if hearts have not previously been broken.

Scoring

Normally, each player scores penalty points for cards in the tricks which they won. Each heart scores one point, and the queen of spades scores 13 points. However, if you manage to win all the scoring cards (which is known as a slam or shooting the moon), your score is reduced by 26 points, or you may choose instead to have all other players' scores increased by 26 points.

The game continues until one player has reached or exceeded 100 points at the end of a hand. The person with the lowest score is then the winner.

6. WHY WE BELIEVE IT'S SECURE

6.1. Assurance Case

The security of the application is demonstrated using an assurance given below:

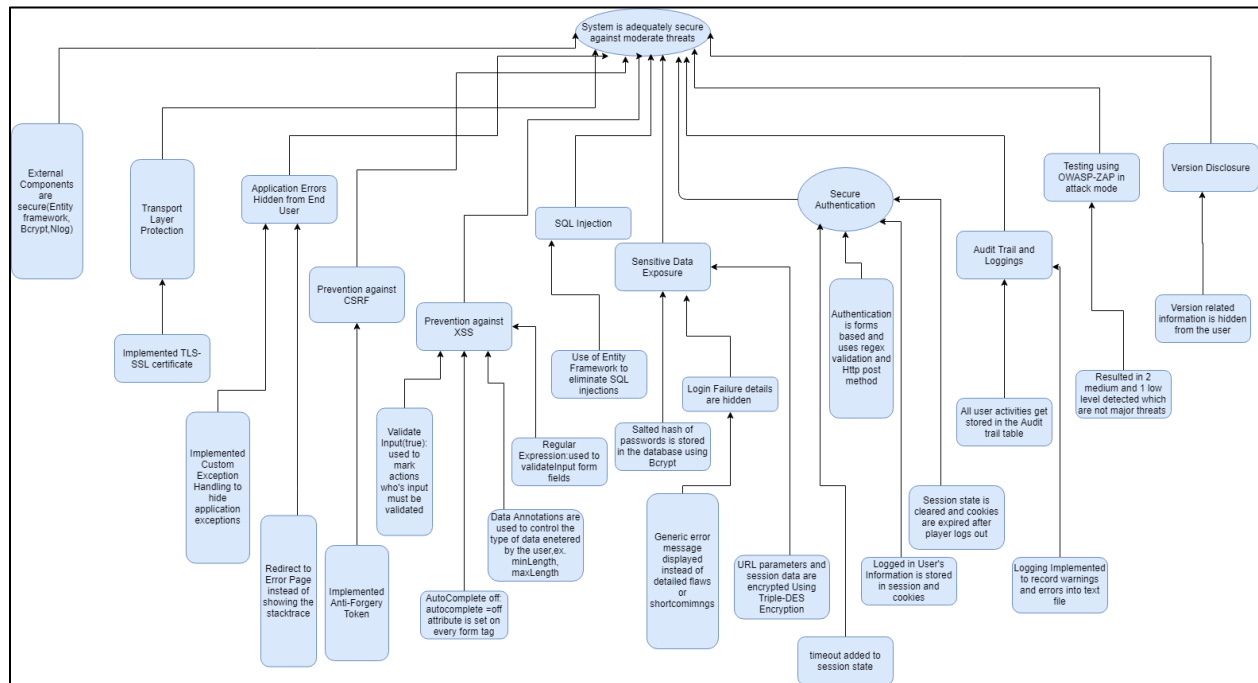


Fig. 6.1.1 Assurance Case Diagram.

6.2. SSL/TLS

"The TLS protocol aims primarily to provide privacy and data integrity between two communicating computer applications." [Dierks2008] This protocol helps keep the connection secure and the data transmitted encrypted. We have also generated a self-signed certificate using Microsoft Visual Studio and IIS Manager [WIKI-TLS]. The certificate uses RSA public key cryptography. We have added [RequiredHttps] attribute on all controllers to ensure SSL is enforced.

The images below show the certificate we created:

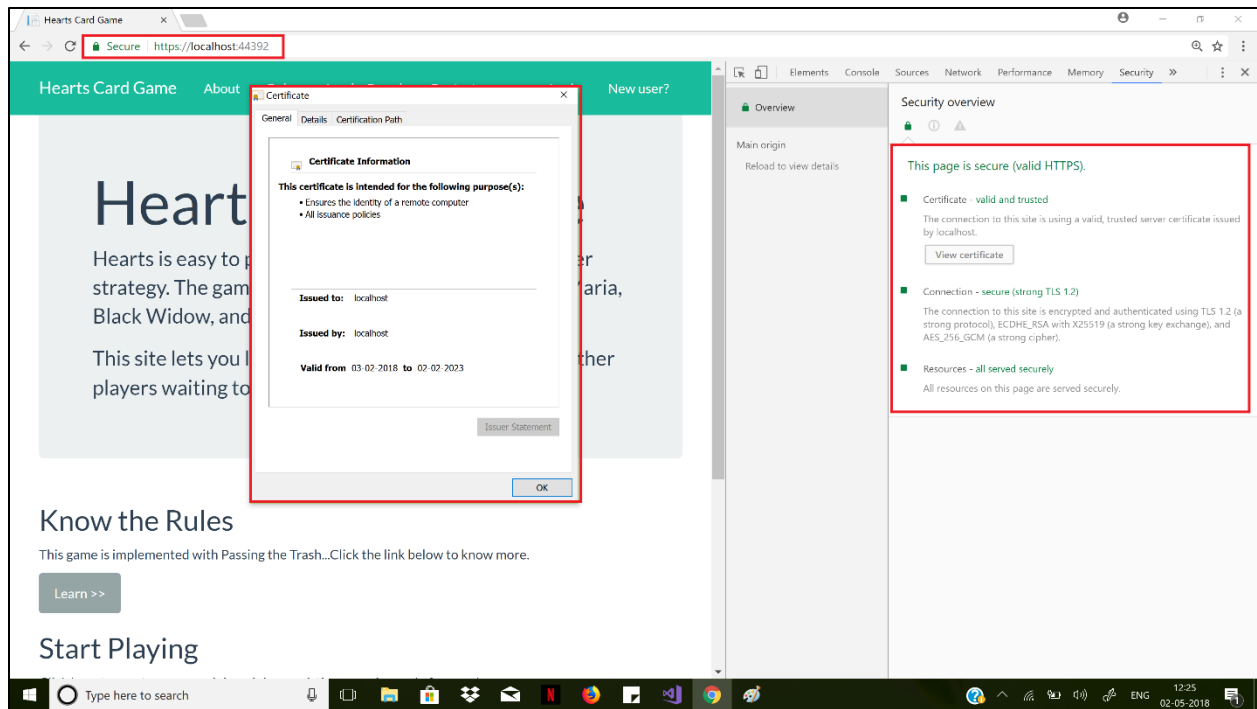


Fig.6.2.1. Certificate

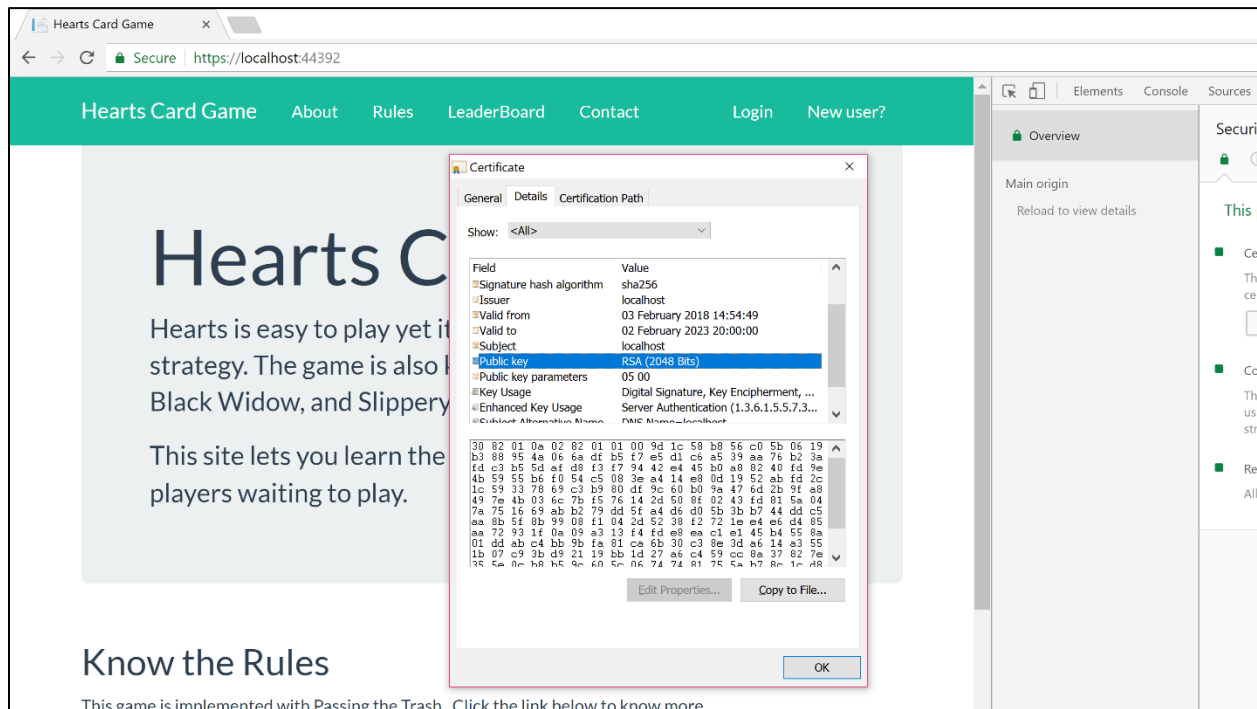


Fig.6.2.2. Certificate Details

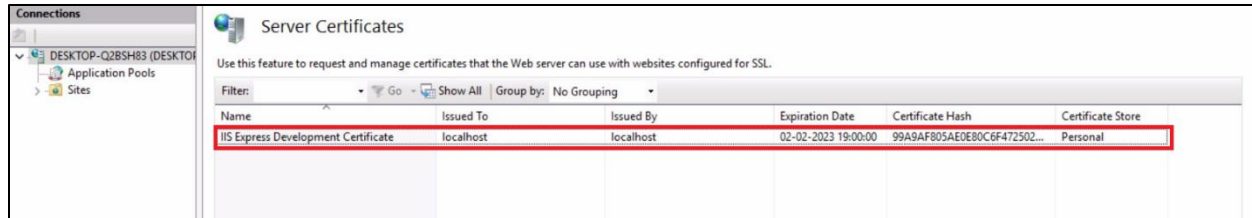


Fig.6.2.3. Certificate Hosted on IIS Server

6.3. Security Misconfiguration

Security Misconfiguration is an area where attackers attempt to gain unauthorized access to unprotected files and extra information. The use of default accounts or passwords, returning stack traces on errors, reveal information that can be exploited, this is caused due to improper Server or Web Application configuration. [OWASP-SEC-MISCONFIG]

In case of unforeseen circumstances, error messages display a stack trace, which usually looks like Fig.6.3.1. To handle this case gracefully, we created a custom error page and redirected the user to it, which doesn't reveal details about the error. After creating the error page, we add the following code to the Web.config file:

```
<customErrors mode="On" defaultRedirect="~/Error/Error.html" />
```

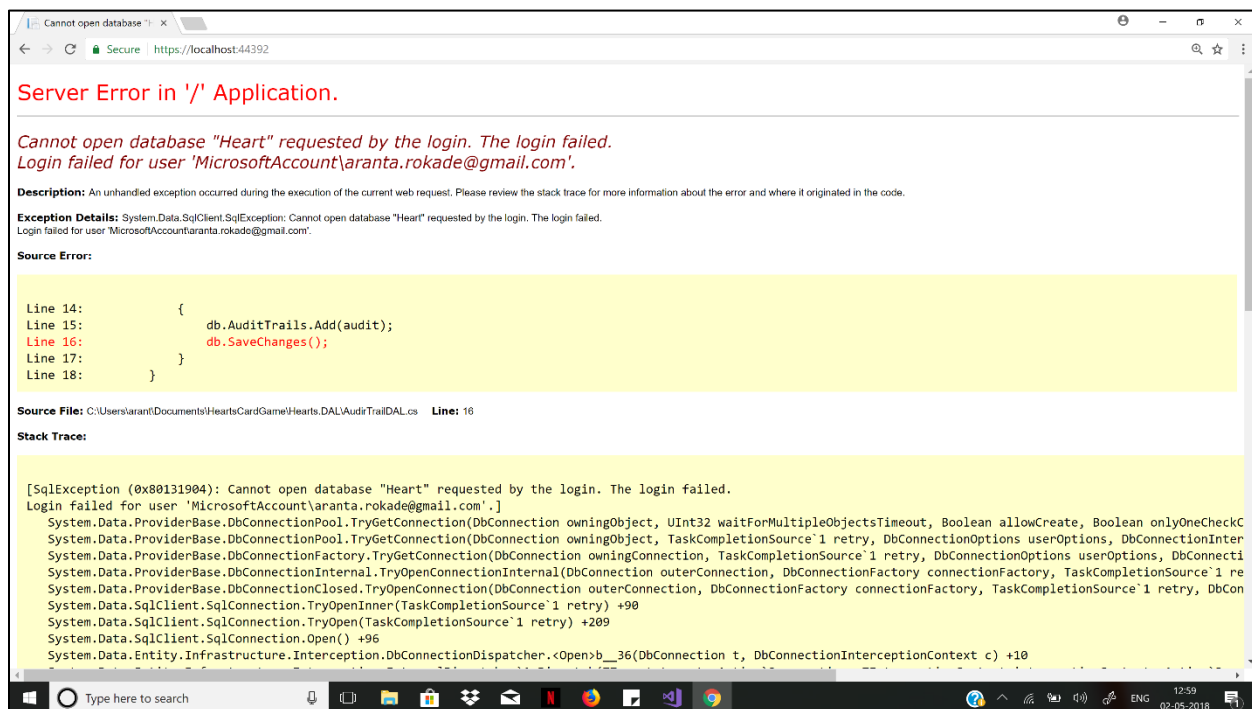


Fig. 6.3.1 Stack Trace without Error Handling.

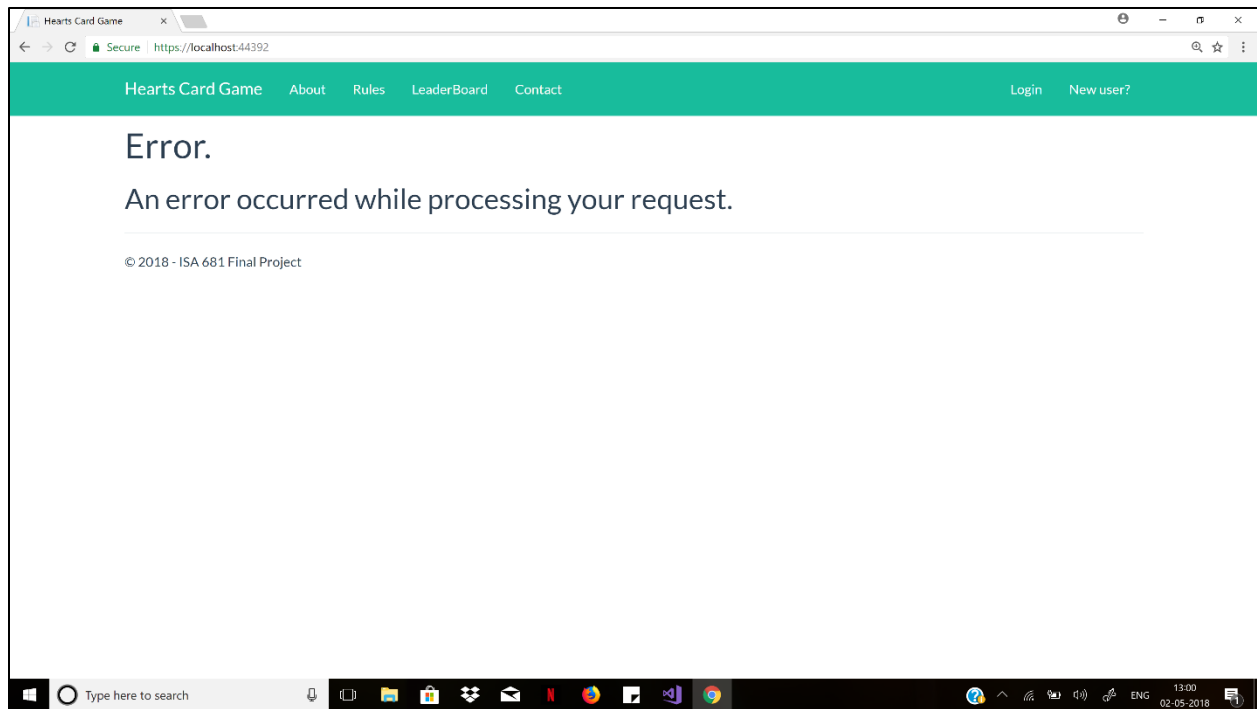


Fig.6.3.2. Custom Error Page

When a user tries to make invalid moves in a game or accesses a wrong game, the application raises errors to warn the user. To differentiate between application generated exceptions and system generated exceptions we have created a wrapper around the `Exception` class called `CustomException`. If the catch clause catches a `CustomException`, it means it was thrown by the application deliberately to show the error to the end user, thus, can be forwarded as it is. Whereas, if it is not a `CustomException`, it means that it was an unknown exception and needs to be masked from the end user by modifying to a message such, "Oops! Some error occurred."

```
catch (CustomException e)
{
    throw new CustomException(e.Message);
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    logger.Error(e);
    throw new Exception("Oops! Some error occurred.");
}
```

Fig.6.3.2.

6.4. Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

When a user is logged into the account, on a web application, an attacker can trick them into executing commands to perform state changing requests. An attack on a user with administrative rights may compromise the application. [OWASP-CSRF]

To overcome this, Microsoft has provided an AntiForgeryToken. To implement this, we added `@Html.AntiForgeryToken()` helper inside the form tag and `[ValidateAntiForgeryToken]` attribute which will check if the token is valid. Fig. 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 show the token data generated using AntiForgeryToken.

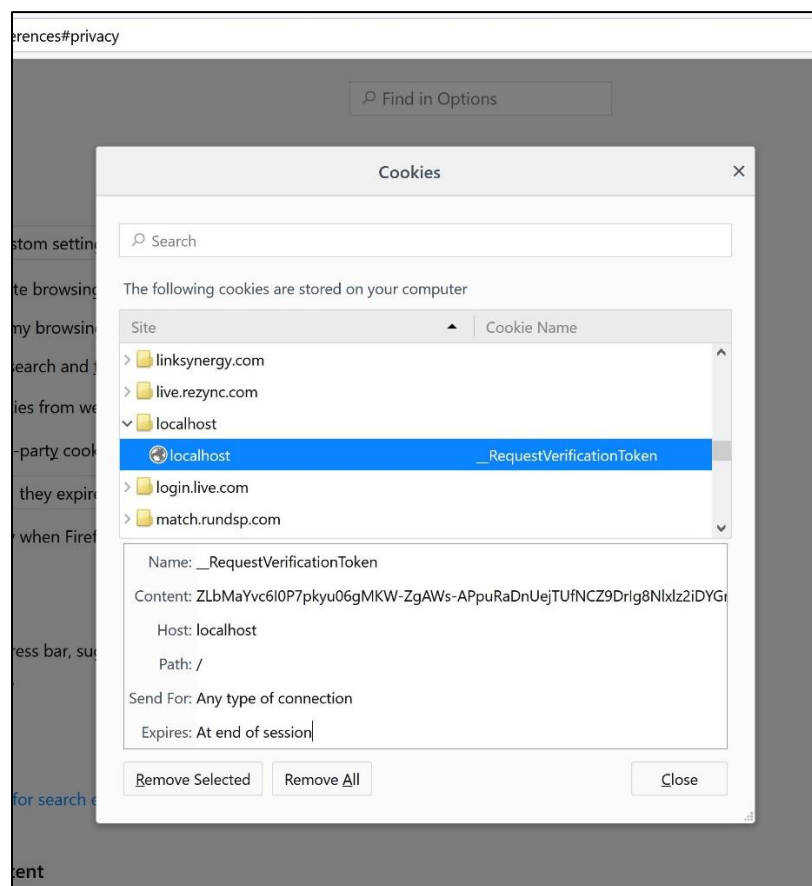


Fig.6.4.1. RequestVerificationToken cookie created

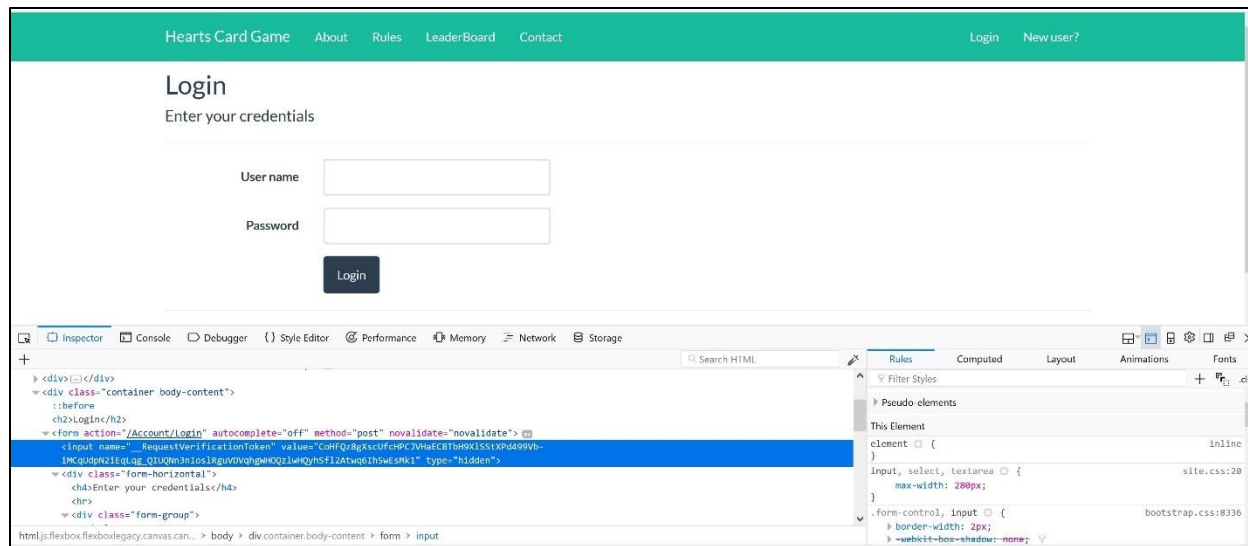


Fig.6.4.2. RequestVerificationToken hidden element in form.

We also made sure that the tokens are completely removed on logout.

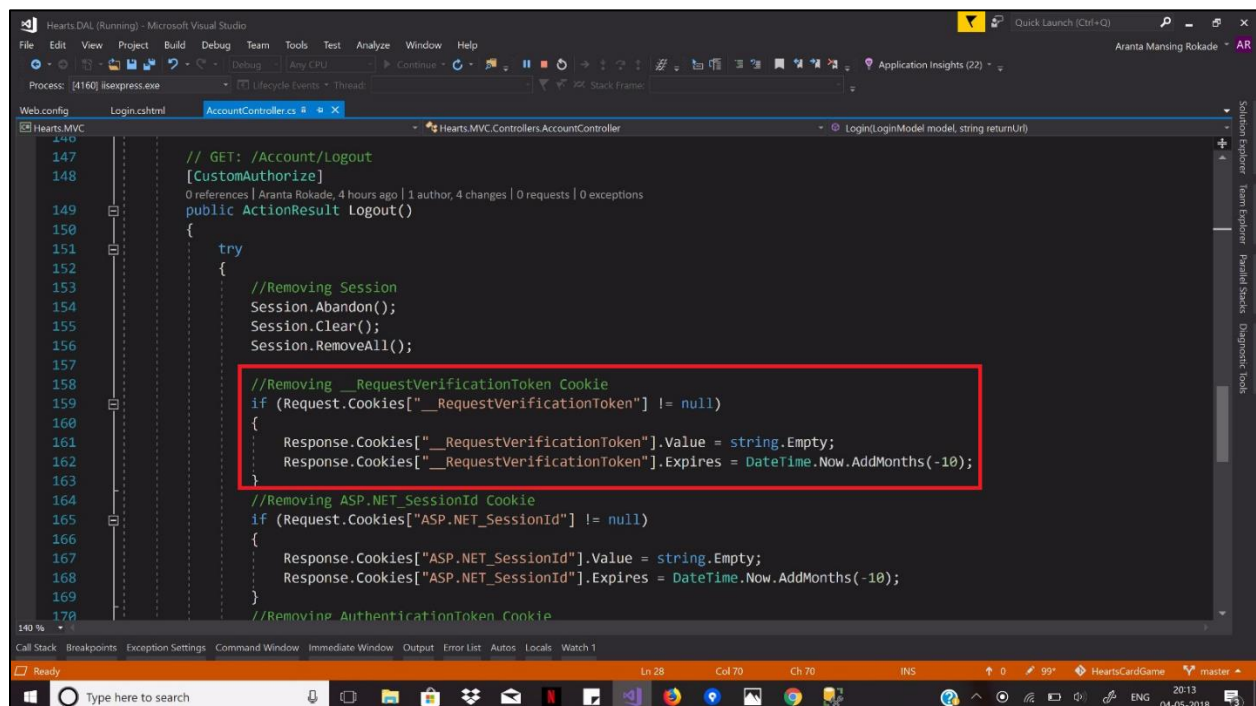


Fig.6.4.3. Code to clear RequestVerificationToken cookie after logout

6.5. Cross Site Scripting(XSS)

“Cross-site Scripting (XSS) is an attack in which malicious scripts are injected via input fields this attack is most common and allows an attacker to steal credentials and valuable data that can lead to a big security breach.” [Bageri2016]

The malicious script can access any cookies, session tokens, or other sensitive information retained by the browser and used with that site. These scripts can even rewrite the content of the HTML page. [OWASP-XSS]

To prevent our application from XSS attacks we have implemented the following measures:

6.5.1. ValidateInput attribute

The `[ValidateInput(true)]` attribute is an attribute that is used to mark action methods whose input must be validated. We have also used `ModelState.IsValid()` function check to whether the model received by the action methods is valid.

6.5.2. RegularExpression attribute

We have added `[RegularExpression]` attribute to validate the username and password fields on the RegistrationModel, so that the user creates secure credentials.

“Some regexes can take potential time and memory to process certain data.” [Wheeler2017]. A timer is set for 5 seconds to execute a single matching operation, this will prevent a user from exhausting the server by entering a malicious string. This attribute is not used on the Login Model, to reduce the details displayed to the user. The regex is evaluated on the server and hence the validation cannot be tampered with. We have created the regex using whitelisting mechanism.

Example 1:

```
[RegularExpression("^[a-zA-Z0-9]{6,20}$",
ErrorMessage = "Enter a valid alpha-numeric name. 6-20 Characters.",
MatchTimeoutInMilliseconds = 5)]
public string UserName { get; set; }
```

Example2:

```
[RegularExpression(@"^(?=.*[a-z])(?=.*[A-Z])(?=.*\d)(?=.*[^\da-zA-Z]).{8,20}$",
ErrorMessage = "Must include atleast one Uppercase letter, Lowercase letter, Number and Special Character. 8 - 20 Characters.",
MatchTimeoutInMilliseconds = 5)]
public string Password { get; set; }
```

Fig. 6.5.1. Validation using regex and data annotations

6.5.3. Data Annotations

Data Annotations are used to control the type of data entered by the user. Below are a few examples used in our application.

[Required]: Used to specify a field as required.

[EmailAddress(ErrorMessage = "Enter a valid Email Id.")]: Internally uses regex validation for email addresses.

[DataType(DataType.Password)]: Prevents shoulder surfing by hiding the password

[Compare("Password")]: Matches the password and confirm password fields.

6.5.4. Autocomplete off

Although most browsers ignore the autocomplete attribute, we have still set its value to off.

The application does not have fields for file inputs or HTML based inputs. Thus, reduces the risks involved with multipart data.

6.6. SQL Injection

“A SQL injection attack consists of insertion or "injection" of a SQL query via the input data from the client to the application.” [OWASP-SQL]. This can be used to execute administrative operations on the database and can reveal valuable data to the attacker.

Entity framework uses ORM, Object relational Mapper, which is used to map SQL object to domain object in C#. Using Entity Framework eliminates SQL Injection attacks, as it internally converts LINQ to Entity queries to parameterized queries. Use of the Entity Framework is a very effective SQL injection prevention mechanism. [OWASP-DOTNET]

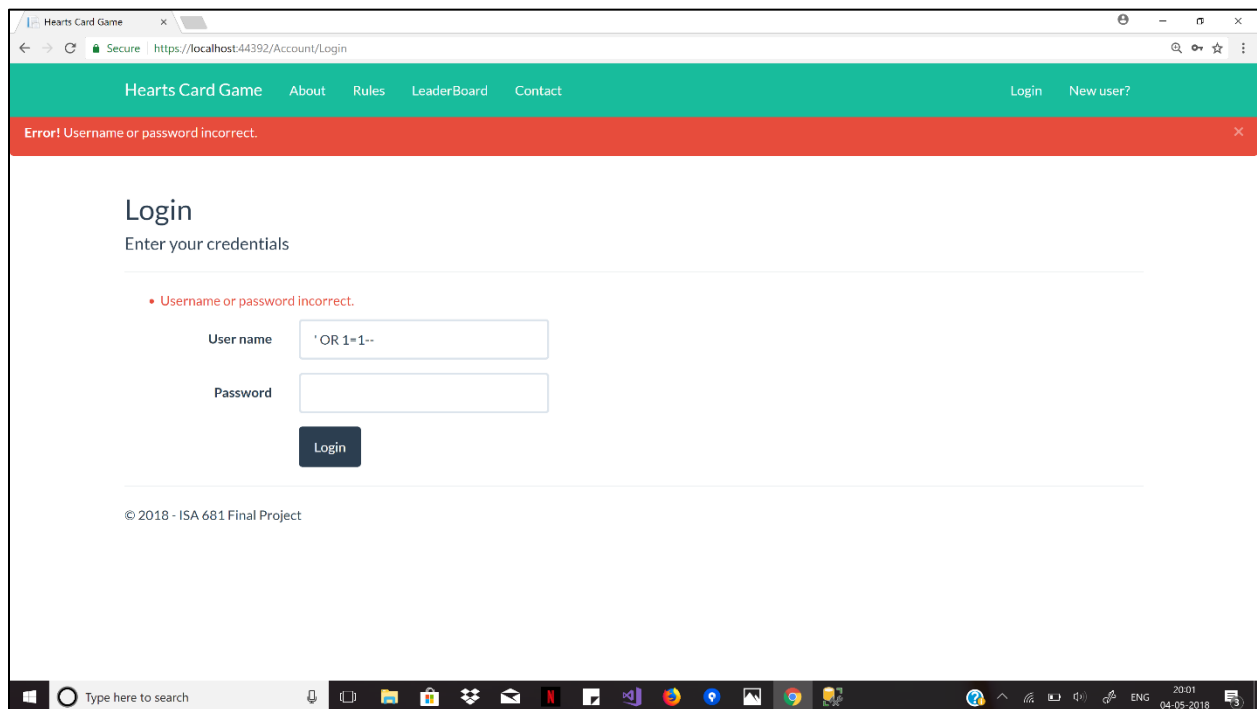


Fig.6.6.1. SQL injection Prevented

6.7. Sensitive Data Exposure

To avoid sensitive data from being exposed we have taken the following measures:

6.7.1. Hashing

Passwords are stored and validated as salted hashes in the database. We have used Bcrypt.Net nuget package to implement hashing.

```
public string Hash(string word)
{
    return BCrypt.Net.BCrypt.HashPassword(word, workFactor);
}
```

```

}

public bool ValidateHash(string word, string hash)
{
    return BCrypt.Net.BCrypt.Verify(word, hash);
}

```

Results		Messages								
	UserId	Password	Wins	Draws	Losses	ActiveGameId	EmailId	Username	Last Modified Time	Points
1	1015	\$2a\$13\$gej4pHUuR4mNuKB2SfiVeGJhXu...	0	0	0	2042	aranta@sample.com	aranta24	2018-04-29 00:30:25.593	0
2	1016	\$2a\$13\$BBWcBP4suM3JB9cyWo830Ore...	0	0	0	2042	vaishu@sample.com	vaishu	2018-04-30 13:53:02.733	0
3	1017	\$2a\$13\$cbX8On2DFyKYCvI0znFleVvxjUx...	0	0	0	2042	ruby@sample.com	rubyRamy	2018-04-30 14:58:45.000	0
4	1018	\$2a\$13\$m9eQKNggz7qmT30aAvsroeXPm...	0	0	0	2042	smarPuff@sample.com	smartyPuff	2018-04-30 14:59:52.560	0

Fig. 6.7.1.1. Database with hashed passwords

6.7.2. Encryption/ Decryption

The URL parameters are encoded using Triple DES Encryption which masks the gameId from being exposed. Below is an image of how our URL looks.

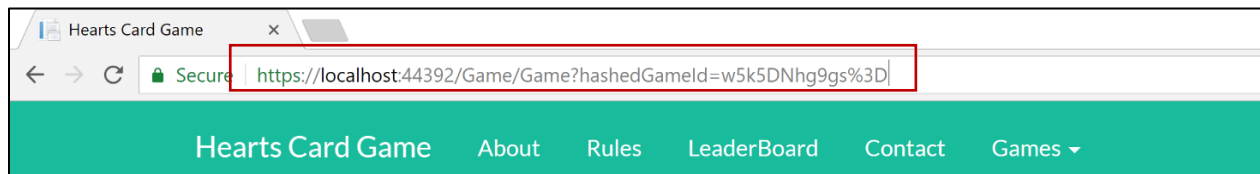


Fig.6.7.2.1 Encrypted URL

6.7.3. Login Failure Details

When a user types an incorrect username and password, the application doesn't reveal the shortcomings of the credentials, to prevent attackers from figuring out valid usernames.[Wheeler2018]

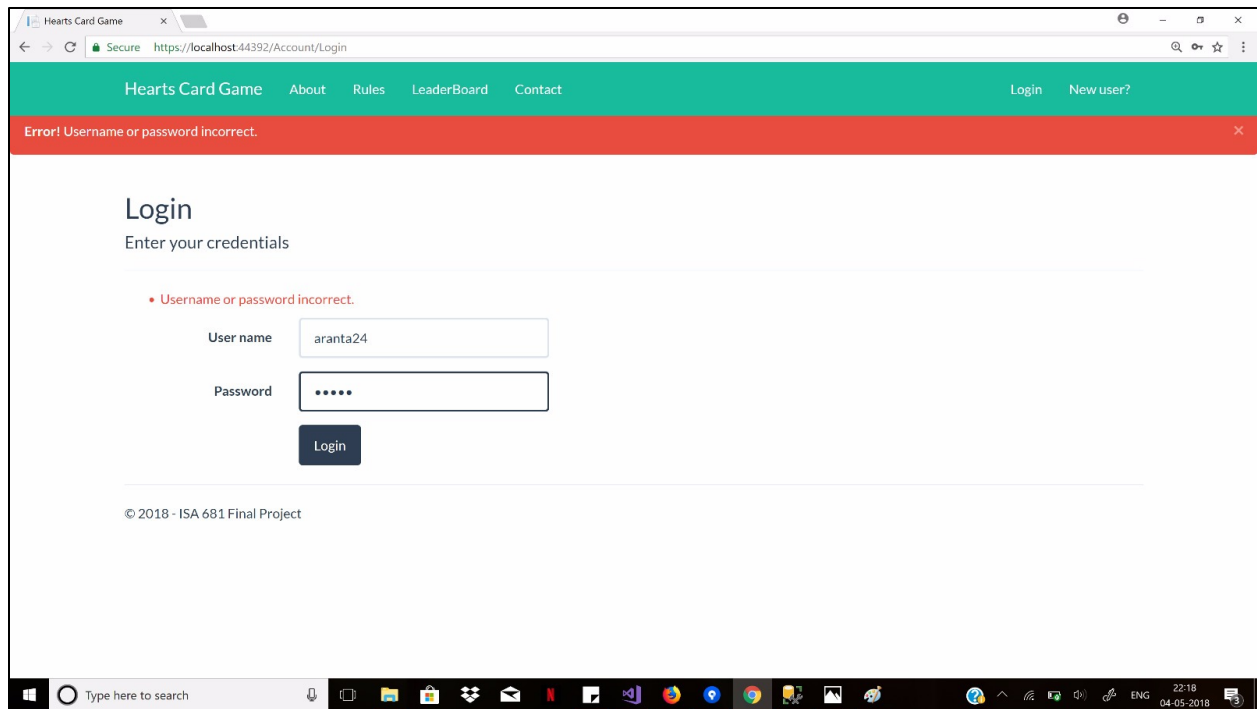


Fig.6.7.3. Minimal details revealed.

6.8. Authentication and Session Management

Authentication in this application is Forms-Based, i.e. username and password. After a user logs into the application, a **Session** gets created and the data is stored in **Cookies**.

We have ensured to clear the session data and expire the cookies after a user logs out. The data in the session is also encrypted and stored using Triple DES encryption. A timeout is added on the session using the tags given below in the Web.config file:

```
<sessionState timeout="180"></sessionState>
```

```
<httpCookies requireSSL="true" />
```

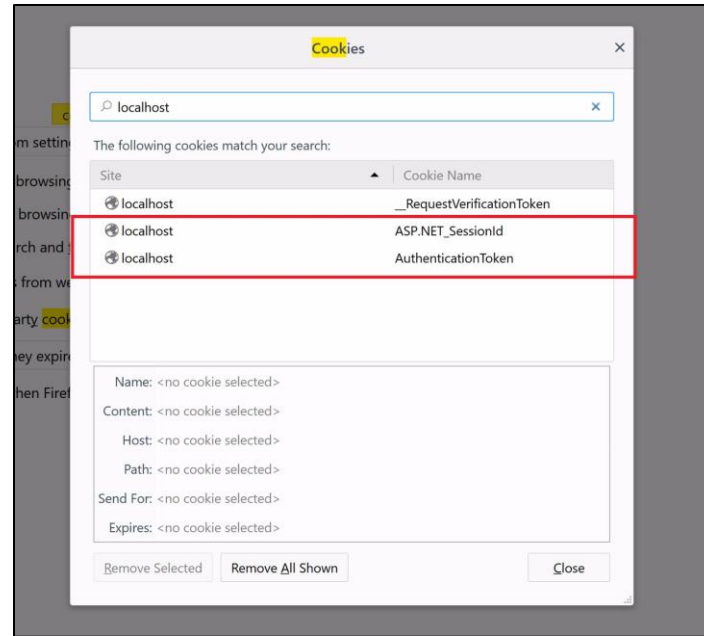


Fig. 6.8.1. Cookie Data

We have created an attribute to handle unauthorized users. This attribute is added on all the actions and controllers which require the user to be logged in. If an unauthorized user tries to access such a page, the [CustomAuthorize] attribute will redirect the him/her to the login page.

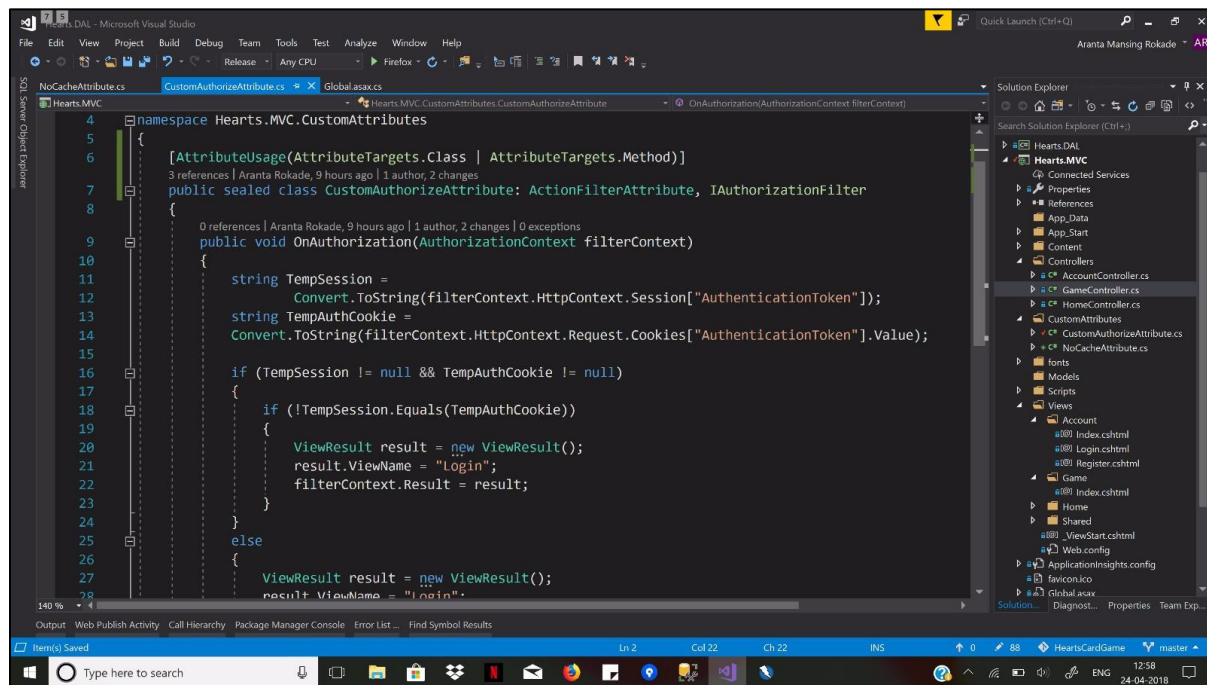


Fig. 6.8.2 CustomAuthorize attribute

6.9. Audit Trails and Logging

Audit trails and logs are used to keep track of user activity. “This aids in debugging, intrusion detection, etc.” [Wheeler-Lec8]

6.9.1. Audit Trails

Our database consists of an audit table which logs all user activity. Every time a user accesses an action method from the controller, data, such as IP Address, accessed page, controller name, action name and, userID and login details if the user is logged in, gets stored in the database table. We have implemented this by creating an [AuditTrailFilter] which gets invoked every time a call to an action method is made. See Fig. 6.9.1.1.

6.9.2. Logging

We have also added logging to a text file to log warnings, information, errors, etc. generated by the application. We have implemented this by using the NLog nuget package. This package allowed us to easily log the data using simple code snippets such as:

```
logger.Debug("Sample debug message");
logger.Info("Sample informational message");
logger.Warn("Sample warning message");
logger.Error("Sample error message");
```

The logs generated by the application can be seen in Fig.6.9.2.1

UserID	SessionId	IPAddress	PageAccessed	LoggedInAt	LoggedInOut	LoginStatus	ControllerName	ActionName	AuditTrailId
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:25.853	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5072
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:26.123	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5073
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:30.023	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5074
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:30.497	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5075
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:34.587	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5076
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:35.030	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5077
4...	1016	4034zgb1pmtozoavlmrq...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:41.373	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5078
4...	1016	4034zgb1pmtozoavlmrq...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 14:46:51.823	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5079
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:00:25.110	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5080
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:00:53.470	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5081
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:00:53.713	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5082
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:04:37.250	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5083
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:04:37.713	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5084
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:04:42.570	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5085
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:04:42.990	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5086
4...	1016	4034zgb1pmtozoavlmrq...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:04:47.940	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5087
4...	1016	4034zgb1pmtozoavlmrq...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:04:52.513	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5088
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:00.950	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5089
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:01.270	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5090
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:06.837	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5091
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:07.300	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5092
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:10.370	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5093
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:10.997	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5094
4...	1016	4034zgb1pmtozoavlmrq...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:14.493	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5095
4...	1016	4034zgb1pmtozoavlmrq...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:05:16.573	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5096
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:06:02.260	NULL	Logged In	Game	MakeMove	5097
4...	1017	ft5xphatceobhndnasof...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:12:37.787	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5098
4...	1015	1v5ay5ahuqmdkd2muag3k...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:12:43.943	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5099
4...	1018	40d4pmvccpmwhenSeu2fe...	/Game/Make...	2018-05-04 15:12:53.923	NULL	Logged In	Game	Game	5100

Fig. 6.9.1.1 AuditTrails

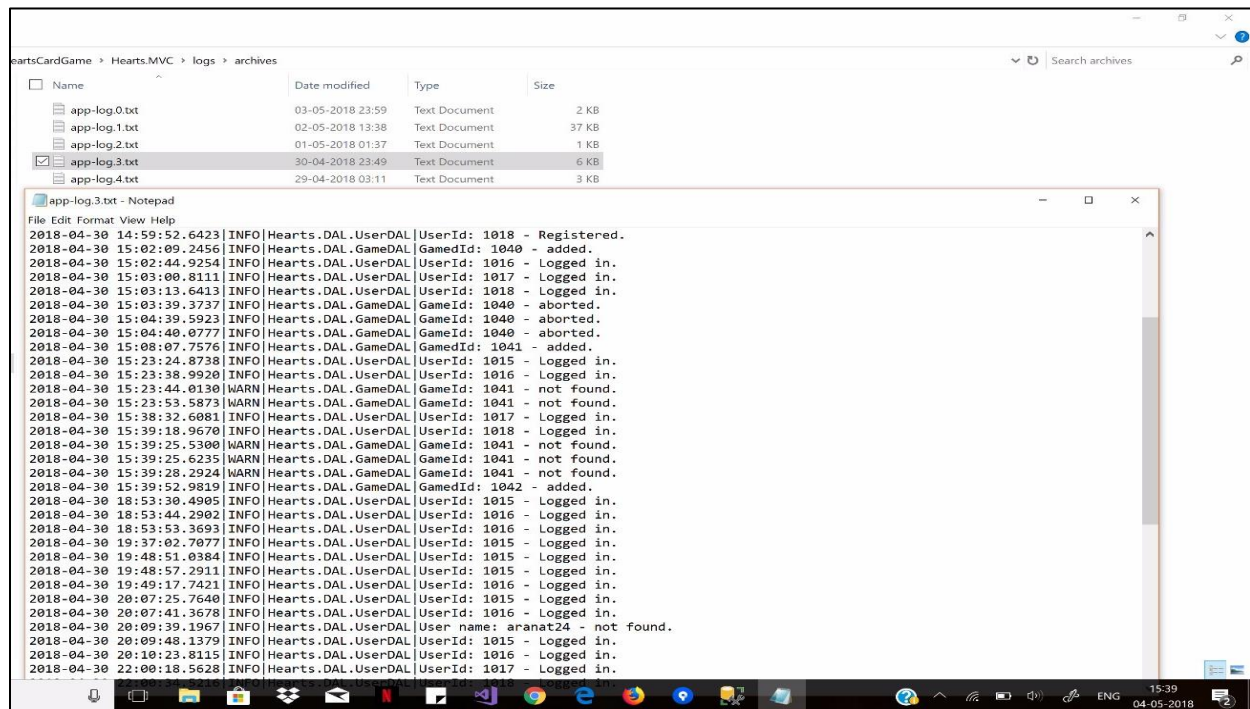


Fig. 6.9.2.1. Log files

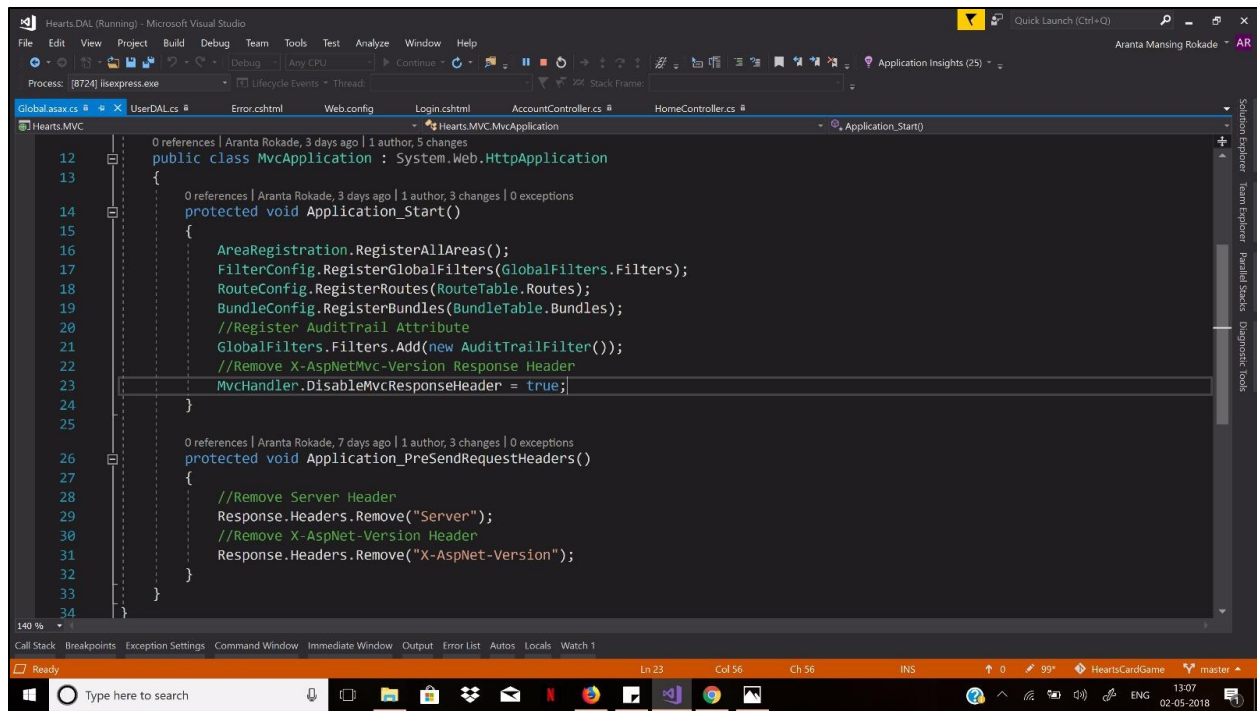


Fig. 6.10.2. Http Response Headers in App Start

6.11. Cache Control

We have enforced no cache control in our application by creating a [NoCache] attribute. This attribute can be added on the controllers or actions methods to disable the caching of response. This can be seen in Fig.6.11.1, the GET request for game data is not cached whereas the other calls to .js and .css files are cached.

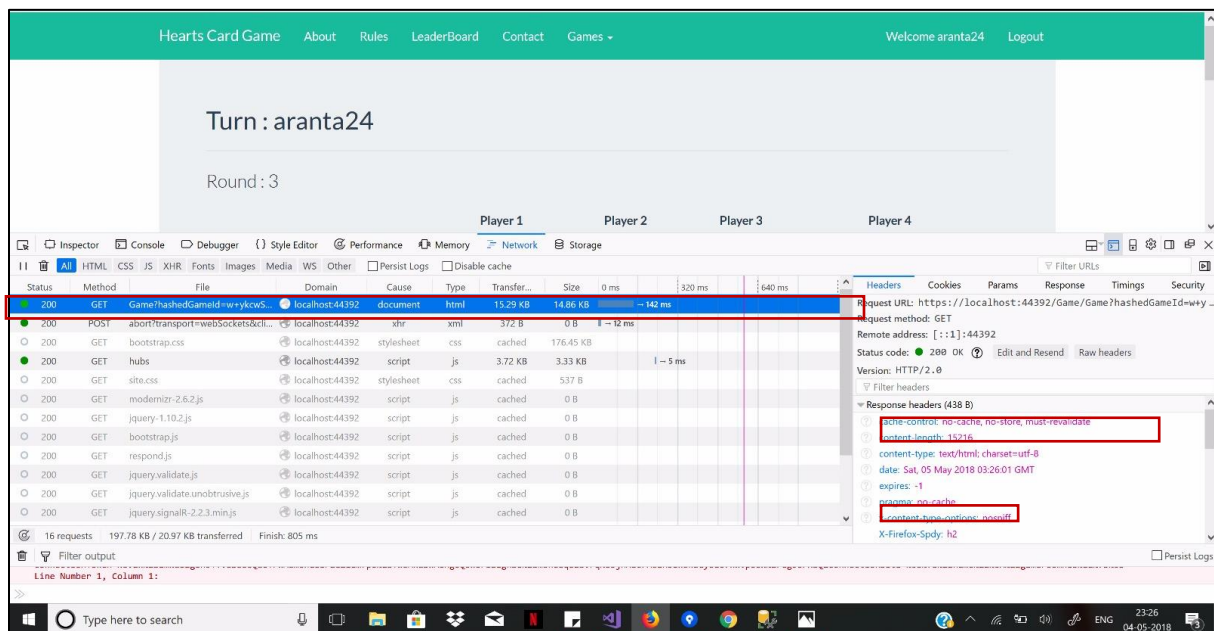


Fig. 6.11.1. No caching

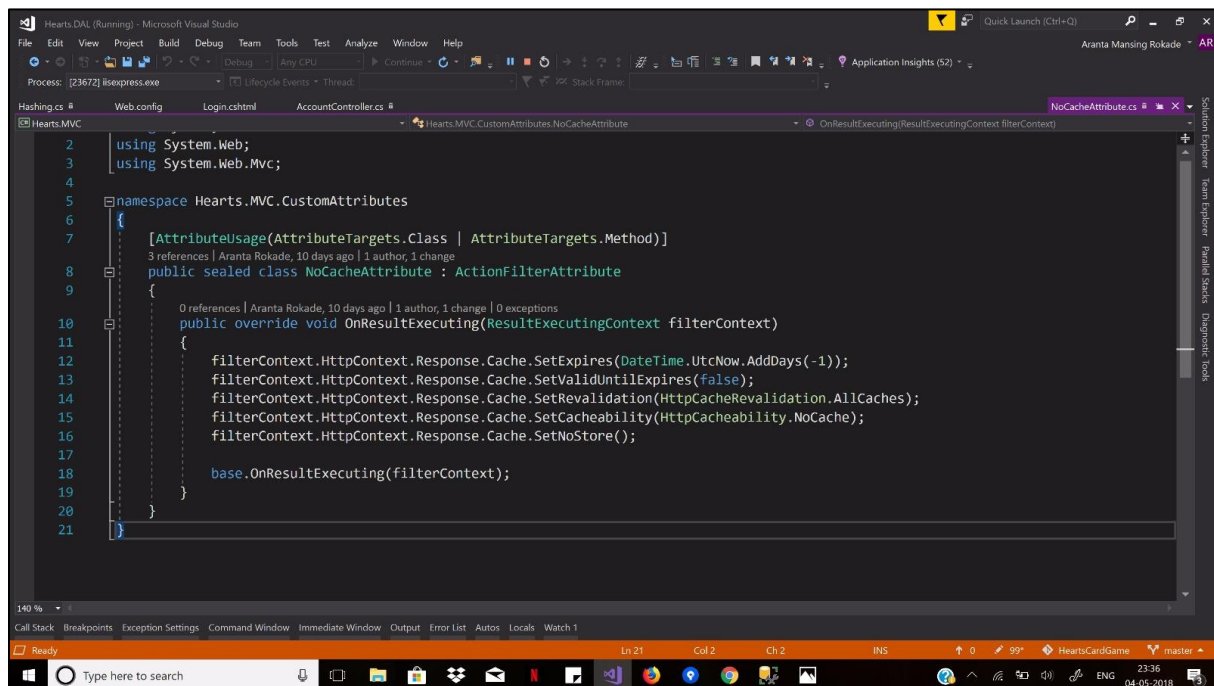


Fig. 6.11.2 [NoCache] Attribute

6.12. Gameplay Rule Validations

The game restricts user to make certain moves. We have ensured that users are not permitted to make invalid moves. This check is applied on the server so that malicious users cannot cheat. The entire gameplay updates are saved in the database. Which makes it easier to validate the moves on the server.

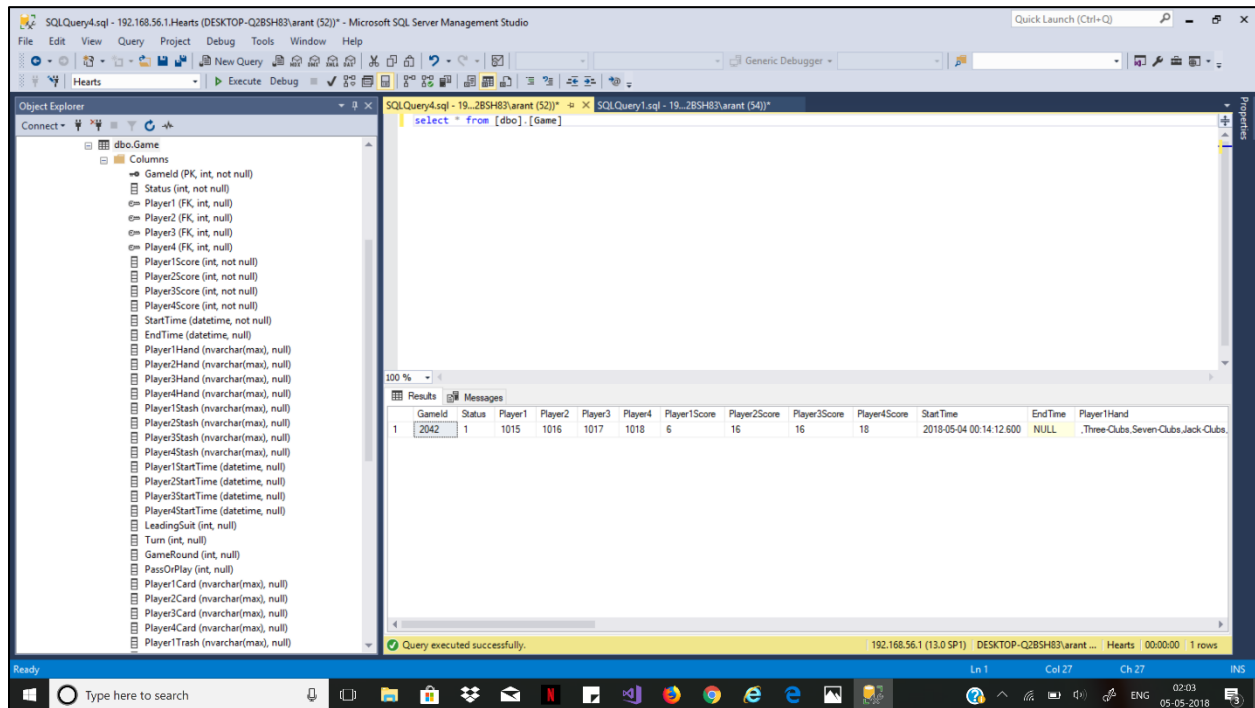


Fig. 6.12.1. Current game state in database.

Players are notified of the game updates using SignalR push notifications. See the figure below.

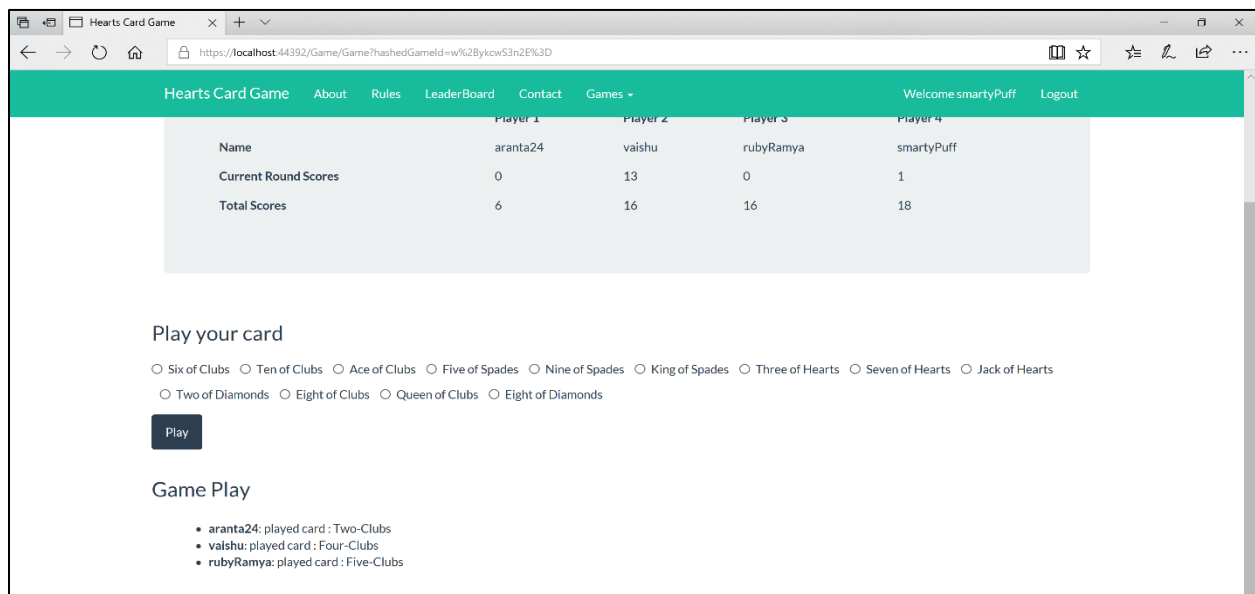


Fig. 6.12.2. Gameplay updates.

Some of the gameplay validations are shown in the figures below in this section.

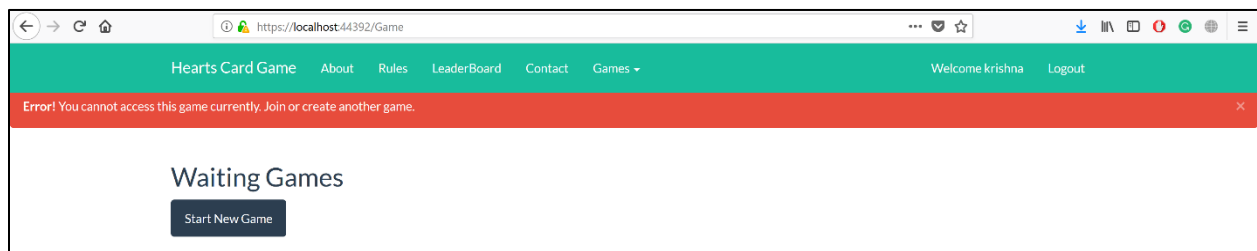


Fig.6.12.1. A player cannot view a game that is in progress.

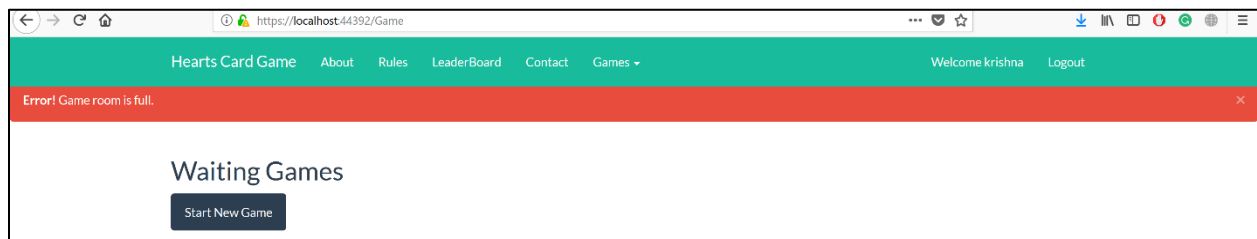


Fig. 6.12.2. A player cannot join a game that is full.

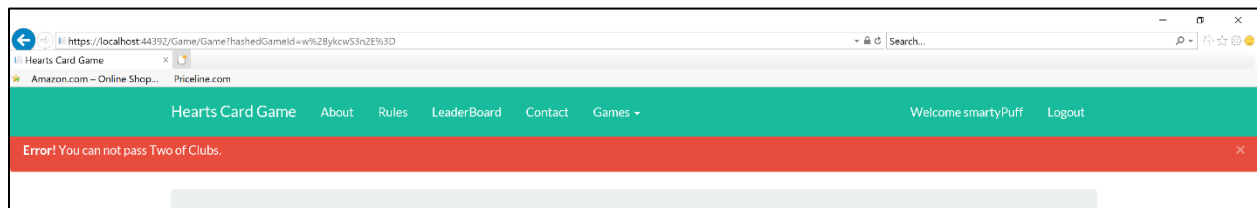


Fig. 6.12.3. A player is not permitted to pass Two of Clubs as trash

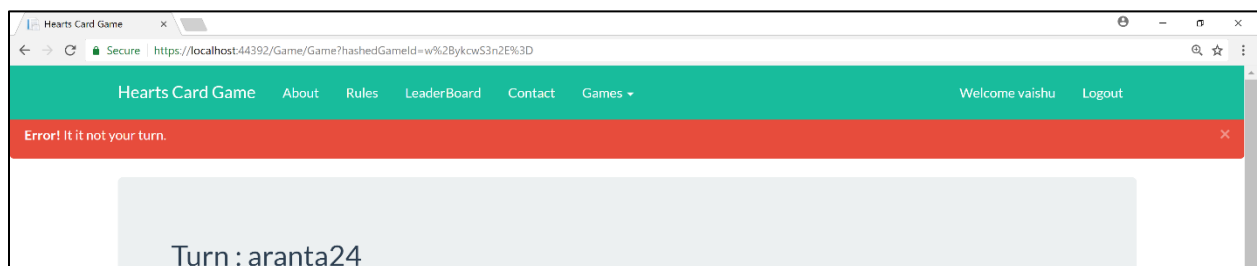


Fig. 6.12.4 A player cannot play out of turn.

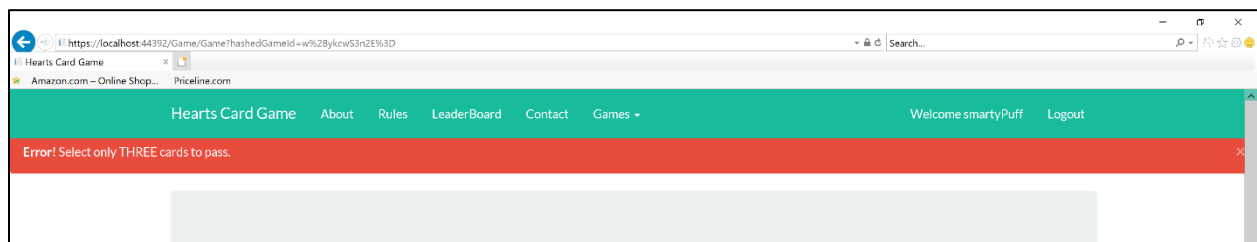


Fig. 6.12.5. Exactly three cards have to be passed as trash.

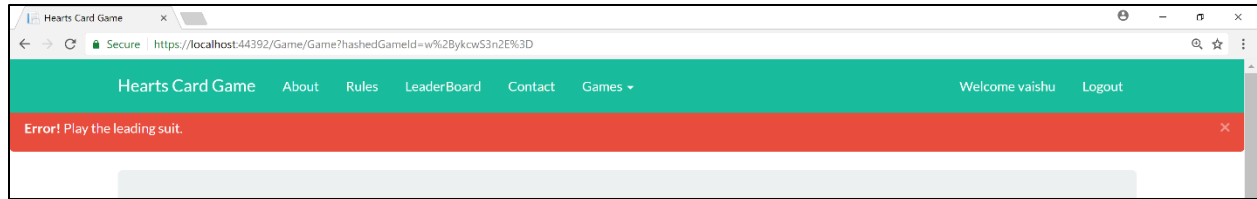


Fig. 6.12.6. A player cannot play another suit if he/she has the leading suit in his/her hand.

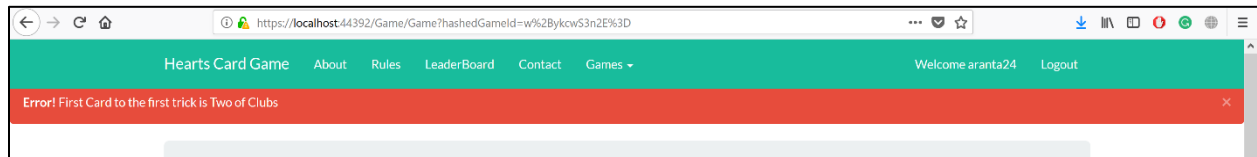


Fig. 6.12.7. The opening card to the first trick of every round is Two of Clubs.

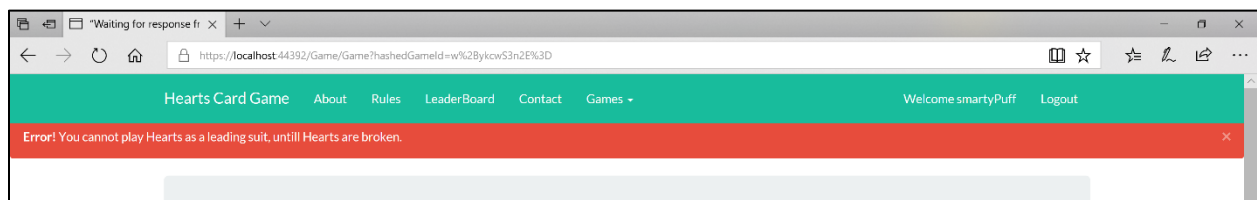


Fig. 6.12.8. Hearts cannot be lead unless Hearts are broken by a trick.

6.13. OWASP ZAP Testing

The Zed Attack Proxy (ZAP) is an easy to use integrated penetration testing tool for finding vulnerabilities in web applications. It is designed to be used by people with a wide range of security experience and as such is ideal for developers and functional testers who are new to penetration testing.

ZAP provides automated scanners as well as a set of tools that allow you to find security vulnerabilities manually.

The following is the screenshot of the testing we have conducted:

6.13.1. Standard Mode – 04/24/2018

Medium Level attacks – 3, Low Level attacks – 2. Refer Fig. 6.12.1 to see the details.

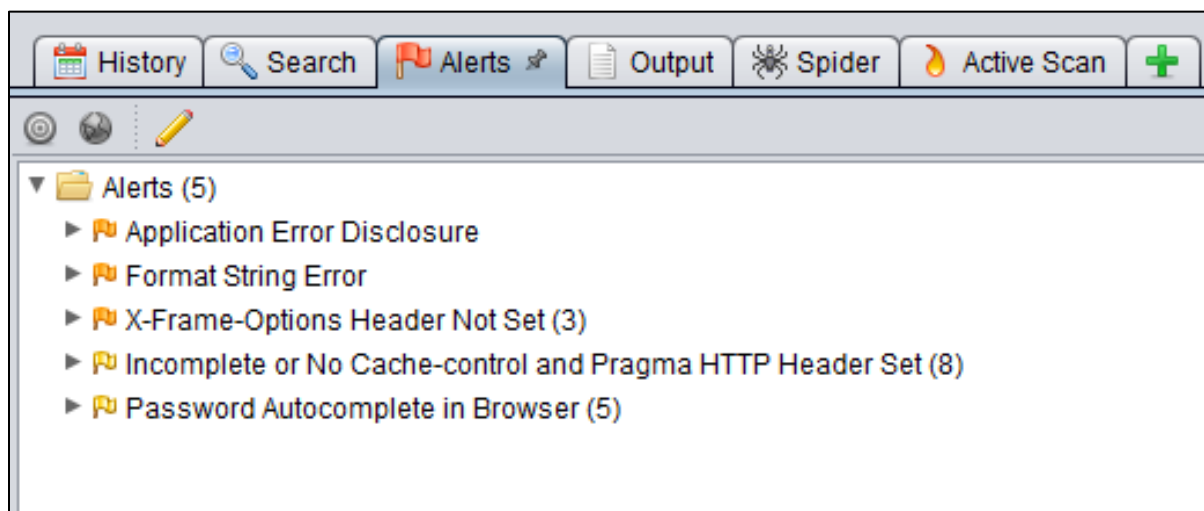


Fig. 6.12.1. Standard Mode OWASP ZAP Test

6.13.2. Attack Mode – 05/04/2018

Medium Level attacks – 2, Low Level attacks – 1. Refer Fig. 6.12.2 to see the details.

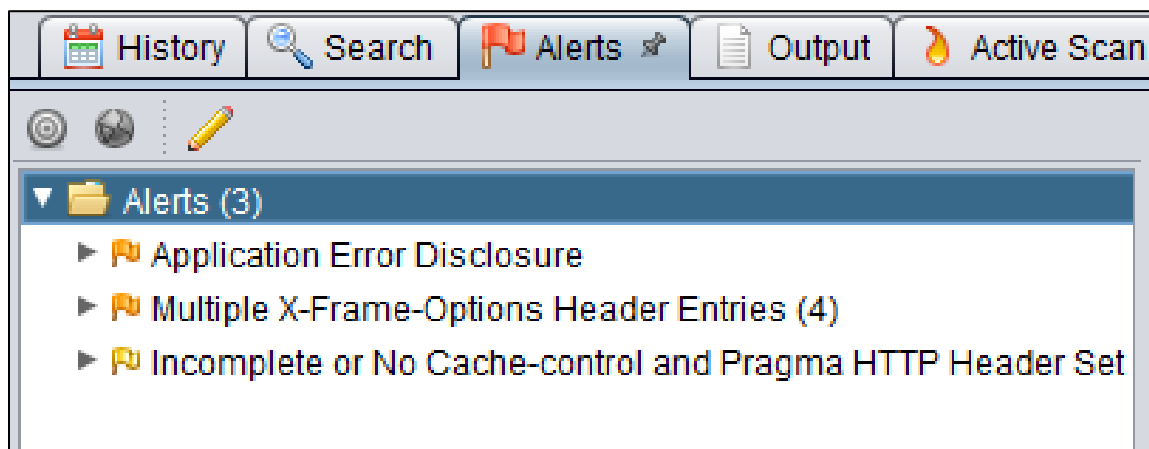


Fig. 6.12.2. Attack Mode OWASP ZAP Test

The measures taken by us to reduce the risks encountered by OWASP-ZAP are:

1. Format String Error (Medium)

Description: This occurred due of lack of character count on the username and email address fields on the registration page.

Mitigation: We removed this risk by adding the minimum and maximum length constraints on the username name and email address, using `[MinLength(6)]` and `[StringLength(20)]` data annotations.

2. Password Autocomplete in browser (Low)

Description: This risk occurred because the autocomplete feature on forms with passwords was not disabled. Thus, allowing the browser to store and retrieve passwords.

Mitigation: We added `autocomplete="off"` attribute on the form tags containing passwords fields.

7. Conclusion

This game was developed to learn secure software design and programming. While, developing this game we learnt many aspects of secure programming. Implementation of SSL certificates for secure client server communications, the importance of the HTTP response headers, protecting data in transit and in stationary state, controlling input as well as output data are some of the many highlights associated with this project development.

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