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**U N I V E R S I T Y**

Cybersecurity  
CSCI 2413

Final Review



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# Protocols/Ports

Protocol	Port
FTP	20, 21
SSH	22
Telnet	23
SMTP	25
DNS	53
HTTP	80
POP3	110
LDAP	389
HTTPS	443
RDP	3389

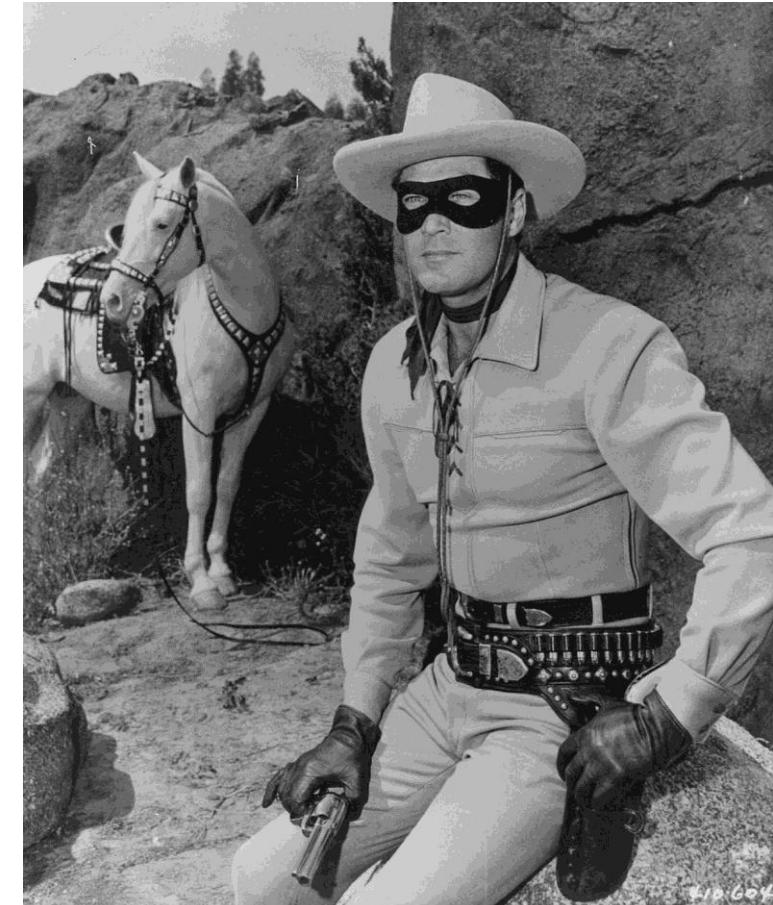


# Types of Hackers

A **white hat hacker** is usually called a penetration tester today; It is someone who is hacking with permission of the owners of the target system

A **black hat hacker** is the person who gains access to a system in order to cause some type of harm; Black hat hackers are sometimes referred to as *crackers*

A **gray hat hacker** is normally a law-abiding citizen, but in some cases will venture into illegal activities





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# Penetration Testing (PenTester)

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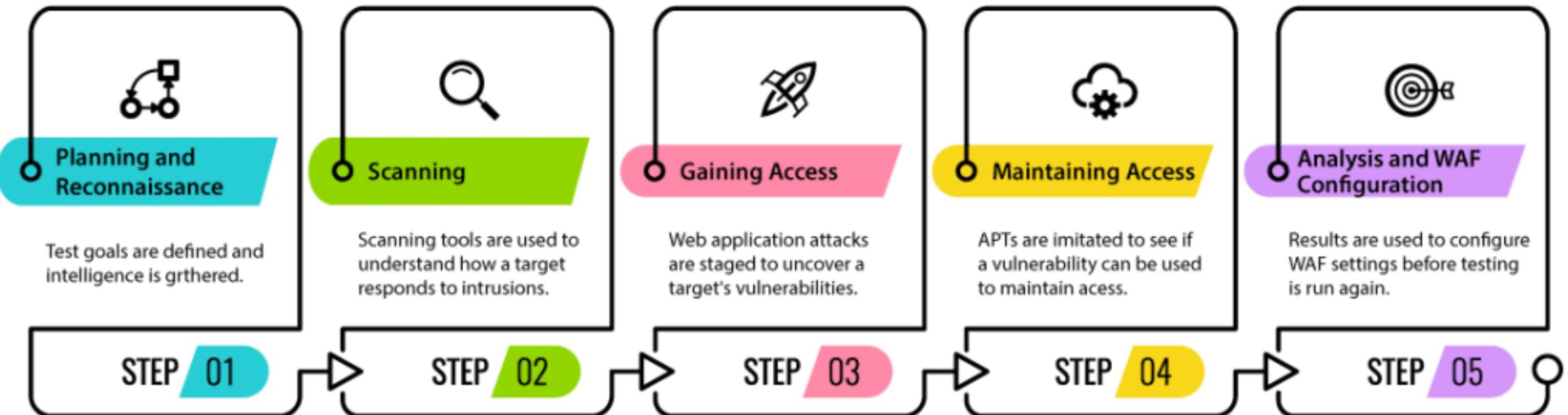
Also known as **Ethical Hacker** is someone that is **AUTHORIZED** to simulate a cyber attack against a computer or server.

Pen Testers are usually a company or security firm that performs several attacks on a company and provides a report to the company of any vulnerabilities found and how to fix any issues found.



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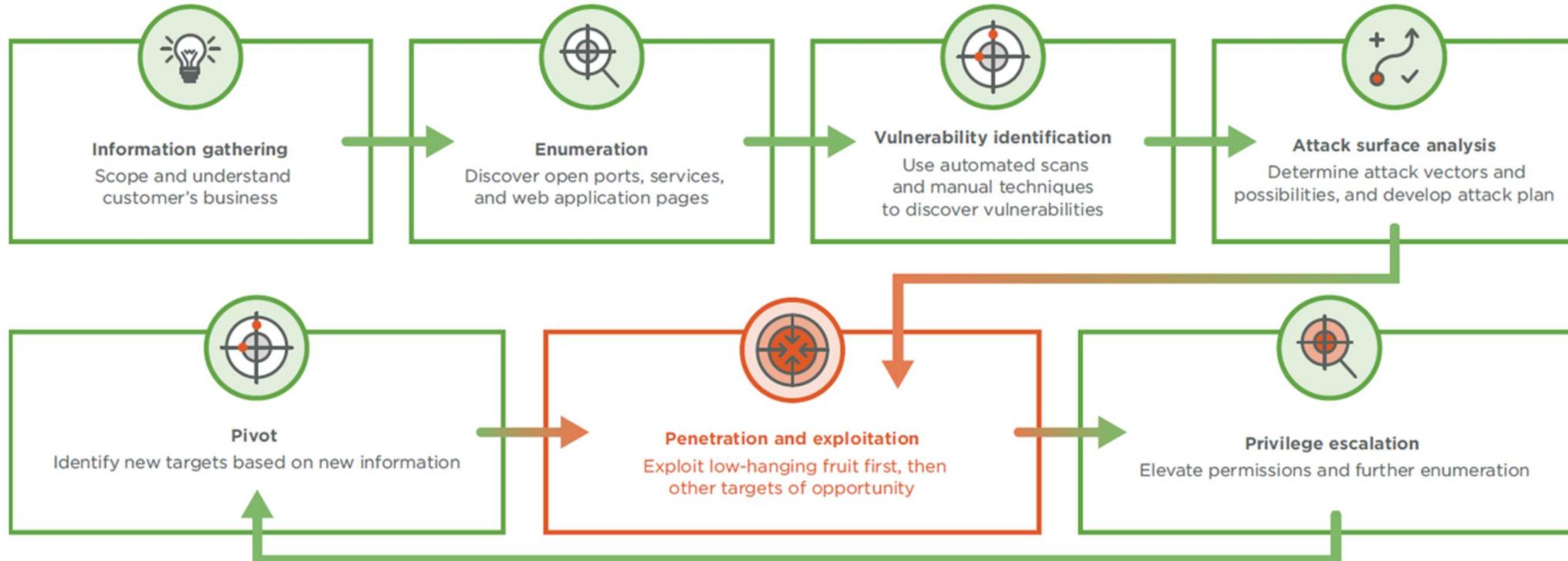
# Penetration Testing Stages





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# Penetration Testing Stages





# OWASP

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The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP)

Non-profit foundation working to improve security of software

They Provide

- Tools
- Community and Networking
- Education and Training



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# OWASP Top Ten

OWASP releases a Top 10 most common flaws in software every 3-4 years

Current Top 10 is from 2021

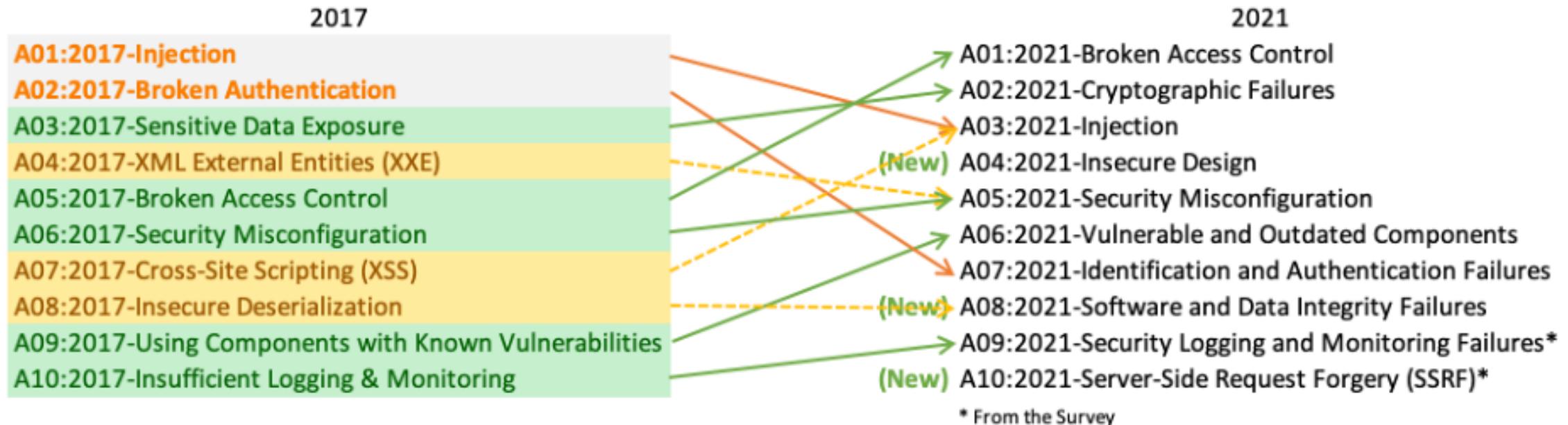
## Categories

- Exploitability
- Prevalence
- Detectability
- Technical



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# OWASP Top Ten (new in 2021)





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# A1: Broken Access Control

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Access control enforces policy such that users cannot act outside of their intended permissions.

Failures typically lead to unauthorized information disclosure, modification, or destruction of all data or performing a business function outside the user's limits.



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# Vulnerabilities

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- Violation of the principle of least privilege or deny by default.
- Bypassing access control checks by modifying the URL (parameter tampering)
- Permitting viewing or editing someone else's account
- Accessing API with missing access controls for POST, PUT, DELETE
- Elevation of privilege acting as a user without being logged in
- Metadata manipulation, such as replaying or tampering with a JSON Web Token (JWT)
- Force browsing to authenticated pages as an unauthenticated user to privileged pages as a standard user.



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# Web HTTP Methods

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The web sends data back and forth from server to the client using HTTP Methods

- **GET** – retrieves data from the server
- **PUT** – sends updated data to the server
- **POST** – sends new/created data to the server
- **DELETE** – removes data from the server



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# HTTP Status Codes

- There are several status codes that are returned from the server
  - 20X
    - 200 – OK
    - 201 – Created
    - 204 – No Content
  - 30X
    - 301 - Moved Permanently
    - 304 – Not Modified
  - 40X
    - 400 – Bad Request
    - 401 – Unauthorized
    - 403 – Forbidden
    - 404 – Not Found
  - 50X
    - 500 – Internal Server Error
    - 503 – Service Unavailable



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# How to Prevent

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- Deny by default
- Use of Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)
- Disable web server directory listing
- Log access control failures and review periodically
- Make sure that the correct user is making the change  
Use tokens for authentication <https://jwt.io>
- Make Ids harder to guess (non-numeric)  
<https://guidgenerator.com/>



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# A2: Cryptographic Failures

**Previously referred to as Sensitive Data Exposure**

Protection of the data in transit and at rest.

- Passwords
- Credit Cards
- Health Records
- Personal Information (PII)



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# Is the Application Vulnerable?

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- Is any data transmitted in clear text?
- What version of cryptography is being used? SHA1, MD5....
- Are the default crypto keys in use weak? How were they generated?
- Is the certificate chain from the CA validated? Has it expired?
- Are the same keys being used on multiple servers?



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# Classify Data

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Need to determine the sensitivity of all data elements being transmitted and stored

- Is it a company secret?
- Is there legal requirements for the data?
- Is it someone's Personally Identifiable Information (PII)?
- Is it someone's Health Data (HIPPA)
- Is it a Password, PIN code, Security Question Answer?



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# Classify Data

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Once the data has been classified determine the best way to store/transmit it.

- Passwords, PIN codes... - Hashed
- User personal information – Encrypted
- User health information - Encrypted
- Company Private Info - Encrypted
- Company Public info – Plain Text
- User Public info – Plain Text



# Transmit Data

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HTTP (Web) is not secure all web sites should use HTTPS (Secure Web)

FTP (File Transfer) is not secure all servers should use FTPS (Secure File Transfer)

SMTP (Mail) is not secure.... There is not a Secure Mail protocol but several mail programs/online solutions allow encrypting and decrypting of mail (Gmail)



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# Secure Email

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There are add-ons for some email clients that allow you to encrypt and decrypt email messages it work on the Public Key encryption where both the sender and receiver have a public key they can use to encrypt messages and use their private key to decrypt.

Does take some coordination between both parties



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# Credit Cards

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Payment Card Industry (PCI) have a set of standards to follow when storing or handling credit cards.

- They don't encourage companies to store credit cards
- If your web site has reoccurring payments the recommendation is to use a token (encrypted value) from a credit card clearing company (First Data)



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# Data Storage

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- Don’t store sensitive data if you don’t have to.
- Truncate the data (Last 4 of SSN)
- At least encrypt it if you must store it
- Move the data to an internal system if your site doesn’t need the data
- Hash data that just needs to be compared/matched and not displayed.



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# How to Prevent?

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- Classify data processed, stored, or transmitted into sensitivity levels
- Classification may have to take in consideration laws and regulations
- Don't store sensitive data if you don't have to
- Encrypt all sensitive data at rest
- Use up to date and standard cryptography
- Use TLS 1.2 or above
- Disable caching sensitive data



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## A03: Injection Attacks

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**Injection** is most commonly exploited through a SQL Injection attack but there are many injection attacks including:

- SQL, NoSQL, Command, OS and LDAP

Injection attacks result from untrusted data being sent or processed without validation



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# Is the Application Vulnerable?

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User-supplied data that is NOT validated

Dynamic queries are not parameterized

Hostile data is directly used or concatenated in the input



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# Relational Databases

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One of the most efficient ways to store data is in a relational database

Relational databases have Tables and those tables have columns and rows similar to an Excel spreadsheet

These tables can be queried using a language called **Structured Query Language (SQL)**



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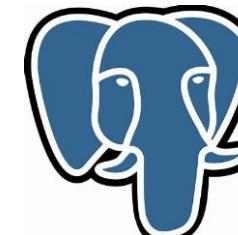
# Relational Database Options

## FREE

MySQL



POSTGRES



## Enterprise

Microsoft SQL Server



Oracle

ORACLE

IBM DB2





# MySQL



<https://www.mysql.com/>

Owned by Oracle

One of the most popular FREE Relational Databases

Provides Server and management consoles for multiple operating systems (Windows, MacOS, Unix)



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# Tables, Rows, Columns

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Every table is given a name like “Users”, “Products”...

Tables have columns of like “Name”, “Username”, “Email”...

Tables can have multiple rows of data

<b>Id</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Username</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Password</b>
1	Jeff	Jmaxwell	<a href="mailto:jmaxwell@okcu.edu">jmaxwell@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123
2	John	Jsmith	<a href="mailto:jsmith@okcu.edu">jsmith@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123
3	Tom	Hanks	<a href="mailto:thanks@okcu.edu">thanks@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123



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# Create, Read, Update, Delete (CRUD)

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Relational database provide a way to **Create** data, **Read** data, **Update** data, and **Delete** data (**CRUD**)

In SQL we use the following keywords:

- CREATE = **INSERT INTO**
- READ = **SELECT**
- UPDATE = **UPDATE**
- DELETE = **DELETE**



# READ - SELECT

**SELECT [columns] FROM [table]**

[columns] can be one or multiple columns in a comma delimited list or “\*” which means all columns.

Examples:

**SELECT \* FROM Users**

**SELECT Name, Email FROM Users**



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# WHERE Clause

**WHERE** Clause allows filtering rows in the table by specific columns

**SELECT** [columns] **FROM** [table]  
**WHERE** [column] = [value]

Examples:

**SELECT \* FROM** Users **WHERE** Name='Jeff'

<b>Id</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Username</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Password</b>
1	Jeff	Jmaxwell	<u>jmaxwell@okcu.edu</u>	Password#123



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# WHERE Examples

**SELECT \* FROM Users WHERE Id=2**

<b>Id</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Username</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Password</b>
2	John	Jsmith	<a href="mailto:jsmith@okcu.edu">jsmith@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123

**SELECT \* FROM Users WHERE Name LIKE 'J%'**

<b>Id</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Username</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Password</b>
1	Jeff	Jmaxwell	<a href="mailto:jmaxwell@okcu.edu">jmaxwell@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123
2	John	Jsmith	<a href="mailto:jsmith@okcu.edu">jsmith@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123



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# CREATE – INSERT INTO

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**INSERT INTO** [table] ([columns]) **VALUES** ([values])

When inserting (creating) data in a table a comma delimited list of columns and values are passed.

**Examples:**

**INSERT INTO** Users (Id, Name, Email,...) **VALUES** (4, 'Hank', 'hank@okcu.edu',....)



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# UPDATE – UPDATE

---

**UPDATE** [table] **SET** [column]=[value]

**WHERE** [column]=[value]

Need to be careful when updating data and include a WHERE clause otherwise all records in table will be changed.

**Examples:**

**UPDATE** Users **SET** Name='Jeff Maxwell'

**WHERE** Id=1



# DELETE – DELETE

---

**DELETE FROM** [table]

**WHERE** [column]=[value]

Need to be EXTRA careful when deleting data and include a WHERE clause otherwise all records in table will be DELETED.

Examples:

**DELETE FROM** Users **WHERE** Id=1



# SQL Query



**SELECT \* FROM Users**

<b>Id</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Username</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Password</b>
1	Jeff	Jmaxwell	<a href="mailto:jmaxwell@okcu.edu">jmaxwell@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123
2	John	Jsmith	<a href="mailto:jsmith@okcu.edu">jsmith@okcu.edu</a>	Password#123
3	Jane	jsmith2	jsmith2@okcu.edu	Password#123



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# How SQL Injection Works

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A login screen requires a username and password, which is checked against a database

SQL injection adds OR X=X to the end of the password

- The result of X=X is always true, so that string will return a value of True to the website
- If the code is not well written, this can trick the website into believing the correct password has been entered



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# SQL Injection

---

**SELECT \* FROM Users**

**WHERE username='jmaxwell' AND password='Password#123';**

```
String sql = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE  
username=" + username + "' AND password=" +  
password + "';
```



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# SQL Injection

What if pass is jmaxwell' or '1'='1' --

```
String sql = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE  
username=" + username + " AND password=" +  
password + "';
```

```
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE username=? AND  
password=?
```

**SELECT \* FROM Users**

**WHERE username='jmaxwell' or '1'='1' -- AND password='xxx'**



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## A04: Insecure Design (New in 2021)

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Insecure Design is a very broad category including a lot of potential issues:

- “Missing or Ineffective Control Design”
- What are the Risks?
- How are the Risks being managed?



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# What is Secure Design

---

Secure Design is not just a diagram it is more of a change in thinking, culture and approach to building software and hardware systems.

You need methodologies and a constant drive as a corporation to make things more secure starting with the Design.



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# What is Secure Design

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# Threat Modeling

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Threat Modeling is the practice of reviewing current Application diagrams and look for potential secure issues.

How does the data flow?

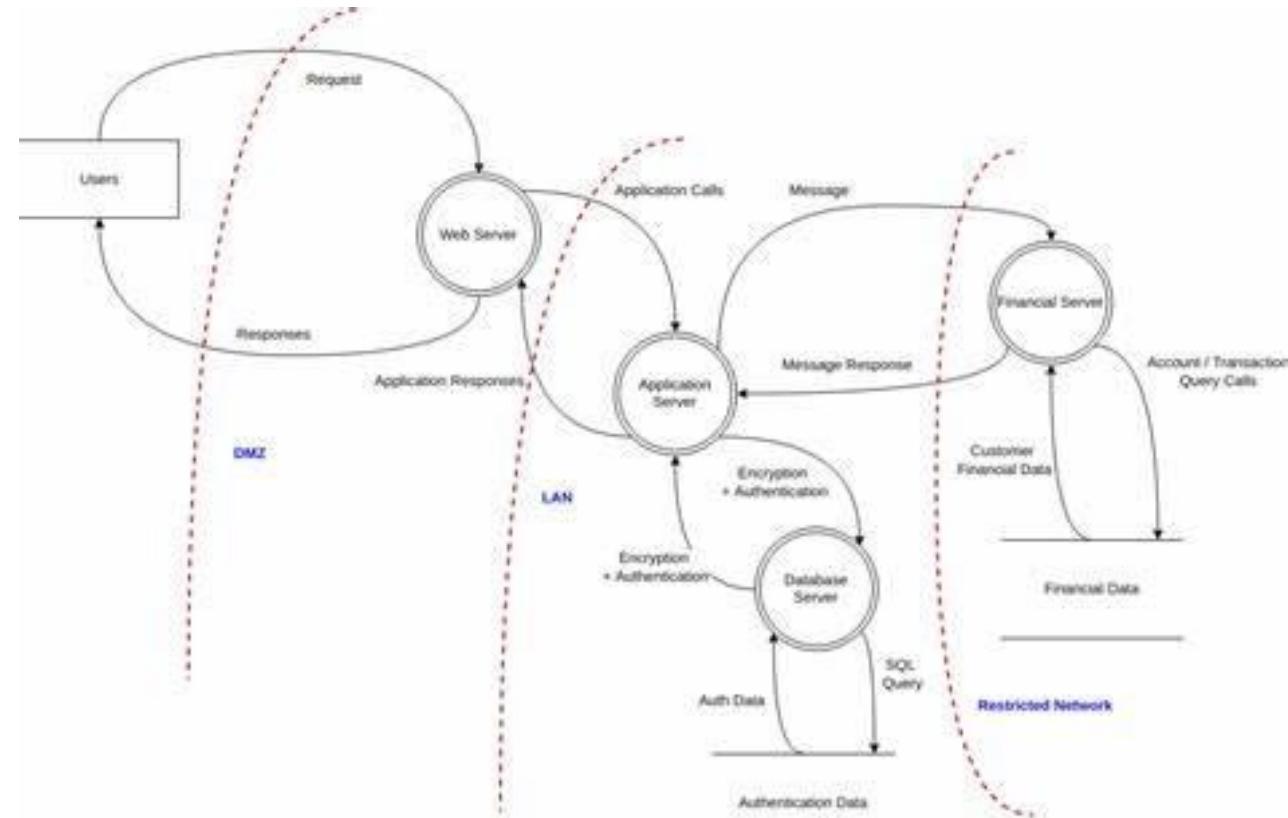
Is Encryption being used?

Who has access to WHAT?



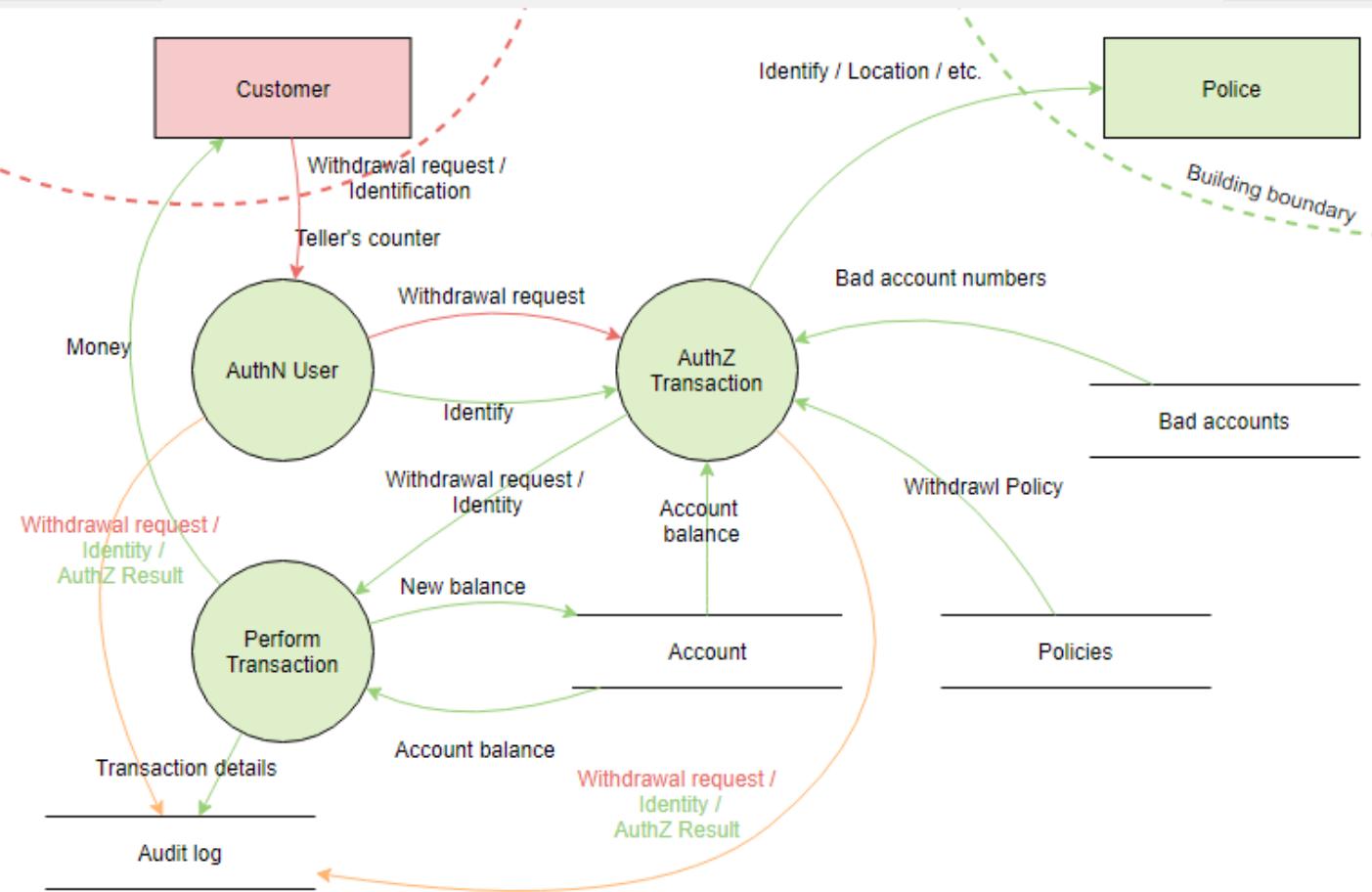
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# Threat Modeling





# Threat Modeling





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# Data

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- What data is being stored?
- How is the data classified?
- What data is being Hashed/Encrypted? Why or Why Not?
- Who has access to the data?
- What data is being sent to other sources (outside companies)?



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# Data Flow

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- How does the data flow between systems?
- What are the inputs/outputs?
- Is the data transferred in plain text or cipher text?
- What encryption methods are being used for cipher text?



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# Security Assessment

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- Has a security Assessment been performed?
  - When was the last one?
  - What were the findings?
  - How was it performed?
- OWASP Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM)  
<https://owaspSAMM.org>



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# How to Prevent

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- AppSec (Application Security) professionals need to be a part of the design and discuss security early in the design progress
- 
- Build a library of Secure Design patterns or reference example code that is secure for the teams to use.
- Use Threat Modeling for critical systems and diagram the authentication, access control and authorization patterns
- Diagram/Document the Data flows between systems



# How to Prevent

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- Create User Stories/Requirements to test and validate that your system is not vulnerable to known attacks (SQL Injection, XSS, CSRF...)
- Test and validate your design
- Have a PenTester try to hack the application/servers in the system



# A05: Security Misconfiguration

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Security Misconfiguration deals with systems and software not being setup properly.

Attackers like to target unpatched flaws that other attackers have already found.

Attackers look for unprotected files and folders

A lot of default configurations leave servers vulnerable



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# A05: Security Misconfiguration

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- Lack of OS/System Hardening
- Missing latest patches or security patches
- Services running that shouldn't be
- Features installed that need to be removed
- Open Ports or Protocols
- Error handling that shows stack trace with security information
- Default settings sometimes allow too much access



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# Why does this happen?

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- A lot of administrators setup systems and don't know what default values are configured
- Companies do not use automated tools to patch their systems and sometimes systems are missed
- Default configurations are used



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# How to Prevent

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- Work with administrators and network admins to “Harden” the server “Lock it down”
- Remove any default accounts
- Remove any unused Services
- Turn off any unused Ports
- Add default error handling
- Take a least privilege approach to everything



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# How to Prevent

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- Create a secure version of each OS that can be used when building new systems
- Security Testing and automated tools
  
- Log Server Errors and Applications errors  
(AND LOOK AT THEM)



# A06: Vulnerable and Outdated Components



- In modern development we use a combination of 3<sup>rd</sup> party components to provide us with features/functionality.
- A lot of these components could have a vulnerability



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# Is my application vulnerable?

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- Probably
- If you use any 3<sup>rd</sup> party components
- If you are not regularly scanning for vulnerabilities
- If you are several versions behind on the framework or tools you use



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# Why does this happen?

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- A lot of 3<sup>rd</sup> party software is Open Source (hosted on GitHub or GitLab) and it is up to the author to update their software, scan for vulnerabilities, fix and deploy new versions.
- If my Open Source Project doesn't make any money it might not be a high priority for me.
- All commercial (paid for) software should patch their software regularly (if not look for new software)



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# Tools

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- National Vulnerability Database (NVD)  
<https://nvd.nist.gov>
- GitHub/GitLab have built-in scanners
- OWASP Dependency Checker
- <https://owasp.org/www-project-dependency-check/>
- Snyk.io  
<https://snyk.io>



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# NPM

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- Node Package Manager (NPM)
- `npm ls [package name]`
- `npm audit [fix]`
- `npm update`



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# How to Prevent

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- Patch, Patch, Patch as a normal process in the development cycle
- Remove Unused Dependencies (This can be challenging)
- Use a scanner or add a scanner into your build/deployment pipelines (CI/CD)
- Only use components from an official site/source



# How to Prevent

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- Create a local repository that the development team uses to pull updates and update the repository regularly
- Have scheduled releases updates (once a quarter, month, or week)
- Don't let the frameworks (in your application) get behind more than one or two versions.



# A07: Identification and Authentication Failures



- Formally #2 (in 2017) and named “Broken Authentication” moves to #7 due to increased secure and better management of Authenticated users.
- **Authentication** relates to session management or logins that are implemented incorrectly.
- Hackers can exploit the and login as other users or gain access to pages or systems they should not have access to.



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# Does your Application?

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- Permit automated attacks such as credential stuffing, where the attacker has a list of valid usernames and passwords?
- Permits brute force or other automated attacks?
- Permits default, weak or well-known passwords, such as “Password1” or “admin/admin”?
- Uses weak forgot-password processes – knowledge based answers



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# How is login validated/manage?

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- Uses plain text, encrypted or hashed passwords without salt (A02: 2021 Cryptographic Failures)
- Not using Multi-factor Authentication
- Pages that don't validate the user session or validate access to a page



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# Credential Stuffing

The hacker uses stolen account credentials from other hacks and tries them on other sites.

Have I Been Pwned? Has over 9 Billion hacked accounts from previous breaches.



**EQUIFAX**

Adobe

**ebay**



MARRIOTT

**LinkedIn**

**YAHOO!**

**Heartland**  
Payment Systems



# Brute Force Attacks/Weak Passwords

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Taking commonly used passwords and try them for each account

<https://github.com/danielmiessler/SecLists/blob/master/Passwords/darkweb2017-top10000.txt>

Easy to exploit if system allows simple passwords.

HASHCAT



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# Weak forgot-password process

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Have you ever used a forgot password feature and it emailed you your password?

- NOT HASHED

What if you enter your email for a forgot password and it says that email/username does not exist?

- Why is that bad?



# Plain text passwords or Encrypted Passwords

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Plain text ARE BAD

- You should hopefully KNOW this by now.

Encrypted passwords are a little better but anything encrypted can be decrypted so it is also BAD.

You should ALWAYS Hash passwords with a RANDOM Salt value for each user.



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# How to fix Broken Authentication?

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Implement Complex Password Requirements

Implement Account lockout with too many failed attempts\*\*\*\*

HASH passwords with a random SALT

Implement Multi-Factor Authentication



# Credential Stuffing

Keep track of the number of failed login attempts and alert on a threshold to the user/admins

Implement Multi-Factor (Email, Text, QR code scan, RSA Token)





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# Brute Force Attacks/Weak Passwords

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Keep a bad password list and when a user signs up or tries to change their password check to see if it is NOT in the bad password list.

## Setup complex password rules

- Passwords must be 8 or more characters (> 15 is better)
- Passwords must contain both upper and lower case letters
- Passwords must contain at least 1 special character (!@#\$%^&\*)

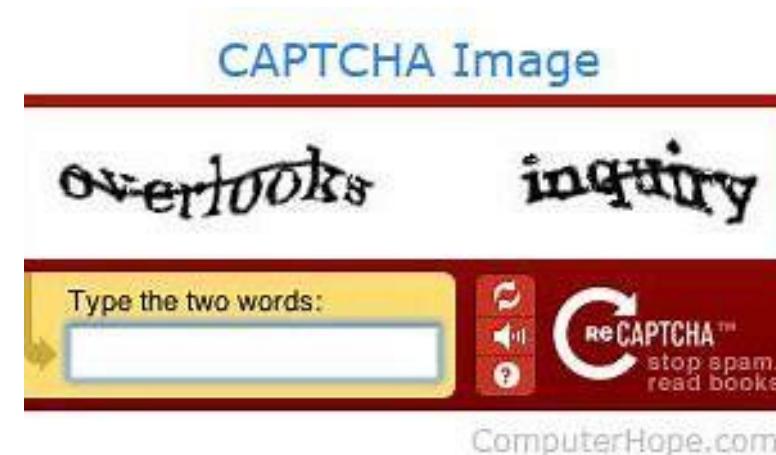


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# Brute Force Attacks/Weak Passwords

Don't have a small limit of how long a password can be

- “Hello my name is Jeff Maxwell and I like to Teach #1 3 5” – Is harder to hack than  
P@\$\$w0rd123





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# Weak forgot-password process

---

Never email the user their password (EMAIL is in clear text across the web)

Don't tell the user (hacker) their email/username doesn't exist. If you do then can use the forgot password to narrow down the list of users who have accounts before they attack

Instead always say something like “If an email/username exists password reset instructions will be emailed” (continue)



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# Weak forgot-password process

---

Instead always say something like “If an email/username exists password reset instructions will be emailed” (continue)

If someone requests to reset their password send them a link (URL) with a random code that is associated with the user account if they go to the link let them reset their password

Ask them to type in a code from a text.



# Plain text passwords or Encrypted Passwords

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You should **ALWAYS** Hash passwords with a **RANDOM** Salt value for each user.





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# Session Management

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- Once a user has logged in you need to make sure that each page they access they should have access to that page.



# Session Management

- Panera Bread was notified that they were not validating users when they navigated between pages and wasn't using the correct Session Management restricting access.
- <https://panerabread.com/users/1234> could be changed to access other user accounts

```
{"accounts": [{"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****6515"}, {"username": "████████@hotmail.com", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****5527"}, {"username": "████████@msn.com", "name": "F B", "cardNumber": "*****7921"}, {"username": "████████@yahoo.com", "name": "C █████", "cardNumber": "*****7108"}, {"username": "████████@aol.com", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****6129"}, {"username": "████████@yahoo.com", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****6061"}, {"username": "k █████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****8950"}, {"username": "████████1", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****4412"}, {"username": "████████@aol.com", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****8386"}, {"username": "████████@optonline.net", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****5384"}, {"username": "████████@hotmail.com", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****5144"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****7488"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****6702"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****7085"}, {"username": "████████@hotmail.com", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****4220"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****9123"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "art █████", "cardNumber": "*****8139"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****0102"}, {"username": "████████@msn.com", "name": "Sandra █████", "cardNumber": "*****6851"}, {"username": "████████", "name": "████████", "cardNumber": "*****2654"}]}
```



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# Panera Bread – KrebsOnSecurity

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- Dylan Houlihan reached out to Panera Bread and they said they were aware and were working on it.
- 8 months later Dylan had not heard anything and the problem still existed so he reached out to Brian Krebs at <https://krebsonsecurity.com>
- Krebs reached out to them with no response published a blog post about it <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2018/04/panerabread-com-leaks-millions-of-customer-records/> and several newspapers/news channels picked up the story.



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# Panera Bread – KrebsOnSecurity



We apologize for any inconvenience.

Our website is currently unavailable  
while we conduct essential system  
maintenance and site enhancements.

We will be back soon.



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## A08: Software and Data Integrity Failures

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- This is a new category added for 2021 and deals with making the assumptions that things are working without verification



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# Software and Data Integrity

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- Relates to code and infrastructure that does not protect against integrity violations
- Cloud Servers, Content Delivery Networks (CDNs) and insecure CI/CD pipelines for deployment
- Many applications now include auto-update functionality where updates are downloaded without sufficient integrity verification



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# How to Prevent

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- Digital Signatures to validate who created the update
- Manage your own internal NPM or NuGet libraries for 3<sup>rd</sup> party controls
- After each deployment calculate a HASH on the files/folders and compare the the HASH that is expected (run this at least once a day)



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# How to Prevent

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- Security and Code Scans
- Manual Code Reviews of changes
- CI/CD don't store passwords and limit access



# A09: Security Monitoring and Logging Failures

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- Previously known as “Insufficient Logging and Monitoring” this item moves up from #10 to #9
- This mainly deals with traffic and the health of an application



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# Logging

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- Capture all traffic and activity to a site
- Disk Space is cheap log as much as you can offload to another server
- Never leave the logs on the server in case the server is compromised and altered by the hacker



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# Logging

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- What is the application logging by default?
- What should you be logging?
- What should you NOT log?
- Are the logs stored locally?
- Are there any errors?



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# What should you NOT log?

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- Any Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- Credit Cards, Bank Numbers, ....
- Tokens, Security Keys....
- Passwords



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# Types of Logging

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- What kind of logging does the code have?
- **Exception Logs** – when the application/code crashes unexpectedly
- **Audit Logs** – Logging every Page, Event, Transaction, ....
- **Usage Logs** – How many times a Page is viewed or a feature is used?
- **Security Logs** – Login Success and Failure, Access Denied



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# Logging Rules

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- Log normal traffic (successful paths)
  
  
- Log any errors
  
  
- Find a tool to manage the Logs
  - Splunk



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# Security Logging

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- Log Logins:
  - Successful Logins
  - Failed Logins
- All warnings and errors should be logged
- Log abnormal traffic



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# Monitoring

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- Logging is **WORTHLESS** unless you review the logs
- Need to review any errors in the system and report them to the development teams daily
- Need a system to alert on certain thresholds or when certain types of traffic occur



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# How to Prevent

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- Ensure all login, access control, and server-side input validation failures are logged and flagged as potential hack attempts
- Ensure that logs are generated in a format that is easily consumed by logging tools
- Make sure logs are encoded correctly so they are not vulnerably to SQL Injection or XSS



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# How to Prevent

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- Ensure high-value transactions have a detailed audit trail with integrity controls to prevent tampering or detection such as append-only database tables or blockchain
- Alerting for suspicious activity should be established and reports/dashboards with the team should be visible to everyone



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# How to Prevent

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- Create an incident response and recovery plan teams to respond/react if a hack occurs



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# A10: Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)

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- This was previously on the OWASP top 10 but dropped off in the 2017 list
- But it is BACK!!!



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## A10: Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)

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- SSRF occurs whenever a web application is fetching a remote resource without validating the user-supplied URL.
- It allows attackers send well crafted requests to return unexpected results or access sites that the user shouldn't have access



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# A10: Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)

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- <https://site.com/users/1234>

- If I am not validating this a user could just changing the number and access different user accounts (Panera Bread Hack)



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# How to Prevent

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- <https://site.com/users/1234>
  
- Need to validate input