

SECURITY+ V4 LAB SERIES

Lab 10: JavaScript Obfuscation & Dead Code Injection

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	Material in this Lab Aligns to the Following		
CompTIA Security+ (SY0-601) Exam Objectives	2.3: Summarize secure application development, deployment, and automation concepts		
All-In-One CompTIA Security+ Sixth Edition ISBN-13: 978-1260464009 Chapters	11: Secure Application Development, Deployment, and Automation Concepts		

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Introduction

In this lab, you will see how to find and access JavaScript on a local machine and learn the commonly applied techniques for protecting JavaScript.

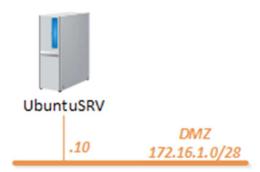
Objective

In this lab, you will perform the following tasks:

- Perform JavaScript obfuscation
- Perform dead code injection



Lab Topology





Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed in order to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

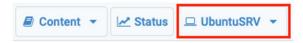
Virtual Machine	IP Address	Account (if needed)	Password (if needed)
UbuntuSRV	172.16.1.10	sysadmin	NDGlabpass123!



1 JavaScript Obfuscation

1.1 Obfuscate the nodejs Codes

1. Click on the **UbuntuSRV** tab to access the *UbuntuSRV* VM.



2. Log in to the UbuntuSRV as username sysadmin, password NDGlabpass123!.





3. Open a *Terminal* window by clicking on the **Terminal** icon located in the left menu pane.



4. In the *Terminal* window, type <code>javascript-obfuscator</code> and press **Enter**. Observe the output and learn about how to run the program.



5. Next, type the cd Downloads/javascripts to go to the *javascripts* directory.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~$ cd Downloads/javascripts/
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$
```

6. We will now create a simple *Hello World!* page using an existing template. In the *terminal* window, type touch server.js and press **Enter** to create a file. You can run ls to confirm the file was created. The *views* folder stores our template file.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ touch server.js
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ ls
index.html server.js views
```

7. Type nano server.js and press Enter. You will be brought to the nano editor window. Type the following code:

```
//using the express module in nodejs
var express=require('express');
var app=express();

//using the jade module for the template
app.set('view engine','jade');
app.get('/',function(req,res){
   //set the webpage title and message
   res.render('index',{title:'NETLAB+',message:'Hello World!'})
});

//start to listen on localhost:3000
var server=app.listen(3000, function(){});
```

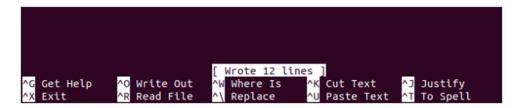
```
//using the express module in nodejs
var express=require('express');
var app=express();

//using the jade module for the template
app.set('view engine','jade');
app.get('/',function(req,res){
//set the webpage title and message
res.render('index',{title:'NETLAB+',message:'Hello World!'})
});

//start to listen on localhost:3000
var server=app.listen(3000, function(){});
```



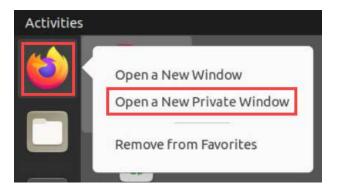
8. Once finished entering all of the codes, press Ctrl+S to save and Ctrl+X to quit nano.



9. Type **node server**. **js** to bring up the HTTP server.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ node server.js
```

10. Now, let's check our *Hello World!* webpage. On the left side, right-click the **Firefox** icon and choose **Open a New Private Window**.



11. In the Firefox window, click on the address bar and type localhost: 3000 and then press Enter.



12. You should see the *Hello World!* page as shown below:



13. Go back to the *Terminal* window, press **Ctrl+C** to stop the server.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ node server.js
^C
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$
```



14. Type the following command to obfuscate the JavaScript in the server.js file.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~$ javascript-obfuscator server.js --output server-obfu.js
```

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ javascript-obfuscator server.js --output server-obfu.js
[javascript-obfuscator-cli] Obfuscating file: server.js...
```

15. Now, let's compare the before and after obfuscation. Type cat server.js and press Enter, then type cat server-obfu.js and press Enter (your obfuscated code may be different from what is shown in the screenshot below).

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ cat server.js
//using the express module in nodejs
var express=require('express');
var app=express();
//using the jade module for the template
app.set('view engine','jade');
app.get('/',function(req,res){
//set the webpage title and message
res.render('index',{title:'NetLab',message:'Hello World!'})});
//start to listen on localhost:3000
var server=app.listen(3000, function(){});
 sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ cat server-obfu.js
var a0_0x47cf75=a0_0x5d16;(function(_0x2f36e2,_0x20eb3e){var _0x470761=a0_0x5d16,_0
x343503=_0x2f36e2();while(!![]){try{var _0x583ad2=-parseInt(_0x470761(0x188))/0x1+-
parseInt(_0x470761(0x189))/0x2*(-parseInt(_0x470761(0x17e))/0x3)+parseInt(_0x470761
(0x182))/0x4*(parseInt(_0x470761(0x17c))/0x5)+parseInt(_0x470761(0x17f))/0x6+parseI
nt(_0x470761(0x17b))/0x7+-parseInt(_0x470761(0x181))/0x8*(parseInt(_0x470761(0x17d)
)/0x9)+-parseInt(_0x470761(0x186))/0xa*(parseInt(_0x470761(0x180))/0xb);if(_0x583ad
2===_0x20eb3e)break;else _0x343503['push'](_0x343503['shift']());}catch(_0x5626a0){
   _0x343503['push'](_0x343503['shift']());}}{(a0_0x582e,0x7a2a1));var express=require
   ('express'),app=express();app['set'](a0_0x47cf75(0x17a),'jade'),app['get']('/',func
   tion(_0x3adbaf,_0x40790c){var _0x20bfeb=a0_0x47cf75;_0x40790c['render'](_0x20bfeb(0
   x183),{'title':_0x20bfeb(0x185),'message':_0x20bfeb(0x187)});});function a0_0x5d16(
 buntusry:~/Downloads/javascriptsS
```

16. We can see that after the obfuscation, the code became much harder to read and very difficult to revert to its original state. Let's see if the code still runs. Type the command node serverobfu.js and then press Enter.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ node server-obfu.js
```



17. We are seeing the same thing as last time; it is almost certain that the HTTP runs just fine. However, to be 100% sure, let's launch a **Firefox Private Window** once again and go to the **localhost: 3000** page. It should again show the same *Hello World!* page.

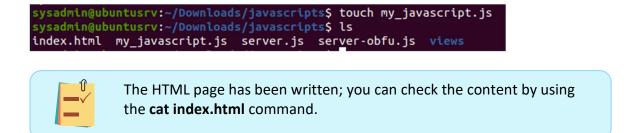


18. Close the *Firefox* window, and go back to your terminal window. Press **Ctrl+C** to end the server.

1.2 Obfuscate JavaScript on an HTML Page

We know that JavaScript will be executed on the client-side; thus, it is critical to protect our JavaScript code from being copied or redistributed by others. Obfuscation is a good way to achieve this goal.

Let's write another simple JavaScript function that we will use on an HTML page. Type touch
my_javascript.js and then press Enter. You can check whether the file was created by using
the ls command.



2. Then, we will edit the *my_javascript.js* file content by using the nano my_javascript.js command. You will see a screen like this once the nano editor opens.



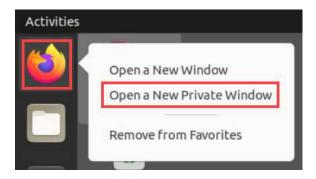


3. Type the following content in the nano editor. Once finished, press **Ctrl+S** to save and **Ctrl+X** to quit the nano editor.

```
function addition() {
  var a = +document.getElementById("fstnumber").value;
  var b = +document.getElementById("secnumber").value;
  document.getElementById("result").innerHTML = a+b;
}
```

4. Now, let's test our webpage. In the terminal window, type python3 -m http.server to start an HTTP server. Open a new Firefox Private Window.

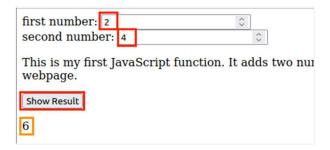
```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ python3 -m http.server
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 (http://0.0.0.0:8000/) ...
```



5. In the address bar, go to address localhost: 8000. We will see our website.



6. We can test our function by entering values for *first number* and *second number*, then click **Show Result**.



7. Right-click on a white space area, then select **View Page Source**. In the new window, click on the **my_javascript.js** link, and we will be taken to our JavaScript code.



8. Now we can see what we had typed in as our addition function. This is the file that a client could see and would probably redistribute for personal use. For security practices, we can obfuscate this code so it is more difficult for others to directly copy and redistribute. Close the *Firefox* window.

```
function addition(){
  var a = +document.getElementById("fstnumber").value;
  var b = +document.getElementById("secnumber").value;
  document.getElementById("result").innerHTML = a+b;
}
```

9. Switch back to the *Terminal* window and press **Ctrl+C** to exit the HTTP server.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ python3 -m http.server
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 (http://0.0.0.8000/) ...
127.0.0.1 - - [16/Aug/2021 17:14:38] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -
127.0.0.1 - - [16/Aug/2021 17:14:38] "GET /my_javascript.js HTTP/1.1" 200 -
127.0.0.1 - - [16/Aug/2021 17:14:38] code 404, message File not found
127.0.0.1 - - [16/Aug/2021 17:14:38] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
127.0.0.1 - - [16/Aug/2021 17:17:15] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -
127.0.0.1 - - [16/Aug/2021 17:17:40] "GET /my_javascript.js HTTP/1.1" 200 -
^C
Keyboard interrupt received, exiting.
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$
```



10. Next, we will use the program again to obfuscate our *my_javascript.js*. Type javascript-obfuscator my_javascript.js --output my_obfujavascript.js, then press Enter.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ javascript-obfuscator my_javascrip
t.js --output my_obfujavascript.js

[javascript-obfuscator-cli] Obfuscating file: my_javascript.js...
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$
```

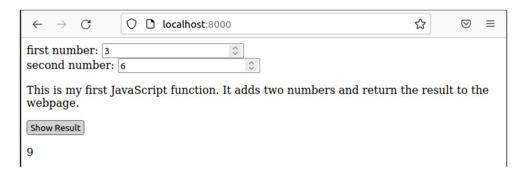
You can check the obfuscated code by entering the command cat my_obfujavascript.js

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ cat my_obfujavascript.js
(function(_0x58ac9a,_0x27f7fd){var _0x2f9be3=a0_0x4c10,_0x520b36=_0x58ac9a();w
hile(!![]){try{var _0x2c9ef2=parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x106))/0x1*(parseInt(_0x2f9be
3(0x10c))/0x2)+parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x103))/0x3*(-parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10d))/0x4
)+-parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x105))/0x5*(parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10e))/0x6)+-parseInt(_
0x2f9be3(0x107))/0x7+parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10a))/0x8*(parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x104)
)/0x9)+-parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10b))/0xa+parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x108))/0xb;if(_0x2c
9ef2===_0x27f7fd)break;else _0x520b36['push'](_0x520b36['shift']());}}{(ox520b36['push'](_0x520b36['shift']());}}{(ox520b36['push'](_0x520b36['shift']());}}{(ox520b36['push'](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x101))[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8
```

11. Type nano index.html, then press Enter. In the nano editor, use the arrow keys on your keyboard to move your cursor to the third line from the bottom, find my_javascript.js and change it to my_obfujavascript.js. We are going to use our obfuscated JavaScript.

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="my_obfujavascript.js";
</body>
</html>
```

12. Press **Ctrl+S** to save and **Ctrl+X** to exit the nano editor. When you are brought back to the *Terminal* window, run the **python3** -m http.server, then open a new **Firefox Private Window**. Once more, type the **localhost:8000** to go to our webpage. Enter two random numbers to test whether the function still works.



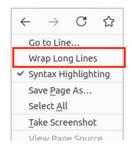


13. Right-click on an empty space and choose **View Page Source**. On the new page, it is showing that our obfuscated JavaScript is being used. Click on the **my_obfujavascript.js** link to open the file.

14. We can see that the JavaScript code is much harder to read now. If your result shows a long line of code, right-click on an empty space and choose **Wrap Long Lines**.

```
(function( 0x58ac9a, 0x27f7fd){var 0x2f9be3=a0 0x4c10, 0x520b36= 0x58ac9a();while(!!
[]){try{var _0x2c9ef2=parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x106))/0x1*(parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10c))
/0x2)+parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x103))/0x3*(-parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10d))/0x4)+
parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x105))/0x5*(parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10e))/0x6)+-parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x107))
/0x7+parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10a))/0x8*(parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x104))/0x9)+-
parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x10b))/0xa+parseInt(_0x2f9be3(0x108))/0xb;
());}catch(_0x2bc98e){_0x520b36['push'](_0x520b36['shift']());}}}
(a0_0x4c0a,0x74c6b));function addition(){var
  0x3640b8=a0_0x4c10,_0x76b0db=+document[_0x3640b8(0x101)](_0x3640b8(0x109))
[_0x3640b8(0x102)],_0x171661=+document[_0x3640b8(0x101)]('secnumber')['value'];
 \overline{\text{document}}[\_0x3640b8(\overline{0}x101)](\_0x3640b8(0x\overline{f}))[\_0x3640b8(0x100)] = \_0x76b0db + \_0x171661; \\ \{\text{function of the first of the 
a0_0x4c10(_0x5dde6f,_0x530772){var__0x4c0a5b=a0_0x4c0a();return
a0_0x4c10=function(_0x4c1088,_0x2fb64c){_0x4c1088=_0x4c1088-0xff;var
  _0x477732=_0x4c0a5b[_0x4c1088];return _0x477732;},a0_0x4c10(_0x5dde6f,_0x530772);}function
a0_0x4c0a(){var _0x41543b=
['85peoeEz','214afbxyt','9877840XDdON','14464703sTyqVU','fstnumber','17816MNWwDE','8486040NZ
jbsd','4136dIOXXK','20NpZPzj','86610XPGkYu','result','innerHTML','getElementById','value','3
17751JhxWuy', '1962NnudnA'];a0 0x4c0a=function(){return 0x41543b;};return a0 0x4c0a();}
```

n(_0x58ac9a,_0x27f7fd){var _0x2f9be3=a0



15. Congratulations, you now know how to obfuscate to protect your intellectual property. Close *Firefox* and press **Ctrl+C** in the terminal window to stop the HTTP server. Leave the *Terminal* window open and proceed to the next task.



2 Dead Code Injection

Dead code means there is a part of a program that does nothing when executed. It may create variables and perform mathematical calculations, but the result will never be used for normal operations. Dead code will introduce calculation overhead, so please make sure you select a proper amount of dead code to inject. You do not want to exhaust the CPU before the execution of an important function.

2.1 Dead Code Injection

1. While the *Terminal* window remains open, let's click on it. Type <code>javascript-obfuscator</code> to observe the options.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ javascript-obfuscator
Usage: javascript-obfuscator <inputPath> [options]

Options:
    -v, --version
    -o, --output <path>
    --compact <boolean>
    --config <boolean>
    --control-flow-flattening <boolean>
    --control-flow-flattening-threshold <number>

--dead-code-injection <boolean>
    --dead-code-injection-threshold <number>
--debug-protection <boolean>
    --debug-protection <boolean>
```

2. We can see that the program takes two options related to the dead code injection: dead-code-injection <Boolean> and dead-code-injection-threshold <number>. Here is an example of how to use them:

```
javascript-obfuscator my_javascript.js --output my_dci_javascript.js --dead-code-
injection true --dead-code-injection-threshold 0.4
```

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ javascript-obfuscator my_javascrip
t.js --output my_dci_javascript.js --dead-code-injection true --dead-code-inje
ction-threshold 0.4
[javascript-obfuscator-cli] Obfuscating file: my_javascript.js...
```



dead-code-injection <Boolean> option is a switch that tells the program whether to add dead code.

dead-code-injection-threshold <number> option sets the possibility a node will be injected with dead code. default is set to 0.4, maximum is 1 and minimum is 0.



3. To observe the code after the injection, type cat my_dci_javascript.js, then press Enter.

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ cat my_dci_javascript.js
(function(_0x19c47c,_0xc1fbf){var _0x2fd03f=a0_0x1d9b,_0x4a404f=_0x19c47c();wh
ile(!![]){try{var _0x1481ae=-parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x8a))/0x1*(-parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x89))/0x2)+parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x8c))/0x3*(-parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x95))/0x4)+p
arseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x94))/0x5*(-parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x92))/0x6)+-parseInt(_0x2fd
03f(0x8f))/0x7+-parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x8b))/0x8+-parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x85))/0x9+p
arseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x88))/0xa*(parseInt(_0x2fd03f(0x8d))/0xb);if(_0x1481ae===_0
xc1fbf)break;else _0x4a404f['push'](_0x4a404f['shift']());}eatch(_0xf4bf2b){_0}
x4a404f['push'](_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x4a404f['shift']());}{(_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91)](_0x5ada0(0x91))[_0x5ada0(0
```

2.2 Other Dead Code Injection Options

- 1. There are other important options you may want to test in the lab setting.
 - a. **debug-protection <boolean>** option: when this option is set **true**, the browser, if it has debug mode turned on, may freeze or be non-responsive.
 - b. **debug-protection-interval <boolean>** option: when this option is set **true**, the browser may freeze or be non-responsive even after the page is loaded.
 - c. **disable-console-output <boolean>** option: when this option is set **true**, the browser console will no longer output console.log, console.info, console.error, and console.warn messages.
 - d. **domain-lock** dist> option: when setting this option, the user could provide a list of domain names that can execute the obfuscated code. Any other domain that is not on the list will not be able to execute the obfuscated code.
- 2. To test the above-mentioned options, simply add them at the end of the command. For example, if we want to use the *debug-protection* option, run the command like so:

```
javascript-obfuscator my_javascript.js --output my_dci_javascript.js --dead-code-
injection true --dead-code-injection-threshold 0.4 --debug-protection true
```

```
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$ javascript-obfuscator my_javascrip
t.js --output my_dci_javascript.js --dead-code-injection true --dead-code-inje
ction-threshold 0.4 --debug-protection true

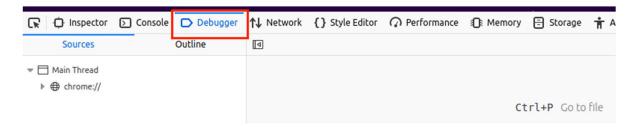
[javascript-obfuscator-cli] Obfuscating file: my_javascript.js...
sysadmin@ubuntusrv:~/Downloads/javascripts$
```



3. Then, edit the *index.html* to reference the *my_dci_javascript.js* file.



4. Open a new **Firefox Private Window**, and press **Ctrl + Shift + I** to turn on the *Developer* tools. In the *Developer Tools* area, click to go to the **Debugger** mode.



- 5. In the address bar, go to localhost: 8000. You should experience a slow to non-responsive webpage.
- 6. The lab is now complete; you may end the reservation.