

# Lab 1

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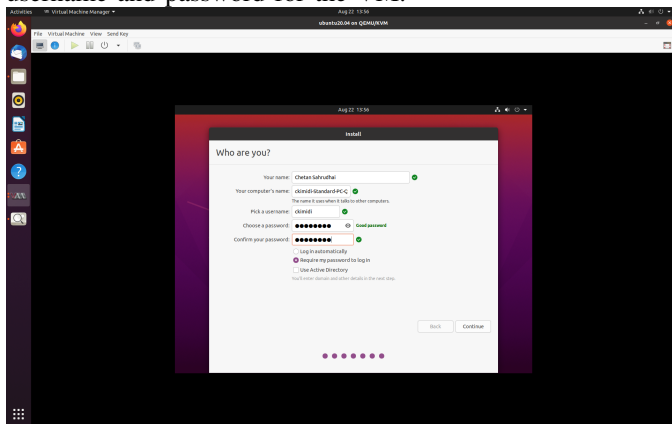
**Abstract**—Environment and required technical setup, along with installation of OWASP Webgoat, WebWolf and a DefendTheWeb find-the-password challenge.

## I. INTRODUCTION

OWASP, the Open Worldwide Application Security Project, is a part of the OWASP Foundation, which creates tools and specializes in web application security.[1] The application we installed into the virtual machines we created, in this lab, WebGoat, is one of their products, which is intentionally insecure, used primarily for educational purposes. Apart from this, we have also created a GitHub repository, setup remote desktop access and solved one of the introductory challenges.

## II. VM INSTALLATION

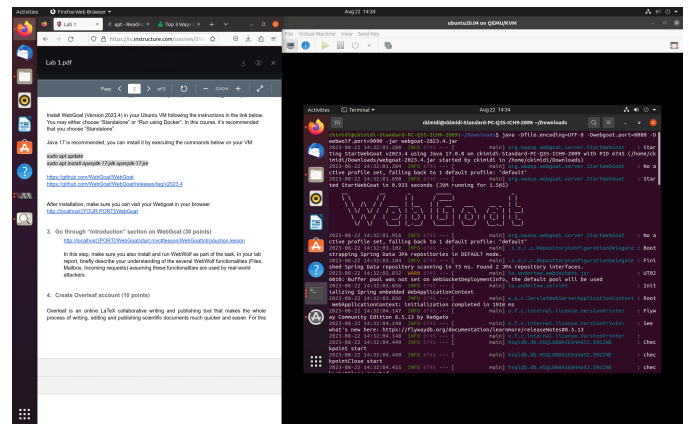
Prior to WebGoat, I installed Ubuntu 20.04.6 LTS on the Ubuntu lab machine allocated to me. I customized the installation, as I wanted to tweak with the resources allocated to the VM. I allocated 2 CPUs, 4GB of RAM, 50GB of storage, chose NAT for the network and setup my username and password for the VM.



## III. WEBGOAT INSTALLATION

As recommended in this course, I chose to install the Standalone version of WebGoat 2023.4 in my VM. This program is a demonstration of common server-side application flaws. The exercises are helpful in learning about application security and penetration testing techniques.[2] Since WebGoat installation requires Java on the VM, I installed Java and later WebGoat, using these commands:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install openjdk-17-jdk openjdk-17-jre
java -Dfile.encoding=UTF-8 -Dwebgoat.port=8080 -Dwebwolf.port=9090 -jar webgoat-2023.4.jar
```



I downloaded the necessary JAR from the release repo [3]. After successful installation of WebGoat, I noted down the port was 8080, from the log, and then opened it in the browser using the link, <http://localhost:8080/WebGoat>.

## IV. "INTRODUCTION" SECTION AND WEBWOLF

After signing up on the WebGoat application, I read the Introduction section and about how I can poke, prod or hack my own scapegoat a.k.a. WebGoat, and learn all the essential techniques.

Then, I ran and signed up on WebWolf, as seen in Fig. 1, while WebGoat is already running, by clicking on the appropriate icon in the top-right area.

WebWolf is a separate web application which simulates an attackers machine. Using this, we can learn what takes place on the attacked site and the actions we need to do as an attacker.[4]

WebWolf primarily offers functionalities such as file uploads, mailbox facility and access to incoming requests. Usually, 9090 is the default port. The following is my brief understanding of each functionality, assuming they are used by real-world attackers:

1. Attackers can upload files in a hosted URL.
2. The attacker has a mailbox, to which all the user's mails are redirected to.
3. A simple httpd server (no need of local installation) functionality is offered, which logs the incoming requests, which can then be accessed on the webwolf/landing/ page.

## V. GITHUB REPO AND OVERLEAF SETUP

I already have an Overleaf account, which I am currently using to write this report, so I skipped the account creation step. I downloaded the suggested report template, for further usage.

I created a repository on IU GitHub, to save all my lab reports, following the required naming conventions, and also added both the professor and the AI as collaborators to it. The repository can be found here.

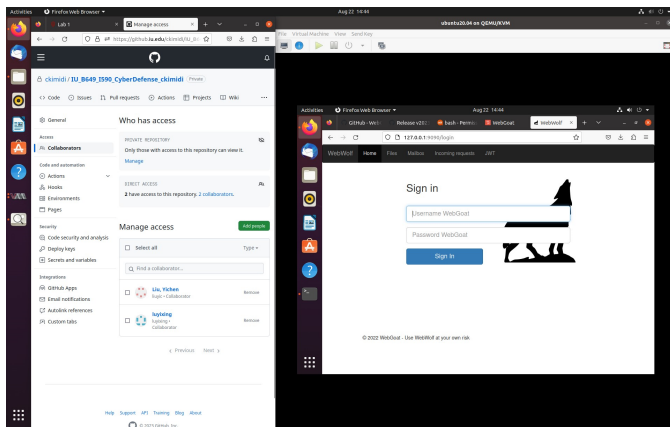


Fig. 1. GitHub repo creation and WebWolf signup successfully.

## VI. STRETCH GOALS

In this optional/bonus task, I was given a challenge, where I had to find out the password, while landing on a login page. My approach to solve this was searching out the password phrase, using the Inspect element browser feature, since the code of the page we view is accessible there. Once I pressed F12 and scrolled to the bottom, I came across the correct password phrase, from the JavaScript code present i.e. the script tag, as in Fig. 2.

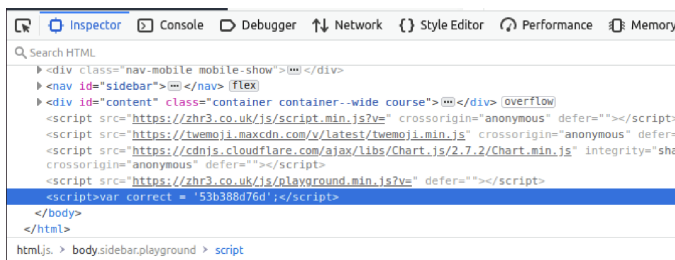


Fig. 2. Solution to the DefendTheWeb challenge

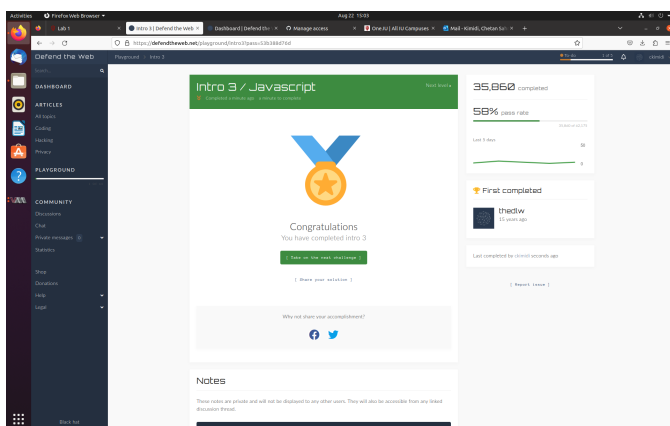


Fig. 3. Intro3 Challenge SOLVED!

## VII. REMOTE DESKTOP SETUP

To access my VM from home, I created my Carbonate account in class. After an hour, I logged into RED and accessed the lab machine using ssh. From the command line, I checked if I was able to access the VM, and it was working as expected. Then, I resumed the VM, which I had saved in its state, as seen in Fig. 4.

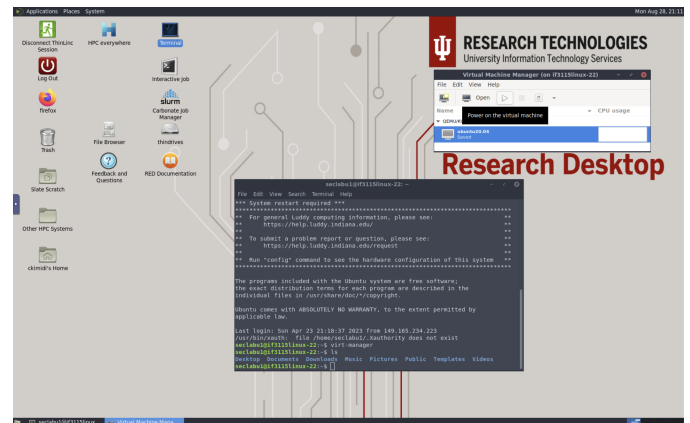


Fig. 4. Remotely accessing my lab machine and the VM

## VIII. CONCLUSION

In summary, I have successfully installed a new VM, and then installed WebGoat and WebWolf onto it, in this lab. I solved the Intro3 challenge (bonus task), as well. I have also created a GitHub repository for accessing all my lab reports easily, and also setup my remote desktop, to continue any unfinished lab work or to access my VM at home.

## REFERENCES

- [1] OWASP Foundation
- [2] GitHub Repository of WebGoat
- [3] WebGoat 2023.4 Release JAR
- [4] WebWolf Docs