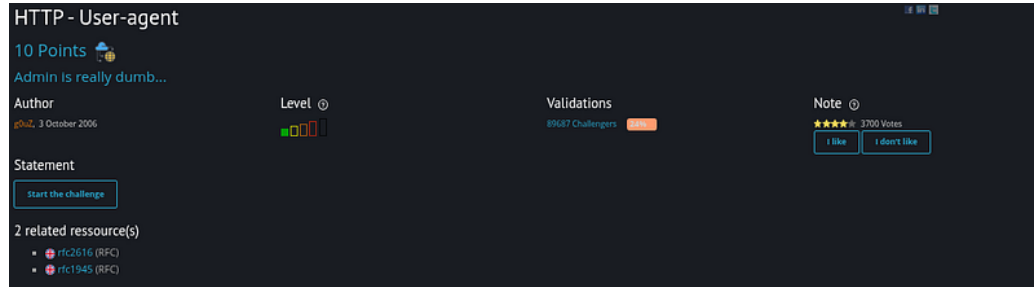

Root-Me Write-Up : HTTP—User-Agent



Challenge Statement

Admin is really dumb...

Hint

User-Agent

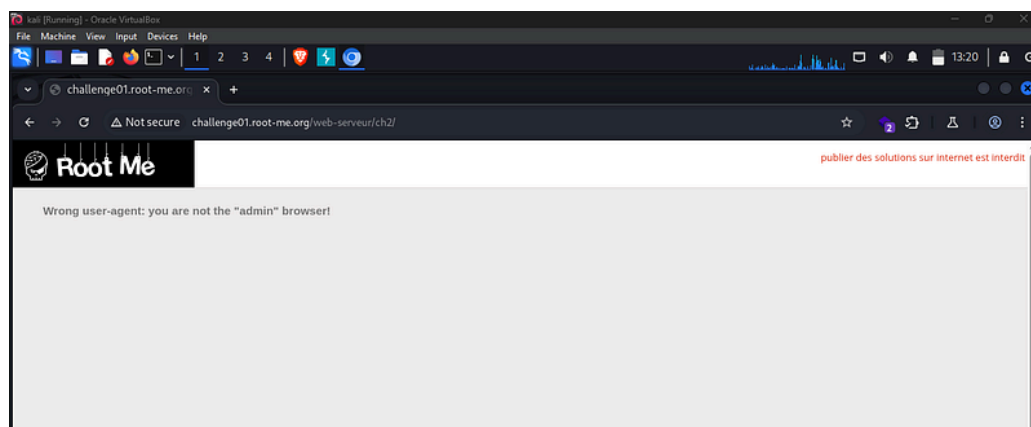
The HTTP User-Agent header identifies the client's browser, operating system, and device to the web server. It is commonly used so the server can tailor responses, optimize content, or apply restrictions based on the client's software or device.

Objective

Identify how the application uses the User-Agent header for access control and manipulate it to gain unauthorized access and retrieve the password.

Analysis

Upon accessing the target link, the server returned the following message:



Wrong user-agent: you are not the “admin” browser!

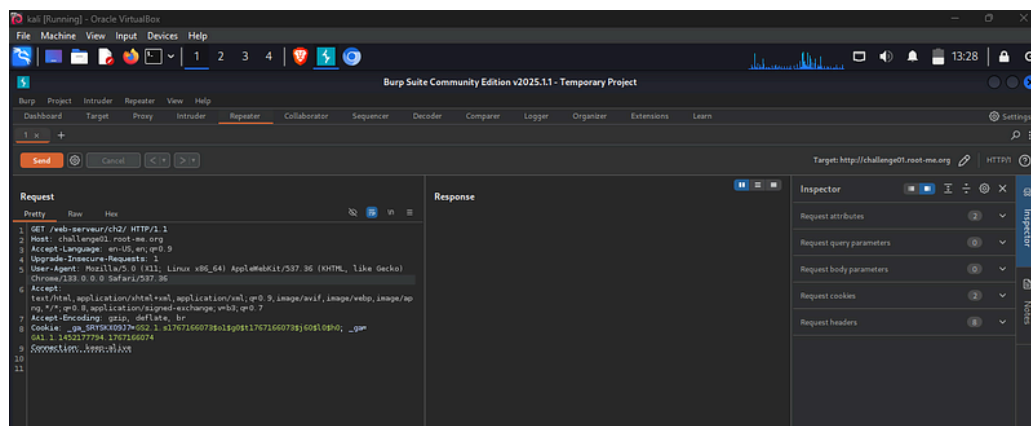
This response indicates that the application performs access control checks based solely on the value of the User-Agent header. Since this header is fully controlled by the client, it presents a potential security weakness.

Exploitation

The request was intercepted using **Burp Suite** and sent to the **Repeater** tool for modification.

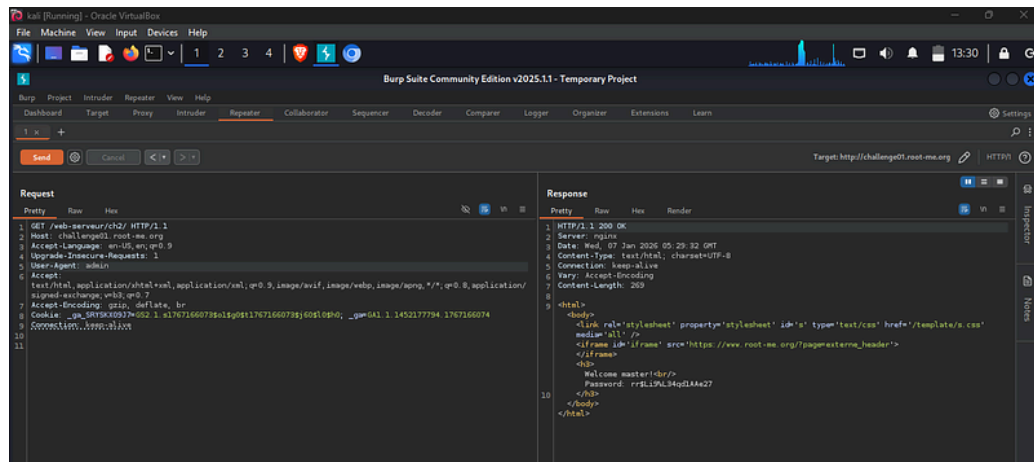
Original User-Agent

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/133.0.0.0 S



The User-Agent header was modified to impersonate the expected admin browser:

Modified User-Agent



User-Agent: admin

The modified request was then sent to the server.

Result

The server accepted the request and responded with:

Welcome master! Password: rr\$Li9%L34qd1AAe27

Flag

rr\$Li9%L34qd1AAe27

By [Alexander Sapo](#) on [January 7, 2026](#).

[Canonical link](#)

Exported from [Medium](#) on February 7, 2026.