Content Security Policy

A successful mess between hardening and mitigation

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We work in a focus area of the **Google** security team (ISE) aimed at improving product security by targeted proactive projects to mitigate whole classes of bugs.

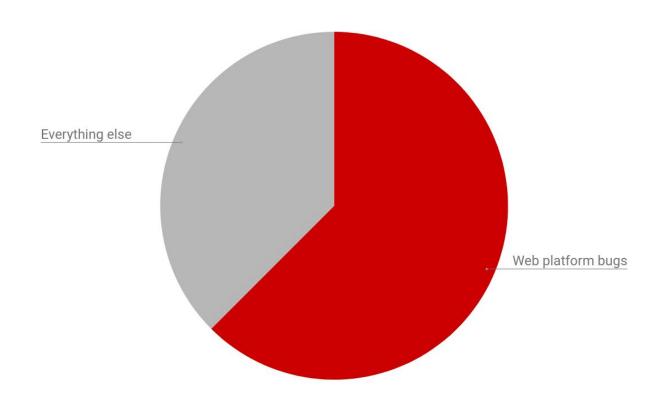
Agenda

- Why CSP aka XSS is still an issue
- Google CSP stats how many XSS got mitigated in 2018
- CSP building blocks mapping XSS sinks to CSP properties
- Rolling out a nonce-based CSP
- Advanced CSP Kung Fu
- Productionizing CSP

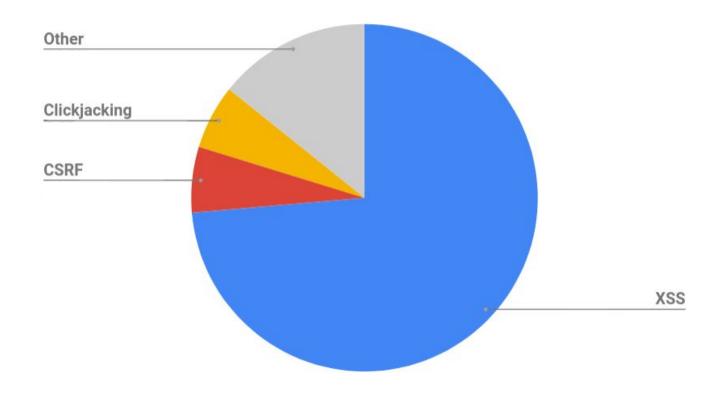
Vulnerability Trends

Why you should care about XSS

Total Google VRP Rewards (since 2014)



Google VRP Rewards for Web Platform Bugs



VULNERABILITIES BY INDUSTRY

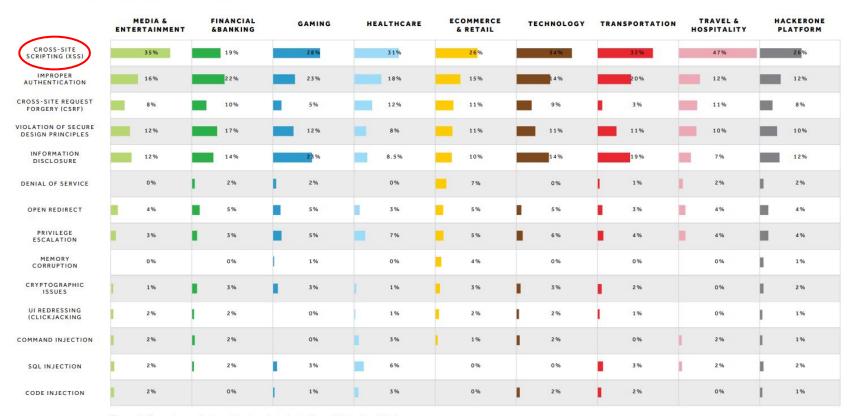
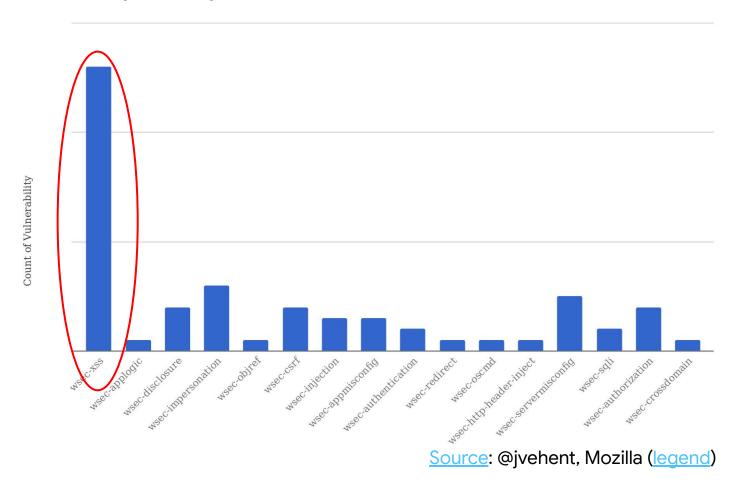


Figure 2: Percentage of vulnerability type by industry from 2013 to May 2017.

Source: HackerOne report, 2017



The Need for Defense-in-Depth

- The majority of application vulnerabilities are web platform issues
- XSS in its various forms is still a big issue
- The web platform is not secure by default
- Especially for sensitive applications, defense-in-depth mechanisms such as
 CSP are very important in case primary security mechanisms fail

Mitigation ≠ Mitigation

Reducing the attack surface

VS

"raising the bar"

- Measurable security improvement
- Disable unsafe APIs
- Remove attack vectors
- Target classes of bugs
- Defense-in-depth (Don't forget to fix bugs!)

Example:

- block eval() or javascript: URI
 → all XSS vulnerabilities using that sink will stop working
- nonce-based CSP

- Increase the "cost" of an attack
- Slow down the attacker

Example:

- whitelist-based CSP
 - → sink isn't closed, attacker needs more time to find a whitelist bypass
 - → often there is no control over content hosted on whitelisted domains (e.g. CDNs)

Hardening Steps induced by CSP

- Refactor inline event handlers
- Refactor uses of eval()
- Incentive to use contextual templating system for auto-noncing

XSS blocked by CSP @Google

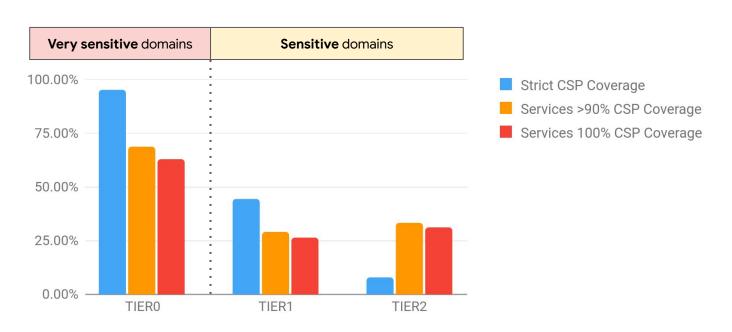
An analysis of externally reported XSS in 2018

CSP Coverage at Google

Currently a nonce-based CSP is enforced on: 62% of all outgoing Google traffic

80+ Google domains (e.g. accounts.google.com)

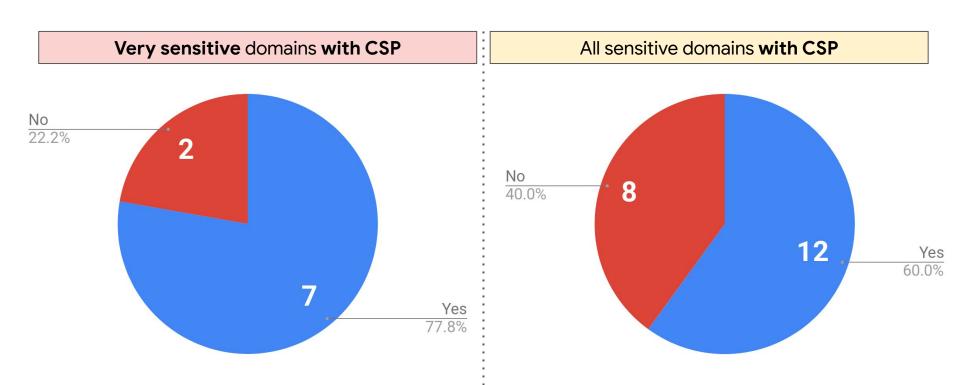
160+ services



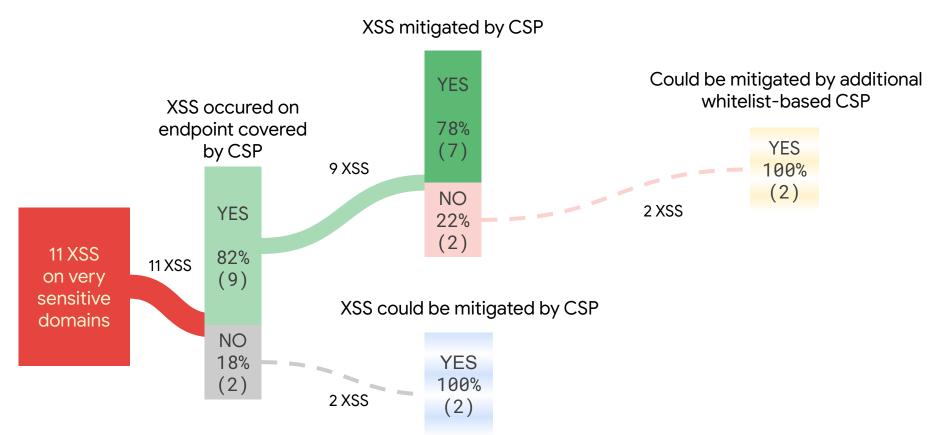
Google Case Study: >60% of XSS Blocked by CSP

- Externally reported XSS in 2018
- Among 11 XSS vulnerabilities on very sensitive domains
 - 9 were on endpoints with strict CSP deployed, in 7 of which (78%) CSP successfully prevented exploitation
- Among all valid 69 XSS vulnerabilities on sensitive domains
 - 20 were on endpoints with strict CSP deployed
 - o in 12 of which (60%) CSP successfully prevented exploitation

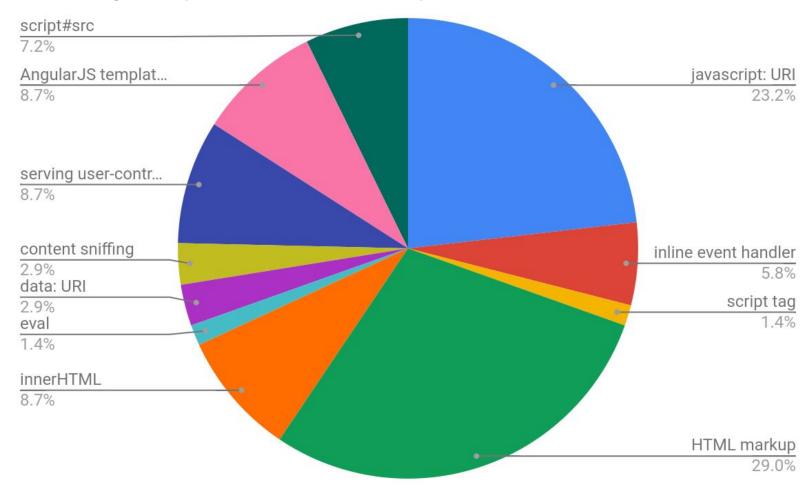
Google Case Study: >60% of XSS Blocked by CSP



On Very Sensitive Domains: ~80% of XSS Blocked by CSP



Externally Reported XSS Exploited via



Mapping Common XSS Sinks to CSP Features

XSS sink (injection into)	CSP blocks if		
javascript: URI (i.e., javascript:alert(1))	'unsafe-inline'		
data: URI (i.e., data:text/html, <script>alert(1)</script>)	'unsafe inline'		
(inner)HTML context (i.e., <div><script>alert(1)</script></div>)	'unsafe-inline'		
inline event handler (i.e., onerror=alert(1))	'unsafe-inline'		
eval() (i.e., eval('alert(1)')	'unsafe-eval'		
script#text	'sha256'		
(i.e., var s = createElement('script'); s.innerText = 'alert(1)';)	'nonce' 'strict dynamic' (if scripts are not blindly nonced)		
<pre>script#src (i.e., var s = createElement('script'); s.src = 'attacker.js';)</pre>	'nonce' 'strict dynamic' (if scripts are not blindly nonced)		
AngularJS-like template injection (i.e., {{constructor.constructor('alert(1)')()}})	Must be addressed in the framework. e.g. upgrade AngularJS to Angular 2+		

Step-by-Step Towards a Stronger CSP

Incremental rollout of a <u>nonce-based</u> CSP

Why **NOT** a whitelist-based CSP?

```
script-src 'self' https://www.google.com;
```



TL;DR Don't use them! They're almost always trivially bypassable.

- >95% of the Web's whitelist-based CSP are bypassable <u>automatically</u>
 - Research Paper: https://ai.google/research/pubs/pub45542
 - Check yourself: http://csp-evaluator.withgoogle.com
 - The remaining 5% might be bypassable after manual review
- Example: JSONP, AngularJS, ... hosted on whitelisted domain (esp. CDNs)
- Whitelists are hard to create and maintain → breakages

More about CSP whitelists:

ACM CCS '16, IEEE SecDev '16, AppSec EU '17, Hack in the Box '18,

Recap: What is a nonce-based CSP

Content-Security-Policy:

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none', base-uri 'none';
```

Execute only scripts with the correct nonce attribute

```
✓ <script nonce="r4nd0m">kittens()</script>

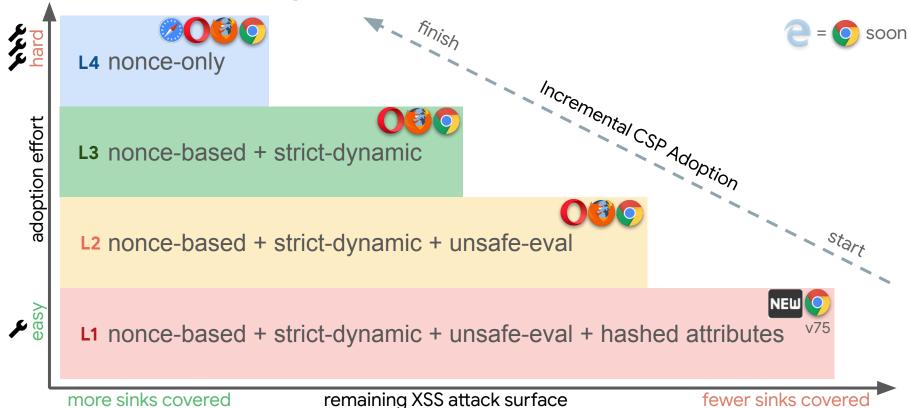
X <script nonce="other-value">evil()</script>
```

Trust scripts added by already trusted code

Incremental Rollout of a nonce-based CSP

- Trade-off between covered XSS sinks vs. ease of deployment
- CSP security guarantees are not binary
 - Aim for actual reduction of attack surface instead of "raising the bar"
 - o Trivial example: CSP w/o 'unsafe-eval' will block all eval-based XSS
- Refactoring work mostly varies based on
 - Type of CSP
 - Application (e.g. how many inline event handlers, use of eval(), size, etc.)

Towards a Stronger nonce-based CSP (Level 1-4)





L2: nonce-based + strict-dynamic + unsafe-eval

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'unsafe-eval';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

TL;DR Sweet spot! Good trade off between refactoring and covered sinks.

PROs:

- Reflected/stored XSS mitigated
- + Little refactoring required
 - <script> tags in initial response
 must have a valid nonce attribute
 - inline event-handlers and javascript:
 URIs must be refactored
- Works if you don't control all JS
- + Good browser support

CONs:

- eval() sink not covered
- DOM XSS partially covered
 - e.g. injection in dynamic script creation possible



L2: nonce-based + strict-dynamic + unsafe-eval

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'unsafe-eval';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

XSS Sinks Covered:

javascript: URI	✓
data: URI	✓
(inner)HTML context	✓
inline event handler	✓
eval	×
script#text	×
	✓ if script is hashed
script#src	X
AngularJS-like template injection	✗ (✓ if upgraded to Angular 2+ or similar)



L2: nonce-based + strict-dynamic + unsafe-eval

```
esoor
```

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'unsafe-eval';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Common Refactoring Steps:

```
<html>
  <a href="javascript:void(0)">a</a>
  <a onclick="alert('clicked')">b</a>
  <script src="stuff.js"/>
  <script>
  var s =
    document.createElement('script');
  s.src = 'dynamicallyLoadedStuff.js';
  document.body.appendChild(s);
  </script>
  </html>
```

```
<html>
<a href="#">a</a>
<a id="link">b</a>
<script nonce="r4nd0m" src="stuff.js"/>
<script nonce="r4nd0m">
 var s = document.createElement('script');
 s.src = 'dynamicallyLoadedStuff.js'
 document.body.appendChild(s);
 document.getElementById('link')
    .addEventListener('click', alert('clicked'));
</script>
</html>
```



L3: nonce-based + strict-dynamic

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

TL;DR Sweet spot! Good trade off between refactoring and covered sinks.

PROs:

- Reflected/stored XSS mitigated
- Little refactoring required
 - <script> tags in initial response must have a valid nonce attribute
 - inline event handlers and javascript:
 URIs must be refactored
- Works if you don't control all JS
- + Good browser support

CONs:

- DOM XSS partially covered
 - e.g. injection in dynamic script creation possible



L3: nonce-based + strict-dynamic

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

XSS Sinks Covered:

javascript: URI	✓
data: URI	✓
(inner)HTML context	✓
inline event handler	✓
eval	✓
script#text	×
	✓ if script is hashed
script#src	×
AngularJS-like template injection	★ (✓ if upgraded to Angular 2+ or similar)



L3: nonce-based + strict-dynamic

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Common Refactoring Steps:

```
<html>
 <a href="javascript:void(0)">a</a>
 <a onclick="alert('clicked')">b</a>
 <script src="stuff.js"/>
 <script>
  var s =
   document.createElement('script');
  s.src = 'dynamicallyLoadedStuff.js';
  document.body.appendChild(s);
  var j = eval('(' + json + ')');
 </script>
</html>
```

```
<html>
<a href="#">a</a>
<a id="link">b</a>
<script nonce="r4nd0m" src="stuff.js"/>
<script nonce="r4nd0m">
 var s = document.createElement('script');
 s.src = 'dynamicallyLoadedStuff.js'
 document.body.appendChild(s);
 document.getElementById('link')
    .addEventListener('click', alert('clicked'));
var j = JSON.parse(json);
</script>
</html>
```



L3.5: hash-based + strict-dynamic

```
script-src 'sha256-avWk...' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Refactoring steps for **static/single-page apps**:

```
<html>
<a href="javascript:void(0)">a</a>
<a onclick="alert('clicked')">b</a>
<script src="stuff.js"/>
<script>
var s =
   document.createElement('script');
s.src = 'dynLoadedStuff.js';
document.body.appendChild(s);
</script>
</html>
```

```
<html>
 <a href="#">a</a>
<a id="link">b</a>
 <script> // sha256-avWk...
  var urls = ['stuff.js',''dynLoadedStuff.js'];
  urls.map(url => {
    var s = document.createElement('script');
    s.src = url;
    document.body.appendChild(s);_ });
  document.getElementById('link')
    .addEventListener('click', alert('clicked'));
 </script>
</html>
```



L4: nonce-only

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

TL;DR Holy grail! All traditional XSS sinks covered, but hard to deploy.

PROs:

CONs:

- Best coverage of XSS sinks possible in the web platform
- Supported by all major browsers
- Every running script was explicitly marked as trusted

- Large refactoring required
 - ALL <script> tags must have a valid nonce attribute
 - inline event-handlers and javascript:
 URIs must be refactored
- You need be in control of all JS
 - all JS libs/widgets must pass nonces to child scripts



L4: nonce-only

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

XSS Sinks Covered:

javascript: URI	✓
data: URI	✓
(inner)HTML context	✓
inline event handler	✓
eval	✓
carint#toyt	✓ (✗ iff untrusted script explicitly marked as trusted)
script#text	✓ if script is hashed
script#src	✓ (✗ iff untrusted URL explicitly marked as trusted)
AngularJS-like template injection	✗ (✓ if upgraded to Angular 2+ or similar)



L4: nonce-only

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Refactoring Steps:

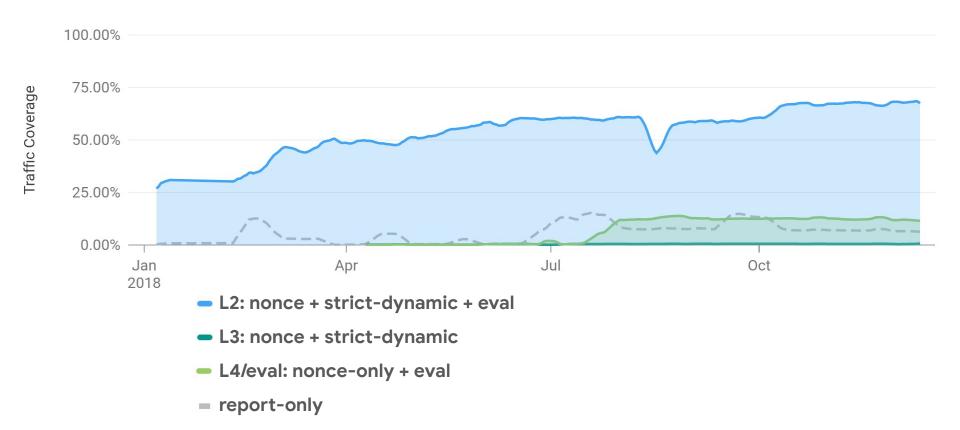
```
<html>
  <a href="javascript:void(0)">a</a>
  <a onclick="alert('clicked')">b</a>
  <script src="stuff.js"/>
  <script>
   var s =
    document.createElement('script');
   s.src = 'dynamicallyLoadedStuff.js';
   document.body.appendChild(s);
  </script>
  </html>
```

```
<html>
<a href="#">a</a>
<a id="link">b</a>
<script nonce="r4nd0m" src="stuff.js"/>
<script nonce="r4nd0m">
 var s = document.createElement('script');
 s.src = 'dynamicallyLoadedStuff.js'
 s.setAttribute('nonce', 'r4nd0m');
 document.body.appendChild(s);
 document.getElementById('link')
    .addEventListener('click', alert('clicked'));
</script>
</html>
```

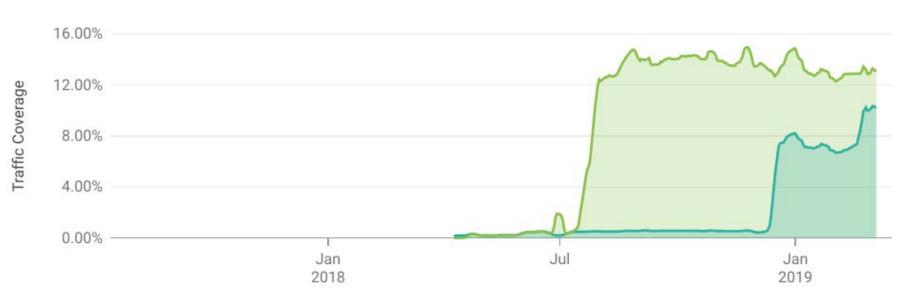
XSS Attack Surface by CSP Type

	L1 nonce-based, strict-dynamic, eval, hashed attributes	L2 nonce-based, strict-dynamic, eval	L3 nonce-based, strict-dynamic	L4 nonce only	L5 nonce only, whitelist	Trusted Types
javascript: URI	/	✓	~	/	/	~(1)
data: URI	/	✓	~	✓	/	~(1)
(inner)HTML context	/	✓	~	/	~	~(1)
inline event handler	~	✓	~	/	~	~(1)
eval	×	×	~	✓	~	~
script#text	×	×	×	~	~	~
script#src	×	×	×	~	/	✓
AngularJS-like template injection	×	×	×	×	×	~

CSP Coverage at Google by Type (2018)



CSP Coverage at Google by Type (excl. L2, 2019)



- L3: nonce + strict-dynamic (no eval)
- L4/eval: nonce-only + eval (no strict-dynamic)

CSP Types @Google (examples)

+ myactivity.google.com

+ passwords.google.com

+ notifications.google.com

+ remotedesktop.google.com

+ cloudsearch.google.com

+ issuetracker.google.com

+ source.cloud.google.com

+ console.actions.google.com

+ console.cloud.google.com

+ dev.cloud.google.com

+ lers.google.com

+ script.google.com

+ *.meet.google.com

+ takeout.google.com

+ meet.google.com

		L2: nonce+strict-dynamic+eval	L4/eval: nonce-only + eval	L3: nonce+strict-dynamic
	Domain Tier	Strict CSP ▼	Nonce-only	No Eval
+ accounts.google.com	TIER0	100.00%	47.62%	8.74%
+ chrome.google.com	TIER0	100.00%	99.97%	0.45%

TIER1

TIER1

TIER0

TIER1

TIER0

TIER0

TIFR0

TIER0

TIER0

TIER1

TIER1

TIER1

TIER1

TIER0

TIER0

13.90%

0.03%

0.00%

0.00%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

0.00%

0.60%

7.69%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

0.00%

0.00%

13.90%

21.10%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

0.02%

7.69%

0.00%

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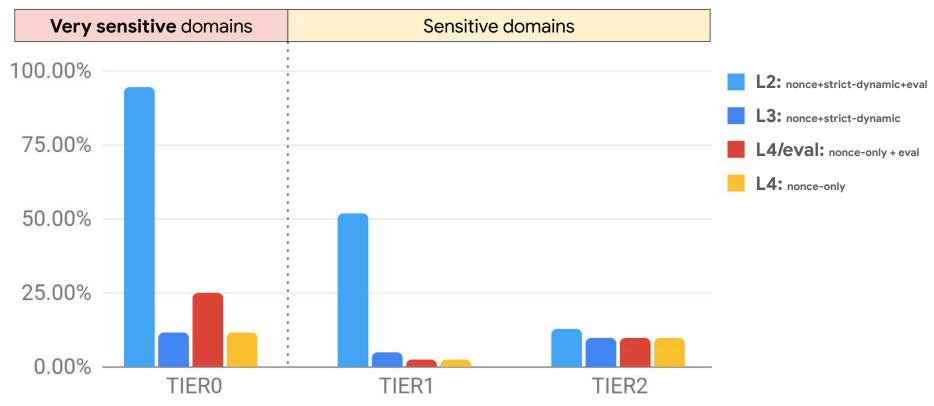
100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

CSP Types @Google by Domain Sensitivity (2019)



Advanced CSP Techniques

Guru section ahead!

New in CSP3 - script-src-elem and script-src-attr

script-src-elem

- applies to all script requests and inline script blocks.
- unlike script-src, this directive <u>doesn't control attributes</u> that execute scripts (inline event handlers)

script-src-attr

- controls attributes e.g. inline event handlers
- 'unsafe-hashes' keyword allows the use of hashes for inline event handlers
- overrides the script-src directive for relevant checks.

(style-src-elem and style-src-attr are similar)

L1: nonce-based + strict-dynamic + unsafe-eval + hashed attributes

```
script-src-attr 'unsafe-hashes' 'sha256-....';
script-src-elem 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'unsafe-eval';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

TL;DR Only use if you can't refactor inline event handlers / javascript: URIs

PROs:

- Almost no refactoring required
 - <script> tags in initial response must have a valid nonce attribute
- + Strictly better than no CSP
 - → Good starting point

CONs:

- Many sinks not covered (see next slide)
- Currently only supported in Chrome v75+
- In case of HTML injection
 - → hashed event-handlers can be chained (ROP-like)

PoC: https://poc.webappsec.dev/csp/hashed_attr_csp.html

L1: nonce-based + strict-dynamic + unsafe-eval + hashed attributes

```
script-src-attr 'unsafe-hashes' 'sha256-....';
script-src-elem 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'unsafe-eval';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

XSS Sinks Covered:

javascript: URI	✓
data: URI	✓
(inner)HTML context	✓
inline event handler	~ (all hashed event handlers can be reused)
eval	✗ (✓ if 'unsafe-eval' removed from CSP)
script#text	×
	✓ if script is hashed instead of nonced
script#src	×
AngularJS-like template injection	★ (✓ if upgraded to Angular 2+ or similar)



L1: nonce-based + strict-dynamic + unsafe-eval + hashed attributes

```
script-src-attr 'unsafe-hashes' 'sha256-jE1Jw...' 'sha256-rRMdk...';
script-src-elem 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'unsafe-eval';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Required Refactoring:

L1.5: hash-based + strict-dynamic + hashed attributes

```
script-src-attr 'unsafe-hashes' 'sha256-jE1Jw...' 'sha256-rRMdk...';
script-src-elem 'sha256-CXAtY...' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Refactoring steps for static/single-page apps:

```
<html>
  <a href="javascript:void(0)">
    <a onclick="alert('clicked')">
    <script src="stuff.js"/>
</html>
```

```
<html>
  <a href="javascript:void(0)"> // sha256-rRMdk...
  <a onclick="alert('clicked')"> // sha256-jE1Jw...
  <script> // sha256-CXAtY...
  var s = document.createElement('script');
  s.src = 'stuff.js'
  document.body.appendChild(s); // allowed by strict-dynamic
  </script>
  </html>
```

Double Policies - The Best of Both Worlds

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m'; object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
script-src 'self';
```

- More than one CSP header per response!
- Every CSP is enforced independently of each other by the browser
 - Adding additional CSPs can only add constraints
 - e.g. in order to run a script has to pass **every** CSP on the response!
- This allows very advanced setups
 - e.g. instead of allowing a script to load if it's whitelisted OR has a nonce (single CSP),
 it is possible to enforce that the script is from a trusted origin AND has a nonce
- Multiple CSPs can either be set via
 - multiple response headers
 - or in a single response header split via , (comma) <u>RFC 2616</u>

Double Policies - Example

```
CSP#1 CSP#2
script-src 'self', script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m'; object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Allowed - ✓ CSP#1, ✓ CSP#2 - script has nonce and is hosted on same domain

Blocked - ✓ CSP#1, **X** CSP#2 - missing nonce attribute

Blocked - ★ CSP#1, ✓ CSP#2 - domain not whitelisted

```
<html>
     * <script nonce="r4nd0m" src="example.org/foo.js"></script>
</html>
```



L5: <u>Double Policy</u>: separate whitelist + nonce-only

```
script-src 'self', script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m'; object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

TL;DR Very hard to deploy (approach also makes sense for 'strict-dynamic' CSPs)

PROs:

- Can block XSS where
 - nonced/trusted scripts get redirected
 - injection into script#src

CONs:

- Large refactoring required
- Additional burden of creating/maintaining whitelist
- Complex approach



L5: <u>Double Policy</u>: separate whitelist + nonce-only

```
script-src 'self', script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m'; object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

XSS Sinks Covered:

javascript: URI	✓
data: URI	✓
(inner)HTML context	✓
inline event handler	✓
eval	✓
script#text	✓ (✗ iff untrusted script explicitly marked as trusted)
	✓ if script is hashed
script#src	✓ (only scripts from whitelisted domains, due to double policy usual whitelist bypasses don't apply!)
AngularJS-like template injection	✗ (✓ if upgraded to Angular 2+ or similar)

CSP Beyond XSS - What About <style> Injections?

```
style-src-elem 'nonce-r4nd0m';
style-src-attr 'unsafe-inline';
```

- Aims to block CSS attacks by requiring CSP nonces for <style> tags:
 - O CSS Keylogger https://github.com/maxchehab/CSS-Keylogging
 - © import-based https://medium.com/@d0nut/better-exfiltration-via-html-injection-31c72a2dae8b
- <style> tags are more powerful (CSS selectors!) than inline style attributes
- Reduces refactoring effort to noncing of <style> blocks
- style-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' Would be better (stricter)
 - o but much harder to deploy, because all inline styles would need to get refactored
- Can be combined with script-src CSP directives

Productionizing CSP

Better reporting and browser fallbacks

Meaningful CSP Reports

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' 'report-sample'; report-uri /csp;
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

- Add the 'report-sample' keyword to the script-src directive
 - → inline violations will contain a sample of the blocked expression
- Allows to differentiate between blocked inline scripts and inline event handlers
- Allows to identify which script was blocked
 - → Possible to identify false positives (e.g. noise due to browser extensions)
- Example report: csp-report:

```
blocked-uri:"inline"
document-uri:"https://f.bar/foo"
effective-directive:"script-src"
script-sample:"hello(1)"
```

Overview of CSP Fallbacks

ignored	in presence of	since version
'unsafe-inline'	'nonce'	CSP v2
	'sha256'	CSP v2
https:, http:, any.whitelist.com	'strict-dynamic'	CSP v3
script-src (for elements)	script-src-elem	CSP v3
script-src (for attributes)	script-src-attr	CSP v3
style-src (for elements)	style-src-elem	CSP v3
style-src (for attributes)	style-src-attr	CSP v3

Fallbacks for Old Browsers

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' https: 'unsafe-inline';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
                                                                          ignored

    not supported

CSP as seen by CSP3 Browser
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' https: 'unsafe-inline';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
CSP as seen by CSP2 Browser
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic' https: 'unsafe-inlin
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
CSP as seen by CSP1 Browser
script-src '-nonce-r4nd0m' '-strict-dynamic' https: 'unsafe-inline';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Conclusions

Enough! What should I remember of this talk?

Wrapping up

- Nonce-based CSPs cover the classical reflected/stored XSS very well
- A nonce-based CSP with 'strict-dynamic'
 - is a good trade-off between security and adoption effort
 - covers classical reflected/stored XSS very well
 - has limitations when it comes to DOM XSS.
 - was able to block 60%-80% of externally reported XSS at Google
- If possible upgrade to nonce-only
- CSP is a defense-in-depth mechanism
 - o it's meant to protect the user when primary security mechanisms (e.g. escaping) fail
 - o it's not an excuse to not fix underlying bugs
- Always double check your CSP with the CSP Evaluator: <u>csp-evaluator.withgoogle.com</u>

In Brief

Use a nonce-based CSP with strict-dynamic:

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m' 'strict-dynamic';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

If possible, upgrade to a **nonce-only CSP**:

```
script-src 'nonce-r4nd0m';
object-src 'none'; base-uri 'none';
```

Recommended reading: csp.withgoogle.com



Questions?

Slides:

You can find us at:



