

Brute Force Attack With Burp

Vulnerability: Brute Force

Login

Username:

Password:

Login

In many occasions as a penetration testers we will have to face a web application where it will contain a login form which we will have to test it for weak credentials. Burp Suite is probably the best tool to be used when assessing web applications. Burp's main use is to be a proxy interceptor, however provides a lot of other functions to penetration testers and it can also be used to attack a login form. In this article we will examine how we can use Burp in order to perform a brute force attack on a web application.

Let's say that we have the following login form:

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Login Form

We will try to submit a username and a password and we will use the Burp Suite in order to capture the HTTP request.



Capturing the HTTP Request

Then we will send the request to the Intruder (Action—>Send to Intruder) and we will clear the positions on the request that we will not need to insert payloads which are the \$low\$ and session cookie. So we will leave the following positions:



Remaining Positions

As an attack type we will choose the cluster bomb because this type of attack it can take each word of the username list and it can run it against each word of the password list in order to discover the correct credentials.

Now it is time to set the payloads on the three positions. So we will load our wordlists that contains usernames and passwords in the payload options of Burp and for the 3rd position we will just put as an option \$Login\$. In the next three images you can see this configuration.

? Payload Sets

You can define one or more payload sets. The number of payload sets depends on the a available for each payload set, and each payload type can be customized in different way

Payload set: Payload count: 5
Payload type: Request count: 20

? Payload Options [Simple list]

This payload type lets you configure a simple list of strings that are used as payloads.

Paste	admin
Load ...	gordonb
Remove	1337
Clear	pablo
	smithy

Add

Add from list ...

Payload Set 1 – Usernames

? Payload Sets

You can define one or more payload sets. The number of payload sets depends on the available for each payload set, and each payload type can be customized in different way

Payload set: Payload count: 4
Payload type: Request count: 20

? Payload Options [Simple list]

This payload type lets you configure a simple list of strings that are used as payloads.

Paste	password
Load ...	abc123
Remove	charley
Clear	letmein

Add

Add from list ...

Payload Set 2 – Passwords

Payload Sets

You can define one or more payload sets. The number of payload sets depends on available for each payload set, and each payload type can be customized in different ways.

Payload set: Payload count: 1

Payload type: Request count: 20

Payload Options [Simple list]

This payload type lets you configure a simple list of strings that are used as payloads.

Payload Set 3 – Login

Everything now is ready and we can start the attack on the Intruder. The Intruder will start sending HTTP requests to the form based on our payloads and it will try all the possible combinations.

Attack Save Columns							
Results Target Positions Payloads Options							
Filter: Showing all items							
Request	Payload1	Payload2	Payload3	Status	Error	Timeout	Length
0				200			4882
1	admin	password	\$Login\$	200			4948
2	gordonb	password	\$Login\$	200			4882
3	1337	password	\$Login\$	200			4882
4	pablo	password	\$Login\$	200			4882
5	smithy	password	\$Login\$	200			4951
6	admin	abc123	\$Login\$	200			4882
7	gordonb	abc123	\$Login\$	200			4952
8	1337	abc123	\$Login\$	200			4882
9	pablo	abc123	\$Login\$	200			4882
10	smithy	abc123	\$Login\$	200			4882
11	admin	charley	\$Login\$	200			4882
12	gordonb	charley	\$Login\$	200			4882
13	1337	charley	\$Login\$	200			4945

Cluster Bomb – Intruder


After the inspection of the responses we will notice that Burp has successfully logged in under the credentials smithy/password.

	username	password	status
5	smithy	password	\$Login\$
6	admin	abc123	\$Login\$
7	gordonb	abc123	\$Login\$
8	1337	abc123	\$Login\$
9	pablo	abc123	\$Login\$
10	smithy	abc123	\$Login\$
11	admin	charley	\$Login\$
12	gordonb	charley	\$Login\$
13	1337	charley	\$Login\$

Request
Response

Raw
Headers
Hex
HTML
Render

Welcome to the password protected area smithy



Finished

Discovery of valid credentials

We can now go back to the application and to try to get access to the admin area with this username and password.

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Username:

Password:

Login

Welcome to the password protected area smithy



Access in the admin area

Conclusion

As we saw in this post Burp is also capable to perform brute force attacks against web applications. Login forms can be found almost in every web application and the intruder tool can help the penetration tester to automate his tests. The discovery of valid administrator credentials can make the difference in black-box penetration tests.

