

## Insecure SQL

What is wrong with the following code?

```
1 import java.sql.Connection;
2 import java.sql.DriverManager;
3 import java.sql.ResultSet;
4 import java.sql.Statement;
5 import java.util.Objects;
6 import java.util.Scanner;
7
8 public class SQLCode {
9     public static void main(String[] args) {
10         Scanner scanner = new Scanner(System.in);
11         System.out.println("Enter admin username:");
12         String username = scanner.nextLine();
13         System.out.println("Enter admin password:");
14         String password = scanner.nextLine();
15         scanner.close();
16
17         if (hasAdminAccess(username, password)) {
18             // Admin only operations are now allowed!!
19         }
20     }
21
22     private static boolean hasAdminAccess(final String username, final String password) {
23         String query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '" + username + "' AND password = '" + password + "';";
24
25         try (Connection connection = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/myDatabase", "user", "password");
26             Statement statement = connection.createStatement();
27             ResultSet resultSet = statement.executeQuery(query)) {
28             return Objects.nonNull(resultSet);
29         } catch (Exception e) {
30             e.printStackTrace();
31             return false;
32         }
33     }
34 }
```

Can you come up with a way to exploit the vulnerability?

✓ Click here to expand...

Vulnerability: SQL Injection

Example exploit 1: `admin'--` which makes the query

```
1 SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'admin'--' AND password = 'any_password';
```

which is equivalent to

```
1 SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'admin';
```

since `--` is used for single-line comments in SQL, and everything after `--` will be ignored.

Example exploit 2: `' OR 1=1--` which makes the query

```
1 SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '' OR 1=1--' AND password = 'any_password';
```

which is equivalent to

```
1 SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '' OR 1=1
```

since `1=1` is always true, the resulting query retrieves all user info.

Fix: use PreparedStatements to handle user input safely. PreparedStatements automatically escape user input and prevent SQL injection attacks:

```
1 private static boolean hasAdminAccess(final String username, final String password) {
2     String query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = ? AND password = ?;";
3
4     try (Connection connection = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/myDatabase", "user", "password");
5         PreparedStatement preparedStatement = connection.prepareStatement(query)) {
6
7         preparedStatement.setString(1, username);
8         preparedStatement.setString(2, password);
9
10        try (ResultSet resultSet = preparedStatement.executeQuery()) {
11            return resultSet.next();
12        }
13    } catch (Exception e) {
14        e.printStackTrace();
15    }
```

```
15     }  
16     return false;  
17 }
```