Web Application Penetration Test

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ABSTRACT

I conducted a penetration test against Csir's external web presence. The assessment was conducted in a manner that simulated a malicious actor engaged in a targeted attack against the company with the goals of:

- o Identifying if a remote attacker could penetrate Csir's defences,
- o Determining the impact of a security breach on:
- o The integrity of the company's order systems.
- o The confidentiality of the company's customer information.
- o The internal infrastructure and availability of Csir's information systems.

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the recommendations outlined in NIST SP 800-1151.

The results of this assessment will be used by Csir to drive future decisions as to the direction of their information security program. All tests and actions were conducted under controlled conditions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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1.0 Introduction

Penetration testing is a type of security testing that is used to test the insecurity of an application. It is conducted to find the security risk which might be present in the system.

If a system is not secured, then any attacker can disrupt or take authorized access to that system. Security risk is normally an accidental error that occurs while developing and implementing the software. For example, configuration errors, design errors, and software bugs, etc.

Purpose

Penetration testing normally evaluates a system's ability to protect its networks, applications, endpoints and users from external or internal threats. It also attempts to protect the security controls and ensures only authorized access.

Penetration testing is essential because -

- It identifies a simulation environment i.e., how an intruder may attack the system through **white hat attack**.
- It helps to find weak areas where an intruder can attack to gain access to the computer's features and data.
- It supports to avoid **black hat attack** and protects the original data.
- It estimates the magnitude of the attack on potential business.
- It provides evidence to suggest, why it is important to increase investments in security aspect of technology

Objective

The major objectives of the Pen testing CSIR- Web application are as follows:-

- To check all the scopes of the web application
- To check if there are any vulnerabilities present in the web application
- To check if any vulnerability (if found) can be exploited or not

2.0 Executive Summary

I performed a Web Application Penetration Test on Csir Platform. The target URL was https://www.csir.res.in.

The application provides service through which gives information online and make users login to it.

This Gray Box assessment was performed to identify loopholes in the application from a security perspective. The aim of this assessment was to discover the vulnerabilities present in the user facing platform, which could pose an information security risk.

This report discusses the results from the assessment.

Overall, testing team was able to achieve the goals of the assessment and identify vulnerabilities in the target environment within the time window. There were a number of findings during the assessment for which the details will be provided in the 'Findings' section.

The assessment was performed from **01/06/2019** to **15/07/2019**.

The vulnerabilities have been marked according to the following table: Severity

Critical

High *

Medium

Low

Description

Easy Exploitation / High

Business Impact

Indirect Exploitation / Limited

Target Scope / Requires

Privilege

Difficult Exploitation / Low

Business Impact

Low and Informational level

issues

System Requirements

Linux operating system

Windows operating system

Csir Web application

During the assessment, following findings were made:

Finding Name	Severity
Local File Inclusion	Low
Un-Validated Redirects	Low
SQL Injection	Critical
User Account Hijack (forgot password)	Critical
Cross Site Scripting (XSS)	High
Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)	High
Autocomplete not disabled	Medium
Clear text password submission	Medium
View state not encrypted	Medium
Click-Jacking	Low
DEBUG Enabled	Low
Hidden Directory	Low
Internal Path Disclosure	Low
Version Disclosure	Low

3.0 Findings

3.1

Vulnerability: Local File Inclusion [Multiple Instances]

Severity: Low

Class: Data Validation

Description:

Local File Inclusion (LFI) is the process of including files, that are already locally present on the server, through the exploiting of vulnerable inclusion procedures implemented in the application. This vulnerability occurs, for example, when a page receives, as input, the path to the file that has to be included and this input is not properly sanitized, allowing directory traversal characters (such as dot-dot-slash) to be injected. Although most examples point to vulnerable PHP scripts, we should keep in mind that it is also common in other technologies such as JSP, ASP and others.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/about-us/csir-boot.ini

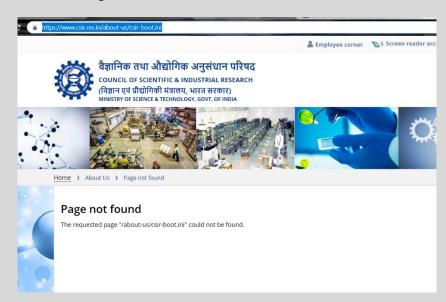
Parameter:

About-us

Other Instances:

https://www.csir.res.in/boot.ini

Proof of Concept:



Steps to Reproduce:

Navigate to the website https://www.csir.res.in

Click on any of the options

Intercept this request and change the value of the parameter to boot.ini

Impact:

An attacker might be able to read sensitive files on the host system.

Recommendation:

Avoid passing user-submitted input to any filesystem/framework API. Implement Input validation for user submitted data.

Whitelist the files that may be included in the application.

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing_for_Local_File_Inclusion

3.2

Vulnerability: Un-validated redirects

Severity: Low
Class: Design Flaw

Description:

An Open Redirection is when a web application or server uses a user submitted link to redirect the user to a given website or page. Even though it seems like a harmless action, to let a user decide on which page he wants to be redirected to, if exploited such technique can have a serious impact especially when combined with other vulnerabilities and tricks.

Instance:

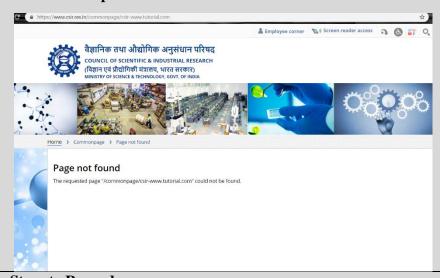
URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/commonpage/csir-theme-directorates

Parameter:

theme-directories

Proof of Concept:



Steps to Reproduce:

Navigate to the website https://www.csir.res.in

Click on any of the options

Intercept this request and change the value of the parameter to example website

Impact:

An attacker might be able to redirect to another website.

Recommendation:

Avoid passing user-submitted input to any filesystem/framework API. Implement Input validation for user submitted data.

Whitelist the files that may be included in the application.

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/

3.3

Vulnerability: SQL

Injection

Severity: Critical

Class: Data Validation

Description:

SQL Injection is a vulnerability which allows users to inject SQL queries through the input data. An SQL Injection occurs when the user supplied data consists of a SQL query and this query gets executed at the back-end server. A successful SQL Injection may allow the user (attacker) to read sensitive data, modify it and even delete it. In some cases it might even lead to the system compromise.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/Report.aspx?Report=Fiber+Channel+Units+and+Ports&Sort=WWN+ASC

Parameter:

sort

Proof of Concept:

Steps to Reproduce:

Login into the application.

Navigate to the target URL page (mentioned above).

Change the value of the parameter 'Sort' to ' and resend the request.

The response contains an SQL error message, which indicates a possible SQL Injection.

Impact:

Confidentiality, Availability and Integrity all are affected from SQL Injection. Data leak, Data Loss, Data change

Recommendation:

Input Validation: Validate all the user supplied data for malicious content.

Use 'Parameterized Query' in the server side code.

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL Injection

3.4

Vulnerability: User Account Hijack (forgot password)

Severity: Critical

Class: Abuse of Functionality

Description:

The Forgot Password feature of the application is vulnerable to token reuse. This process performs in three steps. In the first step the user is asked to enter his/her email ID and a token is set based on that email ID. In the next step the application asks for the security question based upon the email ID. Once the valid answer is provided to the security question, the application provides the page where the password can be reset. In this last step the token provided in the first step is validated.

The flaw in the process is that a user can reset password for another user by exploiting the token mechanism. For this the attacker will first input the email ID of the victim and generate the token mapped to this ID and note its value. Then he will perform the same step using his own email ID and move towards the security question. As it's his own account he can move forward by providing the valid answer. In the last step he will reset the password value but tamper the token and input the token mapped to the victim (noted in previous step). Once this request will be send to the server, the password for the victim will be changed as the token for his ID was provided. Now the attacker knows the new password for victim's account.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/password_reset.aspx

Steps to Reproduce:

Go to the password reset page https://www.csir.res.in/password_reset.aspx

Input the email ID for victim and send the request.

Capture the response (in application proxy) and note down the value of the 'fputoken'.

Now again go to the 'forgot password' page.

Input the email ID of your account and send the request.

The application will present the security question page.

Provide the correct answer and send the request.

In this last step enter the new password and tamper the request through an application proxy.

In the raw request change the value of the parameter 'fputoken', to the one noted in the previous step and send the request.

The password for the victim account is changed.

Now we can login into the victim's account using the password we have just reset.

Impact:

An attacker with a valid account can reset the password for any other user with known email ID.

Recommendation:

The token provided should be validated at every step of the process instead of just setting it once and validating in the last step.

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Business logic vulnerability

3.5

Vulnerability: Reflected Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Severity: High

Class: Data Validation

Description:

Cross Site Scripting is an Injection which allows an attacker to inject client-side script (JavaScript/VB) into the web application which gets executed in the browser. To perform an XSS attack an attacker might send the victim a URL or webpage, opening which sends the request to the web application and the malicious code will execute in the victim's browser.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/External.aspx?Title=XSS&URL=http://example.com

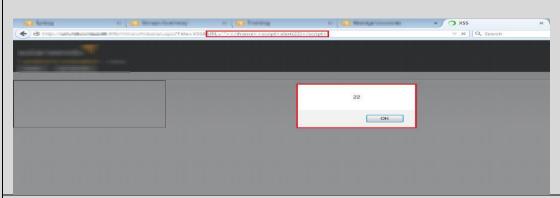
Parameter:

URL

Payload:

""></iframe><script>alert(22)</script>

Proof of Concept:



Steps to Reproduce:

Login into the application.

Navigate to the page:

https://www.csir.res.in/External.aspx?Title=XSS&URL=http://example.com Tamper the value of the parameter 'URL' to '"></iframe><script>alert(22)</script>

Forward the request.

The response executes the malicious JS script and a message box pops up.

Impact:

Session Hijack: An attacker might extract the user cookies and take over his/her session. Client Side defacement: An attacker may display a different page inside the original page.

Open Redirection: An attacker might redirect the user to a malicious site.

Phishing etc.

Recommendation:

Input Validation: Validate all the user supplied data for malicious content.

Output Encoding: Encode the user supplied data before sending it back to the client.

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

3.6

Vulnerability: Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Severity: High

Class: Request Validation

Description:

Cross Site Request Forgery is an attack using which an attacker may force an end user to perform an action in the web application that he/she (user) is logged-in. Utilizing social engineering techniques an attacker can make the victim to perform actions without him/her acknowledging it, for example by sending a URL or a webpage.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/Admin/Accounts/Accounts.aspx

Add New User functionality

Proof of Concept Code: <html> <!-- CSRF PoC Code-> <body> <form action=" https://www.csir.res.in Admin/Accounts/Add/ csir.res Account.aspx?AccountType=Csir" method="POST"> <input type="hidden" name="ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$BodyContent\$ScriptManagerPlaceHolder\$MasterScriptManager"</p> value="ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$BodyContent\$ContentPlaceHolder1\$adminContentPlaceholder\$UpdatePanel1|ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$B odyContent\$ContentPlaceHolder1\$adminContentPlaceholder\$createWizard\$__CustomNav0\$ImageButton1 <input type="hidden" name=" EVENTTARGET"</pre> value="ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$BodyContent\$ContentPlaceHolder1\$adminContentPlaceholder\$createWizard\$__CustomNav0\$Ima geButton1" /> <input type="hidden" name=" EVENTARGUMENT" value="" /> <input type="hidden" name="ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$BodyContent\$ContentPlaceHolder1\$adminContentPlaceholder\$createWizard\$CreateUserStepCont ainer\$UserName" value="test" /> <input type="hidden" name="ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$BodyContent\$ContentPlaceHolder1\$adminContentPlaceholder\$createWizard\$CreateUserStepCont ainer\$Password" value="test123" /> <input type="hidden" name="ctl00\$ctl00\$ctl00\$BodyContent\$ContentPlaceHolder1\$adminContentPlaceholder\$createWizard\$CreateUserStepCont ainer\$ConfirmPassword" value="test123" /> <input type="hidden" name="__ASYNCPOST" value="true" /> <input type="submit" value="Submit request" /> </form> </body>

Steps to Reproduce:

Login into the application.

Navigate to the page https://www.csir.res.in /Admin/Accounts/Accounts.aspx and check the current users.

Save the code provided above as Add_user.html

Open the HTML file in the browser (admin logged-in) and click submit

Again check the users and verify if new user has been added.

Impact:

</html>

Depending upon the user privilege an attacker may be able to trick the user to perform sensitive operations. In this case an attacker might be able to add new users to the portal with known credentials.

Recommendation:

Implement non predictable token with every sensitive request (in Header or Body, not Cookie).

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_(CSRF)

3.7

Vulnerability: Autocomplete not disabled

Severity: Medium Class: Data Exposure

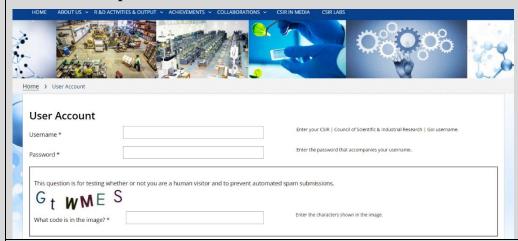
Description:

The autocomplete feature of the application is not disabled. This allows browsers to store the credentials of users. On a shared machine a user might store his/her credentials and this might be misused by an attacker.

Instance: URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/auth_csir_login

Proof of Concept:



Steps to Reproduce:

Navigate to the login page.

Enter the credentials and press enter.

The application asks to save the credentials.

Impact:

On a shared machine another user might be able to access the credentials of another user.

Recommendation:

Implement Autocomplete="off" for sensitive forms.

Vulnerability: Clear Text Password Submission

Severity: Medium Class: Configuration

Description:

The application does not implement any encryption mechanism to transfer the user credentials from browser to the server in a secure manner.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/auth_csir_login

Proof of Concept:

Steps to Reproduce:

Start a network packet sniffer, such as Wireshark.

Navigate to the login page, enter credentials and send the request.

In Wireshark the credentials can be seen in raw format.

Impact:

An attacker who is sniffing in the network might be able to retrieve the credentials of another user. Proxy servers, firewalls and other middleware cache data and might have the user credentials in plain text.

Recommendation:

Implement SSL/TLS for encrypting the data being transferred.

Vulnerability: View state not encrypted

Severity: Medium Class: Cryptography

Description:

The ASP based application has implemented viewstate but it is not encrypted.

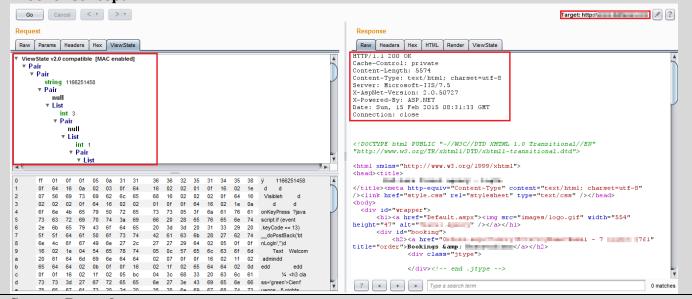
An attacker can study the application's state management logic for possible vulnerabilities and if the application stores application-critical information in the View State; it will also be revealed.

Instance:

URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/auth_csir_login

Proof of Concept:



Steps to Reproduce:

Intercept a login request in application proxy such as Burp. Checkout the viewstate tab for the request.

Impact:

An attacker who is sniffing in the network might be able to get the credentials of the user.

Attacker might be able to understand the logic and try to bypass it.

Sensitive data might be revealed.

Recommendation:

Encrypt the viewstate.

Reference: https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa479501.aspx

Vulnerability: Click-Jacking

Severity: Low

Class: Configuration

Description:

The application is vulnerable to UI-redressing or Clickjacking attack. The application can be iframed. This allows an attacker to create a website and call the vulnerable website/webpage inside an iframe with transparent layer. The victim would see the upper layer and unknowingly perform operation on the layer below (vulnerable website).

Instance: URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/

Steps to Reproduce:

Open the application page inside an iframe using the code shown below.

Proof of Concept:

<html>

<body>

iFramed

<iframe src=" https://www.csir.res.in/Default.aspx" width=1000 height=650></iframe>

</body>

</html>



Impact:

An attacker might trick a victim into performing action on the vulnerable website which displaying something else.

Bypass CSRF protection.

Recommendation:

Implement frame busting. Implement X-Frame options.

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Clickjacking

3.11

Vulnerability: DEBUG enabled

Severity: Low

Class: Configuration

Description:

The DEBUG method is enabled in the application. This might allow the server to reveal sensitive information.

Instance:

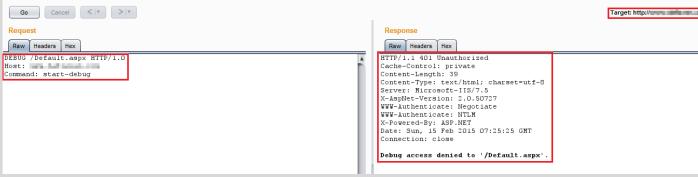
URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/

Steps to Reproduce:

Using an application proxy send a request to the application with method 'DEBUG' as shown in the POC below.

Proof of Concept:



Impact:

DEBUG messages might contain sensitive information, which could allow an attacker to learn more about the target application.

Recommendation:

Disable the method if not necessary

Reference: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/ASP.NET_Misconfigurations

Vulnerability: Hidden Directory

Severity: Low

Class: Data Exposure

Description:

Hidden directories are the directories present in the web server whose contents are not directly accessible. Through this attacker can gain an understanding about the application structure. Such directories can be identified through the response code, if it is '403' it means it is a hidden directory.

Instance: URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/

Steps to Reproduce:

Go to the URL mentioned in instance.

Observe the 403 response indicating presence of a hidden directory.

Proof of Concept:



Impact:

This can help an attacker to understand the structure and craft the exploit accordingly.

Recommendation:

If the resource present in these directories is not required then it should be removed, else a 404 response should be given for a request to such directories.

Vulnerability: Internal Path Disclosure

Severity: Low

Class: Error Reporting

Description:

When providing a path to a file that does not exist or to a directory the application reveals the internal path of the application.

Instance:

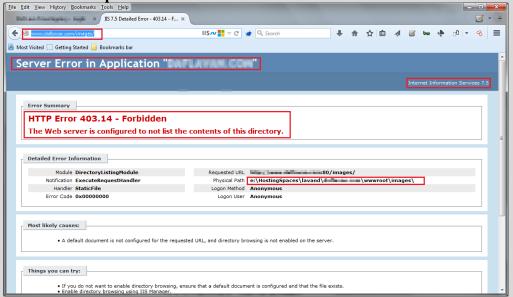
URL:

https://www.csir.res.in/

Steps to Reproduce:

Navigate to the URL: https://www.csir.res.in/

Proof of Concept:



Impact:

An attacker would be able to understand the structure of the application and identify the application path. This information can be used to further attack the website.

Recommendation:

Do not reveal sensitive information in server error.

Simply provide a generic error message.

Vulnerability: Version Disclosure

Severity: Low

Class: Data Exposure

Description:

The application banner displays version information related to the server and the language.

Instance: URL:

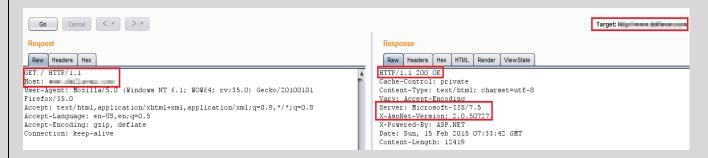
https://www.csir.res.in/ **Disclosed Version:**

Server: Microsoft-IIS/7.5 X-Asp Net-Version: 2.0.50727

Steps to Reproduce:

Navigate to the URL https://www.csir.res.in/ and intercept the response in an application proxy (Burp Suite).

Proof of Concept:



Impact:

An attacker would be able to identify the application server version and technology version. This information can be used to further attack the website.

Recommendation:

Do not reveal sensitive information in banner.

4. Suggestions for improvements

- Avoid passing user-submitted input to any filesystem/framework API.
- Implement Input validation for user submitted data.
- Whitelist the files that may be included in the application.
- Input Validation: Validate all the user supplied data for malicious content.
- Use 'Parameterized Query' in the server side code.
- The token provided should be validated at every step of the process instead of just setting it once and validating in the last step.
- Input Validation: Validate all the user supplied data for malicious content.
- Output Encoding: Encode the user supplied data before sending it back to the client.
- Implement non predictable token with every sensitive request (in Header or Body, not Cookie).
- Implement SSL/TLS for encrypting the data being transferred.
- Encrypt the view state.
- Implement frame busting.
- Implement X-Frame options.
- If the resource present in these directories is not required then it should be removed, else a 404 response should be given for a request to such directories.
- Simply provide a generic error message.
- Do not reveal sensitive information in server error.

5.References

- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Testing for Local File Inclusion
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL_Injection
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Business logic vulnerability
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS)
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_(CSRF)
- https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa479501.aspx
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Clickjacking
- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/ASP.NET_Misconfigurations