

# ACCESS DENIED

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KEEPING YOURSELF OFF AN ATTACKER'S RADAR

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# TL;DSWTGMC SUMMARY

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(Too Long; Didn't Stay, Went to Get More Coffee)

- ▶ Implicitly Deny
- ▶ Defense-in-Depth

# BEYOND THE BASICS

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- ▶ Why do attackers target you
- ▶ Why WordPress is an attractive target
- ▶ Current state of WordPress security
- ▶ WPScan
- ▶ Counter-measures

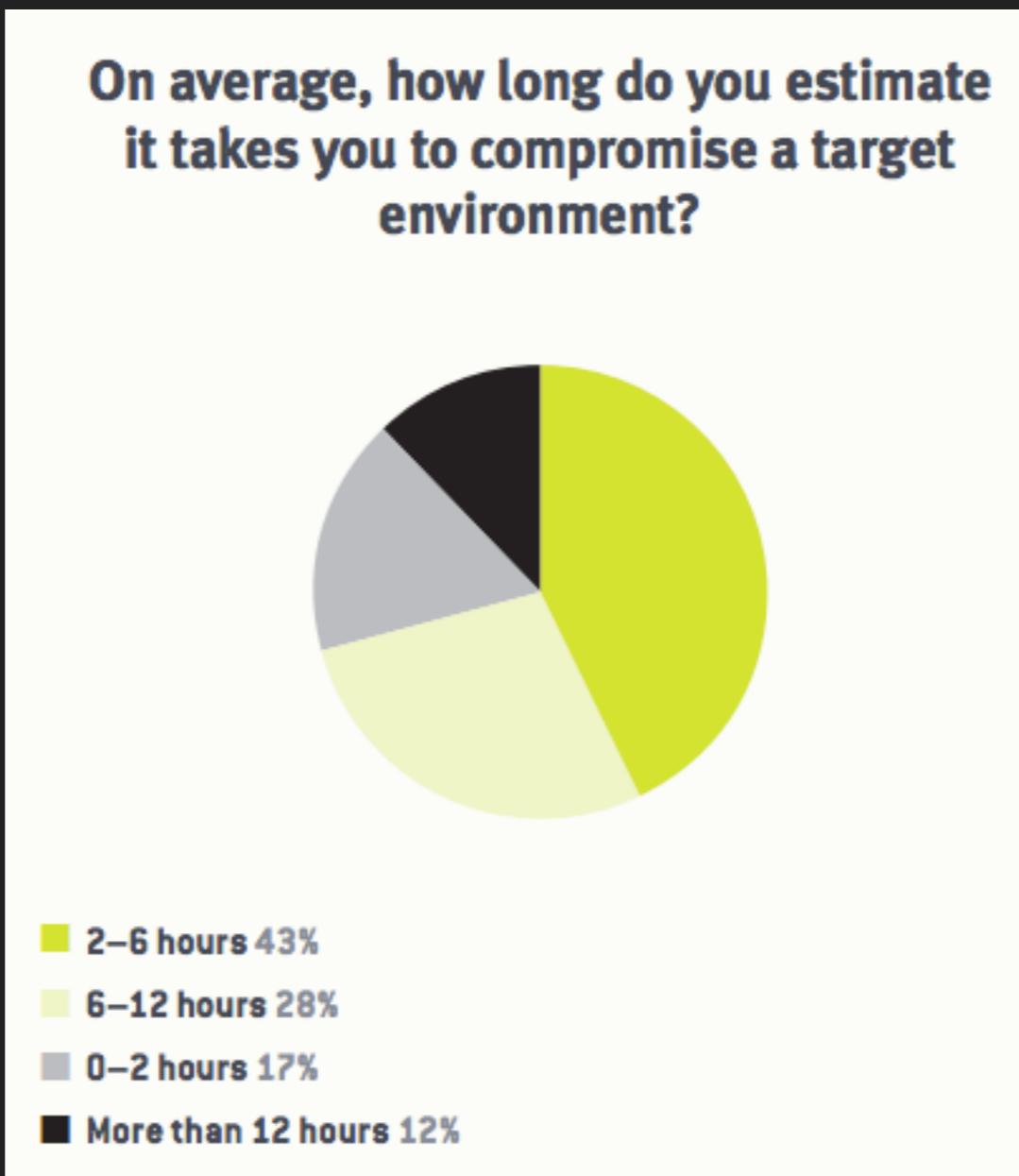
# CURRENT STATE OF WEB APPLICATION SECURITY

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- ▶ 44% of sites had at least one vulnerability every day of the year<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Average of 14 vulnerabilities per site, 7 of those serious<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Took an average of 5 months to remediate issues<sup>1</sup>

# CURRENT STATE OF WEB APPLICATION SECURITY CONT.

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# WHY DO ATTACKERS TARGET YOU

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- ▶ Your site resources
- ▶ Your domain
- ▶ Your SEO reputation
- ▶ Your visitors

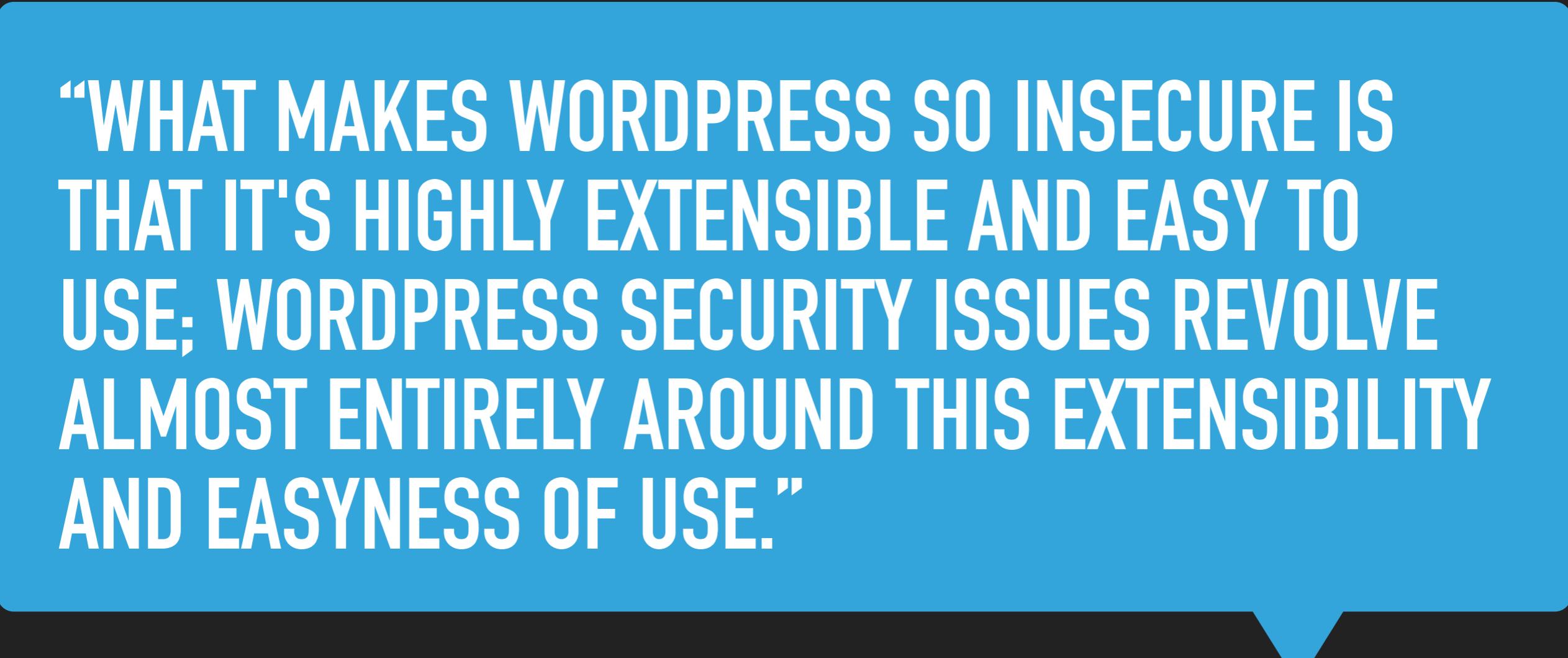
# WHY WORDPRESS IS AN ATTRACTIVE TARGET

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- ▶ Market share
- ▶ Open Source
- ▶ Extremely easy to set up and get running, not so easy to secure
- ▶ Anyone can create and submit a theme/plugin

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“WHAT MAKES WORDPRESS SO INSECURE IS THAT IT'S HIGHLY EXTENSIBLE AND EASY TO USE; WORDPRESS SECURITY ISSUES REVOLVE ALMOST ENTIRELY AROUND THIS EXTENSIBILITY AND EASYNESS OF USE.”



Tony Perez, @perezbox

# CURRENT STATE OF WORDPRESS SECURITY

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- ▶ Most compromises occur through
  - ▶ vulnerable plugins and themes
  - ▶ Weak passwords
  - ▶ Wordpress out-of-date

**AS AN OWNER/MAINTAINER OF A  
WORDPRESS SITE, IT IS YOUR  
RESPONSIBILITY TO BE PARANOID**

**SO WHAT DO WE DO?**

# DEFENSE-IN-DEPTH

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# WPSCAN

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## Passive (non-intrusive) Scan

- ▶ Robots.txt
- ▶ Interesting headers
- ▶ Multisite
- ▶ Must-use plugins
- ▶ Xml-rpc
- ▶ Wordpress version
- ▶ Plugins/themes



vagrantpress.dev/wp-admin/users.php

Apps Bookmarks reboots home access-denied work accessdenied 20160723 Other Bookmarks

Access Denied 3 0 + New Howdy, Access Denied Admin

Dashboard Posts Media Pages Comments Appearance Plugins 3 Users

All (5) | Administrator (1) | Editor (1) | Author (1) | Contributor (1) | Subscriber (1)

Screen Options Help

## Users Add New

	Username	Name	Email	Role	Posts
<input type="checkbox"/>	admin	Paul Gilzow	gilzow@missouri.edu	Administrator	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	gilzow-author	Paul-Author Gilzow	paul@gilzow.com	Author	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	gilzow-contributor	Paul-Contributor Gilzow	paul.gilzow@gmail.com	Contributor	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	gilzow-editor	Paul-Editor Gilzow	gilzowp@missouri.edu	Editor	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	gilzow-subscriber	Paul-Subscriber Gilzow	wkdirauth@gilzow.com	Subscriber	0

Bulk Actions Apply Change role to... Change

5 items

Username Name Email Role Posts

5 items

Thank you for creating with WordPress.

vagrantpress.dev/wp-admin/users.php Version 4.7.2

vagrantpress.dev/wp-admin/edit.php

Apps Bookmarks reboots home access-denied work accessdenied 20160723 Other Bookmarks

Access Denied 2 0 + New Howdy, Access Denied Admin

Dashboard

Posts Add New

All (3) | Mine (1) | Published (3)

Bulk Actions Apply All dates All Categories Filter 3 items

		Author	Categories	Tags	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Title				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Author first post	Paul-Author Gilzow	Uncategorized	—	Published 2016/07/01
<input type="checkbox"/>	Editor very first post	Paul-Editor Gilzow	Uncategorized	—	Published 2016/07/01
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hello world!	Access Denied Admin	Uncategorized	—	1 Published 2013/01/22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Author	Categories	Tags	Date

Bulk Actions Apply 3 items

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#). Version 4.7.2

← → C vagrantpress.dev/wp-admin/plugins.php

Apps Bookmarks reboots home access-denied work accessdenied 20160723 Other Bookmarks

Access Denied 2 0 + New Howdy, Access Denied Admin

Dashboard Posts Media Pages Comments Appearance Plugins 2

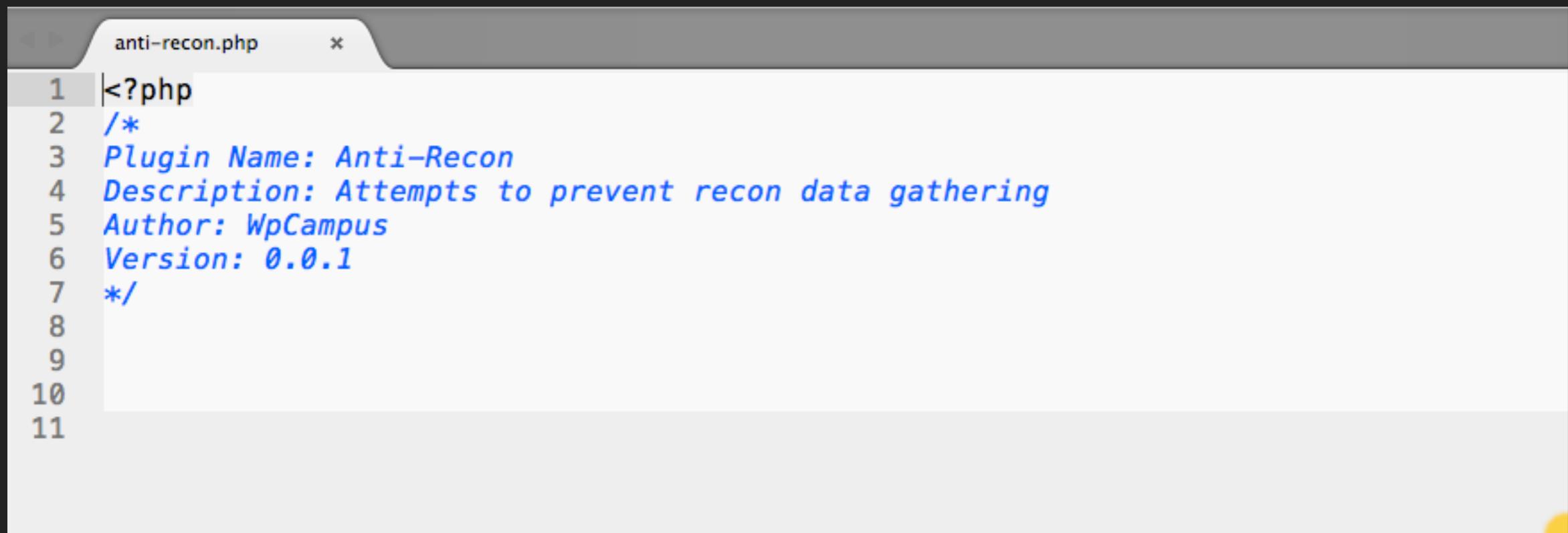
All (8) Active (1) Inactive (7) | Update Available (2)

Search installed plugins... 8 items

Bulk Actions Apply

<input type="checkbox"/> Plugin	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Akismet Anti-Spam	Used by millions, Akismet is quite possibly the best way in the world to protect your blog from spam. It keeps your site protected even while you sleep. To get started: activate the Akismet plugin and then go to your Akismet Settings page to set up your API key. Activate   Edit   Delete Version 3.3   By Automattic   View details
<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Recon	Attempts to prevent recon data gathering Deactivate   Edit Version 0.0.1   By WpCampus
<input type="checkbox"/> Aspose Cloud eBook Generator	Aspose Cloud eBook Generator is a plugin for exporting content from Posts/Pages and then downloading it in desired format. Activate   Edit   Delete Version 2.0   By Fahad Adeel   View details
<input type="checkbox"/> Download Manager	Manage, track and control file download from your WordPress site Activate   Edit   Delete Version 2.6.96   By Shaon   View details
There is a new version of Download Manager available. <a href="#">View version 2.9.44 details or update now.</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity Forms	Easily create web forms and manage form entries within the WordPress admin. Activate   Edit   Delete Version 1.9.10.2   By rocketgenius   Visit plugin site
<input type="checkbox"/> Hello Dolly	This is not just a plugin, it symbolizes the hope and enthusiasm of an entire generation summed up in two words sung most famously by Louis Armstrong: Hello, Dolly. When activated you will randomly see a lyric from Hello, Dolly in the upper right of your admin screen on every page. Activate   Edit   Delete Version 1.6   By Matt Mullenweg   View details

VirtualBox-5.0.32-11...dmg Show All X



A screenshot of a code editor window titled "anti-recon.php". The code is a PHP file containing a single-line opening tag and a multi-line comment block. The comment block provides plugin metadata: Name, Description, Author, and Version.

```
1 <?php
2 /*
3  Plugin Name: Anti-Recon
4  Description: Attempts to prevent recon data gathering
5  Author: WpCampus
6  Version: 0.0.1
7 */
8
9
10
11
```

vagrantpress.dev/wp-admin/plugins.php

Access Denied 2 0 + New Howdy, Access Denied Admin

Dashboard Posts Media Pages Comments Appearance Plugins 2

All (8) Active (1) Inactive (7) | Recently Active (2) | Update Available (2)

Screen Options Help

Search Installed Plugins 8 items

Plugin Description

Akismet Used by millions, Akismet is quite possibly the best way in the world to protect your blog from spam. It keeps your site protected even while you sleep. To get started: 1) Click the "Activate" link to the left of this description, 2) Sign up for an Akismet plan to get an API key, and 3) Go to your Akismet configuration page, and save your API key.

Version 3.1.11 | By Automattic | View details

Anti-Recon Attempts to prevent recon data gathering

Version 0.0.1 | By WpCampus

Aspose Cloud eBook Generator Aspose Cloud eBook Generator is a plugin for exporting content from Posts/Pages and then downloading it in desired format.

Version 2.0 | By Fahad Adeel | View details

Download Manager Manage, track and control file download from your WordPress site

Version 2.6.96 | By Shaon | View details

There is a new version of Download Manager available. [View version 2.8.98 details](#) or update now.

Gravity Forms Easily create web forms and manage form entries within the WordPress admin.

Version 1.9.10.2 | By rocketgenius | Visit plugin site

Hello Dolly This is not just a plugin, it symbolizes the hope and enthusiasm of an entire generation summed up in two words sung most famously by Louis Armstrong: Hello, Dolly. When activated you will randomly see a lyric from Hello, Dolly in the upper right of your admin screen on every page.

Version 1.6 | By Matt Mullenweg | View details

```
gilzow@kali:~$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team  
Version 2.9.2

Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://Sucuri.net>  
 @\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @erwan\_lr, pvd1, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/  
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:00:35 2017  
  
[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'  
[!] The WordPress 'http://vagrantpress.dev/readme.html' file exists exposing a version number  
[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'  
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"  
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)  
[+] XML-RPC Interface available under: http://vagrantpress.dev/xmlrpc.php  
[!] Upload directory has directory listing enabled: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/uploads/  
[!] Includes directory has directory listing enabled: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-includes/  
  
[+] WordPress version 4.7.3 (Released on 2017-03-06) identified from meta generator, links opml  
  
[+] WordPress theme in use: twentyseventeen - v1.1  
  
[+] Name: twentyseventeen - v1.1  
| Latest version: 1.1 (up to date)  
| Location: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/  
| Readme: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/readme.txt  
| Style URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/style.css  
| Theme Name: Twenty Seventeen  
| Theme URI: https://wordpress.org/themes/twentyseventeen/  
| Description: Twenty Seventeen brings your site to life with header video and immersive featured images. With a...  
| Author: the WordPress team  
| Author URI: https://wordpress.org/  
  
[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...  
[+] No plugins found  
  
[+] Finished: Tue Mar 14 12:00:41 2017  
[+] Requests Done: 67  
[+] Memory used: 17.625 MB
```

```
gilzow@kali:~$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team

Version 2.9.2

Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://Sucuri.net>

@\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @erwan\_lr, pndl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:00:35 2017

[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'
[!] The WordPress 'http://vagrantpress.dev/readme.html' file exists exposing a version number
[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)
[+] XML RPC Interface available under: http://vagrantpress.dev/xmlrpc.php
[!] Upload directory has directory listing enabled: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/uploads/
[!] Includes directory has directory listing enabled: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-includes/
```

[+] WordPress version 4.7.3 (Released on 2017-03-06) identified from meta generator, links opml

[+] WordPress theme in use: twentyseventeen - v1.1

```
[+] Name: twentyseventeen - v1.1
| Latest version: 1.1 (up to date)
| Location: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/
| Readme: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/readme.txt
| Style URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/style.css
| Theme Name: Twenty Seventeen
| Theme URI: https://wordpress.org/themes/twentyseventeen/
| Description: Twenty Seventeen brings your site to life with header video and immersive featured images. With a...
| Author: the WordPress team
| Author URI: https://wordpress.org/
```

[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...

[+] No plugins found

```
[+] Finished: Tue Mar 14 12:00:41 2017
[+] Requests Done: 67
[+] Memory used: 17.625 MB
```

# Index of /wp-content/plugins/wp-mobile-detector

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Last modified</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Description</u>
	<a href="#">Parent Directory</a>		-	
	<a href="#">admin/</a>	2016-06-03 00:30	-	
	<a href="#">cache/</a>	2016-07-15 14:55	-	
	<a href="#">default-widgets.php</a>	2010-12-07 09:26	42K	
	<a href="#">functions.php</a>	2016-01-19 05:50	67K	
	<a href="#">js/</a>	2016-06-03 00:30	-	
	<a href="#">locale/</a>	2016-06-03 00:30	-	
	<a href="#">readme.txt</a>	2016-06-03 00:30	7.8K	
	<a href="#">resize.php</a>	2016-06-22 19:42	1.5K	
	<a href="#">themes/</a>	2016-06-03 00:30	-	
	<a href="#">timthumb.php</a>	2016-01-19 04:28	50	
	<a href="#">websitez-wp-mobile-detector.php</a>	2016-01-19 04:28	4.9K	

gilzow@kali:~\$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev



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@\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @\_erwan\_lr, pvdl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:00:35 2017

[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'
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[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)
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| Readme: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/readme.txt
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| Theme Name: Twenty Seventeen
| Theme URI: https://wordpress.org/themes/twentyseventeen/
| Description: Twenty Seventeen brings your site to life with header video and immersive featured images. With a...
| Author: the WordPress team
| Author URI: https://wordpress.org/

[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...
[+] No plugins found

[+] Finished: Tue Mar 14 12:00:41 2017
[+] Requests Done: 67
[+] Memory used: 17.625 MB
```

# WPSCAN

---

## Active scan

- ▶ Scans for signs of vulnerable plugins
- ▶ Scans for signs of vulnerable themes
- ▶ Scans for signs of timthumb
- ▶ Attempts to enumerate user account names

```
gilzow@kali:~$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev --enumerate vp --random-agent
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team  
Version 2.9.2  
Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://sucuri.net>  
@WPScan\_, @ethicalhack3r, @erwan\_lr, pvdl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/  
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:09:30 2017  
  
[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'  
[!] The WordPress 'http://vagrantpress.dev/readme.html' file exists exposing a version number  
[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'  
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"  
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)  
[+] XML-RPC Interface available under: http://vagrantpress.dev/xmlrpc.php  
  
[+] WordPress version 4.7.3 (Released on 2017-03-06) identified from meta generator, links opml  
  
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[+] Name: twentyseventeen - v1.1  
| Latest version: 1.1 (up to date)  
| Location: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/  
| Readme: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/readme.txt  
| Style URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/themes/twentyseventeen/style.css  
| Theme Name: Twenty Seventeen  
| Theme URI: https://wordpress.org/themes/twentyseventeen/  
| Description: Twenty Seventeen brings your site to life with header video and immersive featured images. With a...  
| Author: the WordPress team  
| Author URI: https://wordpress.org/  
  
[+] Enumerating installed plugins (only ones with known vulnerabilities) ...  
  
Time: 00:01:18 <===== (1437 / 1437) 100.00% Time: 00:01:18  
[+] We found 5 plugins:
```

vagrantpress.dev/wp-admin/plugins.php

Access Denied 2 0 + New Howdy, Access Denied Admin

Dashboard Posts Media Pages Comments Appearance Plugins 2

All (8) Active (1) Inactive (7) | Recently Active (2) | Update Available (2)

Screen Options Help

Search Installed Plugins 8 items

Plugin Description

Akismet Used by millions, Akismet is quite possibly the best way in the world to protect your blog from spam. It keeps your site protected even while you sleep. To get started: 1) Click the "Activate" link to the left of this description, 2) Sign up for an Akismet plan to get an API key, and 3) Go to your Akismet configuration page, and save your API key.

Version 3.1.11 | By Automattic | View details

Anti-Recon Attempts to prevent recon data gathering

Version 0.0.1 | By WpCampus

Aspose Cloud eBook Generator Aspose Cloud eBook Generator is a plugin for exporting content from Posts/Pages and then downloading it in desired format.

Version 2.0 | By Fahad Adeel | View details

Download Manager Manage, track and control file download from your WordPress site

Version 2.6.96 | By Shaon | View details

There is a new version of Download Manager available. [View version 2.8.98 details](#) or update now.

Gravity Forms Easily create web forms and manage form entries within the WordPress admin.

Version 1.9.10.2 | By rocketgenius | Visit plugin site

Hello Dolly This is not just a plugin, it symbolizes the hope and enthusiasm of an entire generation summed up in two words sung most famously by Louis Armstrong: Hello, Dolly. When activated you will randomly see a lyric from Hello, Dolly in the upper right of your admin screen on every page.

Version 1.6 | By Matt Mullenweg | View details

```
[+] Name: download-manager v2.6.96
| Location: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/plugins/download-manager/
| README: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/plugins/download-manager/readme.txt
[!] The version is out of date, the latest version is 2.8.98

[!] Title: Download Manager <= 2.7.4 - Code Execution / Remote File Inclusion
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/7700
Reference: http://blog.sucuri.net/2014/12/security-advisory-high-severity-wordpress-download-manager.html
Reference: https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/exploit/unix/webapp/wp_downloadmanager_upload
Reference: https://www.exploit-db.com/exploits/35533/
[i] Fixed in: 2.7.5

[!] Title: Download Manager 2.7.2 - Privilege Escalation
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/7827
Reference: http://security.szurek.pl/wordpress-download-manager-272-privilege-escalation.html
Reference: http://packetstormsecurity.com/files/130690/
Reference: https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-9260
Reference: https://www.exploit-db.com/exploits/36301/
[i] Fixed in: 2.7.3

[!] Title: WordPress Download Manager <= 2.7.94 - Authenticated Stored XSS
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/8101
Reference: https://plugins.trac.wordpress.org/changeset/1199505/download-manager
Reference: http://packetstormsecurity.com/files/132716/
[i] Fixed in: 2.7.95

[!] Title: WordPress Download Manager <= 2.8.7 - Multiple Vulnerabilities
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/9265
Reference: http://www.protect.net/blog/wordpress-download-manager-2-8-8-critical-security-vulnerabilities
Reference: http://www.wpdownloadmanager.com/wordpress-download-manager-security-maintenance-release/
[i] Fixed in: 2.8.8

[+] Name: gravityforms
| Location: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/plugins/gravityforms/

[!] We could not determine a version so all vulnerabilities are printed out

[!] Title: Gravity Forms <= 1.8.19 - Arbitrary File Upload
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/7820
Reference: http://blog.sucuri.net/2015/02/malware-clean-up-to-arbitrary-file-upload-in-gravity-forms.html
Reference: http://www.gravityhelp.com/gravity-forms-v1-8-20-released/
[i] Fixed in: 1.8.20

[!] Title: Gravity Forms 1.8 <= 1.9.3.5 - Authenticated Blind SQL Injection
```

```
[+] Name: wp-mobile-detector - v2.7
| Location: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/plugins/wp-mobile-detector/
| Readme: http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-content/plugins/wp-mobile-detector/readme.txt
[!] The version is out of date, the latest version is 3.7
[!] Title: WP Mobile Detector <= 3.2 - Stored Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/8059
Reference: https://research.g0blin.co.uk/g0blin-00050/
[i] Fixed in: 3.3
[!] Title: WP Mobile Detector <= 3.5 - Arbitrary File Upload
Reference: https://wpvulndb.com/vulnerabilities/8505
Reference: https://blog.sucuri.net/2016/06/wp-mobile-detector-vulnerability-being-exploited-in-the-wild.html
Reference: https://www.pluginvulnerabilities.com/2016/05/31/arbitrary-file-upload-vulnerability-in-wp-mobile-detector/
Reference: https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-mobile-detector/changelog/
[i] Fixed in: 3.6
[+] Finished: Wed Mar 1 17:03:57 2017
[+] Requests Done: 1513
[+] Memory used: 142.25 MB
[+] Elapsed time: 00:01:24
gilzow@kali:~$
```



# COUNTER MEASURES

---

- ▶ Prevent php execution in /wp-content/uploads/

```
#we dont want to allow access directly to any php files
<FilesMatch "\.(?i:php)$">
    <IfModule !mod_authz_core.c>
        Order allow,deny
        Deny from all
    </IfModule>
    <IfModule mod_authz_core.c>
        Require all denied
    </IfModule>
</FilesMatch>
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

- ▶ Prevent php execution in /wp-content/uploads/
- ▶ Protect wp-content completely
  - ▶ Not only prevent php execution, but
  - ▶ Implicit deny (only allow what is necessary and expected)

```
RewriteEngine On

#allow images jpg,jpeg,gif,png,svg,bmp,ico
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:jpe?g|gif|png|svg|bmp|ico)$ [NC]

#allow js, css and fonts
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:css|js|eot|ttf|woff|woff2)$ [NC]

# allow documents: pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, pps, ppsx, ppt, pptsx, psd, odt, key
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:pdf|docx?|xlsx?|pp[st]x?|psd|odt|key)$ [NC]

# allow audio, video: mp2, mp3, mp4, mp5, mpg, m4a, m4v, ogg, ogv, wav, mov, wma, wmv, avi, 3gp, 3g2
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:mp[2-5g]|m4[av]|og[gv]|wav|mov|wm[av]|avi|3g[p2])$ [NC]

#allow data
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:xml|json)$ [NC]

RewriteRule .* - [F,L]
```

```
RewriteEngine On
ErrorDocument 403 /404

#Don't allow screenshots
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} screenshot(?:\-\d+)?\.(?:jpe?g|png|gif)$ [NC,OR]

#uncomment if you have a specific file you need
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !plugins/baz/foo\.php$ [NC]

#allow images jpg,jpeg,gif,png,svg,bmp,ico
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:jpe?g|gif|png|svg|bmp|ico)$ [NC]

#allow js, css and fonts
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:css|js|eot|ttf|woff|woff2)$ [NC]

# allow documents: pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, pps, ppsx, ppt, pptx, psd, odt, key
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:pdf|docx?|xlsx?|pp[st]x?|psd|odt|key)$ [NC]

# allow audio, video: mp2, mp3, mp4, mp5, mpg, m4a, m4v, ogg, ogv, wav, mov, wma, wmv, avi, 3gp, 3g2
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:mp[2-5g]|m4[av]|og[gv]|wav|mov|wm[av]|avi|3g[p2])$ [NC]

#allow data
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !\.(?i:xml|json)$ [NC]

RewriteRule .* - [F,L]
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

- ▶ Protect wp-content
  - ▶ Prevent php execution
  - ▶ Implicit deny (only allow what is necessary and expected)
- ▶ Protect wp-includes

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !(?:wp-tinymce|ms-files)\.php$ [NC]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} \.php$ [NC]
RewriteRule .* - [F,L]
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

- ▶ Protect wp-content
  - ▶ Prevent php execution
  - ▶ Implicit deny (only allow what is necessary and expected)
- ▶ Protect wp-includes
- ▶ Protect wp-admin

```
# ideally, only allow access to those ip address/ranges that should have access
<FilesMatch ".*">
    <IfModule !mod_authz_core.c>
        deny from all
        allow from 128.206.
        allow from 161.130.
        allow from 10.7.
    </IfModule>
    <IfModule mod_authz_core.c>
        Require ip 128.206.
        Require ip 161.130.
        Require ip 10.7.
    </IfModule>
</FilesMatch>

#except for admin-ajax which needs to be accessible publicly
<Files admin-ajax.php>
    <IfModule !mod_authz_core.c>
        allow from all
    </IfModule>
    <IfModule mod_authz_core.c>
        Require all granted
    </IfModule>
</FilesMatch>
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

- ▶ Protect wp-content
  - ▶ Prevent php execution
  - ▶ Implicit deny (only allow what is necessary and expected)
- ▶ Protect wp-includes
- ▶ Protect wp-admin
- ▶ Protect the root

```
# block access to login page from all external addresses
<Files wp-login.php>
    <IfModule !mod_authz_core.c>
        order allow,deny
        deny from all
        allow from 128.206.
        allow from 161.130.
        allow from 10.7.
    </IfModule>
    <IfModule mod_authz_core.c>
        Require ip 128.206.0.0/16
        Require ip 161.130.0.0/16
        Require ip 10.7.0.0/16
    </IfModule>
</Files>

# completely disable xmlrpc, block external access to readme and license
<FilesMatch "^(xmlrpc\.php|readme\.html|license\.txt)$">
    <IfModule !mod_authz_core.c>
        Order allow,deny
        Deny from all
    </IfModule>
    <IfModule mod_authz_core.c>
        Require all denied
    </IfModule>
</FilesMatch>
```



```
gilzow@kali:~$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev --enumerate u --random-agent
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team  
Version 2.9.2

Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://Sucuri.net>  
 @\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @\_erwan\_lr, pvdl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/  
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:27:49 2017  
  
[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'  
[!] The WordPress 'http://vagrantpress.dev/readme.html' file exists exposing a version number  
[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'  
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"  
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)  
[+] XML-RPC Interface available under: http://vagrantpress.dev/xmlrpc.php  
  
[+] WordPress version 4.7.3 (Released on 2017-03-06) identified from meta generator, links opml  
  
[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...  
[+] No plugins found  
  
[+] Enumerating usernames ...  
[+] Identified the following 5 user/s:  
+---+-----+-----+  
| Id | Login           | Name          |  
+---+-----+-----+  
| 1  | admin            | Access Denied Admin  
| 2  | gilzow-editor    | Paul-Editor Gilzow  
| 3  | gilzow-author    | Paul-Author Gilzow  
| 4  | gilzow-contributor | Paul-Contributor Gilzow  
| 5  | gilzow-subscriber | Paul-Subscriber Gilzow  
+---+-----+-----+  
[!] Default first WordPress username 'admin' is still used  
  
[+] Finished: Tue Mar 14 12:27:55 2017  
[+] Requests Done: 83  
[+] Memory used: 19.41 MB  
[+] Elapsed time: 00:00:05
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

## Account enumeration

- ▶ Prevent ?author= redirection

```
1 <?php
2 /*
3  Plugin Name: Anti-Recon
4  Description: Attempts to prevent recon data gathering
5  Author: WpCampus
6  Version: 0.0.1
7 */
8
9 ****
10 * username anti-enumeration stuff
11 ****
12 /**
13 * Blocks remote attackers from enumerating user names
14 * @param $strRedirectionURL
15 * @param $strRequestedURL
16 * @return mixed
17 * @see https://developer.wordpress.org/reference/hooks/redirect_canonical/
18 */
19 add_filter('redirect_canonical',function($strRedirectionURL, $strRequestedURL){
20     if (1 === preg_match('/\?author=(\d+)/', $strRequestedURL)) {
21         $strRedirectionURL = false;
22     }
23
24     return $strRedirectionURL;
25 }, 10,2);
```

```
gilzow@kali:~$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev --enumerate u --random-agent
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team  
Version 2.9.2

Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://Sucuri.net>  
 @\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @\_erwan\_lr, pvdl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/  
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:27:49 2017  
  
[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'  
[!] The WordPress 'http://vagrantpress.dev/readme.html' file exists exposing a version number  
[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'  
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"  
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)  
[+] XML-RPC Interface available under: http://vagrantpress.dev/xmlrpc.php  
  
[+] WordPress version 4.7.3 (Released on 2017-03-06) identified from meta generator, links opml  
  
[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...  
[+] No plugins found  
  
[+] Enumerating usernames ...  
[+] Identified the following 5 user/s:  
+---+-----+-----+  
| Id | Login           | Name          |  
+---+-----+-----+  
| 1  | admin            | Access Denied Admin  
| 2  | gilzow-editor    | Paul-Editor Gilzow  
| 3  | gilzow-author    | Paul-Author Gilzow  
| 4  | gilzow-contributor | Paul-Contributor Gilzow  
| 5  | gilzow-subscriber | Paul-Subscriber Gilzow  
+---+-----+-----+  
[!] Default first WordPress username 'admin' is still used  
  
[+] Finished: Tue Mar 14 12:27:55 2017  
[+] Requests Done: 83  
[+] Memory used: 19.41 MB  
[+] Elapsed time: 00:00:05
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

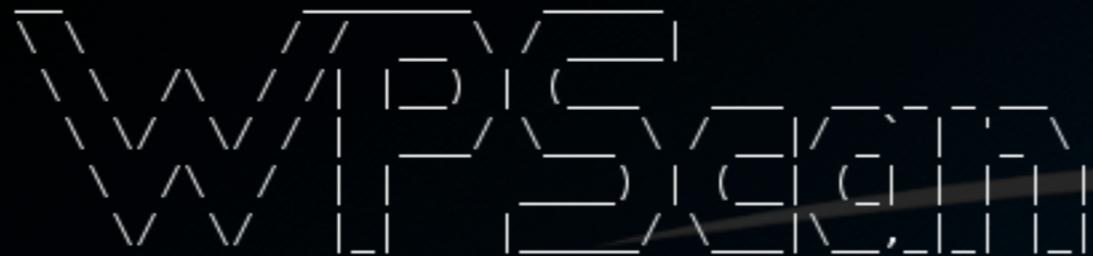
---

## Account enumeration

- ▶ Prevent ?author= redirection
- ▶ Disable account name as author permalink

```
/**  
 * Changes author permalink to use author=# instead of username  
 *  
 * @param $strLink    string Prepared link to Author's archive page  
 * @param $intID      integer Author User ID  
 *  
 * @return string     Link to Author's archive page  
 */  
add_filter('author_link',function($strLink,$intID){  
    return home_url('/').'?author=' . $intID;  
,10,2);  
  
/**  
 * Corrects author feed link after filtering author_link  
 *  
 * @param $strLink    string Prepared link to author feed  
 * @param $strFeed    string Feed type  
 *  
 * @return string     Prepared link to author feed  
 */  
add_filter('author_feed_link',function ($strLink,$strFeed){  
    if(1 == preg_match('/^\/([^\/]*)\//', $strLink, $aryMatch)){  
        return $aryMatch[0] . '&feed=' . $strFeed;  
    }  
,10,2);
```

```
root@kali:~# wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev --enumerate u
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team

Version 2.9.1

Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://sucuri.net>

@\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @erwan\_lr, pndl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/  
[+] Started: Tue Oct 11 18:00:44 2016
```

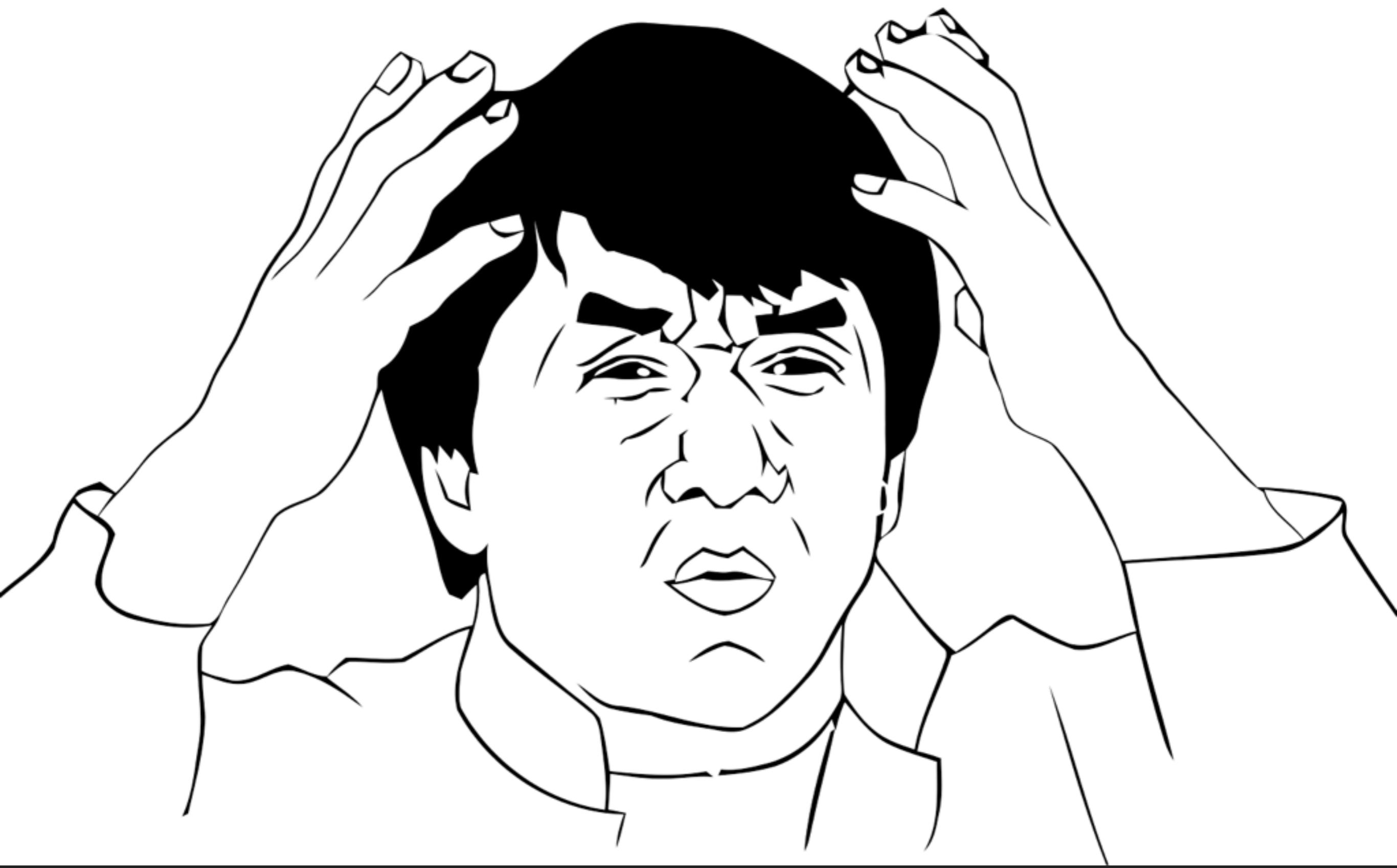
```
[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...  
[+] No plugins found
```

```
[+] Enumerating usernames ...  
[+] Identified the following 5 user/s:
```

Id	Login	Name
1	admin	Access Denied Admin
2	gilzow-editor	Paul-Editor Gilzow
3	gilzow-author	Paul-Author Gilzow
4	gilzow-contributor	Paul-Contributor Gilzow
5	gilzow-subscriber	Paul-Subscriber Gilzow

```
[!] Default first WordPress username 'admin' is still used
```

```
[+] Finished: Tue Oct 11 18:00:48 2016  
[+] Requests Done: 53  
[+] Memory used: 7.254 MB  
[+] Elapsed time: 00:00:03
```



```
54
55 <body class="archive author author-gilzow-author author-3 group-blog hfeed">
56 <div id="page" class="site">
57   <div class="site-inner">
58     <a class="skip-link screen-reader-text" href="#content">Skip to content</a>
59
60     <header id="masthead" class="site-header" role="banner">
61       <div class="site-header-main">
62         <div class="site-branding">
63
64           <p class="site-title"><a href="http://vagrantpress.dev/" rel="home">
65             <p class="site-description">Just another exploitable WordPress
66           </div><!-- .site-branding -->
67
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

## Account enumeration

- ▶ Prevent ?author= redirection
- ▶ Disable account name as author permalink
- ▶ Remove author account from classes

```
39 /**
40 * Removes username from the body class list. Why does wordpress include the user name in the body
41 * class? So you can
42 * add per-user custom classes, but that seems like a very fringe case vs giving hackers all of your
43 * user names.
44 *
45 * @param $aryClasses array of classes to include in the body element
46 * @return array filtered list of classes
47 */
48 add_filter('body_class',function($aryClasses){
49     if(is_author() && in_array('author',$aryClasses)){
50         /**
51          * match all classes of 'author-<username>' but not 'author-id'
52          *
53          * match: author-admin
54          * match: author-gilzowp
55          * NO match: author-5
56          *
57          */
58         $aryUserNames = preg_grep('/^author-(?!\\d+$).+$/', $aryClasses);
59         if(count($aryUserNames) > 0){
60             $aryClasses = array_diff($aryClasses,$aryUserNames);
61         }
62     }
63     return $aryClasses;
64 },100,1);
```

```
gilzow@kali:~$ sudo wpscan --url vagrantpress.dev --enumerate u --random-agent
```



WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team  
Version 2.9.2

Sponsored by Sucuri - <https://sucuri.net>  
 @\_WPScan\_, @\_ethicalhack3r, @\_erwan\_lr, pvdl, @\_FireFart\_

```
[+] URL: http://vagrantpress.dev/  
[+] Started: Tue Mar 14 12:27:49 2017  
  
[+] robots.txt available under: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/robots.txt'  
[!] The WordPress 'http://vagrantpress.dev/readme.html' file exists exposing a version number  
[!] A wp-config.php backup file has been found in: 'http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-config.php.bak'  
[+] Interesting header: LINK: <http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"  
[+] Interesting header: SERVER: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)  
[+] XML-RPC Interface available under: http://vagrantpress.dev/xmlrpc.php  
  
[+] WordPress version 4.7.3 (Released on 2017-03-06) identified from meta generator, links opml  
  
[+] Enumerating plugins from passive detection ...  
[+] No plugins found  
  
[+] Enumerating usernames ...  
[!] Stop User Enumeration plugin detected, results might be empty. However a bypass exists for v1.2.8 and below, see stop_user_enumeration_bypass.rb in /usr/share/wpscan  
[+] Identified the following 5 user/s:  
+---+-----+  
| Id | Login | Name |  
+---+-----+  
| 1 | 1 | Access Denied Admin |  
| 2 | 2 | Paul-Editor Gilzow |  
| 3 | 3 | Paul-Author Gilzow |  
| 4 | 4 | Paul-Contributor Gilzow |  
| 5 | 5 | Paul-Subscriber Gilzow |  
+---+-----+  
  
[+] Finished: Fri Mar 17 15:48:46 2017  
[+] Requests Done: 85  
[+] Memory used: 18.488 MB  
[+] Elapsed time: 00:00:04
```

But Wait...  
**THERE'S  
MORE!**

→ C ⓘ vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/wp/v2/users

```
{  
    "id": 3,  
    "name": "Paul-Author Gilzow",  
    "url": "",  
    "description": "",  
    "link": "http://vagrantpress.dev/?author=3",  
    "slug": "gilzow-author",  
    "avatar_urls": {  
        "24": "http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/b836d5429d6b43f820c8e867f4246d72?s=24&d=mm&r=g",  
        "48": "http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/b836d5429d6b43f820c8e867f4246d72?s=48&d=mm&r=g",  
        "96": "http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/b836d5429d6b43f820c8e867f4246d72?s=96&d=mm&r=g"  
    },  
    "meta": [],  
    "_links": {  
        "self": [  
            {  
                "href": "http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/wp/v2/users/3"  
            }  
        ],  
        "collection": [  
            {  
                "href": "http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/wp/v2/users"  
            }  
        ]  
    },  
},  
{
```

# COUNTER MEASURES

---

## Account enumeration

- ▶ Prevent ?author= redirection
- ▶ Disable account name as author permalink
- ▶ Remove author account from classes
- ▶ Remove user “slug” property from users endpoint in REST API

```
/**
 * Remove slug property from response to user query
 *
 * @param $objResponse    WP_REST_Response      Prepared response object to REST API call
 * @param $objUser        WP_User                User object used to create response
 * @param $objRequest     WP_REST_Request       Requested object
 *
 * @return WP_REST_Response
 */
add_filter('rest_prepare_user',function($objResponse,$objUser,$objRequest){
    if(isset($objResponse->data['slug']) && '' !== $objResponse->data['slug']){
        unset($objResponse->data['slug']);
    }

    return $objResponse;
},10,3);
```

C ⓘ vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/wp/v2/users

```
{  
    "id": 3,  
    "name": "Paul-Author Gilzow",  
    "url": "",  
    "description": "",  
    "link": "http://vagrantpress.dev/?author=3",  
    "avatar_urls": {  
        "24": "http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/b836d5429d6b43f820c8e867f4246d72?s=24&d=mm&r=g",  
        "48": "http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/b836d5429d6b43f820c8e867f4246d72?s=48&d=mm&r=g",  
        "96": "http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/b836d5429d6b43f820c8e867f4246d72?s=96&d=mm&r=g"  
    },  
    "meta": [],  
    "_links": {  
        "self": [  
            {  
                "href": "http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/wp/v2/users/3"  
            }  
        ],  
        "collection": [  
            {  
                "href": "http://vagrantpress.dev/wp-json/wp/v2/users"  
            }  
        ]  
    }  
},  
{
```

Access Denied < Log In    HighEdWeb 2016 Annual C...

vagrantpress.dev/wp-login.php

ited Getting Started reboots home access-denied work accessdenied

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying a WordPress login page. The URL in the address bar is `vagrantpress.dev/wp-login.php`. The page features the classic blue 'W' WordPress logo at the top center. Below it, a red horizontal bar contains the text "ERROR: Invalid username." followed by a link "Lost your password?". The main form area has two input fields: "Username or Email" and "Password", both currently empty. To the left of the "Password" field is a checkbox labeled "Remember Me". To the right of the "Password" field is a blue "Log In" button. At the bottom of the form, there is a link "Lost your password?". Below the form, a link "← Back to Access Denied" is visible.

ERROR: Invalid username. [Lost your password?](#)

Username or Email

Password

Remember Me

Log In

[Lost your password?](#)

[← Back to Access Denied](#)

Access Denied < Log In    HighEdWeb 2016 Annual C... +

vagrantpress.dev/wp-login.php    Search    ☆ | ☰

Getting Started    reboots    home    access-denied    work    accessdenied

Lost your password?' A standard WordPress login form follows, with fields for 'Username or Email' containing 'admin', 'Password', and a checked 'Remember Me' checkbox. A blue 'Log In' button is positioned to the right of the password field. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Lost your password?' and '← Back to Access Denied'."/>

ERROR: The password you entered for the username **admin** is incorrect. [Lost your password?](#)

Username or Email  
admin

Password

Remember Me    **Log In**

[Lost your password?](#)

[← Back to Access Denied](#)

vagrantpress.dev/wp-login.php

Search

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**ERROR:** Invalid email address. [Lost your password?](#)

Username or Email

Password

Remember Me

Log In

[Lost your password?](#)

[← Back to Access Denied](#)

vagrantpress.dev/wp-login.php

Getting Started    reboots    home    access-denied    work    accessdenied

Search

WordPress logo

**ERROR:** The password you entered for the email address **paul@gilzow.com** is incorrect. [Lost your password?](#)

Username or Email  
**paul@gilzow.com**

Password

Remember Me

Log In

[Lost your password?](#)

[← Back to Access Denied](#)



# COUNTER MEASURES

---

## Account enumeration

- ▶ Prevent ?author= redirection
- ▶ Disable account name as author permalink
- ▶ Remove author account from classes
- ▶ Remove users endpoint from REST API
- ▶ Remove default login failure error messages

```
68 /**
69 * Removes the error message indicating an invalid user, or incorrect password for a specific user
70 * @param $objUser WP_User|WP_Error
71 * @return WP_Error|WP_User|null
72 */
73 add_filter('authenticate',function($objUser){
74     if(is_wp_error($objUser)){
75         if(
76             || isset($objUser->errors['incorrect_password'])
77             || isset($objUser->errors['invalid_username'])
78             || isset($objUser->errors['invalid_email']))
79         ){
80             $objUser = null;;
81         }
82     }
83
84     return $objUser;
85 },99,1);
86
87
```

vagrantpress.dev/wp-login.php

Getting Started    reboots    home    access-denied    work    ad

The screenshot shows a WordPress login page. At the top center is the blue circular WordPress logo. Below it, a red-bordered box contains the error message: "ERROR: Invalid username, email address or incorrect password." The main login form is centered below the error message. It has two input fields: "Username or Email" containing "admin" and "Password" containing several black dots. To the left of the password field is a "Remember Me" checkbox. To the right of the password field is a blue "Log In" button. At the bottom of the page, there are two links: "Lost your password?" and "← Back to Access Denied".

Username or Email

admin

Password

• • • • • •

Remember Me

Log In

Lost your password?

← Back to Access Denied

# SUMMARY

---

- ▶ Be paranoid; be skeptical
- ▶ Uninstall plugins/themes that aren't in use
- ▶ Disable php from executing where it shouldn't
- ▶ Limit access to **everything** where you can

# SUMMARY CONT.

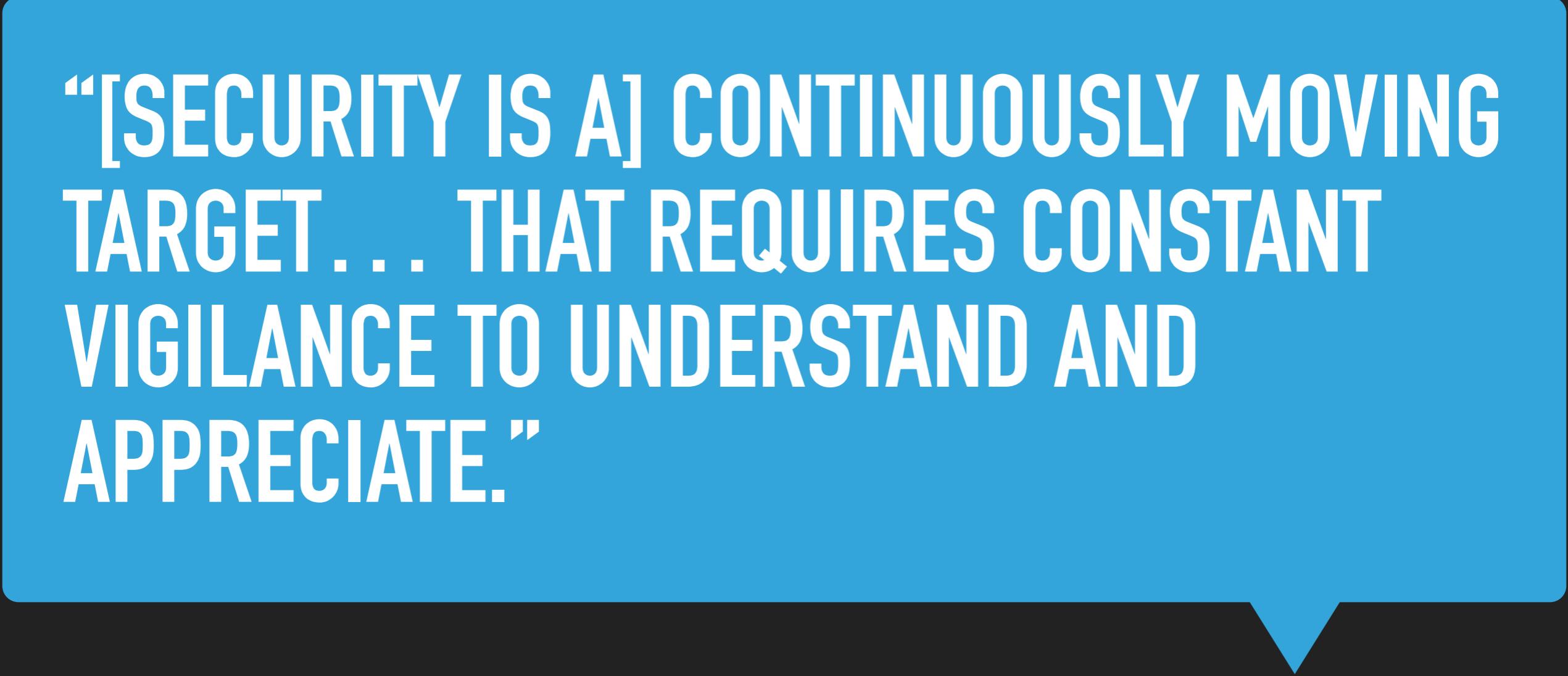
---

In other words...

- ▶ Implicitly deny
- ▶ Defense-in-depth

---

“[SECURITY IS A] CONTINUOUSLY MOVING TARGET... THAT REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGILANCE TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE.”



Tony Perez, @perezbox

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO  
YOU HAVE FOR ME?**

# CONTACT

---

- ▶ Contact
  - ▶ [gilzow@missouri.edu](mailto:gilzow@missouri.edu)
  - ▶ @gilzow on twitter
  - ▶ gilzow on wordpress.org
- ▶ Files: <https://github.com/gilzow/access-denied/>
- ▶ Additional tools that are handy
  - ▶ [BuiltWith.com](#)
  - ▶ Wappalyzer (Firefox, Chrome, Opera + bookmarklet)