

Pentesting Thick Client Applications

@0xhexninja

PS C:\> whoami

- Anurag Srivastava
- Job involves red teaming and sometimes application penetration testing:p
- Author of buffer overflow based exploit which is now part of rapid7's Metasploit framework – (CVE-2017-13696)
- Remote buffer overflow in All Media Server (CVE-2017-17932) [msf module]
- I like to pwn AD, evade/bypass AV/EDRs
- Ctf player at hackthebox
- Worked on threat intel, OSINT, reverse engineering, basic malware analysis & investigation
- Also holds some industry recognized certifications like OSCE, OSCP, OSWP, eCPTX, CRTE, CRTP, CREST CRT, CPSA and few more.
- One day, I will be a Red Teamer and I never go back on my words! Naruto Lover <3
- I blog at https://www.theanuragsrivastava.in/
- Social media- hexachordanu





- Introduction
- Why did I choose this topic?
- Common Architecture
- Testing Thick Client
- Common Vulnerabilities
- Ninja Tools that you need
- Quick Demo
- Common Challenges
- Possible Solutions to our common challenges
- Basic Checklist
- Playground
- Interesting Reads
- References

Thick Client Pentesting?

- Finding right place to inject our payload
- Reading the sensitive data
- Uncovering the truth behind the fancy UI by decompiling and reversing
- Fuzzing the application
- Checking the signature and integrity of the app
- Testing for vulnerabilities in client's wallet, data storage and data processing mechanism



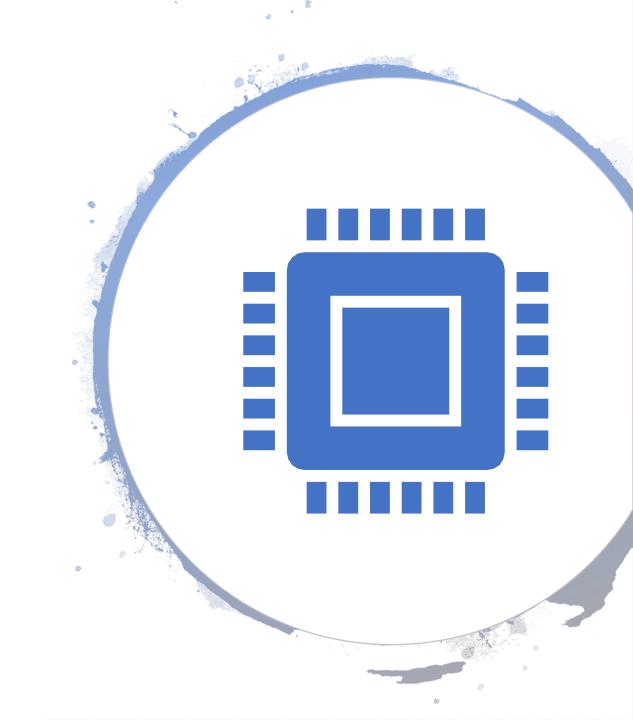
Introduction

- According to Wikipedia, a fat client/heavy client/rich client/thick client is a computer (client) in client—server architecture or networks that typically provides rich functionality independent of the central server".
- Thick client applications can be developed using various programming languages such as:
 - .Net
 - Java
 - C/C++
 - Microsoft Silverlight
- Example Skype, Teams, Outlook etc.

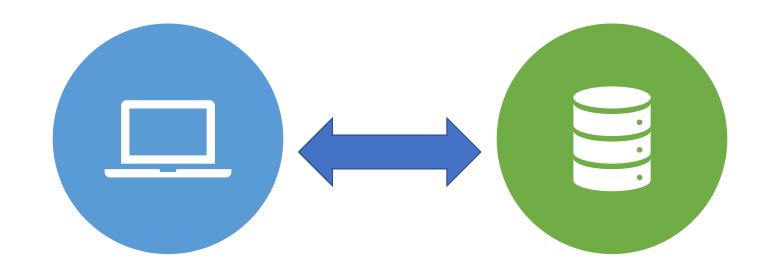


Why did I choose this topic?

- Commonly seen that enterprises use thick client for internal purpose
- Organizations mostly focus on web and mobile apps pentesting
- Wider scope
- Less resources on thick client security testing
- Automated Vulnerability assessment is not enough



Common Architecture (Two-tier)



DESKTOP CLIENT

DATABASE

Common Architecture (Three-tier)



DESKTOP CLIENT

APPLICATION SERVER

DATABASE

Testing Thick Clients

Information Gathering

- Application Architecture
 - Business Logic
- Platform Mapping
 - Understanding Application & Infrastructure
- Languages and Frameworks
 - Common
 Vulnerabilities

Client Side attacks

- Files Analysis
 - Sensitive Information
- Binary Analysis
 - Static Analysis (De-compilation)
 - Dynamic Analysis (Run-Time Reverse Engineering)
- Memory Analysis
 - Memory Manipulation
 - Sensitive information stored in memory

Network Side Attacks

- Installation Traffic
 - Sensitive Installation
 Information
- Run Time Traffic
 - Sensitive Information
 - Vulnerable APIs

Server Side Attacks

- Network Layer Attacks (TCP UDP Attacks)
 - Flooding
 - Overflows
- Layer 7 Attacks
 - OWASP TOP 10

Common Vulnerabilities



Hardcoded password



Sql Injection



Dll hijacking



Unquoted service path



Denial of Service



Sensitive data in registry keys



Sensitive data in memory



XXE



Deserialization



Ninja tools that you need

Static tools – Identify arch, languages & framework

- CFF Explorer
- Peid
- Detect It Easy (DIE)
- Strings

De-compilers and deobfuscators

- dnSpy
- ILSpy
- DotPeek
- Jd-gui
- Procyon
- De4dot
- NeonFuscatorDeobfuscator

Network sniffers – check communication b/w client & server

- Wireshark
- TCPView part of MS sysinternal
- SmartSniff
- Tcpdump

Proxy tools – sits between client and local/server & allow us to modify requests/response

- Echo mirage
- Burp Suite
- Fiddler
- Charles Web Proxy

Ninja tools that you need

File analysis – look for sensitive information & files

- Process Monitor
- Regshot
- Process Explorer
- Process Hacker

Binary analysis – Look for code logic, hidden function, validation checks, api keys, and comments etc.

- Ghidra
- IDA Pro
- X64dbg
- OllyDbg
- Immunity Debugger
- Radare2
- Frida
- Bytecode Viewer
- PE Explorer

Test for weak GUI control tools

- WinSpy++
- WinManipulate
- Windows Enabler

Memory analysis & fuzzing

- Winhex
- Volatility
- Tsearch
- Userdump
- Spike
- Sulley
- AFL
- WinAFL

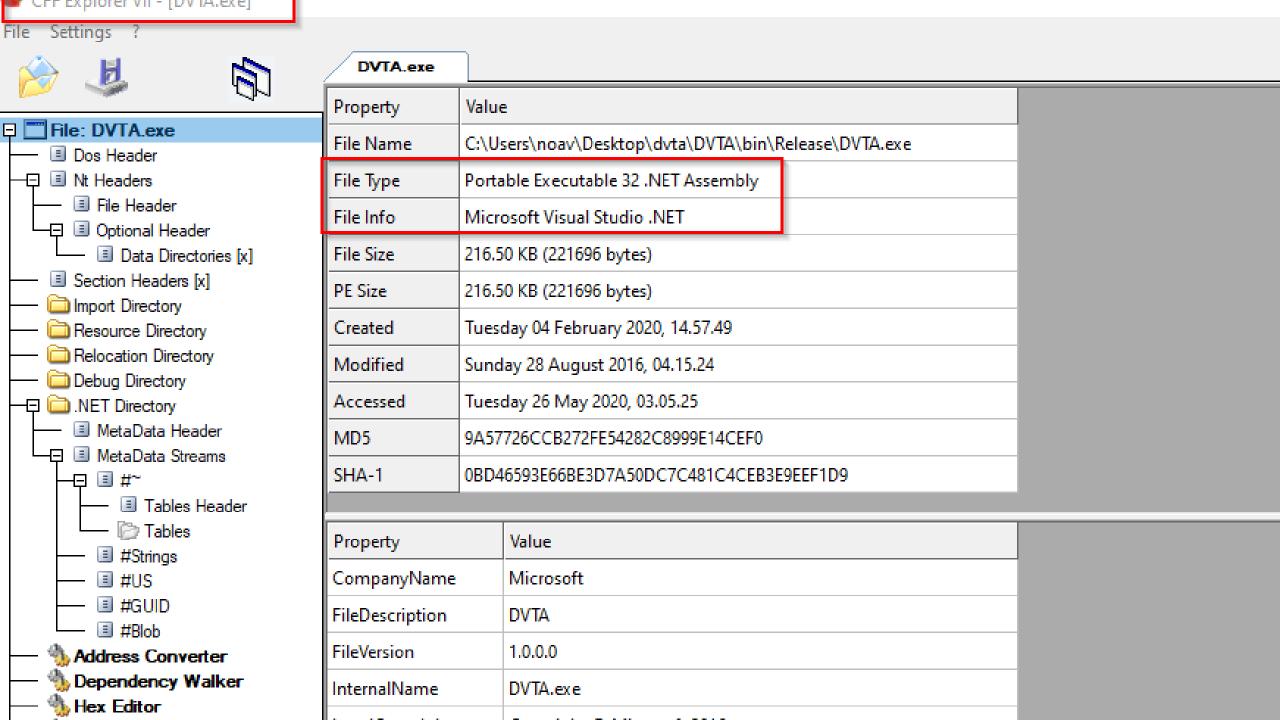
Ninja tools that you need

Miscellaneous

- Attack Surface Analyzer (ASA)
- Stunnel
- mitm_relay
- Robber
- Dllspy
- sigcheck
- Powerup/Sharpup
- HeidiSQL
- Metasploit
- Sqlmap
- Sysinternal tools
- Canape
- Static source code analysis tool etc



Quick Demo



```
File Edit View Debug Window Help
                                  (C#
                             Login X
Assembly Explorer
                                    27
▶ 🗇 PresentationCore (4.0.0.0)
PresentationFramework (4.0.0.0)
                                    28
▶ 🗇 dnlib (3.3.1.0)
                                    29
                                                   // Token: 0x06000018 RID: 24 RVA: 0x000002E2C File Offset: 0x00000102C
30
                                                   private void btnLogin_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)

■ DVTA (1.0.0.0)

                                   31
  D ≅ PE
                                    32
                                                         string username = this.txtLgnUsername.Text.Trim();
    ▶ ■■ Type References
                                    33
                                                         string password = this.txtLgnPass.Text.Trim();
    ▶ ■■ References
                                                         if (username == string.Empty || password == string.Empty)
    Resources
                                    34
    ▶ {} -
                                    35

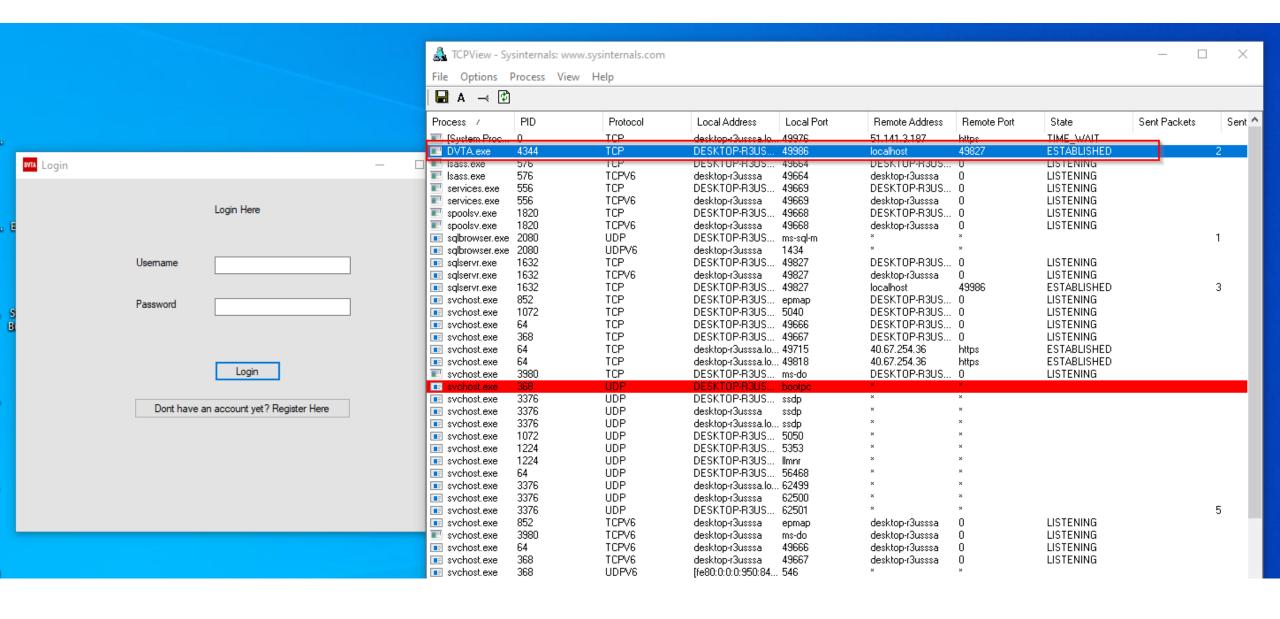
■ { } DVTA
                                    36
                                                             MessageBox.Show("Please enter all the fields!");
      ▶ d addExpenses @02000002

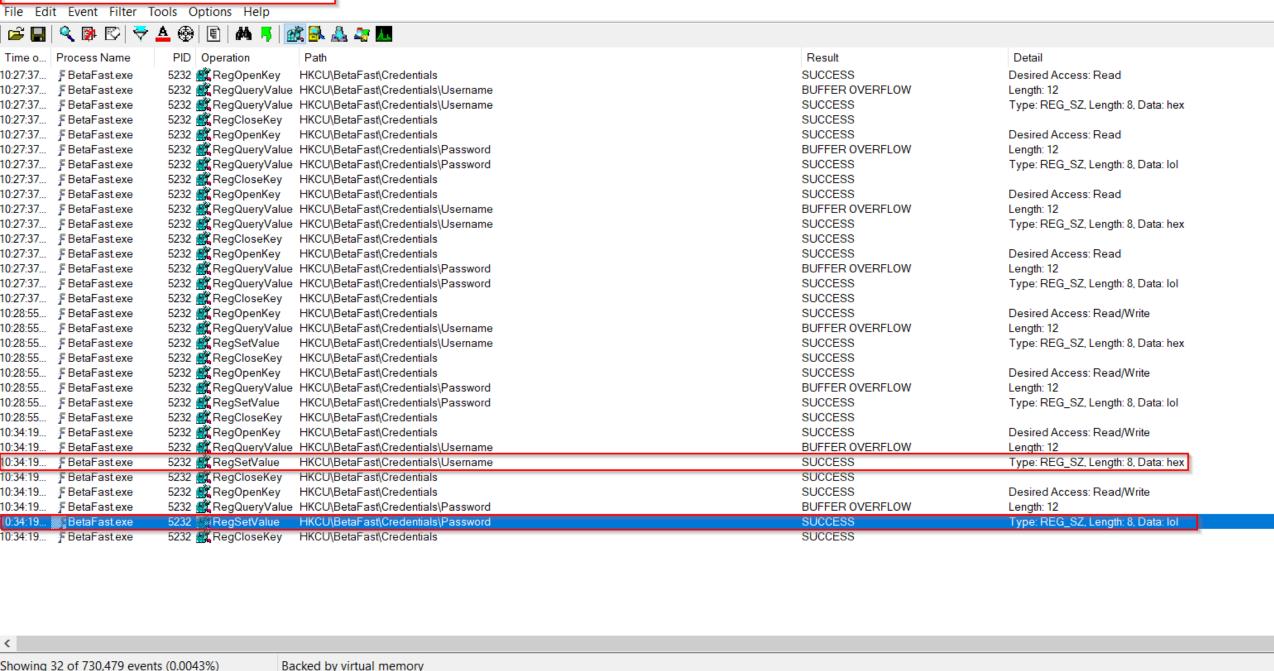
▲ dmin @02000003

                                    37
                                                              return;
         Base Type and Interfac
                                    38
         Derived Types
                                    39
                                                        DBAccessClass db = new DBAccessClass();
          db.openConnection();
          ©<sub>a</sub> Admin_Load(object, E
                                   40
          🗣 btnFtp_Click(object, E
                                                         SqlDataReader data = db.checkLogin(username, password);
                                   41
          ♥ Dispose(bool) : void @ ♥ InitializeComponent()
                                                         if (!data.HasRows)
                                   42
                                   43
          © label1_Click(object, Ev
          © label2_Click(object, Ev
                                                             MessageBox.Show("Invalid Login");
                                   44
          O Upload(string, string, s
                                   45
                                                              this.txtLgnUsername.Text = "";
          htnFtp: Button @0400
          a components: |Contail
                                                              this.txtLgnPass.Text = "";
                                   46
          ftptext: Label @04000
                                   47
                                                              db.closeConnection();
          label1 : Label @040000
                                   48
          apathtodownload : strir
                                                              return;
          time: string @0400000
                                   49
      ▶ de DataTableToCsv @0200000
                                                         int isadmin = 0;
                                    50
      ▶ 👣 Login @02000005
                                    51
                                                         while (data.Read())
      ▶ ™ Main @02000007
      ▶ % Program @02000008
                                    52
      ▶ 1 Register @02000006
                                    53
                                                              string user = data.GetString(1);
    ▶ {} DVTA.Properties
                                                              string pass = data.GetString(2);
                                    54
netstandard (2.1.0.0)
▶ 🗇 System.Runtime.InteropServices (4.2
                                    55
                                                              string email = data.GetString(3);

↓ dnSpy.Contracts.DnSpy (6.1.3.0)

                              100 % -
▶ 🗊 Microsoft, Visual Studio, Text, UI, Wpf ('▼
```

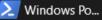




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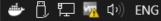




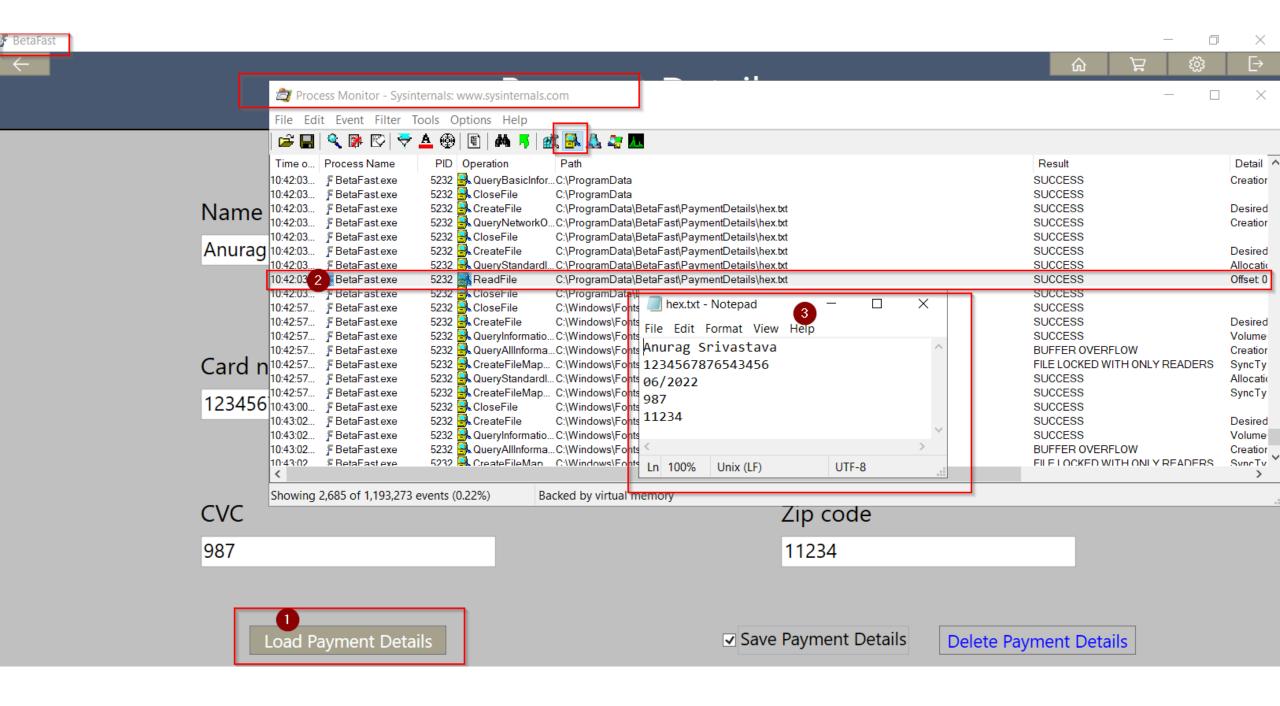












```
№ Cmder
```

```
C:\Users\noav top\BetaFast\BetaFast\BetaFast\bin\Debug\BetaFast.exe

\[ \lambda \ \text{sigcheck Desktop\BetaFast\BetaFast\BetaFast\BetaFast\bin\Debug\BetaFast.exe \]
```

```
Sigcheck v2.73 - File version and signature viewer Copyright (C) 2004-2019 Mark Russinovich Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

C:\Users\noav\desktop\betafast\betafast\betafast\bin\debug\BetaFast.exe:

Verified: Unsigned

Link date: 11:20 07/12/1907

Publisher: n/a Company: n/a

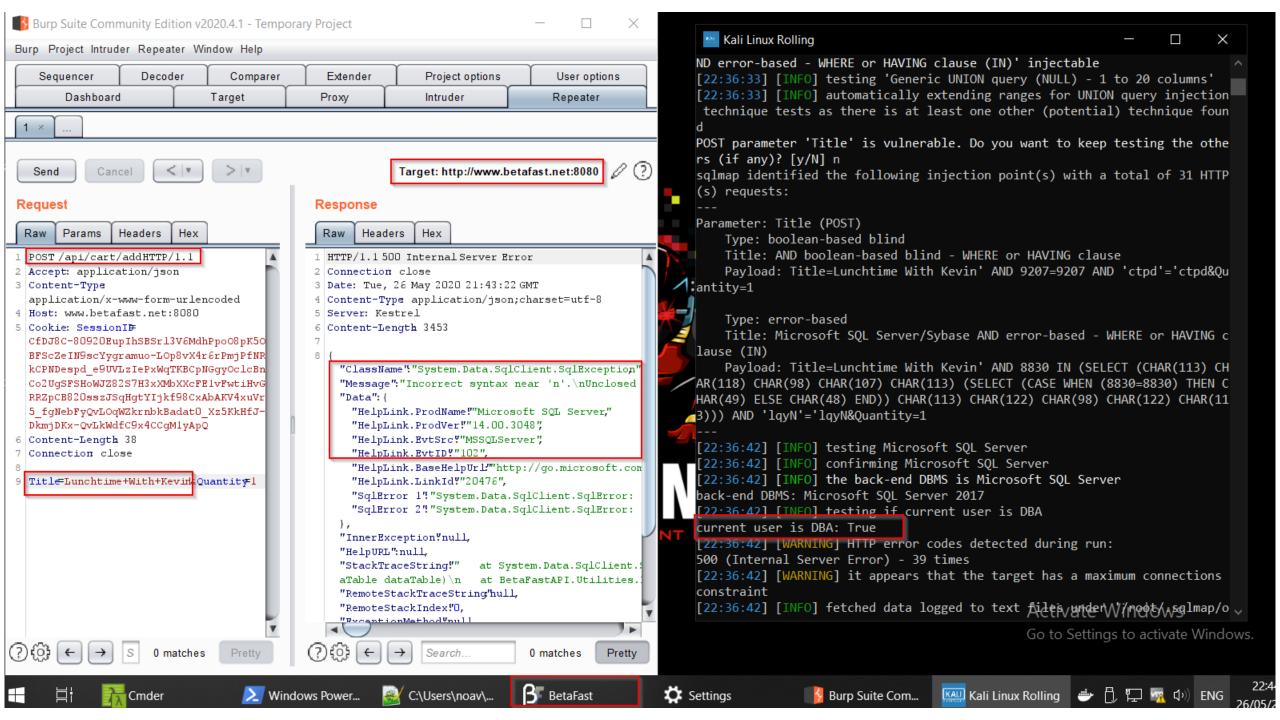
Description: BetaFast
Product: BetaFast
Prod version: 1.0.0.0
File version: 1.0.0.0
MachineType: 32-bit

C:\Users\noav

 λ file C:\Users\noav\desktop\betafast\betafast\betafast\bin\debug\BetaFast.exe C:\Users\noav\desktop\betafast\betafast\betafast\bin\debug\BetaFast.exe: PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386 M

C:\Users\noav

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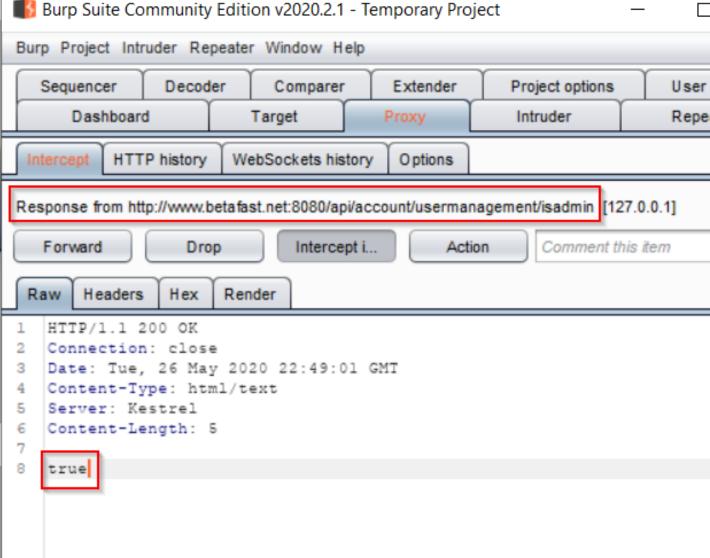


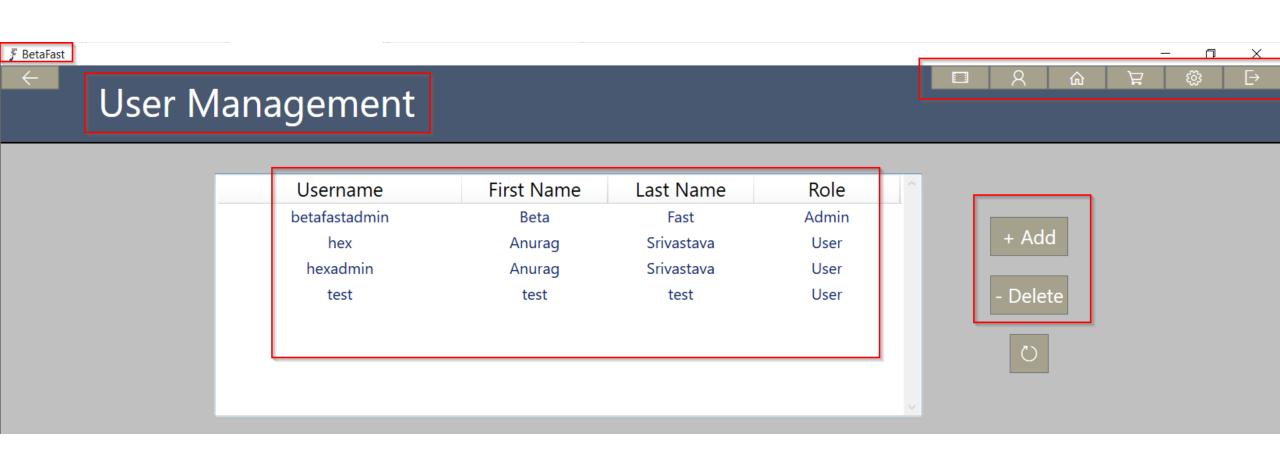
Username

bloguser

Password

Login





Common Challenges



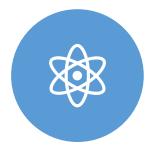
PROXY UNAWARE



UNABLE TO INTERCEPT COMMUNICATION FROM TOOLS LIKE BURP, ECHO MIRAGE ETC.



SSL BASED ISSUES



CUSTOM PREOPERATORY PROTOCOL LIKE FIX

Possible Solution to our common challenges

Use	Use Burp Invisible proxy and non-http proxy extension to intercept tcp based traffic
Capture	• Capture packet on Wireshark and write a custom script(client) to send custom requests (can be written in python, ruby etc)
Use	Use mitm relay embeds every request into a HTTP POST Request so you can relay it through burp
Use	Use stunnel to intercept ssl based request for clients using ssl over non-http protocol
Add	• Add Proxy's certificate to the Java "System" store using the keytool application to solve java based certificate issues
Decompile and update	Decompile and update certificate in code and recompile
Use	• Use Detours to hook win32 APIs calls in order to solve issues with preoperatory softwires which uses custom/shared key cryptographic implementation

Basic Checklist



- Check application signing
- Check for Config File
- Test the authentication mechanism
- Test the session management mechanism
- Test access controls
- Test the encryption control
- Test for input-based vulnerabilities
- Test for business logic flaws
- Test for sensitive data storage on files and registries
- Sensitive data Exposure in memory
- Test for response modification
- The reverse engineering method to test backdoors and hardcoded creds
- Test for DLL hijacking vulnerability
- Try to bypass license check/validation check or application patching

Playground



DVTA - https://github.com/secvulture/dvta



Beta Bank https://github.com/NetSPI/BetaFast/t ree/master/BetaBank



Beta Fast https://github.com/NetSPI/BetaFast



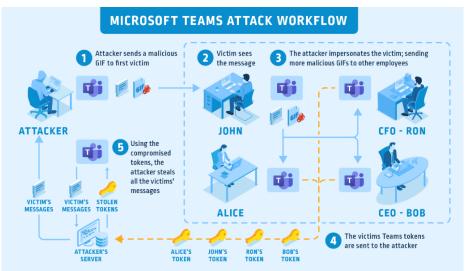
https://github.com/appsecco/dvja



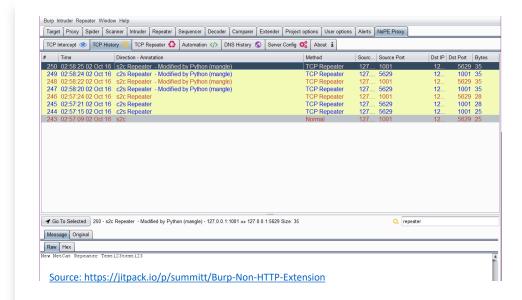
Fatty Machine https://www.hackthebox.eu/home/m achines/profile/227

Interesting reads

- https://parsiya.net/categories/thick-client-proxying/ (Part 1-10)
- https://medium.com/@mantissts/more-thick-client-fun-73196809493d
- https://www.cyberark.com/resources/threat-researchblog/beware-of-the-gif-account-takeover-vulnerability-inmicrosoft-teams
- https://www.optiv.com/blog/ssl-relay-proxy-a-creative-solution-toa-complex-issue
- https://jitpack.io/p/summitt/Burp-Non-HTTP-Extension
- https://blog.netspi.com/introduction-to-hacking-thick-clients-part-1-the-gui/
- https://owasp.org/www-pdfarchive/Thick Client %28In%29Security - Neelay S Shah -Mar 24.pdf
- https://medium.com/@gdieu/build-a-tcp-proxy-in-python-part-1-3-7552cd5afdfe
- https://blog.appsecco.com/from-thick-client-exploitation-tobecoming-kubernetes-cluster-admin-the-story-of-a-fun-bug-wefe92a7e70aa2

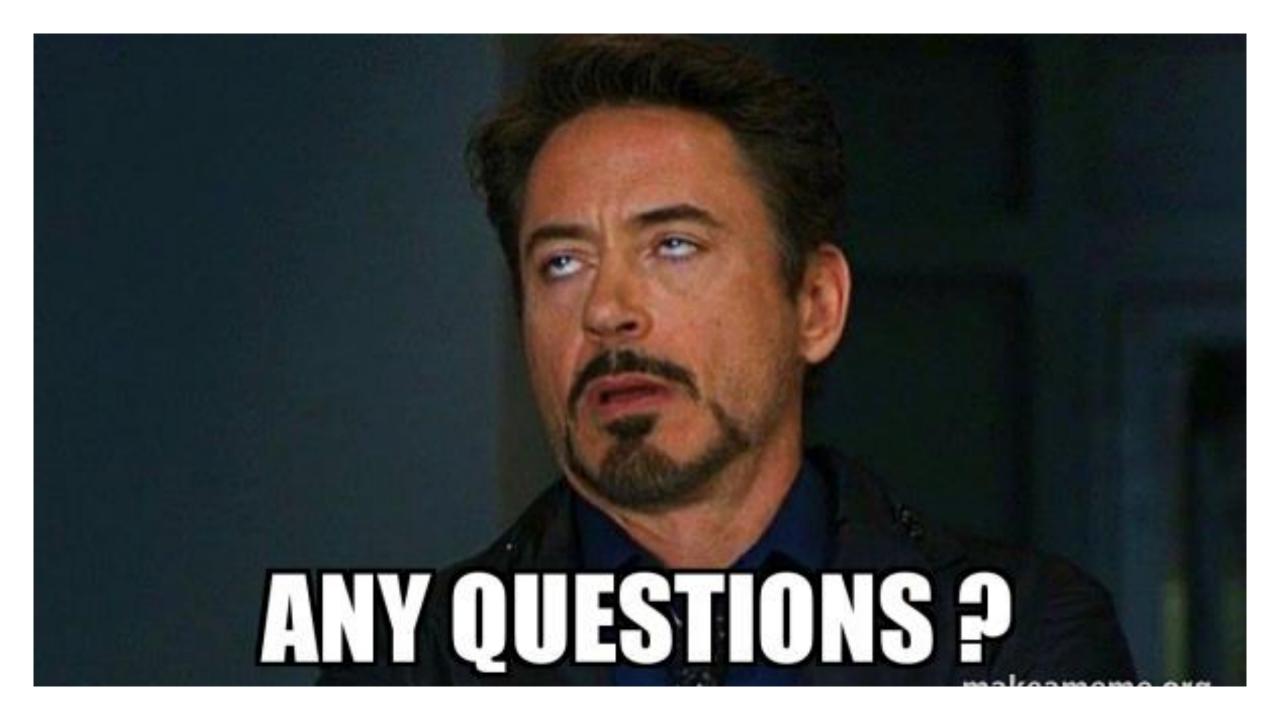


Source: https://www.cyberark.com/resources/threat-research-blog/beware-of-the-gif-account-takeover-vulnerability-in-microsoft-teams



References

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- https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/practical-thick-client-application-penetration-testing-using-damn-vulnerable-thick-client-app-part-1/#gref
- https://blog.securelayer7.net/thick-client-penetration-testing-1/
- https://wiki.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP Windows Binary Executa ble Files Security Checks Project
- https://github.com/NetSPI/BetaFast





Credit and Thanks

- Aakash Shukla
- Rahul Singh
- · DevJeet singh
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- Deep Shankar Yadav
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- Niv Levy
- Austin Altmann
- NetSpi
- Cyberark
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