We Test Pens Incorporated

COMP90074 - Web Security Assignment 3

PENETRATION TEST REPORT FOR Bank of UniMelb Pty. Ltd. - WEB APPLICATION

Report delivered: 06/06/2021

Executive Summary

We Test Pens Incorporated has performed a penetration test of the web application (http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life) at the request of the Bank of UniMelb. Due to the application does not have a full testing environment, some assumptions are made to assess the risk rating.

In conclusion, five vulnerabilities have been found:

- 1. Client-side Authentication
- 2. Authentication Weakness (Account Takeover)
- 3. Privilege Escalation
- 4. Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) via hidden parameter
- 5. Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development

These vulnerabilities' risks range from extreme to medium. The vulnerabilities at the highest risk (extreme) are Client-side Authentication and Authentication Weakness. Client-side Authentication allows an attacker to bypass the authentication of the developer login and perform unauthorised actions via the developer account. Authentication Weakness allows an attacker to take over the account of other users, such as the branch manager's account. The risk rating of Privilege Escalation being exploited is high. Privilege Escalation allows an attacker to escalate the privilege of the account and perform higher privileged actions. The risks of IDOR and Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development are rated as medium. IDOR allows an attacker to view the profiles of other users via a hidden parameter. Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development were found by scanning directories/files.

The threat modelling report and python code to reproduce IDOR (IDOR.py) are attached with this report.

Based on the findings, the application is at a high risk of leaking sensitive information. Banking applications should have strong securities to guarantee the protection of customer assets. If these vulnerabilities are unpatched, it would result in a huge negative impact on the business. It is highly recommended that the vulnerabilities are to be fixed before launching the system. The mitigation methods are outlined in the following report.

The first two vulnerabilities should have quick patches as soon as possible because the risks are rated as extreme. Although the organisation has a limited budget and time, the fixes of those vulnerabilities are worthwhile and not time-consuming.

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Summary of Findings

A brief summary of all findings appears in the table below, sorted by Risk rating.

Risk	Reference	Vulnerability
Extreme	Finding 1	Client-side authentication present in developer login functionality
Extreme	Finding 2	Authentication weakness (account takeover) present in change password functionality
High	Finding 3	Privilege escalation present in promote a user functionality
Medium	Finding 4	Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) present in profile page with a hidden parameter
Medium	Finding 5	Sensitive files left behind during testing/development present in the test directory

Detailed Findings

Finding 1 - Client-side Authentication

Description	An attacker could bypass the authentication due to the Client-side Authentication vulnerability in the developer login function. This allows an attacker to log into a developer's account and perform some malicious actions on behalf of them.
	The website has client-side authentication vulnerability via its developer login functionality. An attacker can obtain login credentials (password) by checking the source code of the web application. This results in that the attacker can steal sensitive information and perform some malicious actions by using the developer's credentials. It is unclear how this developer login functionality is implemented based on the scenario. However, if the functionality is in an easy-accessible place from the public, an attacker can find this vulnerability easily and exploit it.
Proof of Concept	This vulnerability arises when a user checks the source of the developer login page and enter the password found on the source code. (or via http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/developer-login.php). Once the encoded password is found on the source code, an attacker can decode the password by using [1] and log in as a developer. As a result of this, the attacker can steal/modify some sensitive information that can be accessed by developers. For a detailed walkthrough, see Appendix 2 , Section 1 .
Impact	Catastrophic: An attacker can obtain the developer's login credentials, steal sensitive information, and perform some actions on their behalf. The attacker might be able to access all the user data and modify some contents of the web application via developer login. In this case, there would be a catastrophic impact on many aspects of the web application.
Likelihood	Likely: The client authentication is easy to be found when an attacker checks the source code of the website. If the developer login is somewhere easy to access for the public, it is likely to be found and attacked.
Risk Rating	Extreme: The risk rating of the Client-side Authentication vulnerability is extreme because the developer login is likely to be found and exploited and it has a catastrophic impact on the business, such as modifying the content of the application. See Appendix 1 for the ISO31000 Risk Matric used to classify the risk.
References	[1] https://lelinhtinh.github.io/de4js/ [2] https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/603.html [3] https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/php-tutorial/php-mysql-

	login-system.php
Recommendation	Do not use client-side authentication but use server-side authentication [2]. Remove the client-side authentication by JavaScript and use server-side authentication, such as store the developer credentials on the database and use PHP to process the authentication. The code sample can be found here: [3].

Finding 2 – Authentication Weakness (Account Takeover)

Description	Account takeover could occur due to authentication weakness in the change password functionality. Full account takeover causes unauthorised actions and potential loss of sensitive information.
	The web application has authentication weakness via its change password functionality, resulting in full account takeover. An attacker can obtain users credentials and sensitive information. Also, the attacker can perform malicious actions, such as transfer money to other accounts. However, an attacker must log in first to perform this attack as the change password functionality would be in the authenticated area of the application. Once an attacker could log in to the application, it is easy to find this vulnerability as the password change functionality is one of the most common places to find the authentication weakness.
Proof of Concept	This vulnerability arises when an authenticate user try to change a password with a different username and delete old password parameter via proxy in the change password functionality (or via http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/settings.php). Once the GET request was sent with a different username, the password of the account of the username's owner will be changed. An attacker can use this method and take over the accounts of others. For a detailed walkthrough see Appendix 2 , Section 2 .
Impact	Catastrophic: An attacker can obtain login credentials of targeted users, steal their sensitive information, and perform malicious actions on their behalf, such as transferring the client's money to the attacker's account. As branch managers and clients share the same login space in the testing environment, an attacker can steal the login credentials of both branch managers and clients. This means that an attacker can use a branch manager's account to interact with the assigned clients and freeze their accounts.
Likelihood	Possible: The password change functionality is one of the most common places to find the authentication weakness. However, an attacker firstly needs login credentials due to the password change functionality would be in the authenticated area of the web application. An attacker also needs the username of the targeted user, but it is easy to find it by using the IDOR vulnerability that is described in a different section of this report (Finding 4).
Risk Rating	Extreme: The risk rating of the Authentication Weakness being exploited is extreme because it is possible that an attacker obtains login credentials and finds this vulnerability, and it has a catastrophic impact on both the client and the bank. See Appendix 1 for the ISO31000 Risk Matrix used to classify this

	risk.
References	[1] https://code.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-implement-email-verification-for-new-membersnet-3824
Recommendation	Proper authorisation checks are needed. One way to do this is to send a verification message to the user, such as a verification email when the password was being changed. Once the user confirms that the legitimate user changes the password, the password will finally be changed. The example is given here: [1]. Also, it should check if the old password parameter is removed.

Finding 3 – Privilege Escalation

Description	An attacker could gain additional permissions due to privilege escalation vulnerability in the promote user functionality. This causes unauthorised action performed by an attacker.
	The web application has privilege escalation vulnerability via the promote admin functionality. An attacker can change the privilege of the account and perform unauthorised actions. However, an attacker first needs to log into the application and find this vulnerability. Due to the limited information given about the admin, it is unclear what the admin can do. If the admin can delete/modify the account and reveal more sensitive information, the impact of this vulnerability is high. Once an attacker could log into the application, it is easy to find this vulnerability via proxy.
Proof of Concept	This vulnerability arises when an authenticated user changes the parameter and JSON value of the POST request in the promote user functionality (or via http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/assign.php). Once an attacker changes the parameter "admin=false" to "admin=true" and JSON value "{"user":"admin", "roleGroup": 1}" to "{"user":"username", "roleGroup": 9}", the account can get admin privilege. After that, the attacker can perform unauthorised action via the account. For the detailed walkthrough, see Appendix 2 , Section 3.
Impact	Major: An attacker can perform unauthorised actions with the admin privilege. If the admin can delete/modify the account and reveal more sensitive information of the user, the impact is major. However, admin users can only control their own account. This means that they cannot delete/modify other accounts.
Likelihood	Possible: An attacker can access the admin page by just changing the admin parameter via proxy. The encoded JSON parameter can be easily decoded and changed by proxy tools. However, promote user functionality is in the authenticated area of the application. This means that an attacker needs login credentials to find this vulnerability.
Risk Rating	High: The risk rating of the privilege escalation is high because it is possible that an attacker finds the login credentials and finds this vulnerability and it has a major impact on business that an attacker performs unauthorised actions. See Appendix 1 for the ISO31000 Risk Matrix used to classify this risk.
References	[1] https://www.w3schools.com/php/php mysql select.asp

Recommendation

Do not include the admin parameter in the cookie. One possible remediation is to ask the user for the login credentials (username and password) when a user visited the admin page and check if the user has admin privilege.

e.g.)

\$sql = "SELECT username, password FROM Users WHERE
admin=true";

\$result = \$conn->query(\$sql);

For more details, go to [1].

Finding 4 – Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) via a hidden parameter

Description	A data breach could occur due to an Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) vulnerability. This leads to potential leakages of the sensitive and personal information of users.
	The web application has IDOR vulnerability via its profile page with a hidden parameter. IDOR vulnerability occurs when a reference to an internal implementation object is exposed in an application [1]. This results in information leakage of all users, including the username, role, and company name. An attacker can combine this and other vulnerabilities to perform something further, such as using IDOR to get a username and authentication weakness to take over the account. However, an attacker first needs to log into the application to perform IDOR as the profile page is in the authenticated area of the application. This vulnerability is difficult to find as an attacker first needs to log into the application and guess what hidden parameters are available.
Proof of Concept	This vulnerability arises when an authenticated user sends a GET request with the hidden parameter "id" via the URL in the profile page (or via http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/profile.php). Once the hidden parameter "id" with an integer value, it will show other users' personal information, including the username, role, and company. In this way, an attacker can obtain sensitive information. For a detailed walkthrough, see Appendix 2.section 4 .
Impact	Moderate: An attacker can obtain and modify the personal information of the users. Using this vulnerability with other vulnerabilities, an attacker would be able to perform further actions, such as the IDOR to get a username and authentication weakness to take over the account. However, this vulnerability itself only allows an attacker to obtain or modify some personal information. This means that an attacker cannot steal money or change login credentials.
Likelihood	Unlikely: The hidden parameter is difficult to find hidden parameters of the webpage. An attacker needs to guess what hidden parameters are available in the system. Also, the profile page is in the authenticated area. This means that an attacker first needs to obtain login credentials and find this vulnerability.
Risk Rating	Medium: The risk rating of the IDOR is Medium because it is unlikely that an attacker logs into the application and finds this vulnerability and it has a moderate impact on the business as an attacker can only obtain and modify some personal information about the users. See Appendix 1 for the ISO31000 Risk Matrix used to classify this risk.

References	[1] https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Insecure_Direc t_Object_Reference_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet.html [2] https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18271173/php-check-if-url-parameter-exists [3] IDOR.py
Recommendation	Disable the hidden parameter. Block the request with the parameter within the URL. Here is the sample to check if the parameter exists: [2].

Finding 5 – Sensitive Files Left Behind During Testing/Development

Description	Sensitive files and directories left behind during testing/development remain accessible. An attacker can use directory and file scanning tools to find sensitive files.
	Sensitive files and directories left behind during testing/development are still accessible. An attacker can use directory/file scanning tools, such as dirBuster [1], to find those files. As we do not know what testing has been done during the development of the application and cannot access the webserver directly, it is unclear that what hidden files remain accessible exactly. If an attacker can find some sensitive files that are related to the system structure of the application, part of the application system may be exposed to the attacker.
Proof of Concept	An attacker can use directory/file scanning tools, such as dirBuster [1], to find the files left behind during testing/development by brute force attack. Once an attacker runs the tool with a list of directory/file names, the attacker needs to wait until the tool finishes running. The tool will then show all directories and files that are discovered. For a detailed walkthrough. See Appendix 2 , Section 5 .
Impact	Moderate: An attacker can obtain sensitive information. If the sensitive information found is related to the system of the web application, part of the application structure may be exposed.
Likelihood	Possible: An attacker can use automated file/directory scanning tools without authentication to the application. However, if the names of sensitive files are not common and very long, it is difficult to find these files.
Risk Rating	Medium: The risk rating of the sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development being exploited is medium because it is possible that an attacker finds the sensitive files by the scanning tools, and it has a moderate impact on business. See <u>Appendix 1</u> for the ISO31000 Risk Matrix used to classify this risk.
References	[1] https://gitlab.com/kalilinux/packages/dirbuster
Recommendation	Delete or prohibit access to the sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development.

Appendix I - Risk Matrix

All risks assessed in this report are in line with the ISO31000 Risk Matrix detailed below:

Consequence

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	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
Likely	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Almost Certain	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

Appendix 2 - Additional Information

Section 1 – Client-side Authentication exploitation walkthrough

The Client-side Authentication is in the developer login functionality. This can be accessed from the developer login page (http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/developer-login.php). Once a password is entered, JavaScript code runs and check if the password entered is correct or not. (Figure 1.1).

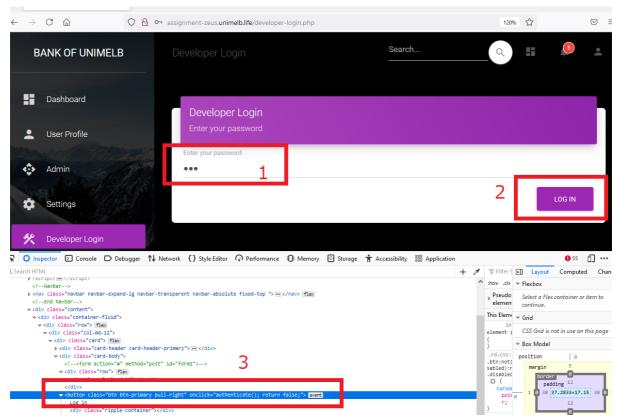
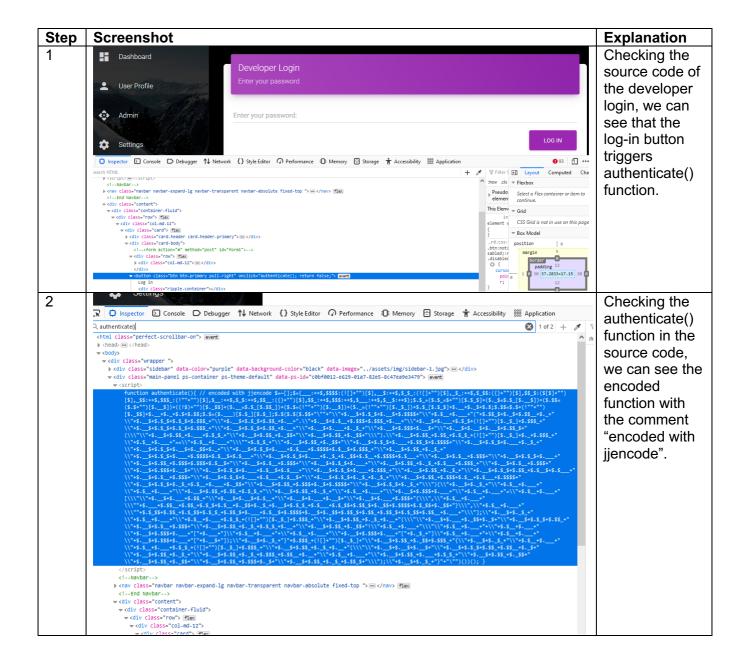
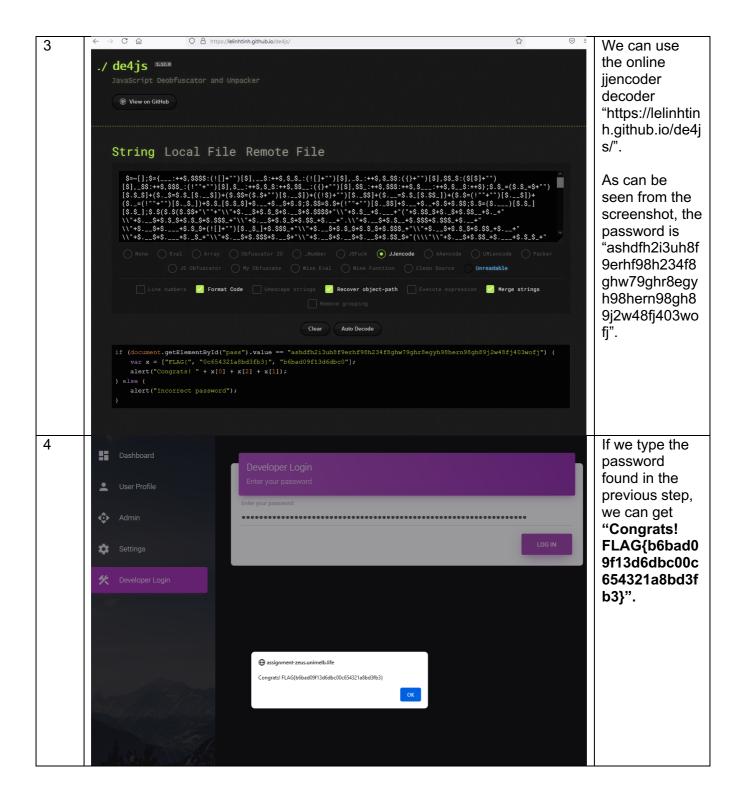


Figure 1.1: a screenshot of the web application's developer login functionality page. (1) enter a password. (2) hit the log-in button to check if the password is correct. (3) Once the log-in button is hit, authenticate() function will run.

Exploit: Leaking the developer password and flag

The following provides a proof of concept for an attack that exploits this vulnerability and obtains the developer password and flag.





Section 2 – Authentication Weakness exploitation walkthrough

The authentication weakness is in the change password functionality. This can be accessed by authenticated users from the setting page (http://assignment-

<u>zeus.unimelb.life/settings.php</u>). or a POST request to change-password.php (http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/change-password.php). Once a user enters the old and new passwords, they will be passed to change-password.php as parameters of a POST request.

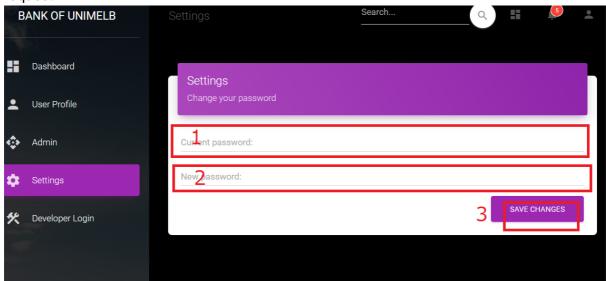


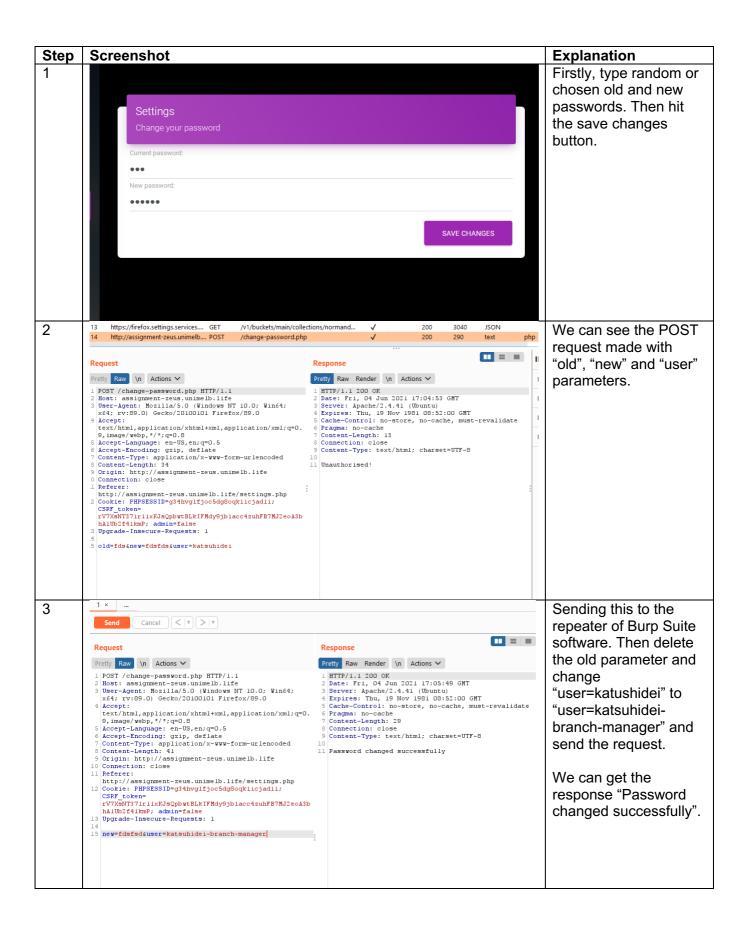
Figure 2.1: explained in Figure 2.2.

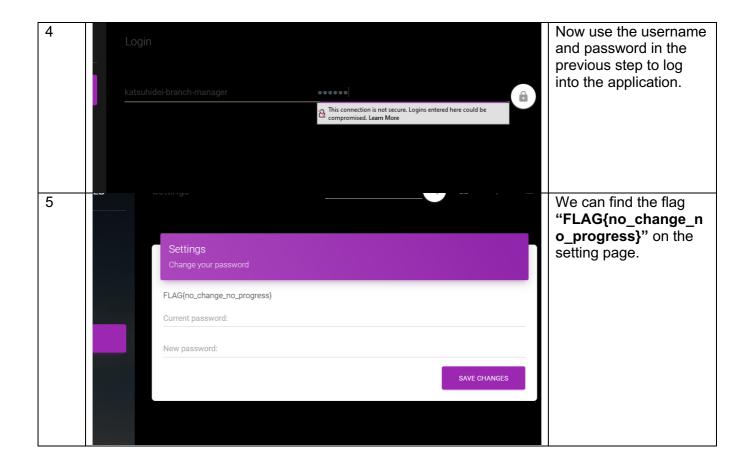


Figure 2.2: screenshots of the web application's setting page. (1) type an old password. (2) type a new password. (3) hit the button to submit the request. (4) we can see the post request. (5) it passes the old and new passwords and username. (6) the response is shown.

Exploit: changing the password of others and flag

The following steps provide a proof of concept for an attack that exploits authentication weakness.





Section 3 – Privilege Escalation exploitation walkthrough

The privilege escalation vulnerability is in promote user functionality. This can be accessed by authenticated users from the admin page (http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/admin.php) with the cookie parameter "admin=true" or a POST request to assign.php (http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/assign.php). Once the promote user function was requested, the JSON data will be sent to assign.php to change the privilege.

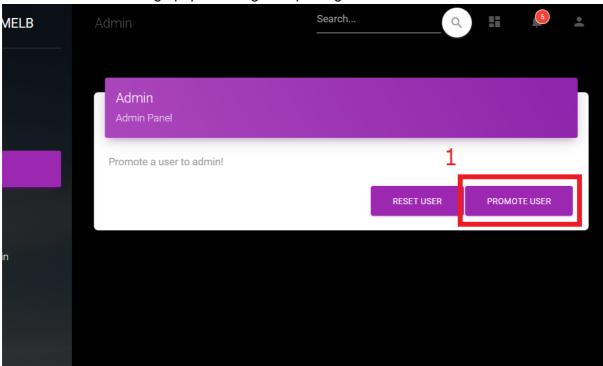


Figure 3.1: explained in Figure 3.2.

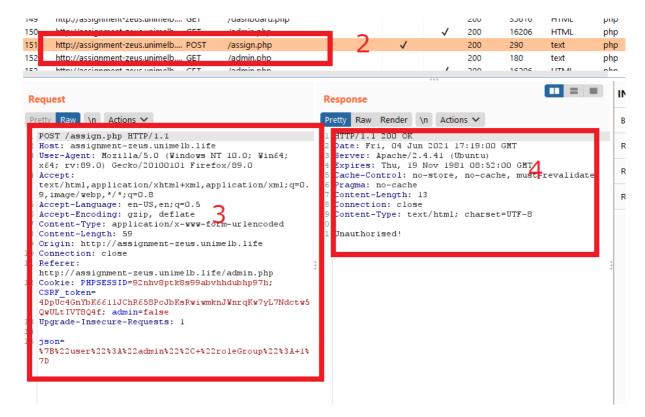
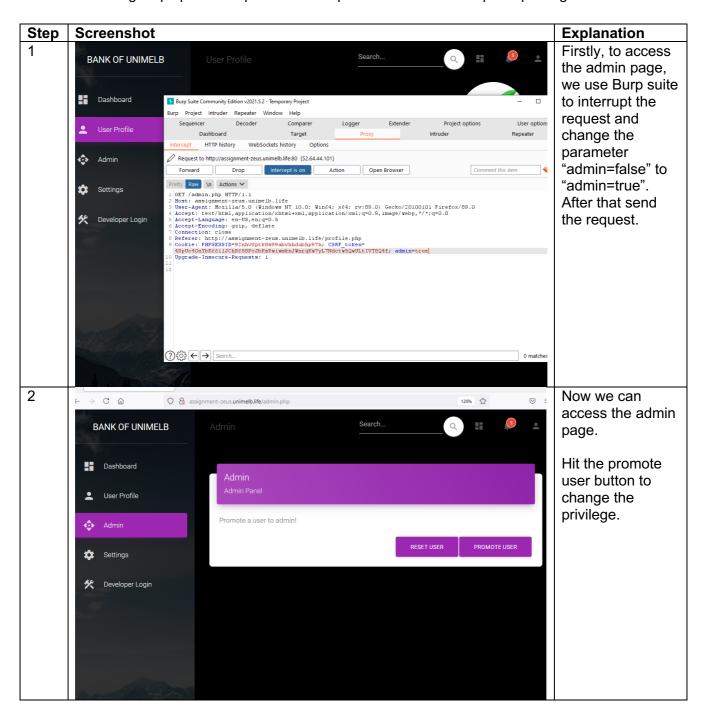
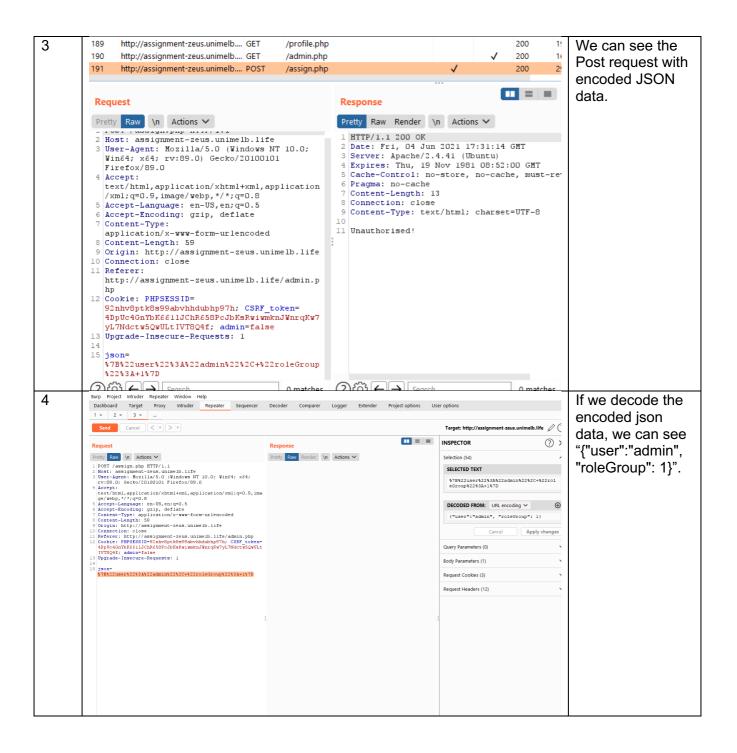


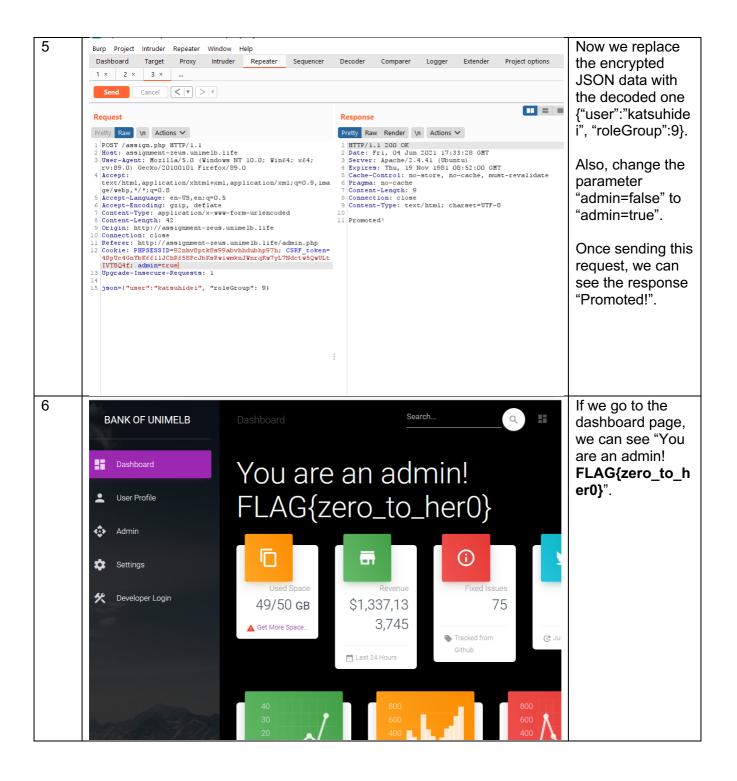
Figure 3.2: screenshots of the web application's promote user functionality. (1) hit the promote user button to change the privilege. (2) we can see the post request. (3) the post request was sent with the encrypted JSON data. (4) the response is shown.

Exploit: Privilege escalation and flag

The following steps provide a proof of concept for an attack that exploits privilege escalation.







Section 4 – Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR) exploitation walkthrough

The IDOR vulnerability is on the profile page (http://assignment-zeus.unimelb.life/profile.php). Once we pass the parameter "id" with an integer value, it will show the different user's profile.

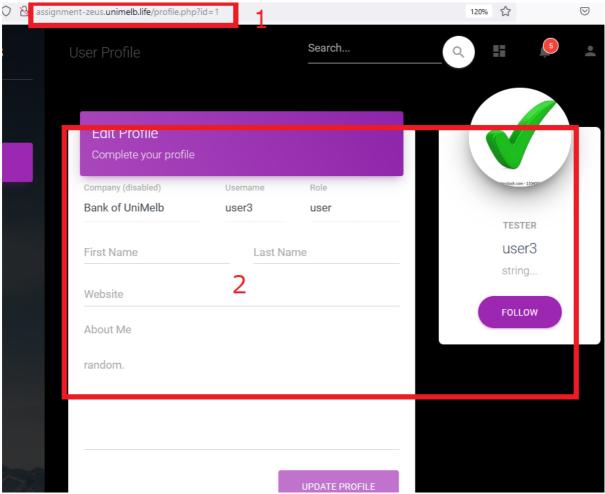
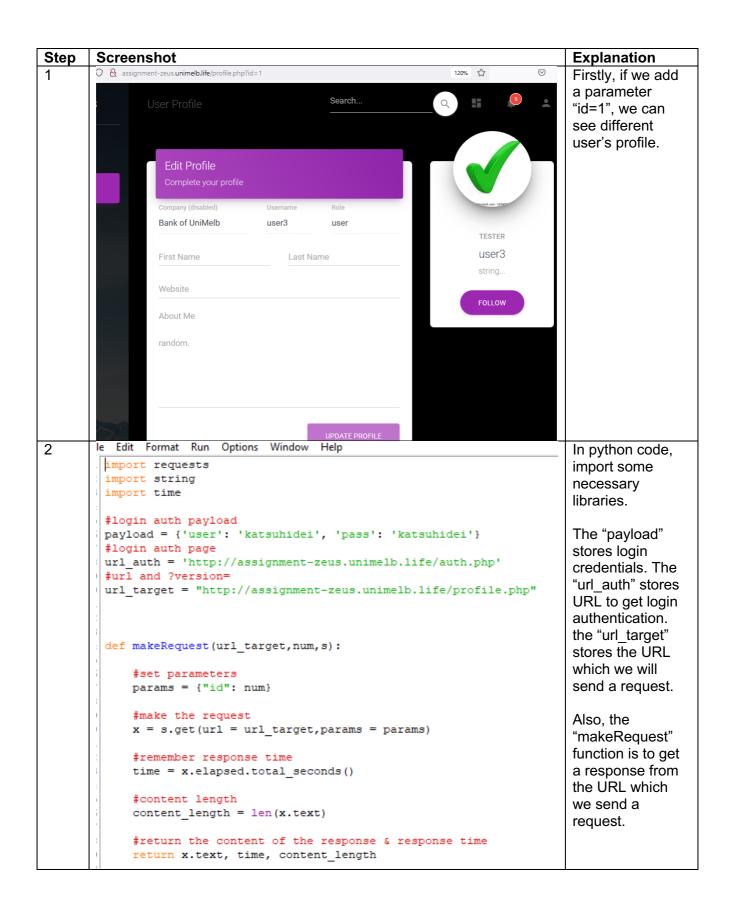


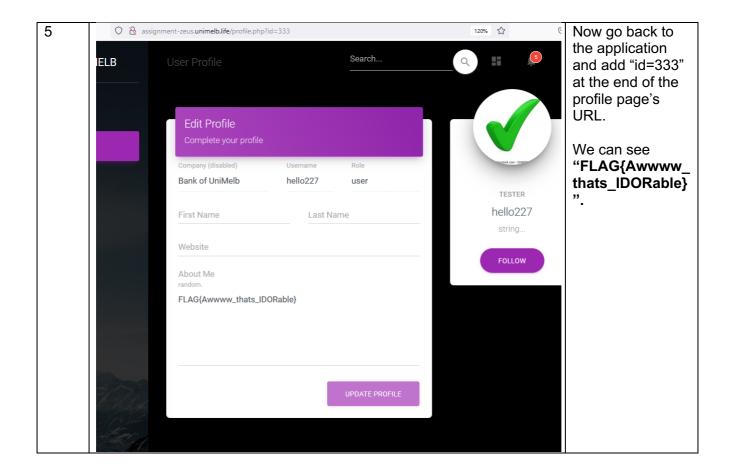
Figure 4: a screenshot of the web application's profile page. (1) add "?id=1" at the end of the URL. (2) the different user's profile is shown.

Exploit: Getting different user's profile and flag

The following steps provide a proof of concept for an attack that exploits the IDOR vulnerability. The python script is used for this attack and explained in the following table. The python script is attached with this report (IDOR.py).



```
Firstly, the python
#login session
                                                              gets the
with requests.Session() as s:
                                                              authentication.
                                                              Then it will send
    #get auth
    s.post(url auth, data=payload)
                                                              the request with
                                                              the parameter "id"
#-----id------
                                                              with an integer
    #meke the request for id
                                                              value from 0 to
    for uid in range(1000):
                                                              1000 until the
        response = makeRequest(url_target,uid,s)
                                                              response text
        print (uid)
                                                              includes the "flag"
        print(response[2])
                                                              string.
        if "flag" in response[0].lower():
           print("Found!!!! the id is :")
            print (uid)
            print()
            break
        time.sleep(2)
    print("done!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!")
__ 332
                                                              Once running this
m∈ 18695
                                                              python code, we
o<sub>2</sub> 333
                                                              can know when id
  18721
                                                              is 333 there is the
  Found!!!! the id is :
                                                              "flag" string.
  done!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
  >>>
   break
```



Section 5 – Sensitive files/directories left behind during testing/development exploitation walkthrough

The sensitive files can be found by the directory/file scanning tools, such as dirBuster. It scans the directories and files under the domain name. Once it loads the list of words, it automatically scans the directories and files. If the file or directory exists, it will store the results and display the list of the directories and files.

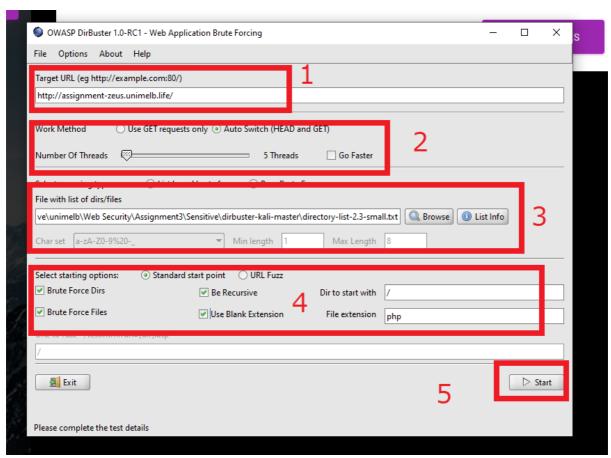


Figure 5.1: explained in Figure 5.2.

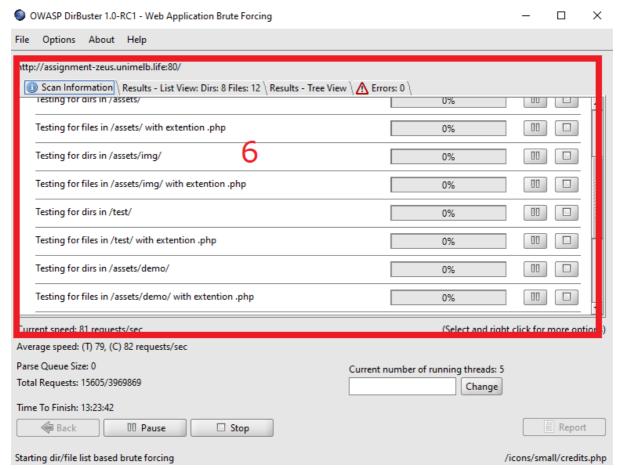


Figure 5.2: screenshots of the software "dirBuster". (1) enter the target URL. (2) change the thread to 5 as per the requirement on the spec. (3) choose the list of words that going to be used for scanning. (4) tick necessary boxes and file extensions (php, txt, etc.). (5) hit the start button. (6) scanning started.

Exploit: Leaking sensitive files and flag

The following steps provide a proof of concept for an attack that exploits this vulnerability and obtain sensitive directories/files. The software "dirBuster" is used for this attack and explained in the following table.

