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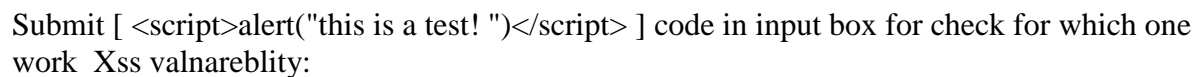
XSS Stored Attacks on DVWA

Prepared by Md Jobarul Islam

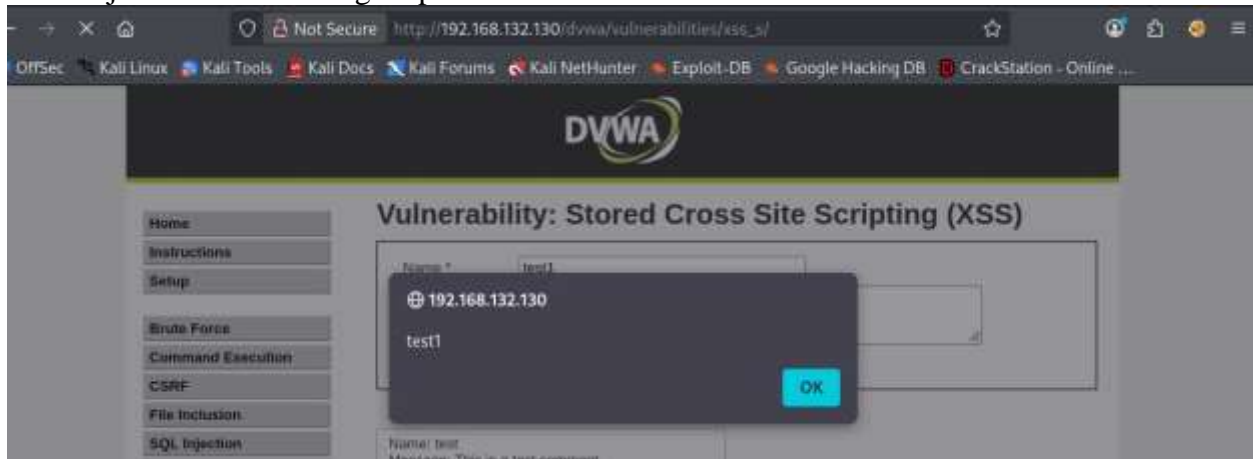
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1st Observe how its working :

Use (Ctrl + u) for open source code:
(Ctrl + f) for search [hello reflected_text]
Back to Render window by (Ctrl + w)

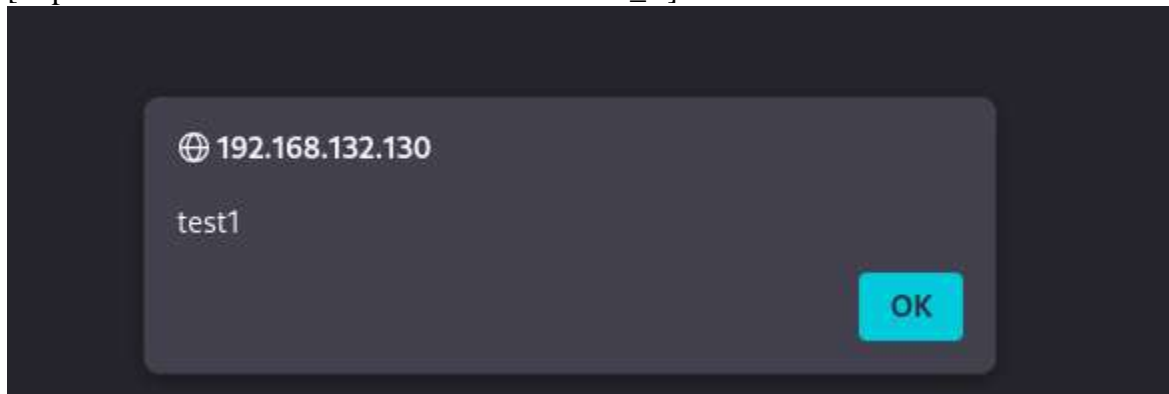


Code Inject work on message input box so this is vulnerable :



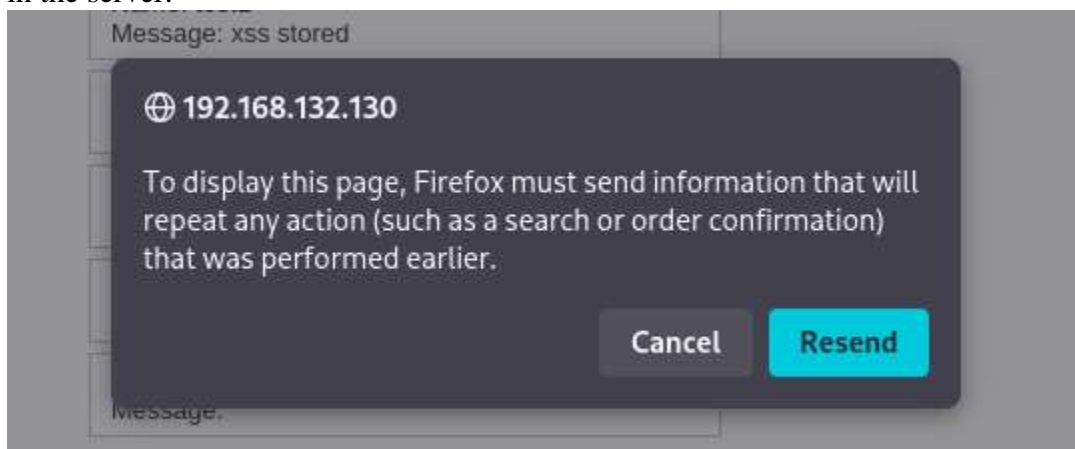
Url of this page :

[http://192.168.132.130/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_s/]



Its seems that this page have vulnerability and I found it. So it's can by compromised by attacker of XSS Stored attack.

Every time resend the alert will appear again and again because malicious code/ payload stored in the server.



Medium security XSS Stored Attack

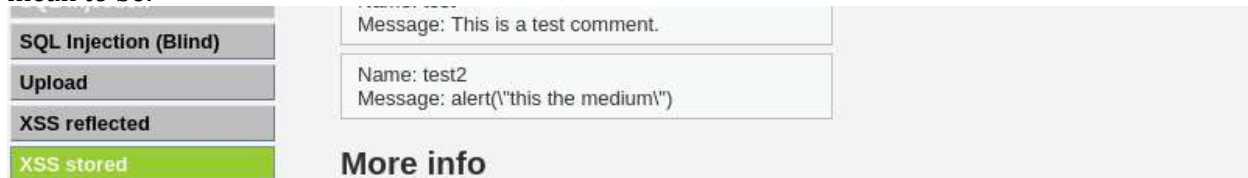
Submit security level low to medium:



The screenshot shows the DVWA Security page. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Home, Instructions, Setup, Brute Force, Command Execution, CSRF, File Inclusion, SQL Injection, SQL Injection (Blind), Upload, XSS reflected, and XSS stored. The main content area is titled "DVWA Security" with a lock icon. Below this is the "Script Security" section, which states "Security Level is currently low." and "You can set the security level to low, medium or high." It also says "The security level changes the vulnerability level of DVWA." There is a dropdown menu set to "medium" and a "Submit" button. Below this is the "PHPIDS" section, which says "PHPIDS v.0.6 (PHP-Intrusion Detection System) is a security layer for PHP based web applications." and "You can enable PHPIDS across this site for the duration of your session." It also states "PHPIDS is currently disabled." with a link to "enable PHPIDS". At the bottom of the main content area are links for "[Simulate attack]" and "[View IDS log]".

Its same as low level. Take look how the page work and the inject malicious code for check the vulnerability.

Code: [`<script>alert("this is medium level test !")</script>`] this time not working its do what its mean to be:



The screenshot shows the DVWA XSS stored attack page. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: SQL Injection (Blind), Upload, XSS reflected, and XSS stored. The main content area is titled "More info" and contains a form with a "Message:" field containing "This is a test comment." and a "Name:" field containing "test2". Below the "Name:" field is a "Message:" field containing the injected malicious code: `alert(\"this the medium!\")`.

Look for backend code/ source code : (Ctrl + u)



```
e medium\"/><script>alert(\"this the medium!\")</script>
```

Look for php code :

```
<?php
if(isset($_POST['btnSign']))
{
    $message = trim($_POST['mtxMessage']);
    $name     = trim($_POST['txtName']);

    // Sanitize message input
    $message = trim(strip_tags addslashes($message));
    $message = mysql_real_escape_string($message);
    $message = htmlspecialchars($message);

    // Sanitize name input
    $name = str_replace('<script>', '', $name);
    $name = mysql_real_escape_string($name);

    $query = "INSERT INTO guestbook (comment,name) VALUES ('$message','$name')";

    $result = mysql_query($query) or die('<pre>' . mysql_error() . '</pre>');
}
?>
```

In this code seems my `<script>` tag vanished by [`$name = str_replace('<script>', '', $_GET['name']);`], this piece of JavaScript code. This source code creates a filter, with `str_replace()` function, that removes the `<script>` tag in our payload and replaces it with a null value. This renders the payload script ineffective, so the attack failed, and no popup window is displayed. Because this script is only filtering out `<script>` in lower case, we can try and get around the filter by using a different tag in the payload. We will use `<ScRipt>`.

XSS stored	Message: alert(\ this the medium\)
DVWA Security	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "testForm\ ")
PHP Info	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "test\ ")
About	

This also not working I thing php code vanished script tag. So now I can use another tag to see is it work or not. [``]

SQL Injection (Blind)	Message: This is a test comment.
Upload	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "this the medium\ ")
XSS reflected	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "this the medium\ ")
XSS stored	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "testForm\ ")
DVWA Security	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "test\ ")
PHP Info	Name: test2 Message: alert(\ "test\ ")
About	
Logout	Name: test4 Message:]

More info

This also not working as php code sanitize all the html tag by make them not working.

The second block of code, under **// Sanitize name input**, performs input sanitation on the **Name *** field. It contains the **str_replace()** function which replaces any occurrence of the **<script>** tag with a null value. This disables the script completely.

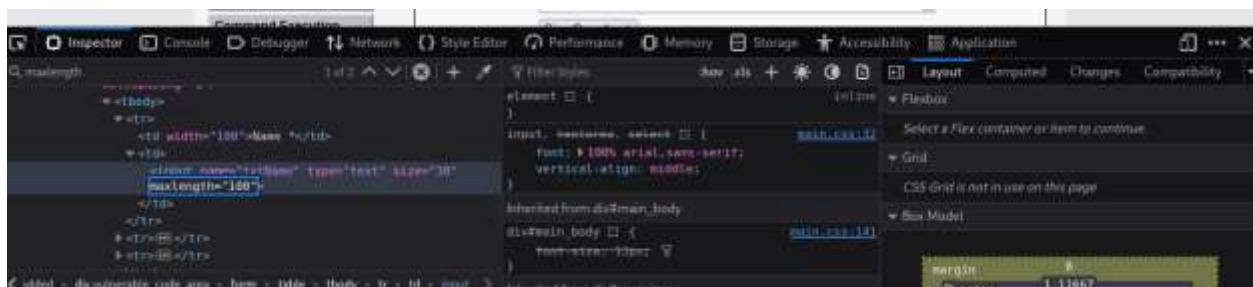
We can attempt to bypass the security on the **Name *** field by using some other payload that does not contain **<script>** tags.

Before entering any payload into the **Name *** field, the max character length restriction of 10 characters on the field must be increased. This is a client-side setting so it is easy to change with the following steps:

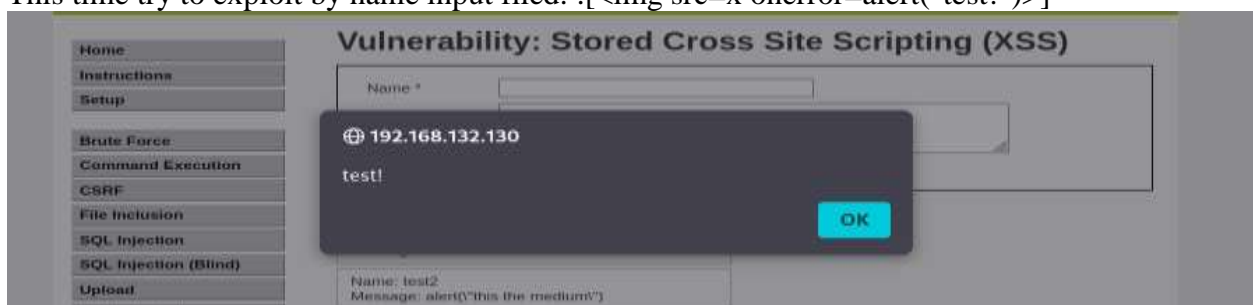
1. Right-click in the **Name *** field and select **Inspect**. This opens the Web Developer Tools window and displays the page source code.
2. Find and double-click **maxlength** in the page source and change it from **10** to **100**. The maxlength property is inside the **<input>** tag for the text field.
3. Press **Enter** on the keyboard to apply the changes.
4. Close the Web Developer's Tools Window.

With the **maxlength** restriction changed, the XSS payload can now be entered into the **Name *** field.

[Changing the **maxlength** parameter does not persist. If you refresh the page, for example, the setting needs to be changed again.]



This time try to exploit by name input filed: `.`



Because the XSS payload is stored in the guestbook, the alert popup box will appear each time the page is refreshed or each time other users visit the page.

The popup confirms successfully exploited Stored XSS vulnerability at the Medium level of security.

High security XSS Stored Attack

Submit security level medium to high :



The screenshot shows the DVWA Security page. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Home, Instructions, Setup, Brute Force, Command Execution, CSRF, File Inclusion, SQL Injection, SQL Injection (Blind), Upload, XSS reflected, and XSS stored. The main content area is titled 'DVWA Security' with a lock icon. Below this is the 'Script Security' section, which states 'Security Level is currently high.' and 'You can set the security level to low, medium or high.' It also mentions 'The security level changes the vulnerability level of DVWA.' There is a dropdown menu set to 'high' and a 'Submit' button. Below this is the 'PHPIDS' section, which states 'PHPIDS v0.6 (PHP-Intrusion Detection System) is a security layer for PHP based web applications.' and 'You can enable PHPIDS across this site for the duration of your session.' It also shows 'PHPIDS is currently disabled.' with a link to 'enable PHPIDS'.

Its same as previous two level. Take look how the page work and the inject malicious code for check the vulnerability.

Code: [`<script>alert("test5 !")</script>`] and [`<SCRIPT>alert("this is medium level test !")</script>`] this time not working its do what its mean to be:



The screenshot shows the DVWA XSS reflected page. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: File Inclusion, SQL Injection, SQL Injection (Blind), Upload, and XSS reflected. The main content area has two input fields. The first field is labeled 'Name: test' and 'Message: This is a test comment.' The second field is labeled 'Name: test5' and 'Message: <script>alert("test5")</script>'.

Lets take look its source code :

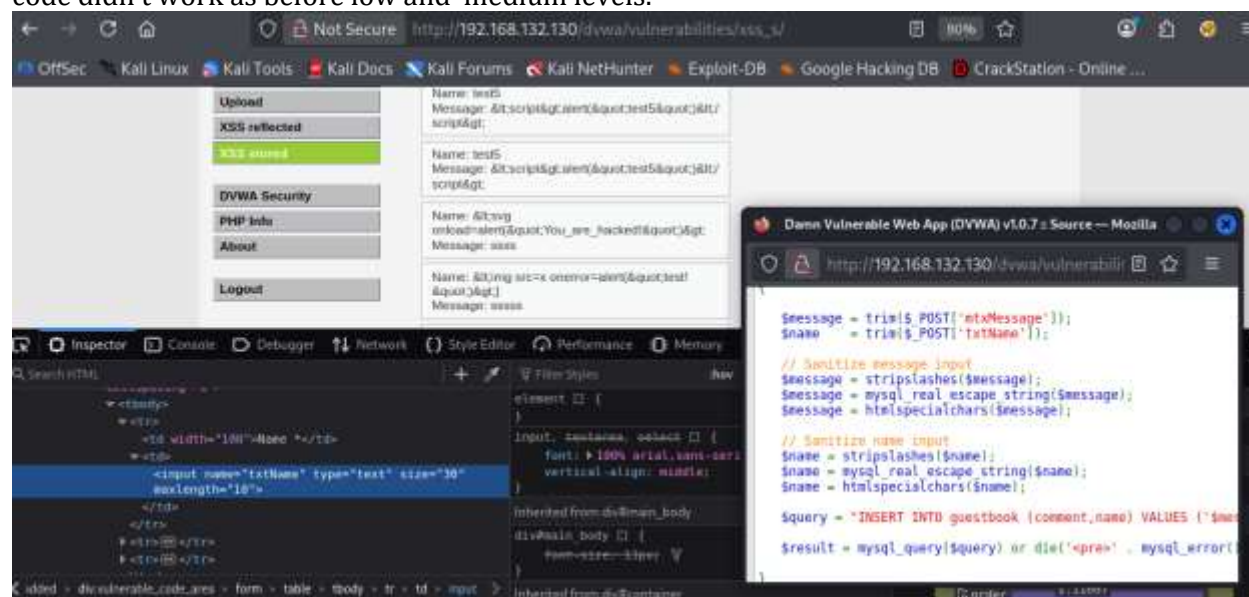
```
<?php
if(isset($_POST['btnSign']))
{
    $message = trim($_POST['mtxMessage']);
    $name = trim($_POST['txtName']);

    // Sanitize message input
    $message = stripslashes($message);
    $message = mysql_real_escape_string($message);
    $message = htmlspecialchars($message);

    // Sanitize name input
    $name = stripslashes($name);
    $name = mysql_real_escape_string($name);
    $name = htmlspecialchars($name);

    $query = "INSERT INTO guestbook (comment,name) VALUES ('$message','$name')";
    $result = mysql_query($query) or die('<pre>' . mysql_error() . '</pre>');
}
?>
```


Its validation code (!array_key_exists ("name", \$_GET) || \$_GET['name'] == NULL || \$_GET['name'] == "") and (echo 'Hello ' . htmlspecialchars(\$_GET['name'])); make all the input value as a string and make all the special character like alternate. so, those Not respond like tag anymore. so malicious code didn't work as before low and medium levels.

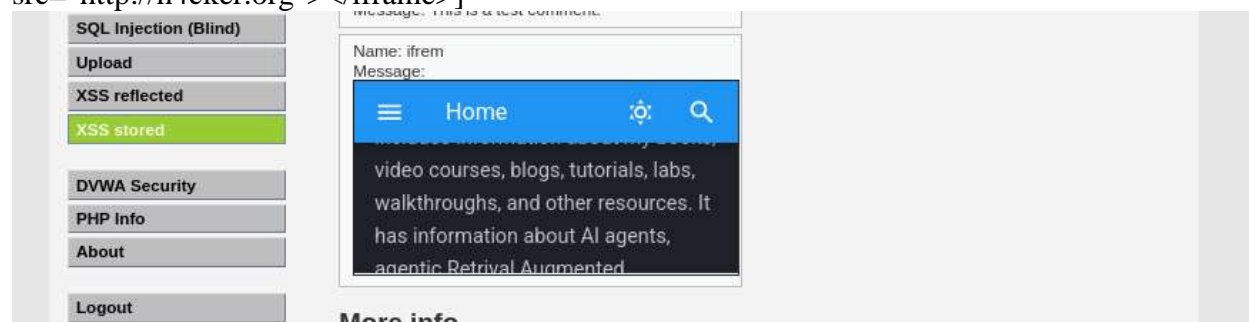


It seems that this high level page have no vulnerability of XSS Stored. So it's cannot be compromised by XSS Stored attack.

Stored iframe exploit

Lets test Stored iframe exploit in low security DVWA

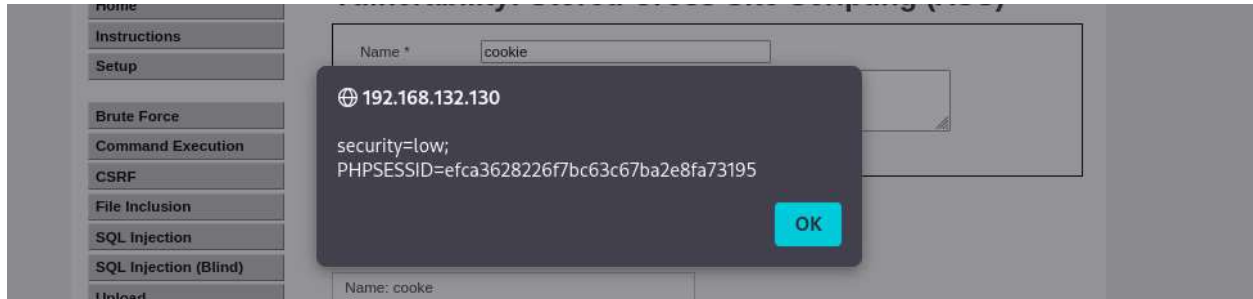
1st set security level low and select XSS Stored. Type the string **iframe** in the **Name*** field and type the following message in the **Message*** field. click Sign Guestbook :[<iframe src="http://h4cker.org"></iframe>]



This exploit because the threat actor could send the browser to a malicious website.

Stored cookie exploit

In XSS Stored in the name field use cookie and message field input load a payload :
[<script>alert(“document.cookie”)</script>] for get php session cookie. This is a cookie that PHP uses to keep track of running sessions.



So this is exploit by different kind of payload. Mean when a web application is found vulnerable to XSS at low, medium, or high levels during an ethical hacking test, it indicates the maturity of its security controls. A low-level XSS vulnerability shows that the application has little or no input validation or output encoding, making it highly insecure and easy to exploit. A medium-level vulnerability suggests that some security measures are in place, such as basic filtering or blacklisting, but these controls are weak and can be bypassed by attackers. A high-level XSS vulnerability means the application has stronger and more thoughtful security mechanisms, yet still fails to handle certain advanced or context-specific attack scenarios. Overall, the higher the level at which XSS is still possible, the more security awareness exists, but it also highlights gaps that must be addressed to achieve secure coding standards.

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