Web Application Security Assessment using Burp Suite

Introduction:

Burp Suite is a tool widely used in the cyber security field to identify and address security vulnerabilities in web applications. Developed by PortSwigger, Burp Suite provides a comprehensive platform providing a set of tools for identifying and addressing vulnerabilities, allowing professionals to proactively test and enhance the security posture of web applications. Some of these tools include a proxy, scanner, repeater and crawl to name a few. I will highlight theses tools and more in this project as well as others.

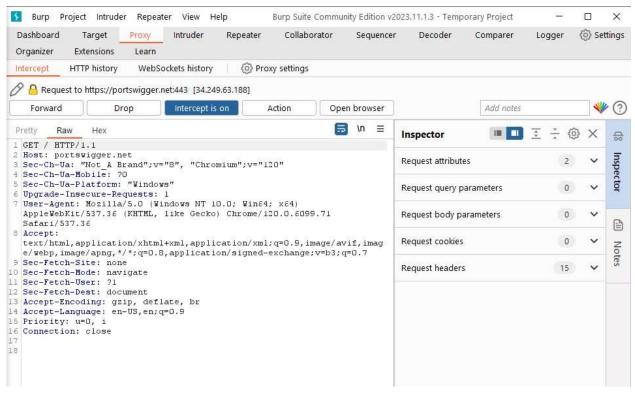
Methodology

In this project I will be running Burp Suite using Burp Suite Community and Professional for scanning. For the target website that I will be using will be https://portswigger.net, and ginandjuice.shop, which are vulnerable websites provided from Burp Suite. As listed in the introduction I will be using a list of tools for this project starting with the proxy, Burp Proxy acts as an link between the user's browser and the target web application. It allows users to intercept and modify HTTP(S) requests and responses. This feature is crucial for understanding how web applications work and identifying potential vulnerabilities. Doing activities like forwarding requests, viewing history, modifying request, and exploiting vulnerabilities. Following the Proxy is the Burp Repeater. The Repeater tool allows users to manually resend HTTP(S) requests to the server with modifications. It's useful for testing and exploiting vulnerabilities by manipulating parameters and observing the application's response. After using the Repeater I will run a vulnerability scan, you must be using Burp Suite Professional for this. If you need a license key portswigger gives a free trial where all you have to do is give you email address (note they do not accept Gmail accounts). The Scanner module automates the process of identifying security vulnerabilities in web applications. It uses a wide range of checks to find common issues such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), and more. Users can customize scan configurations to suit their testing needs. While running the scan the tool Crawl will be in action as well. Which is used for automated crawling of web applications, helping to discover and map the structure of the application. It can follow links and identify new URLs, providing a comprehensive view of the target. And lastly you will generate your report.

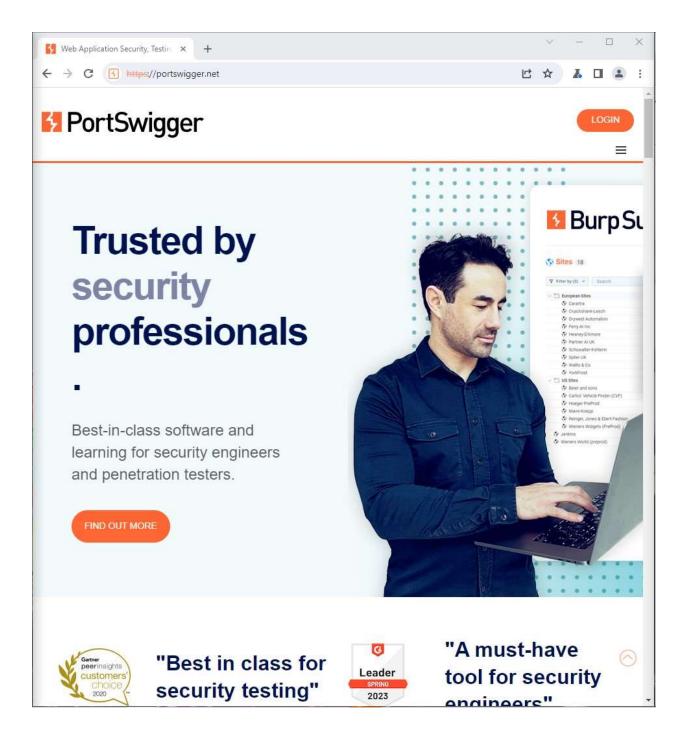
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Procedure

First thing I am going to intercept request with Burp Proxy. An interception in this sense is a HTTP(S) request and responses sent between Burp's browser and the target server. To get started download and install community or professional. In these first actions performed it doesn't matter which is chosen, it will only matter later when generating a scan. Once installed launch the Burp's browser to do this go to the Proxy tab and click the Intercept tab. There you will click the "Intercept is off" button which will turn the intercept on, then click "open browser". Now we will intercept a request. Via the Burp's browser attempt to visits "https://portswigger.net". Notice in Burp Suite you were able to intercept the HTTP request which was issued by the browser before it could reach the server, example shown here:

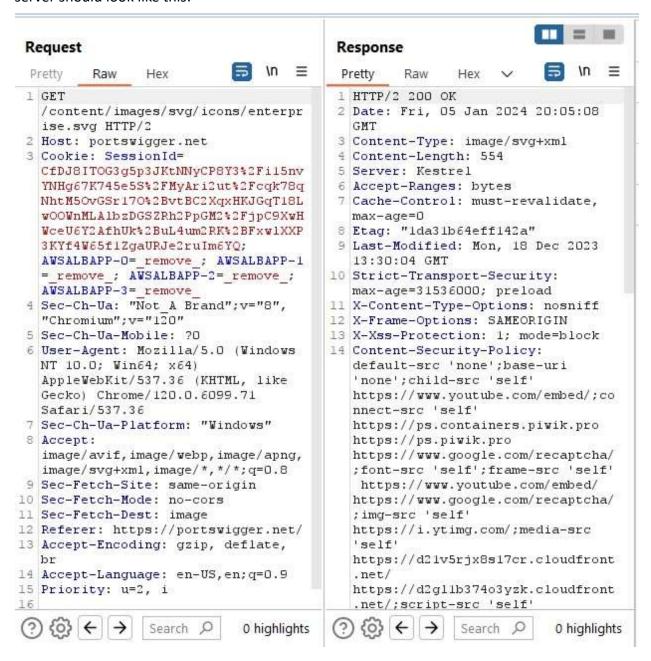


This can be modified before forwarding it to the target server if you would like but in this case we are going to forward the request. To do so click forward to send the intercepted request, the page should load in Burp's browser if not click the forward button again until Burp's browser is populated. Once that happens the burp browser should look like this:



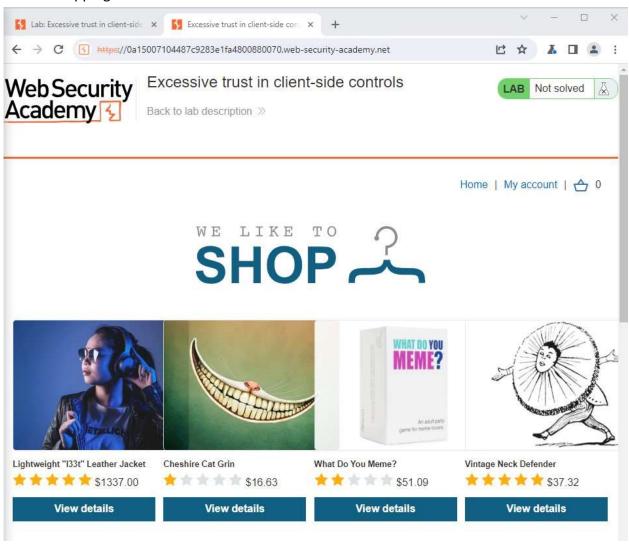
Now go back to the intercept tab and switch off interception. You don't want to keep interception on constantly because a large number of requests from a browser usually sends constantly while you navigate on a website and don't want to have intercepted all of them. Once intercept is off the burp browser should still be operating. Now view the HTTP history start by (in Burp Suite) go to the Proxy tab then go to the HTTP history tab. Here you can see all history that has passed through Burp (even while interception was switched off)(Appendix. A).

Click any entry in the history to view the raw HTTP request as well as the response from the server should look like this:

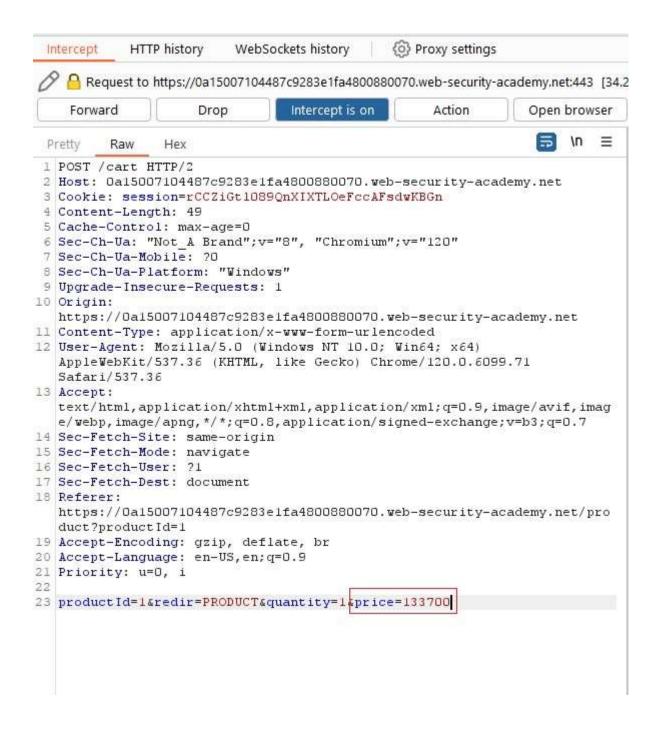


When cyber professionals do this they are looking to dig through website per usual and study the interactions between Burp's browser and the server afterward. Next I am going to modify an intercepted request in Burp Proxy, which enables you to manipulate request differently then the website excepted to see how it responds. To do this, access the vuln website in Burp's Browser, make sure intercept is off in proxy and click intercept, launch the burp's browser and use it to visit "https://portswigger.net/websecurity/logic-flaws/examples/lab-logic-flaws-excessive-trust-

<u>in-client-side-controls</u>". Once loaded click access the lab, then you will be sent to port swagger login page (create a account if necessary), sign in once that is done you will be sent to instance of fake shopping site like the one shown here:



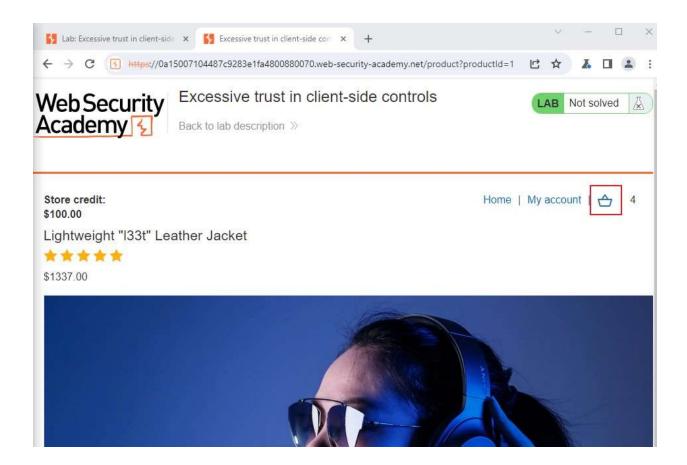
Now login to shopping account go to "my account" and use the credentials, username: wiener and password: peter then find something to buy. Notice there is currently have \$100 in store credit. Now click home to go back to the home page. Now click "view details" for the "lightweight "l33t" Leather Jacket". Now Study the add to cart function to do this, in Burp go to the Proxy tab followed by the Intercept tab and switch intercept to on. Now moving in the Burp's Browser add the jacket the cart. When this is done there should receive POST /cart request in Burp. Notice there is a parameter in the body called price, which is for the price of the item in cents shown here:



Now we to modify the request, change the value for the price parameter to 1 then click forward to send the request to the server (Appendix. B)

Then proceed the turn the intercept off again. Since we have a vulnerability it's time to exploit it.

In burps browser click the based icon to view cart.



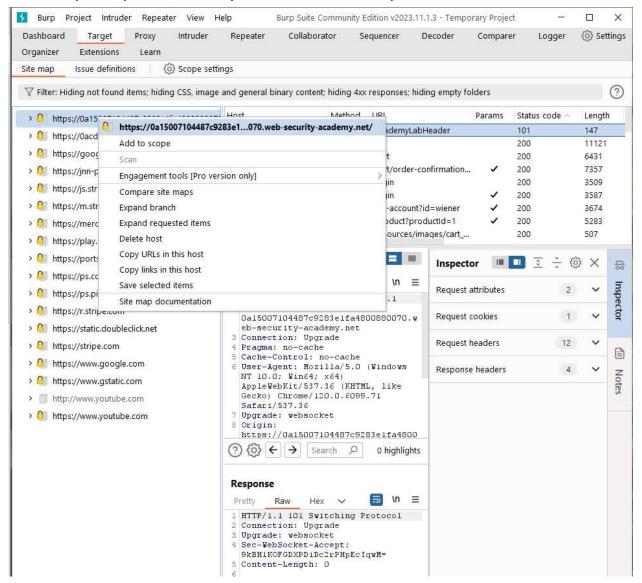
Notice the jacket was added for 1 cent.



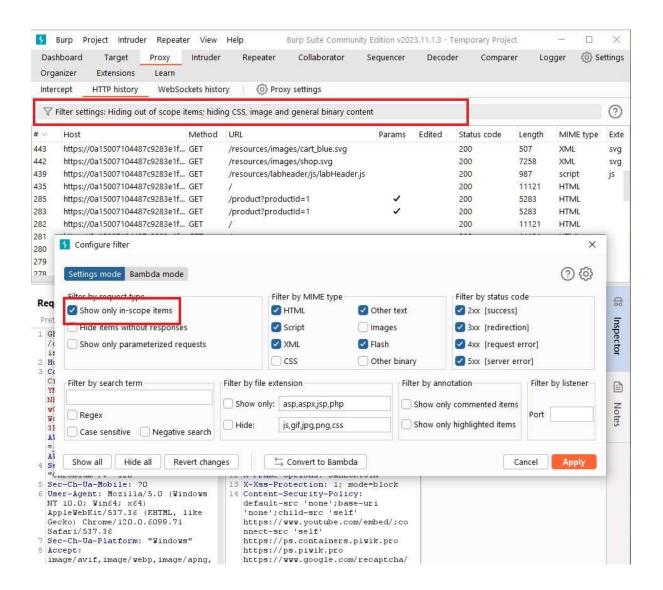
Moving forward it's time to set the target scope the objective of setting a target scope is to work in Burp Suite. The target scope tells Burp which URL and host wants to be tested, it enables us to filter out noise generated by the browser and other sites to focus on the traffic we want. To do this, launch burp's browser and use it to visit

"https://portswigger.net/web-security/information-disclosure/exploiting/lab-infoleak-inerror-messages", click access the lab and browse the target site, do some shopping and click on a couple of the product pages. Now to study the HTTP history in Burp go to the proxy tab then go to the HTTP history tab, to make it easier to read click the entry '#' to re-order the requests to go to descending order (see most recent at the top). Notice that the HTTP history shows details

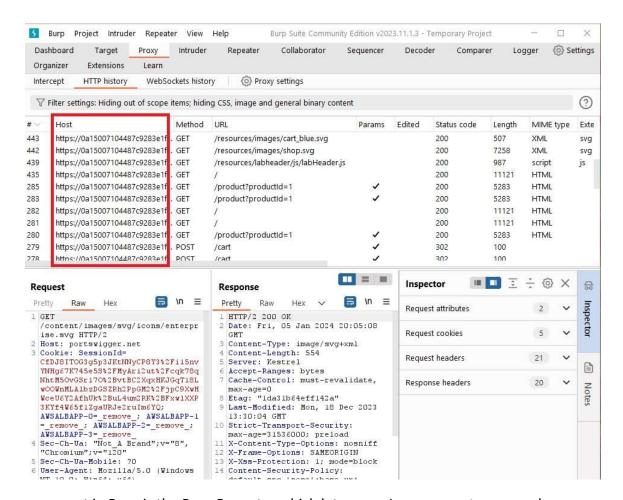
about each request made including requests to thirdparty websites that you're not interested in (Google Analytics / YouTube). Now to set the target scope, head to the target tab then to site map tab, where you can see on the left side you can find the panel to see the list of hosts that the browser has interacted with. To add scope right click the node for the target site and click add to scope and proceed to click yes to exclude out-of-scope traffic.



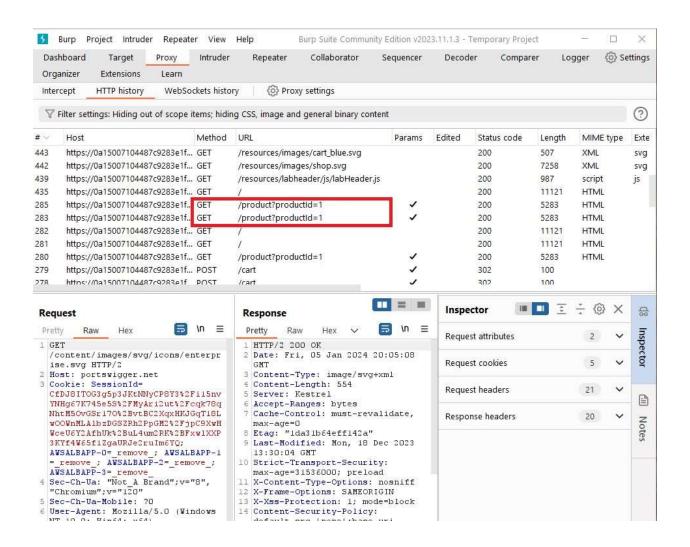
Now to filter HTTP history, this will cut time down drastically and makes it easier to evaluate the entries. Now head back to the proxy tab then to HTTP history. Click on the display filter above the HTTP history and select "Show only in-scope items"



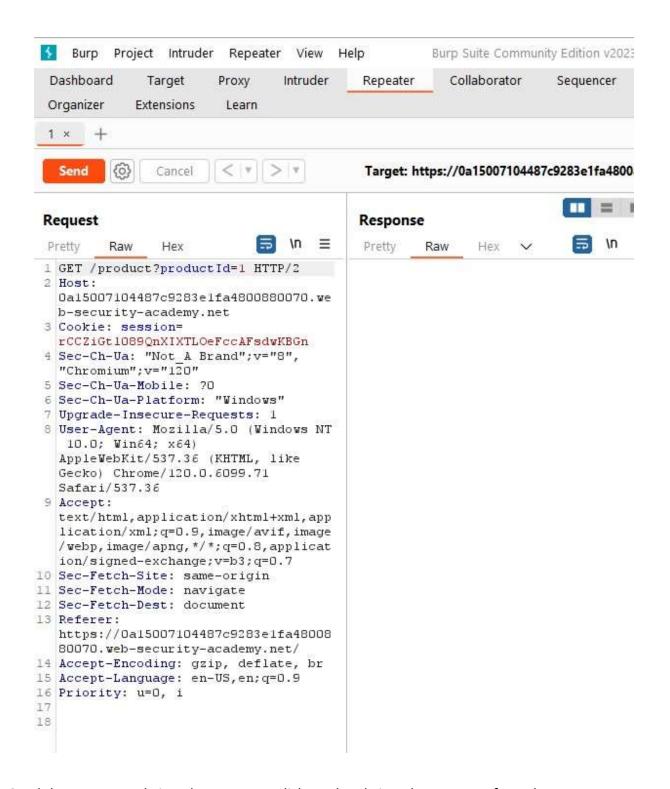
Notice that it now only shows entries from the website that were targeted, all other entries have been taken out of the result list. Doing this improves time and efficiency due to only showing the entries that you are interested in.



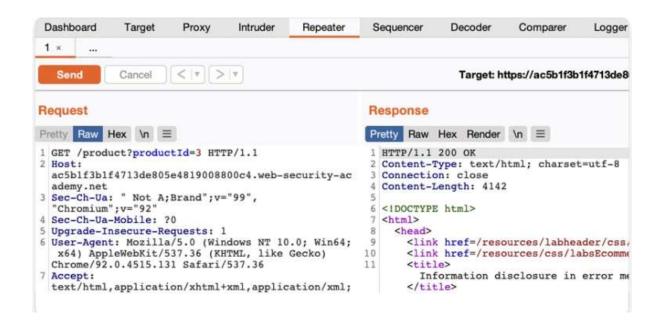
A key component in Burp is the Burp Repeater which lets you reissue requests over and over again, which will help evaluating results in which the target website's output is in response to different inputs without having to intercept the request each time which will make it easier to probe for vulnerabilities or confirm once's that were identified by Burp Scanner. To do this first, identify a request. Last tutorial, noticed each time accessing a product page there were GET /product request with a productID query parameter:



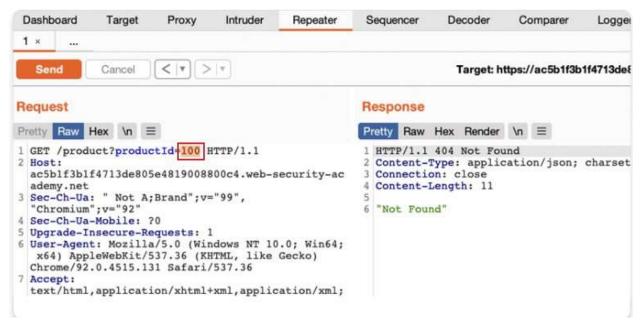
Send the request to Burp Repeater, right click on GET /product?productID=[...] request and select "Send to Repeater" (Appendix. C.). Head to the repeater tab, notice there's is a request entry.



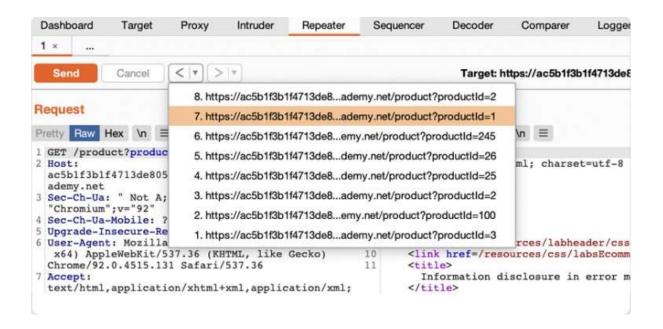
Send the request and view the response, click send and view the response from the server:



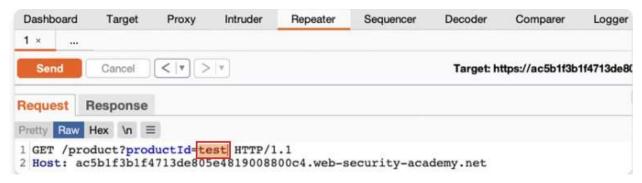
Now let's Test different input with Burp Repeater by resending the same request with different input, you will be able to identify and confirm different input-based vulnerabilities. Let's resend the request with different input, change the number in the productID parameter and resend the request:



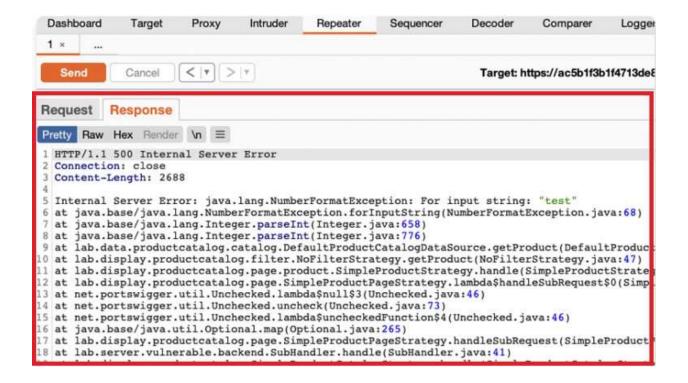
View the request history, use the arrows to move to previous request sent along with matching responses. The drop down menu next to each arrows also let you move to a specific request via history:



Notice in the responses, you can request different product pages by entering their ID, but you'll receive a Not Found response if the server cannot find that item with the ID number given. Let's try sending unexpected input. Notice how productID expects an int, try adding a string to what happens:



Notice an exception is caused, which an error response is issued:

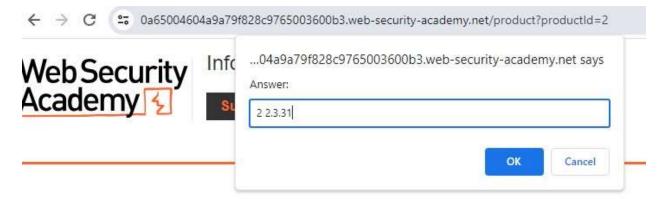


The exception also shows website is using Apache Struts framework (shows its version):

```
37 at java.base/java.util.concurrent.ThreadPoolExecutor$Worker.run(ThreadPoolExecutor.java:628)
38 at java.base/java.lang.Thread.run(Thread.java:835)

Apache Struts 2 2.3.31
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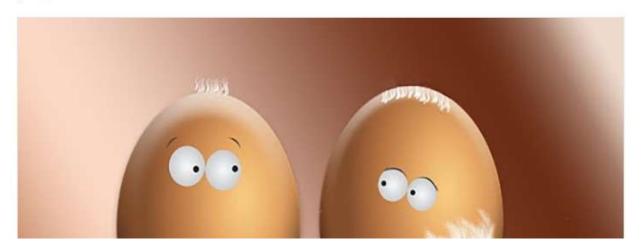
This info can be exploited by attackers with the version number the attack can look up exploits to run against the website to gain information. Let's head back to the Burp's browser and click on the Submit solution button and enter the Apache Struts version number found in the response:



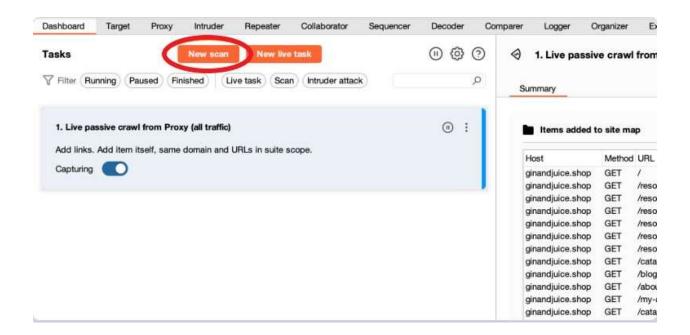
Eggtastic, Fun, Food Eggcessories



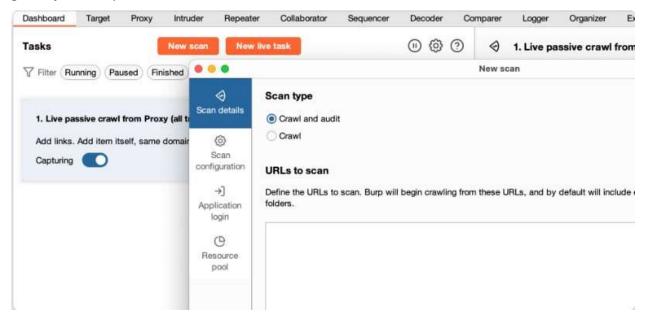
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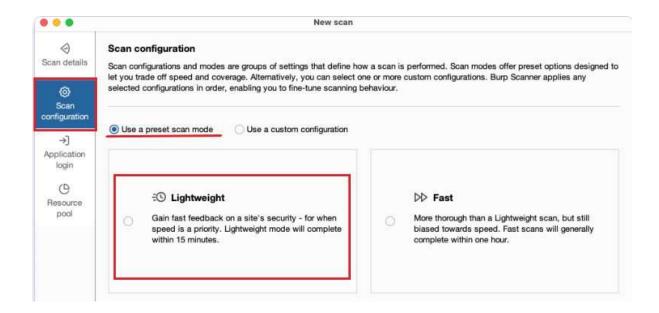
Now we are going to do vulnerbility scanning, you must be running Burp Suite Pro to do this. Start by opening the scan launcher, go to the dashboard tab then to new scan:



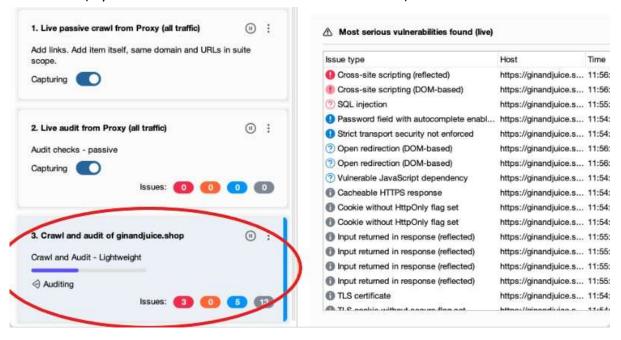
This is followed by the scan launch dialog box opening, this is where the configurations are made for the scans, enter the URL of the target site. In the "URLs to scan" paste in the url ginandjuice.shop



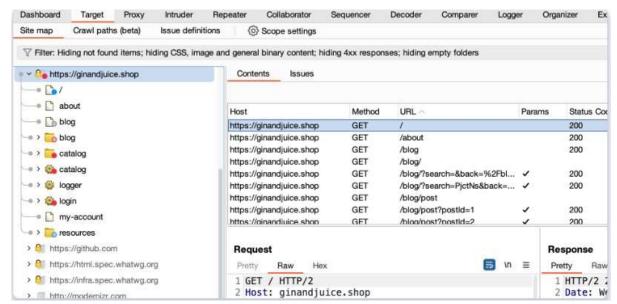
To configure the scan, click Scan Configuration, this is where you can specify what actions you want the Burp Scanner. Make sure that "Use a preset scan mode is selected and click "lightweight", this scan is for getting a high-level overview of a target as quickly as possible (max time is 15 min):



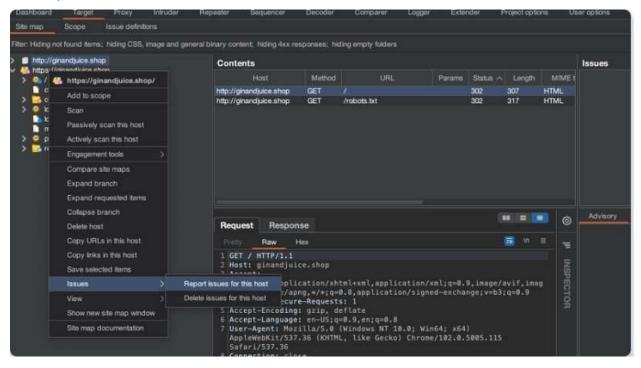
Now launch the scan, click ok, scans will start. The task you added will be added to the Dashboard (if you want to see more info can click on the task):



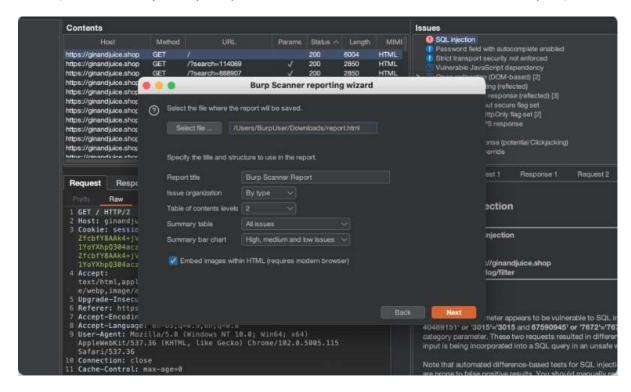
While the scans are running the crawl is in action. To see this go to the target then the site map tab. Expand the node for "ginandjuice.shop" there you can see all the contents the crawl has discovered to this point:



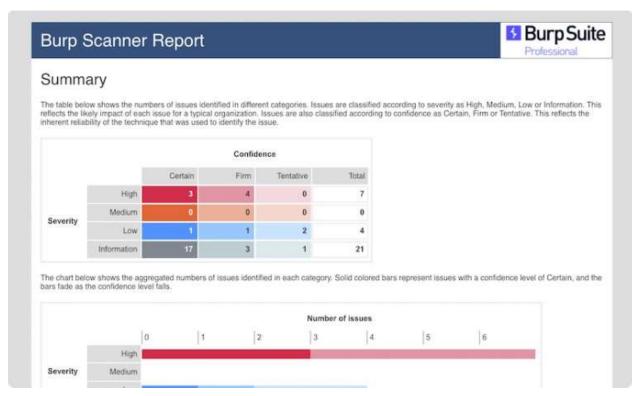
Moving to the identified issues, you can monitor status of scans (Issues → select scan from Tasks), once crawl is finished the scanner will start to audit for vulnerabilities. If you select an issue, you can see an "Advisory" tab, which contains key information about the issue type, including a detailed description and some remediation advice. Next to this are several tabs that provide evidence that Burp Scanner found for this issue. This is typically a request and response but will differ depending on the issue type. Now to generate a report. Select relevant issue, go to "target" then on "site map" right-click on the entry for "https://ginandjuice.shop", click issues then report issues for this host:



To configure the report options, once it is selected a "Burp Scanner reporting wizard" pops up, click next (defaults until you're prompted to enter a filename and location for the report):



Choose where you want to save the file and then click save and then next. Then view and share report, an example is shown here:



Mitigations

1. SQL Injection:

- Use parameterized gueries or prepared statements to ensure input validation.
- Employ stored procedures to limit direct SQL code execution.
- Regularly update and patch database management systems.

2. Cross-Site Scripting (XSS):

- Validate and sanitize user inputs, escaping special characters.
- Implement Content Security Policy (CSP) headers to restrict script sources.
- Encode output data before rendering it in the browser.

3. Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF):

- Use anti-CSRF tokens to validate the origin of requests.
- Ensure that sensitive actions (e.g., changing passwords) require additional authentication.
- Implement SameSite cookie attributes to control cookie behavior.

4. Security Misconfigurations:

- Regularly audit and review server configurations.
- Disable unnecessary services and features.
- Follow the principle of least privilege for user permissions.

5. Session Management Issues:

- Use secure, random session identifiers.
- Implement session timeout mechanisms.
- Regularly rotate session tokens and credentials.

6. Sensitive Data Exposure:

- Encrypt sensitive data, both in transit (using HTTPS) and at rest.
- Avoid storing sensitive information unless absolutely necessary.
- Use strong, industry-standard encryption algorithms.

7. Insecure Direct Object References (IDOR):

- Implement proper access controls and authorization mechanisms.
- Use indirect references, such as tokens or unique identifiers, instead of relying on sequential or easily guessable values.
- Regularly audit and review access controls.

8. Unvalidated Redirects and Forwards:

- Avoid using user input to construct URLs for redirects.
- Implement a whitelist of allowed redirect destinations.
- Provide users with a confirmation step before performing redirects.

9. File Upload Vulnerabilities:

- Implement proper file type verification and validation.
- Store uploaded files in a secure location with restricted access.
- Regularly scan uploaded files for malicious content.

10. Security Headers:

- Implement security headers, such as Content Security Policy (CSP), StrictTransport-Security (HSTS), and X-Content-Type-Options.
- Regularly review and update security header configurations.

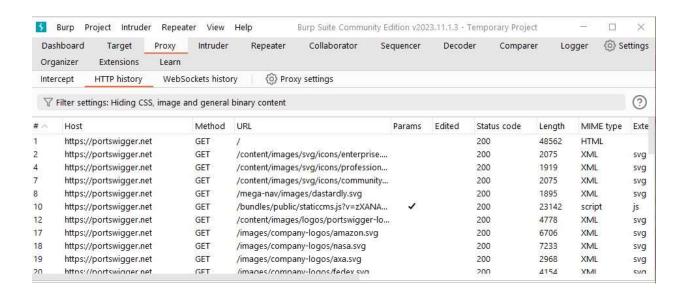
It's important to note that the remediation process may vary based on the specific technologies and frameworks used in the web application. Additionally, organizations should follow best practices, stay informed about security updates, and conduct regular security assessments to maintain a robust defense against evolving threats.

Conclusion

In this project, multiple findings and vulnerabilities we prevalent post test using Burp Suite. Attacks like Cross-Site Scripting, Sensitive Data Exposure, and Unvalidated Redirects and Forwards were all shown here. An attacker could use vulnerabilities found in this lab and exploit them for personal gain which could ultimately degrade the posture of a website and protection of assets for a company. Using the interceptor I was able to gain request sent, then I was able to modify the request to change information on that website, then I was able to use repeater to change the productID type which then gave me an error and I was able to exploit the website. And finally I was able to run a scan on another website using Burp Suite Pro, where I was able to find issues and remediation to them and generate a report on that scan.

Appendix

Α.



В.



C.

