# **Penetration Testing**

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# Penetration Testing 1 - SQL Injection

#### 1. Attack Vector

SQL Injection (To get all note information from an endpoint that is supposed to return one note when calling GET request.)

#### 2. Result

To implement SQL injection, my goal is to get all of the notes instead of certain note using the endpoint named "/notes/{ld}".

To attack the web application using sqlmap in kali linux operating system, I used the phrase "1' or '1' = '1" as the note id in the url endpoint instead of the correct note id.

Then I started up sqlmap and use the url <a href="http://localhost:8080/notes/1">http://localhost:8080/notes/1</a> or 1' = 1 to send a GET request as an attack.

**Without WAF**, the sql injection attack succeeded and the tables in the database were exposed.

Figure: SQL injection done by sqlmap succeeded

With WAF added to our EC2 instances, the request with invalid content in the url will be blocked, as shown in figure below.

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Figure: SQL injection done by sqlmap has been blocked

## 3. Why did I choose this specific attack vector

First of all, SQL injection in the top 1 attack as defined in OWASP, it is used to attack data-driven applications, in which diabolical SQL statements are inserted into an entry field for execution (e.g. to dump the database contents to the attacker). SQL injection must exploit a security vulnerability in an application's software, for example, when user input is either incorrectly filtered for string literal escape characters embedded in SQL statements or user input is not strongly typed and unexpectedly executed. SQL injection is mostly known as an attack vector for websites but can be used to attack any type of SQL database.

Also, SQL injection attacks allow attackers to spoof identity, tamper with existing data, cause repudiation issues such as voiding transactions or changing balances, allow the complete disclosure of all data on the system, destroy the data or make it otherwise unavailable, and become administrators of the database server

Most importantly, in our project, we used MyBatis to read and write the database. When using the phrase "1' or '1' = '1" injected into the sql, the where condition "where noteld='\${noteld}'"will be replaced by "where noteld=1' or '1' = '1" which will always be true, so that all of the note will be returned. Our web application is likely to be attacked by this kind of SQL

injection since we use '\${noteld}' to get the noteld and spliced it in the where condition.

Penetration Testing 2 - Cross Site Scripting Attack

## 1. Attack Vector

Cross Site Scripting Attack (XSS)

## 2. Result

When uploading a html file as attachment:

**Without WAF**, the POST request will be sent without any error, which means the cross site scripting attack succeeded.

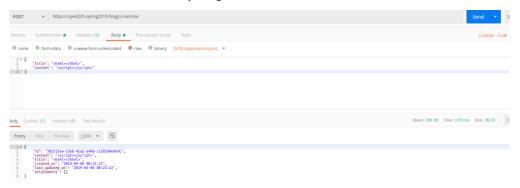


Figure: body content contains html tags (attack succeeded)

**With WAF added to our EC2 instances**, the POST request will be blocked, and it returned 403 forbidden as response, as shown in figure below.

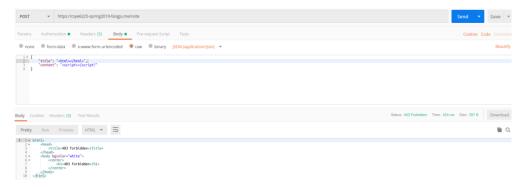


Figure: body content contains html tags (blocked by waf)

## 3. Why did I choose this specific attack vector

Cross Site Scripting Attack is the top 3 as defined in OWASP. Cross-site scripting (XSS) is a type of computer security vulnerability typically found in web applications. XSS enables attackers to inject client-side scripts into web pages viewed by other users. A cross-site scripting vulnerability may be used by attackers to bypass access controls such as the same-origin policy. Cross-site scripting carried out on websites accounted for roughly 84% of all security vulnerabilities documented by Symantec as of 2007. In 2017, XSS is still considered a major threat vector. XSS effects vary in range from petty nuisance to significant security risk, depending on the sensitivity of the data handled by the vulnerable site and the nature of any security mitigation implemented by the site's owner.

In our project, the wafrXSSRule rule stipulates that user cannot upload html file to the web application in case that XSS attack will inject some invalid scripts to the app and get data that needs certain authorization to access.

# **Penetration Testing 3 - Abnormal requests**

#### 1. Attack Vector

Abnormal requests with size restrictions

### 2. Result

When uploading an HTML file within the body:

**Without WAF**, the POST request will be sent without any error, which means the abnormal requests with size restrictions attack succeeded.



Figure: upload html file (succeeded when without waf)

**With WAF added to our EC2 instances**, the POST request will be blocked since the waf rule restricted the size of the body, header and URI in HTTP requests. And it returned 403 forbidden as response.

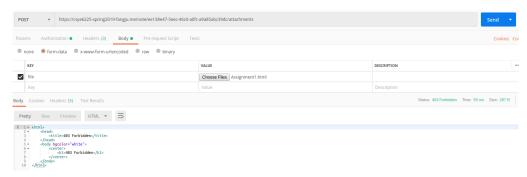


Figure: upload html file (blocked by waf)

## 3. Why did I choose this specific attack vector

No size limitation to the HTTP request elements will lead the web application to great risk of slow HTTP attack.

Slow HTTP attack is a variant of ddos attack. Generally speaking, it sends a normal http request to the server, except that the content of the request header or the request body is extremely long, and the sending speed is extremely slow, so that the time occupied by each connection becomes extremely long, and the attacker will continuously making http requests to the server in a short period of time will quickly exhaust the server's resources, causing the server to refuse service. Slow HTTP attack is very likely to be executed since the resource required for this type of attack is quite simple.

Since we don't have any restrictions to the HTTP request in the web application code, our app is likely to be attacked by Slow HTTP attack.