

# **Applied Cyber Security Industry Led-Course**

**Instructor: XYZ** 

Lab Instructor: Moeez Javed

Lab: Burp Suite

#### **Availability:**

Monday to Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM (at CUST)

After 5 PM: Please drop a message instead of calling.

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# What is Burp Suite?

Burp Suite is a comprehensive tool used in web application security testing that allows users to identify and exploit vulnerabilities. Put simply, it's a tool that helps people find weaknesses in websites.

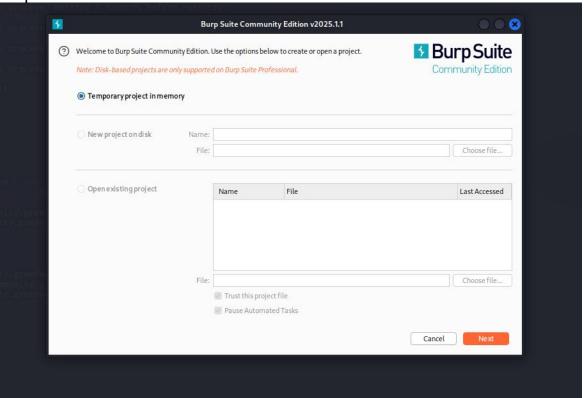
Burp Suite has many functions: web scraping, penetration testing, and vulnerability scanning. But at its core, Burp Suite acts as a web proxy that sits between the user's browser and the web application. It will intercept the user's HTTP requests, giving you the ability to modify specific parts of a request.

1. This guide is my attempt to provide a high level overview that will help you learn Burp Suite the way I wish someone had taught me.

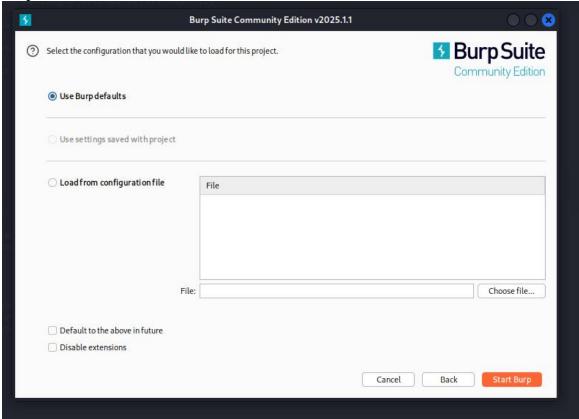
Step1: burpsuite



Step2:

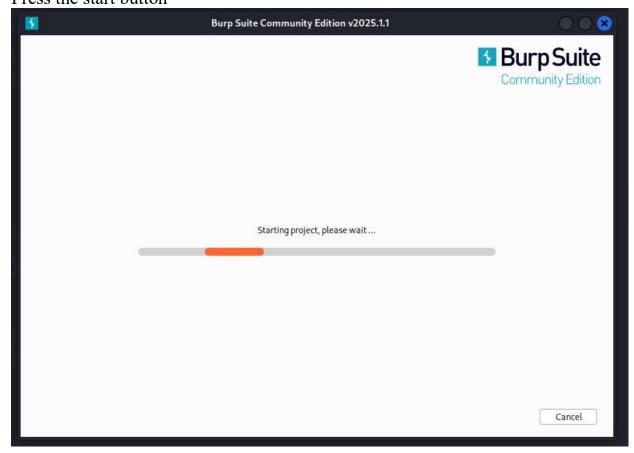


# Step3:

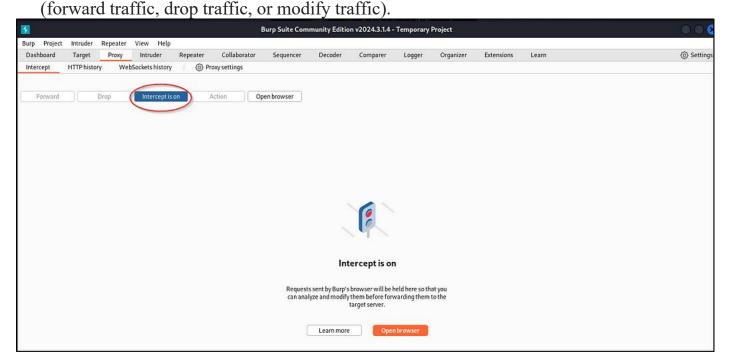


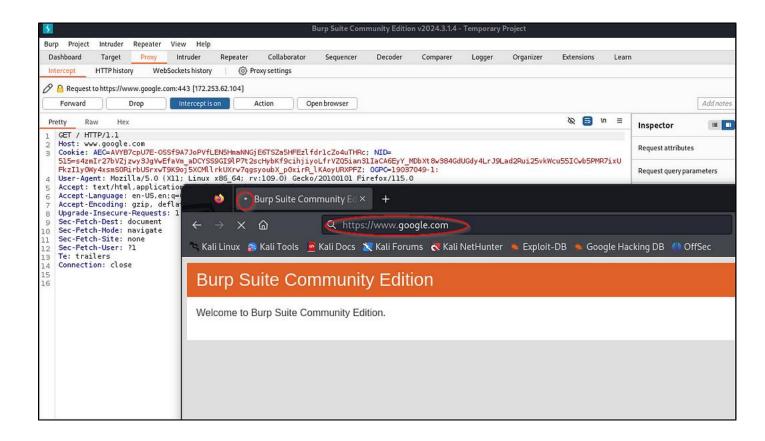
# Step4:

Press the start button

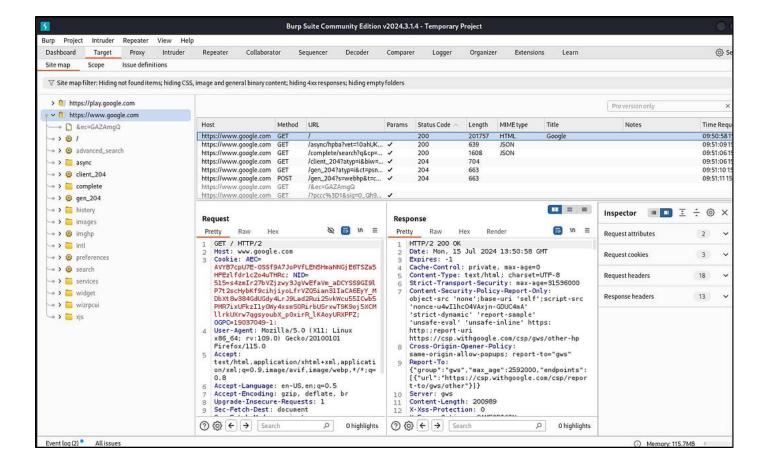


Once you hit OK, the certificate should be installed. To check, go to a website like Google and, in Burp Suite within the proxy tab, turn Intercept on. Refresh the webpage of your choice, and it should hang. You should see the webpage spinning and waiting. It's waiting because we're pushing all this traffic through the Burp Suite proxy. It's all in Burp Suite, intercepted. We now have the ability to manipulate it





Let's take a look at what's happening when we navigate to a website.

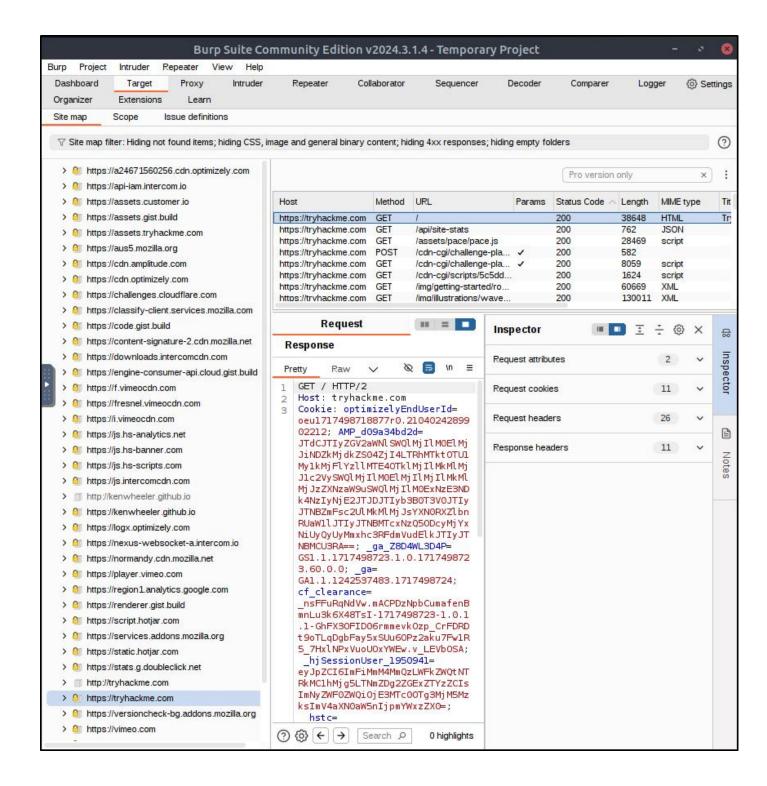


Every page that we visit while the Burp proxy is running will be displayed in the Site map. Burp begins site mapping or crawling the website. In the "Target" tab, you'll see a tree structure on the left that represents the site's various resources. Some text will appear in dark black, indicating links that have been accessed, while other text will be greyed out, signifying links identified by Burp Suite that haven't yet been visited. This process of site mapping helps you visualize the structure and discover hidden resources.

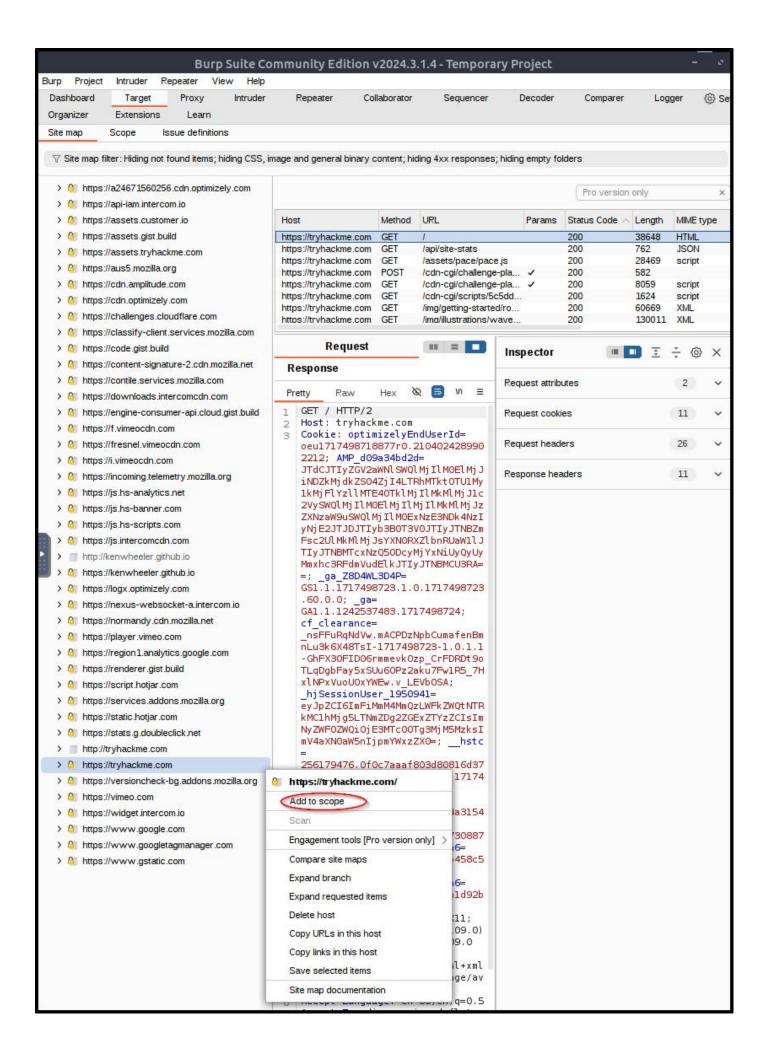
# **Setting the Scope**

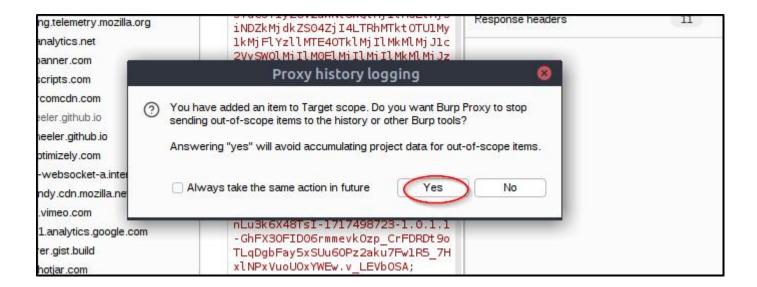
As you can imagine, capturing and logging all the traffic can quickly become overwhelming, especially when you are trying to stay in scope for one specific target. Luckily, we can set the scope for the project, telling Burp to only log the traffic you are interested in.

Just take a look at all the sites and resources that come up when simply visiting *tryhackme.com*.

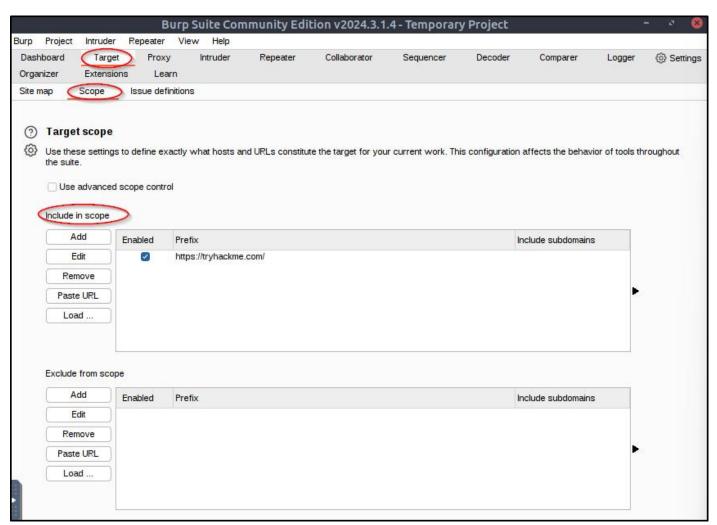


We can clean this up by right clicking on the tryhackme request and selecting *Add to scope*.



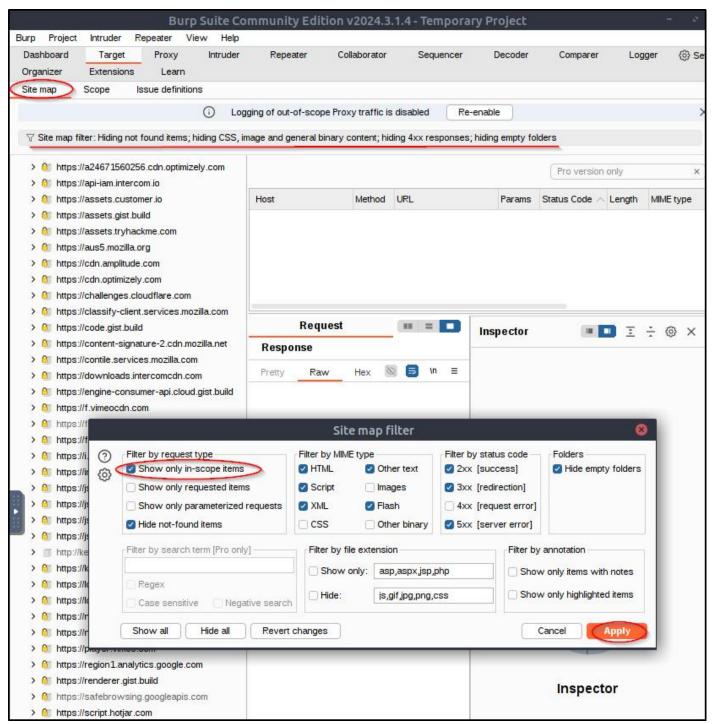


You can also edit your scope in the Target Scope tab.



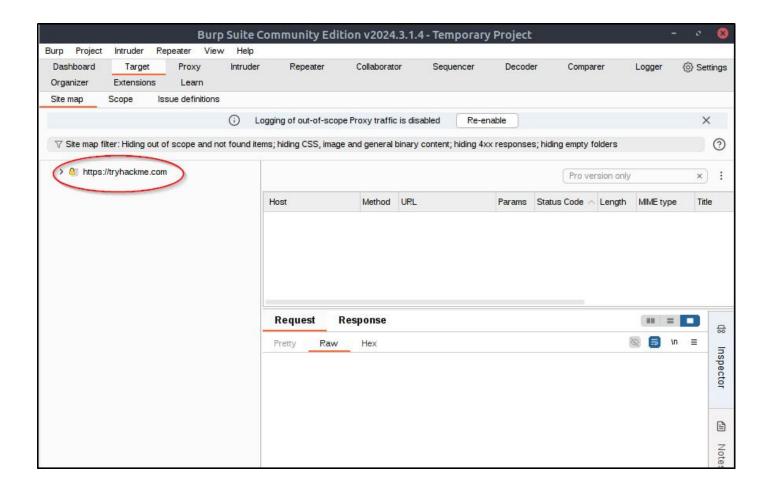
Target > Scope > Include in scope

Next, return to the Site map tab, click on the Site map filter towards the top, and we want to tell Burp to show only in-scope items.

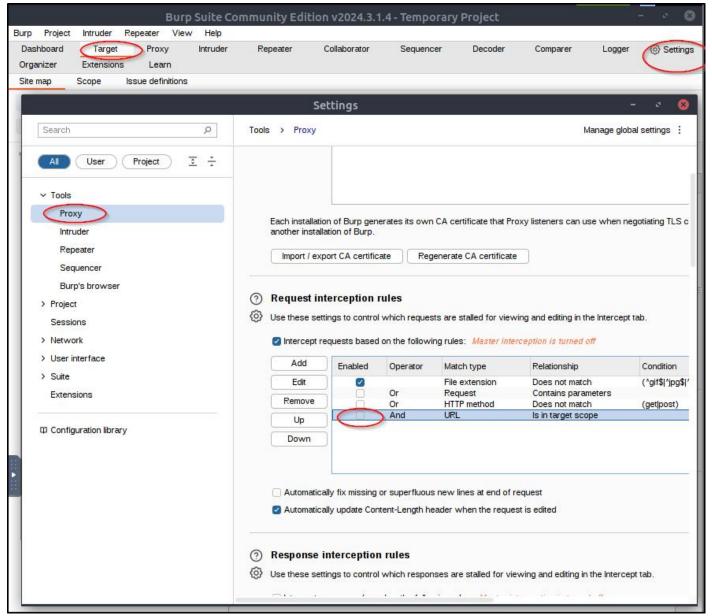


Target > Site map > Site map filter > Show only in-scope items > Apply

Now we have cleaned it up, and the tree structure shows only our target scope: https://tryhackme.com



Even though we are only focusing on the target scope, the proxy is still intercepting everything. We can disable this by going to the proxy settings tab and selecting *And URL Is in target scope*.



Settings > Proxy > Request interception rules

When this option is enabled, the proxy will ignore any traffic that is not in scope.

# **Burp Suite Proxy: Endpoint Validation**

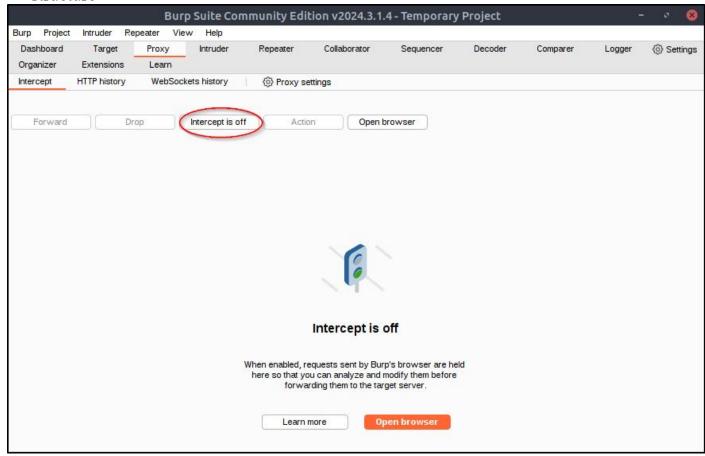
Now that you understand how Burp Suite captures and logs traffic, let's explore how to intercept a web request and modify its contents before sending it to the web application.

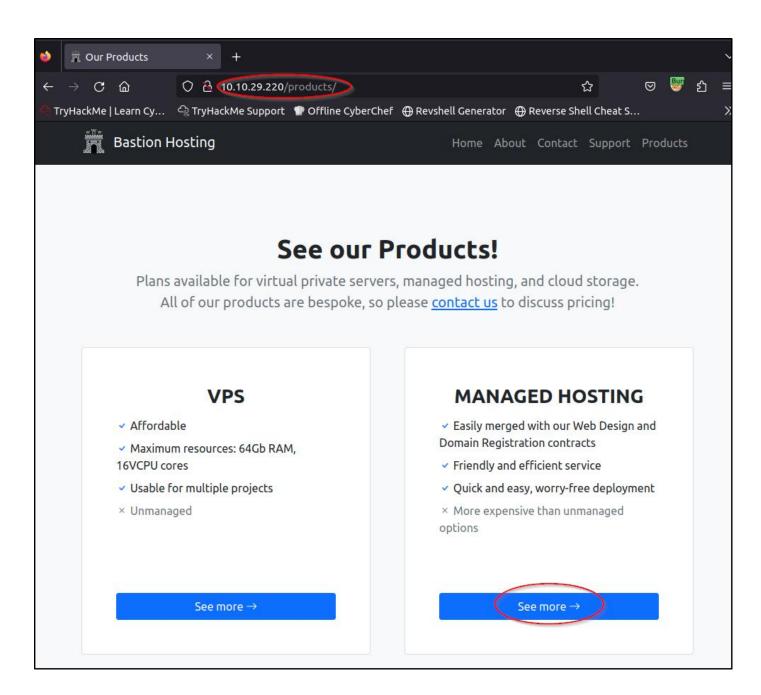
This exercise demonstrates how to test a web application's endpoint validation. Proper input validation is crucial for security, and endpoints that accept numeric values should ensure that the input is indeed a positive integer within an acceptable range to prevent potential vulnerabilities.

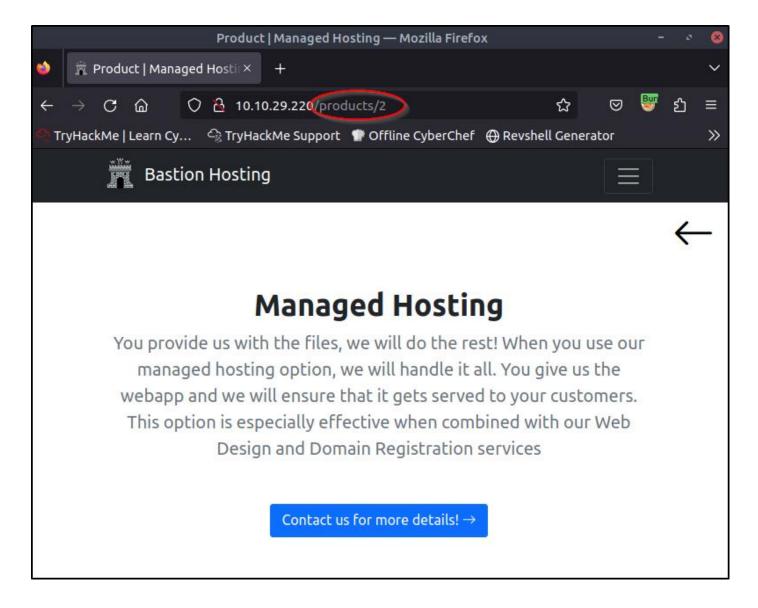
This example involves altering the HTTP Request data to see how the application responds. Obviously, I cannot demonstrate a test on a real system, so I am utilizing a target web application from tryhackme.com.

# **STEP 1: Initial Setup**

- Disable Burp Intercept and navigate to the target at http://10.10.29.220/products.
- Click on "See More" links to view different products and observe the URL pattern (e.g., /products/3). The purpose is to identify and understand the web application structure

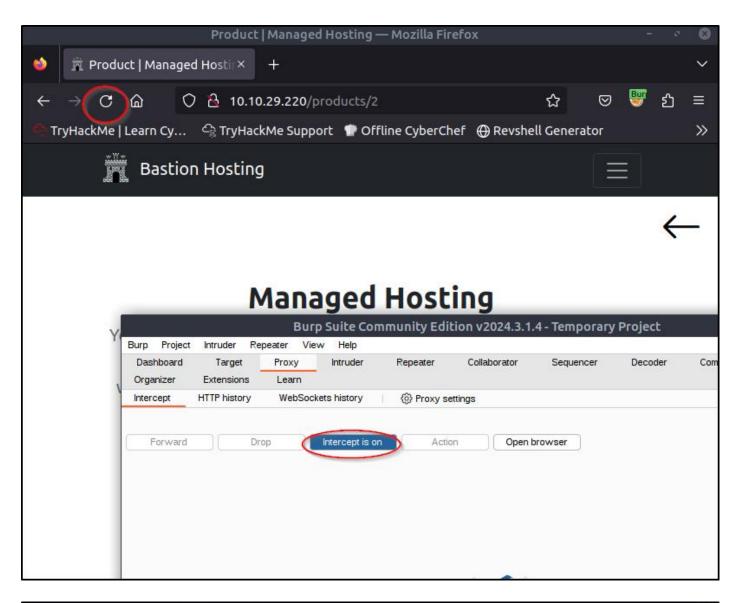


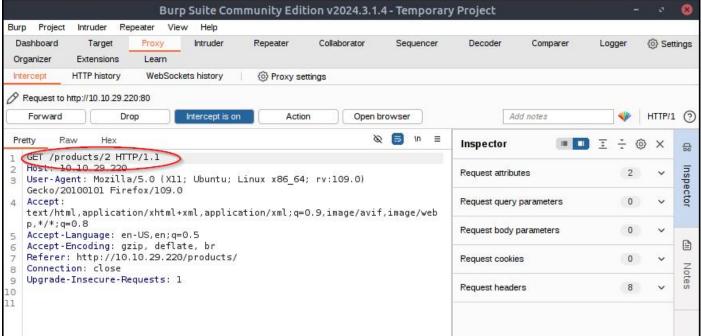




# **STEP 2: Capture a Request**

• Enable Burp Intercept again and refresh the product page in order to capture the request in the Proxy tab.





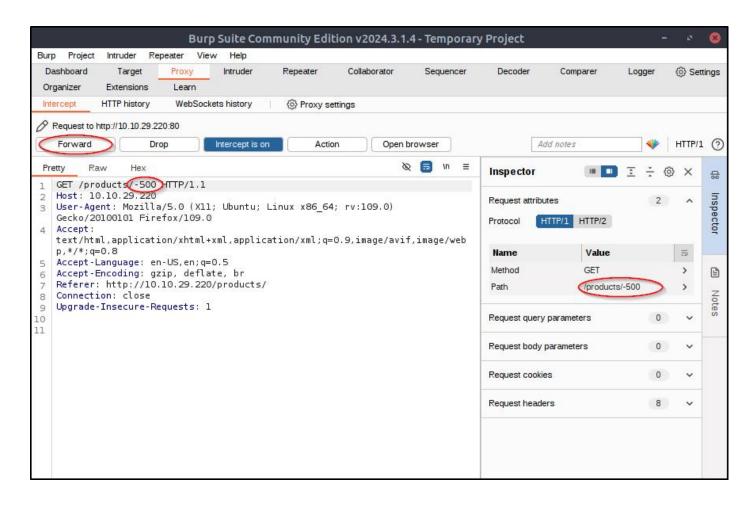
**STEP 3: Modify the Request** 

- Our goal is to test whether or not the application is properly validating inputs, thereby protecting against potential vulnerabilities.
- We can test for proper input validation by seeing how it responds to an unexpected condition. The product number in the target URL must be a positive integer within a certain range (e.g., /products/1 to /products/99).
- What happens if we change the path to a negative number? How will the application respond? Proper error handling means that the endpoint should return a status code: 400 BAD REQUEST. A status code: 500 Internal Server Error typically means that an unhandled exception or error occurred on the server. This could be due to the application trying to process the negative value in a way that it wasn't designed to handle, leading to a crash or unexpected behavior.

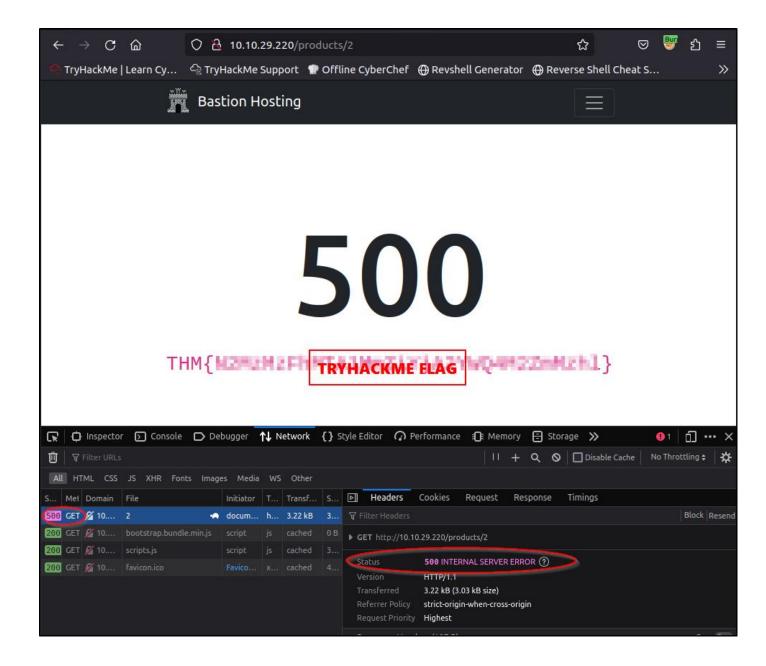
• The server should not return 500 Internal Server Error for invalid inputs. This indicates a problem with the server-side validation logic.



• Before this request reaches the web application, modify the value of the GET path to -500. Once the path is altered, Forward the modified request to the web server. This can be done in the actual request on the left, or through the Inspector tab on the right.



**STEP 4: Analyze the Response** 

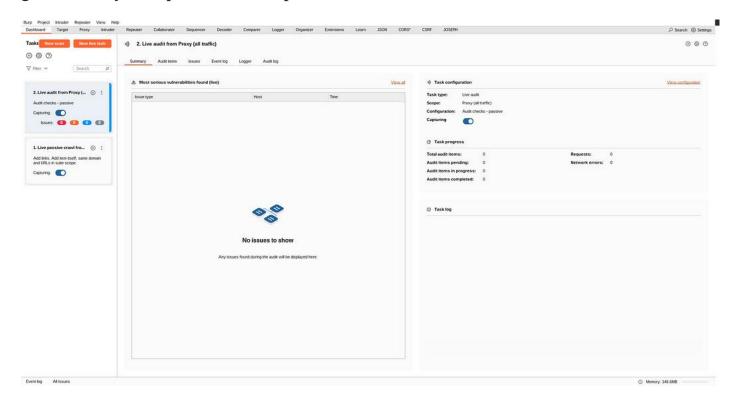


The presence of a 500 Internal Server Error when providing invalid input can be a sign of a potential vulnerability. It may indicate that the application does not have adequate error handling and input validation, which could be exploited by an attacker to cause denial of service, information disclosure, or other unintended behavior.

Using Burp Proxy is an efficient method to quickly test input validation. However, testing various input variations (e.g., a positive number out of range or a character value) would require multiple requests and interceptions. Fortunately, Burp Repeater simplifies this process.

We have covered how to set up and configure Burp Suite with FoxyProxy, observed how traffic is logged and mapped, and learned how to intercept, modify, and forward requests in real time. For those engaged in penetration testing or bug bounty hunting, much of your time

will be spent using Burp Repeater and Burp Intruder. Hopefully, you learned a lot from this guide. In **Key Components of Burp Suite:** 



- **Proxy Server:** Allows interception of traffic between your browser and the target application for detailed inspection and modification.
- **Scanner:** Automated vulnerability scanner for detecting security weaknesses within web applications.
- **Intruder:** A powerful tool for carrying out attacks against web apps, such as brute forcing, custom query attacks, and more.
- **Repeater:** Facilitates the manual modification and resending of individual HTTP requests.
- **Sequencer:** Analyzes the quality of randomness in an application's session tokens.
- **Decoder:** A tool for decoding and encoding data into various formats.

**Focus on Automatic Vulnerability Scanner:** The automatic vulnerability scanner is a highlight of Burp Suite, designed to efficiently scan web applications for vulnerabilities. It performs both passive and active scans to provide a thorough examination of possible security issues.

#### **Features of the Automatic Scanner:**

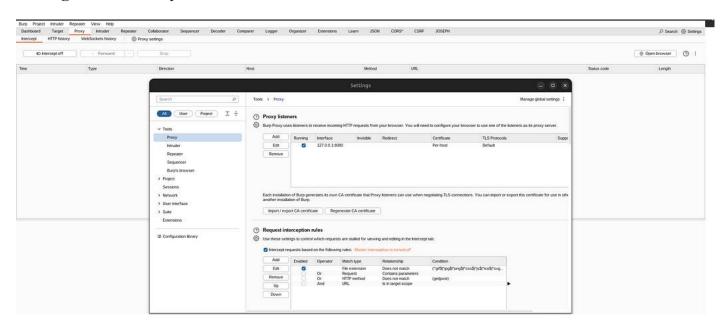
- **Comprehensive Scanning:** Combines both passive analysis as traffic passes through the proxy and active probing of known security vulnerabilities.
- **Configurable Levels of Testing:** Allows detailed control over the depth and breadth of tests conducted, which helps in managing testing speed and impact on the application.
- **Detailed Reporting:** Generates reports that categorize found vulnerabilities by type and severity, offering detailed evidence and remediation advice.

Why Use Burp Suite's Automatic Scanner? Using the automatic scanner can significantly streamline the vulnerability assessment process. It provides a fast, efficient method to identify weaknesses, which can then be examined in detail using Burp Suite's other tools. This capability makes it an invaluable part of the security testing toolkit, especially in environments where rapid testing and retesting are required.

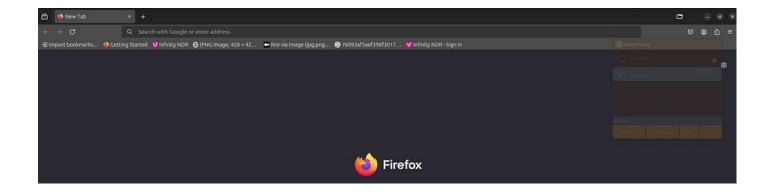
# Running and Using the Automatic Vulnerability Scanner in Burp Suite

### Setting Up and Starting a Scan:

### **Configure the Proxy:**



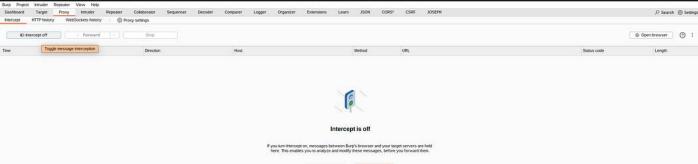
• Ensure Burp Suite is set as the proxy server in your browser's network settings. In your browser I strongly recommended to use "FoxyProxy" extension.



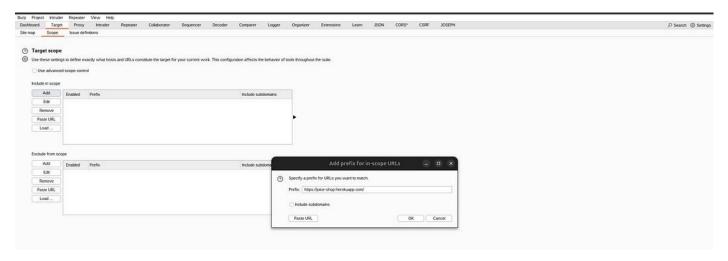
• This allows all web traffic to flow through Burp Suite, enabling it to capture and manipulate requests and responses.

Access the **Proxy** tab and ensure the **Intercept** is on "Off" mode so that traffic flows

without interruption while you set up your scan.



# **Define the Scope:**



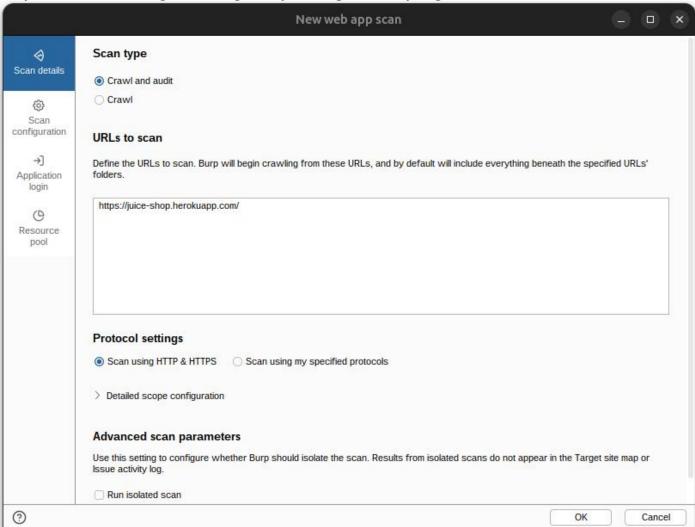
- Navigate to the **Target** tab, right-click on the domain you want to test, and choose "Add to scope" if it's not already defined. This ensures that Burp Scanner focuses only on your target, avoiding external sites.
- Confirm scope configuration in the **Scope** tab under **Target** to ensure accuracy.

#### Start the Scan:

Go to the **Dashboard** tab and click on "New Scan."



• Select either **Crawl and Audit** for a comprehensive scan or **Audit selected items** if you want to scan specific requests you've previously captured or modified.

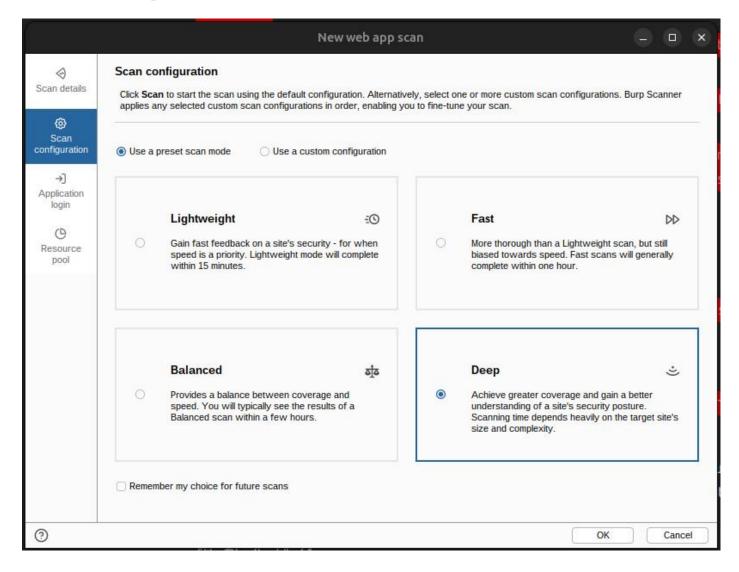


• Configure the scan settings by choosing the types of crawl and audit functions to perform. You can customize settings such as the number of concurrent requests, the types of data to submit in forms, and the handling of new cookies.

# **Configure Scan Details:**

- Under the **New Scan** setup, detail any specific cookies, headers, or request modifications that your scan should use. This step is crucial for applications that require authentication or custom headers to access.
- Use the **Crawl Strategy** options to determine how aggressively Burp Suite explores application content. Adjust the **Audit Speed** to control the balance between speed and server impact.

Burp Suite's vulnerability scanner, you can choose from different scan configurations, each designed to suit various scanning needs and scenarios. These configurations — light, balanced, deep, and fast — affect how thoroughly the scanner probes the target application and the load it imposes on the server. Here's a detailed look at each mode:



# **Light Scan**

• **Purpose:** The light scan is designed for minimal impact on the target's performance. It is best used when the target system is known to be sensitive to higher loads or when you need a quick overview without a detailed vulnerability assessment.

- Characteristics: This mode uses fewer requests and less aggressive methods. It generally avoids intensive tests that are likely to cause issues or noticeable performance degradation on the target.
- Use Case: Ideal for an initial quick check of a production system to identify glaring security issues without affecting the system's availability or performance.

#### **Balanced Scan**

- **Purpose:** As the name suggests, this mode offers a balance between thoroughness and performance impact. It's designed to be a good default setting for most use cases.
- Characteristics: The balanced scan performs a more comprehensive examination than the light scan, but it does not delve as deeply as the deep scan. It carefully manages the trade-off between speed and load on the network or application.
- Use Case: Suitable for regular security diagnostics where you need a thorough assessment but cannot afford significant system impact. This is the go-to for routine scans in development or staging environments.

### **Deep Scan**

- **Purpose:** The deep scan is meant for the most exhaustive vulnerability assessment when maximum coverage is required, and the performance impact is a secondary concern.
- Characteristics: This mode is the most resource-intensive, utilizing a wide array of tests and attempting various inputs to uncover as many issues as possible. It can potentially impact system performance due to the high number of requests and complex attack simulations.
- Use Case: Best used in secure environments like pre-production or testing environments where you can afford downtime or performance degradation. It's ideal when preparing for security certifications or audits.

#### **Fast Scan**

- **Purpose:** The fast scan focuses on speed, making it suitable for situations where time is critical. It scans quickly to give a rapid insight into the security posture of an application.
- Characteristics: It prioritizes speed over thoroughness, executing only the fastest tests. While it can identify obvious vulnerabilities, it may miss deeper, more subtle issues.

• Use Case: Useful for repeated scans during a rapid development phase when immediate feedback is necessary. It's also beneficial for initial scans in a larger security assessment process to quickly identify high-level vulnerabilities.

### **Choosing the Right Mode**

Selecting the right scan configuration depends on your specific needs:

- **Risk Tolerance:** How critical is the application? How sensitive is the data it handles?
- **Environment:** Are you scanning a production system or a test environment?
- **Objective:** Is the goal to get a quick overview or an exhaustive examination?
- Resource Availability: How much impact on performance can the target system handle during the scan?

### **Monitoring and Analyzing Results:**

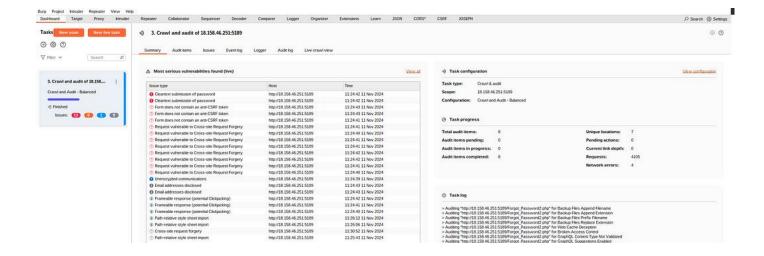
#### 1. Monitor the Scan:

• Track the progress in the **Dashboard** where Burp Suite displays real-time information about requests made, issues found, and the overall progress of the scan.

Use the live scanning report to review preliminary findings as they are identified.

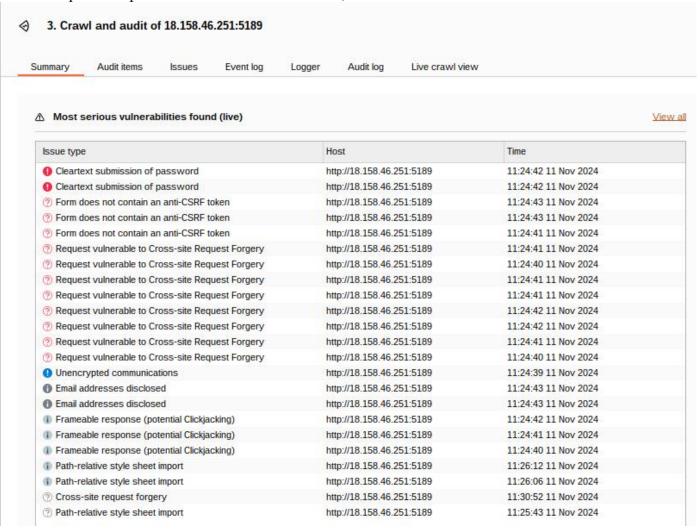
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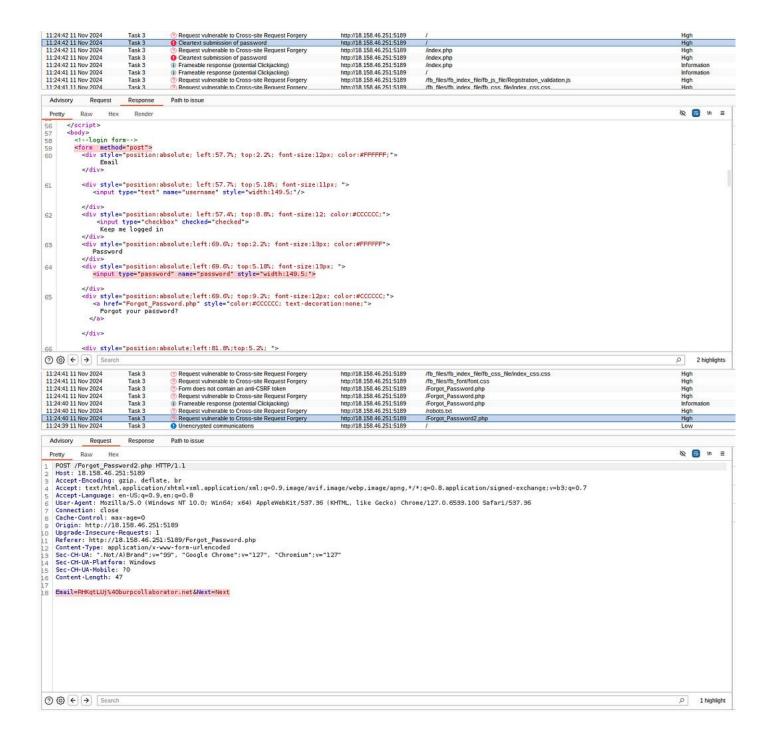
### **Analyze the Vulnerabilities:**



### 23 vulnerabilities found(13 critical)

- After the scan completes, review the results under the **Issue Activity** tab. Here, each identified vulnerability will be listed with its type, path, severity, and confidence rating.
- Click on an issue to see detailed information, including a description, the affected URL, the request/response that revealed the issue, and remediation advice.





#### 1. **Review and Report:**

- Utilize the detailed analysis provided by Burp Suite to prioritize issues based on their severity and the specific security needs of your application.
- Export the findings using the reporting tools in Burp Suite for compliance, auditing, or further analysis.

### **Best Practices for Using the Scanner:**

• Always ensure that you have legal permission to scan the target application.

- Regularly update Burp Suite to take advantage of the latest security tests and vulnerability definitions.
- Validate critical findings manually to confirm vulnerabilities and understand their impact.

### Task: Burp Suite Hands-on Lab

**Objective:** The purpose of this lab is to give students practical experience in using Burp Suite for web application security testing. By completing this task, students will learn how to set up Burp Suite, intercept and modify HTTP requests, analyze responses, and use the automatic vulnerability scanner effectively.

### **Task 1: Setting Up Burp Suite**

- 1. Install and open Burp Suite on your Kali Linux system.
- 2. Configure your browser to use Burp Suite as a proxy.
- 3. Install Burp's CA certificate into your browser for HTTPS traffic interception.
- 4. Verify that Burp Suite is correctly intercepting traffic by turning on the intercept feature and loading a website.
- 5. Document your setup steps with screenshots.

### Task 2: Site Mapping & Scoping

- 1. Navigate to (website) while Burp Suite is running.
- 2. Observe how Burp Suite builds a **Site Map**.
- 3. Identify different website resources and their status (visited vs. unvisited).
- 4. Set the **scope** to focus only on TryHackMe's domain.
- 5. Filter the Site Map to show only **in-scope** items.
- 6. Provide a summary of what you found in the Site Map and why setting a scope is important.

# Task 3: Intercepting and Modifying Requests

- 1. Disable Burp Intercept and visit the target page: http://10.10.29.220/products.
- 2. Click on a product's **See More** link and note the URL format (e.g., /products/3).
- 3. Enable Burp Intercept, refresh the product page, and capture the request.
- 4. Modify the request by changing the product ID to -500 and forward it.
- 5. Analyze the response:
  - 1. What HTTP status code is returned?
  - 2. Does the server handle the invalid input correctly?
  - 3. What are the possible security implications?
- 6. Document your findings with screenshots and explanations.

# Task 4: Using Burp Repeater for Input Validation Testing

- 1. Send the captured request to **Burp Repeater**.
- 2. Modify the product ID with different values:
  - 1. A negative number
  - 2. A very large number
  - 3. A non-numeric value (e.g., ABC)
- 3. Analyze how the application responds to each input.
- 4. Based on your observations, describe whether the web application has proper input validation.

#### Task 5: Running the Burp Suite Automatic Vulnerability Scanner

- 1. Ensure your target (TryHackMe) is added to **scope**.
- 2. Go to the **Dashboard** and initiate a **New Scan**.
- 3. Select Crawl and Audit for a comprehensive scan.
- 4. Configure scan settings:
  - 1. Define authentication (if required)
  - 2. Set Scan Mode (choose from Light, Balanced, Deep, Fast)
  - 3. Enable request throttling (to avoid detection or overload)
- 5. Monitor scan progress and analyze the reported vulnerabilities.
- 6. Take a screenshot of the scan results and summarize:
  - 1. Number of vulnerabilities found
  - 2. Severity breakdown (Critical, High, Medium, Low)
  - 3. One or two key vulnerabilities identified
  - 4. Possible remediation strategies

### **Task 6: Reporting and Documentation**

- 1. Summarize your findings in a structured report:
  - 1. Overview of the tests performed
  - 2. Key vulnerabilities discovered
  - 3. Impact analysis
  - 4. Recommendations for security improvements
- 2. Save your Burp Suite scan report as a PDF and submit it along with your written analysis.

#### **Evaluation Criteria:**

- Correct configuration and setup of Burp Suite (10 points)
- Accurate site mapping and scoping (10 points)
- Successful interception and modification of requests (20 points)
- Use of Burp Repeater for input validation testing (20 points)
- Completion and documentation of an automatic vulnerability scan (30 points)
- Well-structured final report (10 points)

#### **Submission Deadline:**

All students must submit their reports and Burp Suite findings by [Insert Due Date].

#### Note:

This task is for educational purposes only. Do not attempt to test unauthorized websites or systems without explicit permission.

#### **Good Luck!**