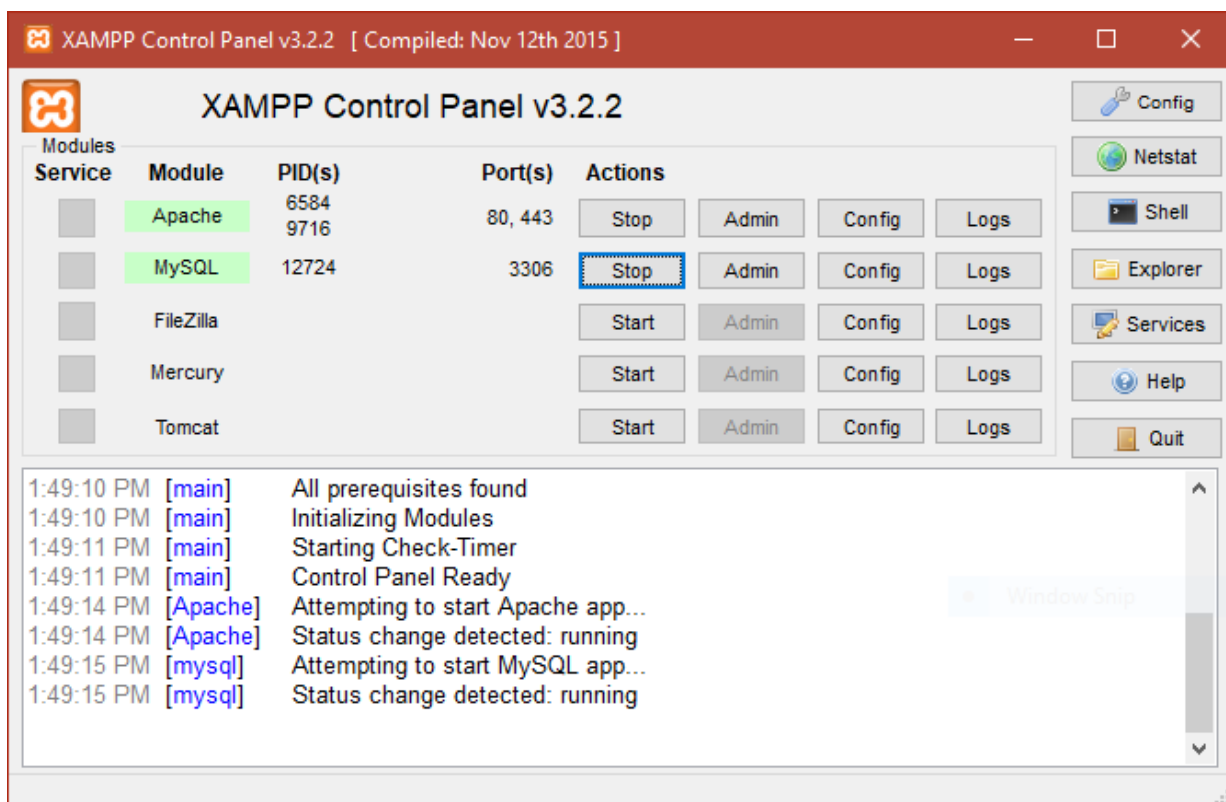# Here is **how to setup DVWA on your windows computer:**

1. Download and install XAMPP on your computer.

Download From Here: [XAMPP for Windows](#)

2. Open XAMPP:

Then open the XAMPP control panel and start "Apache" and "MySQL" service.


3. Download Damn Vulnerable Web App (DVWA)

From Here : [Damn Vulnerable Web App (DVWA)](#)

4.Extract the Zip to htdocs :

Then extract the zip file to the **htdocs** folder and rename the folder to "DVWA" (without quotes) , so that it will be easy to access later. The htdocs folder can be found at **C:\xampp**.

5. Open the web browser:

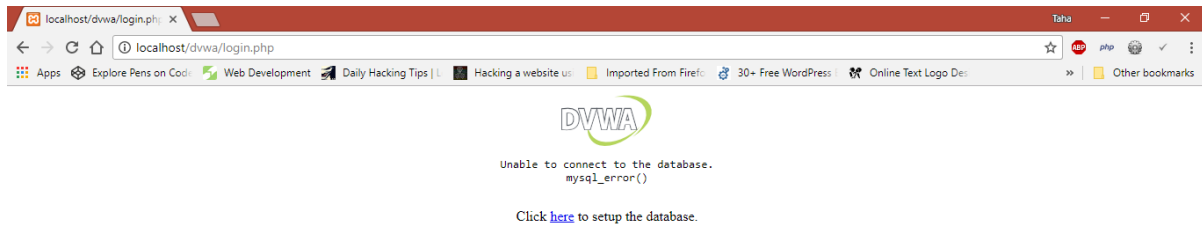Open the browser and then type "localhost/DVWA" in the address bar (without quotes). You will see the setup page
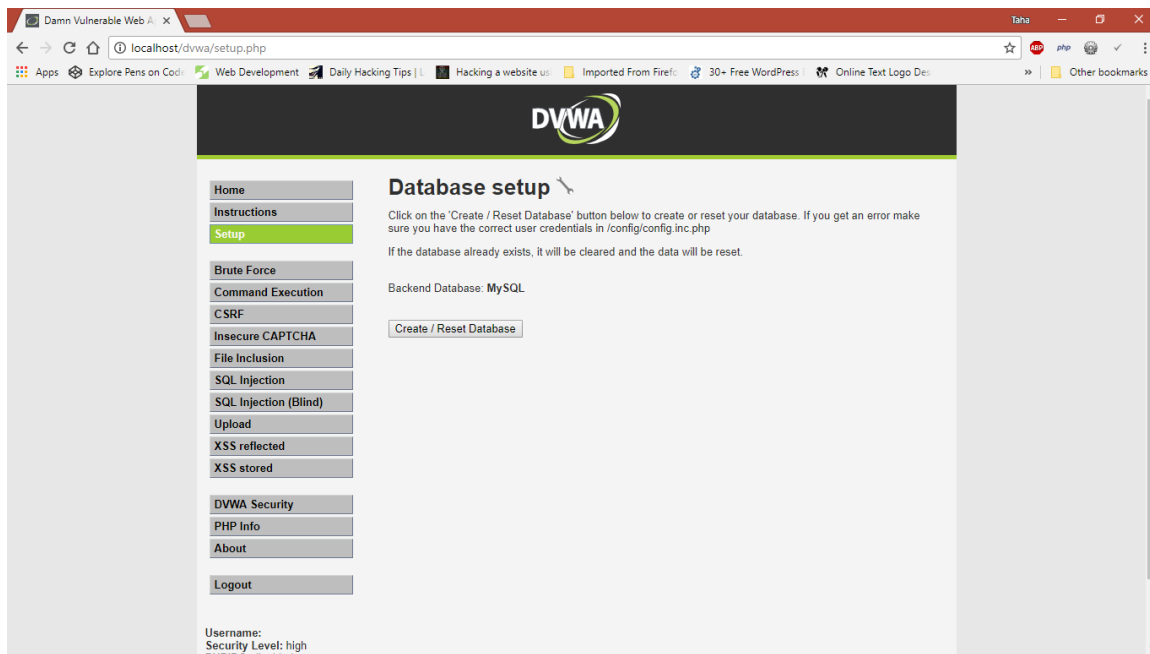
If you get the following error when you type "localhost/DVWA"

"DVWA System error - config file not found. Copy config/config.inc.php.dist to config/config.inc.php and configure to your environment."

Then, go to config folder (C:\xampp\htdocs\dvwa\config) and rename 'config.inc.php.dist' to config.inc.php and type again "localhost/DVWA"

5. Click on "Create/Reset Database" button.

If it shows any error, go to **C:\xampp\htdocs\DVWA-1.9\config** and then edit the config file.

Unable to connect to the database.
mysql_error()

Click here to setup the database.

6. Edit the Password :

Here I'm using **Notepad++** to edit the config file. Since the default password of PhpMyAdmin is blank, set **db_password=";**

```
15
16    $_DVWA = array();
17    $_DVWA[ 'db_server' ] = 'localhost';
18    $_DVWA[ 'db_database' ] = 'dvwa';
19    $_DVWA[ 'db_user' ] = 'root';
20    $_DVWA[ 'db_password' ] = 'p@ssw0rd';
21
```

# 7. Now click on "Create/Reset Database" button or just visit directly to: "localhost/dvwa".

The database will be created and then you will be directed to a login page.
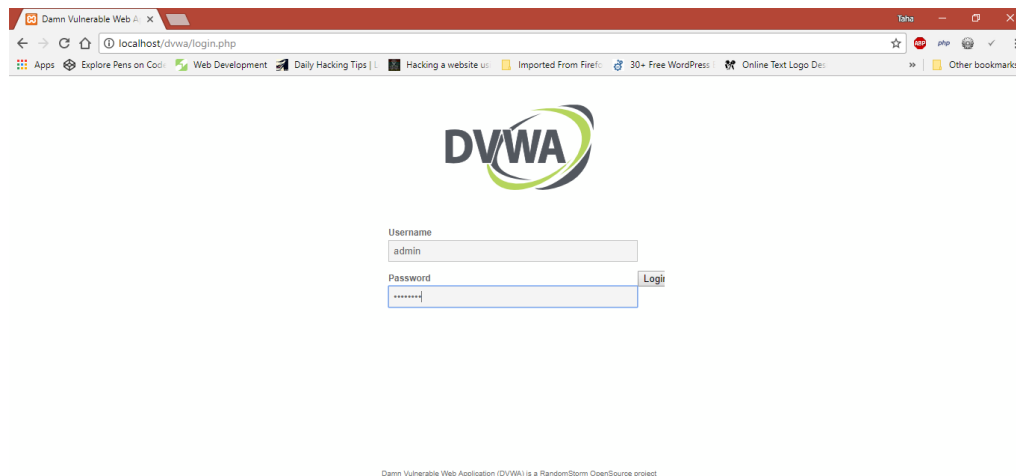
8. Done !!

Enter "admin" as username and "password" as the password. Then click on the login button, you will see a page as shown below. Yes, you have setup DVWA successfully.

Finally go to 'DVWA Security' and select low for security.
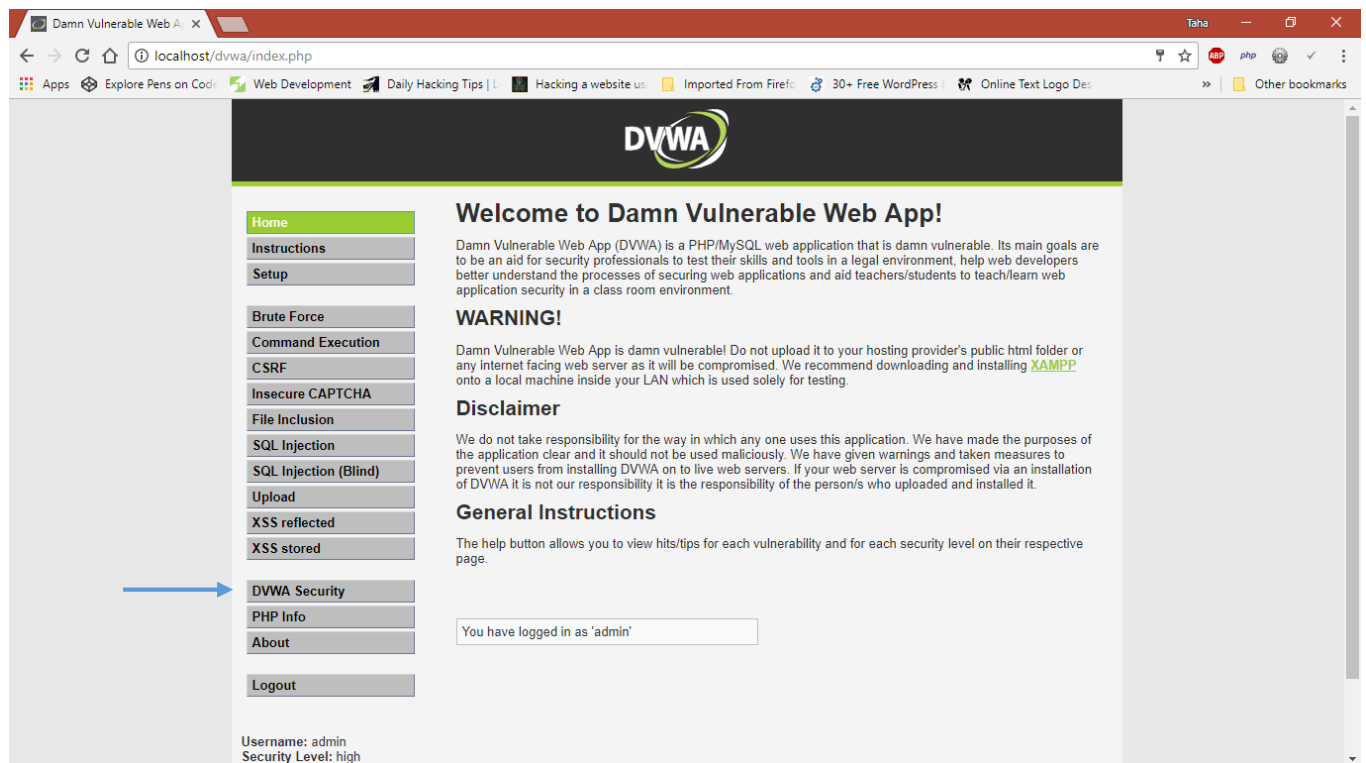
DVWA Security 🔒

Security Level

Security level is currently: **low**.

You can set the security level to low, medium, high or impossible. The security level changes the vulnerability level of DVWA:

1. Low - This security level is completely vulnerable and **has no security measures at all**. It's use is to be as an example of how web application vulnerabilities manifest through bad coding practices and to serve as a platform to teach or learn basic exploitation techniques.
2. Medium - This setting is mainly to give an example to the user of **bad security practices**, where the developer has tried but failed to secure an application. It also acts as a challenge to users to refine their exploitation techniques.
3. High - This option is an extension to the medium difficulty, with a mixture of **harder or alternative bad practices** to attempt to secure the code. The vulnerability may not allow the same extent of the exploitation, similar in various Capture The Flags (CTFs) competitions.
4. Impossible - This level should be **secure against all vulnerabilities**. It is used to compare the vulnerable source code to the secure source code.
   Prior to DVWA v1.9, this level was known as 'high'.

Low ▼ | Submit