

Security Configuration Benchmark For

Mozilla Firefox

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feedback@cisecurity.org

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Overview

This document, *Security Configuration Benchmark for Web Browsers*, provides prescriptive guidance for establishing a secure configuration posture for Firefox 3.6.20 running on *Microsoft Windows 7 Professional, Windows Vista (x86), Apple OSX 10.6, and Linux (Ubuntu 10.04)*. To obtain the latest version of this guide, please visit http://cisecurity.org. If you have questions, comments, or have identified ways to improve this guide, please write us at feedback@cisecurity.org.

1.1 Consensus Guidance

This guide was created using a consensus review process comprised of volunteer and contract subject matter experts. Consensus participants provide perspective from a diverse set of backgrounds including consulting, software development, audit and compliance, security research, operations, government, and legal.

Each CIS benchmark undergoes two phases of consensus review. The first phase occurs during initial benchmark development. During this phase, subject matter experts convene to discuss, create, and test working drafts of the benchmark. This discussion occurs until consensus has been reached on benchmark recommendations. The second phase begins after the benchmark has been released to the public Internet. During this phase, all feedback provided by the Internet community is reviewed by the consensus team for incorporation in the CIS benchmark. If you are interested in participating in the consensus review process, please send us a note to feedback@cisecurity.org.

1.2 Intended Audience

This document is intended for system and application administrators, security specialists, auditors, help desk, and platform deployment personnel, who plan to develop, deploy, assess, or secure solutions that incorporate Mozilla Firefox 3.6.20.

1.3 Acknowledgements

This benchmark exemplifies the great things a community of users, vendors, and subject matter experts can accomplish through consensus collaboration. The CIS community thanks the entire consensus team with special recognition to the following individuals who contributed greatly to the creation of this guide:

Authors

Waqas Nazir, Digital Security, LLC.

Maintainer

Derek Armstrong, independent researcher

Contributors and Reviews

Derek Armstrong, independent researcher
David Bailey, Data Networks
Ron Colvin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Ridley DiSiena
Blake Frantz, Center for Internet Security
Steven Piliero, Center for Internet Security
Andy Sampson, National Security Agency
David Skrdla, University of Oklahoma
Peter Thoenen
Tom Heltschi

1.4 Typographic Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this guide:

Convention	Meaning
Stylized Monospace font	Used for blocks of code, command, and script examples.
	Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
Monospace font	Used for inline code, commands, or examples. Text should
	be interpreted exactly as presented.
<italic brackets="" font="" in=""></italic>	Italic texts set in angle brackets denote a variable
	requiring substitution for a real value.
Italic font	Used to denote the title of a book, article, or other
	publication.
Note	Additional information or caveats

1.5 Configuration Levels

This section defines the configuration levels that are associated with each benchmark recommendation. Configuration levels represent increasing levels of security assurance.

1.5.1 Level-I Benchmark Settings/Actions

Level-I Benchmark recommendations are intended to:

- be practical and prudent;
- provide a clear security benefit;
- not negatively inhibit the utility of the technology beyond acceptable means

1.5.2 Level-II Benchmark Settings/Actions

Level-II Benchmark recommendations exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology
- act as a defense in depth measure

1.6 Scoring Status

This section defines the scoring statuses used within this document. The scoring status indicates whether compliance with the given recommendation is discernable in an automated manner.

1.6.1 Scorable

The platform s compliance with the given recommendation can be determined via automated means.

1.6.2 Not Scorable

The platform s compliance with the given recommendation cannot be determined via automated means.

Recommendations

2. Firefox Configurations

This section provides guidance on the secure configuration of Firefox 3.6.20. The menu options articulated under the Remediation and Audit sections differ depending on the platform Firefox is installed on. The benchmark leverages the menu options ($\texttt{Tools} \rightarrow \texttt{Preferences}$) used by Firefox running on Windows. For Linux deployments, the menu options are $\texttt{Edit} \rightarrow \texttt{Preferences}$. On the Apple OSX platform, the menu options are $\texttt{Firefox} \rightarrow \texttt{Preferences}$. All other menu options articulated below are the same across all three base platforms.

2.1 Updating Firefox

This section will discuss how to enable auto updates in Firefox.

2.1.1 Enable Auto Update (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This configuration will show how to enable updates for Firefox and extensions installed on Firefox. It is recommended to enable the auto update feature.

Rationale:

Security updates are critical in ensuring that a user a safe is from known vulnerabilities. Therefore, automatic checking of updates should be enabled.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Click on Options
- 3. Click on Advanced Icon
- 4. Click on Update Tab
- 5. Select Firefox, Installed Add-ons, and Search Engines under the Automatically check for updates to: Section.
- 6. Select Automatically download and install the update option in the When updates to Firefox are found section
- 7. Select the Warn me if this will disable any of Add-ons sub-option.
- 8. Click ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

```
findstr /isl "app.update.auto"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "app.update.auto" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "app.update.auto" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This setting is not required where organizations are automatically managing the update process remotely.

2.1.2 Enable Auto Notification of Outdated Plugins (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This feature automatically detects when installed Plugins are out of date and notifies the users to update the Plugins. It is recommended to enable auto notification of outdated plugins.

Rationale:

Outdated Plugins can be vulnerable or unstable which can be exploited by malicious websites. It is recommended to enable this feature so that users are notified and directed to update plugins.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type plugins.update in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
plugins.update.notifyUser=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "plugins.update.notifyUser"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

```
grep -i "plugins.update.notifyUser" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

```
grep -i "plugins.update.notifyUser" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.1.3 Enable Information Bar for Outdated Plugins (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This feature automatically shows an information bar when installed Plugins are out of date and notifies the users to update the Plugins. It is recommended to enable information bar for outdated plugins.

Rationale:

Outdated Plugins can be vulnerable or unstable which can be exploited by malicious websites. It is recommended to enable this feature so that users are notified and directed to update Plugins.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type plugins.hide in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
plugins.hide_infobar_for_outdated_plugin=false
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "plugins.hide_infobar_for_outdated_plugin"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "plugins.hide_infobar_for_outdated_plugin"
    ~/Library/Application\ Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.2 Encryption Settings

This section will discuss how to set up encryption settings in Firefox.

2.2.1 Enable SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0 (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This configuration will show how to enable SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0 for Firefox. It is recommended to enable SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0.

Rationale:

Enabling these protocols will allow Firefox to enforce selection of higher SSL and TLS encryption key lengths and more robust protocols

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Click on Options
- 3. Click on Advanced Icon
- 4. Click on Encryption Tab
- 5. Select use SSL 3.0, use TLS 1.0 under Protocols section
- 6. Select Ask me everytime under Certificates.
- 7. Click ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "security.enable_ssl3"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "security.enable_ssl3" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

```
grep -i "security.enable_ssl3" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.2.2 Enable Warning of Loading Mixed Content (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This will warn users when unencrypted data is loaded in an SSL encrypted session. It is recommended to enable warning of loading mixed content.

Rationale:

Enabling this setting will alert a user when some content on a secure communication channel is coming under a non secure channel. For example an SSL website can request part of content on a page under a non-SSL session. This can leave users vulnerable to eavesdropping and Man in the Middle attacks.

Remediation:

Use the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Click on Options
- 3. Click on Security Icon
- 4. Click on Settings Button under the Warning Messages section
- 5. Select I am about to view an encrypted page that contains some unencrypted information.
- 6. Click ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "security.warn_viewing_mixed"
   "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js" | findstr -ilv
   /c:"show_once"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "security.warn_viewing_mixed" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js |
grep -iv "show once"
```

```
grep -i "security.warn_viewing_mixed" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js | grep -iv "show_once"
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.2.3 Enable Warning of Using Weak Encryption (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This will warn users when a website is using weaker encryption. It is recommended to enable the warning for weak encryption.

Rationale:

This will protect users from the compromise of their data due to weak encryption.

Remediation:

Use the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Click on Options
- 3. Click on Security icon
- 4. Click on Settings button under the Warnings section
- 5. Select I am about to view a page that uses low-grade encryption.
- 6. Click OK

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "security.warn_entering_weak"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "security.warn_entering_weak" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "security.warn_entering_weak" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned it means that Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.2.4 Enable Online Certificate Status Protocol (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox checks with Online Certification Status Protocol (OCSP) to ensure that the certificates are valid. Firefox can validate a certificate if an OCSP server is specified by the certificate or an OCSP server can be configured manually. It is recommended to enable OCSP.

Rationale:

To provide assurance on the validity of encryption Certificates these option should be enabled.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Click on Options
- 3. Click on Advanced Icon
- 4. Click on Encryption Tab
- 5. Click on Validation Button in the Certificates section
- 6. Select Use the Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) to confirm the current validity of certificates option
- 7. Click ok
- 8. Click ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "security.OCSP.enabled"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "security.OCSP.enabled" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "security.OCSP.enabled" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.3 Dynamic Content Settings

Dynamic content consists of scripts and native browser objects which can change the content of a browser window without the knowledge of a user. This section will show how to lock down dynamic content in Firefox.

2.3.1 Disable Closing of Windows via Scripts (Level II, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to prevent script from closing browser windows. It is recommended that script be prevented from closing browser windows.

Rationale:

Preventing an arbitrary web site from closing the browser window will reduce the probability of a user losing work or state being performed in another tab within the same window.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type dom in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
dom.allow_scripts_to_close_windows=false
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "dom.allow_scripts_to_close_windows"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "dom.allow_scripts_to_close_windows" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.3.2 Disable Downloading on Desktop (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can download content on the desktop or other locations. It is recommended not to download files on desktop.

Rationale:

This will protect from downloading content on desktop and tricking users into running malicious binaries.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type browser in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.download.folderList=2
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.download.folderList"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "browser.download.folderList" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "browser.download.folderList" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile.

```
prefs.js:user_pref("browser.download.folderList", 2);
```

2.3.3 Enable Virus Scanning for Downloads (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to scan downloads for viruses. It is recommended that this capability be enabled.

Rationale:

This will ensure that a downloaded file is scanned for viruses before the user has an opportunity to interact with the download.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type browser in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.download.manager.scanWhenDone=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.download.manager.scanWhenDone"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "browser.download.manager.scanWhenDone" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.3.4 Block Reported Web Forgeries (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to alert the user that the site they are visiting is malicious. It is recommended that this capability be enabled.

Rationale:

Enabling this feature will decrease the probability of a user falling victim to a phishing attack or unknowingly disclosing sensitive information to an untrusted party.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Type about:config in the address bar

- 2. Type browser in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.safebrowsing.enabled=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.safebrowsing.enabled"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "browser.safebrowsing.enabled" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "browser.safebrowsing.enabled" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.3.5 Block Reported Attack Sites (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to alert the user that the site they are visiting is malicious. It is recommended that this capability be enabled.

Rationale:

Enabling this feature will decrease the probability of a user s browser or system being exploited by known malware.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type browser in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.safebrowsing.malware.enabled=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

```
findstr /isl "browser.safebrowsing.malware.enabled"
   "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "browser.safebrowsing.malware.enabled"
~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "browser.safebrowsing.malware.enabled" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.3.6 Disable Displaying Javascript in History URLs (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This will ensure that JavaScript URLs are not displayed in the history bar. It is recommended to disable displaying of JavaScript in history urls.

Rationale:

Various browser elements, even a simple link, can embed <code>javascript</code>: URLs and access the <code>javascript</code>: protocol. The JavaScript statement used in a <code>javascript</code>: URL can be used to encapsulate a specially crafted URL that performs a malicious function.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type browser in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.urlbar.filter.javascript=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.urlbar.filter.javascript"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

```
grep -i "browser.urlbar.filter.javascript" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.3.7 Block Pop-up Windows (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

The Pop-up Blocker is used to block Pop-ups which a website might open with or without any user interaction. These Pop-Ups can be used to open un-trusted malicious content. It is recommended to enable blocking of pop-up windows.

Rationale:

By enabling the Pop-up blocker all Pop-ups will be blocked which will guard a user against any attacks launched using a Pop-up.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Content icon
- 5. Select Block pop-up windows
- 6. Click on Exceptions
- 7. Click on Remove all Sites
- 8. Click Close
- 9. Hit OK

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "privacy.popups.policy"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

```
grep -i "privacy.popups.policy" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

```
grep -i "privacy.popups.policy" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.4 Network Settings

This section provides guidance for configuring portions of Firefox exposed via the Network Settings dialog.

2.4.1 Validate Proxy Settings (Level I, Not Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to use one or more proxy servers. When a proxy server is configured for a given protocol (HTTP, FTP, Gopher, etc), Firefox will send applicable requests to that proxy server for fulfillment. It is recommended that the list of proxy servers configured in Firefox be reviewed to ensure it contains only trusted proxy servers.

Rationale:

Depending on the protocol used, the proxy server will have access to read and/or alter all information communicated between Firefox and the target server, such a web site.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Select Options from the drop down.
- 3. Click on Advanced Button on Options window
- 4. Click on Network Tab
- 5. Click on Settings Button
- 6. Ensure that the proxy listed (if any) is the one configured and approved by the enterprise.

Audit:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Select Options from the drop down.
- 3. Click on Advanced Button on Options window
- 4. Click on Network Tab
- 5. Click on Settings Button
- 6. Ensure that the proxy listed (if any) is the one configured and approved by the enterprise.

2.4.2 Enable SSPI Authentication (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to leverage the Microsoft Windows Security Support Provider Interface (SSPI). It is recommended that this capability be enabled.

Rationale:

This will protect users from using weaker authentication.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type network.auth in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
network.auth.use-sspi=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "network.auth.use-sspi"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This setting only affects Microsoft Windows.

2.4.3 Disable Referer from an SSL Website (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to omit the HTTP Referer header when the referring site is protected by SSL. An HTTP Referer header provides the referred site with the URL of the referring site. It is recommended to disable referrer from an SSL website.

Rationale:

It is possible that the URL of the SSL-protected, referring site contains sensitive information. By preventing Firefox from sending this URL, via an HTTP Referer header, to sites referred to by the SSL protected site an avenue for information disclose is eliminated.

Remediation:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type network in the filter

3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
network.http.sendSecureXSiteReferrer=false
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "network.http.sendSecureXSiteReferrer"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "network.http.sendSecureXSiteReferrer" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following result if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile.

```
prefs.js:user_pref("network.http.sendSecureXSiteReferrer", false);
```

Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.4.4 Disable Sending LM Hash (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can be configured to send an LM Hash when authenticating to resources that request this authentication type. It is recommended that this capability be disabled.

Rationale:

The LM Hashing algorithm contains weaknesses that can be exploited to derive plain text authentication credentials.

Remediation:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type network.ntlm in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
network.ntlm.send-lm-response=false
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "network.ntlm.send-lm-response"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This setting only affects Microsoft Windows.

2.5 Privacy Settings

A user s browser can provide information such as browsing history to Internet resources which can result in the compromise of the privacy of a user. This section will outline how to enable the controls to guard user privacy.

2.5.1 Accept Only 1st Party Cookies (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Cookies are used to track valid session on internet websites. Securing cookie handling will help secure a user s browser session. It is recommended to only accept 1st party cookies.

Rationale:

These cookies are typically used to uniquely identify a user s session on a website. However, these cookies can be used by third party sites and malicious sites to track a user s activity on the web. Also, they can be used to store sensitive personally identifiable information. Cookie settings should be configured such that malicious websites cannot set the cookies.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Privacy Icon
- 5. Check Accept Cookies from Sites
- 6. Ensure that Accept third-party cookies is Unchecked
- 7. Hit ok

Audit:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "network.cookie.cookieBehavior"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "network.cookie.cookieBehavior" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "network.cookie.cookieBehavior" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following results if Firefox is configured correctly.

```
user_pref("network.cookie.cookieBehavior", 1);
```

Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.5.2 Disallow Credential Storage (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox allows credentials to be stored for certain websites. It is recommended to disallow credential storage.

Rationale:

Credentials can be compromised if the computer is shared with other users. This setting will ensure that the passwords are not stored for websites.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Security Icon
- 5. Unselect Remember passwords for sites
- 6. Click Saved Password
- 7. If there are any saved passwords listed in the dialog, click on Remove All
- 8. Click ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

```
findstr /isl "signon.rememberSignons"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "signon.rememberSignons" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "signon.rememberSignons" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following result:

```
user pref("signon.rememberSignons", false);
```

false indicates that any passwords previously saved will be deleted when the saved data is cleared for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.5.3 Disable Prompting for Credential Storage (Level II, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can prompt when credentials are entered in website forms. It is recommended to disable prompting for the storage of credentials.

Rationale:

This setting will ensure that Firefox does not prompt for storing passwords which will be stored by Firefox. Stored credentials/sensitive data pose a risk as they can be compromised by malicious websites using information leakage bugs/advisories in Firefox.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type Security in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
security.ask_for_password=0
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

```
findstr /isl "security.ask_for_password"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "security.ask_for_password" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "security.ask_for_password" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This option should be considered Level I for shared computing resources.

2.5.4 Delete History and Form Data (Level II, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can store the sites visited, information typed in forms, and downloads from Internet resources. It is recommended to enable deletion of history and form data.

Rationale:

If Firefox or other applications executing at equal or higher security contexts is compromised, potentially sensitive, persisted, form data is at increased risk.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Privacy Icon
- 5. Select Use custom settings for History from the Firefox will: section
- 6. Uncheck Remember my browsing history for at least checkbox
- 7. Hit ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.history_expire_days"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

```
grep -i "browser.history_expire_days" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

```
grep -i "browser.history_expire_days" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return:

```
user_pref("browser.history_expire_days", 0);
```

The zero (0) is indication that no history is being saved for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This option should be considered Level I for shared computing resources.

2.5.5 Delete Download History (Level II, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can store downloads from Internet resources. It is recommended to enable the deletion of download history.

Rationale:

If Firefox or other applications executing at equal or higher security contexts is compromised, potentially sensitive, persisted, form data is at increased risk.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Privacy Icon
- 5. Uncheck Remember download history
- 6. Hit ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.download.manager.retention"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js" | findstr -ilv /c:" 0"
```

```
grep -i "browser.download.manager.retention"
~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js | grep -iv " 0"
```

```
grep -i "browser.download.manager.retention" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js | grep -iv " 0"
```

The above command will return:

```
user_pref("browser.download.manager.retention", 0);
```

Zero (0) is an indication that no download history is retained for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This option should be considered Level I for shared computing resources.

2.5.6 Delete Search and Form History (Level II, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can store Search and Form Data from Internet resources. It is recommended to enable deletion of search and form history.

Rationale:

If Firefox or other applications executing at equal or higher security contexts is compromised, potentially sensitive, persisted, form data is at increased risk.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Privacy Icon
- 5. Uncheck Remember search and form history checkbox
- 6. Hit ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.formfill.enable"
   "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js" | findstr -ilv
   /c:"false"
```

```
grep -i "browser.formfill.enable" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js | grep
-iv "false"
```

```
grep -i "browser.formfill.enable" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js | grep -iv "false"
```

The above command will return:

```
user_pref("browser.formfill.enable ", false);
```

false is an indication that no download history is retained for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This option should be considered Level I for shared computing resources.

2.5.7 Clear SSL Form Session Data (Level II, Scorable)

Description:

This will ensure that the form data stored in an SSL Secure session is cleared when the session ends. It is recommended to enable clearing of SSL form session data.

Rationale:

If Firefox or other applications executing at equal or higher security contexts is compromised, potentially sensitive, persisted, form data is at increased risk.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type privacy in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.sessionstore.privacy_level=1
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.sessionstore.privacy_level"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "browser.sessionstore.privacy_level" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following results if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile.

```
prefs.js:user pref("browser.sessionstore.privacy level", 1);
```

Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Note: This option should be considered Level I for shared computing resources.

2.5.8 Disable Caching of SSL Pages (Level 1, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can locally cache the content of SSL pages on disk. It is recommended that caching SSL content be disabled.

Rationale:

This will protect user s confidential information from unauthorized disclosure.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type browser in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
browser.cache.disk_cache_ssl=false
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "browser.cache.disk_cache_ssl"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "browser.cache.disk_cache_ssl" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

```
grep -i "browser.cache.disk_cache_ssl" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following result if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile.

```
prefs.js:user_pref("browser.cache.disk_cache_ssl", false);
```

Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.6 Applications Settings

This section will discuss how to secure applications which can be installed.

Note: Some Add-ons such as NoScript and Flashblock can be installed to provide additional protection to the end user. [1]

2.6.1 Secure Application Plug-ins (Level I, Not Scorable)

Description:

Some active content such as audio and video can be automatically loaded by Firefox on websites. It is recommended to secure application plug-ins.

Rationale:

Some malicious websites can have active content to exploit vulnerabilities in active content handling application plug-in. It is recommended as a defense-in-depth to always prompt when a website is about to load active content which is not trusted.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Application icon
- 5. Select all Content Types listed which are not trusted, and in the Action select Always ask in the drop down
- 6. Hit ok

Audit:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Application icon
- 5. Check that all Content Types listed, which are not trusted, and in the Action verify that Always ask is selected in the drop down
- 6. Hit ok

2.6.2 Disabling Auto-Install of Add-Ons (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

This configuration will show how to ensure that no website is allowed to automatically install Add-Ons. Also, it will list how to ensure that proper notifications are shown when installing Add-Ons. It is recommended to disable auto install of add-ons.

Rationale:

Add-Ons are extensions of the browser that add new functionality to Firefox or change its appearance. These run in a user s session allowing them do manipulate data and the behavior of the way Firefox interacts with other application and user commands. If malicious Add-Ons are installed automatically, a user s security could be completely compromised.

Remediation:

Use the following procedure:

- 1. Click on Tools
- 2. Click on Options
- 3. Click on Security Icon
- 4. Select Warn me when sites try to install add-ons under the top section of the dialog
- 5. Next, click on Exceptions button and then click on Remove All Sites
- 6. Hit Close
- 7. Click ok

Audit:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "xpinstall.whitelist.required"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "xpinstall.whitelist.required" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "xpinstall.whitelist.required" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

If no results are returned, Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.7 Advanced JavaScript Settings:

This section will provide guidance on how to use advanced JavaScript settings to guard against certain attacks.

2.7.1 Disallow JavaScript's Ability to Hide the Status Bar (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Status Bar shows the location of the content when a user visits a link or when content is being downloaded on a web page. It is recommended to disallow JavaScript's ability to hide status bar.

Rationale:

Some malicious websites can use JavaScript to hide the status bar so that a user cannot determine the location of the content for hyperlinks and downloads. It is recommended to disallow JavaScript from hiding the Status Bar.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- In Firefox Browser
- Click on Tools
- Click on Options
- Click on Content Icon
- Click on Advanced button next to Enable JavaScript
- Unselect Hide Status bar checkbox
- Hit ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "dom.disable_window_open_feature.status"
   "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "dom.disable_window_open_feature.status" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.7.2 Disallow JavaScript's Ability to Change the Status Bar Text (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Status Bar shows the location of the content when a user hovers of a hyperlink, a user visits a link, or when content is being downloaded on a web page. It is recommended to disallow JavaScript's ability to change the status bar text.

Rationale:

Some malicious websites can use JavaScript to manipulate the text on the status bar so that a user cannot determine the actual location of the content for hyperlinks and downloads. It is recommended to disallow JavaScript from changing the text on the Status Bar.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. In Firefox Browser
- 2. Click on Tools
- 3. Click on Options
- 4. Click on Content Icon
- 5. Click on Advanced button next to Enable JavaScript
- 6. Unselect Change Status bar text checkbox
- 7. Click ok

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "dom.disable_window_status_change"
"%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "dom.disable_window_status_change"
~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

```
grep -i "dom.disable_window_status_change" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will yield no output if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile. Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.7.3 Enable Warning When Submitting Clear Text Form Data (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Firefox can notify users when a user sends form data to an insecure (non-SSL) site. It is recommended to enable warning when submitting clear text form data.

Rationale:

This will protect users from sending clear text data to website which can be sensitive in nature.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type Security in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
security.warn_submit_insecure=true
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "security.warn_submit_insecure"
    "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
grep -i "security.warn_submit_insecure" ~/.mozilla/firefox/*/*prefs.js
```

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "security.warn_submit_insecure" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js
```

The above command will return the following results if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile.

```
prefs.js:user_pref("security.warn_submit_insecure", true);
```

Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

2.7.4 Disable Scripting of Plugins by JavaScript (Level I, Scorable)

Description:

Javascript can initiate and interact with the Plug-ins installed in Firefox. It is recommended to disable scripting of plugins using JavaScript.

Rationale:

This will protect users from malicious scripts exploiting vulnerabilities in different Plug-ins or abuse the features.

Remediation:

Perform the following procedure:

- 1. Type about:config in the address bar
- 2. Type Security in the filter
- 3. Set the preference listed with the values specified below

```
security.xpconnect.plugin.unrestricted=false
```

Audit:

Perform the following procedure:

1. Under Windows, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

```
findstr /isl "security.xpconnect.plugin.unrestricted"
  "%APPDATA%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\*prefs.js" | findstr -ilv
  /c:"false"
```

2. Under Linux, close Firefox browser and run the following command:

3. Under MacOSX, close Firefox browser and run the following command in Terminal:

```
grep -i "security.xpconnect.plugin.unrestricted" ~/Library/Application\
Support/Firefox/Profiles/*/*prefs.js | grep -iv "false"
```

The above command will return the following results if Firefox is configured correctly for the current profile.

```
prefs.js:user_pref("security.xpconnect.plugin.unrestricted", false);
```

Repeat the audit steps above for each profile of interest, using an account with appropriate privileges for accessing profiles needed.

Appendix A: References

Resource	Location
[1]. NoScript and Flashblock	https://addons.mozilla.org/en-
	US/firefox/browse/type:1/cat:12

Appendix B: Change History

Date	Version	Changes for this version
January 7, 2010	1.0.0	Public Release
November 15, 2010	1.1.0	 Updated to cover FF 3.6.12 Updated all Audit steps to inspect prefs.js instead of any file under the Profiles directory Fixed audit/remediation for Disable Scripting of Plugins by JavaScript Fixed non substantive typos and formatting issues
October 21st 2011	1.2.0	 Updated to cover FF 3.6.20 Updated to include Audit steps for Linux and MacOSX Fixed non substantive typos and formatting issues Removed 3 entries that were duplicates (2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.9.3) Removed 1 section (2.4 Add-On Settings) and moved entries into other categories Renumbered sections 2.1 Network Connections merged into 2.4 2.2 Updating Firefox moved to 2.1 2.3 Encryption Settings moved to 2.2 2.5 Dynamic Content Settings moved to 2.3 2.6 Network Settings moved to 2.4 2.7 Privacy Settings moved to 2.5 2.8 Application Settings moved to 2.6 2.9 Advanced JavaScript Settings moved to 2.7 Re-organized several entries into different categories 2.1.1 Validate Proxy Settings moved to 2.4.1 2.2.1 Enable Auto Update moved to 2.1.1 2.3.1 Enable SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0 moved to 2.2.1 2.3.2 Enable Warning of Loading Mixed Content moved to 2.2.2 2.3.3 Enable Warning of Using Weak Encryption moved to 2.2.3 2.4.1 Disabling Auto-Install of Add-Ons moved to 2.6.2 2.4.4 Enable Online Certificate Status Protocol moved to 2.2.4

- 2.5.1 Disable Closing of Windows via Scripts moved to 2.3.1
- o 2.5.2 Disable Caching of SSL Pages moved to 2.5.8
- 2.5.3 Disable Downloading on Desktop moved to 2.3.2
- 2.5.4 Enable Virus Scanning for Downloads moved to 2.3.3
- 2.5.5 Block Reported Web Forgeries moved to 2.3.4
- o 2.5.6 Block Reported Attack Sites moved to 2.3.5
- o 2.5.7 Disable Displaying Javascript in History URLs moved to 2.3.6
- o 2.6.1 Enable SSPI Authentication moved to 2.4.2
- 2.6.2 Disable Referer from an SSL Website moved to 2.4.3
- o 2.6.3 Disable Sending LM Hash moved to 2.4.4
- o 2.7.1 Accept Only 1st Party Cookies moved to 2.5.1
- 2.7.2 Disallow Credential Storage moved to 2.5.2
- 2.7.3 Disable Prompting for Credential Storage moved to 2.5.3
- o 2.7.4 Delete History and Form Data moved to 2.5.4
- o 2.7.5 Delete Download History moved to 2.5.5
- o 2.7.6 Delete Search and Form History moved to 2.5.6
- 2.7.7 Block Pop-up Windows moved to 2.3.7
- 2.7.8 Clear SSL Form Session Data moved to 2.5.7
- o 2.8.1 Secure Application Plug-ins moved to 2.6.1
- 2.9.1 Disallow JavaScript's Ability to Hide the Status Bar moved to 2.7.1
- 2.9.2 Disallow JavaScript's Ability to Change the Status Bar Text moved to 2.7.2
- 2.9.4 Enable Warning When Submitting Clear Text Form Data moved to 2.7.3
- 2.9.5 Disable Scripting of Plugins by JavaScript moved to 2.7.4
- 2.9.6 Enable Auto Notification of Outdated Plugins moved to 2.1.2
- 2.9.7 Enable Information Bar for Outdated Plugins moved to 2.1.3