Cyber Security Assessment Report

Of

APAS,

Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences,

Govt. of AP

19/09/2019

by

Andhra Pradesh Technology Services

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1. Executive Summary

## Introduction

The “Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences” (APAS), come into existence with the initiative of the great visionary Sri P.V.G. Raju, the then Education Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, who mooted the formation of a forum for all scientists and researchers in the state. Thus, the “Andhra Pradesh Akademi of Sciences” (APAS) founded in 1963, comprises distinguished Scientists, Engineers, Technologists including Medical fraternity covering the entire spectrum of Science and Technology disciplines.

Andhra Pradesh Technology Services (hereon referred as APTS) performed the Cyber Security Assessment of APAS Application for APAS Department to determine, if any weakness exist in the application.

## Engagement Specific Details

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **S. No.** | **Activity** | 1. **Date** |
| 1. 1. | 1. Start date of engagement | 1. 18/09/2019 |
| 1. 2. | 1. Submission date of initial report | 1. 19/09/2019 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **S. No** | **Area** | **Review Performed By** | **Application SPOC** | **Department Name** |
| 1. 1. | 1. Application Security Assessment | 1. APTS TEAM | 1. Name | 1. Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **S. No** | **Date** | **Version Number** | 1. **Remarks** |
| 1. 1. | 1. 19/09/2019 | 1. v1.0 | 1. Initial Review |

## Scope Details

### Inclusion

1. **Web Application Security Assessment & Penetration Testing**

Application Name: Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences

Application URL: Http://www.apas.in

Environment: Production

Type of Review: Blackbox

Hash of Zipped Source Code (SHA512:Not Provided

## Approach & Methodology

1. The web application security assessment was conducted in line with the leading security standards and guidelines for web application security such as OWASP.
2. The approach followed for the security assessment is detailed below:

### Information Gathering:

We conducted a walkthrough of the web application to assess the scope of the security assessment and obtain the following information to identify the potential attack vectors:

* 1. Functionalities available in the web application
  2. Entry points for the web application
  3. Web application is custom developed or off-the-shelf application
  4. Protocols used by the web application
  5. Back-end technology including web server, framework, and development language
  6. Conduct search engine discovery and reconnaissance
  7. Banner grabbing (finger printing) to identify the running version of web server / application server and framework
  8. Enumerate application on web server to identify other applications running on the server
  9. View source of the web application to review the comments and metadata
  10. Map functionalities and data flow to identify attack vectors

### Automated & Manual Scanning:

We performed an unauthenticated automated & Manual scanning of the web application URL using commercial and open source tools. The scanning was conducted to identify any known vulnerabilities in the subjected application.

### Analyse results and reporting:

We then analysed the results from manual inspection to identify the vulnerabilities applicable to the web application. The risk classification for each of these vulnerabilities was identified based on the likelihood of occurrence, impact, and level of access required to exploit these vulnerability as per the risk classification methodology detailed in 1.5 of the report.

1. An exception based detailed report is prepared with the following:
2. Description of the vulnerability
3. Risk Rating
4. Impact & Root Cause
5. Recommendation including reference links

## Risk Categorization

The risk ratings assigned to each finding in this report are based on 3 dimensions – Likelihood, Impact, and Level of access required. These are defined below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Likelihood** | High | Attacker can use existing tools to exploit the vulnerability by following prescriptive instructions and without knowledge of coding/platforms. Target can be exploited directly. Finding assists with exploitation of or is linked to other high or critical risk findings. |
| Medium | Attacker must have knowledge of coding/platforms and may require customisation of tools (e.g. batch scripts, shell scripts, Metasploit module customization) to exploit the vulnerability.  Exploitation of target may require setup of additional infrastructure or processes. |
| Low | High level of skill required to exploit. Attacker must develop their own tools or processes (e.g. custom written exploit code) to successfully exploit the vulnerability.  Publicly available exploits were not identified.  Exploitation of target requires setup of additional infrastructure or processes (e.g. Spear Phishing). |
| **Impact** | Severe | Vulnerability may lead to widespread administrator access to multiple materially sensitive systems (e.g. Enterprise Administrator), or access to the internal network from the Internet. |
| Major | Vulnerability may lead to immediate access to sensitive or materially sensitive data, or highly privileged access to critical business systems, or a severe and extended disruption to critical business systems or operations, with impact to many users or sites. |
| Moderate | Vulnerability may lead to access to sensitive data, or privileged access to critical business systems, or partial disruption to critical business systems or operations, with impact to some users or sites. |
| Minor | Vulnerability may lead to:  Access to non-sensitive data, or  Access to non-critical business systems, or  Disruption to non-critical business systems or operations, with limited impact to users/sites. |
| Insignificant | Information disclosure of non-sensitive enticement information (e.g. IP addresses, hostnames, system information) with no direct impact to availability. |
| **Level of access required** | Privileged | Privileged user (e.g. administrator). |
| Non-privileged | General user (e.g. domain user). |
| Internal Anonymous | Unauthenticated user with access to the internal network. |
| External Anonymous | Unauthenticated Internet user (includes web applications that allow self-registration). |

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| **Consequence**  **Likelihood** | **Small** | **Moderate** | **Severe** | **Catastrophic** |
| **Low** | Info | Low | Medium | Medium |
| **Moderate** | Low | Medium | Medium | High |
| **High** | Low | Medium | High | High |
| **Very High** | Medium | High | High | High |

The final risk ratings are defined as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| High | Urgent action should be taken to address findings. |
| Medium | Action should be taken to address findings in a timely manner.  Out of cycle change and compensating controls may be required. |
| Low | No immediate action required. Remediation items can be implemented during the next scheduled change window. |
| Information | No immediate risks to the environment were identified as part of the testing. Findings are informational only. |

Note: The above matrices are intended to be used as a guide only in determining the appropriate risk rating for a particular vulnerability. Other factors may need to be considered when weighing up the final risk rating, such as the number of servers/applications affected by the vulnerability, nature of system’s affected (e.g. Production, Development, and Test), and nature of data accessed or disclosed.

## Vulnerability Summary

Below is the summary of open vulnerabilities that still exist in the application.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Review Area** | **Initial Review** | | |
| **High** | **Medium** | **Low** |
| **Web Application Security Assessment** | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| **Total** |  | | **4** |

### Distribution of Observation

1. Detailed Observation

## Web Application Security Assessment & Penetration Testing

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Vulnerability Name** | Email id Disclosure | **Risk Rating**: Low |
| **Description** | During assessment, we found the email ids in web page which is not a good practice suggested by the OWASP community. The spam-bots (also known as email harvesters and email extractors) are programs that source the internet looking for email addresses on any website they come across. Spam bot programs look for strings like myname@mydomain.com and then record any addresses found. | |
| **Affected Path(s)** | http://apas.in/ec1.html  http://apas.in/sc17.html,  http://apas.in/contact.html  http://apas.in/region20.html  http://apas.in/region17.html | |
| **Impact** | Disclosing mail ids sometimes lead to social engineering attacks and often affected with the spam mails. However, email addresses of developers and other individuals (whether appearing on-screen or hidden within page source) may disclose information that is useful to an attacker; for example, they may represent usernames that can be used at the application's login. | |
| **Evidence/Proof of Concept**   1. **Step 1:** E-mail address disclosure in the web application. 2. emailid.png | | |
| **Recommendation** | Obfuscate email address or Spell out email addresses(Please enclose the email address with example [at] Gmail [dot] com)  Reference Links:  https://stackoverflow.com/questions/748780/best-way-to-obfuscate-an-e-mail-address-on-a-website  https://stackoverflow.com/questions/11563283/why-write-at-and-dot-in-email-rather-than-and  https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/55612/why-do-people-in-academia-tend-to-write-their-email-address-with-dot-at  https://stackoverflow.com/questions/483212/effective-method-to-hide-email-from-spam-bots | |
| **Management Comments** |  | |

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| 1. **Vulnerability Name** | Outdated Jquery version | **Risk Rating**: Low |
| **Description** | The application is using multiple vulnerable Javascript libraries that have the known public exploits. Using these libraries may affect the application’s security. | |
| **Affected Path(s)** | http://apas.in/js/jquery-1.11.0.min.js | |
| **Impact** | The vulnerabilities caused by the used vulnerable libraries could help the attacker to perform cross site scripting attacks that result in client side attacks that affect the end users. | |
| **Evidence/Proof of Concept**  **Step 1:**the application is using the outdated jquery version as shown in image  outdated Jquery version.png | | |
| **Recommendation** | Upgrade to the latest version of the JQuery libraries 3.0 or higher. | |
| **Management Comments** |  | |

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| 1. **Vulnerability Name** | Technology/Version Disclosure | **Risk Rating**: Low |
| **Description** | The HTTP responses returned by this web application include a header named X-Asp Net-Version. The value of this header is used by Visual Studio to determine which version of ASP.NET is in use. It is not necessary for production sites and should be disabled. | |
| **Affected Path(s)** | /(Web Server) | |
| **Impact** | The HTTP header may disclose sensitive information. This information can be used to launch further attacks | |
| **Evidence/Proof of Concept**  **Step 1:** the response is displaying the the server and technology version as shown in image  version disclosure.png | | |
| **Recommendation** | Apply the following changes to the web.config file to prevent ASP.NET version disclosure:  <System.Web><httpRuntime enableVersionHeader="false" /></System.Web>  Reference links  https://www.saotn.org/remove-iis-server-version-http-response-header/  https://scotthelme.co.uk/hardening-your-http-response-headers/  https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/200.html  https://www.saotn.org/remove-iis-server-version-http-response-header/  https://github.com/aspnet/Hosting/issues/571  https://www.tunetheweb.com/security/http-security-headers/server-header/  https://www.tecmint.com/hide-apache-web-server-version-information/ | |
| **Management Comments** |  | |

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| 1. **Vulnerability Name** | Click jacking | **Risk Rating**: Low |
| **Description** | Click jacking is a malicious technique of tricking a Web user into clicking on something different from what the user perceives they are clicking on, thus potentially revealing confidential information or taking control of their computer while clicking on seemingly innocuous web pages. | |
| **Affected Path(s)** | /(Web Server) | |
| **Impact** | An attacker can host this domain in other evil site by using iframe and if a user fills the given field it can directly redirect as logs to attacker and after its redirect to your web server. Leading to steal user information too and use that host site as phishing of your site its CSRF and Click jacking. | |
| **Evidence/Proof of Concept**  **Step 1:** Embed the website URL in the iframe src as shown in below image.  **clickjacking code.png**  **Step 2:** The website is loaded within the frame as shown in image.  clickjacking.png | | |
| **Recommendation** | 1. Sites can use X-Frame-Options to avoid click jacking attacks, by ensuring that their content is not embedded into other sites.   It is recommended to perform the following: ? Use the X-FRAME Options in response header set to DENY or Same Origin or ALLOW-FROM a specified URL ? X-Frame-Options: This header works with modern browsers and can be used to prevent framing of the page. | |
| **Management Comments** |  | |

## Scanned Items

/

/activ.html

/apsc15.html

/apsc16.html

/apsc17.html

/apsc18.html

/assofellows15.html

/assofellows16.html

/assofellows17.html

/assofellows18.html

/consti.html

/contact.html

/css

/durga.html

/ec.html

/ec1.html

/endo.html

/fellows.html

/fellows15.html

/fellows16.html

/fellows17.html

/fellows18.html

/founders.html

/img

/index.html

/js

/js/common.js

/js/jquery-1.11.0.min.js

/js/lightbox.js

/kondaiah.html

/nage.html

/opted.html

/pdf

/publi.html

/Raman.html

/region17.html

/region20.html

/regn.html

/sc15.html

/sc16.html

/sc17.html

/sc18.html

/splpubli.html

/staff.html

/young15.html

/young16.html

/young17.html

/young18.html

## Limitations

1. The report has been prepared based on the information given by Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences and is accordingly, given for the specific purpose of internal use by the Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences. Our conclusions are based on the completeness and accuracy of the stated facts and assumptions; which if not entirely complete or accurate, should be communicated to us immediately, as the inaccuracy or incompleteness could have a material impact on our conclusions.
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