

Penetration Testing Report



Client: Nicalc: Software Provider for Bookstores

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Executive Summary

Objective

The objective of this penetration test was to identify vulnerabilities in the client's website and provide recommendations to enhance its security. The client, a small company providing software for bookstores called Nicalc, requested this assessment to be conducted without DDOS testing to ensure uninterrupted service.

Scope

The scope of this test included all types of attacks, excluding DDOS or other actions that could shut down the website. The focus was on identifying security holes that the client can address to improve their security posture.

Key Findings

1. Open ports on the server, including SMTP (port 25) and IMAP (port 143), without mandatory SSL.
2. Potential directory listing vulnerabilities indicated by Dirbuster results.
3. XSS attempts blocked by site owner validation in the comments section.
4. Site was protected against brute force login attempts.
5. SQL Injection attempts on the SMTP server were secured.
6. XSS attempts did not manage to breach the security and were blocked.
7. Command Injection attempts did not find any vulnerabilities.

Recommendations

- Configure your email servers to use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) or Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocols to encrypt the communication between email clients and servers. This ensures that the data transmitted is secure and cannot be easily intercepted or read by unauthorized parties.
 - Evaluate and adjust the settings and configurations of directories (folders) on a web server to ensure that only authorized users can access or modify the files and directories. This is crucial for preventing unauthorized users, including attackers, from accessing sensitive information or exploiting vulnerabilities.
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Methodology

Tools Used

- **Dirbuster**: For directory and file brute-forcing.
- **Burp Suite**: For intercepting and analyzing web traffic.
- **Hydra**: For brute-force attacks on login credentials.
- **Nslookup.io**: For hosting + extra information.

Steps Taken

1. **Reconnaissance**: Identified the target IP address and collected basic information about the server and services running.
2. **Scanning**: Used tools like Dirbuster to identify hidden directories and files.
3. **Exploitation**: Attempted various attacks including XSS, SQL Injection, and brute-force login. Tested for XSS and Command Injection: Checked different input fields to find possible vulnerabilities.
4. **Post-Exploitation**: Analyzed the results to determine potential impacts and recommend mitigations.

Findings

Open Ports

- **SMTP (Port 25)**: We examined the open ports and found that the SMTP port was not using SSL/TLS. This means the communication between the email client and server is not encrypted, which could expose sensitive information.
- **MAP (Port 143)**: No mandatory SSL/TLS. Similar to the SMTP port, the IMAP port was also not using SSL/TLS, which poses a security risk.
- **Port 4190 (Sieve)**: We found this port open and noted that it could be targeted to change mail filtering rules maliciously.

Below screenshots of nmap scan:

The screenshot shows a terminal window on the left with the following nmap scan output:

```
[nix-shell:~]$ nmap -sC -sV 213.222.51.222
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-05-27 11:17 CEST
Nmap scan report for mail.nicalc.com (213.222.51.222)
Host is up (0.052s latency)
Not shown: 992 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
80/tcp    open  http    nginx
110/tcp   open  pop3    Dovecot pop3d
143/tcp   open  imap    Dovecot imapd
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
pop3-capabilities: TOP STLS SASL AUTH-RESP-CODE RESP-CODES CAPA UIDL PIPELINING
143/tcp    open  imap    Dovecot imapd
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=mail.nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:autoconfig.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autoconfig.nicalc.com, DNS:autoconfig.printart-bg.com, DNS:autoconfig.sysresto.com, DNS:autodiscover.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autodiscover.nicalc.com, DNS:autodiscover.printart-bg.com, DNS:autodiscover.sysresto.com, DNS:mail.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
143/tcp    open  imap    Dovecot imapd
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=mail.nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:autoconfig.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autoconfig.nicalc.com, DNS:autoconfig.printart-bg.com, DNS:autoconfig.sysresto.com, DNS:autodiscover.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autodiscover.nicalc.com, DNS:autodiscover.printart-bg.com, DNS:autodiscover.sysresto.com, DNS:mail.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
```

On the right, a web browser displays the nmap scan results in a structured format. It includes a 'Scope' section with a disclaimer, a 'Findings' section listing the open ports (80, 110, 143) and their services (http, pop3, imap), and a 'Open ports on the mail server machine' section. The browser also shows a 'Share' button and a 'Editing' mode indicator.

```
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:nicalc.com, DNS:www.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-03-31T17:27:53
Not valid after: 2024-06-29T17:27:52
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
http-robots.txt: 1 disallowed entry
/
tls-alpn:
http/1.1
465/tcp open  ssl/smtp Postfix smtpd
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=mail.nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:autoconfig.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autoconfig.nicalc.com, DNS:autoconfig.printart-bg.com, DNS:autoconfig.sysresto.com, DNS:autodiscover.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autodiscover.nicalc.com, DNS:autodiscover.printart-bg.com, DNS:autodiscover.sysresto.com, DNS:mail.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
smtp-commands: mail.nicalc.com, PIPELINING, SIZE 104857600, ETRN, AUTH PLAIN LOGIN, AUTH=PLAIN LOGIN, ENHANCEDSTATUSCODES, 8BITIME, DSN
587/tcp open  smtp Postfix smtpd
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=mail.nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:autoconfig.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autoconfig.nicalc.com, DNS:autoconfig.printart-bg.com, DNS:autoconfig.sysresto.com, DNS:autodiscover.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autodiscover.nicalc.com, DNS:autodiscover.printart-bg.com, DNS:autodiscover.sysresto.com, DNS:mail.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
smtp-commands: mail.nicalc.com, PIPELINING, SIZE 104857600, ETRN, STARTTLS, ENHANCEDSTATUSCODES, 8BITIME, DSN
993/tcp open  imap7
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=mail.nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:autoconfig.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autoconfig.nicalc.com, DNS:autoconfig.printart-bg.com, DNS:autoconfig.sysresto.com, DNS:autodiscover.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autodiscover.nicalc.com, DNS:autodiscover.printart-bg.com, DNS:autodiscover.sysresto.com, DNS:mail.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
imap-capabilities: IMAP4rev1 LITERAL+ ID LOGIN-REFERRALS post-login have capabilities ENABLE more IDLE OK SASL-IR AUTH=PLAIN AUTH=LOGIN0001 Pre-login listed
995/tcp open  pop3s?
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=mail.nicalc.com
Subject Alternative Name: DNS:autoconfig.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autoconfig.nicalc.com, DNS:autoconfig.printart-bg.com, DNS:autoconfig.sysresto.com, DNS:autodiscover.mycarinspect.com, DNS:autodiscover.nicalc.com, DNS:autodiscover.printart-bg.com, DNS:autodiscover.sysresto.com, DNS:mail.nicalc.com
Not valid before: 2024-05-01T16:15:19
Not valid after: 2024-07-30T16:15:18
ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time
pop3-capabilities: TOP AUTH-RESP-CODE SASL(PLAIN LOGIN) USER RESP-CODES CAPA UIDL PIPELINING

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 32.37 seconds
```

Directory Listing Vulnerability

- **Dirbuster Results:** Pages that return 403 errors instead of 404, indicating possible hidden directories without proper index files.

Using Dirbuster, we discovered that several directories returned a 403 Forbidden error instead of a 404 Not Found error. This suggests that these directories exist but lack the appropriate index files, which could expose sensitive information.

```
-----
GENERATED WORDS: 4612

---- Scanning URL: https://www.nicalc.com/ ----
^C> Testing: https://www.nicalc.com/.perf

student@kalivm2023:~$
student@kalivm2023:~$ ls
Desktop  Documents  Downloads  Music  Pictures  Public  Templates  text.txt  Videos
student@kalivm2023:~$
student@kalivm2023:~$ man dirb
man dirb
student@kalivm2023:~$
student@kalivm2023:~$ dirb https://www.nicalc.com -o nicalc_dirb.txt

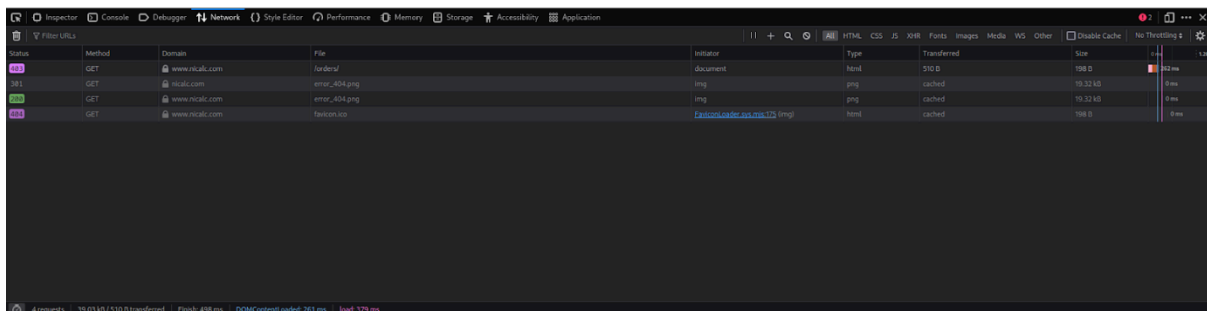
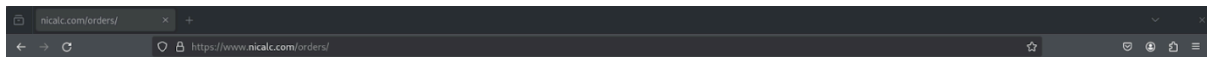
-----
DIRB v2.22
By The Dark Raver
-----

OUTPUT_FILE: nicalc_dirb.txt
START_TIME: Mon May 27 12:21:51 2024
URL_BASE: https://www.nicalc.com/
WORDLIST_FILES: /usr/share/dirb/wordlists/common.txt

-----
GENERATED WORDS: 4612

---- Scanning URL: https://www.nicalc.com/ ----
=> DIRECTORY: https://www.nicalc.com/account/
=> DIRECTORY: https://www.nicalc.com/ajax/
=> Testing: https://www.nicalc.com/alumni_details

student@kalivm2023: ~$ student@kalivm2023: ~$
```



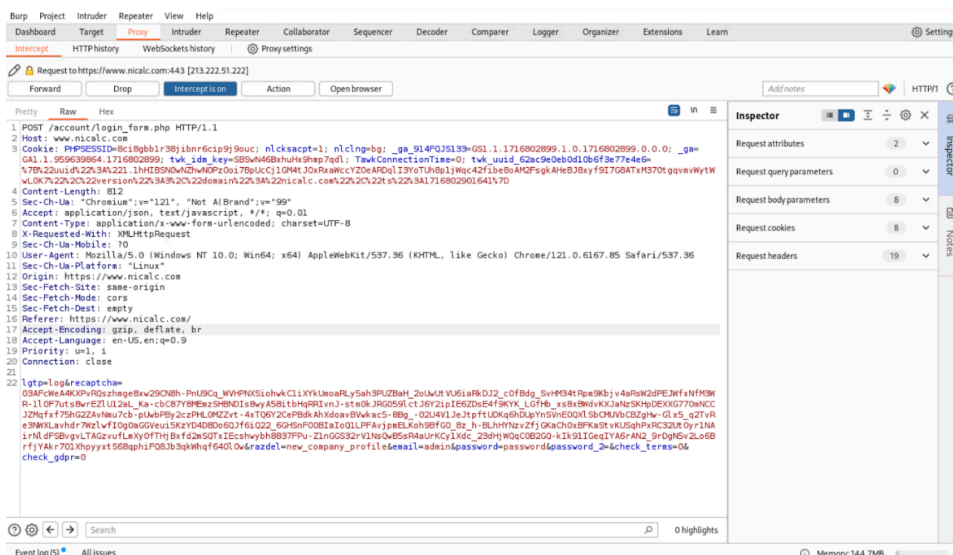
XSS Protection

- **Comments Section:** Attempts to inject XSS were blocked as comments required site owner validation.

We tried to inject XSS payloads in the comments section to see if we could execute malicious scripts. However, our attempts were unsuccessful because the comments required validation by the site owner, effectively blocking our attempts.

Brute-Force Attack

- **Login Interception:** We used Burp Suite to intercept login attempts and then employed Hydra to perform a brute-force attack on the login credentials. However, the site implemented a timeout mechanism and required strong passwords, which made our brute-force attempts unsuccessful.

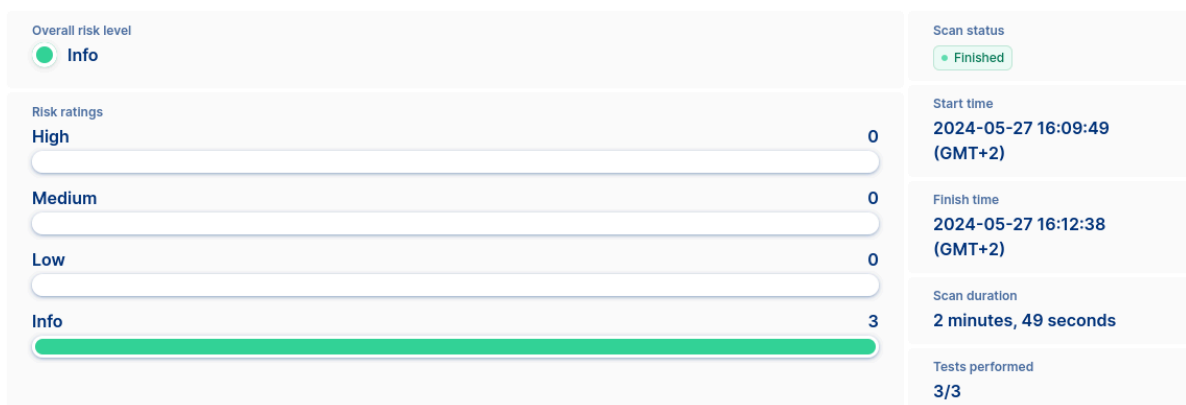


SQL Injection

- We tested for SQL Injection by entering various SQL commands into input fields related to the SMTP server. For example, we used ' OR '1'='1 and other common SQL injection strings. The server effectively sanitized the inputs and prevented any SQL commands from executing, indicating robust protection against SQL injection.



Scan summary



Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

- Many areas were tested, including search fields and user input forms. All XSS attempts were blocked, and no vulnerabilities were found. We manually entered various JavaScript payloads into search fields, comment sections, and other user input areas. Examples of payloads included `<script>alert('XSS')</script>` and other common XSS attack vectors. Each attempt was blocked by the website's input validation and output encoding mechanisms, demonstrating strong defenses against XSS attacks.

Attacks like this could lead to potential risk for the client, but since they have multiple filtering options it is very hard for us to manage to do something without having access to the filtering software.

Command Injection

- Various input fields and backend scripts were tested for command injection vulnerabilities. We manually tested by entering specially crafted strings into form fields to see if they would execute system commands. For instance, we tried inputs like `` ; ls, | whoami ``, and `& `cat /etc/passwd`` in

different fields and URLs. The server consistently sanitized these inputs, preventing any command execution and indicating robust defenses against command injection.

Robots.txt

- We examined the robots.txt file and found no significant vulnerabilities. This file contained standard directives to web crawlers, and there were no exposed sensitive directories or files.

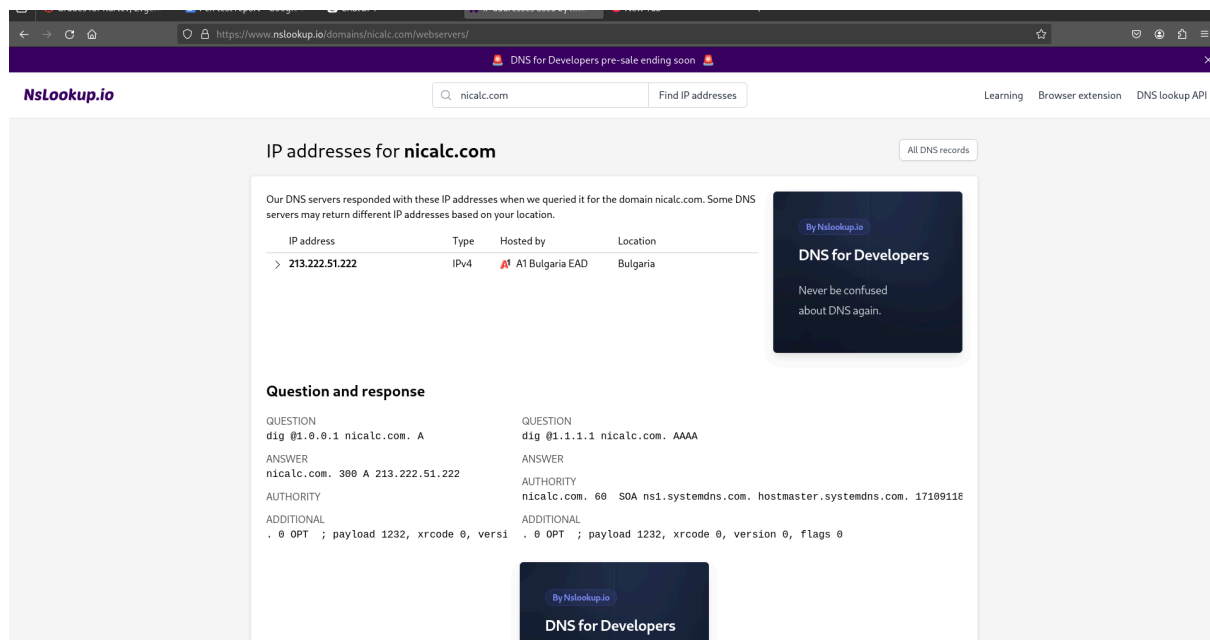
```
User-agent: googlebot-image
Disallow: /
User-agent: googlebot-video
Disallow: /
User-agent: *
Disallow:
Sitemap: https://www.nicalc.com/sitemap.xml
```

Hydra attack

We tried to attack the SoGo login page using hydra but it didn't work. SoGo has very nice protection against different attacks like brute force, XSS and much more. For more information check SoGo's CVE page.

DNS lookup

We also tried DNS lookup but unfortunately we couldn't find anything that we can use.



The screenshot shows the Nslookup.io website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'nicalc.com' entered and a 'Find IP addresses' button. Below this, the main content area is titled 'IP addresses for nicalc.com'. It contains a table with the following data:

IP address	Type	Hosted by	Location
213.222.51.222	IPv4	A1 Bulgaria EAD	Bulgaria

Below the table, there's a 'Question and response' section showing DNS query details for both A and AAAA records. To the right of the table, there's a dark blue box with the text 'DNS for Developers' and 'Never be confused about DNS again.'.

SoGo CVEs

This is the list with CVEs related to SoGo. As you can see the most crucial ones are solved and also there aren't any new ones.

The screenshot shows the Vulmon website with search results for 'sogo'. The results are sorted by risk score. The first result is CVE-2015-5395 with a score of 8.8, affecting Debian Linux 8.0, 7.0, 9.0, and Alinto Sogo. The second is CVE-2017-2232 with a score of 7.8, affecting Moj Shinseiyo Sogo Soft. The third is CVE-2023-27527 with a score of 7.5, affecting Touki-kyoutaku-online Shinseiyo Sogo Soft. The fourth is CVE-2021-33054 with a score of 7.5, affecting Inverse Sogo, Debian Linux 9.0, 10.0, and 11.0. On the right, there is a 'CVSSv3' section with recommendations for CVE-2024-37316, CVE-2024-30078, CVE-2024-5995, CVE-2024-20693, CVE-2024-37315, and CVE-2024-5464. Below this is a 'Vulnerability Notification Service' banner.

Sieve

One of the best ways to get access to the system would be through manipulating Sieve and maliciously flooding SoGo. We tried to get access to the sieve service running on port 4190, but we couldn't reach it and gain control over the mail filtering.

Recommendations

- 1. Implement SSL/TLS for SMTP and IMAP:** Encrypt communication channels to protect sensitive information and prevent eavesdropping.
- 2. Review Directory Permissions:** Ensure proper permissions and configuration to prevent unauthorized access to directories and files.
- 3. Enhance Input Validation:** Continue to use site owner validation for comments and apply similar measures across the site to prevent XSS.
- 4. Rate Limiting and Account Lockout:** Implement these mechanisms to mitigate the risk of brute-force attacks on login forms.
- 5. Regular Updates and Patching:** Keep all systems and software up-to-date to protect against known vulnerabilities.
- 6. Close ports:** close the open port for the Sieve service