

Project 2: Web Security Pitfalls

This project is due on **Thursday, February 23** at **6 p.m.** and counts for 8% of your course grade. Late work will not be accepted after 24 hours past the deadline. If you have a conflict due to travel, interviews, etc., please plan accordingly and turn in your project early.

This is a group project; you will work in **teams of two** and submit one project per team. Please find a partner as soon as possible. If have trouble forming a team, post to Piazza's partner search forum. The code and other answers your group submits must be entirely your own work, and you are bound by the Honor Code. You may consult with other students about the conceptualization of the project and the meaning of the questions, but you may not look at any part of someone else's solution or collaborate with anyone outside your group. You may consult published references, provided that you appropriately cite them (e.g., with program comments), as you would in an academic paper. Solutions must be submitted electronically via Moodle, following the submission checklist below.

Introduction

In this project, we provide an insecure website, and your job is to attack it by exploiting three common classes of vulnerabilities: cross-site scripting (XSS), cross-site request forgery (CSRF), and SQL injection. You are also asked to exploit these problems with various flawed defenses in place. Understanding how these attacks work will help you better defend your own web applications.

Objectives

- Learn to spot common vulnerabilities in websites and to avoid them in your own projects.
- Understand the risks these problems pose and the weaknesses of naive defenses.
- Gain experience with web architecture and with HTML, JavaScript, and SQL programming.

Read this First

This project asks you to develop attacks and test them, with our permission, against a target website that we are providing for this purpose. Attempting the same kinds of attacks against other websites without authorization is prohibited by law and university policies and may result in *fines, expulsion, and jail time*. **You must not attack any website without authorization!** Per the course ethics policy, you are required to respect the privacy and property rights of others at all times, *or else you will fail the course*. See the "Ethics, Law, and University Policies" section on the course website.

Target Website

A startup named **BUNGLE!** is about to launch its first product—a search engine—but their investors are nervous about security problems. Unlike the Bunglers who developed the site, you took ECEN 5032, so the investors have hired you to perform a security evaluation before it goes live.

BUNGLE! is available for you to test at <https://ecen5032.org/project2/>.

The site is written in Python using the Bottle web framework. Although Bottle has built-in mechanisms that help guard against some common vulnerabilities, the Bunglers have circumvented or ignored these mechanisms in several places. If you wish, you can download and inspect the Python source code at <https://ecen5032.org/static/5032-w17-proj2.tar.gz>, but this is not necessary to complete the project.

In addition to providing search results, the site accepts logins and tracks users' search histories. It stores usernames, passwords, and search history in a MySQL database.

Before being granted access to the source code, you reverse engineered the site and determined that it replies to five main URLs: `/`, `/search`, `/login`, `/logout`, and `/create`. The function of these URLs is explained below, but if you want an additional challenge, you can skip the rest of this section and do the reverse engineering yourself.

Main page (`/`) The main page accepts GET requests and displays a search form. When submitted, this form issues a GET request to `/search`, sending the search string as the parameter “`q`”.

If no user is logged in, the main page also displays a form that gives the user the option of logging in or creating an account. The form issues POST requests to `/login` and `/create`.

Search results (`/search`) The search results page accepts GET requests and prints the search string, supplied in the “`q`” query parameter, along with the search results. If the user is logged in, the page also displays the user's recent search history in a sidebar.

Note: Since actual search is not relevant to this project, you might not receive any results.

Login handler (`/login`) The login handler accepts POST requests and takes plaintext “`username`” and “`password`” query parameters. It checks the user database to see if a user with those credentials exists. If so, it sets a login cookie and redirects the browser to the main page. The cookie tracks which user is logged in; manipulating or forging it is **not** part of this project.

Logout handler (`/logout`) The logout handler accepts POST requests. It deletes the login cookie, if set, and redirects the browser to the main page.

Create account handler (`/create`) The create account handler accepts POST requests and receives plaintext “`username`” and “`password`” query parameters. It inserts the username and password into the database of users, unless a user with that username already exists. It then logs the user in and redirects the browser to the main page.

Note: The password is neither sent nor stored securely; however, none of the attacks you implement should depend on this behavior. You should choose a password that other groups will not guess, but never use an important password to test an insecure site!

General Guidelines

We strongly recommend that you do not try to develop this project targeting a browser other than Firefox, which you can download from <https://firefox.com>. Many browsers include different client-side defenses against XSS and CSRF that will interfere with your testing.

For your convenience during manual testing, we have included drop-down menus at the top of each page that let you change the CSRF and XSS defenses that are in use. The solutions you submit must override these selections by including the `csrfdefense=n` or `xssdefense=n` parameter in the target URL, as specified in each task below. You may not attempt to subvert the mechanism for changing the level of defense in your attacks.

In all parts, you should implement the simplest attack you can think of that defeats the given set of defenses. In other words, do not simply attack the highest level of defense and submit that attack as your solution for all defenses. Also, you do not need to try to combine the vulnerabilities, except where explicitly stated below.

The extra credits in Part 2 and Part 3 are hard. They require finding 0-day vulns or bugs in our code.

Resources

The Firefox or Chrome Web Developer tools will be a tremendous help for this project, particular the JavaScript console and debugger, DOM inspector, and network monitor. The developer tools can be found under Tools > Web Developer in Firefox. See <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools>. Chrome developer tools can be accessed by right-clicking a page and selecting Inspect.

Although general purpose tools are permitted, **you are not allowed** to use tools that are designed to automatically test for vulnerabilities.

Your solutions will involve manipulating SQL statements and writing web code using HTML, JavaScript, and the jQuery library. Feel free to search the web for answers to basic how-to questions. There are many fine online resources for learning these tools. Here are a few that we recommend:

SQL Tutorial	http://www.w3schools.com/sql/
SQL Statement Syntax	http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.5/en/sql-syntax.html
Introduction to HTML	https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Guide/HTML/Introduction
HTTP Made Really Easy	http://www.jmarshall.com/easy/http/
JavaScript 101	http://webdesignfromscratch.com/html-css/js101/
Using jQuery Core	http://learn.jquery.com/using-jquery-core/
jQuery API Reference	https://api.jquery.com

To learn more about SQL Injection, XSS, and CSRF attacks, and for tips on exploiting them, see:

https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL_Injection_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet

[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_\(CSRF\)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_(CSRF)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet)

[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_\(Cross_Site_Scripting\)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_(Cross_Site_Scripting)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet)

https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet

Part 1. SQL Injection

Your first goal is to demonstrate SQL injection attacks that log you in as an arbitrary user without knowing the password. In order to protect other students' accounts, we've made a series of separate login forms for you to attack that aren't part of the main **BUNGL**! site. For each of the following defenses, provide inputs to the target login form that successfully log you in as the user "victim":

1.0 No defenses

Target: <https://ecen5032.org/project2/sqlinject0/>

Submission: sql_0.txt

1.1 Simple escaping

The server escapes single quotes (') in the inputs by replacing them with two single quotes.

Target: <https://ecen5032.org/project2/sqlinject1/>

Submission: sql_1.txt

1.2 Escaping and Hashing [Extra credit]

The server uses the following PHP code, which escapes the username and applies the MD5 hash function to the password.

```
if (isset($_POST['username']) and isset($_POST['password'])) {  
    $username = mysql_real_escape_string($_POST['username']);  
    $password = md5($_POST['password'], true);  
    $sql_s = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE username='$username' and pw='$password'";  
    $rs = mysql_query($sql_s);  
    if (mysql_num_rows($rs) > 0) {  
        echo "Login successful!";  
    } else {  
        echo "Incorrect username or password";  
    }  
}
```

This is more difficult than the previous two defenses. You will need to write a program to produce a working exploit. You can use any language you like, but we recommend C.

Target: <https://ecen5032.org/project2/sqlinject2/>

Submissions: sql_2.txt and sql_2.tar.gz

1.3 Bonus 2, The SQL [Extra credit]

This target uses a different database. Your job is to use SQL injection to retrieve:

- The name of the database
- The version of the SQL server
- All of the names of the tables in the database
- A secret string hidden in the database

Target: <https://ecen5032.org/project2/sqlinject3/>

Submission: sql_3.txt

The text file you submit should start with a list of the URLs for all the queries you made to learn the answers. Follow this with the values specified above, using this format:

URL

URL

URL

...

Name: *DB name*

Version: *DB version string*

Tables: *comma separated names*

Secret: *secret string*

What to submit For 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2, when you successfully log in as victim, the server will provide a URL-encoded version of your form inputs. Submit a text file with the specified filename containing only this line. For 1.2, also submit the source code for the program you wrote, as a gzipped tar file (sql_2.tar.gz). For 1.3, submit a text file as specified.

Part 2. Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Your next task is to demonstrate CSRF vulnerabilities against the login form, and **BUNGLE!** has provided two variations of their implementation for you to test. Your goal is to construct attacks that surreptitiously cause the victim to log in to an account you control, thus allowing you to monitor the victim's search queries by viewing the search history for this account. For each of the defenses below, create an HTML file that, when opened by a victim, logs their browser into **BUNGLE!** under the account "attacker" and password "133th4x".

Your solutions should not display evidence of an attack; the browser should just display a blank page. (If the victim later visits Bungle, it will say "logged in as attacker", but that's fine for purposes of the project. After all, most users won't immediately notice.)

2.0 No defenses

Target: <https://ecen5032.org/project2/login?csrfdefense=0&xssdefense=4>

Submission: csrf_0.html

2.1 Token validation

The server sets a cookie named csrf_token to a random 16-byte value and also include this value as a hidden field in the login form. When the form is submitted, the server verifies that the client's cookie matches the value in the form. You are allowed to exploit the XSS vulnerability from Part 3 to accomplish your goal.

Target: <https://ecen5032.org/project2/login?csrfdefense=1&xssdefense=0>

Submission: csrf_1.html

2.2 Token validation, without XSS [Extra credit]

Accomplish the same task as in 2.1 without using XSS.

Target: </login?csrfdefense=1&xssdefense=4>

Submission: csrf_2.html

What to submit For each part, submit an HTML file with the given name that accomplishes the specified attack against the specified target URL. The HTML files you submit must be self-contained, but they may embed CSS and JavaScript. Your files may also load jQuery from the URL <https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.1.0.min.js>. Make sure you test your solutions by opening them as local files in Firefox 48. We will use this setup for grading.

Note: Since you're sharing the attacker account with other students, we've hard-coded it so the search history won't actually update. You can test with a different account you create to see the history change.

Part 3. Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

Your final goal is to demonstrate XSS attacks against the **BUNGLE!** search box, which does not properly filter search terms before echoing them to the results page. For each of the defenses below, your goal is to construct a URL that, if loaded in the victim's browser, correctly executes the payload specified below. We recommend that you begin by testing with a simple payload (e.g., `alert(0);`), then move on to the full payload. Note that you should be able to implement the payload once, then use different means of encoding it to bypass the different defenses.

Payload

The payload (the code that the attack tries to execute) will be to steal the username and the most recent search the user has performed on the **BUNGLE!** site. When a victim visits the URL you create, these stolen items should be sent to the attacker's server for collection.

For purposes of grading, your attack should report these events by loading the URL:

`http://127.0.0.1:31337/stolen?user=<username>&last_search=<last search>`

You can test receiving this data on your local machine by using Netcat: `$ nc -l 31337` and observing the HTTP GET request that your payload generates.

Note: the URLs for this part are HTTP (unlike the previous HTTPS ones); this is due to modern browsers preventing mixed content, which would prevent loading 127.0.0.1:31337 over HTTP. In a real exploit, however, the attacker could simply create their own HTTPS domain, and exfiltrate secrets to that!

Defenses

There are five levels of defense. In each case, you should submit the simplest attack you can find that works against that defense; you should not simply attack the highest level and submit your solution for that level for every level. Try to use a different technique for each defense. The Python code that implements each defense is shown below, along with the target URL and the filename you should submit.

3.0 No defenses

Target: `http://ecen5032.org/project2/search?xssdefense=0`

Submission: `xss_0.txt`

Also submit a human readable version of the code you use to generate your URL, as a file named `xss_payload.html`.

3.1 Remove "script"

```
filtered = re.sub(r"(?i)script", "", input)
```

Target: `http://ecen5032.org/project2/search?xssdefense=1`

Submission: `xss_1.txt`

3.2 Remove several tags

```
filtered = re.sub(r"(?i)script|<img|<body|<style|<meta|<embed|<object",  
                 "", input)
```

Target: <http://ecen5032.org/project2/search?xssdefense=2>

Submission: xss_2.txt

3.3 Remove some punctuation

```
filtered = re.sub(r"[;'\"]", "", input)
```

Target: <http://ecen5032.org/project2/search?xssdefense=3>

Submission: xss_3.txt

3.4 Encode < and > [Extra credit]

```
filtered = input.replace("<", "&lt;").replace(">", "&gt;")
```

Target: <http://ecen5032.org/project2/search?xssdefense=4>

Submission: xss_4.txt

What to submit Your submission for each level of defense will be a text file with the specified filename that contains a single line consisting of a URL. When this URL is loaded in a victim's browser, it should execute the specified payload against the specified target. The payload encoded in your URLs must be self-contained, but they may embed CSS and JavaScript. Your payload may also load jQuery from the URL <https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.1.0.min.js>. Make sure you test your solutions in Firefox 48, the browser we will use for grading.

Submission Checklist

Upload to Moodle a gzipped tarball (`.tar.gz`) named `project2.identikey1.identikey2.tar.gz`. The tarball should contain only the files below. When applicable, your solutions may contain embedded JavaScript or CSS, and they may load jQuery from the URL <https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.1.0.min.js>, but they must be otherwise self-contained. Please make sure you test your solutions in Firefox 48, the browser we will use for grading.

Part 1: SQL Injection

For 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2, submit text files that contain URL-encoded form fields for the specified SQL injection attacks. These strings will be provided to you by the server when your exploit works. Also submit a `.tar.gz` file containing the source code you wrote to produce the solution to part 1.2. For part 1.3, submit a text file as specified in the problem.

<code>sql_0.txt</code>	1.0 No defenses
<code>sql_1.txt</code>	1.1 Simple escaping
<code>sql_2.tar.gz*</code>	1.2 Escaping and Hashing [Extra credit]
<code>sql_3.txt*</code>	1.3 Bonus 2, The SQL [Extra credit]

Part 2: CSRF

HTML files that, when loaded in a browser, immediately carry out the specified CSRF attack against the specified target.

<code>csrf_0.html</code>	2.0 No defenses
<code>csrf_1.html</code>	2.1 Token validation
<code>csrf_2.html*</code>	2.2 Token validation, without XSS [Extra credit]

Part 3: XSS

Text files, each containing a URL that, when loaded in a browser, immediately carries out the specified XSS attack against the specified target. Also submit an HTML file containing the human readable code you used to generate the URL for part 3.0.

<code>xss_payload.html</code>	3.0 No defenses
<code>xss_0.txt</code>	3.0 No defenses
<code>xss_1.txt</code>	3.1 Remove “script”
<code>xss_2.txt</code>	3.2 Remove several tags
<code>xss_3.txt</code>	3.3 Remove some punctuation
<code>xss_4.txt*</code>	3.4 Encode < and > [Extra credit]

* These files are optional extra credit.