Web Application Penetration Testing Report

Team members

1- Youssef Mohamed Mohamed Hamed
2- Omar Aly Anwar Elnily
3- Aly Mohamed ElHalawany

1. Introduction

This report document hereby describes the proceedings and results of a Black Box security assessment conducted against **DVWA web application**. The report hereby lists the findings and corresponding best practice mitigation actions and recommendations.

2. Objective

The objective of the assessment was to assess the state of security and uncover vulnerabilities in **DVWA Web application** and provide with a final security assessment report comprising vulnerabilities, remediation strategy and recommendation guidelines to help mitigate the identified vulnerabilities and risks during the activity.

3. Scope

This section defines the scope and boundaries of the project.

Application Name	DVWA
URL	https://tryhackme.com/r/room/dvwa

3.1. Assessment Attribute(s)

Parameter	Value
Starting Vector	External
Target Criticality	Critical
Assessment Nature	Cautious & Calculated
Assessment Conspicuity	Clear
Proof of Concept(s)	Attached wherever possible and applicable.

3.2. Risk Calculation and Classification

Following is the risk classification:

Info	Low	Medium	High	Critical
No direct threat to host/ individual user account. Sensitive information can be revealed to the adversary.	Vulnerabilities may not have public exploit (code) available or cannot be exploited in the wild. Vulnerability observed may not have high rate of occurrence. Patch workaround released by vendor.	Vulnerabilities may not have public exploit (code) available or cannot be exploited in the wild. Patch/ workaround not yet released by vendor.	Vulnerabilities which can be exploited publicly, workaround or fix/ patch available by vendor.	Vulnerabilities which can be exploited publicly, workaround or fix/ patch may not be available by vendor.

Table 1: Risk Rating

Summary

Outlined is a Black Box Application Security assessment for **DVWA Web Application**

https://tryhackme.com/r/room/dvwa

Following section illustrates **Detailed** Technical information about identified vulnerabilities.

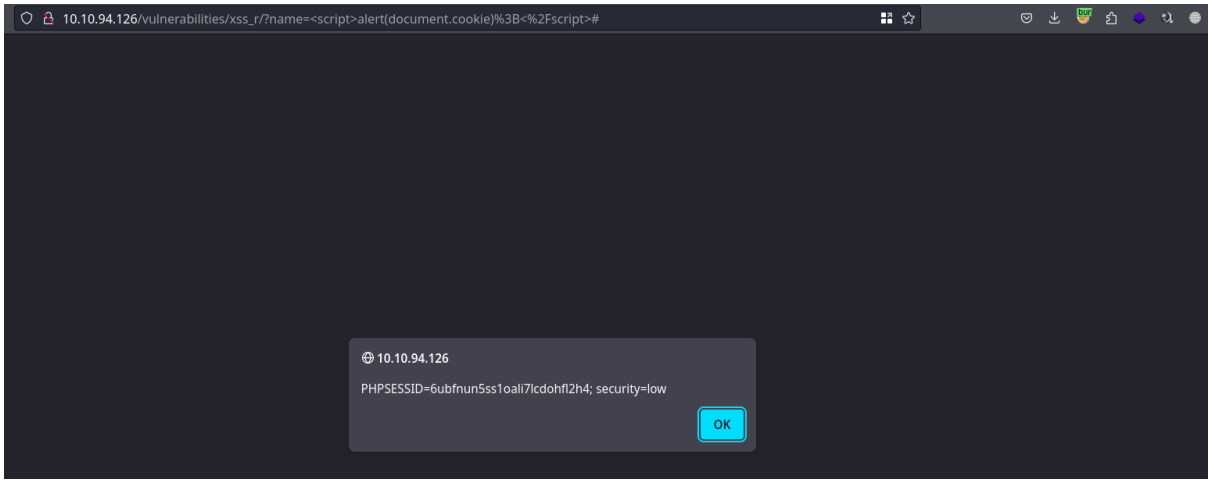
Total: 6 Vulnerabilities

High	Medium	Low
8	3	4

1. 3 Reflected XSS vulnerabilities the application

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_01	**Medium**
Tools Used:	
Browser, Burp Suite	
Vulnerability Description:	
It was observed that in the search bar instead of search query if we inject JavaScript code then the JS code executes hence results into XSS	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Vulnerable URLs / IP Address	
10.10.94.126/vulnerabilities/xss_r/	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	
An adversary having knowledge of JavaScript will be able to steal the user's credentials, hijack user's account, exfiltrate sensitive data and can access the client's computer.	
Suggested Countermeasures	
It is recommended to: ● Filter input on arrival ● Encode data on output ● Use appropriate response headers ● Use Content Security Policy (CSP) to reduce the severity of any existing XSS vulnerabilities	
References	
● https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS) ● https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet ● https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting ● http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html ● http://www.scriptalert1.com/	

(POC 1):



Manual Analysis:

1- While the input of the name to append in the web page doesn't have any filters, the parameter of "name" was vulnerable as it doesn't have any validation and sanitization for the user input. **payload: <script>alert("document.cookie")</script>**

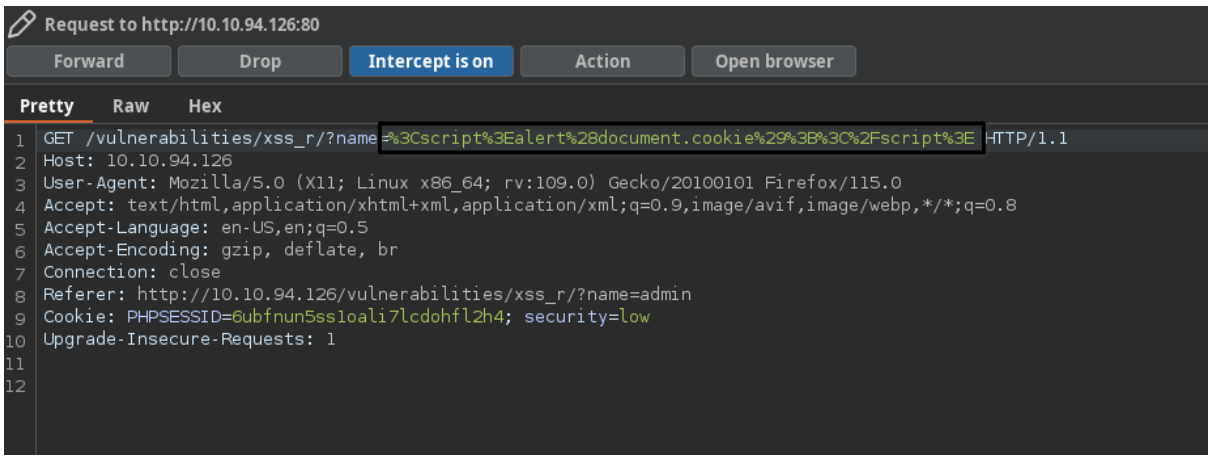


Fig1: shows the javascript payload injected to the name parameter

While testing the input field again with different security level, I noticed that it filters the "script" tags and just prints what is between them. **payload: <SCRIPT>alert(document.cookie)</SCRIPT>**

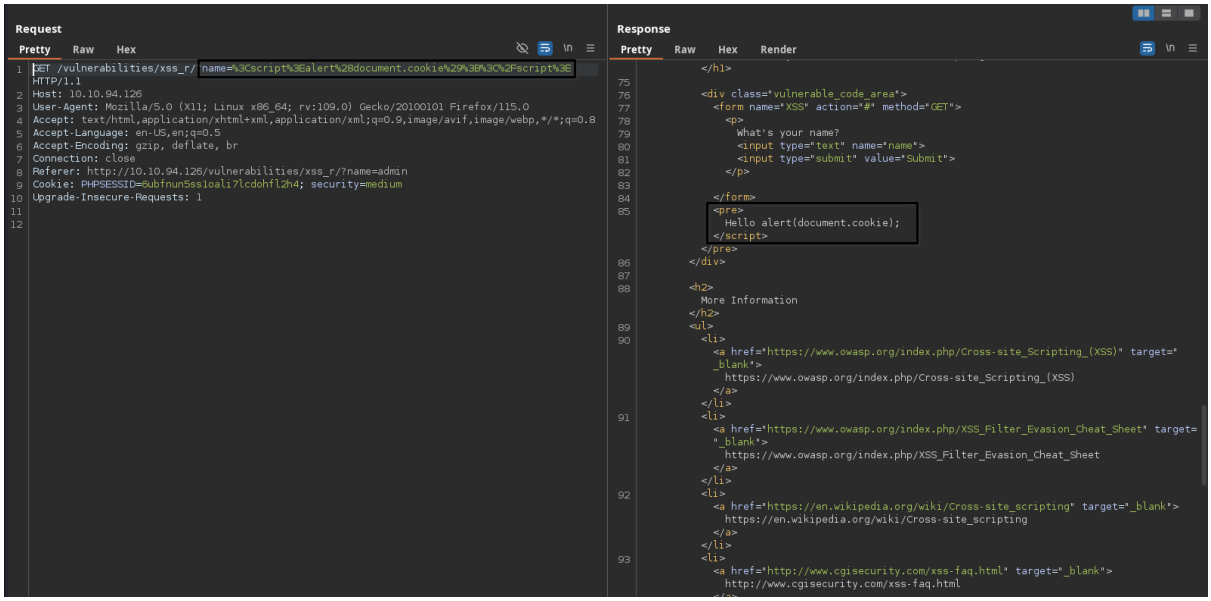


Fig2: the application filters the script tag

2- After digging, I found the it was filtering the “script” tag with small letters only, meaning that if the letters was capitalized, the JS code will execute and show the PHPSESSID.

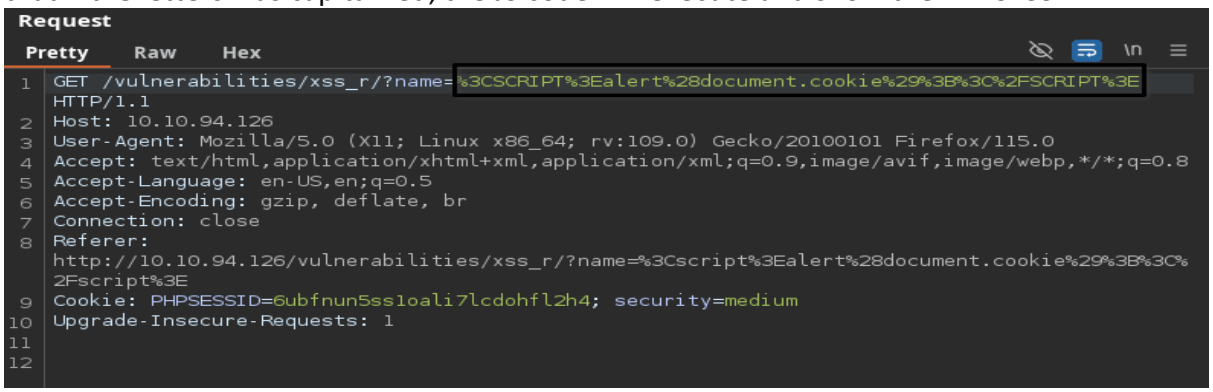


Fig3: New payload capitalizing the letters to bypass the filter

POC 2

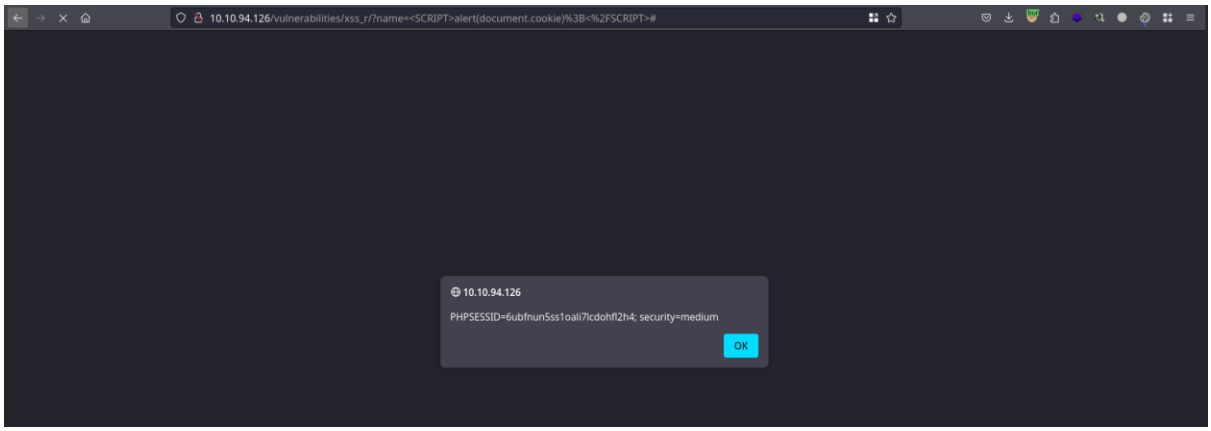


Fig4: PHPSESSID is released

3- Again, changing the security level to high to test for further weaknesses, it was found that the application filters all the JS tags now, small and capitalized, but there are actually events

that uses JS but without needing the js scripts, using **img** tag. **payload: <img src=x onerror=alert(document.cookie)>**

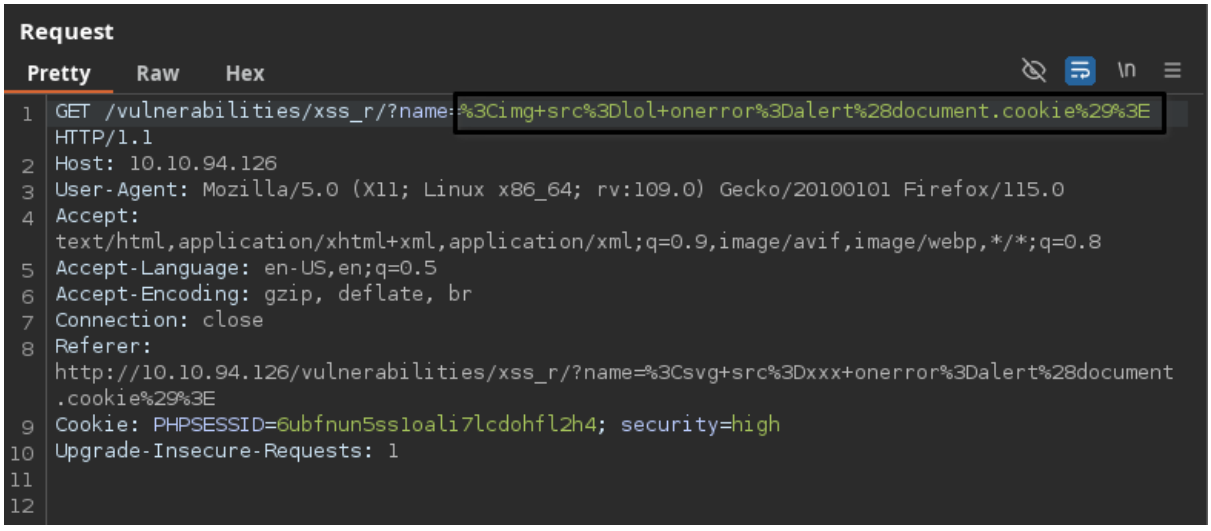


Fig5: img tag payload reveals the user session

POC 3

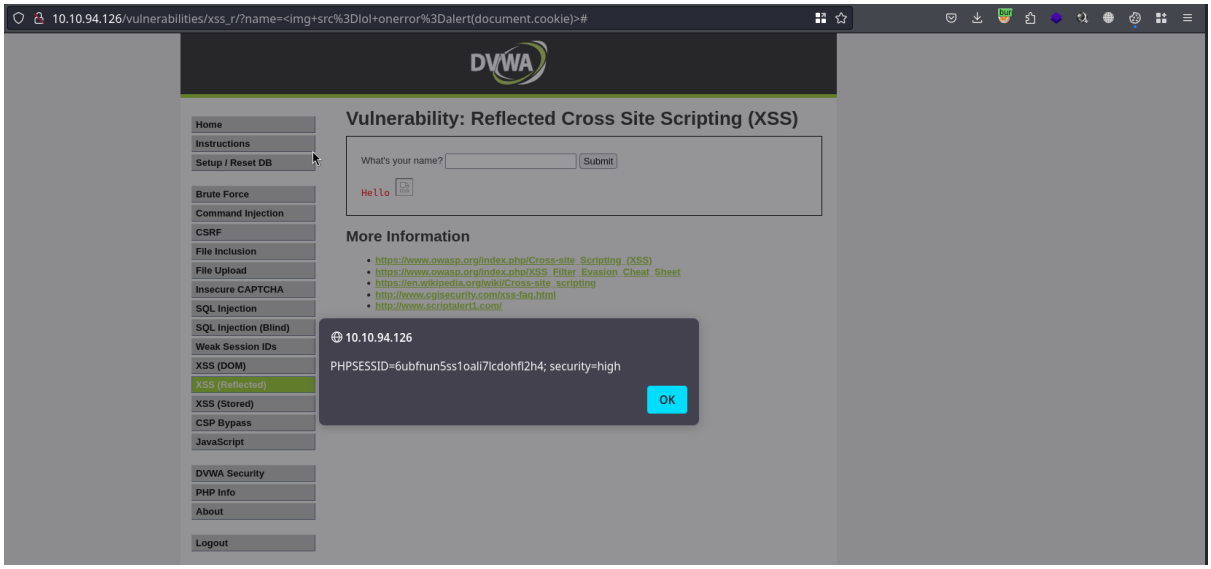
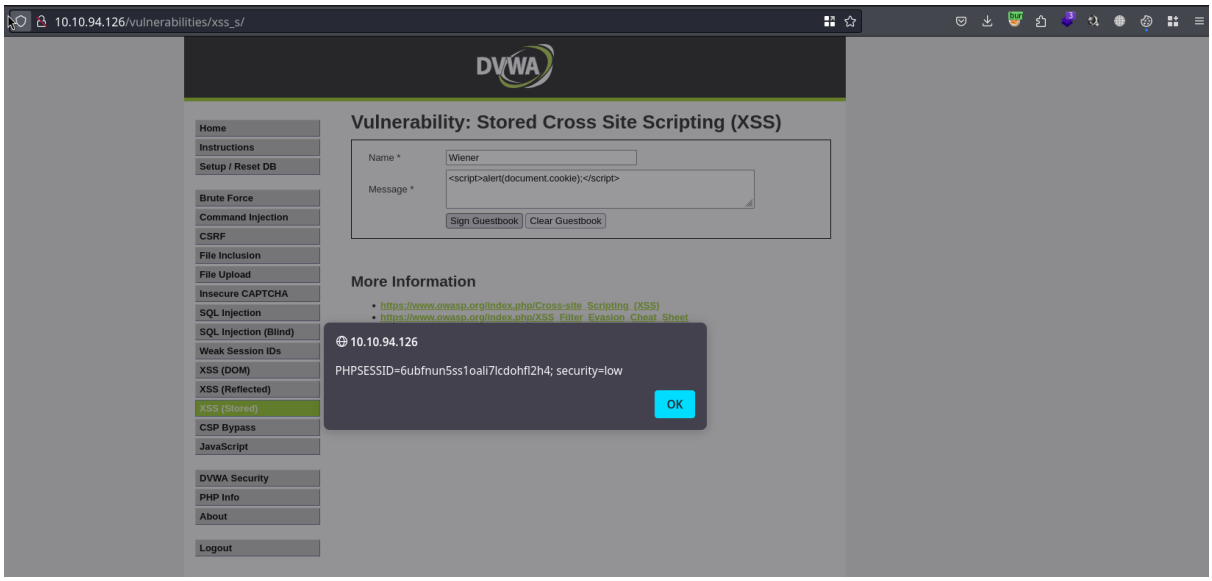


Fig6: PHPSESSID was revealed

2. 3 Stored XSS vulnerabilities in the application.

Reference No:	Risk Rating:
WEB_VUL_02	**Medium**
Tools Used:	
Browser	
Vulnerability Description:	
It was observed that in the guestbook page, you can add your name and message but there are no strong filters leading to adding JS code in input fields and executing the JS code.	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Vulnerable URLs / IP Address	
http://10.10.94.126/vulnerabilities/xss_s/	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	
An adversary having knowledge of JavaScript will be able to steal the user's credentials, hijack user's account, exfiltrate sensitive data and can access the client's computer.	
Suggested Countermeasures	
It is recommended to: • Filter input on arrival • Encode data on output • Use appropriate response headers • Use Content Security Policy (CSP) to reduce the severity of any existing XSS vulnerabilities	
References	
• https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site_Scripting_(XSS) • https://www.owasp.org/index.php/XSS_Filter_Evasion_Cheat_Sheet • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_scripting • http://www.cgisecurity.com/xss-faq.html • http://www.scriptalert1.com/	

(POC 1)



Manual Analysis:

1- It was noticed in the page to sign the guestbook that you might add name and message but there are no strong filters that might prevent the user from entering JS code.

Notice that after adding the name and message, they are stored in the web application and will appear to any user who enters the vulnerable endpoint. **Payload: <script>alert(document.domain)</script>**

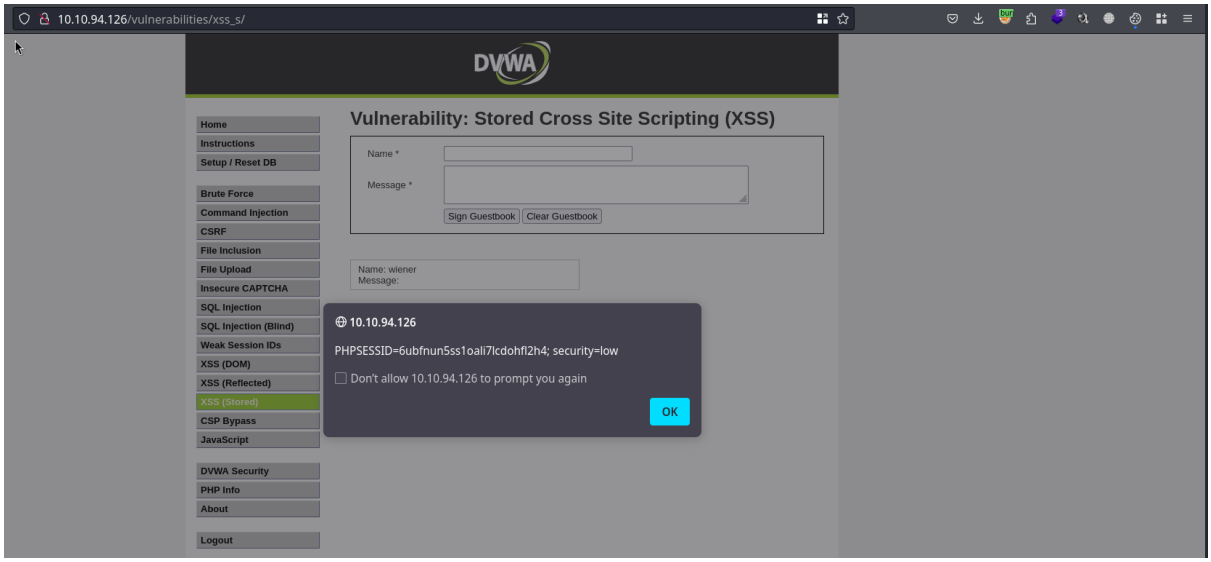


Fig7: Stored XSS is appended in the message field

2- I attempted to input the payload into the name field, but encountered client-side restrictions that limit users to entering a maximum of 10 characters, as shown below.

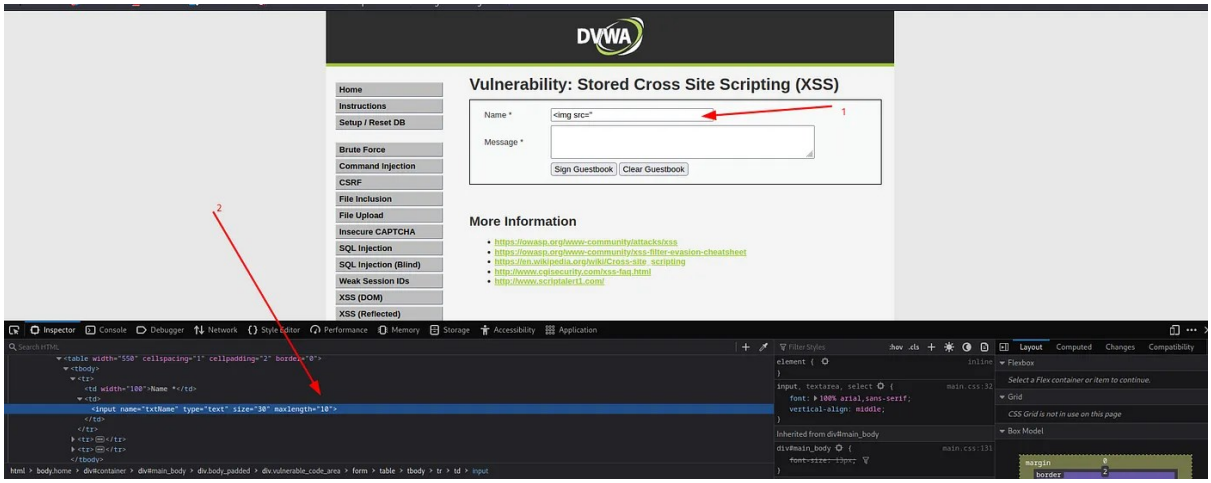


Fig 8: Vulnerable name input limit chars

To bypass this limitation, right-click on the name input field, select “Inspect,” and then modify the `maxlength=”10"` attribute to a different value, such as `”90"`. After making this adjustment, press Enter to apply the changes, as illustrated below.

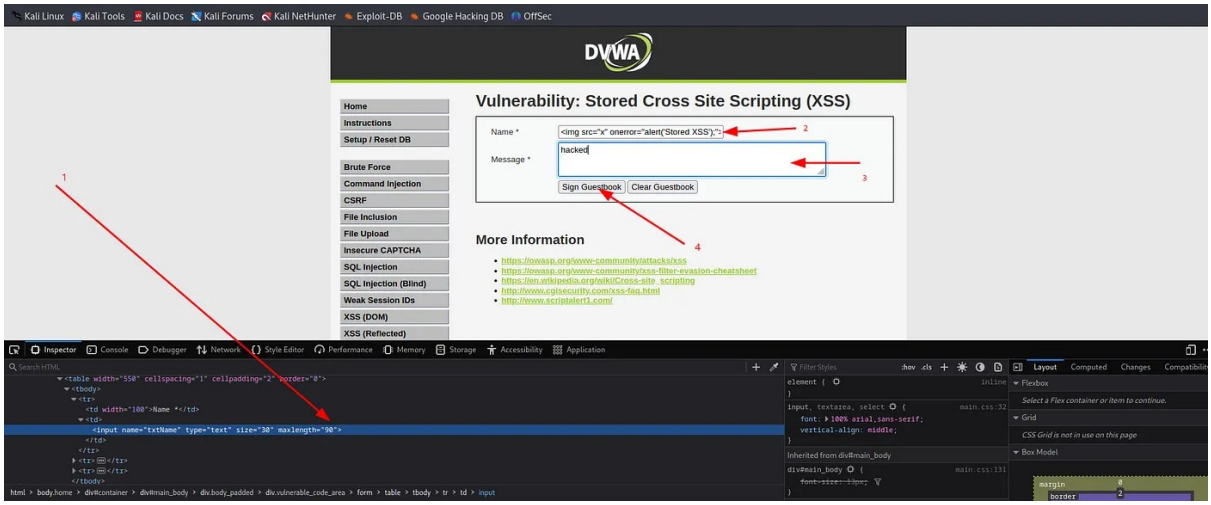


Fig 9: Vulnerable name input accepts the payload

(POC 2)

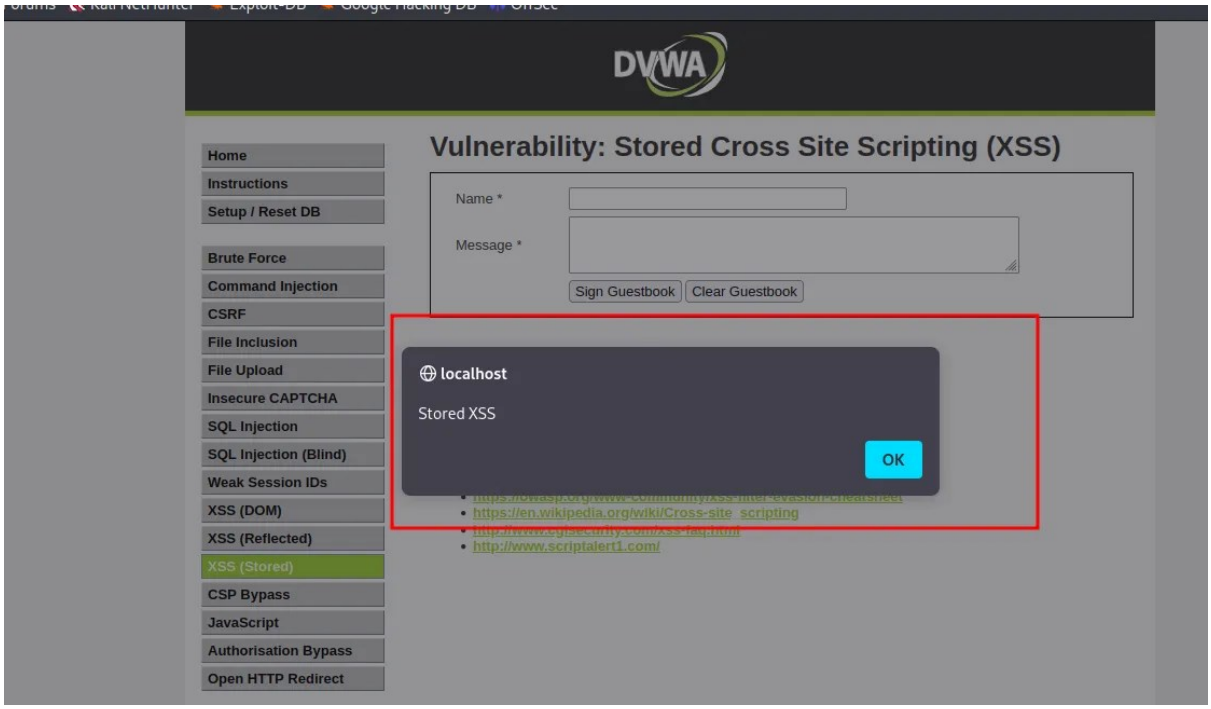


Fig 10: Stored XSS in the name input field

3- I attempted to input the payload into the name field, but encountered client-side restrictions that limit users to entering a maximum of 10 characters. To bypass this limitation, right-click on the name input field, select “Inspect,” and then modify the `maxlength=”10"` attribute to a different value, such as `”90"`. After making this adjustment, press Enter to apply the changes. I noticed that the name field doesn’t execute the event in the ‘img’ tag this time so I tried a different payload

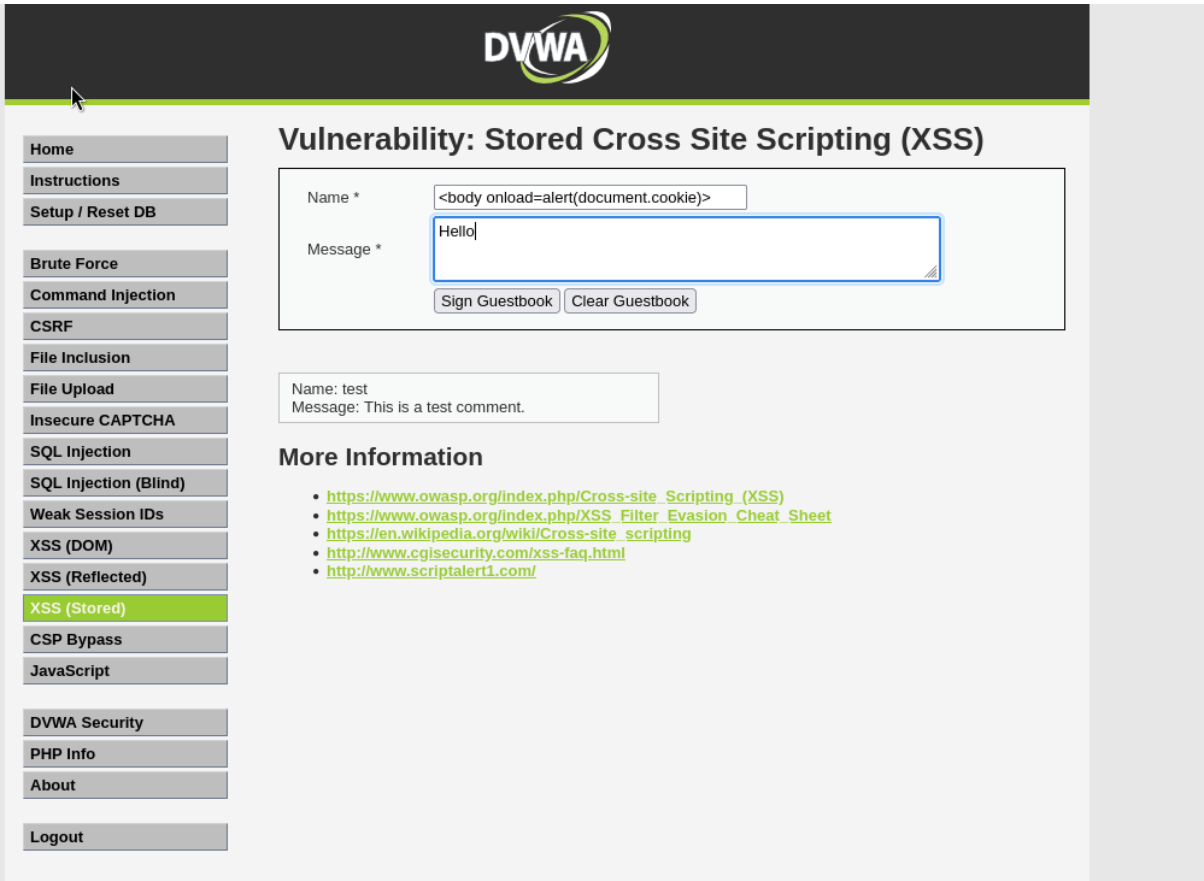


Fig 11: Stored XSS in name input field leads to releasing PHPSESSID

(POC 3)

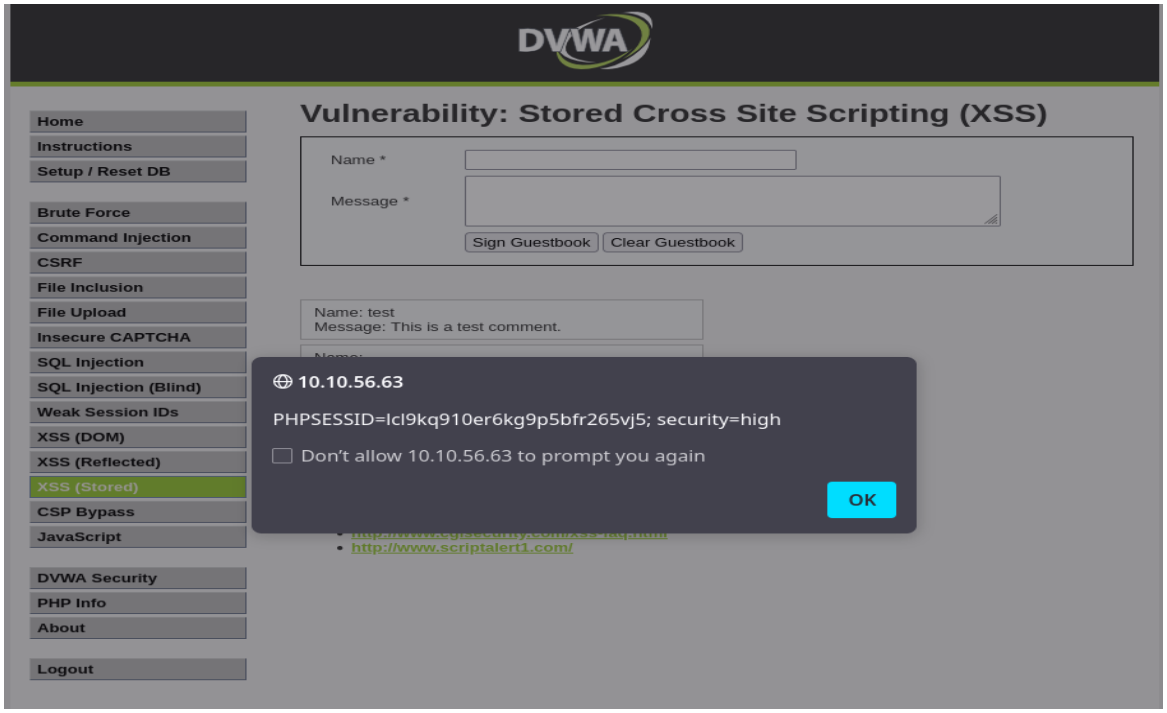


Fig 12: Proof of concept for the stored XSS

3. SQL Injection by injecting queries in the URL GET parameter

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_01	**High**

Tools Used:

Browser, BurpSuite

Vulnerability Description:

It was observed that the application had the list of artists contributed and just by implementing SQL queries into the GET Requests in the URL, severe information of the users could be fetched.

Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered

Manual Analysis & Automated Analysis

Vulnerable URLs / IP Address

https://hack.me/101047/dvwa-107.htmlvulnerabilities/sqli/index.php

Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue

An adversary having knowledge about SQL could easily get into the database and can fetch juicy details of all the users present inside the database by injecting SQL queries in the URL GET parameter. The details includes cc, email, name, phone, address etc.

Suggested Countermeasures

It is recommended to implement below control for mitigating the SQLi:

- Use Stored Procedure, Not Dynamic SQL
- Use Object Relational Mapping (ORM) Framework
- Least Privilege
- Input Validation
- Character Escaping
- Use WAF (Web Application Firewall)

References

https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/SQL_Injection

https://logz.io/blog/defend-against-sql-injections/

Proof of concept:

Manual Analysis:

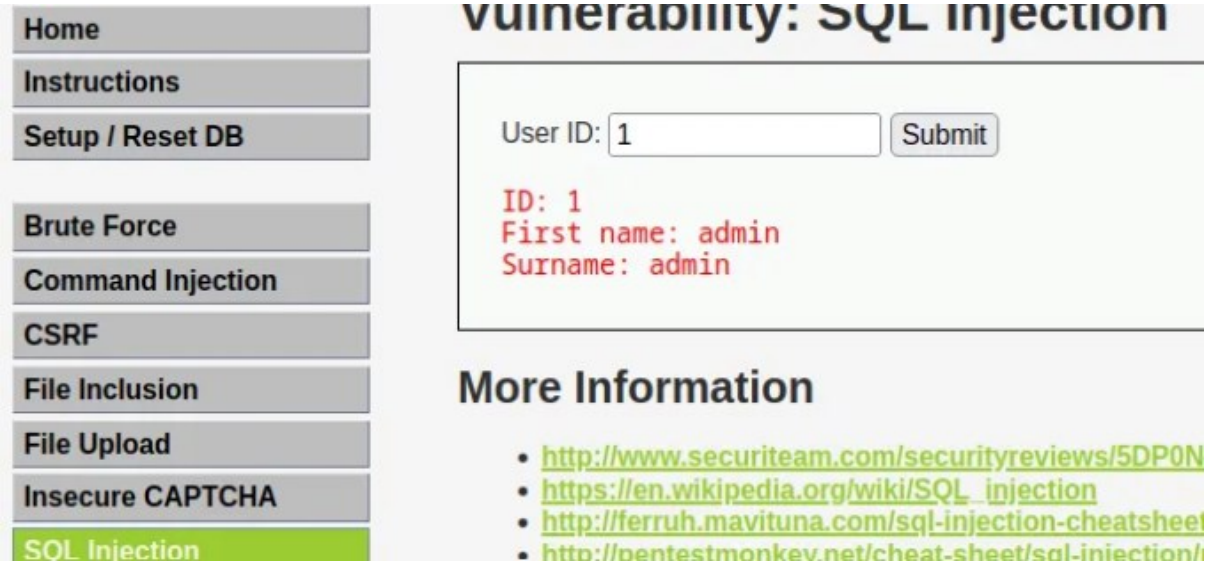


Fig13: The application will give details on numerical parameter

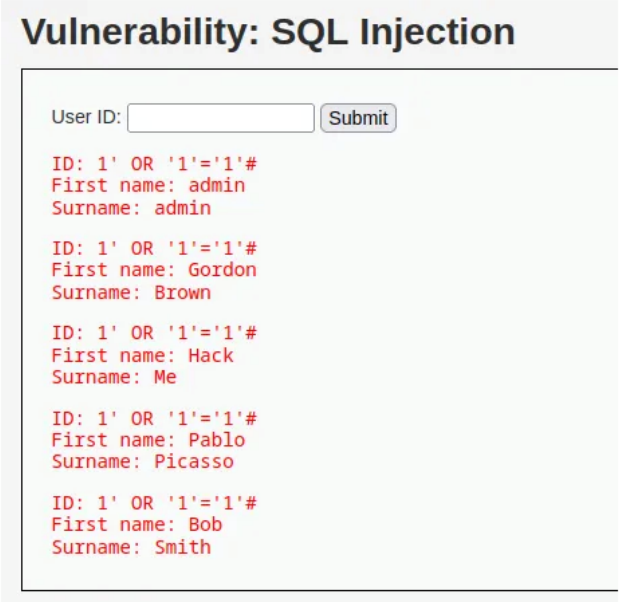


Fig14: This means that the query that was executed back in the database was the following:

1' OR '1'='1'#

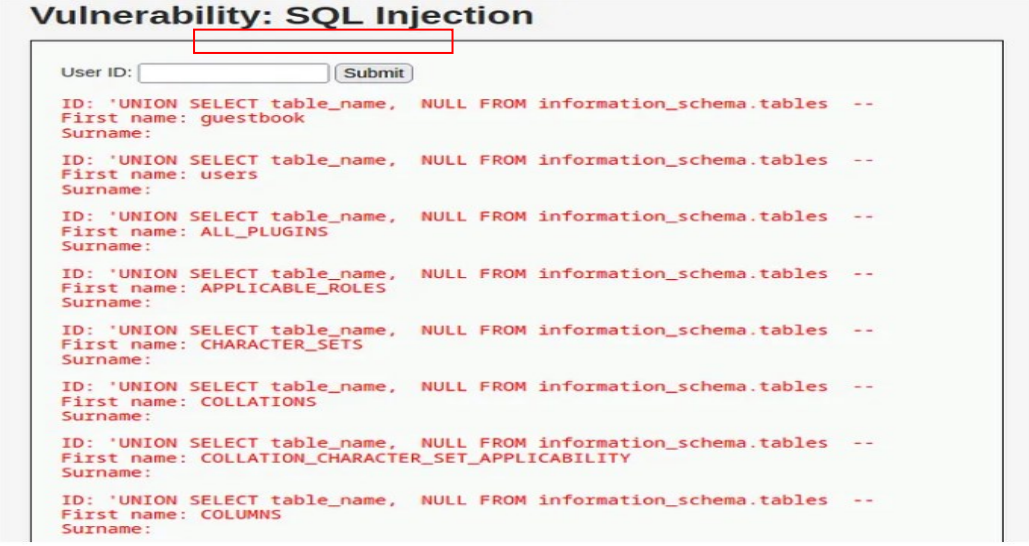


Fig15: Then modify the URL with 'UNION SELECT table_name, NULL FROM information_schema.tables --

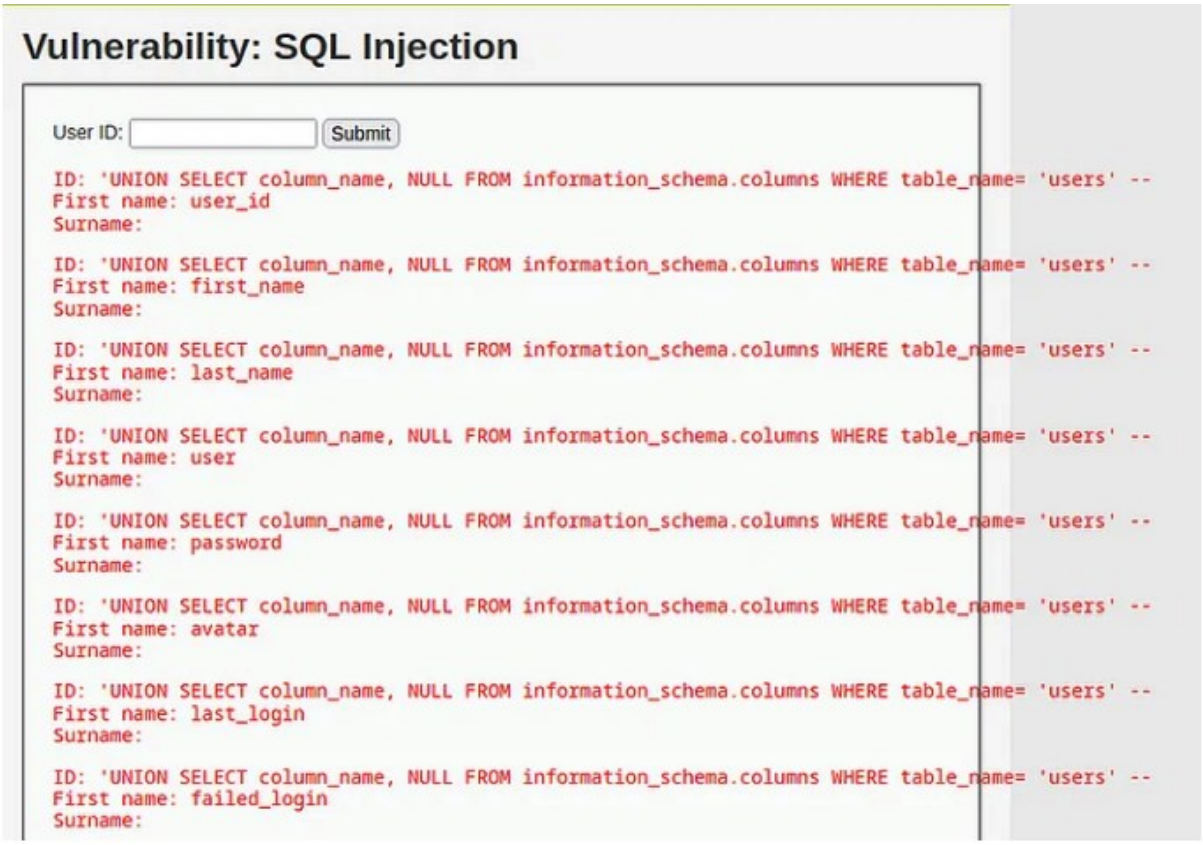


Fig16: Then modify the URL with 'UNION SELECT column_name, NULL FROM information_schema.columns WHERE table_name= 'users' --

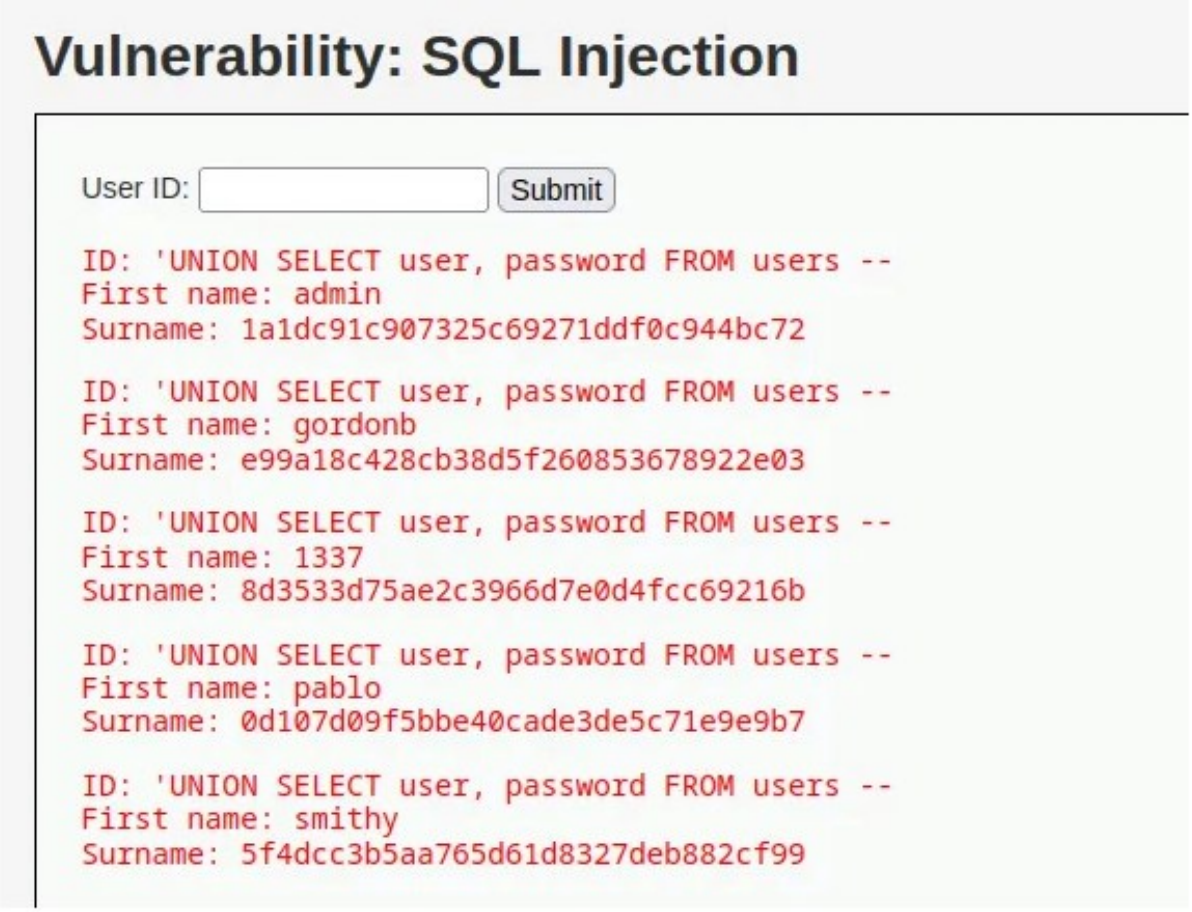


Fig17: Now we can see we got both username and encrypted password.

'UNION SELECT user, password FROM users --

RECOMMENDATION:

The following care must be taken to prevent the application from the SQL injection vulnerability,

- Whitelist user inputs: Validate all user inputs based on allowed data types and data length. For example, for a user input for a date parameter (e.g., 01/01/1980), allow only numbers and a forward slash character with a length limitation of 10 characters.
- Prepared Statements: Prepared Statements ensure that an attacker is not able to change the intent of a query, even if an attacker inserts SQL commands. If an attacker were to enter the username as admin' or' 1'='1, the parameterized query would not be vulnerable and would instead look for a username that literally matches the entire string admin' or '1'='1.
- Input encoding: For tree form text inputs such as comment box, address field

the application should convert Special characters to its HTML entities, which may contain any character.

4. In the application

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_02	**High**

Tools Used:

Browser, BurpSuite

Vulnerability Description:

It was observed that the application had the list of artists contributed and just by implementing SQL queries into the GET Requests in the URL, severe information of the users could be fetched.

Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered

Manual Analysis

Vulnerable URLs / IP Address

https://hack.me/101047/dvwa-107.htmlvulnerabilities/sqli/index.php

Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue

An adversary having knowledge about SQL could easily get into the database and can fetch juicy details of all the users present inside the database by injecting SQL queries in the URL GET parameter. The details includes cc, email, name, phone, address etc.

Suggested Countermeasures

It is recommended to implement below control for mitigating the SQLi:

- Use Stored Procedure, Not Dynamic SQL
- Use Object Relational Mapping (ORM) Framework
- Least Privilege
- Input Validation
- Character Escaping
- Use WAF (Web Application Firewall)

References

https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/SQL_Injection

https://logz.io/blog/defend-against-sql-injections/

Proof of concept:

URL #1:

Fig 18: Open the target website

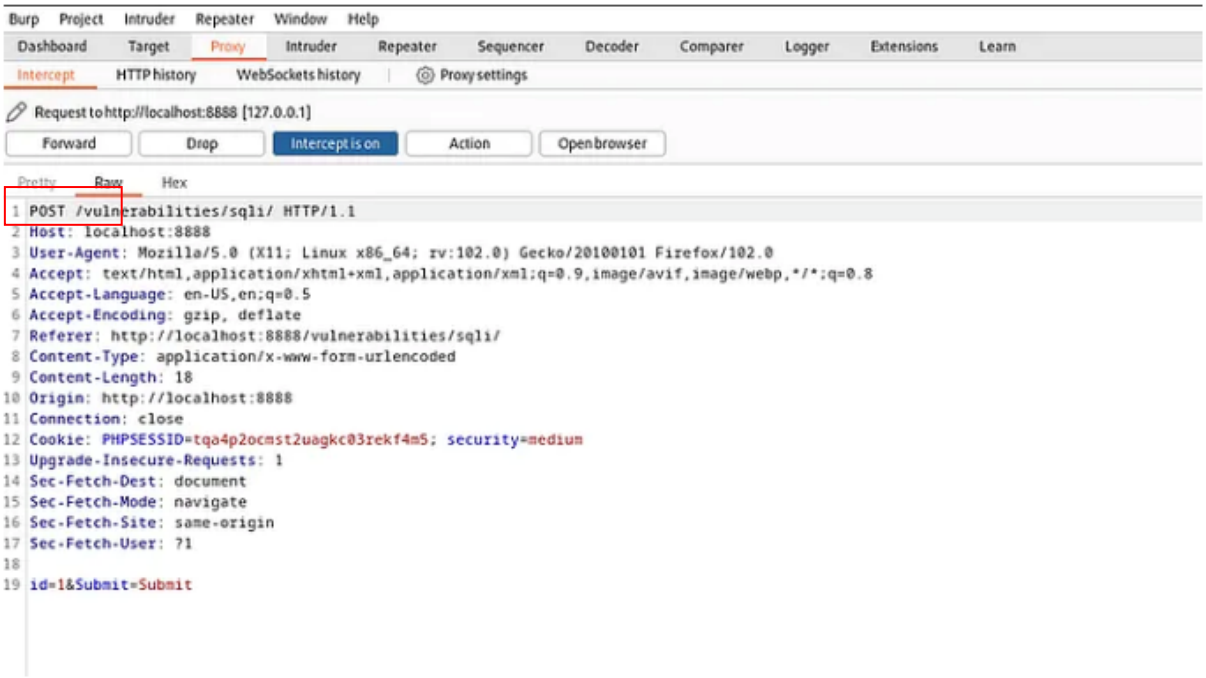


Fig 19: Edit id=1 to this code then send it and we can see the results in response.

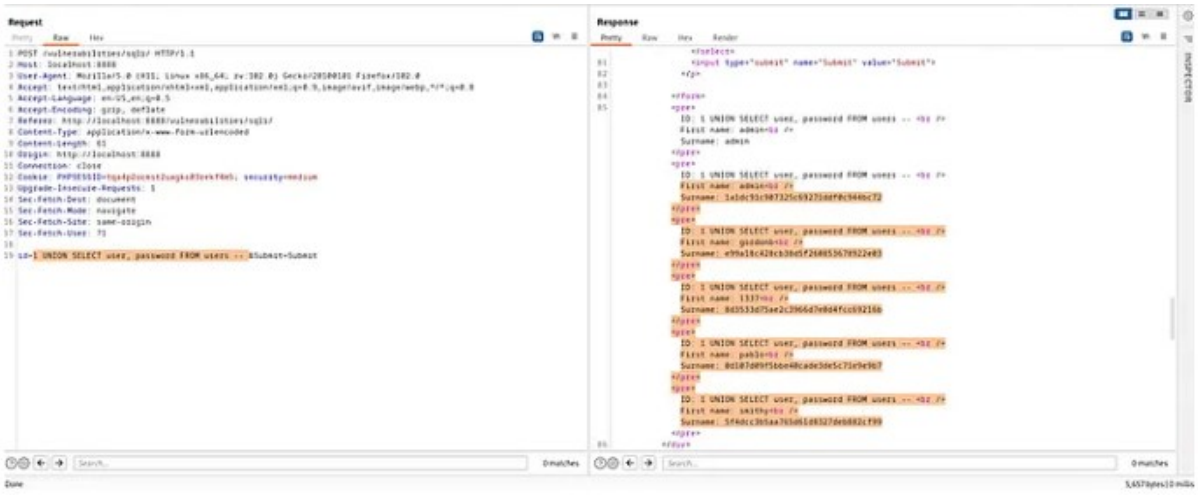


Fig 20: Then using union select to dump the database:

1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users --

5. In the application

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_03	**High** [redacted]
Tools Used:	
Browser, BurpSuite	
Vulnerability Description:	
It was observed that the application had the list of artists contributed and just by implementing SQL queries into the GET Requests in the URL, severe information of the users could be fetched.	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Vulnerable URLs / IP Address	
https://hack.me/101047/dvwa-107.htmlvulnerabilities/sqli/index.php	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	

An adversary having knowledge about SQL could easily get into the database and can fetch juicy details of all the users present inside the database by injecting SQL queries in the URL GET parameter. The details includes cc, email, name, phone, address etc.
Suggested Countermeasures
It is recommended to implement below control for mitigating the SQLi: • Use Stored Procedure, Not Dynamic SQL • Use Object Relational Mapping (ORM) Framework • Least Privilege • Input Validation • Character Escaping • Use WAF (Web Application Firewall)
References
https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/SQL_Injection https://logz.io/blog/defend-against-sql-injections/

Proof of concept:

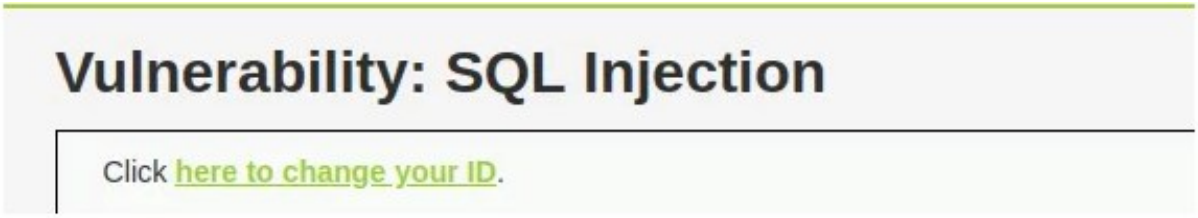


Fig 21: After clicking the "here to change your ID", we can see a window where we can insert our malicious code.

Fig 22: we will be using the following: ' UNION SELECT user, password FROM users --

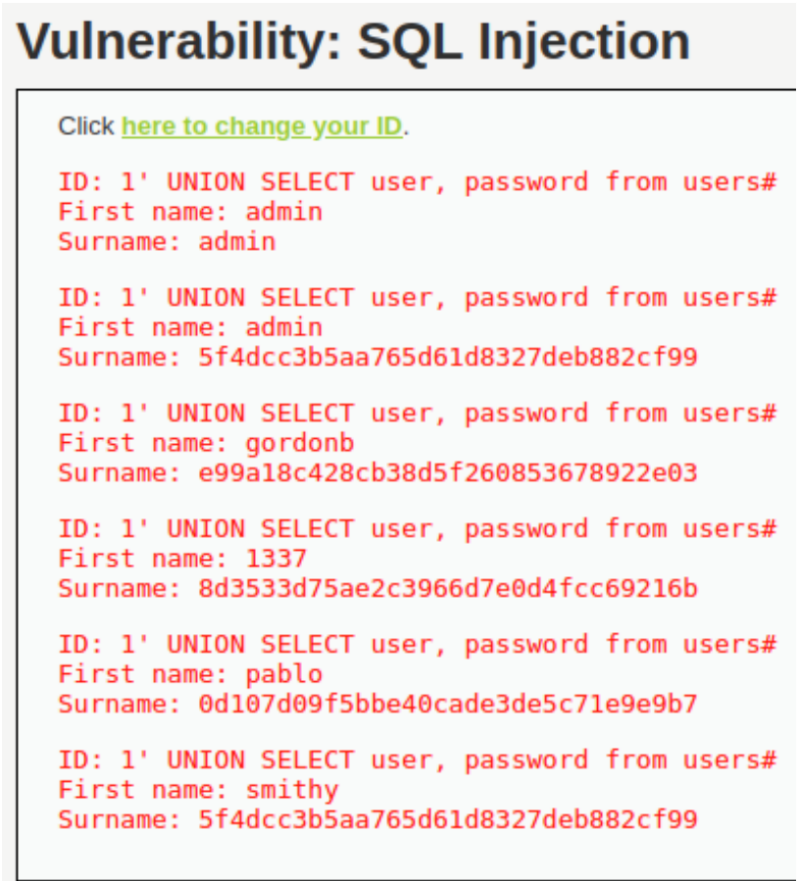


Fig 23: After submitting the code, we can get usernames and passwords.

6. Command injection (low security)

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_01	**Low**
Tools Used:	
Manual Testing, Browser	
Vulnerability Description:	
The web application accepts an IP address from the user. During testing, it was discovered that appending commands to the IP input (e.g., 8.8.8.8; pwd) resulted in both the IP lookup and an additional command being executed on the server. This suggests a command injection vulnerability.	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	
An attacker can execute arbitrary system commands, potentially gaining unauthorized access to sensitive information or escalating their privileges on the system.	
Suggested Countermeasures	
• Proper input validation to ensure only valid IP addresses are accepted. • Use safer command execution functions that do not allow system command execution from user inputs. • Implement a Web Application Firewall (WAF) to detect and block command injection attempts.	

Proof of concept:

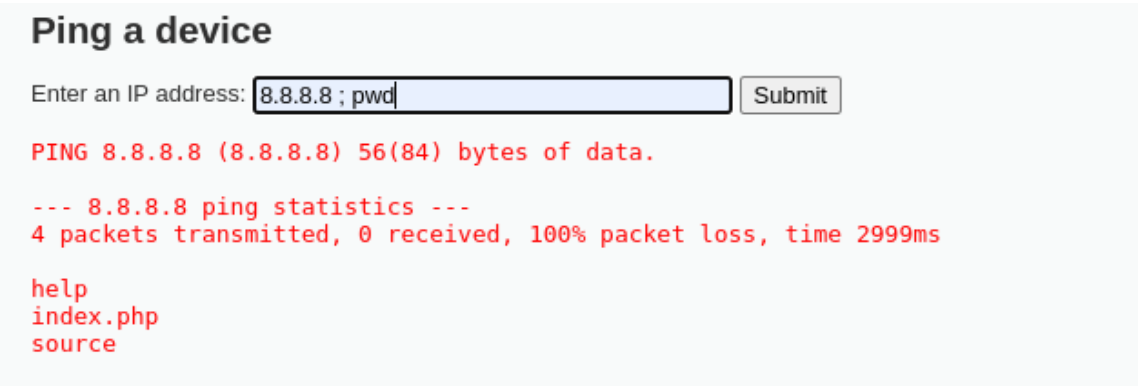


Fig24: Command injection with ping input 1

7. Command injection (pipeline operator)

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_02	Medium
Tools Used:	
Manual Testing, Browser	
Vulnerability Description:	
It was observed that in the search bar instead of search query if we inject JavaScript code then the JS code executes hence results into XSS	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	
Attackers can still execute system commands by bypassing the basic filters, leading to unauthorized access and further exploitation.	
Suggested Countermeasures	
• Implement more robust filtering, ensuring special characters like ` • Conduct thorough input validation using allow-lists. • Use secure libraries or methods to avoid executing system commands directly based on user input.	

Proof of concept:

Fig25: Command injection using pipeline operator

8. Command injection (No spaces allowed)

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_03	High
Tools Used:	
Manual Testing, Browser	
Vulnerability Description:	
Even with further input restrictions preventing the use of spaces, semicolons, and pipeline operators, it was possible to bypass the restrictions by removing spaces altogether. For example, entering 8.8.8.8|pwd	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	
Attackers can craft commands to bypass filtering, potentially leading to unauthorized command execution and compromising the system.	
Suggested Countermeasures	
• Implement stricter input validation that handles edge cases like command execution without spaces. • Use libraries or methods that execute commands in a safe, controlled environment. • Regularly update input validation mechanisms to account for new techniques.	

Proof of concept:

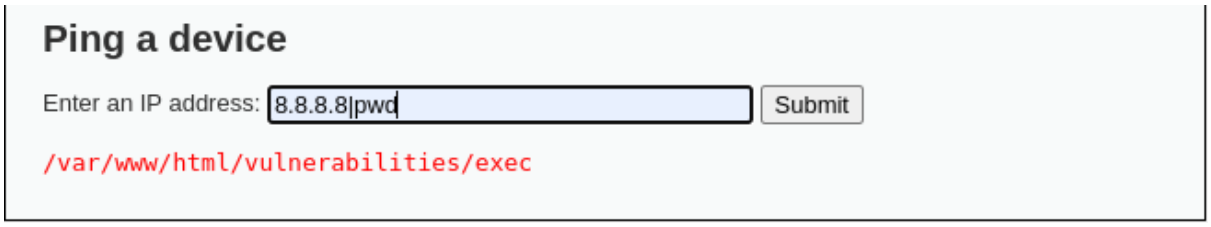


Fig26: Command injection with no spaces allowed

Brute Force Attack (High Security)

Reference No:	**Risk Rating:**
WEB_VUL_04	High [redacted]
Tools Used:	
Burp Suite, Manual Testing	
Vulnerability Description:	
The login form on the web application does not enforce rate limiting, allowing unlimited login attempts. Using Burp Suite's intruder feature, a brute-force attack was conducted on both the username and password fields, resulting in the successful extraction of admin credentials.	
Vulnerability Identified by / How It Was Discovered	
Manual Analysis	
Implications / Consequences of not Fixing the Issue	
Without rate limiting or protections like CAPTCHA, an attacker can automate login attempts, leading to unauthorized access, including admin accounts. This can compromise the entire system.	
Suggested Countermeasures	
• Implement rate limiting to restrict the number of login attempts allowed within a specific time window. • Introduce CAPTCHA or multi-factor authentication (MFA) to mitigate brute-force attacks. • Use account lockout mechanisms after a certain number of failed login attempts.	

Proof Of Concept:

Fig27: Cluster bomb to choose more than one payload position

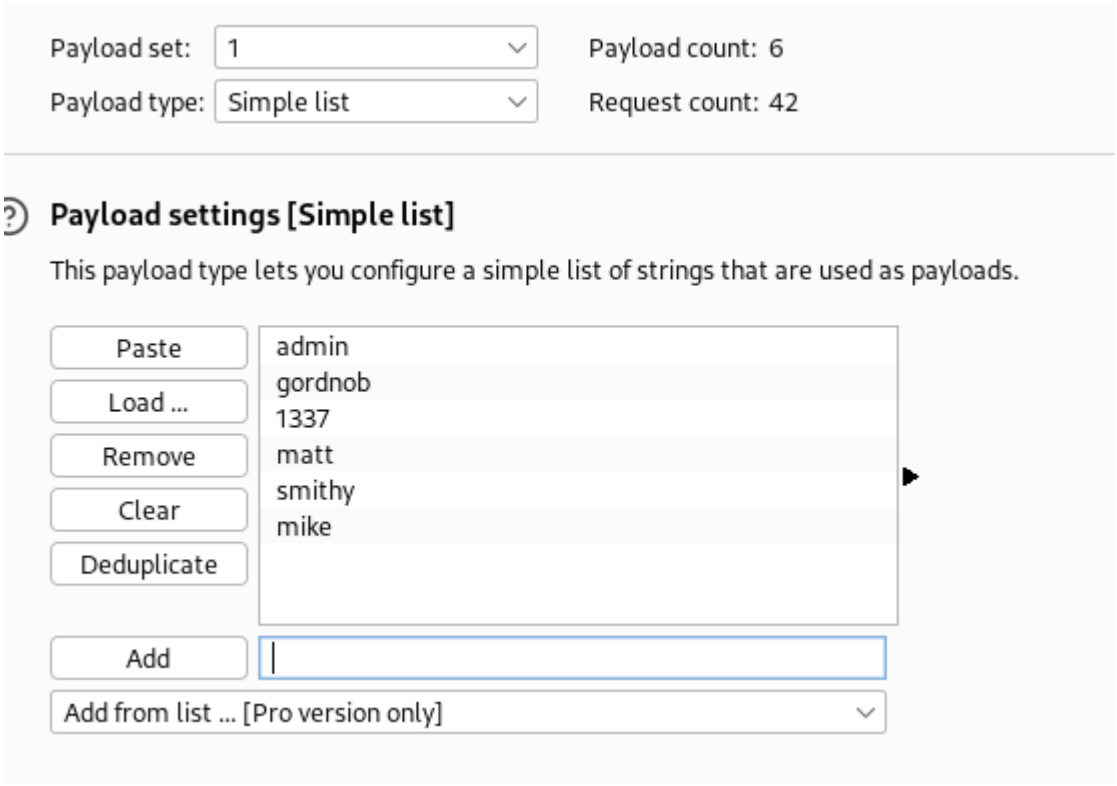


Fig28: Payload set 1 (Goes to first payload position)

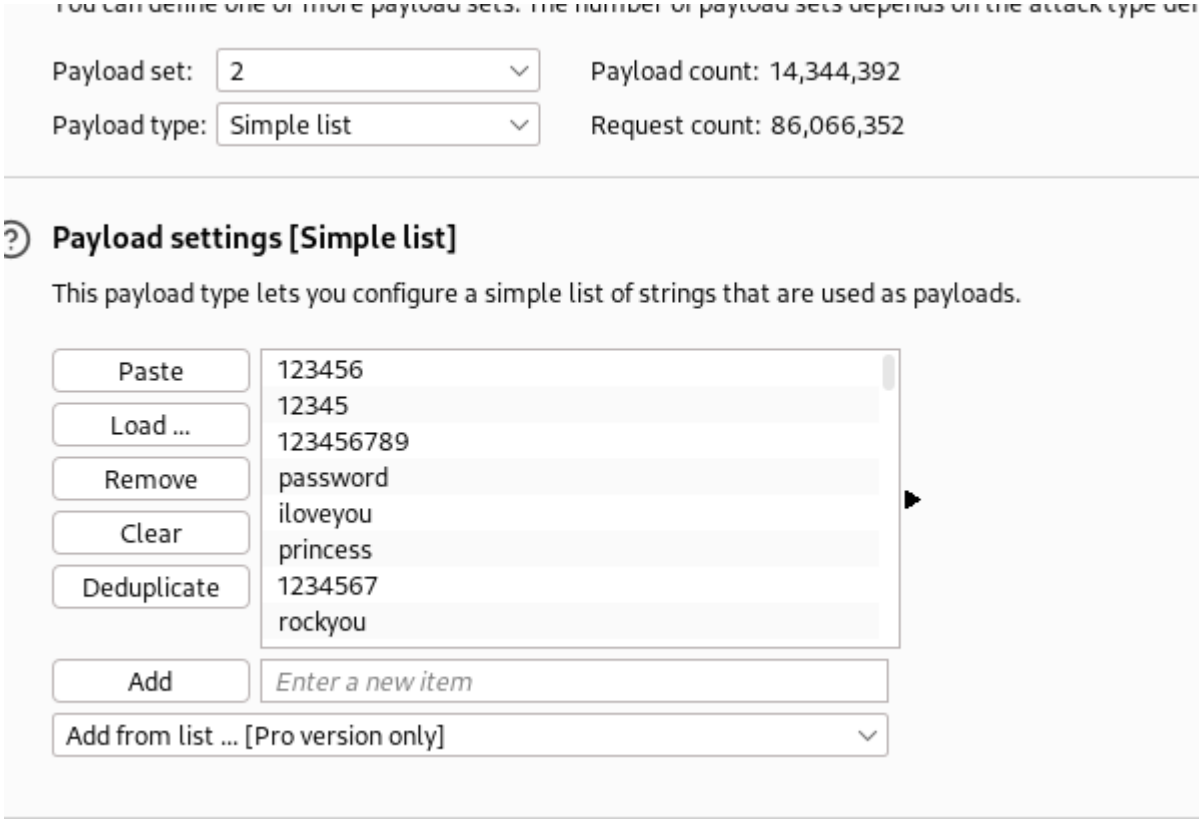


Fig29: Payload set 2 (Goes to second payload position)

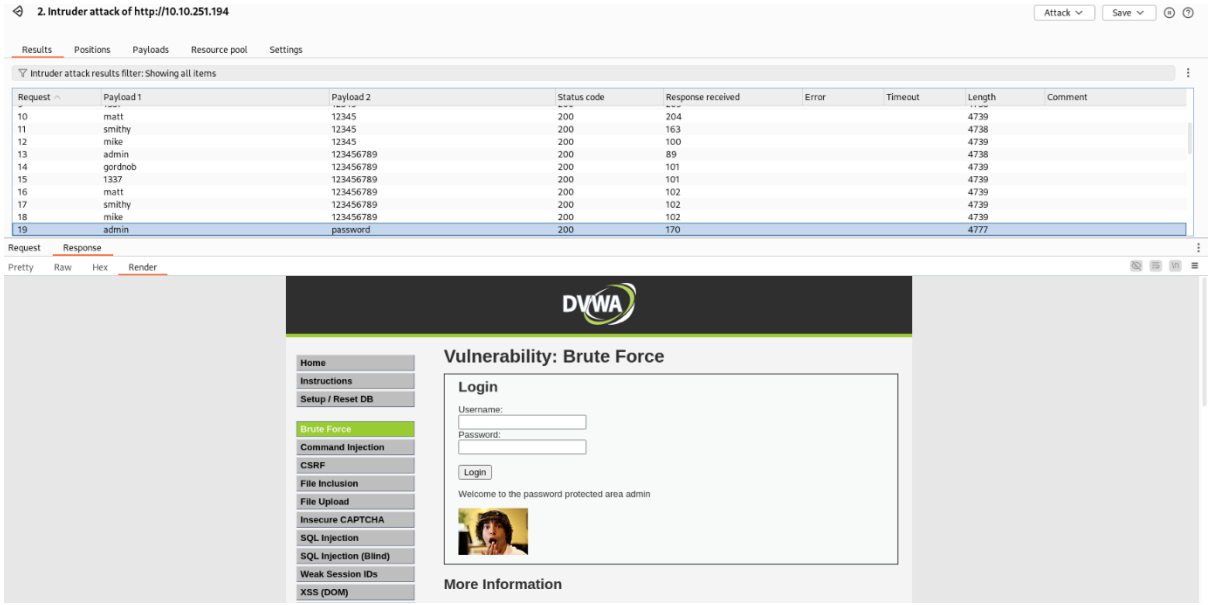


Fig30: Successful brute force attack leading to admin login

--EOF--