Abusing historical DNS records for fun and profit

Mustafa Can IPEKCI BSides Ahmedabad 13 October 2024

Whoami

- Information Security Specialist
- Part-time Bounty Hunter
- Bugcrowd Hacker Advisory Board Member
- Synack Red Team Circle of Trust Member and Envoy
- Earned more than 1 million USD from bounties
- Father of three devils
- @mcipekci on X (Twitter), LinkedIn etc.

What's DNS?

The domain name system (DNS) is a naming database in which internet domain names are located and translated into Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

The domain name system maps the name people use to locate a website to the IP address that a computer uses to locate that website.

Why it's important?

- Literally, everything on the internet depends DNS. Organizations set up many DNS entries for their usages and set configurations specially handled for their domains.
- As things growing bigger most organizations can't handle their DNS hygiene properly which results in lots of issues that could be abused on their infrastructures.
- Lack of DNS hygiene and DNS records history increases attack surface for the attackers.

How it could be abused?

- Subdomain Hijacking
- Origin IP
- VHost enumeration

Subdomain Hijacking or Subdomain Takeover is an issue that occurs when **DNS** hygiene is not properly handled which allows attackers to take control of the subdomain of the target.

As attackers taking control of the subdomain, they can abuse it with various ways.

Many APTs and scammer groups actually abusing subdomain hijacking issues to use it for their campaigns meanwhile organizations ignoring how serious these issues could be.

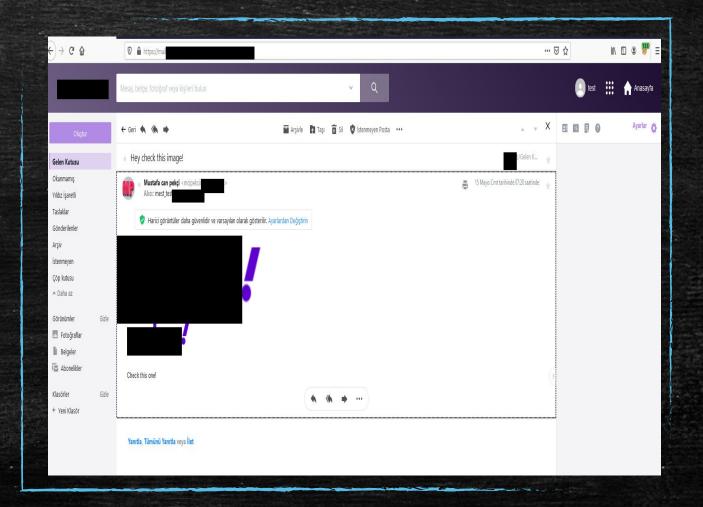
Not only they could be used for scamming purposes they could be used for following vulnerability types:

- Cross-Site Scripting
- CORS misconfiguration
- Whitelist Bypass for allowed domain checks on issues like SSRF.
- Session takeover

While XSS and CORS misconfiguration are common way to abuse subdomain hijacking issues, did you know if your target setting session cookies to the any upper level subdomain than one you hijacked, you can abuse subdomain hijacking without any XSS or CORS issue?

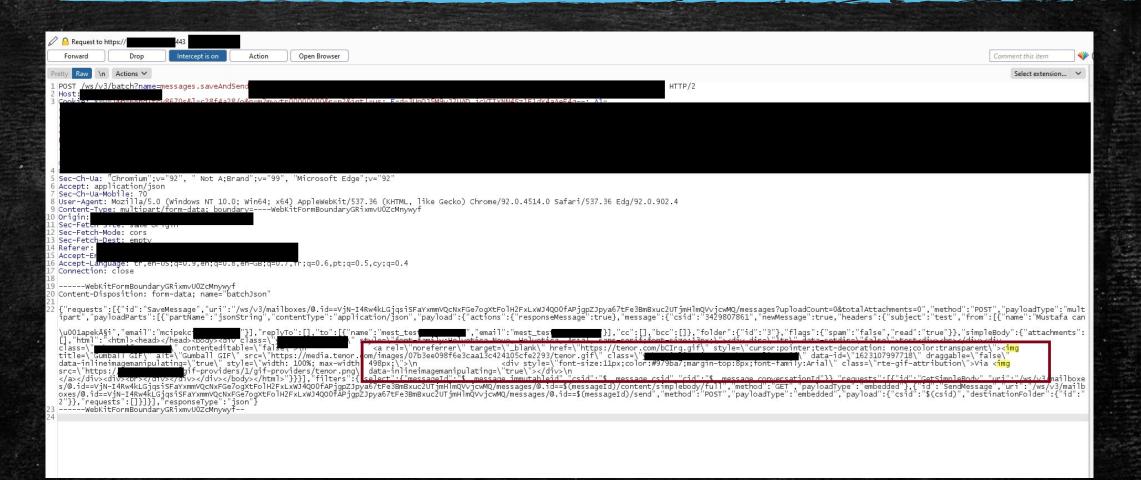
As long as you are able to serve any content to the victims such as simple image file, you can takeover session of theirs and access them.

Totally safe mail contents right?



While investigating target we observed that subdomain we took over so hard to abuse as it was impossible for legit users to visit and access contents.

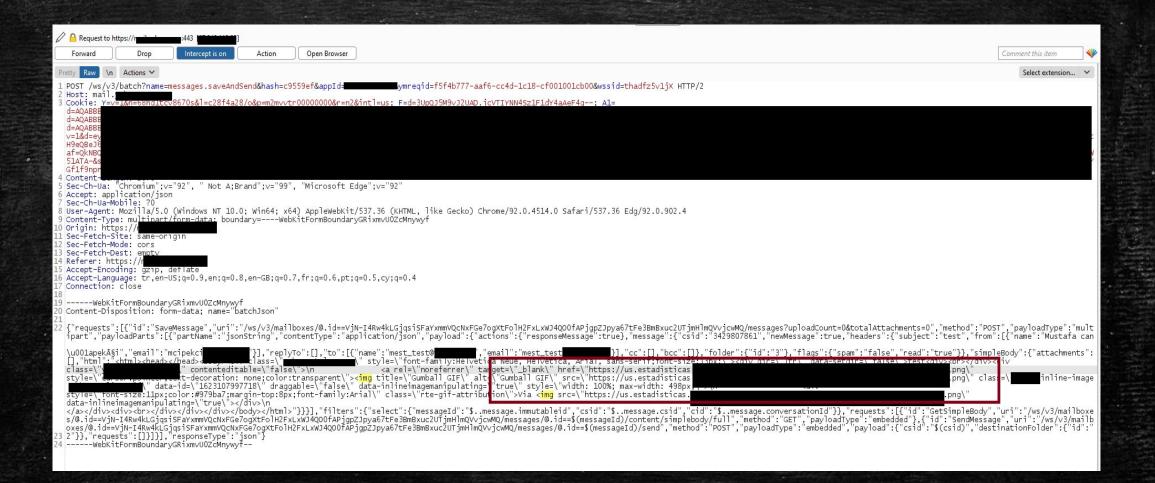
We observed that their mail application is allowing to send images from some third party and directly using the content instead of proxifying the address.

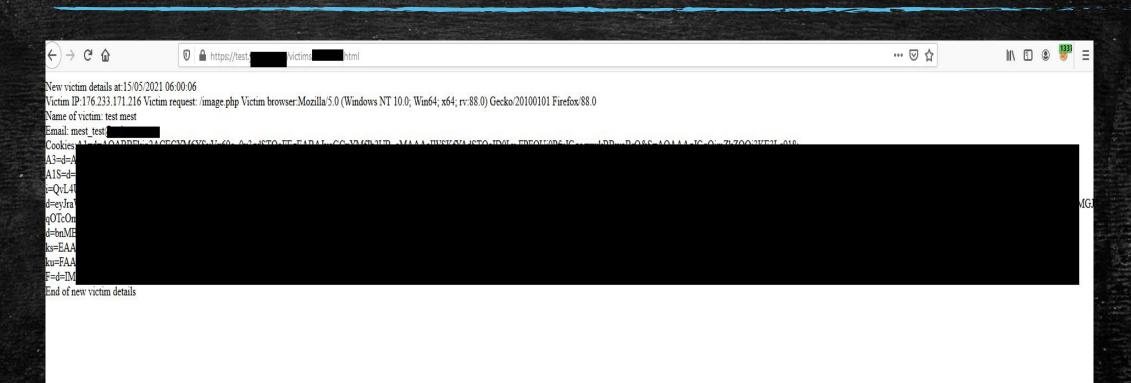


We decided to make simple PHP script acting like image when accessed and displaying their original logo and logging all of the request done to the endpoint such as cookies, headers etc.

Sample gist could be found at: https://gist.github.com/mcipekci/071418c205e4c1e04514782ecfa4ac58



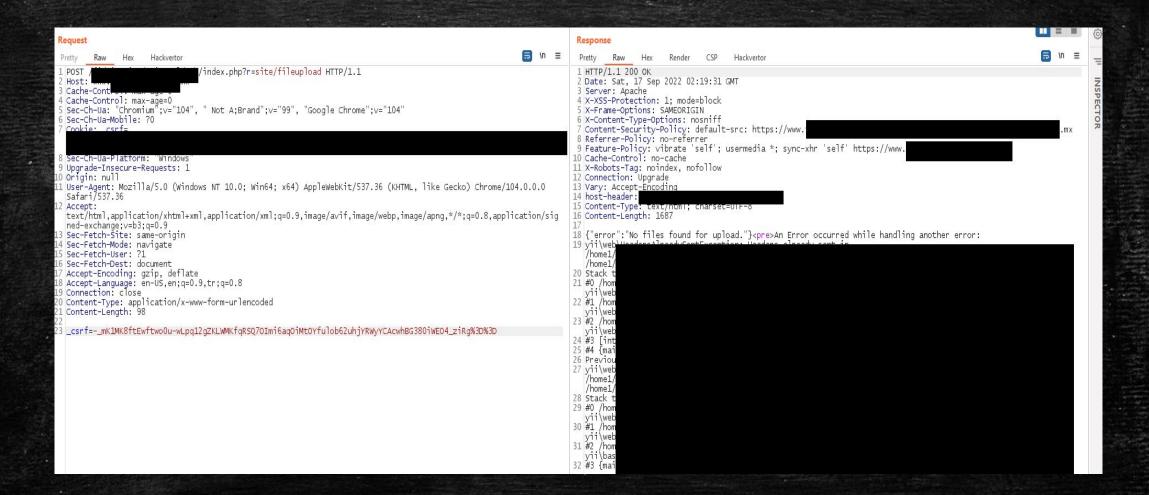


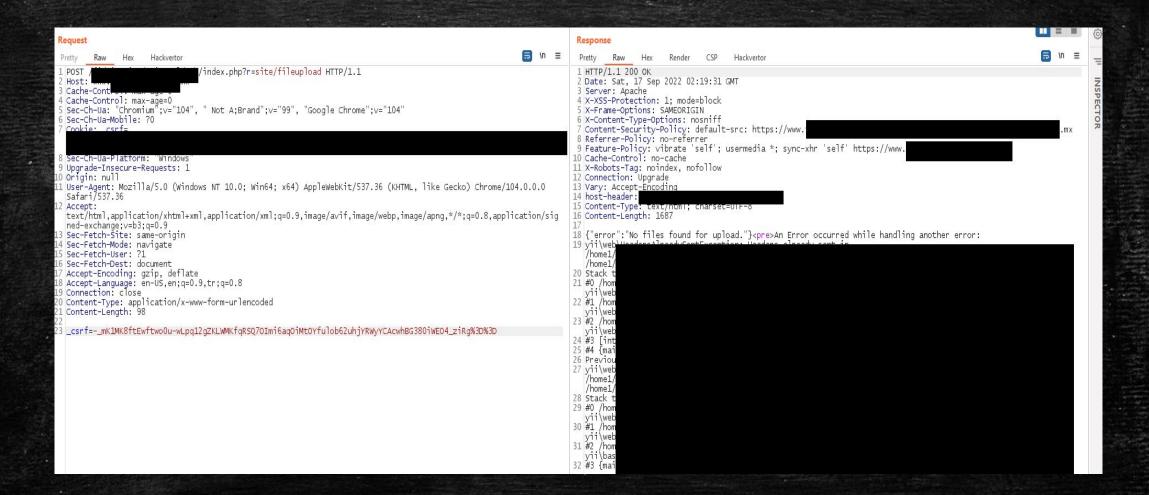


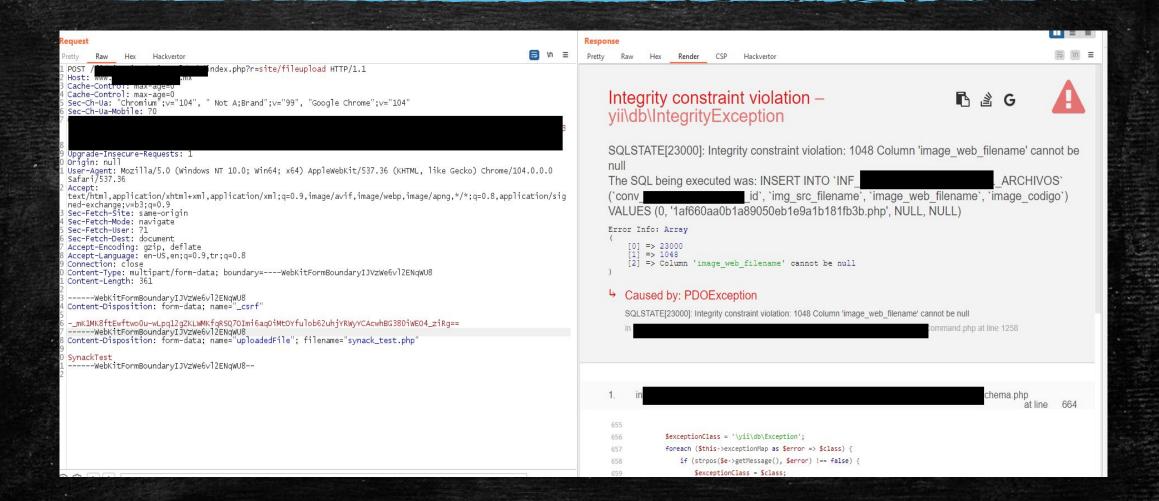
Origin IP is actual IP address of the target, usually when targets setting up WAF, requests first handled by load balancer of the WAF provider then passed to the origin server.

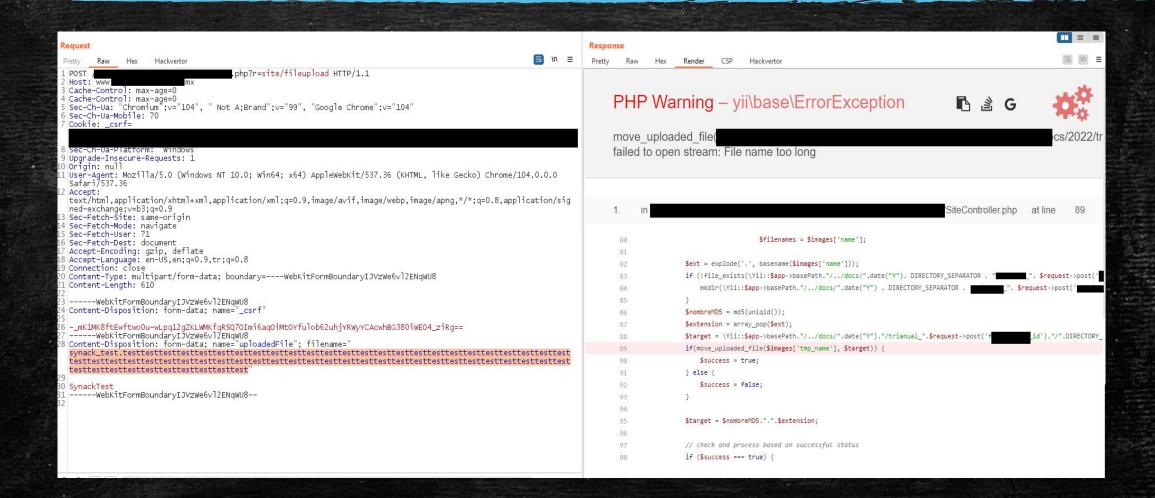
Finding origin IP address could be hard but when target subdomain have historical DNS records things could be easier specially if target organization didn't change origin IP address.

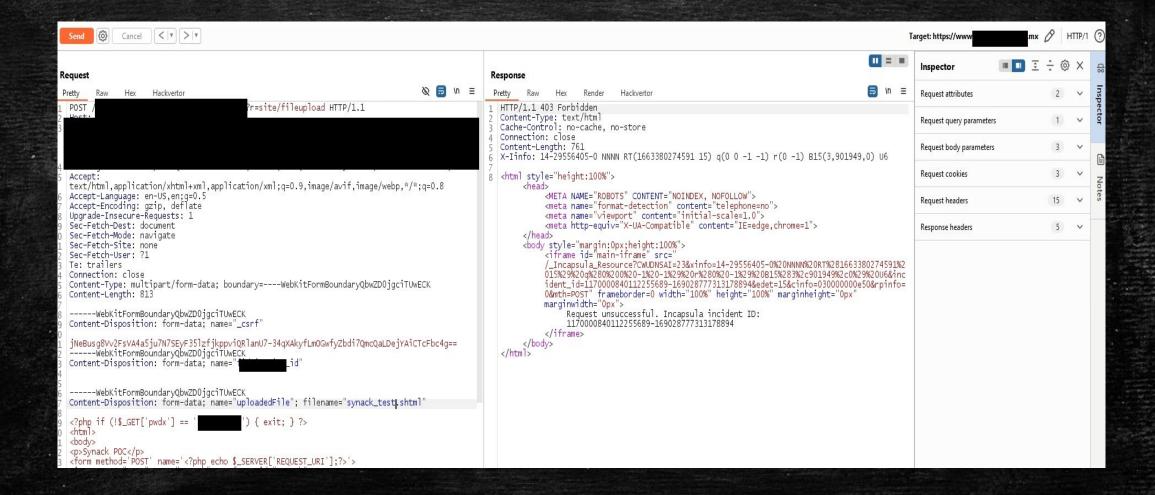
For finding historical DNS records you can use various services paid and free, ViewDNS does wonders as free service.



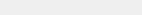








https://viewdns.info/iphistory/?domain=www



Follow @viewdns





All content © 2022 ViewDNS.info Feedback / Suggestions / Contact Us

Viewdns.info

Tools API Research ViewDNS.info > Tools > IP History

Shows a historical list of IP addresses a given domain name has been hosted on as well as where that IP address is geographically located, and the owner of that IP address.

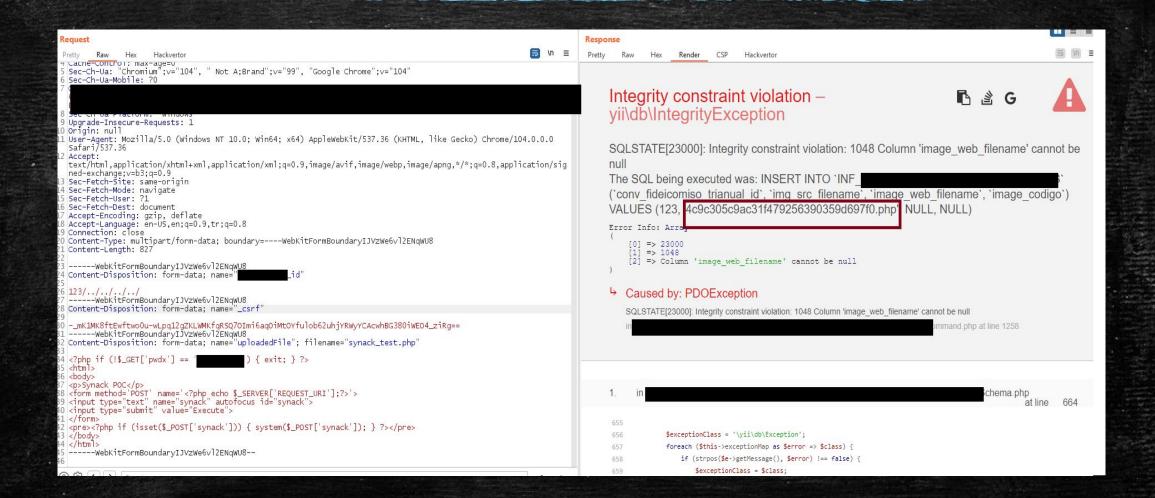
Domain (e.g. domain.com):

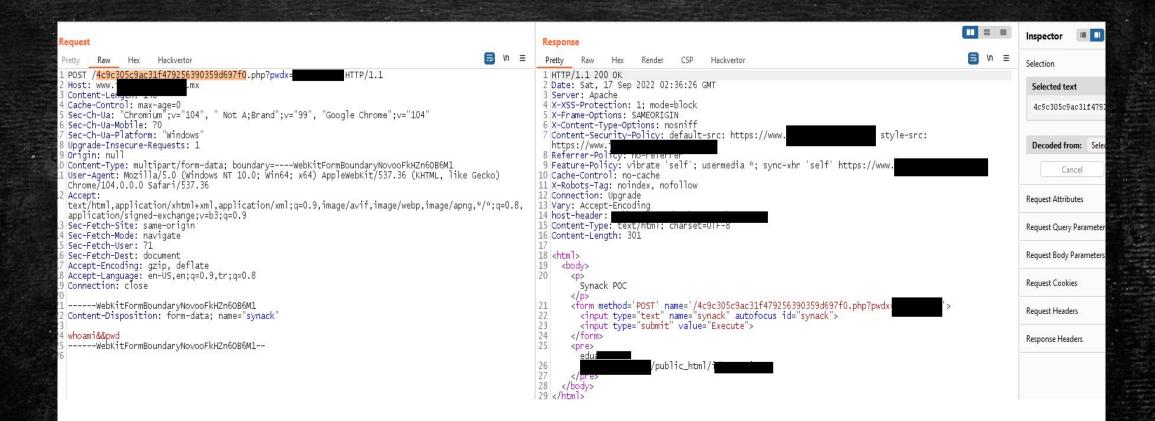
GO

Data

IP history results for -----

IP Address	Location	IP Address Owner	Last seen on this IP
45.60.205.69	United States	Incapsula Inc	2022-03-09
45.60.195.69	United States	Incapsula Inc	2022-03-09
162.	Provo - United States	Unified Layer	2020-03-20
66.1	Provo - United States	Unified Layer	2019-11-15





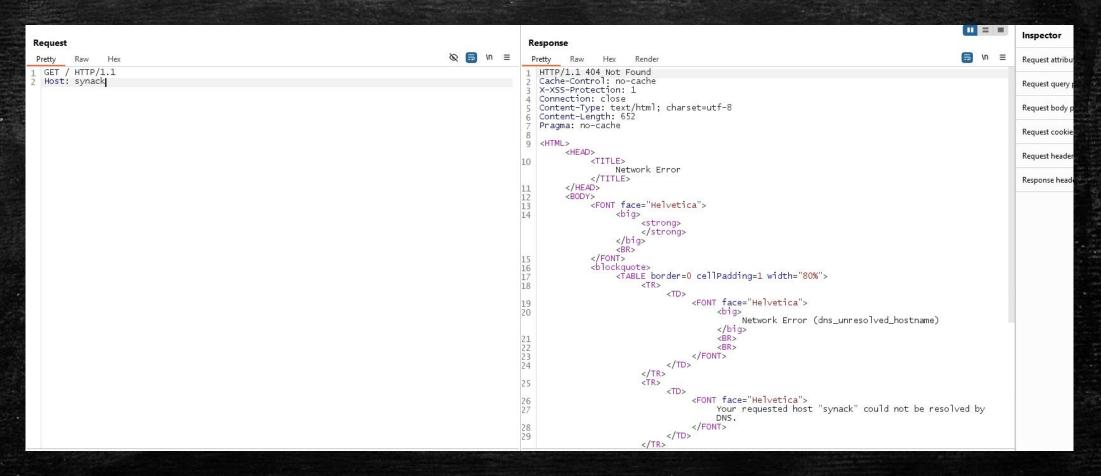
[wwv	nx] Unauthenticat	\$4,980.00	Remote Execution > Remote Code Execution
[www	nx] Unauthenticat	\$3,000.00	Remote Execution > Remote Code Execution
[www	nx] Unauthenticat	\$600.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[www	nx] SQL Injection o	\$3,000.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[www	nx] Unauthenticat	\$5,000.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[www	nx] Unauthenticat	\$5,000.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[www	mx] Unauthenticat	\$3,000.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[www	nx] Forced browsin	\$2,691.50	Authorization/Permissions > Access/Privacy Cont
[www	nx] Unauthenticat	\$5,000.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[www	nx] Unauthenticat	\$5,000.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
[wwv	nx] Unauthenticat	\$4,200.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full

Virtual hosts (VHost) are allowing developers to use multiple subdomains on the same server instead of multiple ones which allows them to set different configurations and applications.

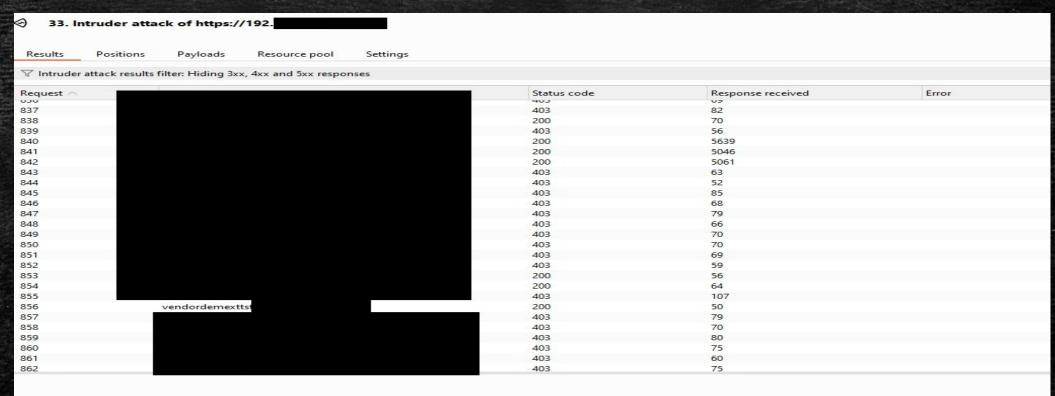
- Since resources could be limited or due to organizational dependencies developers need to set up and use vhosts on the servers.
- This allows them to set multiple websites on the same server which is most common way to handle.
- Sometimes organizations using load balancers and set configurations for them to redirect requests to the their target server.
- Even though DNS record are removed, they sometimes leave the configurations which allows attackers to access that old configurations/applications that supposed to be deprecated or shutdown to the external access.

- Load balancers like BlueCoat is actually requiring vhosts for their requests to be handled.
- BlueCoat is sending full requests to target and redirecting response to the assigned user.
- That allows attackers to bypass WAF, abuse old / leftover configurations.

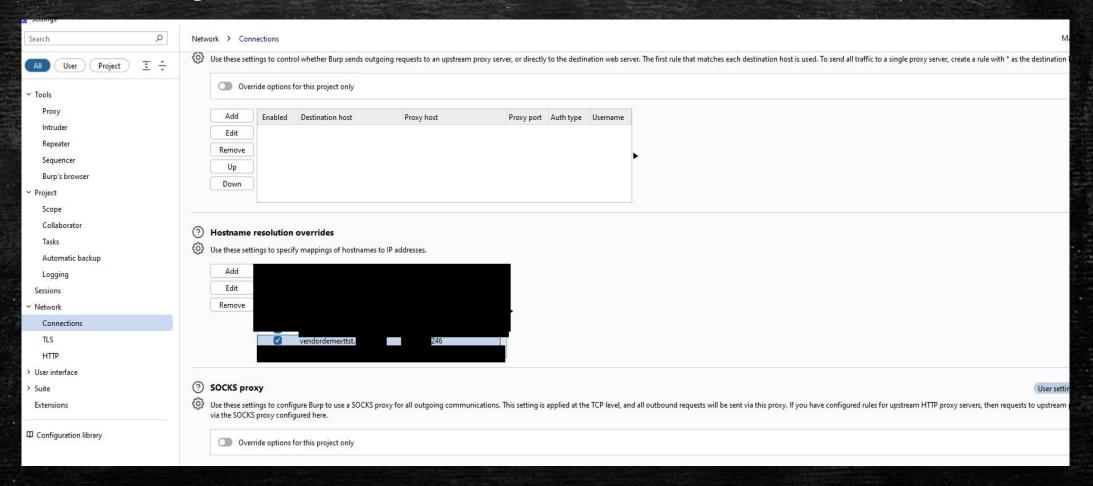
Sending random value in host header to check if application has vhost configuration.



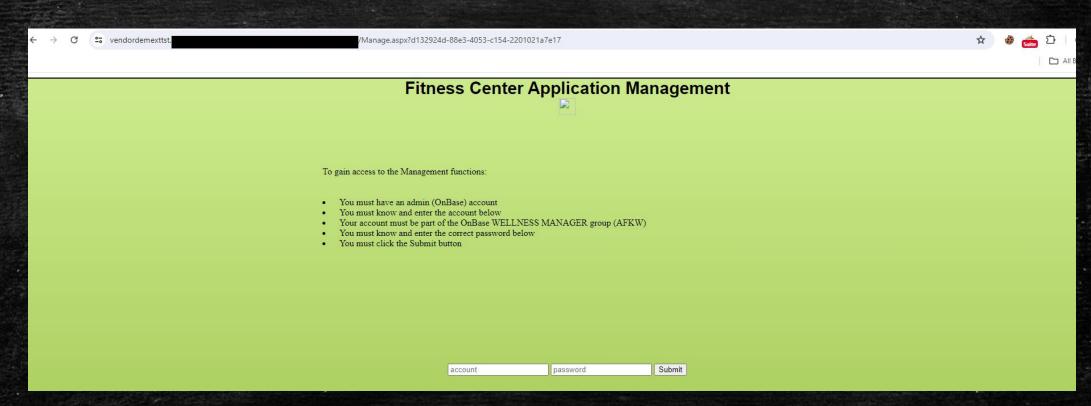
As we confirmed application handles vhosts, sending historical subdomain records via intruder to locate which ones we can access.



We are setting IP address to vhost we located so we can access it directly.



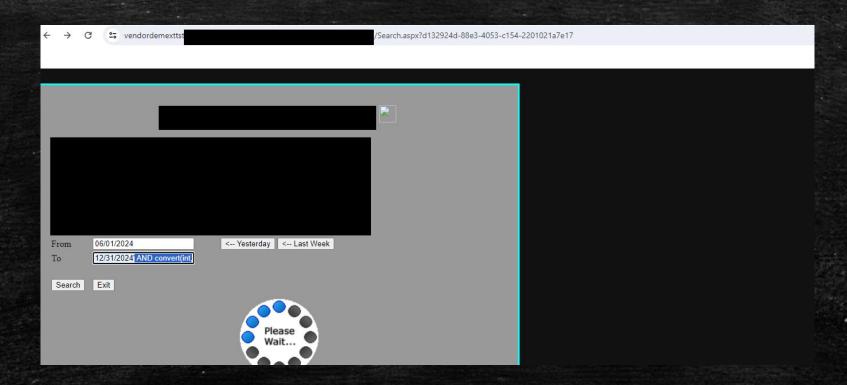
Once we access that subdomain via browser, we can see that there is real application.



When we changed Manage.aspx to Admin.aspx it appears that application had no access control allowed us to access features.



Analyzed inputs on the search database functionality and simple convert(int,@@version) payload send on the value.



Application returned DBMS version on the error.



Due to trusting user input, attackers can exfil	\$1,411.00	Authorization/Permissions > Path Traversal
Improper input validation leads to the OS co	\$4,980.00	Remote Execution > Remote Code Execution
Misconfigured BlueCoat instances allow inte	\$2,490.00	Authorization/Permissions > Server Side Request
Unauthenticated Second Order SQL Injectio	\$9,600.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full
Unauthenticated Second Order SQL Injectio	\$9,960.00	SQL Injection > SQL Injection- Full

Conclusion

- Lack of DNS hygiene causes lots of issues to the organizations specially ones with lots of assets.
- DNS records history is crucial for increasing attack surfaces, specially left over configurations or old records still being accessible allows ignoring WAF on the systems.

Thanks for listening

Mustafa Can IPEKCI BSides Ahmedabad 13 October 2024