COMP6443 : Topic 2(Week 3)

Authorization and Session magic

A NOTE ON ETHICS / LEGALITY

- UNSW hosting this course is an extremely important step forward.
- We expect a high standard of professionalism from you, meaning:
  - Respect the property of others and the university
  - Always abide by the law and university regulations
  - Be considerate of others to ensure everyone has an equal learning experience
  - Always check that you have written permission before performing a security test on a system

Always err on the side of caution. If you are unsure about

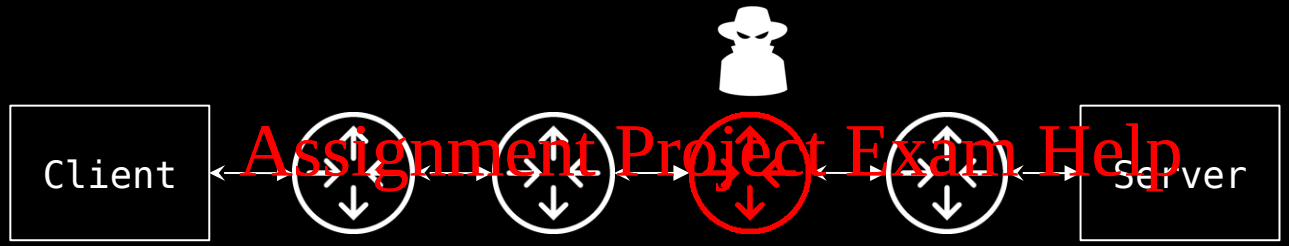
“NOT-A-HOMEWORK”

HTTP vs HTTPs

HTTP

- Client opens a TCP connection to the Server
- Client and server now have a bidirectional communication stream
- Requests and responses sent over this channel

The Problem with HTTP



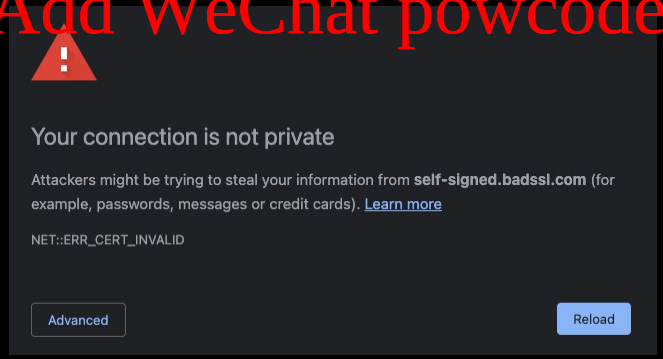
- The requests and responses are sent in cleartext
- A malicious party (Man in the Middle) in the path of the requests/responses can read and even modify them
- This could be:
  - A router routing the packet
  - An attacker on the client's local network

HTTPS

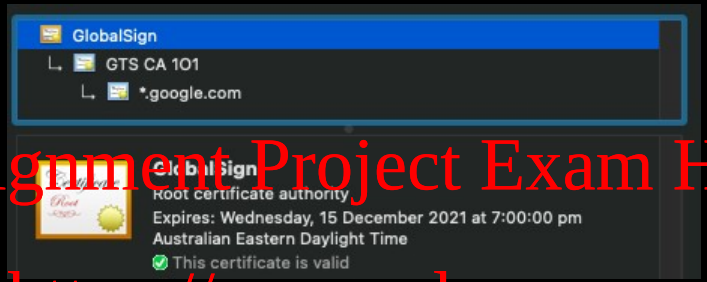
- Transport Layer Security (TLS) implemented on top of TCP connection
- Client and server now have an encrypted communication stream
- TLS was previously known as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)

HTTPS

- But how do we know the server is the one we intend to connect to?
- During the TLS handshake, the server sends a certificate indicating that it has control of the intended domain
- The browser (client) verifies the certificate, showing a privacy warning if it looks s



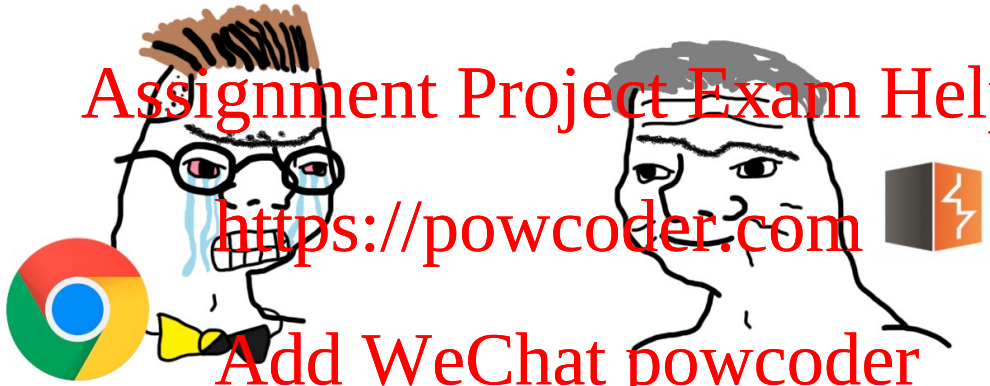
How do certificates work?



- A certificate authority verifies that a server has control of a domain
- The CA issues the server a public key certificate and corresponding private key
- CAs themselves may be signed by another CA, resulting in a “certificate chain” with the root certificate authority at the top
- Operating Systems come loaded with a set of trusted root CAs

Can HTTPS be MiTM'd?

- A malicious attacker can sit between client/server as a proxy
- However, it will not be able to present a certificate signed by a trusted CA
- Best it can do is present a "self-signed" certificate, which will result in a privacy warning



NOOOOO YOU CAN'T JUST INTERCEPT ALL MY TRAFFIC

haha HTTP proxy go burrrrrp

How to be secure?

- Don’t serve any content over HTTP, redirect to HTTPs
- HOWEVER, this is still problematic as the initial HTTP request is still susceptible to MiTM

OVERVIEW

Authentication → Session Management → Access Control		
	(Authorisation)	
Is the user who they claim to be?	Is it still that user?	Is the user allowed to access this thing?

SESSION MANAGEMENT in 1999

CLIENT

```
GET /bestcms.php?page=supersecretpls&sessionid=123 HTTP/1.0
Host: www.lol.com
Cookie: username=uid0123456
Cookie: usertype=admin
```


SESSION MANAGEMENT in 2021

CLIENT

```
GET /1 HTTP/1.1
Host: www.lol.com
Cookie: SESSIONID=1234567890
```

SERVER

```
I recognize this SESSIONID. You are user ABCD
You have 1 item in your cart, item XYZ
You are not currently logged in.
```


ANATOMY OF A COOKIE

The main way we store session information is in a cookie.

Server → Client

```
Set-Cookie: SSID=abcdef; Domain=lol.com; Expires=Mon, 20 Jan 2020 20:20:20 GMT;
Secure; HttpOnly
```


name=value	the data to store
Domain	specifies the (sub)domain that the cookie belongs to
Expires	date when the cookie should be deleted
Secure	only send the cookie over secure connections (i.e. HTTPS)
HttpOnly	disable access to the cookie from JavaScript

Client → Server

```
Cookie: country=aus; SSID=abcdef
```

ATTACKING SESSIONS

- Session Creation
  - How are sessions created? Can I fake my own session?
  - Can I attack the PRNG, and generate my own cookie?
  - Can I “fixate” a session?

- Session Handling / Transfer / Usage
  - Can I steal the cookie through XSS (No ‘httponly’ flag?)
  - Can I steal the cookie through redirecting to HTTPS.
  - What information does the site trust the user to provide?

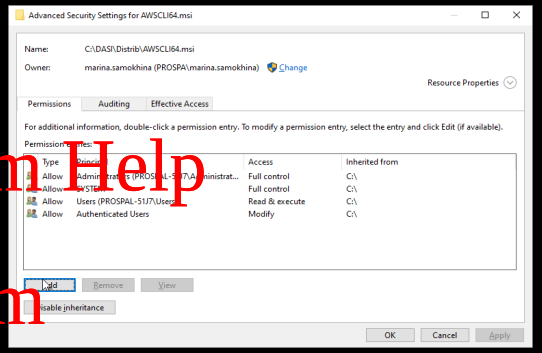
- Session Cleanup
  - What happens when I click “log out”?
  - Under what conditions is a session actually destroyed? What happens then?
  - Do sessions time out correctly?

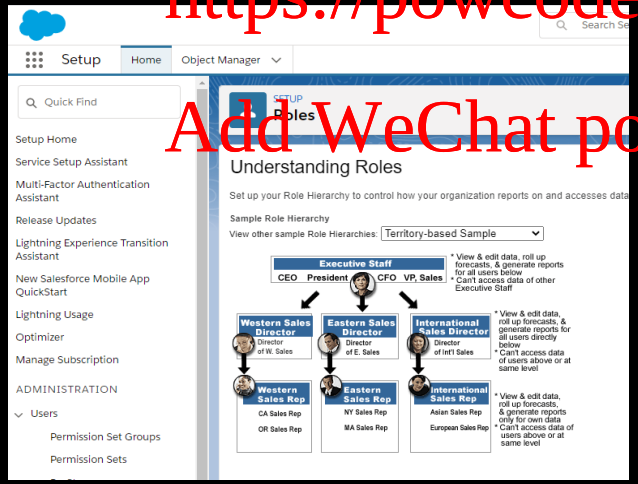
Authentication → Session Management → Access Control(Authorization)

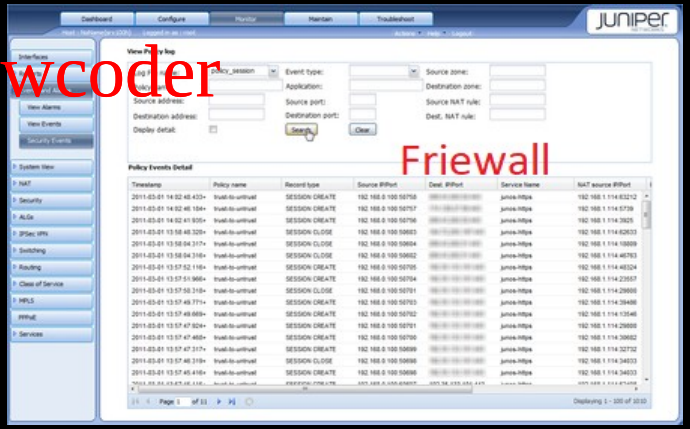
Is the user who they claim to be?	Is it still that user?	Is the user allowed to access this thing?

ACCESS CONTROL TYPES

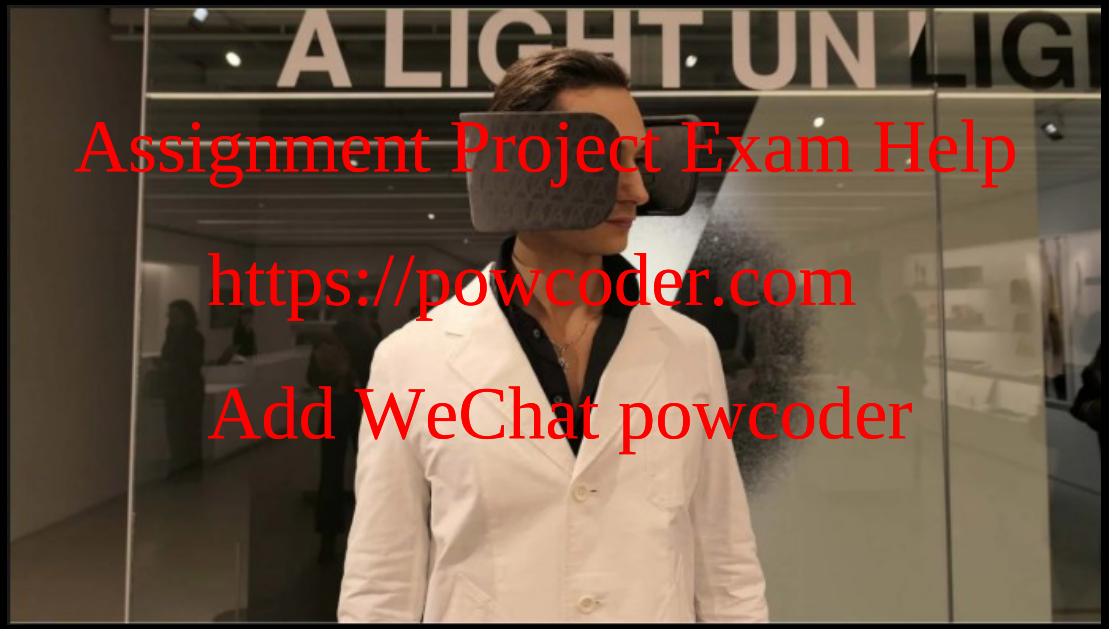
- DAC (NTFS)
- RuleBAC and Role-BAC (Attribute)
- Parameter-based







ON /admin AND OTHER THINGS...



Your user context is enough to get your ssh privkey.

TYPES OF (WEB) ACCESS CONTROL

Security through obscurity

One-off access control

Rule-based access control

RBAC: HORIZONTAL vs VERTICAL

- Horizontal access control is making sure one user can't access a different user's data without permission
  - http://bank.com/statement.php?user_id=12078
- Vertical access control is making sure only administrative users can access administrative content
- Attacking vertical access control is commonly known as privilege escalation
  - http://bank.com/admin.php

ATTACKING ACCESS CONTROL

METHOD 1: BYPASS ENTIRELY

www.website.com

shop.website.com

blog.website.com

stage.website.com

db.website.com

api.website.com

dev.website.com

backup-syd.website.com

archive.website.com

s3 Buckets

github

pastebin

third party providers

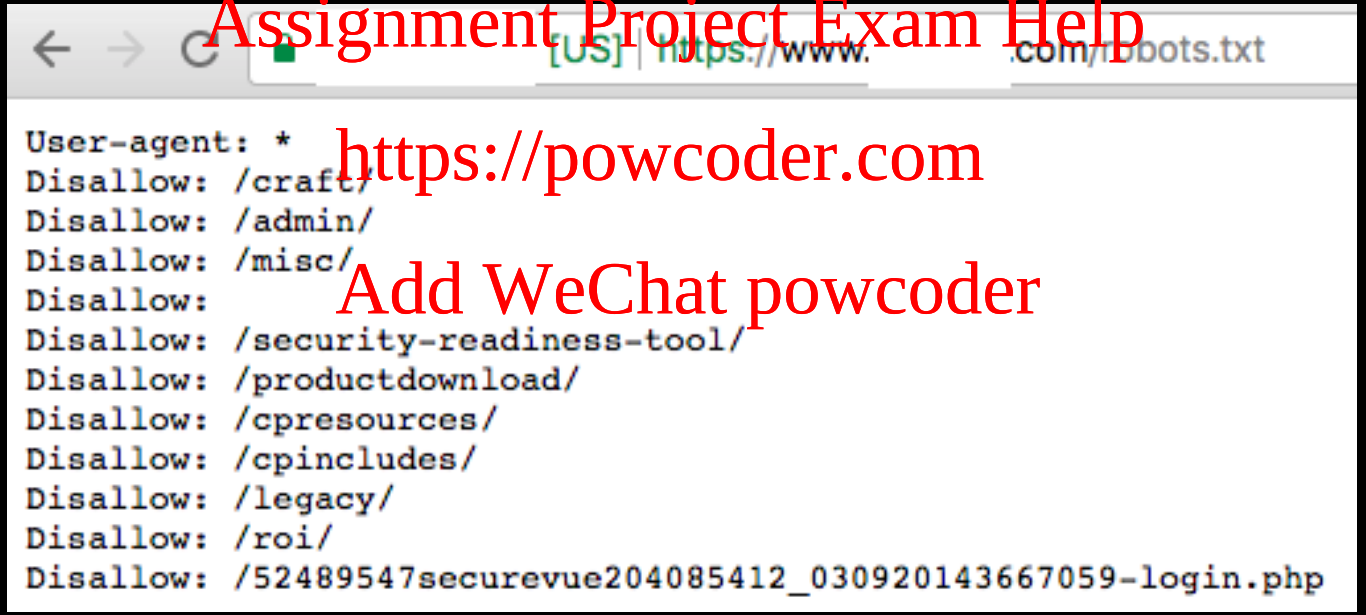
mobile applications

analytics

etc etc…

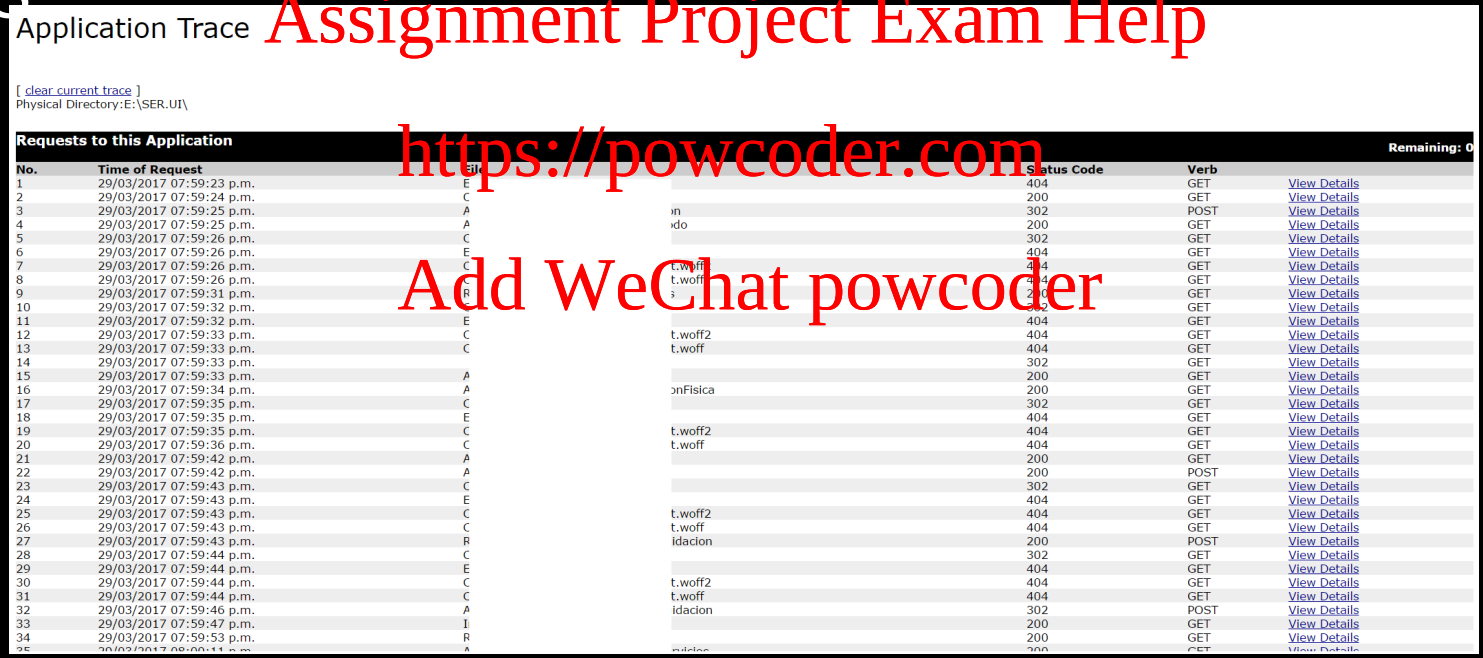
ATTACKING ACCESS CONTROL

METHOD 1.5: ROBOTS.TXT



ATTACKING ACCESS CONTROL

METHOD 2: COPY LEGITIMATE USERS



Application Trace

[clear current trace]
Physical Directory:E:\SER.UI\

Requests to this Application **Remaining: 0**

No.	Time of Request	File	Status Code	Verb	
1	29/03/2017 07:59:23 p.m.	E	404	GET	View Details
2	29/03/2017 07:59:24 p.m.	C	200	GET	View Details
3	29/03/2017 07:59:25 p.m.	A	302	POST	View Details
4	29/03/2017 07:59:25 p.m.	A	200	GET	View Details
5	29/03/2017 07:59:26 p.m.	C	302	GET	View Details
6	29/03/2017 07:59:26 p.m.	E	404	GET	View Details
7	29/03/2017 07:59:26 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
8	29/03/2017 07:59:26 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
9	29/03/2017 07:59:31 p.m.	R	200	GET	View Details
10	29/03/2017 07:59:32 p.m.	C	302	GET	View Details
11	29/03/2017 07:59:32 p.m.	E	404	GET	View Details
12	29/03/2017 07:59:33 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
13	29/03/2017 07:59:33 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
14	29/03/2017 07:59:33 p.m.		302	GET	View Details
15	29/03/2017 07:59:33 p.m.	A	200	GET	View Details
16	29/03/2017 07:59:34 p.m.	A	200	GET	View Details
17	29/03/2017 07:59:35 p.m.	C	302	GET	View Details
18	29/03/2017 07:59:35 p.m.	E	404	GET	View Details
19	29/03/2017 07:59:35 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
20	29/03/2017 07:59:36 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
21	29/03/2017 07:59:42 p.m.	A	200	GET	View Details
22	29/03/2017 07:59:42 p.m.	A	200	POST	View Details
23	29/03/2017 07:59:43 p.m.	C	302	GET	View Details
24	29/03/2017 07:59:43 p.m.	E	404	GET	View Details
25	29/03/2017 07:59:43 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
26	29/03/2017 07:59:43 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
27	29/03/2017 07:59:43 p.m.	R	200	POST	View Details
28	29/03/2017 07:59:44 p.m.	C	302	GET	View Details
29	29/03/2017 07:59:44 p.m.	E	404	GET	View Details
30	29/03/2017 07:59:44 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
31	29/03/2017 07:59:44 p.m.	C	404	GET	View Details
32	29/03/2017 07:59:46 p.m.	A	302	POST	View Details
33	29/03/2017 07:59:47 p.m.	I	200	GET	View Details
34	29/03/2017 07:59:53 p.m.	R	200	GET	View Details

ATTACKING ACCESS CONTROL

METHOD 3: ACTUAL TESTING

How does the application know what user role I am?
Are checks applied consistently throughout the application?
When a check fails, what happens?

What aspects of this information can I control?
Can I impersonate another user, or role?
What about content which has zero access control?

CYBER

SUCCESS

TOWARDS BETTER ACCESS CONTROL

CLIENT

```
GET /statement.php?user_id=12078 HTTP/1.1
Host: www.bank.com
Cookie: SESSIONID=...
```


SERVER

Is this a valid, authenticated session?

```
HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Location: /login.php
```

NO

Does this type of user have to access the ‘view statement’ functionality?

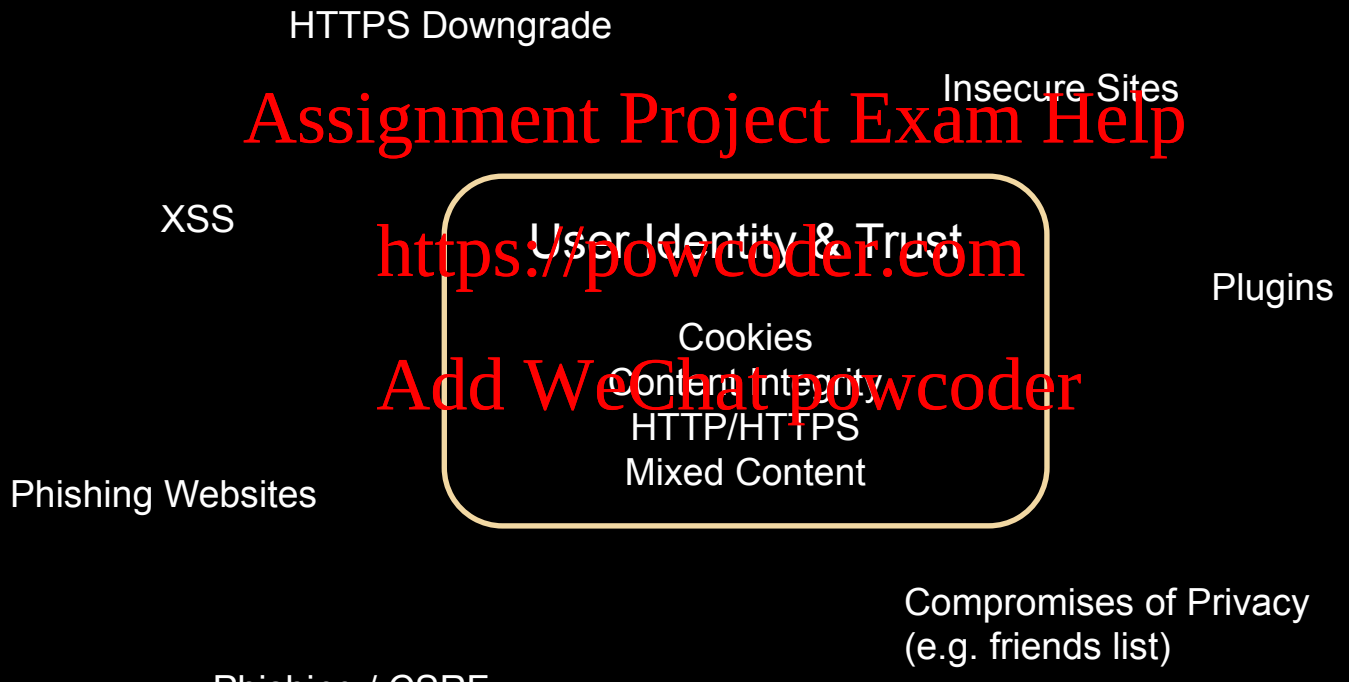
```
HTTP/1.1 403 Forbidden
```

Does this user have permission to view user 12078’s bank statement?

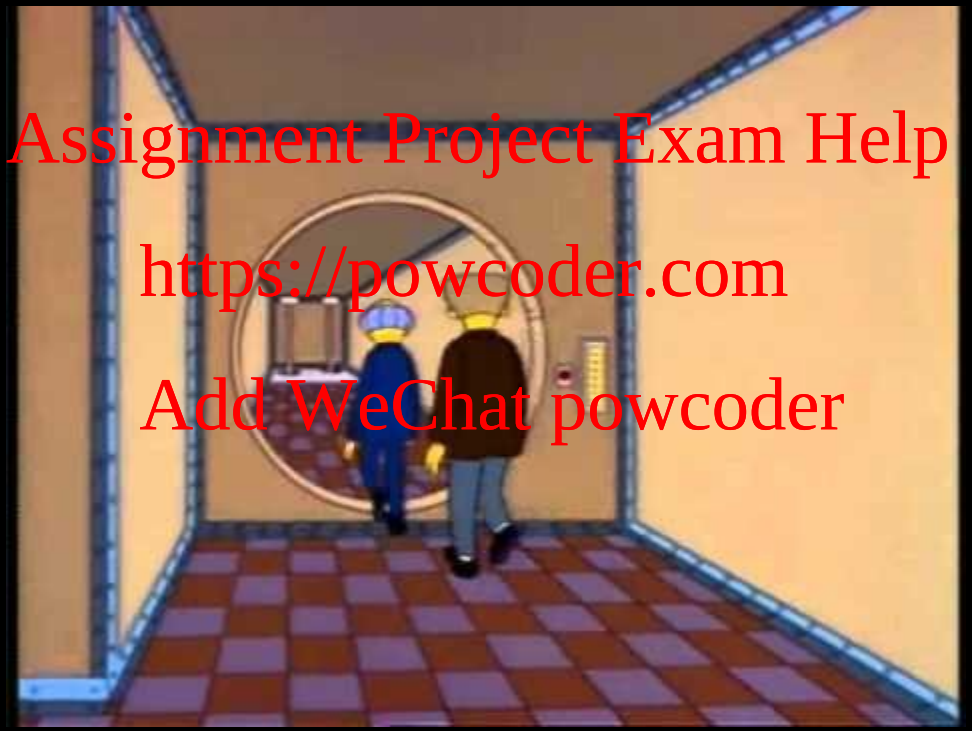
YES

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
...
```

CLIENT-SIDE ACCESS CONTROL

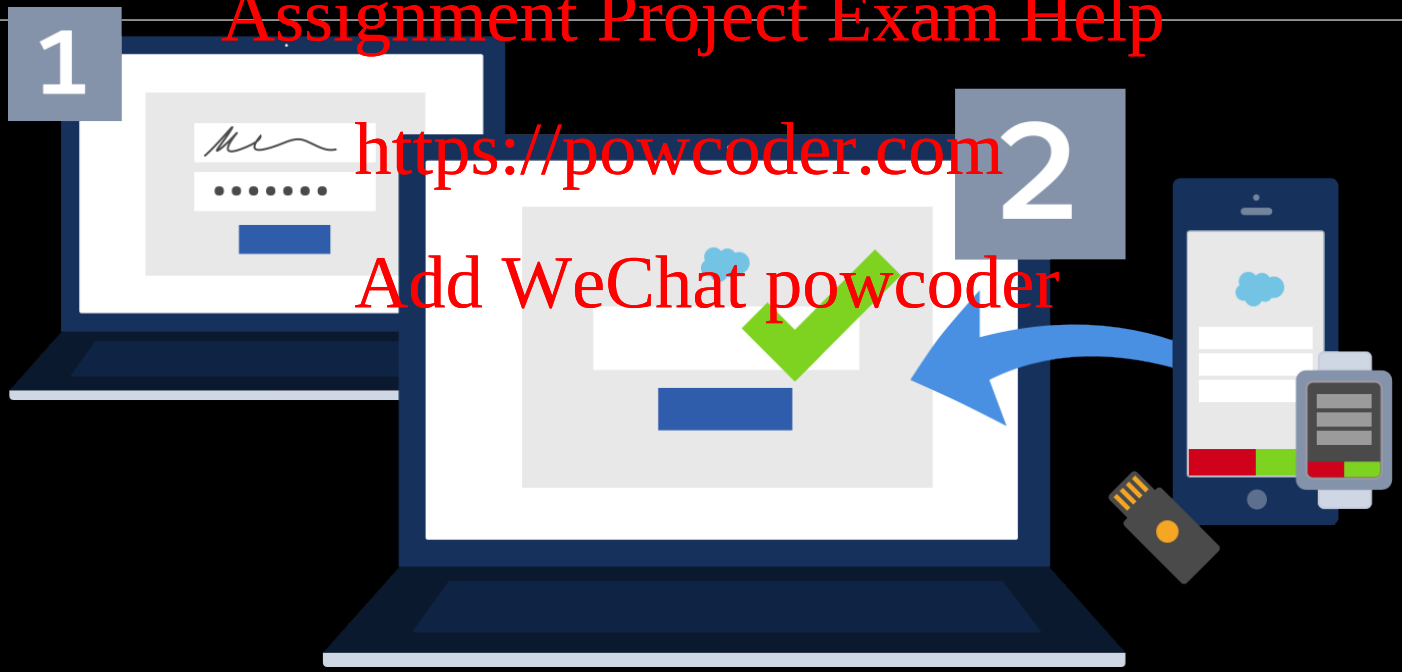


THE WEAKEST LINK



HOW TO PROTECT?

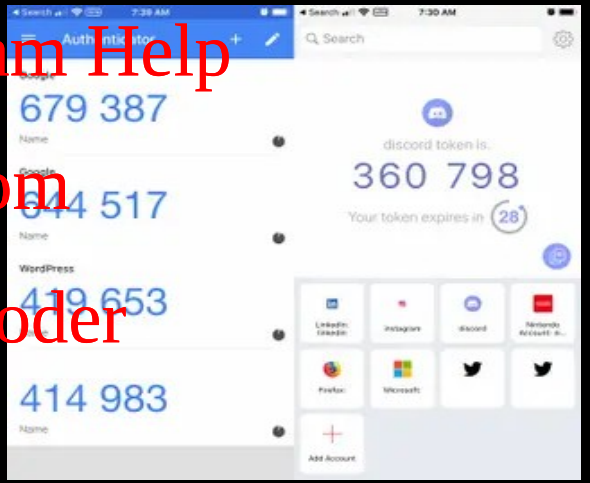
2FA



2FA

SMS
Mobile app
Key generator
Fingerprint

Channel-based
Location-based
Biometric



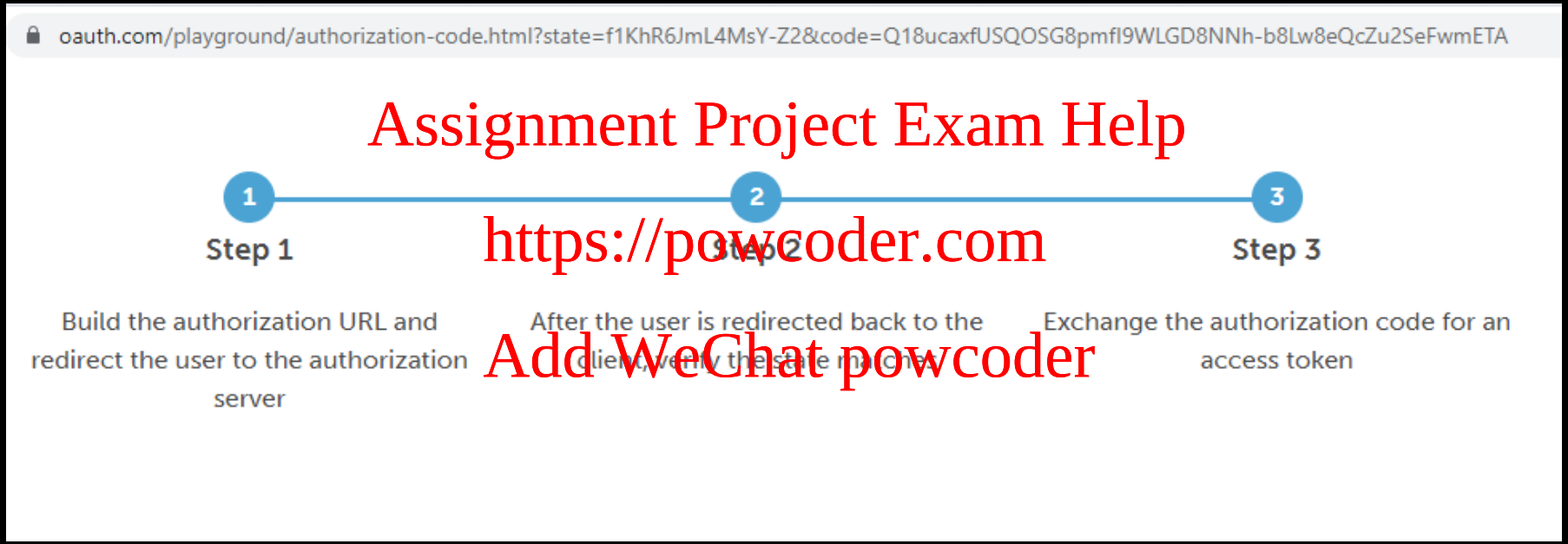
OAUTH

- Open id – Authentication Protocol
- Oauth – Authorization Framework(Oauth 1.0 & 2.0)
- OpenID Connect – built on top of Oauth 2.0

4 Types of Oauth grants:

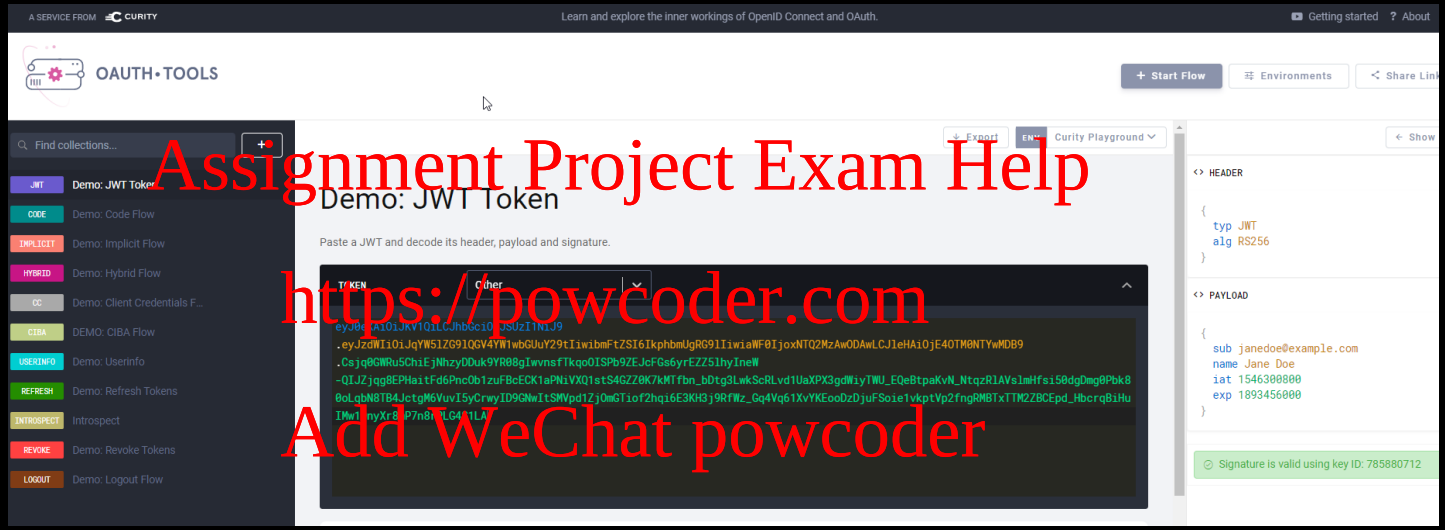
- Authorization Grant
- Implicit Grant
- Resource Owner Credentials
- Client Credentials

OAUTH



https://www.oauth.com/playground/index.html

OAUTH



https://oauth.tools/

[DEFENSIVE] SECURING YOUR SESSIONS

- Minimize your attack surface
  - Your session should be managed on the server side where possible, using a single session token.
- Mostly mechanical fixes
  - Don’t let people steal your tokens (URLs, HTTP, etc)
  - Don’t let people re-use tokens (expire them properly, log out)
  - Don’t let people generate tokens (secure PRNG, avoid rolling your own crypto, don’t allow users to supply tokens).
- Attention to detail is key.

READING MATERIAL (REFERENCE)

- OAuth2 Simplified
  https://aaronparecki.com/oauth-2-simplified/
- What the heck is Oauth
https://stormpath.com/blog/what-the-heck-is-oauth
- How Anand hacked Tinder
https://medium.com/free-code-camp/hacking-tinder-accounts-using-facebook-accountkit-d5cc813340d1

WEEK 2-3 ASSESSMENT

- Hash collisions
- Don’t forget about automation!
- Don’t forget about writing a report!!

Please call out if you get stuck.
Support one another, your tutors are here to help!

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO US

RANT?

questions? slack / email / come talk to us