



DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Enterprise System Development  
(ST0505)

CA1 Assignment – Report  
Cover Page

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Class: DIT/FT/2A/04

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# 1. Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

## 1.1 Definition

It occurs when untrusted data is included in a new web page without proper validation or escaping, allowing attackers to execute malicious scripts in the victim's browser.

## 1.2 How to exploit vulnerability – Reflected XSS

Step 1: Login as kelly

Home Login Register

### Login

Your Email  
kelly@designer.com

Your Password  
\*\*\*\*\*

SUBMIT

- Public can register as a user
- The database has been seeded with user test data.
- user:kelly@designer.com password:password normal user role
- user:albert@admin.com password:password admin user role
- Inspect the user table for more information on all the seeded user test records
- Use the SQL script prepare\_database\_ca1.sql in the MySQL workbench to prepare a new database and necessary

Step 2: Click on “search” -> On kelly design 1 click “update”

### Manage My Designs

Search By Title

SEARCH

1 2 3

Kelly Design 1  
Ay23-24 s1

kelly design 1  
kelly design 1 description text 1 text 2 text 3 text 4 ....

UPDATE

KELLY DESIGN 2  
Ay23-24 s1

kelly design 2  
kelly design 2 description text 1 text 2 text 3 text 4 ....

UPDATE

Step 3: In the design title text box type “<script>alert(“hacked”)</script>”  
-> Click “submit”



BrandCrowd

Kelly Design 1  
Ay23-24 s1

Design title

<script>alert(“hacked”)</script>

Design Description

kelly design 1 description text 1 text 2 text 3 text 4 ....

BACK SUBMIT

Step 4: Make sure the design information is updated



Updated design information.

BrandCrowd

Kelly Design 1  
Ay23-24 s1

Design title

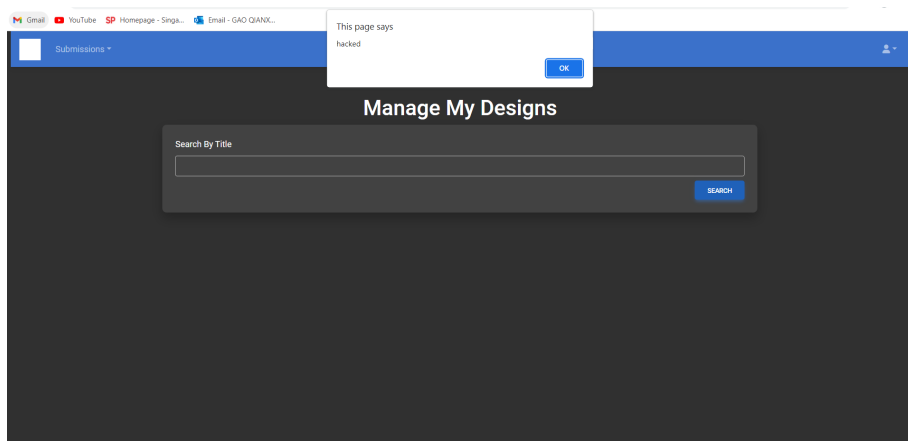
<script>alert(“hacked”)</script>

Design Description

kelly design 1 description text 1 text 2 text 3 text 4 ....

BACK SUBMIT

Step 5: Click “back” -> Click “search” -> Message prompt



### 1.3 Cause of vulnerability

It does not have middleware for input validation.

```
router.put('/api/user/design/', userController.processUpdateOneDesign);
```

### 1.4 How to rectify vulnerability

I have created a file called “validateFn”.

I used a regular expression to validate the input.

```
JS routes.js x JS validateFn.js x JS userController.js
backend > src > middlewares > JS validateFn.js > validateFn > validateUpdateSubmission
1  const validateFn = {
2    validateUpdateSubmission: function (req, res, next) {
3      let fileId = req.body.fileId;
4      let designTitle = req.body.designTitle;
5      let designDescription = req.body.designDescription;
6
7      let reDesignTitle = new RegExp('^[-a-zA-Z0-9\\s]+$'); // allowing letters, digits and spaces only
8      let reDesignDescription = new RegExp('^[-a-zA-Z0-9\\s.]+$'); // allowing letters, digits, spaces and dots only
9      let reFileId = new RegExp('^\\d+$'); // allowing digits only
10
11      if (reDesignTitle.test(designTitle) && reDesignDescription.test(designDescription) && reFileId.test(fileId)) {
12        next();
13      } else {
14        res.status(400).send({ error: "Invalid data received" });
15      }
16    }
17  }
18
19  module.exports = validateFn;
20
```

Include the file as middleware in the code.

```
router.put('/api/user/design/', validateFn.validateUpdateSubmission, userController.processUpdateOneDesign);
```

## 1.5 Testing

Unable to update.

Update design details



☒ Design title


☒ Design Description

BACK

SUBMIT

Updated design information

Update design details



☒ Design title

☒ Design Description

BACK

SUBMIT

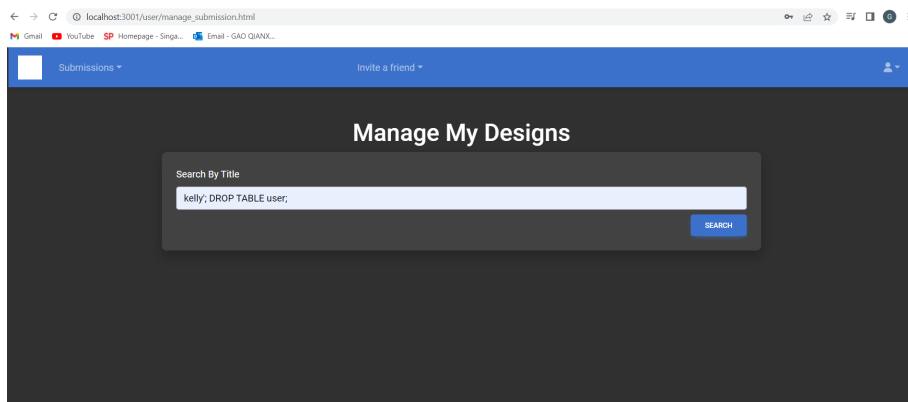
## 2. SQL Injection

### 2.1 Definition

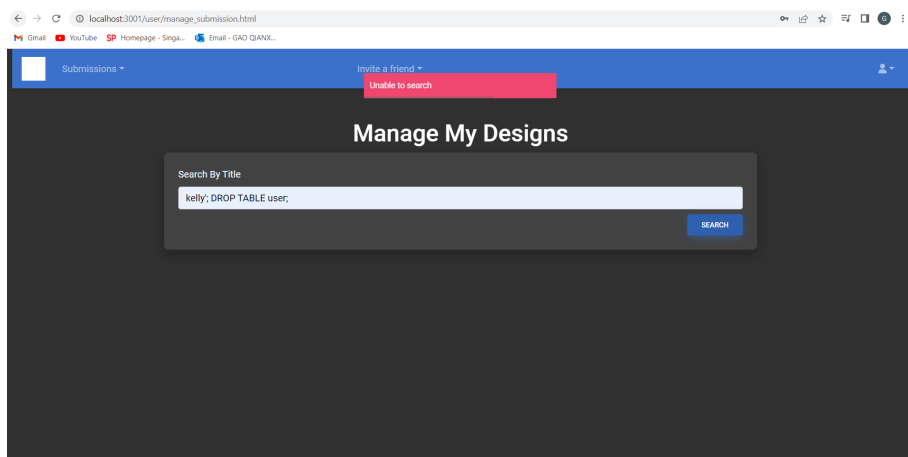
It occurs when untrusted data is sent to an interpreter as part of a command or query, leading to the execution of unintended commands.

### 2.2 How to exploit vulnerability

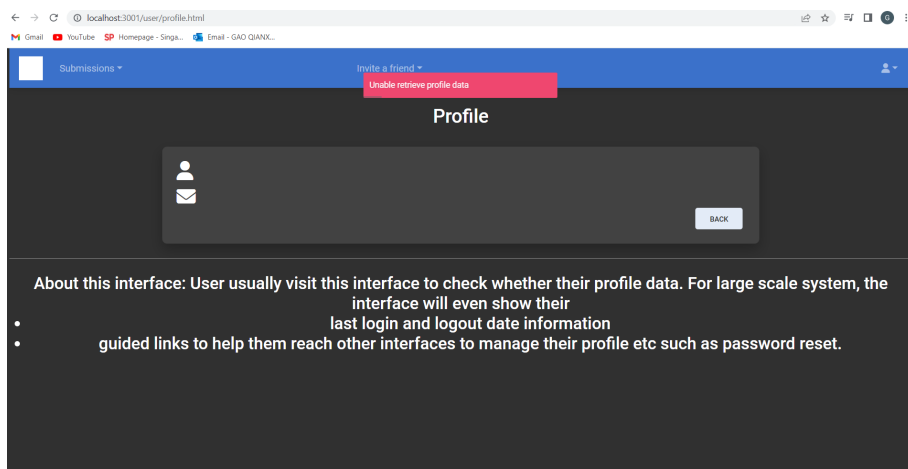
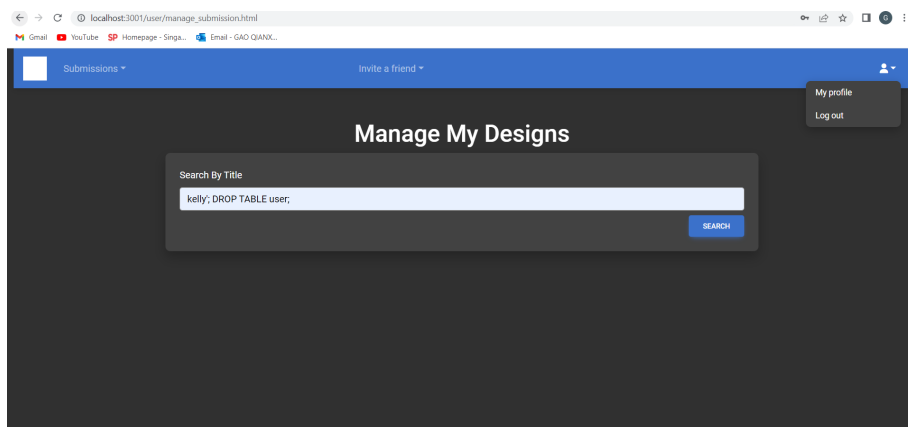
Step 1: Login as kelly -> In the search by title textbox type “kelly'; DROP TABLE user;”



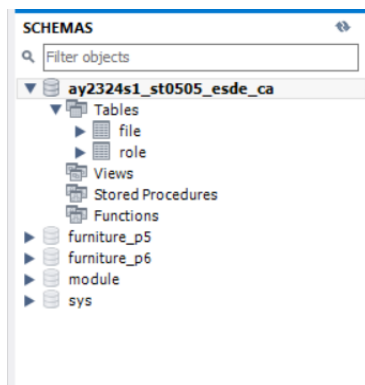
Step 2: Click on “search”



### Step 3: Click on “My profile” (the profile is gone)



### Step 5: Check the SQL workbench (the user table is being dropped)



## 2.3 Cause of vulnerability

It does not have middleware for input validation.

```
router.get('/api/user/process-search-design/:pagenumber/:search?', checkUserFn.getClientUserId, userController.processGetSubmissionData);
```



## 2.4 How to rectify vulnerability

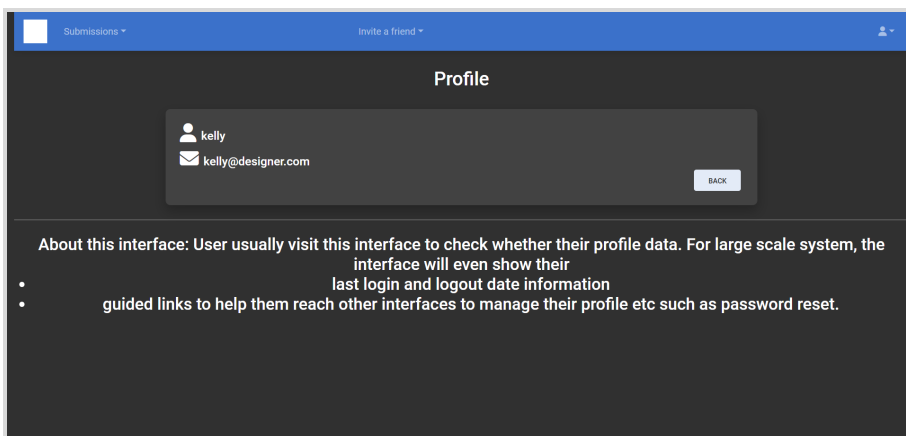
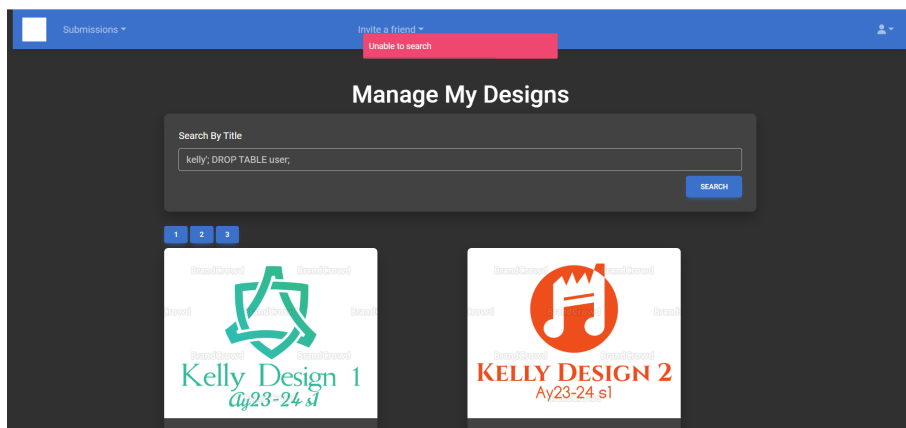
I used a regular expression to validate the input. (validateFn file)

```
validateSubmissionDataInput: function (req, res, next) {  
  let search = req.params.search;  
  
  let reSearch = new RegExp(`^[a-zA-Z0-9\\s]+$`); // allowing letters, digits and spaces only  
  
  if (reSearch.test(search)) {  
    next();  
  } else {  
    res.status(400).send({ error: "Invalid data received" });  
  }  
}
```

Include the file as middleware in the code.

```
router.get('/api/user/process-search-design/:pagenumber/:search?', checkUserFn.getClientUserId, validateFn.validateSubmissionDataInput, userController.processGetSubmissionData);
```

## 2.5 Testing



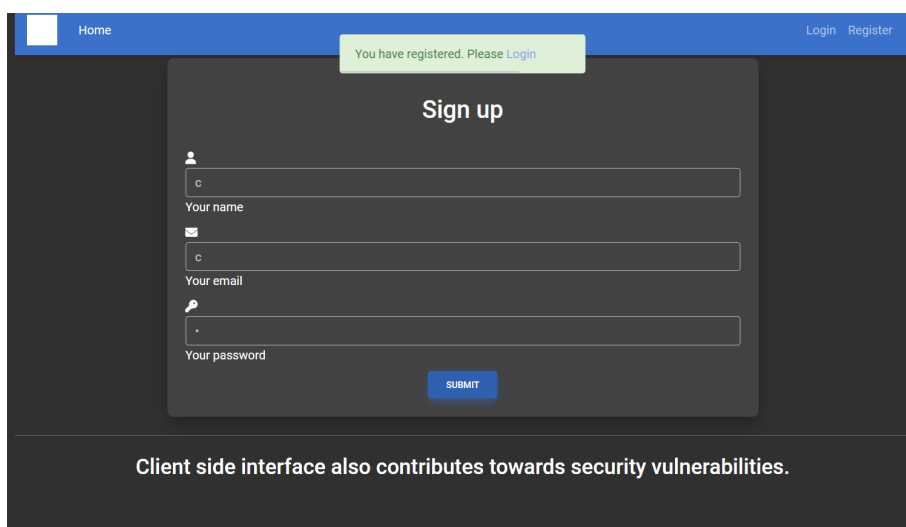
## 3. Broken Authentication

### 3.1 Definition

It occurs when credential verification or session management are poorly implemented, allowing attackers to compromise passwords or session tokens to assume users' identities.

### 3.2 How to exploit vulnerability

Step 1: Go to the register page, register by entering "c" for all -> click on "submit"



121 c c \$2b\$10\$HUyAll8Duf/KvQcx8kqciusQJDBBTInd2... 2

### 3.3 Cause of vulnerability

There is no input validation for user registration.

### 3.4 How to rectify vulnerability

I utilized a regular expression to validate the user input during the registration process.

```
validateRegister: function (req, res, next) {  
  let fullName = req.body.fullName;  
  let email = req.body.email;  
  let password = req.body.password;  
  
  let reFullName = new RegExp(`^[A-Za-z]+$`); // allowing letters only  
  let rePassword = new RegExp(`^[a-zA-Z0-9!@#%]{8,12}$`); // allowing letters, digits, and the s  
  
  if (reFullName.test(fullName) && rePassword.test(password) && validator.isEmail(email)) {  
    next();  
  } else {  
    res.status(400).send({ error: "Invalid data received" });  
  }  
}
```

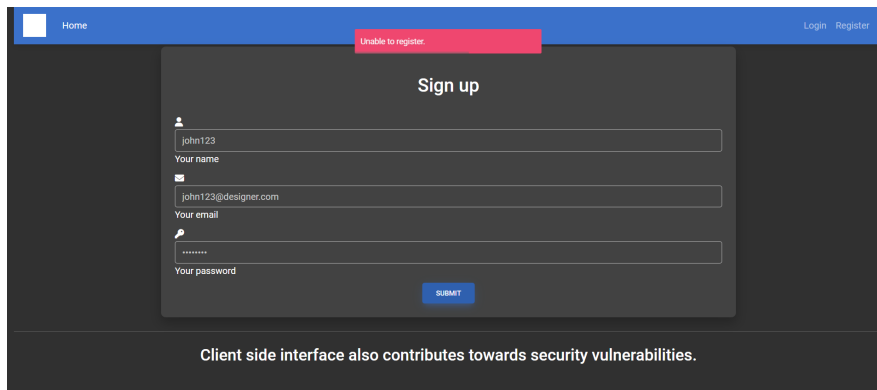
Include the file as middleware in the code.

```
router.post('/api/user/register', validateFn.validateRegister, authController.processRegister);
```

Additionally, change all user and admin passwords in the database. Make sure that the passwords are difficult to guess.

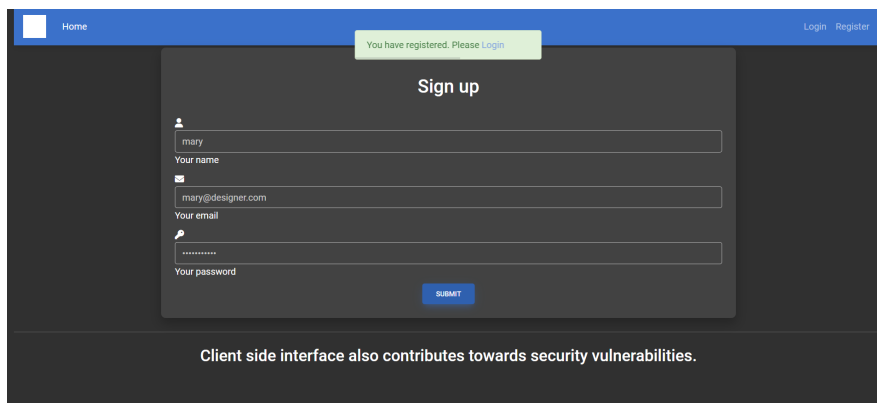
### 3.5 Testing

Password: password



The screenshot shows a web application interface with a blue header bar containing a 'Home' link, a 'Login Register' link, and a red error message 'Unable to register'. The main content area is dark gray and features a 'Sign up' form. The form has four input fields: 'Your name' (containing 'john123'), 'Your email' (containing 'john123@designer.com'), 'Your password' (containing 'password'), and a 'SUBMIT' button. Below the form, a text label reads 'Client side interface also contributes towards security vulnerabilities.'

Password: moNlpr#S@qp



The screenshot shows the same web application interface, but with a green success message 'You have registered. Please Login' in the header bar. The 'Sign up' form now contains the following data: 'Your name' (containing 'mary'), 'Your email' (containing 'mary@designer.com'), and 'Your password' (containing 'moNlpr#S@qp'). The 'SUBMIT' button is still present. The text label at the bottom remains 'Client side interface also contributes towards security vulnerabilities.'

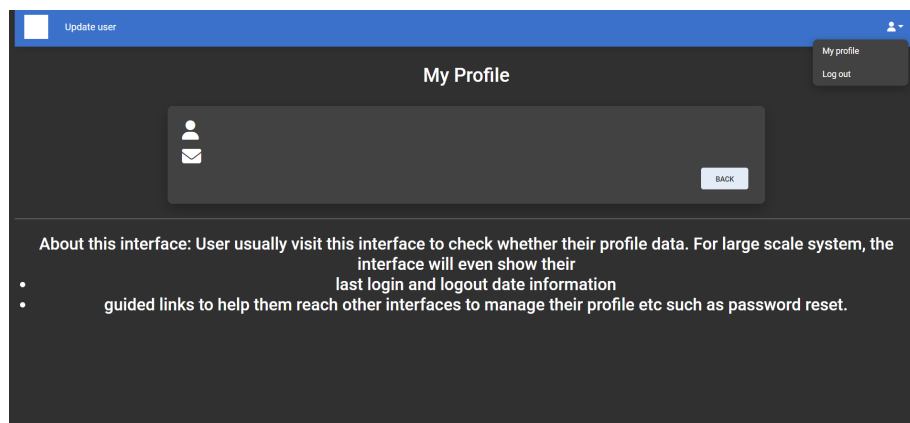
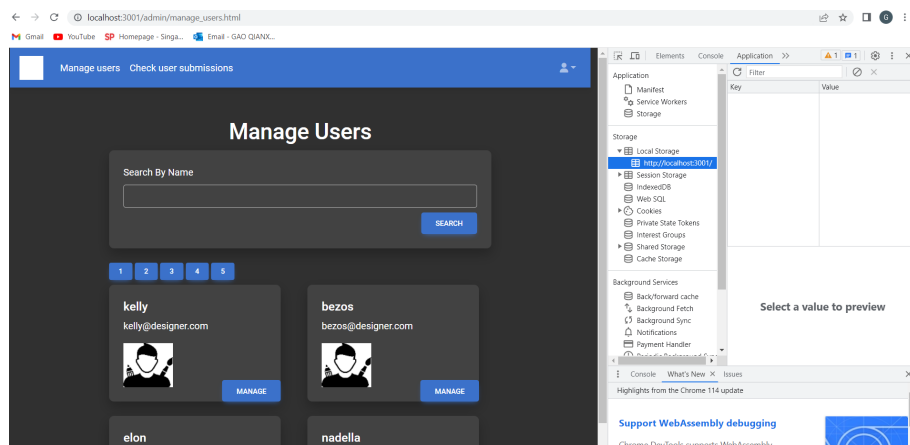
## 4. Broken Access Control

### 4.1 Definition

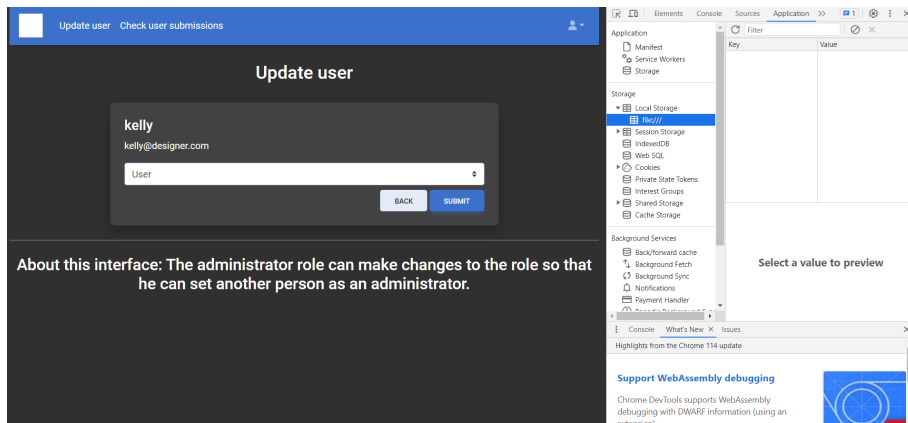
It occurs when permissions on resources are improperly enforced, allowing attackers to access unauthorized functionality or data.

### 4.2 How to exploit vulnerability

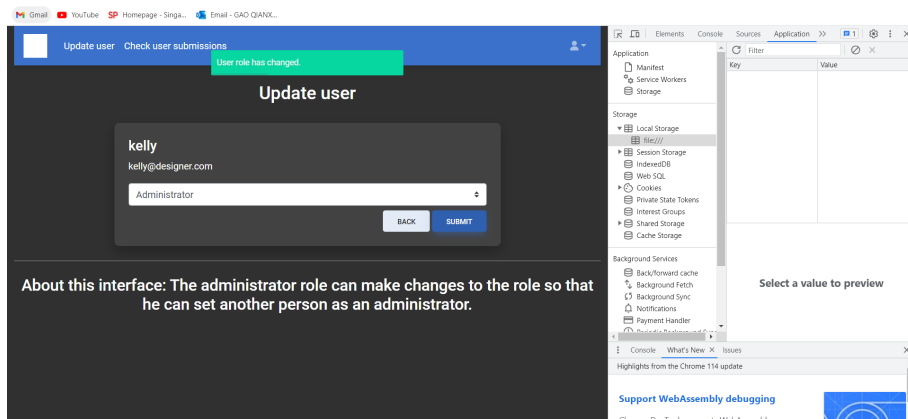
Step 1: Go to: [http://localhost:3001/admin/manage\\_users.html](http://localhost:3001/admin/manage_users.html)



Step 2: On kelly click "Manage"



Step 3: Change kelly role from user to administrator



It has been changed



#### 4.3 Cause of vulnerability

There is no middleware to block unauthorized access.

## 4.4 How to rectify vulnerability

I have created a file called "verifyTokenFn" to validate web token.

```
JS routes.js JS verifyTokenFn.js X
backend > src > middlewares > JS verifyTokenFn.js > [?] <unknown>
1  const jwt = require('jsonwebtoken');
2  const config = require('../config/config');
3
4  const verifyTokenFn = (req, res, next) => {
5    let token = req.headers.authorization;
6
7    if (!token) {
8      res.status(403).send(`{"Message": "Not Authorized"}`);
9    } else {
10     jwt.verify(token, config.JWTKey, (err, decodedPayload) => {
11       if (err) { // decoding failed
12         res.status(403).send(`{"Message": "Not Authorized"}`);
13       } else { // decoding success
14         next();
15       }
16     });
17   }
18 }
19
20 module.exports = verifyTokenFn;
21
```

Under frontend -> public -> js -> admin\_manage\_user.js, add these codes

```
JS validateFn.js JS routes.js manage_users.html JS admin_manage_user.js X
frontend > public > js > JS admin_manage_user.js > on(click) callback
1  let $searchDesignFormContainer = $('#searchUserFormContainer');
2  if ($searchDesignFormContainer.length != 0) {
3    console.log('Search user form detected in manage user interface. Binding event handling logic to form elements.');
```

//If the jQuery object which represents the form element exists,  
//the following code will create a method to submit search parameters  
//to server-side api when the #submitButton element fires the click event.

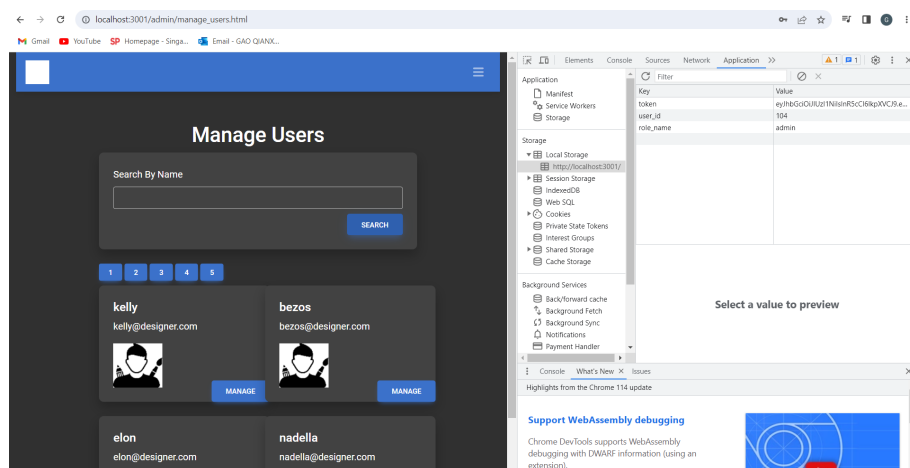
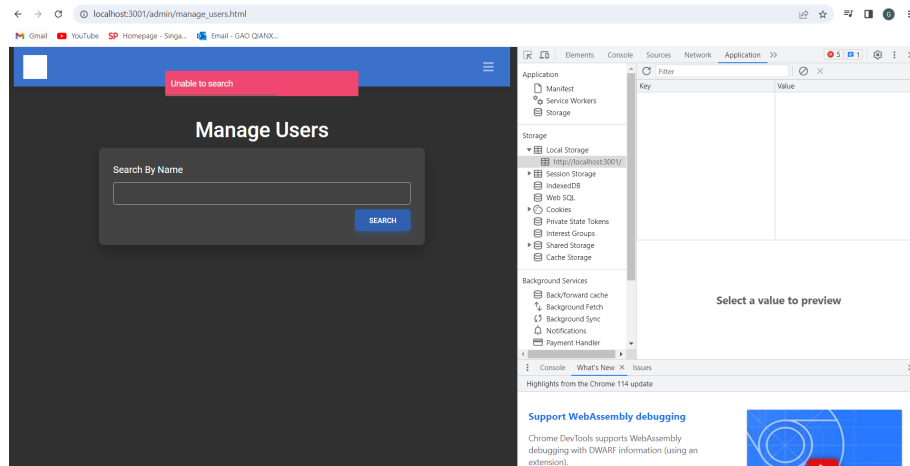
```
4    $('#submitButton').on('click', function(event) {
5      event.preventDefault();
6      const baseUrl = 'http://localhost:5000';
7      let searchInput = $('#searchInput').val();
8      let userId = localStorage.getItem('user_id');
9      let token = localStorage.getItem('token');
10     axios({
11       headers: {
12         //Modify this will affect the checkUserFn.js middleware file at the backend.
13         'user': userId,
14         'authorization': token,
15       },
16       method: 'get',
17       url: baseUrl + '/api/user/process-search-user/1/' + searchInput,
18     })
19     .then(function(response) {
20       //Using the following to inspect the response.data data structure
21       //before deciding the code which dynamically generates cards.
```

```
function clickHandlerForPageButton(event) {
  event.preventDefault();
  const baseUrl = 'http://localhost:5000';
  let userId = localStorage.getItem('user_id');
  let token = localStorage.getItem('token');
  let pageNumber = $(event.target).text().trim();
  let searchInput = $('#searchInput').val();
  console.log('Checking the button page number which raised the click event : ', pageNumber);
  axios({
    headers: {
      'user': userId,
      'authorization': token,
    },
    method: 'get',
    url: baseUrl + '/api/user/process-search-user/' + pageNumber + '/' + searchInput,
  })
  .then(function(response) {
    //Using the following to inspect the response.data data structure
    //before deciding the code which dynamically generates cards.
    //Each card describes a design record.
    //console.dir(response.data);
```

Include the file as middleware in the code.

```
router.get('/api/user/process-search-user/:pagenumber/:search?', verifyfn.verifyToken, checkUserfn.getClientUserId, userController.processGetUserData);
```

## 4.5 Testing



## 5. Sensitive Data Exposure

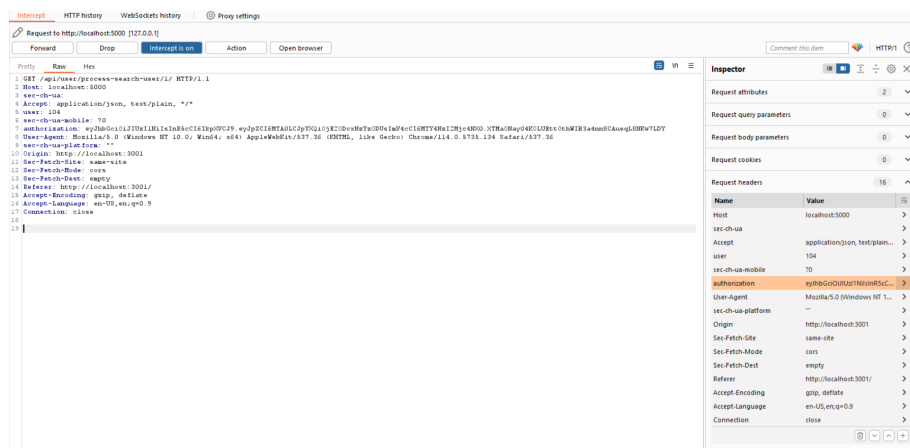
### 5.1 Definition

It occurs due to lack or weak protection of sensitive data, allowing attackers to steal or modify the data when the data is at rest or in transit.

### 5.2 How to exploit vulnerability

Step 1: Open Burp Suite -> go to proxy -> under intercept, open browser and enter <http://localhost:3001>

Step 2: Login as Albert -> go back to burp suite -> keep pressing "forward" until this appears



### 5.3 Cause of vulnerability

The website link is using insecure HTTP protocol.

### 5.4 How to rectify vulnerability

Step 1: Open command prompt using administrator, Install openssl using chocolatey:

- `choco -v` (check chocolatey version to make sure it is installed)
- `choco install openssl.light` (install openssl)
- `openssl version` (check openssl version to make sure it is installed)



Step 3: Generate a private key:

Run this command, it generates a 2048 bit RSA private key and saves it in the 'privateKey.key' file -> "openssl genpkey -algorithm RSA -out privateKey.key -pkeyopt rsa\_keygen\_bits:2048"

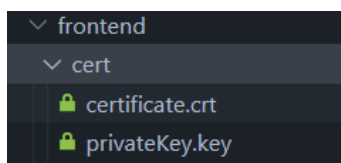
Step 4: Generate a certificate signing request:

Run this command -> "openssl req -new -key privateKey.key -out csr.csr"

Step 5: Generate a self-signed certificate:

Run this command, it creates a self-signed certificate valid for 365 days and saves it in the 'certificate.crt' file -> "openssl x509 -req -days 365 -in csr.csr -signkey privateKey.key -out certificate.crt"

Step 6: Open vs code -> frontend -> create a new file called "cert" -> put in the privateKey.key and certificate.crt files



Step 7: open frontend, index.js -> add in these codes

```
const express = require('express');
const serveStatic = require('serve-static');
// ssl certificate setup
const https = require('https');
const fs = require('fs');

var hostname = "localhost";
var port = 3001;

var app = express();

app.use(function (req, res, next) {
  console.log(req.url);
  console.log(req.method);
  console.log(req.path);
  console.log(req.query.id);
});

//Checking the incoming request type from the client
if (req.method != "GET") {
  res.type('html');
  var msg = '<html><body>This server only serves web pages with GET request</body></html>';
  res.end(msg);
} else {
  next();
}

app.use(serveStatic(__dirname + "/public"));

app.get("/", (req, res) => {
  res.sendFile("/public/home.html", { root: __dirname });
});

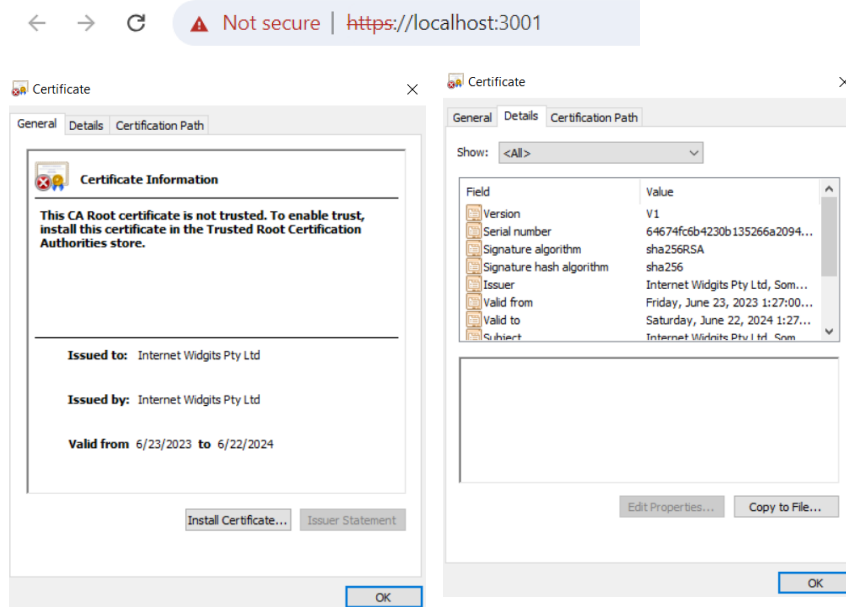
// get ssl certificate and private key
const privateKey = fs.readFileSync('cert/privateKey.key', 'utf8');
const certificate = fs.readFileSync('cert/certificate.crt', 'utf8');

// https server
const httpsServer = https.createServer(
  {
    key: privateKey,
    cert: certificate
  }, app
);

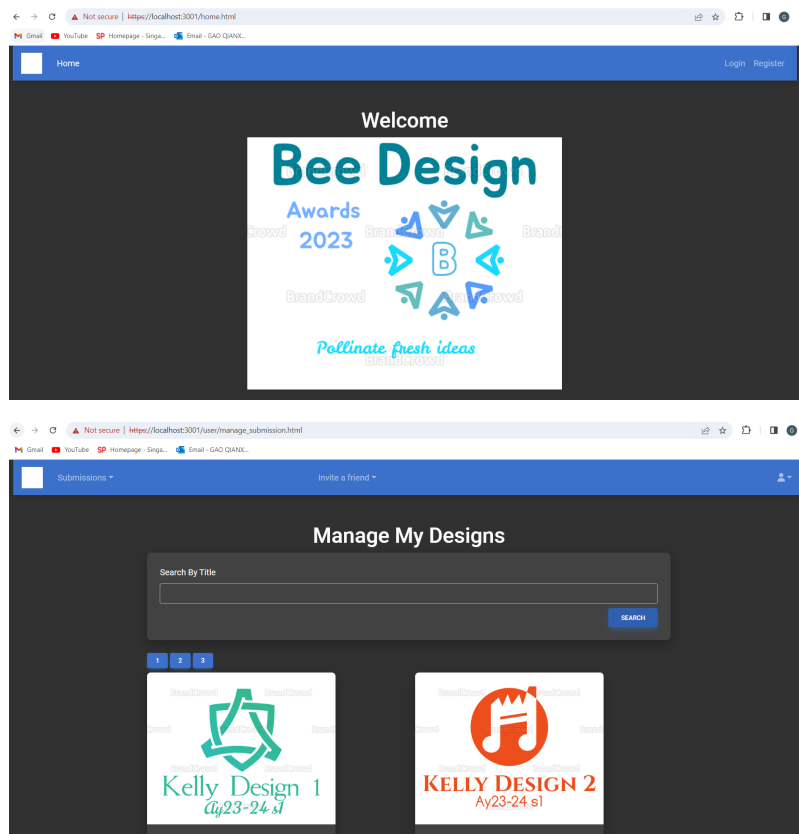
httpsServer.listen(port, () => {
  console.log("Server hosted at https://${hostname}:${port}");
});
```

## 5.5 Testing

It is fine that the browser says that the certificate used is “Not secure” because it warns us that the certificate is not recognized by the CA (Certification Authorities), but it is still a **valid** certificate.



All the pages are working well after changing http to https.



## 6. Insufficient Logging & Monitoring

### 6.1 Definition

It occurs when organizations do not put in-place robust logging mechanisms or respond to alerts of potential attacks, allowing attackers to achieve their goals without being detected.

### 6.2 How to exploit vulnerability

I realized that the backend does not have enough monitoring.

```
Server is Listening on: http://localhost:5000/
[
  RowDataPacket {
    user_id: 104,
    fullname: 'Albert',
    email: 'Albert@admin.com',
    user_password: '$2b$10$K.0HwpsoPDGaB/atFBmmXOGTw4ceeg33.WrxJx/Fec9.gCyYvIbs6',
    role_name: 'admin',
    role_id: 1
  }
]
```

### 6.3 Cause of vulnerability

Insufficient Logging & Monitoring.

### 6.4 How to rectify vulnerability

Step 1: Go to backend -> routes.js -> add in this code

```
const log = require('npmlog');
```

## Step 2: Replace the old codes with the following codes

```
exports.appRoute = router => {
  log.level = 'info';

  router.post('/api/user/login', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'POST /api/user/login', 'Request payload:', req.body);
    authController.processLogin(req, res);
  });

  router.post('/api/user/register', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'POST /api/user/register', 'Request payload:', req.body);
    validateFn.validateRegister(req, res, () => {
      authController.processRegister(req, res);
    });
  });

  router.post('/api/user/process-submission', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'POST /api/user/process-submission', 'Request payload:', req.body);
    checkUserFn.getClientUserId(req, res, () => {
      userController.processDesignSubmission(req, res);
    });
  });

  router.put('/api/user/', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'PUT /api/user/', 'Request payload:', req.body);
    userController.processUpdateOneUser(req, res);
  });

  router.put('/api/user/design/', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'PUT /api/user/design/', 'Request payload:', req.body);
    validateFn.validateUpdateDesign(req, res, () => {
      userController.processUpdateOneDesign(req, res);
    });
  });

  router.post('/api/user/processInvitation/', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'POST /api/user/processInvitation/', 'Request payload:', req.body);
    checkUserFn.getClientUserId(req, res, () => {
      userController.processSendInvitation(req, res);
    });
  });

  router.get('/api/user/process-search-design/:pagenumber/:search?', validateFn.validateDesignSearchInput, checkUserFn.getClientUserId, (req, res, next) => {
    log.info('Request', 'GET /api/user/process-search-design/${req.params.pagenumber}/${req.params.search}', 'Client User ID:', req.headers.user);
    userController.processGetSubmissionData(req, res, next);
  });

  router.get('/api/user/process-search-user/:pagenumber/:search?', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'GET /api/user/process-search-user/${req.params.pagenumber}/${req.params.search}', 'Client User ID:', req.headers.user);
    verifyTokenFn(req, res, () => {
      checkUserFn.getClientUserId(req, res, () => {
        userController.processGetUserData(req, res);
      });
    });
  });

  router.get('/api/user/process-search-user-design/:pagenumber/:search?', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'GET /api/user/process-search-user-design/${req.params.pagenumber}/${req.params.search}');
    userController.processGetSubmissionsByEmail(req, res);
  });

  router.get('/api/user/:recordId', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'GET /api/user/${req.params.recordId}');
    userController.processGetOneUserData(req, res);
  });

  router.get('/api/user/design/:fileId', (req, res) => {
    log.info('Request', 'GET /api/user/design/${req.params.fileId}');
    userController.processGetOneDesignData(req, res);
  });
};
```

## 6.5 Testing

The process is being monitored.

```
Server is Listening on: http://localhost:5000/
node-pre-gyp info Request POST /api/user/login Request payload: { email: 'albert@admin.com', password: 'password' }
[
  RowDataPacket {
    user_id: 104,
    fullname: 'Albert',
    email: 'Albert@admin.com',
    user_password: '$2b$10$K.0Hwps0PDGaB/atFBmmXOGTw4ceeg33.WrxJx/Fec9.gcyVvIbs6',
    role_name: 'admin',
    role_id: 1
  }
]
```