

# Basic Web Application Penetration Testing

Student: Yeddula Chakradhar Reddy

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## **Abstract**

This project performed a focused penetration test of OWASP Juice Shop (deployed locally via Docker and accessed at <http://127.0.0.1:3000>) with the objective of identifying OWASP Top 10 issues. Using a combination of automated and manual techniques (dirb, Burp Suite and manual inspection) I conducted reconnaissance, directory busting, and targeted exploitation. Directory enumeration revealed a public /ftp area containing a sensitive confidential acquisitions.md file and a .bak backup; the backup was retrieved by bypassing download restrictions with a null-byte style payload (%2500).

Further testing identified and validated SQL Injection, Broken Authentication, Broken Access Control, and three XSS variants (reflected, stored, DOM-based), with proofs of concept captured via Burp. Findings demonstrate insecure file handling, insufficient input validation and access controls, and weak handling of backup artifacts—issues that enabled straightforward exploitation in the lab environment.

Remediations include removing sensitive artifacts from public directories, implementing strict access controls and input sanitization/parameterized queries, enforcing secure authentication and session management, and hardening file-download endpoints.

## **Objective**

The objective of this project was to identify and exploit common web application vulnerabilities from the OWASP Top 10 using the OWASP Juice Shop platform, and to understand how insecure configurations and poor coding practices can lead to real-world security risks.

## **Problem Solved**

This project demonstrated how common web vulnerabilities—like exposed directories, SQL Injection, Broken Authentication, and XSS—can compromise application security. It highlighted risks from insecure file handling and poor input validation. By exploiting these flaws in OWASP Juice Shop, the project showcased real attacker techniques and emphasized the importance of secure coding practices and proper access controls.

## Environment & Tools

- Host OS & Runtime: Host OS: Kali Linux (used as the host; Docker run from Kali terminal).
- Target app: OWASP Juice Shop (running in Docker, served at <http://127.0.0.1:3000>).  
Check image/version: docker images bkimminich/juice-shop inside container.
- Web proxies / interceptors: Burp Suite (Community)
- Directory / content discovery: dirb (or gobuster)
- Browser / manual testing: Firefox

## Design & Architecture

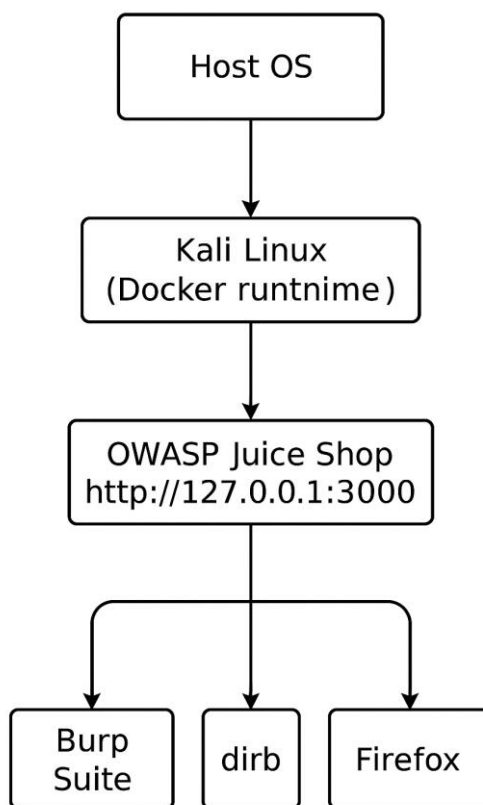


Fig 1: Lab Architecture and data flow

# **Implementation**

## **Deployment & test harness**

- Target deployment: OWASP Juice Shop deployed locally in Docker and accessed at <http://127.0.0.1:3000>.
- Environment: Host OS — Kali Linux (Docker started from the Kali terminal). Confirmed image with docker images bkimminich/juice-shop.
- Testing tools: Burp Suite (Community) as the intercepting proxy for capturing requests and crafting proofs of concept; Firefox for manual testing and reproducing browser-side issues; dirb for directory/content discovery.

No application source code was created, modified, or instrumented for this assessment. All testing was performed externally against a running OWASP Juice Shop Docker instance using Burp Suite, Firefox, dirb.

# Testing / Evidence

## Overview

- **Directory enumeration & information disclosure** — Directory busting discovered a public /ftp containing a sensitive acquisitions.md and an unintended backup artifact (\*.bak), showing how exposed folders can leak confidential information.
- **SQL Injection** — I injected the email field with SQLi payloads and gained access to both the admin and a regular account this occurred because the login endpoint concatenated unvalidated input into its database query, allowing a classic ' **OR 1=1** -- style bypass that authenticated me without valid credentials.
- **Broken Authentication & Broken Access Control** — Authentication and access control weaknesses were validated by attempting protected-resource access and manipulating session/auth flows, demonstrating insufficient server-side authorization checks and session hardening.
- **Cross-Site Scripting (DOM, persistent, reflected)** — Reflected, stored and DOM XSS variants were identified and validated in the application, showing unsafe client-side rendering and lack of proper output encoding.

All testing was performed externally against a locally deployed OWASP Juice Shop Docker instance from an isolated Kali VM. Evidence captured for each finding includes Burp Suite request/response captures, browser screenshots demonstrating payload execution, the downloaded backup file, directory enumeration output, and concise reproduction steps.

## Deployment

I deployed the Juice Shop container on Kali Linux, verified it was running, and confirmed accessibility in a browser to begin reconnaissance and vulnerability testing.

Docker deployment commands:

**sudo docker pull bkimminich/juice-shop**

**sudo docker run --rm -d -p 3000:3000 --name juice-shop bkimminich/juice-shop**

```
(kali@kali)~/krutanic/projects/chakradhar-minor/OWASP Juice Shop
$ sudo docker pull bkimminich/juice-shop
[sudo] password for kali:
Using default tag: latest
latest: Pulling from bkimminich/juice-shop
35d697fe2738: Pull complete
bfb59b82a9b6: Pull complete
4eff9a62d888: Pull complete
62de241dac5f: Pull complete
2780920e5dbf: Pull complete
7c12895b777b: Pull complete
3214acf345c0: Pull complete
5664b15f108b: Pull complete
045fc1c20da8: Pull complete
4aa0ea1413d3: Pull complete
da7816fa955e: Pull complete
ddf74a63f7d8: Pull complete
d00c3209d929: Pull complete
c058825cfd6: Pull complete
7faf0cfa885c: Pull complete
5b14f6c9a813: Pull complete
33ce0b1d99fc: Pull complete
f45e0372ce60: Pull complete
46b46b3ee13c: Pull complete
e27f89e01: Pull complete
c223915a7ea9: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:c6f965f8929c2c43676e3ac55cd19d482c0084400195db07ed7513a04f3468b5
Status: Downloaded newer image for bkimminich/juice-shop:latest
docker.io/bkimminich/juice-shop:latest
```

Fig 2: Pulling juice shop image from docker

```
(kali@kali)~/krutanic/projects/chakradhar-minor/OWASP Juice Shop
$ sudo docker run --rm -d -p 3000:3000 --name juice-shop bkimminich/juice-shop
828228f02d5aed93784ccd859f5edf48544b60e002b305f4db33f1b3a001c621
```

Fig 3: Running OWASP Juice Shop via docker at 127:0.0.1:3000

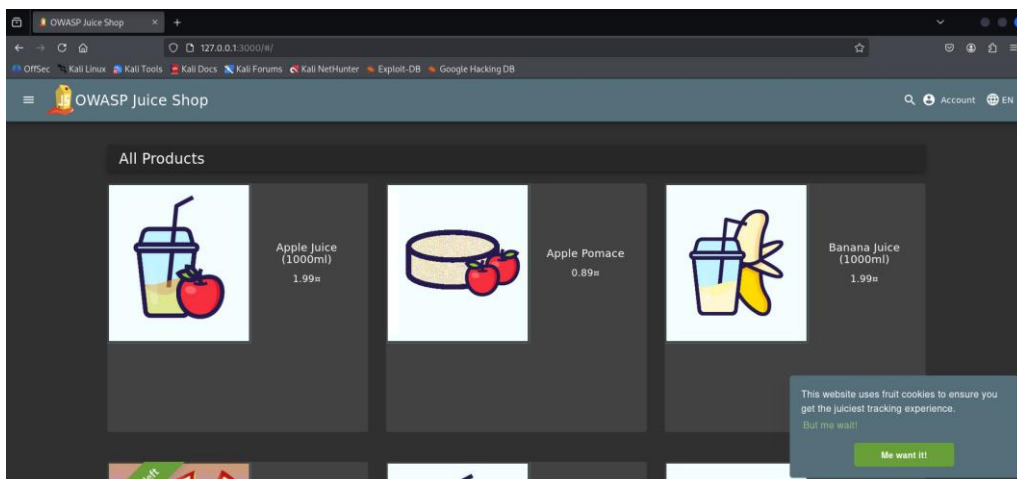


Fig 4: OWASP Juice Shop web app running at 127:0.0.1:3000

## Reconnaissance

During initial reconnaissance I discovered several email addresses exposed in the application UI, including the administrator address `admin@juice-sh.op`. These addresses were visible through normal browsing of the site (user pages and public content).

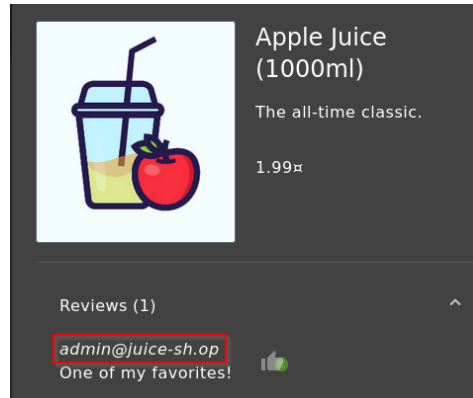


Fig 5: admin email address

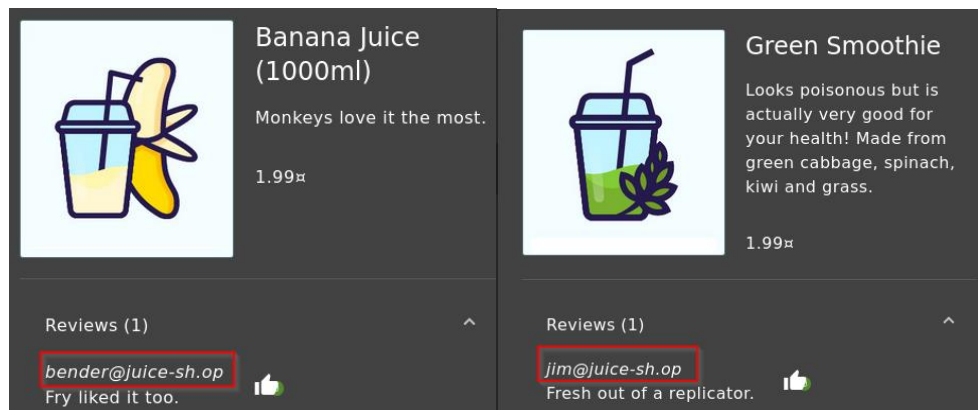


Fig 6: a couple of user's email address

## Directory enumeration & information disclosure

During directory enumeration using dirb, several directories were discovered on the Juice Shop application. I have used the common.txt wordlist for this attack

Dirb command: `dirb http://127.0.0.1:3000 /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt`

```
(kali@kali) ~ - /krutanic/projects/chakradhar-minor/OWASP_Juice_Shop
$ dirb http://127.0.0.1:3000 /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt

DIRB v2.22
By The Dark Raver

START_TIME: Thu Oct 9 12:06:47 2025
URL_BASE: http://127.0.0.1:3000/
WORDLIST_FILES: /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt

GENERATED WORDS: 4612

--- Scanning URL: http://127.0.0.1:3000/ ---
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/assets (CODE:301|SIZE:156)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/ftp (CODE:200|SIZE:11307)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/profile (CODE:500|SIZE:1043)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/promotion (CODE:200|SIZE:6586)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/redirect (CODE:500|SIZE:3119)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/robots.txt (CODE:200|SIZE:28)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/video (CODE:200|SIZE:10075518)
+ http://127.0.0.1:3000/Video (CODE:200|SIZE:10075518)
```

Fig 7: Directory busting results



I navigated to the robots.txt file first and observeded that it hinted at a /ftp path intended for developer use.

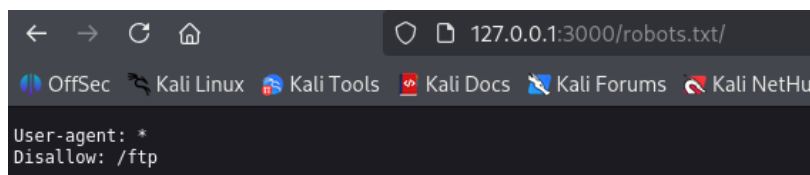


Fig 8: robots.txt file

Navigating to /ftp, I examined all the files and found a sensitive acquisitions.md file that should not have been publicly accessible.

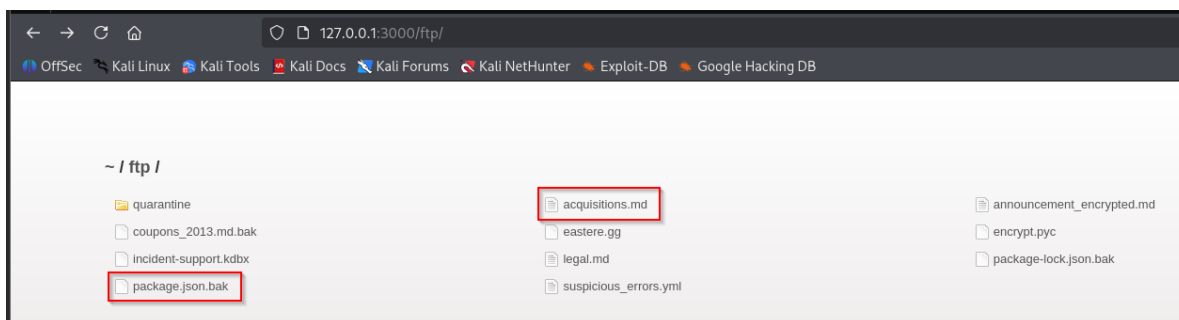


Fig 9: The ftp directory

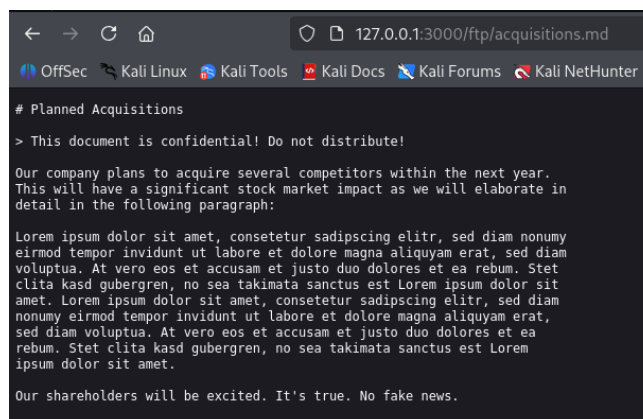


Fig 10: The acquisitions.md file

In the same directory, a backup file (\*.bak) was also present. Direct download of the backup was initially blocked due to download restrictions; however, I successfully bypassed this filter by appending a null-byte style payload (%2500) to the URL, which allowed the .bak file to be retrieved.

The http url looks something like this: **http://127.0.0.1:3000/ftp/package.json.bak%2500.md**

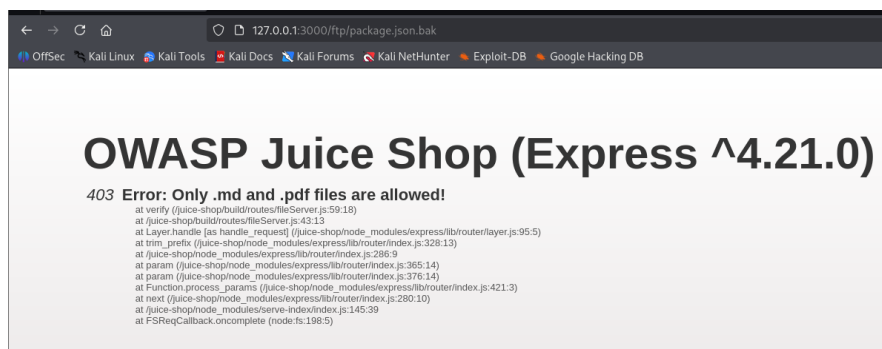


Fig 11: The .bak file

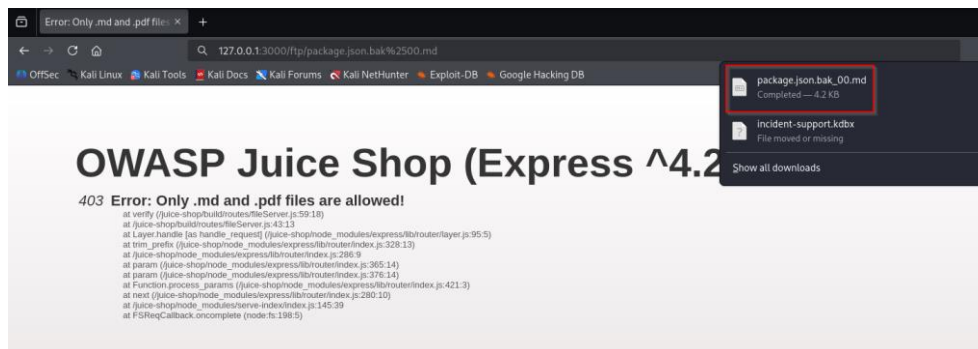


Fig 12: Download successful after the poison null byte

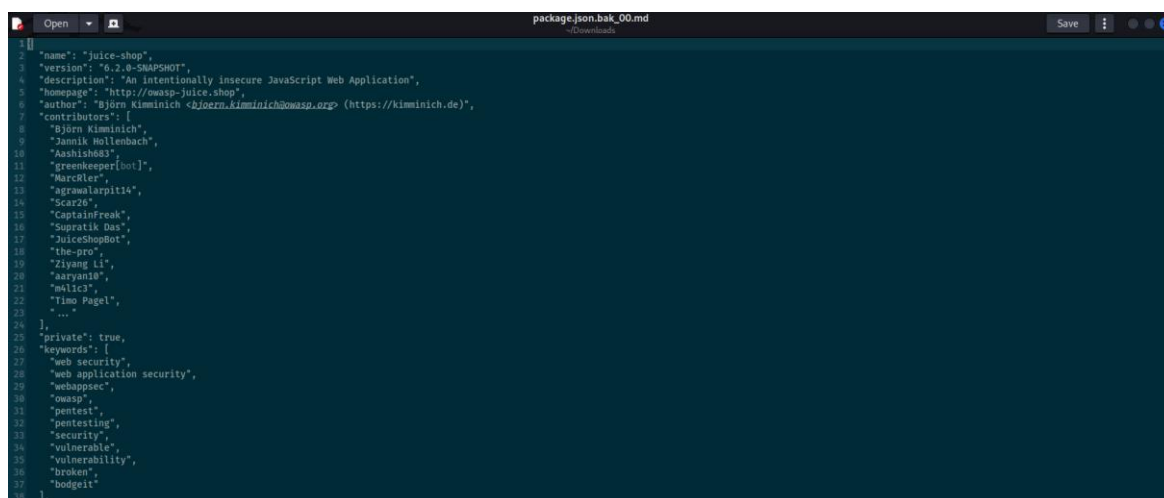
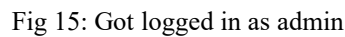
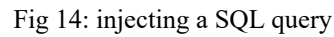


Fig 13: A small snippet of the downloaded back-up file

This demonstrates how improperly exposed directories and insufficient file access controls can lead to leakage of sensitive data and potential exploitation by attackers.

## SQL Injection

During testing I focused on the login endpoint and found it was vulnerable to simple SQL injection. I sent a classic Boolean bypass payload (' or 1=1--) in the email field while supplying a dummy password; the application accepted this input and logged me in as the administrator without valid credentials, demonstrating that user-supplied input was being concatenated into SQL queries without proper parameterization.



11

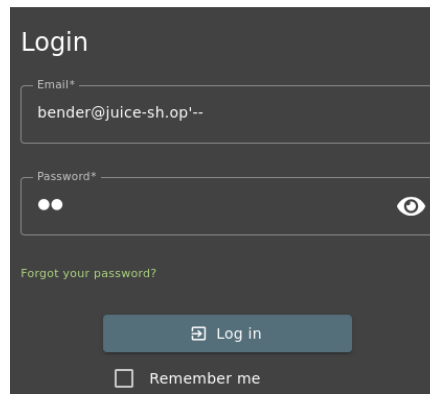


Fig 17: injecting a SQL query

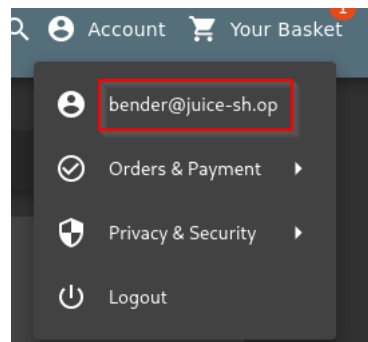


Fig 18: Got logged in as 'bender'

This illustrates the immediate risk of SQL injection in authentication logic and the need for server-side fixes such as parameterized queries, input validation, and hardened authentication checks.

## **Broken Authentication & Broken Access Control**

### **Broken Authentication**

I exploited multiple weaknesses in the authentication and account-recovery mechanisms. First, I performed an online brute-force attack against the administrator account. I captured a valid login request for admin@juice-sh.op and sent it to Burp Intruder, targeting the password parameter with a payload list (best1050.txt from SecLists). After running the attack and filtering responses by length, I identified a response that differed from the failed-attempt responses. Opening that request/response revealed a successful authentication: the administrator's password was admin123, a weak/guessable credential. I then logged into the application using those credentials and confirmed administrative access.

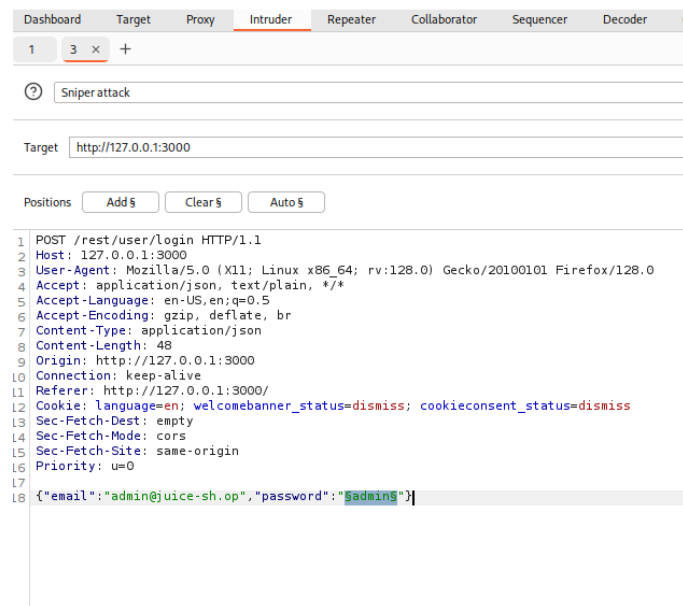


Fig 19: Intercepted request sent to intruder and targeting the password parameter.

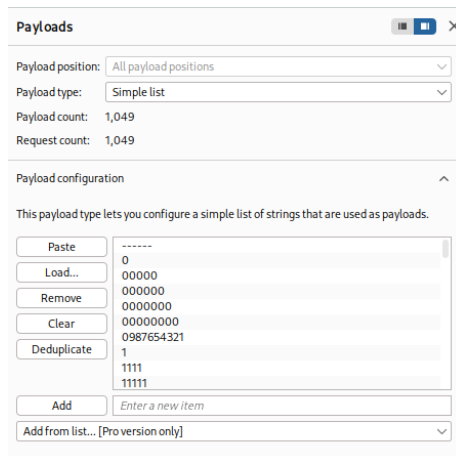


Fig 20: Payload list loaded from seclists/best1050.txt

Request	Payload	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
117	admin123	200	25			1185	
0	-----	401	27			413	
1	0	401	15			413	
2	0	401	25			413	
3	000000	401	22			413	
4	0000000	401	11			413	
5	00000000	401	13			413	
6	000000000	401	17			413	

Request	Response
Pretty	Raw
Hex	

```

1 POST /rest/user/login HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 127.0.0.1:3000
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:128.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/128.0
4 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
7 Content-Type: application/json
8 Content-Length: 51
9 Origin: http://127.0.0.1:3000
10 Connection: keep-alive
11 Referer: http://127.0.0.1:3000/
12 Cookie: language=en; welcomebanner_status=dismiss; cookieconsent_status=dismiss
13 Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
14 Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
15 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
16 Priority: u=0
17
18 {
19   "email": "admin@juice-sh.op",
20   "password": "admin123"
21 }

```

Fig 21: The request of the password: admin123

Request	Payload	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length ✓	Comment
117	admin123	200	25			1185	
0		401	27			413	
1	-----	401	15			413	
2	0	401	25			413	
3	000000	401	22			413	
4	000000	401	11			413	
5	00000000	401	13			413	
6	000000000	401	17			413	

**Request      Response**

---

```

Pretty      Raw    Hex          Render
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
3 X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
4 X-FRAME-OPTIONS: SAMEORIGIN
5 Feature-Policy: payment 'self'
6 X-Recruiting: /#/jobs
7 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
8 Content-Length: 799
9 ETag: W/"3bf-JcSvFT8ZslXsvLWK4IuD2RhxyB"
0 Vary: Accept-Encoding
1 Date: Thu, 09 Oct 2025 14:30:47 GMT
2 Connection: keep-alive
3 Keep-Alive: timeout=5
4
5 {
6   "authentication":{
7     "token":"
            eyJ0eXAiOiJKVjQiCjpbGciO1JSUzIiNiJ9.eyJzdGF0YXIwQlJzdmWNNXiwiZGF0YSIeyJpZCtGMhwidmNkcmShbwUlOisILCljbWFpbCIgImFkbmludGplbmWLXNoLe9mwIiwicGFzc2dvcmQOIjoIMTkwyMDIzyTdTdHFnQMzIlMDOxNmYwhlkzjEAYjUVmcSIziJVbGUlbiJHZlpibIsIERlbHV4ZRva2WiuioiisiwbGPfdExZVLuSAOlILCWcn9maWIiSmhlZDZUL0ljhc3MiOmhmcyVsIGlJL2ltYWdlcy9lcGVybnRLZWRIbmRBZGlpbSwobWclLCJo3RWLU2VjcVOIioisiwianBY3RpdmUsOnRydWlsInAnZWFOZFNBZGI6IGlJWHUHTATMdkgMTMHGDAGKduNZAwICswbdowMCISinIWZGF0ZWRBDClGIlJIWHUHTATMdkgMTMHGDAGKduNZAwICswbdowMCISIeIRLGVGZWRBDClGonvsHosIAhdCTEMTC2NDADYMOIKON3o.h-zlXHU4HeqKaasIEBCdeKZczTUjjbhby5rdxaAZZAt2uc2GSkdFLanrwaPBwezkKXlvSi1ZDTvvppjOkjAsVSUXUYDYBgC7GjdGNaw_1EsPLFSgbBzhfyfzl2saOTakURfhzxv2btBwXuJ7kREHYBGUSPSSCBhgOh8u2_fcVB".
            "bid":"\
            admin@juice-sh.op"
```

Fig 22: The response of the password: admin123 resulting in successful authentication

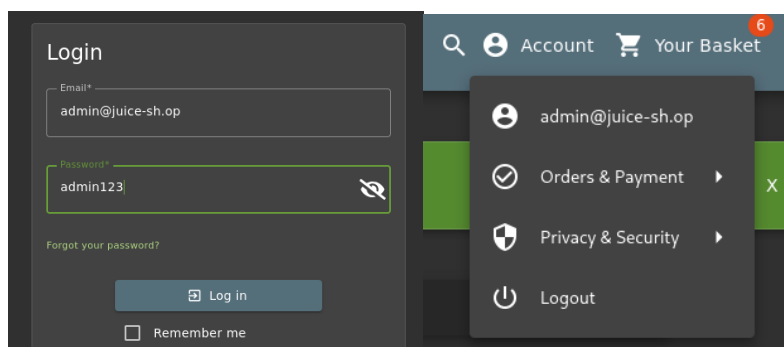


Fig 23: The successful authentication of admin credentials.

Next, I abused an insecure account-recovery flow for the jim account. The reset process required answering a security question (eldest brother's middle name). During reconnaissance I found a clue in Jim's review mentioning "replicator," which led me to research Jim in the context of the Star Trek franchise.

# Forgot Password

Email\*

jim@juice-sh.op

?

Security Question\*

Your eldest siblings middle name?

?

Use a Securely Generated Password

Firefox will save this password for this website.

Manage Passwords

Please provide your new password.

Repeat New Password\*

0/20

Show password advice

Change

Fig 24: Jim's security question.

jim@juice-sh.op  
Fresh out of a replicator.

Fig 25: The review of Jim to a juice.

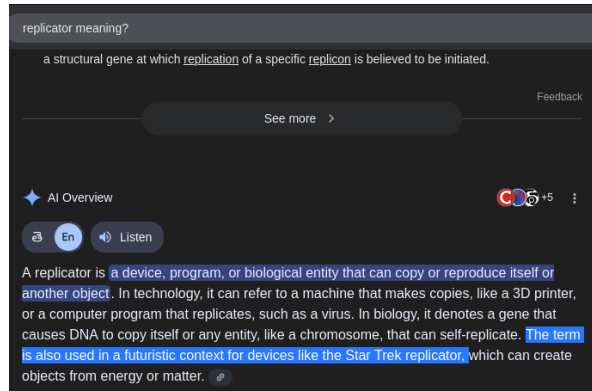


Fig 26: Finding the start trek reference via OSINT

That OSINT step located a wiki entry listing his family and revealed the brother's middle name Samuel, which was the correct answer. Using this, I reset Jim's password to 'juiceshop' and gained access to his account.

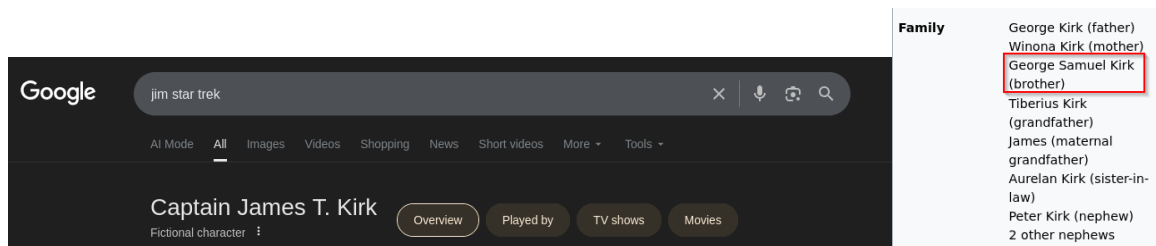


Fig 27: Finding the start trek reference via OSINT

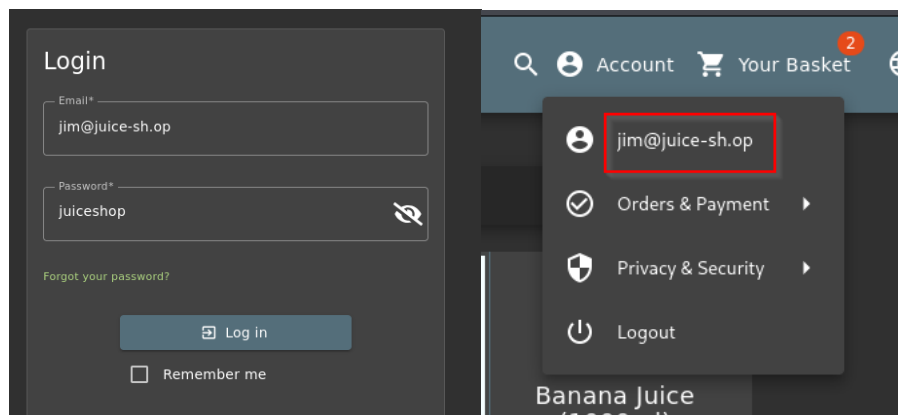


Fig 28: Logging in successfully with the new credentials.

Weak password policies and unprotected account recovery allow attackers to gain high-privilege access and hijack user accounts.

## **Broken Access Control**

I validated two access control failures: an information leakage that revealed administrative endpoints in client-side code, and an IDOR (insecure direct object reference) in the basket endpoint.

**Discovery of admin endpoint in client code:** Using the browser's developer tools I opened the application's main JavaScript (main.js), prettified it {}, and searched for the term "administration." This revealed a path named administration. Attempting to navigate to that path as an unauthenticated user or normal user returned no access, but after authenticating as the admin (via the weak-password compromise above) I could reach the administration page.

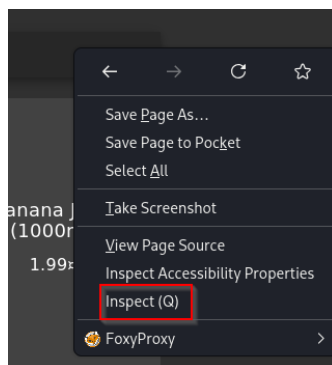


Fig 29: Right click on the screen and click on inspect.

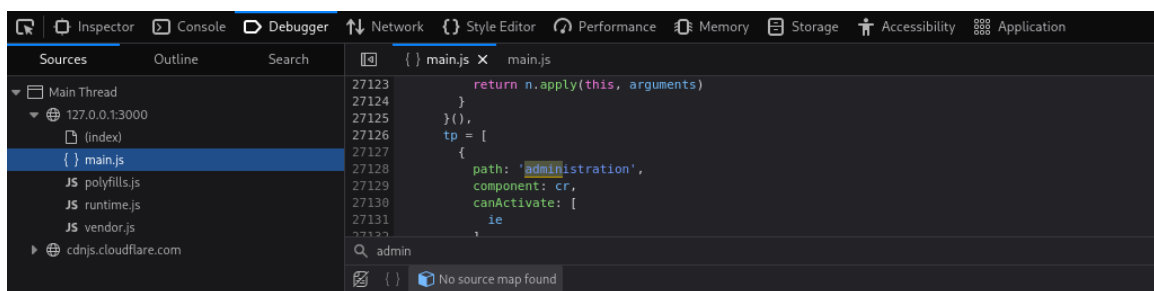


Fig 30: the administration path found in the debugger tools.

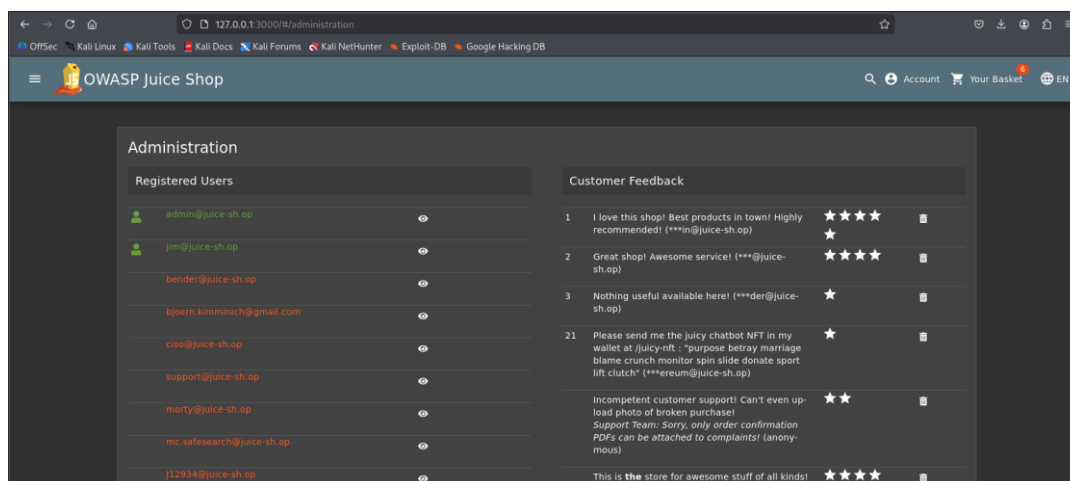


Fig 31: while authenticated as admin, navigated to the administration path.

Exposing route names or admin paths in client code leaks sensitive endpoints and simplifies attackers' targeting.

**IDOR — viewing another user's basket:** While authenticated as admin, I used an intercepted basket request to demonstrate an insecure direct object reference. I initiated a request to view admin's basket (/basket/1), intercepted it, and modified the path to /basket/2.



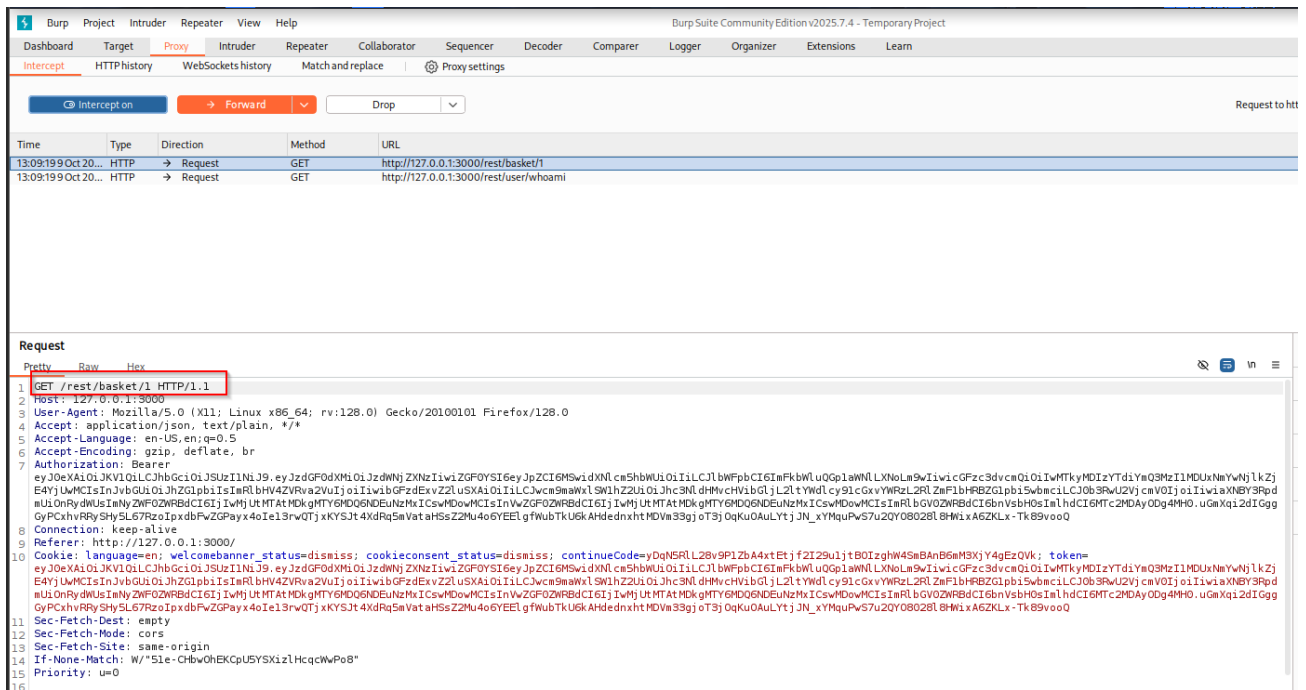


Fig 32: Intercepted request of 'your basket'

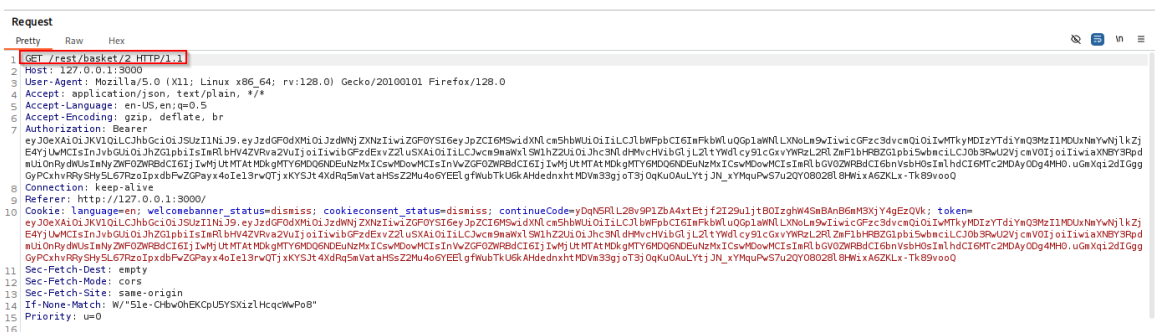


Fig 33: changed basket/1 to basket/2

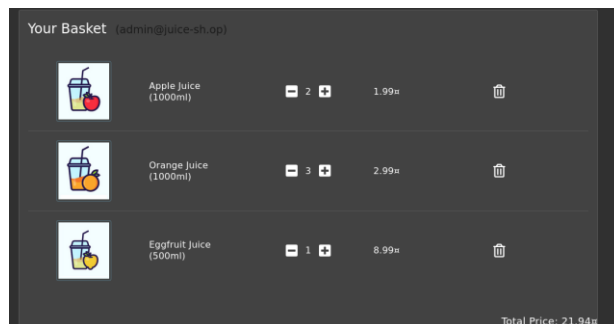


Fig 34: original admin's basket

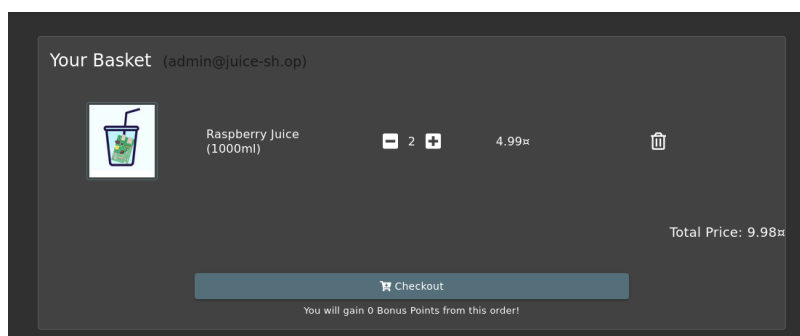


Fig 35: Now I see the basket of user id 2

After forwarding the manipulated request, the browser displayed the contents of the other user's basket (user id 2). This shows the server does not verify that the requesting user is authorized to view the requested resource; object identifiers are trusted without server-side access checks. These flaws allow attackers to discover privileged endpoints and access other users' data.

## Cross-Site Scripting

During testing we identified and validated three variants of Cross-Site Scripting (XSS): DOM-based, reflected, and persistent.

A DOM-based XSS was observed in the search functionality where unsanitized user input is directly reflected into client-side DOM manipulations, allowing a crafted input to execute within the victim's browser context.

Input - `<iframe src='\"javascript:alert('xss')\"'`

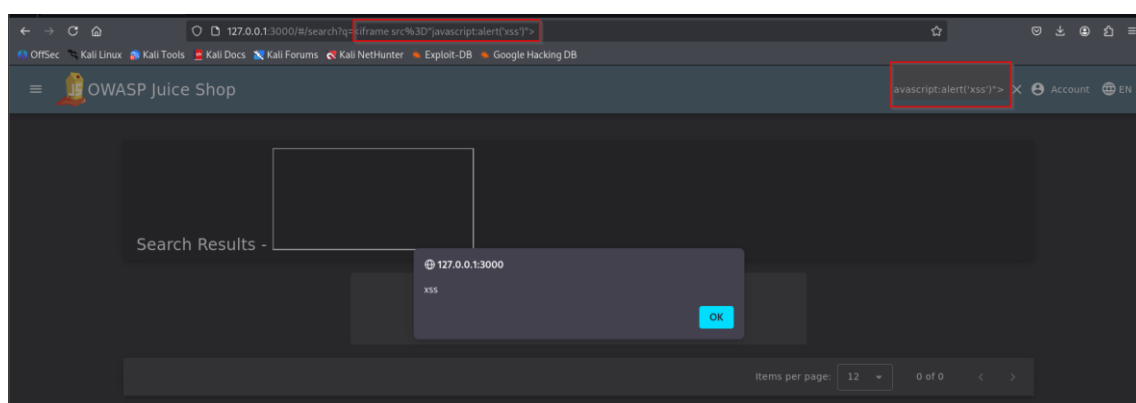


Fig 36: DOM XSS - xss alert

A persistent XSS was discovered in a workflow that stores attacker-controlled data and later renders it within the admin interface (specifically visible under the Privacy & Security → Last Login IP area), resulting in script execution when an administrator views that stored value.

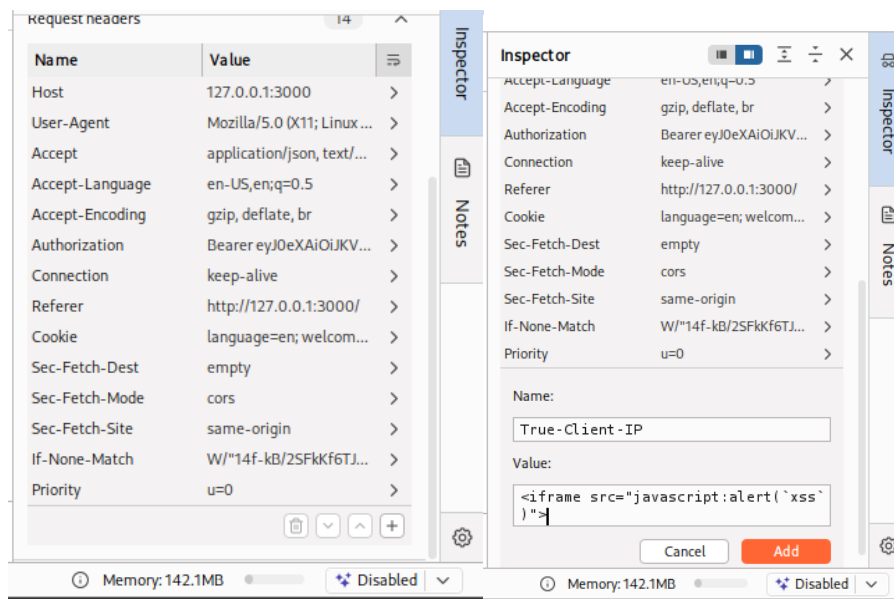


Fig 37: adding the header in the inspector of BurpSuite

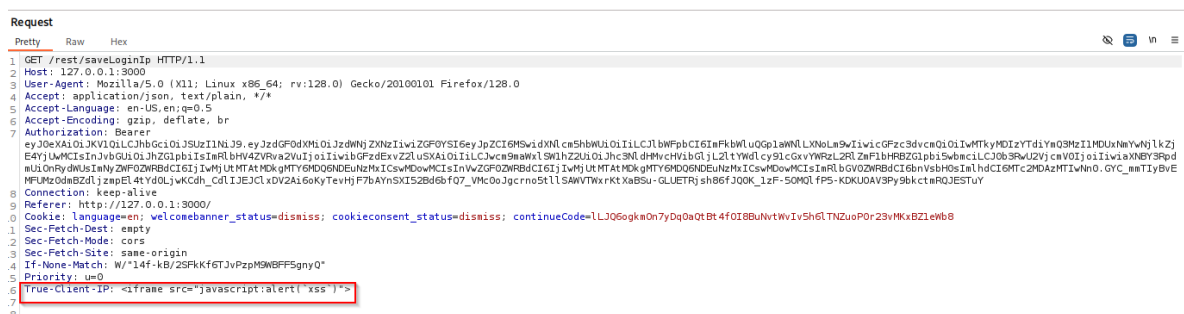


Fig 38: The new request

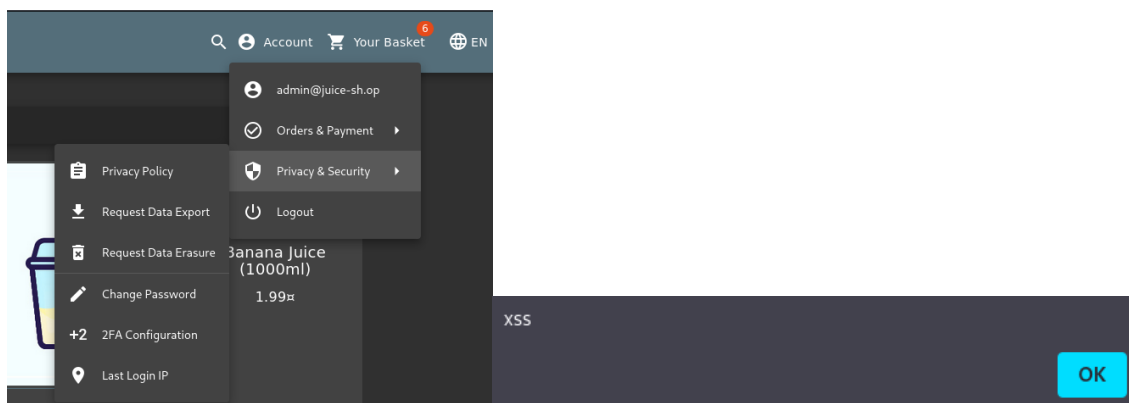


Fig 39: Upon clicking the last login ip , the alert will show up.

Finally, a reflected XSS was validated in the order history flow where an attacker-controlled URL parameter is reflected into the page and executes in the browser when the page is reloaded. In each case a non-malicious test payload that triggers a client-side alert was used to prove execution without causing harm; the findings demonstrate unsafe client-side rendering, missing output encoding/escaping, and insufficient server-side validation/whitelisting.








Order History				
Order ID #5267-a9efda8faf263c4a	Total Price 26.97₹	Bonus 3	Delivered	 
Product	Price	Quantity	Total Price	
Eggfruit Juice (500ml)	8.99₹	3	26.97₹	
Order ID #5267-1b705daf262b3d8d	Total Price 8.96₹	Bonus 0	In Transit	 
Product	Price	Quantity	Total Price	
Apple Juice (1000ml)	1.99₹	3	5.97₹	
Orange Juice (1000ml)	2.99₹	1	2.99₹	

Fig 40: The order History of admin account.

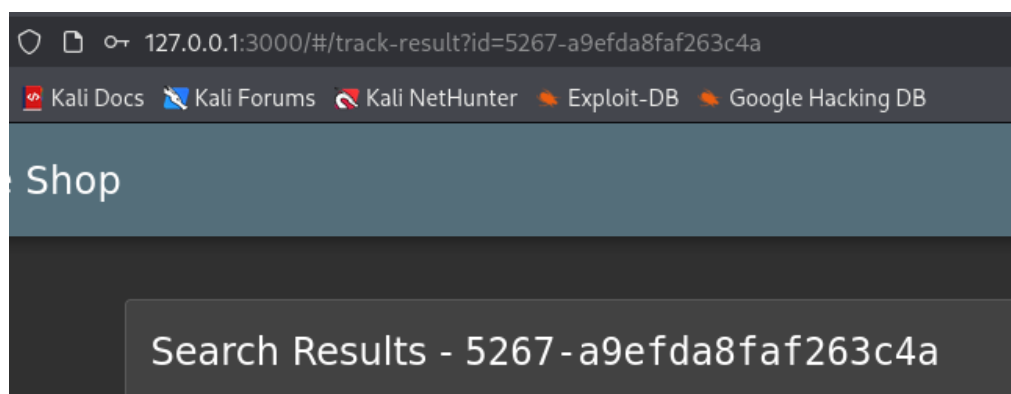


Fig 41: There is an id paramenter in the URL

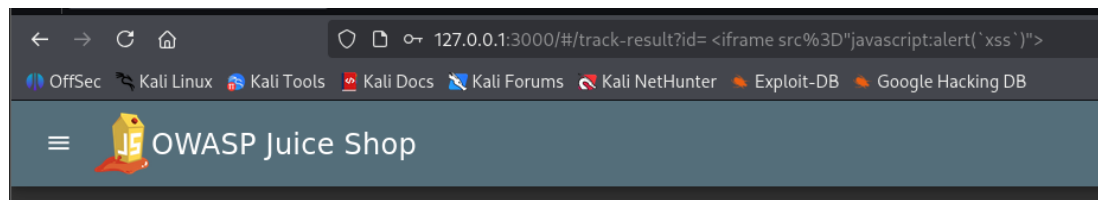


Fig 42: There is an id paramenter in the URL



Fig 43: Upon refreshing, the alert will show up.

These issues permit execution of arbitrary script in the context of affected users and can lead to session theft, UI redressing, or privilege escalation depending on the victim.

## Results & Conclusion

This assessment of a locally deployed OWASP Juice Shop (Dockerized, accessed at <http://127.0.0.1:3000>) reproduced multiple OWASP Top 10–relevant issues in a controlled lab environment. Using a mix of automated scanning and manual verification (dirb, Burp Suite used in safe/controlled mode, and browser-based validation), I validated vulnerabilities that illustrate common real-world risks and the effectiveness of specific mitigations when applied.

All testing was performed against a local, intentionally vulnerable training application in an isolated environment. Exploit validation was non-destructive: where script execution or data extraction needed to be demonstrated, controlled, minimal test payloads were used (for example, benign client-side alert triggers) and no production systems or third parties were involved.

### Key results

- **Insecure file handling / exposed artifacts (High)** — A web-accessible /ftp area contained a sensitive document and a backup file; the backup could be retrieved due to insufficient file-access controls and naive filename handling. This illustrates how leftover artifacts increase information disclosure risk.
- **SQL Injection (High)** — Unsanitized inputs in a data access flow allowed injection-style behavior that was reproducible in the lab. This enabled controlled extraction of application data for verification purposes and demonstrates the danger of concatenated/unsanitized queries.
- **Broken Authentication (High/Medium)** — Weaknesses in authentication and session handling were observed (insufficient session hardening, inadequate protections against account abuse), increasing the risk of account compromise in a production context.
- **Broken Access Control (High/Medium)** — Server-side authorization checks were incomplete in some flows, allowing unauthorized access or escalation between privilege levels.
- **Cross-Site Scripting — DOM, persistent, reflected (Medium/High)** — Multiple XSS variants were validated, showing unsafe client-side rendering and missing output encoding/escaping. Persistent XSS in administrative views is particularly high risk because it enables script execution in privileged user contexts.

### Impact

When combined, these issues permit wide-ranging attacks in a production setting: sensitive data exposure, session or credential theft, persistent client-side compromises affecting administrators, and unauthorized data modification. The demonstrated vulnerabilities are representative of systemic

weaknesses (poor input validation, insecure file management, and missing server-side authorization) that materially affect confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

## **Recommendations (prioritized)**

1. **Remove or restrict web-accessible artifacts** — purge backups and confidential documents from public directories; store backups off-site or behind authenticated, access-controlled services.
2. **Eliminate SQL injection** — adopt parameterized queries/prepared statements or a safe ORM; enforce server-side input validation and allow-listing.
3. **Harden authentication & sessions** — use modern password storage, enforce secure cookie flags (HttpOnly, Secure, SameSite), implement MFA for privileged accounts, and apply rate limiting and account lockouts.
4. **Enforce server-side authorization** — centralize access control and validate permissions on every sensitive endpoint; never rely solely on client-side checks.
5. **Mitigate XSS** — apply context-aware output encoding/escaping, prefer safe DOM APIs (e.g., `textContent`), implement a strong Content Security Policy (CSP), and sanitize any user-supplied metadata or headers before storage/display.
6. **Improve logging & deploy monitoring** — avoid logging secrets, reduce verbose error messages, and add alerts for anomalous file access or unusual header/metadata submissions.
7. **Secure build & deployment hygiene** — remove development artifacts from production images and add automated checks in CI to detect secrets/backups in deployed images.

## **Next steps & future testing**

- **Remediation verification plan:** after fixes are applied, re-run focused tests for file access, SQL injection, authentication/session hardening, access control, and XSS to confirm mitigations.
- **Extend testing scenarios:** evaluate chained attacks (e.g., XSS leading to CSRF or session theft, combined with broken auth), and test with hardened configurations to measure residual risk.
- **Operational controls:** add rate limiting, WAF rules for common injection/XSS patterns, and stronger CI/CD checks to prevent accidental inclusion of sensitive artifacts.

## **Reproducibility & limitations**

- All validation was performed on a local Dockerized instance of OWASP Juice Shop in an isolated lab. The findings are reproducible in that environment and are illustrative of real-world failure modes, but exact remediation details and impact may vary for different applications or production deployments. No source code was modified as part of the assessment; testing was external only.

## **References**

[1] Docker, Container Platform Used to Run OWASP Juice Shop Locally, Image: bkimminich/juice-shop.