CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING (C-DAC), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA

A PROJECT REPORT ON

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND PENTESTING ON BADSTORE.NET

SUBMITTED TOWARDS THE



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ABSTRACT

The "Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) on BADSTORE.NET" project aims to perform a comprehensive security assessment of the deliberately vulnerable web application, BADSTORE.NET. The primary objective is to identify, analyze, and document various security vulnerabilities within the application, thereby enhancing participants' understanding of web application security and providing insights into effective remediation strategies.

The project involves the systematic exploration of badstore.net codebase, functionalities, and interactions to simulate real-world attack scenarios. By employing established VAPT methodologies and a range of security testing tools, the project team will uncover vulnerabilities such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), and more. The vulnerabilities' potential impact on the application's security and user data integrity will be evaluated, highlighting the importance of proactive security measures.

Throughout the assessment, a structured approach will be maintained, encompassing vulnerability identification, proof of concept exploitation, risk assessment, and recommendation formulation. The outcomes of the project will include a detailed report summarizing the discovered vulnerabilities, their potential implications, and recommendations for mitigation. Additionally, the project will provide valuable insights into commonly used testing methodologies and tools, empowering participants to effectively tackle web application security challenges.

This project's significance lies in its educational nature. By analyzing and addressing vulnerabilities within BADSTORE.NET, participants will enhance their practical knowledge of security threats and countermeasures. The project's outcomes will facilitate improved security practices, contribute to the growth of security expertise, and foster a heightened awareness of web application vulnerabilities among developers, testers, and security enthusiasts.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to BADSTORE.NET Pen-testing report

Badstore is a deliberately vulnerable web application designed for security professionals, researchers, and students to practice and learn about web application security. It simulates an online store environment and contains various known vulnerabilities that can be exploited to understand how attacks are performed and how they can be mitigated.

Features of Badstore

1. Educational Tool:

 Badstore is widely used as a training tool to teach web application security concepts, such as SQL Injection, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), and more.

2. Safe Testing Environment:

 It provides a safe environment for users to experiment with various attack techniques without the risk of legal or ethical repercussions that come with testing real-world applications.

3. Realistic Web Application:

 Badstore mimics a real-world e-commerce application, complete with functionalities like product listings, user authentication, and shopping carts, providing a realistic setting for testing security skills.

4. Open Source and Free:

O The application is open source and freely available, allowing users to set it up on their local machines or servers for testing and learning purposes.

1.2 Background and Context:

In the digital landscape, where web applications have become integral to daily activities, security remains a paramount concern. Cyber threats targeting web applications have evolved, leading to an increased emphasis on identifying, understanding, and mitigating vulnerabilities before they are exploited by malicious actors. To address this, badstore.net offers an environment that simulates real-world vulnerabilities, enabling security professionals, developers, and enthusiasts to learn, practice, and develop effective Défense strategies.

1.3 VAPT

VAPT stands for "Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing." It's a process used to evaluate the security of computer systems, networks, or applications by identifying vulnerabilities and attempting to exploit them in a controlled manner.

Here's a breakdown of the two main components:

Vulnerability Assessment (VA): This involves using various tools and techniques to identify potential vulnerabilities in a system, network, or application. It's essentially a systematic process of scanning and analyzing for security weaknesses. These vulnerabilities could include outdated software, misconfigurations, weak passwords, and more.

Penetration Testing (PT): Also known as ethical hacking, penetration testing involves simulating real

world attacks on a system, network, or application to determine how vulnerable it is to different types of threats. This is typically done by security professionals who mimic the actions of malicious hackers but do so in a controlled environment.

The main goal of VAPT is to find and address security weaknesses before malicious attackers can exploit them. By conducting regular VAPT assessments, organizations can identify vulnerabilities, prioritize their mitigation efforts, and ultimately enhance their overall security posture.

It's important to note that VAPT requires specialized knowledge and skills, and it should be performed by experienced professionals to avoid any unintentional disruptions or damage to the systems being tested.

Advantages of VAPT

Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) offer several advantages for organizations aiming to enhance their cybersecurity posture.

- 1. Identify Weaknesses: VAPT helps identify vulnerabilities and weaknesses in systems, networks, and applications that could potentially be exploited by malicious actors. This allows organizations to take proactive steps to address these issues before they are exploited.
- 2. Prioritize Remediation: VAPT provides insight into the severity of vulnerabilities, helping organizations prioritize which vulnerabilities to address first based on their potential impact and risk.
- Real-world Simulation: Penetration testing simulates real-world attack scenarios, giving organizations a practical understanding of how their systems might be targeted and breached by actual attackers.
- 4. Risk Reduction: By addressing vulnerabilities proactively, VAPT helps reduce the risk of security breaches, data leaks, and other cyber incidents that could lead to financial and reputational damage.
- 5. Compliance: Many industries and regulatory frameworks require organizations to conduct regular security assessments, including VAPT, to ensure compliance with security standards.
- 6. Enhanced Security Awareness: VAPT increases the overall security awareness within an organization. It educates employees and stakeholders about potential threats and the importance of security best practices.
- 7. Continuous Improvement: Regular VAPT assessments promote a culture of continuous improvement in an organization's security practices. As new vulnerabilities emerge, organizations can adapt and update their defenses accordingly.
- 8. Validation of Security Measures: VAPT validates the effectiveness of existing security measures and controls. It confirms whether the implemented security mechanisms are actually providing the intended protection.
- 9. Third-party Validation: Organizations can demonstrate their commitment to security to customers, partners, and stakeholders by undergoing VAPT assessments. This can enhance trust and confidence in their services.
- 10. Reduced Attack Surface: Through the identification and remediation of vulnerabilities, VAPT helps shrink the potential attack surface, making it more difficult for attackers to find entry points.
- 11. Cost Savings: Detecting and addressing vulnerabilities early in the development lifecycle can save organizations significant costs that would otherwise be incurred to recover from a security breach.
- 12. Customization: VAPT can be customized to the specific needs and requirements of an organization. It can target critical systems, specific applications, or particular network segments.

- 13. Threat Awareness: VAPT not only focuses on technical vulnerabilities but also helps organizations understand the potential threat landscape they operate in, allowing them to make informed decisions about security investments.
- 14. Overall, VAPT is a crucial practice for organizations looking to fortify their cybersecurity defenses, minimize risks, and protect sensitive data from evolving cyber threats.

1.4 Methodology and Approach:

The assessment was conducted through a meticulous blend of manual testing, automated vulnerability scanning, and targeted exploitation. This multifaceted approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of BADSTORE.NET vulnerabilities, ranging from easily detectable flaws to more intricate security challenges. The methodology included the following key steps:

1.4.1 Pre-Assessment Preparation:

Gaining a deep understanding of the BADSTORE.NET, its architecture, functionalities, and potential attack vectors.

1.4.2 Vulnerability Scanning:

Employing automated tools to conduct initial scans for common vulnerabilities, providing a baseline for further exploration.

1.4.3 Manual Testing and Exploitation:

Utilizing ethical hacking techniques to manually validate and exploit vulnerabilities identified through scanning, delving into the intricacies of each weakness.

1.4.4 Impact Analysis:

Assessing the potential consequences of successful exploitation, considering factors such as data exposure, unauthorized access, and potential for privilege escalation.

1.4.5 Reporting:

Documenting findings, including vulnerability descriptions, impact assessments, and detailed recommendations for mitigation.

1.5 System requirements

The hardware and software requirements for conducting Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) can vary based on the scope of the assessment, the target systems, and the specific tools and methodologies being employed. Here's a general overview of the typical requirements:

1.5.1 Hardware Requirements:

Computer Systems: Depending on the complexity of the assessments, you'll need one or more powerful computers to run the necessary tools and perform testing activities.

Virtualization: Virtualization software like VMware or VirtualBox is often used to create isolated environments for testing. This allows you to simulate different network setups and test configurations without affecting your production environment.

Network Equipment: In some cases, you might need network hardware like routers, switches, and firewalls to simulate various network scenarios during testing.

Powerful Resources: For certain types of testing, such as brute force attacks or password cracking, more computational power may be needed to expedite the testing process.

1.5.2 Software Requirements:

Operating Systems: A variety of operating systems might be needed to support different testing

scenarios. This could include Windows, Linux distributions, and specialized penetration testing platforms like Kali Linux.

Penetration Testing Frameworks: Tools like Metasploit, Burp Suite, OWASP Top 10, Nmap, and Wireshark are commonly used for different stages of VAPT.

Vulnerability Scanners: Vulnerability assessment tools like Nessus, OpenVAS, and Qualys can be used to scan systems for known vulnerabilities.

Network Analysis Tools: Network analyzers like Wireshark are used to capture and analyze network traffic.

Virtualization Software: Software like VMware or VirtualBox is essential for creating virtual environments for testing and isolating your activities.

Exploitation Tools: These tools are used to exploit vulnerabilities in a controlled environment to determine their impact. Examples include tools from the Metasploit framework.

Password Cracking Tools: For password security assessment, tools like John the Ripper or Hash cat can be used.

Documentation and Reporting Tools: Tools for documenting findings and generating detailed reports about the vulnerabilities and their potential impact.

Collaboration Tools: Communication and collaboration tools can be essential for team members to coordinate and share information during the testing process.

Custom Scripts: Depending on your specific testing requirements, you might need custom scripts or tools to carry out specific tests.

VPN and Anonymity Tools: In some cases, VPNs and anonymity tools might be used to ensure ethical testing practices and to protect the tester's identity.

It's important to note that VAPT requires careful planning and adherence to ethical guidelines. Always ensure you have proper authorization and consent before performing any testing, especially on systems and networks that you do not own. Additionally, keep your tools and software up to date to ensure accurate results and optimal security during testing. Project outcomes

1.6 Ethical Considerations:

It is imperative to acknowledge that the vulnerabilities uncovered within this report are exclusive to the BADSTORE platform, purposefully designed for educational purposes. Therefore, the vulnerabilities identified here do not reflect vulnerabilities that could occur in real-world applications. The intention behind this assessment is to enhance the understanding of security professionals, developers, and learners regarding common web application vulnerabilities and the importance of implementing effective security measures.

2. Summary

2.1 Scope and Objectives:

The scope of this pen testing assessment encompassed a comprehensive evaluation of BADSTORE.NET vulnerabilities across various categories. These included but were not limited to injection attacks, cross-site scripting (XSS), session management issues, insecure configurations, and other common and advanced security flaws. The assessment's objectives were multifaceted:

- To systematically identify vulnerabilities that could potentially compromise the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the application.
- To assess the robustness of security controls and countermeasures implemented within bWAPP.
- To provide actionable recommendations that enhance the application's overall security posture.

2.2 Project Outcomes

Badstore.net it's a deliberately vulnerable web application used for practicing and learning about web application security. Conducting a Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) on Badstore.net can have several project outcomes, depending on the goals and scope of the assessment. Here are some possible outcomes:

Identification of Vulnerabilities: The primary outcome of a VAPT on Badstore.net would be the identification of various vulnerabilities present in the application. These vulnerabilities could include SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS) and many more.

Documentation of Findings: The vulnerabilities and weaknesses discovered during the assessment would be documented in detail. This documentation would include descriptions of the vulnerabilities, their potential impact, and recommendations for remediation.

Exploitation and Proof of Concept: For educational purposes, the testing team might exploit the identified vulnerabilities to demonstrate how an attacker could potentially compromise the application. This can help stakeholders understand the real-world impact of these vulnerabilities.

Risk Assessment and Prioritization: The vulnerabilities found can be categorized based on their severity and potential impact on the application's security. This allows the project team to prioritize which vulnerabilities should be addressed first.

Remediation Recommendations: The testing team would provide recommendations for fixing the vulnerabilities. This could include suggesting code changes, configuration adjustments, or other measures to mitigate the risks.

Testing Methodologies and Tools: The project outcome could also include a detailed description of the testing methodologies used and the specific tools employed during the assessment. This information can be valuable for educational purposes or for other security professionals looking to learn from the assessment process.

Detailed Reporting: A comprehensive report would be generated to summarize the assessment's findings. The report might include an executive summary, details about vulnerabilities, risk assessments, recommendations, and any other relevant information.

Awareness and Training: The assessment could also serve as an educational tool to raise awareness about web application vulnerabilities among developers, testers, and other stakeholders. It can provide valuable insights into common security issues and how they can be addressed.

Proof of Competence: For individuals or teams involved in conducting the VAPT, successfully identifying and demonstrating vulnerabilities on BWAPP could serve as a form of validation for their skills and competence in the field of web application security.

Enhanced Security Posture: By assessing and remediating vulnerabilities in BWAPP, the overall security posture of the application improves, making it a safer platform for learning and practicing

| security techniques. | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Remember that Badstore. conducted on it are prima vulnerabilities in a safe en | arily educational. The go | oal is to learn how to | identify and addres | S |
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3. Tabular Summary

Table 1 categorizing vulnerabilities

| Category | Description | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| No. of live host | 1 | | |
| No. vulnerabilities | 9 | | |
| No. of critical vulnerabilities | 2 | | |
| No. of high vulnerabilities | 3 | | |
| No. of medium vulnerabilities | 2 | | |
| No. of low vulnerabilities | 2 | | |

Table 2 List of Exploited vulnerabilities

| Sno | Vulnerability | severity | ease of exploitation |
|-----|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1 | Open MySQL Services | Critical | High |
| 2 | Stored XSS | High | Moderate to High |
| 3 | Reflected XSS | Medium | Low to Moderate |
| 4 | Security Misconfiguration | High | Low to High |
| 5 | Information Disclosure | High | Low to High |
| 6 | HTML Injection | Medium | Low to Moderate |
| 7 | Denial of service | low | Low to High |
| 8 | Outdated software Components | Critical | moderate to high |
| 9 | Http | low | Moderate |

Table 3 OWASP Top 10 web application security risk 2021

| Sno | Vulnerability |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|
| A01 | Broken Access Control |
| A02 | Cryptographic Failure |
| A03 | Injection |
| A04 | Insecure Design |
| A05 | Security Misconfiguration |
| A06 | Vulnerable and Out-Dated Components |
| A07 | Identification and Authentication Failure |
| A08 | Software and Data Integrity Failure |
| A09 | Security logging and monitoring failures |
| A10 | Server-Side Request Forgery |

4. Technical report

4.1 Recon for Service Vulnerability

we perform the following Nmap scan for SYN scan with script scan and version detection

fig 4 .1.1

```
The Actions Edit Wee Help

1 But valid before: 2006-05-10172:37:53
| But valid before: 2006-05-10172:37:53
| Set Valid before:
```

fig 4.1.2

For now we know the target runs a Linux based OS, Apache 1.3.28 (on ports 80 and 443 TCP) and a MySql server on port 3306 TCP.

- 1. Use access control lists (ACLs)
- 2. Use a firewall.
- 3. Use the latest software versions.

4.2 Open MySQL Services

MySQL:MySQL is a widely used relational database management system (RDBMS).MySQL is free and open-source.MySQL is ideal for both small and large applications.

<u>Vulnerability</u>: Port No 3306 which is used for MySQL is open which can be exploited to gain database admin access.

POC:

fig 4.2.1

Remark:In fig 4.2.1 We exploited mysql services using auxiliary for mysql login. we get credentials root:root which are default credentials.

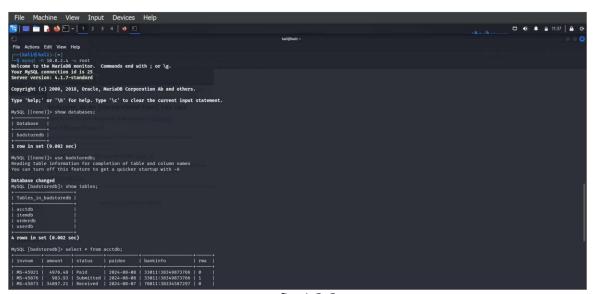


fig 4.2.2

Remark:In fig 4.2.2 We got MySQL database access with root:root

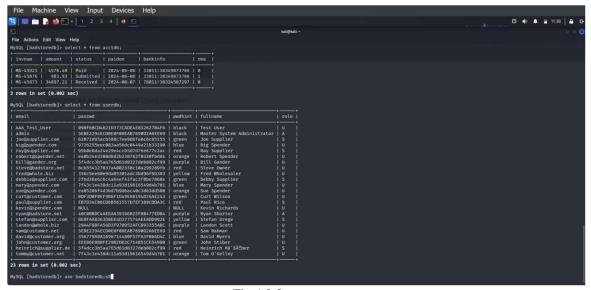


Fig 4.2.3

Remark: Here in fig 4.2.3 we get the all user account details with passwords and password hints

- 1. <u>Input Validation</u>: Validate user input to ensure it conforms to expected formats and doesn't contain malicious characters.
- 2. Parameterized Queries
- 3. <u>Limit Privileges</u>: Restrict database privileges to the minimum required for each application, reducing the potential damage from a SQL injection attack.

XSS Attack

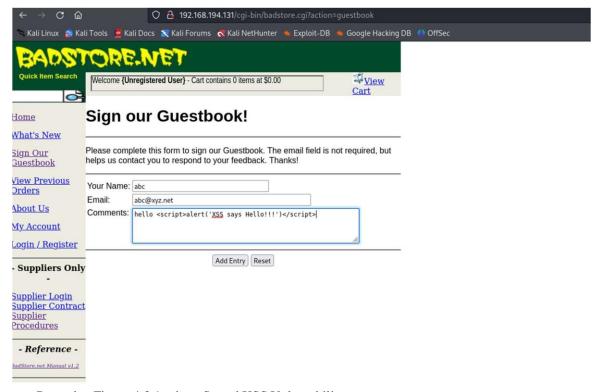
Cross-site scripting (XSS) is an attack in which an attacker injects malicious executable scripts into the code of a trusted application or website

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities are categorized into several types based on how the malicious script is delivered and executed. Here are the main types of XSS:

4.3 Stored XSS

Stored XSS, also known as persistent XSS, occurs when a malicious script is injected and stored on a server (e.g., in a database, message forum, comment field, etc.). When a user accesses the affected page, the script is retrieved and executed in the user's browser. Example Scenario:

- An attacker posts a malicious script in a comment section of a blog.
- When other users view the blog post, the script is executed in their browsers, potentially stealing cookies or session tokens.



Remark: Figure 4.3.1, show Stored XSS Vulnerability

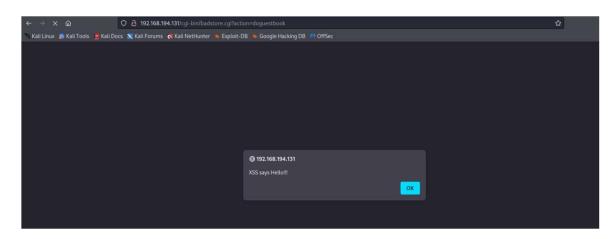


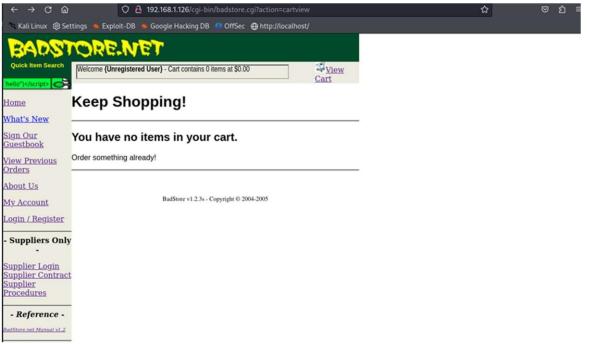
Figure 4.3.2

4.4 Reflected XSS

Reflected XSS occurs when a malicious script is injected and immediately reflected off a web server in response to a request. This type of XSS typically occurs in search results, error messages, or any other scenario where input is reflected back to the user.

Example Scenario:

- An attacker crafts a URL containing a malicious script in a query parameter.
- A victim clicks the link, and the server reflects the input back to the user, executing the script in the browser.



• Remark: Figure 4.4.1 show Reflected XSS Vulnerability

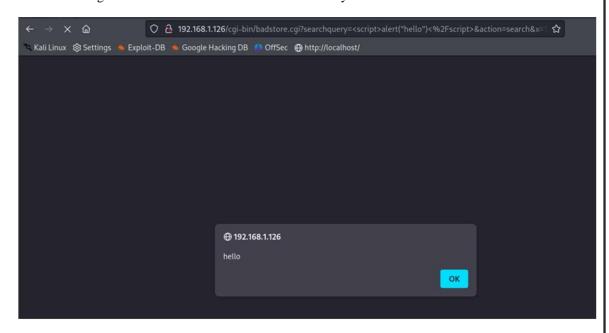


Figure 4.4.2

- 1. Input Validation: Validate user input to ensure it conforms to expected formats and doesn't contain malicious characters.
- 2. Output Encoding: Encode output data to prevent executable code from being injected into the page.
- 3. Content Security Policy (CSP): Implement CSP to define allowed sources of content and restrict executable code.

4.5 Security Misconfiguration

If an admin page is accessible through straightforward URL enumeration, it suggests that the server might not be properly configured to restrict access or obscure sensitive endpoints.

```
🛅 🍃 🚳 🗗 🗸 1 2 3 4 👏 🕞
                                                                                                        kali@kali: ~/De
File Actions Edit View Help
  -(kali⊗kali)-[~/Desktop]
stirb http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=
DIRB v2.22
By The Dark Raver
START_TIME: Fri Aug 9 04:58:19 2024
URL_BASE: http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=
WORDLIST_FILES: /usr/share/dirb/wordlists/common.txt
GENERATED WORDS: 4612
—— Scanning URL: http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action= ——
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=aboutus (CODE:200|SIZE:4452)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=admin (CODE:200|SIZE:4529)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=guestbook (CODE:200|SIZE:4431)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=login (CODE:200|SIZE:3958)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=myaccount (CODE:200|SIZE:4949)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=order (CODE:200|SIZE:3986)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=search (CODE:200|SIZE:4137)
+ http://www.badstore.net/cgi-bin/badstore.cgi?action=whatsnew (CODE:200|SIZE:6009)
END_TIME: Fri Aug 9 05:01:07 2024
DOWNLOADED: 4612 - FOUND: 8
```

fig 4.5.1

Remark: In fig 4.5.1 We use dirb which is an online directory scanner that searches for hidden files, directories and pages. We found hidden Admin page

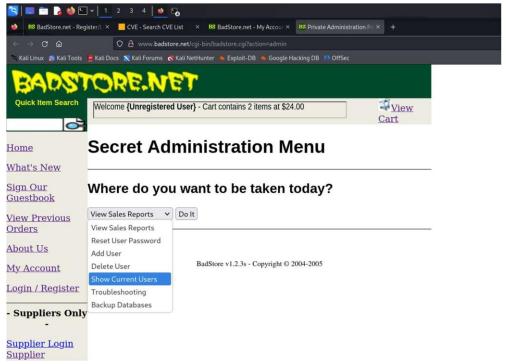


Fig 4.5.2

Remark: with this Secret Administration Menu we can perform multiple things including viewing Sales Reports, Adding and Deleting users, listing users, etc.

Mitigation:

- 1. Disable Directory Listing: Prevent web servers from listing directory contents, which can expose sensitive files.
- 2. Minimal Information Disclosure: Ensure error messages provide minimal information to users, while logging detailed errors internally for troubleshooting.
- 3. Enforce Principle of Least Privilege: Limit user and application permissions to only what is necessary. Avoid granting admin privileges unless absolutely necessary.
- 4. Custom URLs: Use non-standard URLs for admin pages (e.g., yourdomain.com/admin1234) to make it harder for attackers to guess.

Avoid Predictable URLs: Avoid using predictable URLs like /admin or /admin-login

4.6 Information Disclosure :

we found the following

- Robots.txt Disallowed Entries: /cgi-bin, /scanbot, /backup, /supplier, /upload
- Subject Alternative Name: email: root@badstore.net

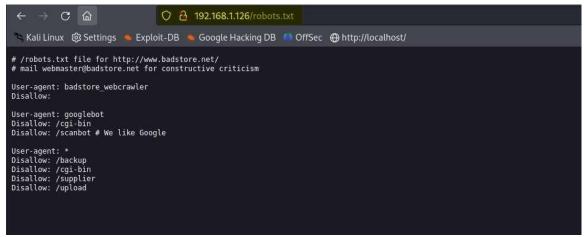


Fig 4.6.1

we found user accounts in "/supplier" Sub-Directory



Fig 4.6.2

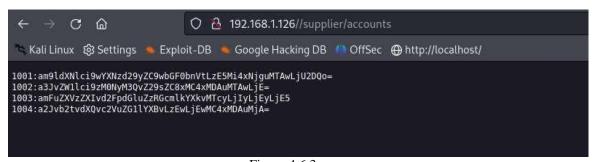


Figure 4.6.3

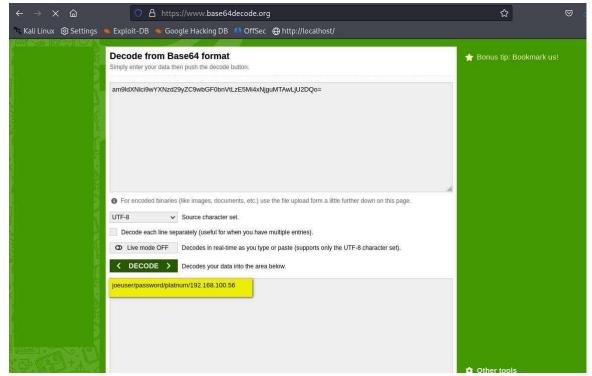


Figure 4.6.4

This would come under the MITRE ATT&CK technique of Unsecured Credentials

- 1. Access controls: Restrict access to sensitive data based on user roles and needs.
- 2. Encryption: Encrypt sensitive data in transit and at rest.
- 3. Secure protocols: Use secure communication protocols like HTTPS and SFTP.

4.7 HTML Injection:

HTML injection is a type of injection vulnerability that occurs when a user is able to control an input point and is able to inject arbitrary HTML code into a vulnerable web page. It involves injecting malicious code into a website's URL or input. When the user interacts with the site, the injected code is reflected back to them and executed, potentially leading to security vulnerabilities and unauthorized actions.

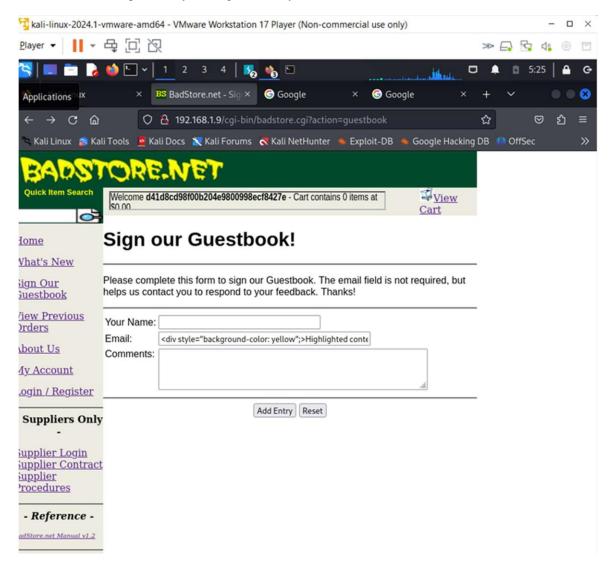


Figure 4.7.1

Example Scenario:

• An attacker manipulates the input field (e.g., #<div style="background-color: yellow;">Highlighted content</div>).

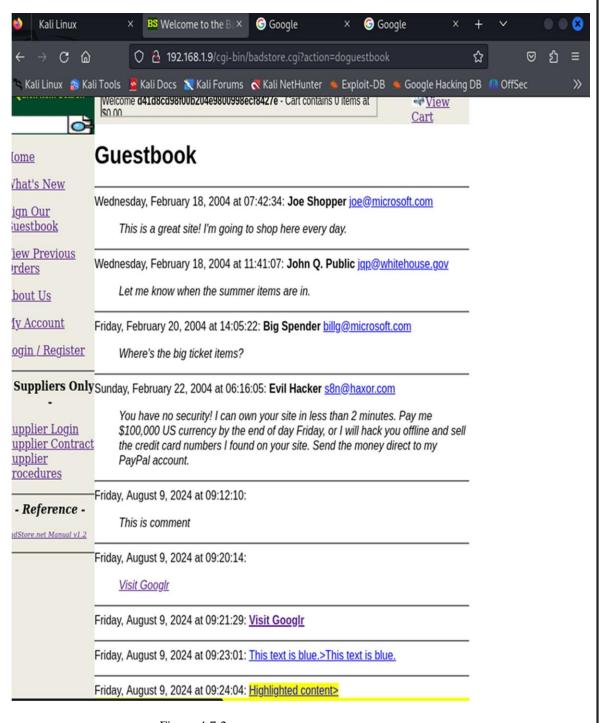


Figure 4.7.2

An attacker can insert malicious code into a website that changes the website's content, such as the text on the homepage, images, or videos. The attacker can also insert malicious links that redirect users to malicious websites.

- 1. Input Validation and Sanitization To enhance security, rigorously validate user inputs, ensuring they adhere to expected formats. Use robust sanitization techniques to cleanse user-generated content, thwarting any attempts at injecting harmful code and bolstering overall system protection
- 2.Enforcing the utilization of HTTP-only cookies is crucial to counter session hijacking threats. By limiting cookie access to only HTTP communication, this security measure effectively safeguards user sessions against unauthorized exploitation.
- 3. Content Security Policy (CSP) Content Security Policy (CSP) is a vital web security measure. By defining a CSP, websites can limit external script execution and counter the injection risks, bolstering overall protection against malicious attacks. This prevents any unauthorized external scripts from running on the site, ensuring that data remains secure and protected from potential hackers attempting to inject malicious code.

4.8 Denial Of Service:

DoS attacks generally take one of two forms. They either flood web services or crash them. Flooding attacks are the more common form. These occur when the attacked system is overwhelmed by large amounts of traffic that the server is unable to handle. The system eventually stops. A SYN flood is a variation that exploits a vulnerability in the TCP connection sequence. This is often referred to as the three-way handshake connection with the host and the server. The targeted server receives a request to begin the handshake. But, in a SYN flood, the handshake is never completed. That leaves the connected port as occupied and unavailable to process further requests

<u>Vulnerability</u>: Apache HTTP Server 1.3.28, mod_ssl 2.8.15, and OpenSSL 0.9.7c may not explicitly show DoS vulnerabilities, their outdated nature makes them highly susceptible to a range of security issues, including DoS attacks.

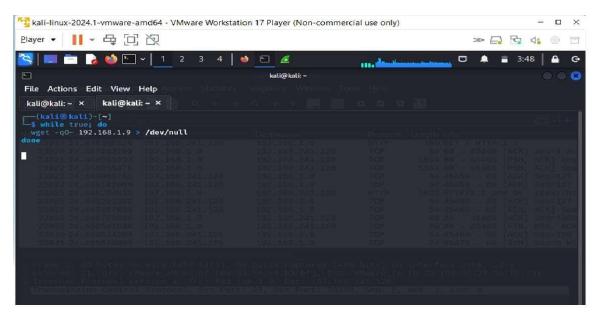


Figure 4.8.1

This command-line utility is used for downloading files from the web. In typical usage, wget fetches files and saves them locally. However, in this script, it's used for sending HTTP requests. In this script, wget is used to send requests, not to download files. The output of wget is discarded, so no files are saved or downloaded. The script's purpose is to continuously generate HTTP requests to the specified server, which is useful for stress testing or simulating high traffic scenarios.

The outcome can be seen in wireshark:

BeforeDOS attack the packet length & count of packets was quite lesser, post DOS it spi

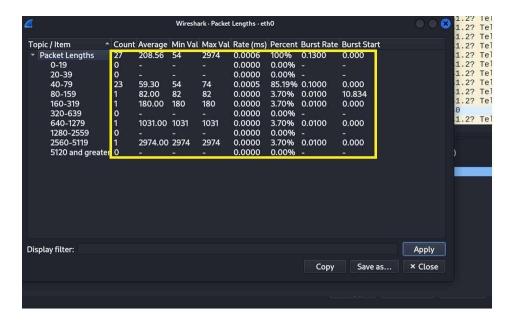


Figure 4.8.2

Post DOS Attack:

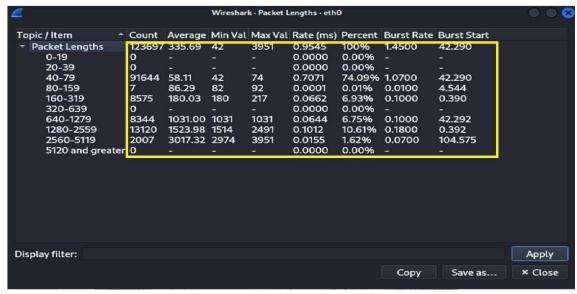


Figure 4.8.3

- 1. Ensuring their website and network infrastructure is up-to-date with the latest security patches.
- 2. Monitoring network traffic to detect unusual patterns and take immediate action to prevent potential attacks.
- 3. Distributing traffic across multiple servers, a DoS attack can be prevented from overwhelming a single server or resource. Load balancing can be achieved using hardware or software solutions.
- 4. Limiting the rate of traffic to reach a server or resource can prevent a DoS attack from overwhelming it.

4.9 Outdated Software Components

Vulnerable and outdated components refer to software libraries, frameworks, or third-party dependencies that are used in a software application but contain security flaws or have not been updated to the latest secure version. These components can introduce security vulnerabilities into the application if they are not properly secured or updated.

Here are some examples of vulnerable and outdated components:

- 1. **Outdated Libraries**: If a software application uses an older version of a library or framework that contains known security vulnerabilities, it becomes vulnerable to attacks targeting those vulnerabilities. Attackers can exploit these vulnerabilities to gain unauthorized access, inject malicious code, or steal sensitive information.
- 2. **Unpatched Software**: When software vendors release security patches or updates to address identified vulnerabilities, it is crucial to apply these updates promptly. Failure to do so leaves the application exposed to known exploits and increases the risk of a security breach.
- 3. **Insecure Third-Party Components**: Many applications rely on third-party components, such as open-source libraries or external APIs. If these components have security weaknesses or are not properly integrated, they can introduce vulnerabilities into the application.
- 4. **Legacy Systems**: Older or legacy systems that are no longer actively maintained or supported by their vendors can pose significant security risks. They may lack the necessary security updates, making them susceptible to known exploits.

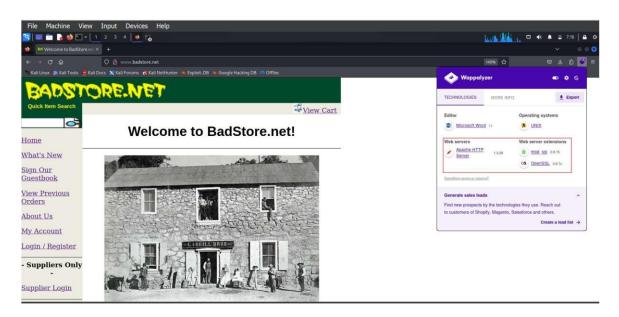


Figure 4.9.1

Remark: From here we get software info like it is using Apache Http server 1.3.25 and mod ssl 2.8.15.

OpenSSL 0.9.7c

Reference:



Figure 4.9.2

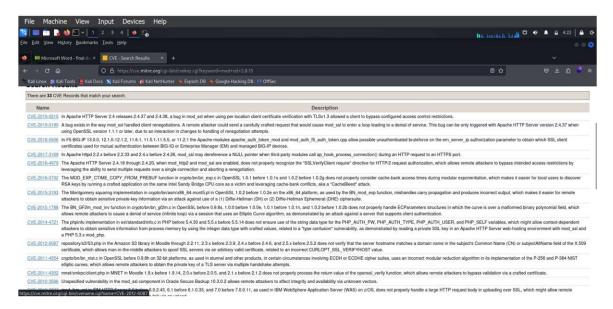


Figure 4.9.3

Mitigations:

- <u>Keep Software Up to Date</u>: Regularly update and patch all software components, including libraries, frameworks, and third-party dependencies. Enable automatic updates or establish a patch management process to ensure timely application of security patches.
- <u>Use Secure and Supported Components</u>: Choose well-maintained and actively supported software components with a strong security track record. Avoid using outdated or abandoned components that no longer receive security updates.
- <u>Conduct Regular Security Audits</u>: Perform periodic security audits and vulnerability assessments
 to identify and address any vulnerable components within your application. Use vulnerability
 scanning tools to detect known vulnerabilities in your software dependencies.
- <u>Implement Secure Coding Practices</u>: Follow secure coding practices, such as input validation, output encoding, and parameterized queries, to minimize the risk of introducing security vulnerabilities into your application.
- Vendor Management: If you rely on third-party components, establish a vendor management
 process to assess and monitor the security practices of your vendors. Ensure that they provide
 timely security updates and patches for their products.
- <u>Use a Vulnerability Database</u>: Stay informed about the latest security vulnerabilities by subscribing to security advisories, vulnerability databases, and security mailing lists. This helps you proactively identify and address vulnerable components in your software.

By proactively managing vulnerable and outdated components, organizations can significantly reduce their exposure to security risks and protect their applications and data from potential attacks.

4.10 HTTP

HTTP is an application layer protocol designed to transfer information between networked devices and runs on top of other layers of the network protocol stack.

<u>Vulnerability</u>: HTTP protocol transmits all data in plaintext which can be easily capturable by attacker.

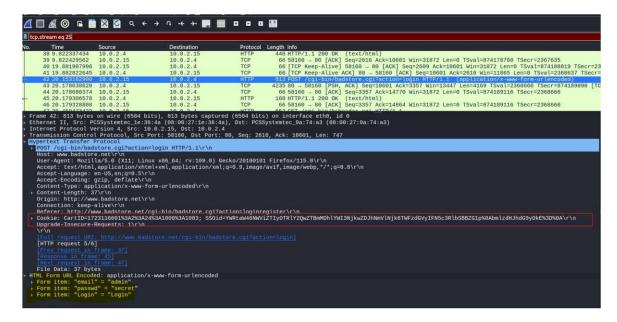


Fig 4.10.1 Traffic Captured using Wireshark

<u>Remark</u>: username and password captured through wireshark as HTTP is plain text protocol.

- 1. Avoid using HTTP
- 2. Instead of use HTTPS.
- 3. Use latest version of TLS 1.3

5. Conclusion

This pen testing report serves as a comprehensive repository of insights garnered from the security assessment conducted on the BADSTORE.NET platform. The intention is to facilitate a holistic understanding of web application vulnerabilities, encourage hands-on learning, and equip professionals with the knowledge to safeguard applications against potential threats. Through this report, we endeavor to contribute to the collective effort in fortifying web applications' security, ensuring a safer digital environment for users and organizations alike.