OWASP Top Ten

The OWASP Top 10 is a standard awareness document for developers and web application security. It represents a broad consensus about the most critical security risks to web applications.

> Globally recognized by developers as the first step towards more secure coding.

Companies should adopt this document and start the process of ensuring that their web applications minimize these risks. Using the OWASP Top 10 is perhaps the most effective first step towards changing the software development culture within your organization into one that produces more secure code.

The OWASP® Foundation works to improve the security of software through its community-led open source software projects, hundreds of chapters worldwide, tens of thousands of members, and by hosting local and global conferences.

Project Information

- OWASP Top 10:2021
- Making of OWASP Top 10
- OWASP Top 10:2021 - 20th Anniversary Presentation (PPTX)

Flagship Project

Documentation

Builder

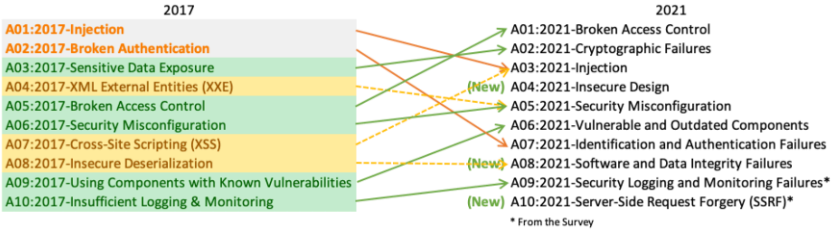
Defender

- Previous Version (2017)

Downloads or Social Links

Top 10 Web Application Security Risks

There are three new categories, four categories with naming and scoping changes, and some consolidation in the Top 10 for 2021.


2017
A01:2017-Injection
A02:2017-Broken Authentication
A03:2017-Sensitive Data Exposure
A04:2017-XML External Entities (XXE)
A05:2017-Broken Access Control
A06:2017-Security Misconfiguration
A07:2017-Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
A08:2017-Insecure Deserialization
A09:2017-Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities
A10:2017-Insufficient Logging & Monitoring
2021
A01:2021-Broken Access Control
A02:2021-Cryptographic Failures
A03:2021-Injection
(New) A04:2021-Insecure Design
A05:2021-Security Misconfiguration
A06:2021-Vulnerable and Outdated Components
A07:2021-Identification and Authentication Failures
(New) A08:2021-Software and Data Integrity Failures
A09:2021-Security Logging and Monitoring Failures*
(New) A10:2021-Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)*
* From the Survey

- **A01:2021-Broken Access Control** moves up from the fifth position; 94% of applications were tested for some form of broken access control. The 34 Common Weakness Enumerations (CWEs) mapped to Broken Access Control had more occurrences in applications than any other category.
- **A02:2021-Cryptographic Failures** shifts up one position to #2, previously known as Sensitive Data Exposure, which was broad symptom rather than a root cause. The renewed focus here is on failures related to cryptography which often leads to sensitive data exposure or system compromise.
- **A03:2021-Injection** slides down to the third position. 94% of the applications were tested for some form of injection, and the 33 CWEs mapped into this category have the second most occurrences in applications. Cross-site Scripting is now part of this category in this edition.
- **A04:2021-Insecure Design** is a new category for 2021, with a focus on risks related to design flaws. If we genuinely want to "move left" as an

- OWASP Top 10 2017
- Other languages → tab 'Translation Efforts'

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Leaders

Andrew van der Stock
Brian Glas
Neil Smithline
Torsten Gigler

Upcoming OWASP Global Events

OWASP Global AppSec San Francisco 2024

- September 23-27, 2024

OWASP Developer Day 2024

- September 25, 2024

OWASP Global AppSec Washington DC 2025

- November 3-7, 2025

OWASP Global AppSec San Francisco 2026

- November 2-6, 2026

industry, it calls for more use of threat modeling, secure design patterns and principles, and reference architectures.

- **A05:2021-Security Misconfiguration** moves up from #6 in the previous edition; 90% of applications were tested for some form of misconfiguration. With more shifts into highly configurable software, it's not surprising to see this category move up. The former category for XML External Entities (XXE) is now part of this category.
- **A06:2021-Vulnerable and Outdated Components** was previously titled Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities and is #2 in the Top 10 community survey, but also had enough data to make the Top 10 via data analysis. This category moves up from #9 in 2017 and is a known issue that we struggle to test and assess risk. It is the only category not to have any Common Vulnerability and Exposures (CVEs) mapped to the included CWEs, so a default exploit and impact weights of 5.0 are factored into their scores.
- **A07:2021-Identification and Authentication Failures** was previously Broken Authentication and is sliding down from the second position, and now includes CWEs that are more related to identification failures. This category is still an integral part of the Top 10, but the increased availability of standardized frameworks seems to be helping.
- **A08:2021-Software and Data Integrity Failures** is a new category for 2021, focusing on making assumptions related to software updates, critical data, and CI/CD pipelines without verifying integrity. One of the highest

weighted impacts from Common Vulnerability and Exposures/Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVE/CVSS) data mapped to the 10 CWEs in this category. Insecure Deserialization from 2017 is now a part of this larger category.

- **A09:2021-Security Logging and Monitoring Failures** was previously Insufficient Logging & Monitoring and is added from the industry survey (#3), moving up from #10 previously. This category is expanded to include more types of failures, is challenging to test for, and isn’t well represented in the CVE/CVSS data. However, failures in this category can directly impact visibility, incident alerting, and forensics.
- **A10:2021-Server-Side Request Forgery** is added from the Top 10 community survey (#1). The data shows a relatively low incidence rate with above average testing coverage, along with above-average ratings for Exploit and Impact potential. This category represents the scenario where the security community members are telling us this is important, even though it’s not illustrated in the data at this time.

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