



Web Application Security Assessment Report

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Task 1: Web Application Security Testing

Program: Future Intern Cybersecurity Analyst

Tools Used:

- Kali Linux,
- OWASP Juice Shop,
- OWASP ZAP (AJAX Spider).

Date: August 2025

Task Summary

This assessment involved conducting a security evaluation of OWASP Juice Shop using OWASP ZAP. The main objective was to detect vulnerabilities outlined in the OWASP Top 10, such as Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), SQL Injection and security misconfigurations. OWASP ZAP was utilized to perform automated scans of the application, through which significant vulnerabilities were discovered. Corresponding remediation measures are also recommended to address and mitigate the identified risks.

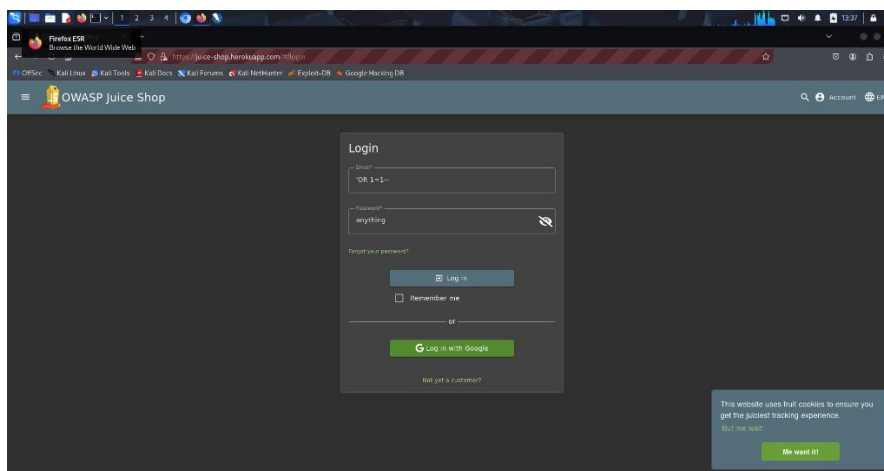
Procedure

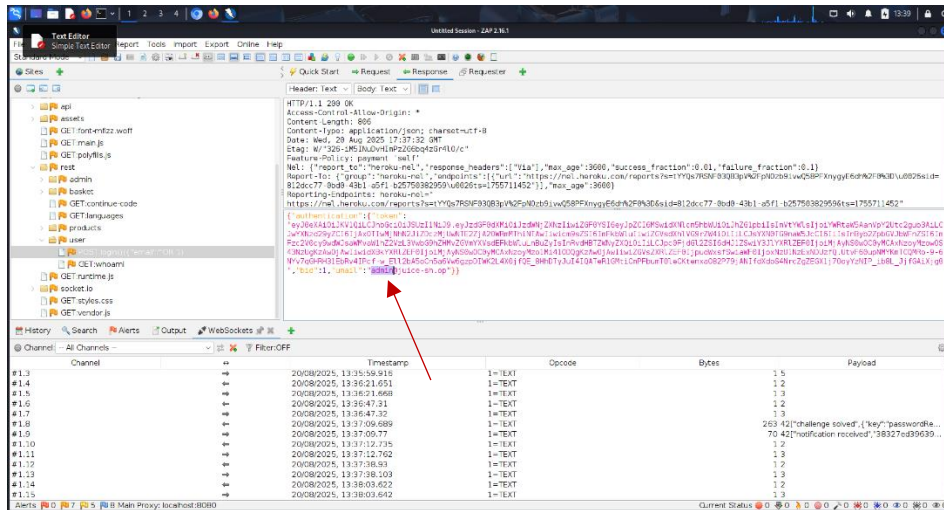
- The OWASP Juice Shop application was accessed via its publicly available deployment on Heroku (<https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com>). This hosted instance provided a realistic environment to simulate web application attacks without the need for local setup.
- The Heroku deployment was used as the target system for all automated and manual security testing conducted with OWASP ZAP.
- The tool executed active scanning processes to identify input fields, user interactions, and potential vulnerabilities.
- The findings were examined and systematically aligned with the corresponding categories in the OWASP Top 10 framework and corrective measures were also recommended to address the identified vulnerabilities.

Identified Vulnerabilities

1. SQL Injection Vulnerability

During the assessment, an SQL Injection vulnerability was identified in the login functionality of the OWASP Juice Shop application by entering the payload (or 1=1--). The authentication mechanism was bypassed, granting unauthorized access to the application. This injection technique manipulated the underlying SQL query, causing the system to return a valid result without verifying legitimate credentials and I was able to gain access with elevated privileges, including administrative level access to the application. This poses a critical security risk, as it could allow attackers to compromise sensitive data or take full control of the application.





Severity Level

High because it is a critical vulnerability that allows privilege escalation and full application compromise.

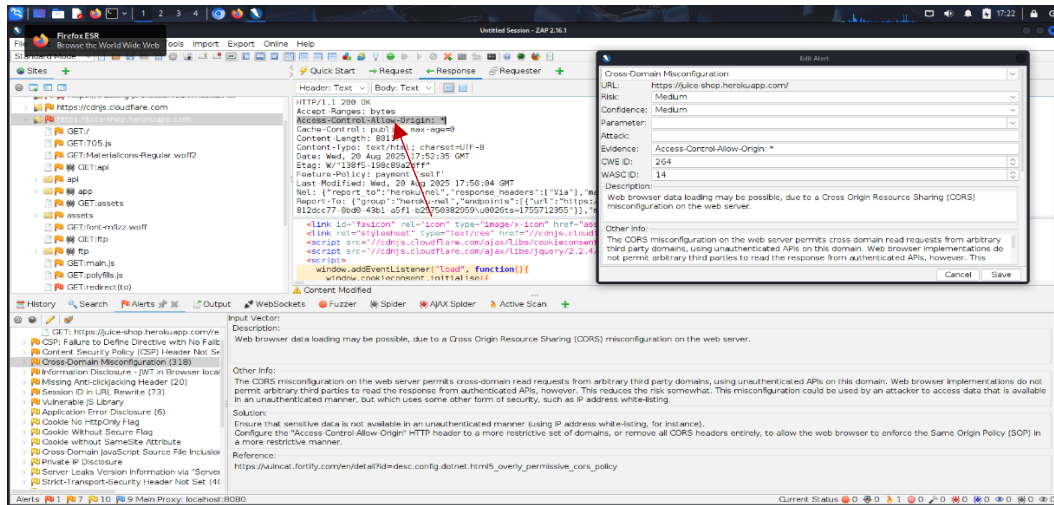
Corrective Action

- ✓ Apply strict server-side input validation and sanitization.
- ✓ Enforce least-privilege principles for database accounts.
- ✓ Perform regular code reviews and penetration testing to detect injection flaws early.

2. Cross Domain Misconfiguration

During the automated assessment with OWASP ZAP, a potential Cross-Domain Misconfiguration was detected in the application's Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS) policy. The server was observed to include overly permissive response headers, such as the "Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *" header. This configuration allows requests from any external domain, thereby bypassing the browser's same origin policy. As a result, a malicious website could potentially send crafted

requests to the web app on behalf of authenticated users, exposing sensitive information such as session tokens or personal data.



Severity Level

Medium because while not immediately granting full system compromise, it significantly increases the attack surface and can lead to serious data exposure when combined with other vulnerabilities.

Corrective Action

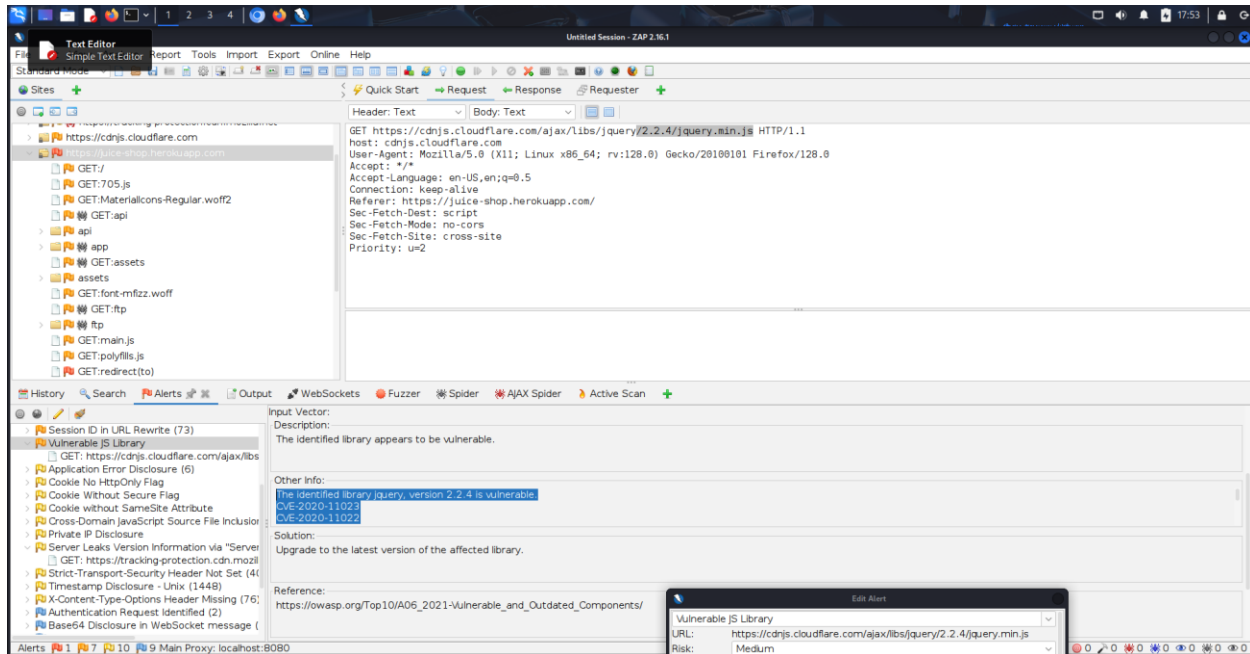
- ✓ Ensure that sensitive data is not available in an unauthenticated manner (using IP address white-listing)
- ✓ Configure the “Access-Control-Allow-Origin” HTTP header to a more restrictive set of domains.

3. Vulnerable JS Library

OWASP ZAP identified the use of an outdated JavaScript library within the OWASP Juice Shop application and it relates to OWASP Top 10 vulnerabilities which is the “Vulnerable and Outdated Components” vulnerability. The scan reported that one or more client-side libraries in use contained known security

flaws. Attackers can exploit weaknesses in outdated JavaScript frameworks or libraries to launch attacks such as Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), denial of service, or client-side code injection and the affected URL identified was

“https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/jquery/2.2.4/jquery.min.js”



Severity Level

Medium because exploitation depends on the specific library and version in use.

While it may not immediately lead to full system compromise, it provides an entry point for attackers.

Corrective Action

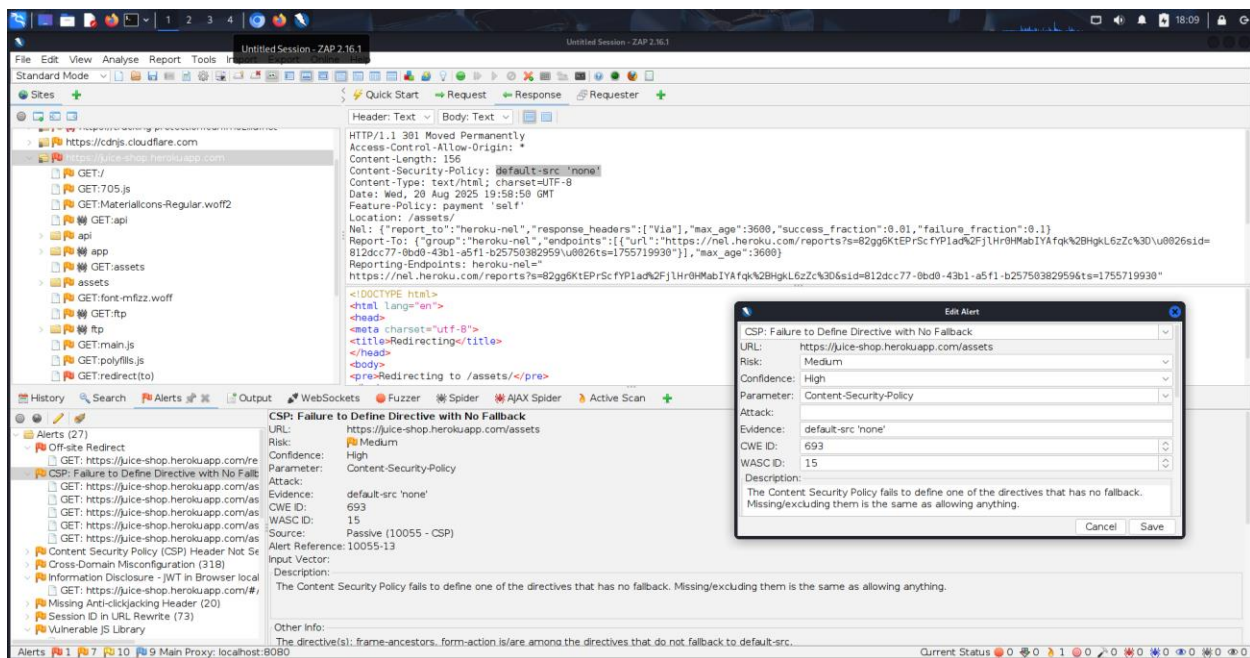
- ✓ Upgrade to the latest version of the affected library.
- ✓ Remove unused or unnecessary libraries from the application.

4. Control Security Policy Misconfiguration

OWASP ZAP identified that the application has a Content Security Policy (CSP) misconfiguration, specifically a failure to define certain directives without fallback

options. This relates to Security Misconfiguration as part of the OWASP Top 10 vulnerabilities. A properly configured CSP helps prevent client-side attacks such as Cross-Site Scripting, data injection, and clickjacking by restricting the sources from which content can be loaded.

But in this case, OWASP ZAP flagged that one or more directives were either missing or not backed by fallback policies and the affected URL was the <https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com/assets>.



Severity Level

Medium because while not always directly exploitable on its own, a weak or misconfigured CSP significantly increases the likelihood of successful XSS or other client side attacks when combined with other vulnerabilities.

Corrective Action

- ✓ Ensure that that web server, application server, load balancer are properly configured to set the Content Security Policy header.
- ✓ Avoid using wildcards (*) in CSP directives.