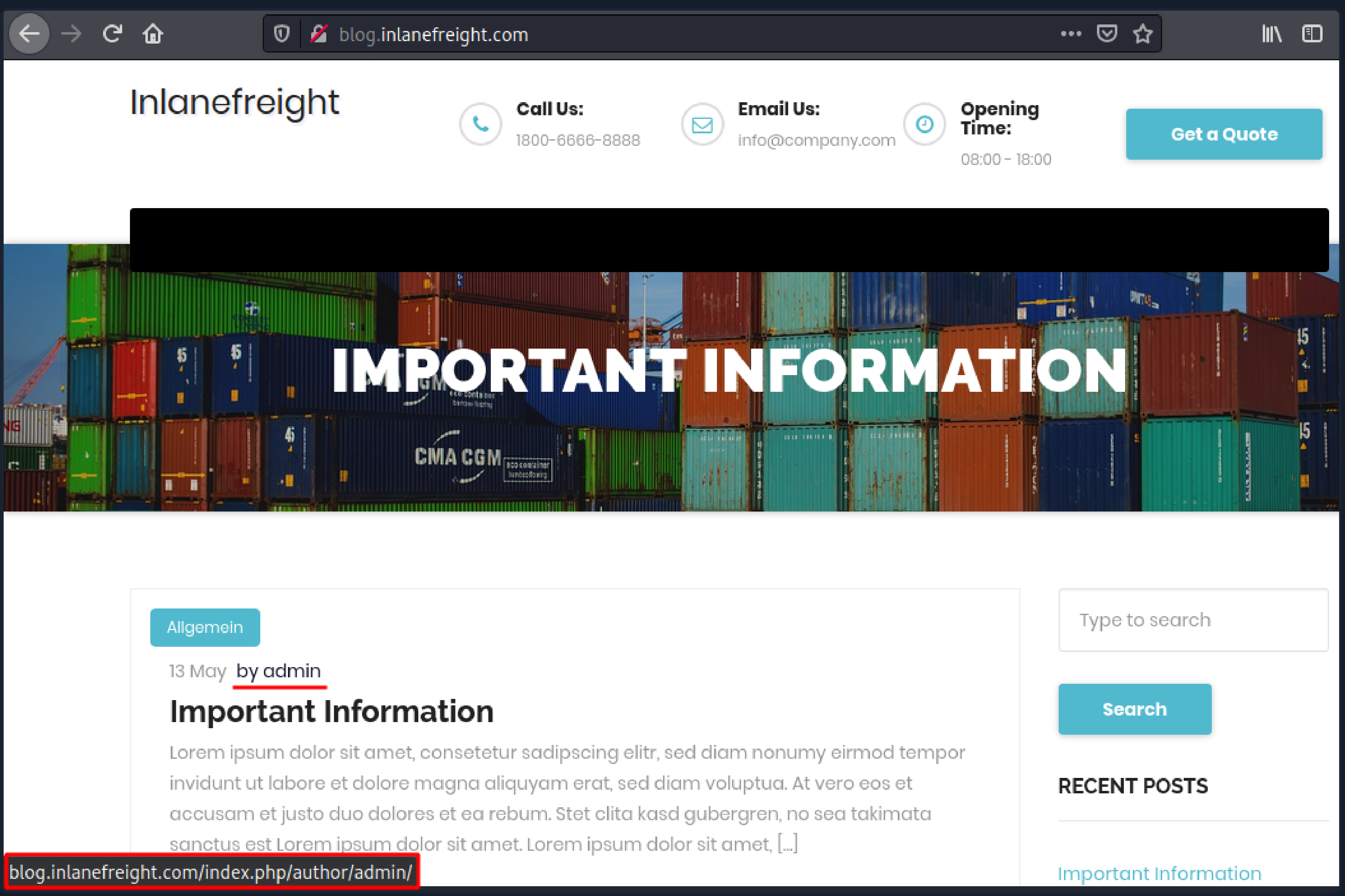
User Enumeration

Enumerating a list of valid users is a critical phase of a WordPress security assessment. Armed with this list, we may be able to guess default credentials or perform a brute force password attack. If successful, we may be able to log in to the WordPress backend as an author or even as an administrator. This access can potentially be leveraged to modify the WordPress website or even interact with the underlying web server.

There are two methods for performing manual username enumeration.

First Method

The first method is reviewing posts to uncover the ID assigned to the user and their corresponding username. If we mouse over the post author link titled "by admin," as shown in the below image, a link to the user's account appears in the web browser's lower-left corner.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Allgemein

13 May by admin

Important Information

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Type to search

Search

RECENT POSTS

Important Information

blog.inlanefreight.com/index.php/author/admin/

The admin user is usually assigned the user ID 1. We can confirm this by specifying the user ID for the author parameter in the URL.

```
http://blog.inlanefreight.com/?author=1
```

This can also be done with cURL from the command line. The HTTP response in the below output shows the author that corresponds to the user ID. The URL in the Location header confirms that this user ID belongs to the admin user.

Existing User

Existing User

```
Avenger666@htb[/htb]$ curl -s -I -X GET http://blog.inlanefreight.com/?author=1

HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
Date: Wed, 13 May 2020 20:47:08 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
X-Redirect-By: WordPress
Location: http://blog.inlanefreight.com/index.php/author/admin/
Content-Length: 0
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
```

The above cURL request then redirects us to the user's profile page or the main login page. If the user does not exist, we receive a 404 Not Found error.

Non-Existing User

Non-Existing User

```
Avenger666@htb[/htb]$ curl -s -I -X GET http://blog.inlanefreight.com/?author=100

HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
Date: Wed, 13 May 2020 20:47:14 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
Expires: Wed, 11 Jan 1984 05:00:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-cache, must-revalidate, max-age=0
Link: <http://blog.inlanefreight.com/index.php/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
```

Second Method

The second method requires interaction with the JSON endpoint, which allows us to obtain a list of users. This was changed in WordPress core after version 4.7.1, and later versions only show whether a user is configured or not. Before this release, all users who had published a post were shown by default.

JSON Endpoint

JSON Endpoint

```
Avenger666@htb[/htb]$ curl http://blog.inlanefreight.com/wp-json/wp/v2/users | jq

[
  {
    "id": 1,
    "name": "admin",
    "url": "",
    "description": "",
    "link": "http://blog.inlanefreight.com/index.php/author/admin/",
    <SNIP>
  },
  {
    "id": 2,
    "name": "ch4p",
    "url": "",
    "description": "",
    "link": "http://blog.inlanefreight.com/index.php/author/ch4p/",
    <SNIP>
  },
<SNIP>
```

Questions

Cheat Sheet

Answer the question(s) below to complete this Section and earn cubes!

+ 1 From the last cURL command, what user name is assigned to User ID 2?

ch4p

Submit

Previous Next → Mark Complete & Next

Cheat Sheet

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