

TASK 2: [INTRODUCTION TO WEB APPLICATION SECURITY]

1.Introduction:

In the contemporary internet era, web-based applications are an indispensable part of nearly all commerce activities. However, as their value increases, so it is essential to comprehend and counteract the threats that can undermine their effectiveness. In this blog post, we will explore the different types of web application flaws with the help of a simple, yet helpful example application. This introduction is hands-on and meant to prepare you with basic skills for practicing web security and identifying vulnerabilities. Using tools such as OWASP ZAP and WebGoat you will be able to see how the weaknesses are exploited with the intent of helping you improve your defense. Get ready this course is an eye opener on application security and security measures that will assist you in the care of your treasures.

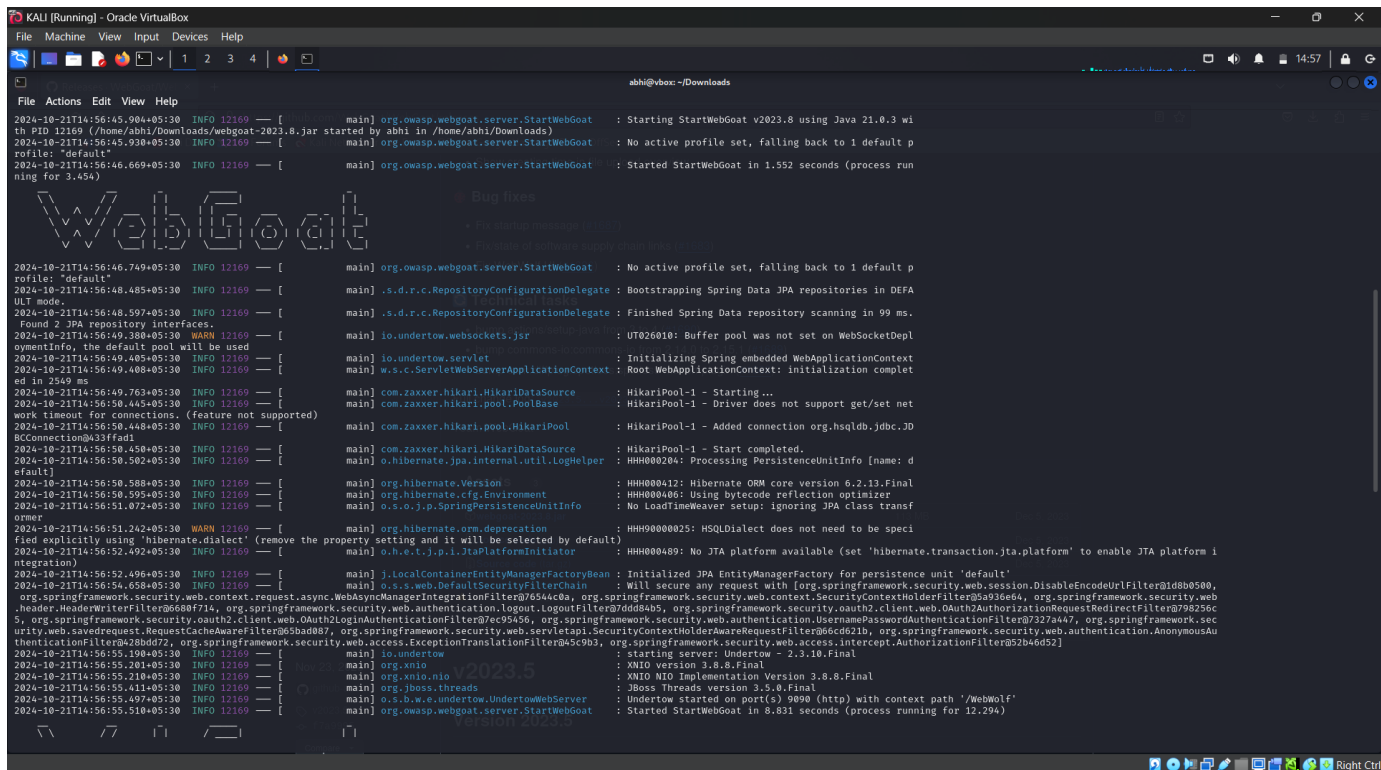
2. Setting up WebGoat.

a. Objective:

WebGoat was chosen as the primary learning tool because it is designed to teach common vulnerabilities in web applications. It is a deliberately vulnerable web application provided by OWASP, making it a perfect platform for practicing real-world attack scenarios in a controlled environment.

b. Steps for Installation:

- 1. Installed WebGoat on a virtual machine running [insert your OS].**
- 2. Set up the virtual environment and downloaded WebGoat.**
- 3. Configured the WebGoat server and accessed it via `localhost` in the browser.**



```
2024-10-21T14:56:45.984+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.owasp.webgoat.server.StartWebGoat : Starting StartWebGoat v2023.8 using Java 21.0.3 wi
th PID 12169 (/home/abhi/Downloads/webgoat-2023.8.jar started by abhi in /home/abhi/Downloads)
2024-10-21T14:56:45.930+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.owasp.webgoat.server.StartWebGoat : No active profile set, falling back to 1 default p
rofile: "default"
2024-10-21T14:56:46.869+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.owasp.webgoat.server.StartWebGoat : Started StartWebGoat in 1.552 seconds (process run
ning for 3.454)

WebGoat

2024-10-21T14:56:46.749+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.owasp.webgoat.server.StartWebGoat : No active profile set, falling back to 1 default p
rofile: "default"
2024-10-21T14:56:48.485+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] .s.d.r.c.RepositoryConfigurationDelegate : Bootstrapping Spring Data JPA repositories in DEFA
ULT mode.
2024-10-21T14:56:48.597+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] .s.d.r.c.RepositoryConfigurationDelegate : Finished Spring Data repository scanning in 99 ms.
Found 2 JPA repository interfaces.
2024-10-21T14:56:49.380+05:30 WARN 12169 [ main] io.undertow.websockets.jsr : UT026018: Buffer pool was not set on WebSocketDepl
oymentInfo, the default pool will be used
2024-10-21T14:56:49.485+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] io.undertow.servlet : Initializing Spring embedded WebApplicationContext
2024-10-21T14:56:49.488+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] w.s.c.ServletWebServerApplicationContext : Root WebApplicationContext: initialization complet
ed in 2549 ms
2024-10-21T14:56:49.763+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] com.zaxxer.hikari.HikariDataSource : HikariPool-1 - Starting...
2024-10-21T14:56:50.445+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] com.zaxxer.hikari.pool.PoolBase : HikariPool-1 - Driver does not support get/set net
work timeout for connections. (feature not supported)
2024-10-21T14:56:50.448+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] com.zaxxer.hikari.pool.HikariPool : HikariPool-1 - Added connection org.hsqldb.jdbc.JD
BCConnection@33ffad1
2024-10-21T14:56:50.450+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] com.zaxxer.hikari.HikariDataSource : HikariPool-1 - Start completed.
2024-10-21T14:56:50.502+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] o.hibernate.jpa.internal.util.LogHelper : HHH000204: Processing PersistenceUnitInfo [name: d
efault]
2024-10-21T14:56:50.588+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.hibernate.Version : HHH0000412: Hibernate ORM core version 6.2.13.Final
2024-10-21T14:56:50.595+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.hibernate.cfg.Environment : HHH0000406: Using bytecode reflection optimizer
2024-10-21T14:56:51.072+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] o.s.o.j.p.SpringPersistenceUnitInfo : No LoadTimeWeaver setup: ignoring JPA class transf
ormer
2024-10-21T14:56:51.242+05:30 WARN 12169 [ main] org.hibernate.orm.deprecation : HHH9000025: HSQLDialect does not need to be speci
fied explicitly using 'hibernate.dialect' (remove the property setting and it will be selected by default)
2024-10-21T14:56:52.492+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] o.h.e.t.j.p.i.JtaPlatformInitiator : HHH0000489: No JTA platform available (set 'hibernate.transaction.jta.platform' to enable JTA platform i
ntegration)
2024-10-21T14:56:52.496+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] j.LocalContainerEntityManagerFactoryBean : Initialized JPA EntityManagerFactory for persistence unit 'default'
2024-10-21T14:56:54.458+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] o.s.s.web.DefaultSecurityFilterChain : Will secure any request with [org.springframework.security.web.session.DisableEncodeUpFilter@1d9b0500,
org.springframework.security.web.context.request.async.WebAsyncManagerIntegrationFilter@76544c0a, org.springframework.security.web.context.SecurityContextHolderFilter@9a936e6a, org.springframework.securi
ty.web.header.HeaderWriterFilter@6680f714, org.springframework.security.web.authentication.logout.LogoutFilter@7d8d84b5, org.springframework.security.oauth2.client.web.OAuth2AuthorizationRequestRedirectFilter@798256c
5, org.springframework.security.oauth2.client.web.OAuth2LoginAuthenticationFilter@ec9545b, org.springframework.security.web.authentication.UsernamePasswordAuthenticationFilter@73274447, org.springframework.se
curity.web.savedrequest.RequestCacheAwareFilter@6ba08097, org.springframework.security.web.servletapi.SecurityContextHolderAwareRequestFilter@66cd021b, org.springframework.security.web.authentication.AnonymousAu
thenticationFilter@28bd7d72, org.springframework.security.web.access.ExceptionTranslationFilter@45c9b3, org.springframework.security.web.access.intercept.AuthorizationFilter@52b46d52]
2024-10-21T14:56:55.190+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] io.undertow : starting server: Undertow - 2.3.10.Final
2024-10-21T14:56:55.201+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.xnio : XNIO version 3.8.8.Final
2024-10-21T14:56:55.210+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.xnio.nio : XNIO NIO Implementation Version 3.8.8.Final
2024-10-21T14:56:55.411+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.jboss.threads : JBoss Threads version 3.5.0.Final
2024-10-21T14:56:55.497+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] o.s.b.w.e.undertow.UndertowWebServer : Undertow started on port(s) 9090 (http) with context path '/'WebWolf'
2024-10-21T14:56:55.510+05:30 INFO 12169 [ main] org.owasp.webgoat.server.StartWebGoat : Started StartWebGoat in 8.631 seconds (process running for 12.294)
```

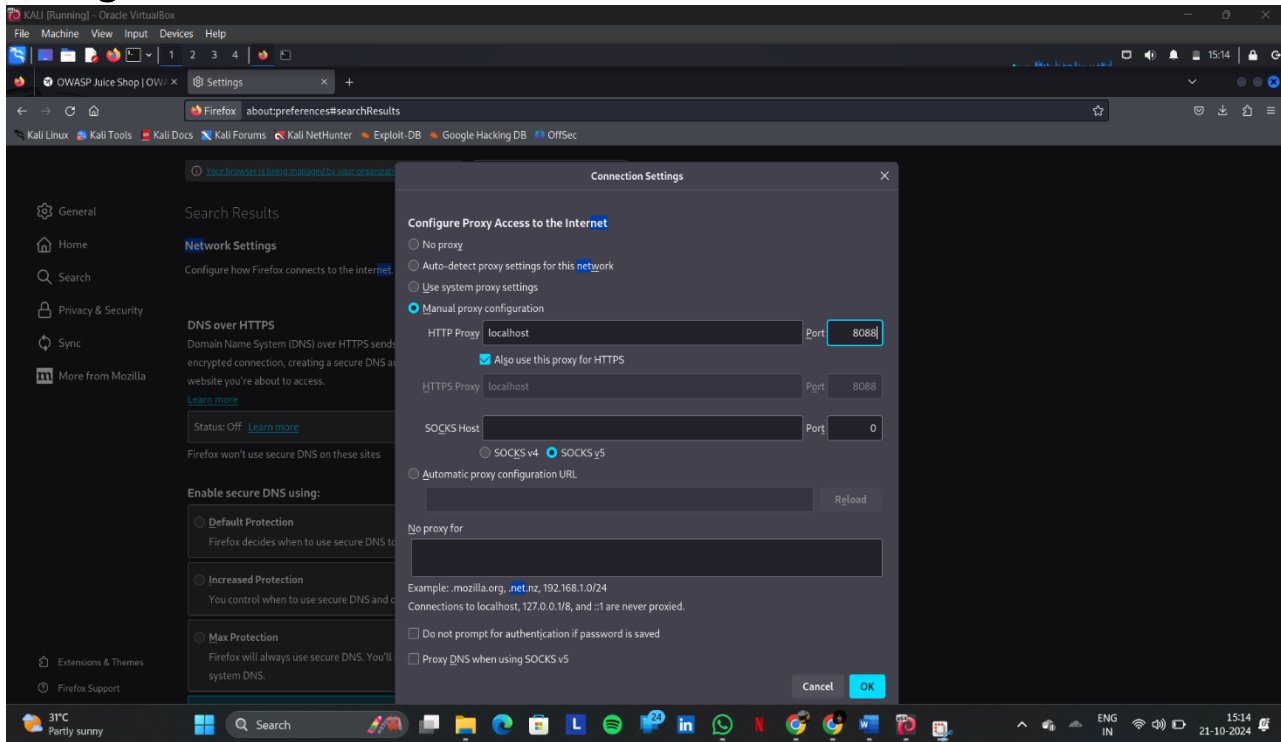
The WebGoat application was successfully installed and accessible through a browser, allowing me to begin vulnerability testing and analysis.

3. OWASP ZAP Vulnerability Scanning.

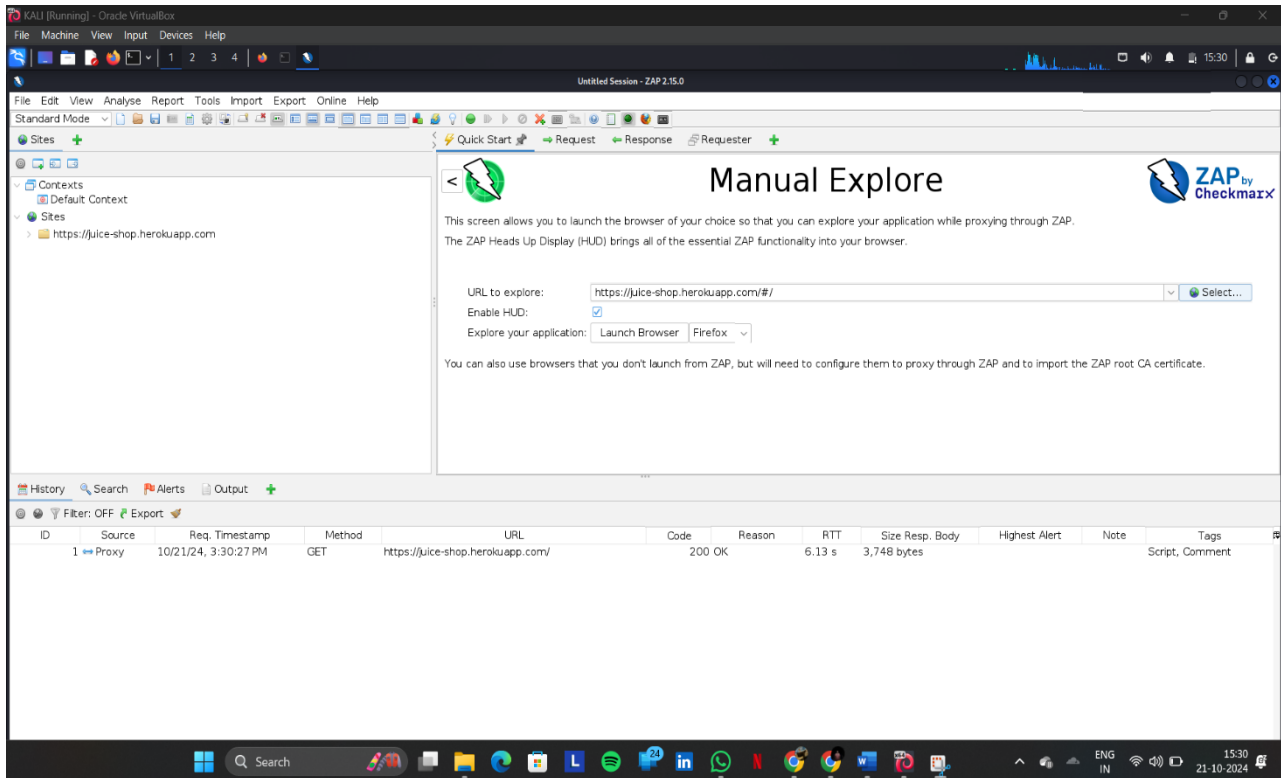
a. Objective The primary objective of using OWASP ZAP was to scan the OWASP JUICE SHOP application for potential vulnerabilities, particularly focusing on SQL Injection and XSS attacks. OWASP ZAP is an opensource tool widely used for finding security vulnerabilities in web applications.

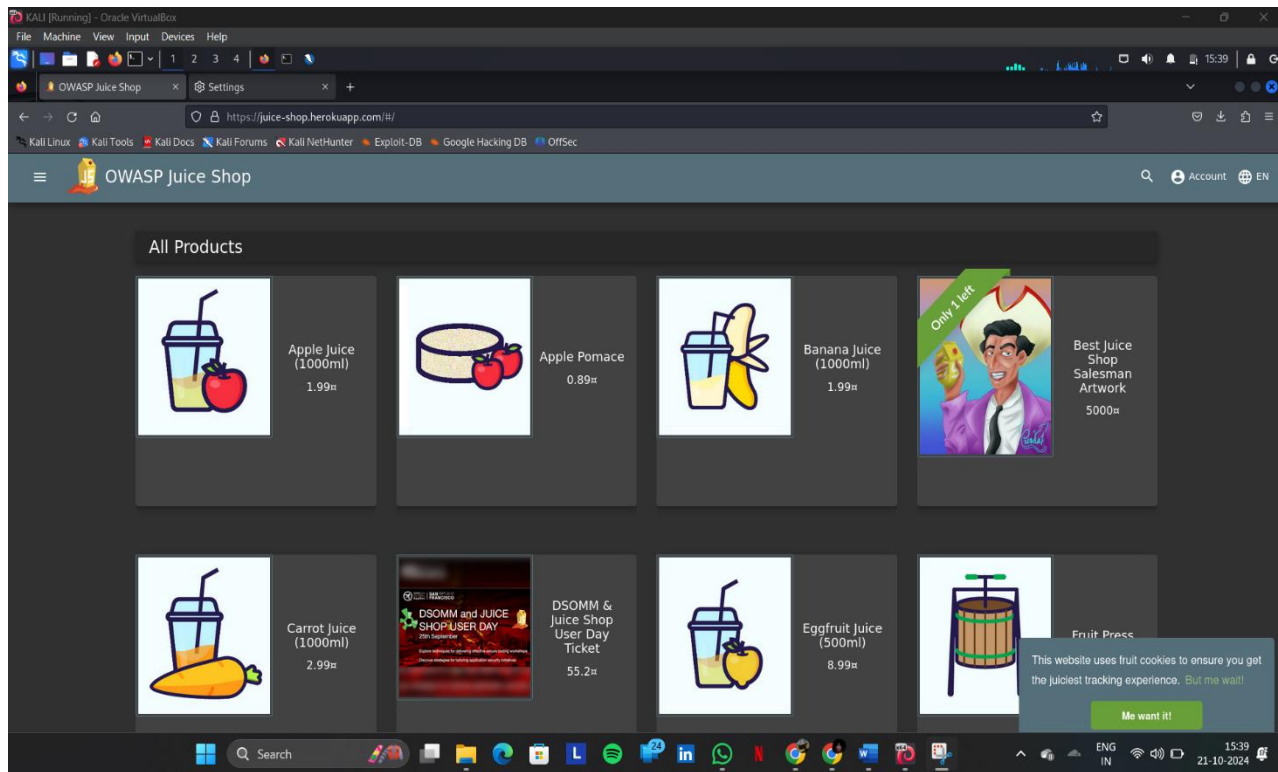
b. Scanning Process 1. Loaded OWASP ZAP and pointed it to the OWASP JUICE SHOP web application URL. 2. Performed a full scan, allowing OWASP ZAP to detect vulnerabilities. 3. Focused on vulnerabilities like SQL Injection and Cross-Site Scripting, both common and dangerous in modern web applications.

➤ **Step 1: Changing browser proxy settings to manual configuration.**

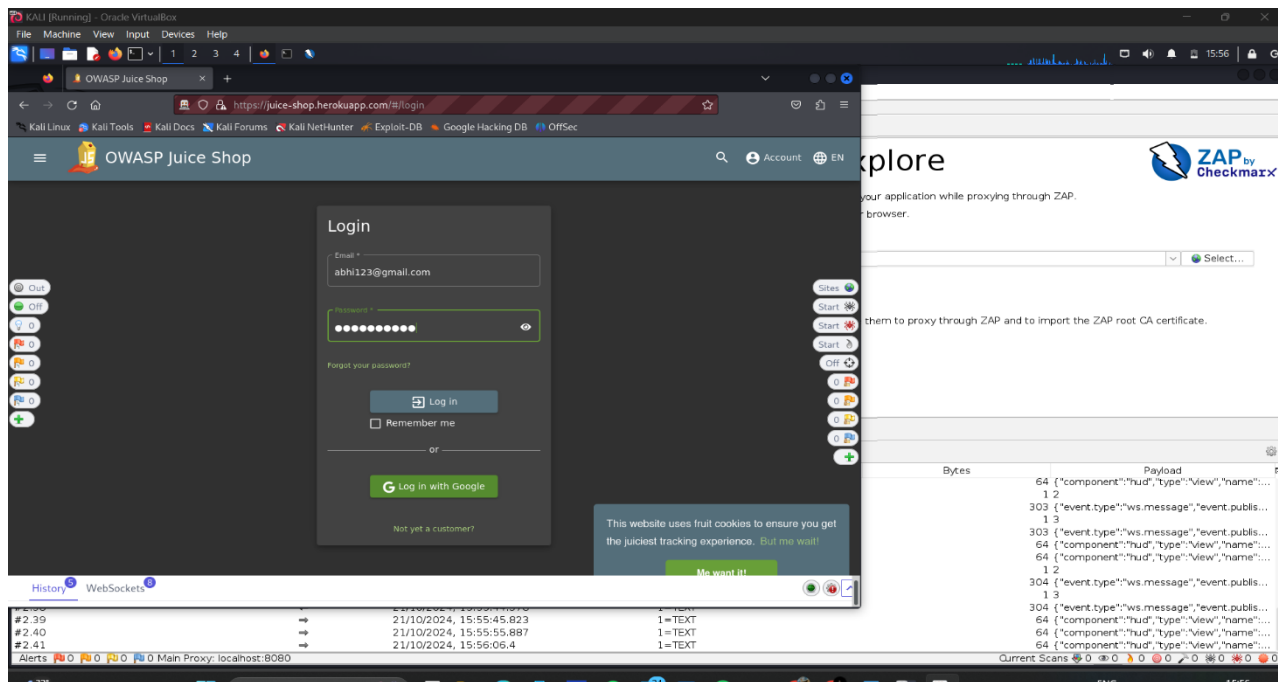


➤ **Step 2: Opening Zap and pasting Owasp Juice shop URL.**





➤ Step 3: Logging in and starting spidering the website.



login with your credentials

Username :- abhi123@gmail.com.

Password :-a.b.c@2005.

c. Vulnerabilities Identified :

-SQL Injection(SQLi): A technique where attackers manipulate SQL queries to gain unauthorized access to database information.

-Cross-Site Scripting(XSS): A vulnerability that allows attackers to inject malicious scripts into web pages, potentially leading to session hijacking or defacement.

4. Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) Vulnerability Analysis.

a. Objective :

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities were also identified during the OWASP ZAP scan. XSS allows attackers to inject malicious scripts into web pages viewed by other users, potentially leading to session hijacking, defacement, or data theft.

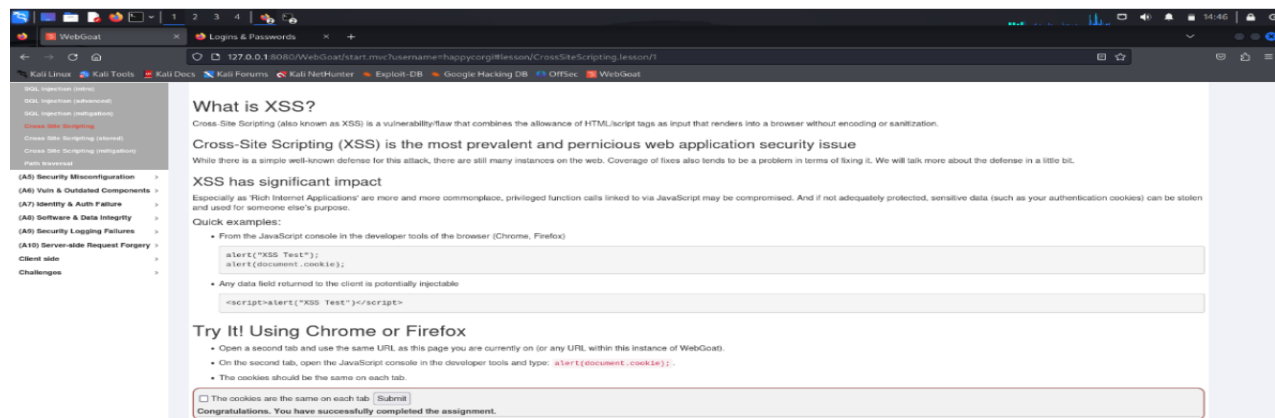
b. Exploitation Attempt :

I attempted to inject a simple script such as:

html

“><script>alert(1)</script>

Into a WebGoat form field. The injected script was successfully executed in the victim's browser, confirming the presence of an XSS vulnerability.



WebGoat

Logins & Passwords

Problem loading page

127.0.0.1:8080/WebGoat/start.mvc?username=happycorgi#lesson/CrossSiteScripting/lesson/6

Kali LinuxKali ToolsKali DocsKali ForumsKali NetHunterExploit-DBGoogle Hacking DBOffSecWebGoat

Introduction

General

(A1) Broken Access Control

(A2) Cryptographic Failures

(A3) Injection

SQL Injection (intro)

SQL Injection (advanced)

SQL Injection (mitigation)

Cross Site Scripting

Cross Site Scripting (intro)

Cross Site Scripting (mitigation)

Path traversal

(A5) Security Misconfiguration

(A6) Vuln & Outdated Components

(A7) Identity & Auth Failure

(A8) Software & Data Integrity

(A9) Security Logging Failures

(A10) Server-side Request Forgery

Client side

Challenges

Show hintsReset lesson

123456789101112

Try It! Reflected XSS

The assignment's goal is to identify which field is susceptible to XSS.

It is always a good practice to validate all input on the server side. XSS can occur when unvalidated user input gets used in an HTTP response. In a reflected XSS attack, an attacker can craft a URL with the attack script and post it to another website, email it, or otherwise get a victim to click on it.

An easy way to find out if a field is vulnerable to an XSS attack is to use the `alert()` or `console.log()` methods. Use one of them to find out which field is vulnerable.

Shopping Cart

Shopping Cart Items -- To Buy Now	Price	Quantity	Total
Studio RTA - Laptop/Reading Cart with Tilting Surface - Cherry	69.99	1	\$0.00
Dynex - Traditional Notebook Case	27.99	1	\$0.00
Hewlett Packard - Pavilion Notebook with Intel Core i5	1599.99	1	\$0.00
3 - Year Performance Service Plan \$1000 and Over	299.99	1	\$0.00

Enter your credit card number:

4126 3214 0002 1999

Enter your three digit access code:

111

Purchase

WebGoat

Logins & Passwords

Problem loading page

127.0.0.1:8080/WebGoat/start.mvc?username=happycorgi#lesson/CrossSiteScripting/lesson/6

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Cross Site Scripting (intro)

Cross Site Scripting (mitigation)

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3 - Year Performance Service Plan \$1000 and Over	299.99	1	\$0.00

Enter your credit card number:

99"><script>alert(1)</script>

Enter your three digit access code:

111

Purchase

Try again. We do want to see a specific JavaScript mentioned in the goal of the assignment (in case you are trying to do something fancier).

Thank you for shopping at WebGoat.

Your support is appreciated

We have charged credit card:4126 3214 0002 1999">

\$1997.96

127.0.0.1:8080/WebGoat/start.mvc?username=happyorg#lesson/CrossSiteScripting/lesson/9

Kali LinuxKali ToolsKali DocsKali ForumsKali NetHunterExploit-DBGoogle Hacking DBOffSecWebGoat

WEBGOAT

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Cross Site Scripting

Search lesson

123456789101112

Identify potential for DOM-Based XSS

DOM Based XSS can usually be found by looking for the route configurations in the client side code. Look for a route that takes inputs that are "reflected" to the page.

For this example, you will want to look for some "test" code in the route handlers (WebGoat uses backbone as its primary JavaScript library). Sometimes, test code gets left in production (and often test code is simple and lacks security or quality controls!).

Your objective is to find the route and exploit it. First though, what is the base route? As an example, look at the URL for this lesson ... it should look something like /WebGoat/start.mvc?lesson=CrossSiteScripting/lesson/9. The "base route" in this case is: start.mvc?lesson/. The CrossSiteScripting.lesson/9 after that are parameters that are processed by the JavaScript route handler.

So, what is the route for the test code that stayed in the app during production? To answer this question, you have to check the JavaScript source.

Submit

127.0.0.1:8080/WebGoat/start.mvc?username=happyorg#lesson/CrossSiteScripting/lesson/9

Kali LinuxKali ToolsKali DocsKali ForumsKali NetHunterExploit-DBGoogle Hacking DBOffSecWebGoat

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Submit

InspectorConsoleDebugger

NetworkStyle EditorPerformanceMemoryStorageAccessibilityApplication

SourcesOutlineSearch

GoatRouter.jsHelpControlView.jsgoatApp.jsmain.js

46

var GoatAppRouter = Backbone.Router.extend({

47

48

routes: {

49

'welcome': 'welcomeRoute',

50

'lesson/:name': 'lessonRoute',

51

'lesson/:name/:pageId': 'lessonPageRoute',

52

'test/param': 'testRoute',

53

'reportCard': 'reportCard'

54

},

55

56

lessonController: null,

57

}

58

Watch expressions

Breakpoints

Pause on exceptions

XHR Breakpoints

Event Listener Breakpoints

DOM Mutation Breakpoints

0/2, 29

c. Result :

The XSS vulnerability allowed the injection and execution of malicious scripts, demonstrating how attackers could exploit this flaw to compromise user sessions or execute other malicious actions.

d. Mitigation for Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

To mitigate XSS:

- Output Encoding: Ensure that all user input is properly encoded before displaying it in the browser to prevent script execution.
- Content Security Policy (CSP): Implement CSP headers that restrict which scripts can run on a web page.
- Input Validation: Validate and sanitize user input to reject dangerous characters and scripts.
- Escape User Input: Ensure that any data inserted into HTML, JavaScript, or SQL queries is properly escaped to prevent unintended execution.

5. OWASP ZAP Scan Report.

Summary :Report

The OWASP ZAP scan identified multiple vulnerabilities within the OWASP JUICE SHOP application, with a particular focus on SQL Injection and Cross-Site Scripting. Both of these vulnerabilities present serious security risks if left unpatched in a real-world web application.

- SQL Injection could allow attackers to access sensitive database information or bypass authentication.
- XSS could lead to user session hijacking, data theft, or defacement of the website.

6. Reflection and Learning.

This project came with a practical component that dealt with web application vulnerabilities and their life cycle starting from identification, exploitation, and mitigation. I appreciated the need to secure the input fields and sanitize the user data so as to shield web applications from common threats such as SQL Injection, XSS and others.

Undertaking this internship impressed upon me a lot of knowledge concerning vulnerability scanning and web application security in general and in particular the same provided me with the much needed hands on experience that is very useful to me going forward in my career in cyberspace security.

7. Conclusion:

I can say that the contribution I have made in the course of the internship is of great importance as it has increased my knowledge about the various types of web application vulnerabilities and the process of overcoming them. OWASP ZAP and Web Goat were especially useful when it came to the practical aspect of dealing with the vulnerabilities that exist out there.

It is very important to protect such applications from threats that are aimed at exploiting vulnerabilities such as SQL Injection or Cross-Site Scripting as this affects how secure a web application is maintained.