

INF226 Obligatory assignment

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1 Introduction

For our obligatory assignment we were tasked with analysing OpenMRS, a medical patient journal system. The analysis is performed both using static and dynamic code analysis tools (HPE Fortify and FindBugs for static analysis and OWASP ZAP for dynamic), as well as a thorough manual run-through of the installation process and software usage.

The goals of software testing It is now common practice for a developer to adhere to a software architect's plan for the development of the software components, and many utilizes unit-testing as a supporting tool for developing code without errors. So what is then the benefit of having a separate plan and procedure for system testing from the view of security?

It has been demonstrated with many grim examples during this course and in the curriculum texts, the importance of security and the heavy consequences to the whole enterprise if it is neglected. The issue is of such a big scope that approaching it as just another design or implementation issue fails to appreciate the complexity it presents.

The goal of testing the security as a separate process is to try to map as much as possible of the potential security issues and security considerations that has to be kept in mind walking thru the process of development. To accomplish this it is necessary to approach the software and the architecture from the point of view of a agent with malicious intent.

In the end it is most likely not possible to make the software completely immune to security faults. It's a natural part of security testing to find problems where a full repair might not be achievable, it is then also the responsibility of the security testing process to develop mitigation plans for these vulnerabilities.

So the goal of security testing is to find, repair and prepare for security vulnerabilities.

Static and dynamic analysis Static and dynamic analysis are methods for checking the software for vulnerabilities. They are both done using software tools that help the user analyze. Static analysis is performed before any code is run, and checks the code base for vulnerable code that can be abused. It checks different runtime behaviours, both standard and non-standard, in order to find potential backdoors, weak code and other vulnerabilities. Dynamic analysis on the other hand is done while the application is running, and works a lot like how an actual attacker would target the application, performing such things as XSS and SQL injection attacks, as well as monitoring the system runtime, for example performance and HTTP requests.¹

¹VeraCode. *Static vs. Dynamic testing*. <https://www.veracode.com/blog/2013/12/static-testing-vs-dynamic-testing>. Accessed: 05. Oct. 2016. 2013.

2 Software involved

2.1 OpenMRS

OpenMRS is, according to the website, the “world’s leading open source enterprise electronic medical record system platform”.² It is used in hospitals and medical facilities all over the world, for example in Nigeria, South Africa, India and the United States, and is supported by many different governments, NGOs, and both for- and non-profit organisations. The software has a stated goal of being usable with no programming knowledge, and to be a common platform for which medical informatics efforts in developing can be built.

Technical Specifications OpenMRS is a client-server platform, with a web front end. It is programmed in Java 7, using Tomcat 6 or 7 as the server framework, and MySQL 5.6 as the database backend. It also exposes a programming API to users, and is modular and extendable.

Setup The setup process of OpenMRS is quite involved and time consuming when attempting to do so on a personal computer, requiring both Tomcat, Java and MySQL to be setup. The official documentation is useful, but different parts of it uses different versions of e.g. Tomcat, so it can be confusing. It also provides install instructions for Windows and Linux distributions with Aptitude, but not for OSX or other Linux distributions.

As mentioned, OpenMRS doesn’t run on the newest version of MySQL (at the time of writing MySQL 5.7), and the install instructions do not mention this. The process of figuring this out, and of removing and reinstalling a previous version of MySQL, proved to be a lengthy detour on an already long road. The instructions are also not very specific when noting which files you need to run OpenMRS in Tomcat, whether it is the source code, which was difficult to build and only return a test suite on a normal compile, a readily packaged complete install (which did not work properly), or a .war file that should be uploaded to the Tomcat server.

We first attempted setting up OpenMRS on OSX 10.11, but ran into problems when trying to install the correct version of MySQL, and therefore retried in an empty virtual machine running Linux (tested with both Lubuntu and Kali Linux). Following the install instructions were a lot easier when running Debian based distributions containing Aptitude, but we still had to find and install a previous version of MySQL.

Once everything was installed OpenMRS had some extra setup that was required, done through a web interface. This was mostly easy once the correct version of MySQL was in place. You were also given a first username and password that was, respectively, ‘admin’ and ‘Admin123’.

²OpenMRS. *About OpenMRS*. <http://openmrs.org/about>. Accessed: 02. Oct. 2016. 2016.

Usage OpenMRS is operated through a web browser, and is centered around a main dashboard that, with just the base installation, will give you access to patient journals, as well as showing currently active patients. The system also lets you categorize patients/other registered in different persons in different categories, easing the process of generating statical analyses. The system also lets your register and book future meetings with patients.

2.2 HPE Fortify

Fortify is a code security tool suite, developed by Hewlett-Packard Enterprise (HPE). It aims to “make application security a natural part of the new SDLC, enabling time to market by building security in”.³ It contains such tools as WebInspect, a dynamic code analysis tool, and the Fortify Static Code Analysis tool.

Fortify is a proprietary solution, but is available with an academic license for free.

Audit Workbench Audit Workbench is the tool used to organise the the output of HPE’s static code analysis software contained in the Fortify package. It is a GUI application built on top of Eclipse, specially designed for organising and presenting output for the HPE tools.

The installation process for Audit Workbench was straight-forward, but running the program required changing variables for the Eclipse backend, without information about how this is done readily available. The software also was a large RAM consumer, needing 5 gigabytes of RAM to analyze a relatively large project (OpenMRS).

2.3 FindBugs

FindBugs is a static analysis tool for scanning java code looking for potential errors in the implementation. It is distributed under Lesser GNU Public License. The project originated from the University of Maryland.⁴ It runs on java 1.7 either initiated from a terminal or you may use a simple GUI which makes it easier to get familiar with the program.

We ran FindBugs 3.0.1 for our tests.

2.4 OWASP ZAP

ZAP is a dynamic analysis tool developed by OWASP, the Open Web Security Project. The software acts as a proxy between the host computer and a web application, performing different types of automatic scans, as well as having tools for manual searches for security vulnerabilities.⁵

³HPE. *Application Security*. http://www8.hp.com/lamerica_nsc_carib/en/software-solutions/application-security. Accessed: 02. Oct. 2016. 2016.

⁴University of Maryland. *FindBugs - Find Bugs in Java Programs*. 2015.

⁵OWASP. *OWASP ZAP 2.4 Getting Started Guide*. 2016.

We ran ZAP version 2.5.0 for our tests.

3 Preliminary results

3.1 Visible potential issues

During the install process we were on the lookout for potential vulnerabilities that were visible to us. Two things stood out: 1) The program was set up with a static username and password (resepctively ‘admin’ and ‘Admin123’), and we were never prompted to change this. This means that if the system installer doesn’t notice this is the case, there is a user with administrator privileges available to anyone, which is pretty bad. 2) The system didn’t work with the newest version of MySQL. The latest version it can run (newest 5.6 version) has several vulnerabilities, some very serious.⁶ While some of these also are present in newer versions of MySQL, others are not, making the database slightly more vulnerable.

3.2 Tests of the software tools

After we set everything up, we ran a test run of each analysis tool, to make sure everything was functioning properly and to find any glaring issues, if any.

Dynamic analysis of the OpenMRS Web GUI The initial Quick Start scan of our test setup of the OpenMRS service only had the login front page to crawl. This yielded very few results considering this is just one page. It found some information about jQuery, ZAP also warned about the implementation of the cookie.

Audit Workbench Rapport The first scan yielded a few messages of high concern. The OpenMRS core includes unit-test which gives quite a few erroneous warnings concerning security risks and more general bad coding practices.

There was an error concerning how the cookie was coded which may be interesting to look more into.

FindBugs code scan Running the scan seems easy and most of the work is obviously analysing the results. The reports might be a bit hard to navigate and there was some trouble generating a html report that potentially is more readable. Again the unit-test generated false positives.

⁶CVEDetails. *Oracle MySQL Security Vulnerabilities*. https://www.cvedetails.com/vulnerability-list/vendor_id-93/product_id-21801/Oracle-Mysql.html. Accessed: 04. Oct. 2016. 2016.