Web Application Security Testing (AltoroMutual)

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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The contents of this document do not constitute legal advice and should not be construed as such. This is the result of my own educational process. The assessment detailed here is conducted on a fictitious company for training and testing purposes, and the vulnerabilities do not impact external or internal infrastructure in any way.

INTRODUCTION

Black Box WAST

for altoro.testfire.net FINAL TEST V1.0

January 24th, 2024

By: Selivonchyk S.

DOCUMENT PROPERTIES

Title	Black Box Penetration WAST Report	Contacts
Version	V1.0	
Author	Selivonchyk S.	
WAST-testers	Selivonchyk S.	
Reviewed By	Kutaisov M.	
Approved By	Kutaisov M.	
Classification	Not confidential	

VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Author	Description
V1.0	Jan 24th, 2024	Selivonchyk Sergey	WAST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Altoro Mutual Banking Service is a publicly available application designed to test security scanners. This application can be used to evaluate and calibrate both automated vulnerability scanners and students taking web application security testing courses. This report describes methods and techniques for detecting vulnerabilities through manual testing. As well as testing the skills of documenting all research results in an understandable and reproducible form and developing the skills to provide recommendations for correcting situations.

Scope of work

This work involves remotely testing a web application for real-world security vulnerabilities. Their existence must be confirmed, but without increasing attacks. The target runs on one available server located at http://altoro.testfire.net.

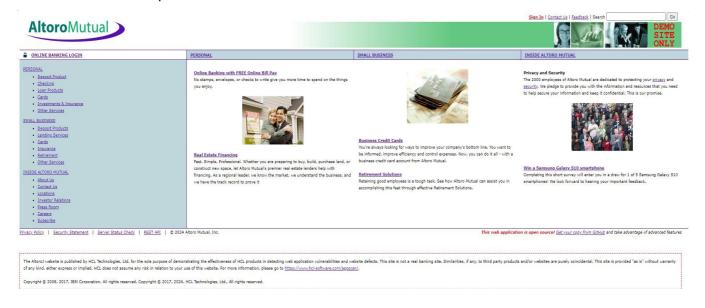


Figure 1 altoro.testfire.net

The assessment was conducted from a "black box" perspective without any authority or prior knowledge of the internal environment. Only the URL of the server being tested is provided. No other information was expected.

In-Scope Assets

Host/URL/IP Address/Port	Description
altoro.testfire.net	Published by HCL Technologies, Ltd
Table 1: Scope details	

Project objectives

Identify vulnerabilities and potential flaws in its design. Testing was done remotely using a URL. Each identified vulnerability is assigned a threat-based risk rating and manually reviewed to determine its potential for exploitation and escalation.

Assumption

When writing this report, we assume that the resource has a special application designed for testing security scanners. This application can be used to evaluate and calibrate automated vulnerability scanners. It does not store or collect any sensitive data, and according to the home page, there is the following statement:

The AltoroJ website is published by HCL Technologies, Ltd. for the sole purpose of demonstrating the effectiveness of HCL products in detecting web application vulnerabilities and website defects. This site is not a real banking site. Similarities, if any, to third party products and/or websites are purely coincidental. This site is provided "as is" without warranties of any kind, express or implied. HCL does not accept any risk in connection with your use of this website. For more information, go to https://www.hcl-software.com/appscan/.

Timeline

The timeline of the test is as below:

Vulnerability detection	Start date/time	End date/time
WAST 1	01/23/2024	01/25/2024

Table 2: Web Application

Summary of Findings

This table shows the number of alerts for each risk and confidence level included in the report.

Risk:	High	Medium	Low	Info	TOTAL
Amount	2	4	3	2	11

Table 3: Total Risk and Confidence Rating

Summary of Recommendation

- 1. If available, use structured mechanisms that automatically enforce the separation between data and code. These mechanisms may be able to provide the relevant quoting, encoding, and validation automatically, instead of relying on the developer to provide this capability at every point where output is generated.
- 2. To help mitigate XSS attacks against the user's session cookie, set the session cookie to be HttpOnly. In browsers that support the HttpOnly feature.
- 3. Assume all input is malicious. Use an "accept known good" input validation strategy, i.e., use a list of acceptable inputs that strictly conform to specifications. Reject any input that does not strictly conform to specifications or transform it into something that does.
- 4. **Strong input validation** All user-controllable input must be validated and filtered for illegal characters as well as SQL content. Keywords such as UNION, SELECT or INSERT must be filtered in addition to characters such as a single-quote (') or SQL-comments (--) based on the context in which they appear.
- 5. **Use of parameterized queries** or stored procedures.
- 6. **Use of custom error pages** Attackers can glean information about the nature of queries from descriptive error messages.
- 7. Use a vetted library or framework that does not allow this weakness to occur or provides constructs that make this weakness easier to avoid.
- 8. Ensure that your application is free of cross-site scripting issues, because most CSRF defenses can be bypassed using attacker-controlled script.
- 9. Generate a unique nonce for each form, place the nonce into the form, and verify the nonce upon receipt of the form. Be sure that the nonce is not predictable.
- 10. Check the HTTP Referer header to see if the request originated from an expected page. This could break legitimate functionality, because users or proxies may have disabled sending the Referer for privacy reasons.
- 11. Return the X-Frame-Options or Content-Security-Policy (with the 'frame-ancestors' directive) HTTP header with the page's response.
- 12. This prevents the page's content from being rendered by another site when using the frame or iframe HTML tags.
- 13. Carefully check each input parameter against a rigorous positive specification (*allowlist*) defining the specific characters and format allowed. All input should be neutralized, not just parameters that the user is supposed to specify, but all data in the request, including hidden fields, cookies, headers, the URL itself, and so forth. A common mistake that leads to continuing XSS vulnerabilities is to validate only fields that are expected to be redisplayed by the site.
- 14. Restrict access to the vulnerable application.
- 15. Store state information and sensitive data on the server side only.
- 16. Ensure that the system definitively and unambiguously keeps track of its own state and user state and has rules defined for legitimate state transitions.
- 17. Do not allow any application user to affect state directly in any way other than through legitimate actions leading to state transitions.
- 18. Make sure that every sensitive form transmits content over HTTPS.
- 19. Always set the secure attribute when the cookie should sent via HTTPS only.
- 20. Check your server configuration to always use HTTPS.
- 21. Set a properly configured *X-Frame-Options* and *Content-Security-Policy frame-ancestors* headers for all requested resources
- 22. The use of *X-Frame-Options* and *Content-Security-Policy frame-ancestors* allows developers of web content to restrict the usage of their application within the form of overlays, frames, or iFrames. The developer can indicate from which domains can frame the content.
- 23. A developer can use a "frame-breaker" script in each page that should not be framed.

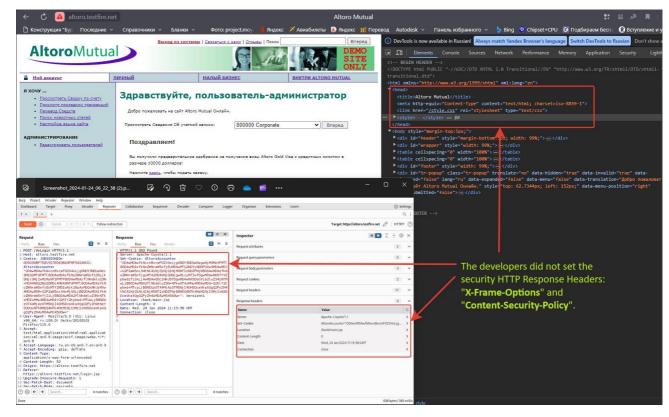
REPORTING

Missing or Permissive "X-Frame-Options" and "CSP frame-ancestors" HTTP Response Headers

Synopsis	The web application does not restrict or incorrectly restricts frame objects or UI layers that belong to another application or domain, which can lead to user confusion about which interface the user is interacting with.
Description	A web application is expected to place restrictions on whether it is allowed to be rendered within frames, iframes, objects, embed or applet elements. Without the restrictions, users can be tricked into interacting with the application when they were not intending to.
Prerequisites	The developers did not set the security HTTP Response Headers: "X-Frame-Options" and "Content-Security-Policy".
Risk Factor	Info
Solution	- Set a properly configured X-Frame-Options and Content-Security-Policy frame-ancestor's headers for all requested resources
	- The use of X-Frame-Options and Content-Security-Policy frame-ancestors allows
	developers of web content to restrict the usage of their application within the form of
	overlays, frames, or iFrames. The developer can indicate from which domains can frame the content.
	- A developer can use a "frame-breaker" script in each page that should not be framed.

Proof Of Concept (PoC):

- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Press the [F12] button (to open the developer toolbar).
- 3. This header is missing inside the <head> tag.
- 4. We will get the same result if we use any network traffic analysis tools (*Burp Suite, Wireshark, etc.*).

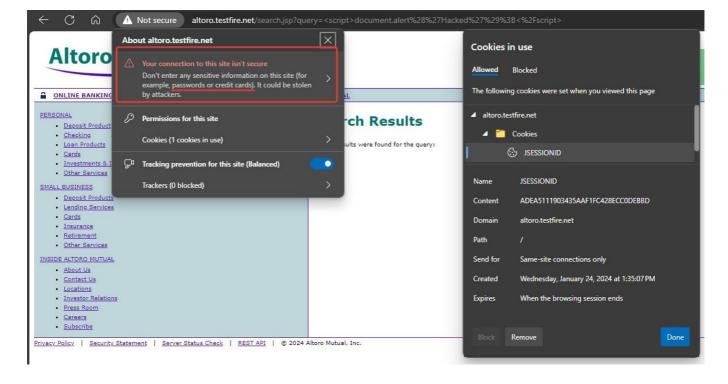


5. XSS (*Cross-Site Scripting*), *clickjacking*, and *cross-site leak* vulnerabilities are possible if these headers are missing.

Web Server Transmits Cleartext Credentials

Synopsis	The web application transmits sensitive or security-critical data in cleartext in a communication channel that can be sniffed by unauthorized actors.	
Description	Many communication channels can be "sniffed" (monitored) by adversaries during data transmission. For example, in networking, packets can traverse many intermediary nodes from the source to the destination, whether across the internet, an internal network, the cloud, etc. Some actors might have privileged access to a network interface or any link along the channel, such as a router, but they might not be authorized to collect the underlying data. As a result, network traffic could be sniffed by adversaries, spilling security-critical data.	
Prerequisites	 This weakness is caused by missing a security tactic during the architecture and design phase. For hardware, this may be introduced when design does not plan for an attacker having physical access while a legitimate user is remotely operating the device 	
Risk Factor	Low	
Solution	Make sure that every sensitive form transmits content over HTTPS.	

- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. On the left side of the address bar, we see an exclamation mark (!), when you click on it, a message appears stating that only the HTTP protocol is used and all data is transmitted without encoding.



Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) Information

Synopsis	Some information about the remote HTTP configuration can be extracted.
Description Preventing version disclosure is often considered best practice as it slows Conventional wisdom holds that you should prevent any information from ge or on the other end of the scale, that the disclosing the versions of software	
	doesn't make any difference.
Prerequisites	None
Risk Factor	Info
Solution	None

Proof Of Concept (PoC):

- 1. Open a terminal ([Ctrl]+[Alt]+[T]).
- 2. Enter the following command.

```
curl -v http://altoro.testfire.net
```

3. As you can see, here is information about the protocol, port, server version, etc.

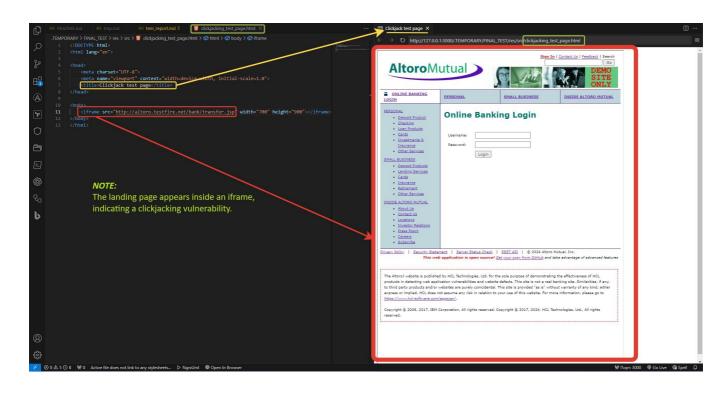
```
File Actions Edit View
                         Help
  —(kali⊕kali)-[~]
 -$ curl -v http://altoro.testfire.net
* Host altoro.testfire.net:80 was resolved.
 IPv6: (none)
 IPv4: 65.61.137.117
   Trying 65.61.137.117:80...
 Connected to altoro.testfire.net (65.61.137.117) port 80
> GET / HTTP/1.1
> Host: altoro.testfire.net
> User-Agent: curl/8.5.0
> Accept: */*
< HTTP/1.1 200 OK
< Server: Apache-Coyote/1.1</pre>
< Set-Cookie: JSESSIONID=FBA8981BE87F5DB57047C1AB81D25332; Path=/; HttpOnly</pre>
< Content-Type: text/html;charset=ISO-8859-1
< Transfer-Encoding: chunked</pre>
< Date: Wed, 24 Jan 2024 12:52:27 GMT
```

Web Application Potentially Vulnerable to Clickjacking

Synopsis	Clickjacking, a subset of UI redressing, is a malicious technique whereby a web user is deceived into interacting (<i>in most cases by clicking</i>) with something other than what the user believes they are interacting with.
Description	While being logged in to some target system, the victim visits the adversary's malicious site which displays a UI that the victim wishes to interact with. The clickjacked page has a transparent layer above the visible UI with action controls that the adversary wishes the victim to execute. The victim clicks on buttons or other UI elements they see on the page which triggers the action controls in the transparent overlaying layer. Depending on what that action control is, the adversary may have just tricked the victim into executing some potentially privileged (and most certainly undesired) functionality in the target system to which the victim is authenticated
Prerequisites	 The victim is communicating with the target application via a web-based UI and not a thick client. The victim's browser security policies allow at least one of the following JavaScript, Flash, iFrames, ActiveX, or CSS. The victim uses a modern browser that supports UI elements like clickable buttons (i.e. not using an old text only browser) The victim has an active session with the target system. The target system's interaction window is open in the victim's browser and supports the ability for initiating sensitive actions on behalf of the user in the target system
Risk Factor	Medium
Solution	 Return the X-Frame-Options or Content-Security-Policy (with the 'frame-ancestors' directive) HTTP header with the page's response. This prevents the page's content from being rendered by another site when using the frame or iframe HTML tags

- 1. Open any text editor.
- 2. Create a new HTML file.
- 3. Enter the following code

- 4. Save and open this page in your browser.
- 5. If the landing page appears, this tells us about a clickjacking vulnerability.



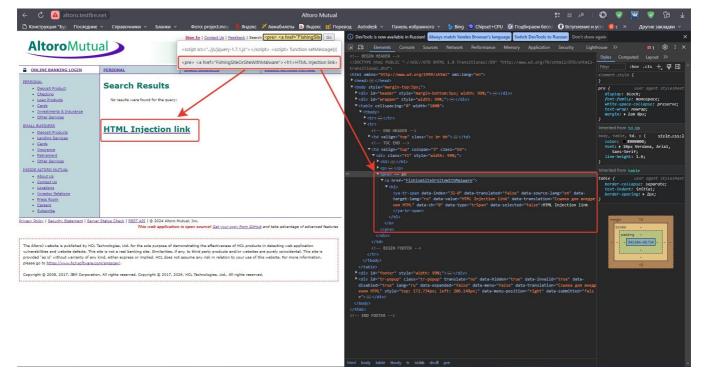
HTML Injections

Synopsis	The web application receives input from an upstream component, but it does not neutralize
-7	or incorrectly neutralizes special characters such as <, >, and & that could be interpreted as web-scripting elements when they are sent to a downstream component that processes web pages.
Description	This may allow such characters to be treated as control characters, which are executed client-side in the context of the user's session. Although this can be classified as an injection problem, the more pertinent issue is the improper conversion of such special characters to respective context-appropriate entities before displaying them to the user
Prerequisites	Development and implementation stage that the development team did not foresee.
Risk Factor	Medium
Solution	Carefully check each input parameter against a rigorous positive specification (<i>allowlist</i>) defining the specific characters and format allowed. All input should be neutralized, not just parameters that the user is supposed to specify, but all data in the request, including hidden fields, cookies, headers, the URL itself, and so forth. A common mistake that leads to continuing XSS vulnerabilities is to validate only fields that are expected to be redisplayed by the site

- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Enter the following code into the search bar.

```
 <a href="FishingSiteOrSiteWithMalware"><h1>HTML Injection link</h1></a>
```

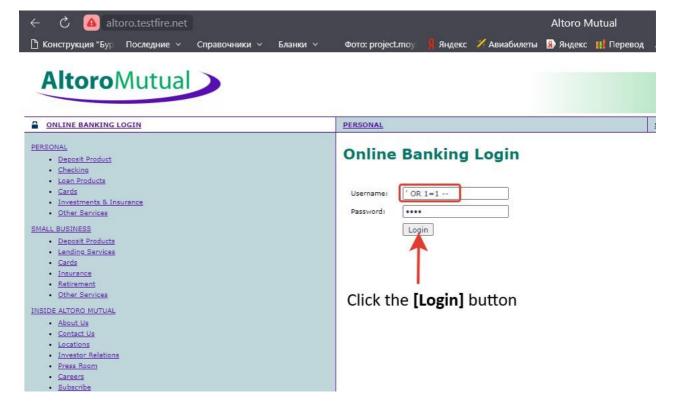
- 3. Press the [F12] button (to open the developer toolbar).
- 4. As we can see, our HTML code is injected in the DOM.

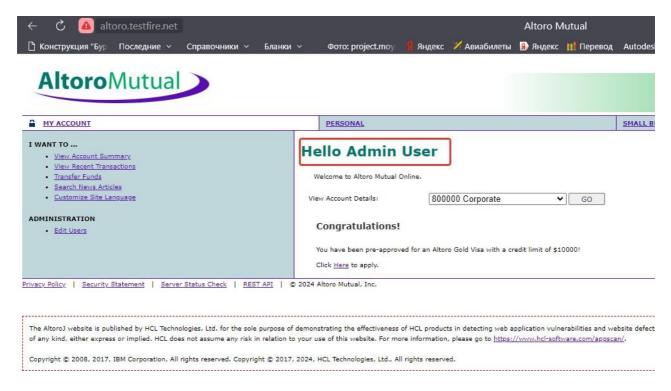


SQL Injections (Login bypass, Attack on Admin)

Synopsis	This attack exploits target software that constructs SQL statements based on user input. An attacker crafts input strings so that when the target software constructs SQL statements based on the input, the resulting SQL statement performs actions other than those the application intended. SQL Injection results from failure of the application to appropriately validate input.
Description	When specially crafted user-controlled input consisting of SQL syntax is used without proper validation as part of SQL queries, it is possible to glean information from the database in ways not envisaged during application design. Depending upon the database and the design of the application, it may also be possible to leverage injection to have the database execute system-related commands of the attackers' choice. SQL Injection enables an attacker to interact directly to the database, thus bypassing the application completely. Successful injection can cause information disclosure as well as ability to add or modify data in the database.
Prerequisites	 SQL queries used by the application to store, retrieve or modify data. User-controllable input that is not properly validated by the application as part of SQL queries
Risk Factor	High
Solution	 Strong input validation - All user-controllable input must be validated and filtered for illegal characters as well as SQL content. Keywords such as UNION, SELECT or INSERT must be filtered in addition to characters such as a single-quote (') or SQL-comments () based on the context in which they appear. Use of parameterized queries or stored procedures. Use of custom error pages - Attackers can glean information about the nature of queries from descriptive error messages.

- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Click the [Sign in] button.
- 3. Enter *Username*: OR 1=1 -- and *Password*: q to check for the SQLi vulnerability.





5. Total:

- 1. Successfully carried out an attack on the administrator,
- 2. Successfully **bypassed the logging** system,
- 3. All this became possible only thanks to the presence of the **SQL Injection** vulnerability.

Cookie Injection Scripting

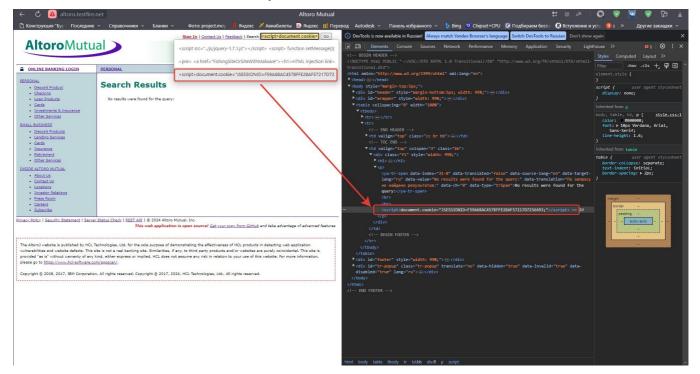
Synopsis	A web application that is potentially vulnerable to cookie attacks.
Description	The web application does not strip special characters from query strings, and an attacker could change the state of cookies to bypass authentication.
	By exploiting this issue, an attacker could inject arbitrary cookies or launch a "Session
	Fixation" attack.
Prerequisites	- Possibility of an XSS attack (<i>Cross-Site Scripting</i>) for the purpose of introducing malicious code
	- The CSRF security token is not used
	- The SID regeneration requirements is not performed for every request.
	- The Retrieve only server-generated SIDs attribut is missing.
	- The HttpOnly and SameSite cookie attribute is missing.
Risk Factor	Medium
Solution	- Restrict access to the vulnerable application.
	- Store state information and sensitive data on the server side only.
	- Ensure that the system definitively and unambiguously keeps track of its own state and user state and has rules defined for legitimate state transitions.
	- Do not allow any application user to affect state directly in any way other than through legitimate actions leading to state transitions.

Proof Of Concept (PoC):

- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Enter the following code into the search bar.

<script>document.cookie="JSESSIONID=F59A68AC457BFFE28AF57217D7256493;"
</script>

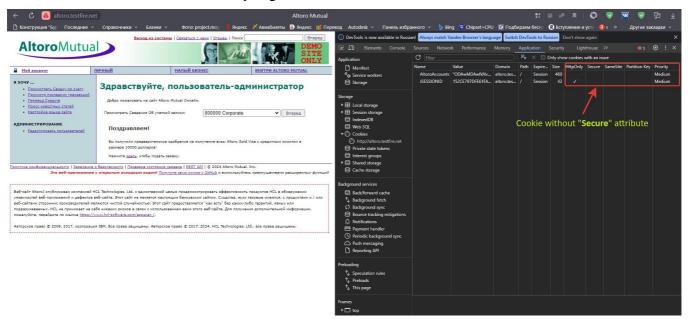
- 3. Press the [F12] button (to open the developer toolbar).
- 4. As we can see, our HTML code is injected in the DOM.



HTTP Cookie without 'Secure' attribute

Synopsis	HTTP session cookies might be transmitted in cleartext.
Description	The web application runs over unencrypted HTTP, or the cookies are not marked as "secure", which means that sensitive cookies are sent over an unencrypted channel. As a result, a remote attacker could intercept these cookies.
Prerequisites	The web application does not have a security certificate or is not configured correctly.
Risk Factor	Low
Solution	 Always set the secure attribute when the cookie should send via HTTPS only. Check your server configuration to always use HTTPS.

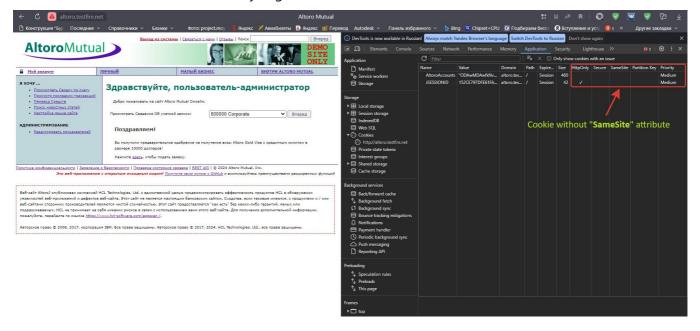
- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Press the [F12] button (to open the developer toolbar).
- 3. Go to the *Application/Storage* tab.
- 4. Expand the cookies menu.
- 5. We see that there are no security flags.



HTTP Cookie without 'SameSite' attribute

Synopsis	The SameSite attribute for sensitive cookies is not set, or an insecure value is used.
Description	The SameSite attribute controls how cookies are sent for cross-domain requests. This attribute may have three values: 'Lax', 'Strict', or 'None'. If the 'None' value is used, a website may create a cross-domain POST HTTP request to another website, and the browser automatically adds cookies to this request. This may lead to Cross-Site-Request- Forgery (CSRF) attacks if there are no additional protections in place (such as Anti-CSRF tokens).
Prerequisites	The web application does not have a security certificate or is not configured correctly.
Risk Factor	Low
Solution	 Always set the secure attribute when the cookie should send via HTTPS only. Check your server configuration to always use HTTPS.

- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Press the [F12] button (to open the developer toolbar).
- 3. Go to the Application/Storage tab.
- 4. Expand the cookies menu.
- 5. We see that there are no security flags.



XSS

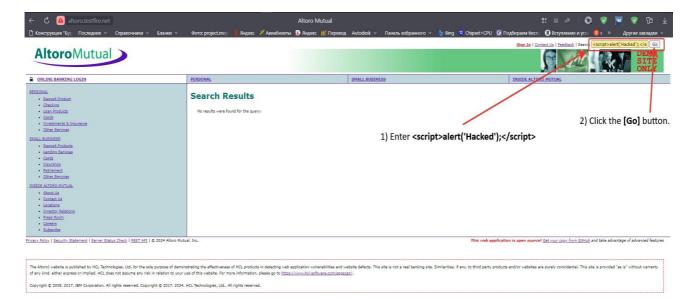
Synopsis The web application doesn't neutralize or incorrectly neutralizes user-controllable input before it is placed in output that is used as a web page that is served to other users. Description Once the malicious script is injected, the attacker can perform a variety of malicious activities. The attacker could transfer private information, such as cookies that may include session information, from the victim's machine to the attacker. The attacker could send malicious requests to a web site on behalf of the victim, which could be especially dangerous to the site if the victim has administrator privileges to manage that site. Phishing attacks could be used to emulate trusted web sites and trick the victim into entering a password, allowing the attacker to compromise the victim's account on that web site. Finally, the script could exploit a vulnerability in the web browser itself possibly taking over the victim's machine, sometimes referred to as "drive-by hacking". **Prerequisites** - Untrusted data enters a web application, typically from a web request. - The web application dynamically generates a web page that contains this untrusted data. - During page generation, the application does not prevent the data from containing content that is executable by a web browser, such as JavaScript, HTML tags, HTML attributes, mouse events, Flash, ActiveX, etc. - A victim visits the generated web page through a web browser, which contains malicious script that was injected using the untrusted data. - Since the script comes from a web page that was sent by the web server, the victim's web browser executes the malicious script in the context of the web server's domain. - This effectively violates the intention of the web browser's same-origin policy, which states that scripts in one domain should not be able to access resources or run code in a different domain. **Risk Factor** High **Solution** - If available, use structured mechanisms that automatically enforce the separation between data and code. These mechanisms may be able to provide the relevant quoting, encoding, and validation automatically, instead of relying on the developer to provide this capability at every point where output is generated. - To help mitigate XSS attacks against the user's session cookie, set the session cookie to be HttpOnly. In browsers that support the HttpOnly feature - Assume all input is malicious. Use an "accept known good" input validation strategy, i.e., use a list of acceptable inputs that strictly conform to specifications. Reject any input that does not strictly conform to specifications or transform it into something that does.

Proof Of Concept (PoC):

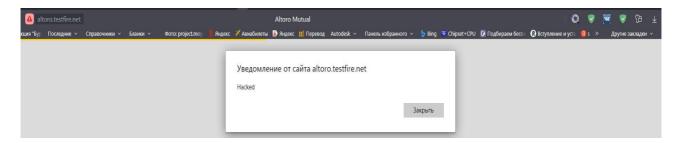
- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Enter the following code into the search bar.

<script>alert('Hacked');</script>

3. Click the [Go] button.



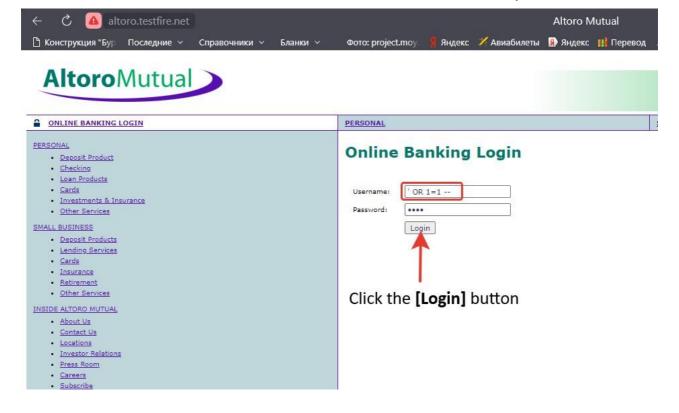
4. As a result, the message "Hacked" will appear.



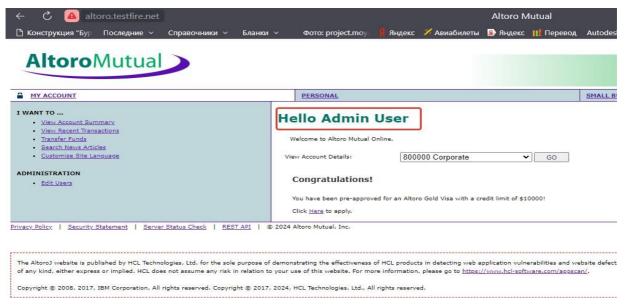
Absence of Anti-CSRF Tokens

No Anti-CSRF tokens were found in a HTML submission form. **Synopsis** Description A cross-site request forgery is an attack that involves forcing a victim to send an HTTP request to a target destination without their knowledge or intent to perform an action as the victim. The underlying cause is application functionality using predictable URL/form actions in a repeatable way. The nature of the attack is that CSRF exploits the trust that a web site has for a user. By contrast, cross-site scripting (XSS) exploits the trust that a user has for a web site. Like XSS, CSRF attacks are not necessarily cross-site, but they can be. Cross-site request forgery is also known as CSRF, XSRF, one-click attack, session riding, confused deputy, and sea surf. - The victim has an active session on the target site. **Prerequisites** - The victim is authenticated via HTTP auth on the target site. - The victim is on the same local network as the target site. **Risk Factor** Medium Solution - Use a vetted library or framework that does not allow this weakness to occur or provides constructs that make this weakness easier to avoid. - Ensure that your application is free of cross-site scripting issues, because most CSRF defenses can be bypassed using attacker-controlled script. - Generate a unique nonce for each form, place the nonce into the form, and verify the nonce upon receipt of the form. Be sure that the nonce is not predictable. - Check the HTTP Referrer header to see if the request originated from an expected page. This could break legitimate functionality, because users or proxies may have disabled sending the Referrer for privacy reasons.

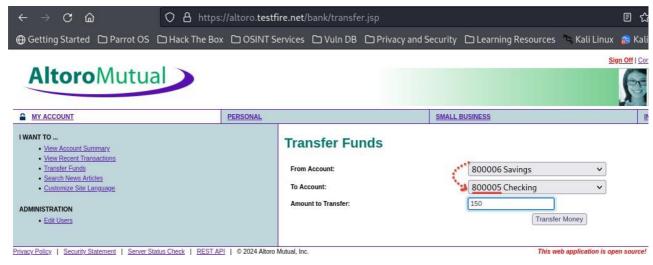
- 1. Open the website https://altoro.testfire.net.
- 2. Click the [Sign in] button.
- 3. Enter Username: OR 1=1 -- and Password: q to check for the SQLi vulnerability.



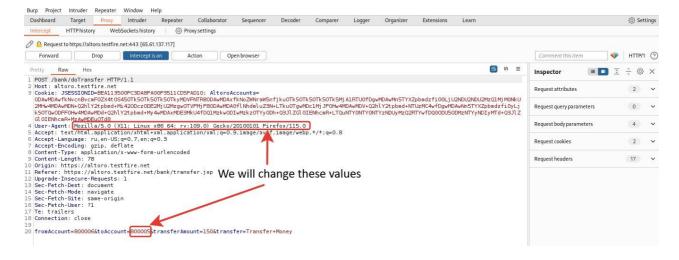
4. Click the [Login] button.



- 5. Go to the "Transfer Funds" page.
- 6. Prepare a transaction from user 800006 to 800005 for 150.



- 7. To get the admin session ID, launch the "Burp Suite".
- 8. Go to the "Proxy" tab.
- 9. Click the [Intercept is Off] button (to activate interception).
- 10. Return to the browser and click the [Transfer money] button.
- 11. At this moment, the traffic is intercepted and we, in the person of the attacker, receive the administrator's session ID.



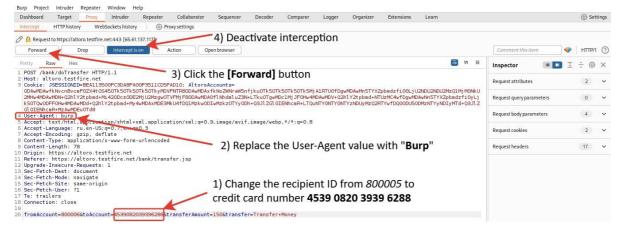
12. To confirm that the request came from a location other than the user's browser, replace the User-Agent

value with Burp.

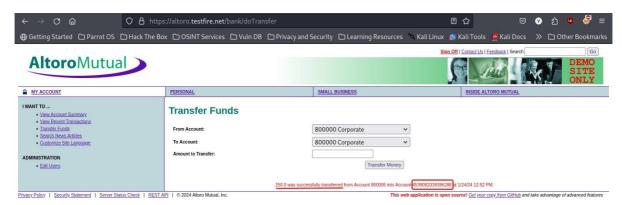
IMPORTANT:

If there was a form authentication system, attempts to **manipulate data from another location** would be impossible!

- 13. To change the recipient, change the recipient ID from 800005 to the credit card number 4539082039396288.
- 14. Click the [Forward] button.
- 15. Click the [Intercept is on] button (to disable interception).



- 16. Let's return to the browser.
- 17. A message at the bottom of the page indicates that the amount of "150.0 was successfully transferred from Account 800006 into 4539082039396288" instead of user account 800005.



18. Open the "View Recent Transactions" page and make sure once again that the system performed actions not on behalf of the user, but on behalf of the attacker.

