

CSC 583 Advanced Topics in Computer Security

Intro to Web Security

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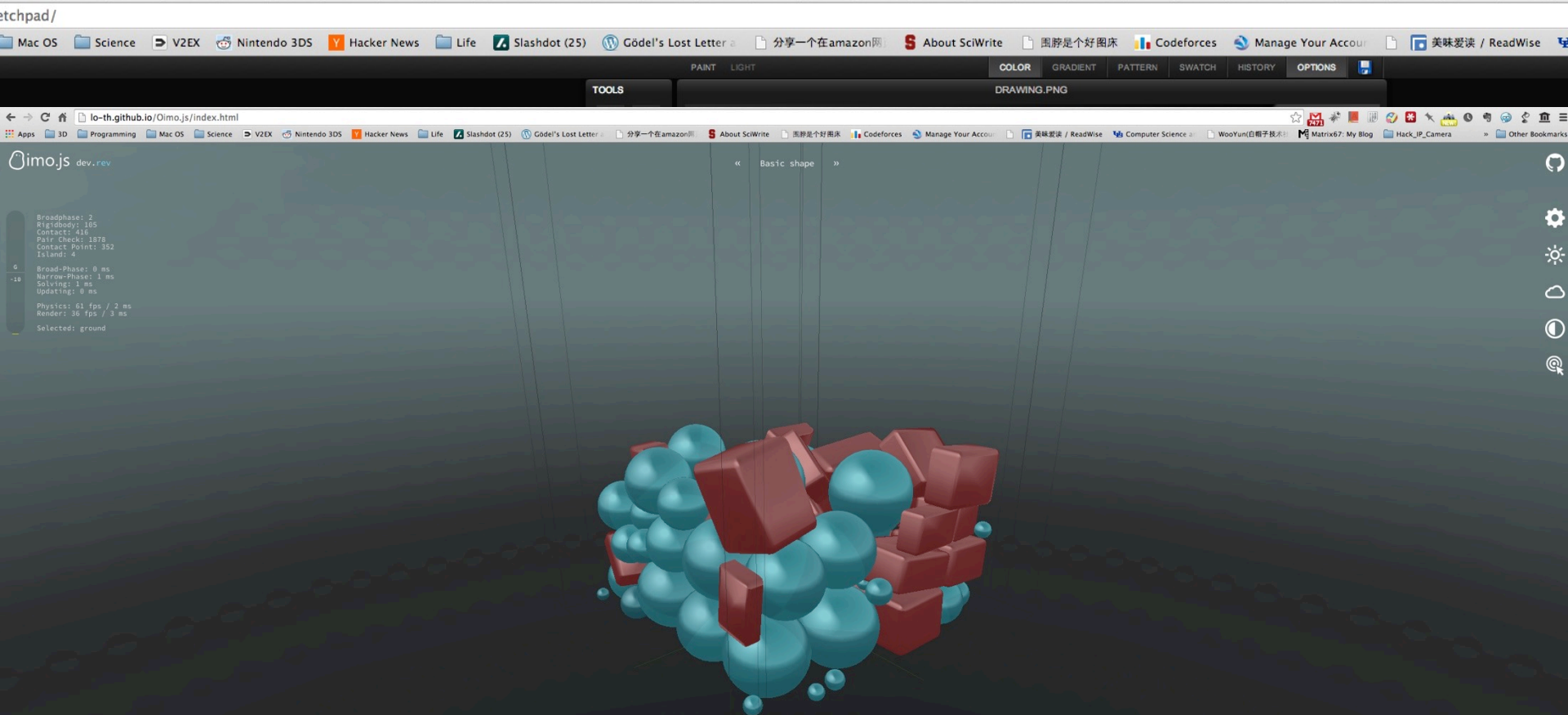
The Evolution of Web Applications

- In the early days of the Internet, the World Wide Web (WWW) consisted only of websites.
 - essentially information repositories containing static documents.



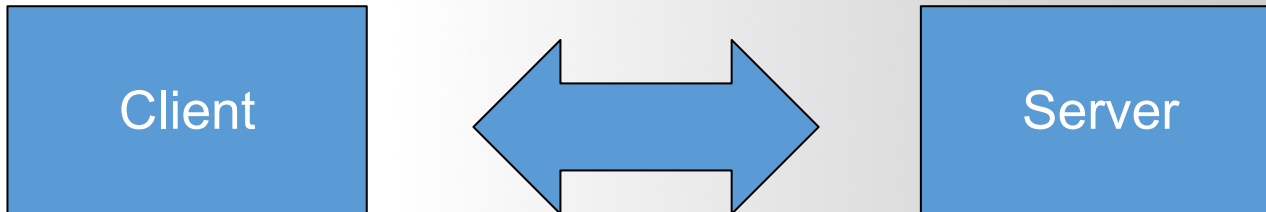
The Evolution of Web Applications

- Today, the majority of sites on the web are in fact applications.
 - Highly functional
 - Rely on two-way flow of information between the server and browser.



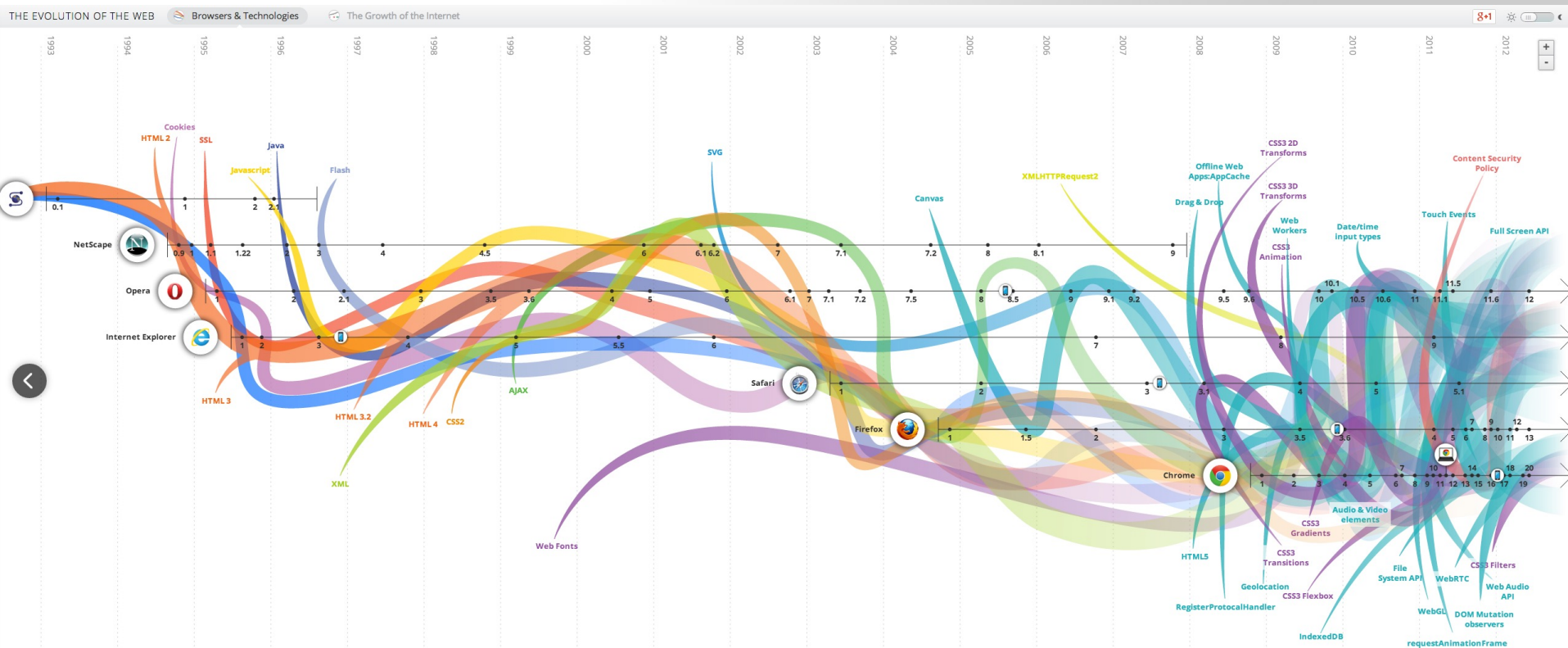
THE WEB IS SIMPLE

- Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP)
- Designed to allow remote document retrieval
- Simple client server model:



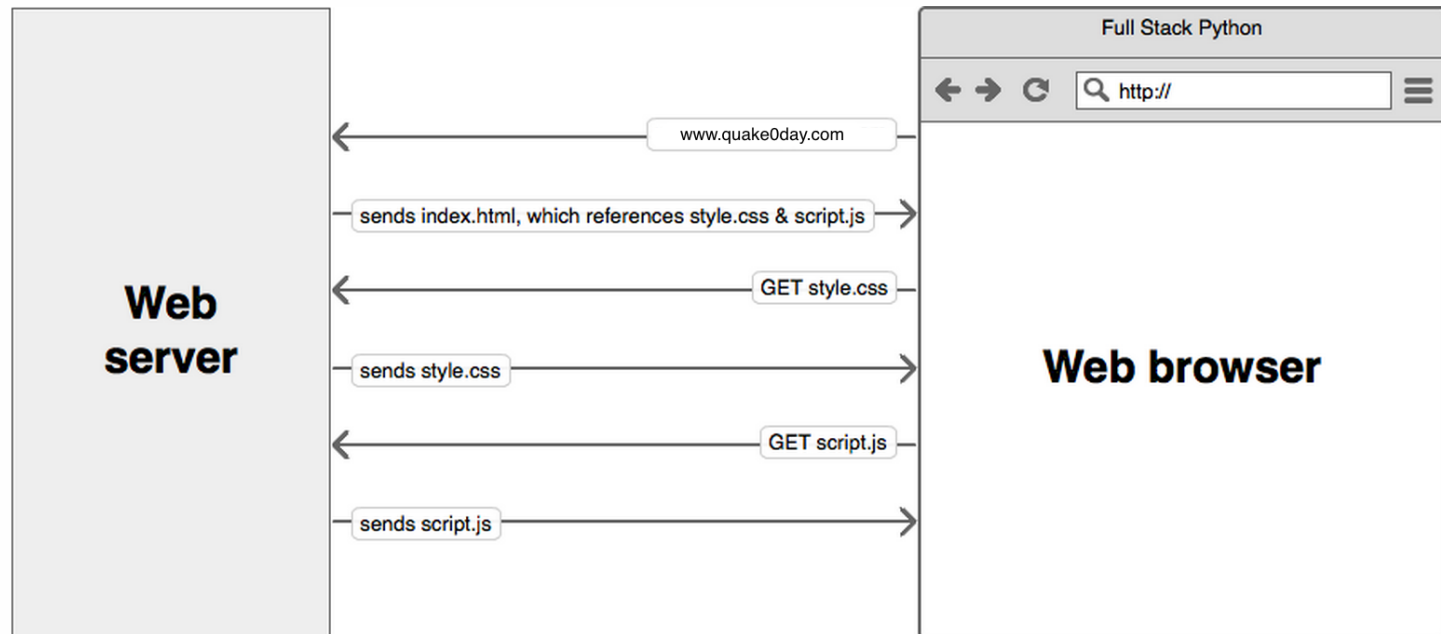
The Reality

- Web application security is massively complex.
- Constant evolving field
 - ES6, ES8, HTML5, CSS3, AJAX...



Typical Web Application Stack

- Browser (client)
- HTTP over TCP/IP
- Server
 - Operating system
 - Web Server
 - Scripting Language
 - Database or persistence layer



Just the client

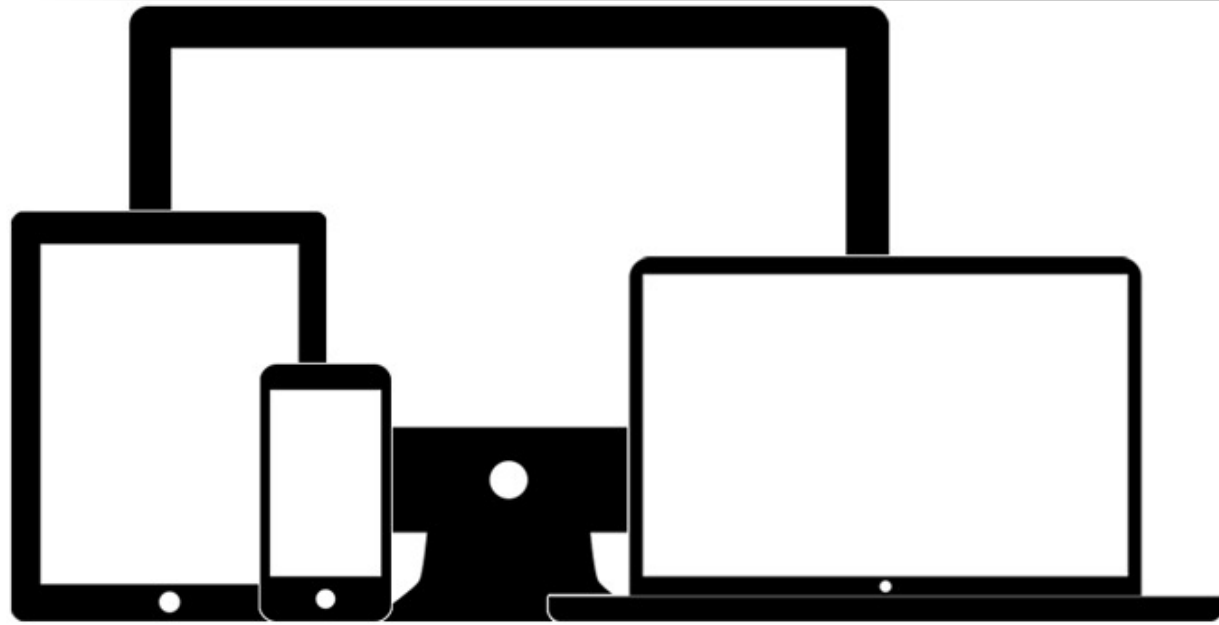
- Many different clients, all implementing differently (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, IE, Safari, Opera, etc...)
- The breakdown of the client-server divide
 - The functional boundaries between client and server responsibilities were quickly eroded

JavaScript

1. JavaScript allows for client side programming (responsive user interface (UI))
2. Plug-in's allow for store data locally (jStorage)
3. AJAX allows display multiple HTML sources in one page

Fertile Ground

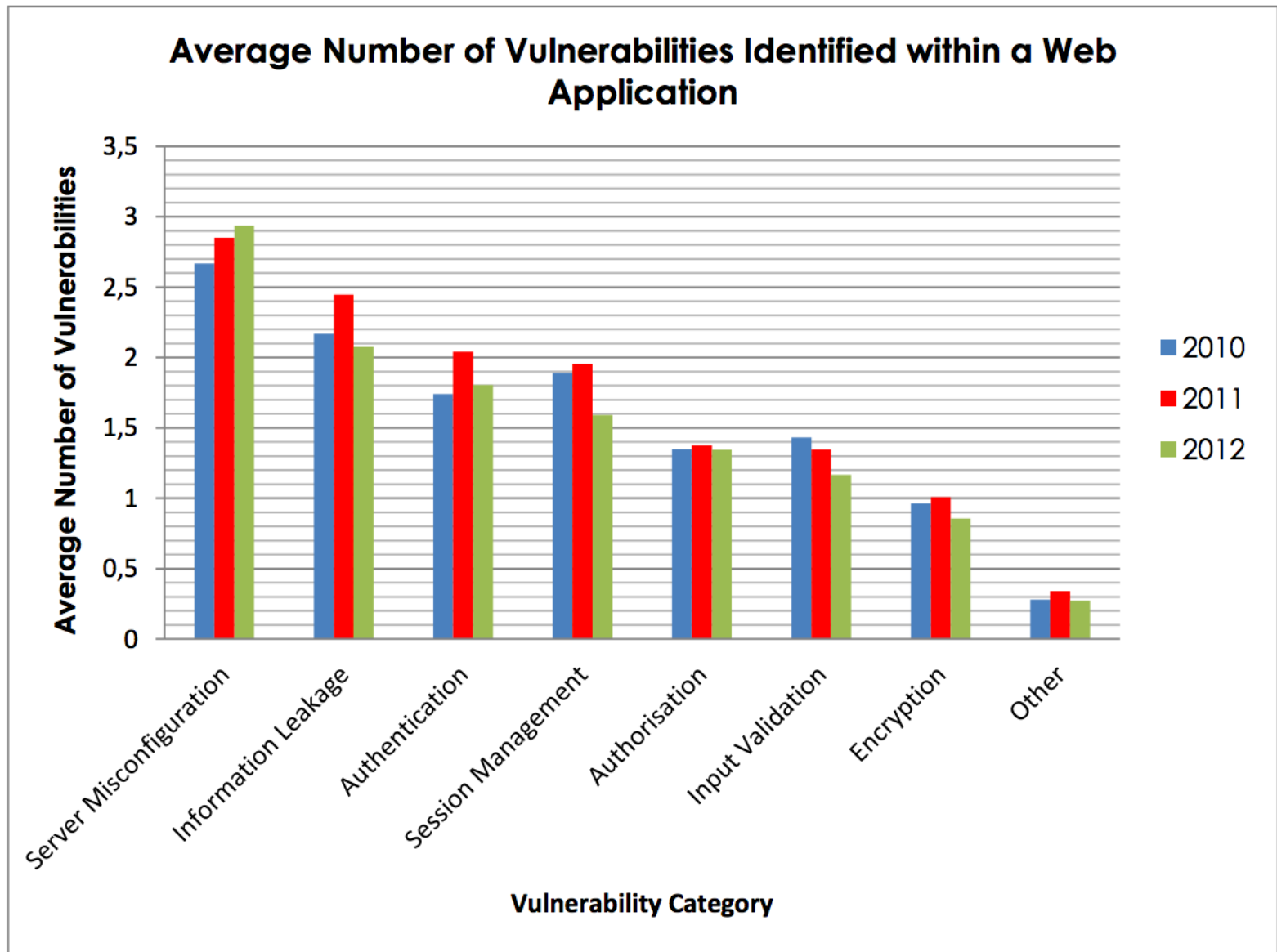
- Web application security is massively complex in reality:
 - Security researchers specialize in specific portions of the stack
 - Protocols and specs exist but aren't implemented uniformly
 - The platforms are changing
 - Smartphone, tablets, embedded systems, etc...



What's Worse

- In the browser world, the separation between high-level data objects (documents), user-level code (applications) is virtually nonexistent.
- Firewalls become irrelevant as everything flows over port 80 (http), 443 (https)
- Web is becoming the default content and application deliver mechanism

Average Number of Vulnerabilities Identified within a Web Application

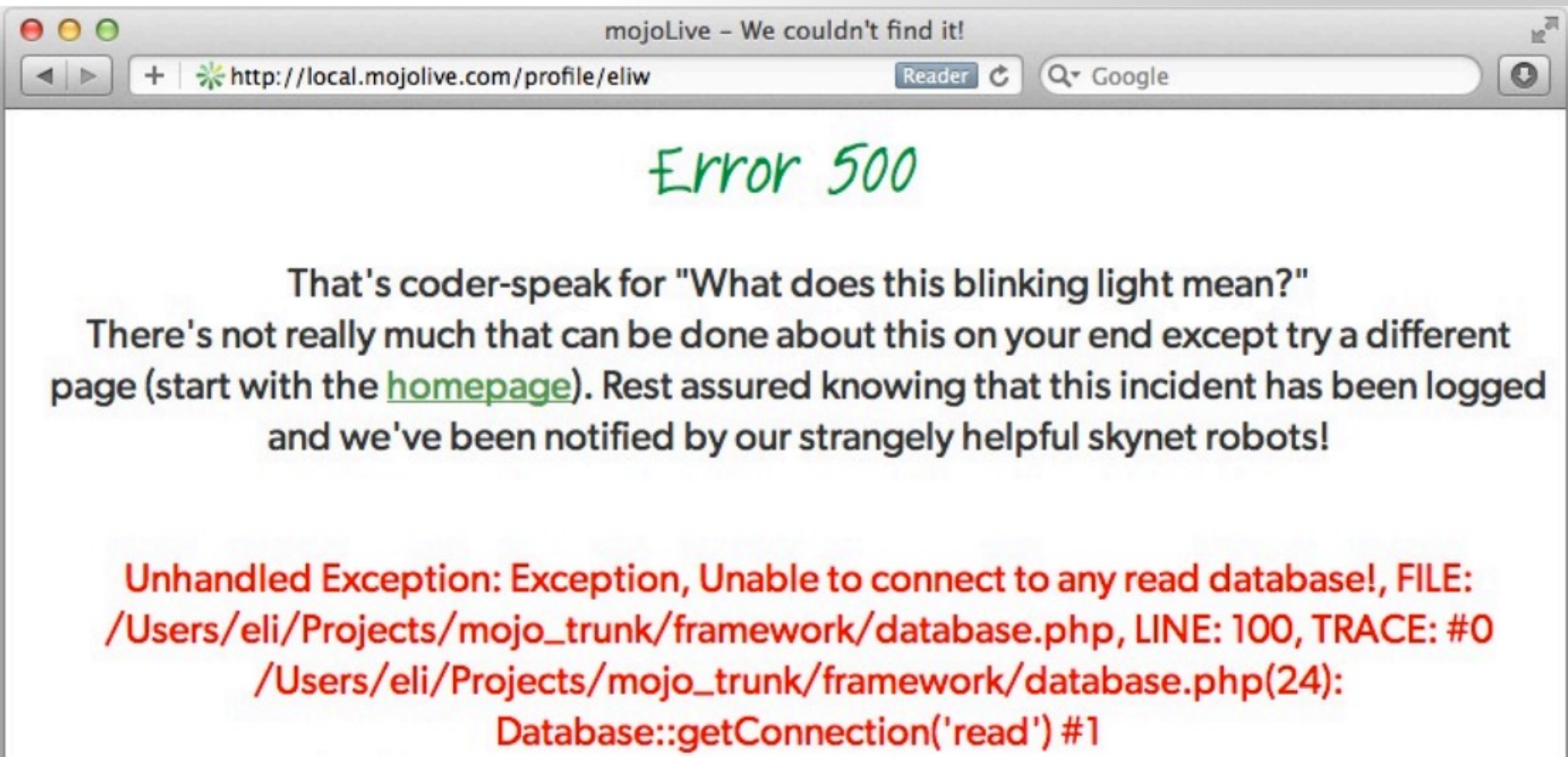


Categories of Vulnerability

Category	Description
Server configuration	Insecure server configuration settings that result in security vulnerabilities
Information leakage	Information leaked by the application that could be used by an attacker to help mount an attack
Authentication weaknesses	Issues related to the application's authentication mechanism that could be exploited by an unauthenticated attacker to gain or assist in the gaining of authenticated access
Session management weaknesses	Session management issues that could allow an attacker to hijack or assist in the hijacking of other users' sessions
Authorisation weaknesses	Issues concerning access controls that could allow an attacker to perform either horizontal or vertical privilege escalation
Input validation weaknesses	Issues created by weaknesses in input validation processes.
Encryption vulnerabilities	Issues that concern the confidentiality of data during transport and in storage
Other	Any other issues identified that do not fit into the categories listed above

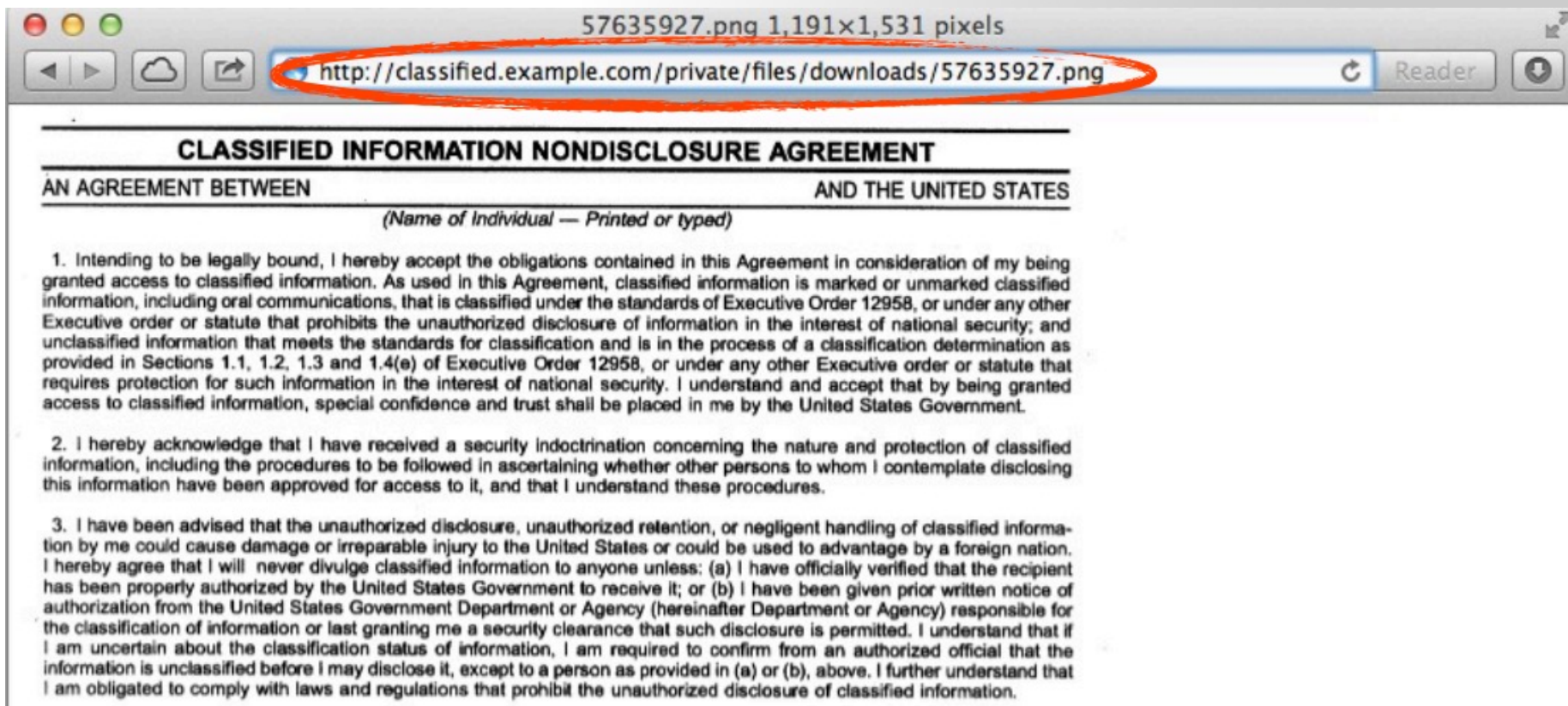
Information Leakage

Visible Error Handling



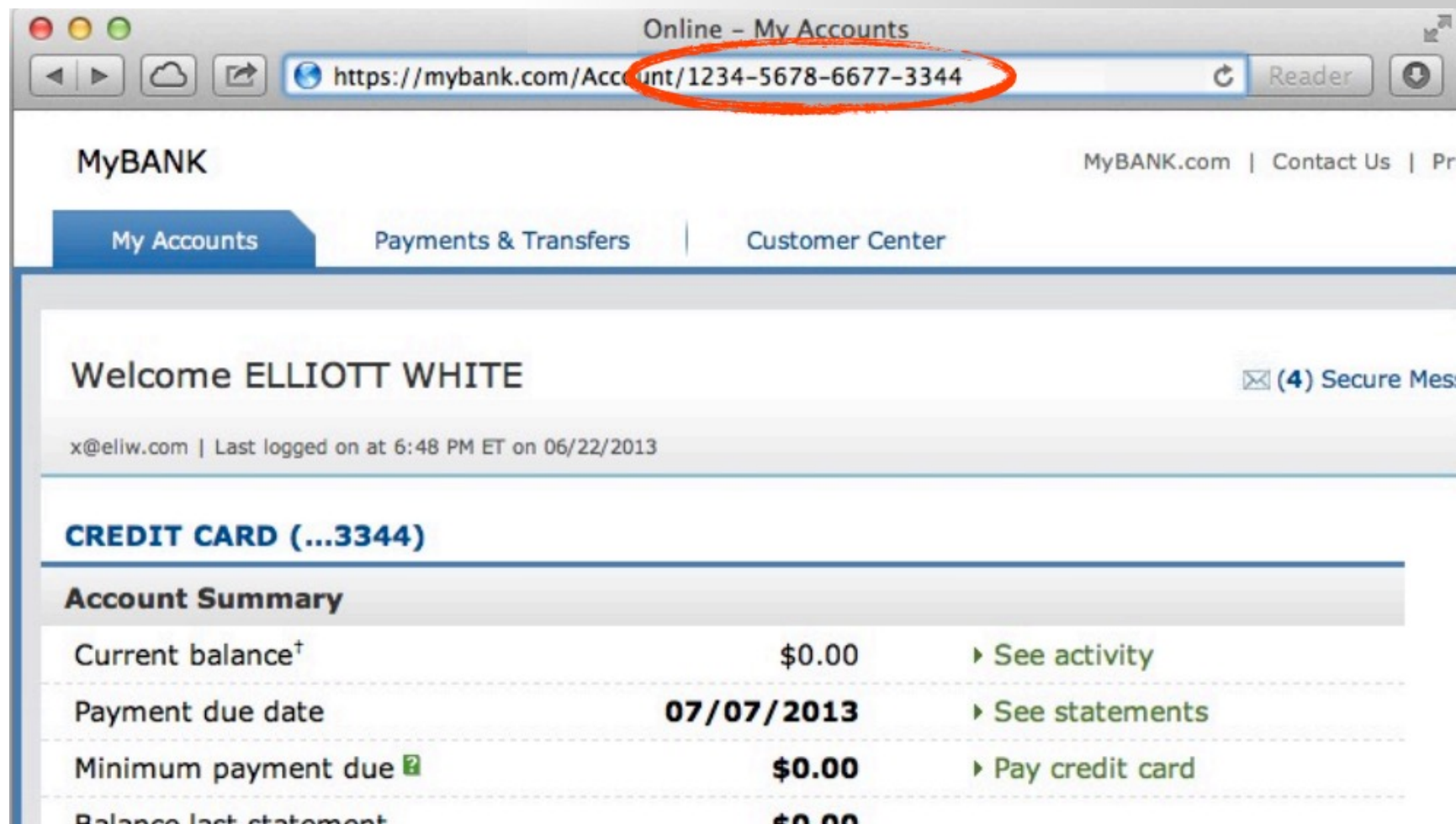
Authentication Weakness

Direct URL access to a protected file



Authentication Weakness

Ability to URL-hack to access unauthorized data.



Encryption Vulnerabilities

Low Security Hashes

1. Don't just use MD5 (use SHA256, Blowfish, etc...) Even SHA-1 is better
2. Always salt your hashes

Reverse Hash Calculator

[Back to Tools](#) | [Background](#) | [Search Form](#) | [Last 20 Hashes](#)

Background

This page doesn't use rainbow tables (yet), but a similar, simpler approach. It uses a database of a couple million pre-compiled hash values. The strings used come from various password databases, and should have a pretty good chance of "hitting" your value. There is an intentional delay in the response to limit the load on our database.

Please be patient.

Search Form

NOTE: This tool is limited to 20 queries per IP address per time period.

md5 hash 03c91e2d0e8b5f4ad25c3f254eb37135 = enis

Enter a md5 or sha1 hash:

03c91e2d0e8b5f4ad25c3f254eb37135

---- OR ----

Add a plain text word to database (do not enter hash):

Submit

Current "Hit Rate": 100 %

Size of database: 20,274,853 words

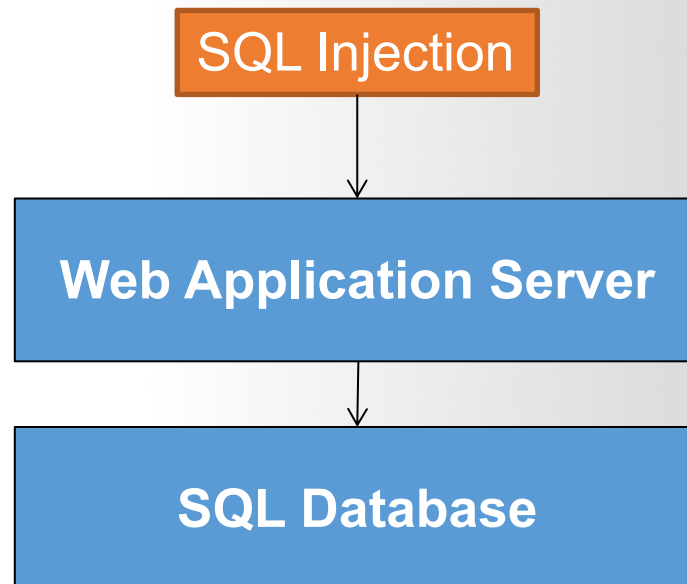
If our tool doesn't provide a solution, try the free rainbow tables tool at <http://www.freerainbowtables.com> (opens in new window)

Various Attack Vectors

Now moving on to true 'attacks'....

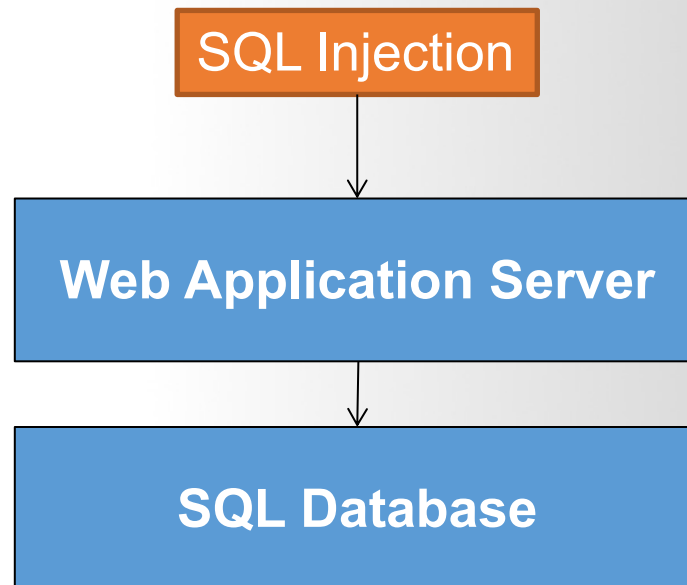
Attacking Data Stores: SQL Injection

- **SQL** stands for Structured Query Language.
- **SQL** is used to communicate with a database.



Attacking Data Stores: SQL Injection

- It is common to build an SQL Database query based in part on a user submission.
 - User submits a login request, we need to check the database for a matching account.
- Malicious user know we will be building an SQL query.
 - They can attempt to confuse the Database server by putting in special characters



Attacking Data Stores: SQL Injection

- A user having the ability to send data that is directly interpreted by your SQL engine.

The Security Hole:

```
<?php
    $pdo->query("SELECT * FROM users
        WHERE name = '{$_POST['name']}' AND pass = '{$_POST['pass']}'");
?>
```

The Attack:

```
<?php
    $_GET['name'] = "' or 1=1; //" ;
?>
```

```
<?php
    $pdo->query("SELECT * FROM users
        WHERE name = ' or 1=1; //AND pass = '{$_POST['pass']}'");
?>
```

 **Always "True"**

Attacking Data Stores: SQL Injection

- Sanitize every value received from the user.
 - Make sure there is no funny business going on
 - Makes any string safe to put in a query

The Solution:

```
<?php
$query = $pdo->prepare("SELECT * FROM users WHERE name = ? AND pass = ?");
$query->execute(array($_POST['name'], $_POST['pass']));
?>
```

OR:

```
<?php
$name = $pdo->quote($_POST['name']);
$pass = $pdo->quote($_POST['pass']);
$pdo->query("SELECT * FROM users WHERE name = {$name} AND pass = {$pass}");
?>
```

Attacking Data Stores: SQL Injection



Logon page that shows an SQL injection string

Other Injections

- **Command Injection:** The user being able to inject code into a command line
- **Unchecked File Uploads:** The user being allowed to upload an executable file.
- **Code Injection:** User being able to directly inject code.

```
<?php
$retval = exec('echo "$line" >> logfile.txt');
?>
```

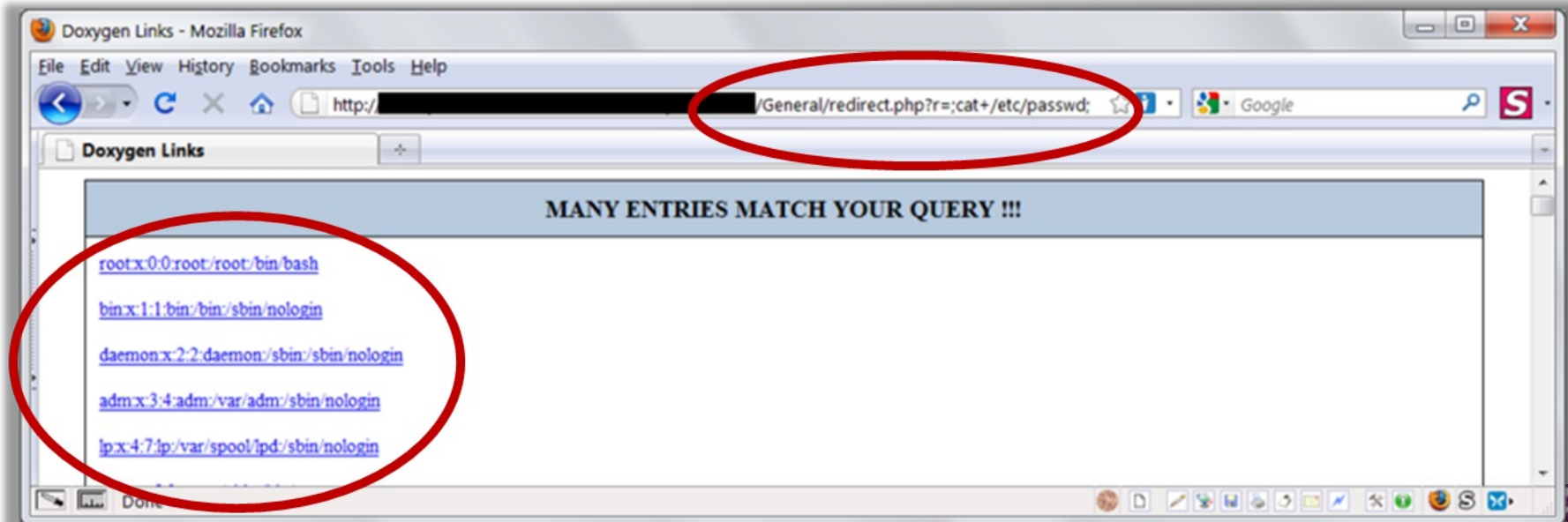
becomes

```
<?php
$retval = exec('echo ""; rm -rf *; echo "" >> logfile.txt');
?>
```



Other Injection

- **Command Injection:** The user being able to inject code into a command line
- **Unchecked File Uploads:** The user being allowed to upload an executable file.
- **Code Injection:** User being able to directly inject code.



Real World Attacks

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb8-0zGiE7A>

Real World Attacks

```
[exploit@zer0-day code]$ ./bxcp http://www.bxcp.com gh0st:66  
h0n1g:b5aa2b48dbea8988e09add46b4cbf68  
dasB&ouml;se:e20adc3949ba59abbe56e057f20f8851  
hajo:811fe6c28526e72589981c923d51821e  
Dinniz:a36fe0898c0a91541d7bbcd24f853091  
kevinek:345d52aee878b0bab3c084ef179474ef  
Xale:318d675f09cb6b9d7944088990eb6213  
PrivateMike:23c14f311a60486b36f79f3bc962be36  
Species8472:336327a91ffaa7d53f1f0b42424c0c3g  
exxistenz:313edbddd4450ffc7bde632c122d961  
DxBlueIce:c1e26c579de0f76d181168a7dc5f9711  
[exploit@zer0-day code]$ ./bxcp http://www.bxcp.com gh0st:66 > dump.pwd
```

MD5 Result

Md5: b5aa2b48dbea8988e09add46b4cbf68
Result: voodoo

Attacking Session Management: Session Hijacking

- The HTTP protocol is essentially stateless. It is based on a simple request-response model.
- Majority of web applications allow you to register and log in. To implement this functionality, web apps need to use the concept of a **session**.
- The vulnerabilities that exists in session management mechanisms largely fall into two categories:
 - Weakness in the generation of session tokens
 - Weakness in the handling of session tokens throughout their life cycle

Attacking Session Management: Session Hijacking

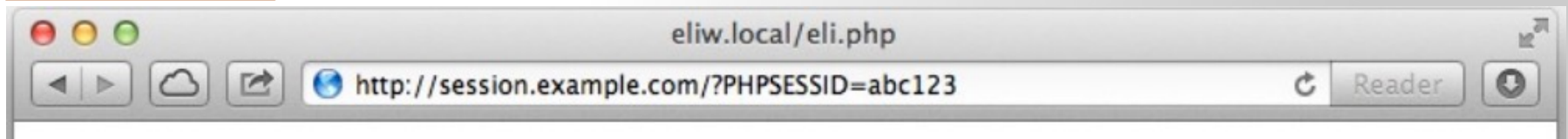
- One user 'becoming' another by taking over their session via impersonation.
 - Avoid “session Fixation”, don't use URL cookies for your sessions
 - Always regenerates Session IDs on a change of access level
 - Save an anti-hijack token to another cookie & session. Require it to be present & match. Salt on unique data (such as User Agent)



Attacking Session Management: Session Hijacking

A user being able to provide a known session ID to another user.

The Attack:



The Solution:

Don't use cookies for your sessions.

Protect from more complicated fixation attacks, by regenerating sessions on change of access level.

Use anti-hijack measures to ensure user is legit

Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

- The attacks we have considered so far involve directly targeting the server-side application.
- Many of these attacks do impinge upon other users, such as SQL injection. But the attacker's essential methodology was to **interact with the server** in unexpected ways to perform unauthorized actions and access unauthorized data.
- Cross-site scripting, however, are in a different category.
- The attacker's primary target: **the application's other users.**

Basic idea: A user sending data that is executed as script

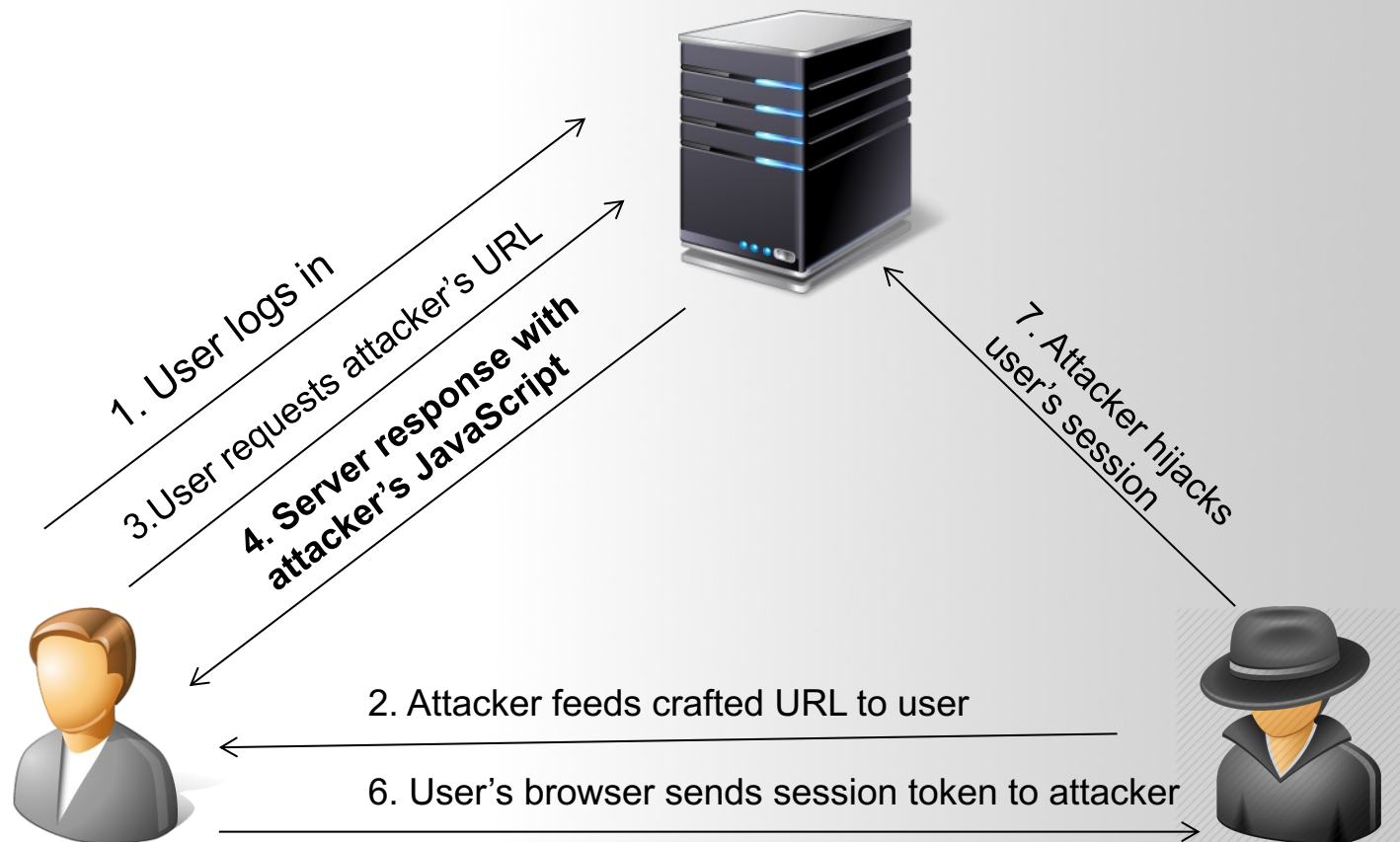
Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

- XSS vulnerabilities come in various forms and may be divided into three varieties: reflected, stored, and DOM-based.
- They have important differences in how they can be identified and exploited.
- In all cases: **Everything** from a user is suspect (forms, user-agent, headers, etc) when fixing, escape to the situation (HTML, JS, XML, etc)
FIEO (Filter Input, Escape Output)
- We will examine each variety of XSS in turn.

Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

XSS- Reflected XSS:

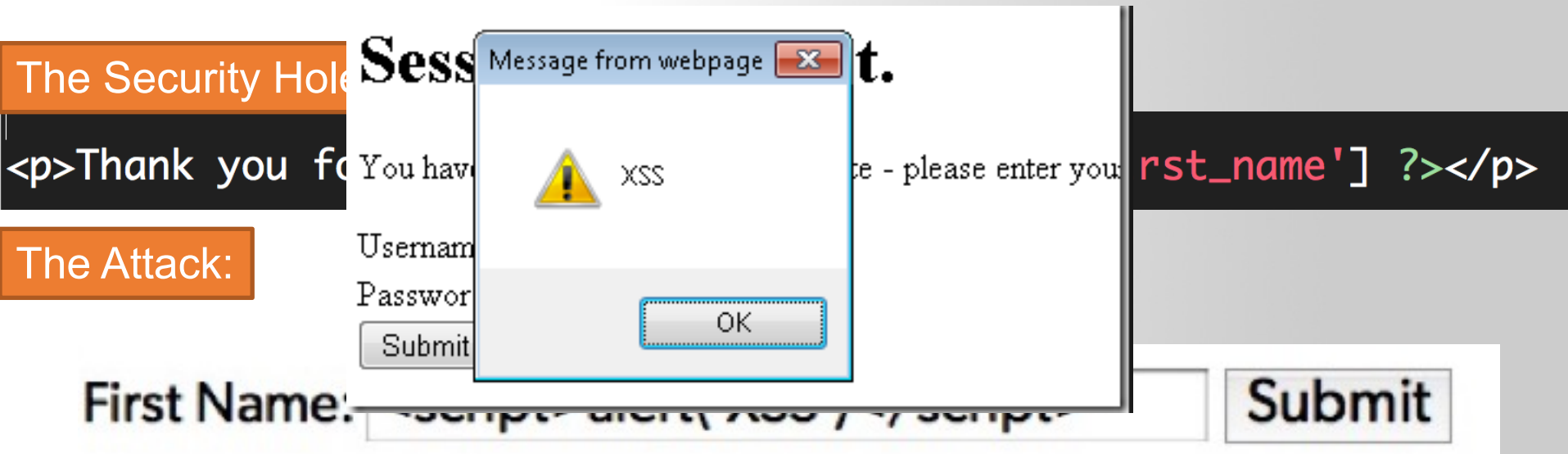
Directly echoing back content from the user.



Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

XSS- Reflected XSS:

Directly echoing back content from the user.



This type of simple XSS bug accounts for approximately 75% of the XSS vulnerabilities that exists in real-world web apps. It is called reflected XSS because exploiting the vulnerability involves crafting a request containing embedded JavaScript that is reflected to **any user who makes the requests**

XSS- Reflected XSS:

Directly echoing back content from the user.



`http://twitter.com/index.php?%75%73%65%72%3D%3C%73%63%72%69%70%74%3E%61%6C%65%72%74%28%31%32%33%29%3C%2F%73%63%72%69%70%74%3E`



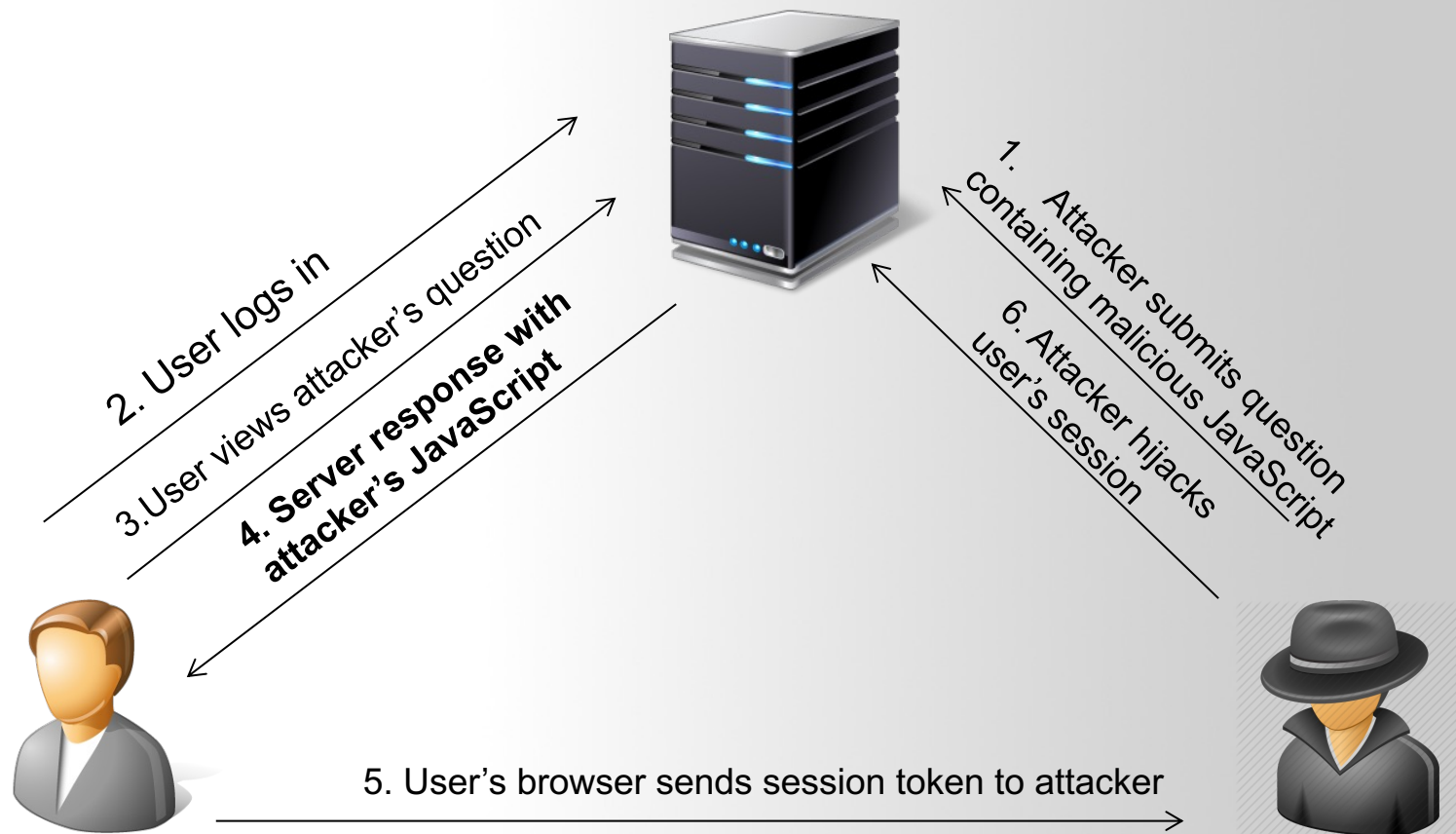
Twitter?

`http://twitter.com/index.php?user=<script>alert(123)</script>`

Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

XSS- Stored XSS:

You store the data, then later display it.



Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

XSS- Stored XSS:

You store the data, then later display it.

The Security Hole:

```
<?php
    $query = $pdo->prepare("UPDATE users SET first = ? WHERE id = 42");
    $query->execute(array($_POST['first_name']));
?>

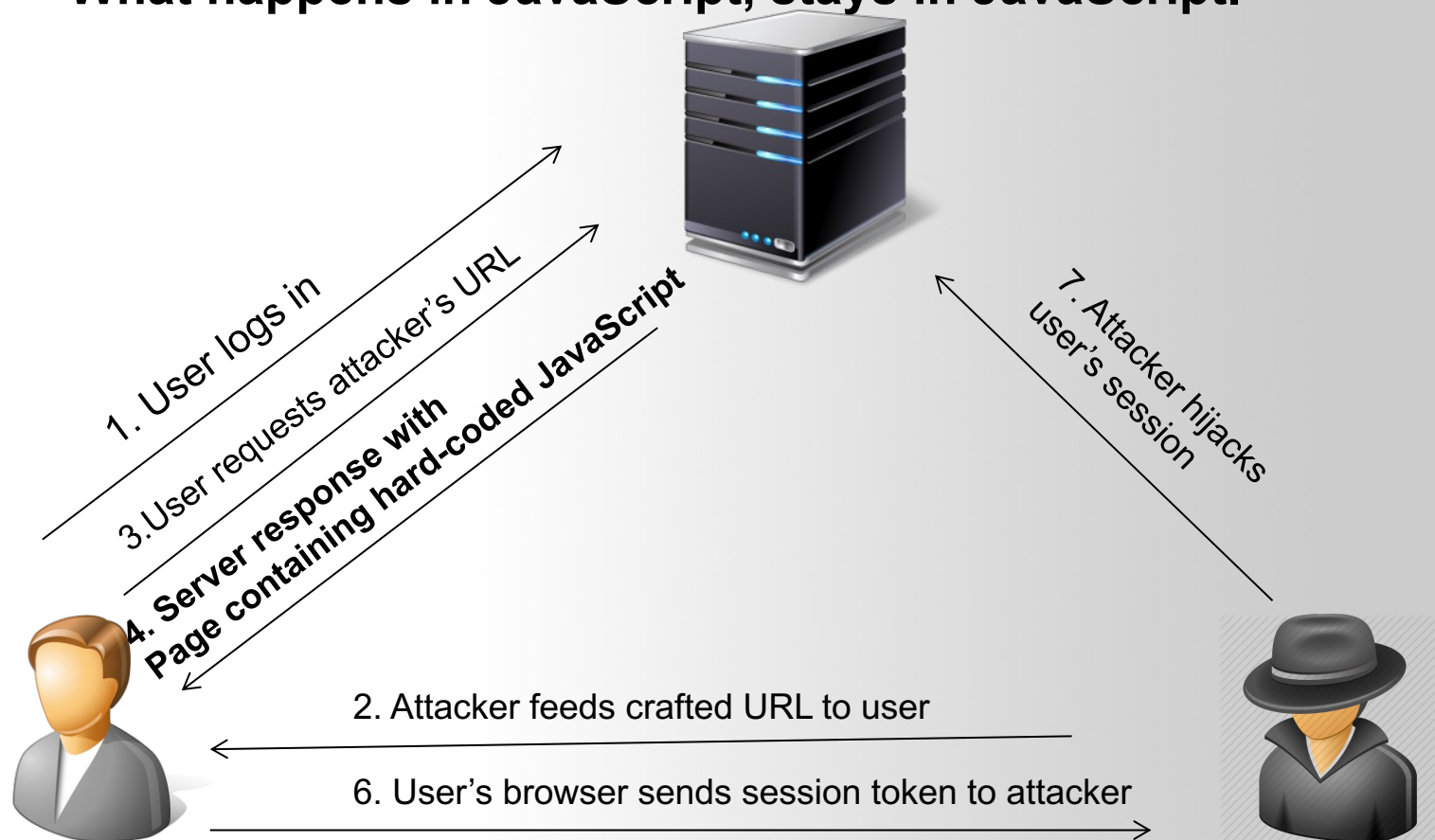
.....

<?php
$result = $pdo->query("SELECT * FROM users WHERE id = 42"); $user = $result-
>fetchObject();
?>
<p>Welcome to <?= $user->first ?>'s Profile</p>
```


Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

XSS- DOM XSS:

What happens in JavaScript, stays in JavaScript.



Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

XSS- DOM XSS:

What happens in JavaScript, stays in JavaScript.

1. A user requests a crafted URL supplied by the attacker and containing embedded JavaScript
2. The server's response does not contain the attacker's script in any form
3. When the user's browser process this response, the script is executed nonetheless.

XSS- DOM XSS:

What happens in JavaScript, stays in JavaScript.

The Security Hole:

```
<script>
  $('#verify').submit(function() {
    var first = $(this).find("input[name=first]").val();
    $(body).append("<p>Thanks for the submission: " + first + "</p>");
    return false;
  });
</script>
```

XSS is Everywhere

- XSS is by far the most prevalent web app vulnerability
- XSS is often misunderstood because the proof of concept (pop-up) doesn't demonstrate true attacker capability
- XSS can lead to reputational damage, denial of service, and chained exploit.
- XSS can be used against site administrators

Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Real-world Scenario of XSS Attack

Facebook makes use of PHP scripts. The following script became vulnerable to cross-site scripting some time in July 2010:

www.facebook.com/ads/create/photos/creative_uploader.php

This script takes various parameters, one of which (controller_id) was writing user input directly inside a script tag. Take the following URL as example:

`www.facebook.com/ads/create/photos/creative_uploader.php?controller_id=c4c288b438ed080&path=whatever&src=whatever&vol=90&w=60&h=80&post_upload=1`

```
<script>
...
onloadRegister(function ()
{window.parent.__UIControllerRegistry["c4c288b438ed080"].saveUploadedImage("whatever",
"whatever", 90, 60, 80);});
...
</script>
```

Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Real-world Scenario of XSS Attack

By inserting a double quote, an attacker is able to **escape** the Array's key string and insert JavaScript directly within a page on facebook.com.

```
<script>
...
onloadRegister(function ()
{window.parent.__UIControllerRegistry["c4c288b438ed080"].saveUploadedImage("whatever",
"whatever", 90, 60, 80);});
...
</script>
```

```
controller_id=test"]}); alert("facebook test"); //
```

```
<script>
...
onloadRegister(function (){window.parent.__UIControllerRegistry["test"]}); alert("facebook
test"); //"].saveUploadedImage("whatever", "whatever", 90, 60, 80);});
...
</script>
```

Attacking Users: Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Real-world Scenario of XSS Attack

<https://www.acunetix.com/websitesecurity/xss-facebook/>

The screenshot illustrates a real-world XSS attack on a Facebook chat interface. The main chat window shows a message from Josephine Smith dated July 11 at 4:01pm. The message content is "This is the top secret body," which is highlighted in blue. Below the message, the name "Josephine," is visible. A secondary window titled "Acuat Tack" is open, displaying the raw HTML of the message. The HTML shows the subject "Secret message for you" and the message body "This is the top secret body,

Josephine,
xxxx". The injected script is clearly visible in the HTML, demonstrating the successful execution of the XSS attack.

Why XSS detection is hard

- Extremely difficult to automate tests for XSS
- Often times XSS defense can be bypassed in clever ways
- Developers should strive to use 3rd party libraries that are collaboratively maintained

Attacking Users: CSRF (Cross Site Request Forgery)

- In cross-site request forgery (CSRF) attacks, the attacker creates an *innocuous-looking* website that causes the user's browser to submit a request **directly to the vulnerable application** to perform some unintended action that is beneficial to the attacker.
- Normally, “the same-origin” policy does not prohibit one website from issuing requests to a different domain.

```
POST /auth/390/NewUserStep2.ashx HTTP/1.1
Host: quake0day.com
Cookie: SessionId=89BE912093001AB23B907
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-Length: 83
```

```
realname=hackersichen&username=hacker&userrole=admin&password=12345&confirmpassword=12345
```

1. The request performs a privileged action. In the example shown, the request creates a new user with administrative privileges
2. The application relies solely on HTTP cookies for tracking sessions. No session-related tokens are transmitted else where within the request
3. The attacker can determine all the parameters required to perform the action. Aside from the session token in the cookie, no unpredictable values need to be included in the request.

Attacking Users: CSRF (Cross Site Request Forgery)

An attacker can construct a webpage that makes a cross-domain request to the vulnerable application containing everything needed to perform the privileged action.

Here is an example of such an attack.

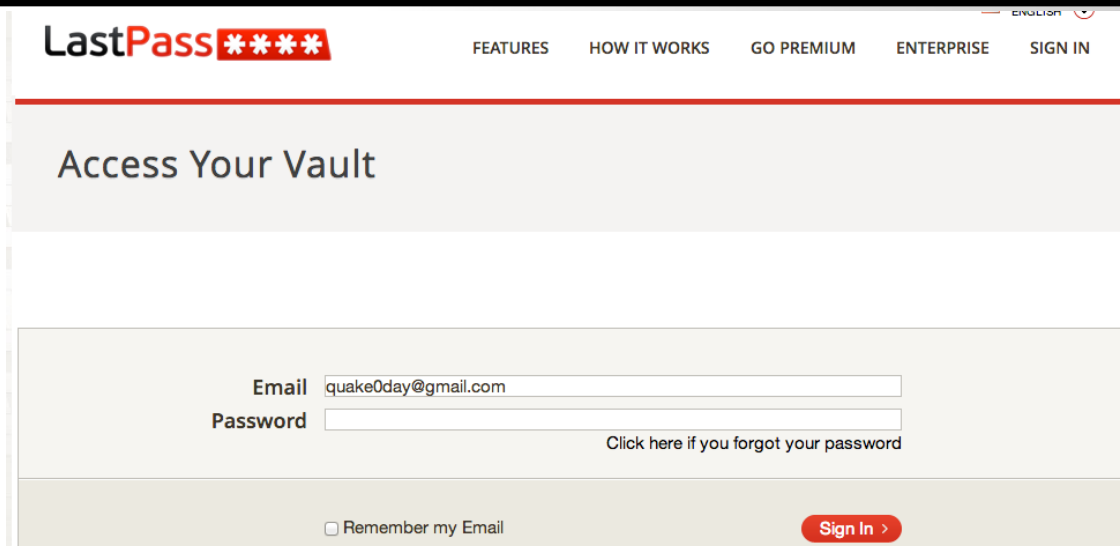
```
1  <html>
2  <body>
3  <form action="https://quake0day.com/NewUserStep2.ashx" method="POST">
4      <input type="hidden" name="realname" value="hackersichen">
5      <input type="hidden" name="username" value="hacker">
6      <input type="hidden" name="userrole" value="admin">
7      <input type="hidden" name="password" value="12345">
8      <input type="hidden" name="confirmpassword" value="12345">
9  </form>
10 <script type="text/javascript">
11     document.forms[0].submit();
12 </script>
13 </body>
14 </html>
```

This form will be automatically submitted. When the user's browser submits the form, **it automatically adds the user's cookies** for the target domain. If an admin user who is logged in the vulnerable app visits this web page, the requests is **processed within the administrator's session**.

Attacking Users: CSRF (Cross Site Request Forgery)

- Cross site request forgery is a trust exploit
- The server trusts (wrongly) the browser request of users b/c authentication cookies are supplied
- Attacker forces the users browser to take action on their behalf
- Clever way to take over web applications

Brute Force Attacks (Password)

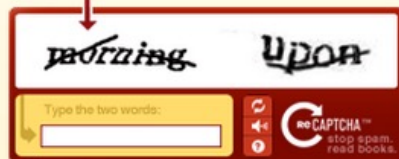


The image shows the LastPass login page. At the top, the LastPass logo is followed by four asterisks. Navigation links for FEATURES, HOW IT WORKS, GO PREMIUM, ENTERPRISE, and SIGN IN are visible. The main heading is "Access Your Vault". Below this is a login form with fields for Email (containing "quake0day@gmail.com") and Password. A link "Click here if you forgot your password" is next to the password field. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for "Remember my Email" and a red "Sign In >" button.

- CAPTCHA
- IP rate limiting

reCAPTCHA IS A FREE
ANTI-BOT SERVICE THAT
HELPS DIGITIZE BOOKS.

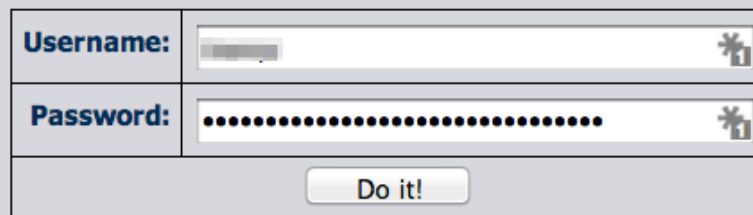
steamboat train, from New
this **morning** ran off the track
New-London. Four cars plunged



The image shows a reCAPTCHA interface. It features two images of the word "morning" in a stylized font. Below the images is a text input field with the prompt "Type the two words:". To the right of the input field is a red "no CAPTCHA" button with the text "stop spam, read books.".

Note: You need cookies enabled to log in.
[6] failed logins will get your IP banned!

You have **6** remaining tries.



The image shows a login form with two fields: "Username:" and "Password:". The Username field contains a blurred text. The Password field is filled with dots. Below the fields is a "Do it!" button. To the right of the fields are two small icons: a star and a lock.

Don't have an account? Turn to your friend in TTG to get an invite!

If you have problems logging in, try cleaning cookies and restarting your browser.

Forget your password? Recover your password via email.

Q & A