Web Application Security

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About myself

- ■Research manager of the DistriNet Research Group
- Active participation in OWASP:
 - Board member of the OWASP Belgium chapter
 - Co-organizer of the academic track on OWASP **AppSec Europe Conference**



OWASP

- ■Open Web Application Security Project
 - free and open community
 - focus on improving the security of application software
- Many interesting projects
 - Tools: WebGoat, WebScarab, AntiSamy, Pantera, ...
 - Documentation: Top 10, CLASP, Testing guide, Code review, ...
- ■158 local chapters worldwide

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http://www.owasp.org

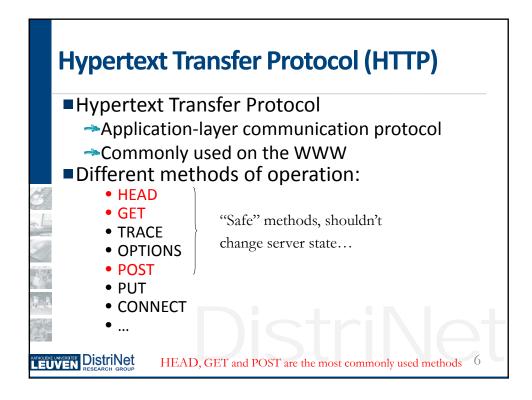
Overview

- ■Introduction to web applications
- Overview of web application vulnerabilities
- Overview of countermeasures

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HTTP request/response model

- HTTP uses a bidirectional request/response communication model
 - → Request:
 - GET /x/y/z/page.html HTTP/1.0

Protocol version

→Response:

Status code

• 200 HTTP/1.0 OK Content-Type: text/html Content-Length: 22

<HTML>Some data</HTML>

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HTTP Request

- Request header:
 - Contains the request and additional meta-information
 - The HTTP method, requested URL and protocol version
 - Negotiation information about language, character set, encoding,
 - Content language, type, length, encoding, ...
 - Authentication credentials
 - Web browser information (User-Agent)
 - Referring web page (Referer)
 - ...
- Request body
 - Contains additional data
 - Input parameters in case of a POST request
 - · Submitted data in case of a PUT request
 - ...



HTTP Request examples

GET /info.php?name=Lieven HTTP/1.1

Connection: Keep-Alive

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; Konqueror/3.1; Linux)

Accept: text/*, image/jpeg, image/png, image/*, */*

Accept-Encoding: x-gzip, x-deflate, gzip, deflate, identity

Accept-Charset: iso-8859-15, utf-8;q=0.5, *;q=0.5

Accept-Language: en

Host: www.cs.kuleuven.be

POST /login.jsp HTTP/1.1

Host: www.yourdomain.com User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0

Content-Length: 29

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

userid=lieven&password=7ry!m3

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POST vs GET

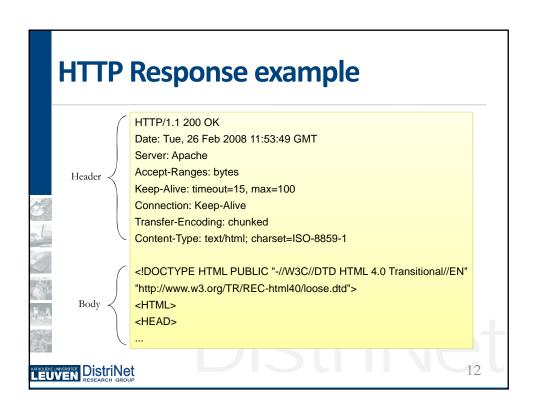
- POST
 - →Input parameters are encoded in the body of the request
- GET
 - →Input parameters are encoded in the URL of the request
 - →GET requests shouldn't change server state
- ■Keep in mind!
 - that parameters encoded in URLs might also pop up in server logs and referers!



HTTP Response

- Response header:
 - Contains the reponse status code and additional meta-information
 - The protocol version and status code
 - Content language, type, length, encoding, lastmodified, ...
 - Redirect information
 - ...
- ■Response body
 - -- Contains the requested data

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HTTP status codes

- Status codes:
 - →1xx: informational
 - 2xx: success
 - 3xx: redirection
 - →4xx: client error
 - →5xx: server error



Cookies

- Cookies are used to
 - differentiate users
 - → maintain a small portion of state between several HTTP requests to the same web application
- Typically used for:
 - →User session management
 - User preferences
 - →User tracking
- Procedure:
 - Cookies are created on the server and are stored on the client side
 - →Cookies corresponding to a particular web application are attached to all request to that application
 - Server sends cookies back to the browser with each response

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Cookies example | HTTP/1.1 200 OK | | Date: Tue, 26 Feb 2008 12:19:37 GMT | | Set-Cookie: JSESSIONID=621FAD2E27C36B3785DF8EE47DA73109; Path=/somepath | | Content-Type: text/html;charset=ISO-8859-1 | | <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-/W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"

GET/somepath/index.jsp HTTP/1.1
Connection: Keep-Alive
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; Konqueror/3.1; Linux)
Accept: text/*, image/jpeg, image/png, image/*, */*
Accept-Encoding: x-gzip, x-deflate, gzip, deflate, identity
Accept-Charset: iso-8859-15, utf-8;q=0.5, *;q=0.5
Accept-Language: en
Host: www.mydomain.be
Cookie: JSESSIONID=621FAD2E27C36B3785DF8EE47DA73109

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15

HTTP basic access authentication

- HTTP provides several techniques to provide credentials while sending requests
- HTTP Basic access authentication:
 - → Uses a base64 encoding of the pair username:password
 - → Credentials are inserted in the HTTP header "Authorization"
- Example:

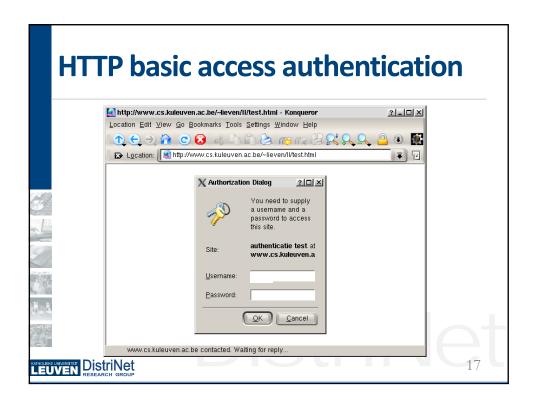
GET /private/index.html HTTP/1.0

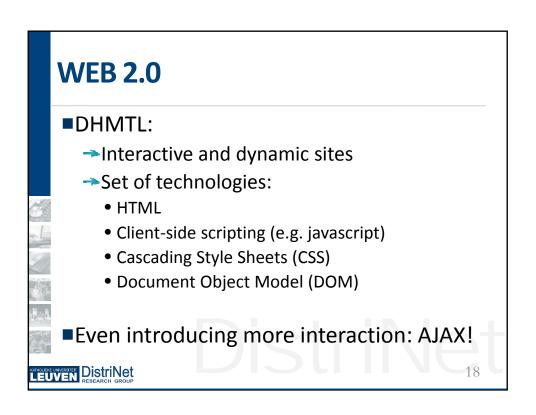
Host: localhost

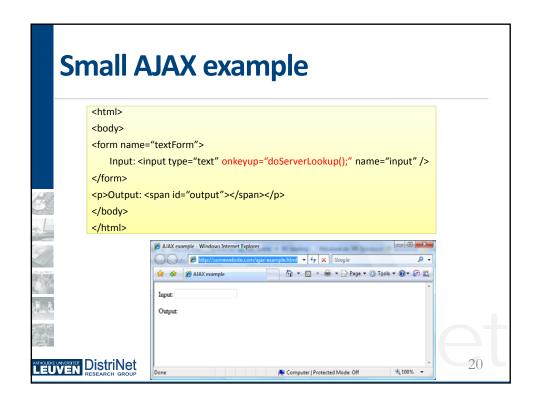
Authorization: Basic bGlldmVuOjdyeSFtMw==

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Base64 decoded: lieven:7ry!m3







```
Small AJAX example

<script type="text/javascript">
function doServerLookup()
{
    var xmlHttp=new XMLHttpRequest();
    xmlHttp.onreadystatechange=function()
    {
        if(xmlHttp.readyState==4)
        {
            document.getElementById("output").innerHTML = xmlHttp.responseText;
        }
        }
        xmlHttp.open("GET","ajax-example-time.jsp",true);
        xmlHttp.send(null);
        }
        </script>

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21
```



Web Application Vulnerabilities

- Code injection vulnerabilities
- Broken authentication and session management

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Injection vulnerabilities

- All command injection vulnerabilities describe a similar pattern:
 - →Use of unvalidated user input:

 - Request parameters (e.g. form field)
 Cookies (both key and value)
 Request headers (e.g. preferred language, referrer, authenticated user, browser identification, ...)
 - In client-side or server-side processing:
 - Command execution
 - SQL injection
 - XPath injection
 - Script injection

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Command injection

- ■Vulnerability description:
 - → The command string, executed in server-side code, contains unvalidated user input
- Possible impact:
 - User can execute arbitrary code under the privileges of the web server
- Varieties:
 - Output of manipulated command execution is displayed to client
 - →Blind command injection



25

Command injection example

Server-side code displays content of requested file (e.g. man page)

```
// Servlet showing content of a file

String filename = request.getParameter("filename");

Process process = Runtime.getRuntime().exec("cmd.exe /c type " + filename);

InputStream inputStream = process.getInputStream();

int c;

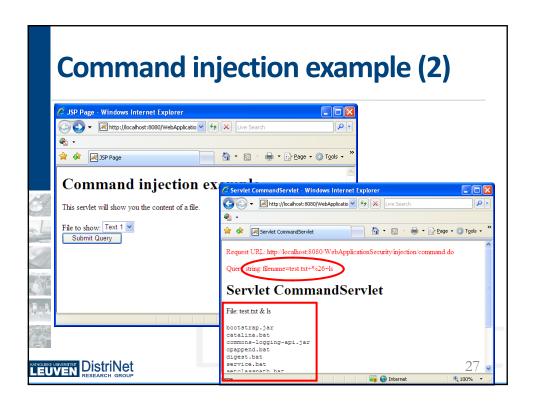
while ((c = inputStream.read()) != -1) {

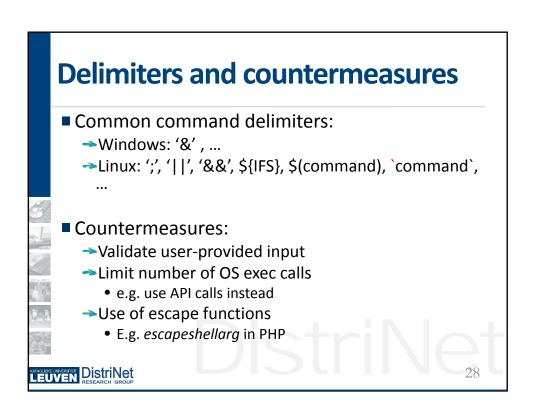
out.write(c);

}
...
```

- Attacker can trigger command execution:
 - Filename: text.txt & arbitrary command

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Be aware of canonicalization!

- Both browser and web server interpret strings in many different ways
 - Different character encodings, character sets, ...
 - Unspecified parsing behavior of browser or web server
 - •
- Makes it very difficult to validate user input based on a negative security model
 - · What about:
 - basedir/../../etc/passwd (i.e. path traversal)
 - 比利时
 - <sc
 ript>
 - +ADw-script+AD4-alert('alert');+ADw-/script+AD4-



20

SQL injection

- Vulnerability description:
 - The SQL query string, executed in server-side code, contains unvalidated user input
- Possible impact:
 - User can execute arbitrary SQL queries under the privileges of the web server, leading to:
 - Leaking data from the database
 - Inserting, modifying or deleting data
- Varieties:
 - → Output of manipulated SQL query is displayed to client
 - Blind SQL injection

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SQL injection example Server-side code checking user credentials "/Servlet checking login credentials String username = request.getParameter("username"); String password = request.getParameter("password"); Connection connection = null; Statement stmt = connection.createStatement(); stmt.execute("SELECT * FROM USERS WHERE USERNAME = "" + username + ""AND PASSWORD = "" + password + """); ResultSet rs = stmt.getResultSet(); if (rs.next()) { out.println("Successfully logged in!"); } Attacker can modify SQL query: • User: lieven Password: test' OR '1' = '1 LEUVEN Distribet 131

SQL injection example (2)

- Original query:
 - → SELECT * FROM USERS WHERE USERNAME = 'login' AND PASSWORD = 'password'
- Query after injection of *test' OR '1' = '1* as password:
 - → SELECT * FROM USERS WHERE USERNAME = 'lieven' AND PASSWORD = 'test' OR '1' = '1'
 - →Which always returns a result set!

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Different types of SQL injection

- Tautologies:
 - → String SQL Injection:
 - test' OR '1' = '1
 - → Numeric SQL Injection:
 - 107 OR 1 = 1
- Union queries:
 - test' UNION SELECT pwd FROM users WHERE login='admin
- Piggy-backed queries:
 - a'; DROP TABLE users; --
- **...**

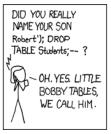
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33

Naïve countermeasures ...









© http://xkcd.com/327/

- So you strip all single quotes from your parameters?
 - Of course, nobody would call his child Robert'); DROP TABLE Students; --
 - → But what about: Mc'Enzie, O'Kane, D'Hondt, ...?

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Countermeasures

- Use of prepared statements
 - Statement has placeholders for parameters
 - User input is bound to a parameter

String prepStmtString = "SELECT * FROM USERS WHERE ID = ?";

PreparedStatement prepStmt = conn.prepareStatement(prepStmtString);

prepStmt.setString(1, pwd); ...

- ■SQL escape functions
 - E.g. mysql_real_escape_string() in PHP
- ■Taint analysis:
 - User input is tainted
 - Tainted data is prevented to alter SQL query

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35

XPath injection

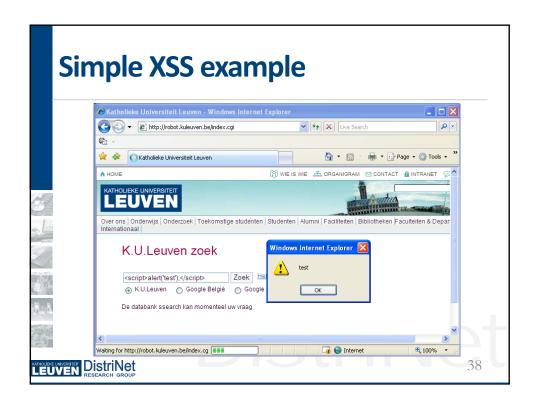
- Also other query languages might be vulnerable to injection, e.g. XPath injection
- XPath is used to select nodes in XML documents (e.g. in AJAX)

- Attacker can modify XPath query:
 - User: lieven OR '1' = '1 Password: test' OR '1' = '1

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Script injection (XSS) ■ Many synonyms: Script injection, Code injection, Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), ... ■ Vulnerability description: Injection of HTML and client-side scripts into the server output, viewed by a client ■ Possible impact: Execute arbitrary scripts in the victim's browser

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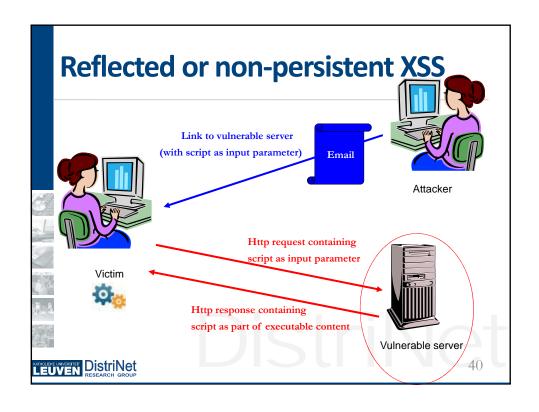


Different types of script injection

- ■Reflected or non-persistent XSS
- Stored or persistent or second-order XSS
- ■Cross-Site Tracing (XST)
- ■Cross-Site Request Forgery (XSRF)
- ■Cross-Site Script Inclusion (XSSI)
- **...**

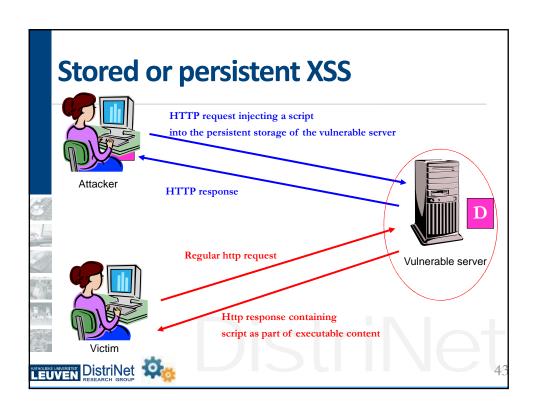
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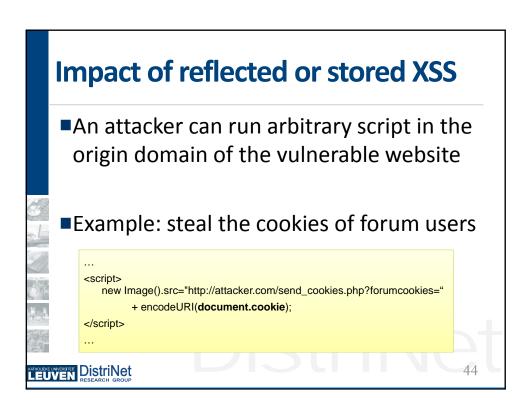
-39



Reflected or non-persistent XSS Description: Users is tricked in sending malicious data (i.e. client-side script) to the server: Crafted link in an email/im (e.g. dancing pigs) The vulnerable server reflects the input into the output, e.g.: Results of a search Part of an error message The malicious data (i.e. client-side script) in the output is executed in the client within the domain of the vulnerable server







Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- Synonyms: one click attack, session riding, CSRF, ...
- Description:
 - web application is vulnerable for injection of links or scripts
 - injected links or scripts trigger unauthorized requests from the victim's browser to remote websites
 - the requests are trusted by the remote websites since they behave as legitimate requests from the victim

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45

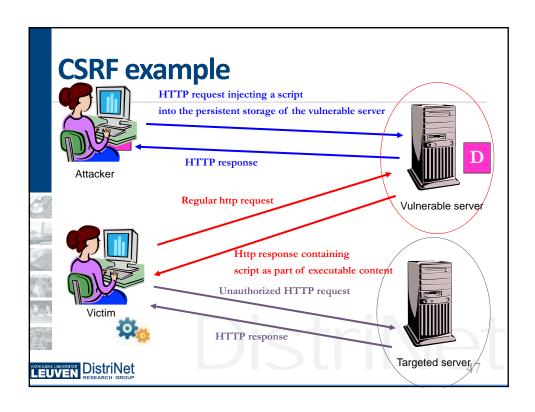
XSS vs XSRF

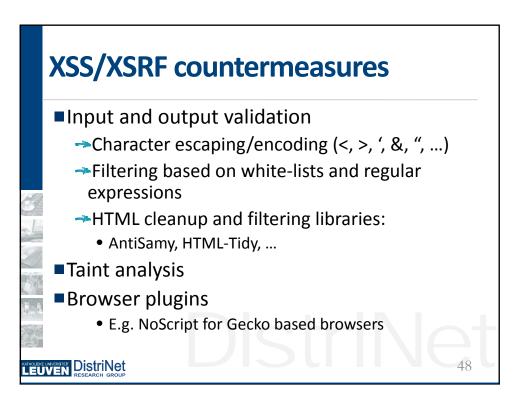
- XSS
 - →injection of unauthorized code into a website



- **■**XSRF
 - forgery of unauthorized requests from a user trusted by the remote server

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CSRF countermeasures (2)

- Additional application-level authentication
 - To protect users from sending unauthorized requests via XSRF using cached credentials
 - End-user has to authorize request explicitly
- Action Token framework
 - → Distinguish "genuine" requests by hiding a secret, one-time token in web forms
 - Only forms generated by the targeted server contain a correct token
 - Because of the same origin policy, other origin domains can't inspect the web form

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Web Application Vulnerabilities

- Code injection vulnerabilities
- Broken authentication and session management

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Access Control and Session Management

- Session hijacking
- Bypassing access control

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Session Management

- Need for session management
 - →HTTP is stateless protocol
 - →User sessions are identified upon the HTTP protocol to track user state
 - E.g. personal shopping cart
- Session identifiers
 - Client and server share a unique session identifier for each session
 - → (Non-)persistent user state is stored on the server under the unique session id

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Web Sessions

- Different techniques to achieve sessions
 - →MAC(source_port,source_ip,user-agent, referer, ...)
 - →Hidden form field
 - → URL rewriting
 - -- Cookies
 - **→**...
- Most web technologies and application servers support session management
 - → Tracking user state via session ids
 - → Server-side code can easily store and retrieve session specific state

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Session Hijacking

- Description
 - Malicious user is able to take over another user's session
 - Malicious user can operate on behalf of another user
- Different possible vulnerabilities:
 - → Session IDs can be guessed
 - → Session IDs can be stolen
 - Session IDs can be enforced

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Weak Session IDs

- Vulnerability often occurs when an own session management layer is implemented
- Session ids are calculate based on sequence, date, time, source, ...
- Countermeasure
 - Use the application server session management functionality
 - Most application servers already passed the stage of having weak session ids
 - →Same vulnerability reoccurs again in web services

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Stolen Session IDs

- Session ids can be stolen
 - →By cross-site scripting (XSS)
 - Using unsecured communication (http instead of https)
 - Session IDs are exposed via URL rewriting
 - Reoccur in the logs, referer, ...
- Countermeasure
 - →Additional check on session ids (e.g. source ip, source port, user-agent, ...)
 - Additional application-level authentication per authorized request
 - Provide logout and time-out functionality

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Enforcing Session IDs

- Sites sometimes reuse session IDs from previous session
- Attacker can then trick another user is using a predefined session, and take over the session later on
- Countermeasure
 - Use the application server session management functionality
 - Additional check on session ids (e.g. source ip, source port, user-agent, ...)
 - Additional application-level authentication per authorized request
 - Provide logout and time-out functionality

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Access Control

- Description:
 - → Restriction of user's actions based on an access control policy
 - Access restriction for both unauthenticated and authenticated users
- Access control can occur on several places:
 - → Network
 - →Web Server
 - Application Server
 - Presentation Layer
 - Business Layer
 - Data Layer

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Bypassing Presentation Layer Access Control

- Description:
 - →Some links or URLs are hidden to the end user
 - Access control is actually not enforced
- Presentation layer does not restrict what the user can do
 - Users can manipulate URLs directly
 - Users can edit/manipulate page source, clientside scripts, requests, responses, ...

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Bypassing Business Layer Access Control

- Description
 - The access control implementation does not reflect the access control policy
 - Users can circumvent the policy due to flaws in the implementation
- Countermeasure
 - Clearly design and implement the access control policy, preferable in a separate module than is easy to audit
 - Rely on the container-based authentication and authorization schemes if applicable
 - →Use a defense-in-depth strategy by combining container-level and application-level access control

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Bypassing Access Restricted Workflow

- Description
 - →Access control is in place to grant authenticated users access to protected resource
 - User has the role of 'developer'
 - User agrees with EULA
 - User completed purchase
 - → Flow is not enforced, users can also directly access the protected resources
- Countermeasure
 - Not only enforce access control on web pages, but also on resources
 - Rely on the container-based authentication and authorization schemes if applicable



61

Overview of countermeasures













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Countermeasures

- ■Secure your application
 - → Security principles
 - →Defensive coding practices
 - →Supporting security libraries and frameworks
 - →Static and dynamic analysis
- ■Secure your infrastructure
 - → Secure your server
 - → Web application Firewalls
- ■Secure your browser

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63

Apply security principles

- Use a sound security policy as foundation for your design
- ■Don't trust others, don't trust user input
- Apply defense in depth / layered security
- Keep it simple
- Avoid security by obscurity

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Apply security principles (2)

- Use least privilege
- Compartmentalize
- ■Check at the gate
- ■Reduce the attack surface
- Detect and log intrusions
- ■Fail securely
- ■...

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Defensive coding practices

- ■Validate user input/server output
 - →Positive security model
 - Whitelist filtering
 - Use of regular expressions
 - →Negative security model
 - Filter out known bad inputs
- Sanitize user input/server ouput
 - →Use appropriate escape functions
 - E.g. mysql_real_escape_string() in PHP
 - Use specialized security libraries
 - E.g. anti-samy

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Defensive coding practices (2)

- Use prepared statements
- ■Limit number of OS execs
- ■Don't reinvent or 'improve' sessions IDs, crypto, ... unless you're an expert
- Avoid unsafe languages or language constructs

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Supporting security libraries

- OWASP Antisamy
 - Validation of rich HTML/CSS user input from
 - Protection against cross-site scripting

Policy policy = Policy.getInstance("/some/path/to/policy");

AntiSamy as = new AntiSamy();

CleanResults cr = as.scan(request.getParameter("input"), policy);

String filteredInput = cr.GetCleanHTML();

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Supporting security libraries (2)

- New Query development paradigms
 - Construct gueries as first class entities
 - Verify structure integrity before executing
 - E.g. SQL DOM, Safe Query Objects, SQLDOM4J

SelectQuery query = new **SelectQuery**(conn, DB.Table.MEMBERS) .select(DB.MEMBERS.ID,DB.MEMBERS.LOGIN) .orderBy(DB.MEMBERS.ID, OrderBy.ASC) .whereEquals(DB.MEMBERS.AGE, 40); PreparedStatement ps = query.getPreparedStatement();



Supporting application frameworks

Struts

→ Provides client-side and server-side input validation

<field name="email_address"> <field-validator type="required"> <message>You cannot leave the email address field empty.</message> </field-validator> <field-validator type="email"> <message>The email address you entered is not valid.</message> </field-validator> </field> <field name="bar"> <field-validator type="regex"> <param name="expression">[0-9],[0-9] <message>The value of bar must be in the format "x, y"</message> </field> DistriNet </validators>

Supporting application containers

- Java web container support
 - Container-based authentication
 - Role-based access control

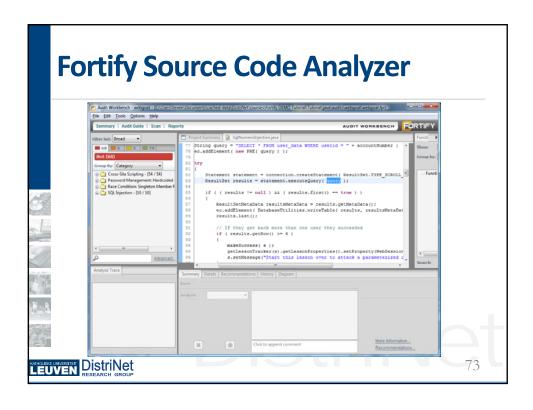


71

Static code analysis

- Analyze code offline
 - E.g. FindBugs, RATS, Flawfinder, FxCop, Fortify SCA, Coverity, Ounce Labs, ...
- Rule Engine:
 - Unsafe functions
 - Information flow analysis
- Information flow analysis
 - Sources: user input
 - Sinks: security-critical operations (e.g. SQL query execution)
 - Goal: check if user input is validated on all possible paths from sources to sinks





Taint analysis Concept User input is risky, and therefore tainted If a tainted variable is used in expressions, then the result is also tainted Each security-relevant operation, the tainting of variables is checked Input validation/sanitation can remove a taint Examples Tainting in perl and ruby Static and Dynamic taint analysis in web application frameworks

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Countermeasures

- ■Secure your application
 - → Security principles
 - → Defensive coding practices
 - →Supporting security libraries and frameworks
 - →Static and dynamic analysis
- Secure your infrastructure
 - →Secure your server
 - →Web application Firewalls
- Secure your browser

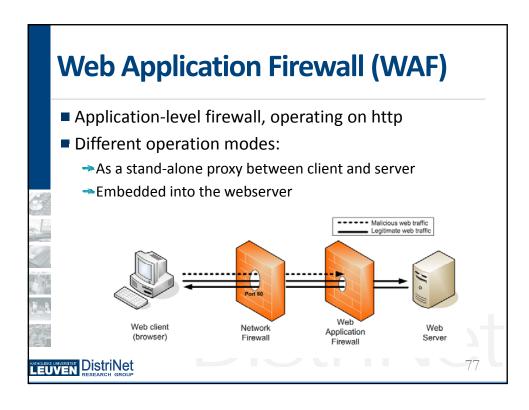
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75

Secure your server

- ■Secure your application environment
 - → E.g. Security Manager in Tomcat, PHP Safe Mode, ...
 - → Restricts the privileges of the web application
 - Opening of network sockets
 - Execution of programs
 - Reading/writing of files
 - ...
- ■Configure your web server
 - Limit the HTTP methods
 - Restrict the server functionality
 - •

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Web Application Firewall

- ■Normalizes input and output
- ■Enforces positive/negative security model
 - →Positive security model
 - configured manually
 - built automatically by observing legitimate network traffic.
 - Negative security model
 - Based on signatures or rule-sets
- ■Provides logging and monitoring

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Mod_security

- Open-source web application firewall
- ■Embedded in Apache web server
- Provides a core rule set
 - →Generic rules to protect web applications
- Provides some server security directives
 - → Jailing an application (chroot)
 - Logging of requests (header+body)
- Allows application-specific rules

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Mod_security core rule set

- Mod_security configuration rules
 - File upload options
 - Auditing/logging options
- ■Mod_security protocol rules
 - HTTP protocol violations and anomalies
 - Allowed parameter/file encodings
 - Allowed content encodings
 - Allowe Http protocols

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Mod_security core rule set (2)

- ■Mod_security generic attack rules
 - Session fixation
 - Blind SQL injection
 - SQL injection
 - XSS
 - File injection
 - Command injection
 - Request/response splitting
 - Information leakage
 - •

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81

Mod_security core rule example

- Email injection
 - Protects against injection an additional to or (b)cc header line, if the input is used to send out a mail

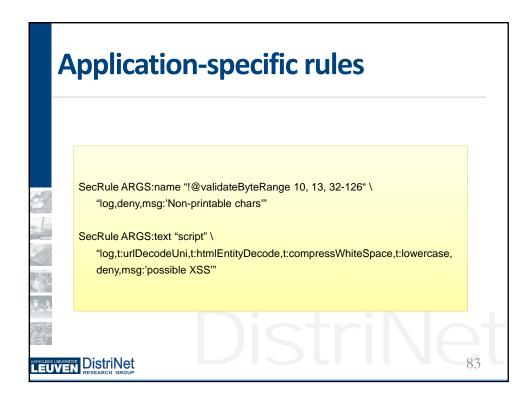
Variable Operator

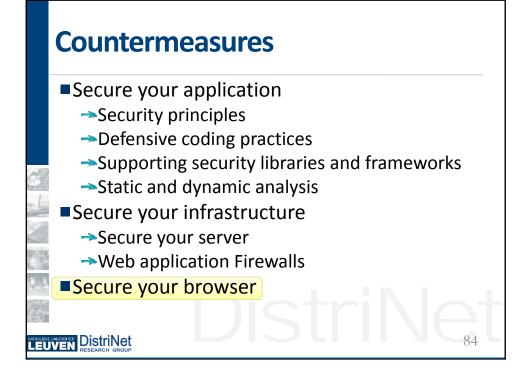
SecRule REQUEST_FILENAME|ARGS|ARGS_NAMES "[\n\r]\s*\b(?:to|b?cc)\b\s*:.*?\@" \
"phase:2,t:none,t:htmlEntityDecode,t:lowercase,capture,ctl:auditLogParts=+E,log, auditlog,msg:'Email Injection Attack',id:'950019',logdata:'%{TX.0}',severity:'2"

Action

SecRule REQUEST_HEADERS|XML:/* "[\n\r]\s*\b(?:to|b?cc)\b\s*:.*?\@" \
 "phase:2,t:none,t:urlDecode,t:htmlEntityDecode,t:lowercase,capture,
 auditlog,msg:'Email Injection Attack',id:'959019',logdata:'%{TX.0}',severity:'2'"

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Securing the browser

- ■Browser features
 - →Phishing and malware protection in FF, IE, Opera
 - Cross-domain barriers
 - →Opt-in for plugins/activeX/...
 - →Improved SSL certificate checking
 - **→**...
- ■Browser plugins
 - →E.g. noscript
 - Disables client-side scripts unless approved

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