

CSE467: Computer Security

11. Client-side Web Security (2)

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HW2: Web Hacking Competition

- Hacking practice: Capture the Flag (CTF)
- Challenge open (competition start): 4/14 (Mon)
- Due date (writeup report): 5/2 (Fri)
- CTF server URL: You can obtain it by solving Problem 0 ©
 - This server can only be accessed from the UNIST internal network.
 - Please use a VPN to access from outside! Just log in to https://vpn.unist.ac.kr and turn on VPN
- ID: [Your Student ID]@unist.ac.kr
- PW: [Your Password]

HW2: Web Hacking Competition

• 11 Challenges



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HW2: Web Hacking Competition

• 11 Challenges

Each flag is in the following format: flag{[0-9a-f{32}]}
 -e.g., flag{1a79a4d60de6718e8e5b326e338ae533}

• Do not attack the CTF environments, including web services!



The student who is the quickest to complete all the problems will earn bonus points!

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Recap: How to Prevent XSS Attacks?

#1: Input validation/sanitization

- Any user input must be preprocessed before it is used inside HTML
- Option 1-1: Implement your own sanitization logic (not recommended)
- Option 1-2: Use the good escaping libraries
 - E.g., htmlspecialchars(string), htmlentities(string), ...
- #2: Content Security Policy (CSP)
 - A new security mechanism supported by modern browsers
 - Next lecture!

Content-Security Policy (CSP)

Content Security Policy (CSP)

• Explicitly allow resources which are trusted by the developer

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- Servers declare trusted sources

• Explicitly allow resources which are trusted by the developer

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- Servers declare trusted sources





- Explicitly allow resources which are trusted by the developer
 - Servers declare trusted sources



- Explicitly allow resources which are trusted by the developer
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- Explicitly allow resources which are trusted by the developer
 - Servers declare trusted sources



Example Policy on paypal.com

Demo:

https://www.paypal.com/home

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Content Security Policy (CSP)

- Explicitly allow resources which are trusted by the developer
 - Servers declare trusted sources
- Disallow dangerous JS constructs like eval or event handlers
- Delivered as HTTP header or in meta element in page -HTTP header: Content-Security-Policy: default-src ...
 - Meta element: <meta http-equiv="Content-Security-Policy"
 content="default-src...">
- Enforced by the browser (all policies must be satisfied)
 - Your browser must support CSP for its use
- First candidate recommendation in 2012, currently at Level 3

Browser Support





CSP Popularity





https://www.bitsight.com/blog/content-security-policy-limits-dangerous-activity-so-why-isnt-everyone-doing-it

Format of CSP

Policy := [directive [value1];]...

A list of pairs of directive and values

CSP Level 1 – Controlling Scripting Resources

Policy := [directive [value1];]...

- ✓ Directive: script-src
 - Specifically controls where scripts can be loaded from
 - If provided, inline scripts and eval will not be allowed
- ✓ Value: Many different ways to control sources
 - 'none' no scripts can be included from any host
 - 'self' only own origin
 - https://domain.com allow the script from this origin
 - https://*.domain.com any subdomain of domain.com, any script on them
 - https: any origin delivered via HTTPs
 - 'unsafe-inline' / 'unsafe-eval' reenables inline handlers and eval





Demo:

https://websec-lab.github.io/courses/2025scse467/demo/csp_demo.html

CSP Level 1 – Example

Executes scripts only from the same origin and https://unist.ac.kr

CSP for website https://example.com:

script-src 'self' https://unist.ac.kr;

HTML	Execution Allowed?
<script src="https://unist.ac.kr/myscript.js"></script>	\checkmark
<script src="https://example.com/stuff.js"></script>	\checkmark
<script>alert(1)</script> // inline script	X
<script src="https://ad.com/someads.js"></script>	X

CSP Level 1 – Controlling Additional Resources

- •img-src, style-src, font-src, object-src, media-src
 - Controls non-scripting resources: images, CSS, fonts, objects, audio/video
- frame-src
 - Controls from which origins frames may be added to a page

connect-src

- Controls XMLHttpRequest, WebSockets (and other) connection targets
- default-src
 - Serves as fallback for all fetch directives (all of the above)
 - Only used when specific directive is absent

CSP Level 1 – Limitations

- If our goal is to allow scripts from own origin and inline scripts
 - -Solution: script-src 'self' 'unsafe-inline'
- Problem: bypasses literally any protection
 - Attacker can inject inline JavaScript
- One possible solution: removing inline script and converting it into an external script



Proposed improvement in CSP Level 2: nonces and hashes

CSP Level 2 – Nonces and Hashes

 Allows every inline script adds nonce property -script-src 'nonce-\$value' 'self'

• Allows inline scripts based on their SHA hash (SHA256, SHA384, or SHA512)

-script-src 'sha256-\$hash' 'self'

CSP Level 2 – Example

script-src 'self' https://cdn.example.org
'nonce-d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53' 'sha2565bf5c8f91b8c6adde74da363ac497d5ac19e4595fe39cbdda22cec8445d3814c'

<script> alert("My hash is correct") </script>

<script> alert("incorrect") </script>

SHA256 hash value: 5bf5c8f91b8c6adde74da363ac497d5ac19 e4595fe39cbdda22cec8445d3814c

CSP Level 2 – Example

script-src 'self' https://cdn.example.org
'nonce-d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53' 'sha2565bf5c8f91b8c6adde74da363ac497d5ac19e4595fe39cbdda22cec8445d3814c'

<script> alert("My hash is correct") </script> <script> alert("incorrect") </script>

SHA256 matches value of CSP header

SHA256 does not match

CSP Level 2 – Example

script-src 'self' https://cdn.example.org
'nonce-d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53' 'sha2565bf5c8f91b8c6adde74da363ac497d5ac19e4595fe39cbdda22cec8445d3814c'

<script nonce="d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53">
alert("It's all good")
</script>
</script>
</script>

Script nonce matches CSP header Script nonce does not match CSP header

CSP Level 2 – Limitations

script-src 'self' https://cdn.example.org
'nonce-d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53' 'sha2565bf5c8f91b8c6adde74da363ac497d5ac19e4595fe39cbdda22cec8445d3814c'

<script nonce="d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53">
 script=document.createElement("script");
 script.src = "http://ad.com/ad.js";
 document.body.appendChild(script);
</script>

Add new script element without nonce

Does this script work under a nonce-based policy?



Changes from Level 2 to Level 3: Strict-dynamic

- Additional changes: add **strict-dynamic**
 - -Allows adding scripts programmatically, eases CSP deployment in, e.g., ad scenario
- Mostly due to dynamic ADs
 - -1st page load: script from ads.com \rightarrow fancy-cars.com
 - -2nd page load: script from ads.com \rightarrow cheap-ads.net \rightarrow dealsdeals.biz

Idea: propagate trust

 If we trust ads.com, let's also trust whoever ads.com load script from



CSP Level 3 – strict-dynamic Example

script-src 'self' https://cdn.example.org
'nonce-d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53' 'strict-dynamic'

<script nonce="d90e0153c074f6c3fcf53">
 script=document.createElement("script");
 script.src = "http://ad.com/ad.js";
 document.body.appendChild(script);
</script>

Propagate trust: we also trust this script, so we allow it to execute

We trust this script

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- Does not stop XSS, tries to mitigate its effects
- Problem #1: User input at the trusted script



• What if the injection happens directly at nonced script elements?

```
<script nonce="random123">
   script=document.createElement("script");
   script.src = user_input + "valid.js";
   document.body.appendChild(script);
</script>
```





- Does not stop XSS, tries to mitigate its effects
- Problem #1: User input at the trusted script
- Problem #2: Developer's mistake/misconfiguration

Problem #2: Developer's Mistake/Misconfiguration

• Developer's *mistake*

defalt-src 'self'

- -Typo in the first directive leads to the default-src directive being missing from the policy (Content Security Problems?, **CCS'16**)
- Developer's *misconfiguration*

default-src 'unsafe-inline' *

- -Defining CSP is hard!
- -Many website developers just allow all of the inline script and all hosts
- -94.72% of all website bypassible (e.g., misconfigured their CSP) (CSP Is Dead, Long Live CSP!, CCS'2016)



- Does not stop XSS, tries to mitigate its effects
- Problem #1: User input at the trusted script
- Problem #2: Developer's mistake/misconfiguration
- Problem #3: Browser bugs (CSP enforcement bugs)


Research Question: How to find CSP-related browser bugs?



Specification for CSP: <u>https://www.w3.org/TR/CSP3/</u>











Recent Studies

- DiffCSP, NDSS '23
- 12 angry developers, CCS '21
- Complex security policy?, NDSS '20
- CSP is dead, long live CSP!, CCS '16
- Reining in the web with CSP, WWW '10
- CCSP, USENIX Security '17
- CSPAutoGen, CCS '16









- Store a server-created file (cookie) in the browser
- Examples
 - Authentication (log in)
 - Personalization (language preference, shopping cart)
 - User tracking

Q. What if an attacker tricks the user to do unwanted actions? (e.g., send money to the attacker)

Regular Website Usage





Cross-Site Request Forderv (CSRF) <form method="POST" id="transfer"









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bank.com



bank.com



• Force a user to execute unwanted actions (e.g., changing state) on an authenticated web application

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• Attack works for GET ...

- Invisible images, hidden iframes, css files, scripts, ...

 Force a user to execute unwanted actions (e.g., changing state) on an authenticated web application

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• Attack works for GET ...

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 Force a user to execute unwanted actions (e.g., changing state) on an authenticated web application

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• Attack works for GET ...

- Invisible images, hidden iframes, css files, scripts, ...

and POST

 Force a user to execute unwanted actions (e.g., changing state) on an authenticated web application

Very important point: A web page can **send information to any site**!

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and POST

```
<form method="POST" action="https://bank.com/transfer.php" id="transfer">
    <input type="hidden" name="act-to" value="attacker_account">
    <input type="hidden" name="amount" value="100000">
    </form>
    <script>
    transfer.submit()
    </script>
```

SOP Does Not Control Sending

- SOP violation? Nope!
- Same origin policy (SOP) controls access to DOM
- Active content (scripts) can <u>send</u> a request anywhere!
 - No user involvement required

CSRF on Netflix 2006



CSRF on Netflix 2006

- CSRF vulnerabilities at Netflix allowed the attacker to do:
 - Add movies to your rental queue
 - Add a movie to the top of your rental queue
 - Change the name and address of a victim's account
 - Change the email and password on a victim's account

```
<img
src="http://www.netflix.com/changeinfo?email=seongil.wi@unist.ac.kr&password=hello"
width="1"
height="1"
border="0">
</img>
```

How to Defense CSRF Attacks?

- Referrer checking: "where is this request coming from?"
 - Accept requests only if their referrer is the same as the server (e.g., *.bank.com)



GET /cse467.html HTTP/1.1 Host: websec-lab.com Accept-Language: en Connection: keep-alive User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64;) Referer: http://google.com

Contain the address from which a resource has been requested

How to Defense CSRF Attacks?

- Referrer checking: "where is this request coming from?"
 - Accept requests only if their referrer is the same as the server (e.g., *.bank.com)

- Secret validation token
 - For each session, a fresh secret token is generated by the server
 - Send requests with the token
 - Accept requests only if the token is valid

Secret Validation Token: Regular Usage



Secret Validation Token: Preventing CSRF @





victim



bank.com

How to Defense CSRF Attacks?

- Referrer checking: "where is this request coming from?"
 - Accept requests only if their referrer is the same as the server (e.g., *.bank.com)

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- Secret validation token
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SameSite Cookies

Same-Site Cookies



- Two modes
 - Strict: browser will NEVER send cookies with cross-origin request

Set-Cookie: session=0F8tgdOhi9ynR1M9wa30Da; SameSite=Strict

- Lax: browser will send the cookie in cross-site requests, but only if both of the following conditions are met:
 - The request uses safe requests (e.g., GET)
 - The request resulted from a top-level navigation by the user, such as clicking on a link
- Until May 2018, only supported by Chrome and Opera
- Since Chrome 80, defaults to SameSite=lax

Clickjacking

Recap: Browser Execution Model

Windows may contain frames from different sources

 Frame: rigid visible division
 iFrame: floating inline frame



Framing other Websites

- HTML supports framing of other (cross-origin sites)
 - E.g., iframes
 - Very useful feature for advertisement, like buttons, ...
- Embedding site controls most of the frame's properties
 - How large the frame should be
 - Where the frame is displayed
 - How opaque the frame should be

What could go wrong?

Clickjacking (UI Redressing)

 Attacker overlays transparent or opaque frames to trick a user into clicking on a button or link on another page



Clickjacking (UI Redressing)

 Attacker overlays transparent or opaque frames to trick a user into clicking on a button or link on another page

	https://attacker.com/attack.html			
1	<iframe sr<="" th=""><th colspan="3"><pre>rc='https://bank.com/payment'></pre></th></iframe>	<pre>rc='https://bank.com/payment'></pre>		
		🗅 Email		
		Card numbe	r	
VICUM		🛱 MM / YY	A CVC	
		Remember me		
Æ		Pay \$	20.00	
Clickjacking (UI Redressing)

 Attacker overlays transparent or opaque frames to trick a user into clicking on a button or link on another page

<1frame s	rc='nttps://bank	com/payment ² >	
·,	🖾 Email		
	Card number		HTML attribute
	O MM/YY A C	st)	le opacity:
	Remember me		

Clickjacking (UI Redressing)

 Attacker overlays transparent or opaque frames to trick a user into clicking on a button or link on another page 76



Clickjacking Demo

 Demo: <u>https://websec-lab.github.io/courses/2025s-</u> cse467/demo/clickjacking_demo1.html



Clickjacking – Hiding the Target Element ⁷⁸

Use CSS opacity property and z-index property



Clickjacking - Fake Cursors

Use CSS cursor property and JavaScript to simulate a fake cursor icon on the screen

Real cursor icon

Fake cursor icon





Clickjacking - Fake Cursors

• Use CSS cursor property and JavaScript to simulate a fake cursor icon on the screen

Fake cursor icon



Hide real curson icon by using cursor: none

Cursor Spoofing





How to Prevent Clickjacking?

- Frame busting
 - Make sure that my website is not loaded in an enclosing frame

JS

if (top != self)
top.location = self.location

- Use CSP's frame-ancestors
 - Determine whether my website may be embedded in another site
 - 'none': denies from any host
 - 'self': allows only from same origin
 - -http://example.org: allows specific origin

Phishing







Phishing



- Disguising as a trustworthy entity, and obtain private information
 - Login credentials
 - Financial records
- Links to phishing webpages dispatched to victims through email or SMS
- According to a report from the FBI, it received 800,944 reports of phishing, with losses exceeding \$10.3 billion in 2022

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Outlook



Sign in to continue to Outlook

Email address, phone number, or Skype

No account? Create one!

Can't access your account?

Sign-in options

Next

Ξ

Phishing

From: apple.Inc <<u>Update.account.confirmed@altervista.org</u>> To: Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 12:35 PM Subject: Update your Account information !



Dear iTunes Customer!

Your itunes account has been frozen because we are unable to validate your account information. Once you have updated your account records, we will try again to validate your information and your account suspensionwill be lifted. This will help protect your account in the future. This process does not take more than 3 minutes. To proceed to confirm your account details please click on the link below and follow the instructions.



Please do not reply to this email. We are unable to respond to inquiries sent to this address. For immediate answers to your questions, visit our Help left by clicking "Help" at the top of any Apple page.

Copyright © 2014 Apple Inc. All rights reserved. Apple is located at 2211 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95131.

Typical Properties of Spoofed Sites

- Attackers manually copy/recreate web content from target website
 - Show logos found on the honest site
- Have suspicious URLs: mostly, being camouflaged as a URL that looks familiar to people
 - E.g., umist.ac.kr
- Ask for user input
 - Debit card number, username, password, ...
- Phishing content served from attacker-owned web server
 Or a compromised web server

Safe to Type Your Password?



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Spear Phishing

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- Phishing attempts directed <u>at specific individuals</u>
- This can increase the likelihood of success, as the sender appears more credible and informed



Spear Phishing



From: UDEL HR <<u>hremployeepayroll@udel.edu</u>> Date: August 13, 2015 at 12:48:29 PM EDT To: <<u>section</u> Subject: Your August 2015 Paycheck



Hello,

We assessed the 2015 payment structure as provided for under the terms of employment and discovered that you are due for a salary raise starting August 2015.

Your salary raise documents are enclosed below:

Access the documents here

Faithfully

Human Resources

University of Delaware

Spear Phishing



Mrs. Füsun Tümsavaş <jsc7339@gmail.com> 09-12 (화) , 오전 1:01 Seongil Wi <seongil.wi@unist.ac.kr> ※

🔄 전체 회신

지운 편지함

Hello Seongil Wi,

I am contacting you for the receipt of the sum of US\$9,500,000.00 (Nine Million Five Hundred United State Dollars) only.

Please Let me know if you are interested,

Regards, Mrs. Füsun Tümsavaş

How to Detect Phishing?



- Crowdsourcing, Blacklisting
 - lists reported phishing URLs
 - -E.g., https://openphish.com/

Targeted Brand	Time
Generic/Spear Phishing	06:24:20
Tencent	06:18:49
Garena	06:17:46
Telegram	06:17:26
WhatsApp	06:16:08
Crypto/Wallet	06:15:36
	Targeted BrandGeneric/Spear PhishingTencentGarenaFulegramWhatsAppCrypto/Wallet

How to Detect Phishing?

- Crowdsourcing, Blacklisting
 - lists reported phishing URLs
 - -E.g., https://openphish.com/
- URL-based pattern detection
 - E.g., A URL is phishy if its length \geq 76
 - E.g., Brand name modification with '-'
 - youtube-x.com
- Content-based pattern detection



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 Phishers are starting to use onetime URLs



Conclusion



- Content Security Policy (CSP)
 - Allow resources which are trusted by the developer
- Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
 - Force a user to execute unwanted actions
- Clickjacking
 - Attackers overlays opaque frames to trick a user
- Phishing

- Disguising as a trustworthy entity, and obtain private information

