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#### **Cisco Data Center Day 2007**

#### **Web Application Security**



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#### **Session agenda**

- Web Application Security: background
- Top Web Application Attacks:
  - Input validation bypass
  - SQL injection
  - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
  - Cookie Tampering / Session Hijacking
- Cisco's Web Application Firewall
  - Cisco AVS

Web Application Security: *background* 



#### **Applications: the Weak Link to the Crown Jewels**



#### Applications Give Unprecedented Access to Critical Business Data



#### Service Disruption

# Just off the press

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Hackers steal person Dan Kaplan Aug 30 2006 18 Hackers hijacked AT&T's weekend and accessed t 19,000 customers using telecom giant said late T	The Register » The Register » The Register » S computer system o the personal informat the company's online Fuesday.	<u>Security</u> » <u>Spam</u> » r charged in hug t	e Acxiom perso	nal

#### Existing Network Firewalls Can Not Adequately Inspect HTTP Protocol & Data



#### **Focus of Attacks Moves the Application Layer**

#### 75% of Attacks Focused Here



#### **Comprehensive Application Security is the Answer!**

#### Why Not Just Fix the Code?



#### **Every 1000 lines of code averages 15 critical security defects**

(US Dept of Defense)

The average business app has 150,000-250,000 lines of code (Software Magazine)

The average security defect takes 75 minutes to diagnose and 6 hours to fix (5-year Pentagon Study)

Developers typically focus on new functionality not bugs

It is too expensive to fix the security bugs



#### **OWASP's Top 10 attacks**

- A1 Unvalidated Input
- A2 Broken Access Control
- A3 Broken Authentication and Session Management
- A4 Cross Site Scripting
- A5 <u>Buffer Overflow</u>
- A6 Injection Flaws
- A7 Improper Error Handling
- A8 Insecure Storage
- A9 <u>Application Denial of Service</u>
- A10 Insecure Configuration Management

http://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP\_Top\_Ten\_Project#Top\_Ten\_Overview

## **Attack #1: Unvalidated input**

#### **Typical Web Application Architecture**



#### Presentation tier

The top-most level of the application is the user interface. The main function of the interface is to translate tasks and results to something the user can understand.

#### Logic tier

This layer coordinates the application, processes commands, makes logical decisions and evaluations, and performs calculations. It also moves and processes data between the two surrounding layers.

#### Data tier

Here information is stored and retrieved from a database or file system. The information is then passed back to the logic tier for processing, and then eventually back to the user.



# Attack #1 – Unvalidated Input

#### What is it?

Web Apps use parameters to obtain information from the client

#### How is this vulnerable?

- Developers focus on the legal values of parameters and how they should be utilized
- Too much credit given to client-side browser validation
- Little if any attention is given to the effect of incorrect values

#### Result

 The application acts according to the changed information, potentially giving access to other user's accounts, confidential info, or anything else on the computer – vector for 90% of web-based attacks!

#### Attack #1 – Unvalidated Input

#### Client-side validation is pointless – plugins and proxies exist

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# Attack #1: Parameter Tampering – Shopping Cart Exploit

 Although this is an old exploit, applications are still vulnerable to similar types of attacks.

 New technologies such as SOAP contain old exploits.

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February 4, 2000 Web posted at: 12:19 p.m. EDT (1219 GMT)

by Ann Harrison

(IDG) -- An Internet security firm has issued an alert for what it said are tampering vulnerabilities in several Web-based shopping cart applications.



Internet Security Systems Inc. (ISS) in Atlanta Tuesday released a statement that said the company had identified 11 shopping-cart applications that used flawed online forms that intruders could exploit to change prices or discounts at e-commerce sites.

#### Attack #1: Parameter Tampering For Fun and Profit



# Attack #1: Parameter Tampering For Fun and Profit



# Attack #1: Parameter Tampering For Fun and Profit

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## Attack #1 – Unvalidated Input: What If?

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How will your application react to totally unexpected input?



#### Attack #1: Using Encoding To Bypass Server-Side Filters/Validation (aka "thank you RFC2279")

http://0306.0205.0333.0031/%6E%65%74%77%6F%72%6B%65%72%73



#### **URL canonicalization stops attacks disguised by encoding URLs**

# **Unvalidated Input Attacks: Summary**

#### How serious?

- The mother of two of the top attacks (XSS and SQL Injection)
- Series of browser-side tools, ranging from plugins to full-blown proxies Paros, Suru, Burp Suite, WebScarab, Fiddler

#### Damage potential?

#### Very High

#### Countermeasures

- Always perform server-side input validation
- Be aware of evasion techniques using various encodings see the encoding cheat sheet at <u>http://ha.ckers.org/xss.html</u>
- Cisco's Web Application Firewall can apply regexes and length checks to URL query parameters or POST data, it always canonicalizes URLs by default

# Attack #2: SQL injection

#### Attack #2 – SQL Injection

- SQL stands for Structured Query Language
- Allows applications to access a database
- SQL can:

execute queries against a database

retrieve data from a database

insert new records in a database

delete records from a database

- update records in a database
- Many applications take user input and blindingly send it directly to SQL API!

# Attack #2: SQL injection

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C	cpaggen06004	Submitted	21-NOV-2006	Audit	N1997587	Policy, Auto	Complete	None	2570.97 USD			
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#### **Application Error Message Reveals DB structure**

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#### Anatomy of a SQL Injection attack: Basic SQL Query for Login

#### **Typical SQL query**

SELECT \* FROM users

WHERE login = 'victor'

AND password = '123'

#### **Typical ASP/MS SQL Server login syntax**

var sql = "SELECT \* FROM users
WHERE login = '" + form\_user +
" AND password = '" + form\_pwd + "'";

#### Anatomy of a SQL Injection attack: SQL Injection – Bypass Login

Attacker Injects the following:

*form\_pwd* = anything

#### Final query would look like this:

— AND password = 'anything'

- Attacker gains access to the application!
- Several patterns such as ') "> "\ etc.

#### **SQL Injection Example**

- Last year, hackers breached the computer files of merchant processor CardSystems Inc., exposing 40 million card accounts and directly affecting about 200,000. The breach eventually led to the sale of CardSystems' assets to Pay By Touch Inc.
- SQL injection was used by the attackers to install malicious script on the CardSystems web application database which where scheduled to run every four days, extract records, zip them and export them to an FTP site.

http://www.webappsec.org/projects/whid/list\_class\_sql\_injection.shtml

# **SQL/Command Injection: Summary**

#### How serious?

- Result of poor/inexistant input validation
- Extremely easy to carry out: just a browser is sufficient
- Major vector of identity theft, DB denial of service (shutdown the DB)

#### Damage potential?

#### Very High

#### Countermeasures

- Sanitize user input
- Don't display raw database error codes to the client
- Cisco's Web Application Firewall can prevent patterns from being fed as form input (characters such as single quote, double quote, etc)

## Attack #3: XSS / Cross-site Scripting

#### Attack #3 – Cross Site Scripting

#### What is it?

- User feeds data to the web application
- Web application doesn't sanitize input and echoes back the query
- The unvalidated data contains a piece of JavaScript that is executed in the context of the user's browser session.
- A carefully formed link sent to a victim (usually by mail) results in the JavaScript code being run in the victim's browser, sending information to the hacker.

#### Why does Cross Site Scripting happen?

- Unvalidated input example: html is permitted into query parameter
- Application blindly echoes request back to browser

#### Result

- "Virtual hijacking" of the session by stealing cookies
- Any information flowing between the legitimate user and site can be manipulated or transmitted to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.



#### **Popular U.S. Bank—Live Example**



#### XSS: just pop up alert boxes?

 OK great, yet another example of a XSS attack popping up a "Hello" box in a browser – big deal ...how serious is this? Should I really be concerned?

# **Cross Site Scripting applications**

 The second a hacker realizes a query parameter accepts HTTP, he can trick your browser into doing virtually anything:

-build hidden forms that submit your cookies

-check your browsing history

-scan your subnet for certain hosts

-etc.

- Commonly used in Phishing emails
- Experts estimate 80% of web sites are vulnerable (<u>http://www.whitehatsec.com/downloads/WHXSSThreat</u> <u>s.pdf</u>)

#### **XSS In Action: Stealing Authentication Credentials**



#### Paypal 2006: victims redirected to hacker site via XSS

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#### Attack #4: Cookie tampering



#### Attack #4 – Broken Authentication & Session Management using Cookie Tampering

#### What is it?

- A cookie that has had its value changed by the user
- Cookie storage is managed and controlled by the user.
- Cookies can be viewed and modified by the user.
- Cookies transferred in the open can be captured and modified by a 3rd party.

#### Why does it happen?

- Cookie information is weakly encrypted or hashed.
- Web application developers are unaware of the threat or lack the cryptographic expertise to prevent tampering.
- The cookie is assumed to contain a certain format of content –an assumption that isn't verified.

#### Result

- Identity theft or impersonation by a 3rd party altering the session id or authorization information stored in the cookie.
- DoS or even remote command execution due to buffer overflows

#### User 'Abacarius' is paying his bills online

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Abacarius gets bored and looks at the Cookie set by the application



Abacarius attempts to impersonate user "Johnson"

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The new cookie is sent to the web application which interprets it as user "Johnson"

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#### **Cookie tampering: mitigation**

- No need to reinvent the wheel existing proven encryption algorithms available to web application developers
- Use modern development frameworks for session maintenance
- Cisco's WAF can encrypt cookies, only sending an MD5 hash of the actual cookie

 $\rightarrow$ immune to tampering

 $\rightarrow$  be aware that replay attacks are still possible

# **Cookie Encryption Example : Server to Client**



# **Cookie Encryption Example : Client to Server**



#### Cisco's Web Application Firewall: AVS 6.0

#### What is Cisco's WAF

- Application Velocity System (AVS) 6.0 and higher
- Delivers both app optimization and web app security, even for in-house apps
- Focuses 100% on HTTP
- Ships with hundreds of built-in regular expressions template to catch unvalidated input – users can create regexes too
- Other built-in features such as cookie encryption, SSL termination, URL rewrite, HTTP error code obfuscation, web cloaking
- Can operate as a gateway, an inline bridge, or in monitor mode (no action – just log) – meant to be deployed in front of web server





oits

- Bi Directional Deep Inspection and Rewrite capabilities
- Positive & Negative Security
- Protocol compliance and anomaly detection
- Transaction logging and report for application security forensics

#### **Fingerprinting – Web Cloaking Protection**



#### RFC warns against revealing server identity The AVS can rewrite or hide specific headers in the reply

#### **Data Theft Protection**



Social Security 123-45-6789 123-45-6789



Driver's License A123456

1234-5678-9012-3456

Credit Card



Employee ID S-924600

The Shift of California PPO SAVINGS PLAN 07 17 JAN # GOOD 27 SAVINGS PLAN 07 17 # GOOD 251-55 (00) 551-55

Patient ID 134-AR-627





Users

PROBLEM Any web app that links to critical data may expose that data to hackers

Web Applications

#### **Data Theft Protection**



#### **Summary: So What is the Answer?**

- Do not trust input from the client
- Always perform input validation, restrict character set/encoding, escape suspicious patterns <u>BEFORE</u> sending to database
- Do not re-invent your own encryption or session management schemes, rely on modern web app dev frameworks
- and ...

Defense-in-Depth should include a web application firewall that can quickly, effectively and cost-effectively block attacks at Layer 7

#