Week 8: Lecture A Introduction to The Web

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

- Project 2: AppSec released
 - Deadline: this Thursday by 11:59PM

Project 2: Application Security

Deadline: Thursday, October 16 by 11:59PM.

Before you start, review the course syllabus for the Lateness, Collaboration, and Ethical Use policies.

You may optionally work alone, or in teams of at most two and submit one project per team. If you have difficulties forming a team, post on Piazza's Search for Teammates forum. Note that the final exam will cover project material, so you and your partner should collaborate on each part.

The code and other answers your group submits must be entirely your own work, and you are bound by the University's Student Code. You may consult with other students about the conceptualization of the project and the meaning of the questions, but you may not look at any part of someone else's solution or collaborate with anyone outside your group. You may consult published references, provided that you appropriately cite them (e.g., in your code comments). Don't risk your grade and degree by cheating!

Complete your work in the **CS 4440 VM**—we will use this same environment for grading. You may not use any **external dependencies**. Use only default Python 3 libraries and/or modules we provide you.

Helpful Resources

- . The CS 4440 Course Wiki
- VM Setup and Troubleshooting
- Terminal Cheat Sheet
- GDB Cheat Sheet
- x86 Cheat Sheet
- C Cheat Sheet

Table of Contents:

- Helpful Resources
- Introduction
- Objectives
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- Important Guidelines
- . Part 1: Beginner Exploits
- Target 0: Variable Overwrite
- Target 1: Execution Redirect
 What to Submit
- Part 2: Intermediate Exploits
- Target 2: Shellcode Redirect
- Target 3: Indirect Overwrite
- Target 4: Beyond Strings
- What to Submit
- · Part 3: Advanced Exploits
- Target 5: Bypassing DEP
- Target 6: Bypassing ASLR
- What to Submit
- Part 4: Super L33T Pwnage
- Extra Credit: Target 7
- Extra Credit: Target 8
- What to Submit
- Submission Instructions



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Project 2 Progress Update

Working on Targets 0–2	0%
	0%
Working on Targets 3–4	
	0%
Working on Targets 5–6	
	0%
Finished!	
	0%
Haven't started:(
	0%



- Project 3: WebSec released
 - **Deadline:** Thursday, November 6th by 11:59PM

Project 3: Web Security

Deadline: Thursday, November 6 by 11:59PM.

Before you start, review the course syllabus for the Lateness, Collaboration, and Ethical Use policies.

You may optionally work alone, or in teams of at most two and submit one project per team. If you have difficulties forming a team, post on Piazza's Search for Teammates forum. Note that the final exam will cover project material, so you and your partner should collaborate on each part.

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ACM Club Callout!

In The Association for Computing Machinery:



- Find like-minded people in the field of computing, and work on projects as a Special Interest Group.
- Gain career and industry connections through lectures by professors and companies.

Campus Connect



FREE Pizza!
Officer Elections!
Thurs, Oct 16, 5-6pm MEB 3515



acm.cs.utah.edu



@uofuacm



uofuacm@gmail.com



Al and Careers Q&A Panel

When: Thursday Oct 16, 3:45–4:45 PM Where: Sorenson Molecular Biotech 2650 SMBB

Come explore key questions shaping the future of work with Artificial Intelligence:

- · What is it really like to work with Al in today's industries?
- How is AI transforming different career paths and opportunities?
- How can students prepare now for careers that will involve Al collaboration?
- How do internships or academic research translate into real-world AI careers?

Panelists



Berton Earnshaw

Recursion Pharmaceuticals



Mary Hall
Director & Professor
Kahlert School of Computing



Ashlii Madsen Senior Vice President Zions Bancorporation



Abhisek Trivedi
Data Science Manager
Adobe

Suggested Topics

Come prepared with questions about:

- Landing a job in today's market
- Standing out as a new graduate
- How Al is changing careers
- Misconceptions about Al work



RSVP



Hosted by University of Utah • Networking and light refreshments to follow

SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY ON CANVAS INAUGURAL DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT AI SYMPOSIUM SUBMISSION DEADLINE **OCTOBER 31, 2025 ETHICS TECHNOLOGY** Student Perspectives: Al and Society **EDUCATION BUSINESS** DATE: Friday, November 21, 2025 (\) TIME: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM LIGHTNING TALK **LOCATION:** Marriott Library - Gould Auditorium Share your most impactful use of AI with a 5-10 **SPONSORED BY** minute presentation. • A platform for students to lead conversations about AI in society. RESEARCH PRESENTATION TEKCLUB Share your research or project Invites faculty to listen and learn from student in a 15-20 minute perspectives. DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES office of RESEARCH INTEGRITY & COMPLIANCE J. Willard Marriott Library presentation. • Sparks meaningful discussions on

Al's impact today and in the future.



WHAT

STUDENT TEAMS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS WITH INDUSTRY MENTORS

WHEN

Friday, October 24 4:30 PM - 12:00 AM

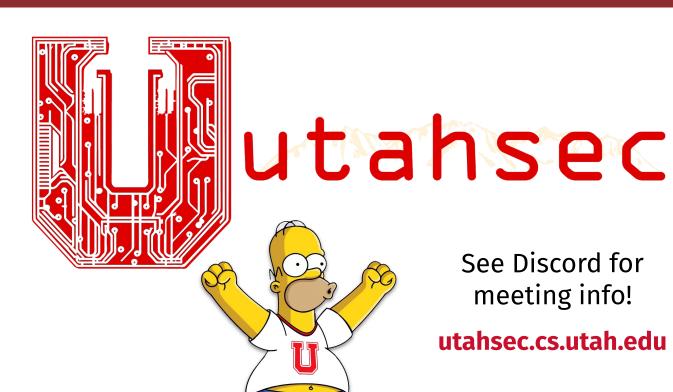
WHERE

WEB 1230 72 S Central Campus Dr Salt Lake City, UT 84112

REGISTER



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER





Questions?



Last time on CS 4440...

Malware
Today's Malware "Zoo"
Malware Detection and Prevention

Malware: Malicious Software

Definition: ???



Malware: Malicious Software

 Definition: software (more generally, a set of instructions) that runs on a computer it doesn't have access to and/or does something nefarious

Goals of Malware: ???



Malware: Malicious Software

 Definition: software (more generally, a set of instructions) that runs on a computer it doesn't have access to and/or does something nefarious

Goals of Malware:

- Steal private data
- Display ads, send spam
- Damage local machine
- Congest a network
- Attack other systems on the network
- Commit online fraud
- Gain, then grant, unauthorized access
- Up to the attacker(s) really...



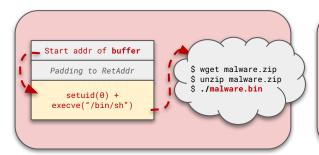
Malware Infection

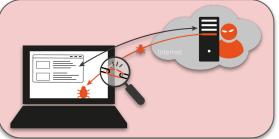
How does malicious software get on victim computers in the first place?



Malware Infection

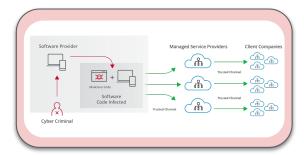
How does malicious software get on victim computers in the first place?











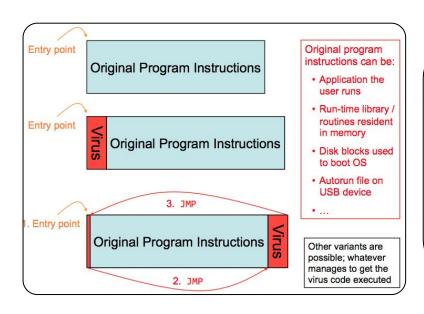
Virus

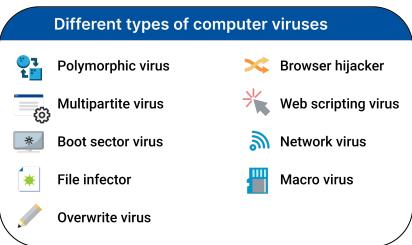
???



Virus

Self-replicating software that infects other programs, mutates itself to avoid detection





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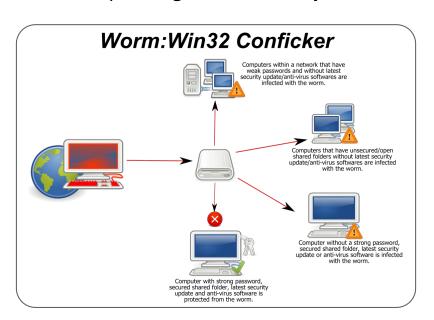
Worm

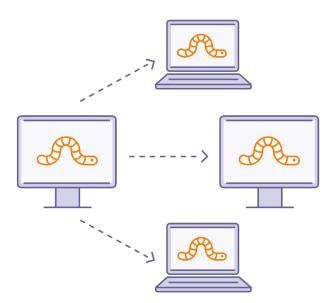
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Worm

Self-replicating software that spreads over networks to infect programs on other systems





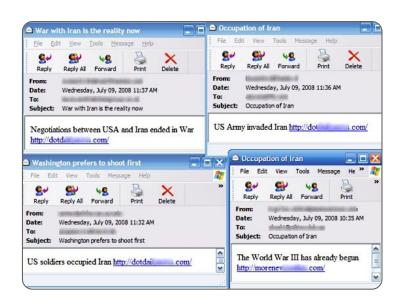


Trojans

???

Trojans

Appears to perform desirable function, but does something malicious behind the scenes







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Adware

????

Adware

Software that incessantly displays advertisements; often bundled with other malware





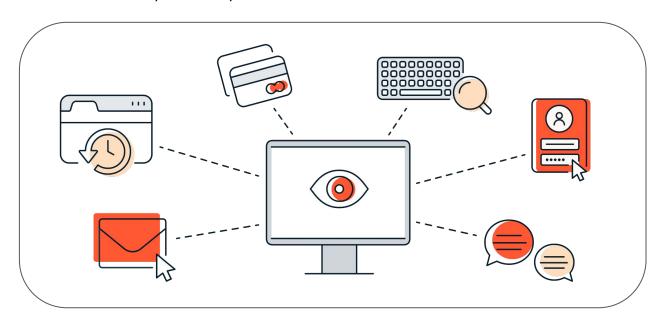
Spyware

???



Spyware

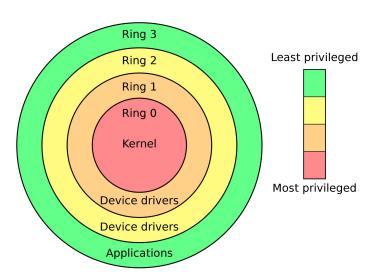
Software that tracks, collects, and exfiltrates sensitive user information

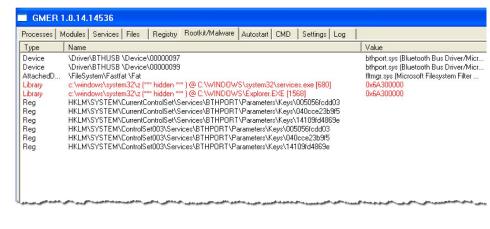


- Rootkit
 - ????

Rootkit

Malware that uses stealth to achieve persistent, privileged control over a victim machine





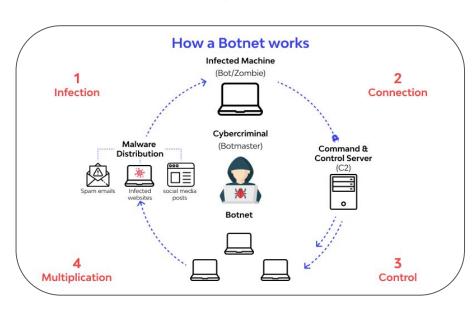
Botnet

???



Botnet

A network of compromised "zombie" or "bot" computers that do a botmaster's bidding

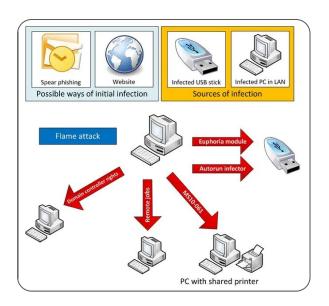




- **Advanced Persistent Threat**
 - ???

Advanced Persistent Threat

Combined threats, usually targeting a specific entity; extremely sophisticated and stealthy





Detection

- Anti-virus software
 - Software for detecting, eliminate malware
 - E.g., Malwarebytes, Avast, McAfee, Symantec
- Signature-based anti-virus:
 - ???

- Heuristic-based anti-virus:
 - ???



Detection

Anti-virus software

- Software for detecting, eliminate malware
- E.g., Malwarebytes, Avast, McAfee, Symantec

Signature-based anti-virus:

- Track identifying strings (like a fingerprint)
- Difficult against mutating viruses

Heuristic-based anti-virus:

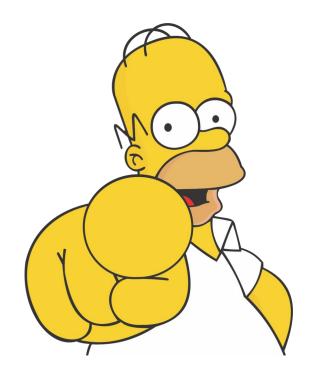
- Analyze program behavior, identify unusual patterns
- E.g. network access, file deletion, modify boot sector



Other Defenses

Tripwired Hashes

- Keep hash of known system files
- Periodically re-hash and check
 - If hash changes, file tampered
- Be a security-conscious citizen
 - Strong passwords, 2-factor authentication
 - Do not access suspicious files or websites
 - Use your intuition: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!
 - Keep software updated and use anti-virus
 - Teach others!



Questions?



This time on CS 4440...

The Web HTML & HTTP **HTTP Cookies JavaScript** SQL

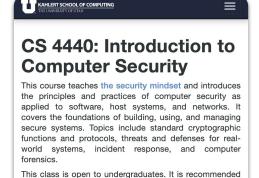
The Web

What is it?

What is it?

- A venue for me to ridicule Broncos fans
- A place to view (and share) pictures of seals
- The location where I host the CS 4440 website





that you have a solid grasp over topics like software engineering, computer organization, basic networking,

SQL, scripting languages, and C/C++.



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What really is it?

What really is it?

A platform for deploying applications, portably and securely



A Historical Perspective

- The web is an example of bolt-on security
 - Originally invented to allow physicists to share their research papers
 - Only textual web pages, with links to other pages;
 no security model



A Historical Perspective

- The web is an example of bolt-on security
 - Originally invented to allow physicists to share their research papers
 - Only textual web pages, with links to other pages;
 no security model
- Then we added embedded media (e.g., images)
 - Crucial decision: a page can embed images loaded from another web server
 - Then, Javascript, dynamic HTML, AJAX, CSS, frames, audio, video, and others!

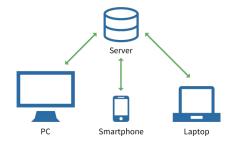


A Historical Perspective

- The web is an example of bolt-on security
 - Originally invented to allow physicists to share their research papers
 - Only textual web pages, with links to other pages;
 no security model
- Then we added embedded media (e.g., images)
 - Crucial decision: a page can embed images loaded from another web server
 - Then, Javascript, dynamic HTML, AJAX, CSS, frames, audio, video, and others!
- Today, a website is a distributed application



Client-Server Model



Web Security: Two Tales

- Web Browser (the client side)
 - Attacks targeting browser security weaknesses cause:
 - Malware installation (e.g., keyloggers, rootkits)
 - Theft of sensitive data (e.g., files, passwords)



Web Security: Two Tales

- Web Browser (the client side)
 - Attacks targeting browser security weaknesses cause:
 - Malware installation (e.g., keyloggers, rootkits)
 - Theft of sensitive data (e.g., files, passwords)
- Web Application (the server side)
 - Runs on the site (e.g., e-commerce, blogs)
 - Written in PHP, ASP, JSP, Ruby, etc.
 - Many attacks:
 - Cross-site Scripting
 - Cross-site Request Forgery
 - SQL Injection





Questions?



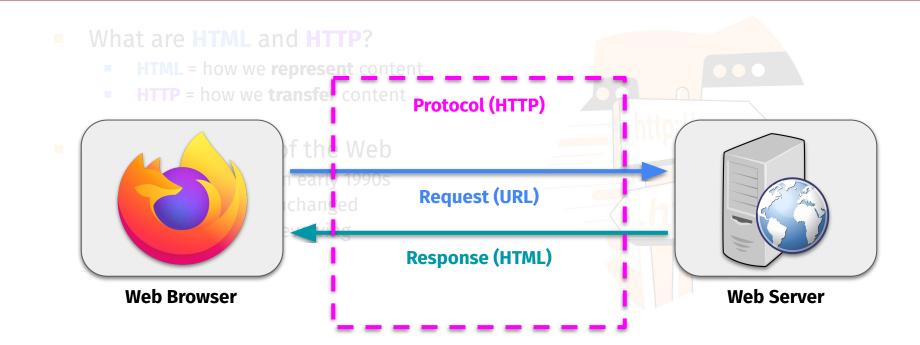
HTML and **HTTP**

HTML and HTTP

- What are HTML and HTTP?
 - HTML = how we represent content
 - **HTTP** = how we **transfer** content
- Key components of the Web
 - Both developed in early 1990s
 - HTTP is mostly unchanged
 - HTML still evolving (albeit slowly)



HTML and HTTP



HyperText Markup Language (HTML)

- Describes content and formatting of web pages
 - Rendered within browser window
- HTML features
 - Static document description language
 - Links to external pages, images by reference
 - User input sent to server via forms





HyperText Markup Language (HTML)

- Describes content and formatting of web pages
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HTML features

- Static document description language
- Links to external pages, images by reference
- User input sent to server via forms

HTML extensions

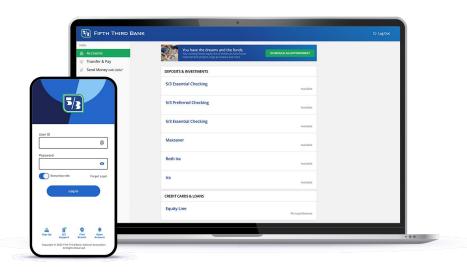
- Additional media (e.g., PDF, videos) via plugins
- Embedding programs in other languages (e.g., Java) provides dynamic content that can:
 - Interacts with the user
 - Modify the browser user interface
 - Access the client computer environment

```
<form action="home.html">
    First Name:<br>
    <input type="text" name="first_name">
</br>
    Last Name:<br>
    <input type="text" name="last_name">
</br>
    Email:<br>
    <input type="text" name="email">
</br>
    <input type="text" name="email">
</br>
    <input type="text" name="email">
</br>
    <input type="submit" name="Submit">
</form>
```

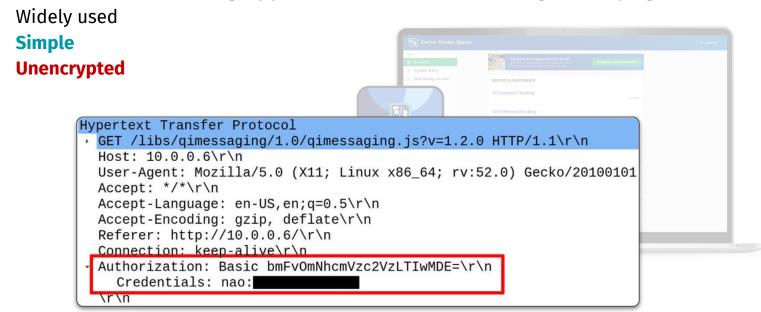




- Protocol for transmitting hypermedia documents (e.g., web pages)
 - Widely used
 - Simple
 - Unencrypted

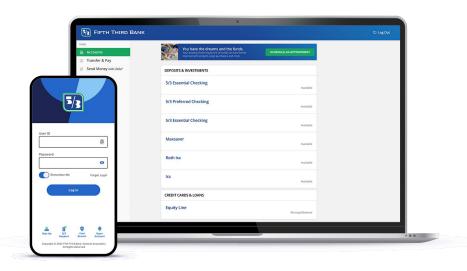


Protocol for transmitting hypermedia documents (e.g., web pages)

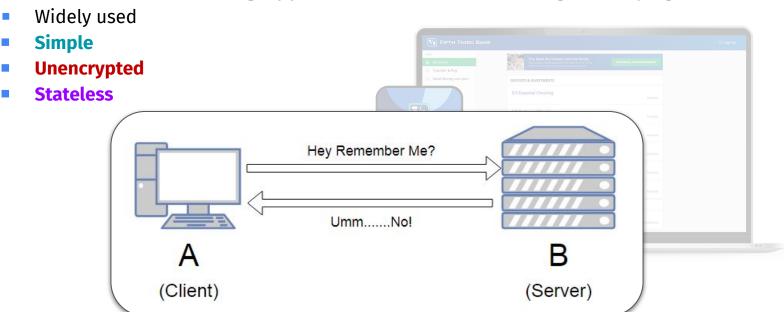




- Protocol for transmitting hypermedia documents (e.g., web pages)
 - Widely used
 - Simple
 - Unencrypted
 - Stateless



Protocol for transmitting hypermedia documents (e.g., web pages)



Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

- Reference to a web resource (e.g., a website)
 - Specifies its location on a computer network
 - Specifies the mechanism for retrieving it
- **Example:** http://www.cs.utah.edu/class?name=cs4440#homework
 - Protocol: How to retrieve the web resource
 - Path: Identifies the specific resource to access (case insensitive)
 - Query: Assigns values to specified parameters (case sensitive)
 - Fragment: Location of a resource subordinate to another

Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

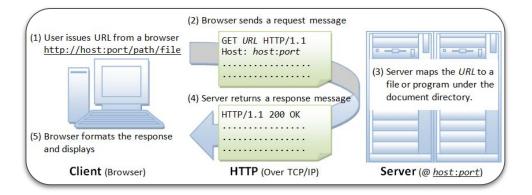
- Reference to a web resource (e.g., a website)
 - Specifies its location on a computer network
 - Specifies the mechanism for retrieving it
- **Example:** http://www.cs.utah.edu/class?name=cs4440#homework
 - Protocol: How to retrieve the web resource
 - HTTP
 - Path: Identifies the specific resource to access (case insensitive)
 - www.cs.utah.edu/class
 - Query: Assigns values to specified parameters (case sensitive)
 - name=cs4440
 - Fragment: Location of a resource subordinate to another
 - #homework



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Browser (client):

- 1. Open connection
- 2. Client sends request
- 3. Server obtains resource
- 4. Server **responds** (stateless!)
- 5. Display and **close** connection

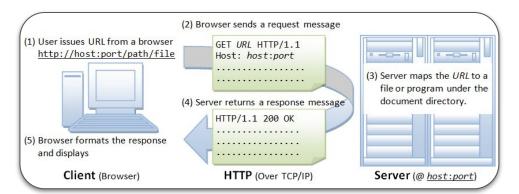


Browser (client):

- 1. Open connection
- 2. Client sends request
- 3. Server obtains resource
- **4.** Server **responds** (stateless!)
- 5. Display and **close** connection

Server Responses:

- "200 OK"
- "304 Document moved"
- "404 Not found"
- "400 Bad request"





- Two types of HTTP requests: GET and POST
 - GET requests: set within the request's URL

What does this example request do?

http://cs4440.eng.utah.edu/project3/search?q=Test

- Two types of HTTP requests: GET and POST
 - GET requests: set within the request's URL

- What does this example request do?
 - Sets parameter q to value Test for interface search

Bungle!

Searching for Test

Your search for Test returned these results:

No results found.

Search Again

http://cs4440.eng.utah.edu/project3/search?q=Test

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- Two types of HTTP requests: GET and POST
 - POST requests: parameters within request body

What does this example request do?

- Two types of HTTP requests: GET and POST
 - POST requests: parameters within request body

Logged in as attacker. Log out

- What does this example request do?
 - Sets username to value attacker (and type hidden) for interface login
 - Sets password to value 133th4x (and type hidden) for interface login

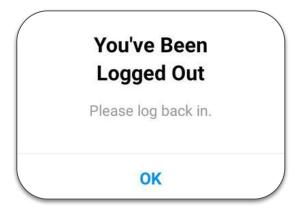
Questions?



Cookies

Supporting Stateful Connections

Stateless connection is impractical—why?

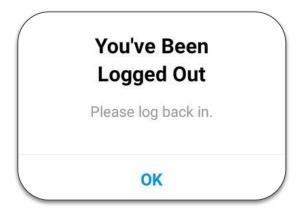






Supporting Stateful Connections

- Stateless connection is impractical—why?
 - Performance: cost of re-transmitting redundant info
 - Convenience: user must perform same redundant tasks





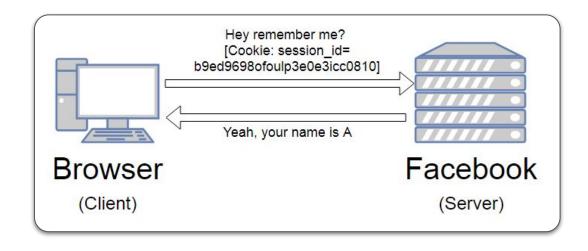


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HTTP Cookies

- Small chunks of info stored on a computer associated with a specific server
 - When you access a website, it might store information as a cookie
 - Every time you visit that server, the cookie is re-sent to the server
 - Effectively used to hold state information over multiple sessions

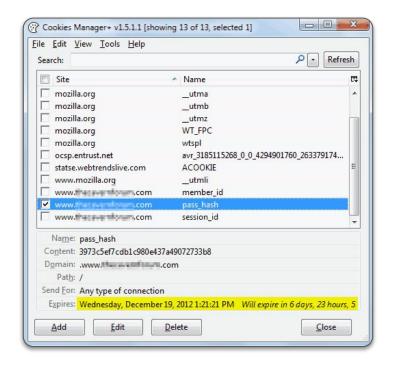




HTTP Cookies

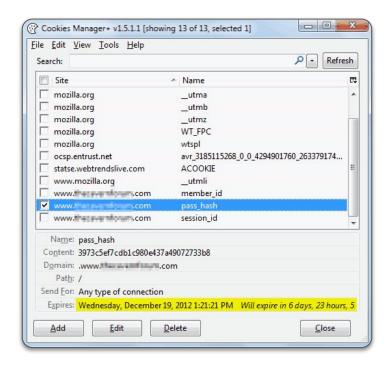
Cookies expire!

- Date is chosen by server (e.g., January 1st, 2036)
- Thus, any cookies will stick around for a while!



HTTP Cookies

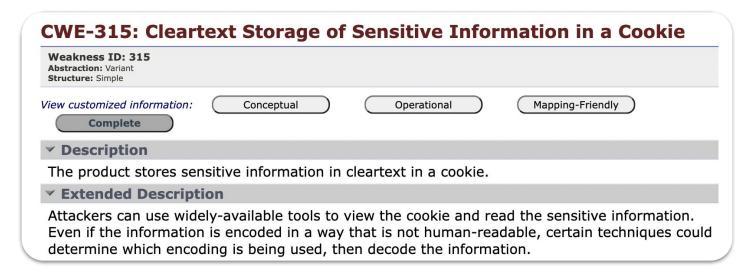
- Cookies expire!
 - Date is chosen by server (e.g., January 1st, 2036)
 - Thus, any cookies will stick around for a while!
- Every large website that you use today makes use of cookies in some form
 - "Necessary" cookies
 - Core functionality like security, accessibility
 - "Analytics" cookies
 - Used to collect data about your browsing, or to display you targeted advertisements



/

HTTP Cookies

- Cookies can hold any type of information—including sensitive information
 - Passwords, credit card information, social security numbers, etc.
 - Session cookies, non-persistent cookies, persistent cookies

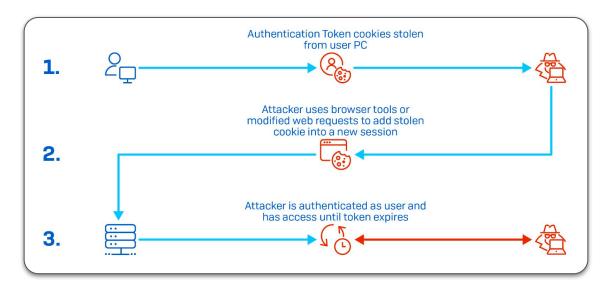




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HTTP Cookies

- Cookies are stored on your computer and can be controlled or manipulated
 - Many sites require that you enable cookies to access the site's full capabilities
 - Their storage on your computer naturally lends itself to cookie exploitation

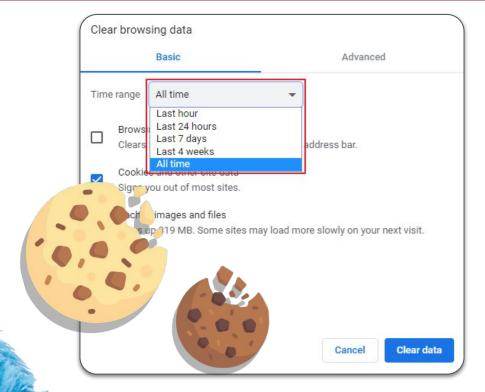


HTTP Cookies

You can (and probably should)
 clear your cookies regularly

 Most browsers nowadays have mechanisms to disable cookies

 You can also choose to accept or exclude cookies from certain sites





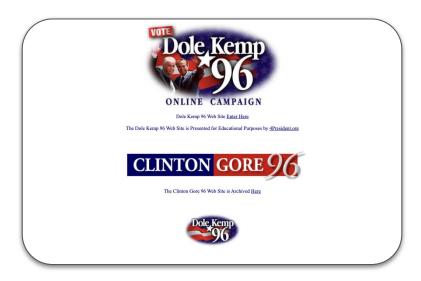
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Questions?



From Web 1.0 to Web 2.0

- Recall that HTML is a static language
 - Pages are rendered only once
 - Ideal for non-interactive content.
 - E.g., "About Us", "Contact Us", etc.



/

From Web 1.0 to Web 2.0

- Recall that HTML is a static language
 - Pages are rendered only once
 - Ideal for non-interactive content
 - E.g., "About Us", "Contact Us", etc.
- Since Web 1.0, we've evolved to now express web pages as programs
 - Enables richer, more interactive content

```
Aggregators Folksonomy Wikis
Blogs Participation Six Degrees Usability Widgets
Recommendation Social SoftwareFoAF
Sharing Collaboration Perpetual Beta Simplicity AJAX

Audio IM Video Web 2.0 CSS Pay Per Click

UMTS Mobility Atom XHTML SVG Ruby on Rails VC Trust Affiliation
OpenAPIs RSS Semantic Web Standards, Economy
OpenID Remixability REST StandardizationThe Long Tail
DataDriven Accessibility
Modularity SOAP

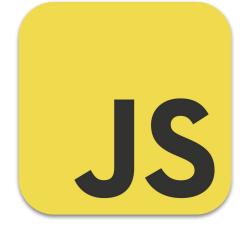
Microformats Syndication
```

From Web 1.0 to Web 2.0

- Recall that HTML is a static language
 - Pages are rendered only once
 - Ideal for non-interactive content.
 - E.g., "About Us", "Contact Us", etc.
- Since Web 1.0, we've evolved to now express web pages as programs
 - Enables richer, more interactive content
 - E.g., the JavaScript language

```
1
2 <html>
3 <head>
Rec
4 <script>
5 | function HelloWorld() {
A | 6 | alert("Hello World");
7 | }
UMTS | 8 </script>
OF | 9 </head>
OF | 10 <body | 000 | 000 | 000 | 000 |
11 | 12 </body>
13 </html>
```

- A powerful, popular web programming language
 - Scripts embedded in web pages returned by web server
 - Scripts executed by browser (client-side scripting). Can:
 - Alter contents of a web page
 - Track events (mouse clicks, motion, keystrokes)
 - Read/set cookies
 - Issue web requests and read replies

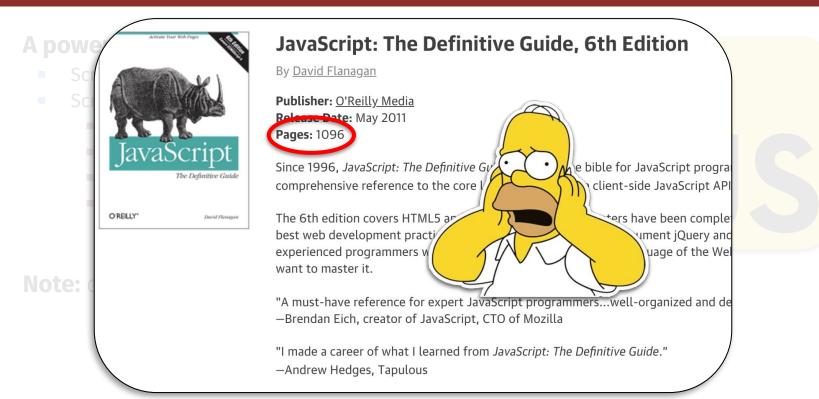


Note: despite the name, has nothing to do with Java!

Familiarity with HTML and JavaScript?

Only some HTML 0% Only some JavaScript 0% Some of both HTML and JavaScript 0% Lots of both HTML and JavaScript 0% None of the above (which is totally fine!) 0%







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CS 4440 Wiki: JavaScript Cheat Sheet

CS 4440 Wiki: JavaScript Cheat Sheet

Below is an abridged cheat sheet of JavaScript fundamentals relevant to Project 3.

This page is by no means comprehensive—we encourage you to bookmark and familiarize yourself with one of the many in-depth JavaScript tutorials on the web. Some great examples are:

- The Official JavaScript Docs
- HTMLCheetSheet's JS Cheat Sheet
- W3 Schools' JavaScript Introduction

Executing JavaScript Code

In Project 3, you'll work with three fundamental ways to execute JavaScript code: **on-page scripts** wrapped in HTML code, **functions**, and **event**-driven execution.

On-page scripts:

```
<script>
  /* Code to be executed as the parent HTML code is processed. */
</script>
```

Functions:

```
function foo(){
   /* Code to be executed when this function is called. */
}
```

Table of Contents:

- Execution
- Scripts
- Functions
- Events
- Debugging
- Alerts
- · Console
- Variables
- Initialization
- Data Typing
- Strings
- Length
- Appending
- Substrings
- Splitting
- Arrays
 - Indexing
- Requests
- GET requests
- POST requests
- Access Elements
- DOM tree
- Cookies



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Code enclosed within **<script>** tags

- Code enclosed within **<script>** tags
- Defining functions

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<script type="text/javascript">
    function hello() { alert("Hello world!"); }
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<img src="picture.gif"
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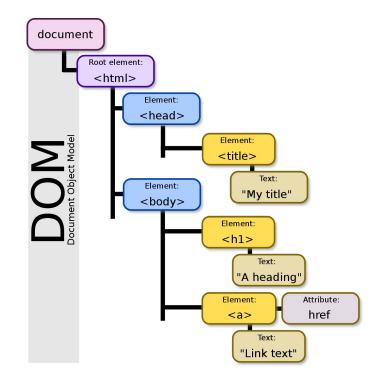
Built-in functions can change content of a window: click-jacking attack

```
<a onMouseUp="window.open('http://www.evilsite.com')"
href="http://www.trustedsite.com/">Trust me!?</a>
```

Document Object Model (DOM Tree)

- Platform- and language-neutral interface
 - Allows programs and scripts to dynamically access/update document content, structure, style

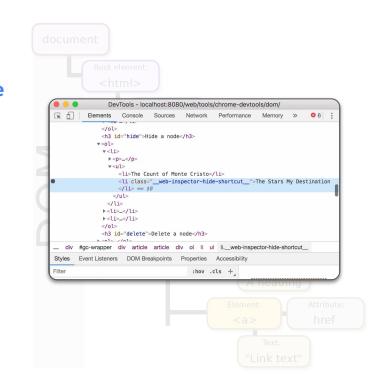
Backbone of modern web browser plugins



Document Object Model (DOM Tree)

- Platform- and language-neutral interface
 - Allows programs and scripts to dynamically access/update document content, structure, style

- Backbone of modern web browser plugins
- You can access and update the DOM Tree yourself via browser's web developer tools
 - You will get familiar with this in Project 3!

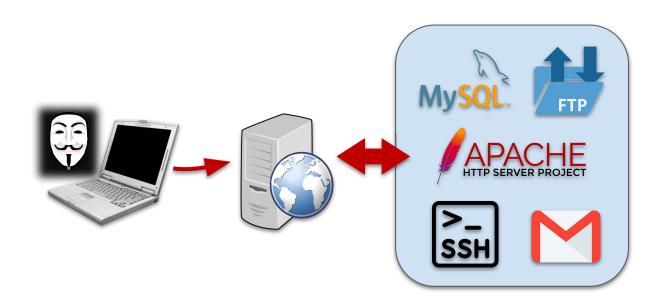


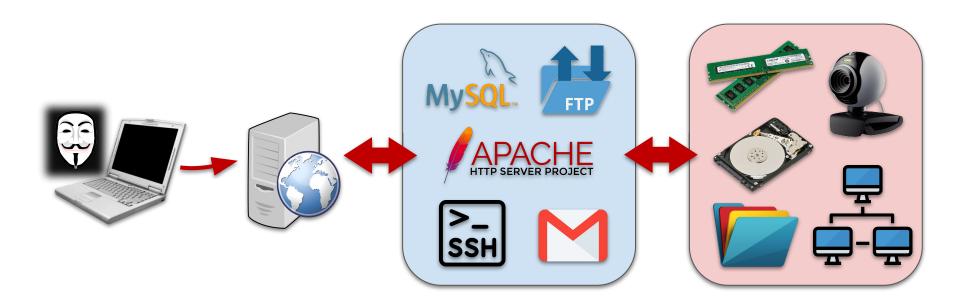
Questions?

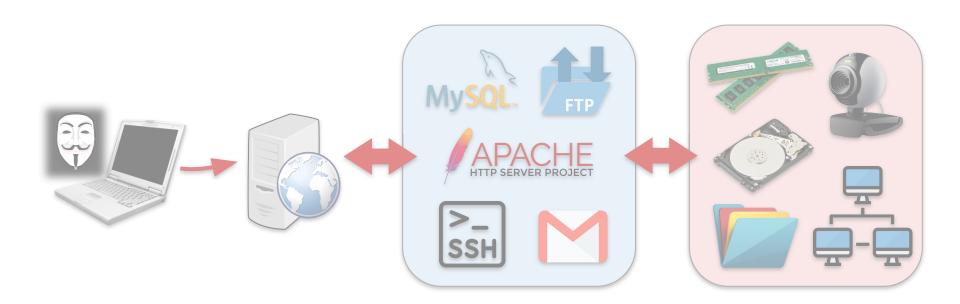


SQL









Servers are a gateway for attackers!



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The client would need to have all server data stored locally...

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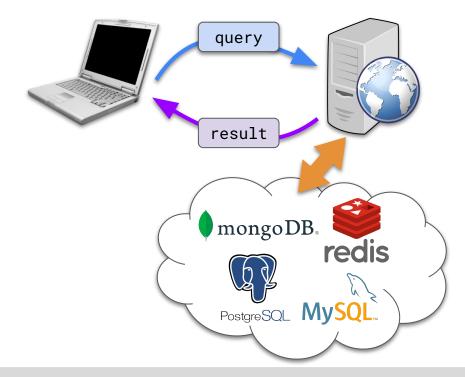
Can't we just **restrict all scripting** to be **exclusively on the client-side**?

The client would need to have all server data stored locally...

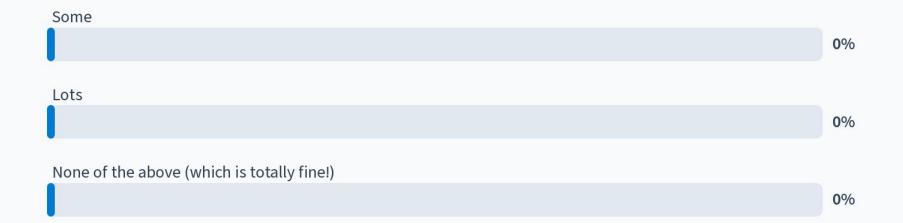
Would be inefficient and insecure!

Web Databases

- Databases: how we store data on the server-side
 - Data stored by server
 - Data queried by client
 - Query executed by server
- A massive component of modern web applications
 - Examples: record keeping, user account management
- Popular DB Software:
 - MySQL, PostgreSQL
 - Redis, MongoDB



Familiarity with SQL?





- A language to ask ("query") databases questions
 - Information stored in tables; columns = attributes, rows = records

Fundamental operations:

```
"SELECT": express queries
"INSERT": create new records
"UPDATE": modify existing data
"DELETE": delete existing records
"UNION": combine results of multiple queries
"WHERE/AND/OR": conditional operations
```

Syntactical Tips:

```
"*" : all"NULL" : nothing
```

• "-- " : comment-out the rest of the line (note the space at the end)



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- A language to ask ("query") databases questions
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 - "SELECT COUNT(*) FROM `users` WHERE location='Salt Lake City'"

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 - "SELECT * FROM `users` WHERE username='bob' AND password='abc123'"

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- A language to ask ("query") databases questions
- E.g, How many users have the location Salt Lake City?
 - "SELECT COUNT(*) FROM `users` WHERE location='Salt Lake City'"
- E.g., Is there a user with username "bob" and password "abc123"?
 - "SELECT * FROM `users` WHERE username='bob' AND password='abc123'"
- E.g., Completely delete this table!
 - "DROP TABLE `users`"



Example DB and SQL Queries

Table name: users

ID	username	password	passHash	location
1	Prof Nagy	c4ntgu3\$\$m3!	0x12345678	Salt Lake, UT
2	Average User	password123	0x87654321	Boulder, CO
3	Below Average	password	0x81726354	Denver, CO

- SELECT * FROM users;
 - **????**
- SELECT * FROM users WHERE id = 2;
 - **????**
- SELECT password FROM users WHERE username = "Prof Nagy";
 - **????**

Example DB and SQL Queries

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- SELECT * FROM users;
 - Will return all users
- SELECT * FROM users WHERE id = 2;
 - Will return just Average User
- SELECT password FROM users WHERE username = "Prof Nagy";
 - Will return Prof Nagy's password

Questions?



Food for Thought

- SQL databases and other web applications operate on users' inputs
 - E.g., SQL queries, HTTP GET and POST requests
 - That's how we interact with their server-side applications!
- Question: can we assume that all user input will only ever be data?



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Next time on CS 4440...

Web Exploitation, SQL Injection, CSRF, XSS