

CSRF 101



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Principal Penetration Tester - SecurityMetrics

Cross-Site Request Forgery

Definition

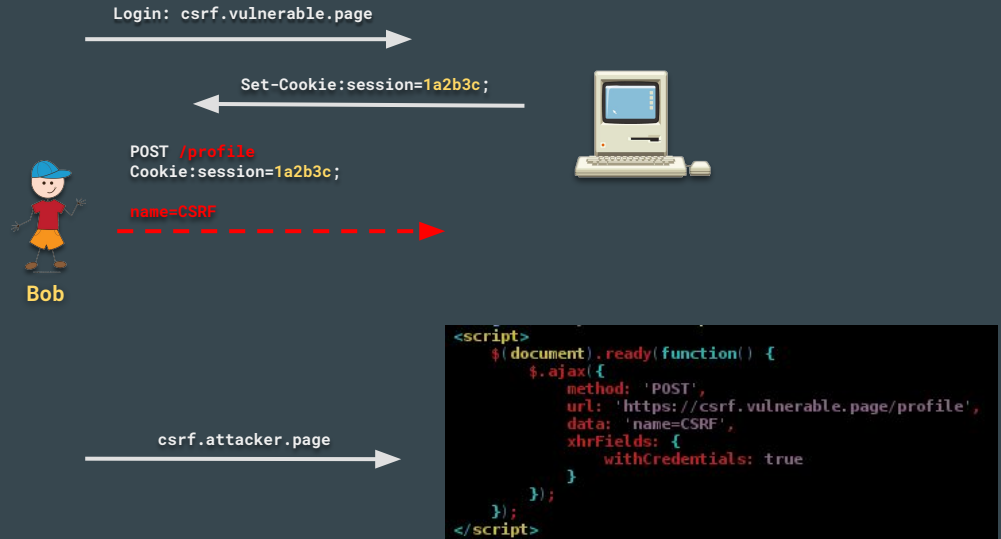
OWASP:

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) is an attack that forces an end user to execute unwanted actions on a web application in which they're currently authenticated.

Aaron:

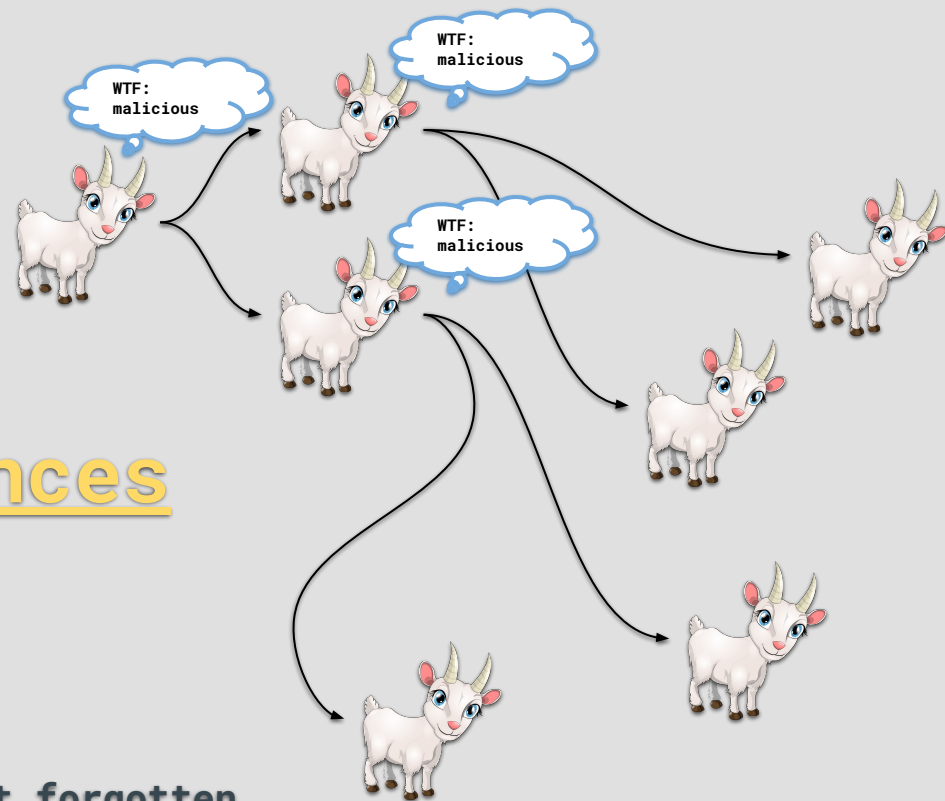
"Con" or "Trick" a user into performing an action (Username/Password Change, Make Purchase, etc.), without the user realizing it.

Example



Notable Exploits:

`GOAT worm` - Twitter



OWASP Top10 Appearances

2007 - A5

2010 - A5

2013 - A8

2017 - Merged or retired, but not forgotten

CSRF-Protection

Types

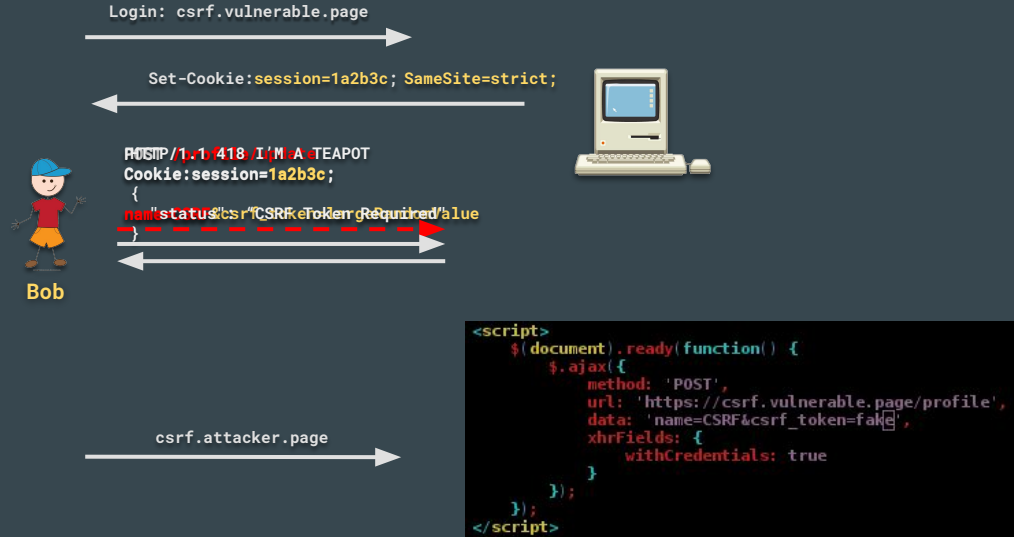
Passive:

Synchronizer Token

- Unique per user session
- Large random value
- **REJECT** the action if the token fails validation

* Cookie SameSite Attribute

Example



CSRF-Protection

Types

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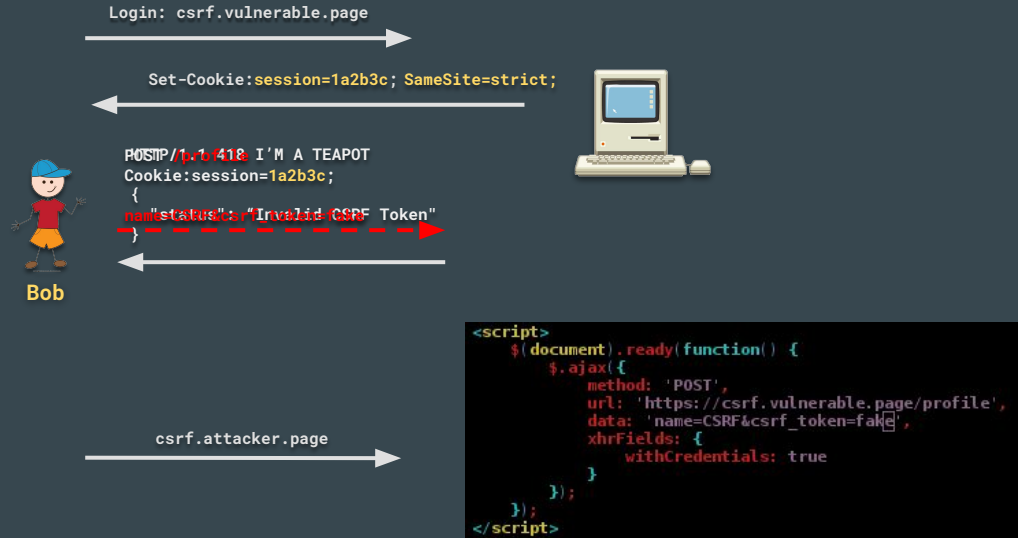
* Cookie SameSite Attribute

Active:

User Interaction

- Authenticate, CAPTCHA, etc.

Example



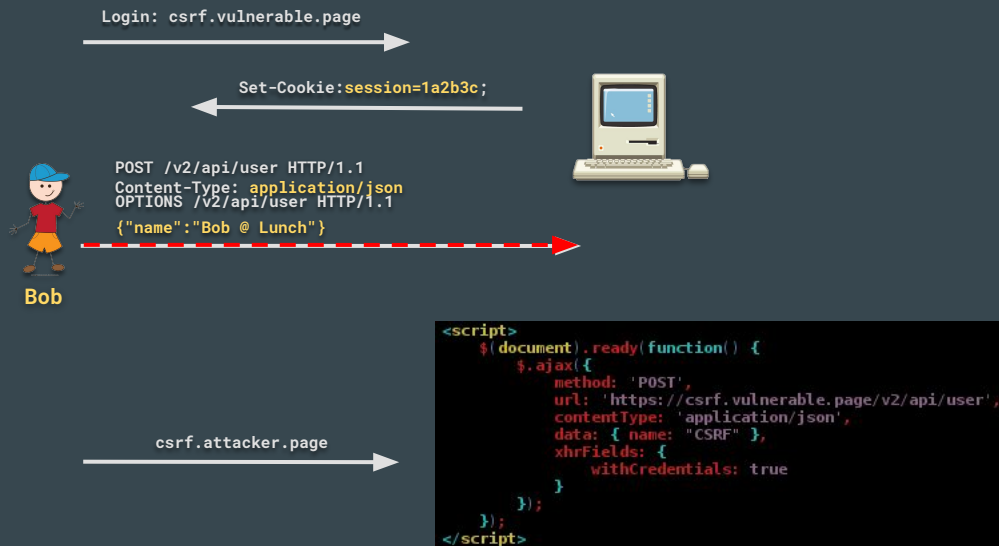
Single Page Application

About

Angular, Node, Sails, Express, etc.

- Dynamically Updated Pages (AJAX)
- Clean modern feel
- Responsive

Example



CORS

Cross Origin Resource Sharing

Non "simple-requests" require CORS preflight

Simple Request

NON SIMPLE PUT DELETE PATCH
audio/aac application/x-abiword
application/x-freearc video/x-msvideo
application/vnd.amazon.ebook application/octet-stream
application/x-csh text/css text/csv application/msword
application/vnd.ms-fontobject application/epub+zip
image/gif text/html image/vnd.microsoft.icon text/calendar
application/java-archive image/jpeg
application/javascript application/ld+json
Simple Method: GET POST HEAD
Simple Headers: Accept, Accept-Language, Content-Language
Content-Type: Valid for <form> element
application/vnd.apple.mpegurl application/x-form-urlencoded
application/vnd.oasis.opendocument.presentation
application/vnd.oasis.opendocument.spreadsheet
application/vnd.oasis.opendocument.text
audio/ogg video/ogg application/ogg
image/png application/pdf application/vnd.ms-powerpoint
application/vnd.ms-excel application/vnd.ms-presentation
application/x-rar-compressed application/rtf
application/x-sh image/svg+xml
application/x-shockwave-flash application/x-tar
image/tiff font/ttf application/vnd.visio
Send OPTIONS with: audio/webm video/webm
audio/wav Access-Control-Request-Method: GET
image/webp font/woff font/woff2
application/xhtml+xml application/vnd.ms-excel
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
application/vnd.ms-officedocument.spreadsheetml
application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.spreadsheetml
Everything matches text/xml application/vnd.mozilla.xul+xml
Send request video/3gpp audio/3gpp
video/3gpp2 audio/3gpp2
application/x-7z-compressed

SIMPLE
GET
POST
FORMS

application/json

Preflight

C.O.R.S is not a security specification

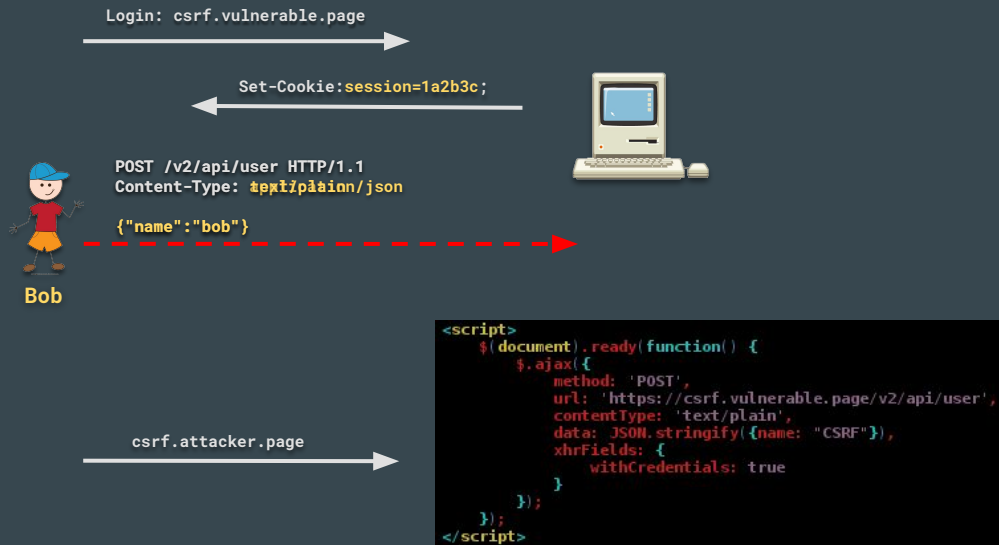
Single Page (Misconfiguration)

About

Preflight check is only triggered when a request IS NOT simple.

`text/plain` IS simple

Example



Why

was Flash used?

Implemented **Crossdomain** policy pre **CORS**

CORS preflight is bypassed

Flash can craft HTTP requests

use a 307 instead of 302 Redirect?

The only difference between 307 and 302 is that 307 guarantees that the method and the body will not be changed when the redirected request is made

Active and Passive protections work

Final Thoughts

Every state changing request protected

- **Active** *e.g. Require Password*
- **Passive** *e.g. Unguessable Token*

CSRF protection included in framework

- *Ensure it is enabled/Tokens Validated*

Goat Attack: <https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2010/09/26/wtf-twitter-goat-viral-message-spreads/>
CORS Summary: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/CORS#Functional_overview
CORS Specification: <https://www.w3.org/TR/cors/>
Simple Content-Types: https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_enctype.asp
SWF CSRF: https://github.com/sp1d3r/swf_json_csrf
Redirect Summary: <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Redirections>
CSRF Prevention: [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_\(CSRF\)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_(CSRF)_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet)
CSRF General: [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_\(CSRF\)](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cross-Site_Request_Forgery_(CSRF))
Feature Checker: <https://caniuse.com/#feat=same-site-cookie-attribute>