Web Security Model

CS155 Computer and Network Security

Acknowledgments: Lecture slides are from the Computer Security course taught by Dan Boneh and Zakir Durumeric at Stanford University. When slides are obtained from other sources, a reference will be noted on the bottom of that slide. A full list of references is provided on the last slide.
And now for... Web Security!

1. Systems Security

2. Web Security
   - Web Security Model
   - Web Vulnerabilities and Attacks
   - HTTPS, TLS, Certificates
   - User Authentication and Session Management

3. Network and Mobile Security
Web Security Goals

Safely browse the web in the face of attackers
Visit a web sites (including malicious ones!) without incurring harm

- **Site A** cannot steal data from your device, install malware, access camera, etc.
- **Site A** cannot affect session on **Site B** or eavesdrop on **Site B**

Support secure high-performance web apps (e.g., Google Meet)
Attack Models

Malicious Website
Attack Models

Malicious Website

Malicious External Resource
Attack Models

- **Malicious Website**
- **Malicious External Resource**
- **Network Attacker**
Attack Models

- Malicious Website
- Malicious External Resource
- Network Attacker
- Malware Attacker
Attack Models

- Malicious Website
- Malicious External Resource
- Network Attacker
- Malware Attacker
HTTP Protocol
HTTP Protocol

ASCII protocol from 1989 that allows fetching resources (e.g., HTML file) from a server

- Two messages: request and response
- Stateless protocol beyond a single request + response

Every resource has a uniform resource location (URL):

```
http://cs155.stanford.edu:80/lectures?lecture=08#slides
```

- **scheme**
- **domain**
- **port**
- **path**
- **query string**
- **fragment id**
Anatomy of Request

HTTP Request

GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
Accept: image/gif, image/x-bitmap, image/jpeg, */*
Accept-Language: en
Connection: Keep-Alive
User-Agent: Mozilla/1.22 (compatible; MSIE 2.0; Windows 95)
Host: www.example.com
Referer: http://www.google.com?q=dingbats
Anatomy of Request

**HTTP Request**

- **method**: GET
- **path**: /index.html
- **version**: HTTP/1.1

Accept: image/gif, image/x-bitmap, image/jpeg, */*
Accept-Language: en
Connection: Keep-Alive
User-Agent: Mozilla/1.22 (compatible; MSIE 2.0; Windows 95)
Host: www.example.com
Referer: http://www.google.com?q=dingbats
**Anatomy of Request**

**HTTP Request**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>method</th>
<th>path</th>
<th>version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GET</td>
<td>/index.html</td>
<td>HTTP/1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Accept: image/gif, image/x-bitmap, image/jpeg, */*
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User-Agent: Mozilla/1.22 (compatible; MSIE 2.0; Windows 95)
Host: www.example.com
Referer: http://www.google.com?q=dingbats
```
Anatomy of Request

HTTP Request

- **method**: GET
- **path**: /index.html
- **version**: HTTP/1.1

**headers**
- Accept: image/gif, image/x-bitmap, image/jpeg, */*
- Accept-Language: en
- Connection: Keep-Alive
- User-Agent: Mozilla/1.22 (compatible; MSIE 2.0; Windows 95)
- Host: www.example.com
- Referer: http://www.google.com?q=dingbats

**body** (empty)
HTTP Response

HTTP/1.0 200 OK

Date: Sun, 21 Apr 1996 02:20:42 GMT
Server: Microsoft-Internet-Information-Server/5.0
Content-Type: text/html
Last-Modified: Thu, 18 Apr 1996 17:39:05 GMT
Content-Length: 2543

<html>Some data... announcement! ... </html>
# HTTP GET vs. POST

## HTTP Request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>method</strong></th>
<th><strong>path</strong></th>
<th><strong>version</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POST</td>
<td>/index.html</td>
<td>HTTP/1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Accept: image/gif, image/x-bitmap, image/jpeg, */*
- Accept-Language: en
- User-Agent: Mozilla/1.22 (compatible; MSIE 2.0; Windows 95)
- Host: www.example.com
- Referer: http://www.google.com?q=dingbats

**Name:** Zakir Durumeric  
**Organization:** Stanford University
HTTP Methods

**GET:** Get the resource at the specified URL (does not accept message body)

**POST:** Create new resource at URL with payload

**PUT:** Replace target resource with request payload

**PATCH:** Update part of the resource

**DELETE:** Delete the specified URL
HTTP Methods

Not all methods are created equal — some have different security protections

**GET**s should not change server state; in practice, some servers do perform side effects

- Old browsers don’t support **PUT**, **PATCH**, and **DELETE**
- Most requests with a side affect are **POST**s today
- Real method hidden in a header or request body

뤄.Never do...

GET http://bank.com/transfer?fromAcct=X&toAcct=Y&amount=1000
HTTP → Website

When you load a site, your web browser sends a **GET** request to that website
Loading Resources

Root HTML page can include additional resources like images, videos, fonts

After parsing page HTML, your browser requests those additional resources

```
<img src="/img/usr.jpg"></img>
```
External Resources

There are no restrictions on where you can load resources like images.

Nothing prevents you from including images on a different domain.

HTTP/HTTPS requests can be made to other domains.

Example:

```
GET /img/usr.jpg
```

HTML code:

```
<img src="/img/usr.jpg" />
<img src="https://bank.com/img/usr.jpg" />
```

Stanford.edu

Bank.com
Not only GETs!

You can also submit forms to any URL similar to how you can load resources

```html
<form action="bank.com/transfer">
  <input type="text" id="from" value="me"><br>
  <input type="text" id="to" value="you"><br>
  <input type="text" id="amount" value="100"><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```
(i)Frames

Beyond loading individual resources, websites can also load other websites within their window

- Frame: rigid visible division
- iFrame: floating inline frame

Allows delegating screen area to content from another source (e.g., ad)
Javascript

Historically, HTML content was static or generated by the server and returned to the web browser to simply render to the user.

Today, websites also deliver scripts to be run inside of the browser.

<button onclick="alert("The date is" + Date())">Click me to display Date and Time.</button>

Javascript can make additional web requests, manipulate page, read browser data, local hardware — exceptionally powerful today.
Document Object Model (DOM)

Javascript can read and modify page by interacting with DOM
- Object Oriented interface for reading/writing page content
- Browser takes HTML -> structured data (DOM)

```html
<p id="demo"></p>
<script>
    document.getElementById('demo').innerHTML = Date();
</script>
```
Basic Execution Model

Each browser window....

- Loads content of root page
- Parses HTML and runs included Javascript
- Fetches additional resources (e.g., images, CSS, Javascript, iframes)
- Responds to events like onClick, onMouseover, onLoad, setTimeout
- Iterate until the page is done loading (which might be never)
HTTP/2

Major revision of HTTP released in 2015

Based on Google SPDY Protocol

No major changes in how applications are structured

Major changes (mostly performance):
- Allows pipelining requests for multiple objects
- Multiplexing multiple requests over one TCP connection
- Header Compression
- Server push
Cookies + Sessions
HTTP is Stateless

HTTP Request
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1

HTTP Response
HTTP/1.0 200 OK
Content-Type: text/html
<html>Some data...</html>

If HTTP is stateless, how do we have website sessions?
HTTP Cookies

HTTP cookie: a small piece of data that a server sends to the web browser.

The browser may store and send back in future requests to that site.

Session Management
Logins, shopping carts, game scores, or any other session state.

Personalization
User preferences, themes, and other settings.

Tracking
Recording and analyzing user behavior.
Setting Cookie

HTTP Response

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
Date: Sun, 21 Apr 1996 02:20:42 GMT
Server: Microsoft-Internet-Information-Server/5.0
Connection: keep-alive
Content-Type: text/html
Set-Cookie: trackingID=3272923427328234
Set-Cookie: userID=F3D947C2
Content-Length: 2543

<html>Some data... whatever ... </html>
Sending Cookie

HTTP Request

GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
Accept: image/gif, image/x-bitmap, image/jpeg, */*
Accept-Language: en
Connection: Keep-Alive
User-Agent: Mozilla/1.22 (compatible; MSIE 2.0; Windows 95)
Cookie: trackingID=327292342732823
Cookie: userID=F3D947C2
Referer: http://www.google.com?q=dingbats
Login Session

GET /loginform HTTP/1.1
cookies: []
Login Session

GET /loginform HTTP/1.1
cookies: []

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
cookies: []
<html><form>...</form></html>
Login Session

GET /loginform HTTP/1.1
cookies: []

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
cookies: []

<html><form>...</form></html>

POST /login HTTP/1.1
cookies: []
username: zakir
password: stanford
Login Session

GET /loginform HTTP/1.1
cookies: []

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
cookies: []

<html><form>...</form></html>

POST /login HTTP/1.1
cookies: []
username: zakir
password: stanford

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
cookies: [session: e82a7b92]

<html><h1>Login Success</h1></html>

GET /account HTTP/1.1
cookies: [session: e82a7b92]
Login Session

GET /loginform HTTP/1.1
cookies: []

POST /login HTTP/1.1
cookies: []
username: zakir
password: stanford

GET /account HTTP/1.1
cookies: [session: e82a7b92]

GET /img/user.jpg HTTP/1.1
cookies: [session: e82a7b92]
Shared Cookie Jar

Both tabs share the same origin and have access to each others cookies

(1) Tab 1 logins into bank.com and receives a cookie
(2) Tab 2’s requests also send the cookies received by Tab 1 to bank.com
Cookies are always sent

Cookies set be a domain are always sent for any request to that domain

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: image/jpeg

GET /img/usr.jpg

<img src="/img/usr.jpg"></img>

GET /img/usr.jpg

Bank.com

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: image/jpeg
Cookies set be a domain are always sent for any request to that domain.

GET /transfer?...

for better or worse...
POSTs also send cookies!

You can also submit forms to any URL similar to how you can load resources

```html
<form action="bank.com/transfer">
  <input type="text" id="from" value="me"><br>
  <input type="text" id="to" value="you"><br>
  <input type="text" id="amount" value="100"><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```
Islamic State claims it was behind Sri Lanka bombings

Officials raised the death toll in the Easter attacks to 321.

By SHAHANK BENGALI

Beware of late-night lane closures on your way to (and from) LAX.

LA Times Articles

LA Times

April 23, 2019

Trending Topics: SRI LANKA  CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD  CENSUS  DESERT PARTY  LUKE WALTON  BEER POWER RANKINGS

Ad

Casper

What napaholics are saying:

I will never leave my bed again.

Caryn from California

Learn more

Advertisement

More News
Modern Website

The LA Times homepage includes 540 resources from nearly 270 IP addresses, 58 networks, and 8 countries.

CNN—the most popular mainstream news site—loads 361 resources.

Many of these aren’t controlled by the main sites.
Modern Website

- Third-party ad
- Google analytics
- Framed ad
- jQuery library
- Local scripts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUID</th>
<th>1656321DA67D6C8404703800A27D6AB3</th>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>2019-04-23</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

51 cookies
Same Origin Policy (Origins)
Web Isolation

Safely browse the web

Visit a web sites (including malicious ones!) without incurring harm

**Site A** cannot steal data from your device, install malware, access camera, etc.

**Site A** cannot affect session on **Site B** or eavesdrop on **Site B**

Support secure high-performance web apps

Web-based applications (e.g., Google Meet) should have the same or better security properties as native desktop applications
Remember… UNIX Security Model

**Subjects (Who?)**
- Users, processes

**Objects (What?)**
- Files, directories
- Files: sockets, pipes, hardware devices, kernel objects, process data

**Access Operations (How?)**
- Read, Write, Execute
Web Security Model

**Subjects**

“Origins” — a unique `scheme://domain:port`

**Objects**

DOM tree, DOM storage, cookies, javascript namespace, HW permission

**Same Origin Policy (SOP)**

**Goal:** Isolate content of different origins

- **Confidentiality:** script on evil.com should not be able to *read* bank.ch
- **Integrity:** evil.com should not be able to *modify* the content of bank.ch
Origins Examples

Origin defined as scheme://domain:port

All of these are different origins — *cannot* access one another

- http://stanford.edu
- http://www.stanford.edu
- http://stanford.edu:8080
- https://stanford.edu

These origins are the same — *can* access one another

- http://stanford.edu
- http://stanford.edu:80
- http://stanford.edu/cs
Bounding Origins — Windows

Every Window and Frame has an origin
Origins are blocked from accessing other origin’s objects

attacker.com cannot...
- read or write content from bank.com tab
- read or write bank.com's cookies
- detect that the other tab has bank.com loaded
Bounding Origins — Frames

Every Window and Frame has an origin
Origins are blocked from accessing other origin’s objects

attacker.com cannot...
- read content from bank.com frame
- access bank.com’s cookies
- detect that has bank.com loaded
Same Origin Policy
(HTTP Policies)
Origins and Cookies

POST /login

GET /img/usr.jpg

<img src="https://bank.com/img/usr.jpg">

Browser will send bank.com cookie

SOP blocks attacker.com from reading bank.com's cookie
Pages can *make requests* across origins

SOP prevents Javascript on attacker.com from directly *inspecting* HTTP responses (i.e., pixels in image). It *does not* prevent *making* the request.
SOP for Other HTTP Resources

**Images:** Browser renders cross-origin images, but SOP prevents page from inspecting individual pixels. Can check size and if loaded successfully.

**CSS, Fonts:** Similar — can load and use, but not directly inspect

**Frames:** Can load cross-origin HTML in frames, but not inspect or modify the frame content. Cannot check success for Frames.
Script Execution

Scripts can be loaded from other origins. Scripts execute with the privileges of their parent frame/window’s origin. Cannot view source, but can call FNs.

- ✓ You can load library from CDN and use it to alter your page
- ❌ If you load a malicious library, it can also steal your data (e.g., cookie)
Frames - Domain Relaxation

These frames cannot access one another
Domain Relaxation

You can change your `document.domain` to be a `super-domain`:

- `a.domain.com → domain.com`  OK
- `b.domain.com → domain.com`  OK
- `a.domain.com → com`      NOT OK
- `a.doin.co.uk → co.uk`      NOT OK
A "public suffix" is one under which Internet users can (or historically could) directly register names. Some examples of public suffixes are .com, .co.uk and pvt.k12.ma.us. The Public Suffix List is a list of all known public suffixes.

The Public Suffix List is an initiative of Mozilla, but is maintained as a community resource. It is available for use in any software, but was originally created to meet the needs of browser manufacturers. It allows browsers to, for example:

- Avoid privacy-damaging "supercookies" being set for high-level domain name suffixes
- Highlight the most important part of a domain name in the user interface
- Accurately sort history entries by site

We maintain a fuller (although not exhaustive) list of what people are using it for. If you are using it for something else, you are encouraged to tell us, because it helps us to assess the potential impact of changes. For that, you can use the psl-discuss mailing list, where we consider issues related to the maintenance, format and semantics of the list. Note: please do not use this mailing list to request amendments to the PSL's data.

It is in the interest of Internet registries to see that their section of the list is up to date. If it is not, their customers may have trouble setting cookies, or data about their sites may display sub-optimally. So we encourage them to maintain their section of the list by submitting amendments.
Domain Relaxation Attacks

```html
<script>
    document.domain = 'stanford.edu'
</script>
```
Mutual Agreement

What about cs155.stanford.edu → stanford.edu?  
- Now Dan and Zakir can steal your Stanford login

Solution:
Both sides must set document.domain to stanford.edu to share data (stanford.edu effectively grants permission)
Inter-Frame Communication

Parent and children windows/frames can exchange messages

**Sender:**
targetWindow.postMessage(message, targetOrigin, [transfer]);

**targetWindow:** ref to window (e.g., window.parent, window.frames)
**targetOrigin:** origin of targetWindow for event to be sent. Can be * or a URI

**Receiver:**
window.addEventListener("message", receiveMessage, false);
function receiveMessage(event){
    alert("message received")
}
Same Origin Policy
(Javascript)
Javascript XMLHttpRequests

Javascript can make network requests to load additional content or submit forms

```javascript
let xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
xhr.open('GET', '/article/example');
xhr.send();
xhr.onload = function() {
  if (xhr.status == 200) {
    alert(`Done, got ${xhr.response.length} bytes`);
  }
};
// ...or... with jQuery
$.ajax({url: '/article/example', success: function(result){
  $('#div1').html(result);
}});
```
Malicious XMLHttpRequests

// running on attacker.com
$.ajax({url: “https://bank.com/account“, success: function(result){
   $("#div1").html(result);
}
});

// Will this request run?
// Should attacker.com be able to see Bank Balance?
XMLHttpRequests SOP

You can only read data from **GET** responses if they’re from the same origin (or you’re given permission by the destination origin to read their data)

You cannot make **POST/PUT** requests to a different origin… unless you are granted permission by the destination origin (*usually*, caveats to come later)

XMLHttpRequests requests (both sending and receiving side) are policed by **Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)**
Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)

**Reading Permission:** Servers can add **Access-Control-Allow-Origin** (ACAO) header that tells browser to allow Javascript to allow access for another origin.

**Sending Permission:** Performs “Pre-Flight” permission check to determine whether the server is willing to receive the request from the origin.
Cross-Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)

Let’s say you have a web application running at app.company.com and you want to access JSON data by making requests to api.company.com.

By default, this wouldn't be possible — app.company.com and api.company.com are different origins.
CORS Success

Origin: app.c.com

$.post({url: "api.c.com/x",
    success: function(r){
        $("#div1").html(r);
    }
});

POST /x

OPTIONS /x

Header:
Access-Control-Allow-Origin:
http://app.c.com

POST /x

DATA

Origin: api.c.com
Wildcard Origins

**Origin:** app.c.com

```javascript
$.post({url: "api.c.com/x", success: function(r){
 $("#div1").html(r);
}});
```

**POST /x**

**OPTIONS /x**

Header:
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *

**POST /x**

DATA
CORS Failure

Origin: app.c.com

$.post({url: "api.c.com/x", success: function(r){
  $('#div1').html(r);
}
});
*Usually: Simple Requests*

⚠ Not all requests result in a Pre-Fetch trip!

“Simple” requests do not. Must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Method: **GET, HEAD, POST**

2. If sending data, content type is **application/x-www-form-urlencoded** or **multipart/form-data** or **text/plain**

3. No custom HTTP headers (can set a few standardized ones)

These mimic the types of requests that could be made without Javascript e.g., submitting form, loading image, or page
Simple CORS Success

**Origin:** app.c.com

```
$.ajax({url: "api.c.com/x",
       success: function(r){
          $('#div1').html(r);
       }
});
```

GET /x

**Header:**
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: http://app.c.com

GET /x
Simple CORS Failure

**Origin**: app.c.com

```javascript
$.ajax({
  url: "api.c.com/x",
  success: function(r){
    $('#div1').html(r);
  }
});
```

**GET /x**

**GET /x**

**Origin**: api.c.com

**Header**: Access-Control-Allow-Origin: https://www.c.com

**ERROR**
Many attacks are possible

```
Origin: attacker.com

$.ajax({url: "bank.com/t",
    success: function(r){
        $('div1').html(r);
    }
});
```

GET /x

http://bank.com/transfer?
fromAccount=X
&toAccount=Y
&amount=1000

Header:
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: https://bank.com

ERROR
Same Origin Policy
(Cookies)
Cookie Same Origin Policy

Cookies use a different origin definition:

(domain, path): (cs155.stanford.edu, /foo/bar)

versus (scheme, domain, port) from DOM SoP

Browser always sends cookies in a URL’s scope:

Cookie’s domain is domain suffix of URL’s domain:

stanford.edu is a suffix of cs155.stanford.edu

Cookie’s path is a prefix of the URL path

/courses is a prefix of /courses/cs155
Scoping Example

- **Cookie 1**
  - name = cookie1
  - value = a
  - domain = login.site.com
  - path = /

- **Cookie 2**
  - name = cookie2
  - value = b
  - domain = site.com
  - path = /

- **Cookie 3**
  - name = cookie3
  - value = c
  - domain = site.com
  - path = /my/home

---

cookie domain is suffix of URL domain ∧ cookie path is a prefix of URL path

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Cookie 1</th>
<th>Cookie 2</th>
<th>Cookie 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>checkout.site.com</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>login.site.com</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>login.site.com/my/home</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site.com/account</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Cookie Scope

Websites can set a scope to be any prefix of domain and prefix of path

✔ cs155.stanford.edu *can* set cookie for cs155.stanford.edu
✔ cs155.stanford.edu *can* set cookie for stanford.edu
❌ stanford.edu *cannot* set cookie for cs155.stanford.edu

✔ website.com/* can* set cookie for website.com/
✔ website.com/login *can* set cookie for website.com/
❌ website.com *cannot* set cookie for website.com/login
No Domain Cookies

Most websites do not set Domain. In this situation, cookie is scoped to the hostname the cookie was received over and is not sent to subdomains.

- **site.com**
  - name = cookie1
  - domain = site.com
  - path = /

- **subdomain.site.com**
  - name = cookie1
  - domain =
  - path = /
SOP Policy Collisions

Cookie SOP Policy

cs.stanford.edu/zakir cannot see cookies for cs.stanford.edu/dabo
(cs.stanford.edu cannot see for cs.stanford.edu/zakir either)

Are Dan’s Cookies safe from Zakir?
SOP Policy Collisions

Cookie SOP Policy

cs.stanford.edu/zakir cannot see cookies for cs.stanford.edu/dabo
(cs.stanford.edu cannot see for cs.stanford.edu/zakir either)

Are Dan’s Cookies safe from Zakir? No, they are not.

```javascript
const iframe = document.createElement("iframe");
iframe.src = "https://cs.stanford.edu/dabo";
document.body.appendChild(iframe);
alert(iframe.contentWindow.document.cookie);
```
Third Party Access

If your bank includes Google Analytics Javascript, can it access your Bank’s authentication cookie?
Third Party Access

If your bank includes Google Analytics Javascript, can it access your Bank’s authentication cookie?

Yes!

```javascript
const img = document.createElement("image");
document.body.appendChild(img);
```
HttpOnly Cookies

You can set setting to prevent cookies from being accessed by `Document.cookie` API

Prevents Google Analytics from stealing your cookie —

1. Never sent by browser to Google because (google.com, /)
   does not match (bank.com, /)

2. Cannot be extracted by Javascript that runs on bank.com
Problem with HTTP Cookies

Network Attacker
Can Observe/Alter/Drop Traffic

HTTPS Connection

domain: bank.com
name: authID
value: auth
Problem with HTTP Cookies

Network Attacker
Can Observe/Alter/Drop Traffic

Attacker tricks user into visiting http://bank.com
Problem with HTTP Cookies

Network Attacker
Can Observe/Alter/Drop Traffic

HTPS Connection

domain: bank.com
name: authID
value: auth

Attacker tricks user into visiting http://bank.com
A secure cookie is only sent to the server with an encrypted request over the HTTPS protocol.
Web Security Model

CS155 Computer and Network Security