SQL-injection vulnerability scanner using automatic creation of SQL-injection attacks (MySqlInjector)

A Thesis submitted to Faculty of Information Technology in partial Fulfillment of the requirements for Master Degree (Information Technology),
University Utara Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Securing the web against frequent cyber attacks is a big concern, attackers usually intend to snitch private info, deface, and damage websites, to prove their identities, this kind of vandalism may drive many corporations which conduct their business through the web to fall down. One of the most dangerous cyber attacks is SQL-injection attack, this kind of attack can be launched through the web browsers. The vulnerability of SQL injection can be resulted from inappropriate programming practice, which leaves a lot of doors wide opened to the attackers to exploit them, and to gain the access to confidential info. In order to get rid of this vulnerability, it is feasible to detect it and enhance the coding structure of the system to avoid being an easy victim to this kind of cyber attacks, this kind of detection requires a powerful tool that can automatically create SQL-injection attacks using efficient features to detect the vulnerability. This study introduces a new web scanning tool (MySqlInjector) with enhanced features that will be able to conduct efficient penetration test on PHP based websites to detect SQL injection vulnerabilities. This tool will automate the penetration test process, to make it easy even for those who are not aware about hacking techniques.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate Most Merciful

I would like to express my gratitude to Allah for providing me the blessing to complete this work. Hence, I deeply gratefulness to my supportive and helpful supervisor, Prof. Madya Abdul Bashah for assisting and guiding me in the completion of this research. With all truthfulness, without Allah then his support, the project would not have been a complete one. Prof. Madya Abdul Bashah has always been my source of motivation and guidance. For that, I am truly grateful for him continual support and cooperation in assisting me all the way through the semester. In addition, I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Zulikha for her help to make my project successful.

I would like to present my thanks and appreciations to my mother Amal Mohammad, my father Yaseen Ibrahim, and all my family who has always been there for me. Finally, I would like to express my appreciations to my friends, colleagues, other staff, and everyone who has helped me in this journey.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Penetration testing or web auditing is one of the most important topics that security researchers concern about. It aims to prove the effectiveness of the security system of such a website, because application level attacks rank at the top of nowadays cyber attacks as they are preferred by nowadays attackers. The philosophy behind web auditing is to ensure one entry point to web applications by conducting penetration tests represented by conducting sophisticated attacks on websites. Rather than one entry point to the system, it will be considered as a security flaw that attracts potential hackers to exploit it. Moreover, penetration testing covers checking against a wide range of web vulnerabilities which are related to web application level vulnerabilities such as cross-site-scripting XSS, SQL injection, IFRAME flaws, DNS attacks, web authentication flaws, remote code execution, and remote file inclusion. Exploiting any one of these vulnerabilities may enable remote attacker to gain administrative access to the infected website which gives him/her the control to deface, damage and snitch credentials (Wright, Freedman, & Liu, 2008).

Penetration testing is recommended for those critical or popular websites. It is trying to break into the organization's IT system. It aims to demonstrate the robustness of the security system, that in order to expose the vulnerabilities and giving advice on how to recover these flaws (Midian, 2003). Penetration testing is an essential requirement for

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