



Better security (not only) in Laravel

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OWASP

- The Open Web Application Security Project®
- Non-profit organization for improve security of web applications
- Projects
 - OWASP Top Ten
 - Web Security Testing Guide
 - OWASP Cheat Sheet Series cheatsheetseries.owasp.org 



Cross-site scripting (XSS)

- Inserting unwanted code to our app
- Types:

- **Stored**

`<script>alert(1)</script>`

- saved in DB via user input / import

- **Reflected**

`example.com/search?q=<img+src=x+onerror=alert(1)>`

- HTTP request, immediate response in an unsafe way

- **DOM based**

`$("#content").html(ajaxResponse);`

- JS load data from untrusted source



XSS - how to prevent

- sanitize all!
 - inputs (request validate, xml validator)
 - outputs (blade)
 - don't use „noescape“ or pay extra attention
 - cookies
- don't send generated HTML from user input via AJAX
- don't forget on emails, feeds, etc.
- HTML purifier (wysiwyg/html input whitelisting) [↗](#)



Security HTTP headers

Testing tool: securityheaders.com 

- ~~X-XSS-Protection~~ - deprecated/removed in browsers now
- **X-Content-Type-Options:** *nosniff*
- **X-Frame-Options:** SAMEORIGIN / DENY
- **Referrer-Policy:**
 - see MDN 



Security HTTP headers (2)

`Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=63072000; includeSubDomains; preload`

- **Strict-Transport-Security (HSTS):**
 - prevent from non-SSL access to app
 - browser will auto-redirect to secure version
 - „**includeSubDomains**“
 - „**preload**“ - browser will load secure version directly
 - preload list: hstspreload.org 
 - ! cfg mistake + long „max-age“ may cause shutdown



Security HTTP headers (3)

- **Content-Security-Policy**
- Draft: **Permissions-Policy**
 - previously named Features-Policy
 - currently not implemented in any browser
 - will block specified features (camera, battery, mic, geolocation, ...)



CSP - easy implementation in Laravel

- external package, for example:
spatie/laravel-csp [↗](#)
 - define project specific policies or use Basic
 - sets only CSP security headers
- alternatively use:
bepsvpt/secure-headers [↗](#)
 - handles almost all security headers



CSP - demonstrations in IDE

- demonstration of **bepsvpt/secure-headers** package
- different sources and datatypes
- tracking issues via report-uri.com 



Access control

- **Vertical access controls**
 - application privileges -> myaccount / admin stuff / ...
- **Horizontal access controls**
 - resources scope -> my data / department data / all data
- **Context-dependent access controls**
 - access based on state of application or user interaction
 - shop process -> cannot change cart during payment process



Access control vulnerabilities

- **Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR)**

GET /order/{id}/detail

- obviously broken horizontal AC
 - user has access to foreign subset of foreign data
 - example: User has privileges to view/manage Documents of foreign departments of Organization
- use horizontal AC or combination
- (optionally) use also UUID



Access control in Laravel

- use Gates and Policies for Horizontal + Vertical AC
- Save state to session/cache/db for Context-dependent AC



Access control in Laravel (2)

Laravel Gate example

```
// in AuthServiceProvider boot() method or in separate Gate class
Gate::define("view-doc", function ($user, $doc) {
    return $user->department()->id == $doc->createdBy()->department_id;
});

// usage in controller method
public function view($doc)
{
    if (!Gate::allows("view-doc", $doc)) {
        return response("Forbidden", 403);
    }
}
```



Injections

```
1 // DB raw - bad way
2 DB::select("SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE col = '".$value."'");
3 DB::select("SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE '".$column.'" = '".$value."'");
4
5 // DB raw - good (!!) way
6 DB::select("SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE col = ?", [ $value ]);
7 DB::select("SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE ? = ?", [ $column, $value ]);
8 // better way
9 DB::select("SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE col = :value", [ 'value' => $value ]);
10 // best way = not use raw queries if possible
11 Model::where('col', $value);
```

- SQL injection
 - use ORM (Eloquent/Doctrine) or PDO (non-framework)
 - don't use native queries if don't need
 - in these cases, properly escape all input variables
 - or use prepared statements or stored procedures



SQL injection via Validation Rule

```
1 $id = $request->route('id');
2 $rules = [
3     'username' => 'required|unique:users,username,' . $id,
4 ];
5
6 $validator = Validator::make($request->post(), $rules);
7 if ($validator->fails()) {
8     return response()->json($validator->errors(), 422);
9 }
10
11 $user = User::findOrFail($id);
12 $user->fill($validator->validated());
13 $user->save();
```

read more at: <https://cyberpanda.la/blog/laravel-validation-rule-injection>



XXE injection

XML External Entity Injection

- XML format exposure
- can access sensitive data
- PHP < 8
 - use libxml explicitly
 - disable processing if contains DOCTYPE
- PHP ≥ 8
 - libxml used by default

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
2 <!DOCTYPE foo [
3   <!ELEMENT foo ANY >
4   <!ENTITY xxe SYSTEM "file:///etc/passwd" >]>
5 <foo>&xxe;</foo>
6
```

```
libxml_disable_entity_loader(true)
```



Cross-site Request Forgery (CSRF)

- use middleware VerifyCsrf
 - inject: @csrf in every form
- Cookie XSRF-TOKEN for ajax requests
 - in Axios loaded automatically (VUE, Angular)
 - easy inject into JQuery, too



AJAX security

- use innerText (or framework equivalent) instead of innerHTML in most cases
- don't use eval()
- encode correctly HTML / CSS / XML / JSON
- don't rely on frontend validation or frontend logic only
 - always duplicate on server-side (ex.: Request Validations)



Ajax security (2)

```
1 const axios = require('axios');
2
3 axios.get('path').then(resp => {
4     this.formattedTitle = resp.formattedTitle
5 });
6
7 // vulnerable:
8 <h1 v-html="formattedTitle"></h1>
```

```
1 const axios = require('axios');
2
3 axios.get('path').then(resp => {
4     this.titleParts = resp.titleParts
5 });
6
7 // safe
8 <h1>
9     <a href="{{ titleParts.parentUrl }}">{{ titleParts.parentTitle }}:</a>
10     {{ titleParts.currentTitle }}
11 </h1>
```



Session cookie settings

- HttpOnly (no JS access), Secure (only via HTTPS)
- SameSite -> strict / lax / none
- in Laravel:

MDN [↗](#)

Diagrams [↗](#)

```
config/session.php

// ...
'encrypt'    => true,
'secure'     => true,
'http_only'  => true
'same_site'  => "strict", // or "lax"
```

- also applicable for all important app cookies

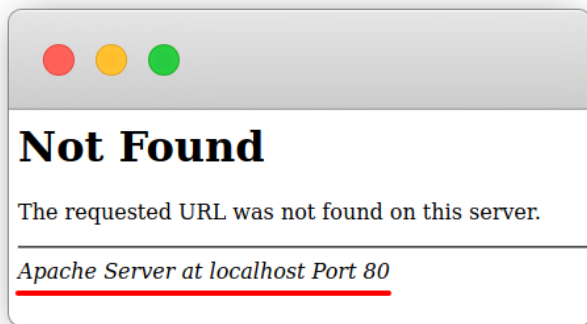


Full Path Disclosure

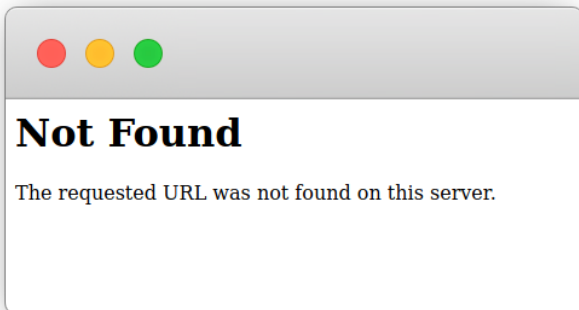
- vulnerable versions of server packages / app libraries
- accessible phpinfo()
- breakable code to show any error (incorrect QS / Post data / cookie value) -> *for example: sent „foo“ instead of „1“*
- improper .env settings, server cfg
- publicly accessible .git / .svn / .env / ...
- vulnerable versions of 3rd party apps in same context (sys user or virtual host) - phpmyadmin / adminer



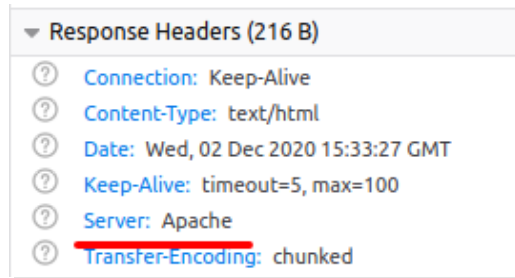
Full Path Disclosure (2)



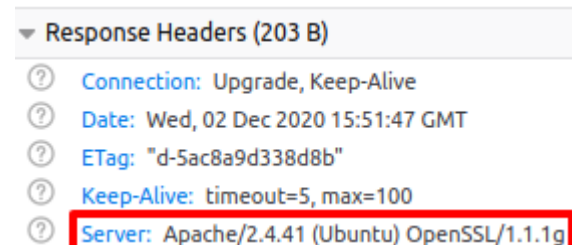
ServerSignature: on / off



ServerToken: prod



ServerToken: full



Proper env configuration

- PHP config

```
expose_php = off
disable_functions = ... # use defaults from vendor
log_errors = on
error_reporting = E_ALL
display_errors = off
```

- Apache config

```
ServerSignature = Off
ServerToken Prod
```

- Laravel config

```
APP_ENV = prod
APP_DEBUG = false
APP_KEY = ... # per env, unique, not public
```

- Nginx config

```
server_tokens off;
```



SSL configuration & testing

- SSL is must! (SEO, browsers warnings, user privacy ofc.)
- Current standards: TLS 1.2 & TLS 1.3
 - ! only secure ciphers
- check your server configuration: ssllabs.com/sslltest 
- check issued certificates for domains: crt.sh 
 - potential security risk (exposing non-public subdomains -> wildcard certs)



Free SSL certificates

- **Let's Encrypt**
 - free single/multi domain and wildcard certs
 - since 1/2021 new default ROOT CA: ISRG Root X1
 - will be untrusted in Android <7.1.1
 - use Firefox Mobile or newer device (christmas gift 😊)
- **ZeroSSL** - ACME API, only 3x 90d free, premium packages
- **Buypass** - ACME API, unlimited, but no wildcard



security.txt

- proper security vulnerabilities disclosure
 - Should be directly addressed to person responsible for security of application
- generator + info at: securitytxt.org 
- is that used by someone?
 - yes, some of ethical hackers, already do



Usefull links and tools

- <https://owasp.org/www-project-web-security-testing-guide/latest/>
- <https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org>
- <https://portswigger.net/web-security>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Headers/Set-Cookie/SameSite>
- <https://ssllabs.com/ssltest>
- <https://hstspreload.org>
- <https://report-uri.com>
- <https://crt.sh>
- <https://michalspacek.cz>
- <https://scotthelme.co.uk>



Discussion

- How you deal with security in your team?
- Do you use CSP?
- What I forgot to mention?
- Something else?

Thanks for your attention!

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