

## WEB APPLICATION FIREWALLS EXPLAINED !

NetAppSec

### Agenda

- Introduction
- What is a Web application firewall
- Do I need a WAF?
- Web Application attacks
- How to protect
- WAF deployment & implementation
- Q&A

## Who am I ?

- Philippe Bogaerts
  - <http://www.netappsec.be>
  - Independent consultant & trainer
    - network, web application and XML security consultancy and training
    - Penetration testing
    - Niche product support and expertise
  - [Philippe.bogaerts@netappsec.be](mailto:Philippe.bogaerts@netappsec.be)

## Web Application Firewall definition

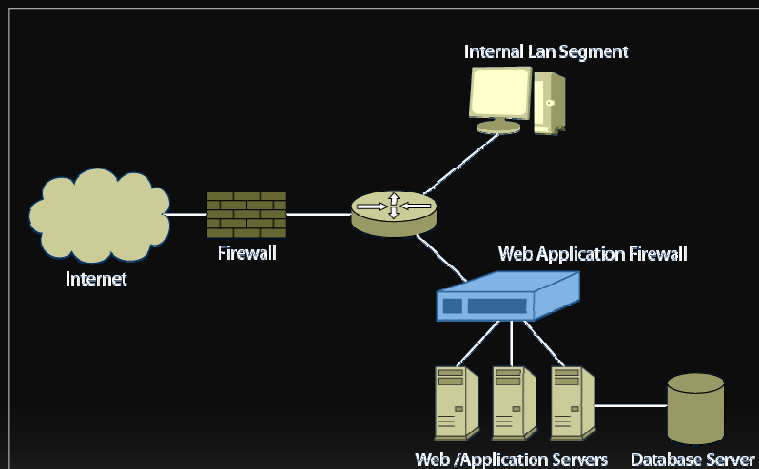
- WAFs are also know and/or confused with :
    - Application Level Gateway
    - Reverse proxy
    - WEB IPS
    - ...
- + a lot of market space pollution !!!

## WAF protection domain

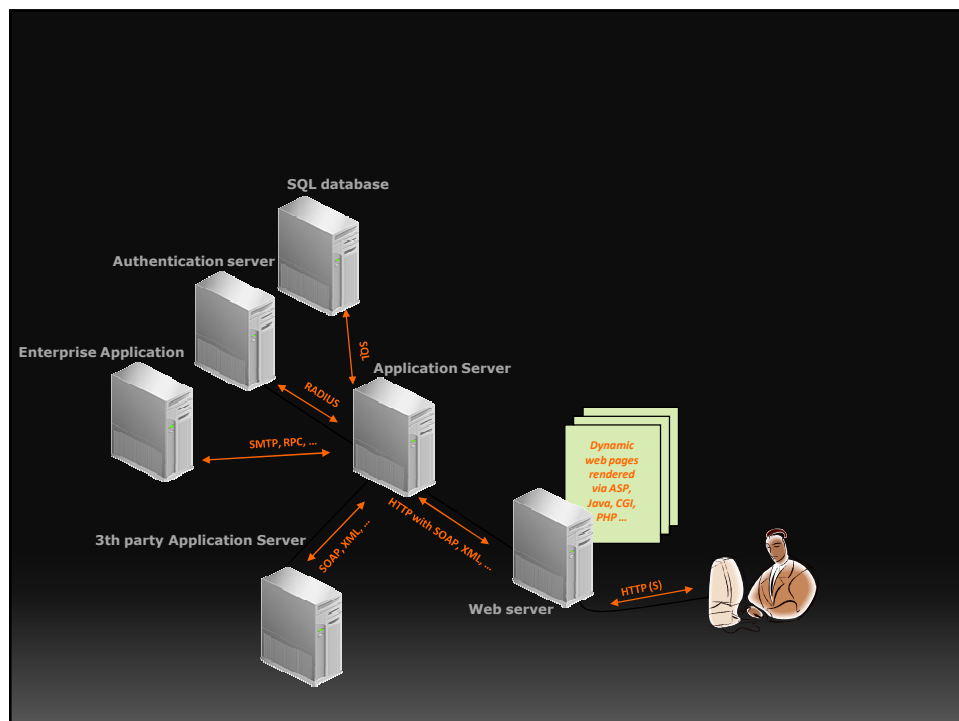
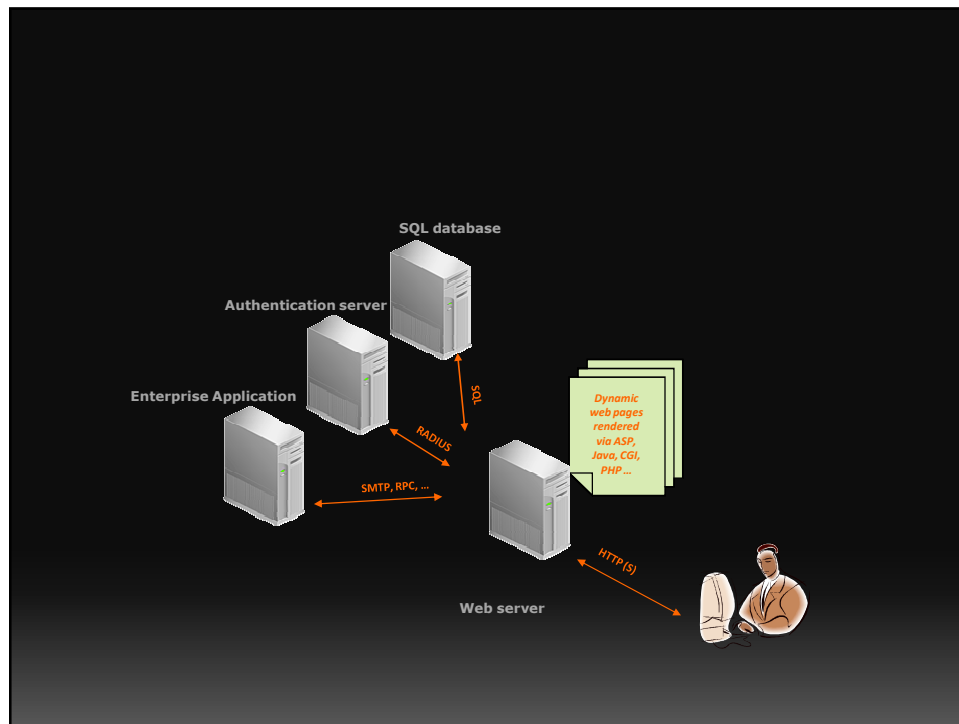
WAFs are designed to protect against “web application” and “web application layer” attacks.

- OSI layer (5, 6) 7
- web applications
  - Including
    - web server
    - Middleware server
    - Database server

## Where are WAFs deployed ?



Src: Forrester



## DO I NEED A WAF SOLUTION?

### Interesting stats

- SANS Top-20 Internet Security Attack Targets
  - Nov. 2006
- Zone-H
  - <http://www.zone-h.org>
- Symantec Internet Security Threat Report
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2006, released Mar 2007.
  - 66% of disclosed vulnerabilities affected web applications

[http://eval.symantec.com/mktinfo/enterprise/white\\_papers/enterprise-whitepaper\\_internet\\_security\\_threat\\_report\\_xi\\_keyfindings\\_03\\_2007.en-us.pdf](http://eval.symantec.com/mktinfo/enterprise/white_papers/enterprise-whitepaper_internet_security_threat_report_xi_keyfindings_03_2007.en-us.pdf)

## Interesting stats

- Vulnerability Type Distributions in CVE
  - Sept. 2006
    - <http://cwe.mitre.org/documents/vuln-trends.html>

## Interesting resources

- OWASP
  - <http://www.owasp.org>
  - TOP 10 (based on CVE report)
- Web Application Security Consortium
  - <http://www.webappsec.org>
  - WAF evaluation firewall criteria
  - Jan 2006

## To get even more scared ...

- WebAppSec
  - The Web Hacking Incidents Database
  - <http://www.webappsec.org/projects/whid/>

## ATTACKING WEB APPLICATIONS

## A good starting point

- OWASP TOP 10 project (2007 version)
  - The ten most critical web application security vulnerabilities
  - [http://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP\\_Top\\_Ten\\_Project](http://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Top_Ten_Project)

A1 – Cross Site Scripting (XSS)  
A2 – Injection  
A3 – Malicious File Execution  
A4 – Insecure Direct Object Reference  
A5 – Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)  
A6 – Information Leakage and Improper Error Handling  
A7 – Broken Authentication and Session Management  
A8 – Insecure Cryptographic Storage  
A9 – Insecure Communications  
A10 – Failure to Restrict URL Access

**XSS**



## Cross Site scripting

- XSS based attacks intend to **inject and run mobile code** on a client PC
- XSS is special in that way that it **attacks the user of the web application** instead of the server/application directly.
- Almost every website is vulnerable

## Business impact

- Use the victim's workstation to hack other Web sites
- Download illegal content to client PC
  - worms, Trojans, virus
- phishing attacks
- Force the sending of e-mail messages
- ...

## Technological impact

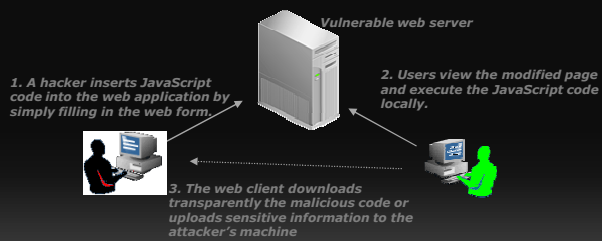
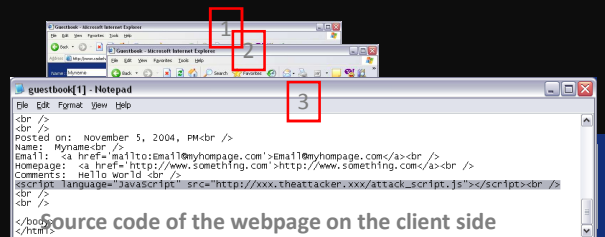
- XSS can be used:
  - application worms
  - steal cookies and steal credentials
  - execute malicious mobile code
  - attack vector for phishing attacks

## XSS types

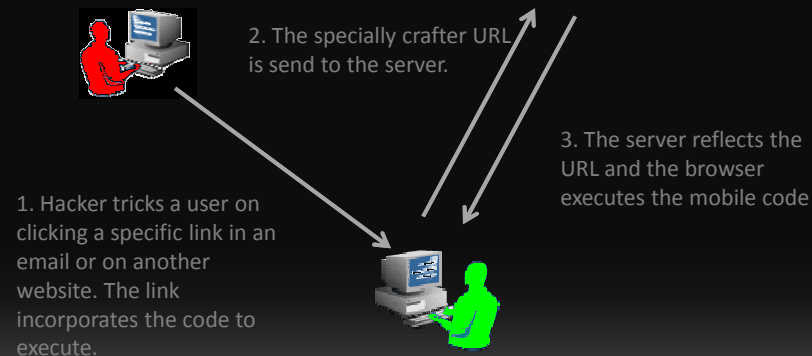
- Stored XSS
- Reflected XSS
- DOM based XSS

## Stored XSS

By inserting JavaScript code into web pages, an attacker can potentially execute malicious code on a client computer. In this way a hacker can obtain authentication and session information stored in cookies or run other types of scripts.



## Reflective XSS



## DOM based XSS

- The client side **mobile code is vulnerable** to attack !
  - Ex. Reusing the URL in the loaded mobile code.

```
http://www.xxx.yyy/news.php?">#<script>alert("test")</script>  
http://www.xxx.yyy/news.php?"><script>alert("test")</script>
```

The infamous .pdf bug (Jan 2007)

```
http://www.xxx.yyy /file.pdf#something=javascript:window.open("http://some-evil-site");
```

## How to protect ?

- Never trust user supplied input !!!
  - Input validation at the server.
  - Client-side validation is easily circumvented
- Signatures ??
  - Customized websites
  - Zero day
  - Evasion techniques
  - ...
- WAFs use a combination of protection methods

## SQL INJECTION

### SQL Injection

- SQL injection attacks try to run **unauthorized SQL code** against the underlying **database of a web application** system supplied via unprotected inputs.

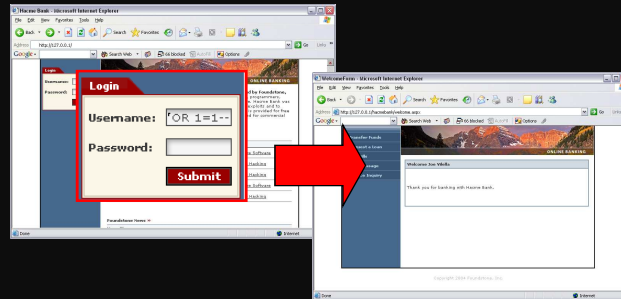
## Business impact

- Identity theft
- Stolen credentials
- Stolen credit cards
- Lost database integrity
- Database downtime
- ...

## Technical impact

- Deleting data
- Data modification !!!
- Adding or deleting tables
- Executing commands using stored procedures!!
- ...

## SQL injection example



By clicking submit, the following request and arguments are passed to the web application.  
[http://192.168.10.81/login.aspx?\\_\\_eventtarget=&\\_\\_eventargument=&\\_\\_viewstate=ddwtmtm3mjgxowyod&txtusername='or+1=1--&txtpassword=&btnsubmit=submit](http://192.168.10.81/login.aspx?__eventtarget=&__eventargument=&__viewstate=ddwtmtm3mjgxowyod&txtusername='or+1=1--&txtpassword=&btnsubmit=submit)

The arguments are used to 'construct' an SQL query that will be passed to the SQL server.  
 string strQry = "SELECT Count(\*) FROM Users WHERE UserName='" + txtusername.Text + "' AND Password='" + txtpassword.Text + "'";

By carefully injecting 'partial' SQL code in the form ...  
 SELECT Count(\*) FROM Users WHERE UserName='Or 1=1 --' AND Password=''

... the SQL query can be modified to execute different and unforeseen actions.  
 SELECT Count(\*) FROM Users WHERE UserName='Or 1=1 --'

## HOW TO PROTECT ?

## Negative security model

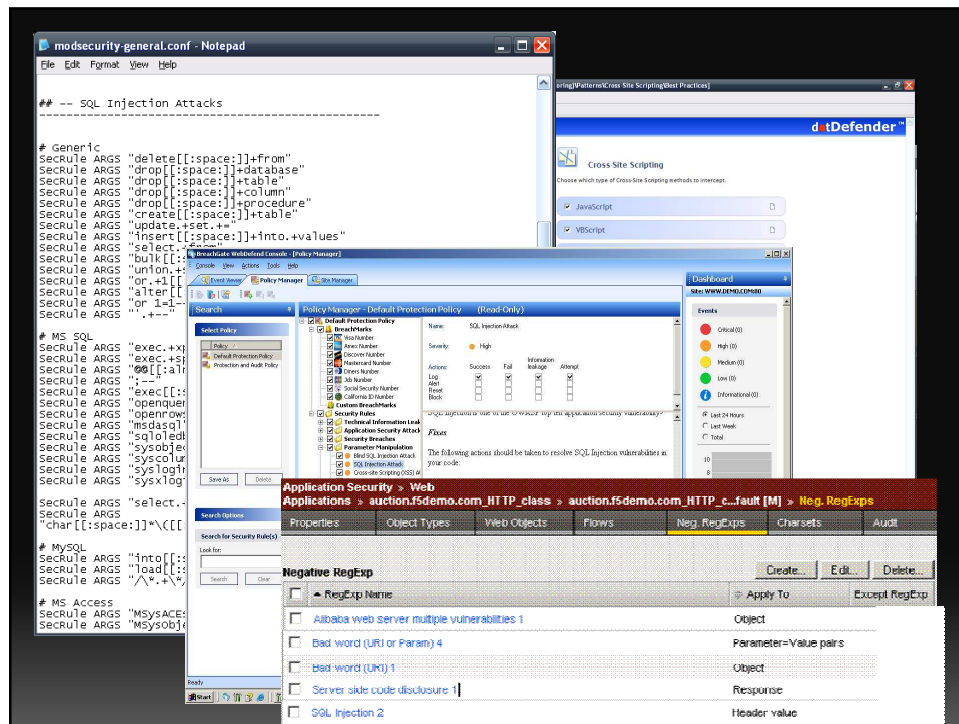
- Analyze the HTTP / HTTPS traffic for known vulnerabilities or bad traffic.
  - Negative security model
  - Patterns (regex)
    - deny access to specific files or keywords
  - Signatures

Deny what might be dangerous.

## But ...

- Do you know what is dangerous?
- Be very careful for false positives !
  - Important things to look for:
    - editable
    - granular configuration
    - (automatic) update
    - attack identification





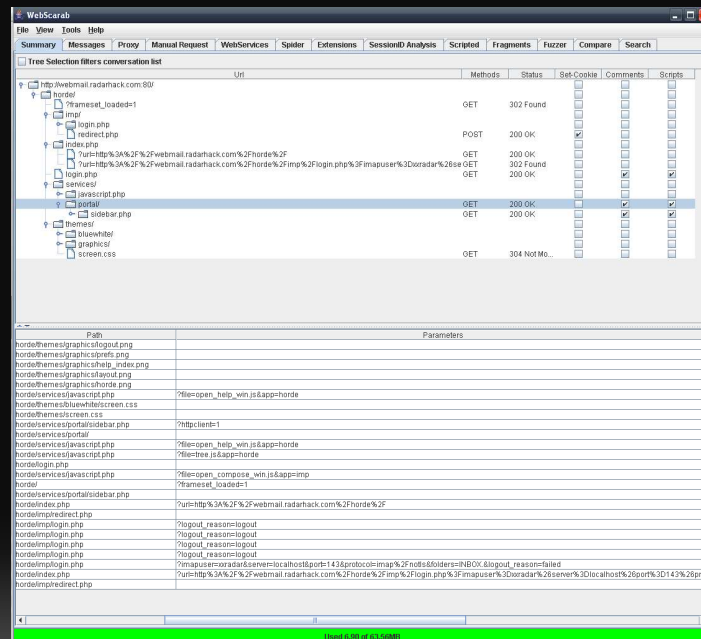
## Positive security model

- Positive security model
  - Allow what is known to be safe
  - Also known as and/or confused with a white list
- But how to build this model?
  - Manual or Learning mode
  - Detail level (url, parameters, GET & POST ...)
  - Dynamic applications !
    - WEB2.0 type of applications

# Positive security model

```
GET /horde/services/javascript.php?file=tree.js&app=horde HTTP/1.1
Host: webmail.radarhack.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:1.8.1.3) Gecko/20070309 Firefox/2.0.0.3
Accept: */*
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: 300
Proxy-Connection: keep-alive
Referer: http://webmail.radarhack.com/horde/services/portal/sidebar.php
Cookie: Horde3=649de199067ca89c21236f96cfb77b8; auth_key=d7d2541b92df9a76492082f0931fba1d; imp_key=eac1b4fa398654e294864808ad606fc4
```

```
Host: webmail.radarhack.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:1.8.1.3) Gecko/20070309 Firefox/2.0.0.3
Accept: text/xml,application/xml,application/xhtml+xml,text/html;q=0.9,text/plain;q=0.8,image/png,*/*;q=0.5
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: 300
Proxy-Connection: keep-alive
Referer: http://webmail.radarhack.com/horde/imp/login.php?logout_reason=logout
Cookie: horde-3-01bbab5d112dc942d54406ac6c65165e4; auth_key=d75421545646d2f9a7649208254331fbad;
imp_key=eac1b4fa3986fce29486480ad606fc4
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-length: 215
```



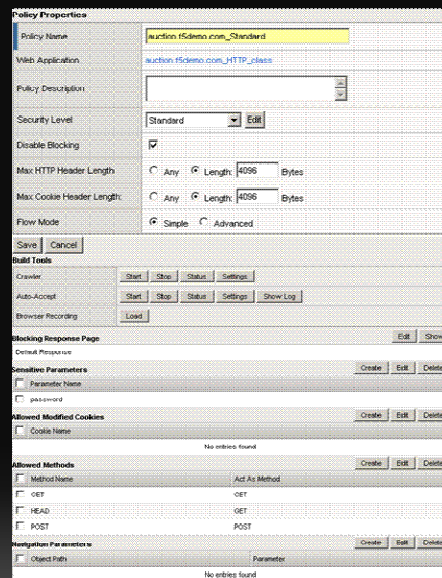
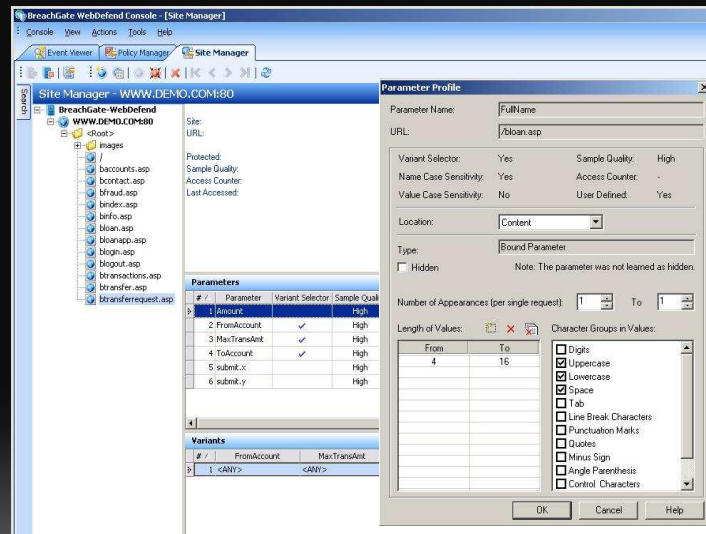
## Learning

- URL are 'learned' by monitoring HTTP traffic from a trusted IP or network.
  - Entire site should be visited
  - The pos security model can learn
    - Paths
    - Parameters
    - ...
  - Support for JavaScript, flash...
- Browser based learning

## Crawler based learning

- A (built-in) crawler tries to enumerate all URLs
  - Fast, but
    - Very basic (if at all) support for JavaScript
    - Blind to flash and other embedded components
    - Very interesting for a initial policy development
- Still need manual/learning to have a complete positive security model.

# Advanced learning mechanisms



## White-list

- Sometimes a white-list is referred as a way to escape all security controls !
  - It is great when you are sure there is no attack vector .... but ...
  - Image a password field
    - Length 6-10 characters
    - ' or 1=1- fits perfectly !

## Roundup

- Some WAFs only support a pos. sec. model
  - Very good security (if configured correctly)
  - Very difficult to maintain
    - Application changes
- Blacklist only WAF (aka WEB IPS)
- Most WAFs combine neg. and pos. model
  - out-of-the-box security (neg. sec. model)
  - More granular policy configuration
  - + correlation

## OTHER PROTECTION MECHANISMS

### HTTP(s) conformity

- Control HTTP(s)
  - Methods
  - Protocols
  - URL length
  - Ciphers

Remark:

- A HTTP GET can be instead of a POST (and vice versa) to send attacks and circumvent protection mechanisms !

## HEADER control

- Allowed headers
- Remove/insert/rewrite headers
  - Request
    - Ex. Insert a certificate field
  - Response
    - Ex. Rewrite IIS server string to Apache server string
      - Cloaking
      - Hiding server details

## URL rewriting

- Hide internal application structure
  - Only one URL
  - Infrastructure cloaking
  - request and response rewriting

## Cookie protection

- Cookies can be tracked to avoid cookie tampering.
- Encryption / Signing
- Cookie virtualization

## Session control

- Application flow path
  - Controls how the application is used
  - Application entry points
  - Protects against a range of attacks
- Brute force protection
  - Ex . cracking accounts

Remark: A lot of names do exist, adding a lot of confusion.



## Parameter tampering

- Monitor (hidden) fields or parameters for changes
  - price information
  - session id
  - email address
  - ....

## Web Services protection

- Some WAF vendors have added basic XML and Web Services support
  - Embedded 3th party product
  - WSDL & Schema validation
  - Basic XML attack detection

## Content scrubbing

- Response data is analyzed:
  - Social security numbers
  - Credit card numbers



## Neural Networks

- Some WAF vendors use Neural Network for enhanced attack detection
  - Slightly better attack detection than RegExp
  - Hard to control
    - Policy adjustment is uncontrollable
      - Policy version control
    - But, interesting as a monitor tool

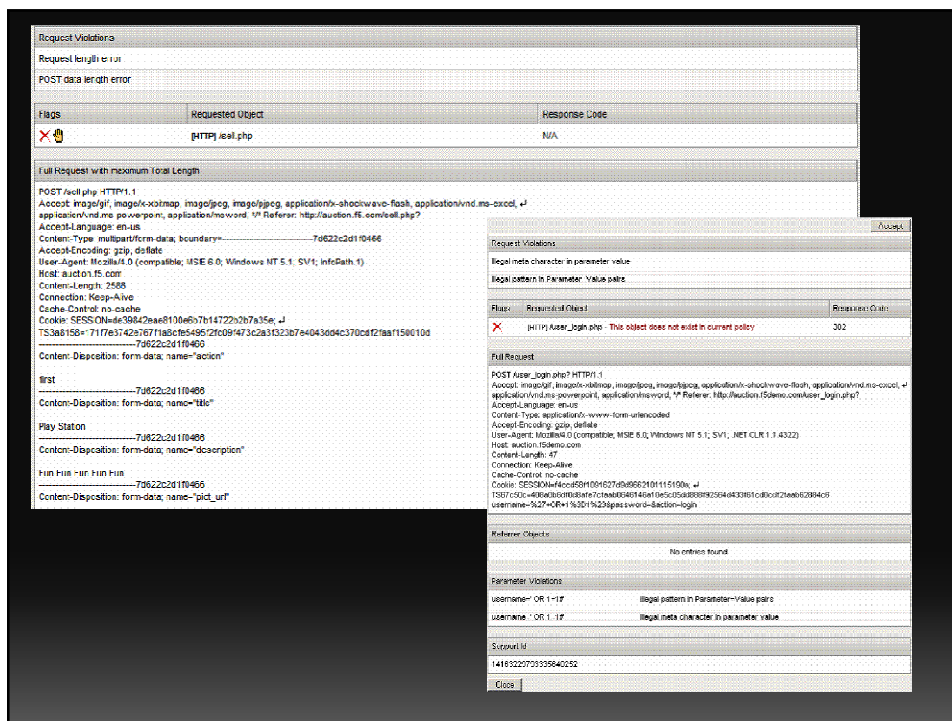
## Authentication

- Integration with 3<sup>rd</sup> party authentication schemes
- Single Sign On , SAML, ...

Links every HTTP(s) connection to the backend servers to a users !

## Logging & Reporting

- In depth logging (things to look for)
  - Full request/response logging
  - Attack identification
  - Debugging, timestamp
  - Signed logs ...
- Investigating security issues
- Compliance related reporting
  - Ex. PCI



## WAF ARCHITECTURE

### Reverse proxy WAF platforms

- Implemented and deployed as a hardened reverse proxy
  - Typically apache based
  - Appliance or software based
- Standard (reverse) proxy features
  - SSL termination & offloading
  - Caching & compression

## Acceleration platforms

- **Secure Application Delivery** product add-on.
  - State of the art compression/caching
  - Connection optimization
  - SSL termination and optimization
  - Load balancing
  - Performance management
  - High performance platforms
  - + Web application firewall

## Switch / Sensor based

- WAF solutions implemented as bridges or sensors.
  - Fully transparent for the network
  - No changes to the network
  - 'SSL sniffing'
  - Blocking via packet drops, TCP reset or 3th party blocking.
  - **No acceleration focus, but security focus !!**

## Embedded WAF

- WAF module is sold as a plug-in
  - Windows IIS version
  - Apache

## Future of WAF

- Web services, XML, SOAP, and WS-Security
- Forensics
- In-depth protection of enterprise wide applications
  - Outlook Web Access, Siebel, SAP ...
- Phishing protection, fraud detection, and prevention
- Centralized management

\* based on Forrester presentation

## Resources

Thanks for the kind help of the people at:

<http://www.breach.com>

<http://www.modsecurity.org>

<http://www.f5.com>

Resources

<http://www.thinkingstone.com/talks/>

Public Forrester presentations

<http://www.applicure.com>

<http://www.radarhack.com/HTML/app.htm>

<http://www.owasp.org>

<http://www.webappsec.org>

## QUESTIONS ?