# Intigriti January 2022 Challenge: XSS Challenge 0122 by

## TheRealBrenu

In January ethical hacking platform Intigriti (<u>https://www.intigriti.com/</u>) launched a new Cross Site Scripting challenge. The challenge itself was created by a community member TheRealBrenu.



# **Rules of the challenge**

- Should work on the latest version of Firefox AND Chrome.
- Should execute alert (document.domain).
- Should leverage a cross site scripting vulnerability on this domain.
- Shouldn't be self-XSS or related to MiTM attacks.

# Challenge

To simplify a victim needs to visit our crafted web url for the challenge page and arbitrary javascript should be executed to launch a Cross Site Scripting (XSS) attack against our victim.

# The XSS (Cross Site Scripting) attack

### Step 1: Recon

As always we try to understand what the web application is doing. A good start for example is using the web application, reading the challenge page source code and looking for possible input.

The challenge page itself shows an embedded iframe with a "Super Secure HTML Viewer".

	Intigriti's January XSS challenge		
	By @TheRealBrenu		
	Find a way to execute arbitrary javascript on the iFramed page and win Intigriti swag.		
	Rules:		
	This challenge runs from the 10th of January until the 16th of January, 11:59 PM CET.		
	<ul> <li>Out of all correct submissions, we will draw six withers on wonday, the 17th of sandary.</li> <li>Three randomly drawn correct submissions</li> </ul>		
	Three best write-ups     Even wing a start of CED away we have far our owner shop		
	The winners will be announced on our Twitter profile.		
	For every 100 likes, we'll add a tip to announcement tweet.		
	The solution		
	<ul> <li>Should work on the latest version of Chrome and FireFox.</li> <li>Should execute alert(document.domain).</li> </ul>		
	Should leverage a cross site scripting vulnerability on this domain or the domain of the		
	<ul> <li>challenge page.</li> <li>Shouldn't be self-XSS or related to MiTM attacks.</li> </ul>		
	Should be reported at go.intigriti.com/submit-solution.		
	Test your payloads down below and on the challenge page here!		
	Let's pop that alert!		
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To make our life a bit easier we can go directly to the page loaded by that iframe: <u>https://challenge-0122-challenge.intigriti.io/</u> which then only shows the Super Secure HTML Viewer" itself.

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	P	arse	

We are up against a HTML viewer so a first thing we can do is see if our HTML viewer is actually parsing our input. Let's give it a try with some very easy HTML code <h1><i>test</i></h1> for example.

Enter the input *<h*1*><i>test</i*>*</h*1*>* and click the "Parse" button.

Sup	per Secure	HTML	Viewe	r	
<h1><is< td=""><td>&gt;test</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></is<></h1>	>test				
-		Parse			

That worked fine. Our input text "test" is parsed in italic and a bit bold from the heading tag. Looking at the browser address bar this already reveals something. Once parsed we can see a "payload" parameter being used.



At this point we notice HTML being parsed then my idea is simple try to input javascript or an XSS vector based on HTML context. The payloads are URL encoded in the browser address bar.

	XSS Payload	URL encoded payload
Javascript alert box	<script>alert()</script>	<script></script>

The javascript payload results in nothing shown and no alert box. The XSS vector that should fire in HTML context seems to get parsed as we can see the image symbol reflected but the alert box is also not firing so the XSS is not executed:



So something is blocking us from parsing javascript and once we try to parse HTML that uses an event attribute like "onerror" this seems not to execute. We need to take this a step further and have a look at the source code if we want to get an XSS payload to fire.

Our HTML context XSS payload *<img src=x onerror=alert()>* seems to get parsed for a part so we can inspect this via the developer tools and check how it is exactly reflected in the source code.



Right click on the reflected image shown and choose "Inspect"

The event attribute "onerror" is clearly missing in the source code. Something in this web application is filtering the input for safety reasons. We need to figure out what it is and of course try to bypass this "safety" mechanism for our XSS attack to fire.

As we are now in the developer tools we can have a look at the other sources of this web page via the "Sources" tab.



Ok this could look overwhelming with many folders and subfolder but a quick glance at these folders reveals we are facing a web application built with the React library (https://reactjs.org/).

Another way to get this information is via browser plugins like "Wappalyzer" for example in Chrome:



The first hurdle to take at this point is to find in the React application folder structure the custom made webpages for the challenge.

Probably not the fastest way but if I doubt if a certain file or folder is custom made I simply Google it. Take certain text from the source code or folder name and check if you get other results and compare if they are similar. Then you can know if this is a generally used folder or file for react applications or a custom one.



Example for the packages "react-router-dom"

We find the same code on Goolge so this is not custom made:



Google	react-router-dom	×   • Q
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	How do I use dom route in react router?	
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If you are not familiar with the react framework this is a possible way to check which files are custom made and which ones not.

If we check the folder structure there are 2 files that should catch our eye:

 $js \rightarrow pages \rightarrow I0x1 \rightarrow index.js$  $js \rightarrow pages \rightarrow I0x1C \rightarrow index.js$ 

The source code for example reveals the text "Here is the result!" so we can be sure that this is directly linked to the challenge page we are using:



The other index.js file source code reveals the page title "Super Secure HTML viewer" and the "Parse" button:





Quick inspection of our 2 custom made js files reveals some important things:

- Parts of the code are obfuscated as "identifiers" which seem base64 encoded with "atob": <u>https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/atob</u>

- We are up against DomPurify: *DOMPurify is a DOM-only, super-fast, uber-tolerant XSS sanitizer for HTML, MathML and SVG.* <u>https://github.com/cure53/DOMPurify</u>



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#### Takeaways from our recon:

- Parameter: https://challenge-0122-challenge.intigriti.io/result?payload=
- React javascript library is used with 2 custom javascript files in folders "I0x1" and "I0x1C"
- Both javascript files have obfuscated "identifiers" that are base64 encoded.
- DOMPurify: sanitizer that blocks or prevents our XSS attacks.

### Step 2: DOMPurify

As we have seen during our recon DOMPurify is implemented as a module into the React web application. This causes our input HTML being sanitized and thus our XSS payload not firing.



https://github.com/cure53/DOMPurify



Here an example what happens with our XSS payload if I set breakpoints in the developer console: <*img src=x onerror=alert()>* 

Just before we pass the line starting the DOMpurify check on our input:



#### After DOMPurify did its checks on our input:



Our payload went from *<img src=x onerror=alert()>* to *<img src=x>* after DOMPurify sanitization.

The "onerror" event handler is removed and we need it to execute arbitrary javascript or in other words to fire the XSS attack.

Of course DOMPurify had some bypasses in the past mainly via mutation XSS attacks. If the DOMPurify implemented by the web application developer is not up to date we have a chance to get our XSS.

A good article about DOMPurify bypasses: <u>https://portswigger.net/research/bypassing-dompurify-again-with-mutation-xss</u>

Lets try following mutation XSS payload from the article: <math><mtext><mglyph><style><![CDATA[</style><img title="]]></mglyph&gt;&lt;img&Tab;src=1&Tab;onerror=alert(1)&gt;">

The XSS does not fire. Inspecting the page source code shows some reflection of a part of the input tags but not everything. The developer of this web application seems to have implemented an up to date version of DOMPurify.



With DOMPurify up to date it becomes hard to just fire XSS payloads as they get sanitized. In my opinion at this point only 2 options:

- We find a zero day against DOMPurify and bypass the sanitization. (chances are low ;-) )

- The developer made a mistake in the source code and there is another way to bypass or skip the DOMPurify sanitization.

## Step 3: Javascript obfuscation

Ok with DOMPurify standing in our way we hope to find a mistake from the web application developer to bypass or skip the sanitization check.

Next hurdle that we noticed during our recon is that a big part of both custom made javascript files are obfuscated and not really readable.

Possible approach at this point is to look for certain patterns and check if they can be de-obfuscated.

Both js files are full with this kind of patterns: *window.atob(identifiers["I0x15"])* 



We need to get those "identifiers". Both js files contain a function that seems to use "identifiers". That is interesting because we can set breakpoints in our source code and check the content of "identifiers" (use F8 to go through the breakpoints step by step):





With F8 button we can go through each breakpoint step by step and this reveals the content of "identifiers". (This can be copied and pasted somewhere else.)



Here the "identifiers" pasted in a text file with their corresponding base64 value:

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The source code already revealed they are base64 encoded via the "atob" function that became clear during our recon. We can now easily decode each value.

<u>https://www.base64decode.org/</u> (mark the option to decode a list). You will notice some of the base64 encoded lines convert to a blank line. Those I decoded manually via the browser developer tools.

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	Decode and Encode	C Encode	
	Do you have to deal with Bat	se64 format? Then this site is perfect for you! Use our super handy online tool to encode or <b>decode</b> your data.	
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	Simply enter your data then pus	h the decode button.	
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	For encoded binaries (like in	nages, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a little further down on this page.	
	UTF-8 V Sour	ce character set.	
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Or via the browser developer tools Console manual decode from base64 with "atob":

#### Identifier "Cg==" decodes to "\n"



#### This gave me following list for the "identifiers" – base64 value – decoded value:

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9	10x2A:	czvszwnuawyuU3RncnQ=	selectionStart	
10	I0x2B:		end	
11	I0x2C:	bGluZVN0YXJ0	lineStart	
12	I0x2D:	c3RhcnQ=	start	
13	I0x2E:	bGVuZ3Ro	length	
14	I0x2F:	c2xpY2U=	slice	
15	I0x3:	cXVlcnlSZXN1bHQ=	queryResult	
16	I0x4:	bG9jYXRpb24=	location	
17	I0x5:	c2VhcmNo	search	
18	I0x6:	Z2V0	get	
19	I0x7:	cGF5bG9hZA==	payload	
20	I0x8:	cmVzdWx0	result	
21	I0x9:	X19odG1s	html	
22	I0x10:	Z2V0QXR0cmlidXRI	getAttribute	
23	I0x11:	ZGF0YS1kZWJ1Zw==	data-debug	
24	I0x12:	c2FuaXRpemVIVE1M	sanitizeHTML	
25	I0x13:	aHRtbE9iag==	htmlObi	
26	I0x14:	dGVtcGxhdGU=	template	
27	I0x15:	c2EuaXRpemU=	sanitize	
28	I0x16:	Y3JIYXRIRWxlbWVudA==	createElement	
29	10x17	aW5uZX.IIVE1M	innerHTMI	
30	10x18	YXBwZW5kO2hphGO=	appendChild	
31	10x19	72V0BWxlbWVudHNCeVBb705bbWU=	getElementsByTagName	
32	10x20:	aGEuZGyll I3V/ibWl0	handleSubmit	
33	10x21:		event	
34	10x22:		nreventDefault	
35	10x22.	1 3 llc3//sdD9wXXlsb2EkD0	/result2navload=	
26	10x23.	dmEadW/L	value	
27	10x24.		value kov	
20	10x25.		Key	
30	10x20.		l dD	
39	10x27:		shiikey	
40	10x28:		setRangeText	
41	10x29:			
42	10x30:	c2V0U2VsZWN0aW9uUmFuZ2U=	setSelectionRange	
43	10x31:	Cg==	\n	
44	l0x32:	Ym9keQ==	body	
45	I0x33:	dGFyZ2V0	target	-
46	I0x34:	Y3VycmVudA==	current	
47	I0xA:	PGgxIHN0eWxIPSdjb2xvcjogIzAwYmZhNSc+Tm90aGluZyBoZXJIITwvaDE+	<h1 style="color: #00bfa5">Nothing here!</h1>	
48	I0xB:	aGFuZGxlQXR0cmlidXRlcw==	handleAttributes	
49	I0xC:	ZWxlbWVudA==	element	
50	I0xD:	Y2hpbGQ=	child	
51	I0xE:	Y2hpbGRyZW4=	children	
52	I0xF:	YXR0cmlidXRlcw==	attributes	
53				

If we now replace each identifier in the 2 custom js files with the decoded values it becomes much more readable.

If we check the decoded list we now know the real names of both folders containing the js files:

I0X1 = result I0X1C = home Now there are multiple options. You could automate the replacing of each identifier by its decoded value via a Linux bash script or a python script for example. Anything can be used here.

Or a bit more manual work first copy the source code from the developer tools and use "find and replace" in visual studio code for example:

rren > Desktop > #5 l0x1-Result_js > ⊕ Result > ⊕ handleAttributes		
aport { useState } from "react";	10v10	As a No consiste
aport DDMPurify from "dompurify";		
aport "//App.css";	getAttribute	A 8 8
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unction Kesutt(i dentifiers ); {     cont foundateset() = usState() = f		
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window[window.atob[identifiers["location"]]][window.search]		
)[window.atob(identifiers["get"])](window.payload);		
if (queryResult) {		
construction for the second seco		
const result = (); result index, betall = vindex shi stule='relea: #300f55'sMothies hereis/hisi		
LEZUTTATUGAY-UTATI = MIUGAY-KIT 20076 COTOL: #AGENED SWOTUTUB UBLEDEGUTY		
return result:		
function handleAttributes(element) {		
for [const child of element[window.children]) {		
u index.data=debun in		
child[window.attributes]		
new Function(		
child[window.atob(identifiers["getAtribute"])][		
window.data-debug		
bá:		
handleAttributes(child);		
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nano text (risores; (respirate(vinsov.content;);		
document [window.body] [		
<pre>window.stob(identifiers["RemoveChild"])</pre>		
)(tesplate);		
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ſ'h			JE IOxfC-Homajs S+ x	ω
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			seEffect, useRef, useState } from "react";	
		import { u	setavigate } from "react-router-dom";	
		const [pi	when's deministry by / state("");	
			itorRef = useRef();	
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## Step 4: Finding the weak spot

With both custom js files a bit more readable we can check them better. We already figured that this web application probably somewhere has a weak spot that bypasses or skips the DOMPurify check.

The "IOX1C" or "home" folder contains less interesting code in my opinion. It takes care of setting up the input textarea, parse button... but does not really handle the users input:



The "IOX1" or "result" folder has far more interesting code and handles the input of the user:



Something is a bit strange here. Why is the developer handling attributes and trying to get a "datadebug" attribute? This immediately makes alarm bells go off :-). Is this some kind of debugging part of the code the developer forgot to remove?

If you look at the DOMPurify part of the code you also see the "handleAtributes" function being used there in a HTML template tag so there is a big chance the "data-debug" attribute bypasses or skips the DOMPurify check.

HTML template tags hold some content hidden on the page when it loads until javascript calls to display the content: <u>https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag\_template.asp</u>



The first idea that came to my mind was following payload as input: <*img src*=*x data-debug*=*onerror*=*alert()*>

Adding the "data-debug" and hope it skips the DOMPurify to keep the "onerror" event handler:



The javascript code generates the template tags and in between our payload that will be hidden when the page loads until called later by the javascript code:





The complete input got into the source code and executed just before the page finished loading. The template tags are now gone due to the page finished loading:



Following payload works both on Chrome and FireFox and alerts "document.domain":

<u>https://challenge-0122-challenge.intigriti.io/result?payload=</u><*img src*=*x data-debug*=*onerror*=*alert(document.domain)*>

https://challenge-0122-challenge.intigriti.io/result?payload=%3Cimg%20src=x%20datadebug=onerror=alert(document.domain)%3E

← → X v challenge-0122-challenge.intigritt.io/result?pay/oad=		_	± ± ±
	challenge-0122-challenge.intigriti.io says challenge-0122-challenge.intigriti.io CK		

