



"THE WISEST MAN, IS HE WHO KNOWS, THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING"

SOCRATES: APOLOGY, 21D



### 

Goals for this talk

Describe the defensive uses of HTTP status codes

- 1) What
- 2) Why
- 3) How
- 4) Goals
- 5) Bringing it together
- 6) Review





## WHAT?

### HTTP STATUS CODES

HTTP/1.1 206 Partial content
Date: Wed, 15 Nov 1995 06:25:24 GMT
Last-Modified: Wed, 15 Nov 1995 04:58:
Content-Range: bytes 21010-47021/47022
Content-Length: 26012
Content-Type: image/gif

### Seems like such a small detail

## ... small detail, big impact

WARNING WARNING TMG WARNING WARK SMING ARNIMO



#### This talk contains:

- Numbers
- Bad Jokes
- Traces of peanuts
- Did I mention numbers?

#### **HTTP Status Codes**

- Majority part of RFC 2616 (HTTP/1.1)
- 5 main classes of response
  - 1XX informational
  - 2XX success
  - 3XX redirection
  - 4XX client error
  - 5XX server error

#### **HTTP Status Codes**

- Proposed RFC\* for 7XX codes
- Examples:
  - 701 Meh
  - 719 I am not a teapot
  - 721 Known unknowns
  - 722 Unknown unknowns
  - 732 Fucking Unic de



### BASICS

**AKA: THE BORING THEORY BIT** 

#### 1XX Informational

- Indicates response received
- Processing is not yet completed
  - 100 Continue
  - 101 Switching Protocols
  - 102 Processing (WebDAV RFC 2518)

#### **2XX Success**

- Indicates response received
- Processed and understood
  - 200 OK
  - 201 Created
  - 202 Accepted
  - 203 Non-Authoritative Information
  - 204 No Content

#### 2XX Success (cont.)

- 205 Reset Content
- 206 Partial Content
- 207 Multi-Status (WebDAV RFC 4918)

#### Codes not supported by Apache

- 208 Already Reported
- 226 IM Used
- 250 Low on Storage Space

#### **3XX Redirection**

- Action required to complete request
  - 300 Multiple Choices
  - 301 Moved Permanently
  - 302 Found / Moved Temporarily
  - 303 See Other
  - 304 Not Modified

#### 3XX Redirection (cont.)

- 305 Use Proxy
- 306 Switch Proxy
- 307 Temporary Redirect

Codes not supported by Apache

308 Permanent Redirect

#### **4XX Client Error**

- Client caused an error
  - 400 Bad Request
  - 401 Unauthorized
  - 402 Payment Required
  - 403 Forbidden
  - 404 Not Found
  - 405 Method Not Allowed

- 406 Not Accessible
- 407 Proxy Authentication Required
- 408 Request Timeout
- 409 Conflict
- 410 Gone
- 411 Length Required

- 412 Precondition Failed
- 413 Request Entity Too Large
- 414 Request-URI Too Long
- 415 Unsupported Media Type
- 416 Request Range Not Satisfiable
- 417 Expectation Failed
- 418 I'm a Teapot (WebDAV RFC 2324)

- 419 / 420 / 421 Unused
- 422 Unprocessable Entity (RFC 4918)
- 423 Locked (RFC 4918)
- 424 Failed Dependency (RFC 4918)
- 425 No Code / Unordered Collection
- 426 Upgrade Required (RFC 2817)

#### Codes not supported by Apache

- 428 Precondition Required
- 429 Too Many Requests
- 431 Request Header Fields Too Large
- 444 No Response (NGINX)
- 449 Retry With (Microsoft)
- 450 Blocked by Win. Parental Controls
- 451 Unavailable For Legal Reasons
- 494 Request Header Too Large (NGINX)
- 495 Cert Error (NGINX)
- 496 No Cert (NGINX)
- 497 HTTP to HTTPS (NGINX)
- 499 Client Closed Request (NGINX)

#### **5XX Server Error**

- Server error occurred
  - 500 Internal Server Error
  - 501 Not Implemented
  - 502 Bad Gateway
  - 503 Service Unavailable
  - 504 Gateway Timeout
  - 505 Method Not Allowed

#### **5XX Server Error (cont.)**

- 506 Variant Also Negotiates (RFC 2295)
- 507 Insufficient Storage (WebDAV RFC 4918)
- 508 Loop Detected (WebDAV RFC 5842)
- 509 Bandwidth Limit Exceeded (apache ext.)
- 510 Not Extended (RFC 2274)

#### Codes not supported by Apache

- 511 Network Authentication Required (RFC 6585)
- 550 Permission Denied
- 598 Network Read Timeout Error (Microsoft Proxy)
- 599 Network Connection Timeout Error (Microsoft Proxy)

### OMG Enough with the numbars already!!!!





## WHY?

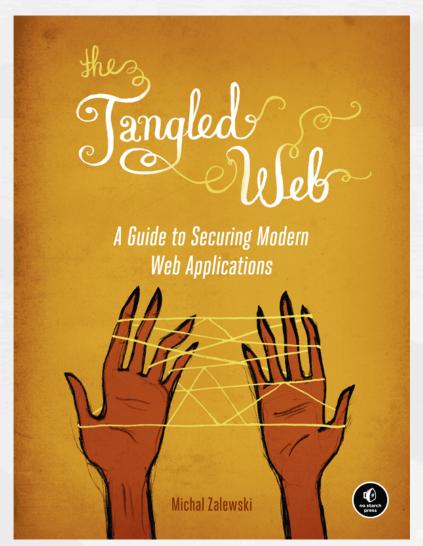
### It started as a simple idea...

#### MODSECURITY HANDBOOK



Ivan Ristić





... and started to think

# SCREW WITH SCANNERS

# ... AND SCRIPT K1DD13S

# THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!



the grugq **Othegrugg** 



Stop dismissing "obscurity" as a security feature, because "unpredictability" in your defences works to your advantage.









28 RETWEETS 10



















10:19 AM - 26 Feb 13



the grugq **ethegrugg** 



@dhw unpredictability is about increasing attacker costs, delaying their operation and increasing their potential for errors.





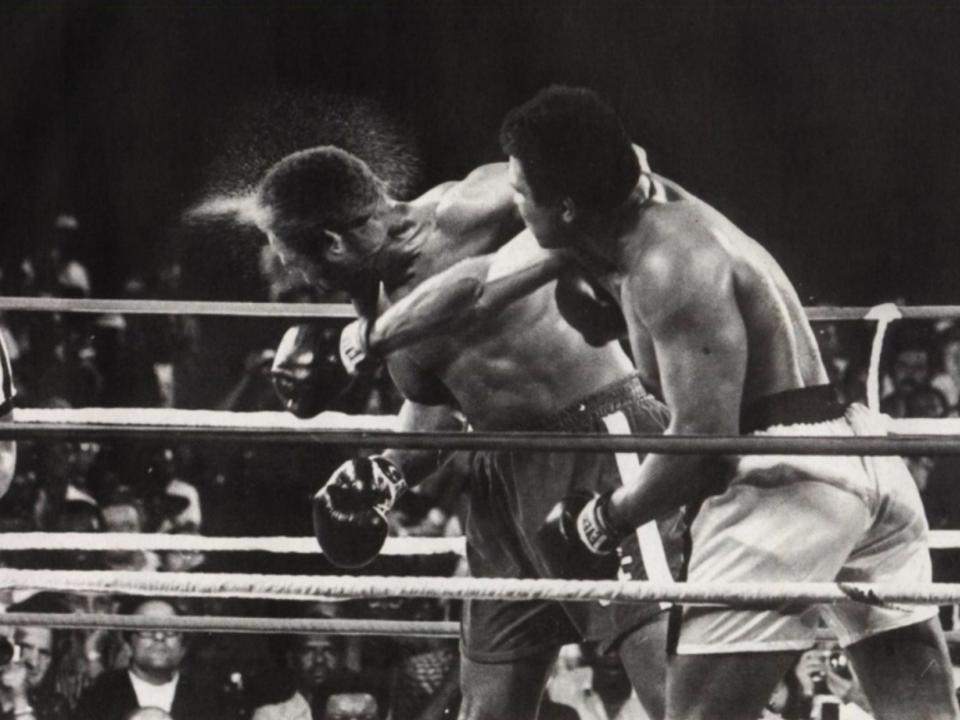




10:26 AM - 26 Feb 13

# INCREASE \$ \$ ATTACKER COSTS

# WASTE ATTACKER TIME



#### **Prior Art**

- When the tables turn (2004)
  - Roelof Temmingh, Haroon Meer, Charl van der Walt
  - http://slideshare.net/sensepost/strikeback
- Stopping Automated Attack Tools (2006)
  - Gunter Ollmann
  - http://www.technicalinfo.net/papers/
     StoppingAutomatedAttackTools.html

#### **Prior Art**

- mod-security mailing list (2006)
  - Status Code 503 together with Retry-After header
  - Ryan Barnett
  - http://bb10.com/apache-mod-security-user/ 2006-12/msg00042.html

SecFilterDefaultAction "deny,log,status:503" SecFilter ".\*" Header set Retry-After "120"



# HOW?

# BROWSERS HAVE TO BE FLEXIBLE

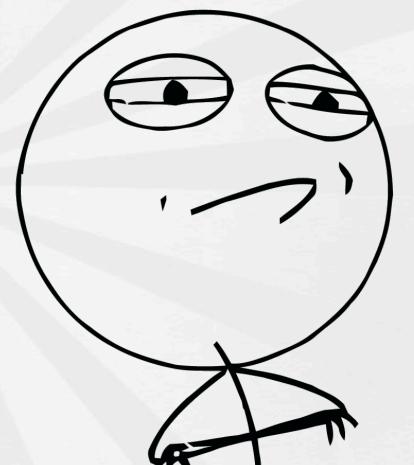
## THIS LEADS TO INTERPRETATION

... which leads to the dark-side



### RFCs...

## THEY'RE MORE OF A GUIDELINE REALLY



## WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG!



### TESTING

THE HOW OF THE THING!

- Restricted research to the big 3
  - Internet Explorer
  - Chrome / Chromium
  - Firefox







### NO... SAFARI ISN'T IN THE TOP 10 3



## OPERA JUMPED... ...or was it pushed!



## LYNX

THE UNREALISTIC OPTION

- MITMproxy / MITMdump
  - Python-based

respmsg = "OK"

- Simple to setup proxy / reverse proxy
- Script-based actions

```
def response(context, flow):
    if flow.response.code != respcode:
        # alter response code and message
        flow.response.code = respcode
        flow.response.msg = respmsg

respcode = 200
```

#### PHP

- Ability to set response code
  - Must be at the top of the PHP code
- Can be added to php.ini
  - auto-prepend-file = /full/path
- Limited by web-server (apache)

```
# set response code
Header($_server["SERVER_PROTOCOL"]. " $status_code");
```

- Testing browsers automatically
  - Created PHP file to set status code
    - http://c22.cc/POC/respcode.php?code=XXX

#### **Test Results**

Requested Response Code .: 426 Actual Response Code .: 426

#### Headers .:

HTTP/1.1 426 Upgrade Required

Date: Sun, 31 Mar 2013 13:57:57 GMT

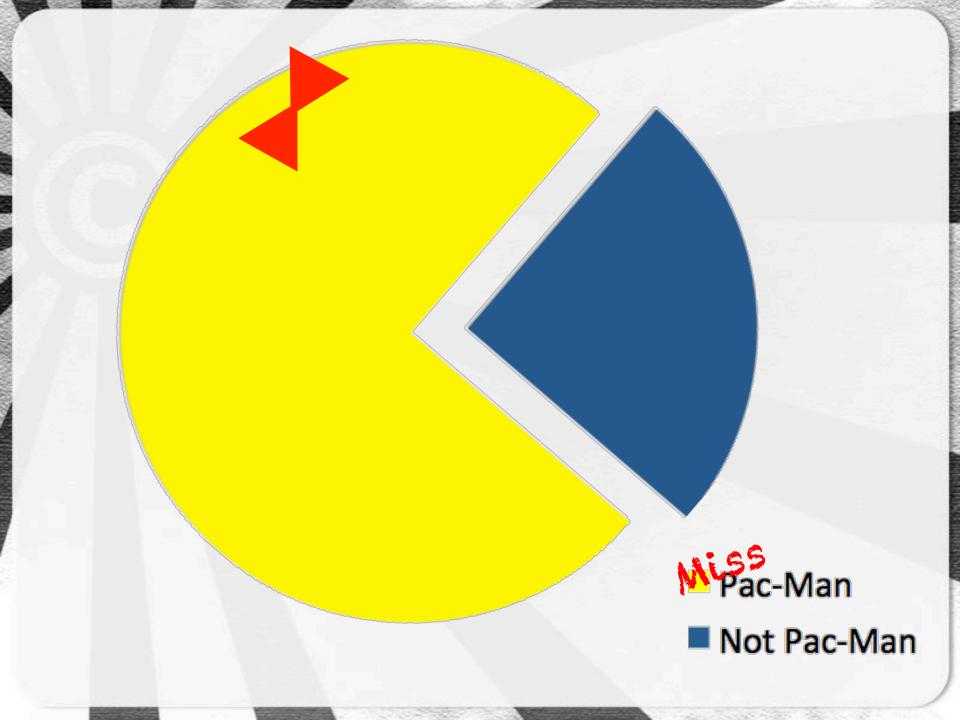
Content-Encoding: gzip

Server: /msfcli auxiliary/server/capture/http set SRVPORT=80



### BROWSERS

... AND THEIR STATUS CODE HABITS









Status Code	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript
100	X	×	X	X	d/load	X	X	×	×
101	×	×	X	×	d/load	×	×	×	×
102	X	×	X	×	d/load	X	×	×	X
200									
201									
202									
203									
204	×	×	X	×	×	×	×	×	×
205	×	×	X	X	×	×			
206									
207									







Status Code	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript
300			×						
301			×				×	×	×
302			×				×	×	×
303			×				×	×	×
304	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
305			×						
306			×						
307			×				×	×	×







è									
Statu Code	I HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript
400			×			×		×	×
401			×			X			X
402			×			×			×
403			×			×		×	×
404			×			×		×	×
405			×			×		×	×
406			×			×		×	×
407			×	Proxy	Proxy	Proxy			×
408	×	×	×			×		×	×
409			×			×		×	×
410			×			×		×	×
411			×			×			×
•			×			×			×
426			×			×			×







Status Code	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript	HTML	iFrame	JavaScript
500			×			×		×	×
501			×			×		×	×
502			×			×			×
503			×			×			×
504			×			×			×
505			×			×		×	×
506			×			×			×
507			×			×			×
508			×			×			×
509			×			×			×
510			×			×			×

#### Loading... Please Wait

Browsers handle most things just like they handle a 200 OK?

## YEP...

MOSTLY

- HTML Responses
  - Almost all response codes are rendered by the browser correctly
- iFrames
  - Some special cases for IE, but other browsers handle this the same as HTML

- JavaScript/CSS
  - Limited accepted status codes
    - Limited 3XX support
      - Chrome is the exception here
    - No support for 4XX/5XX codes



### So we know what browsers interpret differently

### What do browsers have in common?

- 1XX code handling
  - Retries
  - Confusion
    - Chrome / IE6 try to download the page!
    - Fun on Android... (never ending download)
  - Timeouts
    - Eventually

- 204 No Content
  - Um, no content!
- 304 Not Modified
  - Again, no content returned





## WHAT ABOUT HEADERS?

Just because the RFC says a specific status code must have an associated header...

## ...doesn't mean it *HAS* to

- Redirection codes (301-304, 307)
  - No Location header, no redirect
- 401 Unauthorized
  - No WWW-Authenticate header, no authentication prompt
- 407 Proxy Authentication Required
  - No Proxy-Authenticate header, no prompt

Just because the RFC says a specific status code shouldn't have an associated header...

## ...doesn't mean it can't

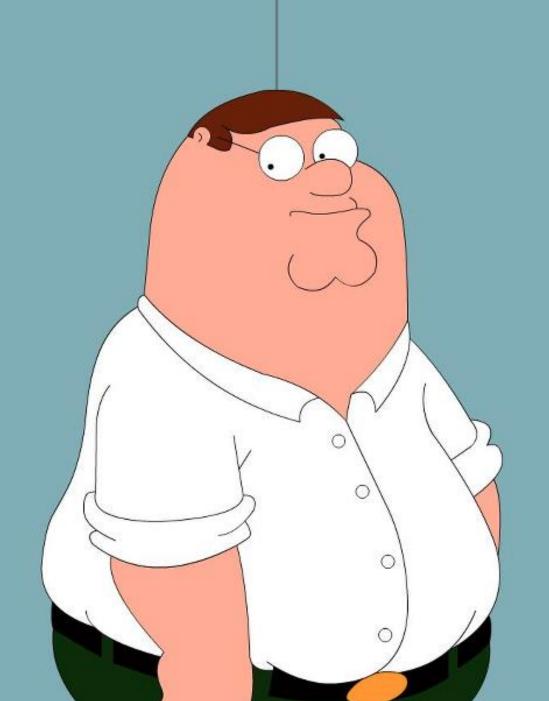
- 300 Multiple Choices w/ Location Header
  - Firefox / IE6 follows the redirect
  - Chrome doesn't
- More research needed in this direction
  - Most are uninteresting

### EACH BROWSER HANDLES THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY

### WONDER WHAT WE CAN DO WITH THAT

## DO NOT PUSH BUTTON







# GOALS

- Each browser handles things differently
  - Use known conditions
    - Handled codes
    - Unhandled codes
  - Browser weirdness



## BROWSER FINGERPRINTING

#### Firefox

- Doesn't load JavaScript returned with a 300 'Multiple Choices' status code
  - Other browsers tested DO (IE/Chrome)

- Request JavaScript from server
- Response Status: 300 Multiple Choices
- If JavaScript doesn't run in the browser
  - Firefox



#### Chrome

- Loads JavaScript returned with a 307
   'Temporary Redirect' status code
  - Other browsers tested DON'T (IE/FF)

- Request JavaScript from server
- Response Status: 307 Temporary Redirect
- If JavaScript runs in the browser
  - Chrome



### Internet Explorer

- Loads JavaScript returned with a 205 'Reset Content' status code
  - Other browsers tested DON'T (FF/Chrome)

- Request JavaScript from server
- Response Status: 205 Reset Content
- If JavaScript runs in the browser
  - Internet Explorer



- Other options to fingerprint browsers
  - 300 Redirect (Chrome)
  - 305 / 306 JavaScript (Firefox)
  - 400 iFrame (Internet Explorer)
  - •

### BROWSER FINGERPRINTING DEMO

### USER-AGENTS CAN BE SPOOFED

# BROWSER TRAITS CAN'T



# PROXY DETECTION

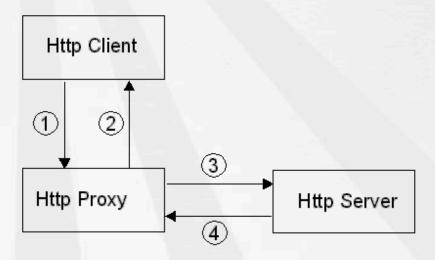
### **Chrome Proxy Detection**

- Chrome handles proxy configuration differently to other browsers
  - 407 status code isn't rendered
  - Unless an HTTP proxy is set!

- Allows us to detect if an HTTP proxy is set
- Just not which proxy
  - Can only detect HTTP proxies ;(

### **Chrome Proxy Detection**

- Request page from server
- Response Status: 407 Proxy Authentication
  - w/o Proxy-Authenticate header
- If Chrome responds HTTP proxy is set



# 

### Side-Effect: Owning Proxies

- Privoxy 3.0.20 (CVE-2013-2503)
  - 407 Proxy Authentication Required
    - w/ Proxy-Authenticate header
  - User prompted for user/pass
    - Prompt appears to be from Privoxy
  - Privoxy passes user/pass to remote site
    - Profit???

#### Side-Effect: Owning Proxies

- Not just Privoxy that's effected
  - Any transparent proxy
    - e.g. Burp, ZAP, ...
  - Not really a vuln for most
    - Works as designed!

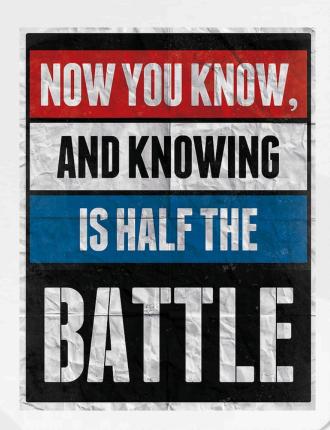




## BRINGINGITALL TŒFTHER

#### What we have

- Status codes all browsers treat as content
- Status codes all browsers can't handle
  - 1XX, etc...
- Lots of browser quirks



### What can we do

- F\*ck with things
- Screw with scanner monkeys
- Make RFC lovers cry into their beer
- Break things in general



### Let's try to...

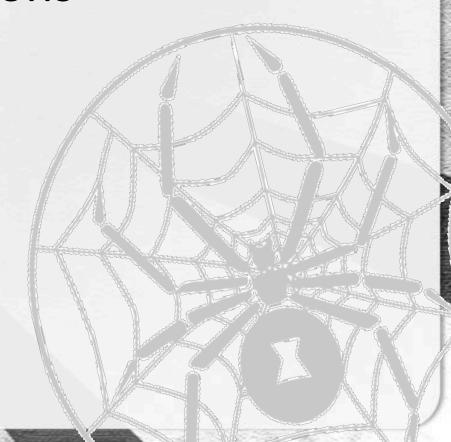
- Use what we've discovered to...
  - Break spidering tools
  - Cause false positives / negatives
  - Slow down attackers
    - The fun way!
  - Blocking successful exploitation

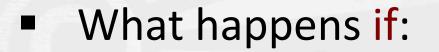


# BREAKING

## Simplistic view of spiders

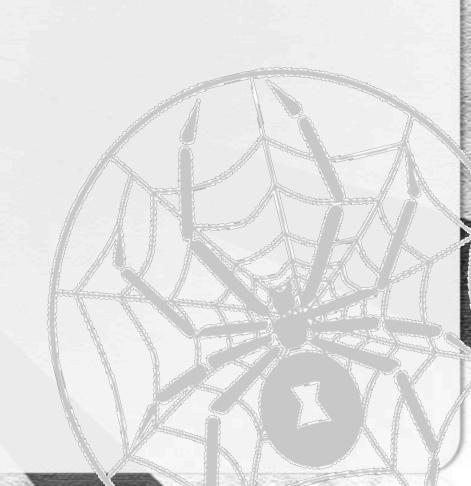
- Access target URL
- Read links / functions
- Test them out
- If true: continue
  - What is TRUE?





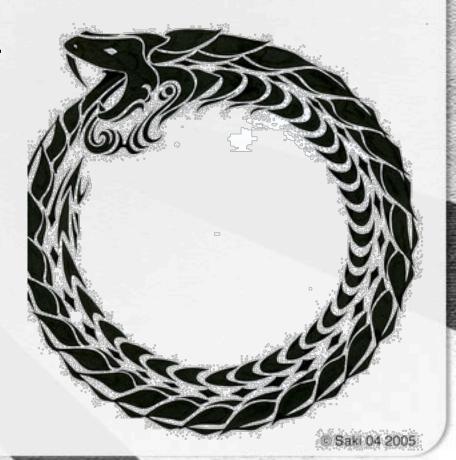
- Every response is

  - 00



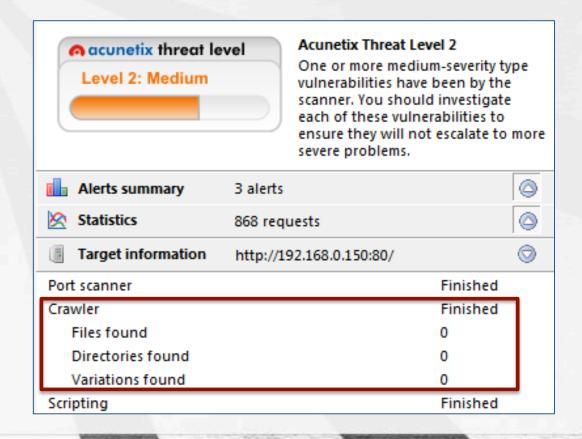
### 200 OK

- IF 200 == True:
  - Problems!
  - Never-ending spider



#### 404 Not Found

- IF 404 == False:
  - What website?



#### 500 Internal Server Error

Skipfish != happy fish

```
skipfish version 2.09b by lcamtuf@google.com
 - default.testapache.local -
Scan statistics:
     Scan time : 0:20:08.162
 HTTP requests: 22339 (18.6/s), 63885 kB in, 7526 kB out (59.1 kB/s)
   Compression: 56992 kB in, 1010083 kB out (89.3% gain)
   HTTP faults: 38 net errors, 0 proto errors, 0 retried, 0 drops
TCP handshakes : 50 total (466.8 reg/conn)
    TCP faults: 0 failures, 38 timeouts, 2 purged
External links : 21724 skipped
  Regs pending: 1001
Database statistics:
        Pivots: 2461 total, 2174 done (88.34%)
   In progress: 136 pending, 99 init, 37 attacks, 15 dict
 Missing nodes : 5 spotted
    Node types : 1 serv, 242 dir, 4 file, 3 pinto, 90 unkn, 67 par, 2037 val
  Issues found: 2421 info, 15 wars. 2095 low, 2107 medium, 3 high impact
     Dict size : 52 words (52 new), 4 extensions, 256 candi
    Signatures : 75 total
Killed
      ./pentest/web/skipfish#
```



### False

## Positives

Negatives

- Most scanners use status codes
  - At least to some extent
    - Initial match (prior to more costly regex)
    - Speed up detection
    - Easy solution

- What happens if:
  - Every response is
    - **200**
    - **404**
    - **500**
    - raNd0M\*



\* Using codes that are accepted by all browsers as content

#### **Vulnerability Baseline**

- w3af
  - Information Points  $\rightarrow$  79
  - Vulnerabilities → 65
  - Shells  $\rightarrow$  0 shells  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\odot}$
  - Scan time  $\rightarrow$  1h37m23s

#### Every response 200 OK

- No change in discoveries
  - All points discovered per baseline
    - 79 Information Points
    - 65 Vulnerabilities
    - 0 Shells
  - Scan time → 9h56m55s
    - Lots more to check ;)

#### Every response 404 Not Found

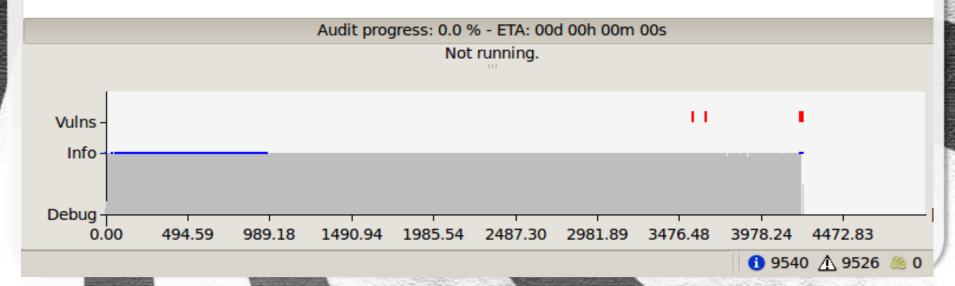
- Less to scan == Less to find
  - False negatives
    - 44 Information Points (-35)
    - 37 Vulnerabilities (-28)
- Scan time  $\rightarrow$  7m13s
  - Much quicker scan
  - Less paths traversed



#### Every response 500

- Server Error == OMG VULN!
  - False positives+++
    - 9540 Information points (+9461)
    - 9526 Vulnerabilities (+9461)

[Sat 06 Apr 2013 04:53:24 PM CEST] Scan finished in 1 hour 10 minutes 29 seconds.



#### Random Status Codes

- Multiple test runs
  - All tests produced False positives++
    - avg. 619 Information points (+540)
    - avg. 550 Vulnerabilities (+485)
- Avg. scan time  $\rightarrow$  11m37s
  - Often much quicker scans
  - Lots of variation in scan times

#### Random Status Codes

- Skipfish + \$random\_status = chaos
  - False Positives + False Negatives
  - Scan jobs killed (due to lack of scanner resources)
- Scan times
  - 1st scan time  $\rightarrow$  10h3m35s
  - 2nd scan time → 0h0m4s
  - 3rd scan time  $\rightarrow$  16h47m41s



## Slowing attackers Cown

### What does your WAF really do?



- OMG Attack
- Block / Return error
  - **4**03,500, ...
- Profit???



No entry

# MVhy ?

Remember that list of status codes browsers don't handle well?

# Yeah well, scanners don't usually handle them well either!

# Especially the 1XX codes

- Remember LaBrea tarpit?
  - Tim Liston 2001 \*
  - Designed to slow spread of Code Red
  - Slows down scans / attackers



# How about an HTTP Tarpit!

#### **HTTP Tarpit Scenario**

- WAF detects scan / attack
- Adds source IP to "naughty" list
- Rewrite all responses from the server
  - 100 | 101 | 102 status codes only (random)
  - 204 | 304 might also be useful (no content)

Let's do some science!\*



\* Science not included

## NIKTO vs. the HTTP TARPIT



#### Baseline

#### **HTTP Tarpit**

Scan time

2m 18s

14h 33m 2s

**Findings** 

18

10

## W3AF vs. the HTTP TARPIT



#### **Baseline**

#### **HTTP Tarpit**

Scan time

1h 37m 23s

18m 10s

**Findings** 

65

0

## SKIPFISH vs. the HTTP TARPIT



#### Baseline

#### **HTTP Tarpit**

Scan time

18m 10s

05s

**Findings** 

Low: 2519

Med: 2522

High: 12

Low: 0

Med: 0

High: 3

## ACUNETIX vs. the HTTP TARPIT



#### Baseline

#### **HTTP Tarpit**

Scan time

1h 19m

33m

**Findings** 

Info: 1104

Low: 30

Med: 32

High: 24

Info: 3

Low: 3

Med: 1

High: 0

#### **HTTP Tarpit**

- HTTP Tarpit Results \*
  - Slow down scans (nikto)
    - 340x as long
    - Other give up quicker ;)
  - Unreliable / aborted scans
    - Up to 100% less findings



\* Not scientifically sound;)



## Blocking successful exploitation

### We've made it hard to find the vulnerabilities

### We've made it time consuming for attackers

#### Now let's stop the sk1dd13s using Metasploit to pop \$hells

Q: How often does Metasploit reference status codes?

rgrep -E 'res[p|ponse]?\.code' \*

→ 958 \*

\* Not scientifically sound;)

### Lots of dependency on status codes\*

```
(res.code < 200 or res.code >= 300)
  case res.code
  when 401
     print warning("Warning: The web site
     asked for authentication: #{res.headers
     ['WWW-Authenticate'] | res.headers
     ['Authentication']}")
  end
  fail with (Exploit::Failure::Unknown,
  "Upload failed on #{path tmp}
  [#{res.code} #{res.message}]")
end
```

# No match, No shell\*



## REVIEW

- Using status codes to our benefit is fun
  - ... and useful!
- Browsers can be quirky
- Scanners / attack toolkits are sometimes set in their ways
  - Take the easy route
  - Easy to fool

- WAFs need to get more offensive about their defense
  - More than just blocking a request
    - Even if you use a snazzy message
  - Hacking back is bad
  - Slowing down known attacks is good
  - Make life harder for skiddies is pricele\$\$

- Current tools are much the same as APT
  - APT (Adequate Persistent Threat)
  - Only as advanced as they <u>NEED</u> to be



#### ...because screwing with sk1dd13s is fun!



#### Implementation



#### Getto implementation

- PHP (the lowest common denominator)
  - auto-prepend-file
  - Limited to resources PHP handles
- MITMdump
  - MITMproxy == memory hog
  - Reverse proxy mode





- Usable implementation
  - Nginx as reverse proxy
    - Requires: ngx\_lua
    - ngx.status = XXX
    - Bugs in non-git version
      - 203, 305, 306, 414, 505, 506 return nil



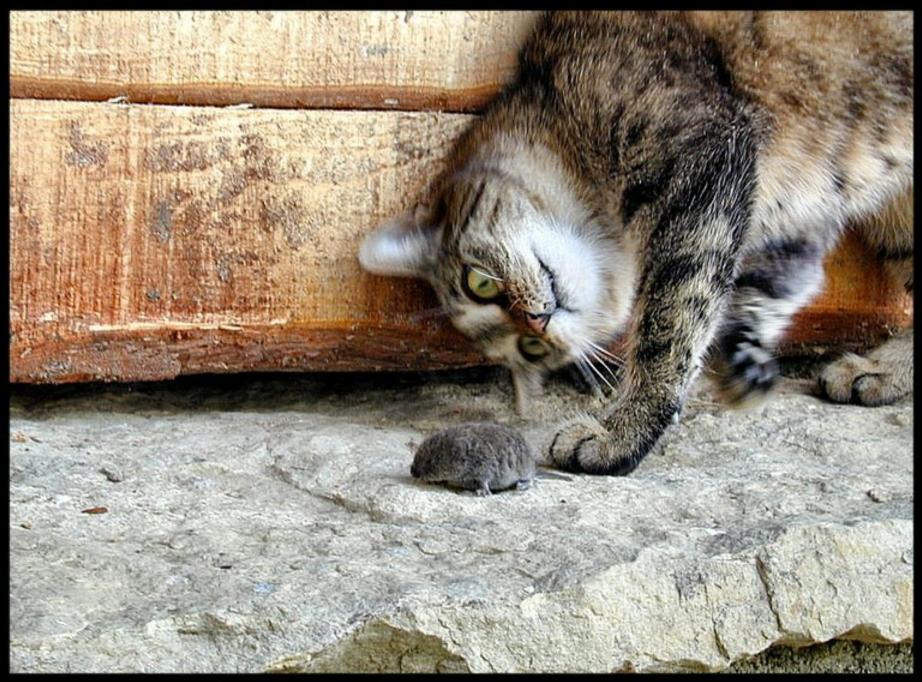


- Ease adoption
  - Implement into mod-security
    - Not a simple task
    - Already been discussed many times
    - Help wanted ;)



# Countering this research

- Less reliance on status codes
- More reliance on content / headers
  - Pros
    - Better matching / intelligence
  - Cons
    - Slower? (regex matching)
    - More resource intensive







#### CODE / SCRIPTS AVAILABLE

HTTP://GITHUB.COM/CHRISJOHNRILEY/RANDOM\_CODE

### What doesn't kill you, makes you smaller!



