

Pro Workshop

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# TOP API SECURITY THREATS & SOLUTIONS



# Who We Are

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INTESAR MOHAMMED

CEO | Security Researcher  
@ CyberSecuriti.ai

Work Experience & Publications in APIs and Security

5 Patents in Security & Cloud

Leadership roles at VMware, Cisco, HyperGrid

# Agenda

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Session Timeline

TOP EXPLOITS

Top exploits targeting  
the API layer

DEMO

Detection techniques

Q&A

# HOW APIS TRANSFORMING THE INDUSTRY

- **Building Blocks**

APIs are the new building blocks for automation wave

- **Programmable Interface**

APIs provides an easy and flexible programmable interface allowing a large number of client applications quickly consume and process functionality

- **API Economy**

Most SaaS & Cloud businesses requires APIs for industry adoption. Salesforce generates 50% revenue through APIs and Expedia over 90%. Cloud services revenue from APIs is going grow to 65% by 2023

# DevOps Adoption



## API POWERED

Most organizations today are building Apps and Services powered by API

## MAJORITY ATTACK

Majority of reported cyber attack have targeted the API layer and business logic flaws in general

## DEVOPS RUSH

In their rush towards adopting DevOps and releasing products faster, they've forgotten to include security leaving the products vulnerable

## PRIVACY LAWS

To make matters even worse the new CCPA and GDPR privacy laws now require organizations to report accidental exposure/breaches and pay compensation to the customers



# #1 Unprotected Endpoints

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## COMMON FLAW

5% of the API endpoints are left unprotected.

## EASY TO DETECT

- No special tools are required.
- You can use curl for discovery



# Live Demo



DETECT UNPROTECTED ENDPOINTS

# #2 ABAC

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## BUSINESS LOGIC FLAWS

A typical 100 endpoint API has over 200 data operations (create, read, modify, actions, delete, etc.)

## DATA ACCESS CONTROLS

As organizations race towards DevOps and releasing new features faster, often the continuous security is overlooked





# Live Demo



DETECT ABAC VULNERABILITIES

# ABAC Breach Case Studies

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## USPS.COM

- 60M Customer Records Lost
- GET: /customers/{id}
  - Any authenticated user can request data from the above endpoint by using a valid customer-id

## VULNERABILITY DISCOVERY

- Sign up two accounts User-A & User-B
- Invoke GET: /customers/{User-A} as User-A -> Response {UserA data}
- Invoke GET: /customers/{User-A} as User-B -> Response
  - {No Data} - No vulnerability
  - {UserA data} - vulnerability

# IS IMPLEMENTING ACCESS-CONTROLS EASY?

## Imagine Box.com APIs

- Consider this endpoint  
[https://api.box.com/2.0/files/file\\_id](https://api.box.com/2.0/files/file_id)
- Private file
- Shared file
- Public file
- Org public file
- Public URL or ID
- Auto expiring ID

# #3 RBAC

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## PRIVELEGE ESCALATIONS

Misconfigured role to endpoint mapping can give escalated or admin access to the regular users





# Live Demo



DETECT RBAC VULNERABILITIES

# RBAC Breach Case Studies

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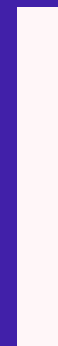
## MICROSOFT OUTLOOK.COM

- 6% Outlook inboxes were breached
- Hackers stole support agent credentials

## RBAC DESIGN FLAW

- The support agent role had access to message subjects and compose-send operation
  - No access to read the message body, forward and delete messages - This made perfect sense
  - Had access to add forwarding rules - This is how the hackers breached!

**OWASP  
WEB/MOBILE**



INJECTION

STORED INJECTION

SENSITIVE DATA EXPOSURE

DoS

OLD FRAMEWORKS WITH  
KNOWN VULNERABILITIES

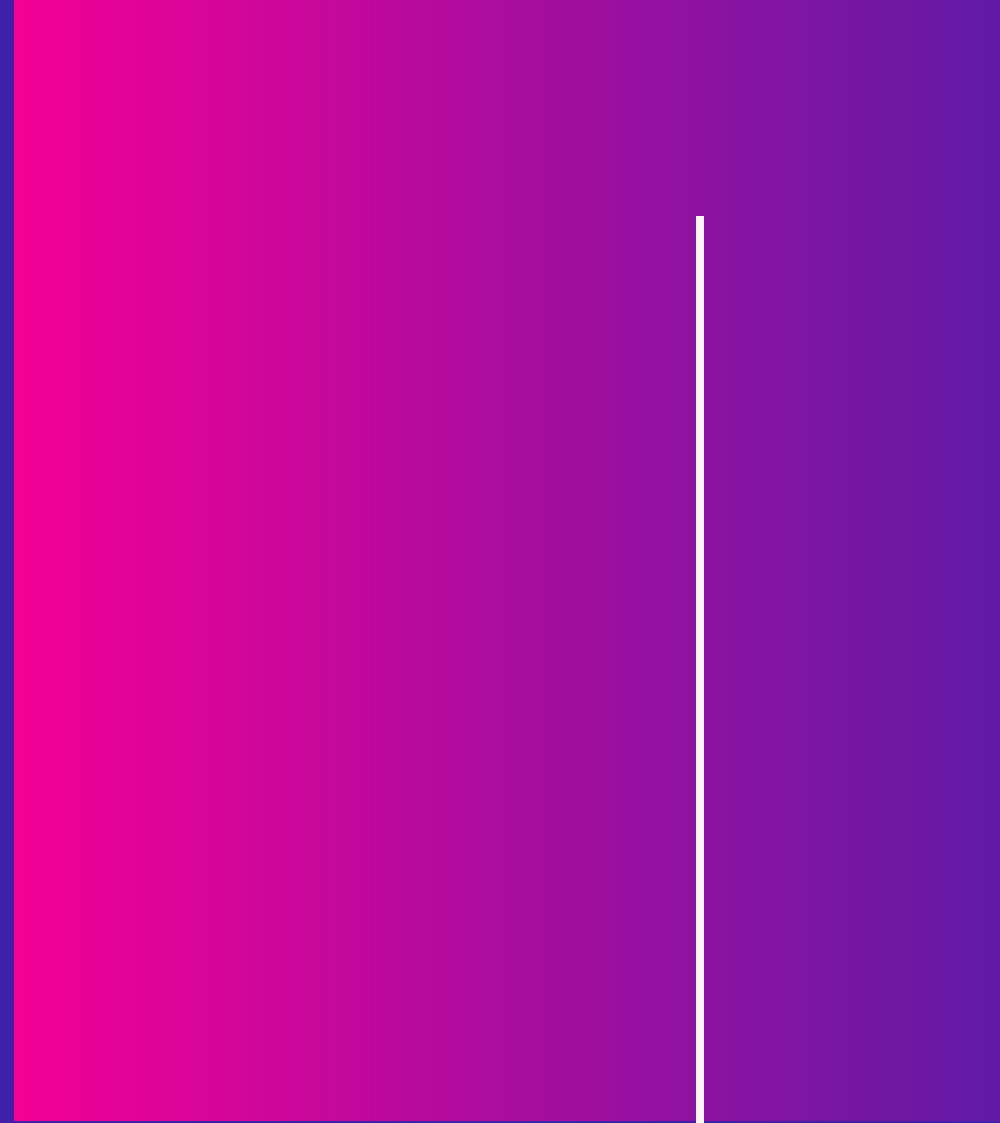
XSS

INSUFFICIENT LOGGING

INSECURE COMMUNICATION



Q&A







[intesar@fxlabs.io](mailto:intesar@fxlabs.io)



**Thank You!**

