

**CS 370: INTRODUCTION TO SECURITY**  
**05.18: ADVANCED WEB SECURITY III**

Tu/Th 4:00 – 5:50 PM

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**SAIL**  
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# TOPICS FOR TODAY

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- Advanced web security
  - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)
    - Cookies
    - Session
    - CSRF attacks
    - Defenses (and their potential weaknesses)
  - UI attacks
    - Clickjacking
    - Phishing
    - 2FA (and their potential weaknesses)

# SECURITY RISKS ON THE INTERNET

- Risk III

Rank	ID	Name	Score	KEV Count (CVEs)	Rank Change vs. 2021
1	<a href="#">CWE-787</a>	Out-of-bounds Write	64.20	62	0
2	<a href="#">CWE-79</a>	Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')	45.97	2	0
3	<a href="#">CWE-89</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')	22.11	7	+3 ▲
4	<a href="#">CWE-20</a>	Improper Input Validation	20.63	20	0
5	<a href="#">CWE-125</a>	Out-of-bounds Read	17.67	1	-2 ▼
6	<a href="#">CWE-78</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')	17.53	32	-1 ▼
7	<a href="#">CWE-416</a>	Use After Free	15.50	28	0
8	<a href="#">CWE-22</a>	Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory ('Path Traversal')	14.08	19	0
9	<a href="#">CWE-352</a>	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)	11.53	1	0
10	<a href="#">CWE-434</a>	Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type	9.56	6	0
11	<a href="#">CWE-476</a>	NULL Pointer Dereference	7.15	0	+4 ▲
12	<a href="#">CWE-502</a>	Deserialization of Untrusted Data	6.68	7	+1 ▲
13	<a href="#">CWE-190</a>	Integer Overflow or Wraparound	6.53	2	-1 ▼
14	<a href="#">CWE-287</a>	Improper Authentication	6.35	4	0
15	<a href="#">CWE-798</a>	Use of Hard-coded Credentials	5.66	0	+1 ▲
16	<a href="#">CWE-862</a>	Missing Authorization	5.53	1	+2 ▲
17	<a href="#">CWE-77</a>	Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in a Command ('Command Injection')	5.42	5	+8 ▲
18	<a href="#">CWE-306</a>	Missing Authentication for Critical Function	5.15	6	-7 ▼
19	<a href="#">CWE-119</a>	Improper Restriction of Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer	4.85	6	-2 ▼
20	<a href="#">CWE-276</a>	Incorrect Default Permissions	4.84	0	-1 ▼
21	<a href="#">CWE-918</a>	Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)	4.27	8	+3 ▲
22	<a href="#">CWE-362</a>	Concurrent Execution using Shared Resource with Improper Synchronization ('Race Condition')	3.57	6	+11 ▲
23	<a href="#">CWE-400</a>	Uncontrolled Resource Consumption	3.56	2	+4 ▲
24	<a href="#">CWE-611</a>	Improper Restriction of XML External Entity Reference	3.38	0	-1 ▼
25	<a href="#">CWE-94</a>	Improper Control of Generation of Code ('Code Injection')	3.32	4	+3 ▲

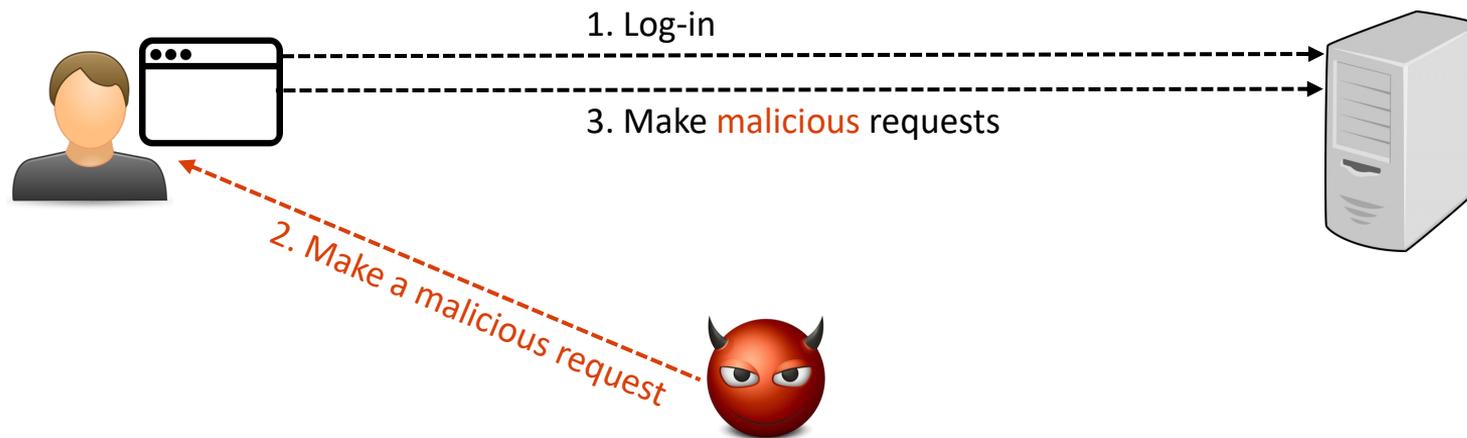
# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

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- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
  - Make legitimate users to send malicious requests to the server
    - The attacker impersonates a legitimate user
    - The user's browser will automatically attach (malicious) cookies (It **exploits the cookie-based authentication mechanism**)

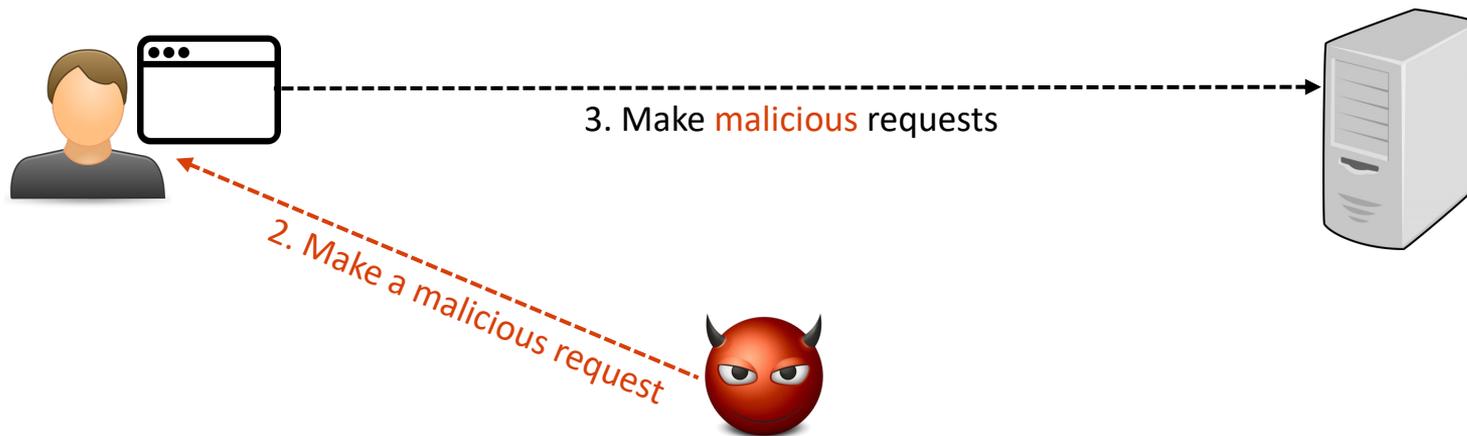
# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
  - Attack Illustration
    - A user authenticates to the server
    - The attacker tricks the user into making a malicious request
    - The server accepts the malicious request from the legitimate user
    - The server is **the target!**



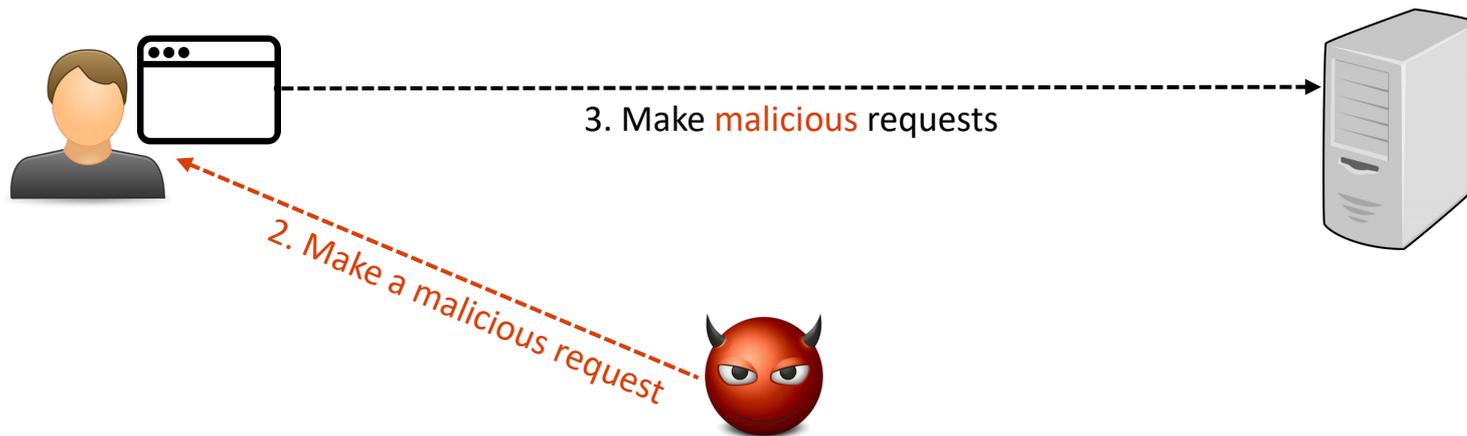
# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
  - How can an adversary trick the user?
    - GET request:
      - Make the user into clicking a link (SMS, Spam, ...)
      - `https://bank.com/transfer?amount=10000&to=Mallony`
      - Put some html on a website the victim will visit (1x1 pixel image with a request)
      - ``



# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- CSRF (one-click attack or session riding)
  - How can an adversary trick the user?
    - Post request:
      - Make the user into clicking a link (run JavaScript on the website a user opens)
      - ex. The link opens an attacker's website, and it runs some JavaScript code
      - Put some JavaScript on a website the user will visit
      - ex. The attacker pays for an ad. and put JavaScript code there



# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

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- CSRF != Reflected XSS
  - Reflected XSS: Make the user (victim) run malicious scripts
  - CSRF : Make the server run malicious scripts

# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Real-world examples ([Facebook](#), [YouTube](#))

## Facebook SMS Captcha Was Vulnerable to CSRF Attack



Lokesh Kumar · Follow  
2 min read · Oct 17, 2022

498 3

This post is about a bug that I found on Meta (aka Facebook) which allows to make any Endpoint as POST request in SMS Captcha flow which leads to CSRF attack.

After reporting [Contact Point Deanonimization Bug](#) I started to find any way to bypass it in Account recover flow. but when sending multiple OTP code request I got hit with SMS captcha flow.

Vulnerable Endpoint:

```
https://m.facebook.com/sms/captcha/?next=/path
```

when digging deeper in captcha page I found that `next=` parameter is vulnerable to CSRF attack. because the Endpoint doesn't have any CSRF



Your guide to a better future

News > Privacy

## Researchers find security holes in NYT, YouTube, ING, MetaFilter sites

Attackers could have used vulnerabilities on several Web sites to compromise people's accounts, allowing them to steal money, harvest e-mail addresses, or pose as others online.



Elinor Mills  
Oct. 2, 2008 2:31 p.m. PT

2 min read

*Updated at 1:30 p.m. PDT with the New York Times saying they fixed the hole.*

A new report from researchers at Princeton University reveals serious Web site security holes that could have been exploited to steal ING customers' money and compromise user privacy on YouTube, *The New York Times'* Web site, and MetaFilter.

The sites have all fixed the holes after being notified by [the report's](#) (PDF) researchers, William Zeller and renowned security and privacy researcher and Princeton computer science professor Edward Felten.

# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

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- Defenses
  - CSRF tokens
  - Referer validation
  - Same-site cookie attribute

# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

---

- Defenses

- CSRF tokens

- A **secret value** that the server provides to the user
    - The user must include the same value in the request for the server

- Note

- The token **should not be sent** to the server **in a cookie**
    - The token **must be sent somewhere else** and stored to a **separate** storage
    - The token shouldn't be like a session token (it should expire after 1-2 requests)

- Example:

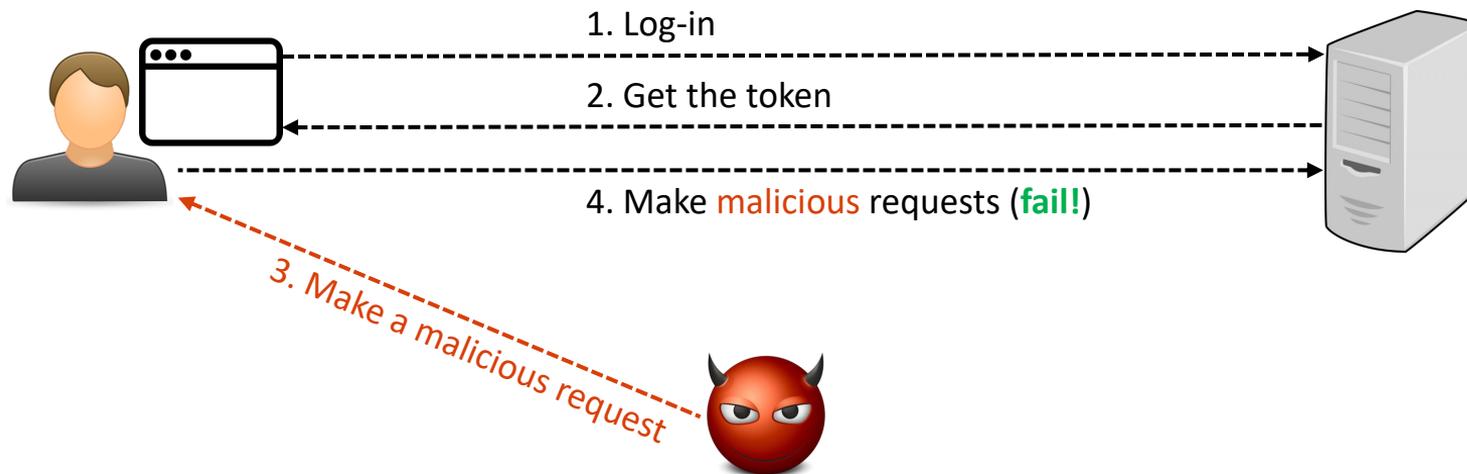
- HTML forms: vulnerable to CSRF (the attacker can do a POST request with their forms)
    - If a user requests from a form, the server attaches a CSRF token as *a hidden form field*
    - The attacker's JavaScript won't be able to create a valid form

# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

- Defenses

- CSRF tokens

- A **secret value** that the server provides to the user
    - The user must include the same value in the request for the server



# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

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- Defenses

- CSRF tokens

- Referer header

- A **header** in an HTTP request that shows which webpage made the request
    - In CSRF, the user makes malicious requests from a different website
      - “Referer” is a 30-year typo in the HTTP standard...
      - If we make a request from “facebook.com” then the header is “https://www.facebook.com”
      - If an “img” tag on a forum makes your browser to make a request then the Referer header will be “the forum’s URL”
      - If JavaScript on an attacker’s website makes your browser to make a request then the header will be “the attacker’s website URL”
    - The server checks the Referer header
      - Reject if it’s **not** from the same-site
      - Accept if it’s from the the same-site

# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

---

- Defenses

- CSRF tokens

- Referer header

- A **header** in an HTTP request that shows which webpage made the request

- Potential issues:

- The server can “observe” the user’s private info. from the header  
(ex. “facebook.com/<your-friend-name>/posting\_1234”)

- Oftentimes, network firewalls (or your browsers) remove this header...

- The header is optional; some requests can come without the header (what should we do...)

# CSRF: CROSS-SITE REQUEST FORGERY

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- Defenses

- CSRF tokens

- Referer header

- Same-site cookies

- Set a **flag** on a cookie unexploitable by CSRF attacks

- The browser will send requests when the domain of the cookie = that of the origin

- SameSite = none

- SameSite = **strict**: check if the domain matches

- Potential issue: not all browsers implements this attribute

# TOPICS FOR TODAY

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- Advanced web security
  - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)
    - Cookies
    - Session
    - CSRF attacks
    - Defenses (and their potential weaknesses)
  - UI attacks
    - Clickjacking
    - Phishing
    - 2FA (and their potential weaknesses)

# OVERVIEW

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- UI attacks
  - What is it?
    - The attacker **tricks** the victim into thinking
    - They are taking an intended action when they are actually **taking a malicious action**
  - What to exploit?
    - **User interfaces**: the trusted path between the user and the computer
    - Your browser blocks the website to interact across different origins (SOP)
    - But trusts the user to do whatever they want
  - Two representative attacks
    - Clickjacking: Trick the victim into clicking on something from the attacker
    - Phishing: Trick the victim into sending the attacker personal information

# CLICKJACKING

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- Clickjacking
  - What is it?
    - Trick the victim into **clicking on something from the attacker**
  - What to exploit?
    - **User interfaces**: the trusted path between the user and the computer
    - Your browser trusts “your clicks”
    - If you click something, the browser believes you intend to click that
  - What can the attacker do?
    - Download a malicious program
    - Like a YouTube video(s), Instagram pages, or Amazon products
    - Steal keystrokes (once sth is downloaded)
      - Good luck to your credit card numbers, passwords, or any personal info.

# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Download buttons
  - What is the *right* button?
  - What happens if I click the *wrong* button(s)?

The screenshot shows the CNET Download.com website for Malwarebytes Anti-Malware. The page layout includes a navigation bar at the top with the CNET logo and 'Download.com' text. Below the navigation bar, there are several promotional banners and a main content area. The main content area features a large 'Download Now' button with a green checkmark icon and the text 'CNET Secure Download'. To the right of this button is a 'CNET Editors' note' section, followed by a 'CNET Editors' review' section. Below the review is an 'Editors' Choice' badge. The right sidebar contains a '3 Steps for a faster install & scan' section with a 'START DOWNLOAD' button. The main content area also includes a '3 Steps for a faster install & scan' section with a 'Start Download' button. The page includes various social media sharing options on the left and a search bar at the top right.

# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- “iframe” can be vulnerable

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>Happy to load the UW</h1>

<iframe
  src="https://www.washington.edu/"
  title="I loaded this UW in my iframe"
  width="700" height="600"></iframe>

</body>
</html>
```

Result Size: 731 x 753 [Get your own website](#)

## Happy to load the UW

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

#PopulationHealth

### MAPPING THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

With the UW Climate Impacts Group's new interactive tool, we can see how climate change is projected to affect any Washington county — up to the year 2100.

READ STORY >

NEXT  
PULLING TOGETHER >

[https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/04/18/qa-county-scale-climate-mapping-tool-helps-washington-agencies-prepare-for-the-future/?utm\\_source=uwhp&utm\\_medium=topstory&utm\\_campaign=mapping-c...](https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/04/18/qa-county-scale-climate-mapping-tool-helps-washington-agencies-prepare-for-the-future/?utm_source=uwhp&utm_medium=topstory&utm_campaign=mapping-c...)

Note: any links on the website in the iframe are “washington.edu”

Users can click it, but we cannot make the website automatically click this link due to the same origin policy

# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- “iframe” can be vulnerable – let’s change the code a bit

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>Happy to load the UW</h1>

<iframe
  style="opacity: 1.0"
  src="https://www.washington.edu/"
  title="I loaded this UW in my iframe"
  width="700" height="600"></iframe>

<p style="margin-top: 210pt">
  <em>My original website</em> is in Here!</em>
</p>

</body>
</html>
```

Result Size: 731 x 753   Get your own website

Happy to load the UW

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

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MAPPING THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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https://www.washington.edu/news/2023/04/18/qa-county-scale-climate-mapping-tool-helps-washington-agencies-prepare-for-the-future/?utm\_source=uwhp&utm\_medium=topstory&utm\_campaign=mapping-c...

Put style: opacity to control the “opacity”

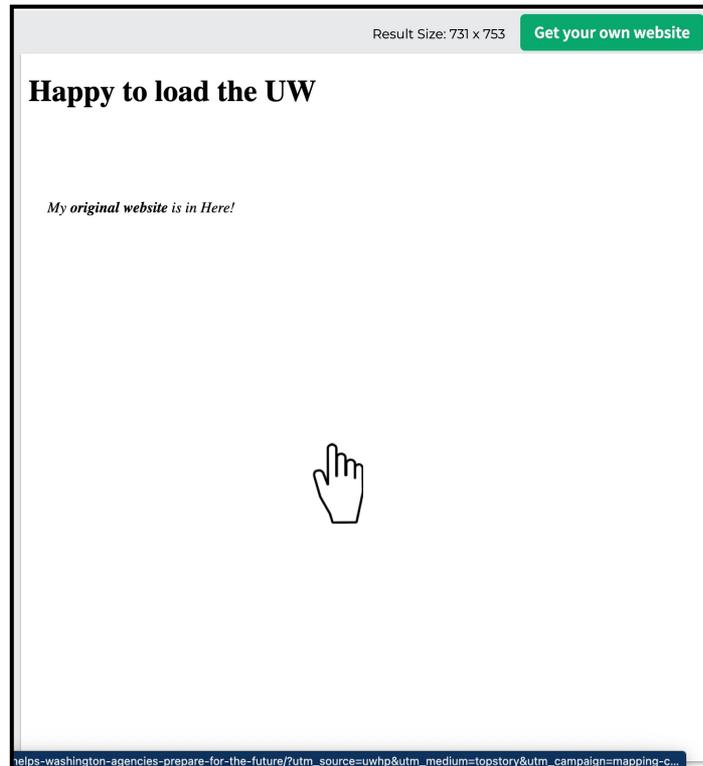
There’s a text behind the iframe loaded the “washington.edu”





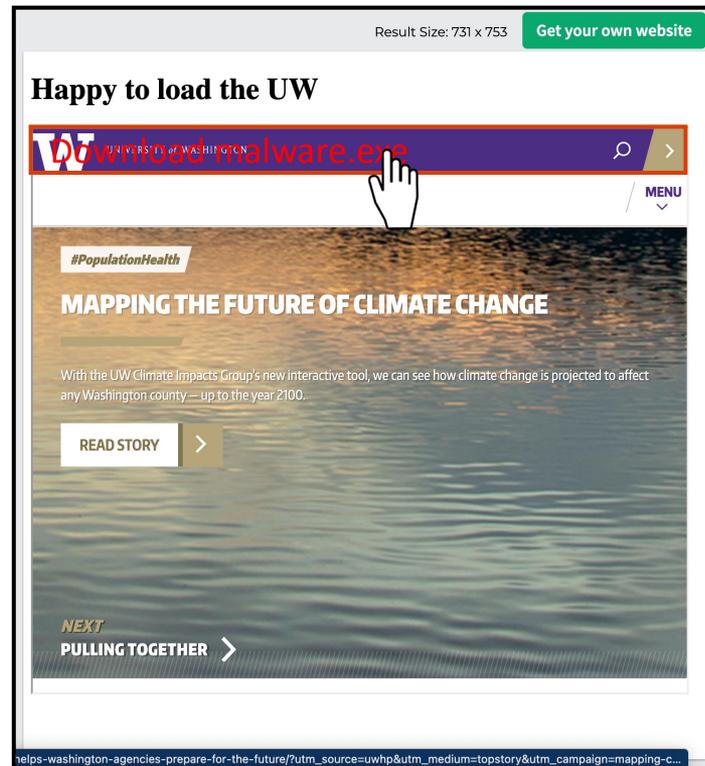
# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Invisible “iframe”s
  - The attacker puts an iframe onto the attacker’s site **invisibly**, over visible, enticing content
  - Users (victims) think they click on the attacker’s website
  - But the click is actually happened on the legitimate website
  - ex. You click sth, but it’s the Facebook like btn



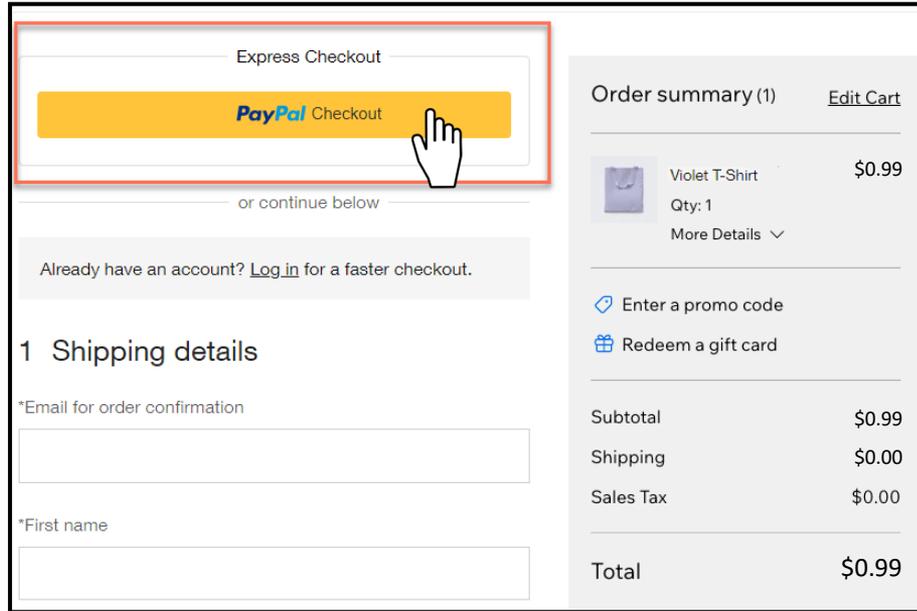
# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Invisible “iframe”s – cont’d
  - The attacker puts an iframe onto the legitimate site **invisibly**, under invisible, malicious content
  - Users (victims) think they click on the legitimate website
  - But the click is actually happened on the attacker’s website
  - ex. You click sth, and it downloads malware



# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Invisible “iframe”s – cont’d



- The attacker frames the legitimate site, with the visible malicious contents
- ex. You click the checkout, and I wish you the best!

# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

---

- Temporal attack
  - Process
    - The attacker uses JavaScript
    - that detects the position of your cursor
    - and change the website right before you click on sth.

# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

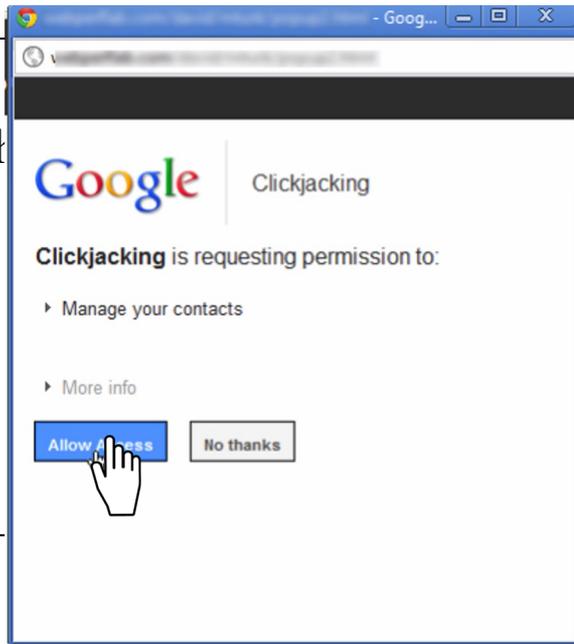
- Temporal attack

- Example:

**Instructions:**

Please double-click on the content

your



# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

- Cursorjacking

- CSS can style the appearance of your cursor
- JavaScript can track a cursor's position
- We can create a fake cursor to trick users into clicking on sth.

**Instructions:**

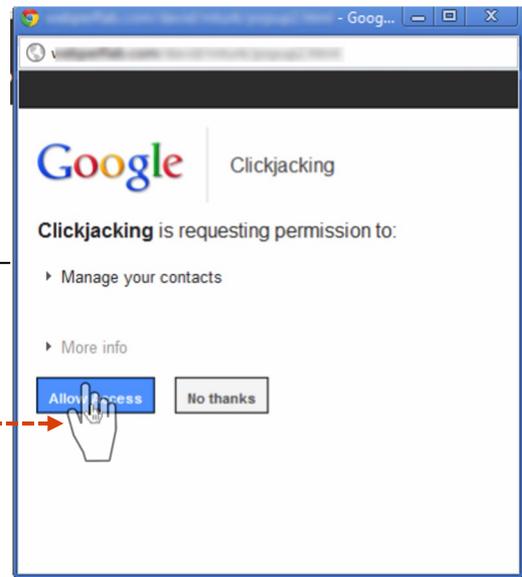
Please double-click on the [button](#) to  
content

**Real cursor:** created by  
JavaScript or with CSS

[Click here](#)



**Fake cursor:** created by  
JavaScript or with CSS



# CLICKJACKING EXAMPLE

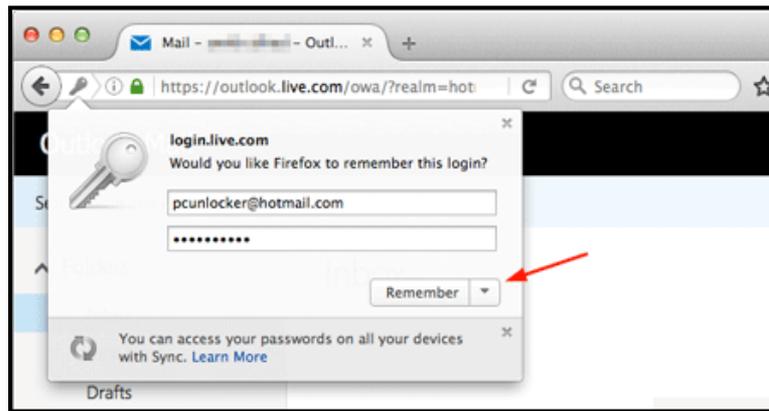
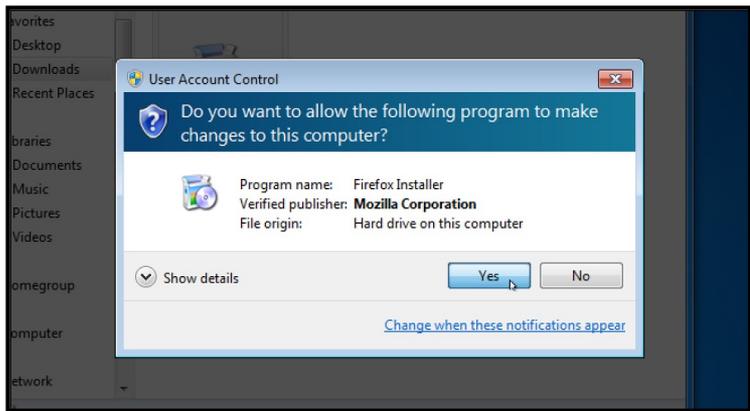
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- Cursorjacking
  - CSS can style the appearance of your cursor
  - JavaScript can track a cursor's position
  - We can create a fake cursor to trick users into clicking on sth.



# CLICKJACKING DEFENSES

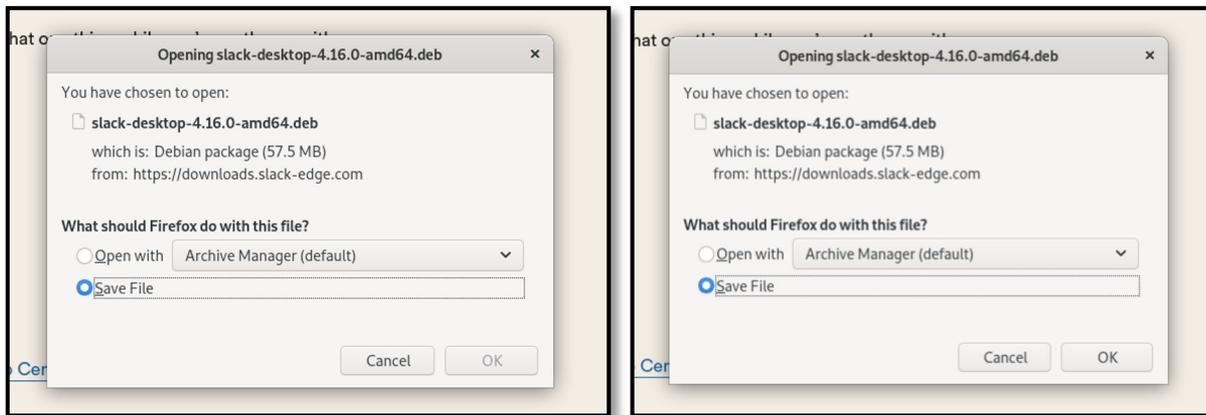
- Enforce visual integrity
  - Clear visual separation between important alerts and content
  - Examples:
    - Windows “User Account Control” darkens the entire screen and freezes the desktop
    - Firefox dialogs “cross the boundary” between the URL bar and content



# CLICKJACKING DEFENSES

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- Enforce temporal integrity
  - Sufficient time for a user to register what they are clicking on
  - Example:
    - Firefox blocks the “OK” button until 1 second after the dialog has been focused





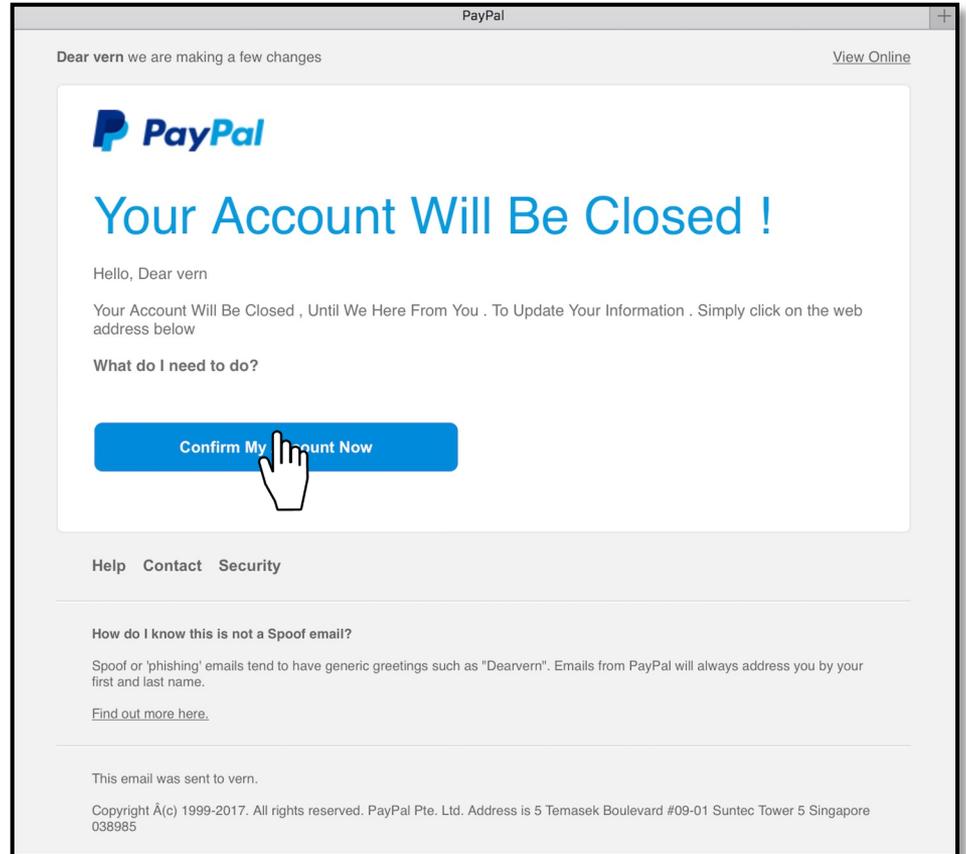
# TOPICS FOR TODAY

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- Advanced web security
  - CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery)
    - Cookies
    - Session
    - CSRF attacks
    - Defenses (and their potential weaknesses)
  - UI attacks
    - Clickjacking
    - Phishing
    - 2FA (and their potential weaknesses)

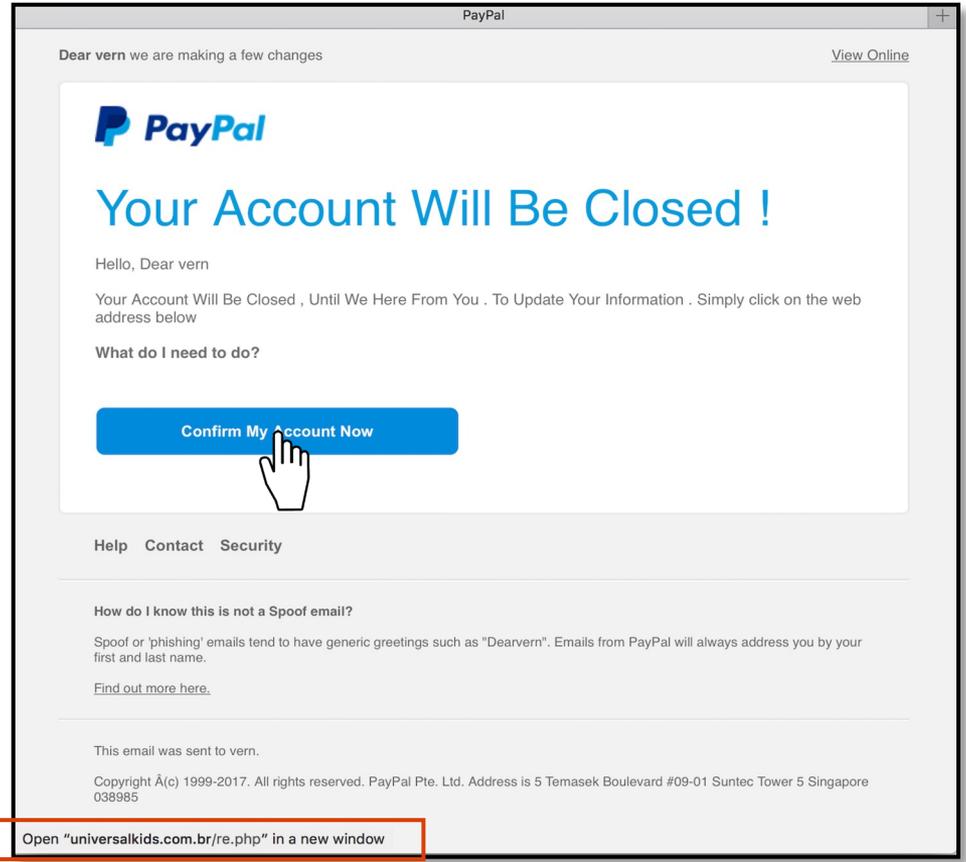
# PHISHING

- Your account will be closed!



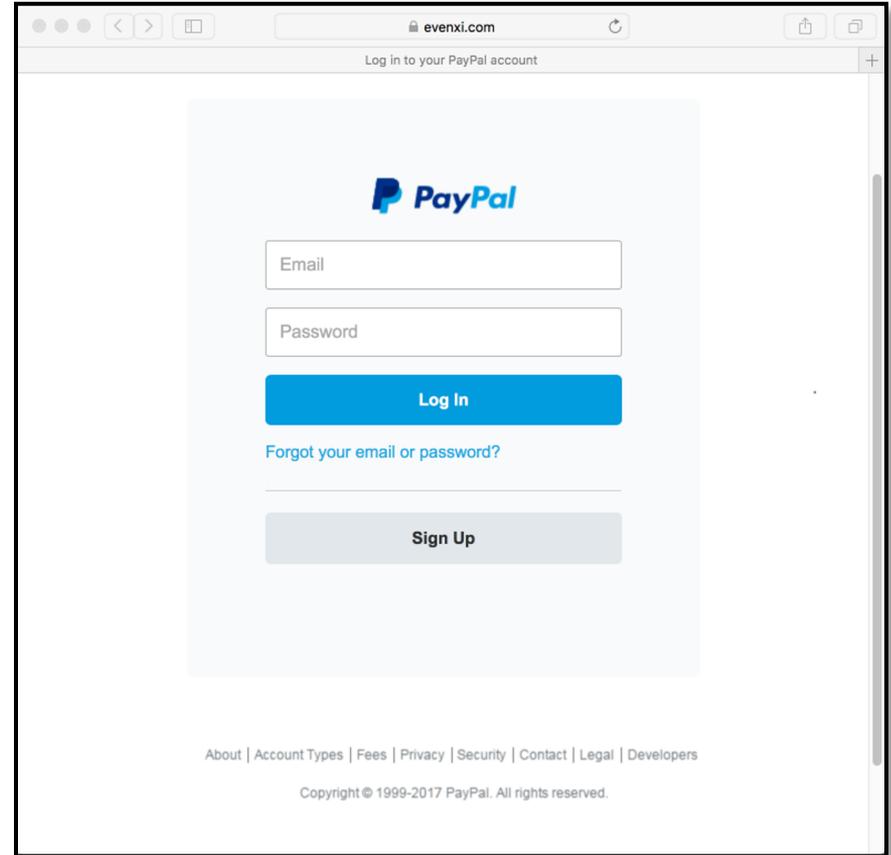
# PHISHING

- Your account will be closed!
- ... is it?



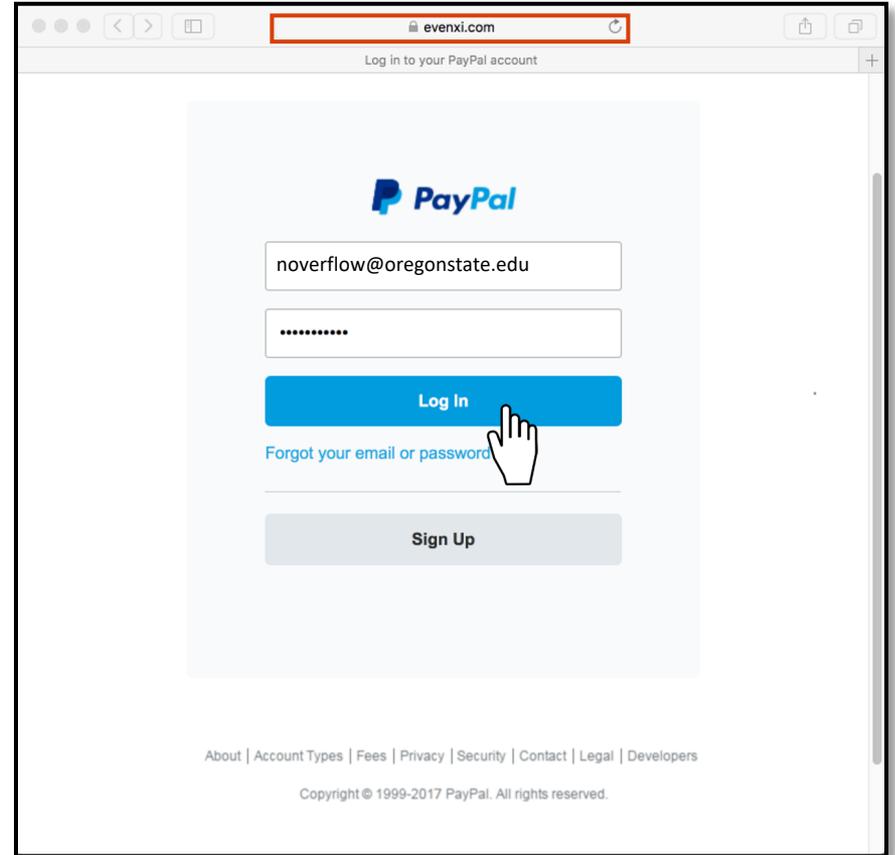
# PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal



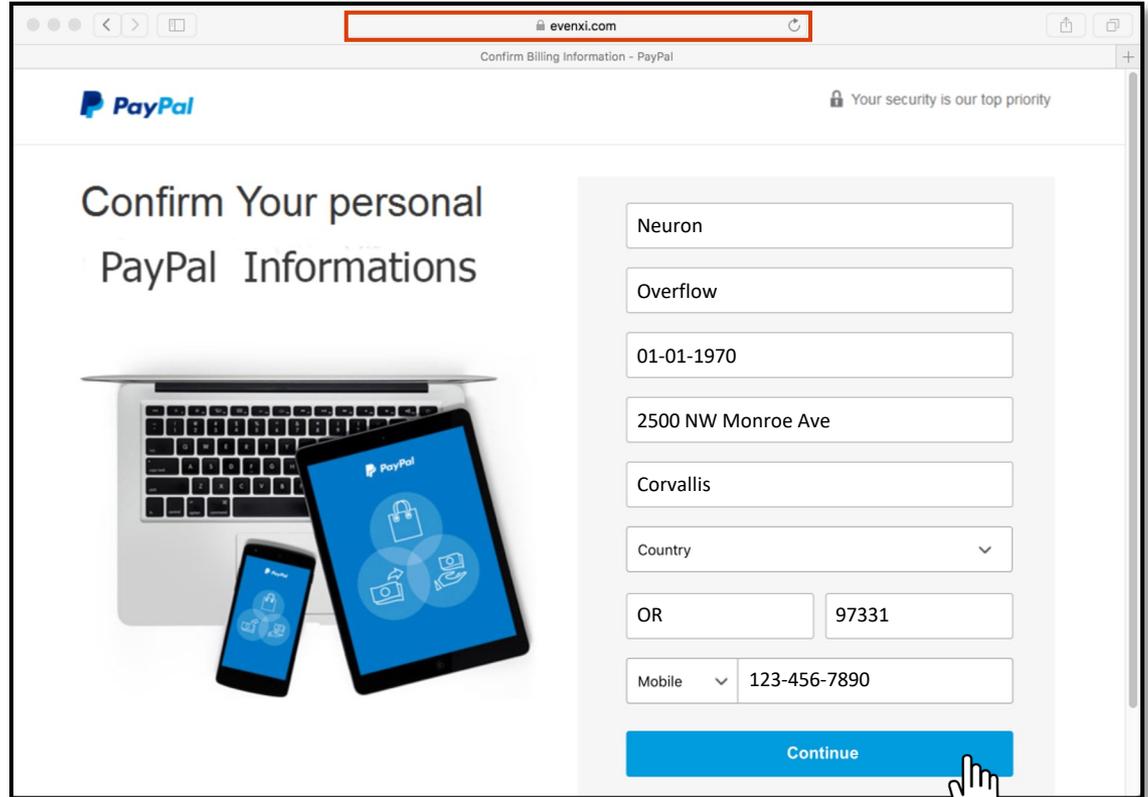
# PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal
- ... is it?



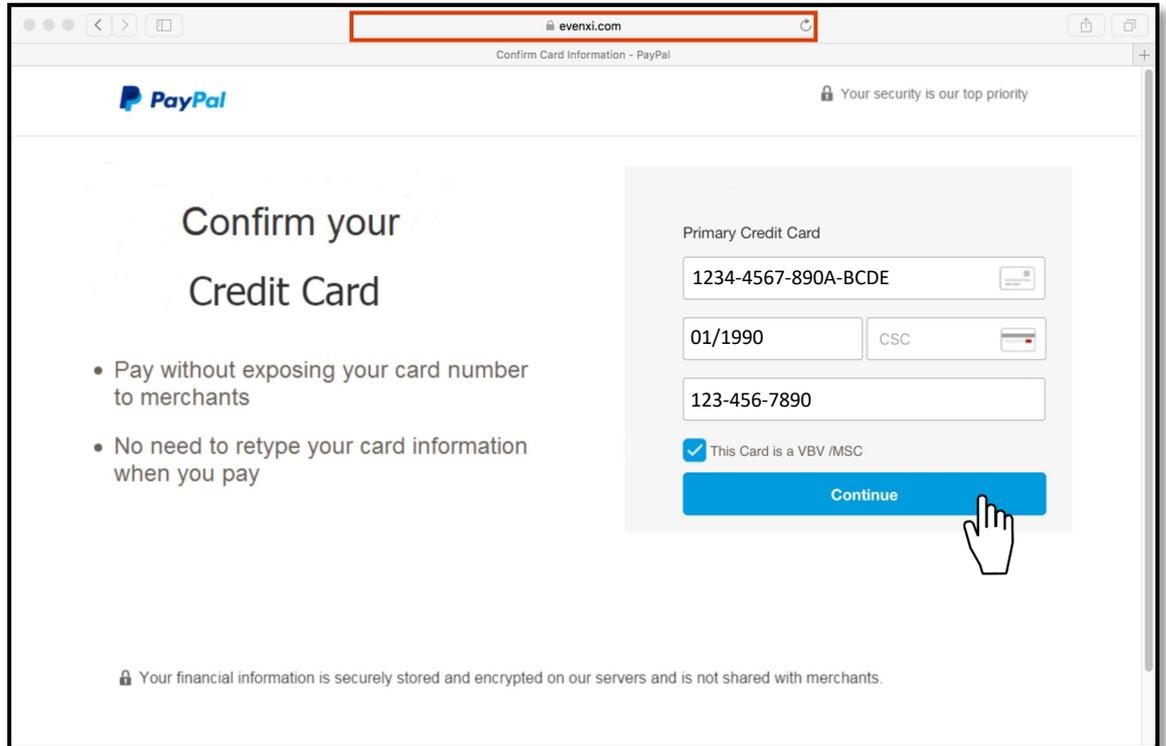
# PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal
- ... is it?
- ... is it?



# PHISHING

- You need to log-in to PayPal
- ... is it?
- ... is it?
- ... is it?



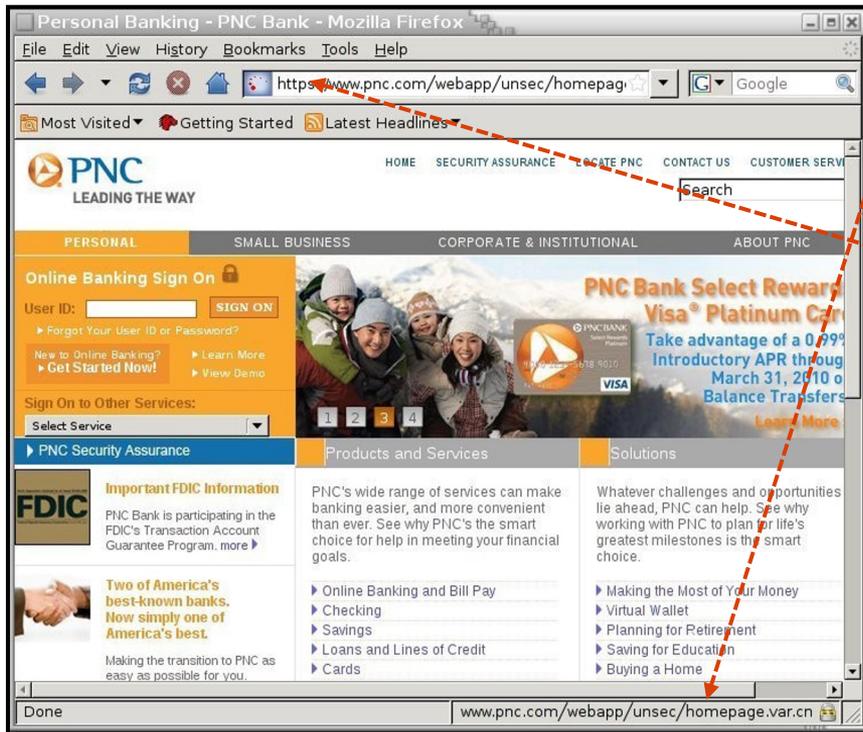
# PHISHING

---

- Phishing
  - Trick the victim into sending the attacker personal information
  - Exploit:
    - Users can't distinguish between a legitimate website and a website impersonating the legitimate website

# PHISHING: CHECK THE URL?

- Is this website real?



“www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/homepage.var.cn” is an entire domain!

The attacker can also register an HTTP certificate for this valid domain

# PHISHING: CHECK THE URL?

---

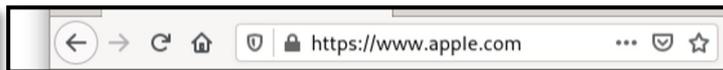
- Is this website real?



These letters come from the Cyrillic alphabet, not the Latin alphabet! They're rendered the same but have completely different bytes!

# PHISHING: HOMOGRAPH ATTACK

- Homograph attack
  - Create malicious URLs that look similar (or the same) to legitimate URLs
  - Homograph: two words that look the same, but have different meanings



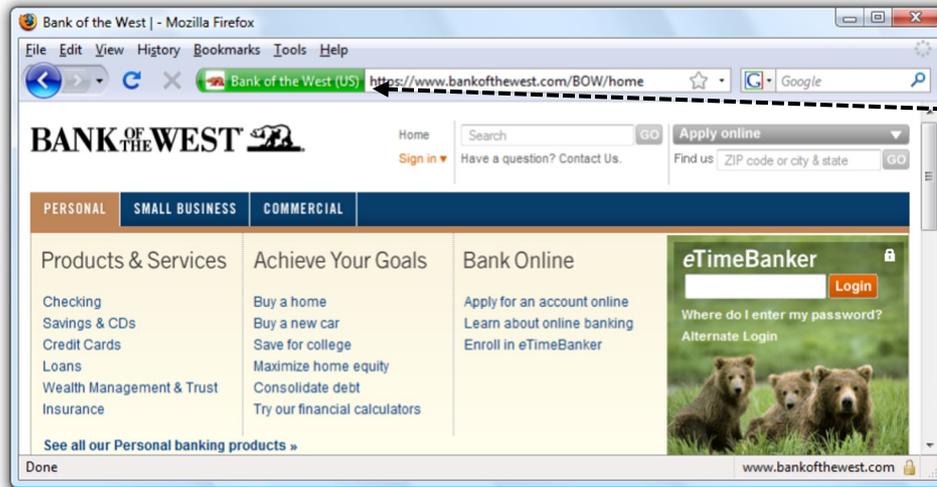
# PHISHING: HOMOGRAPH ATTACK

- Homograph attack
  - Create malicious URLs that look similar (or the same) to legitimate URLs
  - Homograph: two words that look the same, but have different meanings



# PHISHING: CHECK EVERYTHING

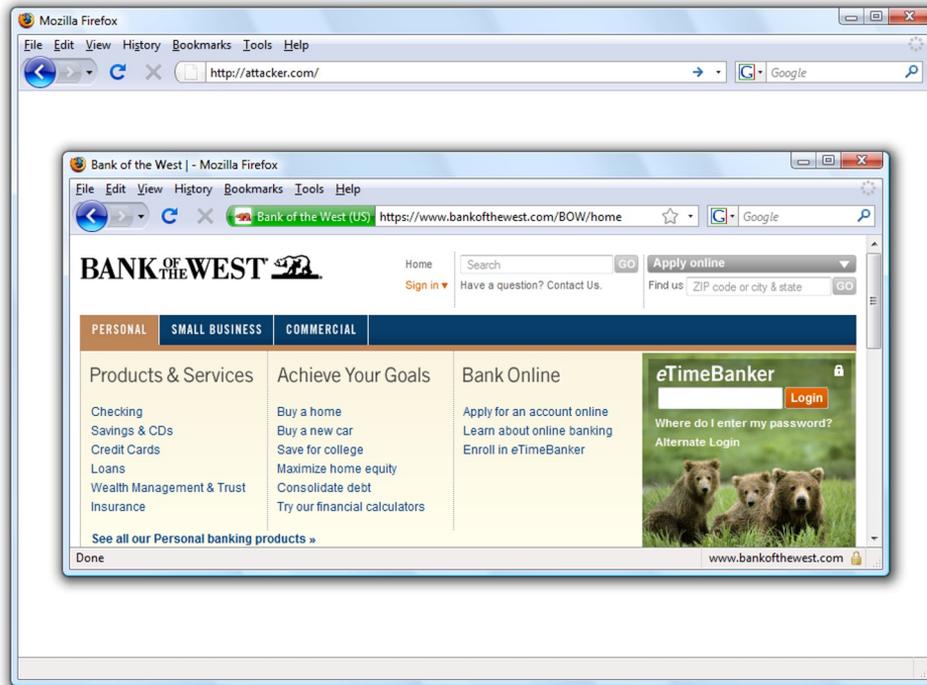
- ... hmm it looks legit!



Extended Validation: CA  
verified the identity of the site  
(not just the domain)

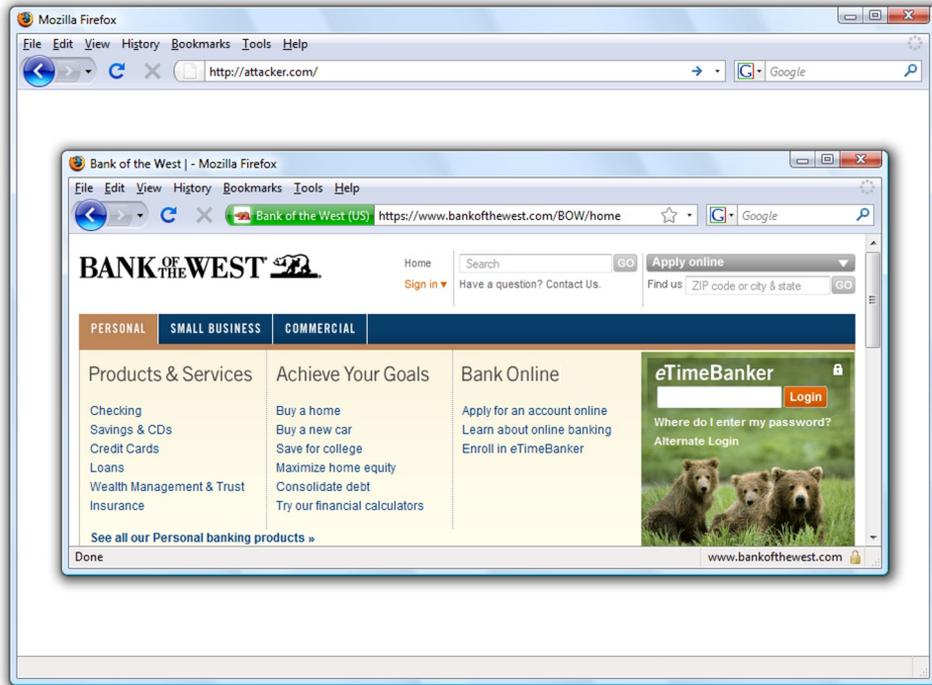
# PHISHING: CHECK EVERYTHING

- ... hmm it looks legit!
  - Is it?



# PHISHING: BROWSER-IN-BROWSER ATTACK

- Browser-in-browser attack
  - The attacker simulates the entire web browser with JavaScript



# PHISHING: NOW WHO'S THE FAULT?

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- Let's not blame the users
  - They are not security experts
  - Attacks are rare
    - Users do not always suspect malicious action
    - Detecting phishing is hard, even if you're on the lookout for attacks
    - Legitimate messages often look like

Title: Your Final Grades  
Sender: Hóng (sanghyun@oregonstate.com)

Hey Guys,

There are some corrections on your final exam scores.  
I need you to confirm your scores immediately from  
[here](#).

Thanks,  
Sanghyun

# PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA

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- Two-factor authentication
  - Motivation
    - Phishing attacks may expose your passwords to the attackers
    - You want to make that the password is not sufficient for logging in
  - Two-factor authentication (2FA)
    - Prove their identity in two different ways before successfully logging-in
  - Three main ways for a user to prove their identity
    - Something the user knows: password, security questions
    - Something the user has: mobile devices, security keys
    - Something the user is: fingerprint, face ID
  - Stealing **one factor (password) is not enough**

# PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA

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- Two-factor authentication
  - Protection scenarios
    - An attacker steals the password file and performs a dictionary attack
    - The user re-uses passwords on two different websites.  
The attacker compromises one website and tries the same password on the 2<sup>nd</sup> one

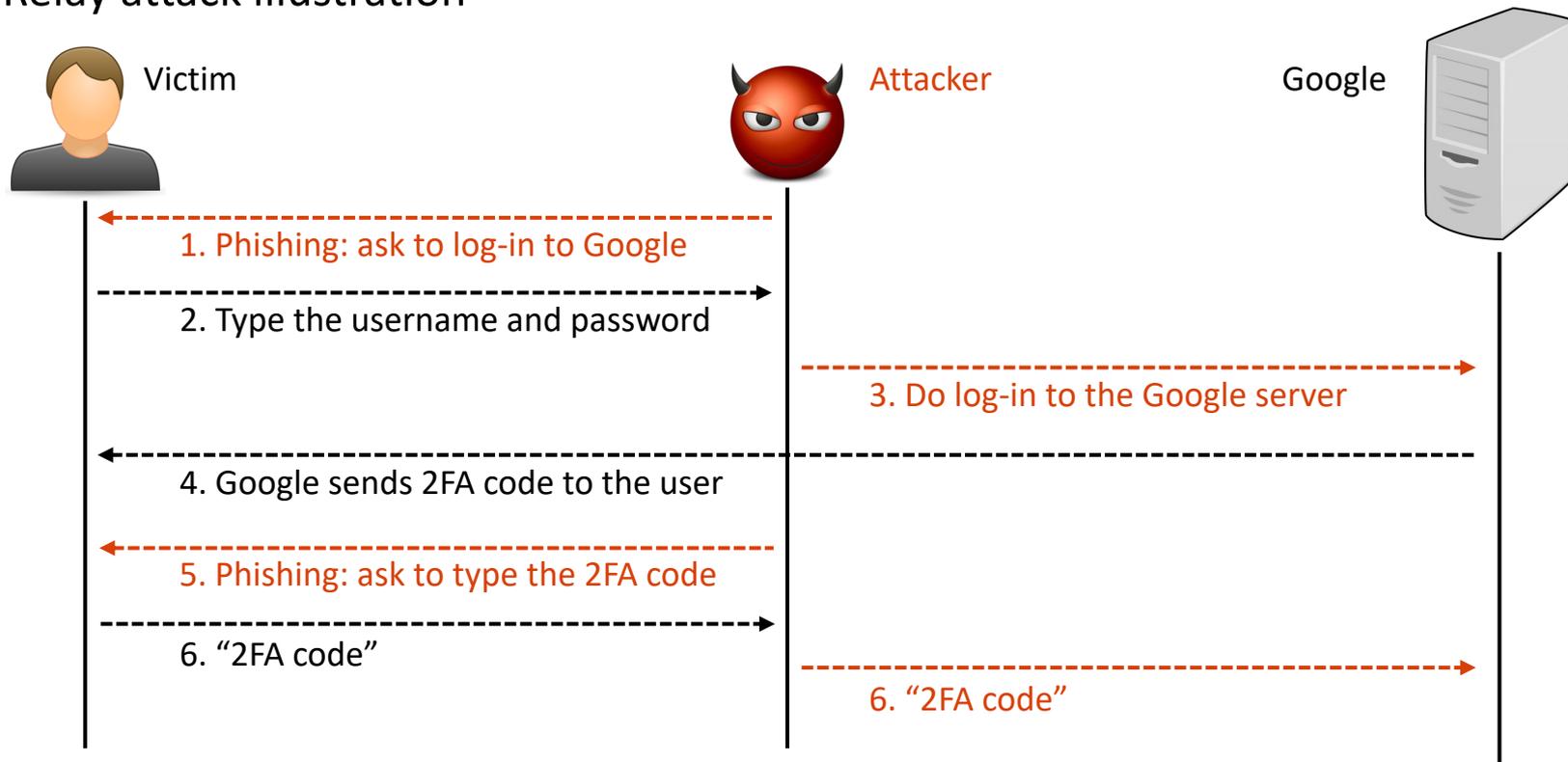
# PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA WEAKNESS

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- Relay attack
  - The attacker steal both factors in a single phishing (one stone for two birds)
  - Attack example
    - User uses 2FA
    - 1<sup>st</sup> : Password (something the user knows)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: A code sent to the user's mobile device (something the user owns)
  - Procedure
    - The phishing website asks the user to input their password (1<sup>st</sup> factor)
    - The attacker immediately tries to log-in to the actual website as the user
    - The actual website sends a code to the user
    - The phishing website asks the user to enter the code (2<sup>nd</sup> factor)
    - The attacker enters the code to log in as the user

# PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA WEAKNESS

- Relay attack illustration



# PHISHING DEFENSE: 2FA WEAKNESS

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- Social engineering
  - Hijacking your phone
    - Attackers can call your phone provider (e.g., T-mobile)
    - Tell them to activate the attacker's SIM card, and will be done
    - They receive your texts
    - 2FA via SMS is not great but better than nothing
  - Bypassing customer service
    - Attackers can call customer support and ask them to deactivate 2FA!
    - Companies should validate identity if you ask to do this (but not all do)

# PHISHING DEFENSE: AUTHENTICATION TOKEN

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- Auth token
  - A device that generates secure second-factor codes
  - Examples:
    - RSA SecurID and Google Authenticator
  - Usage
    - The token and the server share a common secret key  $k$
    - When the user wants to log in, the token generates a code  $\text{HMAC}(k, \text{time})$
    - The time is often truncated to the nearest 30 seconds for usability
    - The code is often truncated to 6 digits for usability
    - The user submits the code to the website
    - The website uses its secret key to verify the HMAC
  - Downside(s):
    - Vulnerable to relay attacks
    - Vulnerable to online brute-force attacks
    - Possible fix: add a max number of times you can request!

# PHISHING DEFENSE: SECURITY KEY

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- Security key
  - A 2<sup>nd</sup> factor designed to defeat phishing
  - User **owns** the security key
  - Usage scenario
    - User signs up for a website; the security key generates a new public/private key pair
    - User gives the public key to the website
    - If the user wants to log in, the server sends a nonce to the security key
    - The security key signs the nonce, website name (from the browser), and key ID
    - User gives the signature to the server
  - Security keys prevent phishing
    - In phishing, the security key generates a signature with the attacker's website name, not with the legitimate website name
    - Impervious to relay attacks!

# Thank You!

Tu/Th 4:00 – 5:50 PM

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