



**GOTHAM**  
DIGITAL • SCIENCE

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# Protecting Vulnerable Applications with IIS7

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Source Boston 2009



# Agenda

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- Overview
- IIS7 Integrated Mode
- IIS7 Modules
  - Request Filtering Module
  - Add-on Modules (from Microsoft)
  - Custom Modules
  - Case Study: SPF



# What's new in IIS7

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- Totally New Design
  - File-Based Configuration
  - Completely Modular
  - Integrated Pipeline Mode
  - Support for non-HTTP Services (WCF)
- Built-In Security Features
  - Request Filtering
  - Minimal Default Attack Surface



# IIS7 Integrated Mode

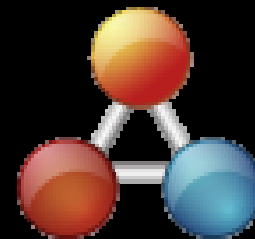
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- Unified Request Processing Pipeline
  - Both native and managed components (modules)
  - Modules can be applied to all requests, regardless of handler
  - ASP.NET HttpModules now comparable to ISAPI (can hook into one or more IIS7 pipeline events)

**Integrated Pipeline + Modular Design = Major Extensibility!!**



# IIS Pipeline Events



**ProcessRequest  
(Handler Execution)**

## Pre-Execution Events

- BeginRequest
- AuthenticateRequest
- PostAuthenticateRequest
- AuthorizeRequest
- PostAuthorizeRequest
- ResolveRequestCache
- PostResolveRequestCache
- MapRequestHandler
- PostMapRequestHandler
- AcquireRequestState
- PostAcquireRequestState
- PreRequestHandlerExecute

## Post-Execution Events

- PostRequestHandlerExecute
- ReleaseRequestState
- PostReleaseRequestState
- UpdateRequestCache
- PostUpdateRequestCache
- LogRequest
- PostLogRequest
- EndRequest
- PreSendRequestHeaders
- PreSendRequestContent



# Case Study: Sample Application

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- Battle Blog Application
  - Free Open Source Blogging Software
  - Written in Classic ASP
  - Vulnerable to numerous common security issues
    - Failure to Restrict Admin URLs
    - Cross-Site Request Forgery
    - SQL Injection
    - Information Disclosure



# IIS7 Request Filtering

- Native Module (C++)
  - URLScan functionality built in to IIS7
  - Called on **BeginRequest** Event
- Effective for providing generic protection mechanism against certain attacks
  - Configurable for each application
  - Lacks granularity at the page/parameter level
  - No support for Regular Expressions

***appcmd list config -section:requestFiltering***



# IIS7 Request Filtering

Request Filtering Directive	Description & Options
<b>allowDoubleEscaping</b>	Prevents Double-encoded Requests
<b>allowHighBitCharacters</b>	Allows or rejects all requests with non-ASCII characters
<b>fileExtensions</b>	Controls permitted file extensions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses <b>allowUnlisted</b> option to define default behavior</li><li>• Exclusions can be added with allowed=true/false</li></ul>
<b>requestLimits</b>	Combines three features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maxAllowedContentLength</li><li>• maxUrl</li><li>• maxQueryString</li></ul>
<b>verbs</b>	Controls request methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses <b>allowUnlisted</b> option to define default behavior</li><li>• Exclusions can be added with allowed=true/false</li></ul>
<b>denyUrlSequences</b>	<b>Does not</b> support Regular Expressions
<b>hiddenSegments</b>	Segments are folders that cannot be requested





# IIS7 Add-On Modules

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- The Microsoft IIS team is continually releasing new add-on modules for IIS7
- Some have potential security uses
  - Dynamic IP Restrictions
  - URL Rewrite
  - Application Request Routing



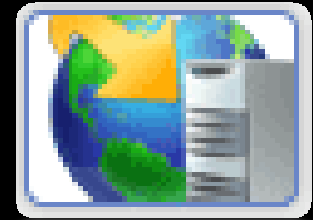
# Dynamic IP Restrictions

- Dynamic IP Restrictions Extension
  - Dynamically blocking of requests from IP address based on
    - Number of concurrent requests
    - Number of requests over a period of time
  - Configurable at the Site or Server Level
  - Support for permanent static allow or deny list
    - Domain Name
    - IP Address



# URL Rewriter for IIS7

- IIS7 version of mod\_rewrite
  - Called on **BeginRequest** event
  - Regular expression pattern matching
  - Access to server variables and HTTP headers
  - Rule actions include redirect and request abort
- Not specifically designed for security, but can be used to block or validate certain requests



<http://learn.iis.net/page.aspx/465/url-rewrite-module-configuration-reference/>



# Case Study: Demo

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- Demo: White List URLs with Rewrite Rules
  - Only allow requests to authorized files
  - Only allow valid query string values



# Request Filter vs. URL Rewrite

Request Entity	Request Filtering	URL Rewrite
Scan requested URL path	Yes (Substring)	Yes (Regex)
Check URL length	Yes	<b>No</b>
Scan query string	<b>No</b>	Yes (Regex)
Check query string length	Yes	<b>No</b>
Check HTTP verbs	Yes	Yes
Check request content length	Yes	<b>No</b>
Scan HTTP headers	<b>No</b>	Yes (Regex)
Check HTTP headers length	Yes	<b>No</b>
Scan server variables	<b>No</b>	Yes
Check IP address or host name	<b>No</b> *	Yes

*\* The IP Restriction module in IIS 7.0 can be used for blocking requests by IP or host name*



# Application Request Routing

- Similar to mod\_proxy
  - Can perform HTTP based routing decisions based on HTTP request data
  - Load balancing algorithms
  - Client and hostname affinity





# Custom IIS7 Modules

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- With IIS7 modules, it is easy to monitor, change or add every request
- ASP.NET modules can now be used to protect any application running on IIS
  - .NET class that implements the ASP.NET **System.Web.IHttpModule** interface



# Extensibility Examples

- “Enhancing Applications with the IIS7 Integrated Pipeline” -- *Mike Volodarsky - MSDN 2007*
- Used IIS7 Managed Module to enhance QDig (PHP)
  - Authentication
    - FormsAuthenticationModule
  - Search Engine Friendly URLs
    - Inbound: `Server.TransferRequest`
    - Outbound: `Response.Filter`
  - Output Caching
    - ASP.NET `OutputCache`





# Application Security Module

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- Custom module to secure outbound data and validate inbound requests
  - Request/Response Parsing
  - Data Validation
  - Input tracking & Parameter Encryption
- Defend Against Application Attacks
  - Known Bad Signatures
  - Intelligent Authorization Defense



# Leveraging Response Events

- Goal
  - Only allow the user do what the application expects them to be able to do
- How
  - Analyze what is presented to the users (response)
  - If an option is not presented, don't let them use it
  - If we don't ask the user for input, don't accept it!



# Secure Parameter Filter (SPF)

- **IIS Secure Parameter Filter (SPF)**
  - Protects Non-Editable Data from Manipulation
    - ASP.NET HttpModule (C#)
    - Does not require any changes to underlying application
  - Response & Request Filter
    - Output Tracking
    - Request Validation
  - Free and available for download
    - <http://www.gdssecurity.com/l/spf/>



# How it Works

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- Response Filter
  - Analyzes HTML (HTML Agility Pack)
    - Embedded URLs
    - HTML Form Data
    - Cookies
    - JavaScript Functions
  - Tracks Form “State”
    - Editable vs. non-editable input
  - Correlates Forms & Links to each session



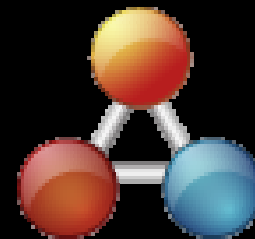
# How it Works

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- Request Filter
  - Analyzes HTTP requests to ensure only “authorized” URLs and inputs are accepted
    - User sessions are tracked with a unique ID
  - Only configured “entry points” are permitted without authorization
  - Inspect editable-data against configurable Regular Expressions (Black List)



# SPF Pipeline Events



**ProcessRequest  
(Handler Execution)**

## Pre-Execution Events

### •BeginRequest

- AuthenticateRequest
- PostAuthenticateRequest
- AuthorizeRequest
- PostAuthorizeRequest
- ResolveRequestCache
- PostResolveRequestCache
- MapRequestHandler
- PostMapRequestHandler
- AcquireRequestState
- PostAcquireRequestState
- PreRequestHandlerExecute

## Post-Execution Events

- PostRequestHandlerExecute

### •ReleaseRequestState

- PostReleaseRequestState
- UpdateRequestCache
- PostUpdateRequestCache
- LogRequest
- PostLogRequest

### •EndRequest

- PreSendRequestHeaders
- PreSendRequestContent



# Installing a Module

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- IIS7 modules can be installed in of two ways
  - Configuration file (web.config)
  - IIS7 Management Console
    - Module must be registered globally
- Custom Configuration Settings
  - Minimal Configuration
  - Configure default behavior & define exceptions to the default



# Case Study: Demo

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- Demo: Failure to Restrict URL Access
  - Application fails to restrict access to some administrator URLs
  - These URLs are not linked from un-authenticated pages
    - “Security through Obscurity”





# URL Access Protection

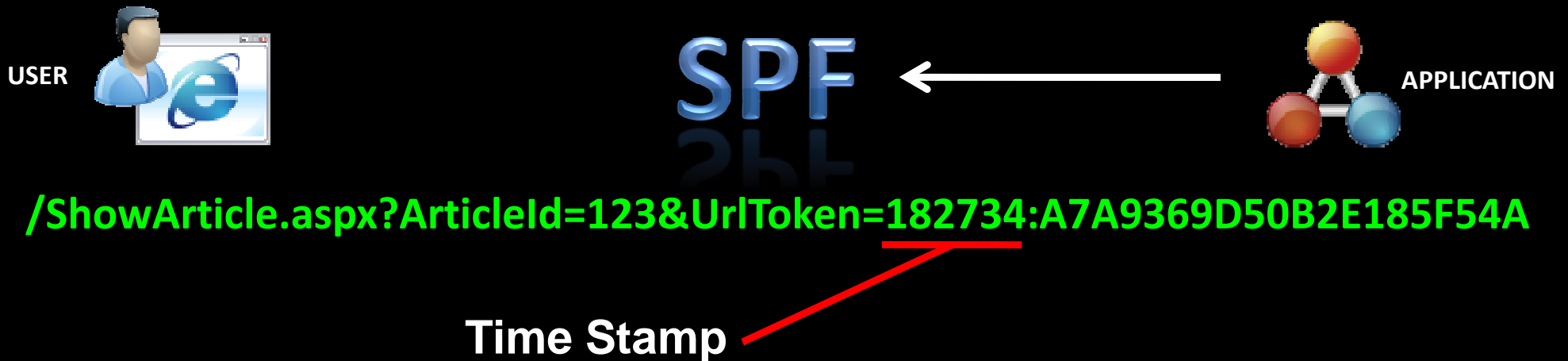
- Cryptographic “token” appended to every protected URL rendered to the user
  - Verifies integrity of Query String values
  - Verifies authorization to access page
    - Required for protected URL access





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  - Verifies integrity of Query String values
  - Verifies authorization to access page
    - Required for protected URL access



**[/ShowArticle.aspx?ArticleId=123&UrlToken=182734:A7A9369D50B2E185F54A](#)**

**SHA1HMAC ( URL + Query String +  
Time Stamp + Session Cookie + Source IP )**

*HMAC key derived from ASP.NET Machine Key*



# Case Study: Demo

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- Demo: Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
  - Administrative user-management requests are vulnerable to CSRF
    - Add Users
    - Change Password
    - Elevate Privileges

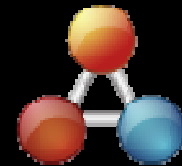


# CSRF Protection

- The same cryptographic “token” automatically protects against CSRF exploits
  - Tied to session cookie & source IP



SPF



</ShowArticle.aspx?ArticleId=123&UrlToken=182734:A7A9369D50B2E185F54A>

SHA1HMAC ( URL + Query String +  
Time Stamp + **Session Cookie** + **Source IP** )



# Case Study: Demo

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- Demo: SQL Injection
  - Website search filter is vulnerable to SQL Injection
    - Anonymously Accessible
    - Supports POST and GET



# HTML Form Protection

- Two Types of Protection
  - Form State Protection
    - ◆ Ensures each form submission includes only the correct input name & value combinations
  - Input Value Protection
    - ◆ Protects Inputs from being viewed by users
- Non-editable Form inputs cannot be altered
  - TYPE=HIDDEN | RADIO | CHECKBOX, SELECT
  - Read-Only Text Inputs



# HTML Form Protection

A screenshot of a search form interface. It features a white search input field, a red 'FIND' button, and two links: 'Advanced Search' and 'Settings'. Below the input field, there are two sections: 'SEARCH:' with radio buttons for 'Worldwide' (selected) and 'USA', and 'RESULTS IN:' with radio buttons for 'All languages' (selected) and 'English, Spanish'.

```
<form action= "/search.aspx">
<input type="text" name="query">
<input type = "submit" name="find" value="FIND">
<input type = "hidden" name="src" value="web">
<input type = "radio" name="scope" value="world">
<input type = "radio" name="scope" value="us">
<input type = "radio" name="lang" value="all">
<input type = "radio" name="lang" value="en-sp">
</form>
```

Form State Information





# HTML Form Protection

SEARCH:  Worldwide  USA      RESULTS IN:  All languages  [English, Spanish](#)

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Settings](#)

```
<form action= "/search.aspx">  
<input type="text" name="query">  
<input type="submit" name="find" value="FIND">  
<input type="hidden" name="src" value="web">  
<input type="radio" name="scope" value="world">  
<input type="radio" name="scope" value="us">  
<input type="radio" name="lang" value="all">  
<input type="radio" name="lang" value="en-sp">  
</form>
```

## Form State Information

Action: /search.aspx



# HTML Form Protection

SEARCH:  Worldwide  USA      RESULTS IN:  All languages  [English, Spanish](#)

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Settings](#)

```
<form action= "/search.aspx">
<input type="text" name="query">
<input type="submit" name="find" value="FIND">
<input type="hidden" name="src" value="web">
<input type="radio" name="scope" value="world">
<input type="radio" name="scope" value="us">
<input type="radio" name="lang" value="all">
<input type="radio" name="lang" value="en-sp">
</form>
```

## Form State Information

**Action:** /search.aspx

**Owner:** 25574bb9-792d-4c4b-9873-c9fae1631485  
(Session Cookie)



# HTML Form Protection

SEARCH:  Worldwide  USA RESULTS IN:  All languages  English, Spanish

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Settings](#)

```
<form action= "/search.aspx">  
  <input type ="hidden" name="FormToken" value="3F2504E0-4F89-11D3-9A0C-0305E82C3301">  
  <input type="text" name="query">  
  <input type ="submit" name="find" value="FIND">  
  <input type ="hidden" name="src" value="web">  
  <input type ="radio" name="scope" value="world">  
  <input type ="radio" name="scope" value="us">  
  <input type ="radio" name="lang" value="all">  
  <input type ="radio" name="lang" value="en-sp">  
</form>
```

## Form State Information

Action: /search.aspx  
Owner: 25574bb9-792d-4c4b-9873-c9fae1631485  
Form-Id: 3F2504E0-4F89-11D3-9A0C-0305E82C3301 (New GUID)

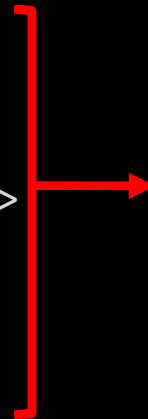


# HTML Form Protection

SEARCH:  Worldwide  USA      RESULTS IN:  All languages  [English, Spanish](#)

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Settings](#)

```
<form action= "/search.aspx">  
  <input type ="hidden" name="FormToken" value=  
  "3F2504E0-4F89-11D3-9A0C-0305E82C3301">  
  <input type="text" name="query">  
  <input type ="submit" name="find" value="FIND">  
  <input type ="hidden" name="src" value="web">  
  <input type ="radio" name="scope" value="world">  
  <input type ="radio" name="scope" value="us">  
  <input type ="radio" name="lang" value="all">  
  <input type ="radio" name="lang" value="en-sp">  
</form>
```



Form State Information		
Action:	/search.aspx	
Owner:	25574bb9-792d-4c4b-9873-c9fae1631485	
Form-Id:	3F2504E0-4F89-11D3-9A0C-0305E82C3301	
Input Name	Editable	Value
query	Y	-
find	N	{ FIND }
src	N	{ web }
scope	N	{ world , us }
lang	N	{ all , en-sp }



# HTML Form Protection

SEARCH:  Worldwide  USA RESULTS IN:  All languages  [English, Spanish](#)

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Settings](#)

```
<form action= "/search.aspx">  
  <input type ="hidden" name="FormToken" value=  
  "3F2504E0-4F89-11D3-9A0C-0305E82C3301">  
  <input type="text" name="query">  
  <input type ="submit" name="find" value="1">  
  <input type ="hidden" name="src" value=" 1">  
  <input type ="radio" name="scope" value=" 1">  
  <input type ="radio" name="scope" value="2">  
  <input type ="radio" name="lang" value="1">  
  <input type ="radio" name="lang" value="2">  
</form>
```

## Form State Information

Action: /search.aspx  
Owner: 25574bb9-792d-4c4b-9873-c9fae1631485  
Form-Id: 3F2504E0-4F89-11D3-9A0C-0305E82C3301

Input Name	Editable	Value
query	Y	-
find	N	{ FIND }
src	N	{ web }
scope	N	{ world , us }
lang	N	{ all , en-sp }



# Case Study: Demo

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- Demo: Information Disclosure
  - The comment submission CAPTCHA value is disclosed within a hidden HTML form field



# JavaScript Protection

- Quoted string assignment to common JavaScript property values are treated as URLs (UrlToken)
  - window.location
  - location.href
- JS Functions can also be defined for protection
  - Function Name & Arguments
    - Protect (Y/N)
    - URL / Form Input
      - INPUT NAME
      - TARGET URL



# JavaScript Protection

- Example JavaScript Function

```
function __doPostBack(eventTarget, eventArgument) {  
    if (!theForm.onsubmit || (theForm.onsubmit() != false)) {  
        theForm.__EVENTTARGET.value = eventTarget;  
        theForm.__EVENTARGUMENT.value = eventArgument;  
        theForm.submit();  
    }  
}
```





# JavaScript Protection

- Example JavaScript Function

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}
```



# JavaScript Protection

- Example JavaScript Function

```
function __doPostBack(eventTarget, eventArgument) {  
    if (!theForm.onsubmit || (theForm.onsubmit() != false)) {  
        theForm.__EVENTTARGET.value = eventTarget;  
        theForm.__EVENTARGUMENT.value = eventArgument;  
        theForm.submit();  
    }  
}
```



# JavaScript Protection

- Protecting this function with SPF

```
<scriptProtection functionName="__doPostBack">
  <functionArguments>
    <add argumentName="eventTarget" protect="true"
      targetName="__EVENTTARGET" />
    <add argumentName="eventArgument" protect="true"
      targetName="__EVENTARGUMENT" />
  </functionArguments>
</scriptProtection>
```



# JavaScript Protection

```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('ctl00$MainContent$gvwThreads', 'Sort$LastPostDate')">
```



```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('b/xEVUeEDOCnhiKu0jS5USUs6N4Qu1VH5OqHOwF146wSPIA87g==:1829384:61D26FD0849FF93D67B8489CFA76','b/xEVUeEDOBfdZR3UM0Ds212HDDwHY3KoYyc/+/JULiDcjQ=:1829384:83BF9D18B5C34CE2FC0541F954C093B43F0C3EA5')">
```



# JavaScript Protection

```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('ctl00$MainContent$gvwThreads', 'Sort$LastPostDate')">
```



```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('b/xEVUeEDOCnhiKu0jS5USUs6N4Qu1VH5OqHOwF146wSPIA87g==:1829384:61D26FD0849FF93D67B8489CFA76','b/xEVUeEDOBfdZR3UM0Ds212HDDwHY3KoYyc/+/JULiDcjQ=:1829384:83BF9D18B5C34CE2FC0541F954C093B43F0C3EA5')">
```

**BASE64(ENCRYPT(Random 8 Bytes + Argument Value))**

- ASP.NET Machine Key
- AES by default in ASP.NET 2.0 (configurable)
- RNGCryptoServiceProvider for Random Bytes



# JavaScript Protection

```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('ctl00$MainContent$gvwThreads', 'Sort$LastPostDate')">
```



```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('b/xEVUeEDOCnhiKu0jS5USUs6N4Qu1VH5OqHOwF146wSPIA87g==:1829384:61D26FD0849FF93D67B8489CFA76','b/xEVUeEDOBfdZR3UM0Ds212HDDwHY3KoYyc/+/JULiDcjQ=:1829384:83BF9D18B5C34CE2FC0541F954C093B43F0C3EA5')">
```

Time Stamp



# JavaScript Protection

```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('ctl00$MainContent$gvwThreads', 'Sort$LastPostDate')">
```



```
<a href="javascript: __doPostBack('b/xEVUeEDOCnhiKu0jS5USUs6N4Qu1VH5OqHOwF146wSPIA87g==:1829384:61D26FD0849FF93D67B8489CFA76','b/xEVUeEDOBfdZR3UM0Ds212HDDwHY3KoYyc/+/JULiDcjQ=:1829384:83BF9D18B5C34CE2FC0541F954C093B43F0C3EA5')">
```

SHA1HMAC (CipherText + Time Stamp + GUID Cookie + Source IP + [Input Name] + [Target URL] )





# Configuring SPF

- Minimal Configuration (Exception Based)
  - Default Protection Settings (Required)
    - Protection Scope (URI, QueryStrings, Forms, Cookies)
    - Main Application Entry Point (URL)
  - Exceptions to Default Settings (Optional)
    - Global Exceptions (Form Inputs, Cookies)
    - URI Exceptions (URI, Query String, Form Inputs)
  - Several alternate configuration options
    - Send state information to client (encrypted)
    - Active vs. Passive mode
    - BlackList Regexes



# OWASP Top 10 Coverage

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## **A1 - Cross Site Scripting (XSS)**

- Request tokens should thwart reflected XSS exploits

## **A2 - Injection Flaws**

## **A3 - Malicious File Execution**

## **A4 - Insecure Direct Object Reference**

## **A5 - Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)**

- Request tokens provide CSRF protection

## **A6 - Information Leakage and Improper Error Handling**

- Input protection can mitigate information leakage through application inputs (hidden fields, cookies, etc)



# OWASP Top 10 Coverage

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## **A7 - Broken Authentication & Session Management**

- Cookie protection will mitigate weak/predictable session IDs

## **A8 - Insecure Cryptographic Storage**

## **A9 - Insecure Communications**

## **A10 - Failure to Restrict URL Access**

- Request tokens prevent forced browsing



# Conclusion

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- IIS7 is now more extensible than ever
  - Modules in native or managed code
- Vulnerable legacy apps can be secured on IIS7 infrastructure
  - Built-in Features
  - Add-On Modules
  - Custom Modules



# Questions?

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- GDS Blog
  - <http://www.gdssecurity.com/l/b>
- SPF Download Page
  - <http://www.gdssecurity.com/l/spf>
- SPF Demo Site (.NET StockTrader)
  - <http://trade-spf.gdsdemo.com>
- Official Microsoft IIS Site
  - <http://www.iis.net>