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Content

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[[image: image]](http://www.whitehatsec.com/home/TradeUp/TradeUp.html) [[image: web application security lab]](http://ha.ckers.org/)

Embeding SVG That Contains XSS Using Base64 Encoding in Firefox

You can't make this stuff up - nEUrOO alerted me to an interesting XSS vector I hadn't seen before. Yup, you can embed JavaScript in SVG - and you can embed SVG with an Embed tag using Base 64 encoding - and yes, that works in Firefox. Normally I'd blow something like this off, because if you can use Embed there are a lot of other worse things you can do - however this one is slightly different.

With Embed generally you have to already have the plugin installed to use it. In this case, in Firefox you don't have to do anything - requiring no user interaction, unlike a Virus or something more malicious. That's really the primary goal of the Cheat Sheet is to find ways to execute JavaScript without user interaction and this definitely fits that criteria in a pretty bizarre way. Carrying the payload with you is pretty sexy too, which means you can't just shut down one command-and-

control server to get the exploit to stop propogating (in the case of a worm). Interesting stuff, and nice find, nEUrOO!

This entry was posted on Friday, February 16th, 2007 at 12:43 pm and is filed under XSS, Webapps ec. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

Recovery notes

Source evidence recovered on 2026-09-14. The earlier source capture (SHA-256 `0b4ad270dd9b10442da708d5ea34ab22df5a727baf67fc214ae3c6b42829213c`) is no longer available. This publication uses a separately preserved capture of the same document recorded on 2026-08-06 (SHA-256 `f5945461b92a969f2299e99709699f7efa7d464668063d454235dff571e90d52`). The retained article text was checked against this replacement capture. Full retained explanation of base64 SVG in embed, Firefox execution without plugin/user interaction, and self-contained payload distribution agrees. Existing capture-quality limitations remain recorded separately. The missing earlier capture remains documented in the archive history.