Browser Scheme and Slash Quirks

Browser Scheme and Slash Quirks - Arshan Dabirsiaghi, i8jesus.com.

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Browser scheme/slash quirks « omg.wtf.bbq.

Browser scheme/slash quirks

2 Apr, 2009 security, webappsec

Last week I needed to beat a commercial product that was preventing an unchecked redirect vulnerability from being exploited. The input was being reflected into the location header, and anything that "looked like" a URL was getting blocked. After some laborious man-fuzzing (basically re-verifying the research I found existed after the fact in the under-utilized Browser Security Hand book) I discovered that the following is a valid URL when referenced by tags and in location headers in IE:

http:\\google.com

What about Firefox? Aside from the well known vector that doesn't require an http at all (//google.com), FF3 also appears to accept three leading forward slashes in a URL found in a tag/redirect:

http:///google.com

There are lots of RFCs and official-looking documents that seem to contradictingly dictate what a legal URI looks like, so I'm quite inclined not to care who is right or wrong. For the record, lots of other random things worked when I was testing in the address bar and in a local file (like http:foo.com) so let me save you some time and tell you that's a bad place to test. Most of the things you find work there won't work anywhere else.

So, in order to make their page really reflect all the necessary information, I think the Google Security team should split out the scheme/slash row in the URL table to indicate whether or not a

URL scheme/slash combination “works” when encountered in in a 302 location header, src attribute, as a link, or in the address bar. Hopefully that will be a well-maintained document but I know it is probably a huge pain in the ass to keep such a cutting-edge resource continually up to date.

Happy nowruz!

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