[WEB SECURITY] URL Spoofing vulnerability in bots of search engines

[WEB SECURITY] URL Spoofing vulnerability in bots of search engines - MustLive, webappsec.org.

- Published: date not stated
- Original: <http://www.webappsec.org/lists/websecurity/archive/2009-04/msg00047.html>
- Preserved from: http://www.webappsec.org/lists/websecurity/archive/2009-04/msg00047.html (stored) on 2026-08-11
- Capture timestamp: 20090610060338
- Licence: unknown

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- *Subject*: [WEB SECURITY] URL Spoofing vulnerability in bots of search engines
- *Date*: Sat, 25 Apr 2009 00:55:20 +0300

Hello participants of Mailing List.

Let's talk about vulnerabilities in bots of search engines. When you last time found a vulnerability in search engine's bot :-) - it's very rare case.

I want to tell you about URL Spoofing vulnerability in GoogleBot, Yahoo! Slurp, Mozilla and Internet Explorer. I wrote about this vulnerability at my site (http://websecurity.com.ua/3079/). If vulnerabilities in browsers I found often, than it's first time when I found vulnerability in search engine's bot (spider). Bots of other search engines also can be vulnerable.

This vulnerability I found already in November 2008. I found it in Google (GoogleBot), but as I checked recently, Yahoo's bot (Yahoo! Slurp) is vulnerable too.

With this vulnerability it's possible to spoof URL and conduct fishing attacks, and use it for spreading of malware. Besides, this method can be used for SEO, to add new keywords into URL, at the same time to not overload real address of web site.

URL Spoofing:

```
[http://www.site.com%20www.site2.com](http://www.site.com%20www.site2.com)
```

When using space char it's possible to spoof address of the site in address bar. First It's needed to set fake address http://www.site.com, than put %20 (one or more), and then www.site2.com. In result browser will show in address bar the constructed address, but at that will go to the site http://www.site2.com.

```
[http://www.siiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiite.com%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20www.site2.
```

There must be not more than 19 space chars (in url-encoded form - %20), otherwise Mozilla will show error message. At that there is no problem with this symbol in IE and it's possible to use larger amount of spaces. In Mozilla to hide real address (that it'll not fit into address bar) it's possible to use additional symbols in address of the first site, which also can be done in IE.

Vulnerability of GoogleBot and Yahoo! Slurp consist in that, that they support and index such addresses, and vulnerability of Mozilla and IE, that they allow to **go** to such addresses. To **this** attack vulnerable are GoogleBot, Yahoo! Slurp, Mozilla 1.7.x and IE6. **New** browsers, such as Firefox 3, Opera 9 and Chrome are not vulnerable.

Real examples of **this** attack (indexed by Google):

[http://www.google.com.ua/search?q=inurl:www.infostore.org+inurl:www.tab.net.ua&filter=0](http://www.google.com.ua/sea

Vulnerable is GoogleBot.

Vulnerable is Yahoo! Slurp.

Vulnerable are Mozilla 1.7.x and previous versions.

Vulnerable version is Internet Explorer 6 (6.0.2900.2180) and previous versions. And potentially IE7 and IE8.

Best wishes & regards, MustLive Administrator of Websecurity web site http://websecurity.com.ua