Quick Proxy Detection ha.ckers.org web application security lab

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Content

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Quick Proxy Detection

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Just a quicky post on how in Firefox you can detect proxies using image tags. Firefox (and possibly other browsers but I first saw it in Firefox) use [ ] to denote IPv6 (I believe that's it's original intention anyway) but it also works in IPv4.

Something as simple as http://[123.123.123.123]/img.jpg?unique_id embedded into a page could be used to see if the user is using a proxy, which, as far as I've seen - at least using Apache's proxy, doesn't understand that syntax and therefore won't fetch the image. This does give false positives when using something that blocks cross domain requests, and robots that try to stay on the same domain. Anyway, this might be helpful to someone.

This entry was posted on Friday, August 20th, 2010 at 12:52 pm and is filed under Webappsec. You can leave a response as well.

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Recovery notes

Source evidence recovered on 2026-09-14. The earlier source capture (SHA-256 `53c233157a436fb64b05e247682f59d795fce291b92fb098dcd8a1342f5f1aad`) is no longer available. This publication uses a separately preserved capture of the same document recorded on 2026-08-06 (SHA-256 `a62af2f54b7085aa7ee6191c48d625bb24fcce6491ae969afc57ab27abfc4097`). The retained article text was checked against this replacement capture. Complete retained bracketed-IPv4 image URL proxy-detection example and false-positive caveats agree. Existing capture-quality limitations remain recorded separately. The missing earlier capture remains documented in the archive history.