



How to Break Web Software: Functional and Security Testing of Web Applications and Web Services. Book & CD

By Mike Andrews, James A. Whittaker

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Rigorously test and improve the security of all your Web software!

It's as certain as death and taxes: hackers will mercilessly attack your Web sites, applications, and services. If you're vulnerable, you'd better discover these attacks yourself, before the black hats do. Now, there's a definitive, hands-on guide to security-testing any Web-based software: *How to Break Web Software*.

In this book, two renowned experts address every category of Web software exploit: attacks on clients, servers, state, user inputs, and more. You'll master powerful attack tools and techniques as you uncover dozens of crucial, widely exploited flaws in Web architecture and coding. The authors reveal where to look for potential threats and attack vectors, how to rigorously test for each of them, and how to mitigate the problems you find. Coverage includes

- Client vulnerabilities, including attacks on client-side validation
- State-based attacks: hidden fields, CGI parameters, cookie poisoning, URL jumping, and session hijacking
- Attacks on user-supplied inputs: cross-site scripting, SQL injection, and directory traversal
- Language- and technology-based attacks: buffer overflows, canonicalization, and NULL string attacks
- Server attacks: SQL Injection with stored procedures, command injection, and server fingerprinting
- Cryptography, privacy, and attacks on Web services

Your Web software is mission-critical—it can't be compromised. Whether you're a developer, tester, QA specialist, or IT manager, this book will help you protect that software—systematically.

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Numerous times we've been asked when the next book in the *How to Break...* series will come out and what it's going to be about. The overwhelming request from our readers has been on the subject of Web applications. It seems many testers find they are working in this area and are facing the prospect of testing applications that employ applications' specialized protocols and languages that exist on the World Wide Web.

Although many of the tests from *How to Break Software* (Addison-Wesley, 2002) and *How to Break Software Security* (Addison-Wesley, 2003) are relevant in this environment, applications hosted on the Internet do suffer from some unique problems. This book tackles those problems in the same spirit of its predecessors with a decided slant toward security issues in Web applications.

Before we go into what this book is all about, first let us tell you what it *isn't* all about. We are not trying to rewrite the *Hacking Exposed* books. Although there is an overlap of subject matter with the hacking literature, our intention is not to show how to exploit a Web server or Web application. Our focus is about how to test Web applications for common failures that can lead to such exploitation.

How to Break Web Software is a book written for software developers, testers, managers, and quality assurance professionals to help put the hackers out of business.

This focus necessarily means knowledge of hacker techniques is included in this book. After all, one needs to understand the techniques of their adversary in order to counter them. But, this book is about testing, not about exploitation. Our focus is to guide testers toward areas of the application that are prone to problems and methods of rooting them out.

This book isn't about creating a correct Web application architecture, nor is it about coding Web applications. There are other published opinions on this and each Web development platform has its own unique challenges that must be considered, which books like *Innocent Code* do so well. *How to Break Web Software*, however, does contain a lot of information about how *not* to architect and code a Web application. Thus, Web developers would be wise to consider it as part of their reference library on secure Web programming.

What this book *is* about is pointing the tester toward specific attacks to try on their application to test its defenses. We will be looking at classic examples of malicious input, ways of bypassing validation and authorization checks, as well as problems inherited from certain configurations/languages/architectures—all in a simple format that will show where to look for the problem, how to test for the problem, and advice on methods of mitigation. *How to Break Web Software* is intended as a one-stop shop for people to dip into to get information (and inspiration) to test web-based applications for common problems.

Happy Web testing!

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