

# Introduction to the OWASP Top Ten



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## OWASP Top 10:2021

[Home](#)

[Notice](#)

[Introduction](#)

[How to use the OWASP Top 10 as a standard](#)

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[About OWASP](#)

### Top 10:2021 List

[A01 Broken Access Control](#)

[A02 Cryptographic Failures](#)

[A03 Injection](#)

[A04 Insecure Design](#)

[A05 Security Misconfiguration](#)

[A06 Vulnerable and Outdated Components](#)

[A07 Identification and Authentication Failures](#)

[A08 Software and Data Integrity Failures](#)

[A09 Security Logging and Monitoring Failures](#)

[A10 Server Side Request Forgery \(SSRF\)](#)

[Next Steps](#)

# Introduction

## Welcome to the OWASP Top 10 - 2021



Welcome to the latest installment of the OWASP Top 10! The OWASP Top 10 2021 is all-new, with a new graphic design and an available one-page infographic you can print or obtain from our home page.

A huge thank you to everyone that contributed their time and data for this iteration. Without you, this installment would not happen. **THANK YOU!**



### Table of contents

[Welcome to the OWASP Top 10 - 2021](#)

[What's changed in the Top 10 for 2021](#)

[Methodology](#)

[How the categories are structured](#)

[How the data is used for selecting categories](#)

[Why not just pure statistical data?](#)

[Why incidence rate instead of frequency?](#)

[What is your data collection and analysis process?](#)

[Data Factors](#)

[Thank you to our data contributors](#)

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# OWASP Top Ten

*Globally recognized by developers as the first step towards more secure coding.*

The *most critical* security risks to web applications.

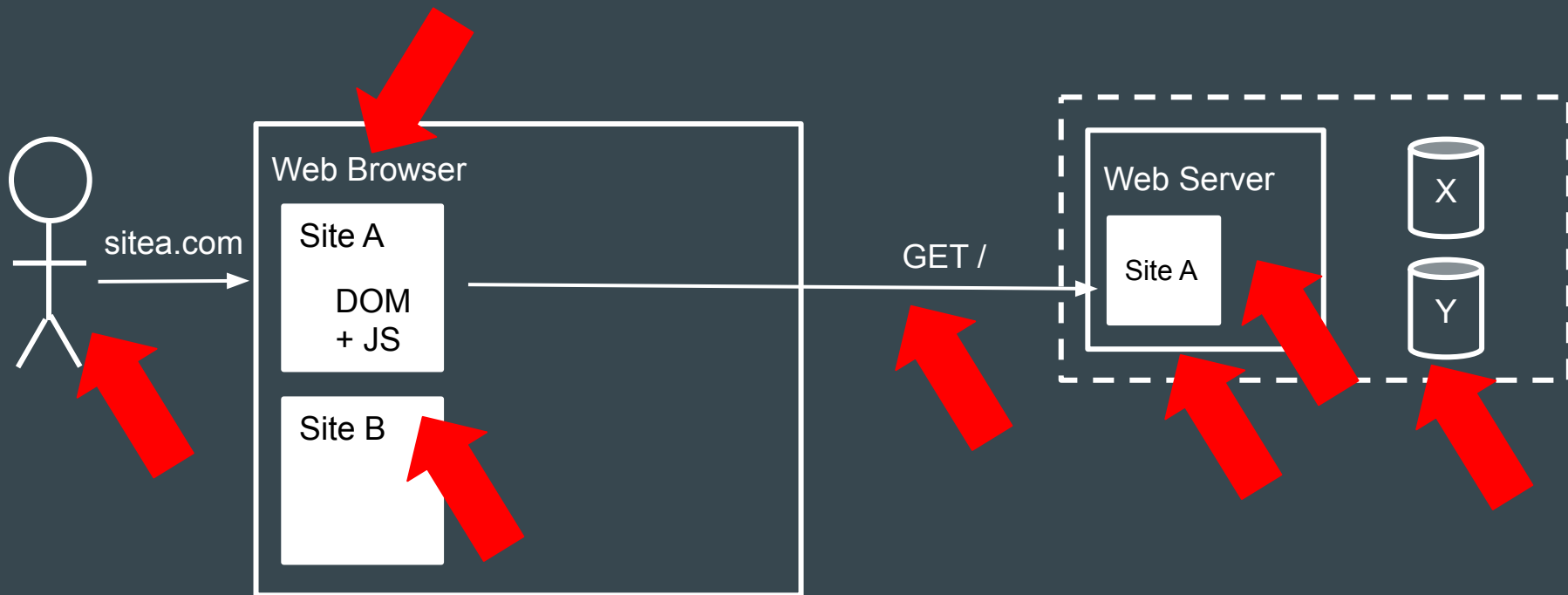
Updated every 2-3 years from 2003 to 2021

2021: Focus on the root cause, rather than the symptom

*See: The How and Why of the OWASP Top Ten 2021 - Brian Glas*

Setting the scene  
[crapgpt.online](https://crapgpt.online)

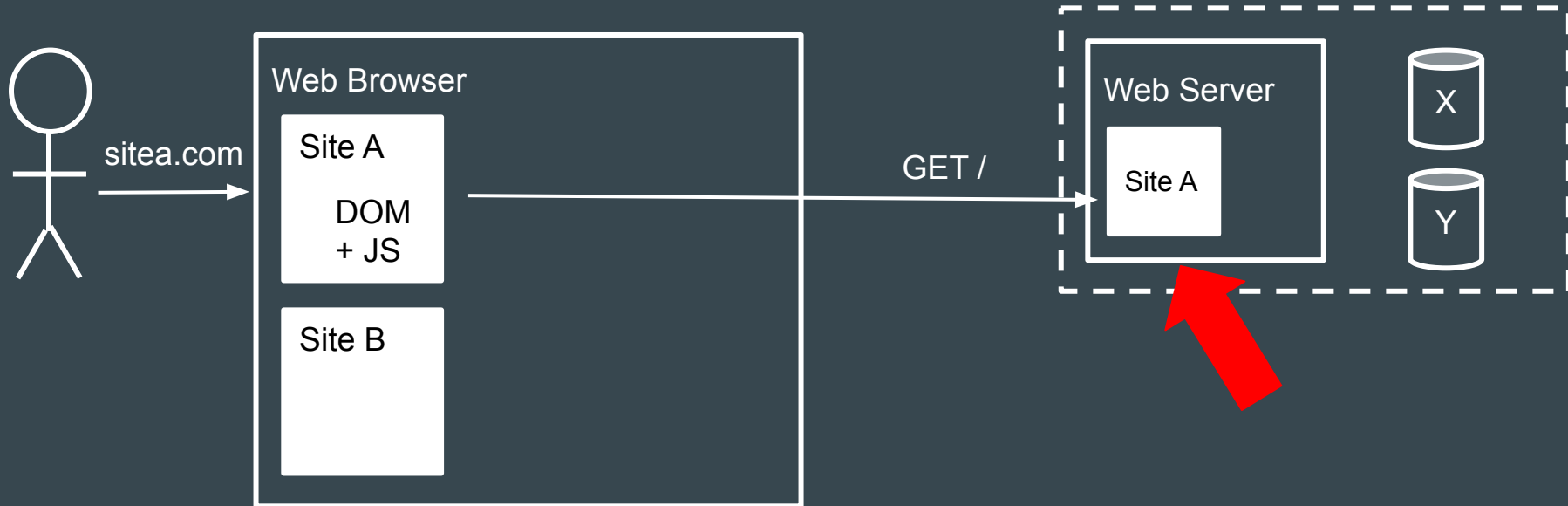
# Securing the user



# OWASP Top Ten 2021

- A01 Broken Access Control
- A02 Cryptographic Failures
- A03 Injection
- A04 Insecure Design
- A05 Security Misconfiguration
- A06 Vulnerable and Outdated Components
- A07 Identification and Authentication Failures
- A08 Software and Data Integrity Failures
- A09 Security Logging and Monitoring Failures
- A10 Server-Side Request Forgery

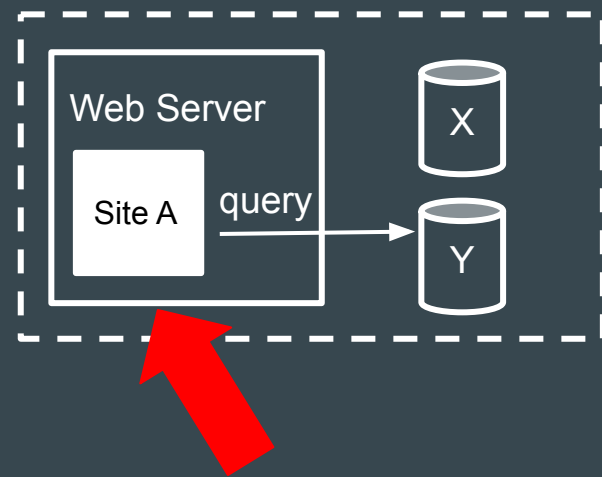
# A01 Broken Access Control





# A01 Broken Access Control

- Access hidden pages  
`http://site.com/admin/user-management`
- Elevate to an administrative account
- View other people's data  
`http://site.com/user?id=7`
- Modifying cookies or JWT tokens



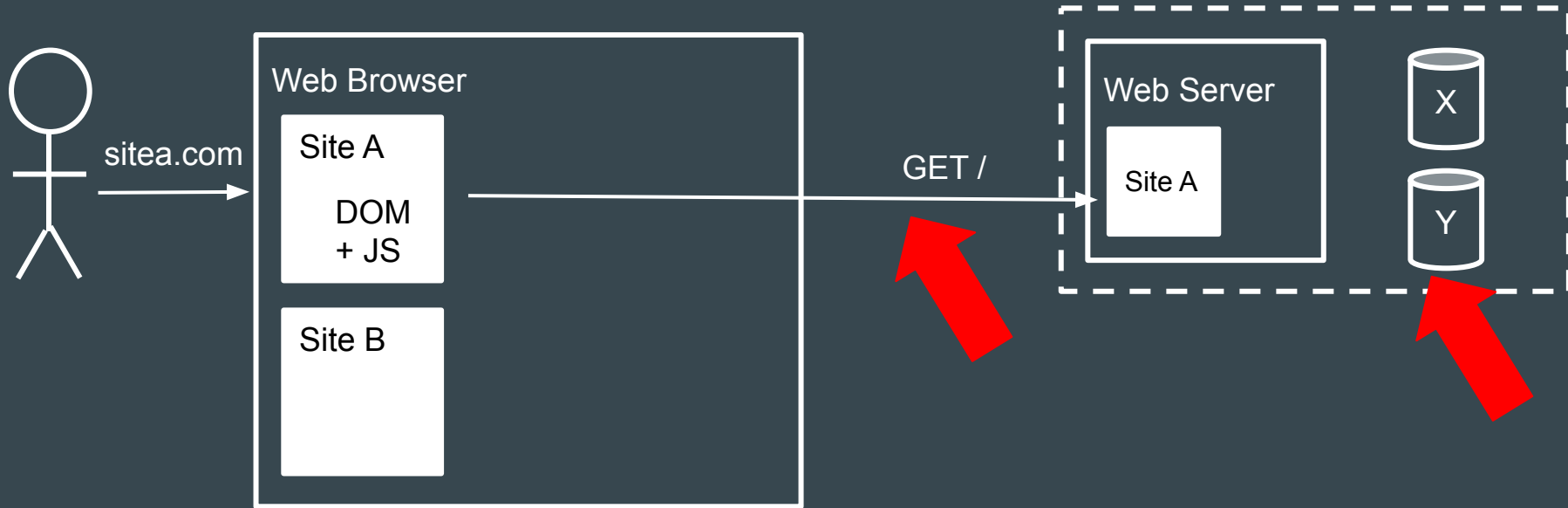
# A01 Broken Access Control

## Prevention:

- Implement access control measures centrally
- Use proven code or libraries
- Deny access by default
- Log failures and alert
- Rate limit access to resources

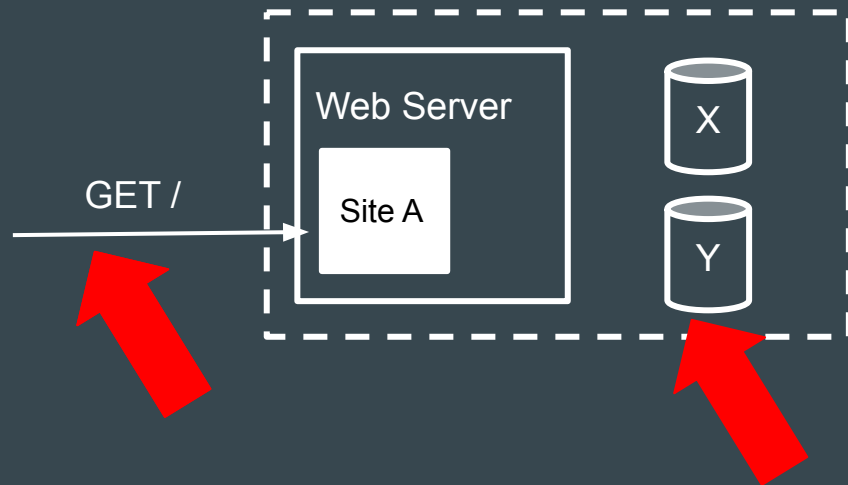
Securing REST API Endpoints (or, How to avoid another Optus), James Cooper  
Track One - Thursday, 13:30

# A02 Cryptographic Failure



## A02 Cryptographic Failure

- Clear-text data transfer
- Unencrypted storage
- Weak crypto or keys
- Certificates not validated
- Exposing PII or Credit Cards



# A02 Cryptographic Failure

## Prevention:

- Don't store data unless you need to!
- Encrypt at rest and in transit
- Use strong crypto

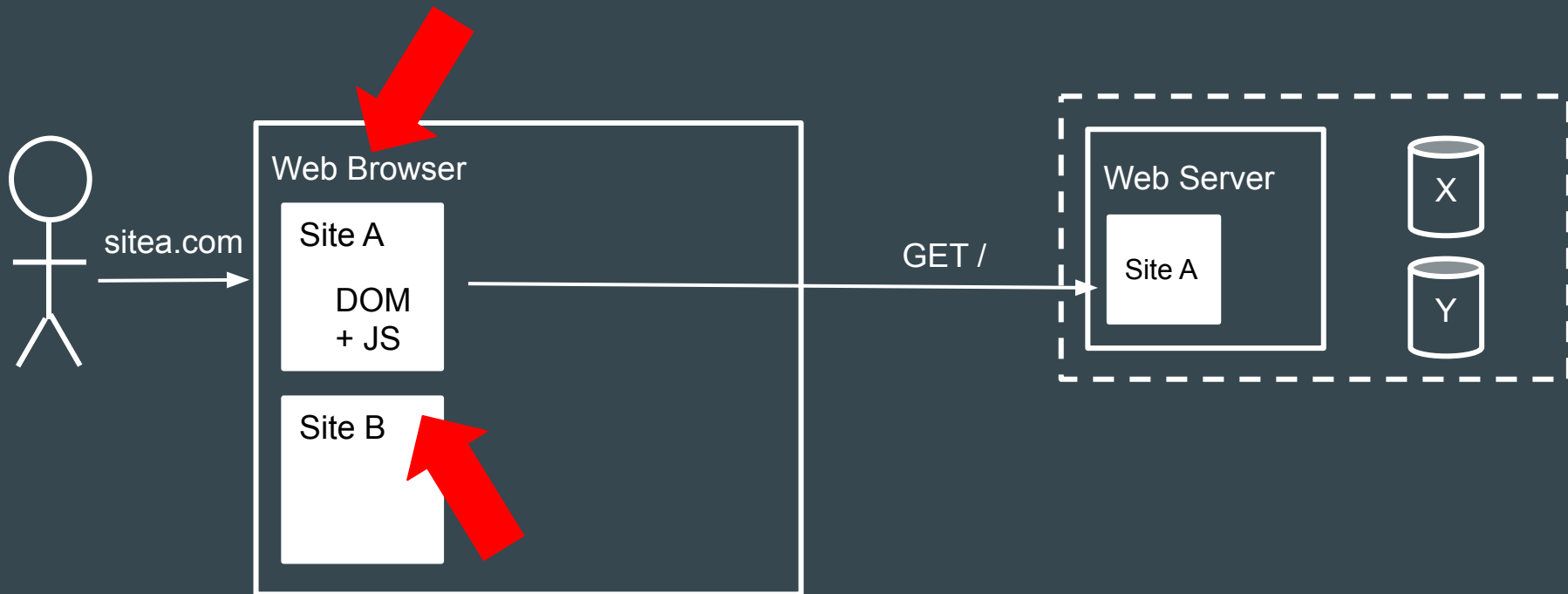
## A03 Injection

Injecting attacker-controlled *data* into the *code* you intend to run

Examples:

- Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
- SQL Injection (SQLi)

# A03 Injection - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

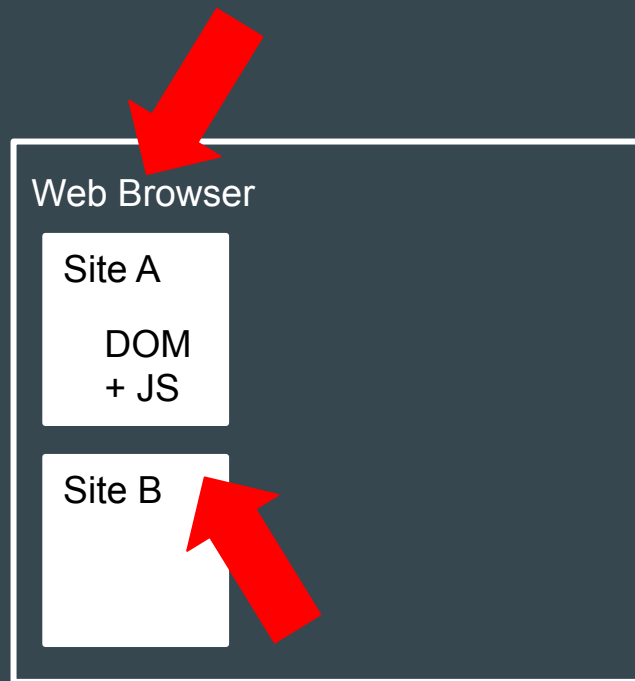


# A03 Injection - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

HTML mixes content, presentation and code into one string (HTML+CSS+JS)

If an attacker can alter the DOM, they can do *anything* that the user can do.

XSS can be found using automated tools.





# A03 Injection - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

## Prevention:

- Encode all user-supplied data to render it safe  
Kirk <script> => Kirk &lt;script&gt;
- Use appropriate encoding for the context
- Use templating frameworks that assemble HTML safely
- Use Content Security Policy

# A03 Injection - SQLi

Sending hostile data to an interpreter  
(e.g. SQL, LDAP, command line)



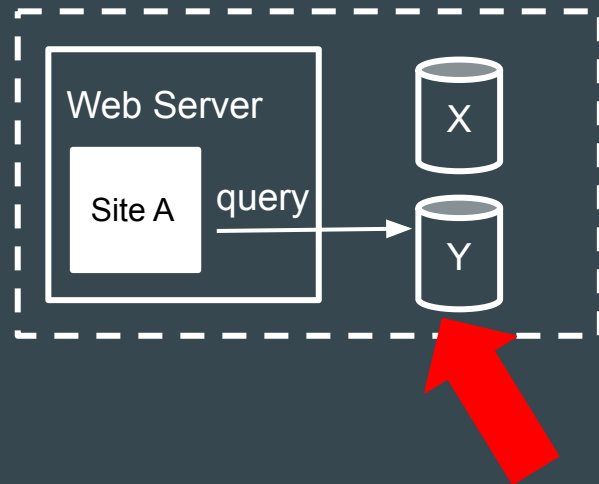
# A03 Injection - SQLi

Sending hostile data to an interpreter  
(e.g. SQL, LDAP, command line)

```
String query = "SELECT * FROM accounts WHERE  
custID='" + request.getParameter("id") + "'";
```

```
id = " ' ; drop table accounts -- "
```

SQL statements combine *code* and *data*



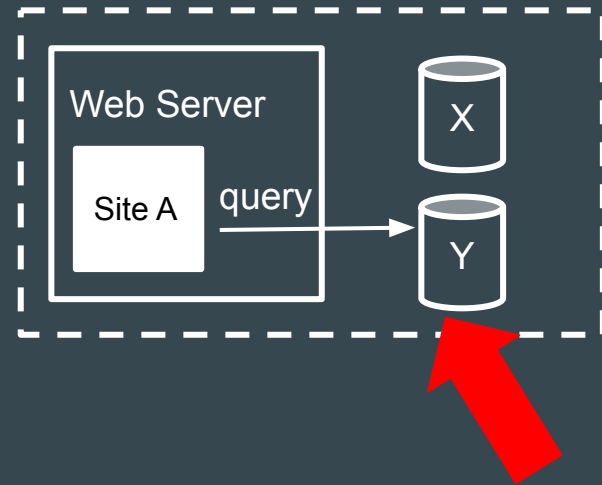
# A03 Injection - SQLi

Prevention:

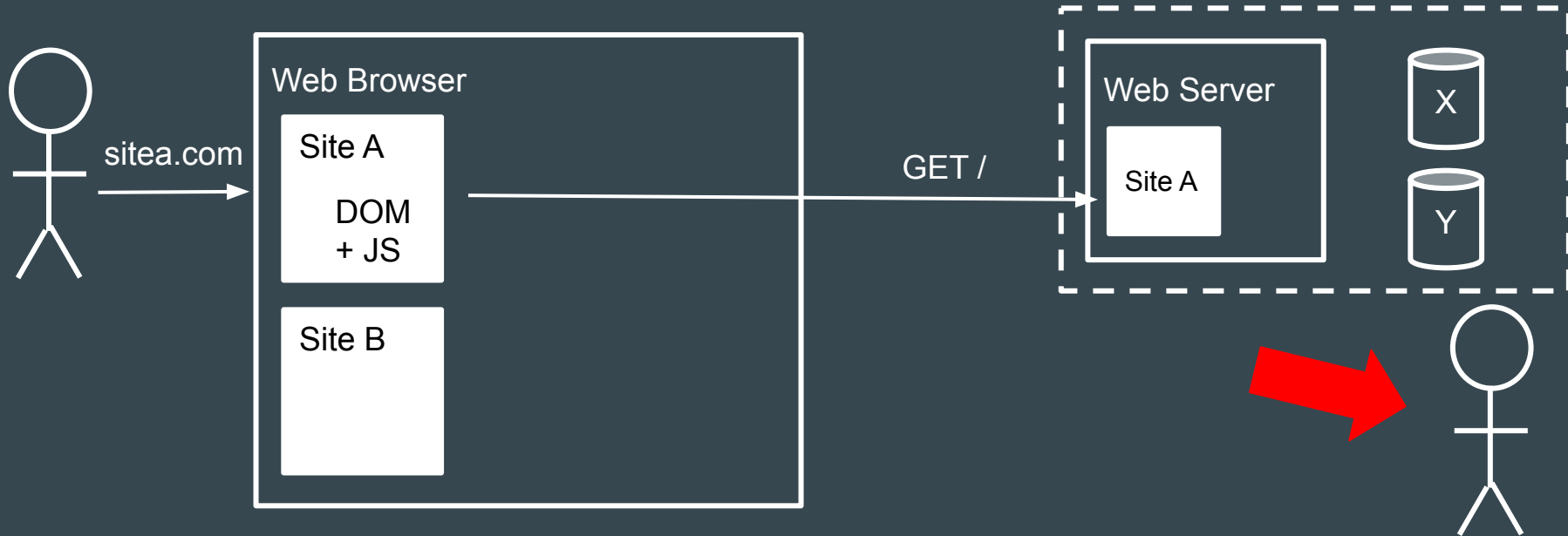
SQL statements combine *code* and *data*

=> Separate code and data

- Parameterise your queries
- Validate which data can be entered
- Escape special characters



# A04 Insecure Design



# A04 Insecure Design

Risks related to design and architectural flaws

Cannot be fixed by rock-solid implementation

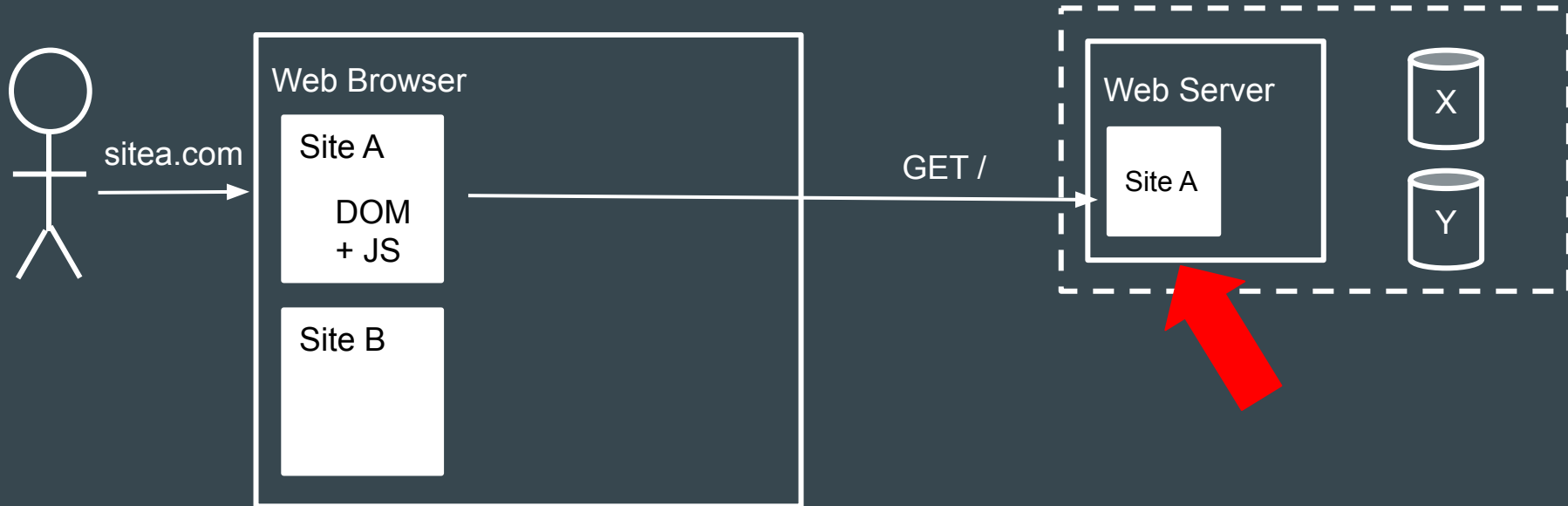
Use:

- Threat modeling
- Secure design patterns
- Reference architectures

Privacy by Design: A standard approach in software development?, Chris Esther, Track Two - Friday, 10:00

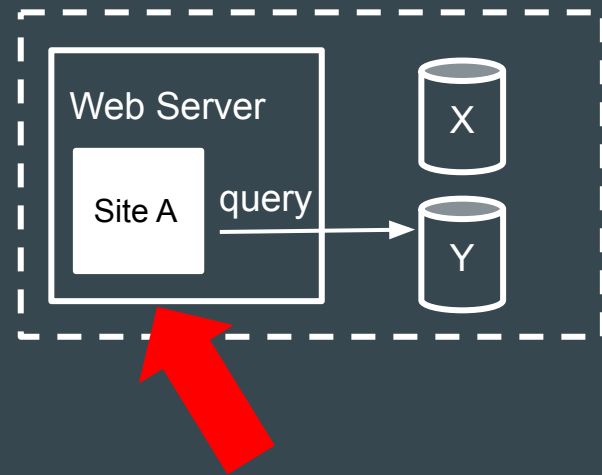
Thoughts on Threat Modelling, John DiLeo, Track One - Friday 14:25

# A05 Security Misconfiguration



# A05 Security Misconfiguration

- Security features not configured properly
- Unnecessary features enabled
- Default accounts not removed
- Error messages expose sensitive information





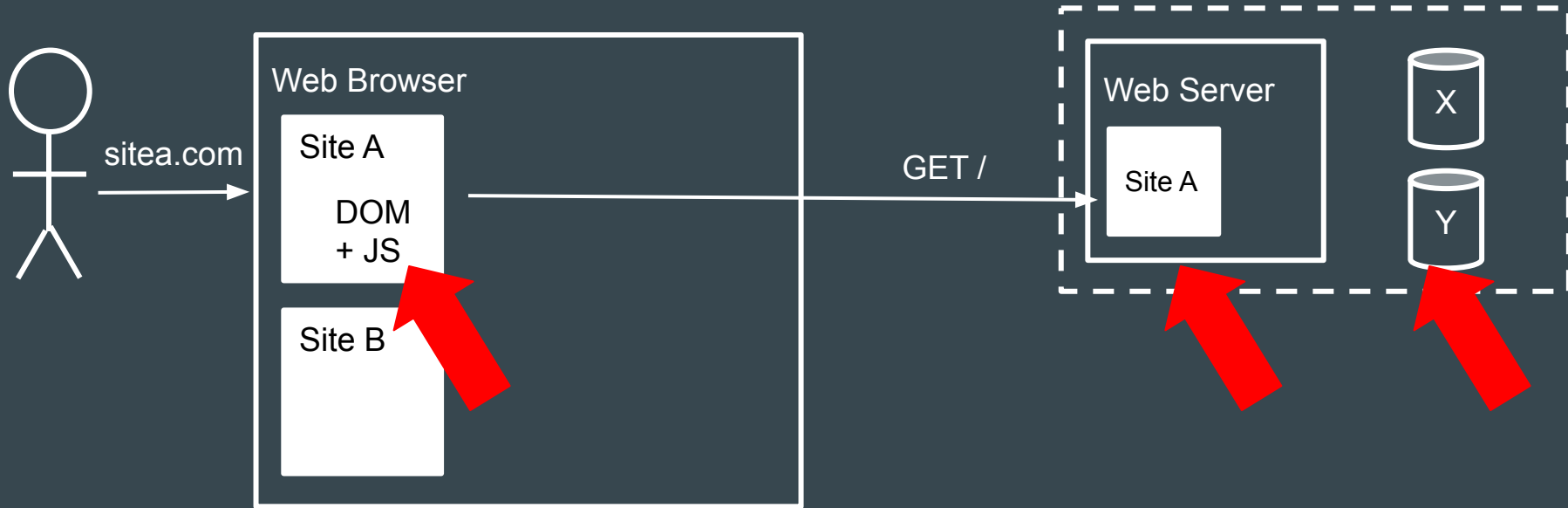
# A05 Security Misconfiguration

## Prevention:

- Have a repeatable build process or “gold master”
- Disable all unused services
- Use tools to review settings

Fantastic Cloud Security Mistakes and How to Find Them, Sarah Young  
Track One - Next!

# A06 Vulnerable and Outdated Components



## A06 Vulnerable and Outdated Components

Modern applications contain a *lot* of third-party code.

It's hard to keep it all up to date.

Attackers can enumerate the libraries you use, and develop exploits.

# A06 Vulnerable and Outdated Components

## Prevention:

- Inventory management
- Reduce dependencies
- Patch management
- Scan for out-of-date components
- Budget for ongoing maintenance for all software projects

Waiter, There's a CVE in My SOUP, Kevin Alcock

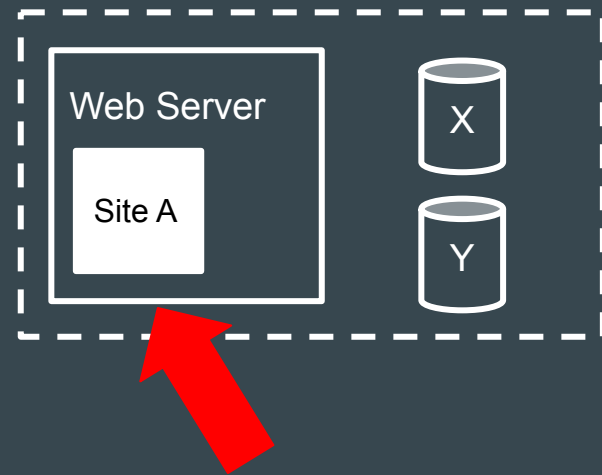
Track One - Thurs 16:05

# A07 Identification and Authentication Failures



# A07 Identification and Authentication Failures

- Weak session management
- Credential stuffing
- Brute force
- Forgotten password
- No multi-factor authentication
- Sessions don't expire



# A07 Identification and Authentication Failures

Prevention:

- Use good authentication libraries
- Use MFA
- Enforce strong passwords
- Detect and prevent brute force or stuffing attacks

# A08 Software and Data Integrity Failures





# A08 Software and Data Integrity Failures

Software integrity:

- Downloading code from untrustworthy sources
- No integrity checks
- Insecure CI/CD pipeline

Data integrity:

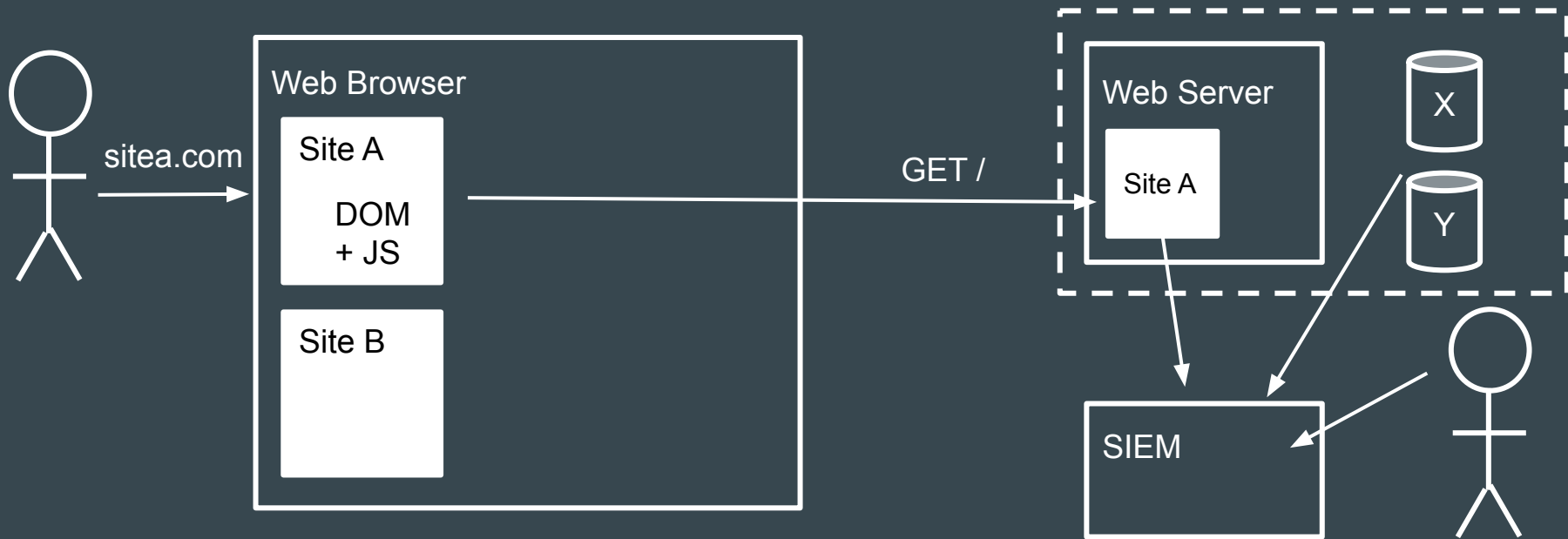
- Data may be modified for deserialisation attack

# A08 Software and Data Integrity Failures

## Prevention:

- Digital signatures for libraries and executables
- Use trustworthy repositories
- Supply chain dependency check
- Encrypt data, and check integrity

# A09 Security Logging and Monitoring Failures

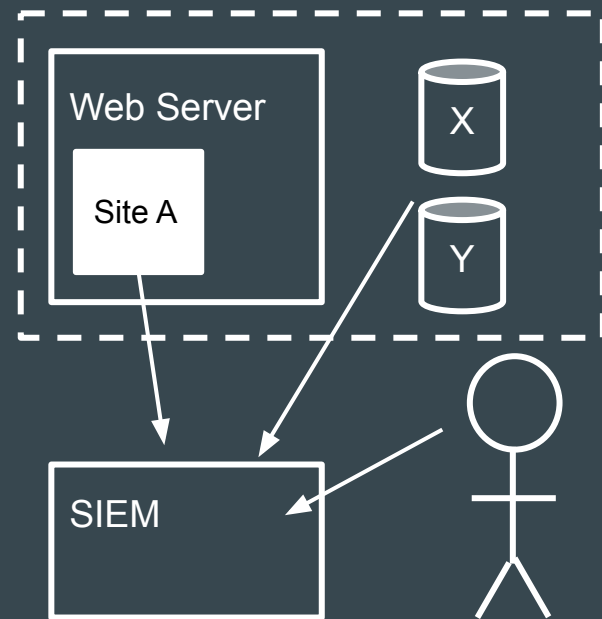


# A09 Security Logging and Monitoring Failures

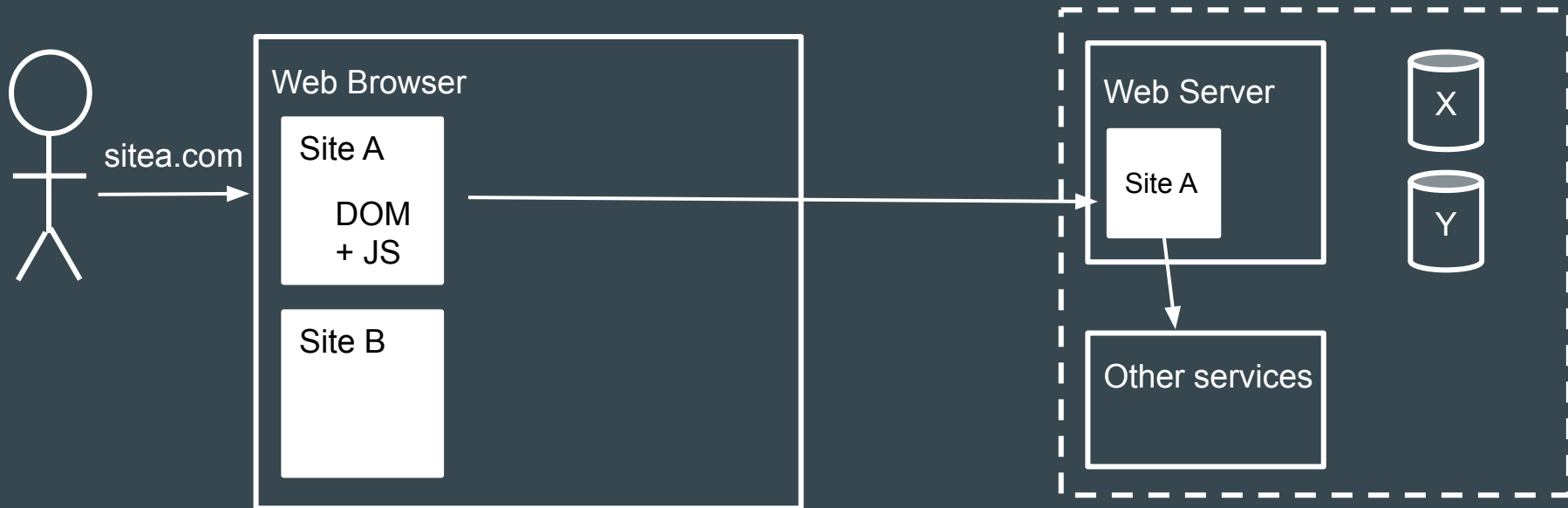
You can't react to attacks that you don't know about.

Logs are important for:

- Detecting incidents
- Understanding what happened
- Proving who did something



# A10 Server-Side Request Forgery

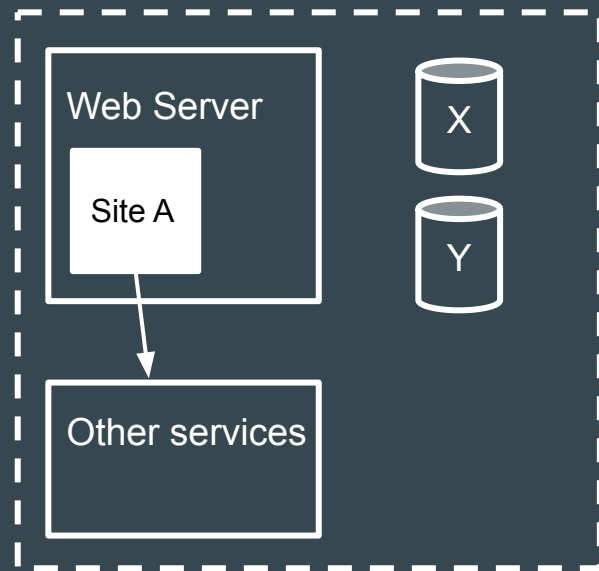


# A10 Server-Side Request Forgery

Tricking an application to fetch something by url

E.g.

- Access an internal service
- Port-scan a network
- Access cloud metadata service
- Proxy attacks to other targets



# A10 Server-Side Request Forgery

Prevention:

- Segment networks, firewall restrictions
- Don't trust input data
- Do not display raw HTTP responses to clients
- Don't follow redirects

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# Next Steps

- Attend OWASP events
- Search for OWASP Top Ten category names and your framework  
E.g. “C# XSS protection”
- Watch youtube or Pluralsight videos
- Use the terms when discussing bugs with colleagues
- Keep track of which issues affect you the most
- Go beyond the Top Ten

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