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Report of Findings

December 23, 2025
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Prepared for:
Parexel

Application Security Assessment of the
Global Website Application

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Project History

Date	Comments
December 17 – 23, 2025	Security Assessment Performed
December 23, 2025	Peer Review
December 23, 2025	Report Delivery

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Executive Summary

Overview

Parexel engaged Stratum Security (Stratum) to conduct an application security assessment of the Global Website penetration application. This assessment attempted to identify application security vulnerabilities that may allow an attacker to gain unauthorized access to the application, the data contained within the application, or the underlying infrastructure.

Stratum grades assessments and compares results to overall customer averages. Details about Stratum's grading approach can be found in Appendix C: Stratum Assessment Grading.

Approach

The application security assessment focused on identifying exploitable software flaws within the target application using the same tools, techniques, and processes threat actors use to attack applications. Stratum testers considered the role of the application within the organization, various abuse cases, and the application's technology stack. Stratum employed various tools and assessment methods to identify potential vulnerabilities within the application. The blend of automated testing methods and the expertise of an application security specialist performing manual pen testing ensured a rigorous assessment that provided an accurate depiction of the application's security posture.

Project Scope

- <https://www.parexel.com>

Finding Summary

Overall, Stratum found that the Global Website penetration application exhibited **an above average** security posture compared to other applications assessed by Stratum. The application exhibited a total of 3 findings. Many of the findings were within the Injection, Security Misconfiguration, and Insecure Design OWASP Top 10 categories.

Project Snapshot

Current Assessment Grade

Global Website
Application

A

Average Customer Grade

Application
Assessments

B

Open Findings

3

Dates

Kickoff

Dec 17, 2025

Testing

Dec 17 – 23, 2025

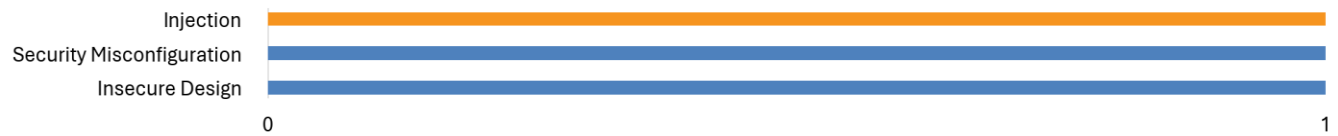
Report Delivery

Dec 23, 2025

TASK	GRADE	CRITICAL	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	INFO	TOTAL
Global Website Assessment	A	0	0	1	0	2	3

Summary of Findings

Findings by OWASP Top 10



Findings by Severity

#	Severity	Category	Title
1	MEDIUM	Injection	Stored Cross-Site Scripting (Systemic)
2	INFO	Security Misconfiguration	Lack of HTTP Header: Content Security Policy
3	INFO	Insecure Design	Concurrent Logins Permitted

Detailed Findings Matrix

1 – Stored Cross-Site Scripting (Systemic)

Severity	Description	Impact	Recommendation
MEDIUM	The application is vulnerable to Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks allowing malicious user input to execute JavaScript code in the victim's browser.	An attacker can use JavaScript to steal sensitive information such as the session ID to gain access to the application as the victim, execute code in the browser on behalf of the victim, create a fake login page to harvest valid users' login credentials, or redirect users to other sites to download malicious content.	Properly encode or escape user input on both the server and client when displaying it to the browser.
Category Injection			Perform input validation within the backend application. Deny all input that is not required for the operation of the application and only allow necessary content. Reference(s) OWASP: XSS Prevention Cheat Sheet CWE-79: Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation ('Cross-site Scripting')

Details

Stored Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) was possible on multiple functionalities within the app.

When creating/updating content for a 'Resource' with www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/resources/save:

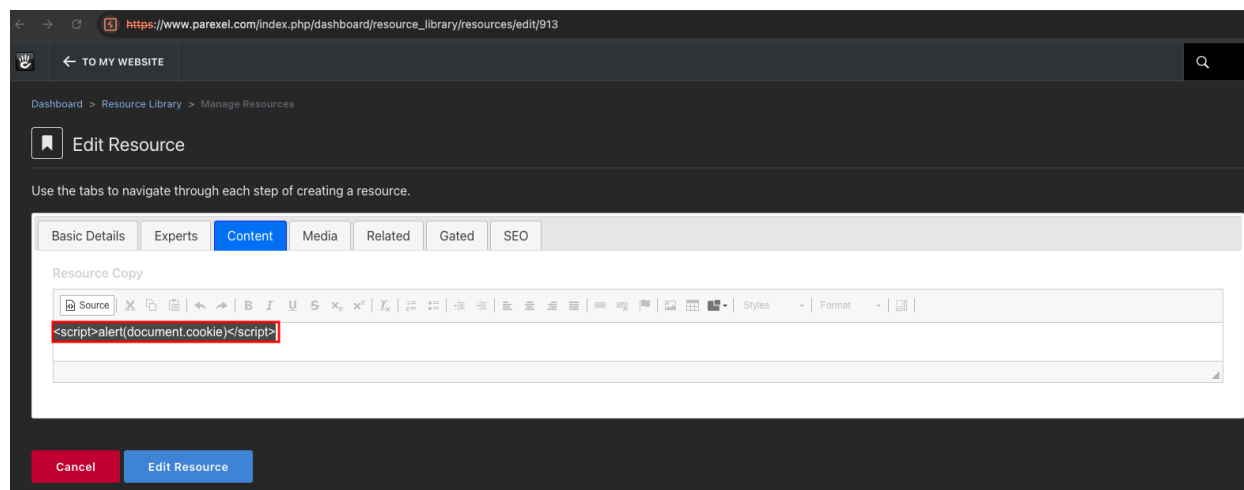


Figure 1 – Saving XSS payload to 'Resource' content value

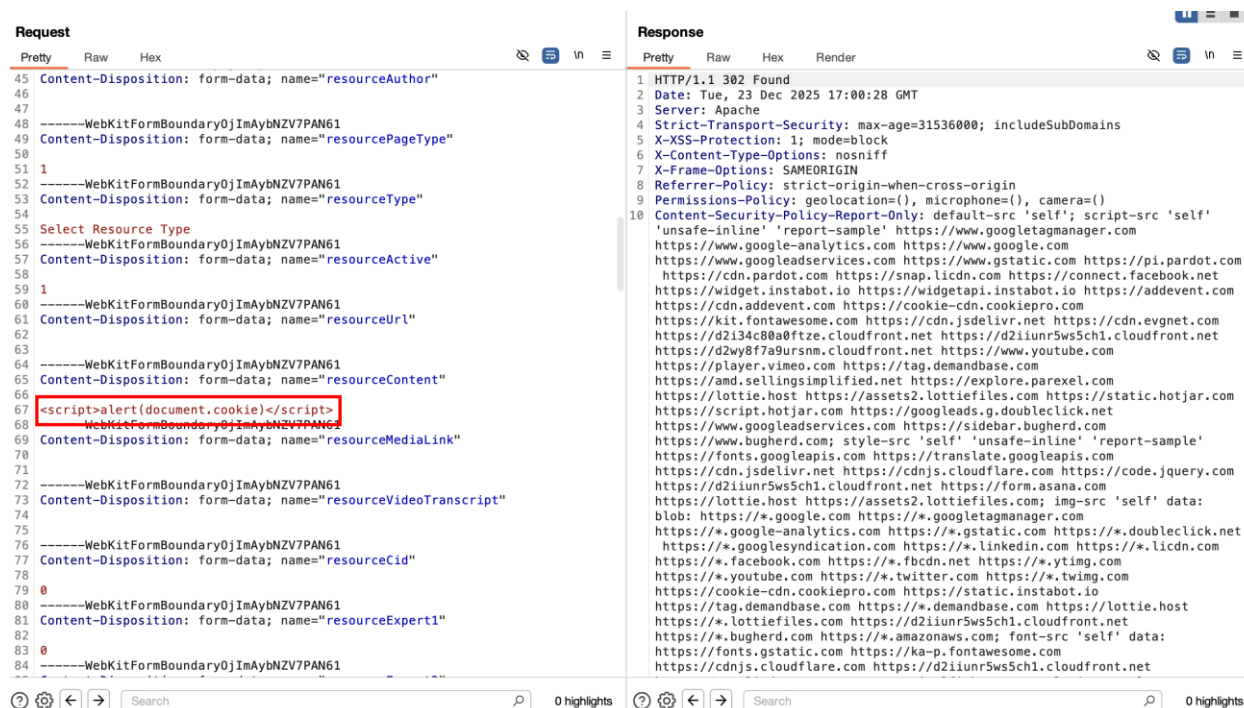


Figure 2 – Call to update 'Resource' content

The XSS payload was triggered by viewing the modified resource at www.parexel.com/insights/playbook/<resource slug>:

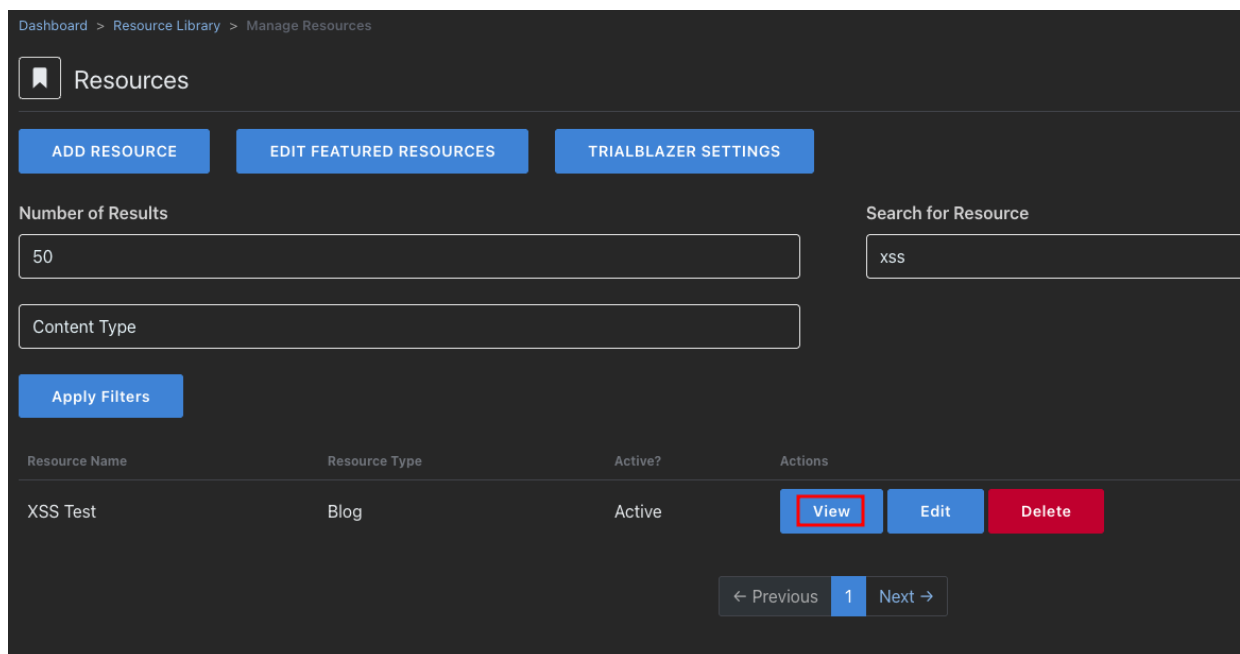


Figure 3 – Viewing the Resource with XSS content

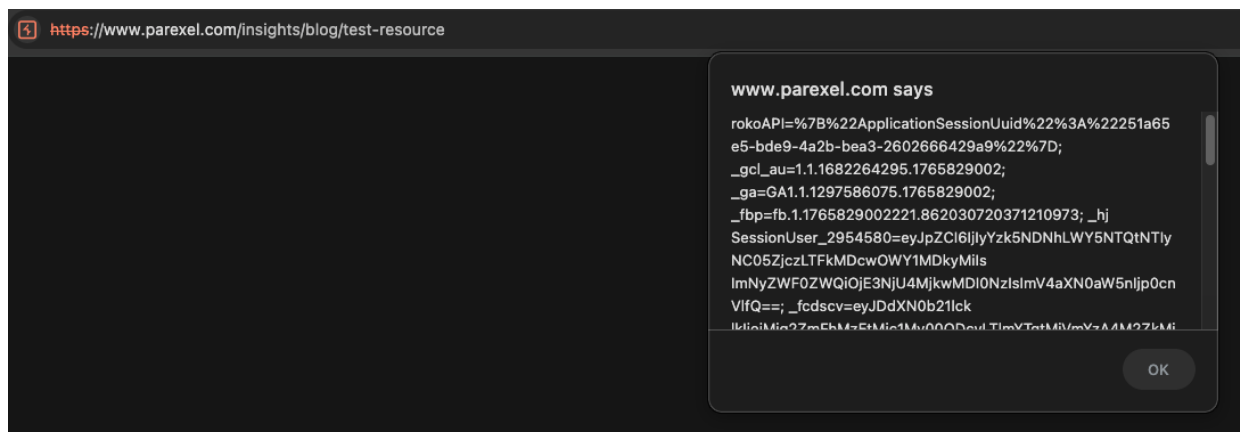
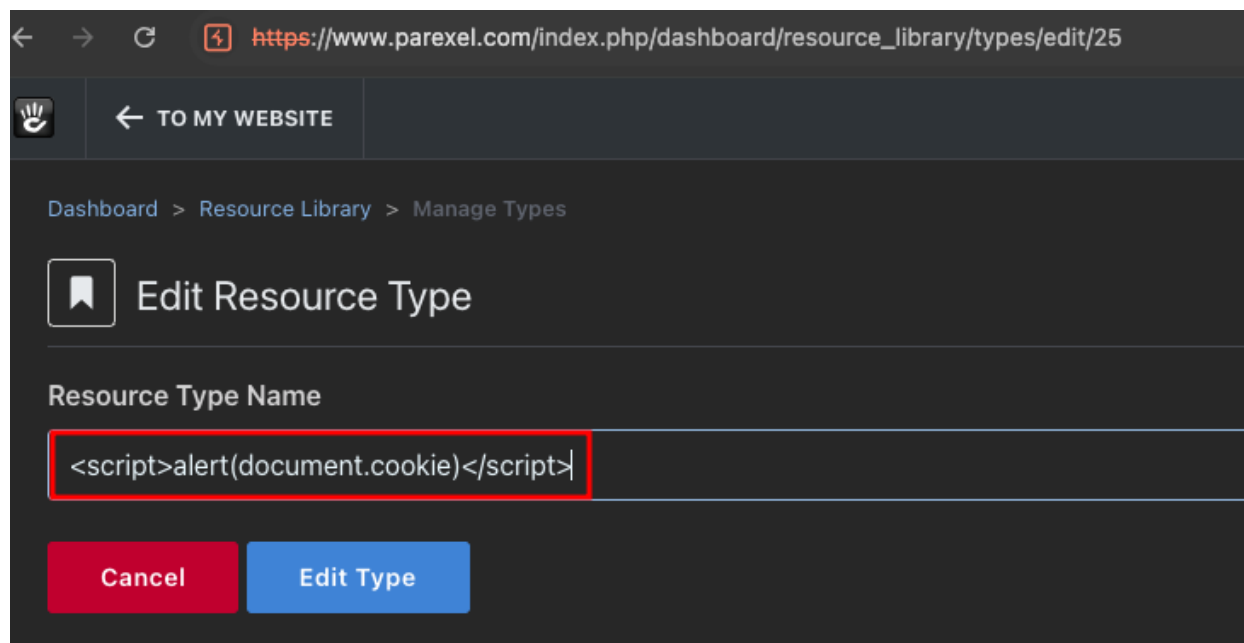


Figure 4 – XSS payload executing when viewing resource

When naming a new 'Resource' type with www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/types/save



← → ↻ https://www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/types/edit/25

👤 ← TO MY WEBSITE

Dashboard > Resource Library > Manage Types

📖 Edit Resource Type

Resource Type Name

`<script>alert(document.cookie)</script>`

Cancel Edit Type

Figure 5 – Naming a Resource type with an XSS payload

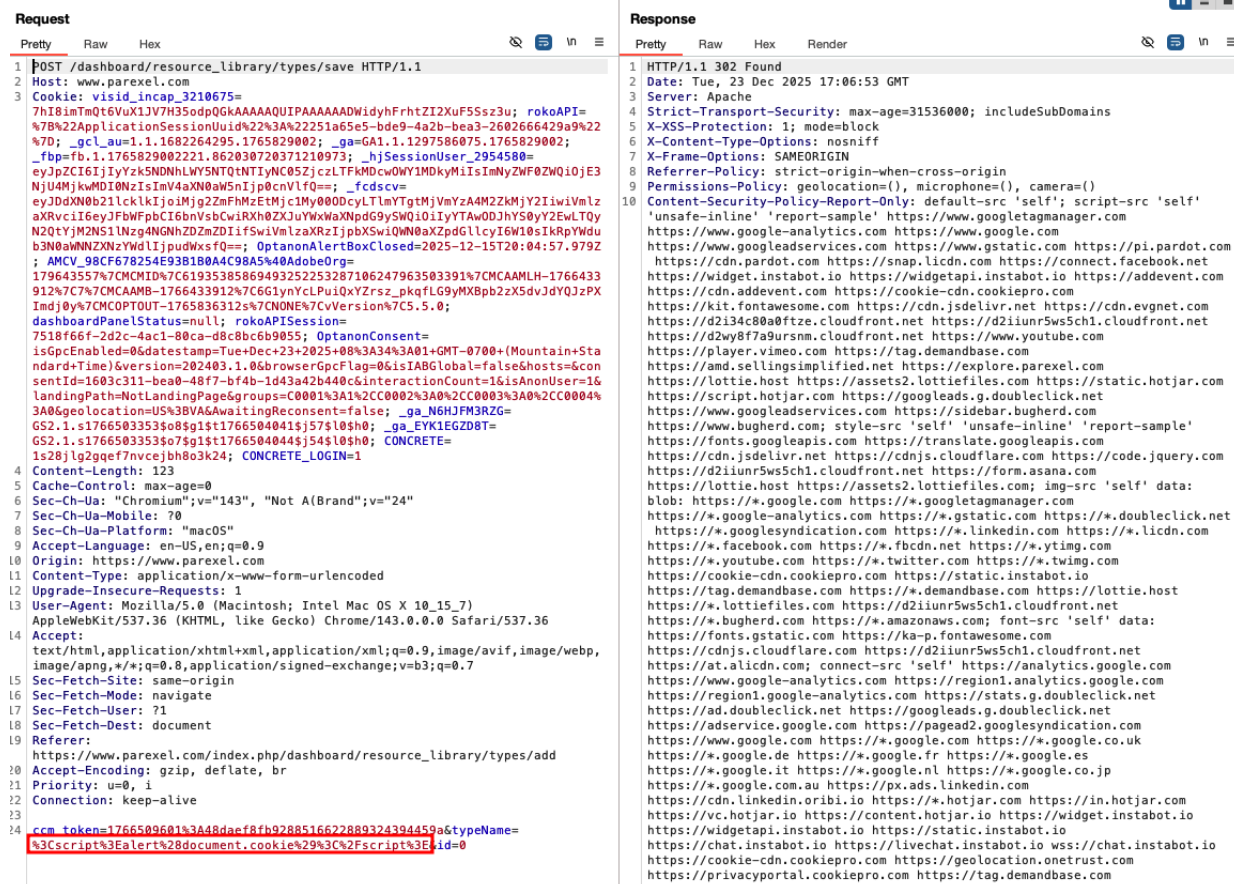


Figure 6 – Call to create new 'Resource' type

The XSS payload was triggered by viewing the list of 'Resource' types at www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/types:

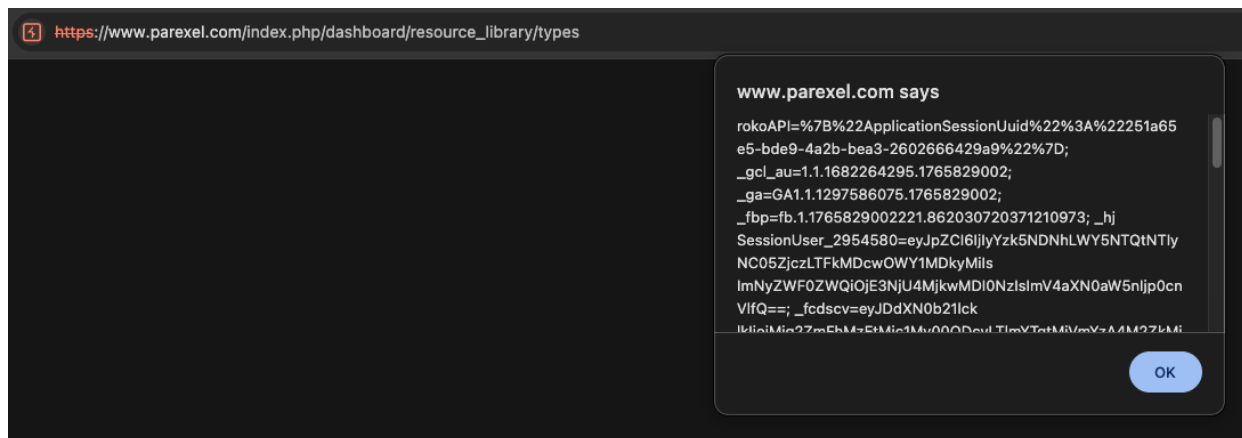


Figure 7 – XSS payload executes when viewing the list of Resource types

It was also triggered by viewing the list of 'Resources' at www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/resources:

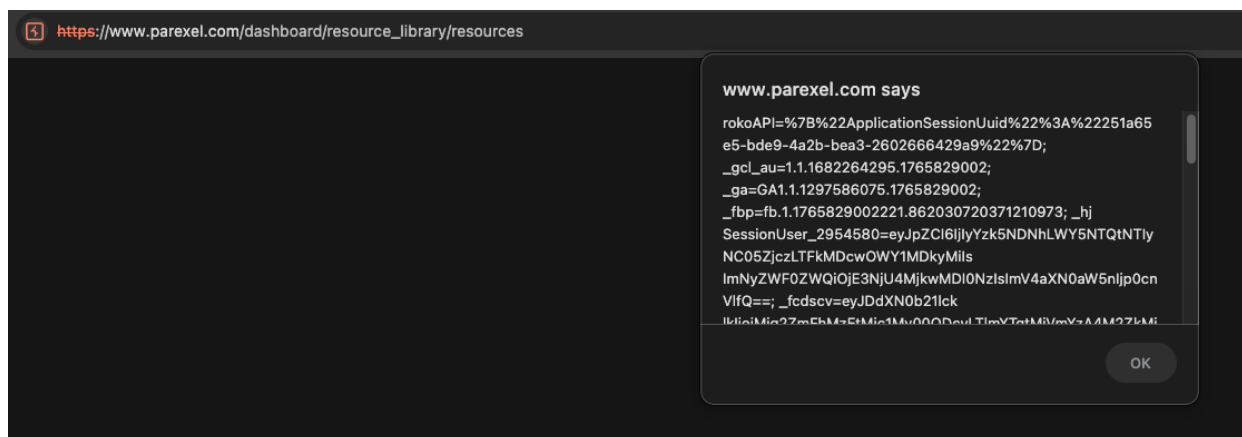


Figure 8 – XSS payload also executes when viewing the list of Resources, since Resource types are also listed on this page

When naming a new 'Resource' topic with www.parexel.com/dashboard/resource_library/topics/save:

→ ↺ https://www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/topics/add

← TO MY WEBSITE

Dashboard > Resource Library > Manage Topics and Subtopics

Add a New Resource Topic

Resource Topic Name

`<script>alert(document.cookie)</script>`

Enter subtopics for this topic

Add New Subtopic

Show in Filter

☒ Include this topic in filter options

Cancel Add Topic

Figure 9 – Naming a Resource topic with XSS payload

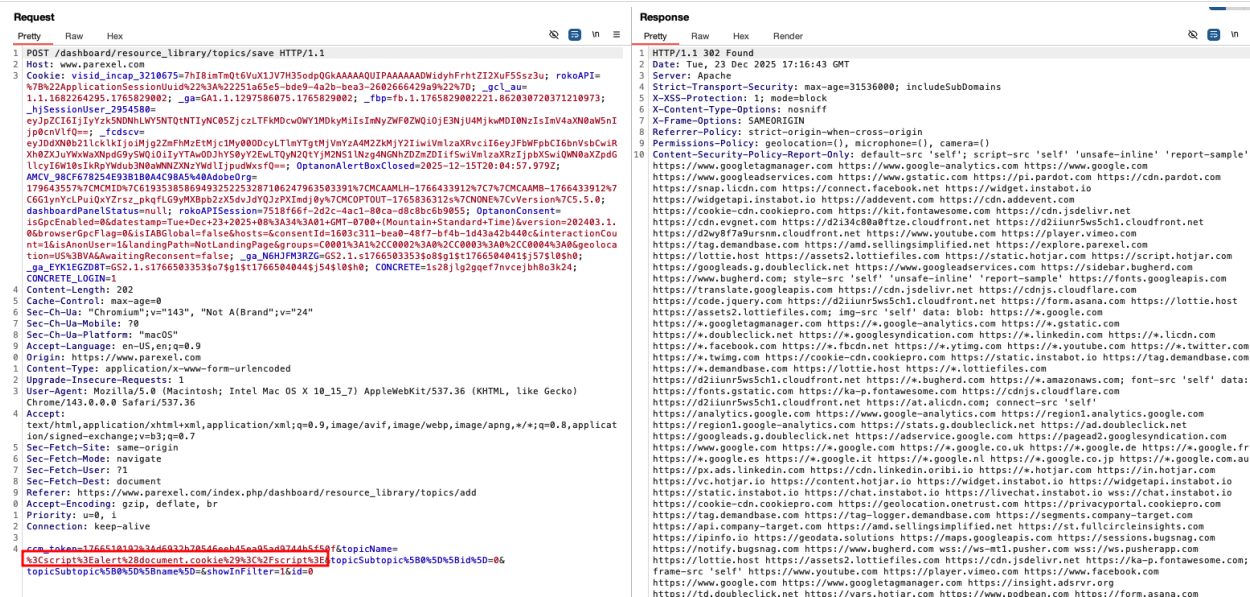


Figure 10 – Call to create new 'Resource' topic

The XSS payload was triggered by viewing the list of 'Resource' topics at www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/resource_library/topics:

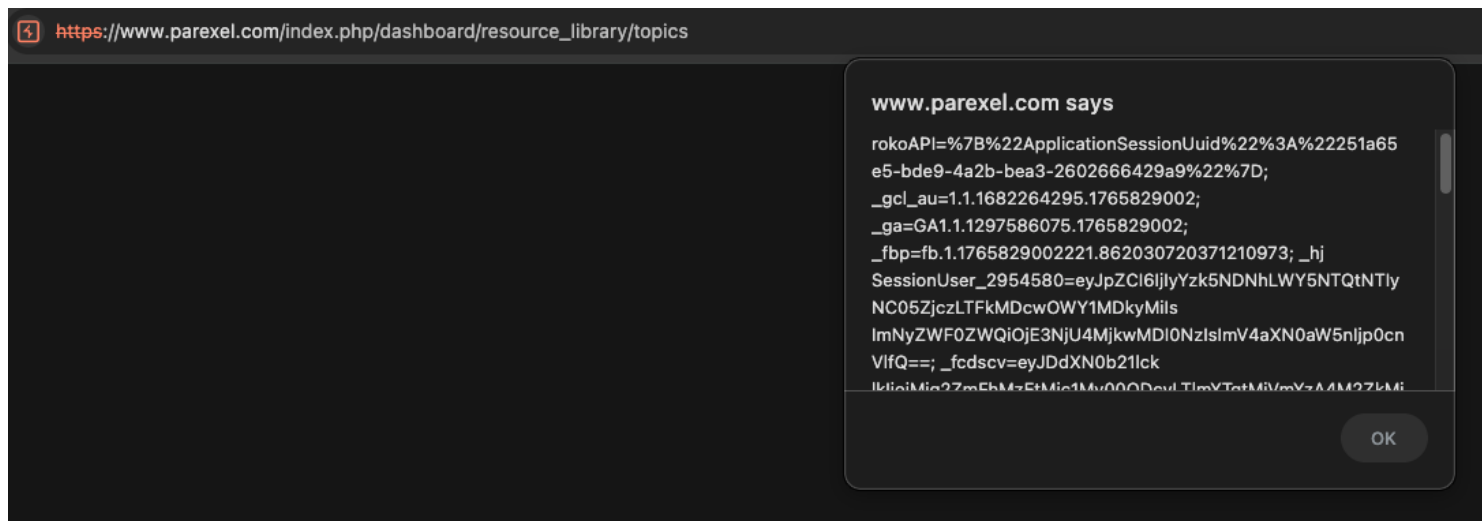
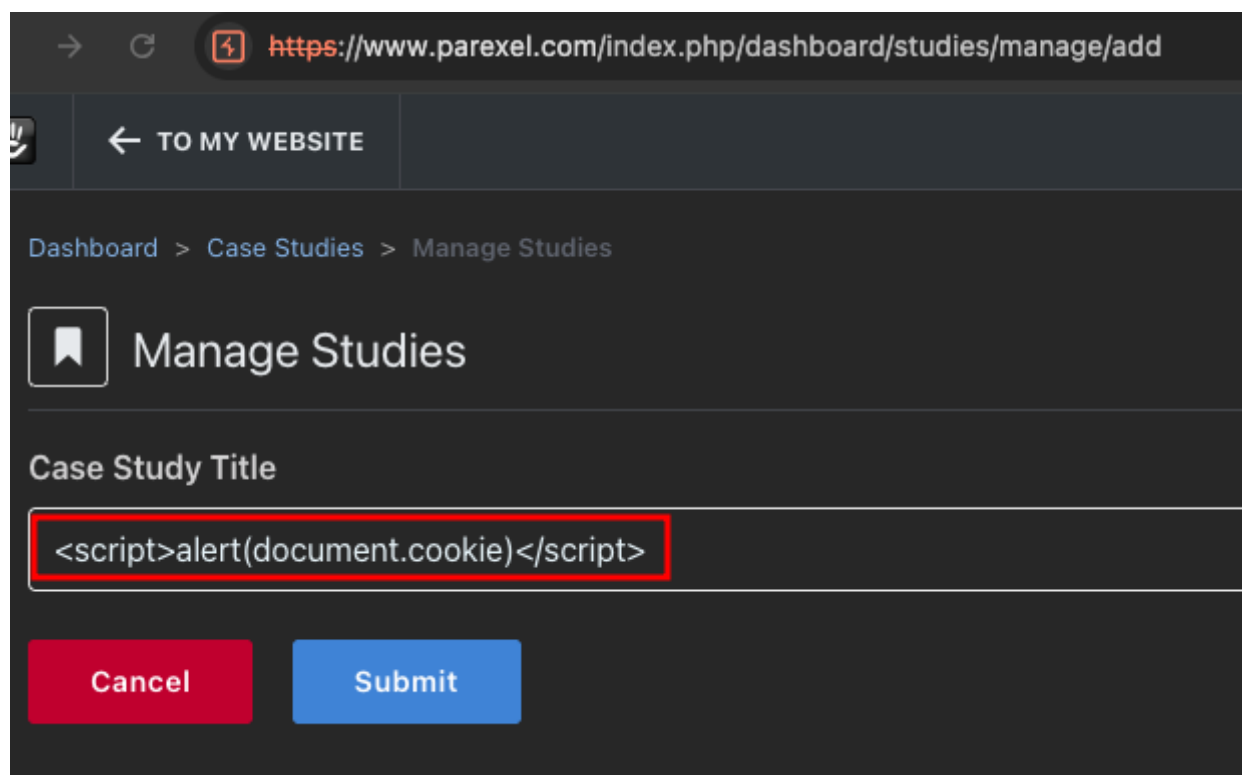


Figure 11 – XSS payload executes when viewing list of Resource topics

When naming a 'Case Study' at www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/studies/add:



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/studies/manage/add>. The page has a dark theme and a breadcrumb trail: Dashboard > Case Studies > Manage Studies. Below the breadcrumb is a section titled 'Manage Studies' with a bookmark icon. Underneath is a form labeled 'Case Study Title'. The text input field contains the payload `<script>alert(document.cookie)</script>`, which is highlighted with a red rectangular border. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a red 'Cancel' button and a blue 'Submit' button.

Figure 12 – Naming a Case Study with XSS payload

The XSS payload was triggered by viewing the list of 'Case Studies' at www.parexel.com/dashboard/studies/manage:

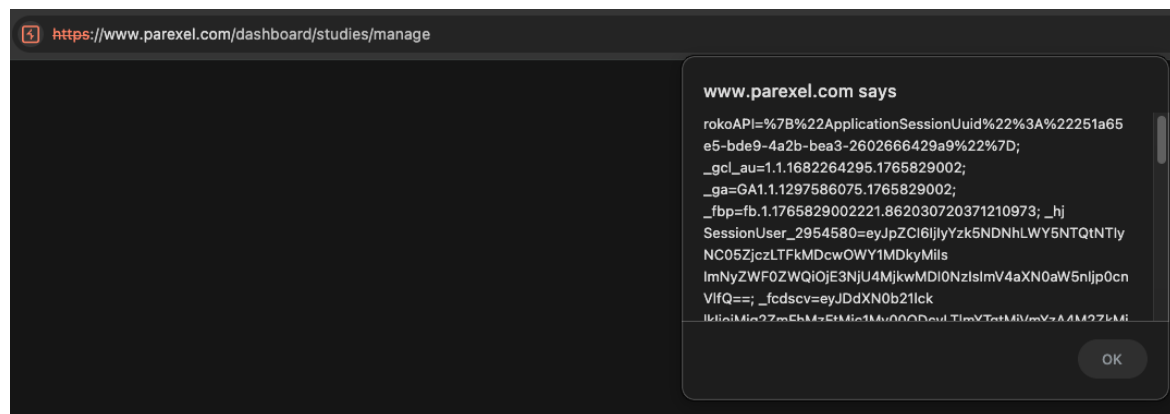


Figure 14 – XSS payload executes when viewing list of Case Studies

When naming a 'Case Study' item at www.parexel.com/index.php/dashboard/studies/items/save

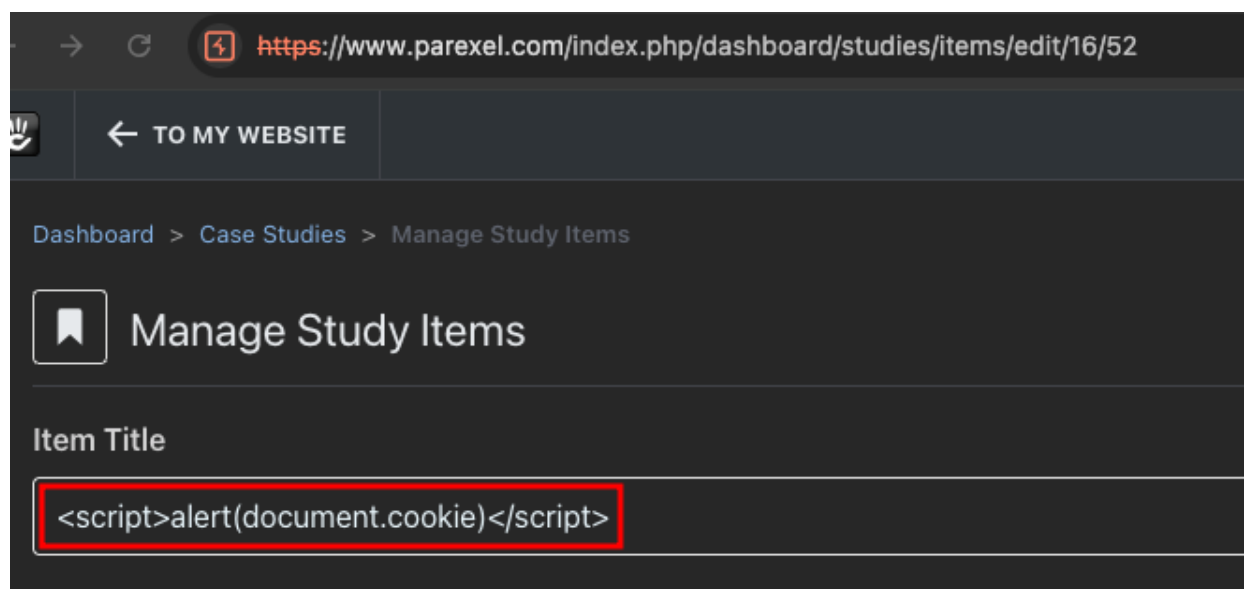
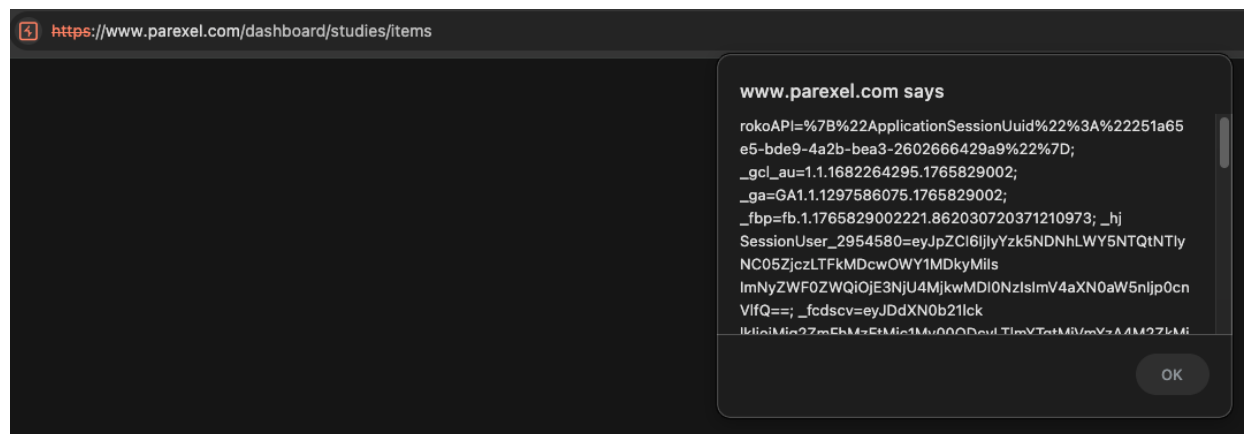


Figure 15 – Naming a 'Case Study' item an XSS payload

The XSS payload was triggered by viewing the list of 'Case Study' items at www.parexel.com/dashboard/studies/items:



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2 – Lack of HTTP Header: Content Security Policy

Severity	Description	Impact	Recommendation
INFO	The application does not utilize a Content Security Policy (CSP) to reduce the risk associated with the exploitation of client-side attacks.	A missing or misconfigured CSP header weakens the application's defense-in-depth by allowing browsers to load and execute content without restriction, increasing the risk and potential impact of client-side attacks.	Review the OWASP Content Security Policy Cheat Sheet on how to implement a CSP header to reduce the risk of client-side attacks.
Category			Use Google's CSP Evaluator using the Sample Safe Policy as a baseline.
Security Misconfiguration			
			Reference(s) Google CSP Evaluator OWASP: Content Security Policy Cheat Sheet

Details

The server employed a 'Content-Security-Policy-Report-Only' header, which only monitors CSP violations instead of preventing them.

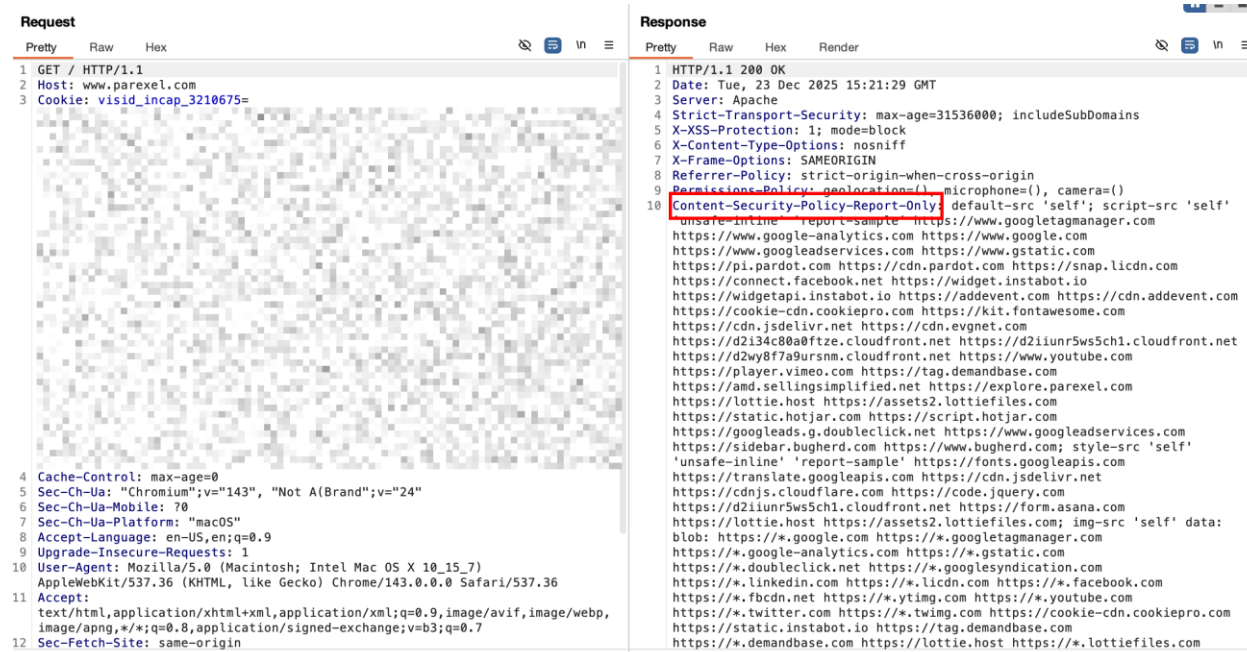


Figure 18 – 'Content-Security-Policy-Report-Only' response header

3 – Concurrent Logins Permitted

Severity	Description	Impact	Recommendation
INFO	The application allows multiple concurrent logins for the same user account.	Users will not be aware if their account credentials are compromised when an attacker accesses the account.	Allow the user to have only one concurrent connection open to the application at any time.
Category	Insecure Design		Notify the user that an access attempt has occurred if more than one concurrent connection happens.
			Display a greeting when the user successfully authenticates that shows the date and time, and the IP address used to authenticate last.
			Reference(s) OWASP: Session Management Cheat Sheet

Details

The application allowed multiple concurrent logins for the same user account.

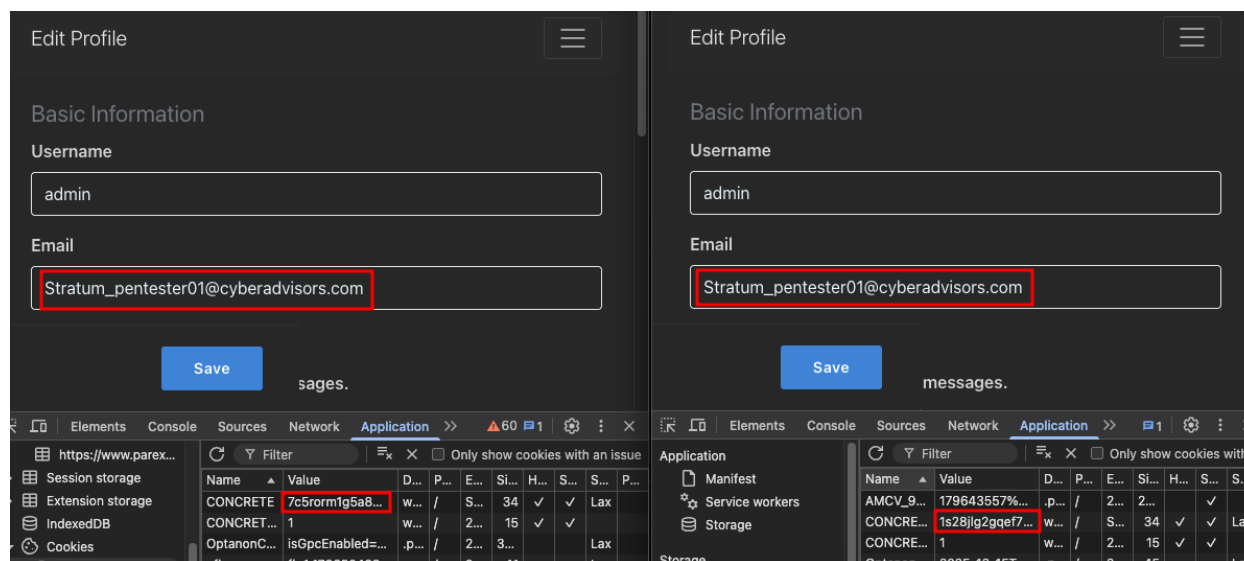


Figure 19 – The 'stratum_pentester01@cyberadvisors.com' account was accessed using 2 different session cookies

Appendix A: Application Security Assessment Methodology

Application Security Assessment

The following is a high-level overview of the process Stratum uses to assess security controls and identify flaws that may expose the business and its customers to risk. Stratum employs a combination of automated and manual testing techniques tailored to the application's risk profile and technology stack.

Broken Access Control	<p>Identify access controls to ensure that only legitimate privileged users' access can access data or functionality.</p> <p>Identify unauthorized access to resources from anonymous and authenticated user roles.</p>
Cryptographic Failures	<p>Ensure up-to-date and strong standard algorithms, protocols, and keys are in place.</p> <p>Ensure all data is encrypted in transit with secure protocols such as TLS with forward secrecy ciphers ordered properly.</p>
Injection	<p>Identify susceptibility to cross-site scripting (XSS), SQL Injection (SQLi), and other injection vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Identify input validation issues associated with HTTP methods and headers, URL redirection, and file upload functionalities.</p>
Insecure Design	<p>Ensure TLS certificates are properly configured.</p> <p>Ensure proper upload restrictions are in place for dangerous file types.</p> <p>Ensure tenants are properly segmented.</p> <p>Ensure client-side application technologies use reasonable cross-domain configurations.</p>
Security Misconfiguration	<p>Identify unnecessary default configurations for ports, accounts, services, or privileges.</p> <p>Identify error handling or code comments that are overly informative leaking sensitive information.</p> <p>Identify missing or misconfigured security headers or directives.</p>
Vulnerable and Outdated Components	<p>Identify unsupported or unpatched/outdated web servers, application server frameworks, associated modules or plugins, databases, and related services.</p>
Identification and Authentication Failures	<p>Evaluate application password caching directives issued to browsers.</p> <p>Ensure authentication is required to access sensitive business functionality.</p> <p>Ensure user account information cannot be deduced via error messages or brute-force guessing.</p> <p>Ensure user sessions are established and terminated properly.</p> <p>Ensure session identifiers are not predictable, transmitted securely, and employ security attributes.</p>
Software and Data Integrity Failures	<p>Ensure that unsigned or unencrypted serialized data is not sent to untrusted clients without an integrity check.</p>
Security Logging and Monitoring Failures	<p>Identify logs that are stored locally.</p> <p>Ensure log data is encoded correctly to prevent injections or attacks on the logging or monitoring systems.</p>
Server-Side Request Forgery	<p>Ensure all client-supplied input is sanitized and validated.</p>

Tools

The tools used during an assessment include but are not limited to the following:

Burp Suite	SQLmap
Nmap	CyberChef
hashcat	Custom written Python scripts

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

Category

Stratum organizes each finding into a category that follows the OWASP Top 10.

Finding

Findings represent vulnerabilities or conditions that threat agents may exploit or use to cause the organization risk. Stratum expresses a finding by providing a clearer and complete picture of the vulnerability, including details and compensating controls or conditions. Many times, a finding may contain several vulnerabilities.

Impact

An impact is a bad outcome if a threat agent successfully exploits a vulnerability.

Severity

The severity is the cumulative measurement of exposure to the risk represented by the finding. The severity rating considers the vulnerability, potential impact or negative outcome, access requirements, and user interaction required for successful exploitation. These definitions are the baseline for judging risk, but findings may be adjusted due to certain factors.

CRITICAL – The exposure may be exploited, resulting in system compromise, authentication bypass, or unauthorized data access by users without privileges or existing user access. These findings are typically exploitable without authentication and should be addressed immediately.

HIGH – The exposure may be exploited, resulting in system compromise, privilege escalation, or unauthorized data access by users with access to the system. These findings are exploitable by existing users and should be addressed as soon as possible.

MEDIUM – The exposure may be exploited, resulting in outcomes such as system compromise or privilege escalation where some user interaction is required for the attack to be successful. These findings should be remediated once all critical and high-severity findings are remediated.

LOW – The exposure may provide information or access, which, while not exposing the system to current risk, may expose the system to future risks. These findings should be addressed but can be remediated over a longer timeline.

INFO – Controls that could be implemented to enhance the application's security posture further or not based on business decisions. Stratum recommends a wide range of preventative controls to help stop vulnerabilities before they can be exploited. Implementing these controls with a robust SDLC program and regular reviews can greatly increase an application's security posture.

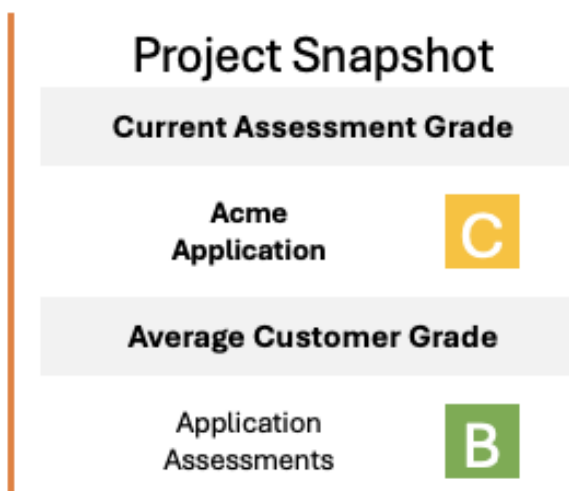
Appendix C: Stratum Assessment Grading

Stratum scores assessments based on letter grades, which correspond to a percentage bracket. The highest assessment score that can be earned is an A and decreases based on the number of findings for each severity (critical, high, medium, and low).

The customer average is based on similar assessment types completed by Stratum within the preceding year. The results from each assessment are scored based on the number of findings and their relative severity. To calculate the average, Stratum divides the total sum of observations by the total number of observations. This customer average is also known as the mean of observations.

Severity	Weighted Score
Critical	15
High	5
Medium	3
Low	1

Grade	
A	Score is 90 or above
B	Score is between 80 and 90
C	Score is between 70 and 80
D	Score is between 60 and 70
F	Score is 59 or less





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Stratum Security is an information security services firm headquartered in the Washington DC Metro area. Founded in 2005, Stratum Security provides services to clients worldwide. Our list of successful engagements includes large multi-national enterprises to small start-ups in a wide array of industries including finance, insurance, retail, hospitality, education, health care, government, technology, energy, and telecommunications.

Core Service Offerings

Application Security	Network Security	Cloud Security
Application Security Penetration Testing (Web, Mobile, Client)	Network Penetration Testing	Microsoft 365 Security Review
Source Code Review	Red Teaming	Amazon Web Services Security Review
Developer Training	Breach Readiness Assessments	Azure Security Review
Managed AppSec Testing	Blue Team Review	Google Cloud Platform Security Review
Staff Augmentation	Wireless Security	