

Burp Suite for Pentester

Web Scanner & Crawler



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The Burp's Crawler

What is Crawler?

The term **web-crawler** or **web-spider** is the most common and is been used several times while testing a web application. So, what this crawler is??

Carrying with its name we can depict that a crawler **surveys a specific region** slowly and deeply and then drops down the output with a defined format.

So, is the Burp's Crawler the same thing??

According to port swigger "The crawl phase involves navigating around the application, following links, submitting forms, and logging in, to catalog the content of the application and the navigational paths within it."

In simpler words, we can say that the burp crawler programmatically moves within the entire web application, follows the redirecting URLs, logs inside the login portals, and then adds them all in a **tree-like structure** over in the Site Map view in the **Target tab.**

However, this crawler functions as similar to the "Dirb" or the "DirBuster" tools – the web content scanners, which brute-force the web-server to dump the visited, non-visited, and hidden URLs of the web application.

Earlier over in the previous versions of burp suite say "1.7", we got this crawler termed as "Spider". So why does this happen, what new features did the burp crawler carries that made the spider vanish off??

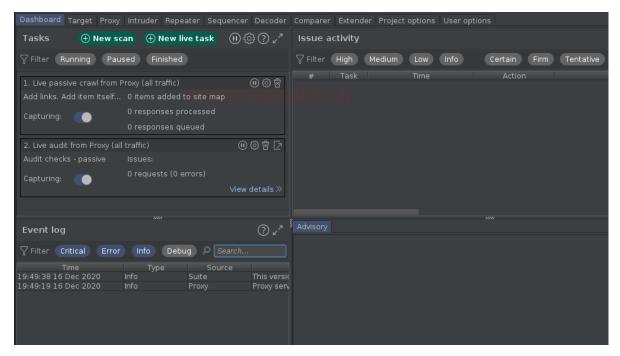
Let's dig it out!!

Crawl with default configurations!!

If you're familiar with the spider feature, then you might be aware, that, the spider holds up a specific tab within the burpsuite's panel. But with the enhancements, the burp's crawler comes pre-defined within the **dashboard section**. However, it thus helps us to monitor and control the burp's automated activities in a single place.

So, in order to initiate with the crawler, let's turn ON our burp suite and redirect to the Dashboard section there.



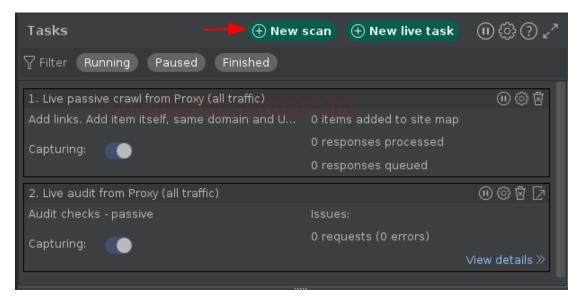


As soon as we land at the dashboard panel, we can see the number of subsections specified. Let's explore them in detail:

- 1. <u>Tasks –</u> The "Tasks" section carries the summary of all the running crawls and scans, whether they are user-defined or automated ones. Here, we can pause and resume the individual tasks, or all tasks together, and even we can view the detailed versions of a specific crawl or audit too.
- Event log The Event log feature generates all the events that the burp suite follows like if the
 proxy starts up the event will be generated for it, or a specific section is not working properly,
 then an event log with the will be generated.
- Issue Activity This section drops out the common vulnerabilities within the application that
 the burp suite scans up and further we can segregate them all by applying the defined filters
 according to their severity and destructiveness.
- 4. <u>Advisory –</u> This is one of the most important sections of the burp's dashboard as it demonstrates the selected vulnerability in the expanded form such by defining the payload with a Request & Response, mentioning the cause of its existence, defining the mitigation steps, and dropping the reference and the CVSS Scores for our review.

Thereby, to dig web-application we need to hit the "New Scan" button placed at the top of the Tasks section.





As soon as we do so, we'll be redirected to a new popped-up window stating "New Scan".

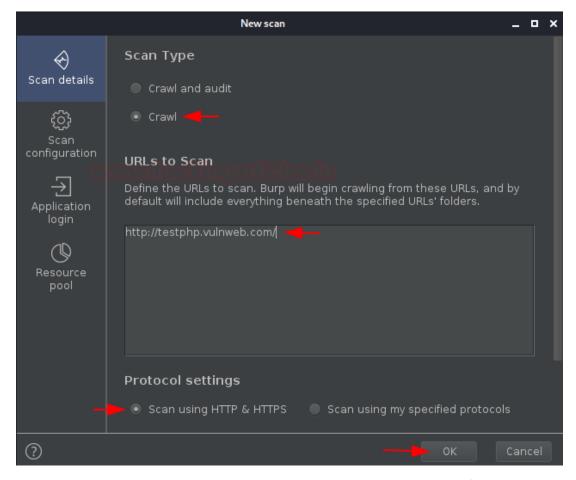
There we'll be welcomed with two options -

- Crawl & Audit
- Crawl

However, for this section, we'll make it to "Crawl" only. And the other one, we'll discuss later in this article.

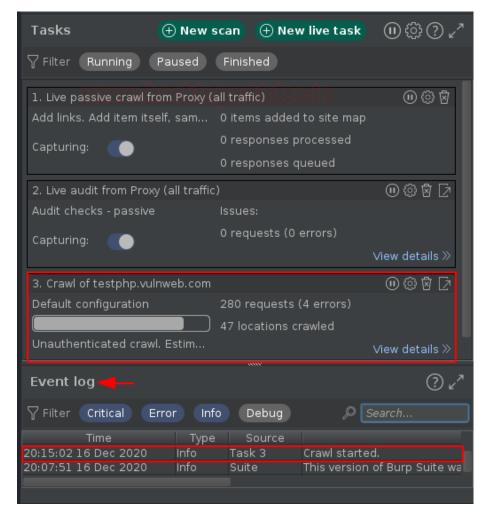
As we're heading with the default configurations thus we'll simply type the **testing URL** i.e. "http://testphp.vulnweb.com/" and will hit the **"OK"** button.





As we do so, the window will get disappeared and over in the dashboard we'll get our new task aligned as "Crawl of test.vulnweb.com", and in the event log, we can see that we got the event "Crawl started".

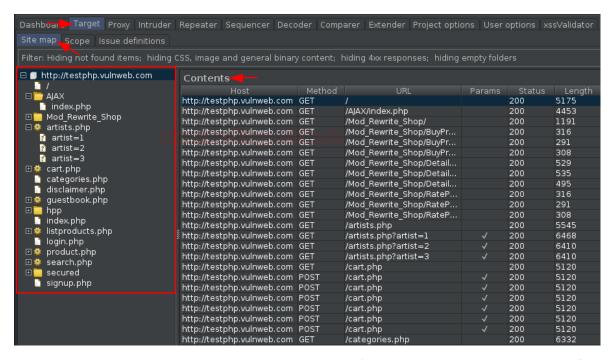




Within a few minutes, the crawling task will get finished up and we'll get the notification there. But where's the result??

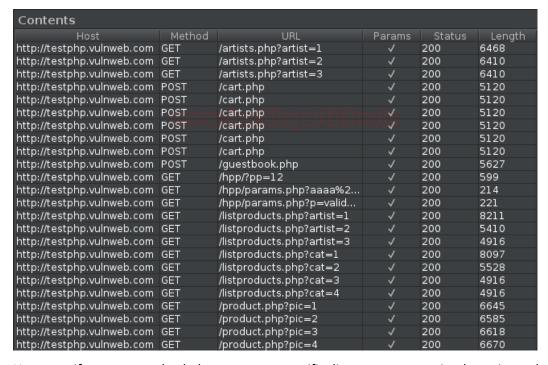
As defined earlier the crawler, dumps the result in a **tree-like format** in the **Site Map view** in the **Target tab,** let's move there.





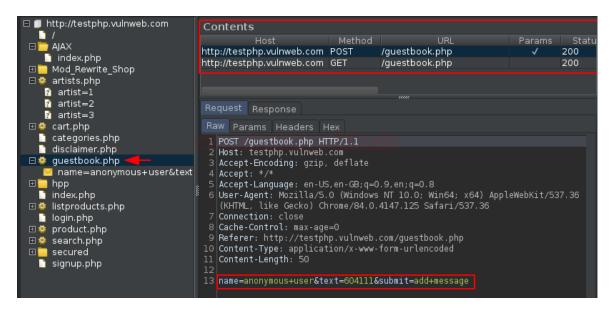
Great!! We got what we desire. Over in the right panel we're having about almost **every URL of the webpage**, along with that, it carries up the **HTTP method**s and a **parameter section** that defines which URL requires a Params value within it.

Several major vulnerabilities exist due to the un-sanitized input fields thereby with this dumped data we can simply **segregate the URLs that contain the Input values** which thus can be further tested on. And for this simply double click the **"Params"** field.



However, if we want to check the pages or a specific directory, we can simply navigate the left side and select our desired option there.





Customizing the Crawler

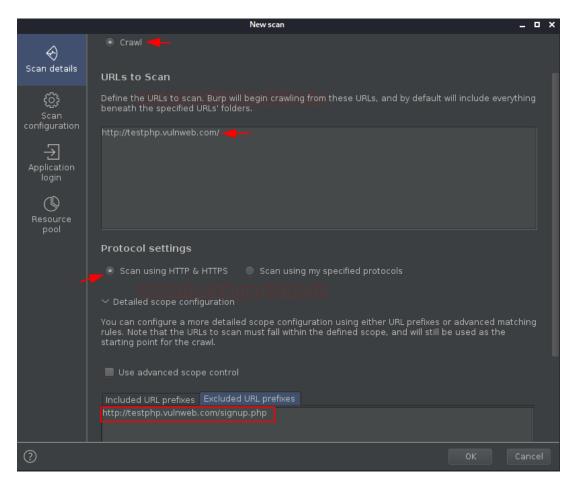
What, if some specific web pages are *Out of Scope*?? Or the website needs some *specific credentials* to surf the restricted web pages?

Therefore, in such cases, we need to configure our crawler, such that, it could work as we want it to. So, to do this, let's get back to the dashboard and select the "New Scan" option again. But for this time we won't hit "OK" after setting the URL.

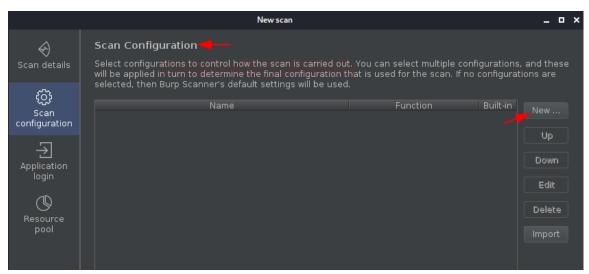
Configuring Out of Scope URL's

Below at the protocol setting, there is an option for the **Detailed Scope Configuration**, where we'll simply navigate to the **"Excluded URL prefixes"** and will **enter the out of Scope URL** i.e. http://testphp.vulnweb.com/signup.php





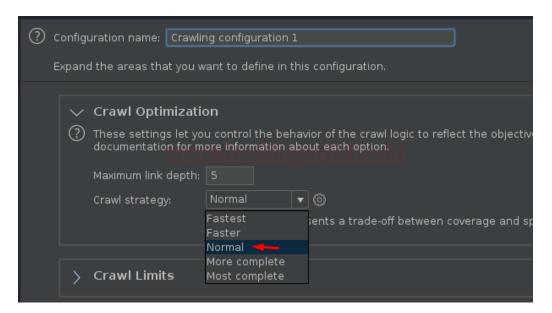
For further customization, we'll thus move to the **Scan Configuration** option. And there we'll hit the **"New"** button to set up a new crawler.



As soon as we do so, we'll thus get **another window open** with **the configuration options**. Let's keep the configuration name as the default, however, you can change it if you wish so.

Further, the Crawl optimization option segregates within the "Fastest to the Deepest", thereby we'll thus change it according to our requirement.

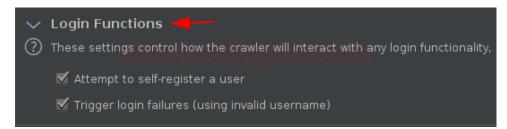




Crawl Limit is considered to be an important factor as it determines the time required and the depth to crawl an application. Thereby we'll set the **maximum crawl limit** to **50 minutes** and the **Maximum unique locations discovered** to **5000**.

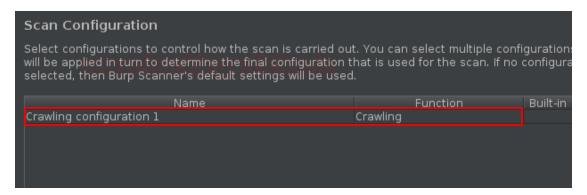


Some applications carry **user registration or login portals**, thus checking both the options will thus guide the burp's crawler to **self-register** with some random values if encounters up with a signup portal and even use wrong credentials at the login portals to determine the website's behavior.



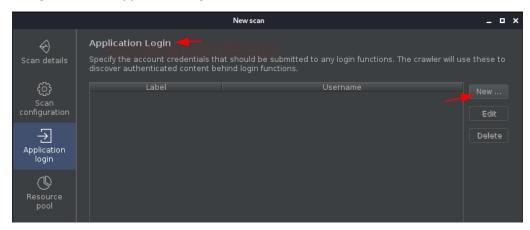
Now with all these configurations as soon as we hit the "Save" button we thus get our crawler listed at the New scan dashboard.



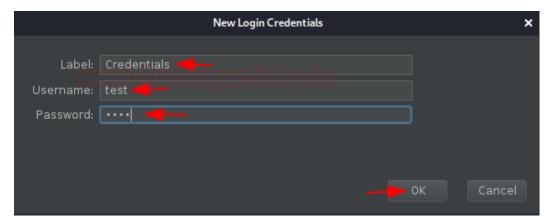


What, if the crawler encounters the restricted pages? Or an admin portal? Thereby, for such situations, let's feed up some default credentials so that the crawler can use them!!

Navigate to the "Application login" section and click on "New".



Over in the pop-up box, enter the desired credentials & hit the "OK" button.

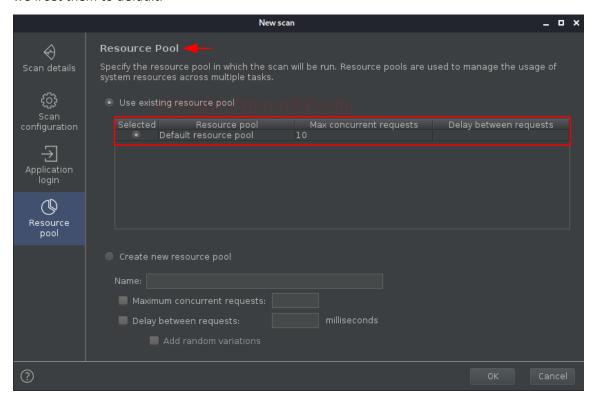


Along with all these things, we're having one more option within the "New Scan dashboard", i.e. "Resource Pool".

A resource pool is a section defined for the **concurrent requests** or in simpler terms, we can say about how many requests the crawler will send to the application in one go, and what would be the time gap between the two requests.

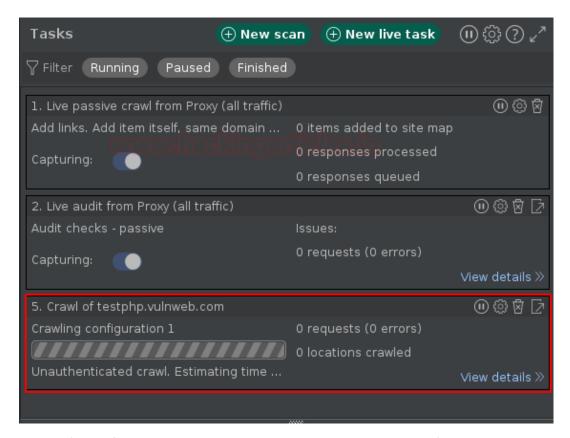


Therefore, if you're testing a fragile application that could get down with an excessive number of requests, thus then you can configure it accordingly, but as we're testing the demo application thereby we'll set them to default.

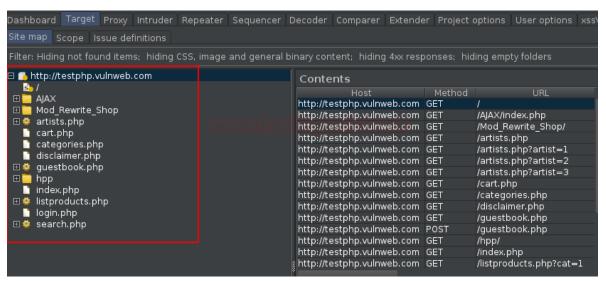


Now as we hit the "OK" button, our crawler will start which thus could be monitored at the dashboard.





Now, let's wait for it to get END!! As we navigate to the **Target tab** we'll thus get our output listed, and there we can notice that the **signup page is not mentioned**, which states that our configuration worked properly.



Vulnerability Scanning Over Burpsuite

Rather than being an incepting tool, the burp suite acts as a vulnerability scanner too. Thereby, it scans the applications with a name as "Audit". There are several vulnerability scanners over the web and the burp suite is one of them, as it is designed to be used by the security testers, and to fit in closely with



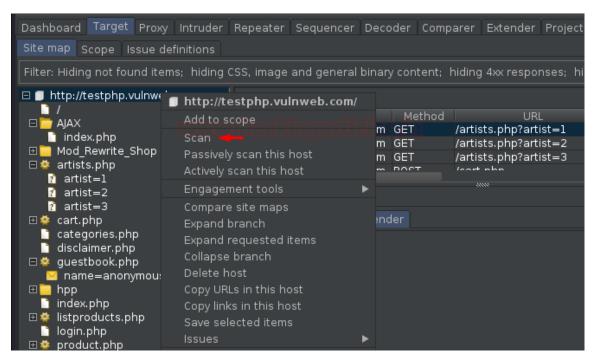
the existing techniques and methodologies for performing manual and semi-automated penetration tests of web applications.

So let's dig the "testphp.vulnweb" vulnerable application and check out what major vulnerabilities it carries within.

Auditing with the default configuration

As we've already crawled the application thus it would be simpler to audit it, however, **to launch a scanner all we need is a URL,** whether we get it by incepting the request, or through the target tab.

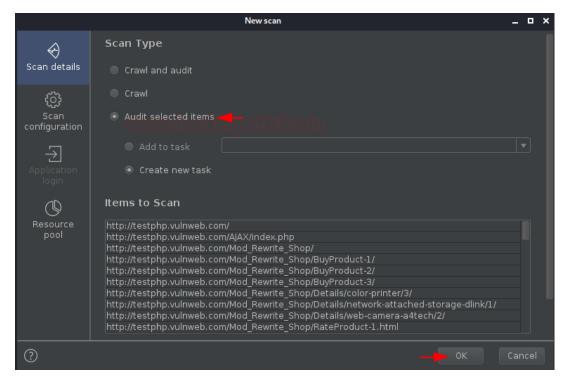
From the screenshot, you can perceive that we've sent the base URL by doing a right-click and opting the "Scan".



As soon as we do so, we'll thus be redirected back to the **New Scan's Dashboard.** But wait!! This time we're having one more option i.e. **"Audit Selected items"**, as soon as we select it we'll thus get all the URLs within the **Item to Scan** box (This happens because we've opted for the base request).

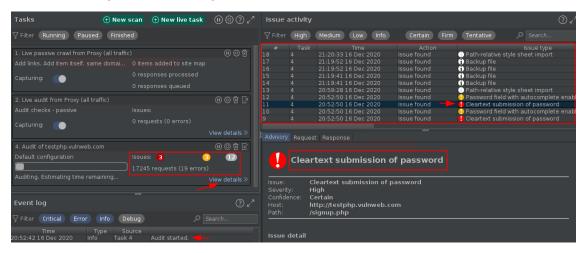
As we're dealing with the default auditing, we'll thus simply hit the "OK" button there.





And now I guess you know where we need to go. Yes!! The Dashboard tab.

This time not only the **Tasks section** and **the Event log** is changed but we can see the variations in the **Issue activity** and the **advisory** sections too.

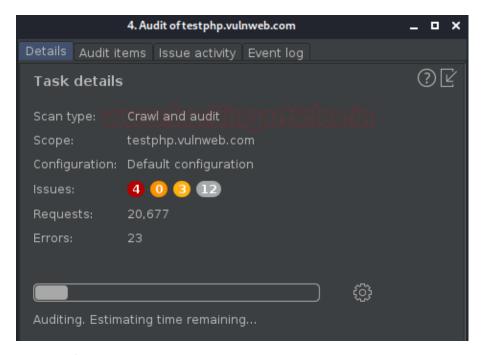


From the above image, we can see that within a few minutes our scanner has sent about 17000 requests to the web application and even dumped several vulnerabilities according to their severity level.

What if we want to see the detailed version??

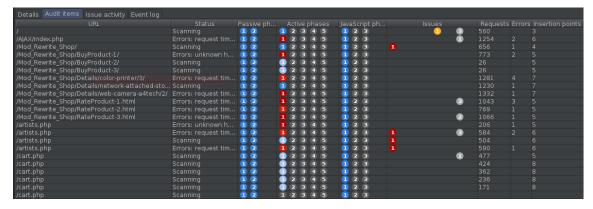
To do so, simply click on the **View Details section** placed at the bottom of the defined task, and will thus get redirected to a new window will all the refined details within it.



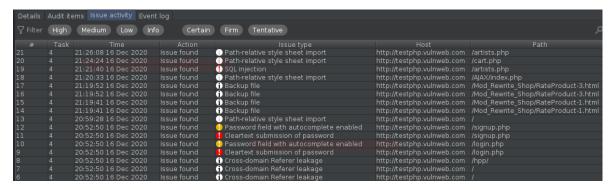


Cool!! Let's check the Audited Items.

And as we hit the Audit Items tab, we'll thus get landed up to the detailed version of the audited sections, where we'll get the statutes, Active & Passive phases, Requests per URLs, and many more.



Further, we can even check the in-detailed Issues that have been found in the web application.

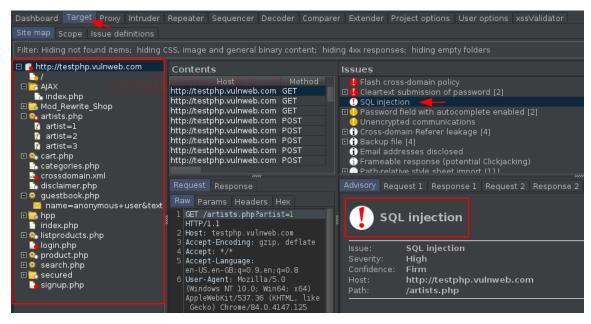


Although we can even filter them according to their defined severity levels.



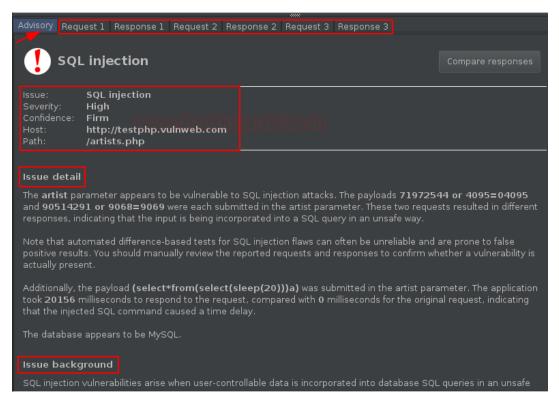


Not only these things, over in the **target tab**, something is waiting for us i.e. the Issues and the Advisory are also mentioned there, but if we look at the **defied tree** at the left panel we can see some colorful dots majorly **red and grey** indicating that these URL's are having **high and informative existing vulnerabilities** respectively.



However, from the below image, with the **Advisory option of SQL Injection**, there is a specific panel for **Request & Response**, let's check them and determine how the scanner confirms that there is an SQL Injection existing.





As we navigate to the 3rd Request, we got an SQL time-based query injected in the "artist=" field.

And as we **shared this request with the browser**, we got a **delay of about 20 seconds**, which confirms that the vulnerabilities dumped with the scanner are triggerable.

```
Advisory Request 1 Response 1 Request 2 Response 2 Request 3 Response 3

Raw Params Headers Hex

1 GET /artists.php?artist=(select*from(select(sleep(20)))a) HTTP/1.1

2 Host: testphp.vulnweb.com
3 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
4 Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en-US,en-GB;q=0.9,en;q=0.8

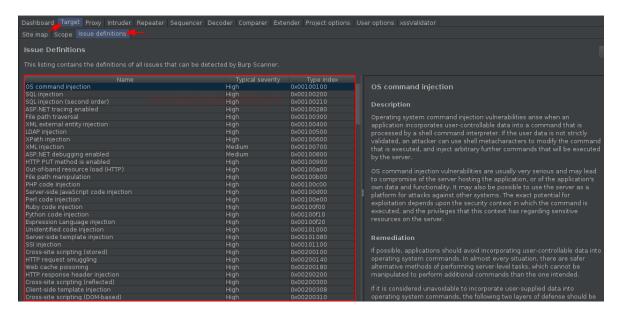
6 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Chrome/84.0.4147.125 Safari/537.36

7 Connection: close
Cache-Control: max-age=0
Referer: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/artists.php
```

You might be wondering like okay I got the vulnerability, but I'm not aware of it – what more could I get with or how could I chain it to make a crucial hit.

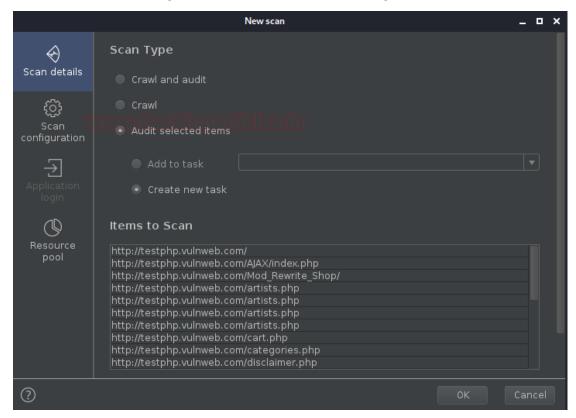
Therefore, to solve this issue, we got an Issue definition section, where we can simply go through with the defined or captured vulnerability.





Defining Audit Configurations

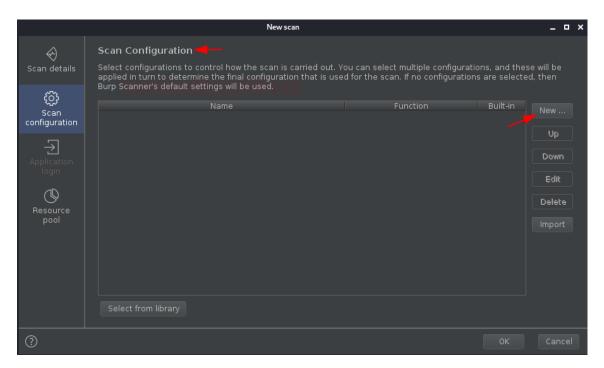
Similar to the Crawling option, we can simply configure this Audit too, by getting back to the "New Scan" dashboard with a right-click on the defined URL & hitting Scan.



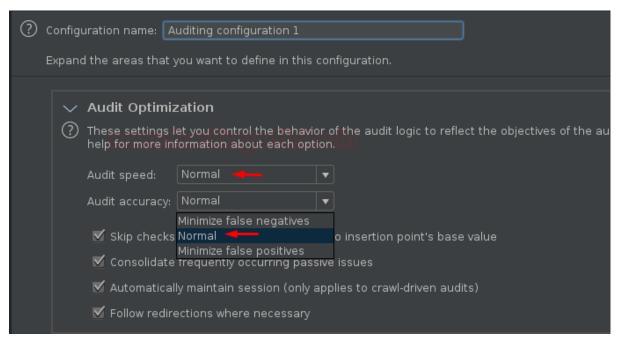
Here, in the above image, if we scroll down, we'll thus get the same option to set the **out of Scope** URL as was in the Crawl section.

Now, moving further with the scan configurations, hit the "New" button as we did earlier.





Setting the configuration name to default and manipulating the audit accuracy to normal, you can define it according to your need.

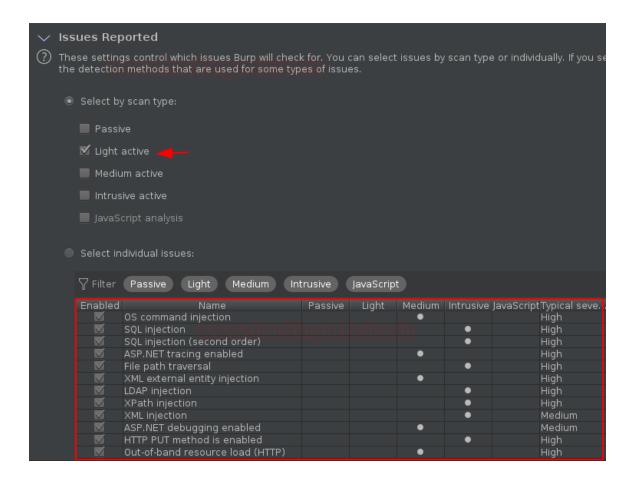


Now comes to the most important section to **define the Issues reported** by selecting the **"Scan Type".** Here to complete the scan faster, I'm simply taking the **Light active scan** option, but you can opt for any of the following –

- Passive These issues are detected simply by inspecting the application's behavior of requests and responses.
- Light active Here this detects issues by making a small number of benign additional requests.

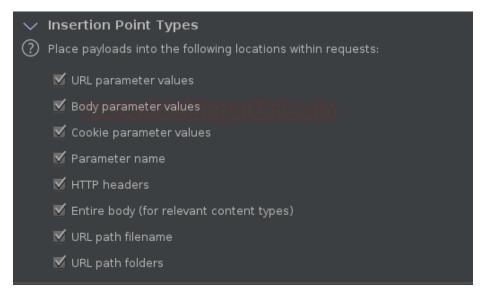


- **Medium active** These are issues that can be detected by making requests that the application might reasonably view as malicious.
- Intrusive active These issues are detected by making requests that carry a higher risk of damaging the application or its data. For example, SQL injection.
- **JavaScript analysis** These are issues that can be detected by analyzing the JavaScript that the application executes on the client side.

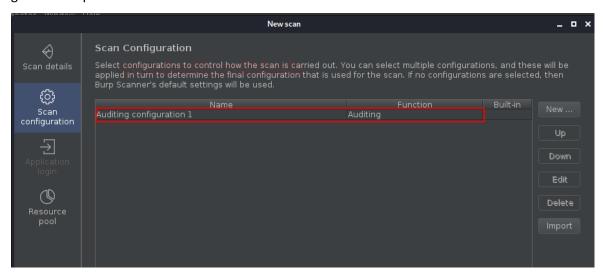


You might be aware of the concept of insertion points, as they are the most important sections to the vulnerability to get hit. They are locations within the requests where the payloads are injected. However, the burp's scanner even audits the insertion points too, and thus could also be manipulated in this phase.





Now as we're done with the configuration and we hit the "Save" button, our customized audit is thus gets listed up in the New Scan's dashboard.

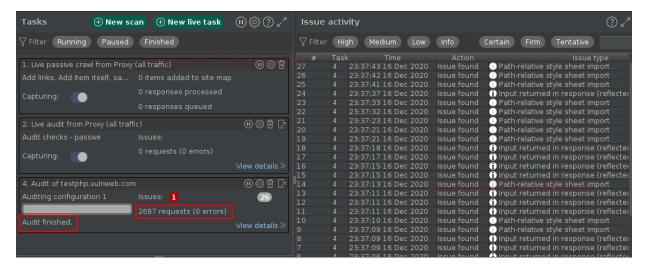


However, the option of Application login is disabled in this section as there is no specific need to log in to an application just for vulnerability testing.

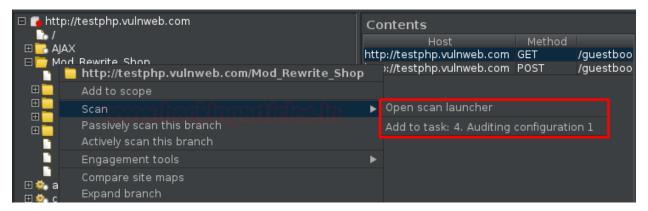
Therefore, now we know what's next, i.e. **hitting the OK button** and **moving to the dashboard**. And as soon as we reach there, we'll get the result according to our configuration with about **2700 requests**.

But this time, the major issue is only "1"



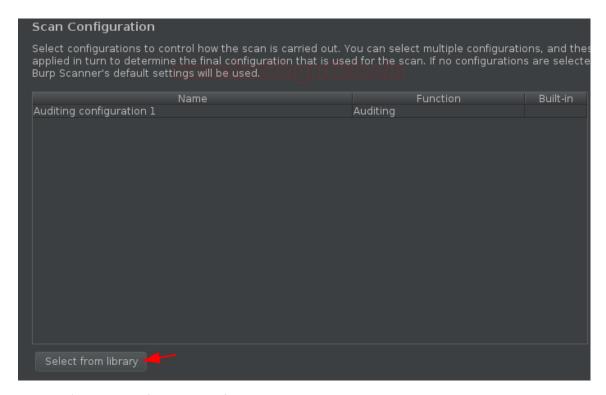


Now, if we move back to the Target tab and select any request from the left panel and do a right-click over there, we'll get **2 options rather than "1"**, i.e. the **last customization we configure** will thus get into this field and if we share any request within it, it will start auditing accordingly.



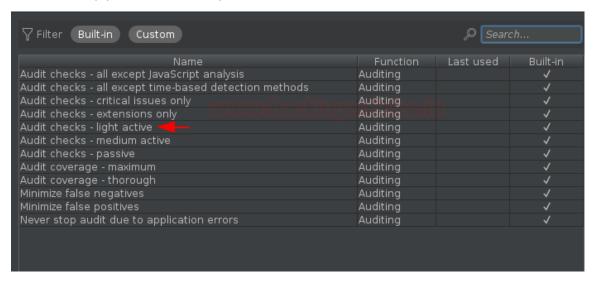
Thereby, we'll opt for the Open scan launcher again to check the other features too. As we head back, we're welcomed with our previous customized audit, but at the bottom, there is a "Select from library" option, click there and check what it offers.



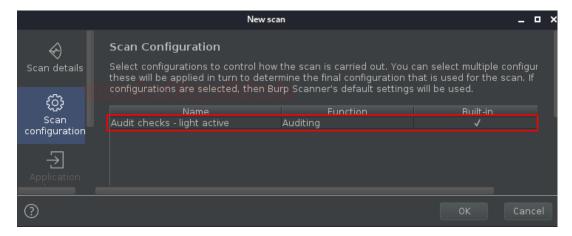


So, wasn't it a bit confusing to configure the audit by manipulating every option it has??

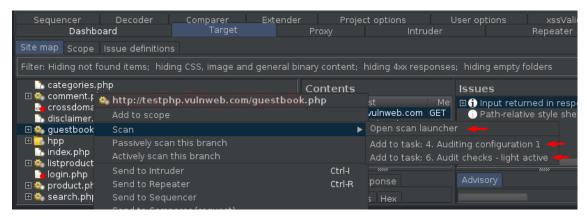
Thereby, to get rid of this, the burp suite offers one more great feature to opt for a **built-in Audit check**, where we simply need to select any and continue.



And as we select one, we'll thus get our option listed back into the New Scan dashboard.



Hit "OK" and check the result in the dashboard!! Further, now if we navigate to the Target tab and do a right-click on any request we'll thus get 3 options rather than 2.



Crawling & Scanning with an Advanced Scenario

Up till now, we've used the scanner and the crawler individually, but what if we want to do both things together. Thereby to solve this problem too, the burp suite creators give us an End-to-End scan opportunity, where our burp suite will –

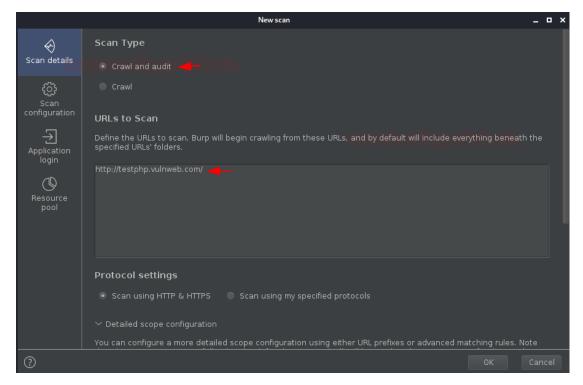
- 1. First Crawl the application and discover the contents and the functionalities within it.
- 2. Further, it will start auditing it for the vulnerabilities.

Thereby, to do all this, all it needs is a "URL".

Let's check how we can do it.

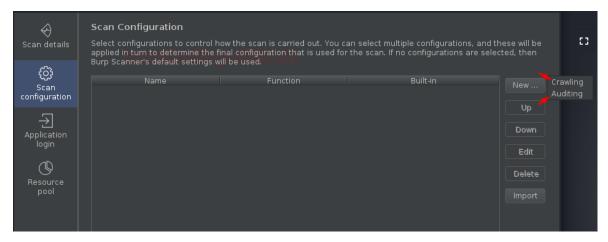
Back on the dashboard, select "New Scan", and now this time opt "Crawl & Audit", further mention the URL within it.





Great!! Now let's check the **Scan Configuration options**, as we move there and when we click on the **"New"** button, rather than redirecting us to the customization menu it asks us about where to go, for crawl optimization or audit configuration.

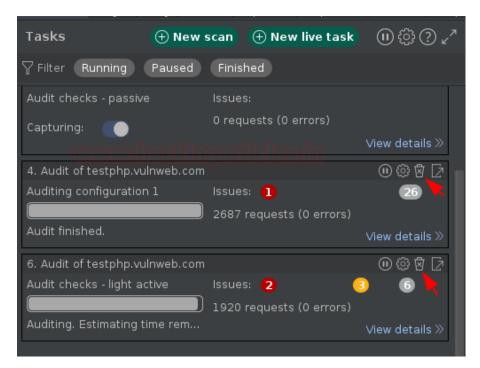
However, all the internal options are the same.



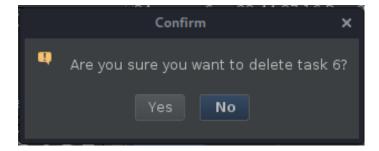
Deleting the Defined Tasks

Rather not only knowing how to start or configure the things up, but we should also be aware of how to end them all. Thereby let's click on the Dustbin icon defined up as a Task option, to delete our completed or incompleted tasks.





And as we do so, we got the confirmation pop-up as







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