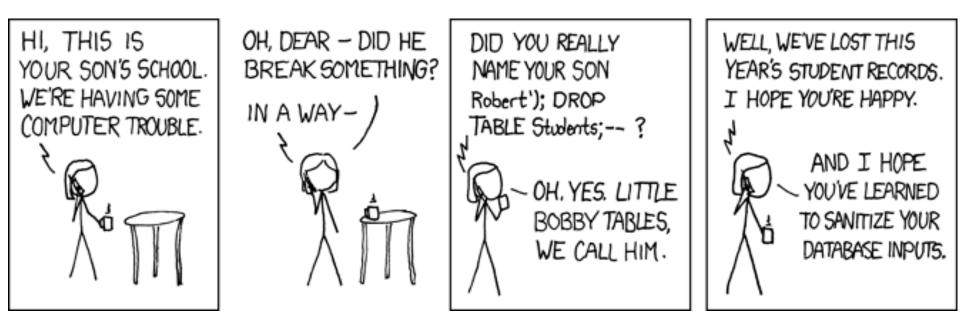
CS 55: Security and Privacy

SQL injection attacks



Demo on VM

Start Firefox browser

Go to: http://www.seedlabsqlinjection.com

- Log in as Alice
 - Username: alice
 - Password: seedalice
 - See Alice's info
- Go to Edit Profile (at top)
 - Change details
- Log in as admin
 - Username: admin
 - Password: seedadmin
 - See all employee data

You use databases every day, but may not think them about very much





The New York Times **I facebook** Virtually all non-trivial applications have a database component

Databases are a set of programs used to Create, Read, Update, or Delete (CRUD) data through operations called queries

Queries typically use SQL to carry out queries

What characteristics would you like in a database?

Database skills are in high demand

TOP TECH SKILLS

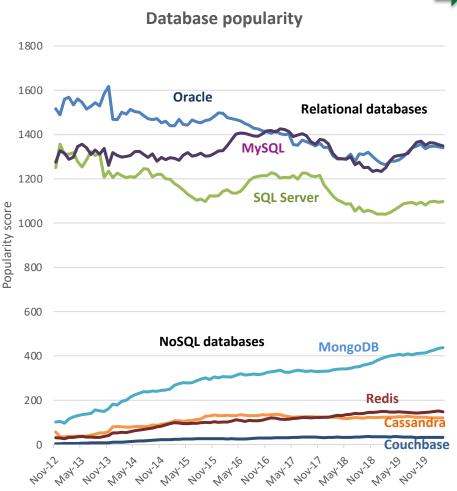
2019 Rank	Occupation	Change in Rank from 2018
1	SQL	-
2	Java	-
3	JavaScript	▲ 1
4	Project Management	▼1
5	Python	1
6	Linux	▼1
7	Oracle	-
8	Microsoft C#	-
9	Scrum	1
10	Quality Assurance and Control	▼1

Job placement firm Dice analyzed 6 million job postings for most frequently sought tech skills in 2020

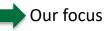
Employers are looking to hire people with database skills

There are number of popular DBMS's in use today; we will use MySQL

Popular Database Management Systems



Relational



- MySQL/MariaDB (open source, but owned by Oracle, MariaDB is fork)
- Oracle (king of the hill, but expensive)
- Microsoft SQL Server (also Access, easy to use compared with Oracle)

NoSQL

- Mongo (most popular NoSQL, has security concerns?)
- Redis (in-memory data structure store, used as a database, cache and message broker)
- Cassandra (hybrid key-value and column-oriented DB)
- Couchbase (key/value store)



1. SQL tutorial

2. SQL injection attacks

3. Countermeasures

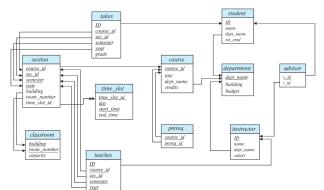
Big picture of relational database design



Relational Database Management System (RDBMS)

- Normally represented graphically as a cylinder
- Holds data in relations (tables)

ID	name	dept_name	salary
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000



Relations (tables)

- Each relation holds data about people, places, things or events (nouns)
- Tables consist of rows and columns
- Each row (tuple or relation instance) represents one person, place, thing, or event
- Each column (field or attribute) represents one aspect of a person, place, thing, or event (e.g., last name)
- A column (FK) can refer to a column (PK) in another table, creating a relationship between tables

Database schema

- Logical collection of tables and relationships
- Minimizes storing multiple copies of data
- Look up additional data in another table if needed using key

Silberschatz, Abraham, Henry F. Korth, and Shashank Sudarshan. Database system concepts. 7th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2019.

Relational database systems store data in relations (aka tables) made up of attributes

Relational da	atabas	se table	attribute	S	(
Instructors			× +			
relation	ID	name	dept_name	salary	(Metadata 🔪
Relation instances	22222 12121 32343 45565 98345 76766 10101 58583 83821 15151 22456	Einstein Wu El Said Katz Kim Crick Srinivasan Califieri Brandt Mozart	Physics Finance History Comp. Sci. Elec. Eng. Biology Comp. Sci. History Comp. Sci. Music	95000 90000 60000 75000 80000 72000 65000 62000 92000 40000		Courses Instructors
	33456 76543	Gold Singh	Physics Finance	87000 80000		Rooms

Data in a relational database

- Data stored in relations (tables)
- Relations are made up of relation instances (rows or tuples)
- College database
- Relation instances are made up of a fixed number of **attributes** (fields or columns) of fixed type
- Related relations are contained in a **schema** (aka database)
- Database may store multiple schemas

Silberschatz, Abraham, Henry F. Korth, and Shashank Sudarshan. Database system concepts. 7th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2019.

We will use the popular MySQL relational database management system (RDBMS)

Log in to MySQL

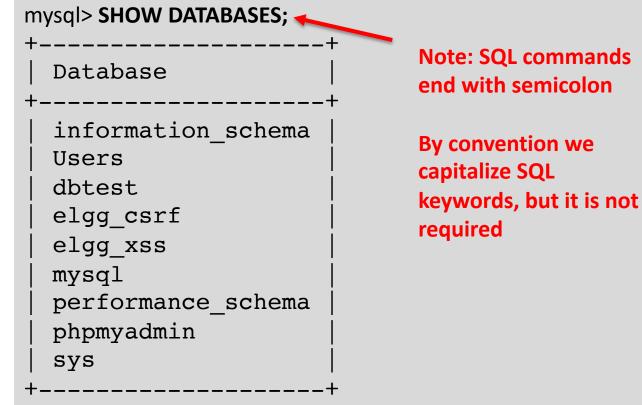
\$ mysql –uroot –pseedubuntu Welcome to the MySQL monitor. mysql>

> Most relational databases use Structured Query Language (aka S-Q-L, aka Sequel) to issue commands

If you use MySQL often, consider a tool such as MySQL Workbench

See databases "SHOW DATABASES;" create a new with "CREATE DATABASE <name>;"

See what databases already exist



9 rows in set (0.00 sec)9 rows in set (0.00 sec)

Create new database

mysql> CREATE DATABASE cs55;

Data is stored in tables; each table represents a collection of related entities

Tell MySQL to use our new database and create an Employees table

mysql> USE cs55; Database changed

);

mysql> CREATE TABLE `Employees` (`ID` int(11) NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT, `Name` varchar(30) NOT NULL, `EID` varchar(7) NOT NULL, `Password` varchar(60) DEFAULT NULL, `Salary` int(11) DEFAULT NULL,

`SSN` varchar(11) DEFAULT NULL, PRIMARY KEY (`ID`)

Query OK, 0 row affected (0.002 sec)

Create table named Employees

Add attributes (fields) about employees, give name and data type

Table will have one row (record) per employee

Auto_increment means give each entry a number one greater than the previous entry, used for Key attribute

NOT NULL means the attribute must have a value other than NULL

Database will look up employees by their primary key (ID here)

Use "describe " see the structure of a database table

See the table's structure with describe command

Field	Туре	Null	Key	Default	Extra
EID Password Salary	<pre>int(11) varchar(30) varchar(7) varchar(60) int(11) varchar(11)</pre>	NO NO YES YES YES	PRI	NULL NULL NULL NULL NULL NULL	auto_increment

mysql> describe Employees;

Show tables lists all tables in a database schema

See the tables in a database schema

```
mysql> show tables;
+----+
| Tables_in_cs55 |
+----+
| Employees |
| Restaurants |
| Users |
+----+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

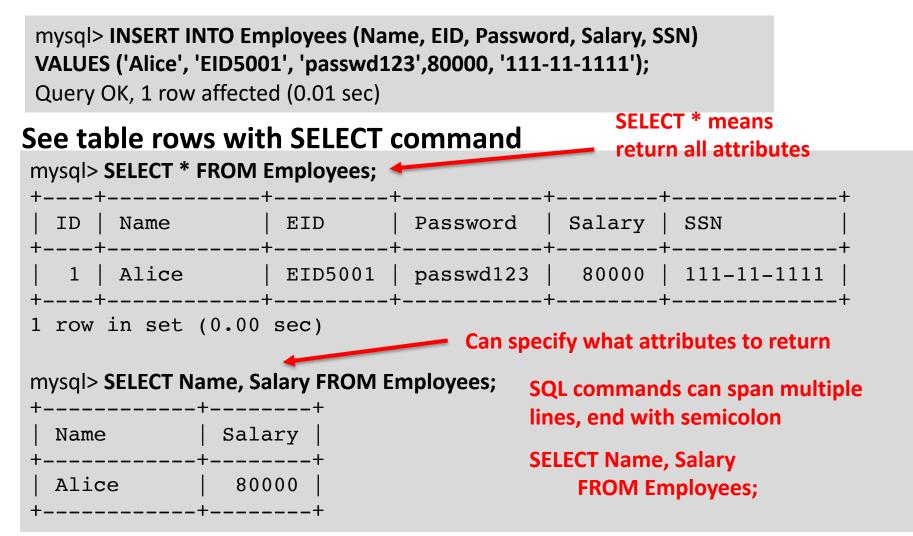
Structured Query Language (SQL) performs CRUD operations on data

CRUD



Use INSERT to add rows to the table; use SELECT to see table rows

Add employee named Alice into table with INSERT command



WHERE clauses allow us to limit which rows are returned

WHERE clause

WHERE clause is used to set conditions for several types of SQL statements including SELECT, UPDATE, or DELETE

mysql> SQL command WHERE predicate;

Affects rows for which the predicate in the WHERE clause is TRUE The predicate is a logical expression; multiple predicates can be combined using keywords AND and OR

WHERE clauses can use AND and OR

WHERE clause

Added some more employees before this command

mysql> SELECT * FROM Employees;

++	Name	+	+	+	
ID		EID	Password	Salary	SSN
++		+	+	+	+
	Alice	EID5001	passwd123	80000	111-11-1111
2	Bob	EID5002	passwd123	80000	222-22-2222
3	Charlie	EID5003	passwd123	85000	333-33-3333
	Denise	EID5004	passwd123	90000	444-44-4444

mysql> SELECT * FROM Employees WHERE Name = 'Alice' OR EID='EID5003';

ID	Name	EID	+ Password +	Salary	
1 3	Alice Charlie	EID5001 EID5003	passwd123 passwd123	80000 85000	111-11-1111 333-33-3333 +
	s in set ((•			,

If WHERE clause always evaluates to true, then all rows are affected

WHERE clause

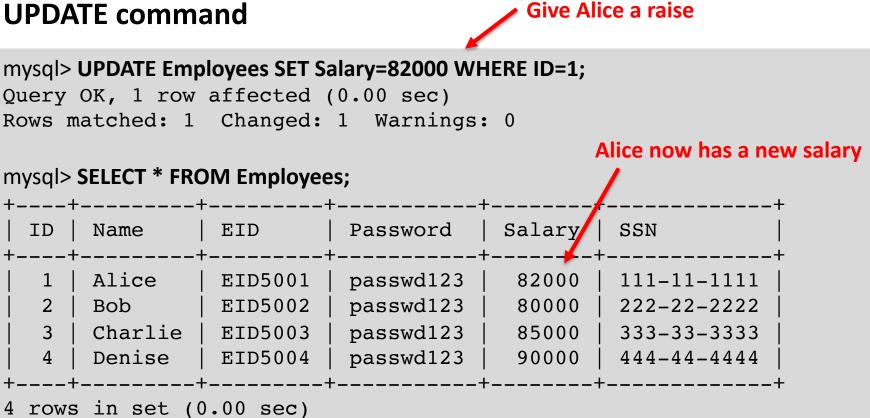
1 always equals 1, so true for all rows Returns all rows

mysql>	SELECT * FRO	OM Employee	es WHERE 1=1;	F	++
ID	Name	EID +	Password	Salary	SSN
1 2 3 4	Alice Bob Charlie Denise	EID5001 EID5002 EID5003 EID5004	passwd123 passwd123 passwd123 passwd123	80000 80000 85000 90000	111-11-1111 222-22-2222 333-33-3333 444-44-4444

Seems like an odd thing to point out, stand by...

UPDATE modified records, normally using WHERE clause

UPDATE command



SQL commands can have comments, MySQL supports three different types

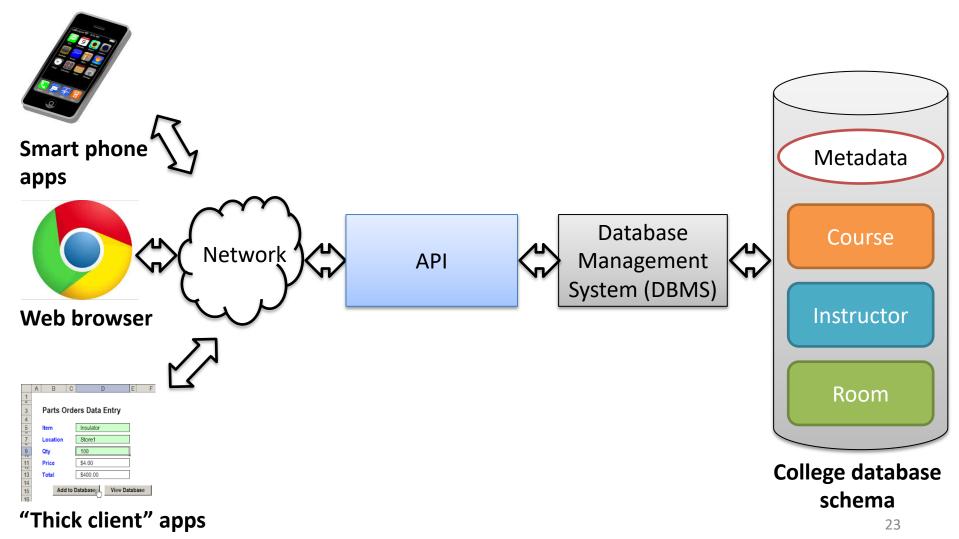
mysql> SELECT * FROM Employees; # comment to end of line mysql> SELECT * FROM Employees; -- comment to end of line mysql> SELECT * FROM /* In-line comment */ Employees;



- 1. SQL tutorial
- 2. SQL injection attacks
 - 3. Countermeasures

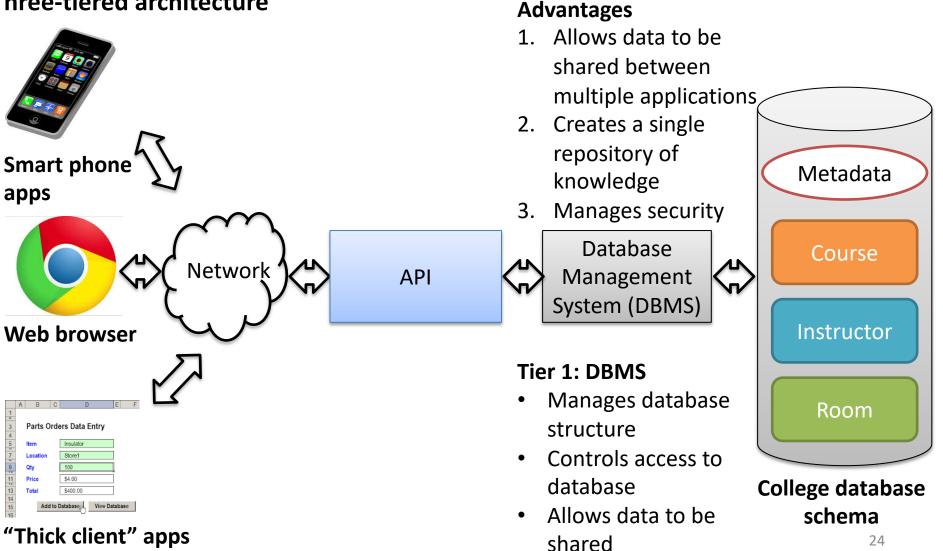
Today applications (and users) normally access a database through an API

Three-tiered architecture

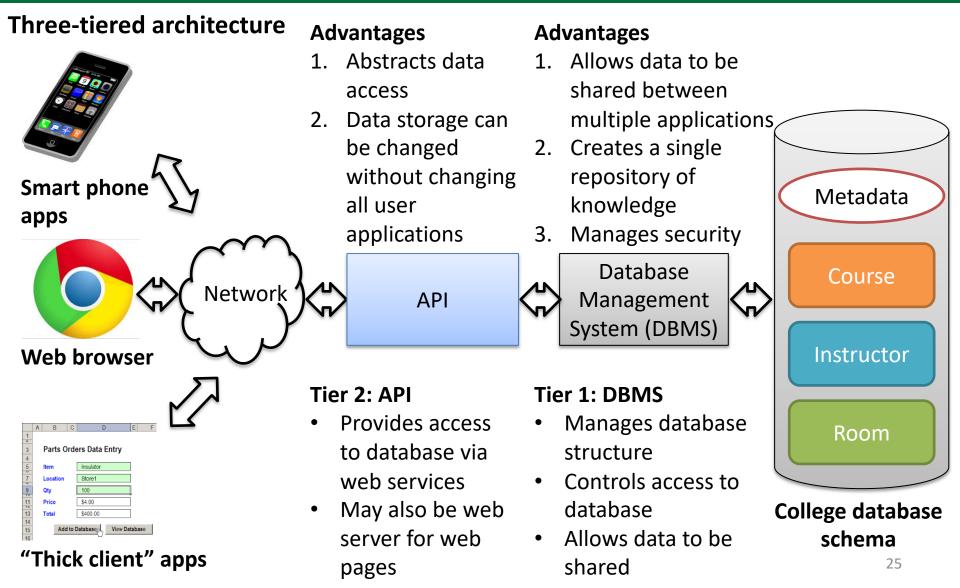


Today applications (and users) normally access a database through an API

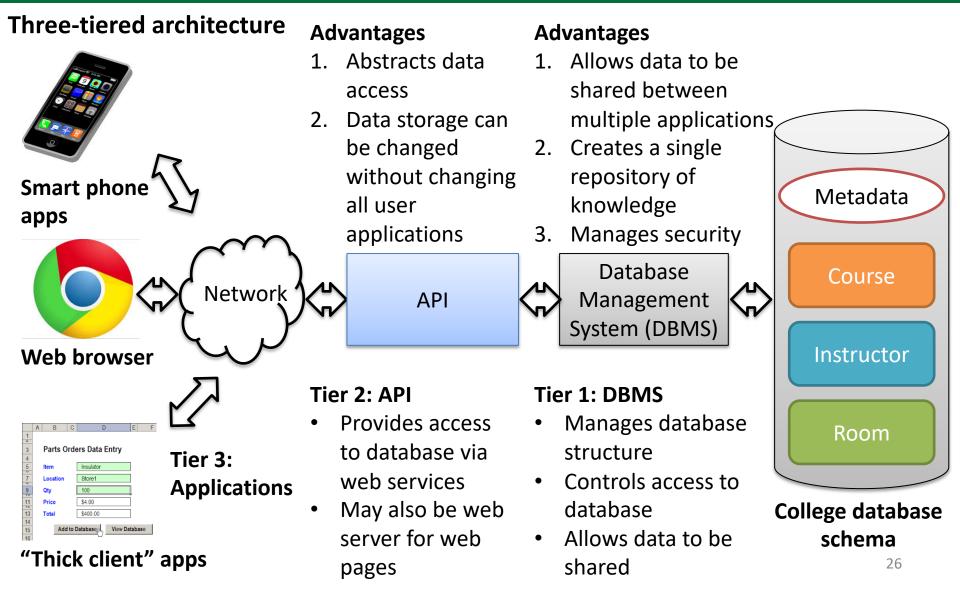
Three-tiered architecture



Today applications (and users) normally access a database through an API

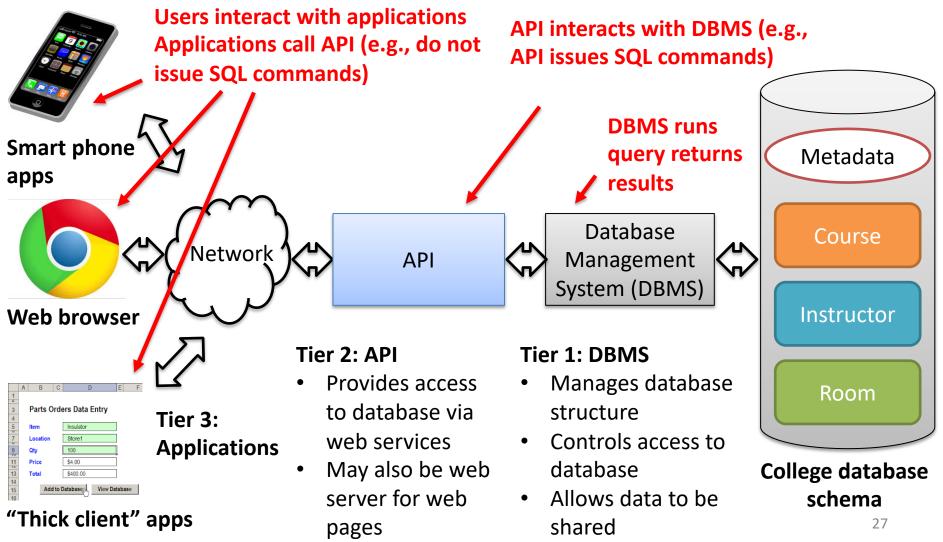


Today applications (and users) normally access a database through an API



Users do not typically issue their own SQL commands

Three-tiered architecture



Most applications will need to get a user's input at some point, often from a browser



Login screen where the user enters their username and password

Employee Profile Login

USERNAME	Username				
PASSWORD	Password				
Login					
	<u> </u>				

<form action="getdata.php" method="get"> Username: <input type="text" name="username">
 Password: <input type="text" name="password">
 <input type="submit" value="Login>

User input passed to web service API on the server after the Login button clicked

www.example.com/getdata.php?Username=Alice&Password=seedalice



USERNAME	Username				
PASSWORD	Password				
	Login				

Web Application Server



<?php

```
$name = $_GET["Username"];
$pwd = $_GET["Password"];
$sql = "SELECT id, name, salary
FROM credential
WHERE name='$name' AND
Password='$pwd'";
$result = $conn->query($sql);
?>
```

Clicking submit button calls PHP file on server named getdata.php and passes Username and Password parameters in query string

getdata.php issues SQL command to get data from the database using parameters passed in query string

<form action="getdata.php" method="get"> Username: <input type="text" name="username">
 Password: <input type="text" name="password">
 <input type="submit" value="Login>

The database fetches and returns the data requested by the user

www.example.com/getdata.php?Username=Alice&Password=seedalice



Password

Login

PASSWORD

Web Application Server

<?php

```
$name = $_GET["Username"];
$pwd = $_GET["Password"];
$sql = "SELECT id, name, salary
FROM credential
WHERE name='$name' AND
Password='$pwd'";
$result = $conn->query($sql);
?>
```

<form action="getdata.php" method="get"> Username: <input type="text" name="username">
 Password: <input type="text" name="password">
 <input type="submit" value="Login>

</form>
Du, Wenliang, Computer & Internet Security: A Hands-on Approach. 2019.



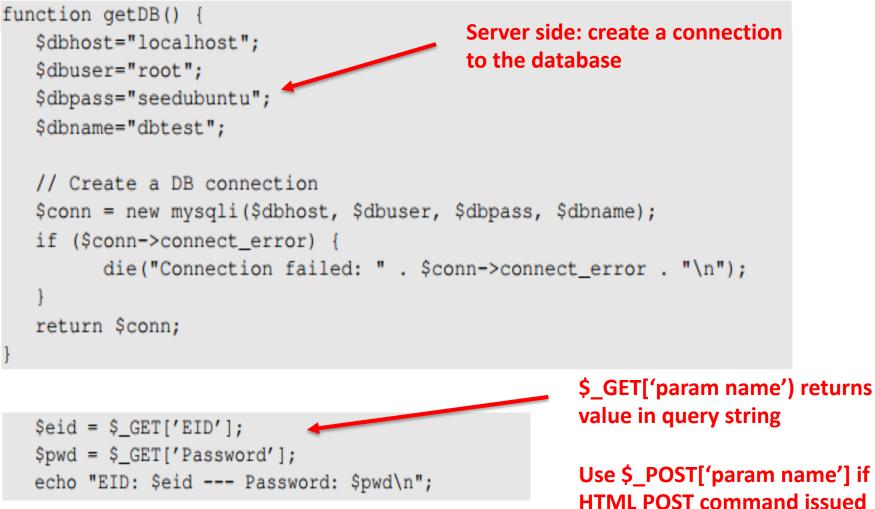
SELECT id, name, salary FROM credential WHERE name='Alice' AND Password='seedalice'

> Database is queried and returns requested data

Key point: the user never issues a SQL command directly to the database, the API does 30

PHP can connect to a MySQL database and parse user parameters passed by GET

Server side



Using user's input in SQL command creates an attack vector

Construct SQL command from user input, then send command to database for execution Get user's input from HTML GET

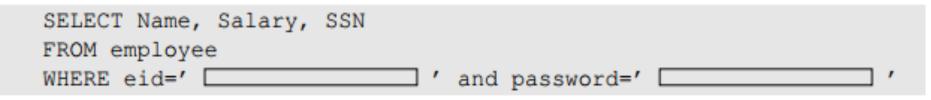


Du, Wenliang. Computer & Internet Security: A Hands-on Approach. 2019.

Do not trust user input

A malicious user could bypass user/password checks

The intention of the web app developer by the following is for the user to provide some data for the blank areas.



Assume that a user types "EID5002'#" in the eid entry. The SQL statement will become the following

```
SELECT Name, Salary, SSN

FROM employee

WHERE eid= 'EID5002' #' and password='xyz'

Everything after the # is treated as a comment, so the command is

SELECT Name, Salary, SSN

FROM employee

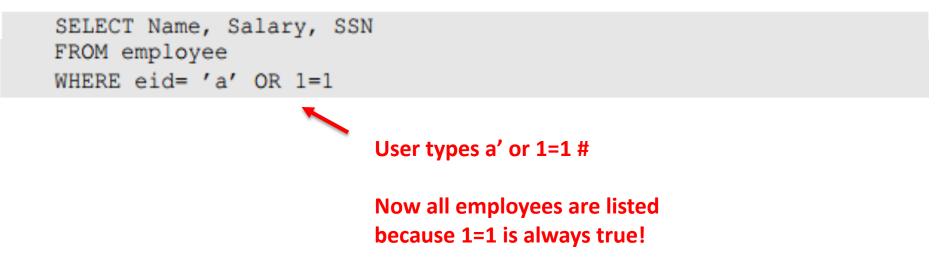
WHERE eid= 'EID5002' Get information without knowing

the password because password

commented out!
```

A malicious user could bypass user/password checks

- Let's see if a user can get all the records from the database assuming we don't know all the EID's in the database.
- We need to create a predicate for WHERE clause so that it is true for all records.



curl can launch attacks from the command line

Using cURL, we can send out a form from a command-line, instead of from a web page

Log into Admin's account without knowing Admin's password () \$ curl 'www.SeedLabSQLInjection.com/unsafe_home.php?username=alice&Password=seedalice'

Task 2.2: Using Command Line Tool

Special characters need to be UTF-8 encoded for curl to work:

| Character | UTF-8 |
|-----------|-------|
| ľ | %27 |
| # | %23 |
| space | %20 |

\$curl 'http: //www.seedlabsqlinjection.com/unsafe

Du, Wenliang. Computer & Internet Security: A Hands-on Approach. 2019.

Sometimes an adversary can change the contents of the database

If the statement is UPDATE or INSERT, we will have chance to change the database

Password change form asks for EID, old password, new password

When Submit button clicked, an HTTP POST sent to serverside script changepasswd.php, which uses an UPDATE statement to change the user's password

Note: adversary usually doesn't know what SQL looks like on server, has to guess

| EID | EID50000 |
|--------------|----------|
| Old Password | paswd123 |
| New Password | paswd456 |

```
/* changepasswd.php */
                                  Get user's input
<?php
                                  from HTTP POST
    $eid = $POST['EID'];
    $oldpwd = $ POST['OldPassword'];
    $newpwd = $_POST['NewPassword'];
    $conn = new mysqli("localhost:,"root","pwd","db");
    $sql = "UPDATE Employees
           SET password='$newpwd'
           WHERE eid='$eid' and password='$oldpwd'";
    $result = $conn->query($sql),
    $conn->close();
                              Use user's input in SQL
?>
                              UPDATE command
```

Alice wants to give herself a raise

Password change web form

| EID | EID50000 |
|--------------|----------|
| Old Password | paswd123 |
| New Password | paswd456 |

SQL command

UPDATE Employees SET password='\$newpwd' WHERE eid='\$eid' AND password='\$oldpwd'

SQL statement sets two attributes: password and salary

UPDATE Employees SET password='paswd456' WHERE eid='EID5000' AND password='paswd123'

Alice wants to give herself a raise

Password change web form

| EID | EID50000 |
|--------------|--|
| Old Password | paswd123 |
| New Password | paswd456 <mark>', salary=100000 #</mark> |

SQL command

UPDATE Employees SET password='\$newpwd' WHERE eid='\$eid' AND password='\$oldpwd'

SQL statement sets two attributes: password and salary

UPDATE Employees SET password='paswd456', salary=100000 #' WHERE eid='EID5000' AND password='paswd123'

Alice doesn't like Bob...

Password change web form

| EID | EID50001 [′] # |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Old Password | anything |
| New Password | paswd456 <mark>′, salary=0 #</mark> |

SQL command

UPDATE Employees SET password='\$newpwd' WHERE eid='\$eid' AND password='\$oldpwd'

SQL statement changes Bob's password and sets salary to zero

UPDATE Employees SET password='paswd456', salary=0 #' WHERE eid='EID5001' # AND password='anything'

Assume Alice knows Bob's EmployeeID but does not know Bob's password

Sometimes an adversary can execute multiple commands

Login web form

EID

Password

a'; DROP DATABASE db; # anything

SQL command

SELECT Name, Salary, SSN FROM Employees WHERE eid='\$eid'

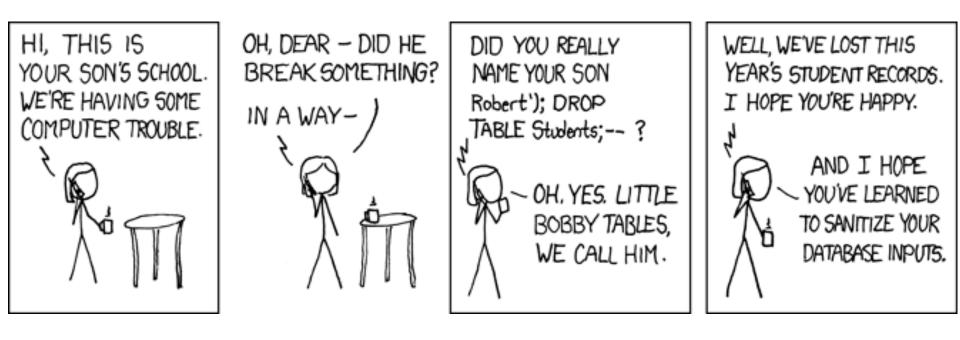
SQL statement becomes

SELECT Name, Salary, SSN FROM Employees WHERE eid='a'; DROP DATABASE db; #'

> Semicolon ends statements then second DROP DATABASE command follows

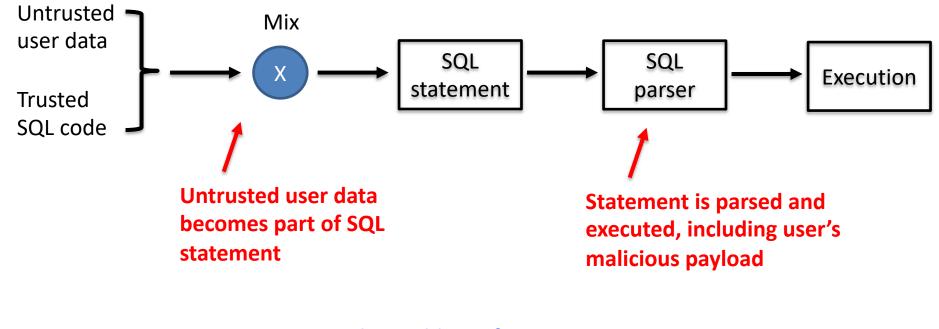
Note: does not work against MySQL because mysqli does not allow multiple queries

Now we know why this is funny



The fundamental problem is mixing untrustworthy user data and code

Simplified SQL execution flow



The problem of mixing user data and code is not limited to just SQL!



- 1. SQL tutorial
- 2. SQL injection attacks



Approach 1: filter out dangerous data that might be interpreted as code

Encode special characters tells parser to treat the encoded character as data and not as code

Before encoding: aaa' OR 1=1 # After encoding: aaa\' OR 1=1 #

Use MySQL real_escape_string to encode user data

```
/* getdata_encoding.php */
<?php
$conn = new mysqli("localhost", "root", "seedubuntu", "dbtest");
$eid = $mysqli->real_escape_string($_GET['EID']);
$pwd = $mysqli->real_escape_string($_GET['Password'];
$sql = "SELECT Name, Salary, SSN Not recommended
FROM employee Still mixes code and data
WHERE eid= '$eid' and password='$pwd'";
```

Approach 2: use prepared statements to separate code and data

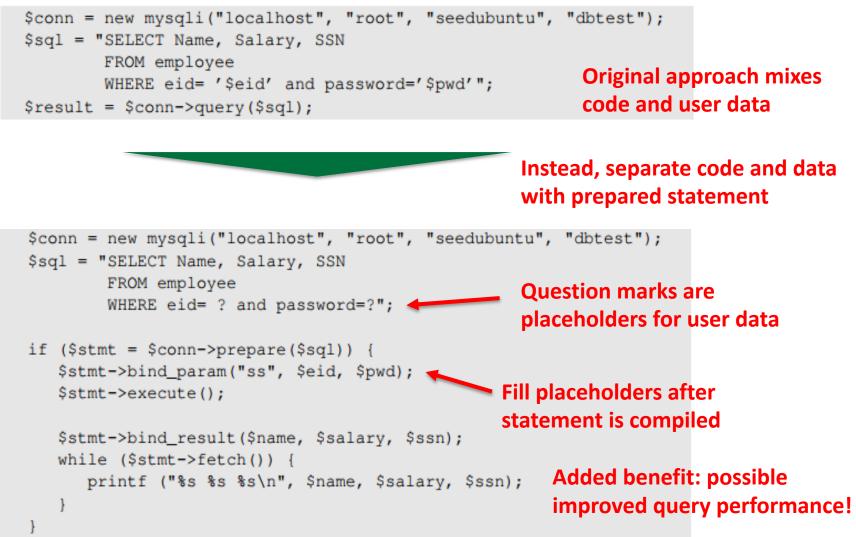
High-level overview of SQL execution process

UPDATE Users SET UserName = ? AND Password = ?

| Parse/Compile/
Optimize | Cache | Replace
placeholders | Execute |
|--|---|---|--|
| Parse | Cache | Replace placeholders | Execute |
| Check syntaxCheck table and columns exist | Store optimized
query plan in
cache | | Query is executedData is returnedMalicious command |
| Compile Convert query to machine code | If command
submitted
again, skip prior
steps (already
done) | Have placeholders
for some values But, format of
command is set now Placeholders filled | are stored in table as text, not executed |
| Optimize | , | with literal values | |
| Choose optimal
execution plan | | Place holder data
doesn't change
command format | 46 |

Adapted from: http://javabypatel.blogspot.com/2015/09/how-prepared-statement-in-java-prevents-sql-injection.html

Approach 2: use prepared statements to separate code and data

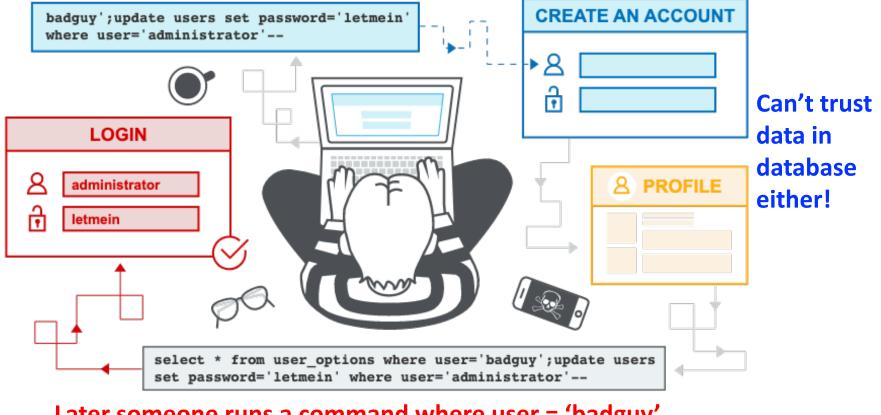


Even if you use prepared statements, be wary of data in your database!

Second-order attack:

User enters data with SQL embedded

Prepared statement does not run this code, data is stored in table

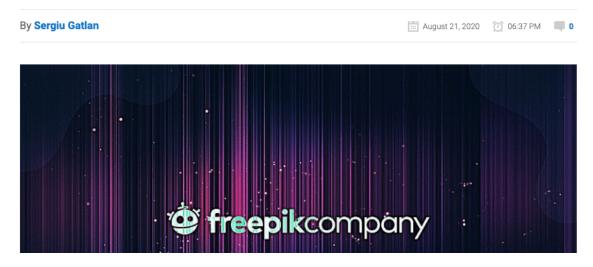


Later someone runs a command where user = 'badguy' Command executes; here resets admin password

SQL injection attacks are still being found!

August 2020

Freepik data breach: Hackers stole 8.3M records via SQL injection



8.3M usernames and passwords stolen via SQL injection attack

SQL injection attacks have been around for a long time

We should know better!