

# Web Application Pentesting



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# Command Injection - Filters

# Sanitizing Input

- Replace or Ban arguments with “;”
- Other shell escapes available e.g.
  - &&
  - |
  - ...

# PHP API for Escaping

## escapeshellarg

(PHP 4 >= 4.0.3, PHP 5)

escapeshellarg — Escape a string to be used as a shell argument

### Description

```
string escapeshellarg ( string $arg )
```

**escapeshellarg()** adds single quotes around a string and quotes/escapes any existing single quotes allowing you to pass a string directly to a shell function and having it be treated as a single safe argument. This function should be used to escape individual arguments to shell functions coming from user input. The shell functions include [exec\(\)](#), [system\(\)](#) and the [backtick operator](#).

<http://www.php.net/manual/en/function.escapeshellarg.php>

## escapeshellcmd

(PHP 4, PHP 5)

escapeshellcmd — Escape shell metacharacters

### Description

```
string escapeshellcmd ( string $command )
```

**escapeshellcmd()** escapes any characters in a string that might be used to trick a shell command into executing arbitrary commands. This function should be used to make sure that any data coming from user input is escaped before this data is passed to the [exec\(\)](#) or [system\(\)](#) functions, or to the [backtick operator](#).

Following characters are preceded by a backslash: `#&;`|*?~<>^()[]{}$ \, \x0A` and `\xFF`. `'` and `"` are escaped only if they are not paired. In Windows, all these characters plus `%` are replaced by a space instead.

<http://www.php.net/manual/en/function.escapeshellcmd.php>

# You have been warned!

Category: [Application \(Generic\)](#) > [PHP](#)

Vendors: [PHP Group](#)

## PHP escapeshellarg() and escapeshellcmd() Parsing Flaws May Let Remote Users Execute Arbitrary Commands

**SecurityTracker Alert ID:** 1010410

**SecurityTracker URL:** <http://securitytracker.com/id/1010410>

**CVE Reference:** [CAN-2004-0542](#) ([Links to External Site](#))

**Updated:** Jun 10 2004

**Original Entry Date:** Jun 7 2004

**Impact:** [Execution of arbitrary code via network](#), [User access via network](#)

**Fix Available:** Yes **Vendor Confirmed:** Yes

**Version(s):** 4.3.6 and prior versions

**Description:** An input validation vulnerability was reported in PHP in the escapeshellarg() and escapeshellcmd() functions. A remote user may be able to bypass the escape function to execute arbitrary commands. Windows-based systems are affected.

Daniel Fabian reported that on Windows platforms, the escapeshellarg() function contains a flaw. A remote user may be able to supply specially crafted input to execute commands on the target system. The specific impact depends on the script that implements the vulnerable function.

The report indicates that the escapeshellcmd() is also affected.

The vendor was reportedly notified on April 4, 2004.

The vendor has confirmed this vulnerability in an announcement, available at:

[http://www.php.net/release\\_4\\_3\\_7.php](http://www.php.net/release_4_3_7.php)

**Impact:** A remote user may be able to execute arbitrary commands via a script that implements the vulnerable function.

**Solution:** The vendor has released a fixed version (4.3.7), available at:

<http://www.php.net/downloads.php>

**Vendor URL:** [www.php.net/](http://www.php.net/) ([Links to External Site](#))

**Cause:** [Input validation error](#)

**Underlying OS:** [Windows \(Any\)](#)

**Message History:** None.

<http://www.securitytracker.com/id/1010410>

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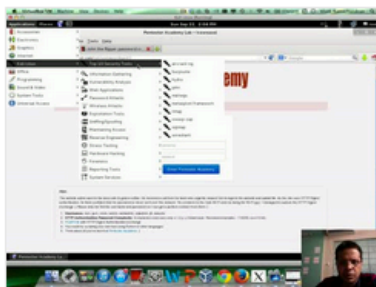
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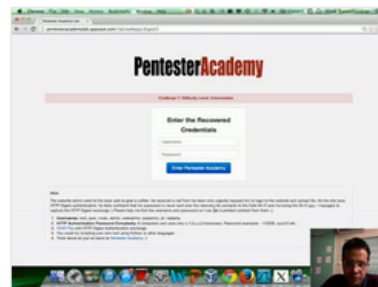
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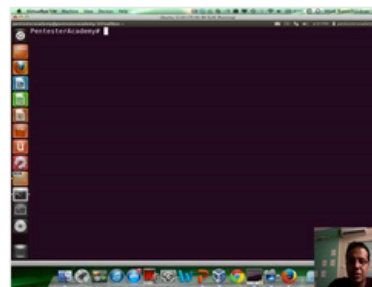
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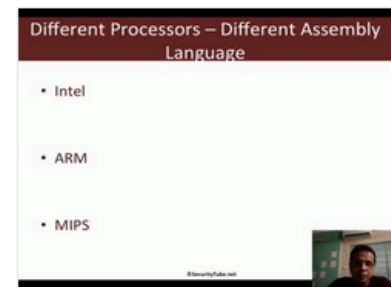
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