

---

# THREAT MODELING BASICS

Bug Hunting Praktikum 2019

23-Oct-2019

Philipp Holzinger

---



---

# AGENDA

---

- Introduction
- Assets
- Security goals
- Attackers
- Attack surface
- Attack vector

---

# AGENDA

---

- **Introduction**
- Assets
- Security goals
- Attackers
- Attack surface
- Attack vector

# INTRODUCTION – WHY THREAT MODELING?

- There is no absolute notion of „secure“ or „insecure“
- Security must be considered in the context of a reference point
- Threat model can be used as a reference to determine
  - What is a valuable asset?
  - What are security goals?
  - Who would attack the system?
  - What are possible entry points for attackers?
  - How would they attack the system?
- Can be used reason about countermeasures, severities of vulnerabilities, etc.

# INTRODUCTION

- In our context
  - What is a valuable target?
  - What are possible attacks?
  - How severe is an attack?
  - How to document attack vectors?

---

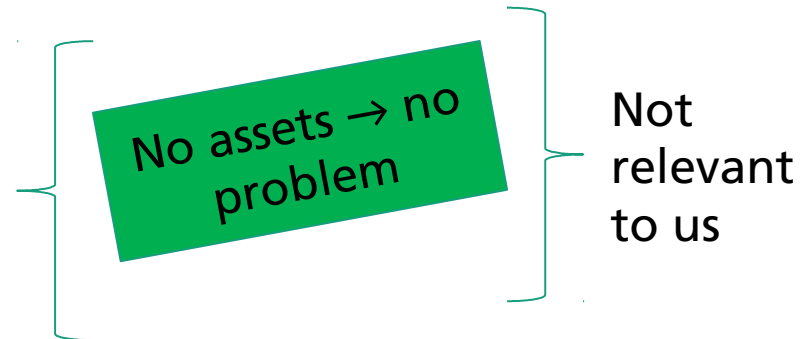
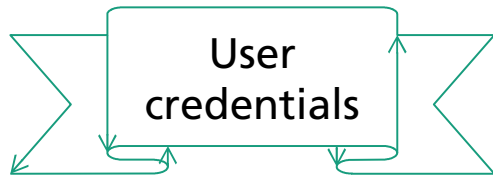
# AGENDA

---

- Introduction
- **Assets**
- Security goals
- Attackers
- Attack surface
- Attack vector

# ASSETS

- **Asset:** Anything of value to a stakeholder of the system



---

# AGENDA

---

- Introduction
- Assets
- **Security goals**
- Attackers
- Attack surface
- Attack vector



# SECURITY GOALS

- Assets are associated with security goals
- Security goals may include
  - Confidentiality
  - Integrity
  - Availability
  - Non-repudiation
  - Authenticity
  - ...



---

# AGENDA

---

- Introduction
- Assets
- Security goals
- **Attackers**
- Attack surface
- Attack vector

# ATTACKERS

- Who wants to attack the system? For what purpose?
- In which assets are they interested?
- Which security goals do they threaten?

Property	Value
Identifier	Online criminal
Read source code	Yes
Write source code	No
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unauthorized read access to credit card #</li><li>• Unauthorized read access to user credentials</li><li>• Unauthorized read/write access to confidential documents</li></ul>

Capabilities & permissions

---

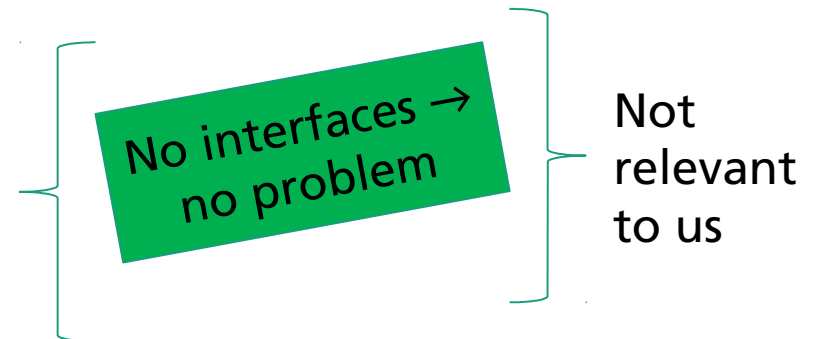
# AGENDA

---

- Introduction
- Assets
- Security goals
- Attackers
- **Attack surface**
- Attack vector

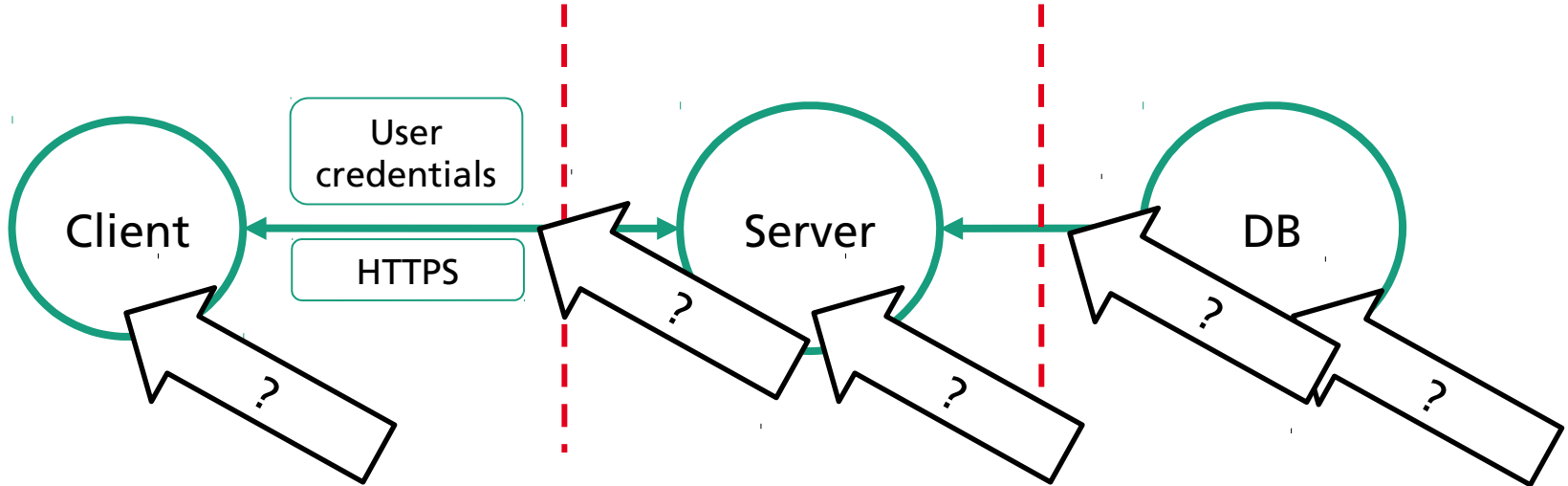
# ATTACK SURFACE

- Attack surface: The set of all entry points and data extraction points of the target system
- Attackers must interact with the target system to execute an attack
- Interfaces may include
  - User interface
    - Text input/output
  - HTTP Get/Post parameters
  - Configuration files
  - Cookies
  - Socket connections
  - ...



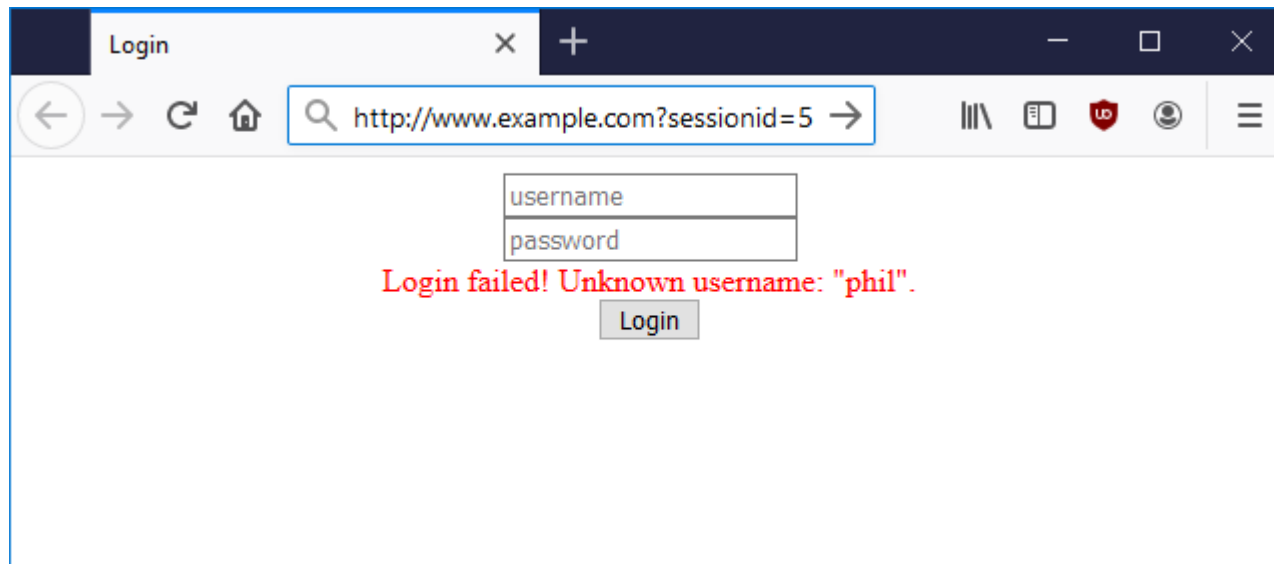
# ATTACK SURFACE

- Architectural view: data flow diagram



# ATTACK SURFACE

## ■ User interfaces



---

# AGENDA

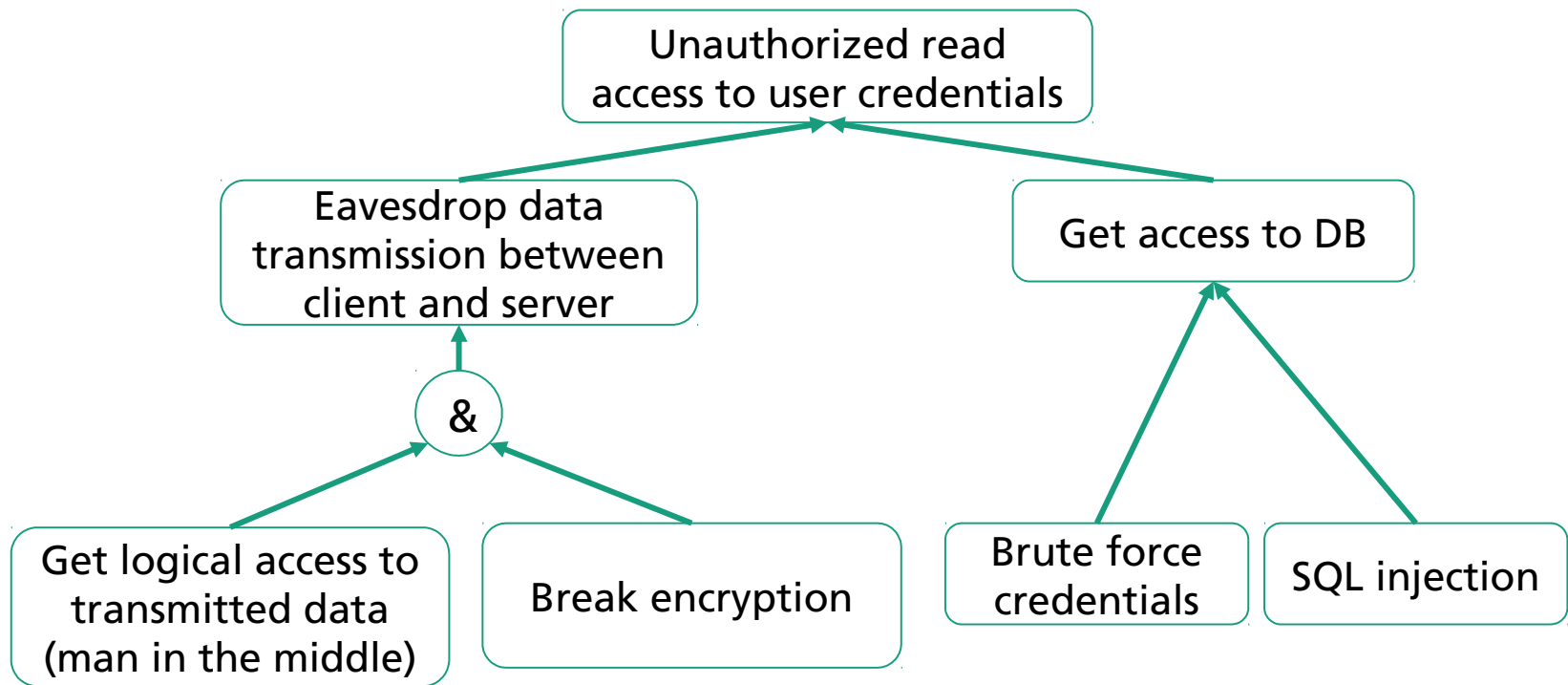
---

- Introduction
- Assets
- Security goals
- Attackers
- Attack surface
- **Attack vector**



# ATTACK VECTOR

- How can attackers execute an attack?



The screenshot shows the CVSS Calculator interface. The browser address bar displays <https://www.first.org/cvss/calculator/3.1>. The page title is "Common Vulnerability Scoring System Version 3.1 Calculator". A sidebar on the left contains a navigation menu with items such as "Calculator", "Specification Document", "User Guide", "Examples", and various CVSS version archives. The main content area features the CVSS logo and a heading for the calculator. A red rounded rectangle highlights the "Base Score" section, which includes several metric groups with button-based options: Attack Vector (AV) with Network (N), Adjacent (A), Local (L), and Physical (P); Attack Complexity (AC) with Low (L) and High (H); Privileges Required (PR) with None (N), Low (L), and High (H); User Interaction (UI) with None (N) and Required (R); Scope (S) with Unchanged (U) and Changed (C); Confidentiality (C) with None (N), Low (L), and High (H); Integrity (I) with None (N), Low (L), and High (H); and Availability (A) with None (N), Low (L), and High (H). A tooltip on the right side of the Base Score section reads "Select values for all base metrics to generate score".

[www.first.org/cvss](https://www.first.org/cvss)

# SUMMARY

- Threat modeling supports systematic reasoning about
  - **Assets** – What is considered valuable by stakeholders?
  - **Security goals** – Which properties of assets are important?
  - **Attackers** – Who threatens assets and what are their capabilities?
  - **Attack surface** – Which interfaces can attackers use?
  - **Attack vectors** – How can attackers execute attacks?