

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Overreacting HF Security - weird issue with a character combination](#)

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 2:05 am

The HF security features are a bit trigger happy. I get the big You Have Been Blocked error a few people have been getting recently if I type the following anywhere in a post or PM:

You can swap the ' for a " and reduce the "something" to "sing" and still get the issue. For example here are some other combinations that trigger the response. You can put letters (not numbers) in between or after SING (and after AND) and still get the problem.

I'm sorry I'm not entirely clear about what causes the problem, but that's largely because I don't understand why the security features are being triggered (I also haven't slept in about 32 hours so that probably is contributing to my incoherency).

I've tested and confirmed this problem in PMs, posts, thread titles, and even rep. I've also had two people from entirely different parts of the world test and experience the same issue.

Edit: This is what i was trying to post originally that gave the problem:

<http://pastebin.com/mUceUbge>

'Snorlax - November 12, 2013, 2:06 am

I can confirm this does block me as well.
Very odd.

Tuxedo - November 12, 2013, 2:10 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:05 AM)Emylbus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've also had two people from entirely different parts of the world test and experience the same issue.

Reppin' Aus.

And yes, I did experience the exact same error as Emy; strange.

PsychoSexy - November 12, 2013, 2:12 am

Happens to me as well.

Probably triggering the SQL security system.

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 2:15 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:12 AM)?Parazyd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Happens to me as well.

Probably triggering the SQL security system.

That's what I figured, I guess I just don't know enough about SQL to understand why that particular combination is causing problems. The issue is that it's not a bizarre combination of words, quoting someone and then following it with "and something like that" (I was able to type that because there wasn't a space after the first quotation mark)

PsychoSexy - November 12, 2013, 2:24 am

I agree that it's common words, but I don't see this "event" in need to be fixed. You can always use brackets instead.

The "event" happens because the " mark and the word AND is SQL syntax.

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 2:27 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:24 AM)?Parazyd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I agree that it's common words, but I don't see this "event" in need to be fixed. You can always use brackets instead.

The "event" happens because the " mark and the word AND is SQL syntax.

What do you mean use brackets? That doesn't make sense when quoting something.

PsychoSexy - November 12, 2013, 2:30 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:27 AM)Emylbus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What do you mean use brackets? That doesn't make sense when quoting something.

I realize, but I just don't believe this issue will be fixed.

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 2:32 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:30 AM)?Parazyd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I realize, but I just don't believe this issue will be fixed.

What I am hoping for is with the recent issues with other false positives of people posting actual code snippets, Omni will see this and take a look at fixing it. Hope for the best, right?

Kinda Old - November 12, 2013, 2:41 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:32 AM)Emylbus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What I am hoping for is with the recent issues with other false positives of people posting actual code snippets, Omni will see this and take a look at fixing it. Hope for the best, right?

It's a small price to pay for security. It seems that the system works on detecting keywords. I don't think Omni should fix the issue because it will create a detrimental security issue as a whole.

PsychoSexy - November 12, 2013, 3:07 am

(Nov 12, 2013 03:32 AM)Emylbus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What I am hoping for is with the recent issues with other false positives of people posting actual code snippets, Omni will see this and take a look at fixing it. Hope for the best, right?

Always. Hoping he'll notice this and give some info.

Vexane - November 12, 2013, 3:12 am

Maybe the issue will be tweaked soon, but like ?Parazyd said, there's probably not much we can do on this since the forum is run on SQL. I don't think there's an honest fix around this. I myself haven't experienced this issue, but it sounds pretty annoying! Best of luck to getting this issue resolved.

Daz-1337- - November 12, 2013, 3:15 am

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=3850857&pid=36179080#pid36179080>

That's what Omni says on it.

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 3:19 am

(Nov 12, 2013 04:15 AM)Daz-1337- Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#)

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=3850857&pid=36179080#pid36179080>

That's what Omni says on it.

Yes, but I believe he said that when he thought the issue was just with people posting snippets of

code. He said somewhere else, but for the life of me I can't find the post, that he'd tinker with the rules if it was making a bunch of false positives.

Vexane - November 12, 2013, 3:36 am

I just got this issue!

I wish I could show you what I put, but it was a LONG post, now I really hope this gets resolved! That was pretty frustrating to come and find I've been blocked by CloudFlare. For a second, I thought I was actually blocked from HackForums!

Skorp - November 12, 2013, 9:32 am

Omniscient knew about this long before, he will make the necessary adjustments or alternatives in due time.

SoldierX - November 12, 2013, 10:09 am

Trying to confirm this :)

"Stupid security.

' nothing happened.

Viral Dragon - November 12, 2013, 10:56 am

I would like to say that after going through some extensive testing, it's primarily only this:

Code " AND U-SING

It MUST have an open quotation mark, and "SING" is apparently somehow converted into "USING".

But it's definitely not "SING". I tried quite a few things, but it's def not that word. It's "USING". And it only trigger when there is an open quotation mark.

Note; Take out the "-", it's to stop the thing from triggering.

-Viral.

SoldierX - November 12, 2013, 11:04 am

" AND U-SING

Really..? You sing ?

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 11:04 am

In case anyone wants to know, this is the post I was trying to make that caused the issue:

<http://pastebin.com/mUceUbg> (half way through line 2 where I accidentally trigger the problem text)

(Nov 12, 2013 12:04 PM)SoldierX Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) " AND U-SING

Really..? You sing ?

Try it without the dash!

Vexane - November 12, 2013, 11:34 am

" AND USING

Confirming that the issue is fixed

PsychoSexy - November 12, 2013, 11:56 am

(Nov 12, 2013 12:34 PM)?Varosion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Confirming that the issue is fixed
It blocks me out. How did you do that? Special characters?

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 11:57 am

(Nov 12, 2013 12:34 PM)?Varosion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) -snip-
I can't even quote you saying that without getting the block message.

'An0ny - November 12, 2013, 12:03 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 12:34 PM)?Varosion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) AND USING
Confirming that the issue is fixed
<https://puu.sh/5gsIS.png>

holdy shit, thats nice.
does this work for cloudflare pro too? XD

D?sturbed - November 12, 2013, 12:15 pm

Well I do not get a block message. I just can't post.

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 12:16 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 01:15 PM)D?sturbed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well I do not get a block message. I just can't post.

If you're posting from the quick reply the loading thing will appear for a second and disappear. This is a good way to test combinations too. You can type less than 35 characters and if you don't get the 35 char error message your post is being blocked due to the security filter.

If you try using the full posting editor or if you try editing it into a post you'll get the message.

Omniscient - November 12, 2013, 12:24 pm

Cloudflare added some new WAF (web application firewall) rules. A few were custom for me. :)

But I noticed that they added an SQLi trigger that is spazing out. I've set it to "challenge" instead of block. I may end up disabling it though.

Let me know if the challenge is better for you.

Vegas - November 12, 2013, 12:25 pm

That's weird. I've been blocked a time or two from what I assume is something similar.

Positive - November 12, 2013, 12:29 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 01:24 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Cloudflare added some new WAF (web application firewall) rules. A few were custom for me. :)

But I noticed that they added an SQLi trigger that is spazing out. I've set it to "challenge" instead of block. I may end up disabling it though.

Let me know if the challenge is better for you.

I went to go post what the OP had said he couldn't, and it won't even let me post it.

I then hit preview and the challenge thingy you're talking about worked.

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 12:32 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 01:24 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Cloudflare added some new WAF (web application firewall) rules. A few were custom for me. :)

But I noticed that they added an SQLi trigger that is spazing out. I've set it to "challenge" instead of block. I may end up disabling it though.

Let me know if the challenge is better for you.

I'm still getting the full block error instead of a challenge even if I try previewing the post like Positive did.

PsychoSexy - November 12, 2013, 12:41 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 01:32 PM)Emylbus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm still getting the full block error instead of a challenge even if I try previewing the post like Positive did.

I got the captcha. It switches to the old HF theme ?

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 12:44 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 01:41 PM)?Parazyd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I got the captcha. It switches to the old HF theme ? Weird, I dunno why but I'm not getting a captcha :/

KinGxKeV - November 12, 2013, 12:45 pm

I get the captcha as well when I do it. Weird.

P???ce - November 12, 2013, 12:49 pm

wao, it's really strange that such types of text is being blocked o.O
Just observed!

Positive - November 12, 2013, 1:15 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 01:41 PM)?Parazyd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I got the captcha. It switches to the old HF theme ? It indeed does.

Weird how adding " in front of a few words does that.

'Snorlax - November 12, 2013, 1:29 pm

It triggers a captcha here as well.
Coolio :)

Omniscient - November 12, 2013, 3:02 pm

I may just disable it. We actually don't need SQLi protection normally.

Chills - November 12, 2013, 3:05 pm

Okay I'm gonna test it I guess.
and something

EDIT: hm, odd

Emylbus - November 12, 2013, 4:28 pm

I was hoping that waiting/clearing my cache/etc would do it but for some reason I still don't get the captcha, just the block page. Bizarre.

Vexane - November 12, 2013, 5:14 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 12:34 PM)?Varosion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) [censorder by ?Varosion]
Confirming that the issue is fixed

To everyone who they couldn't quote my post, I did this on my iPhone, and when I tried editing the post (saying I was on my iPhone) it blocked me...maybe I'm just too cool for CloudFlare. Yes? No? Maybe?

Hydra - November 12, 2013, 5:15 pm

With Greater Security Comes Greater Limitations.

Better to be safe than sorry but possibly a higher threshold level would be more applicable.

BLURRYF?CE - November 12, 2013, 5:16 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 04:02 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I may just disable it. We actually don't need SQLi protection normally. Is it because of a plausible recent database leak?

Hydra - November 12, 2013, 5:17 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 06:16 PM)vurezo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is it because of a plausible recent database leak? Omni would notify us if anything of that sort would have occurred. So that plausible just became invalid.

Vexane - November 12, 2013, 5:19 pm

I'd rather not be able to post a phrase I'd never use than have my account leaked...
I think he should just disable it just in case.

SkullTraill - November 12, 2013, 5:34 pm

(Nov 12, 2013 03:05 AM)Emylbus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The HF security features are a bit trigger happy. I get the big You Have Been Blocked error a few people have been getting recently if I type the following anywhere in a post or PM:

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I've tested and confirmed this problem in PMs, posts, thread titles, and even rep. I've also had two people from entirely different parts of the world test and experience the same issue.

Edit: This is what i was trying to post originally that gave the problem:

<http://pastebin.com/mUceUbge>

Maybe... maybe you should go to bed, son.

T0ucaNSaM - November 12, 2013, 5:55 pm

IDK much about sql either or programming but wishing there is a way to where the sec would be able to test the string being used to determine if it is an attack or a simple sentence. I can not speak for omni he has his reason and much more exp in hacking. As an admin of a forum such as this you do not want to lose viewers or revenue because of DoS. One thing is he is god at wht he does and is only looking out for the best interest of the community data information as well his own.

Omniscient - November 12, 2013, 6:14 pm

Quote:I was hoping that waiting/clearing my cache/etc would do it but for some reason I still don't get the captcha, just the block page. Bizarre.

CF does keep track of blocks and also I'm not sure how fast their edge servers update for the WAF. I also only changed one ruleset to Challenge so you could be hitting a different rule that blocks.

Quote:Is it because of a plausible recent database leak?

That's a false rumor. There is no recent DB leak. Only the old one that's from January being tossed around a bit and people acting big because they gained access. You can read about that compromise here:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=3242369>

I'm closing this thread because I know my response is likely going to throw this topic off-topic anyways.