



Database Forensics in Software as A Service Service using Stored Procedure

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Article history:

Received: Des 18, 2021
Revised: Jan 21, 2022
Accepted: Feb 30, 2022

Keywords:

Stored Procedure;
SQLI;
SQLIA;
Encryption;
Decryption

Recently, the use of web-based applications has increased significantly, especially online services, most of which are used for digital transaction activities that use the internet. However, the increasing use of online services often ignores the privacy and security aspects of an application, web developers making it an attractive target for security concerns. In this article, the proposed countermeasures include two mechanisms, namely: the use of stored procedure parameters, and the use of stored procedure encryption in SQL server. The goal is to prevent the dangers of internet crime attacks using structured query language injection attacks (SQLIA). In addition, an analytical evaluation of prevention and protection should also be carried out. The solution offered is prevention and protection using stored procedures because it can prevent SQLI attacks effectively and efficiently.

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1. Introduction

Currently, the use of the internet has significantly increased in the dissemination of information and various other online transactions by creating the wheel of the informatics revolution in recent years [1], [2]. The increasing use of the internet or web-based applications for most activities in digital transactions raises security problems [3], [4].

Web applications that use database-based content are ubiquitous. Companies whose business models focus on the internet, such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Oracle are real examples. Almost every large company using the web uses relational databases [5], [6]. Typically, web users provide information such as usernames and passwords, and in return receive customized content. This database includes sensitive information, such as customer data [7], [8]. Thus, the Internet becomes a widespread information infrastructure.

Since the advent of web programming, web applications have become a fast way to offer access to online services via the internet [9]. This causes web-based applications to gain immense popularity in the world because; Web applications have integrated enterprise integration by allowing many Internet-capable applications [10], [11].

Web applications usually interact with databases via the backend, wherein, the data used in web applications often contain sensitive and confidential information [12], [13]. Web applications are often vulnerable to attack due to lack of design, misconfiguration, or weakness of the written code of web applications [14], [15]. Structured query language injection (SQLI) attacks take advantage of the trust that exists between the user and the server owner. Some input or output validation features are not present on the server to reject malicious code [16]. However, it is important to provide web application protection from targeted SQLIA [17]. In addition, the SQLIA instruction detection framework carried out by Yassin et al., 2017 to provide a high degree of portability in SaaS (Software as a Service) cloud provider applications in a service-based manner to enhance security [18].

To maintain message security, a system called cryptography is needed. Cryptography has become a science that is widely used to maintain information security with mathematical calculation techniques. This



technique can convert plain text using keywords into random messages or encrypted text [19]. Cryptography uses two algorithmic rules or methods, namely encryption and decryption. This study uses standard encryption available on SQL server stored procedures, while decryption uses software from a third party (third party).

Companies without using technology will surely be left behind in many aspects such as efficiency, connectivity, effectiveness and productivity. The internet can be obtained by searching for the desired information. Connection from the network is necessary under any circumstances, but connectivity does not always work well, there are many complications or problems related to connections that do not work well. The rapidly increasing penetration of internet and computer networks in addition to providing convenience, also has security problems for companies and individual database users [20], [21]. The current research focuses on the vitality and importance of SQL injection attack problems in stored procedures to detect and prevent these attacks in web-based application environments through SQLIA prevention and protection measures. The proposed countermeasures include four mechanisms for dealing with web-based applications or web sites from SQLIA in the use of stored procedures.

2. Method

This research method uses 3 (three) stages, namely; hardware identification and software identification, design, implementation and analysis as shown in Figure 1.

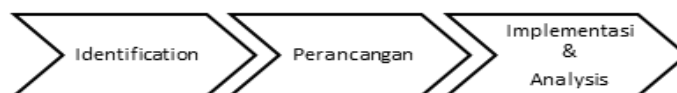


Fig 1. Research Method

Keywords are scientific terms that are often encountered in the field of science related to articles, and can be used as search keys to find articles. Use 3 -5 words or phrases/phrases that are key to the submitted article.

2.1 Identify Hardware and Identify Software

At this stage, identification of the required hardware and software is carried out. The hardware and software specifications used can be seen in table 1.

Table 1.
Hardware and Software

Product	Version
Komputer	
Microsoft Windows	10
SQL Server	2012
SQL Server Management	18.2
ASP.NET	2017
C#NET	2017
Encryption Tools	18.2
Decryption Tools	Trial

The SQL server used in this study uses two versions, namely: SQL 2000 and SQL 2012. Meanwhile, we chose SQL Server Management Studio to use version 18.5 because only that version can access SQL server 2000 and SQL server 2012 or versions above. Decryption tools using the following software: SQL Decryptor and DB Foge SQL Decryptor. Both software use a trial version and can be downloaded from the internet.



2.2 Design

Technical design needs to be done at the experimental stage. The mechanism includes the creation of stored procedures, encryption, decryption, and parameterized queries using input validation [22]. There are several things that need to be prepared before conducting a forensic analysis of digital encryption and description as follows:

2.3 Data Design

This experiment or research uses two SQL query data as follows: the first does not use a stored procedure and the second uses a stored procedure [23]. There are two types of stored procedures: user defined stored procedures and system stored procedures. The user defined stored procedure is used by the user to create SQL statements such as select, update, or delete records from the database, while the system stored procedure is used by the system. The difference between a stored procedure and an SQL query without a stored procedure is the use of commands such as create and alter procedures such as program code 1 and 2 below.

Program Code 1. Stored Procedure

```

Input : Stored Procedure

Create Procedure [dbo].[sp_check_2] @TC nvarchar(100)

AS

BEGIN

;With cte ([TC NUMBER],[DATE],[CUSTOMER],[FILED
ENGINEER],[ACTIVITY HISTORY],[STATUS])
    
```

Program Code 2. No Stored Procedure

```

Input : Tanpa Stored Procedure

Select tbl_CallActivity.CallRemarks As
TC_NUMBER,UPPER(tbl_CallActivity.ActivityDate) from Check
    
```

2.4 Encryption Design

The encryption function is already available on SQL server. Its use is enough to call the function in the use of stored procedures using a query or command encryption at the time of making the stored procedure [24], [25]. Furthermore, the encryption process can be carried out after being successfully encrypted, the next step can be tested by reading the file or querying the stored procedure using plain text (notepad), whether it is read or not. If the data displayed is in the form of strange characters / not read at all, it means that the encryption process was successful [26], [27]. Listing encryption can be seen in program code 3 below.

Program Code 3. encryption

```

Input : Encryption

with encryption

AS

BEGIN

;With cte ([TC NUMBER],[DATE],[CUSTOMER],[FILED ENGINEER],[ACTIVITY HISTORY],[STATUS])
    
```

2.5 Decryption Design

Decryption using third party software (third party). The software used is software to decrypt stored procedures using SQL decryptor. The SQL decryptor used is a trial version and can be downloaded on the internet. Make sure before using the SQL decryptor tool, you should backup the master database first to guard against unwanted things. After a successful backup, decryption is carried out using a stored procedure. The result is that if the source of the stored procedure query can be re-read the query using plain text (notepad), it means that the decryption is successful.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the proposed security to protect web-based applications or websites from SQLIA hazards in stored procedures. Protective prevention includes four methods or mechanisms in preventing attacks. This mechanism is carried out to protect web-based applications from four types of attacks, namely: bypass attacks with dynamic queries, stored procedure attacks using parameters, stored procedure attacks using encryption, and stored procedure attacks using decryption stored in SQL server.

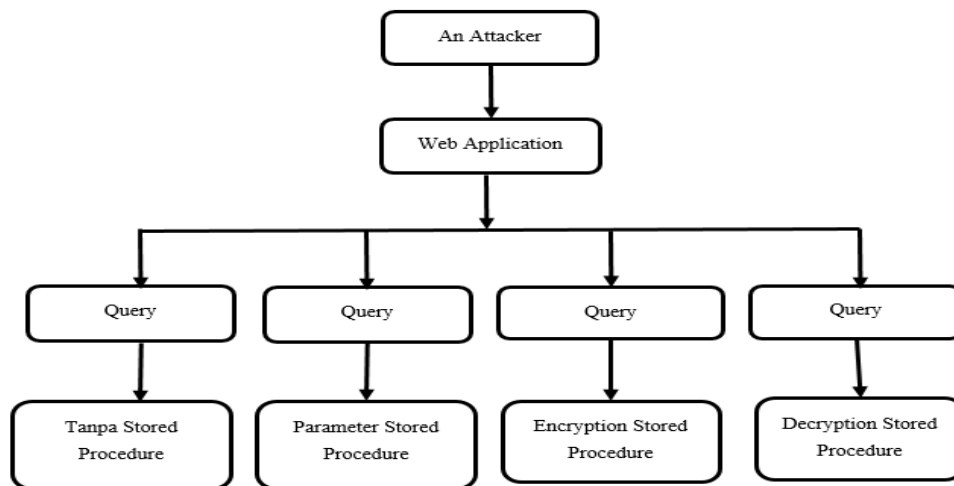


Fig 2. Attack Method

2.6 Implementation and Analysis

This experiment uses the C# programming language which is implemented and tested using the ASP.NET infrastructure. As a precaution we use three mechanisms or methods to prevent SQLIA in stored procedures such as: using parameters, using encryption, and using decryption in stored procedures.

This study uses a SQL server database version 2012 and SQL server management studio using version 18.5. One of the advantages of version 18.5 is that it can manage older versions of databases such as SQL server 2000 and the latest SQL server. So it is quite capable in managing all versions of SQL server databases.

This type of attack can be implemented through sending malicious SQL statements in the form of SQLI by the attacker to gain illegal access to the backend database [28], [29].

3. Result and Analysis

3.1 Query Implementation

The next stage illustrates the procedure of the prevention technique or method in each of the mechanisms mentioned in Figure 2. To evaluate our proposed prevention, we conducted an experiment using two scenarios by attacking the BIS (Business Information Solution) website, and this application provides many services. such as looking for TC (Test Case), SC (Store Code), and summary sales data. Figure 3 website application (A) does not use a stored procedure and (B) uses a stored procedure.



Fig 3. Websites Injected and Protected

The first scenario using an injected (A) website is vulnerable to various types of SQLIA attacks. Vulnerable sites include loopholes in dynamic queries. The second scenario using a protected website (B) has been protected using parameters in the stored procedure.

The third scenario uses a protected website (B) stored procedure using encryption, and the fourth scenario uses a protected website (B) stored procedure that has been encrypted after decryption [30].

3.2 First and Second Scenarios

The next stage is to carry out an attack using the first scenario (Legitimate Query – Data Transfer) using SQL queries without using stored procedures and the second scenario using parameterized stored procedures (Bypass Attacks - Parameterized Stored Procedure). The steps of the attack can be seen in Figure 4. An example of the first scenario is an attack using SQL select queries or it can also be called SQLI. While the second scenario is to perform SQLI attacks using stored procedures and parameters. If the parameters do not match then the query will be stopped.

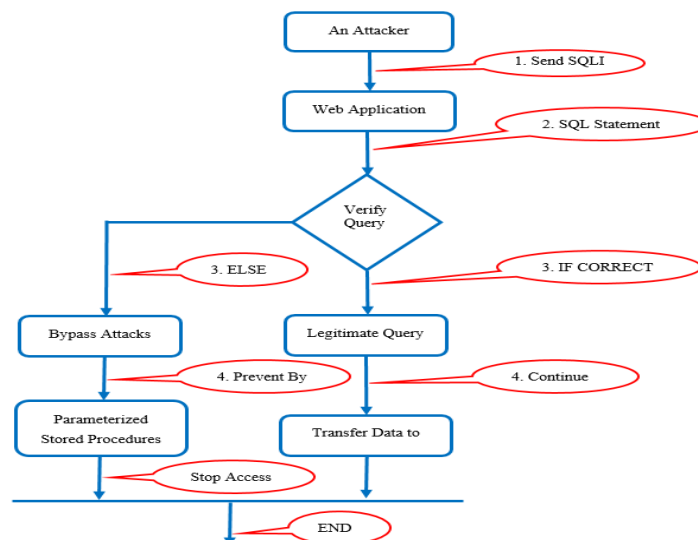


Fig 4. First and Second Scenarios

a. Send SQLI: When an attacker sends malicious code to implement an injection attack on a website, as shown in Figure 5, the attacker can enter any query and add a query that is always denoted by the value true as a result of the syntax on the SQL server, for example when the attacker places the word: TC-SC-14-0002598' or 1=1--, then the attacker can get all TC/SC numbers.

TC NUMBER	DATE	CUSTOMER	FIELD ENGINEER	ACTIVITY HISTORY	STATUS
TC-SC-14-0003641	10/9/2014 9:02:17 PM	CARREFOUR	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003784	10/21/2014 10:06:43 PM	CARREFOUR	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003837	10/27/2014 8:24:00 PM	CARREFOUR	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003907	10/30/2014 11:38:35 PM	METRO	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003901	11/14/2014 9:40:22 AM	METRO	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003901	11/14/2014 11:20:26 AM	WINGSTOP	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003902	11/17/2014 11:08:31 AM	WINGSTOP	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003903	11/17/2014 11:10:11 AM	WINGSTOP	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003904	11/18/2014 3:10:21 PM	NAGA	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE
TC-SC-14-0003905	11/18/2014 3:11:09 PM	NAGA	TEKNISI1	PROBLEM	CLOSE

Fig 5. SQLI Without Stored Procedure

Figure 6 SQLI using a stored procedure shows that the results displayed are not found. Seen the difference in the results of the two web-based applications, which use stored procedures have better security.

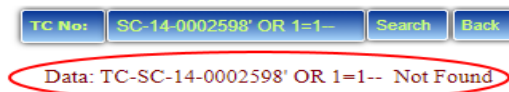


Fig 6. SQLI using a stored procedure

b. SQL Statement: After the attacker sends malicious code, the web-based application will create a malicious SQL statement or error query which will be checked in the next step. As shown in Figure 4. Searching with prepositions using dynamic queries can be implemented with the following query: `Select * from BIS_Table where prepositions = ''' + TextBox1.Text + ''`;

c. Verify Query: The query will be checked by determining if it has malicious Bypass Attacks. In the worst case, when the attacker can gain access to the database, after that the attacker gets all the sensitive information. As shown in Figure 5 SQLI without a stored procedure.

d. Query Legitimacy: Without using stored procedures but only using SQL queries such as select as shown in Figure 7.

```
protected void Button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    connection();
    string query = "select tbl_CallActivity.CallRemarks As TC_NUMBER,1";
    SqlCommand com = new SqlCommand(query, con);
    SqlDataReader dr;
    dr = com.ExecuteReader();
}
```

Fig 7. Sored Procedure Parameters

3.3 Third and Fourth Scenarios

The next stage uses the third and fourth scenarios, namely the encryption stored procedure and the decryption stored procedure which can be seen in Figure 8.

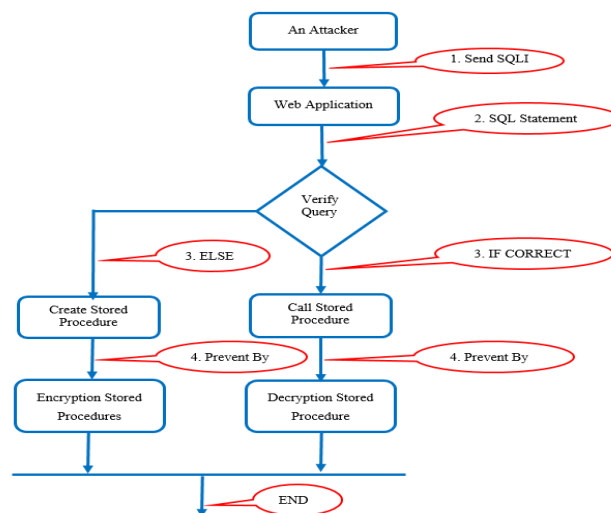


Fig 8. Third and Fourth Scenarios



This scenario is the worst possible scenario, because it is almost impossible for this scenario to be attacked by external parties. To run this scenario, you need at least a database administrator user and password. This section describes the attack steps once the attacker has successfully entered the backend.

- a. Attacker: An attacker managed to gain access to the source database and obtain sensitive information about the stored procedures and tables due to the insecurity of the database.
- b. SQL Statement: Some system commands in the data source (SQL server) can be used by an attacker to serve the contents of a stored procedure query such as sp_helptext. Figure 9 is an example of using sp_helptext using a stored procedure: first without using encryption and second using encryption.

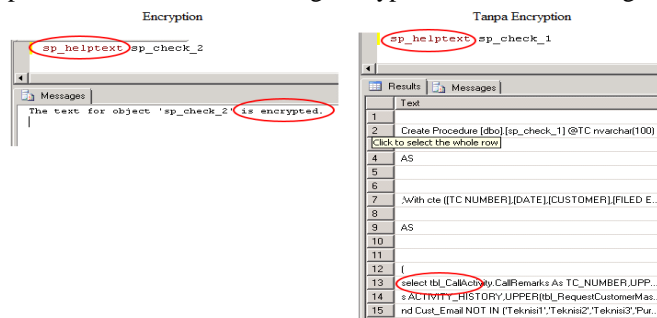


Fig 9. Encryption Stored Procedure

Encryption stored procedures protect against attackers who want to display queries or contents of stored procedures or sensitive information about tables, parameters, etc. This attack is carried out using one of the system commands such as sp_helptext. Therefore, to avoid this attack, encryption method can be used when creating a stored procedure at the programming level to ensure that an attacker cannot find out or get any sensitive information from the stored procedure. As shown in Figure 9.

Decryption stored procedures are often used by attackers using SQL decryptor (third party) tools to decrypt encrypted stored procedures. Tests were carried out using the SQL decryptor tool and of the two decryptor tools only one succeeded in decrypting. Figure 10 comparison of the results of SQL decryption tools.

Tools	Hasil
SQL Decryptor	Fail
DB Foge SQL Decryptor	Pass

3.4 Scenario Comparison Results

Based on the results of testing using four scenarios, it can be seen in Table 2. Many protection mechanisms are able to prevent some SQLIA malicious attacks. The results show that the mechanism that has been tested is effective to protect web-based applications from SQLIA in the use of stored procedures

Table 2. Comparison Result

Stored Procedure	Security
SQL Command	Fail
Parameter Input	Pass
Encryption	Pass
Decryption	Pass

4. Conclusion

From the results of the tests that have been carried out, it can be concluded that the implementation of stored procedures using parameters and encryption can improve security and prevent theft of sensitive data. But from several experiments using stored procedures that have been encrypted, it turns out that decryption was successfully carried out using the SQL decryptor tool.

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