# Formal analysis of Facebook Connect Single Sign-On authentication protocol

#### Caterina Urban

Prof. Marino Miculan

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Udine, Italy

SOFSEM 2011 Student Research Forum Monday, 24th January 2011

Facebook Connect is a Single Sign-On service integrated in the Facebook Platform (until few months ago).

Facebook Connect is a Single Sign-On service integrated in the Facebook Platform (until few months ago).



Facebook Connect enables Facebook users to connect their Facebook account with any third party partner Web site.

Facebook Connect is a Single Sign-On service integrated in the Facebook Platform (until few months ago).



Facebook Connect enables Facebook users to connect their Facebook account with any third party partner Web site.

Using Facebook Connect

+ members will be able to use their Facebook identity across the Web, and at the same time

Facebook Connect is a Single Sign-On service integrated in the Facebook Platform (until few months ago).



Facebook Connect enables Facebook users to connect their Facebook account with any third party partner Web site.

Using Facebook Connect

- + members will be able to use their Facebook identity across the Web, and at the same time
- + third party Web sites can access to Facebook users data outside of Facebook itself.

## Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

#### Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

#### Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

## Steps to Answer the Question

1. a detailed protocol description has not been officially provided (Facebook Connect is proprietary)

#### Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

- a detailed protocol description has not been officially provided (Facebook Connect is proprietary)
  - $\implies$  in order to understand the protocol, we have analyzed all incoming and outgoing HTTP traffic among parties

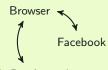


#### Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

## Steps to Answer the Question

- a detailed protocol description has not been officially provided (Facebook Connect is proprietary)
  - $\implies$  in order to understand the protocol, we have analyzed all incoming and outgoing HTTP traffic among parties



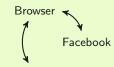
TheRunAround

2. we have defined a protocol formalization in Alice-Bob notation

#### Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

- a detailed protocol description has not been officially provided (Facebook Connect is proprietary)
  - $\implies$  in order to understand the protocol, we have analyzed all incoming and outgoing HTTP traffic among parties



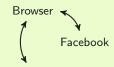
TheRunAround

- 2. we have defined a protocol formalization in Alice-Bob notation
- 3. we have translated the protocol in Alice-Bob notation into HLPSL

#### Question

Is Facebook Connect Authentication Protocol secure?

- a detailed protocol description has not been officially provided (Facebook Connect is proprietary)
  - in order to understand the protocol, we have analyzed all incoming and outgoing HTTP traffic among parties



TheRunAround

- 2. we have defined a protocol formalization in Alice-Bob notation
- 3. we have translated the protocol in Alice-Bob notation into HLPSL
- 4. we analyzed the HLPSL formalization using AVISPA.

#### Weaknesses

Facebook Connect authentication protocol is subject to

- + a replay attack, and
- + a masquerade attack, which allows an intruder to be authenticated as a user to obtain illegitimately other resources.

#### Weaknesses

Facebook Connect authentication protocol is subject to

- + a replay attack, and
- + a masquerade attack, which allows an intruder to be authenticated as a user to obtain illegitimately other resources.

### Replay Attack - Fixes

- + mechanisms based on timestamps and nonces, or
- + SSL channels.

# Weaknesses

# Facebook Connect authentication protocol is subject to

- + a replay attack, and
- + a masquerade attack, which allows an intruder to be authenticated as a user to obtain illegitimately other resources.

### Replay Attack - Fixes

- + mechanisms based on timestamps and nonces, or
- + SSL channels.

### Masquerade Attack - Fixes

- + SSL channels, or
- + authentication of resource requests

#### Weaknesses

Facebook Connect authentication protocol is subject to

- + a replay attack, and
- + a masquerade attack, which allows an intruder to be authenticated as a user to obtain illegitimately other resources.

## Replay Attack - Fixes

- + mechanisms based on timestamps and nonces, or
- + SSL channels.

#### Masquerade Attack - Fixes

- + SSL channels, or
- + authentication of resource requests
  - ⇒ we propose an authentication of resource requests by means of a Diffie-Hellman session key.

## **Bibliography**



A. Armando, D.A. Basin, Y. Boichut, Y. Chevalier, L. Compagna, J. Cuéllar, P.H. Drielsma, P.-C. Héam, O. Kouchnarenko, J. Mantovani, S. Mödersheim, D. von Oheimb, M. Rusinowitch, J. Santiago, M. Turuani, L. Viganò, and L. Vigneron. *The AVISPA tool for the automated validation of internet security protocols and applications.* In K. Etessami and S.K. Rajamani, editors, Proc. CAV, volume 3576 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, pages 281-285. Springer, 2005.



A. Armando, R. Carbone, L. Compagna, J. Cuéllar, and M.L. Tobarra. Formal analysis of SAML 2.0 web browser single sign-on: breaking the SAML-based single sign-on for Google Apps. In V. Shmatikov, editor, Proc. FMSE, pages 1-10. 2008.



AVISPA Project. *Deliverable D6.1: List of selected problems*. Technical report, http://avispa-project.org, 2005.