

---

# API-Induced SSRF

How Apple Pay Scattered  
Vulnerabilities Across the Web

## About me

- Math degree
- Web developer, ~5 years
- Bounties
- At PKC ~1 year, web dev and code audits for clients - [pkc.io](https://pkc.io)

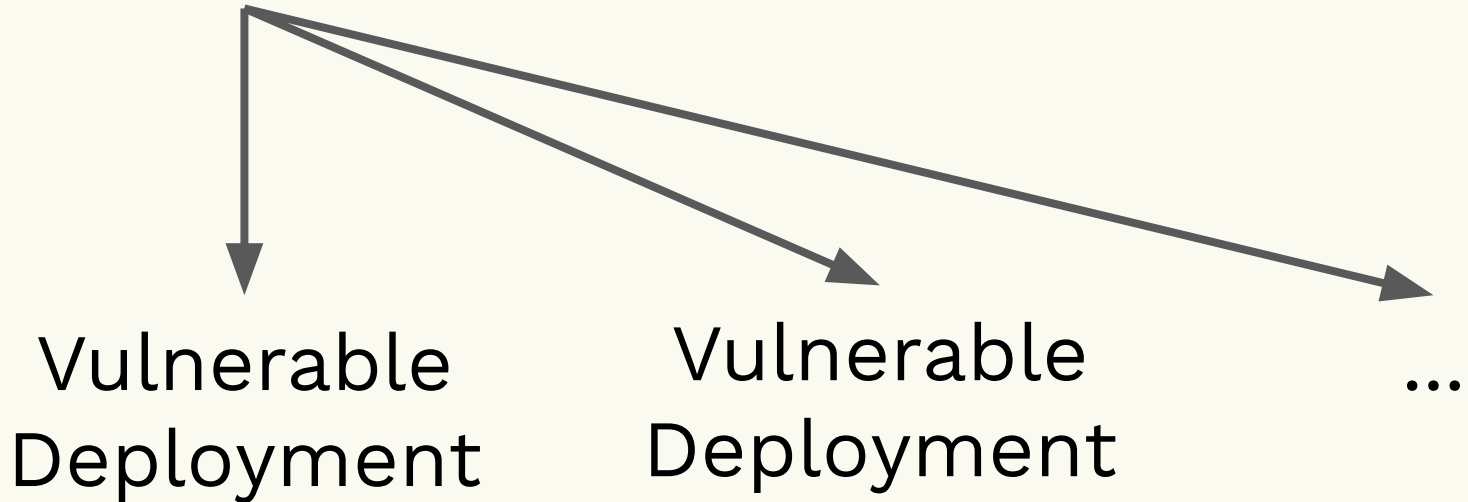
## Overview

- Definitions
- Demo some mistakes
  - Apple Pay
  - Twilio
  - Others
- How not to be like Apple

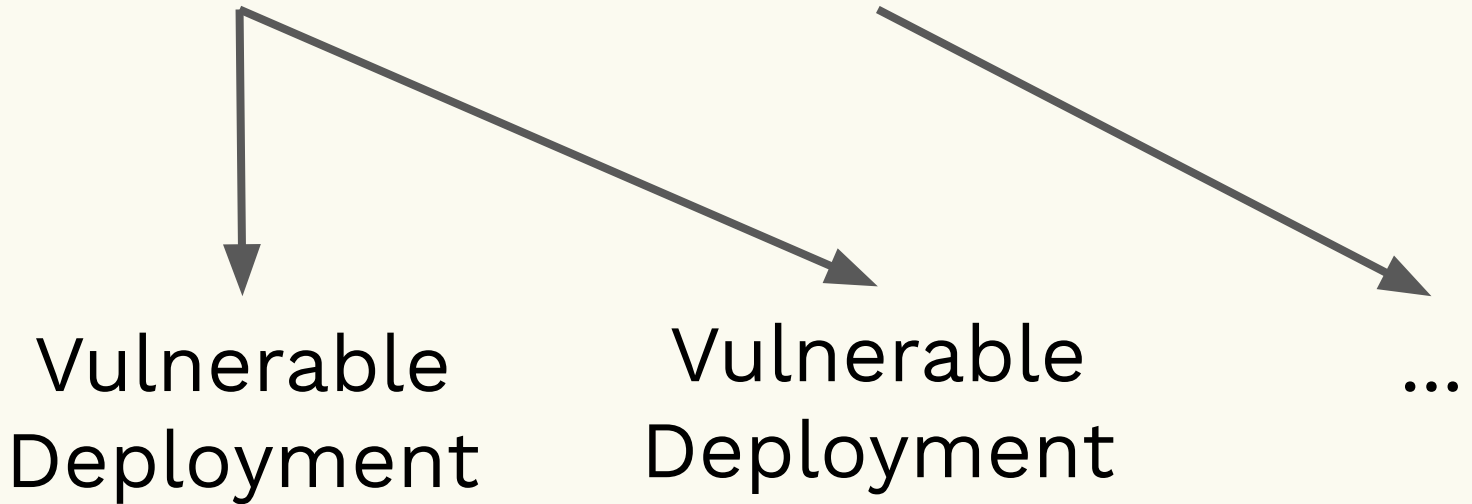
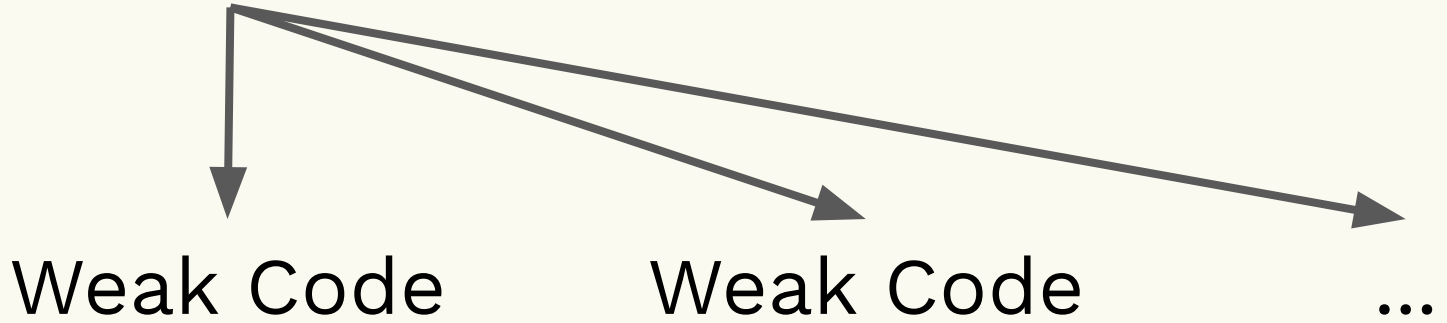
# Typical Class Breaks

See [Schneier's blog post](#)

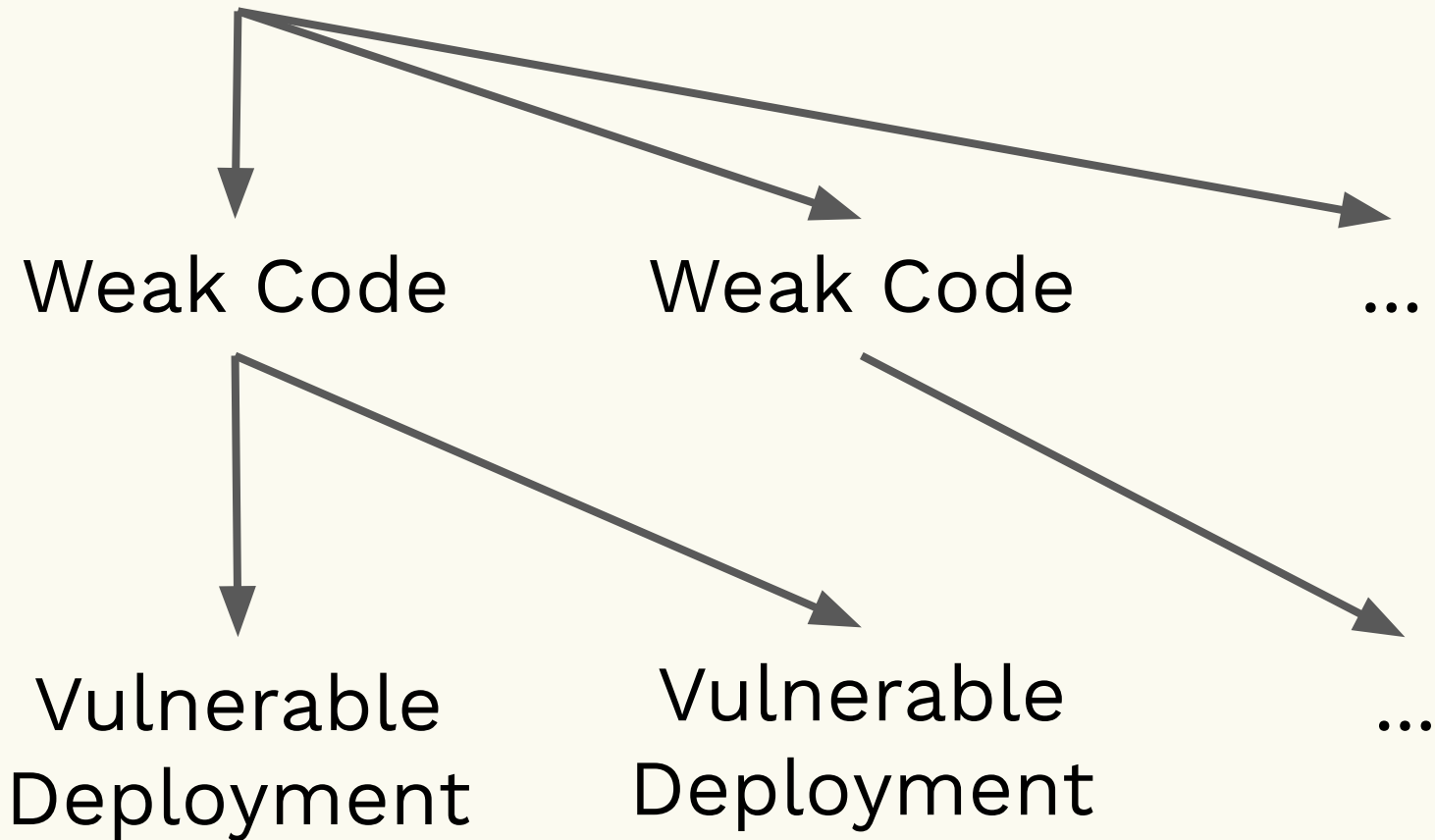
Weak Code  
(e.g. Heartbleed)



???

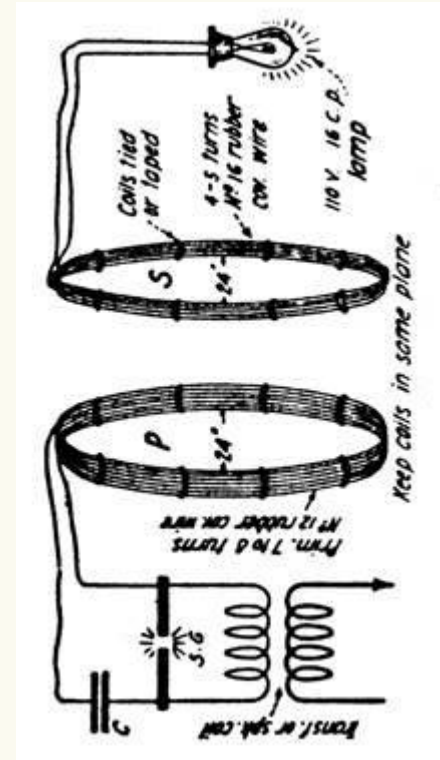


# Inductive Weakness



# Inductive weakness:

A design flaw that encourages multiple parties to write vulnerable code with a similar exploit pattern across differing software stacks.

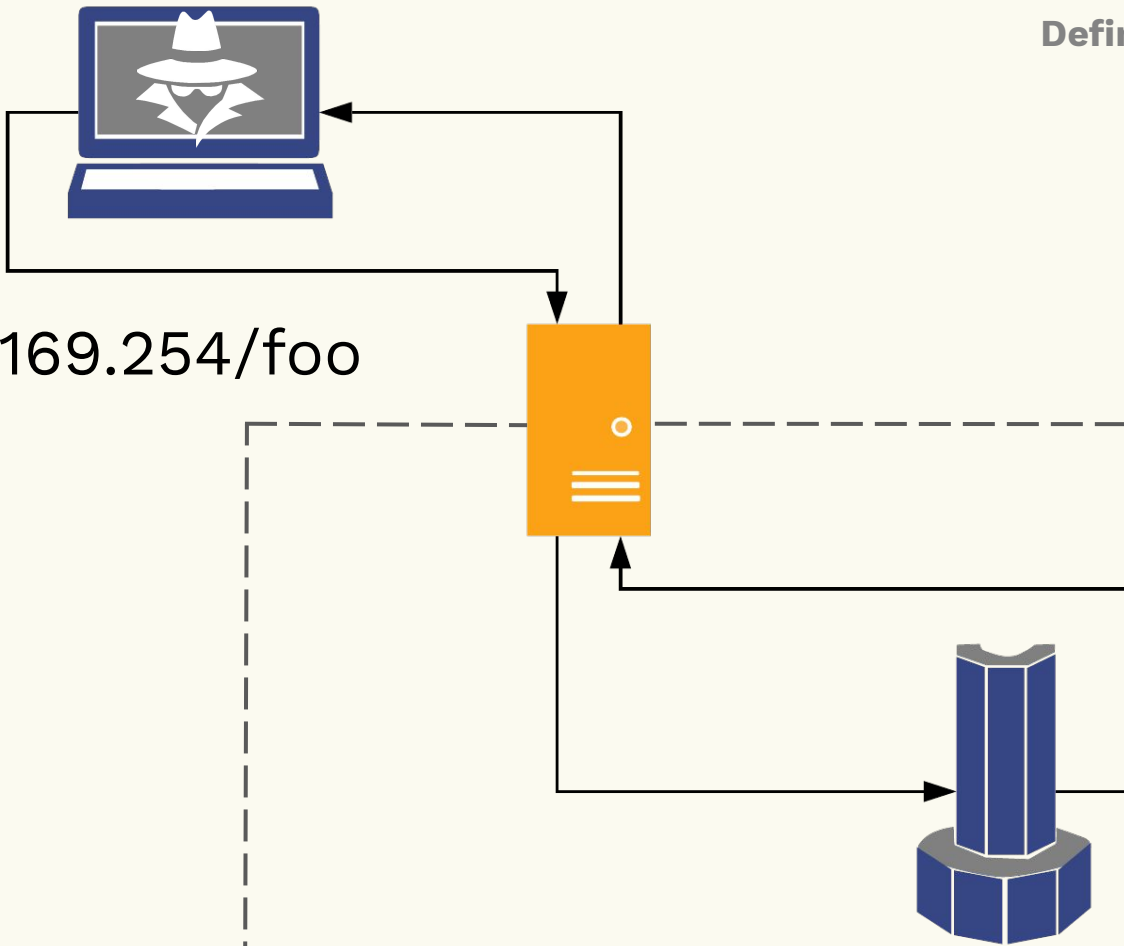


---

# SSRF Refresher



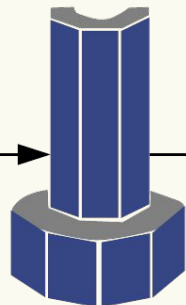
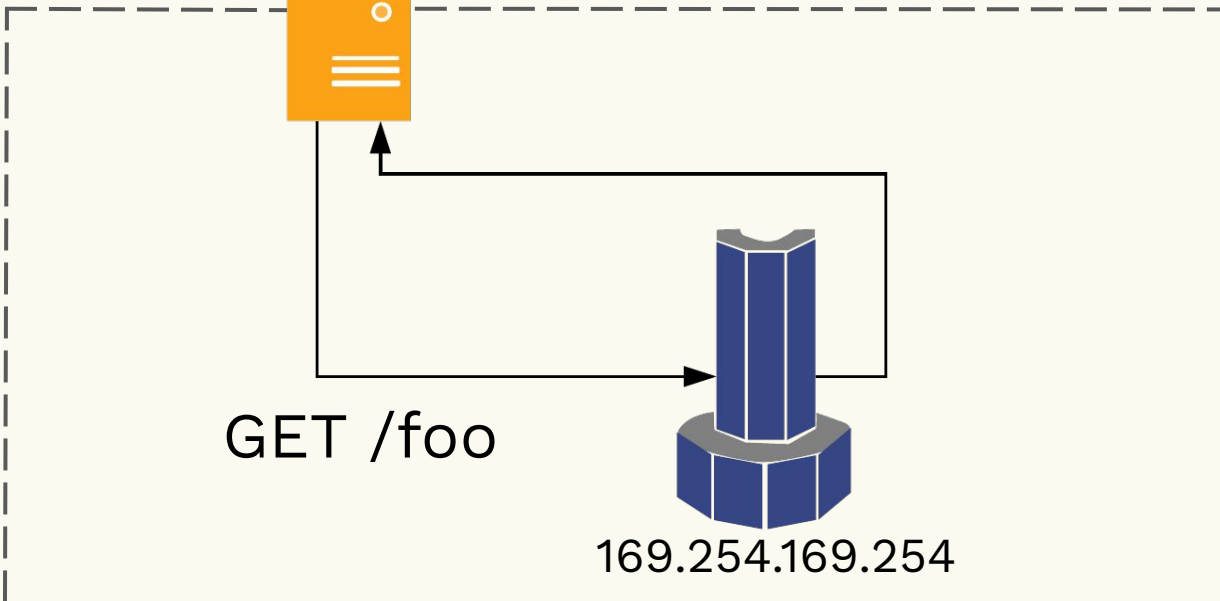
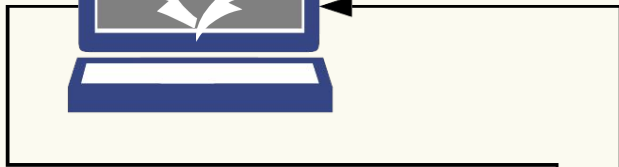
Definitions: SSRF



Payload with  
`http://169.254.169.254/foo`

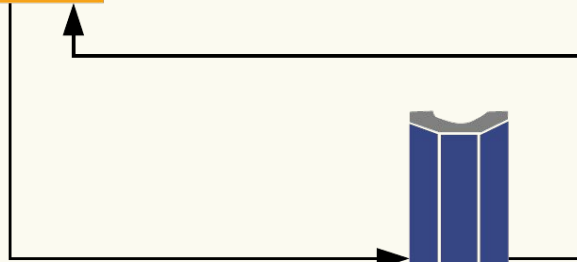
169.254.169.254

Definitions: SSRF



169.254.169.254

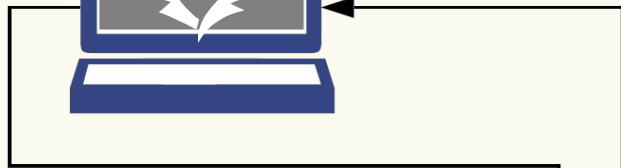
GET /foo



Payload with  
`http://169.254.169.254/foo`

Definitions: SSRF

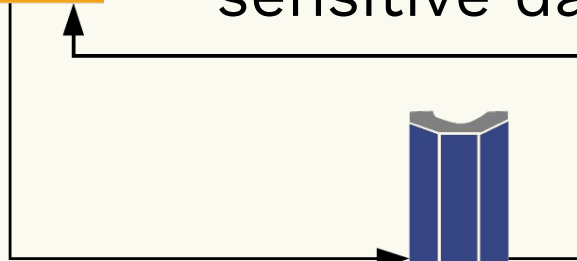
sensitive data



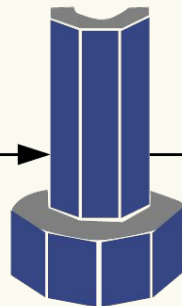
Payload with  
`http://169.254.169.254/foo`



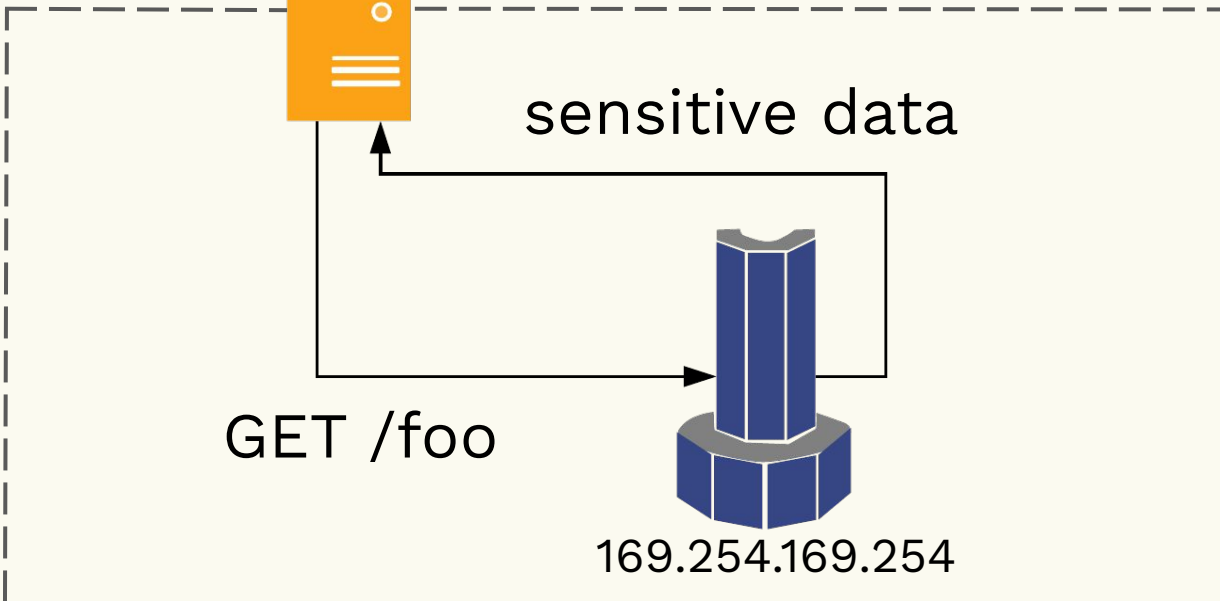
sensitive data



GET /foo



169.254.169.254



If you can relay requests through a GCP or AWS box...

```
$ curl -s http://169.254.169.254/computeMetadata/v1beta1/instance/service-accounts/default/token | jq
{
  "access_token": "ya29.c[REDACTED]",
  "expires_in": 3511,
  "token_type": "Bearer"
}
```

## Easy things to do with SSRF

- AWS, GCP have a gooey center
  - People have [already criticized](#) AWS/GCP for this
- `file:///` urls
- Reflected XSS
  - Technically not SSRF

## SSRF: Hard mode

- Cross-protocol stuff
  - SMTP through `gopher://` URLs
  - HTTP->memcached->RCE
    - See [A New Era of SSRF](#)
  - ???

---

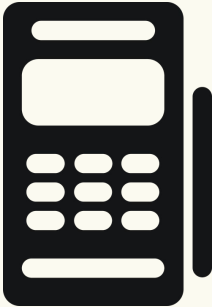
# **Apple Pay Web**

## **Inductive SSRF**

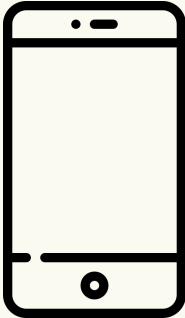
# Apple Pay: 3 forms

Apple Pay

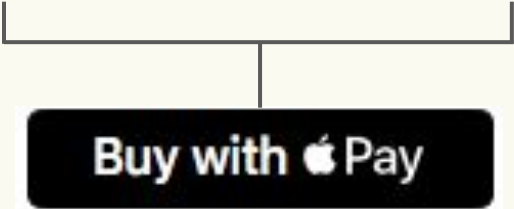
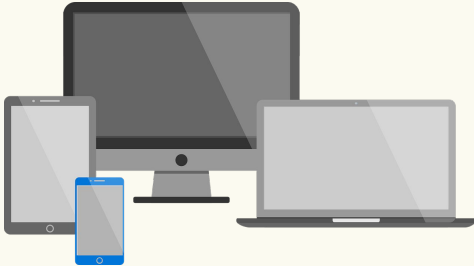
In-store




In-app



Web



Buy with  Pay

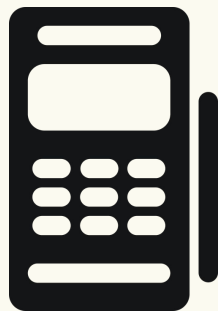


Apple Pay

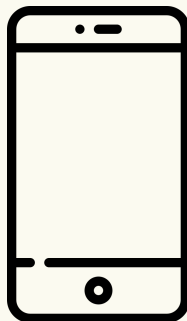
criticising this



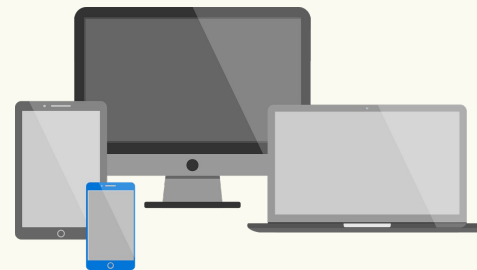
In-store



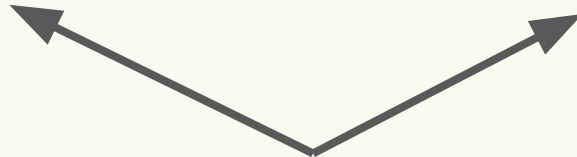
In-app



Web



these are unaffected



## The intended flow

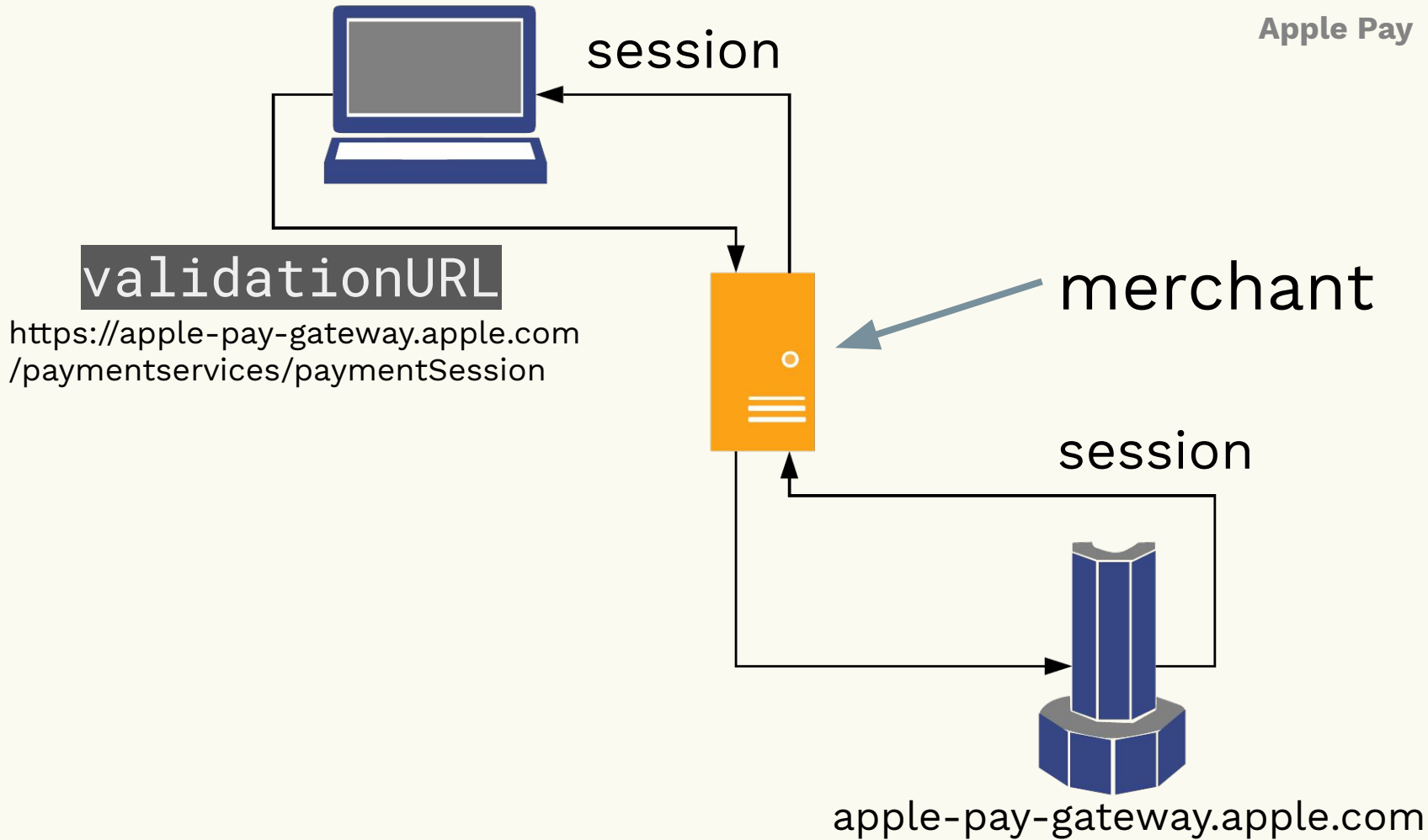
- Safari generates a `validationURL`  
(`https://apple-pay-gateway-*.apple.com`)

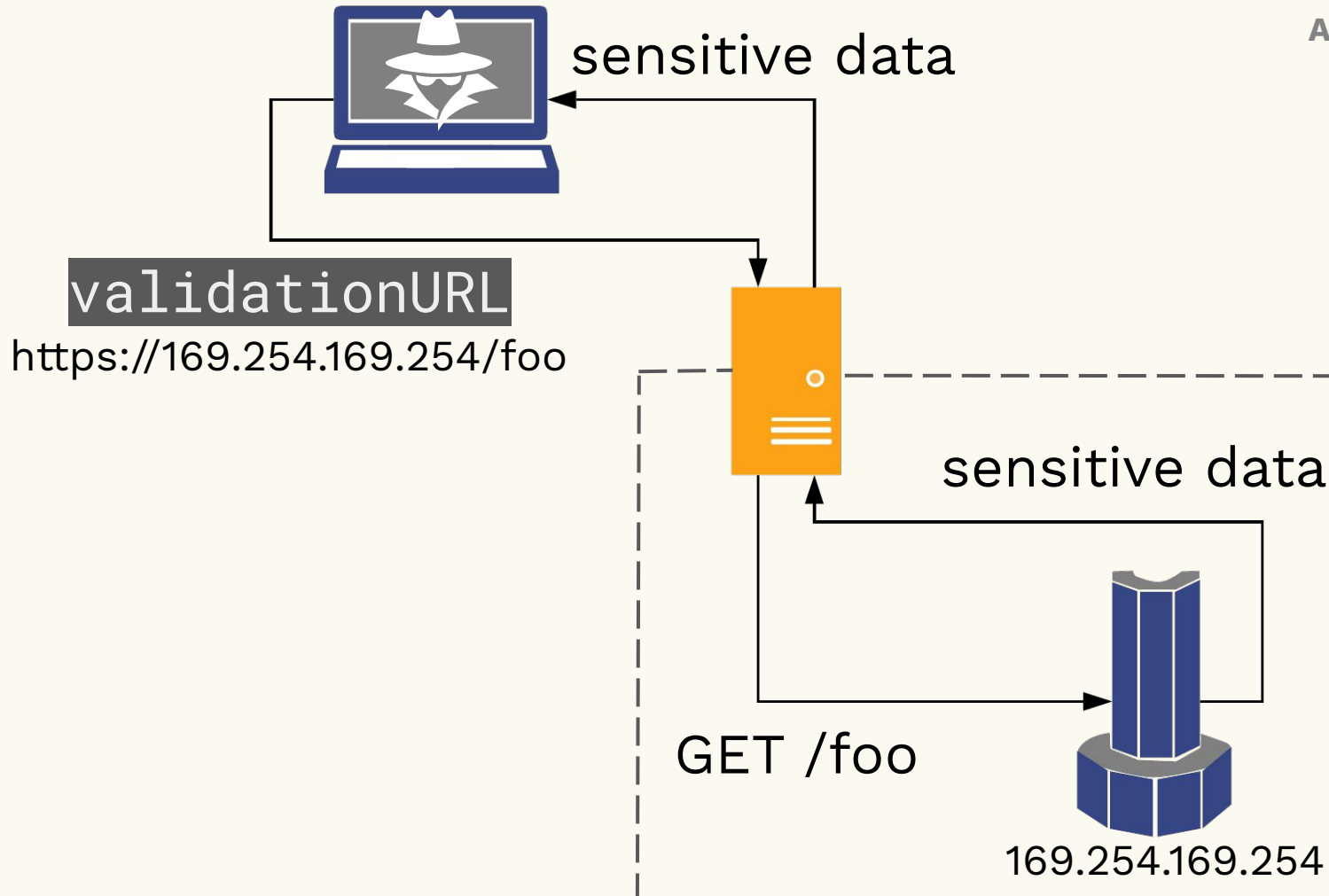
## The intended flow

- Safari generates a `validationURL`  
(`https://apple-pay-gateway-*.apple.com`)
- Your JS sends `validationURL` to **your**  
backend

## The intended flow

- Safari generates a `validationURL`  
(`https://apple-pay-gateway-*.apple.com`)
- Your JS sends `validationURL` to **your** backend
- Your backend grabs a session from `validationURL` and forwards it to the client





---

**Demos**

## appr-wrapper

- Under GoogleChromeLabs on github
- Written, deployed by an @google.com account
- A sort of polyfill between Apple Pay and the PaymentRequest API
- A test deployment, so low severity target



Let's see how this works in a live demo. If you are viewing this post on a device capable of Apple Pay, you should see an Apple Pay button below. Feel free to click it! Don't worry, no matter what you do in the payment sheet, your card won't be charged anything.

webkit.org

- Maintained by Apple
- Another demo, but on a higher-severity target

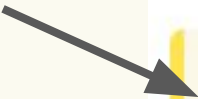


# Apple's response

## Whitelist Apple Pay IP Addresses for Merchant Validation

To enable merchant validation and receive a session object, your server must allow access over HTTPS (TCP over port 443) to the Apple Pay IP addresses and domains provided in [Listing 1](#).

Just  
added  
this



### Important

Use a strict whitelist for the merchant validation URLs provided by Apple, in [Listing 1](#). Do not allow your server to access any other URLs for merchant validation.

## Disclosure timeline

- Feb 11, Initial email to Apple
- March 26, Apple updated docs
- May 14, Apple concluded investigation. I replied with follow-up questions.
- ... Then Apple ghosted for 2 months :(



# One mitigation...

Apple Pay

Repository navigation: Watch, Star, Fork

Navigation: Code, Issues 0, Pull requests 1, Projects 0, Wiki, Security, Insights

## Remove apple pay endpoint to remove security vulnerability #72

Merged merged 1 commit into develop from 3 hours ago

Conversation 0, Commits 1, Checks 0, Files changed 1, +0 -16

Changes from all commits, File filter..., Jump to..., Review changes

### Remove apple pay endpoint to remove security vulnerability

develop (#72)

committed 3 hours ago

commit

# General mitigations

Apple Pay

## Apple Pay

- Check `validationURL` against Apple's list
- Stripe and Braintree handle this flow, so you're safe if you use them

# General mitigations

Apple Pay

## SSRF in general

- Whitelist egress traffic
- Protect your metadata like Netflix:  
[Detecting Credential Compromise in AWS](#)
- Be mindful of local, unauthenticated stuff on servers

# Ineffective mitigations

Do not:

- Use a regex to validate the domain
  - Sometimes people try a regex like `https?://.*.apple.com/.*`
  - But that matches:  
`http://localhost/?apple.com/...`
- Rely on HTTPS to prevent cross-protocol attacks
  - See slide 16 of [A New Era of SSRF](#)

---

# Webhooks



## Inbound Settings

To receive inbound messages on the phone numbers associated with your Mes

[Learn more](#) ↗

PROCESS INBOUND  
MESSAGES



If enabled, Twilio will make a synchronous HTTP requ

REQUEST URL ⓘ

HTTP POST



FALLBACK URL ⓘ

HTTP POST



Save

Cancel

Delete this Messaging Service

## Previous webhook exploits

REQUEST URL ?	<input type="text" value="https://jmaddux.com/sms"/>	HTTP POST	▼
FALLBACK URL ?	<input type="text"/>	HTTP POST	▼



Payload would go here

- `http://169.254.169.254`
- `gopher://localhost:11211/...`

Most attack this

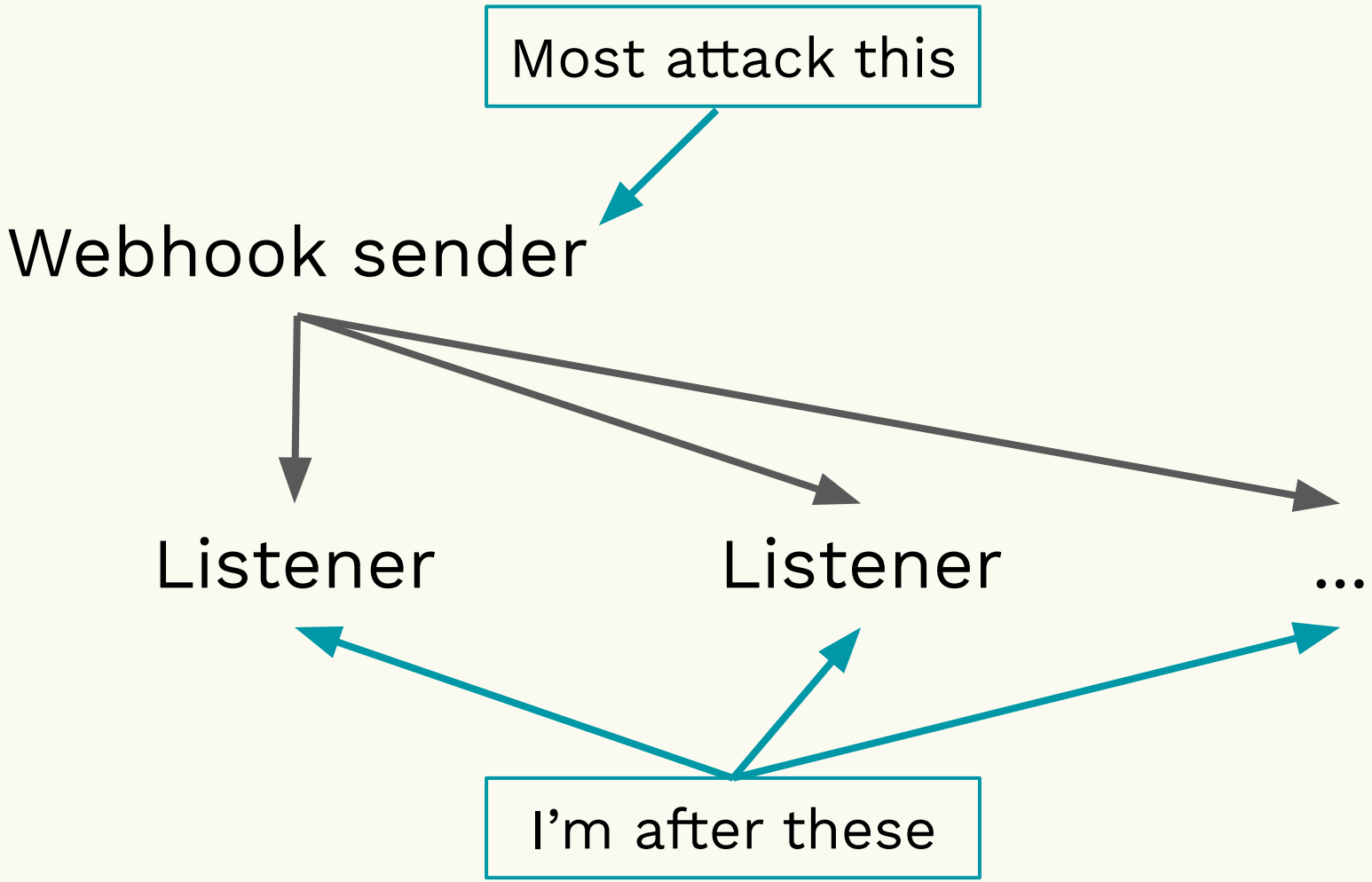
Webhook sender

Listener

Listener

...

I'm after these



## How Twilio Authenticates Webhooks

- HMAC and hope the listener checks it
- Lots of webhooks do this, Twilio's not unique

## The problem

- Who failed to check the HMAC?
  - 23 out of 31 open-source projects

## The problem

- Who failed to check the HMAC?
  - 23 out of 31 open-source projects
  - Most of Twilio's example code

## The problem

- Who failed to check the HMAC?
  - 23 out of 31 open-source projects
  - Most of Twilio's example code
- Contributing factors
  - Bad documentation
  - The easiest receiver implementation is a vulnerability

---

# Demo: Webhooks



## Twilio Example Code

- Examples themselves not deployed publicly
- But, did find vulns where it was copied/pasted

## Disclosure timeline

- Feb 17, Initial email to Twilio
- March 6, Twilio updated some of the docs
  - Rejected all architectural changes due to “unforeseen issues”



## Validate the signature on incoming messages

In order to verify the origin of incoming webhooks to your SMS endpoint, you can enable message signing for incoming messages - contact support@nexmo.com to request incoming messages be accompanied by a signature. With this setting enabled, the webhooks for both incoming SMS and delivery receipts will include a `sig` parameter. Use the other parameters in the request with your signature secret to generate the signature and compare it to the signature that was sent. If the two match, the request is valid.



Contact support to enable message signing on your account:  
support@nexmo.com

# What about nexmo?

Webhooks

**Validate the signature on incoming messages**

Contact support to enable message signing

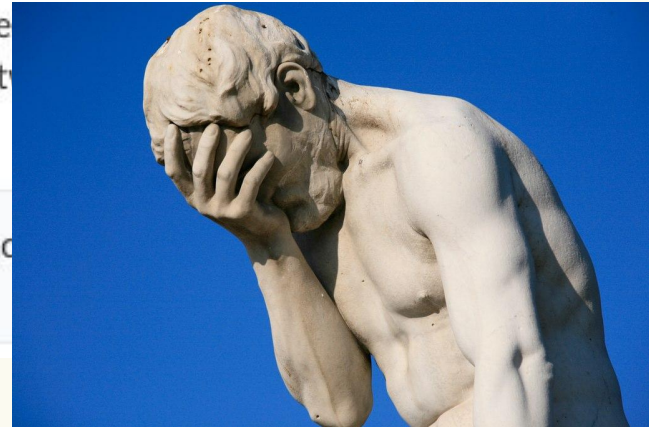
webhooks for both incoming SMS and delivery receipts will include a `sig` parameter.

Use the other parameters in the request with your signature secret to verify the signature and compare it to the signature that was sent. If the two are valid.



Contact support to enable message signing on your account  
support@nexmo.com

[Source](#)



# Gitlab webhooks: the happy path

Webhooks

```
{
  "object_kind": "push",
  "commits": [{
    "message": "Initial commit of foo project",
    "url": "https://...",
    ...
  }],
  "repository": {
    "url": "git@your.git.url/something.git", ...
  }, ...
}
```

What did I do?

- Found a server that was receiving gitlab webhooks
  - On the open internet
  - Was the trigger of build pipelines for multiple tenants...

# Gitlab webhooks: what I did

Webhooks

```
{
  "object_kind": "push",
  "commits": [{
    "message": "Initial commit of foo project",
    "url": "https://...",
    ...
  }],
  "repository": {
    "url": "git@your.git.url/something.git", ...
  }, ...
}
```

Put the tenant's gitlab url here



# Gitlab webhooks: what I did

Webhooks

```
{
  "object_kind": "push",
  "commits": [{
    "message": "Click here to do something! :D",
    "url": "javascript:alert('XSS on: ' + window.origin);",
    ...
  }],
  "repository": {
    "url": "git@your.git.url/something.git", ...
  }, ...
}
```



What are some better ways to send webhooks?

- For crypto nerds: authenticated cipher
  - E.g. AES-GCM
  - Still symmetrical like an HMAC
  - Forces webhook consumers to decrypt, so they'll accidentally verify the GCM tag you send them

What are some better ways to send webhooks?

- More practical: only send high-entropy, cryptographically random event IDs
  - Webhook consumer has to fetch `/items/?id=<id>` with their API token
  - Plaid does roughly this

What are some better ways to send webhooks?

- For existing webhooks: test & warn
  - During registration, do 2 test requests:
    - 1 valid MAC
    - 1 invalid MAC
  - Warn if they get the same response code

---

**What else?**

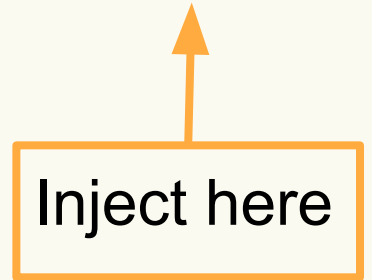
# Salesforce Objects vs Dynamodb

Both:

- NoSQL-like object storage
- REST APIs with custom SQL-like queries

# Salesforce SOQL

`/?q=SELECT+id+from+Foo+WHERE+name+LIKE+'...'`



# Salesforce SOQL

## Prevent SOQL Injection in Your Code

### Learning Objectives

After completing this unit, you'll be able to:

- Learn the different patterns of SOQL injection prevention.
- Prevent SOQL Injection using `string.escapeSingleQuotes()`.
- List the cases where the use of `string.escapeSingleQuotes` isn't sufficient.

[Source](#)

## Dynamodb: Better

POST / HTTP/1.1

Enforced Parametrization



{

"TableName": "ProductCatalog",

"KeyConditionExpression": "**Price** <= :p",

"ExpressionAttributeValues": {

    ":p": {"N": "500"},

},

}



---

# Closing Thoughts

From Apple after two months of silence

“Developers are responsible for implementing whatever security and networking best practices make the most sense for their environment.”



“If you’ve built a chaos factory, you can’t dodge responsibility for the chaos.”

*Tim Cook, Apple CEO*

## Financial

- Low-hanging bounty fruit
- Embarrassment
- High-interest tech debt

## Designing defensive APIs

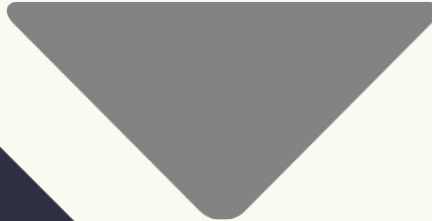
- Audit your example code
- Be careful about passing around URLs
- If “Do this or you’re vulnerable!” is in your documentation, try to make the warning unnecessary

## Takeaways

- You can find a lot of vulnerabilities by looking at an API, finding a flaw, and seeing who integrates with it.
- We need to place more scrutiny on security weaknesses that induce others to write vulnerable code.
- While there has been a lot of recent work on SSRF, the software development world has a long way to go in defensively coding around URLs.

## Acknowledgments

- Jonathan Ming at PKC - asked the initial questions about Apple Pay
- Arte Ebrahimi at PKC - pointed me to the Nexmo stuff
- Ken Kantzer at PKC - helped with the presentation
- Andrew Crocker at EFF - legal assistance



Thank you!



[www.pkc.io](http://www.pkc.io)