# Introduction To Yasca

Presented at NYPHP

24 February 2009 Michael V. Scovetta



## Agenda

- Who Am I?
- What is Yasca?
- How does it work?
- Requirements
- How should I use it?
- The Future of Yasca
- Demonstration
- Questions?

#### Who Am I?

- Development
  - CA ~2002
  - Perl, Java, PHP
- Information Security
  - UBS ~2005
- Security Consulting
  - Cigital ~2008
- Architecture
  - CA ~2008

#### What is Yasca?

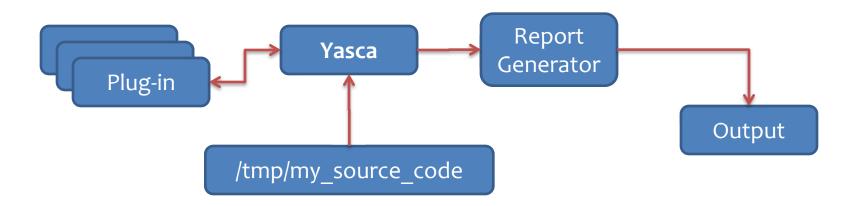
- Yasca started as a set of perl scripts that grepped through source code looking for XSS vulnerabilities.
  - <%=request.getParameter("foo")%>
  - . <?=\$\_REQUEST["foo"]?>
- Then I needed to do multi-line searches:
  - String s = request.getParameter("foo");
    out.println(s);
- As I wrote more rules, I found other scanners that already had many of them.
- So I made calls out to them.
- Then everything got nasty and I wrote it all from scratch again in PHP.

#### What is Yasca?

- Yasca is an open-source tool that can help you analyze program source code.
- It leverages several static analysis tools.
  - PMD (http://pmd.sourceforge.net/)
  - J-Lint (http://artho.com/jlint/)
  - Pixy (http://pixybox.seclab.tuwien.ac.at/pixy/)
  - FindBugs (http://findbugs.sourceforge.net/)
- It can be used to scan virtually any file type, not only traditional source code.
- Yasca is written in command-line PHP and released under the BSD license.

#### How Does it Work?

- Architecture based on plug-ins.
  - "Major Plug-in" => calls another tool to do the scan
    - e.g. PMD, J-Lint, FindBugs, Pixy, Grep
  - "Minor Plug-in" => uses embedded logic
    - Relatively easy to write, extremely flexible



#### How Does it Work

- Yasca has plug-ins capable of scanning many file types, including Java, C/C++, PHP, COBOL, ASP, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and Visual Basic.
- A special plugin (Grep) is designed to make new rules extremely easy to write.
  - Just define a regular expression, the file types it's applicable to, and a name for your rule and drop it in the "plugins" directory.
  - An example will follow.

### Requirements

- Yasca has few base requirements:
  - PHP (Windows binaries included)
  - Java 1.5 (for PMD, FindBugs, and Pixy)
- Yasca has been tested on Windows XP, Vista, and a few flavors of Linux.
- If you find bugs or incompatibilities, please let me know!
  - scovetta@users.sourceforge.net

#### How Should I Use It?

- Yasca can be used in a number of different ways, including as a:
  - checkpoint within a formal SDLC
  - desktop tool for developers
  - tool integrated into a source code repository

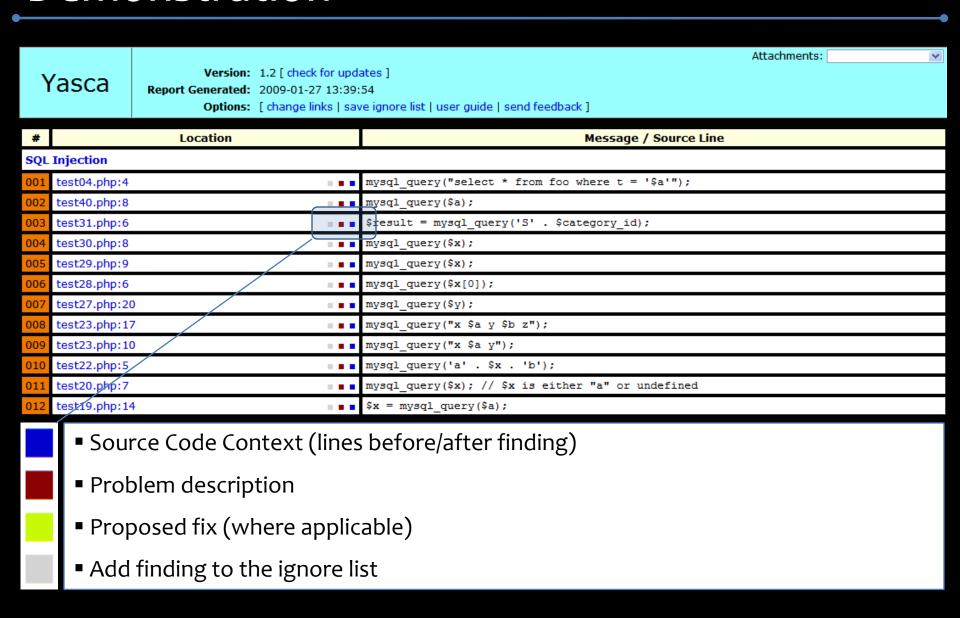
- In its current form, Yasca is best suited for use as a developer tool.
  - i.e. run Yasca each week on your code base.

#### The Future of Yasca

- Future versions of Yasca may include the following features:
  - "diff" -- compare last week's results to this week's
  - data flow analysis / taint propagation
  - Program Query Language
    - http://pql.sourceforge.net/
  - Central results repository
- More information is available on the OWASP Project Page:
  - http://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP Yasca Project Roadmap

```
[root@ardonis yasca]# ./yasca
Yasca 1.2 - http://yasca.sourceforge.net - Designed & Developed by Michael V. Scovetta
Usage: yasca [options] directory
Perform analysis of program source code.
      --debug
                            additional debugging
  -h, --help
                            show this help
  -i, --ignore-ext EXT, EXT ignore these file extensions
                               (default: exe, zip, jpg, gif, png, pdf, class)
      --ignore-file FILE
                            ignore findings from the specified xml file
      --source-required
                            only show findings that have source code available
  -f, --fixes FILE
                            include fixes, written to FILE (default: not included)
                               (EXPERIMENTAL)
 -s, --silent
                            do not show any output
  -v, --version
                            show version information
Examples:
 yasca c:\source code
 yasca /opt/dev/source code
 yasca -o c:\output.csv --report CSVReport "c:\foo bar\quux"
[root@ardonis yasca]#
```

```
[root@ardonis yasca]# ./yasca resources/test
Yasca 1.2 - http://yasca.sourceforge.net - Designed & Developed by Michael V.
   Scovetta
Initializing components...
Starting scan. This may take a few minutes to complete...
Forking external process (FindBugs)...
External process completed...
Forking external process (PMD) for ./plugins/default/pmd/yasca.xml...
External process completed...
Forking external process (PMD) for ./plugins/default/pmd/yasca-rules.xml...
External process completed...
Creating report...
Results have been written to /root/Desktop/Yasca/Yasca-Report-20090127013827.html
[root@ardonis yasca]#
```



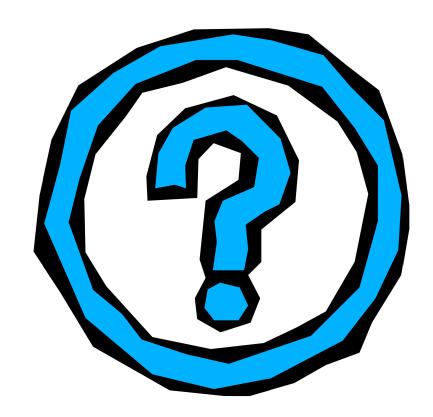
## Writing a Simple Rule Using the Grep Plug-in

 Problem: Management believes that developers have been embedding social security numbers directly in source code.

 Solution: Use Yasca and the 'Grep Plug-in' to scan all source code files for social security numbers.

```
[root@ardonis yasca]# less ./plugins/default/grep/SSN.grep
name = Social Security Number Found in Source Code
file type = JAVA, php, NET, HTML
qrep = /[^\d] \d{3} \-\d{2} \-\d{4} [^\d] /
category = Compliance: Sensitive Data
category link = http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social security number
severity = 1
description =
Social security numbers should never be embedded in program source
code.
END;
```

# Questions?



#### Thank You!

- This presentation will be posted on www.yasca.org tonight.
- Please send comments, feedback, bug reports, feature requests, questions, etc. to:
  - scovetta@users.sourceforge.net

Thank you for listening!!