

CS Masters' Thesis Defense

Title: *Security Vulnerabilities in PHP Applications*
Speaker: Mirza Mohammed Akram Baig
Date: Monday, March 19, 2012
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: GMCS 418
Thesis advisor: Alan Riggins

Abstract:

PHP is the most popular web programming languages in use today due in large part to the fact that it's a highly flexible syntax that can perform many functions while working flawlessly in conjunction with html. Most people grasp the syntax rather quickly and will within short time be able to produce a script that works using online tutorials, references & books. The problem is that most people forget one of the most important aspects that one must consider when writing PHP applications. Many beginners forget the security aspect of PHP. Generally not all users are nice people, some people will do as they are told and you will have no problem with these people whatsoever. On the other hand some people are outright malicious and will try to damage your website. They will scrutinize your application for security flaws and exploit these holes [1].

Presented are the most common PHP web application vulnerabilities & the necessary mechanisms required to write secure code by leveraging PHP's unique features. Also mentioned are the common programming mistakes done by developers when building PHP web applications & means to protect against such vulnerabilities.