

# Fundamental Skills - Burp Suite

Category	Experience Level
Web	Novice

## Contents

- [Fundamental Skills - Burp Suite](#)
  - [Introduction](#)
  - [Setting up Burp Suite](#)
    - [Proxying Traffic](#)
    - [Adding the Certificate](#)
  - [Intercept](#)
    - [Traffic Filtering](#)
  - [Repeater](#)
  - [Intruder](#)
  - [Cheatsheet](#)
  - [Worksheet](#)

## Introduction

To properly understand this lesson, we recommend first completing the [Web 2 - Understanding HTTP Requests](#) lesson if you are unfamiliar with HTTP requests.

Burp Suite is a powerful tool for inspecting HTTP traffic. It acts as a **proxy** between your *browser* and the *server*. It captures HTTP requests before they are sent to the server, and lets you **view** and **modify** their details on the fly.

What does this mean?

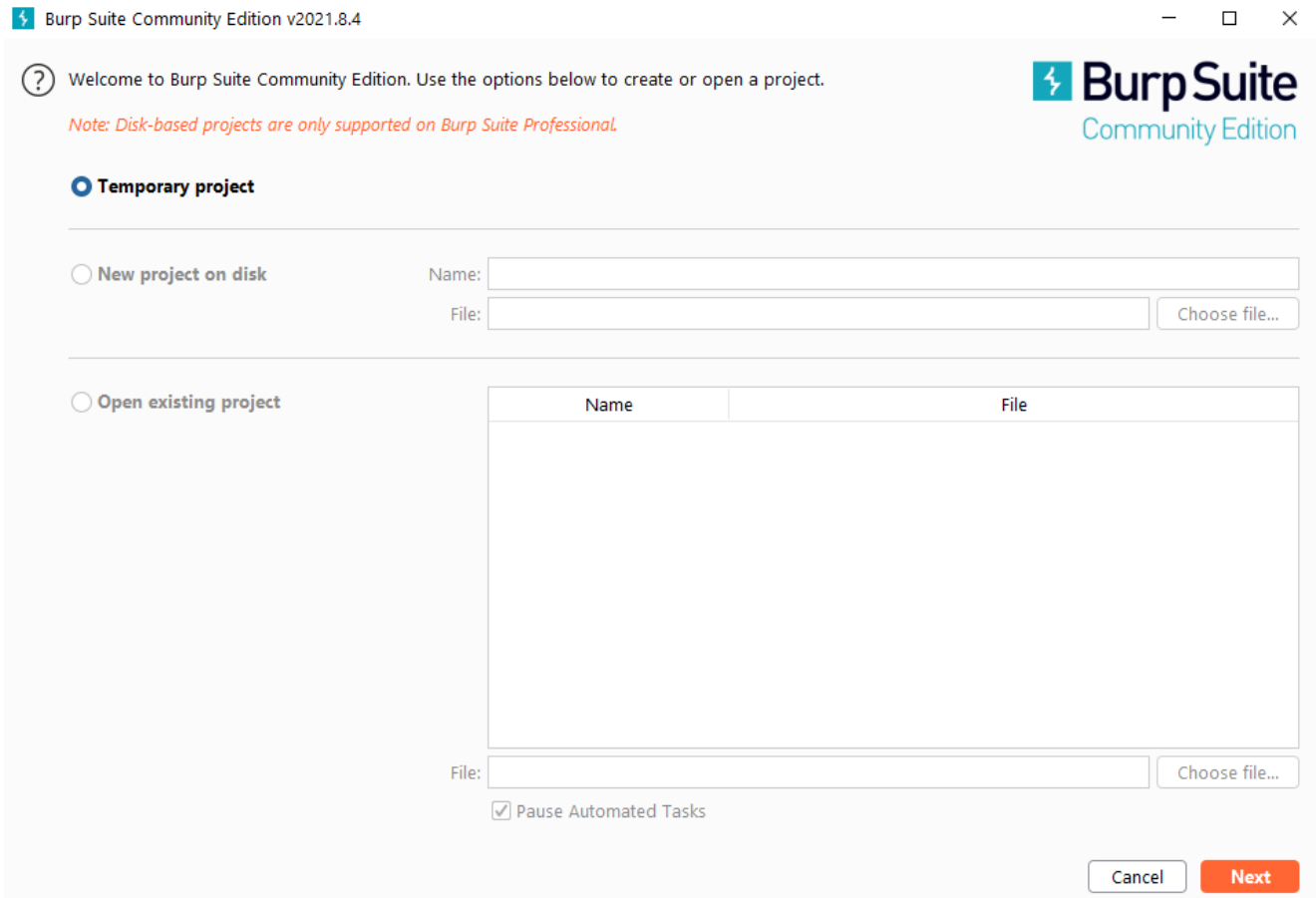
- you can see exactly what is happening when you visit a webpage; this includes request headers added automatically by your browser, request data, and server responses including redirects
- you can see 'behind the scenes requests' that you might not have been aware of
- you can edit requests before they reach the server - this allows you to experiment with site features, and potentially discover broken or unintended functionality on the server

Burp also has many other powerful features, such as the Repeater and Intruder modules which we will address in this lesson.

# Setting up Burp Suite

To download the free version of Burp Suite, visit [this page](#), click Download, and choose the most appropriate version for your Operating System. Then run any necessary installers.

When you launch Burp Suite, you will see the following screen:



Click 'Next' to start a temporary project, then 'Start Burp' on the next screen.

You should now see the Burp Homepage:


Dashboard Target Proxy Intruder Repeater Sequencer Decoder Comparer Logger Extender Project options User options **Learn**

### Learn, explore and discover Hide this tab

#### Getting started with Burp Suite

Get going right away - with our quick start tutorial.

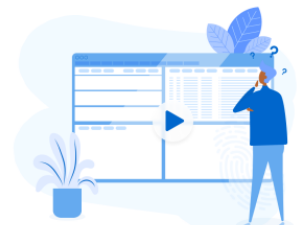
[Start here](#)



#### Burp Suite - a guided video tour

Take a run-through of all the major Burp Suite features.


[Watch the tour](#)



#### Burp Suite video tutorials

See how to use Burp Suite's main features and tools.


[Find out more](#)



#### The Web Security Academy

Learn how to find more vulnerabilities using Burp Suite.


[Start learning](#)



#### Burp Suite Support Center

Find the answers to your Burp Suite questions here.


[Find answers](#)



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## Proxying Traffic

By default, Burp sets up a HTTP proxy on address 127.0.0.1 (aka localhost, the address of your computer) and port 8080. You can see the proxy settings in the *Proxy > Options* tab:

The screenshot shows the Burp Suite interface with the 'Proxy' tab selected. The 'Proxy Listeners' section is active, showing a table with one listener: 'Running' (checked), 'Intercept', '127.0.0.1:8080', 'Invisible', 'Redirect', 'Certificate', 'Per-host', and 'TLS Protocols', 'Default'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Import / export CA certificate' and 'Regenerate CA certificate'.

The 'Intercept Client Requests' section is also visible, with a checked box for 'Intercept requests based on the following rules:'. Below this is a table with columns: 'Enabled', 'Operator', 'Match type', 'Relationship', and 'Condition'. The table contains three rules:

Enabled	Operator	Match type	Relationship	Condition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		File extension	Does not match	(^gif\$ ^jpg\$ ^png\$ ^css\$ ^js\$ ^ico\$ ...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Or	Request	Contains parameters	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Or	HTTP method	Does not match	(get post)
<input type="checkbox"/>	And	URL	Is in target scope	

Below the table, there are checkboxes for 'Automatically fix missing or superfluous new lines at end of request' (unchecked) and 'Automatically update Content-Length header when the request is edited' (checked).

The 'Intercept Server Responses' section is also visible, with an unchecked box for 'Intercept responses based on the following rules:'. Below this is a table with columns: 'Enabled', 'Operator', 'Match type', 'Relationship', and 'Condition'. The table contains three rules:

Enabled	Operator	Match type	Relationship	Condition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Content type header	Matches	text
<input type="checkbox"/>	Or	Request	Was modified	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Or	Request	Was intercepted	
<input type="checkbox"/>	And	Status code	Does not match	^304\$

There are lots of options, but we will focus on the first one. This lets us set the port and address to listen on. We can add, edit, and remove proxies with the buttons on the left, and enable/disable them with the checkbox.

To direct requests from your browser to your proxy, you must instruct the browser to point at Burp. I will show Firefox in this lesson, but PortSwigger have written a [guide for Google Chrome](#) if that's the browser you prefer.

In Firefox, navigate to `about:preferences` in the URL bar. This will open your settings menu. Scroll to the bottom where the Network Settings are, and click 'Settings':

## Network Settings

Configure how Firefox connects to the internet. [Learn more](#)

Settings...

Now add proxy settings to match the Proxy Listener settings in Burp:

**Configure Proxy Access to the Internet**

- No proxy
- Auto-detect proxy settings for this network
- Use system proxy settings
- Manual proxy configuration

HTTP Proxy  Port

Also use this proxy for HTTPS

HTTPS Proxy  Port

SOCKS Host  Port

SOCKS v4  SOCKS v5

- Automatic proxy configuration URL

No proxy for

Example: .mozilla.org, .net.nz, 192.168.1.0/24

Connections to localhost, 127.0.0.1/8, and ::1 are never proxied.

- Do not prompt for authentication if password is saved
- Proxy DNS when using SOCKS v5
- Enable DNS over HTTPS

Use Provider

You can also use the browser extension FoxyProxy to more easily configure, enable, and disable proxies - install it by visiting the [extension page](#) and clicking 'Add to Firefox':



 Recommended


# FoxyProxy Standard

by [Eric H. Jung](#)

FoxyProxy is an advanced proxy management tool that completely replaces Firefox's limited proxying capabilities. For a simpler tool and less advanced configuration options, please use FoxyProxy Basic.

Add to Firefox

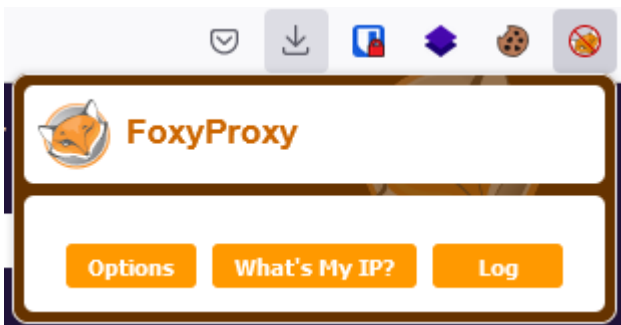
If you commonly use private browsing mode, you must also enable it to run in those windows:

 FoxyProxy Standard was added.  
Manage your add-ons and themes through the application menu.

Allow this extension to run in Private Windows

Okay

You can close the window that opens, then click the extension in the top-right:



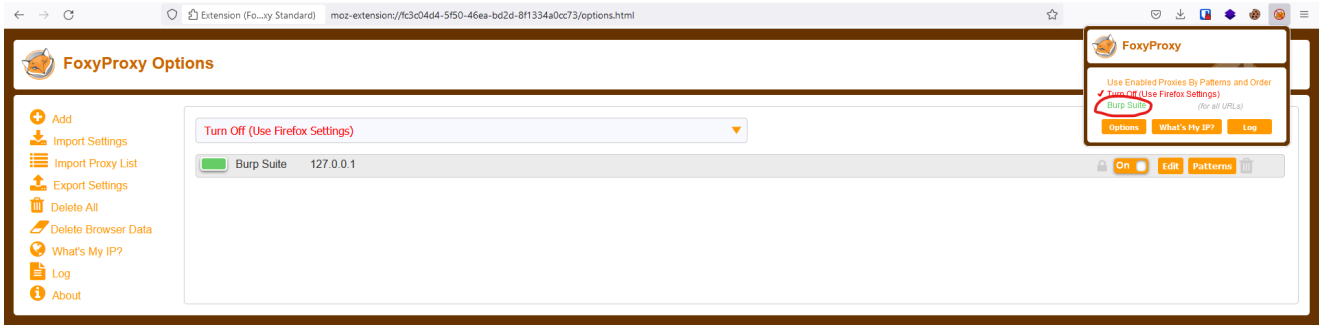
Click 'Options' to add a proxy, then fill in the details to match the listener:

### Add Proxy

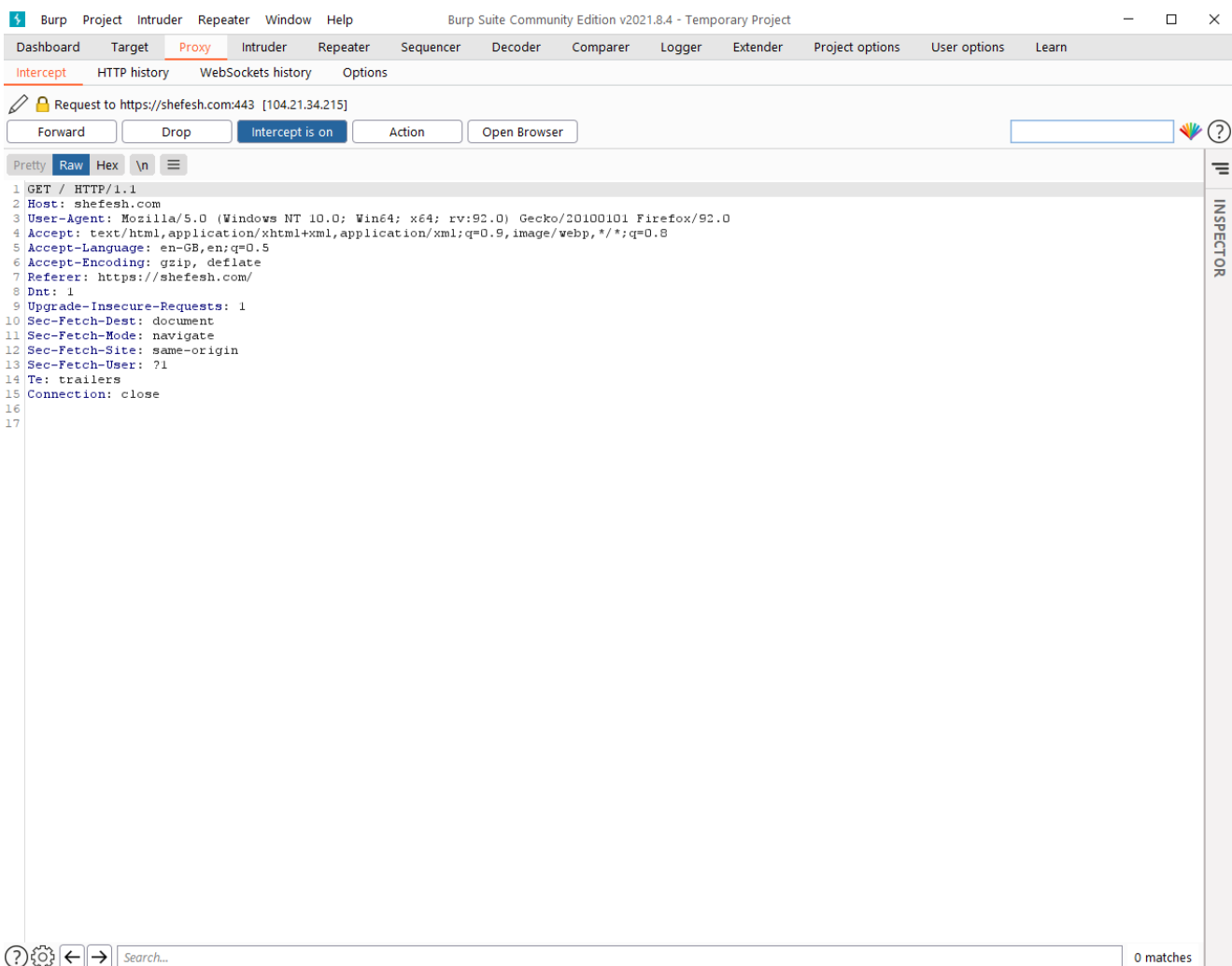
Title or Description (optional) Burp Suite	Proxy Type HTTP
Color #66cc66	Proxy IP address or DNS name ★ 127.0.0.1
Pattern Shortcuts Enabled Add whitelist pattern to match all URLs ⓘ Do not use for localhost and intranet/private IP addresses ⓘ	Port ★ 8080
	Username (optional) username
	Password (optional) ⓘ *****

Cancel Save & Add Another Save & Edit Patterns Save

Click 'Save', then you can click the extension again and click your new proxy to enable it and start directing traffic:



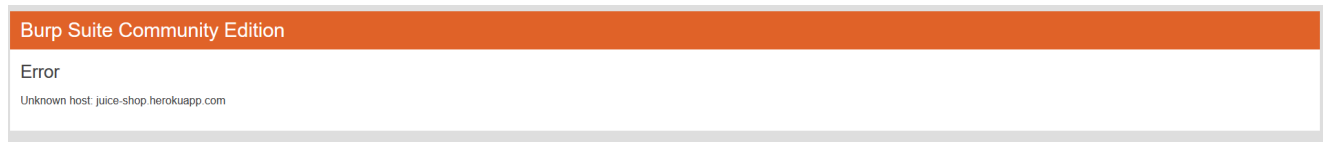
Now, when you visit a webpage you will see the request pop up in the Burp Suite *Proxy* > *Intercept* window:



Burp will now 'hold' the traffic until you either click 'Forward' or turn Intercept off. After it passes through Burp it will go to the server, and you can view the history in the 'HTTP History' tab. We'll cover Intercept in more detail later in this lesson.

If you get a message in your browser (or any other tool) saying that the "Proxy Server is refusing connections", you probably haven't launched Burp or enabled the proxy listener.

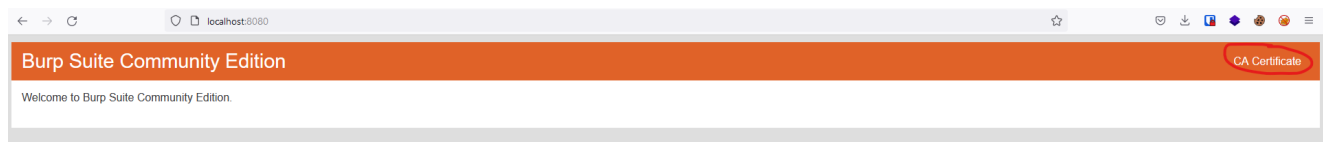
If you see an 'Unknown Host' error, you might not have an internet connection:



## Adding the Certificate

If you try to visit a HTTPS website with Burp Suite running, you may be warned by your browser or Antivirus that the certificate is untrustworthy.

To avoid this warning, you must import Burp's certificate into your browser. To get the certificate, navigate to `localhost:8080` in your browser while Burp is running (or `localhost:[PORT]` if you're using a different port to listen on) and click the 'CA Certificate' button:



This will download the `cacert.der` file. You can now import this into your browser by navigating to `about:preferences#privacy` in browser and scrolling to the Certificates section:

### Certificates

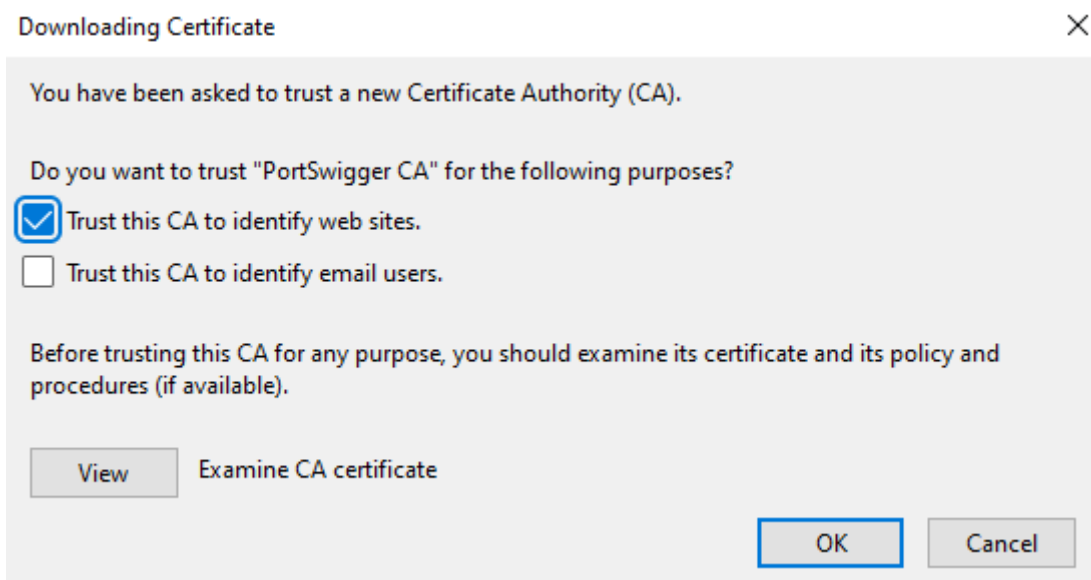
Query OCSP responder servers to confirm the current validity of certificates

View Certificates...

Security Devices...

Click 'View Certificates', then 'Import', then select the downloaded certificate and tell Firefox to trust it to identify websites:





Click 'OK'. Burp should now work normally over HTTPS.

## Intercept

The Intercept tab is where you can inspect HTTP/S traffic before forwarding it to the server.

In the tab you can view all elements of the request, including headers and request body:

Request to https://shefesh.com:443 [104.21.34.215]

Forward Drop Intercept is on Action Open Browser

```

1 GET / HTTP/1.1
2 Host: shefesh.com
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:92.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/92.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Referer: https://shefesh.com/
8 Dnt: 1
9 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
10 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
11 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
12 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
13 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
14 Te: trailers
15 Connection: close
16
17

```

Inspector

Search... 0 matches

The HTTP history tab shows *all* previous requests, and their responses:

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited	Status	Length	MIME type	Extension	Title	Comment	TLS	IP	Cookies	Time	Listener port
1	https://shefesh.com	GET	/			200	17731	HTML		Home - Sheffield Ethical ...		✓	104.21.34.215		21:55:04 1 Oct 2021	8080
2	https://shefesh.com	GET	/3ED65AD6-368D-5447-A286-FF1E02...		✓	101	166					✓	104.21.34.215		21:56:26 1 Oct 2021	8080
20	https://shefesh.com	GET	/cdn-cgi/scripts/5C5dd728/cloudflare...			200	2045	script	js			✓	104.21.34.215		21:56:29 1 Oct 2021	8080
21	https://shefesh.com	GET	/assets/js/havmenus.js			200	4038	script	js			✓	104.21.34.215		21:56:32 1 Oct 2021	8080
22	https://shefesh.com	GET			✓	101	166					✓	104.21.34.215		22:04:08 1 Oct 2021	8080

Inspector

Request

```

1 GET / HTTP/1.1
2 Host: shefesh.com
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:92.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/92.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Referer: https://shefesh.com/
8 Dnt: 1
9 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
10 Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
11 Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
12 Sec-Fetch-Site: same-origin
13 Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
14 Te: trailers
15 Connection: close
16
17

```

Response

```

1 HTTP/2 200 OK
2 Date: Fri, 01 Oct 2021 20:56:30 GMT
3 Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
4 Last-Modified: Wed, 29 Sep 2021 23:56:17 GMT
5 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
6 Expires: Fri, 01 Oct 2021 19:24:00 GMT
7 Cache-Control: max-age=600
8 X-Proxy-Cache: MISS
9 X-Github-Request-Id: 48CA98E59DDA4A5689:61575E00
10 Vary: 1:1 varnish
11 Age: 0
12 X-Served-By: cache-ams1028-AMS
13 X-Cache: HIT
14 X-Cache-Hits: 1
15 X-Time: S1E33121791,738953,V50,VZ93
16 Vary: Accept-Encoding
17 X-Fastly-Request-Id: i52b79073e413c02f444ca350d59f901381f50d2
18 CF-Cache-Status: DYNAMIC
19 Expect-Ct: max-age=604800, report-uri="https://report-uri.cloudflare.com/cdn-cgi/beacon/expect-ct";
20 Report-To: {"endpoints":[{"url":"https://a.msi.cloudflare.com/report/v3?m=13XjOfcT4iXG0"}]}
21 Nel: {"reporting_endpoint":"https://a.msi.cloudflare.com/report/v3?m=13XjOfcT4iXG0"}
22 Server: cloudflare
23 CF-Ray: 697899180e91fda-AMS
24 Alt-Svc: h3=":443"; ma=86400, h3-29=":443"; ma=86400, h3-28=":443"; ma=86400, h3-27=":443";
25
26 <!DOCTYPE html>
27 <html lang="en-GB">
28
29 <head>
30 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
31 <meta charset="utf-8">
32 <title>
33 Home - Sheffield Ethical Student Hackers
34 </title>
35 <link rel="stylesheet" href="/assets/css/main.css">
36
37 <!-- Added OG meta titles for link sending on multiple platforms-->
38 <meta property="og:title" content="The Sheffield Ethical Student Hackers Society | Home">
39 <meta property="og:description" content="Sheffield Ethical Student Hackers society aims">
40 <meta property="og:image" content="https://shefesh.com/assets/images/image.png" />
41
42 <!-- Added Font Awesome Kit for Bars Icon and Other Font Awesome resources later -->
43 <script src="https://kit.fontawesome.com/e5e76d939.js" crossorigin="anonymous">

```

Inspector

Request Attributes

Request Headers (17)

Response Headers (23)

Search... 0 matches

To modify a request before it hits the server, you can hold it in the Intercept tab (by leaving Intercept on and not forwarding the request), then send it to the Repeater by

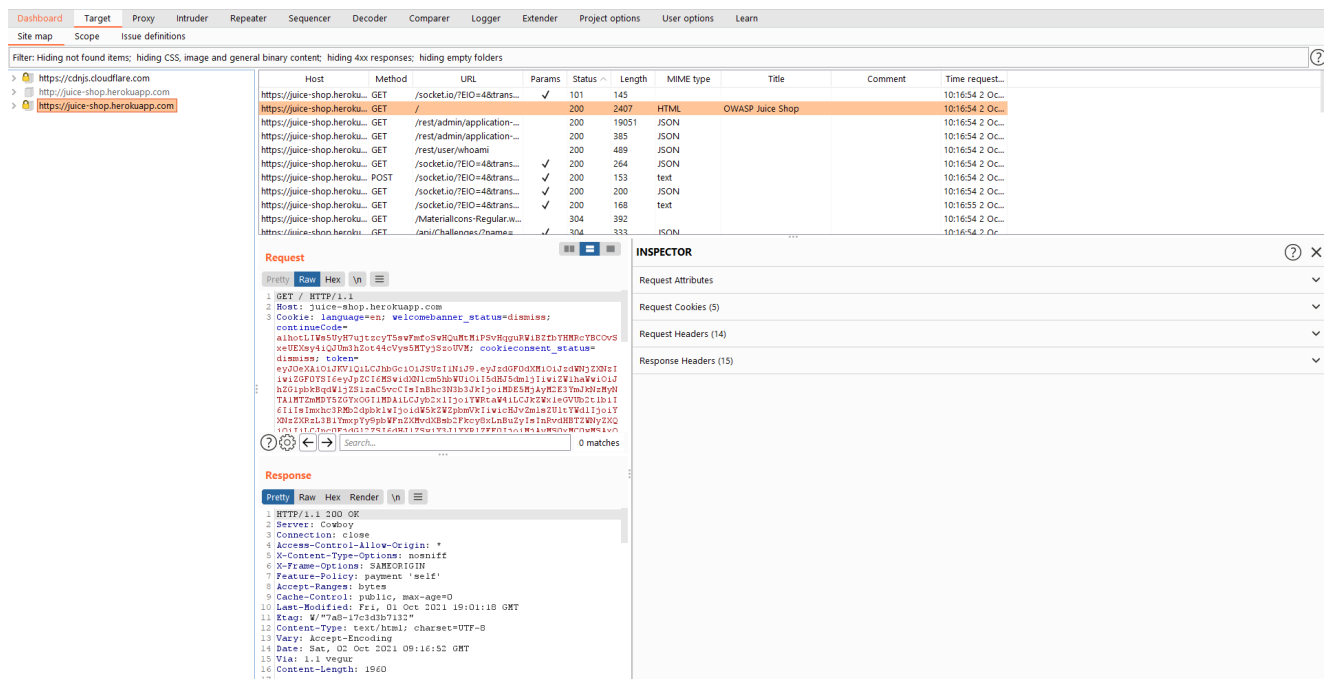
pressing **Ctrl + R**. Once your request is in the Repeater, click drop on the Intercept tab to stop the original request from sending. You can now modify the request.

For a practical example of this, watch [this video](#) on the Academy HacktheBox machine.

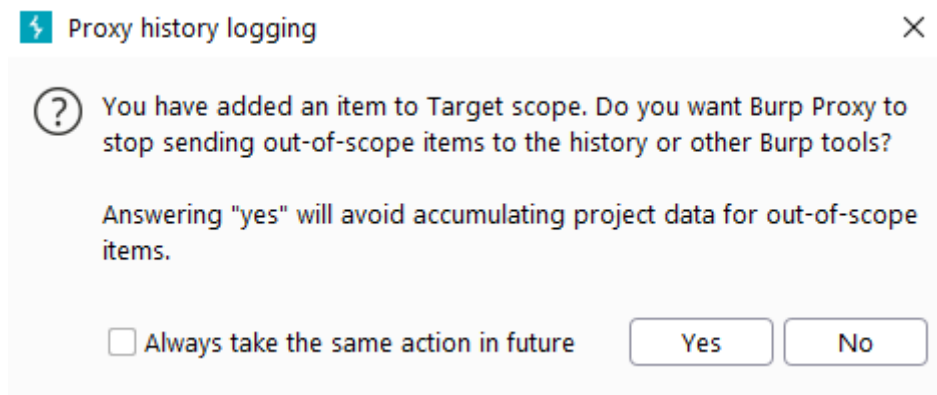
## Traffic Filtering

You may find that your HTTP History gets clogged with a lot of other requests, especially if you're using Burp Suite from your day-to-day machine.

To prevent this, you can add a certain website to your 'scope'. Visit the 'Target' tab, where you can see all websites that Burp has captured traffic for:



Right-click the website you are testing (in this case, juice-shop.herokuapp.com) and click 'Add to scope':



Click yes, and Burp should stop logging traffic from other sites.

Your history tab will now be much cleaner:

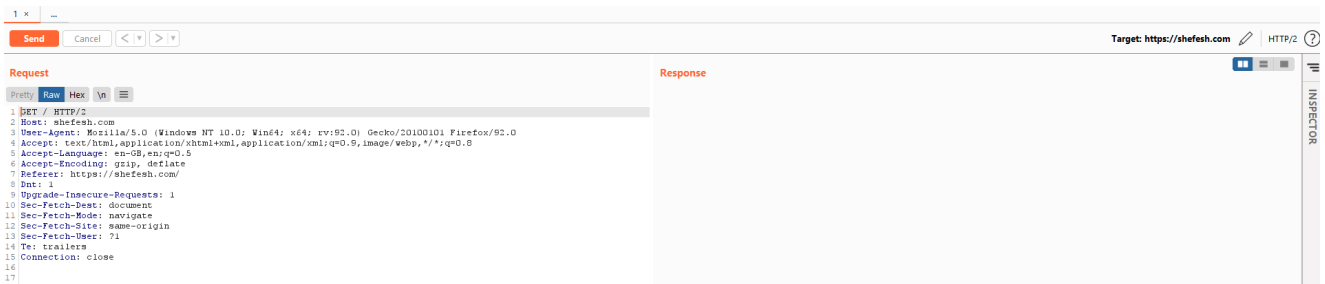
Logging of out-of-scope Proxy traffic is disabled Re-enable

#	Host	Method	URL	Params	Edited	Status	Length	MIME type	Extension	Title	Comment	TLS	IP	Cookies	Time	Listener port
29	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/rest/languages			200	4804	JSON				✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
30	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/rest/admin/application-version			200	385	JSON				✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
31	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/rest/admin/application-configuration			200	19051	JSON				✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
32	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/rest/user/shoam			200	489	JSON				✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
33	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/api/Challenges/?name=Score%20Boa...	✓		200	1018	JSON				✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
34	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/rest/admin/application-configuration			200	19051	JSON				✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
36	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/api/Quantities/			304	336					✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080
37	https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com	GET	/rest/products/search?q=	✓		304	306					✓	54.73.53.134		10:16:54.200	8080

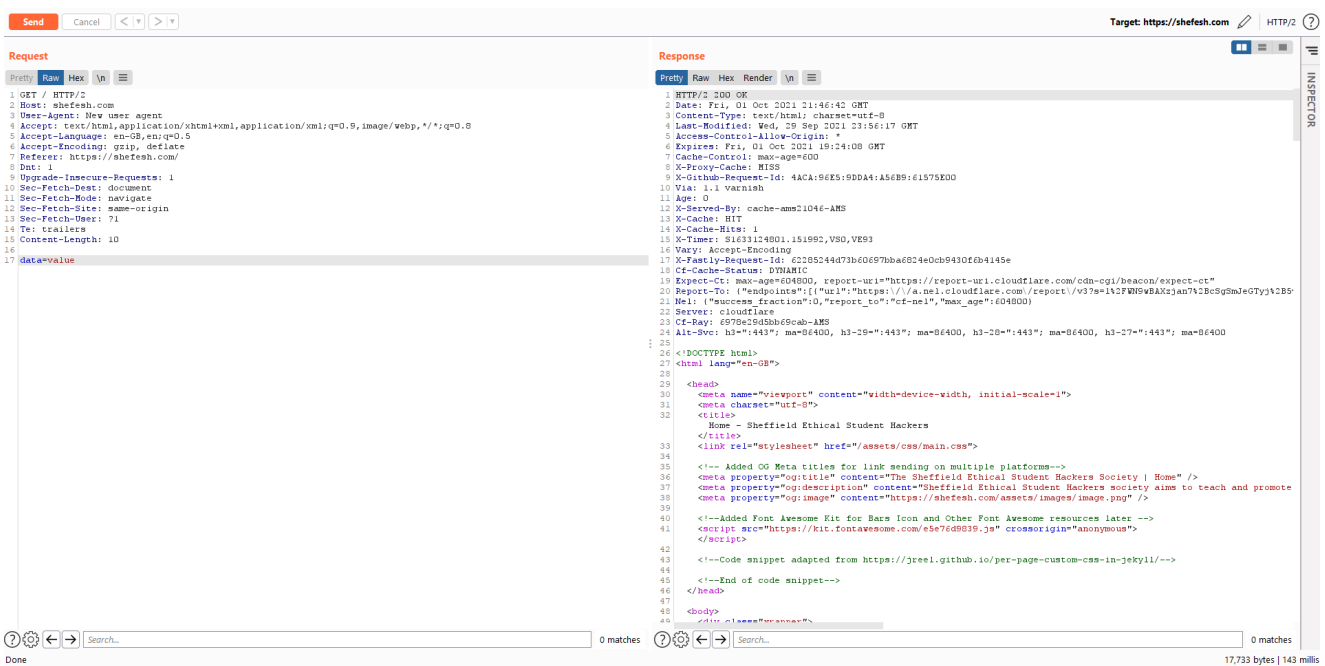
# Repeater

The Repeater tab can be used to Edit & Resend requests, similar to with the [Developer Tools](#).

Here we see the request for the shefesh page that was sent to the Repeater by pressing **Ctrl + R**:

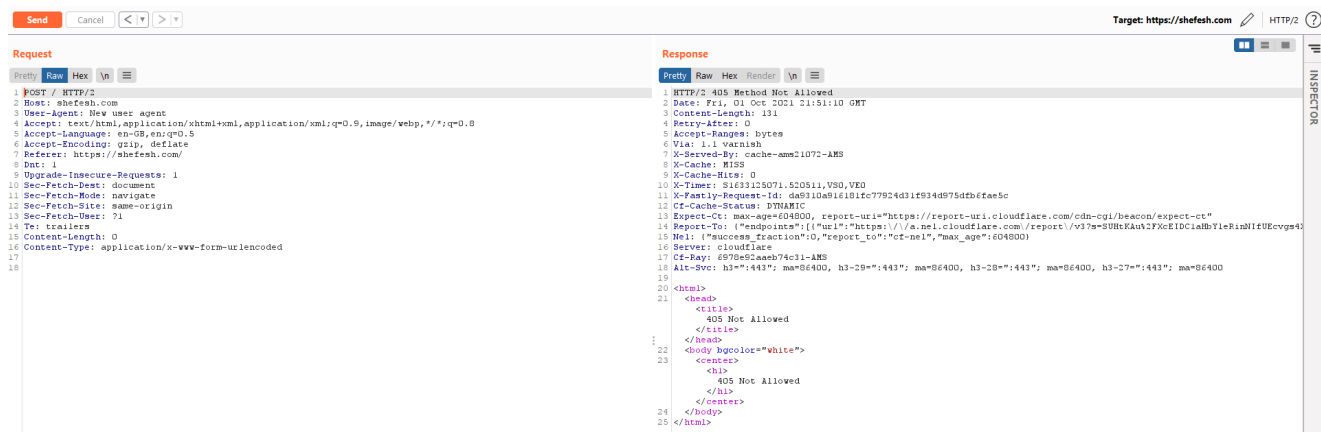


We can edit any values in the request, such as headers and data, then press 'Send' and view the results of the response:



The size of the response is shown in the bottom-right corner - checking whether this changes is a good indicator of whether the changes you made had any impact.

We can also change the HTTP request method (right-click + 'Change request method') from the repeater tab, to conveniently turn a GET request for a specific resource into a POST request:



You can use this tab to experiment with different values in parameters, try to send requests that may trigger errors in the application, try to exploit [IDOR](#)-style vulnerabilities, and resend payloads to web shells - the possibilities are endless.

## Intruder

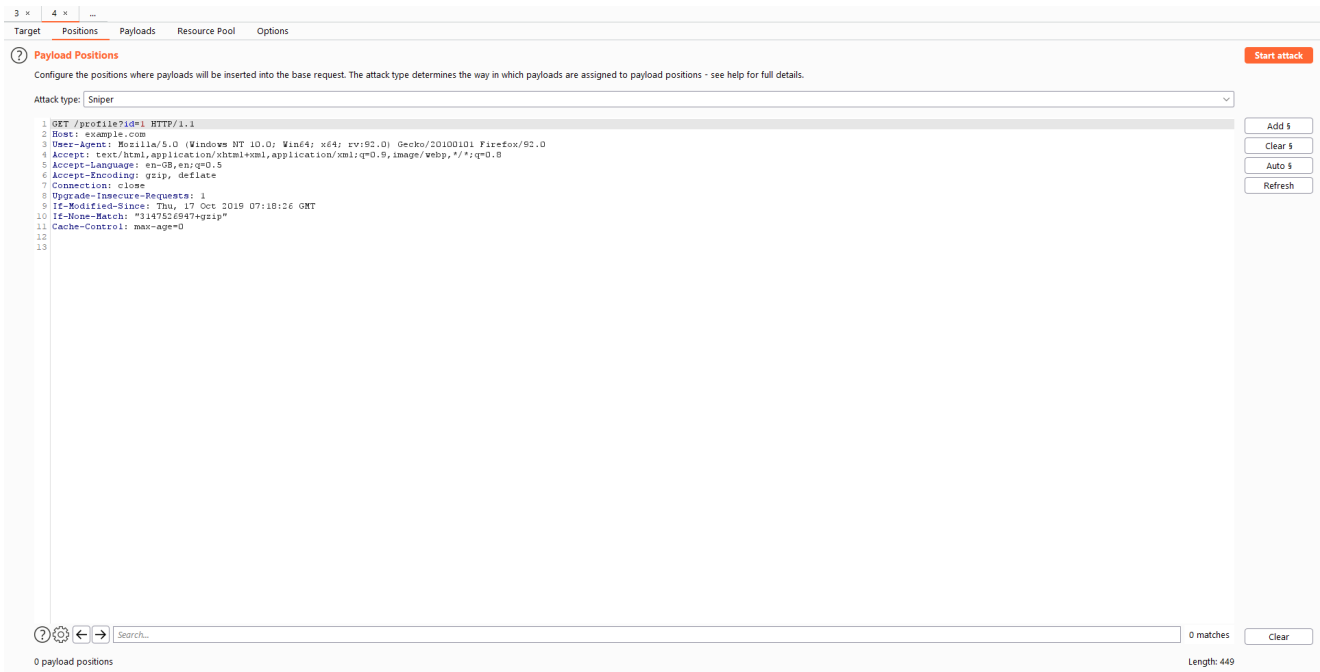
The Intruder tab is similar to the Repeater tab, in that it can resend HTTP requests. The extra feature of the Intruder tab is its ability to automate the sending of HTTP requests within a certain scheme, automatically replacing parts of the request with a sequence of predefined values.

What does this mean? It means you can take a captured Burp request - for example, a GET request to `http://example.com/profile?id=1` - and select a portion of the URL to modify according to a ruleset.

You may, for example, want to perform a brute force attack against the website and see if you can discover any other user profiles by their ID. You could do this by hand, visiting `http://example.com/profile?id=2` and `http://example.com/profile?id=3` until you find a match - or you could tell the Intruder to do it for you.

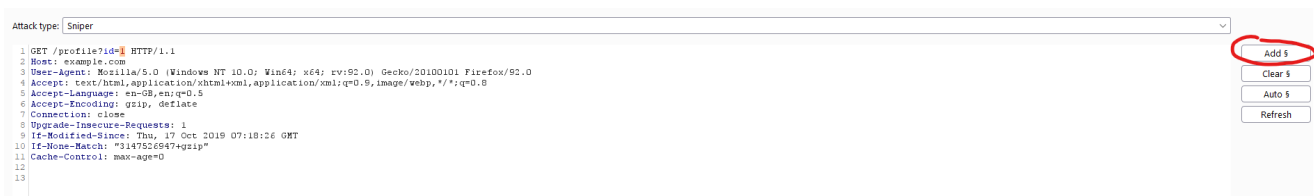
Important note: the following example is purely illustrative. We are not performing a vulnerability assessment on example.com, and there is no intention of causing undesired effects. The URL /profile does not exist on example.com, so the requests will have no impact besides a small amount of traffic - they merely illustrate what the Intruder could be used for. Remember you can only perform a vulnerability assessment on a site that you have explicit permission to do so on, such as juice-shop.herokuapp.com.

Press `Ctrl + I` to send a request to the Intruder:



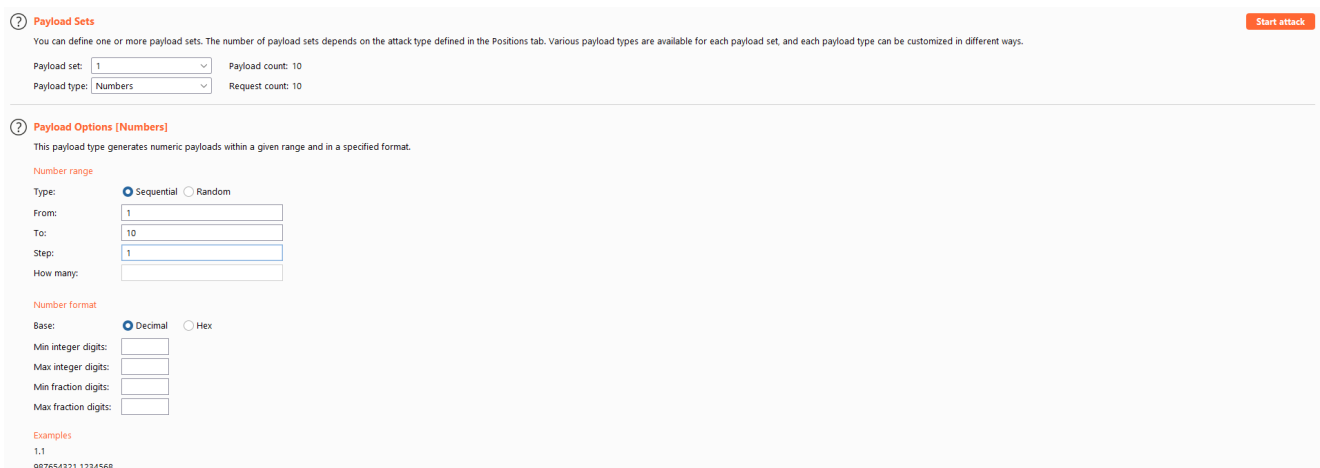
The default attack type is 'Sniper', which will insert values into the desired 'positions'.

Now we need to define these positions - we can do so by highlighting the text we want to be replaced, and clicking the 'Add' button on the side:



This adds two characters round the text, indicating it will be replaced: **\$1\$**

We then go to the Payloads tab and tell Burp which values should replace the text in each position. The most simple payload type is 'Numbers', for which we can fill out the numbers 1-10 sequentially, with a step of 1 (meaning the numbers will increase by one with each request):



Then click 'Start Attack' - this will re-make these requests, replacing the **id** parameter with a new number each time. Clicking a request shows it in more detail:

Filter: Showing all items

Request ^	Payload	Status	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
0		404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
1	1	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
2	2	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
3	3	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
4	4	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
5	5	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
6	6	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
7	7	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
8	8	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
9	9	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	
10	10	404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1617	

Request    Response

Pretty   Raw   Hex   \n  

```

1 GET /profile?id=1 HTTP/1.1
2 Host: example.com
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:92.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/92.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Connection: close
8 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
9 If-Modified-Since: Thu, 17 Oct 2019 07:18:26 GMT
10 If-None-Match: "3147526947+gzip"
11 Cache-Control: max-age=0
12
13

```

Using this method we could look for a page that returns a non-404 status code, indicating we had found a profile.

This method is often called fuzzing. It can be done much better by other tools, but the concept is important and sometimes the intruder can be helpful for small-scale fuzzing. We will teach you about more efficient fuzzing tools as the semester goes on.

If you wanted to reuse a request captured by Burp, perhaps in a `curl` command or to pass to a specialised fuzzing program, then you can right-click the request and click 'Copy as curl command'

## Cheatsheet

`Ctrl + R` to send a request to the Repeater.

`Ctrl + I` to send a request to the Intruder.

## Worksheet

1. Visit <https://juice-shop.herokuapp.com/>-and-proxy-the-traffic-to-burp-suite.-add-an-item-to-your-basket,-and-see-if-you-can-identify-which-request-adds-the-item-(hint:-it's-a-post-request)
2. After identifying this request, send it to the Repeater tab. Can you modify it so the item is added to another user's basket? (hint: it might not be as simple as changing one value - an error message in the response might tell you more)
3. View your basket, and identify the request that returns the basket data. Can you modify this request to *view* another user's basket? Use this to verify the previous exercise