

Web Security

SQL Injection

Web Application Architecture















What is SQL?

- **Structured Query Language**
- A computer language for **storing, manipulating and retrieving** data stored in a relational database













Getting Started With Select

- A SQL database contains a bunch of tables













sales

client	item
	
	
	
	
	
	

clients

id	name
	
	
	
	
	
	

cats

owner	name
	
	
	
	
	
	

Getting Started With Select

- Every SELECT query takes data from those tables and outputs the results

cats

owner	name
1	cheddar
1	daisy
3	buttercup
4	fluffy
4	zeus
5	ruby

query

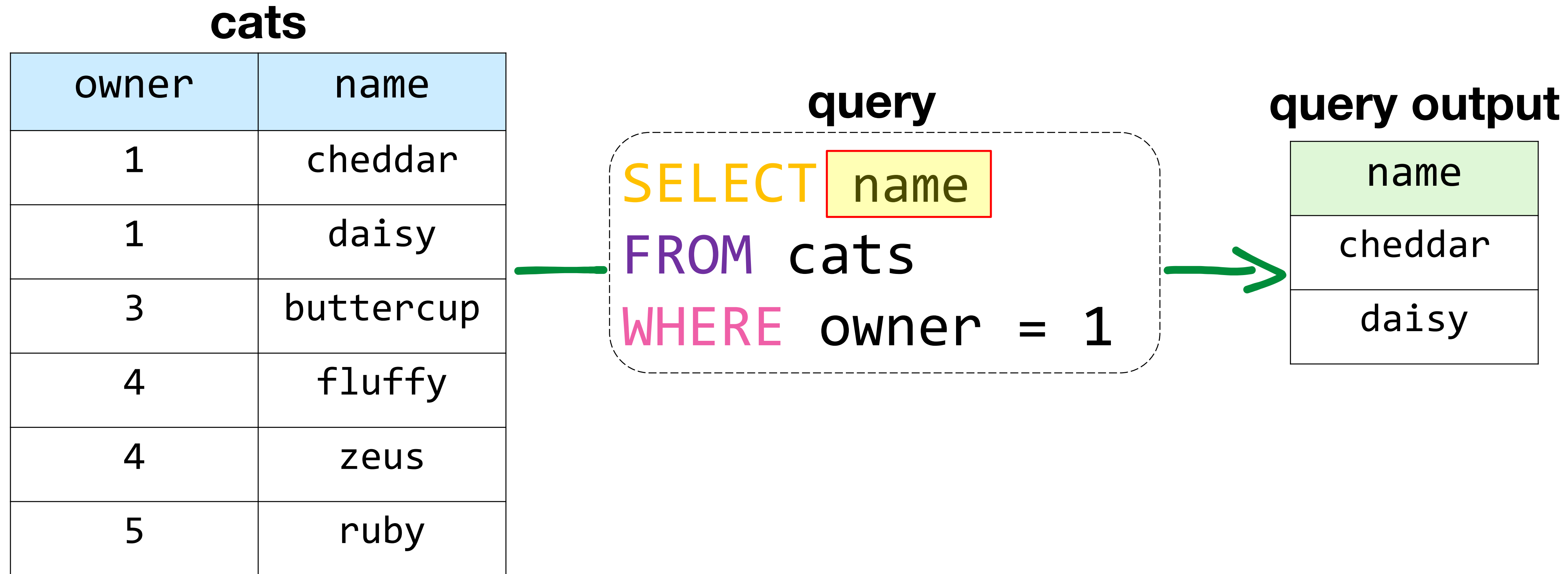
```
SELECT *  
FROM cats  
WHERE owner = 1
```

query output

owner	name
1	cheddar
1	daisy

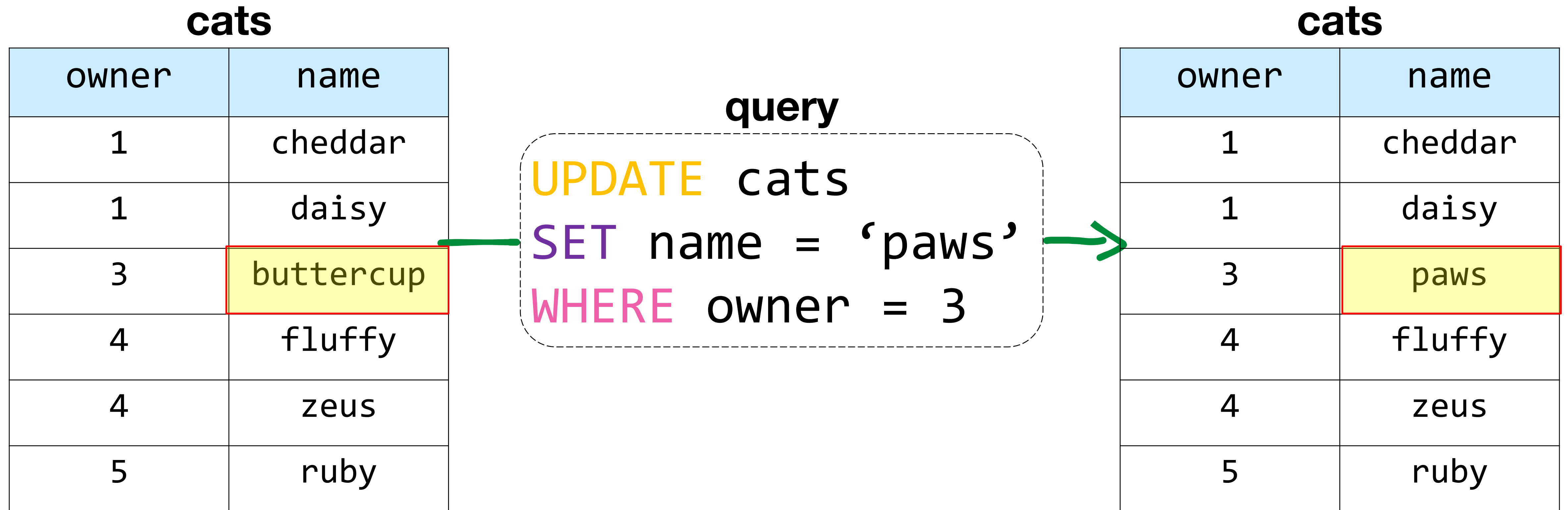
Getting Started With Select

- Every SELECT query takes data from those tables and outputs the results



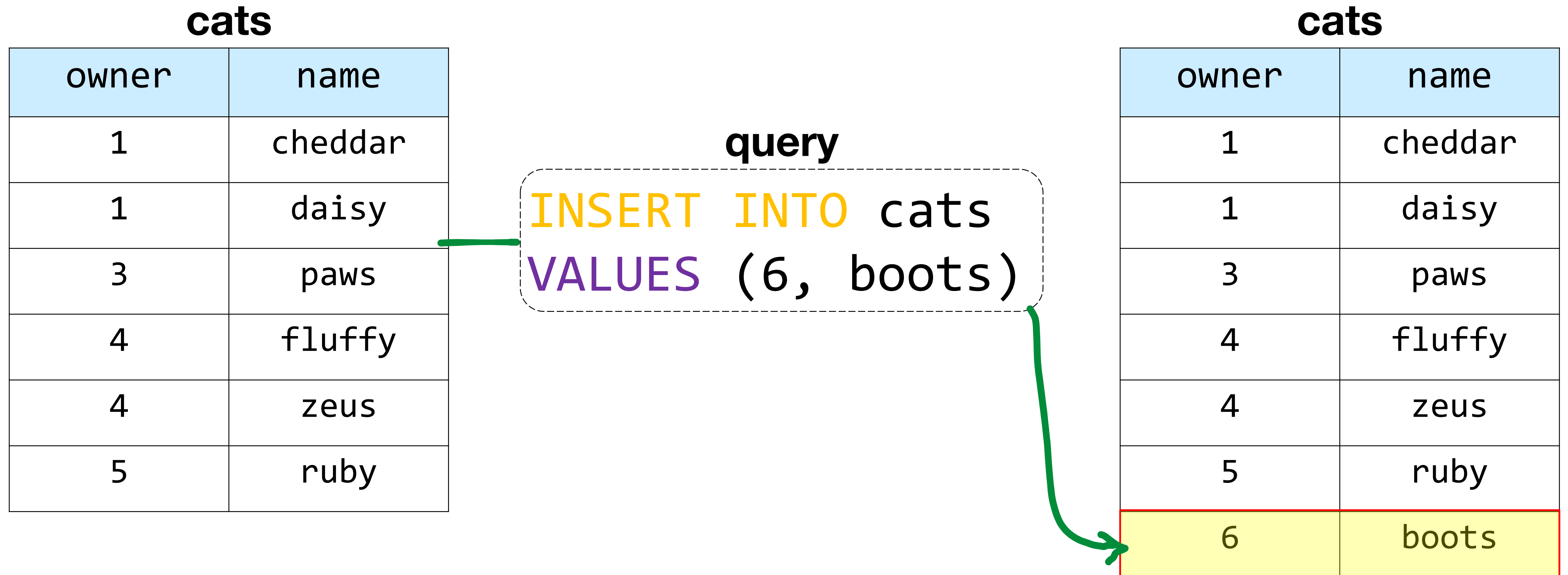
Update a Row

- We can use UPDATE to modify an existing row in a table



Insert a Row

- We can use INSERT INTO to insert a new row into a table



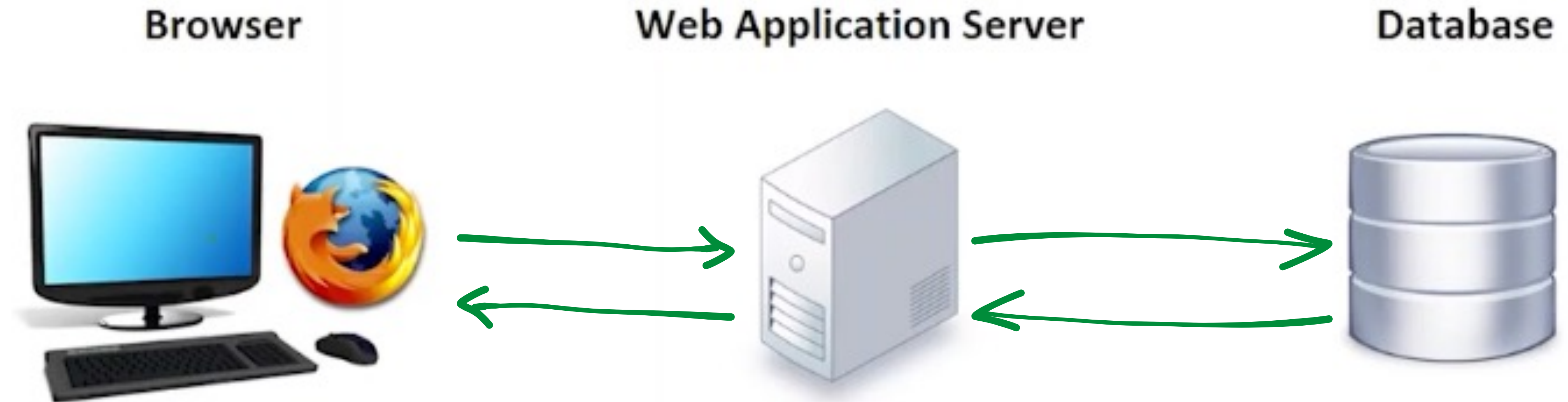
SQL Injection

SQL injection is a code injection attack on data-driven applications, in which malicious SQL statements are inserted into an entry field for execution

Goals: Change or exfiltrate info from a database

Main idea: Inject code through the parts of a query that you define

Web Application Architecture



SQL Injection Example

Sign In

Username

Password

[Forgot Username / Password?](#)

SIGN IN

Don't have an account?
[SIGN UP NOW](#)

```
$login = $_POST['login'];  
$pass = $_POST['password'];  
  
$sql = "SELECT id FROM users  
WHERE username = '$login'  
AND password = '$password'";  
  
$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql);  
if $rs.count > 0 {  
    // success  
}
```

Non-Malicious Input

```
$login = $_POST['login']; // dbalash  
$pass = $_POST['password']; // P@ssw0rd123!
```

```
$sql = "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = '$login' AND pwd = '$pass'";
```

```
$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql);
```

```
if $rows.count > 0 {  
    // Success!  
}
```

Non-Malicious Input

```
$login = $_POST['login']; // dbalash
```

```
$pass = $_POST['password']; // P@ssw0rd123!
```

```
$sql = "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = '$login' AND pwd = '$pass'";
```

dbalash ↓ P@ssw0rd123! ↓

```
$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql);
```

```
if $rows.count > 0 {
```


```
    // Success!
```

```
}
```

Bad Input

```
$login = $_POST['login']; // dbalash
```

```
$pass = $_POST['password']; // P@ssw0rd123!
```



```
$sql = "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = '$login' AND pwd = '$pass'";
```

```
$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql); // SQL Syntax Error
```

Malicious Input

```
$login = $_POST['login']; // dbalash'--  
$pass = $_POST['password']; // 123
```

```
$sql = "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = '$login' AND pwd = '$pass'";  
//      "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = 'dbalash'-- COMMENTED OUT
```

```
$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql); // (No Error)
```

```
if $rows.count > 0 {  
    // Success!  
}
```

No Username Needed!

```
$login = $_POST['login']; // 'or 1=1 --
$pass = $_POST['password']; // 123

$sql = "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = '$login' AND pwd = '$pass'";
//      "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = ' 'or 1=1 -- COMMENTED OUT

$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql); // (No Error)

if $rows.count > 0 {
    // Success!
}
```

Causing Damage

```
$login = $_POST['login']; // '; DROP TABLE [users] --
$pass = $_POST['password']; // 123

$sql = "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = '$login' AND pwd = '$pass'";
//      "SELECT id FROM users WHERE uid = ' '; DROP TABLE [users] --

$rows = $db->executeQuery($sql);
// No Error...(and no more users table)
```

Preventing SQL Injection

Never trust user input (*particularly* when constructing a command)

Never manually build SQL commands yourself!

Sanitize / Escape user input (like XSS, this is harder than you think!)

There are tools for safely passing user input to databases:

- Parameterized (AKA Prepared) SQL
- ORM (Object Relational Mapper) -> uses Prepared SQL internally

Parameterized SQL

Parameterized SQL allows you to send query and arguments separately to server

```
sql = "INSERT INTO users(name, email) VALUES (?, ?)"  
cursor.execute(sql, [David Balash', `dbalash@richmond.edu'])
```

```
sql = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE email = ?"  
cursor.execute(sql, [`dbalash@richmond.edu'])
```



Values are sent to server
separately from command.
Library doesn't need to escape

Benefit 1: No need to escape untrusted data — server handles behind the scenes

Benefit 2: Parameterized queries are faster because server caches query plan

Object Relational Mappers

Object Relational Mappers (ORM) provide an interface between native objects and relational databases.

```
class User(DBObject):  
    __id__ = Column(Integer, primary_key=True)  
    name = Column(String(255))  
    email = Column(String(255), unique=True)  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    users = User.query(email=dbalash@richmond.edu').all()
```

Burp Suite

Burp Suite captures and enables manipulation of all the HTTP/HTTPS traffic between a browser and a web server

