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DETAILED LAB TOOLKIT · 2026 EDITION

Burp Suite Configuration Community & Professional Toolkit

A safe project configuration handbook covering proxy setup, scope, TLS, session handling, match/replace, extensions, evidence, and backups.

18	10	2
Detailed pages	Configuration modules	Edition paths

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How to use this guide

Configure Burp for authorized application testing with strict scope and noise controls. Availability of features differs between Community and Professional editions.

> **Professional-use notice:** Security testing must stay within systems you own or have explicit written authorization to assess. Standards summaries are educational aids, not certification, legal, or audit advice.

Inside this resource

01 **Project Setup & Data Handling**
Choose temporary versus saved projects and protect captured application data.

02 **Browser & Proxy Configuration**
Connect a dedicated browser and verify interception without affecting unrelated traffic.

03 **CA Certificate & TLS Safety**
Install the Burp CA only in the dedicated testing profile.

04 **Target Scope Rules**
Include only approved hosts and exclude logout, destructive, and third-party paths.

05 **Proxy Intercept Workflow**
Control which requests pause and which pass through.

06 **HTTP History & Site Map**
Turn traffic into a structured view of endpoints, parameters, and behavior.

07 **Match & Replace Presets**
Use transparent transformations carefully and document active rules.

08 **Authentication & Sessions**
Handle cookies, tokens, CSRF, and re-authentication without exposing credentials.

09 **Extensions & BApp Review**

Install the minimum extensions required and assess permissions, maintenance, and data exposure.

10 **Performance, Logging & Export**

Control memory, connection rates, backups, and evidence exports.

11 **Authorization, Ethics & Lab Boundaries**

Keep every tool and experiment inside systems you own or are explicitly authorized to assess.

12 **Troubleshooting Playbook**

Diagnose failures systematically instead of reinstalling or changing many variables at once.

13 **Documentation & Evidence**

Turn lab work into reproducible notes that another learner can safely follow.

14 **Maintenance & Update Routine**

Keep a working lab trustworthy through controlled updates and backups.

15 **Capstone & Quality Gate**

Demonstrate an end-to-end outcome without relying on copied screenshots.

Project Setup & Data Handling

Choose temporary versus saved projects and protect captured application data.

Purpose: Choose temporary versus saved projects and protect captured application data.

Working checklist

01 · Project choice
Use named, encrypted storage and defined retention for sensitive work.

02 · Backup
Export configurations separately from project data and test restoration.

Practical workflow

Stage	Action	Evidence / output
Prepare	Confirm scope, prerequisites, versions, access, and a rollback path.	Written scope and baseline
Execute	Apply the smallest safe change or test, one variable at a time.	Commands, screenshots, or notes
Validate	Compare expected and observed outcomes; investigate uncertainty.	Result with timestamps
Improve	Document lessons, ownership, maintenance, and the next measurable action.	Reusable playbook or portfolio artifact

Browser & Proxy Configuration

Connect a dedicated browser and verify interception without affecting unrelated traffic.

Purpose: Connect a dedicated browser and verify interception without affecting unrelated traffic.

Working checklist

01 · Listener
Bind locally, use a dedicated profile, and avoid exposure to the LAN.

02 · Verification
Confirm request/response capture on an owned lab target.

Practical workflow

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CA Certificate & TLS Safety

Install the Burp CA only in the dedicated testing profile.

Purpose: Install the Burp CA only in the dedicated testing profile.

Working checklist

01 · Trust boundary
Never distribute the private CA or install it system-wide without need.

02 · Cleanup
Remove the certificate and profile after the engagement.

Practical workflow

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Target Scope Rules

Include only approved hosts and exclude logout, destructive, and third-party paths.

Purpose: Include only approved hosts and exclude logout, destructive, and third-party paths.

Working checklist

01 · Host rules
Use exact schemes, hosts, ports, and reviewed regex.

02 · Scope discipline
Show only in-scope items and block out-of-scope requests where possible.

Practical workflow

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Proxy Intercept Workflow

Control which requests pause and which pass through.

Purpose: Control which requests pause and which pass through.

Working checklist

01 · Filters
Intercept only useful methods, MIME types, and in-scope traffic.

02 · Operations
Forward, drop, annotate, and preserve original requests.

Practical workflow

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HTTP History & Site Map

Turn traffic into a structured view of endpoints, parameters, and behavior.

Purpose: Turn traffic into a structured view of endpoints, parameters, and behavior.

Working checklist

01 · Organization
Filter by host, method, status, MIME, extension, and search term.

02 · Evidence
Comment and highlight requests linked to test cases.

Practical workflow

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Match & Replace Presets

Use transparent transformations carefully and document active rules.

Purpose: Use transparent transformations carefully and document active rules.

Working checklist

01 · Safe uses
Add an authorized test header, normalize a lab value, or mark requests.

02 · Risk
Disable rules before unrelated browsing and avoid masking real behavior.

Practical workflow

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Authentication & Sessions

Handle cookies, tokens, CSRF, and re-authentication without exposing credentials.

Purpose: Handle cookies, tokens, CSRF, and re-authentication without exposing credentials.

Working checklist

01 · Profiles
Use dedicated low/high privilege test accounts and synthetic data.

02 · Session handling
Verify automated refresh rules against safe endpoints and log failures.

Practical workflow

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Extensions & BApp Review

Install the minimum extensions required and assess permissions, maintenance, and data exposure.

Purpose: Install the minimum extensions required and assess permissions, maintenance, and data exposure.

Working checklist

01 · Selection
Review source, publisher, update history, issue tracker, and compatibility.

02 · Governance
Maintain an approved list and remove unused extensions.

Practical workflow

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Performance, Logging & Export

Control memory, connection rates, backups, and evidence exports.

Purpose: Control memory, connection rates, backups, and evidence exports.

Working checklist

01 · Performance
Limit crawl/audit scope, concurrency, retries, and response size.

02 · Export
Sanitize reports and requests; preserve timestamps and reproduction steps.

Practical workflow

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Authorization, Ethics & Lab Boundaries

Keep every tool and experiment inside systems you own or are explicitly authorized to assess.

Purpose: Keep every tool and experiment inside systems you own or are explicitly authorized to assess.

Working checklist

01 · Scope record
Write targets, exclusions, permitted methods, time window, and stop conditions.

02 · Isolation
Use snapshots, host-only/NAT networks, test accounts, and synthetic data.

03 · Rate and impact
Start conservatively, monitor resources, and stop on instability.

04 · Evidence care
Exclude credentials and personal data from screenshots and public repositories.

Practical workflow

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Troubleshooting Playbook

Diagnose failures systematically instead of reinstalling or changing many variables at once.

Purpose: Diagnose failures systematically instead of reinstalling or changing many variables at once.

Working checklist

01 · Reproduce
Record the smallest repeatable failure and exact timestamp.

02 · Observe
Check process state, logs, ports, DNS, routes, certificates, disk, and memory.

03 · Compare
Separate configuration, dependency, permission, and network causes.

04 · Recover
Return to a known snapshot, then reapply changes individually.

Practical workflow

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Documentation & Evidence

Turn lab work into reproducible notes that another learner can safely follow.

Purpose: Turn lab work into reproducible notes that another learner can safely follow.

Working checklist

01 · Context
State goal, architecture, versions, assumptions, and boundaries.

02 · Method
Record commands and important configuration without secrets.

03 · Result
Include expected versus observed output and interpretation.

04 · Review
Add remediation, cleanup, references, and lessons learned.

Practical workflow

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Maintenance & Update Routine

Keep a working lab trustworthy through controlled updates and backups.

Purpose: Keep a working lab trustworthy through controlled updates and backups.

Working checklist

01 · Monthly review
Check disk, snapshots, package state, certificates, integrations, and stale accounts.

02 · Update safely
Snapshot first, review release notes, update in stages, and validate.

03 · Secrets
Rotate lab tokens and remove them from shell history and repositories.

04 · Retirement
Export evidence, revoke credentials, destroy data, and document closure.

Practical workflow

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Capstone & Quality Gate

Demonstrate an end-to-end outcome without relying on copied screenshots.

Purpose: Demonstrate an end-to-end outcome without relying on copied screenshots.

Working checklist

01 · Design
Create a small architecture diagram and measurable goal.

02 · Build
Implement from clean instructions and record deviations.

03 · Test
Validate normal, failure, and recovery paths.

04 · Present
Publish a sanitized report with findings and improvements.

Practical workflow

Stage	Action	Evidence / output
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Keep learning. Keep building.

Use this guide as a working plan: practise, document evidence, review outcomes, and improve the next iteration.

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