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# XenForo 2.x - Stored XSS via Placeholder Collision

Stored Cross-Site Scripting vulnerability in XenForo's structured text mention rendering (`XF\Str\Formatter::linkStructuredTextMentions()`).

## Root Cause

Placeholder collision between `autoLinkStructuredText()` and `linkStructuredTextMentions()` during OUTPUT rendering. When a mention username contains `\x1A` bytes matching placeholder patterns, `removeHtmlPlaceholders()` strips them, and `restorePlaceholders()` later restores raw HTML inside a `data-username` attribute — breaking attribute context and enabling XSS.

## Attack Chain

- `autoLinkStructuredText()` converts URLs to `<a>` tags, stored as `\x1A{id}\x1A` placeholders
- Crafted username in `@[id:username]` contains placeholder-matching `\x1A` bytes
- `removeHtmlPlaceholders()` strips the placeholder from the username
- `htmlspecialchars()` escapes the remaining username into `data-username`

## 5. `restorePlaceholders()` restores the `<a>` tag **inside** the attribute — XSS

Three bypass techniques combine to get the payload past input filters:

- **URL encoding** — `%1A` passes `cleanString()`, decoded to `\x1A` during output via `urldecode()`
- **Invalid BBCode** — `[x=` prevents the StructuredText filter from processing nested mentions
- **Nested mentions** — only the outer `@[id:...]` is converted; the inner one survives to output rendering

## Files

- `xss.sh` — automated PoC that authenticates, posts the payload, and generates a report
- `xss.html` — rendered HTML test report

## Usage

```
# Edit xss.sh to set FORUM_URL, ADMIN_USERNAME, ADMIN_PASSWORD, TARGET_USER_ID
./xss.sh
# Open xss.html to view the report
```



## Requirements

- Authenticated XenForo account with posting privileges
- XenForo <= 2.3.7+ (works in older/newer versions of XenForo 2.x with slight adjustments)

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## Languages

