

How to troubleshoot warnings that Fortify cannot locate web.xml or WEB-INF directory



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Question

How do I resolve issues reported by the Fortify scan of the form:

"Could not locate the deployment descriptor (web.xml) for your web application."

or

"Could not locate the root (WEB-INF) of the web application."

Answer

This warning does not halt the scanning process. Analysis will continue and results are likely not to be affected.

A J2EE application can have multiple web applications and every JSP file needs to belong to a web application. SCA uses the location of web.xml to identify where the web applications are. To be more specific, when SCA analyzes a JSP file, it goes up the directory tree looking for web.xml. When found, it decides that this is the web application that the JSP file belongs to, otherwise it gives the warning above.

To find out which JSP file is missing the web.xml, do the following from the command line:

- Traverse to the root directory of the JEE application.
- In a non-Windows environment, run the following commands:

```
pwd > forsupport.txt
find . -name 'WEB-INF' >> forsupport.txt find .
-name 'web.xml' >> forsupport.txt find . -name
'*.jsp' >> forsupport.txt
```

- In Windows run the following:

```
dir /S /B /AD "WEB-INF" > forsupport.txt dir /S
/B "web.xml" >> forsupport.txt dir /S /B
"*.jsp">> forsupport.txt
```

This will create a file called 'forsupport.txt.' A search for all occurrences of WEB-INF, all occurrences of web.xml, and all the JSP files in this application will be conducted, and the results will be saved in 'forsupport.txt.' If using Windows, the whole

HPE Fortify Version	4.30 and later
Programming Language	<input type="checkbox"/> C/C++ <input type="checkbox"/> .NET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Java <input type="checkbox"/> Objective-C <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Fortify Audit Workbench	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Fortify IDE Plugin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other Fortify Component	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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path of each result is recorded. If not using Windows, the first line will be the current directory, and then all the other results relative to this directory.

By comparing the results in 'forsupport.txt', you should be able to find at least one JSP file that does not have a WEB-INF or web.xml to associate it with.

References

HPE Fortify Technical Support