

# Apache and ModSecurity

Recently I noticed errors on my Ubuntu 18.04 machine in `/var/log/apache2/errors.log` that look as below. These may also occur on any other Linux server running Apache and ModSecurity.

```
[Tue Jan 14 09:58:51.980208 2020] [:error] [pid 8812] [client ::1:48280] [client ::1] ModSecurity: Rule 7f6584a61a50 [id "-"][file "/usr/share/modsecurity-crs/rules/RESPONSE-951-DATA-LEAKAGES-SQL.conf"][line "98"] - Execution error - PCRE limits exceeded (-8): (null). [hostname "localhost"] [uri "/open-audit/index.php/discoveries/26"] [unique_id "Xh0EO9HUUpzELlm@OJLwKwAAAAA"], referer: http://localhost/open-audit/index.php/discoveries/26
```

These would show multiple times for any requested page.

According to the Atomicorp ModSecurity page here - <https://support.atomicorp.com/hc/en-us/articles/360000188468-Rule-execution-error-PCRE-limits-exceeded-8-null> - you should increase a couple of limits.

I have edited `/etc/modsecurity/modsecurity.conf` and set these as recommended below.

```
SecPcreMatchLimit 250000
SecPcreMatchLimitRecursion 250000
```

I restarted Apache (`sudo systemctl restart apache2`) and I have no more warnings in my Apache error log.