

TryHackMe Writeup: Google Dorking

Room Info

Room: Google Dorking (<https://tryhackme.com/room/googledorking>)

Author: DarkStar

Difficulty: Easy

Completion Time: ~45 minutes

Platform: TryHackMe

Introduction

Google Dorking is the art of using advanced Google search operators to find hidden or sensitive information online. This TryHackMe room introduces how search engines work and how attackers can leverage search operators for reconnaissance.

Task 1: Ye Ol' Search Engine

This task explains how search engines function: crawling websites, indexing content, and ranking results.

Task 2: Let's Learn About Crawlers

Crawlers, or bots, visit web pages and follow links to index new content. They are the backbone of search engines.

Task 3: Enter: Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)

SEO refers to techniques websites use to improve their ranking in search results. Understanding SEO helps ethical hackers predict URL patterns and keyword usage.

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Task 4: Beepboop - Robots.txt

The robots.txt file is used to instruct crawlers on what should or shouldn't be indexed. However, this file often unintentionally reveals sensitive directories.

Task 5: Sitemaps

Sitemaps are XML files listing a website's important URLs. They are intended to improve indexing, but can expose internal or admin paths.

Task 6: What is Google Dorking?

Google Dorking involves using operators like 'intitle:', 'inurl:', 'filetype:', and 'site:' to find specific types of publicly available content. It's a crucial reconnaissance skill in ethical hacking and OSINT.

Room Completion

All tasks were completed successfully using TryHackMe's AttackBox. No special setup was required


Security Insight





Google Dorking isn't hacking by itself-but it can expose vulnerabilities caused by misconfigurations. It's widely used in penetration testing and red teaming.





Final Thoughts

This room made me see Google not just as a search tool, but as a reconnaissance asset. Even simple search queries can reveal surprising amounts of sensitive information if a website isn't configured securely.


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[Access Machines](#)

Learn > Google Dorking





Google Dorking

Explaining how Search Engines work and leveraging them into finding hidden content!

 Easy  45 min

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 5110


[Options](#)

Room completed (100%)


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Task 1  Ye Ol' Search Engine

Task 2  Let's Learn About Crawlers

Task 3  Enter: Search Engine Optimisation

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Task 5  Sitemaps

Task 6  What is Google Dorking?