# SYSTEM HARDENING:

Vulnerabilities and Remediations -By Anish Niure

# **Abstract:**

In this report we are going to list the various vulnerabilities, found in the targets we have penetrate through in the back. I have used Nessus to provide me the detail information about the existing vulnerabilities and quoted the solutions to those vulnerabilities. Confidentiality, integrity, and Availability in cyber space is measured in terms of strong policy, secure system, and invincible defending. To be invincible, we have to always consider for every minute possibility that can overcome with time and must win every time. In this project I have listed the major vulnerabilities and basic remediations, that can harden the system. However, in real world not only the machines but the whole infrastructure physically and technically be protected. All fundamentals in the workspace are responsible for the security and to preserve CIA trade.

Hardening the system Vulnerabilities: Minimum Improvement in the system will take the external threats to think twice, because not a single system is 100 percent secure, the defence in depth policy is adopted, and we need to think how long we will be isolate our system from the threats. The report will provide the general idea to search the vulnerabilities and to mitigate them.

#### Contents

SYSTEM HARDENING:	1
1.0 Windows Operating Systems	2
1.1 Target 192.168.1.103	2
1.2 Target 192.168.1.102	4
1.3 Target 192.168.1.101	6
1.5 Target: 192.168.1.10	7
2.0 Linux Operating Systems	9
2.1 Target: 192.168.1.101	9
2.2 Target: 192.168.1.102	10
2.3 Target: 192.168.1.103	12
2.4 Target: 192.168.1.105	13
2.5 Target: 192.168.1.106	14

3.0 Conclusion:	15
References	16

# 1.0 Windows Operating Systems

# 1.1 Target 192.168.1.103

Operating system: Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard 6.1.

```
Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: OSs: Windows, Windows Server 2008 R2 - 2012; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows

Host script results:
    _clock-skew: mean: 2h40m00s, deviation: 4h37m07s, median: 0s
    nbstat: NetBIOS name: VAGRANT-2008R2, NetBIOS user: <unknown>, NetBIOS MAC: 00:50:56:99:01:5d (VMware)

smb-os-discovery:
    OS: Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard 7601 Service Pack 1 (Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard 6.1)
    OS CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows_server_2008::sp1
    Computer name: vagrant-2008R2
    NetBIOS computer name: VAGRANT-2008R2\x00
    Workgroup: WORKGROUP\x00
    System time: 2021-11-11713:57:39-08:00

smb-security-mode:
    account_used: guest
```

fig: nmap scan nmap -sV -A -p- 192.168.1.103

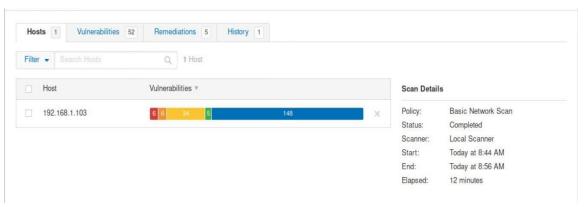


fig: nessus scan [6 critical, 6 high and other vulnerabilities]

#### Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

1. Manage Engine Desktop Central 8/9 < Build 91100 Multiple RCE

Our target is running Manage Engine Desktop Central 9 in port 8022, which is vulnerable to multiple remote code execution. It cannot properly sanitize the user inputs, which can be exploited by any threats to upload malicious files. [1]

# 2. Microsoft RDP RCE (CVE-2019-0708) (BlueKeep) (Uncredentialed Check)

This vulnerability is found in remote Desktop Protocol operating in port 3389 and can allow any malicious actor to send specially crafted requests, and on successful exploit they can execute the malicious scripts. [2]

#### 3. MS11-030 Vulnerability in DNS Resolution Could Allow Remote Code Execution (2509553)

Any threats can sed specially crafted LLMNR queries and in successful exploitation can upload or install malicious programs or software that can allow them to execute backdoor session. [3]

#### 4. MS14-066: Vulnerability in Schannel Could Allow Remote Code Execution

The target machine windows server 2008 R2 is critically vulnerable to MS14-066, in which attacker can inject arbitrary code on a target server. [4]

### 5. Unsupported Windows OS (remote)

The Microsoft version 2008 R2 is no longer supported which is likely to contain many security vulnerabilities.

#### 6. Elasticsearch ESA-1015-06

In port 8009, in our target is running Apache Jserv (protocol v1.3), which makes it vulnerable to ElasticSearch which can allow remote code execution. [5]

### 7. SSL Certificate Cannot Be Trusted

#### **Solutions:**

# 1. Mitigation to ManageEngine Desktop Central existing old version.

• The manageEngine Desktop Central should be updated to version 9 or later. [1]

#### 2. Mitigation to BlueKeep exploit. [2]

- Do not use RDP port if not necessarily required.
- Enable network level Authentication (NLA) on the target machine.
- Configure firewalls behind the RDP port in our case, port 3389.

#### 3. Mitigation to MS11-030.

Update the Microsoft versions, enable services like auto updating in Microsoft can update
the patched versions of this vulnerabilities if possible, running Microsoft defender firewall
can prevent from executing malwares. [3]

#### 4. Mitigation to MS14-066.

Easy mitigating technique is to update the most recent security features from Microsoft.

#### 5. ElasticSearch mitigation.

Update the Apache Jserv to the latest version.

#### 6. SSL certificate.

 Generating or purchasing, proper SSL certificate for SSH connection can eradicate the SSH certificate issue.

# 1.2 Target 192.168.1.102

# Operating System: Windows XP SP3.

```
root@kali:~# nmap -0 192.168.1.102
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-11-20 08:52 EST
Nmap scan report for ie8winxp.inet (192.168.1.102)
Host is up (0.0024s latency).
Not shown: 996 filtered ports
PORT
       STATE SERVICE
139/tcp open netbios-ssn
445/tcp open microsoft-ds
2869/tcp closed icslap
3389/tcp open ms-wbt-server
MAC Address: 00:50:56:05:99:01 (VMware)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Microsoft Windows XP
OS CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows_xp::sp3
OS details: Microsoft Windows XP SP3
Network Distance: 1 hop
```

fig: nmap scan os detection

#### Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

### 1. Microsoft Windows XP Unsupported Installation Detection

Because the target Microsoft XP is not longer supported by the vendor, the patches are not released, due to which containing many security exploits is high.

## 2. Microsoft RPD RCE (CVE-2019-0708) (Uncredentialed Check)

This vulnerability is found in remote Desktop Protocol operating in port 3389 and can allow any malicious actor to send specially crafted requests, and on successful exploit they can execute the malicious scripts. [2]

### 3. MS17-010: Security Update for Microsoft Windows SMB Server (4013389) (EternalBlue)

It is a software vulnerability of windows operating system, running (SMB) version 1, (SMBv1) protocol, which is file sharing protocol that allows access to files in remote server from port 445. Our target is running smbv1 which makes it vulnerable to the eternal blue, as well as multiple denial of service exploits. [6]

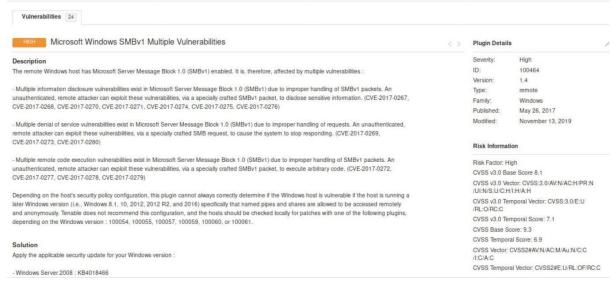


Fig: Nessus report on SMB1 Vulnerabilities

# 4. Microsoft Windows Remote Desktop Protocol Server Man-in-the Middle Weakness

The RDP version our target is using is vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attack because the does not validate the identity for the server when setting up encryption. So, any attacker with this ability can easily intercept the traffic. [7]

#### **Solutions:**

# 1. Install vender supported Operating system.

• Upgrading to latest windows 10 -11, is the easy solution for this risk because many patches are available to the current operating systems.

#### 2. Mitigation to BlueKeep exploit RDP RCE and RDP Man in the Middle weakness. [2]

- · Do not use RDP port if not necessarily required.
- Enable network level Authentication (NLA) on the target machine.
- Configure firewalls behind the RDP port in our case, port 3389.
- Use system monitoring tools, install sysinternals in the machine, and keep monitoring the system.

# 3. Mitigation for MS17\_010(Eternal Blue).

Stop using smbv1, upgrade to the latest version of SMB protocol.[6]

# 1.3 Target 192.168.1.101

Operating System- Windows server 2003 5.2

```
Host script results:

_clock-skew: mean: -5h29m59s, deviation: 7h46m40s, median: -10h59m59s
_nbstat: NetBIOS name: SVR03-ENT-NO-SP, NetBIOS user: <unknown>, NetBIOS MAC: 00:50:56:99:46:5c (VMware)

smb-os-discovery:

OS: Windows Server 2003 3790 (Windows Server 2003 5.2)

OS CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows_server_2003::-

Computer name: svr03-ent-no-sp

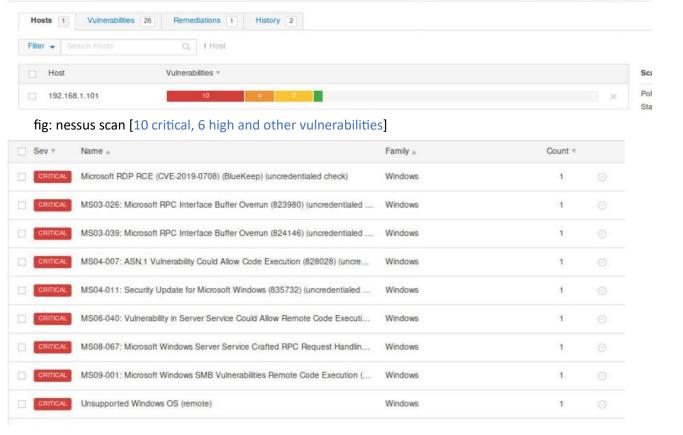
NetBIOS computer name: SVR03-ENT-NO-SP\x00

Workgroup: WORKGROUP\x00

System time: 2021-11-13T13:33:02+11:00

smb-security-mode:
 account_used: <blank>
 authentication_level: user
 challenge_response: supported
 message_signing: disabled (dangerous, but default)
_smb2-time: Protocol negotiation failed (SMB2)
```

fig: nmap scan os detection



#### Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

1. Microsoft windows server 2003 unsupported Installation

Microsoft windows server 2003 is not supported by the vendor anymore so, new patches and updates are not implemented which makes the operating system more vulnerable.

# 2. Microsoft RDP RCE (CVE-2019-0708) (BlueKeep) (uncredentialed check)

This vulnerability is found in remote Desktop Protocol operating in port 3389 and can allow any malicious actor to send specially crafted requests, and on successful exploit they can execute the malicious scripts. [2]

# 3. MS03-026: Microsoft RPC Interface Buffer Overrun (823980) uncredentialed check.

The RPC interface, in this vulnerability, due to flaw on function RemoteActivation() can allow attacker to execute arbitrary code on the remote host with the system Privilege. [8]

### 4. MS04-007: ASN.1 Vulnerability could allow code Execution.

This vulnerability is due to flaw in the ASN.1 library that exists in the Microsoft, this vulnerability causes the buffer overflow and on successful exploitation attacker can execute code to get system privilege in the system. [9]

#### **Solutions:**

- Because the system is no longer supported by the vendor, this machine is highly vulnerable
  and the best option to keep oneself safe is by just upgrading to newer and secure OS like
  windows 10 or windows server 2016 and 2019.
- The host has enabled the RDP port 3389 which is one focus for the actors so defining some firewalls behind this port can secure the vulnerabilities of this port such as BlueKeep, RPC buffer overrun which exists in this target.
- Updating the security version to the newest one, can save the target from multiple vulnerabilities that cause buffer overflow, because the vulnerabilities are older, and the vendor has already released patches for these vulnerabilities.
- Using the recommended smv2 or smv3 with regular system monitor can prevent the system with multiple smb vulnerabilities.

# 1.5 Target: 192.168.1.10

**Operating System: Windows Server 2012 R2** 

Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least 1 open and 1 closed port

Device type: general purpose

Running: Microsoft Windows 2012

OS CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows\_server\_2012:r2

OS details: Microsoft Windows Server 2012 or Windows Server 2012 R2

Network Distance: 1 hop

fig: nmap scan os detection

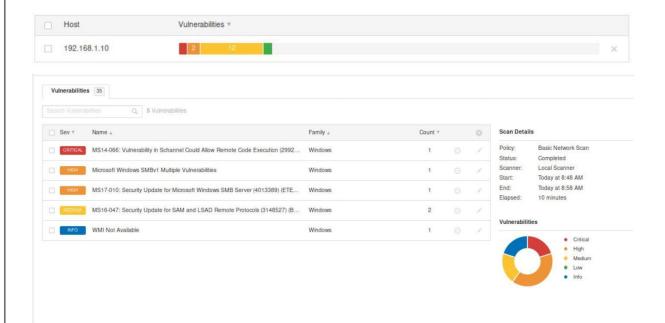


fig: Nessus Scan [2 high and 12 medium vulnerabilities.]

#### Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

### MS14-066: Vulnerability ins Channel Could Allow Remote Code Execution (2992611)

This vulnerability is in the SSL port misconfiguration, Attacker can exploit this vulnerability by sending crafted packets to the target machine, from the secure channel port. [12]

#### 2. Microsoft Windows Remote Desktop Protocol Server Man-in-the-Middle Weakness

The RDP version our target is using is vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attack because the does not validate the identity for the server when setting up encryption. So any attacker with this ability can easily intercept the traffic. [7]

#### 3. EternalBlue(MS10-010) exploitation

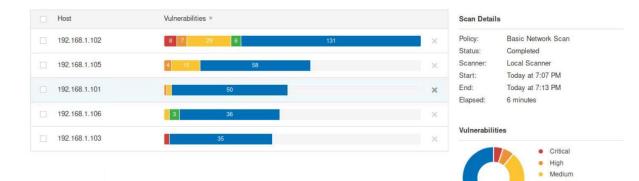
This exploitation is because of the smbv1 enabled in the port 445, the weakness allows to execute remote code.

#### **Solutions:**

- Install the patches for windows 2012 R2 for this vulnerability.
- Enable firewall behind the port 3389, or stopping the remote desktop service if not required, also regularly monitoring the rdesktop users and the traffic, windows defender firewall should be enabled to mitigate rdesktop Protocol.
- Stop using the smbv1 instead smbv3 or smbv3 should be installed to reduce the eternal blue exploitation.

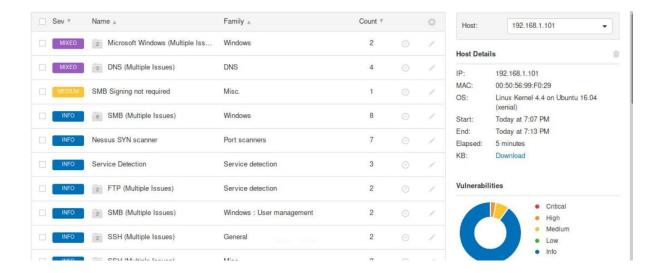
We had seen the pawned password used in the administrator account of the domain, which
can be fruitful for any attacker and easily brute force the password and decrypt the hash, so
strong password policy should be implemented, in the domain environment,

# 2.0 Linux Operating Systems



2.1 Target: 192.168.1.101

Operating System: Linux Kernel 4.4 on Ubuntu 16.04(xenial)



#### Findings:

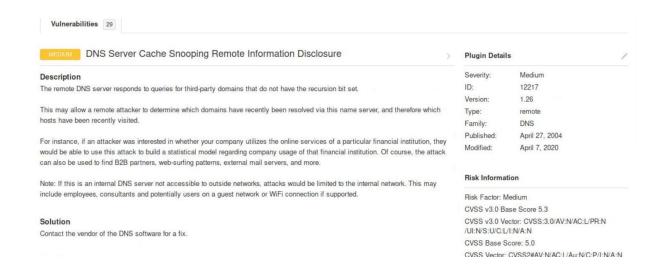
#### **Vulnerabilities:**

1. DNS Server Snooping Remote Information Disclosure.

This allows the remote attacker to determine the domain name and the hosts visiting the domain, which leaks the DNS and hosts information, because the DNS server answers the third-party domains that do not have the recursion bit set. [15]

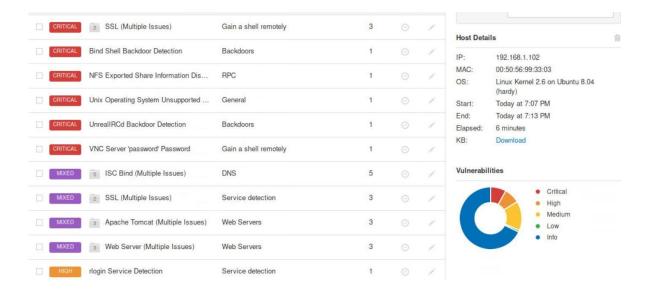
#### Remediations:

1. Fix the DNS software, contacting the vendor.



2.2 Target: 192.168.1.102

Operating System: Linux Kernel 2.6 on ubuntu 8.04 (hardy)



#### Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

# 1. Debian OpenSSH/OpenSSL Package Random Number Generator Weakness.

Anyone can conduct the man in the middle attack due to the bug in the ssl in our target machine which makes easy for attacker to obtain the private parts of the SSH. [16]

#### 2. Bind Shell backdoor Detection

Without any authentication, any attacker can use the this weakness to create the remote session, [17]

### 3. NFS Exported Share Information Disclosure

This vulnerability can allow the share to mount on their system which will disclose the information of the target machine.

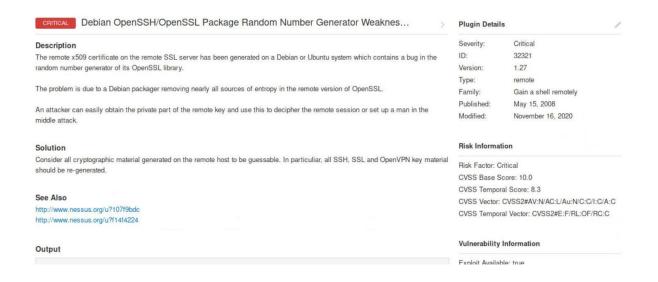
#### 4. Unix Operating System Unsupported Version Detection

Ubuntu 8.4 is outdated version, which is not supported by the vendor anymore and the security patches are not released anymore.

#### 5. UnrecallRCd Backdoor Detection.

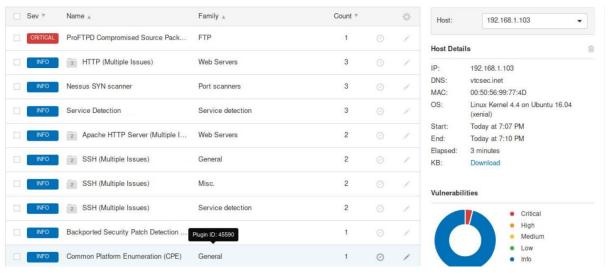
# **Solutions:**

- Securing the encryption key by regenerating all the SSH and SSL keys.[16]
- Monitor the traffics and verify if the host has been already compromised and secure the listening with the firewall and proper authentication method to prevent bind shell backdoor detection.[17]
- Configuring the shares, implementing proper authentication method, filtering the smb ports eradicates the NFS share weakness.
- Update the operating system to the newest and secure version.
- Use the strong password, timely monitor the logs, any report any breaches.



# 2.3 Target: 192.168.1.103

Operating System: Linux Kerel 4.4 on Ubuntu 16.02 (xenial)



#### Findings:

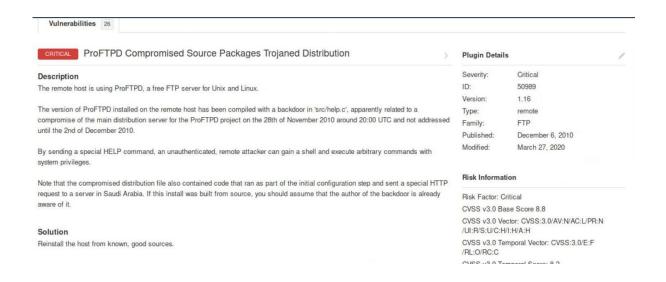
#### **Vulnerabilities:**

#### 1. ProFTPD Compromised Source Packages Trojaned Distribution

The ftp server enabled in the target machines has a lot of security bugs and many modules are available in the Metasploit for backdooring purpose, from which any one can connect or exploit the target machine.

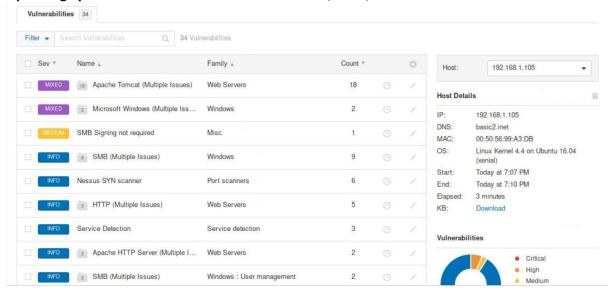
### **Solutions:**

- Reinstalling the host from known and good sources, update the version of the machine.
- Overall, use the proper password policy make root user password strong, give the least privilege to the users, and regular monitor the logs and traffics coming and going from the device.



# 2.4 Target: 192.168.1.105

Operating System: Linux Kernel 4.4 on Ubuntu 16.04 (xenial)



# Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

1. Apache Tomcat Prior to 9.0.0 < 9.0.10 multiple vulnerabilities exist such as insecure default settings for the CORS filter (CVE-2019-8014), validation in hostname.

The target machine is running the Apache Tomcat server which has listed many vulnerabilities.

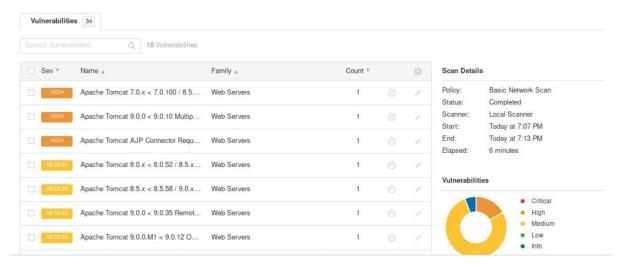
- 2. Apache Tomcat AJP Connector Request Injection (Ghostcat)
- 3. Microsoft Windows SMB Shares Unpriviledge Access.

Anyone can access the share in the target machine using the given credentials, which allow the attacker read, write to the file. [18]

#### 4. SMB Signing Not required.

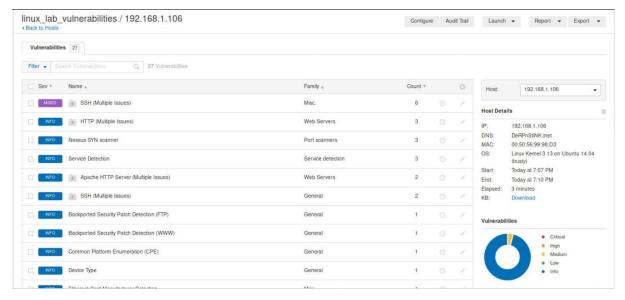
#### **Solutions:**

- Update the Tomcat server to the most recent one.
- Anyone can access the share in the target machine using the given credentials, so securing
  the share files and give minimum permission to the file to be share, encryption of the files
  with the strong algorithm.
- The target does not require SMB signing which can be mitigated, by enabling the authentication level in the SMB.
- Overall, do not include any users' credentials in the webpages, use good encryption method
  in order to protect the share files, update the security feature of the system to the most
  recent one.



2.5 Target: 192.168.1.106

Operating System: Linux Kernel 3.14 on Ubuntu 14.04 (trusty)



#### Findings:

#### **Vulnerabilities:**

# 1. SSH Weak Algorithms Supported.

The ssh in the target machine have weak algorithm, due to which anyone can easily ucipher the credentials or passphrases in the target.

#### **Solutions:**

Remove the weak cipher algorithm, enable proper authentication.



# 3.0 Conclusion:

Though, I have discussed various vulnerabilities in each Operating system and has discussed mitigation measures for each one, there are a lot of other vulnerabilities in those system. Different types of methodologies in the attacking surface results different types of vulnerabilities as well. I have discussed minimum and easy accessed vulnerabilities, however implementing those security features cannot be taken for hundred percent satisfaction. Through the developing cyber day to day, lots of threats, lots of vulnerabilities and lots of security questions are being answered day to day. The most important remediation for the system is to know the services running in one self's workspace and being updated about those services. In this report, many machines

were of older versions and had a lot of security questions, however simple updates and changing passwords policies could have made pen testing a nightmare. Simple steps taken can prevent thousands exploits. Thank you!!!

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