





**Demonstration of Reconnaissance Technique Using the Harvester (OSINT Tool)** 

**Tool Used:** the Harvester (version 4.4.3), coded by Christian Martorella, Edge-Security Research.

**Purpose:** the Harvester is an OSINT tool designed to gather publicly available information about a target domain, such as emails, hosts, IP addresses, and subdomains, from various public sources like search engines (e.g., DuckDuckGo, Google) and other online repositories.

### **Command Attempted:**

bash

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- -d kali.org: Specifies the target domain (kali.org).
- -1 200: Limits the number of results to 200.
- -b duckduckgo: Uses DuckDuckGo as the search engine/source for gathering information.

#### **Issues Encountered:**

- 1. **Initial Error (First Screenshot):** The command initially failed because the -l 200 argument was not recognized. the Harvester requires the -l flag to be used with a number for limiting results, but the syntax might need adjustment or the tool might not support certain arguments in this version or configuration.
- Connection Error (Second Screenshot): An SSL exception occurred while trying to connect to api.duckduckgo.com:443, indicating a "temporary failure in name resolution." This suggests a network connectivity issue, DNS resolution problem, or firewall restriction preventing access to DuckDuckGo's API.
- Command Not Found (Third Screenshot): Attempts to run harvester or Harvester directly failed because the tool's name is case-sensitive and must be invoked as the Harvester.

### **Corrected Approach:**

To successfully use the Harvester, ensure:

- The tool is installed correctly (e.g., via pip install the Harvester or through package managers in Parrot Linux).
- The command syntax is correct, e.g., #theHarvester -d kali.org -b duckduckgo (remove -l 200 if not supported or verify its usage in the documentation).

Network connectivity and DNS resolution issues are resolved (check internet connection, DNS settings, or firewall rules).

## Sample Successful Output (Hypothetical, Based on Tool Functionality):

Assuming the command executes successfully, the Harvester would typically return:

- **Emails:** Associated email addresses found on public pages related to kali.org.
- Hosts/Subdomains: Subdomains or hosts (e.g., www.kali.org, docs.kali.org).
  - **IPs:** IP addresses associated with the domain or subdomains.
- Other Metadata: Links, employee names, or other publicly available data.

# **Network Mapping Summary**

Based on the tool's intended functionality and the target kali.org (a well-known Linux distribution), here's a hypothetical network mapping summary showing at least 3 identified network components:

## 1. Primary Domain (kali.org):

- **Description:** The main website for Kali Linux, likely hosted on a web server.
  - **Potential IP Range:** Could be associated with a specific IP (e.g., 192.168.x.x or a public IP range managed by Offensive Security, the company behind Kali Linux).
  - **Role:** Public-facing web server providing documentation, downloads, and community resources.

# Subdomain (docs.kali.org):

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- **Description:** A subdomain for documentation, potentially hosted on the same or a different server.
  - **Potential IP Range:** May share the same IP as kali.org or have a separate IP for load balancing or content delivery.

**Role:** Hosts technical documentation, guides, and API references, accessible via HTTPS.

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## Mail Server (mail.kali.org):

• **Description:** A mail server for handling emails related to kali.org (e.g., support@kali.org).

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**Potential IP Range:** Likely a separate IP or shared infrastructure, possibly using SMTP, IMAP, or POP3 protocols.

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**Role:** Manages email communication for the organization, a potential vector for phishing or email spoofing attacks.

**Note:** The actual IPs and subdomains would need to be verified by running the Harvester successfully or using additional tools like Nmap or WHOIS. The errors in the screenshots prevented actual data collection, so this is a theoretical mapping based on typical Kali Linux infrastructure.

# **Target Profiling Assessment: Analyzing Potential Attack Vectors**

Based on the reconnaissance attempt and the nature of kali.org, here's an analysis of potential attack vectors:

### 1. Web Server Vulnerabilities (kali.org and Subdomains):

 Description: The primary website and documentation subdomains are publicly accessible, making them targets for SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), or outdated software exploits.

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**Mitigation:** Regular security updates, web application firewalls (WAFs), and penetration testing to identify and patch vulnerabilities.

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### **DNS Spoofing or Resolution Attacks:**

 Description: The "temporary failure in name resolution" error suggests potential DNS issues. Attackers could exploit DNS misconfigurations or perform DNS spoofing to redirect users to malicious sites. **Mitigation:** Use DNSSEC, monitor DNS traffic, and ensure robust DNS server configurations.

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## **Email Harvesting and Phishing:**

• **Description:** If the Harvester successfully retrieves email addresses (e.g., support@kali.org), attackers could use this information for phishing campaigns, spear-phishing, or social engineering.

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**Mitigation:** Implement email encryption (e.g., SPF, DKIM, DMARC), train users on phishing awareness, and limit public exposure of email addresses.

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### **Brute Force or Credential Attacks:**

 Description: If login portals exist (e.g., for community forums or documentation access), attackers might attempt brute force attacks or credential stuffing using harvested data.

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**Mitigation:** Enforce strong passwords, use multi-factor authentication (MFA), and rate-limit login attempts.

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## **Exploitation of Open Ports or Services:**

• **Description:** Network scans (e.g., using Nmap) could reveal open ports or services (e.g., HTTP/HTTPS, SMTP) that might be misconfigured or vulnerable.

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**Mitigation:** Conduct regular port scans, close unused ports, and apply security patches to exposed services.

### **Recommendations for Successful Reconnaissance**

To overcome the issues shown in the screenshots:

- Verify the Harvester installation and ensure it's accessible in the terminal (e.g., check PATH or install via pip or package manager).
- Simplify the command to #theHarvester -d kali.org -b duckduckgo and troubleshoot network connectivity (e.g., ping api.duckduckgo.com or check DNS settings).
- Use alternative sources (e.g., -b google or -b bing) if DuckDuckGo is inaccessible.

Combine with other OSINT tools (e.g., Shodan, WHOIS) or network scanning tools (e.g., Nmap) for a comprehensive footprint.