Cybersecurity Autumn 2023
Exercises Compendium

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November 29, 2023

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Info

Questions marked in bold are the important questions for report.
Currently in doubt about format of final report. Layout will change.

Exercise 02: Starting the Journey

Thinking About Threats

Answers based on the following relevant articles:

- Microsoft mitigates China-based threat actor Storm-0558 targeting of customer email
- Mitigation for China-based threat actor activity
- Results of Major Technical Investigations for Storm-0558 Key Acquisition

How did they separate access and infrastructure according to data relevance and impact?

They perform background checks, have dedicated identifiable accounts, secure access workstations and MFA using hardware token devices. They prevent the use of email and other communication tools which can compromise machines with malware or keylogs. They use Just in Time and Just Enough Access policies. They added the helper APIs, but failed to update relevant endpoint validation. Developers in other teams assumed that this validation was always performed and thus the disconnect happened.

How do roles and personnel fit into this, and which role could policies and training play?

Lack of evidence because of log retention policies. Because of a disconnect between team roles and personnel, validation was not performed.

Pentesting Intro

Which advantages for penetration testing would you see in the different approaches? What is the best option?

- NAT
- NAT Networks
- Bridged Networking
- Host Only

How does inspecting the ip configuration of a system help you with penetration testing? What is the security relevant aspect?

It does so by giving you info about all internet adapters, their protocols, their addresses, metrics, etc. etc.

How do you get the targeted user to execute our malicious payload?

Social Engineering, Disguising the file, exploiting vulnerabilities that allow for automatic code execution.

Is Metasploitable3 vulnerable to this exploit?

Testing the vulnerability is simple as connecting to the metasploitable vm and accessing sysinfo, verifying if it's correct. The vulnerability in this case, is an open nginx 8080 port, allowing us to connect. Metasploitable3 is very vulnerable to this exploit as it's designed to be so. It should close unused open ports, regularly update kernel and application versions, shut down unnecessary services and require validation before connection. It's quite easy to trick someone to download malicious files through torrenting, limewire, linkin-park-in-the-end.exe etc.

What is the practical use of this exercise? And why is the payload working in the way it is? How does this exercise relate to remote and reverse shells?

The practical use of this exercise is to see how easy it is to gain access to a vulnerable systems shell. The payload works how it does because

Which folder are you in when you get the meterpreter prompt? And whatis the system-information?

I am in the folder that the payload.efi was run at

As user and the owner of this system – how would you mitigate this attack?

By not chmodding and running payloads which I don't know what are smh.

How does knowing usernames help an attacker/penentration tester?

It's a significant advantage as it allows you to brute-force passwords much faster and ensuring that you are actually on a user with specific permissions.

Now that you have access to the Metasploitable machine what else can wedo? Get the list of users on this server, using a shell prompt by typing"shell" into the Meterpreter shell.

TODO

How does knowing usernames help an attacker/penentration tester?

It's a significant advantage as it allows you to brute-force passwords much faster and ensuring that you are actually on a user with specific permissions.

Using the meterpreter shell, check the output of the "arp" command. What do you find? Why could this information be relevant?

It displays internet-to-adapter address tables and when you're connected to a target machine, it shows the tables for that machine, which is very useful information when trying to penetrate.

Now lets be on the other side of the fence and investigate suspicious connections to our metasploitable server. Which command can you use to see network status and connections? Is there an anomaly or suspicious connection to our server? What makes it suspicious?

Unexpected source ip addresses, data transfers when you aren't expecting any, HTTP traffic on an unexpected port etc.

Exercise 03: General Assessment

Finding information with whois

Listing 1: Output of whois for sdu.dk

```
# Hello 185.136.116.160. Your session has been logged.
#
# Copyright (c) 2002 - 2023 by DK Hostmaster A/S
#
# Version: 5.1.0
#
# The data in the DK Whois database is provided by DK Hostmaster A/S
# for information purposes only, and to assist persons in obtaining
# information about or related to a domain name registration record.
# We do not guarantee its accuracy. We will reserve the right to remove
# access for entities abusing the data, without notice.
#
# Any use of this material to target advertising or similar activities
# are explicitly forbidden and will be prosecuted. DK Hostmaster A/S
# requests to be notified of any such activities or suspicions thereof.

Domain:                 sdu.dk
DNS:                    sdu.dk
Registered:             1997-10-09
Expires:                2023-12-31
Registration period:    5 years
VID:                    no
DNSSEC:                 Signed delegation
Status:                 Active

Registrant
Handle:                 ***N/A***
Name:                   Syddansk Universitet (University of Southern
    Denmark)
Address:                Campusvej 55
Postalcode:             5230
City:                   Odense M
Country:                DK

Nameservers
Hostname:               ns1.sdu.dk
Hostname:               ns2.sdu.dk
Hostname:               ns3.sdu.dk
```

What do you learn about SDU's network? In the protocol, note the IP range.

We learn a whole lot about the network such as the date registered, the expiration date, address of registrant and hostnames.

Listing 2: Output of whois for the ip of sdu.dk

```
1
2  #
3  # ARIN WHOIS data and services are subject to the Terms of Use
4  # available at: https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/tou/
5  #
6  # If you see inaccuracies in the results, please report at
7  # https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/inaccuracy_reporting/
8  #
9  # Copyright 1997-2023, American Registry for Internet Numbers, Ltd.
10 #
11
12
13 NetRange:       20.33.0.0 - 20.128.255.255
14 CIDR:           20.48.0.0/12, 20.40.0.0/13, 20.36.0.0/14, 20.33.0.0/16,
       20.34.0.0/15, 20.128.0.0/16, 20.64.0.0/10
15 NetName:        MSFT
16 NetHandle:      NET-20-33-0-0-1
17 Parent:         NET20 (NET-20-0-0-0-0)
18 NetType:        Direct Allocation
19 OriginAS:
20 Organization:   Microsoft Corporation (MSFT)
21 RegDate:        2017-10-18
22 Updated:        2021-12-14
23 Ref:            https://rdap.arin.net/registry/ip/20.33.0.0
24
25
26
27 OrgName:        Microsoft Corporation
28 OrgId:          MSFT
29 Address:        One Microsoft Way
30 City:           Redmond
31 StateProv:      WA
32 PostalCode:     98052
33 Country:        US
34 RegDate:        1998-07-10
35 Updated:        2023-06-13
36 Comment:        To report suspected security issues specific to traffic
       emanating from Microsoft online services, including the distribution
       of malicious content or other illicit or illegal material through a
       Microsoft online service, please submit reports to:
37 Comment:        * https://cert.microsoft.com.
38 Comment:
39 Comment:        For SPAM and other abuse issues, such as Microsoft
       Accounts, please contact:
40 Comment:        * abuse@microsoft.com.
41 Comment:
```

```
42 Comment:        To report security vulnerabilities in Microsoft products
       and services, please contact:
43 Comment:        * secure@microsoft.com.
44 Comment:
45 Comment:        For legal and law enforcement-related requests, please
       contact:
46 Comment:        * msndcc@microsoft.com
47 Comment:
48 Comment:        For routing, peering or DNS issues, please
49 Comment:        contact:
50 Comment:        * IOC@microsoft.com
51 Ref:            https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/MSFT
52
53
54 OrgAbuseHandle: MAC74-ARIN
55 OrgAbuseName:   Microsoft Abuse Contact
56 OrgAbusePhone:  +1-425-882-8080
57 OrgAbuseEmail:  abuse@microsoft.com
58 OrgAbuseRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/MAC74-ARIN
59
60 OrgTechHandle: SINGH683-ARIN
61 OrgTechName:   Singh, Prachi
62 OrgTechPhone:  +1-425-707-5601
63 OrgTechEmail:  pracsin@microsoft.com
64 OrgTechRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/SINGH683-ARIN
65
66 OrgTechHandle: BEDAR6-ARIN
67 OrgTechName:   Bedard, Dawn
68 OrgTechPhone:  +1-425-538-6637
69 OrgTechEmail:  dabedard@microsoft.com
70 OrgTechRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/BEDAR6-ARIN
71
72 OrgTechHandle: IPHOS5-ARIN
73 OrgTechName:   IPHostmaster, IPHostmaster
74 OrgTechPhone:  +1-425-538-6637
75 OrgTechEmail:  iphostmaster@microsoft.com
76 OrgTechRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/IPHOS5-ARIN
77
78 OrgRoutingHandle: CHATU3-ARIN
79 OrgRoutingName:   Chaturmohta, Somesh
80 OrgRoutingPhone:  +1-425-882-8080
81 OrgRoutingEmail:  someshch@microsoft.com
82 OrgRoutingRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/CHATU3-ARIN
83
84 OrgTechHandle: MRPD-ARIN
85 OrgTechName:   Microsoft Routing, Peering, and DNS
86 OrgTechPhone:  +1-425-882-8080
87 OrgTechEmail:  IOC@microsoft.com
```

```
OrgTechRef:     https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/MRPD-ARIN


#
# ARIN WHOIS data and services are subject to the Terms of Use
# available at: https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/tou/
#
# If you see inaccuracies in the results, please report at
# https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/inaccuracy_reporting/
#
# Copyright 1997-2023, American Registry for Internet Numbers, Ltd.
#
```

The IP range is 20.33.0.0 - 20.128.255.255

What is the whois information for nextcloud.sdu.dk? What do you observe in comparison to the whois-information you gathered for www.sdu.dk

Listing 3: Output of whois for nextcloud.sdu.dk

```

#
# ARIN WHOIS data and services are subject to the Terms of Use
# available at: https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/tou/
#
# If you see inaccuracies in the results, please report at
# https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/inaccuracy_reporting/
#
# Copyright 1997-2023, American Registry for Internet Numbers, Ltd.
#


NetRange:       130.225.0.0 - 130.244.255.255
CIDR:           130.225.0.0/16, 130.226.0.0/15, 130.228.0.0/14,
   130.244.0.0/16, 130.240.0.0/14, 130.232.0.0/13
NetName:        RIPE-ERX-130-225-0-0
NetHandle:      NET-130-225-0-0-1
Parent:         NET130 (NET-130-0-0-0-0)
NetType:        Early Registrations, Transferred to RIPE NCC
OriginAS:
Organization:   RIPE Network Coordination Centre (RIPE)
RegDate:        2003-11-12
Updated:        2003-11-12
Comment:        These addresses have been further assigned to users in
Comment:        the RIPE NCC region.  Contact information can be found
   in
Comment:        the RIPE database at http://www.ripe.net/whois
Ref:            https://rdap.arin.net/registry/ip/130.225.0.0

```

```
ResourceLink:   https://apps.db.ripe.net/search/query.html
ResourceLink:   whois.ripe.net


OrgName:        RIPE Network Coordination Centre
OrgId:          RIPE
Address:        P.O. Box 10096
City:           Amsterdam
StateProv:
PostalCode:     1001EB
Country:        NL
RegDate:
Updated:        2013-07-29
Ref:            https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/RIPE

ReferralServer:  whois://whois.ripe.net
ResourceLink:   https://apps.db.ripe.net/search/query.html

OrgAbuseHandle: ABUSE3850-ARIN
OrgAbuseName:   Abuse Contact
OrgAbusePhone:  +31205354444
OrgAbuseEmail:  abuse@ripe.net
OrgAbuseRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/ABUSE3850-ARIN

OrgTechHandle: RNO29-ARIN
OrgTechName:   RIPE NCC Operations
OrgTechPhone:  +31 20 535 4444
OrgTechEmail:  hostmaster@ripe.net
OrgTechRef:    https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/RNO29-ARIN


#
# ARIN WHOIS data and services are subject to the Terms of Use
# available at: https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/tou/
#
# If you see inaccuracies in the results, please report at
# https://www.arin.net/resources/registry/whois/inaccuracy_reporting/
#
# Copyright 1997-2023, American Registry for Internet Numbers, Ltd.
#



Found a referral to whois.ripe.net.

% This is the RIPE Database query service.
% The objects are in RPSL format.
%
```

```
% The RIPE Database is subject to Terms and Conditions.
% See https://apps.db.ripe.net/docs/HTML-Terms-And-Conditions

% Note: this output has been filtered.
%       To receive output for a database update, use the "-B" flag.

% Information related to '130.225.128.0 - 130.225.159.255'

% Abuse contact for '130.225.128.0 - 130.225.159.255' is 'abuse@cert.dk'

inetnum:        130.225.128.0 - 130.225.159.255
netname:        SDU-v4-POOL-01
country:        DK
geofeed:        https://info.net.deic.dk/deic-geofeed.csv
org:            ORG-SUI1-RIPE
admin-c:        UN61-RIPE
tech-c:         UN61-RIPE
status:         ASSIGNED PA
remarks:        Generated by DeiC on 2022-07-28 for more information
   contact netdrift@deic.dk
mnt-by:         DEIC-MNT
mnt-by:         AS1835-MNT
created:        2015-12-10T10:05:14Z
last-modified:  2022-07-28T11:50:21Z
source:         RIPE

organisation:   ORG-SUI1-RIPE
org-name:       Syddansk Universitet, IT-service
org-type:       other
address:        Campusvej 55
address:        5230 Odense M
address:        DK
mnt-ref:        AS1835-MNT
mnt-by:         AS1835-MNT
mnt-by:         DEIC-MNT
created:        2012-05-03T10:51:17Z
last-modified:  2022-01-28T14:00:25Z
source:         RIPE # Filtered

role:           DeiC Netdrift
address:        DeiC
address:        DTU Building 304
address:        2800 Lyngby
address:        Denmark
phone:          +45 35 888 222
fax-no:         +45 35 888 201
admin-c:        AMD2-RIPE
tech-c:         AMD2-RIPE
```

```
tech-c:          JF6044-RIPE
tech-c:          HUB10-RIPE
nic-hdl:         UN61-RIPE
mnt-by:          AS1835-MNT
mnt-by:          DEIC-MNT
created:         2008-11-24T13:12:55Z
last-modified:   2022-01-28T14:00:26Z
source:          RIPE # Filtered
abuse-mailbox:   abuse@cert.dk

% Information related to '130.225.0.0/16AS1835'

route:           130.225.0.0/16
descr:           Forskningsnettet-130.225
origin:          AS1835
mnt-by:          AS1835-MNT
mnt-by:          DEIC-MNT
created:         1970-01-01T00:00:00Z
last-modified:   2022-01-28T14:00:18Z
source:          RIPE

% This query was served by the RIPE Database Query Service version 1.108
    (BUSA)
```

The IP range is 130.225.128.0 - 130.225.159.255 for one.

In addition, the output is much more detailed without having to query the ip address instead of the website name.

Question: nmap

Nmap scans can be set up to evade firewalls. Which tags would you use for sending packets with specified ip options?

To do that you would use –ip-options with one of several options such as "R" to set a record route.

Nmap scans can be set up to evade firewalls. Which tags would you use for spoofing your MAC address?

In that case I would use the tag –spoof-mac with either a specific mac address or 0 passed to use a random one.

Comparing the Tools

Compare your results from each of the previous activities in each question (e.g., sparta vs nessus vs openvas). Take notes and discuss overlaps and differences in results, pros and cons, ease of use for each tool.

GVM, NESSUS, LEGION, METASPLOITABLE VMs

Collecting the Assessment Information

Collecting assessment information for 4 services requires us to first find an

Listing 4: $ ip a

```
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN
   group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host noprefixroute
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state
    UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:9c:dc:cd brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.0.2.4/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute
       eth0
       valid_lft 496sec preferred_lft 496sec
    inet6 fe80::f5eb:f6c5:4289:b43a/64 scope link noprefixroute
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

Under the second internet adapter listing eth0, we can see that the inet range is 10.0.2.4/24

Service, port number and version number, e.g., FTP 21 vxxxx

Listing 5: $ nmap -sn 10.0.2.4

```
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-11-08 06:38 EST
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.1
Host is up (0.00074s latency).
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.4
Host is up (0.00059s latency).
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.00054s latency).
Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (3 hosts up) scanned in 2.98 seconds
```

Running nmap finding ports we find that 10.0.2.15 has a lot of vulnerabilities

Listing 6: $ nmap -sV -p- 10.0.2.15

```
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-11-08 06:47 EST
Stats: 0:00:53 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing Connect
   Scan
Connect Scan Timing: About 41.49% done; ETC: 06:50 (0:01:15 remaining)
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.00073s latency).
Not shown: 65524 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT     STATE  SERVICE     VERSION
21/tcp   open   ftp         ProFTPD 1.3.5
22/tcp   open   ssh         OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.13 (Ubuntu
   Linux; protocol 2.0)
```

```
10 80/tcp   open   http         Apache httpd 2.4.7
11 445/tcp  open   netbios-ssn Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
12 631/tcp  open   ipp          CUPS 1.7
13 3000/tcp closed ppp
14 3306/tcp open   mysql        MySQL (unauthorized)
15 3500/tcp open   http         WEBrick httpd 1.3.1 (Ruby 2.3.8 (2018-10-18)
       )
16 6697/tcp open   irc          UnrealIRCd
17 8080/tcp open   http         Jetty 8.1.7.v20120910
18 8181/tcp closed intermapper
19 Service Info: Hosts: 127.0.1.1, UBUNTU, irc.TestIRC.net; OSs: Unix,
       Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
20
21 Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at
       https://nmap.org/submit/ .
22 Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 112.01 seconds
```

We select the four vulnerabilities:

- FTP, 21 ProFTPD 1.3.5
- SSH, 22, OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.13 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
- HTTP, 80, Apache httpd 2.4.7
- IPP, 631, CUPS 1.7

Describe or explain at least one vulnerability that you found for that service, i.e., what is the underlying issue and what can be achieved? How severe is that issue? (You do not have to state how to exploit the vulnerability or go into technical details. We will look into this later btw. The intricate technicalities are mostly outside the scope of the course.) But make sure you describe what possible outcomes of the exploit are, what the impact for a real system were and how criticial you would assess the issue due to the effects, i.e., argue for your assessment

TODO

For each of the vulnerabilities in the previous point, note the CVE and/or Source of information about the vulnerability for that version. Using metasploit's info command might help you here, if you want to go to the command line.

TODO

Completing the Assessment

Create a final report, extending the collected information with an overall review of the security concerns in both the Metasploitable-3 Windows and Ubuntu systems, e.g., different criticality levels of the services (an overview of how bad the situation is) and which ones to to be prioritized when addressing security issues (a selection of the most relevant issues for prioritisation). For this use a combination of the results from the tools that you used or one of the tools. Note, that you shouldn't just copy and paste the severity of the tools you use, but read through the CVE you selected and try to determine how critical it is. I.e., what is the possible impact? Is the service inoperable, or is intellectual property at risk?

TODO

Exercise 04: SQL Injection

Preparation

try command mysql -h <METAPLOITABLE IP> -P 3306
Nessus does say it was unable to get version number for the MySQL server because it is restricted.

Does it mean the MySQL server is protected against cyber attacks?

It doesn't necessarily mean that the server is protected against attacks. Restricting the version number is one security measure, but it doesn't mean that the entire server is secure from any and all exploits.

How could that protection look like?

Protection against cyberattacks could be things like using strong asswords, restricting access to only certain users or groups, using TLS encryption, disabling unnecessary features in the MySQL server, logging access to the server, updating to the latest versions and security patches frequently, setting up a firewall etc.

And what exactly would it protect against?

Hiding the version-number protects against exploits that are available for certain versions of the MySQL server, while making use of general best-practices when it comes to security configuration, ensures that the amount of available exploits are minimized.

Spying with SQL Injections

Please shortly discuss your opinion of this web server's configuration concerning directly listings

Directory listings should always be disabled for public websites, as it gives potential bad actors access to information about potential vulnerabilities and files that no user would need access to.

What type of SQLi attack works? Can you explain why?

Out of the four options presented, the SQL injection attack that will work, is 'OR $1\bar{1}$#. The reason for this, is because the beginning single quote terminates any string, meaning that SQL will now interpret anything after the single quote, as proper SQL statements. After the single quote, the statement OR 1=1, which is of course always a statement and makes the SQL statement always true, giving us the ability to fetch all data in a table for example.

What is the # sign for? Can we generally assume it to do the trick?

A # symbol denotes the beginning of a comment, which in the context of an SQL injection attack, effectively has the purpose of ignoring any other SQL that might come after our injection, as we don't really care about that and it reduces the risk of some check being run.

Include four relevant username/password combinations in your report. What is the issue with the passwords in the database and what could be done to secure them?

Relevant username and password combinations extracted would be:

ben_kenobi	thats_no_m00n
darth_vader	Dark_syD3
anakin_skywalker	but_master:(
jarjar_binks	mesah_p@ssw0rd

Which other problem allows you to get into the machine using ssh? How could this be prevented?

The fact that I can access the SSH server without having setup a valid SSH key is alarming and should be addressed. You shouldn't be able to access an SSH server with a username and password combination only.

Elevation of Privilege

Which are the individual issues that allowed us to go from a web interface to root access, and how would you address them as a server's operator to prevent them being exploited? Describe the issues you identified and tryto come up with suggestions on how to fix them

There were several issues. Below I'll list the issues and explain how I would go about fixing these issues.

- The directory listing should never be available publicly. In fact, there is very little reason why it should ever be available. Therefore, this should be made unavailable.
- Backend is prone to SQL injection attacks. The backend server should validate the incoming requests, especially when raw SQL is involved, so it isn't as prone to SQL injection attacks as what it clearly is.
- SSH server accepts plain username and passwords to connect. SSH server should require a valid SSH key to access. Additionally, the SSH server should only be allowed to connect to from specific IP addresses to limit the potential bad actors.

Can SQL Injection expose an otherwise inaccessible database server?

So long as there is a way to perform input towards an SQL server, it's possible to expose a database to potentially being attacked. It's all a matter of how well protected the backend accessing the database server is.

How likely do you think an attack scenario as presented here is?

This specific scenario is extremely unlikely today. For us to have this easy of access to an SSH server with root privileges even, a perfect storm of security vulnerabilities would need to ve available to us. The only reason we have access to all of these vulnerabilities, are because of the metasploitable3

VM, made specifically to be have these vulnerabilities available. In the real world, it wouldn't be so easy.

Using our Foot in the Door for Access to Other Services

Is sudo necessary? What do we gain by using it?

Using sudo specifies the command to be run with root privileges, allowing us to view the location of all files containing the payroll name that we are searching for, no matter what folder it's in. We can find files in other users' owned folders as well as folders in root owned directories like this. While not strictly necessary, it does make for a more complete search, and in this case, allows us to find the file we're looking for.

Are there other ways to search for a file? Which do you know?

There exist several commands to search for files.

- find: The command we used previously.
- grep: Used to search for text within files primarily.
- ls | grep: ls used together with piping the result to grep allows for searches.
- Fuzzy finders: Fuzzy finders allow for searching in both file contents and searching for file names.

Can you find anything interesting?

Performing the cat command shows us the contents of payroll.php. The file especially contains something interesting, in that the connection details aren't contained in some environment variables or something other. They are fully exposed, allowing us a full backdoor to the mysql database.

Listing 7: The payroll.php file

```
1 $conn = new mysqli('127.0.0.1', 'root', 'sploitme', 'payroll');
2 if ($conn->connect_error) {
3     die("Connection failed: " . $conn->connect_error);
4 }
```

Interesting information that we can obtain from this are the username, password, hostname as well as the database name.

What's the username, password and database name?

- Hostname: 127.0.0.1 / localhost
- Username: root
- Password: sploitme
- Datbase Name: payroll

What was the problem with the web application?

The problem with the web application is that it's accepting user input as string concatenation, which makes it very easy to perform SQL injection.

Which ports and services were the problem associated with?

We were able to access the directory listing through the exposed port 80 nginx service, which had directory listing enabled.

How did you exploit the vulnerability?

The exposed directory listing allowed us to access the payroll.php application and exploit the SQL injectable web application.

And what were you able to do?

Through use of said exploit, I was able to gain access to SSH usernames and passwords and be able to gain access to not only the SSH server, but root access, allowing us to see the entire payroll.php file and gain information on how to gain direct database access.

How would you suggest to fix the problem? (Do some online research aboutSQL injections solutions.)

Based on my research, the correct way to fix an SQL injection vulnerability, is to separate the SQL from the data itself and "prepare" the data before being used in the query. In the context of the existing payroll.php application, which uses MySQLi to perform its queries, it should make use of the execute_query() function, which allows you to define a SQL statement and insert the user input as variables. This way, the variables are prepared properly.

Draft a shortly and crisply, the relevant parts of a policy trying to prevent these issues.

The policy to prevent these issues will sound as follows:

All database queries must be performed using prepared statements of parameters, so as to protect against SQL injections. Additionally, user input should be validated on the frontend, as well as validated and sanitized on the backend. Database connection details should be fetched from some encrypted environment variables or something similar, to not expose these variables to the eyes of potential bad actors. Systems should regularly be updated and patched to avoid some of the most serious vulnerabilities. Finally, staff should undergo periodic training to ensure that these standards are upheld.

Fully Explore Local Accounts

What are benefits of performing this scan after already having full access?

The benefits of performing the scan with full access can be, just that. Having full access and potentially discovering new passwords and usernames to crack. By having root access, we already have access to a potential multitude increase in directories that we can scan for vulenerable passwords, which allows the scan to be potentially much more effective.

Post-Exploitation

Thinking as an attacker, what would your next steps be?

First, I would seek to gain some sort of persistence, meaning that even if I was discovered and the system restarted, I could still have access to the machine. This would be in the form of some sort of backdoor.

Since I already have root access, I don't need to work towards gaining increased access, however, I would install tools which allow me to gain increased information.

Having access to one machine on a network, I would try to discover additional machines that I could access, which could potentially gain me access to even more information. I would do all of this while making sure to leave as few logs as possible, so I wasn't discovered.

As an operator, what would you do to counteract?

After discovering that an attack is underway, my first

Exercise 05: Drupal

Background

Which vulnerabilities do you think can be used? Pick two potential vulnerabilities and describe them in terms of why you picked them, i.e., date and exploit effect.

The vulnerabilities that I'd pick are the drupal_coder_exec vulnerability and the drupal_drupageddon vulnerability. Both of these have an excellent rank in terms of exploitability.

The drupal_coder_exec exploit is a good choice because of the fact that a third-party plugin is introducing the vulnerability. This means that drupal, as an organization don't have as much control over the issue as they otherwise would if the exploit came from in-house code. The fact that the module allows for arbitrary code execution also means, that it's potentially a powerful entry point for a bad actor to use to gain access to further systems on the drupal server.

The drupal_drupageddon exploit is a good choice, as it is a SQL injection exploit. Drupal being a CMS makes this especially volatile, as usually, content pages for users using a CMS will be stored in some database, which the CMS then renders, effectively making entire websites available to bad actors gaining access using SQL injection. This is also the reason why the exploit was dubbed drupageddon, as it caused mass amounts of issues.

For the rest of the tutorial, we will use the vulnerability *dubbed drupageddon.* What is the underlying vulnerability?

As explained before, the underlying vulnerability is an SQL injection vulnerability.

What is so severe about the issue?

As also explained before, all of the website content being stored in a database since Drupal is a CMS, it effectively allows a bad actor to access entire databases without authorization.

Post-Exploitation

What are possible activities/aims for the post-exploitation phase?

Now that we have access to the machine, our first goal is to establish persistence through a user account that we can sign in to the server with, gathering as much information about the target machine as possible, as well as possibly gaining higher privileges within the machine, so that we can gather even more information.

Write out the list in the file that has the "User Accounts"?

Listing 8: User List Output

```
1 root
2 daemon
3 bin
4 sys
5 sync
6 games
```

```
7  man
8  lp
9  mail
10 news
11 uucp
12 proxy
13 www-data
14 backup
15 list
16 irc
17 gnats
18 nobody
19 libuuid
20 syslog
21 messagebus
22 sshd
23 statd
24 vagrant
25 dirmngr
26 leia_organa
27 luke_skywalker
28 han_solo
29 artoo_detoo
30 c_three_pio
31 ben_kenobi
32 darth_vader
33 anakin_skywalker
34 jarjar_binks
35 lando_calrissian
36 boba_fett
37 jabba_hutt
38 greedo
39 chewbacca
40 kylo_ren
41 mysql
42 avahi
43 colord
```

How does having a list of user names help?

Having a list of usernames help us by making brute force attacks easier to perform, as there is one less variable that we need to guess. It allows us to perform phishing campaigns, by using the information we have access to, to seem more credible. If the user has used the same username on multiple sites and perhaps even the same passwords, we can check known password databases for a password that we can try to use to enter the website.

What do the excellent post exploitation scripts for linux offer?

It offers us system information such as versions, directories, usernames, access to persistence through backdoors and more.

Reflection

What is the main issue with the web server? How did it help selecting potential exploits?

The web server has an exposed directory listing, which not only allows us to see the exact locaton of the drupal files, but also to access drupal through the drupal_drupageddon exploit, gaining access to the host machine.

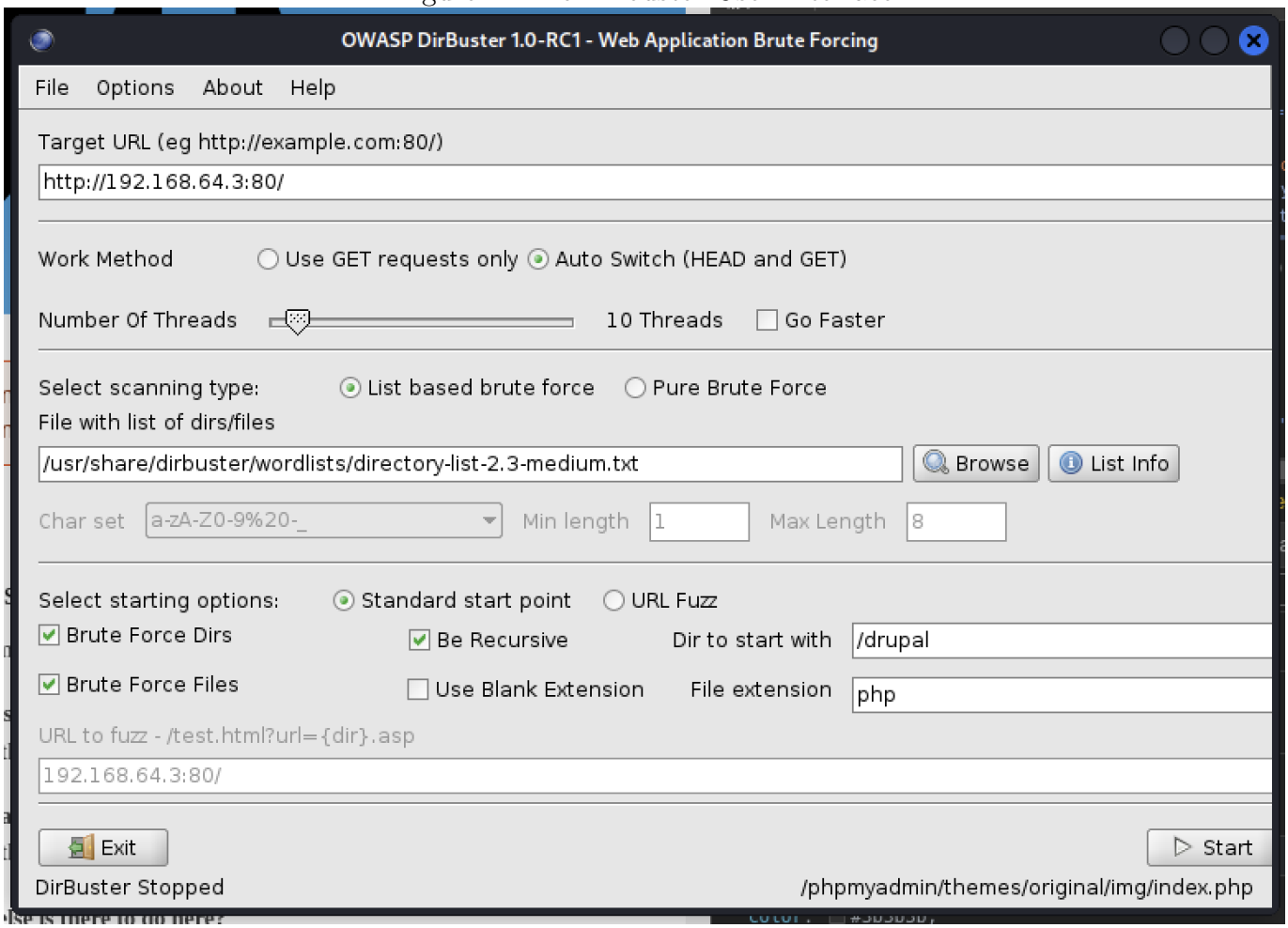
When opening the drupal web page, you are greeted by a warning. Do you think this is good practice? Why or why not?

The warnings are not good practice, as they disclose information about the application configuration that an attacker could use to gain further access to security vulnerabilities. It also gives away the fact, that the drupal server is misconfigured and might give way to further security vulnerabilities.

Given a more restrictive web server configuration, finding the relevant information wouldn't have been that easy. Please check dirbuster, to be found in the "Web Application Analysis" menu. How could this tool help you finding information? Try it out on the Ubuntu metasploitable VM. Use /usr/share/dirbuster/wordlists/directory-list-2.3-medium.txt as dictionary.

Dirbuster can help you find information about directories on a target server, by brute-forcing the directories, performing several requests to try and figure out what directories are present on the server and generating a report containing all that information. For example, if we wanted to use dirbuster to figure out what directories are in the /drupal directory, that we figured out earlier exists, we could use dirbuster as so

Figure 1: The Dirbuster User Interface



How can effective spying with tools like dirbuster prevented?

There are several ways of which you can attempt to prevent tools like dirbuster being used:

- Using custom directory names as opposed to default well-known ones.
- Implementing rate-limiting for single users, as dirbuster performs many requests.
- Implementing required CAPTCHAs when accessing the site.
- Implementing firewalls and setting up monitoring with alerts.

This attack didn't get us all the way to root. How would you continue the pentest? What would be your next actions?

Do you have any specific things in mind you would try to get root access?

What makes getting a remote shell so powerful?

Getting a remote shell is especially powerful, as you now have access to running any commands that you desire. If you have root access, you can even move, copy and destroy any files you want. You could install new exploitative software, create backdoors and more. Having access to a remote shell means no longer being limited to simple injection attacks, but having much more control.

Exercise 06: Social Engineering

Defense

Which technical tools can be used to defend against social engineering attacks and against which?

- Email filtering software
  - **Functionality:** The software scans incoming emails for potential phishing attempts or malicious contents, resulting in many obvious attempts at malicious activity being filtered.
  - **Protects against:** Protects the user against phishing and email scams such as impersonation attempts.
- MFA systems
  - **Functionality:** Adds an additional layer of security by forcing the user to input a dynamically generated code as well as their password when signing in.
  - **Protects against:** Protects the user against password leaks, insecure passwords etc.
- Antivirus software
  - **Functionality:** Scans systems and programs for known malicious code and quarantines files before they can gain access to or change a system.
  - **Protects against:** Protects against viruses, malware, spyware and trojans.
- User roles and PAM
  - **Functionality:** User roles allow an organization to specify that a user only has access to very specific things in the organization portals and the entire PAM system monitors access to resources and logs attempts at unauthorized access.
  - **Protects against:** Helps mitigate damage of social engineering attacks by limiting access to resources if access to a user account is obtained.

Give examples on how you, as IT-experts, can either stop or mitigate Social Engineering.

Some ways of stopping or mitigating damage from Social Engineering attacks are as follows:

- Implementing strong organizational security policies and ensuring that every employee within the organization is trained to follow these policies and procedures.
- Controlling access to the physical organization by unauthorized personnel by implementing security badges, key cards, biometric systems etc.
- Implementing phishing detection tools and ensuring regular employee phishing tests, allowing them to fail without catastrophic failure ensuing.

Experiment: Attack and Defend

The experiment was performed in a small group.

DAN is a quiet reserved loner. He's trusting, good-natured and lenient. He's conscientious, hard-working, well-organized and punctual. He's calm, even-tempered, comfortable and unemotional. He's down to eart, uncreative, conventional and uncurious.

Attacker's Perspective

Based off the information provided about DAN, we believe that the proper course of action to socially engineer him would be an email phishing scam, making use of his trusting and well-organized traits by impersonating the danish tax ministry asking him to update his advance statement to ensure correct tax calculations.

Impersonating an authority figure will let us make use of his calm, unemotional and curious nature as well, as these traits make him unlikely to seek out a second opinion, especially considering tax season beginning around november.

Defender's Perspective

The course designed to train DAN on how to avoid being socially engineered needs to cater specifically to his weaknesses. Therefore, the curriculum is as follows:

- How to efficiently make use of firewalls, anti-phishing tools and spam filters.
- Instilling several rules of thumb in DAN and his way of navigating the workspace:
  - Official government communication will never include asking for personal information or direct links to signup pages.
  - Make use of multi-factor-authentication wherever available.
  - Involve coworkers or supervisors whenever there's any doubt about the validity of emails.

Comparing the strategies, improve on attack and defence

Exercise 07: Brute Forcing Glassfish

What does HTTPS actually provide protection for?

HTTPS is primarily used for ensuring a secure connection between client and server, by implementing TLS and that way protecting from man-in-the-middle attacks.

Which username/password combination did you find?

After running the glassfish_login exploit, the username and password combinations that works is admin and sploit respectively. Of course, the passwords would realistically be much stronger than simply admin and sploit.

Discuss which security relevant problems are we testing with a brute force attack?

With a brute force attack, we are testing for weak passwords, lack of multi-factor-authentication within the organization, as well as external ip addresses being allowed to sign in.

Discuss what would be your suggestions to the admin in order to address and mitigate this issue?

One thing that the admin could do is use stronger passwords, this however, doesn't help in the case of a password leak to some database. Therefore, another thing that the admin could do, is introduce multi-factor-authentication when signing in to relevant organization accounts. Additionally, restricting access to specific IP addresses localized where the organization is physically located or allowing access through a specific VPN would go a long way to mitigate this issue.

How is this attack type related to the internet of things, internet routers, and, e.g., virtual machines?

Brute force attacks relate to the three mentioned platforms in the following ways:

- **Internet of Things (IoT)** Many IoT devices, such as cameras, smart devices and more, often come with default credentials set, which are usually readily available online. This makes these the perfect target for brute force attacks, as most users don't bother changing the default credentials.
- **Internet Routers** Internet routers suffer the same issue as IoT devices, as again, routers come with default passwords, which many people don't bother setting. If an intruder is even able to gain physical access to the router, an ethernet cable can be used to open ports without the need of Wi-Fi passwords.
- **Virtual Machines** Just like with the previous two, many virtual machines come with default passwords, (for example the Kali Linux image that we're using for this course), which allows for potential easy access via brute force attacks. Especially if said virtual machines allow for remote access.

Do you know a way in which HTTPS could make the connection more secure against this kind of attack?

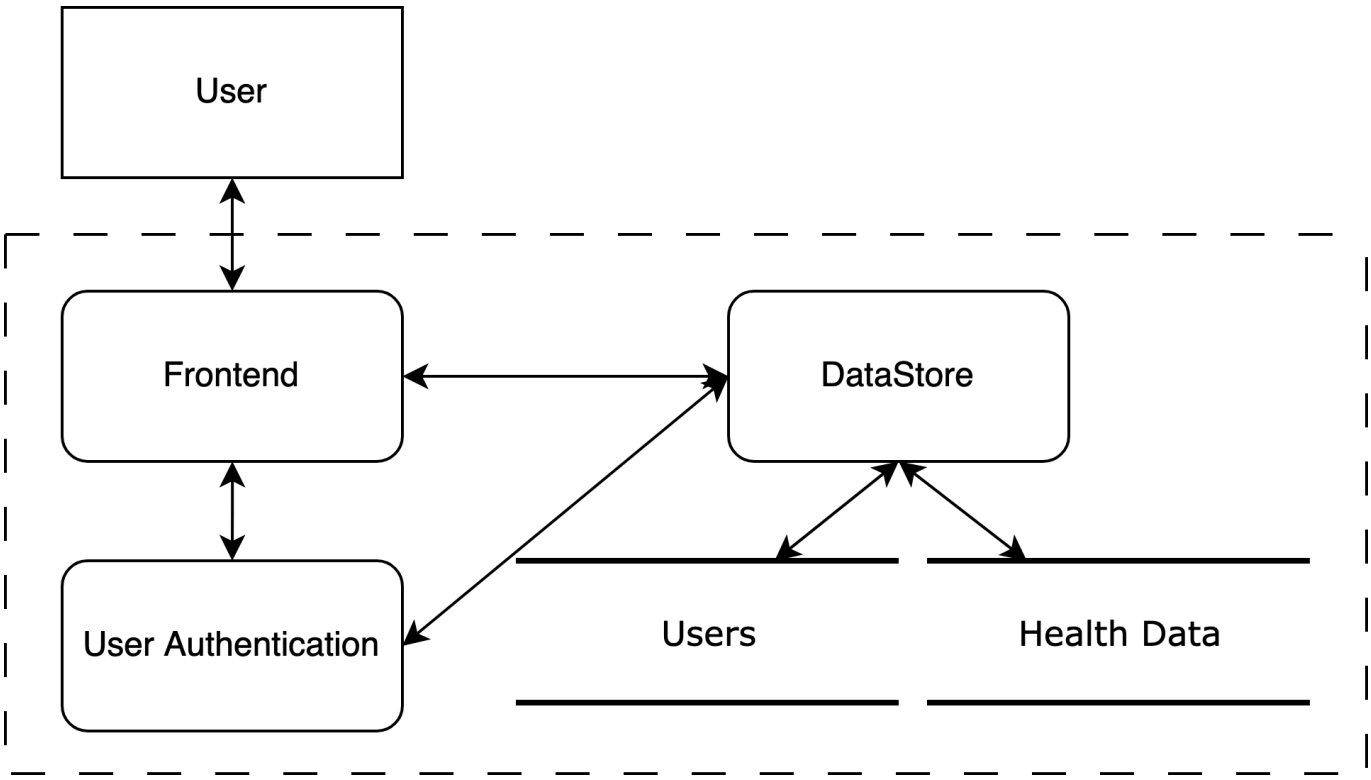
While HTTPS doesn't protect against brute force attacks in and of itself, it does so indirectly, by encrypting all data access, securing login pages and ensuring that the server that the user is

communicating with is actually the server that it says it is. This makes it much harder for a malicious entity to perform man-in-the middle attacks and makes it harder for passwords to leak onto potential databases which can be used to brute force.

Threat Modelling

A Simple Health App Data Flow Diagram

Figure 2: Data Flow Diagram for the Health App



Formulate STRIDE

Spoofing Identity

- Creation of fake user accounts
- Impersonation of existing users

Tampering with Data

- Direct alterations of stored data
- Data corruption during transfer

Repudiation

- Denying users access to data entry
- Denying users access to data deletion

Information Disclosure

- Access to health data without being authorized
- Data leaks through debugging external debugging tools

Denial of Service

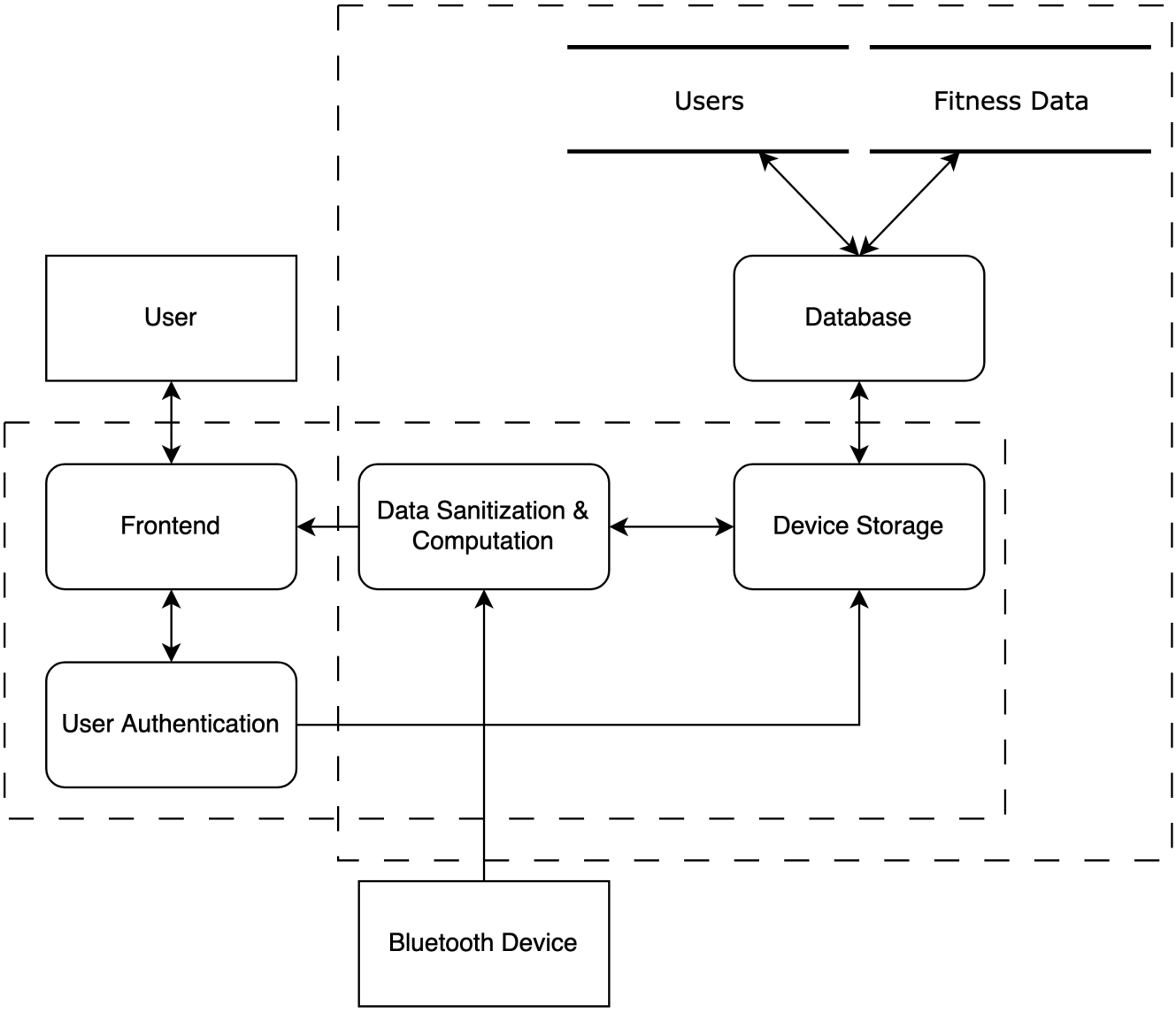
- Intentionally crashing the app through malformed data
- Denying service through DDoS attacks

Elevation of Privilege

- Access to admin features without proper authorization
- Exploiting vulnerabilities in the system to elevate user privileges

Updated Fitness Tracker App Flow Diagram

Figure 3: Data Flow Diagram for the Fitness Tracker App



Formulate STRIDE

Spoofing Identity

- Impersonation of a third-party devices such as a bluetooth device
- Impersonation of a fake cloud server that the app connects to

Tampering with Data

- Direct alterations of stored data
- Data corruption during transfer

Repudiation

- Denial of data transmission
- Denial of data processing

Information Disclosure

- Unauthorized access to the stored fitness data on device as well as cloud
- Potential leaks via lacking security of third-party devices connecting to the app

Denial of Service

- Sending large amounts of fitness tracking data, overloading the app server
- Cloud service could become unavailable, resulting in data sync between device and cloud not being possible

Elevation of Privilege

- Unauthorized access to data on the cloud server without having necessary privileges
- Use exploits in the app to gain elevated access to cloud server