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CS 471: Security & Info Assurance

Assignment 6

Abstract

In this assignment, we create a honeypot using various netcat listeners on ports of real-world network applications such as http, https, ssh, Remote Desktop Protocol, and Python web server. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate the effectiveness of honeypots to gather information on the various services that they are "faking" in order to determine attackers techniques and tactics. Packet analysis determines that many information can be gathered from attackers connections with honeypot including ip address and attacking vectors (nmap). This proves that honeypots are an invaluable tool for strengthening defensive mechanisms.

Introduction

An Ubuntu system will be used to implement various netcat listeners for the purpose of creating a honeypot. The services include http, https, ssh, Remote Desktop Protocol, and Python web server running on ports 80, 443, 22, 3389, 2482 respectively. A Kali VM will be used to connect to these services in various ways including web browser, netcat, nmap and ssh. These two systems are setup on bridged network that allows them to get an IP address from the router. Wireshark will be used to capture the traffic generated by the connecting attacking system Kali so that payload analysis may be conducted.

Commands used:

NIX GENERAL

```
// get root shell
sudo -i

// get the IP address, MAC address
ip addr

// disable ubuntu firewall
sudo ufw disable

// disable ssh service
sudo systemctl disable ssh
```

NETCAT

```
// create a listener for ports [22,80,443, 3389, 2482]
// echo some realistic information about the service

# 1. HTTP : port 80
while true; do echo -e "HTTP/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 80 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-http-output.txt; done
# 2. HTTPS : port 443
while true; do echo -e "HTTPS/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 443 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-https-output.txt; done
# 3. SSH : port 22
while true; do echo -e "OpenSSH_8.9p1Ubuntu-3ubuntu0.1, OpenSSL 3.0.2 15 Mar 2022"
| nc -l -p 22 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-ssh-output.txt; done
# 4. FTP : port 20
while true; do echo -e "HTTPS/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 443 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-FTP-output.txt; done
# 5. SMTP : port 25
while true; do echo -e "HTTPS/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 443 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-SMTP-output.txt; done

// create connections for ports [22,80,443, 3389, 2482]
// echo some helpful messages for logging

# 1. HTTP: Port 80
(echo "Hello HTTP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 80) &

# 2. HTTPS : Port 443
(echo "Hello HTTPS, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 443) &

# 3. SSH : Port 22
(echo "Hello SSH, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 22) &

# 4. RDP : Port 3389
(echo "Hello RDP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 3389) &

# 5. Python Server : Port 2482
(echo "Hello Python Server, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 2482)
```

NMAP

```
// scan the Ubuntu host for open ports on range 1 to 65535 and push output
sudo nmap -p 1-65535 -T4 -A -v 192.168.0.49 >> nmap-output.txt
```

WIRESHARK : FILTERS

```
// filter the packets for only those that contain the ports and ip addr of Ubuntu
tcp.port in {80, 443, 22, 3389, 2482} && ip.addr== 192.168.0.49

// filter for ssh, http, https, etc.
ssh

// filter for ip address source
ip.source == 192.168.0.34

// filter for ip address destination
ip.dst == 192.168.0.49
```

Summary of Results

A: Ubuntu Precheck and Kali Wireshark

1. Disable firewall and ssh

Use Commands:

```
// disable ubuntu firewall
sudo ufw disable

// check status of ssh service
sudo systemctl status ssh

// disable sudo ssh service
sudo systemctl disable ssh

// get ubuntu ip
ip addr
```

This ensures that the Ubuntu system is primed for the various netcat listeners and services we will be running later on.

```

cris@cris-ThinkPad-T400: ~
cris@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~$ sudo ufw disable
Firewall stopped and disabled on system startup
cris@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~$ sudo systemctl status sssh
Unit sssh.service could not be found.
cris@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~$ sudo systemctl status ssh
○ ssh.service - OpenBSD Secure Shell server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ssh.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: inactive (dead) since Thu 2023-04-20 22:16:31 PDT; 2h 14min ago
     Docs: man:sshd(8)
           man:sshd_config(5)
   Main PID: 693 (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    CPU: 89ms

Apr 17 16:54:59 cris-ThinkPad-T400 systemd[1]: Starting OpenBSD Secure Shell server: sshd.
Apr 17 16:54:59 cris-ThinkPad-T400 sshd[693]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 22.
Apr 17 16:54:59 cris-ThinkPad-T400 sshd[693]: Server listening on :: port 22.
Apr 17 16:54:59 cris-ThinkPad-T400 systemd[1]: Started OpenBSD Secure Shell server: sshd.
Apr 20 22:16:31 cris-ThinkPad-T400 sshd[693]: Received signal 15; terminating.
Apr 20 22:16:31 cris-ThinkPad-T400 systemd[1]: Stopping OpenBSD Secure Shell server: sshd.
Apr 20 22:16:31 cris-ThinkPad-T400 systemd[1]: ssh.service: Deactivated successfully.
Apr 20 22:16:31 cris-ThinkPad-T400 systemd[1]: Stopped OpenBSD Secure Shell server: sshd.
cris@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~$ sudo systemctl disable ssh
Synchronizing state of ssh.service with SysV service script with /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install disable ssh
Removed /etc/systemd/system/sshd.service.
Removed /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/ssh.service.
cris@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~$ ip addr
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
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s25: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 00:27:13:b2:19:32 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 192.168.0.49/24 brd 192.168.0.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute enp0s25
        valid_lft 64435sec preferred_lft 64435sec
    inet6 2601:642:4a80:8540:e2b:2552:18e3:de20/64 scope global temporary dynamic
        valid_lft 344655sec preferred_lft 58067sec
    inet6 2601:642:4a80:8540:2f59:f565:4bbc:5cbc/64 scope global temporary deprecated dynamic
        valid_lft 344655sec preferred_lft 0sec
    inet6 2601:642:4a80:8540:bd3f:3e4e:56a1:59d/64 scope global temporary deprecated dynamic
        valid_lft 344655sec preferred_lft 0sec

```

***2. Kali: Start wireshark ***

In Kali, start wireshark and select any adapter.

B: Ubuntu Services

Use Commands:

```
# get a root terminal
sudo -i

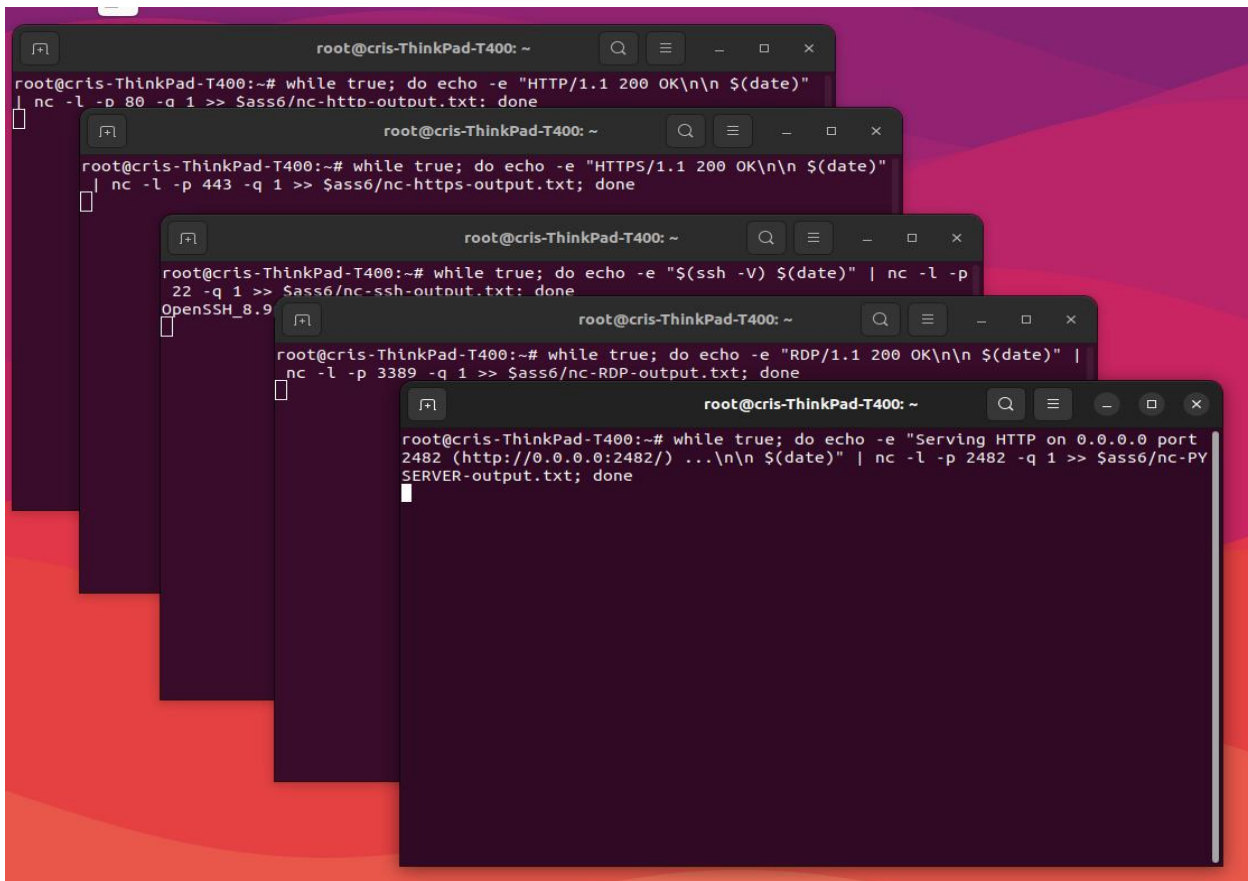
# Folder for the assignment output files
# Change this to the correct folder.
ass6='/home/cris/Desktop/CS471-Security/Assignment6/outputs'

# 1. HTTP : port 80
while true; do echo -e "HTTP/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 80 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-http-output.txt; done
# 2. HTTPS : port 443
while true; do echo -e "HTTPS/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 443 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-https-output.txt; done
# 3. SSH : port 22
while true; do echo -e "$(ssh -V) $(date)" | nc -l -p 22 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-ssh-
output.txt; done
# 4. Remote Desktop Protocol : port 3389
while true; do echo -e "RDP/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 3389 -q 1 >>
$ass6/nc-FTP-output.txt; done
# 5. Python Server : port 2482
while true; do echo -e "Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 2482 (http://0.0.0.0:2482
...\n\n$(date)" | nc -l -p 2482 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-SMTP-output.txt; done
```

On the Ubuntu system, open 5 separate terminals. In each terminal, run `sudo -i` to create a root shell.

Next, in each terminal, include the variable pointing toward the directory for the output files.

In each terminal, run one of the 5 commands listed above. Each one is a netcat listener on a port that would simulate a real service. For example, the listener on port 22, used by an ssh service, simulates ssh by displaying the ssh version info.



```
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400: ~  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~# while true; do echo -e "HTTP/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 80 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-http-output.txt; done  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400: ~  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~# while true; do echo -e "HTTPS/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 443 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-https-output.txt; done  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400: ~  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~# while true; do echo -e "$(ssh -V) $(date)" | nc -l -p 22 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-ssh-output.txt; done  
OpenSSH_8.9  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400: ~  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~# while true; do echo -e "RDP/1.1 200 OK\n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 3389 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-RDP-output.txt; done  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400: ~  
root@cris-ThinkPad-T400:~# while true; do echo -e "Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 2482 (http://0.0.0.0:2482/) ... \n\n $(date)" | nc -l -p 2482 -q 1 >> $ass6/nc-PY-SERVER-output.txt; done
```

C: Kali Connections

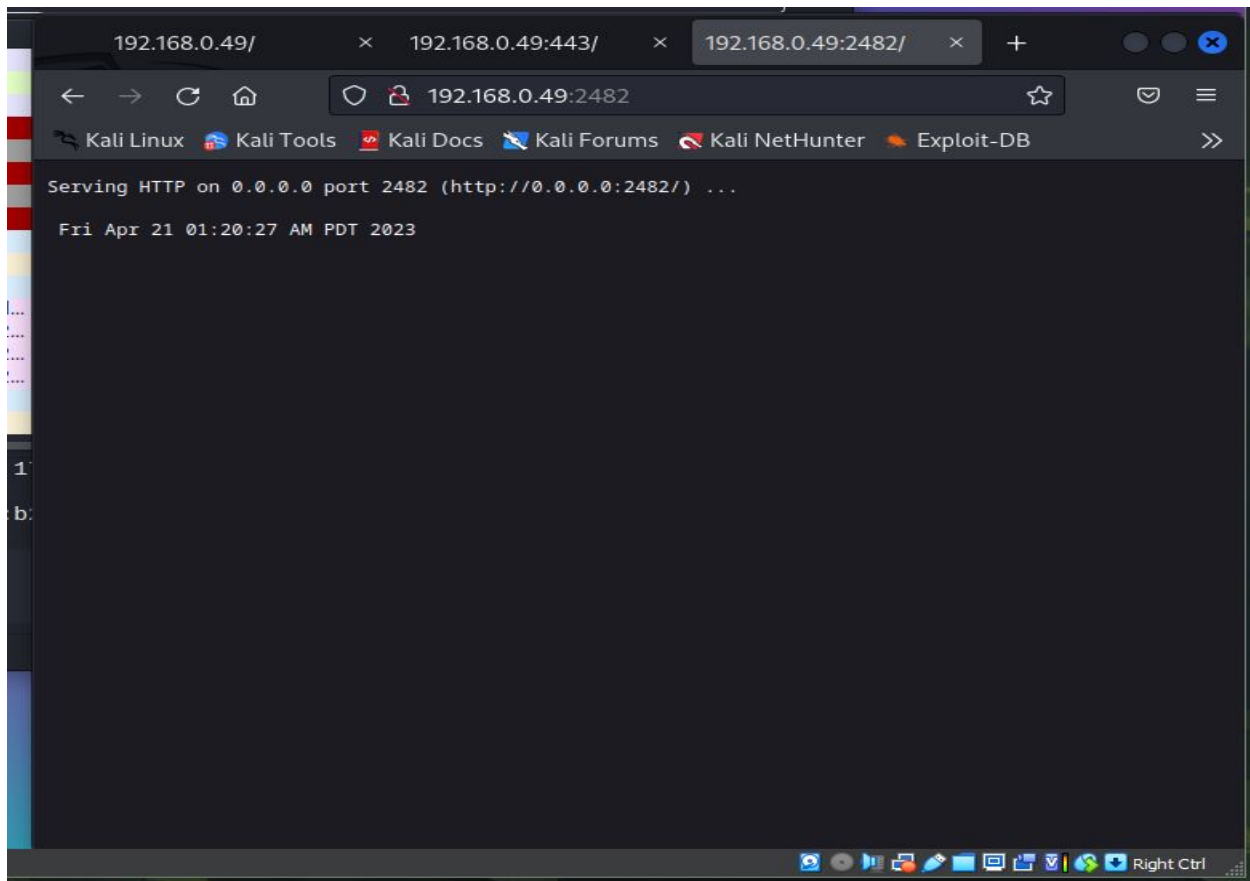
1. Web Browser Connection

within Kali, start a web browser. Navigate to the following:

```
192.168.0.49:80  
192.168.0.49:443  
192.168.0.49:2482
```

Refresh each a couple of times. This will populate the output files with some content.

This screenshot shows three separate tabs open with the ports 80, 443, 2482.



2. Netcat Connection

Use Script file `connect.sh`:

```
# 1. HTTP: Port 80
(echo "Hello HTTP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 80) &

# 2. HTTPS : Port 443
(echo "Hello HTTPS, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 443) &

# 3. SSH : Port 22
(echo "Hello SSH, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 22) &

# 4. RDP : Port 3389
(echo "Hello RDP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 3389) &

# 5. Python Server : Port 2482
(echo "Hello Python Server, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 2482)
```

```
# Make script executable
sudo chmod +x connect.sh
```

```
# Run the script
sudo ./connect.sh
```


This script will run all the netcat connections and send a personalized message to the listeners. Within the Ubuntu logs, we will be able to see these messages, confirming that a connection was made.

```

kali@kali: ~/Desktop/assignment6/auto
File Actions Edit View Help Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
$ cat connect.sh
#!/bin/bash
#ass6=`home/kali/Desktop/assignment6`
# connect to Ubuntu
#
# 1. HTTP: Port 80
(echo "Hello HTTP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 80) &
# 2. HTTPS : Port 443
(echo "Hello HTTPS, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 443) &
# 3. SSH : Port 22
(echo "Hello SSH, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 22) &
# 4. RDP : Port 3389
(echo "Hello RDP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 3389) &
# 5. Python Server : Port 2482
(echo "Hello Python Server, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 2482) &
# 4. FTP : Port 20
#(echo "Hello FTP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 20)&
# 5. SMTP : Port 25
#(echo "Hello SMTP, from Kali at : $(date)" | nc 192.168.0.49 25)
(kali@kali)-[~/Desktop/assignment6/auto]
$ sudo ./connect.sh
[sudo] password for kali:
HTTPS/1.1 200 OK
Fri Apr 21 01:20:19 AM PDT 2023
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Fri Apr 21 01:20:07 AM PDT 2023
RDP/1.1 200 OK
Fri Apr 21 01:18:36 AM PDT 2023
Fri Apr 21 01:18:42 AM PDT 2023
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 2482 (http://0.0.0.0:2482/) ...
Fri Apr 21 01:20:29 AM PDT 2023

```

3. Nmap Connection

Use Commands:

```
sudo nmap -p 1-65535 -T4 -A -v 192.168.0.49 >> nmap-output.txt
```

Nmap will scan the Ubuntu host and attempt to find open ports between the range provided. It will then save this output to the a text file.

4. Other Connections

RDP and SSH both have services that require a client setup.

SSH can be easily demonstrated by attempting to create a ssh session from Kali.

```
ssh cris@192.168.0.49
```

- netcat connect script
- nmap scan
- ssh

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop/assignment6/auto]
$ sudo ./connect.sh
[sudo] password for kali:
HTTPS/1.1 200 OK
Fri Apr 21 01:20:19 AM PDT 2023
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Fri Apr 21 01:20:07 AM PDT 2023
RDP/1.1 200 OK
Frame 1: 170 bytes on wire (1468 bits), 170 bytes
Fri Apr 21 01:18:36 AM PDT 2023
Fri Apr 21 01:18:42 AM PDT 2023
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 2482 (http://0.0.0.0:2482/) ...
Fri Apr 21 01:20:29 AM PDT 2023

(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop/assignment6/auto]
$ sudo nmap -p 1-65535 -T4 -A -v 192.168.0.49 >> nmap-output.txt
any: <live capture in progress>
Packets: 133446 · Display

(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop/assignment6/auto]
$ ssh cris@192.168.0.49 echo "1 2 3"
kex_exchange_identification: Connection closed by remote host
Connection closed by 192.168.0.49 port 22

(kali㉿kali)-[~/Desktop/assignment6/auto]
$
```

- web browser
- netcat connectors
- nmap port scanner
- ssh session

From packet analysis we learn various information regarding port numbers and source/destination IP addresses. However, we also learn about packet payloads.

Packet Payloads

The importance of the packet analysis, and the greater honeypot, is in the discovery of the packet payloads. This means that we are able to view the contents of packets, which can then be inferred to the kinds of services the contribute to and from there determine an attackers motives.

For example, packet analysis on an attack on ssh could determine, among otherthings:

- attackers IP which would help determine to the geolocation of the attacker
- data exchanged during ssh connections could show executed commands

As we can see, packet info sends some commands in clear text, despite the attempted encryption. The screenshot shows this confusion; an encrypted packet with a plaintext message. The reason for this is because this is not a real ssh session, therefore there was never any agreement on encryption and keys never exchanged.

The image displays a Wireshark packet capture and a terminal window. The Wireshark packet list shows four packets. Packet 917 is an SSH packet from 192.168.0.34 to 192.168.0.49, with the info field stating '126 Client: Encrypted packet (len=58)'. The packet details pane for packet 917 shows the SSH Protocol section expanded, displaying the raw bytes of the packet. The terminal window shows the output of the SSH connection attempt, with the message 'Hello SSH, from Kali at : Fri Apr 21 04:21:47 AM EDT 2023' highlighted.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
900	210.679862171	192.168.0.34	192.168.0.49	TCP	76	54802 → 22 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM TSval=
910	210.681173346	192.168.0.34	192.168.0.49	TCP	68	54802 → 22 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=64256 Len=0 TSval=3607238670 TS
917	210.681202185	192.168.0.34	192.168.0.49	SSH	126	Client: Encrypted packet (len=58)
937	210.682203688	192.168.0.34	192.168.0.49	TCP	68	54802 → 22 [ACK] Seq=59 Ack=34 Win=64256 Len=0 TSval=3607238671

Frame 917: 126 bytes on wire (1008 b) ...
 Linux cooked capture v1
 Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.34, Dst: 192.168.0.49
 Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 54802, Dst Port: 22
 SSH Protocol

```

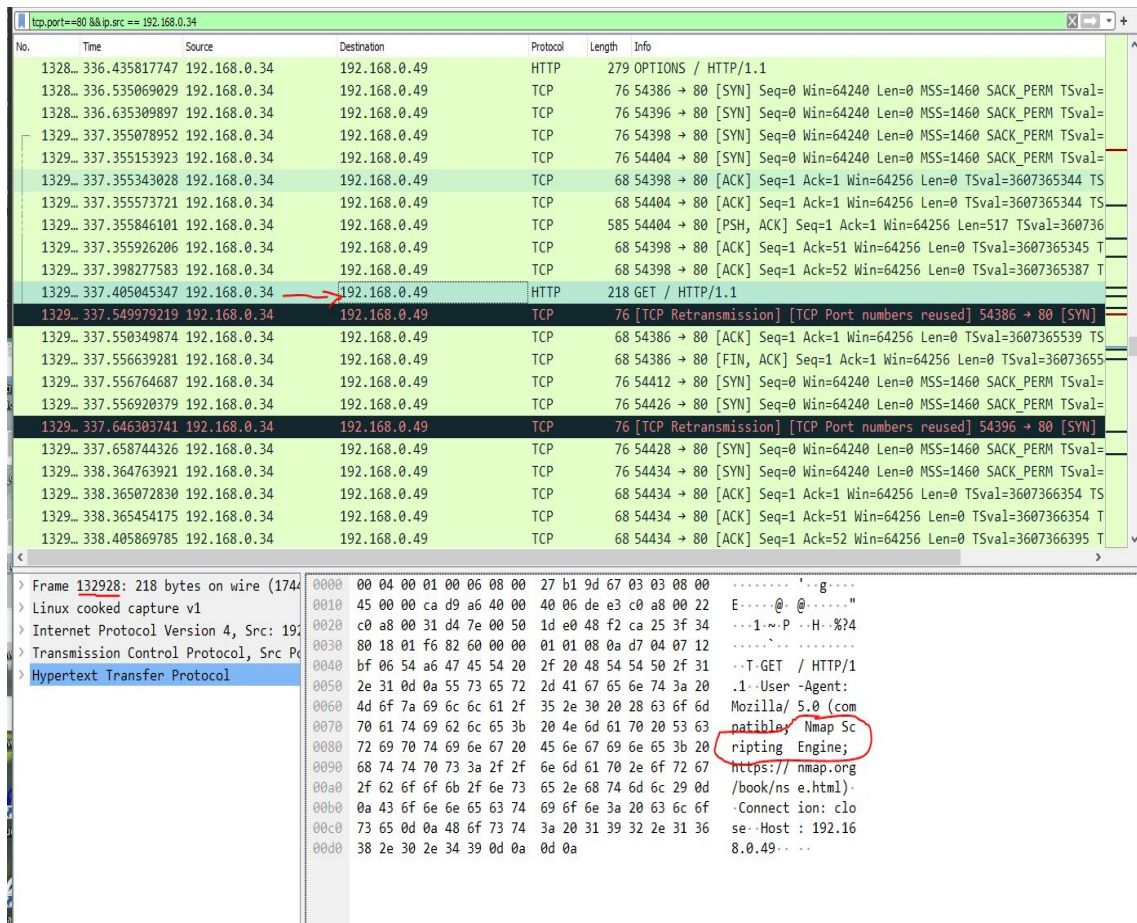
0000 00 04 00 01 00 06 08 00 27 b1 9d 67 00 00 08 00 ..... 'g....
0010 45 00 00 6e 68 ac 40 00 40 06 50 3a c0 a8 00 22 E..nh.@..@.P:..."
0020 c0 a8 00 31 d6 12 00 16 41 b3 40 d4 ad 1e 8c ef ...1.... A.@....
0030 80 18 01 f6 82 04 00 00 01 01 08 0a d7 02 18 0e .....
0040 bf 04 65 c6 48 65 6c 6c 6f 20 53 53 48 2c 20 66 ..e.Hell o SSH, f
0050 72 6f 6d 20 4b 61 6c 69 20 61 74 20 3a 20 46 72 rom Kali at : Fr
0060 69 20 41 70 72 20 32 31 20 30 34 3a 32 31 3a 34 i Apr 21 04:21:4
0070 37 20 41 4d 20 45 44 54 20 32 30 32 33 0a 7 AM EDT 2023.
  
```

nc-ssh-output.txt | nc-RDP-output.txt | nc-PYSERVER-output.txt

```

1 Hello SSH, from Kali at : Fri Apr 21 04:21:47 AM EDT 2023
2 SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_9.2p1 Debian-2
3
  
```

Nmap output shows very good detail about the potential payloads these connections may have been servicing. In this case, nmap was used by an attacker to discover these vulnerabilities, yet various packets captured by wireshark show the nmap characterization.



We can see nmap requesting a GET http method. This would suggest that the attacker is attempting to scan for open ports that could potentially serve as an exploitation.

Conclusion

In this assignment, we used various netcat listeners to simulate a honeypot using an Ubuntu system. A Kali Linux system was used to provide various forms of communications with these listeners. Wireshark packet capture was used to intercept the attacking traffic. Packet analysis showed various information about the attacker including IP address, plaintext commands, and packet payloads.

The purpose of this honeypot was to discover the various techniques and tactics used by an attacker. This was a demonstration of the importance of gathering defensive intelligence. Intel gathered by honeypots can strengthen defensive capabilities. Understanding how attackers exploit networks and systems allows for defenders to implement proper techniques to prevent them.

Honeypots offer a sense of relief that the main system is safe from attacks while the honeypot serves as a "trap". However, "trap" implies that an attack was caught and somehow diverted. Instead, honeypots offer the ability for defenders to learn about the various tactics and techniques used by attackers without risk of exposing the main system to attacks. The greatest purpose of a honeypot lies in gathering intelligence about potential attacks and vulnerabilities that a network might incur without risk of exposing the network to real attacks.

It is tempting to call honeypots "security through obscurity". In fact, a honeypot is not an active defensive tool, yet more of a tool for defense. This means that the intelligence learned from the attacks the honeypot "traps" will embolden the true defensive tools. In that way, defensive tools are bolstered to protect more vulnerabilities with the intel gathered by honeypots.

Before describing how each tool used in this assignment provides or does not provide the X.800 Security Services, let's take a brief moment to define them.

1. *Authentication*: ensures that all parties involved in a data access or connection are who they say they are.
2. *Access Control*: the ability to limit and control access to system resources through security policies and mechanisms.
3. *Data Confidentiality*: prevents unauthorized data access.
4. *Data-Integrity*: provides assurance that total data streams remain unchanged by unauthorized entities.
5. *Non-repudiation*: protects against denial of involvement within a connection.

HONEYPOT : Authentication, Access Control, Data Confidentialty, Data-integrity, Non-repudiation

Honeypots offer intel on the techniques used by attackers to exploit systems. In this way, honeypots effect each of the X.800 Security Services. Generally, honeypots offer intel on how to identify exploits within these services.

Authentication: A honeypot might be used as an authentication server as seen apart of the EAPOL scheme. An attacker is able to bypass authentication mechanisms. Yet a honey would help determine how this was done.

Access Control: An attacker might try to issue privileged commands on a fake ssh server setup by a honeypot. This would be trapped by the honeypot and an analysis of the attack could provide important insight on the techniques used.

Data Confidentialty: Similarly, an attacker might attempt to access data that they are not allowed to see. Honeypots would in the discovery of the various mechanisms that an attacker would use to break this confidentiality.

Data-integrity: Attackers might attempt to modify data stored on a honeypot. Analysis of this attack provided by the honeypot could determine how these attempts might be made.

Non-repudiation: Honeypots log all various outputs from connections made by that attacker. This provides non-repudiation against any denial of responsibility by the attacker.