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Serve a Directory using Python

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Subject: Ethical Hacking

Subject Code:CSHO331CSP

Academic Year: 2025-2026

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Assignment 12: Serve a Directory using Python

Aim:

To turn a computer into a simple web server to share files over the internet using Python's built-in HTTP server module.

Methodology:

1. Create a directory named webserver using the mkdir command:

   mkdir webserver

2. Navigate into the directory using the cd command:

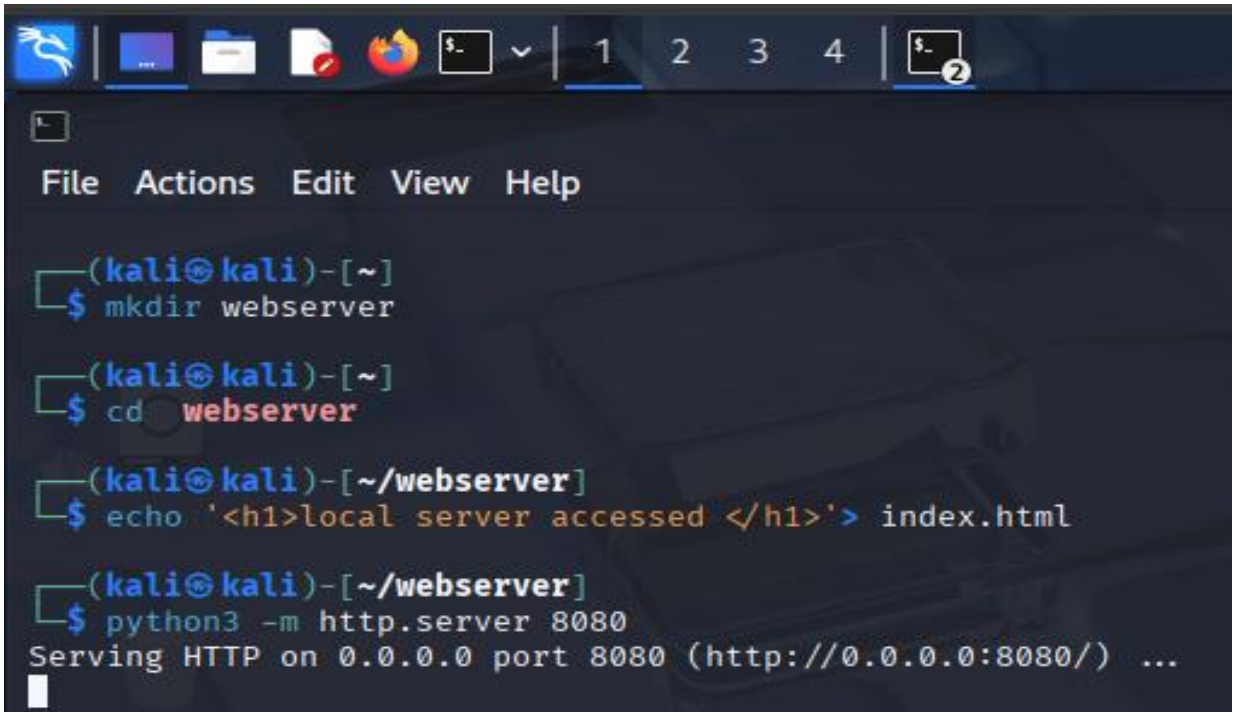
   cd webserver

3. Create an HTML file named index.html so that it loads automatically when accessed in a browser:

   echo "<h1>local server accessed</h1>" > index.html

4. Run the Python HTTP server on port 8080:

   python3 -m http.server 8080



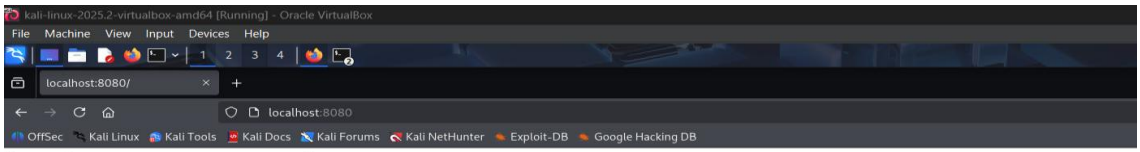
5. **Open a web browser and enter:**

   http://localhost:8080

6. **If the file is not named index.html, it must be accessed with its name in the URL,**

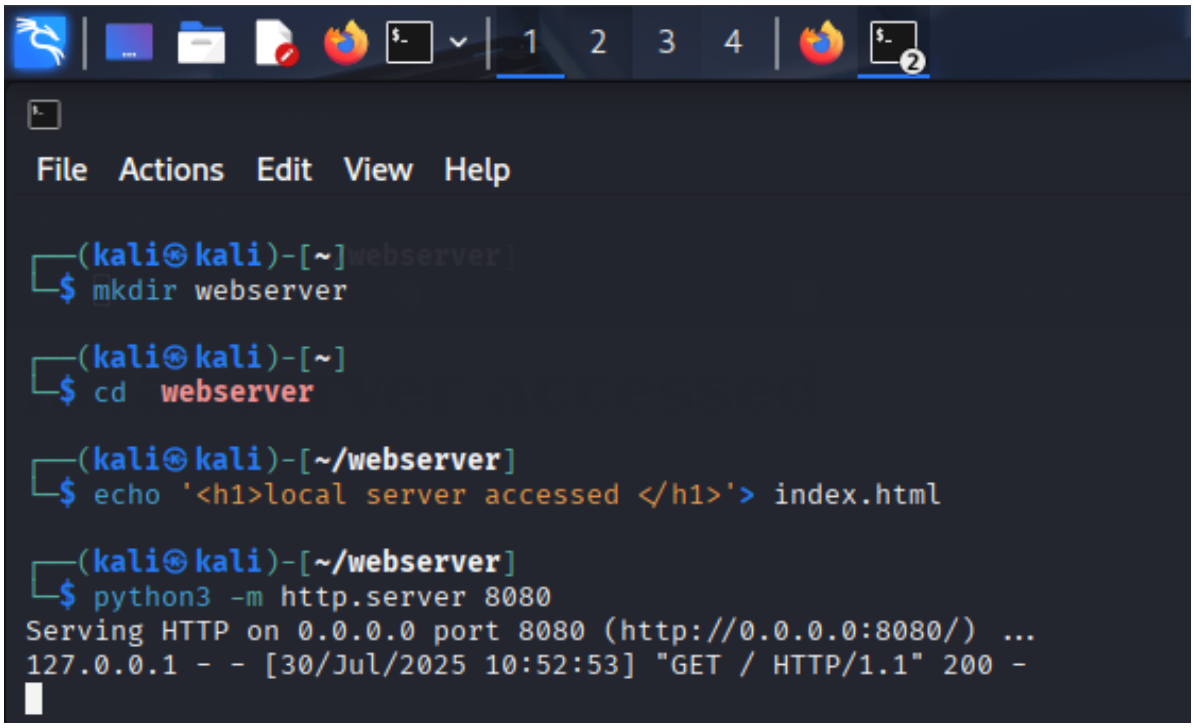
   http://localhost:8080/filename.html

The index.html file will be displayed.



local server accessed

7. **Observe the terminal output, which will show the web server's log entries for each request made.**



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Findings:

- Python's built-in HTTP server is useful for quickly testing or sharing files locally.
- The server lacks authentication and encryption, making it unsuitable for public use.
- Without an index.html file, the server displays a directory listing, which can expose sensitive file names.

Conclusion:

Through this experiment, I learned how to:

- Use Python's built-in HTTP server to expose files over a network.
- Understand how clients send HTTP GET requests and how servers respond.
- Read and interpret server log entries.

This practical exercise demonstrated the basics of serving static files over HTTP and highlighted potential security risks.