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Lab Assignment 8

AIM: Installation of NMAP and using it with different options to scan open ports, perform OS fingerprinting, ping scan, TCP port scan, UDP port scan, etc.

LO4: Use tools like sniffers, port scanners and other related tools for analyzing packets in a network.

THEORY:

Port Scanning:

Port scanning is a network reconnaissance technique used to discover open ports on a target system. It involves sending requests to various ports on a target computer to determine which ports are open, closed, or filtered. This information is valuable for both legitimate network administrators and malicious hackers as it helps identify services running on a system and potential vulnerabilities.

NMAP:

Nmap (Network Mapper) is a widely used open-source tool for network discovery and security auditing. It provides a variety of scanning techniques and options to probe networks and identify open ports, services, and operating systems.

Different States of Ports:

- 1. Open: The target system actively accepts connections on the specified port. This indicates that a service is running and listening on that port.
- 2. Closed: The target system actively rejects connections on the specified port. This means there's no service listening on that port.
- 3. Filtered: The target system actively drops incoming packets, making it difficult to determine whether the port is open or closed. Firewalls or security measures often cause this state.
- 4. Unfiltered: Nmap cannot determine whether the port is open or closed due to the lack of response from the target system. This state indicates a less common configuration.
- 5. Open | Filtered: Nmap cannot reliably determine whether the port is open or filtered. This state often occurs when firewalls are in place.
- 6. Closed | Filtered: Nmap cannot reliably determine whether the port is closed or filtered. This state is also often the result of firewalls.

Port Scanning Techniques using NMAP:

TCP Connect Scan:

Command: nmap -sT target

Explanation: This scan establishes a full TCP connection to each specified port. It actively opens a connection to each target port to check if it's open. This method is reliable but not as stealthy as other scans because it leaves a clear trace in the target's logs.

TCP SYN Scan:

Command: nmap -sS target

Explanation: The SYN scan, also known as a half-open scan, sends SYN packets to target ports. If a port is open, it responds with a SYN-ACK packet, allowing Nmap to determine that the port is open. If the port is closed, it responds with a RST packet. This scan is stealthier than a connect scan.

FIN Scan:

Command: nmap -sF target

Explanation: In a FIN scan, Nmap sends FIN packets to target ports. If a port is closed, it responds with a RST packet, indicating that the port is closed. However, if the port is open, it ignores the packet. This scan is used to identify open ports without triggering alarms.

Null Scan:

Command: nmap -sN target

Explanation: A null scan involves sending TCP packets with no flags set (i.e., all flags set to zero) to target ports. Similar to the FIN scan, if a port is closed, it responds with a RST packet, but if the port is open, it ignores the packet. This scan can help identify open ports while evading detection.

XMAS Scan:

Command: nmap -sX target

Explanation: An XMAS scan sends packets with the FIN, URG, and PSH flags set to target ports. Like the FIN and Null scans, if a port is closed, it responds with a RST packet. If open, it usually doesn't respond. This scan can help identify open ports in stealthy scenarios.

ACK Scan:

Command: nmap -sA target

Explanation: The ACK scan sends ACK packets to target ports. If a port is unfiltered and open, it will respond with an RST packet. However, if the port is filtered or closed, it typically won't respond. This scan is primarily used to identify firewall rules.

Ping Sweep:

Command: nmap -sn target

Explanation: A ping sweep is used to discover live hosts in a network by sending ICMP echo requests (ping) to multiple IP addresses within a specified range. It helps identify which hosts are online and reachable.

Service and Version Detection:

Command: nmap -sV target

Explanation: This scan detects the services running on open ports and attempts to determine their versions by analyzing the responses from those services. It helps in identifying specific software and their versions.

Port and Port Range Scanning:

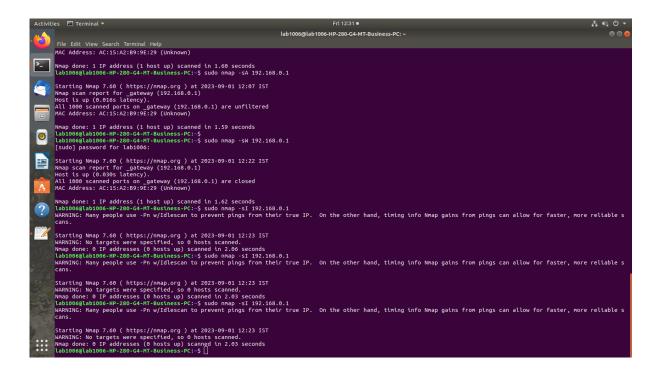
Command: nmap -p port(s) target

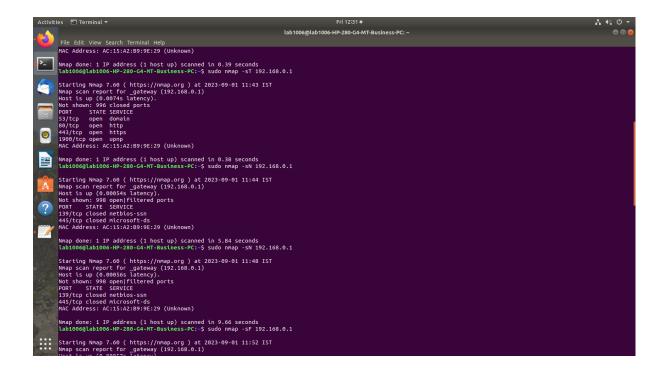
Explanation: You can use this command to specify specific ports or a range of ports to scan. For example, nmap -p 80,443 target scans only ports 80 and 443.

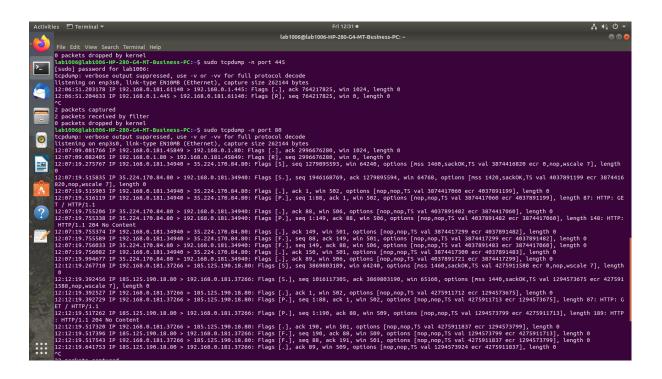
OS Fingerprinting:

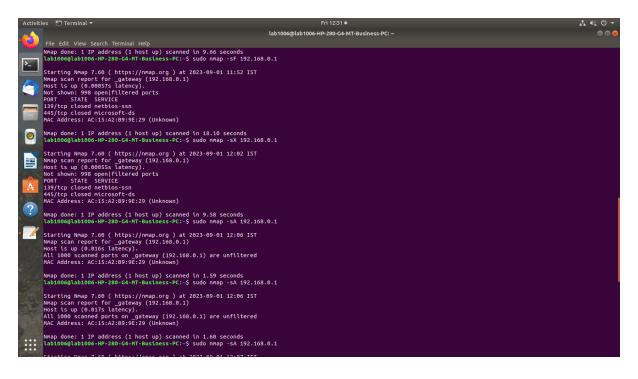
Command: nmap -O target

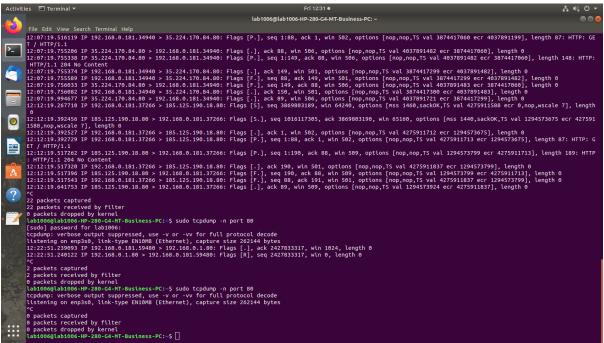
Explanation: This scan attempts to identify the operating system running on the target by analyzing various network responses and characteristics. Nmap compares these patterns to its database to make an educated guess about the OS.











Conclusion:

Port scanning is a crucial technique for network reconnaissance, helping administrators identify security weaknesses and ensuring proper configuration. Nmap provides a comprehensive set of scanning options for various scenarios, from identifying open ports to determining service versions and even fingerprinting the target's operating system. However, it's important to use these tools and techniques responsibly and with proper authorization, as unauthorized scanning can be considered malicious and illegal.