



# PREPARING A NETWORK ATTACK: “SCANNING”

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Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Informatica

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# HOW TO PREPARE A NETWORK ATTACK?

- Vital concepts for anyone looking to prepare for a network attack:
  - Footprinting:
    - The art of gathering information on the network. Also known as "network reconnaissance"
  - Scanning:
    - A detailed inspection of the attack perimeter, searching for potential entry points
  - Enumeration:
    - Probing identified services to uncover potential vulnerabilities



# SCANNING vs FOOTPRINTING

- Footprinting:
  - studying the environment to gather a wide range of information
- Scanning:
  - thoroughly surveying the attack perimeter to identify potential access points to the target organization's systems



## SCANNING: GOALS

- Verifying which of the systems detected during footprinting are "alive", meaning they are listening for incoming traffic
- Circumventing any firewalls to perform reconnaissance on systems protected by filtering rules
- Maintaining anonymity (and minimizing intrusiveness) by using so-called "passive scanning" techniques



# DETECTING "ALIVE" SYSTEMS

- Basic technique: ping sweep
  - sending specific traffic to a target host and then analyzing the results
- Note:
  - The term "ping" historically refers to sending ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol) Echo Request messages followed by receiving ICMP Echo Reply messages
  - Today, it has evolved to generally indicate sending messages belonging to various protocols, including ICMP, ARP (Address Resolution Protocol), TCP (Transmission Control Protocol), and UDP (User Datagram Protocol)



# arp-scan: DISCOVERING HOSTS ON A LOCAL NETWORK

- Useful when the attacker is on the same local network as the target
- It provides information about active hosts, including:
  - IP address
  - MAC address
  - Manufacturer of the local network adapter

```
root@kali:~# arp-scan 143.225.28.128/25
Interface: eth0, datalink type: EN10MB (Ethernet)
Starting arp-scan 1.9 with 128 hosts (http://www.nta-monitor.com/tools/arp-scan/)
  143.225.28.130 00:19:cb:46:ec:da Zyxel Communications Corporation
  143.225.28.136 18:03:73:b2:4f:7f Dell Inc
  143.225.28.134 00:1a:4b:0d:69:bb Hewlett-Packard Company
  143.225.28.135 00:22:64:b2:16:96 Hewlett-Packard Company
  143.225.28.139 10:dd:b1:ef:47:21 Apple
  143.225.28.140 00:1f:f3:3e:3e:2d Apple, Inc
  143.225.28.157 00:19:99:cc:91:77 Fujitsu Technology Solutions
  143.225.28.167 98:5a:eb:d1:73:ee (Unknown)
  143.225.28.169 40:6c:8f:3c:31:e3 Apple, Inc.
  143.225.28.175 68:5b:35:98:51:58 Apple Inc
  143.225.28.177 b8:ca:3a:77:b8:fc Dell PCBA Test
  143.225.28.179 9c:93:4e:5e:0a:e0 Xerox Corporation
  143.225.28.178 00:00:aa:9e:34:c0 XEROX CORPORATION
  143.225.28.180 08:60:6e:48:69:37 ASUSTek COMPUTER INC.
  143.225.28.187 5c:f9:dd:ea:4b:7a Dell Inc
  143.225.28.192 e0:3f:49:ac:d9:ec (Unknown)
  143.225.28.193 00:24:8c:03:0d:e4 ASUSTek COMPUTER INC.
  143.225.28.196 4c:72:b9:da:98:e6 Pegatron Corporation
  143.225.28.197 00:08:9b:d9:85:f8 ICP Electronics Inc.
  143.225.28.200 00:0c:29:ea:93:ae VMware, Inc.
  143.225.28.201 28:92:4a:38:f6:c2 Hewlett Packard
  143.225.28.202 28:92:4a:2d:59:93 Hewlett Packard
  143.225.28.203 00:0c:29:6f:54:0c VMware, Inc.
  143.225.28.204 c8:cb:b8:ce:6f:36 Hewlett Packard
  143.225.28.208 68:5b:35:97:c8:ac Apple Inc
  143.225.28.210 20:c9:d0:11:34:66 Apple Inc
  143.225.28.217 90:72:40:00:f2:29 Apple
  143.225.28.219 68:5b:35:8d:9b:fb Apple Inc
  143.225.28.220 00:15:6d:4f:ae:31 Ubiquiti Networks Inc.
  143.225.28.229 00:15:f2:69:01:1a ASUSTek COMPUTER INC.
  143.225.28.233 c8:60:00:8b:6c:e2 FUJI-XEROX CO. LTD.
  143.225.28.234 54:04:a6:46:fa:76 LEXMARK INTERNATIONAL, INC.
  143.225.28.237 b8:ca:3a:9d:d6:f9 KYOCERA Document Solutions Inc.
  143.225.28.240 08:00:37:cb:6c:dd Hewlett-Packard Company
  143.225.28.244 00:04:00:49:cc:0b CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.
  143.225.28.250 00:17:c8:07:88:4e
  143.225.28.249 00:21:5a:e5:ba:7e
  143.225.28.254 00:17:df:b3:c4:00

38 packets received by filter, 0 packets dropped by kernel
Ending arp-scan 1.9: 128 hosts scanned in 1.636 seconds (78.24 hosts/sec). 38 responded
```



# ARP SCANNING WITH “nmap”

- nmap: Network Mapper
  - a very powerful program for discovering network topology
  - capable of "mapping" network nodes and their services
  - supports ARP protocol scanning through the "-PR" option
  - limited to host discovery only using the "-sn" option
  - ...in reality, it can do much more than this (see next slides)

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sn -PR 143.225.28.128/25
```

Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.130  
Host is up (0.0018s latency).  
MAC Address: 00:19:CB:46:EC:DA (ZyXEL Communications)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.134  
Host is up (0.00066s latency).  
MAC Address: 00:1A:4B:8D:69:B8 (Hewlett-Packard Company)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.135  
Host is up (0.00045s latency).  
MAC Address: 00:22:64:B2:16:96 (Hewlett-Packard Company)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.136  
Host is up (0.00037s latency).  
MAC Address: 18:03:73:B2:4F:7F (Dell)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.139  
Host is up (0.00026s latency).  
MAC Address: 10:DD:B1:EF:47:21 (Apple)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.140  
Host is up (0.0011s latency).  
MAC Address: 00:1F:F3:3E:2E:20 (Apple)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.157  
Host is up (0.00059s latency).  
MAC Address: 00:19:99:CC:91:77 (Fujitsu Technology Solutions)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.167  
Host is up (-0.10s latency).  
MAC Address: 98:5A:EB:D1:73:EE (Apple)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.169  
Host is up (-0.10s latency).  
MAC Address: 40:6C:8F:3C:31:E3 (Apple)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.175  
Host is up (-0.10s latency).  
MAC Address: 68:58:35:98:51:58 (Apple)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.177  
Host is up (-0.10s latency).  
MAC Address: B8:CA:3A:77:B8:FC (Dell)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.178  
Host is up (-0.099s latency).  
MAC Address: 00:00:AA:9E:34:CF (Xerox)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.179  
Host is up (-0.100s latency).  
MAC Address: 9C:93:4E:5E:0A:E0 (Xerox)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.180 (layer.com)  
Host is up (-0.10s latency).  
MAC Address: 08:60:6E:48:69:37 (Asustek Computer)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.187  
Host is up (-0.100s latency).  
MAC Address: 5C:F9:DD:EA:4B:7A (Dell)  
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.192

Transform Output

Host is up (0.00032s latency)



## DISCOVERY OF REMOTE HOSTS

- ARP works ONLY on the local network
- In the case of remote hosts, higher-level protocols are used:
  - ICMP
  - TCP/UDP
- Even in the case of remote hosts, there is no shortage of available tools...



# ICMP HOST DISCOVERY

- The most classic utility program: ping
  - sending an ICMP Echo request message...
  - ...receiving an ICMP Echo Reply message

```
root@kali:~# ping -c 4 143.225.28.167
PING 143.225.28.167 (143.225.28.167) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 143.225.28.167: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.245 ms
64 bytes from 143.225.28.167: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.171 ms
64 bytes from 143.225.28.167: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.198 ms
64 bytes from 143.225.28.167: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.192 ms

--- 143.225.28.167 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 2997ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.171/0.201/0.245/0.030 ms
```



# AGAIN WITH *nmap*...

- Options to use:
  - “**-sn**” → “no port scan”
  - “**-PE**” → send an ICMP Echo Request message
  - “**--send-ip**” → don't send ARP packets
- Note: in the absence of these options (and when executed as the “root” user), nmap would also do the following things:
  - ARP ping, send an ICMP Timestamp request, TCP pinging on ports 80 and 443!

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sn -PE --send-ip 143.225.28.167
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-28 13:39 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.167
Host is up (0.00015s latency).
MAC Address: 98:5A:EB:D1:73:EE (Apple)
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 13.21 seconds
```



# *nping*: HACKER'S PING PROGRAM!

- It allows for spoofing of the source MAC address, source IP address, and any other field in the packet
- It can be configured to send specific ICMP messages (e.g., "Timestamp" requests)

```
root@kali:~# nping -c 4 --icmp --icmp-type time 143.225.28.254

Starting Nping 0.6.49BETA4 ( http://nmap.org/nping ) at 2015-09-28 13:54 EDT
SENT (0.0022s) ICMP [143.225.28.168 > 143.225.28.254 Timestamp request (type=13/code=0) id=32993 seq=1 orig=0 recv=0 trans=0] IP [ttl=64 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
RCVD (0.1983s) ICMP [143.225.28.254 > 143.225.28.168 Timestamp reply (type=14/code=0) id=32993 seq=1 orig=0 recv=64525994 trans=64525994] IP [ttl=255 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
SENT (1.0028s) ICMP [143.225.28.168 > 143.225.28.254 Timestamp request (type=13/code=0) id=32993 seq=2 orig=0 recv=0 trans=0] IP [ttl=64 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
RCVD (1.2031s) ICMP [143.225.28.254 > 143.225.28.168 Timestamp reply (type=14/code=0) id=32993 seq=2 orig=0 recv=64526995 trans=64526995] IP [ttl=255 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
SENT (2.0033s) ICMP [143.225.28.168 > 143.225.28.254 Timestamp request (type=13/code=0) id=32993 seq=3 orig=0 recv=0 trans=0] IP [ttl=64 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
RCVD (2.2025s) ICMP [143.225.28.254 > 143.225.28.168 Timestamp reply (type=14/code=0) id=32993 seq=3 orig=0 recv=64527995 trans=64527995] IP [ttl=255 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
SENT (3.0045s) ICMP [143.225.28.168 > 143.225.28.254 Timestamp request (type=13/code=0) id=32993 seq=4 orig=0 recv=0 trans=0] IP [ttl=64 id=18556 iplen=40 ]
RCVD (3.2031s) ICMP [143.225.28.254 > 143.225.28.168 Timestamp reply (type=14/code=0) id=32993 seq=4 orig=0 recv=64528996 trans=64528996] IP [ttl=255 id=18556 iplen=40 ]

Max rtt: 200.074ms | Min rtt: 196.240ms | Avg rtt: 198.479ms
Raw packets sent: 4 (160B) | Rcvd: 4 (184B) | Lost: 0 (0.00%)
Nping done: 1 IP address pinged in 3.20 seconds
```



# TCP/UDP HOST DISCOVERY

- Useful in cases where the ICMP protocol is filtered for security reasons
  - A firewall protecting a web server might filter ICMP packets directed at it
  - ...but would have to allow TCP segments directed at port 80
    - an attacker can thus perform probing by contacting TCP (on port 80) to determine if the host in question is "alive"
  - Of course, it is not easy to "guess" in advance which services are active on a host you want to know about:
    - blindly sending TCP segments addressed to variable port numbers on the target host
      - a time-consuming task and far from "silent"
        - the generated traffic is unlikely to escape a well-configured Intrusion Detection System!



# PORT PROBING WITH *nmap*

- Through the “***-Pn***” option, nmap probes 1000 ports of potential interest!

```
root@kali:~# nmap -Pn 143.225.28.169<less-
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-28 14:09 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.169
Host is up (0.00077s latency).
Not shown: 969 closed ports, 26 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
443/tcp   open  https
1023/tcp  open  netvenuechat
2049/tcp  open  nfs
MAC Address: 40:6C:8F:3C:31:E3 (Apple)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 97.63 seconds
```



# PROBING A SINGLE PORT

- A much more “scalable” solution
  - with *nmap*:
    - option to use:  
**“-sS -p [port #] –open”**
- Can also be implemented with tools such as *nping* or *SuperScan*

```
root@kali:~# nmap -Pn -sS -p 22 --open 143.225.28.128/25
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-28 14:16 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.139
Host is up (-0.076s latency).
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
MAC Address: 10:DD:B1:EF:47:21 (Apple)

Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.187
Host is up (-0.077s latency).
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
MAC Address: 5C:F9:DD:EA:4B:7A (Dell)
```

```
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.220
Host is up (-0.076s latency).
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
MAC Address: 00:15:6D:4F:AE:31 (Ubiquiti Networks)

Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.254
Host is up (-0.070s latency).
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
MAC Address: 00:17:DF:B3:C4:00 (Cisco Systems)

Nmap done: 128 IP addresses (37 hosts up) scanned in 42.32 seconds
```



# PING SWEEP: DETECTION

- In a network:
  - the use of network-based Intrusion Detection systems is common
    - Snort ([www.snort.org](http://www.snort.org)) is an example of a widely used open source network-based Intrusion Detection System
- On individual hosts:
  - tools for detecting and logging suspicious activities directed at the node are employed
    - examples of such tools include:
      - *scanlogd, ippl, Protolog, Filebeat + Logstash, ...*



# PING SWEEP: PREVENTION

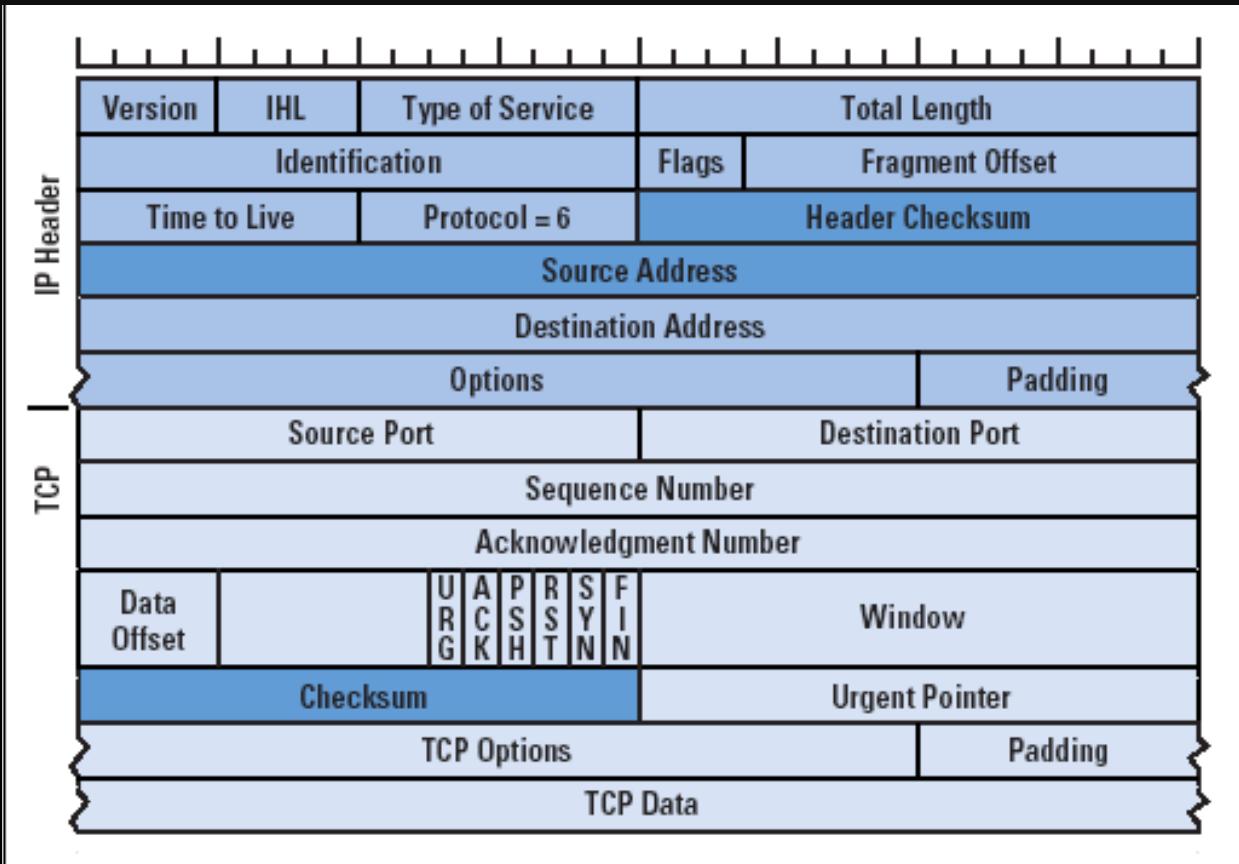
- Filtering the allowed ICMP message types:
  - e.g., Echo Request, Echo Reply, Host Unreachable and Time Exceeded only; and only if addressed to (a set of) hosts in the DMZ (“DeMilitarized Zone”)
  - using Access Control Lists (ACLs) to allow ICMP traffic only towards a predefined set of external nodes
- Using ICMP as an end-user application (“userland daemon”)
  - e.g.: *pingd* → deals with ICMP messages at the host level (outside of kernel)
- Beware!
  - ICMP, on a “compromised” host, might become a “back door” at Operating System's level:
    - “covert channel” for tunneling generic data inside ICMP packets:
      - e.g., *loki2* → <http://phrack.org/issues/51/6.html>



# AT THE DISCOVERY OF ACTIVE SERVICES

- Port scanning
  - probing network nodes to determine running or listening services
  - typically accomplished by sending packets to commonly used TCP and UDP ports
  - crucial for identifying potential vulnerabilities of a network node
  - also useful for determining other types of information such as:
    - the type and version of the operating system
    - running applications...

# LET'S REFRESH OUR MEMORY...



# TYPES OF SCANNING (1/3)

- TCP connect scan:
  - It completes the entire 3-way handshake (SYN, SYN+ACK, ACK)
  - Useful when scanning needs to be done as a non-privileged user
  - Slower and more easily traceable compared to other methods
- TCP SYN scan:
  - It doesn't complete the handshake
    - it sends SYN and waits for SYN+ACK without sending the final ACK
  - Useful for determining the presence of "listening" services
    - the service is absent (on that port) if an RST + ACK is received from the remote node
  - More robust ("stealthy") than the previous method
  - Often not captured in the target's system logs
  - Note: It can potentially cause a Denial of Service condition on the target
    - high number of "half-open" connections!

## TYPES OF SCANNING (2/3)

- TCP FIN scan:
  - Sends a FIN segment to a specific port on the target host
  - RFC 793 → respond with an RST segment if the port is closed, ignore the segment otherwise
- TCP Xmas Tree scan:
  - Sends a segment with the SYN, FIN, URG, and PUSH flags all set
  - RFC 793 → respond with an RST segment if the port is closed, ignore the packet otherwise
- TCP Null scan:
  - Sends a TCP segment with all flags set to 0
  - RFC 793 → respond with an RST segment if the port is closed, ignore the packet otherwise

Note: Typically, these three techniques work only for Unix-based TCP/IP stacks

- TCP ACK scan:
  - Sends a TCP segment with the ACK flag set
  - Useful for identifying firewalls that implement simple filtering rules
    - data from established connections (ACK = 1) are allowed without further inspection of the incoming packet



# TYPES OF SCANNING (3/3)

- TCP Window scan:
  - only useful for systems like FreeBSD or AIX
  - exploits an anomaly in reporting the window size
    - sends an ACK and expects to receive an RST:
      - RST with WIN = 0 → port closed
      - RST with WIN > 0 → port open!
- TCP RPC scan:
  - specific to UNIX systems
  - detects and identifies services of the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) type
- UDP scan:
  - sends a UDP packet to a specific port on the target:
    - if it receives an "ICMP Port Unreachable" → port closed.
  - much less reliable than TCP-based techniques due to the high likelihood of UDP traffic being filtered by the destination network/host



# PORT SCANNING WITH *nmap*

- TCP SYN scan...

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sS 143.225.28.169
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-29 05:45 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.169
Host is up (0.00073s latency).
Not shown: 929 closed ports, 66 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
443/tcp   open  https
1023/tcp  open  netvenuechat
2049/tcp  open  nfs
MAC Address: 40:6C:8F:3C:31:E3 (Apple)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 94.74 seconds
```

- TCP SYN scan with output logged in an XML file

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sF 143.225.28.169 -oX pippozzo.xml
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-29 05:56 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.169
Host is up (0.00013s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 143.225.28.169 are open|filtered
MAC Address: 40:6C:8F:3C:31:E3 (Apple)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 21.54 seconds
```



# SCANNING WITH 'DECOY'...

- Usage of the so-called "decoy" option:

The -D option allows you to specify Decoys. This option makes it look like those decoys are scanning the target network. It does not hide your own IP, but it makes your IP one of a torrent of others supposedly scanning the victim at the same time. This not only makes the scan look more scary, but reduces the chance of you being traced from your scan (difficult to tell which system is the "real" source).

- Requires the "spoofing" of a valid IP address to avoid flooding the target system with SYN segments
- With this type of scan, it is difficult for the target system to identify the real initiator of the scan (its data gets mixed with the data of the decoy node)

Source of the scan

```
root@kali:~# nmap -sS 143.225.28.167 -D 143.225.28.169
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-29 09:46 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.167
Host is up (0.00023s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 143.225.28.167 are closed
MAC Address: 98:5A:EB:D1:73:EE (Apple)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 69.42 seconds
```

Decoy Host

Filter: ip.src==143.225.28.167					
Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	6565-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	100-36607 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	50001-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	3390-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	5102-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	16993-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	5102-36607 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	5679-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	5999-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	5405-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	3001-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	5405-36607 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	
143.225.28.167	143.225.28.169	TCP	60	4005-36606 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0	



# ONE MORE TOOL: *netcat*

- The "Swiss Army knife" of security
- Useful when you want to minimize your traces in a compromised system
- Scanning based on TCP or UDP (option "-u")
- Many configuration options...

```
root@kali:~# netcat -help
[v1.10-41]
connect to somewhere: nc [-options] hostname port[s|port] ...
listen for inbound:   nc -l -p port [-options] [hostname] [port]
options:
  -c shell commands      as ` -e'; use /bin/sh to exec [dangerous!!!]
  -e filename            program to exec after connect [dangerous!!!]
  -b                   allow broadcasts
  -g gateway             source-routing hop point[s], up to 8
  -G num                source-routing pointer: 4, 8, -12, ...
  -h                   this cruft
  -i secs               delay interval for lines: sent, x, ports: scanned
  -k                   set keepalive option on socket
  -l                   listen mode, for inbound connects
  -n                   numeric-only IP addresses, no DNS
  -o file               hex dump of traffic
  -p port               local port number
  -r                   randomize local and remote ports
  -q secs               quit after EOF on stdin and delay of secs
  -s addr               local source address
  -T tos                set Type Of Service
  -t                   answer TELNET negotiation
  -u                   UDP mode
  -v                   verbose [use twice to be more verbose]
  -w secs               timeout for connects and final net reads
  -C                   Send CRLF as line-ending
  -z                   zero-I/O mode [used for scanning]
port numbers can be individual or ranges: lo-hi [inclusive];
hyphens in port names must be backslash escaped (e.g.\-ftp\-\-data')
root@kali:~# ls
```

# PORT SCANNING: COUNTERMEASURES

- As usual:
  - Detection:
    - Use a Network-based Intrusion Detection System like Snort ([www.snort.org](http://www.snort.org))
    - Use log file analysis tools, e.g., scanlogd
    - Be aware that the IP addresses of supposed attackers are typically cleverly forged (spoofing)...
      - ...taking countermeasures against such addresses almost always means dealing with the wrong "person"!
  - Prevention:
    - There's really not much to do here (it's difficult to convince a hacker of the futility of scanning our network nodes)
    - The only useful advice: disable ALL services considered unnecessary!

# DISCOVERY OF THE OPERATING SYSTEM TYPE

- From the simplest techniques, such as "banner-grabbing"
  - see the lesson on footprinting
- ...to more advanced methods:
  - the so-called "stack fingerprinting":
    - searching for clear signs of a specific type of operating system based on the services available on a node (e.g., port scanning)
    - Examples:
      - active ports 135 (Endpoint Mapper), 139 (NetBIOS), and 445 (Active Directory) → Windows!
      - active ports 22 (ssh), 111 (SUN RPC), and 2049 (NFS) → a high probability of a Unix-based system
    - This technique is based on the use of both active and passive methods



# ACTIVE STACK FINGERPRINTING

- A set of techniques aimed at quickly and reliably determining the type of operating system (OS) running on a network node
- This involves using detailed knowledge about how various OS manufacturers implement the Internet standard TCP/IP stack (RFC)
- Reliable estimations typically require relying on at least one open port on the node

```
---[ Phrack Magazine  Volume 8, Issue 54 Dec 25th, 1998, article 09 of 12

-----[ Remote OS detection via TCP/IP Stack FingerPrinting

-----[ Fyodor <fyodor@dhp.com> (www.insecure.org) October 18, 1998

----[ ABSTRACT

This paper discusses how to glean precious information about a host by querying its TCP/IP stack. I first present some of the "classical" methods of determining host OS which do not involve stack fingerprinting. Then I describe the current "state of the art" in stack fingerprinting tools. Next comes a description of many techniques for causing the remote host to leak information about itself. Finally I detail my (nmap) implementation of this, followed by a snapshot gained from nmap which discloses what OS is running on many popular Internet sites.
```



# PROBES FOR STACK FINGERPRINTING (1/2)

- FIN probe:
  - send a TCP FIN segment to an open port:
    - RFC793 → DO NOT answer!
    - Some Windows implementations (7, 200X, Vista) → Send FIN+ACK ☺
- Bogus flag probe:
  - Set an undefined flag within the header of a TCP SYN segment:
    - Linux → copies back the flag in question within the response segment (SYN+ACK) ☺
- "Don't Fragment bit" monitoring:
  - some OSs set such a bit (inside the IP header) by default, to increase performance
- TCP initial window size:
  - some TCP implementations associate a constant value with the receiver window
- ACK value:
  - RFC793 → "Sequence # + 1"
  - Some TCP implementations → "Sequence #" ☺



# PROBES FOR STACK FINGERPRINTING (2/2)

- ICMP message quoting:
  - different OSs "copy back" into the response different parts of the original message when crafting an ICMP error message
- Type of Service (TOS):
  - analysis of the TOS field of the received ICMP "Port Unreachable" messages (should be set to '0', but some OSs set this in a different way...)
- Fragmentation Handling:
  - different OSs implement in different ways the reconstruction of an IP datagram starting from "overlapping" fragments
- TCP Options:
  - RFC1323 → specifies NEW options for TCP ("no operation", "window scale", etc)...
  - ...this allows to tell newer stacks apart from older ones (compliant with just RFC793)



# OS DETECTION WITH *nmap*

- Use of the “***-O***” option, based on the adoption of most of the mentioned stack fingerprinting techniques

```
root@kali:/etc/snort/rules# nmap -O 143.225.28.169
Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-30 02:42 EDT
Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.169
Host is up (0.00081s latency).
Not shown: 995 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
443/tcp   open  https
1023/tcp  open  netvenuechat
2049/tcp  open  nfs
MAC Address: 40:6C:8F:3C:31:E3 (Apple)
Device type: general purpose|media device|phone
Running: Apple Mac OS X 10.7.X|10.9.X|10.8.X, Apple iOS 4.X|5.X|6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:apple:mac_os_x:10.7 cpe:/o:apple:mac_os_x:10.9 cpe:/o:apple:mac_os_x:10.8 cpe:/o:apple:iphone_os:4
cpe:/a:apple:apple_tv:4 cpe:/o:apple:iphone_os:5 cpe:/o:apple:iphone_os:6
OS details: Apple Mac OS X 10.7.0 (Lion) - 10.10 (Yosemite) or iOS 4.1 - 8.1.2 (Darwin 10.0.0 - 14.0.0)
Network Distance: 1 hop

OS detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 51.39 seconds
```



# OS DETECTION: COUNTERMEASURES

- Detection:
  - the "advice" regarding the detection of generic port scanning activity also applies in this case
    - scans with specific options configured in probe packets (e.g., SYN flag in TCP) are a good indicator of stack fingerprinting activity
- Prevention:
  - It is quite challenging!
    - Preventing stack fingerprinting activity requires modifying the behavior of the operating system (at the source code level or through configuration parameters)
    - The only effective form of prevention involves relying on robust firewalls and/or proxies to protect the network resources of your systems



# PASSIVE STACK FINGERPRINTING

- Techniques designed to make fingerprinting activity more robust in terms of evading detection by IDS
- These techniques avoid proactively sending probe packets to target nodes
- They rely solely on monitoring and analyzing network traffic
- They require that the attacker is:
  - positioned at a "central" point in the network
  - capable of "listening" to traffic on a port that allows packet capture (a "mirrored port")
- Some examples of projects and tools for passive fingerprinting:
  - The "honeynet" project → <http://honeynet.org/>
  - The "siphon" tool → passive port mapping, OS identification, and topology discovery



# PASSIVE SIGNATURES

- Identification of specific traffic characteristics:
  - Time To Live (TTL):
    - Different operating systems use different default TTL values
  - TCP Window Size:
    - Different operating systems use different default values for the initial window size announced by a TCP receiver
  - Don't Fragment (DF) Bit:
    - Some operating systems set this bit high by default, while others do not
- Analyzing the traffic and comparing the analysis results with specific "signatures" in a custom-built database allows for the identification of the operating system (OS) of the nodes that generated the monitored data



# STORING AND PROCESSING RESULTS

- Crucial activity for structurally analyzing all the information gathered during the scanning phases
- Typically achieved by importing the scan data into a dedicated database
- The scanning database becomes a valuable repository of data for:
  - extracting a comprehensive profile of the target system
  - identifying potential vulnerabilities through activities such as inference and correlation of information
  - preparing for subsequent attack phases by creating a structured plan of "offensive" actions



# MANAGING DATA WITH “*Metasploit*”

- A comprehensive platform for developing network attacks
- It includes an impressive collection of:
  - Fingerprinting tools
  - Attack payloads
  - Exploits for network systems
- The platform can import data into a database, allowing for specific queries to:
  - systematically study target systems
  - identify potential attack patterns



# THE Metasploit DATABASE

```
A database appears to be already configured, skipping initialization
[*] The initial module cache will be built in the background, this can take 2-5 minutes...

# cowsay++

< metasploit >
-----
 \  _/`'`'(oo)_____
 ( __)-----)\ \
 ||----|| * 

Payload caught by AV? Fly under the radar with Dynamic Payloads in
Metasploit Pro -- learn more on http://rapid7.com/metasploit

      =[ metasploit v4.11.4-2015071403 ]]
+ --=[ 1467 exploits - 840 auxiliary - 232 post      ]
+ --=[ 432 payloads - 37 encoders - 8 nops      ]
+ --=[ Free Metasploit Pro trial: http://r-7.co/trymsp ]

msf > db_nmap 143.225.28.128/25
[*] Nmap: Starting Nmap 6.49BETA4 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2015-09-30 03:59 EDT
```



# Metasploit: ANALYZING DATA

When the scan is over...

```
[*] Nmap: 9103/tcp open jetdirect          143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: MAC Address: 00:17:C8:07:88:4E (Kyocera Document Solutions) 143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.254                      143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: Host is up (0.00072s latency).                                143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: Not shown: 998 closed ports                                    143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: PORT STATE SERVICE                                            143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: 22/tcp open ssh                                              143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: 23/tcp open telnet                                           143.225.128.254
[*] Nmap: MAC Address: 00:17:DF:B3:C4:00 (Cisco Systems)                143.225.128.168
[*] Nmap: Nmap scan report for 143.225.28.168                          143.225.128.168
[*] Nmap: Host is up (0.0000010s latency).                                143.225.128.168
[*] Nmap: All 1000 scanned ports on 143.225.28.168 are closed.
[*] Nmap: Nmap done: 128 IP addresses (38 hosts up) scanned in 7023.90 seconds
```

```
msf > services
```

```
Services
=====
host      port    proto   name        state     info
---      ----    ----   ----        ----     ----
143.225.28.134  21      tcp     ftp        open
143.225.28.134  80      tcp     http       open
143.225.28.134  631     tcp     ipp        open
143.225.28.134  7627    tcp     soap-http  open
143.225.28.134  14000   tcp     scotty-ft  open
143.225.28.134  280     tcp     http-mgmt  open
143.225.28.134  9100    tcp     jetdirect  open
143.225.28.134  443     tcp     https      open
143.225.28.134  515     tcp     printer    open
143.225.28.134  23      tcp     telnet     open
143.225.28.135  135     tcp     msrpc     open
143.225.28.135  139     tcp     netbios-ssn  open
143.225.28.135  21      tcp     ftp        open
143.225.28.135  3389   tcp     ms-wbt-server  open
143.225.28.135  1947   tcp     sentinel-srm  open
143.225.28.135  445    tcp     microsoft-ds  open
143.225.28.135  1723   tcp     pptp      open
143.225.28.136  3389   tcp     ms-wbt-server  open
```

...data is in the DB, ready for use!



# QUESTIONS?

