

Module 10: IoT Penetration Testing Methodology

Objective

The objective of this module is to help students learn how to assess IoT device firmware.

The following activities will be performed in the lab:

- Obtain a copy of the devices firmware
- Identify the type of firmware file system
- Explore the devices file system
- Analyze the types of files
- Run the firmware with an emulator

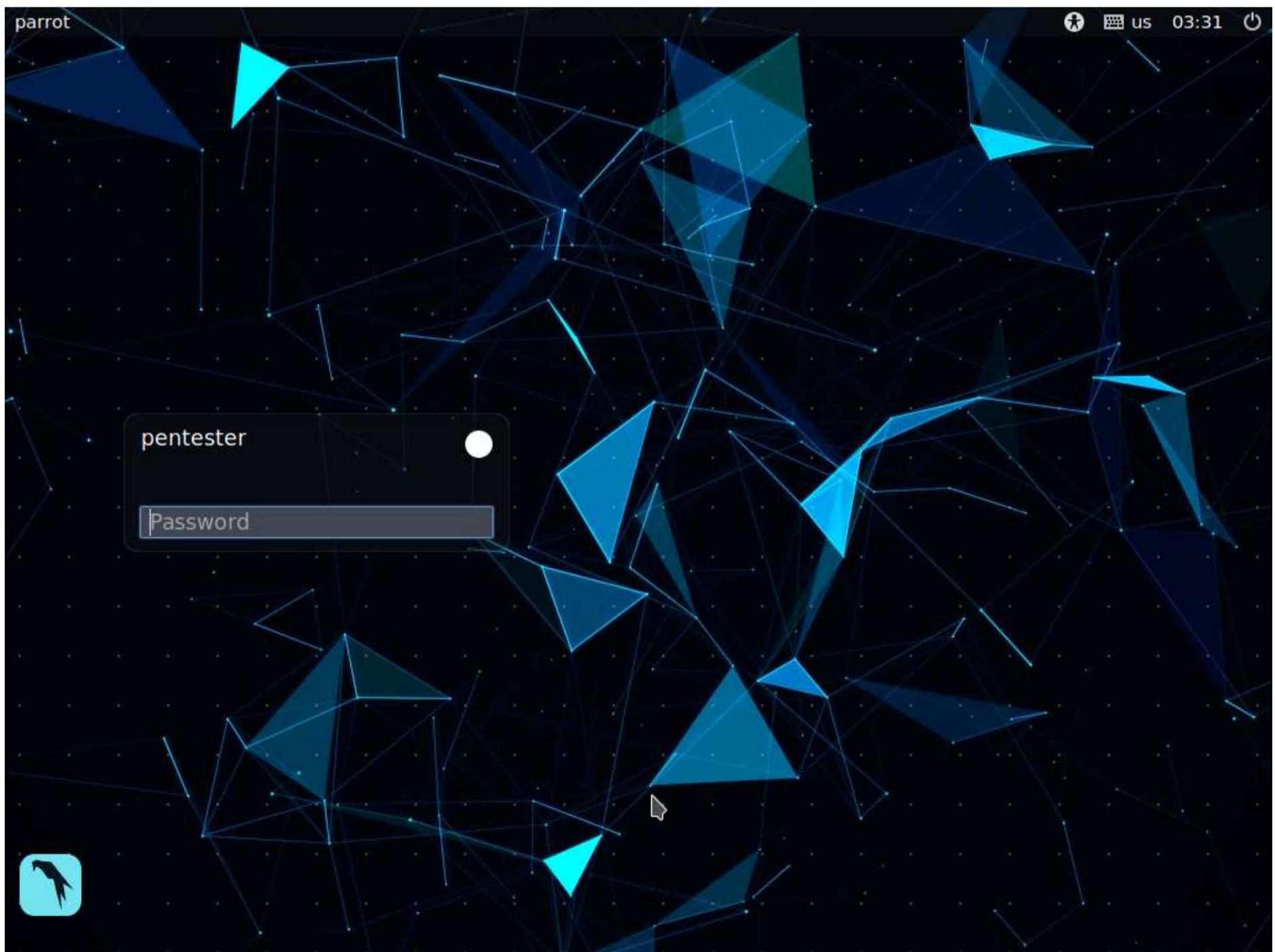
Scenario

This module is designed to provide the necessary practice and knowledge for locating and identifying vulnerabilities in IoT firmware. The ability to first acquire, and then extract and emulate an images firmware is a critical component for performing IoT hacking.

Exercise 1: IoT Firmware Acquisition, Extraction, Analysis and Emulation

Lab Duration: 10 Minutes

1. By default **CPENT-M10 Parrot Security** machine appears. In the Password field type **toor** and press **Enter** to login.

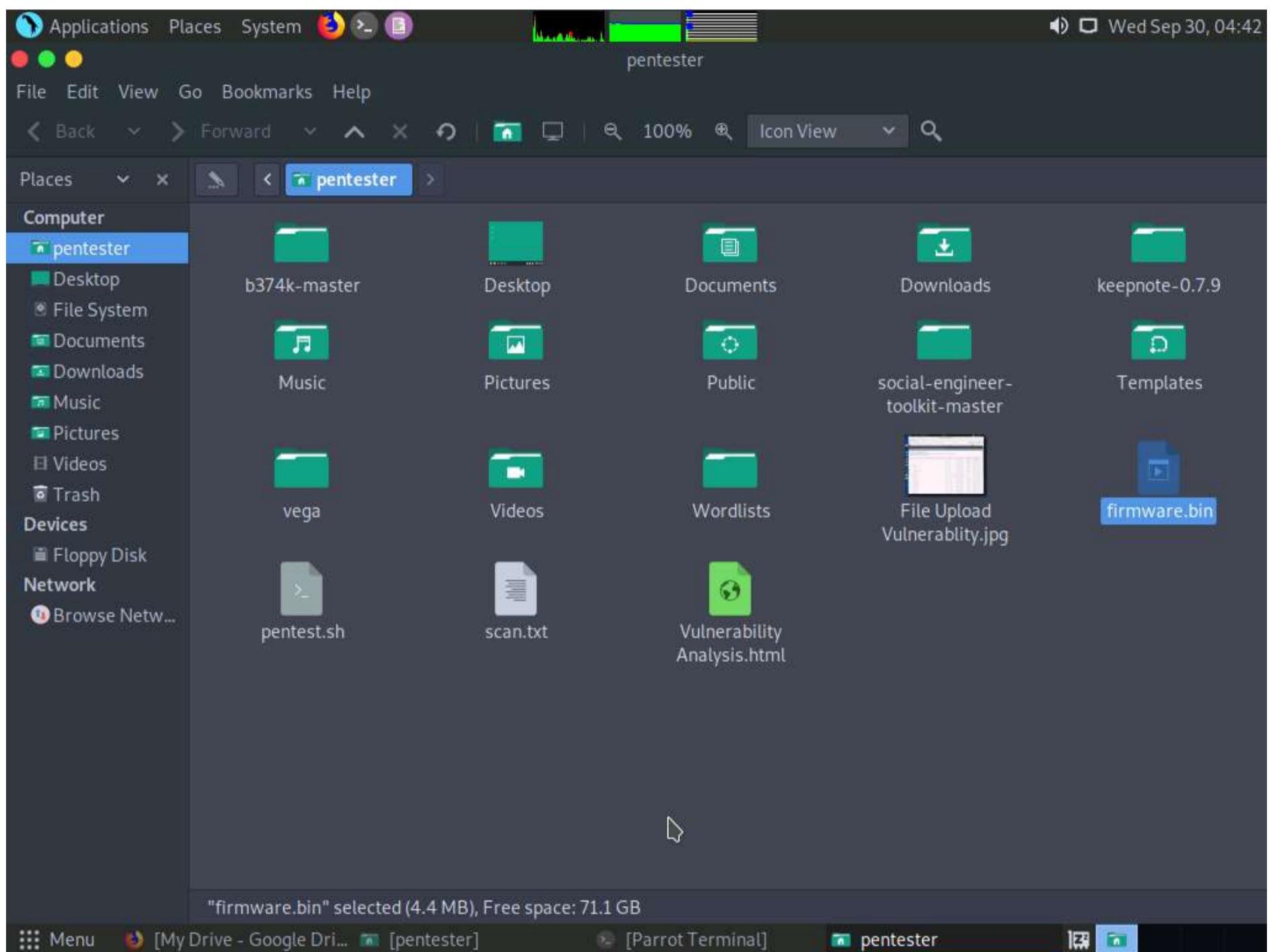


2. We have a sample firmware package binary for a **Netgear IoT** device that is often used for practicing IoT hacking. The device model number is **WNAP 320**, which is a wireless access point for a network. An example of the device is shown in the following image.



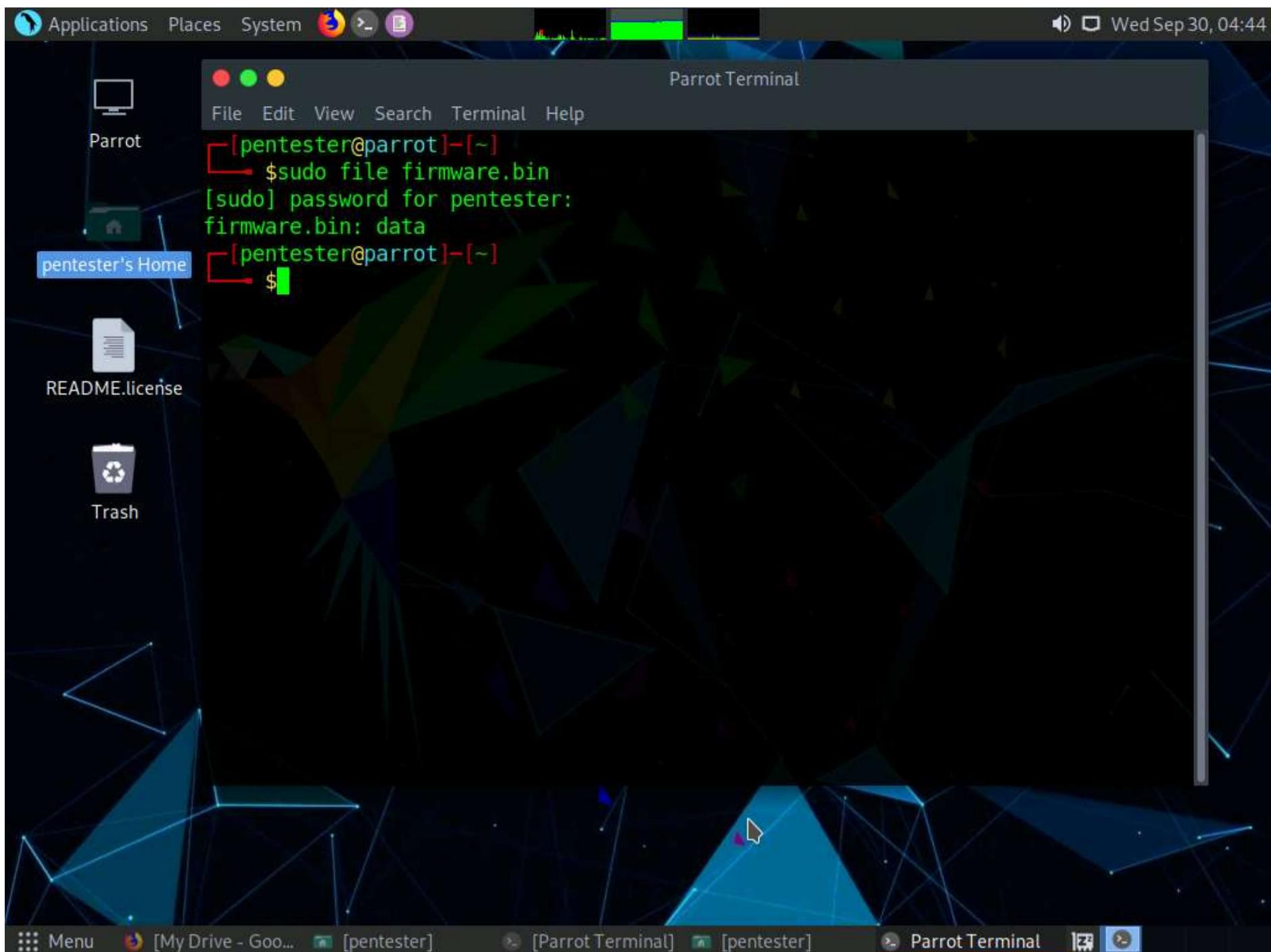


3. We have downloaded the firmware for you. It is located in the **home** folder and named **firmware.bin**.



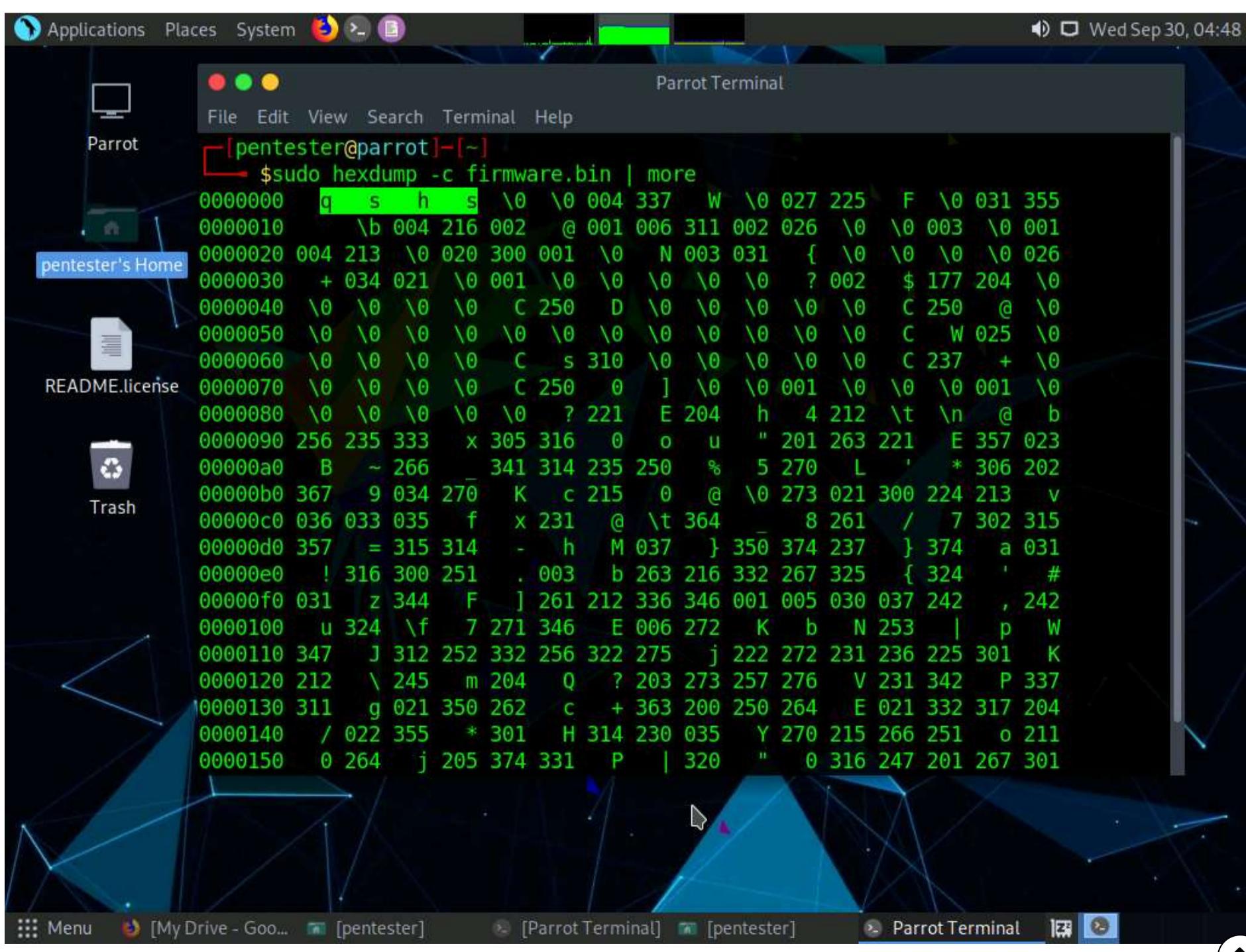
4. The first step when we have a file is to run the file command on it. Launch a Terminal and type **sudo file firmware.bin** and press **Enter**. Type **toor** when prompted for the password and press **Enter**.



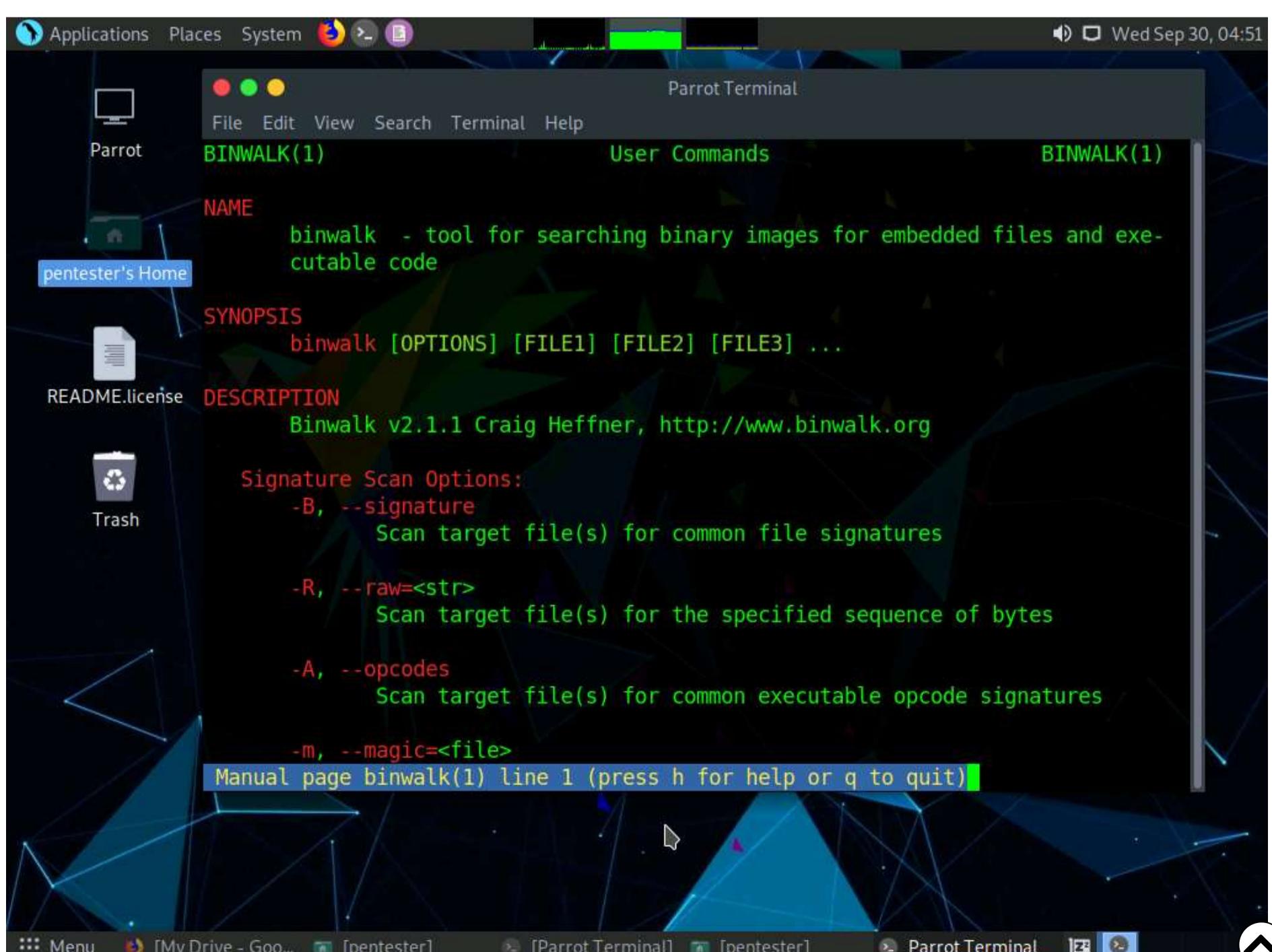
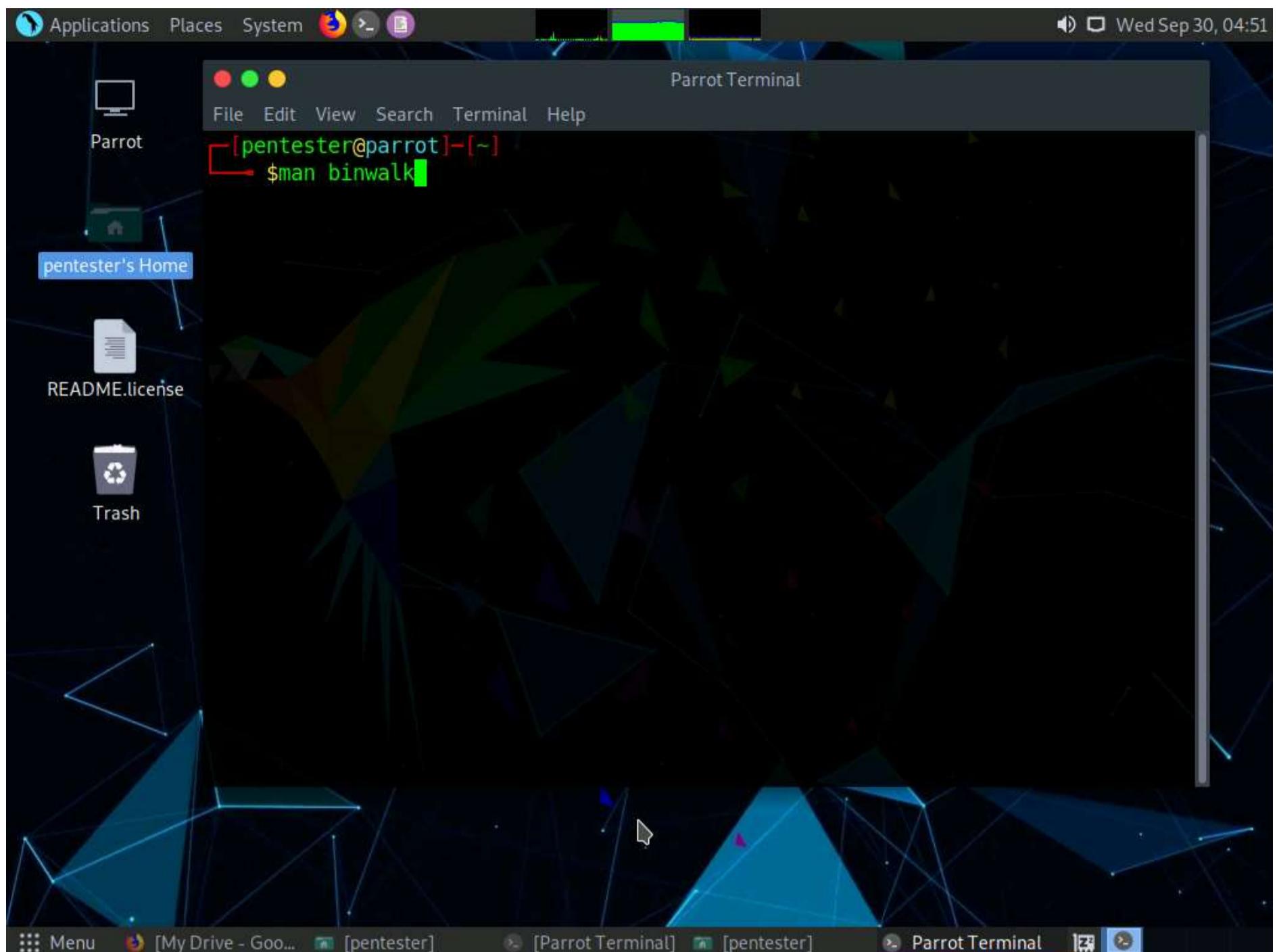


5. There is nothing useful for us here, so we continue trying. Type `sudo hexdump -c firmware.bin | more` and press Enter.

6. Now we have **qshs** that is identified in the hex trace. It is a known signature of the **Squashfs** file system, so this is a start.



7. The next step in the process is to try and extract the file system from this firmware image. Our preferred tool is **binwalk**, so we will try this. In the terminal window, type **man binwalk** and press **Enter**. Take a few minutes to read about the tool. Once you are done, type **q** to exit the man page.



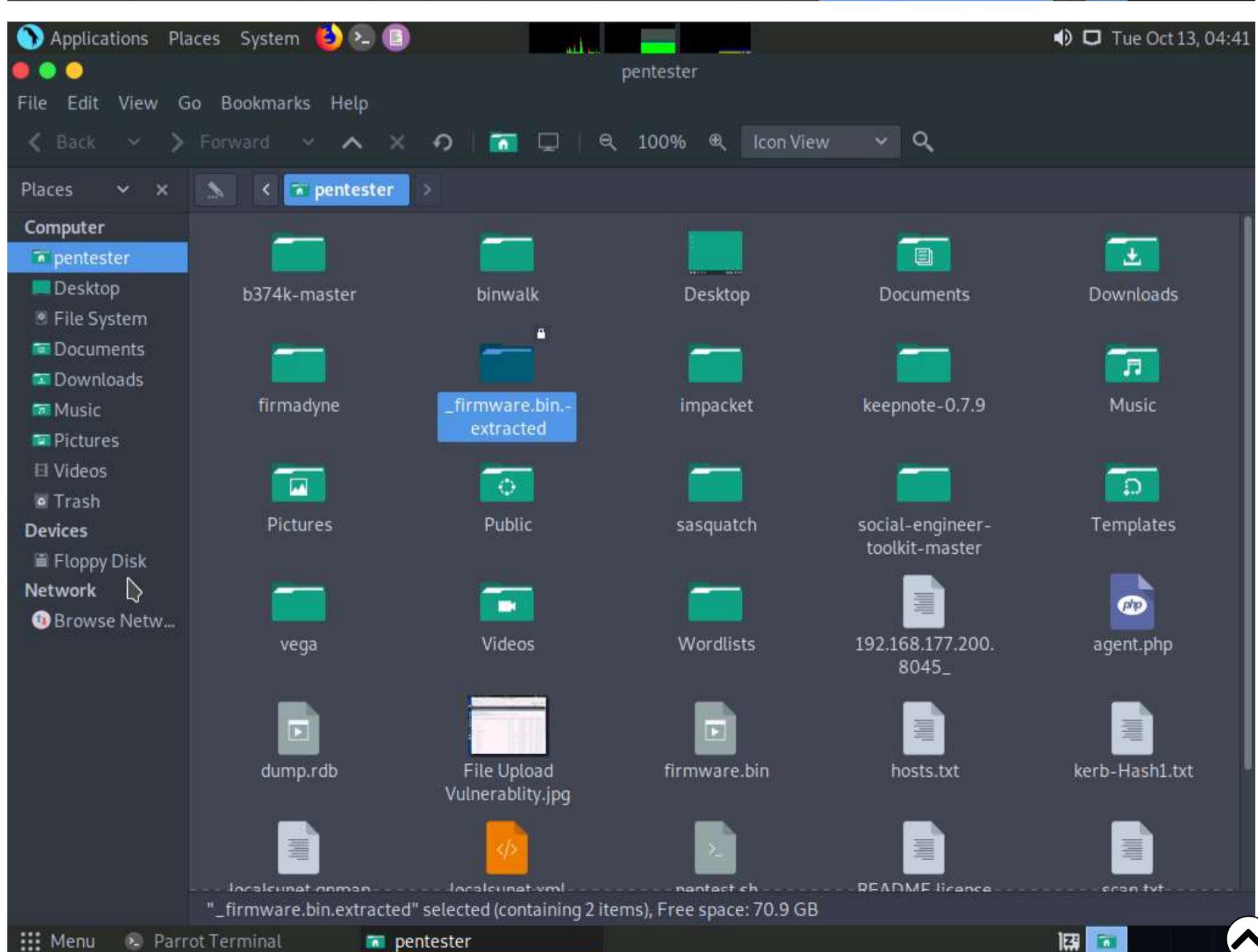
8. In the terminal type **sudo binwalk -e firmware.bin** and press **Enter**. However, the main thing is the message that the image has been extracted. We also see that the filesystem is confirmed as Squashfs. Once the command is completed, you will have a directory that represents the extracted filesystem in the **Home** folder.

The screenshot shows a Parrot OS desktop environment. At the top, there's a taskbar with icons for Applications, Places, System, and a terminal window titled "Parrot Terminal". The terminal window displays the command \$ sudo binwalk -e firmware.bin and its output, which includes a detailed description of the Squashfs filesystem it found.

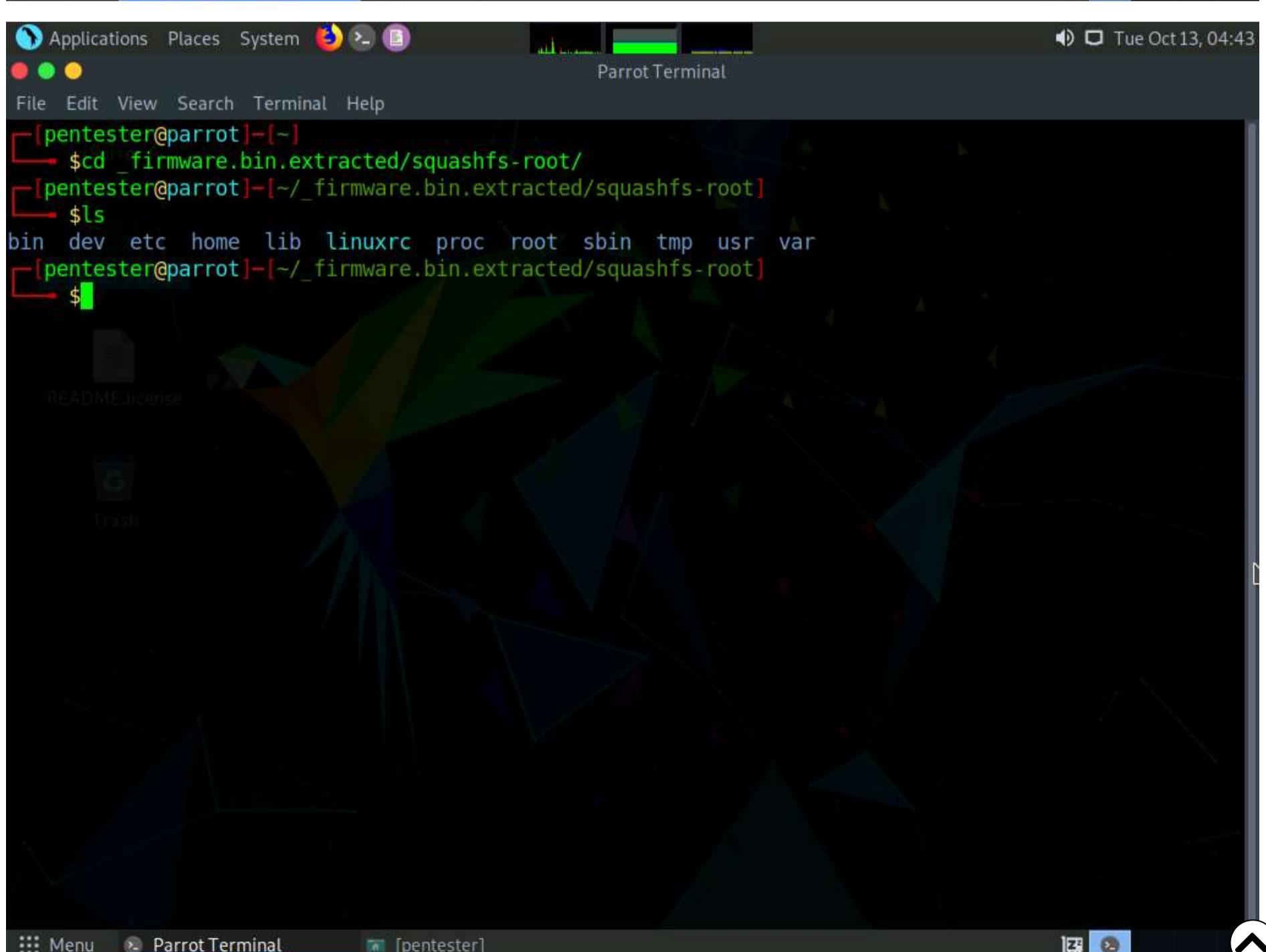
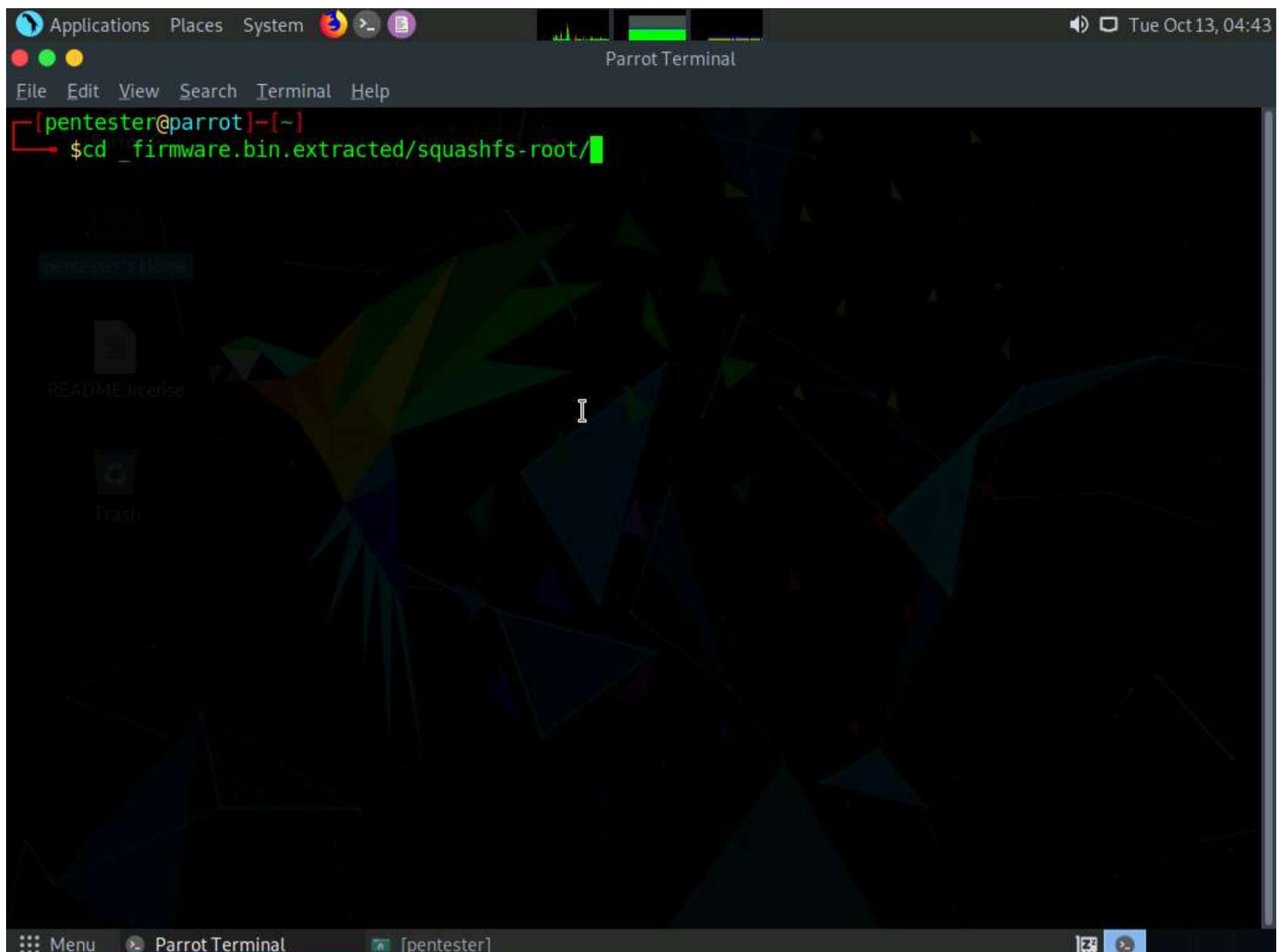
```
[pentester@parrot] ~
$ sudo binwalk -e firmware.bin

DECIMAL      HEXADECIMAL      DESCRIPTION
-----      -----      -----
0            0x0      Squashfs filesystem, big endian, lzma signature, version 3.1, size: 443
3988 bytes, 1247 inodes, blocksize: 65536 bytes, created: 2011-06-23 10:46:19
```

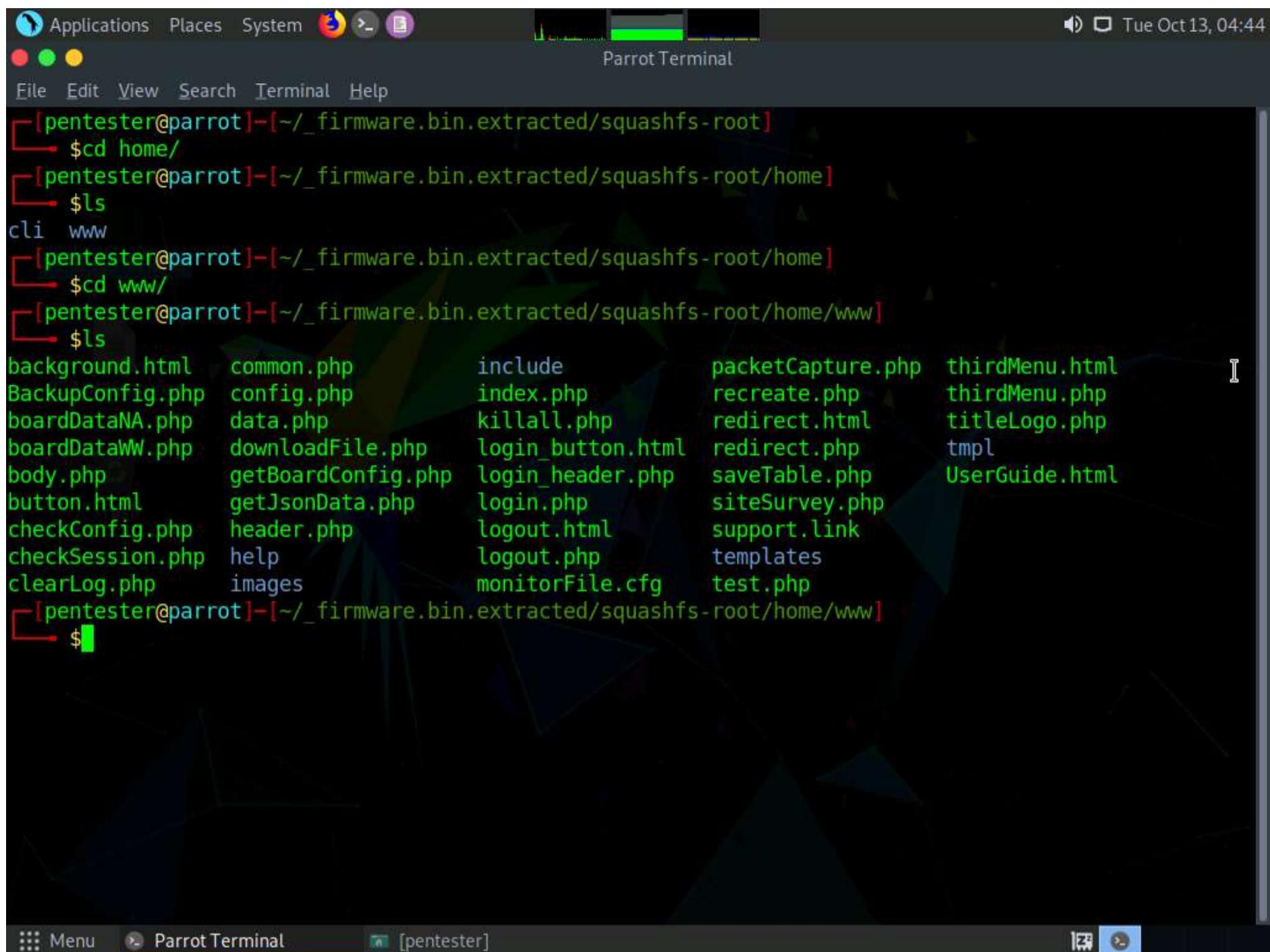
The desktop background is a dark green and blue abstract design. On the left, there's a vertical dock with icons for Trash, apache-update.exe, apachetest.exe, and powershell. Below the dock is a file manager window titled "pentester" showing a list of files and folders in "Icon View".



9. In the terminal type `cd _firmware.bin.extracted/squashfs-root` and press **Enter**. Once you are in the directory type `ls` and press **Enter**. You will see that the extracted file system is in a squashfs-root directory. We now have a complete and extracted file system, which as you can see, is a Linux variant.



10. From here, you can explore it to see the contents. A good place to start is the home directory since it usually contains information about the installed applications. Type **cd home** and press **Enter**. Type **ls** and press **Enter** to review the results. Since we have a **www** folder, this can be of interest. Type **cd www** and **Enter**, and then type **ls** and press **Enter** to view the file contents.



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Parrot Terminal" running on Parrot OS. The terminal displays a command-line session where the user has navigated to the "/home/www" directory and listed its contents. The terminal interface includes a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "View", "Search", "Terminal", and "Help". The title bar shows the terminal name. The status bar at the bottom indicates the user is "[pentester]" and the terminal is "Parrot Terminal". The terminal window itself shows the following command and output:

```
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmware.bin.extracted/squashfs-root]
└─$ cd home/
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmware.bin.extracted/squashfs-root/home]
└─$ ls
cli  www
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmware.bin.extracted/squashfs-root/home]
└─$ cd www/
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmware.bin.extracted/squashfs-root/home/www]
└─$ ls
background.html    common.php      include          packetCapture.php   thirdMenu.html
BackupConfig.php   config.php     index.php       recreate.php      thirdMenu.php
boardDataNA.php    data.php       killall.php    redirect.html   titleLogo.php
boardDataWW.php    downloadFile.php login_button.html redirect.php
body.php          getBoardConfig.php login_header.php saveTable.php
button.html        getJsonData.php  login.php      siteSurvey.php
checkConfig.php   header.php     logout.html    support.link
checkSession.php  help          logout.php    templates
clearLog.php       images         monitorFile.cfg test.php
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmware.bin.extracted/squashfs-root/home/www]
└─$
```

11. We have a lot of code here to examine. In most cases, this code is not written securely. The file we want to look at is the **boardDataWW.php**. Open this in the editor of your choice.

12. As you review the code, it is apparent that there is nothing in the way of input validation and boundary checking. This is a clear indication that this application has injection vulnerabilities. Minimize or close the text editor window. There are many files here for you to explore, but we will leave that to you. Next, we will work on the challenges of mounting and booting the firmware with an emulator.

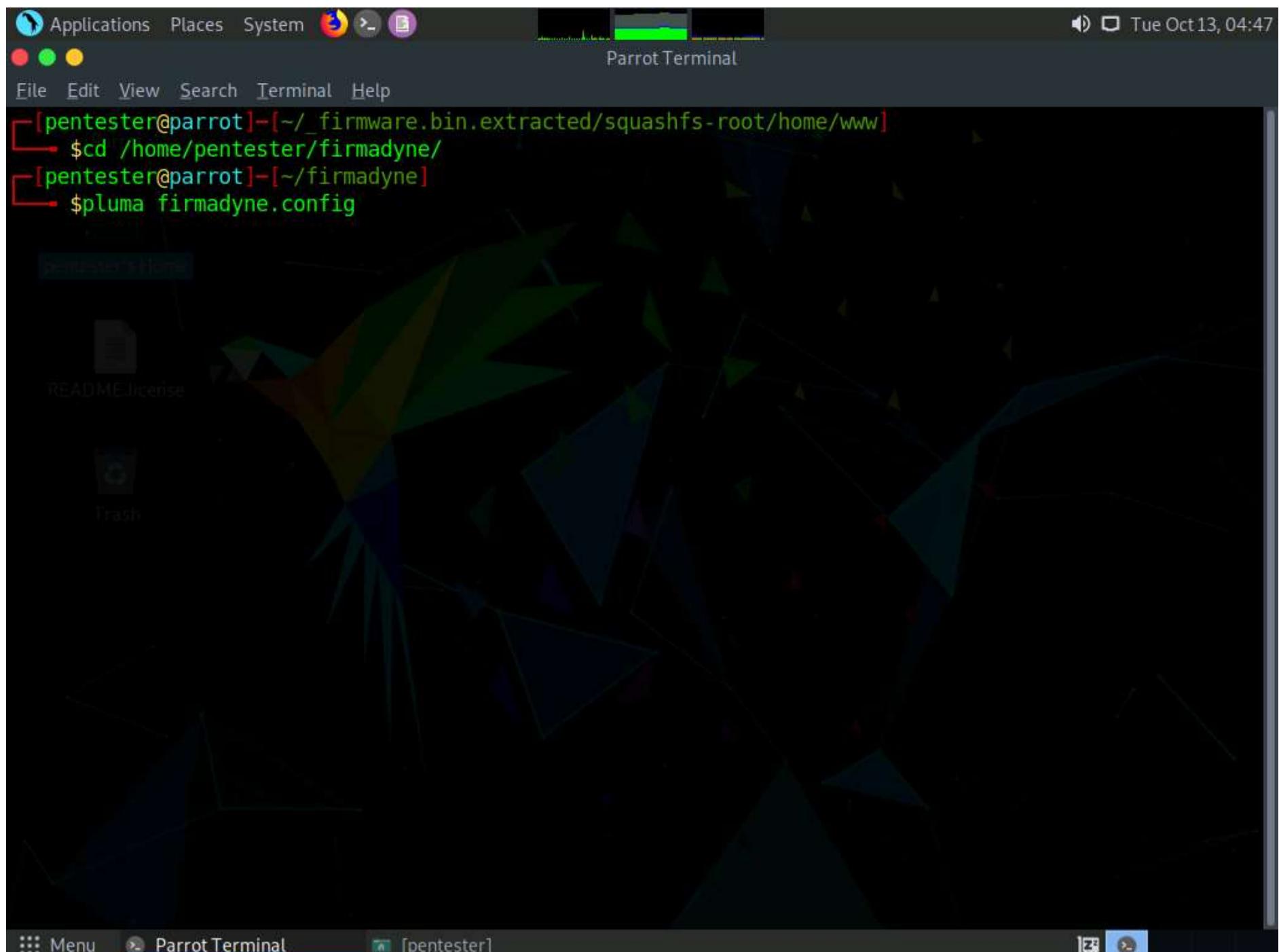


The screenshot shows a Linux desktop environment with a terminal window and a text editor window. The terminal window, titled 'ParrotTerminal', shows the command 'cd /home/pentester/firmadyne' followed by 'ls' and then 'firmadyne.config'. The text editor window, titled 'boardDataWW.php [Re...', displays a PHP script with code related to network configuration and firmware updates. The script includes logic for handling POST requests, validating MAC addresses, and executing shell commands via exec(). The code is color-coded for syntax highlighting.

```
1 <?php
2     $flag=false;
3     $msg='';
4     if (!empty($_REQUEST['writeData'])) {
5         if (!empty($_REQUEST['macAddress'])) &&
array_search($_REQUEST['reginfo'],Array('WW'=>'0','NA'=>'1'))!==false && ereg("[0-9a-fA-F]-{12,12}",$_REQUEST['macAddress'],$regs) !==false) {
6             //echo "test ".$_REQUEST['macAddress']." ".$_REQUEST['reginfo'];
7             //exec("wr_mfg_data ".$_REQUEST['macAddress']." ".$_REQUEST['reginfo'],$dummy,$res);
8             exec("wr_mfg_data -m ".$_REQUEST['macAddress']." -c ".$_REQUEST['reginfo'],$dummy,
$res);
9             if ($res==0) {
10                 conf_set_buffer("system:basicSettings:apName
netgear",substr($_REQUEST['macAddress'], -6)."\n");
11                 conf_save();
12                 $msg = 'Update Success!';
13                 $flag = true;
14             }
15         }
16     else
17         $flag = true;
18 }
19
20 ?>
21 <html>
22 <head>
```

13. The one configuration we want to make is point the **firmadyne** directory to the correct address. Type **cd /home/pentester/firmadyne** and press **Enter** and open the config file **firmadyne.config** in the text editor of your choice and set **FIRMWARE_DIR** to point to the location of the tool, and **uncomment** the line as shown in the screenshot. Save and close the text editor.





The screenshot shows the Pluma text editor window titled 'firmadyne.config (/home/pentester/firmadyne) - Pluma (as superuser)'. The file contains the following code:

```
1#!/bin/sh
2
3# uncomment and specify full path to FIRMADYNE repository
4FIRMWARE_DIR=/home/pentester/firmadyne/
5
6# specify full paths to other directories
7BINARY_DIR=${FIRMWARE_DIR}/binaries/
8TARBALL_DIR=${FIRMWARE_DIR}/images/
9SCRATCH_DIR=${FIRMWARE_DIR}/scratch/
10SCRIPT_DIR=${FIRMWARE_DIR}/scripts/
11
12# functions to safely compute other paths
13
14check_arch () {
15    ARCHS=("armel" "mipseb" "mipsel")
16
17    if [ -z "${1}" ]; then
18        return 0
19    fi
20
21    match=0
22    for i in "${ARCHS[@]}"; do
23        if [ "${1}" == "$i" ]; then
24            match=1
25        fi
26    done
}
```

At the bottom of the editor window, there are tabs for 'sh', 'Tab Width: 4', 'Ln 4, Col 20', and 'INS'. The status bar at the bottom shows 'Menu', 'Parrot Terminal', '[extractor]', 'Parrot Terminal', and 'firmadyne.config (/ho...)'.

14. We will work with the compressed firmware version straight from the download. This is the same file as **firmware.bin**. Ensure that you are in the firmadyne directory.



15. Use the extractor to recover only the filesystem. Ensure that the following are set: no kernel (-nk), no parallel operation (-np), populating the image table in the SQL server at 127.0.0.1 (-sql) with the Netgear brand (-b), and storing the tarball in images. Type **sudo python3 sources/extractor/extractor.py -b Netgear -sql 127.0.0.1 -np -nk "WNAP320 Firmware Version 2.0.3.zip"** images and press **Enter**.

The screenshot shows the Parrot OS desktop environment. In the top right corner, there is a system tray icon for a terminal window labeled "Parrot Terminal". The main window in the foreground is a terminal window titled "[pentester@parrot]~". The terminal displays the command:

```
$ sudo python3 sources/extractor/extractor.py -b Netgear -sql 127.0.0.1 -np -nk "WNAP320 Firmware Version 2.0.3.zip" images
```

Output from the terminal shows:

```
>> Database Image ID: 1  
/home/pentester/firmadyne/WNAP320 Firmware Version 2.0.3.zip  
>> Skipping: completed!
```

The desktop background is a dark green and blue abstract geometric pattern. On the desktop, there is a file manager window showing several files:

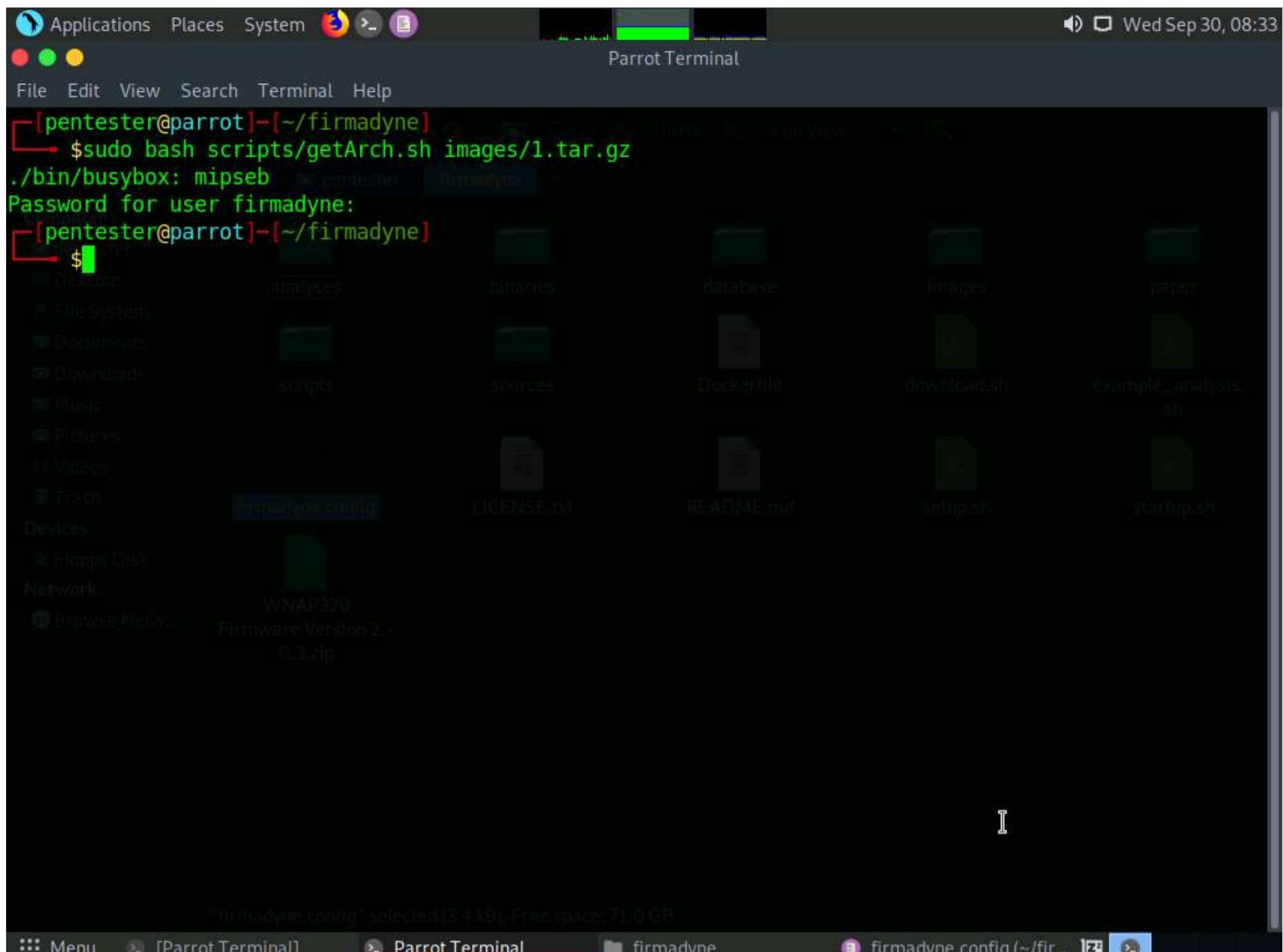
- README.license
- Trash
- apache-update.exe
- apachetest.exe
- power.ps1

The taskbar at the bottom of the screen shows several open applications:

- [extractor]
- [Parrot Terminal]
- Parrot Terminal
- [extractor.py (~/firmad...)]

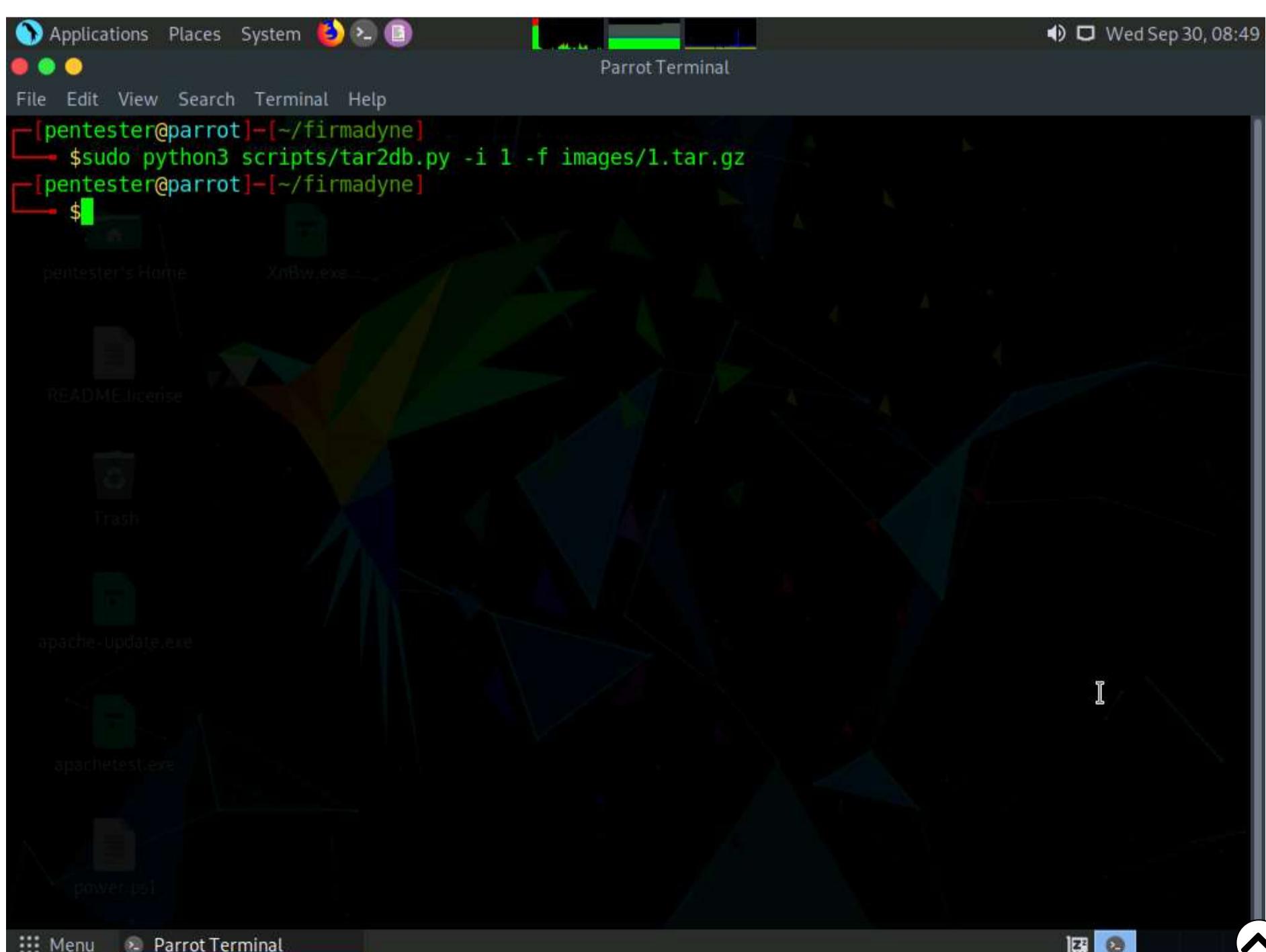
16. If it works correctly, you will have a tarball in the image directory. Next, enter **sudo bash scripts/getArch.sh images/1.tar.gz**. Enter the password of firmadyne which is **firmadyne** when prompted.



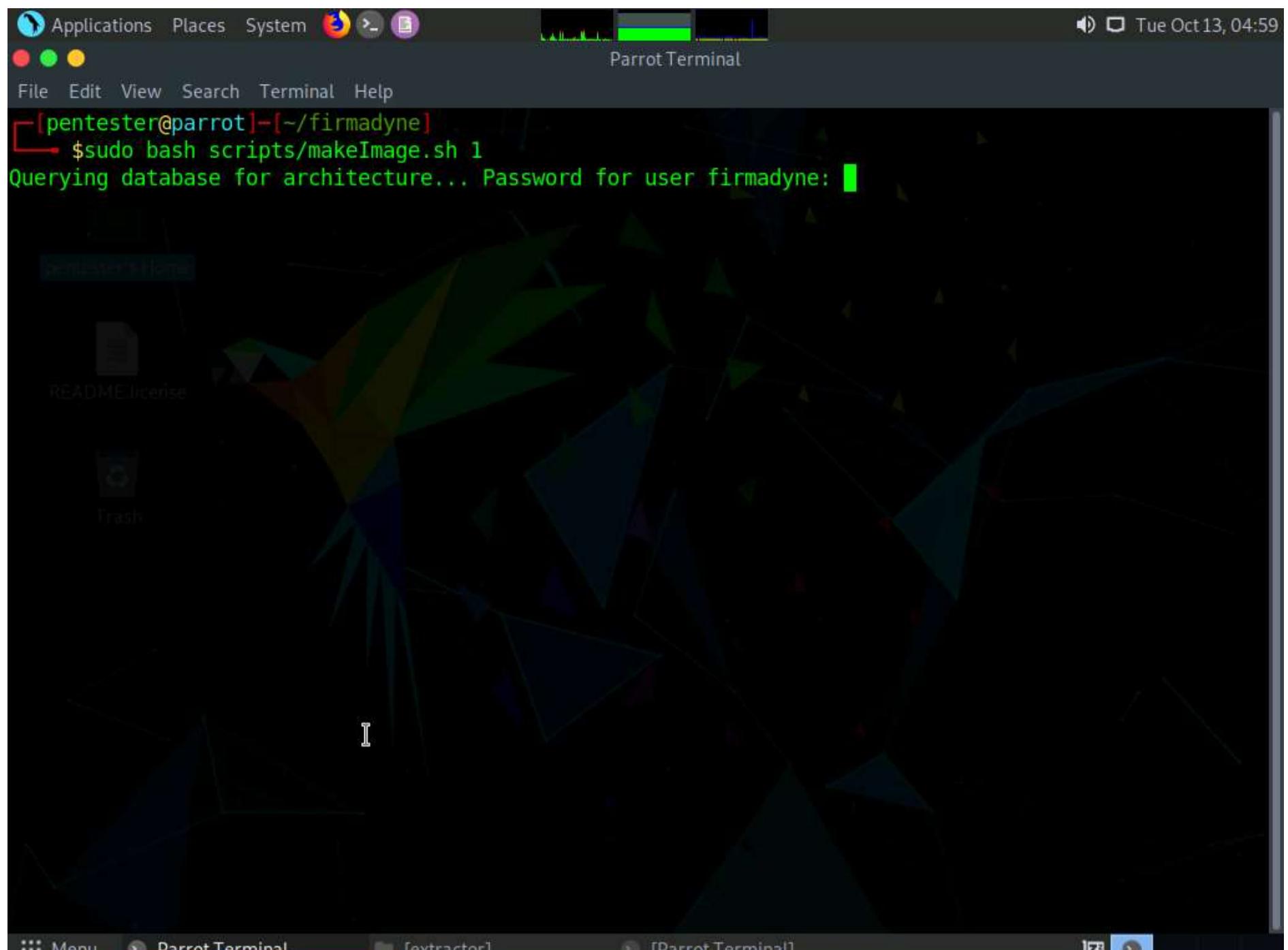


17. This command is used to identify the architecture of firmware 1 and store the result in the image table of the database.

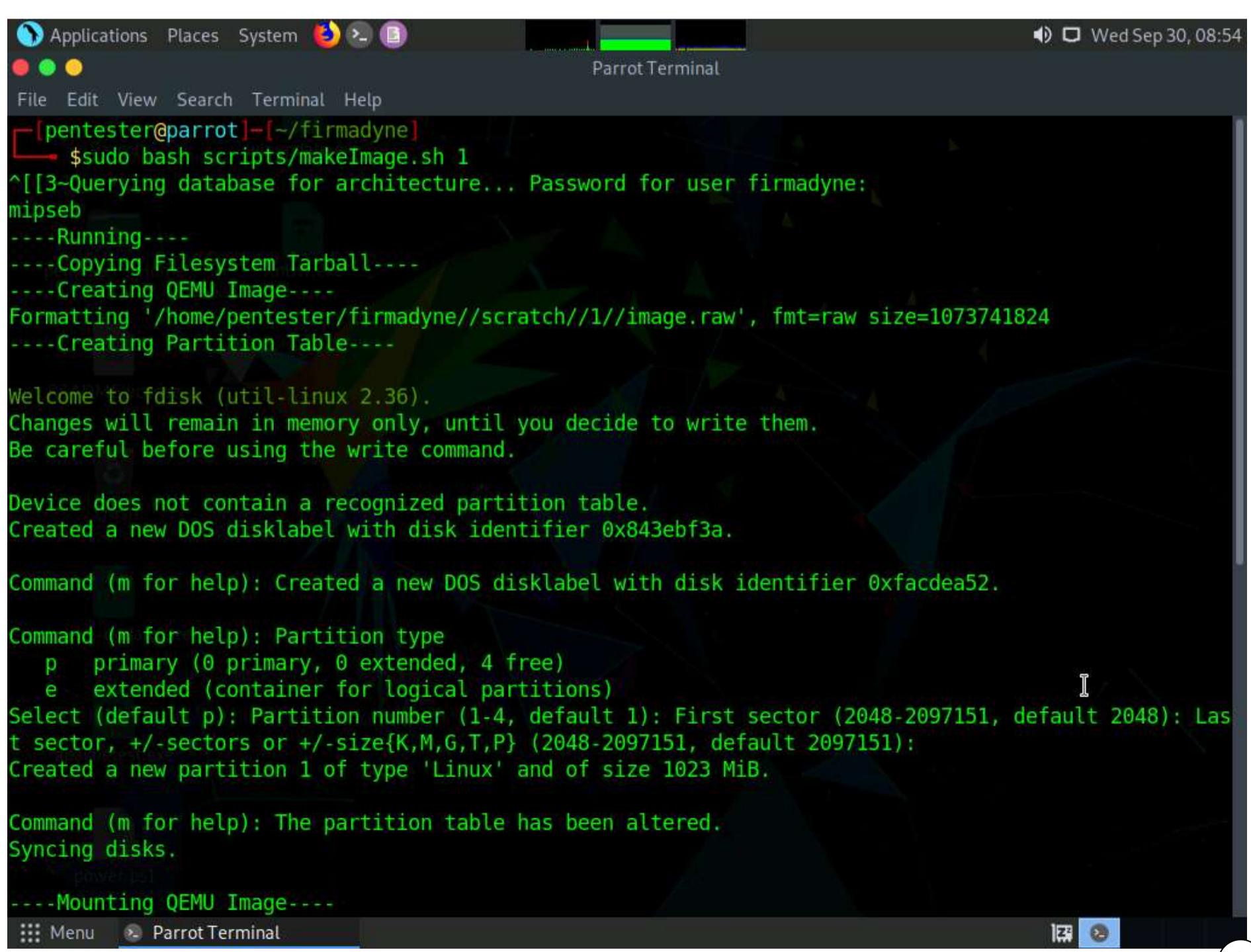
18. Now we want to load the contents of the filesystem for firmware 1 into the database and populate the object and objecttoimage tables. Enter **sudo python3 scripts/tar2db.py -i 1 -f images/1.tar.gz**.



19. Next, we need to create the QEMU disk image for firmware 1. Enter `sudo bash scripts/makeImage.sh 1`. Enter the password of firmadyne which is `firmadyne` when prompted.



```
[pentester@parrot]~/firmadyne]$ sudo bash scripts/makeImage.sh 1
Querying database for architecture... Password for user firmadyne:
```



```
[pentester@parrot]~/firmadyne]$ sudo bash scripts/makeImage.sh 1
[[3-Querying database for architecture... Password for user firmadyne:
mipseb
----Running----
----Copying Filesystem Tarball----
----Creating QEMU Image----
Formatting '/home/pentester/firmadyne//scratch//1//image.raw', fmt=raw size=1073741824
----Creating Partition Table----

Welcome to fdisk (util-linux 2.36).
Changes will remain in memory only, until you decide to write them.
Be careful before using the write command.

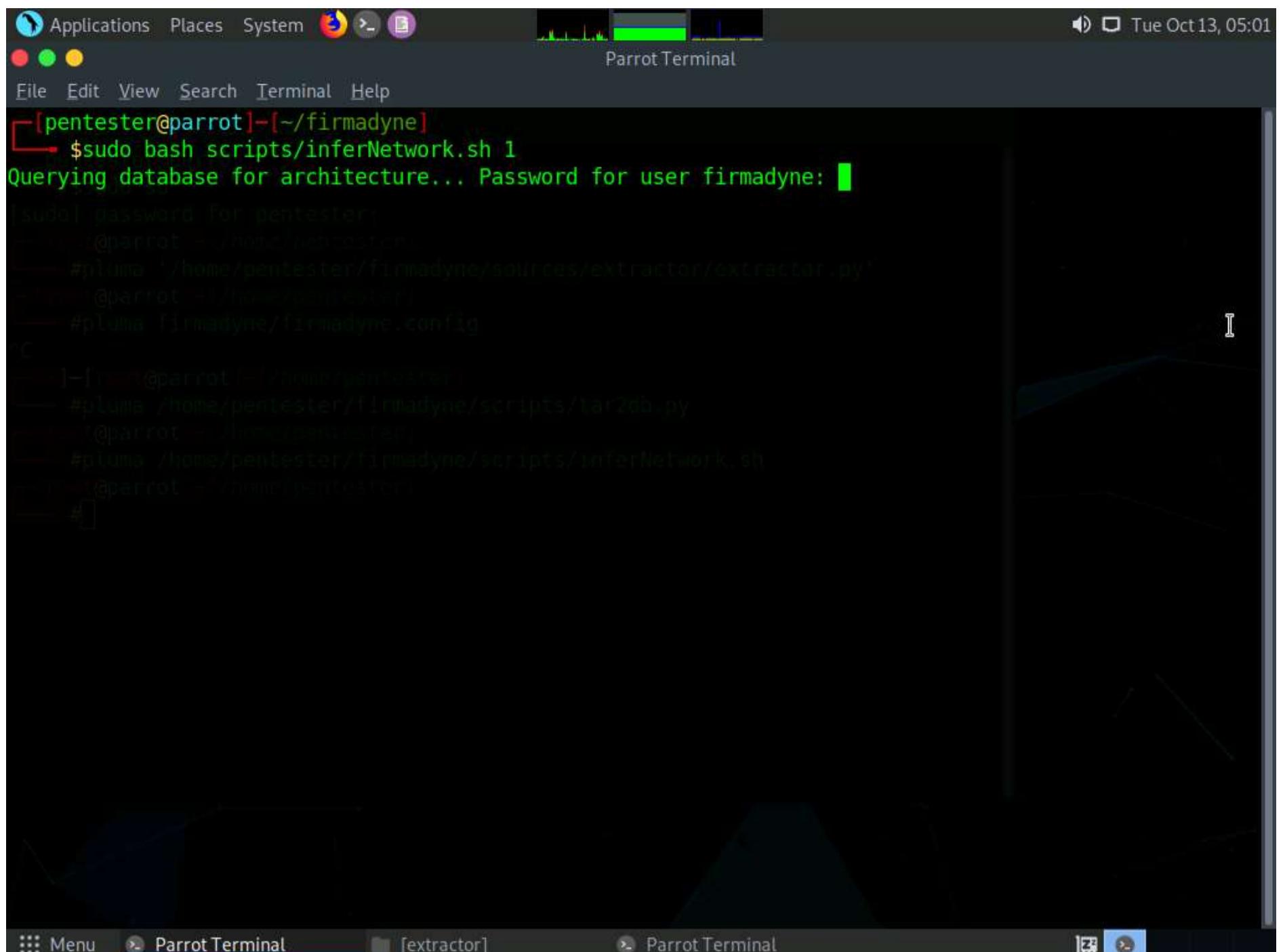
Device does not contain a recognized partition table.
Created a new DOS disklabel with disk identifier 0x843ebf3a.

Command (m for help): Created a new DOS disklabel with disk identifier 0xfacdea52.

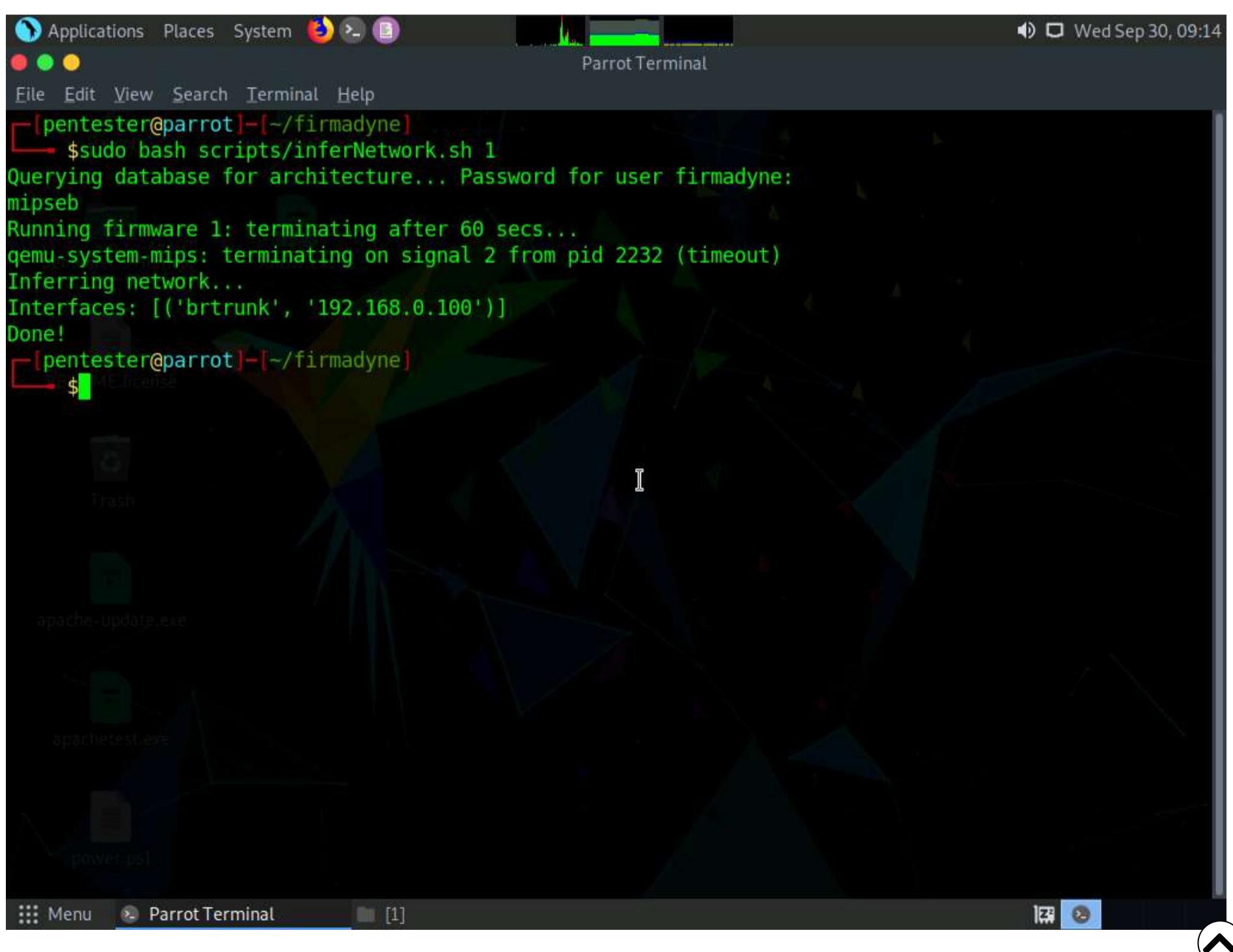
Command (m for help): Partition type
      p    primary (0 primary, 0 extended, 4 free)
      e    extended (container for logical partitions)
Select (default p): Partition number (1-4, default 1): First sector (2048-2097151, default 2048): Last sector, +/-sectors or +/-size{K,M,G,T,P} (2048-2097151, default 2097151):
Created a new partition 1 of type 'Linux' and of size 1023 MiB.

Command (m for help): The partition table has been altered.
Syncing disks.
----Mounting QEMU Image----
```

20. Now you are ready to setup networking. It should then be available on the network like any other node. Enter **sudo bash scripts/inferNetwork.sh 1**. Enter the password of firmadyne i.e., **firmadyne** when prompted.



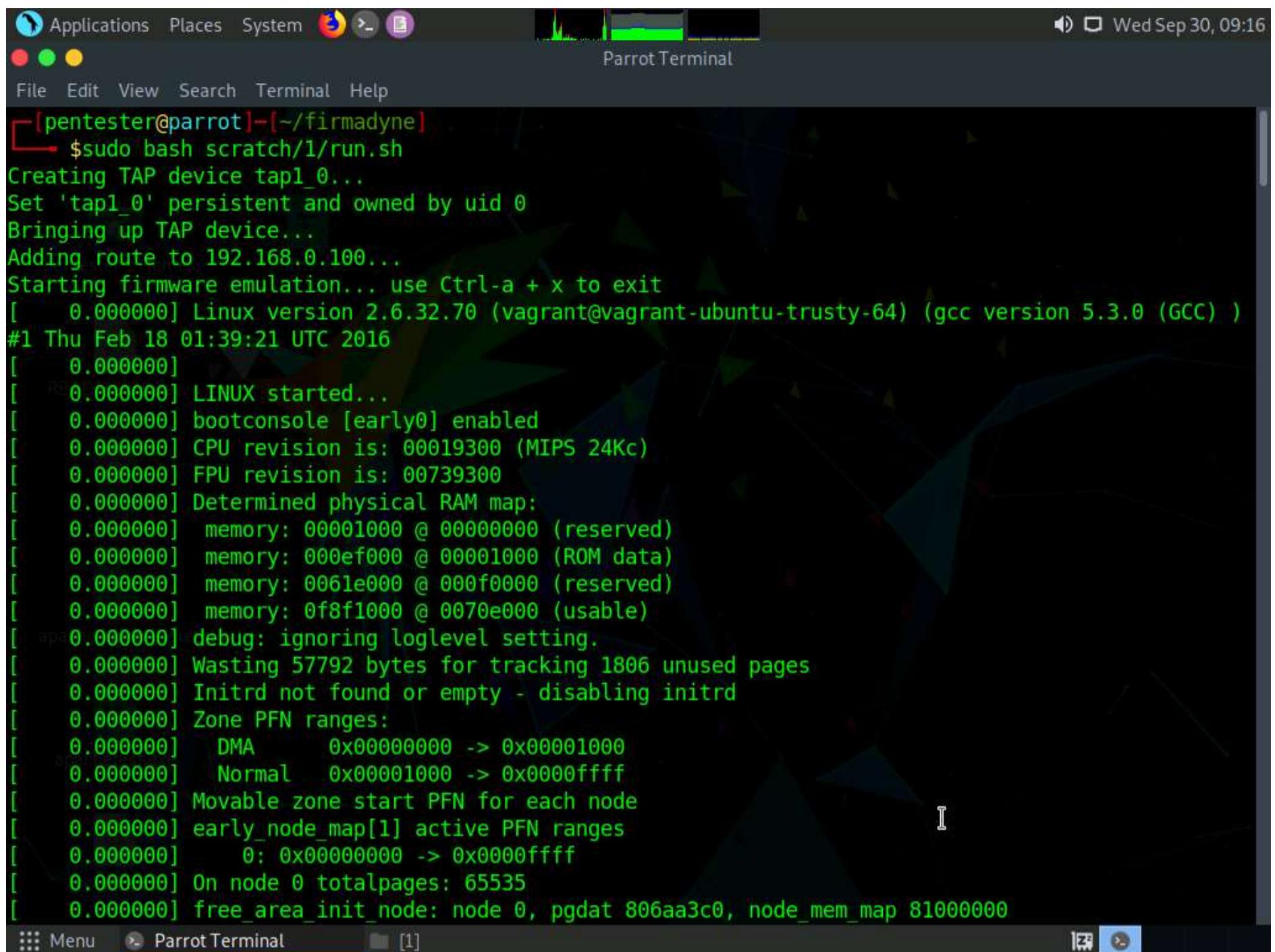
```
[pentester@parrot]~$ sudo bash scripts/inferNetwork.sh 1
Querying database for architecture... Password for user firmadyne: [REDACTED]
[sudo] password for pentester:
[REDACTED]@parrot ~
#pluma '/home/pentester/firmadyne/sources/extractor/extractor.py'
[REDACTED]@parrot ~
#pluma '/home/pentester/firmadyne/firmadyne.config'
[REDACTED]@parrot ~
#pluma '/home/pentester/firmadyne/scripts/tar2db.py'
[REDACTED]@parrot ~
#pluma '/home/pentester/firmadyne/scripts/inferNetwork.sh'
[REDACTED]@parrot ~
#
```



```
[pentester@parrot]~$ sudo bash scripts/inferNetwork.sh 1
Querying database for architecture... Password for user firmadyne:
mipseb
Running firmware 1: terminating after 60 secs...
qemu-system-mips: terminating on signal 2 from pid 2232 (timeout)
Inferring network...
Interfaces: [('brtrunk', '192.168.0.100')]
Done!
[pentester@parrot]~$
```

File manager view showing files: Trash, apache-update.exe, apachetest.exe, and powershell.

21. Now we are ready to emulate firmware 1 with the inferred network configuration. This will modify the configuration of the host system by creating a Test Access Point (TAP) device and adding a route. Enter **sudo bash scratch/1/run.sh**.



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Parrot Terminal" running on a Parrot OS desktop environment. The terminal displays the output of the command \$ sudo bash scratch/1/run.sh. The output shows the process of creating a TAP device, setting it as persistent and owned by uid 0, bringing up the TAP device, adding a route to 192.168.0.100, and starting firmware emulation. The terminal also shows a detailed log of the Linux kernel boot process, including memory mappings and zone PFN ranges.

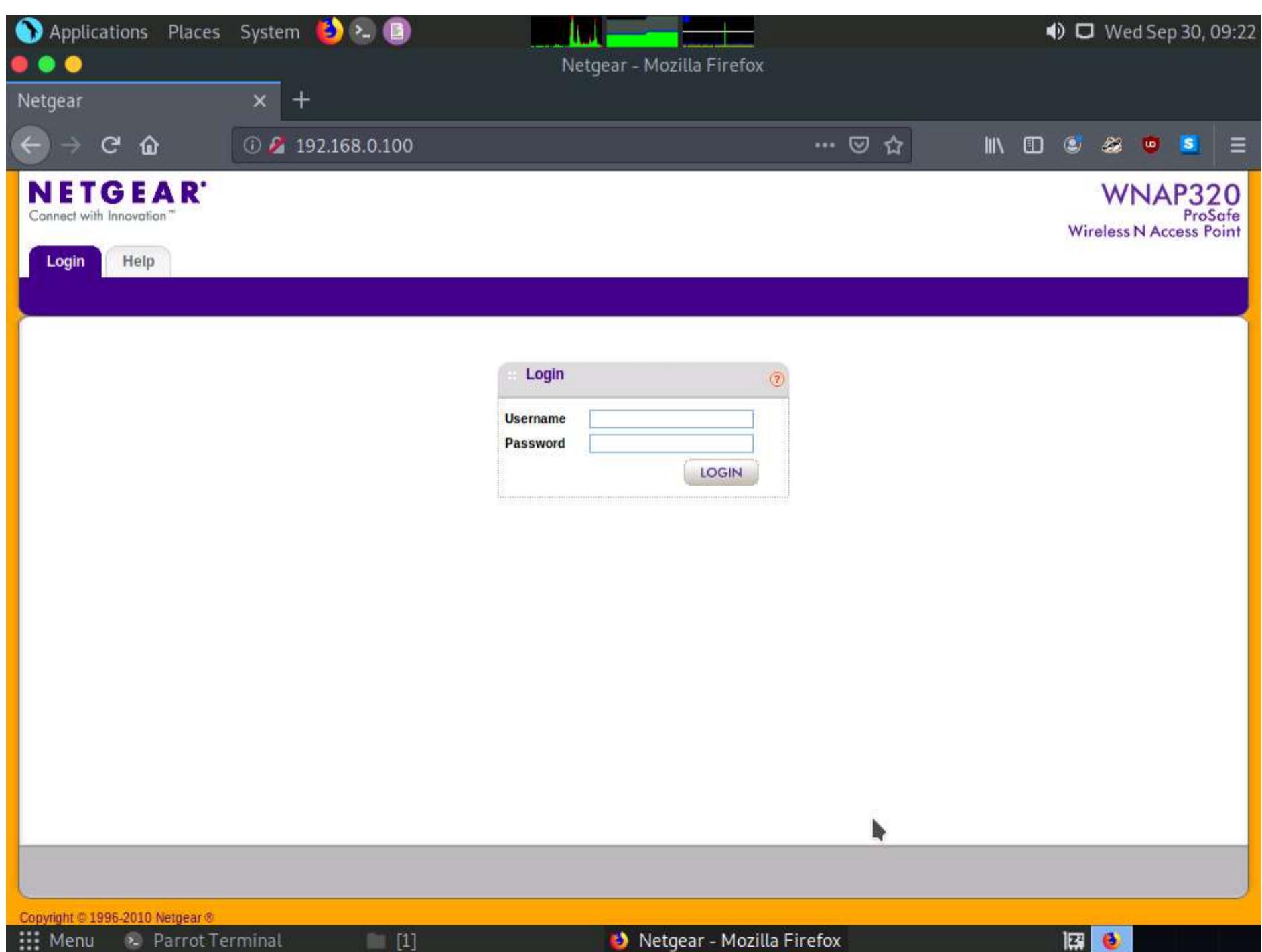
```
[pentester@parrot]~[~/firmadyne]
$ sudo bash scratch/1/run.sh
Creating TAP device tap1_0...
Set 'tap1_0' persistent and owned by uid 0
Bringing up TAP device...
Adding route to 192.168.0.100...
Starting firmware emulation... use Ctrl-a + x to exit
[    0.000000] Linux version 2.6.32.70 (vagrant@vagrant-ubuntu-trusty-64) (gcc version 5.3.0 (GCC) )
#1 Thu Feb 18 01:39:21 UTC 2016
[    0.000000]
[    0.000000] LINUX started...
[    0.000000] bootconsole [early0] enabled
[    0.000000] CPU revision is: 00019300 (MIPS 24Kc)
[    0.000000] FPU revision is: 00739300
[    0.000000] Determined physical RAM map:
[    0.000000]   memory: 00001000 @ 00000000 (reserved)
[    0.000000]   memory: 000ef000 @ 00001000 (ROM data)
[    0.000000]   memory: 0061e000 @ 000f0000 (reserved)
[    0.000000]   memory: 0f8f1000 @ 0070e000 (usable)
[    0.000000]   debug: ignoring loglevel setting.
[    0.000000] Wasting 57792 bytes for tracking 1806 unused pages
[    0.000000] Initrd not found or empty - disabling initrd
[    0.000000] Zone PFN ranges:
[    0.000000]   DMA      0x00000000 -> 0x00001000
[    0.000000]   Normal   0x00001000 -> 0x0000ffff
[    0.000000] Movable zone start PFN for each node
[    0.000000] early_node_map[1] active PFN ranges
[    0.000000]   0: 0x00000000 -> 0x0000ffff
[    0.000000] On node 0 totalpages: 65535
[    0.000000] free_area_init_node: node 0, pgdat 806aa3c0, node_mem_map 81000000
```

22. This will take some time and execute a chain of instructions as shown in the screenshot. Minimize the terminal window.

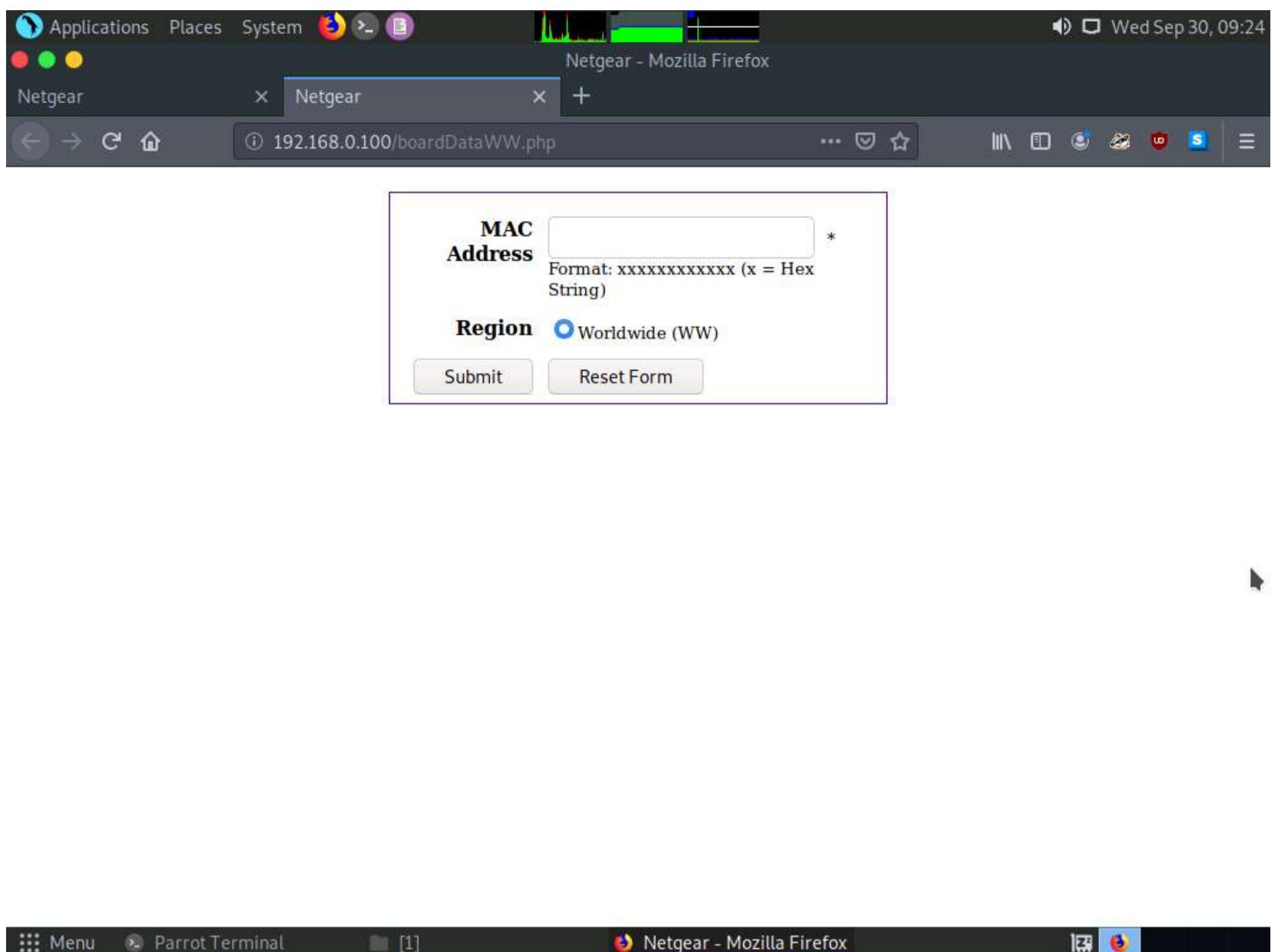


```
Applications Places System Parrot Terminal Wed Sep 30, 09:19
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Starting Translator... [nmbd_tr]
Starting Translator... sh: cannot create /proc/sys/net/bridge/bridge-redirect-flush-mac: nonexistent directory
sh: cannot create /proc/sys/net/bridge/bridge-redirect-enabled: nonexistent directory [http_redirect_tr]
Starting Translator... [dhcp]
Starting Translator... kill: cannot kill pid 594: No such process [ntp]
Starting Translator... [timezone]
Starting Translator... [sc_radio]
kill: cannot kill pid 607: No such process
Error in opening the device.
: No such device
System initialization is .. [DONE...]
Welcome to SDK.
Have a lot of fun...
netgear123456 login: [ 31.836000] brtrunk: port 1(eth0) entering forwarding state
[ 37.200000] eth0: no IPv6 routers present
[ 37.484000] brtrunk: no IPv6 routers present
```

23. The system should be available over the network. Open a browser, and enter <http://192.168.0.100>. Netgear WNAP320 access point login page should appear as shown in the screenshot. This is the web interface from the running firmware that is being emulated.



24. We can next look at any of the PHP code that we saw when we explored the file system. In the browser, enter <http://192.168.0.100/boardDataWW.php>. This will bring up another form as shown in the following screenshot.



25. Since we had the advantage of reviewing the code, we know that we do not have any input validation, which means that there is a possibility of command injection. We will leave that for you to explore. Hint: You can intercept the query using Burpsuite or any other proxy, and then attempt to enter commands such as `cat /etc/passwd`.

26. Within the Firmadyne tool, we can leverage additional scripts. Open a new terminal and change the directory to **firmadyne**. Now, enter **sudo bash analyses/snmpwalk.sh 192.168.0.100**. As the command states, it will enumerate data using SNMP. If you are asked to enter the password, type **toor** and press **Enter**.



```
[pentester@parrot]~$ cd firmadyne/
[pentester@parrot]~/firmadyne$ sudo bash analyses/snmpwalk.sh 192.168.0.100
[sudo] password for pentester:
Dumped to snmp.public.txt and snmp.private.txt!
[pentester@parrot]~/firmadyne$
```

27. We can next enter `sudo python3 analyses/webAccess.py 1 192.168.0.100 log.txt`.

```
[pentester@parrot]~/firmadyne$ sudo python3 analyses/webAccess.py 1 192.168.0.100 log.txt
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/modifier.escape.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/wdsSecurityProfile.tpl.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/help/help_AdvancedHotspot.html...
Skipping: images/datahead_right.gif...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/RebootAP.tpl.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/help/help_AdvancedGeneral.html...
Skipping: images/details_on.gif...
Skipping: templates/Documentation.tpl...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/modifier.count_sentences.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/function.assign_debug_info.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/help/help_FirmwareUpgradeTFTP.html...
Skipping: images/help.gif...
Skipping: templates/AdvancedQoSSettings.tpl...
Skipping: images/add_off.gif...
Skipping: templates/DHCPServerSettings.tpl...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/function.html_checkboxes.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/siteSurvey.tpl.php...
Skipping: images/refresh_off.gif...
Skipping: templates/PacketCapture.tpl...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/internals/core.write_compiled_include.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/internals/core.read_cache_file.php...
Skipping: images/apply_disabled.gif...
Skipping: templates/progress.tpl...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/help/help_WirelessStations.html...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/siteSurvey.php...
-> Socket Timeout: timed out
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/function.ip_field.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/data.tpl.php...
```



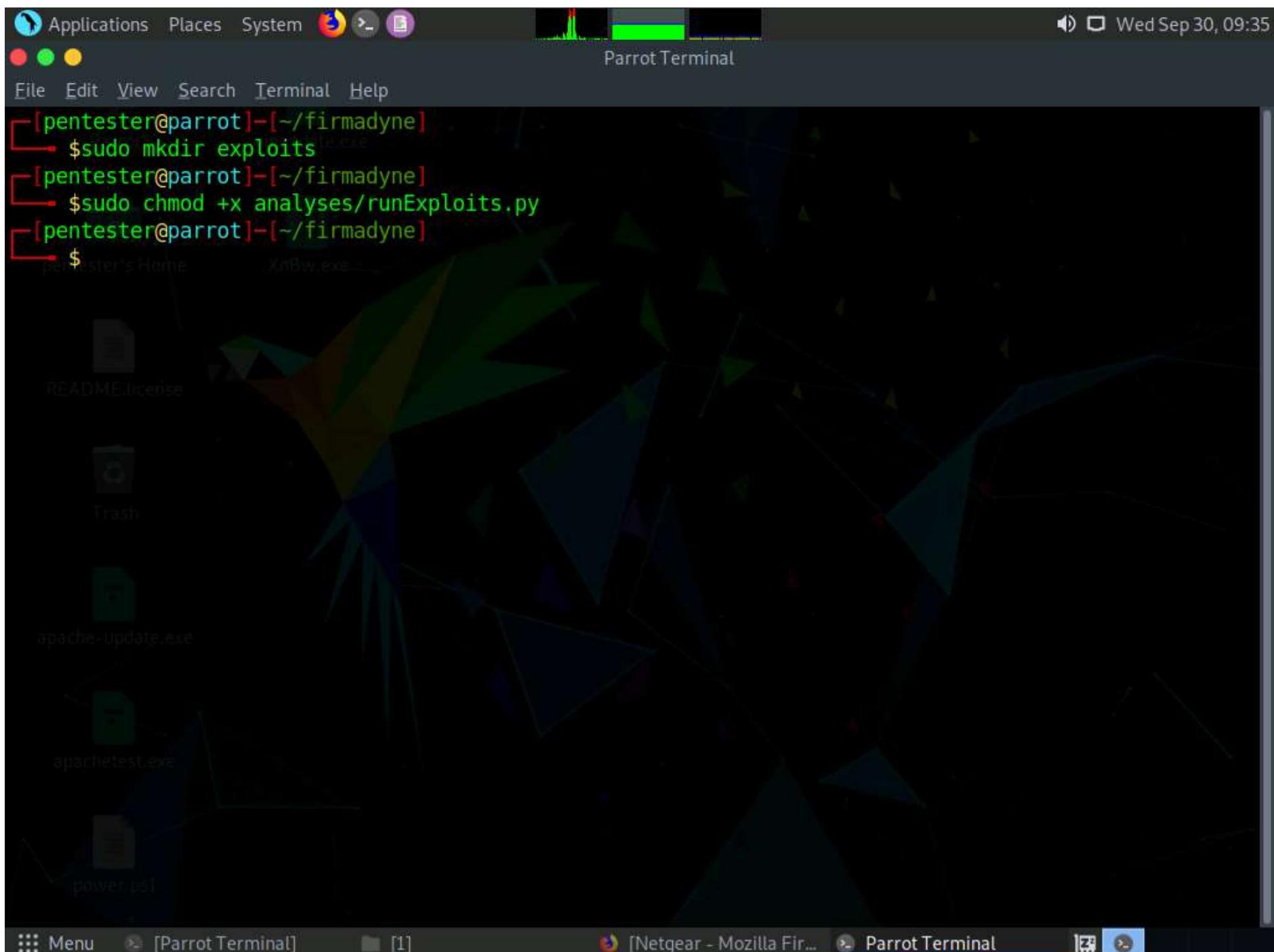
```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/modifier.capitalize.php...
Skipping: templates/body.tpl...
Skipping: images/left_nav_top_left.gif...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/help/help_IPSettings.html...
Skipping: images/reset_off.pdn...
Skipping: templates/RestoreSettings.tpl...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/BasicGeneral.tpl.php...
Skipping: images/footer_left_bottom.gif...
Skipping: images/footer_middle_top_divider.gif...
Skipping: templates/background.tpl...
Skipping: templates/bandStrip.tpl...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/button.tpl.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/function.math.php...
Skipping: templates/header.tpl...
Skipping: images/save_on.gif...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/SNMP.tpl.php...
Skipping: monitorFile.cfg...
Skipping: images/sidebar.gif...
Skipping: images/backup_off.gif...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/block.textformat.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/help/help_Bridging.html...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/function.cycle.php...
Skipping: images/delete_on.gif...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/tmpl/Snooping.tpl.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/include/libs/plugins/function.input_row.php...
Skipping: images/help_icon.gif...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/header.php...
Accessing: http://192.168.0.100/BackupConfig.php...
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmadyne]
$
```

28. There is also a Metasploit interface that will look for vulnerabilities and corresponding exploits. Enter **sudo mkdir exploits**.

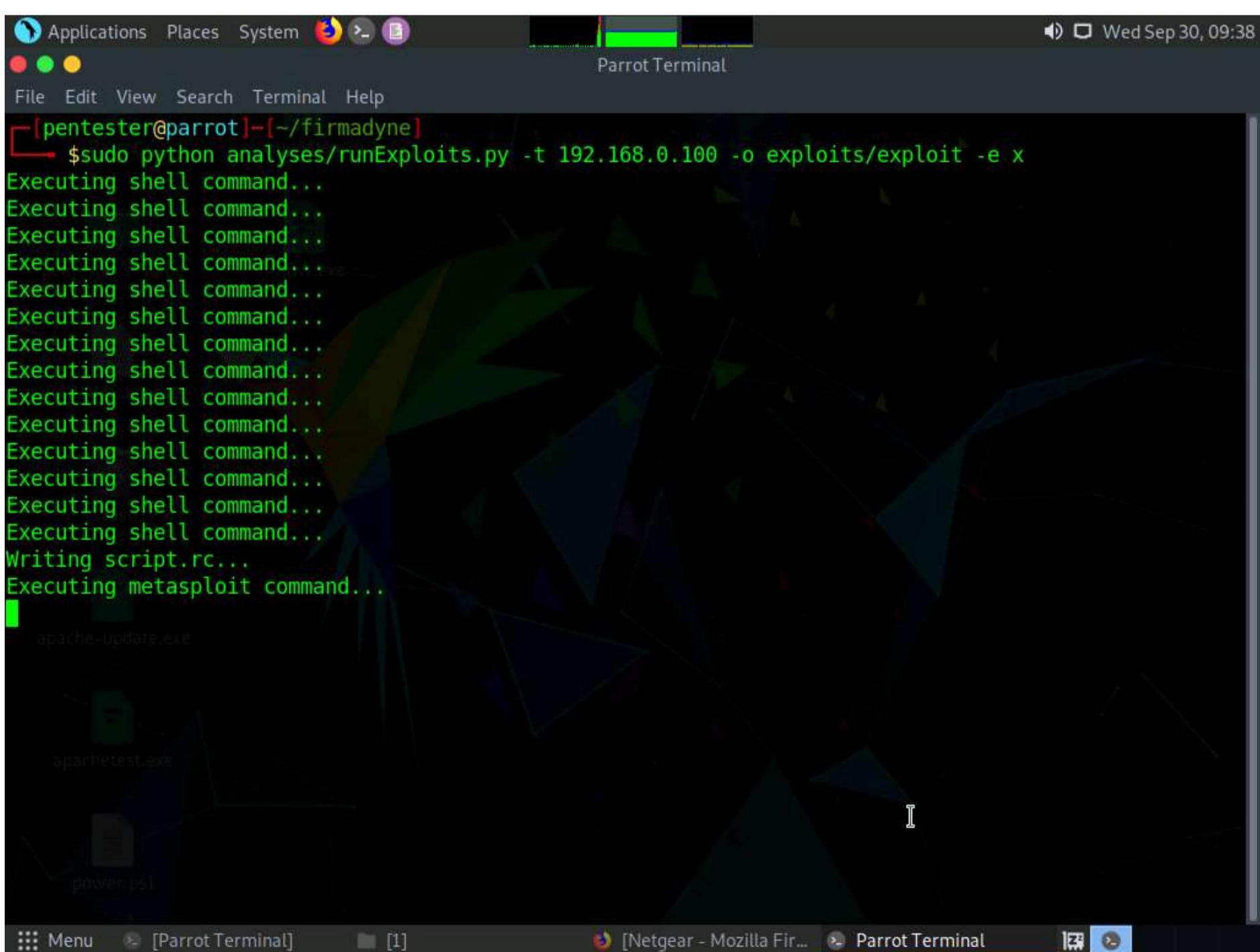
```
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmadyne]
$ sudo mkdir exploits
[pentester@parrot] -[~/firmadyne]
$
```

29. Change the permissions on the file with **sudo chmod +x analyses/runExploits.py**.





30. Enter `sudo python analyses/runExploits.py -t 192.168.0.100 -o exploits/exploit -e x`. An example of the output of the command is shown in the following screenshot:



31. Once the script finishes, open the file (`script.rc`) in any text editor. The file can be found in `/home/pentester/firmadyne` directory.

The screenshot shows a Linux desktop environment with a terminal window open in the foreground. The terminal window is titled "script.rc [Read-Only] (~/firmadyne) - Pluma". It contains the following exploit script:

```
1|setg RHOST 192.168.0.100
2 setg RHOSTS 192.168.0.100
3
4 spool exploits/exploit.0.log
5 use exploits/linux/http/airties_login_cgi_bof
6 exploit -z
7 spool off
8 sessions -K
9
10 spool exploits/exploit.1.log
11 use exploits/linux/http/belkin_login_bof
12 exploit -z
13 spool off
14 sessions -K
15
16 spool exploits/exploit.2.log
17 use exploits/linux/http/ddwrt_cgibin_exec
18 exploit -z
19 spool off
20 sessions -K
21
22 spool exploits/exploit.3.log
23 use exploits/linux/http/dlink_authentication_cgi_bof
24 exploit -z
25 spool off
26 sessions -K
```

The terminal window has a dark theme and includes standard file operations like Open, Save, Undo, and Search. The status bar at the bottom shows "Plain Text" and "Ln 1, Col 1". The taskbar at the bottom of the screen lists several open applications: "Menu", "[Parrot Terminal]", "firmadyne", "[Netgear - Mozilla...]", "Parrot Terminal", and "script.rc [Read-Only]".

32. As you can see in the above screenshot, the tool is only trying a list of exploits. Therefore, it is not a powerful and effective script. Therefore, it should be used as a reference. Similar to other findings, your ability to research will determine success. The exercise objectives have been achieved.

