Cyber Range Report – NYMEGA ICS Security Project
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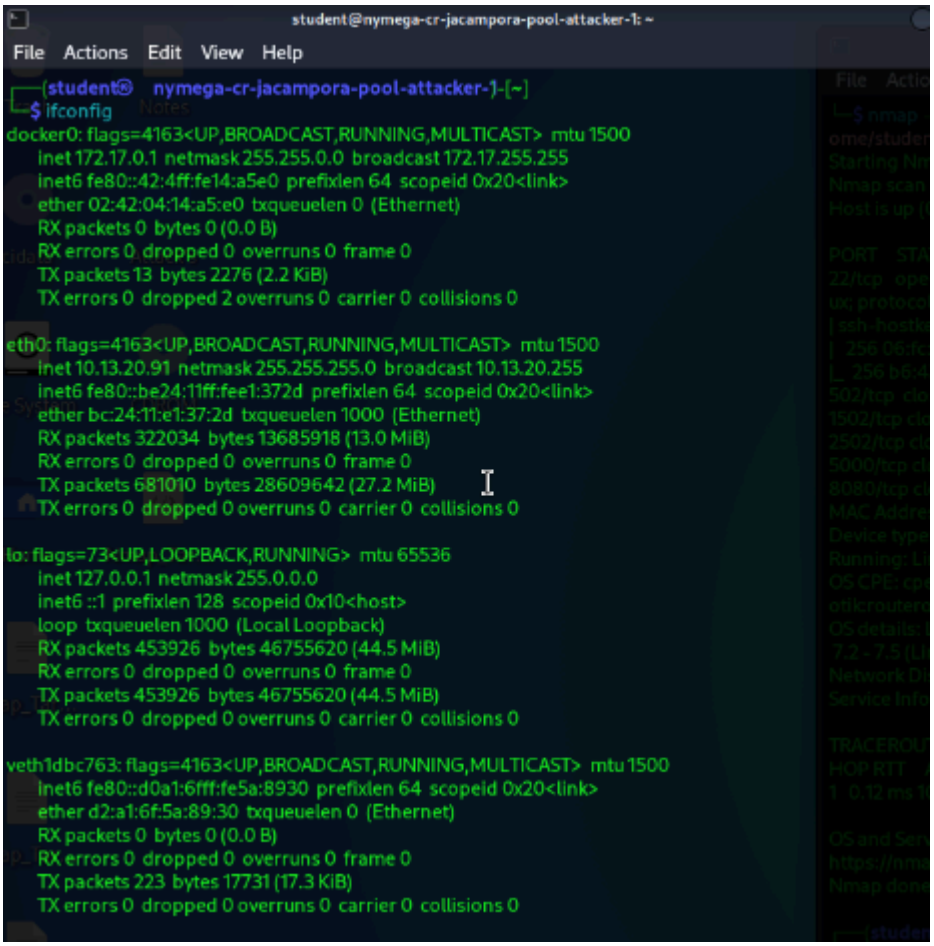
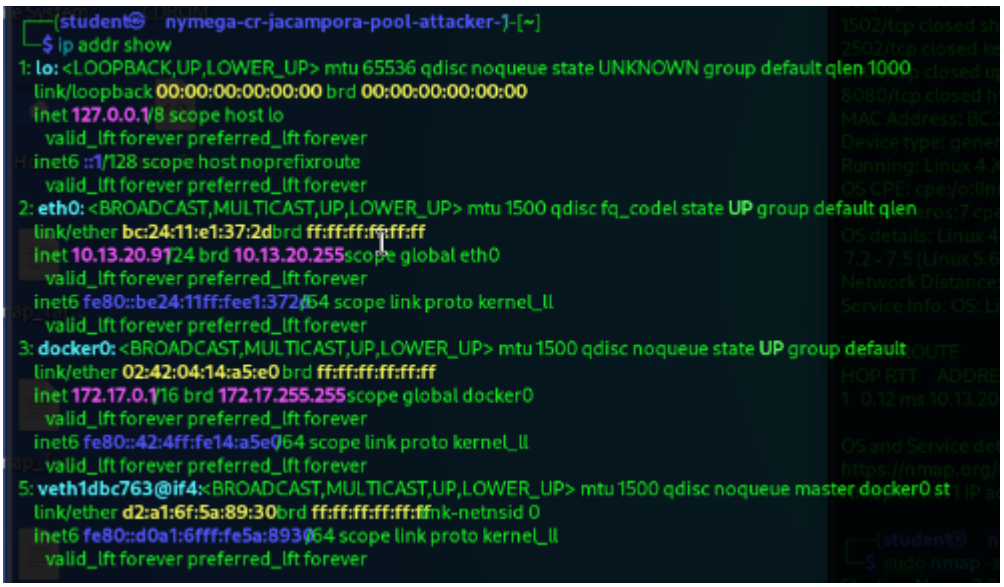
Institution: Pace University Cyber Range (PLV)
Attack: MikroTik RouterOS Penetration Test: Reconnaissance, Exploitation, and OpSec Verification.

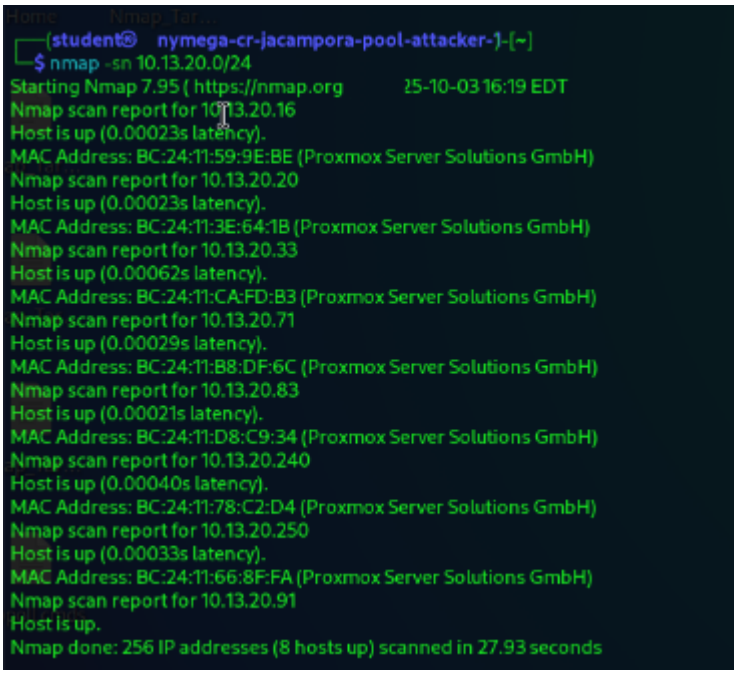
Project Overview:
This project details a cybersecurity scenario involving reconnaissance, exploitation, and post-attack verification targeting a MikroTik router. The primary goal was to conduct a Denial of Service (DoS) attack by exploiting a known vulnerability in the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) service.

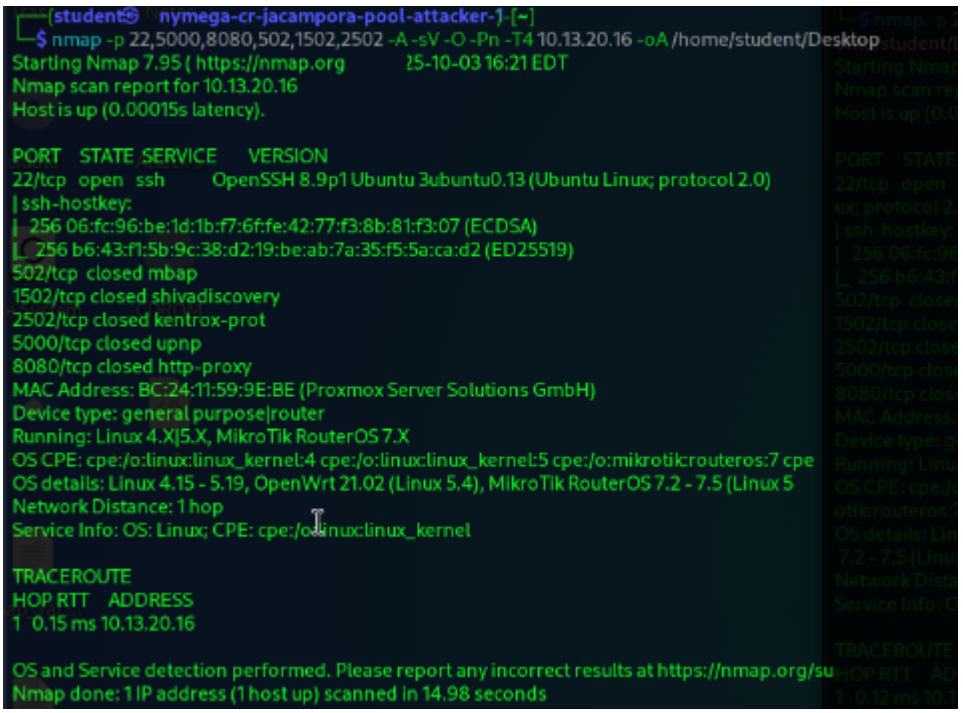


The ifconfig screenshot shows the network configuration of the attacker's machine (eth0), confirming its IP address is 10.13.20.91. This IP is the source used to launch the exploit against the target machine (10.13.20.16) in the scenario.



The image (ip addr show) confirms the attacker's source IP is 10.13.20.91 for the attacks





Command executed:

nmap -p 22,5000,8080,502,1502,2502 -A -sV -O -Pn -T4 10.13.20.16 -oA /home/student/Desktop/nmap-results

This command is a classic **reconnaissance and enumeration** step. The attacker identified the target (10.13.20.16) and found a MikroTik/SNMP vulnerability to exploit.

Explanation:

- Nmap is a network scanning tool used to discover hosts, open ports, and services running on a target machine.
- **Flags used:**
    - **-p:** Specifies which ports to scan.
    - **-A:** Enables OS detection, version detection, script scanning, and traceroute.
    - **-v:** Verbose output.
    - **-O:** Detects the operating system.

- **-T4** (Timing Template): Sets the timing template to "Aggressive" (level 4).

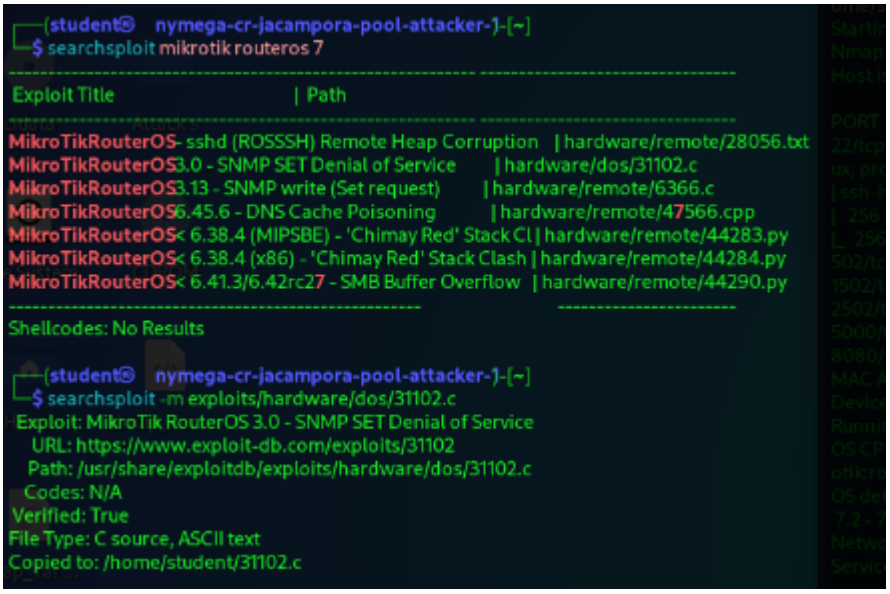
  This speeds up the scan by reducing timeouts and using more parallel probes

- **Target:** IP 10.13.20.16

What the results show:

- Port 22/tcp (SSH) is open, running OpenSSH 8.9p1 on Ubuntu Linux.
- Other ports like 5202/tcp, 502/tcp, and 8080/tcp are closed.
- The MAC address reveals the manufacturer as Proxmox Server Solutions GmbH, and the device type is identified as MikroTik RouterOS 7.x.
- OS details: Linux 4.15–5.19 kernel, indicating it's a MikroTik Router running RouterOS v7.2–7.5.

Purpose of this step:
The goal here is **network reconnaissance** — identifying open ports, running services, and confirming that the target is a MikroTik Router. This helps understand what kind of device you are dealing with and what vulnerabilities might exist.



Command executed:

searchsploit mikrotik routeros 7

Explanation:

- searchsploit is part of the Exploit Database toolkit that searches for known exploits locally.

- The user is searching for vulnerabilities related to MikroTik RouterOS version 7.

What the results show:
A list of known MikroTik RouterOS vulnerabilities, such as:

- Remote Heap Corruption (sshd)

- SNMP SET Denial of Service

- DNS Cache Poisoning

- Chimay Red Stack Clash

- SMB Buffer Overflow

Purpose of this step:
After identifying the device as a MikroTik Router, the user looks for known exploits that can be used to test its security.
This is a vulnerability assessment step — finding potential weaknesses in the RouterOS version.

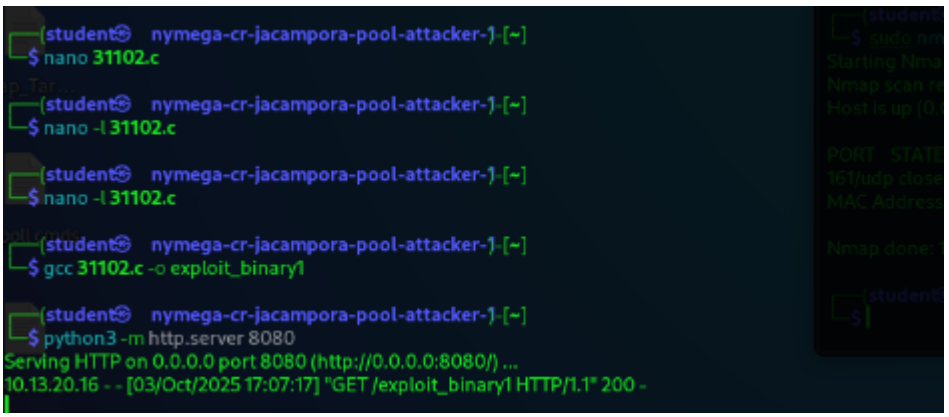
Why MikroTik was used

1. It's a popular real-world router OS used in many small and medium networks, making it a valuable target for learning penetration testing and hardening.

2. RouterOS exposes multiple network services (SSH, API, web interface), making it ideal for demonstrating how attackers scan and identify vulnerabilities.

3. It's Linux-based, so tools like nmap and searchsploit can easily identify its fingerprints and match known exploits.

4. It provides a controlled environment for students to safely practice ethical hacking, reconnaissance, and vulnerability assessment.

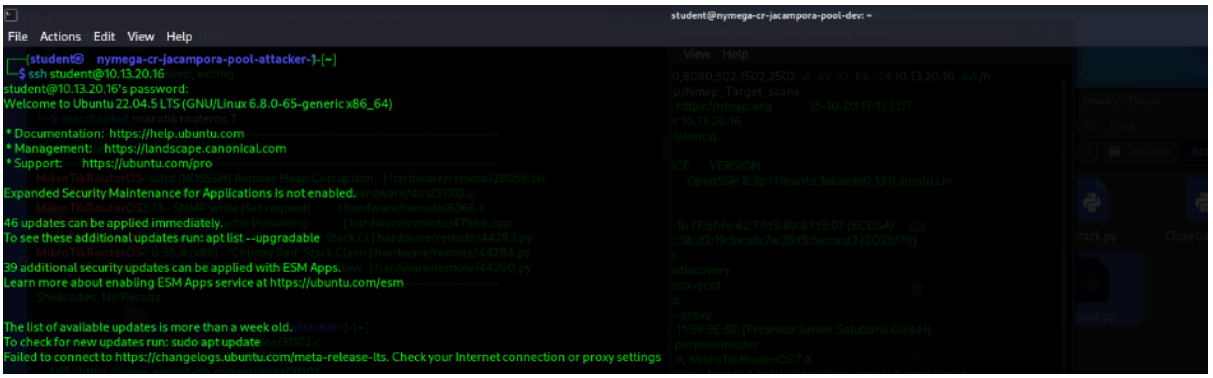


Commands and meaning:

1. **nano 31102.c**
    - Opens a text editor to view or edit a C source file named 31102.c.
    - This file is likely an exploit source code (often named after a CVE or exploit ID).
2. **gcc 31102.c -o exploit_binary1**
    - Compiles the C exploit source into a binary executable called exploit_binary1.
3. **python3 -m http.server 8080**
    - Starts a simple HTTP web server on port 8080, allowing file transfer.
    - The attacker uses this to serve the compiled exploit to another machine.
4. **GET /exploit_binary1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -**
    - This log entry shows a successful file download from another host (10.13.20.16) — meaning the target fetched the exploit from the attacker's machine.

Summary:

The attacker compiled an exploit (exploit_binary1), hosted it via an HTTP server, and the victim machine (10.13.20.16) successfully downloaded it.



Commands and meaning:

1. **ssh student@10.13.20.16**
    - Connects to the target machine via SSH.
    - The user logs into the system running Ubuntu 22.04.
2. **System information:**

- Ubuntu 22.04.5 LTS (Linux kernel 6.8.0-85).
- Shows the login message and notices about updates.

3. **Failed update check**
    - Not relevant to exploitation — it's just Ubuntu checking for updates and failing to reach the release server (common on closed lab networks).

Summary:

The attacker gained SSH access to the victim system (10.13.20.16) and confirmed it's running Ubuntu 22.04.

Commands and meaning:

1. **./exploit_binary1 -s 10.13.20.91 -d 10.13.20.16 -c public**

    - Tries to execute the exploit binary with source (-s) and destination (-d) IPs.
    - -c public suggests it's targeting an SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) service (community string public).

2. **sudo ./exploit_binary1 -s 10.13.20.91 -d 10.13.20.16 -c public**

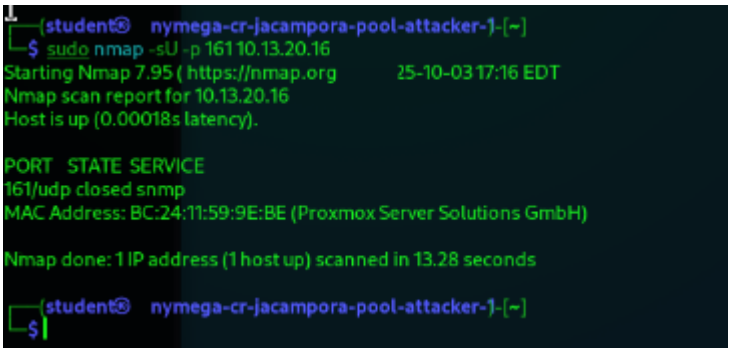
    - Runs the exploit as root.
    - Message: "SNMPd must be down" — the exploit attempts SNMP spoofing or flooding, but the service might be inactive.

3. **scp app.py student@10.14.7.18:docker/substation-ensvim/**

    - Securely copies a Python file (app.py) to another remote host (10.14.7.18).
    - Suggests the attacker is transferring a script to another system (possibly for further analysis or simulation).

Summary:

The attacker executed the compiled exploit targeting SNMP communication between 10.13.20.91 and 10.13.20.16, then transferred another file to a remote Docker container for further work.



Summary:

The nmap -sU -p 161 scan is the attacker's way of confirming that their cleanup action was successful. The result 161/udp closed snmp proves the SNMP service is no longer running or listening on the network, effectively verifying that the primary exploit vector has been disabled.