

Exp No : 1 A WINDOWS FUNDAMENTALS 1**Date :****Aim:**

To understand and explore the fundamentals of the Windows operating system, including key components such as the file system, command prompt (CMD), task manager, and registry, to build a strong foundation for cybersecurity and system administration in TryHackMe platform.

Algorithm:

1. Access the lab in TryHackMe platform using the link below-
2. <https://tryhackme.com/r/room/windowsfundamentals1xbx>
3. Click Start a Machine and AttackBox to run the instance of Kali Windows distribution.
5. Solve the task questions start with Windows OS edition and Desktop GUI.
6. Understand the importants of NTFS file system and feature.
7. Learn about Windows folder and environmental variable for windows directory .
8. Learn Local User and Group Management.
9. Learn User Account Control and practice in Virtual Machine.
10. Do Control Panel setting – Network & Internet setting.
11. Learn Task Manager – applications and process running and performance of CPU & RAM.

Output:

Pre Security > Windows Fundamentals > Windows Fundamentals 1

Windows Fundamentals 1

In part 1 of the Windows Fundamentals module, we'll start our journey learning about the Windows desktop, the NTFS file system, UAC, the Control Panel, and more..

Info 30 min

Share your achievement Start AttackBox Help Save Room Options

Room completed (100%)

- Task 1 ✓ Introduction to Windows
- Task 2 ✓ Windows Editions
- Task 3 ✓ The Desktop (GUI)
- Task 4 ✓ The File System
- Task 5 ✓ The Windows\System32 Folders

The Windows operating system (OS) is a complex product with many system files, utilities, settings, features, etc.

This module will attempt to provide a general overview of just a handful of what makes up the Windows OS, navigate the user interface, make changes to the system, etc. The content is aimed at those who wish to understand and use the Windows OS on a more comfortable level.

Press the **Start Machine** button below to launch the attached virtual machine.

Start Machine

The virtual machine should open within your web browser.

If you want to access the virtual machine via **Remote Desktop**, use the credentials below.

Machine IP: MACHINE_1P
User: Administrator
Password: letmein123!

Remote Desktop Preference

Profile: Quick Connect

Protocol: RDP - Remote Desktop Protocol

Pre Command: command %h %u %t %l %p %g --option

Post Command: /path/to/command option arg %u %v %t %p %g

Basic Advanced SSH Tunnel

Server: 10.10.90.149

User name: administrator

User password: **letmein123!**

Domain: **Custom** 10.10.90.149

Resolution: **Custom** 1920x1080

Color depth: **RemoteFX (32 bpp)**

Accept the Certificate when prompted, and you should be logged into the remote system now.

Note: The virtual machine may take up to 3 minutes to load.

Your machine is initializing... Use the AttackBox to attack machines you start on tasks

Starting your machine... please wait!

Hooray! Your machine has started. It may need a few minutes to become accessible.

Access desktop in 111s | 59min 56s

Task 2:

Task 2 ✓ Windows Editions

The Windows operating system has a long history dating back to 1985, and currently, it is the dominant operating system in both home use and corporate networks. Because of this, Windows has always been targeted by hackers & malware writers.

Windows XP was a popular version of Windows and had a long-running. Microsoft announced Windows Vista, which was a complete overhaul of the Windows operating system. There were many issues with Windows Vista. It wasn't received well by Windows users, and it was quickly phased out.

When Microsoft announced the end-of-life date for Windows XP, many customers panicked. Corporations, hospitals, etc., scrambled and tested the next viable Windows version, which was Windows 7, against many other hardware and devices. Vendors had to work against the clock to ensure their products worked with Windows 7 for their customers. If they couldn't, their customers had to break their agreement and find another vendor that upgraded their products to work with Windows 7. It was a nightmare for many, and Microsoft took note of it.

Windows 7, as quickly as it was released soon after, was marked with an end of support date. Windows 8.x came and left and it was short-lived, like Vista.

Then arrived **Windows 10**, which is the current Windows operating system version for desktop computers.

Windows 10 comes in 2 flavors, Home and Pro. You can read the difference between the Home and Pro [here](#).

Even though we didn't talk about servers, the current version of the Windows operating system for servers is **Windows Server 2019**.

Many critics like to bash on Microsoft, but they have made long strides to improve the usability and security with each new version of Windows.

Note: The Windows edition for the attached VM is Windows Server 2019 Standard, as seen in **System Information**.

Update: As of June 2021, Microsoft announced the retirement dates for Windows 10 [here](#).

"Microsoft will continue to support at least one Windows 10 Semi-Annual Channel until October 14, 2025".

As of October 5th, 2021 - Windows 11 now is the current Windows operating system for end-users. Read more about Windows 11 [here](#).

Answer the questions below

What encryption can you enable on Pro that you can't enable in Home?

BitLocker ✓ Correct Answer

Task 3:

Room completed (100%)

How do I customize taskbars?

Notification area

Select which icons appear on the taskbar
Turn system icons on or off

Here are Microsoft's brief documents for the [Start Menu](#) and [Notification Area](#).

Tip: You can right-click any folder, file, app/program, or icon to view more information or perform other actions on the clicked item.

Answer the questions below

Which selection will hide/disable the Search box?

Hidden ✓ Correct Answer

Which selection will hide/disable the Task View button?

Show Task View button ✓ Correct Answer

Besides Clock and Network, what other icon is visible in the Notification Area?

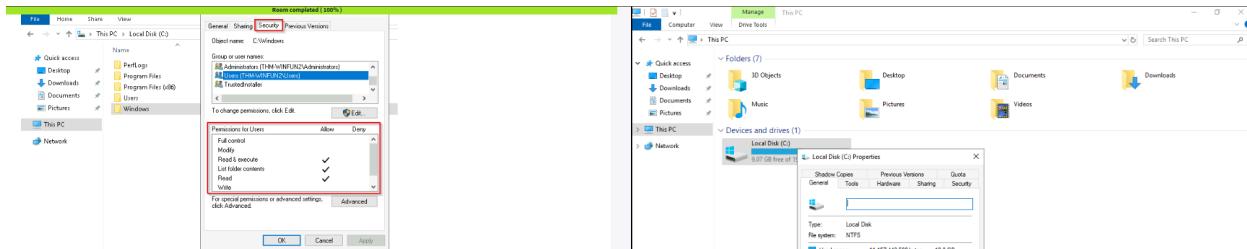
Action Center ✓ Correct Answer 💡 Hint

Task 4: The File System

Task 5: The Windows\System32 Folders

Task 6: User Accounts, Profiles, and Permissions

Task 4:



Refer to the Microsoft documentation to get a better understanding of the NTFS permissions for **Special Permissions**.

Another feature of NTFS is **alternate data streams** (ADS).

Alternate Data Streams (ADS) is a file attribute specific to Windows NTFS (New Technology File System).

Every file has at least one data stream (`$DATA`), and ADS allows files to contain more than one stream of data. Natively **Window Explorer** doesn't display ADS to the user. There are 3rd party executables that can be used to view this data, but **Powershell** gives you the ability to view ADS for files.

There are also party documents that can be used to filter this data, such as the following:

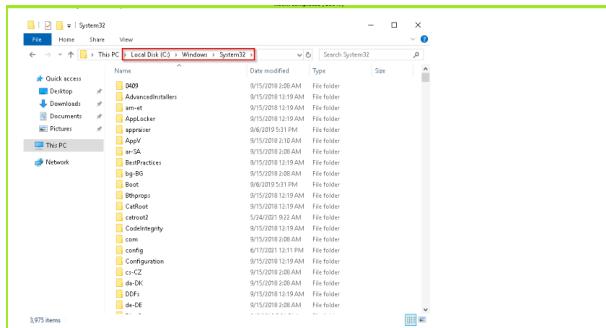
From a security perspective, malware writers have used ADS to hide data. Not all its uses are malicious. For example, when you download a file from the Internet, there are identifiers written to ADS to identify that the file was downloaded from the Internet.

from the Internet.

To learn more about ADS, refer to the following link from MalwareBytes [here](#).



Task 5:



The System32 folder holds the important files that are critical for the operating system.

You should proceed with extreme caution when interacting with this folder. Accidentally deleting any files or folders within System32 can render the Windows OS inoperational. Read more about this action [here](#).

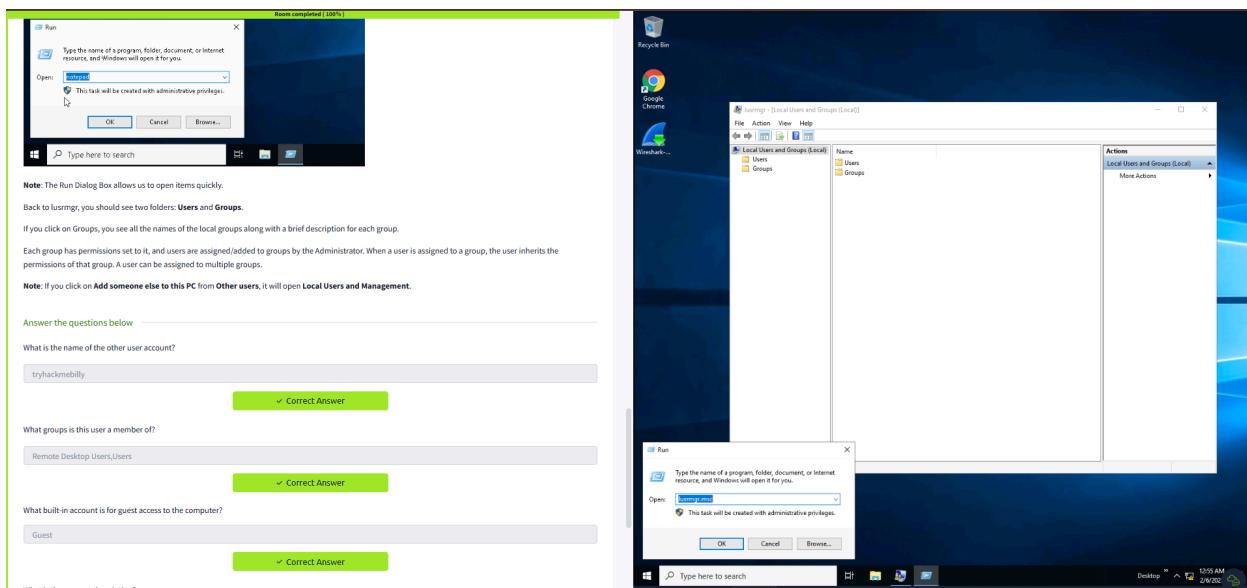
Note: Many of the tools that will be covered in the Windows Fundamentals series reside within the System32 folder.

Answer the questions below

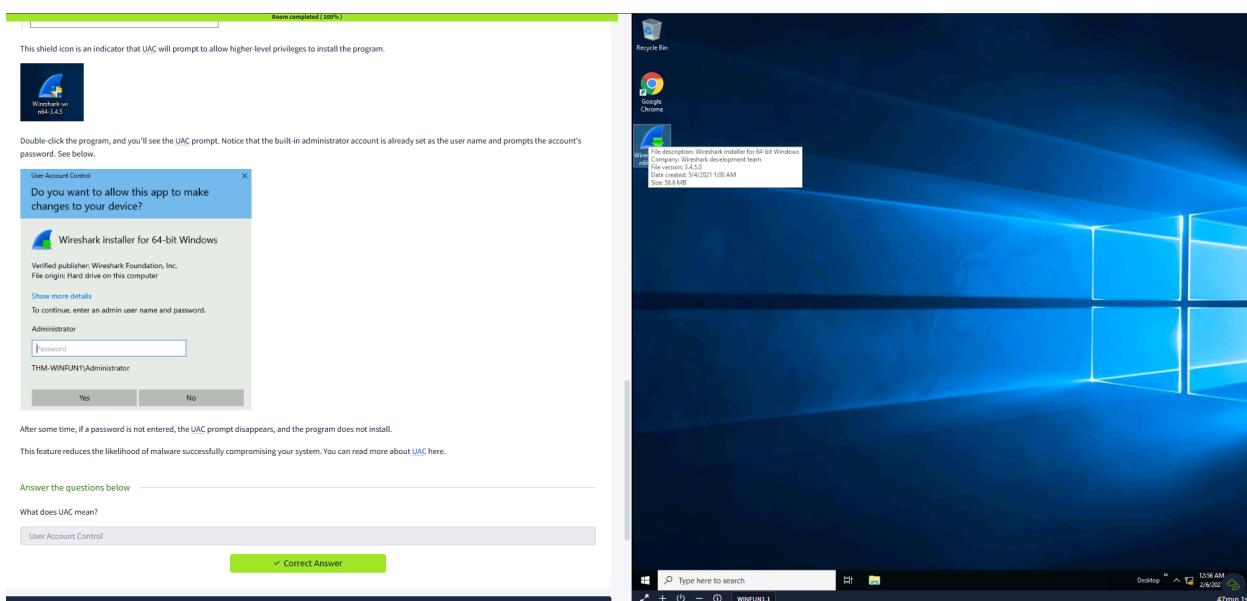
What is the system variable for the Windows folder?



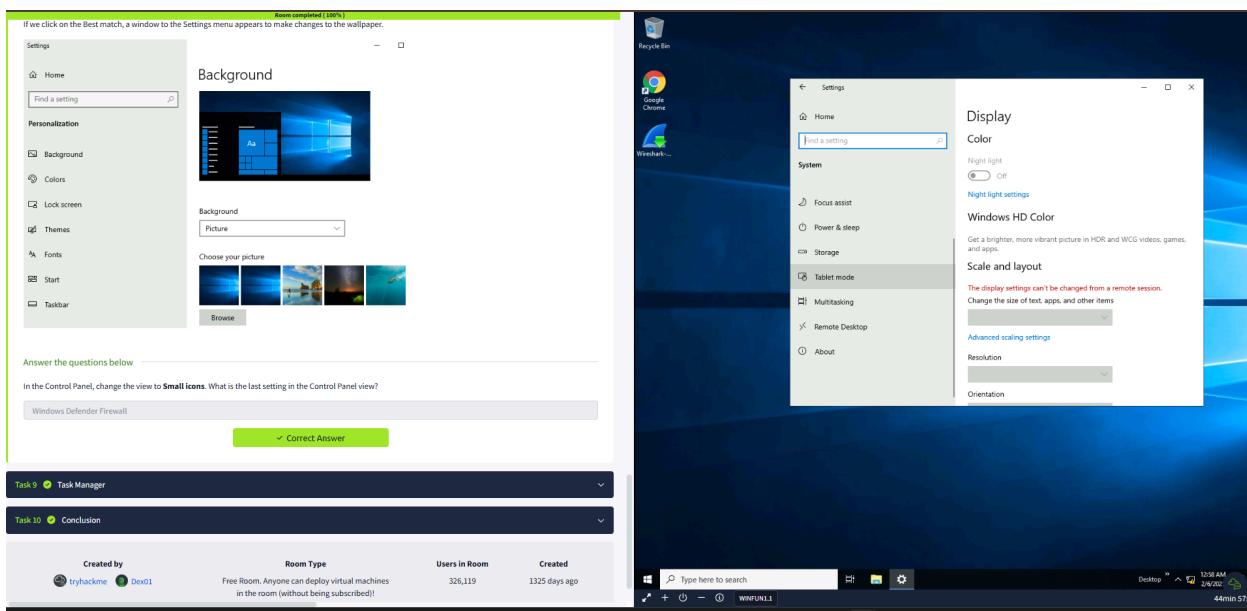
Task 6:



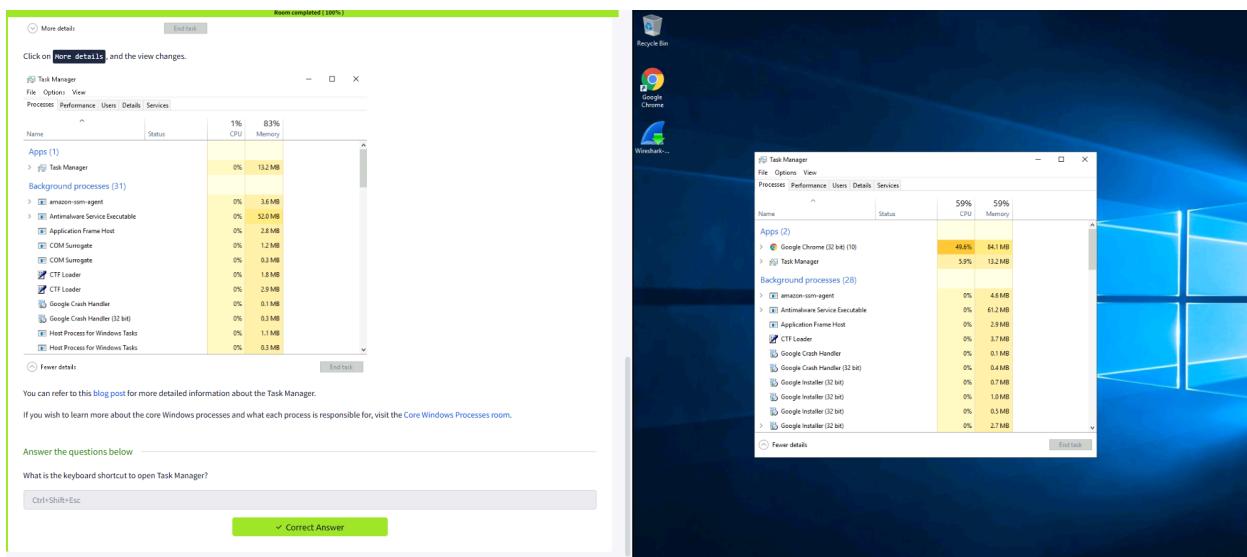
Task 7:



Task 8:



Task 9:



Task 10:

Task 10 Conclusion

Again, this was a generic overview of the Windows OS.

There are intermediate and advanced topics for each topic (task) that was covered in this room.

Hence, **Task 9** ended with a detailed blog post explaining the Task Manager in great detail.

In future modules, we'll cover topics like the Windows folder, the management console, security tools (Windows Defender, Windows Firewall, etc.), to name a few.

Answer the questions below

Read above and terminate the Windows machine you deployed in this room.

No answer needed

✓ Correct Answer

Created by	Room Type	Users in Room	Created
tryhackme Dex01	Free Room. Anyone can deploy virtual machines in the room (without being subscribed)!	326,119	1325 days ago

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X in DM f y @ P

Observation:

1. Remote Desktop/Virtual Machine:

- Accessing Windows through an Instance of Virtual Machine.
- Using Remote Desktop

2. Windows Edition:

- Various windows edition and their unique features compared to the before one
- Popular versions of Windows

3. Graphical User Interface of Windows:

- The Desktop GUI
- Unique Features of each windows

4. The File System:

- New Technology File System
- Partition in the file system (FAT16/FAT32)
- Encryption File System

5. Windows Config files , User Accounts, Profiles:

- Having multiple profiles for the same user.
- Storing the configuration files in the System32 folder of windows

6. User Access Control , Settings, Task Manager:

- Using the control panel to easily access the files and folders.
- Using the run command to access the applications directly
- Using the settings to manipulate the desktop
- Using the task manager to view the task details and their performance

Result:

This experiment provides a practical introduction to Windows system fundamentals, enabling us to navigate, manage, and analyze system components efficiently.

EXP No : 1 B WINDOWS FUNDAMENTALS 2**DATE :****Aim:**

To understand and explore the fundamentals of the Windows operating system, including key components such as System Configuration UAC settings , Windows fundamental modules and Windows registry, to build a strong foundation for cybersecurity and system administration in TryHackMe platform.

Algorithm:

1. Access the lab in TryHackMe platform using the link below-
2. <https://tryhackme.com/r/room/windowsfundamentals1xbx>
3. Click Start a Machine and AttackBox to run the instance of Kali Windows distribution.
4. Solve the task questions starting with Windows OS edition and Desktop GUI.
5. Understand the importance of System configuration and UAC settings.
6. Learn about Windows fundamental modules.
7. Learn Resource Monitoring and Windows registry.

Output:

Task 1:

Machine IP: 10.10.90.57

User: administrator

Password: letmein123!

Remote Desktop Preference

Profile

Name: Quick Connect

Group:

Protocol: RDP - Remote Desktop Protocol

Pre Command: command %h %u %U %p %g -option

Post Command: /path/to/command -opt1 arg %h %u %t -opt2 %U %p %g

Basic **Advanced** **SSH Tunnel**

Server: 10.10.90.149

Username: administrator

User password: *****

Domain:

Resolution: Use client resolution Custom 640x480

Color depth: **RemoteFX (32 bpp)**

Accept the Certificate when prompted, and you should be logged into the remote system now.

Note: The virtual machine may take up to 3 minutes to load.

Answer the questions below

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

THM AttackBox WINFUN2 v1.0 1h 28min 17s

Task 2:

System Properties
View basic information about your computer system settings.
View Internet Properties... >

Selected command:
C:\Windows\system32\lsv.exe

Launch

OK Cancel Apply Help

Notice the **Selected command** section. The information in this textbox will change per tool.

To run a tool, we can use the command to launch the tool via the run prompt, command prompt, or by clicking the **Launch** button.

Answer the questions below

What is the name of the service that lists Systems Internals as the manufacturer?
PsShutdown ✓ Correct Answer

Whom is the Windows license registered to?
Windows User ✓ Correct Answer

What is the command for Windows Troubleshooting?
C:\Windows\System32\control.exe /use Microsoft.Troubleshooting ✓ Correct Answer

What command will open the Control Panel? (The answer is: the name of .exe, not the full path)
control.exe ✓ Correct Answer

System Configuration

General Boot Services Startup Tools

Startup selection
 Normal startup Load all device drivers and services
 Diagnostic startup Load basic devices and services only
 Selective startup Load system services Load startup items Use original boot configuration

OK Cancel Apply Help

Task 3:

We're continuing with Tools that are available through the **System Configuration** panel.

User Account Control (UAC) was covered in great detail in [Windows Fundamentals 1](#).

The UAC settings can be changed or even turned off entirely (not recommended).

You can move the slider to see how the setting will change the UAC settings and Microsoft's stance on the setting.

User Account Control Settings

Choose when to be notified about changes to your computer

User Account Control helps prevent potentially harmful programs from making changes to your computer.
[Tell me more about User Account Control settings](#)

Always notify
Notify me only when apps try to make changes to my computer (default)
Don't notify me when I make changes to Windows settings

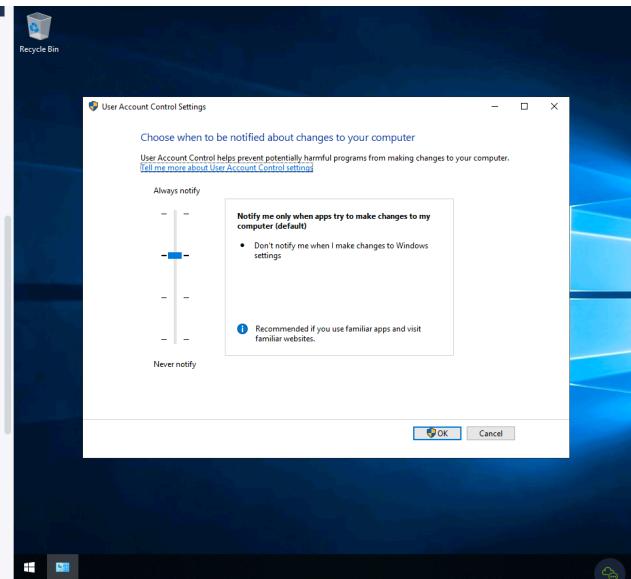
Recommended if you use familiar apps and visit familiar websites.

Never notify

OK Cancel

Answer the questions below

What is the command to open User Account Control Settings? (The answer is the name of the .exe file, not the full path)



Task 4:

Service status: Running

Start Stop Pause Resume

You can specify the start parameters that apply when you start the service from here.

Start parameters:

OK Cancel Apply

WMI Control configures and controls the **Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)** service.

Per Wikipedia, "WMI allows scripting languages (such as VBScript or Windows PowerShell) to manage Microsoft Windows personal computers and servers, both locally and remotely. Microsoft also provides a command-line interface to WMI called Windows Management Instrumentation Command-line (WMIC)."

Note: The WMIC tool is deprecated in Windows 10, version 21H1. Windows PowerShell supersedes this tool for WMI.

Answer the questions below

What is the command to open Computer Management? (The answer is the name of the .msc file, not the full path)

compmgmt.msc ✓ Correct Answer

At what time every day is the GoogleUpdateTaskMachineUA task configured to run?

6:15 AM ✓ Correct Answer

What is the name of the hidden folder that is shared?

sh4r3dF0ld3r ✓ Correct Answer

Choose when to be notified about changes to your computer

User Account Control helps prevent potentially harmful programs from making changes to your computer.
[Tell me more about User Account Control settings](#)

Always notify
Notify me only when apps try to make changes to my computer (default)
Don't notify me when I make changes to Windows settings

Recommended if you use familiar apps and visit familiar websites.

Never notify

System General OK Cancel

Startup selection

(Normal startup Load all device drivers and services)
(Diagnostic startup Load basic devices and services only)
Selective startup
Load system services
Load startup items
Use original boot configuration

Task 5:

The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. On the left is the Windows System Information window, which displays various system components like Video Coders, CD-ROM, Display Device, Infrared, Keyboard, Network, Ports, and Printers. A red box highlights the 'Adapter' section under Network, specifically the 'IP Address' field. On the right is the Windows System Properties window for 'Computer Name'. It shows environment variables for the administrator user, including Path, TEMP, and TMP. A red box highlights the 'Path' variable.

Answer the questions below

What is the command to open System Information? (The answer is the name of the .exe file, not the full path)

msinfo32.exe ✓ Correct Answer

What is listed under System Name?

THM-WINFUN2 ✓ Correct Answer

Under Environment Variables, what is the value for ComSpec?

%SystemRoot%\system32\cmd.exe ✓ Correct Answer

Task 6:

The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. On the left is the Windows System Information window, similar to Task 5, showing system components and network adapter details. On the right is the Windows Resource Monitor window, which has four main tabs: CPU, Memory, Disk, and Network. The CPU tab shows processes like ShellExperienceHost.exe and SearchUI.exe. The Disk tab shows disk activity with a graph. The Network tab shows network utilization with a graph. The Memory tab shows memory usage with a graph.

Answer the questions below

What is the command to open Resource Monitor? (The answer is the name of the .exe file, not the full path)

resmon.exe ✓ Correct Answer

Task 7:

NET HELP NAMES explains different types of names in NET HELP syntax lines.
NET HELP SERVICES explains some of the services.
NET HELP SYNTAX explains how to read NET HELP syntax lines.
NET HELP command | MORE displays Help one screen at a time.

So, if you wish to see the help information for `net user`, the command is `net help user`.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>net help user
The syntax of this command is:
```

NET USER
`username [password | *] [options] [/DOMAIN]
username {password | *} [/ADD | /DEL | /OPTIONS] [/DOMAIN]
username [/DELETE] [/DOMAIN]
username [/TIMES:{times | ALL}]
username [/ACTIVE:{YES | NO}]`

NET USER creates and modifies user accounts on computers. When used without switches, it lists the user accounts for the computer. The user account information is stored in the user accounts database.

You can use the same command to view the help information for other useful `net` sub-commands, such as `localgroup`, `use`, `share`, and `session`.

Refer to the following link to see a comprehensive list of commands you can execute in the command prompt [here](#).

Answer the questions below

In System Configuration, what is the full command for Internet Protocol Configuration?

`C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe /k %windir%\system32\ipconfig.exe`

✓ Correct Answer

For the ipconfig command, how do you show detailed information?

`ipconfig /all`

✓ Correct Answer

Administrator: Command Prompt

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.737]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>ipconfig /?

USAGE:
ipconfig [/allcompartments] [/? | /all]
    [/renew [adapter] | /release [adapter] | /renewed [adapter] | /released6 [adapter] | /flushdns | /registerdns | /showclassid [adapter] | /setclassid adapter [classid] | /showclassid6 [adapter] | /setclassid6 adapter [classid] | /?]

where:
    adapter          Connection name
                    (wildcard characters * and ? allowed, see examples)

Options:
    /?               Display this help message
    /all             Display full configuration information.
    /allcompartments Display full configuration information for all network connections.
    /release         Release the IPv4 address for the specified adapter.
    /renew           Renew the IPv4 address for the specified adapter.
    /renewed         Renew the IPv6 address for the specified adapter.
    /flushdns        Purges the DNS Resolver cache.
    /registerdns   Refreshes all DHCP leases and re-registers DNS names
    /displaydns    Displays the contents of the DNS Resolver Cache.
    /showclassid    Displays all the dhcp class IDs allowed for adapter.
```

Task 8:

The registry contains information that Windows continually references during operation, such as:

- Profiles for each user
- Applications installed on the computer and the types of documents that each can create
- Property sheet settings for folders and application icons
- What hardware exists on the system
- The ports that are being used.

Warning: The registry is for advanced computer users. Making changes to the registry can affect normal computer operations.

There are various ways to view/edit the registry. One way is to use the **Registry Editor** (`regedit`).

File Edit View Favorites Help

Computer

- HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT
- HKEY_CURRENT_USER
- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE
- HKEY_USERS
- HKEY_CURRENT_CONFIG

Refer to the following Microsoft documentation [here](#) to learn more about the Windows Registry.

Answer the questions below

What is the command to open the Registry Editor? (The answer is the name of the .exe file, not the full path)

`regedit32.exe`

✓ Correct Answer

✗ Hint

C:\Users\Administrator>regedit32.exe

Task 9 Conclusion

Created by	Room Type	Users in Room	Created
tryhackme	Free Room: Anyone can deploy virtual machines	256,124	1324 days ago

Task 9:

Task 9 Conclusion

Recall that the tasks covered in this room were some of the tools that can launch from [MSConfig](#).

Throughout the room, commands and shortcuts were shared for the utilities. This means you don't have to launch [MSConfig](#) to run these utilities.

You can also run some of these utilities directly from the Start Menu. See below where some of these utilities can be found.

- [Windows Accessories](#)
- [Windows Administrative Tools](#)
- [Windows Ease of Access](#)
- [Windows PowerShell](#)
- [Windows Security](#)
- [Windows System](#)

Some of the tools listed in [MSConfig](#) that weren't mentioned in this room were either covered in Windows Fundamentals 1 or were left for you to explore on your own.

Answer the questions below

Read above.

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

Created by	Room Type	Users in Room	Created
tryhackingme	Free Room. Anyone can deploy virtual machines in the room (without being subscribed)!	256,124	1324 days ago

1h 15min 6s

Observation:

1. System Configuration:

- Learn about Windows system configuration and settings in their directory.
- Msconfig command to access the configuration files.
- Learn about various system configuration services.

2. User Access Control Settings:

- Use UserAccessControlSettings.exe to change the UAC settings.
- Change UAC settings to manipulate the stance on the application program.

3. Computer Management and System Info:

- System Tools, Storage and Services.
- Various Tasks under Task scheduler, Performance monitoring
- Storage and partitions
- Environment variables and their types

4. Resource Monitoring:

- CPU,Disk,Network,Memory monitoring.
- Their performance,status,Groups.
- Processes,Network Activities,TCP connections,ports and request.

5. Command Prompt and Windows Registry:

- Interaction with the operating system.
- Commands, troubleshooting, information access
- Command line interface to use commands.
- The **Windows Registry** a central hierarchical database used to store information necessary to configure the system for one or more users, applications, and hardware devices

Result:

This experiment provides a practical introduction to Windows system fundamentals, System configuration, UAC settings, Command Prompt, Windows registry.

All tasks are executed successfully.

Exp No : 1 C WINDOWS FUNDAMENTALS 3**Date :****Aim:**

To understand and explore the fundamentals of the Windows built-in tools, including key components such as the device secure system, Windows Security, Bit locker in TryHackMe platform.

Algorithm:

1. Access the lab in TryHackMe platform using the link below-
<https://tryhackme.com/r/room/windowsfundamentals1xbx>
2. Click Start a Machine and AttackBox to run the instance of Windows
3. distribution.
4. Solve the task questions start with Windows built-in tools.
5. Understand the importants of Device Security.
6. Learn about Windows Updates & Security.
7. Learn BitLocker.

Output:

Task 1:

The screenshot shows a virtual machine interface with a 'Remote Desktop Preference' window open. The 'Server' field is set to '10.10.90.149', 'User name' to 'administrator', and 'Color depth' to 'RemoteFX (32 bpp)'. A note below says 'Accept the Certificate when prompted, and you should be logged into the remote system now.' A note at the bottom left says 'Note: The virtual machine may take up to 3 minutes to load.' Below the preference window, there's a text input field with 'No answer needed' and a green 'Correct Answer' button. The task bar at the bottom shows 'Task 2 Windows Updates'.

Task 2:

The screenshot shows a virtual machine interface with a 'Windows Update' window open. It displays a message about a pending restart and a link to 'Schedule the restart'. Below it, there are sections for 'Feature update to Windows 10, version 21H1' and various update controls like 'Pause updates for 7 days', 'Change active hours', 'View update history', and 'Advanced options'. A note at the bottom says 'Refer to the Windows Updates FAQ for more information.' Below the update window, there's a text input field with '5/3/2021' and a green 'Correct Answer' button. To the right, a 'Settings' window is open under 'Update & Security', showing 'No updates available' and links to 'Check for updates', 'Change active hours', 'View update history', and 'Advanced options'. The task bar at the bottom shows 'Task 2 Windows Updates'.

Task 3:

The screenshot shows the Windows Security interface with a green progress bar at the top indicating "Room completed (100%)". The main area is titled "Protection areas" and lists several categories: Virus & threat protection (No actions needed), Account protection (No actions needed), Firewall & network protection (No actions needed), App & browser control (No actions needed), Device security (No actions needed), Device performance & health (Reports on the health of your device), and Family options (Manage how your family uses their devices). Below this, a note says "Next, we'll look at Virus & threat protection." A section titled "Answer the questions below" contains a question: "Checking the Security section on your VM, which area needs immediate attention?" with a dropdown menu showing "Virus & threat protection" and a "Correct Answer" button.

The screenshot shows the Windows Settings app with the "Update & Security" category selected. The main pane displays "Windows Security" with a summary: "See what's happening with the security and health of your device and take any actions needed." It shows three sections: "Virus & threat protection" (Automatic sample submission is off. Your device may be vulnerable. Turn on), "Firewall & network protection" (No action needed.), and "App & browser control" (No action needed.). Below these are icons for "Device security" and "Activation".

Task 4:

The screenshot shows the Windows Security interface with a green progress bar at the top indicating "Room completed (100%)". The main area is titled "Real-time protection" and lists several features: Real-time protection (Locates and stops malware from installing or running on your device), Cloud-delivered protection (Provides increased and faster protection with access to the latest protection data in the cloud), Automatic sample submission (Send sample files to Microsoft to help protect you and others from potential threats), Controlled folder access (Protect files, folders, and memory areas on your device from unauthorized changes by unfriendly applications), Exclusions (Windows Defender Antivirus won't scan items that you've excluded), and Notifications (Windows Defender Antivirus will send notifications with critical information about the health and security of your device). A note says "Warning: Excluded items could contain threats that make your device vulnerable. Only use this option if you are 100% sure of what you are doing." A section titled "Virus & threat protection updates" contains a bullet point: "Check for updates - Manually check for updates to update Windows Defender Antivirus definitions." A section titled "Ransomware protection" contains a bullet point: "Controlled folder access - Ransomware protection requires this feature to be enabled, which in turn requires Real-time protection to be enabled." A note says "Note: Real-time protection is turned off in the attached VM to decrease the chances of performance issues. Since the VM can't reach the Internet and there aren't any threats in the VM, this is safe to do. Real-time protection should definitely be enabled in your personal Windows devices unless you have a 3rd party product that provides the same protection. Ensure it's always up-to-date and enabled." A tip says "Tip: You can perform on-demand scans on any file/folder by right-clicking the item and selecting 'Scan with Microsoft Defender'." Below this, a note says "The below image was taken from another Windows device to show this feature." It shows a context menu with options: Convert to Adobe PDF, Combine files in Acrobat..., and Scan with Microsoft Defender... A section titled "Answer the questions below" contains a question: "Specifically, what is turned off that Windows is notifying you to turn on?" with a dropdown menu showing "Real-time protection" and a "Correct Answer" button.

The screenshot shows the Windows Settings app with the "Update & Security" category selected. The main pane displays "Windows Security" with a summary: "Quick scan" and "Scan options". It shows two sections: "Virus & threat protection settings" (Automatic sample submission is off. Your device may be vulnerable. Turn on) and "Virus & threat protection updates" (Protection definitions are up to date. Last update: 5/24/2021 1:10 AM. Check for updates). Below these are icons for "Threat history" and "Manage settings".

Task 5:

The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. On the left is the 'Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security' interface, showing profiles for Domain, Private, and Public networks. On the right is the 'Windows Security' settings page under 'Update & Security', specifically the 'Firewall & network protection' section, which lists Domain, Private, and Public networks.

Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security Overview:

- Domain Profile:**
 - Windows Defender Firewall is on.
 - Inbound connections that do not match a rule are blocked.
 - Outbound connections that do not match a rule are allowed.
- Private Profile:**
 - Windows Defender Firewall is on.
 - Inbound connections that do not match a rule are blocked.
 - Outbound connections that do not match a rule are allowed.
- Public Profile:**
 - Windows Defender Firewall is on.
 - Inbound connections that do not match a rule are blocked.
 - Outbound connections that do not match a rule are allowed.

Windows Security - Firewall & network protection:

- Domain network:** Firewall is on.
- Private network (active):** Firewall is on.
- Public network:** Firewall is on.

Tip: Command to open the Windows Defender Firewall is `WF.msc`.

Answer the questions below:

If you were connected to airport Wi-Fi, what most likely will be the active firewall profile?

Public network Correct Answer Hint

27min 32s

Task 6:

The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. On the left is the 'Exploit protection' settings interface, showing controls for Control flow guard (CFG), Data Execution Prevention (DEP), Force randomization for images (Mandatory ASLR), and Randomize memory allocations (Bottom-up ASLR). On the right is the 'Windows Security' settings page under 'Update & Security', specifically the 'Exploit protection' section, which lists the same settings with dropdown menus.

Exploit protection:

- Control flow guard (CFG):** Ensures control flow integrity for indirect calls. Set to 'Use default (On)'.
- Data Execution Prevention (DEP):** Prevents code from being run from data-only memory pages. Set to 'Use default (On)'.
- Force randomization for images (Mandatory ASLR):** Force relocation of images not compiled with /DYNAMICBASE. Set to 'Use default (Off)'.
- Randomize memory allocations (Bottom-up ASLR):** Randomize locations for virtual memory allocations. Set to 'Use default (On)'.

Warning: Unless you are **100%** confident in what you are doing, it is recommended that you leave the default settings.

Answer the questions below:

Read the above. No answer needed Correct Answer

26min 43s

Task 7:

The screenshot shows a virtual machine interface with two windows open. The left window is titled "Security processor details" and displays information about the Trusted Platform Module (TPM), including its manufacturer (Intel (INTEL)), version (2.0), and specification version (1.2). It also shows the TPM specification sub-version (1.16) and PC client spec version (1.00). The right window is titled "Windows Security" and specifically shows the "Core isolation" section, which requires a restart of the device. Both windows have a "Find a setting" search bar at the top.

Task 8:

The screenshot shows a virtual machine interface with a single window titled "Task 8 BitLocker". The window contains a question about what BitLocker is and provides Microsoft's definition of it as a data protection feature.

What is **BitLocker**?

Per Microsoft, "BitLocker Drive Encryption is a data protection feature that integrates with the operating system and addresses the threats of data theft or exposure from lost, stolen, or inappropriately decommissioned computers".

On devices with TPM installed, BitLocker offers the best protection.

Per Microsoft, "BitLocker provides the most protection when used with a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 1.2 or later. The TPM is a hardware component installed in many newer computers by the computer manufacturers. It works with BitLocker to help protect user data and to ensure that a computer has not been tampered with while the system was offline".

Refer to the official Microsoft documentation to learn more about BitLocker [here](#).

Note: The BitLocker feature is not included in the attached VM.

Answer the questions below

We should use a removable drive on systems **without** a TPM version 1.2 or later. What does this removable drive contain?

startup key

✓ Correct Answer

✗ Hint

Task 9:

Bonus: If you wish to interact hands-on with VSS, I suggest exploring Day 23 of [Advent of Cyber 2](#).

Answer the questions below

What is VSS?

Volume Shadow Copy Service

Correct Answer

WINFUN2 v1.0 22min 26s

Task 10:

Task 10 Conclusion

In this room, we covered several built-in Windows security tools that ship with the Windows OS to help keep the device protected.

There is still so much to explain and cover regarding the Windows OS. As mentioned in the [Windows Fundamentals 1](#) room, "The content is aimed at those who wish to understand and use the Windows OS on a more comfortable level!"

To learn more about the Windows OS, you'll need to continue the journey on your own.

Further reading material:

- [Antimalware Scan Interface](#)
- [Credential Guard](#)
- [Windows 10 Hello](#)
- [CSO Online - The best new Windows 10 security features](#)

Note: Attackers use built-in Windows tools and utilities in an attempt to go undetected within the victim environment. This tactic is known as Living Off The Land. Refer to the following resource [here](#) to learn more about this.

Answer the questions below

Read the above.

No answer needed

Correct Answer

Observation:**1. Windows Built-in Tools:**

- Task Manager: Used for monitoring system performance, running applications, and resource usage.
- Event Viewer: Maintains logs system, security, and application events for troubleshooting.
- PowerShell: Used for command-line tools for system administration and automation.

2. Device Security System:

- Secure Boot: Used in loading only trusted software during system startup.
- TPM (Trusted Platform Module): Provides hardware security like encryption key storage.
- Core Isolation & Memory Integrity: Used in Protection against malicious code affecting system memory.

3. Windows Security:

- Windows Defender Antivirus: Used in real-time protection against malware and threats.
- Firewall & Network Protection: Monitoring incoming and outgoing traffic to prevent unauthorized access.
- Account Protection: Ensures secure sign-ins with Microsoft and local accounts for safety backups and prevention of data loss.

4. BitLocker:

- Full Disk Encryption: Used for encrypting entire drives to protect data from unauthorized access. Use Encryption algorithms to encrypt.
- TPM Integration: security by storing encryption keys securely.
- BitLocker To Go: Used in the Encryption of external drives like USBs for data security.

Result:

This experiment provides a practical introduction to Windows Built-in Tools, Windows Security System, Windows Device Security, Disk Management & Security, BitLocker. All Tasks are executed successfully.

Exp No : 2**LINUX FUNDAMENTALS****Date :****Aim:**

To understand and explore the fundamentals of the Linux operating system, including essential commands to run on an interactive terminal in TryHackMe platform.

Algorithm:

1. Access the lab in TryHackMe platform using the link below-
<https://tryhackme.com/room/linuxfundamentalspart1>
2. Click join a room and execute tasks.
3. Interact with your first linux machine.
4. Run your commands on linux.
5. Interacting with linux file system.
6. Searching for files in linux systems and an intro to shell operators.
7. Conclude and terminate the room.

Output:**Task 1:**

Task 1 Introduction



Welcome to the first part of the "Linux Fundamentals" room series. You're most likely using a Windows or Mac machine, both are different in visual design and how they operate. Just like Windows, iOS and MacOS, Linux is just another operating system and one of the most popular in the world powering smart cars, android devices, supercomputers, home appliances, enterprise servers, and more.

We'll be covering some of the history behind Linux and then eventually starting your journey of being a Linux-wizard! This room will have you:

- Running your very first commands in an interactive Linux machine in your browser
- Teaching you some essential commands used to interact with the file system
- Demonstrate how you can search for files and introduce shell operators

Answer the questions below

Let's get started!

No answer needed
✓ Correct Answer

Task 2:

car entertainment, control panels

- Point of Sale (PoS) systems such as checkout tills and registers in shops
- Critical infrastructures such as traffic light controllers or industrial sensors

Flavours of Linux

The name "Linux" is actually an umbrella term for multiple OS's that are based on UNIX (another operating system). Thanks to Linux being open-source, variants of Linux come in all shapes and sizes - suited best for what the system is being used for.

For example, Ubuntu & Debian are some of the more commonplace distributions of Linux because it is so extensible. I.e. you can run Ubuntu as a server (such as websites & web applications) or as a fully-fledged desktop. For this series, we're going to be using Ubuntu.

Note: Ubuntu Server can run on systems with only 512MB of RAM!

Similar to how you have different versions Windows (7, 8 and 10), there are many different versions/distributions of Linux.

Answer the questions below

Research: What year was the first release of a Linux operating system?

 1980 1985 1989 1991**✓ Correct Answer**

Task 3:

This contains all of the information for the machine deployed in the room including the IP address and expiry timer - along with buttons to manage the machine. Remember to "Terminate" a machine once you are done with the room. More information on this can be found in the tutorial room.

For now, press "Start Machine" where you will be able to interact with your own Linux machine within your browser whilst following along with this room:

System information as of Wed Apr 2 16:08:42 UTC 2025

```

System load: 0.53      Processes: 113
Usage of /: 27.8% of 9.62GB  Users logged in: 0
Memory usage: 28%          IPv4 address for ens5: 10.10.34.101
Swap usage: 0%

```

Ubuntu Pro delivers the most comprehensive open source security and compliance features.

<https://ubuntu.com/aws/pro>

Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.

0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates. See <https://ubuntu.com/esm> or run: sudo pro status

The list of available updates is more than a week old. To check for new updates run: sudo apt update

tryhackme@linux1:~\$

Answer the questions below

I've deployed my first Linux machine!

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

Running Your First few Commands

Task 4:

Room progress (27%)

This is what a terminal looks like

tryhackme@linux1:~\$ enter commands here

We need to be able to do basic functions like navigate to files, output their contents and make files! The commands to do so are self-explanatory (once you know what they are of course...)

Let's get started with two of the first commands which I have broken down in the table below:

Command	Description
echo	Output any text that we provide
whoami	Find out what user we're currently logged in as!

See the snippets below for an example of each command being used

Using echo

tryhackme@linux1:~\$ echo "Hello Friend!"

Using whoami to find out the username of who we're logged in as

tryhackme@linux1:~\$ whoami

Try this on your Linux machine now!

Answer the questions below

If we wanted to output the text "TryHackMe", what would our command be?

echo "TryHackMe" ✓ Correct Answer

Is the username of who you're logged in as on your deployed Linux machine?

tryhackme ✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.6 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.15.0-1064-aws x86_64)

System information as of Wed Apr 2 16:08:42 UTC 2025

```

System load: 0.53      Processes: 113
Usage of /: 27.8% of 9.62GB  Users logged in: 0
Memory usage: 28%          IPv4 address for ens5: 10.10.34.101
Swap usage: 0%

```

Ubuntu Pro delivers the most comprehensive open source security and compliance features.

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Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates. See <https://ubuntu.com/esm> or run: sudo pro status

The list of available updates is more than a week old. To check for new updates run: sudo apt update

tryhackme@linux1:~\$ echo "TryHackMe"
TryHackMe
tryhackme@linux1:~\$ whoami
tryhackme
tryhackme@linux1:~\$

linuxfundpartiv2 41min 8s

Task 5:

Using "pwd" to list the full path of the current directory

```
tryhackme@linux1:~$ pwd
/home/ubuntu/Documents
tryhackme@linux1:~/Documents$
```

Let's break this down:

1. We already know we're in "Documents" thanks to our terminal, but at this point in time, we have no idea where "Documents" is stored so that we can get back to it easily in the future.
2. I have used the "pwd" (print working directory) command to find the full file path of this "Documents" folder.
3. We're hopefully told by Linux that this "Documents" directory is stored at "/home/ubuntu/Documents" on the machine — great to know!
4. Now in the future, if we find ourselves in a different location, we can just use `cd /home/ubuntu/Documents` to change our working directory to this "Documents" directory.

Answer the questions below

On the Linux machine that you deploy, how many folders are there?

✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

Which directory contains a file?

✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

What is the contents of this file?

✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

Use the cd command to navigate to this file and find out the new current working directory. What is the path?

✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

```
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update
tryhackme@linux1:~$ echo "TryHackMe"
TryHackMe
tryhackme@linux1:~$ whoami
tryhackme@linux1:~$ ls
access.log  folder1  folder2  folder3  folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~$ pwd
/home/tryhackme
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder1
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder1$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder1$ cd ..
cd..: command not found
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder1$ cat folder2
cat: folder2: No such file or directory
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder1$ cd ..
Command 'cd.' not found, did you mean:
  command 'cd' from deb cdo (1.9.9-rc1-1)
  command 'cd' from deb tinydb (0.78build1)
  command 'cd' from deb cdw (0.8.1-1build4)
  command 'cd' from deb cdo (1.9.9-rc1-1)
  command 'cd' from deb irpas (0.10-7)
  command 'cd' from deb cde (0.1+git9-g551e54d-1.build1)
  command 'cd' from deb cds (0.1-4)

Try: apt install <deb name>
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder1$ cd ..
tryhackme@linux1:~$ tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder2
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder2$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder2$ cd ..
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder3
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder3$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder3$ cd ..
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ ls
note.txt
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ pwd note.txt
/home/tryhackme/folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cat note.txt
Hello World!
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$
```

Task 6:

specific values that we are looking for.

Take for example, the access log of a web server. In this case, the access.log of a web server has 244 entries.

Using a command like `cat` isn't going to cut it too well here. Let's say for example if we wanted to search this log file to see the things that a certain user/IP address visited? Looking through 244 entries isn't all that efficient considering we want to find a specific value.

We can use `grep` to search the entire contents of this file for any entries of the value that we are searching for. Going with the example of a web server's access log, we want to see everything that the IP address "81.143.211.90" has visited (note that this is fictional)

Using "grep" to find any entries with the IP address of "81.143.211.90" in "access.log"

```
tryhackme@linux1:~$ grep "81.143.211.90" access.log
81.143.211.90 - [25/Mar/2021:11:17 + 0000] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 417 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Linux; Android 7.0; Nexus 5 Build/NRD90M; en-US; en-US) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/80.0.3987.149 Mobile Safari/537.36"
tryhackme@linux1:~$
```

"Grep" has searched through this file and has shown us any entries of what we've provided and that is contained within this log file for the IP.

Answer the questions below

Use grep on "access.log" to find the flag that has a prefix of "THM". What is the flag? **Note:** The "access.log" file is located in the "/home/tryhackme/" directory.

✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

I still haven't found what I'm looking for! 0 Hint

✓ Correct Answer 0 Hint

```
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd ..
cd..: command not found
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder2
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder2$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder2$ cd ..
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder3
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder3$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder3$ cd ..
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ ls
note.txt
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ pwd note.txt
/home/tryhackme/folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cat note.txt
Hello World!
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cd ..
tryhackme@linux1:~$ prep
tryhackme@linux1:~$ Usage: grep [OPTION]... PATTERN [FILE]...
Try 'grep --help' for more information.
tryhackme@linux1:~$ grep "81.143.211.90" access.log
tryhackme@linux1:~$ wc -l access.log
wc: invalid option -- 'l'
Try 'wc --help' for more information.
tryhackme@linux1:~$ wc -1 access.log
tryhackme@linux1:~$
```

Task 7:

Room progress (53%)

The `>>` operator allows to append the output to the bottom of the file -- rather than replacing the contents like so:

Using the >> Operator

```
tryhackme@linux1:~$ echo hello >> welcome
```

Using cat to output the "welcome" file

```
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cat welcome
hey
hello
```

Answer the questions below

If I wanted to run a command in the background, what operator would we want to use?

& ✓ Correct Answer

If I wanted to replace the contents of a file named "passwords" with the word "password123", what would my command be?

echo password123 > passwords ✓ Correct Answer 9 Hint

Now if I wanted to add "tryhackme" to this file named "passwords" but also keep "passwords123", what would my command be?

echo tryhackme >> passwords ✓ Correct Answer 9 Hint

Now use the deployed Linux machine to put these into practice

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

Try: `apt install <deb name>`

```
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder1$ cd -
/home/tryhackme
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder2
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder2$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder2$ cd -
/home/tryhackme
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder3
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder3$ ls
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder3$ cd -
/home/tryhackme
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ ls
note.txt
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ pwd note.txt
/home/tryhackme/folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cat note.txt
Hello World!
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cd -
/home/tryhackme
tryhackme@linux1:~$ grep
Usage: grep [OPTION]... PATTERN [FILE] ...
Try 'grep -help' for more information.
tryhackme@linux1:~$ grep '81.143.211.90*' access.log
tryhackme@linux1:~$ wc -l access.log
wc: invalid option -- 'l'
Try 'wc -help' for more information.
tryhackme@linux1:~$ wc -1 access.log
wc: invalid option -- '1'
Try 'wc -help' for more information.
tryhackme@linux1:~$ 
```

25min 37s

Task 8:

Task 8 ✓ Conclusions & Summaries

Nice work on getting to this stage! We covered quite a bit for your first interactions with Linux. However, these are the most essential/functions you're going to be using whenever you interact with a Linux machine.

I hope this room hasn't been too daunting for you to power-on through with. It's as I previously mentioned, you're going to become familiar with these things very quickly because of how often you're going to be using them.

To quickly recap, we've covered the following:

- Understanding why Linux is so commonplace today
- Interacting with your first-ever Linux machine!
- Ran some of the most fundamental commands
- Had an introduction to navigating around the filesystem & how we can use commands like find and grep to make finding data even more efficient!
- Power up your commands by learning about some of the important shell operators.

Take some time to have a play around in this room. When you feel a little bit more comfortable, progress onto [Linux Fundamentals Part 2](#)

Answer the questions below

I'll have a play around!

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

Task 9:

Task 9 ✓ Linux Fundamentals Part 2



Visit part two of the [Linux fundamentals series here!](https://tryhackme.com/room/linuxfundamentalspart2) <https://tryhackme.com/room/linuxfundamentalspart2>

Answer the questions below

Terminate the machine deployed in this room from task 3.

No answer needed

✓ Correct Answer

[Join Linux Fundamentals Part 2!](#)

No answer needed

✓ Correct Answer

Observation:**Linux Commands:**

- Using commands like echo, whoami, to fetch the basic details about the system.
- Commands to interact with the file system
 - i. Listing the files - ls
 - ii. Changing the directory - cd
 - iii. Outputting the contents of file - cat
 - iv. Finding full path of the directory - pwd
- Searching for files
 - i. find
 - ii. grep

Result:

This experiment provides a practical introduction to Linux machine and provides basic insights of commands used in linux to manage files, system administration. All tasks are executed successfully.

Exp No : 3**ENCRYPTION - CRYPTO 101****Date :****Aim:**

To understand and explore the Encryption used in cryptography techniques for security including two main classes of cryptography, RSA , uses of RSA, 2 methods of Key Exchange.

Algorithm:

1. Access the lab in TryHackMe platform using the link below-
<https://tryhackme.com/room/linuxfundamentalspart1>
2. Click join a room and execute tasks.
3. Learn the key terms of Encryption.
4. Learn why encryption techniques are so important.
5. Study crucial crypto math.
6. Study the types of encryption, RSA, establishing keys using Asymmetric Cryptography.
7. Learn the digital signature and certificates, ssh authentication , execute regarding tasks.
8. Terminate the room and conclude the session.

Output:**Task 1:**

Task 1 What will this room cover?

This room will cover:

- Why cryptography matters for security and CTFs
- The two main classes of cryptography and their uses
- RSA, and some of the uses of RSA
- 2 methods of Key Exchange
- Notes about the future of encryption with the rise of Quantum Computing

Note: This room expects some familiarity with tools, and some research into how to use them yourself!

Answer the questions below

I'm ready to learn about encryption

No answer needed

Correct Answer

Task 2:

Many of these key terms are shared with <https://tryhackme.com/room/hashingcrypto101>, so you might be able to skip over some if you're already familiar.

Woop woop

Ciphertext - The result of encrypting a plaintext, encrypted data

Cipher - A method of encrypting or decrypting data. Modern ciphers are cryptographic, but there are many non cryptographic ciphers like Caesar.

Plaintext - Data before encryption, often text but not always. Could be a photograph or other file

Encryption - Transforming data into ciphertext, using a cipher.

Encoding - NOT a form of encryption, just a form of data representation like base64. Immediately reversible.

Key - Some information that is needed to correctly decrypt the ciphertext and obtain the plaintext.

Passphrase - Separate to the key, a passphrase is similar to a password and used to protect a key.

Asymmetric encryption - Uses different keys to encrypt and decrypt.

Symmetric encryption - Uses the same key to encrypt and decrypt

Brute force - Attacking cryptography by trying every different password or every different key

Cryptanalysis - Attacking cryptography by finding a weakness in the underlying maths

Alice and Bob - Used to represent 2 people who generally want to communicate. They're named Alice and Bob because this gives them the initials A and B.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_and_Bob for more information, as these extend through the alphabet to represent many different people involved in communication.

WARNING: This room is very theory heavy. Cryptography is a big topic, and this room is designed to just scratch the surface.

Answer the questions below

I agree not to complain too much about how theory heavy this room is.

No answer needed

Complete

Are SSH keys protected with a passphrase or a password?

passphrase

Correct Answer

Hint

Task 3:

Task 3 Why is Encryption important?

Woop wo

Cryptography is used to protect confidentiality, ensure integrity, ensure authenticity. You use cryptography every day most likely, and you're almost certainly reading this now over an encrypted connection.

When logging into TryHackMe, your credentials were sent to the server. These were encrypted, otherwise someone would be able to capture them by snooping on your connection.

When you connect to SSH, your client and the server establish an encrypted tunnel so that no one can snoop on your session.

When you connect to your bank, there's a certificate that uses cryptography to prove that it is actually your bank rather than a hacker.

When you download a file, how do you check if it downloaded right? You can use cryptography here to verify a checksum of the data.

You rarely have to interact directly with cryptography, but it silently protects almost everything you do digitally.

Whenever sensitive user data needs to be stored, it should be encrypted. Standards like PCI-DSS state that the data should be encrypted both at rest (in storage) AND while being transmitted. If you're handling payment card details, you need to comply with these PCI regulations. Medical data has similar standards. With legislation like GDPR and California's data protection, data breaches are extremely costly and dangerous to you as either a consumer or a business.

DO NOT encrypt passwords unless you're doing something like a password manager. Passwords should not be stored in plaintext, and you should use hashing to manage them safely.

Answer the questions below

What does SSH stand for?

Secure Shell

Correct Answer

How do webservers prove their identity?

certificates

Correct Answer

Hint

What is the main set of standards you need to comply with if you store or process payment card details?

PCI-DSS

Correct Answer

Task 4:

Task 4 Crucial Crypto Maths



There's a little bit of math(s) that comes up relatively often in cryptography. The Modulo operator. Pretty much every programming language implements this operator, or has it available through a library. When you need to work with large numbers, use a programming language. Python is good for this as integers are unlimited in size, and you can easily get an interpreter.

When learning division for the first time, you were probably taught to use remainders in your answer. $X \% Y$ is the remainder when X is divided by Y .

Examples

$25 \% 5 = 0$ ($5 * 5 = 25$ so it divides exactly with no remainder)

$23 \% 6 = 5$ (23 does not divide evenly by 6, there would be a remainder of 5)

An important thing to remember about modulo is that it's not reversible. If I gave you an equation: $x \% 5 = 4$, there are infinite values of x that will be valid.

Answer the questions below

What's $30 \% 5$?

0

Correct Answer

What's $25 \% 7$?

4

Correct Answer

What's $118613842 \% 9091$?

3565

Correct Answer

Hint

Task 5:

Task 5 ✓ Types of Encryption ^

The two main categories of Encryption are symmetric and asymmetric.

Symmetric encryption uses the same key to encrypt and decrypt the data. Examples of Symmetric encryption are [DES](#) (Broken) and [AES](#). These algorithms tend to be faster than asymmetric cryptography, and use smaller keys (128 or 256 bit keys are common for [AES](#), [DES](#) keys are 56 bits long).

Asymmetric encryption uses a pair of keys, one to encrypt and the other in the pair to decrypt. Examples are [RSA](#) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography. Normally these keys are referred to as a public key and a private key. Data encrypted with the private key can be decrypted with the public key, and vice versa. Your private key needs to be kept private, hence the name. Asymmetric encryption tends to be slower and uses larger keys, for example [RSA](#) typically uses 2048 to 4096 bit keys.

[RSA](#) and Elliptic Curve cryptography are based around different mathematically difficult (intractable) problems, which give them their strength. More about [RSA](#) later.

Answer the questions below

Should you trust DES? Yea/Nay

✓ Correct Answer ✗ Hint

What was the result of the attempt to make DES more secure so that it could be used for longer?

✓ Correct Answer ✗ Hint

Is it ok to share your public key? Yea/Nay

✓ Correct Answer

Task 6:

[RSA](#) is based on the mathematically difficult problem of working out the factors of a large number. It's very quick to multiply two prime numbers together, say $17 \times 23 = 391$, but it's much more difficult to work out what two prime numbers multiply together to make 14351 (113x127 for reference). ✓ Woop woop

The attacking side

The maths behind [RSA](#) seems to come up relatively often in CTFs, normally requiring you to calculate variables or break some encryption based on them. The wikipedia page for [RSA](#) seems complicated at first, but will give you almost all of the information you need in order to complete challenges.

There are some excellent tools for defeating RSA challenges in CTFs, and my personal favorite is <https://github.com/Ganapati/RsaCtfTool> which has worked very well for me. I've also had some success with <https://github.com/ius/rsatool>.

The key variables that you need to know about for [RSA](#) in CTFs are p, q, m, n, e, d, and c.

"p" and "q" are large prime numbers, "n" is the product of p and q.

The public key is n and e, the private key is n and d.

"m" is used to represent the message (in plaintext) and "c" represents the ciphertext (encrypted text).

CTFs involving RSA

Crypto CTF challenges often present you with a set of these values, and you need to break the encryption and decrypt a message to retrieve the flag.

There's a lot more maths to RSA, and it gets quite complicated fairly quickly. If you want to learn the maths behind it, I recommend reading MuirlandOracle's blog post here: <https://muirlandoracle.co.uk/2020/01/29/rsa-encryption/>.

Answer the questions below

p = 4391, q = 6659. What is n?

✓ Correct Answer ✗ Hint

I understand enough about RSA to move on, and I know where to look to learn more if I want to.

✓ Correct Answer

Task 7:

Task 7 Establishing Keys Using Asymmetric Cryptography

Woop wo

A very common use of asymmetric cryptography is exchanging keys for symmetric encryption.

Asymmetric encryption tends to be slower, so for things like HTTPS symmetric encryption is better.

But the question is, how do you agree a key with the server without transmitting the key for people snooping to see?

Metaphor time

Imagine you have a secret code, and instructions for how to use the secret code. If you want to send your friend the instructions without anyone else being able to read it, what you could do is ask your friend for a lock.

Only they have the key for this lock, and we'll assume you have an indestructible box that you can lock with it.

If you send the instructions in a locked box to your friend, they can unlock it once it reaches them and read the instructions.

After that, you can communicate in the secret code without risk of people snooping.

In this metaphor, the secret code represents a symmetric encryption key, the lock represents the server's public key, and the key represents the server's private key.

You've only used asymmetric cryptography once, so it's fast, and you can now communicate privately with symmetric encryption.

The Real World

In reality, you need a little more cryptography to verify the person you're talking to is who they say they are, which is done using digital signatures and certificates. You can find a lot more detail on how HTTPS (one example where you need to exchange keys) really works from this excellent blog post. <https://robertheaton.com/2014/03/27/how-does-https-actually-work/>

Answer the questions below

I understand how keys can be established using Public Key (asymmetric) cryptography.

No answer needed

Correct Answer

Task 8:

Task 8 Digital signatures and Certificates

Woop wo

What's a Digital Signature?

Digital signatures are a way to prove the authenticity of files, to prove who created or modified them. Using asymmetric cryptography, you produce a signature with your private key and it can be verified using your public key. As only you should have access to your private key, this proves you signed the file. Digital signatures and physical signatures have the same value in the UK, legally.

The simplest form of digital signature would be encrypting the document with your private key, and then if someone wanted to verify this signature they would decrypt it with your public key and check if the files match.

Certificates - Prove who you are!

Certificates are also a key use of public key cryptography, linked to digital signatures. A common place where they're used is for HTTPS. How does your web browser know that the server you're talking to is the real tryhackme.com?

The answer is certificates. The web server has a certificate that says it is the real tryhackme.com. The certificates have a chain of trust, starting with a root CA (certificate authority). Root CAs are automatically trusted by your device, OS, or browser from install. Certs below that are trusted because the Root CAs say they trust that organisation. Certificates below that are trusted because the organisation is trusted by the Root CA and so on. There are long chains of trust. Again, this blog post explains this much better than I can. <https://robertheaton.com/2014/03/27/how-does-https-actually-work/>

You can get your own HTTPS certificates for domains you own using Let's Encrypt for free. If you run a website, it's worth setting it up.

Answer the questions below

What can you use to verify that a file has not been modified and is the authentic file as the author intended?

Digital Signature

Correct Answer

Task 9:

the target machine. For temporary keys generated for access to CTF boxes, this doesn't matter as much.

How do I use these keys?

The `~/.ssh` folder is the default place to store these keys for OpenSSH. The `authorized_keys` (note the US English spelling) file in this directory holds public keys that are allowed to access the server if key authentication is enabled. By default on many distros, key authentication is enabled as it is more secure than using a password to authenticate. Normally for the root user, only key authentication is enabled.

In order to use a private SSH key, the permissions must be set up correctly otherwise your SSH client will ignore the file with a warning. Only the owner should be able to read or write to the private key (600 or stricter). `ssh -i keyNameGoesHere user@host` is how you specify a key for the standard Linux OpenSSH client.

Using SSH keys to get a better shell

SSH keys are an excellent way to "upgrade" a reverse shell, assuming the user has login enabled (www-data normally does not, but regular users and root will). Leaving an SSH key in `authorized_keys` on a box can be a useful backdoor, and you don't need to deal with any of the issues of unstabilised reverse shells like Control-C or lack of tab completion.

Answer the questions below

I recommend giving this a go yourself. Deploy a VM, like [Linux Fundamentals 2](#) and try to add an SSH key and log in with the private key.

No answer needed

✓ Correct Answer

💡 Hint

Download the SSH Private Key attached to this room.

No answer needed

✓ Correct Answer

What algorithm does the key use?

RSA

✓ Correct Answer

💡 Hint

Crack the password with [John The Ripper](#) and rockyou, what's the passphrase for the key?

delicious

✓ Correct Answer

💡 Hint

Task 10:

Task 10 ✓ Explaining Diffie Hellman Key Exchange

✓ Woop woop! You did it!

What is Key Exchange?

Key exchange allows 2 people/parties to establish a set of common cryptographic keys without an observer being able to get these keys. Generally, to establish common symmetric keys.

How does Diffie Hellman Key Exchange work?

Alice and Bob want to talk securely. They want to establish a common key, so they can use symmetric cryptography, but they don't want to use key exchange with asymmetric cryptography. This is where DH Key Exchange comes in.

Alice and Bob both have secrets that they generate, let's call these A and B. They also have some common material that's public, let's call this C.

We need to make some assumptions. Firstly, whenever we combine secrets/material it's impossible or very very difficult to separate. Secondly, the order that they're combined in doesn't matter.

Alice and Bob will combine their secrets with the common material, and form AC and BC. They will then send these to each other, and combine that with their secrets to form two identical keys, both ABC. Now they can use this key to communicate.

Extra Resources

An excellent video if you want a visual explanation is available here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmM9HA2MQGI>

DH Key Exchange is often used alongside RSA public key cryptography, to prove the identity of the person you're talking to with digital signing. This prevents someone from attacking the connection with a man-in-the-middle attack by pretending to be Bob.

Answer the questions below

I understand how Diffie Hellman Key Exchange works at a basic level

No answer needed

✓ Correct Answer

Task 11:

Task 11 PGP, GPG and AES Woop woop!

What is PGP?

PGP stands for Pretty Good Privacy. It's a software that implements encryption for encrypting files, performing digital signing and more.

What is GPG?

GnuPG or GPG is an Open Source implementation of PGP from the GNU project. You may need to use GPG to decrypt files in CTFs. With PGP/GPG, private keys can be protected with passphrases in a similar way to SSH private keys. If the key is passphrase protected, you can attempt to crack this passphrase using John The Ripper and gpg2john. The key provided in this task is not protected with a passphrase.

The man page for GPG can be found online [here](#).

What about AES?

AES, sometimes called Rijndael after its creators, stands for Advanced Encryption Standard. It was a replacement for DES which had short keys and other cryptographic flaws.

AES and DES both operate on blocks of data (a block is a fixed size series of bits).

AES is complicated to explain, and doesn't seem to come up as often. If you'd like to learn how it works, here's an excellent video from Computerphile <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4xNjsjtN6E>

Answer the questions below

Time to try some GPG. Download the archive attached and extract it somewhere sensible.

No answer needed ✓ Complete

You have the private key, and a file encrypted with the public key. Decrypt the file. What's the secret word?

Pineapple ✓ Correct Answer ✗ Hint

Task 12:

Task 12 The Future - Quantum Computers and Encryption ^

Quantum computers will soon be a problem for many types of encryption.

Asymmetric and Quantum

While it's unlikely we'll have sufficiently powerful quantum computers until around 2030, once these exist encryption that uses RSA or Elliptical Curve Cryptography will be very fast to break. This is because quantum computers can very efficiently solve the mathematical problems that these algorithms rely on for their strength.

AES/DES and Quantum

AES with 128 bit keys is also likely to be broken by quantum computers in the near future, but 256 bit AES can't be broken as easily. Triple DES is also vulnerable to attacks from quantum computers.

Current Recommendations

The NSA recommends using RSA-3072 or better for asymmetric encryption and AES-256 or better for symmetric encryption. There are several competitions currently running for quantum safe cryptographic algorithms, and it's likely that we will have a new encryption standard before quantum computers become a threat to RSA and AES.

Learn More about Quantum Computers and Cryptography

If you'd like to learn more about this, NIST has resources that detail what the issues with current encryption is and the currently proposed solutions for these. <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.IR.8105>

I also recommend the book "Cryptography Apocalypse" By Roger A. Grimes, as this was my introduction to quantum computing and quantum safe cryptography.

Answer the questions below

I understand that quantum computers affect the future of encryption. I know where to look if I want to learn more.

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

Observation:**1. Key Terms Used in Encryption**

- Key terms like Plaintext, Ciphertext, Encryption & Decryption, Key.
- Original text data converted to encrypted data.
- The process used in converting data to/from a secure format.
- A secret value used for encryption and decryption.

2. Types of Encryption:

- Encryption like Symmetric, Asymmetric and End to End encryption.
- Using a single key for both encryption and decryption.
- Or Uses a public-private key pair.

3. RSA

- Rivest Shamir Adleman algorithm , Asymmetric encryption
- Uses a public and private key.
- Used in secure communications like HTTPS and digital signatures.
- Based on the difficulty of factoring large prime numbers.

4. Digital Signatures and Certificates:

- Verify authenticity of messages, issued by Certificate Authorities.
- Used in SSL/TLS for secure website communication.
- Ensure data integrity and authentication.

5. Diffie Hellman Key Exchange & AES:

- Used for secure key exchange over an insecure network.
- Each party generates a secret key using public values.
- AES , a symmetric encryption algorithm
- Supports 128-bit, 192-bit, 256-bit keys as well.
- Resistant to brute force attacks.

Result:

This experiment provides a practical introduction to encryption and types of encryption, various cryptography system, some of the encryption algorithms such as RSA, AES and Diffie Hellman Key exchange technique. All Tasks are executed successfully.

Exp No : 4**BREAKING RSA****Date :****Aim:**

To perform an experiment on Breaking RSA algorithm which is an asymmetric encryption technique which uses public-private key pair.

Algorithm:

1. Access the lab in TryHackMe platform using the link below-
<https://tryhackme.com/room/linuxfundamentalspart1>
2. Click join a room and execute tasks.
3. Get an overview of the RSA.
4. Execute the tasks on breaking RSA.
5. Terminate the room and conclude the session.

Output:**Task 1:**

Task 1 ✓ Capture the flag

A brief overview of RSA

The security of RSA relies on the practical difficulty of factoring the product of two large prime numbers, the "factoring problem". RSA key pair is generated using 3 large positive integers -

e	A constant, usually 65537
n	Known as the modulus of public-private key pair. It is a product of 2 large random prime numbers, p and q. $n = p \times q$
d	A large positive integer that makes up the private key. It is calculated as, $d = \text{modinv}(e, \text{lcm}(p - 1, q - 1))$ Where <code>modinv</code> is the modulus inverse function and <code>lcm</code> is the least common multiple function.

(`e`, `n`) are public variables and make up the public key. `d` is the private key and is calculated using `p` and `q`. If we could somehow factorize `n` into `p` and `q`, we could then be able to calculate `d` and break RSA. However, factorizing a large number is very difficult and would take some unrealistic amount of time to do so, provided the two prime numbers are randomly chosen.

Introduction

In a recent analysis, it is found that an organization named JackFruit is using a deprecated cryptography library to generate their RSA keys. This library is known to implement RSA poorly. The two randomly selected prime numbers (`p` and `q`) are very close to one another, making it possible for an attacker to generate the private key from the public key using Fermat's Factorization method.

Below is an implementation of [Fermat's factorization algorithm](#) in Python.

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
# gmpy2 is a C-coded Python extension module that supports
```

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
# gmpy2 is a C-coded Python extension module that supports
# multiple-precision arithmetic.
# pip install gmpy2
from gmpy2 import isqrt
from math import lcm

def factorize(n):
    # since even nos. are always divisible by 2, one of the factors will
    # always be 2
    if (n & 1) == 0:
        return (n/2, 2)

    # isqrt returns the integer square root of n
    a = isqrt(n)

    # if n is a perfect square the factors will be ( sqrt(n), sqrt(n) )
    if a * a == n:
        return a, a

    while True:
        a = a + 1
        bsq = a * a - n
        b = isqrt(bsq)
        if b * b == bsq:
            break

    return a + b, a - b

print(factorize(105327569))
```

Observation:**1. RSA Algorithm:**

- Rivest Shamir Adleman algorithm , Asymmetric encryption
- Uses a public and private key.
- Used in secure communications like HTTPS and digital signatures.
- Based on the difficulty of factoring large prime numbers.

Result:

This experiment provides a theoretical introduction to breaking down the RSA algorithm and provides an overview of the RSA algorithm. All tasks are executed successfully.

Ex. No.: 5**Encryption - Crypto 101****Aim:**

To provide an introduction to encryption, as part of a series on crypto

Algorithm:

1. Go to Encryption Crypto 101 Room, start the AttackBox, and open the in-browser terminal.
2. Learn essential cryptography terms, understand why encryption is important, and explore the math behind cryptography like prime numbers, mod operations, and factorization.
3. Compare symmetric vs asymmetric encryption with examples like AES and RSA.
4. Understand how RSA works, and how asymmetric keys are used for secure communication.
5. Study digital signatures, certificates, and SSH authentication to ensure data integrity and secure login.
6. Explore Diffie-Hellman key exchange, tools like PGP/GPG, and symmetric algorithm AES.
7. Learn how quantum computing could challenge current encryption methods and what post-quantum cryptography means.

Output:

Task 2:Introduction to Windows

I agree not to complain too much about how theory heavy this room is.

No answer needed ✓ Correct Answer

Are SSH keys protected with a passphrase or a password?

passphrase ✓ Correct Answer 💡 Hint

Task 3 :Why is Encryption important?

What does SSH stand for?

Secure Shell

✓ Correct Answer

How do web servers prove their identity?

certificates

✓ Correct Answer

💡 Hint

What is the main set of standards you need to comply with if you store or process payment card details?

PCI-DSS

✓ Correct Answer

Task 4: Crucial Crypto Maths

```
>>> 30%5
0
>>> 25%7
4
>>> 118613842%9091
3565
>>>
```

Task 5: Running First few Commands

Should you trust DES? Yea/Nay

Nay

✓ Correct Answer

💡 Hint

What was the result of the attempt to make DES more secure so that it could be used for longer?

Triple DES

✓ Correct Answer

💡 Hint

Is it ok to share your public key? Yea/Nay

Yea

✓ Correct Answer

Task 5: Interacting With the Filesystem!

```
The list of available updates is more than a week old.  
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update  
Failed to connect to https://changelogs.ubuntu.com/meta-release-lts. Check your connection or proxy settings  
  
Last login: Fri Feb 21 06:49:50 2025 from 10.100.2.151  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ echo "TryHackMe"  
TryHackMe  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ whoami  
tryhackme  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ ls  
access.log  folder1  folder2  folder3  folder4  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder4  
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ ls  
note.txt  
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cat note.txt  
Hello World!  
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ pwd  
/home/tryhackme/folder4  
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ █
```

Task 6:

```
Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.  
0 updates can be applied immediately.  
  
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.  
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status
```

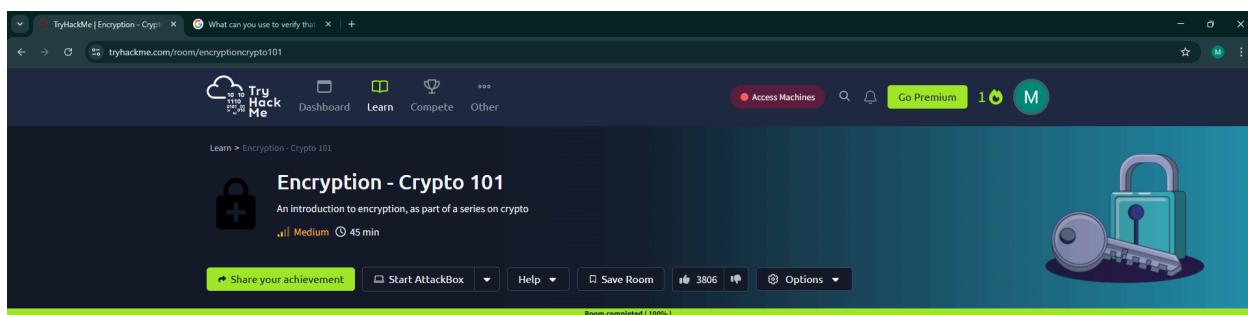
```
The list of available updates is more than a week old.  
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update  
  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ find -name note.txt  
./folder4/note.txt  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ wc -l access.log  
302 access.log  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ grep "81.143.211.90" access.log  
tryhackme@linux1:~$ █
```

Task 7:

```
The list of available updates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update

tryhackme@linux1:~$ find -name note.txt
./folder4/note.txt
tryhackme@linux1:~$ wc -l access.log
302 access.log
tryhackme@linux1:~$ grep "81.143.211.90" access.log
tryhackme@linux1:~$ cd folder4 && note.txt
note.txt: command not found
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cd folder4 && cat note.txt
-bash: cd: folder4: No such file or directory
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cd folder4 && cat note.txt
-bash: cd: folder4: No such file or directory
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ cd folder4 & cat note.txt
[1] 1075
-bash: cd: folder4: No such file or directory
Hello World!
[1]+  Exit 1                  cd folder4
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ echo password123>passwords123
tryhackme@linux1:~/folder4$ █
```

Task 9:



Description:

Task1:

- Linux device was started and booted.

Task2:

- **Linux** is used in a variety of everyday devices and systems, such as websites, car entertainment/control panels, Point of Sale (PoS) systems, and critical infrastructures like traffic light controllers.
- It's an open-source operating system with many **flavours** or distributions, like **Ubuntu** and **Debian**, each suited for different purposes.

Task3:

- Once deployed, a card will appear at the top of the room containing essential details, such as the **IP address** and the **expiry timer**.
- This card also provides buttons to manage the machine. Make sure to click "**Terminate**" when you're done to safely shut down the machine.

Task4:

- The Terminal in Linux is a text-based interface for interacting with the system. Basic commands like echo (to output text) and whoami (to display the current user) are essential for navigating and managing the system.
- echo - Outputs any text that you provide.
- whoami - Displays the current logged-in user.

Task5:

- To navigate and interact with the filesystem in Linux, use commands like ls (list directory contents), cd (change directory), cat (view file content), and pwd (print the current directory).
- These commands help you move through directories and manage files without a graphical interface. Practice these to become efficient in terminal-based file management.

Task6:

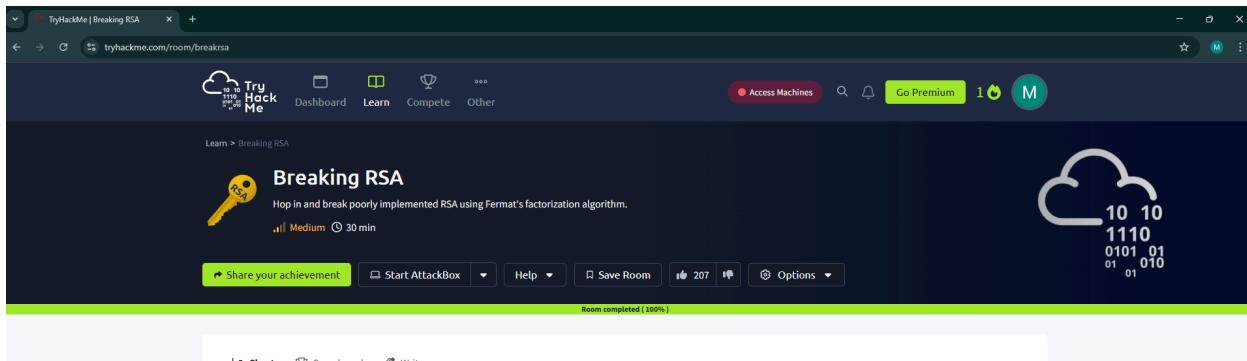
- The find command helps you quickly search for files across your system without needing to manually navigate through directories. For example, you can search for a file by name or use wildcards to find multiple files with specific extensions.
- grep is used to search through the contents of files for specific patterns or values. It's useful when you need to filter through logs or large text files.

Task7:

- Here's a breakdown of some essential Linux operators to help you work more efficiently:
- & - Executes a command in the background, allowing you to continue using the terminal.
- && - Runs multiple commands in a sequence, but the second command runs only if the first is successful.
- >> - Similar to >, but appends the output to the file instead of overwriting it.

Task8:

- Understanding why Linux is used to mastering basic terminal commands like ls, cd, find, and grep. Also learned how to efficiently navigate the filesystem and use powerful operators like &, &&, >, and >>.



Result: This experiment provides a practical introduction to Windows system fundamentals, enabling to navigate, manage, and analyze system components efficiently.

CS19642

Cryptography and Network Security

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