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Lab Assignment No:-8

Aim:- Installation of nmap and using it with different options to scan open ports, perform OS fingerprinting, ping scan, Tcp port scan, Udp port scan, etc.

Lab Outcome Attained :- LO4

Theory:-

1. What is port scanning? What is Nmap?

Port scanning is a crucial technique in the realm of networking and cybersecurity. It involves probing a host or network to discover open ports, which act as gateways for network services or applications. These ports are the entry points through which data flows in and out of a system.

Each port is associated with a specific protocol and service, making them essential for communication within a network. The primary purpose of port scanning is to unveil the network landscape, assess the security posture of a system, and identify potential vulnerabilities or attack vectors. Network administrators use it for troubleshooting and monitoring network health, while security professionals use it to detect and mitigate security threats.

However, malicious actors also leverage port scanning to identify vulnerable targets for cyberattacks.Nmap, short for "Network Mapper," is a versatile and widely used open-source tool for network discovery and security auditing.

Developed by Gordon Lyon, also known as Fyodor, Nmap has earned a reputation

as the go-to tool for port scanning due to its comprehensive feature set and crossplatform compatibility. Nmap's capabilities extend beyond basic port scanning.

It can perform a wide range of tasks, including host discovery, service and version detection, operating system fingerprinting, and scripting for automation. Nmap is favored by security professionals, network administrators, and ethical hackers for its flexibility and accuracy

2. Explain in brief different states of port.

Ports are essential components of network communication, and they can exist in various states, each conveying specific information about their accessibility and functionality. Understanding these port states is crucial for network administrators and security professionals. Here are brief explanations of different port states:

- **1. Open:** An "open" port is one that is actively listening for incoming connections. It indicates that a network service or application is running and ready to accept data or requests. Open ports are crucial for legitimate network communication.
- **2. Closed:** A "closed" port is one that is not actively listening for connections. It means there is no service or application running on that port. Closed ports are safe from unauthorized access, but they still indicate the presence of a host.
- **3. Filtered:** A "filtered" port is one that cannot be determined as open or closed with certainty. This state often occurs when a firewall, intrusion detection system (IDS), or other security measure blocks incoming requests to the port. It makes it challenging to discern the actual status of the port.
- **4. Unfiltered:** An "unfiltered" port is one that is accessible and can be reached, but its status (open or closed) remains undetermined. Unfiltered ports usually indicate that no significant firewall rules are blocking access to the port.

- **5. Open** | **Filtered:** This state combines characteristics of both open and filtered ports. It suggests that the port is reachable, but the response to a probing request is filtered, possibly by a firewall. It can be challenging to ascertain the exact state of such ports.
- 6. Closed | Filtered: This state also combines characteristics of both closed and filtered ports. It implies that the port is accessible, but the response is filtered, typically indicating that a firewall is blocking probing attempts. This state can be confusing during port scanning.

Write the commands for following type of port scanning techniques using NMAP, Explain in 4 to 5 lines how each of them works.

Port scanning is an integral part of network reconnaissance, allowing us to discover open ports on target hosts and gain insights into their configuration and potential vulnerabilities. Nmap (Network Mapper) is a versatile tool that offers various scanning techniques to achieve this.

1. TCP Connect Scan Command: `nmap -sT target`

Description: This scan emulates a full TCP connection attempt to each target port. If a connection is successfully established, the port is considered open. It's the most straightforward scanning method, but it can be easily detected by intrusion detection systems (IDS) and firewalls because it fully completes the TCP handshake.

2. TCP SYN Scan Command: `nmap -sS target`

Description: The TCP SYN scan, also known as the "half-open" scan, is stealthier than the TCP Connect scan. It sends SYN (Synchronize) packets to target ports and examines their responses. If a port responds with a SYN-ACK (Synchronize-Acknowledgment) packet, it's considered open. If it responds with an RST (Reset) packet, it's considered closed. This scan doesn't complete the full TCP handshake, making it less likely to trigger alarms.

3. FIN Scan Command: `nmap -sF target`

Description: The FIN scan sends FIN (Finish) packets to target ports. If a port is closed, it should respond with an RST packet. If it's open, it should ignore the FIN packet. This scan is effective for identifying systems with non-standard TCP stack implementations.

4. Null Scan Command: `nmap -sN target`

Description: Similar to the FIN scan, the Null scan sends packets with no TCP flags set, making them appear "null." If a port is closed, it should respond with an RST packet. If it's open, it should ignore the packet. This technique is stealthy and can bypass some firewall rules.

5. XMAS Scan Command: `nmap -sX target`

Description: The XMAS scan sets multiple TCP flags in the packet, making it look like a Christmas tree. If a port is closed, it should respond with an RST packet. If it's open, it should ignore the packet. Like the Null scan, this method can bypass firewall rules.

6. ACK Scan Command: `nmap -sA target`

Description: The ACK scan sends ACK (Acknowledgment) packets to target ports. It can be used to determine if a firewall is in place; open ports will typically respond with an RST packet, while filtered ports may not respond at all. This scan can identify packet-filtering firewalls.

7. Ping Sweep Command: `nmap -sn target_range`

Description: Ping sweeping is not a port scanning technique but is often used to identify live hosts before conducting port scans. It sends ICMP echo requests (pings) to a range of IP addresses and identifies responsive hosts, reducing unnecessary scanning on non-responsive Hosts.

8. Service and Version Detection Command: `nmap -sV target`

Description: Nmap can probe open ports to identify the services running on them and their versions. This information is crucial for understanding the potential attack surface and vulnerabilities.

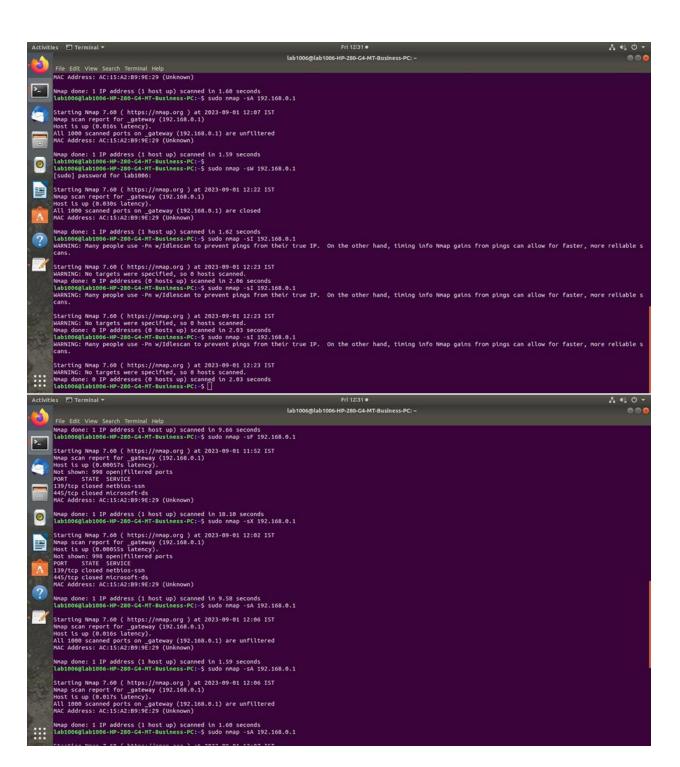
9. Port and Port Range Scanning Command: `nmap -p ports target`

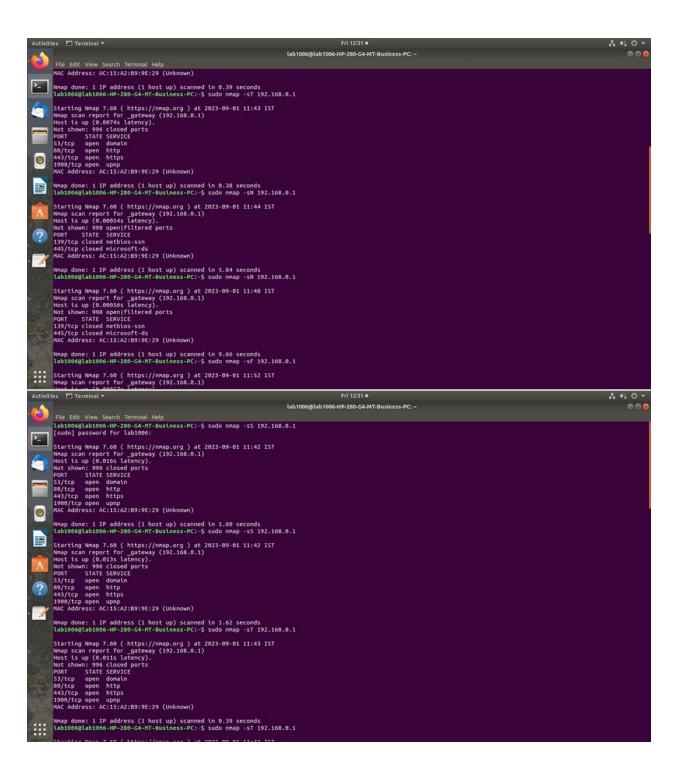
Description: Nmap allows users to specify individual ports or port ranges for scanning, giving flexibility in targeting specific services or performing broad scans of common ports.

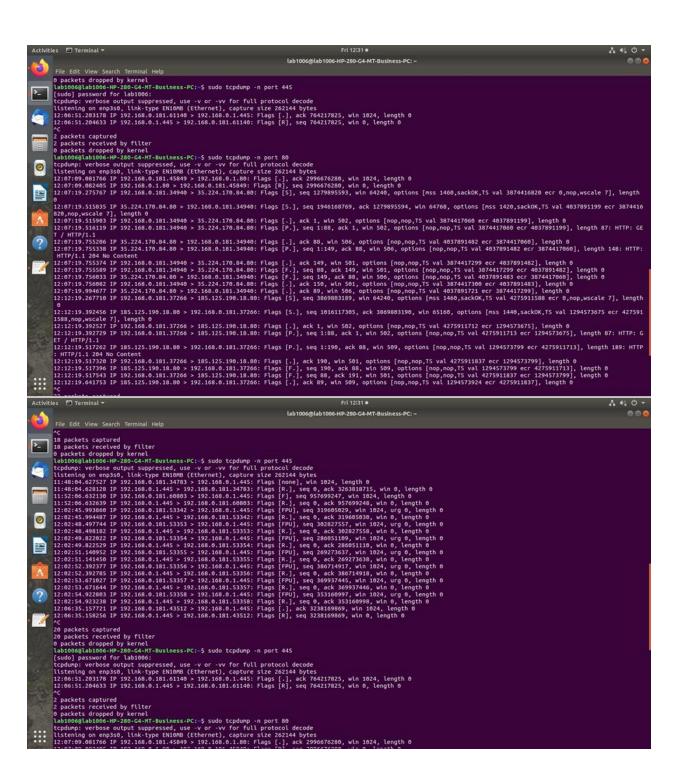
10. OS Fingerprinting Command: `nmap -O target`

Description: Nmap can attempt to identify the operating system running on the target by analyzing network responses and characteristics. This information aids in understanding the target environment.

Output Screenshots:-







Conclusion:-

Nmap offers a diverse set of scanning techniques to suit various network reconnaissance needs. The choice of scan depends on factors like stealth, speed, and the specific information you seek. Understanding these techniques is vital for network administrators and security professionals to safeguard their networks and systems from potential threats