

Assignment 1

Kali Linux Virtual Machine Setup and Basics

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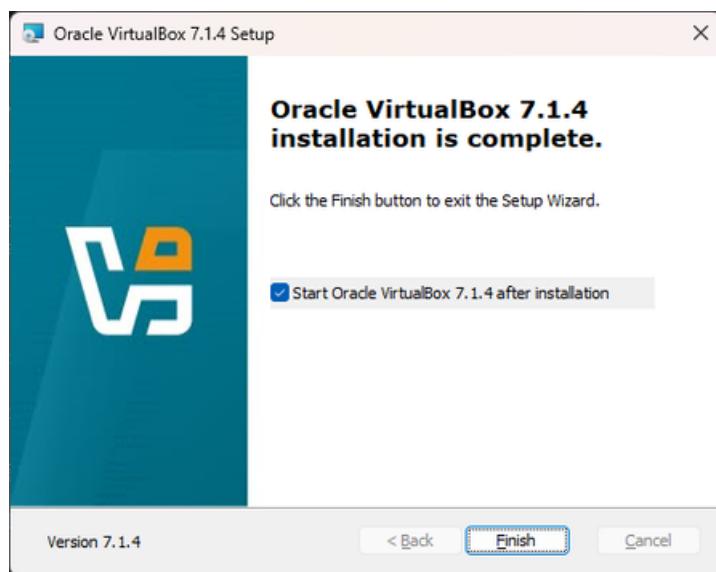
● **Introduction**

Kali Linux is a dedicated Linux-based operating system for cybersecurity, penetration testing, and digital forensic fields. It comes with hundreds of security tools loaded up, which are generally used for network scanning, vulnerability assessment, password cracking, and system analysis. Because of its strong focus on security testing, Kali Linux is widely used by ethical hackers, security analysts, and students who want hands-on exposure to real-world cybersecurity techniques.

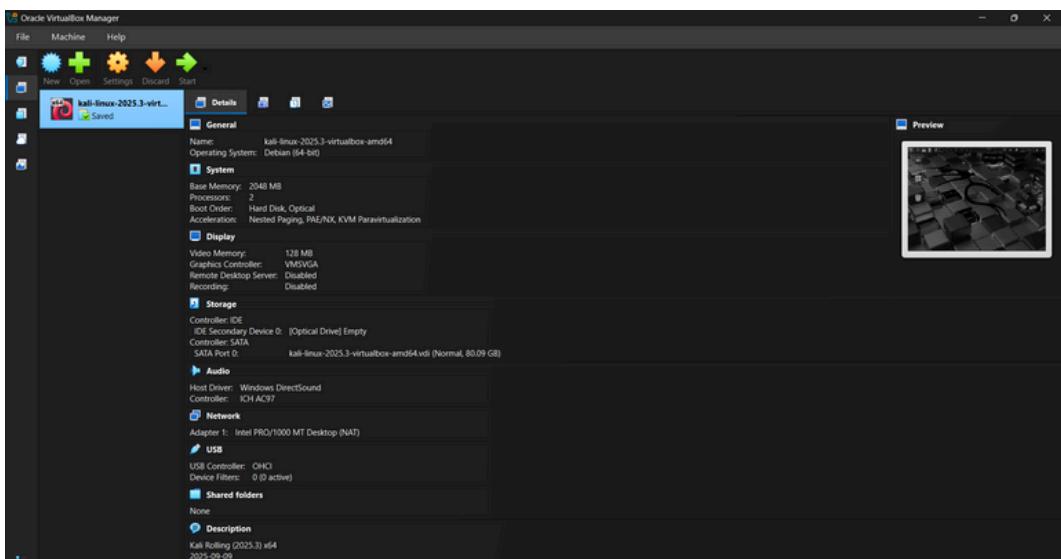
Running Kali Linux inside a Virtual Machine provides a very safe and controlled environment for learning. A VM isolates Kali from the main operating system, which cannot be accidentally damaged or pose any security risks when trying out tools. It also allows easy snapshots, quick resets, and multiple systems to be up and running at once. Using a VM ensures flexibility, portability, and a secure means with which to practice cybersecurity tasks without affecting the host computer.

• Installation Steps with Screenshots

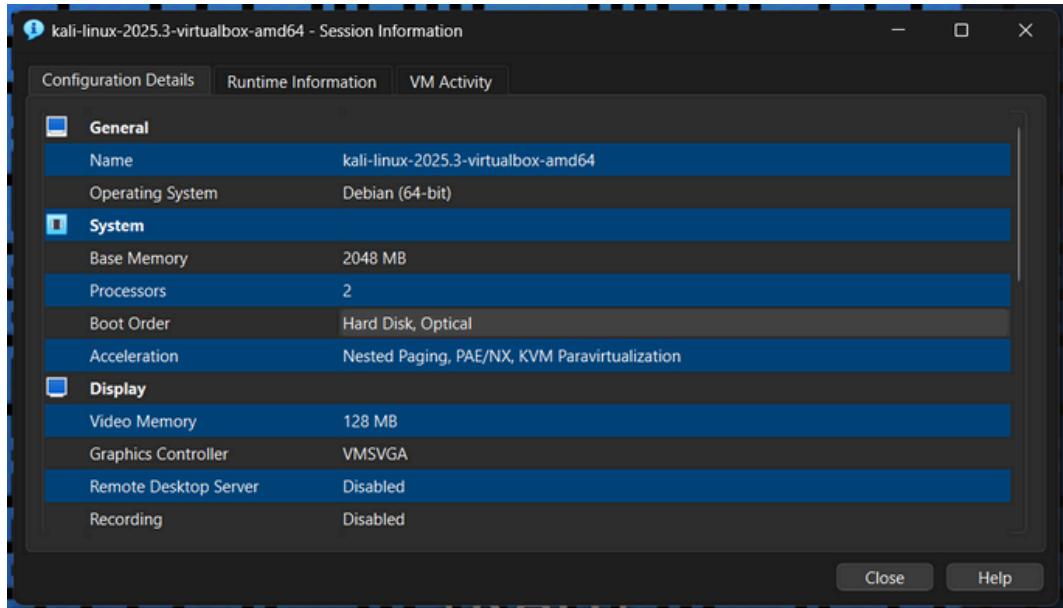
VirtualBox Installation Completed Successfully



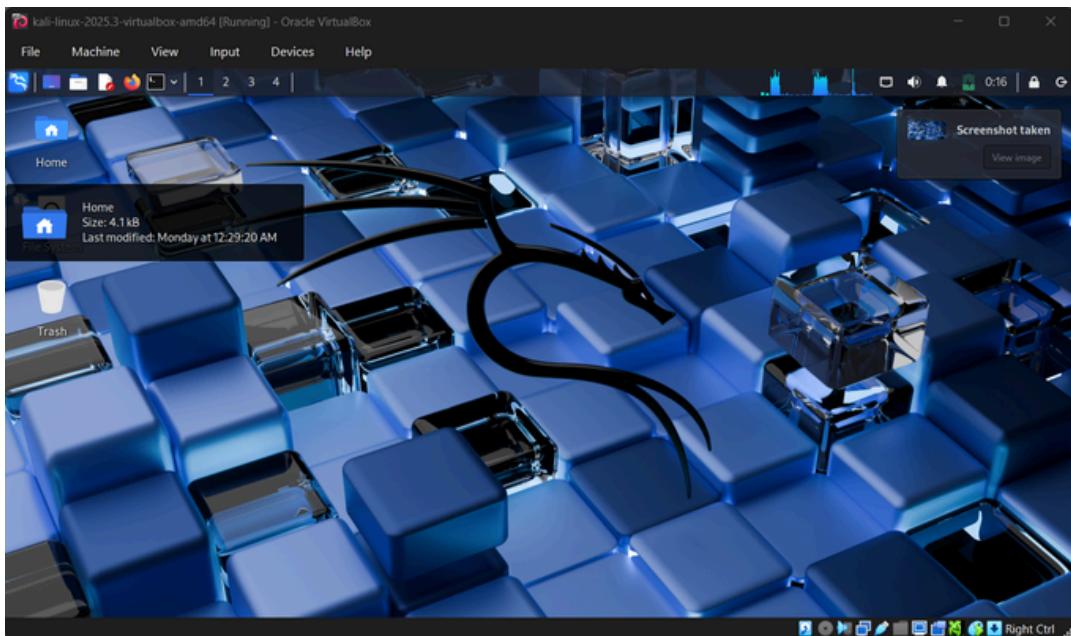
Virtual Machine Homescreen



Kali Linux Virtual Machine Configuration in VirtualBox

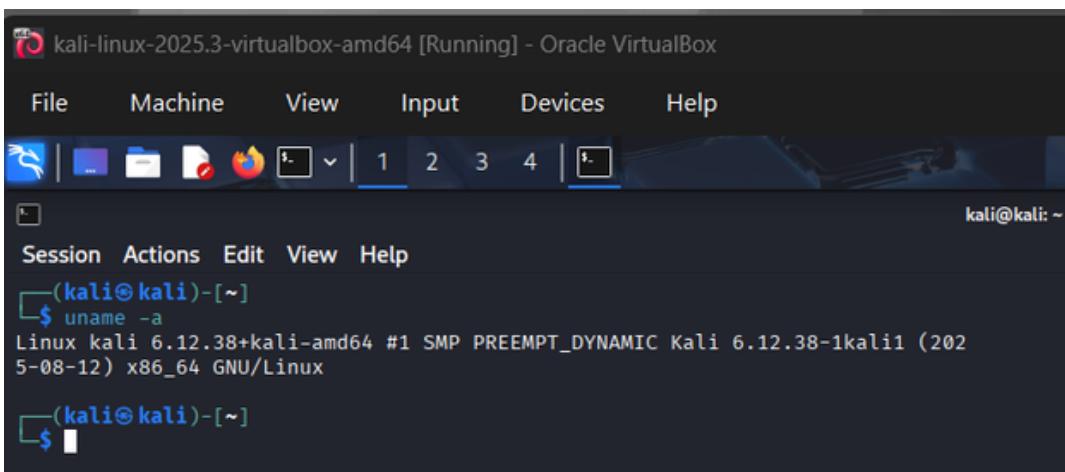


Kali Linux Desktop Home Screen After Installation



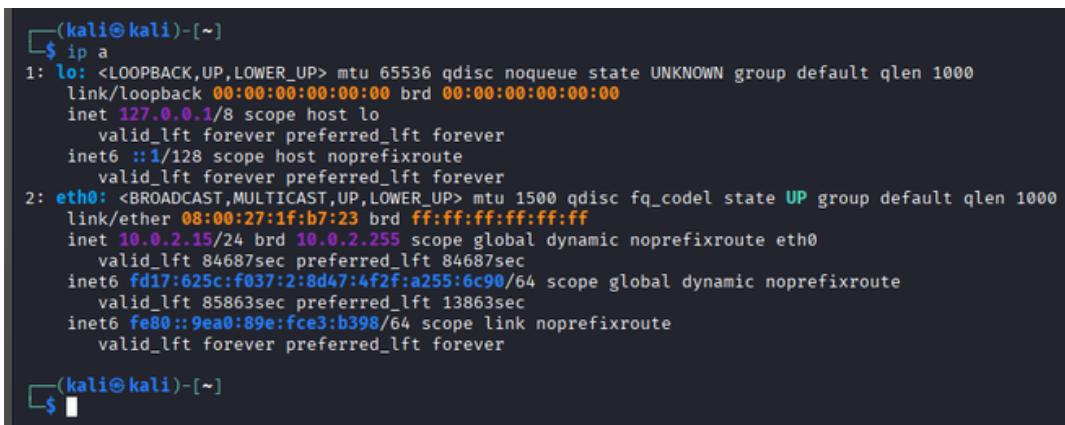
• Command Execution Output

1. Command: uname -a



```
kali@kali: ~
$ uname -a
Linux kali 6.12.38+kali-amd64 #1 SMP PREEMPT_DYNAMIC Kali 6.12.38-1kali1 (202
5-08-12) x86_64 GNU/Linux
$
```

2. Command: ip a



```
(kali㉿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 noprefixroute
                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 08:00:27:1f:b7:23 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
        inet 10.0.2.15/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute eth0
            valid_lft 84687sec preferred_lft 84687sec
            inet6 fd17:625c:f037:2:8d47:4f2f:a255:6c90/64 scope global dynamic noprefixroute
                valid_lft 85863sec preferred_lft 13863sec
            inet6 fe80::9ea0:89e:fce3:b398/64 scope link noprefixroute
                valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
$
```

3. Command: whoami

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ whoami
kali
```

4. Command: pwd

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ pwd
/home/kali
```

5. Command: ls -l

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ ls -l\
>
total 32
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Desktop
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Music
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec 10 00:44 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Templates
drwxr-xr-x 2 kali kali 4096 Dec  8 00:28 Videos
```

6. Command: sudo apt update

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ sudo apt update
[sudo] password for kali:
Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling InRelease [34.0 kB]
Get:2 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 Packages [21.0 MB]
Get:3 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 Contents (deb) [52.5 MB]
Get:4 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/contrib amd64 Packages [114 kB]
Get:5 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/contrib amd64 Contents (deb) [255 kB]
Get:6 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/non-free amd64 Packages [188 kB]
Get:7 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/non-free amd64 Contents (deb) [903 kB]
Get:8 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/non-free-firmware amd64 Packages [11.9 kB]
Get:9 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/non-free-firmware amd64 Contents (deb) [28.7 kB]
Fetched 75.0 MB in 13s (5,568 kB/s)
1350 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
```

- # Tool Exploration

Screenshots

1. Nmap

Purpose:

Nmap is used to scan networks, detect active hosts, identify open ports, and map network topology.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ nmap localhost
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-10 01:02 EST
Nmap scan report for localhost (127.0.0.1)
Host is up (0.0000010s latency).
Other addresses for localhost (not scanned): ::1
All 1000 scanned ports on localhost (127.0.0.1) are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 closed tcp ports (reset)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.08 seconds
```

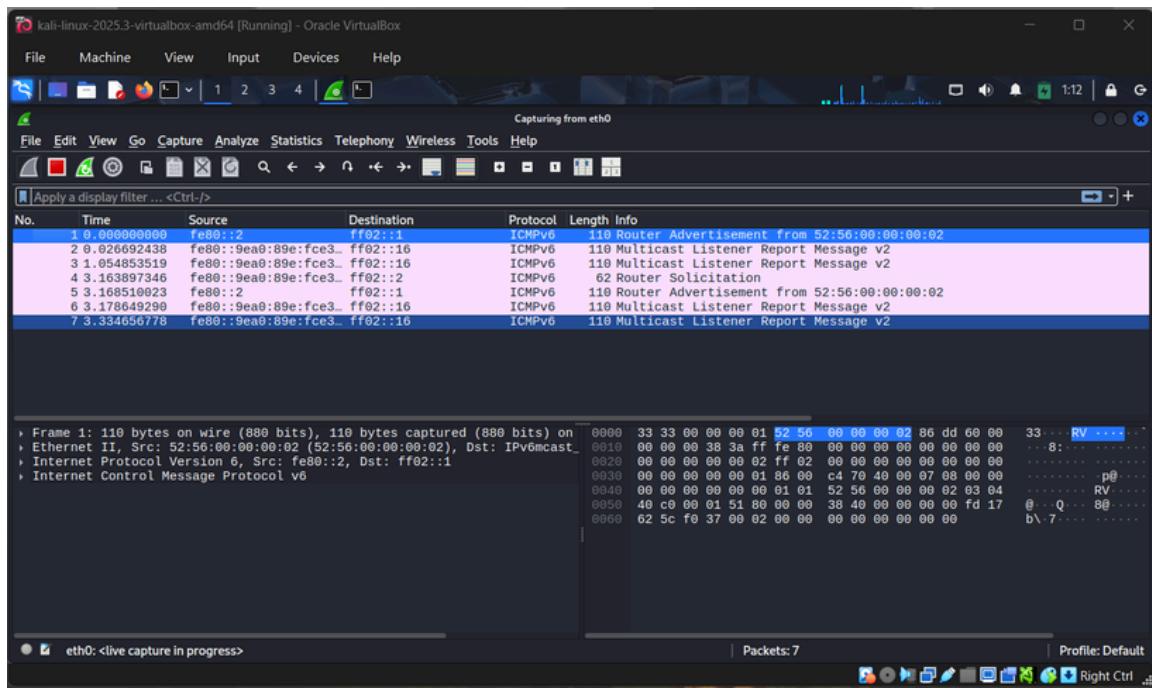
Practical Use Case:

Used by security analysts to discover devices and services running on a network.

2. Wireshark

Purpose:

Wireshark captures and analyzes network packets in real-time. It helps understand network behavior and troubleshoot communication issues.



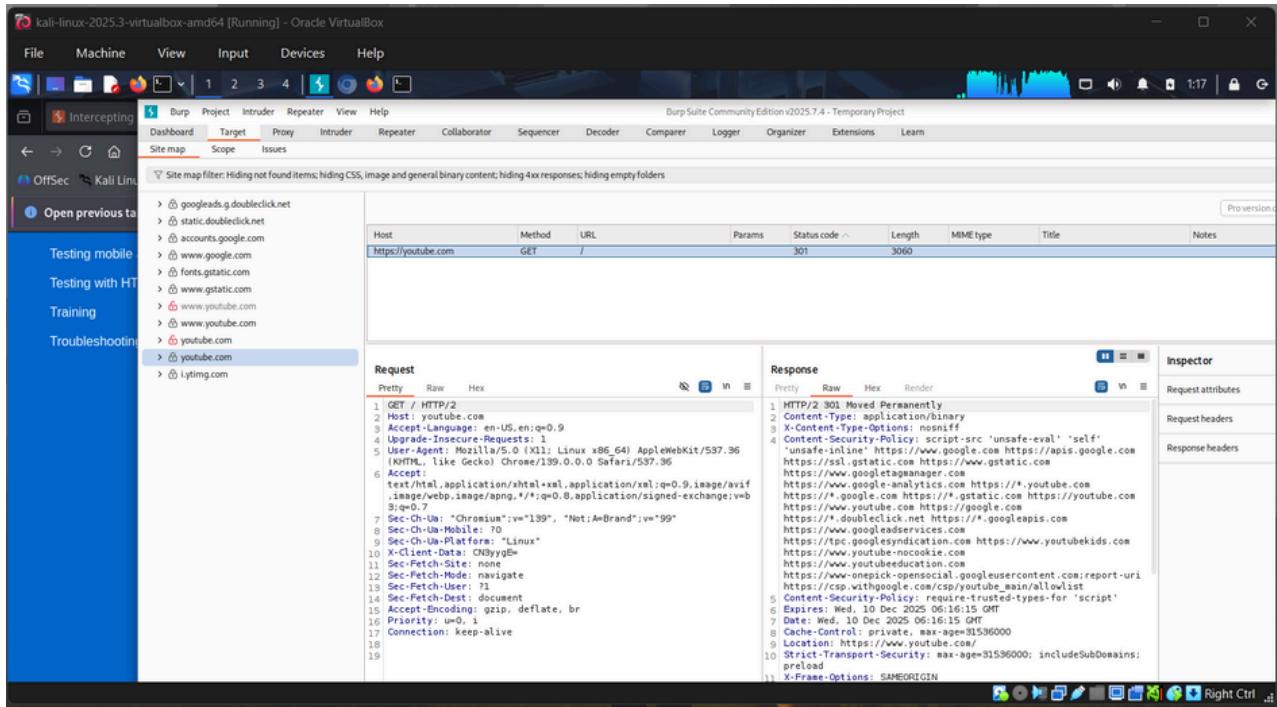
Practical Use Case:

Used to inspect suspicious network activity or debug network issues.

3. Burpsuite

Purpose:

BurpSuite is a web vulnerability testing suite used to intercept, analyze, and manipulate web traffic.



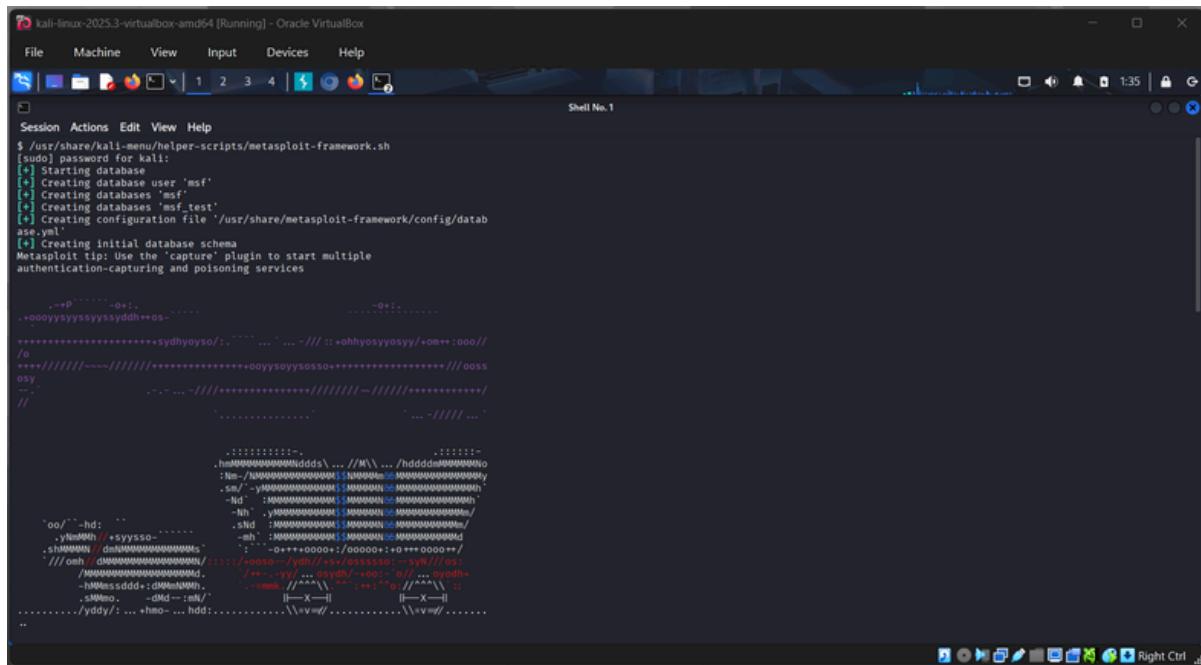
Practical Use Case:

Used for identifying security flaws in websites during penetration testing.

4. Metasploit

Purpose:

Metasploit is one of the most powerful penetration testing frameworks used to identify vulnerabilities, develop exploits, and test the security of systems. It provides a command-line interface and modules for scanning, payload generation, and launching controlled exploits in ethical hacking environments.



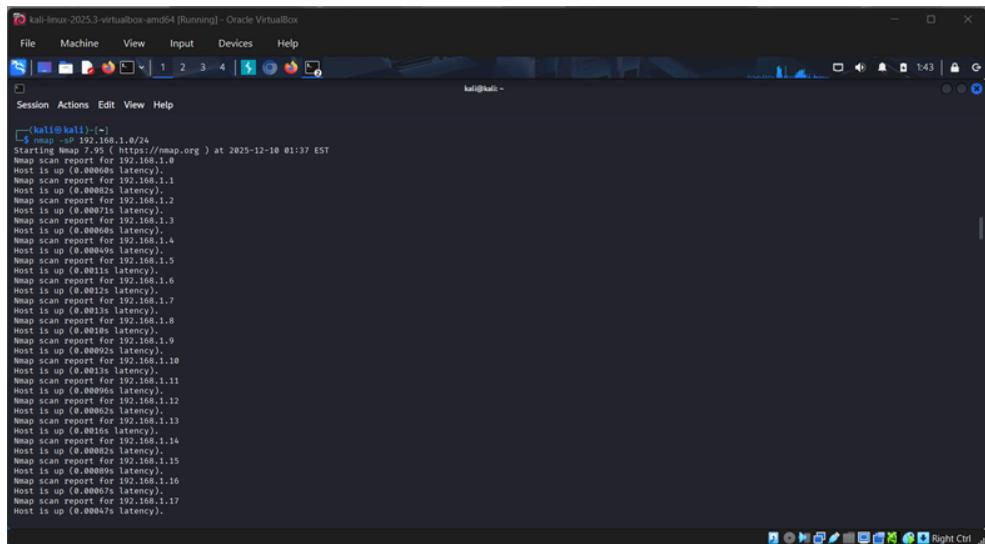
The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Shell No.1" running on a Kali Linux desktop environment. The terminal displays the output of the command \$ /usr/share/kali-menu/helper-scripts/metasploit-framework.sh. The output includes several lines of text indicating the creation of a database user 'msf', creating databases 'msf' and 'msf-test', and generating a configuration file. A warning about using the 'capture' plugin for authentication-capturing and poisoning services is also present. The terminal window has a standard Linux desktop interface with icons at the bottom.

Practical Use Case:

Used by ethical hackers to simulate attacks and evaluate the security posture of networks and applications.

• Bonus Task

1. Run a basic network scan of your local network:
2. nmap -sP 192.168.1.0/24



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "kali@kali: ~" running on a Kali Linux 2025.3 virtual machine in Oracle VM VirtualBox. The window displays the command "nmap -sP 192.168.1.0/24" followed by its output. The output shows 256 hosts being scanned, all of which are reported as "up" with very low latency (0.000xx to 0.0009xx seconds). The hosts are numbered from 0 to 255.

```
(kali㉿kali:~) ~
└─$ nmap -sP 192.168.1.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-10 01:37 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.0
Host is up (0.00000s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.1
Host is up (0.00002s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.2
Host is up (0.00002s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.3
Host is up (0.00002s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.4
Host is up (0.00004s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.5
Host is up (0.00002s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.6
Host is up (0.00012s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.7
Host is up (0.00011s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.8
Host is up (0.00010s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.9
Host is up (0.00009s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.10
Host is up (0.00013s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.11
Host is up (0.00006s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.12
Host is up (0.00010s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.13
Host is up (0.00010s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.14
Host is up (0.00008s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.15
Host is up (0.00008s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.16
Host is up (0.00007s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.17
Host is up (0.00004s latency).
```

Parameter	Details
Subnet Scanned	192.168.1.0/24
Total Hosts Scanned	256
Hosts Reported Up	256
Reason	VirtualBox virtual network responds for the entire range
Notes	Not all 256 are real devices – virtual NAT makes the entire range appear active

• Observations Table

Task	Observation
Kali Linux Installation	Installation completed successfully. VirtualBox handled the OS smoothly with allocated resources.
VM Configuration	2–4 GB RAM and 2 CPU cores were sufficient for running Kali and its tools.
Basic Commands	All terminal commands executed correctly and helped understand system information and user environment.
Security Tools	Nmap and Wireshark were easy to operate, BurpSuite required more system resources, and Hydra has strong password-testing capabilities.
Overall Experience	Kali Linux provided a powerful environment for learning cybersecurity tools and Linux fundamentals.

● Conclusion

The completion of this assignment really introduced me to Kali Linux, virtual machines, and basic cybersecurity tools. Installing Kali inside VirtualBox provided a secure and isolated environment in which to experiment without affecting the host system. Performing simple terminal commands built confidence with Linux operations, while the use of tools such as Nmap, Wireshark, BurpSuite, and Hydra showed ways in which cybersecurity professionals analyze networks and test system security. In all, this assignment consolidated practical skills, enhanced my awareness of the penetration-testing tool kit, and underscored benefits that come with virtual environments for safe experimentation in cybersecurity.

Thank
you!