Lab - Launch a Graphic Console Window Using SSH and XTERM

Overview

In this short lab, you have compromised a remote Linux/UNIX target and now wish to display the targets terminal on your local machine. There is a quick and dirty way to do this if the target and the attack machine are running Linux using SSH and XTERM.

XTERM

The XTERM program is a terminal emulator for the X Window System. It was initially developed in the mid-1980s to provide DEC VT102 and Tektronix 4014 compatible terminals for programs that cannot use the window system directly.

Lab Requirements

- One installation of VirtualBox
- One virtual install of Kali Linux
- One virtual install of Metasploitable2

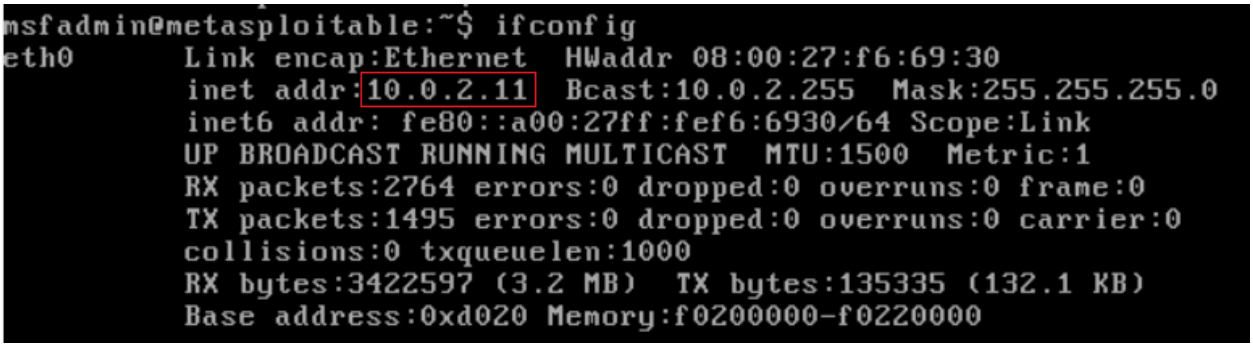
Ensure your VirtualBox adapters are set to either Host-only or Nat Network for both machines.

Discover the IP address for the target by logging onto your VM of Metasploitable2 and at the prompt typing either **`ifconfig`** or **`ip addr`**.

Back at your attack machine, open a terminal, and at the prompt, type the following.

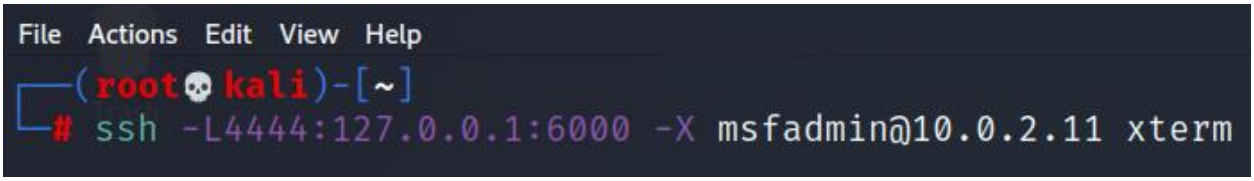
```
ssh -L4444:127.0.0.1:6000 -X msfadmin@<TARGET_IP> xterm
```

In this example, my target has an IP address of 10.0.2.11.



At my Kali terminal, I type in the following command:

```
ssh -L4444:127.0.0.1:6000 -X msfadmin@10.0.2.11 xterm
```

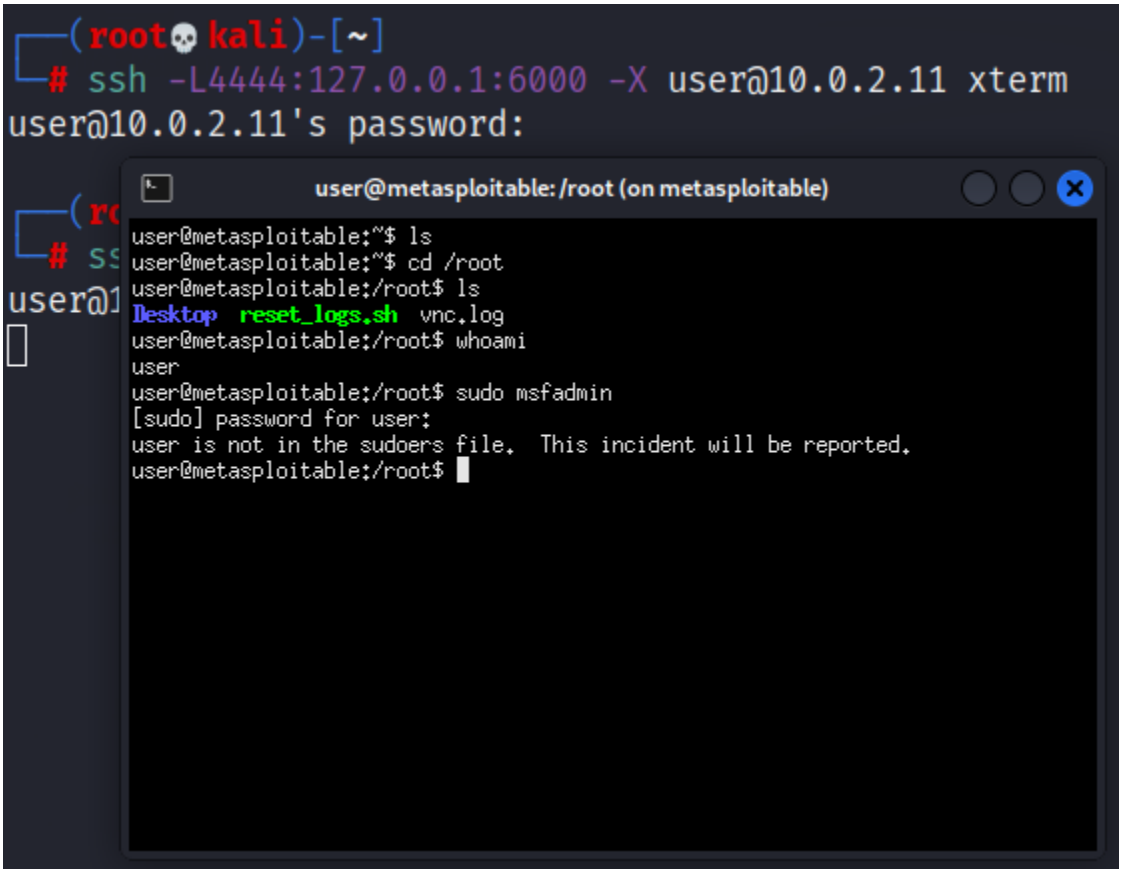


I am asked for the SSH password for the msfadmin password. The password for msfadmin is `msfadmin`. On Linux, you cannot see the password being typed at the prompt.

```
┌──(root💀kali)-[~]
└─# ssh -L4444:127.0.0.1:6000 -X msfadmin@10.0.2.11 xterm
msfadmin@10.0.2.11's password: msfadmin
```

Press enter.

I am immediately presented with the terminal of my remote target. I am limited to whatever privileges the user msfadmin is limited to. Currently, I am logged on as root.



Summary -

In this short lab, you learned how to launch a graphic console window from a remotely compromised host using ssh and xterm.