

Task 3 :

Firewall & Network Security

Setup

1. Install and configure a basic web server (apache2) and disable the firewall (ufw disable).
2. Install Apache using **sudo apt update && sudo apt install -y apache2**.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo apt update && sudo apt install apache2 -y

[sudo] password for kali:
Get:1 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling InRelease [41.5 kB]
Get:2 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 Packages [20.7 MB]
Get:3 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 Contents (deb) [49.4 MB]
Get:4 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/contrib amd64 Packages [115 kB]
Get:5 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/contrib amd64 Contents (deb) [268 kB]
Get:6 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/non-free amd64 Packages [195 kB]
Get:7 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/non-free amd64 Contents (deb) [880 kB]
Get:8 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/non-free-firmware amd64 Packages [10.6 kB]
Get:9 http://mirrors.jevincanders.net/kali kali-rolling/non-free-firmware amd64 Contents (deb) [24.3 kB]
Fetched 71.7 MB in 1min 12s (999 kB/s)
1557 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.63-1).
apache2 set to manually installed.
Summary:
  Upgrading: 0, Installing: 0, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 1557
```

3. Setting up apache web server :

Start and enable the Apache2 server to make it active and ready to use.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo systemctl start apache2
sudo systemctl enable apache2

Synchronizing state of apache2.service with SysV service script with /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable apache2
Created symlink '/etc/systemd/system/Multi-user.target.wants/apache2.service' → '/usr/lib/systemd/system/apache2.service'.

(kali@kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo systemctl status apache2
● apache2.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/apache2.service; enabled; preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Sun 2025-03-23 21:10:10 EDT; 40s ago
  Invocation: f2231fcd6f614d2bb475b70b2040af
     Docs: https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.4/
    Main PID: 3026 (apache2)
      Tasks: 6 (limit: 3425)
    Memory: 28.4M (peak: 20.6M)
       CPU: 309ms
    CGroup: /system.slice/apache2.service
            └─3026 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
              └─3034 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                └─3035 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                  └─3036 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                    └─3037 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                      └─3038 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start

Mar 23 21:10:09 kali systemd[1]: Starting apache2.service - The Apache HTTP Server ...
Mar 23 21:10:10 kali apache2ctl[3025]: AH00558: apache2: Could not reliably determine the server's fully qualified domain name, using 127.0.1.1. Set the 'ServerName' directive globally to suppress this message
Mar 23 21:10:10 kali systemd[1]: Started apache2.service - The Apache HTTP Server.
```

4. Disable Firewall (UFW)

Install UFW and check its status. If it shows "inactive," the firewall is installed but not enabled.

Run **sudo apt update && sudo apt install -y ufw** to update the package list and install UFW.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo apt update && sudo apt install ufw -y

Hit:1 http://http.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease
1557 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
Installing:
  ufw

Suggested packages:
  rsyslog

Summary:
  Upgrading: 0, Installing: 1, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 1557
  Download size: 169 kB
  Space needed: 880 kB / 62.9 GB available

Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 ufw all 0.36.2-9 [169 kB]
Fetched 169 kB in 6s (28.8 kB/s)
Preconfiguring packages ...
Selecting previously unselected package ufw.
(Reading database ... 401537 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../archives/ufw_0.36.2-9_all.deb ...
Unpacking ufw (0.36.2-9) ...
Setting up ufw (0.36.2-9) ...

Creating config file /etc/ufw/before.rules with new version
Creating config file /etc/ufw/before6.rules with new version
Creating config file /etc/ufw/after.rules with new version
Creating config file /etc/ufw/after6.rules with new version
update-rc.d: We have no instructions for the ufw init script.
update-rc.d: It looks like a non-network service, we enable it.
Created symlink '/etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/ufw.service' -> '/usr/lib/systemd/system/ufw.service'.
Processing triggers for kali-menu (2024.4.0) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.13.0-1) ...

(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo ufw status

Status: inactive
```

Disable ufw

Disable UFW using `sudo ufw disable`.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo ufw disable
```

Exploit : port scanning with Nmap and Netcat

1. Perform a basic Nmap scan to check for open ports

Run `nmap -sV -A 10.0.2.15` to perform a basic scan and check for open ports.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sV -A 10.0.2.15

Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-03-23 21:18 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.0060s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 9.9p1 Debian 3 (protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|_  256 e3:ac:ba:bc:c2:a6:84:ff:03:44:30:62:c2:03:a0:69 (ECDSA)
|_  256 9e:a4:ef:87:96:24:49:7d:b2:84:2e:e7:34:0a:06:b1 (ED25519)
80/tcp    open  http     Apache httpd 2.4.63 ((Debian))
|_ http-server-header: Apache/2.4.63 (Debian)
|_ http-title: Apache2 Debian Default Page: It works
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6.32
OS details: Linux 2.6.32
Network Distance: 0 hops
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 10.16 seconds
```

2. Then we use Netcat to check if a specific port is open. Scans all possible ports on the server.

This helps an attacker find which ports are open and potentially vulnerable.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ nc -zv 10.0.2.15 1-65535

10.0.2.15: inverse host lookup failed: Unknown host
(UNKNOWN) [10.0.2.15] 60558 (?) open
(UNKNOWN) [10.0.2.15] 45212 (?) open
(UNKNOWN) [10.0.2.15] 80 (http) open
(UNKNOWN) [10.0.2.15] 22 (ssh) open
```

Mitigation: Firewall & Network Hardening

- Allow **SSH connections** for remote login.
- Allow **HTTP traffic** for websites.
- All other unnecessary services will be blocked, allowing only SSH and HTTP access.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo ufw allow 22/tcp
sudo ufw allow 80/tcp

Rules updated
Rules updated (v6)
Rules updated
Rules updated (v6)
```

1. Turns on the firewall with the rules we just set. Any service that is **not explicitly allowed** will now be blocked.
2. First we enable firewall for active defense.
3. By checking status it will show that **only SSH (22) and HTTP (80) are allowed**, while everything else is blocked.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo ufw enable

Firewall is active and enabled on system startup

(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo ufw status verbose

Status: active
Logging: on (low)
Default: deny (incoming), allow (outgoing), disabled (routed)
New profiles: skip

To Action From
--
22/tcp ALLOW IN Anywhere
80/tcp ALLOW IN Anywhere
22/tcp (v6) ALLOW IN Anywhere (v6)
80/tcp (v6) ALLOW IN Anywhere (v6)
```

4. To provide an extra layer of security, we can use iptables to block specific services.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 23 -j DROP
$ sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 21 -j DROP
```

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo netstat -tulnp
```

| Proto | Recv-Q | Send-Q | Local Address | Foreign Address | State | PID/Program name |
|-------|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------|
| tcp | 0 | 0 | 0.0.0.0:22 | 0.0.0.0:* | LISTEN | 709/sshd: /usr/sbin |
| tcp6 | 0 | 0 | :::80 | :::* | LISTEN | 3026/apache2 |
| tcp6 | 0 | 0 | :::22 | :::* | LISTEN | 709/sshd: /usr/sbin |

This shows a list of all open ports and the services running on them.

After enabling the firewall and iptables rules, run the same command again and compare the results to see how many ports were blocked.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sV -A 10.0.2.15
```

Starting Nmap 7.94SVN (<https://nmap.org>) at 2025-03-23 21:32 EDT
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.000098s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 9.9p1 Debian 3 (protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|_ 256 e3:ac:ba:bc:c2:a6:84:ff:03:44:30:62:c2:03:a0:69 (ECDSA)
|_ 256 9e:a4:ef:87:96:24:49:7d:b2:84:2e:e7:34:0a:06:b1 (ED25519)
80/tcp open http Apache httpd 2.4.63 ((Debian))
|_ http-title: Apache2 Debian Default Page: It works
|_ http-server-header: Apache/2.4.63 (Debian)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6.32
OS details: Linux 2.6.32
Network Distance: 0 hops
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at <https://nmap.org/submit/> .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 8.38 seconds

Updated **nmap & netstat** results (showing only **ports 22 & 80** open). Screenshot of **sudo ufw status** confirming restricted access.

```
(kali@kali)-[~]
$ sudo ufw status verbose
```

Status: active
Logging: on (low)
Default: deny (incoming), allow (outgoing), disabled (routed)
New profiles: skip

| To | Action | From |
|-------------|----------|---------------|
| -- | | |
| 22/tcp | ALLOW IN | Anywhere |
| 80/tcp | ALLOW IN | Anywhere |
| 22/tcp (v6) | ALLOW IN | Anywhere (v6) |
| 80/tcp (v6) | ALLOW IN | Anywhere (v6) |

