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CYBERSECURITY DSA SQUAD 1

Report on Building a Fully Functional Cybersecurity Lab Using Kali Linux and Windows 7 on VirtualBox

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to document the process and outcome of creating a virtualized cybersecurity lab environment using Oracle VirtualBox. The lab consists of Kali Linux, used for penetration testing and ethical hacking tasks, and Windows 7, used as a vulnerable target machine for simulation and exploitation. This setup provides a safe, isolated, and reproducible platform to practice cybersecurity skills, perform malware analysis, and simulate attack-defense scenarios.

Objectives

- To build a virtual lab environment suitable for cybersecurity training and testing.
- To install and configure Kali Linux as the attacker machine.
- To install and configure Windows 7 as the target machine.
- To ensure both virtual machines (VMs) can communicate for attack simulation.
- To document installation steps, configurations, and key settings.

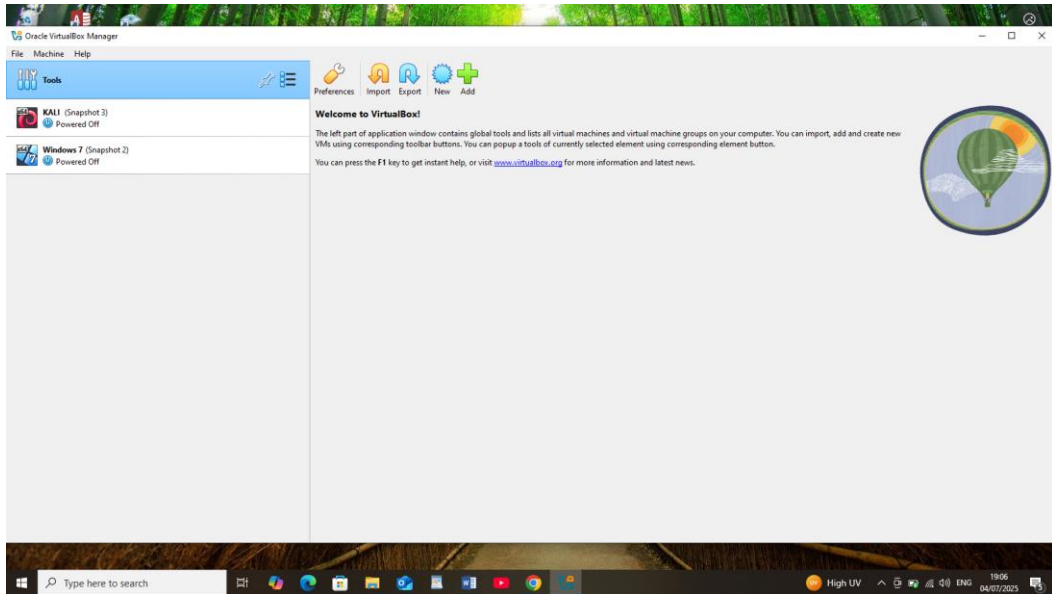
Tools and Resources Used

- **Host Machine OS:** Windows 10 (64-bit)
- **Virtualization Software:** Oracle VirtualBox 7.x
- **Guest Operating Systems:**
 - Kali Linux (Latest ISO image from <https://www.kali.org>)
 - Windows 7 Ultimate ISO (64-bit)
- **Network Configuration:** Host-only Adapter / Internal Network
- **RAM Allocation:**
 - Kali Linux: 1 GB
 - Windows 7: 1 GB
- **Disk Allocation:**
 - Kali Linux: 20 GB (Dynamic)
 - Windows 7: 20 GB (Dynamic)

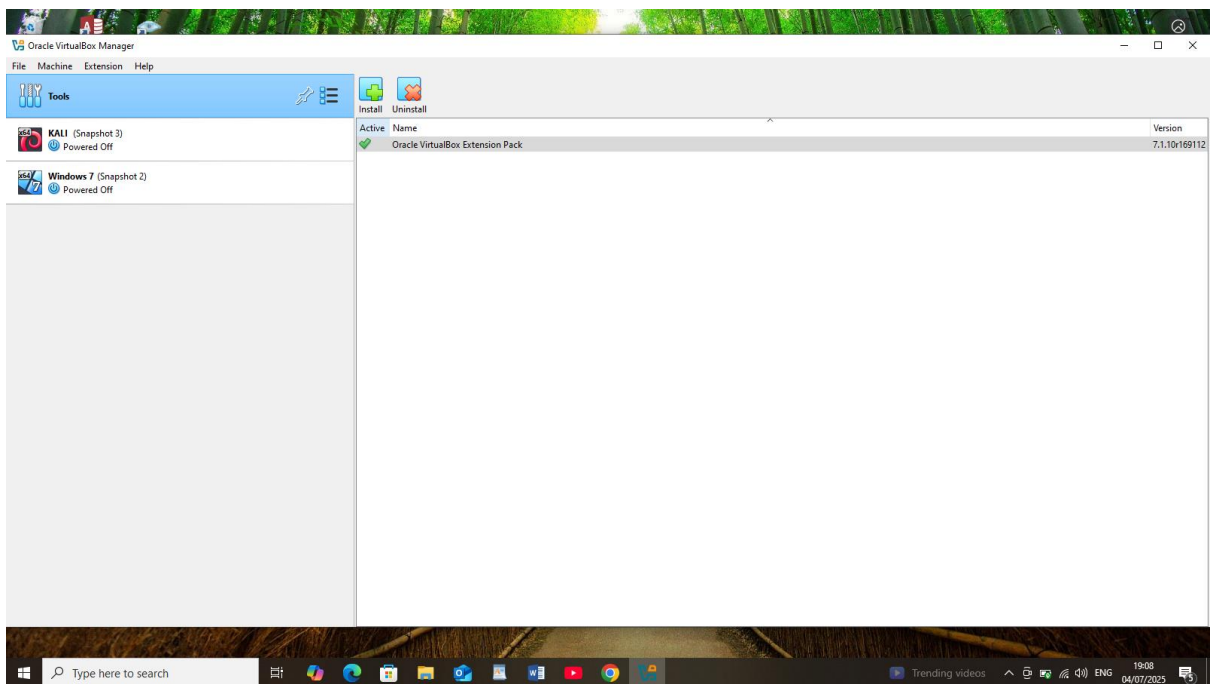
Lab Setup Process

4.1 Installation of VirtualBox

- Downloaded and installed VirtualBox from the official website.

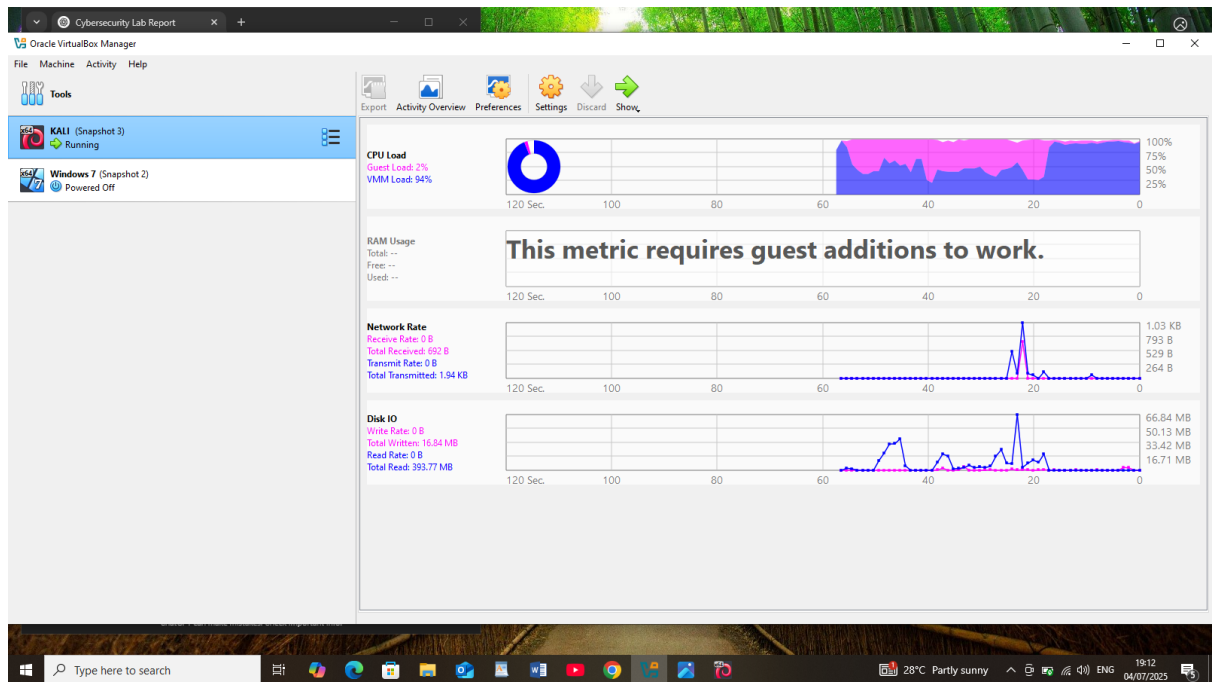


- Installed VirtualBox Extension Pack for USB and RDP support.

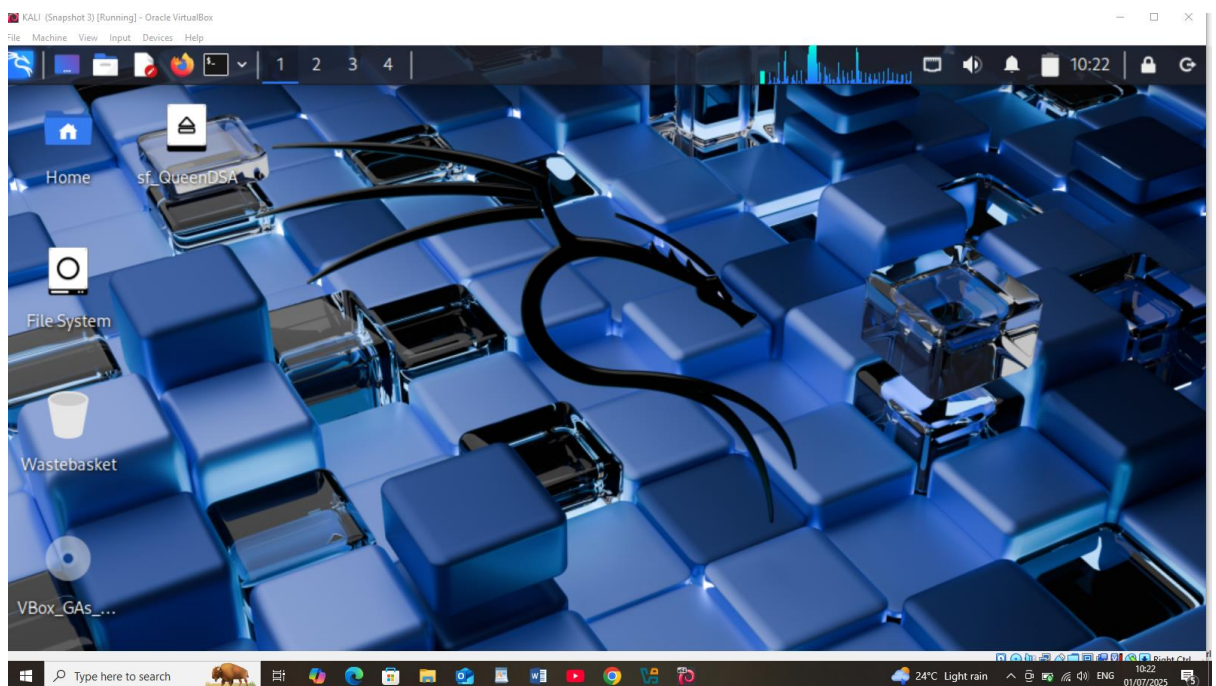


Creating Kali Linux Virtual Machine

- Created a new VM for Kali Linux with 2 GB RAM and 20 GB storage.



- Mounted Kali ISO and installed the OS.



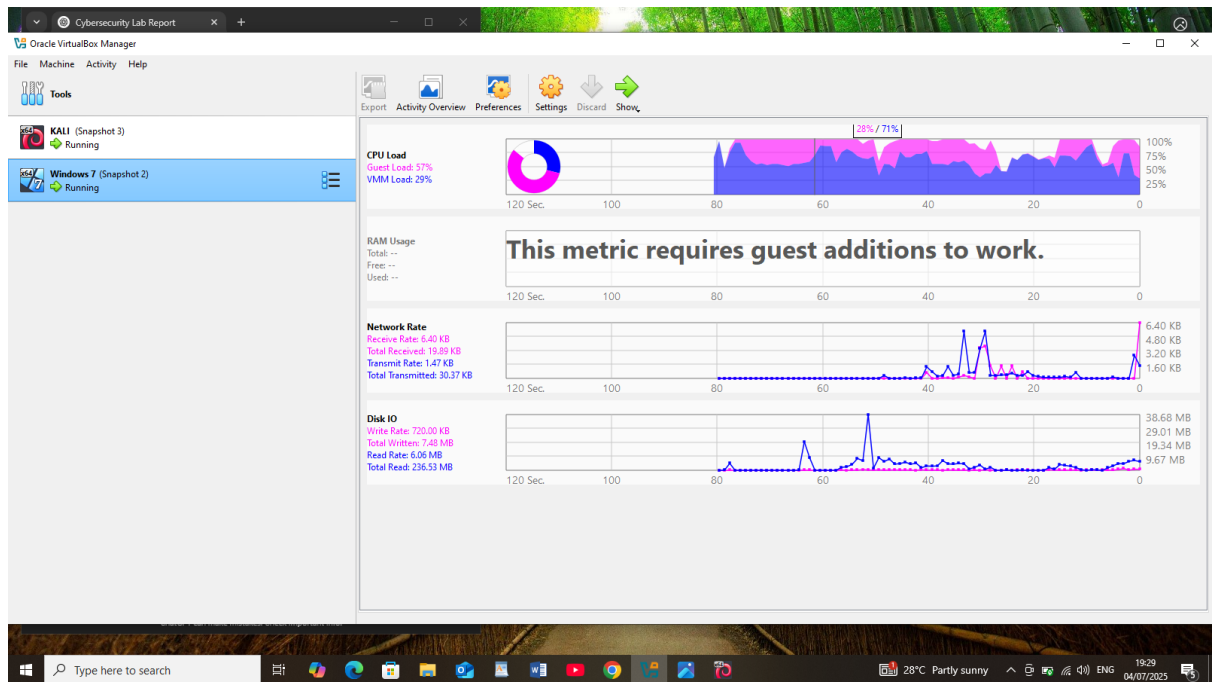
- Installed VirtualBox Guest Additions for better performance.

```
queen@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
queen@kali)~  
$ sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y  
[sudo] password for queen:  
Hit:1 http://http.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease  
281 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.  
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer require  
d:  
python3-packaging-whl python3-wheel-whl  
python3-pyinstaller-hooks-contrib  
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.  
  
Upgrading:  
7zip libqt6dbus6  
apt libqt6gui6  
apt-utils libqt6network6  
bash libqt6opengl6  
bluez libqt6openglwidgets6  
bluez-hcidump libqt6printsupport6  
bluez-obexd libqt6sql6  
bsdextrautils libqt6sql6-sqlite  
bsdutils libqt6test6  
burpsuite libqt6widgets6  
busybox libqt6xml6  
chromium libsmartcols1  
chromium-common libsmbclient0  
chromium-sandbox libsqlite3-0  
libss2
```

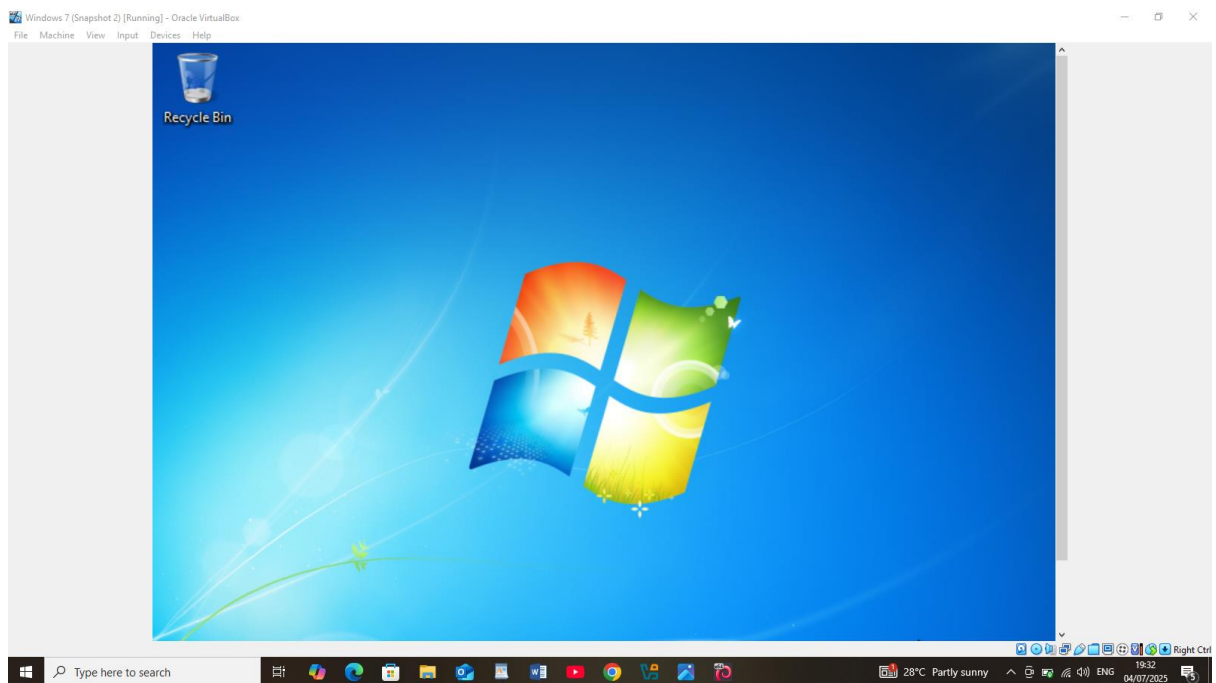
- Updated system packages using sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade.

Creating Windows 7 Virtual Machine

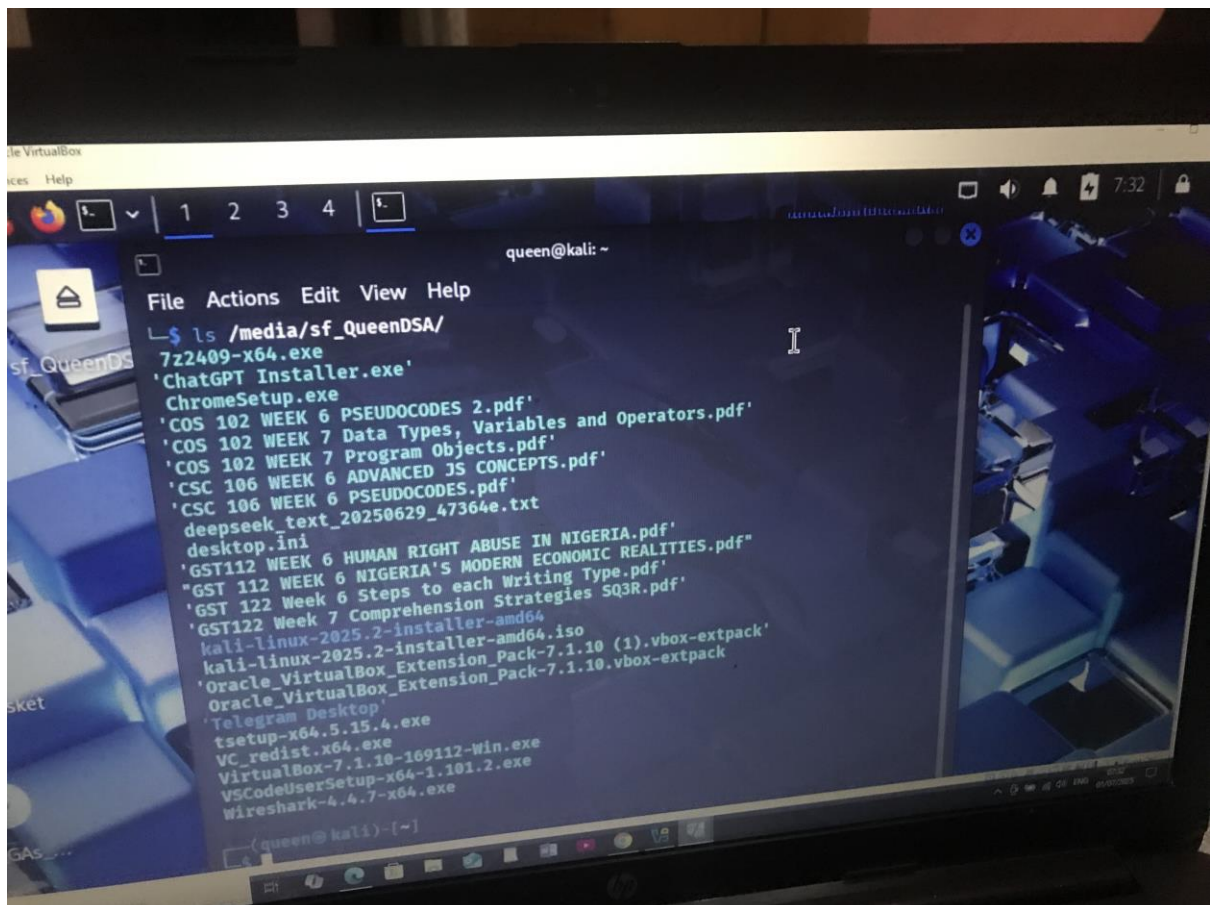
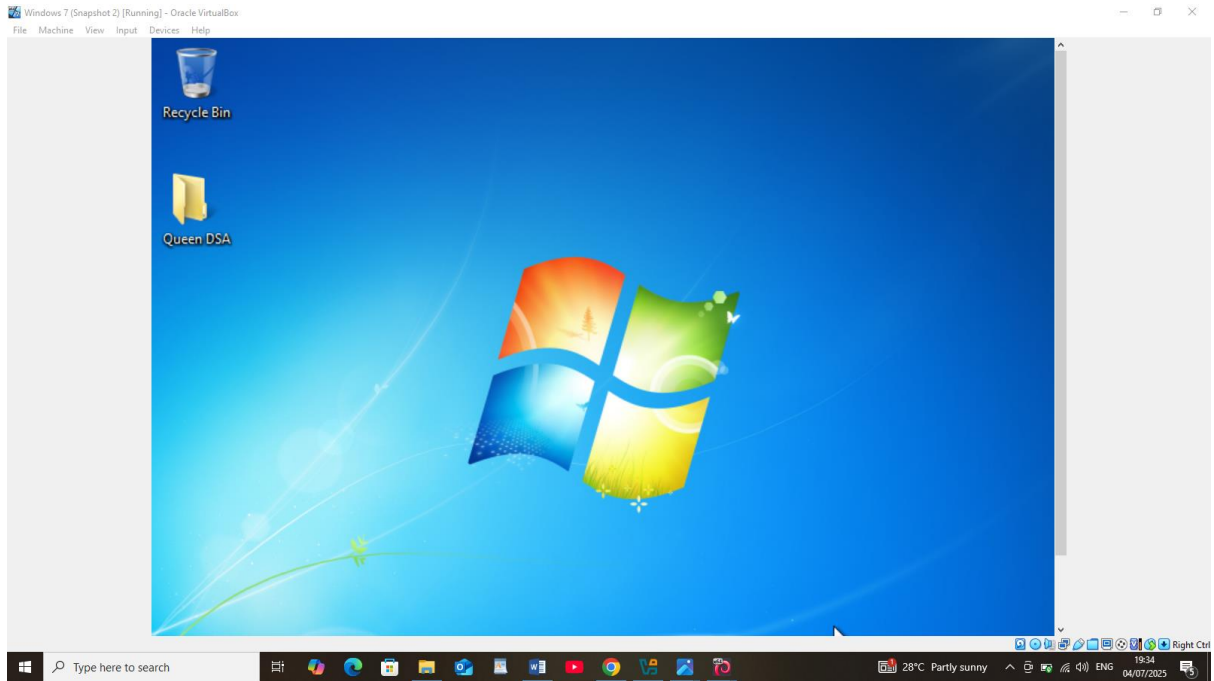
- Created a VM with 1 GB RAM and 25 GB storage

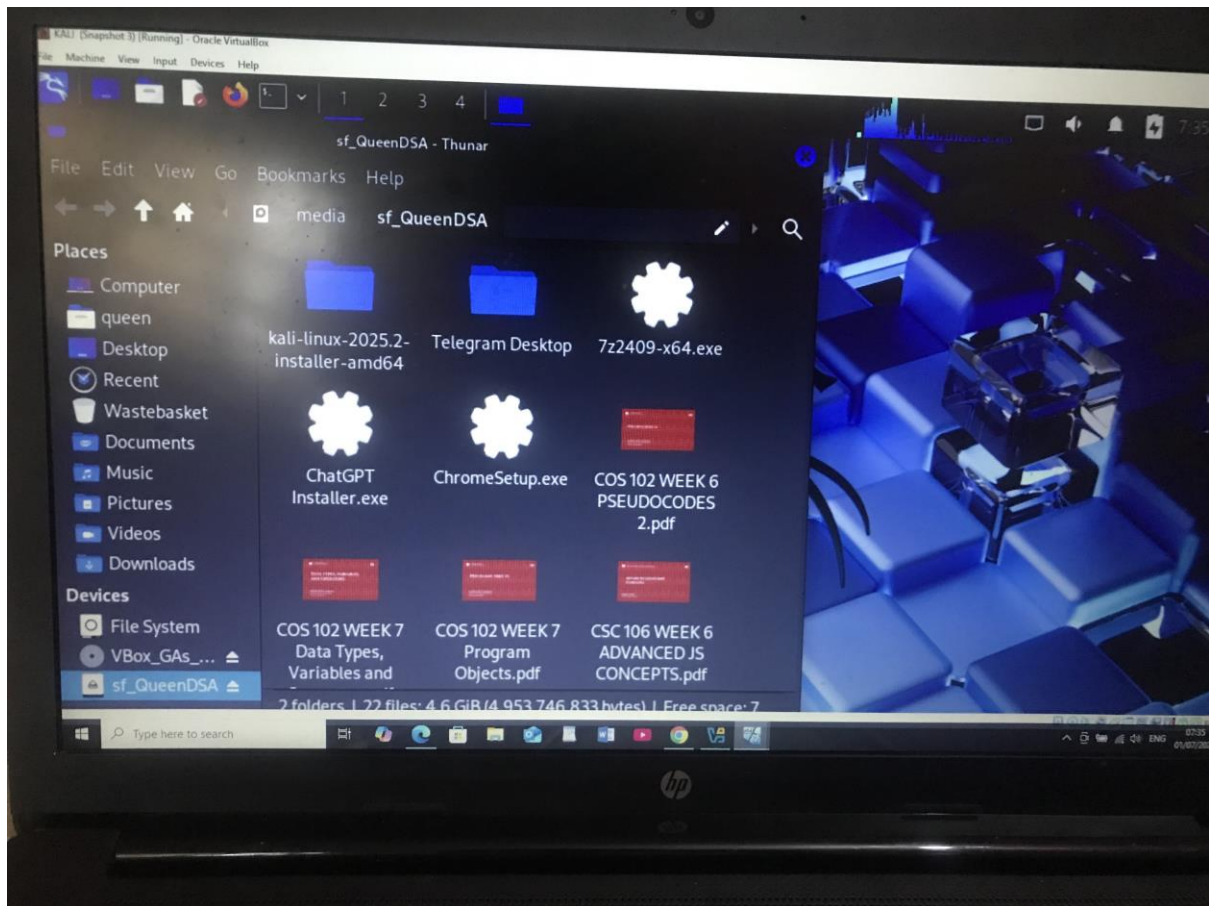


- Mounted Windows 7 ISO and installed the OS



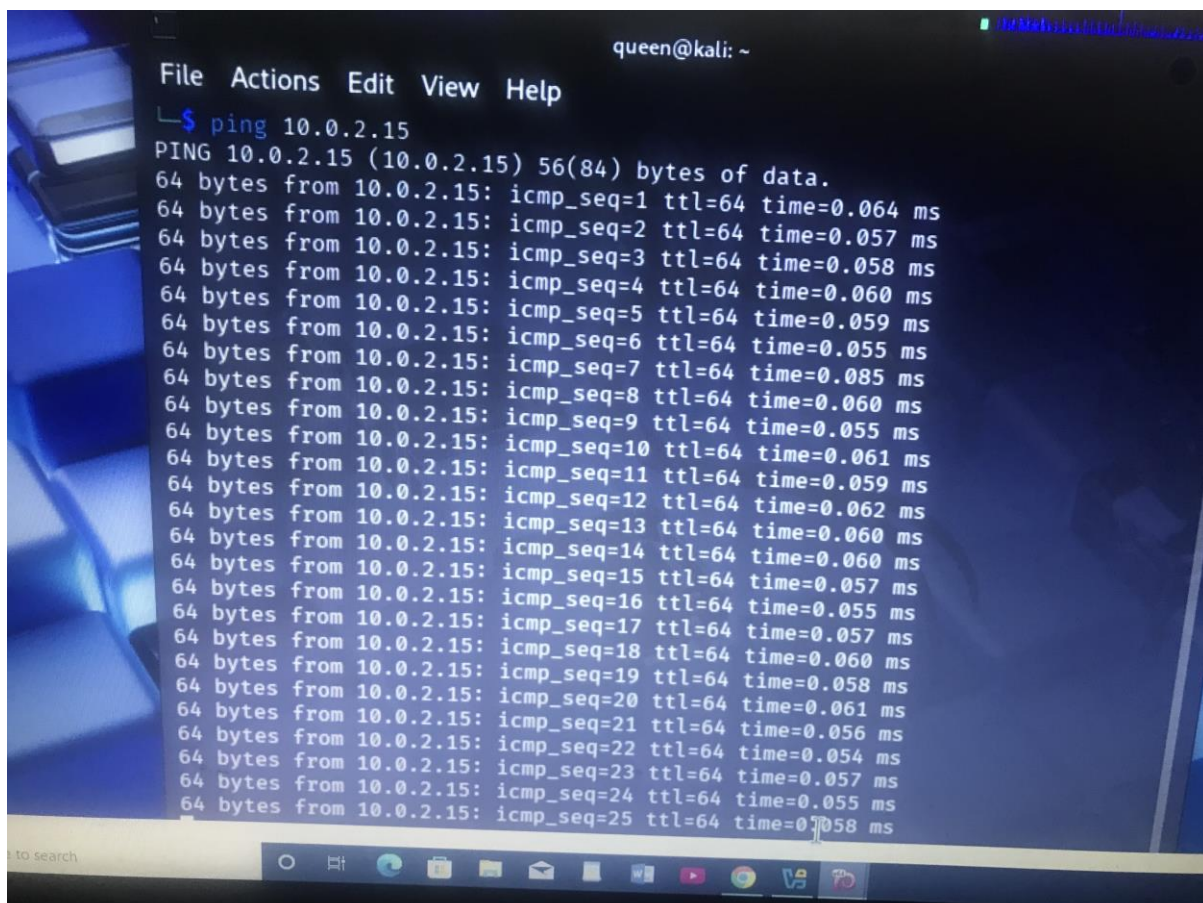
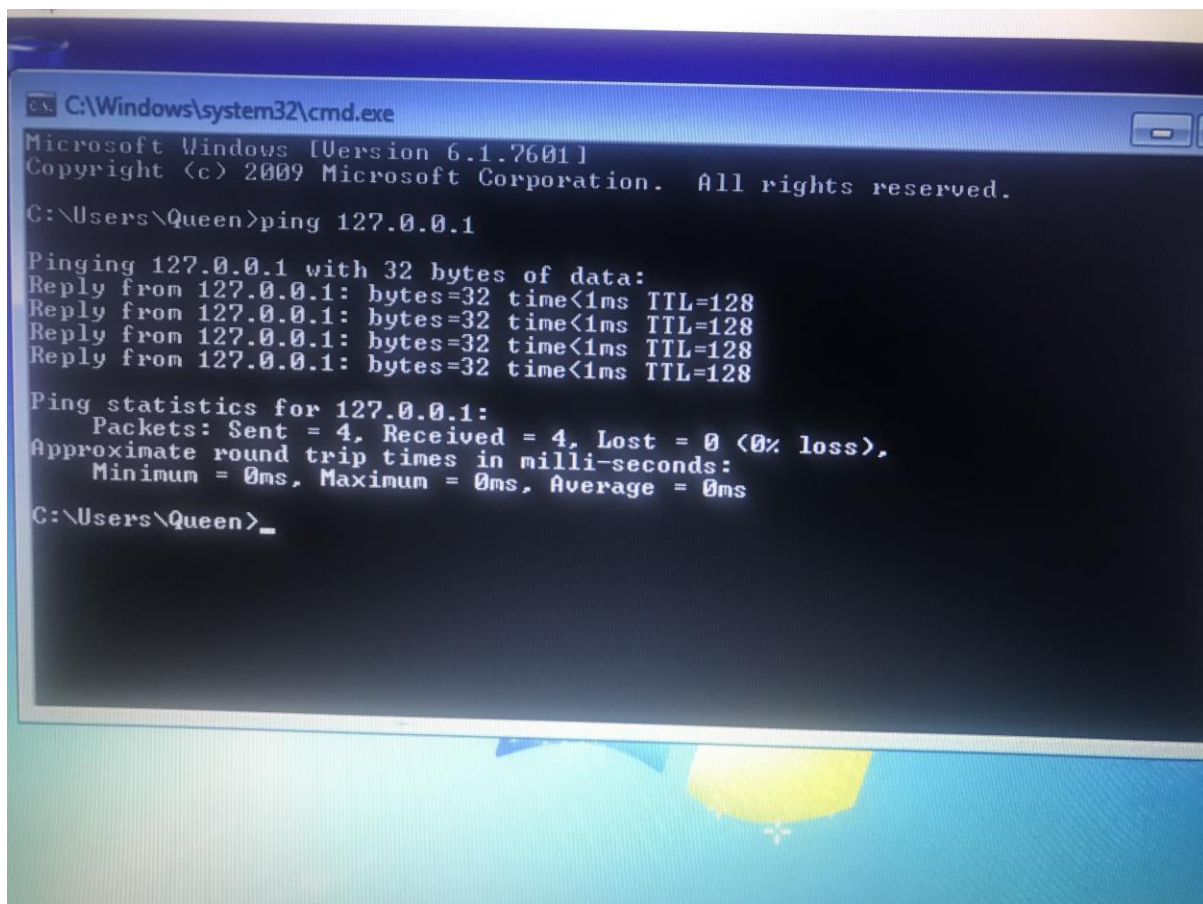
- Enabled file sharing





Network Configuration

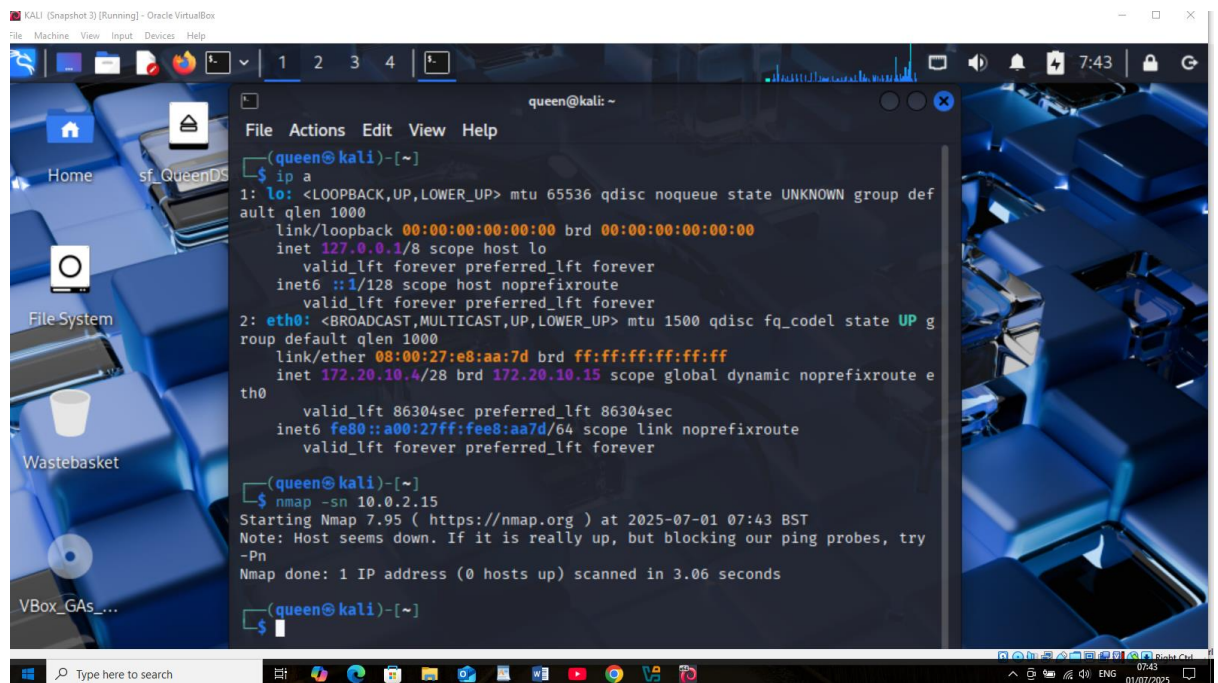
- **Selected “Host-only Adapter”** for both VMs to ensure communication within the virtual environment and prevent access to the external internet.
- Verified connectivity using ping commands from both VMs.



- Assigned static IPs to maintain consistent targeting in attack scenarios.

Testing the Lab Setup

- From Kali Linux, performed a basic network scan using nmap:



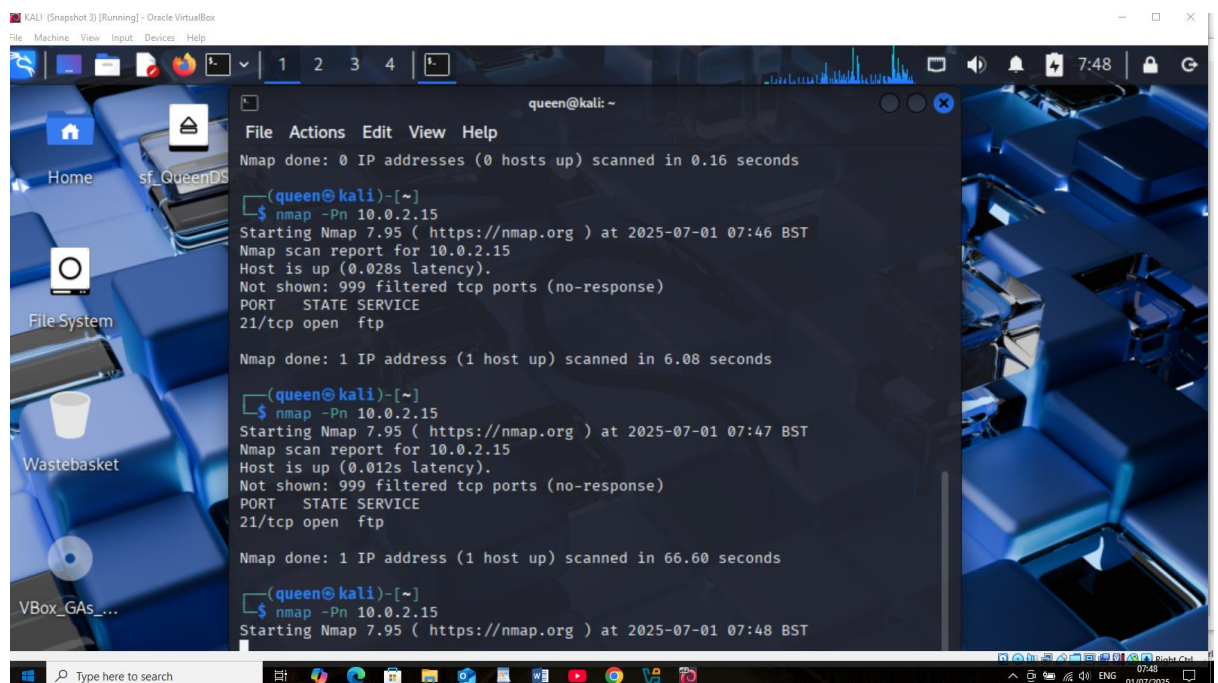
The screenshot shows a Kali Linux terminal window with the following output:

```

(queen@kali)-[~]
$ ip a
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host noprefixroute
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:e8:aa:7d brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 172.20.10.4/28 brd 172.20.10.15 scope global dynamic noprefixroute eth0
        valid_lft 86304sec preferred_lft 86304sec
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fee8:aa7d/64 scope link noprefixroute
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever

(queen@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sn 10.0.2.15
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-07-01 07:43 BST
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 3.06 seconds

```



The screenshot shows a Kali Linux terminal window with the following output:

```

(queen@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -Pn 10.0.2.15
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-07-01 07:46 BST
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.028s latency).
Not shown: 999 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 6.08 seconds

(queen@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -Pn 10.0.2.15
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-07-01 07:47 BST
Nmap scan report for 10.0.2.15
Host is up (0.012s latency).
Not shown: 999 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 66.60 seconds

(queen@kali)-[~]
$ nmap -Pn 10.0.2.15
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-07-01 07:48 BST

```

- Detected Windows 7 machine successfully.
- Simulated attacks such as port scanning, enumeration, and vulnerability assessment.
- Confirmed that the Kali VM tools like Metasploit and Wireshark worked as expected.

Conclusion

A fully functional cybersecurity lab was successfully built using VirtualBox, Kali Linux, and Windows 7. This lab provides a flexible and secure environment to practice ethical hacking, vulnerability scanning, and system hardening. The configuration can be extended to include more machines or integrate tools like pfSense, Ubuntu servers, or intentionally vulnerable applications (e.g., DVWA, Metasploitable).