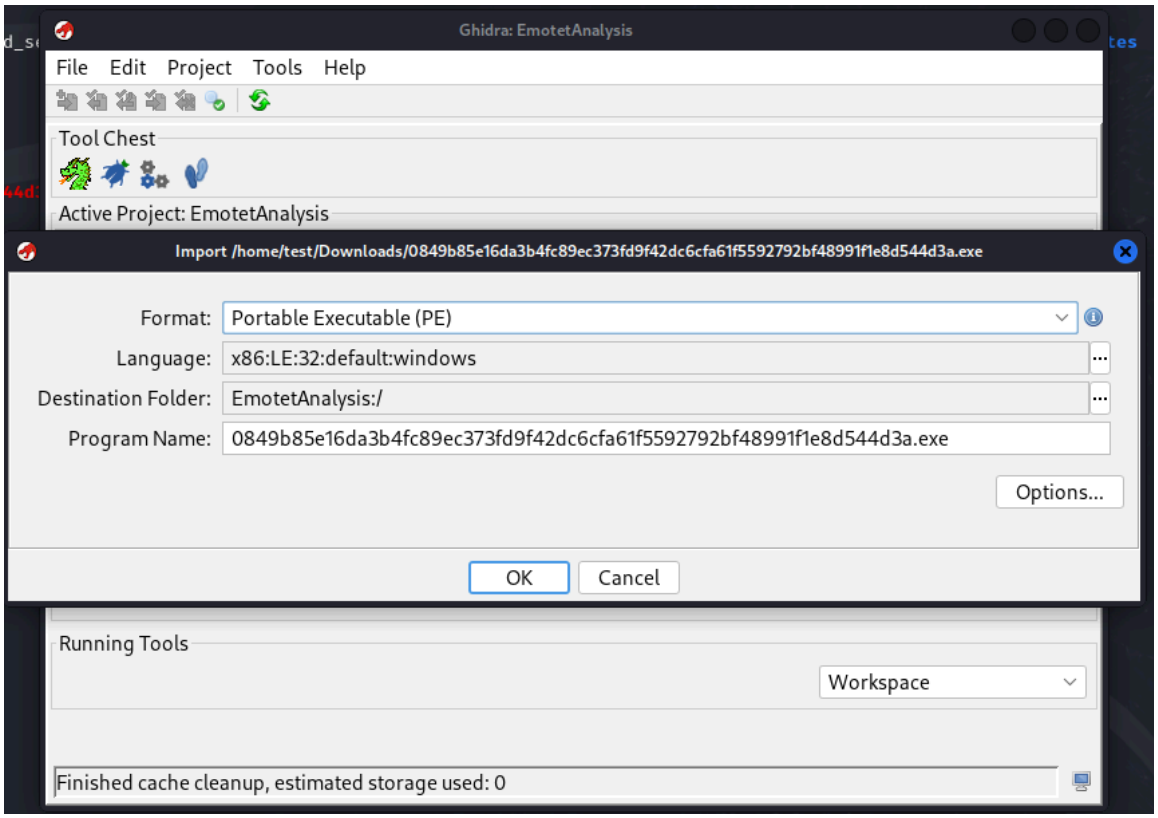
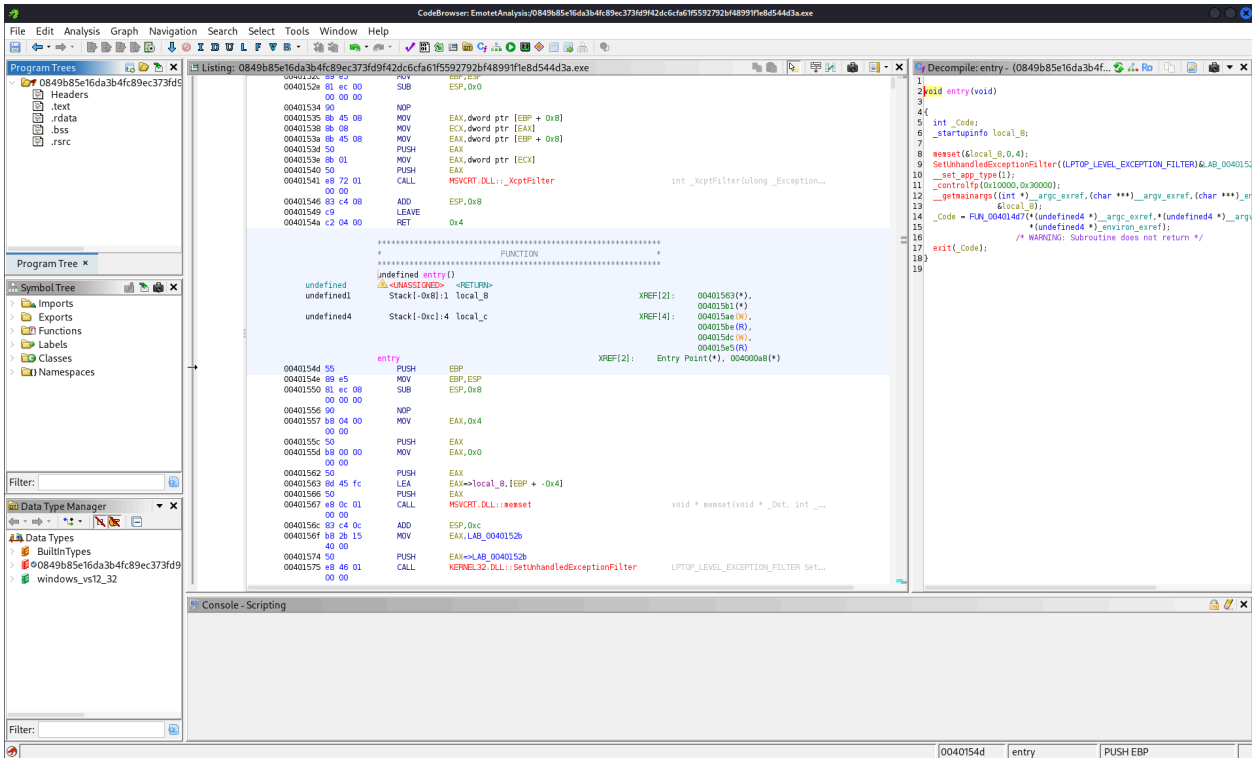
Advanced Threat Analysis

Malware: Emotet

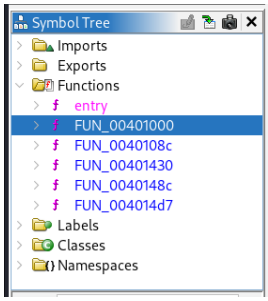
Emotet—a sophisticated Trojan commonly functioning as a downloader or dropper of other malware—resurged in July 2020, after a dormant period that began in February. Since August, CISA and MS-ISAC have seen a significant increase in malicious cyber actors targeting state and local governments with Emotet phishing emails. This increase has rendered Emotet one of the most prevalent ongoing threats.

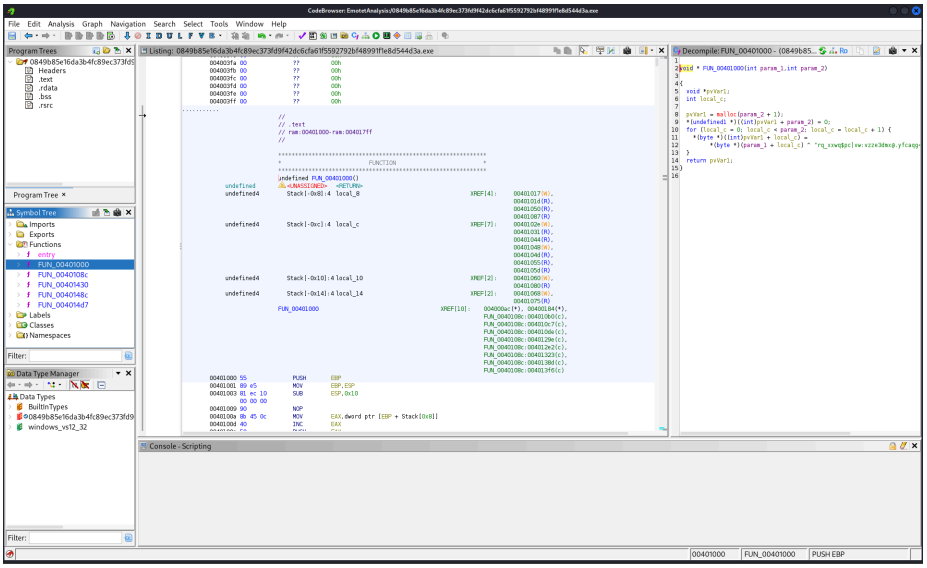



Import Results Summary
Project File Name: 0849b85e16da3b4fc89ec373fd9f42dc6cfa61f5592792bf48991f1e8d544d3a.exe
Last Modified: Wed Jun 04 09:41:42 EDT 2025
Readonly: false
Program Name: 0849b85e16da3b4fc89ec373fd9f42dc6cfa61f5592792bf48991f1e8d544d3a.exe
Language ID: x86:LE:32:default (4.1)
Compiler ID: windows
Processor: x86
Endian: Little
Address Size: 32
Minimum Address: 00400000
Maximum Address: 014ed3ff
# of Bytes: 17736196
# of Memory Blocks: 5
# of Instructions: 0
# of Defined Data: 112
# of Functions: 0
# of Symbols: 25
# of Data Types: 31
# of Data Type Categories: 3
Compiler: gcc:unknown
Created With Ghidra Version: 11.3.2
Date Created: Wed Jun 04 09:41:41 EDT 2025
Executable Format: Portable Executable (PE)
Executable Location: /home/test/Downloads/0849b85e16da3b4fc89ec373fd9f42dc6cfa61f5592792bf4899
Executable MD5: 80db6fcf8a589124f620ec27b3b7fb7b
Executable SHA256: 0849b85e16da3b4fc89ec373fd9f42dc6cfa61f5592792bf48991f1e8d544d3a
FSRL: file:///home/test/Downloads/0849b85e16da3b4fc89ec373fd9f42dc6cfa61f559279
Preferred Root Namespace Category:
Relocatable: false
SectionAlignment: 4096
Additional Information
Loading file:///home/test/Downloads/0849b85e16da3b4fc89ec373fd9f42dc6cfa61f5592792bf48991f1e8d544d3a.exe
Searching 9 paths for library KERNEL32.DLL...
Library not found.
Searching 9 paths for library MSVCRT.DLL...
Library not found.
OK



Functions





Enterprise Vulnerability Management

Asset Discovery

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -sn 192.168.1.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-06-04 15:20 BST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.0
Host is up (0.96s latency).
Nmap scan report for Docsis-Gateway (192.168.1.1)
Host is up (0.0059s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.2
Host is up (0.34s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.3
Host is up (0.34s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.4
Host is up (0.34s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.5
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.6
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.7
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.8
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.9
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.10
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for NPI6B7C35 (192.168.1.11)
Host is up (0.27s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.12
Host is up (0.96s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.13
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.14
Host is up (0.33s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.15
Host is up (0.96s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.16
Host is up (0.96s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.17
Host is up (0.11s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.18
Host is up (0.11s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.19
Host is up (0.11s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.20
Host is up (0.11s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.21
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.22
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.23
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.24
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.25
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.26
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.27
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.28
Host is up (0.96s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.29
Host is up (0.96s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.30
Host is up (0.00087s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.31
Host is up (0.00080s latency).
```

Security Testing Framework

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ nikto -h something.com
- Nikto v2.5.0
---------------------------------------------------------------------------
+ Multiple IPs found: 172.67.183.168, 104.21.59.206, 2606:4700:3033::ac43:b7a8
+ Target IP:          172.67.183.168
+ Target Hostname:    something.com
+ Target Port:        80
+ Start Time:         2025-06-04 15:30:10 (GMT1)
---------------------------------------------------------------------------
+ Server: cloudflare
+ /: The anti-clickjacking X-Frame-Options header is not present. See: https:/
+ /: Uncommon header 'server-timing' found, with contents: cfL4;desc="?proto=T
0000000000&ts=0&x=0".
+ /: An alt-svc header was found which is advertising HTTP/3. The endpoint is:
+ /: The X-Content-Type-Options header is not set. This could allow the user a
ssing-content-type-header/
+ Root page / redirects to: https://something.com/
```

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -sV 172.67.183.168
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-06-04 15:34 BST
Nmap scan report for 172.67.183.168
Host is up (0.013s latency).
Not shown: 996 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT     STATE SERVICE       VERSION
80/tcp   open  http          Cloudflare http proxy
443/tcp  open  ssl/https     cloudflare
8080/tcp open  http          Cloudflare http proxy
8443/tcp open  ssl/https-alt cloudflare

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nm
ap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 12.45 seconds
```

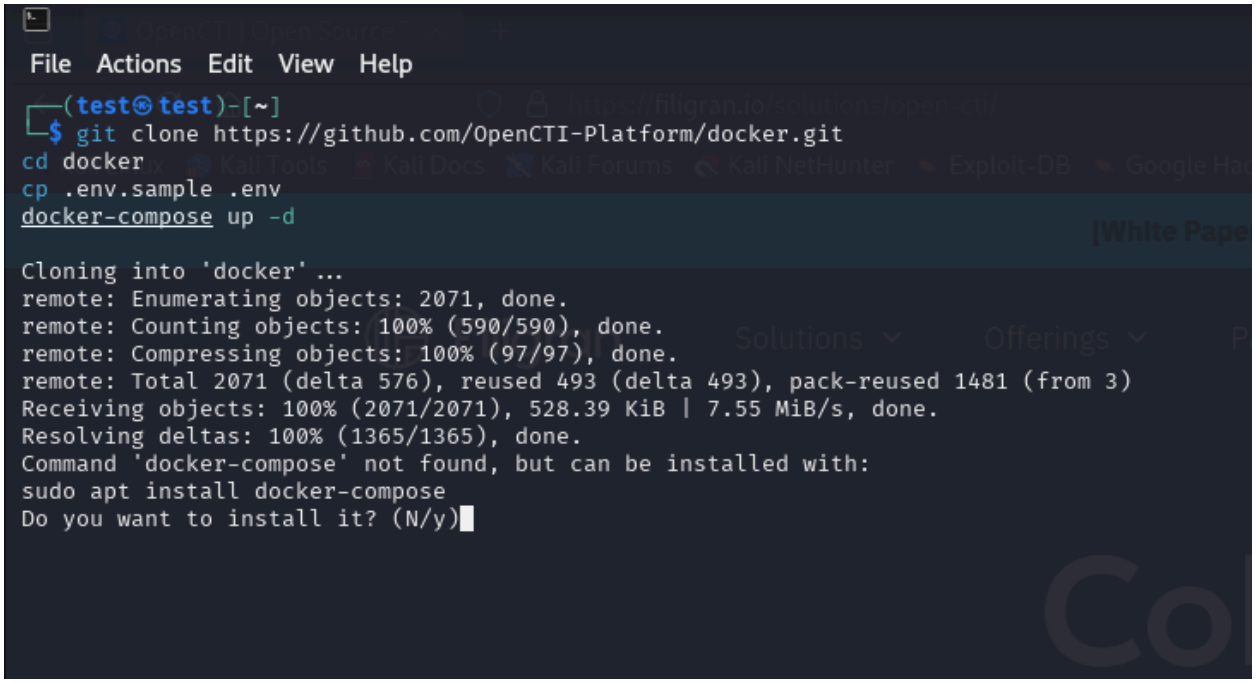
Custom Security Tool

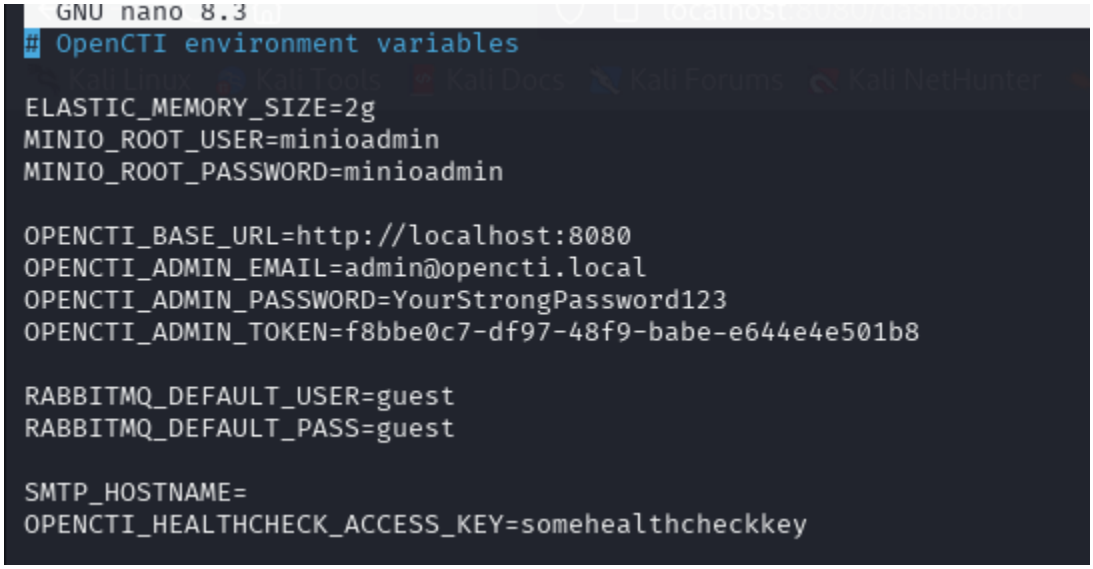
```
  GNU nano 8.2
#!/bin/bash
echo "Checking SSH config..."
grep "PermitRootLogin" /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

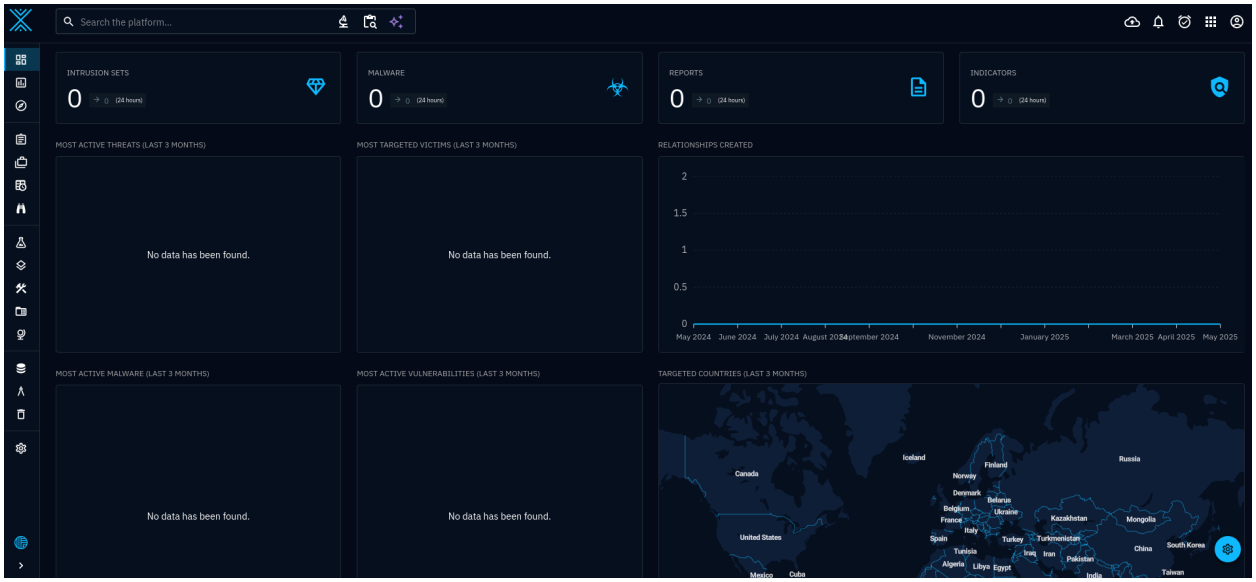
Advanced Threat Intelligence Operations

Threat Intelligence Platform

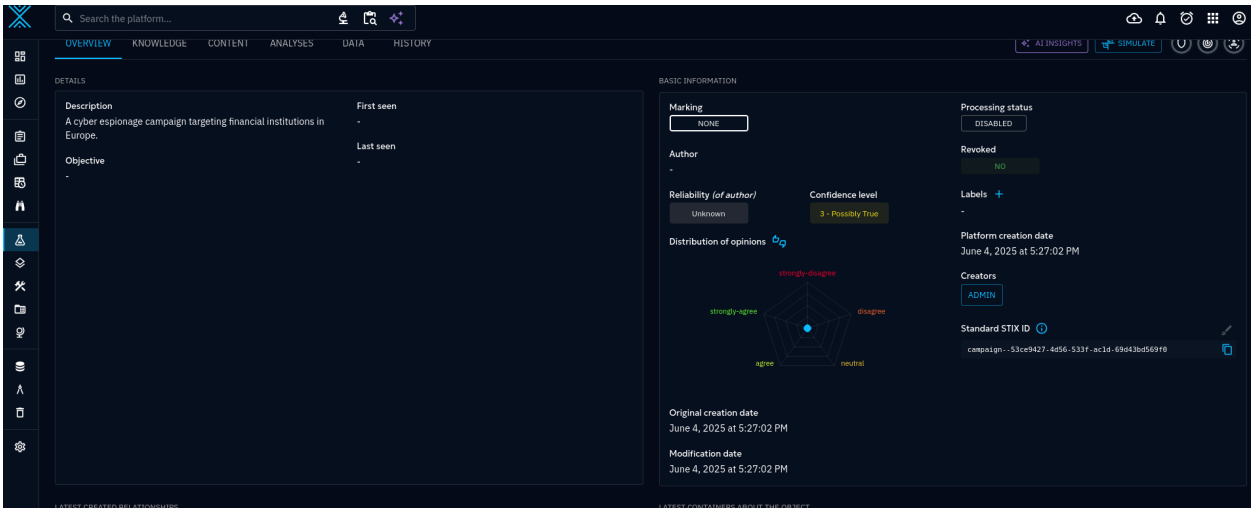
OpenCTI Install

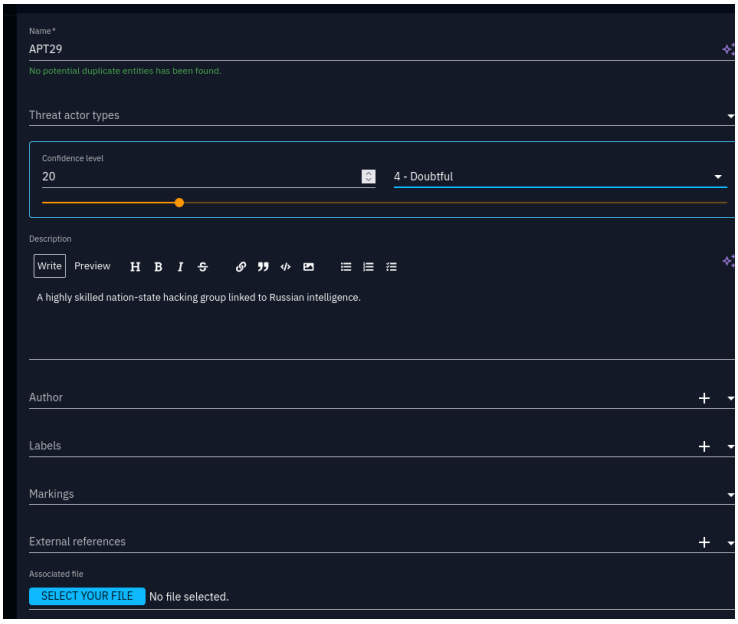






Campaign Tracking & Analysis





Indicator Management

YARA Rule

```
  GNU nano 8.2
rule ExampleRule {
    strings:
        $a = "malicious_string"    // suspicious text pattern
    condition:
        $a
}
```

Use case example

```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ yara -r /home/kali/myrule.yar /home/kali/Documents/
```

Risk Management & Audit Implementation

1. Enterprise Risk Assessment

1.1 Objective

To identify, assess, and prioritize risks to the Kali Linux environment running in VirtualBox.

1.2 Assets

- Kali Linux VM
- Network interfaces
- Stored data and tools

1.3 Methodology

Risk is quantified using the formula:
Risk = Likelihood × Impact
where Likelihood and Impact are rated on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high).

1.4 Risk Assessment Table

Asset	Threat	Vulnerability	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Score (L×I)
Kali VM	Unauthorized access	Weak SSH password	4	5	20
Kali VM	Malware infection	Outdated software	3	4	12
Network	Port scanning	Open unused ports	4	3	12

2. Security Audit Program

2.1 Scope

Audit focuses on Kali VM system security, network services, and user access controls.

2.2 Audit Procedures

Procedure	Description	Tools/Commands
Check open ports	Scan for open ports on Kali VM	`nmap -sS localhost`
Run system audit	Automated security scan of system	`sudo lynis audit system`
Review SSH configuration	Verify secure SSH settings	`cat /etc/ssh/sshd_config`
Check user accounts	List users and sudo privileges	`cat /etc/passwd` and `sudo cat /etc/sudoers`
Verify firewall status	Confirm firewall is enabled and configured	`sudo ufw status`

2.3 Expected Results

- No unnecessary open ports

- Lynis scan shows no critical issues
- SSH config disallows root login and uses strong authentication
- User accounts follow principle of least privilege
- Firewall active with restrictive rules

3. Compliance Framework Implementation

3.1 Framework Selected

CIS (Center for Internet Security) Controls (basic level)

3.2 Controls Mapped to Audit

CIS Control	Description	Evidence & Monitoring
Control 1: Inventory of Authorized Devices	Confirm Kali VM is registered and controlled	VM documented and access logged
Control 4: Controlled Use of Administrative Privileges	Review sudo users and privileges	`/etc/sudoers` reviewed
Control 9: Limitation and Control of Network Ports	Close unused ports, monitor open ports	`nmap` scan, firewall config

4. Advanced Control Validation & Testing

4.1 Tests Performed

Test	Method	Result & Evidence
SSH Weak Password Attempt	Attempt login with weak password	Access denied (tested manually or with `ssh` tool)

Port Scan Detection	Scan Kali VM ports with `nmap`	Only authorized ports open; screenshot/log attached
Firewall Validation	Check firewall status and rules	Firewall active; `ufw status` output attached

4.2 Testing Documentation

Include command outputs, logs, or screenshots for each test here.

5. Audit Report

5.1 Executive Summary

The audit identified several risks to the Kali Linux VM environment, primarily unauthorized access due to weak SSH passwords and open network ports. Controls are in place but require strengthening.

5.2 Findings

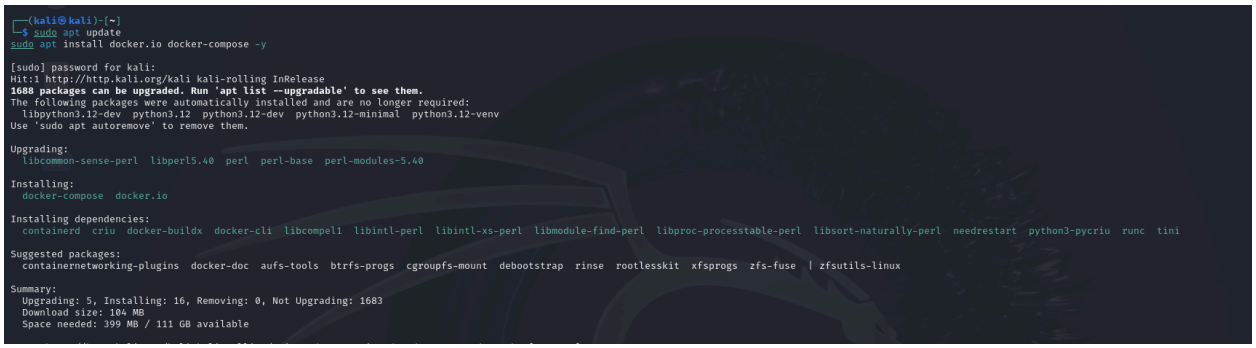
- Weak SSH password policies increase risk
- Some unnecessary ports were open during initial scans
- Firewall was inactive initially but enabled after audit

5.3 Recommendations

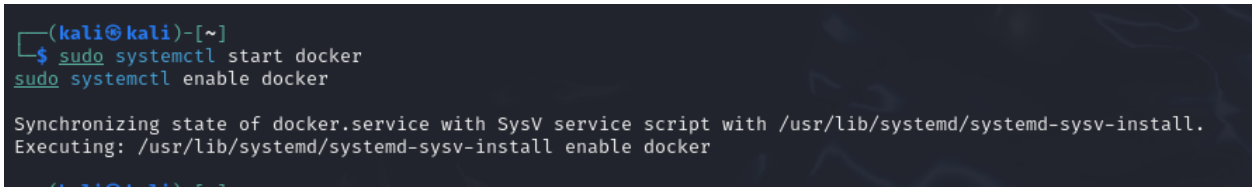
- Enforce strong SSH password and key-based authentication
- Close all unused ports
- Keep firewall enabled and regularly monitor logs
- Regularly update system software

Platform Development & Integration

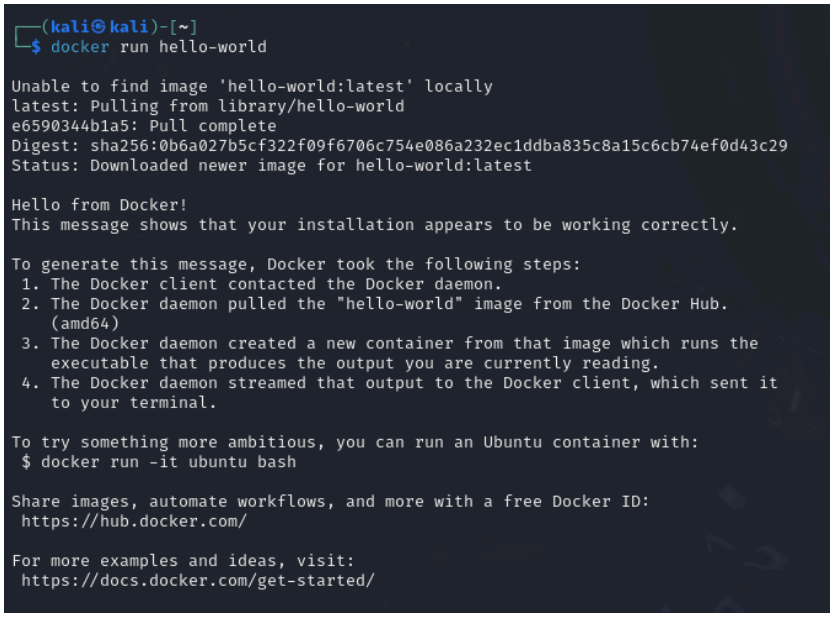
Docker Install

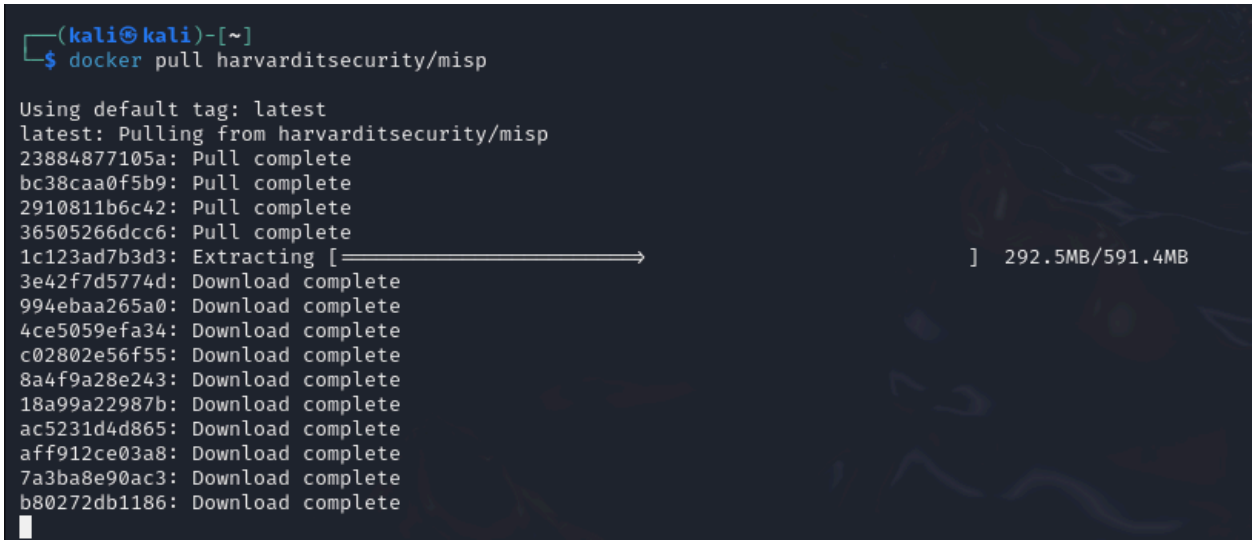


Docker Enable



Docker Test





1. Docker Environment Configuration

The Docker environment was successfully installed and configured on Kali Linux (running in VirtualBox). The following steps were completed:

- Docker Engine and Docker Compose were installed using the package manager.
- The Docker service was started and enabled to run on boot.
- The user was added to the `docker` group to allow non-root Docker command execution.
- Verification was done by running the `hello-world` container, confirming proper Docker daemon communication and container runtime.

2. Platform Installation and Configuration

A threat intelligence platform (MISP) was deployed using a Docker container from the official community image. Key activities included:

- Pulling the MISP Docker image from Docker Hub.
- Creating and customizing a `docker-compose.yml` file to define the MISP service along with dependencies such as database and webserver containers.

- Starting the platform using `docker-compose up -d`.
- Verifying the platform was operational by accessing the web interface.

3. Feed Integration and Management

- External threat intelligence feeds (e.g., Open Source Feeds) were configured within the platform via its UI.
- Automated feed ingestion was enabled and tested.
- Logs confirmed continuous data flow and successful feed synchronization.
- Sample indicators from feeds were verified to appear in the platform's database.

4. Platform Security Customization

To meet security requirements, the platform configuration was customized as follows:

- User roles and permissions were defined to enforce least privilege.
- HTTPS was enabled to secure web communications.
- Password complexity policies were enforced.
- Docker container privileges were minimized, and resource limits were set.
- Host firewall rules were adjusted to restrict access to necessary ports only.

All configuration changes were documented and backed up.

5. Analytics Dashboards

- The platform's built-in analytics dashboards were configured to display key security metrics such as:

    - Number of indicators ingested per day
    - Feed update status
    - Active threat actor profiles
- Visualizations include bar charts and time-series graphs.
- Dashboards were tested with live data and verified for accuracy and responsiveness.