Capstone Engagement

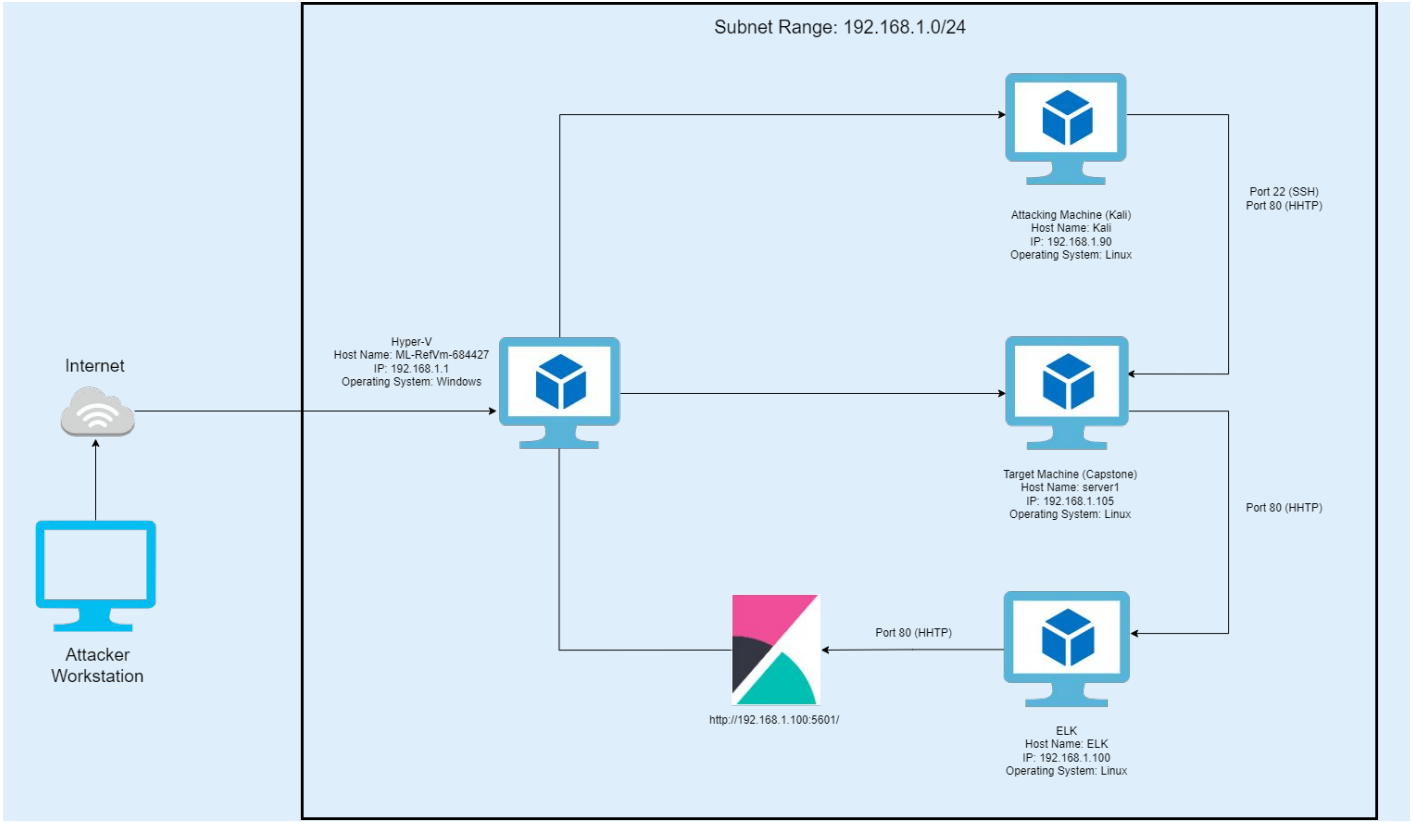
Assessment, Analysis, and Hardening of a Vulnerable System

Table of Contents

This document contains the following sections:

Network Topology

Network Topology



Network
Address Range: 192.168.1.0/24
Netmask: 255.255.255.0
Gateway: 10.0.0.1

Machines
IPv4: 192.168.1.1
OS: Windows
Hostname: ML-RefVm-684427

IPv4: 192.168.1.100
OS: ELK
Hostname: Linux

IPv4: 192.168.1.105
OS: Linux
Hostname: server1

IPv4: 192.168.1.90
OS: Linux
Hostname: Kali

Red Team
Security Assessment

Recon: Describing the Target

Nmap identified the following hosts on the network:

Hostname	IP Address	Role on Network
ML-RefVm-684427	192.168.1.1	Hosts all of the machines
ELK	192.168.1.100	Transfer Data to Kibana from server1 for analysis
Kali	192.168.1.90	Attacker Machine
server1	192.168.1.105	Vulnerable Target Machine

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Use the CVE number if it exists. Otherwise, use the common name.	*Describe the vulnerability.*	*Describe what this vulnerability allows the attacker to do.*
For example: LFI Vulnerability	LFI allows access into confidential files on a site.	An LFI vulnerability allows attackers to gain access to sensitive credentials
Port 80 Open CVE-2019-6579	Open Port 80 can give attackers network access to the web server	The attacker is able to use Port 80 to gain administrative privileges and execute malicious code
Path Traversal to Access Secret Files CVE-2021-41773	The attacker is able to search for directories outside of root by using the URL to search for specific directories	The attacker can gain access to sensitive data that is not in the root folder

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Sensitive Data Exposure	Sensitive Data is exposed to authorized and unauthorized parties	The attacker is able to easily access sensitive data that they are looking for or information on how to gain privileged access to the information that they are looking for
Weak Password CVE-2019-4067	The password policy for a given account does not require users to create complex passwords	Password can be easily guessed allowing attackers access to the account
Bruteforce Vulnerability CWE-307: Improper Restriction of Excessive Authentication Attempts	When no restriction is placed on the amount of time a log in can be attempted before an Account Lock-out	Attackers can continue to use brute force attacks until they are able to gain access to the account
CWE-759: Use of a One-Way Hash without a Salt	A given software uses hashes on it's passwords but does not salt them	If computing resources are available, an attacker is able to crack the password either locally or through an online software very easily. If salts are used by the software, it becomes more difficult of the attacker to crack it since the salt string is unique to the software

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
Cross site Scripting PHP remote file Inclusion CVE-2006-2849	Remote attackers are able to upload php code to the web server and execute it	The attacker is able to get shell access to the vulnerable machine

Exploitation: Port 80 Open [CVE-2019-6579]

01

Tools & Processes
How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

Netdiscover was used to gather network information and clients connected to it. That was followed with a nmap scan to identify ports open on the target machine.

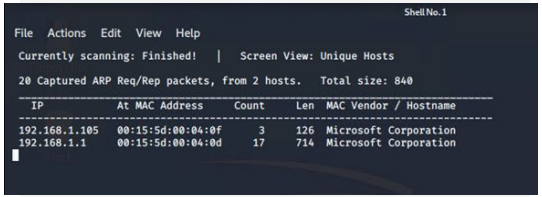
02

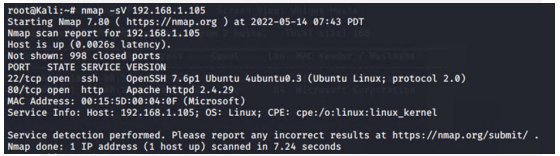
Achievements
What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

Found that Port 80 was open an was able to access the web server

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]





Exploitation: Path Traversal to Access Secret Files [CVE-2021-41773]

01

Tools & Processes
How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

Once inside one of the visible directories on the web server, the URL was changed to the secret_folder directory

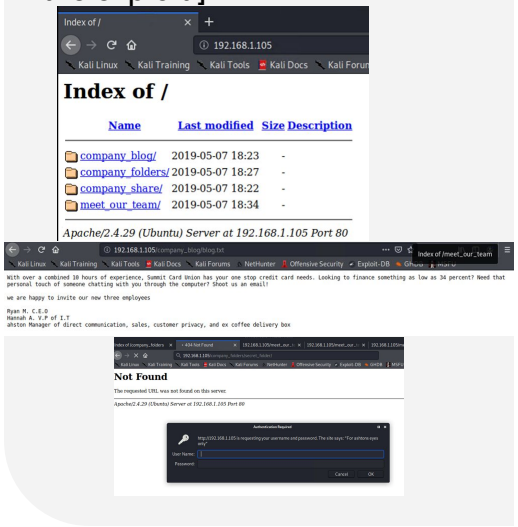
02

Achievements
What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

I able to gain access to the login page of the secret_folder which verified that existence of a private company folder.

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]



Exploitation: Sensitive Data Exposure

01

Tools & Processes

How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

Searched the IP address on firefox which led the web server. Many of the files on the webserver talked about a secret_folder. Through Path Traversal and hydra I was able to gain access to the directory. The login page also gave away the account username to access the directory. The secret_folder also exposed the CEO's webdav password

02

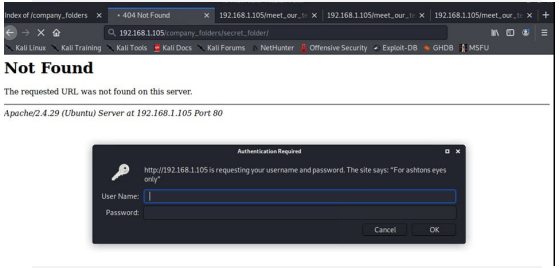
Achievements

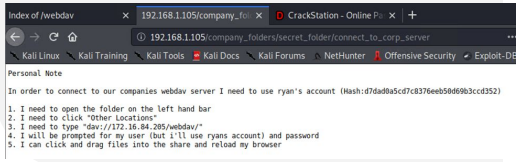
What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

Found out how to access the webdav which further led to shell access to the CEO's account and capture the flag

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]





Exploitation: Weak Password [CVE-2019-4067]

01

Tools & Processes
How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

Hydra was used easily bruteforce and guess the password of ashton's account

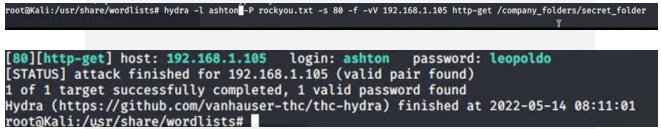
02

Achievements
What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

Uncovered ashton's credentials which lead to the CEO's Hashed Password

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]



Exploitation: Bruteforce Vulnerability [CWE-307: Improper Restriction of Excessive Authentication Attempts]

01

Tools & Processes

How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

Hydra was used to bruteforce the account without being locked out at any point for too many failed attempts

02

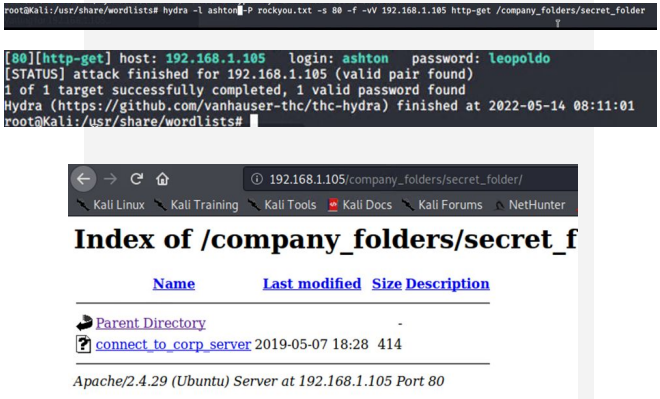
Achievements

What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

Uncovered ashton's credentials which lead to the CEO's Hashed Password

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]



Exploitation: Use of a One-Way Hash without a Salt [CWE-759]

01

Tools & Processes
How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

crackstation was used on the hash to reveal the CEO's webdav password

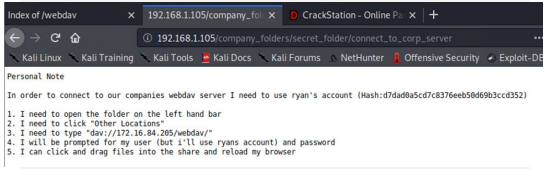
02

Achievements
What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

uncovered the CEO's password and was able to access the webdav with his credentials

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]



Exploitation: Cross site Scripting PHP remote file Inclusion [CVE-2006-2849]

01

Tools & Processes

How did you exploit the vulnerability? Which tool (Nmap, etc.) or techniques (XSS, etc.) did you use?

msfvenom was used to create a PHP reverse shell payload. This was then uploaded to the webdav. Metasploit was used to execute the payload.

02

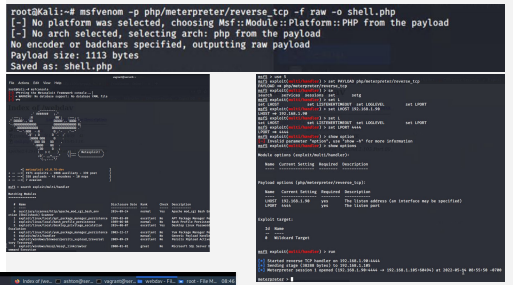
Achievements

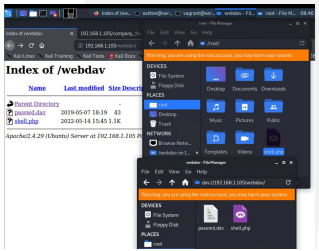
What did the exploit achieve? For example: Did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?

I was able to start a meterpreter session and shell into the CEO's webdav account to where I can view all of his directories and capture the flag

03

[INSERT: screenshot or command output illustrating the exploit.]

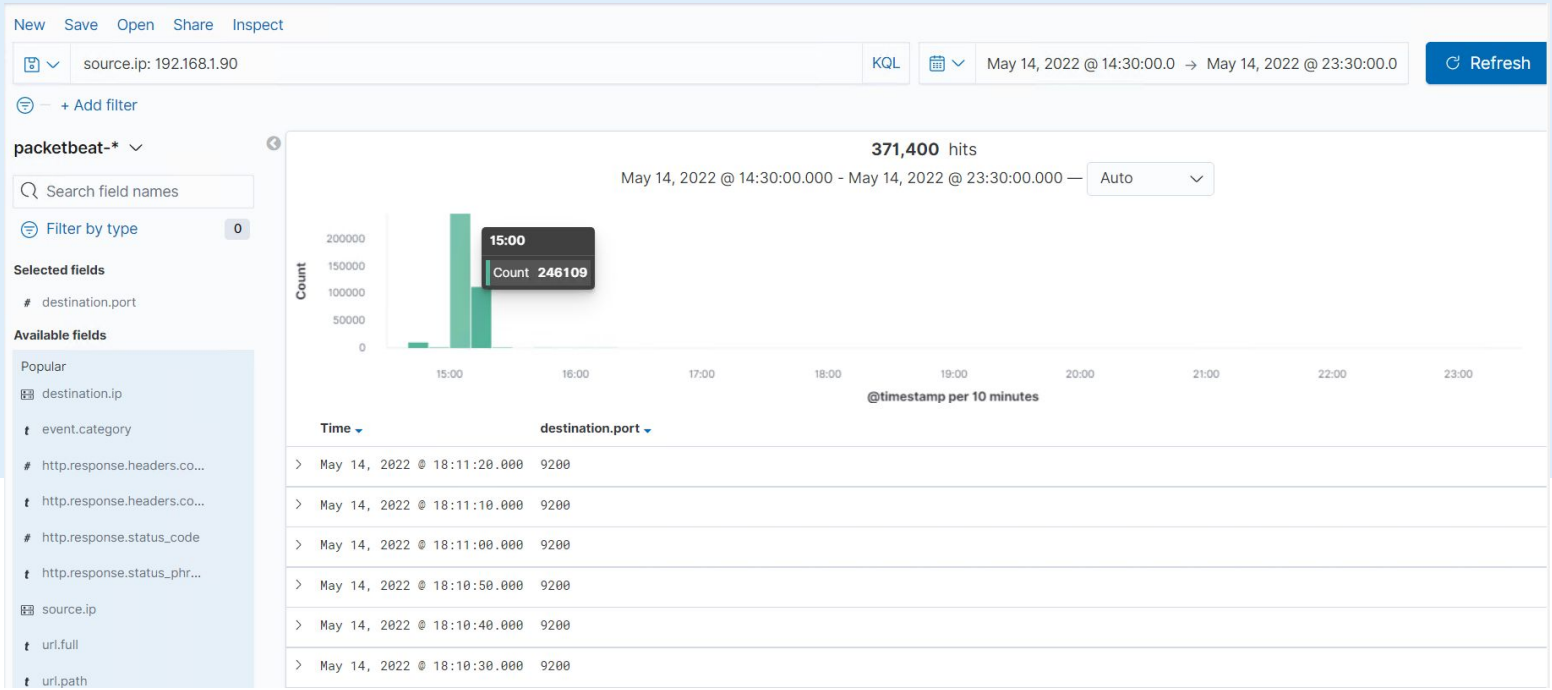




Blue Team
Log Analysis and Attack Characterization

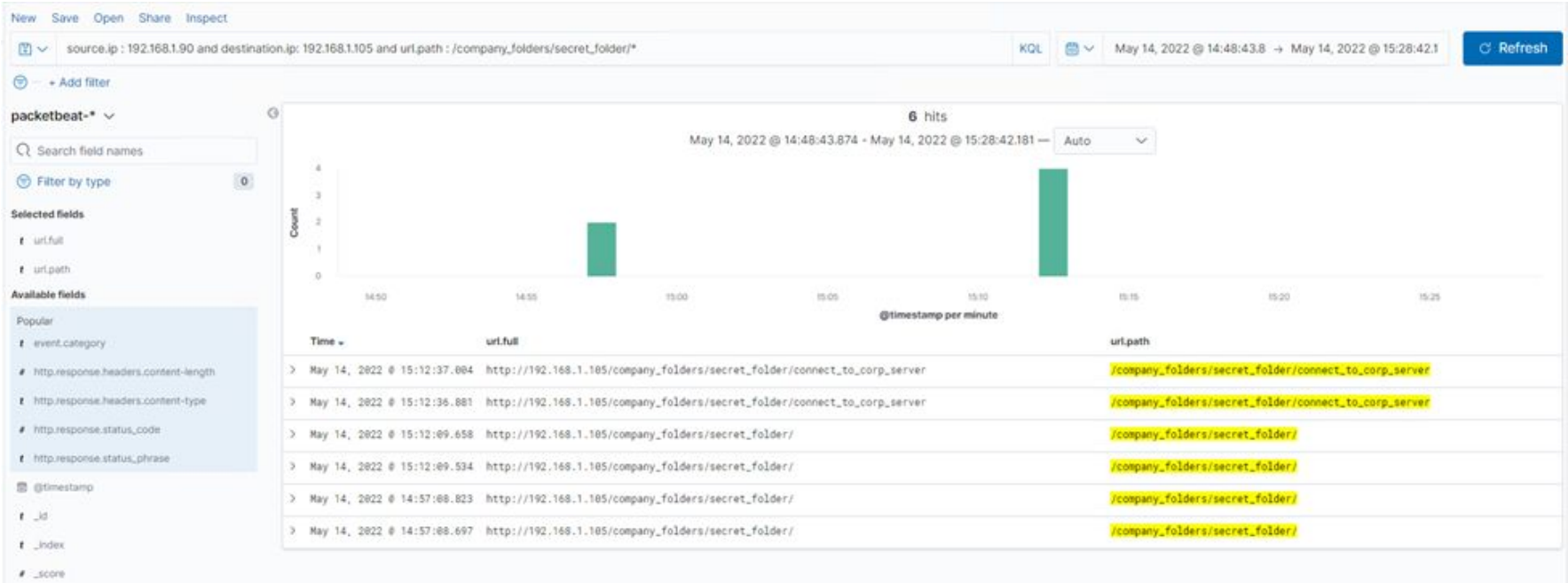
Analysis: Identifying the Port Scan

- What time did the port scan occur? The Port Scan Occurred at 15:00
- How many packets were sent, and from which IP? 248109 packets were sent by the source IP 192.168.1.90
- What indicates that this was a port scan? There is a sudden spike in the traffic coming from the source IP. Prior to that you can see a small spike which represents the previously disrupted port scan



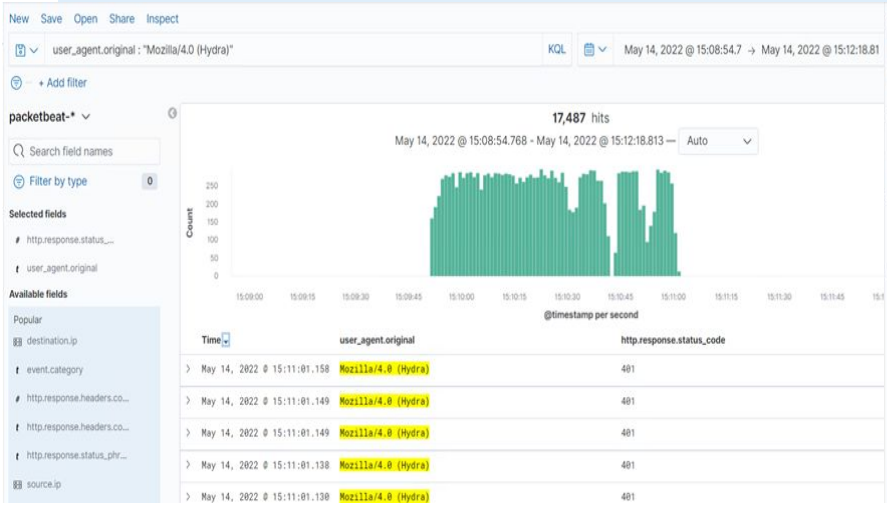
Analysis: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

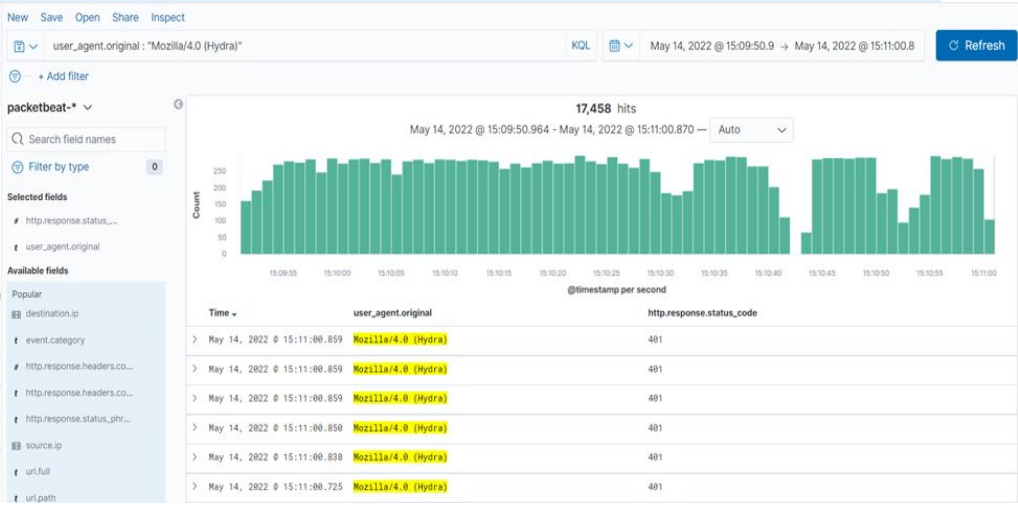
- What time did the request occur? How many requests were made? Request took place at 15:06 with 11337 requests were made
- Which files were requested? What did they contain? /company_folders/secret_folder/connect_to_corp_server was requested and it contained information on how to connect to the corporate server (connecting to the WebDav)



Analysis: Uncovering the Brute Force Attack

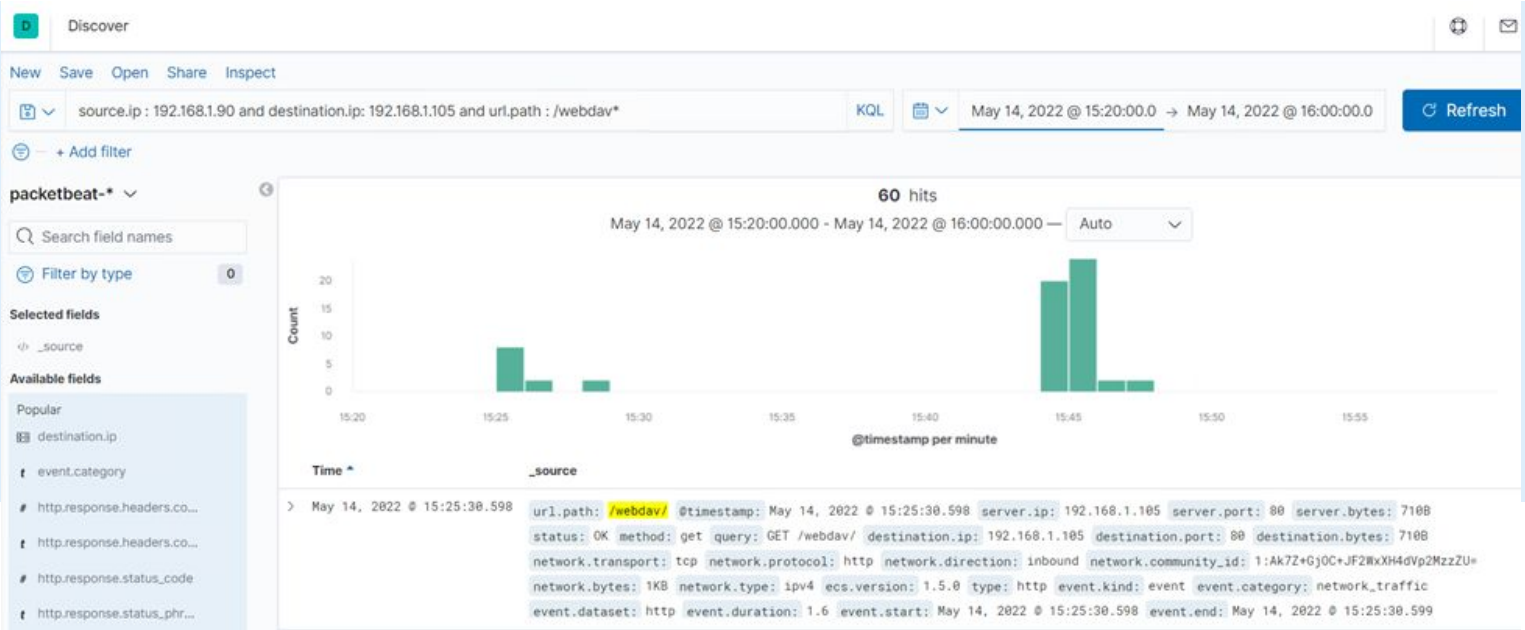
- How many requests were made in the attack? 17,487 requests were made in total
- How many requests had been made before the attacker discovered the password? 17,458 requests were made before the password was uncovered





Analysis: Finding the WebDAV Connection

- How many requests were made to this directory? 60 requests were made to this directory
- Which files were requested? Passwd.dav and shell.php were requested from this directory



Blue Team
Proposed Alarms and Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation: Blocking the Port Scan

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future port scans?

When an unauthorized IP Address is sending packets to the vulnerable machine

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

The threshold for this should be 1 unauthorized IP address with over 50,000 packets

System Hardening

What configurations can be set on the host to mitigate port scans?

- Install a firewall that can detect when a port scan is taking place
- Close all ports that do not need to be open

Mitigation: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future unauthorized access?

Notify when any ip addresses that are not whitelisted try to access the folder

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

Threshold for this alarm would be 1 count (1 unauthorized IP address)

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block unwanted access?

Remove the secret folder from the server and move it to a more secure server and change the names of the folder

Describe the solution. If possible, provide required command lines.

rm -r secret_folder

Mitigation: Preventing Brute Force Attacks

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future brute force attacks?
What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

An alarm should be triggered after 5 failed login attempts within a 10 minute period

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block brute force attacks?

Add two factor authentication, lock the account when the above certain threshold of failed attempts has been reached, add Captcha as part of the login process

Mitigation: Detecting the WebDAV Connection

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future access to this directory?

Trigger when an unauthorized ip address attempts to access the server

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

Threshold for this alarm would be 1 count (1 unauthorized IP address)

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to control access?

Whitelist all of authorized IP address and block any unauthorized IP address trying to access the server

Mitigation: Identifying Reverse Shell Uploads

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future file uploads?

Trigger when a status code of 207 received

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

Threshold should be 1 count since it indicates multiple independent process are taking place on the WebDav

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block file uploads?

Have a list of IP addresses that are white-listed and make ports 22 and 80 unavailable to the other IP addresses


The End