

Obscura Net Corp - Major Project Report

Title: Attack, Detection & Hardening of Enterprise Infrastructure Using SIEM Student

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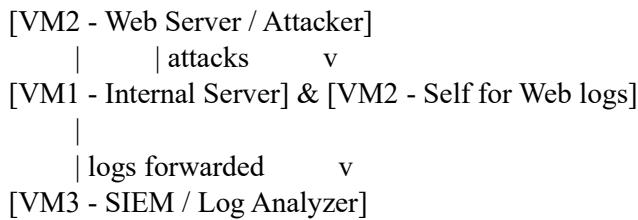
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1. Project Overview

Objective: Simulate real-world cyberattacks, detect security events using a SIEM solution, and apply system hardening measures.

Scope: - conducting red team attacks on internal and web servers, collecting and correlating logs through the Wazuh SIEM platform, and implementing system hardening measures such as SSH, Apache, and firewall configurations.

Infrastructure Diagram:



2. Environment Setup

VM Role	IP (Example)	Purpose
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VM1 Internal Server	10.0.1.4	Victim
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VM2 Web Server	10.0.1.5	Attacker & Victim
VM3 SIEM Server	10.0.1.7	Log collection, analysis

Preparatory Steps: - Update all VMs: sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y - Set hostnames: VM1 → internal-server, VM2 → web-server, VM3 → siem

3. Red Team Simulation (Attacks)

3.1 Port Scanning

Command (VM2):

```
nmap -sS -sV VM_IP nmap -sS -sV VM_IP
```

Purpose: Identify open ports and running services. Logs: /var/log/syslog (VM1 & VM2), Wazuh alerts (VM3)

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo nmap -sS -sV -A 10.0.0.5
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-25 23:31 UTC
Nmap scan report for vm-web.internal.cloudapp.net (10.0.0.5)
Host is up (0.00092s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.9p1 Ubuntu 3ubuntu0.13 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http     nginx 1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
|_http-server-header: nginx/1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Welcome to nginx!
MAC Address: 12:34:56:78:9A:BC (Unknown)
No exact OS matches for host (If you know what OS is running on it, see https://nmap.org/submit/ ).
```

TCP/IP fingerprint:

```
OS:SCAN(V=7.80E=4%D=12/25%OT=22%CT=1%CU=41666%PV=Y%DS=1%DC=D%G=Y%M=123456%
OS:TM=694DC947%P=x86_64-pc-linux-gnu)SEQ(SP=102%GCD=1%ISR=104%TI=Z%CI=Z%II=
OS:I%TS=A)SEQ(SP=102%GCD=1%ISR=104%TI=Z%CI=Z%TS=A)OPS(OI=M582ST11NW7%O2=M58
OS:2ST11NW7%O3=M582NNT11NW7%O4=M582ST11NW7%O5=M582ST11NW7%O6=M582ST11)WIN/W
OS:1=FE88%W2=FE88%W3=FE88%W4=FE88%W5=FE88%W6=FE88%ECN(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=FAF0%
OS:0=M582NNSNW7%CC=N%Q=)T1(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%A=S+=%F=AS%RD=0%Q=)T2(R=N)T3(R=
OS:N)T4(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S=A%Z%F=R%O=%RD=0%Q=)T5(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S=Z%A
OS:S+%F=AR%O=%RD=0%Q=)T6(R=Y%DF=Y%T=40%W=0%S=A%A=Z%F=R%O=%RD=0%Q=)T7(R=Y%D
OS:F=Y%T=40%W=0%S=Z%A=S+F=AR%O=%RD=0%Q=)U1(R=Y%DF=N%T=46%IPL=164%UN=0%RIPL
OS:=G%RID=G%RIPCK=G%RUCK=G%RUD=G)IE(R=Y%DFI=N%T=40%CD=S)

Network Distance: 1 hop
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
```

3.2 SSH Brute Force Attack

Command (VM2):

```
hydra -l root -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt ssh://VM_IP
```

Logs: /var/log/auth.log (VM1), SIEM alerts (VM3)

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ hydra -l root -P passwords.txt ssh://10.0.0.5
hydra v9.2 (c) by van Hauser/THC & David Maciejak - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, or for illegal purposes (this is non-binding, these *** ignore laws and ethics anyway).

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2025-12-26 00:06:46
[WARNING] Many SSH configurations limit the number of parallel tasks, it is recommended to reduce the tasks: use -t 4
[DATA] max 10 tasks per 1 server, overall 10 tasks, 10 login tries (1:1/p:10), ~1 try per task
[DATA] attacking ssh://10.0.0.5:22/
1 of 1 target completed, 0 valid password found
hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2025-12-26 00:06:50
```

3.3 Web Attacks

Commands (VM2):

```
nikto -h http://localhost gobuster dir -u http://localhost -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt
```

Logs: /var/log/apache2/access.log & /var/log/apache2/error.log (VM2), Wazuh alerts (VM3)

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ nikto -h http://10.0.0.5
- Nikto v2.1.5
-----
+ Target IP:          10.0.0.5
+ Target Hostname:   vm-web.internal.cloudapp.net
+ Target Port:        80
+ Start Time:        2025-12-25 23:48:15 (GMT0)
-----
+ Server: nginx/1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
+ Server leaks inodes via ETags, header found with file /, fields: 0x694dace0 0x264
+ The anti-clickjacking X-Frame-Options header is not present.
+ No CGI Directories found (use '-C all' to force check all possible dirs)
+ 6544 items checked: 0 error(s) and 2 item(s) reported on remote host
+ End Time:          2025-12-25 23:48:23 (GMT0) (8 seconds)
-----
+ 1 host(s) tested
```

3.4 Privilege Escalation & Enumeration

Commands:

```
sudo -l find / -perm -4000 2>/dev/null
uname -a id netstat -tulnp
```

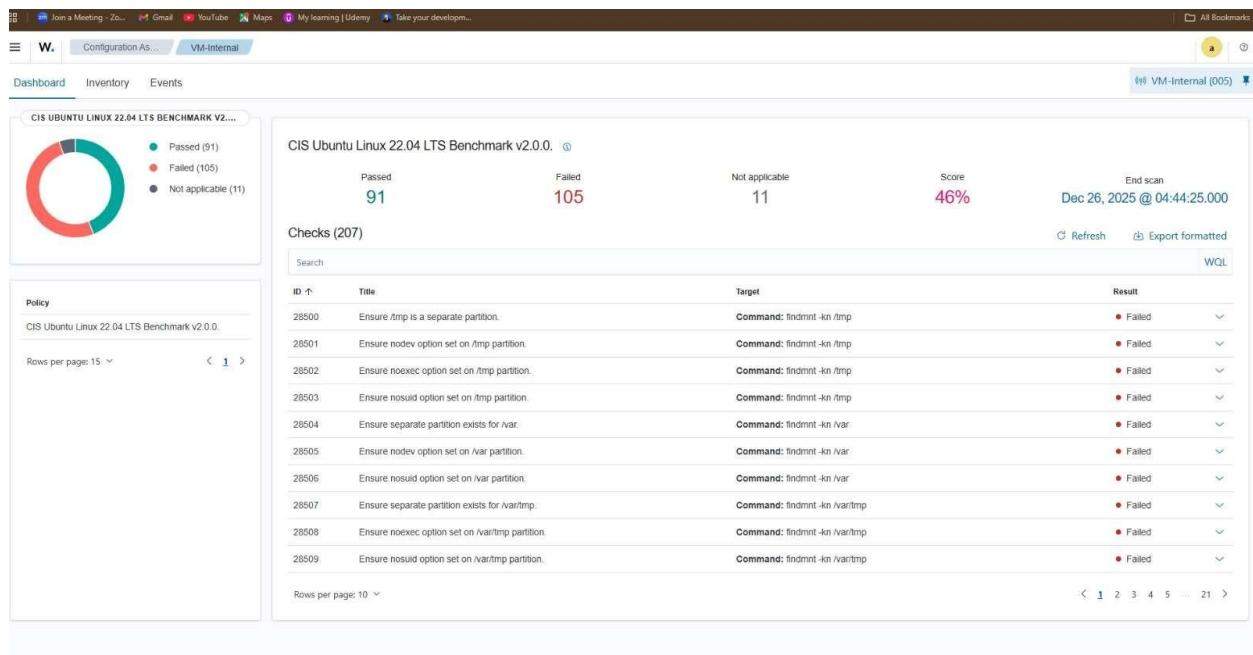
Logs: Forwarded to SIEM for monitoring

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo netstat -tulnp | grep -E '80|443'
tcp      0      0 0.0.0.0:443           0.0.0.0:*          LISTEN      52285/node
tcp      0      0 0.0.0.0:1515          0.0.0.0:*          LISTEN      113807/wazuh-authd
```

4. SIEM Investigation

- Captured all attacks via Wazuh agent
- Categorized alerts: Authentication failures, Web attacks, Scan detection, Privilege escalation

ID	Title	Target	Result
28500	Ensure /tmp is a separate partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	● Failed
28501	Ensure nodev option set on /tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	● Failed
28502	Ensure noexec option set on /tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	● Failed
28503	Ensure nosuid option set on /tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	● Failed
28504	Ensure separate partition exists for /var.	Command: findmnt -kn /var	● Failed
28505	Ensure nodev option set on /var partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var	● Failed
28506	Ensure noexec option set on /var partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var	● Failed
28507	Ensure separate partition exists for /var/tmp.	Command: findmnt -kn /var/tmp	● Failed
28508	Ensure noexec option set on /var/tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var/tmp	● Failed
28509	Ensure nosuid option set on /var/tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var/tmp	● Failed



5. Hardening and Mitigation 5.1

SSH Hardening

File Edited: /etc/ssh/sshd_config

Port 2222

PermitRootLogin no

PasswordAuthentication no

MaxAuthTries 3 Commands:

```
sudo systemctl restart ssh sudo sshd -t
```

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ nmap -A 10.0.0.5
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-25 23:53 UTC
Nmap scan report for vm-web.internal.cloudapp.net (10.0.0.5)
Host is up (0.0046s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.9p1 Ubuntu 3ubuntu0.13 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http     nginx 1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
|_http-server-header: nginx/1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Welcome to nginx!
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 6.57 seconds
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ nmap -A 10.0.0.6
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-25 23:53 UTC
Nmap scan report for vm-internal.internal.cloudapp.net (10.0.0.6)
Host is up (0.00080s latency).
Not shown: 999 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.9p1 Ubuntu 3ubuntu0.13 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
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 0.42 seconds
```

5.2 Firewall Configuration (UFW)

Commands (VM1):

```
sudo ufw default deny incoming sudo ufw allow from 10.0.1.7  
to any port 2222 sudo ufw enable
```

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo systemctl restart ssh  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo ufw default deny incoming  
Default incoming policy changed to 'deny'  
(be sure to update your rules accordingly)  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo ufw allow from 10.0.0.6 to any port 2222  
Rules updated  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo ufw enable  
Command may disrupt existing ssh connections. Proceed with operation (y|n)? y  
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ |
```

Commands (VM2):

```
sudo ufw allow 80 sudo ufw  
allow 443  
sudo ufw allow from 10.0.1.7 to any port 2222 sudo ufw enable
```

Commands (VM3):

```
sudo ufw allow 1514 sudo ufw  
allow 55000 sudo ufw enable
```

5.3 Apache Hardening

ServerTokens Prod

ServerSignature Off Options -Indexes sudo

systemctl restart apache2

5.4 Fail2Ban

```
sudo apt install fail2ban -y sudo systemctl  
enable fail2ban sudo systemctl start fail2ban
```

```
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo systemctl enable fail2ban sudo systemctl start fail2ban  
Synchronizing state of fail2ban.service with SysV service script with /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.  
Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable fail2ban  
Synchronizing state of fail2ban.service with SysV service script with /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.  
Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable fail2ban  
Failed to enable unit: Unit file /etc/systemd/system/fail2ban.service is masked.  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo systemctl enable fail2ban  
Synchronizing state of fail2ban.service with SysV service script with /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.  
Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable fail2ban  
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/fail2ban.service → /lib/systemd/system/fail2ban.service.  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ sudo systemctl start fail2ban  
azureuser@VM-SIEM:~$ |
```

5.5 Audit Logging

```
sudo apt install auditd -y sudo nano
```

/etc/audit/rules.d/audit.rules

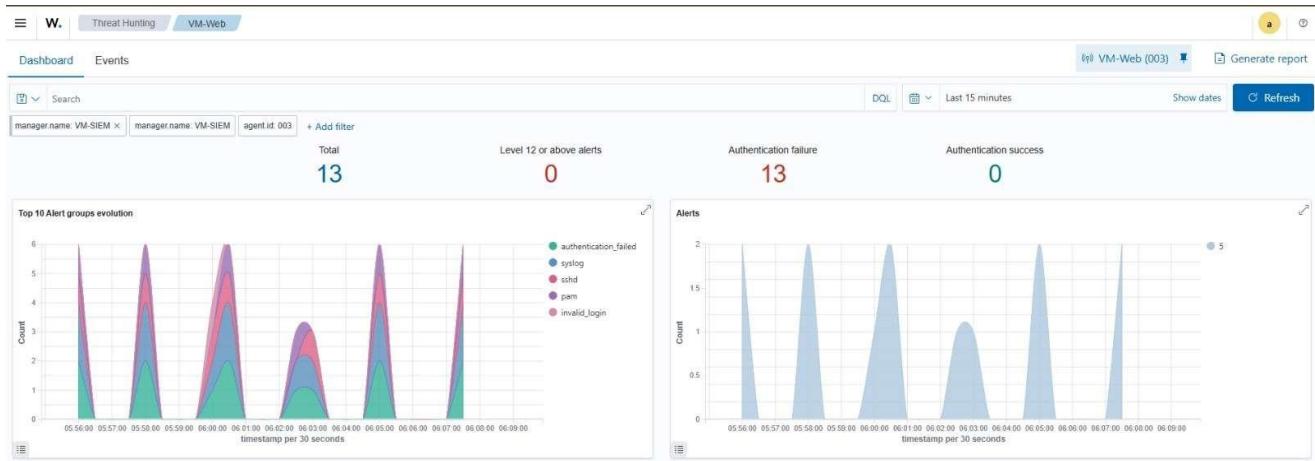
Audit rules:

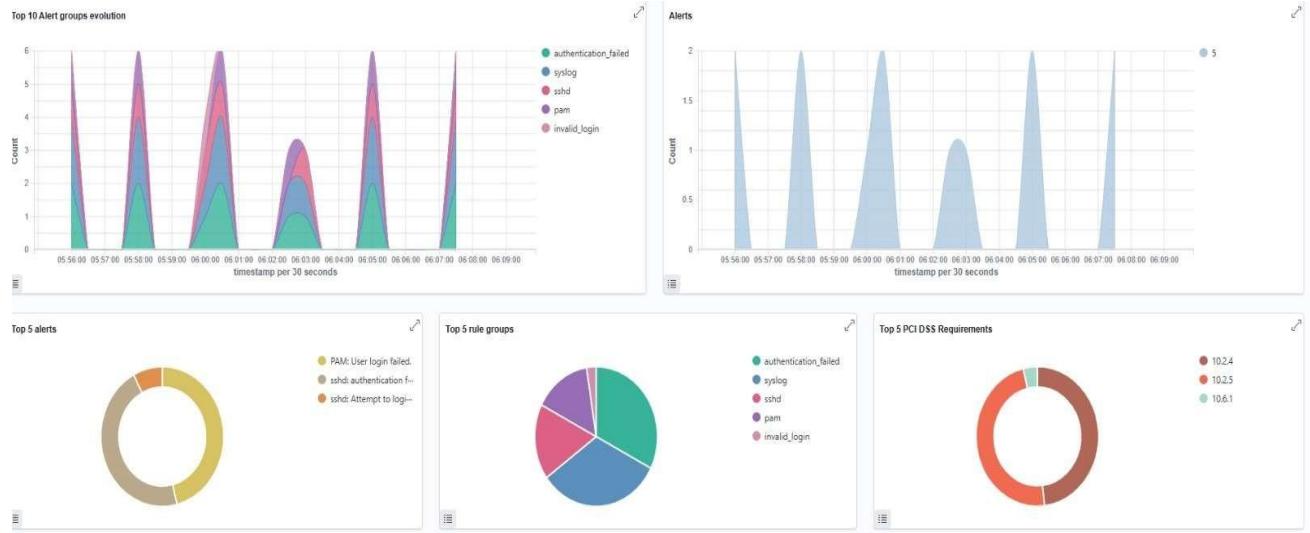
```
-w /etc/passwd -p wa -k passwd_change -w  
/var/log/auth.log -p wa -k ssh_log sudo systemctl restart  
auditd
```

6. Re-Attack After Hardening

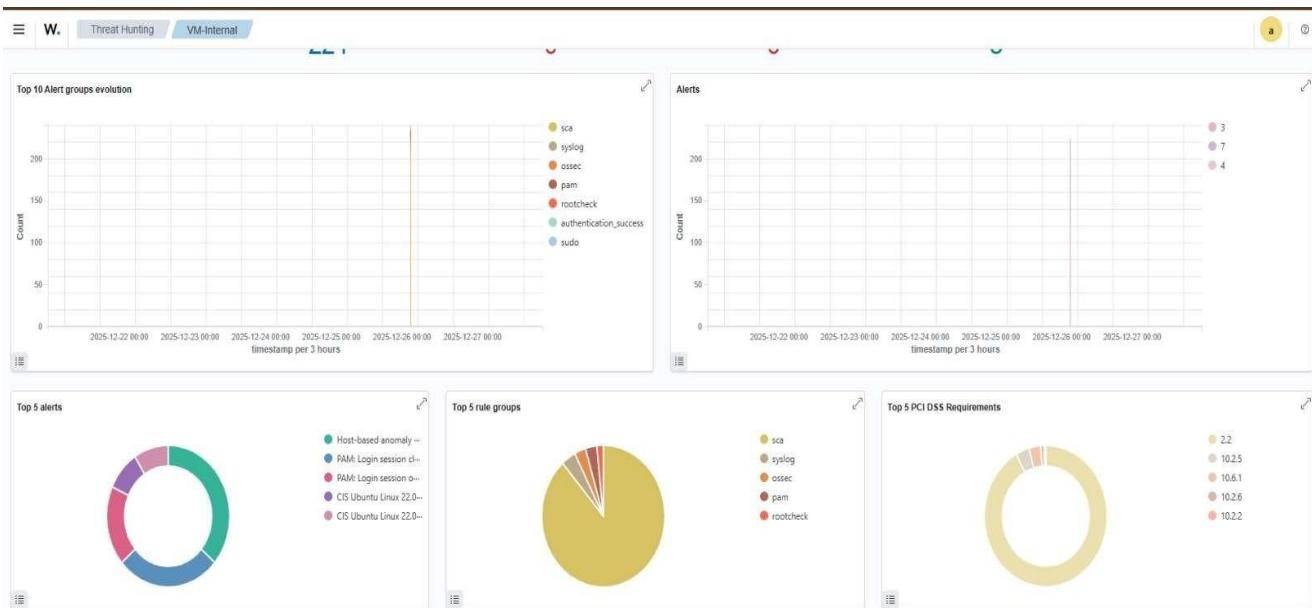
- Repeat VM2 attacks
- Result: Brute force blocked, scans logged, web attacks monitored

□ INTERNAL SERVER DASHBOARD





□ WEBSERVER DASHBOARD



W. Configuration As... VM-Web

Dashboard Inventory Events

VM-Web (003)

CIS UBUNTU LINUX 22.04 LTS BENCHMARK V2.0.0

Status	Count
Passed	90
Failed	106
Not applicable	11

CIS Ubuntu Linux 22.04 LTS Benchmark v2.0.0

Score	End scan
45%	Dec 26, 2025 @ 04:06:10.000

Checks (207)

ID	Title	Target	Result
28500	Ensure /tmp is a separate partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	Failed
28501	Ensure nodev option set on /tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	Failed
28502	Ensure noexec option set on /tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	Failed
28503	Ensure nosuid option set on /tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /tmp	Failed
28504	Ensure separate partition exists for /var.	Command: findmnt -kn /var	Failed
28505	Ensure nodev option set on /var partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var	Failed
28506	Ensure noexec option set on /var partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var	Failed
28507	Ensure separate partition exists for /var/tmp.	Command: findmnt -kn /var/tmp	Failed
28508	Ensure noexec option set on /var/tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var/tmp	Failed
28509	Ensure nosuid option set on /var/tmp partition.	Command: findmnt -kn /var/tmp	Failed

Policy

CIS Ubuntu Linux 22.04 LTS Benchmark v2.0.0

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7. Before vs After Comparison

Attack Type	Before Hardening	After Hardening
SSH Brute Force	Successful login attempts	Blocked / alert triggered
Port Scan	Open ports visible	Firewall blocked, only required ports open
Web Attacks	Apache discloses version	Version hidden, directory listing disabled
Privilege Escalation	Vulnerable SUID binaries	Critical binaries removed / monitored

8. Conclusion

- Simulated attacks on internal infrastructure
- Captured & analyzed all events via Wazuh SIEM
- Hardened SSH, firewall, Apache, and system policies
- Demonstrated Red Team → Blue Team → Hardening workflow

Learning Outcome: - Hands-on Linux server security - SIEM log correlation & monitoring - Applying security best practices
