

Nmap Command with Examples

Nmap is a Linux command-line tool for **network exploration and security auditing**. This tool is generally used by hackers and cybersecurity enthusiasts, and even by network and system administrators. It is used for the following purposes:

- ❖ Real-time information of a network
- ❖ Detailed information of all the IPs activated on your network
- ❖ Number of ports open in a network
- ❖ Provide the list of live hosts
- ❖ Port, OS and Host scanning

Installing Nmap Command

- ❖ sudo apt-get install nmap

Target Specification

- ❖ Target specification controls the scope of your scan, so you scan only the systems you intend to test.
- ❖ Define exactly which IPs, ranges, or subnets Nmap should scan during your network reconnaissance.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
	nmap 192.168.1.1	Scan a single IP
	nmap 192.168.1.1 192.168.2.1	Scan specific IPs
	nmap 192.168.1.1-254	Scan a range
	nmap scanme.nmap.org	Scan a domain
	nmap 192.168.1.0/24	Scan using CIDR notation
-iL	nmap -iL targets.txt	Scan targets from a file
-iR	nmap -iR 100	Scan 100 random hosts

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-exclude      nmap -exclude 192.168.1.1           Exclude listed hosts
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nmap Scan Techniques:

Choose the type of scan to run, from stealthy SYN scans to full TCP and UDP scans.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-sS	nmap 192.168.1.1	TCP SYN port scan (Default)
	-sS	
-sT	nmap 192.168.1.1	TCP connect port scan (Default without root privilege)
	-sT	
-sU	nmap 192.168.1.1	UDP port scan
	-sU	
-sA	nmap 192.168.1.1	TCP ACK port scan
	-sA	
-sW	nmap 192.168.1.1	TCP Window port scan
	-sW	
-sM	nmap 192.168.1.1	TCP Maimon port scan
	-sM	

Host Discovery:

Identify which hosts are online before running a full scan or when skipping port scans entirely.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
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-sL	nmap 192.168.1.1-3 -sL	No Scan. List targets only
-sn	nmap 192.168.1.1/24 -sn	Disable port scanning. Host discovery only.
-Pn	nmap 192.168.1.1-5 -Pn	Disable host discovery. Port scan only.
-PS	nmap 192.168.1.1-5 -PS22-25,80	TCP SYN discovery on port x. Port 80 by default
-PA	nmap 192.168.1.1-5 -PA22-25,80	TCP ACK discovery on port x. Port 80 by default
-PU	nmap 192.168.1.1-5 -PU53	UDP discovery on port x. Port 40125 by default
-PR	nmap 192.168.1.1-1/24 -PR	ARP discovery on local network
-n	nmap 192.168.1.1 -n	Never do DNS resolution

Port Specification:

Target specific ports, ranges, or combinations of TCP and UDP ports for more precise scans.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-p	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p 21	Port scan for port x
-p	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p 21-100	Port range

-p	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p U:53,T:21-25,80	Port scan multiple TCP and UDP ports
-p	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p-	Port scan all ports
-p	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p http,https	Port scan from service name
-F	nmap 192.168.1.1 -F	Fast port scan (100 ports)
-top-ports	nmap 192.168.1.1 -top-ports 2000	Port scan the top x ports
-p-65535	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p-65535	Leaving off initial port in range makes the scan start at port 1
-p0-	nmap 192.168.1.1 -p0-	Leaving off end port in range makes the scan go through to port 65535

Service and Version Detection:

Detect which services are running and attempt to identify their software versions and configurations.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-sV	nmap 192.168.1.1 -sV	Attempts to determine the version of the service running on port

-sV	nmap 192.168.1.1 -sV	Intensity level 0 to 9. Higher
-version-intensit y	-version-intensity 8	number increases possibility of correctness
-sV	nmap 192.168.1.1 -sV	Enable light mode. Lower
-version-light	-version-light	possibility of correctness. Faster
-sV -version-all	nmap 192.168.1.1 -sV -version-all	Enable intensity level 9. Higher possibility of correctness. Slower
-A	nmap 192.168.1.1 -A	Enables OS detection, version detection, script scanning, and traceroute

OS Detection:

Use TCP/IP fingerprinting to guess the operating system of target hosts.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-O	nmap 192.168.1.1 -O	<u>Remote OS detection</u> using TCP/IP stack fingerprinting
-O -osscan-limit	nmap 192.168.1.1 -O -osscan-limit	If at least one open and one closed TCP port are not found it will not try OS detection against host
-O -osscan-guess	nmap 192.168.1.1 -O -osscan-guess	Makes Nmap guess more aggressively

-O	nmap 192.168.1.1 -O	Set the maximum number x of OS detection tries against a target
-A	nmap 192.168.1.1 -A	Enables OS detection, version detection, script scanning, and traceroute

Timing and Performance:

Adjust scan speed and stealth based on your target environment and detection risk.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-T0	nmap 192.168.1.1 -T0	Paranoid (0) Intrusion Detection System evasion
-T1	nmap 192.168.1.1 -T1	Sneaky (1) Intrusion Detection System evasion
-T2	nmap 192.168.1.1 -T2	Polite (2) slows down the scan to use less bandwidth and use less target machine resources
-T3	nmap 192.168.1.1 -T3	Normal (3) which is default speed
-T4	nmap 192.168.1.1 -T4	Aggressive (4) speeds scans; assumes you are on a reasonably fast and reliable network
-T5	nmap 192.168.1.1 -T5	Insane (5) speeds scan; assumes you are on an extraordinarily fast network

NSE Scripts:

Enhance your scans with Nmap's scripting engine for automation and deeper inspection.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-sC	nmap 192.168.1.1 -sC	Scan with default NSE scripts. Considered useful for discovery and safe
-script default	nmap 192.168.1.1 -script default	Scan with default NSE scripts. Considered useful for discovery and safe
-script	nmap 192.168.1.1 -script=banner	Scan with a single script. Example banner
-script	nmap 192.168.1.1 -script=http*	Scan with a wildcard. Example http
-script	nmap 192.168.1.1 -script=http,banner	Scan with two scripts. Example http and banner
-script	nmap 192.168.1.1 -script "not intrusive"	Scan default, but remove intrusive scripts
-script-args	nmap -script snmp-sysdescr -script-args snmpcommunity=admin 192.168.1.1	NSE script with arguments

Firewall / IDS Evasion and Spoofing:

Bypass security measures using packet fragmentation, spoofed IPs, and stealthy scan methods.

SWITCH	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
-f	nmap 192.168.1.1 -f	Requested scan (including ping scans) use tiny fragmented IP packets. Harder for packet filters
-mtu	nmap 192.168.1.1 -mtu 32	Set your own offset size
-D	nmap -D 192.168.1.101,192.168.1.102,192.168.1.103 ,192.168.1.23 192.168.1.1	Send scans from spoofed IPs
-D	nmap -D decoy-ip1,decoy-ip2,your-own-ip,decoy-ip3,d ecoy-ip4 remote-host-ip	Above example explained
-S	nmap -S www.microsoft.com www.facebook.com	Scan Facebook from Microsoft (-e eth0 -Pn may be required)
-g	nmap -g 53 192.168.1.1	Use given source port number

-proxies	nmap -proxies http://192.168.1.1:8080, http://192.168.1.2:8080 192.168.1.1	Relay connections through HTTP/SOCKS4 proxies
-data-len	nmap -data-length 200 192.168.1.1 gth	Appends random data to sent packets
