Capstone Engagement

Assessment, Analysis, and Hardening of a Vulnerable System

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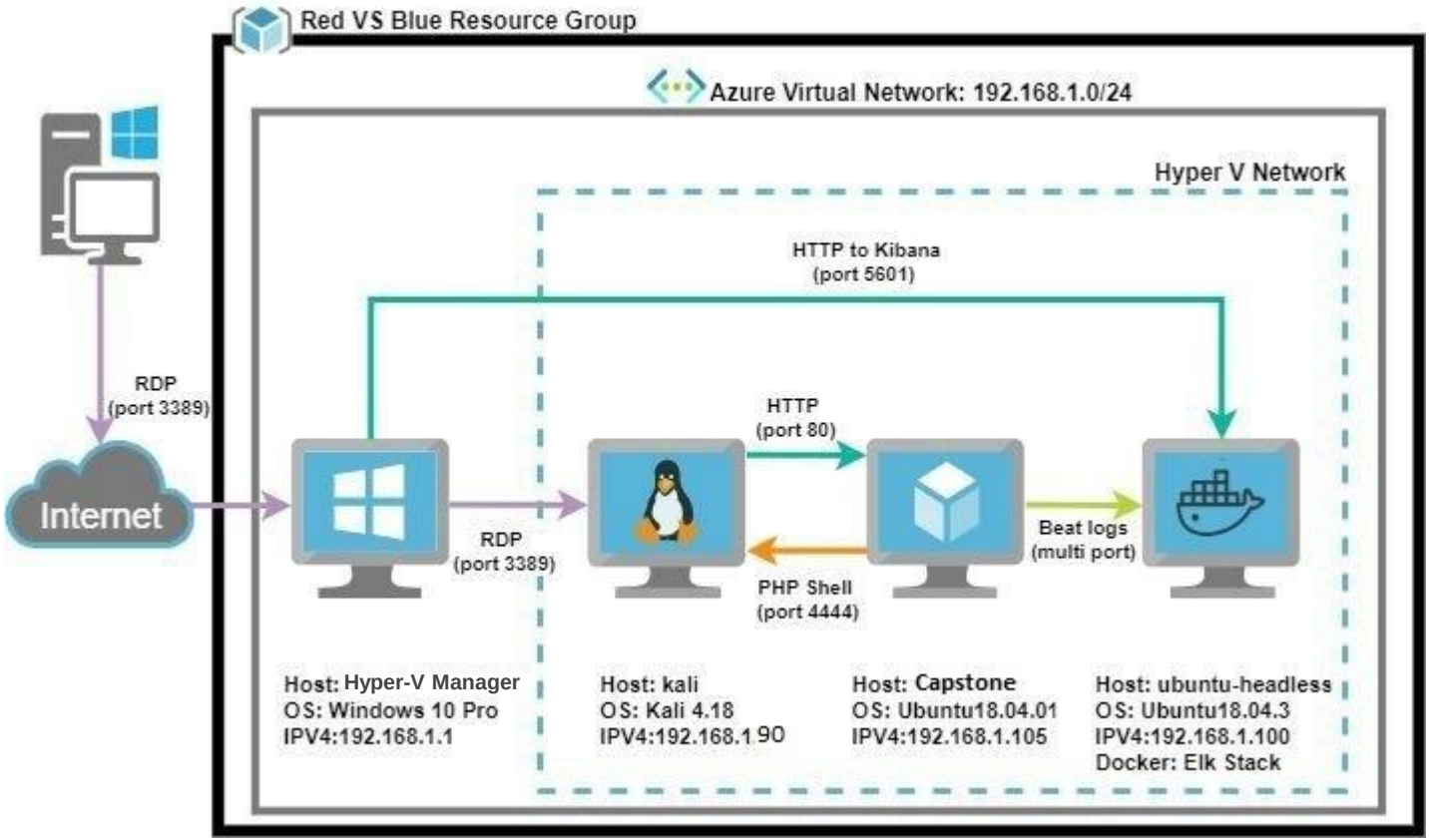
Network Topology

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

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

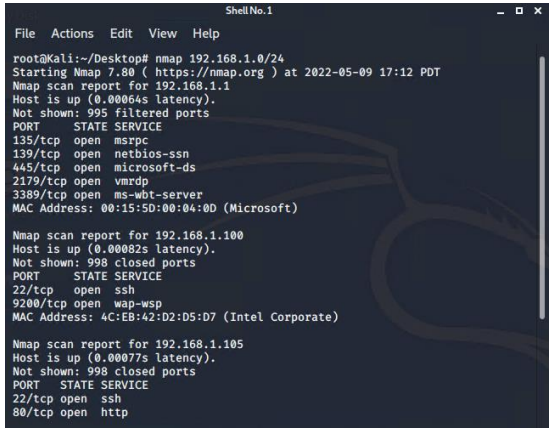
To exploit this vulnerability, I used **nmap** to scan and see if there are open ports, specifically port 80.

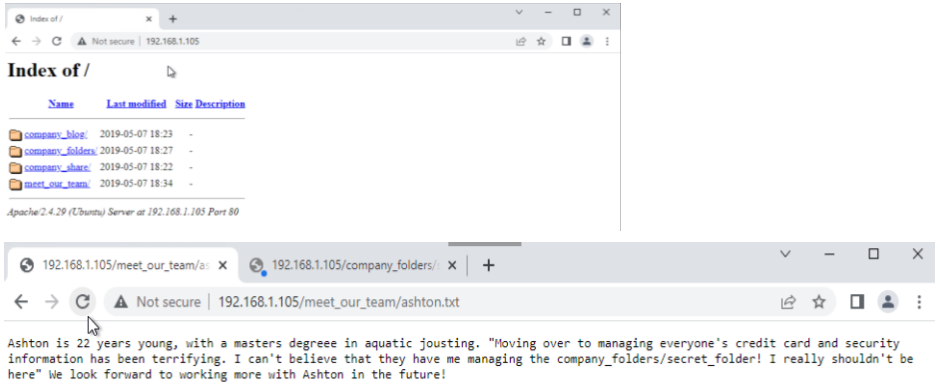
02

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





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

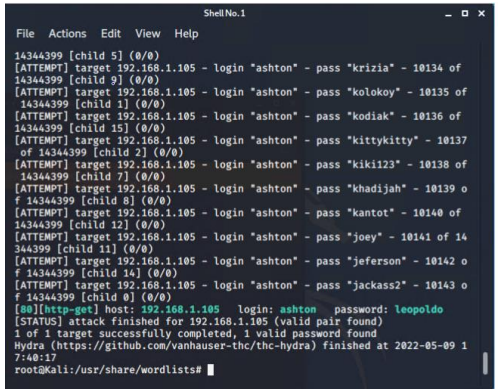
Achievements

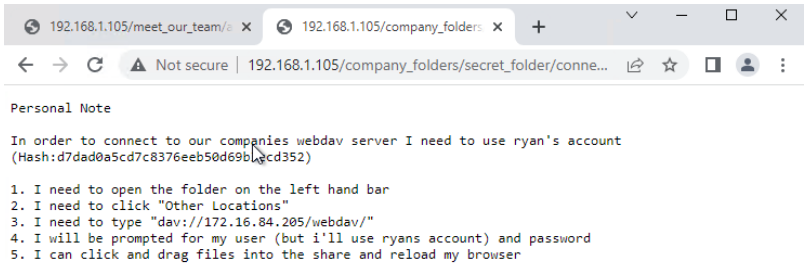
By running a hydra attack with Ashton's name, I was able to obtain the password *leopoldo* which granted me access into the directory.

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





Exploitation: Unauthorized File Upload

01

Tools & Processes

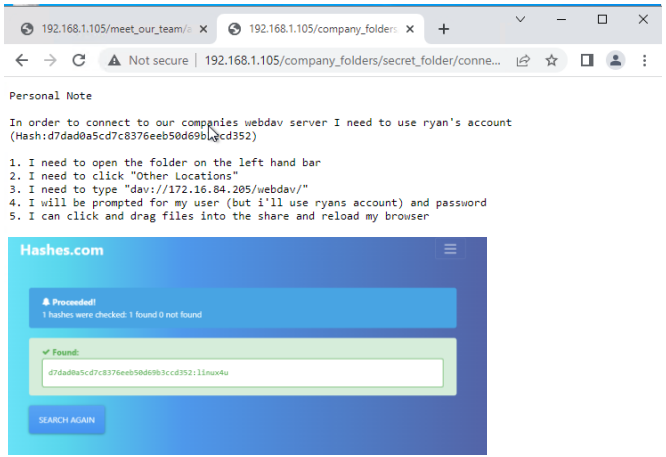
Within the directory, I located a hashed password and used Hashes.com to break it. I then connected to the server via WebDAV. I created a custom web shell with msfvenom and uploaded this via WebDAV.

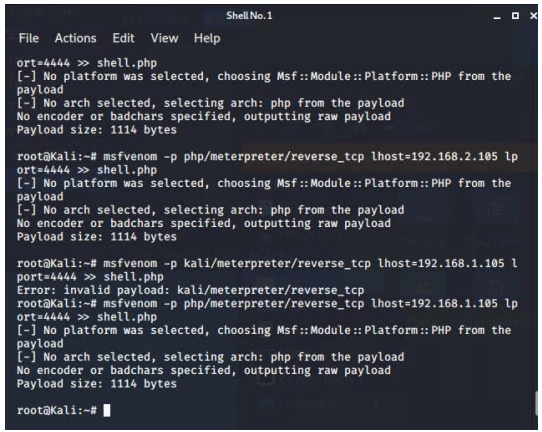
02

Achievements

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

03





Exploitation: Remote Code Execution

01

Tools & Processes

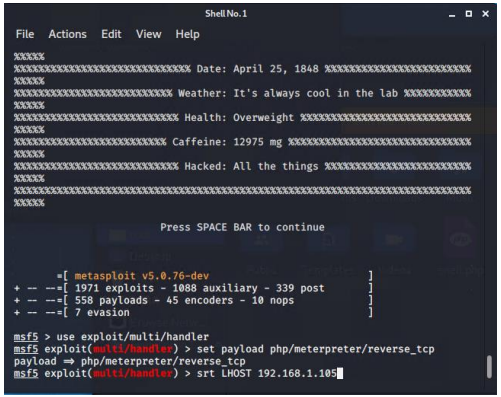
I used Meterpreter to connect to the web shell I uploaded and used this shell to listen and compromise the target machine.

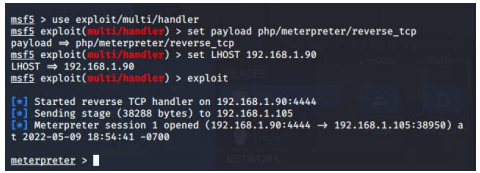
02

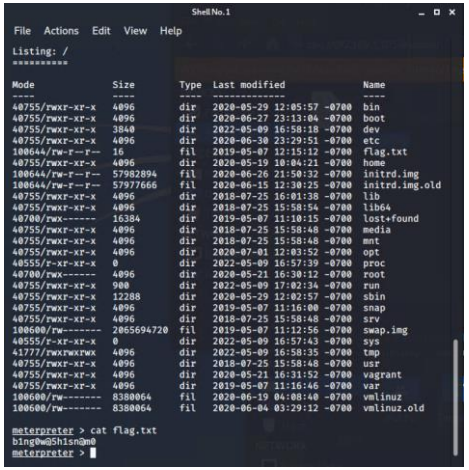
Achievements

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





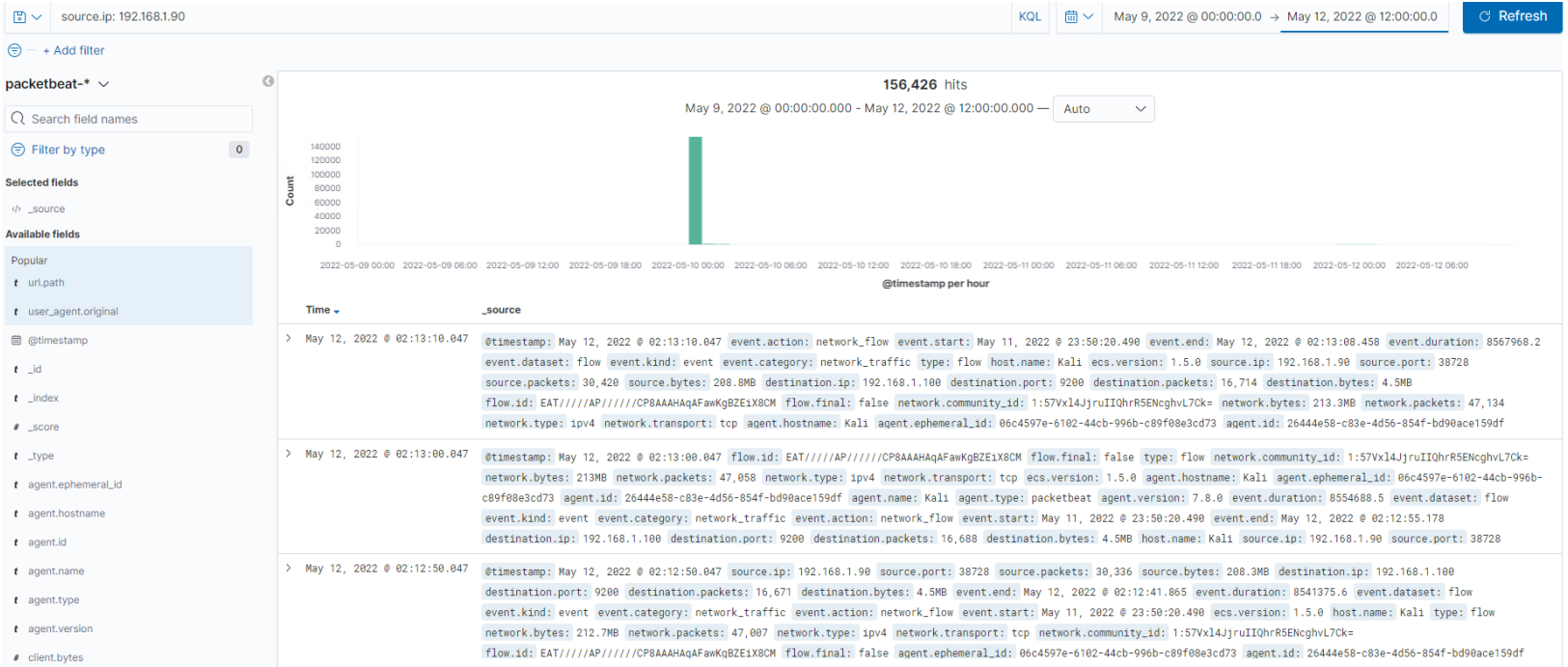


Blue Team
Log Analysis and Attack Characterization

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.



Analysis: Finding the Request for the Hidden Directory

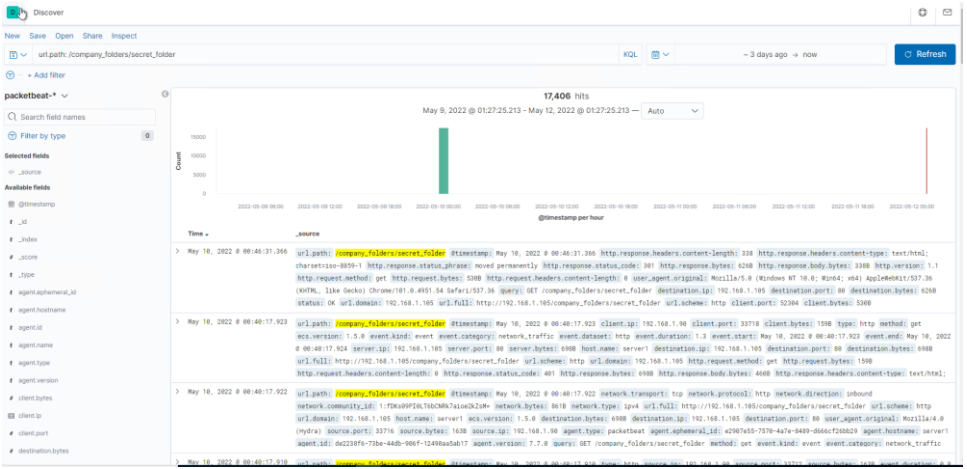
Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- 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

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

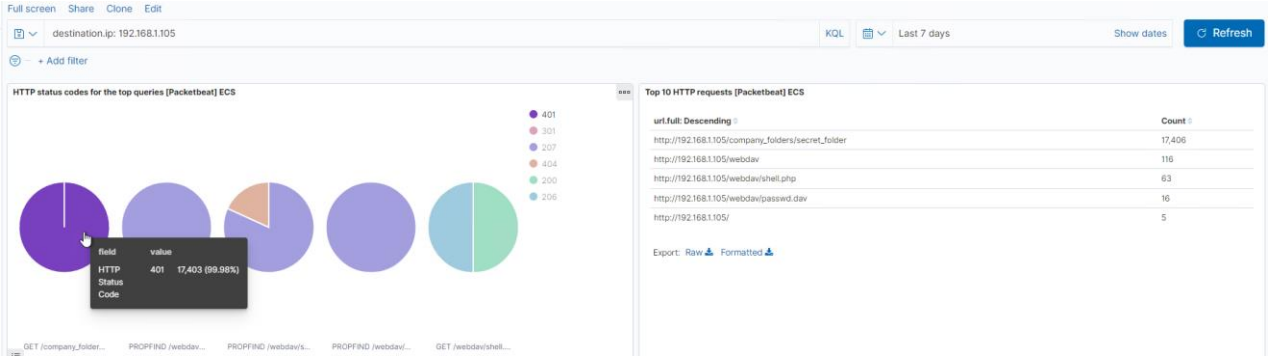
Export: Raw Formatted



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

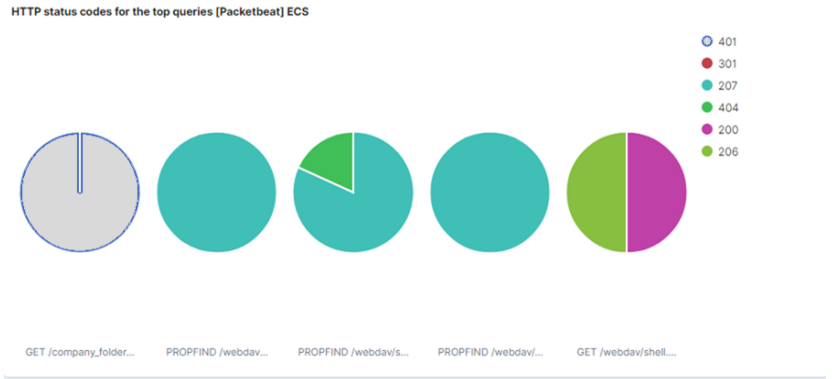
Answer the following questions in bullet points under the screenshot if space allows. Otherwise, add the answers to speaker notes.

- 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



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