

Secure IDE for Red Teaming



COMPX576 – Programming project

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Table of contents

Project Proposal.....3

 Introduction.....3

 Methodology.....3

 Requirements.....3

 Technologies.....4

 What I’m learning for this project?.....4

 Architecture.....4

 Conclusion.....5

Project proposal

Introduction

We all know that there are Integrated Development Environment customized testing environment for Software Development. What about Security testing? Here I have proposed a secure environment for practicing various attacking skills for Red teaming with few challenges. It can help attackers enhance their skills in various attacking methodologies inside a secure environment without disturbing the real world devices.

Methodology

I am including the methodologies, which include developing the environment, customization, deployment and testing.

1. Choosing suitable Operating system for the room (environment)
2. Setting up server
3. Installation of LAMP stack architecture
4. Building CMS (Content Management System) on top of LAMP stack
5. Creating custom plugin for CMS
6. Implementing Access management to make privilege escalation attack more challenging
7. Creating and hiding relevant 'flags' as a part of the challenge
8. Deployment and testing
9. Final product submission

Requirements

1. Hypervisor – Oracle VirtualBox
2. Operating System – Debian Based architecture
3. Attacking machine (another os in the hypervisor within the NAT network)

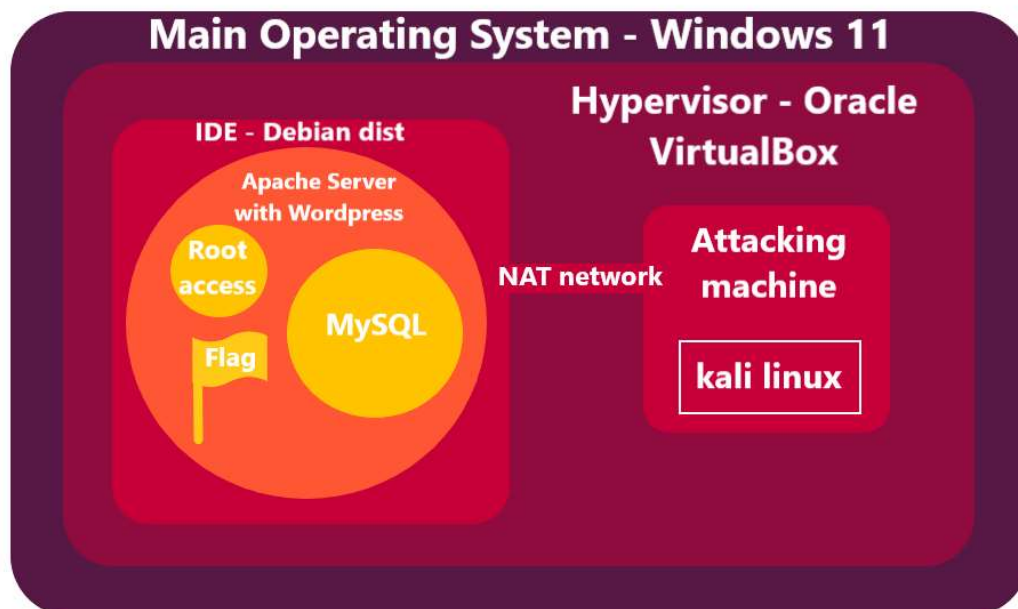
Technologies

1. Hypervisor – Oracle VirtualBox
2. Operating System (Debian based OS)
3. Webserver – Apache/Ubuntu
4. Database – MySQL
5. Scripting Language – PHP/Bash
6. Content management System – Wordpress
7. Secure Shell with RSA/passwd login
8. Networking - TCP/IP and NAT
9. IDE (Code) – nano/Vim

What I am learning for this project?

1. Server configuration
2. Custom CMS plugin development
3. PHP – Server side programming language
4. Access level definition – Custom Linux automations

Architecture



Conclusion

This project helps in Cybersecurity training bridging the gap between theoretical and practical implementations especially designed for the Red team. This allows people who have keen interest on red teaming and are ready to take up tough challenges without disturbing the real world entities. Ultimately, it contributes to the Cybersecurity community who are ethically bound to the compliances.

Week – 2

Weekly target

1. Choosing apt Linux distribution
2. Installation of Server and it's configuration
3. Implementation of LAMP Stack over the server
4. Prepare the internal network (Network Address translation and port forwarding)

Challenges

1. Initially I chose Kubuntu for Base Operating system. I noticed that it consumes a lot of graphics for virtualization because of KDE-Plasma setup. The environment crashed repeatedly. Therefore, I chose to go with “A platform which consumes less graphics and allows user to have Super user permission in ease”. I chose “kali Linux” which uses GNOME-2, which consumes less graphics.
2. After the installation of Kali Linux, I started to install “Ubuntu Server” where the installation of CMS is going to take place. But the server crashed at first due to misconfiguration issues. Then I re-installed that and started executing the CMS. I was implementing the server installation and setup every time whenever I need to develop and test the plugin code. So, I decided to install “Docker” container.
3. After the installation of Docker, I wrote a custom “yaml” file for the docker build. I got errors due to version mismatch. After going through the errors, I noticed that, I have installed V3 of “docker-compose” to build the instance. I downgraded the mentioned service to V2 to create and run the instances.

Conclusion

Though I faced many challenges, I managed to complete this week's tasks. It helped me to learn a new technology "Docker" for container management. The challenges I faced helped me to get to know about how important version of software is.

Week 3-4 Target

Creating custom Plugin for CMS (Wordpress)

References (Week-2)

1. <https://appsecexplained.gitbook.io/appsecexplained/scripts/docker-compose.yml-files/wordpress> - Docker instance creation for WordPress and Database connection
2. Few YouTube videos on tutorials to install Ubuntu server, Docker and fixing errors.

Week – 3

Weekly target

1. To create an user flag and root flag which must be captured by the attacker

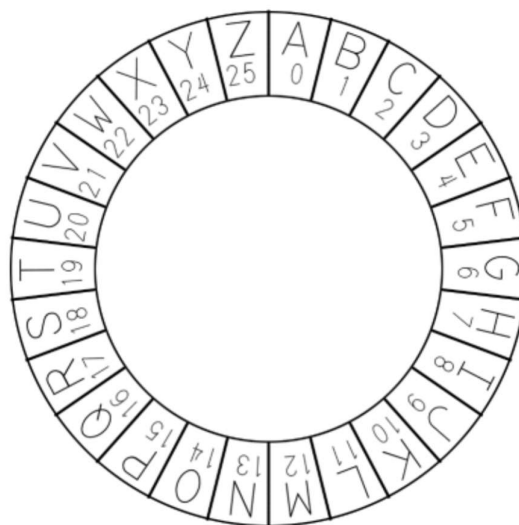
Flag Specification

1. The flag must be encrypted with any algorithm or cipher
2. We must provide hint to decrypt the cipher and algorithm
3. Both local user and root user must have separate flags

Local user flag creation

For Local user, we are implementing ROT13 cipher. For hint, we are going to name the text file which contains user flag as '13.txt'

Encryption	$C = O + 13$
Decryption	$O = C - 13$



Credit - https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Circular-positional-alphabet-and-position-values_fig1_330521841

Root user flag creation

For Root user, we are implementing Vigenère cipher. For hint, we are going to name the text file, which contains root flag as 'le_chiffre_indéchiffrable.txt'

This encryption method requires a key to decrypt the cipher. So I am going to put a hint below the encryption as 'userflag'.

Encryption	$C_i = (P_i + K_i) \bmod 26$
Decryption	$P_i = (C_i - K_i + 26) \bmod 26$

Challenges faced

1. Understanding and implementing the cipher and encryption techniques. Written code for the above mentioned encryptions.

Conclusion

Initially, I was about to complete the CMS plugin creation. Then I decided to create flags first so that it can be with uploaded once the plugin is created. We have few more challenges to face during the development.