### **AEV**

## Analysis and Exploration of Vulnerabilities





### Disclaimer

Slides were created based on previous editions

(kudos to Professor João Paulo Barraca)





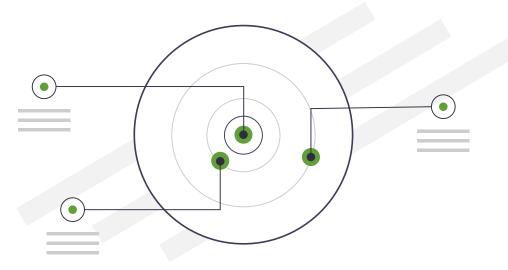
### Overall objectives

Understand key concepts around popular vulnerabilities and its exploitation

Experience with key techniques to exploit or defend software systems

**Experience with relevant tools to conduct assessments and attacks** 

Identify, defend and recover from attacks







### Approach

**Explore the security landscape and actors** 

**Explore attack vectors and enumeration** 

Explore specific vulnerabilities focusing on what, how, why

Explore how to reduce impact or recover from disaster

**Document everything** 





### Laboratory tools

#### **Crafted exercises for each topic**

#### **Linux VMs and Docker Containers**

- Debian/Ubuntu based
- Virtualbox disk format

### Python, PHP and C languages

#### Other software

• wireshark, nmap, gdb, ghidra, ZAP, openvas, john, metasploit, etc...





#### **Vulnerabilities**

- CIA triad
- Tracking: CVE, NVD, CVSS

### **Vulnerability management**

- Assessment
- Scope
- Auditing
- Open acess platforms, crowdsourced Bug Hunting





#### **Enumeration and System Analysis**

- Attack surface
- Information sources (OSINT)
- Network protocols, APIs
- Software/system analysis
- Cyber Kill Chain, MITRE ATT&CK





#### **Assessment and Exploitation of Vulnerabilities**

- OWASP top 10, IEEE CSD top 10, 7 Pernicious Kingdoms
- Authentication: Cookies, JWT, Password Security, Enumeration
- XML External Entities (XXE)
- Cross Site Scripting: CSS, CSRF, Policies
- Deserialization: XML, JSON, WAF Bypassing
- Injection: SQL, Buffer Overflows, ROP
- Insecure direct object references and Authorization
- Environment: PATH, Preloading, Interception





#### **Prevention and Detection**

- Firewalls and WAF
- Logging
- Throttling

### **Incident Response**

Digital Forensics and Incident Response





### Grading – 0 to 20 - 9.50 points required

#### 13 points: practical assignments

- 4pt Individual Assignment Lab resolution + reports
- 7pt Group Assignment Software Audit (4 students)
- 2pt Group Assignment 48h to exploit machine (2 students)

#### 7 points: theoretical exam

### up to -20: Exploitation of UA/professors/students/out of scope entities or cheating/plagiarism

UA internal regulation and Portuguese Legal Framework will be followed

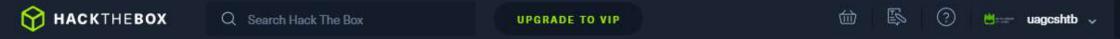




# Free platforms for training









My Profile

89 My Team

⊟ Labs

-^√ Rankings

**Battlegrounds** 

Careers



Social

- Enterprise
- Oustomer Support

**♡ v3.18.0** 

OVERVIEW

ACTIVITY

MEMBERS

INVITATIONS

**EDIT UNIVERSITY** 







The University of Aveiro (UA) is a public foundation under private law whose mission is to contribute to and develop graduate and postgraduate education and training, research and cooperation with society.

Mission The UA's mission is to create, share and apply knowledge, involving the whole community through teaching, research and cooperation with the surrounding environment, in order to make a clear difference for individuals and society. This is a global project based on:

- innovative and lifelong learning, based on critical and independent thinking, which provides high
  quality education that is accessible to all
- influential research in creative ventures that provide meaningful local and global contributions to knowledge
- cooperation with society
- internationalisation linked to its diverse activities
- an academic welcoming and rewarding work environment for students, teachers, researchers and technical, administrative and management personnel

**Vision** To create and transmit knowledge in order to transform lives, communities and society in general, by promoting training for citizenship, in respecting the freedom, equality and dignity of the human person.

Organization The organisation of the UA is based on a matrix structure, which integrates the subsystems of both the university and polytechnic institutions, and involves permanent interaction between units, services and other structures. Interdisciplinarity and flexibility are the principal features as well as organisation and management by activities and objectives, plus an open-door approach with society and close links to the surrounding business environment.



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### #1 - Vulnerabilities





### Vulnerabilities

#### Is a weakness in a system (software, hardware...)

It's a broad concept as a vulnerability can derive from many things

A vulnerability allows an attacker to violate a reasonable security policy for that system

- Policies define how a system should behave.
- Examples:
  - Wheels will turn left only when steering wheel turns left
  - Phones will only allow access to its owner
  - Programs will only run code inserted by its original developer







### Vulnerabilities

#### Vulnerability number always increases as software grows

- It's inherent to the increased complexity, interactions, development process
- Also, they do not disappear
- Software is updated with fixes, but older software is still vulnerable





### Vulnerabilities

### Vulnerabilities are states in a computing system that either allows an attacker to:

- execute commands as another user
- access data that is contrary to the specified access restrictions for that data
- pose as another entity
- conduct a denial of service (DoS) (affect availability)





### Threats





### CIA triad

#### Confidentiality

Whether information is disclosed to others

#### **Integrity**

 Whether data contents and formats are kept safe from modifications

#### **Availability**

Whether system performance is degraded







### Vulnerability sources – OWASP Top 10 (Web)

- 1. Injection
- 2. Broken Authentication
- 3. Sensitive Data Exposure
- 4. XML External Entities (XXE)
- 5. Broken Access control

- 6. Security misconfigurations
- 7. Cross Site Scripting (XSS)
- 8. Insecure Deserialization
- 9. Using Components with known vulns.
- 10. Insufficient logging and monitoring





### Vulnerability sources – OWASP Top 10 (Web)

2017 2021 A01:2017-Injection A01:2021-Broken Access Control A02:2017-Broken Authentication A02:2021-Cryptographic Failures A03:2021-Injection A03:2017-Sensitive Data Exposure A04:2017-XML External Entities (XXE) A04:2021-Insecure Design A05:2017-Broken Access Control A05:2021-Security Misconfiguration A06:2021-Vulnerable and Outdated Components A06:2017-Security Misconfiguration A07:2021-Identification and Authentication Failures A07:2017-Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) A08:2017-Insecure Deserialization New A08:2021-Software and Data Integrity Failures A09:2017-Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities A09:2021-Security Logging and Monitoring Failures\* A10:2017-Insufficient Logging & Monitoring (New) A10:2021-Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)\* \* From the Survey



### Vulnerability sources – 7 Pernicious Kingdoms

- 1. Input Validation and Representation
- 2. API Abuse
- 3. Security Features
- 4. Time and State

- 5. Errors
- 6. Code Quality
- 7. Encapsulation

\*. Environment

K. Tsipenyuk, B. Chess and G. McGraw, "Seven pernicious kingdoms: a taxonomy of software security errors," in IEEE Security & Privacy, vol. 3, no. 6, pp. 81-84, Nov.-Dec. 2005, doi: 10.1109/MSP.2005.159.





### Vulnerability sources - CWE

#### Vulnerabilities may exist due to **Bugs** or **Faults**

- Bug is an error in the implementation of a software
- Fault is a design or architectural error

#### **CWE - Common Weaknesses Enumeration**

- Extensive (891) list of anti-patterns that may lead to insecure systems
- Arranged in a tree, with examples in multiple languages





### CWE-348: Use of Less Trusted Source

The software has two different sources of the same data or information, but it uses the source that has less support for verification, is less trusted, or is less resistant to attack.

Details at: <a href="https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/348.html">https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/348.html</a>

Describes pattern, provides examples, provides list of related CVEs



### CWE-348: Use of Less Trusted Source

```
$requestingIP = '0.0.0.0';
if (array key exists('HTTP X FORWARDED FOR', $ SERVER))
      $requestingIP = $_SERVER['HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR'];
else{
      $requestingIP = $_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'];
if(in_array($requestingIP,$ipAllowlist)){
      generatePage();
       return;
else{
       echo "You are not authorized to view this page";
       return;
```

Set by Web Server or Client

Set by Web
Server



### Vulnerability Tracking by vendors

#### During the development cycle, vulnerabilities are handled as bugs

May have a dedicated security team or not

#### When software is available, vulnerabilities are also tracked globally

For every system and software publicly available

#### Public tracking helps...

- focusing the discussion around the same issue
  - Ex: a library that is used in multiple applications, distributions
- defenders to easily test their systems, enhancing the security
- attackers to easily know what vulnerability can be used





### **Vulnerability Tracking**

#### Vulnerabilities are privately tracked

- Constitute an arsenal for future attacks against targets
- Exploits are weapons

#### Knowledge about vulnerabilities and exploits is publicly traded

- From 0 to 2-3M€ (more?) through direct markets, or acquisition programs
- Up to 2.5M€ for bug hunting programs or direct acquisition (Google, Zerodium)
  - 2.5M€: 1 click Android exploit
  - 2M€: 1 click iPhone exploit
  - 1.5M€: WhatsApp or iMessage exploit
  - ~2K for a XSS at HackerOne (although there are records of \$1M payouts)

#### ...and privately traded at unknown prices

Private Companies, Organized Crime, APTs





### **Vulnerability Tracking**

#### Most well-known trackers systems: CVE and NVD

- CVE: Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures, managed by MITRE
- NVD: National Vulnerability Database, managed by NIST
  - Fed by CVE@MITRE but provides enhanced information

#### **Others**

- CERT Vulnerability Notes Database (VNDB)
  - Maintained by CERTs, may provide additional information regarding a CVE
- VulnDB
  - Focus on APIs and providing information to companies
- DISA IAVA and STIGS
  - Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts: includes MIL and GOV systems
  - Security Technical Implementation Guides
- Industry Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISAC)
  - Industry driven, thematic (AUTO, FINANTIAL, IT, etc... groups)





### CVE: Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures

### Dictionary of publicly known information security vulnerabilities and exposures

- For vulnerability management
- For patch management
- For vulnerability alerting
- For intrusion detection

#### Uses common identifiers for the same CVE's

- Enable data exchange between security products
- Provide a baseline index point for evaluating coverage of tools and services.

#### Details about a vulnerability can be kept private

• Part of responsible disclosure: Until owner provides a fix

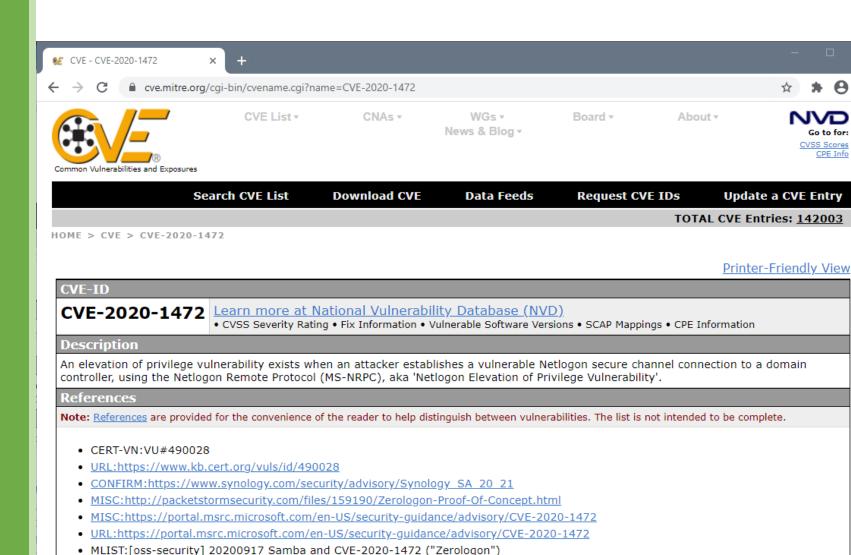




### @MITRE

Basic information about the CVE

References to other trackers (provided for convenience)



• URL:http://www.openwall.com/lists/oss-security/2020/09/17/2

UBUNTU:USN-4510-1

• UBUNTU:USN-4510-2

URL:https://usn.ubuntu.com/4510-1/

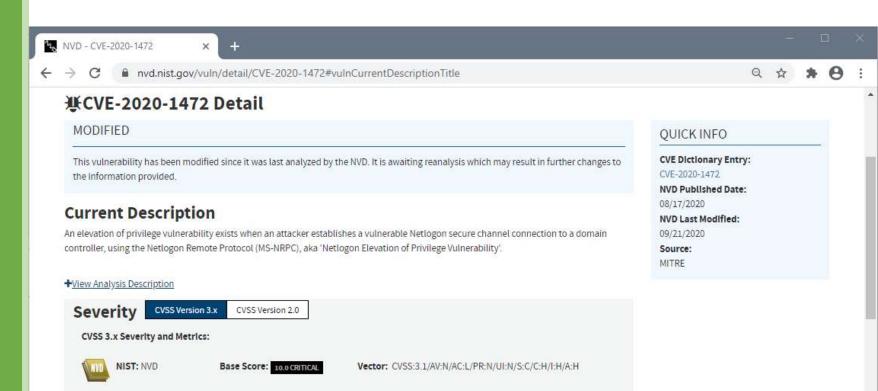
URL:https://usn.ubuntu.com/4510-2/

### @NVD

Basic information about the CVE and a small analysis of it

The CVE Severity Score

Links to advisories, solutions



#### References to Advisories, Solutions, and Tools

CVE List from the CNA

a score within the CVE List.

By selecting these links, you will be leaving NIST webspace. We have provided these links to other web sites because they may have information that would be of interest to you. No inferences should be drawn on account of other sites being referenced, or not, from this page. There may be other web sites that are more appropriate for your purpose. NIST does not necessarily endorse the views expressed, or concur with the facts presented on these sites. Further, NIST does not endorse any commercial products that may be mentioned on these sites. Please address comments about this page to nvd@nist.gov.

NVD Analysts use publicly available information to associate vector strings and CVSS scores. We also display any CVSS information provided within the

Note: NVD Analysts have published a CVSS score for this CVE based on publicly available information at the time of analysis. The CNA has not provided

Hyperlink	Resource
http://packetstormsecurity.com/files/159190/Zerologon-Proof-Of-Concept.html	

### @Product Owner

More detail, why it happens, and how it can be mitigated

Information about patches/updates available to help IT staff and users

Information about it's exploitability.

Format is vendor dependent. Each vendor defines what/how to show information



To exploit the vulnerability, an unauthenticated attacker would be required to use MS-NRPC to connect to a domain controller to obtain domain administrator access.

Microsoft is addressing the vulnerability in a phased two-part rollout. These updates address the vulnerability by modifying how Netlogon handles the usage of Netlogon secure channels.

For guidelines on how to manage the changes required for this vulnerability and more information on the phased rollout, see How to manage the changes in Netlogon secure channel connections associated with CVE-2020-1472.

When the second phase of Windows updates become available in Q1 2021, customers will be notified via a revision to this security vulnerability. If you wish to be notified when these updates are released, we recommend that you register for the security notifications mailer to be alerted of content changes to this advisory. See Microsoft Technical Security Notifications.

Exploitability Assessment

Security Updates

Mitigations

Workarounds

FAQ

Acknowledgements

Disclaimer

Revisions

#### **Exploitability Assessment**

The following table provides an exploitability assessment for this vulnerability at the time of original publication.

Publicly Disclosed	Exploited	Latest Software Release	Older Software Release	Denial of Service
No	No	2 - Exploitation Less Likely	2 - Exploitation Less Likely	N/A

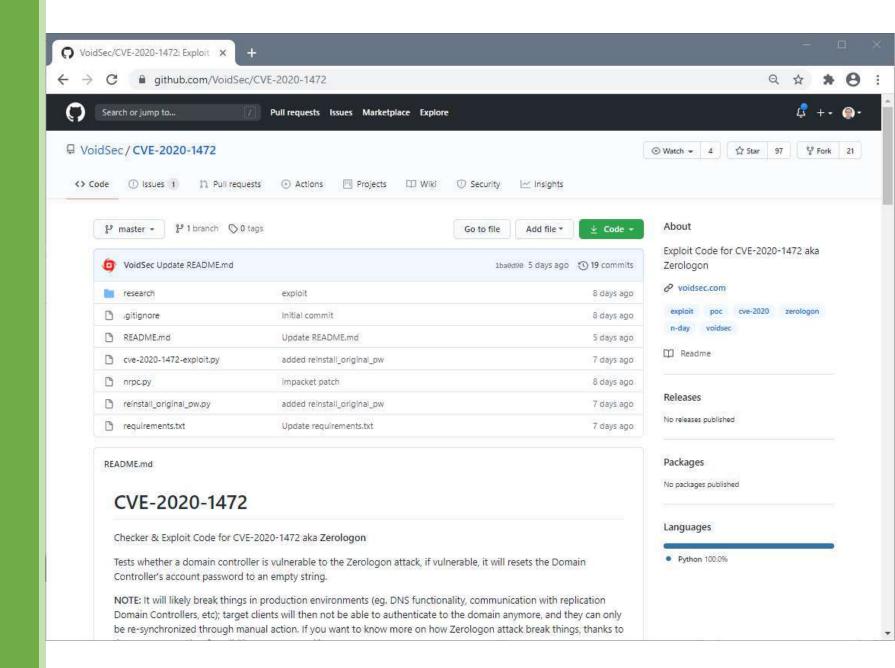
Security Updates

CVSS Score

### @Other places

Independent researchers may publish validation tools or exploits

Very dynamic community with public and private facets



Vulnerability tracking +View Analysis Description

#### Not an easy task

- Exploits are not always known
- Impact and Value may be underestimated

### Old feeds may create a false sense of security

### A highly dynamic community is great...

- To defenders as they can test and implement defenses
- <u>To attackers</u> as they can incorporate exploits



#### **Exploitability Assessment**

The following table provides an exploitability assessment for this vulnerability at the time of original publication.

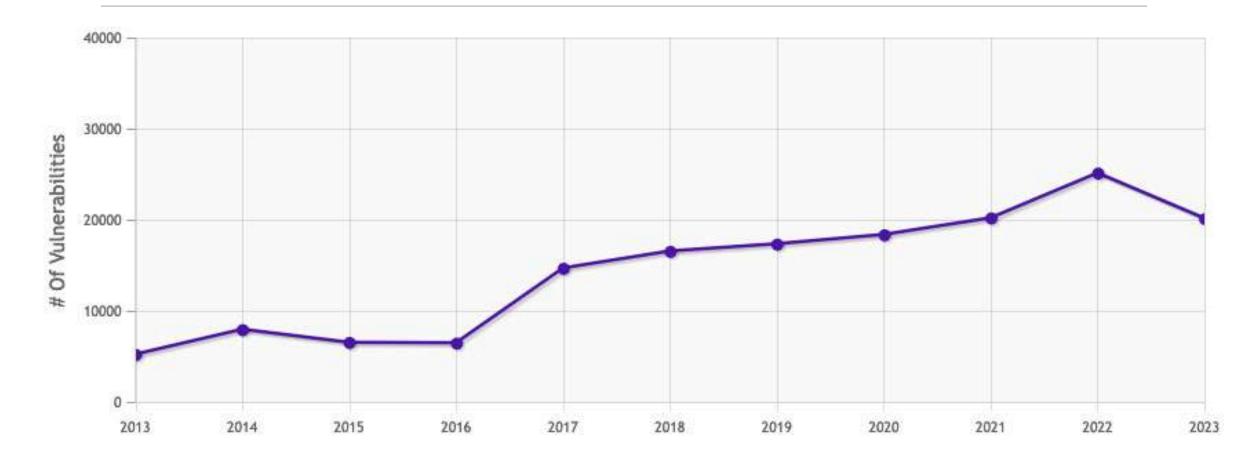
Publicly Disclosed	Exploited	Latest Software Release	Older Software Release	Denial of Service
No	No	2 - Exploitation Less Likely	2 - Exploitation Less Likely	N/A

CVE-2020-1472	No packages published	
Checker & Exploit Code for CVE-2020-1472 aka Zerologon	Languages	
Tests whether a domain controller is vulnerable to the Zerologon attack, if vulnerable, it will resets the Domain Controller's account password to an empty string.	• Python 100.0%	
NOTE: It will likely break things in production environments (eg. DNS functionality, communication with replication Domain Controllers, etc); target clients will then not be able to authenticate to the domain anymore, and they can only be re-synchronized through manual action. If you want to know more on how Zerologon attack break things, thanks to		•





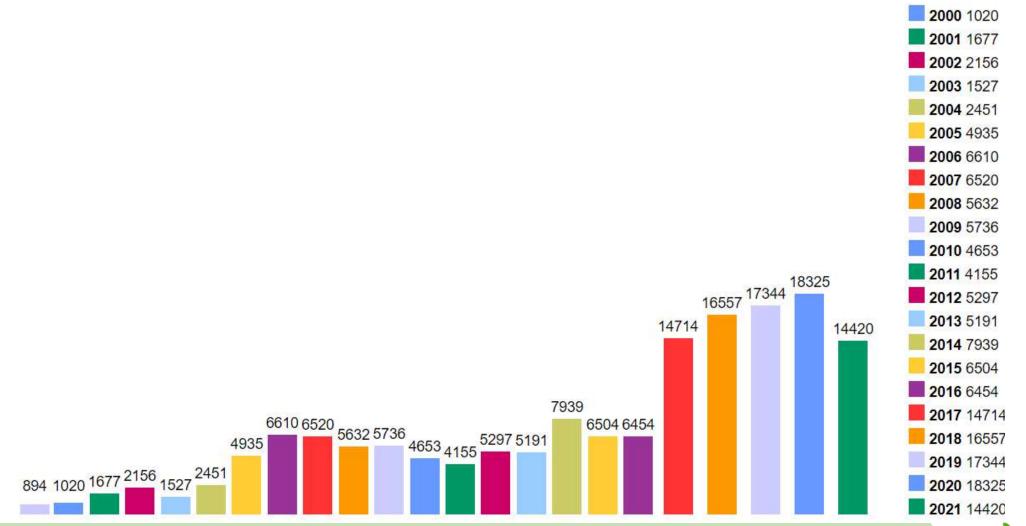
### CVE per year – cvedetails.com (as of Sep 2023)







### CVE per year — cvedetails.com (as of Sep 2021)





### CVSS – Common Vulnerability Scoring System

#### Provides a quick way to determine the severity of a vulnerability (0-10 score)

- Helps defenders prioritizing the deployment of mitigations
- Helps attackers selecting the most convenient vulnerability to explore
- Tends to be pessimistic (higher values)

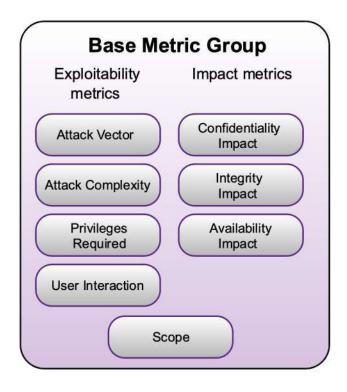
#### Example: CVSS 3.1/AV:N/AC:L/PR:H/UI:N/S:U/C:L/I:L/A:N

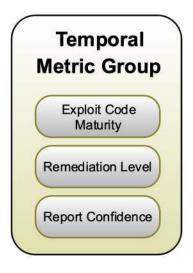
- Final Score: 3.1 (LOW)
- Attack Vector: Network
- Attack Complexity: Low
- Privileges Required: High
- User Interaction: None
- Scope: Unchanged
- Confidentiality: Low
- Integrity: Low
- Exploit Availability: None

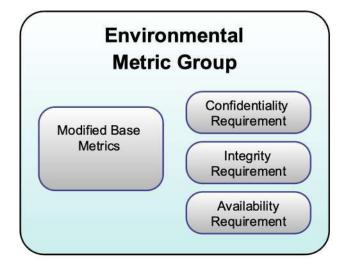




### CVSS – Common Vulnerability Scoring System



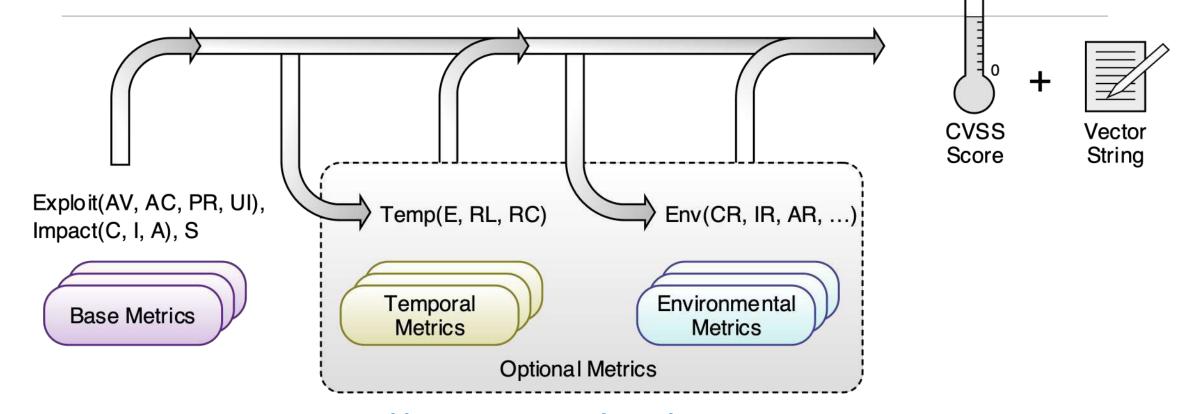








### CVSS – Common Vulnerability Scoring System



**Equations available at:** <u>https://www.first.org/cvss/specification-document</u>

Calculator available at: <a href="https://www.first.org/cvss/calculator/3.1">https://www.first.org/cvss/calculator/3.1</a>





### Example: Base Metrics

The Base Score formula depends on sub-formulas for **Impact Sub-Score** (ISS), **Impact**, and **Exploitability** 

ISS =	1 - [ (1 - Confidentiality) × (1 - Integrity) × (1 - Availability) ]
Impact =	
If Scope is Unchanged	6.42 × ISS
If Scope is Changed	$7.52 \times (ISS - 0.029) - 3.25 \times (ISS - 0.02)^{15}$
Exploitability =	8.22 × AttackVector × AttackComplexity × PrivilegesRequired × UserInteraction
BaseScore =	
If Impact \<= 0	0, else
If Scope is Unchanged	Roundup (Minimum [(Impact + Exploitability), 10])
If Scope is Changed	Roundup (Minimum [1.08 × (Impact + Exploitability), 10])





### Vulnerability Disclosure

How should a research proceed when a vulnerability is found?

If the engagement is private: deliver to contracting entity

May negotiate the public release the information...

What about other cases?





### Vulnerability Disclosure: None

#### Researcher doesn't notify vendor about vulnerability

- Doesn't care
- Uses it as part of an arsenal or trades the information

#### Leads to 0-day vulnerabilities

- Vulnerability is not known to the public and there is no direct remediation
- Some other third parties may also know about the vulnerability and exploit it

### If impact is high, it creates major disruption when publicly known

- Quick adoption in malware and dissemination
  - Remember: Systems take at least one month to be patched





### CVE-2017-0144

### EternalBlue



April 2014 Microsoft ends support for Windows XP January 2017 US-CERT warns of SMB zero-day vulnerability



X



2013 - NSA compiles exploits & hacking tools including Windows exploits "Eternal Blue" & "Doublepulsar"
Targeting machines using SMB

Microsoft Skips Patch
Tuesday on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> as world
awaits fix for SMB flaw
Even though a patch is
compiled for the exploit

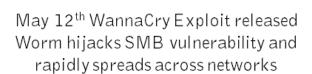
March 14<sup>th</sup> Microsoft releases update MS17-010 for SMB vulnerability -Not for XP or 2003 Shadow Brokers release NSA Hacking tools in April 2017 Including "Eternal Blue"



200,000+ machines infected Spread over 200 countries



Infected machines prompted to pay ransom of \$300 in bitcoin (27 languages available)





Source undetermined





### Vulnerability Disclosure: Coordinated

- 1. Researcher informs vendor about vulnerability and impact
- Usually through a form of report with estimation of impact and/or demonstration
- 2. Vendor implements and distributes a correction
  - But not always!
- 3. Vulnerability is mostly fixed in supported systems

Optional: CVE entry is requested: <a href="https://cveform.mitre.org/">https://cveform.mitre.org/</a>

Optional: A website with a fancy name is created for public awareness





### CVE-2020-15802 — Sep 9 2020

#### https://hexhive.epfl.ch/BLURtooth/

#### Researcher:

"We discovered the vulnerability in March 2020 and responsibly disclosed our findings along with suggested countermeasures to the Bluetooth SIG in May 2020. We kept our findings private and the Bluetooth SIG publicly disclosed them, without informing us, on the 10th of September of 2020. Our work is assigned <a href="CVE-2020-15802">CVE-2020-15802</a>."

#### **Bluetooth SIG:**

• At the time of writing, there are no deployed patches to address the BLUR attacks on actual devices. The Bluetooth SIG suggested that version 5.1 of the standard will contain guidelines to mitigate the BLUR attacks (e.g., disable key overwrites in certain circumstances as proposed in our countermeasures), but such guidelines are not (yet) public and we cannot comment on them. The Bluetooth SIG provides a <u>public statement about BLURtooth and the BLUR attacks</u>.





### Vulnerability Disclosure: Full

#### Researcher discloses the vulnerability without warning

- As a CVE
- In a public mailing list
- As a blog entry, webpage or news item
- As an exploit

#### Vendor is pressured to issue a fix as soon as possible

- But not always
  - It doesn't!
  - It considers the product not supported
  - It under reports the issue

#### Some mayhem may occur until a fix is applied

Remember all those phones/TVs/etc... without frequent updates





### Exercises

# This task proposes that a group of 2 students analyze one CVE from the following list and identify:

- what it affected
- what was the vulnerability
- how/when it was discovered
- when was it fixed
- how it was exploited by attackers
- what was the impact of its exploitation
- what was the timeline of major events

CVE-2017-18017 - xt_TCPMSS	CVE-2023-27524 - Superset
CVE-2017-17510 - DLINK Device	es CVE-2023-1748 - Nexx
CVE-2017-5754 - Meltdown	CVE-2023-1424 - Mitsubishi
CVE-2017-5753 - Spectre	CVE-2022-36958 - Print Spooler
CVE-2017-13077 - KRACK	CVE-2021-44228 - Log4j
CVE-2017-0144 - Eternalblue	CVE-2021-26855 - Proxylogon
CVE-2016-10229 - UDP	CVE-2020-9478 - Rubrik CDM
CVE-2015-1538 - Stagefright	CVE-2020-15802 - BLURtooth
CVE-2013-1338 - Stagerright CVE-2014-6271 - Shellshock	CVE-2020-1472 - Zerologon
	CVE-2020-0796 - SMBGhost
CVE-2014-3566 - Poodle	<b>CVE-2019-17510 - DLINK Devices</b>
CVE-2014-0160 - Heartbleed	CVE-2019-15846 - Exim Backslash
CVE-2013-3183 - Ping6 of Death	CVE-2019-15926 - Linux Out of Bounds
CVE-2009-3677 - MSCHAP	CVE-2017-15846 - Exim Backslash
CVE-2008-1447 - Kaminsky DNS	CVE-2017-0144 - Eternalblue

### Exercises

### 1. Visit <a href="https://threatpost.com">https://www.securityweek.com</a>

### 2. For any article:

- Summarize (or speculate) what went wrong
- Was it an application problem or an external element?
- How could it have been avoided? Left right
- How would your team have reacted?

### 3. Discuss the point with the class

#### Both exercises will not be graded

Only to share some thoughts





# #2 - Vulnerability Assessment of Networked Systems





### Vulnerability Research

#### The process of finding and analyzing new vulnerabilities

- Through direct experimentation
- Through analysis of the architecture, code or system behavior

#### Important to many different stakeholders:

- Product owners: prioritize actions/budget on the product lifecycle
- Developers: understand what created the vuln, how it can be avoided
- Administrators: assess impact and deploy defense/recovery measures
- <u>Vuln. Researchers</u>: to pivot to new vulnerabilities





### Vulnerability Assessment - Objective

Process to analyze, evaluate and review entities (software applications, devices, networks, systems)

Identify and categorize issues that may be explored, or constitute risk to the normal operation of the entity





### Assessment vs Audit

#### Audit: determines compliance to a standard

Scope: A given standard and its control points

### Assessment: determines how good/bad something is

- Scope: may be broad. Driven by risk, compliance, contractual requirements
- aims to help improving systems
- done before the audit, to identify any loopholes
- done after the audit to measure how effective an audit is

Relevant reference: SANS Institute, Scoping Security Assessments - A Project Management Approach, 2020





### Assessment vs Penetration Test

### Penetration test focus in infrastructures and systems with an idea of outside and inside

- Outside: out of the domain (other domain or the internet)
- Inside: in the domain

### Tests the capability of entering a domain and its impact

- How an attacker entered (which flaws or bugs were used)
- How/if an attacker moved laterally
- What other systems it may have reached
- What data/systems were impacted
- Was data exfiltrated?





### Why?

#### An essential process in current organizations, products and systems

Two distinct views: Internal and External

#### **Current organizational landscape is complex**

- Heterogeneous computing environment
  - Servers, desktops, laptops, BYOD...
- Multiple applications
  - From multiple vendors
  - Developed over time, using different tools, languages and stacks
- Rely on communication networks
  - Not all confined (e.g. Wi-Fi)
- Rely on external services and actors

Important to understand what are the risks, what to address, and what processes should be in place





### Why?

### Standard defensive measures are not enough

- They help creating/operating software with greater security
- They are also limited to the mindset of the developers/ops

### Defensive technologies are limited in capabilities

- Firewall: Filter packets, connections
  - mostly used as perimeter control devices (but do not supervise internal networks)
  - inspect packets in clear, or publicly available data (ports, IP Addresses, protocols), but struggles with TLS
- WAF: Filter HTTP requests
  - matches profiles of known attacks (deny list), or allowed requests (allow list), but may be circumvented
- **IDS**: Network/Host Intrusion Detection Systems monitor network or OS changes
  - matches profiles of know attacks, but may be circumvented
  - may detect and block an attack AFTER it was done





### Scope

The definition of what systems/software/endpoints/approaches are considered

The most important component of setting up a successful security assessment

#### Too broad: Mimics a powerful attacker

- Too expensive
- May lead to a never-ending assessment
- May lead to lack of depth (missing vulns)

#### To narrow: Mimics a focused attack

- Cheap, fast, repeatable
- May miss easily found issues
  - Like focusing on the bulletproof entrance door, placed a wall with a glass window





### Limitations

#### Assessment is only valid at a given point in time

Other vulnerabilities may exist before or after the assessment

#### Researcher must be aware of latest vulnerabilities

Risk of false negatives

#### Limited to the scope, location and methods used

Different domain may have different FW access rules or security policies

### Tests specific entities, not the overall security controls

A vulnerability may exist, but the security controls may limit/block its exploitation





### Types (for company scale assessments)

Active **Passive** External Internal Host-Based Wireless Network Application





### Type: Active

### Runs software do discover network hosts

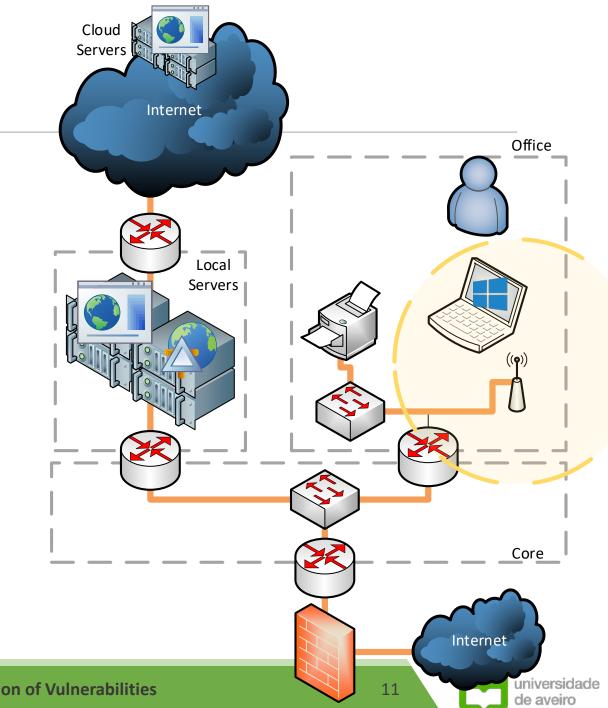
- Send probes
- Checks information repositories

### Runs tools to actively test software/systems

- Sends crafted arguments, payloads, packets
- Creates flaws
- MiTM, DoS, etc...

#### May disrupt systems!

Detection of vulnerability may have impact





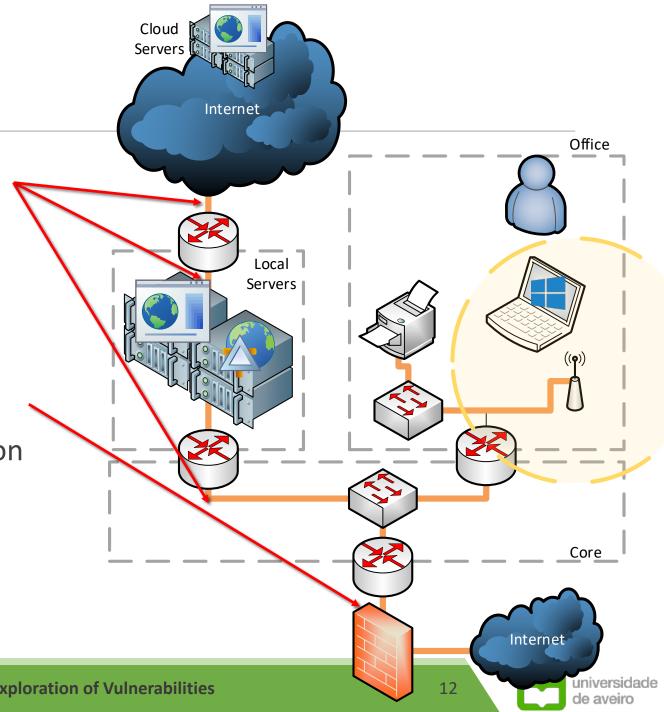
### Type: Passive

#### Runs software to eavesdrop on traffic

### **Observes logs and dumps**

- Network logs
- Service/application logs
- Host logs
- May be run for a long time in production

### **Minimal impact**



Type: External

#### Focus on the public exposition

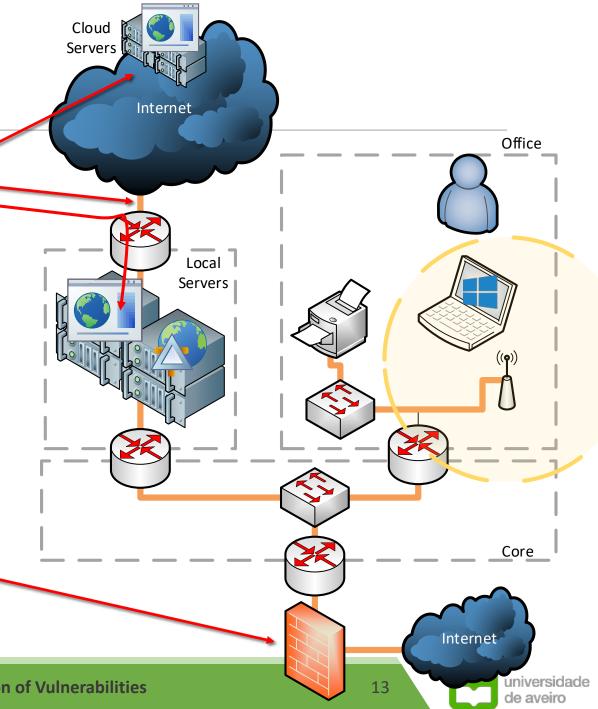
External attackers

#### **Targets:**

- Publicly available routers and firewalls rules
- Publicly available IP Ports
- Public services (DNS)
- Information exposed to the public
- Security mechanisms (throttling, TLS, blocking)

### Allows to find vulnerabilities and enable deployment of countermeasures at FWs

For assessment and exploitation





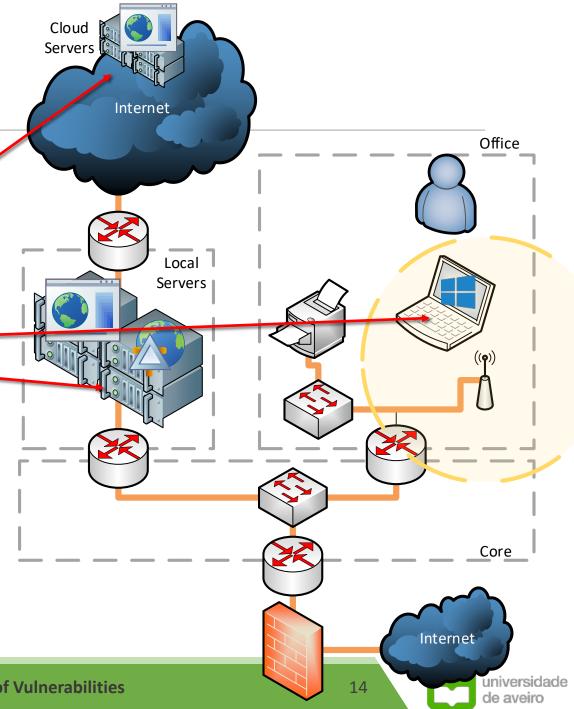
Type: Host Based

Focus on misconfigurations, permissions, existing software, updates

#### **Targets:**

- Servers
- VMs
- Workstations and Laptops

Allows finding vulnerabilities that could be explored by insiders or an attacker that gained access to the systems





### Type: Network

### Focus on the communications of the network infrastructure

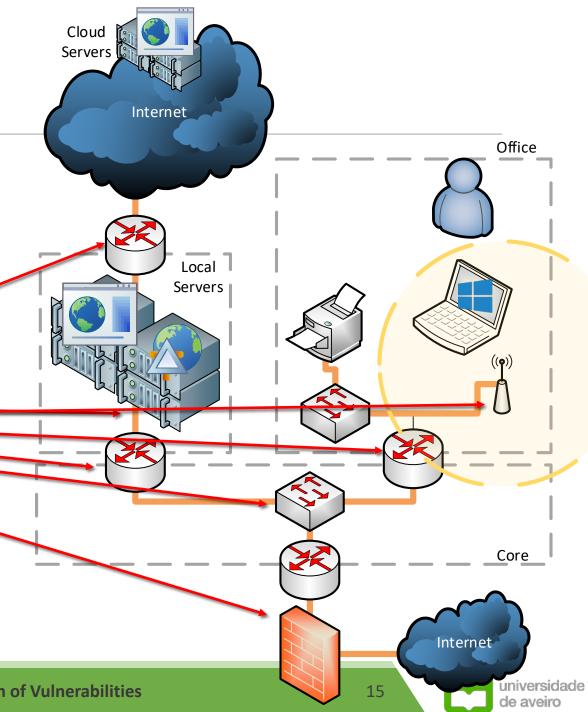
- Rules, misconfigurations, updates
- Individual services (FTP, SMTP, LDAP)

#### **Targets:**

- Communication links
- Networking Gear

Finds how exposed systems are to exploitation

Finds what information may be leaked



### Type: Wireless

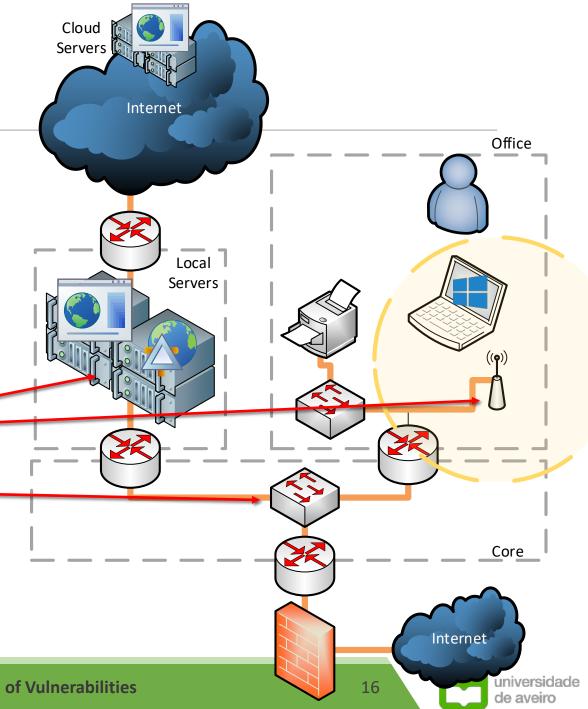
## Focus on the wireless communications of the network infrastructure and support services

- Rules, misconfigurations, updates
- Authentication, confidentiality, access control
- Guest access

#### **Targets:**

- Wireless Networking Gear
- Authentication servers
- Networking Gear (VLANs)

Similar to network, but with specific tools due to range and authn/authz



### Type: Application

#### Focus on a single application

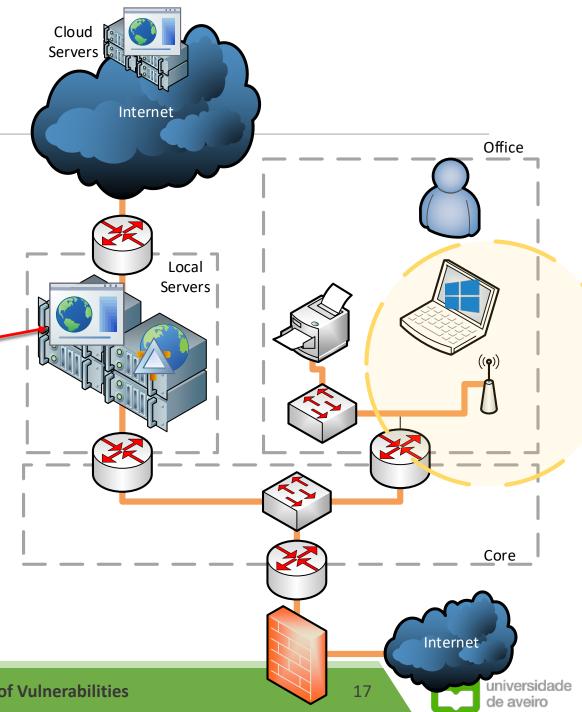
- Input output
- Logic errors
- Authentication and authorization processes
- Operational assumptions
- Related services (databases, firewalls)

#### **Targets:**

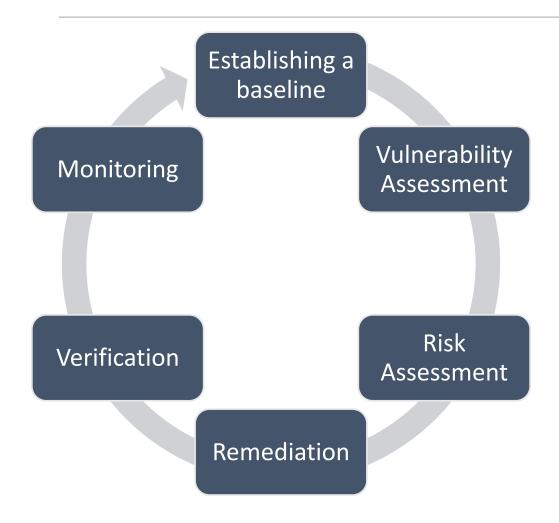
- Application
- Service

### Finds software vulnerabilities in the targeted application

Bugs or flaws



### Vuln. Management Life Cycle Life Cycle







### Vuln. Management Life Cycle



#### **Establish a Baseline**

### Select the assets to be assessed and defines priorities

Some assets may be excluded due to potential impact or cost

Characterize the systems/software state

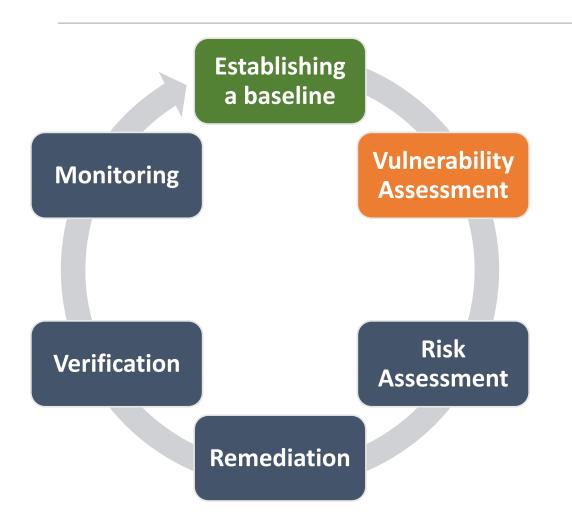
### Determine what is known and what must be assessed

Known vulnerabilities may be ignored from the assessment





### Vuln. Management Life Cycle



### **Vulnerability Assessment**

#### Assess the entities for vulnerabilities

- Takes in consideration priorities
- Takes in consideration scope

#### **Constructs a detailed report with:**

- What vulnerability was found
- What are the affected entities
- What are the recommendations to handle it

### Assessment usually doesn't exploit the vulnerability or builds an exploit chain

It's not a penetration test





### **Assessment Methods**

#### Subject close to software testing but with focus in security related impact

Extensively studied in the Robust Software course

### Highly dependent on the scope of the assessment

- Application: Static, Dynamic or Component Analysis
- Network entity: Protocol, message, authentication, authorization analysis
- Processes/Companies: OSINT, Social Engineering



### Assessment Strategies – Black Box

### Researchers have no information about internal aspects and are presented with a publicly available view

- No source code, no documentation
- Assumes an actor with a <u>specific set of resources</u>
  - Script kiddie, a researcher, competitor, a crowd-based effort

#### Aims to mimic assessments from outside attackers

- Finds what can be explored by intruders with no access
  - Usually finds vulnerabilities easier to exploit
- May find alternative paths and use cases (which may present vulnerabilities)

#### Limited on the impact of the assessment

Existing vulnerabilities with remedies (e.g. Firewall) may not be detected





### Assessment Strategies – White Box

#### Researchers are given full documentation and access to systems

- A replica of the production system
- The production system with a limited scope
- The source code and infrastructure code

#### Aims to find faults and bugs at all scoped domains

- Assumes an actor at any location (insider and outsider)
- Finds what can be exploited by: outsiders, insiders, outsiders with lateral movement
- May mimic specific users and roles

#### **Extensive (and expensive) analysis of the domains**

Remedies are known and considered, but vulnerability may still be found





### Assessment Strategies – Gray Box

#### Some information is provided to researchers

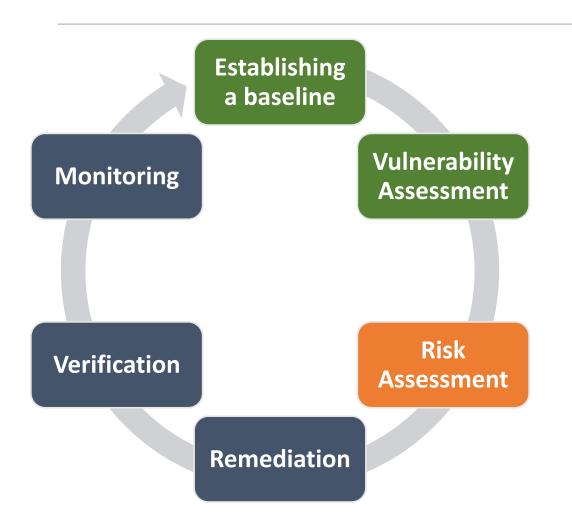
- Documentation about the application or systems
- A specific set of credentials

#### Aims to find faults and bugs at a limited set of scoped domains

Can mimic a specific user







#### **Risk Assessment**

# Company takes in consideration the report and assess the risk

- For every asset with vulnerabilities
- Assigns risk indicators (3-4 levels)

# Risk assessment may take in consideration all vulnerabilities found

 Individual vulnerabilities may be combined in a exploit chain with higher impact





### Documentation

#### Researchers should carefully document assessments

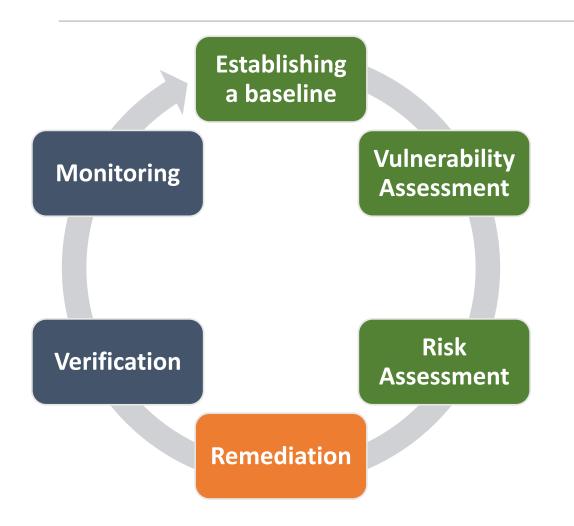
- Describing the rationale for the assessment, the strategy, the findings
- Essential in cooperation between teams

# Important to understand how vulnerability was explored, what the impact may be

- Wrong attitude: we found this, you are not doing your job
- Correct attitude: we found this, which may be caused by that, this is the impact, you may fix it with doing X
  - Clients may not understand the vulnerability, the reason or the impact







#### Remediation

Company implements methods to increase the security of its assets

#### May fix the vulnerability

- Correct software bugs or flaws
- Implement specific configurations
- Update software/firmware
- This capability is not always present

#### May reduce the impact of a successful exploitation

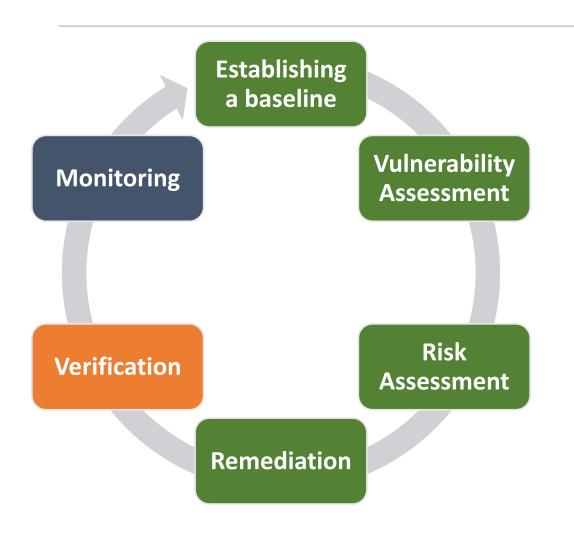
- Implement mechanisms that reduce impact to a smaller domain
- Implement redundancy and fail recover

#### May increase the cost of exploiting the vulnerability

- Deploy firewalls or change its rules
- Increase isolation so that assets are not available in a domain







#### Verification

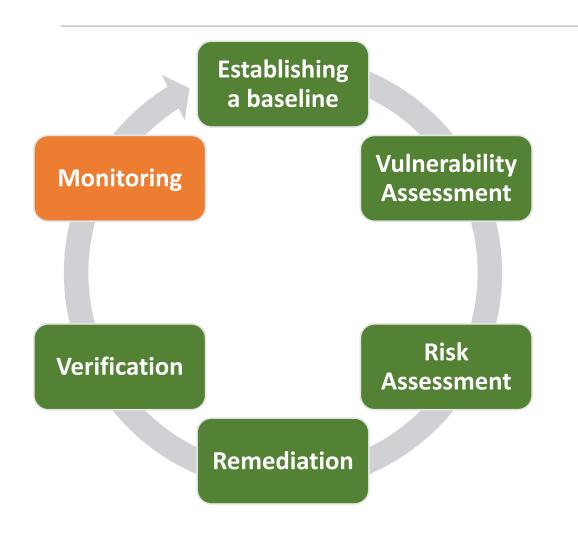
Verifies the effectiveness of the remediation

# Involves assessing the existence and risk of the vulnerabilities found

- Using the same scope!
- Vulnerability risk may be similar if explored from other perspectives
  - E.g. External vs Internal actor







### **Monitoring**

Deploys mechanism to detect the vulnerability being explored

May consider variations

Involves configuring Firewalls, log analysis systems, IDS/NIDS/HIDS, profillers





# #3 - Enumeration and Information Leakage





### Network access

#### Accessing the network bypasses several security layers

Laws, Buildings, Physical Access Control

#### Attackers with access to a network can use it:

- To obtain information leaked
- To obtain information not protected
- To enumerate systems and hardware
- To discover and exploit vulnerabilities

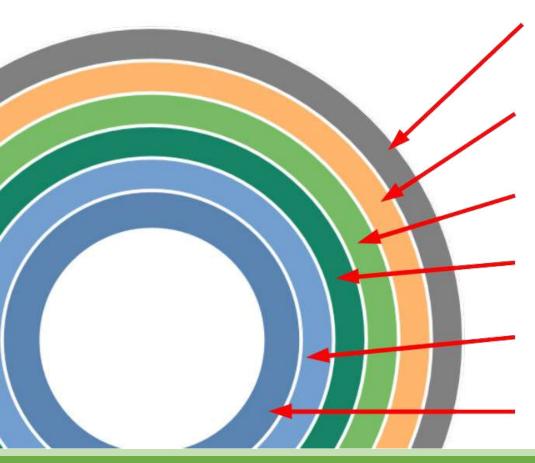
#### Attackers can do it without notice

- If controls are not deployed
- If controls do not cover the attack path





### Network access



Policies, Procedures, Awareness

Physical Infrastructure

**Network Infrastructure** 

**Physical Servers** 

**Applications and Services** 

Data





### The network







# Information leakage

#### Entities provide information enabling the discovery of known vulnerabilities

 Greatly reduce the cost of an assessment by allowing a researcher/attacker to focus on a specific context

#### **Most relevant:**

- Broadcast Protocols: status information
- Banners: messages on connect
- Errors: errors provided on an illegal access
- Accounts: information about the existence of a user account
- Web page sources: information in web pages
- Supporting Files: information in other files available
- Event Timing: the time an event takes
- Cookies: cookies provided to clients





### **Errors**

#### Messages provided to clients can disclose unnecessary information

- Errors from the infrastructure and support services
  - Attacker may force the system into an error condition by providing invalid input
- Response discrepancy during the interaction (CWE-204)

# Provides information about internal processes, existing data, software versions.

Stack traces, error messages

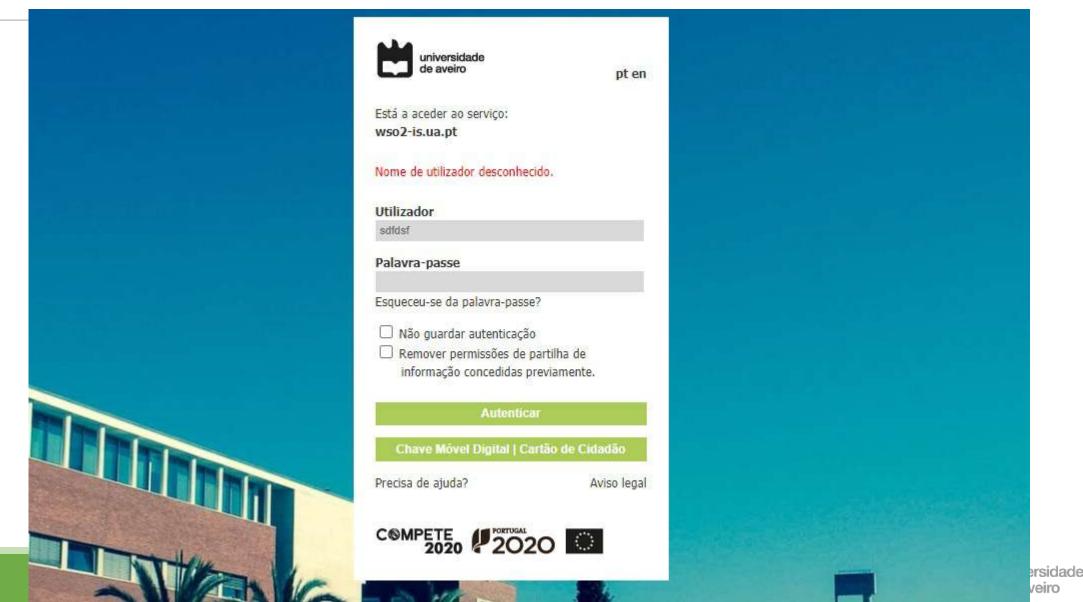
#### May allow to enumerate data (e.g, usernames)

• If there is a response discrepancy between existing/non-existing users





# Errors – CWE-204 – Leaking Accounts



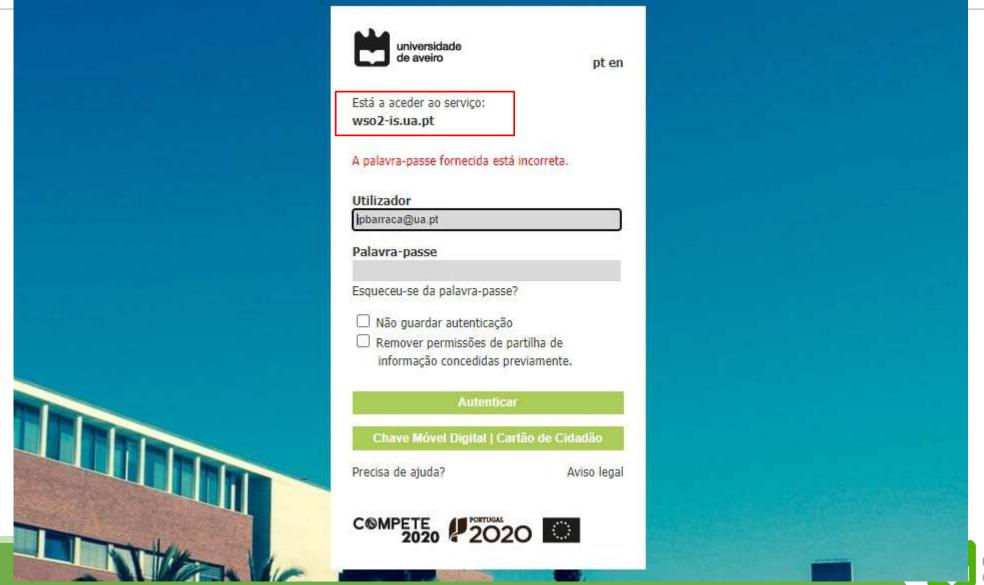


# Errors – CWE-204 – Leaking Accounts





# Errors – CWE-204 – Leaking Accounts





### Errors – CWE-209



Fatal error: Uncaught Error: Call to a member function fetch\_array() on boolean in \ARCA.STORAGE.UA.PT\HOSTING\www.cesam.ua.pt\www\projectosdetail.php:18 Stack trace: #o \ARCA.STORAGE.UA.PT\HOSTING\www.cesam.ua.pt\www\src\Views\layout.php(168): include\_once() #1 \ARCA.STORAGE.UA.PT\HOSTING\www.cesam.ua.pt\www\index.php(104): include\_once('\\\ARCA.STORAGE....') #2 [main] thrown in \\ARCA.STORAGE.UA.PT\HOSTING\www.cesam.ua.pt\www\projectosdetail.php on line 18





### **Errors - Mitigations**

#### Do not provide verbose output to users, log it

- If you must, create the errors, identify sensitive data and filter it out
- In alternative, present a unique error code which can be used to track the issue by the support teams

#### Focus on the process as a whole

- authentication is either successful or unsuccessful
- a file can either be accessed or not





## Web Sources and Support Files

#### Additional data may be present in web documents (JS, CSS, HTML)

- Left by developers to help testing, debugging and development
- This information may provide too much information about system internals
- Sometimes developers "hide it" by including this information in /robots.txt
  - Robots.txt works for search engine crawlers, but attracts attackers to sensitive areas

#### Impact:

- Allow fingerprinting remote stack
- Disclose sensitive information

#### Typical example:

- Backup files (.bck, .tar.gz, .zip)
- Robots.txt
- README and License files
- Log files left available
- Additional folders





# Web Sources and Support Files



/wp-includes/

#### Index of /wp-includes

<u>Name</u>	Last modified	Size Description
Parent Directory		-
<u>ID3/</u>	2013-08-02 10:06	-
IXR/	2019-07-12 07:10	-
Requests/	2019-07-12 07:10	-
SimplePie/	2013-08-02 10:06	-
<u>Text/</u>	2013-08-02 10:06	-
admin-bar.php	2019-07-12 07:10	30K
atomlib.php	2019-07-12 07:10	12K
<u>author-template.php</u>	2019-07-12 07:10	16K
blocks.php	2019-12-12 22:58	17K
blocks/	2019-07-12 07:10	-
bookmark-template.php	2019-07-12 07:10	12K
bookmark.php	2019-07-12 07:10	14K
<u>cache.php</u>	2020-04-29 23:47	21K
canonical.php	2019-07-12 07:10	28K
<u>capabilities.php</u>	2019-07-12 07:10	31K
<u>category-template.php</u>	2019-07-12 07:10	51K
category.php	2019-07-12 07:10	12K





### Cookies

#### Cookies sent in HTTP responses provide information about server stack

Each framework make use of specific cookie formats

#### **Impact: Platform stack disclosure**

#### **ASP.NET:**

.AspNetCore.Session=CfDJ8KWPKY6%2BcwXLPdJQ90RvJmOMD2tC6sNMwD3RJ%2F0NT%2FAphxJ%2FuufL5UxKoNzTRTR8%2Sx2nHrbR01KRUyXUuKOUQ7avRwjwiND7h33wO9v2%2BLwbtYf%2rDUEKKpouty48CJEL9

#### PHP:

PHPSESSID=2ljc71pfksf3egdhharc5g0hr4; path=/





### **Ports**

#### Network stack behaves differently whether the ports are open or closed

- TCP: replies with a TCP SYN, ACK (if open), or TCP RST (if closed)
- UDP: replies with a Higher Layer packet (if open), or an ICMP Port unreachable (if closed)
- ICMP: replies with ICMP Reply (or other)
- Firewalls also affect replies by altering or filtering packets

#### Services typically operate on well known ports

- All ports below 1024 are reserved for popular services
- Many ports above 1024 are also reserved

### Impact: Allows knowing which services/hosts are available





# Information leakage: Ports

#### Port scan: try to initiate a connection to a specific port

- May effectively initiate the connection or may simply start initiating it
  - Full Connection: Doing the TCP Three Way Handshake
  - Half Connection: Only sending the first TCP SYN
- A reply may indicate the existence / absence of a service
  - Existence if the connection is successful
  - Absence if an error is received
- A non reply may indicate the existence of a firewall





### Ports

```
$ nmap gw
Nmap scan report for gw
Host is up (0.0016s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed ports
PORT
     STATE
               SERVICE
23/tcp filtered telnet
53/tcp open domain
80/tcp open
               http
MAC Address: 2C:97:B1:XX:XX:XX (Huawei Technologies)
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 14.69 seconds
```



### Ports - Mitigation

#### Mitigation is limited as it exploits an inherent behavior

Network port state will affect the replies

# Firewalls should observe connect attempts and limit them on detection of enumeration

- Number of connections from a given host
- Different ports being accesses
- Session duration
- Rate of packets
- Specific fingerprints





#### Banners are textual or binary snippets provided to clients

- Immediately on connection, or after some request
- Most protocols are too chatty and will send some banner to help clients

#### Impact: attacker may gain knowledge about the software running

- Attacker can search for valid vulnerabilities
- Greatly narrows down the work to an attacker

#### **Exploitation: connect to server and/send a probe**

- Multiple probes can be sent to test the system
- Banner grabbing technique of systematically probe entities for their banners

Vulnerable protocols: FTP, IMAP, HTTP, SSH, TELNET, LDAP, RTMP, MySQL...





### Banners - SMTP

\$ nc server 25

220 EXCHANGE-2-A3.server Microsoft ESMTP MAIL Service ready at Thu, 22 Oct 2020 17:38:45 +0100

\$ nc server1 25

220 mx.server1.com ESMTP 4si1750999wmg.70 – esmtp



### Banners - HTTP

```
$ wget http://server --spider -S -q
                                                              Server
                                                              Linux Distribution
                                                              OpenSSL Version
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 22 Oct 2020 16:58:07 GMT
                                                              G: Send the message onto the next Clacks Tower
Server: Apache/2.4.25 (Debian) OpenSSL/1.0.2u
                                                              N: Do not log the message
Last-Modified: Sun, 27 Dec 2015 10:32:42 GMT
                                                              U: At the end of the line, return the message
ETag: "13c-527deb55ae63a"
                                                              Terry Prachet
Accept-Ranges: bytes
                                                              Probably the sysadmin is around a specific subreddit
Content-Length: 316
Vary: Accept-Encoding
                                                              Wordpress
X-Clacks-Overhead: GNU Terry Pratchett
Keep-Alive: timeout=15, max=100
Link: <https://server/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"
Set-Cookie: nm_transient_id=nmtr_954dce208296695d77d9141faeabe2e85c843546; path=/
Set-Cookie: PHPSESSID=2ljc79pfksj3e1dlhfr13h0ir5; path=/
Connection: Keep-Alive
                                                              Wordpress
Content-Type: text/htm
```



### Banners - HTTP

```
Cache-Control: private
Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Length: 8222
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
Date: Thu, 22 Oct 2020 19:22:51 GMT
Server: Microsoft-IIS/8.5
Vary: Accept-Encoding
X-AspNet-Version: 4.0.30319
X-AspNetMvc-Version: 5.2
X-Powered-By: ASP.NET
```



### Banners - SSH

```
ssh -v user@host
debug1: Remote protocol version 2.0, remote software version OpenSSH_7.2
• • •
debug1: kex: host key algorithm: ecdsa-sha2-nistp256
debug1: kex: server->client cipher: aes128-ctr MAC: umac-64@openssh.com
compression: none
. . .
debug1: kex_input_ext_info: server-sig-algs=<rsa-sha2-256,rsa-sha2-512>
```



```
nmap -sV host
PORT
        STATE SERVICE
                          VERSION
                          vsftpd 3.0.3
21/tcp
              ftp
        open
                          OpenSSH 7.9p1 Debian 10+deb10u2 (protocol 2.0)
22/tcp
        open
              ssh
                          lighttpd 1.4.53
80/tcp
              http
        open
139/tcp
              netbios-ssn Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
        open
445/tcp
              netbios-ssn Samba smbd 3.X - 4.X (workgroup: WORKGROUP)
        open
```



```
$ nmap -sV host
Not shown: 994 closed ports
PORT
                              VERSION
        STATE SERVICE
22/tcp
                              OpenSSH 7.9p1 Debian 10+deb10u2 (protocol 2.0)
        open ssh
 vulners:
   cpe:/a:openbsd:openssh:7.9p1:
                                       https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2019-6111
        CVE-2019-6111
                            5.8
        CVE-2019-16905
                                      https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2019-16905
                            4.4
                                      https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2019-6110
        CVE-2019-6110
                            4.0
                                      https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2019-6109
        CVE-2019-6109
                            4.0
        CVE-2018-20685
                            2.6
                                       https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2018-20685
80/tcp
        open http
                              lighttpd 1.4.53
_http-server-header: lighttpd/1.4.53
 vulners:
   cpe:/a:lighttpd:lighttpd:1.4.53:
                                       https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2019-11072
        CVE-2019-11072
                            7.5
        CVE-2008-1531
                             4.3
                                       https://vulners.com/cve/CVE-2008-1531
```





Restrict banners (if possible)

Fake banners (if possible)

Limit the verbosity in the banners (if possible)





# OS Fingerprinting

#### Network stacks do not behave consistently, and there are specific behaviors

- Many RFCs contain optional behavior
- Some stacks have bugs
- Some stacks have optional behaviors
- Some stacks are not fully compliant (e.g., constrained devices)

#### Fingerprinting is possible by:

- Sending a sequence of probes
- Observing response
- Matching behavior against database





# OS Fingerprinting

#### **Process lacks specificity**

- Fingerprint may not be found for unknown systems
- Fingerprint may match multiple systems
- Combination of open/closed ports may not allow a full fingerprint

#### **Example: Nmap TCP Tests T2-T7**

- TCP null (no flags set) pkt with the IP DF bit set and a window of 128 to an open port.
- TCP pkt with SYN, FIN, URG, PSH flags set and a window of 256 to an open port. IP DF bit is 0.
- TCP ACK pkt with IP DF and a window of 1024 to an open port.
- TCP SYN pkt without IP DF and a window of 31337 to a closed port.
- TCP ACK pkt with IP DF and a window of 32768 to a closed port.
- TCP pkt with the FIN, PSH, URG flags set and a window of 65535 to a closed port. IP DF bit is 0.





# OS Fingerprinting

```
$ uname −a
Linux server 4.19.0-11-amd64 #1 SMP Debian 4.19.146-1 (2020-09-17) x86_64 GNU/Linux
$ nmap -0 host
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org )
Host is up (0.00096s latency).
Not shown: 991 closed ports
Device type: general purpose
Running: Linux 4.X | 5.X
OS CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:4 cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel:5
OS details: Linux 4.15 - 5.6
```



### OS Fingerprinting - Mitigations

#### Restrict the number of ports open

Accurate fingerprinting relies on responses from open ports

#### Detect scanning and enumeration with a firewall specific rules

- Simple port maps and fingerprint attempts are easily recognized
- Advanced assessments, taking hours/days are not trivial to detect

#### If supported, enable network obfuscation mechanisms

OS may emulate the behavior of another system





# Let's practise – Lab 1





