

UBUNTU 24.04 LTS CYBERPATRIOT SCRIPT CHECKLIST

(Focus: CP image hardening + automation; adapt to README requirements)

0. SCRIPT SAFETY / PRE-CHECKS

0.1 Detect environment

- Script logic:
 - Confirm Ubuntu 24.04:
 - Parse /etc/os-release for VERSION_ID="24.04".
 - Record hostname, date/time, and current user.
 - Print a big warning header: "READ README BEFORE RUNNING".
 - Optionally require a confirmation flag (e.g., --i-know-what-im-doing).

0.2 Logging for your script

- Create /root/cp-hardening-logs/ if not exists.
- Log:
 - Start time, end time.
 - Every change made (file edited, user removed, service stopped, etc.).
 - stdout/stderr for risky commands.
- Use tee or redirect all output to a timestamped log:
 - /root/cp-hardening-logs/hardening-\$(date +%F-%H%M%S).log.

0.3 Read README + forensics before changes

- Script should:
 - Prompt user to confirm they've answered forensics questions.
 - Optionally copy README and Forensics files to /root/cp-backup/ for reference.
- DO NOT auto-delete anything mentioned in README as needed.

0.4 Backup critical config files before edits

- For each file you touch, create .bak copies once:
 - /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow, /etc/group, /etc/gshadow
 - /etc/sudoers, /etc/sudoers.d/*
 - /etc/login.defs
 - /etc/pam.d/*
 - /etc/ssh/sshd_config
 - /etc/hosts.allow, /etc/hosts.deny
 - /etc/sysctl.conf and /etc/sysctl.d/*
 - /etc/fstab
 - /etc/systemd/logind.conf
 - /etc/rsyslog.conf and /etc/rsyslog.d/*
 - /etc/cron.*, /var/spool/cron/crontabs/*
- Any service-specific configs (apache2, vsftpd, proftpd, vsftpd.conf, etc.)

- Convention:
 - cp yourfile yourfile.cpbackup-<DATE> if not already backed up.

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1. USER, GROUP, AND ACCOUNT HARDENING

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1.1 Enumerate all local users and groups

- Script actions:
 - List users: getent passwd
 - List groups: getent group
 - Save to /root/cp-hardening-logs/users-groups-<DATE>.txt.
- Mark suspicious users:
 - Any not in README users list.
 - Any with login shells who shouldn't log in (/bin/bash, /bin/sh, /bin/zsh, etc.).
 - Any with UID < 1000 that aren't standard system accounts.
 - Any duplicate UID or GID.

1.2 Remove unauthorized users

- Read authorized users from:
 - README or a file you create manually (e.g., /root/authorized_users.txt).
- Script logic:
 - For each non-system user (UID ≥ 1000) not in authorized list:
 - Lock account (passwd -l USER) OR remove (deluser --remove-home USER), depending on how aggressive you want to be.
 - Always log removals.
- Do NOT delete obvious system accounts (e.g., root, daemon, sys, sync, nobody).

1.3 Ensure only root has UID 0

- Script checks:
 - awk -F: '\$3 == 0 {print \$1}' /etc/passwd
- If any UID 0 accounts besides root:
 - Change UID to safe value or lock them.
 - Document in /root/cp-hardening-logs.

1.4 Fix shells for system/service accounts

- Script checks:
 - For system accounts (UID < 1000) that don't need login:
 - Ensure their shells are /usr/sbin/nologin or /bin/false.
 - For human users:
 - Ensure they have a real interactive shell (e.g., /bin/bash) only if allowed by README.
- Use usermod -s.

1.5 Group membership and sudo rights

- Script logic:
 - Determine admin group: "sudo" is typical on Ubuntu.
 - List members of sudo group: `getent group sudo`.
 - Cross-check with README:
 - Remove unauthorized admins: `gpasswd -d USER sudo`.
 - Add authorized admins: `usermod -aG sudo USER`.
 - Ensure regular users are not in privileged groups:
 - Groups to inspect: `sudo`, `adm`, `lpadmin`, `docker`, `lxd`, `sambashare`, etc.
 - Log all membership changes.

1.6 Ensure all human accounts have passwords

- For each human user (`UID ≥ 1000` or specified by README):
 - Check for locked or empty passwords:
 - `sudo passwd -S USER` (or inspect `/etc/shadow`).
 - If password is empty or locked but account should be usable:
 - Set a strong password (e.g., standard team password like `CyberPatriot1!` if allowed).
- Script can force:
 - `passwd --delete` is dangerous; instead:
 - `echo "USER:CyberPatriot1!" | chpasswd`
 - `chage -d 0 USER` (force password change at next login) – only if not disruptive to scoring.

2. PASSWORD AND AUTHENTICATION POLICY (`login.defs` + PAM)

2.1 Configure global password aging in `/etc/login.defs`

- Script edits (using `sed` or line replacement):
 - `PASS_MAX_DAYS 90`
 - `PASS_MIN_DAYS 7`
 - `PASS_WARN_AGE 14`
- Ensure no conflicting duplicate lines.
- For existing users:
 - `chage -M 90 -m 7 -W 14 USER` for each human account.

2.2 Ensure account lockout for brute-force protection (PAM)

- Identify PAM stack for auth:
 - For Ubuntu 24.04, typically use `/etc/pam.d/common-auth` and `pam_faillock` or `pam_tally2` depending on configuration.
- Script recommendations (adjust if image already uses `pam_faillock`):
 - Install `pam_faillock` if missing:
 - `apt-get install -y libpam-modules libpam-pwquality` (if allowed by README).
 - Configure `pam_faillock` in `/etc/pam.d/common-auth` and `/etc/pam.d/common-account`:
 - Deny logins after N bad attempts (e.g., 5).
 - Lockout time (e.g., 900 seconds).

- Important: Keep defaults moderate to avoid locking yourself out.

2.3 Password quality controls (PAM pwquality)

- Ensure libpam-pwquality is installed.
- In /etc/pam.d/common-password:
 - Reference pam_pwquality.so or pam_cracklib equivalent.
 - Set minimum length (e.g., 12), complexity parameters, and history (remember=N).
- Avoid insane settings that block normal password changes.

2.4 Force password policies on all human users

- For each non-system user:
 - chage -l USER to verify.
- If out of compliance:
 - chage -M 90 -m 7 -W 14 USER.

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3. FILESYSTEM, PARTITIONS, AND MOUNT OPTIONS (CIS-INSPIRED)

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Note: Many of these changes can break software if applied blindly. For a CP script:

- Implement checks.
- Print what would be changed.
- Optionally perform changes only if a --cis-hardening flag is provided.

3.1 Confirm separate or tmpfs partitions for key directories when present

- Use findmnt or lsblk:
 - /tmp
 - /dev/shm
 - /home
 - /var
 - /var/tmp
 - /var/log
 - /var/log/audit (if exists)
- If they're separate partitions or tmpfs:
 - Add secure mount options (nodev, nosuid, noexec where appropriate) in /etc/fstab.
- Do not invent extra partitions if filesystem layout is simple; just document that step as manual.

3.2 Harden /tmp mount options if /tmp is separate or tmpfs

- In /etc/fstab for /tmp:
 - Ensure at least:
 - nodev (no device files),
 - nosuid (no setuid),
 - noexec (no binaries executed).

- Example options: defaults,rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime
- After editing:
 - mount -o remount /tmp
- If /tmp not separate:
 - Script can print a warning and optionally create tmp.mount using systemd tmp.mount with tmpfs,
but do this only if safe and tested.

3.3 Harden /var/tmp mount options if separate

- Similar to /tmp:
 - nodev, nosuid, noexec in fstab.
 - Remount with new options.

3.4 Harden /dev/shm if separate

- For /dev/shm:
 - nodev, nosuid, noexec.
- Remount after changes.

3.5 Optionally secure /home and /var partitions

- If /home has a separate partition:
 - At least nodev.
- If /var has a separate partition:
 - nodev, possibly nosuid (but be careful with some services).
- Again, script should default to audit/print and only auto-change with a serious hardening flag.

3.6 Disable unused or legacy filesystem kernel modules (careful)

- For a CP script, usually:
 - Optionally add blacklist lines to /etc/modprobe.d/:
 - e.g., blacklist cramfs, freevxfs, hfs, hfsplus, jffs2, udf, etc., only if not required by README.
- Always check:
 - lsmod or modinfo before blacklisting.
 - Comment all changes in config files.

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4. SYSTEM UPDATES AND PACKAGES

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4.1 Update package lists and installed packages

- Script actions:
 - apt-get update
 - apt-get dist-upgrade -y (or apt-get upgrade -y if you want lower risk).
- Respect README if it says not to upgrade certain packages.

- Log installed/updated packages:
- Save dpkg -l output to /root/cp-hardening-logs/dpkg-before.txt before updates and after.

4.2 Configure automatic updates (if not already set)

- Check:
 - /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/20auto-upgrades
- Ensure:
 - APT::Periodic::Update-Package-Lists "1";
 - APT::Periodic::Unattended-Upgrade "1";
- For CP, enabling automatic security updates usually earns points.

4.3 Remove dangerous or unnecessary packages

- Script should look for and purge:
 - telnet, rlogin, rsh-client, tftp, ftp, vsftpd, proftpd, pure-ftpd (unless README requires).
 - netcat, nmap, zenmap, aircrack-ng, john/johnny, hydra, ettercap, wireshark (if prohibited).
 - bittorrent clients, P2P: transmission, amule, etc.
 - remote admin: vnc4server, tightvncserver, xrdp (if not required).
 - compilers and dev tools (optional CIS-like): gcc, g++, clang, make, etc., if not needed by scenario.
- Use: apt-get purge -y PACKAGE && apt-get autoremove -y.

4.4 Verify no prohibited media or files

- Script can:
 - Scan user home directories for patterns such as:
 - *.mp3, *.mp4, *.avi, *.torrent, etc.
 - Log all findings.
 - Optionally delete only if README explicitly says to remove.

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5. SERVICES, DAEMONS, AND FIREWALL

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5.1 Enumerate all services

- Use systemctl:
 - systemctl list-unit-files --type=service
 - systemctl --type=service --state=running
- Save to /root/cp-hardening-logs/services-<DATE>.txt.

5.2 Disable unneeded or dangerous network services

- For each service:
 - If not in README as required:
 - Stop and disable:
 - systemctl stop SERVICE
 - systemctl disable SERVICE

- Pay attention to:
 - apache2, nginx, lighttpd
 - vsftpd, proftpd, pure-ftpd
 - openssh-server (sometimes must remain enabled but locked down)
 - mysql, mariadb, postgresql
 - rpcbind, nfs-server, cups, avahi-daemon, samba (smbd, nmbd)
 - telnet, tftp, rsh, rlogin-related services.

5.3 Check listening ports and processes

- Script uses:
 - ss -tulnp or netstat -tulnp.
- For each listening socket:
 - Map port → process.
 - If service is not required:
 - Stop/disable the service.
- Log all decisions: which port, which process, action taken.

5.4 Configure UFW (Uncomplicated Firewall)

- Enable UFW:
 - ufw enable
- Default policy:
 - ufw default deny incoming
 - ufw default allow outgoing
- Allow only necessary services (e.g., SSH if remote login is required):
 - ufw allow OpenSSH or ufw allow 22/tcp if required.
- Optional: enable logging:
 - ufw logging on
- Note: On CP images, enabling UFW is usually a direct scoring item.

5.5 Enable TCP SYN cookie protection and basic network sysctl hardening

- In /etc/sysctl.conf or /etc/sysctl.d/99-sysctl-hardening.conf:
 - net.ipv4.tcp_syncookies = 1
 - net.ipv4.conf.all.rp_filter = 1
 - net.ipv4.conf.default.rp_filter = 1
 - net.ipv4.conf.all.accept_redirects = 0
 - net.ipv4.conf.default.accept_redirects = 0
 - net.ipv4.conf.all.accept_source_route = 0
 - net.ipv4.conf.default.accept_source_route = 0
 - net.ipv4.icmp_echo_ignore_broadcasts = 1
 - net.ipv4.icmp_ignore_bogus_error_responses = 1
- Apply:
 - sysctl -p or sysctl --system.

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6. SSH HARDENING (IF OPENSSSH-SERVER INSTALLED)

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6.1 Confirm SSH usage

- If README says SSH must be enabled:
 - Keep service active but hardened.
- If not required:
 - systemctl stop ssh
 - systemctl disable ssh
 - Optionally apt-get remove --purge openssh-server.

6.2 Basic sshd_config controls

- File: /etc/ssh/sshd_config (and possibly /etc/ssh/sshd_config.d/*).
- Ensure:
 - Protocol 2 (if present).
 - PermitRootLogin no or prohibit-password (depending on scenario).
 - PasswordAuthentication yes/no according to README (often yes in CP).
 - PermitEmptyPasswords no
 - X11Forwarding no
 - AllowTcpForwarding no (unless needed)
 - AllowAgentForwarding no
 - UsePAM yes
 - ClientAliveInterval 300
 - ClientAliveCountMax 0 or small
 - MaxAuthTries 4 (or similar)
 - LoginGraceTime 30
 - MaxSessions small number (e.g., 10 or less)
 - MaxStartups limited (e.g., 10:30:60)
- Optionally:
 - Banner /etc/issue.net with proper legal warning text.

6.3 Restrict which users can SSH

- Use AllowUsers or AllowGroups in sshd_config to restrict remote login to:
 - Known admins or remote users from README.
- Reload SSH after changes:
 - systemctl reload ssh.

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7. LOGGING, AUDIT, AND TIME

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7.1 Ensure a single logging system in use (rsyslog or systemd-journald)

- On Ubuntu, journald is always present; rsyslog is usual.
- Script should:

- Check if rsyslog is installed:
 - systemctl status rsyslog
- If present, ensure:
 - systemctl enable rsyslog
 - systemctl start rsyslog
- If other loggers exist, ensure they're not fighting each other.

7.2 Secure log file permissions

- Ensure /var/log and subdirectories:
 - Owned by root (or appropriate service account).
 - Not world-writable.
- Specific checks:
 - chmod 640 /var/log/*.log
 - chmod 600 sensitive logs (auth.log, secure equivalents, etc.).
 - chown root:adm or root:syslog as appropriate.

7.3 Log rotation

- Confirm logrotate is installed and configured:
 - /etc/logrotate.conf
 - /etc/logrotate.d/*
- Ensure:
 - Reasonable rotation frequency.
 - Use of "compress", "missingok", "notifempty", etc.

7.4 Auditd (optional but CIS-like)

- If auditd available on the image and not prohibited:
 - apt-get install auditd audispd-plugins
 - enable and start:
 - systemctl enable auditd
 - systemctl start auditd
 - Ensure basic rules exist or at least service is running.
- CP images don't always require this; treat as optional.

7.5 Time synchronization

- Ensure timesyncd or chrony is active (depending on default for Ubuntu 24):
 - systemctl status systemd-timesyncd or chronyd.
- Enable and start whichever is used by default.
- Consistent time helps logs and sometimes scoring.

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8. CRON, AT, AND SCHEDULED TASKS

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8.1 Verify cron service is enabled

- Ensure cron is active:
 - systemctl enable cron
 - systemctl start cron

8.2 Audit cron/at jobs

- Inspect:
 - /etc/crontab
 - /etc/cron.hourly, /etc/cron.daily, /etc/cron.weekly, /etc/cron.monthly
 - /etc/cron.d/*
 - per-user cron: crontab -l -u USER
 - at jobs: atq
- Remove any malicious or suspicious jobs:
 - Unknown scripts in /tmp, /home/*/.local, etc.
 - Network backdoors, Bitcoin miners, weird Python/Perl one-liners.

8.3 Lock down cron and at access

- Use /etc/cron.allow, /etc/cron.deny:
 - Typically:
 - Create /etc/cron.allow with only specific users if needed (e.g., root).
 - Empty or remove /etc/cron.deny.
- Similarly for /etc/at.allow and /etc/at.deny.
- For CP, just ensure no obviously insecure wildcard access.

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9. FILE PERMISSIONS, SUID/SGID, WORLD-WRITABLE

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9.1 Critical system files permissions

- Script should enforce:
 - /etc/passwd: root:root, mode 644
 - /etc/shadow: root:shadow or root:root, mode 640 or 600
 - /etc/group: root:root, mode 644
 - /etc/gshadow: root:shadow or root:root, mode 640 or 600
 - /etc/sudoers: root:root, mode 440
 - /etc/ssh/sshd_config: root:root, mode 600 or 640
 - /boot/grub/grub.cfg (or equivalent): root:root, 600 or 640
- Fix with chown/chmod as needed.

9.2 Find and review SUID/SGID binaries

- Commands:
 - find / -xdev -type f -perm -4000 -o -perm -2000 2>/dev/null
- For each SUID/SGID binary:
 - Decide if it's required (ping, sudo, su, passwd, etc. usually needed).
 - For obviously unnecessary or risky ones:

- chmod u-s or g-s to remove SUID/SGID.
- Log all modifications.

9.3 Find world-writable files and directories

- Directories:
 - find / -xdev -type d -perm -0002 2>/dev/null
 - Exclude known safe locations (/tmp, /var/tmp, /dev/shm) but check they have the sticky bit:
 - chmod +t /tmp /var/tmp /dev/shm
- Files:
 - find / -xdev -type f -perm -0002 2>/dev/null
 - Remove world-write where not needed:
 - chmod o-w FILE
- Log all changes, especially in /home.

9.4 Local interactive user dotfiles

- For each human user:
 - Inspect ~/.bashrc, ~/.profile, ~/.bash_profile, ~/.ssh/authorized_keys.
 - Ensure dot files are not world-writable.
 - Remove suspicious aliases or PATH modifications that pull from /tmp or untrusted dirs.
- Script can:
 - chmod go-rwx ~USER/.ssh/* where appropriate.
 - Ensure ~/.ssh directory is 700, authorized_keys 600.

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10. BOOTLOADER AND PHYSICAL SECURITY (OPTIONAL)

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10.1 Secure GRUB configuration (only if safe in CP)

- Check /boot/grub/grub.cfg (or /boot/grub/grub.cfg.d).
- Optionally:
 - Set a GRUB password:
 - Use grub-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 and configure in /etc/grub.d/40_custom.
 - Regenerate GRUB config with update-grub.
- This is advanced; often optional for CyberPatriot. Consider leaving as manual step.

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11. DESKTOP/LOGIN ENVIRONMENT (IF IMAGE HAS GUI)

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11.1 Disable guest login (if applicable)

- On modern Ubuntu with GDM, guest session is usually off by default.
- If guest is present:
 - Configure GDM to disable automatic guest login or guest sessions:
 - gsettings or GDM config files (varies by version).

- Ensure auto-login is disabled except possibly for competition user as directed by README.

11.2 Configure login warning banners

- Files:
 - /etc/issue (local console)
 - /etc/issue.net (remote SSH banner)
- Insert approved legal warning text (short and generic, not competition-breaking).

11.3 Screen lock and idle timeouts

- Set system-wide idle lockout:
 - For GNOME:
 - gsettings set org.gnome.desktop.session idle-delay <seconds>
 - gsettings set org.gnome.desktop.screensaver lock-enabled true
 - Or use dconf/gsettings via script for each user if necessary.
- For CP, this is usually low priority but safe.

11.4 Disable automatic mounting of removable media (optional)

- For GDM/GNOME:
 - Tweak settings to prevent auto-mounting of USB drives if consistent with scenario.
- Usually more CIS-hardening than CP-scored; treat as optional.

12. ANTIVIRUS AND MALWARE SCANNING

12.1 Install and configure ClamAV

- Commands:
 - apt-get update
 - apt-get install -y clamav
 - freshclam (update virus DB)
 - clamscan -r -i / (or target home directories, e.g., /home)
- This may take a while; script can:
 - Run clamscan in background and log results to /root/clamav-scan.log.
- Remove infected files ONLY if clearly malicious; otherwise log for manual review.

13. CHECKS FOR DUPLICATES AND ACCOUNT CONSISTENCY

13.1 No duplicate UIDs, GIDs, usernames, or group names

- Script steps:
 - Use awk and sort/uniq to detect duplicates in /etc/passwd and /etc/group.
- For each duplicate:
 - Log issue and optionally prompt for manual fix.

- This aligns with the idea that every account and group should be unique.

13.2 Root path integrity

- Inspect root's PATH environment:
 - Ensure no '.' (current directory) in PATH.
 - Ensure no world-writable directories in PATH.
 - Prefer /usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin.
- If modifications needed:
 - Adjust in /root/.profile, /etc/profile, or /etc/environment.

14. FINAL AUDIT / REPORT

14.1 Summary report for the team and scoring

- At the end of script execution, print and save:
 - List of users and groups after changes.
 - Services still running and their status.
 - UFW status and rules.
 - Any suspicious files or directories left for manual review.
 - Any operations skipped because of README or high risk.

14.2 Dry-run mode (recommended)

- Support a --dry-run flag:
 - Instead of making changes, only show what WOULD be changed.
 - Helpful for testing on CP practice images.

14.3 Exit codes

- Exit non-zero if:
 - Critical steps failed (e.g., editing /etc/passwd or /etc/shadow had errors).
- Otherwise, exit 0 and clearly state "HARDENING COMPLETED (check logs)."

NOTES FOR SCRIPT CREATION

- Always check the README FIRST; some services/files MUST remain as-is to earn points.
- Don't blindly apply all CIS-style options in an auto script:
 - Use comments and flags (e.g., --cis-level1) for more aggressive steps like extra mount options, kernel module blacklisting, or GRUB hardening.
- Keep every destructive action reversible:
 - Use backups, logs, and minimal changes to maintain stability.
- Test your script thoroughly on training images (Ubuntu 22, Mint 21, etc.) before live CP rounds.