Name – Divya Shah
Roll No – 115

ASSIGNMENT NO – 5

Aim: Hashing n auditing using Hashdeep tool in Kali Linux

Lab Outcome:

LO3: Explore the different network reconnaissance tools to gather information about networks.

Theory:

Hashing serves several important purposes in computer science and information security:

Data Integrity: Hashing is used to ensure the integrity of data. When data is hashed, a fixed-length hash value is generated. If the data changes even slightly, the hash value will change significantly, making it easy to detect tampering.

Data Retrieval: Hashing is used in data structures like hash tables, which allow for efficient data retrieval. Hash functions convert data into an index in an array, making data lookup faster compared to linear search.

Password Storage: Hashing is crucial for securely storing passwords. Instead of storing actual passwords, systems store their hash values. This way, even if the database is compromised, attackers won't immediately gain access to the actual passwords.

Cryptographic Applications: Hashing is a foundational element in cryptography. It's used in various cryptographic algorithms and protocols for ensuring data integrity, creating digital signatures, and more.

Digital Signatures: Hashing is used to create digital signatures, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of digital documents.

Different hashing algorithms exist to serve different purposes. Here are some commonly used hashing algorithms:

1. MD5 (Message Digest Algorithm 5): A widely used hash function that produces a 128bit hash value. However, it is considered weak due to vulnerabilities that allow collision attacks.
2. SHA-1 (Secure Hash Algorithm 1): Initially designed for security, SHA-1 has become obsolete due to vulnerabilities. It produces a 160-bit hash value.
3. SHA-256 (Secure Hash Algorithm 256): A member of the SHA-2 family, it produces a 256-bit hash value. It is widely used for cryptographic applications and is considered secure.

4. SHA-3 (Secure Hash Algorithm 3): Part of the Keccak family, SHA-3 offers a different approach to hashing compared to SHA-2. It is designed to be resistant to certain types of attacks.
5. bcrypt: A password hashing function that uses a variant of the Blowfish encryption algorithm. It's designed to be slow and computationally intensive, making it difficult for attackers to perform brute-force attacks on passwords.
6. Argon2: A modern and memory-hard password hashing function designed to resist various attacks, including GPU and ASIC-based attacks. It won the Password Hashing Competition (PHC) in 2015.

Hashdeep is a command-line tool used for generating hash values, matching them with stored hash values, and auditing files for integrity. It is particularly useful for verifying data integrity, performing audits, and ensuring that files have not been tampered with. Here are some commands commonly used with the `hashdeep` tool:

1. Generate Hash Values:
   To generate hash values for a single file:
   hashdeep -c sha256 filename

   To generate hash values for multiple files:
   hashdeep -c sha256 file1 file2 file3

   To generate hash values for all files in a directory:
   hashdeep -r -c sha256 directory/ 2.

Match Hash Values:

   To match hash values against a known hash value:
   hashdeep -c sha256 -m known_hashes.txt
`known_hashes.txt` is a text file containing the known hash values and corresponding filenames.

3. Audit Files:
   To audit files in a directory against hash values:
   hashdeep -r -c sha256 -a -k known_hashes.txt directory/
This command will audit the files in the specified directory against the hash values in the `known_hashes.txt` file. 4. Generating Hash Values for Auditing:

   To generate hash values and save them for later auditing:
   hashdeep -r -c sha256 -k -l -o output_hashes.txt directory/
This command generates hash values for auditing purposes and saves them to the `output_hashes.txt` file.

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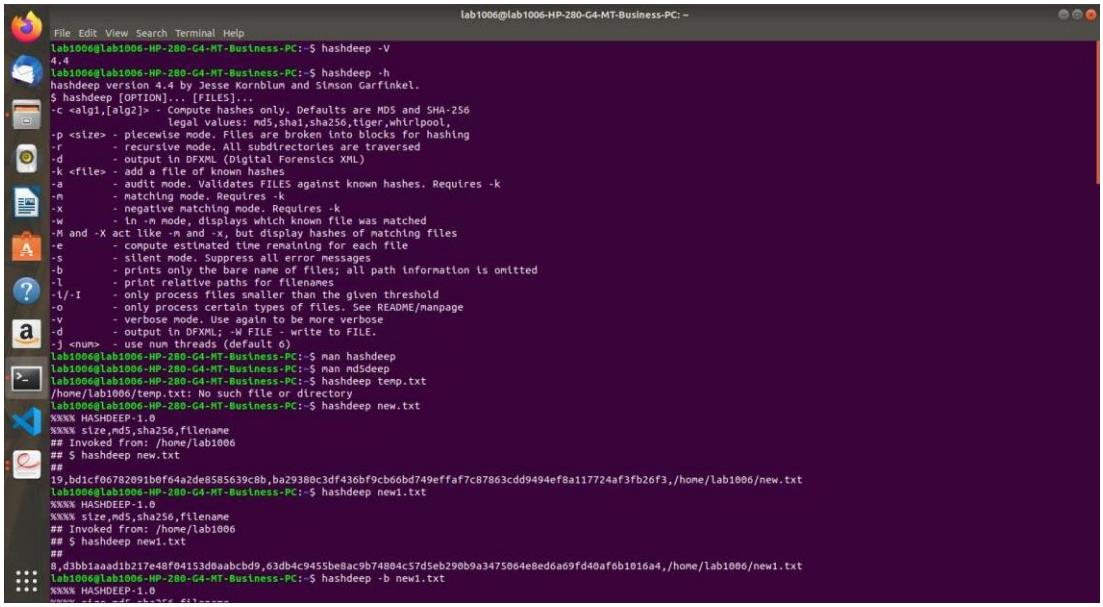
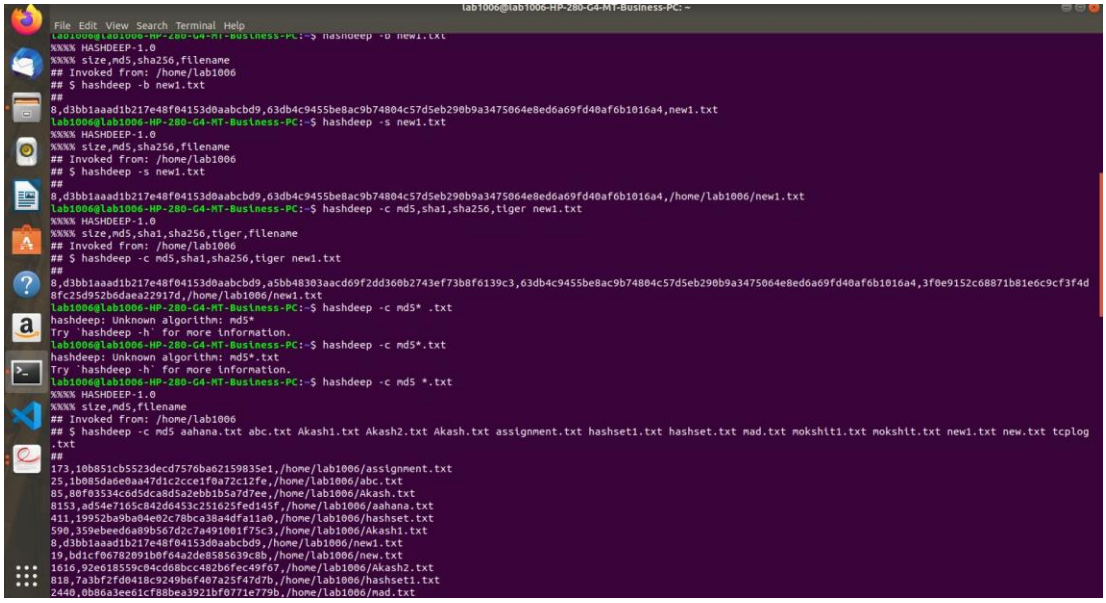
Output:





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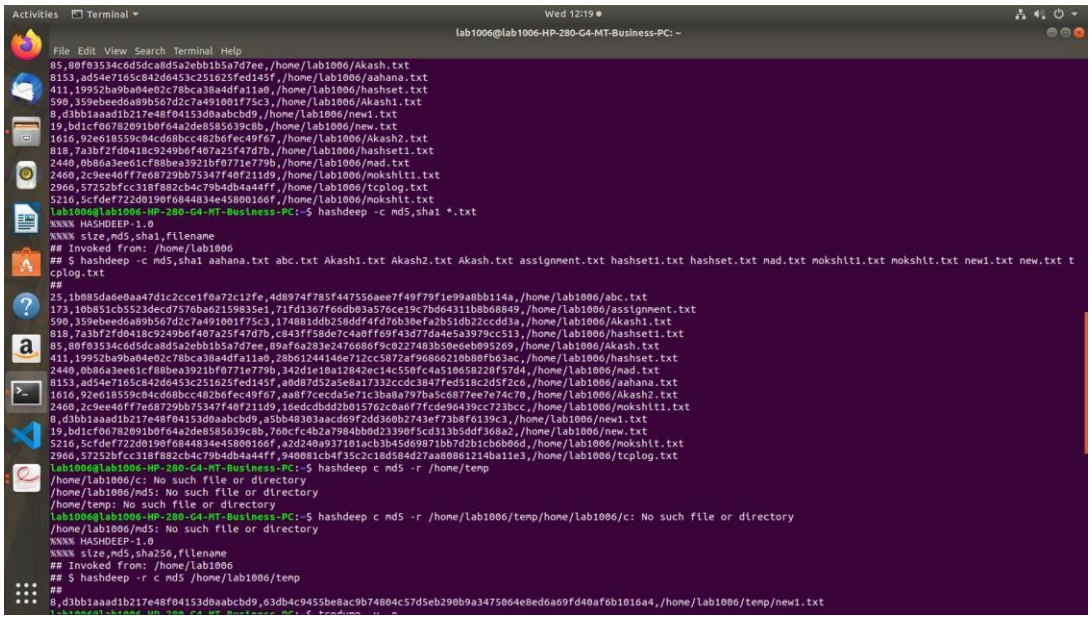

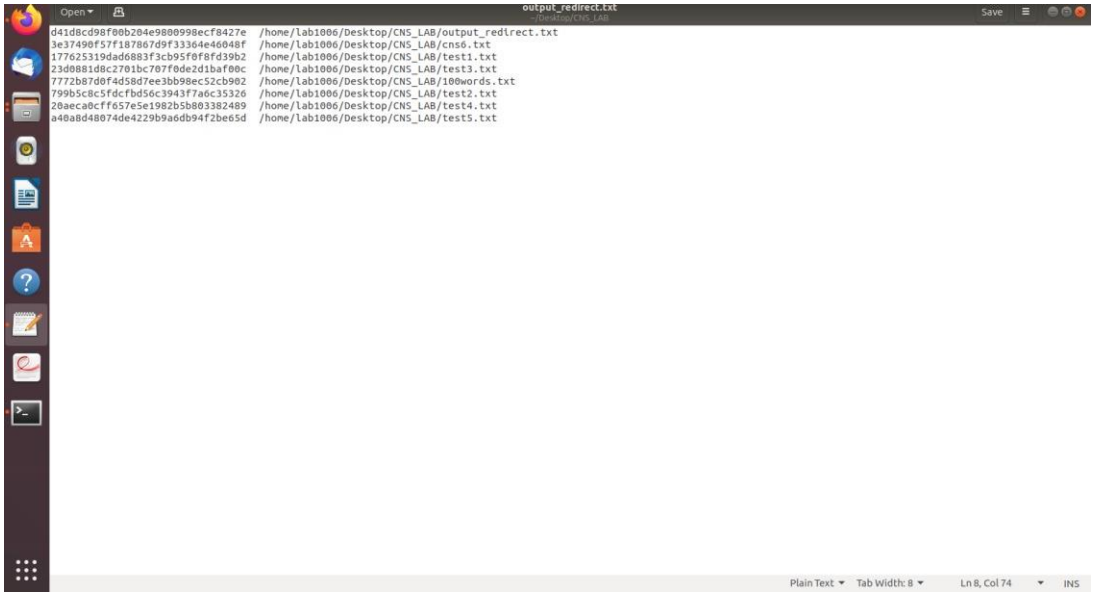

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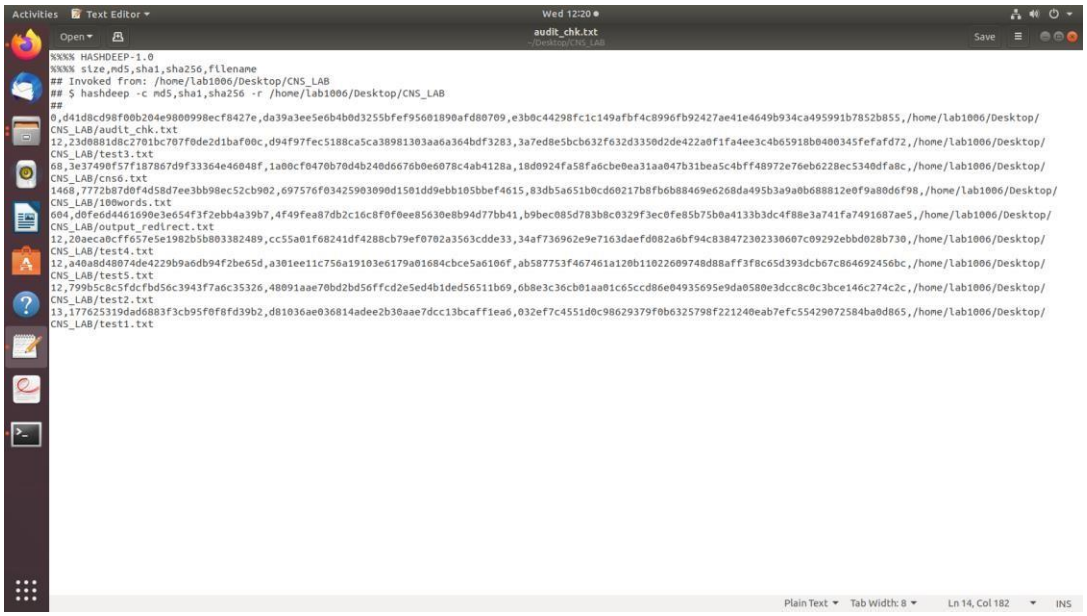

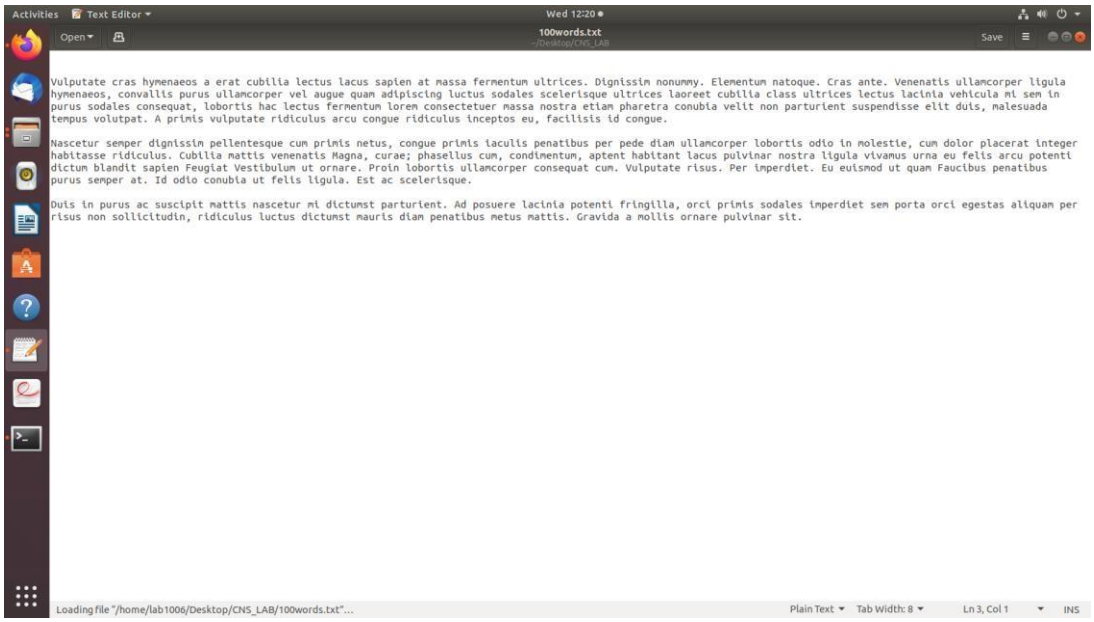

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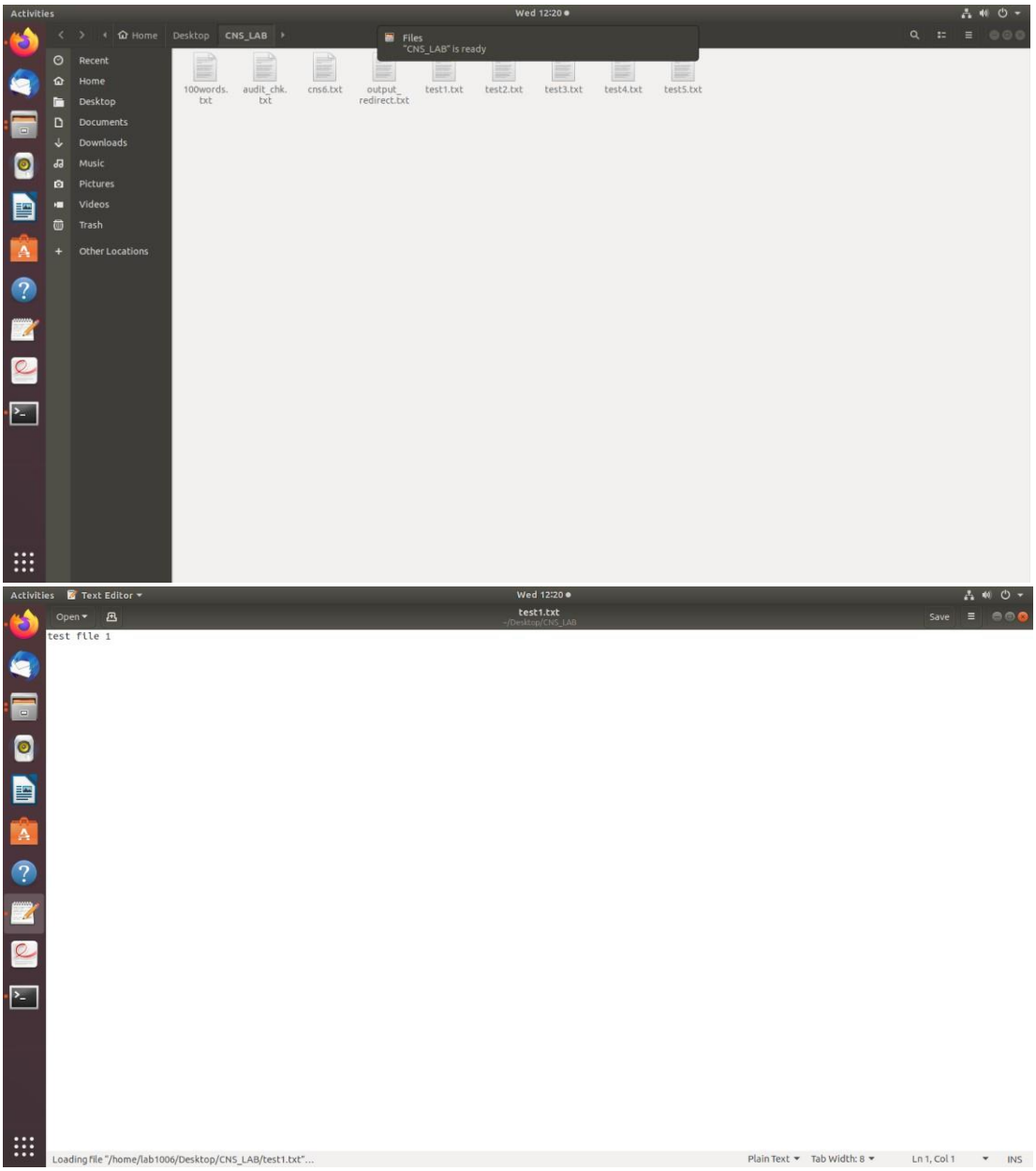

Conclusion:

In summary, leveraging hashing and auditing with the Hashdeep tool in Kali Linux is a powerful strategy for ensuring data integrity and security. Hashing safeguards against tampering by generating unique identifiers for files, while Hashdeep's auditing capabilities verify these identifiers and timestamps. Together, they offer a strong defense against unauthorized changes and provide essential tools for maintaining trustworthy data and bolstering cybersecurity measures.