

Mirai

Written By <https://github.com/dungwoong>

Mirai is a machine on hackthebox. It is not too difficult to get into the machine, but it is somewhat difficult to get the root flag. No privilege escalation though!
Overall, it's a relatively easy machine.

Some Hints

- Default Credentials...where could you try those?
- The linux command 'df' tells you about free disk space and disks that you have mounted

Fun Facts

Mirai was the name of a botnet that targeted Linux machines. It would look for certain open ports, and try to brute-force the login credentials. Mirai is now one of the biggest botnets in the world.

The creator of the botnet, a user known as Anna-Senpai, released the source code on Hack Forums. The botnet was initially used to DDoS minecraft servers

Mirai means Future in Japanese.



It's also a character in an anime. Anime is cool.

Sorry, I was sidetracked. Let's get into it!

Reconnaissance

We do a standard port scan with Nmap. We scan every TCP port on the system, looking for information on the technologies that are running on the target machine, and the versions of the technologies.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ nmap -T4 -p- -A -Pn 10.10.10.48
Host discovery disabled (-Pn). All addresses will be marked 'up' and scan
times will be slower.
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-03-09 23:40 EST
Nmap scan report for 10.10.10.48
Host is up (0.10s latency).
Not shown: 65529 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 6.7p1 Debian 5+deb8u3 (protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|   1024 aa:ef:5c:e0:8e:86:97:82:47:ff:4a:e5:40:18:90:c5 (DSA)
|   2048 e8:c1:9d:c5:43:ab:fe:61:23:3b:d7:e4:af:9b:74:18 (RSA)
|   256  b6:a0:78:38:d0:c8:10:94:8b:44:b2:ea:a0:17:42:2b (ECDSA)
|_  256  4d:68:40:f7:20:c4:e5:52:80:7a:44:38:b8:a2:a7:52 (ED25519)
53/tcp    open  domain   dnsmasq 2.76
| dns-nsid:
|_  bind.version: dnsmasq-2.76
80/tcp    open  http      lighttpd 1.4.35
|_ http-server-header: lighttpd/1.4.35
|_ http-title: Site doesn't have a title (text/html; charset=UTF-8).
1712/tcp  open  upnp      Platinum UPnP 1.0.5.13 (UPnP/1.0 DLNADOC/1.50)
32400/tcp open  http      Plex Media Server httpd
| http-auth:
| HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized\x0D
|_  Server returned status 401 but no WWW-Authenticate header.
|_ http-cors: HEAD GET POST PUT DELETE OPTIONS
|_ http-favicon: Plex
|_ http-title: Unauthorized
32469/tcp open  upnp      Platinum UPnP 1.0.5.13 (UPnP/1.0 DLNADOC/1.50)
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at
https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 712.34 seconds
```

Here are some things we found:

- We see that there is an SSH service running. In addition, port 80 is also open. There is also a DNS server.
- SSH has historically been secure, and the only thing we can really do with it is to try to brute-force the passwords. Let's check out port 80 before that.
- Also, we see that the operating system is likely Linux.

Directory Busting with Dirbuster

We go to 10.10.10.48, and we see a blank page. Are there directories we don't know about?

Directory busting is a technique that looks for hidden folders and files behind a url that are accessible by browser. For example, if you have a URL like 10.10.10.48, there may be a /admin page that exists and you wouldn't know without directory busting

We start up dirbuster using the dirbuster command

File Options About Help

Target URL (eg http://example.com:80/)

http://10.10.10.48:80/

Work Method ☐ Use GET requests only ☒ Auto Switch (HEAD and GET)

Number Of Threads 200 Thre... ☒ Go Faster

Select scanning type: ☒ List based brute force ☐ Pure Brute Force

File with list of dirs/files

/usr/share/wordlists/dirbuster/directory-list-2.3-small.txt

Char set Min length Max Length

Select starting options: ☒ Standard start point ☐ URL Fuzz

☒ Brute Force Dirs ☒ Be Recursive Dir to start with

☒ Brute Force Files ☐ Use Blank Extension File extension

URL to fuzz - /test.html?url={dir}.asp

Please complete the test details

Some features to note:

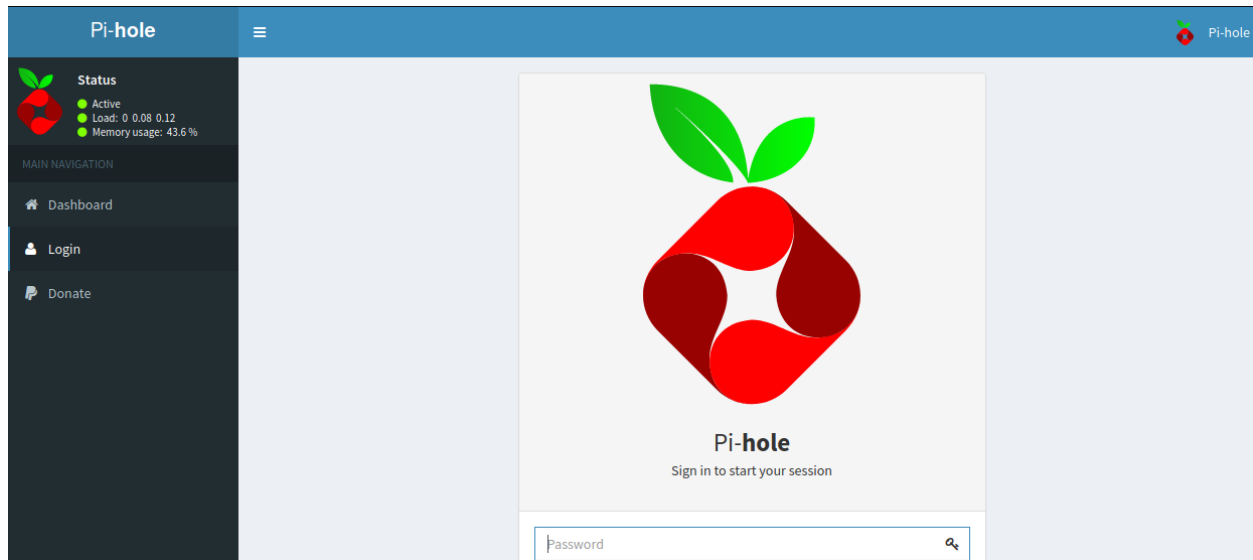
- Check the “go faster” option. There isn't really a reason to go slower in this case.
- The small wordlist should suffice for this task, as the target is not very advanced.

We press start, and get these results

Directory Structure	Response Code	Response Size
???	???	???
versions	200	237
admin	200	359

We see an admin page. Let's check that out!

The Admin Page



Well...wouldn't you agree that the machine may be a Raspberry Pi?

The target machine is most likely a Raspberry Pi. Many other walkthroughs say that this has something to do with Mirai botnets, but I wouldn't know.

Anyways, we know that the Mirai botnet gained access to machines through default credentials. Let's try that.

A quick google search tells us that the default username/password combination for a Raspberry Pi machine is **pi:raspberrypi**.

This combination does not work for the pi-hole admin login, but there is another place we can try it...

SSH Default Credentials

SSH stands for Secure Shell. If you can log in, you are usually allowed remote command execution.

Yup, the default credentials log us into the SSH server! You can do this by typing the following into the terminal:

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]  
$ ssh pi@10.10.10.48  
pi@10.10.10.48's password: <raspberrypi>
```

We now have a shell on the machine! Let's look around and find some flags

Post-‘Exploitation’

Did we really exploit anything?

On a Linux machine, we can type `sudo -l` to check what privileges we have.

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for pi on localhost:
  env_reset, mail_badpass, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin

User pi may run the following commands on localhost:
  (ALL : ALL) ALL
  (ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL
pi@raspberrypi:~ $
```

We see that we already have administrator privileges. We don't have to do any privilege escalation here!

We can find the user flag easily. However, we can't get into the `/root` folder to find the root flag. Since we have all permissions, we can simply switch to the root user to access the folder:

```
pi@raspberrypi:/ $ cd root
-bash: cd: root: Permission denied
pi@raspberrypi:/ $ sudo su root
root@raspberrypi:/#
```

And now we can access the `root.txt`. Easy!

```
root@raspberrypi:~# cat root.txt
I lost my original root.txt! I think I may have a backup on my USB stick...
root@raspberrypi:~#
```

...Well that's awkward...let's find the USB stick

USB shenanigans

```
root@raspberrypi:/home/pi# df
Filesystem            1K-blocks    Used Available Use% Mounted on
aufs                  8856504 2842920  5540652  34% /
tmpfs                 102396    4896   97500    5% /run
/dev/sda1             1354528 1354528      0 100% /lib/live/mount/persistence/sda1
/dev/loop0            1267456 1267456      0 100% /lib/live/mount/rootfs/filesystem.squashfs
tmpfs                 255988      0   255988    0% /lib/live/mount/overlay
/dev/sda2             8856504 2842920  5540652  34% /lib/live/mount/persistence/sda2
devtmpfs              10240      0   10240    0% /dev
tmpfs                 255988      8   255980    1% /dev/shm
tmpfs                  5120      4    5116    1% /run/lock
tmpfs                 255988      0   255988    0% /sys/fs/cgroup
tmpfs                 255988      8   255980    1% /tmp
/dev/sdb                8887      93    8078    2% /media/usbstick
tmpfs                  51200      0   51200    0% /run/user/999
tmpfs                  51200      0   51200    0% /run/user/1000
root@raspberrypi:/home/pi#
```

The 'df' command tells us about filesystems that are mounted on the machine. Upon closer inspection, we see that /media/usbstick is mounted on /dev/sdb

*In Linux, the first and second hard disks are typically named sda and sdb. Just a fun fact.
(Honestly, I need to understand this better because I'm new to Linux and filesystems in general. I will update this once I gain a better understanding of it)*

After going into the directory, we find yet another awkward moment. James is an idiot! Even more than myself! How will we get the root text??

```
root@raspberrypi:/home/pi# cd /media/usbstick
root@raspberrypi:/media/usbstick# ls
damnit.txt  lost+found
root@raspberrypi:/media/usbstick# cat damnit.txt
Damnit! Sorry man I accidentally deleted your files off the USB stick.
Do you know if there is any way to get them back?

python
-James
root@raspberrypi:/media/usbstick#
```

Finding the Root Flag

From here, you can run the following command which prints the content of the USB stick, including the flag that was lost

```
root@raspberrypi:/# cat dev/sdb

lost+found
  root.txt
damnit.txt;9Y208Ho;9+/
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
..0+-tA01Y1Y1Y1Y
  o!:2Y:2Y:2Y
* !92Y2Y2Y2Y
+ !9;9Y3
  8PP
([ " 1YSS1Y
  <Byc(B)>r 5<yZ.Gu^m^>
  1Y
[]*,..0+-3d3e483143ff12ec505d026fa13e020b
Damnit! Sorry man I accidentally deleted your files off the USB stick.
Do you know if there is any way to get them back?

python
-James
root@raspberrypi:/#
```

And there it is!

A more ‘Elegant’ way to find this flag, according to other walkthroughs, is to use the strings command. We can run `strings /dev/sdb`

The strings command looks for bits of readable text within a large file, which is really useful in this situation as there are a lot of random characters to sort through...imagine if the file was actually somewhat large!

```
root@raspberrypi:/# strings /dev/sdb
.NH'.NH'
>r &
/media/usbstick
lost+found
root.txt
damnit.txt
>r &
>r &
/media/usbstick
lost+found
root.txt
damnit.txt
>r &
/media/usbstick
2]8^
lost+found
root.txt
damnit.txt
>r &
3d3e483143ff12ec505d026fa13e020b
Damnit! Sorry man I accidentally deleted your files off the USB stick.
Do you know if there is any way to get them back?
-James
```

And there's the flag, but easier!