

Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e)

Security Strategies in Windows Platforms and Applications, Third Edition - Lab 06

Student:

Bradley Adams

Email:

badams10@my.athens.edu

Time on Task:

10 hours, 54 minutes

Progress:

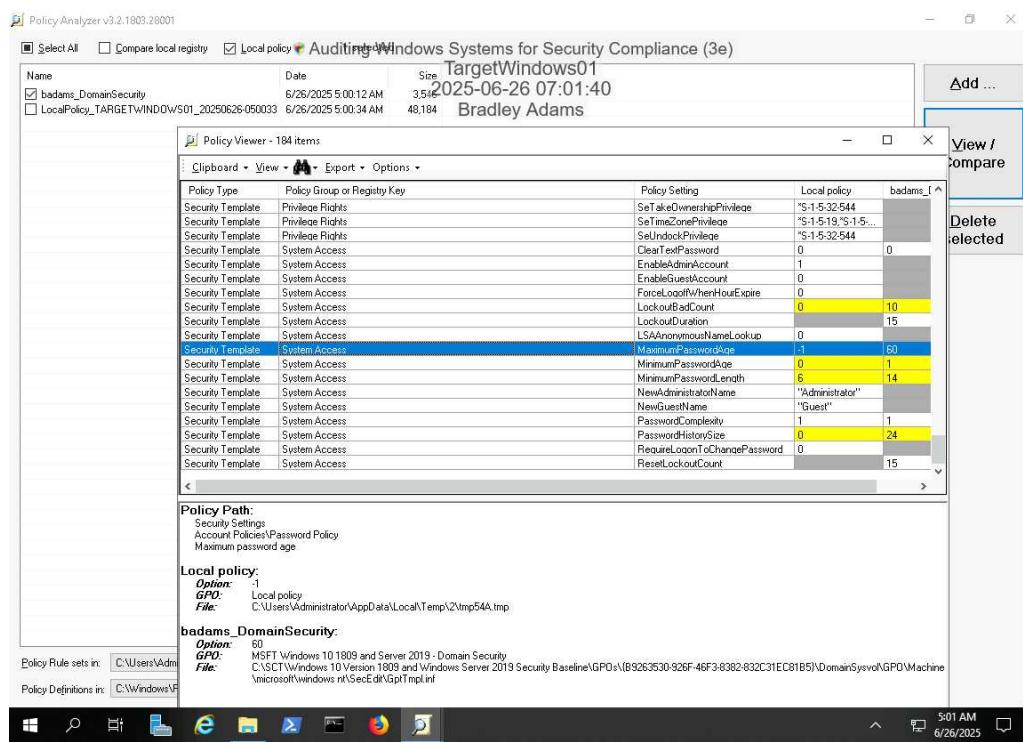
100%

Report Generated: Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 11:51 AM

Section 1: Hands-On Demonstration

Part 1: Audit a Windows System using Policy Analyzer

16. Make a screen capture showing the current MaximumPasswordAge setting in the Policy Viewer.



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35. Make a screen capture showing the updated MaximumPasswordAge setting in the Policy Viewer.

The screenshot shows the Windows Policy Viewer window titled "Policy Viewer - 184 items". The main pane displays a table of policy settings. In the "Local policy" column, the "MaximumPasswordAge" entry is highlighted with a yellow background, indicating it has been modified. The value is set to 0. Other visible columns include "Policy Type", "Policy Group or Registry Key", "Target", and "User". The "User" column shows the name "Bradley Adams". The bottom of the window shows the "Policy Path" and "Local policy" details, confirming the change was made to the local policy file at C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\2\tmp354D.tmp.

Policy Type	Policy Group or Registry Key	Target	Local policy	User
Security Template	Privilege Rights	Windows01	\$-1:5-800	
Security Template	Privilege Rights	2025-06-26 07:13:15	\$-1:5-32:544,"\$...	
Security Template	Privilege Rights	Bradley Adams	\$-1:5-32:544	
Security Template	Privilege Rights		\$-1:5-32:544,"\$...	
Security Template	Privilege Rights		\$-1:5-13:5-1-5...	
Security Template	Privilege Rights		\$-1:5-32:544	
Security Template	Privilege Rights		\$-1:5-13:"\$-1:5...	
Security Template	Privilege Rights		\$-1:5-32:544	
Security Template	System Access		SetTimeZonePrivilege	
Security Template	System Access		SetUserRightPrivilege	
Security Template	System Access		SetUndockPrivilege	
Security Template	System Access		ClearTextPassword	0
Security Template	System Access		EnableAdminAccount	1
Security Template	System Access		EnableGuestAccount	0
Security Template	System Access		ForceLogonWhenHourExpire	0
Security Template	System Access		LockoutBadCount	0
Security Template	System Access		LockoutDuration	10
Security Template	System Access		LSAAnonymousNameLookup	0
Security Template	System Access		MaximumPasswordAge	60
Security Template	System Access		MinimumPasswordAge	30
Security Template	System Access		MinimumPasswordLength	6
Security Template	System Access		NewAdministratorName	"Administrator"
Security Template	System Access		NewGuestName	"Guest"
Security Template	System Access		PasswordComplexity	1
Security Template	System Access		PasswordHistorySize	0
Security Template	System Access		RequireLogonToChangePassword	0
Security Template	System Access		ResetLockoutCount	15

Policy Path:
Advanced Audit Policy Configuration
Audit Policy\Account Logon
Credential Validation

Credential Validation:
This policy setting allows you to audit events generated by validation tests on user account logon credentials.
Events in this subcategory occur only on the computer that is authoritative for those credentials. For domain accounts, the domain controller is authoritative. For local accounts, the local computer is authoritative.
Volume: High on domain controllers.
Default on Client editions: No Auditing.
Default on Server editions: Success.

Local policy:
Option: Success
GPO: Local policy
File: C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\2\tmp354D.tmp

Part 2: Audit a Windows System using OpenVAS

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8. Make a screen capture showing the completed scan of TargetWindows01.

The screenshot shows the Greenbone Security Manager interface for auditing Windows systems. The title bar indicates the task is "Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e)" and the target is "TargetWindows01". The date and time are "2025-06-26 07:54:43" and the user is "Bradley Adams". The status bar at the bottom shows "Logged in as admin | Logout".

The main dashboard displays three charts:

- Reports by Severity Class (Total: 1)**: A donut chart showing 1 Medium severity report.
- Reports with High Results**: A line chart showing 0 Max High and 0 Max High per Host reports over the period from Wednesday, Jun 25 to Friday, Jun 27.
- Reports by CVSS (Total: 1)**: A bar chart showing 1 report with a CVSS score of 5.0 (Medium).

Below the charts is a table of audit tasks:

Date	Status	Task	Severity	High	Medium	Low	Log	False Pos.	Actions
Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:45 PM UTC	Done	Immediate scan of IP 172.30.0.15	5.0 (Medium)	0	2	0	31	0	Δ X

At the bottom, there is a note: "(Applied filter: apply_overrides=0 min_qod=70 task_id=d9ce066f-afdf-42ae-b7c6-a665f0c72900 first=1 rows=10 sort-reverse=severity)".

The taskbar at the bottom of the window shows the system clock as 5:54 AM on 6/26/2025.

11. Make a screen capture showing the vulnerabilities from the completed scan of TargetWindows01.

The screenshot shows the Greenbone Security Manager interface for auditing Windows systems, displaying the results of the completed scan. The title bar indicates the task is "Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e)" and the target is "TargetWindows01". The date and time are "2025-06-26 07:57:35" and the user is "Bradley Adams". The status bar at the bottom shows "Logged in as admin | Logout".

The main dashboard displays a report card for the completed scan:

Report: Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:45 PM UTC	Done	ID: 9452f625-793b-464e-b0ea-06d29699c77a	Created: Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:46 PM UTC	Modified: Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:53 PM UTC	Owner: admin
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Below the report card is a navigation menu with tabs: Information, Results (33 of 34), Hosts (1 of 1), Ports (14 of 14), Applications (0 of 0), Operating Systems (1 of 1), CVEs (1 of 1), Closed CVEs (8 of 8), TLS Certificates (0 of 0), Error Messages (0 of 0), and User Tags (0). The "Results" tab is currently selected.

The main content area displays a table of vulnerabilities found on the target host:

Vulnerability	Severity	QoD	Host IP	Name	Location	Created
DCE/RPC and MSRPC Services Enumeration Reporting	5.0 (Medium)	80 %	172.30.0.15	135/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:48 PM UTC
VNC Server Unencrypted Data Transmission	4.8 (Medium)	70 %	172.30.0.15	5901/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:50 PM UTC
CGI Scanning Consolidation	0.0 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.15	80/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:50 PM UTC
CPE Inventory	0.0 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.15	general/CPE-T		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:53 PM UTC
DCE/RPC and MSRPC Services Enumeration	0.0 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.15	135/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:48 PM UTC
DNS Server Detection (TCP)	0.0 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.15	53/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 12:48 PM UTC

At the bottom, there is a note: "Greenbone Security Manager (GSM) Copyright (C) 2009-2019 by Greenbone Networks GmbH, www.greenbone.net".

The taskbar at the bottom of the window shows the system clock as 5:57 AM on 6/26/2025.

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13. **Describe** remediation steps for the vulnerability you selected.

Summary

Distributed Computing Environment / Remote Procedure Calls (DCE/RPC) or MSRPC services running on the remote host can be enumerated by connecting on port 135 and doing the appropriate queries.

Solution

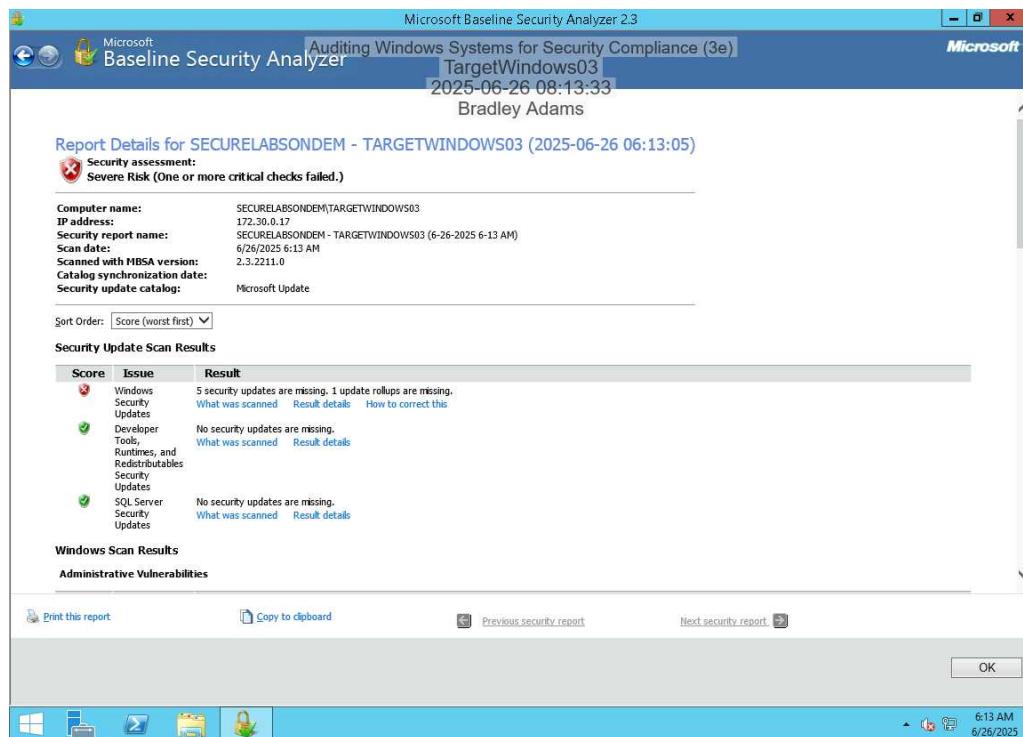
Solution Type: Mitigation

Filter incoming traffic to this ports.

Section 2: Applied Learning

Part 1: Audit a Windows System using MBSA

9. Make a screen capture showing the MBSA scan results.



14. Describe the security issue for this missing update.

KB5012170: Security update for Secure Boot DBX

KB5012170 is a security update released by Microsoft to address a critical vulnerability in the Secure Boot process. This update modifies the Secure Boot Forbidden Signature Database to block known vulnerable UEFI bootloaders that could allow an attacker to bypass Secure Boot protections. It prevents the execution of bootloaders that threat actors exploit to install malware before the operating system loads. This update is critical for maintaining Secure Boot integrity across supported Windows platforms.

Part 2: Audit a Windows System using OpenVAS

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7. Make a screen capture showing the vulnerabilities from the completed scan of TargetWindows03.

The screenshot shows the Greenbone Security Manager (GSM) web interface. At the top, it displays the title "Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e)" and the URL "https://172.30.0.18/report/3e5a0aab-1706-45b2-9693-7f8fb7782979". Below the header, the page title is "TargetWindows03" and the date is "2025-06-26 08:44:16". The user is logged in as "admin". The main content area shows a summary of the scan results:

Information	Results (29 of 29)	Hosts (1 of 1)	Ports (6 of 8)	Applications (1 of 1)	Operating Systems (1 of 1)	CVEs (2 of 2)	Closed CVEs (15 of 15)	TLS Certificates (0 of 0)	Error Messages (0 of 0)	User Tags (0)
Thu, Jun 26, Report: 2025 1:40 PM UTC										
ID: 3e5a0aab-1706-45b2-9693-7f8fb7782979										
Created: Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:40 PM UTC Modified: Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:42 PM UTC Owner: admin										

The "Vulnerability" section lists the following findings:

Vulnerability	Severity	QoD	Host IP	Name	Location	Created
DCE/RPC and MSRPC Services Enumeration Reporting	5.0 (Medium)	80 %	172.30.0.17		135/tcp	Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:41 PM UTC
VNC Server Unencrypted Data Transmission	4.8 (Medium)	70 %	172.30.0.17		5901/tcp	Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:42 PM UTC
SSL/TLS: Report Weak Cipher Suites	4.3 (Medium)	98 %	172.30.0.17		3389/tcp	Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:42 PM UTC
SSL/TLS: Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Insufficient DH Group Strength Vulnerability	4.0 (Medium)	80 %	172.30.0.17		3389/tcp	Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:42 PM UTC
TCP timestamps	2.6 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.17		general/tcp	Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:42 PM UTC
CGI Scanning Consolidation	0.0 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.17		80/tcp	Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:42 PM UTC

17. Make a screen capture showing the active Windows Firewall.

The screenshot shows the Windows Firewall with Advanced Security interface. The title bar reads "Windows Firewall with Advanced Security" and "Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e) TargetWindows03". The date is "2025-06-26 08:49:16". The user is Bradley Adams. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Inbound Rules, Outbound Rules, Connection Security Rules, and Monitoring. The main pane displays the following sections:

- Overview**: Shows that the Domain Profile is Active (Windows Firewall is on, inbound connections are blocked, outbound connections are allowed).
- Private Profile**: Shows that the Private Profile is Active (Windows Firewall is off).
- Public Profile**: Shows that the Public Profile is Active (Windows Firewall is off).
- Getting Started**: Provides instructions for authenticating communications between computers and creating connection security rules.
- Authenticate communications between computers**: Describes how to create connection security rules for IPsec.
- View and create firewall rules**: Describes how to create firewall rules for inbound and outbound connections.
- Inbound Rules** and **Outbound Rules**: Links to rule configuration pages.
- View current firewall and IPsec policy and activity**: Provides information about currently applied rules and security associations.

The right sidebar contains an "Actions" menu with options like Import Policy..., Export Policy..., Restore Default Policy, Diagnose / Repair, View, Refresh, Properties, and Help.

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21. Make a screen capture showing the vulnerabilities from the latest completed scan of TargetWindows03 (without the DCE/RPC vulnerability listed).

The screenshot shows the Greenbone Security Manager interface for a scan of 'TargetWindows03'. The report was created on 'Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:49 PM UTC'. The 'Results' tab is selected, showing 23 vulnerabilities. The table below lists the details of each vulnerability.

Vulnerability	Severity	QoD	Host IP	Name	Location	Created
SSL/TLS: Report Weak Cipher Suites	4.3 (Medium)	98 %	172.30.0.17	3389/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:50 PM UTC
SSL/TLS: Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Insufficient DH Group Strength Vulnerability	4.8 (Medium)	80 %	172.30.0.17	3389/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:50 PM UTC
TCP timestamps	2.6 (Low)	80 %	172.30.0.17	general/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:51 PM UTC
CGI Scanning Consolidation	6.0 (High)	80 %	172.30.0.17	80/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:51 PM UTC
CPE Inventory	6.0 (High)	80 %	172.30.0.17	general/CPE-T		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:52 PM UTC
Hostname Determination Reporting	6.0 (High)	80 %	172.30.0.17	general/tcp		Thu, Jun 26, 2025 1:52 PM UTC

Section 3: Challenge and Analysis

Part 1: Analysis and Discussion

In what context would you consider using the Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer to conduct a security audit? Is it worth using MBSA at all, or are there similar, more effective tools that could be used in the same context? Use the Internet to research MBSA and alternative tools.

Using MBSA can be justified if your scope is strictly limited to legacy Windows environments and you require a rapid, straightforward audit of Microsoft updates. MBSA is simple and easy to deploy. It offers a basic baseline check for missing Microsoft patches, insecure IIS settings, SQL Server configurations, and Office macro settings. MBSA is increasingly outdated in the context of modern incident detection and vulnerability management. It hasn't been updated for Windows Server 2016 or later. Its checks are hard-coded and limited to Microsoft products. If your goal is to conduct incident detection or vulnerability management across diverse systems, there are far more effective tools. In 2025, it's more effective to use tools that support a broader range of platforms, automate workflows, and integrate into incident response processes. ManageEngine Vulnerability Manager Plus offers cross-platform scanning, patch management, threat intelligence, continuous monitoring, and compliance reporting. OpenVAS is a robust, open-source option for free-form vulnerability assessments that extend beyond Windows, featuring a regularly updated feed and community support. Commercial tools, such as Nessus and Nmap, provide detailed vulnerability scanning, risk scoring, and integration with tools like Metasploit.

Sources:

<https://www.comparitech.com/net-admin/alternatives-to-microsoft-baseline-security-analyzer/>
<https://www.theknowledgeacademy.com/blog/microsoft-baseline-security-analyzer-alternative/>

Part 2: Tools and Commands

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Make a screen capture showing the subnet scan results in the GSM.

The screenshot shows the Greenbone Security Manager (GSM) interface. The title bar reads "Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e)" and "TargetWindows01". The main dashboard displays a report from "Bradley Adams" on "Thu, Jun 26, 2025 2:45 PM UTC". The report ID is "1ec88911-10b7-4784-9623-89066ad165dc". The report status is "Done". The report was created on "Thu, Jun 26, 2025 2:45 PM UTC" and modified on "Thu, Jun 26, 2025 2:59 PM UTC". The owner is "admin". The navigation menu includes Dashboards, Scans, Assets, SecInfo, Configuration, Extras, Administration, and Help. The current tab is "Results (95 of 95)". Other tabs include Information, Hosts (3 of 254), Ports (16 of 16), Applications (5 of 5), Operating Systems (2 of 2), CVEs (3 of 3), Closed CVEs (23 of 23), TLS Certificates (2 of 2), Error Messages (0 of 0), and User Tags (0). The results table lists vulnerabilities with columns: Vulnerability, Severity, QoD, Host IP, Name, Location, and Created. One notable entry is "Greenbone Security Assistant (GSA) Default Credentials" with a severity of "10.0 (High)". The bottom status bar shows "8:02 AM 6/26/2025".

Part 3: Challenge Exercise

Make a screen capture showing the update confirmation on TargetWindows03.

The screenshot shows the Windows Control Panel "View update history" window. The title bar reads "Auditing Windows Systems for Security Compliance (3e)" and "TargetWindows03". The date is "2025-06-26 10:51:22" and the user is "Bradley Adams". The window displays a list of updates with columns: Name, Status, Importance, and Date Installed. The updates listed include various security patches and system updates for Windows Server 2012 R2, such as "Security Update for Windows Server 2012 R2 (KB3042058)", "Security Update for Windows Server 2012 R2 for x64-based Systems (KB3012170)", and "Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool x64 - v5.134 (KB890930)". Most updates show a status of "Succeeded" and an importance level of "Important". The bottom status bar shows "8:51 AM 6/26/2025".