Cyber Security

DCRC Project

Safety Course Level 4

Introduction:

Currently the robots have two raspberry pi's as described in the background of the emergency stop feature. Those pi's have static ip's assigned to them by a router that is used for the robot network. The colab localization software uses MQTT mosquito server and broker to transfer data from the tags to the colab pi's and the blackboard uses ssh to connect to the colab and robot pi. The colab is connected to the robot pi via TCP server/client. This means that there are four attack vectors on the system:

- MQTT server/broker
- Router
- TCP server/client
- SSH

The router is the first point of attack as it is the outer layer of the system. The TCP server/client and SSH connections work inside the router network so to test those we need to bypass the router first. If the router cannot be bypassed then the TCP and SSH connections are more or less safe. The MQTT server/broker is not bound to the network so it is on the same "level" as the router and doesn't depend on the router's defense. Important note that should be added here is that this is a "whitebox" test, which means that the attacker knows how the system works and what it consists of.

Execution:

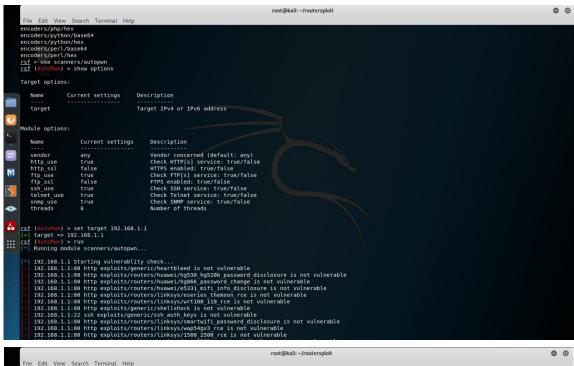
First, I will try to attack the router. If we can get the admin account of the router then we will own the network and we can continue on with the TCP and SSH. The plan of approach is to use automated tools to scan it for vulnerabilities. If I find anything promising I will go in depth on it. First I have to explore the spread and then go in depth if there is anything. Another attack I will try is the Man In The Middle. All devices are susceptible to it if the protocol used is HTTP. Last attack that I will try is Denial of Service. I do not have a bot farm or multiple machines to try Distributed Denial of Service so I will stick to one machine.

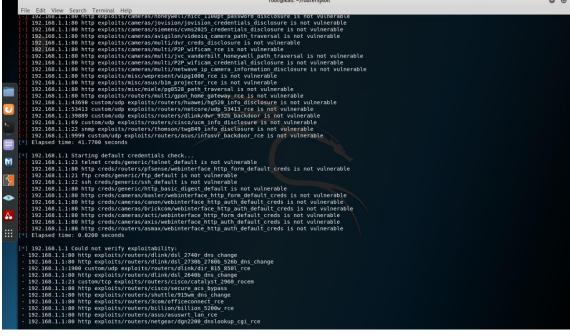
1. Automated Scanning with RouterSploit

RouterSploit is an automated script for finding vulnerabilities in network devices. In order to use all of the tooling and be able to execute the attacks I needed to use Kali Linux on a virtual machine. After installing RouterSploit we run it and see the options available. We run the script on the router by specifying its ip. A disadvantage of these automated scripts is that they produce a lot of "noise" on the network and that can be bad if we are doing a "blackbox" test and we should be careful not to get caught. Currently, this is not the case as we are only interested to know the vulnerabilities in the system and not simulate an actual attack.

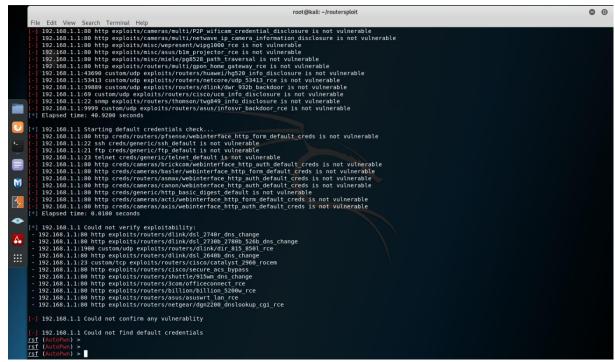


After getting the start screen with the logo I specify the target, which is the ip of the router and I run the script. The script looks for all kinds of vulnerabilities, from checking the default credentials (admin,admin) to path traversal and known weaknesses on specific routers like the HG250.





After the scan we can see that there are no verified vulnerabilities found on the router and that is to be expected as the router we have is a pretty good one. There is no possibility to compromise the credentials of the router nor to attack the DNS. Next thing that can be tried is getting more specific with scanning for a specific port. Again I specify the ip of the router and then the port we want to go after. I decided to go for port 80 as it is the one that is used for the HTTP/HTTPS requests and is always open.

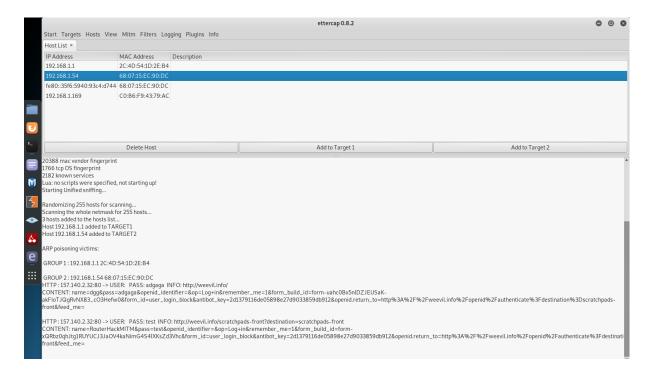


Unfortunately, there is no visible vulnerability on which I can go deeper and exploit. There are no obvious weaknesses in the router but that doesn't mean it is impossible to compromise it.

2. Man in the middle - MITM

Man in the middle attack is basically an arp spoofing. Our machine sends messages to the router misleading it that we are the victim's machine and we do the same to the victim's machine misleading it that we are the router. By doing that we are placing ourselves in the middle receiving all the messages from the victim and the responses from the router.

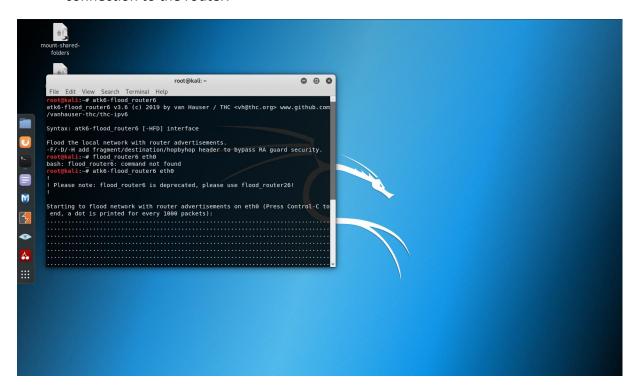
To execute the attack I use Ettercap although, there are many more programs that can be used. We issue the command "ettercap -G" in order to start the application and we search for active hosts on the network. From networking we know that the router is always with the first address on the network so if we have a network with 24 network mask as it is currently that means that the first 24 bits of the network define the network and can't be used by machines. Our network is with a net mask of 24 meaning that the 192.168.1 is the address of the network and the 192.168.1.1 to 192.168.1.255 define the addresses for the machines. We choose a machine and the router and we start the arp-spoofing.



In the picture we can see a machine on the network using an unsecured site with HTTP and we successfully intercept the credentials. This is a simple test to prove the efficiency and the ease of eavesdropping. In order to not have to worry about MITM, the network has to be made to work with HTTPS only.

3. Denial of Service - DOS

Denial of Service is not an attack to compromise the router but to stop it from doing useful work. The goal of the attack is to flood the router with requests so that it doesn't have enough resources to process the actual requests on the network and therefore denying service. On kali linux DOS tools are usually preinstalled and ready for use. DOS is not very popular as it is usually not enough to overwhelm servers or routers so there is Distributed Denial of Services, which is the same just that multiple machines flood the target with requests. If we had a bot farm of machines established using some malware for example, hypothetically we can have enough power to get big corporations' servers down for an hour or two. We will use only one machine but I think it is going to be enough as our target is a simple router and not a server. In the picture we can see the flooding by the dots and the effect was that there was no connection to the router.



Apparently, for this router only one machine is enough to get it overwhelmed. A DOS vulnerability is usually solved by IPS and IDS systems and mainly by filtering incoming traffic on the Firewalls. Another important factor that helps reacting to a DOS/DDOS attack is a blacklist where we put the ip addresses of the machines that flood the router. Once the ip is in the blacklist, it is forbidden to contact the router and the router ignores its request.

4. MQTT

The MQTT broker is used in the colab system for getting the data from the tags. The colab gets the data and calculates the position of the AGVs. The MQTT that is used in the system can be seen in the picture below:

```
# Create an MQTT client, attach the custom routines to it and start it on a separete thread

def startMQTT():
    client = mqtt.Client()
    client.on_connect = on_connect
    client.on_message = on_message

    print("Connecting to MQTT Broker:", mqttBroker)

    client.connect(mqttBroker, 1883, 60)

# start MQTT thread
    client.loop_start()
    time.sleep(1)
```

When we check the Mosquito MQTT broker we see the following:

MQTT

This is test.mosquitto.org. It hosts a publicly available <u>Eclipse Mosquitto</u> MQTT server/broker. MQTT is a very lightweight protocol that uses a publish/subscribe model. This makes it suitable for "machine to machine" messaging such as with low power sensors or mobile devices.

For more information on MQTT, see http://mqtt.org/ or the Mosquitto MQTT man page.

The server

The server listens on the following ports:



- 1883 : MQTT, unencrypted, unauthenticated
- 1884: MQTT, unencrypted, authenticated
- 8883 : MQTT, encrypted, unauthenticated
- · 8884: MQTT, encrypted, client certificate required
- 8885 : MQTT, encrypted, authenticated
- 8887 : MQTT, encrypted, server certificate deliberately expired
- 8080 : MQTT over WebSockets, unencrypted, unauthenticated
- 8081 : MQTT over WebSockets, encrypted, unauthenticated
- 8090 : MQTT over WebSockets, unencrypted, authenticated
- 8091: MQTT over WebSockets, encrypted, authenticated

By doing this simple check we already know that the attacks are going to be successful because the broker that is used is unencrypted and unauthenticated meaning that whatever we send can be seen by anyone on the network and that anyone can send messages to the broker. Firstly, it is not good to have the data unencrypted as we do not want anyone to see the messages and know the location of the AGVs. Secondly, it is extremely dangerous to allow anyone to be able to publish messages to the broker the system is using. Unauthenticated means that we don't even need to be on the network, we can be on the other side of the world and publish messages about the location of a specific AGV. Changing the MQTT broker to authenticated and encrypted should be a top priority or another option is to change the way of communication but I think that the first option is better as the MQTT is usually used for IoT and not without reason as it was designed and created exactly for that.

Conclusion:

Overall, there are many weak points in the system that need to be taken care of. Yes, the router can't be bypassed so easily but there are still ways to hack it like the MITM. Switching to HTTPS only is going to make the eavesdropping impossible and will stop that weakness but the DOS one requires a whole system for security on the network like firewalls, intrusion prevention/detection systems, etc. The biggest vulnerability is the MQTT broker, which is a huge whole. It should be the first thing that is considered when taking care of the security of the system. Because the router couldn't be compromised and I do not have access to it and can't control the network I can't attack the TCP and SSH connections. Based on my experience with messing around with TCP and SSH I do not think there are going to be many vulnerabilities there as both of these are mainstream protocols used everyday so they are pretty much secured by definition. Nowadays, there is TLS over the TCP connection so even if we were able to mess around with SSL as there are some known vulnerabilities, we can't mess with TLS.