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CSC432: Computer and Information Security

Lab #9: Vulnerability Assessment

29 March 2019

Abstract

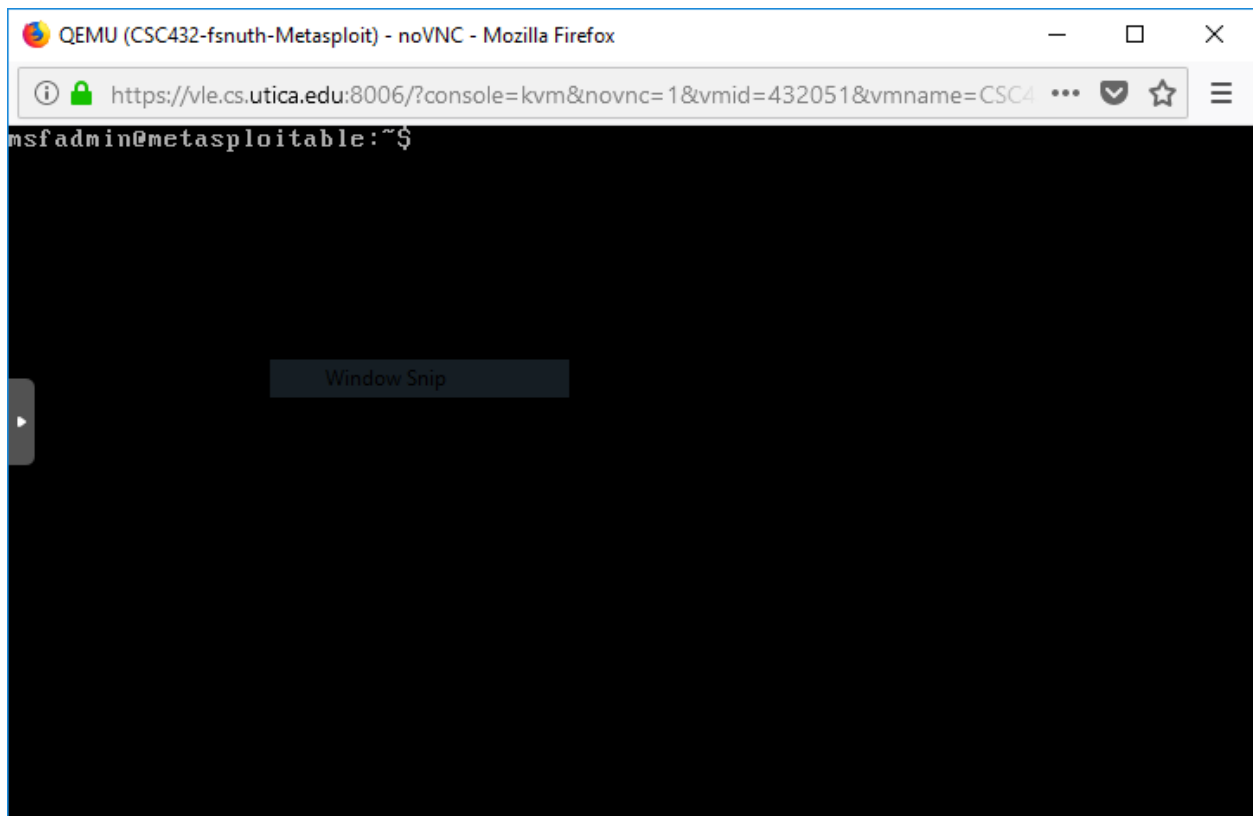
In Lab 9, I will be activating the Metasploit 2 machine on my network for testing vulnerability scanning. After configuring the Metasploit 2's interface, I will use NMAP on my Kali virtual machine to learn about looking for weaknesses in said machine. I will also attempt to install OpenVAS in my Kali Linux, an open-source software that scans for vulnerabilities on specific machines.

Introduction

Vulnerability assessment is a topic in Cybersecurity that security administrators of all levels can have a word in. One half argues that vulnerability assessment is a danger due to the fact that hackers can use it for reconnaissance. The other half argues that vulnerability assessment software can provide the information needed for admins to harden their networks. My job does not include getting involved in this debate, but learning to use the vulnerability assessment software for myself and see how much it can assist me in my administrator endeavors. I suspect that learning more about NMAP and OpenVAS will help me navigate networks with better efficiency.

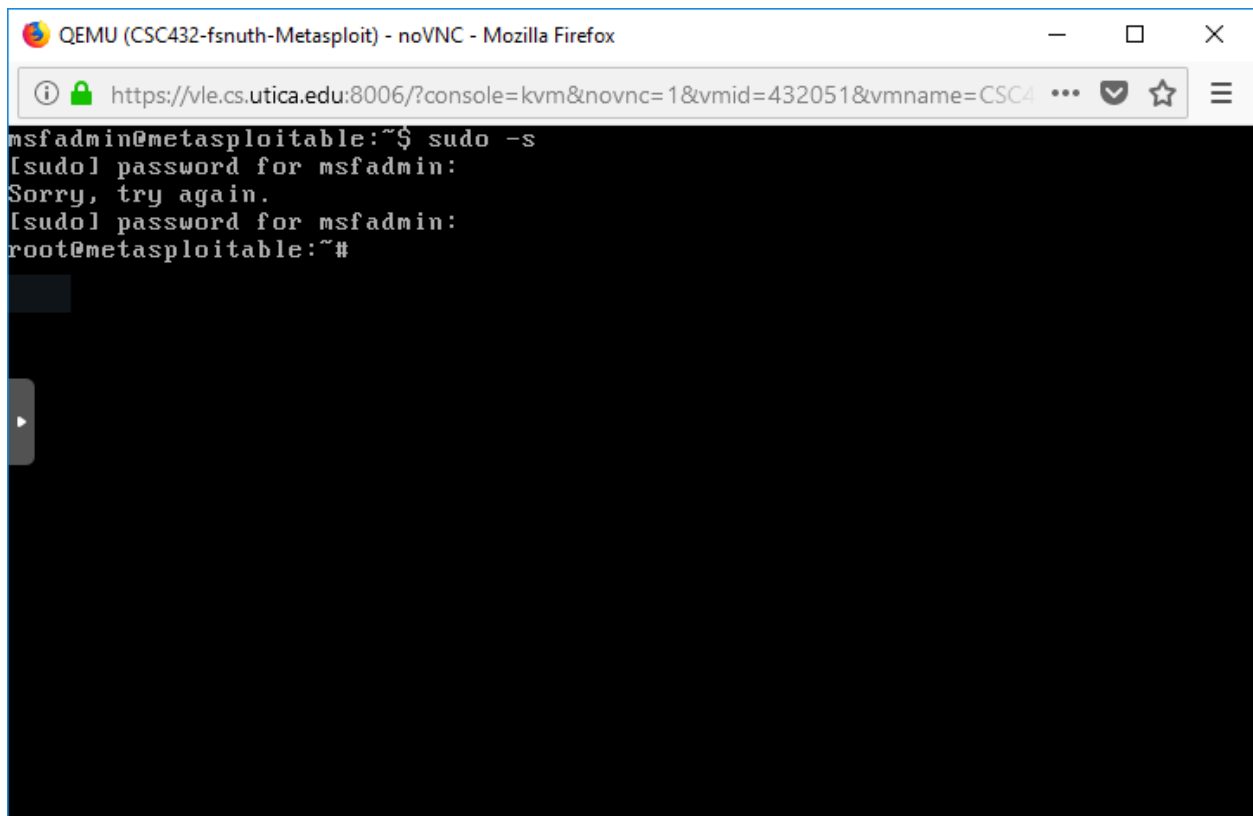
Processes & Screenshots

The first thing that I needed to do was start up the Metasploit 2 machine on my network. The purpose of the Metasploit 2 will be to act as a training dummy for my hacking or security shenanigans.



(Proof that I can log into my Metasploit 2 machine on my network. It is now ready for future labs and abuse.)

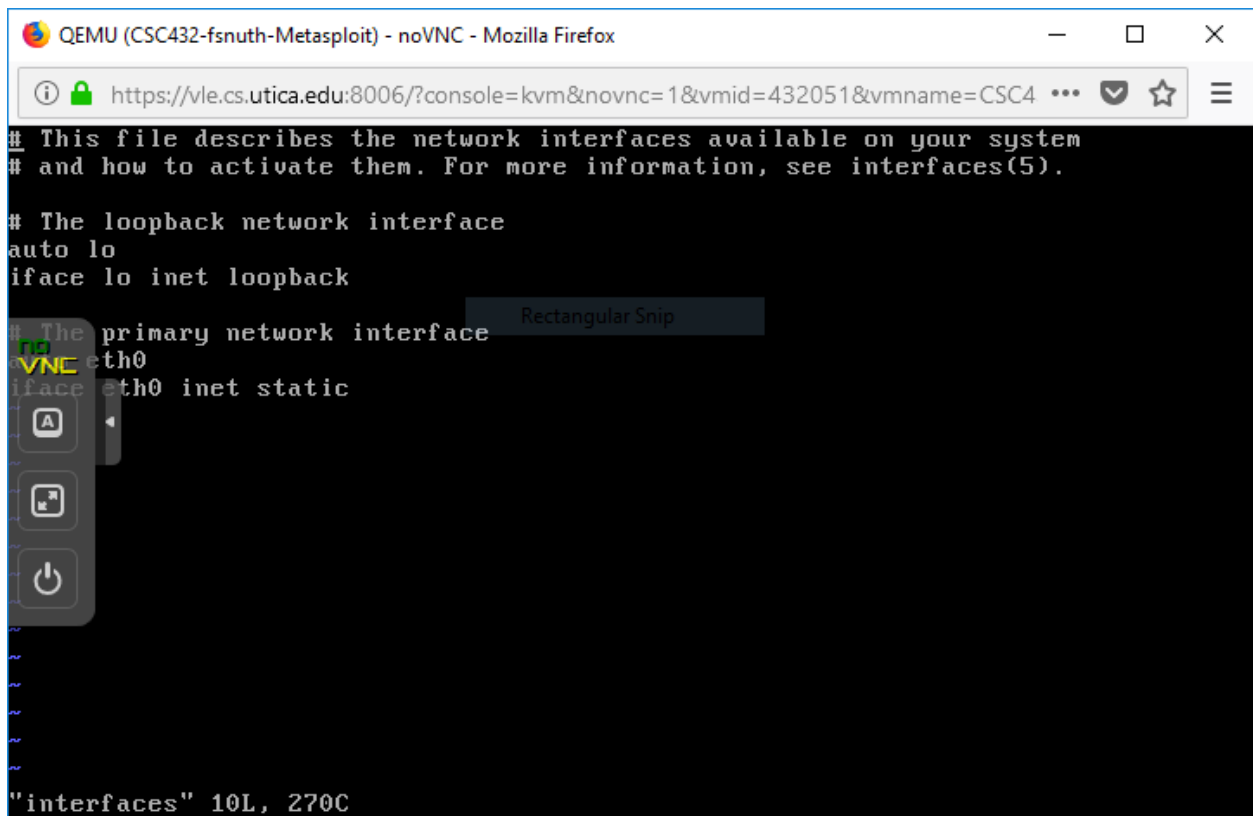
In order to the next couple of steps that involve configuring the network information of my Metasploit 2, I needed to elevate myself to become the root user.

A screenshot of a web browser window displaying a QEMU virtual machine console. The browser's title bar reads "QEMU (CSC432-fsnuth-Metasploit) - noVNC - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "https://vle.cs.utica.edu:8006/?console=kvm&novnc=1&vmid=432051&vmname=CSC4". The console output shows a user with the prompt "msfadmin@metasploitable:~" typing the command "sudo -s". The system prompts for a password, which is entered twice, resulting in the message "Sorry, try again." followed by "root@metasploitable:~#".

```
msfadmin@metasploitable:~$ sudo -s
[sudo] password for msfadmin:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for msfadmin:
root@metasploitable:~#
```

(Raising myself to become the root user. The Metasploit 2 now respects my authority.)

Now is the time to configure the network information of this machine. I typed “vi /etc/network/interfaces” to go to my interfaces file located in the network directory.

A screenshot of a web browser window displaying a QEMU console. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://vle.cs.utica.edu:8006/?console=kvm&novnc=1&vmid=432051&vmname=CSC4>. The console output is as follows:

```
# This file describes the network interfaces available on your system
# and how to activate them. For more information, see interfaces(5).

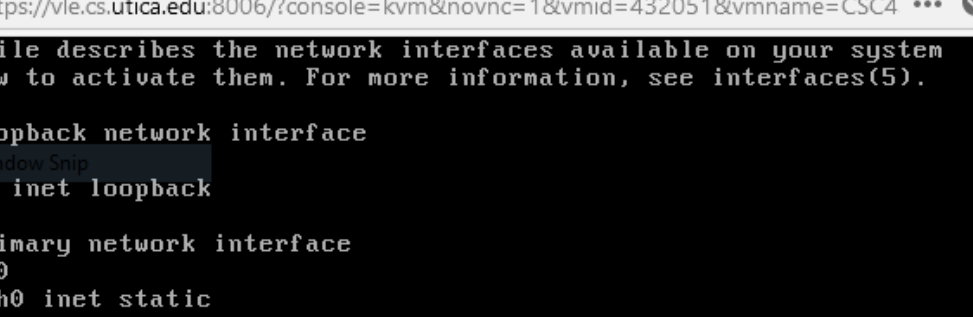
# The loopback network interface
auto lo
iface lo inet loopback

# The primary network interface
vnc eth0
iface eth0 inet static

"interfaces" 10L, 270C
```

A vertical toolbar on the left side of the console contains icons for a terminal, a window, and a power button. A semi-transparent grey box with the text "Rectangular Snip" is positioned over the console text. The text "vnc eth0" is highlighted in yellow.

(Changing the line “iface eth0 inet dhcp” to “iface eth0 inet static”. This change alone will allow me to set the network information that I want for this machine, rather than letting DHCP do the configuration for me.)



The screenshot shows a QEMU virtual machine window titled "QEMU (CSC432-fsnuth-Metasploit) - noVNC - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "https://vle.cs.utica.edu:8006/?console=kvm&novnc=1&vmid=432051&vmname=CSC4". The console output displays network configuration instructions:

```
# This file describes the network interfaces available on your system
# and how to activate them. For more information, see interfaces(5).

# The loopback network interface
auto lo
iface lo inet loopback

# The primary network interface
auto eth0
iface eth0 inet static
    address 192.168.0.4
    netmask 255.255.255.0
    network 192.168.0.0
    gateway 192.168.0.1
    dns-nameservers 10.42.0.30
```

At the bottom of the console, it says: "interfaces" 16 lines, 380 characters

(Now that I can set up my own network information, I proceeded to do so. The address corresponds to the IP address for the Metasploit 2, the net mask is a class C, the network is the network ID for the WLAN, the gateway is the IP address of my router's external interface, and the dns-nameservers is the IP address of the Darknet server.)

To further specify the DNS that I want to use, I typed “vi /etc/resolv.conf” so I can configure the resolv.conf file for my needs.

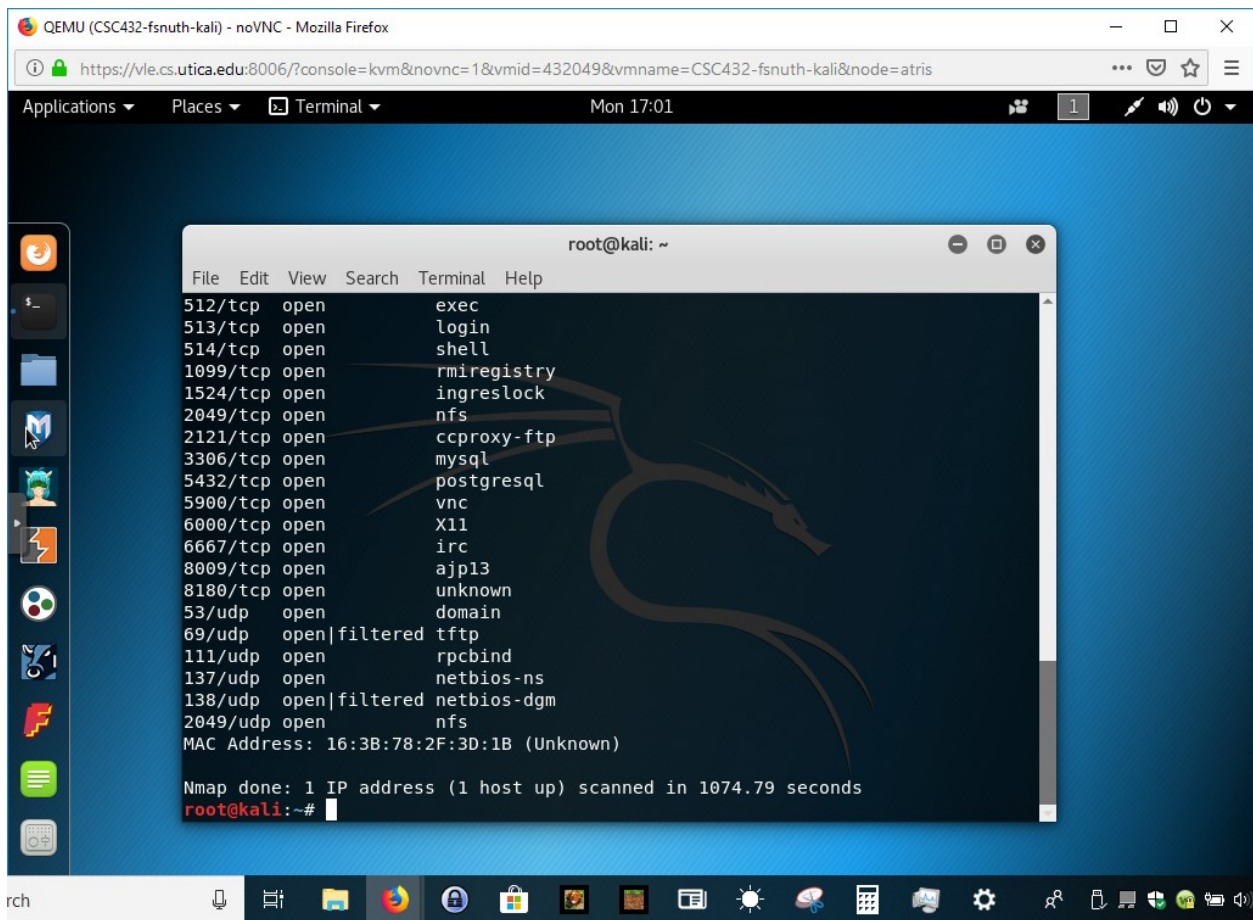


After this, I typed “/etc/init.d/ networking restart”, to restart the networking service so that the Metasploit 2 machine can put its new configuration into place. I confirmed that everything works by pinging the default gateway. For a finishing touch, I also pinged the Metasploit 2 machine from my Kali on the virtual network. NMAP, or Network Mapper, will profile whatever systems and devices that I point it to. I will be applying my knowledge with NMAP in four ways; I will check the manual that is implemented, check for all TCP and UDP services on my Metasploit 2, do it again except printing out the versions also, and looking up a service’s vulnerability of my own choosing through the National Vulnerability Database’s website.

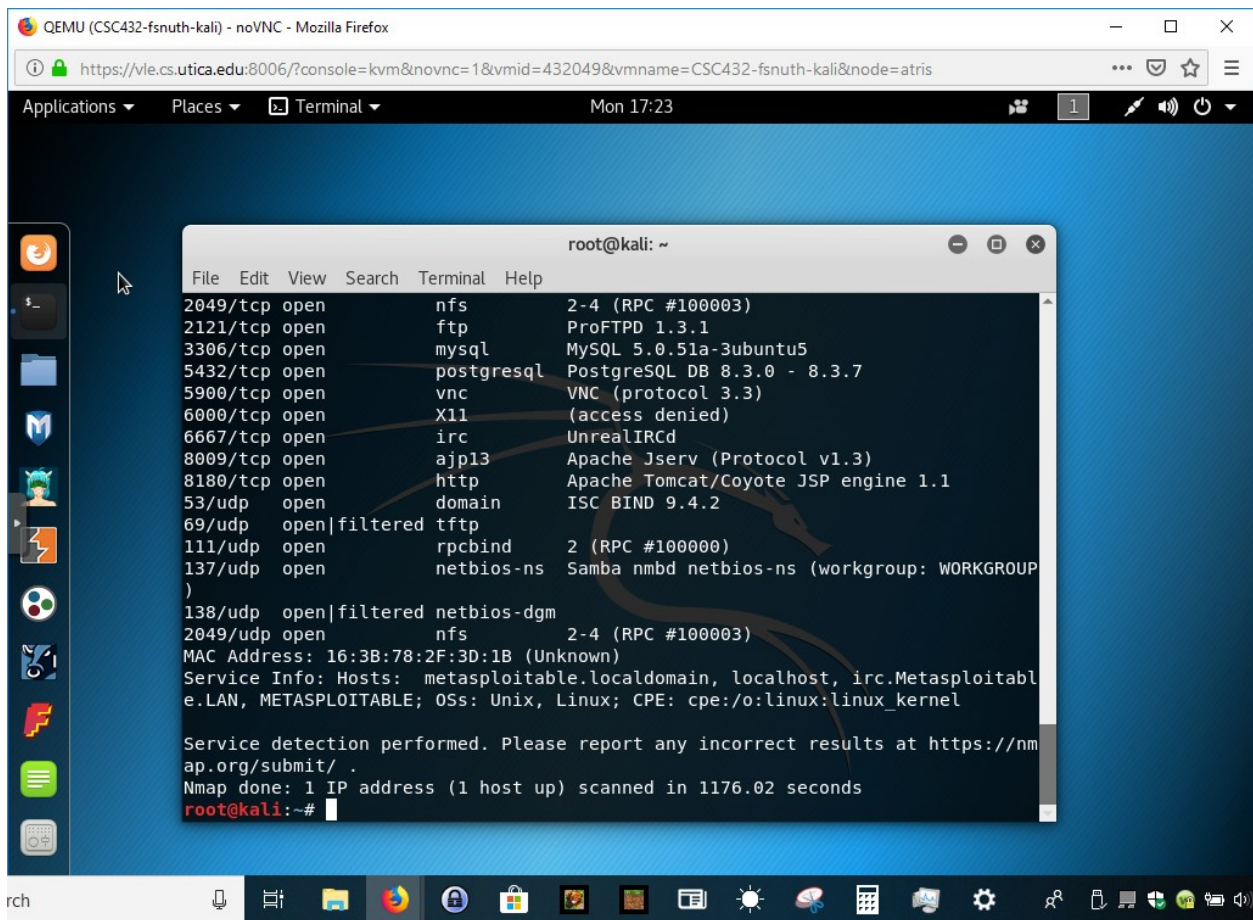
The screenshot shows a QEMU virtual machine window titled "QEMU (CSC432-fsnuth-kali) - noVNC - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar displays the URL "https://vle.cs.utica.edu:8006/?console=kvm&novnc=1&vmid=432049&vmname=CSC432-fsnuth-kali&node=atris". The top bar of the window shows "Applications", "Places", "Terminal", and the time "Mon 10:38". The main area is a terminal window titled "root@kali: ~" with a menu bar "File Edit View Search Terminal Help". The terminal displays the Nmap manual page (man nmap(1)). The content shown includes the NAME, SYNOPSIS, and DESCRIPTION sections. The NAME section states "nmap - Network exploration tool and security / port scanner". The SYNOPSIS section shows the command "nmap [Scan Type...] [Options] {target specification}". The DESCRIPTION section explains that Nmap is an open source tool for network exploration and security auditing, designed to rapidly scan large networks. It also mentions that the output from Nmap is a list of scanned targets with supplemental information on each depending on the options used. The terminal window has a dark blue background with a Kali Linux logo watermark.

```
root@kali: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
NMAP(1) Nmap Reference Guide NMAP(1)  
  
NAME  
nmap - Network exploration tool and security / port scanner  
  
SYNOPSIS  
nmap [Scan Type...] [Options] {target specification}  
  
DESCRIPTION  
Nmap ("Network Mapper") is an open source tool for network  
exploration and security auditing. It was designed to rapidly scan  
large networks, although it works fine against single hosts. Nmap  
uses raw IP packets in novel ways to determine what hosts are  
available on the network, what services (application name and  
version) those hosts are offering, what operating systems (and OS  
versions) they are running, what type of packet filters/firewalls are  
in use, and dozens of other characteristics. While Nmap is commonly  
used for security audits, many systems and network administrators  
find it useful for routine tasks such as network inventory, managing  
service upgrade schedules, and monitoring host or service uptime.  
  
The output from Nmap is a list of scanned targets, with supplemental  
information on each depending on the options used. Key among that  
Manual page nmap(1) line 1 (press h for help or q to quit)
```

(The result of typing “man nmap” in the terminal. It shows everything I can do with nmap, if I were to scroll down.)



(Checking for all running TCP and UDP services on the Metasploit 2. This took about 20 minutes to scan.)



(Using nmap to scan for TCP and UDP services, as well as their versions. This also took 20 minutes. That's barely enough time to sit in the parking lot without looking suspicious.)

Impact

CVSS v3.0 Severity and Metrics:

Base Score: 5.9 MEDIUM

Vector: AV:N/AC:H/PR:N/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:N/A:N (V3 legend)

Impact Score: 3.6

Exploitability Score: 2.2

Attack Vector (AV): Network

Attack Complexity (AC): High

Privileges Required (PR): None

User Interaction (UI): None

Scope (S): Unchanged

Confidentiality (C): High

Integrity (I): None

Availability (A): None

CVSS v2.0 Severity and Metrics:

Base Score: 4.3 MEDIUM

Vector: (AV:N/AC:M/Au:N/C:P/I:N/A:N) (V2 legend)

Impact Subscore: 2.9

Exploitability Subscore: 8.6

Access Vector (AV): Network

Access Complexity (AC): Medium

Authentication (AU): None

Confidentiality (C): Partial

Integrity (I): None

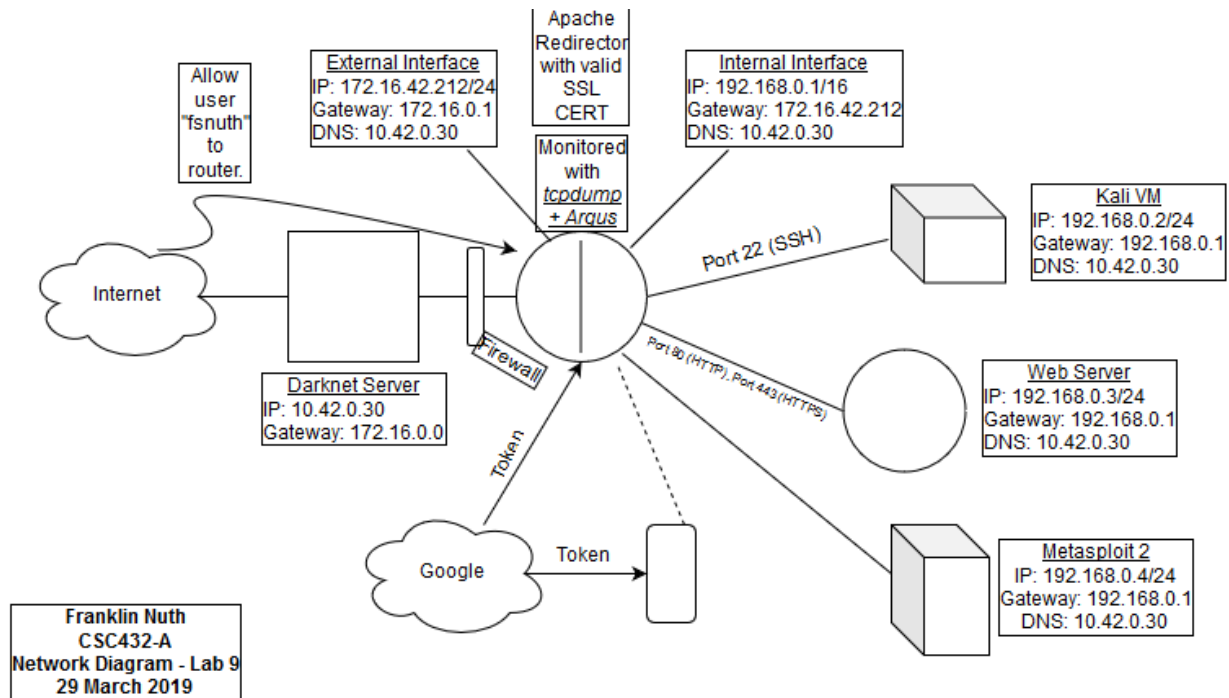
Availability (A): None

Additional Information:

Allows unauthorized disclosure of information

(One of the services that I decided to look up is called MySQL attack. This attack can be done when one has a rogue MySQL server, and the user has access to the web server. The hacker can then read any file with his permission.)

Now is the time for me to touch upon OpenVAS. OpenVAS is a vulnerability scanning software that is good at what it does, but its downside of consuming large amounts of memory kept it from becoming an excellent program in the eyes of both admins and hackers alike. Nevertheless, I will still use it to look for vulnerabilities on my Metasploit 2. I will do it when OpenVAS finish installing.



Issues & Resolutions

One of the issues I had in the lab was getting the packages for OpenVAS. Because the distribution used for my virtual Kali machine was of a newer version, it does not have the data needed to install and setup my OpenVAS software. Because of this, I spent at least two hours getting all the packages I need to install this. Although it took a long time, I have everything I need to start running OpenVAS and finish the lab.

Conclusion

This lab taught me that Metasploit 2 is a quality virtual machine to test out hacks and vulnerability scanning. I have learned that you can scan specific ports and IP addresses with NMAP. OpenVAS can be used for the same purposes. They are both great tools for vulnerability

scanning, and I learned of the roles they can play in maximizing access control of my network. I now have ways of checking anything on my network for weaknesses. From now on, the only problem I should have with vulnerable devices is securing them properly.

References

National Vulnerability Database. 26 January 2019. *CVE-2019-6799 Detail*. Retrieved from:

<https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2019-6799>

Kali Docs Official Documentation. 2019. *Kali sources.list Repositories*. Retrieved from:

<https://docs.kali.org/general-use/kali-linux-sources-list-repositories>