

DIGITAL FORENSICS LAB SERIES

Lab 14: Log Analysis

Objective: Log Analysis

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Introduction

This lab includes the following tasks:

- 1. Examining Windows Event Logs
- 2. Examining Windows IIS Logs
- 3. Examining Linux Log Files

Objective: Log Analysis

Performing this lab will provide the student with a hands-on lab experience meeting the Log Analysis Objective:

The candidate will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of the various types of Windows event, service and application logs, and the types of information they can provide.

By the end of this lab, students will be able to parse log files within Linux and Windows for information pertinent to security events on their system. Students will perform administration on Linux and Windows and view the logs from these tasks.

Event Viewer – The Event Viewer keeps track of Windows events. The three main logs within the Windows Event Viewer are the Application, Security, and System Log.

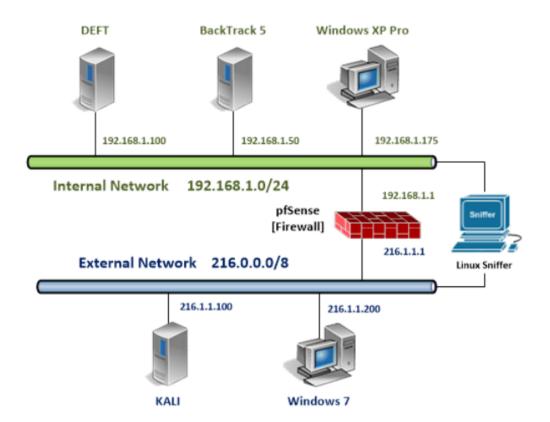
auth_log – This log file tracks SSH, or Secure Shell connections. It provides information such as IP addresses, date and time stamps. It also tracks other events related to security, such as the creation of new user accounts and new group accounts.

access_log – This log file tracks HTTP, or Hyper Text Transfer Protocol, connections. It provides information such as IP addresses, user agents, and date and time stamps.

Internet Information System Logs – Internet Information System (IIS) logs, keep track of IP addresses and user agents of systems connecting to Windows severs running Internet services, such as File transfer Protocol (FTP) and World Wide Web (www).

psloglist – Part of the PsTools suite, this file can dump Event Log information. The tool can be downloaded here: http://download.sysinternals.com/files/PSTools.zip

Lab Topology



Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed in order to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

Virtual Machine	IP Address	Account (if needed)	Password (if needed)
BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine	192.168.1.50	root	toor
Windows XP Pro Internal Machine	192.168.1.175		
DEFT Internal Machine	192.168.1.100		
Windows 7 External Machine	216.1.1.200	student	password

1 Examining Windows Event Logs

One of the first places to start when you are trying to determine what happened on a Microsoft Windows System is the Windows Event Viewer. Older Microsoft operating systems like Windows NT and 2000 did not log much by default, but newer operating systems like Windows 8 and Windows 2012 have more default logging enabled. Typically, a server operating system like Windows 2012 Server will have more logging enabled and have a large number of logs than a client operating system like Windows 8.

1.1 Windows Event Viewer

- Login to the Windows 7 Machine on the External Network by clicking on the Windows 7 icon on the topology.
- 2. If required, enter the username, student.
- 3. Type in the password, password, and press Enter to log in.



4. On Windows 7, open the Command Prompt by double-clicking on the shortcut.

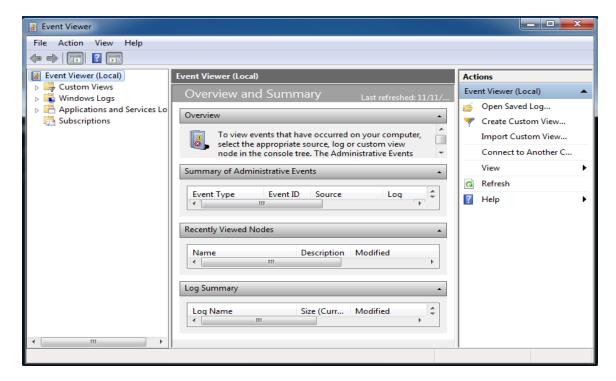


Type the following command to bring up the Event Viewer: C:\>eventvwr.msc

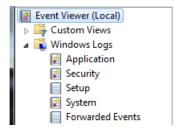
```
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\>eventvwr.msc
```

6. After a short period, the Event Viewer window will appear.



7. Expand **Windows Logs** by clicking the arrow in front of the folder.



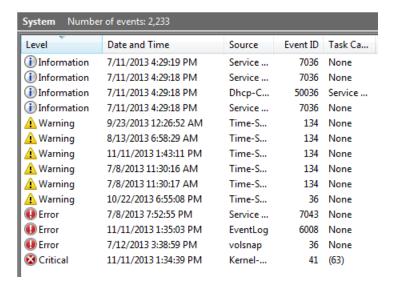
There are three main logs within the Windows Event Viewer:

- Application Log deals with issues related to the system's software
- Security Log contains information about successful and failed attempts to access resources on the system
- System Log contains information about the computer's hardware

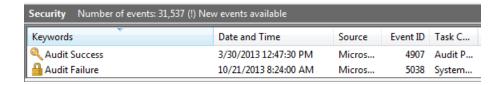
There are four message **Levels** within Microsoft's newer Event Viewer versions:

- Info
- Warning
- Error
- Critical

Click on the System Log to view examples

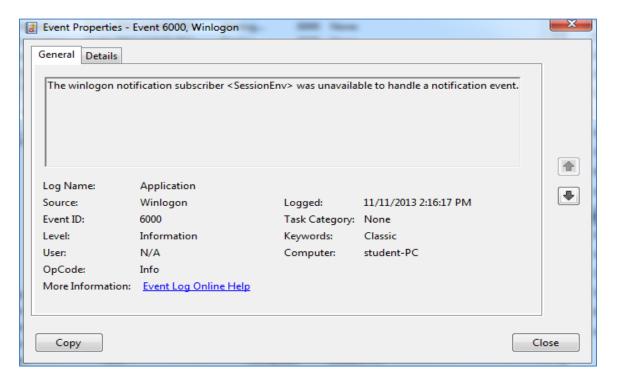


For the Security Log, there are two keywords, Audit Success and Audit Failure.

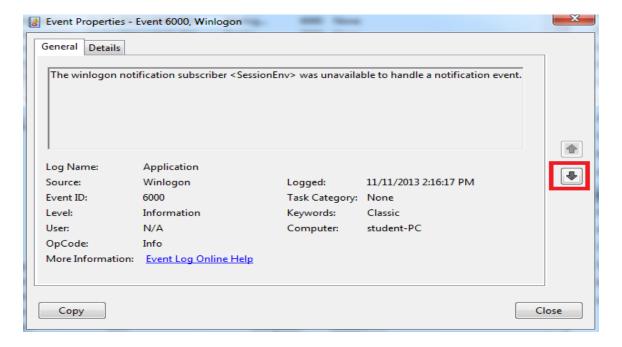


The user has the ability to further examine events. One important element for investigators is the date and time stamps that exist with each recorded incident.

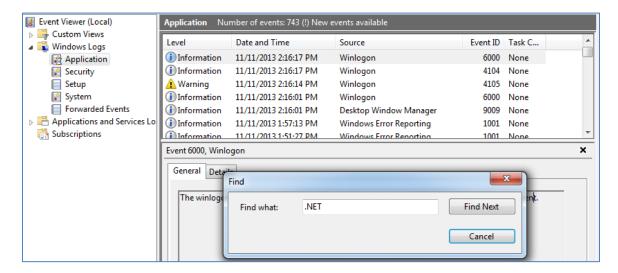
8. Click on the Application Log. Double click on the first event. View the date/time stamp. Values will vary.



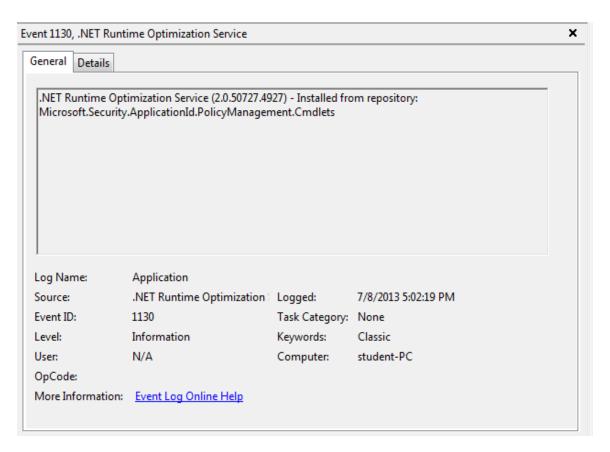
9. Click the **down arrow** to view the next event in the list. Click **Close** after viewing the details of the event.



10. You also can search within a specific log for a specific event. Click the **Find** button in the right pane. Type **.NET** and click **Find Next**. Click **Cancel**.



11. The event that has a match on the key word .NET, will be displayed on the lower half of the center screen.

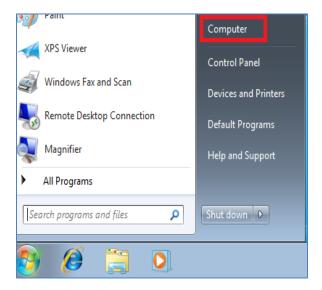


12. Select File from the Event Viewer menu bar and then press Exit.

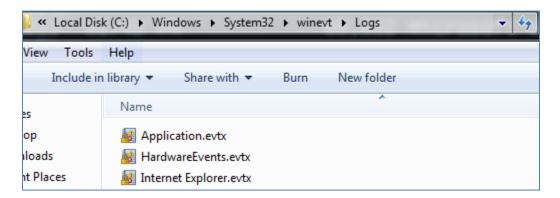


Next, we will examine the physical location of the Event Viewer files on the hard disk.

13. Click on the Start button and click the link to **Computer** on the right.



14. Double-click on **Local Disk (C:)**, then select **Windows > System32 > winevt > Logs** to view the Event Viewer files. Click Close after viewing the logs.



With operating systems prior to Windows Vista (such as Windows 2003 Server, Windows XP, and Windows 2000), the Event Viewer files are stored in the EVT format. They can be converted to TXT or CSV files. They are stored in Windows\System32\config. It is important to note that the Windows Registry files are also stored in this location. Forensic Investigators usually examine the event viewer files using a forensic tool like FTK (Forensic Toolkit) from Access Data or EnCase (from Guidance Software).

Earlier versions of these forensic tools could not read Event Viewer files. However, the files in EVT format could be extracted from the image, and then opened with the Microsoft Event Viewer. The records could then be exported to a .TXT or CSV file. Newer versions of EnCase and FTK can read the files, so extraction is not necessary.

We can use a Sysinternals tool called PsLogList to read the Event Viewer Logs. This tool can be used during the incident response process to collect Event Viewer logs.

15. To dump the application log to a text file, type the following command at the Command Prompt:

C:\>psloglist -r "application" > application.txt

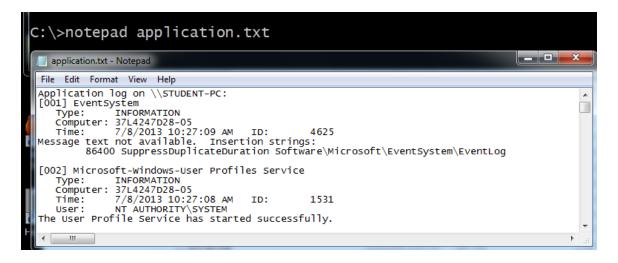
```
C:\>psloglist -r "application" > application.txt

PsLoglist v2.71 - local and remote event log viewer

Copyright (C) 2000-2009 Mark Russinovich

Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

16. To view the dumped application log, type the following command:C:\>notepad application.txt



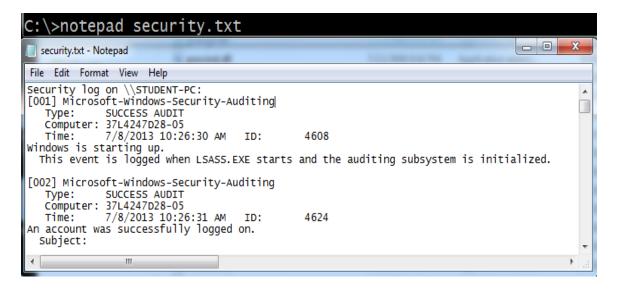
17. Close the Notepad program when you are finished.

18. To dump the security log to a text file, type the following command: C:\>psloglist -r "security" > security.txt

```
C:\>psloglist -r "security" > security.txt

PsLoglist v2.71 - local and remote event log viewer Copyright (C) 2000-2009 Mark Russinovich Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

19. To view the dumped application log, type the following command:C:\>notepad security.txt



- 20. Close the Notepad program when you are finished.
- 21. To dump the application log to a text file, type the following command:
 C:\>psloglist -r "system" > system.txt

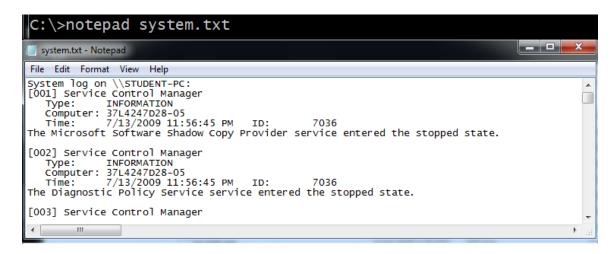
```
C:\>psloglist -r "system" > system.txt

PsLoglist v2.71 - local and remote event log viewer

Copyright (C) 2000-2009 Mark Russinovich

Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

22. To view the dumped application log, type the following command: C:\>notepad system.txt



23. Close the Notepad program when you are finished.

Next, we will perform actions that will cause the Windows operating system to generate events in the three logs.

24. First, we will generate an event in the security log by typing the following: C:\>net user elitehax0r P@ssw0rd /add

```
C:\>net user elitehax0r P@ssw0rd /add
The command completed successfully.
```

25. To dump the security log to a text file, type the following command: C:\>psloglist -r "security" > security.txt

```
C:\>psloglist -r "security" > security.txt

PsLoglist v2.71 - local and remote event log viewer

Copyright (C) 2000-2009 Mark Russinovich

Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

26. To view part of the alert generated by the event, type the following command:
C:\>type security.txt | find "elite"

27. Next, we will generate an event in the system log by typing the following: C:\>net stop "workstation"

When prompted "Do you want to continue this operation? (Y/N), press Y and Enter.

```
C:\>net stop "workstation"
The following services are dependent on the Workstation service.
Stopping the Workstation service will also stop these services.

Computer Browser

Do you want to continue this operation? (Y/N) [N]: y
The Computer Browser service is stopping..
The Computer Browser service was stopped successfully.

The Workstation service is stopping.
The Workstation service was stopped successfully.
```

28. To dump the security log to a text file, type the following command: C:\>psloglist -r "system" > system.txt

```
C:\>psloglist -r "system" > system.txt

PsLoglist v2.71 - local and remote event log viewer Copyright (C) 2000-2009 Mark Russinovich Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

29. To view part of the alert generated by the event, type the following command: C:\> type system.txt | find "Workstation" | find "stop"

```
C:\>type system.txt | find "Workstation" | find "stop"
The Workstation service entered the stopped state.
```

30. Next, we will generate an event in the system log by typing the following: C:\>net stop themes

```
C:\>Net stop themes
The Themes service is stopping.
The Themes service was stopped successfully.
```

31. To dump the security log to a text file, type the following command: C:\>psloglist -r "application" > application.txt

```
C:\psloglist -r application > application.txt

PsLoglist v2.71 - local and remote event log viewer Copyright (C) 2000-2009 Mark Russinovich Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

32. To view part of the alert generated by the event, type the following command: C:\> type application.txt | find "theme"

```
C:\>type application.txt | find "theme"
The Desktop Window Manager was unable to start because a composited theme
```

Close the Command Prompt Window.

1.2 Conclusion

When events are triggered on a Microsoft Windows system, there are artifacts that are generated on the system. When services are stopped and started, events are logged in the windows Event Viewer. The Psloglist tool can be used to dump the logs to a text file. After dumping the files, they can be examined for specific keywords generated by events.

1.3 Discussion Questions

- Where is the location of the Event Viewer EVTX files on a Windows 7 system?
- Where is the location of the Event Viewer EVT files on a Windows XP system?
- 3. What is the syntax of the command to dump the application log to a file named application.txt?
- 4. What is the syntax of the command to dump the security log to a file named security.txt?

2 Examining Windows IIS Logs

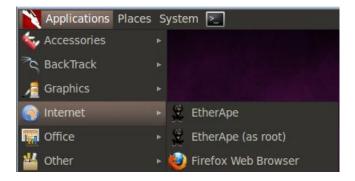
Log files contain information, including the IP addresses that have connected to your machine and will indicate which directories the machines attempted to access. Log files also include important date and time stamps that can be used as a timeline for an investigation. User Agents, which provide OS related information, also reside in web logs.

Keep in mind that **Linux commands are case sensitive**. The commands below must be entered exactly as shown.

2.1 Connecting to the Windows 7 Website

We will connect to the default web page of the Windows 7 External Machine from 4 different machines, so that we can view the connection from 4 different IP addresses, as well as a variety of different user agents.

Click the BackTrack 5 Machine on the Internal Network on the topology. Press
 Enter to access the prompt. Login using root as the user and toor for the
 password. Type startx. Click Applications > Internet > Firefox Web Browser.



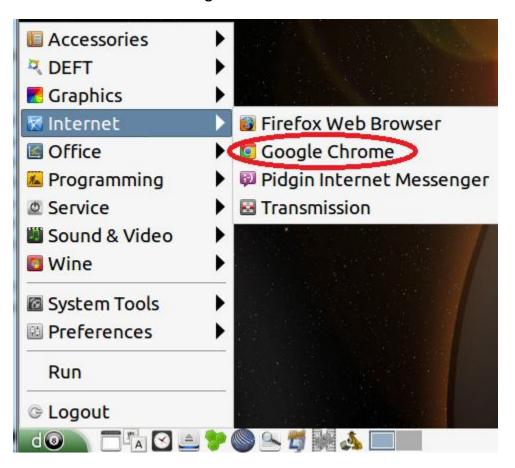
2. Type the following URL into the Firefox browser: http://216.1.1.200 and press Enter.



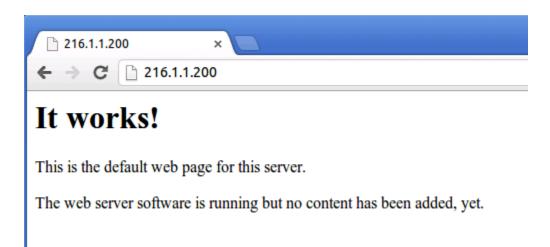
This is the default web page for this server.

The web server software is running but no content has been added, yet.

3. Click the **DEFT Machine on the Internal Network** on the topology to open. Click on the **8 ball > Internet > Google Chrome**:



4. Type the following URL into the Chrome browser: http://216.1.1.200 and press Enter.



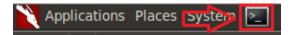
5. Click the **Windows XP Pro Machine on the Internal Network** on the topology to open. Launch Internet Explorer from the taskbar.



Type the following URL into the Internet Explorer browser: http://216.1.1.200

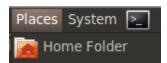


7. Open the terminal from the top of the menu bar on the **BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine**.

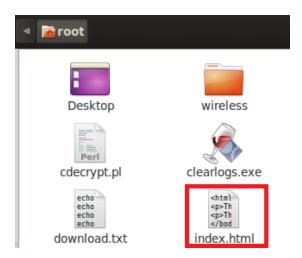


8. Type the following command to download the web page using wget: root@bt:~# wget http://216.1.1.200

9. Click **Places** from the **BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine** menu bar, and select the link for Home Folder.



10. Double-click on the **Index.html** page listed within the root folder.



11. View the locally downloaded webpage.

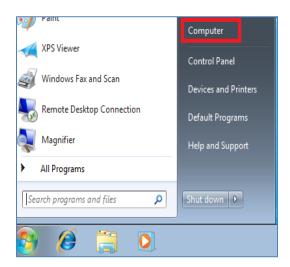


It works!

This is the default web page for this server.

The web server software is running but no content has been added, yet.

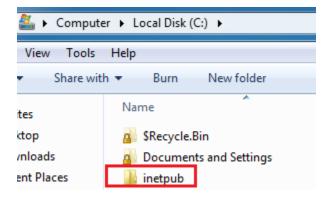
12. On the **Windows 7 External Machine**, Click on the Start button and click the link to **Computer** on the right.



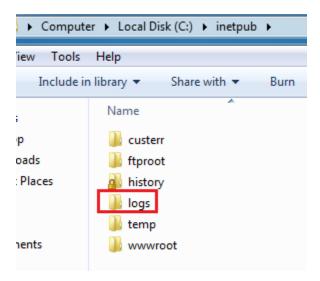
13. Double-click on Local Disk (C:).



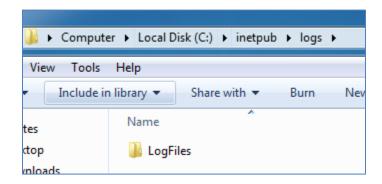
14. Double-click on the inetpub directory.



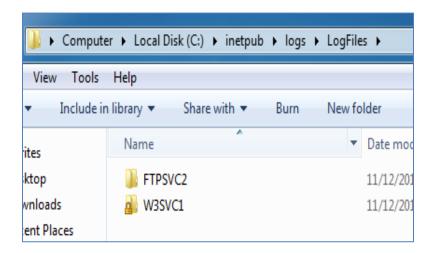
15. Double-click on the **Logs** directory.



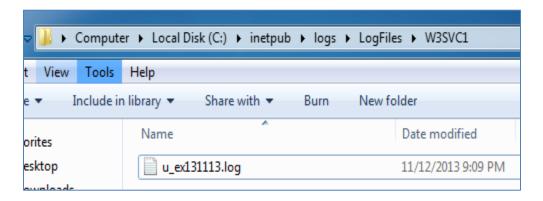
16. Double-click on the LogFiles directory.



17. Double-click on the **W3SVC1** folder. This is the log file for the web server hosted within Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS).



18. Double-click on the log file that indicates today's date as part of the file name. The filename format is: **u_exyyMMDD.log** (*YYMMDD* indicates today's date).



The log file will contain the IP address of the machine connecting to the system.

19. Examine the IP address information. Close the log file and W3SVC1 folder.

```
| File Edit Format View Help | #Software: Microsoft Internet Information Services 7.5 | #Version: 1.0 | #Date: 2013-11-13 01:58:38 | #FieldS: date time s-ip cs-method cs-uri-stem cs-uri-query s-port cs-username c-ip cs(User-Agent) sc-status sc-sub: 2013-11-13 01:58:38 | 216.5.1.200 GET / - 80 - 192.168.1.50 | Mozilla/5.0+(X11;+Linux+i686;+rv:14.0)+Gecko/20100101+Fi1 2013-11-13 01:58:51 | 216.5.1.200 GET / - 80 - 192.168.1.100 | Mozilla/5.0+(X11;+Linux+86_64)+Applewebkit/537.36+(KHT) 2013-11-13 01:58:51 | 216.5.1.200 GET / favicon.ico - 80 - 192.168.1.100 | Mozilla/5.0+(X11;+Linux+86_64)+Applewebkit/537.36+(KHT) 2013-11-13 01:59:37 | 216.5.1.200 GET / - 80 - 192.168.1.175 | Mozilla/4.0+(compatible;+MSIE+6.0;+Windows+NT+5.1;+SVI) 2013-11-13 02:09:00 | 216.5.1.200 GET / - 80 - 192.168.1.50 | Wget/1.12+(linux-gnu) | 200 0 0 0
```

Common reasons Computer Forensics examiners might review web log files:

- Determining the IP addresses of connecting systems
- Looking for date and time stamps of connections
- Examining user agents or suspicious GET requests from foreign machines

2.2 Conclusion

When events are triggered on a Microsoft Windows system, there are artifacts that are generated on the system. When IP addresses connect to the IIS web server running on a Windows system, log entries are generated in the Internet Information Services logs. Additional information, such as the browser version, will also be present in the IIS logs. The Internet Information Services logs are located in the C:\inetpub\logs\LogFiles directory on Windows 7 and Windows 8 systems. FTP and Web logs are stored in different folders within the C:\inetpub\logs\LogFiles directory on Windows 7 and 8.

2.3 Discussion Questions

- 1. Where are the IIS logfiles stored on a Windows 7 or Windows 8 system?
- 2. Where are the FTP logfiles stored on a Windows 7 or Windows 8 system?
- 3. Where are the WWW logfiles stored on a Windows 7 or Windows 8 system?
- 4. Explain the naming format for Logfiles within Windows 7 or Windows 8

3 Examining Linux Log Files

Linux includes a large number of log files that keep track of events on the system. One of the most important log files is the secure file, which logs security incidents. The secure file is located in /var/log on a Red Hat system. The Ubuntu equivalent to the secure file is auth.log. This log file tracks SSH, or Secure Shell, connections. It provides information such as IP addresses, and date and time stamps. It also tracks other events related to security, such as the creation of new user accounts and new group accounts. Another important file on a Linux system is the access_log file, which keeps track of web server connections.

3.1 Examining access_log and auth_log

1. To start the webserver on the **BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine**, type the following:

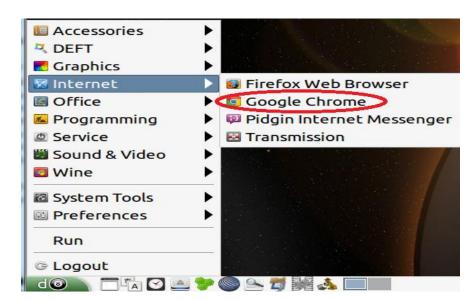
root@bt:~# apache2ctl start

root@bt:~# apache2ctl start

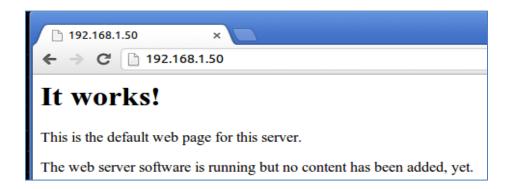
 To verify the webserver is listening on port 80, type the following: root@bt:~# netstat -tan | grep 80



3. On the DEFT Internal Machine, click on the 8 ball > Internet > Google Chrome.



4. Type the following URL in the Chrome browser: http://192.168.1.50 and press Enter.



5. On the Windows XP system, open Internet Explorer from the taskbar.



6. Type the following URL in the Internet Explorer Browser: http://192.168.1.50



7. On the **DEFT Internal Machine**, double-click on the **LXTerminal** icon on the desktop.

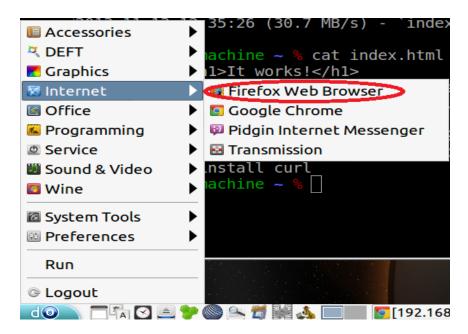


8. Type the following command to download the web page using wget: deft-virtual-machine ~ % wget http://192.168.1.50

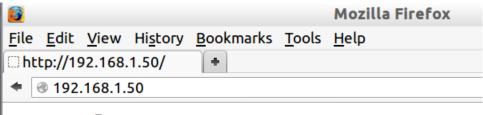
9. Type the following command to view the webpage downloaded with wget: deft-virtual-machine ~ % cat index.html

```
deft-virtual-machine ~ % cat index.html
<html><body><h1>It works!</h1>
This is the default web page for this server.
The web server software is running but no content has been added, yet.
</body></html>
```

10. On the **DEFT Internal Machine**, click on the **8 ball > Internet > Mozilla Firefox**.



11. Type the following URL in the Chrome browser: http://192.168.1.50 and press Enter.



It works!

This is the default web page for this server.

The web server software is running but no content has been added, yet.

The Apache Server keeps records of the connections made to the website, including:

- IP addresses
- User Agents
- Date/Time Stamps

The access_log is located in the /var/log/httpd directory and will have evidence of:

- The connection made with Chrome
- The connection made with Internet Explorer
- The connection made with wget
- The connection made with Firefox
- The connection made with the curl command
- 12. To view, the access_log, type the following command on the **BackTrack 5 R3**Internal Machine:

[root@rhel~]# cd /var/log/apache2

root@bt:~# cd /var/log/apache2/

13. To view the connections in the log file, type the following command: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# **Is**

root@bt:/var/log/apache2# ls
access.log error.log other_vhosts_access.log

14. To view the connections with Firefox, type the following command: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# cat access.log | grep Firefox

```
root@bt:/var/log/apache2# cat access.log | grep Firefox
192.168.1.100 - - [13/Nov/2013:12:44:57 -0500] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 484 "-" "Mozill
a/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux x86_64; rv:22.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/22.0"
192.168.1.100 - - [13/Nov/2013:12:44:57 -0500] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 503
"-" "Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux x86_64; rv:22.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/22.0"
192.168.1.100 - - [13/Nov/2013:12:44:57 -0500] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 503
"-" "Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux x86_64; rv:22.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/22.0"
```

15. To generate the keys that will be needed for an SSH connection, type: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# sshd-generate

16. To start the SSH server on the BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine type: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# service ssh start

The process ID may not be the same as in the image

```
root@bt:/var/log/apache2# service ssh start
ssh start/running, process 4311
```

17. To verify that the SSH server service is running on the machine, type: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# netstat -tan | grep 22

```
      root@bt:/var/log/apache2# netstat -tan | grep 22

      tcp 0 0 0.0.0.0:22 0.0.0.0:* LISTEN

      tcp6 0 0 :::22 :::* LISTEN
```

18. From the terminal in Backtrack, type the following command to add a user: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# useradd forensicuser

root@bt:/var/log/apache2# useradd forensicuser

19. Set forensicuser's password to forensic by typing **forensic** twice after typing: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# **passwd forensicuser**

```
root@bt:/var/log/apache2# passwd forensicuser
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

20. Next, examine the alterations to the shadow file by typing the following: root@bt:/var/log/apache2# tail -n 1 /etc/shadow

```
root@bt:/var/log/apache2# tail -n 1 /etc/shadow
forensicuser:$6$vjXvZ62R$d7iDtntRg4EYBz3YCVzCn6SMA2ou748mUCLTg3uiKSKJrHBtfHFVV4kpA9
/u5WmGh3/plGelB8aJQiQnRna021:16022:0:99999:7:::
```

- 21. In the terminal on the **DEFT 8 Machine**, type the following command: deft-virtual-machine ~ % **ssh 192.168.1.50 -I forensicuser**
- 22. Type **yes** in response to the question about continuing to connect.

```
deft-virtual-machine ~ % ssh 192.168.1.50 -l forensicuser
The authenticity of host '192.168.1.50 (192.168.1.50)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is 60:90:fe:99:00:7f:e5:44:55:05:c0:68:1d:2a:d9:c7.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.1.50' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.
```

23. Type **forensic** for the password. The SSH connection should be established.

```
forensicuser@192.168.1.50's password:
Linux bt 3.2.6 #1 SMP Fri Feb 17 10:40:05 EST 2012 i686 GNU/Linux

System information as of Wed Nov 13 13:08:23 EST 2013

System load: 0.0 Processes: 128
Usage of /: 60.1% of 19.06GB Users logged in: 1
Memory usage: 19% IP address for eth0: 192.168.1.50
Swap usage: 0%
```

When you perform administrative tasks that are directly related to the security on a Linux system, they will show up in the auth.log in the /var/log directory.

Examples of security incidents that will be recorded to the secure log include the following:

- Adding a User
- Logging on from a Remote System
- Adding a Group
- Changing a User's Password.
- 24. To switch to the log directory, type the following command on the **BackTrack 5 Internal Machine.**

root@bt:/var/log/apache2# cd /var/log

root@bt:/var/log/apache2# cd /var/log

25. To view auth.log for forensicuser, type the following on the BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine: root@bt:/var/log# cat auth.log | grep forensicuser

```
root@bt:/var/log# cat auth.log | grep forensicuser
Nov 13 13:04:30 bt useradd[4367]: new group: name=forensicuser, GID=1002
Nov 13 13:04:30 bt useradd[4367]: new user: name=forensicuser, UID=1002, GID=1002, home=/home/forensicuser, shell=/bin/sh
Nov 13 13:04:44 bt passwd[4372]: pam_unix(passwd:chauthtok): password changed for orensicuser
Nov 13 13:08:23 bt sshd[4394]: pam_sm_authenticate: username = [forensicuser]
Nov 13 13:08:23 bt sshd[4394]: Accepted password for forensicuser from 192.168.1.1
0 port 34495 ssh2
Nov 13 13:08:23 bt sshd[4394]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened for user for nsicuser by (uid=0)
```

Close all open windows on all machines. Close the PC Viewers on all machines.

3.2 Conclusion

Linux keeps a large number of log files that keep track of events on the system. One of the most important log files is the auth.log, which logs security incidents. This log file tracks SSH, or Secure Shell connections. It provides information such as IP addresses, and Date and Time Stamps. It also tracks other events related to security, such as the creation of new user accounts and new group accounts. Another important file on a Linux system is the access_log file, which keeps track of web server connections.

3.3 Discussion Questions

- 1. Where is the auth.log file located?
- 2. What is the auth.log file referred to on a Red Hat system?
- 3. Where is the access log located?
- 4. What command can be utilized to verify that the SSH or Apache is running?

References

- 1. The auth.log file: http://www.thegeekstuff.com/2011/08/linux-var-log-files/
- 2. Psloglist: http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb897544.aspx
- 3. The access_log file: http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/logs.html
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- 5. IIS Log Overview: http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms525410(v=vs.90).aspx