Lab 6 Part 1: Port Scanning

Introduction:

Port scanning is yet another technique that hackers and penetration testers can use to identify vulnerabilities in an organization and exploit them. Port scanning is often very resource intensive and is usually done after having conducted reconnaissance on a target organization. The focus of this lab will be on the use of various different port scanning utilities. Namely, the command line based nmap, and the GUI based Zenmap. We will then see how port scanning can be used in conjunction with packet sniffers and crafters to identify active hosts on a network that may exist behind a firewall.

Part 1: Using nmap

Nmap is a widely used command line port scanner that can be customized to suit a wide variety of port scanning and footprinting needs. The utility comes preinstalled on our kali VM, and its functionality can be viewed using the man command. The following figures demonstrate the basic use of nmap.

Figure 1: nmap of Kali VM Attached to NAT:

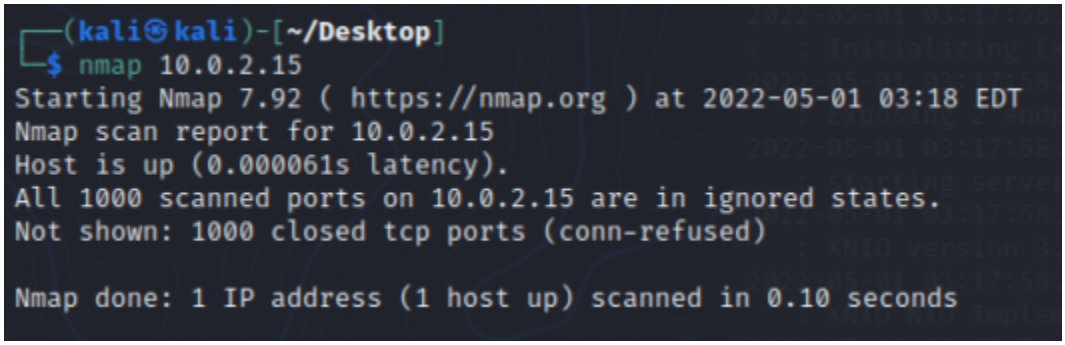
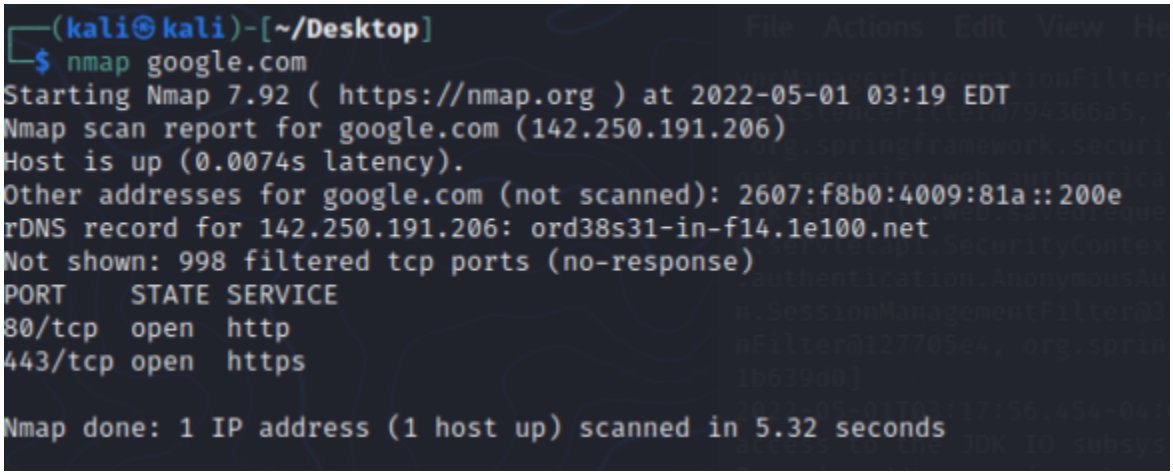
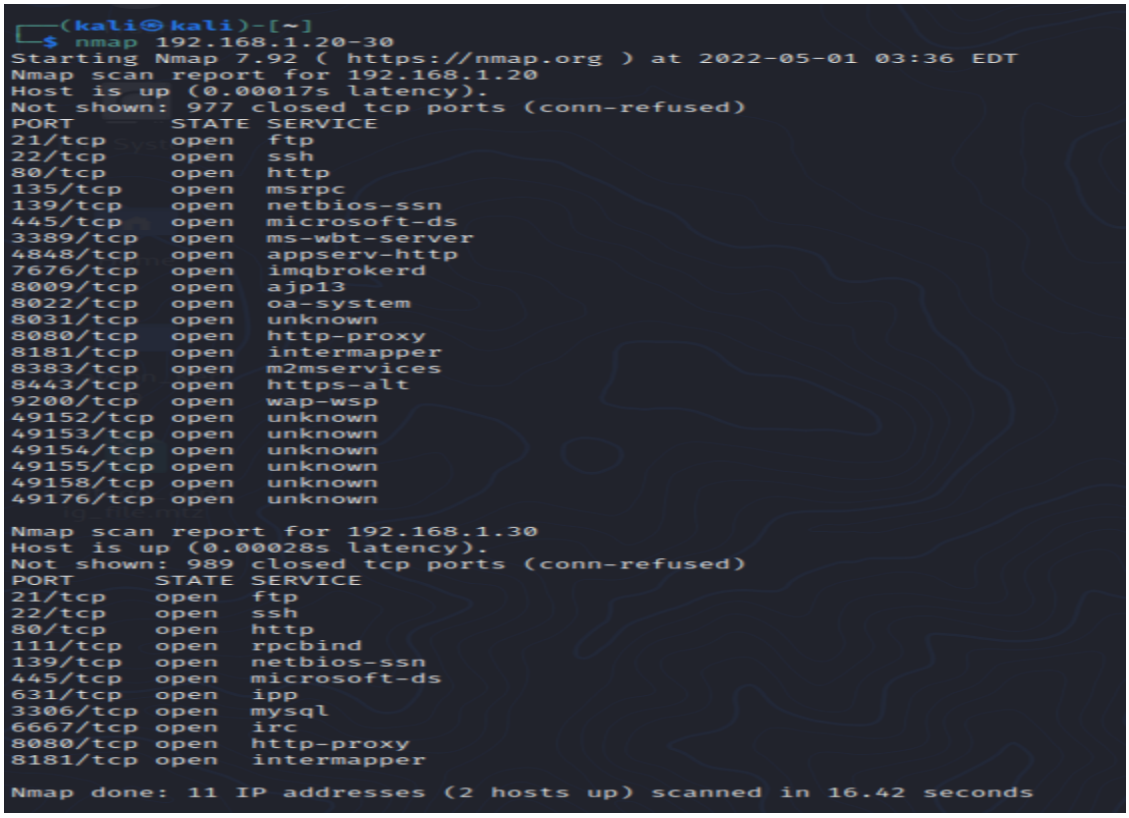


Figure 2: nmap of Google



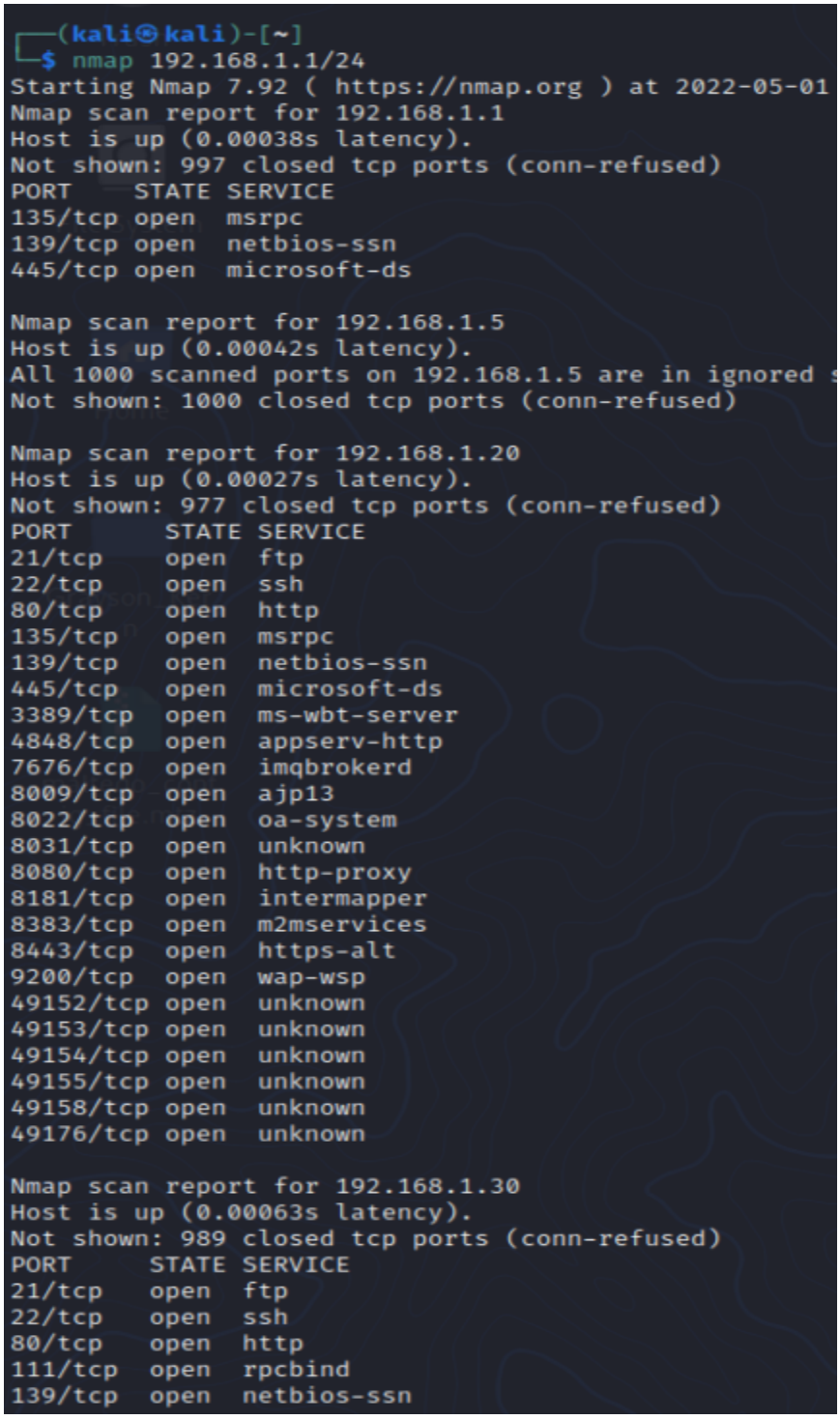
We can see in the output the various different ports and services open and running on the domain/ip that we search.

Figure 3: nmap on Range of IP addresses



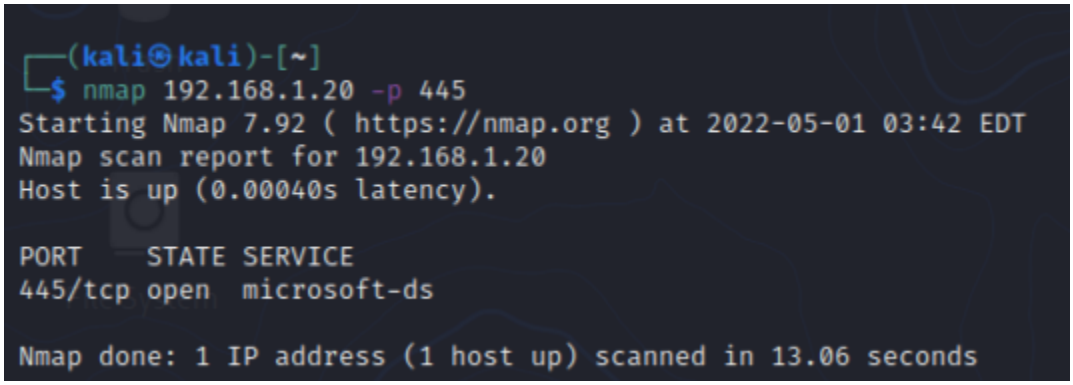
Here we demonstrate the ability of nmap to scan a range of IP addresses by switching our Kali VM back to host only networking, and running our windows 2k8 and Ubuntu VMs in the background.

Figure 4: nmap on a Subnet of IP Addresses



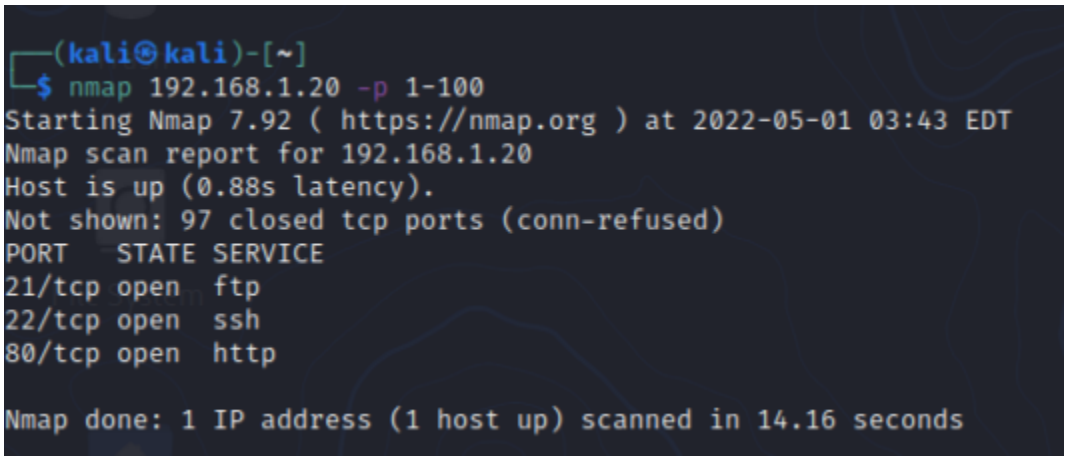
Nmap can also be used to scan a range of ip addresses in a particular subnet using the above notation.

Figure 5: Using nmap to scan a particular port



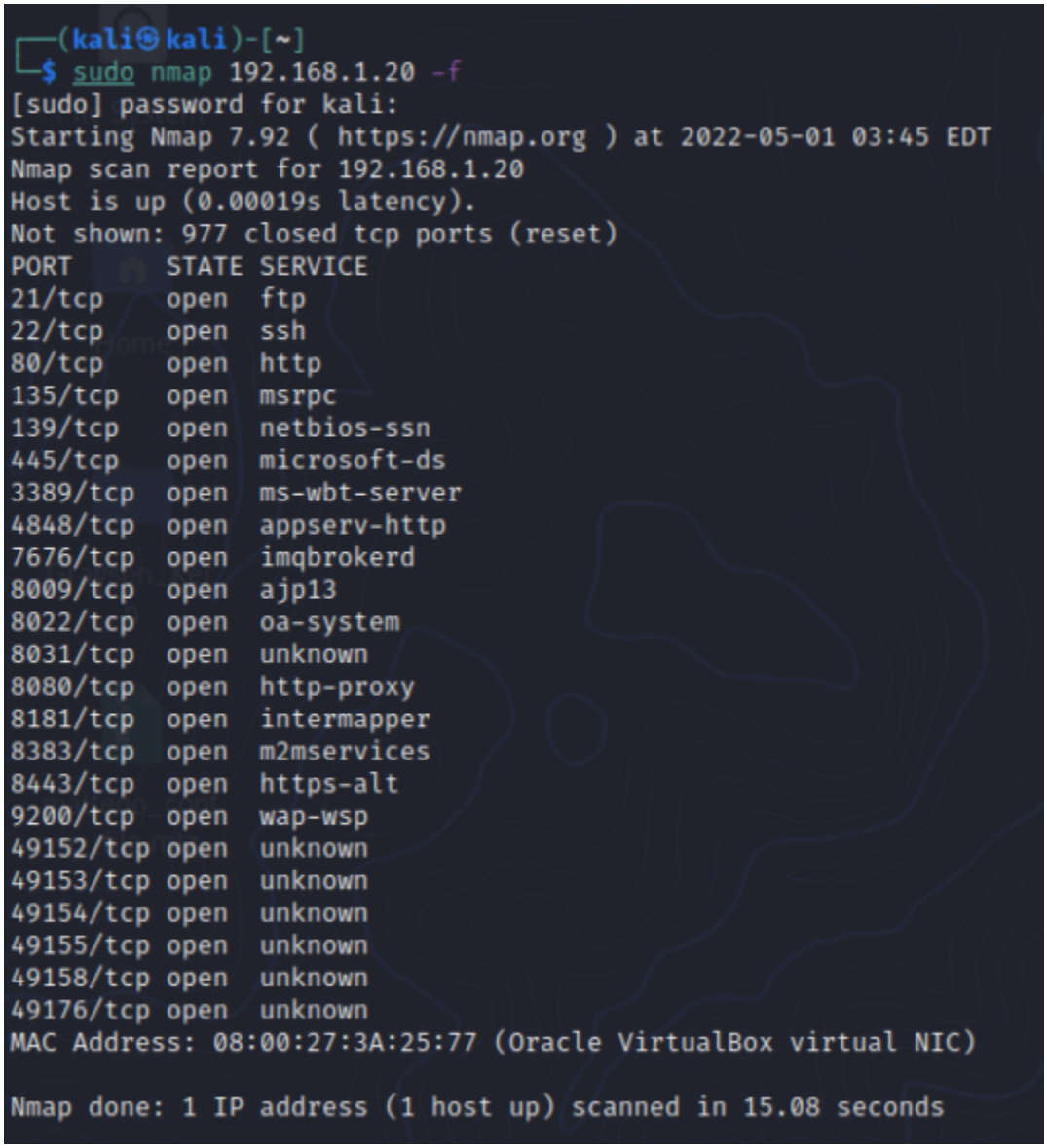
Many applications with vulnerabilities often run on a certain port. We can refine the output of nmap to a particular port.

Figure 6: Using nmap to scan a range of ports



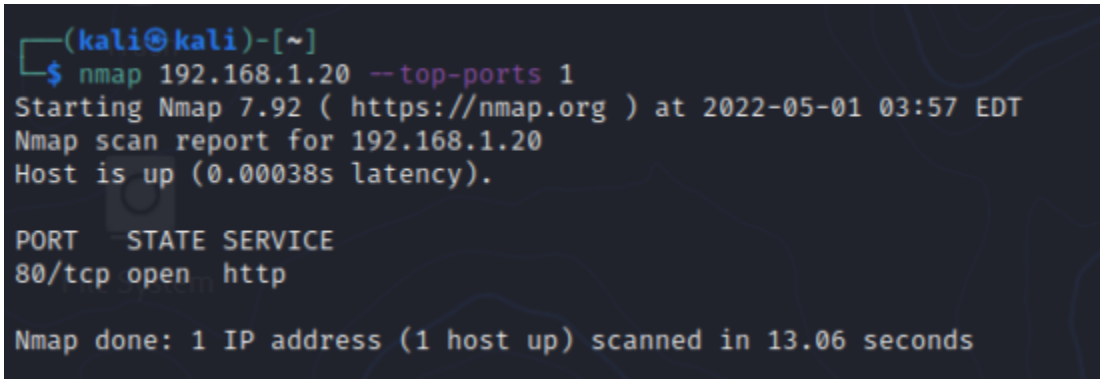
Nmap can also be used to scan a range of ports with the above notation.

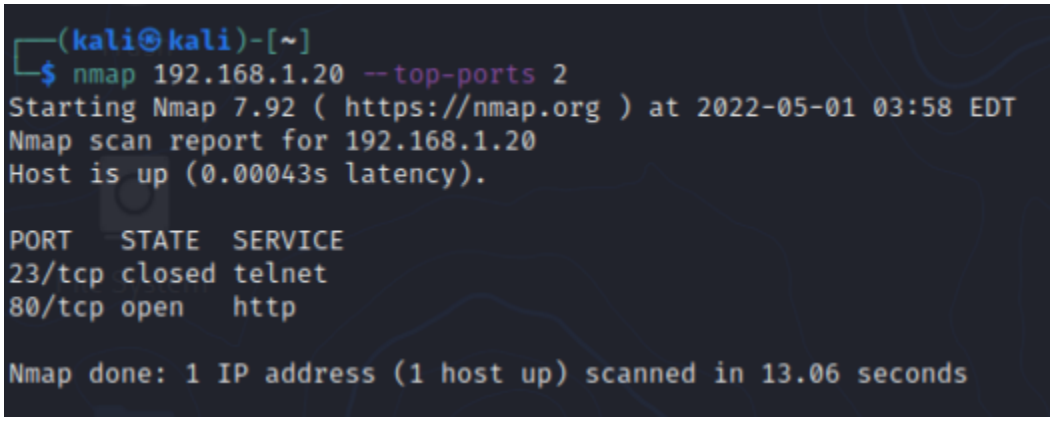
Figure 7: Using nmap to scan the most common ports

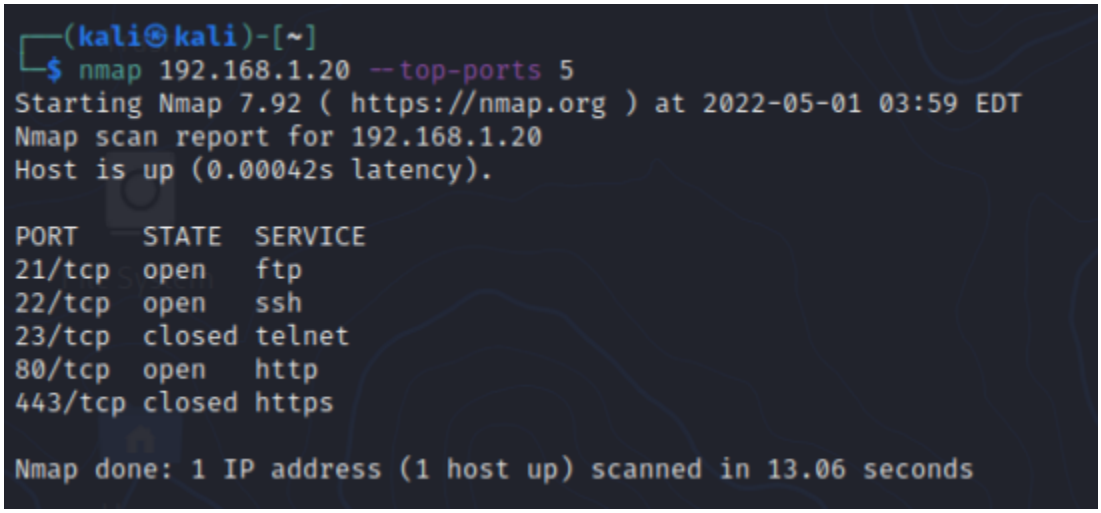


Nmap supports a fast scan of some of the most common ports. The output above shows what they are.

Figure 8: Using nmap to scan the top n ports

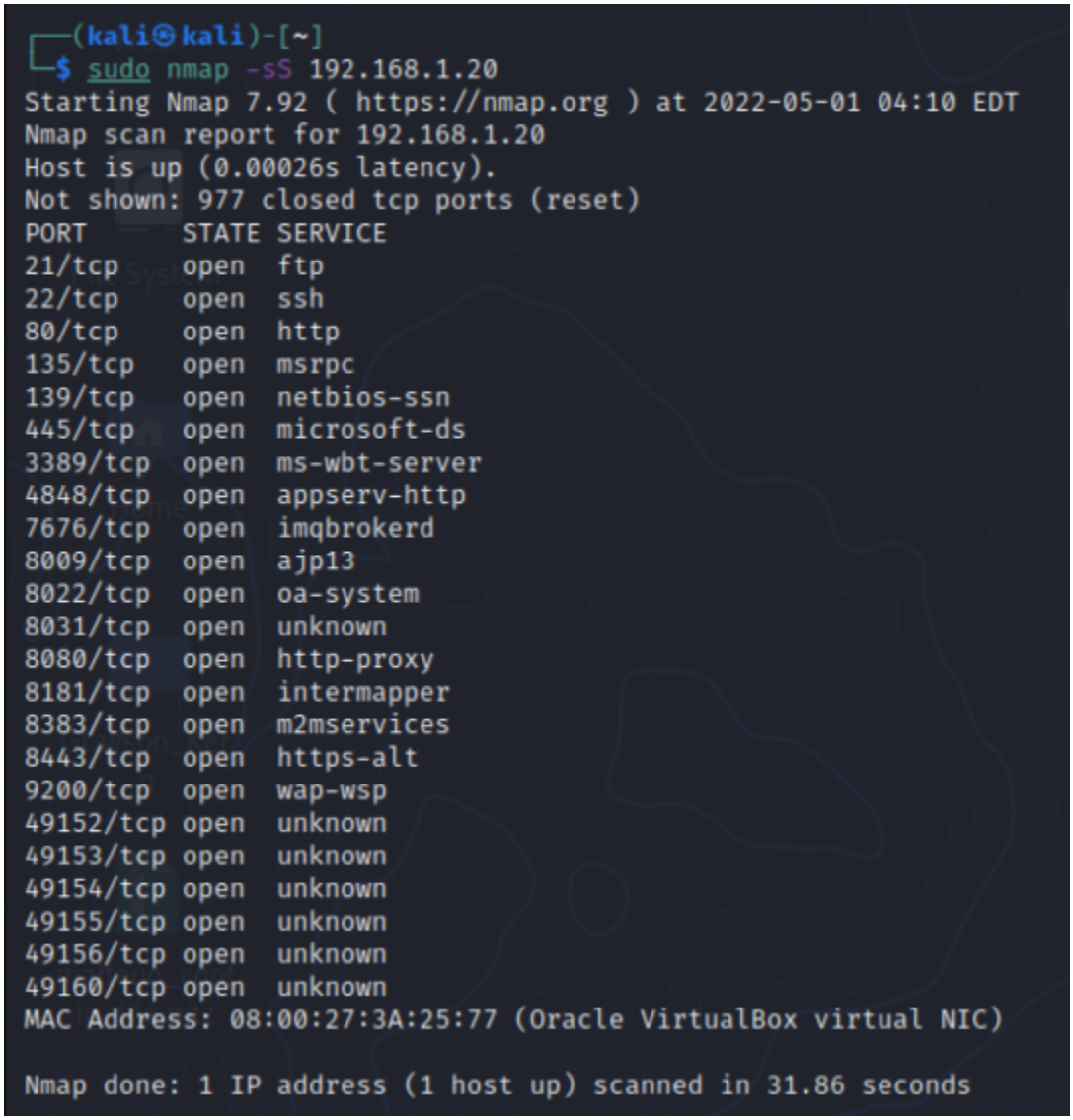






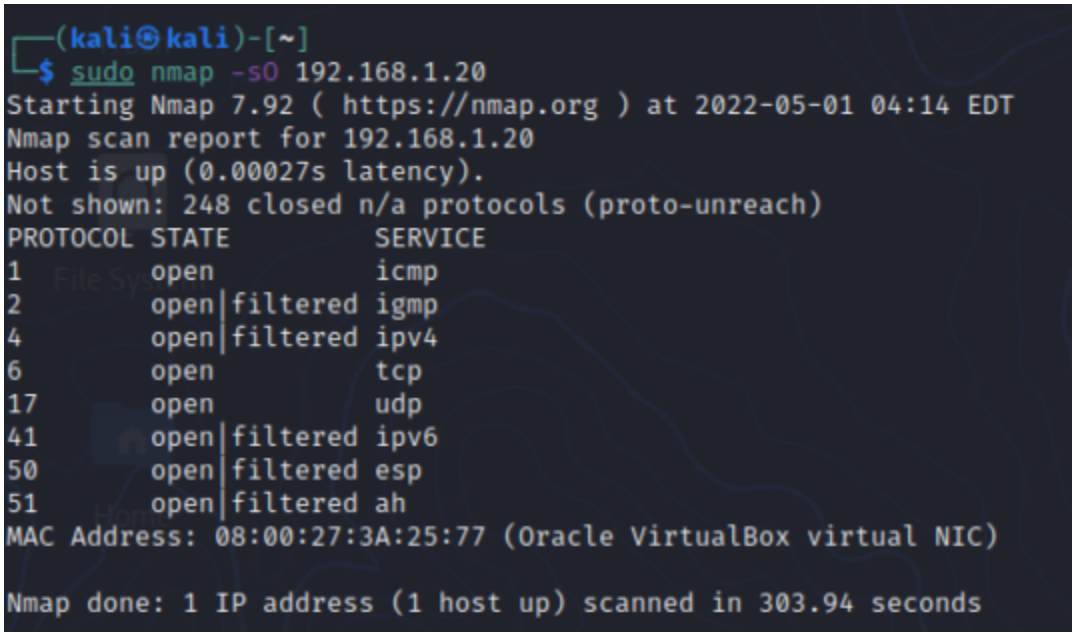
The output of the fast scan can further be refined using the –top-ports flag. Here we can see what the software considers to be the most common ports.

Figure 9: nmap scan types



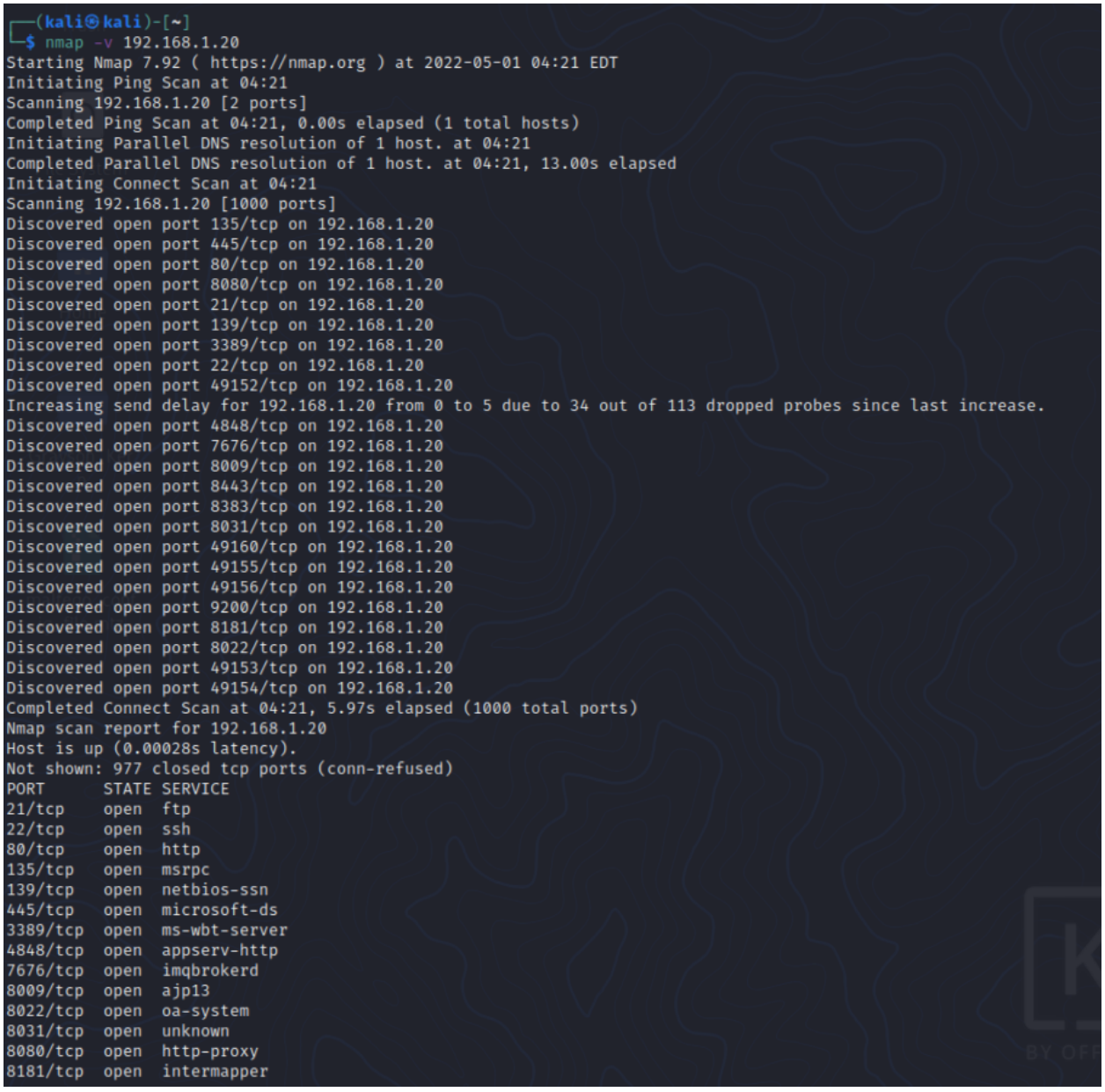
```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo nmap -sT 192.168.1.20
Starting Nmap 7.92 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-05-01 04:13 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.20
Host is up (0.00019s latency).
Not shown: 977 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http
135/tcp   open  msrpc
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
4848/tcp  open  appserv-http
7676/tcp  open  imqbrokerd
8009/tcp  open  ajp13
8022/tcp  open  oa-system
8031/tcp  open  unknown
8080/tcp  open  http-proxy
8181/tcp  open  intermapper
8383/tcp  open  m2mservices
8443/tcp  open  https-alt
9200/tcp  open  wap-wsp
49152/tcp open  unknown
49153/tcp open  unknown
49154/tcp open  unknown
49155/tcp open  unknown
49156/tcp open  unknown
49160/tcp open  unknown
MAC Address: 08:00:27:3A:25:77 (Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 15.09 seconds
```



Hackers and testers can use different nmap scan types based on the information they know about a target organization. I.e its footprint in terms of domains, subdomains, DNS servers etc. Certain scans are more resource intensive than others, as the above outputs show.

Figure 10: nmap Verbose output

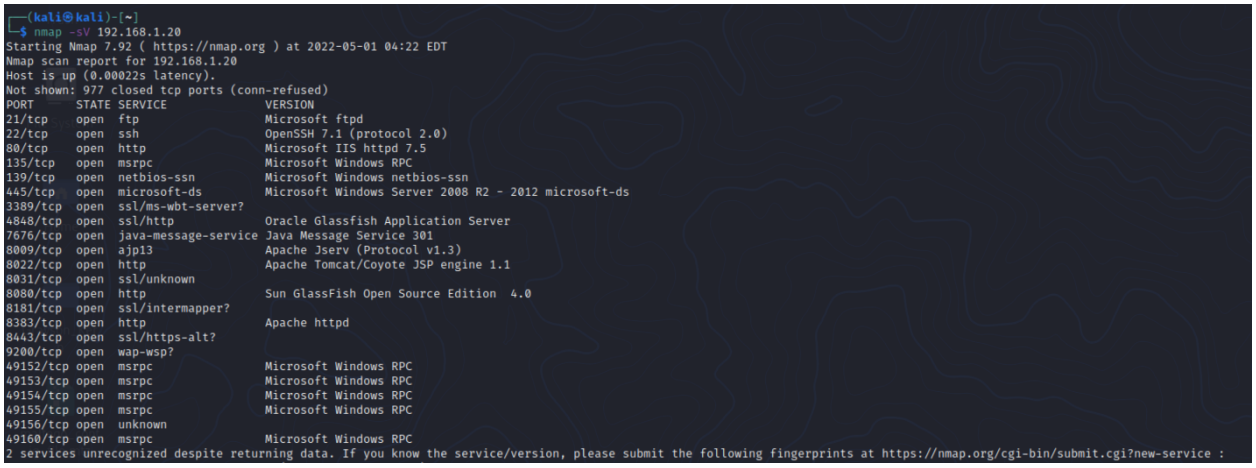


In the event that none of the nmap scan types provide the hacker the information of interest, one can always use nmap's verbose flag to get more output.

Part 2: Service and OS Detection

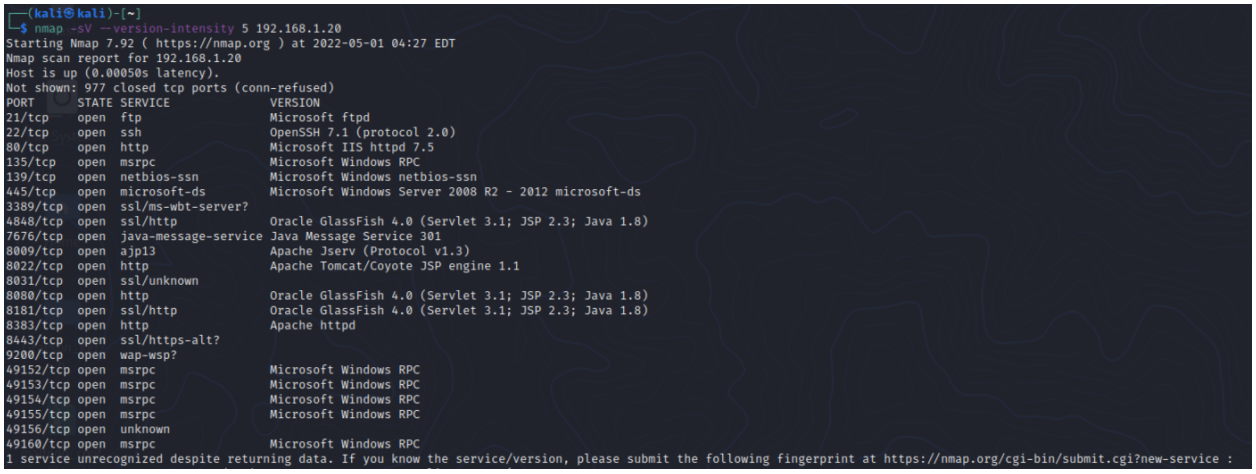
As mentioned above, nmap is widely used for port scanning to detect vulnerabilities in a network. These vulnerabilities are first identified by knowing what softwares and services an organization is using. I.e server software and operating systems. The figures below show how nmap can be configured to show these details about an organization.

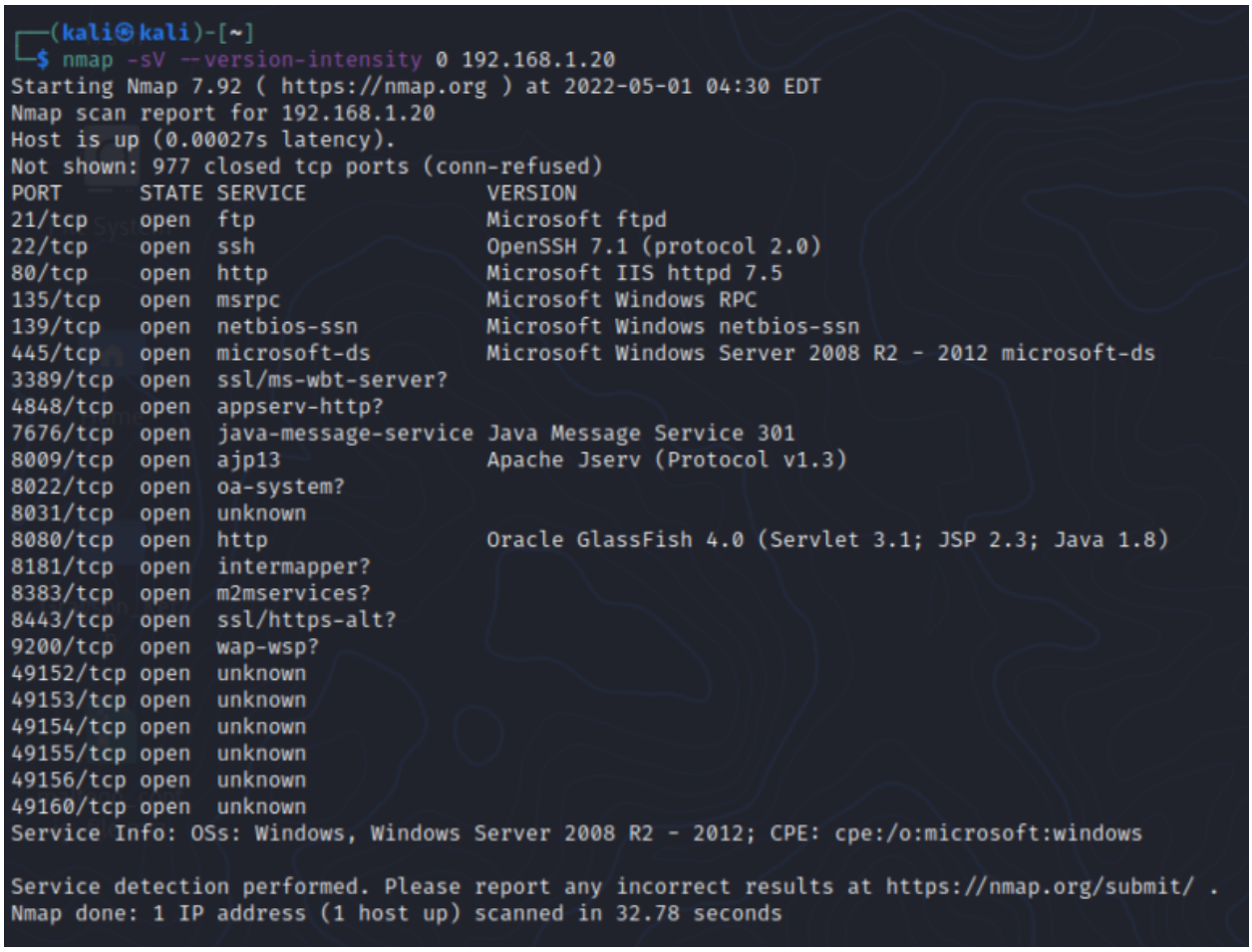
Figure 11: nmap service scan on windows 2k8 VM



Here we can see a list of services running on the machine, as well as their associated ports.

Figure 12: nmap service scans with varying intensity levels



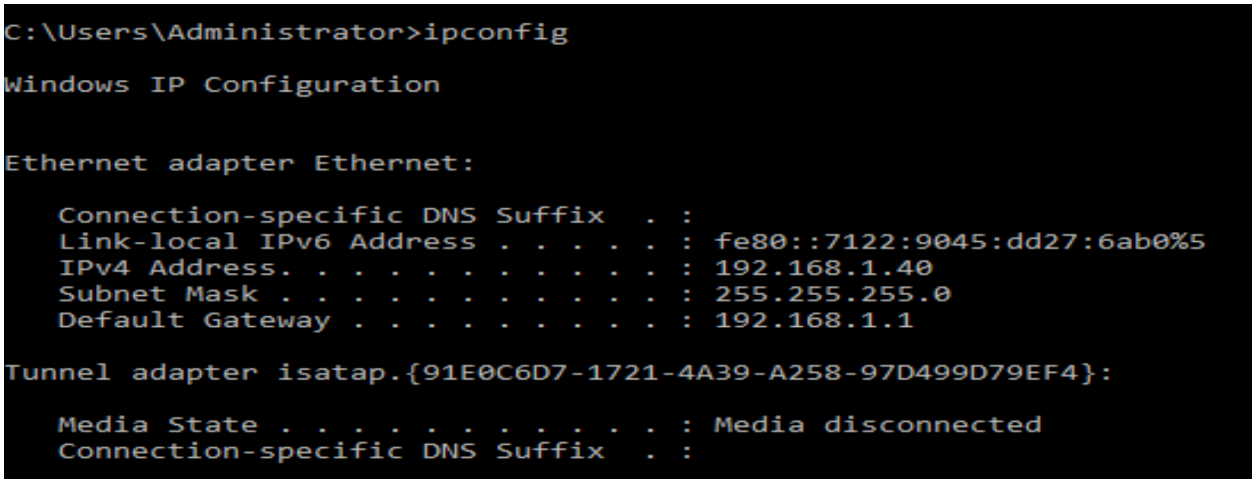


The intensity level of nmap's service scan can be further refined with the above flags.

Part 3: Using Zenmap to Scan a Target Network

Zenmap is a GUI alternative to nmap that often simplifies the processing of port scanning, and makes the output of nmap much more readable and useful. Both tools have their use cases depending on the organization one wishes to scan. The figures below demonstrate the use of Zenmap, and how it compares to nmap.

Figure 13: IP address of Windows 2k16 VM

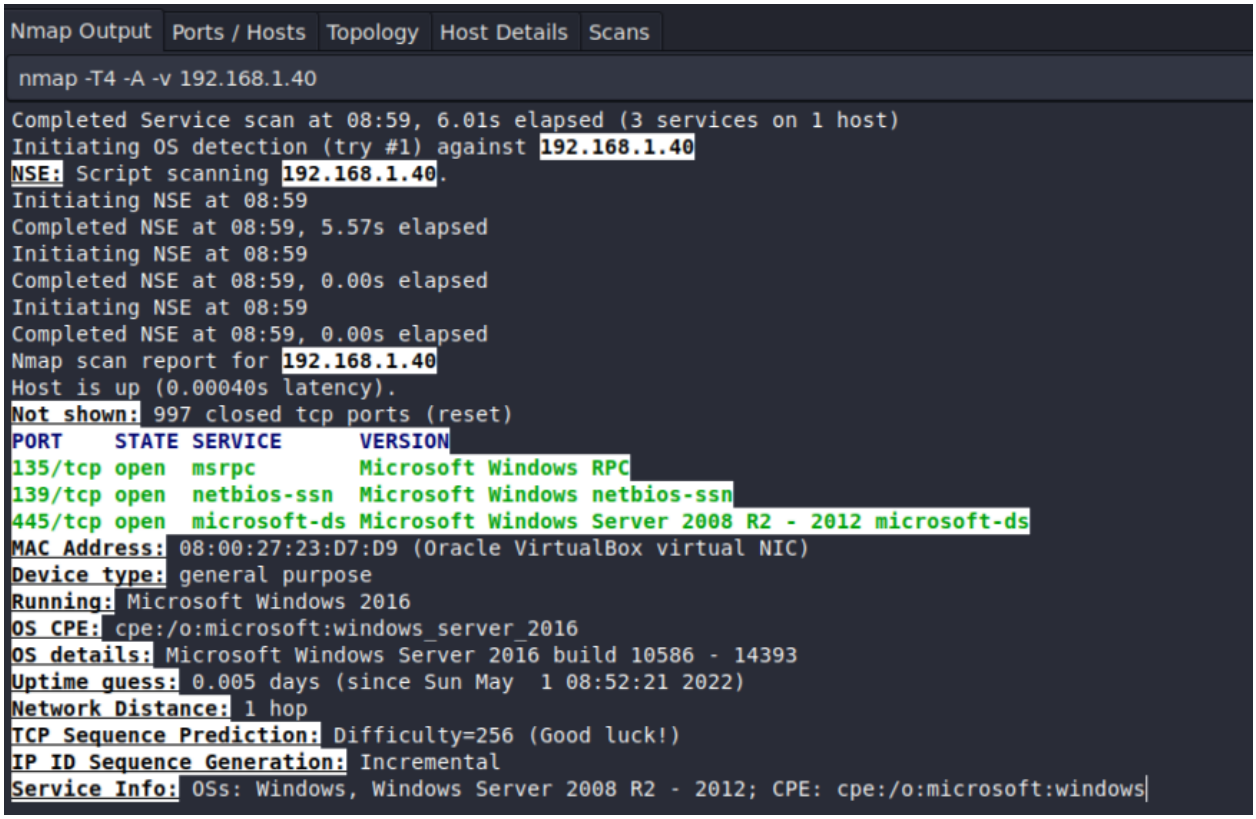


We open up our Windows Server 2k16 VM along with the other VMS that are already open. The IP address of the Windows Server 2k16 VM is shown above.

Figure 14: Zenmap with Windows Firewall

For this test, we turned on the windows firewall and disable all incoming connections from foreigfn networks. We can see here that Windows Firewall, when enabled and running properly, prevents the port scan from running successfully.

Figure 15: Zenmap with Windows Firewall Off

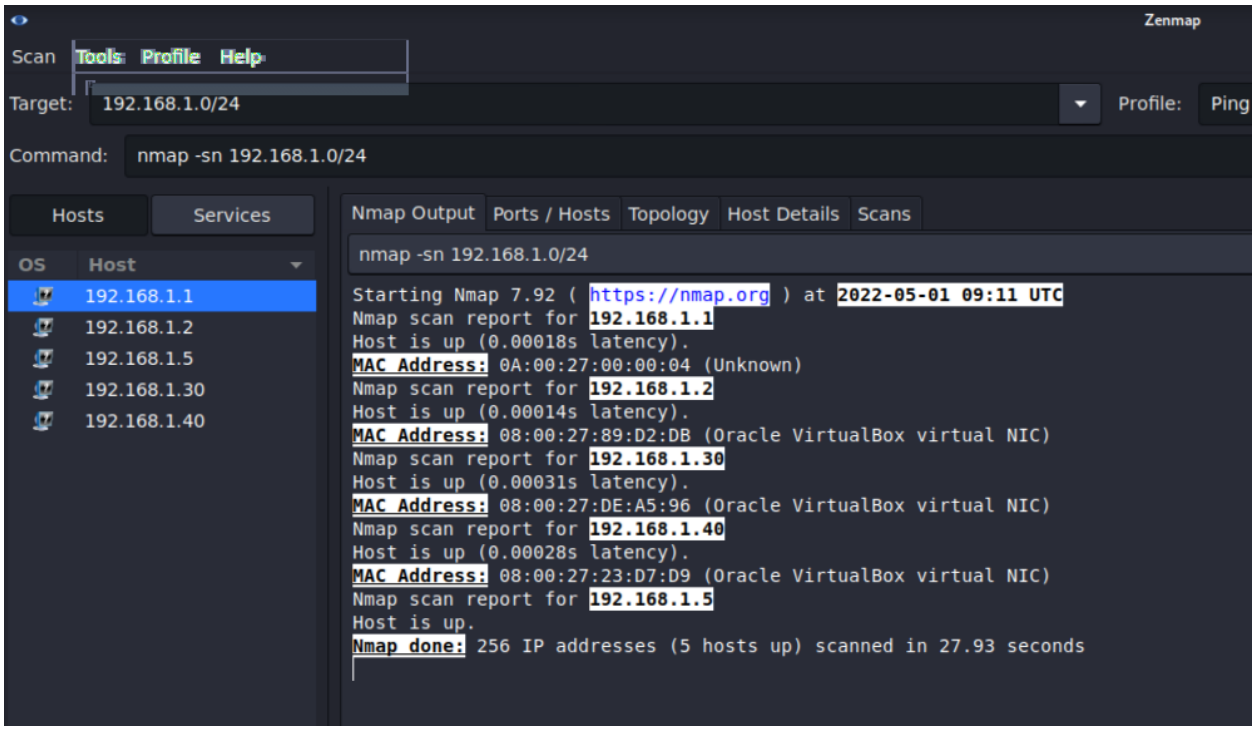


Running the port scan with Windows firewall up shows us the ports that are being used by the machine, as well as by what service and their state. Very valuable for information would be attackers or security professionals. The output here is obviously a great deal more comprehensible than what nmap would provide. Which is why the Zenmap utility is prefered a lot of the time.

Part 3: Analyzing Port Scans

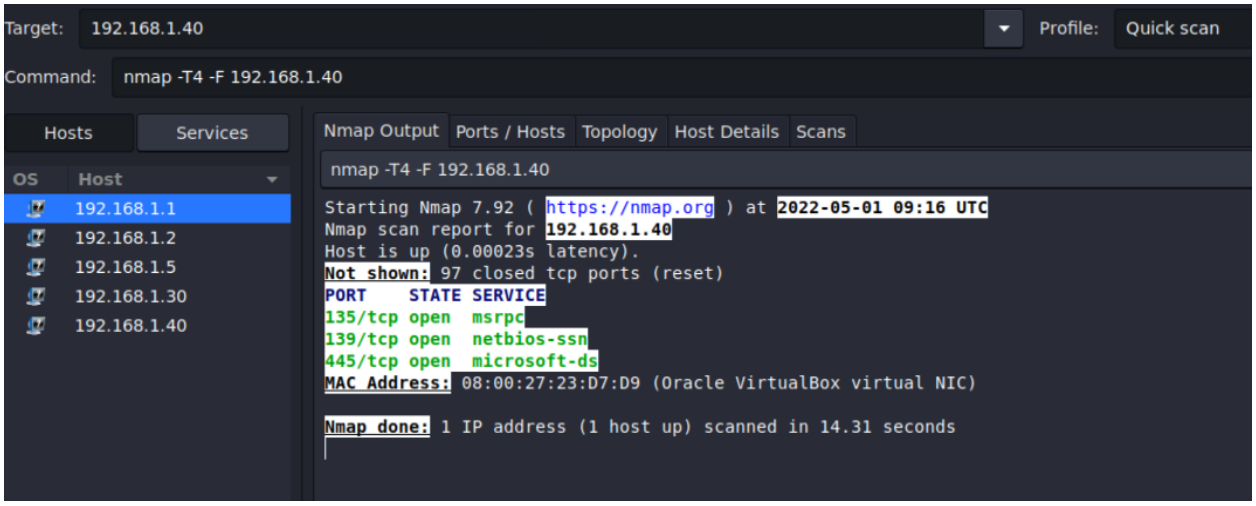
For large organizations, the output of nmap or zenmap can often be difficult or impossible to analyze. Which is where packet sniffers like Wireshark come in. The screenshots below show how Wireshark can be used for this purpose.

Figure 16: Using Zenmap to Ping VM LAN



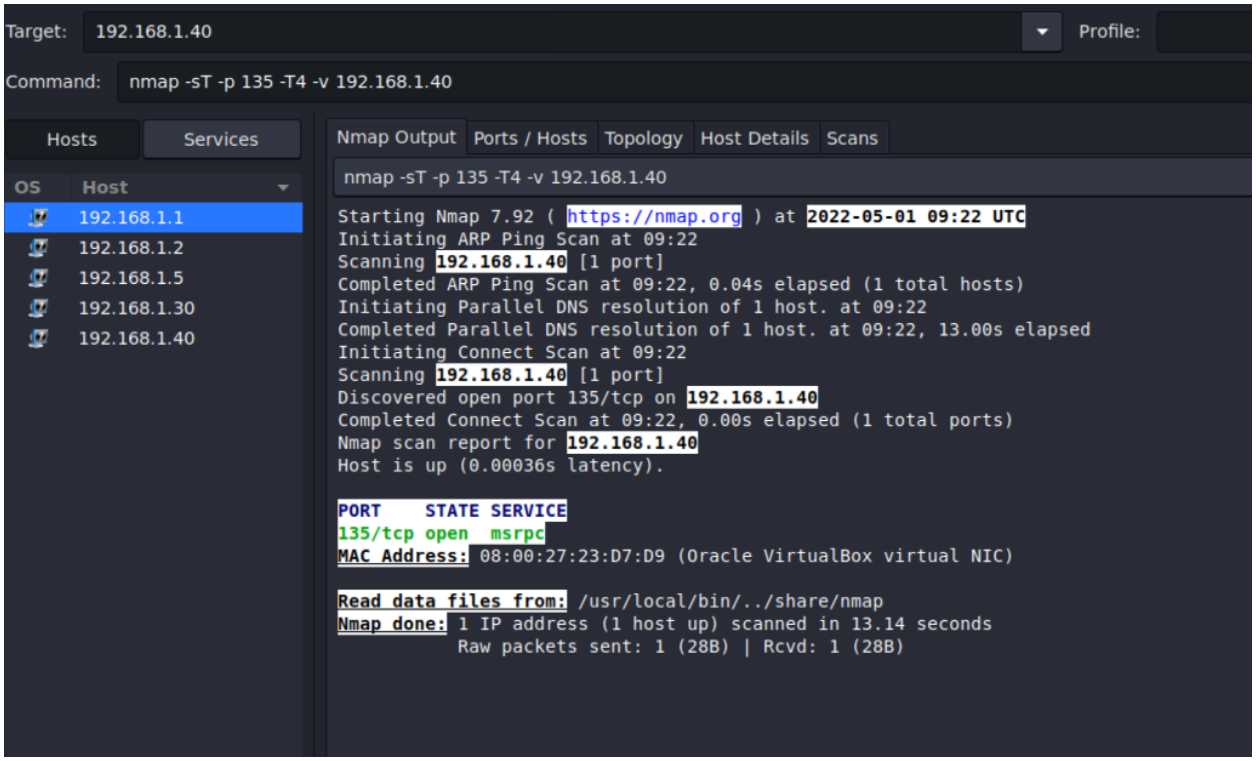
Here we can see a list of host machines that returned packets following our ping of the provided subnet. We see all the VMS currently running, including the Windows Server 2k16 one. Whose IP we have discovered again.

Figure 17: Running Fast Scan on Windows 2k16



We see again a list of open ports

Figure 18: Scanning port 135 on Windows 2k16 VM



Here we see the specific service and state of our particular port of interest. In this case port 135.

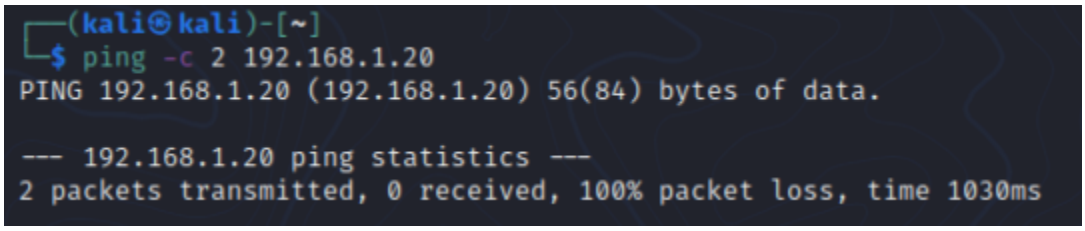
Figure 19: Using Wireshark to Intercept Port Scan

By configuring Wireshark to listen to eth0, and filtering the output to tcp.port 135, we can see the exact packets that are exchanged between the two machines when the port scan is run. From this we can gather even more information about the target system, and infer what types of packets would cause the system to behave abnormally if sent.

Part 4: Crafting IP Packets With HPing

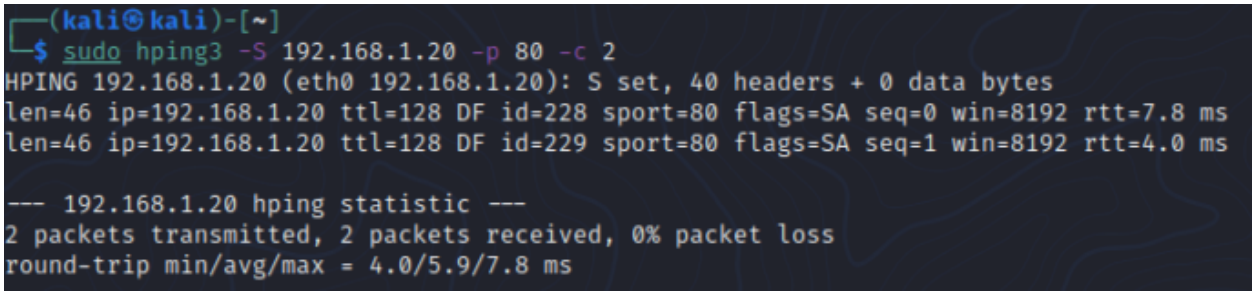
If a hackers or tester is aware of the ports that are open and the services that are running on a system, then specially crafted IP packets can be employed for host discovery. For example, if a hacker is aware that a server is running HTTP, then he or she can send specially formatted HTTP packets to that server to discover to get a response from behind a firewall. The figures below illustrate this concept.

Figure 20: Pinging Windows 2k8 VM with Firewall On



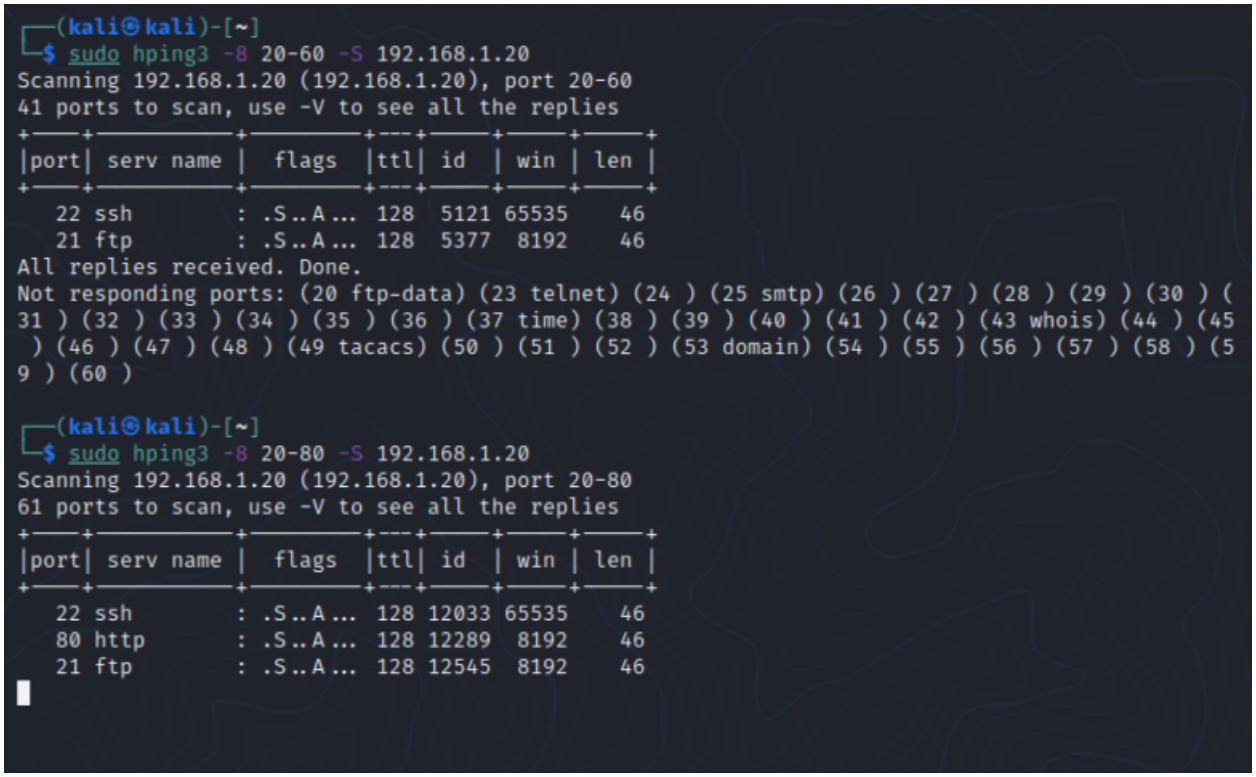
Based on this response, a hacker might be under the impression that this host is inactive within the organization.

Figure 21: Using hping3 For Host Discovery



Using the knowledge that port 80 (HTTP) is open and is being used by the system, we can send a specially crafted HTTP packet using hping3 to get a response back.

Figure 22: Using hping3 to send packets to a range of ports



Hping3 can further be refined to send packets covering a range of ports. Making it an invaluable tool for host discovery within a target organization.