System Recovery & Root Cause Analysis Report

1. Overview

Project Title: System Recovery & Incident Resolution

Investigator: Hamza Fayyad

Date: March 3, 2025

Affected System: VirtualBox VM running Parrot OS

Incident Type: System Failure & Network Configuration Loss

2. System Recovery Procedures

2.1 VirtualBox Environment Restoration

- **Issue:** VM failed to boot after unexpected shutdown.
- Steps Taken:
 - 1. Check VM State: Verified VirtualBox logs and system status.
 - 2. **Snapshot Restoration:** Reverted to last known working snapshot. VBoxManage snapshot "ParrotOS" restore "Latest_Snapshot"
 - 3. Configuration Validation: Ensured correct VM settings (RAM, CPU, Storage).
 - 4. **Boot Test:** Restarted the VM to confirm functionality.

2.2 Parrot OS System Recovery

- **Issue:** Corrupted system files and failure to load desktop environment.
- Steps Taken:
 - 1. **Boot into Recovery Mode:** Accessed Parrot OS GRUB recovery mode.
 - 2. Filesystem Check & Repair:

sudo fsck -y /dev/sda1

3. Reinstall Missing Packages:

sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install --reinstall parrot-core

4. Reboot System:

sudo reboot

2.3 Network Configuration Recovery

- Issue: Network settings reset, unable to establish connectivity.
- Steps Taken:

1. Check Network Interfaces:

ip a

2. Restart Network Services:

sudo systemctl restart NetworkManager

3. Manually Assign IP Address:

sudo ifconfig eth0 192.168.1.100 netmask 255.255.255.0 up

4. Test Connectivity:

ping -c 4 8.8.8.8

3. Root Cause Analysis

3.1 Event Timeline

Time	Event
15:30	VirtualBox VM crashed due to power failure.
15:40	Attempted reboot failed; system corruption detected.
15:50	Entered recovery mode and performed file system check.
16:10	Restored last known VirtualBox snapshot.
16:20	Network connectivity issues detected.
16:30	Network manually reconfigured.
16:45	System fully operational.

3.2 Contributing Factors

- **Unexpected Power Loss:** System shut down improperly, causing file system corruption.
- No Recent Backups: Snapshot restoration was required due to lack of up-to-date backups.
- Network Misconfiguration: Restoring a snapshot reset network settings.

3.3 Technical Findings

• Logs Reviewed:

cat /var/log/syslog | grep error

- Errors related to corrupted file system blocks.
- Process Analysis:

ps aux --sort=-%cpu | head -10

No unusual high CPU usage detected post-recovery.

4. Recovery Validation Checklist

Test Case Expected Result Statu

s

VirtualBox VM boots successfully System loads without error

Desktop environment functions GUI and terminal

accessible

Network connectivity restored Able to ping external sites

No system file corruption fsck reports clean disk

System updates install correctly No package errors

5. IR Process Improvement Recommendations

• Enable Auto-Snapshots in VirtualBox:

VBoxManage snapshot "ParrotOS" take "Auto Snapshot"

- Implement UPS Backup: Prevent system crashes due to power loss.
- Automate Network Configuration Backups:
 cp /etc/network/interfaces /mnt/usb/interfaces backup
- Conduct Regular System Health Checks: sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y

6. Final Summary

Task	Status	Notes
VirtualBox VM Restoration	Completed	Restored from snapshot.
Parrot OS System Recovery	Completed	File system repaired.
Network Recovery	Completed	Connectivity manually restored.
Root Cause Analysis	Completed	Identified power failure and misconfiguration.
Recovery Validation	Completed	All tests passed.
Process Improvement	Implemented	Automated snapshots, backups recommended.

This report ensures that all **system recovery procedures**, **root cause analysis**, **and validation steps** are documented for future improvements.