

ENPM685 – Security Tools for Information Security

Section: 0101

Incident Report

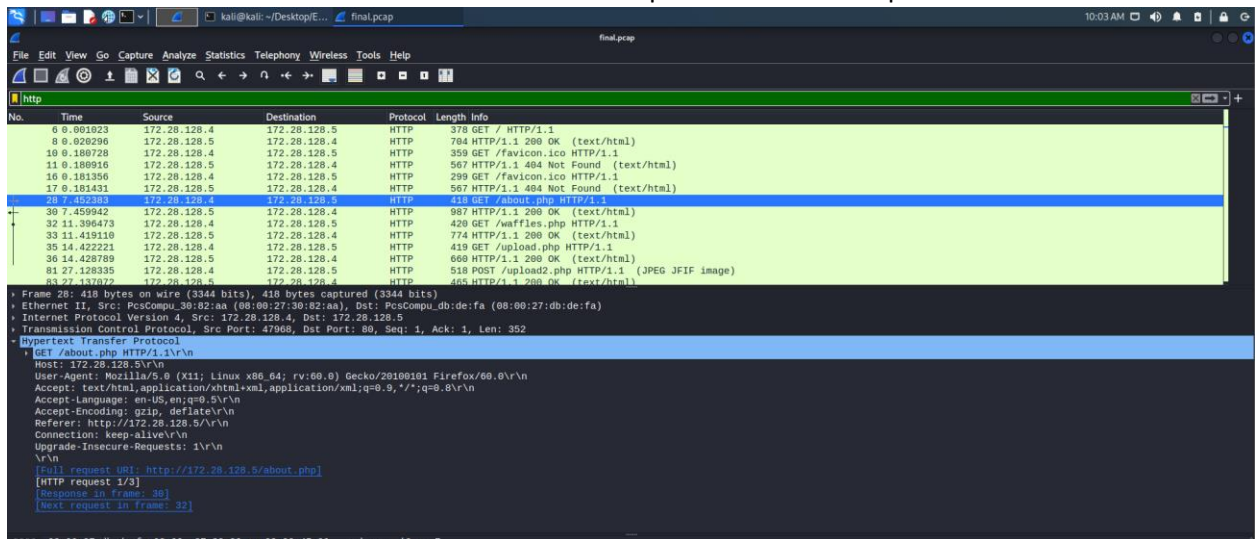
Name: Syed Mohammad Ibrahim

UID: *iamibi*

UID Number: 118428369

Attack Narrative

1. The IP address of the attacker is 172.28.128.4 and the compromised box IP address is 172.28.128.5. The incident took place on **February 14th between 16:41 to 16:47 UTC** time.
2. The attacker landed on the homepage of the ENPM685 Waffle Co. website. The **homepage** (index.php) contained a commented information which stated that the current website is a dev site with a work in progress. And Julia will be working on the DBA part. This was mentioned by Nathan – developer.
3. The attacker then navigated to the **about** (about.php) page from the homepage. It did mention that there is a user with the name Julia in their development team whose position is DBA.

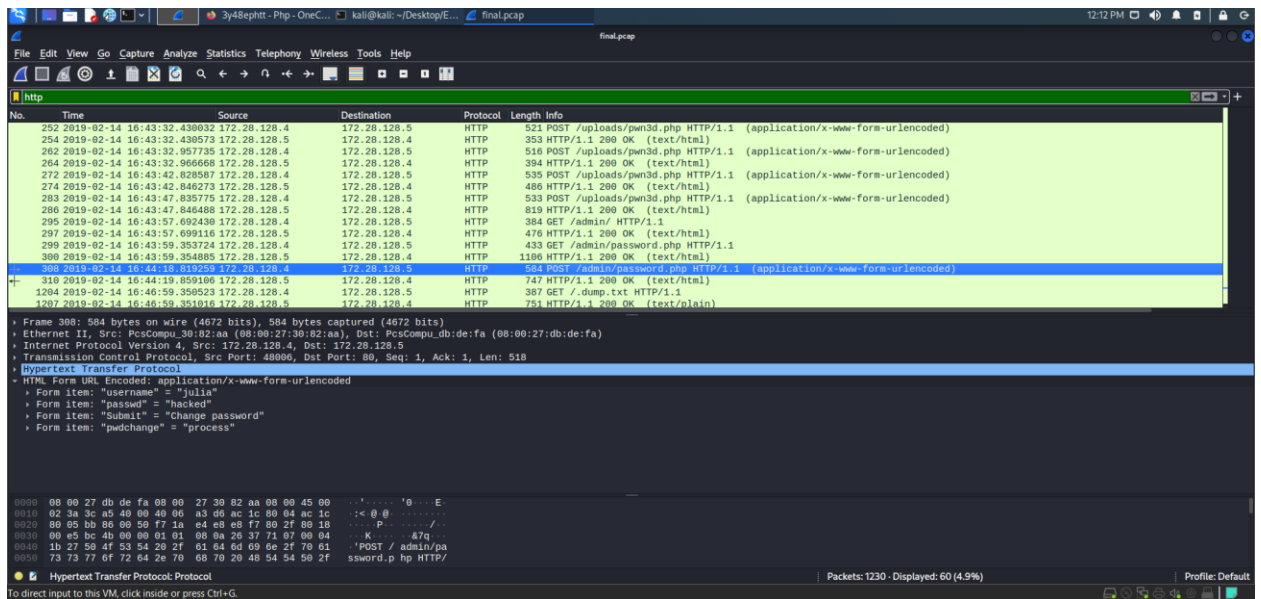


4. The attacker then proceeded to go to the waffles page and then to the competition's page (upload.php) where anyone can upload an image file. The attacker tested the mechanism by uploading an image and then performing a GET request for that image.

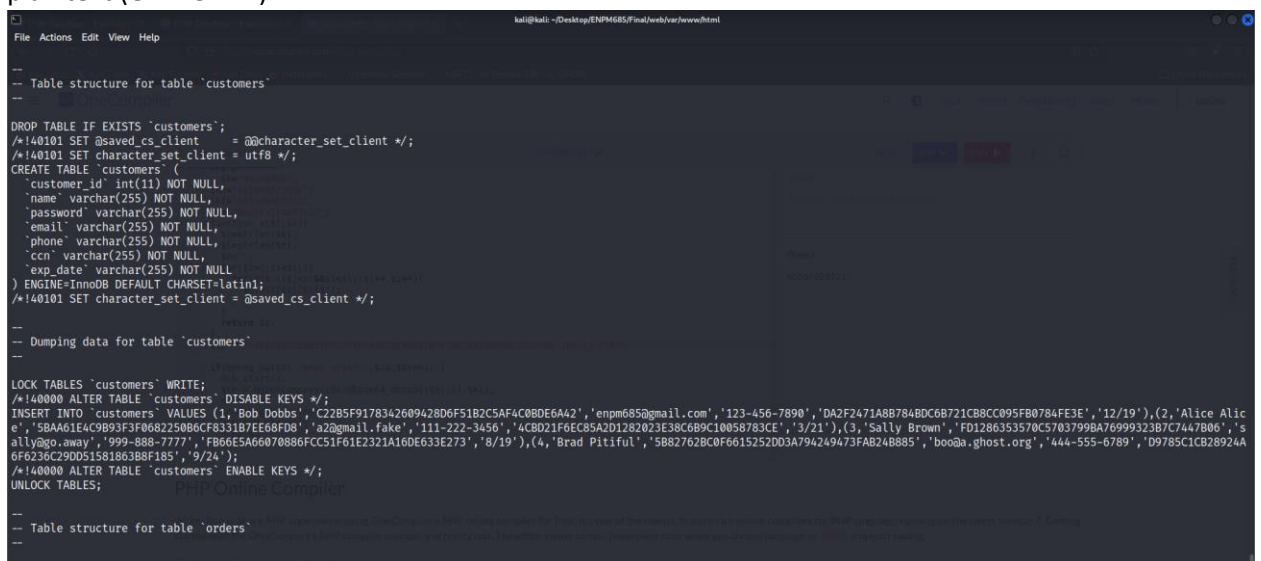
5. After confirming this, the attacker uploaded a malicious php file **pwn3.php** which contained the obfuscated code for the shell commands. The server, after uploading the file ran it, which printed the output of it to standard output and was returned as part of the response.

6. After analyzing the **pwn3.php**, it was inferred that the malicious file was performing Remote Code Execution because of a server weakness, specifically **CWE-434**^[1]. Because of this weakness, the attacker was able to upload a dangerous file and the server never restricted or validated it.

7. The network log then shows that the request was made multiple times by the attacker, passing different data with every request, and using **pwn3.php** code as base to perform command execution. Few commands involved are echo, chdir, pwd, get_hostname, etc.
8. The attacker was able to traverse the whole system box and was able to figure out the website structure.
9. They found the admin path, which was accessible via the website, with the change password functionality which doesn't perform any additional validation on the data that was entered or by whom it was entered (**CWE-20**^[2]).



10. Attacker then entered the username as **julia** and password as **hacked** which made the user julia's password to be changed.
11. This was done with the intention to gain access to their account and execute commands locally.
12. The attacker then opened a **Secure Shell (SSH)** in the compromised host box and went through the contents of the said compromised account. They found a **.dump.txt** file which was a MySQL database file containing various commands that are mandatory for setting up the **ENPM685 Waffle Co.** website's database.
13. The file also contained information about the schema of the database and information that was supposed to be inserted into those respective databases. One of the database insertions involved few users' information to be inserted which was PII (Personally Identifiable Information) with only password and their credit card number's being hashed (**CWE-200**^[3]). Other information like Name, Contact Number and Credit Card Expiry date were present in plaintext (**CWE-311**^[4]).



14. The original user, Julia, may have put it there with the intention of setting up the database or may have forgotten to clean it up after the database was setup.
15. The bash history of the user doesn't display much information apart from the passwd command that was executed to reset the password initially. The attacker may have cleared this information from the history. However, there was a move (**/bin/mv**) command that was executed by the attacker which moved the **.dump.txt** file from the home directory to **/var/www/html** directory – which is the root to the website. This was recorded as part of the **auth.log** logs.

```
(kali@kali)-[~/Final/Log/var/Log]
$ cat auth.log | grep "Feb 14"
Feb 14 16:21:27 midterm sshd[998]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 22.
Feb 14 16:21:27 midterm sshd[998]: Server listening on :: port 22.
Feb 14 16:21:44 midterm login[1540]: pam_unix(login:session): session opened for user midterm by LOGIN(uid=0)
Feb 14 16:39:01 midterm CRON[1955]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
Feb 14 16:39:01 midterm CRON[1955]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Feb 14 16:41:35 midterm sudo: midterm : TTY=ttty1 ; PWD=/home/midterm ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/sbin/tcpdump -i eth1 -s0 -nnX -w midterm.pcap
Feb 14 16:41:35 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root by midterm(uid=0)
Feb 14 16:44:18 midterm sudo: www-data : TTY=unknown ; PWD=/var/www/html/admin ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/var/www/html/admin/change-pass.sh julia hacked
Feb 14 16:44:18 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
Feb 14 16:44:19 midterm passwd[2072]: pam_unix(passwd:chauthtok): password changed for julia
Feb 14 16:44:19 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session closed for user root
Feb 14 16:44:45 midterm sshd[2081]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=172.28.128.4 user=julia
Feb 14 16:44:47 midterm sshd[2081]: Failed password for julia from 172.28.128.4 port 34608 ssh2
Feb 14 16:44:49 midterm sshd[2081]: Accepted password for julia from 172.28.128.4 port 34608 ssh2
Feb 14 16:44:49 midterm sshd[2081]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened for user julia by (uid=0)
Feb 14 16:46:46 midterm sudo: julia : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/julia ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/mv .dump.txt /var/www/html
Feb 14 16:46:46 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root by julia(uid=0)
Feb 14 16:46:46 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session closed for user root
Feb 14 16:47:53 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session closed for user root
Feb 14 16:48:07 midterm sshd[2130]: Received disconnect from 172.28.128.4: 11: disconnected by user
Feb 14 16:48:07 midterm sshd[2081]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session closed for user julia
Feb 14 16:48:54 midterm sshd[2220]: Connection closed by 172.28.128.1 [preauth]
Feb 14 16:49:35 midterm sshd[2228]: Accepted password for midterm from 172.28.128.1 port 50747 ssh2
Feb 14 16:49:35 midterm sshd[2228]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened for user midterm by (uid=0)
Feb 14 16:49:36 midterm sshd[2277]: Received disconnect from 172.28.128.1: 11: disconnected by user
Feb 14 16:49:36 midterm sshd[2228]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session closed for user midterm
Feb 14 16:53:34 midterm sudo: midterm : TTY=ttty1 ; PWD=/home/midterm ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/sbin/halt
Feb 14 16:53:34 midterm sudo: pam_unix(sudo:session): session opened for user root by midterm(uid=0)

(kali@kali)-[~/Final/Log/var/Log]
$
```

16. Once the file was in the website's home directory, the attacker used their browser to verify whether it was accessible or not. After which, they downloaded the file using **WGET** command on their system, thus causing a leak.

The screenshot shows a Wireshark capture of network traffic. The top pane displays a list of packets, with packet 1222 selected. The middle pane shows the details of the selected packet, which is an HTTP GET request for `/dump.txt` from 172.28.128.5 to 172.28.128.4. The bottom pane shows the raw packet data in hexadecimal and ASCII. The ASCII section shows the request line `GET /dump.txt HTTP/1.1` and the response line `200 OK (text/plain)`.

```
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
httpThacke
No. Time Source Destination Protocol Length Info
264 2019-02-14 16:43:32.966668 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 394 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
272 2019-02-14 16:43:42.828587 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 535 POST /uploads/pwn3d.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
274 2019-02-14 16:43:42.846273 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 486 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
283 2019-02-14 16:43:47.035775 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 533 POST /uploads/pwn3d.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
286 2019-02-14 16:43:47.046488 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 819 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
295 2019-02-14 16:43:57.092438 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 384 GET /admin/ HTTP/1.1
297 2019-02-14 16:43:57.099116 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 476 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
299 2019-02-14 16:43:59.353724 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 433 GET /admin/password.php HTTP/1.1
308 2019-02-14 16:43:59.354885 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 1186 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
308 2019-02-14 16:44:18.819259 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 584 POST /admin/password.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
310 2019-02-14 16:44:19.859108 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 747 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
1264 2019-02-14 16:46:59.356523 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 387 GET /.dump.txt HTTP/1.1
1267 2019-02-14 16:46:59.351016 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 751 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/plain)
1210 2019-02-14 16:47:37.169603 172.28.128.4 172.28.128.5 HTTP 214 GET /.dump.txt HTTP/1.1
1222 2019-02-14 16:47:37.169695 172.28.128.5 172.28.128.4 HTTP 769 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/plain)

Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 172.28.128.4, Dst: 172.28.128.5
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 48838, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 148
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
GET /.dump.txt HTTP/1.1\r\n
User-Agent: Wget/1.19.3 (linux-gnu)\r\n
Accept: */*\r\n
Accept-Encoding: identity\r\n
Host: 172.28.128.5\r\n
Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
\r\n
[Full request URI: http://172.28.128.5/.dump.txt]
[HTTP request 1/1]
[Response in frame: 1222]
0000 08 00 27 db de fa 08 00 27 30 82 aa 08 00 45 00 ... ..E
0010 00 c8 b2 85 40 00 40 00 2f 68 ac 1c 00 04 ac 1c ... ..h
0020 80 05 b6 a0 00 50 37 e2 20 7b 50 2f 8a 06 80 18 ... ..P7+
0030 90 45 41 49 00 00 01 01 08 0a 26 3a 77 05 00 04 ... ..4W
0040 dc da 47 45 54 20 2f 2e 64 75 6d 70 2e 74 78 74 ... ..GET /.dump.txt
0050 20 48 54 54 50 2f 31 2e 31 0d 0a 55 73 65 72 20 ... ..HTTP/1.1 User-
0060 41 07 05 0e 74 3a 20 57 07 45 74 2f 31 2e 31 30 ... ..Agent: Wget/1.19
0070 2e 35 20 28 6c 69 6e 75 78 2d 67 6e 75 20 6d 0a ... ..5 (linux x-gnu)

"\"httpThacke\" is neither a field nor a protocol name. Packets: 1230 - Displayed: 60 (4.9%) Profile: Default
```

Questions

- How did the attacker get in?
 - The attacker gained control of the weakness of the website that it didn't validate or restricted any unintended file. Through which, the attacker was able to reset the password of a user named julia and was successful in getting inside the machine using SSH.
- What did the attacker do once they were on the system?
 - The attacker copied the MySQL dump file which contained sensitive information from the user's home folder to the website's root folder. This was done to fetch the file from their system using a GET command.
- Was sensitive data accessed? How can you tell if it was/was not accessed?
 - The sensitive data was contained in .dump.txt file. It had a few PII data and hashed passwords and credit card numbers (which were hashed using SHA-1 and can be un-hashed easily). The file was moved from the home directory of the compromised user to the website's root folder and then it was fetched using the WGET by the attacker on their system. The network entry confirms that.
- Were you able to learn anything about the attacker? (What were their attack tools, tactics, techniques, and procedures?)
 - The attacker has used OSINT to gather information about the website and the people developing it.
 - They knew how to generate an obfuscated PHP code to execute shell commands.
 - They used WGET command line utility to fetch the dump file from the server.
 - They were aware of Linux operating system structure and the website structure once they were inside the system.
 - They knew how to SSH into the remote system.
 - They were aware of the bash_history and thus, cleared it up.
 - They may know what type of hashes were stored on the dump.txt file and can potentially use tools like Hashcat to break them.

References

[1] CWE – 434: <https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/434.html>

[2] CWE – 20: <https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/20.html>

[3] CWE – 200: <https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/200.html>

[4] CWE – 311: <https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/311.html>