# **Introduction to Information Security & Forensics**

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Assignment 01

Submitted to Sir Amir Zaheer

### Introduction to Information Security & Forensics

#### **Question 1**

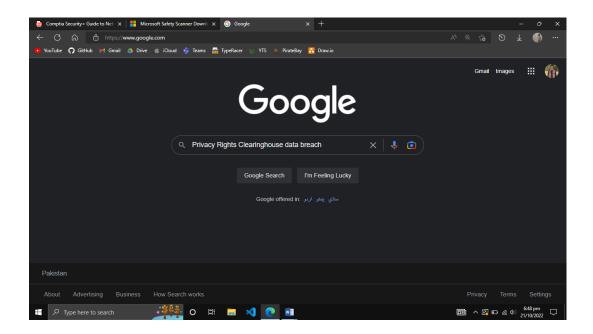
Hands on Projects: Different Hands-on projects are mentioned in the end of chapter 01 of recommended book (Comptia Security + Guide to Network Security Fundamentals). Complete following projects. Take screenshot of each step and submit in assignment.

- Project 1-1: Examining Data Breaches—Textual
- Project 1-3: Scanning for Malware Using the Microsoft Safety Scanner
- Project 1-5: Creating a Virtual Machine of Windows 10 for Security Testing

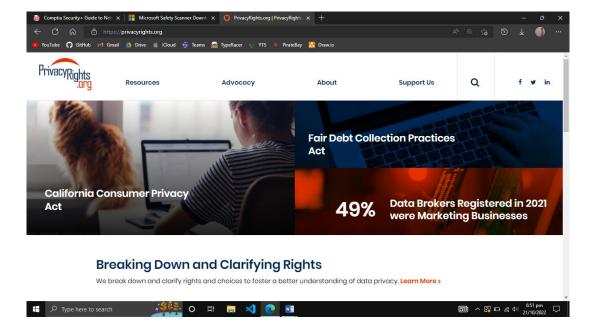
## Project 1-1: Examining data breaches

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (PRC) is a nonprofit organization whose goals are to raise consumers' awareness of how technology affects personal privacy and empower consumers to take action to control their own personal information. The PRC maintains a searchable database of security breaches that impact consumer's privacy. In this project, you gather information from the PRC website. Open a web browser and enter the URL www.privacyrights.org (if you are no longer able to access the site through the web address, use a search engine to search for "Privacy Rights Clearinghouse data breach."

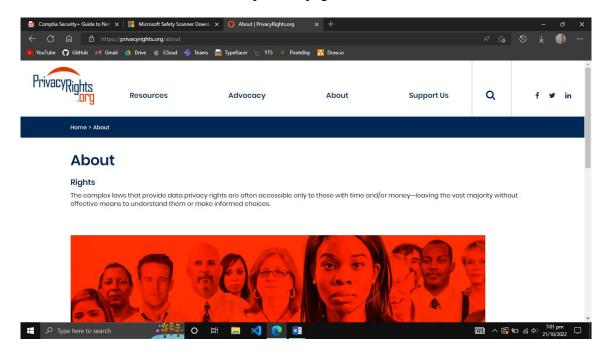
 Open a web browser and enter the URL www.privacyrights.org (if you are no longer able to access the site through the web address, use a search engine to search for "Privacy Rights Clearinghouse data breach."



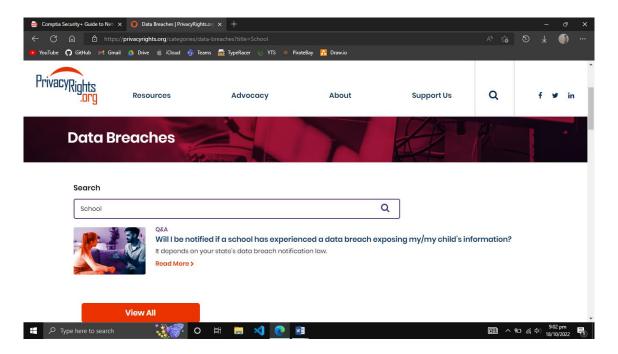
2. First spend time reading about the PRC by clicking LEARN MORE.



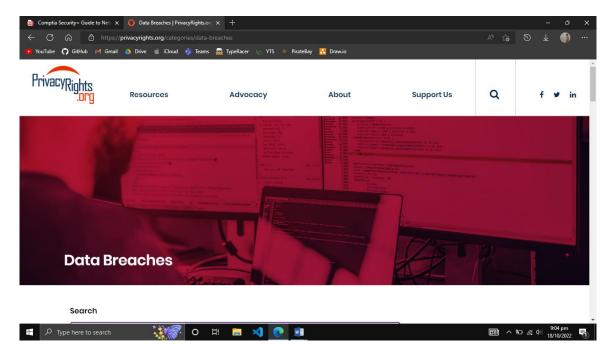
3. Click Data Breaches at the top of the page.



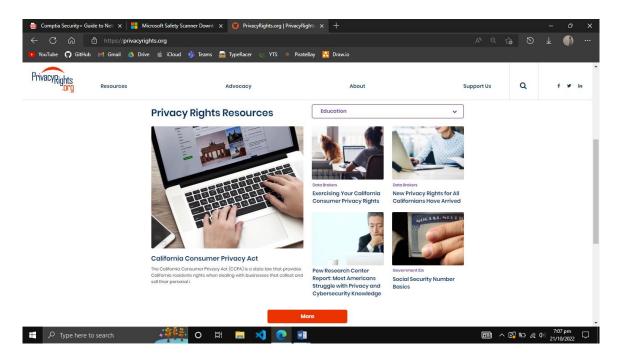
4. In the search bar enter a school, organization, or business with which you are familiar to determine if it has been the victim of an attack in which your data has been compromised.



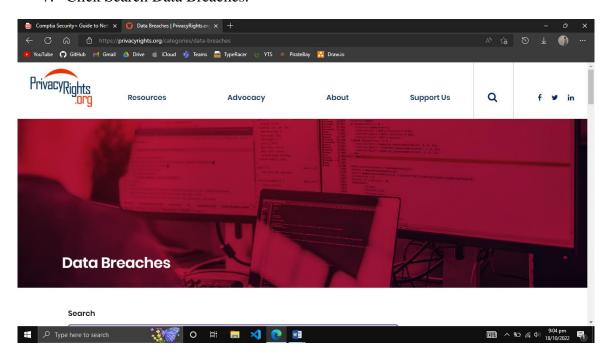
5. Click Data Breaches to return to the main Data Breaches page.



6. Now create a customized list of the data that will only list data breaches of educational institutions. Under Select organization type(s), check only EDU-Educational Institutions.

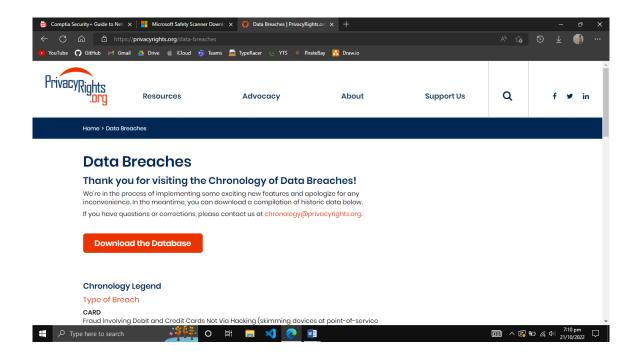


7. Click Search Data Breaches.

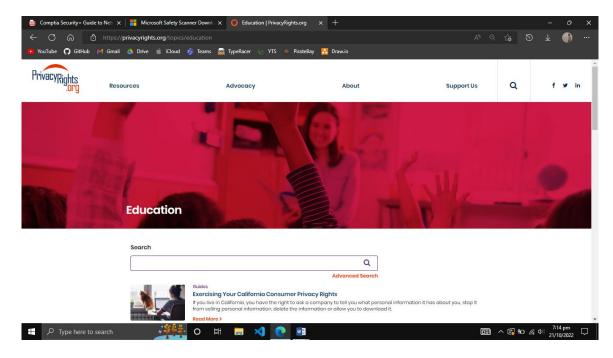


8. Read the Breach Subtotal information. How many breaches that were made public pertain to educational institutions? How many total records were stolen?

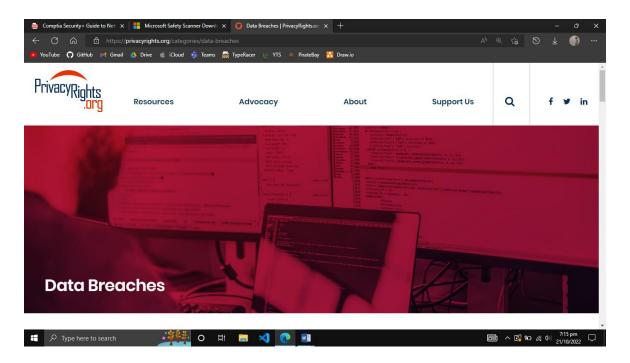
There were total 9016 breaches out of which 843 were on Educational institutes. Number of records stole were 131144394. (Data provided in Database file)



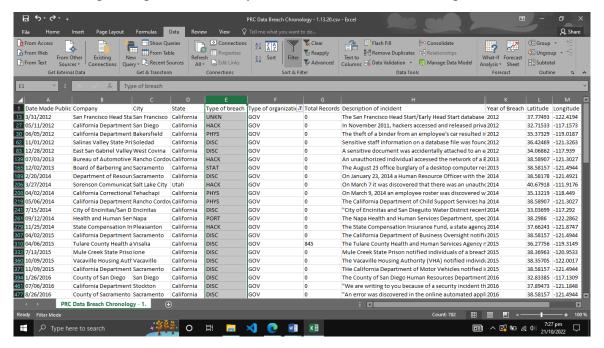
9. Scroll down and observe the breaches for educational institutions.



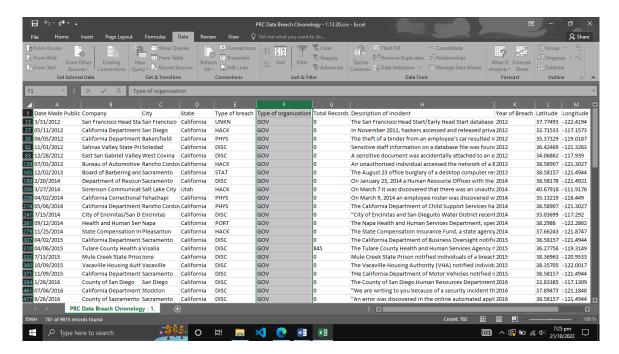
10. Scroll back to the top of the page. Click New Data Breach Search.



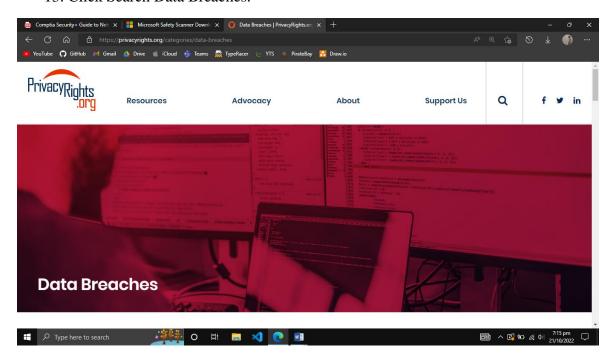
11. Now search for breaches that were a result of lost, discarded, or stolen equipment that belonged to the government and military. Under choose the type of breaches to display, check Portable device (PORT) - Lost, discarded or stolen laptop, PDA, smartphone, portable memory device, CD, hard drive, data tape, etc.



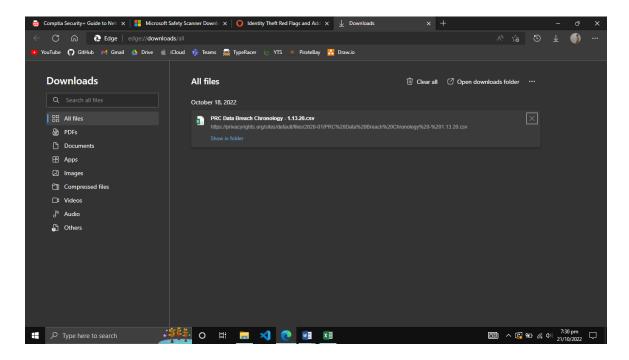
12. Under Select organization type(s), check GOV - Government & Military.



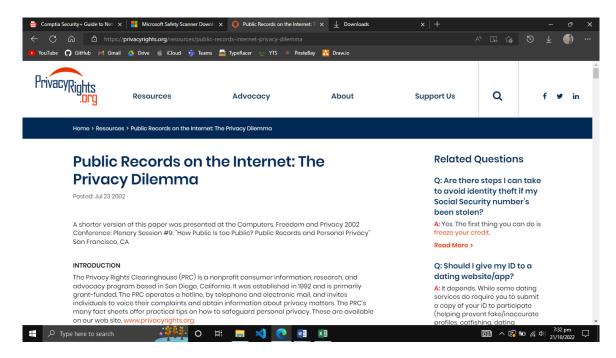
13. Click Search Data Breaches.



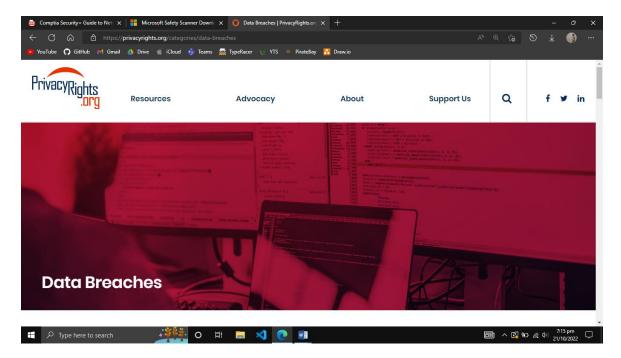
14. Read the Breach Subtotal by clicking the Download Results (CSV) file.



15. Open the file and then scroll down the different breaches. What should the government be doing to limit these breaches?

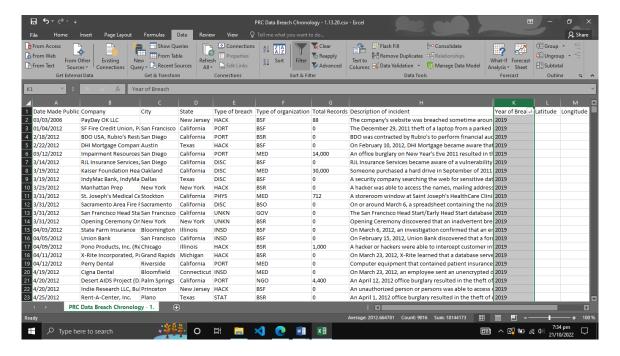


16. Scroll back to the top of the page. Click New Data Breach Search.



17. Now create a search based on criteria that you are interested in, such as the Payment Card Fraud against Retail/Merchants during the current year.

Data for 2022 was not provided in database file.

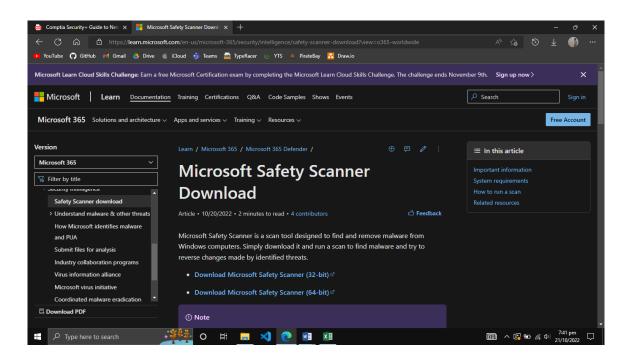


18. When finished, close all windows.

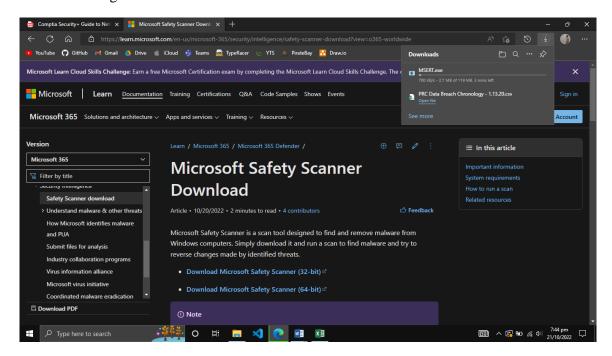
### Project 1-3: Scanning for Malware using Microsoft Safety Scanner

In this project, you download and run the Microsoft Safety Scanner to determine if there is any malware on the computer.

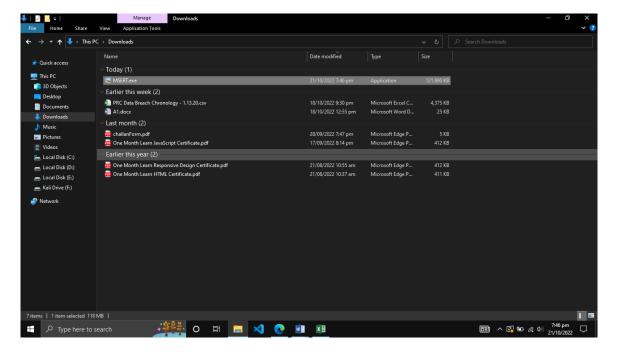
1. Determine which system type of Windows you are running. Click Start, Settings, System, and then About this PC. Look under System type for the description. Open your web browser and enter the URL www.microsoft.com/security/scanner/enus/default.asp (if you are no longer able to access the site through the URL, use a search engine to search for "Microsoft Safety Scanner").



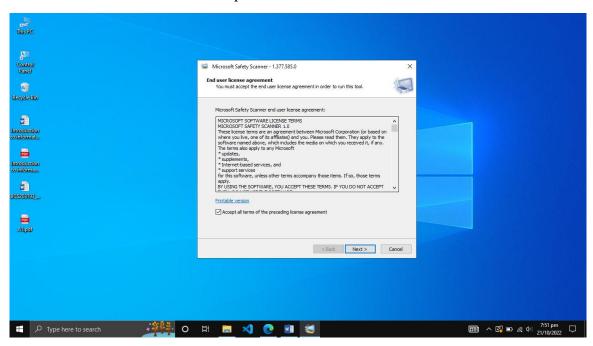
- 2. Click Download Now.
- 3. Select either 32-bit or 64-bit, depending upon which system type of Windows you are running.



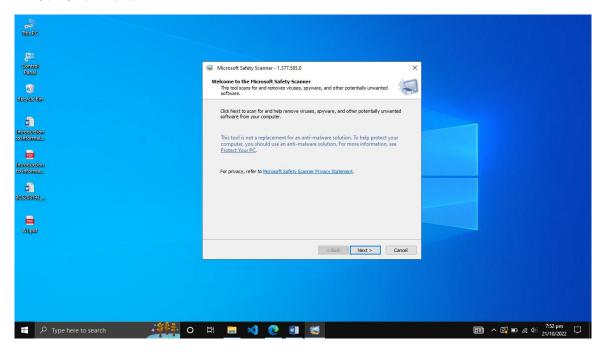
4. When the program finishes downloading, right-click Start and click File Explorer.



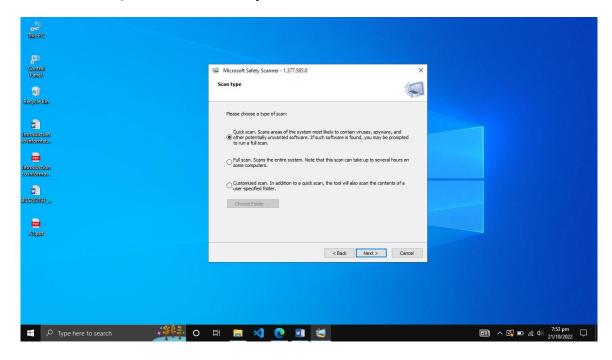
- 5. Click the Downloads icon in the left pane.
- 6. Double-click the msert.exe file.
- 7. If the User Account Control dialog box appears, click Yes. Click Run.
- 8. Click the check box to accept the license terms for this software. Click Next.



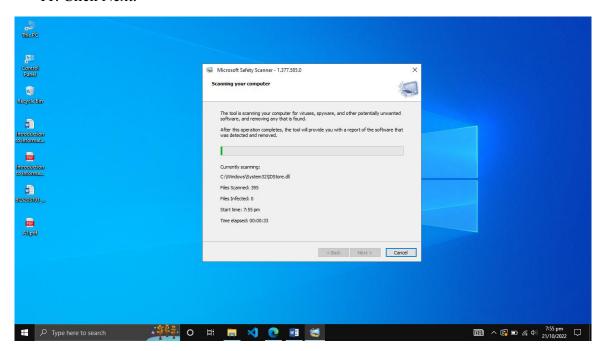
9. Click Next.



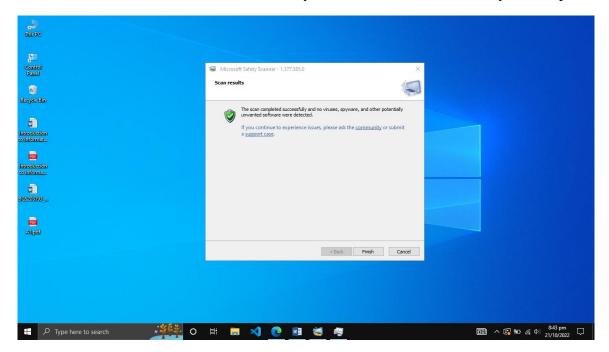
10. Select Quick scan if necessary.



### 11. Click Next.



12. Depending on your computer this scan may take several minutes. Analyze the results of the scan to determine if there is any malicious software found in your computer.

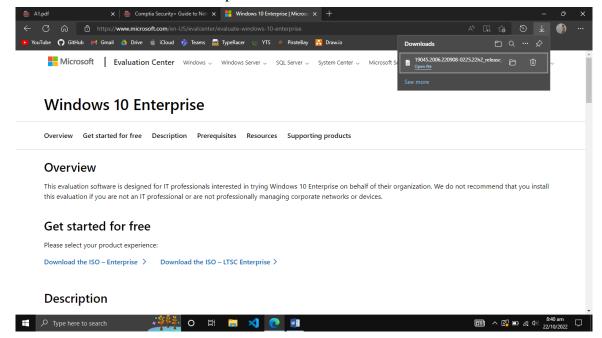


- 13. If you have problems, you can click View detailed results of the scan. After reviewing the results, click OK. If you do not find any problems, click Finish.
- 14. If any malicious software was found on your computer run the scan again and select Full scan. After the scan is complete, click Finish to close the dialog box.
- 15. Close all windows.

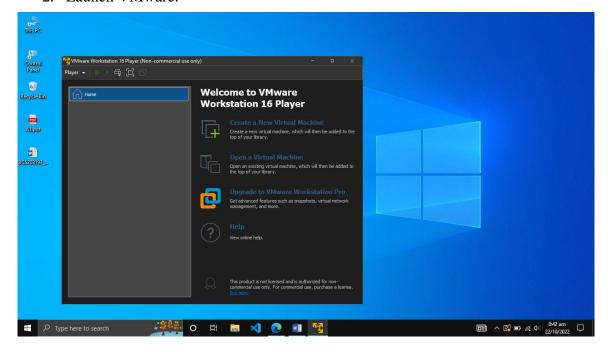
#### Project 1-5: Creating a Virtual Machine of Windows 10 for Security Testing (using VMware)

After installing VMware the next step is to create the guest operating system. For this project Windows 10 will be installed.

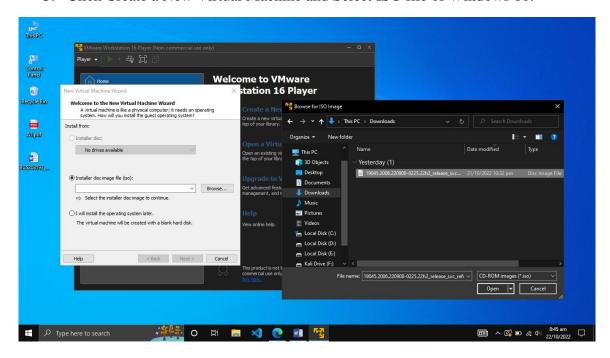
1. Obtain the ISO image of Windows 10 using one of the options above and save it on the hard drive of the computer.



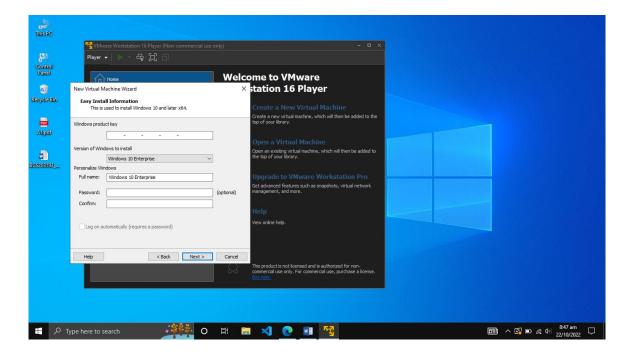
2. Launch VMware.



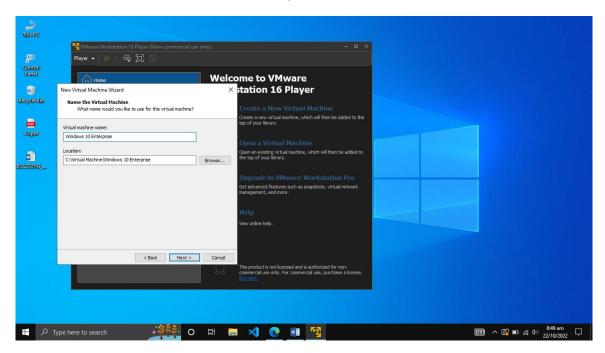
3. Click Create a New Virtual Machine and Select ISO file of Windows 10.



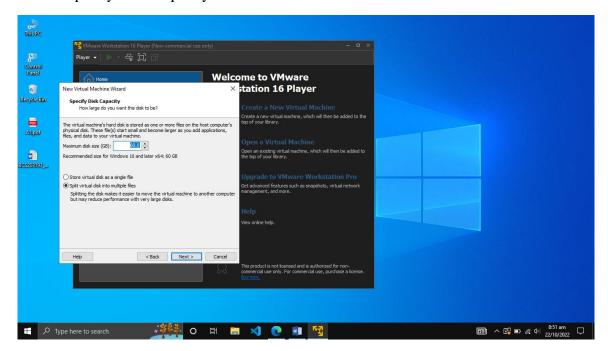
4. In Full Name: enter Windows 10 as the name of the virtual machine.



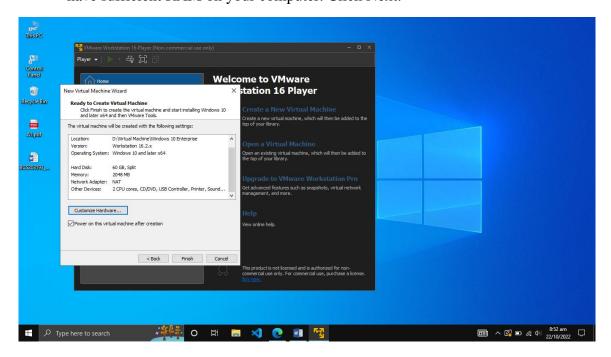
5. Enter the name of Virtual Machine, select location and Click Next.



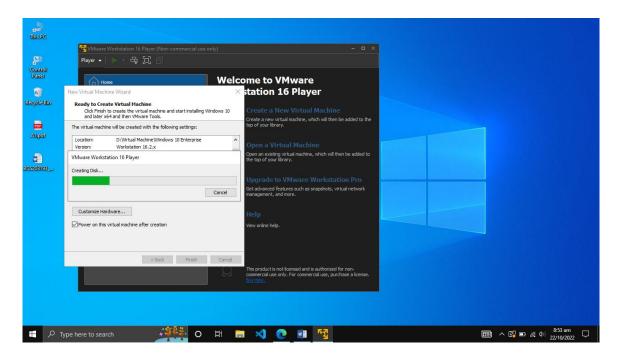
6. Specify Disk Capacity and Click next.



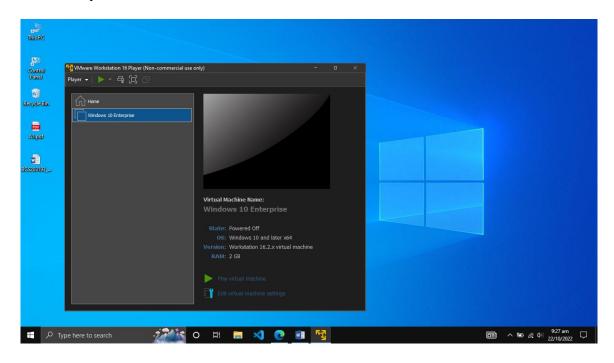
7. Under Memory size accept the recommended size or increase the allocation if you have sufficient RAM on your computer. Click Next.



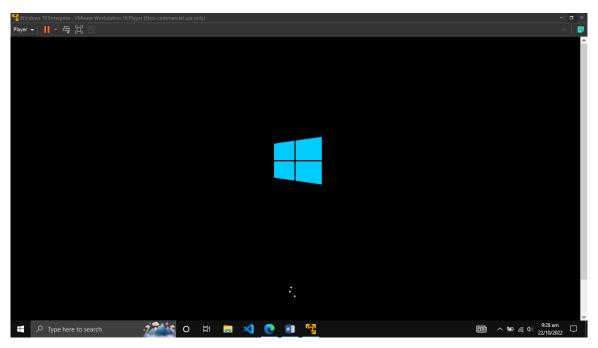
8. Under Hard disk accept Create a virtual hard drive now. Click Create.



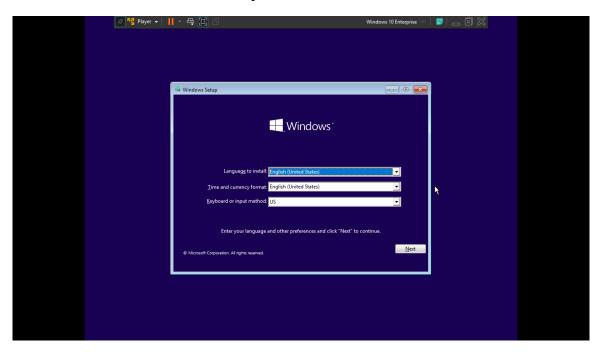
# 9. Play the Virtual Machine



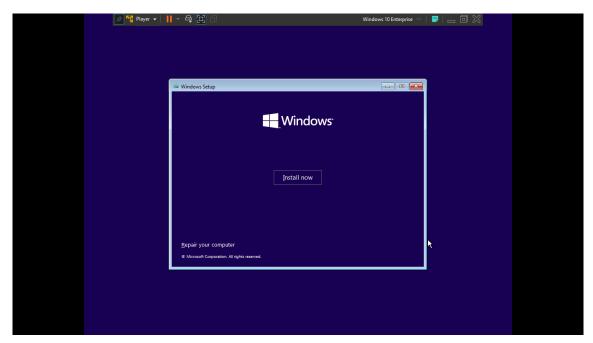
# 10. Windows 10 installer will startup.



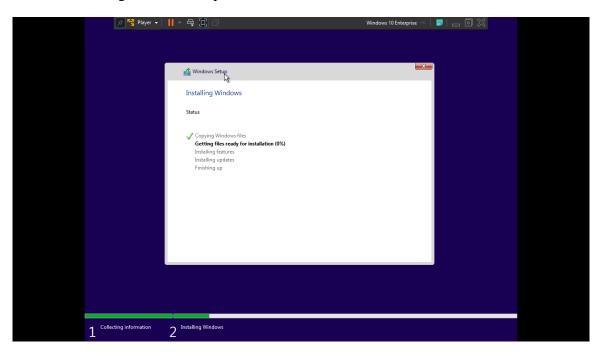
11. Continue to Windows 10 setup.



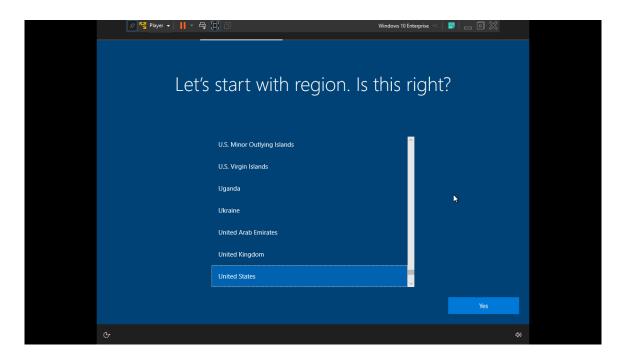
12. Click Install Now.



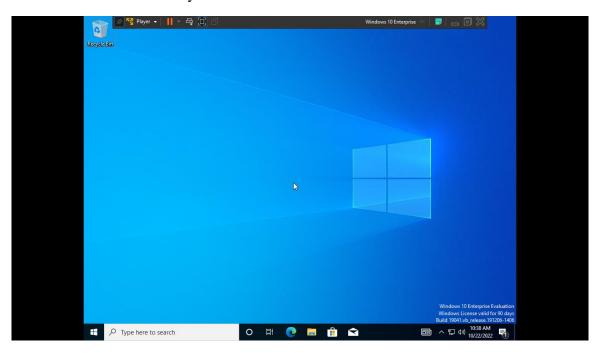
13. Go through installation process.



14. Go through setting up Windows 10 Operating System.



15. Windows 10 is ready for use.



16. Close all windows.

#### **Question 2**

What are the default passwords? Why can following configuration cause serious security concerns?

- 1. Default Configurations
- 2. Misconfigurations
- 3. Weak Configurations

Why are insider attacks considered as most lethal attacks?

Some operating systems and websites provide users with default accounts having **default passwords**. These passwords are usually intended to act as a placeholder until user changes the password after initial setup. For example, Windows 10 provides users with an administrator account having a default password 'administrator'. If left unchanged, these passwords can prove to be a security risk by acting as an attack vector for attackers.

The following configuration can cause serious security concerns,

### 1. Default Configuration

Many software often provide user with security features having **default configurations**. These configurations have default settings that are intended to be changed by the user. If left unchanged, these configurations can be very dangerous. Most of the time, these setting are left unchanged by the user. Users with default configurations can fall victim to digital attacks as attacker might be able to gain access to information regarding underlying operation system.

### 2. Misconfiguration

Misconfigurations occur when a user changes security configurations incorrectly unintentionally or intentionally. These configurations allow the device to be compromised. Misconfiguration is commonly seen in improperly configured accounts that are set up for a user that provide more access than is necessary, such as providing total access over the entire device when the access should be more limited

### 3. Weak Configuration

**Weak configurations** are very similar to misconfigurations. Instead of choosing incorrect settings, user turns off necessary security settings. This poses the same security threat as misconfigurations.

**Insider attacks** are considered to be most lethal form of attacks as insiders have direct access to all the resources and information within the organizations. Also, insiders have knowledge about all the possible weaknesses of an organization.

# **Question 3**

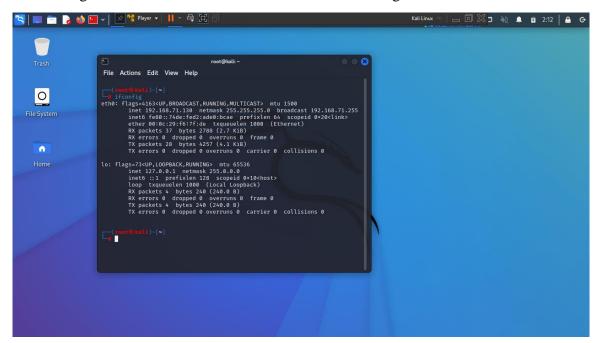
Briefly describe the functionality of following Kali Linux commands with screenshots.

Remember, you should run these commands in correct format. Elsewise, you will be marked 0.

- *Ipconfig*
- Ping www.google.com
- Ping -c4 www.google.com
- Ping6 -c4 localhost
- *Arp -a*
- Tracert
- Nslookup
- Netstat

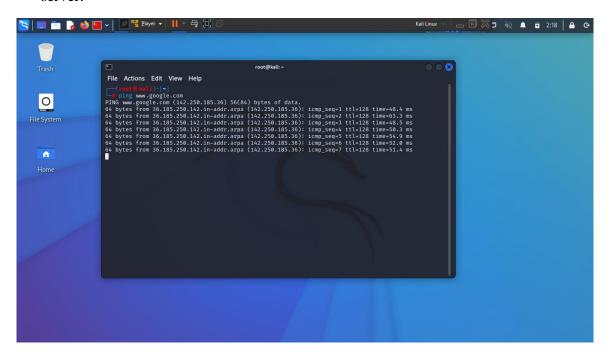
## ifconfig

ifconfig is used to show current network interface configurations.



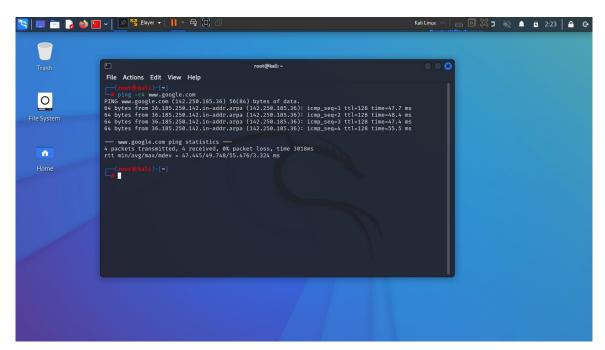
## ping www.google.com

ping <a href="www.google.com">www.google.com</a> is used to check connectivity between host machine and google's server.



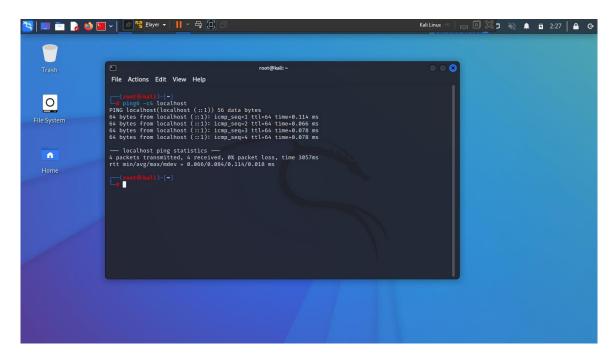
## ping -c4 www.google.com

ping -c4 <u>www.google.com</u> is used to check connectivity between host machine and google's server using 4 packets only.



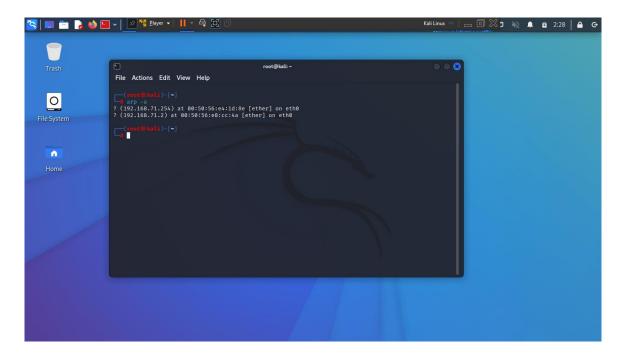
## ping6 -c4 localhost

Check connectivity between localhost and host machine by sending only 4 packets.



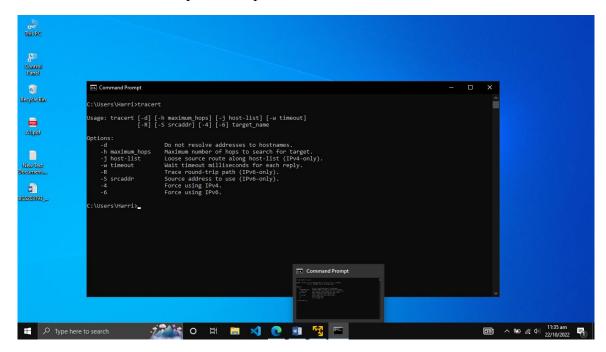
## arp -a

arp –a is used to display IP address, MAC address, Port and State.



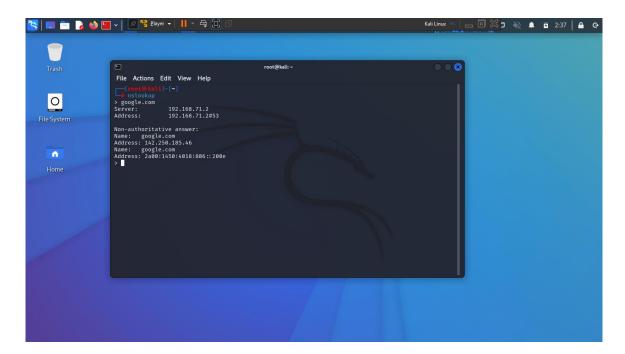
#### tracert

tracert is used to trace path of IP protocol.



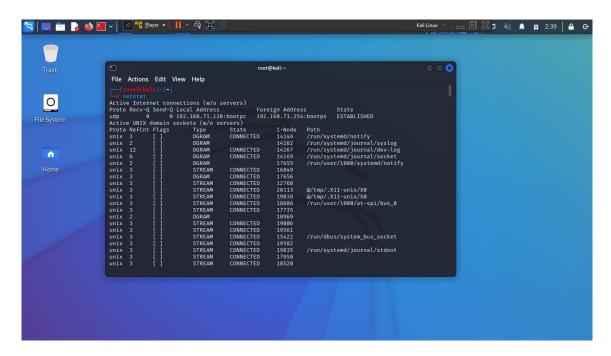
## mslookup

nslookup is used to display network information about destination such as IP address.



### netstat

netstat command displays the contents of various network-related data structures for active connections.



## References

- Ciampa, M. (2018). *Comptia Security+ Guide to Network Security Fundamentals*. Boston: Cengage Learning.
- Hanna, K. T. (2018, March 12). What is default password? Retrieved from TechTarget: https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/default-password